



OXYMORON

#1

\$3.99



THE LOVELIEST NIGHTMARE

TYLER JAMES - JOHN LEES - ALEX CORMACK - JULES RIVERA



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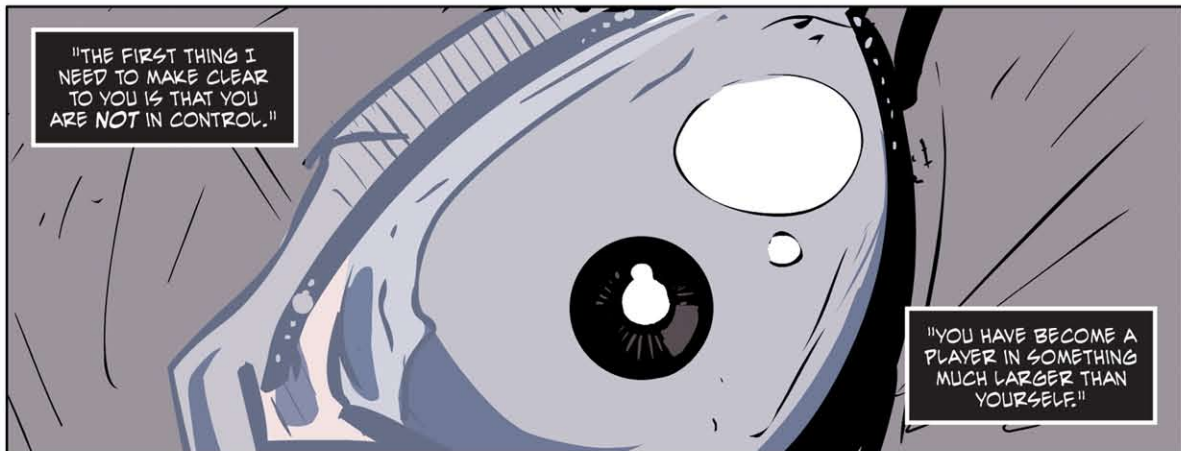
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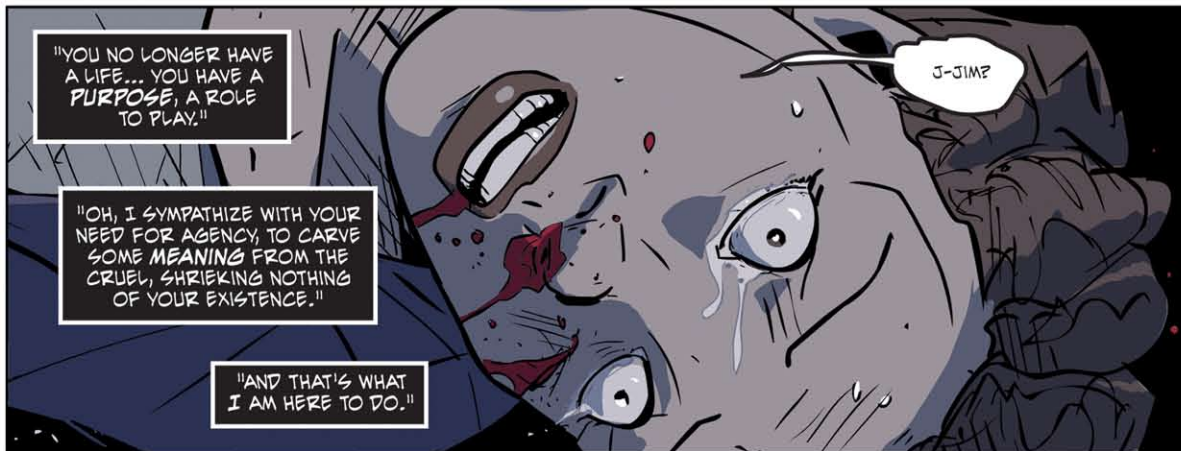
C.P. WILSON III

JAMES
LEES
CORMACK
RIVERA



"THE FIRST THING I NEED TO MAKE CLEAR TO YOU IS THAT YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL."

