

WE HUDDLE TOGETHER.

MY SMALL FAMILY SEEKING COMFORT FROM A WORLD DETERMINED TO SEPARATE US.



A FIERY END IS INESCAPABLE.

EVERYONE KNOWS THIS.

EVERYONE EXCEPT MY WIFE.



STEL WON'T HEAR IT.

OUR CHILDREN THRIVE AMID HER IRRATIONAL OPTIMISM.

SO DO I.



STEL KNOWS WHAT NO ONE ELSE DARES TRUST.

THAT THERE IS HOPE.

PFSSHH



SHHHHH

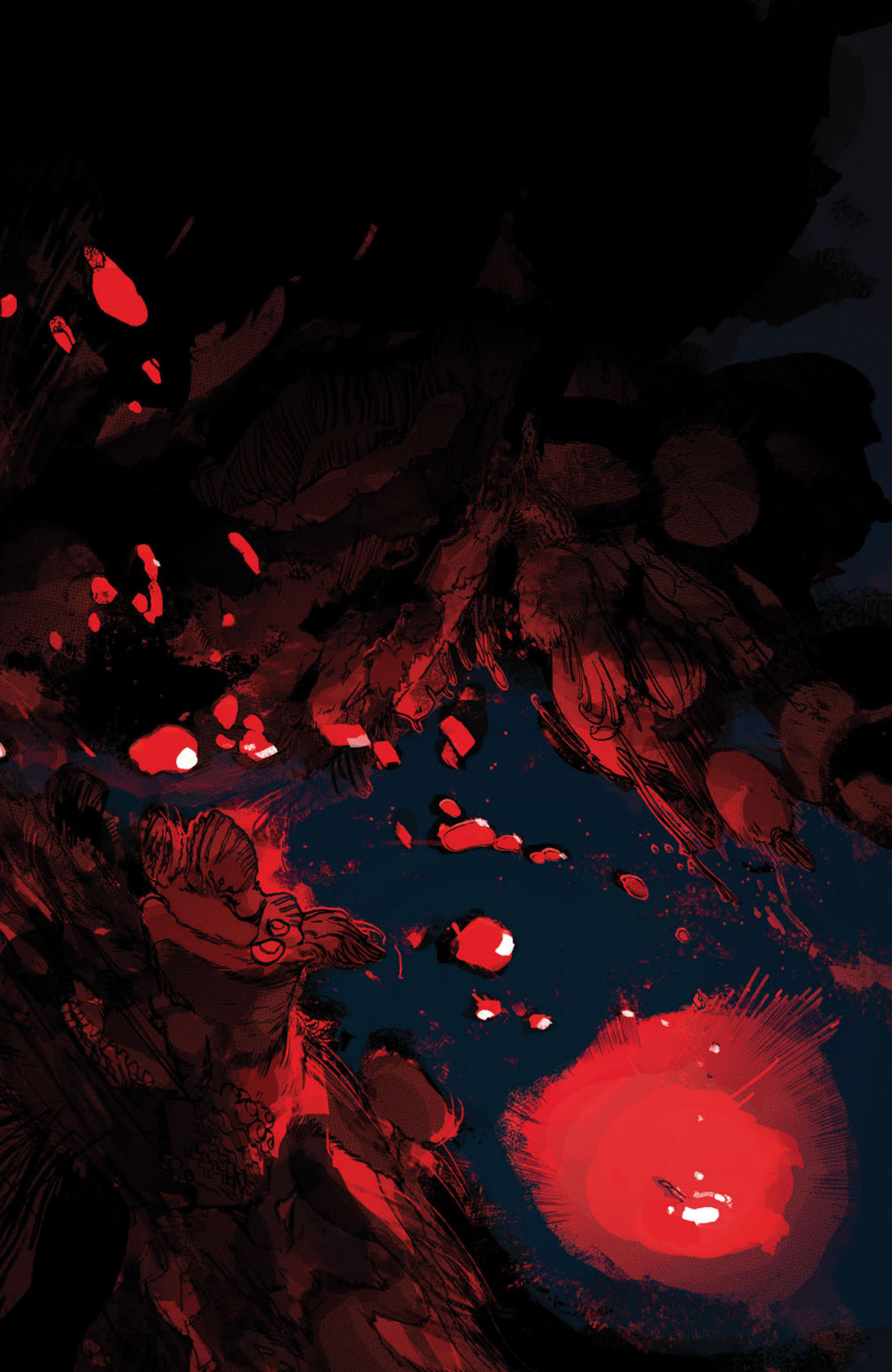
THAT, PROVIDED WE BELIEVE IT...

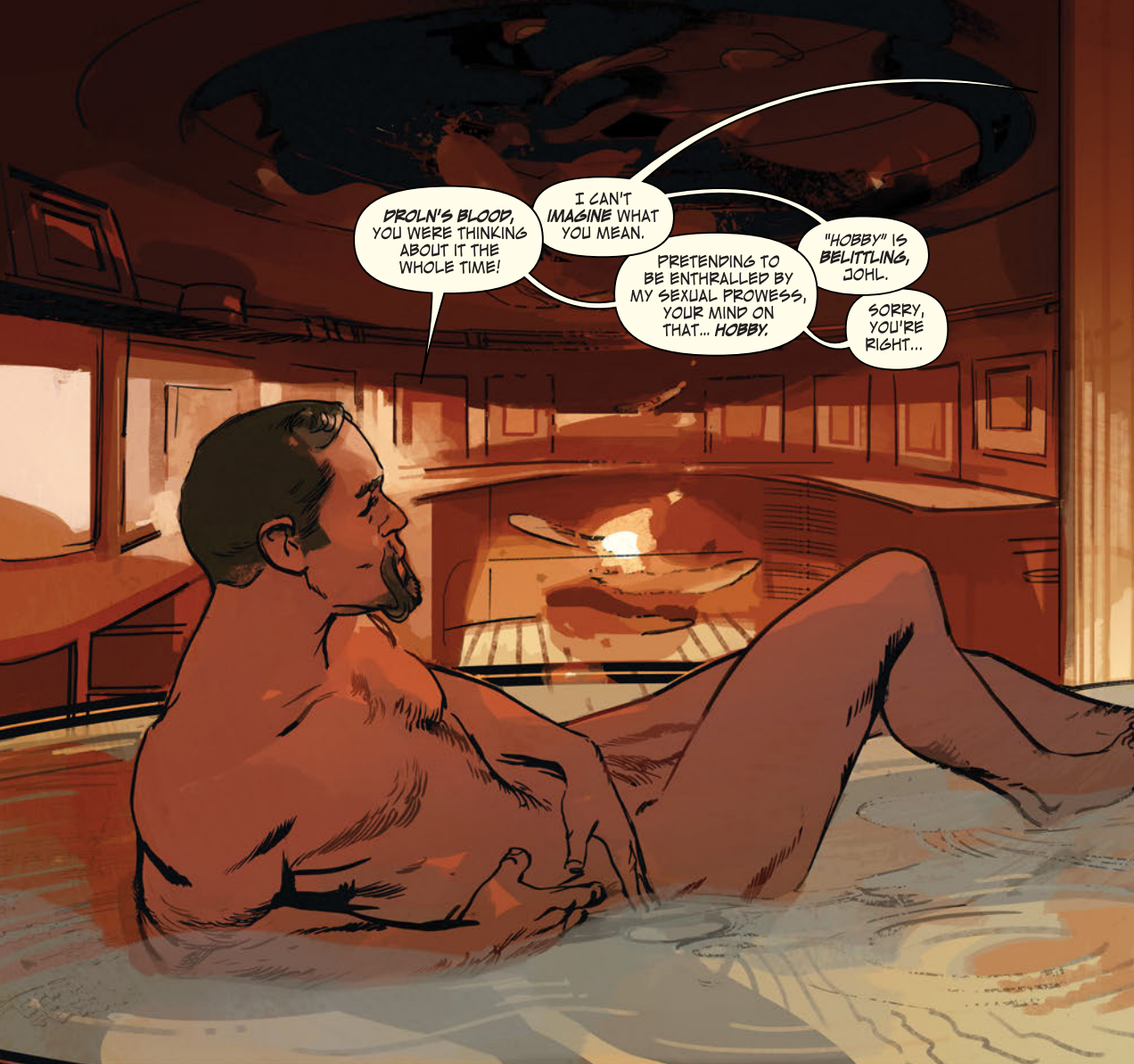
...WE WILL
RISE AGAIN.

REMEMBER • TOCCHINI • WOOSTON • GRIFFIN

LOW

CHAPTER ONE
THE DELIRIUM OF HOPE





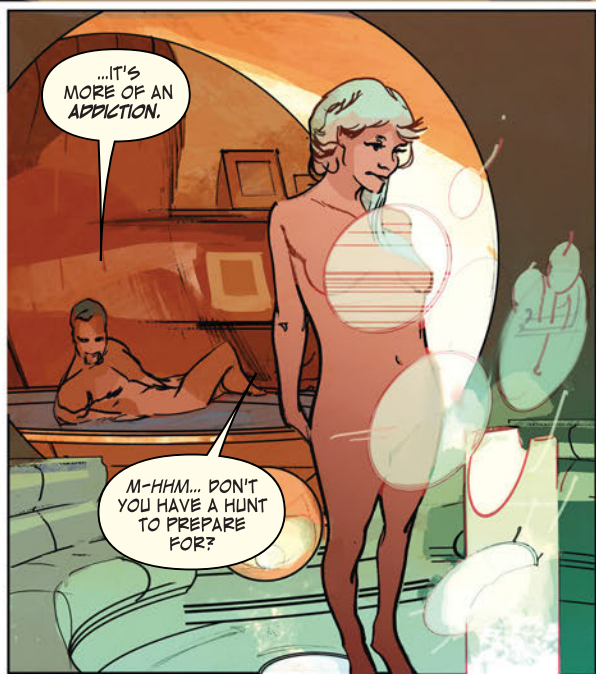
DROLN'S BLOOD,
YOU WERE THINKING
ABOUT IT THE
WHOLE TIME!

I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHAT
YOU MEAN.

PRETENDING TO
BE ENTHRALLED BY
MY SEXUAL PROWESS,
YOUR MIND ON
THAT... HOBBY.

"HOBBY" IS
BELITTLING,
JOHL.

SORRY,
YOU'RE
RIGHT...



...IT'S
MORE OF AN
ADDICTION.

M-HHM... DON'T
YOU HAVE A HUNT
TO PREPARE
FOR?



YES.

A REAL
HUNT.

ONE
THAT BEARS
FRUIT.

UNLIKE HUNTING ANCIENT
RATTLETRAPS WHEN YOU
SHOULD BE FOCUSED
ON THE TASK
AT HAND.

THE TASK
AT HAND IS
YOUR JOB, MY
DEAR.



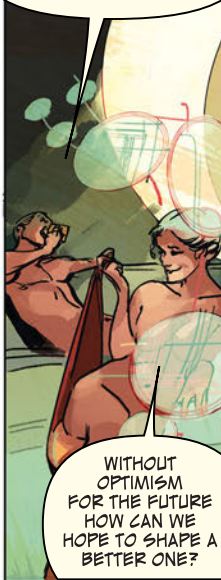
PERHAPS THE LAST GREAT HELMSMAN OF SALUS IS SIMPLY DISTRAUGHT TO SEE HIS WIFE MANAGE TO STAND AFTER A BOUGHT OF HIS FAMOUSLY POTENT LOVEMAKING...

WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...



IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU TO PRETEND.
HELP BUILD MY CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE WORK.

HOW MANY MILLENNIA HAVE WE GONE WITH NO RESPONSE FROM A PROBE?



WITHOUT OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE HOW CAN WE HOPE TO SHAPE A BETTER ONE?

YOU SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR THE THIRD CITY.

THAT'S NO SOLUTION.



IT'S THE ONLY SOLUTION. OPERATIONAL VENTILATION FILTERS-- CLEAN AIR.