

VERTIGO
DC COMICS

WARREN ELLIS • DARICK ROBERTSON • RODNEY RAMOS

NO. 52
MAR 02

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

TRANSMETROPOLITAN



SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS

SALE

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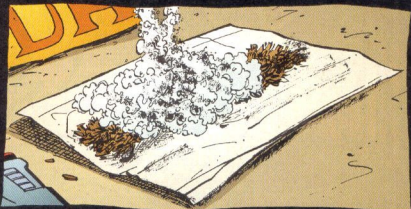


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\$2.50 US \$4.25 CAN

GLEN
FABRY

01



WARREN ELLIS writes and DARICK ROBERTSON and RODNEY RAMOS draw

THE CURE



one of three

Clem Robins, letterer

Nathan Eyring, color & separations



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cover

Zachary Rau
ass't editor

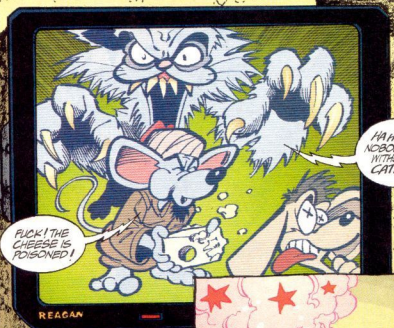
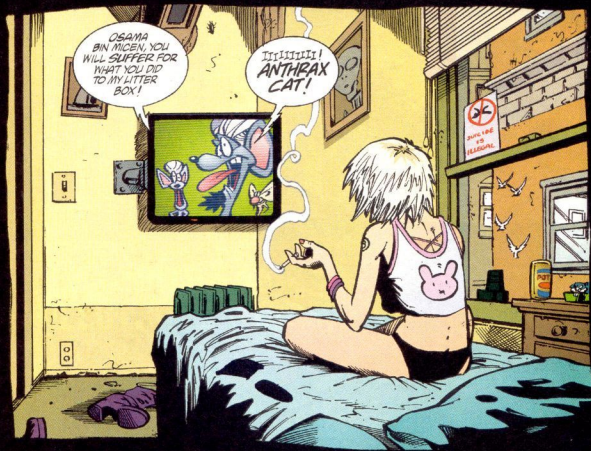
Heidi MacDonald
editor



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LET ME
JUST PIN YOU
DOWN THERE,
TERRORIST
RODENT

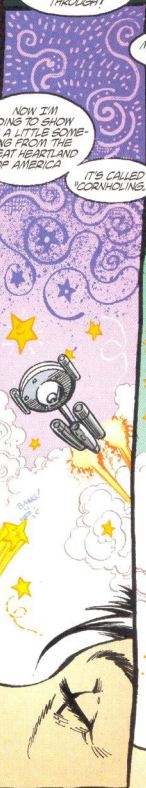
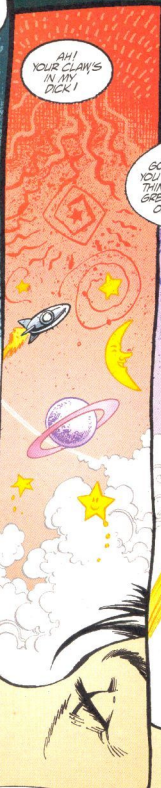
AH!
YOUR CLAW'S
IN MY
DICK!

OH, DEITY, IT'S
GONE ALL THE WAY
THROUGH!

MEOW MEOW
HA HA!

