

**24**

*The Walking Dead - I*

**Robert Kirkman**



# THE WALKING DEAD

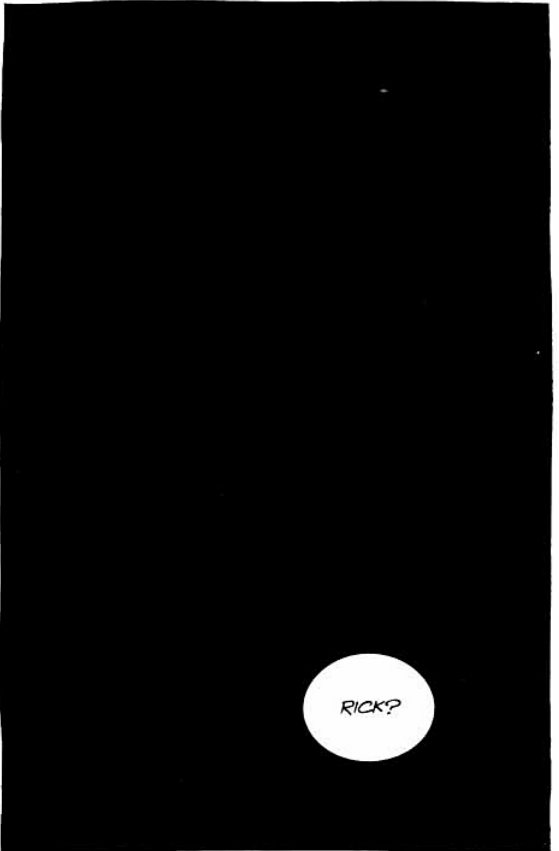
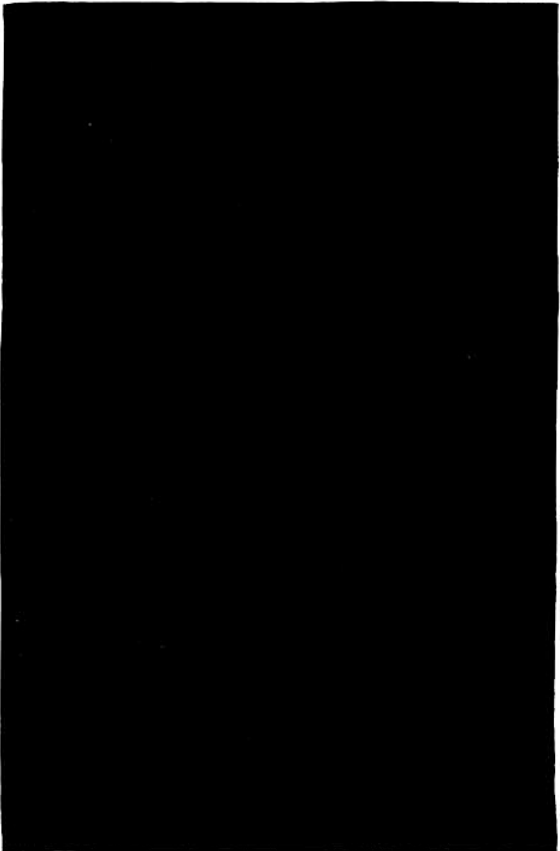
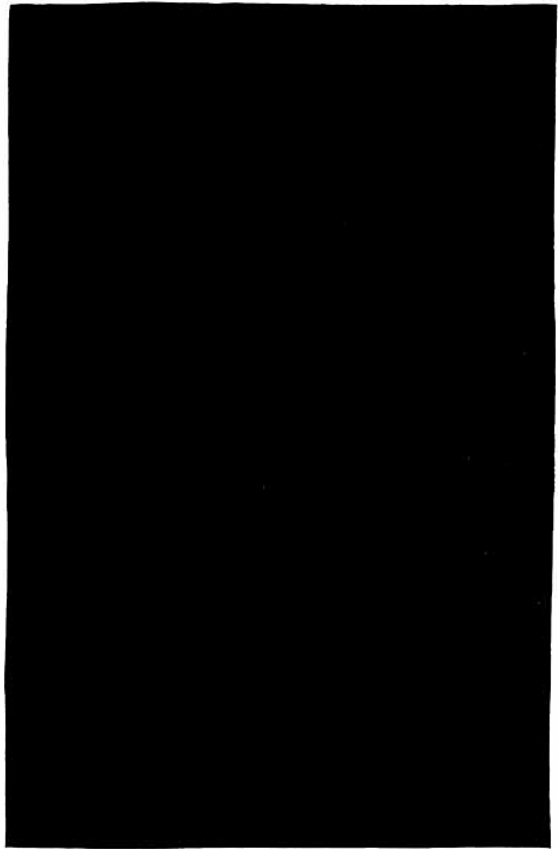
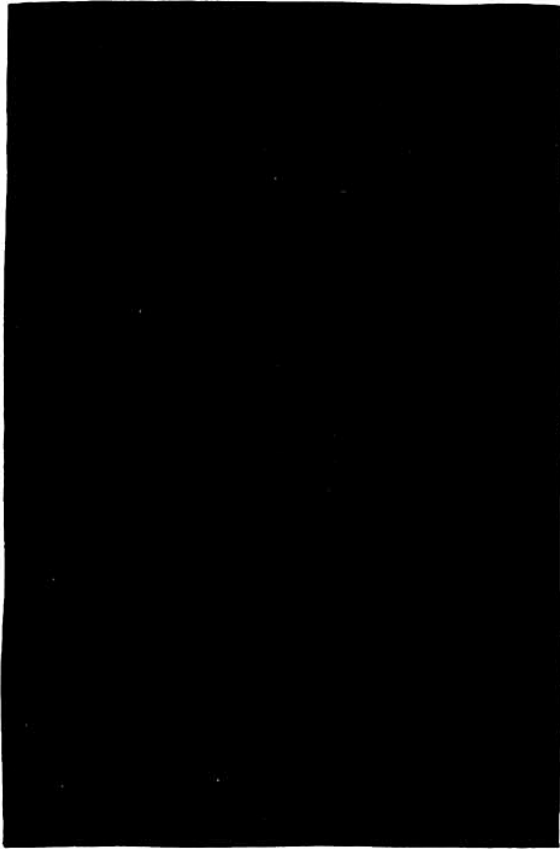
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KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN









YOU WAKING  
UP THERE,  
RICK?

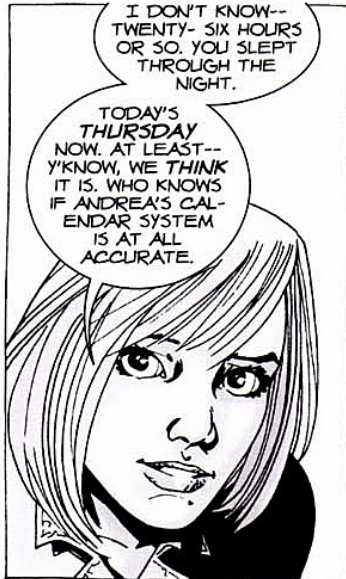


THINK SO.  
CAROL? YOU--  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?

MAYBE  
IN A LITTLE  
WHILE.

FOR  
NOW--  
NOT SO  
MUCH.









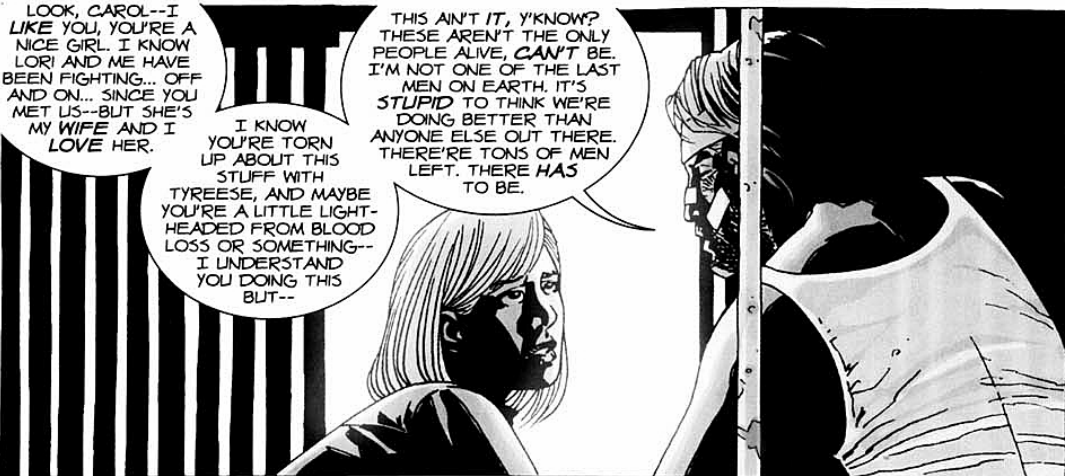






YOU'RE NOT GOING TO--?!

I'M GOING TO TELL LORI!



LOOK, CAROL--I LIKE YOU, YOU'RE A NICE GIRL. I KNOW LORI AND ME HAVE BEEN FIGHTING... OFF AND ON... SINCE YOU MET US--BUT SHE'S MY WIFE AND I LOVE HER.

I KNOW YOU'RE TORN UP ABOUT THIS STUFF WITH TYREESE, AND MAYBE YOU'RE A LITTLE LIGHT-HEADED FROM BLOOD LOSS OR SOMETHING-- I UNDERSTAND YOU DOING THIS BUT--

THIS AIN'T IT, Y'KNOW? THESE AREN'T THE ONLY PEOPLE ALIVE, *CAN'T* BE. I'M NOT ONE OF THE LAST MEN ON EARTH. IT'S *STUPID* TO THINK WE'RE DOING BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE OUT THERE. THERE'RE TONS OF MEN LEFT. THERE *HAS* TO BE.



DALE AND ANDREA HAVE BEEN WATCHING SOPHIA FOR ME. I SHOULD PROBABLY GO GET HER. IT'S ALMOST LUNCHTIME.

HERSHEL FINISHED TILLING THE GARDEN LATE YESTERDAY AFTER HE PATCHED YOU UP.

MOST EVERYONE'S OUTSIDE HELPING HIM PLANT SEEDS-- IF YOU WANT TO CHECK IN WITH EVERYONE.





RICK--HEY. CAROL JUST TOLD ME YOU WERE UP. YOU FEELING OKAY?

DALE, I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE TRYING TO EAT PIECES OF YOU.



GO BACK IN AND SIT DOWN. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU REAL QUICK.

THAT BAD, HUH?



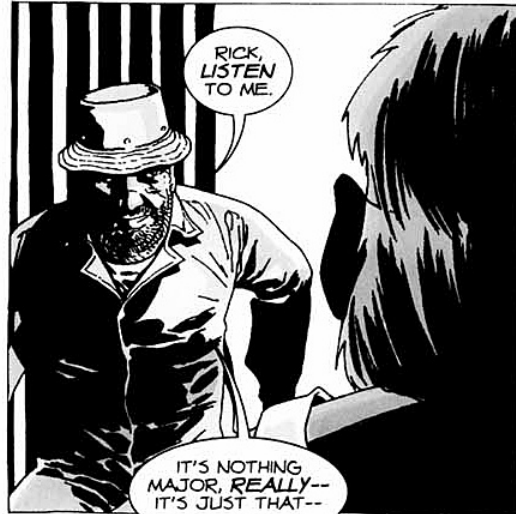
COULD BE, I GUESS. DEPENDS.



DEPENDS ON WHAT?

JUST SIT DOWN.









NO. WE VOTED--  
FORMED A  
COMMITTEE.



A  
COMMIT-  
TEE?



INSTEAD OF  
HAVING ONE PER-  
SON MAKING THE  
DECISIONS.  
GET IT?



A  
COMMIT-  
TEE.

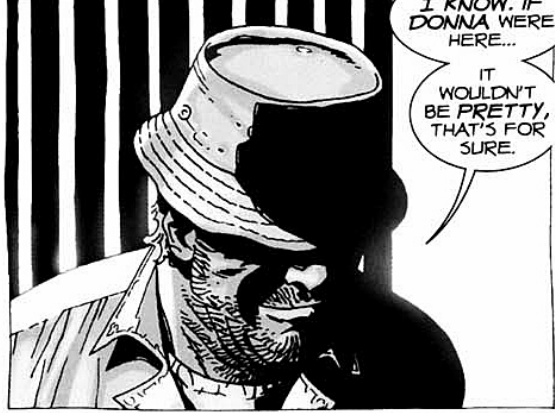
WHO'S  
ON THIS  
COMMIT-  
TEE.



YOU, ME,  
HERSHEL  
AND  
TYREESE.



THE FOUR  
OF US?  
REALLY? NO  
WOMEN?



I KNOW. IF  
DONNA WERE  
HERE...

IT  
WOULDN'T  
BE PRETTY,  
THAT'S FOR  
SURE.



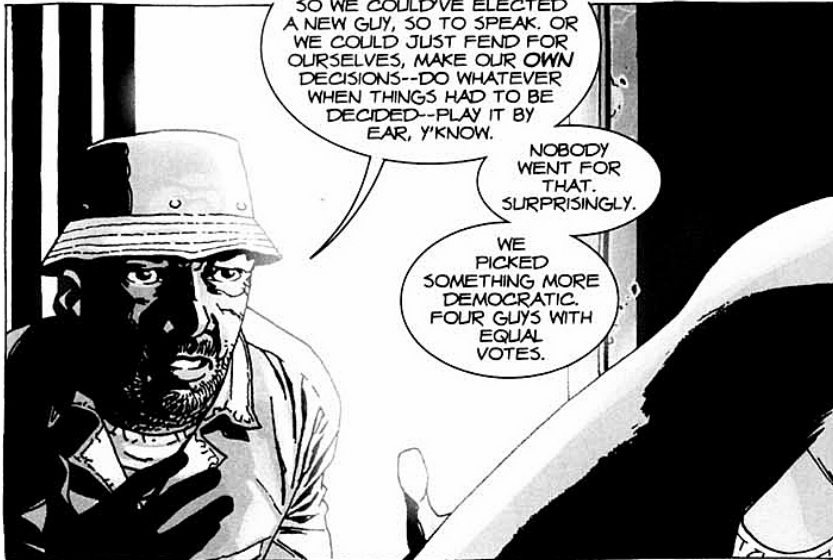
TO  
SAY THE  
LEAST.

IT WAS PUT UP TO  
A VOTE, REALLY. WE  
WERE BUSY YESTERDAY.  
WE COULD GET A NEW  
GUY IN YOUR SEAT. AND  
RICK, WE'RE ONLY DOING  
THIS BECAUSE THE  
PRESSURE SEEMS TO  
BE GETTING  
TO YOU.

UNDER-  
STAND?

YEAH.





SO WE COULD'VE ELECTED A NEW GUY, SO TO SPEAK. OR WE COULD JUST FEND FOR OURSELVES, MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS--DO WHATEVER WHEN THINGS HAD TO BE DECIDED--PLAY IT BY EAR, Y'KNOW.

NOBODY WENT FOR THAT. SURPRISINGLY.

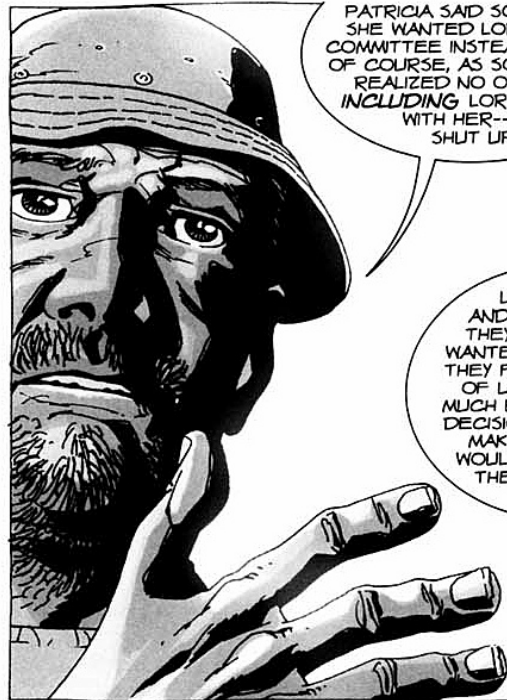
WE PICKED SOMETHING MORE DEMOCRATIC. FOUR GUYS WITH EQUAL VOTES.



NO WOMEN?



NO. THAT'S HOW THEY WANTED IT.



PATRICIA SAID SOMETHING. SHE WANTED LORI ON THE COMMITTEE INSTEAD OF YOU. OF COURSE, AS SOON AS SHE REALIZED NO ONE ELSE, INCLUDING LORI, AGREED WITH HER--SHE SHUT UP.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MICHONNE REALLY FEELS ABOUT IT. SHE'S JUST HAPPY TO BE HERE. SHE WENT THROUGH HELL OUT THERE A LOT LONGER THAN ANY OF US.

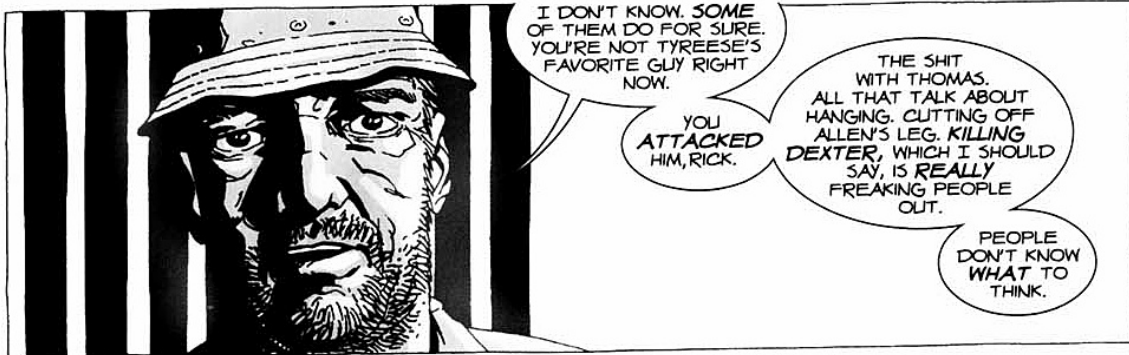
LORI, CAROL, ANDREA, MAGGIE-- THEY ALL SAID THEY WANTED US IN CHARGE. THEY FIGURE THE FOUR OF US HAVE PRETTY MUCH BEEN MAKING THE DECISIONS ANYWAY--BUT MAKING IT OFFICIAL WOULD LIFT SOME OF THE BURDEN OFF YOU.

BUT YEAH, THEY'RE FINE WITH US MAKING THE DECISIONS. TRUTH BE TOLD IT'S NOT JUST THE WOMEN, GLENN FEELS THE SAME WAY.



I THINK THEY JUST WANT TO BE PROTECTED.















WE GONNA BE EATING LUNCH ANY TIME SOON? I'M STARVING.



WE NEED TO GET THESE SEEDS IN THE GROUND--NOW. SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE WE FINISH MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE PLANTING TODAY.

CAN WE EAT LUNCH SOON?



LORI, PLEASE. I SAID I WAS SORRY. I'LL TELL HIM THE SAME AS SOON AS HE WAKES UP.



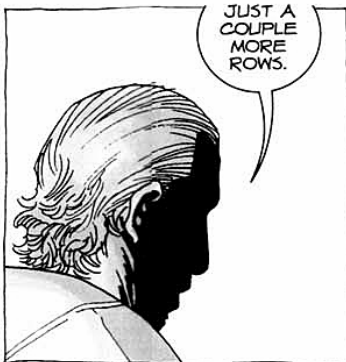
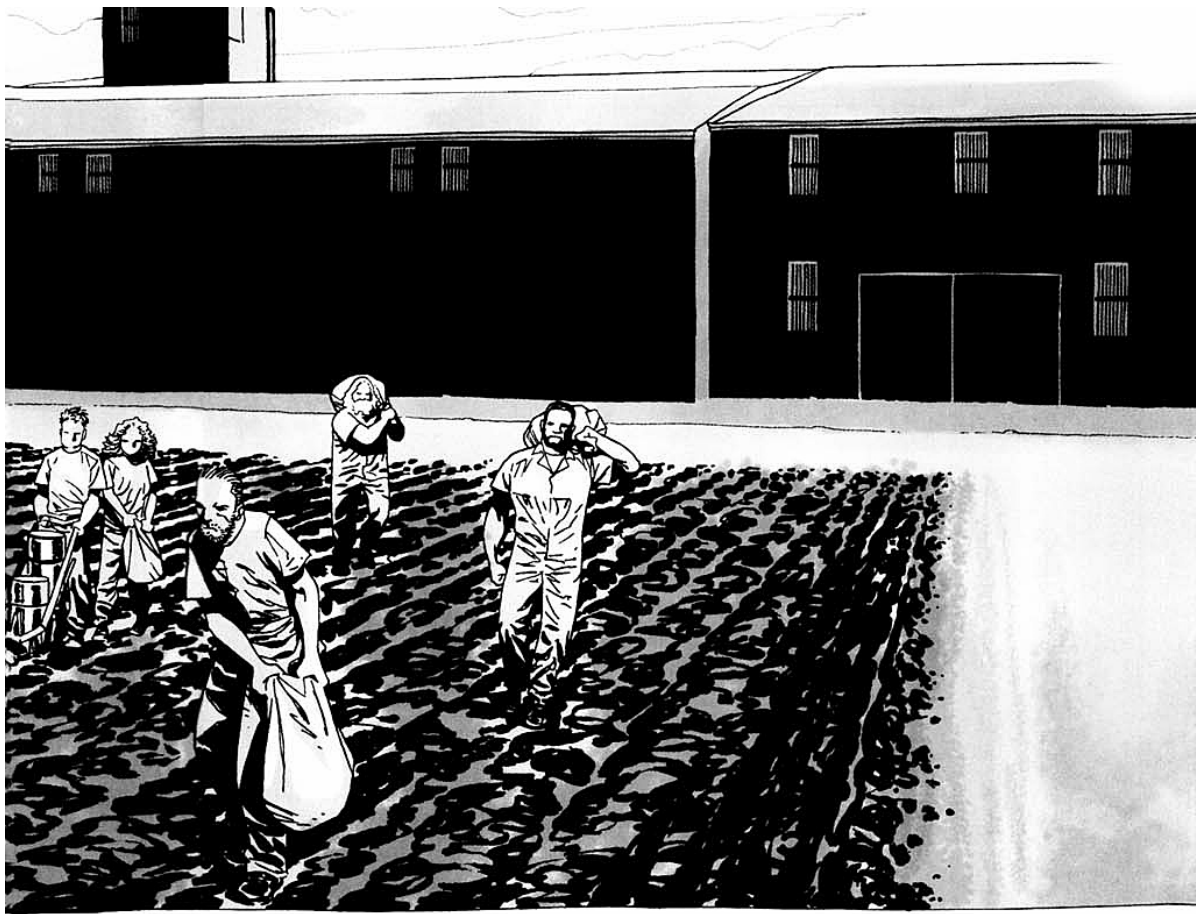
AS LONG AS HE SAYS IT FIRST.



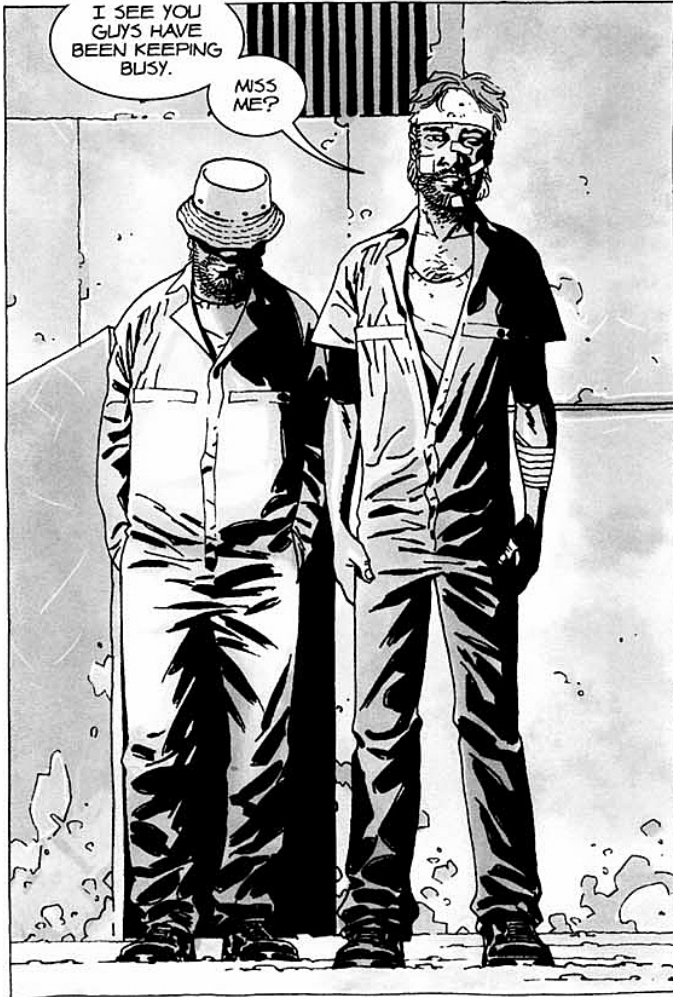
GUYS, PLEASE. Y'ALL HEARD HERSHEL. WE GOT A LOTTA PLANTIN' TA DO AND NOT A LOTTA TIME TA DO IT IN.

PRICK.









I SEE YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN KEEPING BUSY.

MISS ME?



DALE TELLS ME THINGS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED SINCE YESTER-DAY.

HE TELLS ME THERE'VE BEEN SOME CHANGES MADE.



GOOD.

I AGREE WITH YOU ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT.



I'M NOT FIT TO BE MAKING ALL THE DECISIONS AROUND HERE. NONE OF US ARE.



THIS COMMITTEE IDEA IS A GOOD ONE. I THINK IT'S SOMETHING WE REALLY NEEDED. IT FLAT OUT MAKES MORE SENSE, REALLY.

I WANT TO GET THIS ALL OUT IN THE OPEN.

BUT I'M ALSO UNDER THE IMPRESSION SOME THINGS ARE BEING SAID ABOUT ME. I'D LIKE TO JUST CLEAR THE AIR.











I AM A COP--I KNOW THAT TECHNICALLY WHAT I DID WAS WRONG. I KNOW THE LAWS--I KNOW HOW THINGS USED TO BE.


THINGS HAVE CHANGED!



WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE THE RULES, RICK. WE'VE GOT TO RETAIN OUR HUMANITY!



THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING!



I KILLED DEXTER TO PROTECT US ALL. HE WAS THREATENING TO KICK US OUT OF THIS PLACE, OUR SANCTUARY. HE WAS GOING TO FORCE US OUT INTO THE WILD. HOW HUMANE WOULD THINGS HAVE BEEN OUT THERE? HOW MANY PEOPLE DID WE LOSE ON THE WAY HERE?

I SAW AN OPENING AND I TOOK IT. THERE WAS A LOT OF CONFUSION DURING THE ATTACK. I'LL ADMIT, I SHOULD HAVE COME CLEAN RIGHT AWAY-- AND EXPLAINED MYSELF RIGHT THEN AND THERE-- BUT I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE MIGHT PREFER NOT TO KNOW JUST HOW SAVAGE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.



YOU GUYS UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT--

RIGHT?





THINGS HAVE *CHANGED*.  
THE *WORLD* HAS CHANGED--  
AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
TO CHANGE WITH IT.

UNDERSTAND?

DO YOU PEOPLE  
STILL THINK WE'RE  
GOING TO BE  
RESCUED?!

DO  
YOU?!



**THEY'RE NOT  
COMING!!**

THINK ABOUT  
IT!! IT'S BEEN  
**ALMOST A YEAR!!**  
WE'RE ON OUR OWN--  
IT'S JUST US AND  
**THIS PLACE**. THAT'S  
ALL WE HAVE  
FOR SURE.

IF YOU STILL THINK  
THINGS ARE GOING  
TO GO BACK TO THE  
WAY THEY WERE--**STOP!**  
THEY'RE NOT! NOTHING  
WILL EVER BE THE  
WAY IT USED  
TO BE.

**EVER!**



DO YOU THINK YOU'RE  
EVER GOING TO WATCH  
TELEVISION AGAIN? GO  
TO THE BANK? BUY  
GROCERIES? DROP  
YOUR KIDS OFF AT  
SCHOOL?!

**EVER?!**

IT WILL NEVER  
HAPPEN! YOU CAN COME  
TO GRIPS WITH THAT SAD FACT--  
OR YOU CAN SIT AROUND WISHING  
FOR IT TO HAPPEN! YOU CAN SIT  
AROUND TRYING TO FOLLOW EVERY  
RETARDED LITTLE RULE WE EVER  
INVENTED TO MAKE US FEEL LIKE  
WE WEREN'T ANIMALS--AND  
YOU CAN DIE!





WE WILL CHANGE! WE WILL EVOLVE. WE'LL MAKE NEW RULES--WE'LL STILL BE HUMANE AND KIND AND WE'LL STILL CARE FOR EACH OTHER.

BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES-- WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP US SAFE.

WHAT-EVER IT TAKES!



"YOU KILL--YOU DIE."



THAT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST NAIVE THING I'VE EVER SAID.



THE FACT IS--IN MOST CASES, NOW, THE WAY THINGS ARE--YOU KILL--YOU LIVE.



WE HAVE TO ADAPT TO THIS WORLD IF WE ARE GOING TO SURVIVE. HAVE I GONE A LITTLE CRAZY? MAYBE-- BUT SO HAS THE WORLD.

I WILL DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO TO KEEP US SAFE. WHATEVER IT IS--I WILL DO IT.

BUT YOU HAVE TO STOP THE CHARADE-- YOU'VE GOT TO STOP FOOLING YOURSELVES.

THIS IS IT. THIS IS OUR LIFE. WE'RE NOT WAITING HERE. WE'RE NOT BIDDING OUR TIME--WAITING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT. OR WAITING TO BE RESCUED!

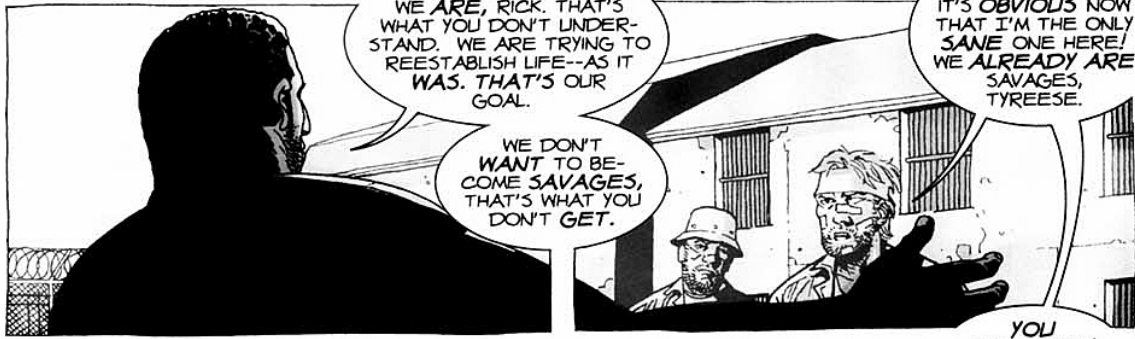
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO BE THE LEADER? FINE. I DON'T CARE. I'M HAPPY TO BE WITHOUT THE PRESSURE. I WILL TELL YOU THIS RIGHT NOW, THOUGH.

IF YOU WANT TO STOP BUTTING HEADS WITH ME--IF YOU WANT TO GET ON THE SAME PAGE WITH ME--UNDERSTAND THAT.

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE! THIS IS ALL WE'LL EVER HAVE.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THINGS BETTER, MAKE THIS PLACE BETTER. WE HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THAT.



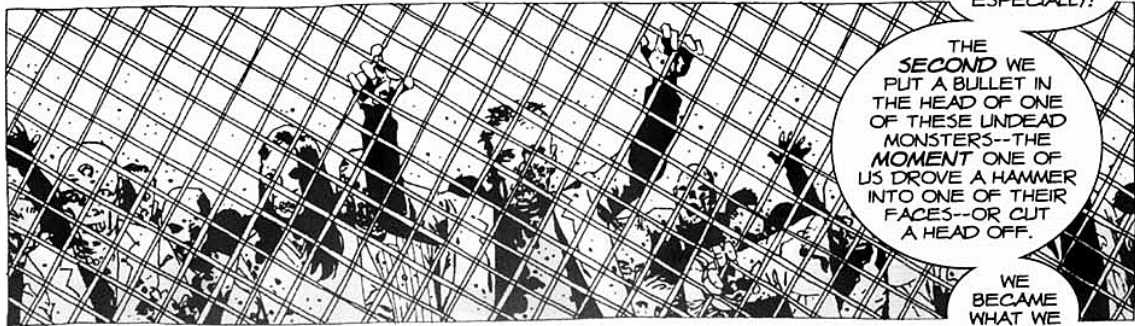


WE ARE, RICK. THAT'S WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE ARE TRYING TO REESTABLISH LIFE--AS IT WAS. THAT'S OUR GOAL.

WE DON'T WANT TO BECOME SAVAGES, THAT'S WHAT YOU DON'T GET.

IT'S OBVIOUS NOW THAT I'M THE ONLY **SANE** ONE HERE! WE **ALREADY** ARE SAVAGES, TYRESE.

YOU ESPECIALLY!



THE **SECOND** WE PUT A BULLET IN THE HEAD OF ONE OF THESE UNDEAD MONSTERS--THE **MOMENT** ONE OF US DROVE A HAMMER INTO ONE OF THEIR FACES--OR CUT A HEAD OFF.

WE BECAME WHAT WE ARE!



AND THAT'S JUST IT. THAT'S WHAT THIS COMES DOWN TO. YOU PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE ARE.

WE'RE **SURROUNDED** BY THE DEAD.

WE'RE **AMONG** THEM--AND WHEN WE FINALLY GIVE UP WE **BECOME** THEM! WE'RE LIVING ON **BORROWED** TIME HERE. EVERY MINUTE OF OUR LIFE IS A MINUTE WE STEAL FROM THEM!



YOU SEE THEM OUT THERE. YOU KNOW THAT WHEN WE DIE--WE **BECOME** THEM. YOU THINK WE HIDE BEHIND WALLS TO PROTECT US FROM THE **WALKING** DEAD!

DON'T YOU GET IT?













**WE  
ARE THE  
WALKING  
DEAD!**





