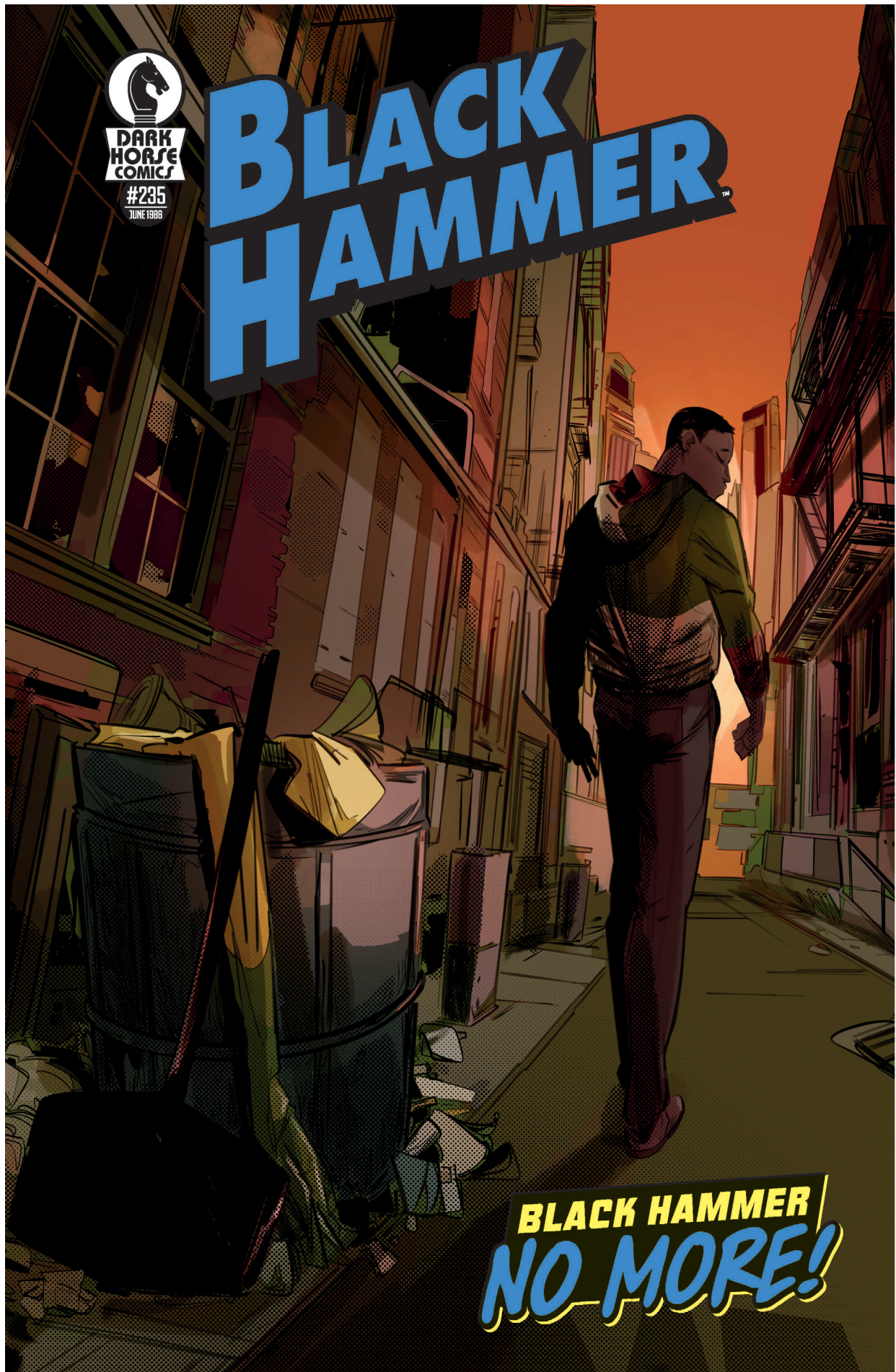




**DARK  
HORSE  
COMICS**

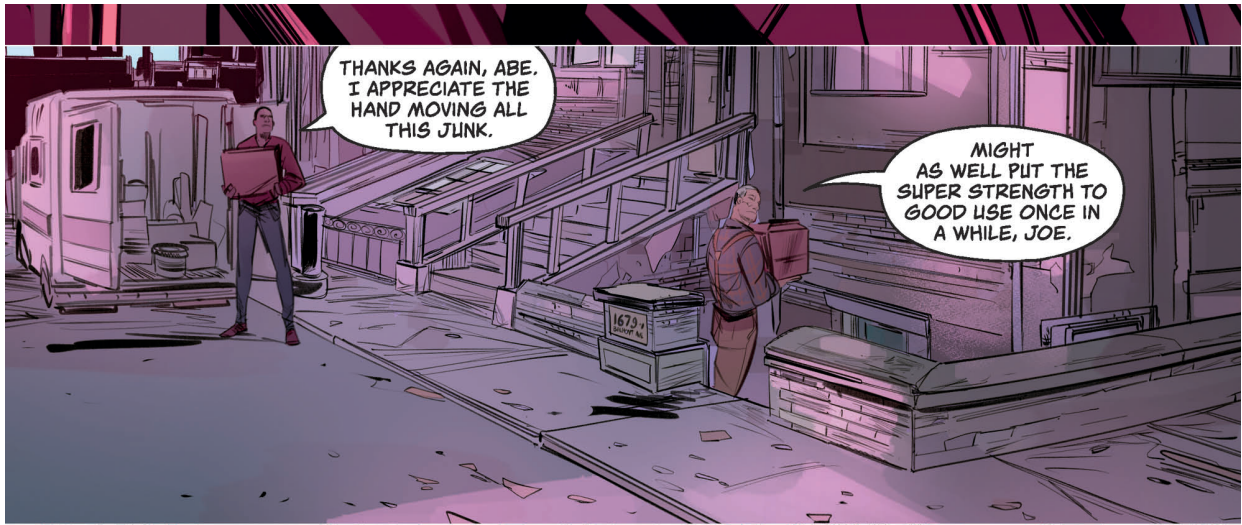
**#235**  
JUNE 1988

# BLACK HAMMER™



**BLACK HAMMER**  
**NO MORE!**





THANKS AGAIN, ABE. I APPRECIATE THE HAND MOVING ALL THIS JUNK.

