

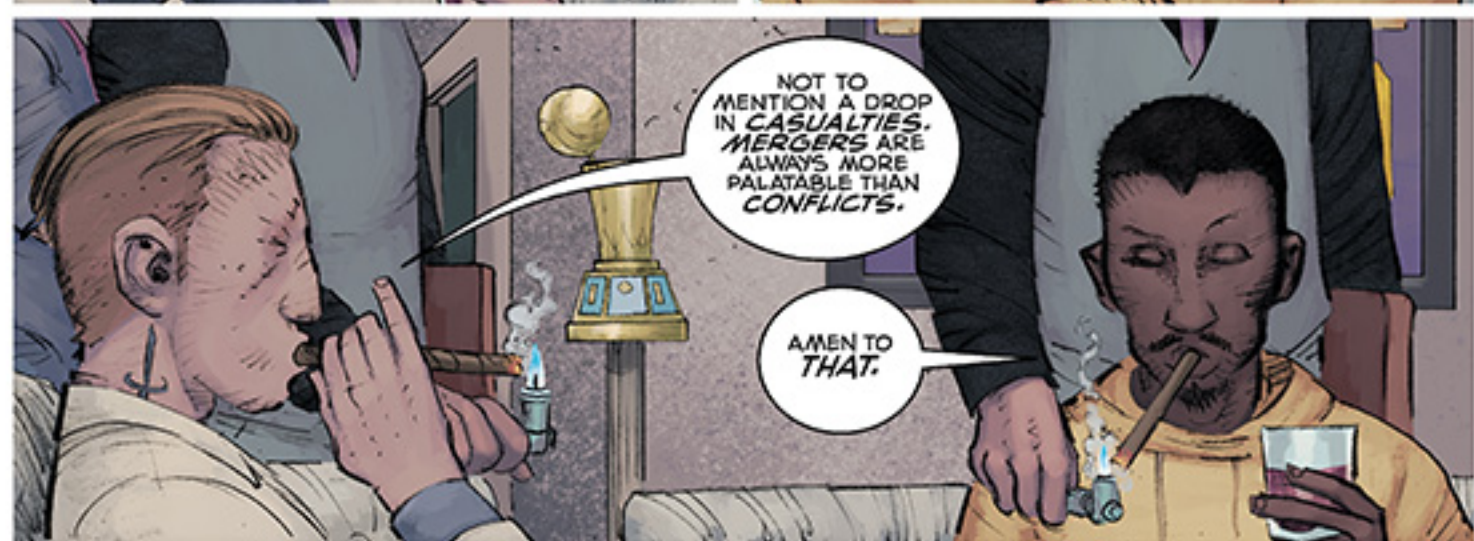
HOPE YOU LIKE THE CIGARS, TOO. JUST A LITTLE HOSPITALITY TO SHOW HOW SERIOUS I AM ABOUT THIS NON-COMPETE, ALEXEI.

IF OUR TWO OUTFITS CAN PUT ASIDE PAST HISTORY, I FIGURE OUR GROWTH COULD BE OFF THE CHARTS BY THE FINAL QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.



NOT TO MENTION A DROP IN CASUALTIES. MERGERS ARE ALWAYS MORE PALATABLE THAN CONFLICTS.

AMEN TO THAT.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THOSE BOYS OF YOURS THAT GOT BURNED IN THE FIRE A FEW WEEKS BACK?





██████████  
'EM. THEY  
MESS UP,  
THEY'RE  
ON THEIR  
OWN.

AND YOUR  
PEOPLE ARE OKAY  
WITH THIS? OUR  
BOYS GO DOWN, IT'S  
JUST A MATTER OF  
COURSE...WE TAKE  
CARE OF THE  
WIVES AND  
FAMILIES.

WELL,  
I SUBSCRIBE  
TO THE STEVE  
JOBS IDEA THAT  
REWARDING FAILURE  
ENCOURAGES  
FAILURE, RIGHT,  
GENTLEMEN?



NOW... IF  
YOU'LL EXCUSE  
ME, IT'S BEEN A  
PLEASURE...



...BUT  
I'VE GOT  
ANOTHER  
IMPORTANT  
APPOINT-  
MENT TO  
KEEP.