

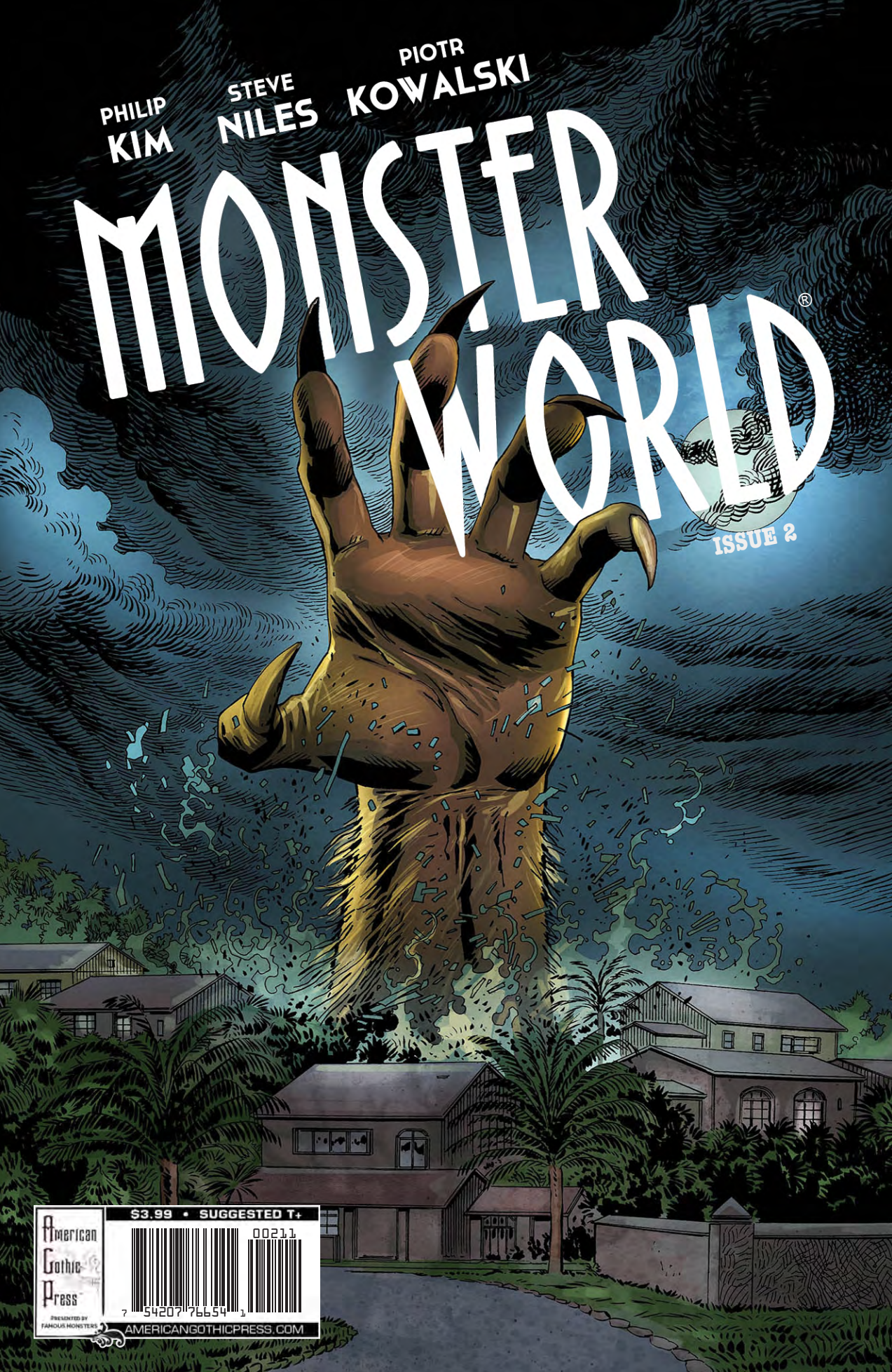
PHILIP
KIM

STEVE
NILES

PIOTR
KOWALSKI

MONSTER WORLD[®]

