



SEVEN OUNCES-- MY FINAL OFFER.

THAT'S A DAMN SHAME, CRICKET. TAKES THE FRIENDLY RIGHT OUT OF THIS BARTER.

I WAS SIX WHEN PA TOOK ME ON MY FIRST TRIP TO A TRADING POST--VERY MUCH AGAINST HIS WISHES.

HE WOULDN'T COMPROMISE FOR ANY MAN IN THE WORLD, BUT WHEN IT CAME TO MA, HE BENT LIKE A REED.



I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH AN' WE NEED THE MEDICINE, MY SON, PETER--

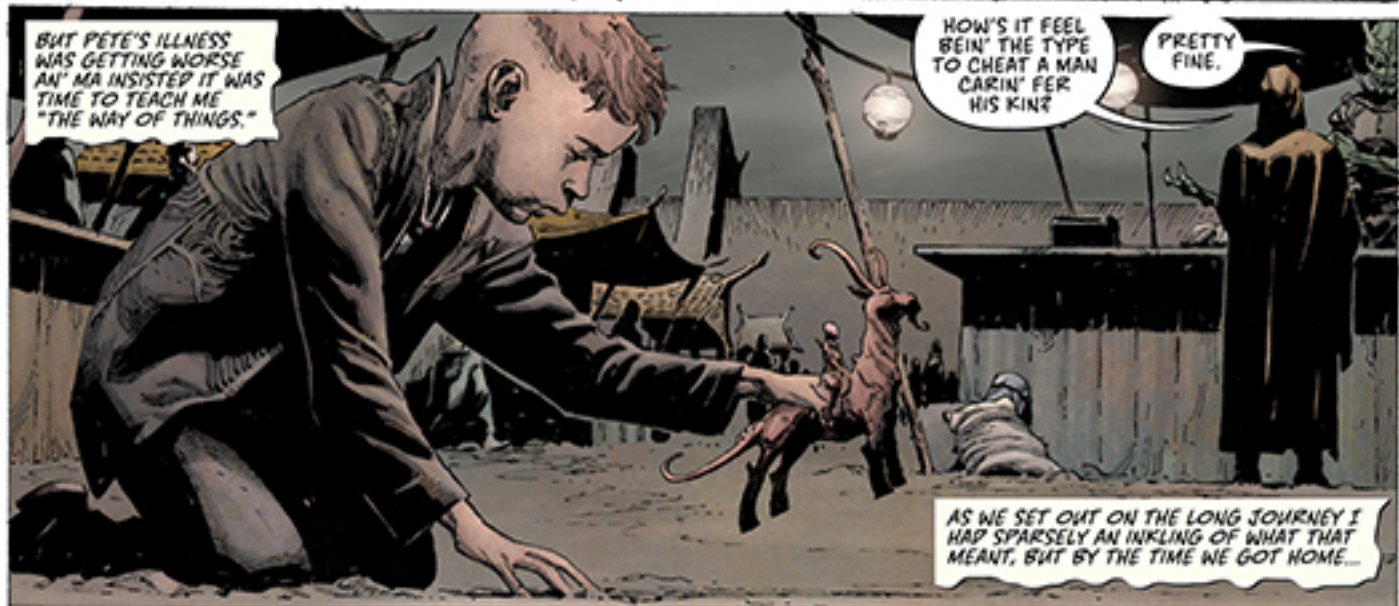
NEXT TOWN OVER GOT A SAGE IS A FIVE-DAY RIDE.

MORE POPULATED, CLOSER TO THE TEMPLE...

CLOSER TO THE WHISPERS.

WHEN YOU LIVE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CIVILIZATION, YOU'RE FORCED TO DEAL WITH FRINGE ELEMENTS THAT DIDN'T END UP OUT THERE FOR ANY NOBLE CAUSE.

