

VERTIGO
DC COMICS

WARREN ELLIS • DARICK ROBERTSON • RODNEY RAMOS

no. 41
Feb 01

***** LATE EDITION *****

TRANSMETROPOLITAN™

Having the kind of production value at the notion of a new venue, we're pleased to announce the [FORVIE]

SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS

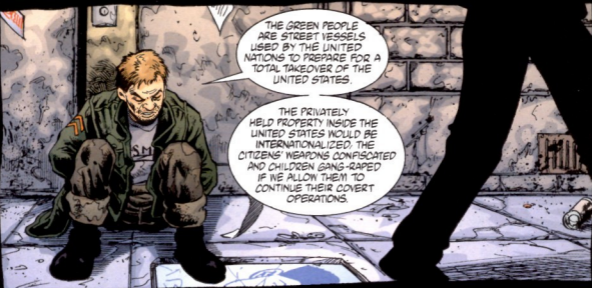


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DIRECT SALES



\$2.50 US \$4.25 CAN



THE GREEN PEOPLE ARE STREET VESSELS USED BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO PREPARE FOR A TOTAL TAKEOVER OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE PRIVATELY HELD PROPERTY INSIDE THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE INTERNATIONALIZED, THE CITIZENS' WEAPONS CONFISCATED AND CHILDREN GANG-RAPED IF WE ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR COVERT OPERATIONS.



WE HAVE BEEN SOFTENED FOR DECADES

THE CONTINUAL DUMBBING-DOWN OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE INCREASING BANALITY OF POPULAR CULTURE ARE JUST TWO TRENDS WE CAN TRACE TO A SICK SOURCE.



THAT SOURCE IS WELSH PEOPLE.



THEY ARE RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN. SOCIETY HAS BECOME SO WELSH THAT MOST PEOPLE DO NOT RECOGNIZE WELSHNESS WHEN THEY STEP IN IT.



LIKE MY MOTHER'S LAWYER.

FUCKING WELSH BASTARD.


TRANSMETROPOLITAN 41, February, 2001. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to TRANSMETROPOLITAN, DC Comics, Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0928, Bala Cynwyd, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate \$30.00. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # R123667072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright ©2001 Warren Ellis and Danick Robertson. All Rights Reserved. All characters, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Warren Ellis and Danick Robertson. VERTIGO is a trademark of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional. Printed on recycled paper.

Printed in Canada.
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I FIRST BUMPED INTO THE AMERICAN UNSEEN SOCIETY WHEN I WAS 28. OR SHOULD I SAY THAT IT BUMPED INTO ME.

WHAT IT DID TO ME AT 28 YEARS OF AGE WAS TO MAKE ME CRAZY AND DRIVE ME INTO A PSYCH WARD AT A HOSPITAL IN HELENA, MONTANA.



I AM DIAGNOSED BY THE DOCTORS AS HAVING SCHIZOPHRENIA DUE TO MY BUMP WITH THE SECRET SOCIETY.

AND I AM NOW PERMANENTLY "DISABLED" UNABLE TO WORK, LIVING OFF DISABILITY PENSIONS WHICH SUPPORT MY SON AND MYSELF.



YOU THINK I'M CRAZY. THERE CAN'T BE AN INVISIBLE SOCIETY.

WRONG. YOU SHOULD ASK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SITTING IN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR BRAINS SMASHED BY THEM ON PURPOSE AND PLACED INTO INSTITUTIONS TO SHUT THEM UP.



THEY LOVE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISCOVERED THEM TO BE SO SCARED OF THEM THAT THEY JUST HIDE FOREVER.

OR JUST SIT IN A CHAIR ALL DOPED UP ON ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDS FOREVER UNTIL THEY DIE.



AND IF I TRY TO EXPOSE THEM THEY'LL MAKE ME CRAZY AGAIN OR HAVE ME ARRESTED OR SEND ME BLIND.

I'M REALLY AFRAID FOR MY SON.



THE MOON WAS BROUGHT HERE 12,113 YEARS AGO IN WHAT WE KNOW AS THE MONTH OF APRIL.

