

PUNISHER

THE PLATOON



1

ENNIS
PARLOV
BELLAIRE

**EXPLICIT
CONTENT**

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GORAN
PARLOV



MAYBE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE MICHAEL HERR LINE, FROM DISPATCHES?

AH, "I THINK VIETNAM WAS WHAT WE HAD INSTEAD OF HAPPY CHILDHOODS"...?

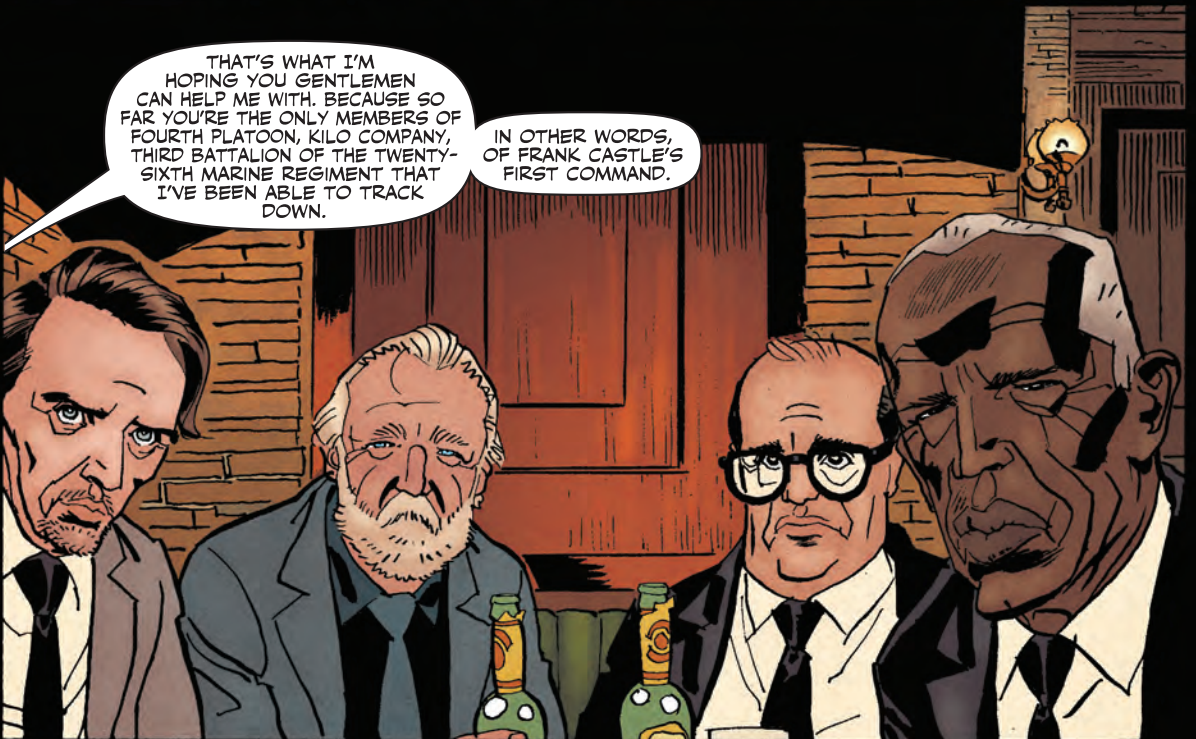
NOPE.



OH.

