

LOS ANGELES,
CA.

THE PRESENT
MOMENT.

ZAPPING. THE CRACK
COCAINE OF ITS DAY.



IT'S THREE TIMES AS ADDICTIVE AS
HEROIN. A FULL 75% OF PEOPLE WHO
TRY IT BECOME FULLY DEPENDANT.

HUMAN OR
SUPERHUMAN,
THE EFFECT IS
THE SAME.



ONE IN FOUR DIES
INSIDE A YEAR.

TWO IN THREE
INSIDE FIVE.



MY BELOVED CITY... SHE'S
ROYALLY BANJAXED.

THIS [REDACTED]... IT'S
A DISEASE.



MEET THE
CURE.

BANJAX
CHAPTER 1 - THE CURE



TWO DAYS
AGO.

HIS WORDS HIT ME LIKE AN
EIGHTEEN-WHEELER WITH THE
PEDAL DOWN.

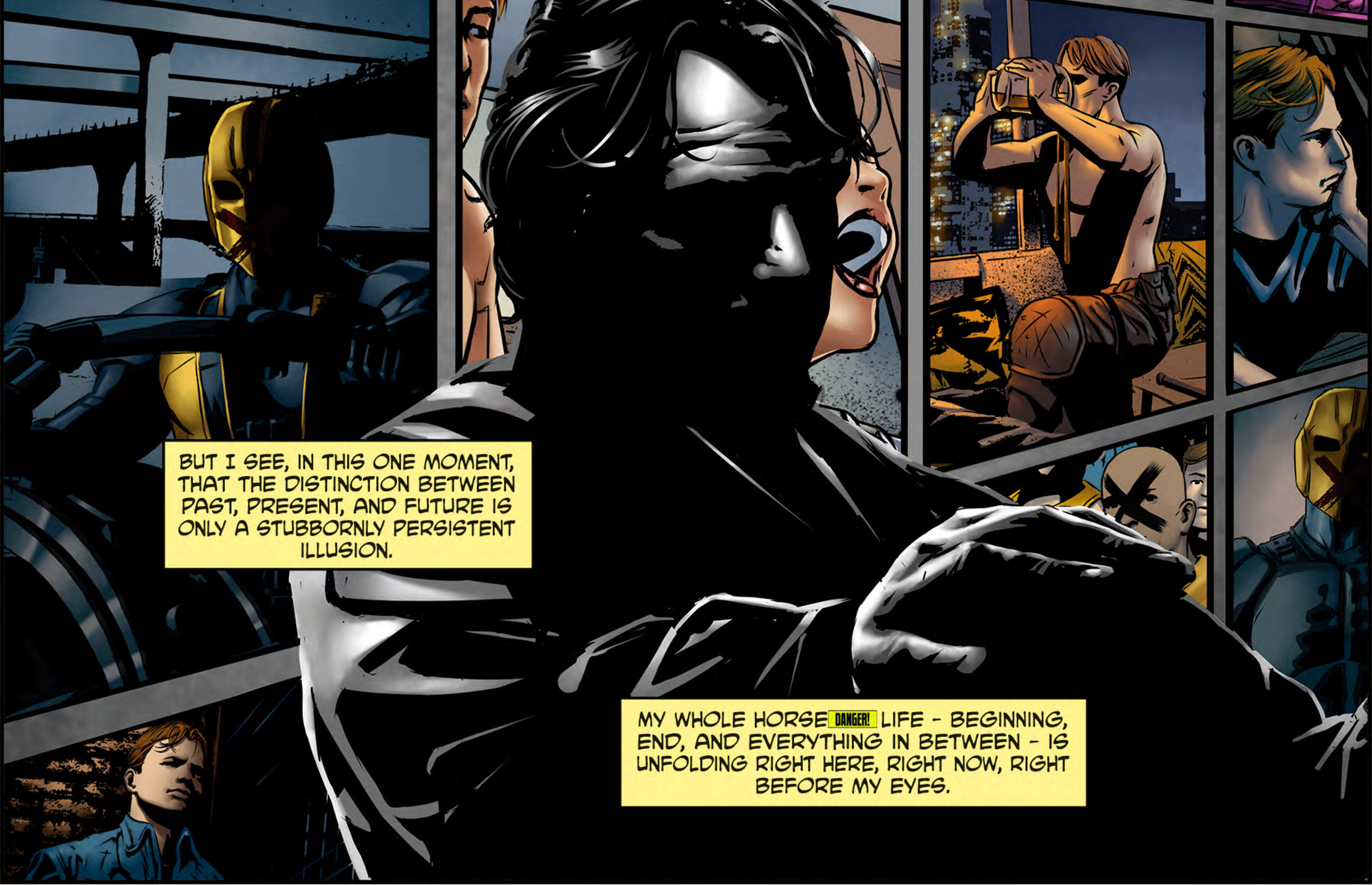
I CAN'T
BLINK.