IT CAME HERE AS A BASE, CARRYING EXTRATERRESTRIALS COMING HERE TO COLONIZE.

MANY OF WHAT IS LEFT OF THEM ARE LIVING UNDERGROUND ON EARTH, A HUNDRED MILES BENEATH THE SURFACE.




THE BEINGS THAT BROUGHT THIS SATELLITE IN ORBIT AROUND EARTH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 31,000 HUMAN CHILDREN DISAPPEARING FROM THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH.




OVER 100,000 CHILDREN PER YEAR ARE VANISHING FROM THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, AND THE WORLD GOVERNMENTS KNOW ABOUT THIS.

THEY KNOW.



THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS 23 OF ITS OWN DISKS STATIONED ON THE MOON. MOON ASTRONAUTS ARE TOLD TO SHUT UP AND NOT SAY ANYTHING.

OR THEIR CHILDREN WILL BE TAKEN.



THE GRAVITY ON THE BOTTOM OF COPERNICUS CRATER IS EQUAL TO THAT IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

THE MOON HUMANS ARE DNA-RECLAIMED ARYANS. THERE WITH ALIENS GOVERNING US.

THEY FUCK.

COFFEE

FOUR YEARS AGO, WHILE FISHING AT THE FOURTH CANAL, I WAS ASSAULTED BY THE PRESIDENT, WHO WAS VISITING THE CITY.

TWO YEARS AGO THE F.B.I. ASSAULTED ME AND TIED ME DOWN AND FORCEFULLY INSERTED A PLASTIC TUBE IN MY PENS. THEY INJECTED AIDS, VD, GONORRHEA AND GUERILLA GERMS INTO ME.

WHEN I GOT OUT OF JAIL, THEY MANIPULATED MY MIND SO THAT I TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN MY OWN BATHTUB WITH SALT AND ELECTRIC WIRES.

ATF AGENTS PAID MY SISTER TO PUT ME IN A MENTAL ASYLUM WHERE THEY HOOKED A COMPUTER UP TO MY HEAD THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO DESTROY MY BRAIN.

OTHER ATF AGENTS TOOK MY IMAGE AND MADE AN ANIMAL OUT OF IT. THEY TOOK ALL MY OTHER IMAGES AND TURNED THEM INTO GAY PEOPLE AND FOOD.

THEY TOOK MY SOUL AWAY FROM ME, AND THE BRAIN CELLS OUT OF MY HEAD, TRAPPING ME IN A DOLL.

THE MESSIAH WANTED ME TO BE HIS SON AND ORDERED ME TO BE THE KING OF THIS COUNTRY.

THE ATF BURNED THE MESSIAH'S PEOPLE. OTHERS THEY TURNED INTO HALF-MEN HALF-WOMEN. THEY HAVE TURNED PEOPLE INTO AUDIO TAPES AND PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REBORN FROM THEIR ASSES.

I AM IN THIS WORLD FROM ANOTHER WORLD THAT HAS BEEN BURNED.

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THIS WORLD BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



THEY PUT ME AWAY FOR KILLING THE TREES.

SEE, THERE'S A BUILDING IN THE ARCTIC FULL OF SCIENCE DUDES THAT MAKE AN ASSLOAD OF OXYGEN EVERY DAY.

THEY TAKE WATER MOLECULES AND CUT OFF THE HYDROGEN ATOMS UNTIL ALL THAT'S LEFT IS OXYGEN.

ROHDE GUNS



THEY THROW IT OUT THE WINDOW AND SINCE THERE IS A LOT OF WIND IN THE ARCTIC THE OXYGEN FLOWS REAL FAST TO US AND WE BREATHE IT.

THE TREES REALLY FUCKING HATE THIS.



I MEAN, THEY MAKE AIR FOR US ALL THE FUCKING TIME AND NOW WE DON'T NEED 'EM. THAT'D PISS YOU OFF, RIGHT?

SO NOW IT'S STARTING. TREES FALL ON DUDES' CARS AND SHIT, DUDES HUFF AND PUFF ABOUT THEIR CARS AND USE UP AIR...



...AND THE TREES STOP MAKING AIR.

