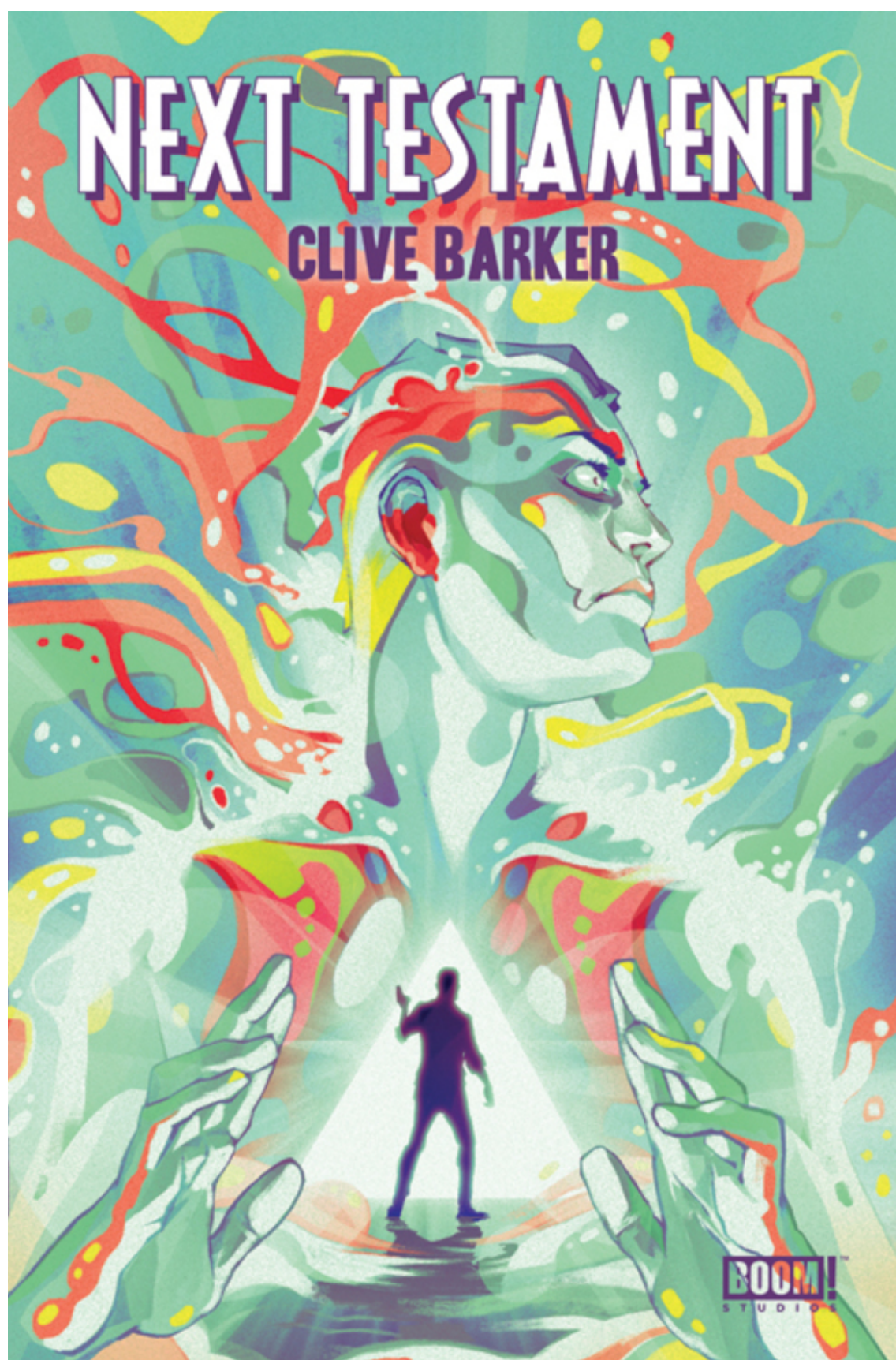


NEXT TESTAMENT

CLIVE BARKER



BOOM!
STUDIOS



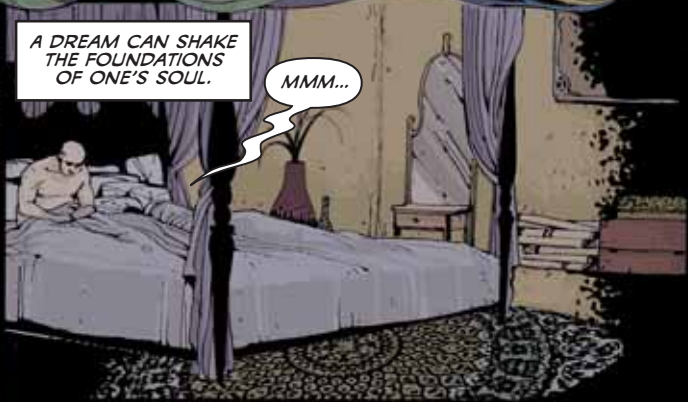


A

SINGLE DREAM CAN SPARK A REVOLUTION.



