

VERTIGO
DC COMICS

WARREN ELLIS • DARICK ROBERTSON • RODNEY RAMOS

NO. 55
JUN 02

*** LATE EDITION ***

TRANSMETROPOLITAN

Having the kind of... at the notion of a new venue, we are also... FORAMS

SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS



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HEADLONG ONE OF THREE

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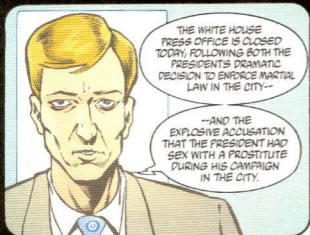


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THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY, FOLLOWING BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S DRAMATIC DECISION TO ENFORCE MARTIAL LAW IN THE CITY--

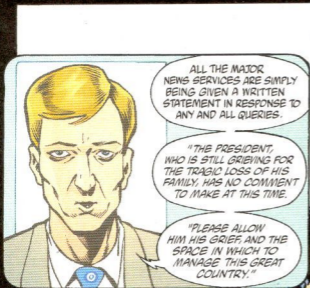
--AND THE EXPLOSIVE ACCUSATION THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SEX WITH A PROSTITUTE DURING HIS CAMPAIGN IN THE CITY.



GO GO GO--

I LIVE HERE, YOU FREAK OF NATURE--

I'M EVICTING YOU. GRAB ONE COMPUTER AND GO.



ALL THE MAJOR NEWS SERVICES ARE SIMPLY BEING GIVEN A WRITTEN STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ANY AND ALL QUERIES.

"THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS STILL GRIEVING FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF HIS FAMILY, HAS NO COMMENT TO MAKE AT THIS TIME.

"PLEASE ALLOW HIM HIS GRIEF, AND THE SPACE IN WHICH TO MANAGE THIS GREAT COUNTRY."



I LIVE HERE, I WORK HERE, I HAVE NO REASON TO LEAVE HERE IF YOU GET OUT GO--

SPIDER, WE TOLD YOU THERE ARE PEOPLE WATCHING OUT THERE--

I DON'T THINK I WANNA GO ANYWHERE WITH YOU...

COMMENT
FROM
ROBERT McX:

IT'S NOT AN
ACCUSATION. IT IS
BACKED UP BY
TESTIMONY AND
UNASSAILABLE
GENETIC
EVIDENCE.

IT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN WHETHER
ILLICIT SEX IS ACTUALLY
DAMAGING TO A
PRESIDENT IN THIS
DAY AND AGE.

WHO
STOLE YOUR
BRAINS?

I JUST RAMMED
A SKEWER THROUGH
THE PRESIDENT, SECONDS
AFTER HE PUT THE CITY
UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

IF I'D
BEEN FIVE
MINUTES FASTER,
WE'D BE FREE
AND CLEAR.

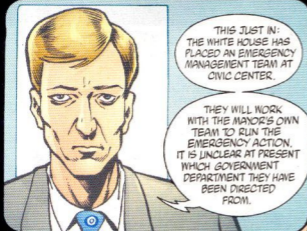
IT ALSO REMAINS TO BE
SEEN WHETHER OR NOT THE
SCALE OF THE TROUBLES IN
THE RECLAMATION ZONE WILL
NECESSITATE SERIOUS ACTION
FROM THE TROOPS DROPPED
EARLIER TODAY.

THE NEWS
SERVICES ARE BEING
ASKED TO STAND CLEAR OF
THE ZONE, AS RING-
LEADERS COULD USE TV
BROADCASTS TO SEND
HIDDEN SIGNALS TO
RIOTERS.

BUT I WASN'T
AND NOW I'VE REALLY
FLUCKED WITH HIS LIFE
IN AN ULTIMATE WAY
WHEN HE HAS THE
FLUCKING ARMY
IN TOWN.

HATE.
BULLETS.
BOMBS.
BLOOD.
SPIES.

AM I
GETTING THE
FLUCK THROUGH
TO YOU
PEOPLE?

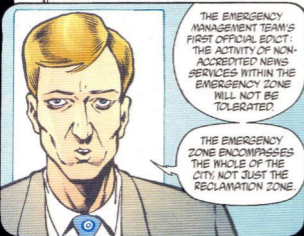


THIS JUST IN:
THE WHITE HOUSE HAS
PLACED AN EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT TEAM AT
CIVIC CENTER.

THEY WILL WORK
WITH THE MAYOR'S OWN
TEAM TO RUN THE
EMERGENCY ACTION.
IT IS UNCLEAR AT PRESENT
WHICH GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT THEY HAVE
BEEN DIRECTED
FROM.

