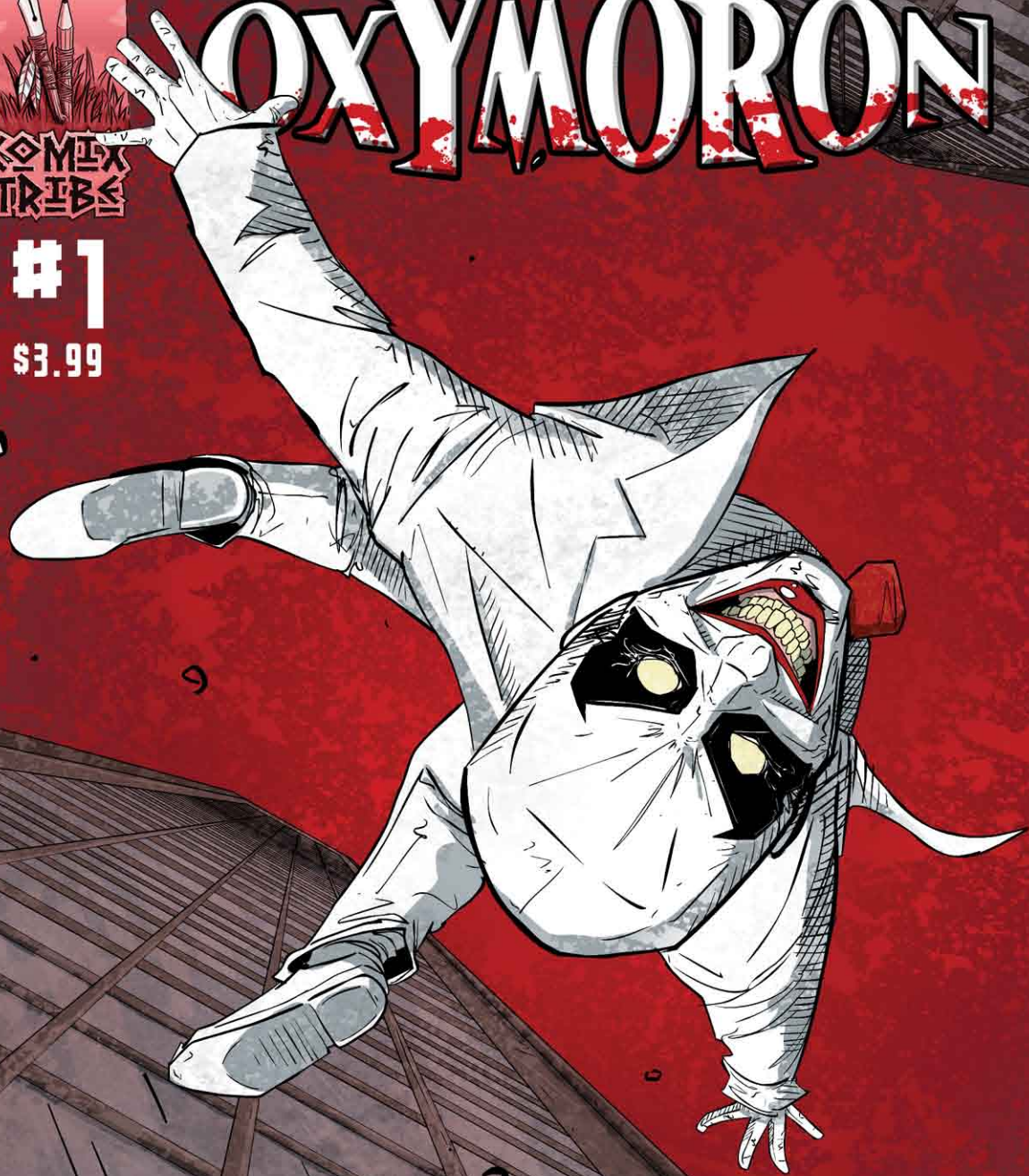




#1

\$3.99

OXYMORON



THE LOVELIEST NIGHTMARE

TYLER JAMES - JOHN LEES - ALEX CORMACK - JULES RIVERA

OXYMORON

THE LOVELIEST NIGHTMARE PART ONE

*"LIKE A WRIGGLING LARVAE
READY TO BLOOM"*

Story by **Tyler James & John Lees**

Script by **John Lees**

Art by **Alex Cormack**

Colors by **Jules Rivera**

Tyler James
Letters

Steve Forbes
Assistant Editor

Alex Cormack
Cover A

CP Wilson, III
Cover B

Joe Mulvey
Cover C



Tyler James, Publisher
Steven Forbes, Editor-in-Chief
Joe Mulvey, VP Creative
Sam LeBas, PR Manager
Matt Zolman, Logo Design
facebook.com/comixtribe
@comixtribe
www.ComixTribe.com

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"THE FIRST THING I
NEED TO MAKE CLEAR
TO YOU IS THAT YOU
ARE NOT IN CONTROL."

"YOU HAVE BECOME A
PLAYER IN SOMETHING
MUCH LARGER THAN
YOURSELF."



"YOU NO LONGER HAVE
A LIFE... YOU HAVE A
PURPOSE, A ROLE
TO PLAY."

J-JIM?

"OH, I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR
NEED FOR AGENCY, TO CARVE
SOME **MEANING** FROM THE
CRUEL, SHRIEKING NOTHING
OF YOUR EXISTENCE."

"AND THAT'S WHAT
I AM HERE TO DO."



