

.....image comics presents:

The Black Monday Murders.....[08]

Hickman | Coker | Garland | Wootton

.....February 2018



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(a,b,c,d)

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(image comics presents:)

WELCOME HOME STRANGER

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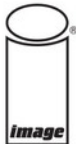


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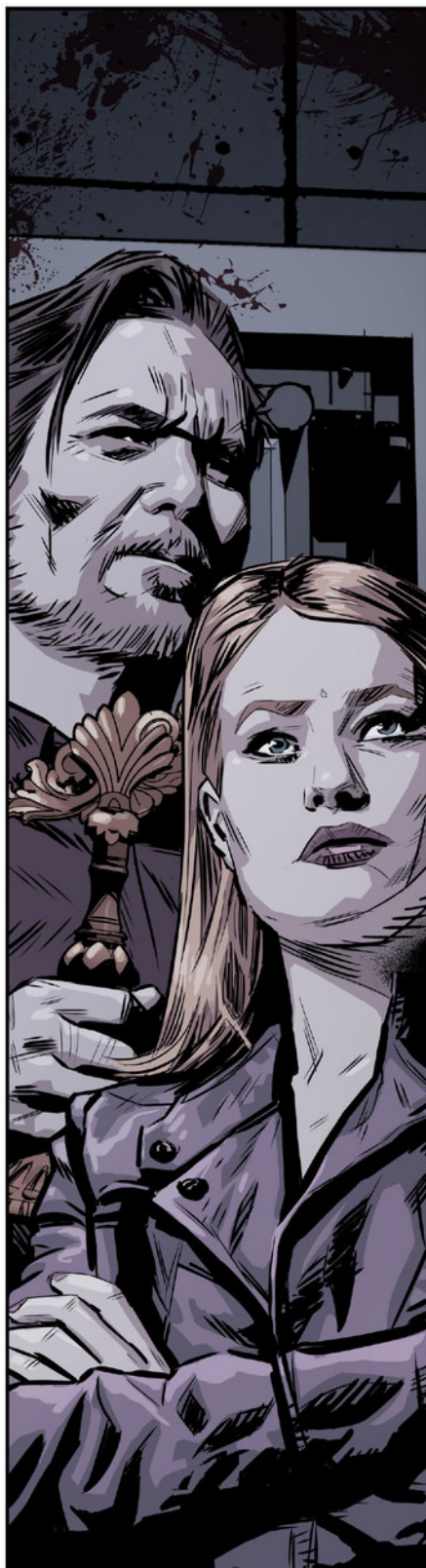
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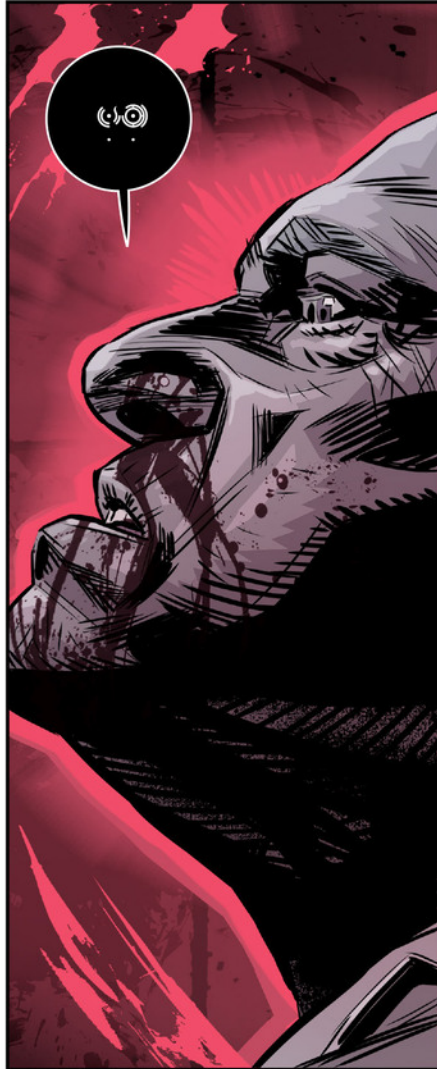
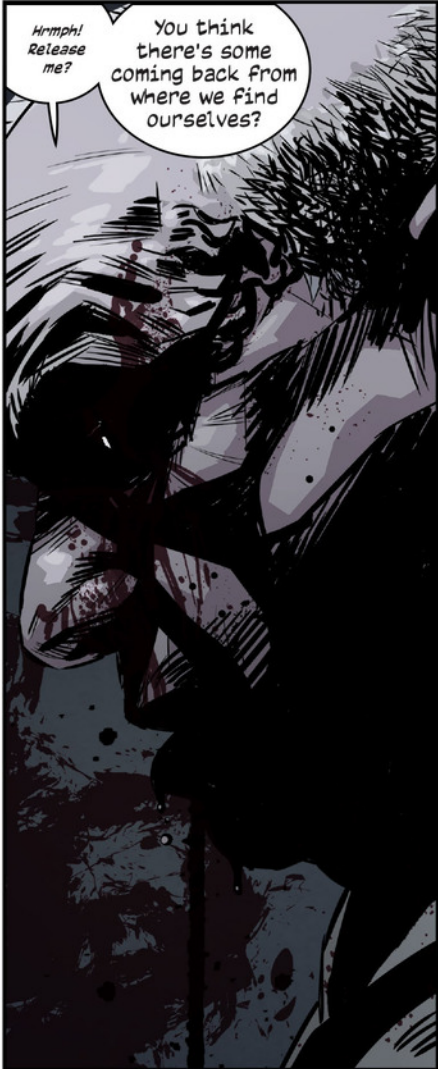