NOW I'M
GOING TO SHOW
YOU A LITTLE SOME-
THING FROM THE
GREAT HEARTLAND
OF AMERICA

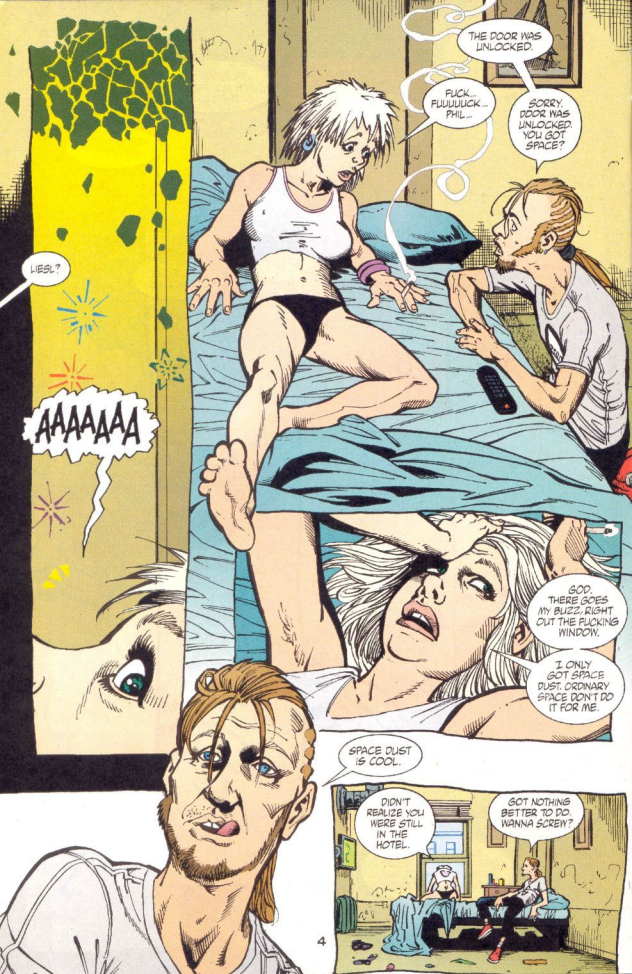
IT'S CALLED
"CORNHOLING."



NO! AA
NO! AIIIEEEAA

KIDS, WOULD YOU
LIKE THE ANTHRAX CAT
CORNHOLING KIT? CALL
THIS NUMBER NOW!

AAAAIIIIII



THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED.

FUCK... FUUUUUUCK... PHIL...

SORRY, DOOR WAS UNLOCKED YOU GOT SPACE?

LIESL?

AAAAAAA

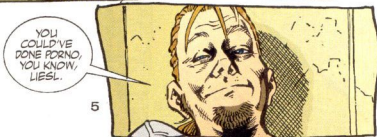
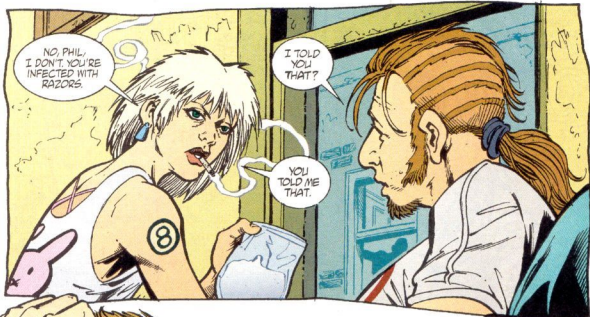
GOD, THERE GOES MY BUZZ, RIGHT OUT THE FUCKING WINDOW.

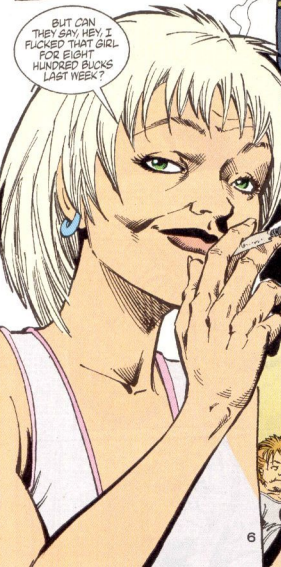
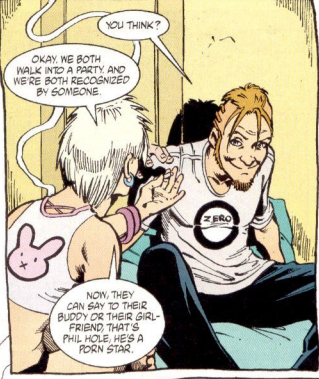
I ONLY GOT SPACE DUST, ORDINARY SPACE DON'T DO IT FOR ME.

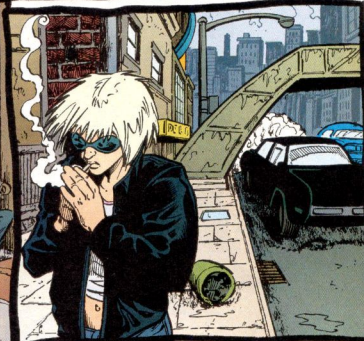
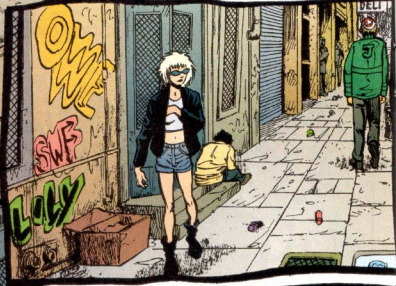
SPACE DUST IS COOL.