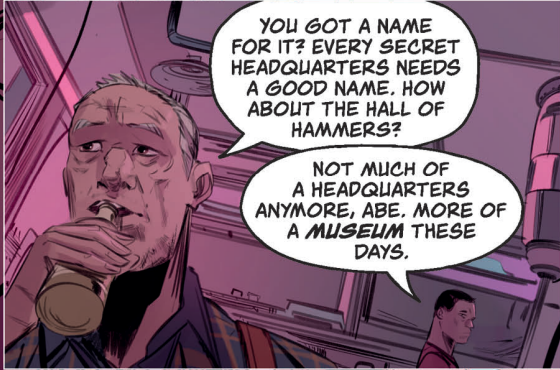
MIGHT AS WELL PUT THE SUPER STRENGTH TO GOOD USE ONCE IN A WHILE, JOE.



ALL THIS STUFF GOING TO BE SAFE DOWN HERE, JOE?



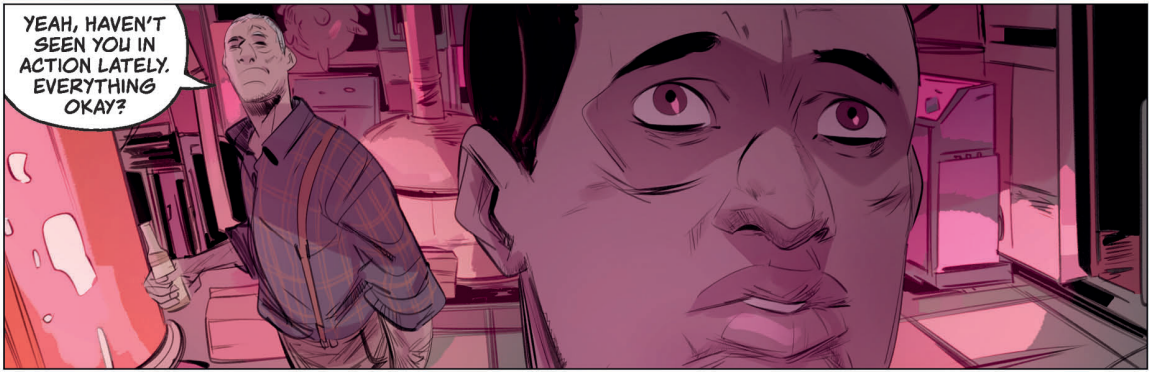
DOC ROBINSON IS HELPING TO SET UP SOME CRAZY HIGH-TECH SECURITY STUFF. SHOULD BE GOOD.



