

# FORTY SEVEN

Matt Durante

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I KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.



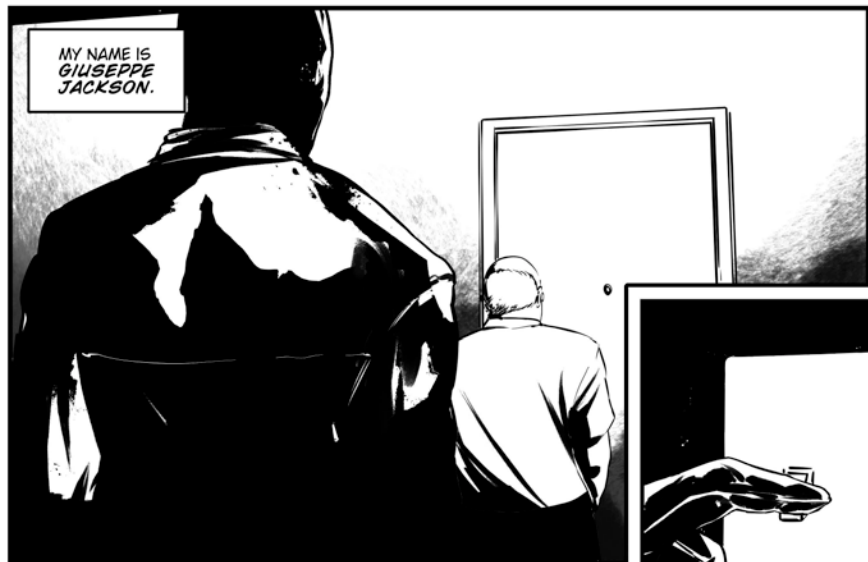
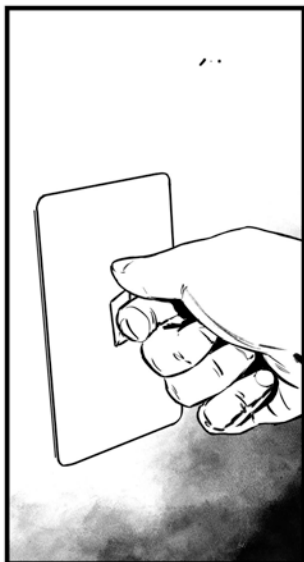
BUT I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING.

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS IF YOU DON'T AT LEAST TRY TO BELIEVE ME.



HELLO?

IS ANYONE HERE?



MY NAME IS GIUSEPPE JACKSON.



AND I WANT TO BE A GOOD PERSON.

ONE WEEK EARLIER...

SO HOW'S THE NEW JOB, GIU? YOU LIKE COOKING RIGHT?

IT'S GOOD. RONNIE, THE GAL THAT RUNS THE PLACE. SHE'S A REAL FIREBALL.

EVERYONE HAS BEEN GOOD TO YOU? NO ONE HAS ASKED ANY QUESTIONS? I KNOW IT CAN BE ROUGH. IT WASN'T THE BEST FIT LAST TIME.

PRETTY NICE, YEAH. IT SHOULD BE FINE SO LONG AS RONNIE DOESN'T BLAB MY HISTORY TO EVERYONE THERE. IT WASN'T A FIT PROBLEM BEFORE.

IT WAS A MOUTH PROBLEM.

ALL THE SAME. I KNOW PEOPLE DON'T OFTEN GIVE YOU GUY'S A CHANCE OUT THERE. YOU DID YOUR TIME THOUGH.

TIME IS A FUNNY THING. PEOPLE USED TO BALANCE THEIR CHECKBOOKS.

I GUESS SO.

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO SLOANE?

ANNIE LET ME SEE HER LAST WEEK.

ON HER BIRTHDAY?

YEAH. HER 8TH.

ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT NOT SEEING HER?

I'M JUST GLAD SHE'S HEALTHY.

THAT'S THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. YOU NEED TO GIVE IT TIME.

YEAH I KNOW.

YOU REALLY GAVE ANNIE A SCARE WHEN YOU FIRST GOT OUT. TIME TO BUILD TRUST.

