



BOOM! THE UNKNOWN

# MURDER AT MOUNTAIN OAK

**MARK WAID**  
Mark Waid has written stories for every major comics publisher, including well-loved stints on DC Comics' THE FLASH and Marvel Comics' CAPTAIN AMERICA and FANTASTIC FOUR. Waid's seminal graphic novel KINGDOM COME is one of the best-selling graphic novels of all time. He joined BOOM! Studios as Editor-in-Chief in 2007.

**MINCK OOSTERVEER**  
Hailing from the Netherlands, veteran illustrator Minck Oosterveer has struck critical success with his work on NICKY SAXX, ZODIAK, and numerous comic book albums in Europe. After his explosive U.S. debut in BOOM! Studios' ZOMBIE TALES, Oosterveer is now in high demand both in the U.S. and abroad.



A year after the mystery that changed everything for Catherine Allingham, the world's greatest detective returns with a new chilling case. Residents of Mountain Oak are turning up dead with each victim leaving a different death clue at the scene of the crime.

Catherine and her new personal assistant Adriana are on the case. But why doesn't Catherine remember her former partner, James Doyle? Even stranger, suffering from a brain tumor, how has she outlived her expiration date of six months by a year? Find out in this chilling new volume of THE UNKNOWN!

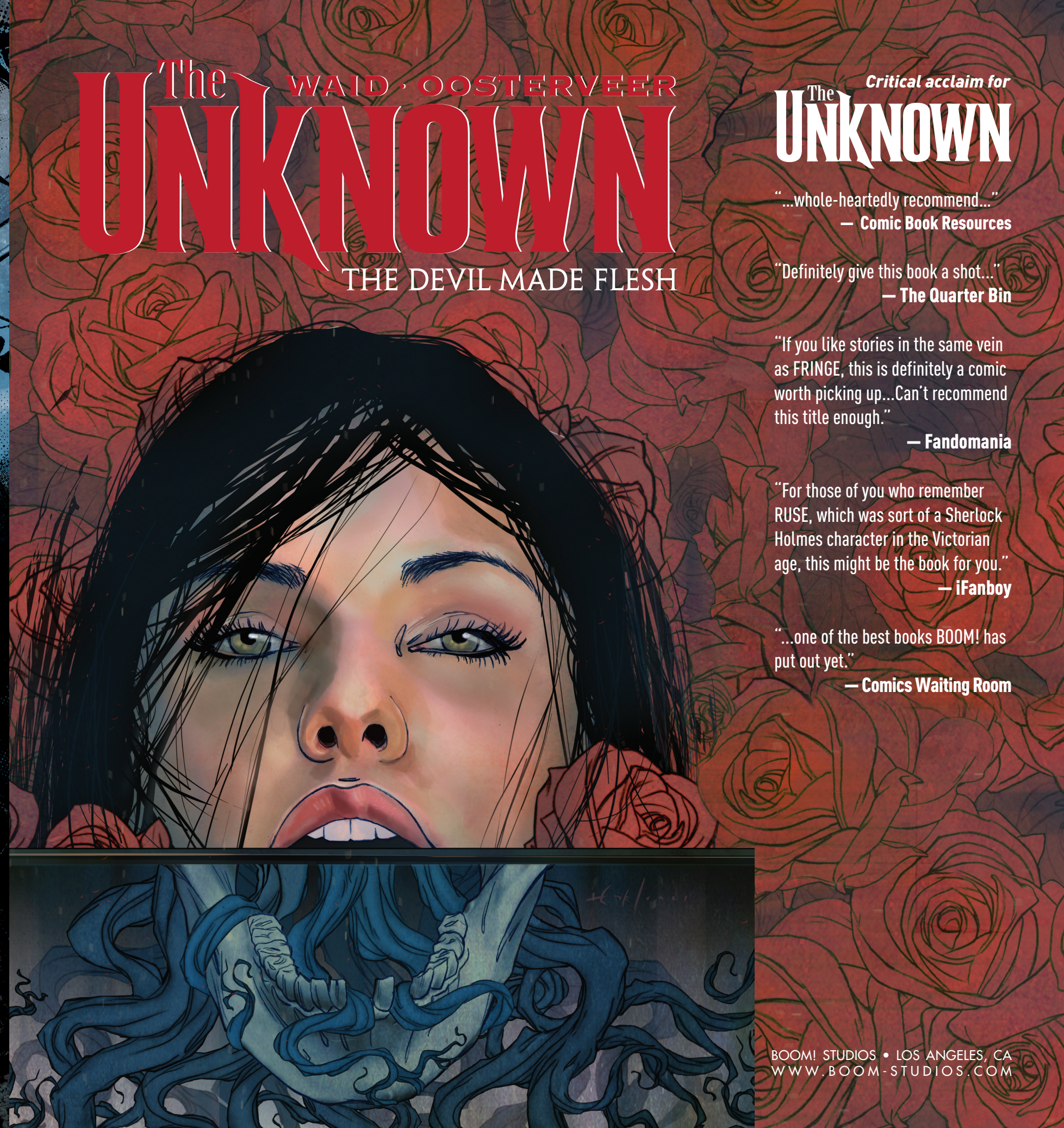
*"...enjoyable and flowing and flawless and interesting."*  
— Comics Should Be Good

