

PETROGLYPHS!
ANCIENT DRAWINGS SO
COLOSSAL THEY CAN
ONLY BE SEEN FROM HIGH
IN THE AIR! YET THESE
WERE CREATED
THOUSANDS OF YEARS
BEFORE THE WRIGHT
BROTHERS' FATEFUL
FLIGHT!

WHAT
COULD
POSSIBLY
EXPLAIN THEIR
PRESENCE?



THIS
PAINTING OF THE
NATIVITY DATES BACK TO
THE 14TH CENTURY, MORE
THAN **FIVE HUNDRED**
YEARS BEFORE MAN
LANDED ON THE
MOON!
AND YET, WE
SEE IT CLEARLY
DEPICTS A MAN FROM
OUR OWN ERA
WITNESSING THE
BIRTH OF CHRIST!

REALLY,
FLYNN?
REALLY?



SHEER
COINCIDENCE?
ANCIENT ARTISTIC
PRANK?
OR INCONTROVERTIBLE
PROOF THAT POWERFUL
FORCES NOT ONLY
SOMEHOW WITNESSED
OUR HISTORY...

WE MANAGE TO
FIND A FREE NIGHT TO
DO SOMETHING--ANYTHING--
NOT RELATED TO SAVING THE
WORLD FROM CERTAIN
DOOM, AND YOU CHOOSE
THIS?

A FILM
FESTIVAL
HONORING AN
OBVIOUS SCAM
ARTIST?



BUT ALSO
HAD A HAND
IN SHAPING
IT?

HE'S NOT WHO
THEY'RE HONORING,
EVE. THAT'S JUST
OSCAR ORVILLE, THE
NARRATOR.

SOL SCHICK, HE
WAS THE MAN BEHIND
THE SCENES, THE
BRAINS OF THE
OPERATION.

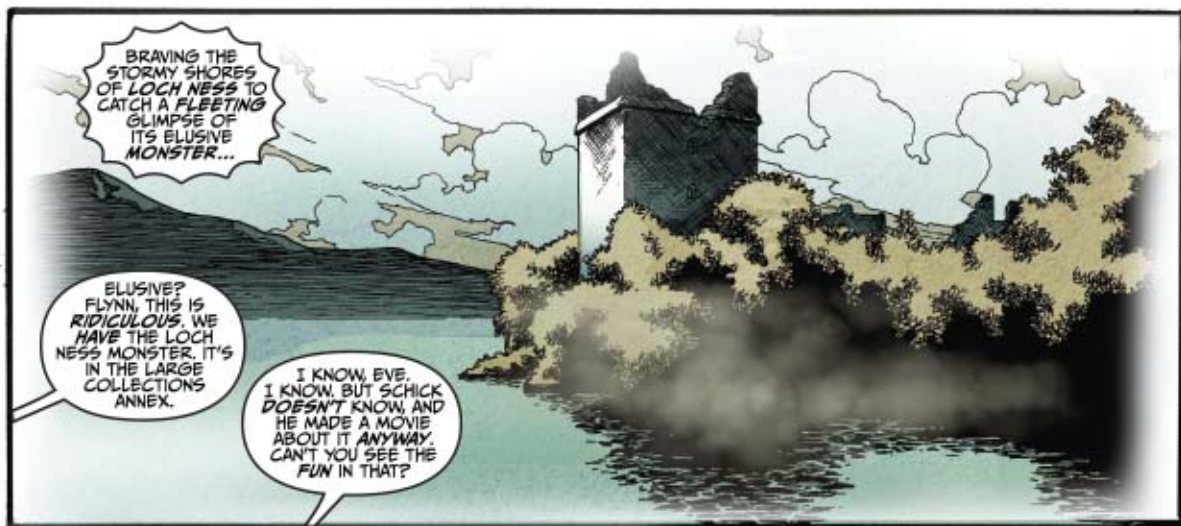
THE WRITER...
THE DIRECTOR... THE
PRODUCER...

...THE
VISIONARY.