AND YOU HAVE THE TIME, YOU'RE ONLY 37, SLOANE RECOVERED FULLY, WHICH IS A MIRACLE IN ITSELF.

LOTS OF KIDS AREN'T SO LUCKY. JUST THINK ON IT. SAME TIME NEXT WEEK?

I BALANCE TIME. AND I MAY BE 37, BUT I ONLY HAVE 6 YEARS LEFT...

# RICHMOND, VA. DOWNTOWN

THE SESSIONS ARE COURT-ORDERED. DR. STILSON IS NICE. SHE'S A GOOD PERSON. I BET SHE COULD BE MAKING WAY MORE MONEY WORKING FOR SOME RICH ASSHOLE WORKING THROUGH EXISTENTIAL ISSUES ABOUT HOW HIS DESK JOB IS "KILLING HIM."

IT IS NICE TO TALK TO HER. I FEEL LIKE SHE'S ON MY SIDE. IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE ON MY SIDE.

THAT SAID, I WISH I COULD TELL HER THE TRUTH.

ALL OF IT.

BUT SHE'D NEVER UNDERSTAND OR BELIEVE AND I'D END UP BACK IN THE PEN.

POLICE

# FORTY SEVEN

## CHAPTER ONE

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THAT'S A SHAME. THESE THINGS HAPPEN. I HATE IT, BUT THEY HAPPEN.

IT'S NOT FUCKING FAIR. SHE'S STILL GOT THREE YOUNG ONES. THEY'VE STILL GOT THEIR FATHER, OF COURSE, BUT TODD'S GOING TO BE USELESS WITHOUT HER

FUCK ME.

ALRIGHT HON, HOLD THE FORT.



FUCK...

RONNIE, HOLD ON.

WHAT'S UP HUN? I GOTTA GO.



AS IT TURNS OUT, I HAVE SOME TIME TO GIVE.

WHAT'S YOUR NIECES FULL NAME, AND DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF HER?

WHY?

I JUST... I WANNA SAY A PRAYER FOR HER.

DIDN'T TAKE YOU AS THE RELIGIOUS TYPE.

SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO BE, JUST IN CASE, YOU KNOW?

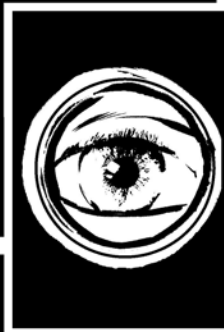
ALRIGHT, HUN. SHE'S BEATRICE ALEXA VASQUEZ, ER NOW WILLIAMS...

FUCKING THANKS, TODD.

THERE'S A PICTURE OF HER ON MY DESK. SHE'S THE PRETTY GIRL IN THE RED SWEATER.

THANKS.

SOUTHSIDE,  
LATER THAT NIGHT.



BACK AGAIN?

I NEED ANOTHER ONE.

THAT'D BE FIVE NOW, HALFWAY THERE.



GIL'S PAID US ANOTHER VISIT MOIRA. WON'T YA MIX UP HIS SPECIAL COCKTAIL?

AGAIN? YOU'LL BE RUNNING OUT SOON.

NOW DEAR, THAT'S UP TO OLE GIL. YOUR AUNTIE SAID WE'RE TO HELP THE BASTARD

SO WE WILL. RIGHT THIS WAY BOYO. WHISKEY?





WHAT'S HER NAME?

BEATRICE ALEXA VASQUEZ. SHE'S MARRIED NOW, HER LAST NAME IS WILLIAMS NOW. DOES THAT MATTER?



I'D GO WITH THE NAME SHE WAS BORN WITH. I DON'T THINK IT REALLY MATTERS BUT SHE LOOKS LIKE THE STRONG TYPE, SO I'D GO WITH MAIDEN NAME.

LORD KNOWS I WOULD.

AY NOW.

NOW, AS BEFORE, YOU REALIZE THAT SHE COULD GET LIP TOMORROW AFTER THIS IS ALL OVER AND GET HIT BY A BUS. THIS'D BE ALL FOR NOUGHT.

I UNDERSTAND.

AND Y'DO UNDERSTAND THAT AFTER THIS YOU'LL BE DOWN TO JUST 5 YEARS LEFT.