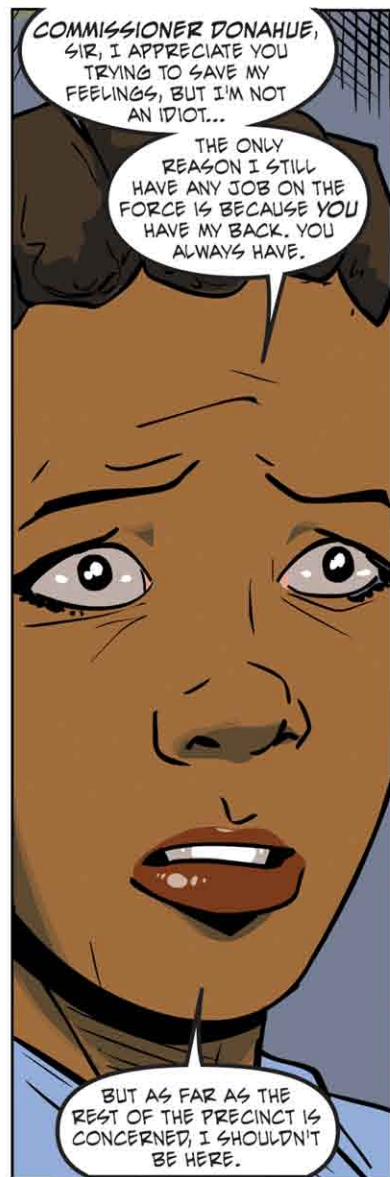
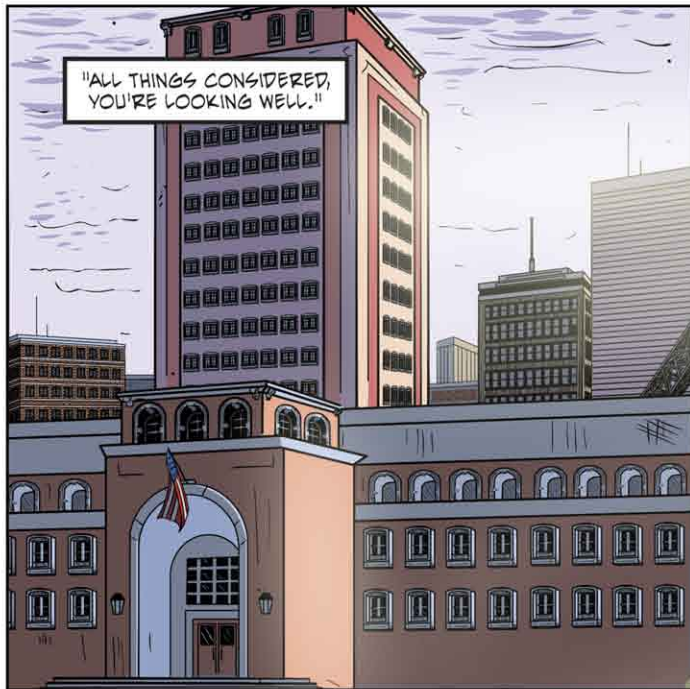
"I'M HERE TO MAKE
ORDER OUT OF CHAOS."

"DO YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS,
MARY, TO BE FORCED TO
WATCH ON, HELPLESS, AS YOUR
COZY LITTLE DREAM-WORLD
COLLAPSES?"



"YOU WILL, MY DEAR.
YOU WILL."







"THIS ISN'T
REHABILITATION,
COMMISSIONER."



"IT'S MY PUNISHMENT."



SERGEANT
STOKES.

DETECTIVE
CLARK.

OFFICER, NOW.
BUT YOU KNEW THAT
ALREADY, DIDN'T YOU?



HERE COMES YOUR
NEW PARTNER. NICE GIRL,
ROOKIE, ALL BRIGHT-EYED
AND BUSHY-TAILED.
YOU'LL LIKE HER...

IF YOU
SAY SO.

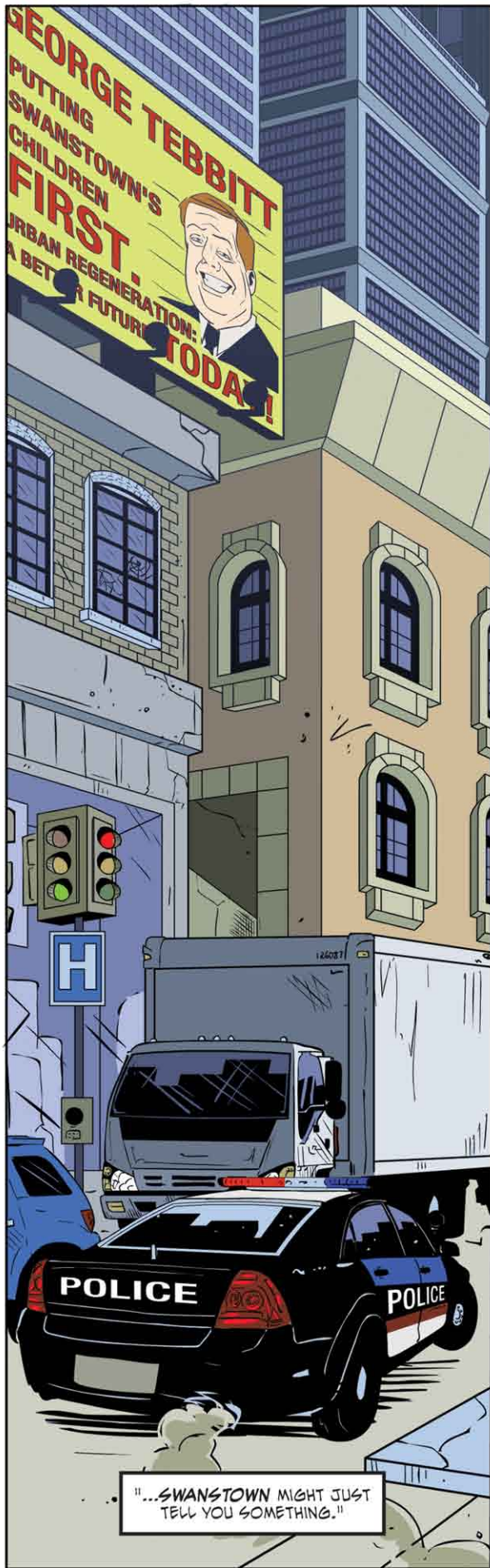
...JUST TRY
TO MAKE SURE
THIS ONE GETS
HOME SAFE,
YEAH?



CLARK, MEET
OFFICER
DEANIE.

DEBORAH.
DEBORAH
DEANIE.

I'M REALLY
LOOKING FORWARD
TO WORKING WITH
YOU, OFFICER
CLARK.





"SO, WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BE A COP, OFFICER CLARK?"

"I'M A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT. ALSO, THE GUN."