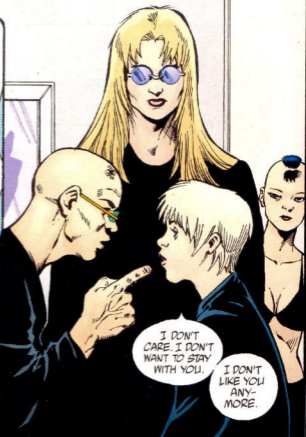


I DON'T
WANNA GO
ANYWHERE WITH
YOU.



THE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
FIRST OFFICIAL EDICT:
THE ACTIVITY OF NON-
ACCREDITED NEWS
SERVICES WITHIN THE
EMERGENCY ZONE
WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED.

THE EMERGENCY
ZONE ENCOMPASSES
THE WHOLE OF THE
CITY, NOT JUST THE
RECLAMATION ZONE.



YOU GO
OUT THERE, YOU'LL
BE PICKED UP BY
GOD KNOWS WHO
IN FIVE
MINUTES.

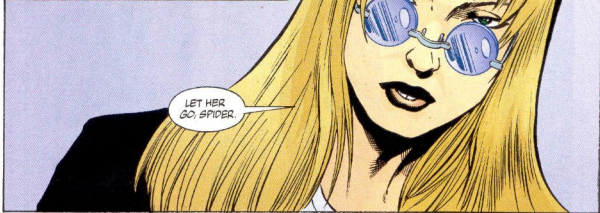
I DON'T
CARE, I DON'T
WANT TO STAY
WITH YOU.

I DON'T
LIKE YOU
ANY-
MORE.

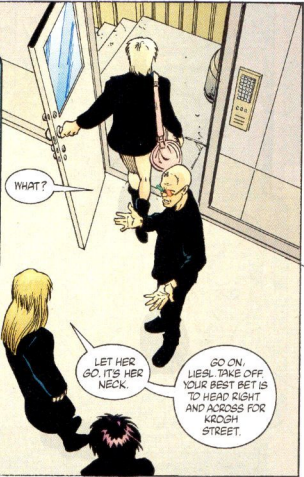


THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE HOLE, THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SERVICE WHICH BROKE THE ALLEGATION ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S SEXUAL CONDUCT IN THE CITY.

... PLEASE STAND BY.



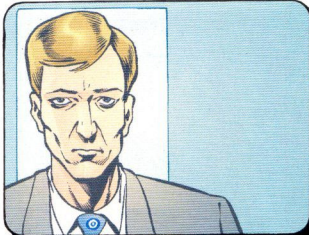
LET HER GO, SPIDER.



WHAT?

LET HER GO, IT'S HER NECK.

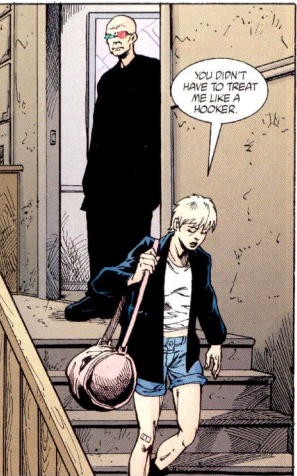
GO ON, LIESL. TAKE OFF. YOUR BEST BET IS TO HEAD RIGHT AND ACROSS FOR KROGH STREET.



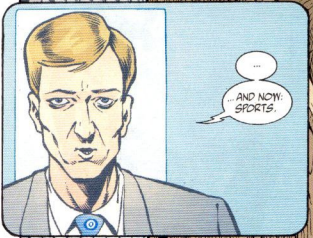
I DON'T LIKE YOU ANYMORE BECAUSE YOU STOPPED TALKING TO ME.

YOU GOT YOUR STORY AND STOPPED TALKING TO ME.

