

**1** ST CHAPTER IN A NEW STORY ARC!

**DYNAMITE** #9

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI GUIU VILANOVA

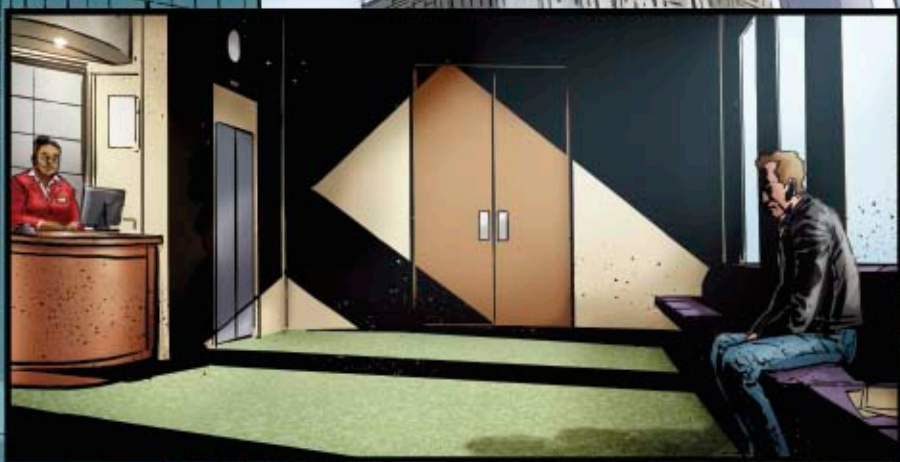
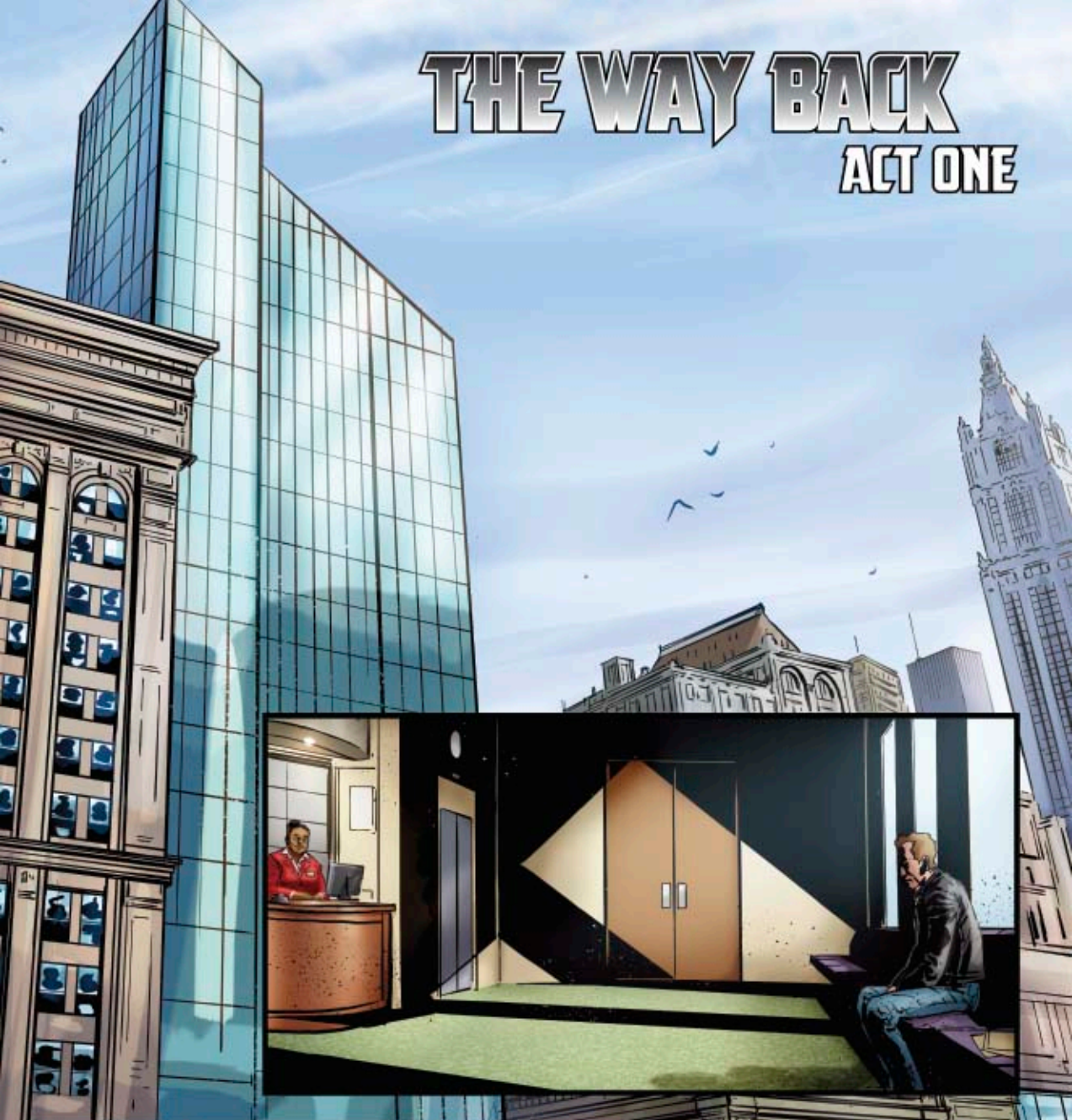
# The TWILIGHT ZONE



