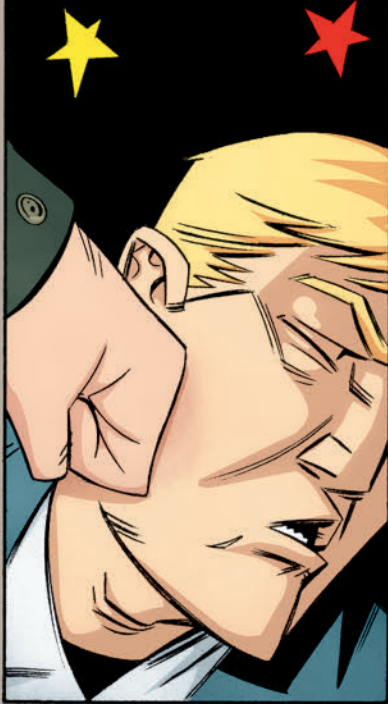
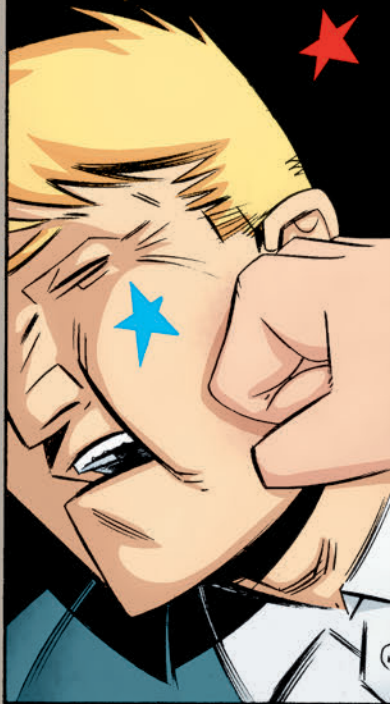


WHAT I LONG FOR IS A
SIMPLE LIFE, THAT'S MY
PROBLEM.



NOT THE GORILLAS HERE, THEY'RE
NOTHING. A NUISANCE, A PEBBLE
IN MY SHOE.



I SLUSSED OUT NINE WAYS
OUTTA THIS JAM BEFORE THEY
THREW THEIR FIRST PUNCH.

THAT'S ME.

THE CLEVER GUY.

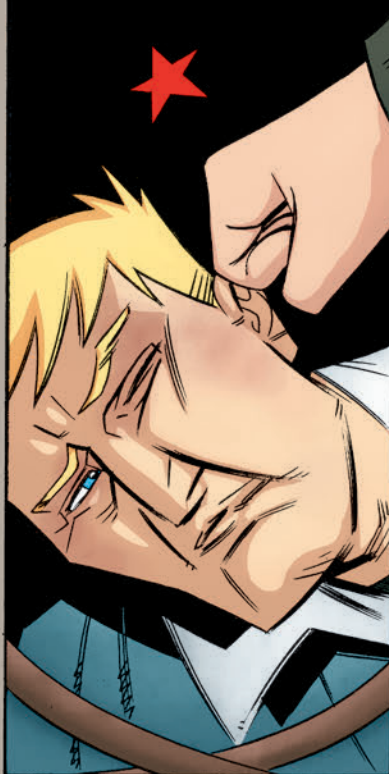
I JUST GOTTA
FOCUS.



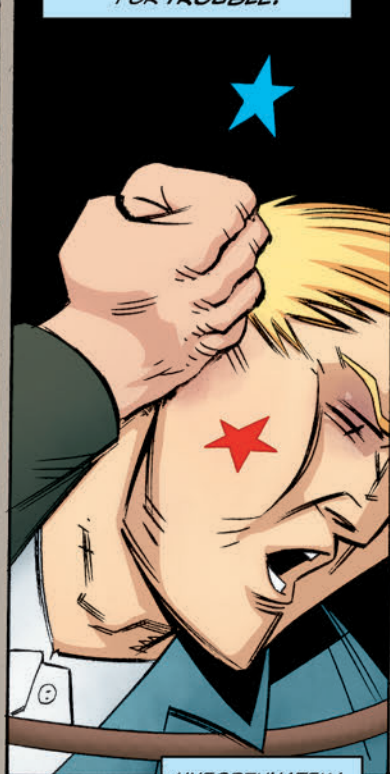
WHICH ISN'T EASY WHEN YOUR
BRAIN AND YOUR SKULL
ARE MOVING IN DIFFERENT
DIRECTIONS.



ANYWAY, A SIMPLE LIFE, FOR
MR. PAUL PATTON, JR. NOT
TOO MUCH TO ASK.



I'M A REPORTER. I JUST
WANT TO FILE MY STORIES AND
DO MY JOB AND GO HOME TO
THE WIFE, I DO NOT LOOK
FOR TROUBLE.



UNFORTUNATELY...

...TROUBLE ALWAYS FINDS ME.

HE'S STARTIN' T' BLEED. PUT TH' GAG BACK ON SO HE DON'T SPRAY.

ONLY IF HE DON'T WANNA TALK. YOU WANNA TALK, TOUGH GUY?

YOU WANNA TELL US WHY YOU WENT AND BUSTED UP THE BOSS' RACKET?

MISTER SMILE, HE DON'T LIKE YOU MUCH FOR THAT.

I'LL...

→KOFFÉ←

...I'LL LIVE.

YEAH? WELL, BEFORE YOU RUN, THAT HEADLINE, PAL...

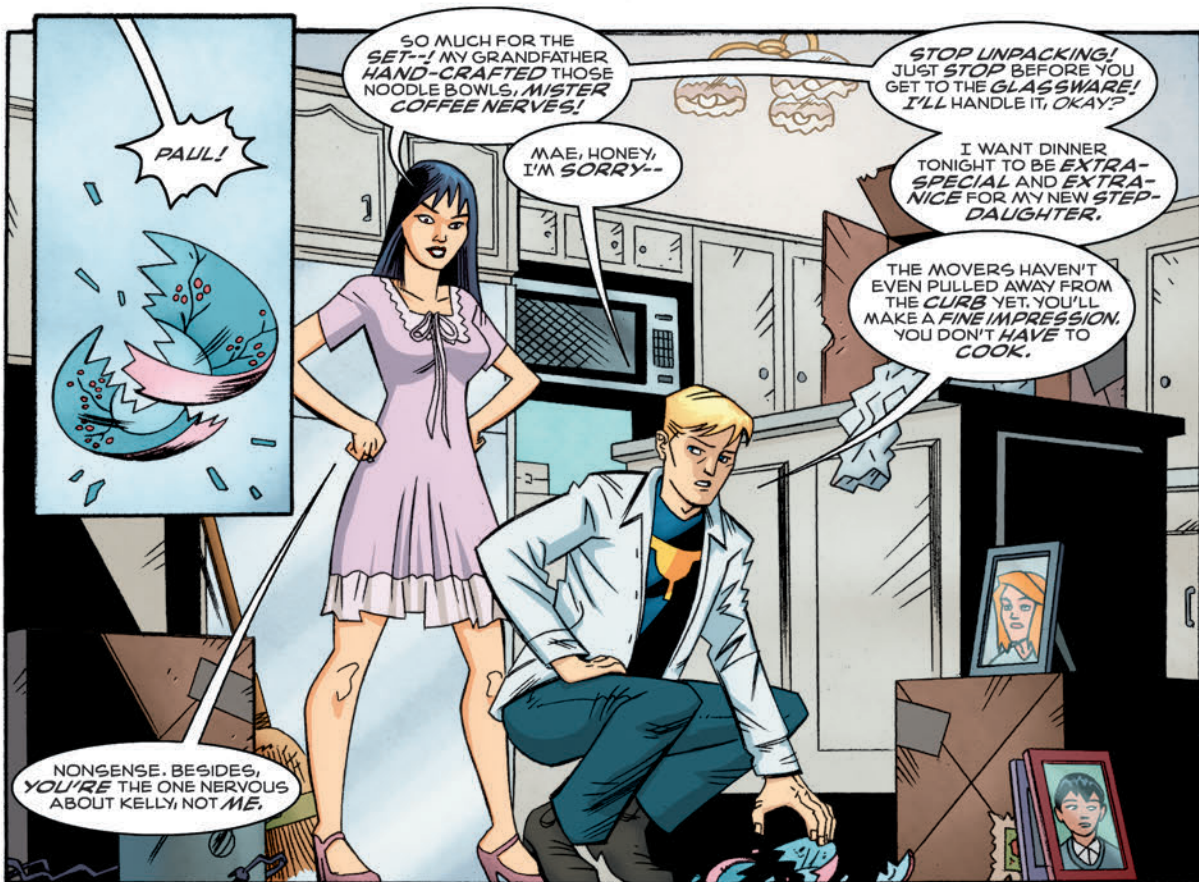
...I WOULD DEFINITELY CHECK MY SOURCES, 'CAUSE I DON'T THINK YOUR NEXT STORY GOES ON THE FRONT PAGE.

