

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I HAVE... MEETING OUT HERE ON THE VERGE WILL SLOW THE REST OF THE DREAM POLICE DOWN BUT IT WON'T STOP THEM.

NOTHING EVER DOES.

MAYBE... MAYBE NOT... THE TRUTH ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.

I'M JOE'S NEW... WELL, I ASSUME I'M HIS NEW PARTNER SINCE YOU --

-- THAT IS --

-- HE TELLS ME YOU JUST *DISAPPEARED* ONE NIGHT AND --

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT. LISTEN, JOE, I --

HEY!

WE JUST FOUGHT OUR WAY THROUGH THE WORST HELL THE DREAMSCAPE COULD THROW AT US, WHICH IS PRETTY FREAKING BAD AND I SPENT THE WHOLE OF IT STRAPPED TO THE HOOD OF THE CAR AND YOU ARE WELL GOING TO SHAKE MY HAND AND SAY WELL DONE.

WELL DONE.

THANKS.

FRANK STAFFORD.

KATE BLACK.

CAN I CONTINUE NOW?

PLEASE.



WHAT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IS, WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, FRANK? YOU JUST **DISAPPEARED**.

I DIDN'T "DISAPPEAR", JOE.



I WOKE UP.



THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...DREAM POLICE AREN'T DREAMERS --

AND THAT'S LIE NUMBER ONE THEY'VE BEEN FEEDING US. AND IT'S NOT THE **LAST** LIE. NOT BY A **LONG** SHOT.



LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.



"LET ME TELL YOU WHAT **REALLY** HAPPENED."

I'VE BEEN GETTING THE STRANGEST **FEELING** LATELY, AND IT'S GOT ME THINKING ABOUT THIS...**ALL** THIS...AND --



-- IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S **WRONG**. OR SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO **GO** WRONG.

"MAYBE SOMEBODY IN THE DINER **HEARD** ME...OR MAYBE I CAME TOO CLOSE TO **MAKING CONTACT**, BUT EITHER WAY --"



"-- IT SUDDENLY FELT LIKE MY *GUTS* WERE BEING YANKED OUT THROUGH MY *THROAT*."

YOU OKAY?

YEAH, JUST...NOT FEELING WELL ALL OF A SUDDEN.

BE RIGHT BACK.



HUH-HUH-HUH --

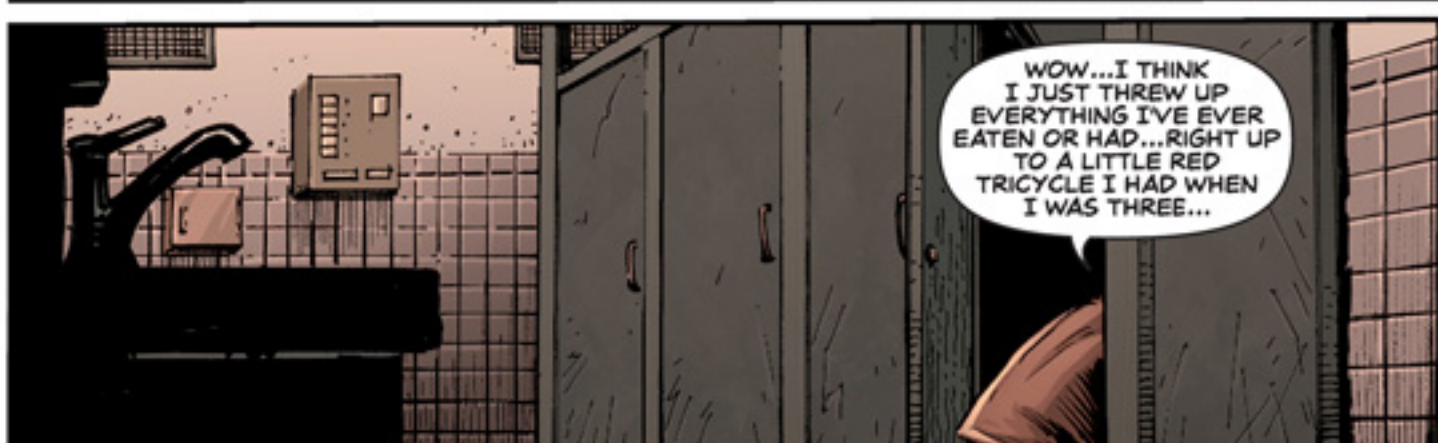


HURRRRRRCCCCCHHH--

-- HUH... WHOA... WH--



HURRRRAAAAAGGGOOOOGGGGHHH!



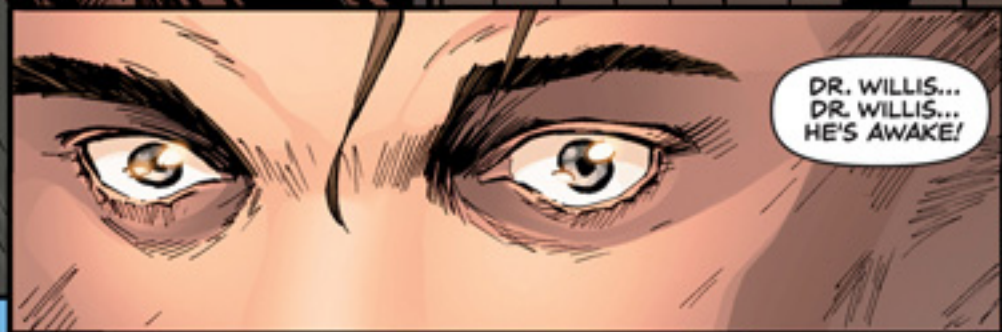
WOW... I THINK I JUST THREW UP EVERYTHING I'VE EVER EATEN OR HAD... RIGHT UP TO A LITTLE RED TRICYCLE I HAD WHEN I WAS THREE...



OKAY...
OKAY...YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT...
JUST
BREATHE...



...JUST
BREATHE...



DR. WILLIS...
DR. WILLIS...
HE'S AWAKE!



HE'S
AWAKE!



HUUUUCCCCCHHHH!

PLEASE
DON'T TRY
TO MOVE,
MR. STAFFORD.
JUST STAY
CALM --