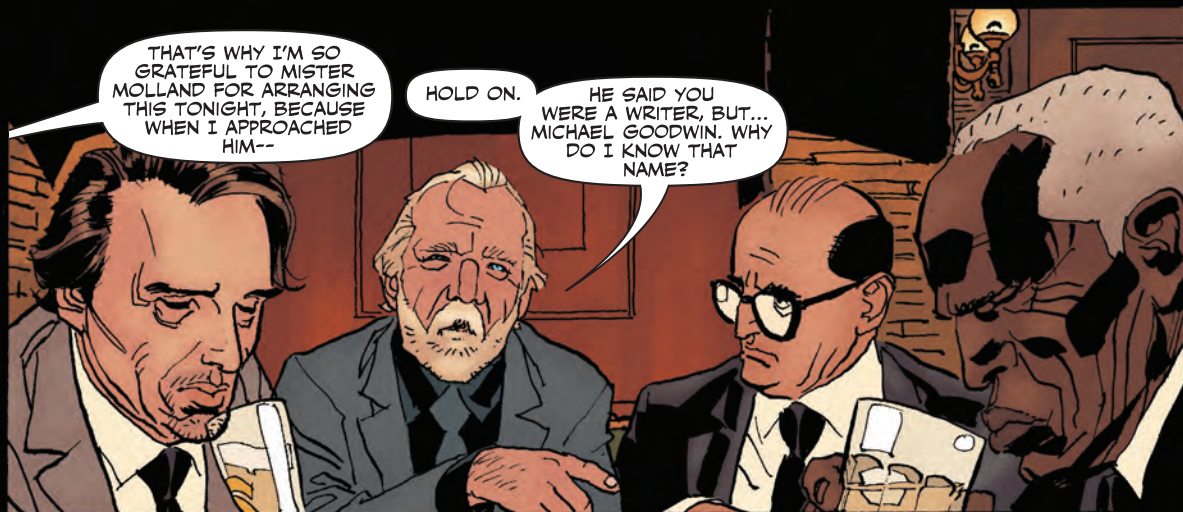
WELL, IT'S--WHAT HE WAS SAYING THERE, IT KIND OF TIES IN WITH THE THEME OF WHAT I'M WRITING. ALL THESE KIDS WHO LEAVE ONE AMERICA, AN INNOCENT AMERICA, AND COME BACK TO A DIFFERENT ONE.

AND THAT LOSS...THEY BRING IT HOME WITH THEM, IF YOU SEE WHAT I'M SAYING, AND NEITHER THEY NOR WE ARE EVER THE SAME AGAIN.



THAT'S WHAT I'M HOPING YOU GENTLEMEN CAN HELP ME WITH. BECAUSE SO FAR YOU'RE THE ONLY MEMBERS OF FOURTH PLATOON, KILO COMPANY, THIRD BATTALION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MARINE REGIMENT THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN.

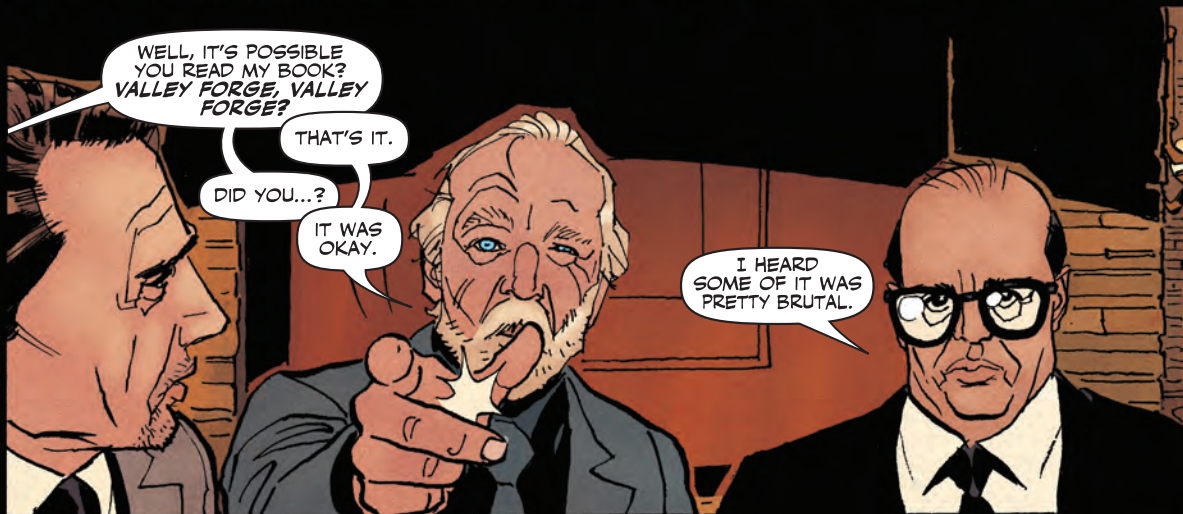
IN OTHER WORDS, OF FRANK CASTLE'S FIRST COMMAND.