- PAY ONCE -

Caina-Kankrin.
November 8th.

2:58 p.m.







You shouldn't waste your words, Viktor.

You should save them.



There is a *blood debt* between your family and mine.

I don't care that you felt betrayed by our plans, or that there were costs you weren't prepared to pay...

You killed my brother and took what belongs to my house. Now, I want it back.



I have *vendetta*.

So, again, save your words. Save them for *the Scales*.



She can't possibly...



Yes. Yes, she can.



The Scales?

I had assumed...



So this isn't some charade? Some new Ackermann deception?

Another Rothschild lie?





Oh, it's very real, Viktor.



My familiar will stand for me...

And as form demands, you are allowed a second to stand in your place.



I am Viktor Eresko. First of the Troika.

I need no second.



Have it your way...

But to be clear: I want what you took from my brother returned. You, I assume, want the Rothschilds expelled from this school. For good.

I can agree to those terms if you do.



No.



No?



I drank your brother's blood.



I consumed all that he was, and now half the power accumulated by your family over generations is here, inside me.

As is our way. As is our craft.



I love that I have done this to you -- that you have to look at me and covet that which should be yours. But my nature is *all consuming*, and...well, I demand *something more*.

If you want an accounting, then the stakes must be *more*. They must be... *everything*.



Very well.

Everything.



No. This is madness.

Ria, you must --



Then you, Viktor...

Control yourself. Haven't you taken enough?



There is never enough.

Now...



Look at me, Grigoria.

Today, I am done with you and your family and these...*Caina* whores.



You have all forgotten.

I am the east.



I am *Kankrin*.



I've never seen this before, Marco.

How long does it take?

How long? Inside the circles -- on the Scales -- time gets...distorted. Maybe segmented is a better word...

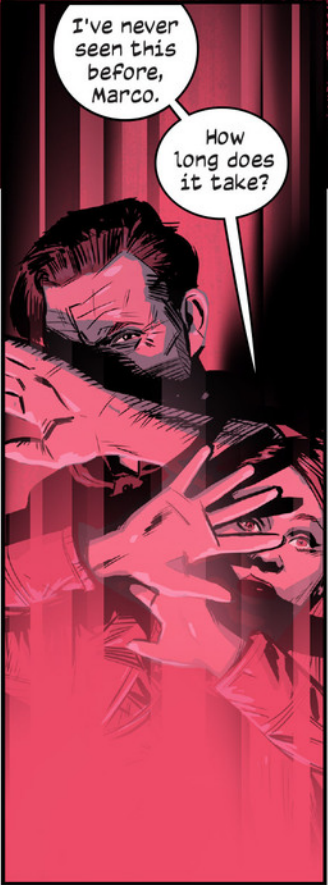
The edge, what's visible to us -- the light we see -- is an event horizon extending from real time here to the absence of it inside.

They will rage and war for an eternity -- for all time -- until someone is victorious. Then the Scales will be balanced. One alive. One dead. *A Full accounting.*

Then all will collapse back into real time.

So, Bea...how long? Depends. Could be minutes. Could be hours. Could be days.

No one knows.



So we just wait?

Yes.

