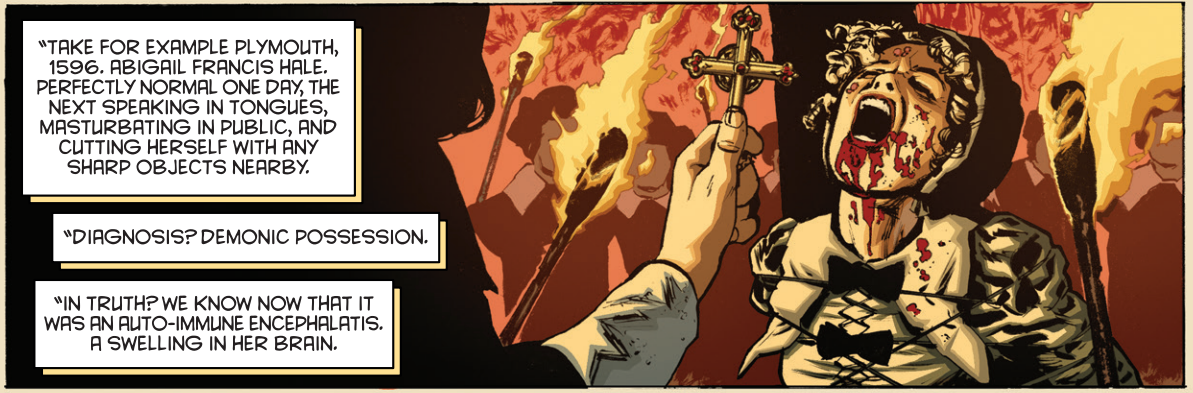


"TAKE FOR EXAMPLE PLYMOUTH, 1596. ABIGAIL FRANCIS HALE. PERFECTLY NORMAL ONE DAY, THE NEXT SPEAKING IN TONGUES, MASTURBATING IN PUBLIC, AND CUTTING HERSELF WITH ANY SHARP OBJECTS NEARBY.

"DIAGNOSIS? DEMONIC POSSESSION.

"IN TRUTH? WE KNOW NOW THAT IT WAS AN AUTO-IMMUNE ENCEPHALITIS. A SWELLING IN HER BRAIN.



"OR, 1932, CULT OF SO-CALLED DEMON WORSHIPPERS, STOPPED MOMENTS BEFORE SATAN HIMSELF CAME WALKING THROUGH THE VERY FIRES OF HELL--



"EXCEPT, THE RING LEADER OF THE SO-CALLED SATANISTS WAS A SCAM ARTIST AND STAGE MAGICIAN BY THE NAME HERMAN SHELBY.

"1973. THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY DIVINER. A GROUP OF THIRTY FOUND SLAUGHTERED, THEIR BLOOD SPELLING OUT THE WORDS 'GOD IS NOWHERE.'

"THIS ONE WAS A TOUGH ONE. ULTIMATELY THOUGH? SERIAL KILLER. POSSIBLY THE ZODIAC HIMSELF, POSSIBLY SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT THEY COULD BE HIM BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE BALLS."



SO, THERE'S THREE UNEXPLAINED PIECES OF EVIDENCE... EXPLAINED.

AND I CAN DO MORE.

SHIT, I CAN DO 'EM ALL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...FATHER MALCOLM...AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A BELIEVER?

MR. LIEB, GIVE ME SOMETHIN' REAL TO BELIEVE IN, AND I'LL DO IT UP PROPER--



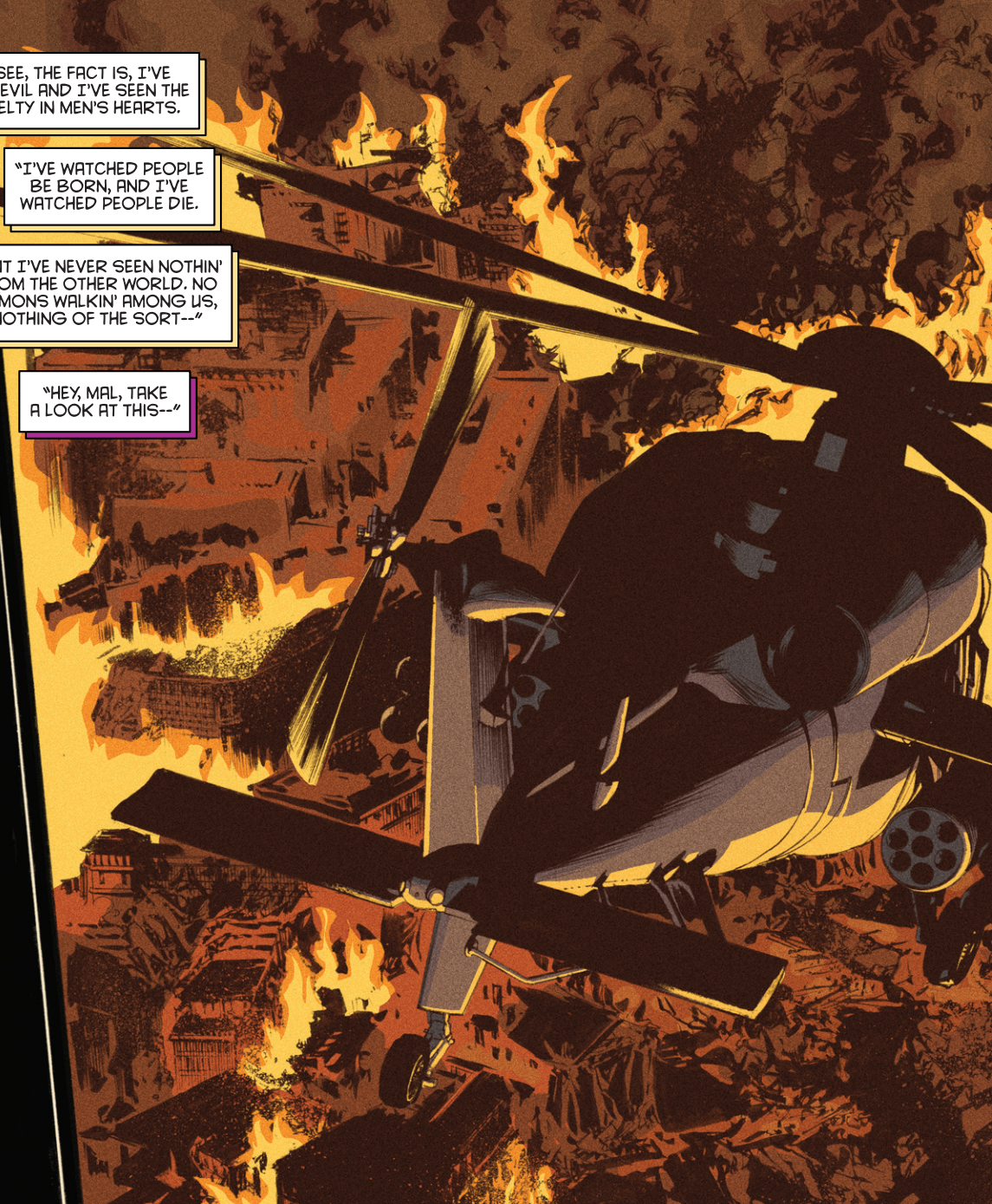


"Y'SEE, THE FACT IS, I'VE SEEN EVIL AND I'VE SEEN THE CRUELTY IN MEN'S HEARTS.

"I'VE WATCHED PEOPLE BE BORN, AND I'VE WATCHED PEOPLE DIE.

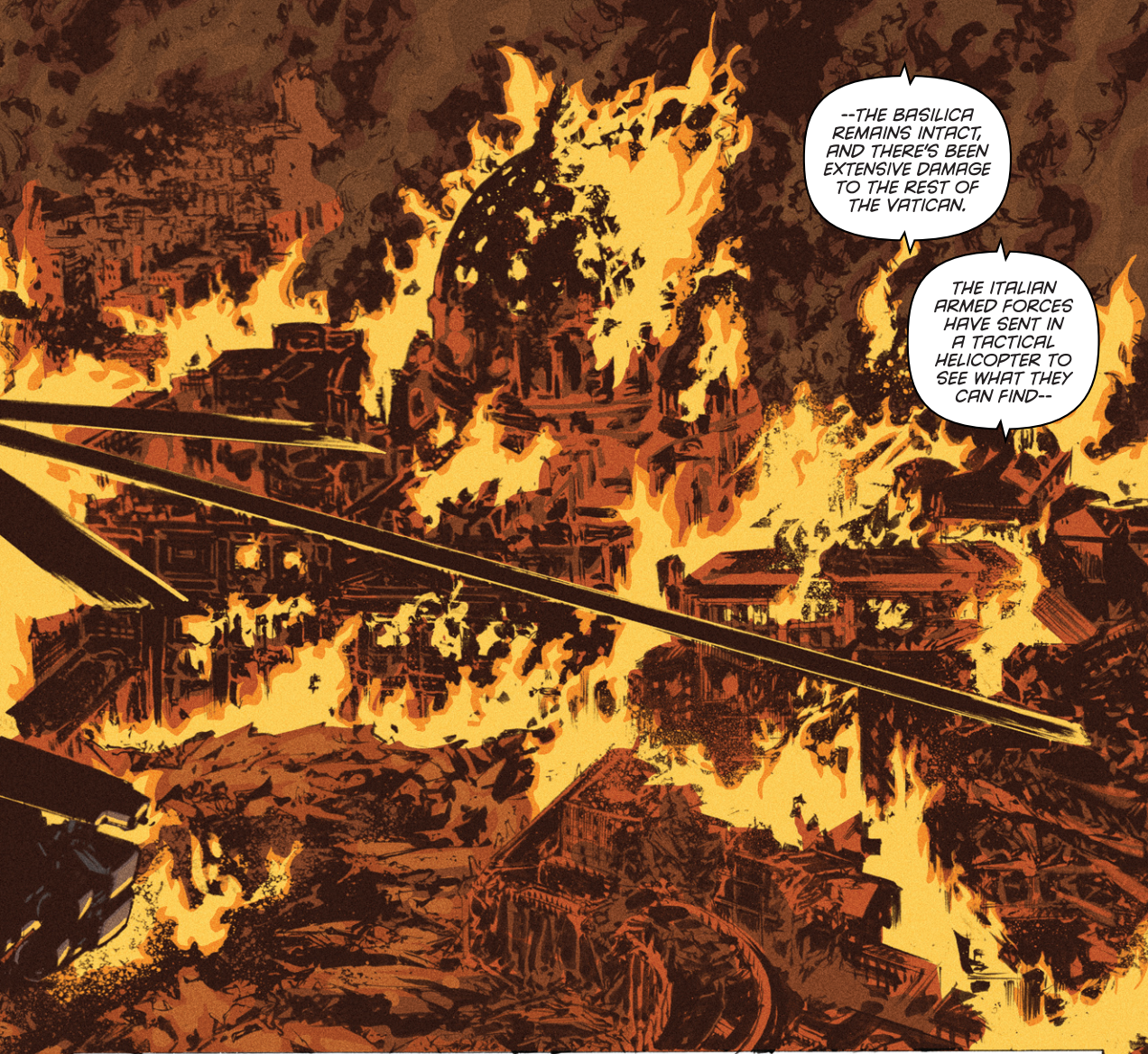
"BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN NOTHIN' FROM THE OTHER WORLD. NO DEMONS WALKIN' AMONG US, NOTHING OF THE SORT--"

"HEY, MAL, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS--"



<b>LIVE</b>	<b>BREAKING NEWS</b>
<b>NEWS ROOM</b>	<b>DISASTER AT</b>





--THE BASILICA REMAINS INTACT, AND THERE'S BEEN EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE REST OF THE VATICAN.

THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE SENT IN A TACTICAL HELICOPTER TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN FIND--



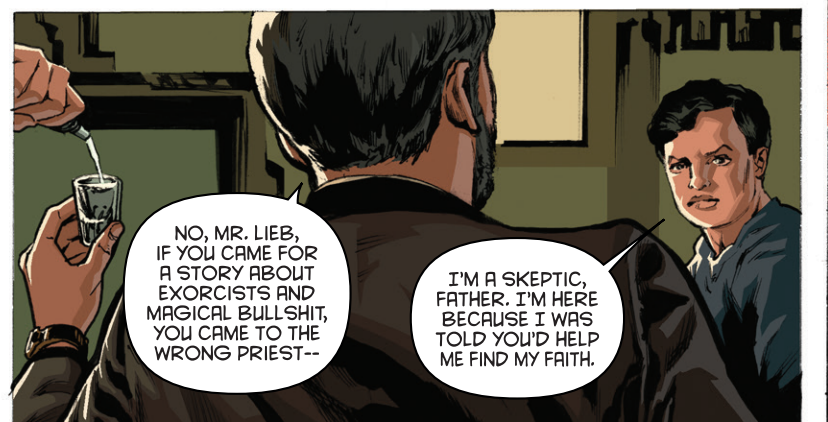
Y'SEE MY POINT IN ACTION?

HOLIEST OF HOLIES SUNK DOWN INTO, WELL, A HOLE.

LIVE BREAKING NEWS  
NEWS ROOM  
DISASTER AT VATICAN CITY!



Gulp



NO, MR. LIEB, IF YOU CAME FOR A STORY ABOUT EXORCISTS AND MAGICAL BULLSHIT, YOU CAME TO THE WRONG PRIEST--

I'M A SKEPTIC, FATHER. I'M HERE BECAUSE I WAS TOLD YOU'D HELP ME FIND MY FAITH.





Hm.

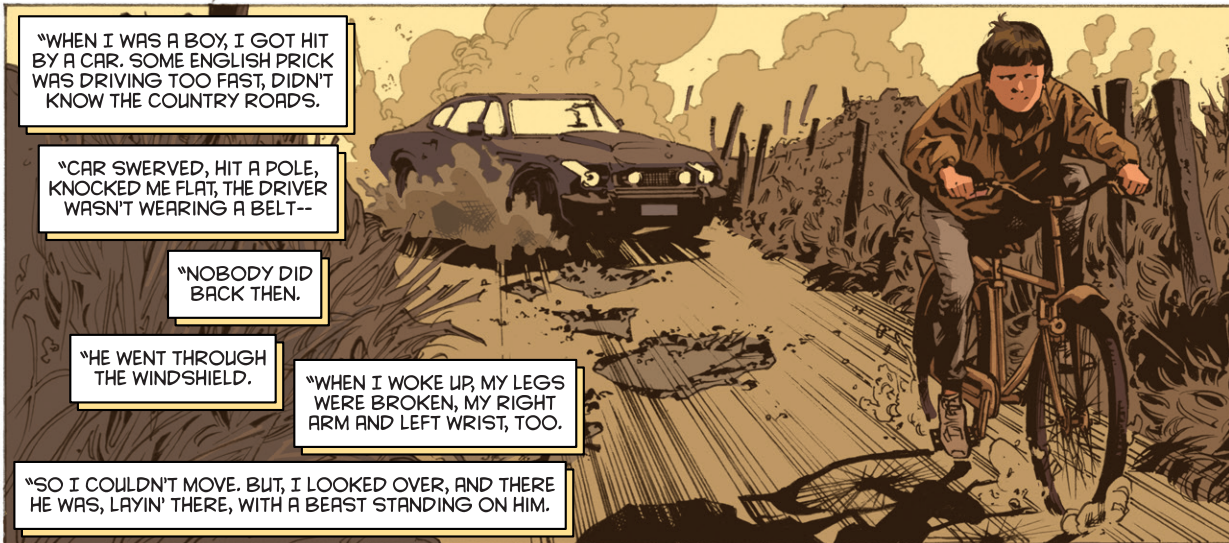
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT.

NO, IT'S JUST...YOU WERE THE GUY EVERYONE SAID COULD CONVINCE ME--



Ah. SO YOU WANT *THAT* STORY.

THAT'S HOW I KNOW THERE'S NO DEMONS THE WAY MY BOSSES IN THE HOLE OVER THERE THINK THERE ARE.



"WHEN I WAS A BOY, I GOT HIT BY A CAR. SOME ENGLISH PRICK WAS DRIVING TOO FAST, DIDN'T KNOW THE COUNTRY ROADS.

"CAR SWERVED, HIT A POLE, KNOCKED ME FLAT, THE DRIVER WASN'T WEARING A BELT--

"NOBODY DID BACK THEN.

"HE WENT THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD.

"WHEN I WOKE UP, MY LEGS WERE BROKEN, MY RIGHT ARM AND LEFT WRIST, TOO.

"SO I COULDN'T MOVE. BUT, I LOOKED OVER, AND THERE HE WAS, LAYIN' THERE, WITH A BEAST STANDING ON HIM.

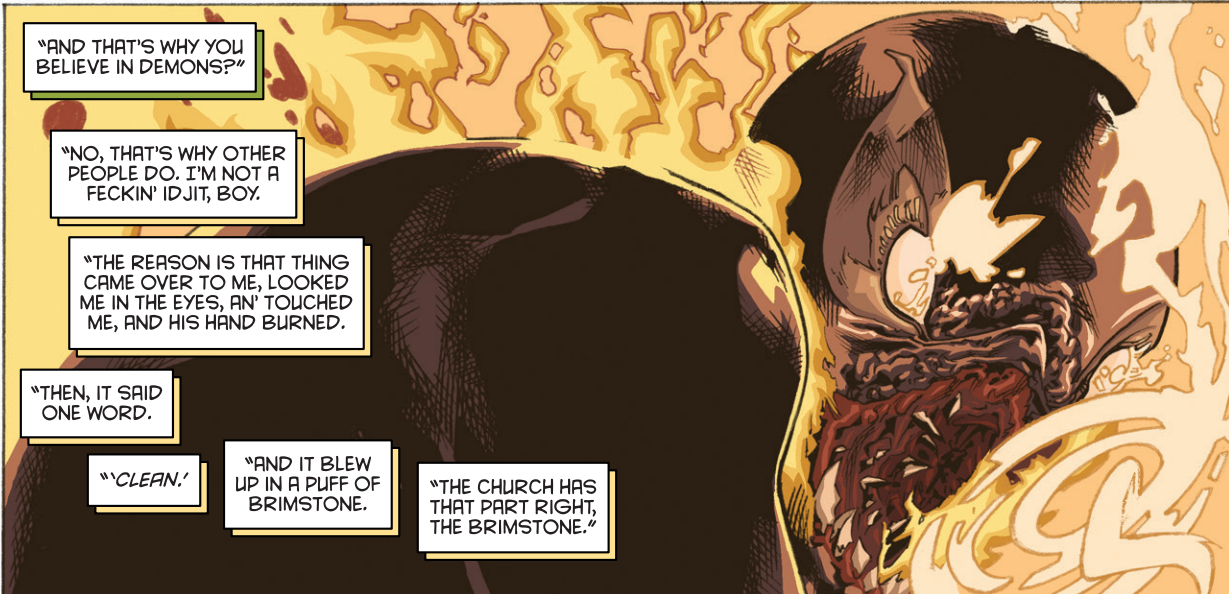


"IT WAS...I GUESS EATIN' HIM? I DUNNO. IT WAS SWALLOWING SOMETHING BRIGHT AND FLESHY AND...

"HIS SOUL, I SUPPOSE--

"BUT IT FELT LIKE I WAS SEEING EVERYTHING THROUGH HIS EYES.

"EXCEPT, I REMEMBER IT TURNING AND SMILING AT ME."



"AND THAT'S WHY YOU BELIEVE IN DEMONS?"

"NO, THAT'S WHY OTHER PEOPLE DO. I'M NOT A FECKIN' IDJIT, BOY.

"THE REASON IS THAT THING CAME OVER TO ME, LOOKED ME IN THE EYES, AN' TOUCHED ME, AND HIS HAND BURNED.

"THEN, IT SAID ONE WORD.

"CLEAN."

"AND IT BLEW UP IN A PUFF OF BRIMSTONE.

"THE CHURCH HAS THAT PART RIGHT, THE BRIMSTONE."





BUT IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A DELUSION FROM THE PAIN.

YOUR BODY GOING INTO SHOCK--

AYE. EXCEPT, WHEN THEY FOUND ME, ALL THE WOUNDS WERE HEALED. X-RAYS SHOW THE BONES WERE BROKEN, BUT...I HAD BEEN HEALED.

EXCEPT FOR ONE MARK. RIGHT WHERE IT TOUCHED ME.

AND IF YOU BUY THAT, I'VE GOT SOME LAND TO SELL YOU IN DUBLIN--

FATHER MALCOLM O'ROURKE--

MAKE WAY, GEORGIE BOY, MORE OF MY FAN CLUB--

PLEASE... YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED. YOU'RE NEEDED.

OH, HELL.

WHO'S THAT?

CARDINAL DAVID MICHAEL REED. CHIEF EXORCIST FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

IT'S HAPPENED, MALCOLM.

THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH, WE NEED YOU--

THIS PART OF THE SHOW?

NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

WHO'S BROKEN THROUGH?