

ENNIS • WOHL • CONEY • LOBDELL • JENKINS  
SILVESTRI • BENITEZ • LANSANG • TAN • FINCH • KEOWN

# THE DARKNESS

## COMPENDIUM

VOLUME 1





19

# GET DARKER

**MALACHY CONEY**  
**MARCIA CHEN**  
**JOE BENITEZ**

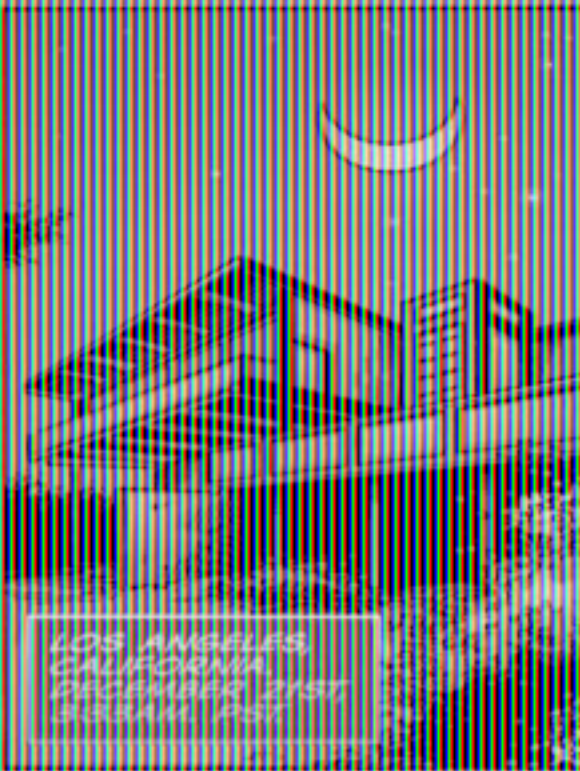
Digital  
Edition



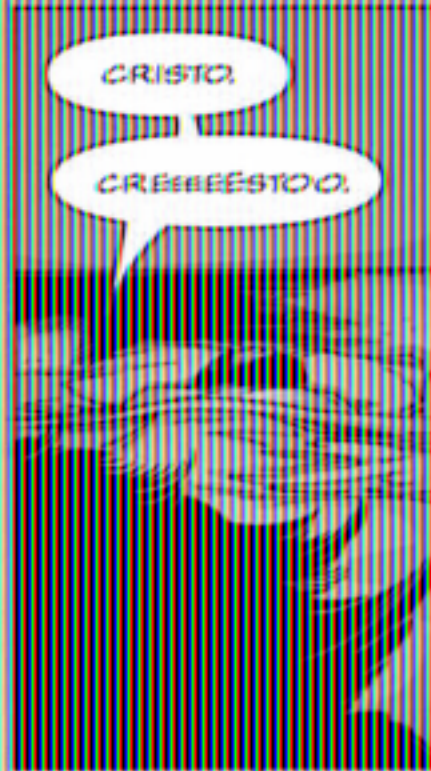
The Darkness issue #19  
cover art by: Joe Benitez, Joe Weems V  
and Matt Nelson

THE DARKNESS #19





LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA,  
DECEMBER 21ST,  
3:33AM PST.



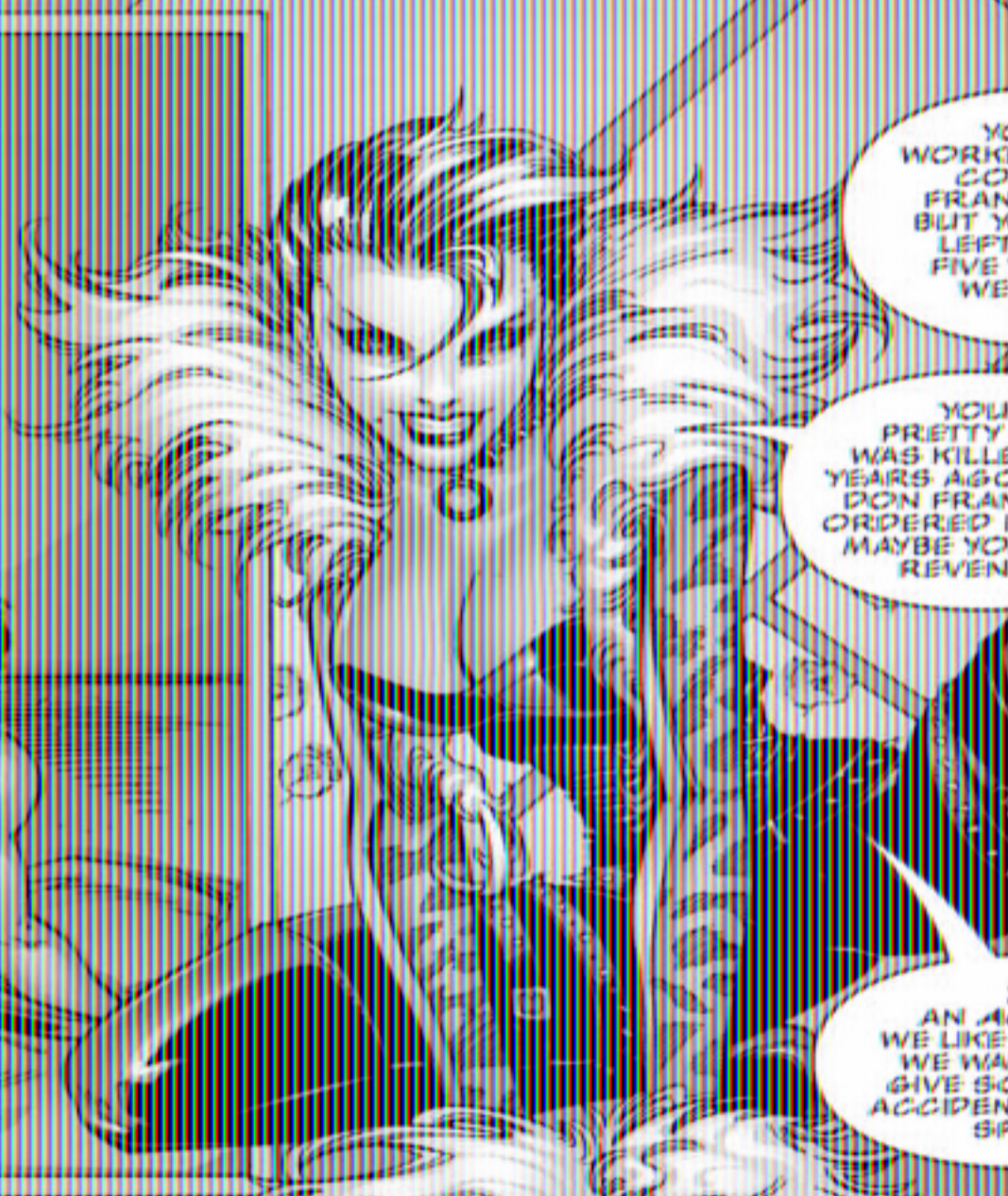
CRISTO.  
CREEEEESTOO.



WE HAVE  
A PROPOSITION  
FOR YOU,  
CRISTOFANO  
DE VESCI.

I'M NOT  
INTERESTED.

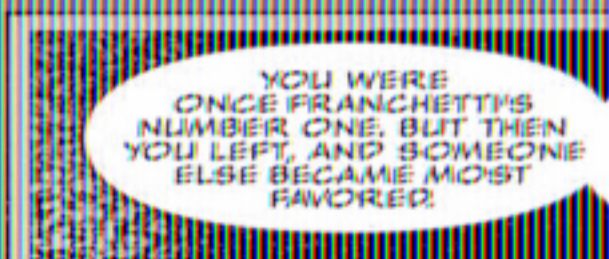
HSSSS!  
DO NOT BE  
SO HASTY!  
LISTEN!



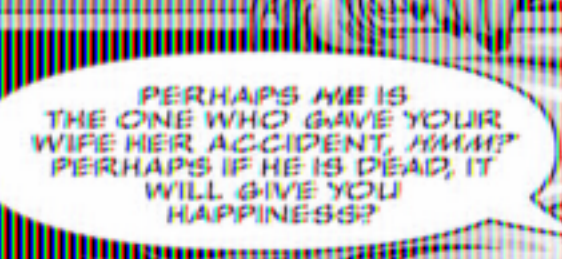
YOU  
WORKED  
FOR  
FRANCHETTI  
BUT YOU  
LEFT  
FIVE YEARS  
AGO.

YOUR  
WIFE  
WAS KILLED  
FIVE YEARS  
AGO.  
DON FRANCHETTI  
ORDERED IT.  
MAYBE YOU  
WANT REVENGE.

AN ACCIDENT  
LIKE THAT  
WE WANT  
GIVE SOME  
ACCIDENT  
SPRING.



YOU WERE  
ONCE FRANCHETTI'S  
NUMBER ONE. BUT THEN  
YOU LEFT, AND SOMEONE  
ELSE BECAME MOST  
FAVORED.



PERHAPS HE IS  
THE ONE WHO GAVE YOUR  
WIFE HER ACCIDENT, HMM?  
PERHAPS IF HE IS DEAD, IT  
WILL GIVE YOU  
HAPPINESS?



JACKIE,  
DO YOU WANT  
ME TO KILL  
FRANCHETTI?

YES!

MIKEY  
HOLD UP  
FOR A MINUTE  
PLEASE

WHY THE HELL IS EVERYONE AND THEIR FRIGGIN' GRANDMA TRYING TO KILL ME TODAY?

HEY, MIKEY. YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE BEEN THINKING, AND I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW, I LOVE YOU, MAN.





I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIM.



I'M THE NUMBER ONE HIT MAN FOR THE NUMBER ONE FAMILY IN NEW YORK! YOU PUNKS THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME ON?



AAAAH! A SPIDER! OMIGOD! A GIANT SPIDER! IT'S GONNA EAT ME! AAAAHH! IT'S...



NOW LET'S GO EARN OUR PAY.



COME ON  
OUT, ESTACADO!  
YOU AIN'T GOT A  
CHANCE IN HELL  
OF GETTING OUT  
OF HERE  
ALIVE!

DON'T  
MAKE THIS  
MORE DIFFICULT  
THAN IT HAS TO BE,  
ESTACADO!  
GIVE IT UP!

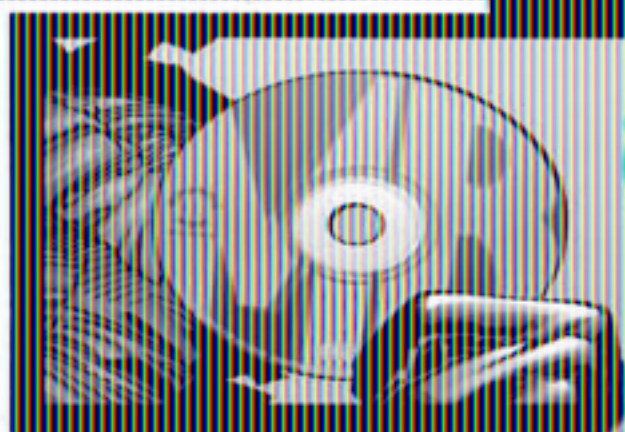
I  
PROMISE  
IT WON'T  
HURT.

TOO  
MUCH.

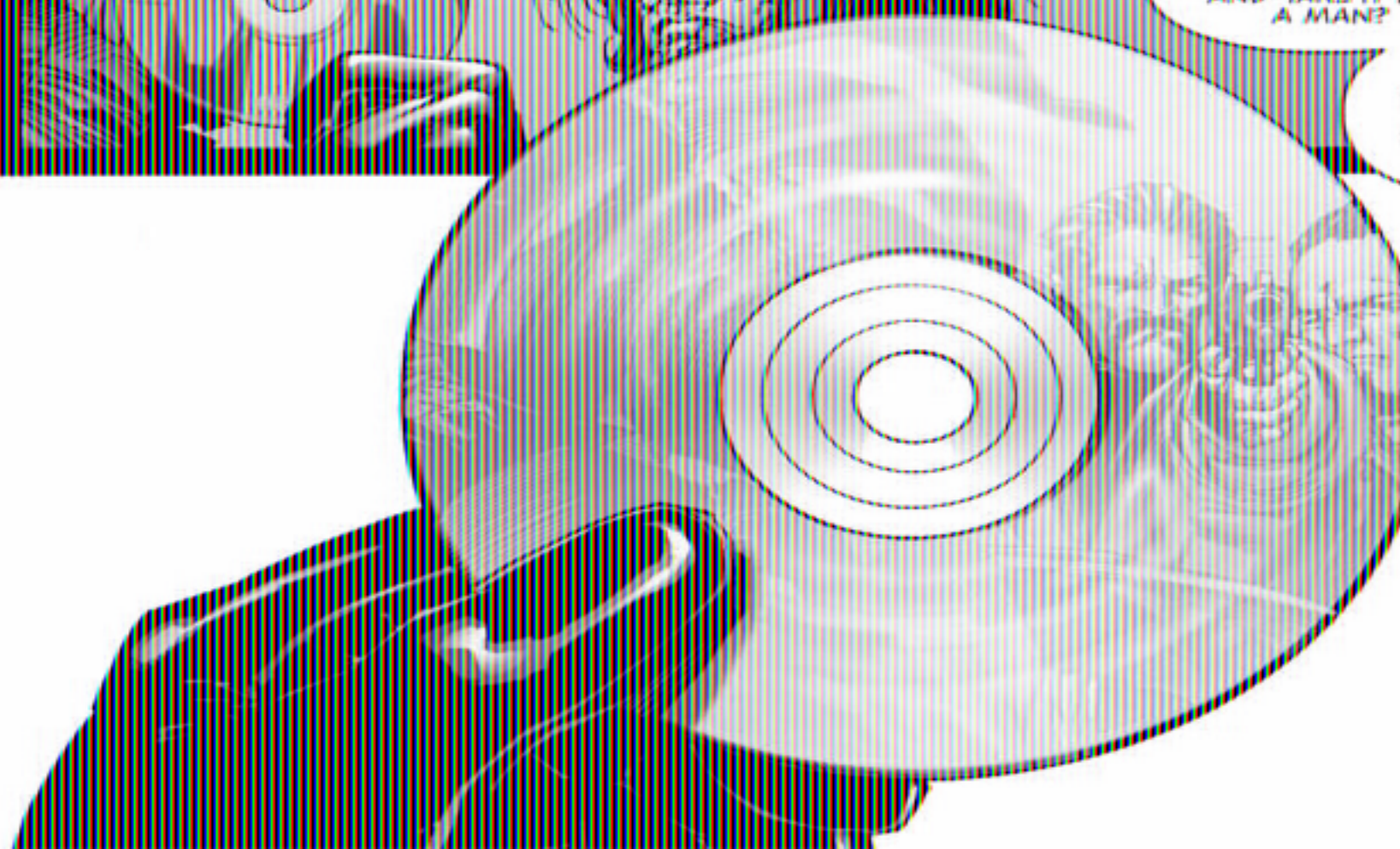


YOU  
GIVE IT UP  
AND MAYBE  
WE'LL LET  
YOUR  
FAMILIES  
LIVE!


CRAP!  
OUT OF  
AMMO!



LAST CHANCE  
ESTACADO! YOU  
GONNA COME  
AND TAKE IT  
FROM  
A MAN?





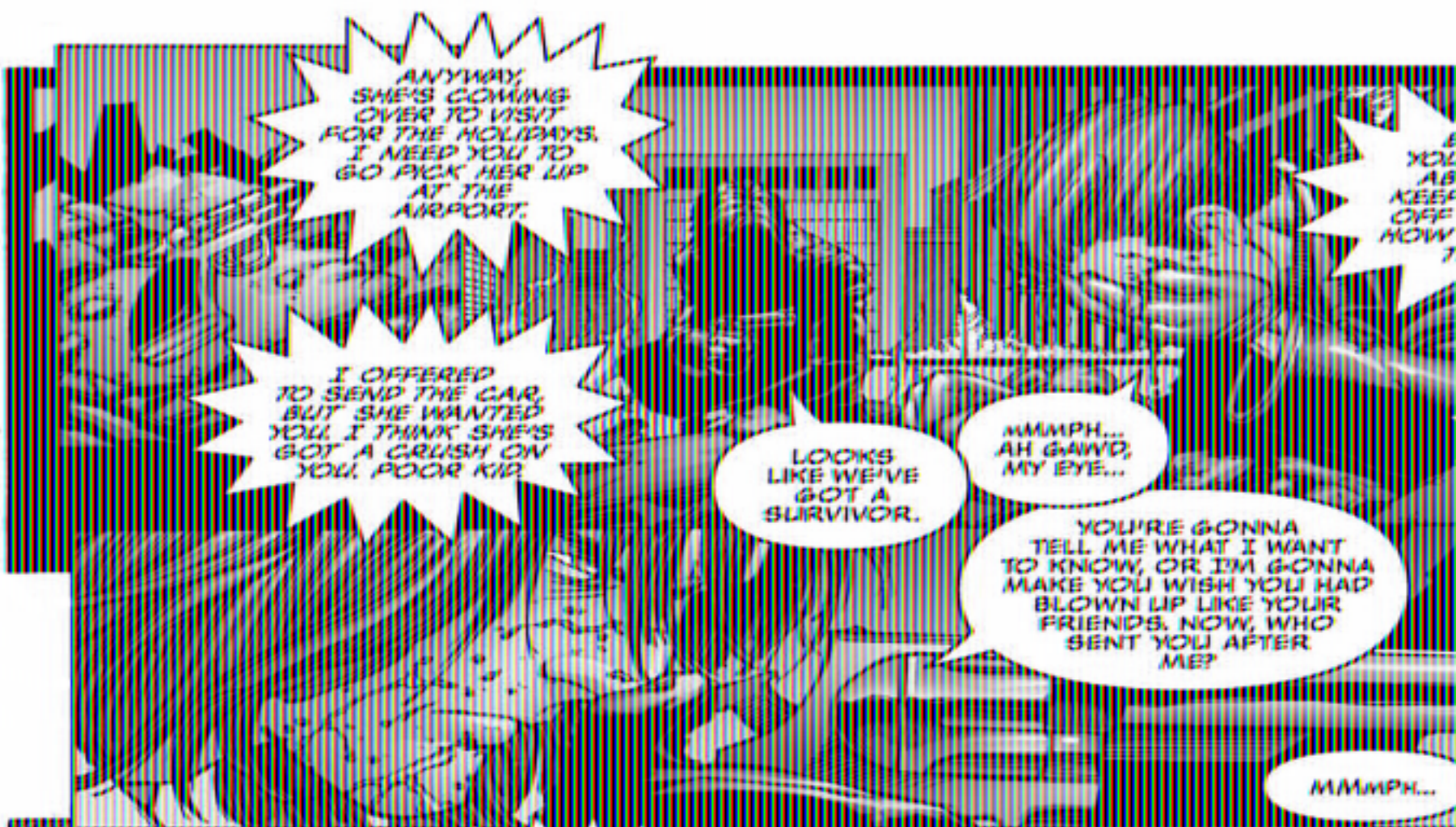


NOW LOOK  
AT WHAT YOU MADE ME  
DO. MY PLACE IS A MESS.  
NOT TO MENTION MY  
NEW SUIT.

OH,  
WELL.  
GUESS  
IT COMES  
WITH THE  
JOB.

SO WHY AM I  
MISTER POPULAR TODAY?  
THIS IS THE SIXTH WAVE TO  
COME AFTER ME THIS  
MORNING, AND IT ISN'T  
EVEN NOON YET.

HE  
JAC  
FRAN  
HEH



ANYWAY, SHE'S COMING OVER TO VISIT FOR THE HOLIDAYS. I NEED YOU TO GO PICK HER UP AT THE AIRPORT.

BYE YOU ABU KEEP OFF HOW TO

I OFFERED TO SEND THE CAR, BUT SHE WANTED YOU. I THINK SHE'S GOT A CRUSH ON YOU. POOR KID.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A SURVIVOR.

MMMPH... AH GAWD, MY EYE...

YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, OR I'M GONNA MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD BLOWN UP LIKE YOUR FRIENDS. NOW, WHO SENT YOU AFTER ME?

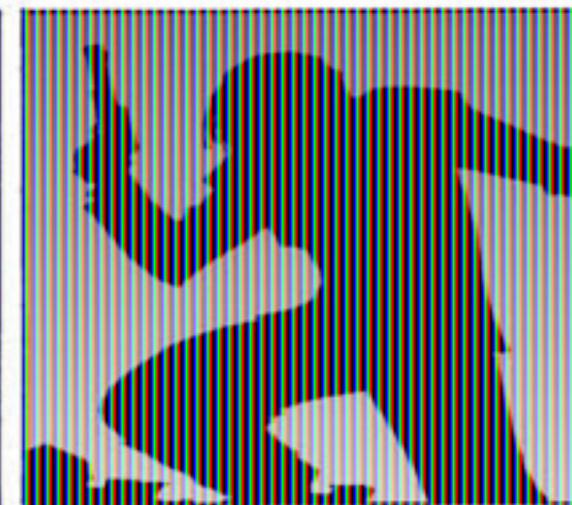
MMMPH...



SHE'S COMING IN AT NOON ON NORTHEAST AIRLINES. I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

SHIT!

COME ON, BUDDY. WE'VE GOTTA GET MOVING.



HEY, MAN, HOW COME YOU TOOK MY JACKET?

ARE YOU COMPLAINING?

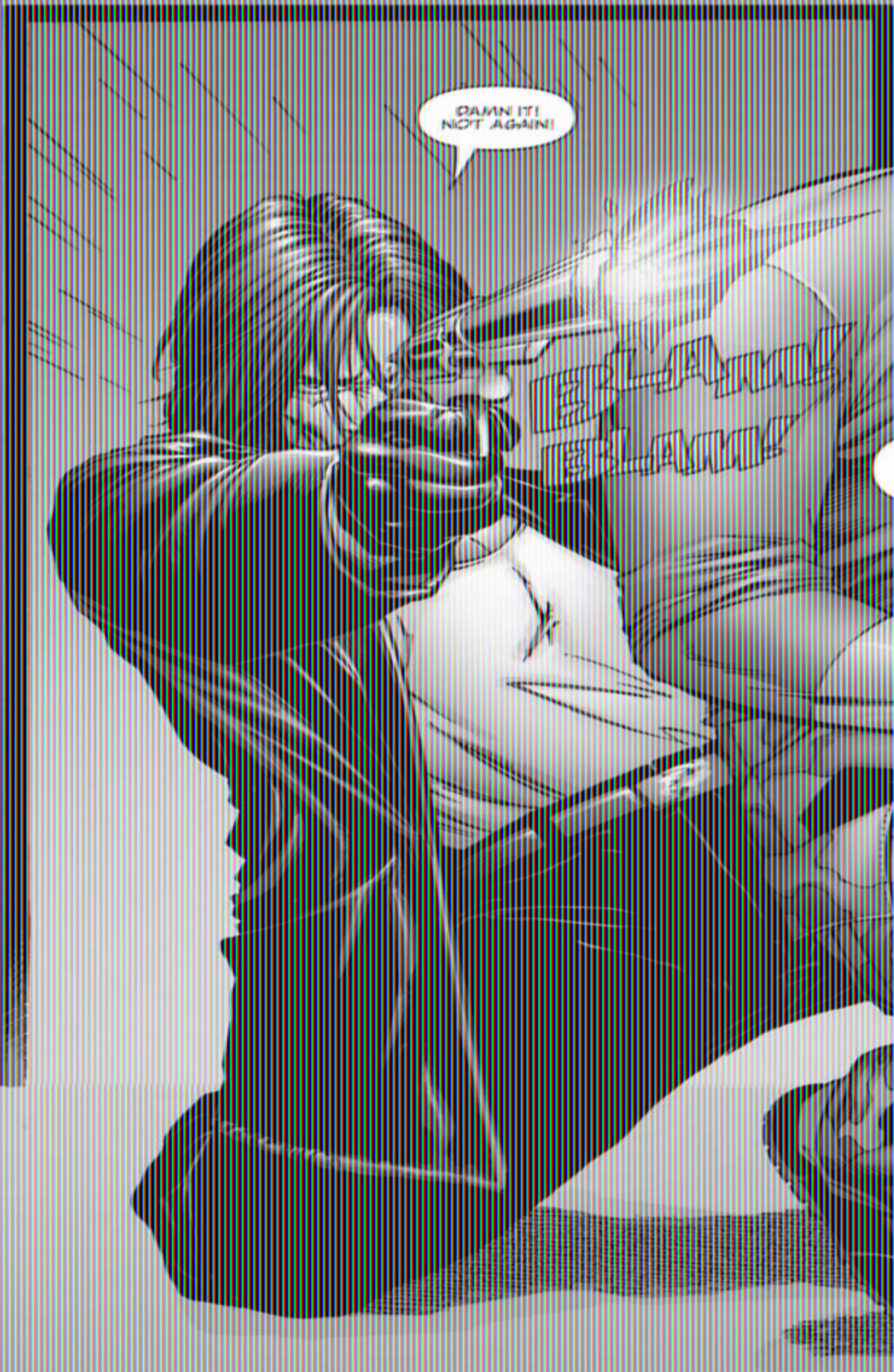
GOOD. NOW GET MOVING. I'M LATE.

ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

I HO NO ONE GOT TO FIRST. THE CONT THING.

ESTAGADO!

GET HIM!





WHO PUT OUT THE HIT?

OH, I DON'T KNOW... SOME GUY...

DAMN IT, STOP MESSING AROUND! WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE HIT?

I DON'T KNOW I CAN'T REMEMBER THE OTHER GUYS WHO TOLD ME TO SET IT UP! I WAS JUST TAGGING ALONG.



ALL RIGHT, PUNK. I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THIS, SO I'M TAKING YOU ON A LITTLE ROADTRIP, DURING WHICH YOU BETTER TRY TO REMEMBER SOMETHING USEFUL.

NO, NO! DON'T GET IN YOUR CAR! IT'S RIGGED! IT'S GONNA EXPLODE!

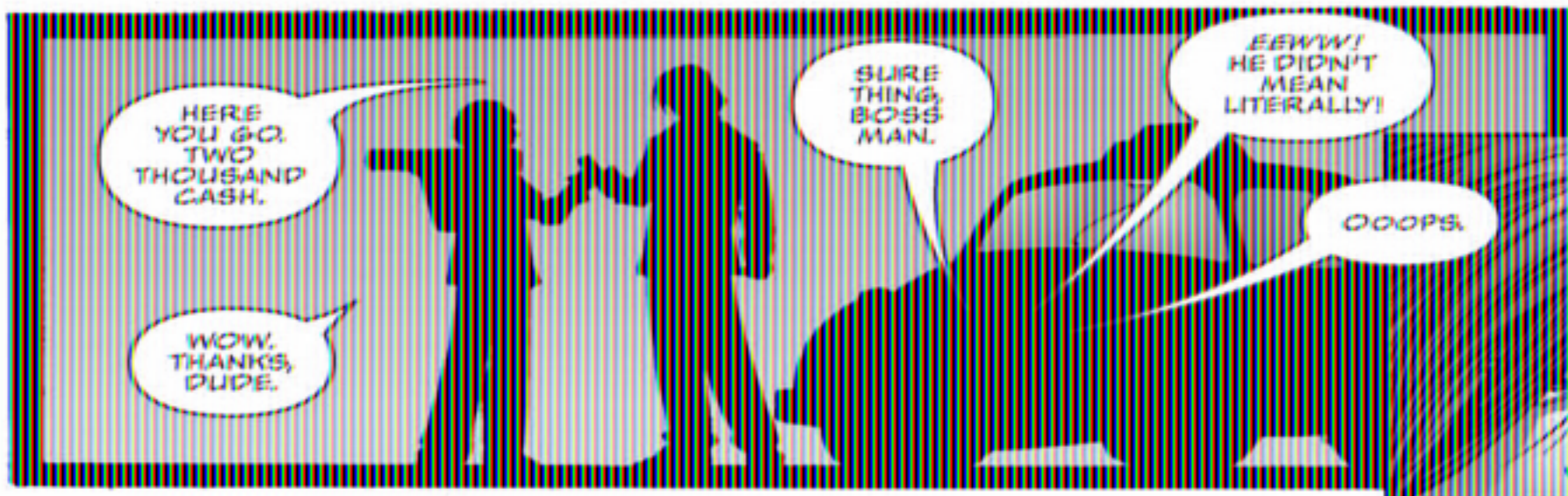
WHAT? WHY THE HELL DID YOU GUYS RIG MY NEW CAR? DAMN...



HEY, KID! I'VE GOT TWO GRAND IN MY POCKET. IT'S YOURS IF YOU GIVE ME YOUR CAR.

HUH? THIS PIECE OF CRAP?

YOU SERIOUS?



HERE YOU GO. TWO THOUSAND CASH.

SURE THING, BOSS MAN.

EWWW! HE DIDN'T MEAN LITERALLY!

OOOPS.

WOW, THANKS, DUDE.



UNCLE CRISTO!

HI, DADDY! JACKIE'S MY NEW BOY-FRIEND.

OH, CRISTO, LOOK! THEY ARE SO ADORABLE!



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE?

I GOT IN A FIGHT AT SCHOOL.

JACKIE, WHAT HAVE I TAUGHT YOU...

IT WASN'T MY FAULT! THESE BULLIES WERE PICKING ON THIS POOR KID AND NO ONE ELSE WAS DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.



THE WORLD IS A CRUEL AND DANGEROUS PLACE. THE STRONG AND THE RICH PICK ON THE WEAK AND THE POOR. AND THE MEN IN CHARGE LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT.

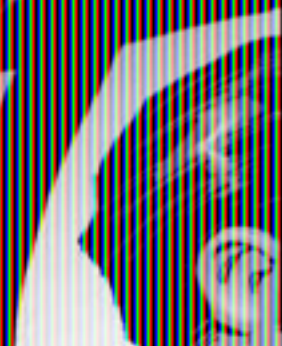
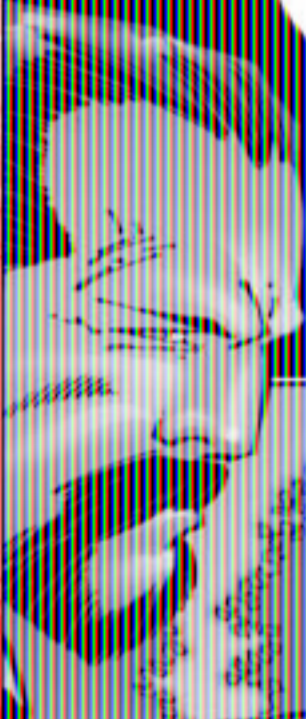
BUT THAT'S NOT FAIR...

LIFE'S NOT FAIR. GOOD MEN, MEN LIKE ME AND YOUR UNCLE FRANKIE, AND LIKE YOU'LL BE YOURSELF ONE DAY, HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT OURSELVES, AND TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES AND OUR LOVED ONES.

AND IF YOU'RE GOOD AT IT, PEOPLE WILL COME TO YOU, ASKING FOR YOUR HELP, TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE BULLIES. AND WHAT DO WE ASK FOR IN RETURN FOR THIS SERVICE? NOTHING BUT THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND THEIR LOYALTY.

BUT SOMEONE BETRAYS THE FAMILY. WHY DO THEY BETRAY THEM, ROO?

WE KILL 'EM.





WE DON'T DO THIS BECAUSE WE'RE SAVAGES, WE AREN'T ANIMALS. WE ARE SOLDIERS OF THE FRANCHETTI FAMILY.

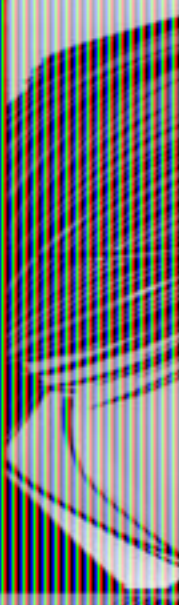
WE DO WHAT WE MUST TO PROTECT THE FAMILY AND THOSE LOYAL TO THE FAMILY.



IT IS OUR DUTY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR LOVED ONES, EVEN IF THAT REQUIRES A SENTENCE OF DEATH. THOSE WHO BETRAY US, WHO ARE A THREAT TO US, MUST BE DEALT WITH.

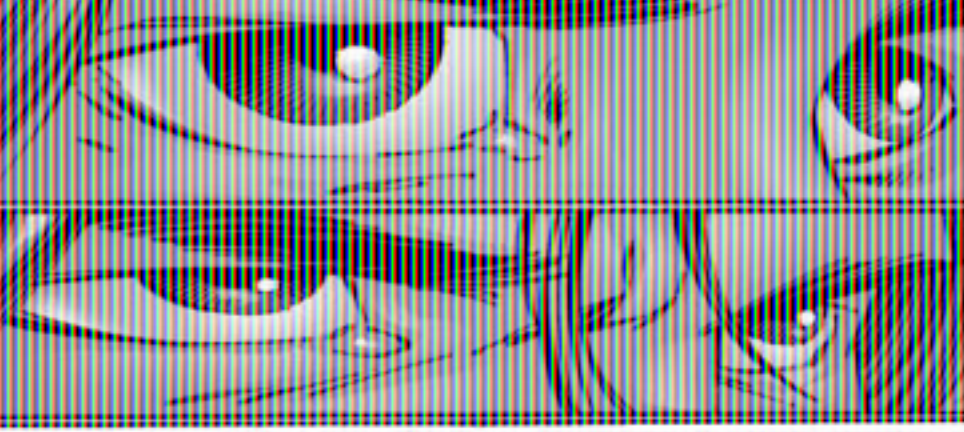


DO UNDE



EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING HE DOES.

"THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSES, NO MERCY."



"WHAT MUST BE DONE, MUST BE DONE."

JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW YORK  
12:12 PM, EST

NICOLETTA,  
NICOLETTA. *EWW*,  
JUST WHEN YOU  
THINK A BAD DAY  
CAN'T GET ANY  
WORSE.

JACKIE?

EH?

JACKIE!

HEY, CUTIE!  
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?  
YOU LOOK GREAT!  
GOD, IT'S BEEN SO LONG  
SINCE I SAW YOU! IT'S  
BEEN LIKE FIVE  
YEARS!

NICOLETTA  
DE VESCI?

DUH!  
YOU  
EXPECTING  
MAYBE SANTA  
CLAUS?

BUT YOU LOOK SO...  
DIFFERENT! I REMEMBER  
YOU BEING MORE...  
WELL, UGLY.

HEY, EVERYONE GOES THROUGH THAT AWKWARD STAGE, YOU KNOW? I MEAN REALLY, JACKIE! I WAS ONLY TWELVE THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ME!

SINCE THEN, THE BRACES HAVE COME OFF, CONTACTS CAME IN, AND TAKE A LOOK AT ME NOW!

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WAAH I LIKE YOUR SWEATER.

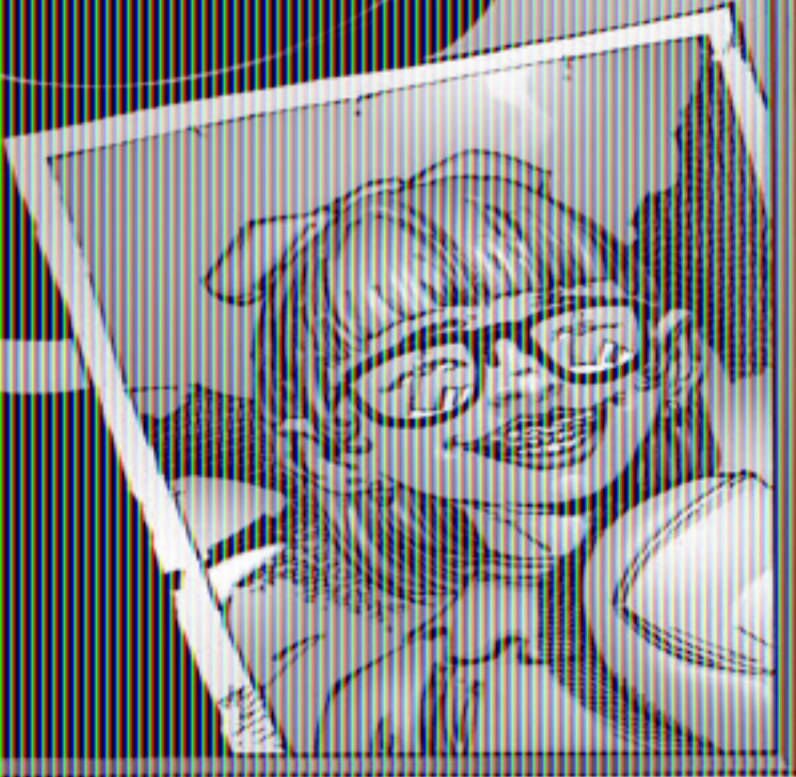
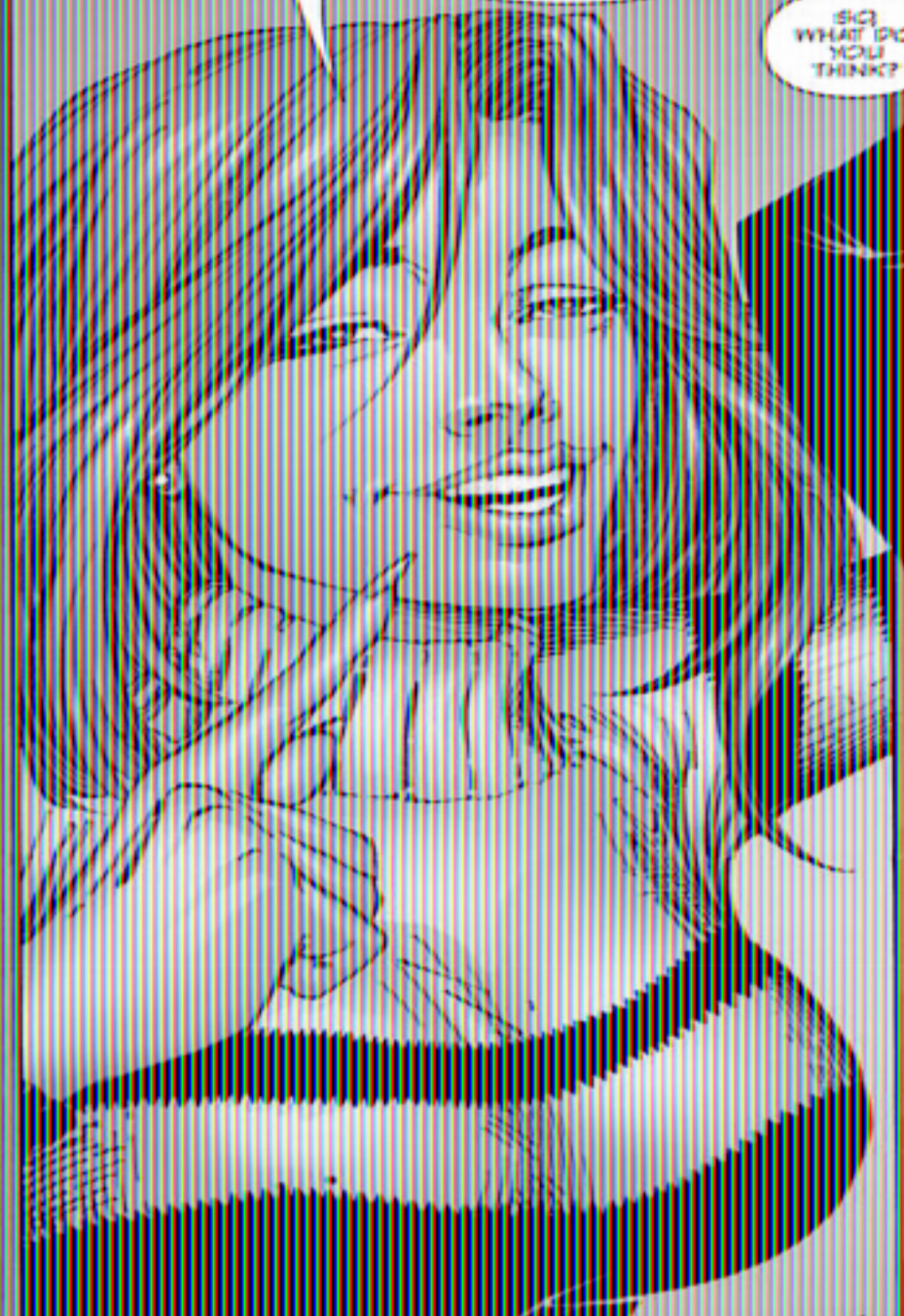
THANKS MY AUNT SENT IT TO ME A FEW MONTHS AGO AS MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT. MY GODFATHER FRANKIE GAVE ME THE BEST PRESENT THOUGH, A BRAND NEW CHERRY RED FERRARI! PRETTY GROOVY, HUH?

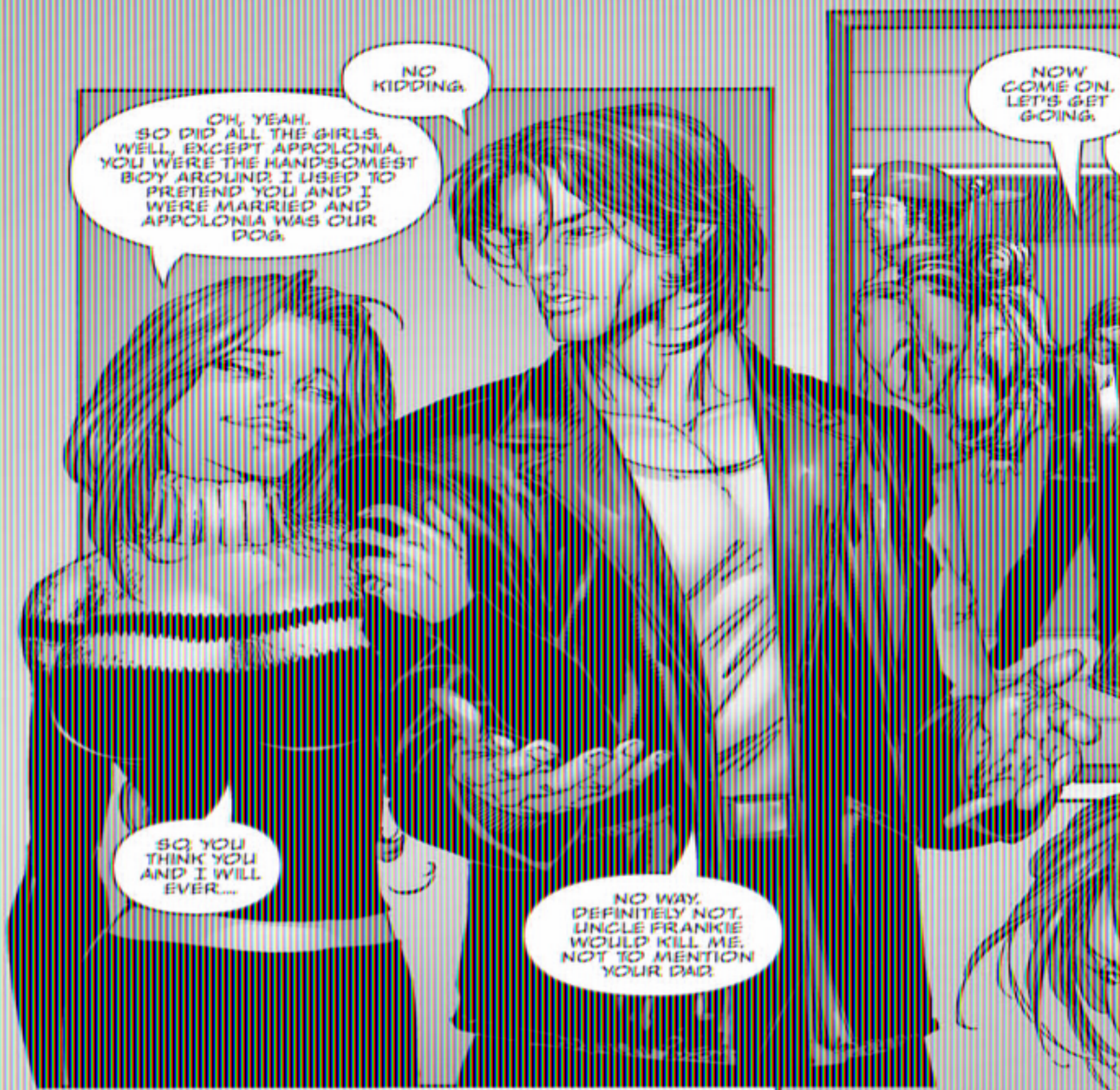
I'M EIGHTEEN NOW, YOU KNOW.

UH-HUH I HOPE FRA BEEN DOIN' HOW'S APPRO IS SHE STIL LITTLE BR

HE I DO WHAT A

SHH! WELL, NOW I HAD A MAJOR CRUSH ON YOU.





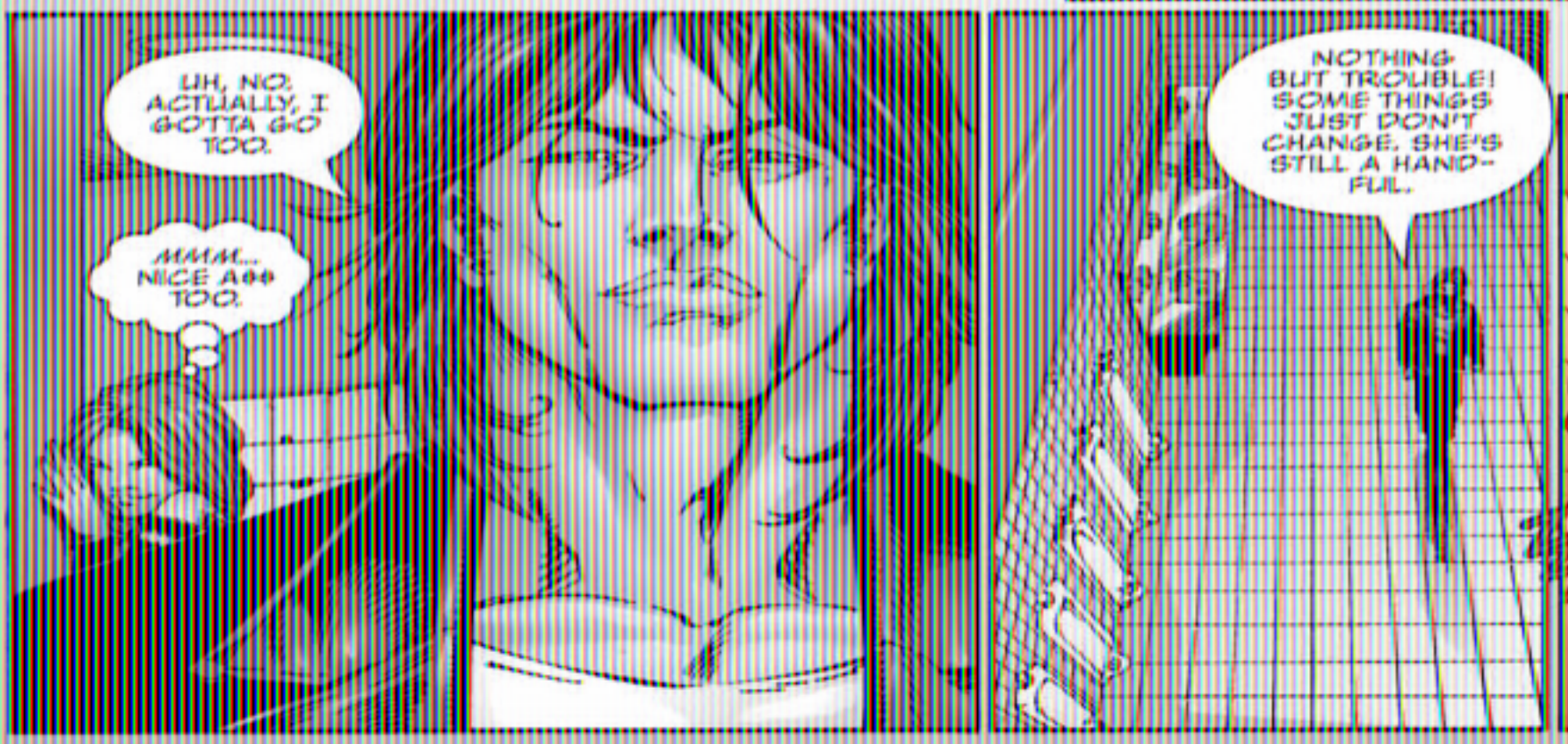
OH, YEAH. SO DID ALL THE GIRLS. WELL, EXCEPT APPOLONIA. YOU WERE THE HANDSOMEST BOY AROUND. I USED TO PRETEND YOU AND I WERE MARRIED AND APPOLONIA WAS OUR DOG.

NO KIDDING.

SO YOU THINK YOU AND I WILL EVER...

NO WAY. DEFINITELY NOT. UNCLE FRANKIE WOULD KILL ME. NOT TO MENTION YOUR DAD.

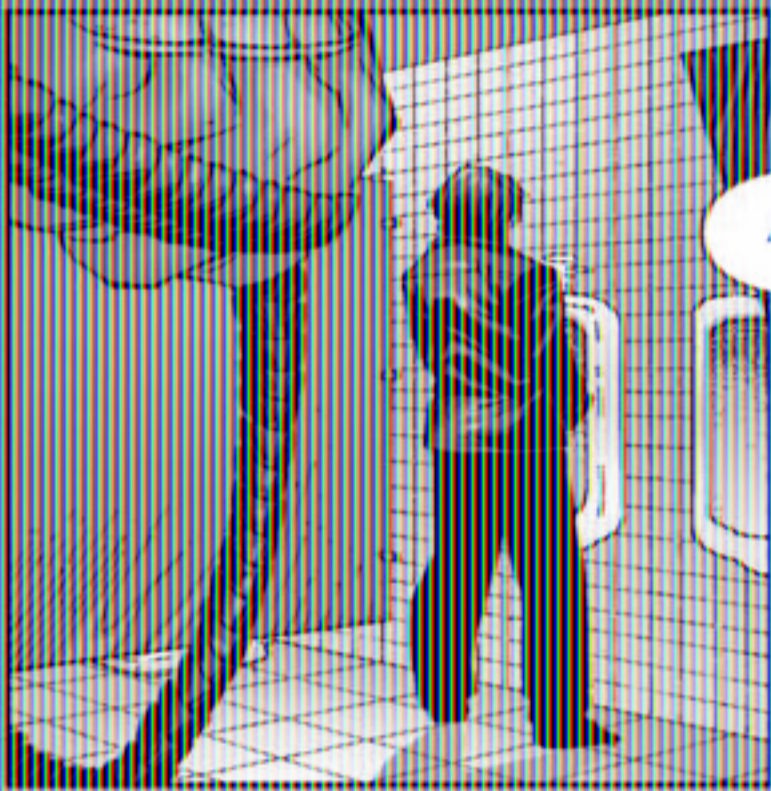
NOW COME ON. LET'S GET GOING.



UH, NO. ACTUALLY, I GOTTA GO TOO.

MMMM... NICE A\*\* TOO.

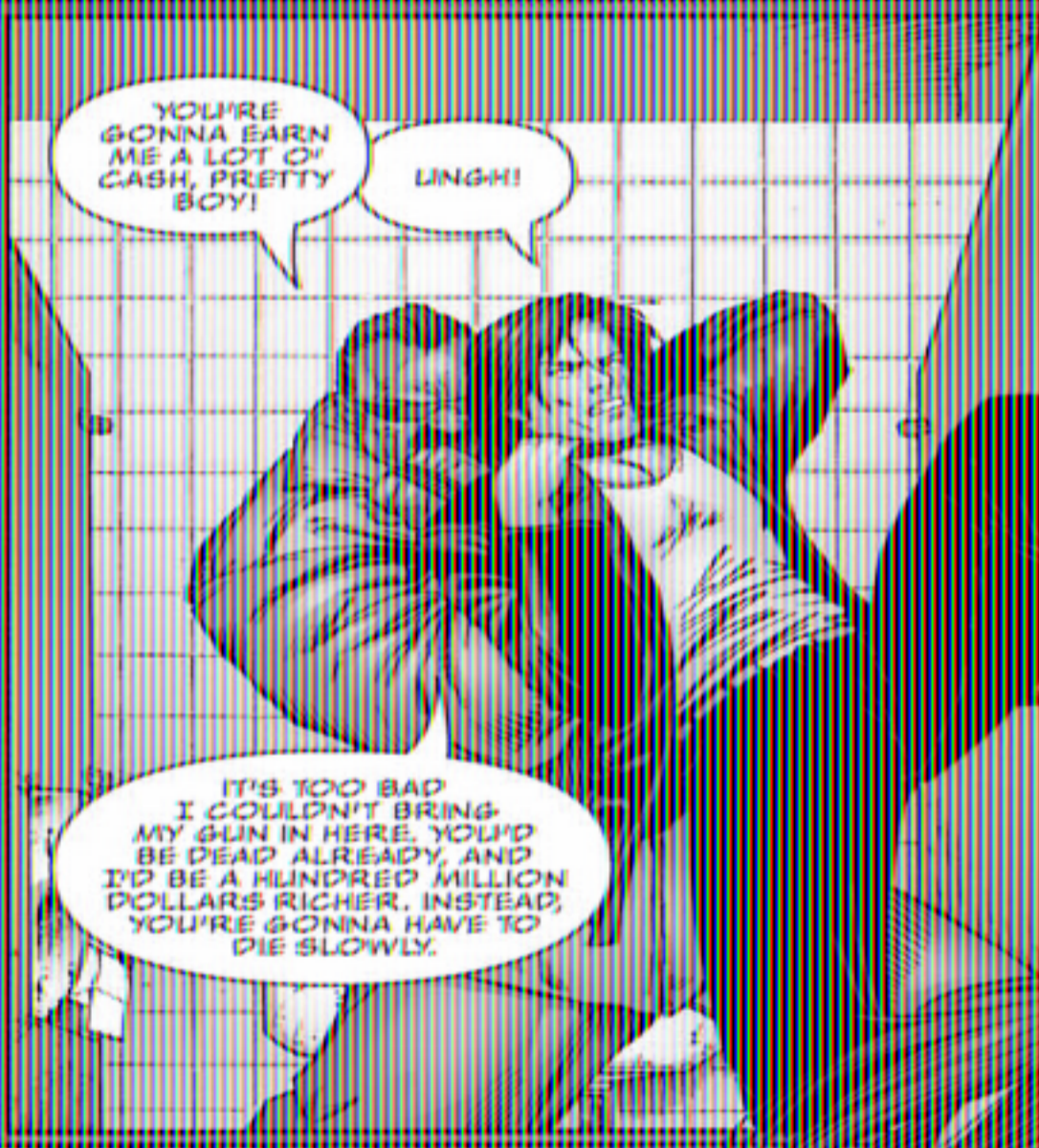
NOTHING BUT TROUBLE! SOME THINGS JUST DON'T CHANGE. SHE'S STILL A HANDFUL.



LIGHH!



HEY  
WHAT  
THE  
HELL



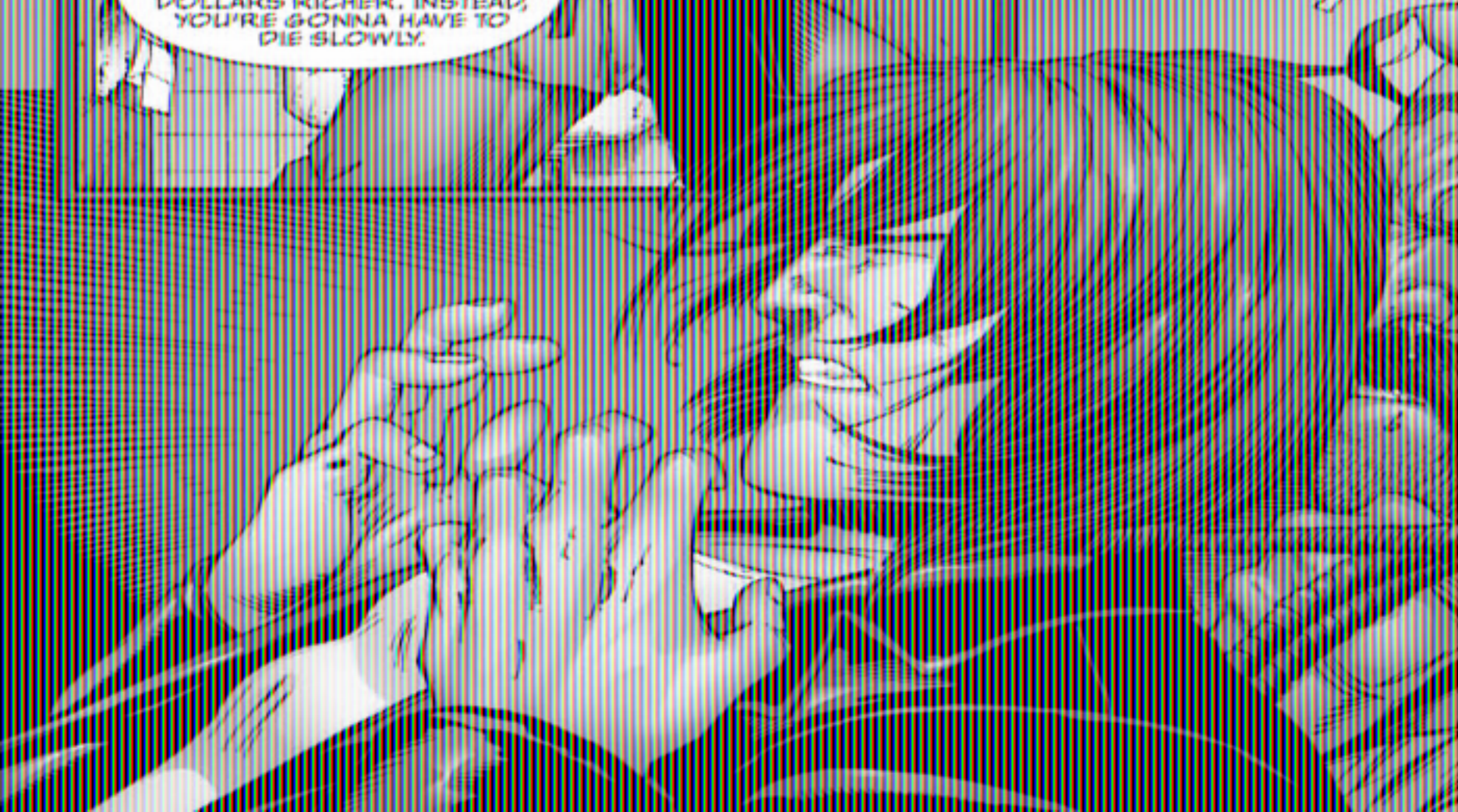
YOU'RE  
GONNA EARN  
ME A LOT O'  
CASH, PRETTY  
BOY!

LINGH!

IT'S TOO BAD  
I COULDN'T BRING  
MY GUN IN HERE, YOU'D  
BE DEAD ALREADY, AND  
I'D BE A HUNDRED MILLION  
DOLLARS RICHER. INSTEAD,  
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO  
DIE SLOWLY.



DON'T  
WORRY,  
YOU'LL PASS  
OUT...





I'M SURE YOU'RE USED TO PICKING UP DATES IN THE MEN'S ROOM...



...BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED.

I DON'T SWING THAT WAY, AND I'M DEFINITELY NOT FLATTERED.

UNGH...

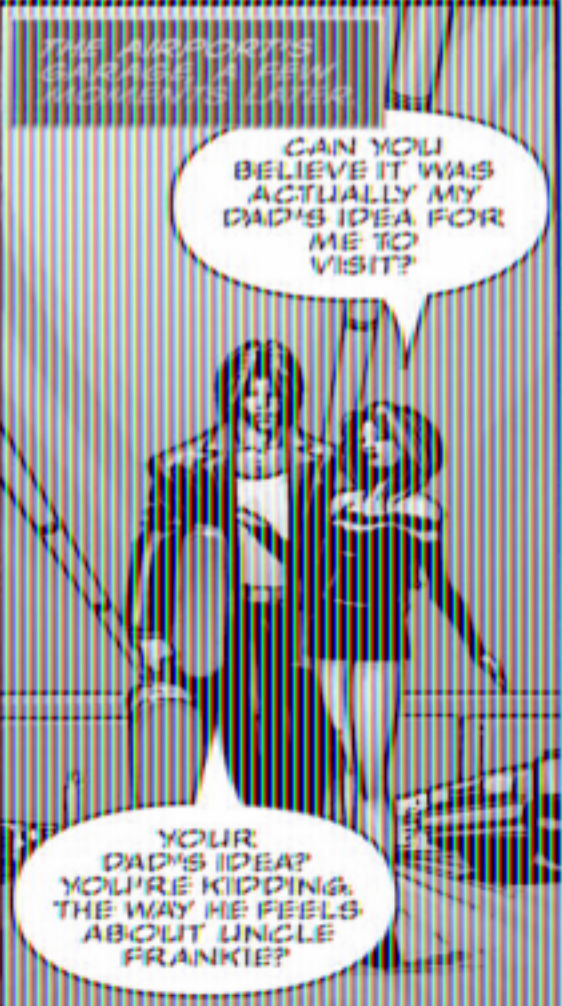


NICOLETTA!



AND THEY SAY GIRLS TAKE A LONG TIME. WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE? EAT SOMETHING BAD?

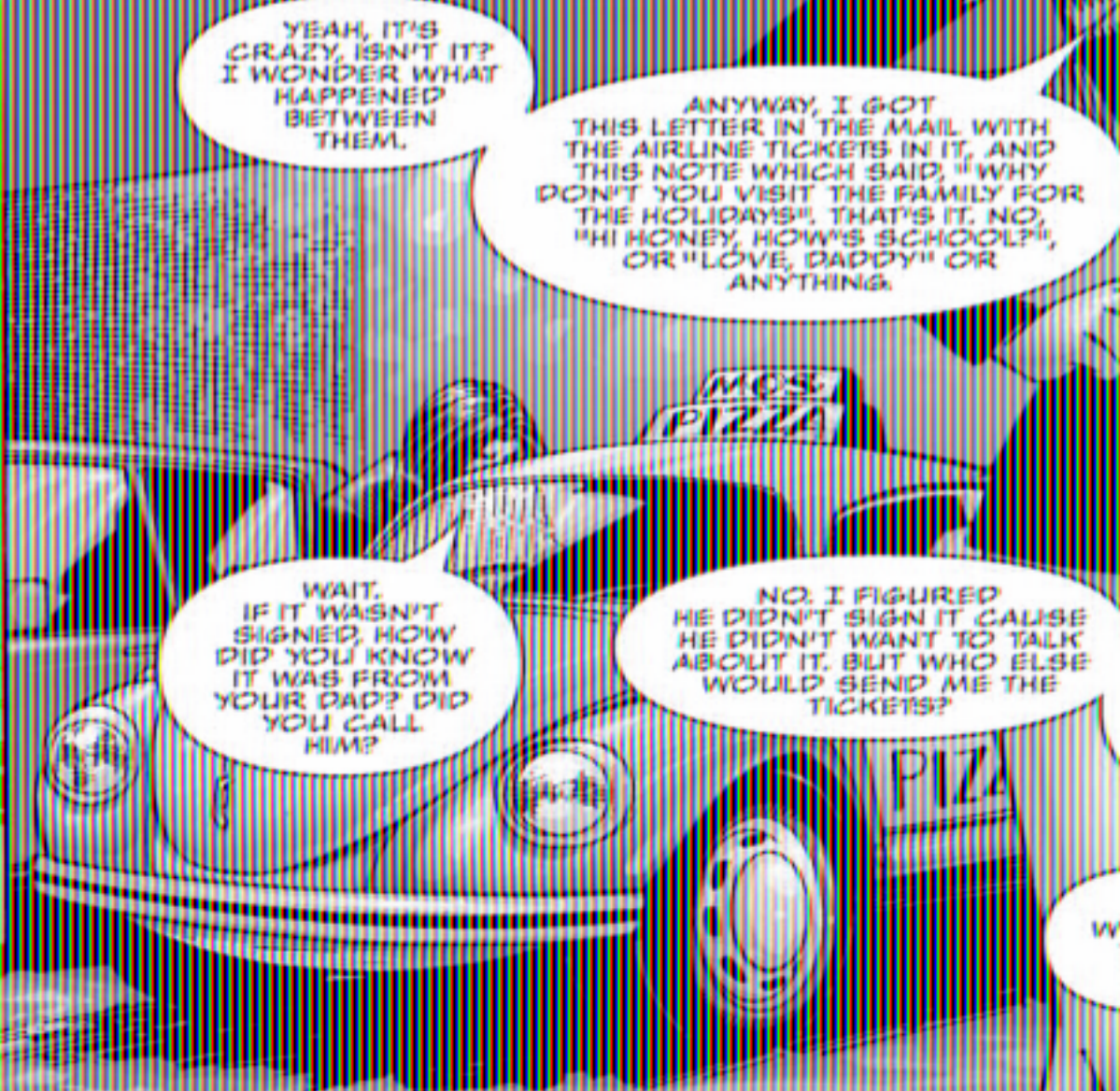
COME ON, LET'S GET GOING.



*THE AIRPORTS CHANGE A FEW HOURS LATER.*

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT WAS ACTUALLY MY DAD'S IDEA FOR ME TO VISIT?

YOUR DAD'S IDEA? YOU'RE KIDDING. THE WAY HE FEELS ABOUT UNCLE FRANKIE?



YEAH, IT'S CRAZY, ISN'T IT? I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM.

ANYWAY, I GOT THIS LETTER IN THE MAIL WITH THE AIRLINE TICKETS IN IT, AND THIS NOTE WHICH SAID, "WHY DON'T YOU VISIT THE FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS", THAT'S IT. NO, "HI HONEY, HOW'S SCHOOL?", OR "LOVE, DADDY" OR ANYTHING.

WAIT, IF IT WASN'T SIGNED, HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS FROM YOUR DAD? DID YOU CALL HIM?

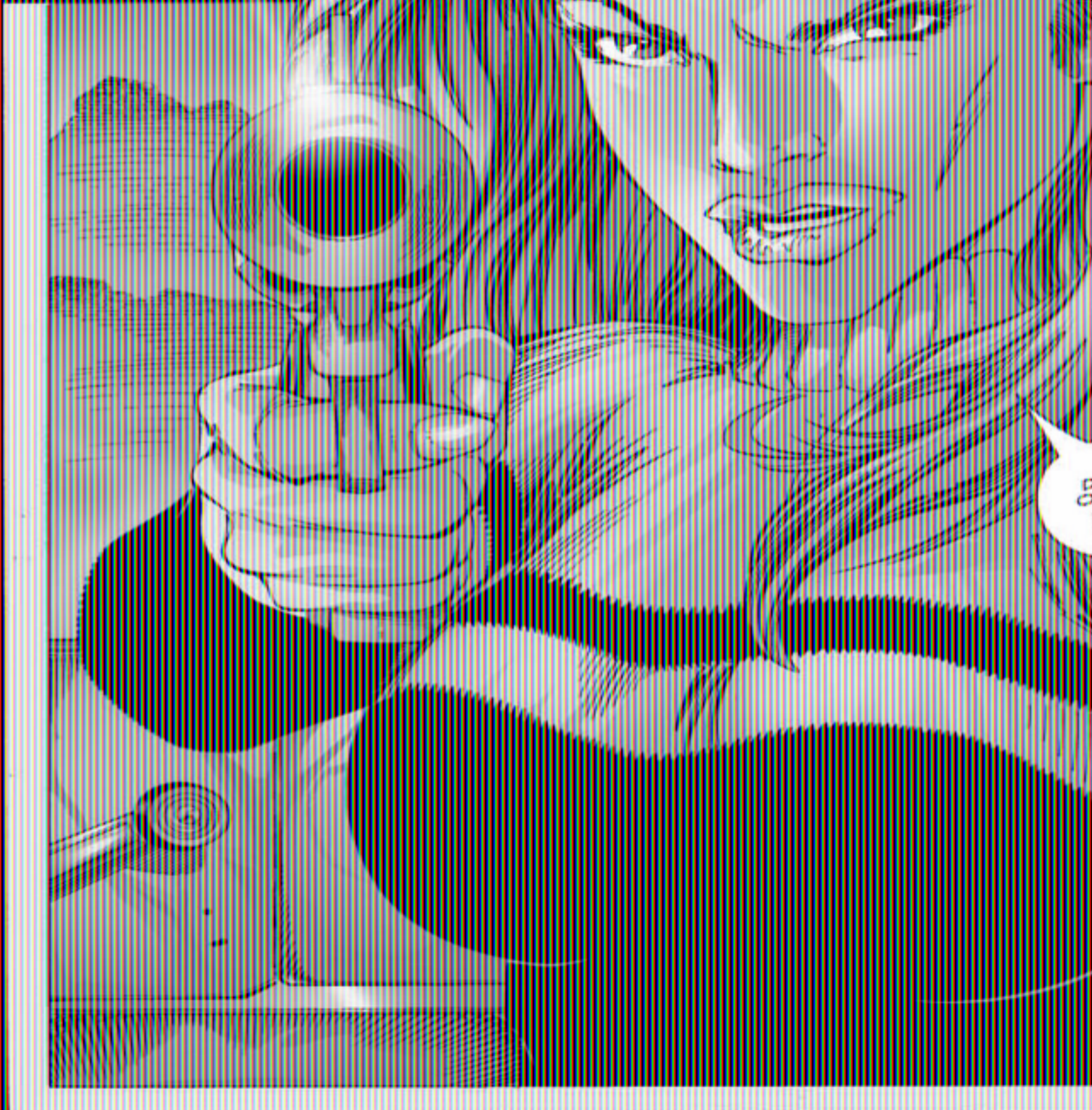
NO, I FIGURED HE DIDN'T SIGN IT CAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. BUT WHO ELSE WOULD SEND ME THE TICKETS?

W...

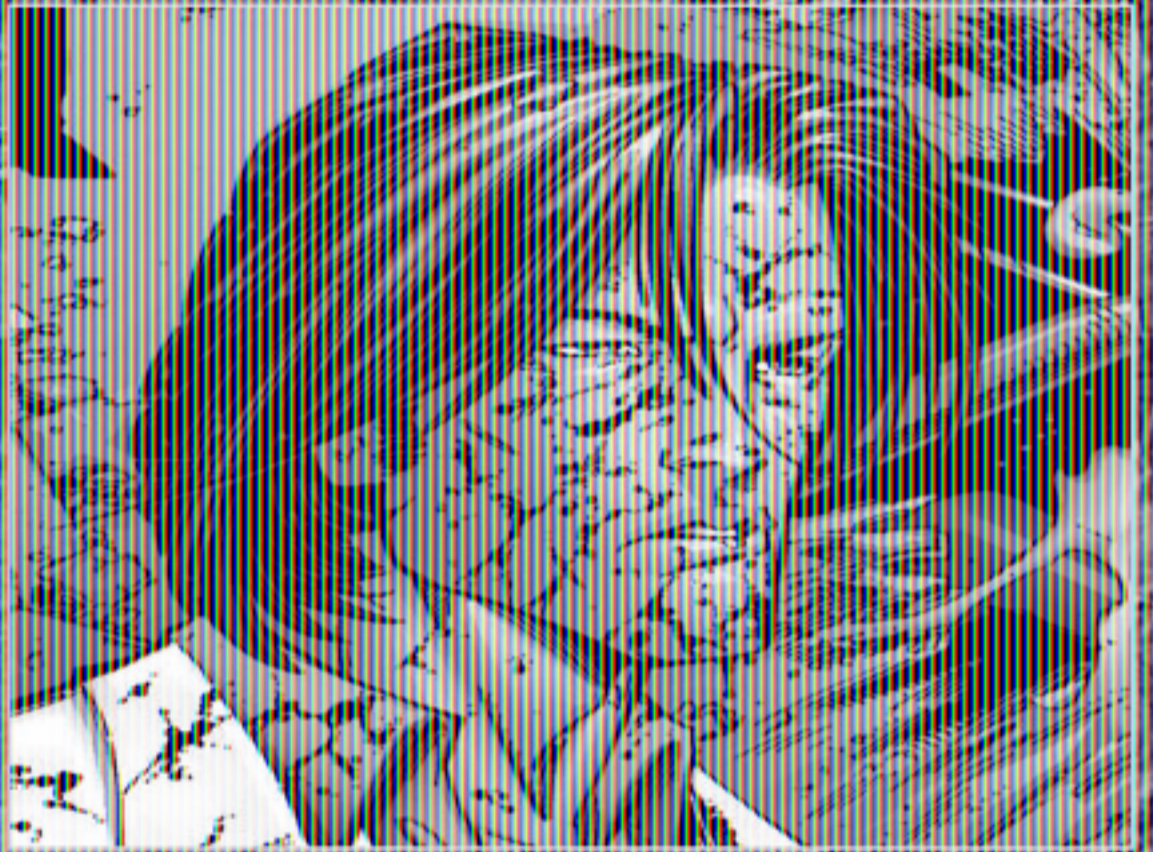




LOOK,  
I'M HAVING  
A REALLY BAD  
DAY, SO LET'S  
JUST DROP  
IT, OKAY?



05





20

# THE DARKNESS

**MALACHY CONEY**  
**MARCIA CHEN**  
**JOE BENITEZ**

**Digital  
Edition**



The Darkness issue #20  
cover art by: Joe Benitez, Joe Weems IV  
and Tyson Wengler

THE DARKNESS #20



JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW YORK, DECEMBER 2 1ST, 11:14PM EST. THE AIRPORT PARKING STRUCTURE.

STICK 'EM UP! AN' GIMME ALL YOUR PIZZAS!

YOU MEAN THIS IS REAL?

EEEEEEK!

ARE YOU CRAZY? GIMME THAT! THAT'S NOT A TOY!

AND I DON'T THINK HE WOULD APPROVE OF YOU PICKING ME UP IN THIS PIZZA MOBILE EITHER.

DEAL WITH IT.

WELL, I GUESS I CAN LIVE WITH THE CAR. AFTER ALL, IF IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MEN AND FLASHY CARS, YOU MUST BE REALLY GIFTED.

NICOLETTA!

MAYBE I'LL FIND OUT FOR A SOMETIME

HEY! GET YOUR HAND AWAY FROM THERE!

JUST CHECKING.

PLAZA HOTEL  
NEW YORK 2:35PM EST

WHY  
AREN'T YOU  
STAYING  
AT THE  
HOUSE?

WELL, LOOK  
AROUND! WHY STAY  
AT FRANKIE'S, EVEN  
THOUGH IT'S A NICE  
PLACE, WHEN YOU CAN  
GET ROOM SERVICE?  
BESIDES, DADDY  
ALREADY MADE ME  
RESERVATIONS.

I TOLD  
FRANKIE I'D BE  
BY FOR DINNER.  
GIVES ME TIME FOR  
MY APPOINTMENT AT  
THE SPA. WANNA COME  
WITH? GET A MASSAGE  
OR SOMETHING? THEN  
WE COULD GO TO  
DINNER  
TOGETHER.

ACTUAL  
I'VE GO  
COUPLE  
ERRANDS  
RUN...



LEVEL D,  
PLAZA HOTEL  
PARKING STRUCTURE  
2:53 P.M. EST.

OK,  
NOW LET'S  
GET BACK TO  
BUSINESS.

HEY,  
BOSS MAN!  
WASSUP?

YEAH,  
BOSS MAN.  
WAZ  
HAPPENIN'?

WHAT  
THE HELL IS  
GOING ON  
HERE?  
PUT THOSE  
OUT!

PARTY  
POOPER...

I MEANT,  
WHO SENT  
YOU AFTER  
ME?

OH, THAT.  
WE WERE ALL AT  
THIS CLUB, RIGHT.  
A STRIP JOINT. WELL,  
WE MET HIM THERE.  
SOME BLACK GUY.  
I THINK HE OWNED THE  
PLACE. HE TOLD US  
ABOUT THE  
CONTRACT.

WHICH  
CLUB WAS  
IT?

A  
IT WAS  
MAN. THEY  
THREE LEVEL  
SECTION C  
FOR P

CLUB  
ECSTASY.

HEY, BOSS  
CAN WE GET S  
MUNCHERS  
I'M HUNGRY

CLUB EXTACY  
NEW YORK, MUSEUM EST.

EXTACY  
CLUB

CAN I  
GET YOU  
ANYTHING TO  
DRINK?

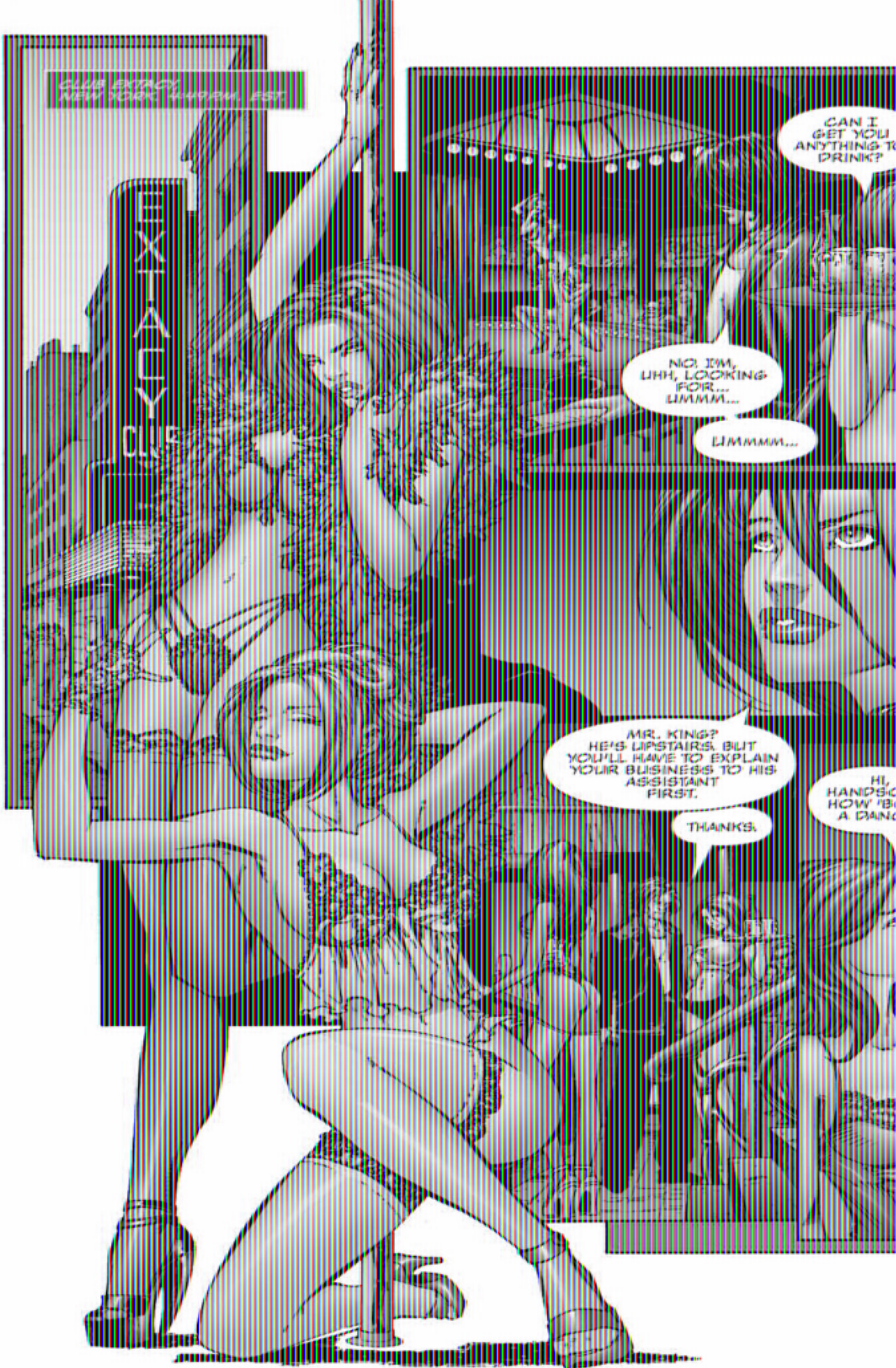
NO, I'M,  
UHH, LOOKING  
FOR...  
UMMM...

UMMMM...

MR. KING?  
HE'S UPSTAIRS, BUT  
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN  
YOUR BUSINESS TO HIS  
ASSISTANT  
FIRST.

THANKS.

HI,  
HANDS ON  
HOW 'BOUT  
A DANCE?





MARCUS, HONEY, HOW COME CRYSTAL ALWAYS GET TO WORK THE MAIN STAGE?

YEAH, I'M ALWAYS STUCK IN THE CAGE. NO ONE EVER TIPS YOU WHEN YOU'RE IN THE CAGE.

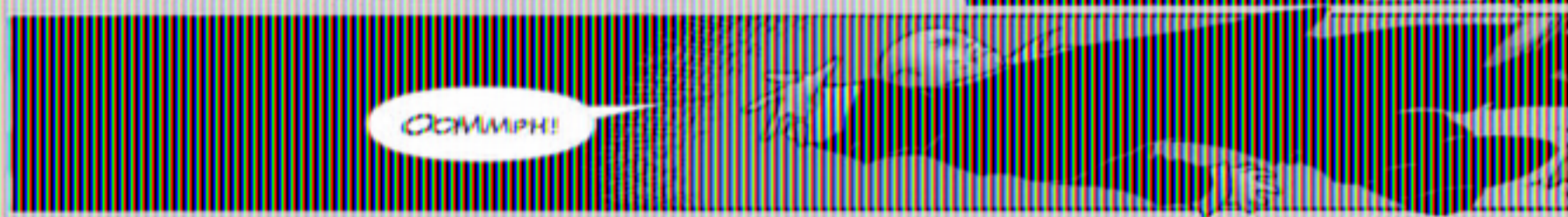
DON'T YOU THINK I'M GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE MAIN STAGE, MARCUS, BABY?



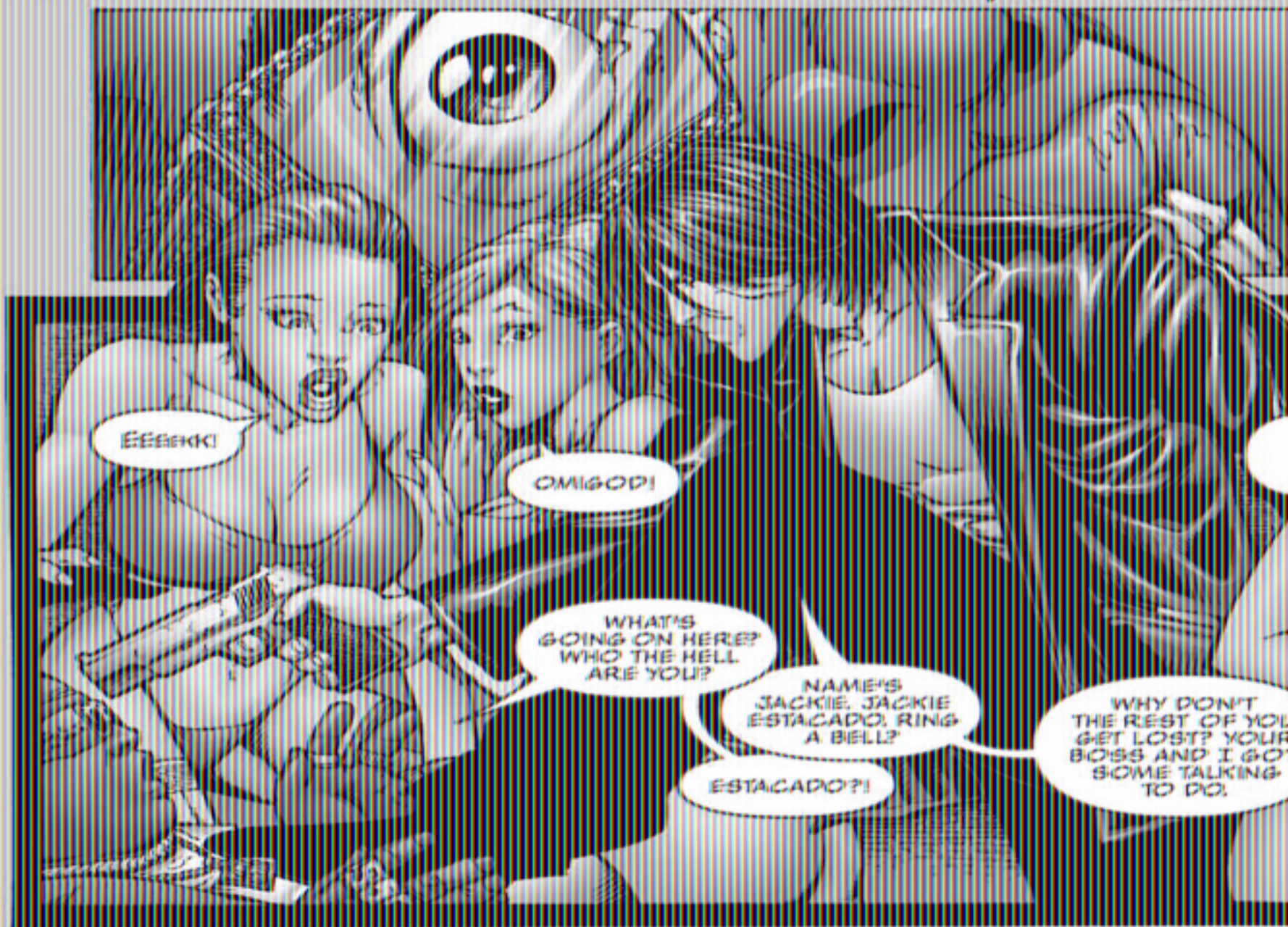
HEY! AM I PAYING YOU CHICKS TO WHINE? COME ON, GET TO WORK!

WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

I'M GOING TO SP... MR...



OOMPH!



EEEEEEK!

OMIGOD!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

NAME'S JACKIE. JACKIE ESTACADO. RING A BELL?

ESTACADO?!

WHY DON'T THE REST OF YOU GET LOST? YOUR BOSS AND I GOT SOME TALKING TO DO.

WELL, NOW YOU KNOW WHO I AM, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU. WORD IS, YOU PUT OUT A \$100 MILLION HIT ON ME, BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW, I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN YOU BEFORE. SO WHAT'S THE STORY? I OFF YOUR BOY-FRIEND OR SOMETHING?

I DON'T KNOW NUTTIN'.

DO YOU KNOW WHO THE FRANCHETTIS ARE? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WE'LL DO TO YOU IF YOU DON'T START TALKING NOW?

UGH! YOU'RE WITH THE FRANCHETTIS?! AW, SHIT!! I DIDN'T KNOW!

WELL NOW YOU DO, SO START TALKING!

HEY, MAN, I DUNNO WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. I JUST SET UP THE HIT.

NEXT TIME YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH, I WANNA HEAR A NAME AND A PLACE.

A FREAKY CHICK...MANX. SHE NEVER TOLD ME HER BOSS'S NAME. PLAZA HOTEL... PENTHOUSE SUITE.

BANG!

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

OOOF!

UGH!

DAMN, I'M GOOD!

GUESS YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE.

UGH!

OOMPH!

OHH!

BANG!

CRASH!

BANG!

CRASH!

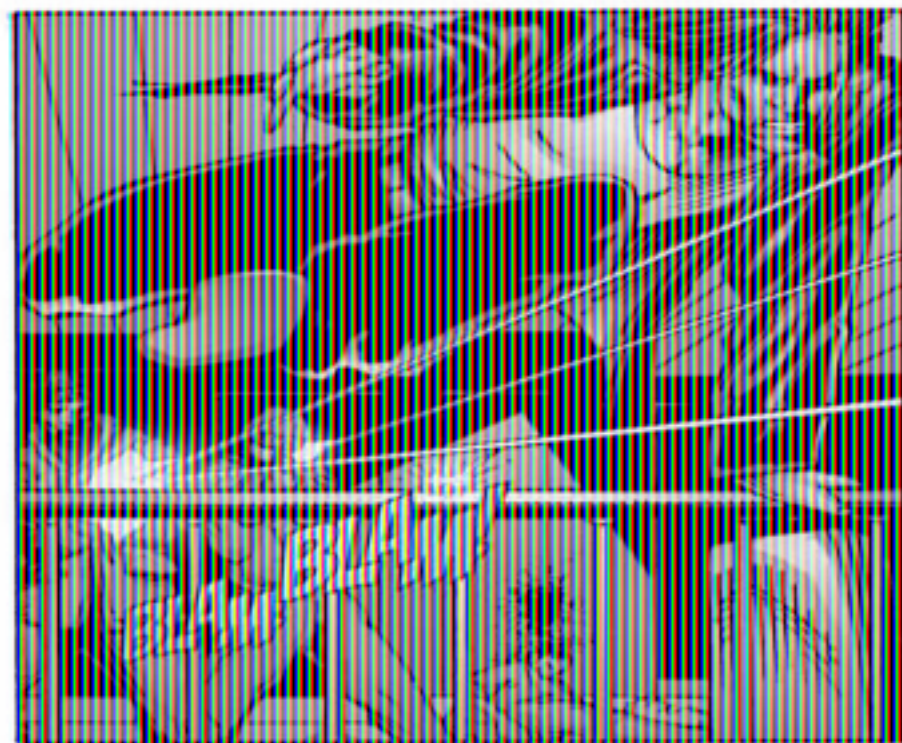
BANG!

CRASH!

BANG!

CRASH!

BANG!





HEY, BOYS!  
HOW DO I  
LOOK?

OOOH!  
BONG BONG,  
BOINNGG!!

YOU LOOKIN'  
GOOD BABY. HOW'S  
'BOUT YOU AND ME  
GO BACK TO MY  
PLACE AND..

OH NO!  
IT'S A MAN  
BABY! TAKE A  
LOOK FOR  
YOURSELF..

AWW, MAN...  
I KNEW YOU WAS  
TOO GOOD TO  
BE TRUE!

ESTACADO'S  
HERE! HE MUST'VE  
FOUND OUT ABOUT  
KING! WHAT DO  
I DO?

YES, THE  
EXPLOSIVES  
ARE ALL IN  
PLACE.

RIGHT,  
I'LL TAKE  
CARE OF  
IT.

I'LL  
KILL THEM  
BOTH.

DIE,  
BASTARD!



ESTACADO?

YEAH?

WELL, I  
LOOKS  
I'M ABC  
BECOM  
HUND  
MILL  
DOLL  
RICH

YOU OK,  
BUDDY?

UASH...





CRISTO!  
YOU ARRIVED  
JUST IN TIME!  
HOW'D  
YOU...



HEY!  
CRISTO? IT'S  
ME, JACKIE.  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON?

THEY HAVE  
NICOLETTA. IF I  
DON'T KILL YOU,  
THEY'LL KILL  
HER.

NICOLETTA'S  
FINE. I JUST  
DROPPED HER  
OFF AT HER  
HOTEL.

I WAS  
JUST THERE.  
SHE'S  
GONE.

I THOUGHT  
I HAD LEFT THIS  
FAMILY BUSINESS  
BEHIND ME, BUT  
STILL IT COMES  
BACK TO HAUNT  
ME.

FOR YEARS  
I SERVED THE FAMILY  
AS ITS NUMBER ONE  
HAMMER. BUT I REALIZE  
NOW, IT WAS ALL A  
MISTAKE.

IT SEEMED THE  
RIGHT WAY TO GO BACK  
THEN. THE FAMILY TREATS ITS  
LOYAL RETAINERS WELL. YOU  
GET FANCY CARS, PRETTY GIRLS,  
LOTS OF CASH. ALL MEN FEAR  
YOU, ARE AFRAID TO BREATHE  
IN YOUR VICINITY. YOU  
AND YOURS ARE PROTECTED.

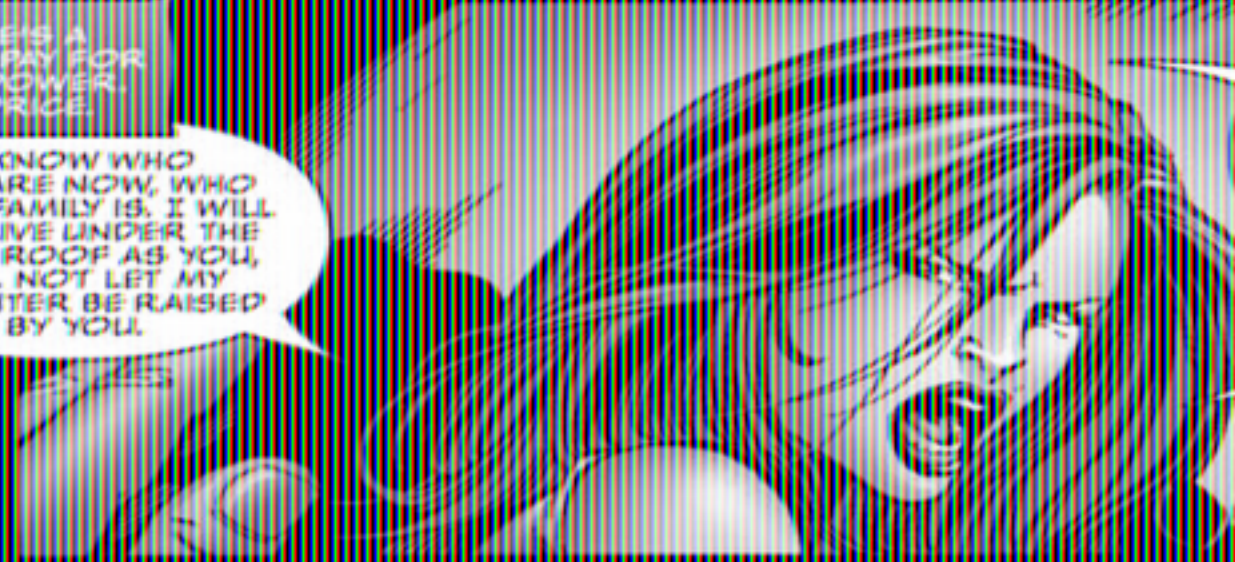
BUT THERE'S A  
PRICE TO PAY FOR  
ALL THIS POWER.  
A HEAVY PRICE.

I KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE NOW, WHO  
YOUR FAMILY IS. I WILL  
NOT LIVE UNDER THE  
SAME ROOF AS YOU,  
WILL NOT LET MY  
DAUGHTER BE RAISED  
BY YOU.

THE FAMILY LIVES APART  
FROM THIS SOCIETY, BUT IT HAS  
ITS LAWS TOO. THE JUDGMENT  
OF THE DON, AND HERE THERE  
ARE NO APPEALS, NO PARDONS,  
NO SECOND OPINIONS. IN THE  
EYES OF THE DON, YOU ARE  
GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT.



I'M  
SORRY,  
DON  
FRANCHETTI.  
I WAS WRONG  
TO MARRY  
AN OUT-  
SIDER.



MEGAN,  
PLEASE.  
I LOVE YOU.  
YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
WE CAN  
WORK THIS  
OUT.

GET AWAY  
FROM ME!  
YOU'RE A  
MONSTER!

IN THIS CO  
IT IS BETTE  
GUILTY AS  
THAN FOR  
TO BE CON  
WRONGLY.  
UNTIL PRO  
THE LAW ST  
SO JUSTIC  
OFTEN DEN

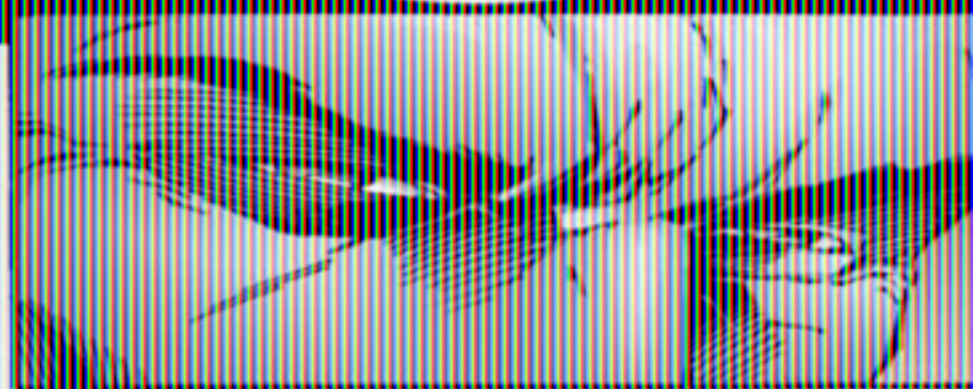


AFTER ALL  
WE HAVE DONE  
FOR HER, FOR  
HER CHILD!  
SHE GOES TO  
THE POLICE?  
BAH! THESE  
AMERICANS!  
THEY HAVE  
NO OMERZA,  
NO HONOR.  
SHE MUST  
BE TAKEN  
CARE OF.

WHY DON'T  
YOU GO VISIT  
LITTLE NICOLETTA,  
CRISTOFANO?  
I'LL HAVE SOME-  
ONE TAKE CARE  
OF MEGAN.

NO. I'LL  
TAKE CARE OF  
IT MYSELF.

MY BEAUTIFUL  
MEGAN, I SHOULD  
HAVE BROUGHT HER  
INTO THIS. SHE WAS  
INNOCENT. SHE DID  
NOTHING WRONG,  
EXCEPT FALL IN  
LOVE WITH ME.



YOUR ONLY  
MISTAKE WAS  
CARING TOO MUCH.  
I'VE GOT NOTHING  
TO LOSE. I DON'T  
CARE ABOUT  
NO ONE.

NO ONE  
CARES ABOUT  
ME. I LEARNED  
THIS AT THE  
ORPHANAGE.

EVERYTHING  
ELSE, I LEARNED  
FROM YOU.

DON'T  
WORRY  
CRISTO.  
I'LL GET H  
BACK.



PLAZA HOTEL  
NEW YORK  
7:51 PM

CHECK OUT MY  
SLICK WEB-  
SLINGING  
ACTION!

HOLY  
NOSE-WIPES,  
BUTTMUNCH!  
HE'S GOT  
BOOGERS OF  
STEEL!

THAT'S  
BUTTMAN!  
DON'T MAKE  
ME POP YOU,  
PIMPLE!

AWW,  
LOOK!  
A KITTYY!

HERE,  
KITTY,  
KITTY!

WHOA!  
HOLY TIGHT-  
PANTS,  
BUTTMAN!!

MARILYN  
MANSON  
GROUPIES!

OH,  
POOR LITTLE  
KITTY. DID THE  
BAD MAN  
SCARE  
YOU?

DON'T  
WORRY,  
SWEETIE. WE  
WON'T LET HIM  
HURT YOU,  
OR NANA.

WHO'S  
IN CHARGE OF  
THIS FREAK SHOW?  
AND WHERE'S  
NICOLETTA?

HE  
WANTS TO  
SEE THE  
GIRL.

I DON'T  
THINK NANA  
WOULD LIKE  
HIM.


THEN  
WE'LL MAKE  
YOU  
LEAVE!






TAKE THAT, EVIL-DOER!


COME HERE, BABY! GIMME SOME LOVE!



HELLO, JACKIE.  
I BELIEVE I AM THE ONE  
YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.  
MY NAME IS ADRIENNE  
ESTACADO, BUT YOU, OF  
COURSE, CAN CALL  
ME GRANDMA.



WHAT?!  
ARE YOU...?



BUT  
WHAT...  
WHY...

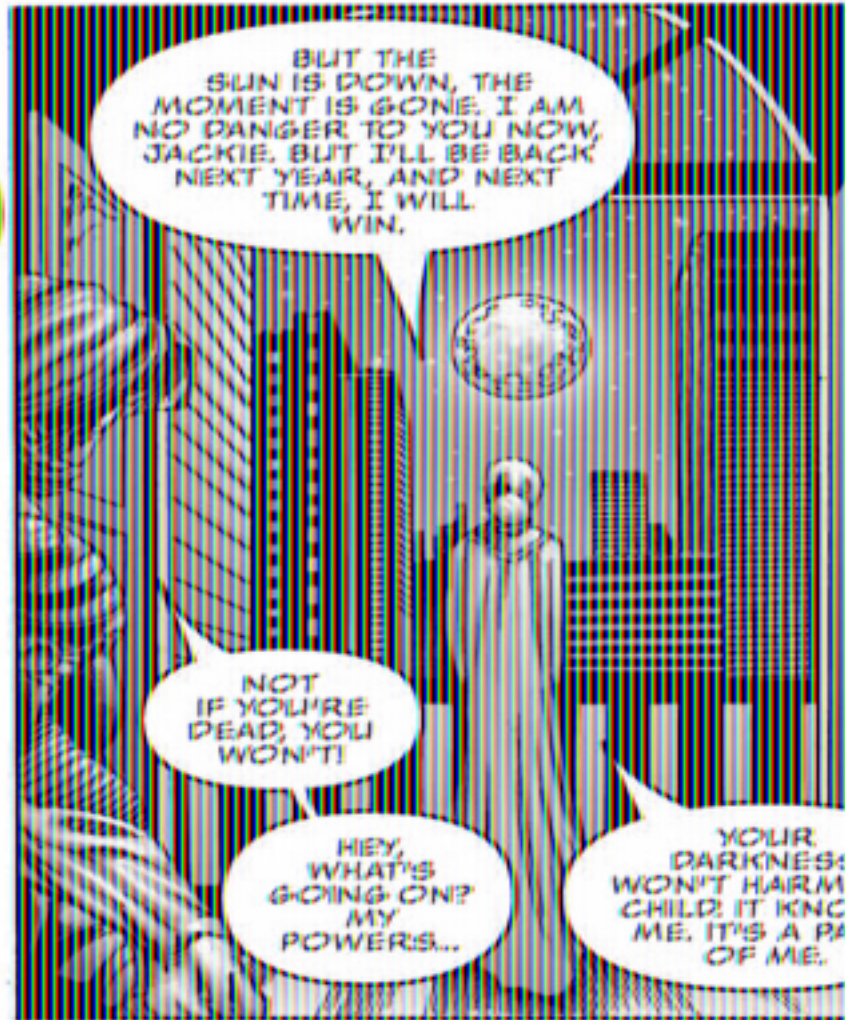
NOTHING  
PERSONAL, MY  
DEAR. YOU SIMPLY  
HAVE SOMETHING  
I WANT.

LIL  
LAVENDER  
PUPPY. F  
FOR  
DEPAR



TODAY WAS TO BE THE DAY OF DEATH, AND OF REBIRTH. YOUR DEATH WOULD HAVE GRANTED MY REBIRTH AS THE NEW WIELDER OF THE DARKNESS.

WHAT?! YOU...

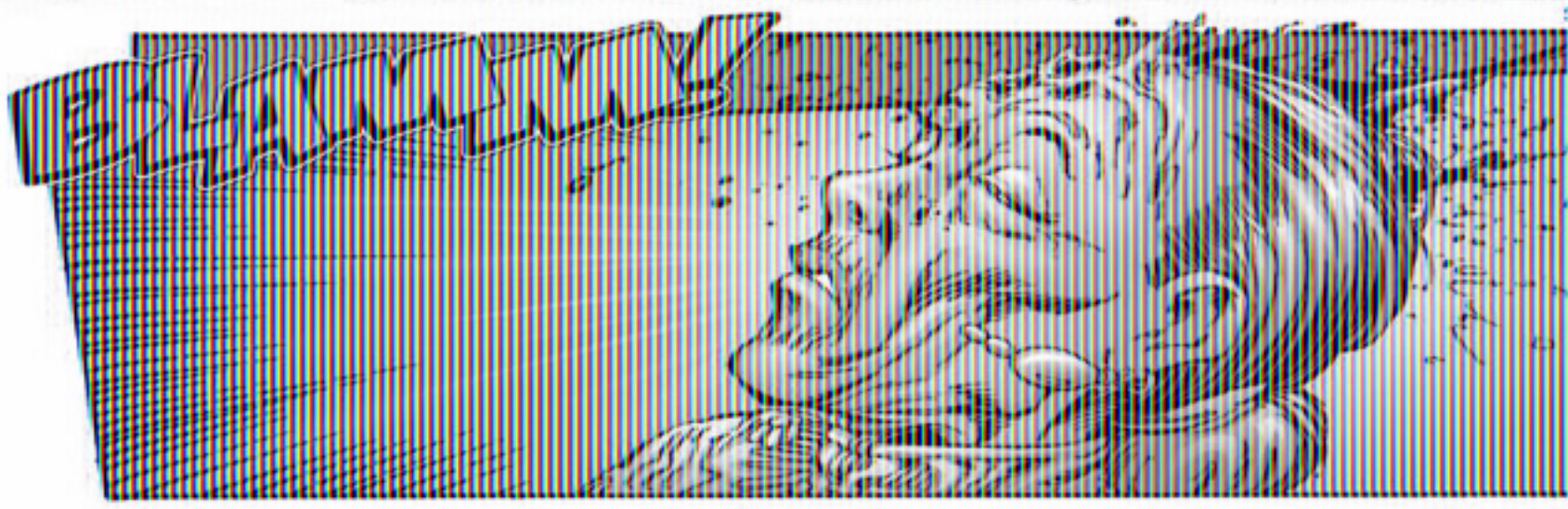


BUT THE SUN IS DOWN, THE MOMENT IS GONE. I AM NO DANGER TO YOU NOW, JACKIE. BUT I'LL BE BACK NEXT YEAR, AND NEXT TIME, I WILL WIN.

NOT IF YOU'RE DEAD, YOU WON'T!

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? MY POWERS...

YOUR DARKNESS WON'T HARM CHILD. IT KNOWS ME. IT'S A PART OF ME.



HMPH! YOU REMIND ME OF MY LATE HUSBAND. HE TOO HAD YOUR POWER. SUCH WONDERFUL TIMES WE HAD, ROBBING BANKS, GETTING RICH. BUT WE TOOK ONE RISK TOO MANY.

I GOT PREGNANT, AND LOST MY BOBBY. I GOT CAUGHT, AND THE POLICE SHOT ME FULL OF BULLETS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I DIDN'T DIE. NO, I SHOULD HAVE, BUT I DIDN'T. THE DARKNESS SAVED ME, TO SAVE THE CHILD.

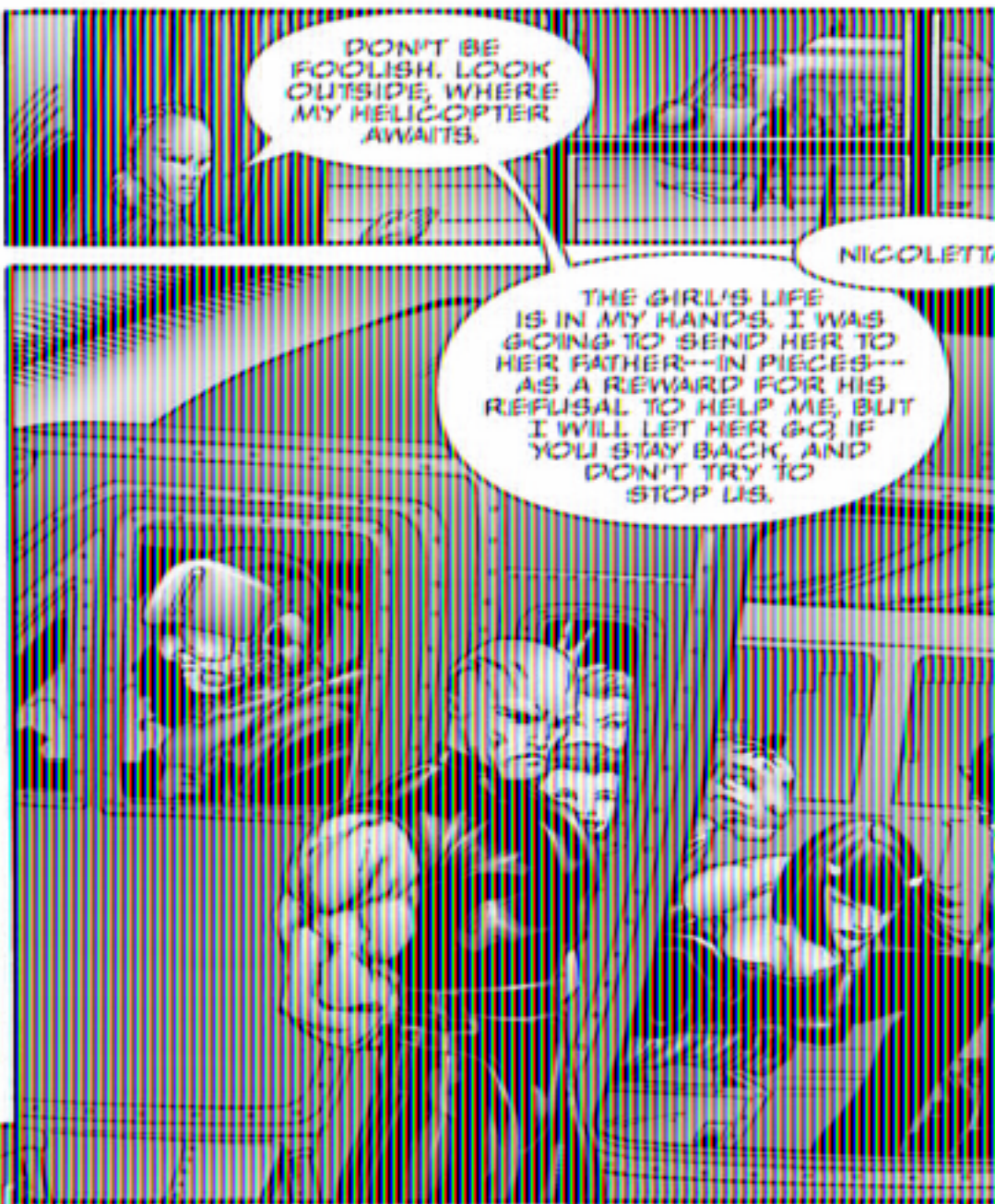
BUT WHEN THE CHILD WAS BORN, A LITTLE BIT OF IT STAYED BEHIND TO KEEP ME COMPANY.

AND NOW, I WANT IT ALL.



I'VE SPENT THE LAST HALF CENTURY SEARCHING FOR A WAY, AND WAITING FOR YOU TO GAIN POWER. I CAN WAIT ONE MORE YEAR FOR MY VICTORY.

I DON'T NEED TO KILL YOU TO STOP YOU.



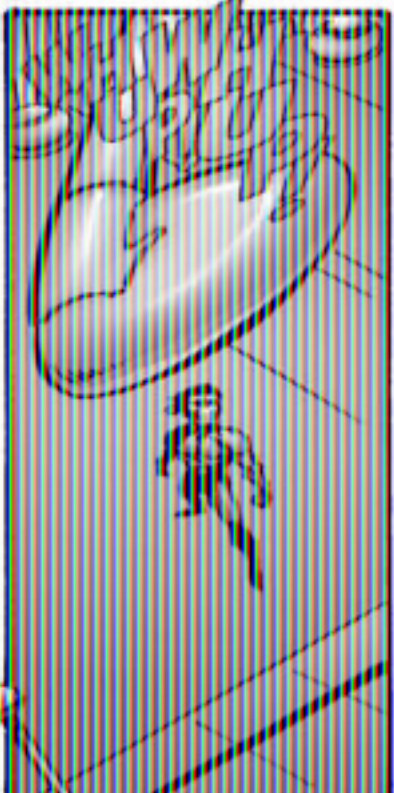
DON'T BE FOOLISH. LOOK OUTSIDE, WHERE MY HELICOPTER AWAITS.

NICOLETTA

THE GIRL'S LIFE IS IN MY HANDS. I WAS GOING TO SEND HER TO HER FATHER--IN PIECES-- AS A REWARD FOR HIS REFUSAL TO HELP ME, BUT I WILL LET HER GO, IF YOU STAY BACK, AND DON'T TRY TO STOP US.

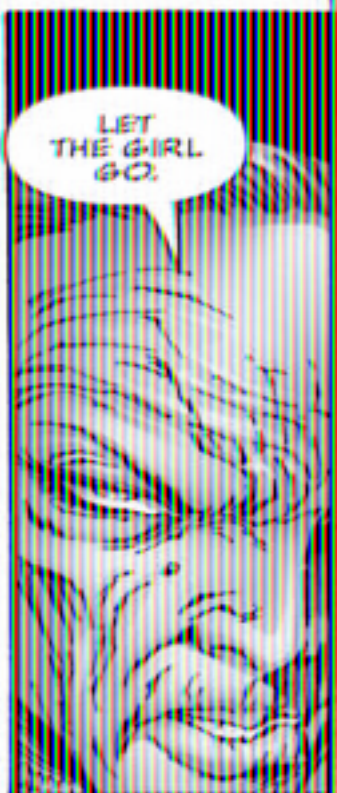


FAREWELL, JACKIE. UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

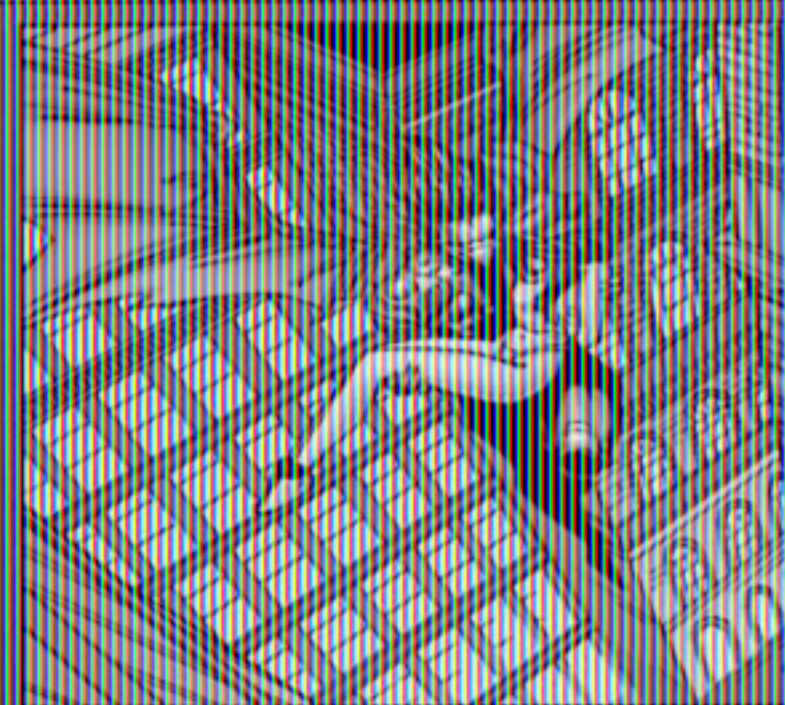


YES, NANAP?

MANX.

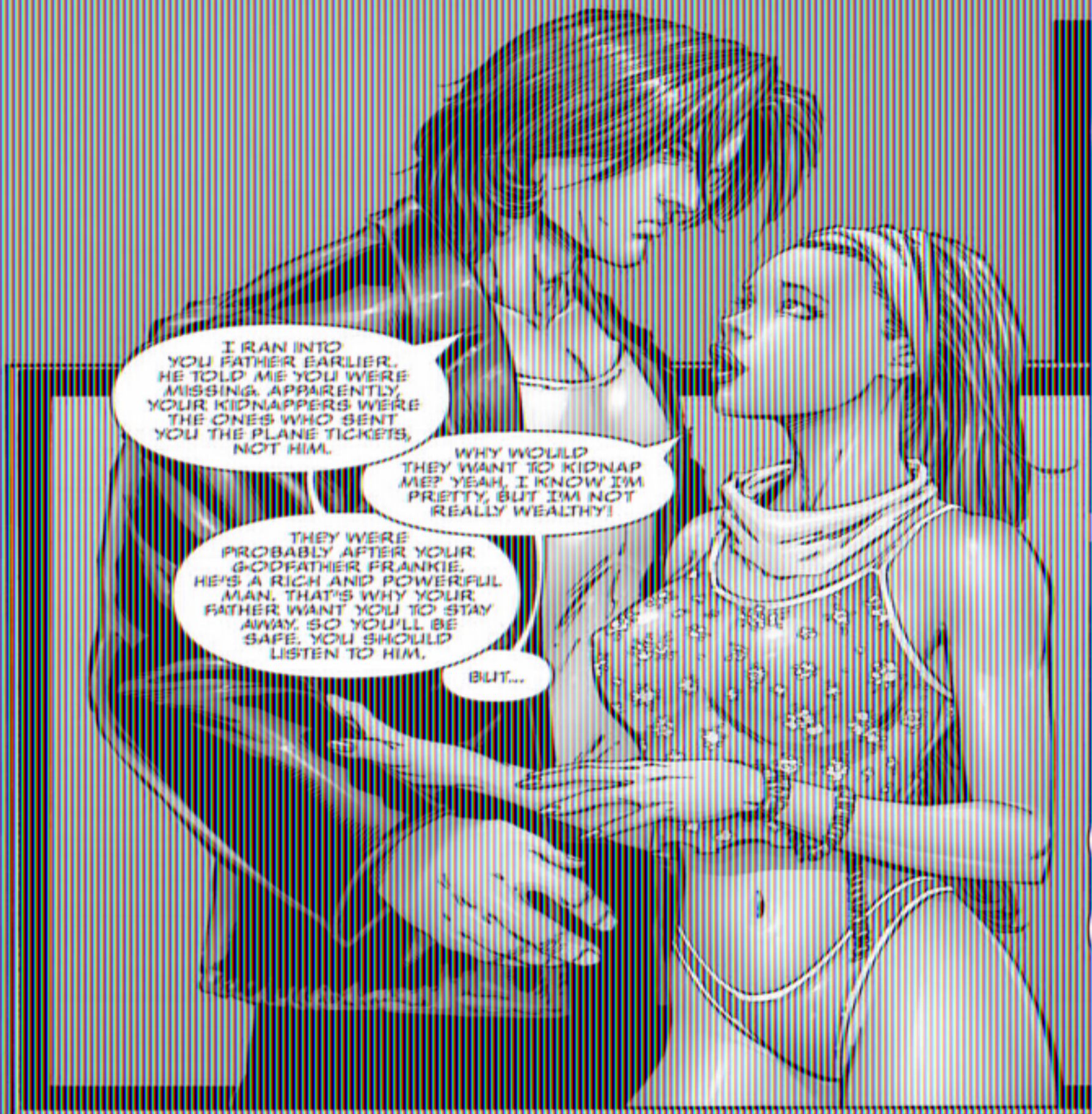


LET THE GIRL GO.



JACKIE!  
YOU SAVED  
MY LIFE! BUT HOW  
DID YOU...? WHAT  
HAPPENED? I WAS  
SO SCARED! WHO  
WERE THOSE  
GUYS?

I... I...  
JUMPED AFTER  
YOU WITH A ROPE  
TIED TO THE BALCONY.  
DON'T WORRY ABOUT  
IT. ALL THAT MATTER  
IS THAT YOU'RE  
SAFE.



I RAN INTO YOUR FATHER EARLIER. HE TOLD ME YOU WERE MISSING. APPARENTLY, YOUR KIDNAPPERS WERE THE ONES WHO SENT YOU THE PLANE TICKETS, NOT HIM.

WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO KIDNAP ME? YEAH, I KNOW I'M PRETTY, BUT I'M NOT REALLY WEALTHY!

THEY WERE PROBABLY AFTER YOUR GODFATHER FRANKIE. HE'S A RICH AND POWERFUL MAN. THAT'S WHY YOUR FATHER WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY. SO YOU'LL BE SAFE. YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO HIM.

BUT...



YOU MIGHT BE GETTING AWAY NOW, GRANDMA, BUT I'LL BE BACK, TOO.

AND NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE WAITING.

