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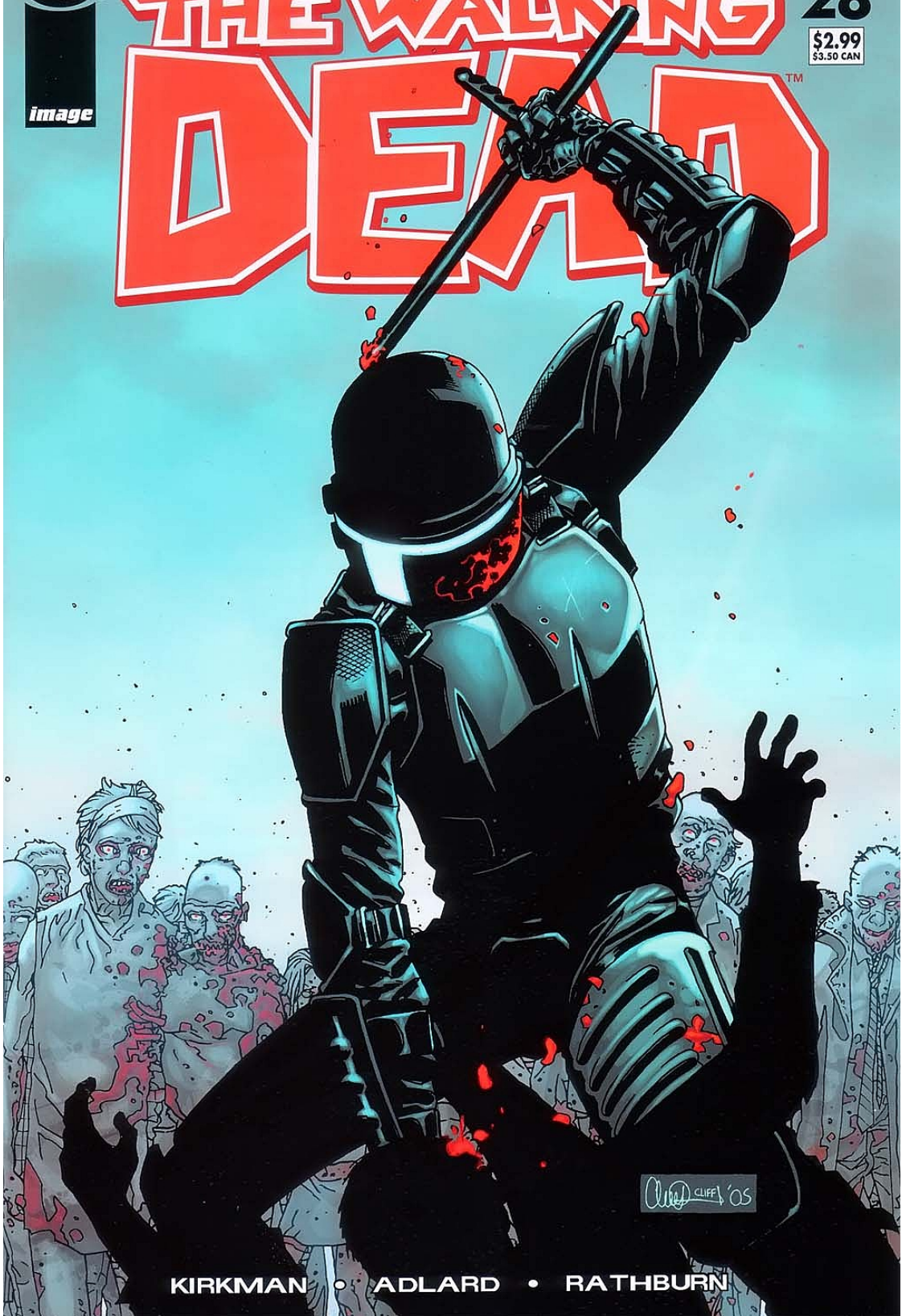
The Walking Dead - I

