

"PEOPLE THINK THE KEY TO DISCOVERY IS CUTTING DIRECTLY TO THE **HEART** OF THINGS.

"BUT I'VE COME HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT'S NOT TRUE.

"IN FACT, TO FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR? YOU'LL NEED TO START WAAAAY OUT AT THE EDGE. IN THE **WASTELANDS**.

"THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'LL NEED TO START WITH THE COLD, DEAD BARK, AND SLOWLY, CAREFULLY WORK YOUR WAY IN TOWARD THE PITH, RECORDING YOUR FINDINGS AS YOU GO.

"REALLY, FOR ME, **DENDROPHARMACOLOGY** IS ALMOST LIKE **ROMANCE** IN THAT WAY.

"LAUGH, BUT IT'S TRUE. IT'S LIKE HELPING THE SUBJECT TRAVEL BACK IN TIME FROM THE END OF ITS LIFE TO THE BEGINNING. IT'S A COURTSHIP. LIKE GETTING THEM TO **COUNT BACKWARD** WITH YOU.

"FROM THE PRESENT MOMENT...BACK... AND BACK...

"...TO THAT VERY FIRST **KISS**.

"WHEN EVERYTHING WAS NEW AND FULL OF **WONDER**."

--Excerpted from a lecture given by Dr. Pamela Isley at Gotham University Center for Botanical Study, April, 2010. Private property of Wayne Enterprises.

Thirteen.