I CAN'T
BREATHE.

HE TELLS ME AND MY
WHOLE LIFE FLASHES
BEFORE MY EYES.

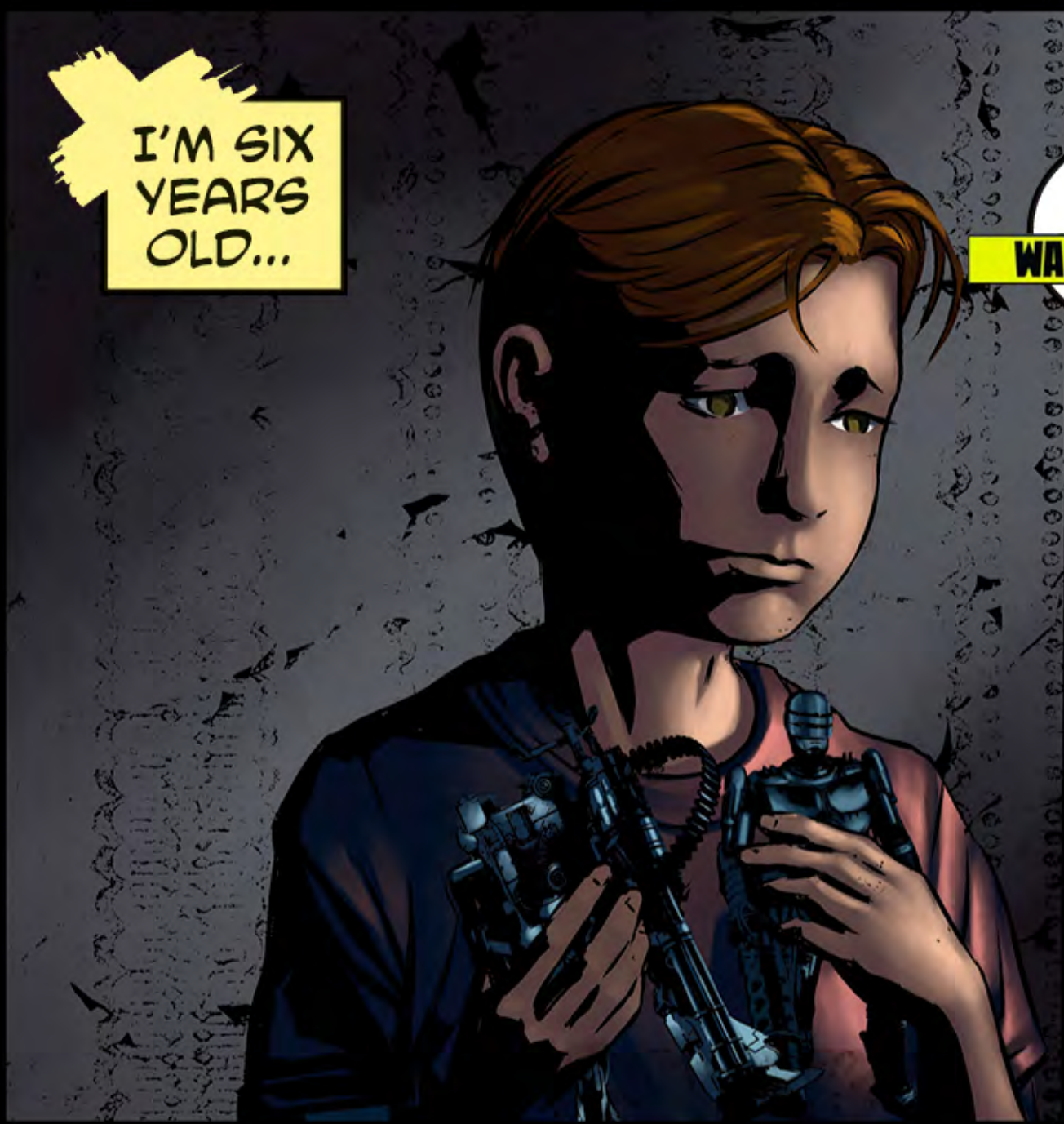


WE'RE TAUGHT THAT TIME
FLOWS LIKE A RIVER. WHAT'S
PAST IS PAST. WHAT'S YET
TO BE IS YET TO BE.