A DREAM CAN SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF ONE'S SOUL.



MMM...



BACK TO SLEEP, VERA. IT WAS ONLY A DREAM...



BUT A DREAM CAN COMMAND TO BE HEEDED...



...A DREAM CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.

...ONLY A DREAM...

Chapter 1: In the Beginning...

"If God really existed, it would be necessary to abolish him." —Mikhail Bakunin

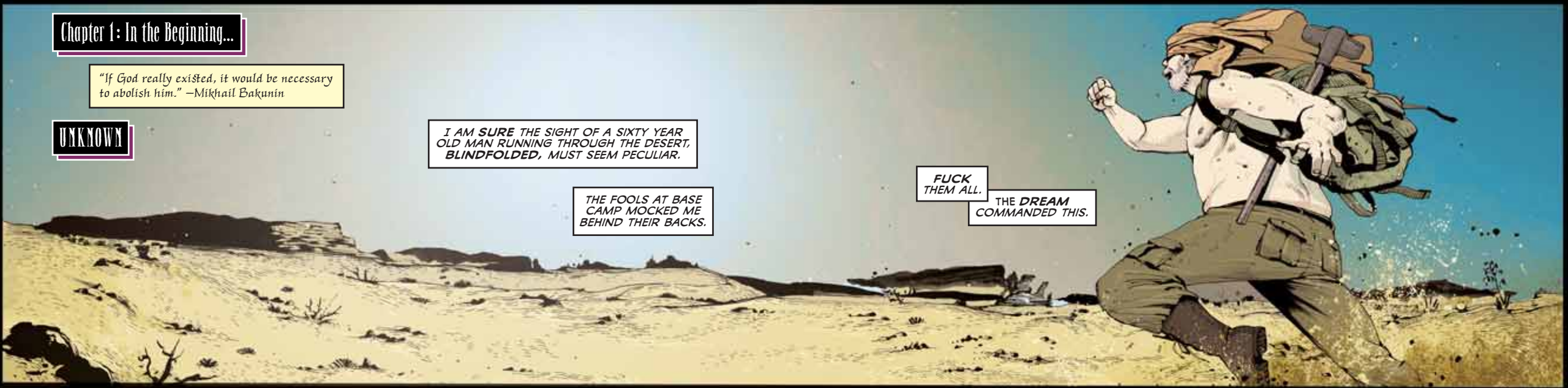
UNKNOWN

I AM SURE THE SIGHT OF A SIXTY YEAR OLD MAN RUNNING THROUGH THE DESERT, BLINDFOLDED, MUST SEEM PECULIAR.

THE FOOLS AT BASE CAMP MOCKED ME BEHIND THEIR BACKS.

FUCK THEM ALL.

THE DREAM COMMANDED THIS.



IT'S BLIND FAITH, WHICH IS WHAT HE ASKS OF US ALL.

SOON, I WILL FALL.



I'M HERE.




I'LL BE DAMNED...