Robert Kirkman



THE WALKING DEAD

28
\$2.99
\$3.50 CAN



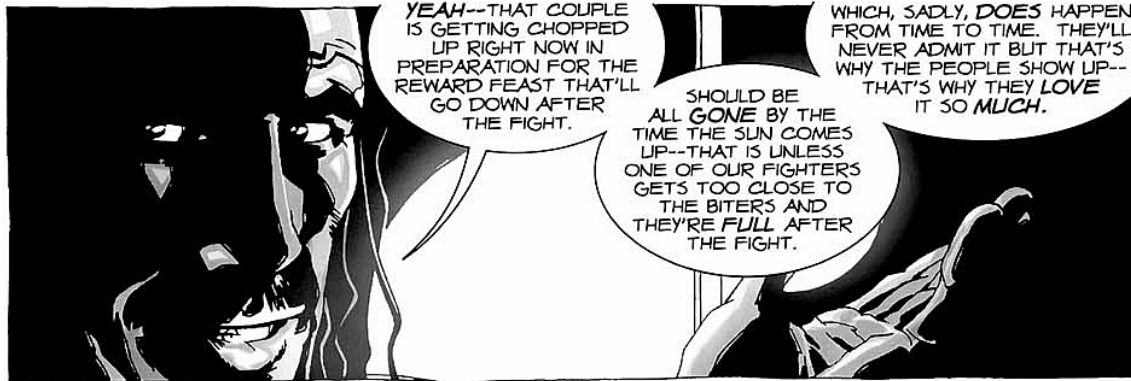
CLIFF '05

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN



SO THAT'S IT THEN? YOU'RE GOING TO FEED US TO YOUR PET ZOMBIES?

IS THAT WHAT YOU DID WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE HELICOPTER?



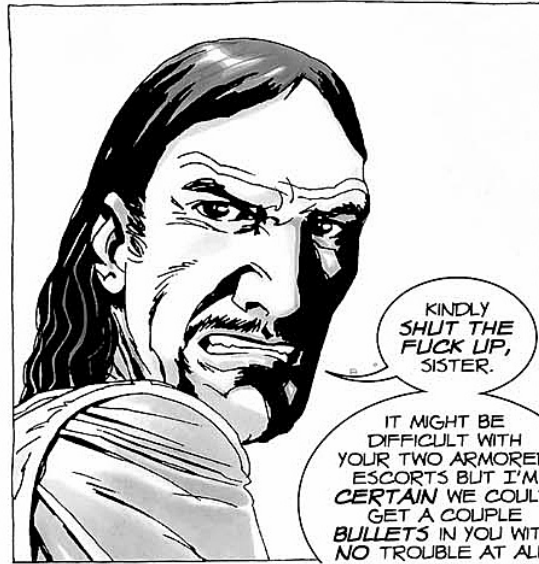
YEAH--THAT COUPLE IS GETTING CHOPPED UP RIGHT NOW IN PREPARATION FOR THE REWARD FEAST THAT'LL GO DOWN AFTER THE FIGHT.

SHOULD BE ALL GONE BY THE TIME THE SUN COMES UP--THAT IS UNLESS ONE OF OUR FIGHTERS GETS TOO CLOSE TO THE BITERS AND THEY'RE FULL AFTER THE FIGHT.

WHICH, SADLY, DOES HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME. THEY'LL NEVER ADMIT IT BUT THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE SHOW UP-- THAT'S WHY THEY LOVE IT SO MUCH.

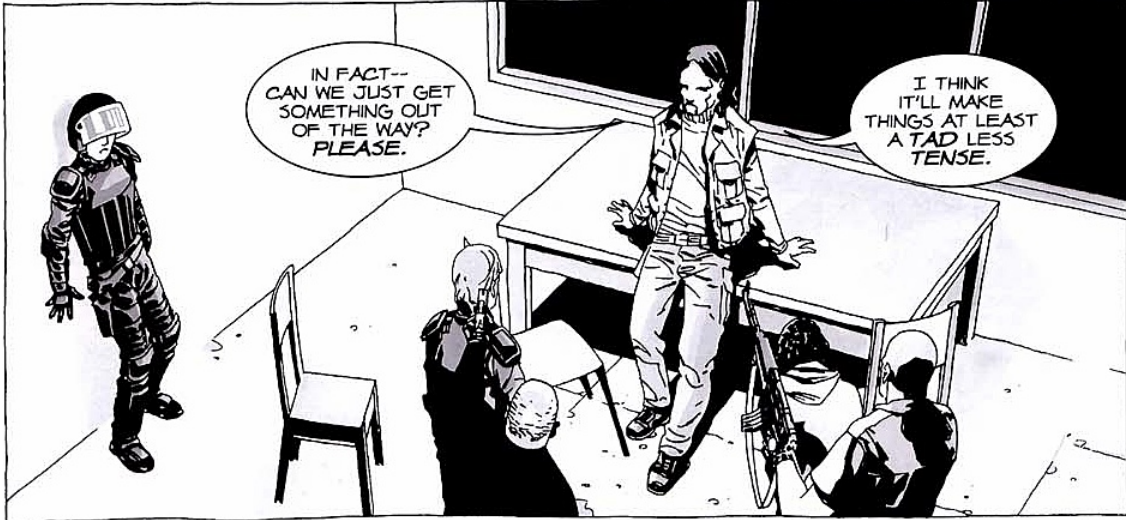


YOU SICK FUCK!