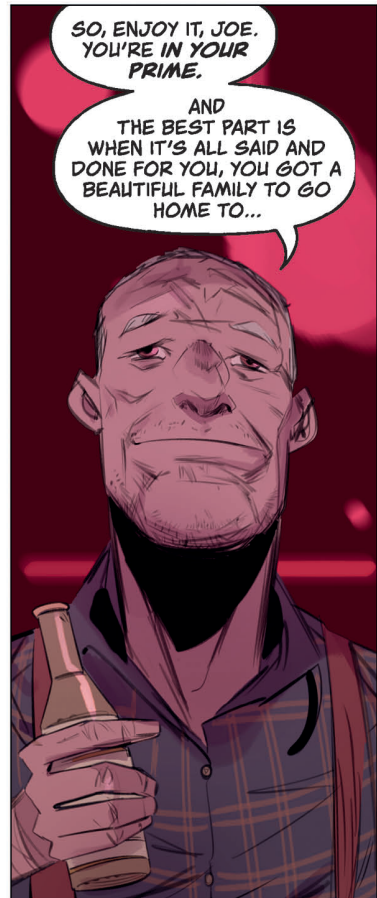
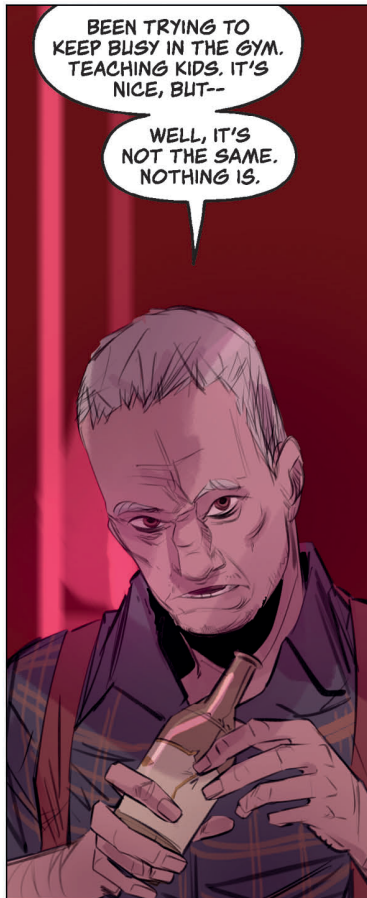
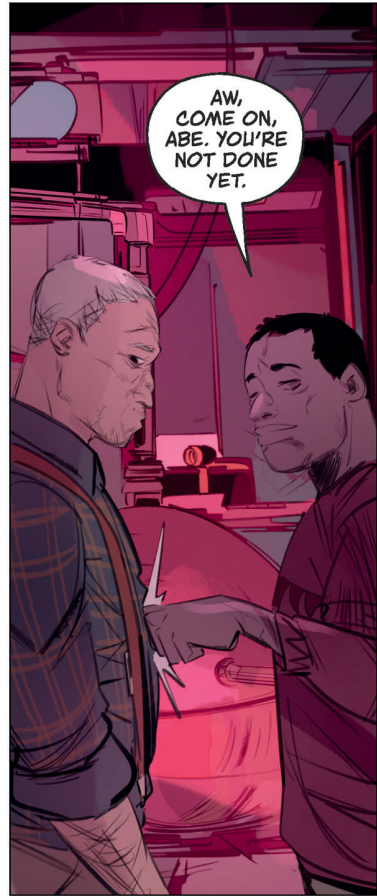
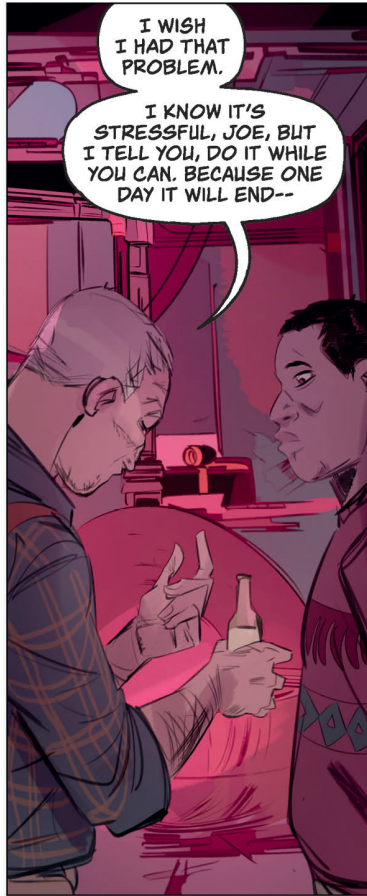
YOU GOT A NAME FOR IT? EVERY SECRET HEADQUARTERS NEEDS A GOOD NAME. HOW ABOUT THE HALL OF HAMMERS?

NOT MUCH OF A HEADQUARTERS ANYMORE, ABE. MORE OF A MUSEUM THESE DAYS.













...YOU HAVE IT ALL, JOE

--AND I DON'T EVEN THINK THAT SNAPDRAGON AND JACK SABBATH ARE DATING ANYMORE!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS STUFF?



MOMMY GOT ME A SUBSCRIPTION TO SUPER TEEN BEAT WHEN YOU WERE AWAY.

BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN A TEENAGER!



BUT I WILL BE SOON!



NO, YOU WON'T. NOT AS LONG AS I LIVE.

YOU'RE GONNA BE MY LITTLE LUCY FOREVER.



LUCY? YOU OKAY?

...  
YEAH.





LUCE. COME ON... YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING.

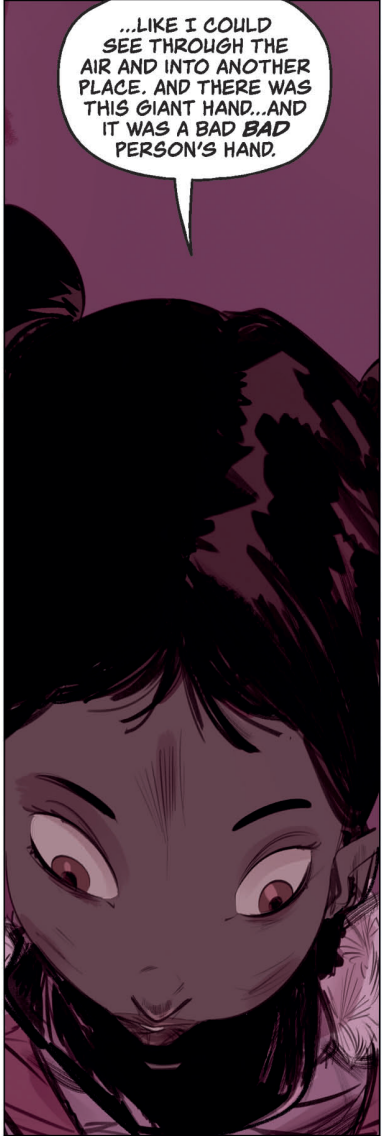


JUST HAD THIS BAD DREAM LAST NIGHT.

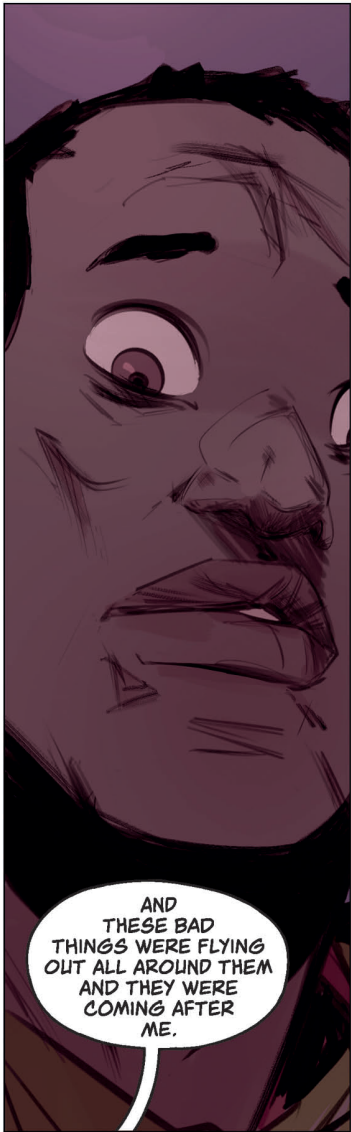


AW, IT'S OKAY, SWEETIE.

