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ON DECEMBER 6TH, 2022 A.D.

A YOUNG WOMAN CHECKED INTO A HOSPITAL IN HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI WITH A SHARP, PAINFUL COUGH. ONE YEAR LATER, THERE WERE FIVE MILLION DEAD IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH ALONE, WITH ANOTHER TWO MILLION DEAD ABROAD.

THE **MISSISSIPPI DELTA VIRUS**, ALSO KNOWN AS THE RED COUGH, OR THE POX, WOULD TAKE THE LIVES OF MORE THAN SEVEN-HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE OVER THE NEXT DECADE. AT PEAK, THE UNITED STATES CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL WOULD ESTIMATE THAT SIXTY PERCENT OF THE WORLD POPULATION WAS INFECTED, EITHER AS A CARRIER OR VICTIM. IN EVERY RECORDED CASE, PREGNANCIES OCCURRING IN MDV CARRIERS WOULD RESULT IN STILLBIRTH, AS A RESULT OF GENETIC DEGRADATION WHICH IS A BYPRODUCT OF THE VIRUS.

IN 2035 A.D., PHARMACEUTICAL GIANT **GONRING-COLE** ANNOUNCED THE MASS PRODUCTION OF A VACCINE WITH A ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT SUCCESS RATE. THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD FACILITATE THE FREE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS VACCINE IN EVERY COUNTRY ON THE PLANET.

THE VACCINE WAS DEVELOPED BY **DOCTOR CYRUS CRANE**, A THIRTY-THREE YEAR OLD GENETICIST FROM MADISON, WI.

HE IS OUR FATHER. TO HIM WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL.

2037 Anno Domini.
The Final Year.

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN I
WOULD FIND YOU
IN HERE.



SHHH.
THEY'RE
SLEEPING.

THEY'LL BE
SLEEPING A FEW
MORE WEEKS,
YET.

THE CREW'S
HERE. FOR THE
INTERVIEW. THEY'RE
SETTING UP IN YOUR
STUDY.

WHICH
ROOM IS
THAT?



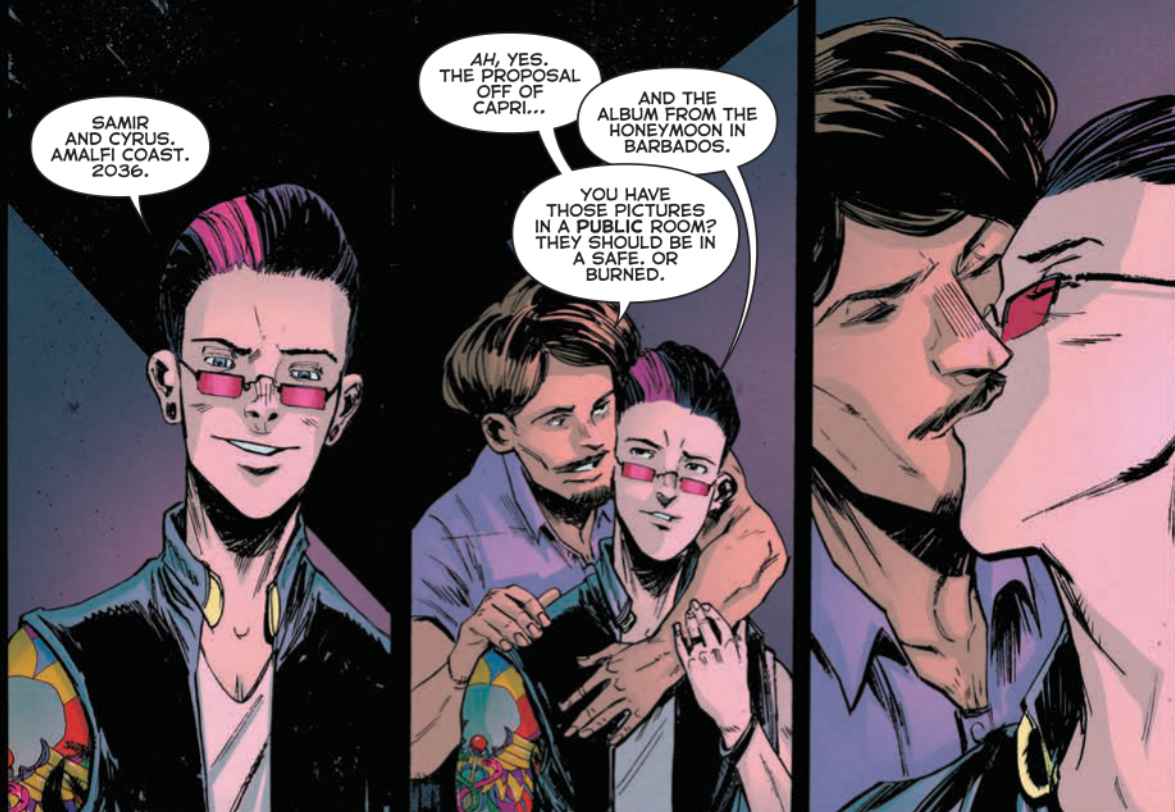
THE ONE WITH THE
DESK YOU NEVER
USE, AND ALL THE
BOOKS YOU'VE
NEVER READ.

