

THE MAXX MAXXIMIZED

STORY AND ART BY
SAM KIETH

FINISHES BY
JIM SINCLAIR

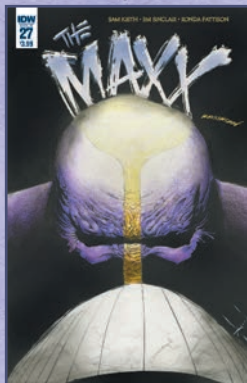
COLORS BY
RONDA PATTISON

LETTERS BY
MIKE HEISLER

EDITS BY
SCOTT DUNBIER

ASSISTANT EDITOR
MICHAEL BENEDETTO

ISSUE #27 COVER CHECKLIST:



STANDARD COVER
Artwork by Sam Kieth



SUBSCRIPTION COVER
Artwork by Sam Kieth



THE MAXX created by Sam Kieth • Production Assistance by Chris Mowry

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com

IDW[®]
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher
Greg Goldstein, President & COO
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Dirk Wood, VP of Marketing
Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services
Jeff Webber, VP of Licensing, Digital and Subsidiary Rights
Jerry Bennington, VP of New Product Development

Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing

Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing)

YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing

Tumblr: tumblr.idwpublishing.com

Instagram: instagram.com/idwpublishing



THE MAXX: MAXXIMIZED #27, JANUARY 2016. FIRST PRINTING. THE MAXX is [™] & © 2016 Sam Kieth. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © 2016 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2785 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.



LISTEN, JULIE. THANKS FOR MEETING ME HERE.

NO PROBLEM, "DAVE." THAT IS WHAT YOU'RE STILL CALLING YOURSELF, ISN'T IT?

LOOK, JUST-- DON'T START! YOU THINK I WANTED TO... COME HERE...

FINE. WHATEVER.



LET ME SAVE YOU SOME TIME. MARK SENT YOU, DIDN'T HE? I THOUGHT I'D LOST HIM! PROTECTING THAT BOY IS--

PROTECTING? BY ABANDONING HIM?