FUCK.



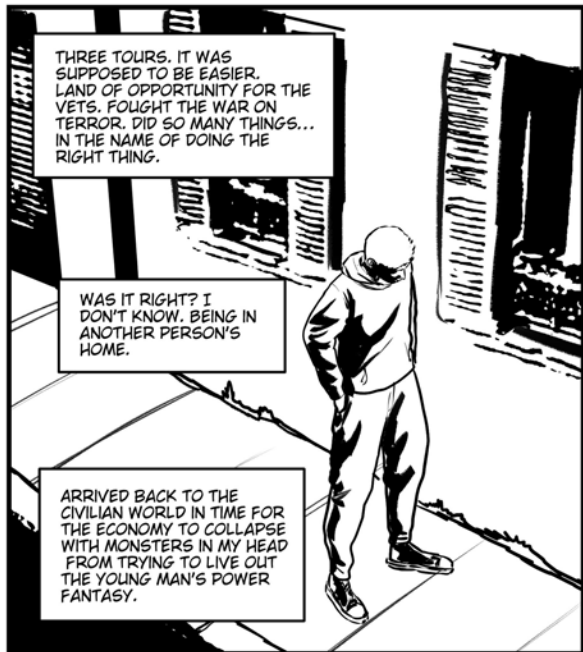
I DO.

FUCK.



ONLY 5 YEARS. IT'S FINE.

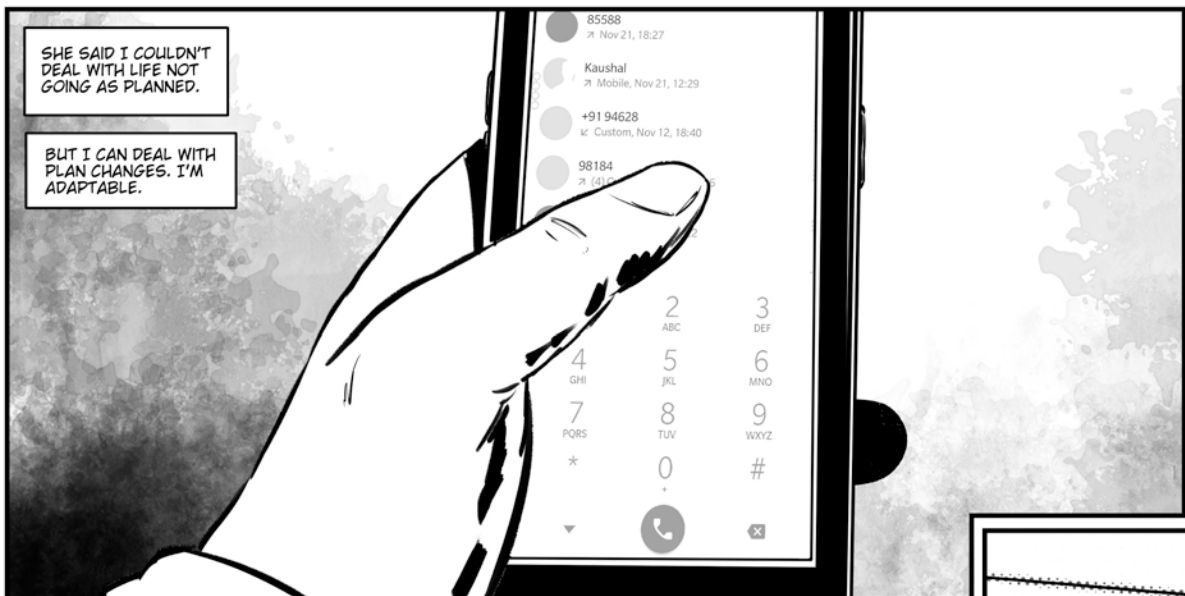
SHIT.





THE ONE-MAN ACTION MOVIE STARRING YOU IN YOUR MIND IS NOT THE SAME THING AS WHAT YOU GET.

THOSE THAT GET WHAT THEY ASK FOR SELDOM, LOVE IT ONCE THEY SEE IT.