*"...new favorite book..."*  
— Ain't It Cool News

*"Waid's work at BOOM! is the finest of his career. It's like he's redefining himself all of a sudden. And THE UNKNOWN is just another notch in his belt."*  
— Ed Brubaker  
(CRIMINAL, CAPTAIN AMERICA, INCOGNITO)

THE DEVIL MADE FLESH

WAID · OOSTERVEER



# The UNKNOWN

WAID · OOSTERVEER

# UNKNOWN

THE DEVIL MADE FLESH

Critical acclaim for  
**The UNKNOWN**  
"...whole-heartedly recommend..."  
— Comic Book Resources

"Definitely give this book a shot..."  
— The Quarter Bin

"If you like stories in the same vein as FRINGE, this is definitely a comic worth picking up...Can't recommend this title enough."  
— Fandomania

"For those of you who remember RUSE, which was sort of a Sherlock Holmes character in the Victorian age, this might be the book for you."  
— iFanboy

"...one of the best books BOOM! has put out yet."  
— Comics Waiting Room



# The UNKNOWN

THE DEVIL MADE FLESH

The

# IRON MAN



CREATED AND  
WRITTEN BY

**MARK WAID**

ARTIST

**MINCK OOSTERVEER**

COLORIST

**ANDRES LOZANO**

WITH

**JAVIER SUPPA**

LETTERER

**MARSHALL DILLON**

COVER

**ERIK JONES**

TRADE DESIGN

**BRIAN LATIMER**

EDITOR

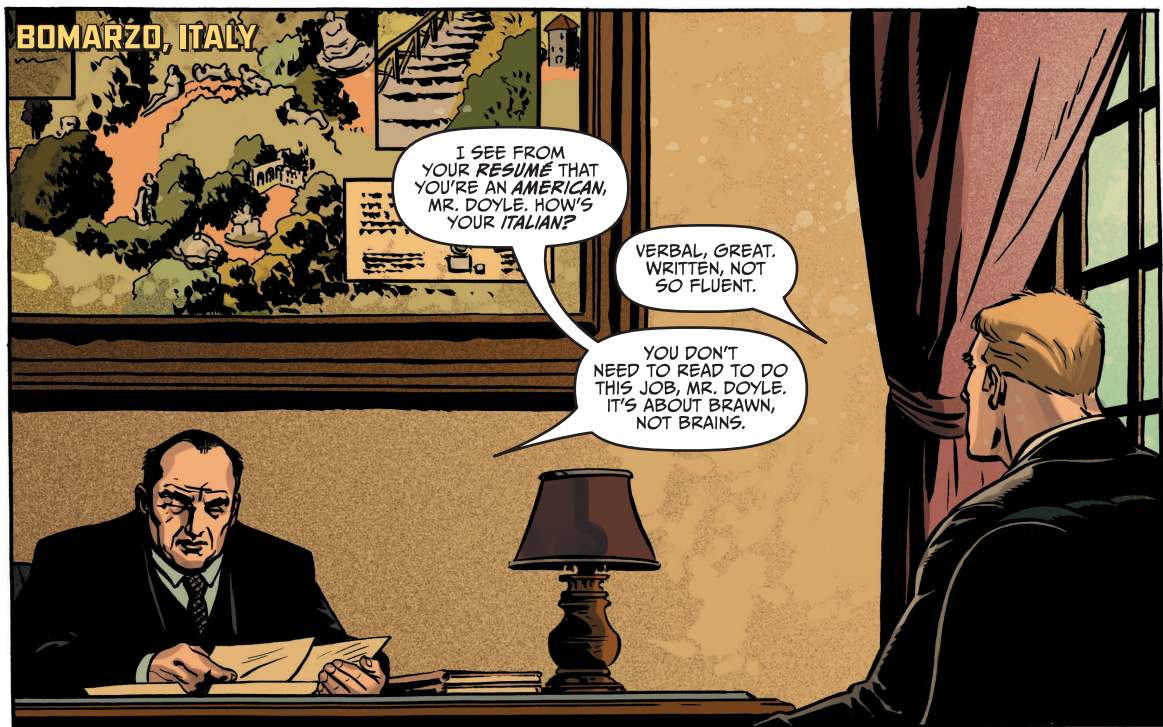
**MATT GAGNON**

ASSISTANT EDITOR

**DAFNA PLEBAN**

# CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 1





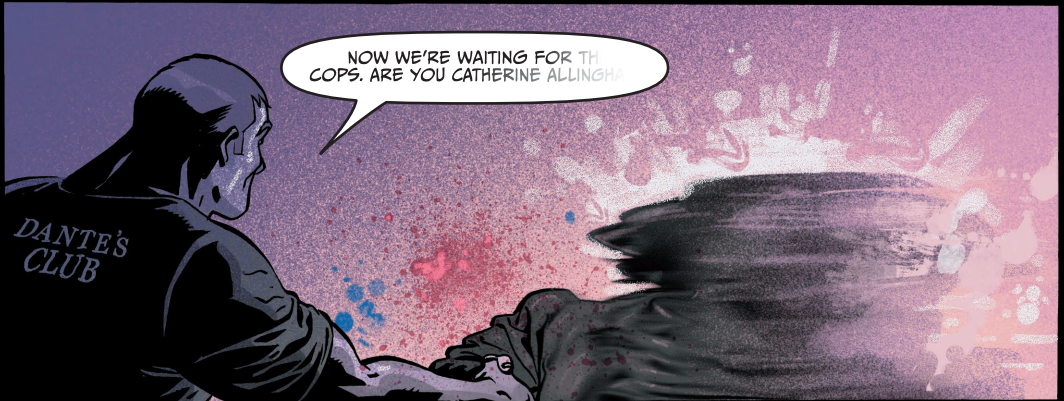
YOU HAVE SECURITY EXPERIENCE. EXCELLENT.

IT SAYS HERE YOUR LAST EMPLOYER WAS A CLUB CALLED DANTE'S IN LOS ANGELES, BUT THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO.



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE THEN?

WELL?



NOW WE'RE WAITING FOR THE COPS. ARE YOU CATHERINE ALLINGHAM?



I'M NOT SURE...

PARDON?

... I'M... NOT SURE IT'S APPLICABLE.

A YEAR IS A LONG TIME, MR. DOYLE.