KINDLY SHUT THE FUCK UP, SISTER.

IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT WITH YOUR TWO ARMORED ESCORTS BUT I'M CERTAIN WE COULD GET A COUPLE BULLETS IN YOU WITH NO TROUBLE AT ALL.



IN FACT--
CAN WE JUST GET
SOMETHING OUT
OF THE WAY?
PLEASE.

I THINK
IT'LL MAKE
THINGS AT LEAST
A TAD LESS
TENSE.



CAN WE JUST ALL COME
TO THE UNDERSTANDING
THAT WE'VE GOT ALL
THE GUNS--AND IF YOU
STRUGGLE OR TRY TO
LEAVE THIS ROOM MY
GUARDS WILL KILL
YOU WHERE YOU
STAND?

CAN
YOU JUST
ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT YOU
REALIZE
THAT?



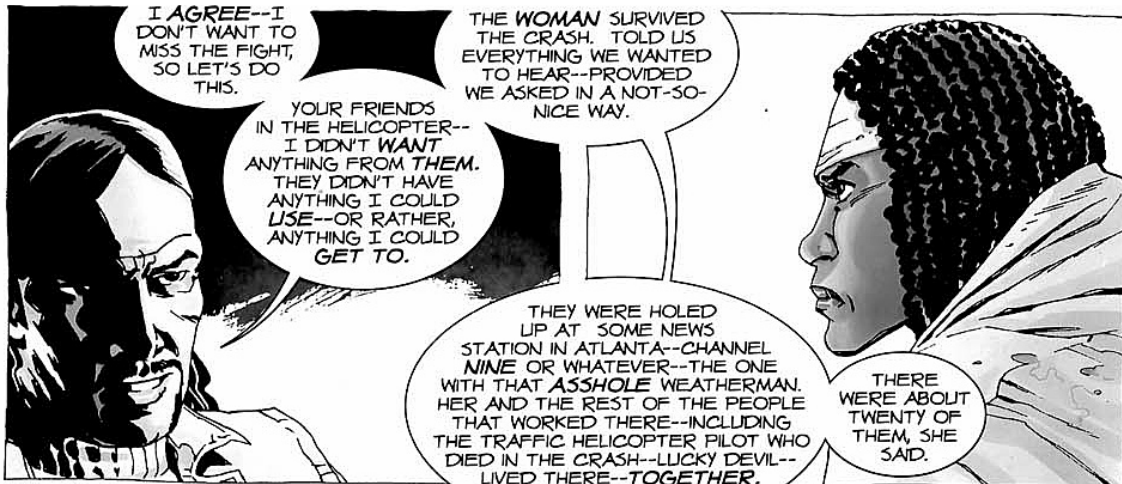
I DON'T CARE
WHETHER YOU LIVE
OR DIE--DON'T
MISUNDERSTAND ME.
I JUST DON'T WANT
YOU TO GET
ACCIDENTALLY SHOT
WHILE I'M TRYING
TO TALK.



I HATE
GETTING
INTERRUPTED.

YOU'VE GOT
US OVER A
BARREL--YOU
WANT TO TALK--
TALK.

JUST
GET IT
OVER
WITH.



I AGREE--I DON'T WANT TO MISS THE FIGHT, SO LET'S DO THIS.

THE WOMAN SURVIVED THE CRASH. TOLD US EVERYTHING WE WANTED TO HEAR--PROVIDED WE ASKED IN A NOT-SO-NICE WAY.

YOUR FRIENDS IN THE HELICOPTER-- I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING FROM THEM. THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING I COULD USE--OR RATHER, ANYTHING I COULD GET TO.

THEY WERE HOLED UP AT SOME NEWS STATION IN ATLANTA--CHANNEL NINE OR WHATEVER--THE ONE WITH THAT ASSHOLE WEATHERMAN. HER AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE THAT WORKED THERE--INCLUDING THE TRAFFIC HELICOPTER PILOT WHO DIED IN THE CRASH--LUCKY DEVIL--LIVED THERE--TOGETHER.

THERE WERE ABOUT TWENTY OF THEM, SHE SAID.



