



I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN KILLING YOU.



I FIND THAT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE.

ESPECIALLY STARING DOWN THE BARREL OF MY OWN GUN.



IT'S TRUE!

THE TWO OF US--WE ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST THE SAME ENEMY.



THE SOCIETY OF UNITED MAGICIANS.



Heh.

IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT OUR FRIEND THE SHADOW HOLDS BOTH MY SOCIETY AND YOURS...

...IN EQUAL CONTEMPT.



DO YOU
THINK HE CANNOT
TELL THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A GROUP
THAT WANTS TO *SAVE*
THE WORLD...

...AND
ONE THAT
WANTS TO
DAMN IT?

I CARE
LITTLE FOR WHAT
EITHER OF YOU
HAVE TO SAY.

YOU BOTH
HAVE *WICKED*
SOULS...

...AND
YOU WILL BE
PUNISHED.

THERE YOU
HAVE IT.



BAH!

IT
DOES NOT
MATTER.

TONIGHT,
THE *DISCIPLES*
OF *NITOCRIS* WILL
STRIKE A TERRIBLE
BLOW AGAINST
OUR ENEMIES.




AND
IN THIS, WE HAVE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
ON OUR SIDE.



THIS IS THE TRUTH OF THE LAST ILLUSION.

THIS IS THE WARNING LOVECRAFT TRIED TO OFFER HOUDINI IN LIFE.




AND IT IS THE SAME WARNING THAT HOUDINI, IN DEATH, DELIVERED TO HIS DEAR WIFE.



TRUE OR NOT...

...WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE TONIGHT-- IS MADNESS!



YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SUCCEED IN YOUR CRUSADE AGAINST CRIME.

I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SECURE OUR SAFETY AGAINST THE LAST ILLUSION.



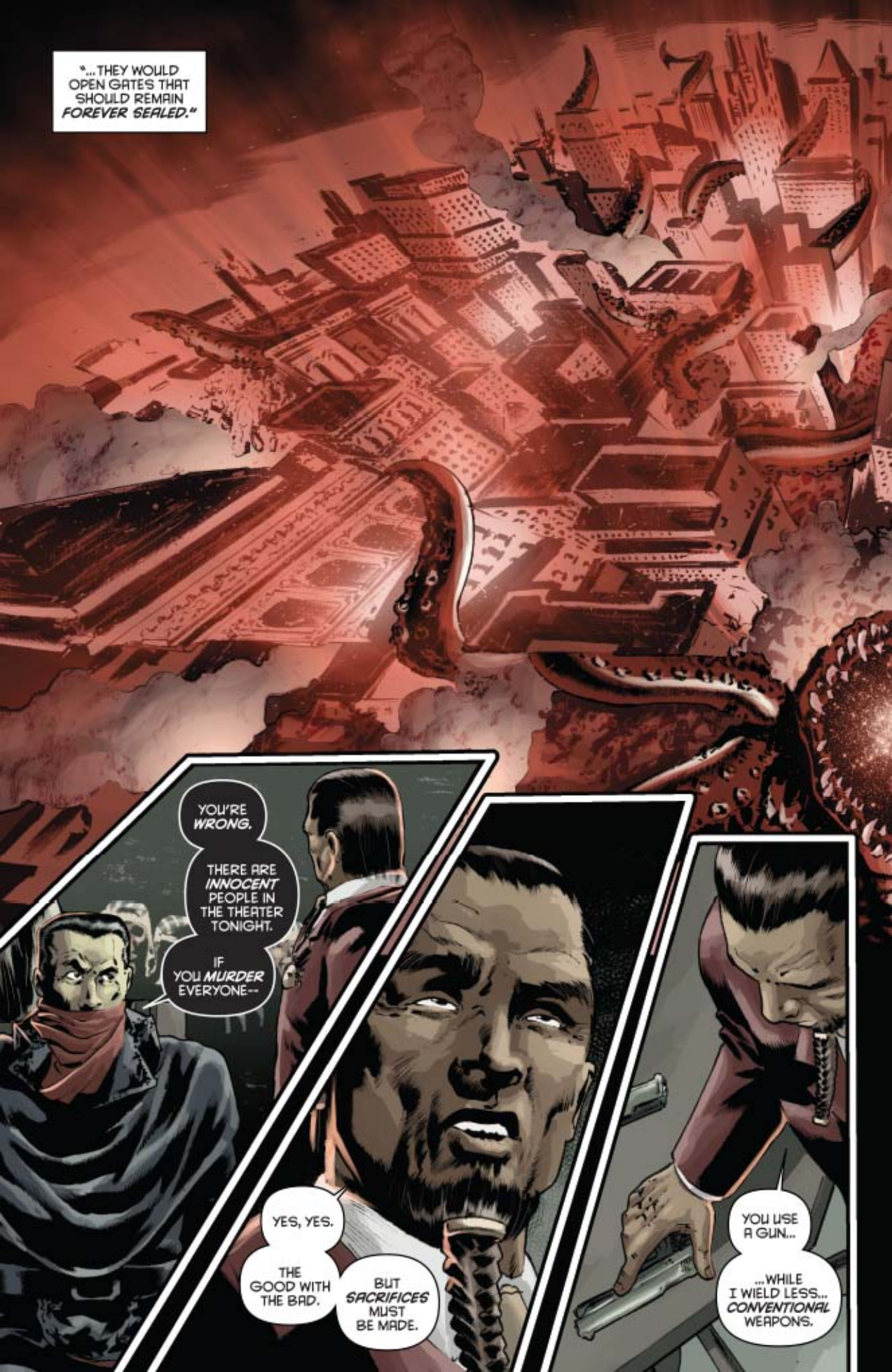
WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, YOU AND I.

IF THE SOCIETY WERE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THE SECRET OF THE LAST ILLUSION...

...THEY WOULD USHER TRUE MAGIC BACK INTO THE WORLD...

...AND WITH IT...

"...THEY WOULD
OPEN GATES THAT
SHOULD REMAIN
FOREVER SEALED."



YOU'RE
WRONG.

THERE ARE
INNOCENT
PEOPLE IN
THE THEATER
TONIGHT.

IF
YOU MURDER
EVERYONE--

YES, YES.

THE
GOOD WITH
THE BAD.

BUT
SACRIFICES
MUST
BE MADE.

YOU USE
A GUN...

...WHILE
I WIELD LESS...
CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS.



MAKE SURE
ALL THE EXITS
ARE CHAINED
TIGHTLY.



YES,
DROGMAN.



NO ONE
LEAVES BEFORE
OUR BUSINESS
IS FINISHED.