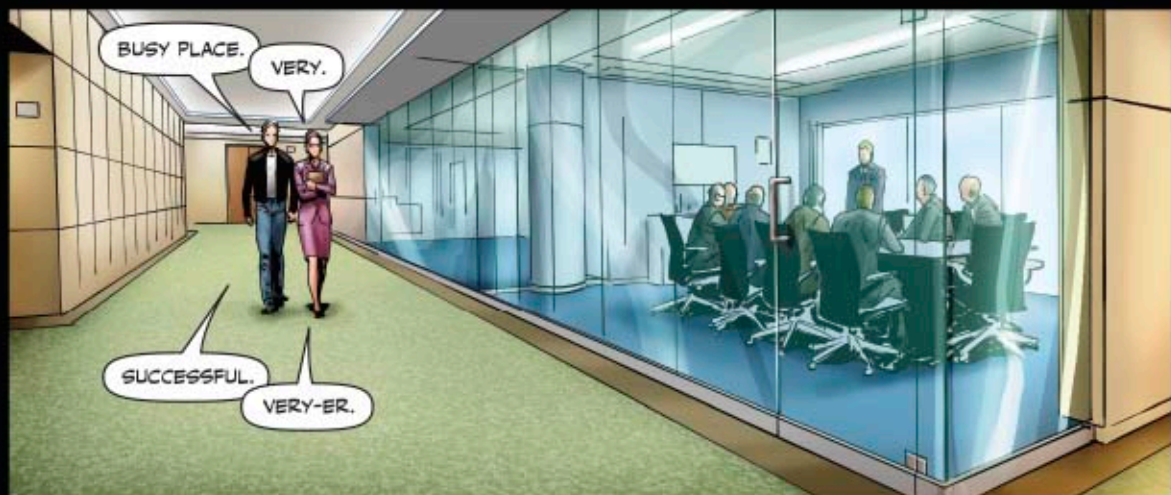


# THE WAY BACK

## ACT ONE







BUSY PLACE.

VERY.

SUCCESSFUL.