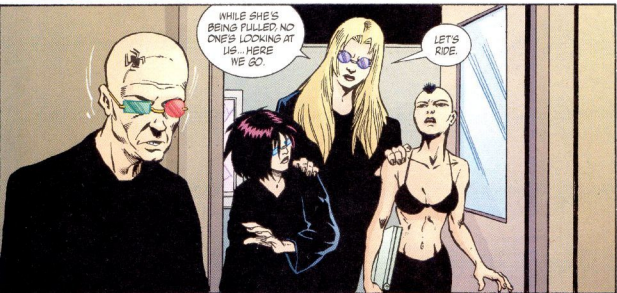
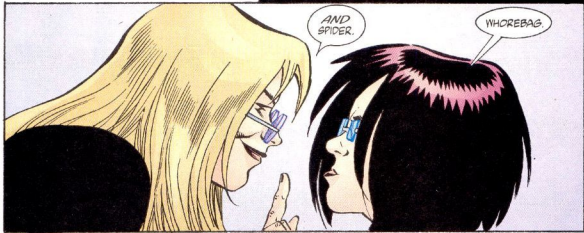
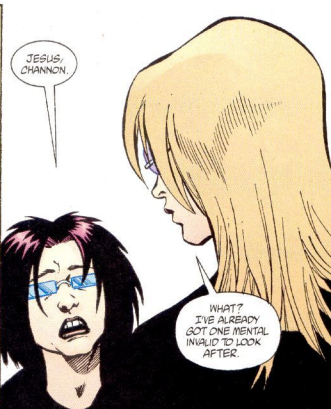
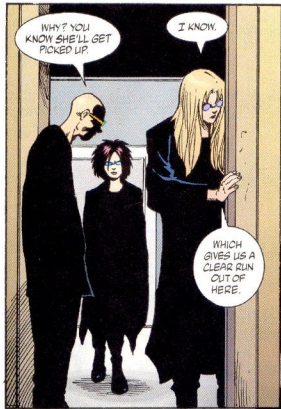
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED AND LEFT ME.

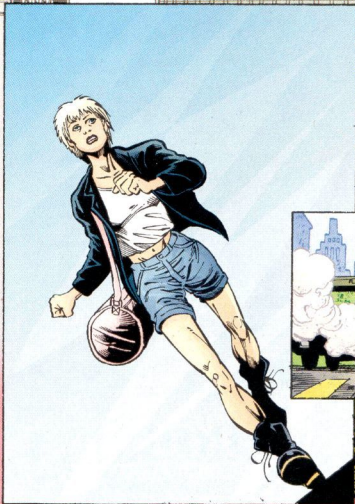


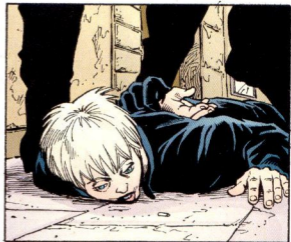
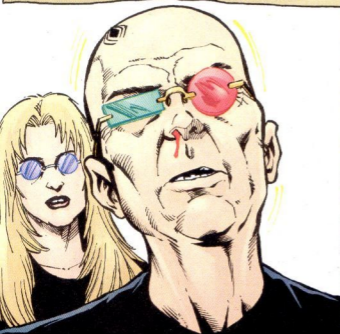
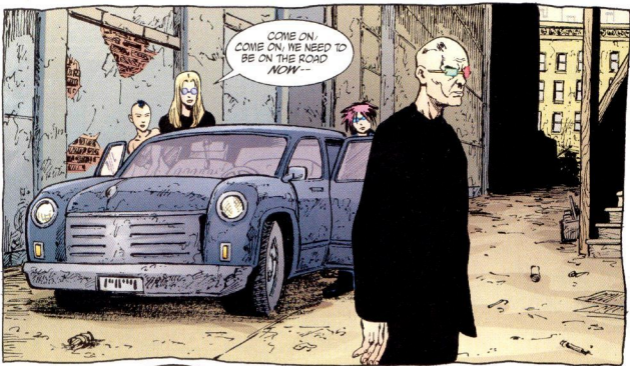
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TREAT ME LIKE A HOOKER.

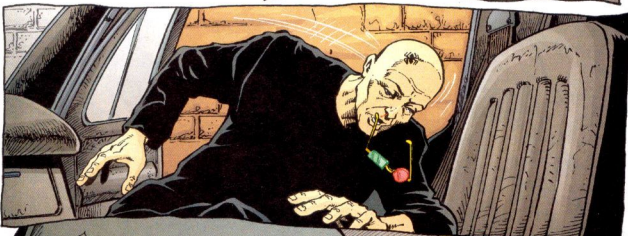
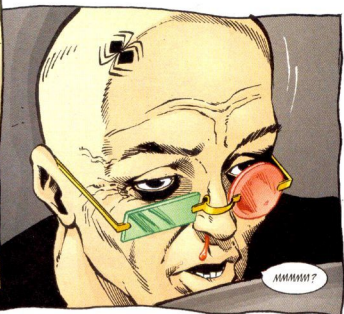


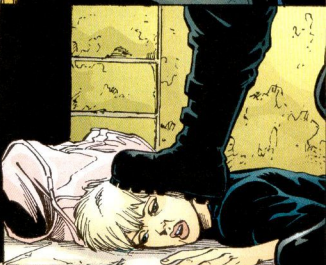
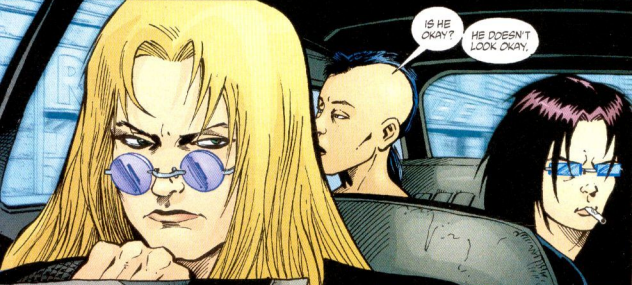
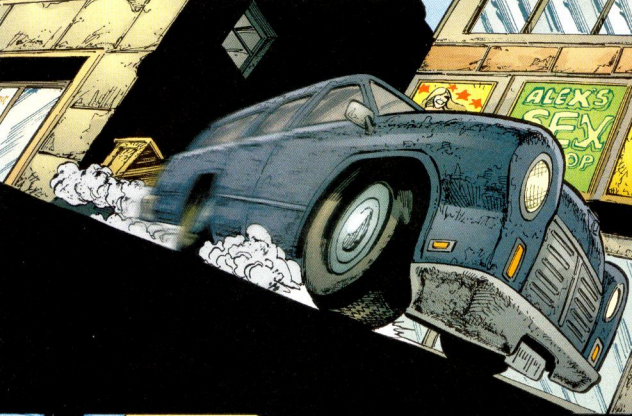
...
... AND NOW: SPORTS.

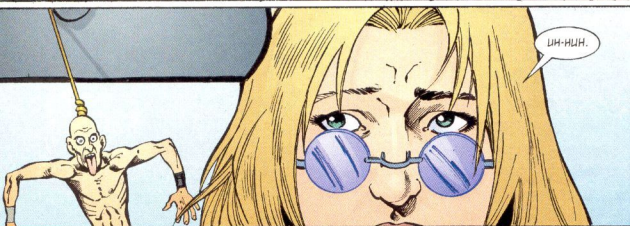
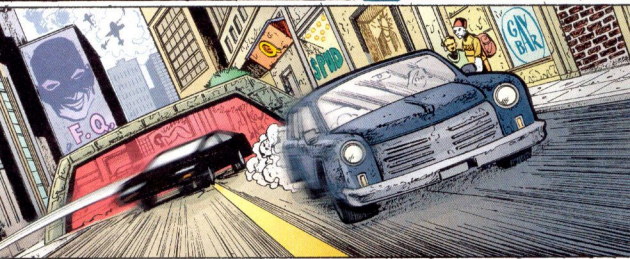
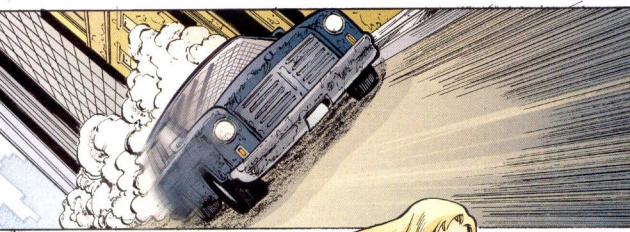


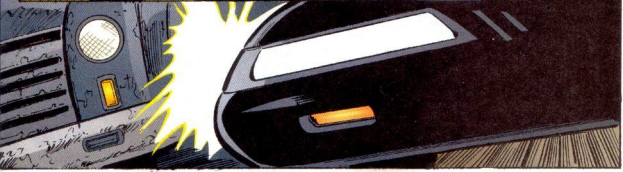
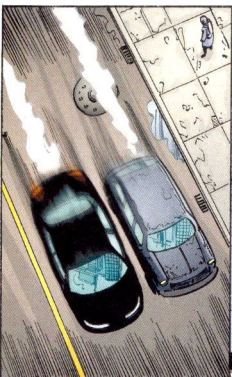


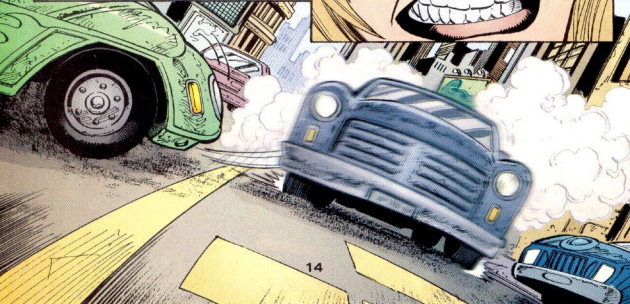
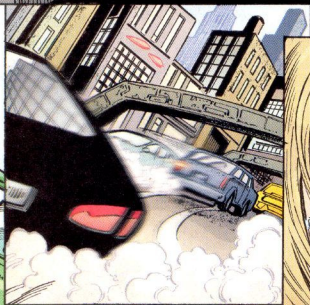
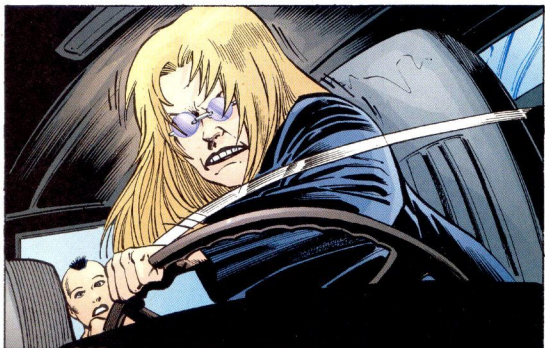


