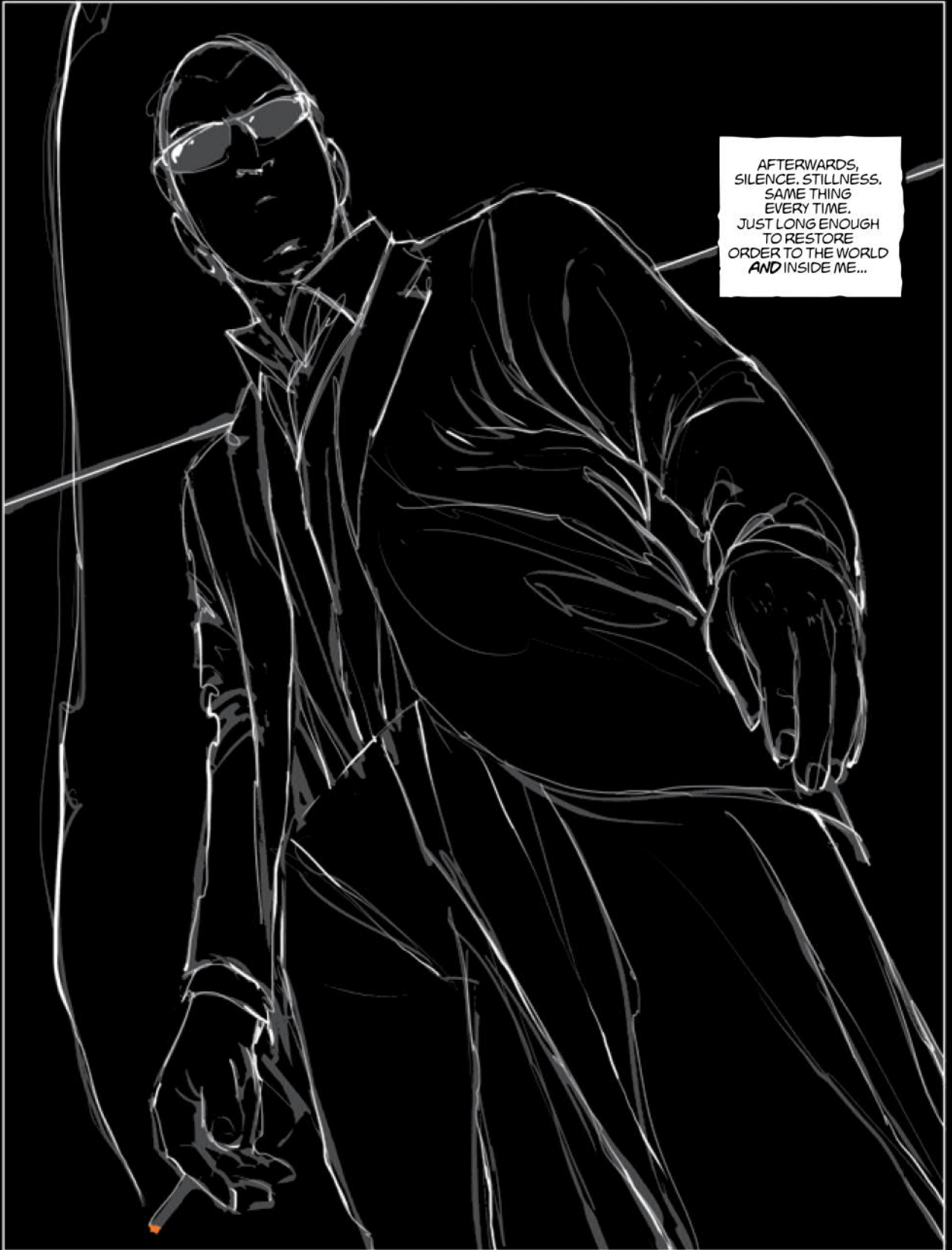


JACAMON & MATZ  
**THE KILLER**  
FIGHT OR FLIGHT


WRITTEN BY MATZ  
ILLUSTRATED BY LUC JACAMON

LETTERED BY DERON BENNETT  
TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY EDWARD GAUVIN






AFTERWARDS,  
SILENCE. STILLNESS.  
SAME THING  
EVERY TIME.  
JUST LONG ENOUGH  
TO RESTORE  
ORDER TO THE WORLD  
**AND** INSIDE ME...