THEY TURNED ON EACH OTHER--RAN OUT OF FOOD--SOMETHING--STARTING KILLING EACH OTHER. OUR LADY AND THE PILOT GOT OUT--BUT SOME SICK FUCK SABOTAGED THE HELICOPTER'S ENGINE.

SEEMS HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE NOBODY LEFT WITHOUT HIM.

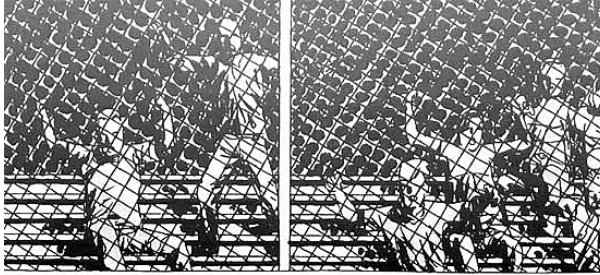
THERE'S A LESSON THERE. YOU GOTTA KEEP PEOPLE OCCUPIED OR THEY'LL TURN ON YOU. READING AND FUCKING WILL ONLY KEEP PEOPLE BUSY FOR SO LONG. EVENTUALLY THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING ELSE.

HENCE OUR LITTLE SPORTING EVENT HERE.



BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT--FOR NOW. THERE'RE PLENTY OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO HAVE IN THAT BUILDING--THE CHANNEL NINE BUILDING... BUT IN THE CENTER OF ATLANTA--BITERVILLE--AIN'T NO WAY I'M GOING TO GET TO IT.

SO THEY GET FED TO THE BITERS. I MEAN, SOMEBODY'S GOTTA BE--WHY NOT THEM?



WE BETTER WRAP THIS UP *QUICK*-- THE FIGHT'S STARTING.

WHERE WAS I?



AH, YES. YOUR FRIENDS IN THE HELICOPTER WERE OF NO *USE* TO ME. SO THEY GOT FED TO THE BITERS. YOU ON THE OTHER HAND--I THINK I CAN *USE* YOU.



I KNOW YOUR STORY WAS BULLSHIT. YOU'VE JUST BEEN WALKING AROUND OUT THERE ALL THIS TIME?

NOT *FUCKING* LIKELY.



YOUR GUNS, YOUR FOOD, BULLETS, VEHICLES, TOOLS, OTHER WEAPONS... THOSE *SUITS*-- ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

I MEAN-- DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU JUST FOUND THOSE *SUITS* DURING YOUR TRAVELS?



YOU SHOULD JUST KILL US NOW. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU. WE *FOUND* THESE *SUITS* ON SOME DEAD BODIES. THAT'S *HOW* WE'VE BEEN SURVIVING OUT THERE.



THERE IS NO *CAMP*. THERE ARE NO OTHER PEOPLE-- NO OTHER *SUPPLIES*.



YOU WALKED HERE. THAT MEANS THAT WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM IS REASONABLY CLOSE TO HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT, SISTER--I DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF YOUR STORY. OBVIOUSLY, YOU WERE RIGHT NOT TO TRUST ME BUT I SAW THROUGH YOUR STORY IMMEDIATELY.

NO, YOU'RE CLOSE BY HERE--SOMEWHERE--A WAREHOUSE--A SCHOOL--A FARM. I'LL ADMIT, I DON'T KNOW THE AREA ALL THAT WELL. I'M NOT FROM HERE.

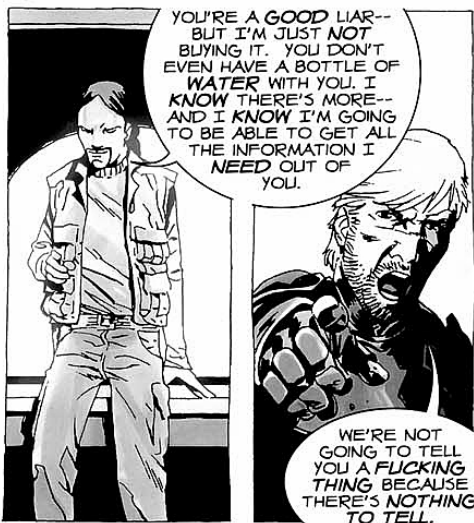
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOUR LIVING SITUATION IS FINE--WHAT WOULD YOU EVEN WANT FROM US?



BUT I'M NOT STUPID.