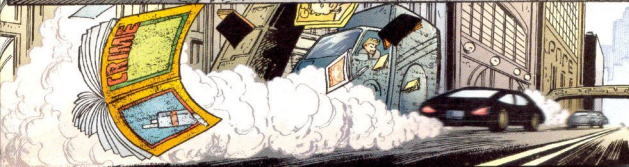
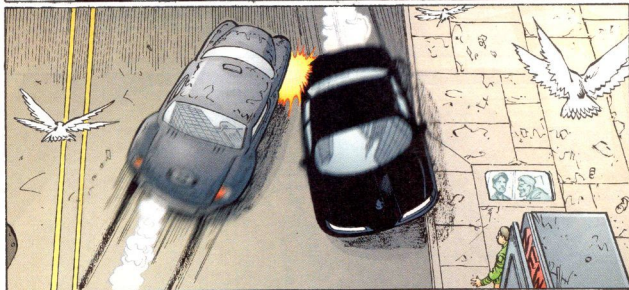
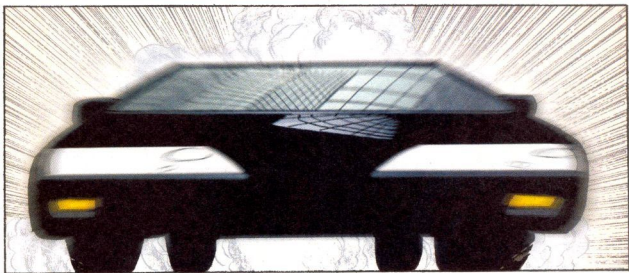


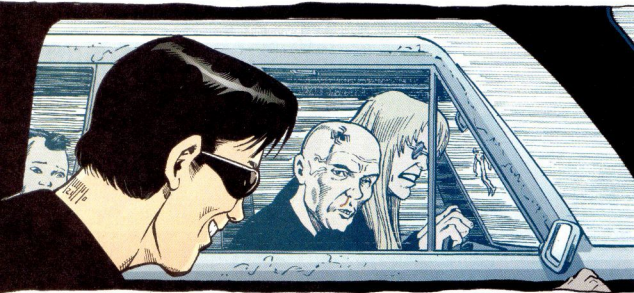
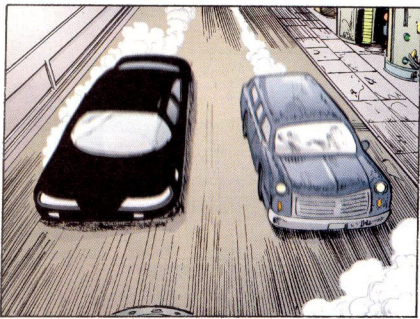


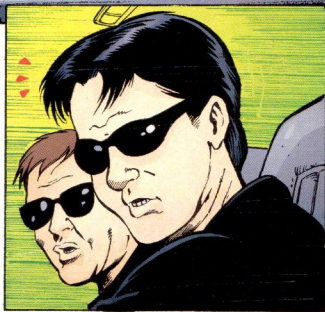
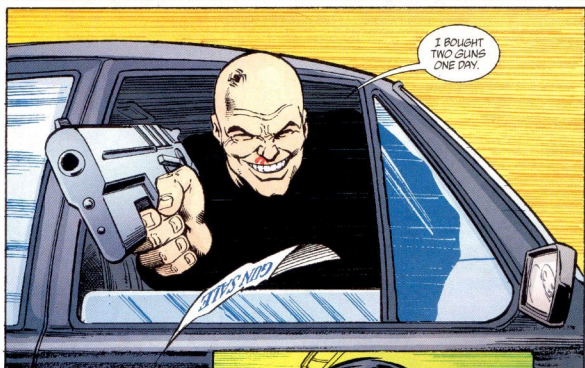


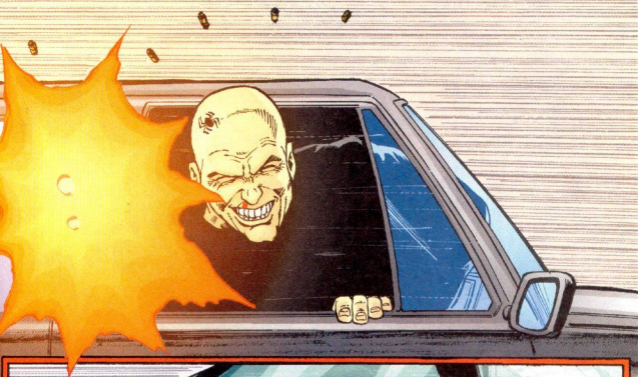


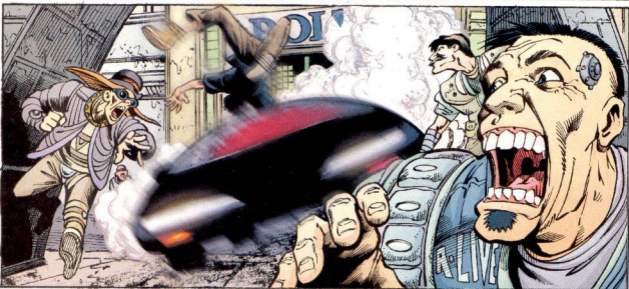
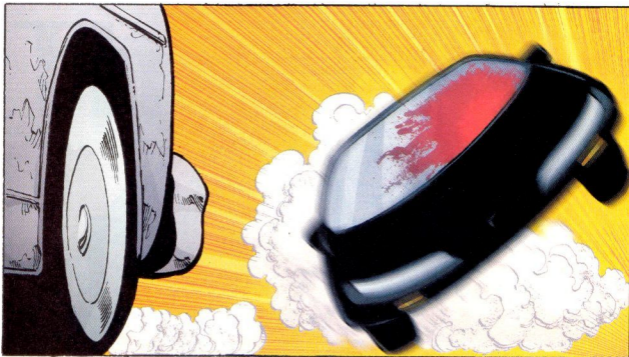


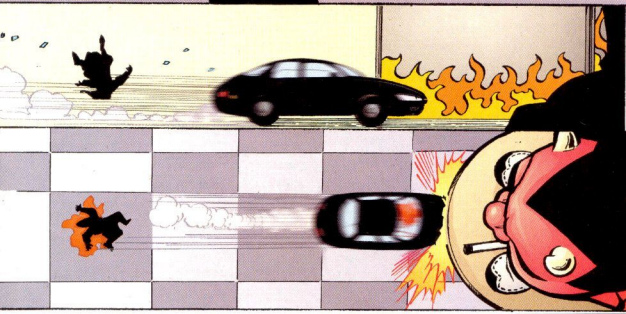
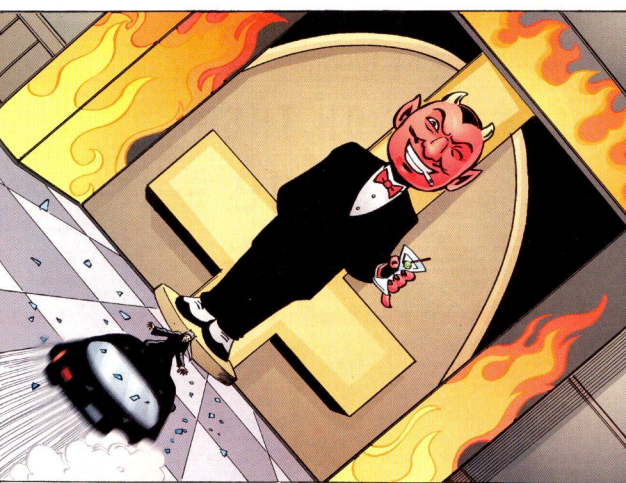