LONG ENOUGH  
TO SETTLE THE  
INVISIBLE WAVES  
ADRENALINE  
AND FEAR HAVE  
CHURNED UP.

*MY ADRENALINE.  
THEIR FEAR.*

THE FEAR I'VE SEEN IN EVERYONE  
ABOUT TO DIE, THE INTENSE TERROR  
THAT ONLY LASTS A SECOND, OR AN  
ETERNITY, WHEN THEY FIGURE OUT  
WHAT'S GOING ON, ESPECIALLY THAT  
THERE'S NO ESCAPING IT.



WHEN THE ABYSS YAWNS WIDE  
BEFORE THEM, WHEN THEY KNOW  
THEY'RE ABOUT TO NOSEDIVE  
INTO THE UNKNOWN, WHEN THEY  
THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE DONE,  
WHAT THEY HAVEN'T, WHAT THEY  
COULD'VE, WHAT THEY FOULED UP,  
WHAT THEY FAILED AT...

WHEN THEY BRUSH UP AGAINST  
THAT FINAL, IMPENETRABLE  
MYSTERY, THE ONE THAT  
FASCINATES US ALL. NOT LIKE  
I KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT IT  
THAN ANYONE ELSE, THOUGH  
I'VE SEEN A LOT MORE DEATH  
A LOT CLOSER UP THAN MOST...

GUESS I'LL JUST FIND  
OUT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE,  
WHEN IT COMES TIME.

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS.

I HAVEN'T CHANGED MY LINE OF WORK, BUT I'VE EVOLVED. GONE WITH THE FLOW.

I WASN'T DOING IT FOR MONEY ANYMORE, AT LEAST NOT A LOT. I WAS A RICH MAN NOW, THANKS TO CUBAN CRUDE, WHICH THE THRIVING PETROLEO FUTURO INTERNACIONAL HAD BEEN DRILLING NONSTOP FOR FOUR YEARS.

MONEY CHANGES A LOT OF THINGS. STARTING WITH THE WAY PEOPLE ACT AROUND YOU. BUT WHAT I LIKED THESE DAYS WAS MY DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT.

'CAUSE THESE DAYS I WAS WORKING FOR MARIANO, NOW AND THEN.



SIX MONTHS AGO.

SEE, KILLER, RICH COUNTRIES HAVE THEIR JAMES BONDS, OR VERSIONS THEREOF. WE DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE NO ONE. I THINK THERE'S A JOB OPENING THERE, AND I'M OFFERING IT TO YOU.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?