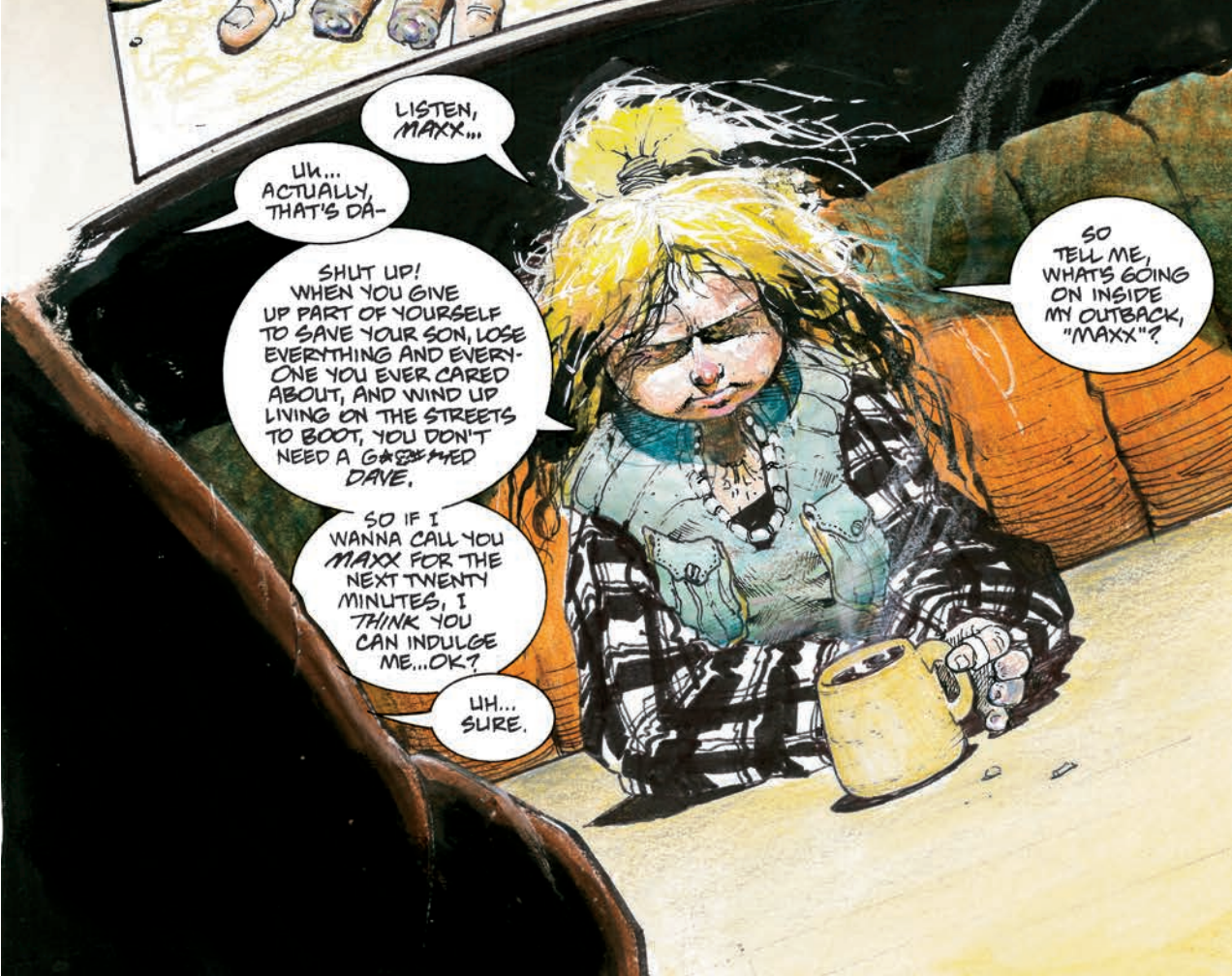


LOOK AT MY HAND..

...NOT VERY PRETTY, IS IT?



BUT THE PROTECTION OF A MOTHER'S YOUNG NEVER IS. IF I HADN'T GIVEN THEM TO THAT "THING," MARK WOULD ALREADY BE DEAD NOW.



LISTEN, MAXX...

UH... ACTUALLY, THAT'S DA--

SHUT UP! WHEN YOU GIVE UP PART OF YOURSELF TO SAVE YOUR SON, LOSE EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE YOU EVER CARED ABOUT, AND WIND UP LIVING ON THE STREETS TO BOOT, YOU DON'T NEED A G@#%MED DAVE.

SO IF I WANNA CALL YOU MAXX FOR THE NEXT TWENTY MINUTES, I THINK YOU CAN INDULGE ME...OK?

UH... SURE.

SO TELL ME, WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE MY OUTBACK, "MAXX"?



UH...

JESUS,
I DON'T KNOW
WHICH IS MORE
PATHETIC, YOU
PRETENDING...

...OR ME
ASKING.

I JUST
CAN'T...
REALLY
REMEM--

SORRY,
DAVE,
IT'S
JUST BEEN
KINDA UGLY
LATELY.