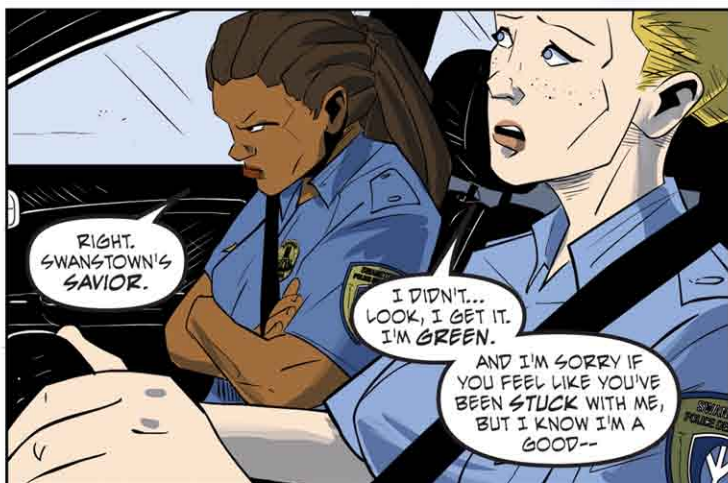
"C'MON, THERE'S GOTTA BE MORE TO IT THAN THAT."



ME? POLICE IS ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE.

MY DAD'S SHERIFF BACK IN KIRKWOOD, POPULATION SEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR.

BUT I WANTED TO BE SOMEWHERE I COULD MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.



RIGHT. SWANSTOWN'S SAVIOR.

I DIDN'T... LOOK, I GET IT. I'M GREEN.

AND I'M SORRY IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE BEEN STUCK WITH ME, BUT I KNOW I'M A GOOD--



IT'S YOU WHO'S STUCK WITH ME, DEANIE!

BEING MY PARTNER WON'T DO YOU ANY FAVORS IN THIS PRECINCT.

...

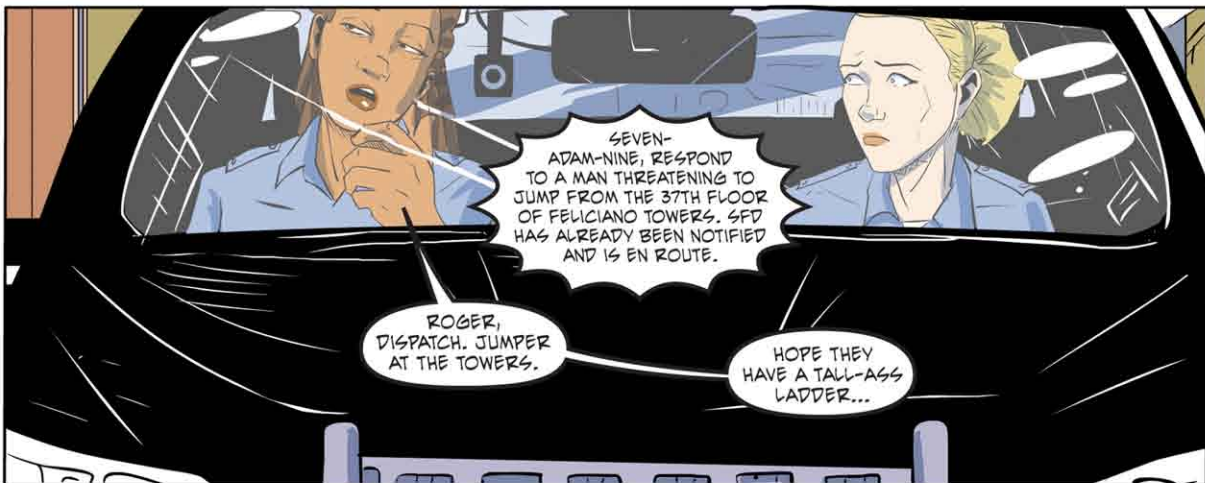
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT MY--

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT YOU.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SCHOOLYARD GOSSIP, OR WHAT MOST PEOPLE THINK.



MOST PEOPLE SUCK.



SEVEN-ADAM-NINE, RESPOND TO A MAN THREATENING TO JUMP FROM THE 37TH FLOOR OF FELICIANO TOWERS. SFD HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED AND IS EN ROUTE.

ROGER, DISPATCH. JUMPER AT THE TOWERS.

HOPE THEY HAVE A TALL-ASS LADDER...



WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE JUMPER?

STILL ON THE ROOF.

SAYS HE'LL JUMP IF ANYONE GOES UP THERE.



RIGHT, THEN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR... I DON'T KNOW, EXPERTS?



REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT CLOSING YOUR MOUTH AND LISTENING?

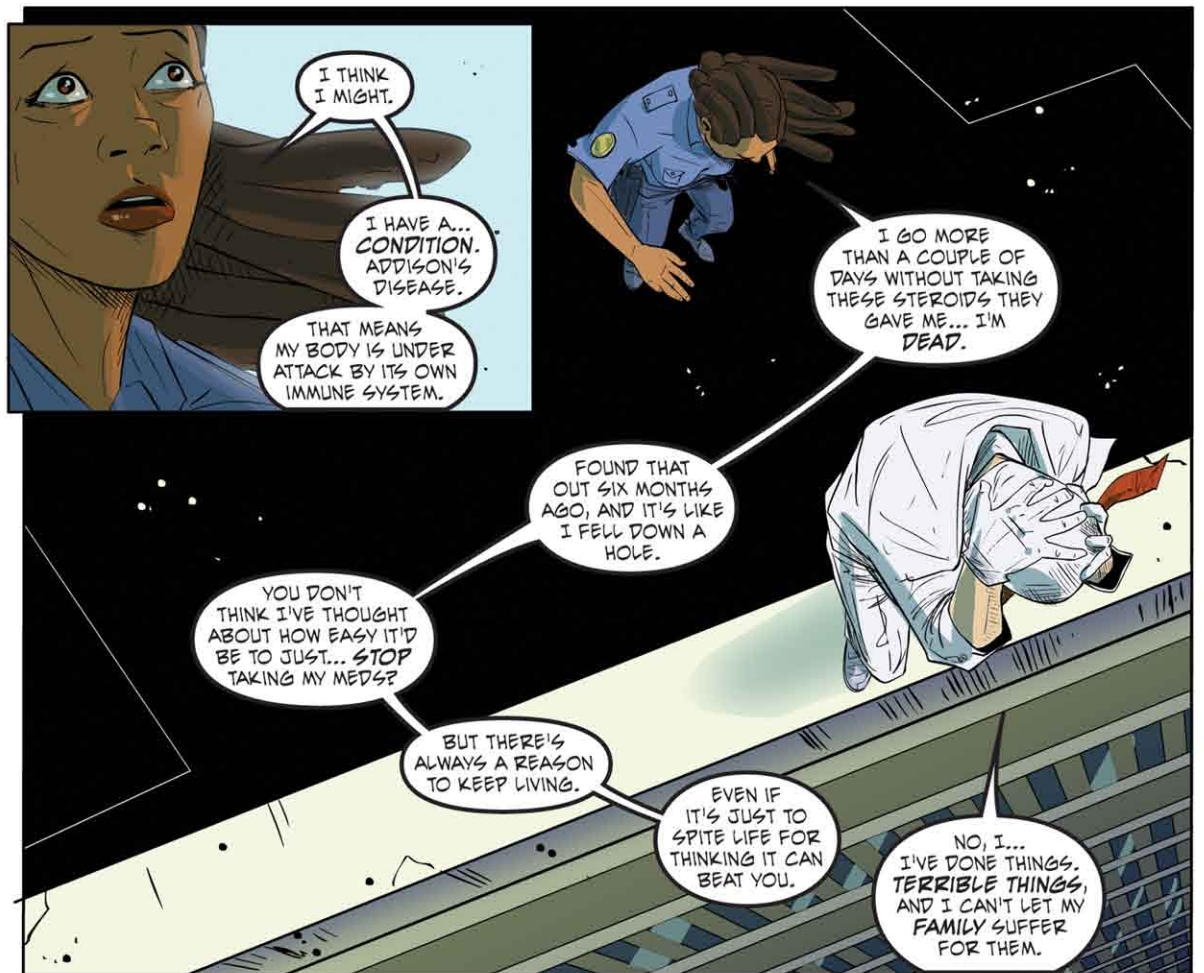
STAY DOWN HERE, WAIT FOR BACKUP. TELL STOKES I WENT ALL LOOPY AND COULDN'T BE STOPPED.