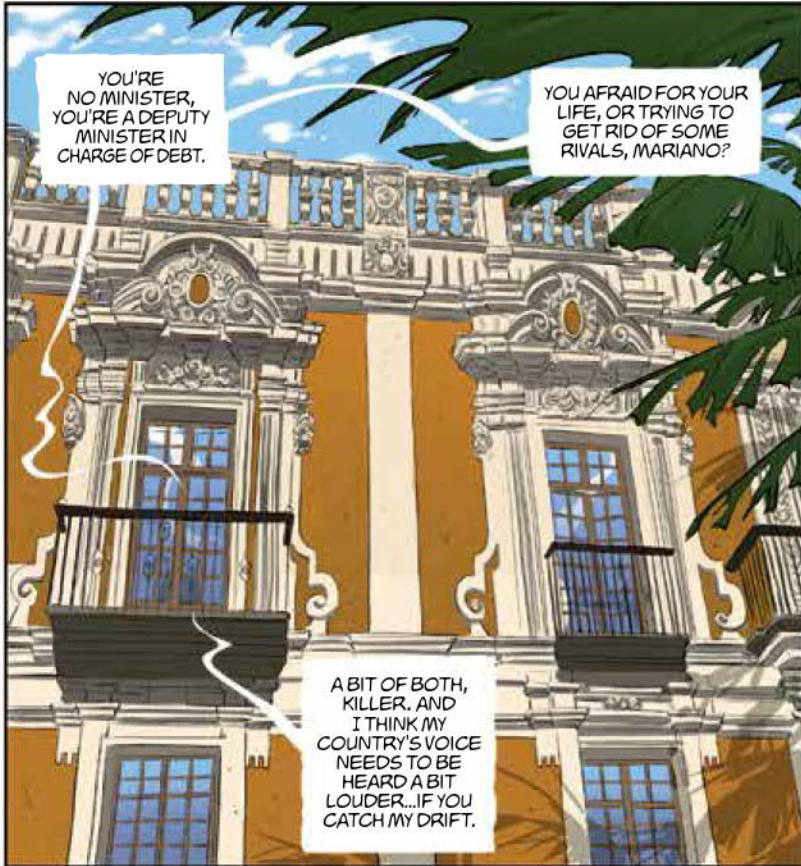
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE ME THAT BOURGEOIS "I'M A RETIRED FAMILY MAN LIVING OFF HIS NEST EGG" BULLSHIT AGAIN, ARE YOU?



A JOB OPENING? I'M NOT LOOKING, AND BEING JAMES BOND FOR A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WOULDN'T FIGURE IN MY CAREER PLAN IF I HAD ONE. BESIDES, I'D BASICALLY BE DOING THE SAME THING AS BEFORE, RIGHT?



ALL RIGHT. TRUTH IS, NOW THAT I'M A MINISTER, I'M REALLY GOING TO NEED YOU.



YOU'RE NO MINISTER, YOU'RE A DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE OF DEBT.

YOU AFRAID FOR YOUR LIFE, OR TRYING TO GET RID OF SOME RIVALS, MARIANO?

A BIT OF BOTH, KILLER. AND I THINK MY COUNTRY'S VOICE NEEDS TO BE HEARD A BIT LOUDER...IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.



YOU BOUGHT YOURSELF A CLEAN SLATE AS A BUSINESSMAN. YOU'RE RESPECTABLE NOW, AND YOU BETTER STAY THAT WAY IF YOU WANT THIS CAREER TO LAST. IT WON'T LOOK GOOD IF YOUR RIVALS START DROPPING LIKE FLIES.

I KNOW. BUT I ALSO KNOW MY RIVALS AREN'T MEN WHO HESITATE. AND PEOPLE TEND TO MISTAKE LENIENCY FOR WEAKNESS. VIOLENCE FOR POWER. I NEED TO KNOW IF I CAN COUNT ON YOU.



I GET IT, SO WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

I HAVE ALL THE MONEY I NEED. I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE TRAVELING, MUCH LESS GETTING NABBED OR OFFED.



FINE. YOU'LL GET AN OFFICIAL TITLE AND A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, SO YOU'LL BE FINE WHEREVER YOU GO.

PLUS, IT'S NOT A FULL-TIME JOB. MORE LIKE FREELANCE GIGS EVERY SO OFTEN, NOTHING REALLY NASTY FOR A GUY LIKE YOU.