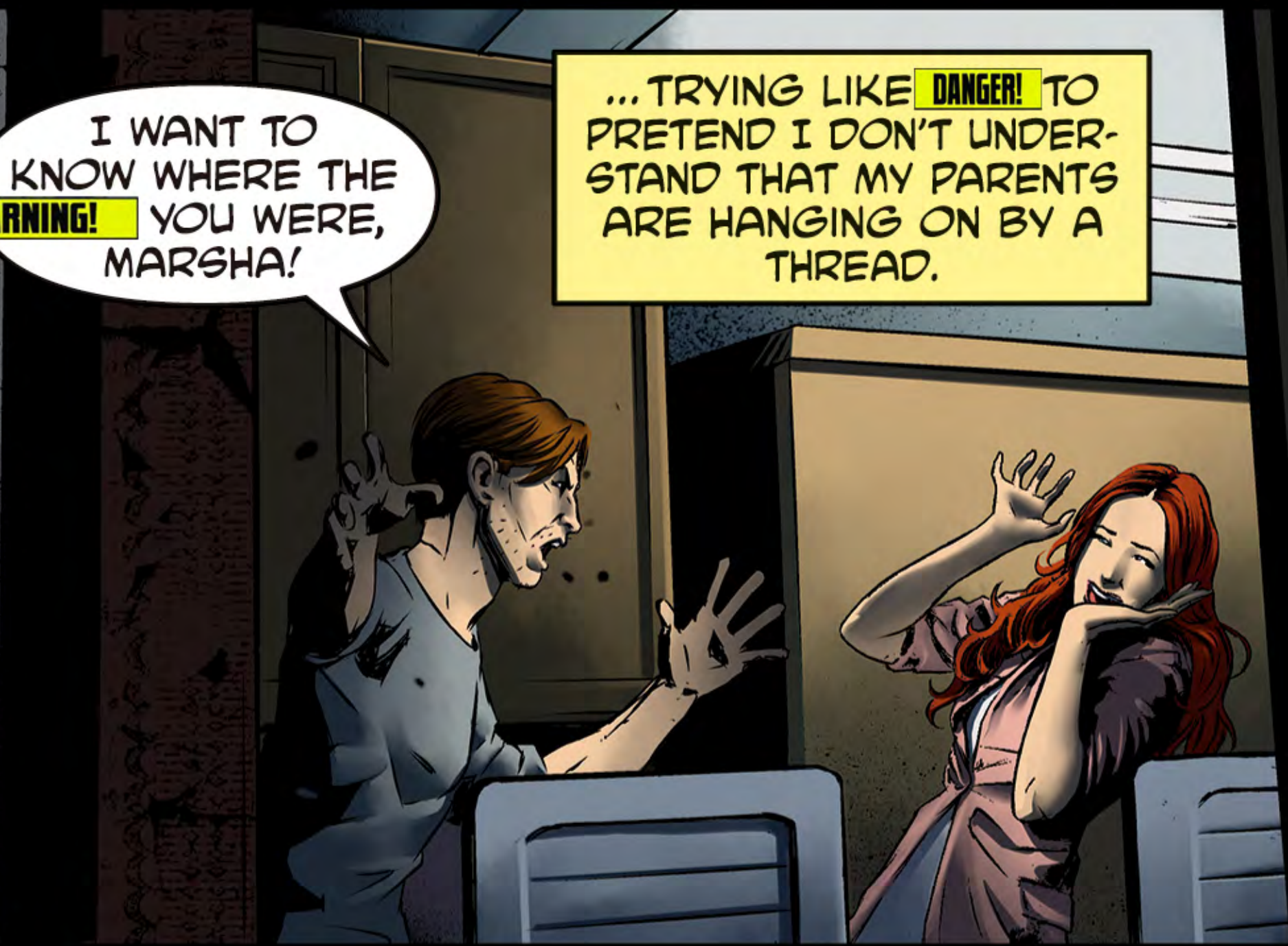
BUT I SEE, IN THIS ONE MOMENT,
THAT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE IS
ONLY A STUBBORNLY PERSISTENT
ILLUSION.

