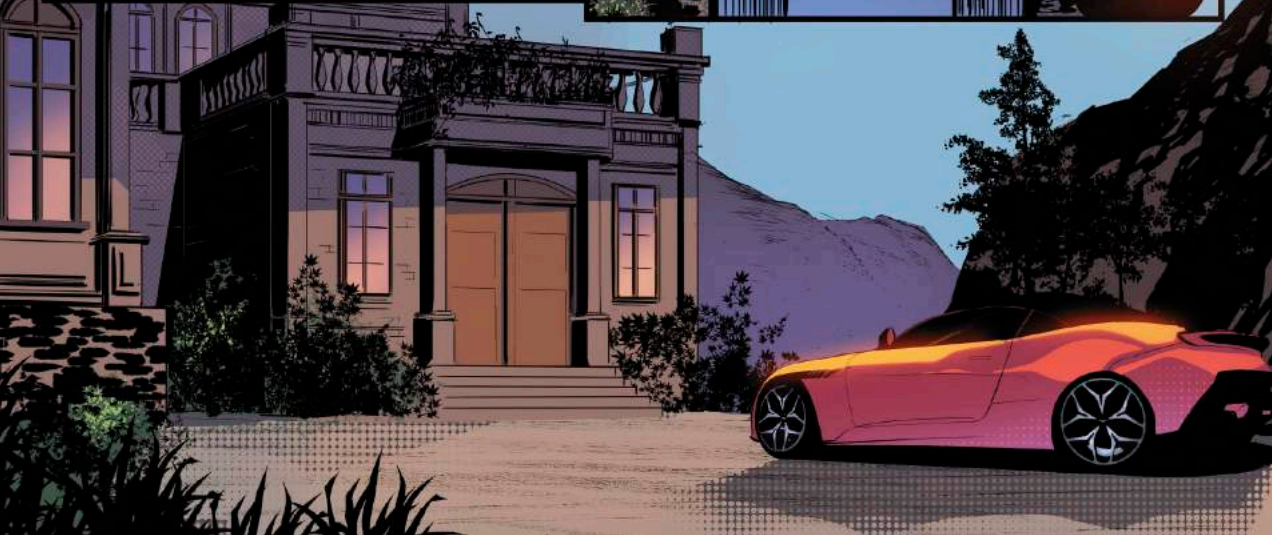
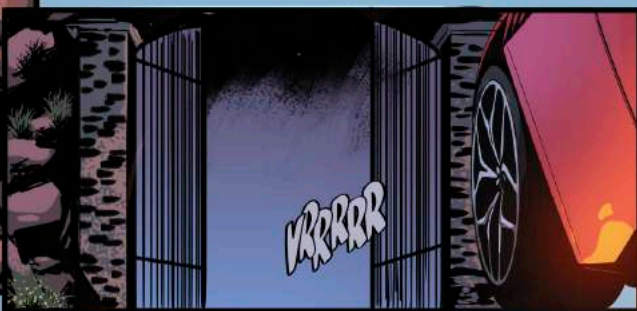
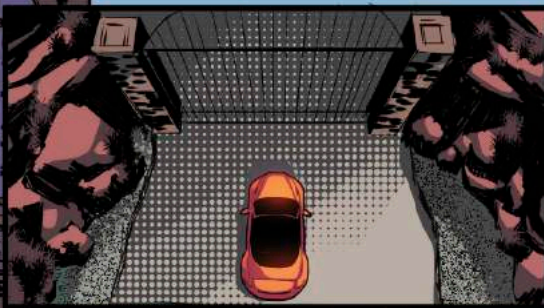
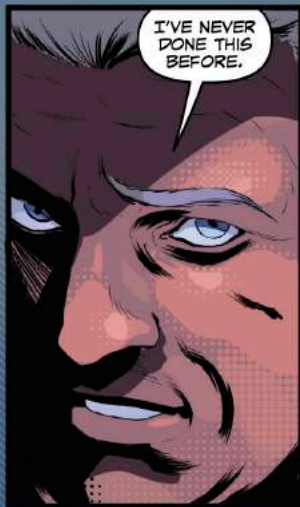