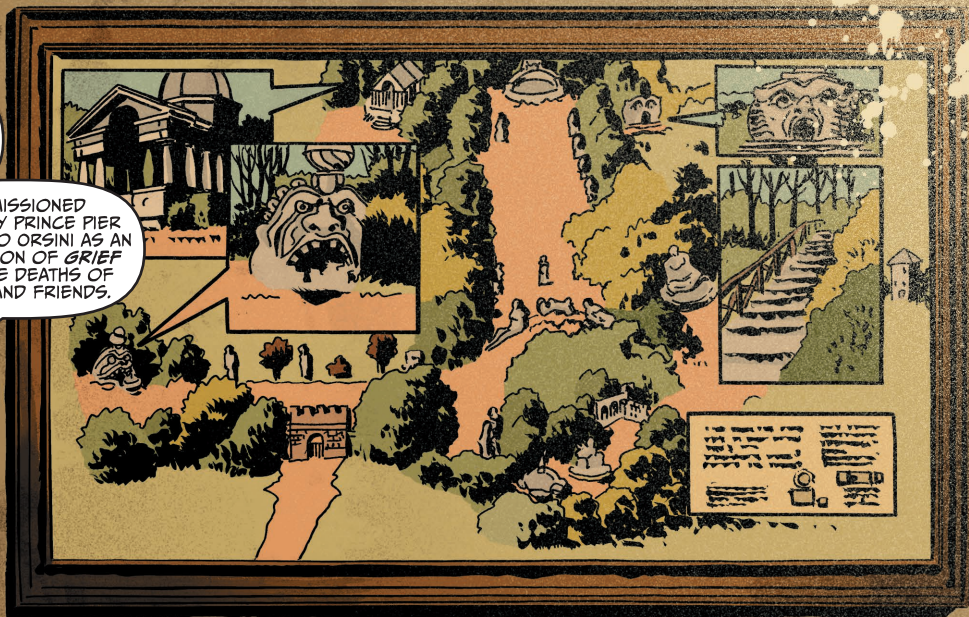


I'M VERY GOOD, SIR. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

IS THAT THE SITE I'D BE GUARDING? THE PARCO DI... DEI...

PARCO DEI MOSTRI, MR. DOYLE. IN ENGLISH, "THE PARK OF MONSTERS."

COMMISSIONED IN 1552 BY PRINCE PIER FRANCESCO ORSINI AS AN EXPRESSION OF GRIEF OVER THE DEATHS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

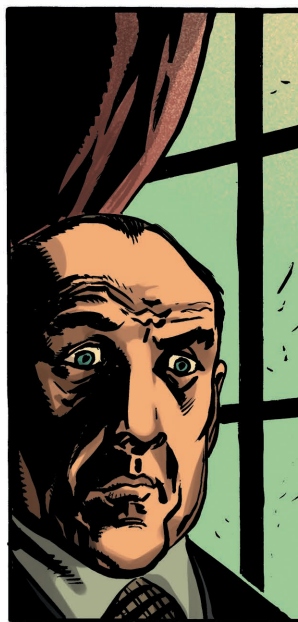
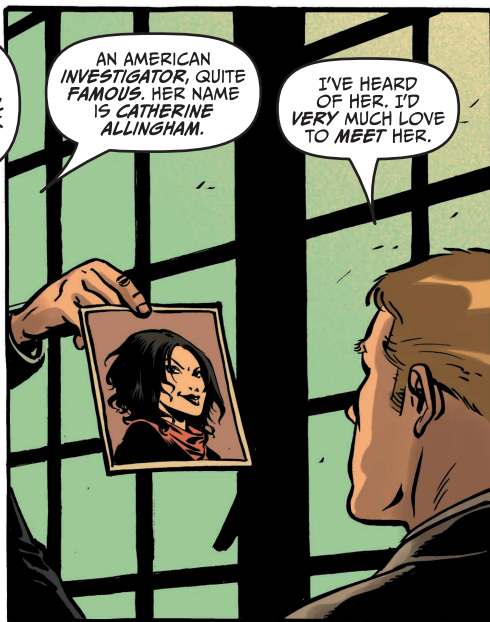
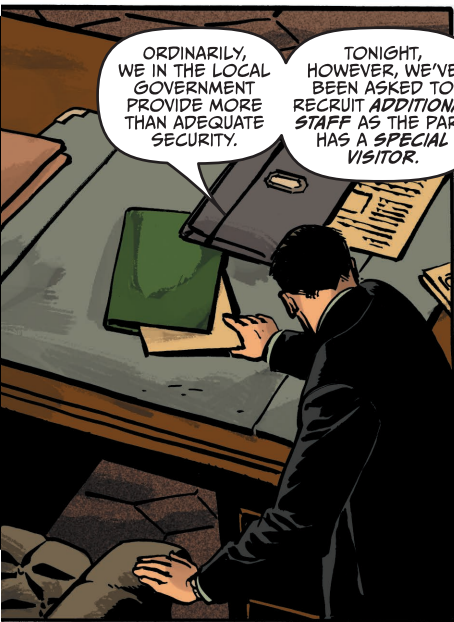


ORDINARILY, WE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDE MORE THAN ADEQUATE SECURITY.