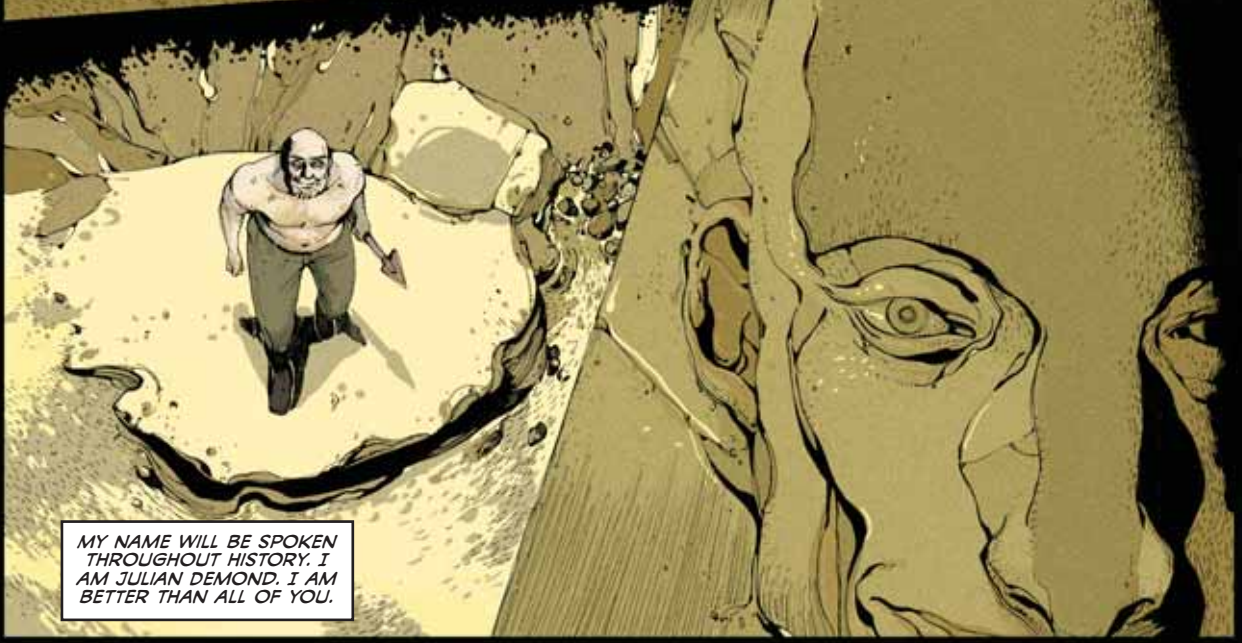


...THERE YOU ARE.

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS...



THIS IS THE ROOF TO MY SALVATION. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW WORLD. WHAT LIES BELOW MY FEET, HOWEVER...I HAVE NO FUCKING IDEA. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. AFTER THIS, NOTHING MATTERS.



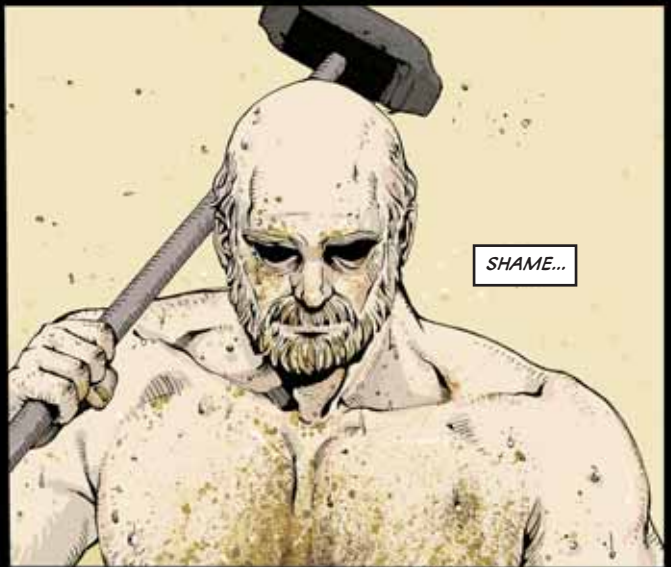
MY NAME WILL BE SPOKEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY. I AM JULIAN DEMOND. I AM BETTER THAN ALL OF YOU.



THIS STRUCTURE MUST
BE THOUSANDS OF
YEARS OLD.



I'M CERTAIN IT HAS
UNTOLD VALUE.



SHAME...



