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INVISIBLE HANDS



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“If I wished to shake this tree with my hands, I would not be able to do so. But the wind, which we see not, can twist it and bend it as it pleases. We are most bent and tormented by

INVISIBLE HANDS.”

Friedrich Nietzsche: Thus Spoke Zarathustra,
The Tree on the Hill

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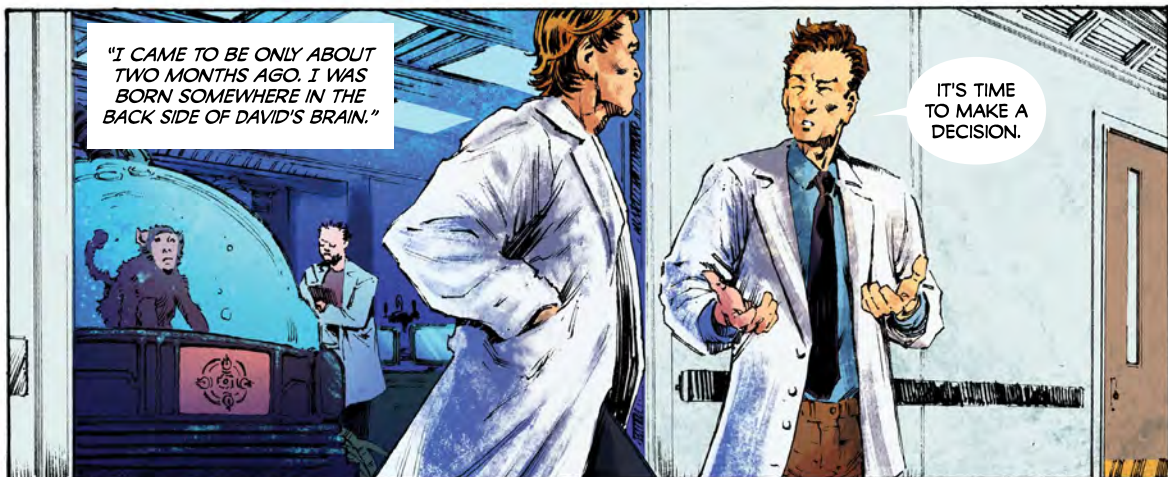
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"I CAME TO BE ONLY ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. I WAS BORN SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK SIDE OF DAVID'S BRAIN."

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION.



I CAN'T KEEP THEM ON PINS AND NEEDLES ANY LONGER.

I HAVE EVERYTHING DRAWN OUT AND READY TO GO. DAVID? ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?



I'LL DO IT.

WE'VE COME THIS FAR. TELL THEM I'LL BUILD THE DAMN THING.



I BECAME SELF-AWARE THE MOMENT DAVID AGREED TO WEAPONIZE HIS INVENTION FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

THE CONTRACT HE SIGNED IS THE FIRST THING I EVER SAW.



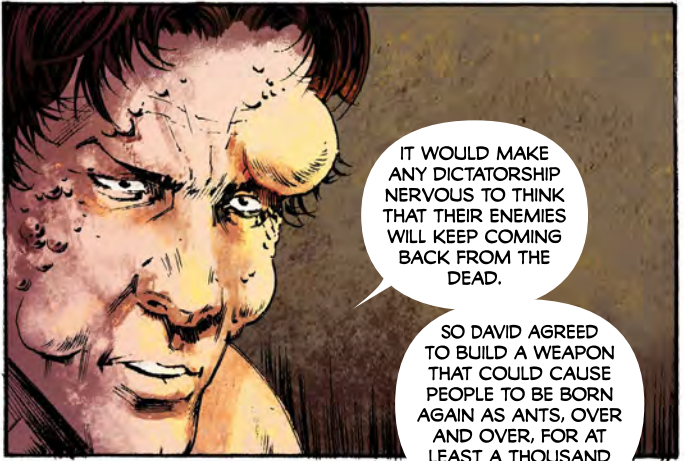
"THE CHINESE WERE SEEKING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE TIBET PROBLEM.

"THEY NOTICED THAT RECENT RIOTS FOLLOWED A VERY CURIOUS TIMELINE.