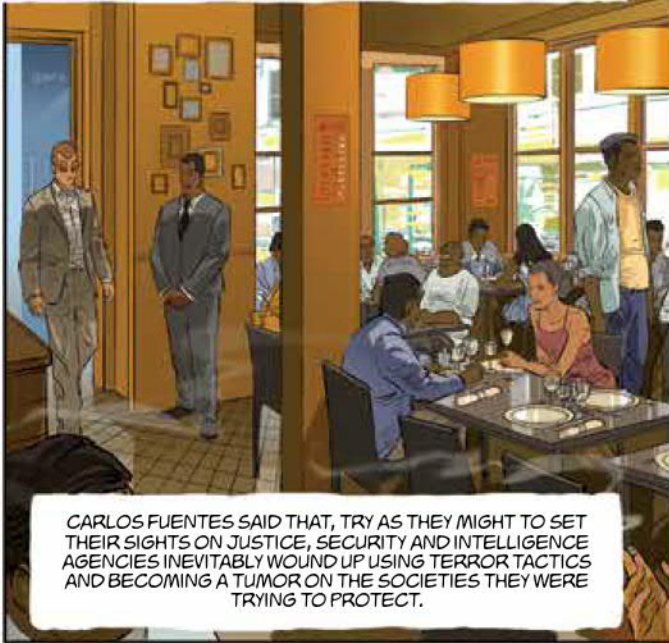
IT'D BE MORE LIKE A FAVOR. FOR A FRIEND.

AND YOU CAN SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME WITH YOUR INDIAN PALS DOWN IN THE JUNGLE, IF THAT'S YOUR BAG.



HA HA! YOU HAD ME AT "DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT."

MARIANO WAS RIGHT ABOUT AT LEAST TWO THINGS--ONE, A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT MAKES A LOT OF THINGS EASIER. TWO, JAMES BOND IS A RIGHT-WING, IMPERIALIST HERO.



CARLOS FUENTES SAID THAT, TRY AS THEY MIGHT TO SET THEIR SIGHTS ON JUSTICE, SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES INEVITABLY WOUND UP USING TERROR TACTICS AND BECOMING A TUMOR ON THE SOCIETIES THEY WERE TRYING TO PROTECT.



HE WAS TOTALLY RIGHT. STILL, I LOVE THE MOVIES, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

I LIKE BOND BETTER THAN SUPERHEROES WHO CLAIM TO STAND UP FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, BUT ALWAYS PUT THEIR POWERS BEHIND THE POWERS THAT BE.



IT'S LIKE THEY ONLY READ THE POLICE BLOTTER, INSTEAD OF THE HEADLINES. NEVER ASKING QUESTIONS. AT BEST, THEY'RE JUST ENTERTAINMENT, A DISTRACTION...



SIMPLISTIC AVATARS OF A MANICHEAN WORLD WHERE INNOCENTS ARE LED TO BELIEVE THERE'S A PLAN FOR EVERYTHING AND THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN.

A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE NEED A UNIQUE, SUPERIOR BEING, A CHOSEN ONE TO LEND A HELPING HAND.



A WORLD THAT ISN'T REAL.



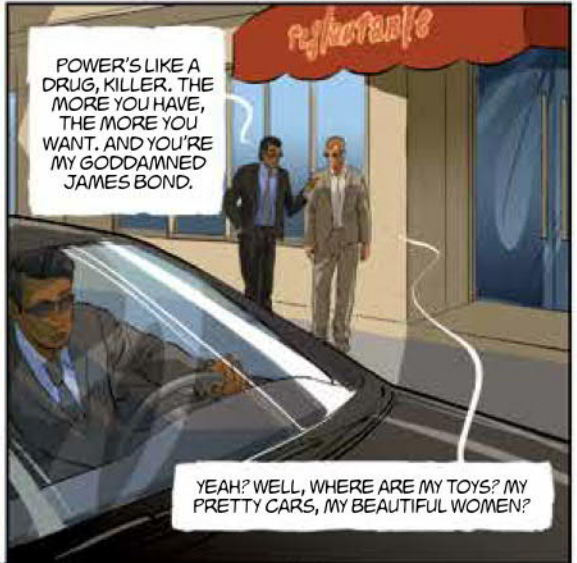
NEVER HAS BEEN...



NEVER WILL BE.









SOMEONE'S GOING TO DIE.



AND SOMEONE ELSE'LL DO THE DEED, GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY--ME.

OK, SURE.



YOUR MEN?

YEAH.



OH-- KILLER?

YEAH?



YOU EVER RUN INTO JAMES BOND, PUT A BULLET IN HIS HEAD FOR ME.