THAT'S WHY I'M SO GRATEFUL TO MISTER MOLLAND FOR ARRANGING THIS TONIGHT, BECAUSE WHEN I APPROACHED HIM--

HOLD ON.

HE SAID YOU WERE A WRITER, BUT... MICHAEL GOODWIN. WHY DO I KNOW THAT NAME?



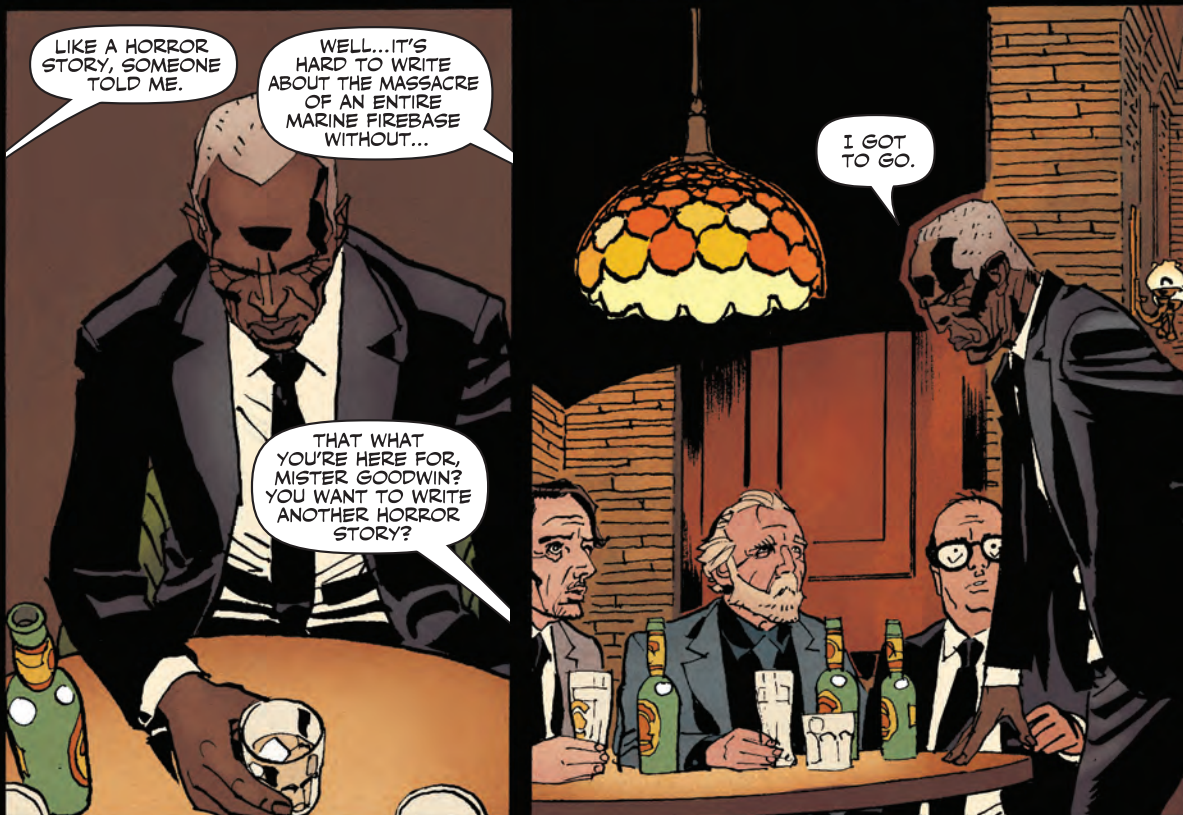
WELL, IT'S POSSIBLE YOU READ MY BOOK? VALLEY FORGE, VALLEY FORGE?