CASSANDRA CILLIAN, A SYNESTHETE
WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY.
UNBELIEVABLE MATH AND SCIENCE
SKILLS. TO HER, NUMBERS ARE
COLORS, SCIENCE IS MUSIC AND
MATH MAKES HER SMELL THINGS...
USUALLY BREAKFAST.

FLYNN CARSEN, VETERAN
LIBRARIAN. A LITTLE BIT
AWKWARD, BUT MORE THAN
SMART ENOUGH TO MAKE UP
FOR IT. HAS SAVED THE
WORLD SEVERAL TIMES.

COL. EVE BAIRD, FORMER
NATO COUNTER-TERRORISM
SPECIALIST. CURRENT
GUARDIAN OF THE
LIBRARIANS. HAS SAVED
FLYNN SEVERAL TIMES.



BRAVING THE STORMY SHORES OF LOCH NESS TO CATCH A FLEETING GLIMPSE OF ITS ELUSIVE MONSTER...

ELUSIVE? FLYNN, THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WE HAVE THE LOCH NESS MONSTER. IT'S IN THE LARGE COLLECTIONS ANNEX.

I KNOW, EVE. I KNOW, BUT SCHICK DOESN'T KNOW AND HE MADE A MOVIE ABOUT IT ANYWAY. CAN'T YOU SEE THE FUN IN THAT?



LUGGING HIS CAMERAS TO THE AMERICAN NORTHWEST TO BRING BACK THE TRUTH OF WHAT RESIDES AMONG ITS DEEPEST FORESTS...

AND BIGFOOT? YOU'VE SEEN IT, FLYNN. YOU KNOW IT'S REAL.

AND MORE THAN THAT, YOU KNOW IT'S NOT SOME PRANKSTER IN A PAINFULLY FAKE COSTUME.

OF COURSE, BUT CAN'T YOU APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF THAT SASQUATCH SUIT? YOU CAN, RIGHT CASSANDRA?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT BEAUTY, BUT I CAN DEFINITELY SEE THE HUMOR. IT'S FUNNY!



CROSSING THE GLOBE, SPANNING THE CENTURIES, ALL IN AN UNENDING QUEST TO DELIVER THE TRUTH THAT OTHERS IGNORED... THAT OTHERS FEARED!

SOL CLASSICS PICTURES WERE THE MOVIES THAT MADE THE SEVENTIES SPECTACULAR!

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS, FLYNN? THIS SOME SORT OF JOKE, FLYNN? YOU'RE NOT NORMALLY ONE FOR IRONY, BUT I CAN'T SEE HOW YOU CAN SINCERELY ADMIRE THIS--

I'M NOT BEING IRONIC, EVE. I ASSURE YOU, I'M COMPLETELY SINCERE.

I LOVE SOL SCHICK AND HIS MOVIES WITH ALL MY HEART.



AND BRINGING THAT MAGIC TO YOU, THE MAN YOU CAME TO SEE...

THE MAN WHO BROUGHT YOU SUCH CLASSICS AS "WHAT LURKS IN LAKE CHAMPLAIN," "THE LEGEND OF MOSQUITO CREEK" AND "FUTURE VISITORS TO THE DISTANT PAST"...

BUT WHY, FLYNN?

BECAUSE, EVE...









ARE YOU OKAY, FLYNN?

WE'VE SEEN SOME INTENSE THINGS IN OUR TIME, BUT WATCHING YOUR CHILDHOOD HERO GET STABBED TO DEATH -- THAT CAN'T BE EASY.

I'M ALL RIGHT. I MEAN, I THINK SO. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JUST HAPPENED -- AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF US, LIVE AND IN-PERSON.

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE -- LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF ONE OF SCHICK'S MOVIES!



CONGRATULATIONS. YOU SAID EXACTLY WHAT EVERYONE IS SAYING ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

SOCIAL MEDIA? ALREADY?

WORD TRAVELS FAST. #SOLSTAKED IS TRENDING ALL OVER THE PLACE. CHEESY NOSTALGIA AND BLOODY GORE ARE APPARENTLY AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION.