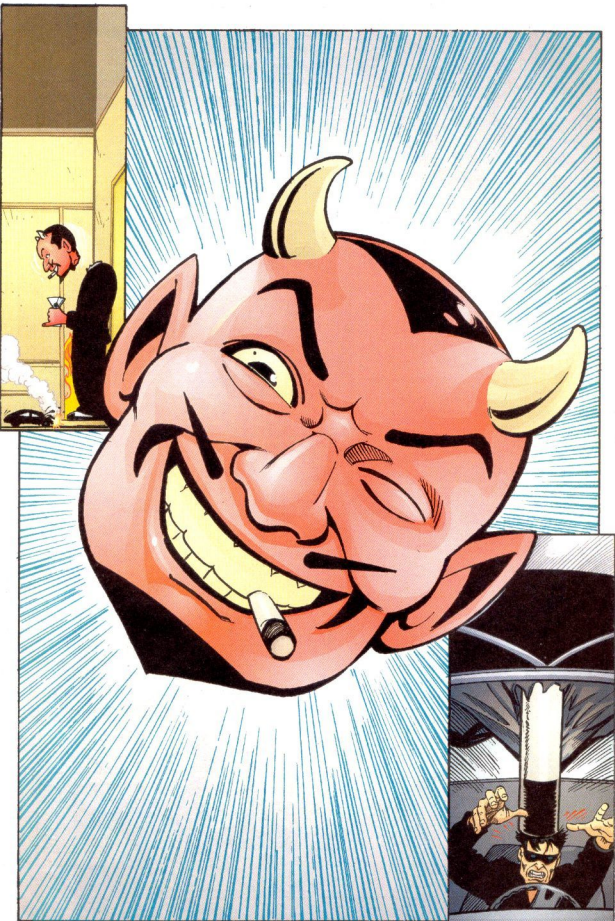


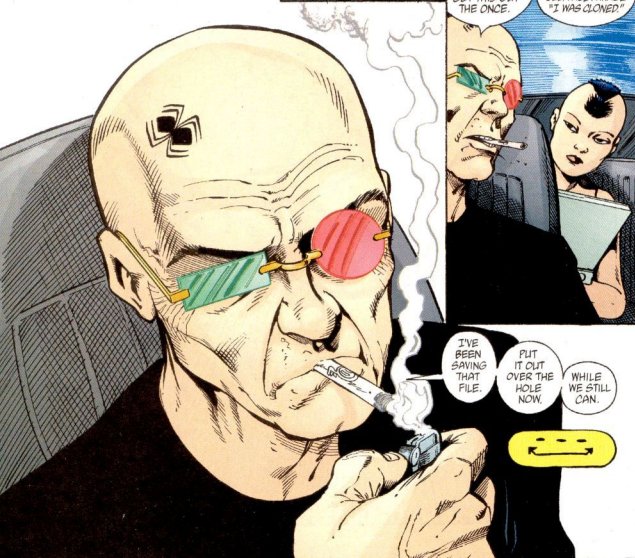
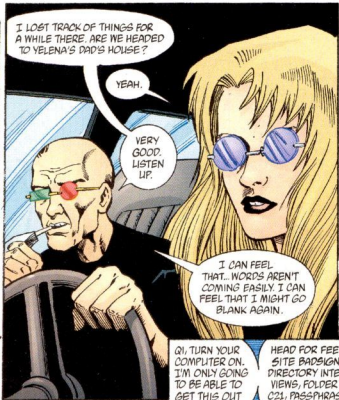












All of New England is haunted. Anyone who has ever lived there knows this. The entire region is pervaded by a sense of the otherworldly, an invisible, yet almost tangible overlapping between our world and the world that lies on the other side of shadows. You can feel the immense layering of strange histories and environments here; dark woods, black crashing surf, old buildings in towns without innocent pasts. All of these places shelter peculiar secrets and violent acts. Every town could be Sleepy Hollow, or Arkham, or Castle Rock. Only one town is MIDNIGHT, MASS. It is the most haunted of them all.

Don't believe me? There's a reason that this town is home to Adam and Julia Kadmon, the world's most celebrated paranormal investigators. This glamorous husband and wife team could limit their business to the local environs and remain busy, but there's more to the job than P.I. work. The Kadmons serve as a sort of combination of border patrol and ambassadors between our world and the

supernatural world woven through it, making sure that members of both worlds stay on their respective sides of the fence in order to minimize conflict between humans and...others.

ON THE ledge

Unfortunately, these are unusual times. The newest generation of monster is tired of hiding in caves and ruins on the boundaries of human civilization. Old and forgotten gods have decided to reassert

themselves into the world only to find that their niches have been filled in their absence by new gods and monsters, which have no intention of relinquishing their thrones. The wall separating our two worlds is on the verge of being torn down, and only Adam and Julia Kadmon can prevent it. If the wall falls, it's going to come down in MIDNIGHT, MASS.

If you can't visit Midnight in person (Take I-93 or I-95 to Rte. 128N. Then take Exit 15 south. You can't miss it.), pick up the 8-issue miniseries for a taste of the strangeness lurking there. The MIDNIGHT, MASS. Chamber of Commerce believes that you'll want to extend your visit.

John Rozum

IN STORES THIS APRIL

MIDNIGHT, MASS #1 (of 8)

Welcome to MIDNIGHT, MASS — where vampires, ghosts, demons, and psychotic magicians are just business as usual for Adam and Julia Kadmon. But now Adam and Julia are forced to go from being mere paranormal investigators to serving as delicate gatekeepers between our world and the supernatural — between the old gods and monsters and the new.

