

HEROES

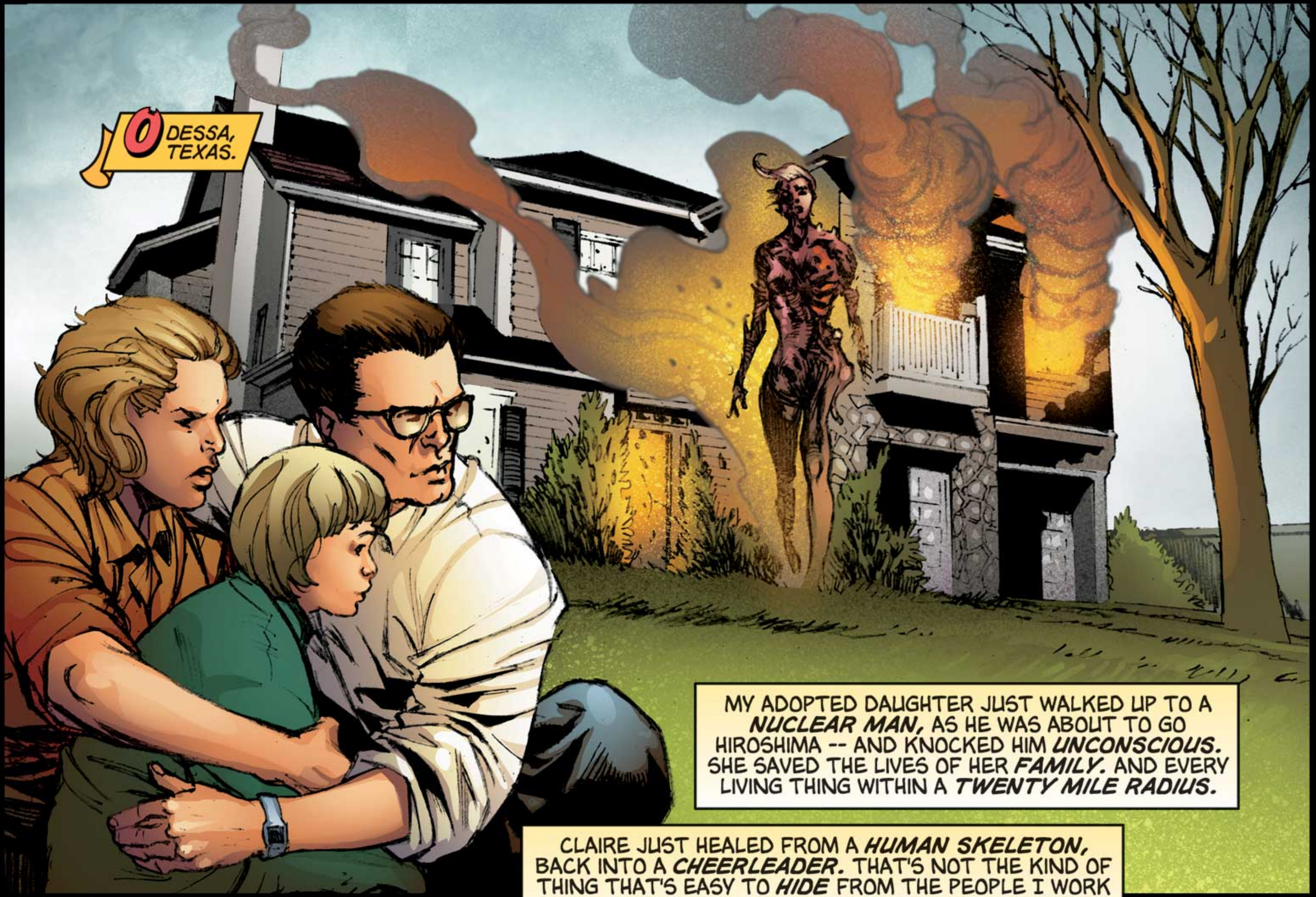
CHAPTER 23

Family Man

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.

0 DESSA,
TEXAS.




MY ADOPTED DAUGHTER JUST WALKED UP TO A **NUCLEAR MAN**, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO GO HIROSHIMA -- AND KNOCKED HIM **UNCONSCIOUS**. SHE SAVED THE LIVES OF HER **FAMILY**. AND EVERY LIVING THING WITHIN A **TWENTY MILE RADIUS**.