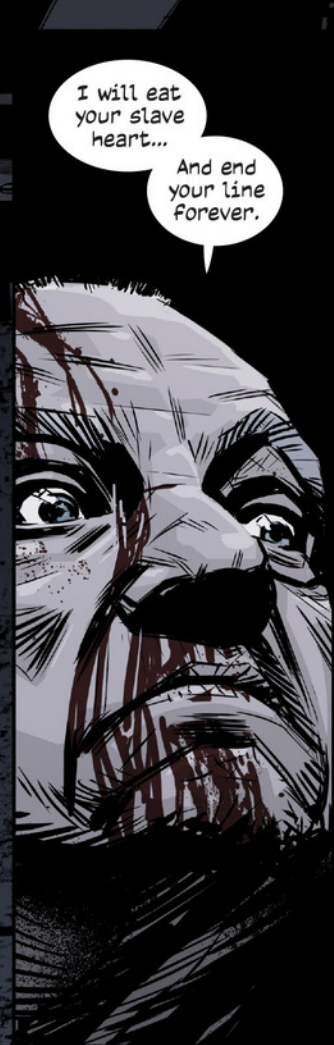


I am the vengeance of Irena Kozlov.



And you... you fucking child, are nothing.

When this is done...

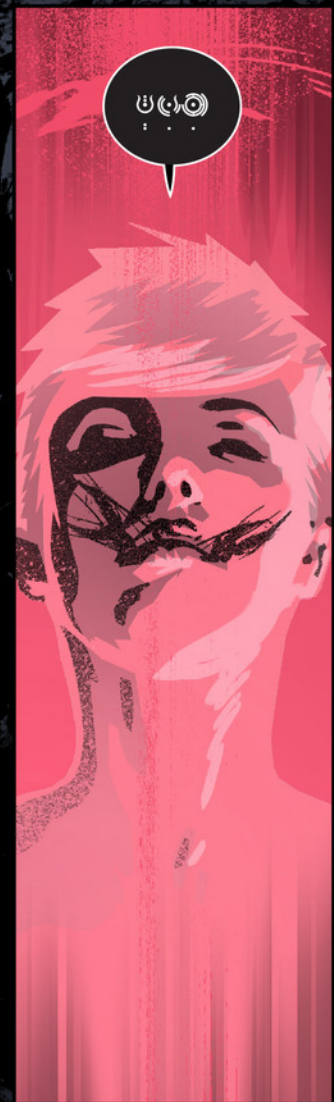


I will eat your slave heart...

And end your line forever.



BOO



BOO

(image comics presents)

THE BLACK MONDAY
MURDERS

CHAPTER EIGHT . . .

(c)

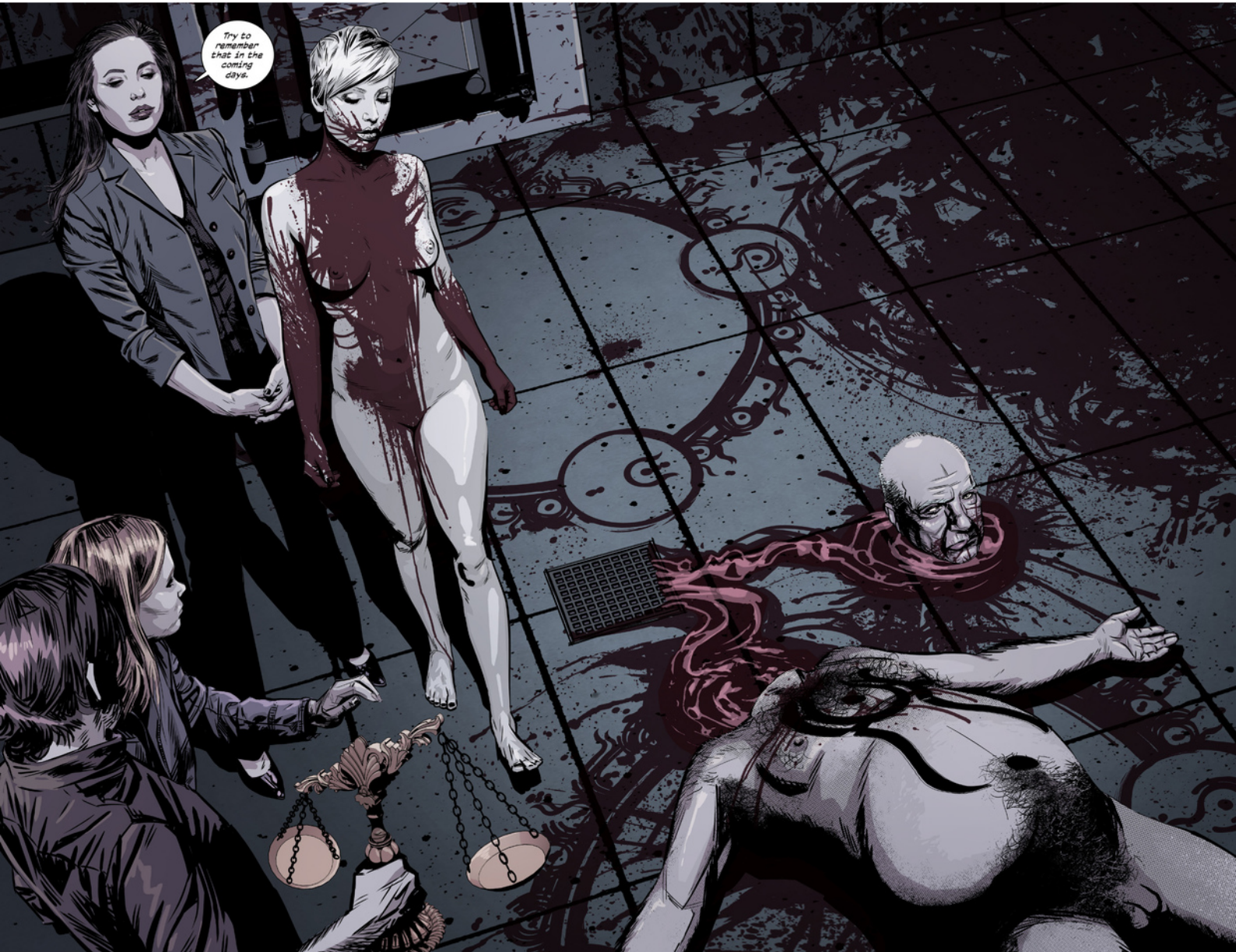
(S.b.e.d)