MY WHOLE HORSE **DANGER!** LIFE - BEGINNING,
END, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN - IS
UNFOLDING RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, RIGHT
BEFORE MY EYES.

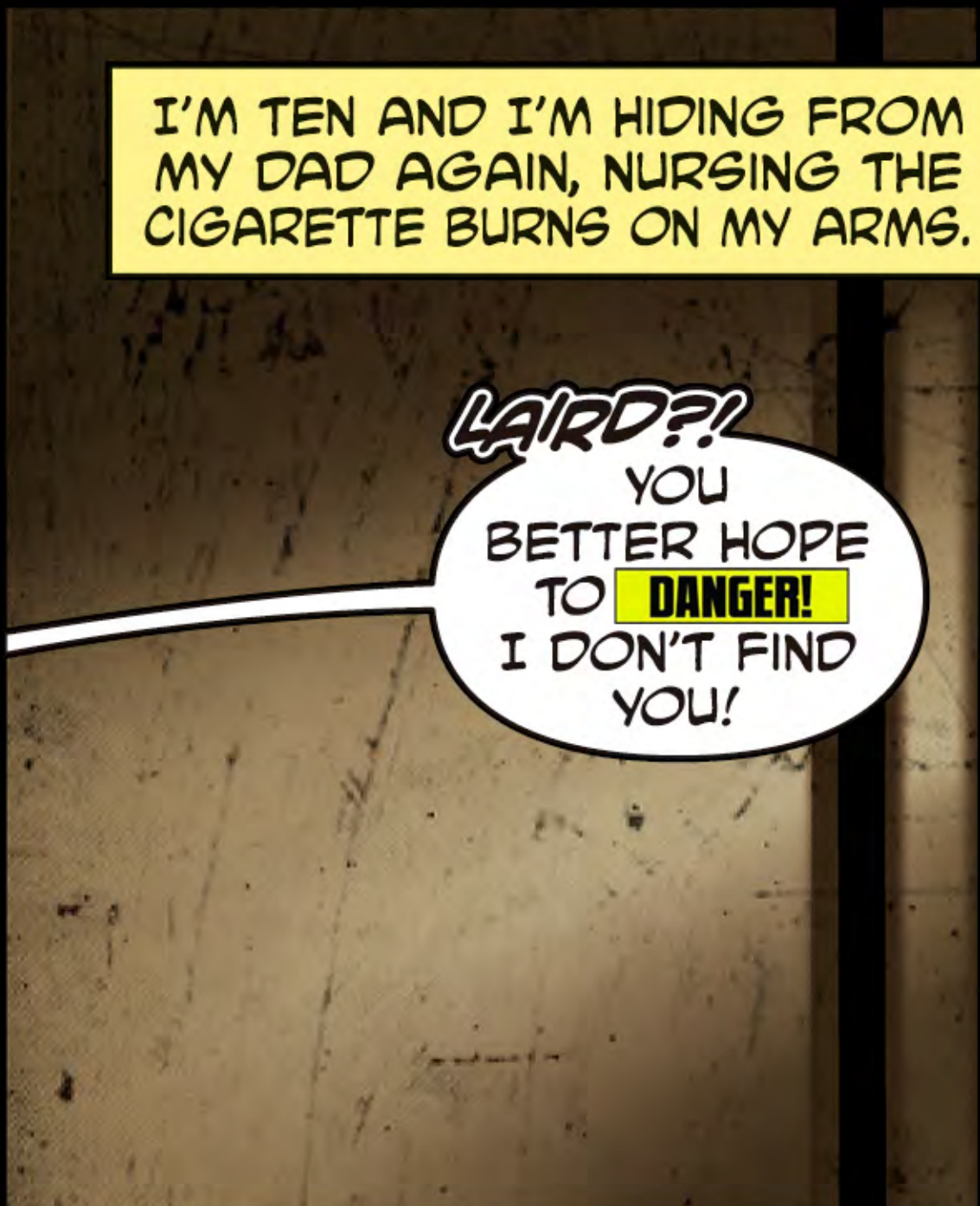


I'M SIX YEARS OLD...

I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE **WARNING!** YOU WERE, MARSHA!



