

DON'T GET ME WRONG. I ACTUALLY LIKE HUMANS...

...AND I STILL LIVE IN HOPE THAT ONE DAY, WHEN YOU'VE EXHAUSTED ALL OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONS, YOU'LL FINALLY START DOING THE RIGHT THING AND FIND YOUR WAY.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR BROTHER? DOES MARID SHARE YOUR GENEROUS OPINION?

OH, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN HIS BELIEF WAS EVEN STRONGER THAN MY OWN.

HAVING TO STAND BY AND WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES AS YOU STUMBLE IN THE DARK.

BUT FOR CREATURES WHO HAVE SEEN AS MUCH AS WE HAVE, HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS NOTHING IF NOT A TEST OF ONE'S PATIENCE.

WITH YOUR UNIQUE ABILITIES, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU AS WELL AS ANYONE COULD UNDERSTAND THE FRUSTRATIONS.



DESPITE EVERYTHING, MERCURY, DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN HUMANITY?

LET'S JUST SAY SOME DAYS ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS.



AND WHAT ABOUT CONSTANTINE? WHAT DOES HE THINK?

I WOULD NOT IMAGINE HIS MIND TO BE A PLACE ANYONE WOULD WANT TO SPEND AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME IN...

RIGHT NOW, ADNAN, LET'S JUST SAY I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE TO BE A MIND READER...

"...BECAUSE I KNOW DESPERATION WHEN I SEE IT."

"AND, MERCURY, I'M SURE YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU DESPERATE MEN ARE MOST DANGEROUS TO THOSE AROUND THEM."

PARIS, PRESENT DAY.

THE SMOKELESS FIRE

PART 2

WRITER: SIMON OLIVER PENCILLER: DAVIDE FABBRI

INKER: JOSÉ MARZAN JR.

COLORIST: CARRIE STRACHAN

LETTERING: SAL CIPRIANO

COVER ARTIST: TULA LOTAY

VARIANT COVER ARTIST: YASMINE PUTRI

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JESSICA CHEN

EDITOR: KRISTY QUINN

GROUP EDITOR: JIM CHADWICK

JOHN CONSTANTINE CREATED BY ALAN MOORE, STEVE BISSETTE,

JOHN TOTLEBEN AND JAMIE DELANO & JOHN RIDGWAY

WELL, LAST TIME I CHECKED MY PASSPORT, UNDER PROFESSION HAS ME DOWN AS "MAGICIAN..."

FIRST OFF, WE BOTH KNOW THAT THAT'S A LIE.

MAYBE. BUT I'M TELLING YOU, THIS RIGHT HERE IS GONNA BE STRAIGHT OUT OF THE BUMPER BIG BOY'S WIZARDING BOOK OF BIG BLOODY MAGIC.

AND JUST FOR THE RECORD, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT, EITHER.

SO IF IT DOESN'T WORK, AND HE DOESN'T SHOW UP?

AND WE DON'T FIND HENRY'S JOURNAL AND WE NEVER GET TO ABBY?

MY DEAR MERCURY, IN THE WORDS OF THE RECENTLY LATE AND ALWAYS GREAT GEORGIOS KYRIACOS PANAYIOTOU--

"YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE FAITH..."

AND DIDN'T HE ALSO SAY, "GUILTY FEET HAVE GOT NO RHYTHM"?

JUST AS TRUE AND STRANGELY PERTINENT.





BUT SERIOUSLY--IS THIS ALL WE'VE GOT?



A MAGIC DANCING SHOE?

NO, "THE WORLD-FAMOUS DANCING SHOE OF CLICHY SOUS BOIS."



WORD OF THIS CURIOUS WONDER OF THE WORLD WILL SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE TO EVERY CORNER OF EVERY ARRONDISSEMENT.

AND MARK MY WORDS--PEOPLE WILL COME...



AND IF YOUR ONE-SHOED THIEF ISN'T ONE OF THEM?

THEN FINGERS CROSSED SOMEBODY HE KNOWS WILL CLOCK HIS SHOE AND GO TELL HIM IT'S GONE ALL FRED AND GINGER...



JESUS CHRIST. THAT IS REALLY ALL WE'VE GOT, ISN'T IT?



MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

BUT IF YOU'RE CREEPY-CRAWLING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE RUBBERNECKERS' MINDS...

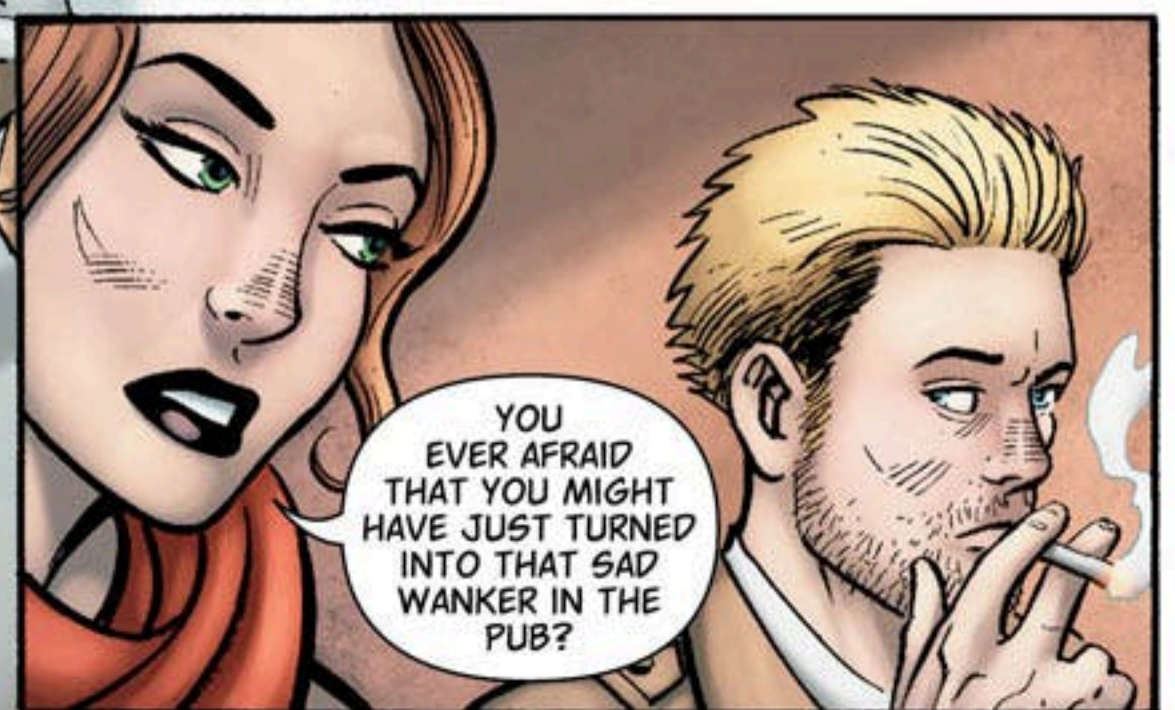
...WELL IT'S ONLY GOING TO UP THE ODDS, ISN'T IT?



GREAT--A DANCING SHOE AND THE REST IS UP TO ME?

EXACTLY. YOU DOING "YOU," ME DOING "ME."

