

MADNESS



#6

FORGET THE TRUTH
AS YOU KNOW IT

YOU'VE BEEN **LIVING**
IN A FALSE
UNIVERSE

HILLY FLED UTOPIA TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE,
BUT IT BECAME INCREASINGLY UNCLEAR AS
TO WHOSE.



LUCKY FOR HER,
B.A. WAS IN
THE VICINITY.

HILLY FLED UTOPIA TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE
HILLY CRASHED!

WOW,
YOU ALRIGHT?

HUH? THAT'S YET TO BE SEEN.

THANK YOU, BUT MY
ANXIETY IS THROUGH
THE ROOF

OH?

WE ALL HAVE OUR DEMONS.

AGREED.

MY DEMONS
LOOK LIKE THE ASS
ENDS OF DASHED
HOPES AND DREAMS
TURNING CORNERS
AND CORNERS
IN A NEVER-ENDING
NIGHTMARE
OF...

THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU,
BUT AGAIN, THANK YOU.

OK, OK, I APOLOGIZE FOR
MY GUILTESSNESS.

DON'T. WHAT I'M SAYING IS,
I'M NOT READY TO BE THE BRIDE.

**I'VE BEEN
LIVING IN A**



MEET REBECCA
THE CURATOR.

CABINET OF
CURIOSITIES

BUT FOR THIS
ONCE GLORIOUS STAR,
TIME HAS NOT BEEN KIND.
WRITTEN IN ITS PASSAGE IS
HER EXPERIENCE, LIKE THOSE
RELATED IN VOLUMES
OF UNREAD BOOKS ON
DUSTY SHELVES.

SHE APPEARS A
DISTANT AND COLD,
JADED BY DISAPPOINTMENT:
SHE TOO, BATTLES DEMONS.
AND SHE HAS
DISPLAYS TO FILL
THE CURATOR

COME INSIDE WHERE
IT'S SAFE.

THAT SOUNDS
FAMILIAR. I'M NOT SURE
WHAT YOU MEAN.

ME NEITHER. I'D SAY
I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE,
BUT I'M FEELING
MORE AND MORE
LIKE THERE'S
NOTHING TO
GAIN.

**FALSE
UNIVERSE**

OH, FATALIST!
ALL THE SAME,
IT'S SAFE.

I GUESS.



HER NAME'S HILLY, AND SHE'S FLED UTOPIA.

SHE NEEDS OUR HELP.

OH. FOREVER THE WHITE KNIGHT.

HILLY JOINS B.A., THE LOQUACIOUS SECURITY GUARD FOR A PLACE NO ONE CARES ABOUT.

AND REBECCA, A CURATOR FOR A PLACE EVERYONE TREATS AS IRRELEVANT.

REBECCA SPEAKS LITTLE BUT MOVES WITH PURPOSE, A VISION TO REALIZE WHETHER EVERYONE'S LOOKING OR NOT.

WHAT'S WITH THE HUSHED TONES?

WE GOTTA GO NOW. THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST FIND IN THE CABINET OF CURIOSITIES.



AT FIRST THE CURIOSITIES SEEMED LIKE GRANDMA'S KNICK-KNACK COLLECTION BUT WITH EYES THAT SEEM TO FOLLOW THE VIEWER. S KNICK-KNACK COLLECTION BUT WITH EYES THAT SEEM TO FOLLOW THE VIEWER. TOTEMS THAT MAY HAVE DEEPER MEANING BUT SEEM IMPENETRABLE... ENIGMAS ALL. HILLY IS EITHER STULTIFIED OR BEGINNING TO WONDER IF SHE SHOULD STOP BEING LED BY ODD STRANGERS.

WHAT WAS THAT?

HUH?

NOTHING.

THE ENIGMAS HAVE EYES.

EYES THAT SEEM TO FOLLOW



WELL, WELL... LOOK HERE.

WHERE?

ALRIGHT. AND WHAT IS "IT?"

THAT'S A F***** SNOW GLOBE, DUDE

RIGHT HERE. I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT.

ONLY THE SECRET TO, LIKE, POWER.

DON'T BE CYNICAL. TRUST ME. YOU SHAKE THIS BABY, LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER, AND A WHOLE NEW WORLD OPENS UP TO YOU.

BOY, HAVE I HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE...

BEFORE SHE CAN UTTER A GROAN, THEY ARE TRANSPORTED TO



UTOPIA!

