

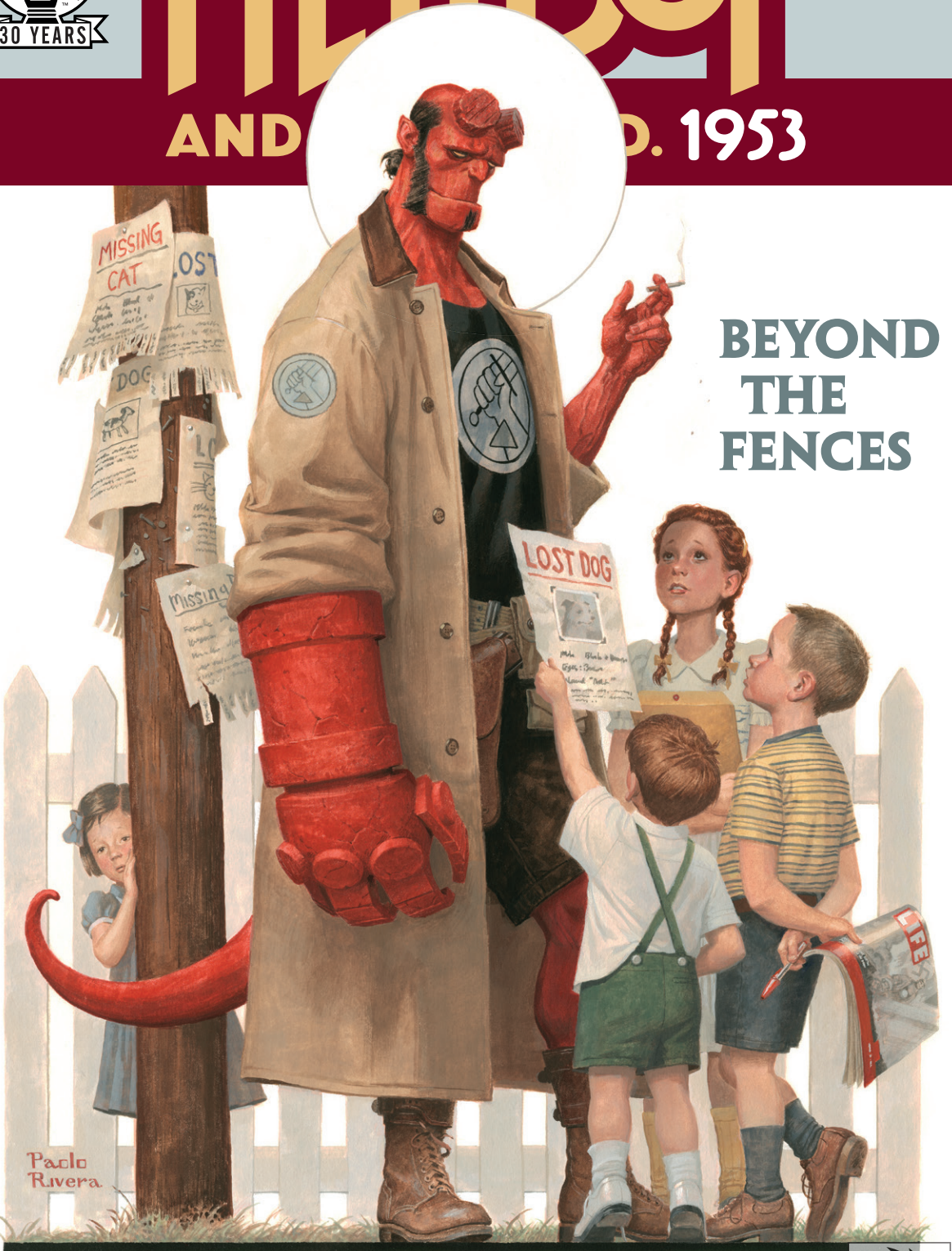


HELLBOY™

1

AND ... 1953

BEYOND
THE
FENCES



Mike Mignola Chris Roberson

Paolo Rivera Joe Rivera Dave Stewart



HELLBOY AND THE BUREAU FOR PARANORMAL RESEARCH AND DEFENSE

CREATED BY MIKE MIGNOLA

NUMBER 8 IN A SERIES



In 1944, Professor Trevor Bruttonholm witnessed the arrival of a strange creature in a crumbling English church. He named the creature Hellboy and raised him at the newly founded Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense in the United States. In 1952, Hellboy went on his first mission with the BPRD and was subsequently granted honorary-human status by the United Nations.

Story by **MIKE MIGNOLA** and **CHRIS ROBERSON**

Pencils by **PAOLO RIVERA** / Inks by **JOE RIVERA**

Colors by **DAVE STEWART** / Letters by **CLEM ROBINS**

Cover by **PAOLO RIVERA** / Variant cover by **DAVID MACK**

Publisher **MIKE RICHARDSON**

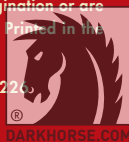
Editor **SCOTT ALLIE** Associate Editor **SHANTEL LAROCQUE** Assistant Editor **KATII O'BRIEN**

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THE BUREAU FOR PARANORMAL RESEARCH AND DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS IN FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT-- DECEMBER 1953.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO WANT US TO FAIL, SUSAN. SIMPLY BECAUSE WE'RE WOMEN.

DR. N.K. SANDHU, PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANT TO THE B.P.R.D.

HOOVER NEVER MADE THINGS EASY FOR YOU AT YOUR LAST JOB. I KNOW.

DESPITE MY FATHER'S FORTUNE, I HAD TO FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF A SYSTEM THAT INTENDED VERY DIFFERENT THINGS FOR ME...

BUT PROFESSOR BRITTENHOLM RECOGNIZED MY VALUE, JUST AS HE RECOGNIZED YOUR TALENTS. SO YOU MUST OVERCOME YOUR DOUBTS, AND ALLOW THOSE TALENTS TO FLOURISH.

NOW, TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

SUSAN XIANG, FORMER INTELLIGENCE ANALYST FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. B.P.R.D. AFFILIATION AS OF 1952.

AN EYE, MAYBE? OR... I DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING...

⚡BZZT⚡ AGENTS XIANG, STEGNER, AND HELLBOY, REPORT FOR MISSION BRIEFING. ⚡BZZT⚡

SORRY, DR. SANDHU. CAN WE TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THIS?

OF COURSE, SUSAN. YOUR DUTIES COME FIRST.





...AND THAT'S WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR.

PROFESSOR TREVOR BRITTENHOLM, DIRECTOR OF THE B.P.R.D.



HELLBOY.

JUST VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE?

MAYBE THEY ALL RAN AWAY TO JOIN THE CIRCUS.

JACOB STEGNER, FORMER CORPORAL IN THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. B.P.R.D. AFFILIATION AS OF 1947.



I DOUBT THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING FIND IT QUITE SO AMUSING, JACOB.