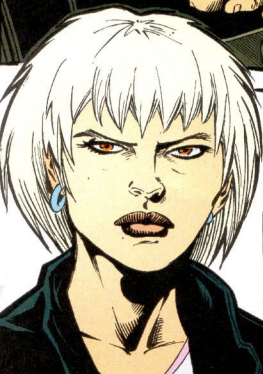
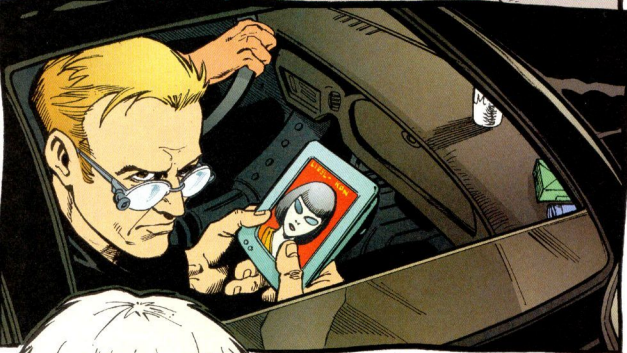
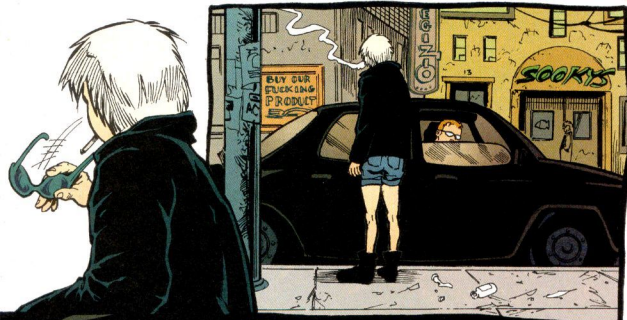
DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE STILL IN THE HOTEL.

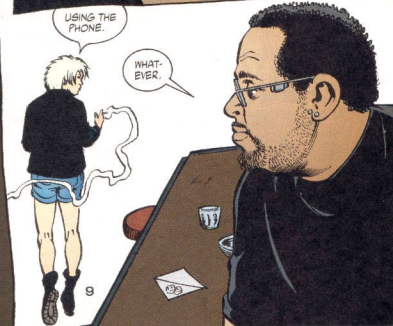
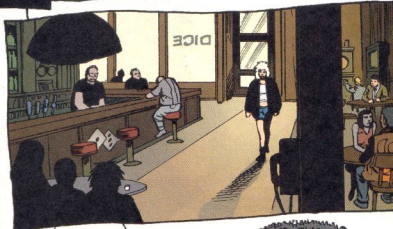
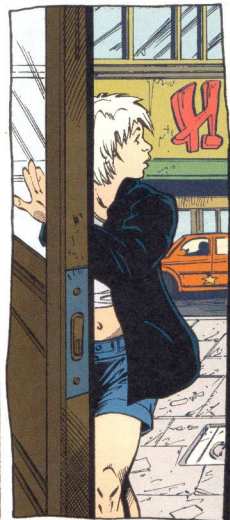
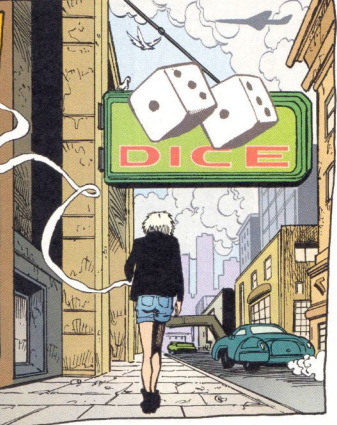
GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO, WANNA SCREAM?













IT'S LIESL.

I WANT TO COME BACK.



NO. NO. SHUT UP, I...

I DON'T CARE, OKAY? HE'S DEAD. SHIT HAPPENED, BUT IT HAPPENED WEEKS AGO. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HIDING.

I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT STARE AT THE CEILING AND SMOKE SPACE DUST FOR...



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, DO YOU? HE'S DEAD AND YOU FREAKED, AND...