FIGURES. WELL, LET'S GET BACK TO THE LIBRARY. CAN'T IMAGINE THE 6 P.M. SHOWING OF "NOSTRADAMUS, EYE ON TOMORROW" IS STILL GOING TO HAPPEN.

AND SINCE THE CLIPPINGS BOOK SENT US HERE, THAT MEANS WE'RE THE ONES WHO NEED TO SOLVE THIS --



--MYSTERY?

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.

NO, IT CAN'T. I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS GOT HERE, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT.

WE NEED TO GET THAT -- AND US -- OUT OF HERE BEFORE OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICERS NOTICE THEIR MURDER WEAPON IS MISSING...



JENKINS?

WE NEED A DOOR. AND WE NEED IT NOW.

THE LIBRARY ANNEX, IN PORTLAND, OREGON...

A LONG WAY FROM TIMES SQUARE...

IF, THAT IS, YOU OBEY THE NORMAL LAWS OF TIME AND SPACE.

IT'S A STAKE, OR A STICK, OR A PIECE OF WOOD, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I CAN SEE WHAT IT IS.

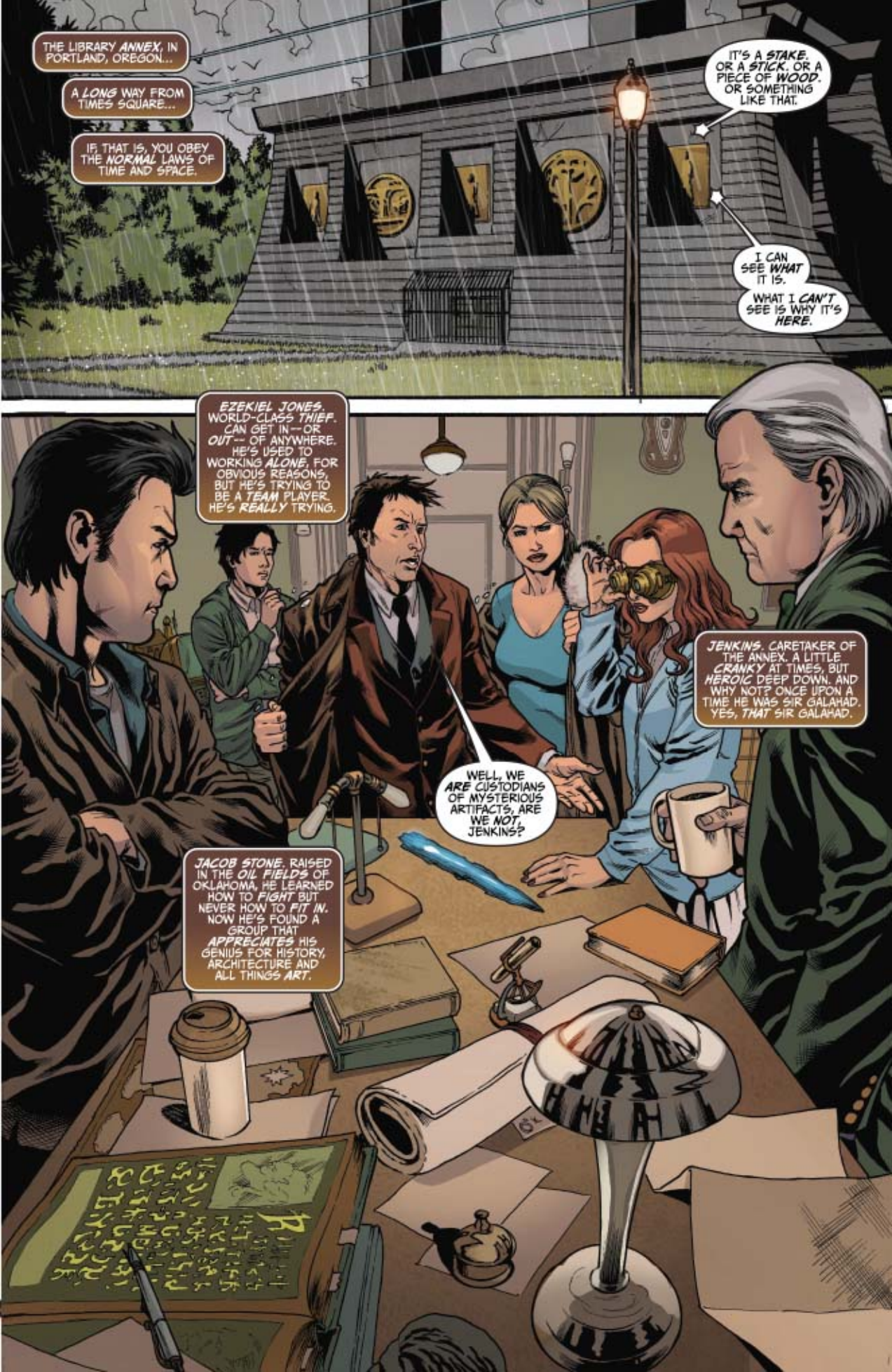
WHAT I CAN'T SEE IS WHY IT'S HERE.