I...
I DON'T...
THIS IS...
AMAZING,
I KNOW!

OH, WOW. THIS IS...
NOT SO FAMILIAR...

BUT NOT IN
THE WORST
WAY.

THIS ISN'T HOW
I REMEMBER
UTOPIA.

HILLY, REBECCA, AND B.A.
ARE LAVISHED AND LAUDED
BY THE CROWD BEFORE THEM
IN EQUAL MEASURE.

SPEAKING OF THE FAMILIAR, HUH?

UTOPIA!

IN SOME WAYS, NOT SO DIFFERENT
FROM ITS ALTERNATIVES.

TOUCHED BY YOUR OUTPOURING

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TOUCHED BY YOUR OUTPOURING

HOPE: WHY NOW?
THOR: I NEED A COUPLE TICKS ALONE WITH YOU.
GUS: THIS IS BULLSHIT.
DESTRUERE: YOU SAID IT, SHE STINKS.
GRACE: WELL, I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER TO SEE HER!

THE BRIDE
HAS RETURNED
TO REJOICE.

THIS ORB...
I DON'T KNOW WHY,
SEEMS TO ME LIKE A
FRAGRANT WINE.

HILLY'S RETURN GARNERS A MIXED BAG OF MOODS.
THE BOARD IS SHOCKED. PERHAPS PLEASANTLY.
PERHAPS NOT.

STAKES ARE HIGH. LARGELY BECAUSE
AVARICE IS THE ONLY THING HOME TO
ANSWER OPPORTUNITY'S RAPPING
AT THE DOOR.

WELL, THE
IRRATIONAL CITY IS NO MORE.
I STAND BEFORE YOU ALL, OFFERING THE
SECRET TO POWER TO BE SHARED.
A NEW CULTURE.

A NEW
BEGINNING.
AND A FUTURE OF
OUR OWN DIRECTION
WITH A COMMON
VISION.

CALL ME NOSTALGIC, BUT
YOU KNOW, I FEEL LIKE SHIT WAS ALWAYS
BETTER WHEN I RAN THE SHOW.

THE WEDDING SHALL
DEMONSTRATE A UNITY.
HILLY, DESPITE HER DETRACTORS,
IS AN ADMIRABLE FIGURE.
AND THE WEDDING WILL AID
IN UNIFYING FACTIONS.

IN A UTOPIA
NOTHING IS
STATIC.

B.A.
WITHOUT UTOPIA, WE'RE
ALL FIGHTING FOR THE TOP. THE
MOST & C. AND THE THRONE IS NEVER
THE SAFEST PLACE. AS IT
IS THE MOST VISIBLE.

WELL,
I THINK WE CAN ALL
AGREE THE WEDDING
WILL BE AMAZING

THOR: OH, SHUT UP YOU DINOSAUR. TRIBALISM IN
SUCH CLOSE PROXIMITY IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER.
AND YOU KNOW IT. THE DIVVING OF RESOURCES
ALWAYS SOMEHOW FAVORS THE FEW, AND SURE, I KNOW
YOU'D LOVE TO SEE SOME OF US FIGHTING FOR THE SCRAPS.
CAN YOU REALLY BE SURE THAT WILL BE THE RESULT?

AFTER ENTERING UTOPIA,
REBECCA'S POWER
EMERGES.

SHE'S MUSCLE BUT
ALSO EMOTIONAL STRENGTH
BEYOND STRENGTH,
CIRCUMSPECT BUT
EMPATHETIC. TRAITS
PERFECT FOR CULTURAL
PROTECTOR.

REBECCA
MAID OF HONOR.

THE CROWD SPOKE IN ONE VOICE: OUR WORLD IS
MEASURED BY THE ROLES WE TAKE. WE FIND MEANING
FOLLOWING THE INFLUENCE OF OTHERS.

HIS IS TERRIBLE!

FOLLOWING OUR
IT WON'T LAST.
I'LL MAKE SURE!
YOU FOOLS!

HILLY IS
PLACED BEFORE
THE CROWD

HILLY
NEVER WANTED
TO BE A BRIDE.

THEIR CHEERS,
DROPPED HERE
FEELING OF
APPREHENSION
AT BEING A
LEADER.

TODAY, WE ARE
FOLLOWING OUR HEARTS
BUT NEVER LOSING OUR MINDS.

HILLY: OH... UM...

WE ALL LEARN FROM
FAILURE. IT'S OKAY TO FAIL OR TO
FEEL UNEASY WITH SUCCESS.
I LEARNED THAT FROM YOU.

HILLY: UM... OKAY?



I WANT THE POWER TO
MYSELF BECAUSE I HAVE ALREADY PROVEN MY WORTH.

DESTRUERE: YOU MAY NOT LOSE YOUR MINDS
UNLESS SOMEONE BRINGS ME THE ORB.

DESTRUERE: WHO IS DESTRUERE? NO ONE
WRONG! I DEFINE ME.

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EVERYONE GETS
SUPER IGNORANT



BUT YOU WILL LOSE THIS CHILD

DEFINES ME

I WILL NOT TOLERATE

I WILL NOT TOLERATE

I WILL NOT TOLERATE

I WILL NOT TOLERATE

I WILL NOT TOLERATE

I WILL NOT TOLERATE

VIOLENCE ENSUES.
SOME EVEN LOSE THEIR LIVES.



YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU?

IT SOLVES NOTHING. HAVE WE NOT BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD?

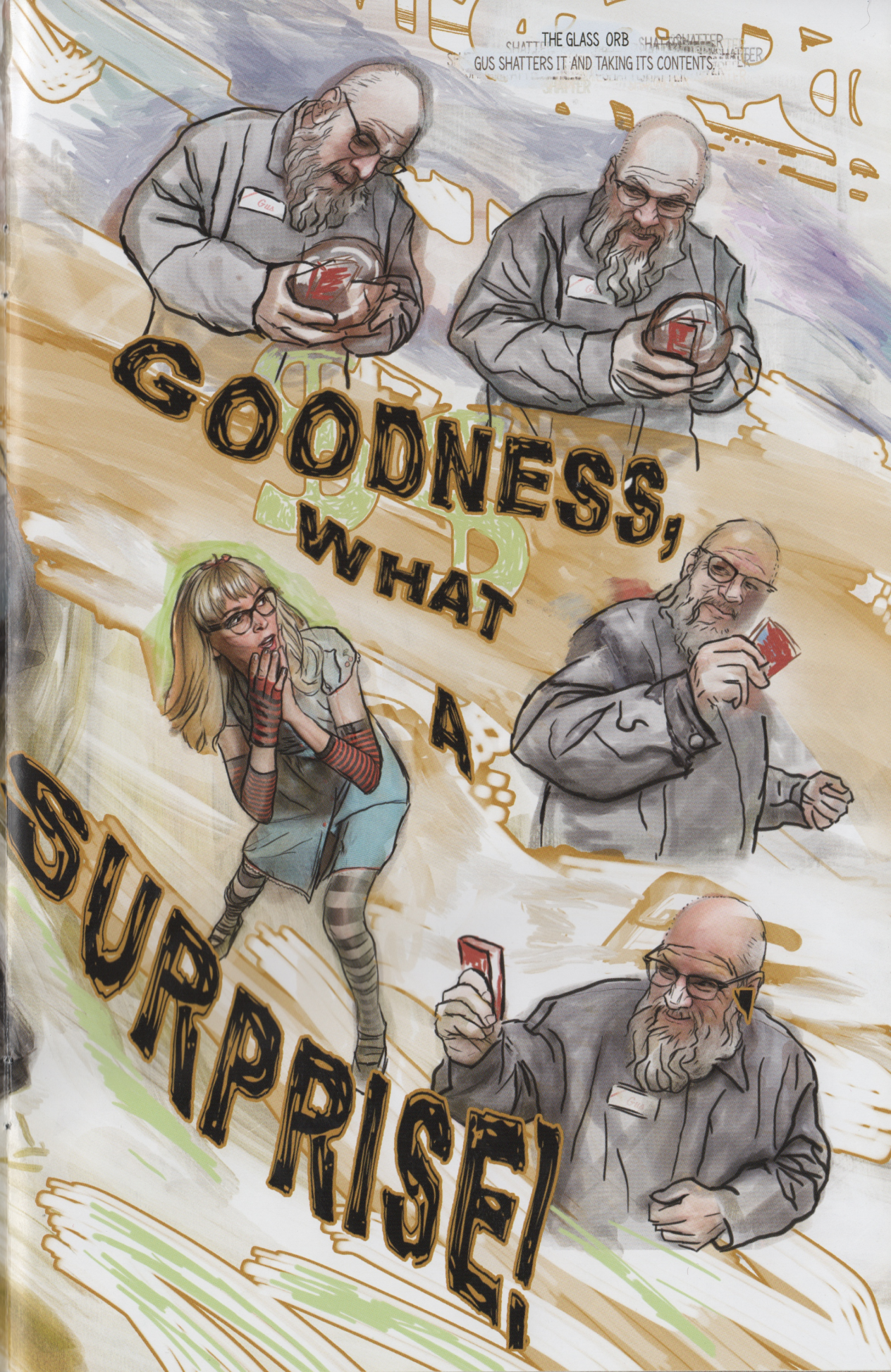
OH, IT WASN'T THAT BAD.

AT LEAST THERE WAS SOME CLASSY ASS DECADENCE.

SOMEHOW, I COULD'VE PREDICTED THIS. LOOK, I KNOW YOU LIKE YOUR PIES IN THE SKY BIG GUY, BUT THIS AIN'T WORKING. I WANT MY CUT. YOU GIVE ME THE SECRET TO POWER, AND THIS ALL GOES AWAY.

GUS, GET THE ORB

THE GLASS ORB SHATTERS
GUS SHATTERS IT AND TAKING ITS CONTENTS



GOODNESS, WHAT

A SURPRISE!

THE EVENT GETS SUPER IGNORANT AGAIN.
B.A., HILLY, AND REBECCA RETREAT
AND REGROUP ELSEWHERE.

I'M LOVING THIS SHIT.
GOOD THINGS DO HAPPEN
TO BAD PEOPLE, AND IT MAKES
ME GIDDY AF. YOW!

LOVING IT!

ELSEWHERE:
B.A. WALLOWS IN HIS
OWN CRAPULENCE.

MY DAY,
AND SOMEHOW I
KNEW THIS WOULD BECOME
ABOUT EVERYONE
ELSE.

HOW DID I LET
THIS HAPPEN?

BUT IT'S
TOO LATE
TO GO BACK NOW.
NO USE WHINING
ABOUT IT.

THAT POOR CHILD.
AND THOR... ALWAYS THE
OPPORTUNIST.
UHHHHHH.

LET'S DO
SOMETHING.

SHE'S HARSH
BUT SHE'S
RIGHT.

THE ART GALLERIES AND
COLLECTORS.

WE FOLLOW THE MONEY, AND WE CAN RETRIEVE
THE 'SECRET OF POWER' FROM THOR.







DESTRUERE CACKLED IN HER RANDIAN MANNER.

MORE DESTRUCTIVE INFLUENCES CREATE SUPER IGNORANCE AS THE FIGHT CONSUMES MUCH OF DALLAS.

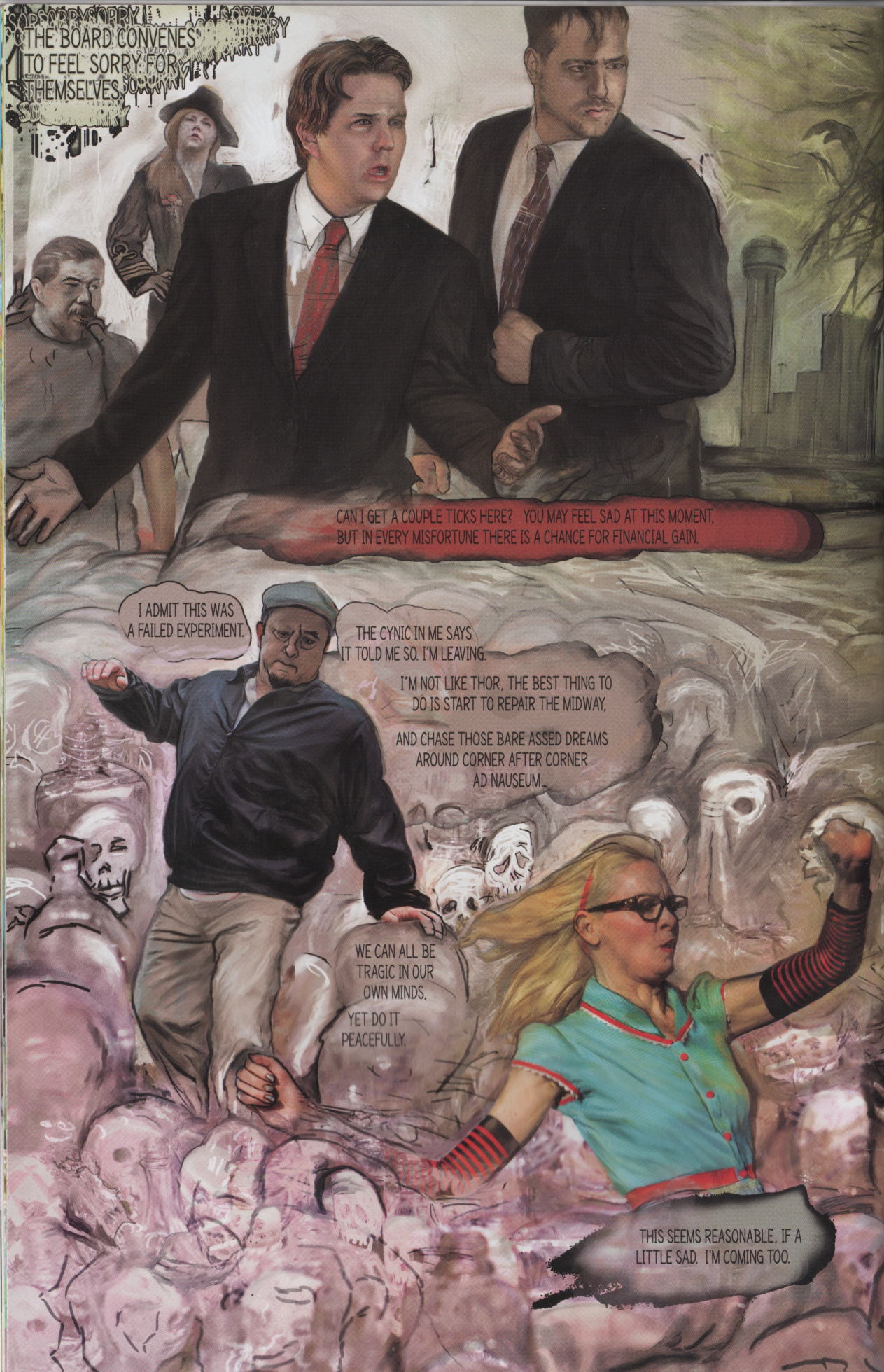


THOR IS STILL A CLEVER DICK,
AND DESTRUERE MADE
THE HIGHEST EBAY BID FOR
THE SECRET TO POWER.
BECAUSE THOR IS UNSCRUPULOUS
AND ALL ABOUT PLEASURE,
IT MAKES SENSE.



B.A. HILLY, AND REBECCA RESCUE
THE HOSTAGE ONLY TO DISCOVER
THEIR VICTORY WAS PYRRHIC.

THE BOARD CONVENES
TO FEEL SORRY FOR
THEMSELVES. SORRY



CAN I GET A COUPLE TICKS HERE? YOU MAY FEEL SAD AT THIS MOMENT, BUT IN EVERY MISFORTUNE THERE IS A CHANCE FOR FINANCIAL GAIN.

I ADMIT THIS WAS A FAILED EXPERIMENT.

THE CYNIC IN ME SAYS IT TOLD ME SO. I'M LEAVING.

I'M NOT LIKE THOR, THE BEST THING TO DO IS START TO REPAIR THE MIDWAY, AND CHASE THOSE BARE ASSED DREAMS AROUND CORNER AFTER CORNER AD NAUSEUM.

WE CAN ALL BE TRAGIC IN OUR OWN MINDS, YET DO IT PEACEFULLY.

THIS SEEMS REASONABLE, IF A LITTLE SAD. I'M COMING TOO.

HITS

I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED AT THE CRAVEN BEHAVIOR I'M WITNESSING HERE. YOU MAKE PROMISES TO PEOPLE YOU CAN'T KEEP AND ARE DEJECTED AF WHEN THE SHIT HITS THE FAN?

HITS THE FAN?

I'M STAYING, AND I'M GOING TO MUDDLE THROUGH THIS WITH EVERYONE ELSE. THERE IS LITERALLY NOTHING TO LOSE, BUT MAYBE WE CAN GAIN OUR SOULS.

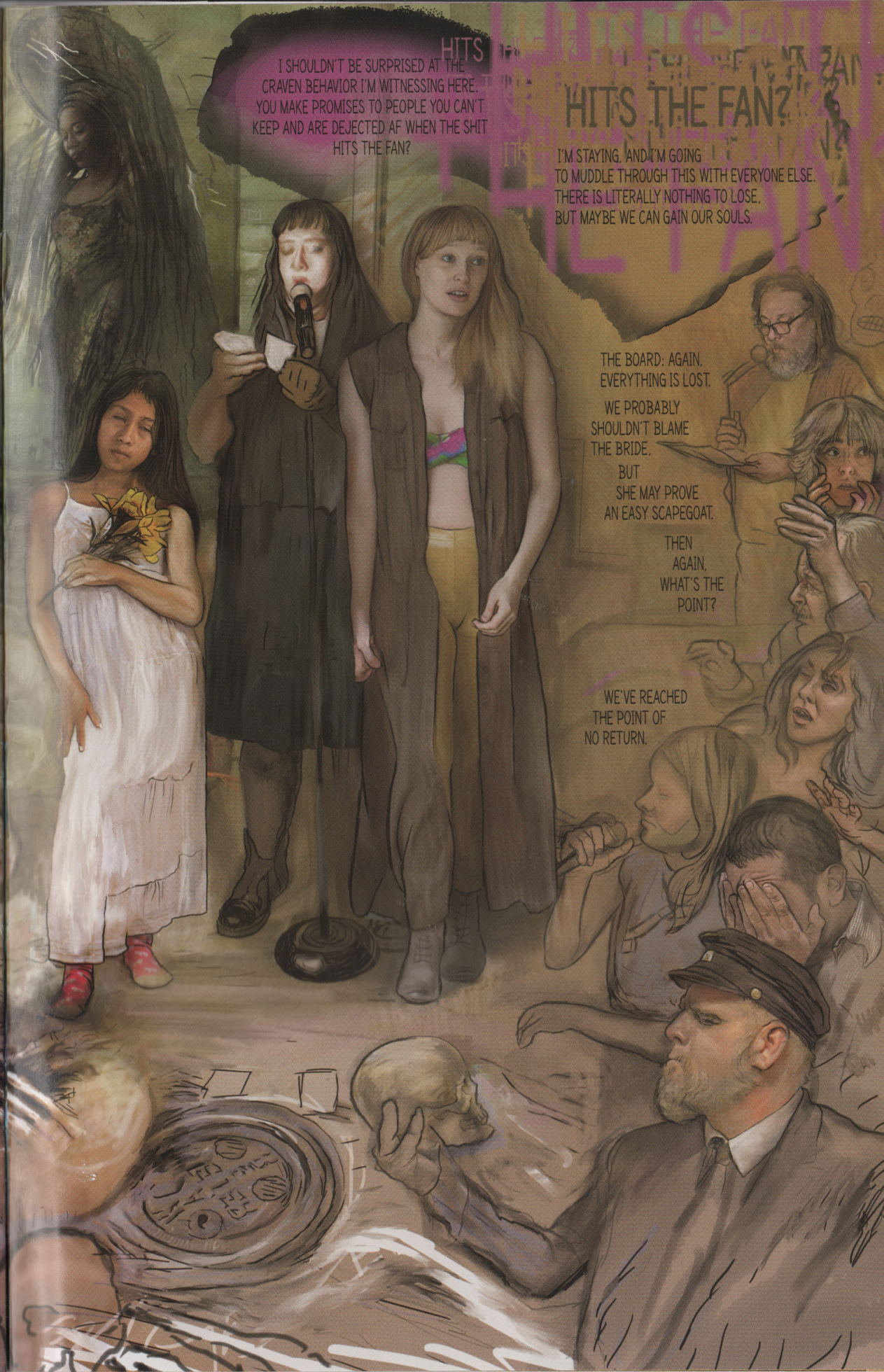
THE BOARD: AGAIN, EVERYTHING IS LOST.

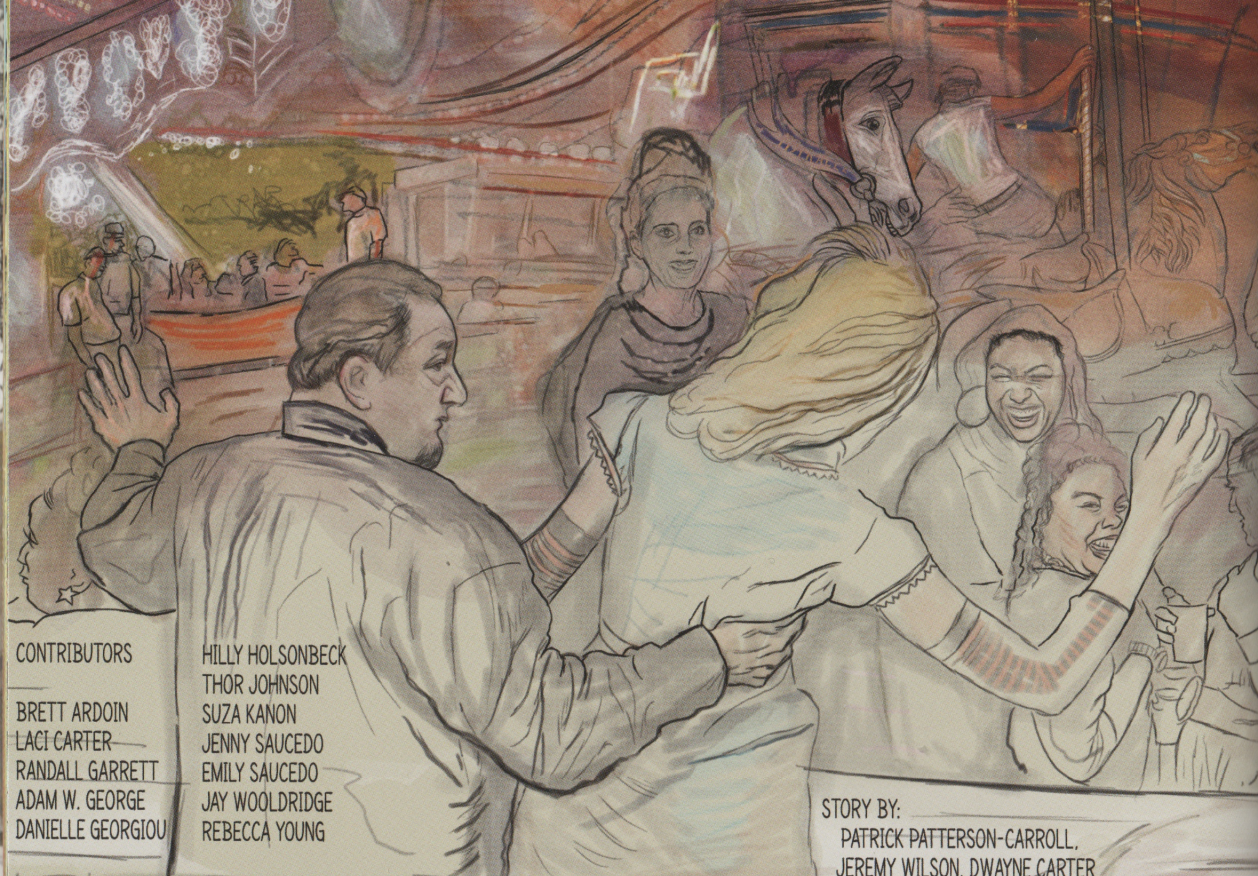
WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BLAME THE BRIDE.

BUT SHE MAY PROVE AN EASY SCAPEGOAT.

THEN AGAIN, WHAT'S THE POINT?

WE'VE REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.





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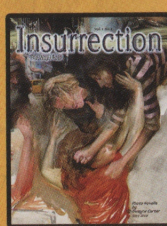
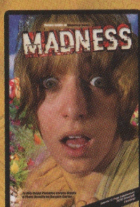
CHECK AT THESE LOCATIONS

KESSLER	CURIOSITIES
RO2 GALLERY	KEITH'S COMICS
MFA GALLERY	AWESOME COMICS



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PREVIOUS ISSUES



B.A., DASHED HOPES AND DREAMS
FOR THE SECURITY GUARD OF A
PLACE NO ONE REMEMBERS



REBECCA, MUSCLE, BUT
ALSO EMOTIONAL STRENGTH



DESTRUERE, THE NAME
DEFINES HER



HILLY, ADMIRING EYES
DULLED HER APPREHENSION.
STILL, SHE NEVER WANTED
TO BE THE BRIDE.

THOR, LOVING AND EXPLOITING
EVERY MINUTE OF THE DESPAIR
AND TURMOIL

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