

NITA HAWES'

# NIGHTMARE

VOLUME 1  
THE FIRE  
NEXT TIME

BLOG™



rodney  
BARNES

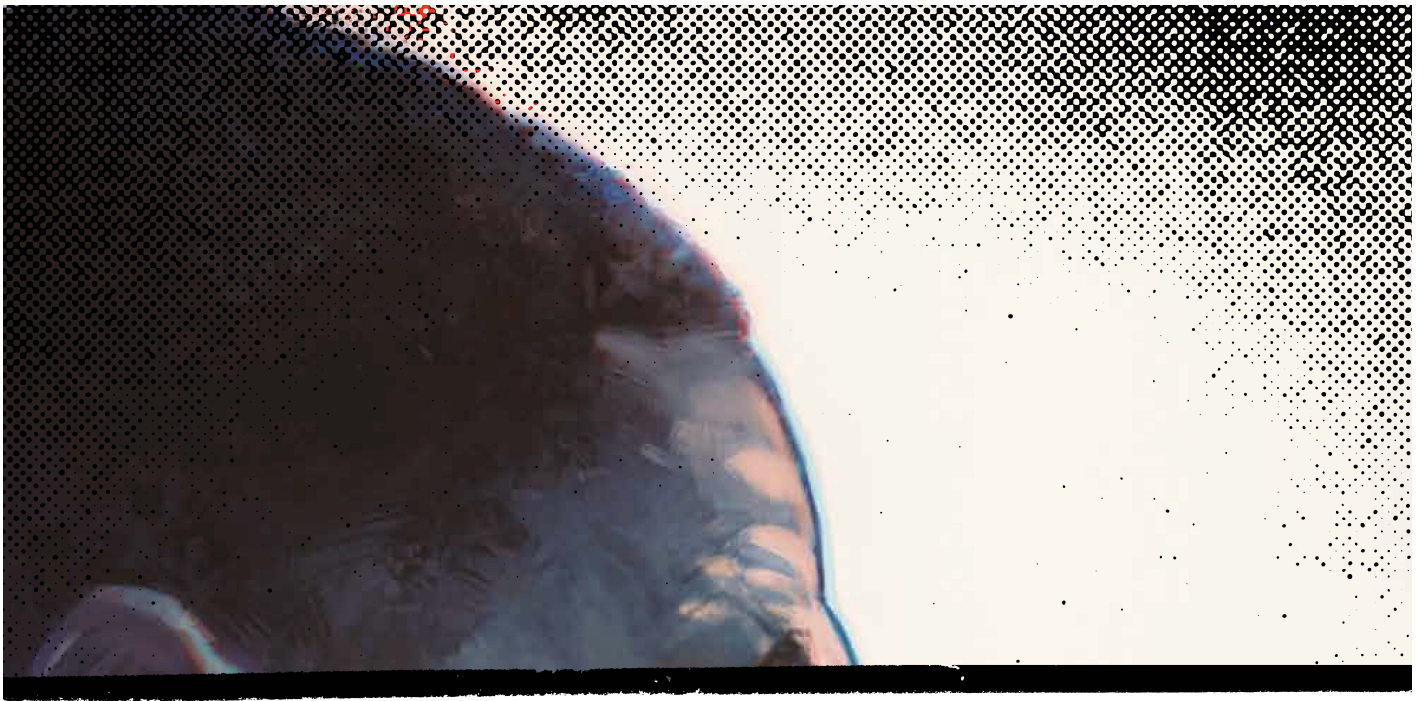
jason shawn  
ALEXANDER

patric  
REYNOLDS

well-  
BEE

luis  
NCT

szymon  
KUDRANSKI



WALKING INTO SHADOWS

CHAPTER I





**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.**



MY EX, JIMMY SANGSTER,  
USED TO CALL IT  
"BODYMORE, MURDERLAND."



HE WAS FROM PHILLY,  
WHICH SOME REFER  
TO AS "KILLADELPHIA,"  
SO I LET IT SLIDE.



GUESS AS A BEAT COP  
WORKING WEST BALTIMORE,  
SARDONIC HUMOR IS NEEDED  
TO MAINTAIN ONE'S SANITY.



BUT JIMMY'S  
LONG GONE  
AND I'M STILL  
HERE.



AND I'M NOT ALONE...



THIS IS THE HOME OF EDGAR ALLAN POE AND FREDDIE GRAY.



BUT NOW BALTIMORE IS THE HOME TO DEMONS.



I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT CORRUPT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS-- ALTHOUGH THERE ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENCE.



THE KIND I'M REFERRING TO HATE HUMANITY AND WANT TO SEE THE WORLD BURN.



MY BROTHER JASON TRIED TO WARN ME...



...BUT I'M KINDA  
STUBBORN.

DISPOSITIONS ASIDE,  
THERE COMES A POINT  
WHEN YOU HAVE TO  
FACE THE THINGS IN  
LIFE THAT SCARE YOU.

FOR ME, THAT  
TIME IS *NOW*.



WHENEVER I DEPART  
THE DEPTHS OF HELL  
AND WALK ABOUT  
THE WORLD OF MEN,  
MY CURIOSITY RISES...

MY FIRST THOUGHT  
IS IN REGARDS TO THE  
BIRTH OF ANGER--  
WHEN WAS IT BORN?

**CHERRY HILL.**



I'VE BEEN  
AROUND A LONG  
TIME, AND FOR THE  
LIFE OF ME, I  
CAN'T REMEMBER.



I WAS THERE WHEN  
DARKNESS BECAME  
LIGHT AND LIFE SPANG  
FROM NOTHINGNESS.



WHEN THE GREAT  
"I AM" SPOKE  
AND ALL MANNER  
OF THINGS MOVED.



WE WERE AT HIS  
SIDE AS HE TOILED.



CREATING  
A WORLD.



NICE!  
ONE MORE,  
HI-TOP!

YOU SAID  
THAT THREE  
TAKES AGO,  
MAN...

CRAFTED IN HIS OWN  
IMAGE, MALE AND  
FEMALE, HE REVELED  
IN THE THING DEEMED  
"BEAUTIFUL."



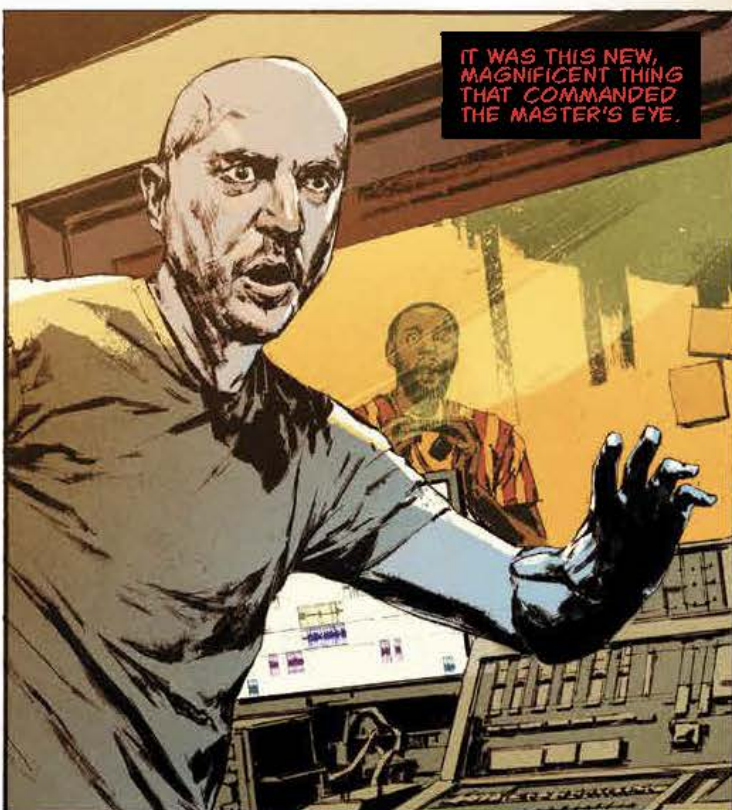
SOME  
APPLAUDED.



I DID NOT.



FOR US, THE ONES THAT  
GAVE SERVICE BEFORE  
THE CONCEPT OF TIME,  
THERE WAS NOTHING.



IT WAS THIS NEW,  
MAGNIFICENT THING  
THAT COMMANDED  
THE MASTER'S EYE.



AND FROM THAT MOMENT, MY  
BRETHREN AND I COMMITTED  
OURSELVES TO KILLING EVERY  
HUMAN IN EXISTENCE.