EZEKIEL JONES, WORLD-CLASS THIEF. CAN GET IN—OR OUT—OF ANYWHERE. HE'S USED TO WORKING ALONE, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, BUT HE'S TRYING TO BE A TEAM PLAYER. HE'S REALLY TRYING.

JENKINS, CARETAKER OF THE ANNEX. A LITTLE CRANKY AT TIMES, BUT HEROIC DEEP DOWN. AND WHY NOT? ONCE UPON A TIME HE WAS SIR GALAHAD. YES, THAT SIR GALAHAD.

WELL, WE ARE CUSTODIANS OF MYSTERIOUS ARTIFACTS. ARE WE NOT, JENKINS?

JACOB STONE, RAISED IN THE OIL FIELDS OF OKLAHOMA, HE LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT BUT NEVER HOW TO FIT IN. NOW HE'S FOUND A GROUP THAT APPRECIATES HIS GENIUS FOR HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE AND ALL THINGS ART.





MERELY BEING INVOLVED IN A HOMICIDE-- EVEN AN ADMITTEDLY BIZARRE ONE -- DOES NOT MAKE SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ENOUGH TO FALL UNDER OUR PURVIEW.

HOW ABOUT SOMETHING THAT, WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION, DISAPPEARED FROM POLICE CUSTODY AND APPEARED IN MY COAT? WOULD THAT BE MYSTERIOUS ENOUGH TO QUALIFY?

YES. THAT WOULD MEET THE STANDARD. MAGIC ARTIFACT, EH?



IT'S MAGIC, ALL RIGHT-- BUT NOT LIKE ANYTHING THIS DETECTOR HAS EVER SEEN. THE READINGS ARE OFF THE CHARTS.

WHOEVER CHARMED THIS PIECE OF WOOD KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING...



HERE'S ANOTHER MYSTERY... IT'S NOT WOOD. NOT EXACTLY. I MEAN, SURE, IT LOOKS LIKE WOOD. FEELS LIKE IT, TOO. LIKE SOME SORT OF CYPRESS...

BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S NOT EVEN ORGANIC. IT'S MAN-MADE... OR SOMETHING-MADE.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL. SOMEONE DIDN'T JUST MAKE THIS...



SOMEONE WROTE ON THIS.

TOO FRAGMENTED AND FADED TO TRANSLATE, BUT IT LOOKS ANCIENT. I'D SAY PRE-HISTORIC, BUT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY WRITING WITH SOME MEANING TO IT...

WHICH MEANS HISTORY.



LET'S LEAVE THE HISTORY BEHIND AND SWITCH CATEGORIES TO CURRENT EVENTS. INTERNET BUZZ SAYS YOUR STAKEHOLDER IS ON TV...

YOU BOOTLEGGED CABLE ON OUR 19TH CENTURY PRE-CATHODE TUBE DIFFERENCE ENGINE?

OF COURSE. HOW ELSE WAS I GOING TO WATCH AFL IN THE STATES? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GET FOX FOOTY ON THIS SET...