KRAK





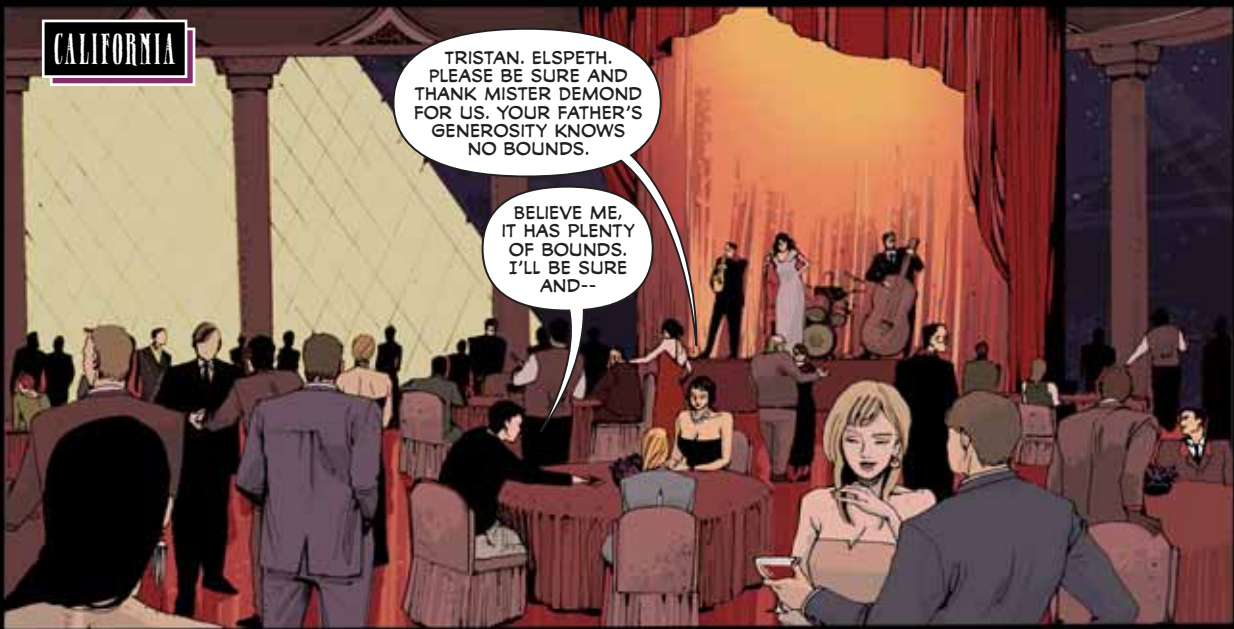
THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN
IN THE DREAM.



THIS WAS
MEANT TO BE.

TRISTAN. ELSPETH. PLEASE BE SURE AND THANK MISTER DEMOND FOR US. YOUR FATHER'S GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

BELIEVE ME, IT HAS PLENTY OF BOUNDS. I'LL BE SURE AND--



...

TRISTAN...



ARE YOU OKAY?

WE HAVE TO GO.



...SO SORRY...

NOT AT ALL...



"...YOU AND YOUR FIANCEE HAVE BRIGHTENED OUR DAY. NO, OUR YEAR!"

"I DO HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER."



WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SCARING ME.

IT'S...MY FATHER. I DON'T KNOW *HOW* I KNOW THIS, BUT...

...SOMETHING IS *VERY* WRONG.



I DID THIS.



DESPITE WHAT EVERYONE SAID.



NOBODY BELIEVED ME.



NOT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. NONE OF THE LOCALS AT BASE CAMP. NOT EVEN MY PILL-POPPING WIFE.

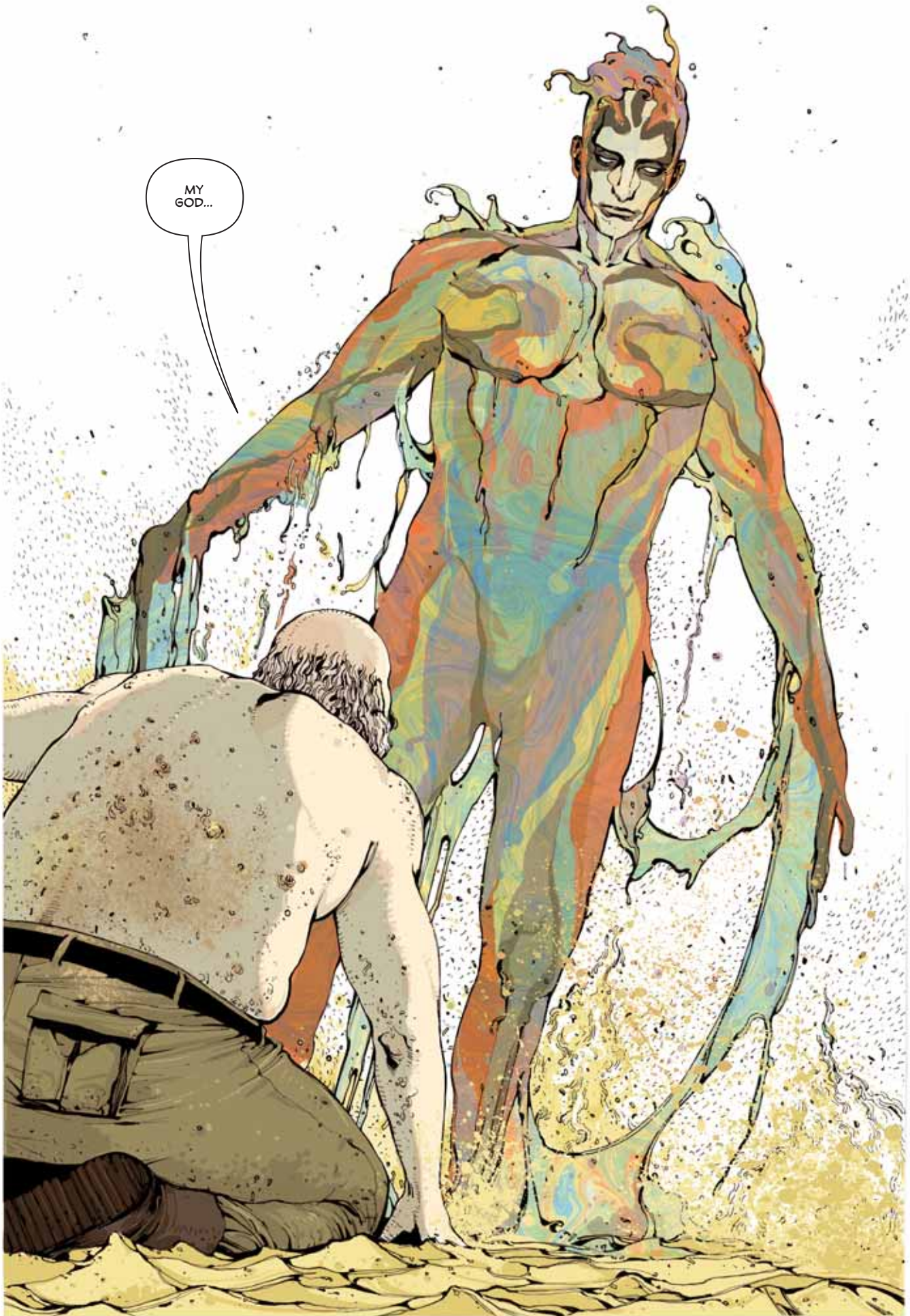


THEY'LL BELIEVE NOW.



THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BELIEVE.

MY
GOD...





HE'S NOT ANSWERING *ANY* OF HIS PHONES. LIKE I SAID, I DON'T KNOW *HOW* I KNOW, BUT I FEEL IT IN MY GUTS. EITHER MY FATHER'S IN TROUBLE...



...OR *WE* ARE.



YOU DO THE TALKING. I MIGHT JUST END UP PUNCHING SOMETHING.



I LOVE YOU. AND IF YOU NEED TO PUNCH SOMETHING, I CAN SUPPORT THAT.



MASTER TRISTAN AND HIS WIFE TO BE...

TO WHAT DO WE OWE THE HONOR?



WE CAME TO SEE JULIAN, WARREN.

I'M AFRAID *SIR* IS AWAY ON BUSINESS.



HE'S NOT HERE.

THEN I'M NOT LOOKING FOR HIM.



WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

FUCK IF I KNOW. BUT I'LL KNOW WHEN I SEE IT.

I SAY!



...IN THE LIBRARY. I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT IT. *WHATEVER* WE'RE LOOKING FOR, IT'LL BE THERE.

STOP!



YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE! NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN THERE!



WELL, HE CAN TELL ME THAT HIMSELF... WHEN HE GETS BACK.

BUT--



WHAM



NOW WHERE WERE YOU...?

THERE.



KRATCH!



A HIDDEN DOOR? THAT'S A BIT CLICHÉ, ISN'T IT?

YOU'VE MET MY FATHER. HE'S A WALKING CLICHÉ.



THIS ROOM IS USUALLY IMMACULATE.



"IT'S A LEAP OF FAITH! THAT'S THE MISSING KEY. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MARK, I WANT TO MAKE A SCAR. SCARS LAST."

WHAT THE HELL HAS HE BEEN UP TO?



I...I...



...I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT.



WHOEVER YOU ARE... **WHATEVER YOU ARE... YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL!**



I AM WICK, THE FATHER OF COLORS. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD. YOU HAVE FREED ME FROM MY PRISON. YOU--

--ARE SPEAKING ENGLISH.