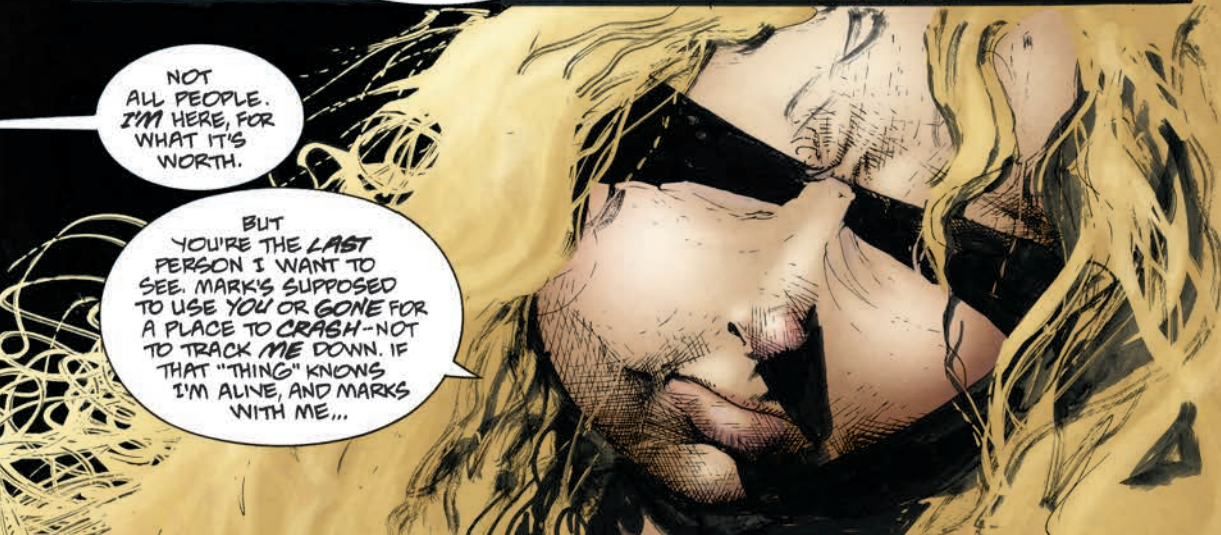


YOU'RE
NOT THE FIRST
PERSON TO ASSUME
I'VE BEEN NEGLECTING
MARK. I CAN SEE
HOW YOU
MIGHT...

ANYWAY,
LONG AGO, SOMEONE
ELSE DID THE SAME.
CPS ALMOST TOOK HIM
AWAY BECAUSE OF HER. I
THOUGHT I COULD TRUST
HER. BUT PEOPLE ARE
ALL THE SAME.

NOT
ALL PEOPLE.
I'M HERE, FOR
WHAT IT'S
WORTH.

BUT
YOU'RE THE LAST
PERSON I WANT TO
SEE. MARK'S SUPPOSED
TO USE YOU OR GONE FOR
A PLACE TO CRASH--NOT
TO TRACK ME DOWN. IF
THAT "THING" KNOWS
I'M ALIVE, AND MARKS
WITH ME...





YEAH.
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. SO YOU EVER CONFRONT THAT WOMAN WHO TRIED TO HAVE MARK TAKEN FROM YOU?

THERE WAS NO TIME. I HAD TO GET OUT, AND FAST!

YA KNOW, I DON'T DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF YOUR INSTINCT TO PROTECT YOUR SON... IT'S JUST THAT RUNNING AWAY FROM WHATEVER THREATENS TO TAKE HIM... WHETHER IT BE A "STRANGE LADY" YEARS AGO, OR A "BIG YELLOW THING" NOW, IT JUST SEEMS...

GUTLESS?

EXHAUSTING! MAYBE WITH SOME HELP YOU COULD TURN AND FIGHT FOR A CHANGE? MAYBE--



YEAH, RIGHT, LIKE YOU CARE! TEN YEARS OF NOTHIN', AND NOW YOU DECIDE TO COME BACK? BUT IT'S TOO LATE! TO ME, YOU'RE JUST SOME STRANGER WHO LOOKS LIKE MAXX.

THAT'S NOT FAIR. I HAD TO TAKE MY OLD LIFE BACK. AND YOU DON'T NEED A PROTECTOR ANYMORE, YOU NEED A FRIEND. IF YOU WEREN'T SO STUBBORN, YOU'D SEE THAT.

HEY, I DON'T NEED THIS--

WAIT.
WHY?
BECAUSE...
JUST WAIT,
OK?

IF ANY
PART OF YOU
HAS ANY FEELING
LEFT FOR ME, THEN
PLEASE PROMISE YOU'LL
TELL MARK I'M DEAD.
THAT THING MUST'VE
COME FROM MY
OUTBACK, AND IF
IT FINDS ME...
WELL, OKAY.

BUT I
WON'T LET IT
TAKE MARK DOWN,
TOO! GOT IT? HE MAY
GROW UP BELIEVING
I'VE ABANDONED HIM
BY DYING, BUT HE
WILL GROW
UP!

OKAY, I
PROMISE.

THANKS.
I OWE
YA.

I ASSUME
YOU'LL BE IN
THE SAME PLACE,
IF I NEED
TO.

UH-HUH.
SEE
YA.

MAN, WHERE'S NORBERT?
I TOLD HIM TO MEET ME HERE.
OH, WELL, BACK TO DAD'S
STORY...

AFTER ALL I REMEMBERED ABOUT HER ABUSE, I STILL MISSED AUNT RUTH.