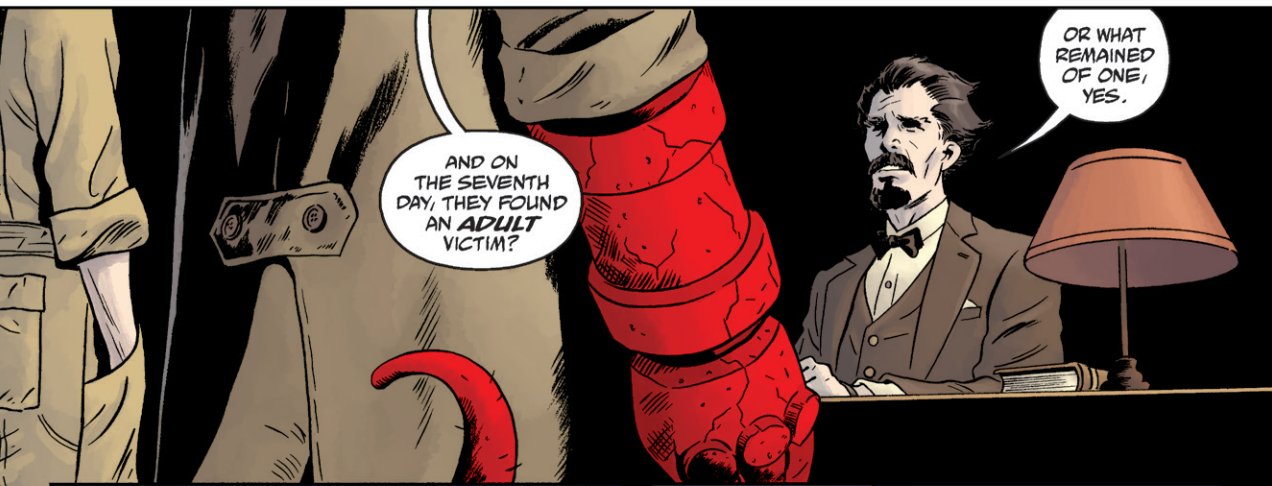
BUT, YES, HELLBOY, UP UNTIL THIS MOST RECENT CASE, NO TRACE WAS FOUND OF THOSE WHO HAD GONE MISSING.



SIX CHILDREN IN AS MANY DAYS.

HOW HORRIBLE.





OR WHAT REMAINED OF ONE, YES.

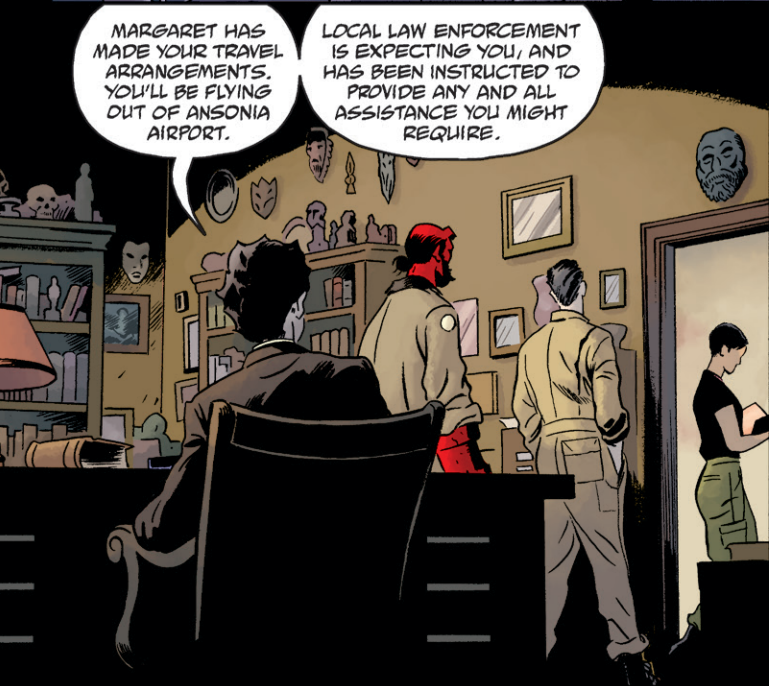
AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY, THEY FOUND AN ADULT VICTIM?



"THE EARLY SUSPICION HAD BEEN THAT SOME SORT OF CULT ACTIVITY OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING WAS INVOLVED.



"BUT THE REPORTED SIGHTING OF A CREATURE IN THE AREA SUGGESTS WE MAY BE DEALING WITH SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF THE JERSEY DEVIL."



MARGARET HAS MADE YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. YOU'LL BE FLYING OUT OF ANSONIA AIRPORT.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS EXPECTING YOU, AND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE ANY AND ALL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT REQUIRE.



AND HELLBOY? DO TRY TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.

I'LL DO MY BEST, PROFESSOR.



EXOTIC MATERIALS
LABORATORY, CALIFORNIA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

WHO'S
THAT--?

OH, DR. BOUCQ,
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE
WAS IN THE BUILDING
ALREADY.

A FELLA
WOULD THINK
YOU WERE BUCKING
FOR A PROMOTION
WITH THESE EXTRA
HOURS YOU'RE
PUTTING IN.

YES,
WELL...YOU
SEE...

I HAVE A DELICATE
EXPERIMENT IN THE
FINAL STAGES, AND
IT NEEDS CONSTANT
MONITORING.

THAT'S ALL
OVER MY HEAD,
DOC. JUST DON'T
FORGET TO PUNCH
IN NEXT TIME,
OKAY?

OF
COURSE,
YES.

WILL
DO.

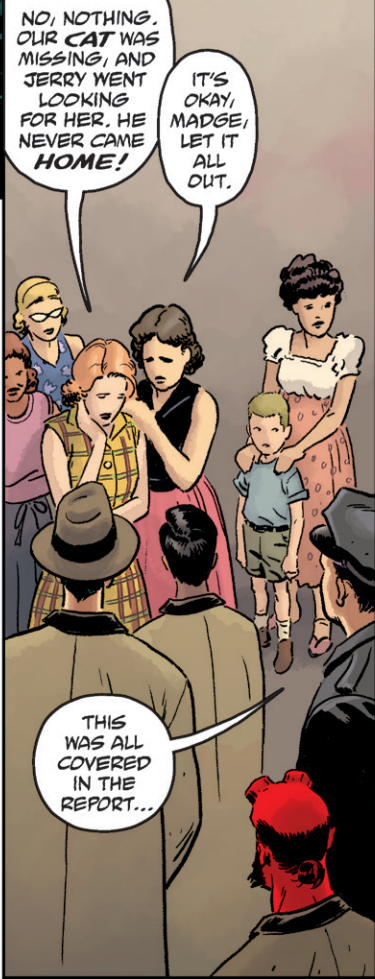


ROSEMEAD,
CALIFORNIA.



...AND THE LAST TIME YOU SAW YOUR HUSBAND, DID HE SAY OR DO ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY?

ANYTHING YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE MENTIONED TO THE POLICE?



NO, NOTHING. OUR CAT WAS MISSING, AND JERRY WENT LOOKING FOR HER. HE NEVER CAME HOME!

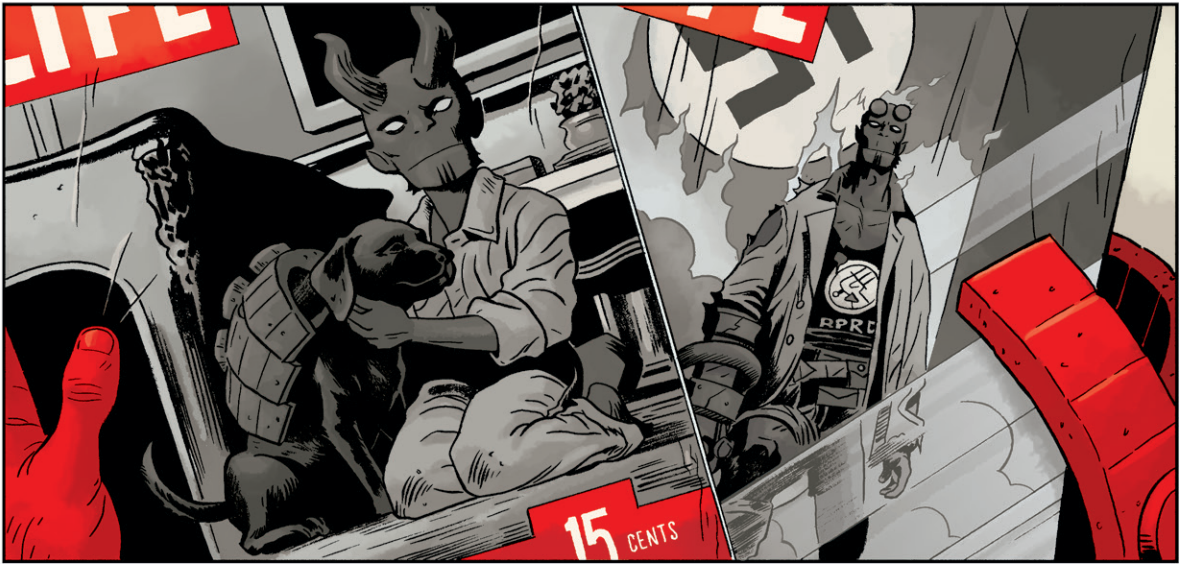
IT'S OKAY, MADGE, LET IT ALL OUT.

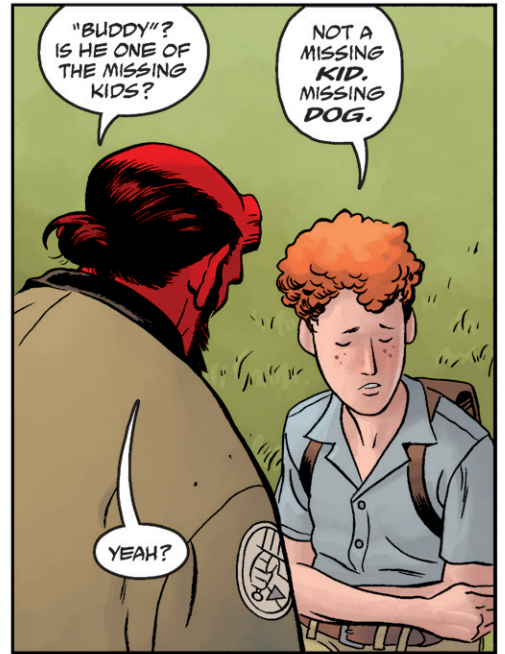
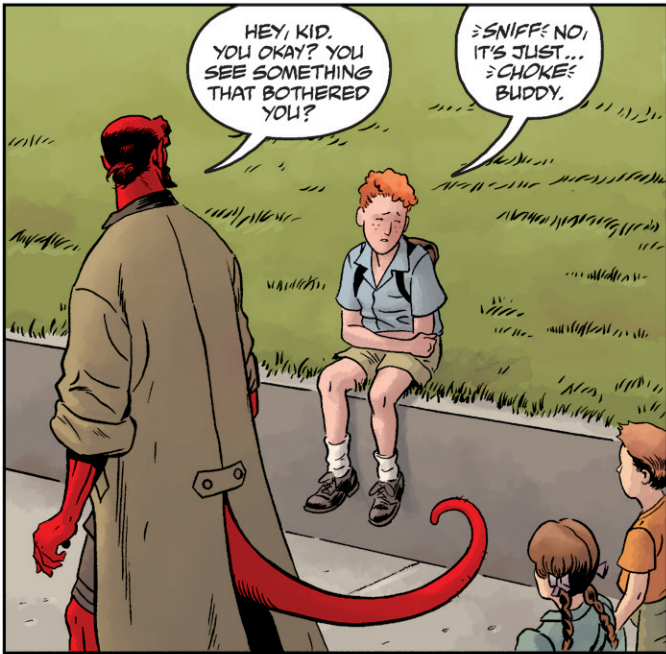
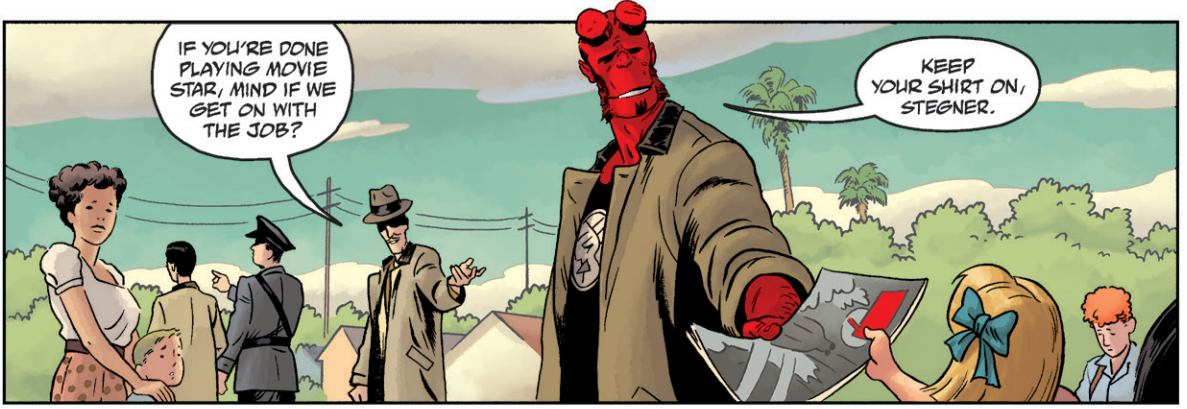
THIS WAS ALL COVERED IN THE REPORT...



'SCUSE ME, MR. HELLBOY?



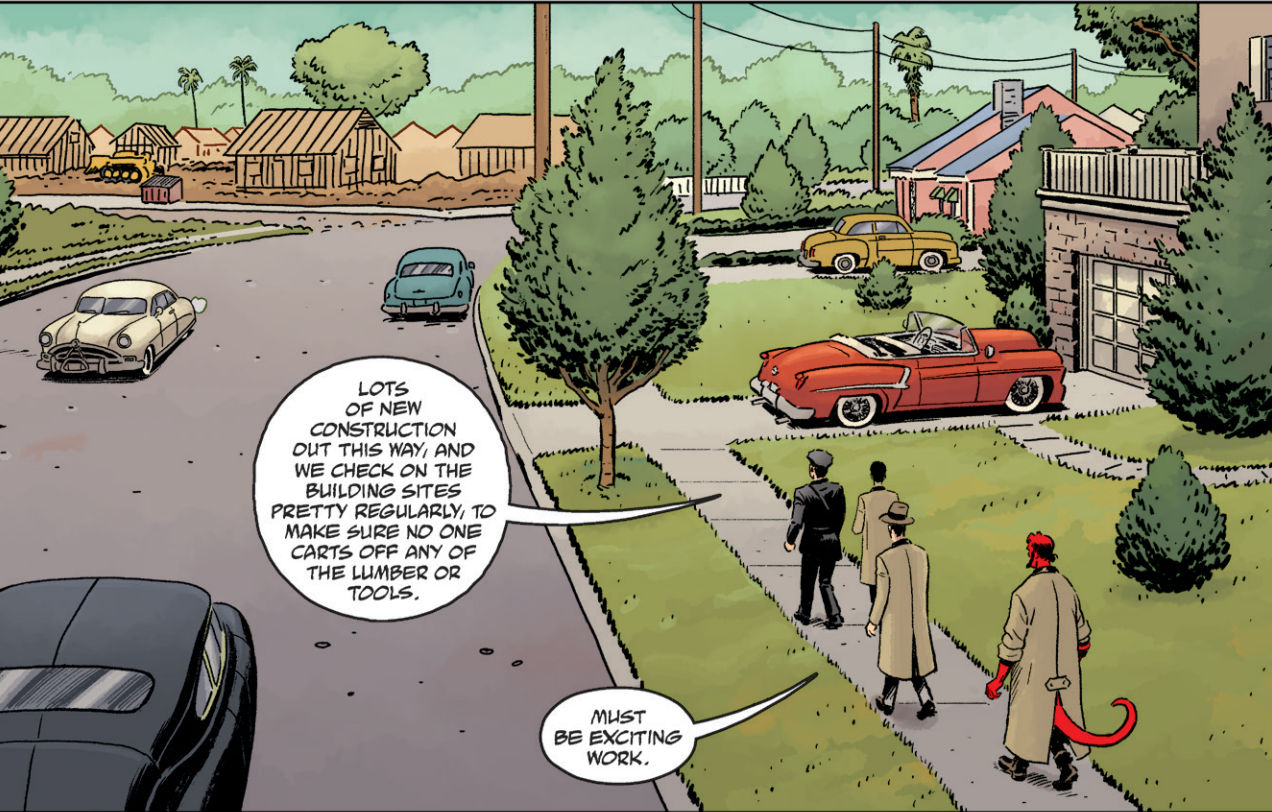






AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FOUND IT, OFFICER?

THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS DOING A ROUTINE PATROL WHEN I SPOTTED IT.



LOTS OF NEW CONSTRUCTION OUT THIS WAY, AND WE CHECK ON THE BUILDING SITES PRETTY REGULARLY, TO MAKE SURE NO ONE CARTS OFF ANY OF THE LUMBER OR TOOLS.

MUST BE EXCITING WORK.



WEIRD. THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY BIRDS OR BUGS AROUND AT ALL.

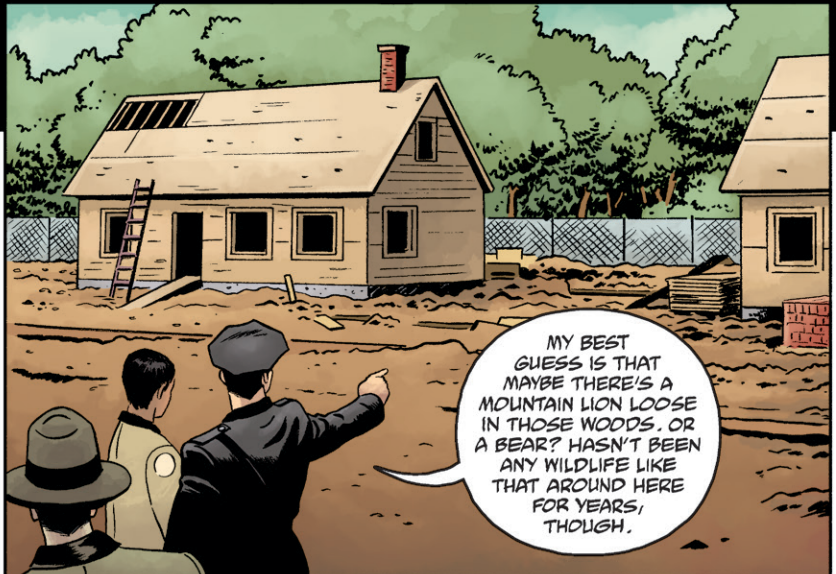


WELL, ANYWAY, I WAS OUT MAKING MY USUAL ROUNDS WHEN I SAW...



IT WAS A HUMAN LEG. PART OF ONE, ANYWAY.

IT HAD BEEN... **GNAWED**, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY. LIKE, **CHEWED ON**.



MY BEST GUESS IS THAT MAYBE THERE'S A MOUNTAIN LION LOOSE IN THOSE WOODS. OR A BEAR? HASN'T BEEN ANY WILDLIFE LIKE THAT AROUND HERE FOR YEARS, THOUGH.



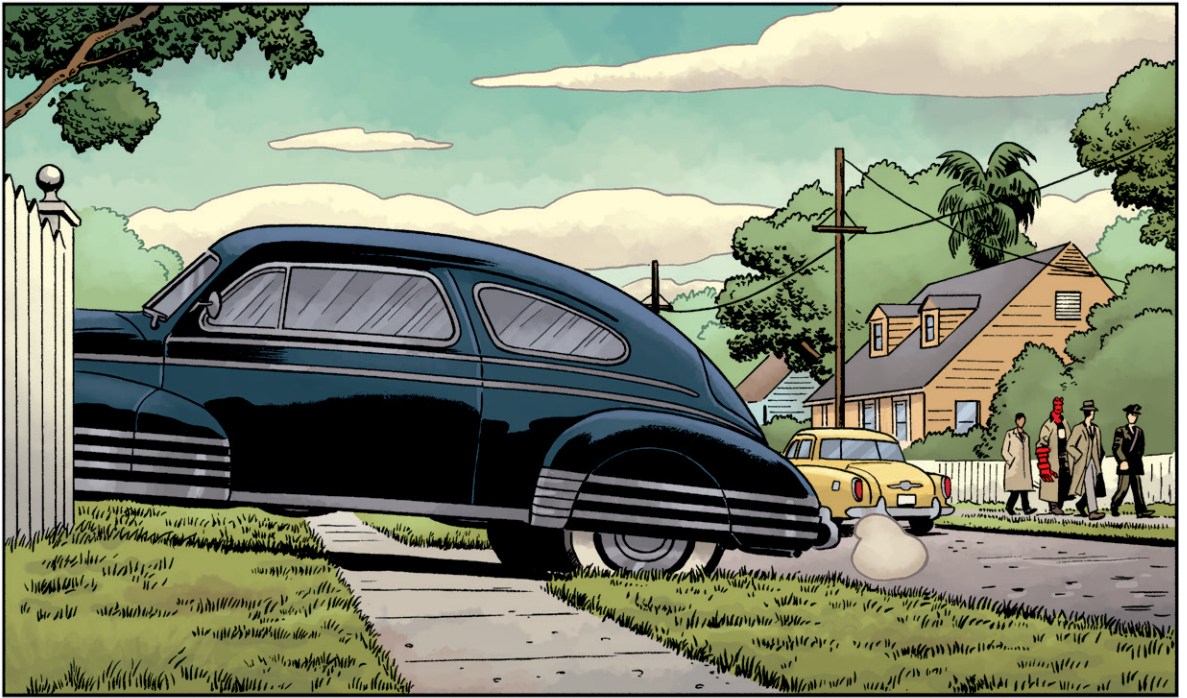
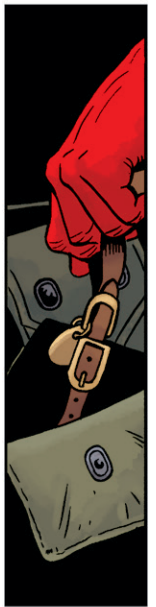
SO WE'VE GOT MISSING PETS, THEN MISSING KIDS, AND THEN MISSING ADULTS, ALL IN THE SPAN OF A WEEK AND CHANGE.

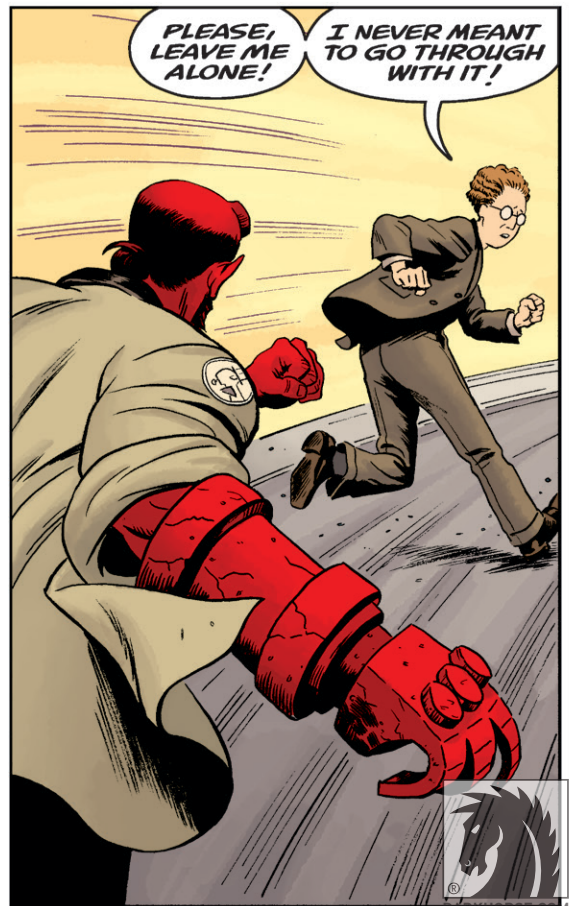
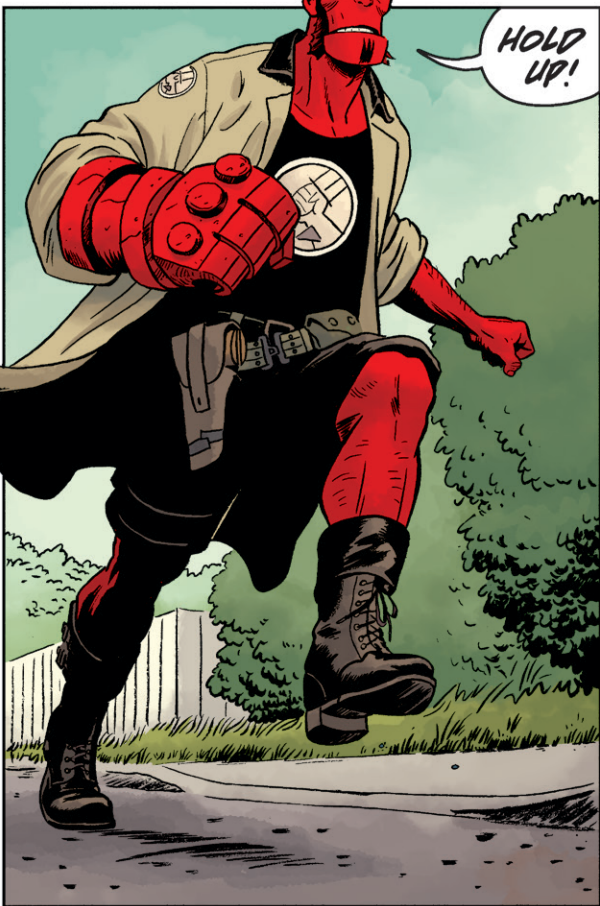
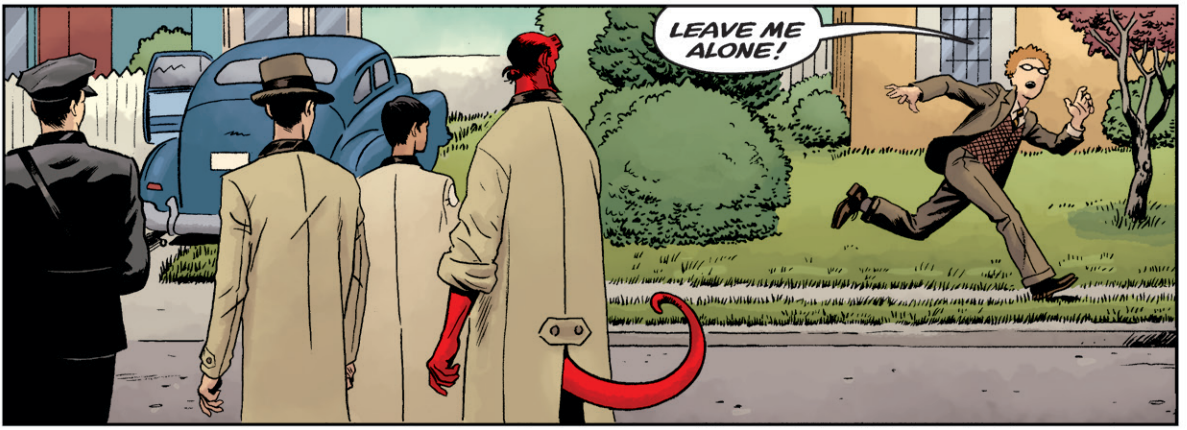
MAYBE THEY JUST GOT BORED LIVING OUT HERE IN THE SUBURBS. COULDN'T BLAME 'EM.

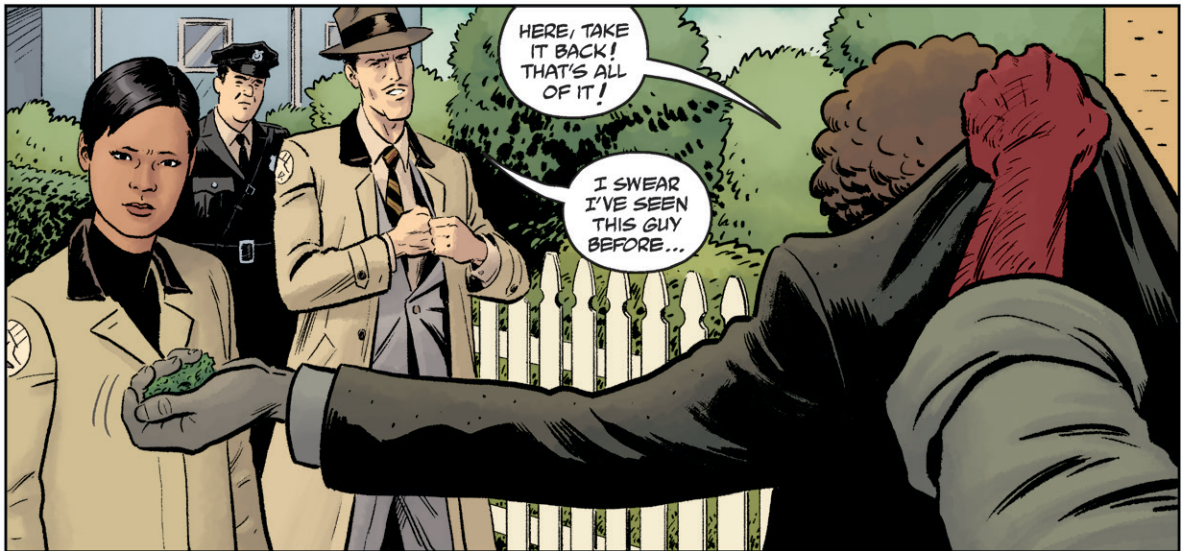
YOU EVER HEARD OF THIS NEW THING THEY'VE GOT NOW, STEGNER? IT'S CALLED "COMPASSION"...



...MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOME-TIME.



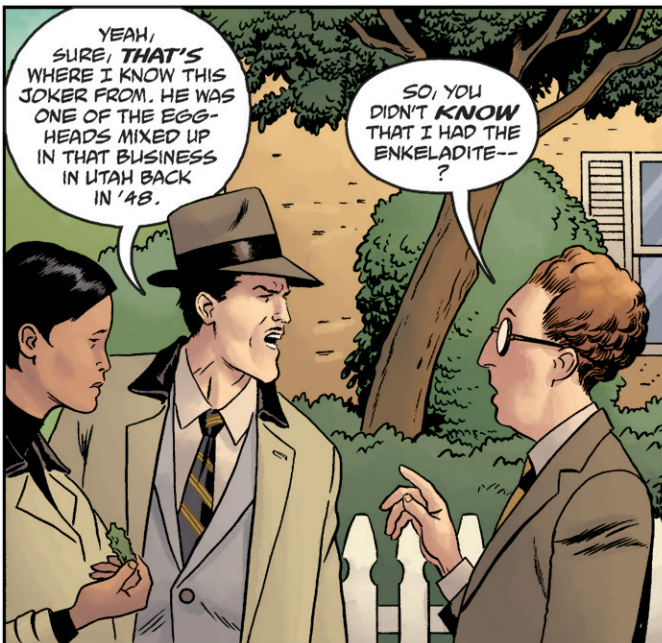
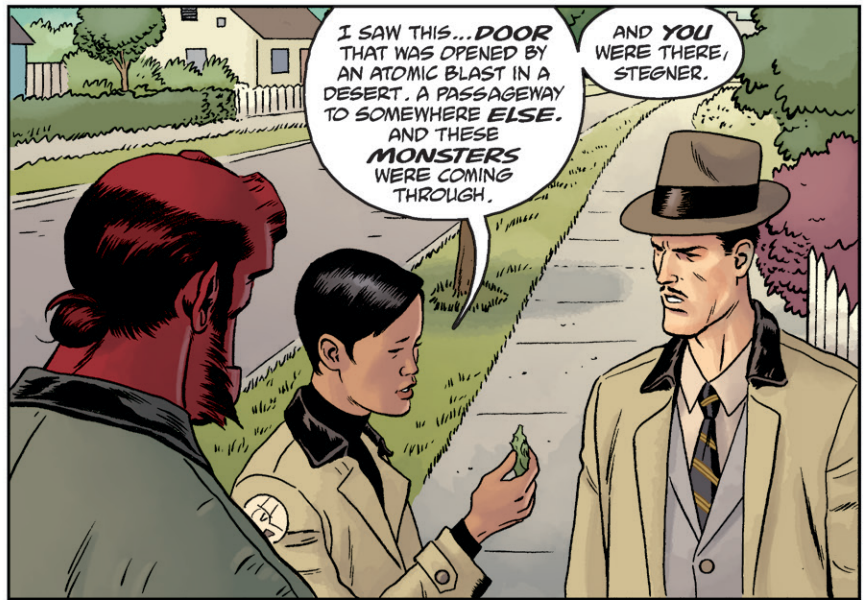


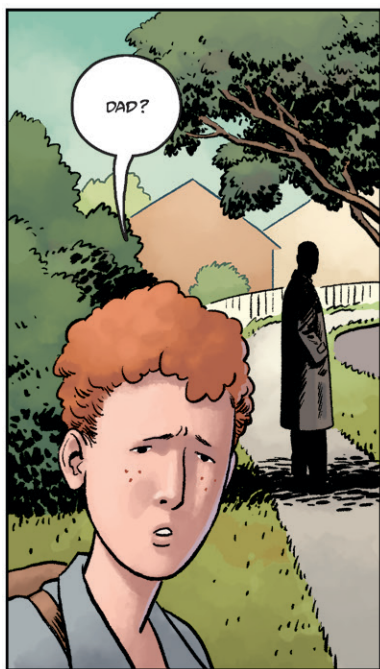
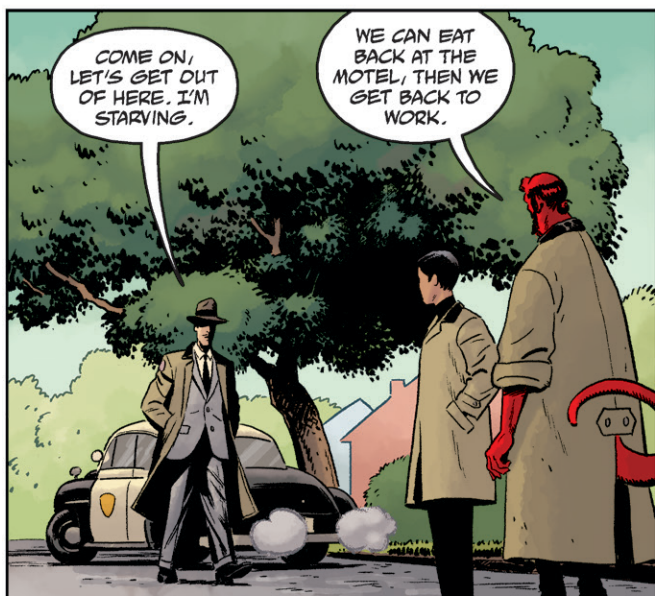


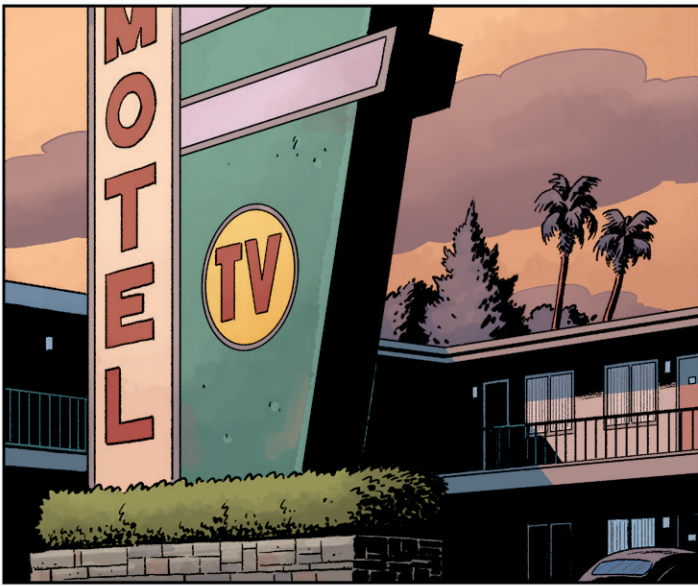




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EVERYONE DECENT IN HERE?



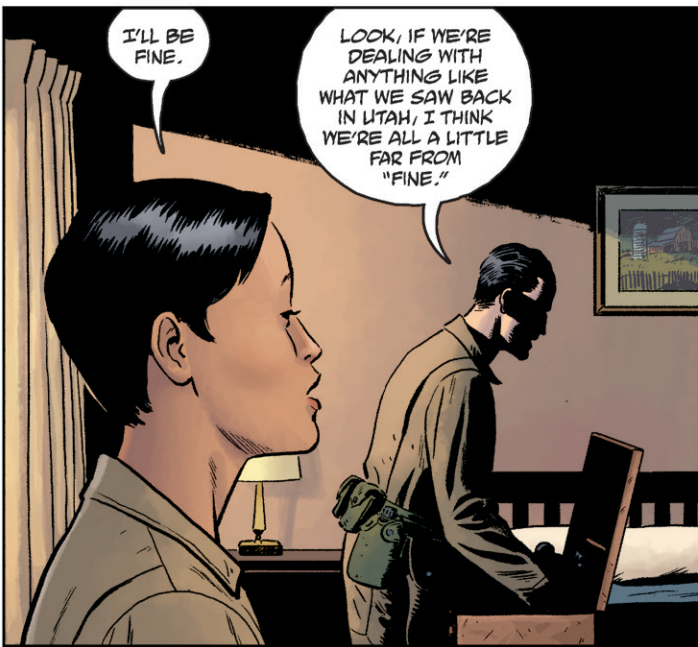
IS STEGNER EVER DECENT?

GROW UP, KID. THIS IS SERIOUS.



YOU ALL RIGHT, SUE? YOU STILL LOOK PRETTY SHAKEN UP.

THE EXERCISES THAT DR. SANDHU GAVE ME ARE HELPING. *SOME*, AT LEAST. BUT IT'S STILL...



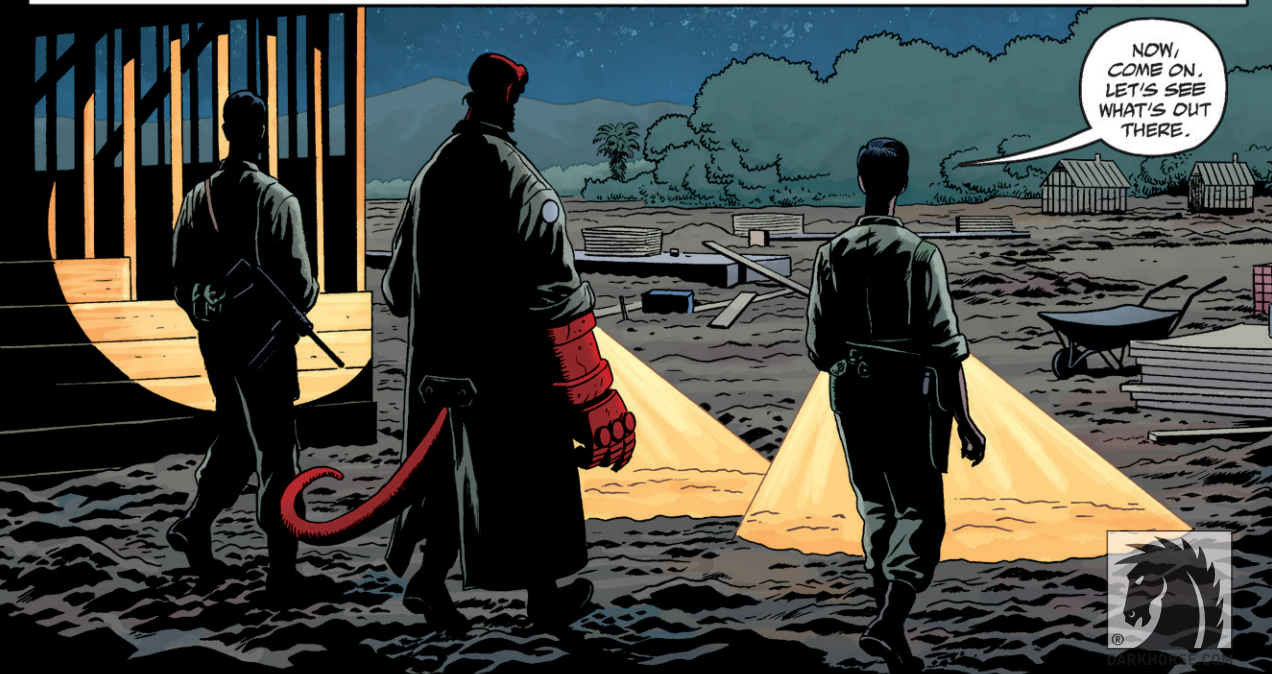
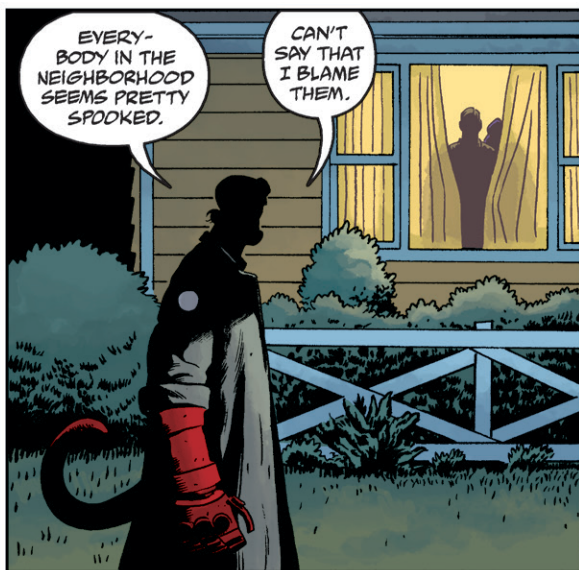
I'LL BE FINE.

LOOK, IF WE'RE DEALING WITH ANYTHING LIKE WHAT WE SAW BACK IN UTAH, I THINK WE'RE ALL A LITTLE FAR FROM "FINE."



IF SOMETHING WEIRD IS OUT THERE, WE NEED TO PUT IT DOWN, AND **FAST.**







MAYBE THE "BAIT" WILL HELP LURE SOMETHING OUT.

I STILL SAY IT'S A BAD IDEA CARRYING THAT DAMNED THING AROUND. A **REALLY** BAD IDEA.



YOU SAID THOSE CREATURES IN UTAH SEEMED TO BE DRAWN TO SAMPLES OF THIS STUFF. MAYBE THAT WILL WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE HERE.



YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, SUE?

I KNOW DR. SANDHU HAS BEEN HELPING YOU GET A HANDLE ON THIS WHOLE "PSYCHIC" THING.

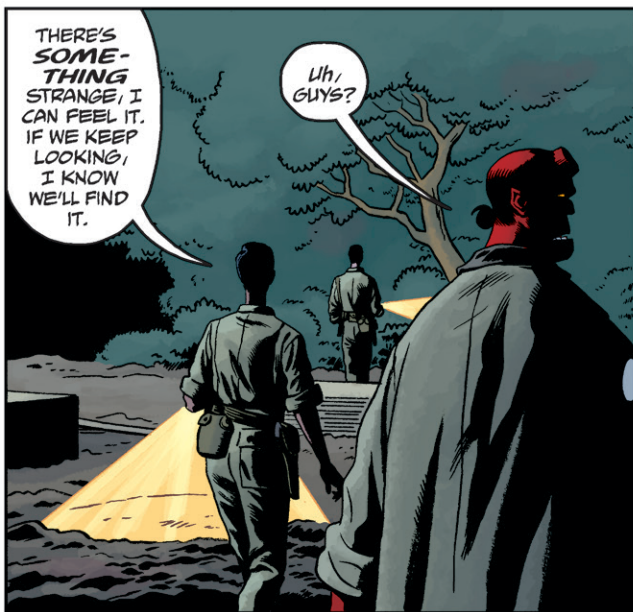
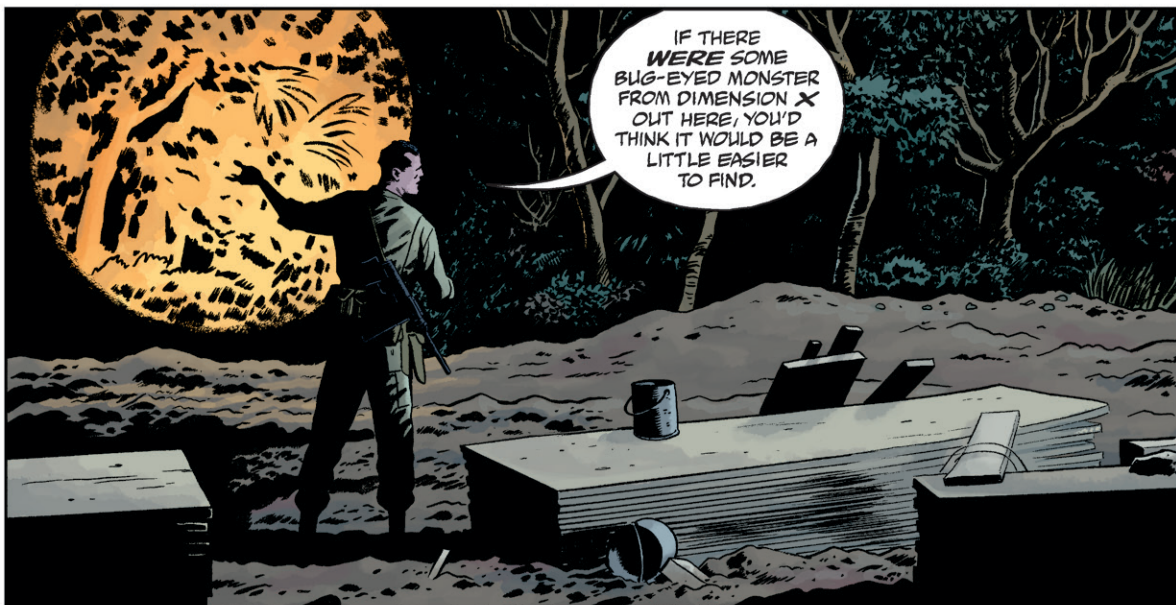


"LAST YEAR IN BRAZIL YOU ONLY GOT FLASHES WHEN YOU TOUCHED CERTAIN OBJECTS. WHAT DID DOC SANDHU CALL THEM? 'PSYCHOMETRIC VISIONS'?"



"BUT LAST MONTH YOU WERE GETTING YOUR WOO-WOO FEELING FROM CLEAR ACROSS COUNTRY. THAT MUST TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO."





GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR



Hellmail

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SEND LETTERS OF COMMENT TO
hellmail@darkhorse.com

I want to thank our pal David Mack, Fight Club cover artist and award-winning creator of Kabuki, for doing the guest covers this month on all our Mignola titles: for Abe #31, B.P.R.D. #140—which ran late, so technically next month—and this book. Although Paolo's Norman Rockwell riff on the regular cover of this issue was pretty stunning as well . . . Variant or standard cover? You can't go wrong this month.

Hey Scott,

It's 3:00 a.m. here on the coast in Lincoln City, Oregon. I finally have some time to read up on my latest DH comics that have been stacked on my desk, beckoning to me for over a month now. At the moment I am gleefully reading *Hellboy and the B.P.R.D.: 1953*. I love reading *Hellboy*; it makes me say things like “gleefully”! *Hellboy* comics were the first comics I cut my teeth on, so it's always *freaking amazing* when I get to read new *Hellboy* comics!

Anyway, the point of why I'm writing to you is this:

1. I have new *Hellboy* comics and I'm happy, so thank you!
2. It's 3:13 a.m.
3. And more importantly I wanted to say, when I read *Hellboy* I wonder if there will ever be any more *Hellboy* action figures made? Like *Hellboy: The Wild Hunt* action figures, and *Hellboy in Hell* action figures.
4. And lastly, can I get a witness?!

I wish you all the best, and thank you, Mike, Scott, and the rest for giving me something to look forward to!

Cheers,
Ransom

God is your witness, Ransom.

*I'm usually up thinking about *Hellboy* at 3:13 a.m. too, so I appreciate the company. I don't think*

Mike's working on any more action figures. His product focus is usually more like prints and sketch-books. The action figures happen when the movie people come calling, so maybe . . .

Scott,

I just finished reading *B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth* #138, digitally. I couldn't make it to the comic shop today so I did something I never do . . . download. Oh, I grab comics digitally, but not *B.P.R.D.* until after I have the actual book in hand. Call me old school, call me sentimental, but this comic book is the essence of what I think a comic book should be. If it “should” be anything, then it should be this. Point is, I couldn't wait until tomorrow, and I'm glad for my impatience. It was great, if not catastrophic.

In fact the story is catastrophic ongoing and that deserves labeling somehow. I mean, you can't keep saying “. . . we're breaking stuff that can't be fixed . . .” in the face of carnage and defeat, or “. . . let's turn corners where there's no going back . . .” this far around the bend. End of Days indeed! Man, could *Hellboy* even defeat the Black Flame in his current form? Not sure Abe is a smart bet either . . . *Aw heck!* Just get rid of the guy already! Somebody's gotta step up to the plate here.

Kill the Black Flame!
Matt Strackbein
Longmont, CO

Wondering how our friend here is feeling these days. Sure we'll hear about it soon.

And Matt?

We're breaking stuff that can't be fixed. And there's no going back.

*Looking ahead, you got Joe Golem concluding next week, while we catch up on *B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth*, with Mignola teamed with Chris Roberson, who wrote this issue, and Cameron Stewart and Mike Norton (*Revival*, *Battlepug*).*

Thanks—

Scott Allie