"YOU HAVE BECOME A PLAYER IN SOMETHING MUCH LARGER THAN YOURSELF."



"YOU NO LONGER HAVE A LIFE... YOU HAVE A PURPOSE, A ROLE TO PLAY."

"OH, I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR NEED FOR AGENCY, TO CARVE SOME MEANING FROM THE CRUEL, SHRIEKING NOTHING OF YOUR EXISTENCE."

"AND THAT'S WHAT I AM HERE TO DO."



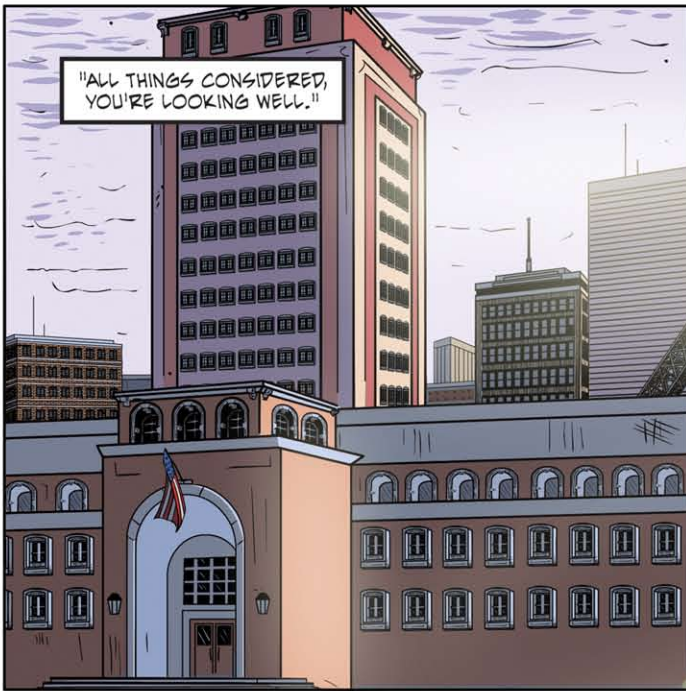
"I'M HERE TO MAKE ORDER OUT OF CHAOS."

"DO YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS, MARY, TO BE FORCED TO WATCH ON, HELPLESS, AS YOUR COZY LITTLE DREAM-WORLD COLLAPSE?"



"YOU WILL, MY DEAR. YOU WILL."





"ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, YOU'RE LOOKING WELL."



THAT A COMPLIMENT, SIR?

SIT DOWN, MARY.



WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU HEALTHY AGAIN.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

PHYSICALLY I'M GREAT... ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

BUT I CAN'T SAY I FEEL GOOD, NOT IN THIS UNIFORM...



OFFICER CLARK... MARY... YOU KNOW YOUR CONDITION BETTER THAN ME. YOU'RE ADVISED TO AVOID STRESS.

I REALLY SHOULD BE KEEPING YOU BEHIND A DESK INDEFINITELY.

BUT SHOW ME YOU CAN HANDLE A BEAT... YOUR DETECTIVE BADGE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU, IN TIME.



COMMISSIONER DONAHUE, SIR, I APPRECIATE YOU TRYING TO SAVE MY FEELINGS, BUT I'M NOT AN IDIOT...

THE ONLY REASON I STILL HAVE ANY JOB ON THE FORCE IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE MY BACK. YOU ALWAYS HAVE.

BUT AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE PRECINCT IS CONCERNED, I SHOULDN'T BE HERE.



"THIS ISN'T REHABILITATION, COMMISSIONER."



"IT'S MY PUNISHMENT."



SERGEANT STOKES.

DETECTIVE CLARK.

OFFICER, NOW. BUT YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T YOU?



HERE COMES YOUR NEW PARTNER. NICE GIRL, ROOKIE, ALL BRIGHT-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED. YOU'LL LIKE HER...