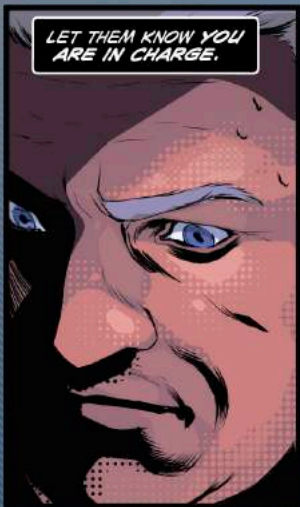
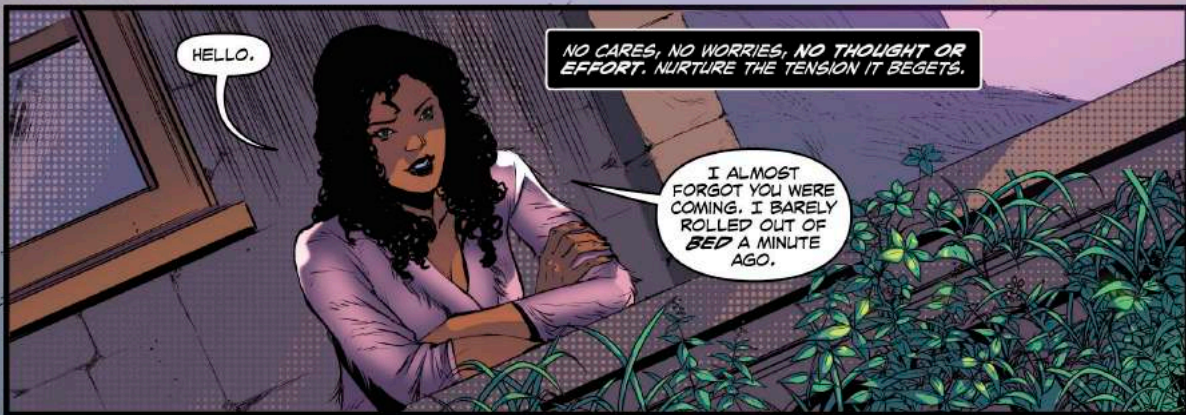
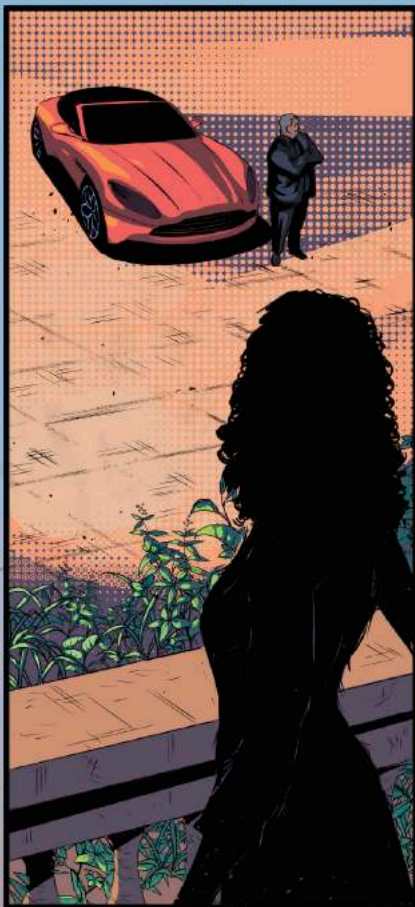


Morning.

Somewhere along the Potomac River amongst the Appalachian Mountains.







THIS IS...AH... NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN HIDING. I'VE BEEN DOWN THAT ROAD, AND IT'S NOT FOR ME.

THAT IS WHY WE'RE NOT MEETING IN SOME DARK PARKING GARAGE OR DINGY BASEMENT.

I WANT MY CLIENTS TO FEEL LIKE THEY KNOW ME. SO, I SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHO I AM--



THEN, RELAX THEM.



--AND I EXPECT THE SAME IN RETURN.

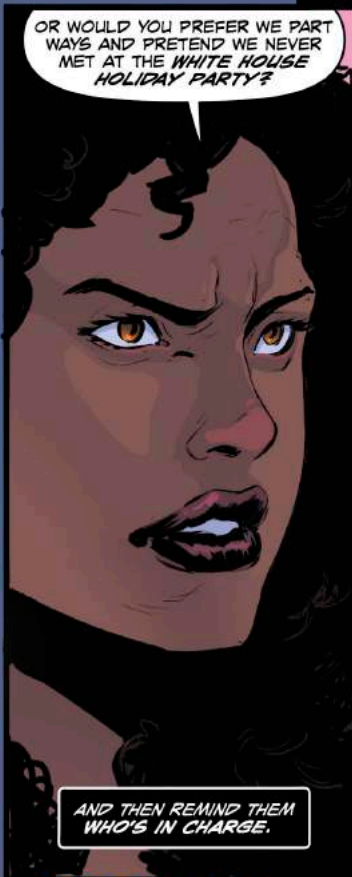
THAT DOESN'T SEEM WISE.

SENATOR MARKS, NONE OF THIS HAS TO BE SCARY. JUST A LITTLE BUSINESS DEAL.

QUELL THEIR ANXIETY.



BESIDES, ARE YOU GOING TO TURN ME IN?



OR WOULD YOU PREFER WE PART WAYS AND PRETEND WE NEVER MET AT THE WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY PARTY?

AND THEN REMIND THEM WHO'S IN CHARGE.



COME, MEET MY BABIES. I JUST NEED TO CHANGE.

NEXT, PRIME THEM FOR THE BIG DECISION. ENGAGE THEM IN ANOTHER NEW EXPERIENCE, FOR MY CLIENTELE, THAT MEANS ANYTHING BIGGER THAN A LABRADOODLE.

HAVE YOU BEEN AROUND HORSES VERY MUCH, SENATOR?

THEY CAN TELL. JUST BREATHE.

I GREW UP IN THE CITY.

WELL, YOU'RE A SHORT MAN.

OH.

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL. BIGGER UP CLOSE.

I DON'T ALWAYS EMASCULATE THEM. THAT WAS A FREEBIE.

IT'S OKAY. HE DOESN'T BITE.



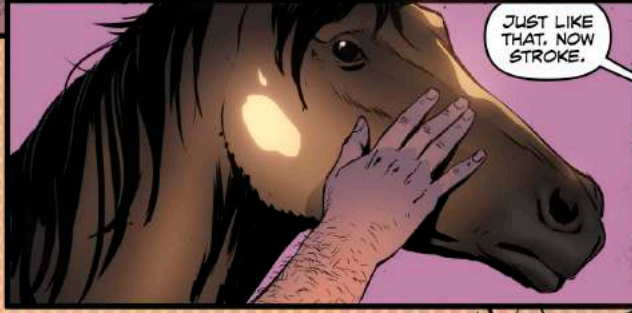
FINALLY, POP THE QUESTION.



SO, WHO AM I MURDERING FOR YOU?

WHAT?!

THE REASON YOU'RE HERE.



JUST LIKE THAT. NOW STROKE.

AND WATCH THEM SMILE.

I NEED YOU TO, UH... TAKE DOWN ROGER REYNOLDS.





