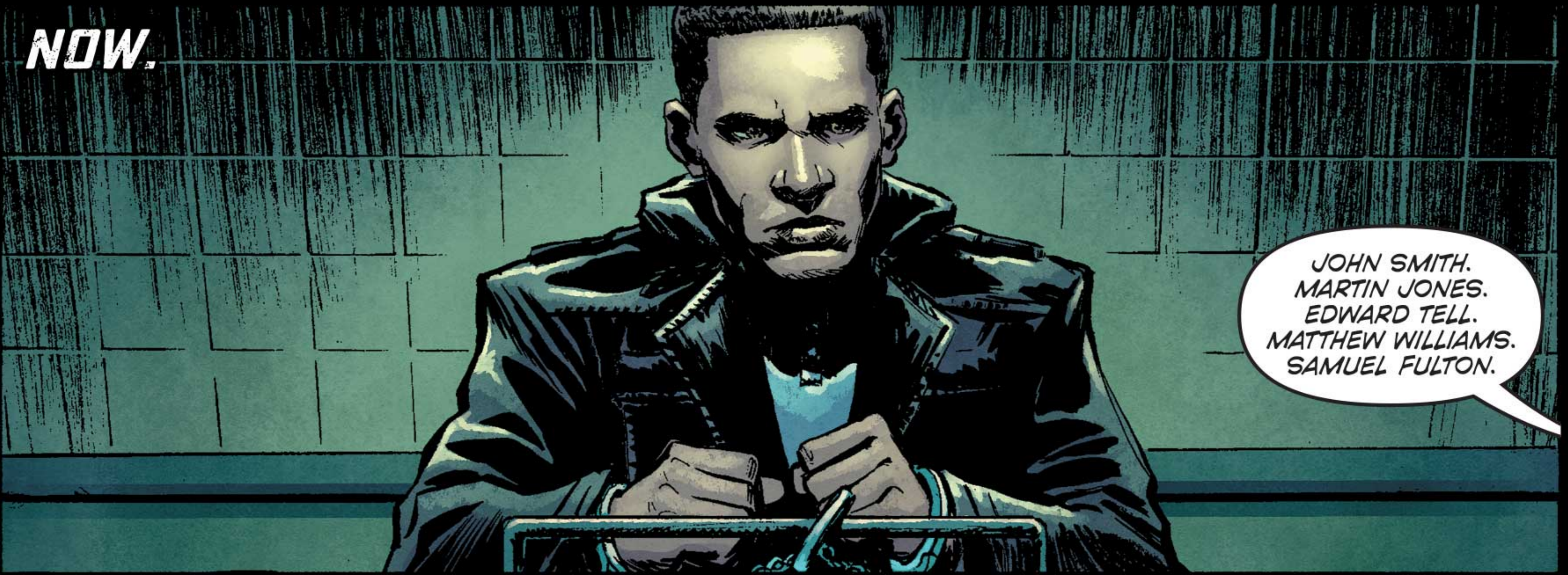


NOW.