I THINK YOU GET MY DRIFT.



DOGS PISS ON TREES BECAUSE THEY CAN SENSE THE EVIL.



I WANT TO BAN PORNOGRAPHY WITH A TEN-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR VIEWING OR PARTICIPATING IN PORNOGRAPHY.

AND FIVE YEARS FOR ORAL SEX AND TWENTY FOR BEING A LESBIAN TOO.



I AM IN FAVOR OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR MURDER (INCLUDING PERFORMING AN ABORTION), ATTEMPTED MURDER, RAPE, INCEST, PEDOPHILIA/CHILD MOLESTATION, BESTIALITY,

TREASON, SPYING AGAINST THE STATE, ESPIONAGE, DRUG DEALING, ARMED ROBBERY AND HAVING SEX IN THE HOUSE IF YOU'RE SOMEONE'S MOTHER.



I AM ALSO AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY AND I BELIEVE HOMOSEXUALS OUGHT TO BE PUT IN MENTAL HOSPITALS BEFORE THEY DEGENERATE SOCIETY AND OUR CHILDREN'S MORALS EVEN FURTHER.

I ALSO BELIEVE ANY CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF HOMOSEXUALS OUGHT TO BE TAKEN AWAY IMMEDIATELY EVEN IF SHE'S YOUR MOTHER.



"LET A WOMAN LEARN IN SILENCE WITH ALL SUBMISSIVENESS. I PERMIT NO WOMAN TO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER MEN; SHE IS TO KEEP SILENT. FOR ADAM WAS FORMED FIRST, THEN EVE;

"AND ADAM WAS NOT DECEIVED, BUT THE WOMAN WAS DECEIVED AND BECAME A TRANSGRESSOR. YET WOMAN WILL BE SAVED THROUGH BEARING CHILDREN, IF SHE CONTINUES IN FAITH AND LOVE AND HOLINESS WITH MODESTY."



(I TIMOTHY 2:11-15)

THIS? IT SAYS WANG MENTAL HOSPITAL. IT WAS FREE.

PUCKS

MY WIFE
MELED WITH MY

(EQUALS
CHRISTS)

SOUL FOR WE
EACH TOOK THE HOLY
SACRAMENT OF 800
MICROGRAMS OF LSD, SO
ETERNALLY JOINED UNDER
THE SIGHT OF MY
FATHER THE LORD GOD
AND ME JESUS AND
THE HOLY GHOST.

LAURA.

SHE IS ONE OF
THE WONDERS OF THE
THE WORLD AND AN
ARCHANGEL AS WELL
AS BEING MY/
CHRISTS WIFE

HER PLACE
IS WITH ME AS HER
SOLE ACTUAL,
LEGITIMATE, HOLY,
ETERNAL, PURE
AND REAL
HUSBAND.

AND I WILL
NOT SAVE YOU UNLESS
SHE CHANGES BACK TO
THE WAY SHE WAS DURING
OUR 18 MONTHS COURT-
SHIP AND TWO AND HALF
MONTHS OF
MARRIAGE

BEFORE
SATAN TOOK HER
AND MIND-SMASHED
HER INTO HAVING
NOTHING TO DO
WITH ME, HER
REMEMBER
SOLE ACTUAL
REAL
HUSBAND

THEN SOLD
HER TO SOME RICH
DICK EXEC FOR
BREEDING AND VIILLE
SEX THINGS.

AND I
DEMAND THE
RETURN OF YOU
AND THE TWENTY-
EIGHT YEARS AND
FIVE MONTHS SINCE
YOU LEFT LOST
AND RAPED AWAY
FROM ME.

HER PARENTS
WANTED HER TO BE
WELL-MARRIED AND RICH
AND TOLD ME TO FUCK
OFF AND DIE BUT JUST ONE
OF MY IDEAS ABOUT
CHILDREN WOULD BARN
ONE TRILLION
DOLLARS

AND HOW
COULD SHE DO
BETTER
THAN BEING
CHRISTS WIFE,
ANYWAY?



I KNEW IT WAS COMING, SURE.