QUIET, YOU TWO. HERE HE COMES...



...OSCAR ORVILLE, ONE-TIME HOLLYWOOD DIRECTOR AND NARRATOR OF SOL SCHICK'S MOST FAMOUS FILMS, WAS APPREHENDED AT THE SCENE...

...HE IS EXPECTED TO BE ARRAIGNED TOMORROW ON A CHARGE OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER...

THAT'S THE GUY? THAT LITTLE GUY?

HE'S TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS, BELIEVE ME.



MR. ORVILLE! MR. ORVILLE! WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHY DID YOU MURDER SOLOMON SCHICK?

I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS...



IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY... AND I'M SPEAKING TO A VERY SPECIFIC GROUP OF PEOPLE... YOU SHOULD HAVE CONCERNS... SERIOUS CONCERNS...

GRAVE CONCERNS...



GRAVE CONCERNS?

WHAT DO YOU SAY TOMORROW WE PAY OUR RESPECTS?

A GREAT MAN HAS PASSED AWAY. SEEMS LIKE THE PROPER THING TO DO.



THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

SOLOMON SCHICK

"Sweet Mystery of Life At Last I've Found You."

1897 1907



IMPRESSIVE THOUGH, HE MUST'VE HAD IT READY, JUST WAITING FOR THE TIME WHEN HE'D NEED IT.

DEFINITELY, EVEN A TRAINED SCULPTOR WOULD TAKE WEEKS. PROCURING MARBLE, CHIPPING, CARVING, DETAIL WORK, POLISHING -- IT CAN'T BE DONE QUICKLY.

AND HE WAS MURDERED ONE DAY AGO. I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW THE POLICE LET THE BODY GET RELEASED SO QUICKLY, OR WHO SHOWED UP TO CLAIM IT.

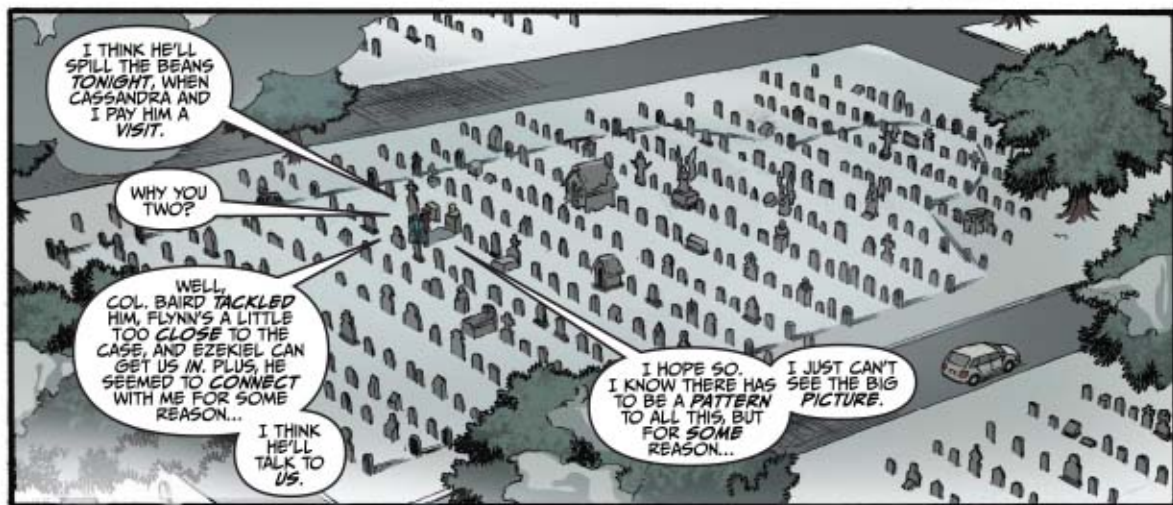


SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT THE MAN, EVE, BUT HE WAS A BORN SHOWMAN -- RIGHT UP TO THE END, AND HE LEFT US WITH ONE HECK OF A MYSTERY TO SOLVE.

