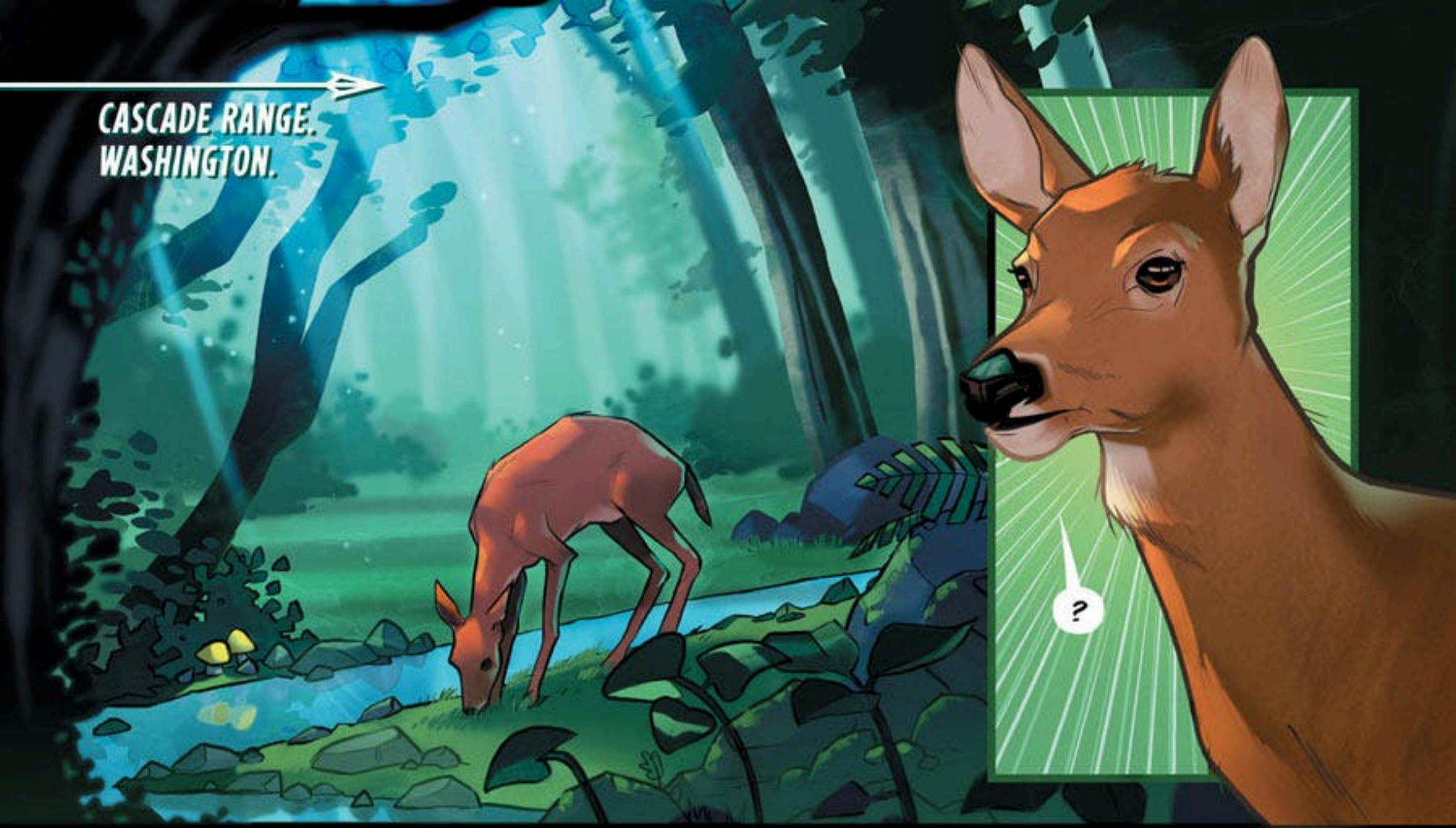


CASCADE RANGE,
WASHINGTON.



"SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE?"

"POSSIBLE. BUDDY AND ME USED TO TRAVEL AROUND QUITE A BIT BACK IN THE DAY. COULD BE WE FILLED UP HERE IN ANOTHER LIFE?"



COULD BE!
SO MANY NEW
FACES COMING
THROUGH...

NEW
FACES?

SOME NEW
ENERGY COMPANY
BOUGHT A BUNCH OF LAND
OFF A GOVERNMENT AUCTION.
SUPPOSED TO MINE IT, OR FRACK
IT, OR DO **SOMETHING**
GOD-AWFUL TO IT.