I'D FOUND OUT ABOUT THE BEAMING DEVICES, YOU SEE. I KNEW WHEN THEY WERE PASSING THE TELEPATHY BEAMS OVER OUR BLOCK.

IT'S AN ITCH YOU GET AT THE BASE OF YOUR SKULL. THE LIZARD BRAIN REACTS TO THE TELEPATHIC BURGLARY.



I STARTED KEEPING A DIARY OF THE TIMES THEY SWIFT THE BLOCK. AND I GUESS IT'S WHAT CAUGHT THEIR ATTENTION.

THEY STARTED FOLLOWING ME. YOU CAN TELL THEM BECAUSE THEIR EYES REFLECT SILVER. IT'S AN IDENTIFICATION BAFFLER, YOU CAN READ ABOUT IT IN THE SECURITY MAGAZINES.



IT DIDN'T SCARE ME. OR, AT LEAST, IT DIDN'T SCARE ME ENOUGH TO STOP.

SO I KNEW WHAT WAS COMING. WARNED MY GIRLFRIEND, WARNED THE NEIGHBORS. AND THEY TOLD ME I WAS CRAZY.



I MEAN, EVERYONE SAID I WAS NUTS. EVEN I STARTED TO WONDER, AM I WORRYING FOR NOTHING?

THEN WE GOT HOME ONE NIGHT FROM THE MOVIES AND FOUND THE PLACE BLOWN APART. BUT THE ONLY THING MISSING WAS MY DIARY.



AND I THOUGHT THANK GOD, YOU KNOW? I'M NOT CRAZY.

THERE IS A REASON



WARREN ELLIS writes and DARICK ROBERTSON pencils

there is a reason

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CLEM ROBINS, letterer
JENNIFER LEE, assistant editor

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MATT WAGNER, cover
AXEL ALONSO, editor



TRANSMETROPOLITAN created by

WARREN ELLIS & DARICK ROBERTSON



More
crazy
people on
the street
than there
used to be.

I mean, there's
always been crazy
people on the street.
This is nothing new.

But in some districts,
the population is
getting denser.

The
districts most of
you don't go to, of
course.



Here's how it works.

Mental hospitals are
expensive places to run.
Most mentally ill people
either start out poor or
quickly become poor.

Therefore, their care
becomes a cost to
the state.

And the state don't
like that. Oh no.

So, here in the City, the
mental hospital goes to
Civic Center and says We
can't afford the bed for
Mad Person A.

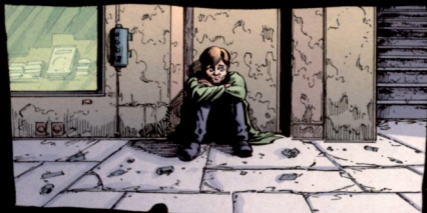
It would in fact be cheaper
to put Mad Person A in a
hostel or a rented room than
to maintain them here.

Give us permission to
ship Mad Person A the
hell out of here.



This program is called "Care In The Community."

As you can see, it's working wonderfully.



I first noticed how deep the transitioning of mental patients from institutions to the street had become when I saw a bunch of Revival-bashers working over a guy outside a drugstore.

Except it wasn't a Revival they were beating up. It was some poor bastard with a head full of busted wiring who started jabbering about God and the Devil.





WEIRDEST
THING. HE WAS
PROBABLY THE
BRAVEST GUY I
EVER MET.

HE BELIEVED--
AND I MEAN ABSOLUTELY
BELIEVED AND EXPERIENCED
--GOD AND THE DEVIL
WERE TALKING
TO HIM.



THEY WERE
CONSTANTLY TALKING
TO HIM TO TRY AND
MAKE HIM DO
THINGS.

LIKE
WHAT?

LIKE TRYING
TO MAKE HIM THROW
HIMSELF IN FRONT OF A
CAR TO PROTECT
A BUG FROM ITS
WHEELS.

LIKE TRYING
TO MAKE HIM TAKE A SHIT
IN A MOMENTARILY-
UNATTENDED BABY
CARRIAGE



CAN YOU
EVEN IMAGINE WHAT
THAT'S LIKE?

