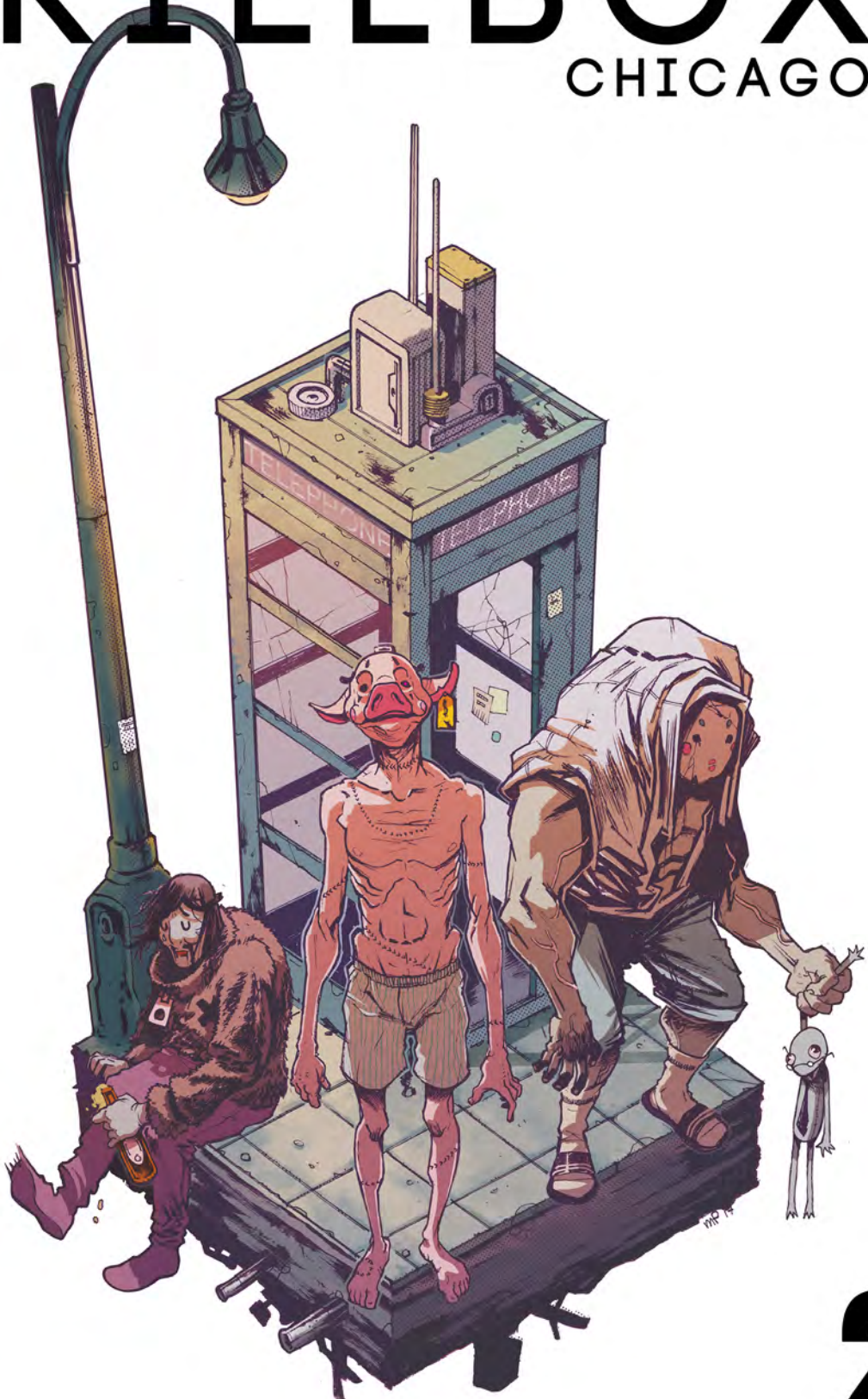


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CHICAGO



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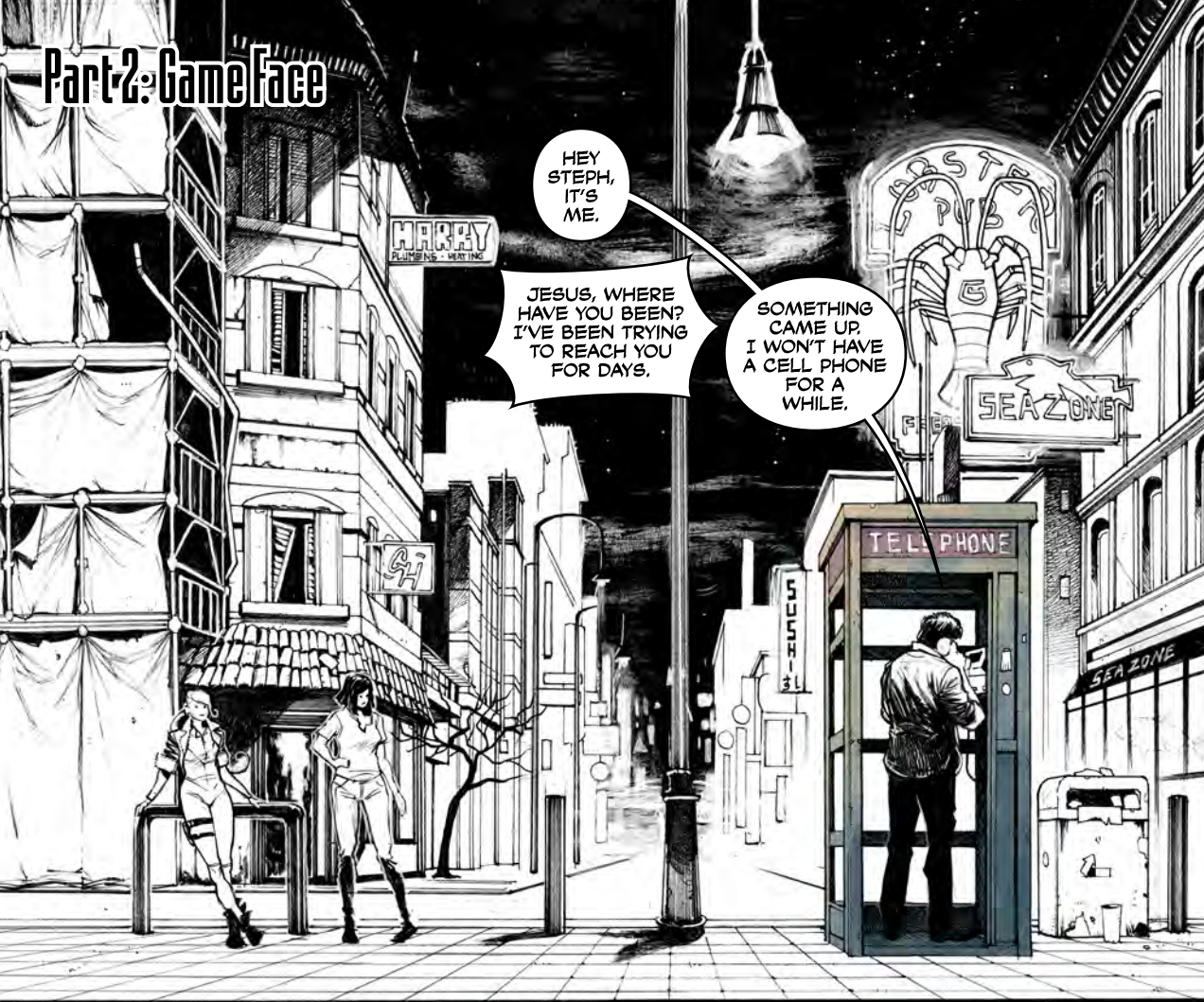


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Part 2: Game Face



HEY STEPH, IT'S ME.

JESUS, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR DAYS.

SOMETHING CAME UP. I WON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE FOR A WHILE.



THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, TIM. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

I'M WORKING ON IT.



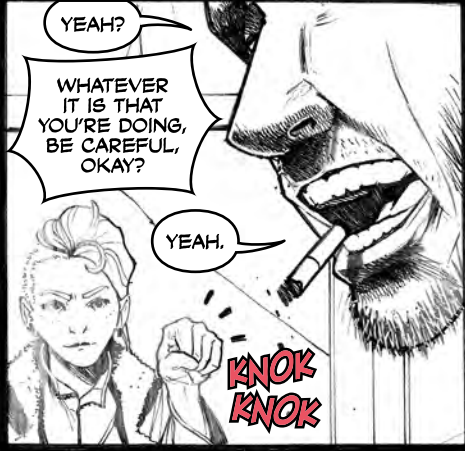
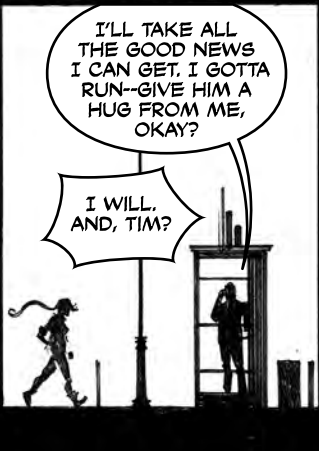
WORKING ON WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?

CAN'T GET INTO IT NOW. HOW'S OUR LITTLE MAN?

OH, TIM, ETHAN IS SO GOOD--SUCH A TROOPER. I WISH I WAS HANDLING THIS AS WELL AS HE IS.

ANYTHING NEW FROM THE DOCTORS?

NOT REALLY. MORE OF THE SAME. NOTHING HAS GOTTEN WORSE, SO THERE'S THAT... I GUESS.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! WELCOME TO THE NEXT ITERATION OF THE KILLBOX. YOU'VE ALL HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESEARCH OUR NEWEST CONTESTANTS, AND I HOPE YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME EXCITING GAMING.

AT THIS TIME, ALL CONTESTANTS ARE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES AND ARE WAITING TO BEGIN.



CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THE GAME BEGINS IN 10, 9, 8, 7, 6...





GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE AND WELL, EMI.

IS IT?

IT IS. CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND BUSINESS CONCERNS ASIDE, I HAVE ALWAYS LIKED YOU.

