

—TRADING STRONG TO OPEN THE MARKET TODAY AS INVESTORS—

—NEW PRIVACY CONCERNS AS ALLEGATIONS OF BROAD NSA SURVEILLANCE OF—

—TENSIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST REGIME AND U.S. FORCES AT GUANTANAMO BAY CONTINUED TO CLIMB OVER—



—DRIVING PRICES HIGHER AS EARNINGS REPORTS BEAT EXPECTATIONS ACROSS A NUMBER OF—

—DISCLOSURE OF THE MEMOS REVEAL A GLIMPSE INTO THE ULTRA-SECRETIVE WORLD OF—

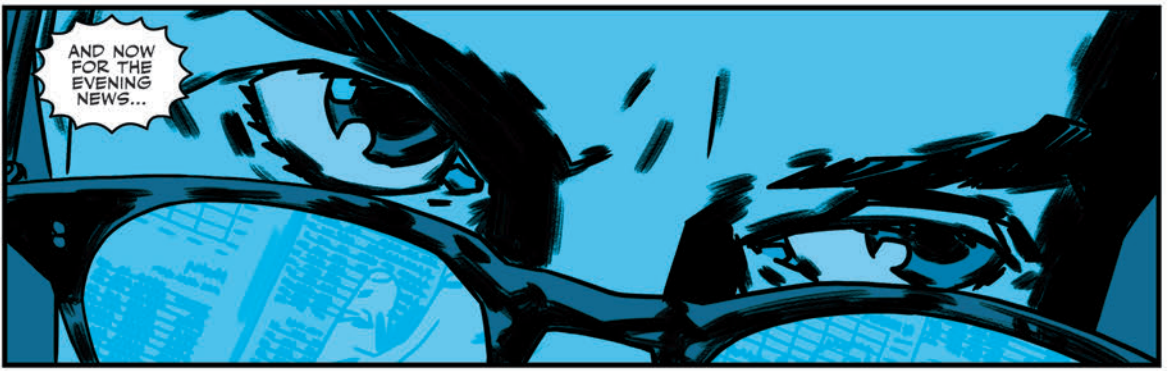
—TRADED ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN-RIGHTS ABUSES TODAY WHILE ATTEMPTING TO STAVE OFF A DIPLOMATIC CRISIS—



—PRICES TRENDING HIGHER—

—ACCUSED OF OVERREACH BY ROGUE ELEMENTS WITHIN—

—DENOUNCED BY HUMAN-RIGHTS GROUPS—





YOU THINK YOU MIGHT, SOMEHOW, OUTWIT ME.



YOU ASSUME THERE ARE *STEPS* YOU COULD TAKE TO STAY AHEAD.



BUT YOU *KNOW BETTER*, TOO, AND THAT MAKES YOU AFRAID.

THIS VERY MOMENT YOU ARE PRACTICING TECHNIQUES YOU HOPE TO ONE DAY USE AGAINST ME: *DEFLECTING* YOUR INTENTIONS AND *SHIELDING* YOUR THOUGHTS.



YOUR MIND IS A *SEWER*.



TELL THEM ALL I'M *READY*...

"...AND INFORM THEM ALL,
THEY'D BETTER BE."

WEST 46TH STREET,
NEW YORK CITY
8:12 A.M.



MY FRIENDS,
I FEAR WE'VE
BEEN SOLD
A BILL OF
GOODS.

SINCE OUR INITIAL
COMPACT, THERE HAVE
BEEN SCHISMS IN OUR
GROUP. OUR PROJECTS
WERE ALWAYS OF THE
HIGHEST STAKES.
DIVERSITY OF OPINION
WAS WELCOME.

BUT EACH MAN KNEW
HIS PLACE AND WHEN
THE *WHOLE* WAS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN THE
INDIVIDUAL PART
HE PLAYED.



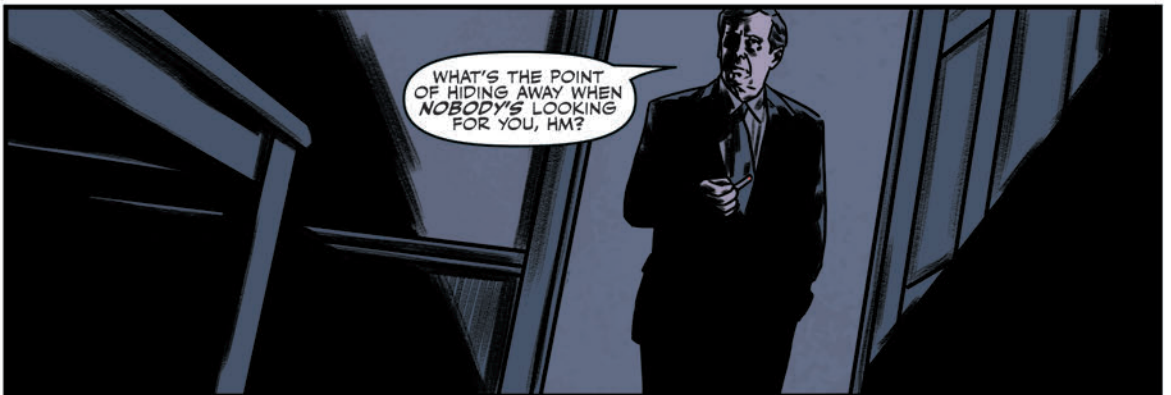
MORE THAN
40 YEARS OF PLANNING
BUILT UPON PREPARATIONS
DATING BACK *DECADES*
BEFORE, AND WE'RE *STILL*
HIDING IN THE DARKNESS,
WAITING FOR THE LIGHT.



WHAT IS
LIGHT, BUT A
SLOW, BURNING
FIRE OR AN
ONCOMING
TRAIN?

I THINK I
PREFER THE
DARKNESS,
MYSELF.

DON'T
GET TOO
COMFORTABLE
IN THERE.



WHAT'S THE POINT
OF HIDING AWAY WHEN
NOBODY'S LOOKING
FOR YOU, HM?



ESTEEMED FRIENDS, PATRONS, AND SHARERS OF SECRETS... YOURS WERE METICULOUSLY LAID PLANS OF COLLABORATION AND SUBTERFUGE.

THE PERFECT CONSPIRACY.

IT'S BEEN FASCINATING DIGGING THROUGH YOUR ARCHIVES AND MEMORIES.



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS? YOU MAKE PLANS. YOU KEEP YOUR SECRETS.

BUT WHAT OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS? WHAT OF ALL THE WORK WE'VE DONE?

YOU REALLY DON'T SEE IT, DO YOU? YOUR CONSPIRING WAS FOR NOTHING, IN THE END.

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT WHO'S LOOKING TO BARGAIN WITH YOU.



WE HAVE EXPERIENCE. WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE SHARED ONLY AMONGST OURSELVES.

AS WELL AS AN OBLIGATION TO USE IT FOR A COMMON GOOD.

BUT WHOSE "COMMON GOOD," DO YOU MEAN?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW?



YOU WERE ONCE IMPORTANT MEN. TOGETHER, YOU ORCHESTRATED THE GREATEST LIE IN HUMAN HISTORY.

BUT YOU WERE GREEDY... AND GLUTTONOUS. YOU GREW DEPRIVED IN TIME.

SO YOU FAILED, AND THEN YOU FELL.

I REITERATE MY OBJECTIONS TO THE DIRECTION THIS NEW, SO-CALLED SYNDICATE HAS UNDERTAKEN.

AS ELDERS, WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO—



BUT I'VE BROUGHT YOU BACK, AND THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT I PLAN TO USE THE BEST PARTS OF YOU TO FURTHER THIS ORGANIZATION'S NEW GOALS...

WHAT—
->COUGH->

—ARE YOU?



...WHILE DISCARDING THE REST.

NNNN...