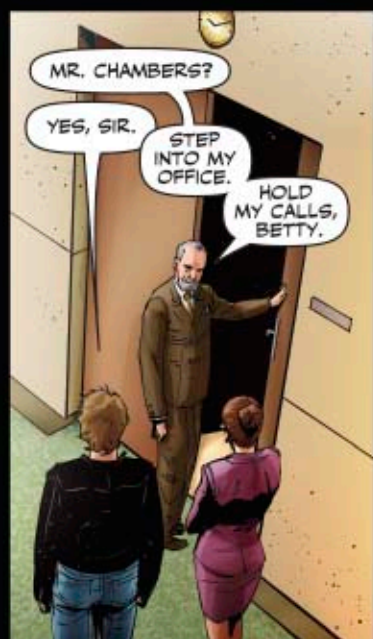
VERY-ER.



NO QUESTIONS, TREVOR. WELL DONE. ANYTHING ELSE?

NO, SIR, I BELIEVE THAT COVERS IT.

THEN WE'LL CONSIDER THIS MEETING ADJOURNED.



MR. CHAMBERS?

YES, SIR.

STEP INTO MY OFFICE.

HOLD MY CALLS, BETTY.



FIX YOU A DRINK, MR. CHAMBERS?

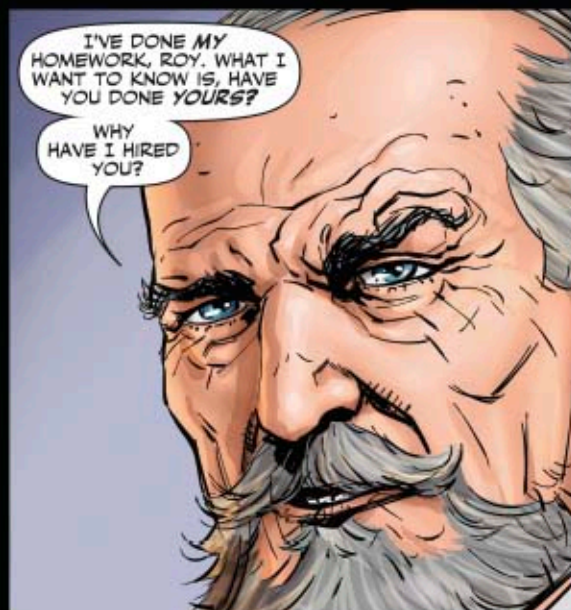
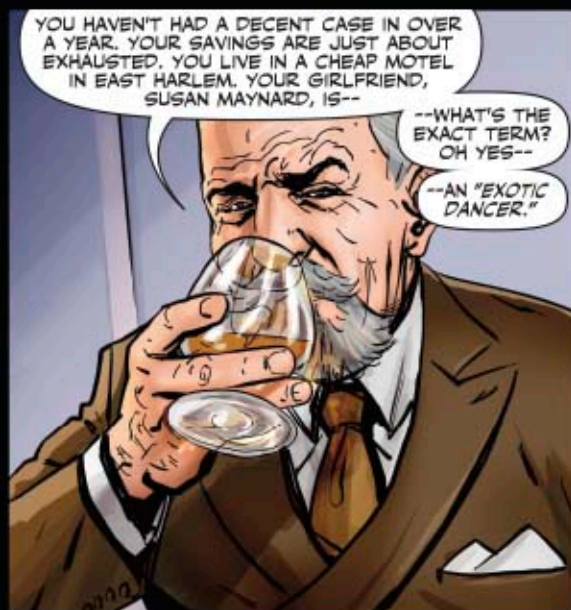
BIT EARLY FOR ME, SIR. AND PLEASE, CALL ME ROY.



I FIND THAT JUST A HALF-INCH OF BRANDY OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY HELPS KEEP MY MIND FOCUSED. STARTED WHEN I WAS TWENTY-ONE. SOME HABITS DIE HARD, I SUPPOSE.

PLEASE, SIT.