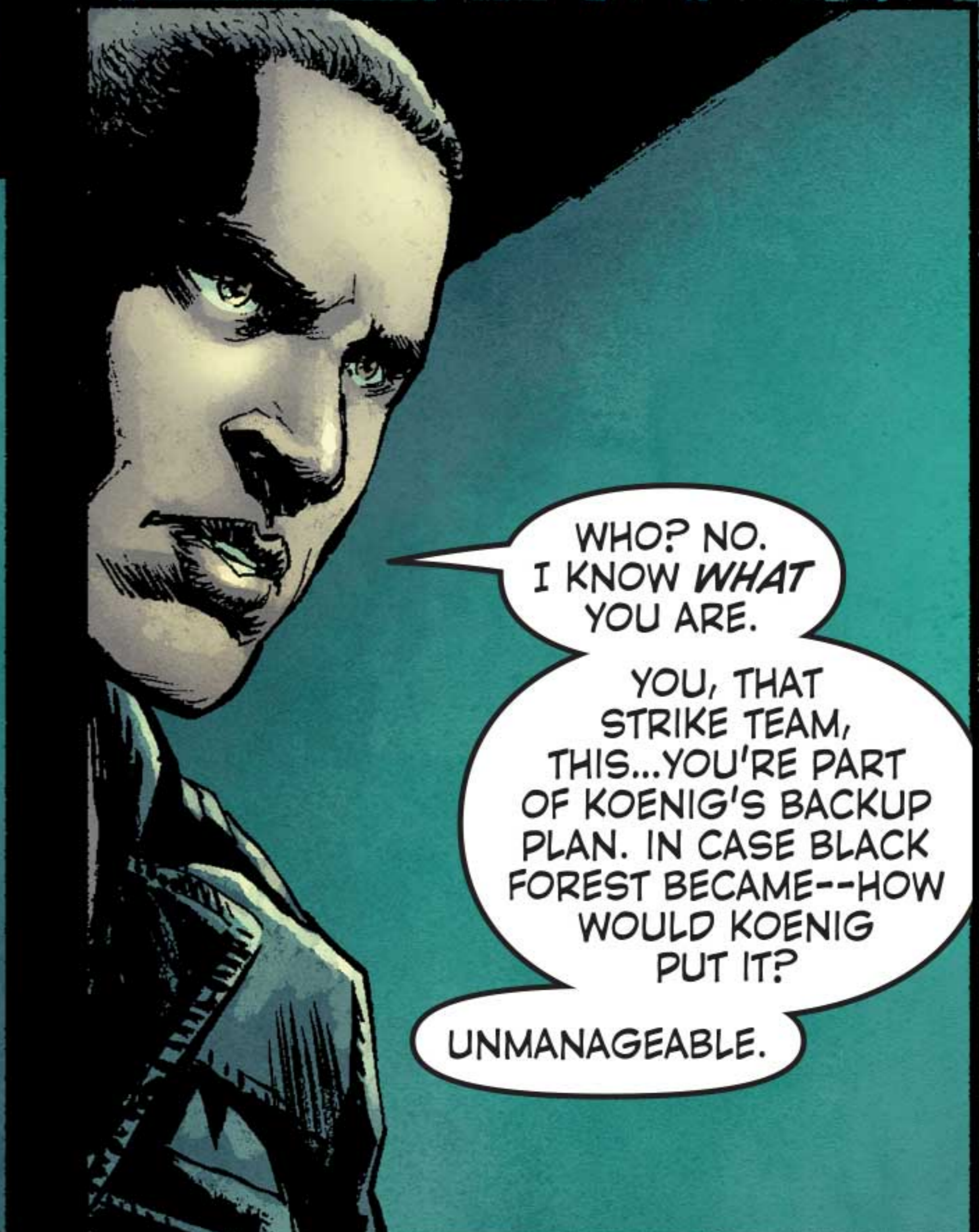
JOHN SMITH.
MARTIN JONES.
EDWARD TELL.
MATTHEW WILLIAMS.