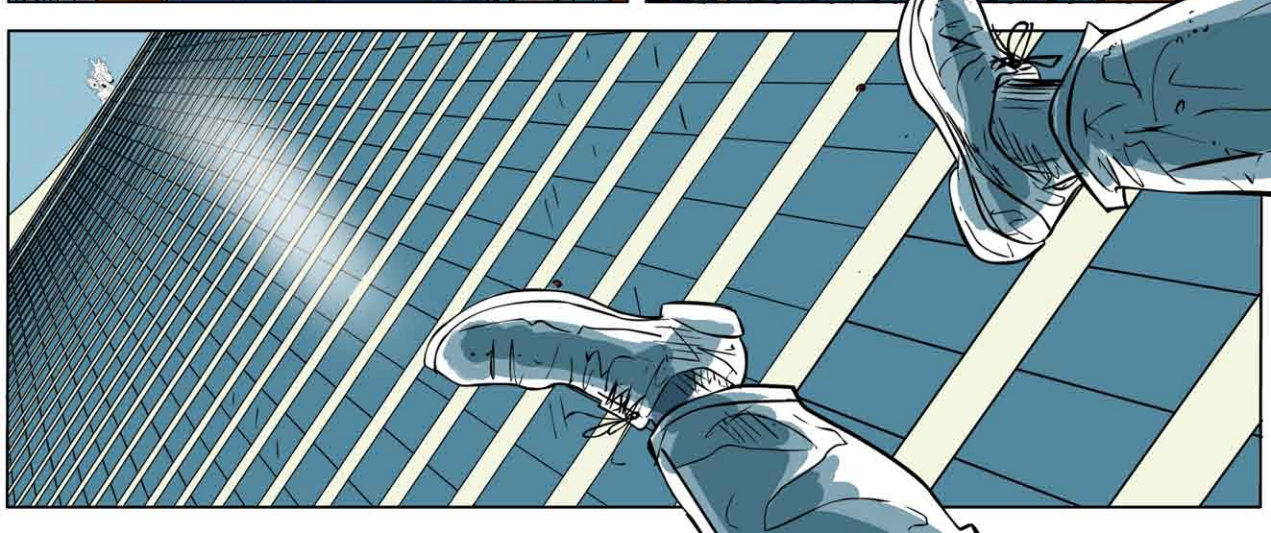
HE'LL LOVE THAT.



HATE TO STEAL YOUR THUNDER, BUT IF YOU'RE JUMPING, I MIGHT TAG ALONG.

F.A.M.I.

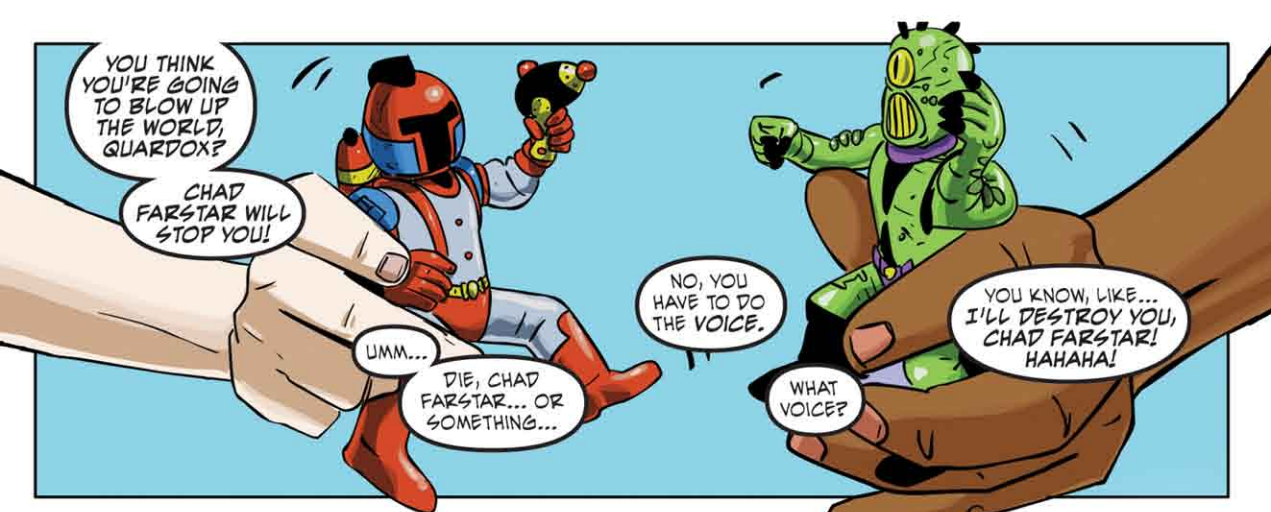










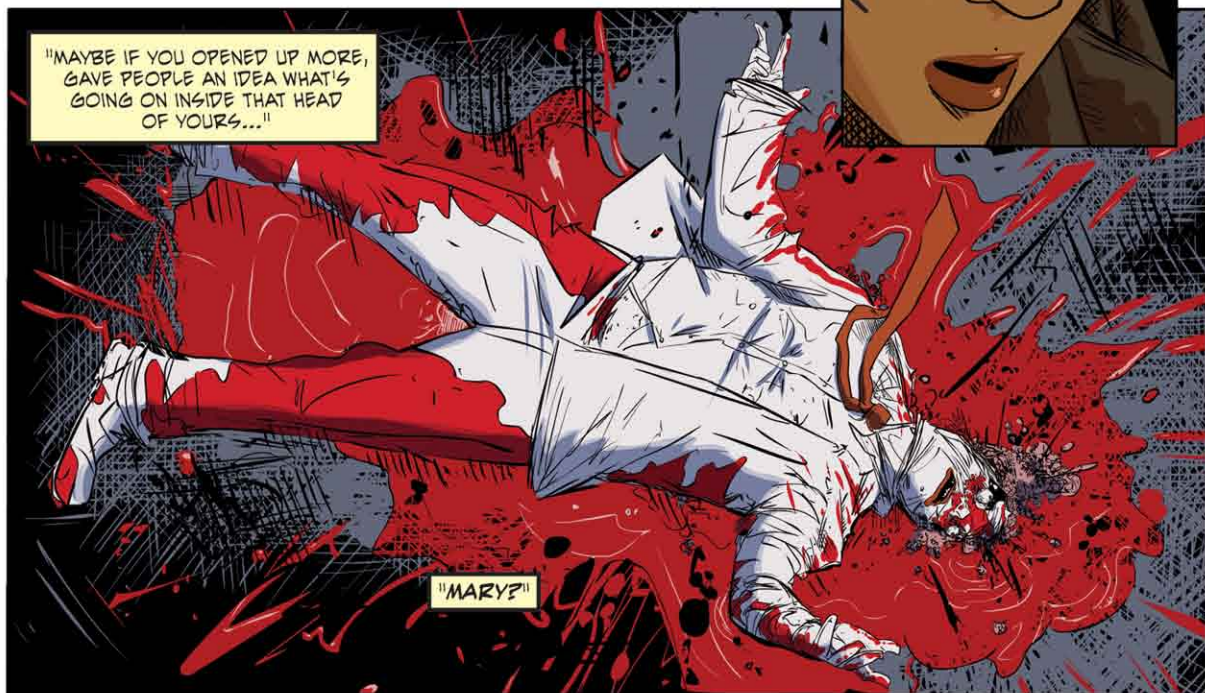






IT WASN'T
SO BAD.
IN THEIR
DEFENSE...

...I CAN
BE HARD TO GET
ALONG WITH.

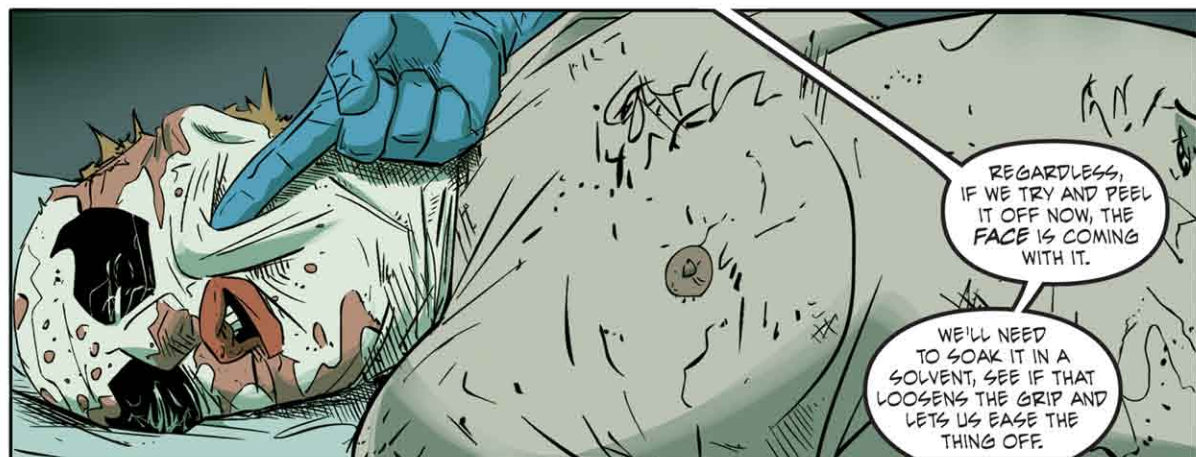


"MAYBE IF YOU OPENED UP MORE,
GAVE PEOPLE AN IDEA WHAT'S
GOING ON INSIDE THAT HEAD
OF YOURS..."

"MARY?"



SORRY, I... IT'S
TOUGH TO CONNECT
SOMETIMES.





GROUND
TEAM IS IN PLACE AND
COVERING THE PERIMETER.
NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME
TO TELL US WHAT THE HELL
WE'RE DOING OUT
HERE, FISK.

SORRY
FOR THE CLOAK'N
DAGGER, MAGUIRE,
BUT I COULDN'T RISK
WORD OF THIS OP
LEAKING.

NICE PLACE,
AIN'T IT?

BUILT AND
DECORATED WITH
TAXPAYER'S MONEY STRAIGHT
OUTTA MAYOR TEBBITT'S
URBAN REGENERATION
FUND.



A PRICK
THAT BRAZEN MUST
THINK HE AIN'T NEVER
GONNA BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE.

AND THAT'S
WHAT TONIGHT'S
ABOUT. **SETTLING**
ACCOUNTS.

THIS IS MORE THAN
JUST FIDDLING EXPENSES.
IT'S **CORRUPTION** ON A
MASSIVE SCALE, FROM A
MAYOR BELOVED BY THE
WHOLE CITY.



"THE PAPER TRAIL LEADS TO CITY HALL, BUT
THE NAME ON THE LEASE IS SY PITTMAN,
WHO'S CLAWING UNDERWORLD TERRITORY
FROM MOE WEIN ON THE EAST SIDE."

"WHAT KIND OF JOINT VENTURE WOULD
BRING THESE TWO PARTIES TOGETHER?
WELL, I'VE REASON TO BELIEVE THIS
IS A **CITY-FUNDED WHOREHOUSE**,
AND OUR MAYOR'S MORE THAN JUST
A SILENT PARTNER..."



"AND MY INTEL PAID OFF.
THAT'S THE KING GOOSE
HIMSELF, HERE TO ENJOY THE
PERKS OF HIS PATRONAGE."

"LOOK ALIVE, BOYS...
WE'RE GONNA CATCH TEBBITT
WITH HIS HAND STUCK IN THE
COOCHIE JAR."



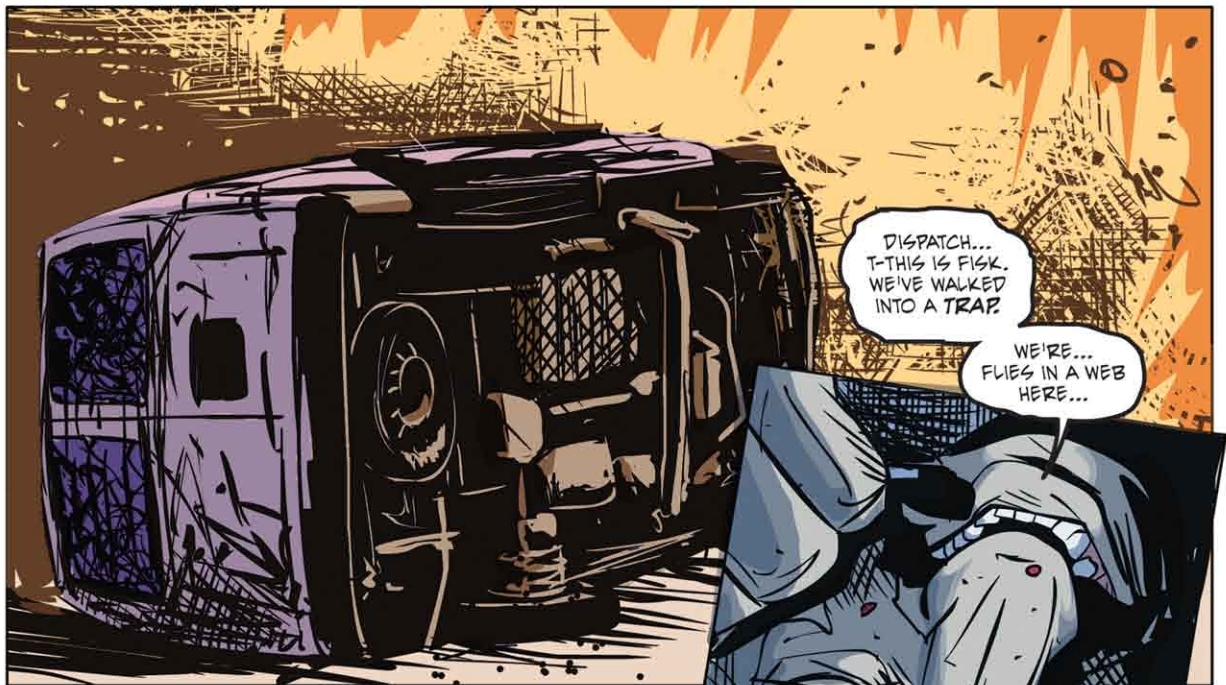
BOOM!

JESUS
CHRIST! FALL
BACK TO THE
PERIMETER!

"FALL BACK,
DAMN IT!"

TIMES!

BADOOM!



DISPATCH...
T-THIS IS FISK.
WE'VE WALKED
INTO A TRAP.

WE'RE...
FLIES IN A WEB
HERE...

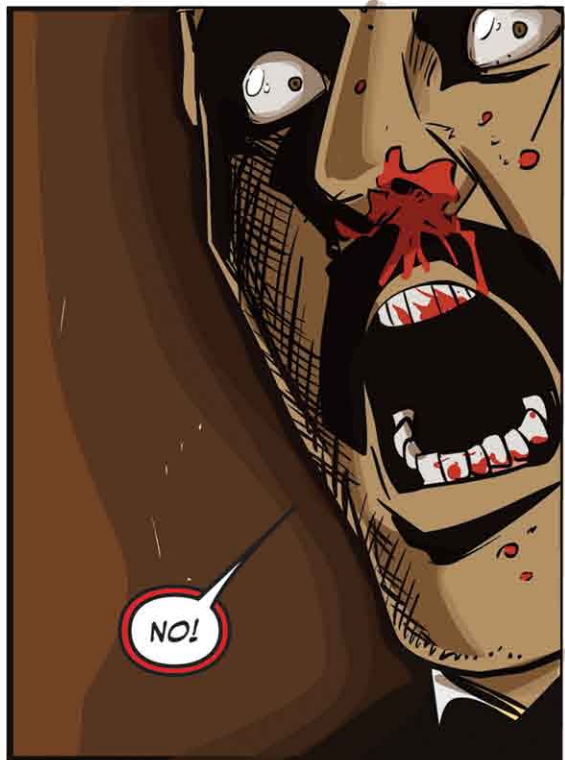


OFFICERS DOWN.
REPEAT, MULTIPLE
OFFICERS...

NEED
TO... GET
AWAY...



NNNG!



NO!







THE FIRST
THING I NEED
TO MAKE CLEAR
TO YOU IS THAT
YOU ARE NOT IN
CONTROL...

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

"SOMETHING AWFUL,
WAITING TO BE
BORN..."



MULVEY

I had nightmares as a kid.

I remember some nights simply refusing to go to sleep for fear of what might be waiting for me when I closed my eyes. Monsters, sharks, kid-killers... who knew what terrors my dreams held in store? It was always a relief to wake up in the morning, safe and secure in the real world.

I still have nightmares from time to time. But when I lay my head down at night, fear of what could happen to me in dreams is the farthest thing from my mind. Even in the worst nightmare, I know there's nothing there that can actually hurt me.

But the real world?

I've somehow woken up to a life that's pretty much my childhood dream come true. I make video games and comic books for a living. I have a beautiful wife, an amazing step-daughter, and dog I love way too much. We just bought a nice house (5% of it, anyway) in a quaint New England city on the water that couldn't be safer.

And there isn't a day that goes by that I don't fear losing it all. It's not a crippling fear, but it's there. It's always there.

There's nothing in the nightmares I had as a kid that comes close to being as scary as what the real world delivers to so many on a daily basis. The news, oh, the news... ISIS. Ebola. Riots. Shootings. Cancer, cancer everywhere...