I'VE
READ A
FEW OF
THEM.



NAME
ME A SINGLE
BOOK ON THOSE
SHELVES.





SAMIR AND CYRUS. AMALFI COAST. 2036.

AH, YES. THE PROPOSAL OFF OF CAPRI...

AND THE ALBUM FROM THE HONEYMOON IN BARBADOS.

YOU HAVE THOSE PICTURES IN A PUBLIC ROOM? THEY SHOULD BE IN A SAFE. OR BURNED.

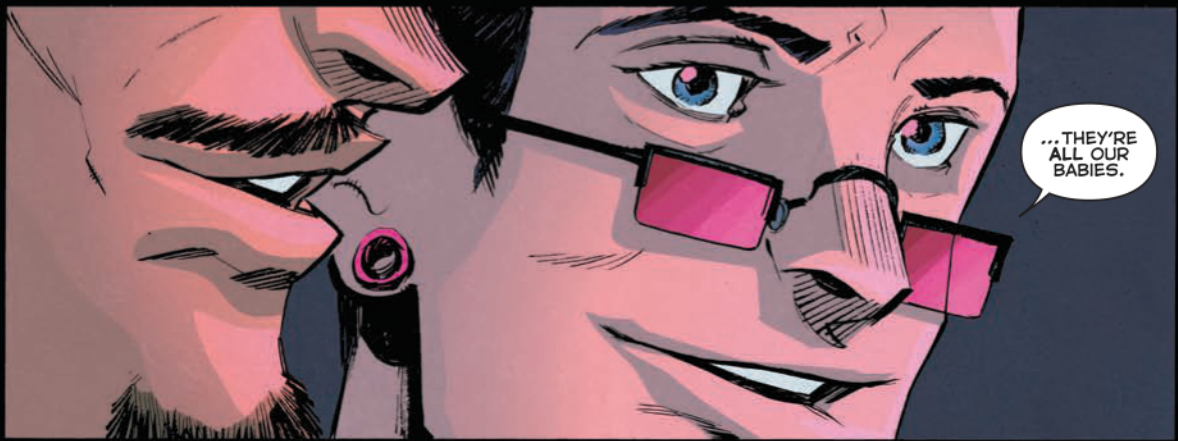
YOU CAN SEE THEM ALL, HERE?

WE'VE GOT A SMALL IMPLANT IN EACH REGISTERED PREGNANCY, NOW. IT ALLOWS THE PARENTS TO TRACK THE ULTRASOUND IMAGES THAT I BROADCAST FROM HERE. GONRING-COLE HAS EVERYTHING ROUTED THROUGH ME.

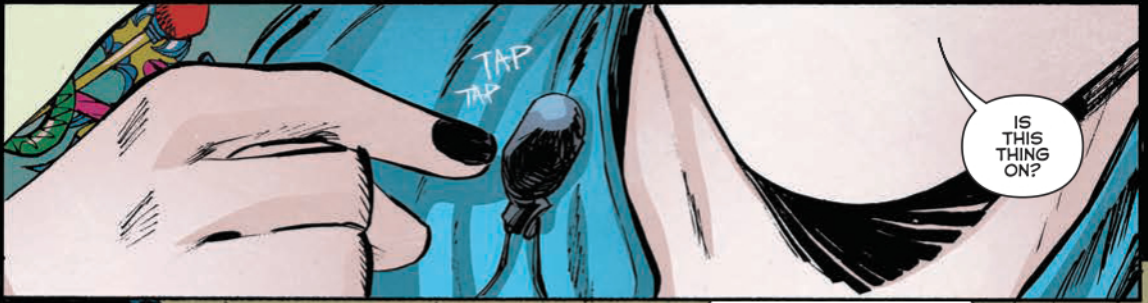
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE ELSE MESS UP THIS CHANCE.

MAYBE SOON, WE CAN TALK ABOUT SURROGACY... HAVE OUR OWN BABY.

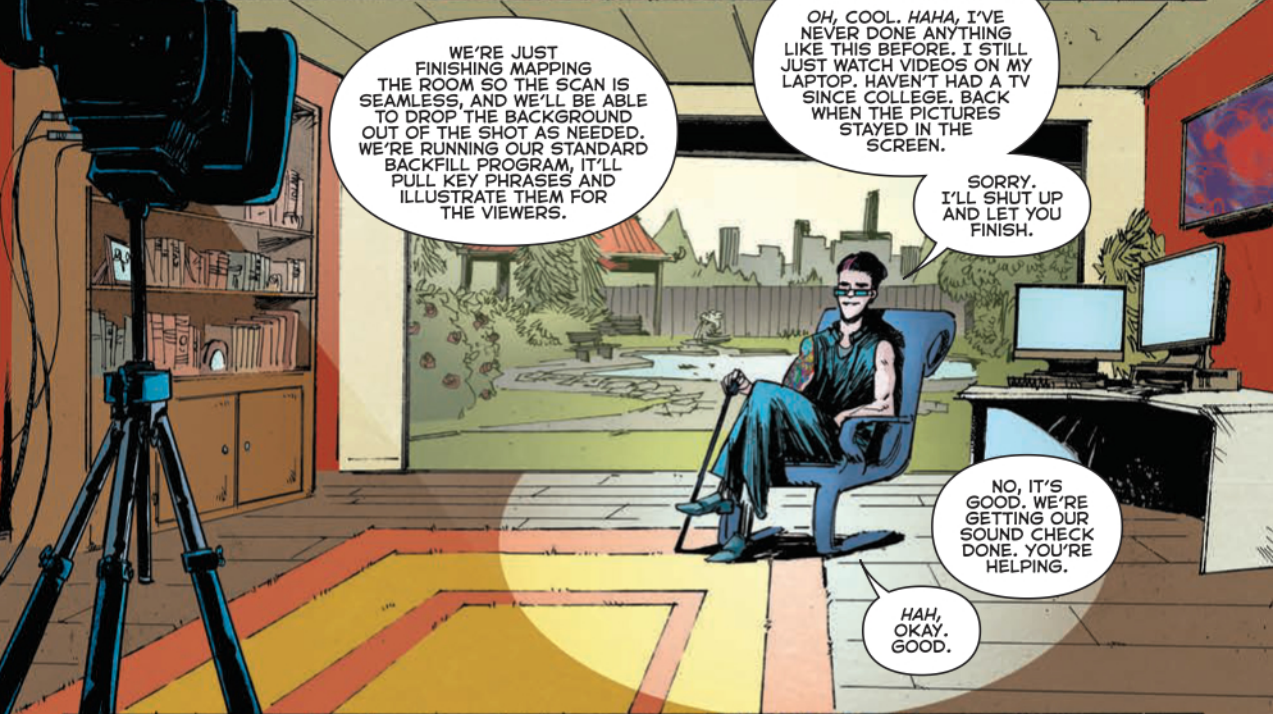
SAMIR...



...THEY'RE ALL OUR BABIES.



IS THIS THING ON?



WE'RE JUST FINISHING MAPPING THE ROOM SO THE SCAN IS SEAMLESS, AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO DROP THE BACKGROUND OUT OF THE SHOT AS NEEDED. WE'RE RUNNING OUR STANDARD BACKFILL PROGRAM, IT'LL PULL KEY PHRASES AND ILLUSTRATE THEM FOR THE VIEWERS.

OH, COOL. HAHA, I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. I STILL JUST WATCH VIDEOS ON MY LAPTOP. HAVEN'T HAD A TV SINCE COLLEGE. BACK WHEN THE PICTURES STAYED IN THE SCREEN.

SORRY. I'LL SHUT UP AND LET YOU FINISH.

NO, IT'S GOOD. WE'RE GETTING OUR SOUND CHECK DONE. YOU'RE HELPING.

HAH, OKAY. GOOD.



CAN YOU STATE YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION?

I AM DOCTOR CYRUS CRANE. CHIEF EPIDEMIOLOGIST AT GONRING-COLE.

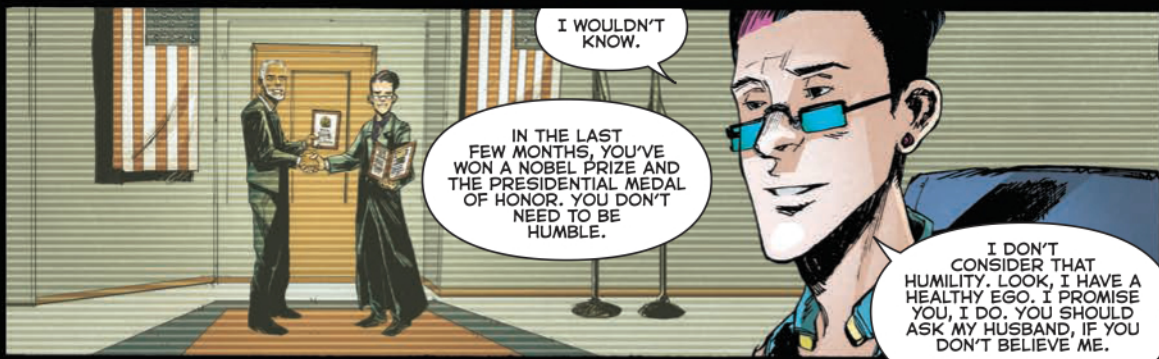


IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING IN ORDER, AND JUST LET US KNOW IF WE NEED TO STOP A QUESTION AND RESTART. THIS WON'T BE LIVE, SO WE CAN EDIT IT AS NEEDED.

OH, DON'T TELL ME THAT. I'LL WANT TO ERASE EVERYTHING AND START OVER.

DOCTOR CRANE, LET'S START WITH THE BIGGEST QUESTION. THE ONE I'M SURE EVERYONE HAS BEEN ASKING YOU FOR THE BETTER PART OF A YEAR.

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO SAVE THE WORLD?



I WOULDN'T KNOW.

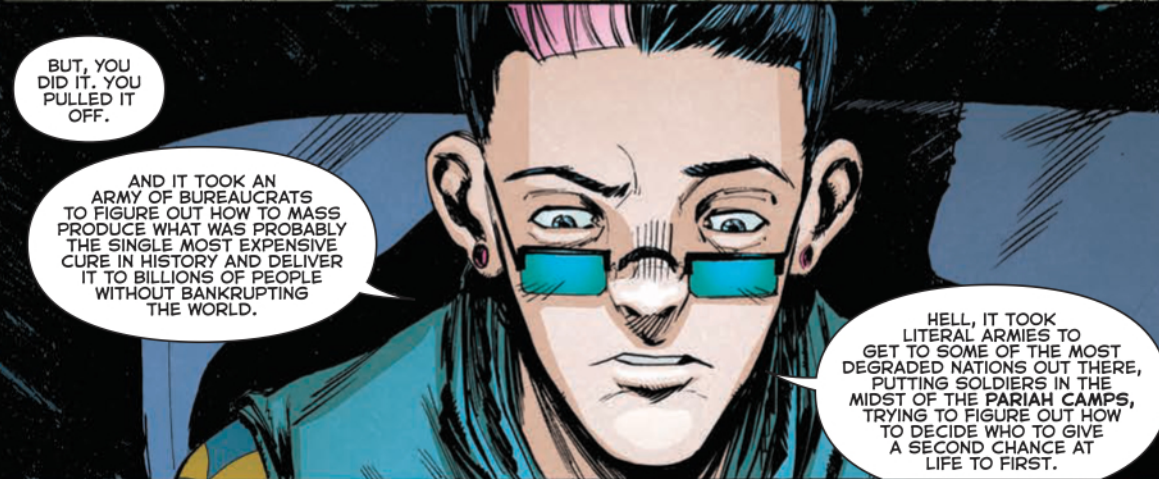
IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, YOU'VE WON A NOBEL PRIZE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF HONOR. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE HUMBLE.

I DON'T CONSIDER THAT HUMILITY. LOOK, I HAVE A HEALTHY EGO. I PROMISE YOU, I DO. YOU SHOULD ASK MY HUSBAND, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.



FROM ALL THE REPORTS WE'VE READ, YOU ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY DEVELOPED THE MDV VACCINE. YOU REFUSED TO EVEN LET YOUR SUPERIORS KNOW YOU WERE GETTING CLOSE TO IT, FOR THE BETTER PART OF TWO YEARS.

I WASN'T SURE IF I WAS CHASING A DEAD END OR NOT. I WASN'T SURE IF THERE WAS A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, AND AFTER SO MANY FALSE CLAIMS OVER THE DECADE, I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE ANYONE FALSE HOPE.



BUT, YOU DID IT. YOU PULLED IT OFF.

AND IT TOOK AN ARMY OF BUREAUCRATS TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MASS PRODUCE WHAT WAS PROBABLY THE SINGLE MOST EXPENSIVE CURE IN HISTORY AND DELIVER IT TO BILLIONS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT BANKRUPTING THE WORLD.

HELL, IT TOOK LITERAL ARMIES TO GET TO SOME OF THE MOST DEGRADED NATIONS OUT THERE, PUTTING SOLDIERS IN THE MIDST OF THE PARIAH CAMPS, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DECIDE WHO TO GIVE A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE TO FIRST.



THERE WERE OVER THREE MILLION PEOPLE IN THE KRAKOW PARIAH CAMP. I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN PICTURES OF THE RIOTS WHEN THE VACCINE ARRIVED. SICK PEOPLE, FIGHTING EACH OTHER FOR THE CHANCE TO BE JUST A FEW SPOTS AHEAD IN THE LINE.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIED OVER THE MONTHS THE VACCINE WAS ADMINISTERED. DO YOU WANT TO TELL THEIR FAMILIES THAT I SAVED THE WORLD?