SHE SAID I COULDN'T DEAL WITH LIFE NOT GOING AS PLANNED.

BUT I CAN DEAL WITH PLAN CHANGES. I'M ADAPTABLE.



WE'RE TALKING ABOUT LEUKEMIA, SLOANE. MY BABY. I CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING.

HEY NIKO, YEAH BROTHER. COULD YOU JUST TELL DINO THAT I'M IN?

**Niko**

I CAN DEAL WITH SHIT JOBS AND PEOPLE TREATING ME LIKE SHIT.



2:30 AM  
THE NEXT THURSDAY

DINO AND NIKO GELDE. TWO ROMANI COUSINS NAMED DOMINIC. I SERVED WITH NIKO. HIS FAMILY HAS TAKEN ME IN AS ONE OF THEIR OWN. BUT THEY HAVE QUIRKS.

OKAY. EVERYTHING IS SET. ONCE WE'RE IN I'LL HANDLE THE BATTERY STUFF.



DINO YOU'LL BE OUTSIDE, GIVE US THE ALL CLEAR ONCE YOU CLIP THE COMMS.

GIU, YOU TAKE CARE OF THE TWO YOYOS THAT THEY HAVE IN THERE.

THERE MAY BE THREE.

I KNOW THE PLAN.

GET READY, THE PATROL CAR IS DOING IT'S RUN, RIGHT ON QUEUE.

WE'LL HAVE TWENTY MINUTES.



LET'S GO. BE QUICK.

THE CAMERA THAT'S NORMALLY ON THE STREET IS OFF BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION.



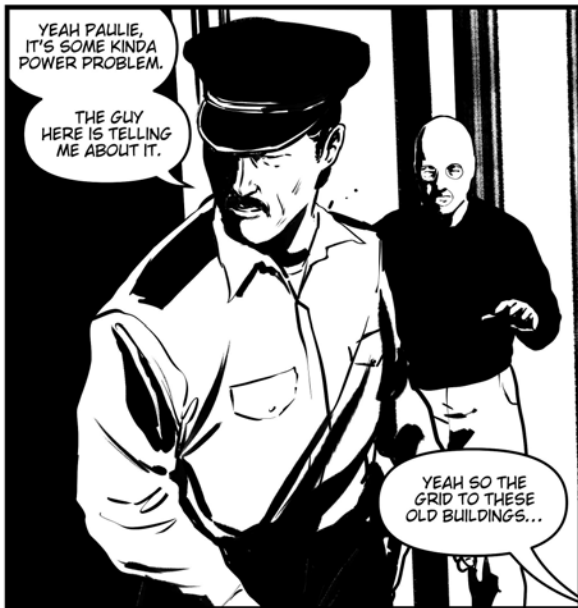
COO COO

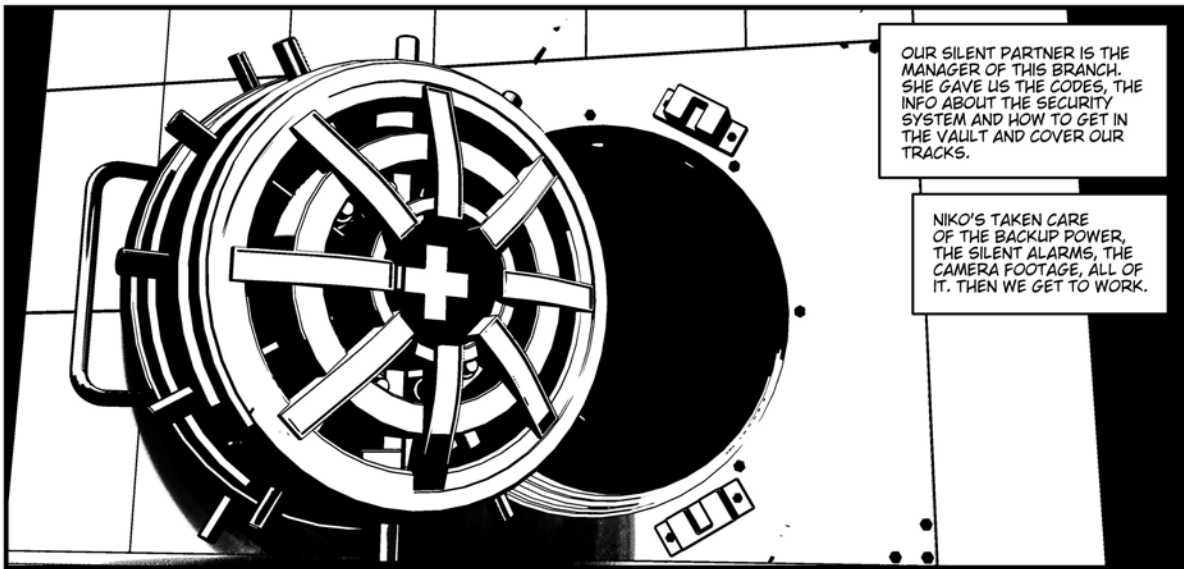
THE LIGHTS IN THE STREET AND PARKING LOT ARE OUT TOO.

IT ALSO EXPOSES THE MAIN POWER, AND COMMUNICATION LINES.

GENTRIFYING OLDER BUILDINGS HAS ITS SHORTCOMINGS AND SECURITY FLAWS.

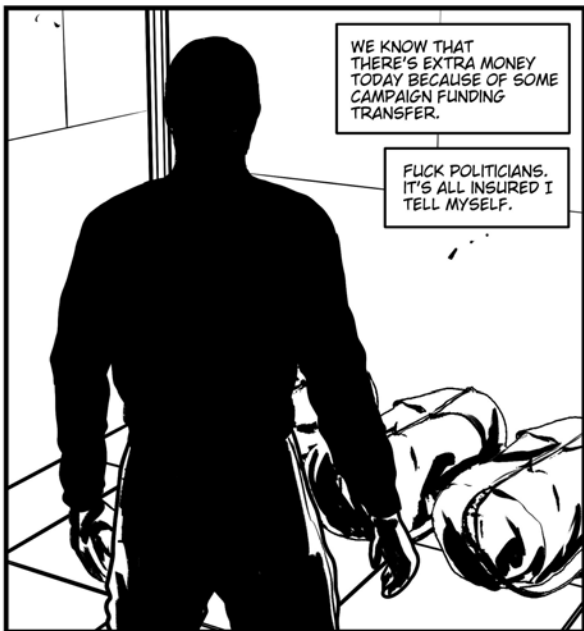






OUR SILENT PARTNER IS THE MANAGER OF THIS BRANCH. SHE GAVE US THE CODES, THE INFO ABOUT THE SECURITY SYSTEM AND HOW TO GET IN THE VAULT AND COVER OUR TRACKS.

NIKO'S TAKEN CARE OF THE BACKUP POWER, THE SILENT ALARMS, THE CAMERA FOOTAGE, ALL OF IT. THEN WE GET TO WORK.



WE KNOW THAT THERE'S EXTRA MONEY TODAY BECAUSE OF SOME CAMPAIGN FUNDING TRANSFER.

FUCK POLITICIANS. IT'S ALL INSURED I TELL MYSELF.



DON'T MOVE! I'LL SHOOT.

DAMN. WE DIDN'T CHECK THE BATHROOM. STUPID.

"THERE MIGHT BE THREE."



I DON'T THINK SO.

NIKO IS A HOTHEAD.



NO! NO BODIES!

**WHACK!**

WHILE I PREFER TO KEEP THINGS CLEAN.



BEFORE WE LEAVE NIKO MAKES A MESS AND MAKES IT LOOK MORE AMATEUR TO THROW THE SCENT. IT ALL WENT PERFECT

THE MONEY WILL HAVE TO BE LAUNDERED. NICE TO SEE I'VE PUT MY GOVERNMENT ISSUED SKILLS TO GOOD USE.

I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER.