CLAIRE JUST HEALED FROM A **HUMAN SKELETON**, BACK INTO A **CHEERLEADER**. THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING THAT'S EASY TO **HIDE** FROM THE PEOPLE I WORK FOR. AND FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS, I'D BEEN **TRYING** TO KEEP CLAIRE'S ABILITIES **UNDER WRAPS**.




YOUR DAUGHTER IS **EXTRAORDINARY**.

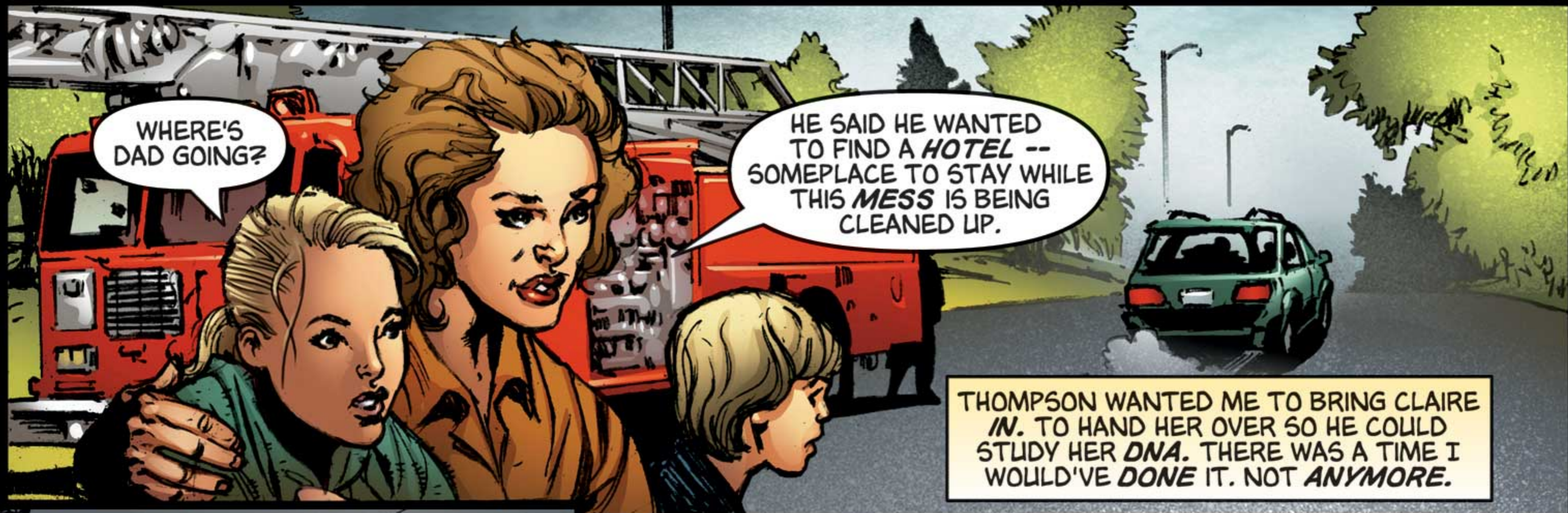
I **KNOW**.



YOU HAVE **ONE HOUR** TO BRING HER IN.



CLAIRE HAD JUST SAVED **THOUSANDS** OF INNOCENT LIVES. I HAD ONE HOUR TO SAVE **HERS**.



WHERE'S DAD GOING?

HE SAID HE WANTED TO FIND A *HOTEL* -- SOMEPLACE TO STAY WHILE THIS *MESS* IS BEING CLEANED UP.

THOMPSON WANTED ME TO BRING CLAIRE *IN*. TO HAND HER OVER SO HE COULD STUDY HER *DNA*. THERE WAS A TIME I WOULD'VE *DONE* IT. NOT *ANYMORE*.



JUDGING BY THE *SEDAN* TRAILING ME, THEY MUST SUSPECT I MIGHT *BETRAY* THEM.



IF THEY'RE TRAILING ME 24/7...



...I NEED TO CALL SOME *OUTSIDE* HELP.



FREE COFFEE FOR EVERYONE!



THE ONLY PERSON I TRUSTED TO HELP ME WAS A WOMAN I HAD TRAINED.

HANA GITTELMAN HAD THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY -- TO SEE AND HEAR EVERY BIT OF DATA ON THE INTERNET, SWIRLING AROUND HER LIKE LEAVES IN THE WIND. I CALLED HER *WIRELESS*.