Fear can cripple. Fear can destroy. It all comes down to how you deal with it. I've always tried to channel my fears into something else. Something like the comic you're now holding in your hands. I know the fear isn't ever going away. But by shining a light on it through story, perhaps we can harness it. And through the cipher of the characters we create, characters like **Mary Clark**, a woman who thinks she's already been to hell and back and survived, only to find herself face to face with the Devil himself, we try to fight back against the fear as best we can.

This story takes us to some dark places, and it wasn't a trip I could take alone. That's why I reached out to **John Lees**, the brilliant writer of *AND THEN EMILY WAS GONE* and *THE STANDARD*, to help me take a kernel of a story and turn it into something special. And it's why we turned to **Alex Cormack** to bring the story to life visually. Alex is a brilliant illustrator who, with color artist **Jules Rivera**, is diving headfirst into the nightmare.

Welcome to *The Loveliest Nightmare*. We're glad you're with us. Feel free to let us know how we're doing at oxymoron@comixtribe.com.

Tyler James
Newburyport, MA
June 2015



YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL.

An afflicted detective hunts a serial killer obsessed with contradiction who is painting a bloody canvass of carnage with the entrails of politicians and power brokers in the corrupt city she calls home. Written by John Lees (*And Then Emily Was Gone*) and Tyler James (*The Red Ten*), with art by Alex Cormack (*Find*) and colors by Jules Rivera (*Gutter Magic*), **OXYMORON: The Loveliest Nightmare** is a visceral thriller in the vein of *Se7en* and *Hannibal* that gets under your skin and leaves you breathless until the very last page.

"BRILLIANT..."



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"GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN..."



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POP CULTURE UNCOVERED

"A ROUSING SUCCESS..."



EXAMINER

"I DAMN NEAR CLAPPED..."



COMIC BASTARDS

"A TAUT CRIME FICTION..."



WHAT'CHA READING?



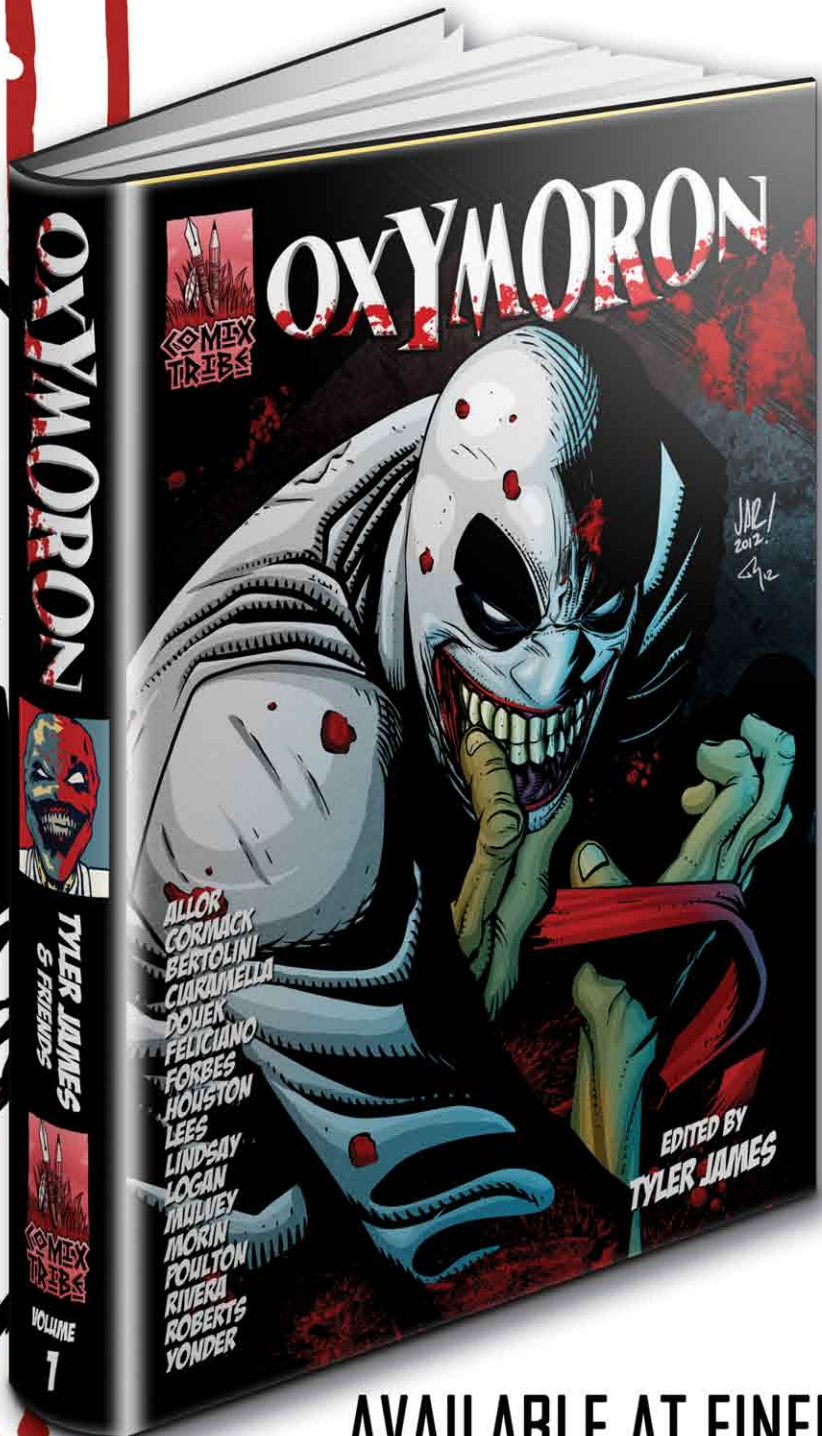
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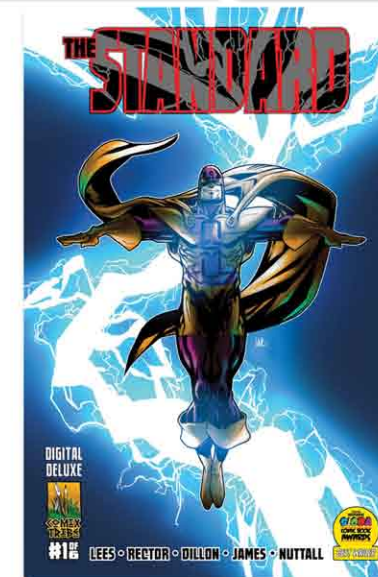
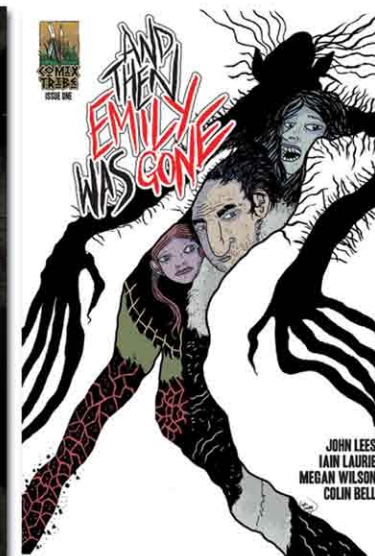
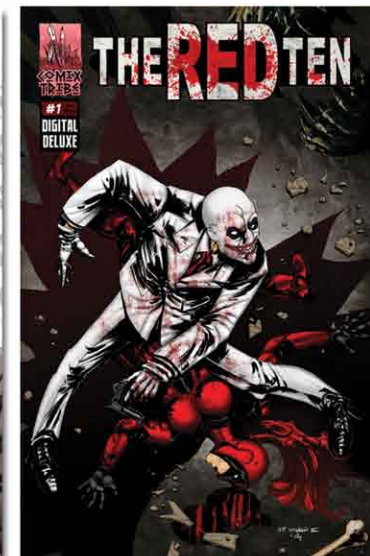
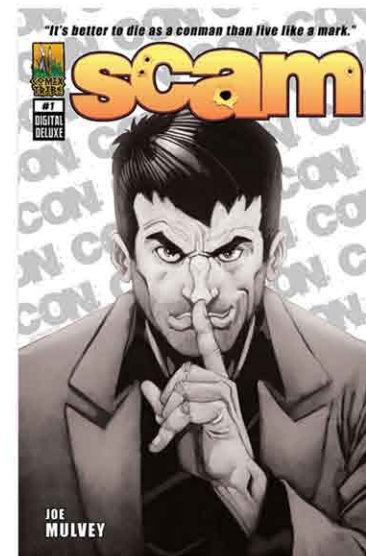


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OXYMORON

THE LOVELIEST NIGHTMARE

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LEES
CORMACK
RIVERA

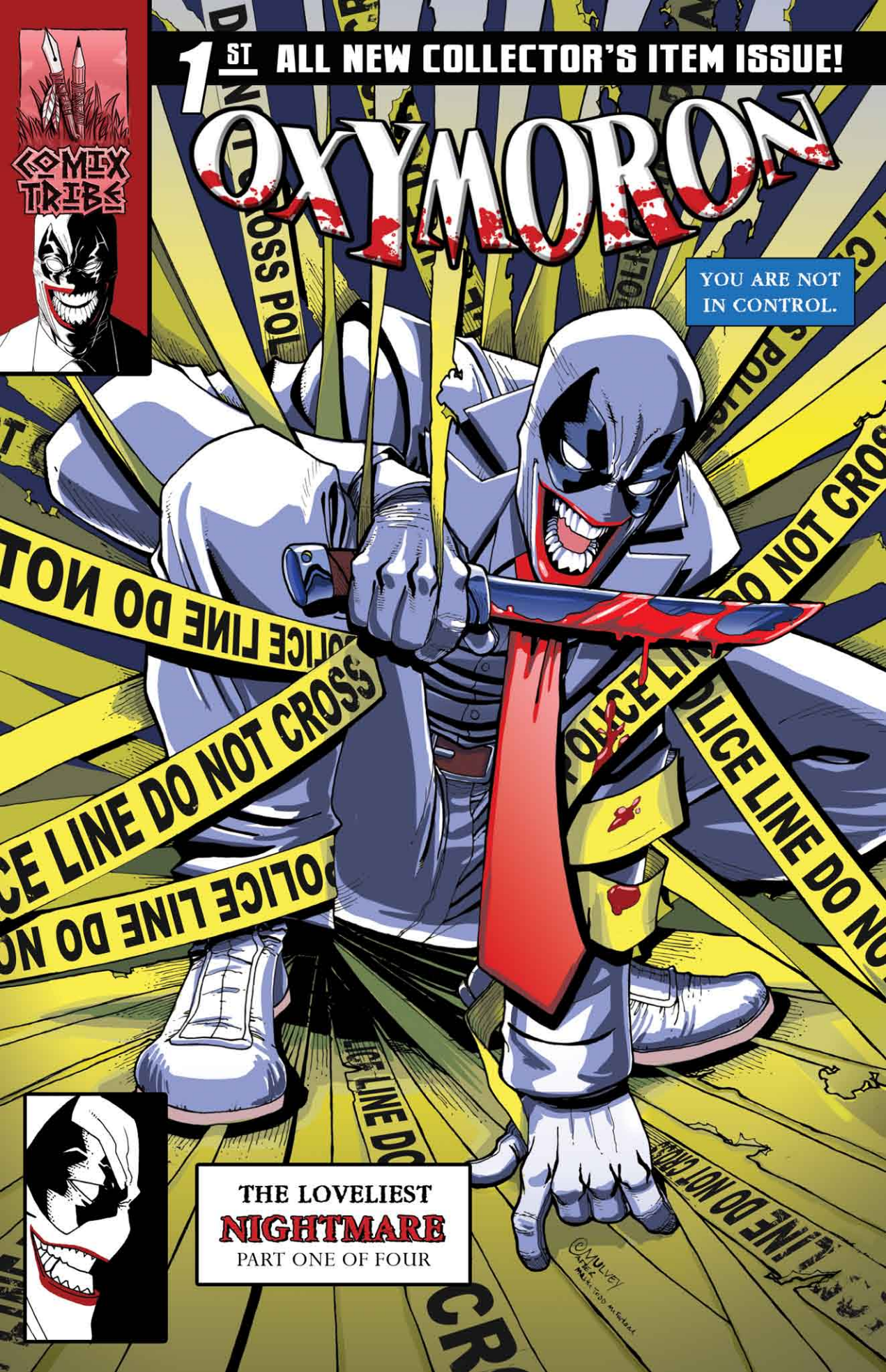
C.P. WILSON III

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OXYMORON

YOU ARE NOT
IN CONTROL.

THE LOVELIEST
NIGHTMARE
PART ONE OF FOUR



YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL.



THE LOVELIEST NIGHTMARE HAS BEGUN...

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