IF YOU SAY SO.

...JUST TRY TO MAKE SURE THIS ONE GETS HOME SAFE, YEAH?



CLARK, MEET OFFICER DEANIE.

DEBORAH. DEBORAH DEANIE.

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, OFFICER CLARK.



THIS ALL FEELS SO NEW TO ME.

I ONLY MOVED HERE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, MY APARTMENT IS ALL BOXES...

YOU DRIVE, DEANIE.

ME? REALLY? THANKS!



YOU CAN CALL ME DEBORAH IF YOU WANT...

I DON'T WANT TO DRIVE.

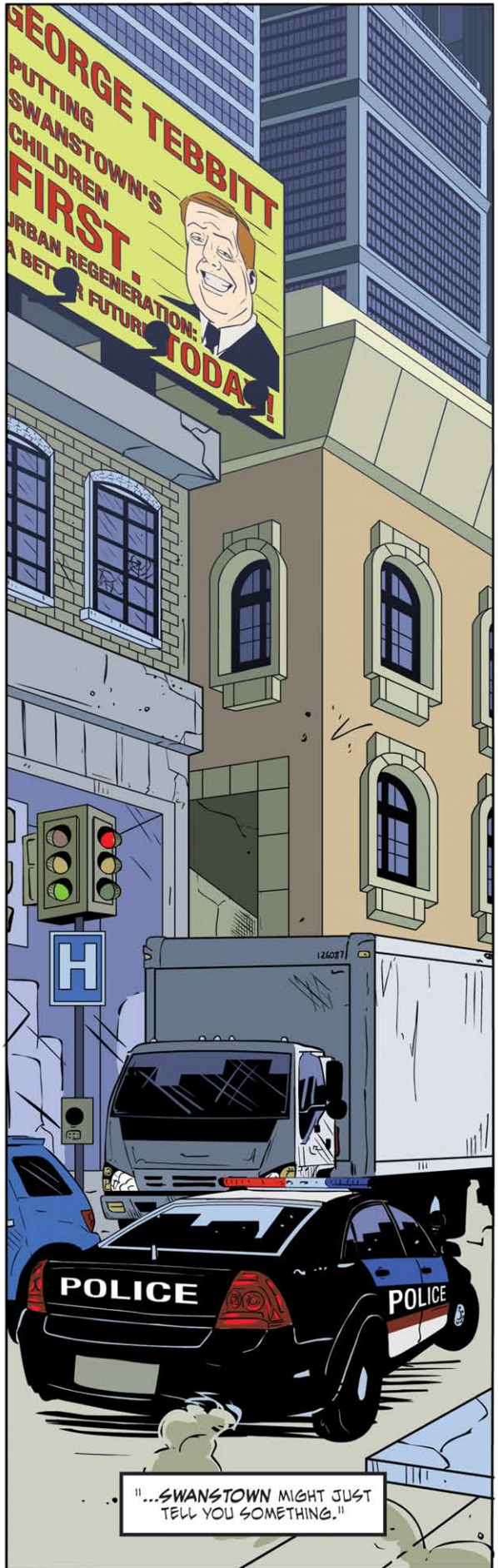
HAVE I DONE SOMETHING WRONG?

I DON'T WANT TO OFFEND YOU OR ANYTHING. I'M JUST... THIS IS MY FIRST DETAIL, AND I WANT TO LEARN ALL I CAN...



DON'T APOLOGIZE. SERIOUSLY, DON'T.

IF YOU SMILE AND WALK ON EGGSHELLS, YOU WON'T GET THANKED FOR IT. THIS CITY WILL EAT YOU ALIVE. WANT TO LEARN SOMETHING? TRY CLOSING YOUR MOUTH AND LISTENING...



GEORGE TEBBITT
PUTTING SWANSTOWN'S CHILDREN FIRST
URBAN REGENERATION: A BETTER FUTURE TODAY!

