

DENVER ART MUSEUM,
DENVER, COLORADO.

YOU GOT
EVERYTHING ON
THE LIST?

DIDN'T FIND
THE LAKOTA SHIELD.
SIGN SAID IT WAS
TEMPORARILY OUT
FOR RESTORA-
TION.

YOU WANT
ME TO CHECK THE
CONSERVATION
OFFICES?

FUCK IT,
THERE'S NO TIME.
WHAT WE'VE GOT
WILL HAVE TO BE
GOOD ENOUGH.

WHAT
ABOUT THE KID I
CAUGHT SNOOPING?
WHADDYA WANT ME
TO DO WITH HIS
BODY?

STOW IT
UNDER THAT
BENCH. IT'S
NOT OUR
PROBLEM.

LET'S
GRAB OUR
GOODIES AND
GET THE FUCK
OUT OF
HERE.





CHEATING DEATH

CHAPTER THREE OF
**THE PANDORA
PROTOCOL**

DAVE JUSTUS &
MATTHEW STURGES
writers

TRAVIS G.
MOORE
artist

MICHAEL
WIGGAM
colors

TODD
KLEIN
letters

TULA
LOTAY
cover

MAGGIE
HOWELL
asst. ed.

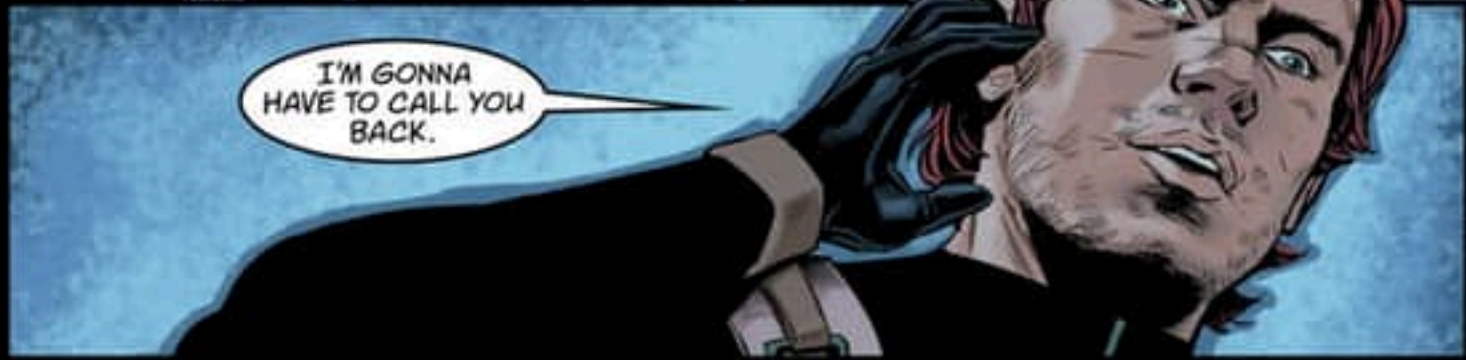
ELLIE
PYLE
editor

JAMIE S. RICH
group
editor

FABLES
created by
Bill Willingham



CONNOR?!



I'M GONNA
HAVE TO CALL YOU
BACK.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

...AND THESE CREATURES YOU WERE FIGHTING--WERE THEY *TRULY* THE RESURRECTED DEAD, OR WERE THEY MERELY *PHANTASMS*?



THEY WERE SOLID ENOUGH, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WERE RESURRECTED, AT LEAST NOT IN THE TRUE SENSE.

THEY WERE BUT ANIMATED CORPSES, MEAT PUPPETS.

NOTHING LIKE THE *BLASPHEMY* YOU HAVE PERFORMED HERE, REJOINING MY SOUL WITH MY RUINED FLESH.

THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY ON THE MATTER.

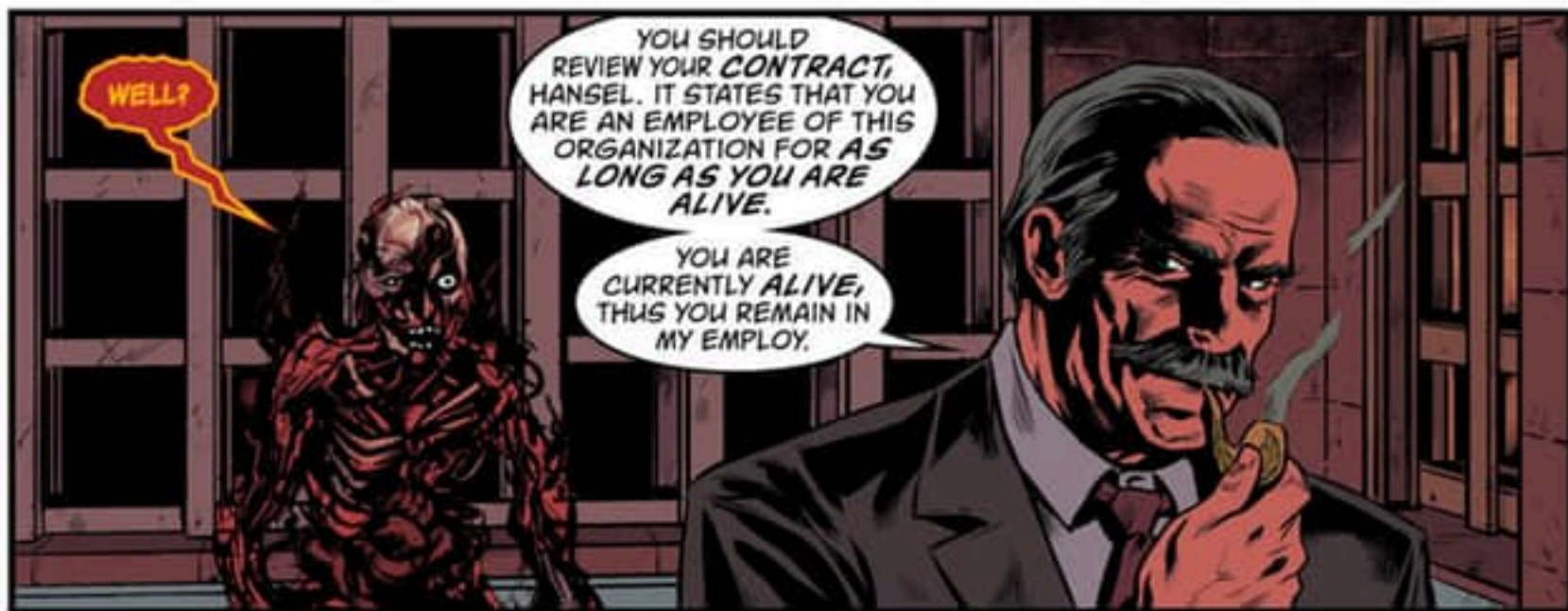
NOW END THIS PROFANE EXERCISE, FEATHERTOP, AND LET ME BE AT PEACE WITH MY GOD.

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

THOMAS AND AYESHA? WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO STEP OUTSIDE?





WELL?

YOU SHOULD REVIEW YOUR **CONTRACT**, HANSEL. IT STATES THAT YOU ARE AN EMPLOYEE OF THIS ORGANIZATION FOR **AS LONG AS YOU ARE ALIVE**.

YOU ARE CURRENTLY **ALIVE**, THUS YOU REMAIN IN MY EMPLOY.



AH. I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D NOT WANT TO SHARE THIS WITH YOUR **ACOLYTES**.

YOU TRULY INTEND TO KEEP ME IN THIS STATE, THEN? FOR HOW LONG? TO WHAT PURPOSE?

I DO. FOR AS LONG AS I SEE FIT AND TO WHATEVER PURPOSE I REQUIRE.



YOU **ARROGANT FOOL**. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE BROUGHT UPON YOURSELF.

YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE **UPPER HAND**, BUT YOU APPEAR TO HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING...

...MY **SIGNING BONUS**. IT WENT INTO EFFECT WHEN I DIED.



AGAIN, HANSEL, YOU AREN'T DEAD. YOUR **BONUS** HAS YET TO VEST, I'M AFRAID.

LIKE EVERY **SHADOW PLAYER**, YOU GET YOUR ONE FREE **WISH**... BUT YOU GET IT WHEN I DECIDE.

APPARENTLY IT IS YOU WHO NEEDS TO REVIEW THE **CONTRACT**, FEATHERTOP.

I DEMANDED VERY SPECIFIC WORDING. IT STATES THAT THE **MAGIC** SHALL GO INTO EFFECT UPON MY **DEATH**.

I DIED **YESTERDAY**. IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED.