

THE VOICE OF COMMON WISDOM TELLS US THAT THE AGE OF MIRACLES AND MAGIC IS DEAD; THAT THE EDGES OF THE WORLD ARE FINITE, CIRCUMSCRIBED BY A CONFLUENCE OF GLASS, CONCRETE, AND ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST.

IT TELLS US THAT WE JOURNEY FROM DUST TO DUST THROUGH THE BARGAIN BASEMENT FLOOR OF A CLOCKWORK UNIVERSE UTTERLY OBLIVIOUS TO OUR EXISTENCE...AND THAT IN THE END, WE ALL STAND ALONE.



# THE WAY OUT



THE OPPOSITION OFFERS INTO EVIDENCE AN OTHERWISE NONDESCRIPT NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE WEST SIDE OF MANHATTAN.

HERE YOU GO, MR. RICHMOND, THE USUAL.

THANKS, DIANA.

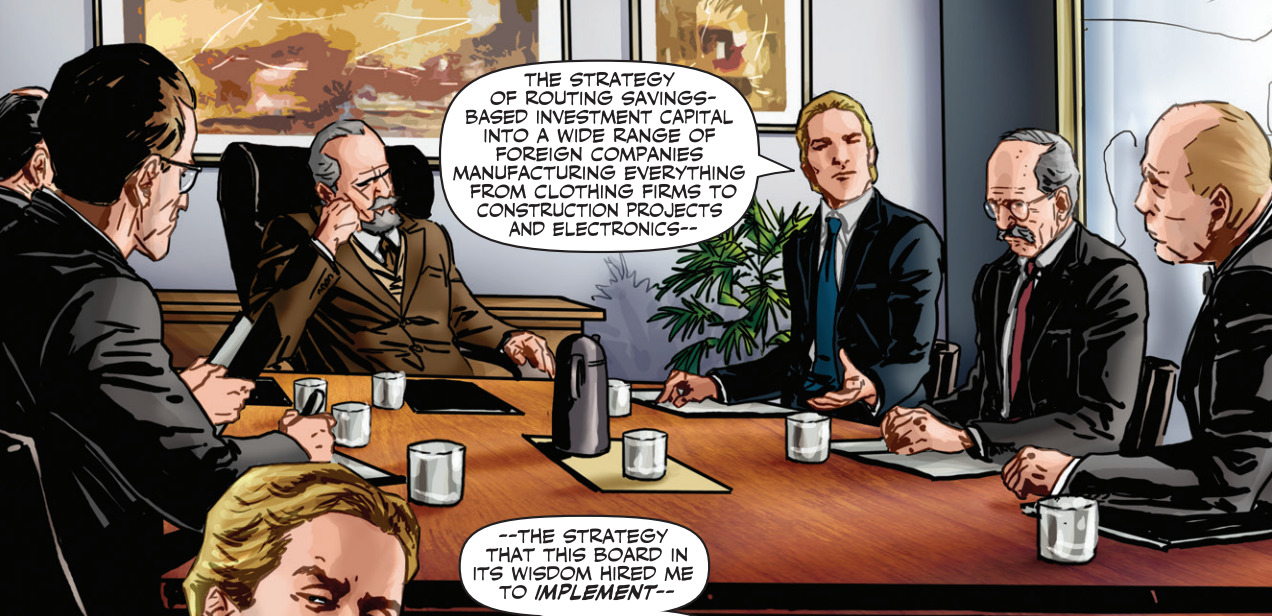


A CROSSROADS OF SECRETS, DREAMS AND DESIRES WHOSE LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE CAN ONLY BE FOUND--



--IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

"--AND EVEN A CONSERVATIVE PROJECTION OF REVENUE STREAMS FROM OUR CURRENT INVESTMENT SLATE PROMISES A TEN PERCENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S EARNINGS."



THE STRATEGY OF ROUTING SAVINGS-BASED INVESTMENT CAPITAL INTO A WIDE RANGE OF FOREIGN COMPANIES MANUFACTURING EVERYTHING FROM CLOTHING FIRMS TO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND ELECTRONICS--

--THE STRATEGY THAT THIS BOARD IN ITS WISDOM HIRED ME TO IMPLEMENT--

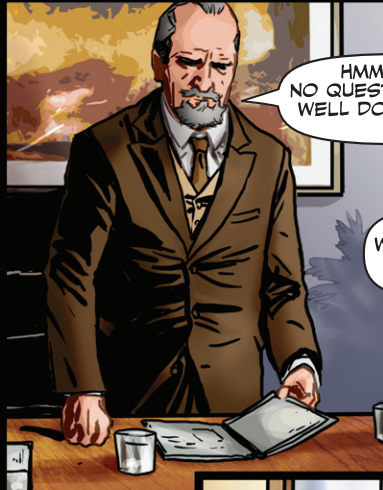
--HAS PROVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EVEN I COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED. AND I ANTICIPATED A LOT.



SO... ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

MR. BLACK?

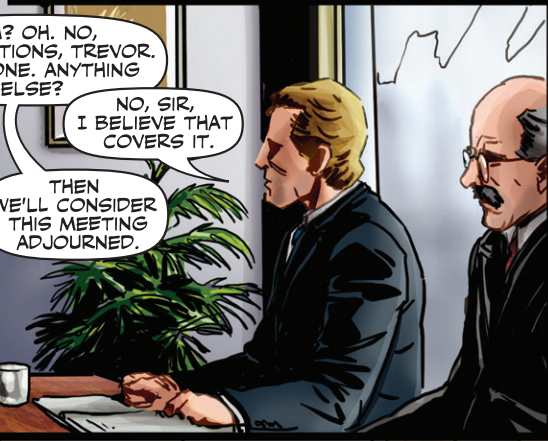
...MR. BLACK...?



HMM? OH, NO, NO QUESTIONS, TREVOR. WELL DONE. ANYTHING ELSE?

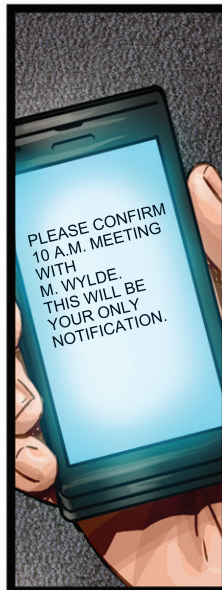
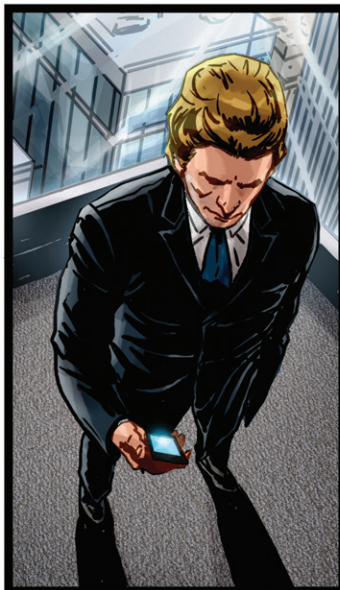
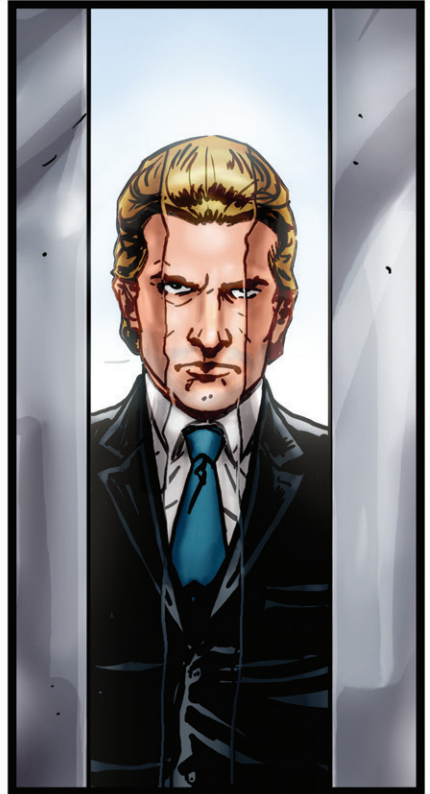
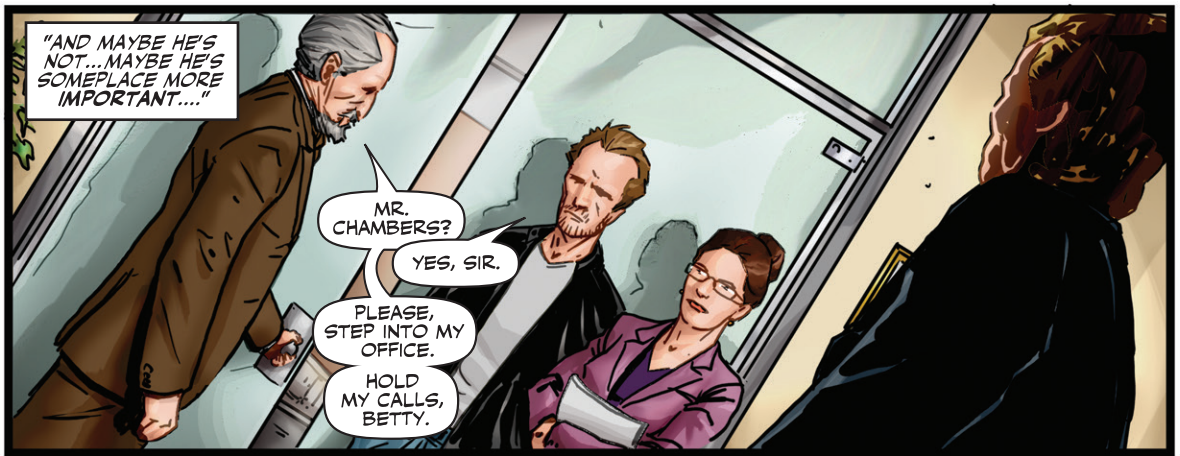
NO, SIR, I BELIEVE THAT COVERS IT.

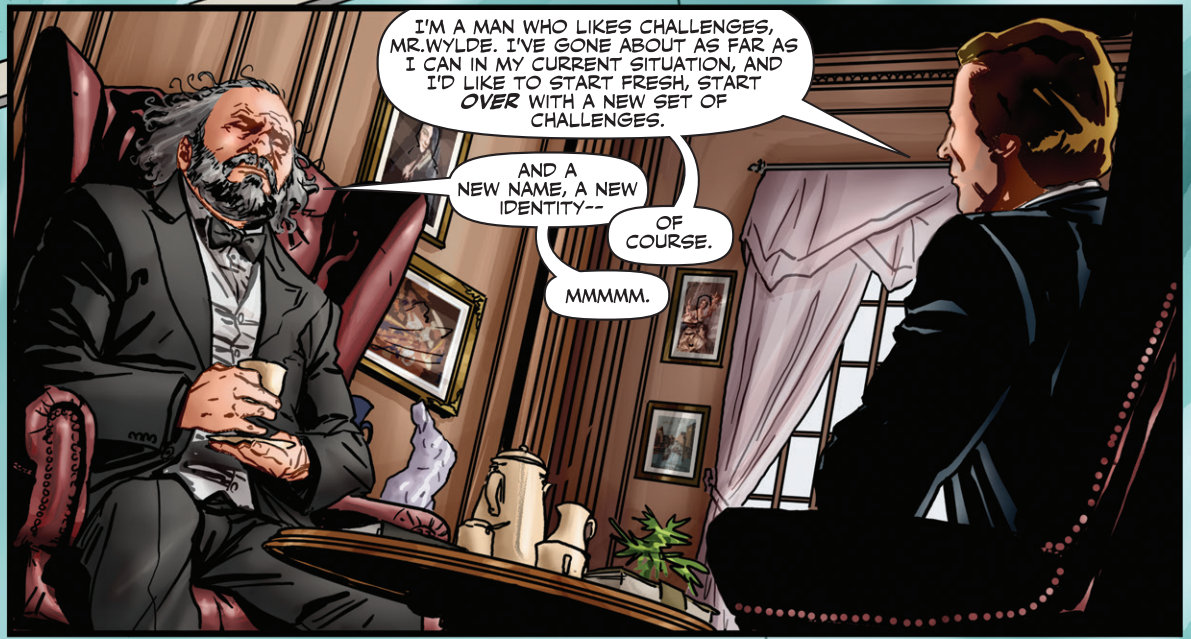
THEN WE'LL CONSIDER THIS MEETING ADJOURNED.



I DON'T LIKE IT. THE OLD MAN'S BARELY PAYING ATTENTION THESE DAYS.

I KNOW. IT'S HIS COMPANY, BUT LATELY IT'S AS IF HE'S BARELY EVEN HERE ANYMORE.



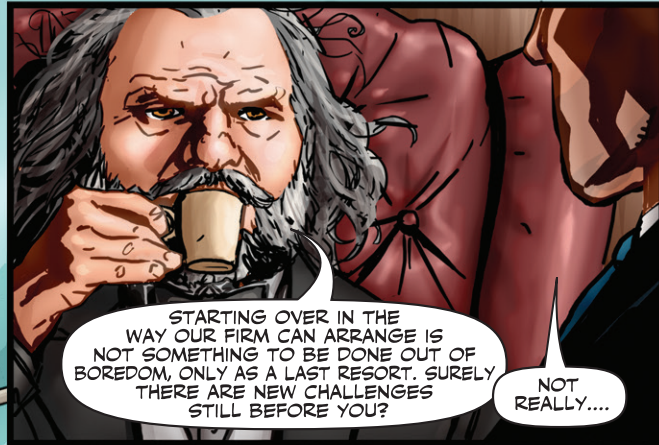


I'M A MAN WHO LIKES CHALLENGES, MR. WYLDE. I'VE GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS I CAN IN MY CURRENT SITUATION, AND I'D LIKE TO START FRESH, START OVER WITH A NEW SET OF CHALLENGES.

AND A NEW NAME, A NEW IDENTITY--

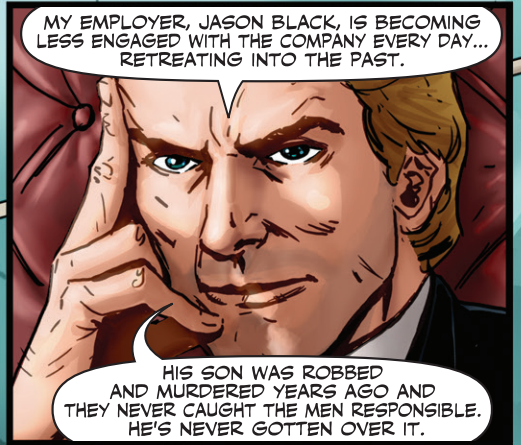
OF COURSE.

MMMMMM.



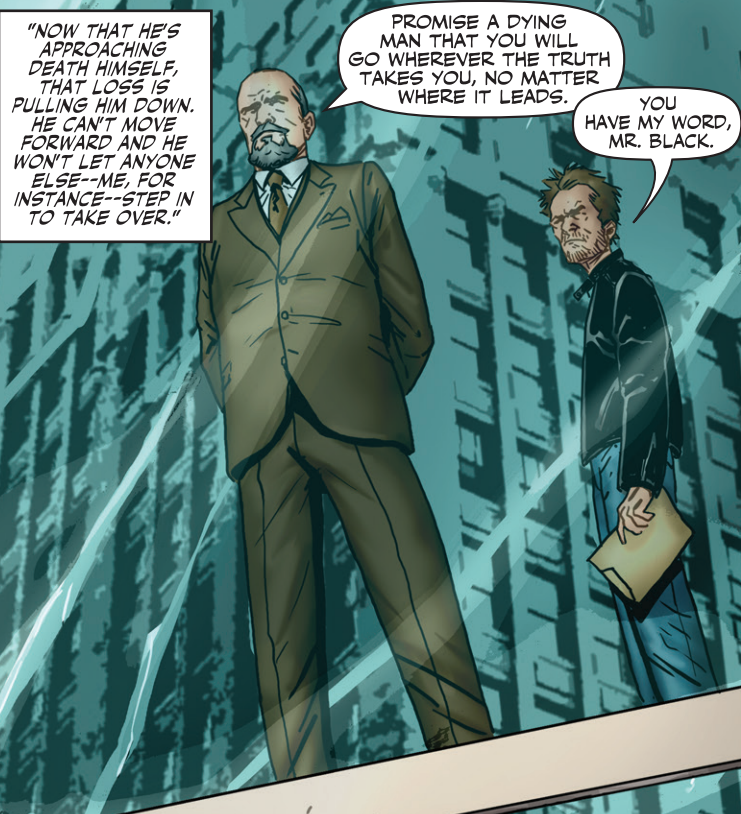
STARTING OVER IN THE WAY OUR FIRM CAN ARRANGE IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE DONE OUT OF BOREDOM, ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. SURELY THERE ARE NEW CHALLENGES STILL BEFORE YOU?

NOT REALLY....



MY EMPLOYER, JASON BLACK, IS BECOMING LESS ENGAGED WITH THE COMPANY EVERY DAY... RETREATING INTO THE PAST.

HIS SON WAS ROBBED AND MURDERED YEARS AGO AND THEY NEVER CAUGHT THE MEN RESPONSIBLE. HE'S NEVER GOTTEN OVER IT.



"NOW THAT HE'S APPROACHING DEATH HIMSELF, THAT LOSS IS PULLING HIM DOWN. HE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD AND HE WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE--ME, FOR INSTANCE--STEP IN TO TAKE OVER."

PROMISE A DYING MAN THAT YOU WILL GO WHEREVER THE TRUTH TAKES YOU, NO MATTER WHERE IT LEADS.

YOU HAVE MY WORD, MR. BLACK.



"I'M DROWNING IN ROUTINE. I EVEN PICK UP THE SAME EGG SANDWICH EVERY MORNING ON MY WAY TO THE OFFICE."

WHAT'S THAT?

I DON'T KNOW...A COIN OF SOME KIND. LOOKS REALLY OLD.