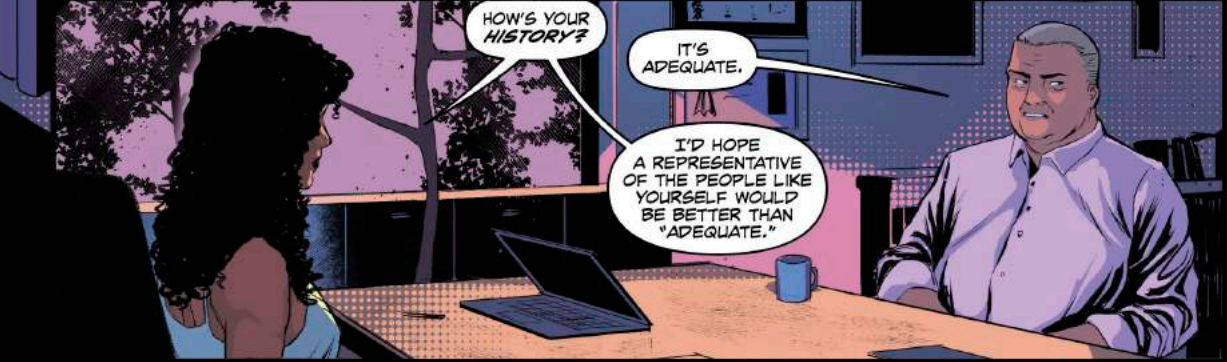
I'VE NEVER KILLED A SUPER BEFORE, LET ALONE ONE AS HIGH-PROFILE AS **THE HARBINGER**.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU WON'T DO IT?

OF COURSE NOT. THERE ARE JUST OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER NOW.



LIKE WHAT?



HOW'S YOUR HISTORY?

IT'S ADEQUATE.

I'D HOPE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF WOULD BE BETTER THAN "ADEQUATE."



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A PARENT?

FLAP FLAP



OF COURSE, DOESN'T EVERYBODY AT A CERTAIN POINT?



ALLOW ME TO EXPOUND UPON MY QUESTION.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ORPHANED AS A YOUNG CHILD BY A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED GENOCIDE?



A WITCH IS SOMEONE BORN WITH MAGICK IN HER CHEST, SOMEONE CONNECTED TO THE EARTH IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY.

THE REST OF YOU CAN'T SEE MAGICK--BUT YOU CAN FEEL ITS PRESENCE; ITS SIMULTANEOUS ICY WARMTH AND SWELTERING CHILL.



IT EXISTS WITHIN US BOTH AS A PART OF OUR BEING AND AN ENERGY TO WHICH WE HAVE NO CLAIM, BUT IT MAKES US WHO AND WHAT WE ARE. TWENTY YEARS AGO, WE WERE THRIVING.



AND WHAT WE ARE NOW, IS DEAD.

MY MOTHER WAS THE VICE-PRESIDENT ELECT, YOU KNOW. MY FATHER RAN A RESPECTED LOCAL BOOK STORE. AND THEN THE COUNTRY DECIDED IT HAD HAD ENOUGH OF OUR SUCCESSES--OF OUR ASSERTIONS THAT WE HAD A RIGHT TO EXIST.



WE WERE HUNTED DOWN WHEN WE WERE AT OUR WEAKEST BASED ON AN EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

THE HARBINGER WAS THE ONLY SUPER TO OPPOSE THIS PUBLICLY. HE PROTESTED IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE FOR TWELVE WEEKS STRAIGHT.



DO YOU WANT... AN APOLOGY?

ALL THIS IS TO EXPLAIN TO YOU WHY I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CHARGE DOUBLE.



JESUS CHRIST.

PROBLEM?

NO.



THIS IS A BINDING MAGICAL CONTRACT. IT ENSURES BOTH YOUR SILENCE AND YOUR SAFETY, UNLESS YOU ARE NOT SILENT...

\*...IN WHICH CASE, NOTHING IS GUARANTEED.

"IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A PRIOR COMMITMENT. DON'T FORGET ANYTHING ON YOUR WAY OUT. AS SOON AS YOU DRIVE AROUND THAT FIRST BEND, YOU'LL BE UNABLE TO RECALL WHETHER I LIVE IN VIRGINIA OR IRELAND."

"HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND, SENATOR."



YOUR TENTH MURDER IS FREE