ALTHOUGH KILLING ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH.

SCREEEEEE!



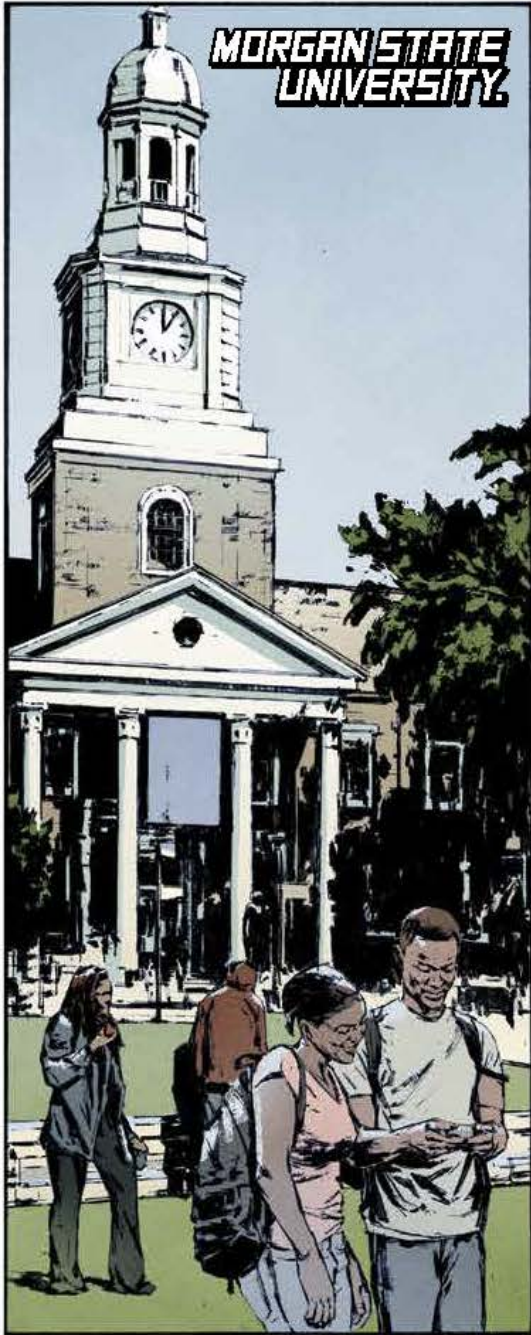
I NEED THEM TO SUFFER...

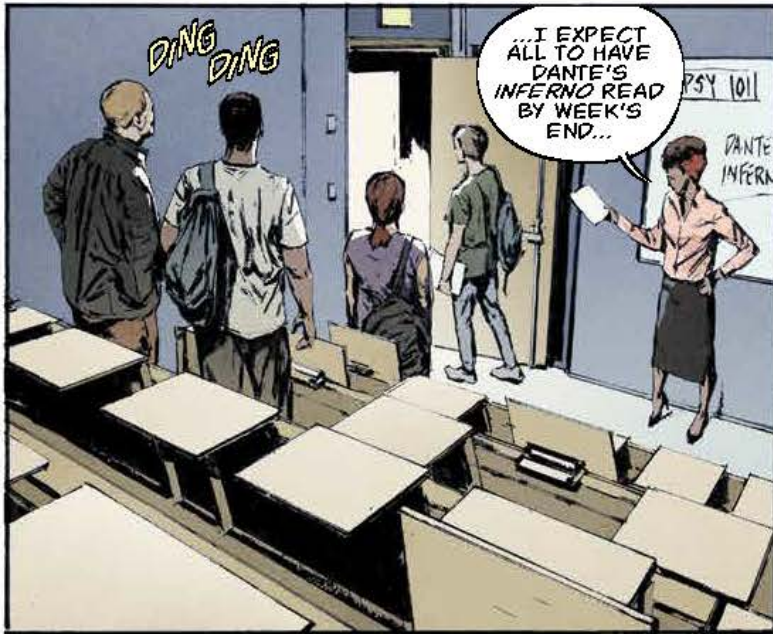
...UNTIL THE TEARS OF THEIR MAKER FLOW LIKE A RIVER.



THAT'S WHEN I, CORSON, PRIDE OF THE DEMON LOT, WILL BE FULFILLED.







...I EXPECT ALL TO HAVE DANTE'S INFERNO READ BY WEEK'S END...

DING DING

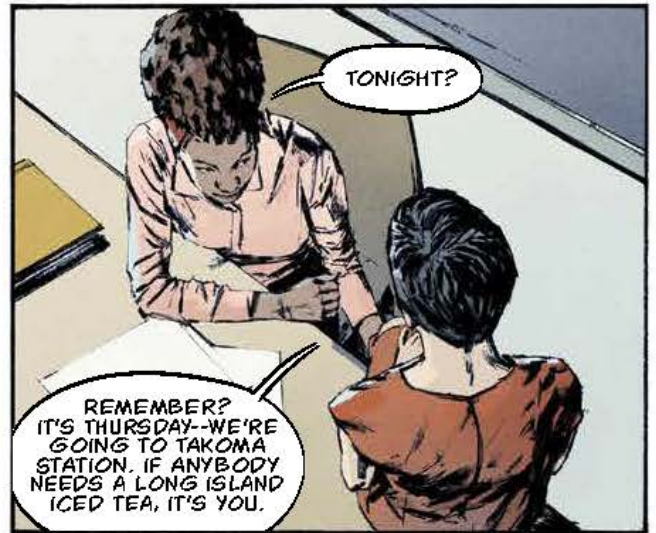


I SEE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.

TEQUAN IS ON MY LAST NERVE. IF I HAD TENURE, I MIGHT'VE GONE UPSIDE HIS HEAD.



OOH, YOU'VE GOT IT BAD. GOOD THING TEQUAN WON'T BE HANGING OUT WITH US TONIGHT.



TONIGHT?

REMEMBER? IT'S THURSDAY--WE'RE GOING TO TAKOMA STATION. IF ANYBODY NEEDS A LONG ISLAND ICED TEA, IT'S YOU.



DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FLAKING. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS ALL WEEK.



IT'S JASON'S BIRTHDAY

OH, WELL... OKAY. LET ME KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.



I WON'T.





ANY WITNESSES?



FEDEX ENTERED THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR. SAW THIS. CALLED US.

GUY'S PRETTY SHAKEN UP.



ASK ME, THIS IS GANG RELATED. MS-13 ROLLING TOUGH AROUND THESE PARTS.



THEY ROLLING BAREFOOT?



I'LL GIVE ON THE OVERKILL, BUT TAKE ON THEM BEING CANNIBALS.



THIS IS FRESH BLOOD. CHECK THE WOODS?

NOT YET.



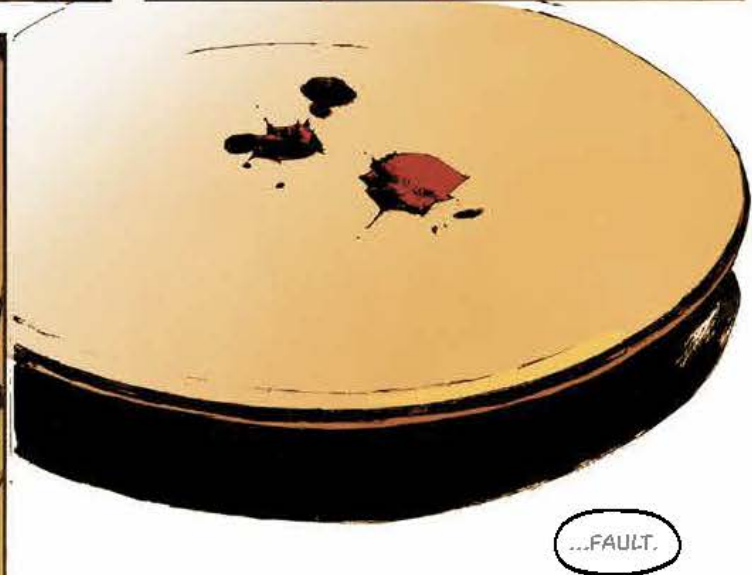
LET ME KNOW WHEN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER HAS A PRELIM.

WILL DO, FRANKIE.



I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN DO THIS.









**WEST BALTIMORE.  
TWO YEARS AGO.**

YOU WERE  
ALL I HAD.



AND THE WORLD  
TOOK YOU AWAY.



IT WAS MY JOB  
TO PROTECT YOU.



SO, WHEN YOU SAY  
IT'S NOT MY FAULT  
THAT YOU'RE DEAD,  
YOU'RE WRONG.



JESUS...



HEY, FRANKIE, YOU GOT A CUSTOMER WAITING.



THINK IT'S ABOUT YOUR D.O.A.



NOT AGAIN...

YOU KNOW HER?



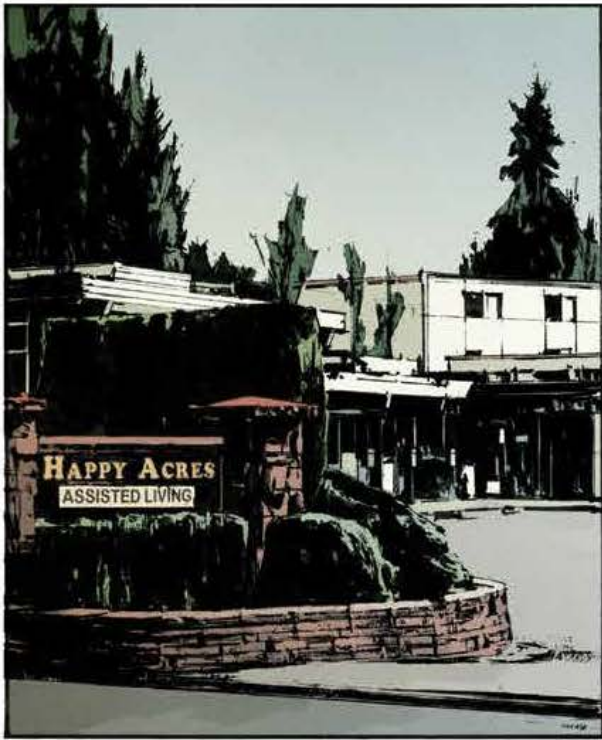
"NINE YEARS AGO, HER PARENTS WERE KILLED AT A VIGIL FOR VIOLENCE IN THE CITY. NAME'S DAWNITA HAWES.



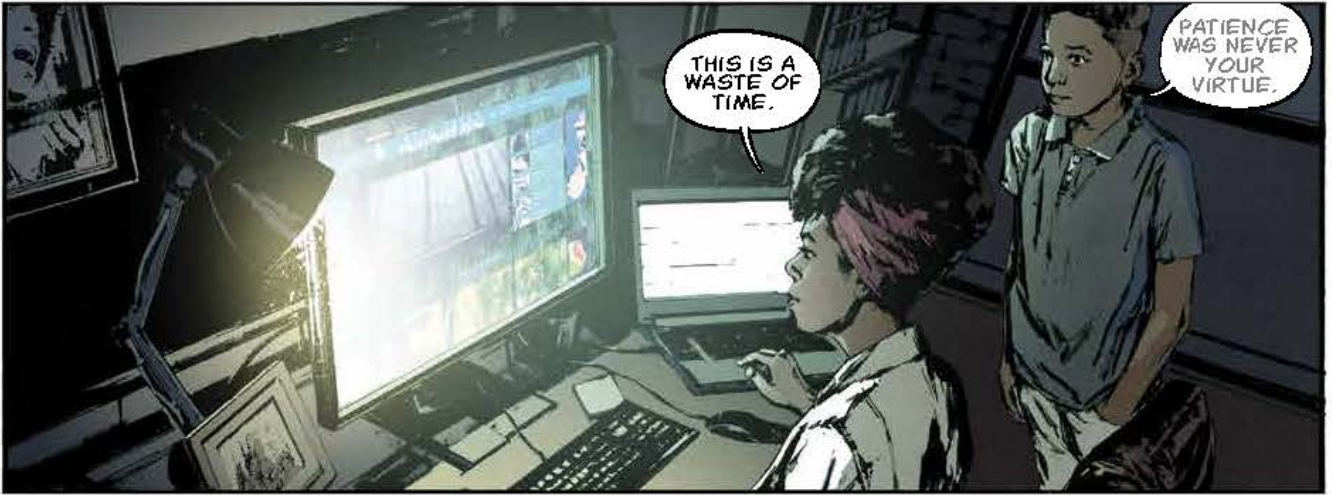
"TOOK ON RAISING HER LITTLE BROTHER JASON. WAS JUST A KID HERSELF.



"BOTH PARENTS AND HER ONLY SIBLING TAKEN FROM HER? HELLUVA HAND TO BE DEALT IN LIFE."







THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.

PATIENCE WAS NEVER YOUR VIRTUE.



EVEN IF THIS ISN'T ALL B.S., THE ODDS OF A PERSON FINDING MY BLOG AND THEIR CASE NOT BEING A HOAX ARE ASTRONOMICAL.



SO... SO... CYNICAL. NO WONDER YOU'RE SINGLE.



IF I HAD A DIME FOR EVERY CRACKPOT WHOSE HOUSE WAS "HAUNTED" BUT UPON CLOSER INSPECTION THEY WERE DODGING A PENDING FORECLOSURE, OR A GRANDMA ZOMBIE WHEN IN ACTUALITY, COUSIN PEANUT WAS STEALING THE DEAD WOMAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS...



I JUST WANT SOME NORMALCY IN MY LIFE AGAIN. THOUGHT I'D HAVE IT WITH JIMMY...

JIMMY GANGSTER WAS A BIGGER HEADCASE THAN YOU.



ALL I'M SAYING IS YOU'RE BOTH "INTENSE."

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SAW IS REAL, JASON? I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU'RE REAL.



SHORTLY AFTER I DIED, I FOUND MYSELF ON THE EDGE OF ETERNITY...



IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON... AND I WAS READY...



THEN I FELT THIS WAVE OF ANGER COMING TOWARDS ME.

FIRST SIGHT I THOUGHT THEY WERE ANGELS, AND MAYBE AT ONE TIME THEY WERE...



FIGURED MY FINAL RESTING PLACE WASN'T GOING ANYWHERE, SO I FOLLOWED THEM.



WE FLEW INTO A BRIGHT LIGHT...



...AND CAME OUT IN BALTIMORE.



WHAT IF THE WHOLE CITY HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY DEMONS?

WHAT IF I'VE LOST MY MIND AND ALL OF THIS IS NONSENSE?



TRUST ME, THEY'RE OUT THERE.

LET'S SAY YOU'RE RIGHT. DEMONS ARE ALL OVER BALTIMORE.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT UNTIL ONE ATTACKS SOMEONE, WHO FINDS THE NIGHTMARE BLOG, I THEN SPRING INTO ACTION... AND DO WHAT, EXACTLY?



HELP THEM.



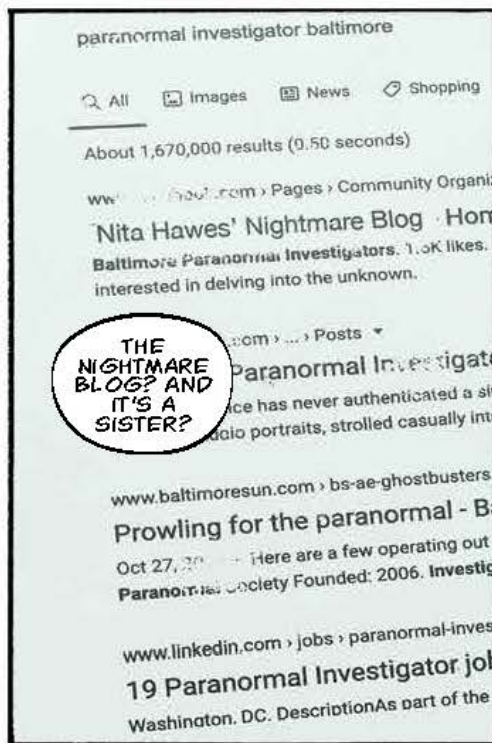
NOT SURE IF I'M ACTING OUT OF LOVE OR GUILT.

DOES IT MATTER IF YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING?



OH, SHUT UP.







WENT AND TOLD THE RIGHT DAMN ONE...



THE WORLD DONE ME WRONG AND GONNA GET ITS DUE...



'CAUSE I MADE A DEAL AND PLAN TO SEE IT THROUGH...



THEY DONE ME WRONG SO RETRIBUTION GOTS TO COME...



SO DON'T HIDE, BILLY, AND DON'T YOU RUN...



I 'CAUSE I  
ME AND YOU,  
BABY, 'BOUT TO  
HAVE SOME  
FUN!