TONIGHT, HOWEVER, WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO RECRUIT ADDITIONAL STAFF AS THE PARK HAS A SPECIAL VISITOR.

AN AMERICAN INVESTIGATOR, QUITE FAMOUS. HER NAME IS CATHERINE ALLINGHAM.

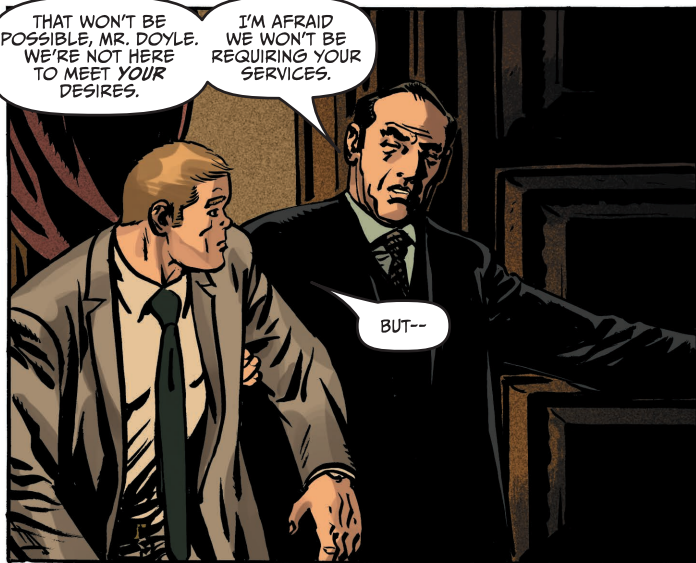
I'VE HEARD OF HER. I'D VERY MUCH LOVE TO MEET HER.



THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE, MR. DOYLE. WE'RE NOT HERE TO MEET YOUR DESIRES.

I'M AFRAID WE WON'T BE REQUIRING YOUR SERVICES.

BUT--



GOOD DAY.

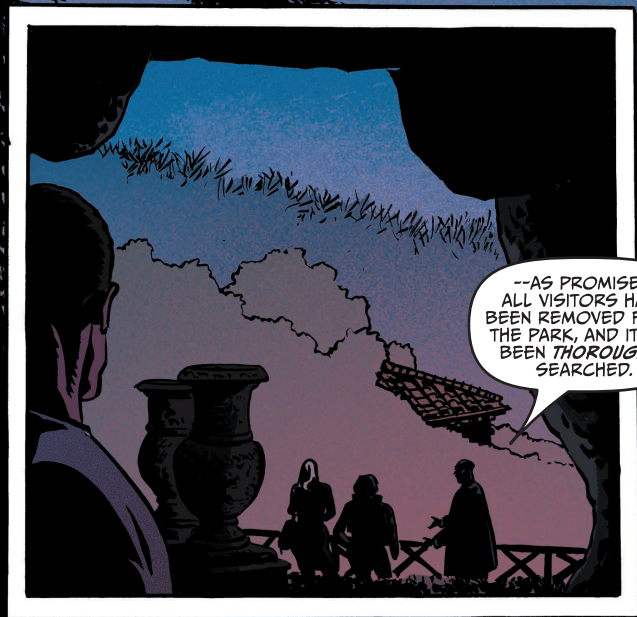
--BUT, SIR, HONESTLY--

NEXT!