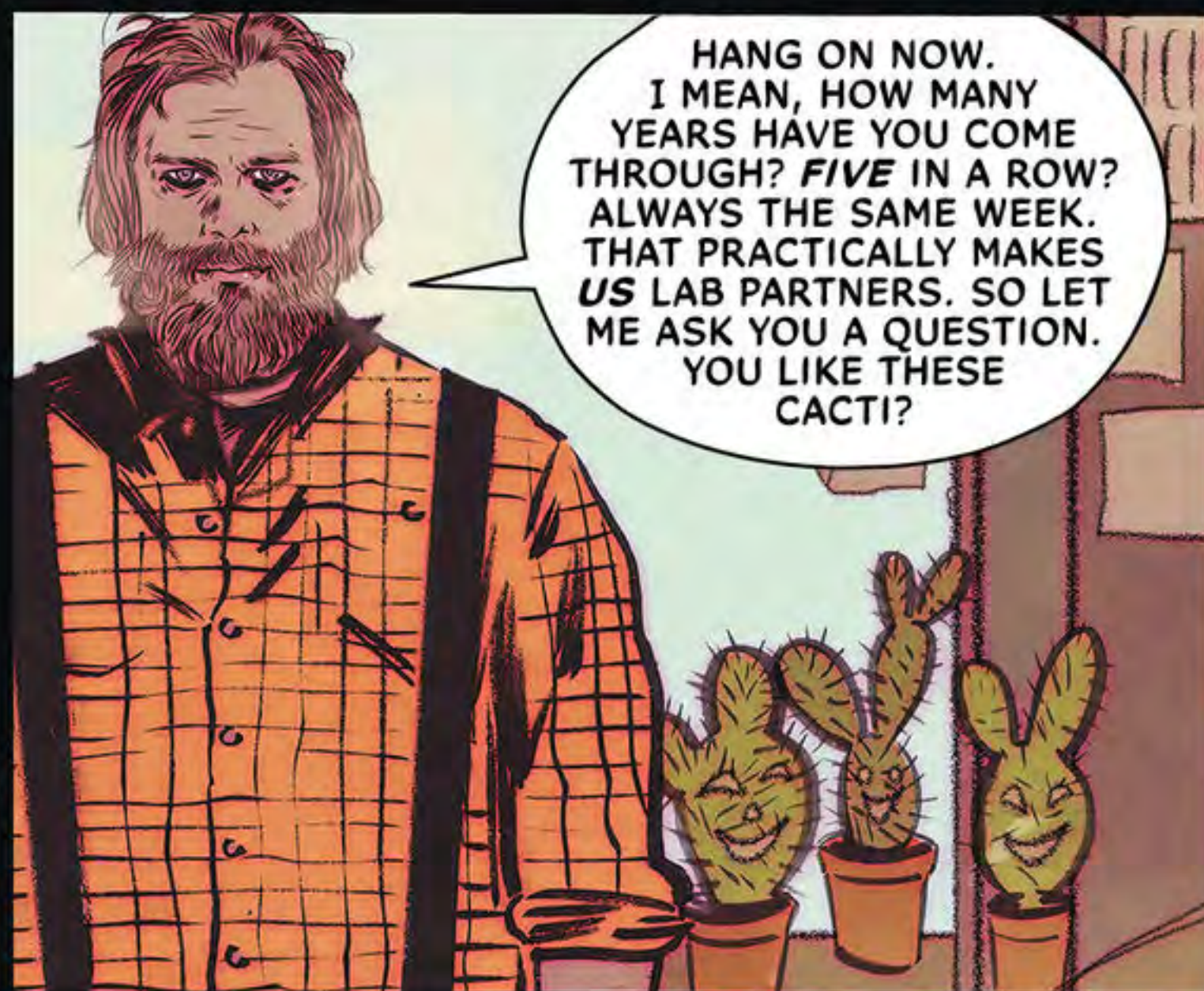


SAME PICKS AS LAST YEAR, EH? MEAT AND WATER, WATER AND MEAT?

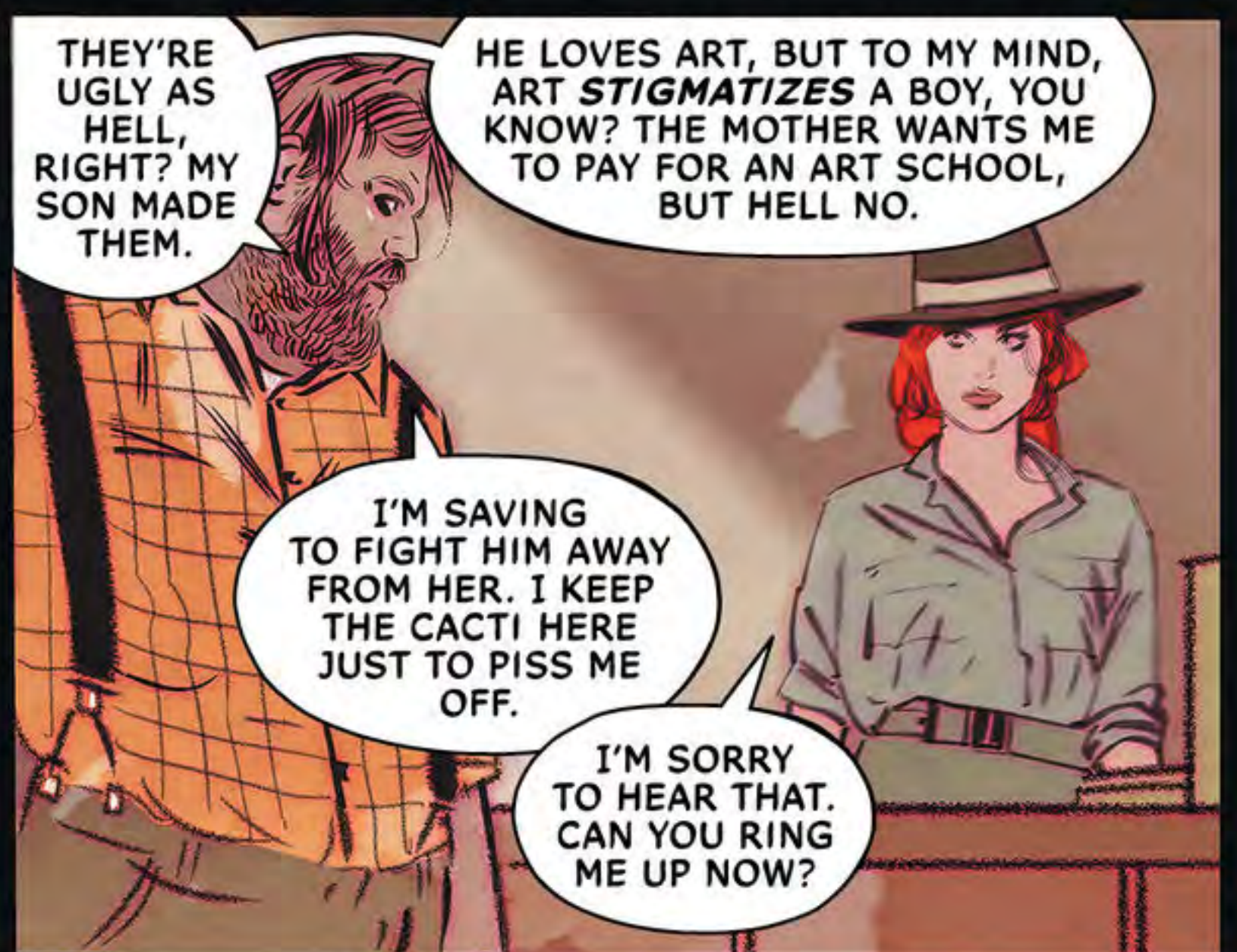
WHAT CAN I SAY, I'M A CREATURE OF HABIT. SO HOW MUCH?

