

New York City, Late December, 1949.

FIVE YEARS SINCE THE
DEFEAT OF THE AXIS...

...FIVE YEARS SINCE THE
DEPLOYMENT OF ATOMIC
WEAPONS ON HIROSHIMA
AND NAGASAKI.

AND WHILE THE REST OF
THE WORLD'S CITIES SLOWLY
REBUILT THEMSELVES FROM
THE DEVASTATION OF FIVE
YEARS OF WORLD WAR...

...NEW YORK ENJOYED
WHAT IT BELIEVED WAS
ONLY THE BEGINNING
OF A GOLDEN AGE...

...NEVER REALIZING
UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE...

...THAT THAT FRIGID
WINTER, AS THE 1940s
BECAME THE 1950s...

...HERALDED A CODA TO
WHAT WAS ACTUALLY
NO MORE THAN A LONG,
LANGUOROUS AUTUMN...

...A BRIEF RESPITE FROM
HARSH REALITY...

...BEFORE THE WICKED
CHILL OF WHAT WILL BE
NEARLY FOUR DECADES
OF COLD WAR SETS IN.

BUT WHILE THE REST
OF THE CITY DROWSES
IN THEIR COCOON OF
SATISFACTION...

...BENEDICT
STARK, THE SELF-
NAMED PRINCE
OF EVIL...

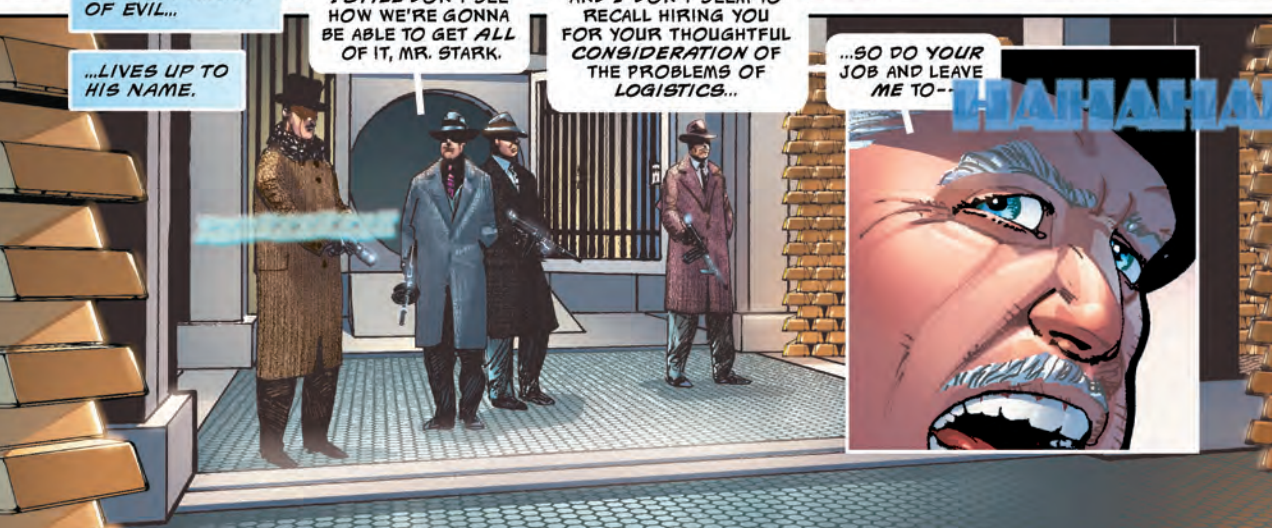
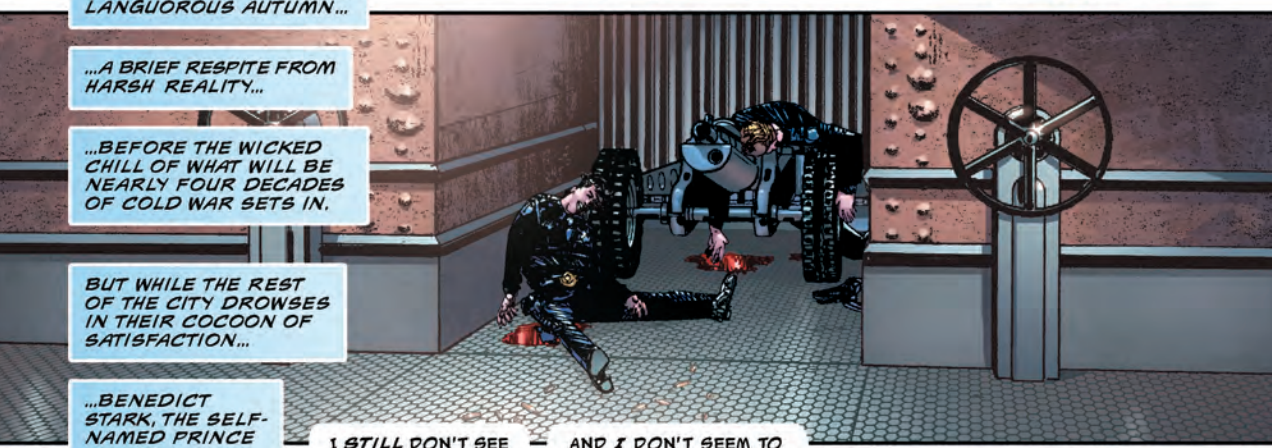
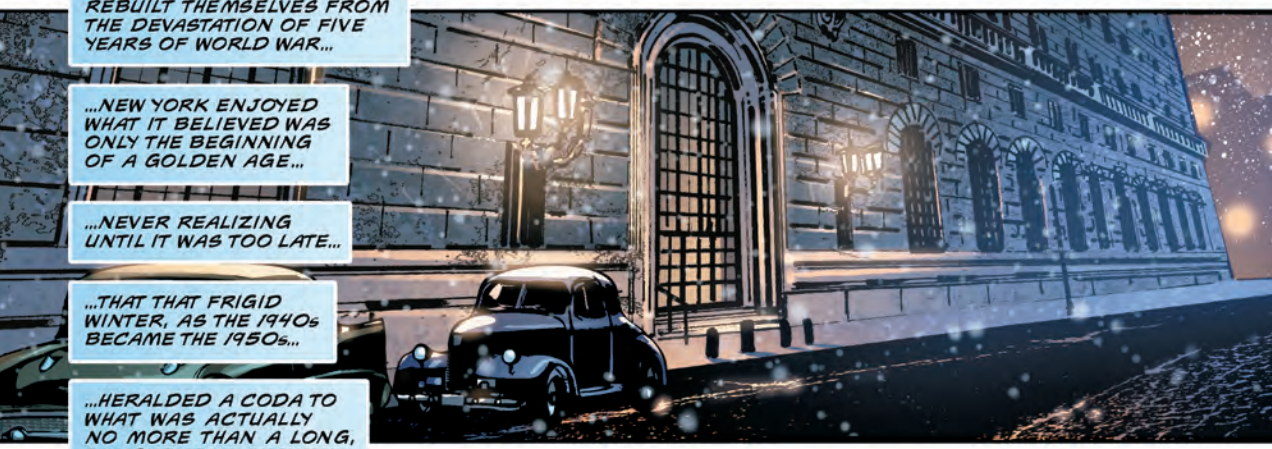
...LIVES UP TO
HIS NAME.

I STILL DON'T SEE
HOW WE'RE GONNA
BE ABLE TO GET ALL
OF IT, MR. STARK.

AND I DON'T SEEM TO
RECALL HIRING YOU
FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL
CONSIDERATION OF
THE PROBLEMS OF
LOGISTICS...

...SO DO YOUR
JOB AND LEAVE
ME TO--

HAHAHAHA



THE STAND

MIDNIGHT IN MOSCOW PART I



OW

Writer & Artist
HOWARD CHAYKIN
Colorist
JESUS ABURTO
Letterer
KEN BRUZENAK

REALLY
NOW, STARK--

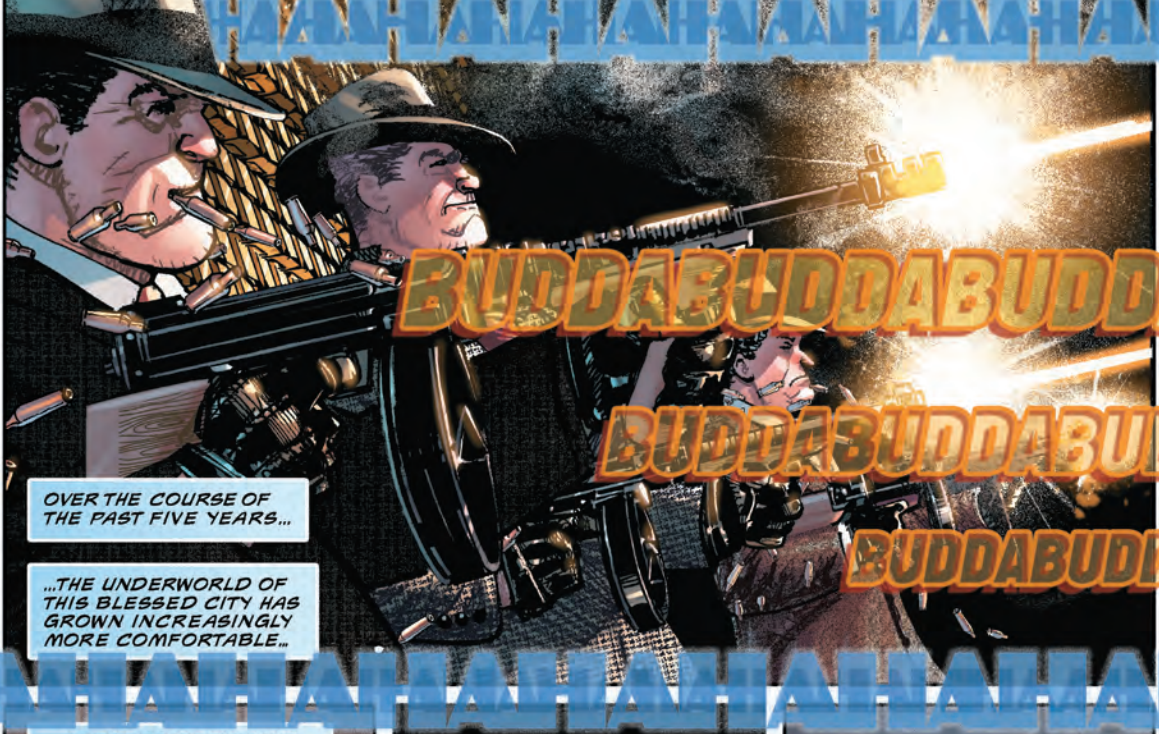
ROBBING THE
FEDERAL
RESERVE?

HOW MUCH IS
TOO MUCH?

I'D HEARD YOU
WERE DEAD.

I GATHER BY
"HEARD" YOU
MEAN "PRAYED."





BUDDABUDDABUDDA
BUDDABUDDABUDDA
BUDDABUDDA

OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS...

...THE UNDERWORLD OF THIS BLESSED CITY HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY MORE COMFORTABLE...



...AS THE BONE-CHILLING SHRIEK OF THE SHADOW'S DEMONIC LAUGH HAS SEEMED TO SLOWLY, BUT RELENTLESSLY, RETREAT...

...LEAVING THE STREETS TO THE PREDATORS.



THIS MAN HAS PLAYED THIS PART FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES.



IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE SHADOW, a.k.a. LAMONT CRANSTON, nee KENT ALLARD...

ONE MOMENT, JERICO...

BUDDABUDDA
BLAM
BLAM
BUDDABUDDA

...NOW,
JERICO--

...HAS REACHED A CROSS-
ROADS IN HIS CRIME-
FIGHTING CAREER?

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

NOW!

KLURN SHHH...

PERHAPS...

HANNA HANNA HANNA HANNA

WATER-KRASH

...AND PERHAPS NOT.