I THINK IT GOES IN THE OBITS.

OH, WAIT. HE'S GOT A KNIFE?

MAKE THAT ELEVEN WAYS OUTTA THIS, THEN, A MATEURS.

I SHOULD'A KNOWN. THE DAY STARTED OUT ON A BAD OMEN...



PAUL!

SO MUCH FOR THE SET--! MY GRANDFATHER HAND-CRAFTED THOSE NOODLE BOWLS, MISTER COFFEE NERVES!

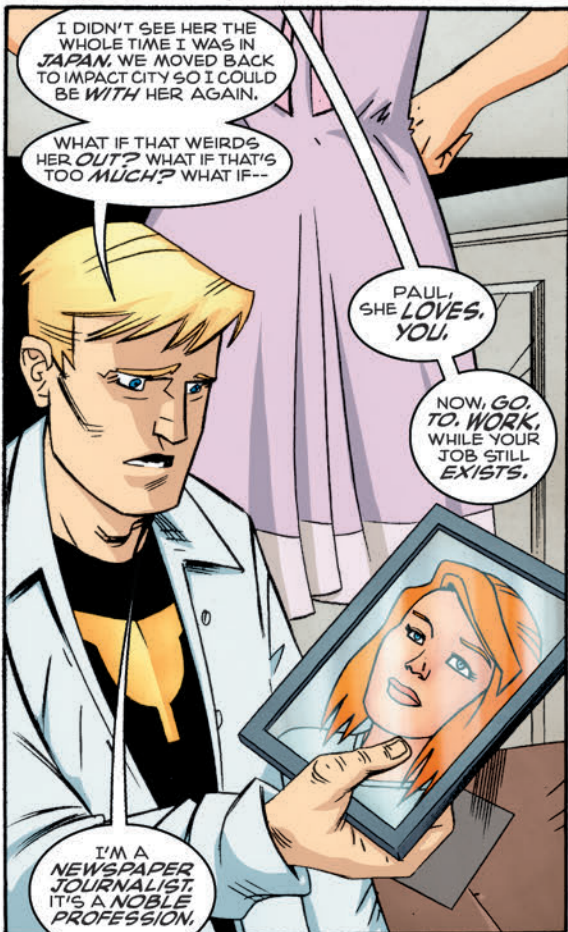
MAE, HONEY, I'M SORRY--

STOP UNPACKING! JUST STOP BEFORE YOU GET TO THE GLASSWARE! I'LL HANDLE IT, OKAY?

I WANT DINNER TONIGHT TO BE EXTRA-SPECIAL AND EXTRA-NICE FOR MY NEW STEP-DAUGHTER.

THE MOVERS HAVEN'T EVEN PULLED AWAY FROM THE CURB YET. YOU'LL MAKE A FINE IMPRESSION. YOU DON'T HAVE TO COOK.

NONSENSE. BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONE NERVOUS ABOUT KELLY, NOT ME.



I DIDN'T SEE HER THE WHOLE TIME I WAS IN JAPAN. WE MOVED BACK TO IMPACT CITY SO I COULD BE WITH HER AGAIN.

WHAT IF THAT WEIRDS HER OUT? WHAT IF THAT'S TOO MUCH? WHAT IF--

PAUL, SHE LOVES YOU.

NOW, GO TO WORK, WHILE YOUR JOB STILL EXISTS.

I'M A NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST. IT'S A NOBLE PROFESSION.



SO WAS STAGECOACH DRIVER. ALL I'M SAYING IS, YOUR WHOLE "I WANT A SIMPLE LIFE" PLAN GOES UP THE CHUTE IF THE REGISTER FIRES YOU ON YOUR FIRST DAY.

ALSO, WHAT'S WITH THE MIGHTY CRUSADER SUIT? LEAVE THE FOX AT HOME. HE IS NOT NEEDED TODAY.

YOU NEVER KNOW.

>SIGH<

FINE.

DEWA MATA.*

LOVE ME?

* "SEE YOU."

"AND ONLY YOU, BABY."

...NOW...IF YOU'LL JUST TELL ME A BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR EYES...

...I...I MEAN... WHAT YOU'RE EYE-ING...