THE ONLY THING THAT'S NOT MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIS DEATH IS WHO CAUSED IT. BAIRD SAW IT. YOU SAW IT. EVERYBODY SAW IT. PRETTY OPEN AND SHUT, LEGALLY SPEAKING.

BUT THERE'S A STILL A MYSTERY THERE. FOR SOMEONE WHO MADE HIS LIVING AS A NARRATOR, ORVILLE SURE ISN'T TALKING NOW. A FEW CRYPTIC WORDS TO THAT TV REPORTER, AND THAT WAS IT.

HE HASN'T TALKED SINCE. NOT TO THE POLICE, NOT TO HIS LAWYER, NOT TO ANYBODY.



I THINK HE'LL SPILL THE BEANS TONIGHT, WHEN CASSANDRA AND I PAY HIM A VISIT.

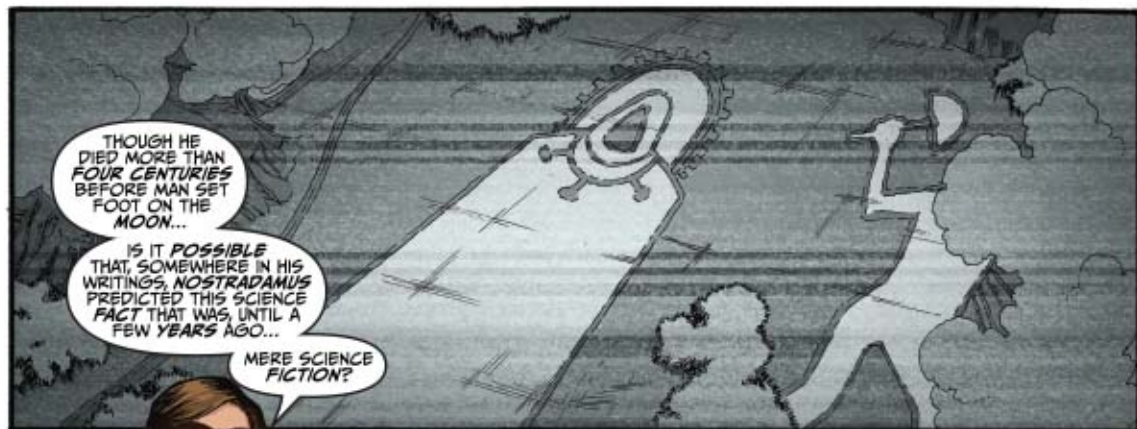
WHY YOU TWO?

WELL, COL. BAIRD TACKLED HIM, FLYNN'S A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO THE CASE, AND EZEKIEL CAN GET US IN. PLUS, HE SEEMED TO CONNECT WITH ME FOR SOME REASON...

I THINK HE'LL TALK TO US.

I HOPE SO. I KNOW THERE HAS TO BE A PATTERN TO ALL THIS, BUT FOR SOME REASON...

I JUST CAN'T SEE THE BIG PICTURE.



THOUGH HE DIED MORE THAN **FOUR CENTURIES** BEFORE MAN SET FOOT ON THE **MOON...**

IS IT **POSSIBLE** THAT, SOMEWHERE IN HIS WRITINGS, **NOSTRADAMUS** PREDICTED THIS **SCIENCE FACT** THAT WAS, UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO...

MERE **SCIENCE FICTION?**



AND BY TAKING **ALL THE ANIMALS, TWO BY TWO**, INTO THE SAFETY OF HIS **ARK...**



NOAH WAS ABLE TO **SAVE THEM** -- INCLUDING THE **ANCESTORS** OF OUR FRIEND **MR. JINGLES** HERE -- FROM THE **CATASTROPHIC DELUGE** OF THE **BIBLICAL FLOOD.**

EXCUSE ME...

MR. ORVILLE...?



CAN WE REALLY WRITE OFF ALL THIS EVIDENCE AS A MERE **SUNDAY SCHOOL STORY?**

OSCAR...?



COULD WE HAVE A **WORD** WITH YOU?