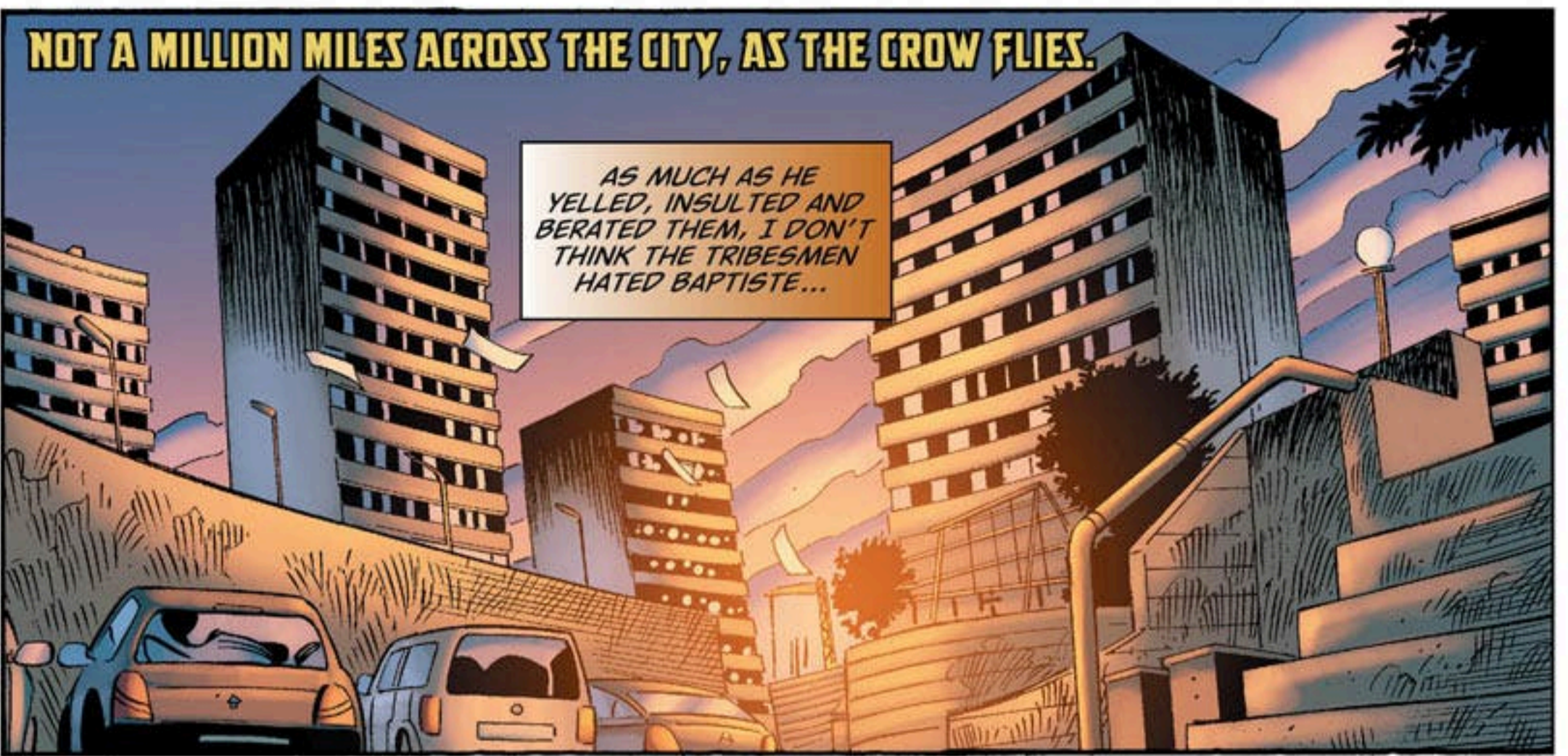
SKY'S THE LIMIT.



YOU EVER AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE JUST TURNED INTO THAT SAD WANKER IN THE PUB?