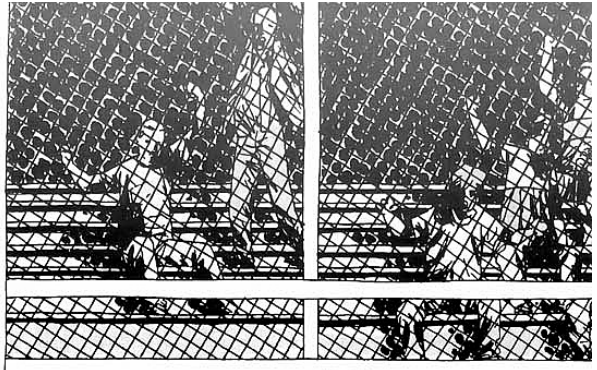


EVERYTHING.



YOU'RE A GOOD LIAR-- BUT I'M JUST NOT BUYING IT. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A BOTTLE OF WATER WITH YOU. I KNOW THERE'S MORE-- AND I KNOW I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION I NEED OUT OF YOU.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL YOU A FUCKING THING BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING TO TELL.







BRUCE IS REALLY STRONG, SO RESISTING IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME.

NOW-- LET'S GET SOME THINGS STRAIGHT.



YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW. I'VE GOT THREE OF YOU. I CAN DO ALL KINDS OF NASTY THINGS TO YOU IN FRONT OF EACH OTHER.

ONE OF YOU WILL TALK. THAT'S JUST HOW IT WORKS.

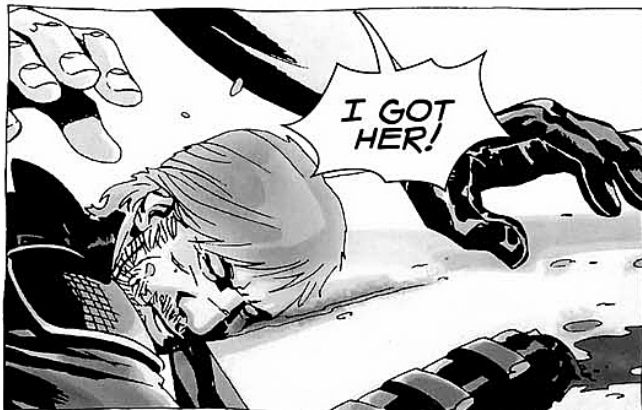
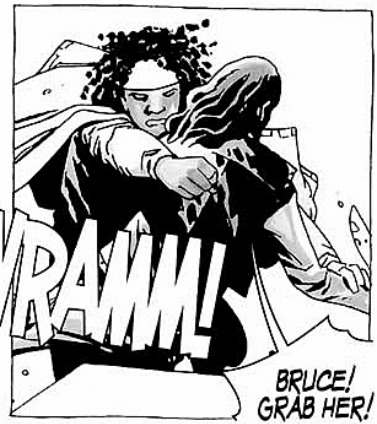


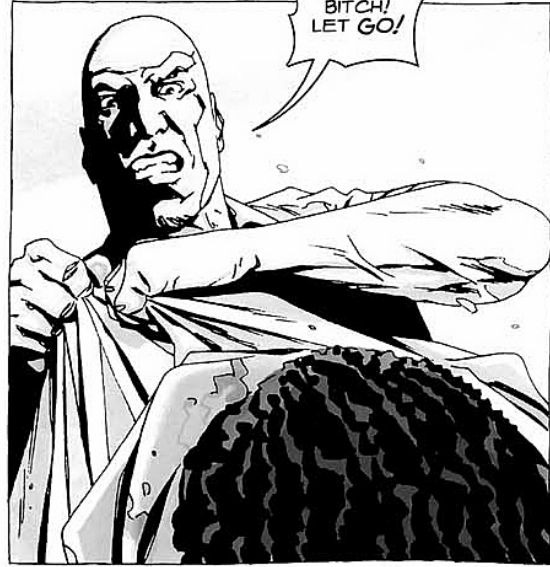
I WILL GET WHAT I WANT. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT THAT.

DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?











I'M GONNA
BREAK THIS
LITTLE BITCH'S
NECK.

JUST
SAY THE
WORD,
BOSS.



NO!

DON'T DO
A FLICKING
THING TO
HER!!



I DON'T--UGH--
WANT THIS GIRL
TO GET A
BRUISE THAT
DOESN'T COME
FROM ME.

SHE'LL
SUFFER FOR
WHAT SHE'S DONE--SHE'LL
WISH SHE WAS DEAD. THE
THINGS I'M GOING TO DO
TO HER--THE PAIN
I'M GOING TO
CAUSE HER.

THIS IS
GOING TO
BE FUN.