THAT'S IT.

DID YOU...?

IT WAS OKAY.

I HEARD SOME OF IT WAS PRETTY BRUTAL.

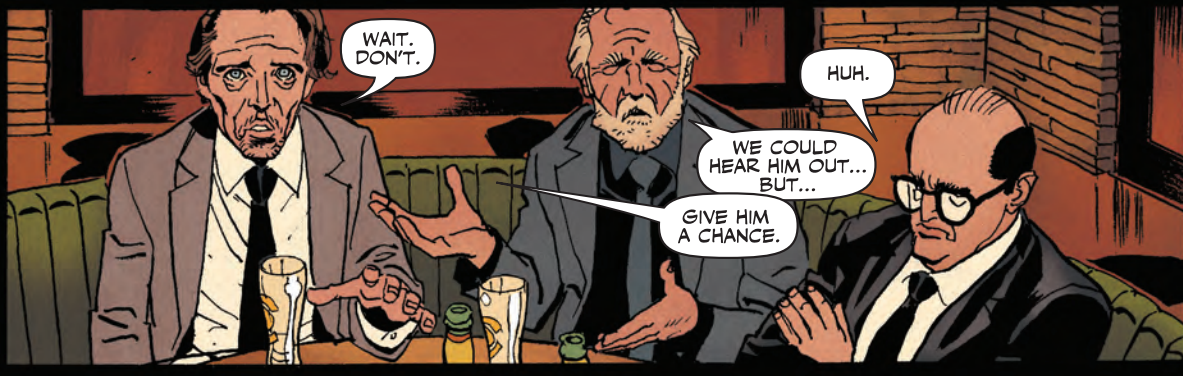


LIKE A HORROR STORY, SOMEONE TOLD ME.

WELL...IT'S HARD TO WRITE ABOUT THE MASSACRE OF AN ENTIRE MARINE FIREBASE WITHOUT...

THAT WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR, MISTER GOODWIN? YOU WANT TO WRITE ANOTHER HORROR STORY?

I GOT TO GO.



WAIT.
DON'T.

HUH.

WE COULD
HEAR HIM OUT...
BUT...
GIVE HIM
A CHANCE.



WHY?

I CALLED
AROUND, TALKED
TO SOME PEOPLE HE
TALKED TO BEFORE.
THEY SAID HE WAS
PRETTY FAIR.

AND I WONDERED IF
MAYBE WE...

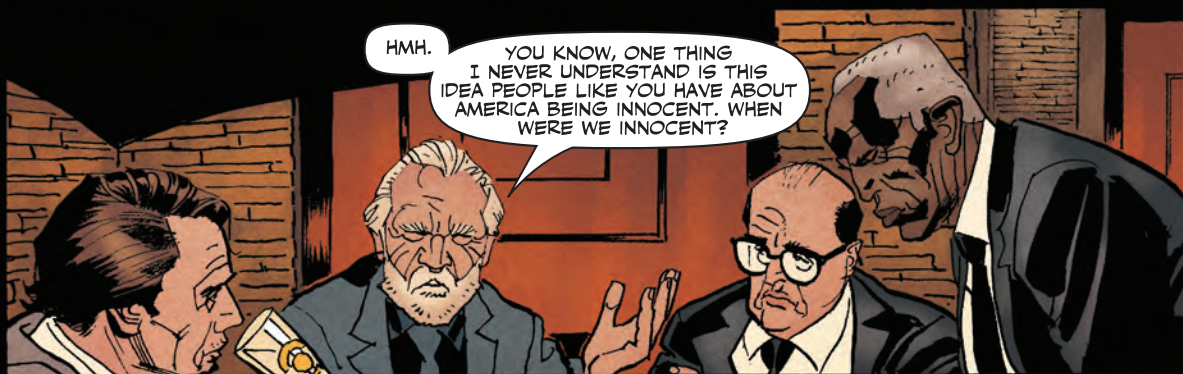


OWED...?