GO FIGURE. REDEMPTION IS A FUNNY THING.



ONCE I HEARD A GUY CALL INTO A RADIO TALK-SHOW, TELLING OF HIS BEING ABUSED.



THE RADIO GAVE A HOT-LINE TO CALL.

BUT I COULDN'T.

CLICK



I WOUND UP GOING TO A SHELTER FOR WOMEN ESCAPING ABUSE. IRONIC, CONSIDERING HOW MANY I PUT THERE.



BECAUSE FEMALE ABUSE OF CHILDREN IS SO RARE, THEY DOUBTED MY STORY, I CAN'T BLAME THEM, THOUGH TO THEM I'M PART OF THE PROBLEM! I ASKED...



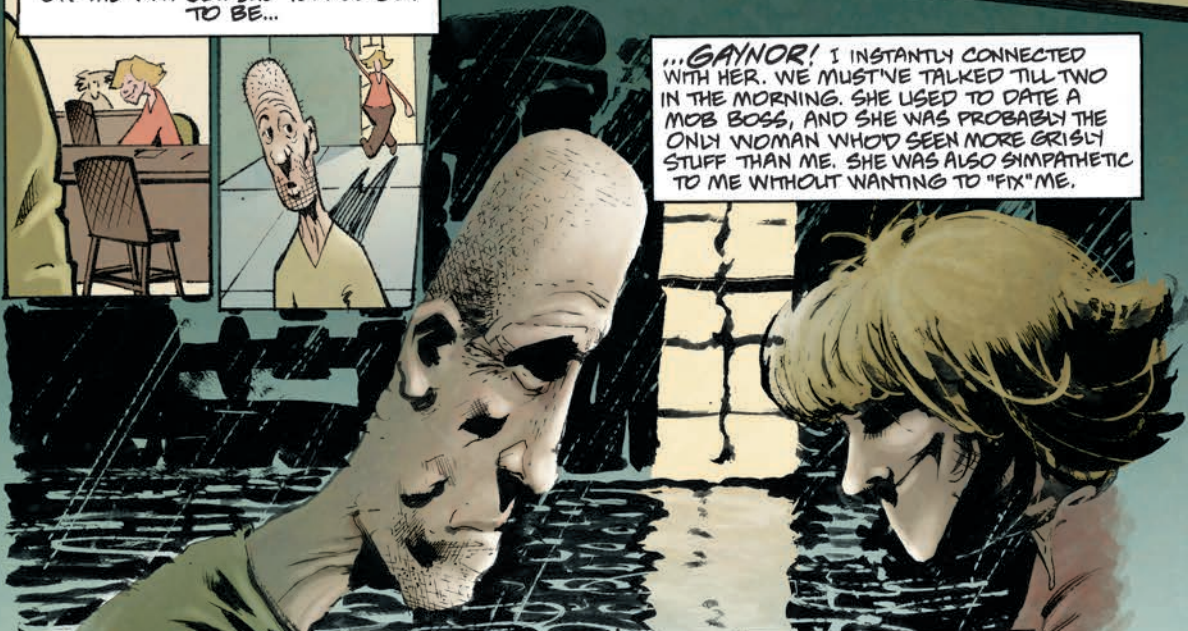
SO WHERE DO MEN WHO WERE ABUSED GO TO GET HELP??



A WOMAN WHO ALSO VOLUNTEERED THERE, OVERHEARD AND STOPPED ME ON THE WAY OUT. SHE TURNED OUT TO BE...



...GAYNOR! I INSTANTLY CONNECTED WITH HER. WE MUST'VE TALKED TILL TWO IN THE MORNING. SHE USED TO DATE A MOB BOSS, AND SHE WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY WOMAN WHO'D SEEN MORE GRISLY STUFF THAN ME. SHE WAS ALSO SYMPATHETIC TO ME WITHOUT WANTING TO "FIX" ME.



WE SAW A LOT OF EACH OTHER, AND MY PLUMBING HAD PRETTY MUCH "GIVEN OUT," AND SHE WAS OKAY WITH THAT, SO WAS I, SINCE I WAS SICK OF PAPER BAGS.

BUT THERE WAS STILL EMOTIONAL STUFF, AND ME AND GAYNOR WORKED ON AS MUCH AS WE COULD.