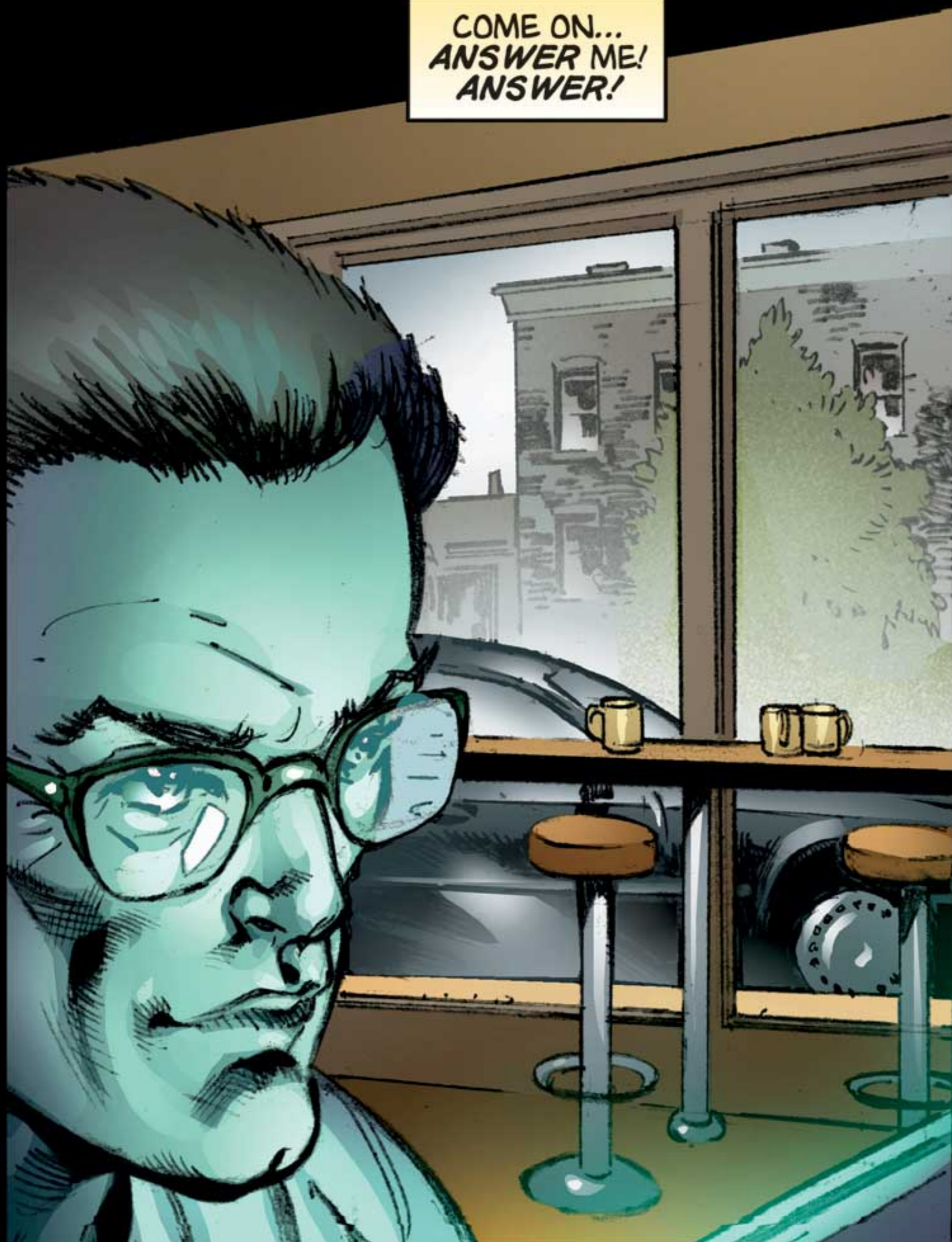


THEY WERE CLOSING IN. I HAD TO GET AN E-MAIL OUT.