--HONESTLY--





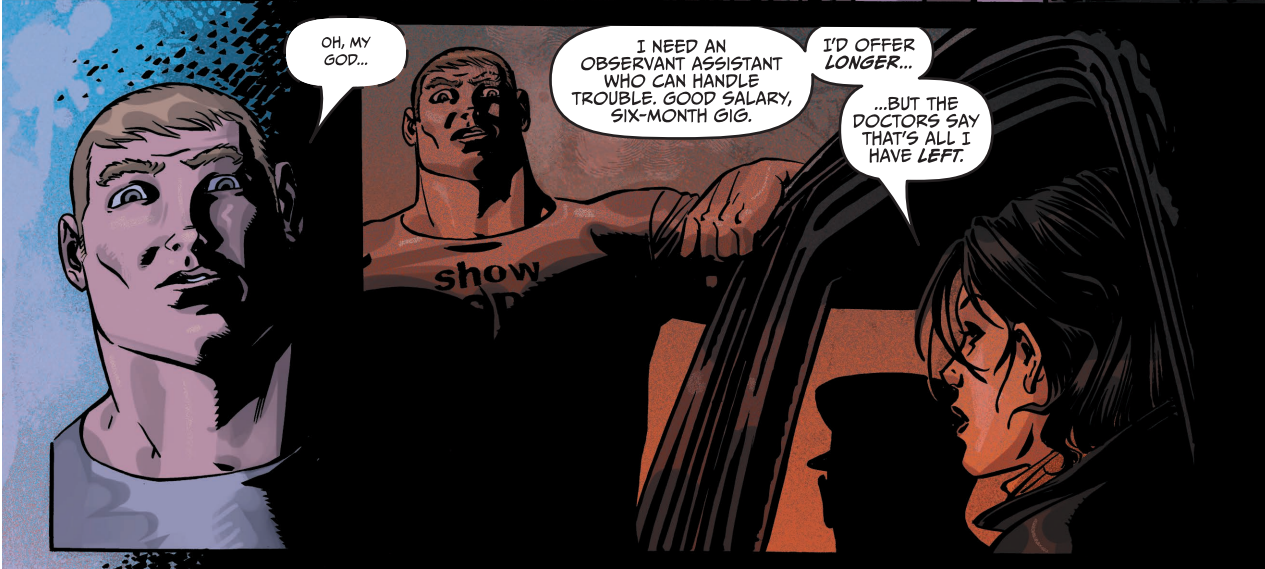


--AS PROMISED, ALL VISITORS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PARK, AND IT HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY SEARCHED.

IF I CAN DO ANYTHING FURTHER FOR YOU, MS. ALLINGHAM--

YOU CAN LEAVE.

RIGHT AWAY.



OH, MY GOD...

I NEED AN OBSERVANT ASSISTANT WHO CAN HANDLE TROUBLE. GOOD SALARY, SIX-MONTH GIG.

I'D OFFER LONGER...

...BUT THE DOCTORS SAY THAT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT.



...CATHERINE...?



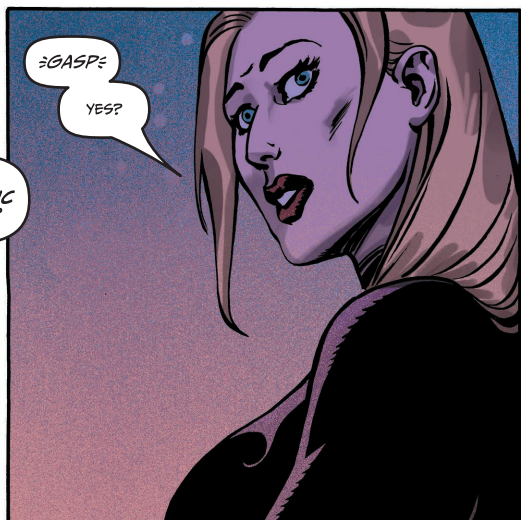
CHEERY PLACE.

IT'S AN ITALIAN RENAISSANCE GARDEN, ADRIANA, NOT A RAINBOW FACTORY.



VISITORS HAVE BEEN CLAIMING TO SEE *GHOSTS* HERE AT NIGHT FOR A MONTH NOW, AND UNLESS ONE OF THEM IS NAMED *CASPER*, I WOULDN'T EXPECT HAPPY FUN.

ARE WE AT THE *MAGIC HOUR* YET?



≡GASP≡

YES?