FIGHT'S OVER. WHEN
THE CROWD THINS
OUT--WHEN THEY'RE
GONE, TAKE THE BOY
AND LOCK HIM UP. PUT
OUR PIECE OF BROWN
SUGAR IN THE
ROOM.

AND SEND
SOMEONE UP
HERE TO HELP
ME GET OUR ONE-
HANDED FRIEND
TO THE DOC
BEFORE HE
BLEEDS TO
DEATH.

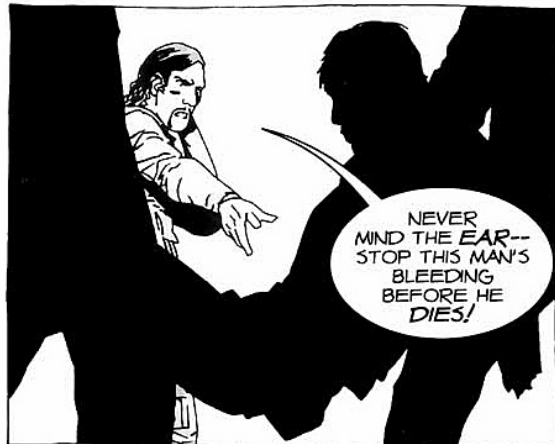


WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON THAT YOU HAVE TO DRAG ME HERE THIS LATE? YOU BETTER BE DYING OR--

STEVENS! SHUT THE FUCK UP, PLEASE. WE'VE GOT A SITUATION.



JESUS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EAR?



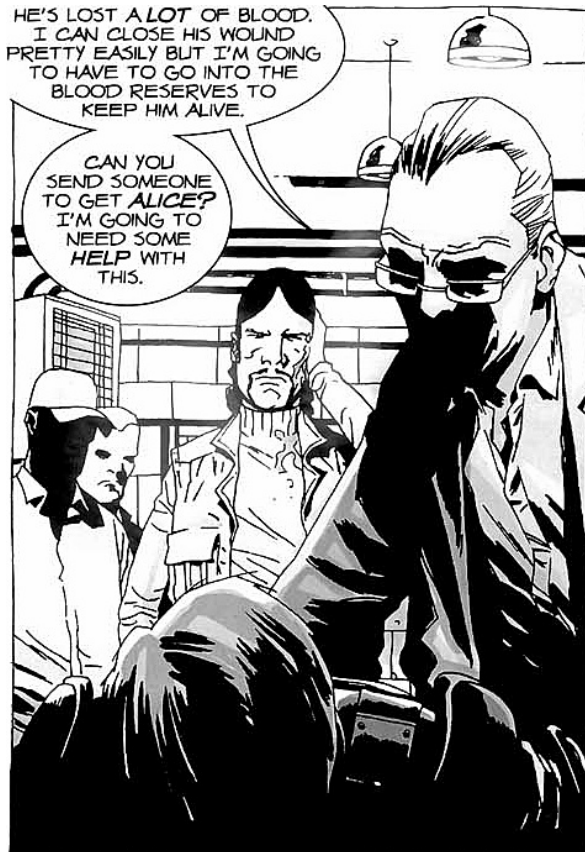
NEVER MIND THE EAR-- STOP THIS MAN'S BLEEDING BEFORE HE DIES!



WHO IS THIS MAN? I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. IS THIS ANOTHER VICTIM OF YOUR GODDAMN ARENA FIGHTS? WHO DID THIS TO HIM?



YOU FORGET THE AGREEMENT? I KEEP THIS LITTLE COMMUNITY FED, HAPPY, AND WELL SUPPLIED AND YOU DON'T ASK ANY GODDAMN QUESTIONS.



HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD. I CAN CLOSE HIS WOUND PRETTY EASILY BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO INTO THE BLOOD RESERVES TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.

CAN YOU SEND SOMEONE TO GET ALICE? I'M GOING TO NEED SOME HELP WITH THIS.



I'LL SEND ALICE DOWN HERE DANCING ON A RUBBER BALL IF YOU WANT--USE THE BLOOD, KEEP THE GENERATOR GOING ALL NIGHT--I DON'T GIVE A FUCK. JUST KEEP THIS ASSHOLE ALIVE.

HE'S GOT SOMETHING I WANT. I'M FAR FROM THROUGH WITH HIM.



WHATEVER YOU SAY, MISTER GOVERNOR. YOU'RE THE BOSS.