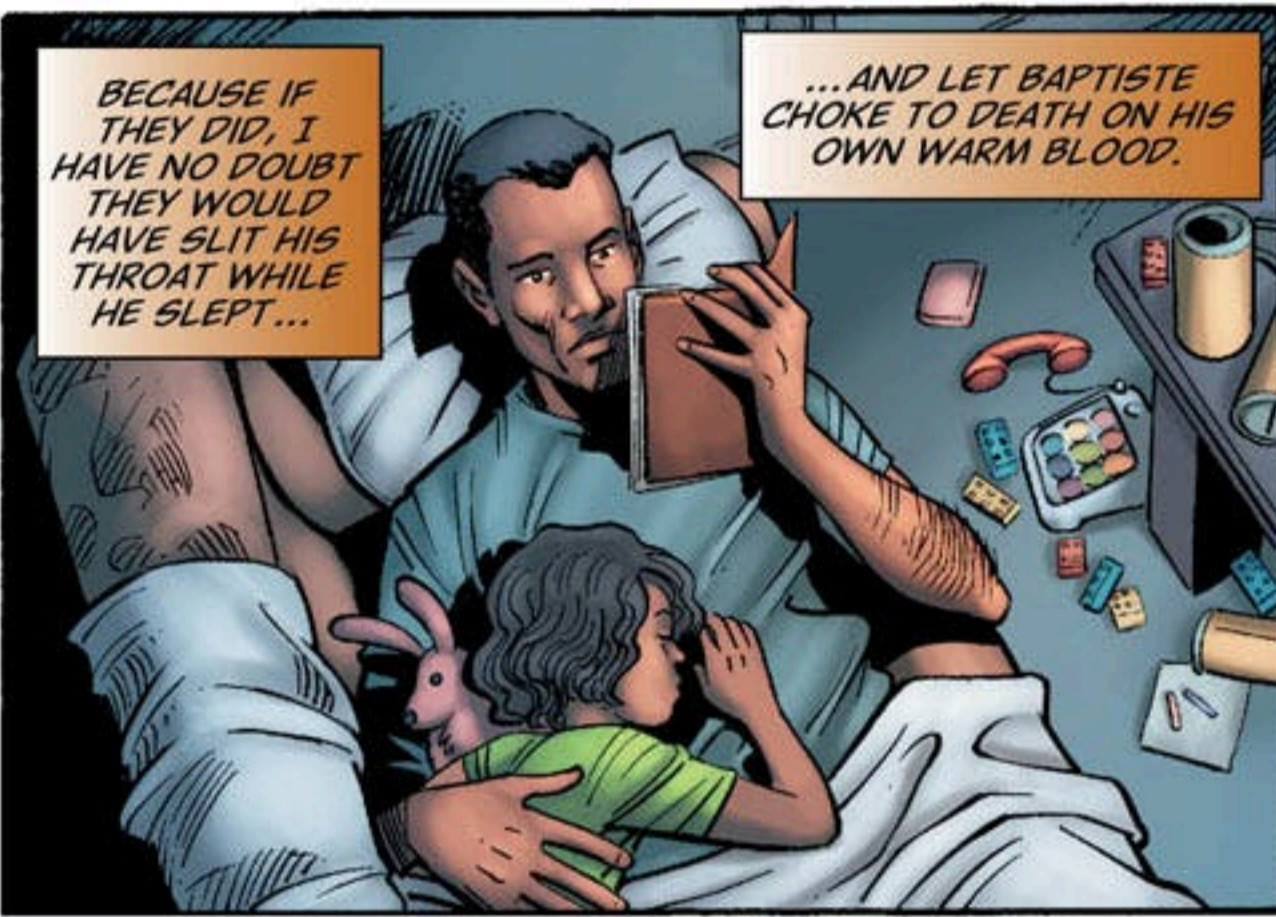
NOT A MILLION MILES ACROSS THE CITY, AS THE CROW FLIES.

AS MUCH AS HE YELLED, INSULTED AND BERATED THEM, I DON'T THINK THE TRIBESMEN HATED BAPTISTE...



BECAUSE IF THEY DID, I HAVE NO DOUBT THEY WOULD HAVE SLIT HIS THROAT WHILE HE SLEPT...

... AND LET BAPTISTE CHOKE TO DEATH ON HIS OWN WARM BLOOD.



NO, THAT NIGHT THEY LEFT--THEY DIDN'T LEAVE OUT OF HATE.



L' OCCIDENT PETROLEUM CO. ARABIQUE EXPÉDITION, 1936.

THEY LEFT OUT OF FEAR.



PUTAIN...



RÉVEILLENZ-VOUS, RÉVEILLENZ-VOUS... LES SAUVAGES SONT PARTIS...