YOU SON OF A [REDACTED]



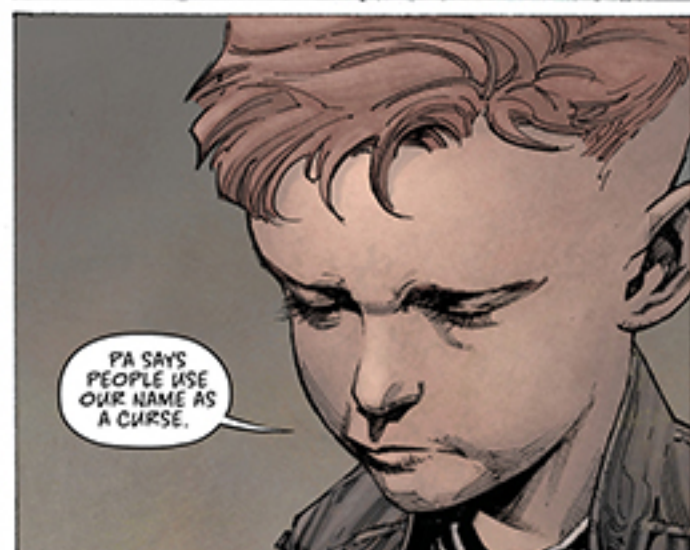
BUT PETE'S ILLNESS WAS GETTING WORSE AN' MA INSISTED IT WAS TIME TO TEACH ME "THE WAY OF THINGS."

HOW'S IT FEEL BEIN' THE TYPE TO CHEAT A MAN CARIN' FER HIS KINT?

PRETTY FINE.

AS WE SET OUT ON THE LONG JOURNEY I HAD SPARSELY AN INKLING OF WHAT THAT MEANT, BUT BY THE TIME WE GOT HOME...









WELL, ADAM WITH NO LAST NAME, YOUR MOM MAKES PRETTY NEAT TOYS.



YOU CAN HAVE IT, IF YOU WANT IT.

SHE MADE ME LOTS.

SHE LOVES CARVIN'.



THAT IS SO NICE OF YOU, ADAM WITH NO LAST NAME.



IT REALLY IS EXQUISITE, SUCH ORNATE CARVINGS.

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS KIND OF WOOD AT ALL.

YOU ALL MUST LIVE IN A FOREST FAR FROM HERE, HUNT?



YOU'RE A DAMN CROOK.

PLAYIN' WITH THE SAFETY OF MY FAMILY FOR AN EXTRA OUNCE O' GOLD.

DANGEROUS SELLING YOU ANYTHING.

SHOULDN'T I GET PAID FOR THE RISK?



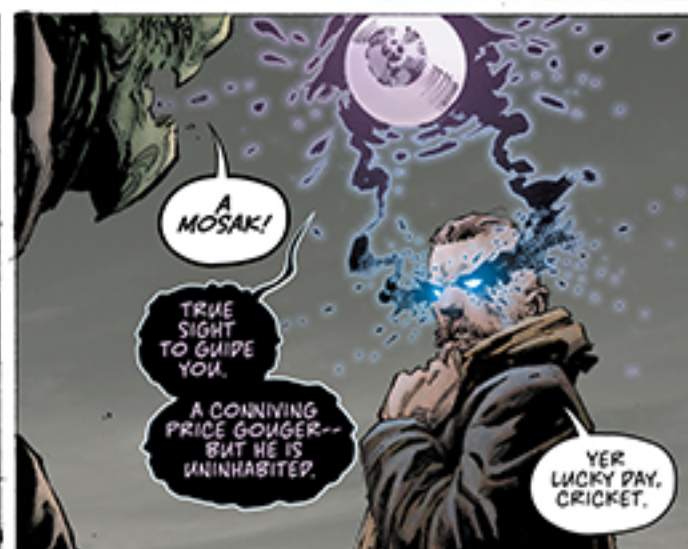
JUST BUSINESS IS ALL.

HOW WE CONDUCT BUSINESS DEFINES US LIKE ANYTHING ELSE, CRICKET.

ADAM?



FATHER, GRANT ME VISION.