(a)

(b.e.d)



- PAY EVERYTHING -



Try to remember that in the coming days.

Caina-Kankrin.
November 8th.

5:02 p.m.



I can't believe you're doing this, Ria.

If she loses... you... you...



What?



I don't understand the risk.



Of course you don't.

You've been coddled for decades... while I've grown hard.



There are things you don't know about me, Beatrix.

This isn't the first time I've gambled everything.



I made my name in the circle...



"For you, Daniel."



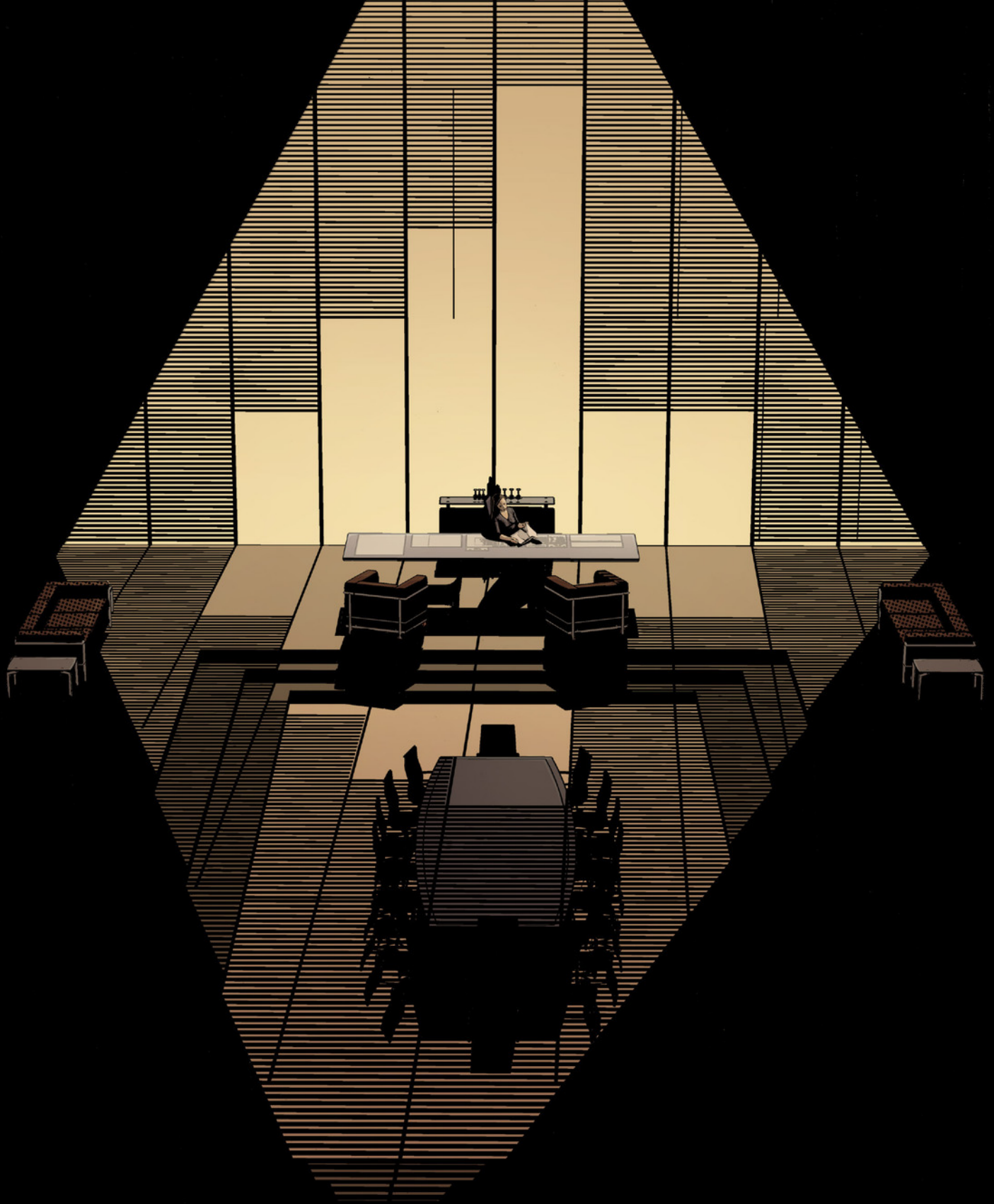
Caina-Kankrin.
November 16th.