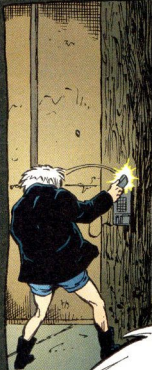
...NO, FUCK THIS. I'M SICK OF THIS I GOT HARDLY ANY MONEY LEFT, AND...

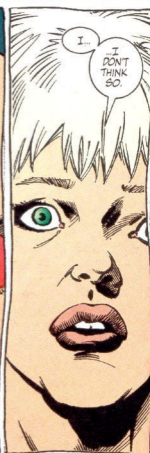
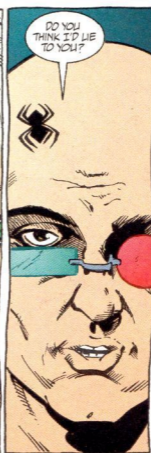
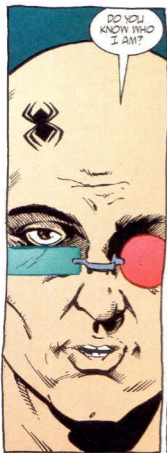
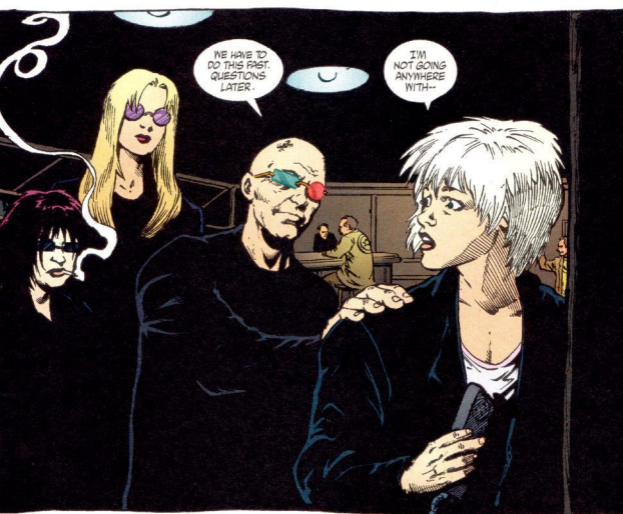


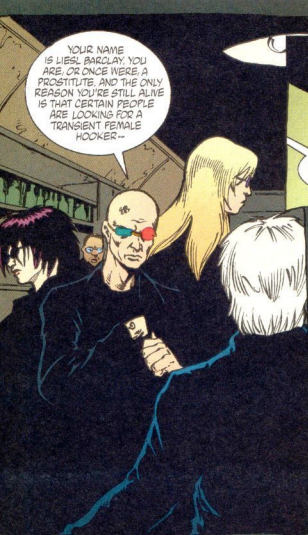
ALL RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

I SAID I WAS SORRY.

I JUST... I WANT TO BE TOLD THINGS. I DON'T WANT TO HIDE ANYMORE AND I WANT TO BE TOLD THINGS.







YOUR NAME IS LIESL BARCLAY, YOU ARE, OR ONCE WERE, A PROSTITUTE, AND THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE STILL ALIVE IS THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A TRANSIENT FEMALE HOOKER--



--AND HAVEN'T USED A G-READER ON YOU.



YOU TELL ME WHY. TELL ME WHY YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU.

BECAUSE ALL THE OTHER HOOKERS THAT SERVICED GARY CALLAHAN ARE DEAD, ALONG WITH ONE OF THE ONLY TWO OTHER PEOPLE WHO KNEW.

ONE OF THEM IS SO FAR IN HIDING HE MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD.



YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

LET'S GO, NOW.



ALL MY THINGS ARE IN MY HOTEL.

LEAVE THEM.

I CAN'T.



I HAVE MANY FINE DRUGS, LIBSL. LEAVE THEM.



IT'S NOT DRUGS. IT'S NOT DRUGS. PLEASE, I CAN'T LEAVE THEM.

YELENA AND I WILL COME UP WITH YOU TO GET THEM. CHANNON, YOU KNOW THE DEAL.



LET'S DO IT.





IT'S JUST UP HERE.

I TOOK THE CURE.

BETTER BE, SO HOW COME YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A TRANSIENT?



FUCKING PHIL...

WHAT?

PHIL THE PORN GUY, HE'S ALWAYS IN MY ROOM. NEVER LOCKS THE FUCKING DOOR...