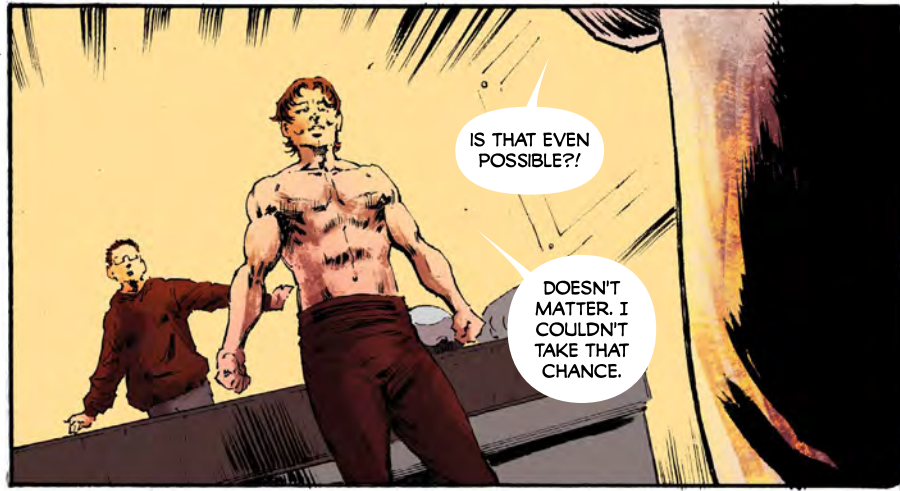
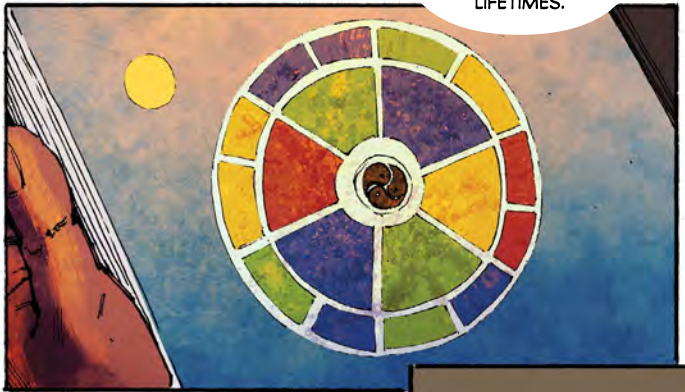
"THE PROTESTERS HAD TO HAVE BEEN BORN JUST ABOUT WHEN THE REBELS OF THE 1959 UPRISING DIED IN PRISON.

"IN A CULTURE THAT BELIEVES IN REINCARNATION, THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD AS MORE THAN A COINCIDENCE."



IT WOULD MAKE ANY DICTATORSHIP NERVOUS TO THINK THAT THEIR ENEMIES WILL KEEP COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD.

SO DAVID AGREED TO BUILD A WEAPON THAT COULD CAUSE PEOPLE TO BE BORN AGAIN AS ANTS, OVER AND OVER, FOR AT LEAST A THOUSAND LIFETIMES.

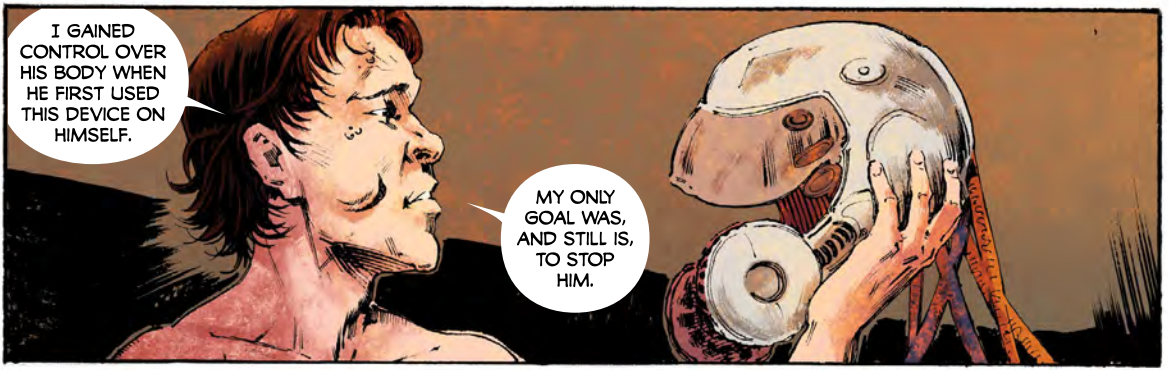


IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!

DOESN'T MATTER. I COULDN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE.



I AM, AFTER ALL, DAVID'S CONSCIENCE.



I GAINED CONTROL OVER HIS BODY WHEN HE FIRST USED THIS DEVICE ON HIMSELF.

MY ONLY GOAL WAS, AND STILL IS, TO STOP HIM.



THEN WHY DO YOU EVEN KEEP THIS? WHY NOT JUST DESTROY IT AND BE DONE?

HE'S CONSTANTLY FIGHTING TO COME BACK TO THE SURFACE. IF I CAN'T KEEP USING IT, THEN EVENTUALLY HE'LL WIN.

YOU LIED TO US. YOU USED US. YOU ALMOST BURNT DOWN OUR HEAD-QUARTERS...



ARE YOU REALLY ASKING US TO HELP YOU TAKE OVER A BODY THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU?!



YES. THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I'M ASKING.