ISSUE 2

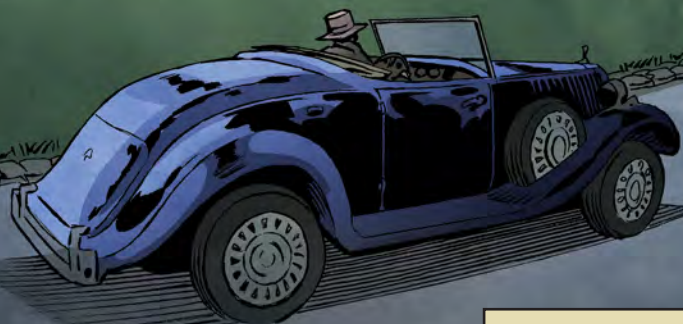


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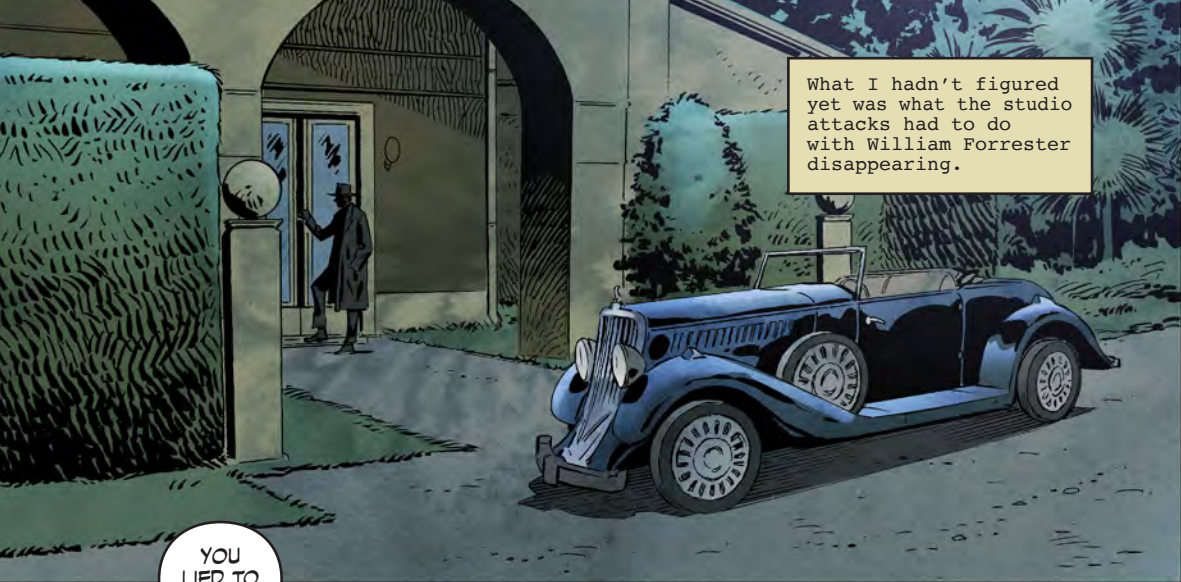
I don't like
being lied to,
even if it's a
lie of omission.

That's what Mrs. Forrester
had done--told me just enough
to get me in serious trouble.

And get me attacked
not once, but twice.



It'd been a hell of
a twenty-four hours.



What I hadn't figured yet was what the studio attacks had to do with William Forrester disappearing.



YOU LIED TO ME.

COME INSIDE.



DRINK?

YEAH.



NOW THAT WE'VE PLAYED NICE, YOU WANNA TELL ME WHY YOU LIED?



WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE SAID IF I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH? PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HAD ME COMMITTED.

I NEEDED YOU ON MY SIDE, AND THE ONLY WAY WAS TO SHOW YOU. THIS CASE IS DIFFERENT.



"DIFFERENT" IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST TOLD ME TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

NO. PROBABLY NOT.

AND WOULD YOU HAVE LISTENED?



BUT I'VE BEEN ATTACKED TWICE! AND I'M FINDING OUT MURDERS HAVE BEEN RUNNING RAMPANT AT YOUR HUSBAND'S STUDIO.

WHAT DOES HIS DISAPPEARANCE HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?



WHEN I MET BILLY, I WAS A YOUNG ACTRESS.

WE MARRIED FAST, BUT ONCE WE WERE MARRIED, HE INSISTED I NEVER COME ON SET.

DID HE GIVE YOU ANY REASON WHY?



NOT DIRECTLY, BUT I OVERHEARD HIM TALKING TO JOHN PRICE--



WHO'S JOHN PRICE?



YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM?

HE'S A MAKEUP ARTIST. HE'S KNOWN AS THE "FATHER OF MONSTERS" AT WORLD STUDIOS.

WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

I'VE NEVER TRUSTED HIM. I THINK HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE LETS ON.

THEY WERE ARGUING ONE NIGHT, NOT TOO LONG BEFORE BILLY DISAPPEARED. PRICE MENTIONED A CULT, AND A DARK LORD. AND... THAT MONSTERS WERE REAL.



"I'M INCLINED TO AGREE."



BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED, BILLY TOLD ME THEY WERE REAL, AND THAT JOHN PRICE WAS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

WHATEVER IS GOING ON, MY HUSBAND MADE AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE WITH EVIL PEOPLE, AND I THINK THOSE PEOPLE ARE NOW RUNNING THE STUDIO.

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THIS.



YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER DETECTIVE.

YOU CAN'T. I NEED YOU.

LADY, YOU HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF SHOWING IT.



I'LL DOUBLE YOUR RATE.

NOT ENOUGH.




TRIPLE.

GETTING WARMER.



WELL, IF WARMTH IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...



I was stupid to let her seduce me, but I couldn't help myself.

It felt so familiar, again. And easy.

I knew I was being played. I could see the ending from here. She had a lot to gain if her husband was found, and even more if he was found dead.