GET YOUR STUFF AND LET'S MOVE.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

SOMEPLACE WE CAN KEEP YOU SAFE AND TALK TO YOU FOR A WHILE.





YOU CAN TALK TO ME NOW.

I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE SCENE A WHILE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE OTHER GIRLS I WORKED WITH THOSE TIMES.

IN THAT GAME, PEOPLE GO TO GROUND PRETTY OFTEN...



I DON'T THINK THEY'RE...

DEAD



PHIL'S HAD HIS LAST HOLE.

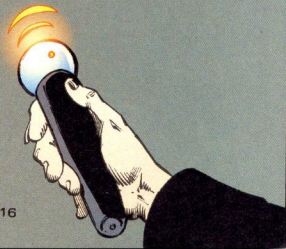
YELENA, GET READY FOR TROUBLE.

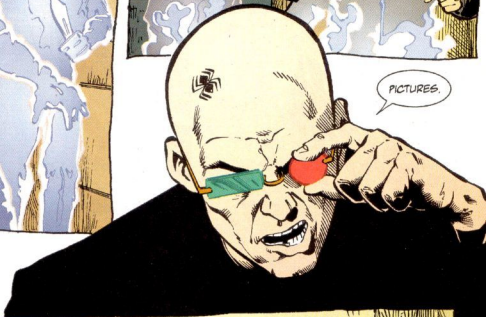
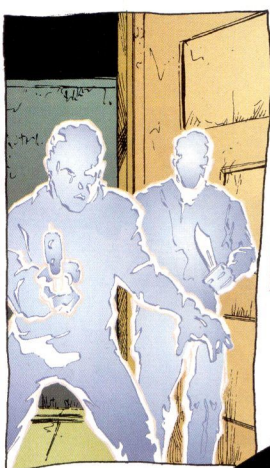
PHONE TRAIT ON: SPEED-DIAL CHANNON.



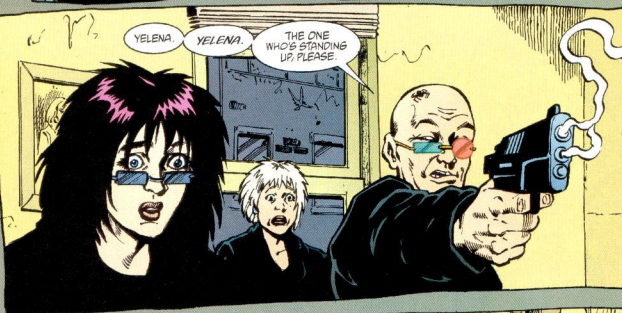
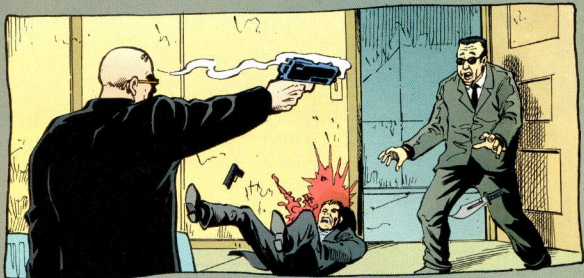
YELENA! BLUR SUITS!

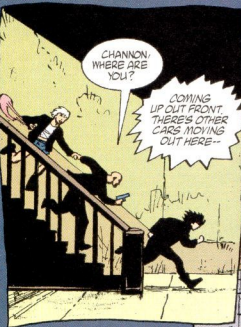
CHANNON! GO GO GO!

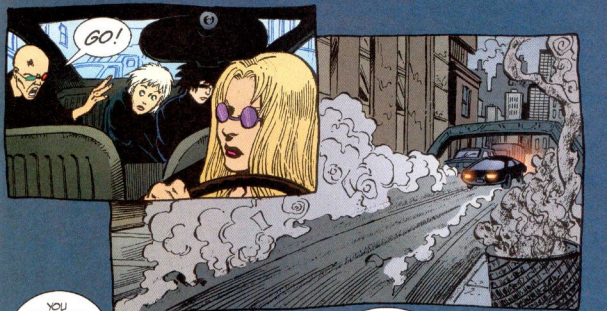










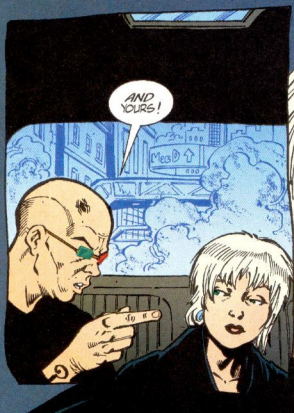


GO!