A MOSAK!

TRUE SIGHT TO GUIDE YOU.

A CONNING PRICE GOUGER-- BUT HE IS UNINHABITED.

YER LUCKY DAY, CRICKET.





THE GIRL IS  
A VESSEL.

HELLO,  
ZEB.

YOU  
KNOW MY  
PAP?



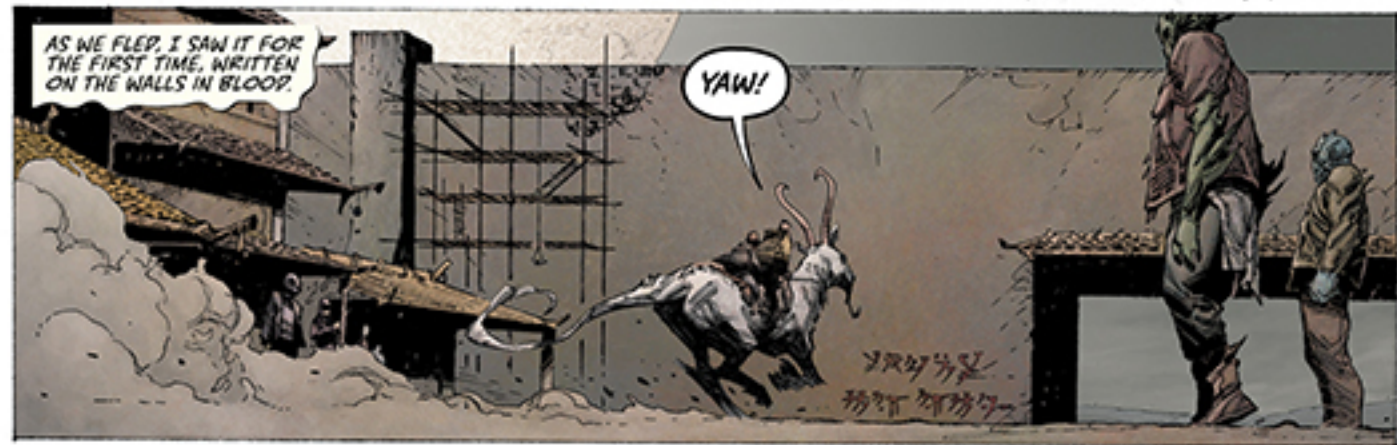
DAMN  
IT, BOY!  
GET  
UP!

WHERE YOU  
GOIN' IN SUCH A  
HURRY, ADAM  
WITH NO LAST  
NAME?



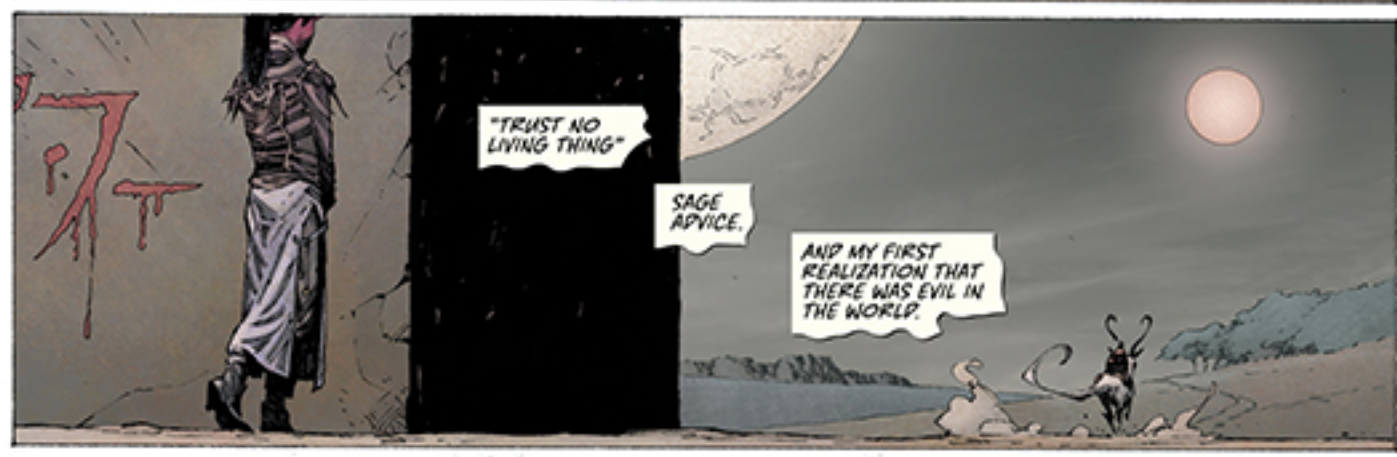
BUT THE  
MEDICINE--!

SHUT  
YOUR FOOL  
MOUTH.



AS WE FLEW, I SAW IT FOR  
THE FIRST TIME, WRITTEN  
ON THE WALLS IN BLOOD.

YAW!



"TRUST NO  
LIVING THING"

SAGE  
ADVICE.

AND MY FIRST  
REALIZATION THAT  
THERE WAS EVIL IN  
THE WORLD.



AN EVIL HIDDEN BEHIND  
THE EYES OF A CHILD I'D  
SHARED A TOY WITH.

AN EVIL I'D TOLD  
MY NAME TO.

AN EVIL THAT GAVE  
ME MY FIRST KISS.





PA RODE HARD FOR HOURS  
WITHOUT STOPPING.

THE CLOSEST TO FEAR  
I'VE EVER SEEN IN HIM.

PA--YER  
RIDIN' 'ER TO  
DEATH!

GIVE 'ER  
A REST!



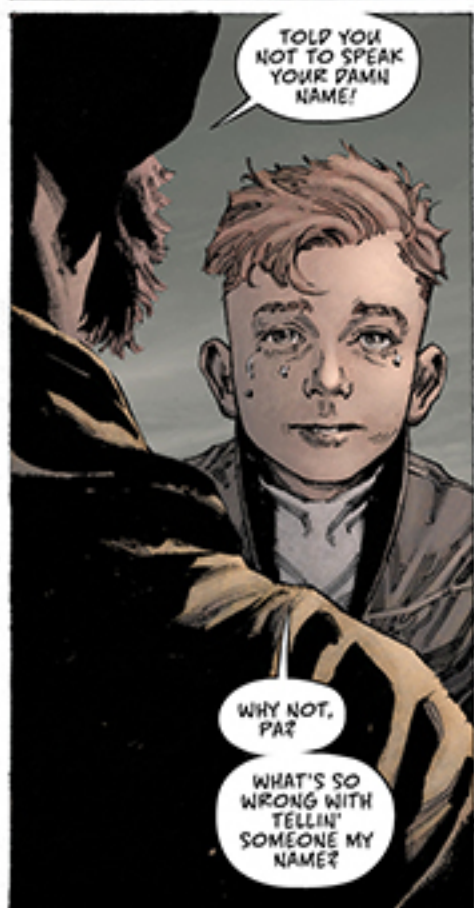
DAMN YOU  
TO THE BLACK  
WELL, ADAM.

I DIDN'T  
DO NOTHIN'  
BUT TELL  
HER 'ER--



TOLD  
YOU NOT TO  
TALK TO  
ANYONE!

SCAP



TOLD YOU  
NOT TO SPEAK  
YOUR DAMN  
NAME!

WHY NOT,  
PA?

WHAT'S SO  
WRONG WITH  
TELLIN'  
SOMEONE MY  
NAME?



YOU CAN'T  
AFFORD  
TO BE THIS  
WEAK,  
BOY.

BUT YOUR  
MA'S RIGHT, I  
WAITED TOO  
LONG TO TELL  
YOU.



THAT LITTLE  
GIRL BACK THERE  
GOT A WHISPER  
IN HER HEAD.

A WHAT?