Written by John Rozum; art by Jesus Saiz and Jimmy Palmiotti.
Painted cover by Tomer Hanuka.

AMERICAN CENTURY: HOLLYWOOD BABYLON (TRADE PAPERBACK)

Collecting issues 5-9. This critically acclaimed storyline exposes the sordid underbelly of Tinseltown and Harry's adventures with a sex kitten on Route 66. By Chaykin, Tischman, Laming, Giordano, Pleece & Stokes. Cover by John Van Fleet.

THE SANDMAN PRESENTS: THE THESSALID #4 (of 4)

If Thessaly is dead, and the coalition of homeless death gods has won, then what could possibly happen in this final issue? A big victory party perhaps? Consider yourself invited! By Willingham, McManus & Pepoy.

S.C.I.-SPY #3 (of 6)

As the Hunger Bugs threaten to destroy all the planets of the Inner-World with their voracious appetite, Sebastian Starchild and Isis Nile continue to search for the key to stopping them. As the mission begins to heat up, so does the passion between them. By Moench, Gulacy & Palmiotti.

100 BULLETS #35

Private Eye Milo Garret's world is falling apart around him as he learns more about the mysterious circumstances that stole his face and Agent Graves' reasons for picking him. By Azzarello & Rizzo. Painted cover by Johnson.

AMERICAN CENTURY #14

New storyline. Still stinging from Lorelei's betrayal, Harry Kraft's traded the backwoods of North Carolina for the bistros of Paris and is in ex-pat heaven until he meets up with an old army pal named Buddy who needs a favor. By Chaykin, Tischman, Ross & Stokes. Painted cover by Glen Orbik.

CODENAME: KNOCKOUT #12

"Undressed to Kill" Conclusion! Angela takes on Russian crime boss Eugenia Orlova in deadly combat for control of a Siberian sex slave camp. Plus, the story of what (and who) Go-Go's been up to, with art by special guest artist Phil Jimenez (WONDER WOMAN)! By Rodi, Paquette, Jimenez & Lipka. Cover by Tomas Giorello.

THE CRUSADES #14

With the Knight out of commission, San Francisco breathes a collective sigh of relief. But now "The Ash Wednesday Killer" is set to rock the city right back into a new Dark Ages with a murder m.o. eerily similar to the Knight's. By Seagle, Jones & Randall. Painted cover by Wiesenfeld.

HELLBLAZER #173

During what looks like a deftly executed cover-up surrounding the death of John Constantine, FBI Agent Frank Truero uncovers a secret that could land him a slab in the morgue with John. Trouble is, Constantine's not much for roommates. By Azzarello & Frusin. Cover by Bradstreet.

HUNTER: THE AGE OF MAGIC #10

Dr. Fabien has created a virus that he thinks will eradicate hate and evil in everyone it infects—including Tim Hunter. Meanwhile, Tim's bargain with Mr. Tolstoy gets more dangerous, and Eden is more in love with Tim than ever. By Horrocks, Case & Bird. Painted cover by Foster.

LUCIFER #25

Part 1 of a new 3-part storyline, "Purgatorio"—featuring Death of the Endless. Lucifer has fallen, and the Basanos have triumphed. As the full extent of their scheming becomes apparent, the cards of the living tarot use Jill Presto as the vessel for their most blasphemous magic yet. Meanwhile, Lucifer's body has not been recovered... By Carey, Gross & Kelly. Painted cover by Moeller.

TRANSMETROPOLITAN #55

The Vita Severn Reclamation Zone is on fire, the White House has utilized its emergency powers to introduce martial law, and federal controls are quietly being placed over the media. And it's all Spider Jerusalem's fault, because he has finally made the President fear him. By Ellis, Robertson & Ramos. Cover by Gene Ha.

EVENTS NEXT MONTH...

FABLES #1 (NEW MONTHLY)

Exiled fairy-tale characters take up secret residence in Manhattan and find themselves embroiled in 21st-century mayhem and murder. A new ongoing urban fantasy created and written by Bill Willingham with artwork by Lan Medina, Mark Buckingham and Steve Leialoha. Painted cover by James Jean, variant cover by Alex Maleev.

HUMAN TARGET: FINAL CUT (HARDCOVER)

When Christopher Chance is hired to impersonate an aging film actor marked for death by an extortionist, what seems like an open and shut case soon spirals down a path of danger and deceit into the seamy underbelly of the Hollywood dream factory. Written by Peter Milligan, art by Javier Puliado.