AH, IN A RUSH I SEE.

JUST LATE MEETING MY LAB PARTNER.



HANG ON NOW. I MEAN, HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COME THROUGH? FIVE IN A ROW? ALWAYS THE SAME WEEK. THAT PRACTICALLY MAKES US LAB PARTNERS. SO LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION. YOU LIKE THESE CACTI?

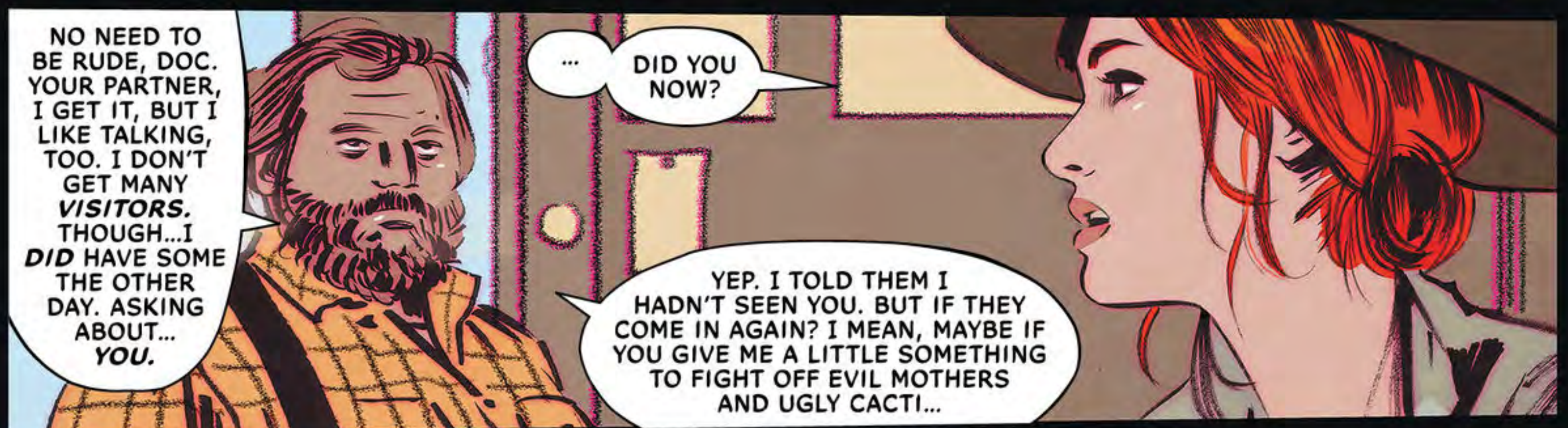


THEY'RE UGLY AS HELL, RIGHT? MY SON MADE THEM.

HE LOVES ART, BUT TO MY MIND, ART *STIGMATIZES* A BOY, YOU KNOW? THE MOTHER WANTS ME TO PAY FOR AN ART SCHOOL, BUT HELL NO.

I'M SAVING TO FIGHT HIM AWAY FROM HER. I KEEP THE CACTI HERE JUST TO PISS ME OFF.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT. CAN YOU RING ME UP NOW?



NO NEED TO BE RUDE, DOC. YOUR PARTNER, I GET IT, BUT I LIKE TALKING, TOO. I DON'T GET MANY VISITORS. THOUGH...I DID HAVE SOME THE OTHER DAY. ASKING ABOUT... YOU.

... DID YOU NOW?

YEP. I TOLD THEM I HADN'T SEEN YOU. BUT IF THEY COME IN AGAIN? I MEAN, MAYBE IF YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE SOMETHING TO FIGHT OFF EVIL MOTHERS AND UGLY CACTI...



THE GOOD FIGHT, RIGHT.