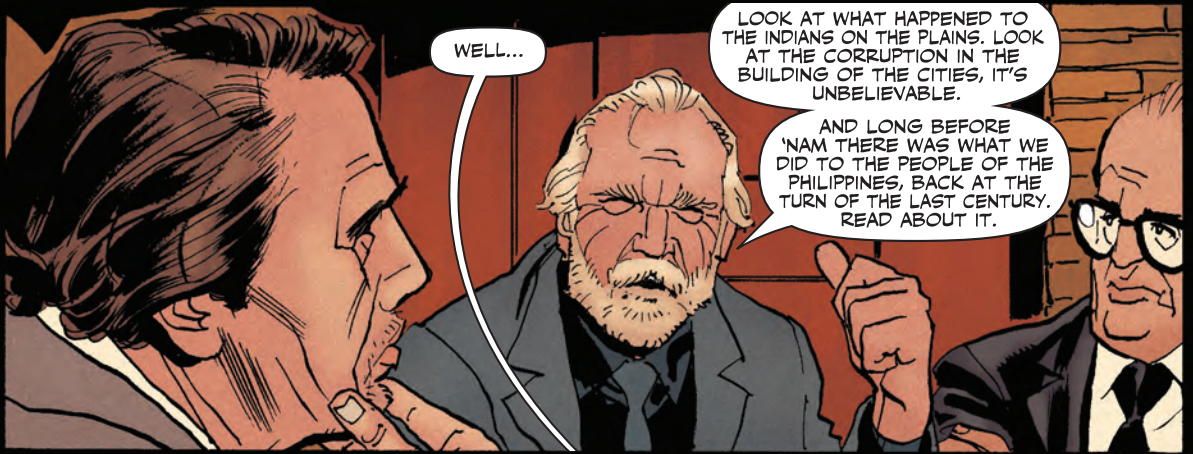
WE GOT A
WHILE, TOP?

LONG AS
YOU NEED.



HMH.

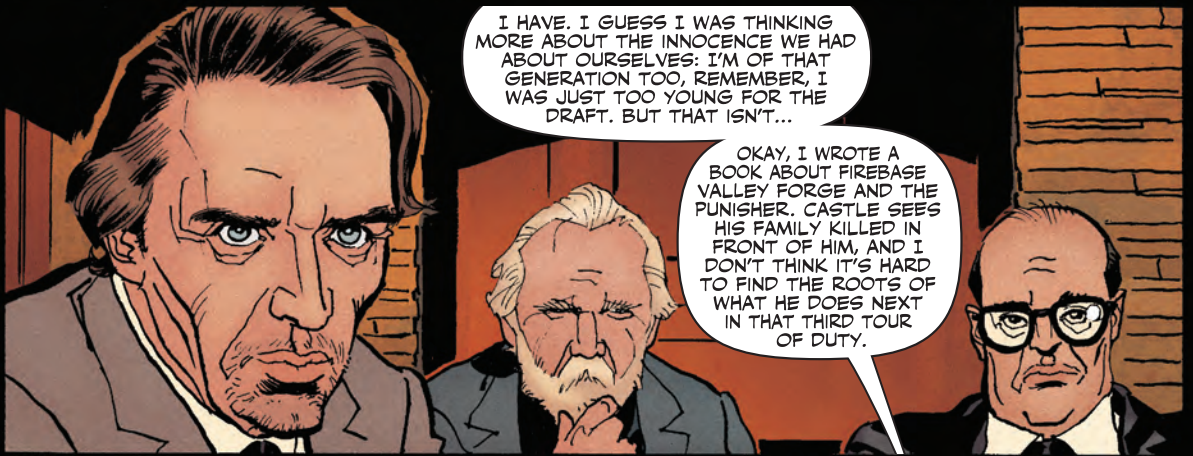
YOU KNOW, ONE THING
I NEVER UNDERSTAND IS THIS
IDEA PEOPLE LIKE YOU HAVE ABOUT
AMERICA BEING INNOCENT. WHEN
WERE WE INNOCENT?