GOD AND THE
DEVIL WERE SPEAKING
TO HIM HIS EVERY
WAKING SECOND.

AND HE SPENT
EVERY SECOND HE WAS
ALIVE TRYING TO
FEND THEM OFF.



SPENDING
YOUR WHOLE LIFE
FIGHTING TO DO
WHAT'S RIGHT.

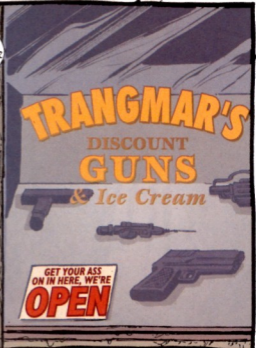




THERE WAS THIS OLDER GUY AND HE SMELLED OF RUBBER AND SOMETHING.

RUBBER, LATEX, AND SOMETHING MEDICATED.

AND A YOUNGER GUY, COMMS TATTOO BEHIND HIS LEFT EAR.



I READ ALL ABOUT COMMS TATTOOS, Y'CAN'T COVER THEM UP, THEY GLOW THROUGH MOST ANYTHING.

YOU HAVE TO WEAR WHAT THEY USED TO CALL A BLUR SUIT.



THE OLDER GUY DIDN'T WANT TO BE THERE SAID HE WAS GOING TO START BEING ON TV SOON AND SHIT.

SAID THE YOUNGER GUY WAS THEIR MAN ON THE GROUND IN THE CITY TO DO SHIT FOR THEM AND THIS WASN'T RIGHT.



YOUNGER GUY MADE A LOT OF AUTHORITY NOISES.

I RECKON HE WAS NEW WORLD ORDER, SEE? HERE TO WATCH US.

I WISH THEY DIDN'T ALL FUCKING WATCH US.



THE OLDER GUY, WAS THIS HIM?

...YEAH.



JESUS CHRIST.

HE WAS ON THE STREET LOOKING FOR VITA SEVERNS ASSASSIN.

I MEAN, WE ALREADY HEARD THAT A REVIVAL DID THE HIT.

THIS IS CONFIRMATION.

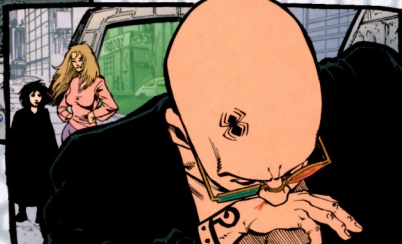
SWAG

AND OF COURSE, IT'S COMPLETELY FUCKING USELESS.

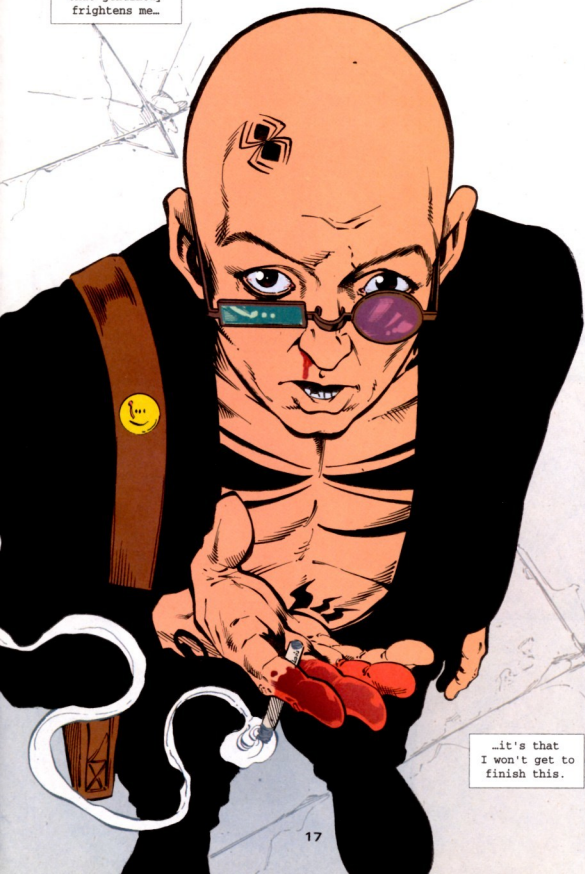
BECAUSE THE ONLY WITNESSES WERE MAD PEOPLE.