6:23 p.m.

Detective,
she can see
you now.

Follow
me.



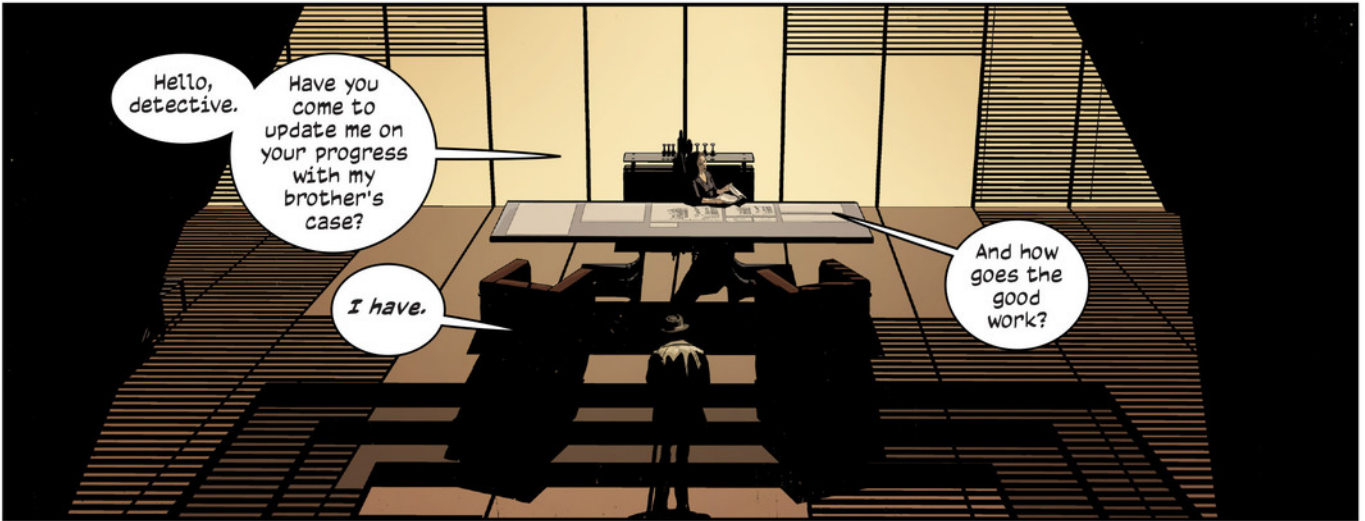




You can go right in.



Ms. Rothschild.



Hello, detective.

Have you come to update me on your progress with my brother's case?

I have.

And how goes the good work?



Well, work has been done.

But I don't know that you're going to be happy with what I have to say.

...



I can't prove anything.

I can't, because I do not now -- nor do I believe I ever will -- have the evidence I need in hand...

But I do know who did it.



Really?

Yeah. We got the right guy the first time.

It was Viktor Eresko.



Is that so?



The problem now is, no one knows where he is.

I can't find the guy...

It's as if the Earth opened up and swallowed him whole.



And wouldn't it be nice...if we could be so lucky?



...
Sure.





Well, then...



I want to thank you, Detective Dumas.

I asked if you were the real thing -- *diligent and determined* -- and it appears as if you are.



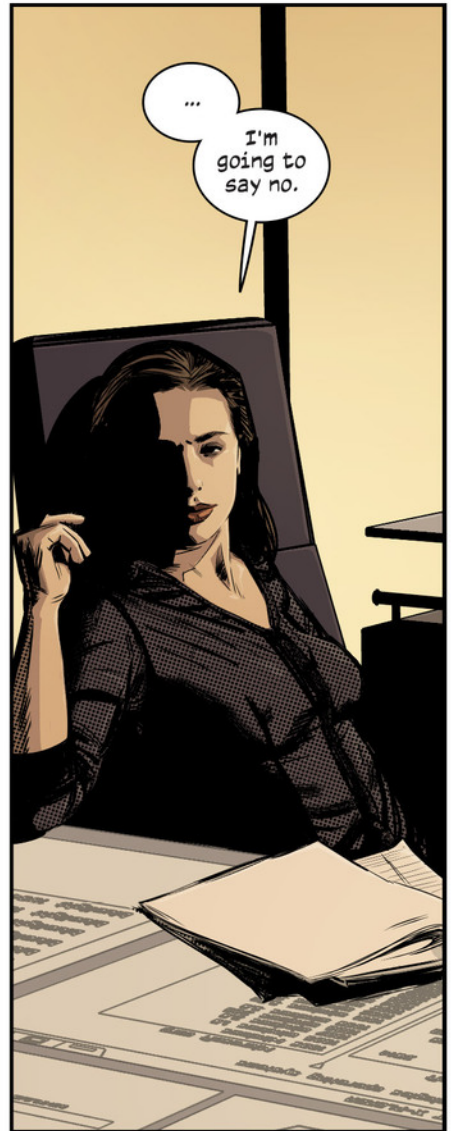
I'll let you know if Mister Eresko reappears, *of course*, but in the meantime, if there is ever anything I can do to repay your hard work, *please*, let me kn--

An acquaintance of mine -- *a friend* -- died learning this information.

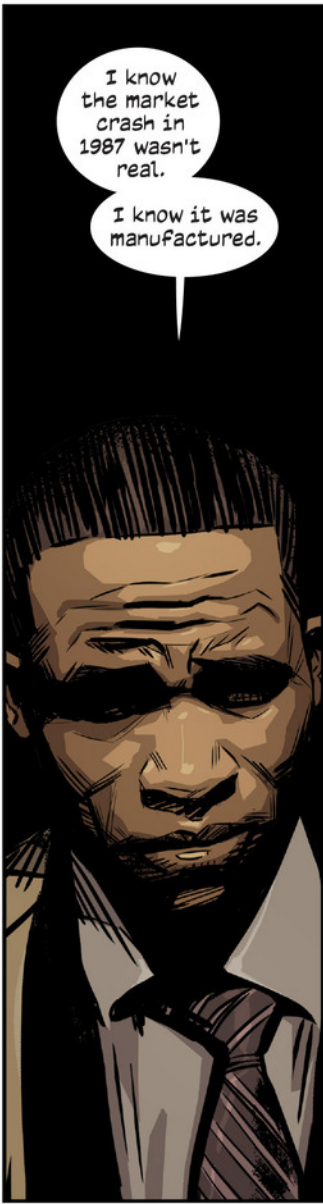


He sacrificed himself because he believed that some massive evil -- *some otherworldly history of man shit* -- was behind what ails this world. A hidden hand moving things to and fro...

Do you know what I am talking about?



...
I'm going to say no.



I know the market crash in 1987 wasn't real.

I know it was manufactured.

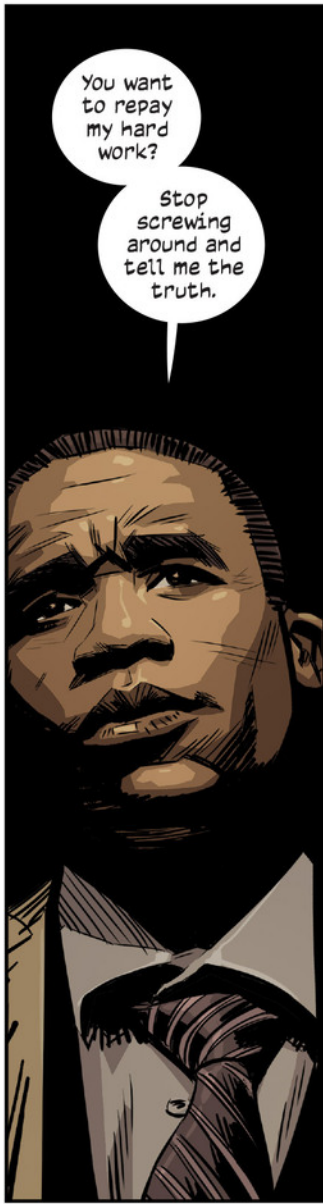


I looked, and that's around the time Caina and Kankrin merged.



