

HEROES

CHAPTER 22

Hell's Angel

The man in horned-rimmed glasses, Mr. Bennet, has dealt with many individuals with fantastic abilities. Most were faceless entities, those to be "bagged and tagged."

A very few became friends. And one he would encounter early in his career, who would become the most special person in his life: the girl called Claire.



TEXAS. AFTER MIDNIGHT. 1992.

IT WASN'T THE *FIRST* BAG AND TAG THAT I'D RUN WITH CLAUDE.

THIS WOMAN WE'RE AFTER, HAS SHE MANIFESTED AN *ABILITY*?

NOT A *CLUE*. BUT THAT'S THE *FUN*, RIGHT? NEVER KNOWIN' *WHAT* WE'RE GONNA GET.



WE'D BEEN PARTNERS FOR A WHILE. I WAS STILL A ROOKIE. HE WAS THE *PRO*.

ISN'T THIS *DANGEROUS*? NOT KNOWING WHAT WE'RE WALKING *INTO*?

"WE'RE" NOT WALKING INTO ANYTHING. YOU'RE STAYING OUT HERE AND KEEPING *WATCH* LIKE A GOOD DOGGY, WHILE I DO THE HEAVY LIFTIN'.



CLAUDE COULD MAKE HIMSELF *INVISIBLE*. I THINK THAT MADE HIM FEEL *UNTOUCHABLE*.

BUT WHAT IF SHE *SPOTS* YOU?

IT'S FORTY WINKS PAST 2 AM, ROOKIE. AND I'M BLOODY *TRANSPARENT*. SHE'S NOT GONNA SPOT ME UNLESS I SAY "*BOO*."

ON MOST JOBS,
CLAUDE WOULD *SNEAK*
IN ON HIS OWN, AND
TRANQUILIZE THE
TARGET, WHILE I
WAITED OUTSIDE...



...FOR THE
"ALL CLEAR."

KABOOM



AND AS THE DOOR PELTED
ME IN THE *CHEST*,
AND THE HEAT FROM THE
FLAMES SINGED MY SKIN,
I *WONDERED*...



...IF AN *INVISIBLE* MAN
CATCHES ON FIRE, CAN
YOU SEE HIM *BURNING*?





**CLAUDE!
CLAUDE!**



**WHAT
HAPPENED?!**

**THE BITCH
BLEW-UP!**



**DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
ME!**



**GET THE
BABY!**

HELL'S ANGEL

JESSE ALEXANDER *Story* MICHAEL GAYDOS *Art* EDGAR @ STUDIO F *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* An INVISIBLE COLLEGE *Production*

A dramatic comic book illustration. A man in a dark suit and tie stands in a room, holding a handgun in his right hand. He is looking down at a baby in a crib. The room is dimly lit with a warm, orange glow from a window in the background. The crib has a mobile with a crescent moon and stars hanging from it. The man's expression is serious and intense.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER. A LITTLE ANGEL IN HELL. MY CLAIRE.



AT THAT MOMENT, I
COULDN'T KNOW THAT
CLAIRE WOULD SOON
BECOME MY *DAUGHTER*.



BUT I KNEW *ONE*
THING FOR CERTAIN.



I WOULD DO *EVERYTHING* IN MY
POWER TO KEEP THIS CHILD *SAFE*.
NO MATTER THE *COST*. NO
MATTER THE *CONSEQUENCE*.



ANY IDEA HOW
TO CHANGE A
DIAPER?

NONE.
BUT I COULD
USE A CHANGE OF
UNDERPANTS
MYSELF.

DON'T WORRY, CLAIRE.
I'LL PROTECT YOU.