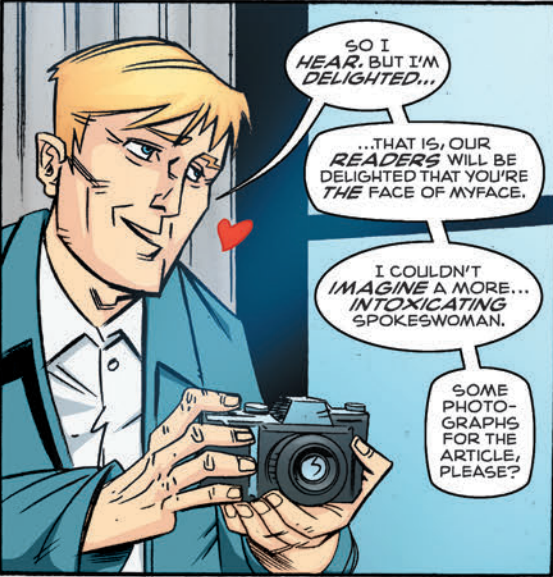
IN MY DEFENSE, THERE WAS A REASON WHY I, A HAPPILY MARRIED MAN, WAS YAMMERING AT MY INTERVIEWEE--MS. LUCY FUR--LIKE A CHEERLEADER WITH BIBBER FEVER, BUT WE'LL GET TO THAT.

...WHAT YOUR GOALS ARE FOR MYFACE, MS. FUR. I'M TOLD THE SOCIAL MEDIA FIELD IS A CROWDED SPACE NOWADAYS...

IT IS, PAUL...



...WHICH IS WHY MY BACKER, BRIGHT INDUSTRIES, HAS BEEN BETA-TESTING MYFACE OVER TWO YEARS. MISTER SMILE HIMSELF HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN ITS SUCCESS...AND HE NEVER FAILS...!



SO I HEAR, BUT I'M DELIGHTED...

...THAT IS, OUR READERS WILL BE DELIGHTED THAT YOU'RE THE FACE OF MYFACE.

I COULDN'T IMAGINE A MORE... INTOXICATING SPOKESWOMAN.

SOME PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE ARTICLE, PLEASE?



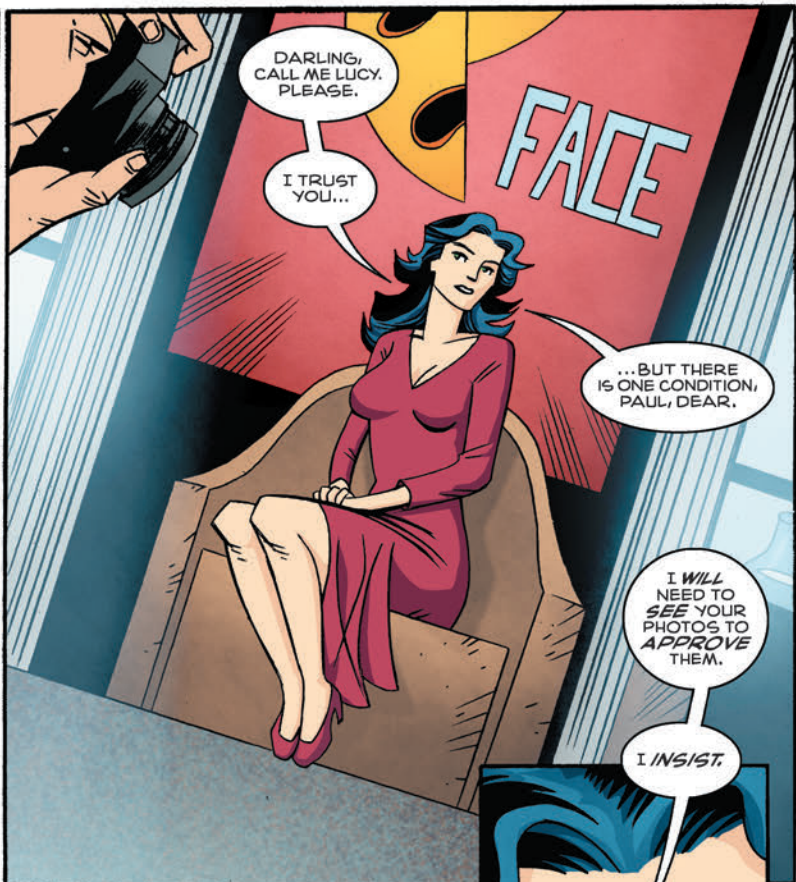
I COULDN'T, I JUST COULDN'T. I LOOK A MESS TODAY, DON'T I?