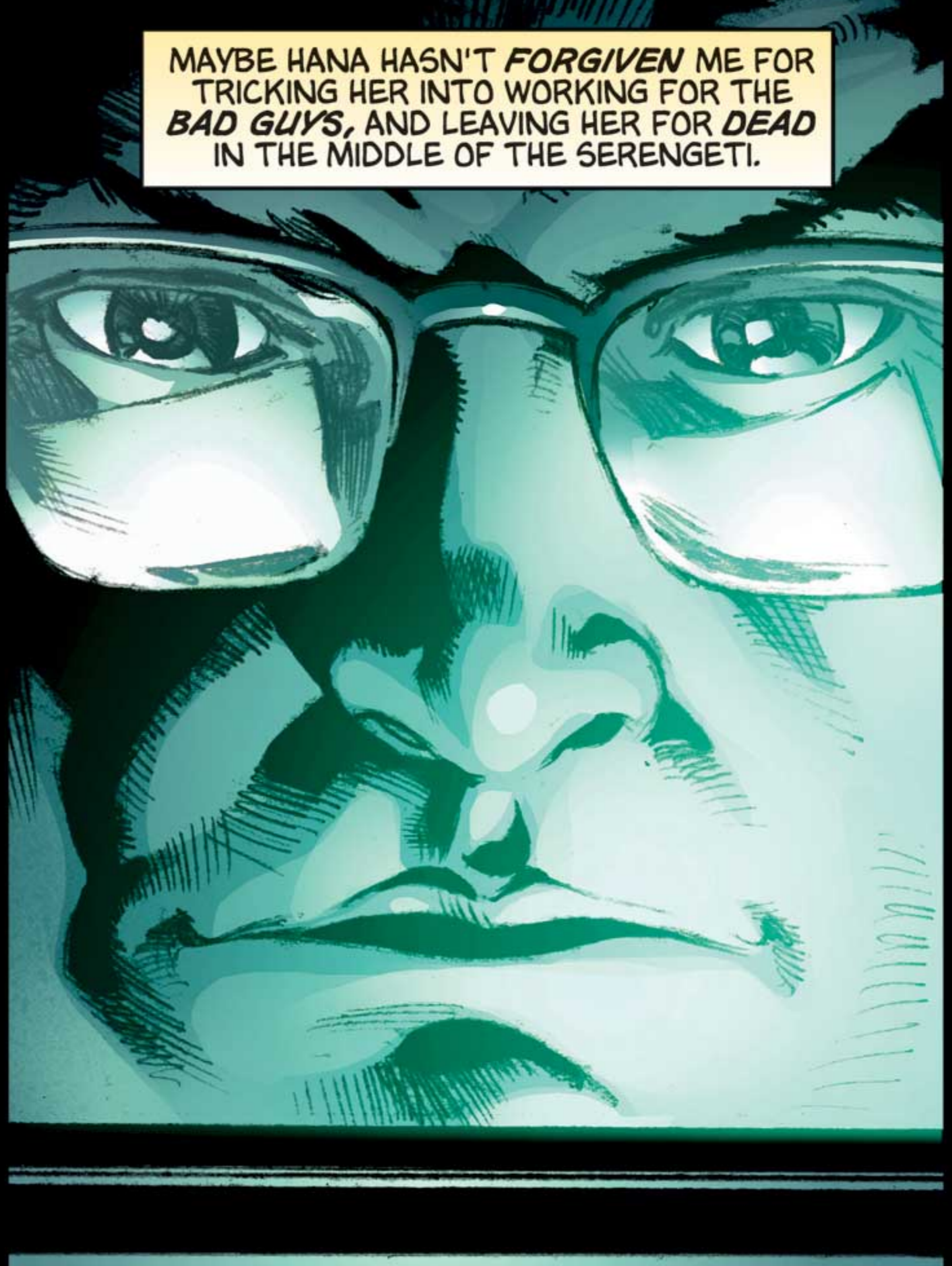
AND HOPE.

AND PRAY THAT SHE WAS OUT THERE.