NO, IT WAS REALLY WEIRD, DADDY. I THOUGHT I WOKE UP AND THIS THING WAS THERE IN MY ROOM...



...LIKE I COULD SEE THROUGH THE AIR AND INTO ANOTHER PLACE. AND THERE WAS THIS GIANT HAND...AND IT WAS A BAD BAD PERSON'S HAND.



AND THESE BAD THINGS WERE FLYING OUT ALL AROUND THEM AND THEY WERE COMING AFTER ME.













IT'S JUST-- I THINK I'M FINALLY WHERE YOU'VE BEEN FOR A WHILE.

I THINK I NEED TO STOP.



OH, JOE... YOU CAN'T DO THIS BECAUSE OF ME. YOU KNOW I'D NEVER ASK YOU TO STOP.

I KNOW. BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT US ANYMORE. IT HASN'T BEEN SINCE WE HAD LUCY. IT'S ABOUT HER. IT HAS TO STOP.



YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN. THIS CAN'T END WELL. ONE OF THESE DAYS I WON'T COME HOME. ONE OF THESE DAYS THE BAD GUY WILL BE JUST THAT LITTLE BIT FASTER. THAT LITTLE BIT STRONGER, AND...



BUT I'M SCARED, LORRAINE. I'M SCARED I WON'T BE ANYTHING WITHOUT THE HAMMER.



OH, BABY... YOU'LL BE JOE WEBER. AND THAT'S ONE BETTER THAN ANY OTHER MAN OUT THERE.



BUT YOU CAN ONLY DO THIS IF YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY READY. YOU UNDERSTAND? BECAUSE IF YOU SAY YOU'RE DONE, I MEAN REALLY DONE, THEN I'M GOING TO EXPECT YOU TO BE HERE.

I KNOW.

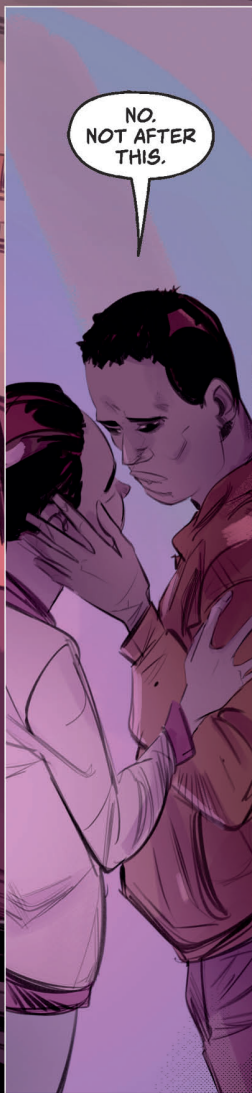




IN THAT CASE, THERE'S JUST ONE LAST THING I NEED TO DO.



THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ONE LAST THING, JOE.



NO. NOT AFTER THIS.



CAN YOU PICK LUCY UP AFTER SCHOOL? I'LL BE HOME TO MAKE DINNER.









HEY,  
YOU HANG  
AROUND HERE  
OFTEN?

**GRRRARR!  
LET ME  
DOWN!**



SURE THING.  
HAVE FUN IN  
SPIRAL ASYLLUM!  
SAY HI TO  
GRIMJIM FOR  
ME.



NICE  
WORK,  
KID...









# BLACK HAMMER

#296  
JULY 1998



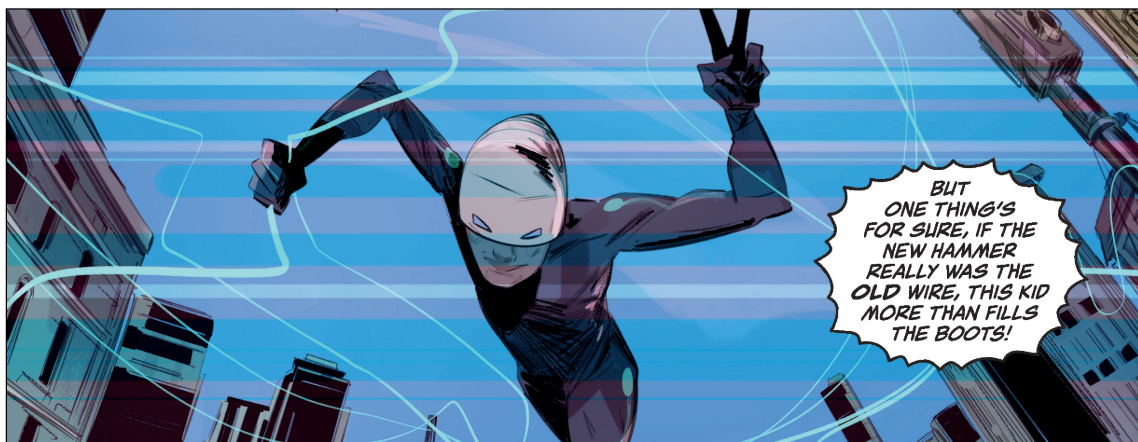
**THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT BLACK HAMMER!**



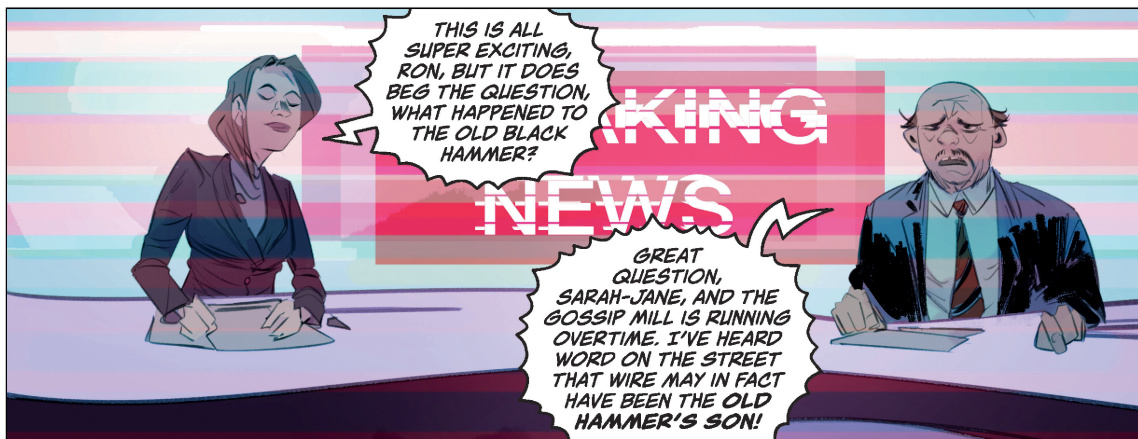


AND JUST WHO IS THIS BRAND-NEW BLACK HAMMER?! SPECULATION IS RUNNING WILD ACROSS SPIRAL CITY--

--MANY SAYING THE NEW B.H. IS ACTUALLY THE FORMER TEENAGED PHENOM THE WIRE!



BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE, IF THE NEW HAMMER REALLY WAS THE OLD WIRE, THIS KID MORE THAN FILLS THE BOOTS!



THIS IS ALL SUPER EXCITING, RON, BUT IT DOES BEG THE QUESTION, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD BLACK HAMMER?

# MAKING NEWS

GREAT QUESTION, SARAH-JANE, AND THE GOSSIP MILL IS RUNNING OVERTIME. I'VE HEARD WORD ON THE STREET THAT WIRE MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN THE OLD HAMMER'S SON!



AND OTHERS SAY THAT MAYBE THE ORIGINAL BLACK HAMMER HAS LEFT EARTH FOR GOOD AND RETURNED TO HIS HOME PLANET, THOUGH IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT BLACK HAMMER'S ALIEN ORIGINS HAVE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN CONFIRMED.





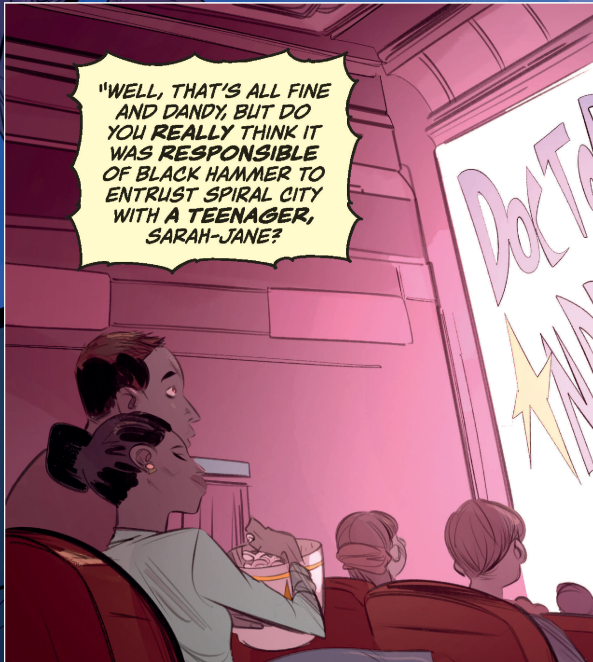
"WELL, NO MATTER WHERE HE IS, I BET HE'S RESTING EASY KNOWING THAT THE NEW KID IS REALLY UP TO THE JOB!"



"JUST LAST WEEK HE TOOK TOWN THE TIN TITAN, MECTOPLASM AND SENT SHERLOCK FRANKENSTEIN AND HIS GANG BACK TO SPIRAL ASYLUM."



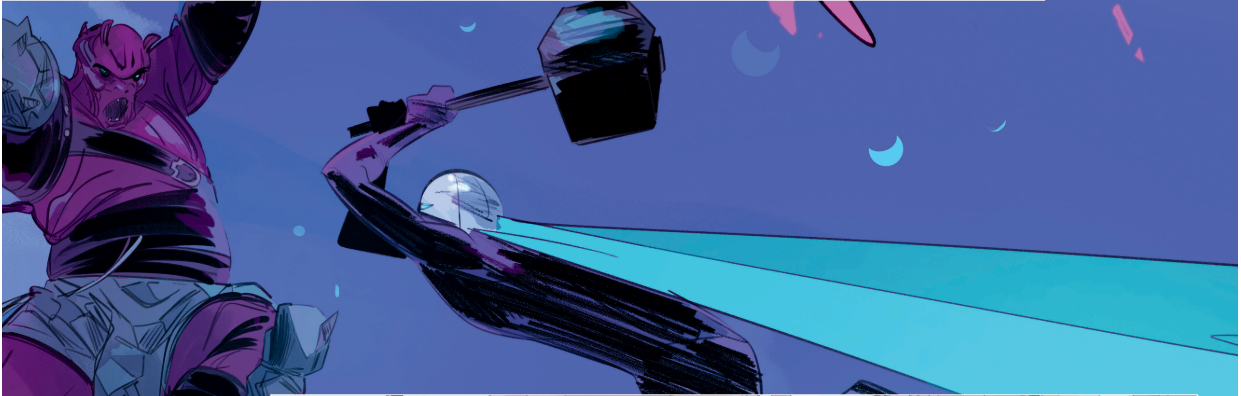
"NOT EVEN GHOLLISH GRIMJIM COULD STAND UP TO THE LIGHTNING AND THE HAMMER."



"WELL, THAT'S ALL FINE AND DANDY, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WAS RESPONSIBLE OF BLACK HAMMER TO ENTRUST SPIRAL CITY WITH A TEENAGER, SARAH-JANE?"









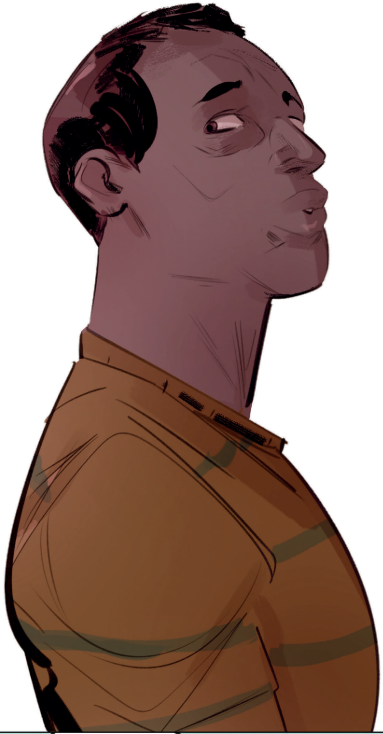






KID'S GOT MOVES, THAT'S FOR SURE, BUT HE'S A LITTLE COCKY. ALWAYS THROWING OUT THESE QUIPS AND ONE-LINERS. I HAD TO TELL HIM TO FOCUS ON THE FIGHT, YOU KNOW?

AH, CUT HIM SOME SLACK. HE'S GOTTA DO THINGS HIS OWN WAY. HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.



AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO HAUL MY ASS OUT THERE. I'M JUST GLAD SOMEONE ELSE IS DEALING WITH THOSE FUCKING LOONIES.

LANGUAGE, GAIL. THIS IS A KID'S PARTY.

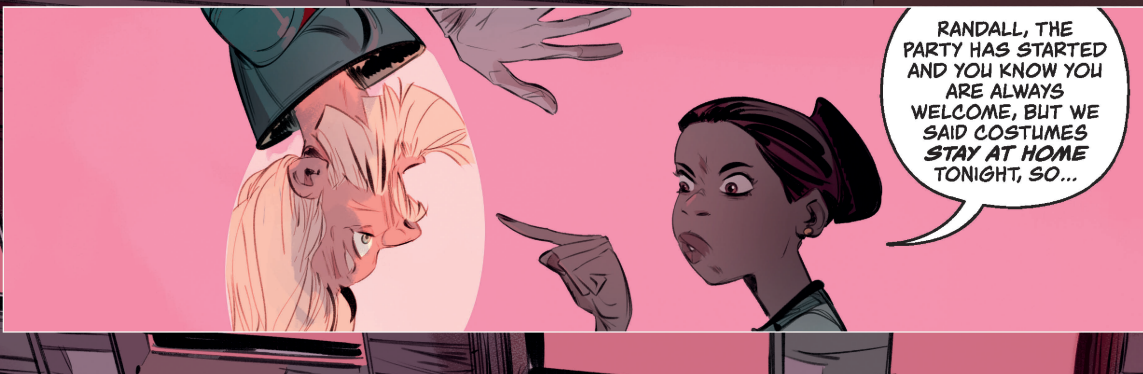


YEAH, YEAH...WELL, HERE'S TO LUCY TURNING TEN THEN, BUT ALSO TO JOE'S RETIREMENT.

HERE, HERE. WE'LL MISS YOU, JOE, BUT I'M HAPPY FOR YOU TOO.

THANKS, GUYS.









Oh!  
Black  
Hammer...  
there you  
are.



I'M NOT  
BLACK  
HAMMER,  
I'M JUST  
LUCY!



Oh...yes...  
of course you  
are...



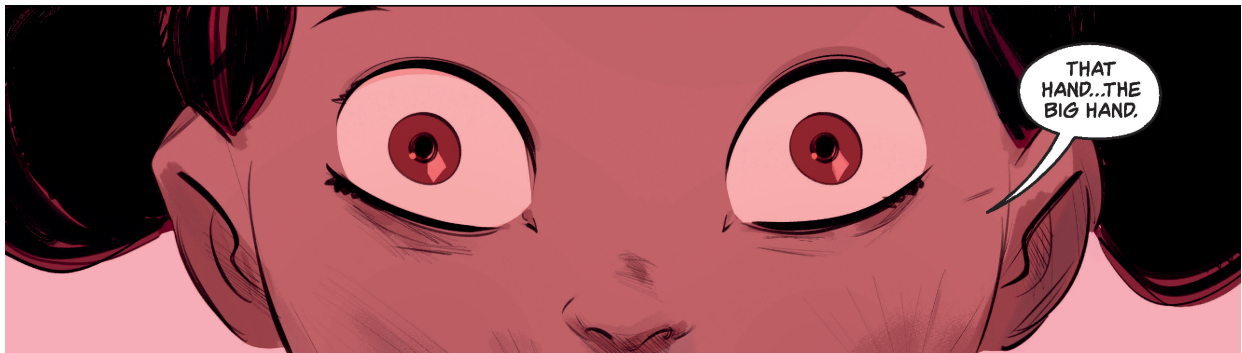
Joseph! You  
must come! It  
is almost  
time!

