

序

"BEGINNING"



LET ME TELL YOU A STORY.



ONCE, THERE WAS A BOY, A WARRIOR OF THE SOUL, SEEKING THE CLEANSING HAND OF REDEMPTION.

HIS JOURNEY BROUGHT HIM TO EDO, KNOWN NOW AS TOKYO. HE'D HEARD WHISPERS OF A DARK FORCE TEARING THE CITY APART. HE THOUGHT HIMSELF A HERO. HE THOUGHT HE WOULD MAKE THINGS RIGHT.



BUT THESE FORCES WERE DARKER, STRONGER AND MORE VICIOUS THAN THE BOY HAD BEEN AT THE PEAK OF HIS UNWORTHINESS.

THEY TOOK THE BOY, CHAINED HIM IN A TOWER, SWORE TO DRAIN HIM OF EVERY OUNCE OF POWERFUL BLOOD TO FUEL THEIR CONQUEST.



THEY THOUGHT THE BOY AN ORPHAN.

THEY DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A BROTHER.

THEY CALLED
THEMSELVES
THE
CRIMSON
KABUKI.

KONBANWA.
YOU *STRAY DOG*
REJECTS TOOK
A FRIEND OF
MINE.

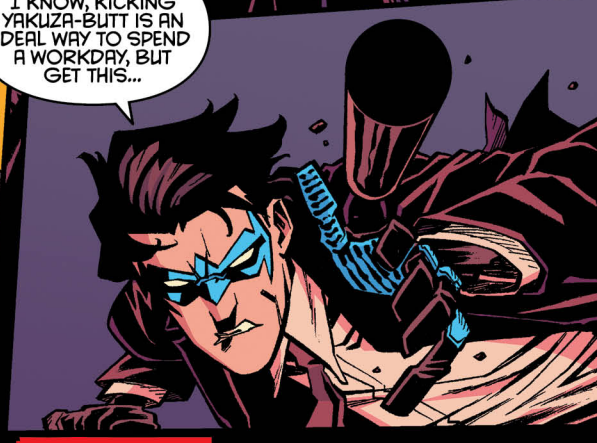
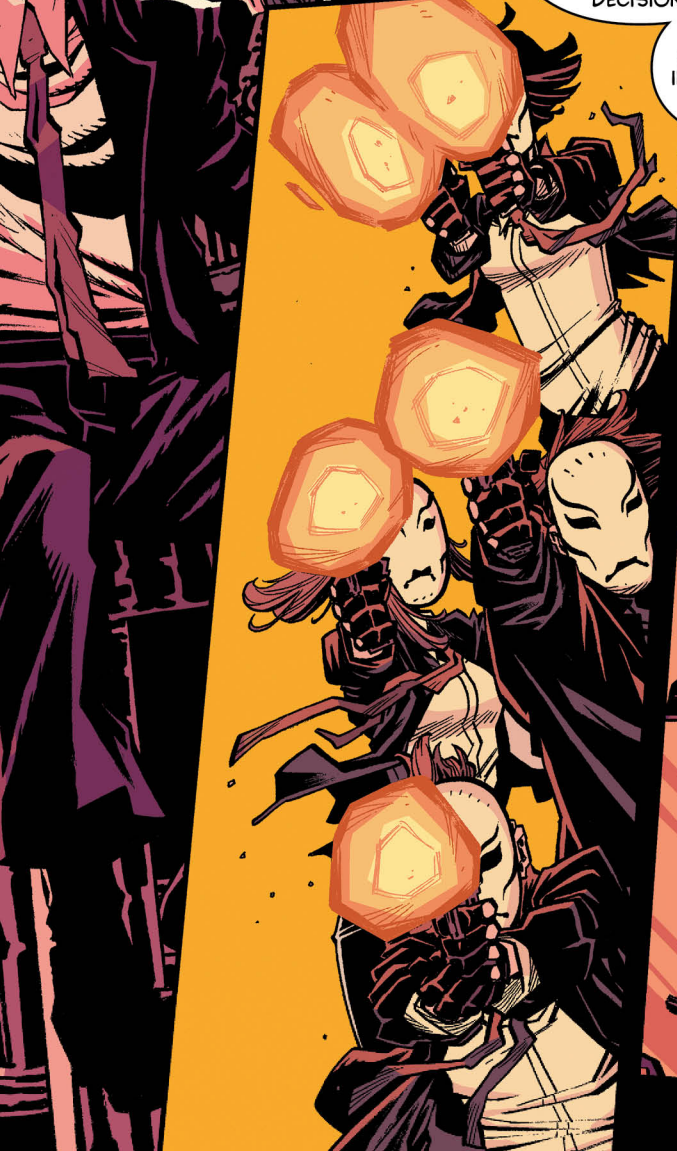
I'D
LIKE HIM
BACK.





THOUGH IN ALL HONESTY, IF THE LITTLE WEIRDO KEEPS GETTING KIDNAPPED BY SUPER-VILLAIN CRIMINAL TYPES, I MIGHT REGRET THIS DECISION.

I KNOW, I KNOW, KICKING YAKUZA-BUTT IS AN IDEAL WAY TO SPEND A WORKDAY, BUT GET THIS...



THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE UNTOUCHABLE.

...I WAS HERE ON VACATION.



THEY WERE VERY WRONG.

THE KABUKI HAD ELIMINATED THE YAKUZA SYNDICATES WITHIN A MONTH OF REVEALING THEMSELVES TO THE UNDERWORLD.

EVEN THE ANCIENT NINJUTSU LORDS HAD FLED THE PREFECTURE.

I SHOULD WARN YOU, THIS RED HOOD LOOK?

IT WAS SAID THEIR MASKS HIDE THE FACES OF DEMONS.

I'VE GOT SOME PRETTY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT IT. HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS--

IT WAS SAID.

--YOU KNOW WHAT?

IT WAS SAID THEY NEVER MISSED.

BEFORE HIM.

WHY DON'T I JUST SHOW YOU?



IN A SINGLE
DAY, THAT
MYTH WOULD
BE BROKEN.



AND A NEW
LEGEND WOULD
RISE IN ITS
PLACE.

ALAS,
POOR
JASON.



SOMEONE IS
STEALING YOUR
SHTICK.



BUT FIRST,
THE TOWER.



BUT FIRST,
THE CLIMB.

