



"I LOVE THE  
SMELL OF  
HOSPITALS."

"DISINFECTANTS  
SWIRLING WITH  
COLD AIR WHEN THE  
E.R. ROOM DOORS  
VIOLENTLY  
SWING OPEN."



"THE FRESH DETERGENT  
ON A NURSE'S SCRUBS AT  
THE BEGINNING OF HER  
SHIFT AND THE SWEAT  
ON THEM AT THE END."



"THE BRAND-NEW-TOY SMELL OF  
PLASTIC SYRINGES. THE MEDICAL  
WASTEBASKET AFTER DEATH  
HIJACKS AN OLD MAN'S SOUL--  
AND THE WARMTH OF THE FAMILY  
WAITING TO HEAR IF HE MADE IT."

"THE  
URGENCY  
AND THE  
INJURY."



THE TRAUMA.  
THE DRAMA.

IT MAKES  
ME FEEL SO  
ALIVE...



IT'S ALL  
SO...REAL.

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS AND  
WHERE IT ALL ENDS. THE  
DEATH OF SAM AND THE  
ESCAPE INTO DRUGS. MY  
HIDING PLACE WHERE I  
COULD PRETEND I WAS  
THE ONE WITH A RUPTURED  
SPLEEN. AND NOW--

YEAH. HEY,  
NEVERBOY, WE  
SHOULD PROBABLY  
GET GOING...

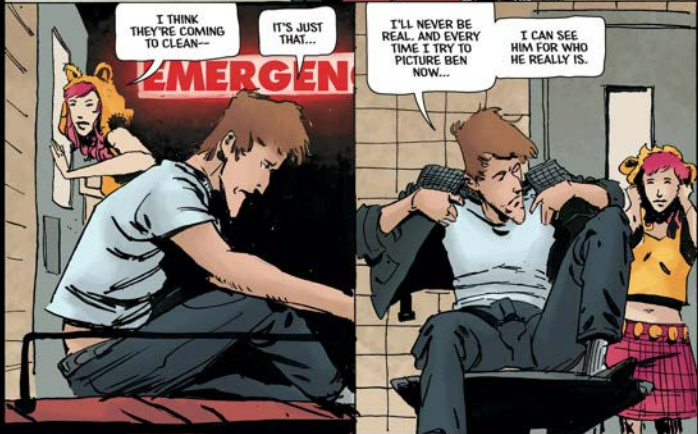


I THINK  
THEY'RE COMING  
TO CLEAN--

IT'S JUST  
THAT...

I'LL NEVER BE  
REAL. AND EVERY  
TIME I TRY TO  
PICTURE BEN  
NOW...

I CAN SEE  
HIM FOR WHO  
HE REALLY IS.





"HE WAS NEVER REALLY MY SON.

"NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LOVED HIM.



tan

MOMS LOVE IT TOO

"NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED IT... HOW MANY DRUGS I TOOK... NOTHING WAS REAL. NOTHING."

DON'T SAY THAT. JUST BECAUSE BEN WASN'T "REAL" IN THE NORMAL SENSE DOESN'T MEAN YOU DIDN'T LOVE HIM AND HE DIDN'T LOVE YOU. YOU WERE REAL TO SAM.

I GUESS. BUT I SCREWED IT ALL UP WITH THESE DRUGS--

AND NOW THE WORLD OF IMAGINATION IS DYING BECAUSE OF WHAT I WANTED. YOU WERE RIGHT, FANTASY GIRL. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN JULIAN TO THE DINER.



I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

I KNOW IT ISN'T EASY, BUT YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, NEVERBOY.

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE WITH YOU. I WON'T LET YOU DO IT ALONE.



I JUST WANT TO SAY GOODBYE.



YOU SAW THIS, RIGHT?

**juliandrag**  
backNtop



I DID.

SO HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY TELL ME YOU DON'T WANT MY NEW PIECE?!

LISTEN, GETTING ON THE COVER OF A MAGAZINE IS GREAT, BUT ART IS ABOUT THE ART, NOT THE FAME, AND THE PROBLEM WITH YOUR ART IS--



HUH, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.

...WHERE A--A... AN IMAGINARY MONSTER THING HAS CAUSED A MESS OF A MESS, ALONG WITH SEVERE PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE TO THE YOUNG CHILDREN-- AND ME!

DICK DUDLEY