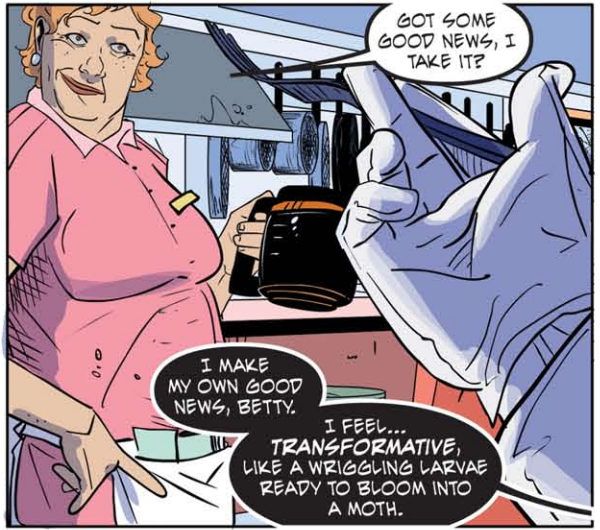
"...SWANSTOWN MIGHT JUST TELL YOU SOMETHING."



AREN'T YOU A BIT OLD TO BE PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD, HONP?

OH, BUT I'M IN A PLAYFUL MOOD, YOU SEE.

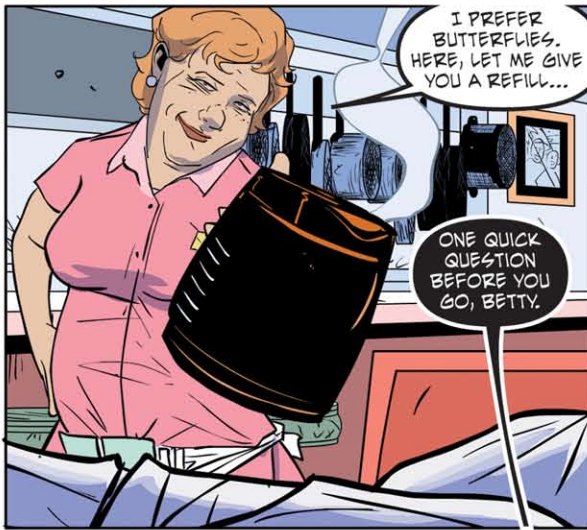
IT'S GOING TO BE A MAGNIFICENT DAY.



GOT SOME GOOD NEWS, I TAKE IT?

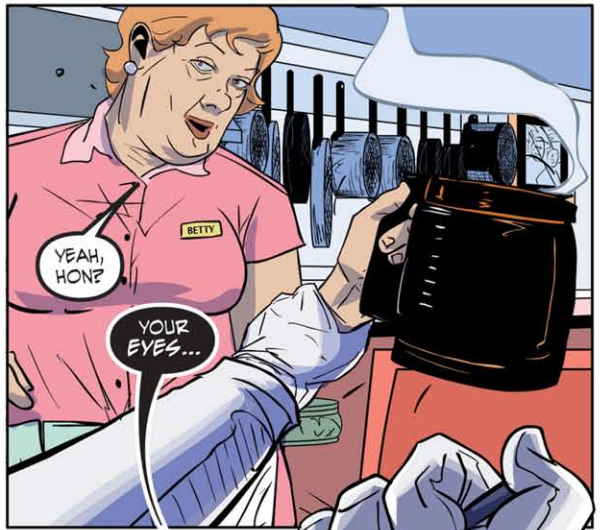
I MAKE MY OWN GOOD NEWS, BETTY.

I FEEL... TRANSFORMATIVE, LIKE A WRIGGLING LARVAE READY TO BLOOM INTO A MOTH.



I PREFER BUTTERFLIES. HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A REFILL...

ONE QUICK QUESTION BEFORE YOU GO, BETTY.



YEAH, HONP?

YOUR EYES...



WOULD YOU MISS THEM TERRIBLY IF I YOLKED THEM OUT?