I've also discovered that all of you did very, very well as a result.

One might even say that this one event transformed you into what you are today.



You want to repay my hard work?

Stop screwing around and tell me the truth.

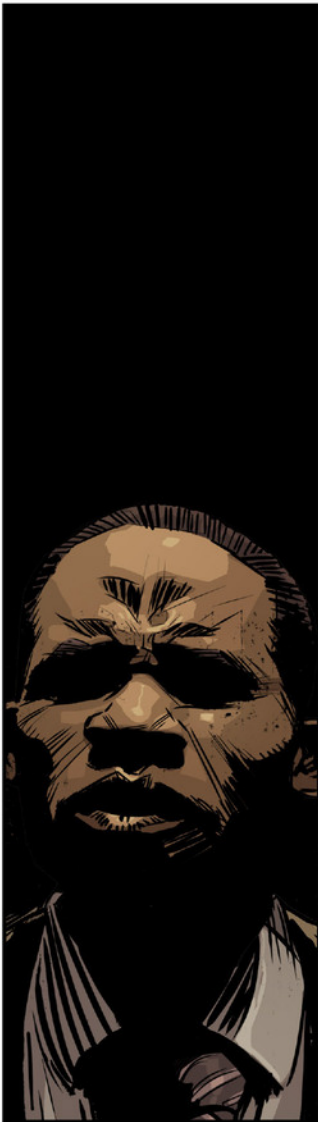


The truth? The truth has a higher threshold than gratitude, detective.

I won't deny that you're getting somewhere interesting...



But is that really all you have?





No.

I think whatever happened then has something to do with why your brother got killed...

I think it's why they showed you the door...



And I think you coming back -- and everything that's happened since then -- I think...

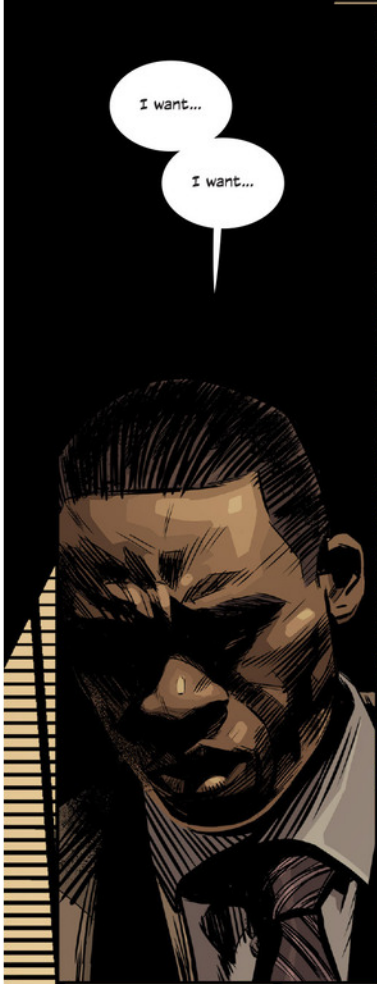
I think this is just the start of it.




Ah. I see...

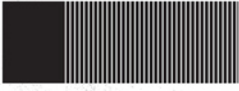
Well, you're certainly at the edge of it. Flirting with something you don't fully understand. I can see you're thinking that maybe -- just maybe -- you want to know more.

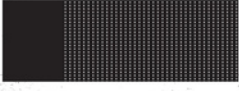
But maybe isn't going to cut it in the coming days.