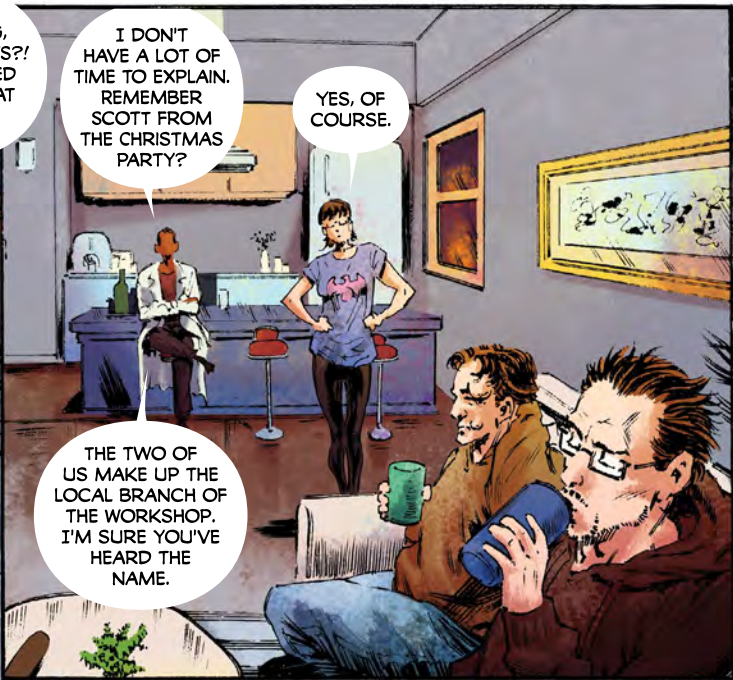
ALL RIGHT, BUT WE'LL NEED HELP PULLING OFF A STUNT LIKE THAT.



LEONARD, YOU LOST ME ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO.



WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING, DISAPPEARING FOR DAYS?! WE WERE ALL WORRIED TO DEATH AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE HOSPITAL...



I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO EXPLAIN. REMEMBER SCOTT FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY?

YES, OF COURSE.

THE TWO OF US MAKE UP THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE WORKSHOP. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE NAME.



THE DOMESTIC TERRORIST GROUP?!

WE ARE NOT TERRORISTS, NO MATTER HOW BADLY THE MEDIA WOULD LIKE YOU TO BELIEVE.



WORKSHOP IS A NETWORK OF INDIVIDUALS FIGHTING THE CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF OUR CIVILIZATION.

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.



ONE OF OUR BIGGEST TARGETS IS BARTOK.

I THOUGHT THEY JUST MADE SMART-PHONES?



THAT'S PART OF THEIR TRACKING SYSTEM, BUT THEY DO MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

WE'VE SPENT YEARS KEEPING TABS ON THEIR SECRET EXPERIMENTS.



THINGS WERE FAIRLY QUIET UNTIL DAVID SHOWED UP. SINCE THEN WE'VE LEARNED MORE ABOUT THEM THAN WE EVER COULD HAVE HOPED FOR.

UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IS PRETTY HORRIFIC.



I AM TRYING TO STOP SOMETHING TRULY AWFUL FROM HAPPENING.

AND TO DO THAT, I NEED TO UNDERGO THAT "BASEMENT OPERATION" WE TOLD YOU ABOUT.

DR. GRAY THINKS HE HAS BETTER CHANCES WITH YOUR MEDICAL EXPERTISE AT HIS DISPOSAL.



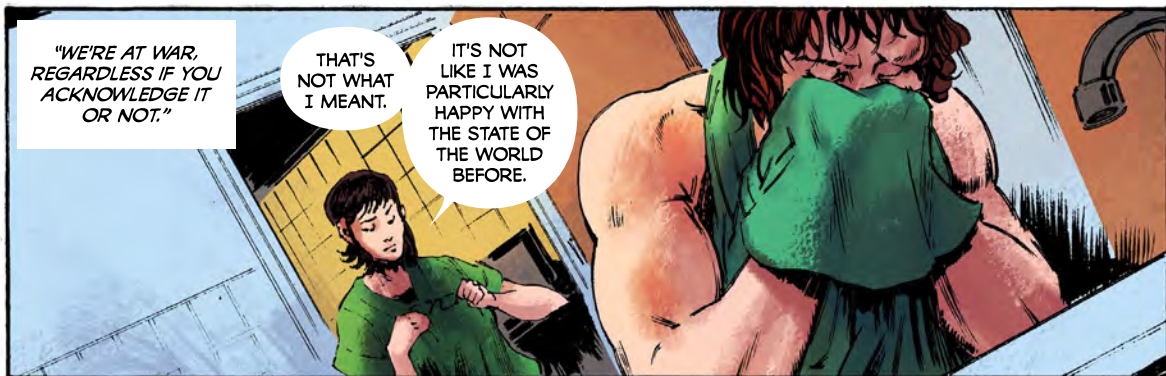
YOU KNOW, IF WE DO THIS, WE'LL ALL GO TO JAIL.



"THAT'S A RISK WE HAVE TO TAKE."

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, AT LEAST WE'RE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY.



"WE'RE AT WAR, REGARDLESS IF YOU ACKNOWLEDGE IT OR NOT."

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH THE STATE OF THE WORLD BEFORE.



"OUR LIBERTIES ARE BEING STRIPPED AWAY, NOT BY LAWS, BUT BY CORPORATE PRACTICES."

IN MEDICINE, YOU NEVER PERFORM PROCEDURES THAT YOU DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND.

BUT LEONARD STILL DIDN'T EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!



"AND TO BE TOO AFRAID TO ACT IS TO SURRENDER."

I CAN GIVE YOU A QUICK RUNDOWN IF YOU WANT.