

COGNETIC™

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YOU KNOW, THESE THINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SMART. LIKE, SMARTER THAN US, EVEN.

GULF OF MEXICO




IT'S A FISH.


IT'S NOT A FISH, MAN. IT'S A MAMMAL. JEEZ... A FISH? REALLY? HOW MANY YEARS YOU BEEN OUT HERE?

THEN WHAT? IT'S LIKE A DOG, THEN. IT DOESN'T THINK.

DOGS THINK...



TELL THAT TO MY DOG. CAUGHT IT CRYING CUZ IT COULDN'T EAT ITS OWN REFLECTION ONCE.




C'MON, MAN, TRY TO PUT YOURSELF IN ITS SHOES FOR A MINUTE... CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE? SMARTEST THING AROUND UNDER THE SEA... FEELINGS AND CRAP. KNOWING YOU'RE IMPORTANT... AND THEN WHAM...



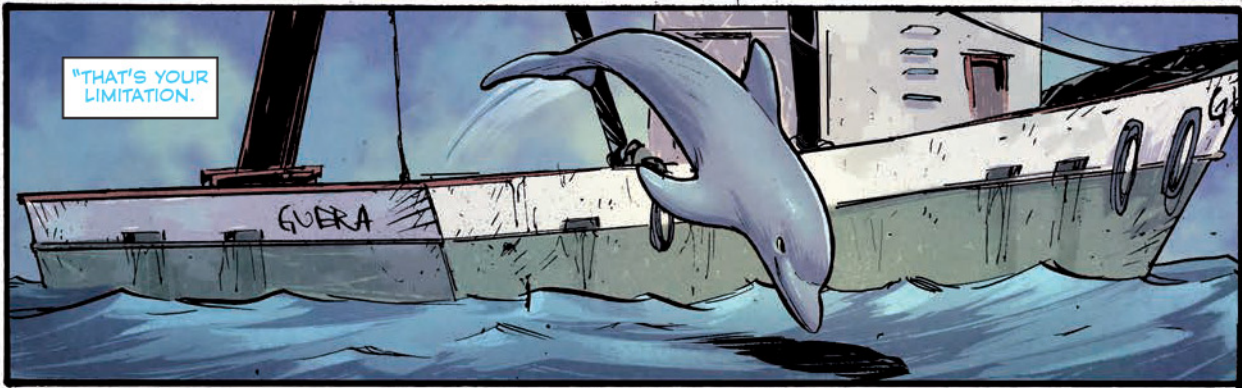
SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU AND SMARTER THAN YOU JUST YANKS YOU OUT OF THE DEEP BLUE AND YOU'RE DONE.

FINISHED BY SOMETHING YOU NEVER EVEN THOUGHT EXISTED BEFORE THAT MOMENT.

EITHER WAY, JUST PUT THE DAMN THING OUT OF ITS MISERY. YOU WANT THE COAST GUARD TO SEE WE NETTED ONE OF THEM BY ACCIDENT?



I DUNNO, MAN. LOOK AT ITS EYES. IT'S LIKE IT'S SAD FOR US, SOMEHOW. IT'S LIKE IT KNOWS SOMETHING WE DON'T.



"ALL OF YOU."

DUDE...

IT'S SO SIMPLE. THE ANSWER IS RIGHT *INSIDE* OF YOU.

I SWEAR, I DON'T CARE. PLEASE STOP TALKING TO ME.

SPENT THE LAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS TRYING THAT WHOLE "NOT TALKING" SHTICK. DIDN'T SEE THE POINT OF IT, REALLY. I'VE GOT LOTS OF REALLY GOOD IDEAS. YOU SHOULD LISTEN. I'M OLD, YOU KNOW.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE OLD. I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE CRAZY. I DON'T CARE THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO TALK TO ME FOR SOME UNFATHOMABLE REASON. I HAVE THIS BOOK. I AM GOING TO READ THIS BOOK.

Hah! YOU THINK YOU'RE MAKING A *DECISION* RIGHT NOW. YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF *INDIVIDUAL*. YOU ARE ALL SO PRECIOUS. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT, I'VE ALWAYS FOUND IT CUTE.

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT? THERE ARE ABOUT ONE-HUNDRED TRILLION *MICROORGANISMS* INSIDE YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW. BITS AND PIECES OF YOUR BODY YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A *COG* IN THE SYSTEM THAT MAKES YOU *YOU*. BUT YOU WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET? *THEY* THINK THE SAME EXACT THING.

YOU'RE A PART OF SOMETHING *BIGGER*. A TINY PIECE OF A *SINGULAR WHOLE*. AND DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW THAT, BUT YOU JUST REFUSE TO SEE IT. SERIOUSLY. IT'S ADORABLE.