YOU INSANE BAG OF DOGSHIT! YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU HAD A REAL GUN!

THAT WAS THE POINT! THE LAST THING ANYONE BRIEFED ON ME WOULD EXPECT IS A REAL GUN!

I JUST SAVED YOUR WORTHLESS ANAL DISCHARGE OF A LIFE!



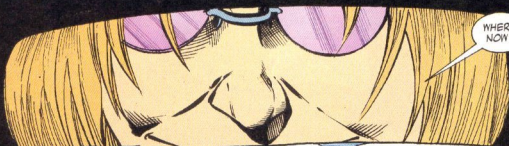
AND YOURS!



WHAT DO YOU WANT, A BLOW JOB?



DO NOT ANSWER THAT.



WHERE NOW?



STICK TO THE SPIDER-PLAN, GIRL WONDER. ATOMIC BATTERIES TO POWER, TURBINES TO SPEED--TO THE SPIDER-CAVE.

HE MEANS MY DAD'S HOUSE

IT'S LIKE WORKING FOR A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY WITH A MASSIVE CAFFEINE HIGH AND A PERMANENT AND YET VERY SMALL ERECTION.



AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST THING ABOUT IT IS?

HE'S THE GOOD GUY.



The name's Ozane Theodore Ledger, detective, and my beat is the underbelly of comics. You guessed it...VERTIGO. My latest investigation brings me face to face with some mook name of BRIAN AZZARELLO, says he's some kind of writer. From what I hear, he's behind some pretty shady stuff, and I intend to squeeze some information out of this guy, provided I can get past his editor-cum-mouthpiece, some red-headed weasel what calls himself WILL DENNIS. I enter the cramped interrogation room, put on my tough-guy face and get ready to make with the thumbscrews.

OTL: So... I understand that you're the guy what writes that HELLBLAZER thing. Something about a Brit mystic name of Constantine running around and getting into all kinds of weird crap, right?

AZZARELLO: (silence)

OTL: Way I hear it, this abracadabra Limey's been murdered, and you, my Eisner Award-winning friend, are the schmuck who's behind it. Some storyline called ASHES AND DUST IN THE CITY OF ANGELS. What do you say to that, Mister Literature?

AZZARELLO: (long silence) I'll let my representative speak for me, detective.

OTL: Not much of a writer if you're gonna let some guy put words in your mouth, are you?

AZZARELLO: Opinions vary...

ON THE ledge

DENNIS: (sneeringly) If you're done with your sad attempts at sarcasm, detective, can we please get on with it?

OTL: Gladly. What I need to know is if Elmore Leonard over here really killed off this Constantine guy.

DENNIS: You seem to know so much, why don't you tell me?

OTL: Way we heard it, he spontaneously combusted. Just standing there in the middle of a club, then "POOF!" In front of a room full of witnesses, no less.

DENNIS: You say that you *have* witnesses, so why haul Brian in here? The guy's got to write more than just HELLBLAZER, you know. Ever heard of 100 BULLETS? Distractions like this are what make us editorial types go postal, dude.

OTL: Look... I've talked to all of the witnesses, and their stories simply don't add up. It's like that Kurosawa flick RASHOMON, where everybody's got a different take on the crime. Is that reference a little too highbrow for you, Mickey Spillane?

DENNIS: (annoyed) Come on, Brian. This dude's wasting your time, and the deadline doom approacheth.

OTL: Hold it! Where the hell are you two going? I'm no closer to any answers on this than I was before you two jackasses came in here! What am I supposed to do now?

AZZARELLO: Ever thought of picking up HELLBLAZER 170 to start picking up the clues, Sherlock?

Good advice, as much as I hate to admit it. Maybe I'll have better luck with his accomplices, MARCELO FRUSIN and TIM BRADSTREET. Word on the street is that they're softer than ice cream in July...