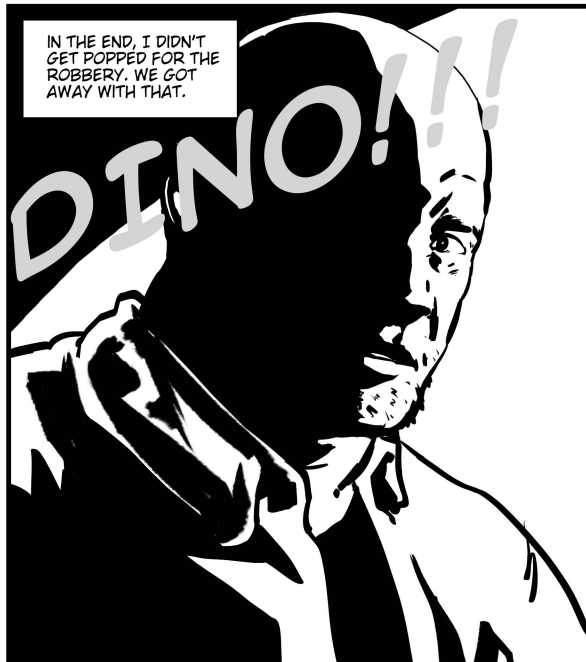


IT WILL HELP WITH THE TREATMENTS SLOANE NEEDS. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

I'M CONVINCED I'VE DONE THE RIGHT THING.



LATER THAT DAY.



IN THE END, I DIDN'T GET POPPED FOR THE ROBBERY. WE GOT AWAY WITH THAT.

DINO!!!



I KILLED A FRIEND.

THE MONEY WAS SAFE BUT I GOT A FEW YEARS FOR INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER.

DISTRACTED DRIVING, OF ALL THINGS.

NIKO STILL GAVE THE MONEY TO ANNIE. DINO WAS HIS COUSIN.

HE WAS PRETTY BROKE UP ABOUT IT BUT AFTER WHAT WE WENT THROUGH OVERSEAS, HE FORGAVE ME.

KIDS, DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE.

I TOLD ANNIE ABOUT THE MONEY BEFORE GOING INSIDE. SHE HATES ME. SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN. I DON'T BLAME HER.

AND THIS IS WHAT CAUSED MY TROUBLES. IT ISN'T THE MAIN PROBLEM THOUGH. MY REAL ISSUES STARTED WHEN I GOT OUT.





6 MONTHS AGO  
I GOT OUT.

YOU CAN  
STAY HERE WHILE  
YOU FIGURE IT OUT  
YOU KNOW?

I APPRECIATE  
IT, BROTHER.

NO WORRIES!  
YOU WOULD DO  
THE SAME FOR  
ME.

I DON'T KNOW  
THAT I WOULD.

BUT THERE IS  
A CONDITION...



YOU NEED  
TO VISIT WITH  
DINO'S MOTHER.  
SHE WANTS  
TO SEE YOU.

AW SHIT,  
NIKO, I DON'T  
KNOW.

YOU GOTTA! DO  
IT FOR ME. SHE HAS A  
VERY OLD-FASHIONED  
ROMANI WAY OF  
THINGS.

JUST GO. IT WILL BE  
FINE, CLOSURE FOR HER.  
SHE KNOWS YOUR FAMILY.  
SHE KNOWS IT WAS BOTH  
YOUR DUMB-ASS  
FAULTS.

NIKO GAVE ME A PLACE  
TO STAY. ANNIE WOULDN'T  
TALK TO ME OR LET ME SEE  
SLOANE. FROM WHAT I HEARD,  
THE TREATMENTS WEREN'T  
WORKING FOR HER.

IRONIC. MAYBE  
DIRTY MONEY CAN'T  
CURE ANGELS.



MERCY GELDE IS  
FROM AN OLD WORLD.  
SHE MAY BE CRAZY.  
I DON'T WANT TO BE  
HERE. BUT I OWE NIKO.

I OWE IT  
TO DINO.



MS. G,  
MERCY. I'M  
SO SORRY.

I KNOW  
YOU ARE.  
SO AM I.

NIKO TOLD ME  
WHAT HAPPENED.  
WHAT YOU HAVE  
DONE TOGETHER.

DINO  
LOVED YOU  
AS A BROTHER  
TOO.



HE TELLS ME  
YOU ARE A GOOD  
MAN. HE ALSO TELLS  
ME ABOUT YOUR  
POOR DAUGHTER.