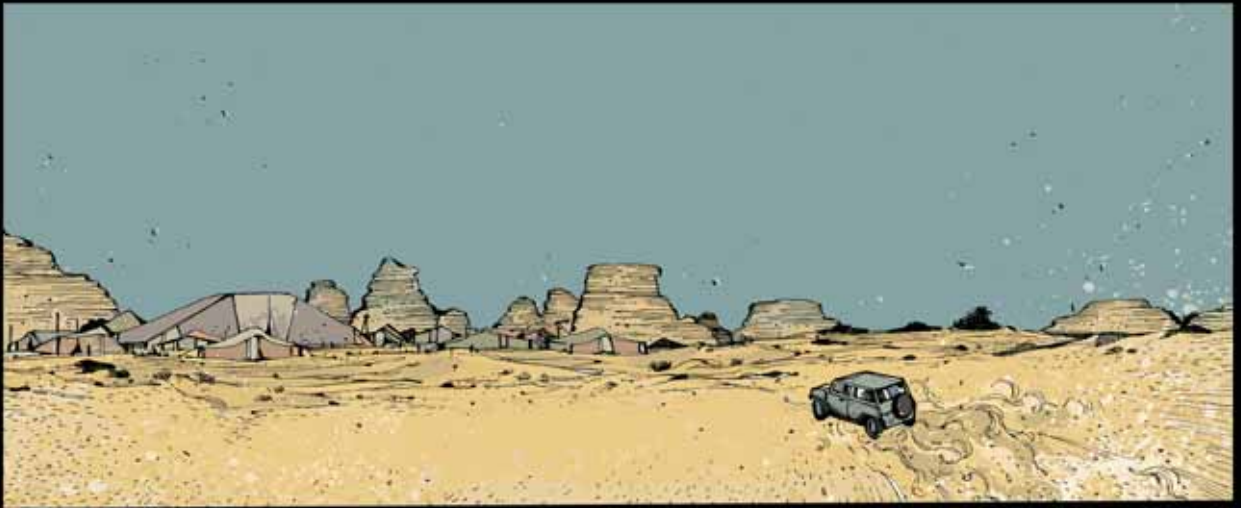
...W-WHAT?

YOU ARE SPEAKING ENGLISH. BARELY, BUT ENGLISH NONE THE LESS. MARVELOUS. IT IS A DELIGHTFULLY CRUEL LANGUAGE, DON'T YOU THINK?

ONE OF **MY** INVENTIONS, OF COURSE.



...







YOUR
MAKER.



WHAT WAS YOUR FATHER UP TO?

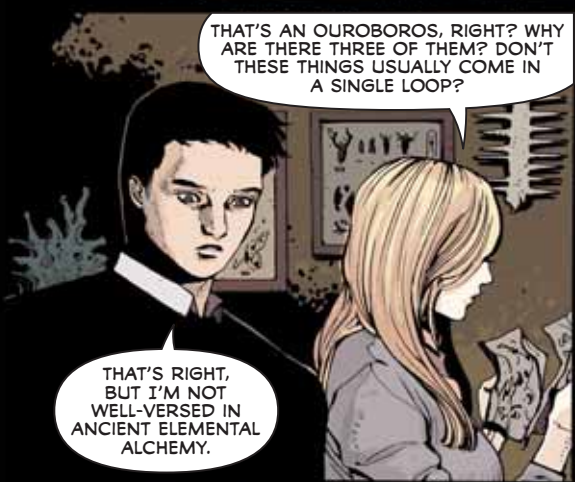
NOT A CLUE.

DO YOU KEEP SEEING THE SAME SYMBOL EVERYWHERE?

WHAT SYMBOL?



I KEEP SEEING THIS. IT'S ON ALMOST EVERYTHING.



THAT'S AN OUROBOROS, RIGHT? WHY ARE THERE THREE OF THEM? DON'T THESE THINGS USUALLY COME IN A SINGLE LOOP?

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT I'M NOT WELL-VERSED IN ANCIENT ELEMENTAL ALCHEMY.



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU, DAD? WHEN DID YOU--

--WHAT?

WHAT?



A BIBLE?

A VERY OLD ONE, INDEED. WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

MY FATHER HATES RELIGION. I MEAN, REALLY HATES IT. HE NEVER ALLOWED ANYTHING REMOTELY SPIRITUAL IN THE HOUSE. AND NOW, ALL OF THIS?



AGGHHH...



...GGGGG...

SUPERB.

IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT.

IS SHE ALIVE?

CURIOUS...



...YOU DID NOT ASK IF SHE FELT PAIN.







WHEN I AM READY, I WILL ANNOUNCE MYSELF...



...AND THE WORLD *WILL* REJOICE. IT WILL HAVE NO OTHER OPTION.

To be **CONTINUED...**