IN STORES THIS JANUARY

THE SANDMAN PRESENTS: THE THESSALIAD #1 (OF 4)

Thessaly, the fan-favorite character from THE SANDMAN: A GAME OF YOU, returns in a 4-issue dark fantasy quest. When a cantankerous creature known as Fetch is sent to capture Thess and prepare her as the last supper for a pack of homeless gods, they both end up being chased from the fractured streets of Manhattan to the mercurial realms beneath the allegorical subway. The most powerful Thessalkan ever may finally have met her match. *Written by Bill Willingham; art by Shawn McManus; cover by Dave McKean.*

TRANSMETROPOLITAN: GOUGE AWAY (TRADE PAPERBACK)

Collecting issues #31-36 of the series, this volume features three one-shot stories as well as the 3-part "Gouge Away" storyline, in which Spider and his filthy assistants continue to track down the horrifying truth behind the newly elected president's successful campaign. *Written by Warren Ellis. Art by Darick Robertson, Rodney Ramos, Lea Hernandez, Kieran Dwyer, Bryan Hitch, Frank Quitely, and Eduardo Risso. Cover by Robertson.*

AMERICAN CENTURY #11

Part 2 of the 4-part "White Lightning" storyline. Harry Kraft's getting a dose of southern comfort from Lorelei, a stock car racer who's burning up the track — not to mention Harry's bed. A Yankee ATF agent comes to town and Wallace Pitt's plot to control Newton's moonshine trade explodes in violence and vengeance. *By Chaykin, Tschman, Laming & Stokes.*

OUTLAW NATION #17

With Old Asa's six-gun to her head, Nurse Dolores wishes she'd stayed out of Story Johnson's story. But when the hammer falls on an empty chamber, and the Devil Kid and Lola survive their "blaze of glory" exit, Dolores knows that she's too deep into the quicksand now to quit. *By Delano, Parlow & Sudzika.*

THE CRUSADES #11

The "Second Crusade" reaches its penultimate ground with a cornered detective, a heart-stopping "jail" break, a holy betrayal, an offer Anton Mann can't refuse, and a central character who won't live to see how any of it plays out! Plus: The origin of the Knight!?! *By Seagle, Jones & Randall. Cover by Justin Sweet.*

GRIP: THE STRANGE WORLD OF MEN #3 (OF 5)

From a creepy conspiracy cult on the edge of Armageddon to pillow talk that goes deadly, this issue reveals Mike Chang's mysterious background. Also included: "little" Joe Hook, a science experiment gone awry, and a special appearance by Mike's mom. *Written and illustrated by Gilbert Hernandez.*

HELLBLAZER #170

New storyline. In a seedy Los Angeles S&M club, a grisly murder has taken place. The detectives assigned to the case are at a loss to explain how it happened, and as for the murderer, no one seems to have the answer to the question: "Who killed John Constantine?" *By Azzarello & Frusin.*

CODENAME: KNOCKOUT #9

She's back — the uncanny Una Enigma! Angela and Go-Go trail the mysterious super-spy to Greece in an effort to discover who — or what — she really is. *By Rodi. Art by Amanda Connor and Jimmy Palmiotti. Cover by Tomas Giorello.*

100 BULLETS #32

While unravelling the mysterious circumstances that left his face wrapped in bandages, Private Eye Milo finds a trail that leads to seriously old-moneyed corridors. He also finds himself way in over his gauze-covered head. *By Azzarello & Risso.*

HUNTER: THE AGE OF MAGIC #7

School's out forever. So where do you go? How do you fit in? Can you really go home again? Imagine finishing school and returning home to find that every magical entity between Faerie and Fargo wants you dead. Welcome home, Timothy Hunter. *Written by Dylan Horrocks; art by Chris McLaughlin; painted cover by Jon Foster.*

LUCIFER #22

Part 2 of the 3-part "Paradiso" storyline. Elaine flees a shapeless assassin through the tunnels of London's underground as the Basanos moves to annex Lucifer's Cosmos. Meanwhile, Lucifer himself is fatally distracted by a declaration of war — from Mazikeen. *By Carey, Gross & Kelly.*

TRANSMETROPOLITAN #52

Spider has identified the prostitutes set to service Gary Callahan and his staff during their campaign. And the girls have no protection whatsoever from a President moving to clear away the evidence of his every indiscretion before Spider Jerusalem can get to R... *By Ellis, Robertson & Ramos. Painted cover by Glenn Fabry.*

EVENTS NEXT MONTH...

S.C.I.—SPY #1

Sebastian Starchild, like all great secret agents, is a stubborn lone wolf with a penchant for the ladies and a knack for saving the world — or in his case, the universe. *By Moench and Gulacy.*