I'M NOT GOING  
ANYWHERE,  
COLONEL.

AND  
YOU NEED TO  
DIAL IT DOWN A  
NOTCH, YOU'RE  
SCARING THE  
KIDS.

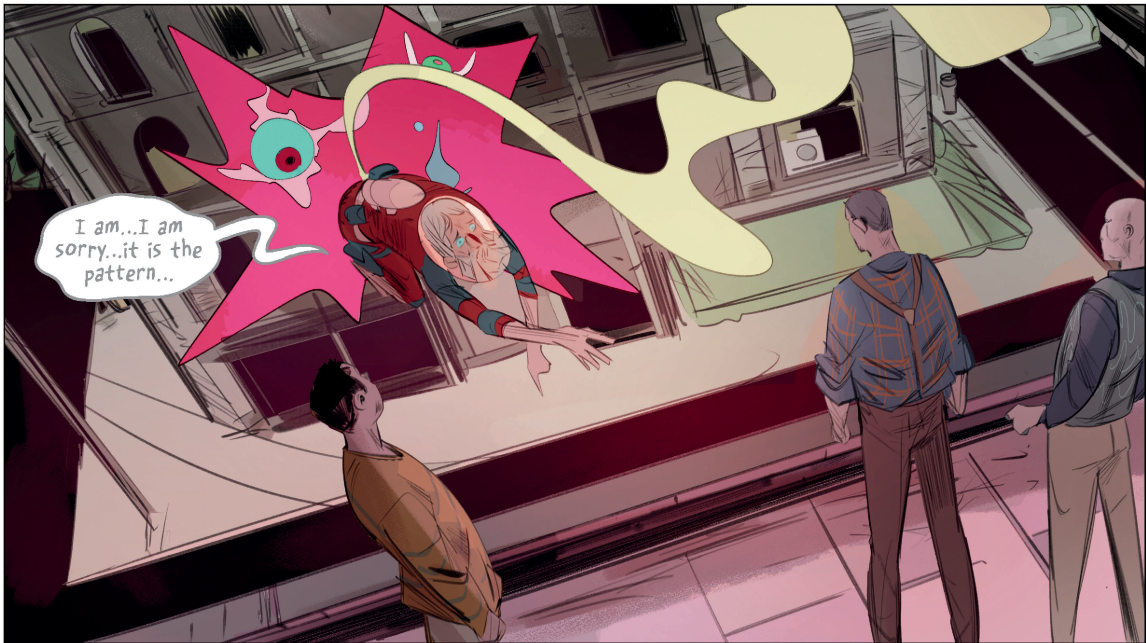


They should be  
scared...he is coming!  
They should hide. All  
of them. He is  
almost here! Death  
in his wake...only  
death!

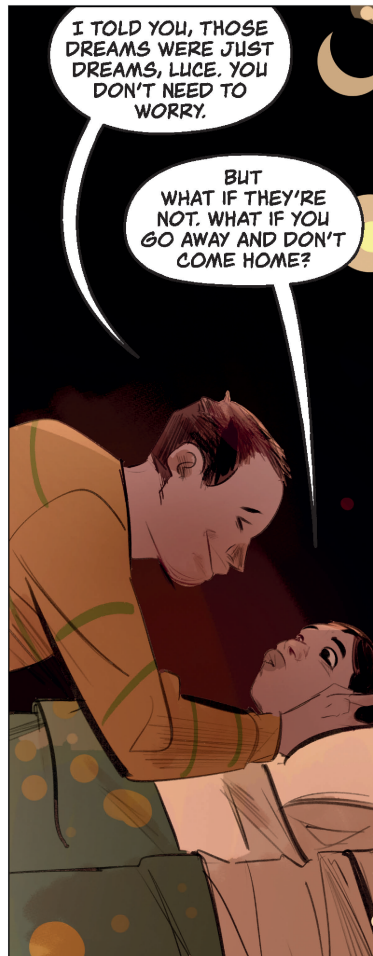


THAT  
HAND...THE  
BIG HAND.