WELL...

LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE INDIANS ON THE PLAINS. LOOK AT THE CORRUPTION IN THE BUILDING OF THE CITIES, IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.

AND LONG BEFORE 'NAM THERE WAS WHAT WE DID TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, BACK AT THE TURN OF THE LAST CENTURY. READ ABOUT IT.



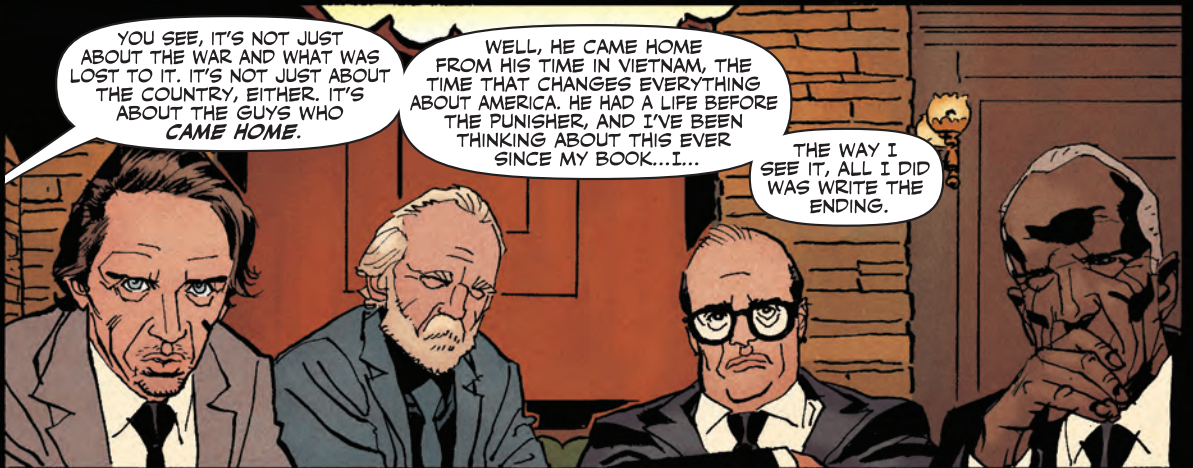
I HAVE. I GUESS I WAS THINKING MORE ABOUT THE INNOCENCE WE HAD ABOUT OURSELVES: I'M OF THAT GENERATION TOO, REMEMBER, I WAS JUST TOO YOUNG FOR THE DRAFT. BUT THAT ISN'T...

OKAY, I WROTE A BOOK ABOUT FIREBASE VALLEY FORGE AND THE PUNISHER. CASTLE SEES HIS FAMILY KILLED IN FRONT OF HIM, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S HARD TO FIND THE ROOTS OF WHAT HE DOES NEXT IN THAT THIRD TOUR OF DUTY.



BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS FIRST TOUR?

THE ONE HE RETURNS FROM AT THE END OF 'SIXTY-EIGHT AND NOTHING ELSE HAPPENS? THE ONE WHERE—JUST MAYBE—HE STILL HAS A CHANCE?



YOU SEE, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE WAR AND WHAT WAS LOST TO IT. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE COUNTRY, EITHER. IT'S ABOUT THE GUYS WHO *CAME HOME*.

WELL, HE CAME HOME FROM HIS TIME IN VIETNAM, THE TIME THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING ABOUT AMERICA. HE HAD A LIFE BEFORE THE PUNISHER, AND I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS EVER SINCE MY BOOK...I...

THE WAY I SEE IT, ALL I DID WAS WRITE THE ENDING.

"I NEVER WROTE
THE STORY."



GARTH
ENNIS
(SERAN
PARCO)

1: Crack the Sky
and Shake the Earth