THAT IS NICE OF YOU TO SAY, BUT AS YOU'VE POINTED OUT, CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES--

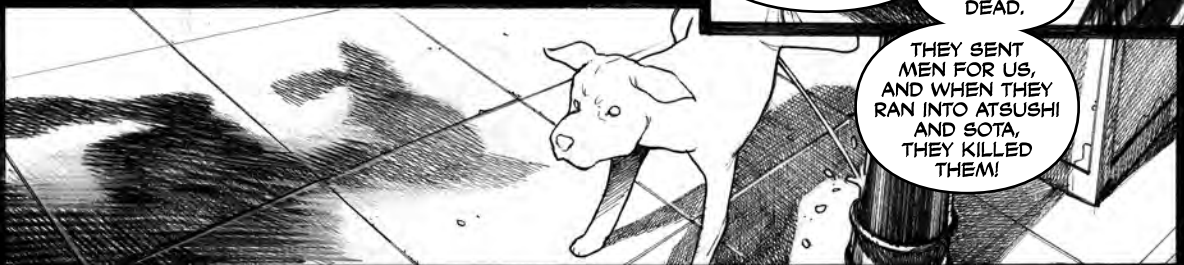
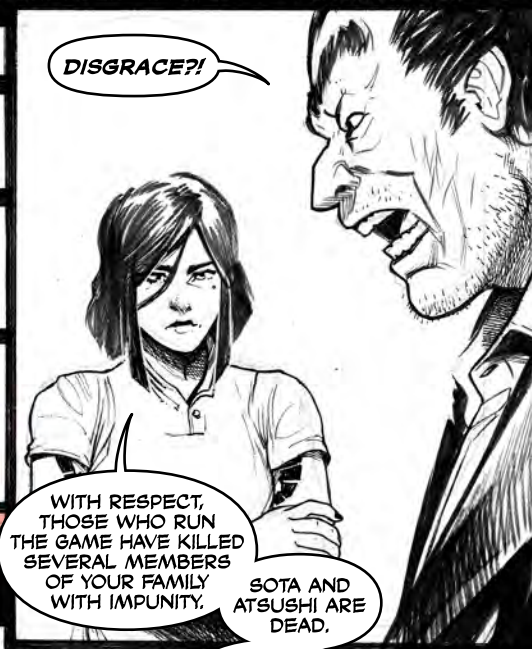
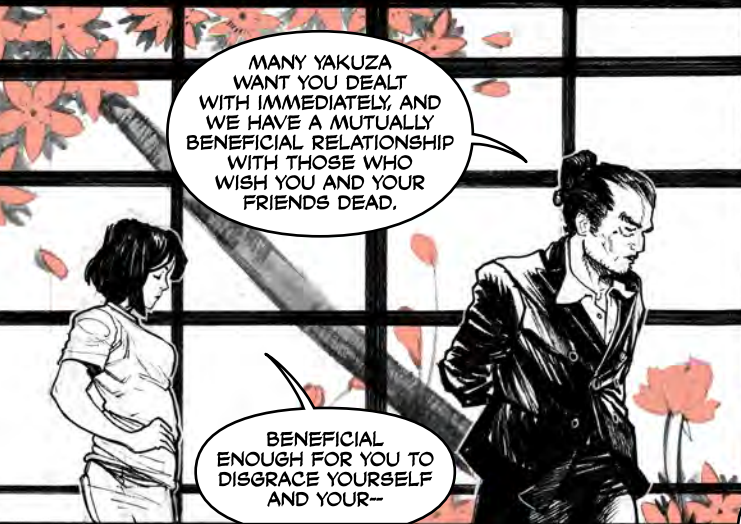
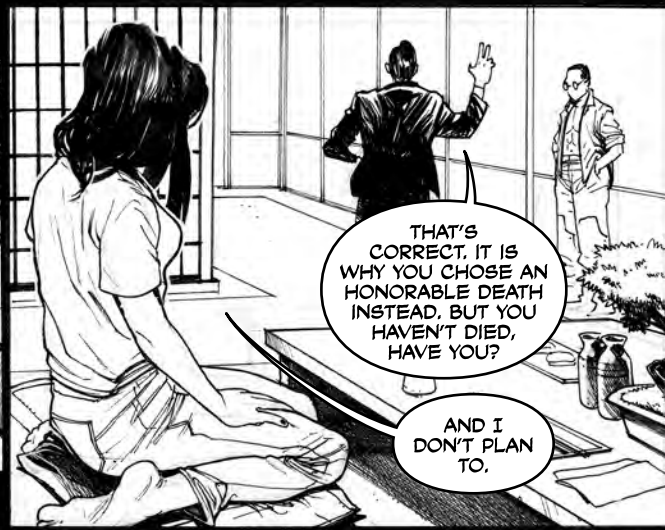
YOU KNEW WE WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS ONNA-OYABUNS TO STAND. THAT IS WHY YOU CHOSE TO ENTER THE GAME TO BEGIN WITH.

AN HONOR DEBT NEEDED TO BE PAID.

A DEBT WE WOULD HAVE HAPPILY FORGIVEN.

THIS IS SOME INTENSE SHIT.

NO KIDDING.



"I CANNOT SAY WHO OR WHAT THEY WERE--"

SNIFF
SNIFF

"YOU DIDN'T SEE THESE MEN?"

"THE GAMERS SENT THEM, DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND KILLING YOUR MEN TO GET TO US."

"THIS CHANGES VERY LITTLE."

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?"

"I CANNOT INTERFERE DIRECTLY; THERE IS TOO MUCH MONEY AT STAKE. SYNDICATE CONCERNS IN JAPAN WILL NOT ALLOW US TO TERMINATE OUR BUSINESS WITH THESE PEOPLE."

SO THEY CAN MURDER YOUR PEOPLE WITH IMPUNITY?

FOR NOW, AT LEAST, I'M A PATIENT MAN; THE TIME TO ACT WILL PRESENT ITSELF. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?

I WANT MY HUSBAND'S OPERATION.

WITHIN REASON.

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW I CAN GET TO THESE MEN? THE GAMERS?

SEE? THAT IS WITHIN REASON.