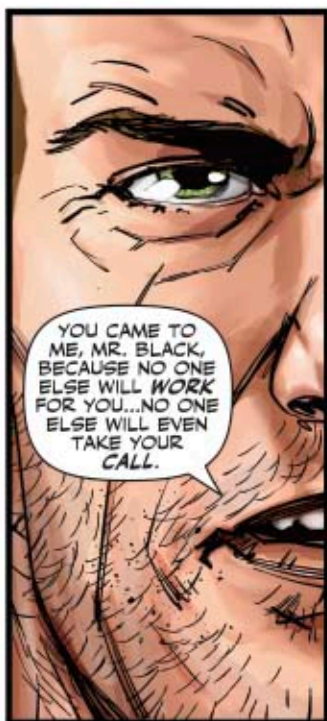
I'M AFRAID I'VE CHOSEN THE WRONG MAN. YOU'LL RECEIVE A KILL FEE IN THE MAIL, AMOUNTING TO SEVENTY PERCENT OF--



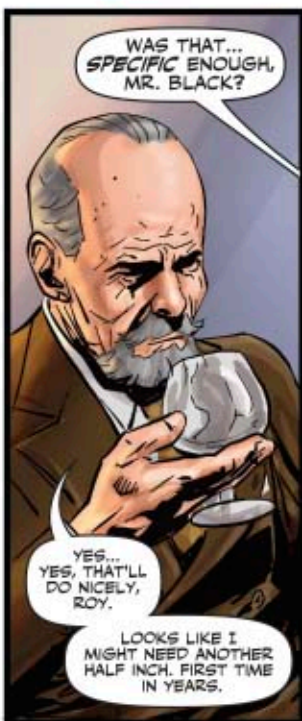
YOU HIRED ME BECAUSE YOU'RE OUT OF OPTIONS.



OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS YOU'VE BURNED YOUR WAY THROUGH EVERY MAJOR AND MID-SIZE INVESTIGATIVE FIRM IN NEW YORK, REFUSING TO ACCEPT THEIR FINDINGS, HARASSING THEM WITH LATE NIGHT PHONE CALLS...WORD LIKE THAT GETS AROUND.



YOU CAME TO ME, MR. BLACK, BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WILL WORK FOR YOU...NO ONE ELSE WILL EVEN TAKE YOUR CALL.



WAS THAT... SPECIFIC ENOUGH, MR. BLACK?

YES... YES, THAT'LL DO NICELY, ROY.

LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT NEED ANOTHER HALF INCH. FIRST TIME IN YEARS.



I KNOW YOU WERE GIVEN THE BARE BONES OF THE CASE, BUT LET ME FILL IN THE PICTURE FOR YOU A BIT.

AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO JOHN, OUR FIRST AND ONLY CHILD, MY WIFE CAROL DIED OF UNEXPECTED COMPLICATIONS.





"JOHN RECEIVED HIS DEGREE IN LAW IN RECORD TIME. GRADUATED IN '99 AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS. EVERYONE, MYSELF INCLUDED, WAS SURE HE'D COME IMMEDIATELY INTO THE FIRM.

"BUT HE FELT THAT FIRST HE HAD TO EARN HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD.

"HE JOINED THE MARINES IN 2000, AND SOON WORKED HIS WAY TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT. RECEIVED HALF A DOZEN COMMENDATIONS FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE IRAQ WAR IN 2003.



"BUT WHAT HE SAW DURING THAT WAR...CHANGED HIM, MADE HIM START QUESTIONING WHAT WE WERE DOING THERE, AND DID WE IN FACT HAVE THE MORAL HIGH GROUND?"

"AT THE END OF HIS ENLISTMENT IN DECEMBER 2003, HE CAME BACK TO THE STATES AND JOINED THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT.



"HE WAS BRIGHT, CHARISMATIC, FIRM IN HIS CONVICTIONS BUT ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE... A BORN LEADER. THERE WAS EVEN TALK OF RUNNING FOR OFFICE.



"BUT HE KNEW I NEEDED HIM AT THE FIRM, AND HE WANTED TO BE HERE. HE THOUGHT HE COULD USE OUR RESOURCES TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD, A KINDER AND NOBLER WORLD.

"AND HE COULD HAVE DONE IT, TOO, IF HE'D--"

