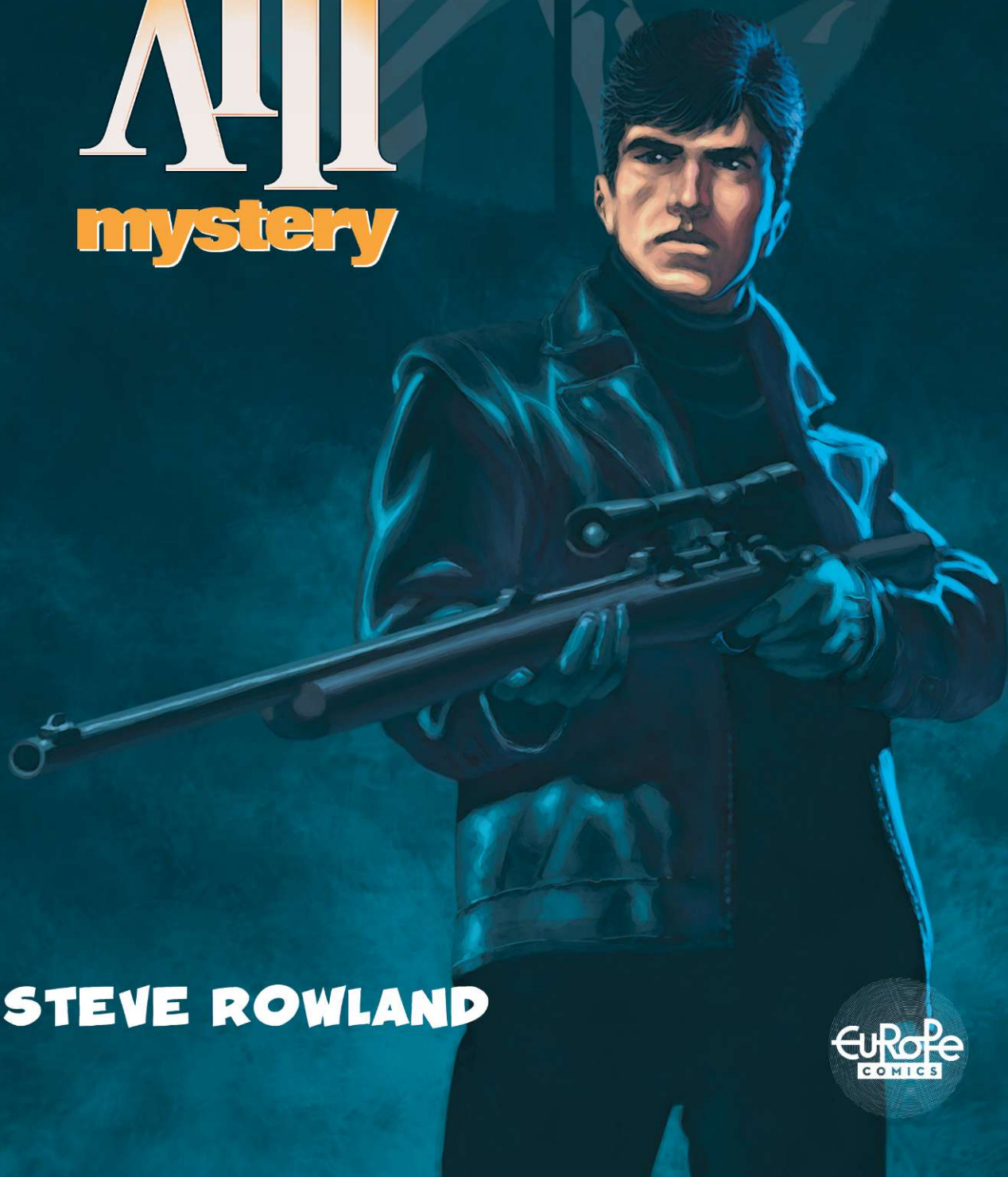


R. GUÉRINEAU - F. NURY

XIII

mystery



STEVE ROWLAND



The series XIII was created by WILLIAM VANCE and JEAN VAN HAMME.



R. GUÉRINEAU - F. NURY

STEVE ROWLAND

XIII
mystery

Series overseen by Jean Van Hamme

Colours: Bérengère Marquebreucq



**“Then conquer we must,
When our cause it is just,
And this be our motto:
‘In God is our trust.’**

**And the star-spangled banner
In triumph shall wave
O’er the land of the free
And the home of the brave!”**

National anthem of the USA

The attitudes of many of the characters of this story reflect both a different time and an extreme ideology. Their foul actions are punctuated by foul words. We certainly do not condone them, but we chose to use them anyway, in the hope that their very ugliness will highlight how wrong they, and all that they represent, are.

Cinebook

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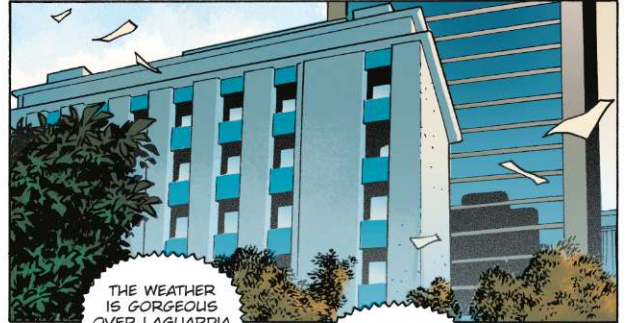
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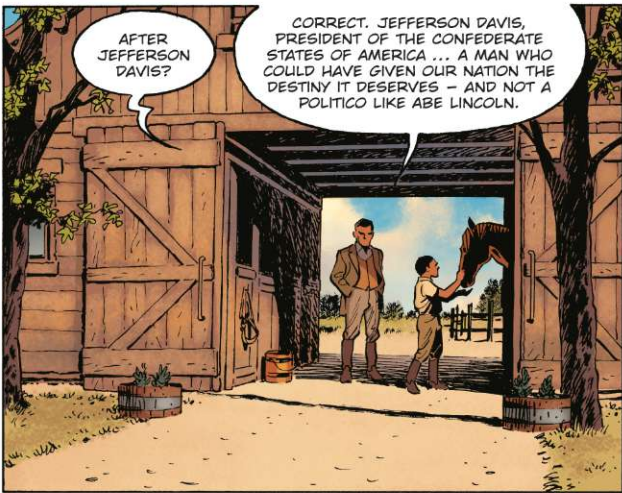


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Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



ONE DAY, STEVE, YOU'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY.





AFTER JEFFERSON DAVIS?

CORRECT. JEFFERSON DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA ... A MAN WHO COULD HAVE GIVEN OUR NATION THE DESTINY IT DESERVES - AND NOT A POLITICO LIKE ABE LINCOLN.

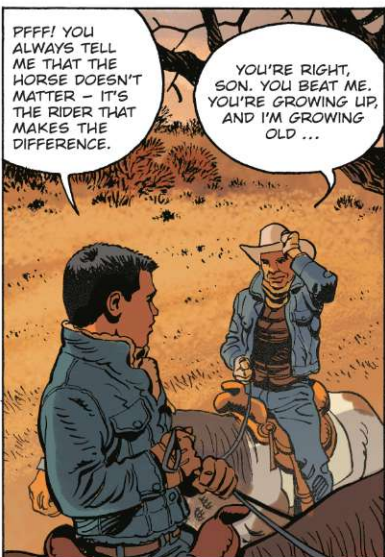


DON'T YOU WANT TO RIDE HIM? HE'S YOUR HORSE, AFTER ALL ...



I WON!

WRONG. JEFFERSON WON ...



PPFF! YOU ALWAYS TELL ME THAT THE HORSE DOESN'T MATTER - IT'S THE RIDER THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SON. YOU BEAT ME. YOU'RE GROWING UP, AND I'M GROWING OLD ...



SEE THIS LAND, STEVE? SOON, ALL THIS WILL BE YOURS AND YOURS ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO PROVE WORTHY OF IT, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE THE BEST, ALWAYS, AT EVERYTHING ...



BECAUSE A WINNER IS A WINNER ... AND A SECOND BEST IS A NOBODY.



STAND UP STRAIGHT, MOM, PLEASE ...

STEVE! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO—

STEVE'S RIGHT, DEBORAH. TODAY WE CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY. THAT CALLS FOR DIGNITY, SOBRIETY ... THE WHOLE TOWN'S WATCHING.



WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT ... TEN YEARS AGO, THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS STILL CLEAN, WORKING-CLASS, SURE ... BUT LOOKED AFTER. NOW?



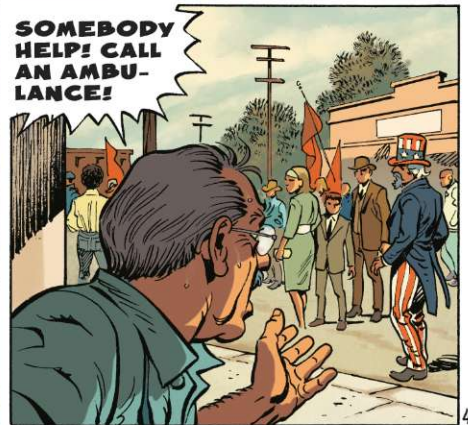
GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS AND JUNKIES LEECHING OFF SOCIAL WELFARE ... AND THE LEFTIES IN WASHINGTON GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO VOTE ...



POOR JOE KUTNER OVER THERE, BREAKING HIS BACK RUNNING HIS DRUGSTORE AMONG THIS RIFFRAFF ... I WONDER WHY HE HASN'T ALREADY—



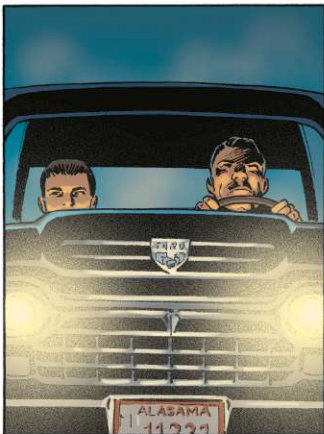
HELP! MY DAUGHTER! HELP ME!



SOMEBODY HELP! CALL AN AMBULANCE!









MEET WENDELL PIERCE AND GLORIA BLEDSOE, A HEROIN PEDDLER AND HIS WHORE ...

THEY SOLD THEIR FILTH TO JOE'S DAUGHTER AND SHE DIED FROM IT. I ACCUSED THEM PUBLICLY AND THEY TRIED TO GET REVENGE ... BY SETTING FIRE TO OUR STABLES. THEY KILLED JEFFERSON, STEVE.



THAT'S NOT TRUE! WE NEVER PUSHED HEROIN! IT'S WHITE PEOPLE WHO SELL IT TO BLACKS, TO POOR FOLKS ... AND AS LONG AS NONE OF YOUR KIND IS HURT, NOBODY GIVES A DAMN!

WENDELL, PLEASE ... DON'T PROVOKE THEM ...



DON'T LISTEN TO THEIR LIES, SON. THIS IS WHEN THEY'RE AT THEIR MOST DANGEROUS - WHEN THEY APPEAL TO OUR HUMANITY ...



LOOK AT THEM - OUR AGE-OLD ENEMIES ... THINK OF THEM AS VERMIN! THEY BREED, AND THEY SPOIL EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH! PUNISH THEM, STEVE! **EXTERMINATE THEM!! STRIKE!!!**



SHLAK AH!



HARDER!



SHLAK AH!

HARDER! HARDER!



STRIKE! AGAIN! HARDER!!



**SHLAK
SHLAK
SHLAK**



WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW? WHAT WILL YOU DO TO THEM?

THERE WON'T BE A NEED FOR MORE AFTER THE LESSON YOU TAUGHT THEM ... WE'LL JUST DROP THEM OFF AT THE STATE LINE. WE'RE NOT MONSTERS, STEVE. OUR JUSTICE MUST BE HARSH BUT FAIR ...



PLEASE, LET US GO ... PLEASE ...

DROP THE SHOVEL, NIGGER. THAT'S DEEP ENOUGH FOR A GRAVE.



HE'S ALL YOURS, JOE ...

I ... I'M NOT SURE ... MAYBE WE OUGHT TO—

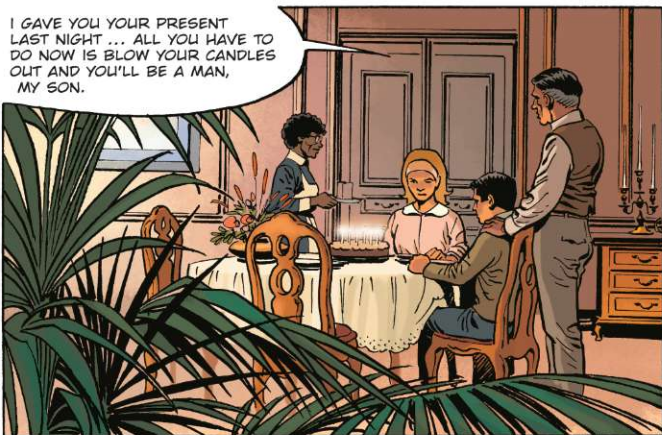
WE DO WHAT MR ROWLAND TOLD US TO DO. DON'T CHICKEN OUT, KUTNER. THINK OF YOUR DAUGHTER.



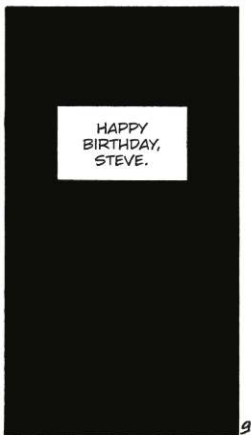
SHOOT HIM!!

BLAM

WENDELL!! WAIT FOR M—



I GAVE YOU YOUR PRESENT LAST NIGHT ... ALL YOU HAVE TO DO NOW IS BLOW YOUR CANDLES OUT AND YOU'LL BE A MAN, MY SON.

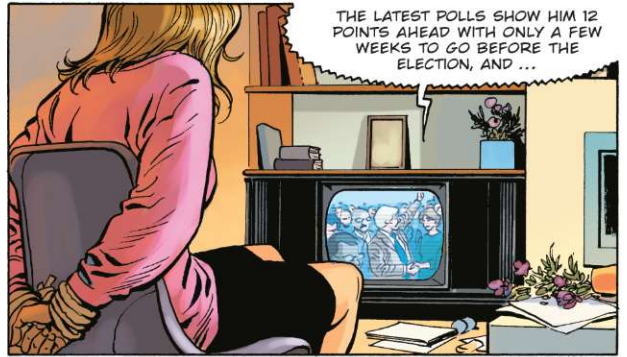


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STEVE.

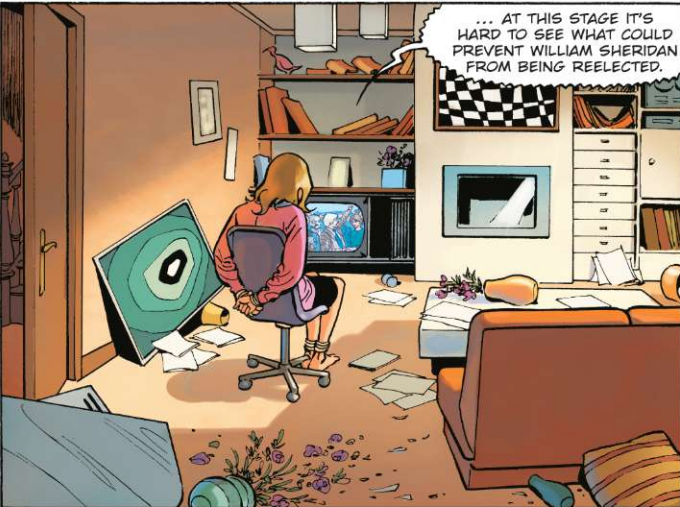
PRESIDENT SHERIDAN'S POPULARITY REMAINS HIGH DESPITE HIS CONTROVERSIAL DECISION TO PULL OUR TROOPS FROM ASIA ...



THE LATEST POLLS SHOW HIM 12 POINTS AHEAD WITH ONLY A FEW WEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE ELECTION, AND ...



... AT THIS STAGE IT'S HARD TO SEE WHAT COULD PREVENT WILLIAM SHERIDAN FROM BEING REELECTED.



OH LORD, STEVE ...



... I'M SORRY.

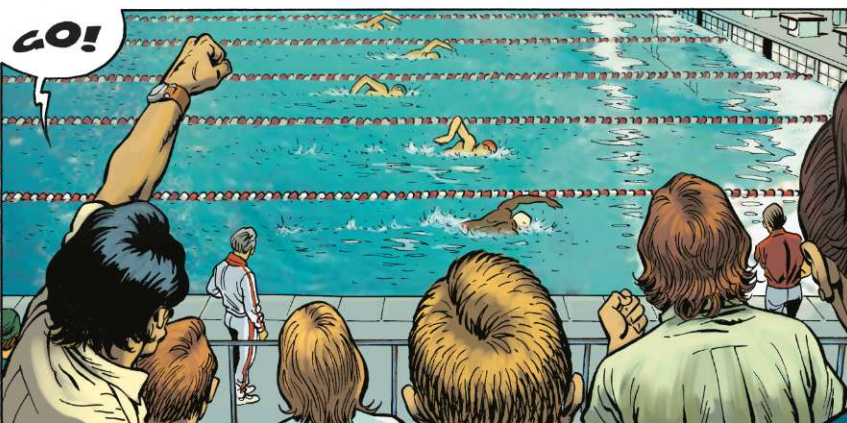


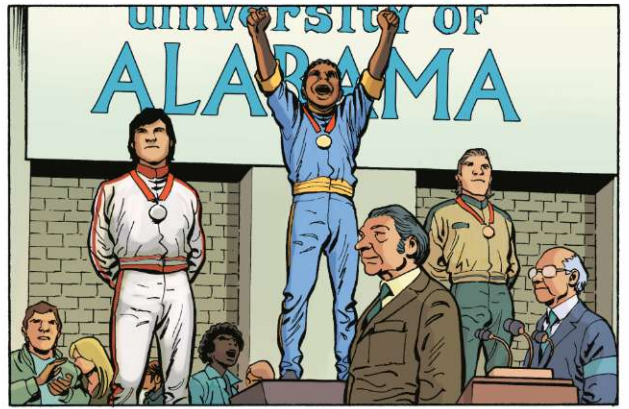
GO, STEVE!

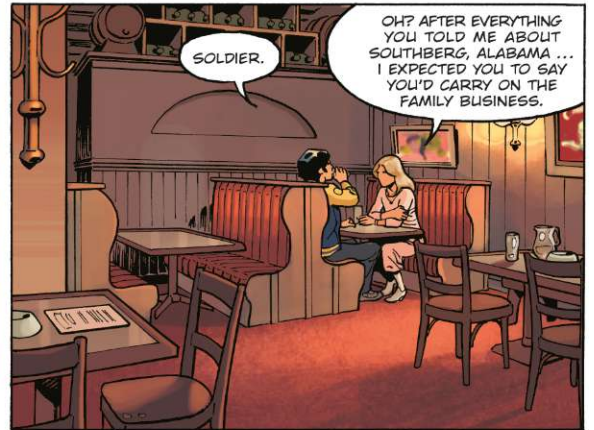
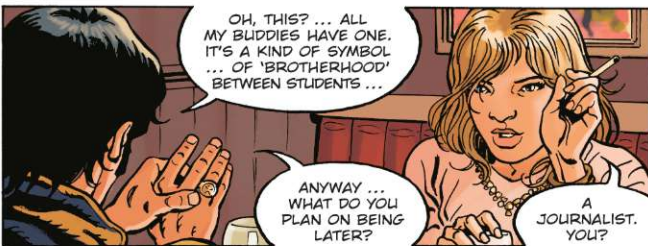
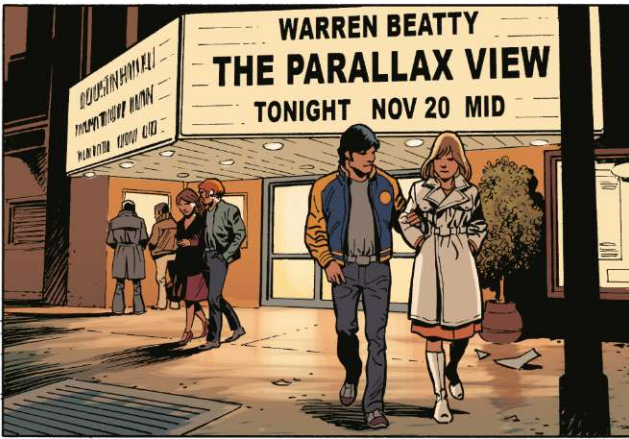
ROW-LAND! ROW-LAND!



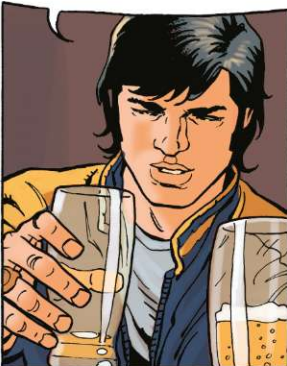
GO!








BETWEEN MY FATHER RULING OVER HIS DOMAIN AND MY UNCLE MATT PUSHING TO GET A SLICE OF IT ... I HAVE NO DESIRE TO GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. NO, WHAT I WANT IS TO SERVE MY COUNTRY.



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
RECIPIENT'S EYES ONLY
 From: Admiral Carl HEIDEGGER, Director of Central Intelligence
 To: General Benjamin CARRINGTON



Ben,
 I'm breaking about 30 security regulations by sending you this memo ...



... but I know how worried you are about Kim, and I wanted to reassure you.



For the past eight months now, Kim has been on her first mission for the FBI, and she's demonstrated skill and intelligence. She's gotten close to target Steve ROWLAND ...



I know that, as a soldier, you dislike such tactics - and as a father you're in agony ...



... but the results are worth it. Through ROWLAND, Kim was able to infiltrate the BROTHERHOOD, an absolutely despicable white nationalist group.



Based on her work alone, we'll be able to issue a dozen arrest warrants.



Attempted homicides, arsons ...



... and much more ...

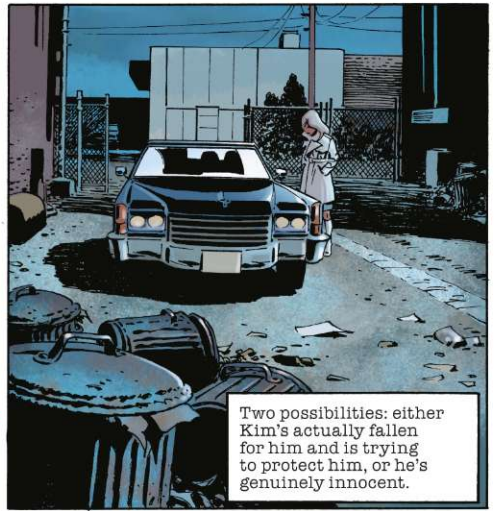




Only one point remains unclear ...



Kim's accounts completely exonerate ROWLAND, despite his obvious ties with the other members of the group.



Two possibilities: either Kim's actually fallen for him and is trying to protect him, or he's genuinely innocent.



WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ROWLAND.

IT'S ALL IN MY REPORT.



You can be proud of your daughter. Carl HEIDEGER



Either way, I think it's time to pull Kim off the field and bring this operation to a close.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. THE WHOLE BROTHERHOOD WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE ACT AND ARRESTED TONIGHT ...

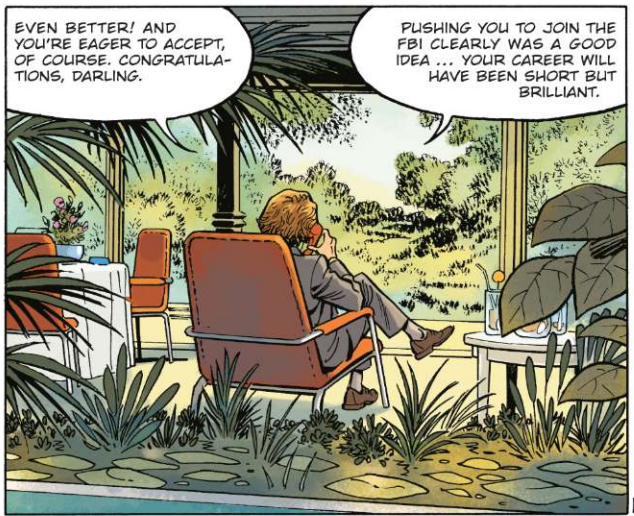
ALL OF IT?

EXCEPT STEVE.



PERFECT. ROWLAND IS INTERESTING ... HE COULD PROVE USEFUL. I WANT YOU TO STAY CLOSE TO HIM.

HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM ...



EVEN BETTER! AND YOU'RE EAGER TO ACCEPT, OF COURSE. CONGRATULATIONS, DARLING.

PUSHING YOU TO JOIN THE FBI CLEARLY WAS A GOOD IDEA ... YOUR CAREER WILL HAVE BEEN SHORT BUT BRILLIANT.

YOUR DISSERTATION IS EXCELLENT, STEVE. YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT IN WHICH THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED IS INSIGHTFUL, AS IS YOUR DISSECTION OF HOW ITS INTERNAL COHERENCE ALLOWED IT TO APPEAL TO MILLIONS OF READERS ...



... HOWEVER, THE AMBIGUITY OF SOME OF YOUR CONCLUSIONS MAKES ME UNEASY, IN VIEW OF THE EFFECTS THAT TEXT HAD ...

A HISTORIAN'S WORK DEMANDS AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK, RATHER THAN A CONDEMNATION BASED ON PRECONCEPTIONS CAUSED BY EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE YEARS AFTER THE PUBLICATION ... ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TAUGHT US?



I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR DISSERTATION, OR YOUR GRADE, STEVE. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE DANGER INHERENT IN STUDYING CERTAIN IDEAS, OR EVEN BECOMING FASCINATED BY THEM ...



... ESPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IDEAS AS ABHORRENT AS THESE.



WELL DONE ... I CAN'T STAY, STEVE. LET'S MEET TONIGHT.

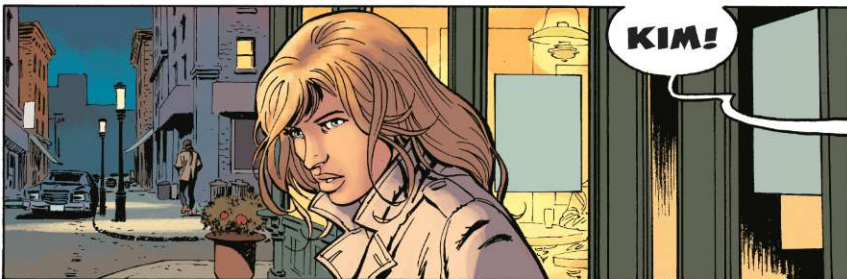
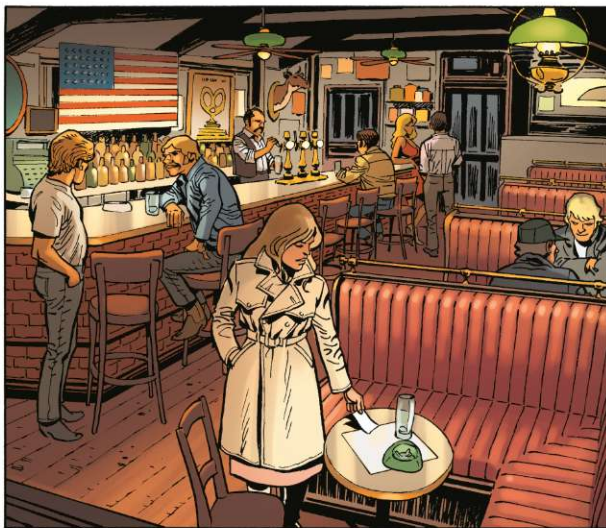


WAIT ... YOU KNOW I CAN'T TONIGHT! I PROMISED MY BUDDIES—

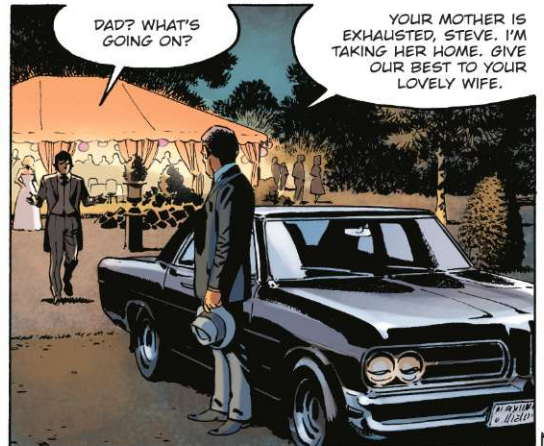
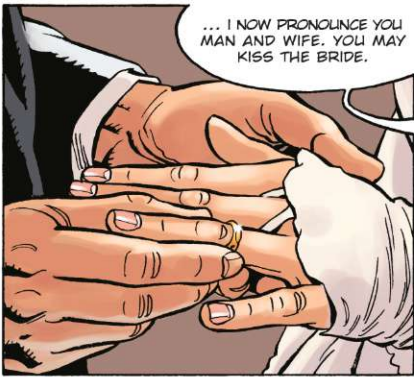


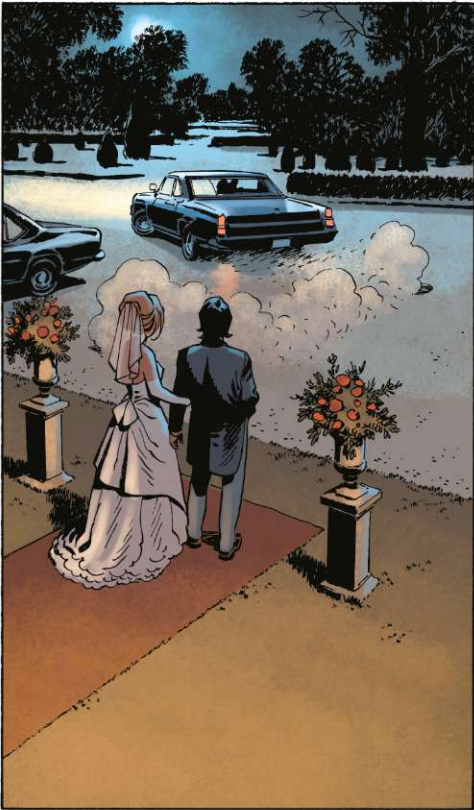
NINE O'CLOCK AT POLLACK'S. IF YOU WANT AN ANSWER TO YOUR PROPOSAL, YOU'LL COME. OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.

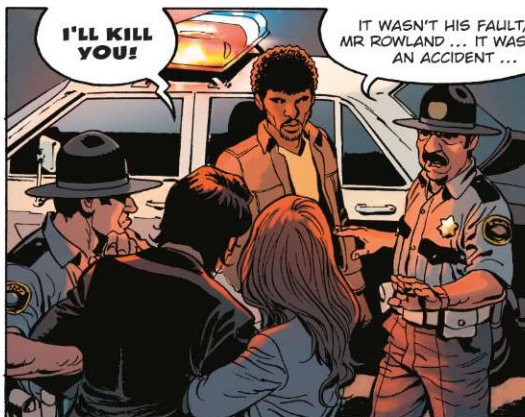












I TRIED TO AVOID HIM ... BUT HE WAS DRIVING WAY OVER ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD! I HOPE YOU CHECK HIS BLOOD ALCOHOL AT THE HOSPITAL, 'CAUSE HE SURE MUST HAVE BEEN DRINKING ...

... I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE LADY.

P ... PIERCE?!!

STEVE!
NO!!

**MURDERER!
YOU FUCKING
NIGGER! I'LL
KILL YOU!!**

HEY!

I'LL KILL YOU!

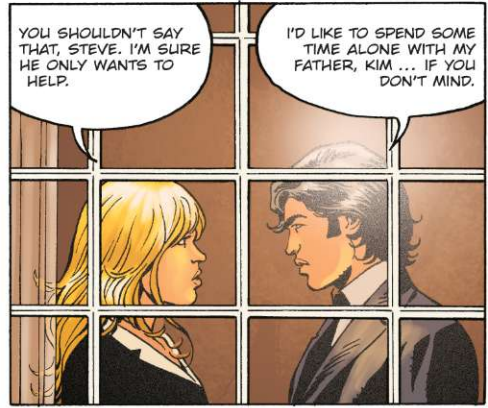
IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, MR ROWLAND ... IT WAS AN ACCIDENT ...

... JUST AN ACCIDENT.



YOUR UNCLE MATT CALLED, STEVE ... HE'S SORRY HE COULDN'T BE THERE FOR THE BURIAL. HE WAS IN LAS VEGAS. HE BOOKED THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLIGHT ...

OF COURSE ... HE'S COMING TO GET HIS SHARE.



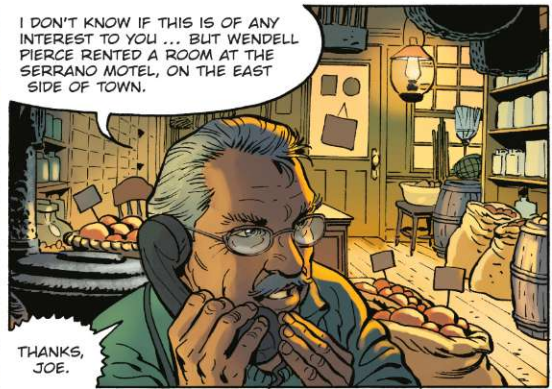
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT, STEVE. I'M SURE HE ONLY WANTS TO HELP.

I'D LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME ALONE WITH MY FATHER, KIM ... IF YOU DON'T MIND.



STEVE ROWLAND.

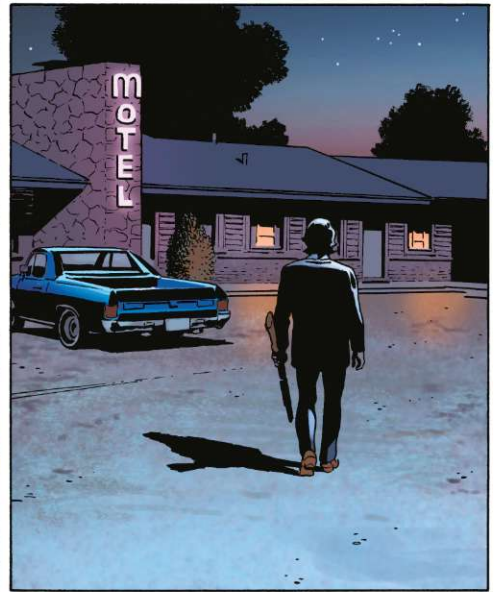
STEVE? JOE KUTNER CALLING ...

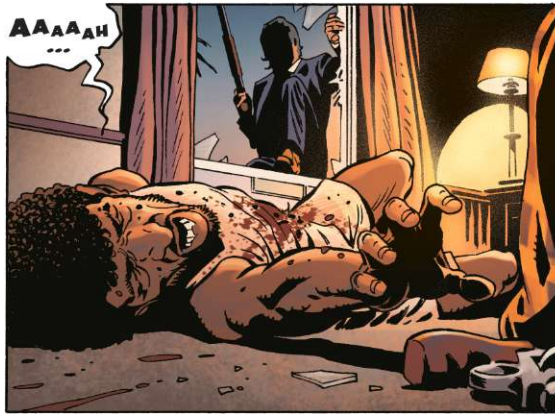


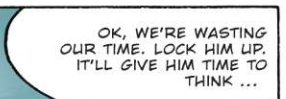
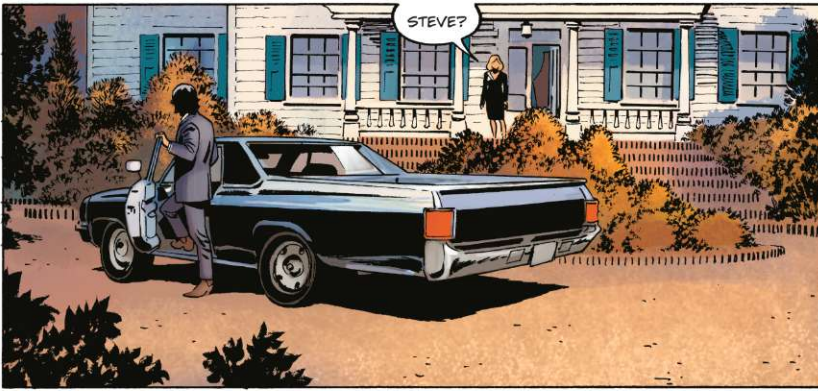
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS OF ANY INTEREST TO YOU ... BUT WENDELL PIERCE RENTED A ROOM AT THE SERRANO MOTEL, ON THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN.

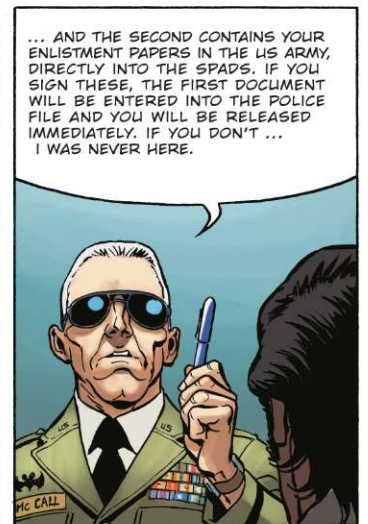
THANKS, JOE.

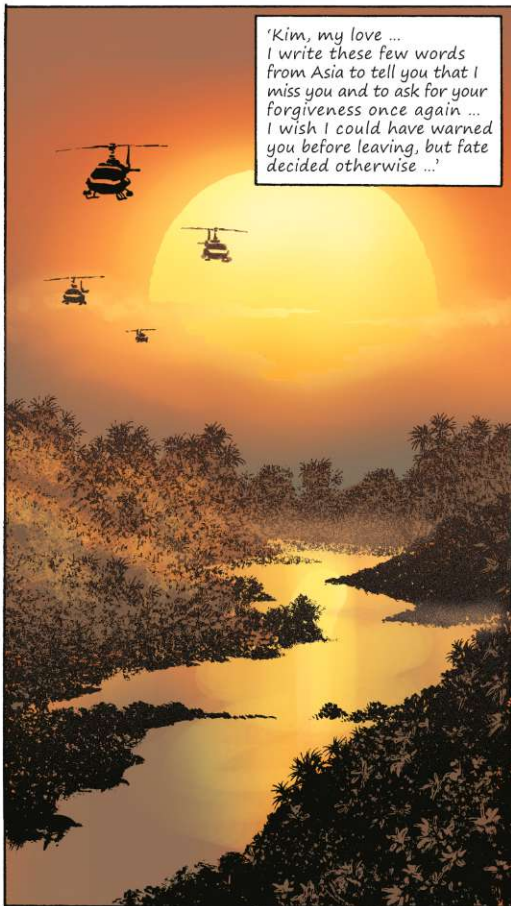












'Kim, my love ...
I write these few words
from Asia to tell you that I
miss you and to ask for your
forgiveness once again ...
I wish I could have warned
you before leaving, but fate
decided otherwise ...'



'After 2.5 weeks of
SPADS training, it was
almost a relief to finally
join the rest of the unit
in the field ...'



'I'm serving under Major
McCall, who supervised our
training and now leads
us in action. I'm on a solid
team. All good elements.'



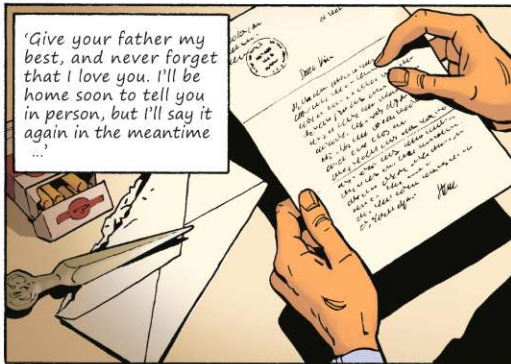
'Except, perhaps, for
Sergeant Barnowsky,
a short redhead who
keeps screwing up
... When she's not
confined to quarters,
she keeps forcing her
attentions upon every
guy in the squad ...
I made it clear I'm a
married man.'



'I heard that your father tried to use his influence to
keep me away from the fighting - I imagine at your
request ... Please, tell him there's no need.'



'I am serving
my country at
last!'



'Give your father my
best, and never forget
that I love you. I'll be
home soon to tell you
in person, but I'll say it
again in the meantime
...'



'I love you.
STEVE'



SENTRY AT 11 O'CLOCK. RANGE 200 YARDS. LIP IN A TREE.



SEE HIM?



YES.



THUMP



HERE WE ARE. THE ENTRANCE TO THE ANTHILL ... ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANTS, THE AMMO DUMP IS ABOUT 50 YARDS DOWN THE WEST TUNNEL ... WHERE'S ORTIZ? IT'S HIS TURN TO GO IN ...

ORTIZ TWISTED HIS ANKLE. I'LL TAKE HIS PLACE.



ROWLAND? ARE YOU SURE?

YES.



HERE ARE THE EXPLOSIVES, LIEUTENANT. THE DETONATOR IS SET FOR FIVE MINUTES.

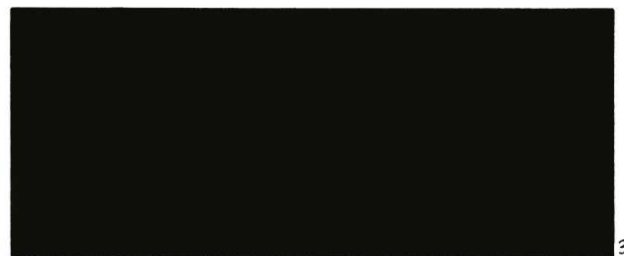


THAT'LL MAKE A BIG ENOUGH BANG TO TAKE OUT THE WHOLE TUNNEL. SET THE CHARGES AND GET RIGHT OUT ...









MORPHINE.

CONDITION?

STABLE.

BEGIN
THE TREATMENT
... SODIUM
PENTOTHAL.

STEVE
...

ONE DAY, STEVE,
YOU'LL GO DOWN
IN HISTORY ...
IN HISTORY!

LOOK AT THEM
— OUR AGE-OLD
ENEMIES ...

THINK OF
THEM AS
VERMIN!

**PUNISH
THEM!!
EXTERMI-
NATE THEM
!!!**

... AND GIVE OUR
NATION THE DESTINY
IT DESERVES. ONLY
YOU CAN DO THIS,
STEVE! PROVE TO
US THAT YOU ARE
WORTHY TO DO
SO ...

... BECAUSE A WINNER
IS A WINNER ... AND
A SECOND BEST IS
A NOBODY.



??!

SHHHH ...

B ... BARNOW-SKY?



YOU GAVE US QUITE THE SCARE, STEVE. I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN ... SO, AS SOON AS THE NURSES TOLD ME YOU WERE DOING BETTER, I FIGURED ... THE TWO OF US COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR DOWNTIME ...



WHAT ... ? YOU ... YOU TIED ME UP?!

UH, YEAH, SORRY ... I WASN'T ENTIRELY CERTAIN YOU'D APPRECIATE MY LITTLE PRESENT ... DON'T CALL OUT, STEVE ... JUST LET IT HAPPEN ...



BETTY, I ...

WELCOME BACK AMONG THE LIVING, STEVE ROWLAND.



NOT EVERYONE WAS AS LUCKY, I'M AFRAID ...



A CONCLUSION AND SEVERAL BROKEN RIBS ... PRETTY LOW PRICE FOR BEING A HERO, CAPTAIN ROWLAND.



CAPTAIN?

THE PROMOTION JUST CAME THROUGH. MEANWHILE, I GET BUMPED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND GENERAL CARRINGTON GETS ANOTHER STAR.



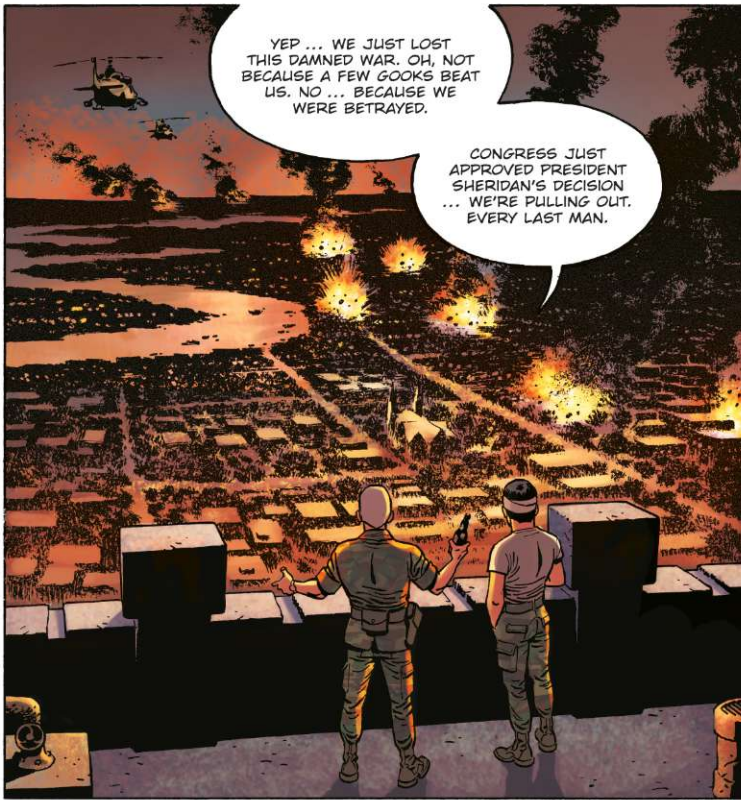
WHAT?

... BECAUSE THIS IS THE PICTURE OF DEFEAT.



THERE'S A FINE VIEW FROM THE ROOF OF THIS HOSPITAL ... IF YOU'RE UP TO GETTING UP THERE, I'VE GOT BEER TO TOAST THE NEWS.

I WANT YOU TO BURN THIS PICTURE IN YOUR MEMORY, STEVE. REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL. NEVER FORGET IT ...



YEP ... WE JUST LOST THIS DAMNED WAR. OH, NOT BECAUSE A FEW GOOKS BEAT US. NO ... BECAUSE WE WERE BETRAYED.

CONGRESS JUST APPROVED SHERIDAN'S DECISION ... WE'RE PULLING OUT. EVERY LAST MAN.



AND EVERY SOLDIER, EVERY BRAVE WARRIOR WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE FLAG ... DIED FOR NOTHING.



THIS WAR IS LOST ... BUT THE FIGHT ISN'T OVER ... AGAINST OUR AGE-OLD ENEMIES.



I KNOW A FEW INFLUENTIAL PATRIOTS WHO ARE READY TO TAKE EXTREME MEASURES IN ORDER TO RESTORE ORDER AND ...

... GIVE OUR NATION THE DESTINY IT DESERVES.



I CAN MAKE YOU GO DOWN IN HISTORY, STEVE. ARE YOU READY TO DO YOUR DUTY? READY TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR COUNTRY? READY TO KILL AMERICAN CITIZENS TO SERVE OUR GREAT PATRIOTIC GOAL?

YES, I'M READY.



THEN CONQUER WE MUST ...



... WHEN OUR CAUSE IT IS JUST ...



AND THIS BE OUR MOTTO ...



IN GOD IS OUR TRUST!



HIS HELICOPTER BLEW UP IN FLIGHT ... NO SURVIVORS ... HIS WATCH AND SOME PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE RECOVERED ...



I'M SORRY, KIM.



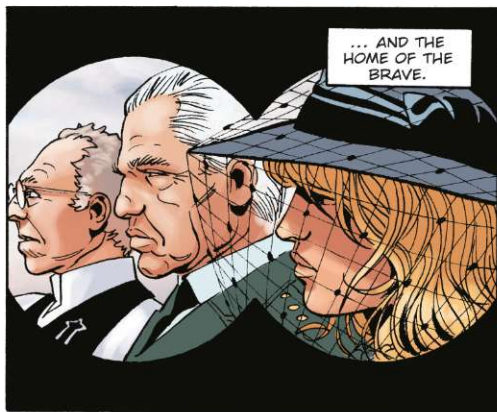
AND THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER ...



... IN TRIUMPH SHALL WAVE ...



... O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE ...

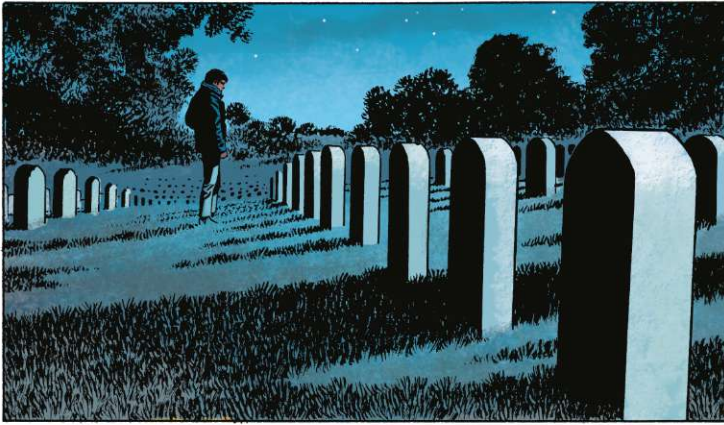


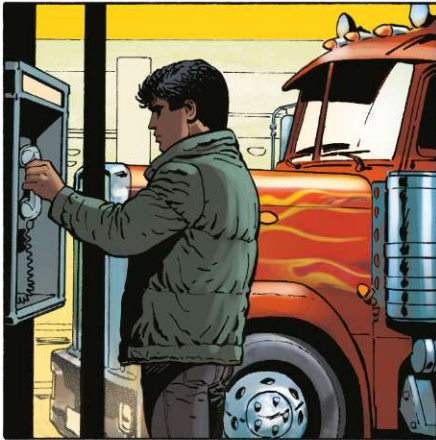
... AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE.



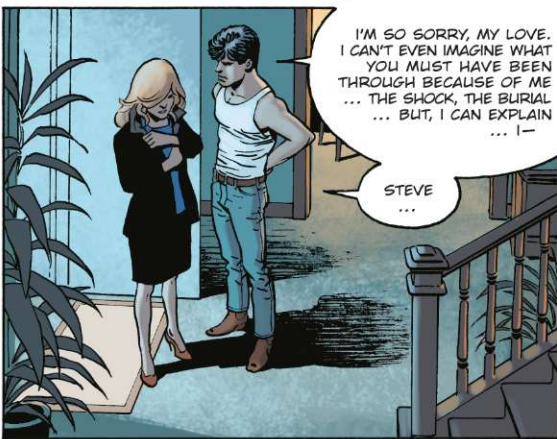
I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD ... BUT THERE'S NO GOING BACK. YOU CAN NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.

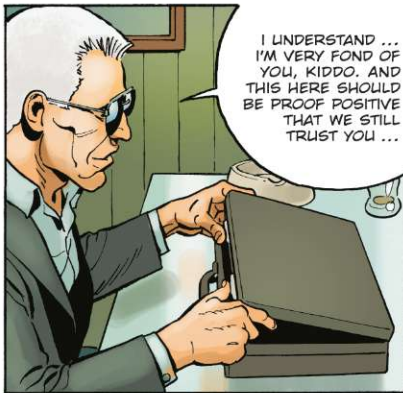
I KNOW.

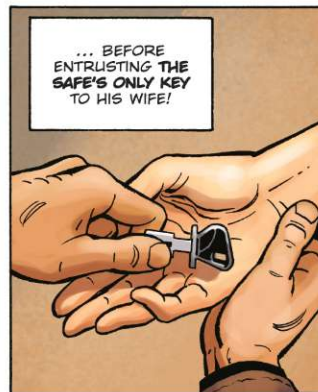
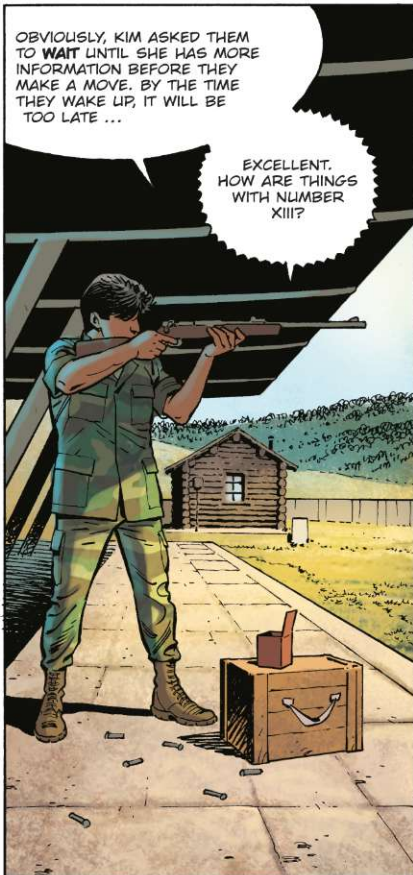
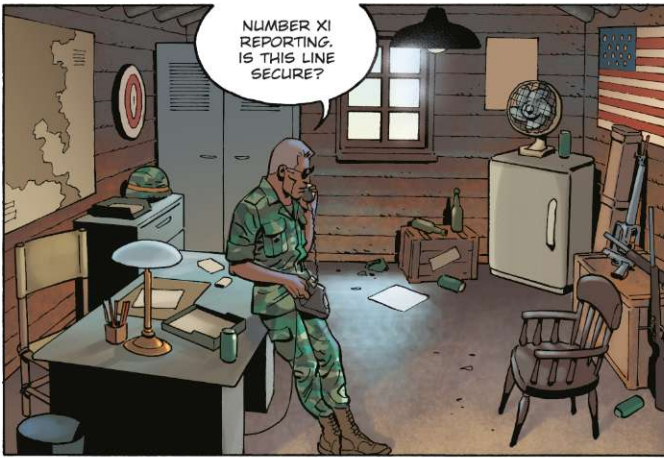




OF COURSE IT WAS HIM. HE'S BEEN ON THE VERGE OF CALLING YOU FOR A WEEK.









SO, WE CAN ASSUME THAT ROWLAND TRUSTS KIM ABSOLUTELY ...

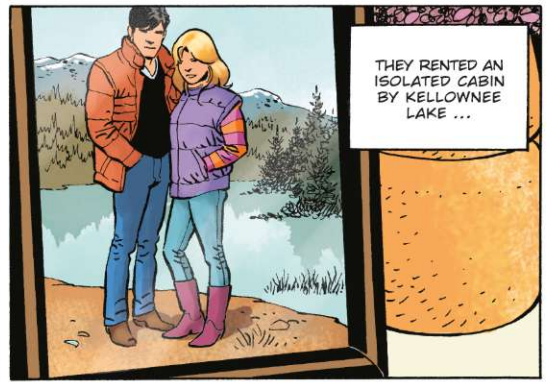
HOW WRONG HE IS. NEITHER OF THEM WILL EVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND THAT MONEY ... ON THE CONTRARY, IT WILL SOON SERVE TO INCRIMINATE ROWLAND ... WHAT ELSE?



HERE'S WHERE THINGS GET DICEY. KIM ROLAND HAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE ... SHE DECIDED TO TAKE ROWLAND TO A REMOTE SPOT IN ORDER TO EVALUATE HIS ABILITY TO FULFIL HIS MISSION ...



ALL RIGHT, LOVEBIRDS ... SAY CHEESE!



THEY RENTED AN ISOLATED CABIN BY KELLOWNEE LAKE ...



STEVE? WHAT IS IT?



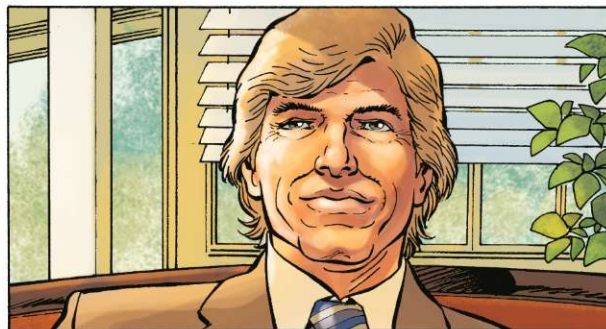
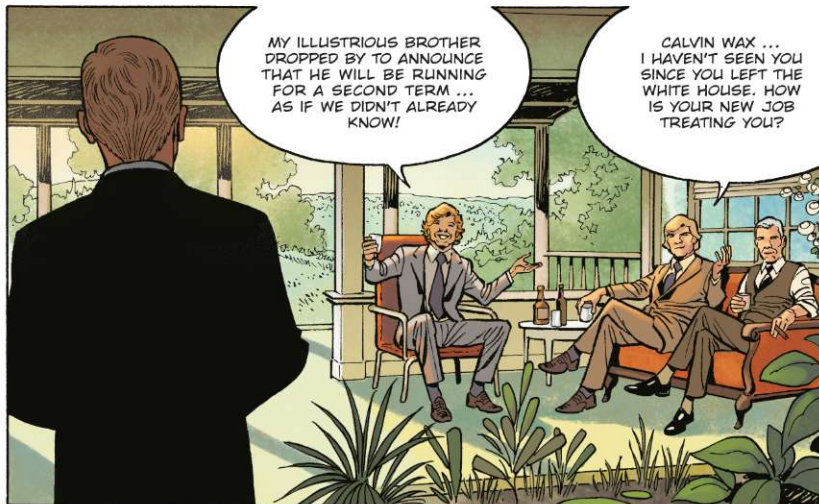
I ... I DON'T KNOW. I REGRET DRAGGING YOU INTO ALL THIS, KIM.

KIM SENT ME HER EVALUATION THE MOMENT THEY RETURNED TO EASTOWN ... IN HER OPINION, ROWLAND IS UNRELIABLE, AND SHE STRONGLY SUGGESTS WE HIRE A SECOND SHOOTER - A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT KILLER THIS TIME.



DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED.







PERFECT.



YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR TOUCH SINCE THE SPADS. HOW ARE YOU LIKING THE RIFLE? IT'S A GARAND MK 9 - POLICE SHARPSHOOTER ISSUE.

IT'LL DO JUST FINE.



I'LL TAKE IT BACK NOW. CAN'T RISK HAVING YOU DRIVE AROUND WITH IT ... YOU'LL FIND IT WAITING FOR YOU AT THE DESIGNATED SPOT.



YOU'LL BE IN THAT BUILDING, SEVENTH FLOOR. WITH A WIDE-OPEN VIEW OVER THE MAIN STREET ...

... AND IN THAT TOY WAREHOUSE THERE, WE'LL PLACE OUR SECOND SHOOTER.



WH ... WHAT?

DON'T WORRY. HE'S JUST A PATSY ... A PROFESSIONAL KILLER CALLED 'THE MONGOOSE' - NOT ONE OF US. I WANT YOU TO KILL HIM, RIGHT AFTER SHERIDAN.

CAN YOU DO IT?



OF COURSE, ALTHOUGH I'LL NEED TO IDENTIFY HIM. DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE?

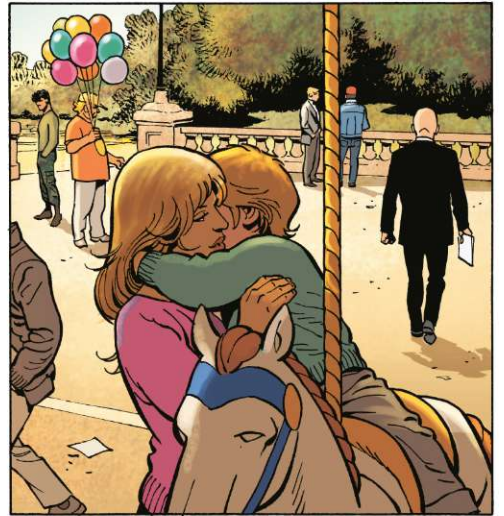
I HAVE EVEN BETTER ...

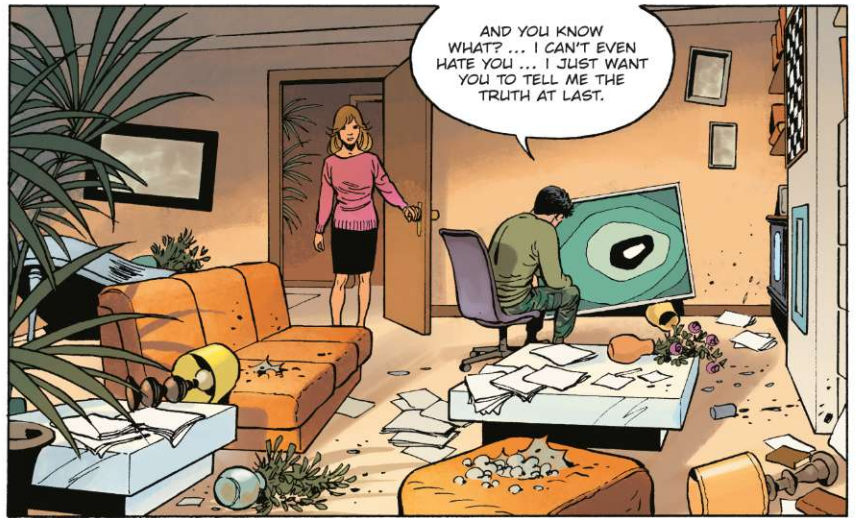


YOUR WIFE IS MEETING HIM IN AN HOUR. SHE'S BEEN TASKED WITH RECRUITING HIM.



IF YOU HURRY, YOU CAN SEE THE MONGOOSE IN THE FLESH.







WILL YOU EVER STOP LYING?! WALLY SHERIDAN IS THE TARGET'S BROTHER! HE CAN'T--

... 'GIVE OUR NATION THE DESTINY IT DESERVES?'

I KNOW YOUR DREAMS, STEVE. ALL YOUR DEEPEST, MOST SECRET THOUGHTS. MCCALL GAVE THEM TO ME.

YOU WANT THE WHOLE STORY, DO YOU? THE WHOLE TRUTH?



WHEN I MET YOU IN COLLEGE, I WAS ON A MISSION FOR THE FBI ... I'M THE ONE WHO GOT YOUR PALS FROM THE BROTHERHOOD ARRESTED! YET I PROTECTED YOU ... BECAUSE WALLY ORDERED ME TO.

I'M THE ONE WHO CALLED MCCALL SO HE'D GET YOU OUT OF JAIL AFTER YOU KILLED WENDELL PIERCE. THEY WERE WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECRUIT YOU, AND YOU GAVE THEM A GOLDEN ONE!

I'M THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THEY HIRE THE MONGOOSE WHEN I SAW THAT YOU MIGHT WAVER.



!! WHO, EVER SINCE WE MET, HAVE BEEN WATCHING AND MANIPULATING YOU LIKE A PUPPET!

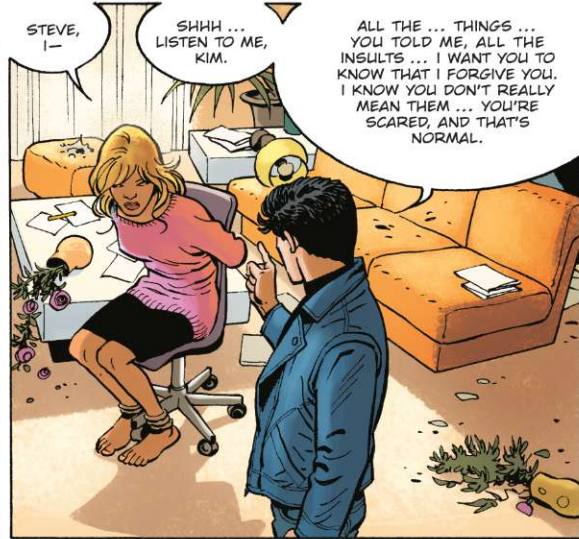
HOW COULD YOU THINK EVEN FOR AN INSTANT THAT I LOVED YOU? I LOATHE EVERYTHING YOU REPRESENT! I DESPISE YOUR FASCIST IDEALS, YOUR DREAMS OF GREATNESS ...

... BUT I HAVE TO GO ALONG, BECAUSE WALLY SHERIDAN HAS MY SON.





DON'T TRY TO WRIGGLE FREE OR YOU'LL TEAR YOUR SKIN. I'M SORRY I HAD TO MAKE YOUR TIES SO TIGHT ... BUT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU WAIT HERE FOR ME.



STEVE, I—

SHHH ... LISTEN TO ME, KIM.

ALL THE ... THINGS ... YOU TOLD ME, ALL THE INSULTS ... I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I FORGIVE YOU. I KNOW YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN THEM ... YOU'RE SCARED, AND THAT'S NORMAL.



I'M GOING TO KILL PRESIDENT SHERIDAN AND THE MONGOOSE, AND THEN I'LL GO RESCUE YOUR SON FROM WALLY ...



... AND WE'LL GO AWAY. FAR AWAY, THE THREE OF US. WHERE WALLY CAN'T HURT US ...



NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK OF ME, KIM, I LOVE YOU.



I PUT THE TV ON SO YOU COULD SEE EVERYTHING.



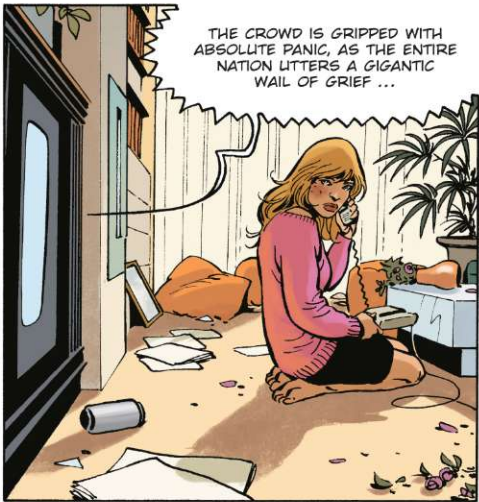






**BLAM
BLAM**









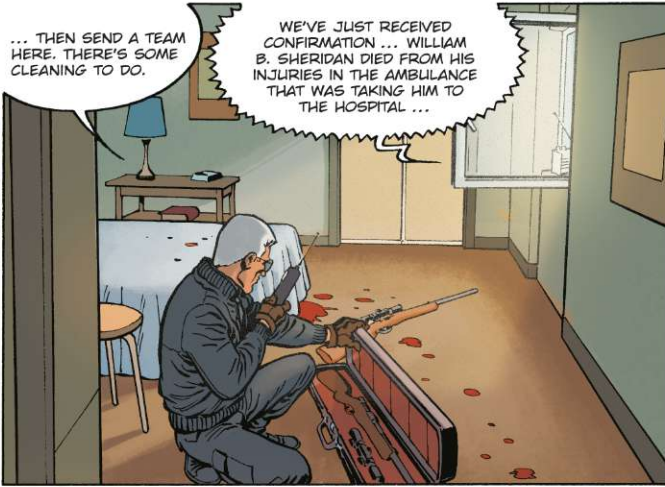
WE'VE GOT THE MON-
GOOSE ON VISUAL, EXITING
THE TOY WAREHOUSE ...
SHOULD WE INTERCEPT?

... THEN SEND A TEAM
HERE. THERE'S SOME
CLEANING TO DO.

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED
CONFIRMATION ... WILLIAM
B. SHERIDAN DIED FROM HIS
INJURIES IN THE AMBULANCE
THAT WAS TAKING HIM TO
THE HOSPITAL ...



NEGATIVE.
IT'S ROWLAND WE
MUST FIND, NOW ... CALL
THE POLICE. GIVE THEM
A DESCRIPTION OF THE
SUSPECT AND TELL THEM
HE'S HEADING TOWARD
EASTOWN ...



FOR THE UNITED STATES,
INDEED FOR THE WHOLE
WORLD, THIS DAY WILL FOR
EVER BEAR THE MARK OF
INFAMY ...

TODAY
OUR PRESIDENT
WAS CRAVENLY
ASSASSINATED
...

TODAY
OUR SUN
HAS TURNED
BLACK.



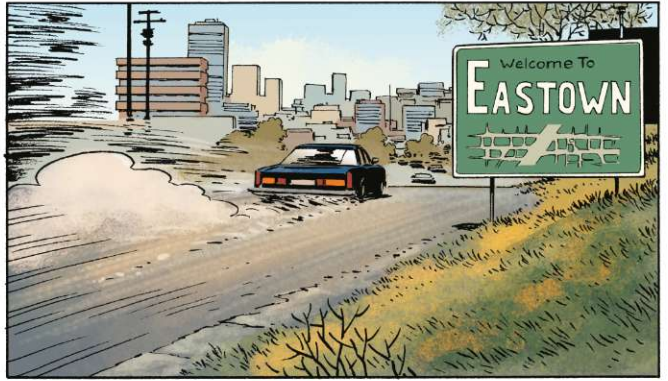
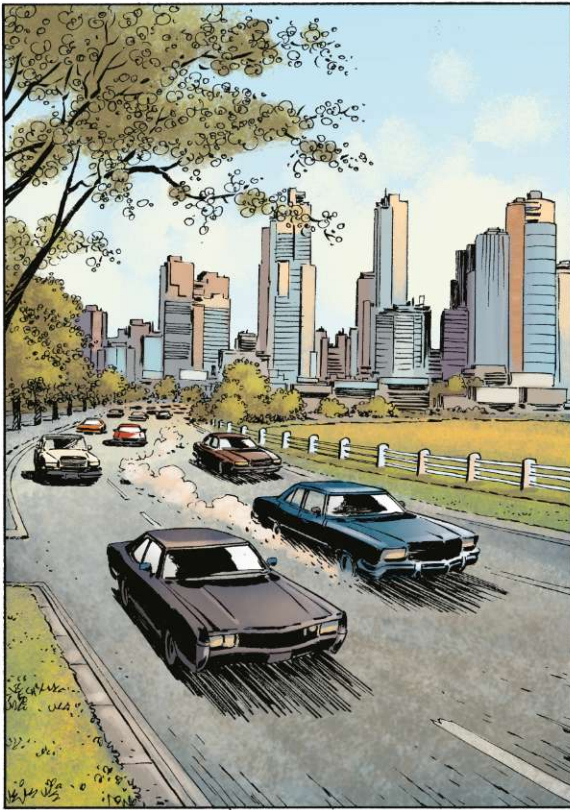
YOU DID IT,
STEVE ROWLAND.
YOU WENT DOWN
IN HISTORY.

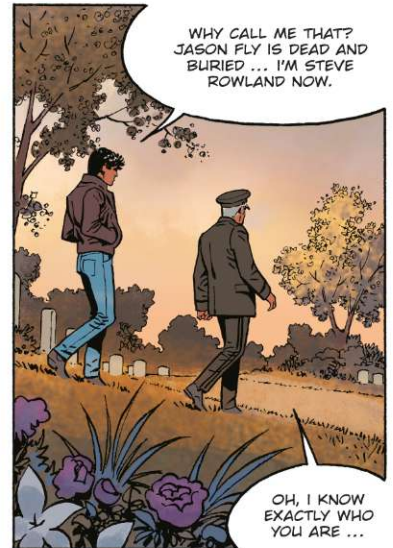
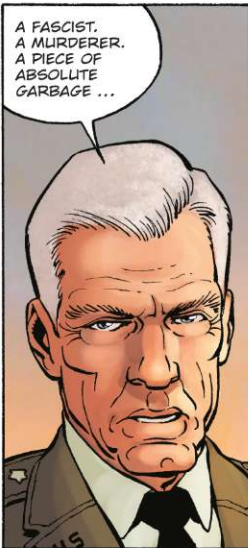
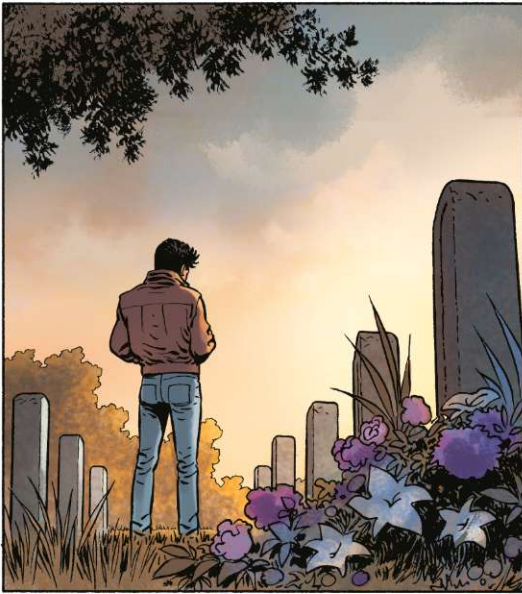


THEY'LL KILL HER.
JUST LIKE THEY
KILLED ME ...



LORD, GIVE ME THE
STRENGTH ... A FEW
MORE MINUTES ...
SECONDS ... TO
SAVE KIM.







XIII

mystery

XIII MYSTERY

- 1 - THE MONGOOSE (R. Meyer – X. Dorison)
- 2 - IRINA (P. Berthet – Corbeyran)
- 3 - LITTLE JONES (E. Henninot – Yann)
- 4 - COLONEL AMOS (F. Boucq – D. Alcante)
- 5 - STEVE ROWLAND (R. Guérineau – F. Nury)

COMING SOON

- 6 - BILLY STOCKTON (S. Cuzor – L.F. Bollée)
- 7 - BETTY BARNOWSKY (S. Vallée – Callède)
- 8 - MARTHA SHOEBRIDGE (C. Wilson – F. Giroud)

XIII

FIRST CYCLE

W. Vance – J. Van Hamme

- 1 - THE DAY OF THE BLACK SUN
- 2 - WHERE THE INDIAN WALKS
- 3 - ALL THE TEARS OF HELL
- 4 - SPADS
- 5 - FULL RED
- 6 - THE JASON FLY CASE
- 7 - THE NIGHT OF AUGUST THIRD
- 8 - THIRTEEN TO ONE
- 9 - FOR MARIA
- 10 - EL CASCADOR
- 11 - THREE SILVER WATCHES
- 12 - THE TRIAL
- 13 - TOP SECRET
- 14 - RELEASE THE HOUNDS!
- 15 - OPERATION MONTECRISTO
- 16 - MAXIMILIAN'S GOLD
- 17 - THE IRISH VERSION (Artwork: J. Giraud)
- 18 - THE LAST ROUND

SECOND CYCLE

I. Jigounov – Y. Sente

- 19 - THE DAY OF THE MAYFLOWER
- 20 - THE BAIT
- 21 - RETURN TO GREEN FALLS
- 22 - THE MARTYR'S MESSAGE
- 23 - JASON McLANE'S INHERITANCE