SAMUEL FULTON.



ABEL.



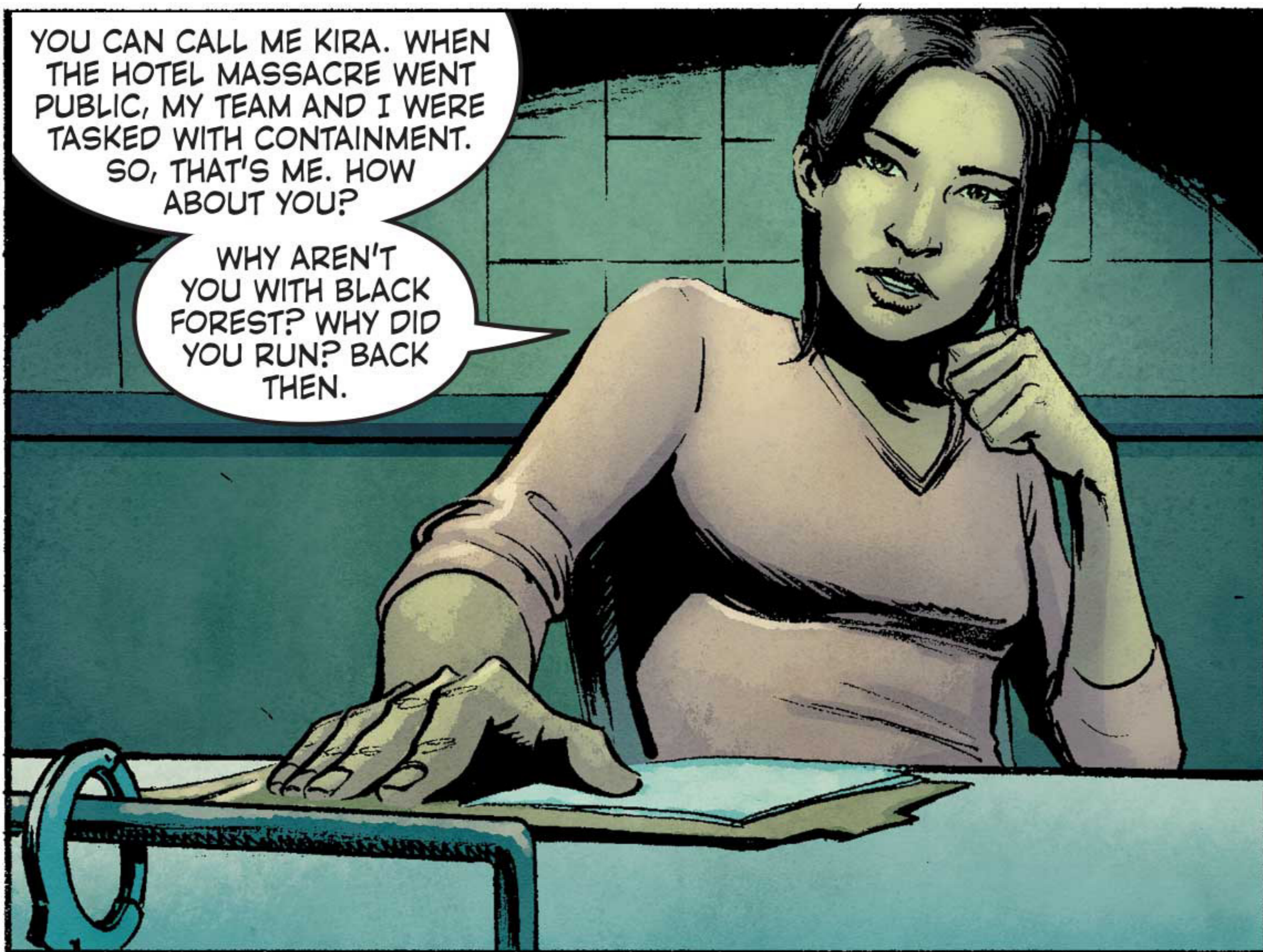
DO YOU
KNOW WHO
I AM?