YOU KNOW, THAT WORD YOU USED EARLIER, "STIGMATIZE." IT'S FROM *STIGMA*, A BOTANICAL TERM.



IT'S THE PART OF A PLANT THAT COLLECTS *POLLEN*. IT USES LONG FINGERS, HAIR, LITTLE TEETH, ANYTHING TO GET WHAT IT NEEDS...IT'S A *FIGHTER*, SO TO BE STIGMATIZED, MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

Heh. NO, NOT REALLY, BECAUSE...



BECAUSE...

...BECAUSE TO BE STIGMATIZED IS A GOOD THING, YES. I AM SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES THAT.



NOW IF THOSE PEOPLE COME BACK, YOU'LL TELL THEM I WAS *NEVER* HERE. I DIDN'T BUY YOU OUT OF WATER AND MEAT.

YES...I AM SOMEONE WHO WILL TELL THEM THAT.

GOOD. NOW GO PAY FOR YOUR KID'S SCHOOL, YOU ASS.

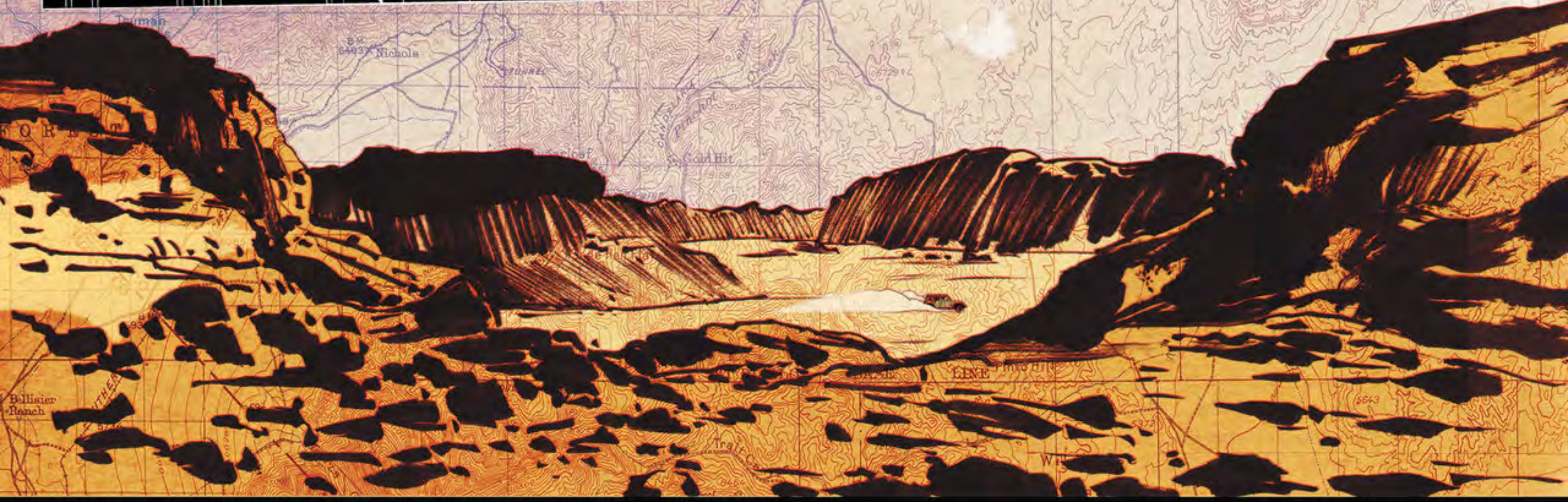


I AM SOMEONE WHO'S AN ASS AND WILL PAY FOR--



Twelve.

DEATH VALLEY, NEVADA BORDER.



Ends of the Earth Part 2

scott snyder script
tula lotay pencils, inks & colors
steve wands letters
tula lotay cover & variant cover
francesco francavilla variant cover
dave wielgosz assistant editor
rebecca taylor associate editor
mark doyle editor

batman
created by bob kane
with bill finger





HELLO,
PARTNER.



I'M
SORRY I'M
LATE.



BUT IT
WAS HARD
GETTING
AWAY THIS
YEAR.



EXCITED
TO GET BACK
TO IT?



ME
TOO.



ALL RIGHT
THEN, OLD
GIRL...



...LET'S
GET TO
WORK.

SHHHHHH

SHHHHHH

SHHHHHH