AS SCHACT AND THE SMILER KNEW IT WOULD BE.

THE BASTARD.



You know, if there's one thing that genuinely frightens me...



...it's that I won't get to finish this.



HE'S NOT WELL.

I'VE BEEN COVERING FOR IT, BUT HE'S DEFINITELY HAVING BLACKOUTS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?



RIGHT NOW? NOTHING.

YOU CAN'T TALK TO THE BASTARD ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING, YOU KNOW THAT.

HE CAN'T BE QUESTIONED, YOU KNOW?



IS IT THE DRUGS?

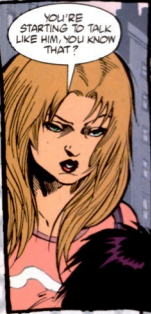
HE HITS THEM HARD SOMETIMES, AND HE DOESN'T TAKE REPAIR COURSES OR GIVE HIS BODY MUCH TIME TO COPE.

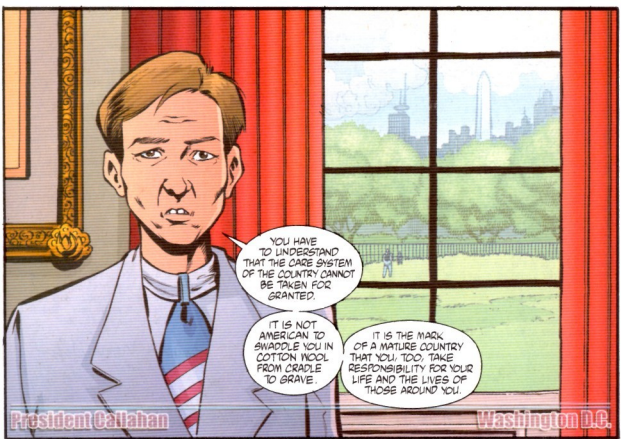


THAT'S WHAT'S BUGGING ME.

I DON'T THINK IT IS THE DRUGS, OR AT LEAST, NOT JUST THE DRUGS.

I'M STARTING TO THINK HE'S GENUINELY ILL.





YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE CARE SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

IT IS NOT AMERICAN TO SWADDLE YOU IN COTTON WOOL FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE.

IT IS THE MARK OF A MATURE COUNTRY THAT YOU, TOO, TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND YOU.

President Callahan

Washington D.C.



WE ARE NOT BIG GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT OWN YOU. THESE STREETS ARE YOUR STREETS.

THEREFORE IT IS YOU, IN YOUR GREATNESS AS AMERICANS, WHO MUST CARE FOR YOUR STREETS.



AND THE PEOPLE ON THEM.



CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

BECAUSE WE CAN'T DO IT FOR YOU.





I'M SPIDER
JERUSALEM.

MY NAME
WAS APPARENTLY
SUPPOSED TO BE
DJANGO HERACLITUS
JERUSALEM.

BUT I CAME OUT
A SKINNY BABY AND MY
MOTHER HAD VERY BAD
EYESIGHT AND THREE
DIFFERENT NEUROLOGI-
CAL DIFFICULTIES
AT THE TIME.

SO SPIDER
IT WAS.



I'M A
JOURNALIST.

IT'S MY JOB
TO TELL YOU WHERE
I THINK I AM TODAY
AND WHAT I THINK IT
LOOKS LIKE.



TODAY I'M IN
A PLACE WHERE MENTALLY
ILL PEOPLE ARE DUMPED
OUT OF THE CARE THEY
NEED, ON TO THE
POVERTY-AREAS
STREETS THAT YOU
NEVER SEE.

UNLESS YOU'RE
OUT COLLECTING
GARBAGE FOR
YOUR MAKERS.



THESE
ARE THEIR
STORIES.

AND WHEN YOU
ASK YOURSELF HOW THIS
COULD HAVE COME TO PASS,
UNDERSTAND:



THERE IS
A REASON.