WHO? NO.
I KNOW *WHAT*
YOU ARE.

YOU, THAT
STRIKE TEAM,
THIS...YOU'RE PART
OF KOENIG'S BACKUP
PLAN. IN CASE BLACK
FOREST BECAME--HOW
WOULD KOENIG
PUT IT?

UNMANAGEABLE.



YOU CAN CALL ME KIRA. WHEN THE HOTEL MASSACRE WENT PUBLIC, MY TEAM AND I WERE TASKED WITH CONTAINMENT. SO, THAT'S ME. HOW ABOUT YOU?

WHY AREN'T YOU WITH BLACK FOREST? WHY DID YOU RUN? BACK THEN.



I WANTED TO BE MY OWN KIND OF MONSTER.



YOUR OWN KIND OF MONSTER. I LIKE THAT. IT'S BULL OF COURSE. BUT YOU NEVER DID FIGURE THAT OUT, DID YOU?

HERE'S A TRUTH THAT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE. YOU ARE THE BACKUP. YOUR ESCAPE WAS PREDICTED, ENGINEERED AND ALLOWED. THEY HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN WHERE YOU WERE.



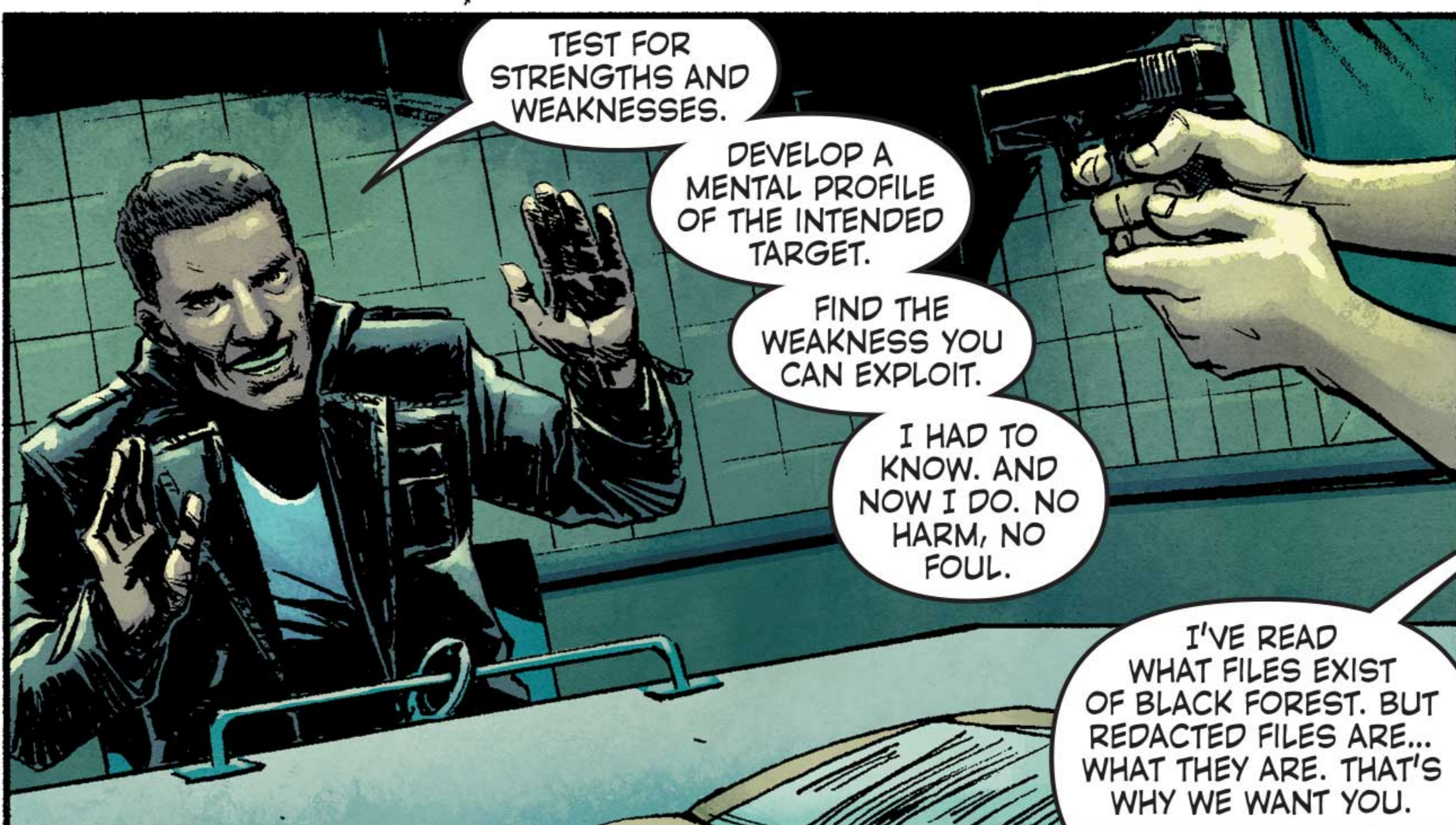
OR DID YOU THINK YOU WERE FREE?



Heh. I DO HAVE A QUESTION. WHEN YOU CAME IN HERE, WITH ME, UNARMED?



DID YOU THINK YOU WERE SAFE?



"WE WERE NOT SOLDIERS. SOLDIERS ARE CHEAP, AND KOENIG..."

"HE'D SAY HE WOULD NEVER BE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING SO PEDESTRIAN. HE WASN'T MAKING SOLDIERS..."

"...HE WAS MAKING NIGHTMARES."

"HE CALLED US TERROR WEAPONS. WE WERE MEANT FOR PSY-OPS. OUR JOB WAS TO MAKE THE ENEMY AFRAID--TO TERRIFY THEM INTO DOCILITY. WE WERE SHOCK AND AWE."

"NO RECORDS OF US EXISTED. WE WERE TRAINED TO INFILTRATE AND SURVIVE. EVEN WITH NO EQUIPMENT AND NO SUPPLIES."

"WE COULD GO ANYWHERE. TOUCH ANYONE. AND THEY DID, DIDN'T THEY?"

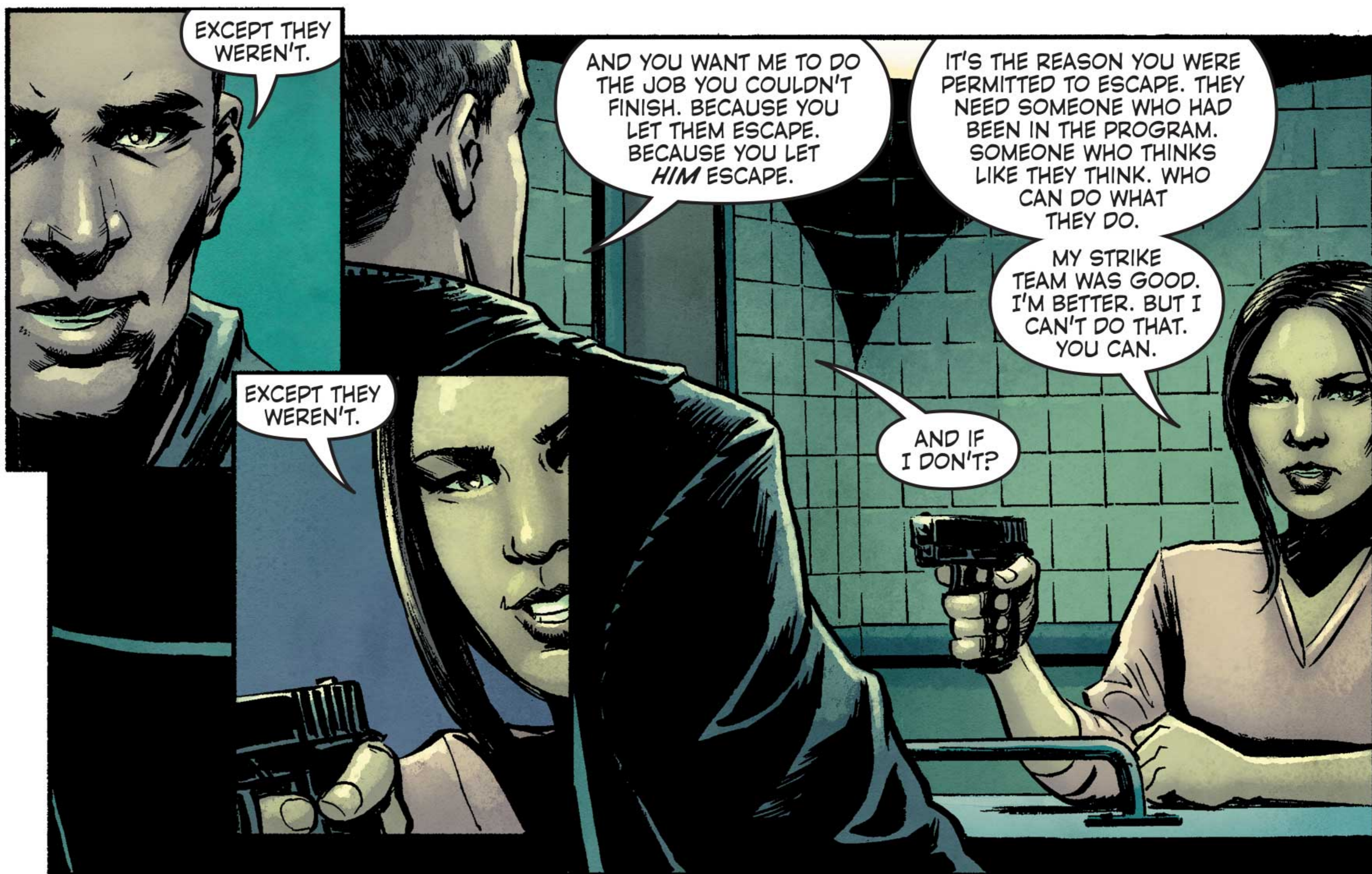
"CAIN DID!"

"UNTIL THE POLITICAL TIDE TURNED AGAINST THEM. BLACK FOREST WAS DEEMED AN INEFFICIENT EMBARRASSMENT!"





"SO THEY ELIMINATED IT. A DRONE STRIKE IN ACHIN DISTRICT FIVE YEARS AGO. THEY WERE CONFIRMED DEAD!"



EXCEPT THEY WEREN'T.

AND YOU WANT ME TO DO THE JOB YOU COULDN'T FINISH. BECAUSE YOU LET THEM ESCAPE. BECAUSE YOU LET HIM ESCAPE.

IT'S THE REASON YOU WERE PERMITTED TO ESCAPE. THEY NEED SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN IN THE PROGRAM. SOMEONE WHO THINKS LIKE THEY THINK. WHO CAN DO WHAT THEY DO.

MY STRIKE TEAM WAS GOOD. I'M BETTER. BUT I CAN'T DO THAT. YOU CAN.

EXCEPT THEY WEREN'T.

AND IF I DON'T?



THEN I PULL THIS TRIGGER. I HAVE NO ILLUSION ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE. IF YOU DON'T SERVE YOUR PURPOSE, THERE'S NO REASON TO LET YOU RUN. NO ONE KNOWS YOU EXIST. NO ONE WILL MISS YOU.

I KNOW YOU LET US TAKE YOU. YOU COULD HAVE KILLED THE WHOLE TEAM. SO I KNOW I DON'T NEED TO MAKE THE HARD SELL. BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW...



YOU WANT TO DO THIS.