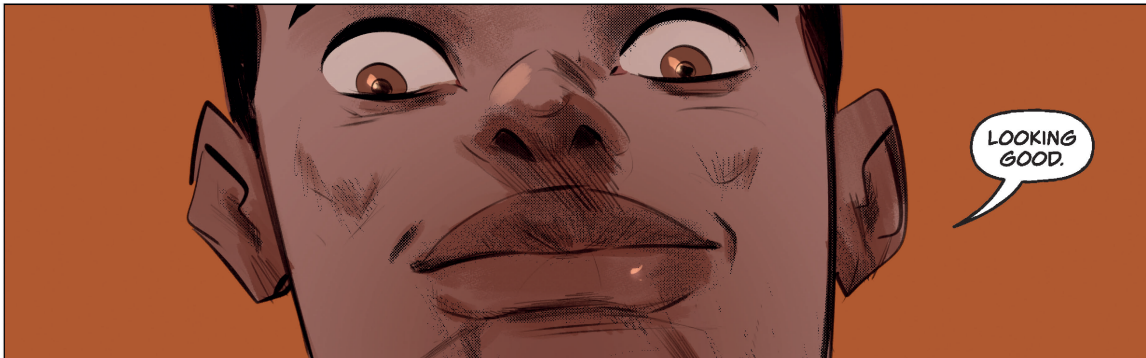




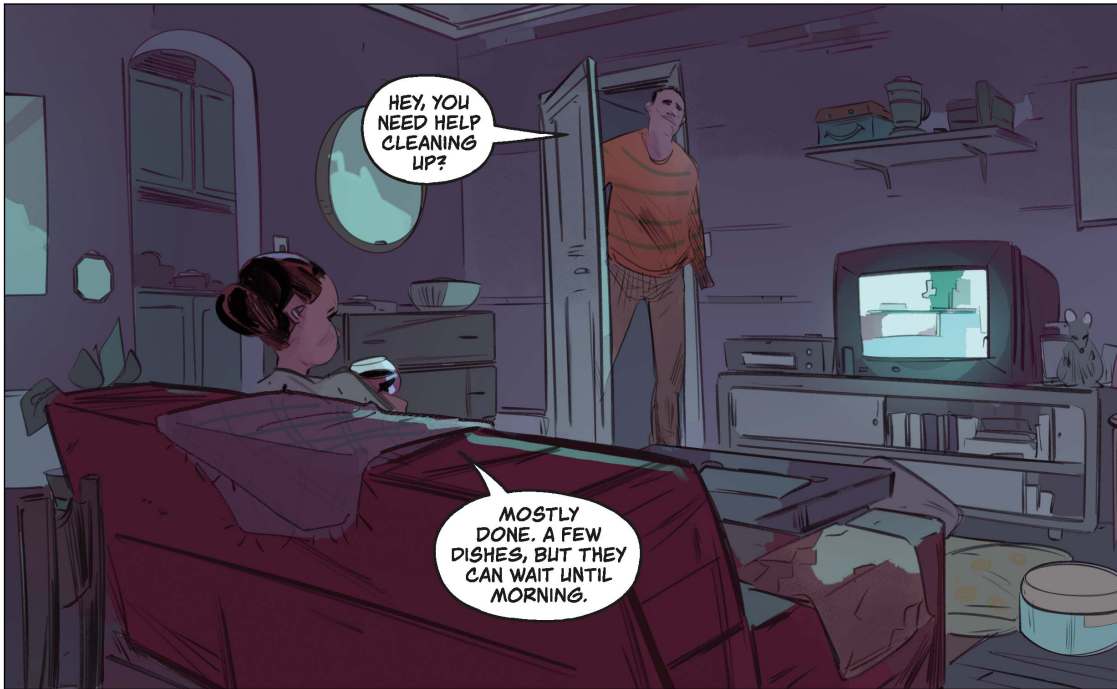












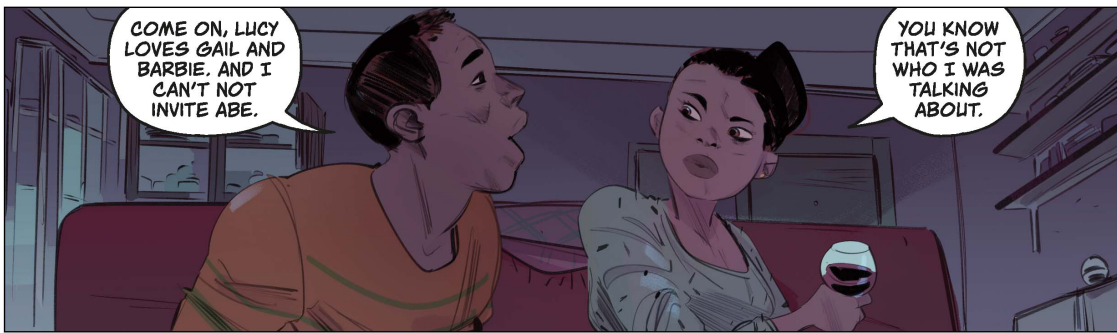
HEY, YOU NEED HELP CLEANING UP?

MOSTLY DONE. A FEW DISHES, BUT THEY CAN WAIT UNTIL MORNING.



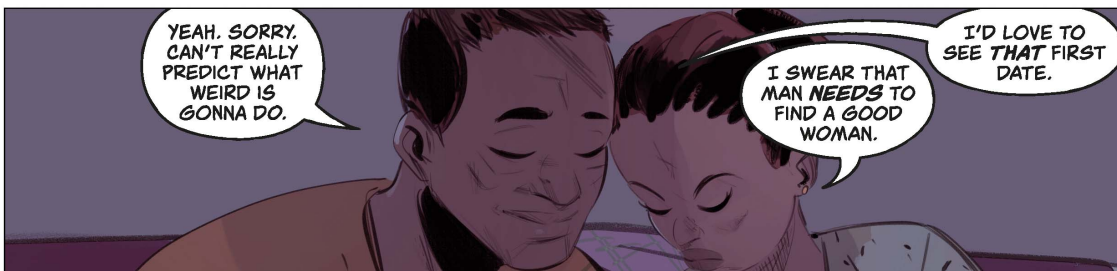
WHAT A NIGHT.

YEAH. WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO THE PARTY AGAIN?



COME ON, LUCY LOVES GAIL AND BARBIE, AND I CAN'T NOT INVITE ABE.

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHO I WAS TALKING ABOUT.



YEAH. SORRY. CAN'T REALLY PREDICT WHAT WEIRD IS GONNA DO.

I SWEAR THAT MAN NEEDS TO FIND A GOOD WOMAN.

I'D LOVE TO SEE THAT FIRST DATE.