 The Western Schools [American]
.....Caina [d.e. Kankrin]
.....Minor U.S. Academies

 The Papacy of Night
.....The Black Pope
.....The Cardinal Nimbus

 Lost Schools of the Wasteland
.....The Ferro King
.....The Ore Apostate

(e)(1)

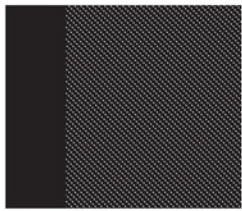

(f)



THE SCHOOLS
[Upper Territories of Mammon]

(a)
(b)

(c)
(d)


 The Western Schools [European]
 

Hyperpyron School



The Merovingian Ascendancy

 ..The Lattice [Merov. vassals]

Nomisma School



The Bilderberg Confederacy

The Blind Colloquium


 The Bedouin of Jinn
 

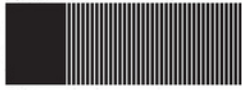

The House of Saud

 ...Minor Houses of Lesser Arts


 The House Mahai
 



The Brahmin

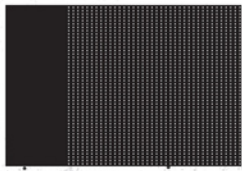

The Faceless Shudra


 The Papacy of Night
 

The Black Pope

The Cardinal Nimbus


 The Judas Sphere
 


 The Eastern School
 

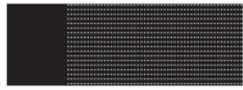
Kankrin [e.d. Caina]

 Lost Schools of the Wasteland

The Carbon Queen

The Oxide Prince





The Ronin of Dai-iche
....House of the Hidden Master
..Mirror of the Ravenous Beast



The Yinhang Solidarity



dominion |də'mɪnyən|

noun

.....1 sovereignty; control: God's eternal dominion over man.....

.....2 [redacted] all [redacted] these [redacted]

[redacted] lands [redacted]

[redacted] are [redacted] mi [redacted] ne [redacted]

[redacted] for [redacted]

.....3 [redacted] ever [redacted]

.....

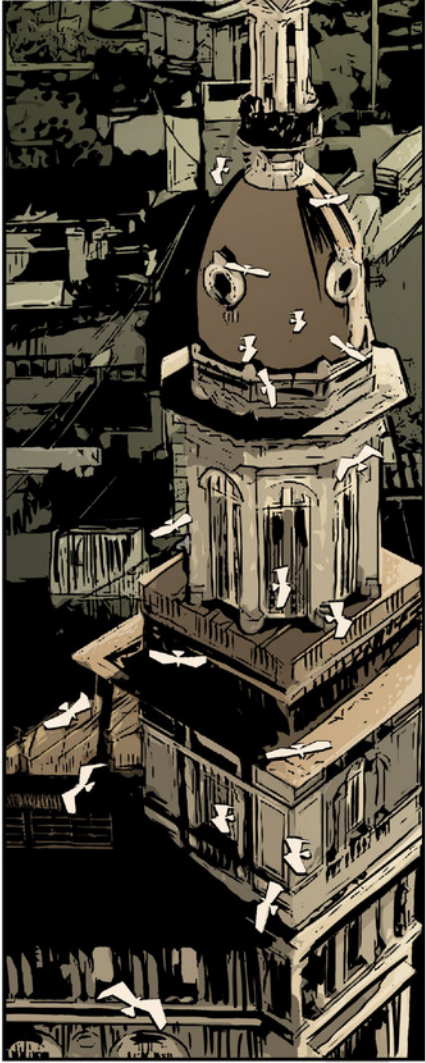
.....ORIGIN

Middle English: via Old French from medieval Latin dominio,....
from Latin dominium, from dominus 'lord, master.'.....



Cordoba,
Argentina.

November 31st.





☪ ☪ ☪



You're a long way from home, Thomas...

Why are you here?

I have good news, Mister Ackermann.

Grigoria Rothschild has summoned you home.

Well, I have to say...

It certainly took her long enough.





ALL HAIL GOD MAMMON



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RATED M / MATURE

(a) (c) /// DRAMATIS PERSONAE: //

(e) CAINA
1929

Charles Ackermann
(The Ackermann seat)
J. W. Bischoff
(The Bischoff seat)
Raymond Dominic
(The Dominic seat)
Milton Rothschild
(The Rothschild seat)
Abigail
(Rothschild Familiar)

KANKRIN
1985/Current

Irena Kozloy
(The Judge)
Alexi Malkin
(The Body)
Viktor Eresko
(The Executioner)

CAINA
1985/Current

Wynn Ackermann
(The Ackermann seat)
Beatrice Bischoff
(The Bischoff seat)
Marco Dominic
(The Dominic seat)
Daniel Rothschild
(The Rothschild seat)
Grigoria Rothschild
(The Rothschild seat)
Abby
(Rothschild Familiar)

Thomas Dane
(Head of Security)

NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Theodore Dumas
(Detective)
Michael Caffey
(Detective)
Susana Moreno
(Detective)
William Merritt
(Captain)

OTHER

Dr. Tyler Gaddis
(Professor of Economics,
Fordham)

(a,b,c,d)

(b,c,d)

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