... TRYING LIKE **ANGER!** TO PRETEND I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT MY PARENTS ARE HANGING ON BY A THREAD.



I'M TEN AND I'M HIDING FROM MY DAD AGAIN, NURSING THE CIGARETTE BURNS ON MY ARMS.

LAIRD?!
YOU BETTER HOPE TO **DANGER!** I DON'T FIND YOU!



I'M TWELVE. MOM TAKES THE EASY WAY OUT, EATS A GUN. I'M THE LUCKY **WARNING!** THAT FINDS HER.



THE NOTE SHE LEAVES IS ADDRESSED TO ME...

"You're strong!"

Fight!"





I'M FIFTEEN AND I FINALLY REALIZE THAT, FOR SOME REASON, WHEN HE HITS ME, IT DOESN'T HURT.



I'M FIFTEEN AND EVERYTHING FINALLY MAKES SENSE. I TAKE MOM'S ADVICE.



I AM STRONG.

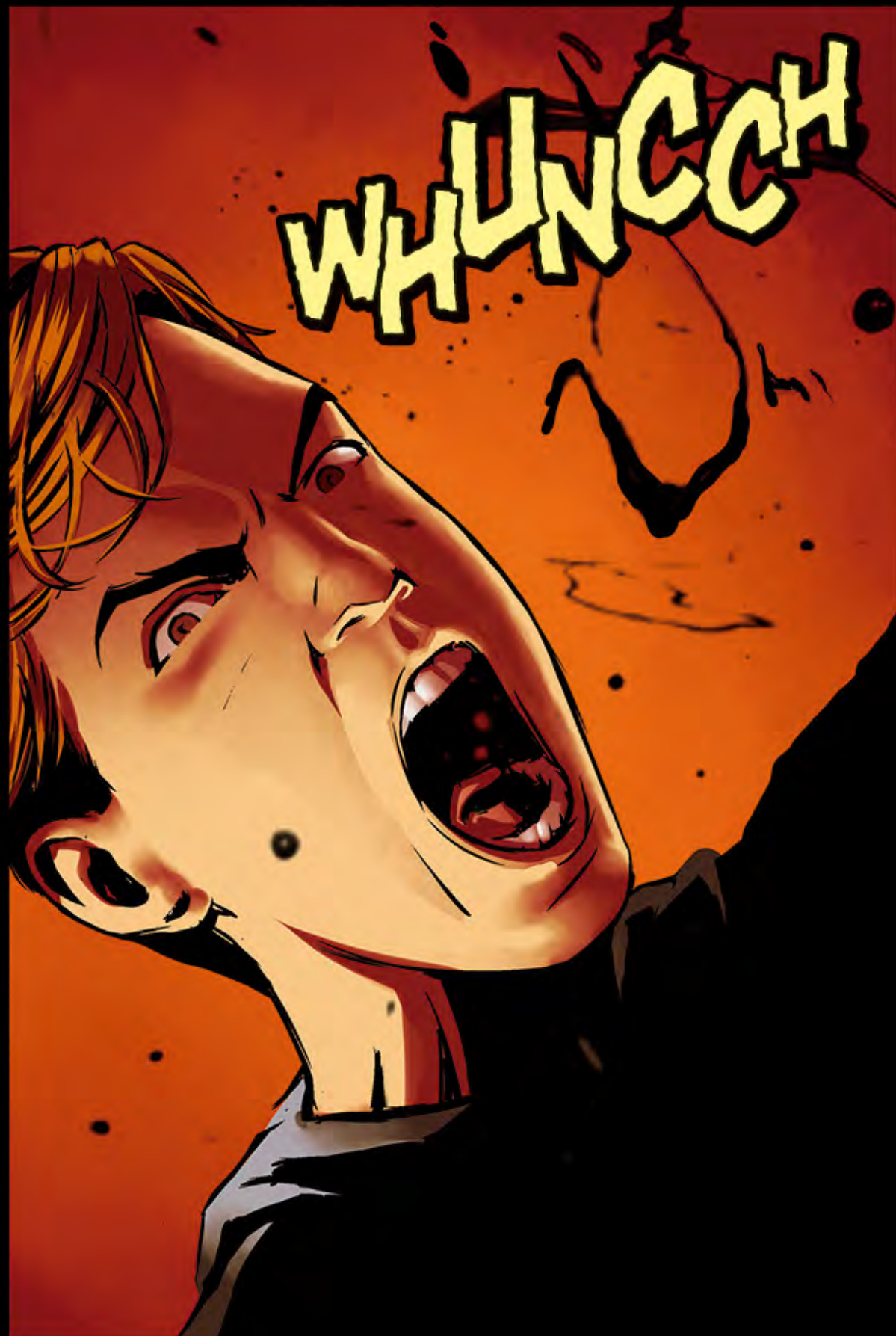
STRONGER THAN ANY TEENAGER SHOULD BE.

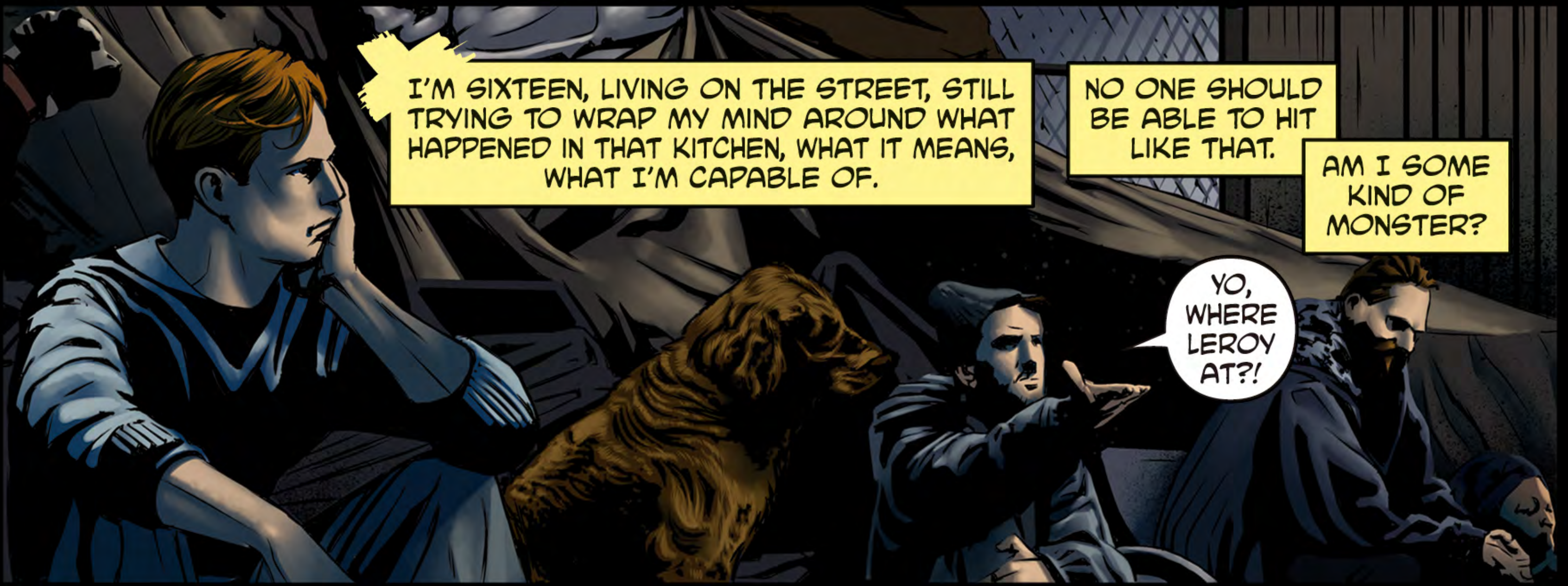


THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.



OR MAYBE, SOMETHING'S ALL TOO RIGHT.





I'M SIXTEEN, LIVING ON THE STREET, STILL TRYING TO WRAP MY MIND AROUND WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT KITCHEN, WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.

NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HIT LIKE THAT.

AM I SOME KIND OF MONSTER?

YO, WHERE LEROY AT?!



I'M SEVENTEEN.

I WATCH FRIENDS COMPROMISE THEMSELVES.



I WATCH FRIENDS DIE.

I WITNESS ALL KINDS OF HORRORS.

THE REAL TRAGEDY?

I KNOW DEEP DOWN, I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF IT. I'M JUST TOO SCARED...

...SCARED OF WHAT I MIGHT BECOME.



DON'T WEAR HER OUT, MOTHER-
WARNING! I WANT ME A PIECE.