YOU'RE TALKING LIKE WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE OF US IS PURE *CHAOS*...THAT'S NOT TRUE...EVEN THE *MICROBES* ARE SERVING A *SYSTEM* THAT OPERATES BASED ON INTENT.

IT'S ALL SERVING THE MIND.

BUT DO YOU THINK THAT LITTLE *MICROBE* INSIDE THE TIP OF YOUR FINGER UNDERSTANDS ITS PURPOSE ANY MORE THAN YOU? DO YOU THINK IT EVEN PERCEIVES THE BUS IT'S SITTING IN RIGHT NOW?

OF COURSE NOT.

NEUROMANCER

YES! THE MIND!

NEUROMANCER

GET AWAY FROM ME, MAN...



P-PLEASE...

NO. LISTEN.

THE MIND. THAT'S THE WHOLE DAMN POINT. WITHOUT A MIND TO RUN THE SHOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK ALL THOSE LITTLE MICROBES MIGHT GET UP TO...



WOULD THEY BUILD CITIES? WOULD THEY CREATE LITTLE LANGUAGES? TELL LITTLE STORIES? CREATE THESE LITTLE LIVES FOR THEMSELVES?

LATE AT NIGHT, WOULD THEY WONDER WHAT THEIR PURPOSE IN LIFE IS?

WOULD THEY TRY TO CREATE MYTHICAL ENTITIES AND POLITICIANS TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO, BECAUSE DEEP DOWN THAT'S ALL THEY EVER REALLY WANTED...?

THEY JUST NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO.



CAN YOU...CAN YOU LET GO...

I COULD WALK A HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES INSIDE OF YOU. WALK UNTIL YOUR KNEES DISINTEGRATED AND YOU COLLAPSED IN AGONY, SCREAMING...



AND YOU WOULD BE HAPPIER. YOU WOULD BE MORE YOURSELF THAN YOU EVER WERE BEFORE.

YOU WOULD BE EVERYTHING YOU WERE EVER MEANT TO BE. YOU WOULD MEAN SOMETHING. YOU WOULD BE IMPORTANT.

I... I...

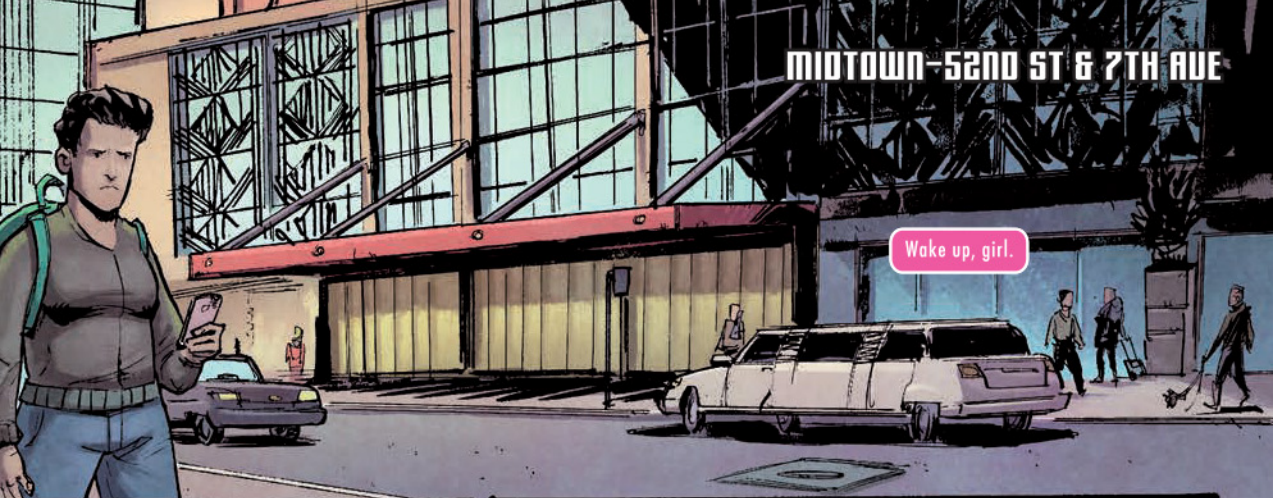


JUST THINK OF THOSE POOR LITTLE MICROBES, AND THEN REMEMBER HOW EASY IT WOULD BE TO SAVE THEM.

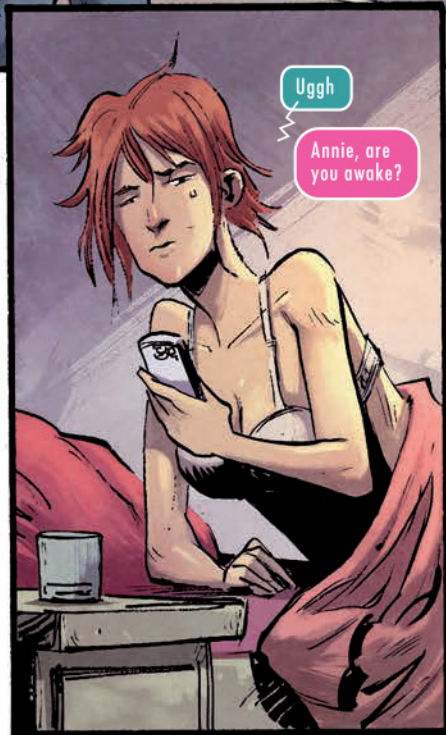


AND THAT...

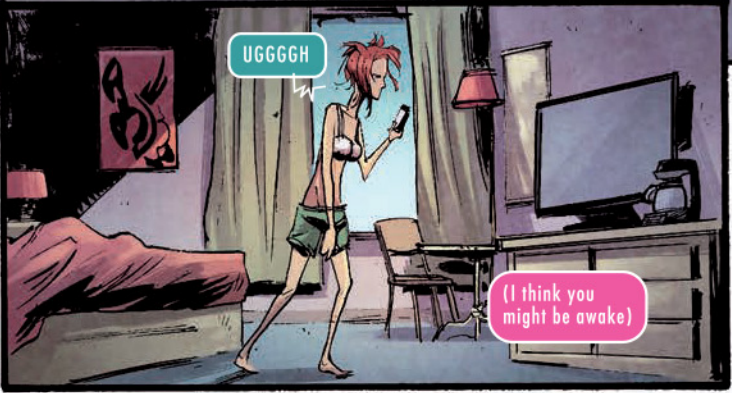
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M HERE TO DO.



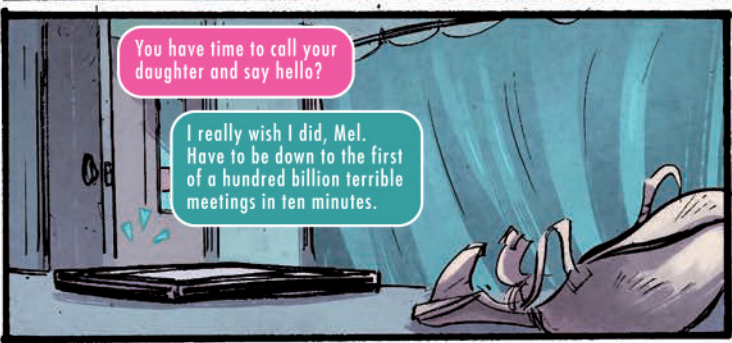
Wake up, girl.



Uggh
Annie, are you awake?



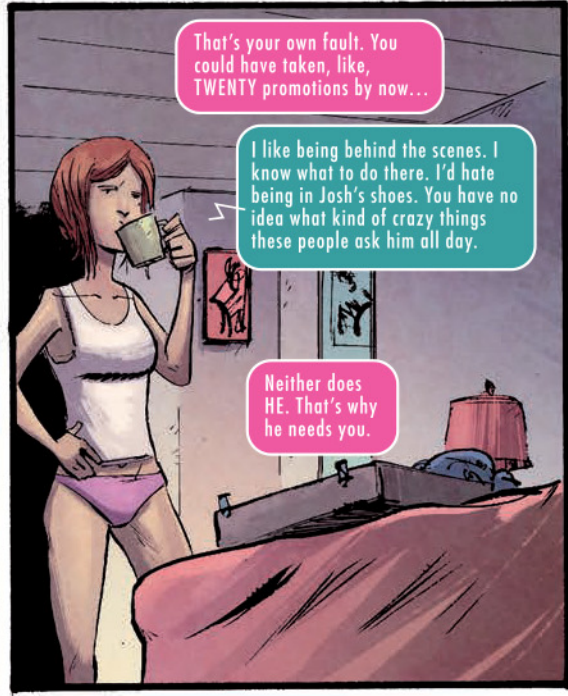
UGGGGH
(I think you might be awake)



You have time to call your daughter and say hello?
I really wish I did, Mel. Have to be down to the first of a hundred billion terrible meetings in ten minutes.



I don't know why I couldn't just stay down in D.C.
It's because you're important.
I'm just his assistant, Mel. I'm not even a little bit important.



That's your own fault. You could have taken, like, TWENTY promotions by now...
I like being behind the scenes. I know what to do there. I'd hate being in Josh's shoes. You have no idea what kind of crazy things these people ask him all day.
Neither does HE. That's why he needs you.