OH, VERY WELL...



JUST A FEW, I PROMISE.

I DOUBT IT'S POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TAKE A BAD PICTURE, MS. FUR.



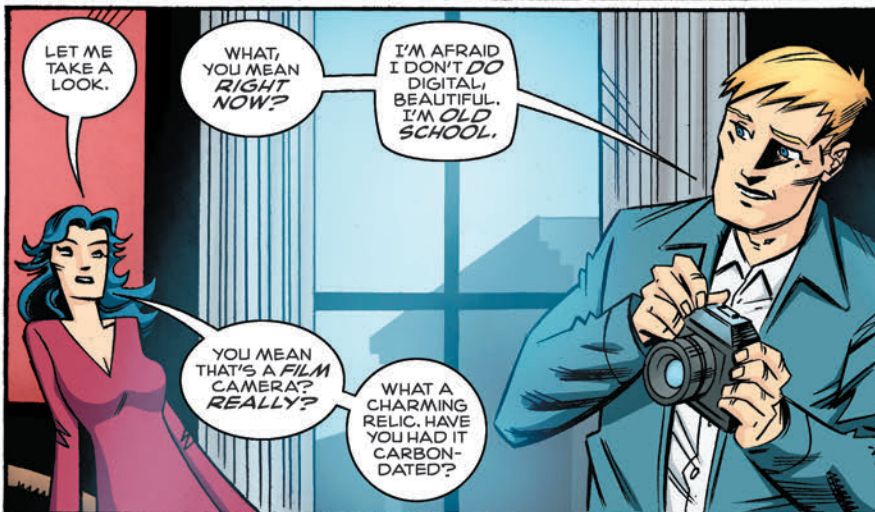
DARLING, CALL ME LUCY. PLEASE.

I TRUST YOU...

...BUT THERE IS ONE CONDITION, PAUL, DEAR.

I WILL NEED TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS TO APPROVE THEM.

I INSIST.



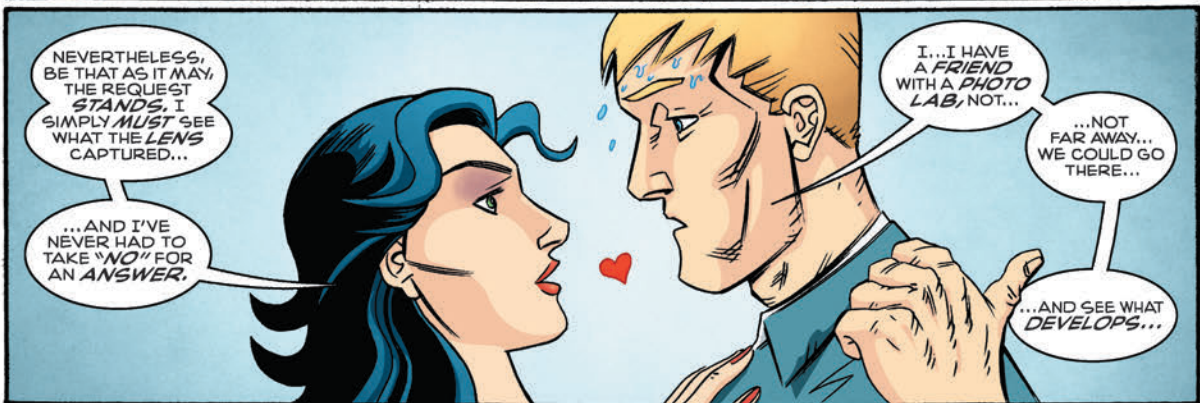
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.

WHAT, YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?

I'M AFRAID I DON'T DO DIGITAL, BEAUTIFUL. I'M OLD SCHOOL.

YOU MEAN THAT'S A FILM CAMERA? REALLY?

WHAT A CHARMING RELIC. HAVE YOU HAD IT CARBON-DATED?



NEVERTHELESS, BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE REQUEST STANDS, I SIMPLY MUST SEE WHAT THE LENS CAPTURED...

...AND I'VE NEVER HAD TO TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER.

I...I HAVE A FRIEND WITH A PHOTO LAB, NOT...

...NOT FAR AWAY... WE COULD GO THERE...

...AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS...