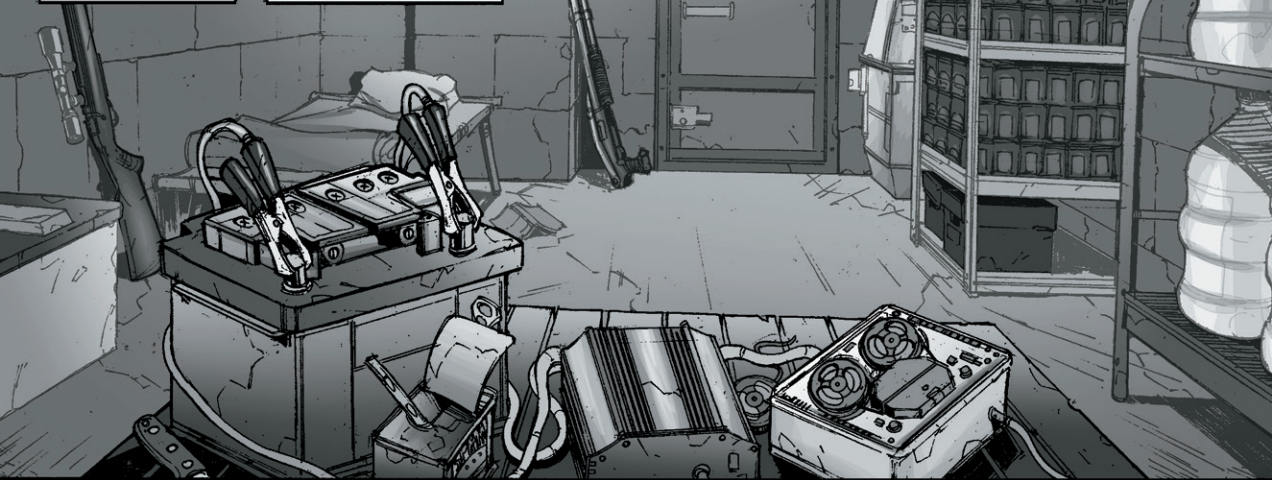


HHRRRKKKK--

->PTUI<-



WHOEVER FINDS THIS--

--IF ANYONE DOES--



--I WANT YOU TO KNOW--

--RECORDING SOMETHING THIS WAY WAS ARCHAIC AS HELL IN *OUR* DAY, TOO.

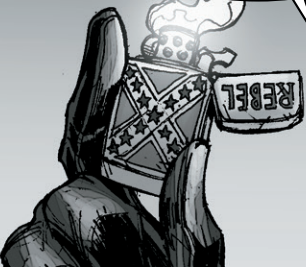
BUT SINCE THE *ZEDS*, IF YOU WANT ANYTHING TO LAST, YOU GOTTA MAKE IT SOMETHING YOU CAN HOLD, IN YOUR *HANDS*.

MARK IT ON A PHYSICAL OBJECT...



...LEAVE A *WOUND*.

WE SET TOO MANY THINGS DOWN IN JUMBLES OF ELECTRONS, ENTRUSTING THEM TO COMPUTERS...



...THAT'S ALL GONE NOW.

MIGHT AS WELL HAVE WRITTEN IT ON *AIR*.



BEFORE

"YOU CAN LOOK AROUND AND SEE HOW THINGS ARE *NOW*--

"--AND FROM ANY BOOKS AND MAGAZINES YOU CAN SCROLLING, YOU CAN SEE THE WAY THINGS *USED* TO BE.

"THE STORY *I'M* GOING TO TELL YOU IS HOW WE *GET* FROM ONE POINT TO THE OTHER.

"THERE'S A LOT OF HEROISM HERE, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BUT ALSO A LOT OF STUPIDITY..."

AFTER

"...OF THE GOOD OLD HUMAN FRAILTY KIND.

"I GUESS WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW IS:

"THINGS DIDN'T *HAVE* TO BE THIS WAY.

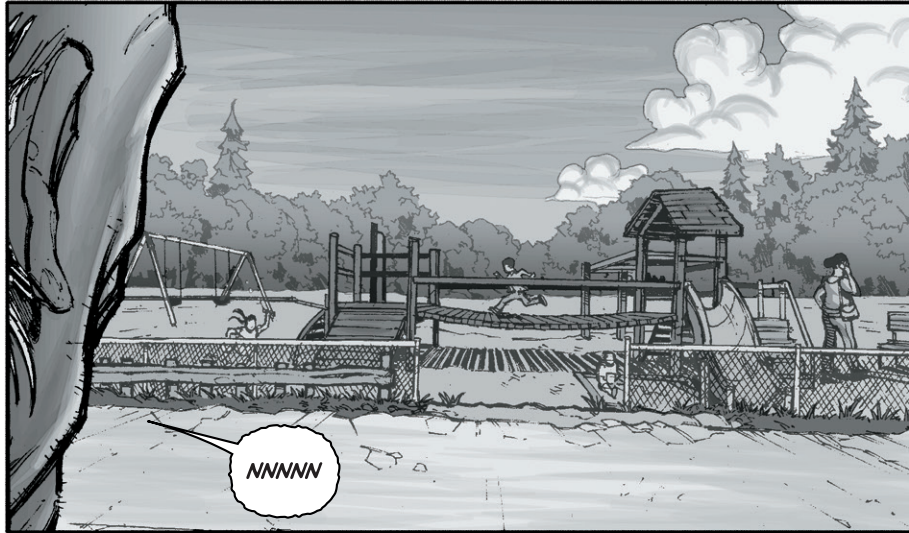
"BUT HERE'S WHY THEY *ARE*.

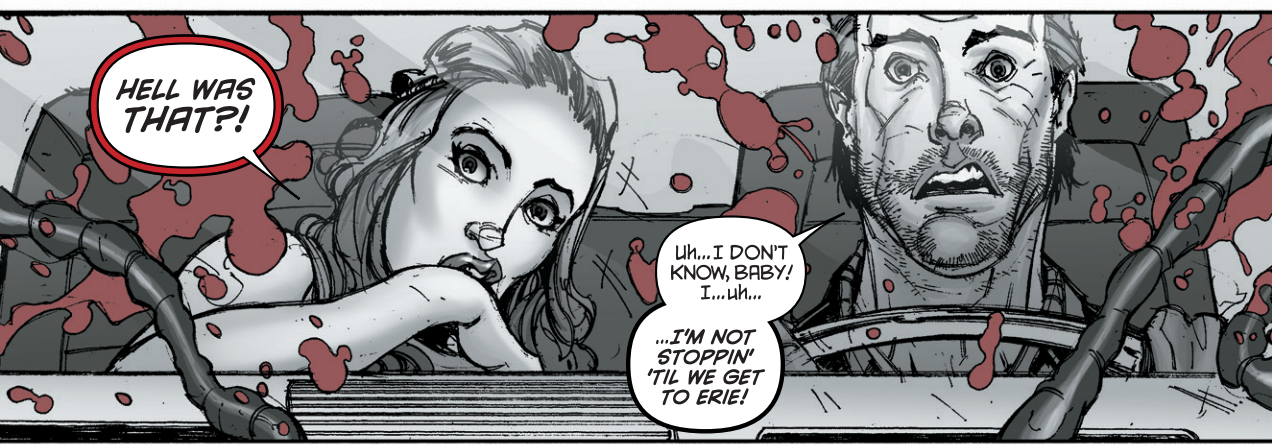
"AND WHY WE CAN STILL COME *BACK*.

"STARTING AT THE *BEGINNING*..."



FIRST CONTACT
MURRYSVILLE, PA · SEPTEMBER 3 · 1014 HRS

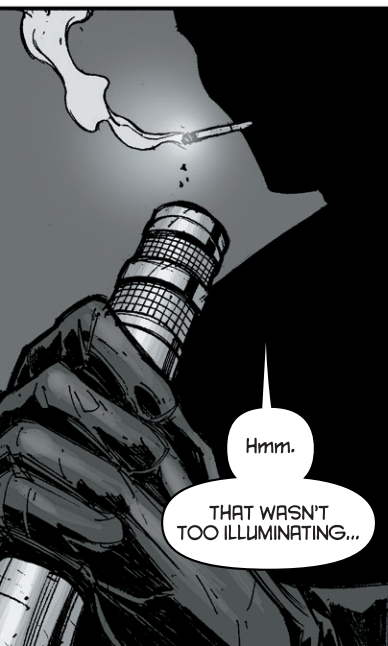




HELL WAS THAT?!

Uh... I DON'T KNOW, BABY! I...uh...

...I'M NOT STOPPIN' 'TIL WE GET TO ERIE!

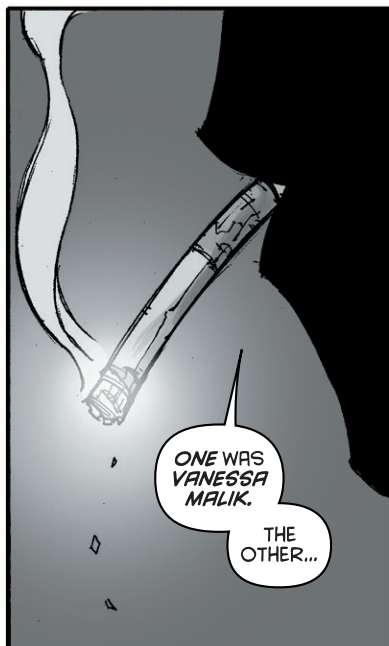


Hmm.
THAT WASN'T TOO ILLUMINATING...



MAYBE I SHOULD START *HERE* INSTEAD:

THOUGH THEY COULD HAVE NO WAY OF *KNOWING* IT AT THE TIME, THAT EARLY ON, *TWO* VERY DIFFERENT AND VERY *SIMILAR* PEOPLE HELD THE FATE OF HUMANITY IN THEIR HANDS.



ONE WAS VANESSA MALIK.

THE OTHER...

"...THE OTHER WAS
AARON BUNCH."

THE COMIC
THAT'S
ONLY
VARIANT
COVERS.

WHY DON'T
YOU COME OVER
HERE AND...

...CHARGE
MY POWER
BATTERY...

IN HARDEST
DAY! ->NGK!-<

IN WETTEST
NIGHT! ->NGK!-<

WHUP
WHUP WHUP
WHUP

THE
FRAK?