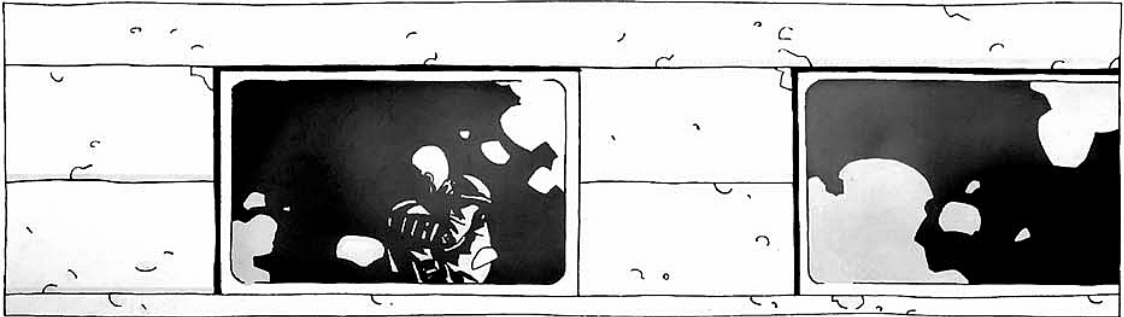
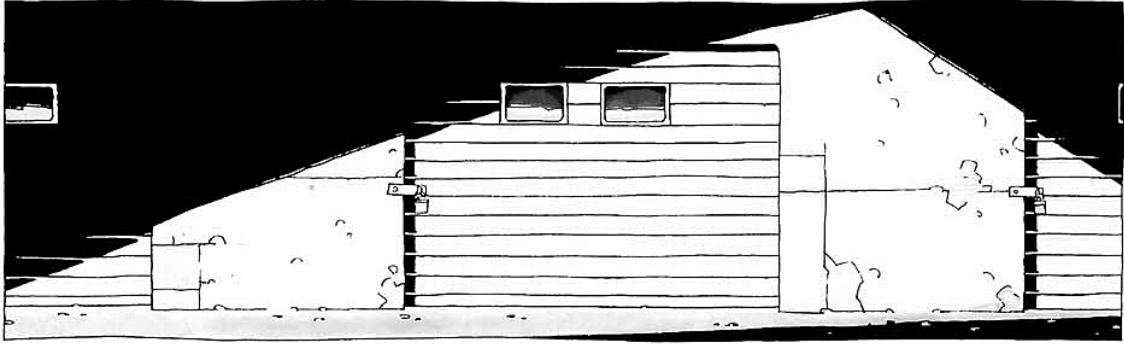
RIGHT, VERY CUTE, STEVENS. AS IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN ANYTHING CLOSE TO OBEDIENT.

HM.



BLEEDING HAS STOPPED. WORK ON THIS MAN--I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO AND YOU CAN BANDAGE UP WHAT'S LEFT OF MY EAR.











WE CAN LEARN SO MUCH FROM THEM, Y'KNOW--JUST BY WATCHING THEM. THEY'VE BEEN AT IT ALL NIGHT. THEY JUST DON'T STOP--THEY'RE RESILIENT. THEY EAT UNTIL IT'S GONE AND THEN THEY'RE CONTENT.

I ALMOST ADMIRE THEM.

THE THING YOU HAVE TO REALIZE IS THAT THEY'RE JUST US--THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT. THEY WANT WHAT THEY WANT, THEY TAKE WHAT THEY WANT AND AFTER THEY GET WHAT THEY WANT--THEY'RE ONLY CONTENT FOR THE BRIEFEST SPAN OF TIME.

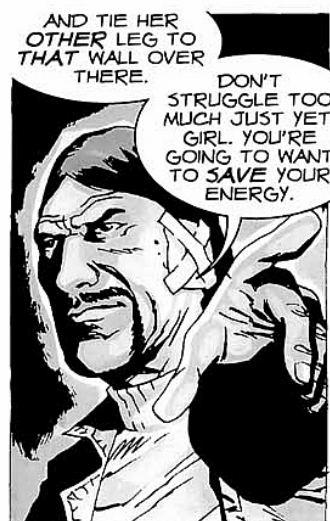
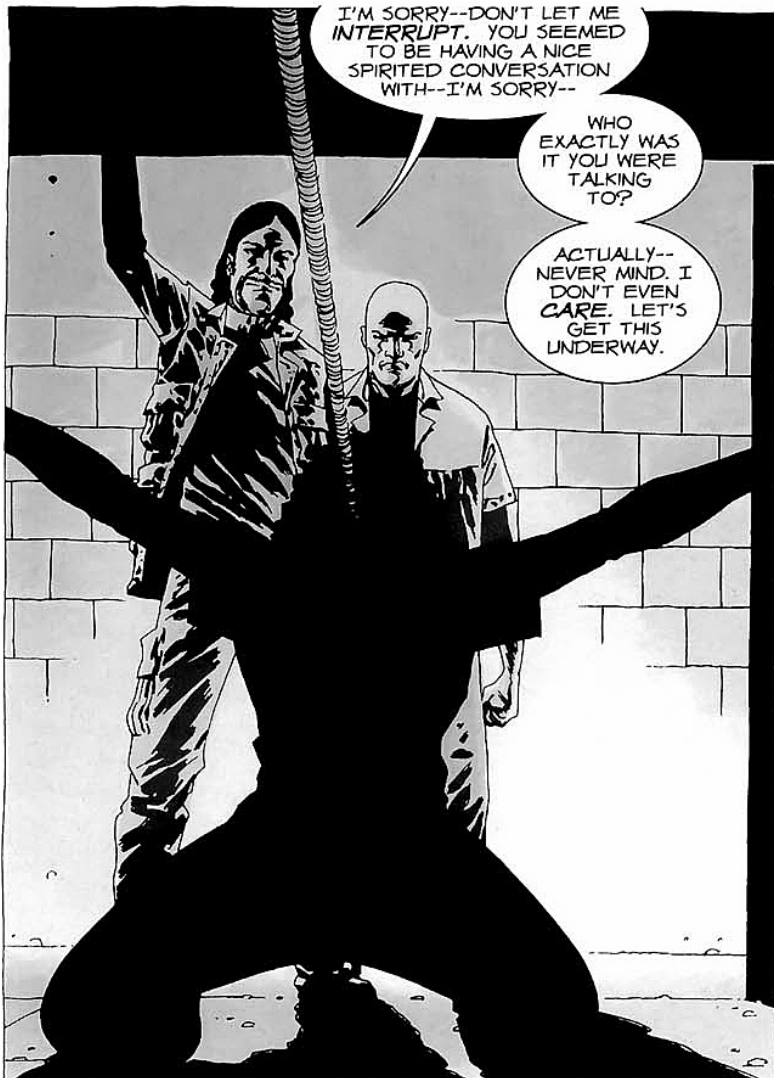
THEN THEY WANT MORE.

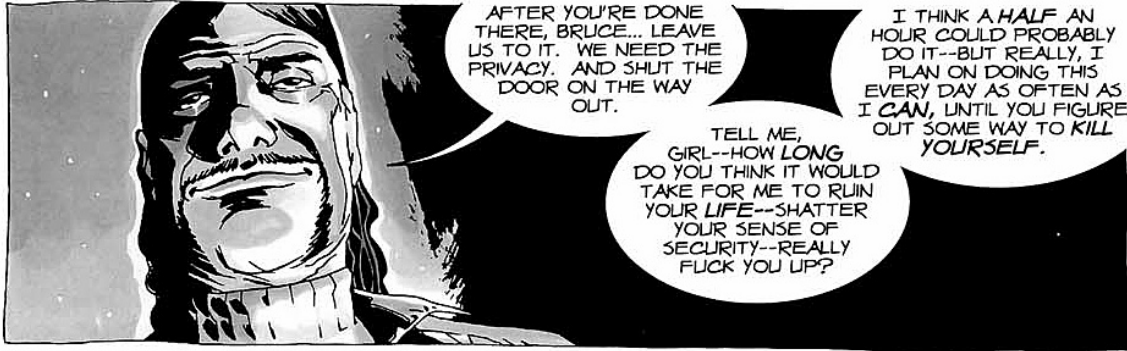
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?

YOU WANTED ME TO COME GET YOU WHEN THE WOMAN CALMED DOWN.

SHE'S CALMED DOWN... FOR THE MOST PART.

OH--THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?





AFTER YOU'RE DONE THERE, BRUCE... LEAVE US TO IT. WE NEED THE PRIVACY. AND SHUT THE DOOR ON THE WAY OUT.

I THINK A *HALF* AN HOUR COULD PROBABLY DO IT--BUT REALLY, I PLAN ON DOING THIS EVERY DAY AS OFTEN AS I *CAN*, UNTIL YOU FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO *KILL YOURSELF*.

TELL ME, GIRL--HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WOULD TAKE FOR ME TO RUIN YOUR *LIFE*--SHATTER YOUR SENSE OF SECURITY--REALLY FLICK YOU UP?



THIS IS GOING TO BE *FUN*.