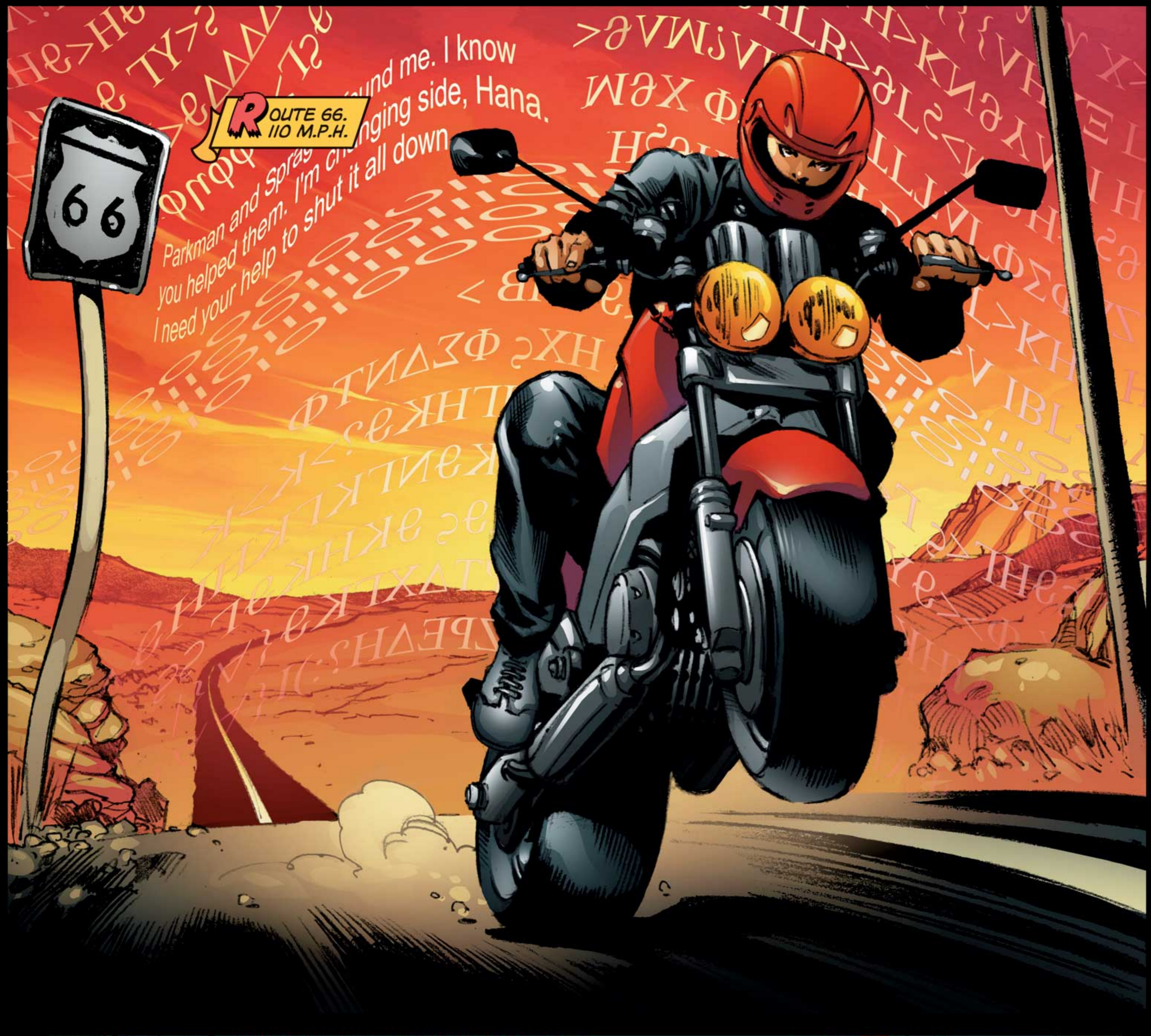
LISTENING.



COME ON... ANSWER ME! ANSWER!



MAYBE HANA HASN'T FORGIVEN ME FOR TRICKING HER INTO WORKING FOR THE BAD GUYS, AND LEAVING HER FOR DEAD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SERENGETI.



WIRELESS instant message
 Conversation View Edit Actions Help

Wireless

Wireless: I'll do it.

WHOEVER'S FOLLOWING ME WILL JUST THINK I WENT FOR A LATTE.

AND NOW THAT I'VE GOT *WIRELESS* WORKING WITH ME ON THE OUTSIDE, MY PLAN TO BRING DOWN THE PEOPLE I WORK FOR, AND PROTECT MY *DAUGHTER*, JUST MIGHT *WORK*.



AS LONG AS MY PARTNER CAN *SHOOT* STRAIGHT...



...EVERYTHING SHOULD BE *FINE*.

MY DAUGHTER WILL BE *SAFE*.

DAD!

WE MUST GO, CLAIRE! NOW!

FAMILY MAN

WHAT WAS HER *NAME*?

I CAN'T REMEMBER...

JESSE ALEXANDER
Story

STAZ JOHNSON
Art

RICHARD ISANOVE
Colors

COMICRAFT
Lettering



An
INVISIBLE COLLEGE
production