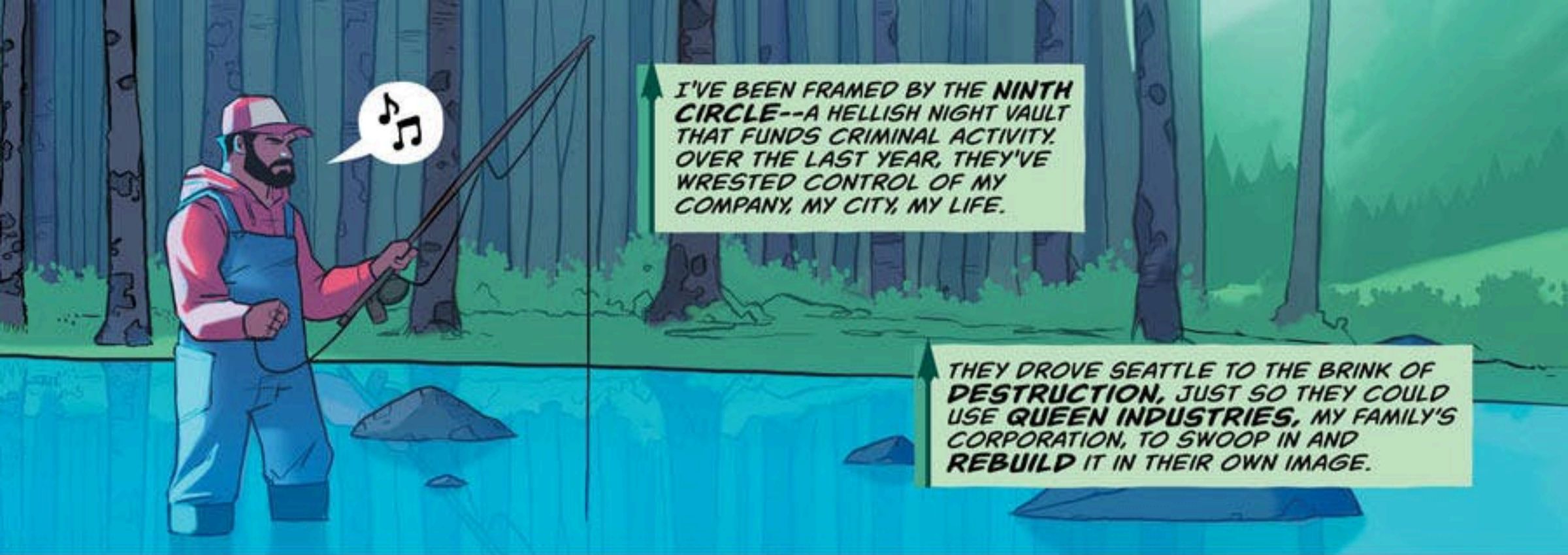
THEY'RE
CALLED BLACK...
SOMETHING **BLACK**.
ANYWAY, THEIR PEOPLE
ARE HERE ALL THE
TIME TO FILL UP.

I'M STICKING TO THE
BACK ROADS WHEN
I CAN, TRYING TO
STAY OUT OF SIGHT.

I'M A WANTED MAN AFTER
ALL--IN VIOLATION OF MY PRE-
TRIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE
TEN MILLION DOLLAR BAIL.

BUT I DIDN'T KILL **WENDY
POOLE**. AND I'M NOT ABOUT
TO SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR
THE GUILLOTINE TO DROP.





I'VE BEEN FRAMED BY THE **NINTH CIRCLE**--A HELLISH NIGHT VAULT THAT FUNDS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. OVER THE LAST YEAR, THEY'VE WRESTED CONTROL OF MY COMPANY, MY CITY, MY LIFE.

THEY DROVE SEATTLE TO THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION, JUST SO THEY COULD USE **QUEEN INDUSTRIES**, MY FAMILY'S CORPORATION, TO SWOOP IN AND REBUILD IT IN THEIR OWN IMAGE.



NOW SEATTLE IS CALLED **STAR CITY**, AND THEY OWN IT.

I'VE LEARNED THEIR AMBITIONS ARE NATIONAL. EVEN GLOBAL...



AAAAH!

...AND I'M ON A MISSION TO BRING THEM DOWN.



I WILL NOT ALLOW WHAT HAPPENED TO SEATTLE HAPPEN TO ANOTHER CITY.



MY MOLE IN QUEEN INDUSTRIES TRACED NINTH CIRCLE MONEY HERE--TO THE CASCADE RANGE--

A GNARLED SPINE OF MOUNTAINS THAT RUNS THROUGH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.