THIS IS  
A SHAME. NO  
PARENT SHOULD  
OUTLIVE THEIR  
CHILD...



I'M...  
I'M SO  
SORRY.

HE WOULD  
HAVE BEEN 47  
THIS YEAR. YOU  
ARE HOW MANY  
YEARS?

I'M 37.

AH YES,  
SAME AS  
NIKO



SO NOW  
WE COME TO IT.  
LIVE OR DIE,  
GOOD OR BAD?

WHICH  
IS IT?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

GOOD OR BAD? LIVE OR DIE?

GOOD... I WANT TO BE GOOD AND LIVE.

AND YOU CAN DECIDE WHO LIVES AND DIES?

NO. NO ONE CAN.

WELL YOU'LL HAVE TO. TRUST, TRUST THAT YOU ARE CURSED. I FORGIVE YOU MY DINO.

BUT YOU CANNOT GO AWAY EMPTY-HANDED. IF YOU ACCEPT THIS, THEN I WILL DISCUSS THE TERMS, AFTER YOU SWALLOW.



SWALLOW?

THE TOOTH?



A HARD PILL TO SWALLOW.



A DEAL  
IS MADE.  
FORGIVENESS  
AT A PRICE.  
EVERYTHING  
COSTS  
SOMETHING.

YOU WILL  
LIVE. I WILL FORGIVE  
YOU. BUT YOU WILL NOT  
LAST PAST FORTY-SEVEN  
LIKE MY POOR DOMINIC...  
OR MAYBE YOU'LL LAST  
FOREVER?

SHE SEEMED  
CRAZY. A GRIEVING  
MOTHER.

YOU, WHO CAN  
BALANCE GOOD,  
BAD, LIFE, DEATH.

YOU CAN DECIDE  
TO HEAL YOUR CHILD.  
I WILL SEND YOU TO A  
PLACE AND YOU COME WITH  
THE PERSON'S NAME ON YOUR  
TONGUE AND FACE IN YOUR  
MIND AND WE WILL MARK  
YOU.

MY NIECE MOIRA,  
YOU KNOW HER, SHE  
KNOWS THE OLD  
WAY.

IT COULDN'T BE  
REAL COULD IT?

YOUR CHILD WILL  
HEAL AND THEN LIVE TO  
RIPE OLD AGE, BUT YOU WILL  
THUS LOSE ONE YEAR OF YOUR  
TEN REMAINING. YOU WILL GO DO  
THIS WHEN WE ARE DONE.  
THEN YOU WILL SAVE YOUR  
CHILD BUT YOU WILL ONLY  
HAVE UNTIL 46.

SHE'S CRAZY, BUT SO  
WHAT. I'LL TRY IT. FOR  
SLOANE. WHAT'S THE  
DIFFERENCE?



I CAN GIVE  
AWAY MY LIFE  
FOR OTHERS? MY  
LIFE ISN'T WORTH  
MUCH.

THIS IS A  
PUNISHMENT  
GILGESPPE JACKSON.  
BELIEVE IT. I SUGGEST  
YOU CHOOSE WISELY  
WHO YOU GIVE  
YOUR LIFE TO.

OKAY, I...  
ARE WE OKAY?  
WHAT DO I HAVE  
TO DO NOW?

GO WITH NIKO  
TO MOIRA. I ASSUME  
YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF  
YOUR DAUGHTER. SHE  
WILL MAKE THE INK, AND  
HER HUSBAND WILL  
MARK YOU.

FINE.

SO I WENT,  
BECAUSE WHY  
NOT.



AND THE FIRST MARK WAS MADE. I THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT. A CRAZY PENANCE FROM AN OLD GRIEVING MOTHER. I DID IT FOR DINO. I DID IT FOR NIKO.



ONE WEEK LATER...



ANNIE, HELLO? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

GIL, I NEEDED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED. IT'S ABOUT SLOANE.

IS SHE OKAY? WHAT'S WRONG.

NOTHING IS WRONG. THAT'S JUST IT. WE WENT FOR HER LAST SCAN AND...

ANNIE...

IT'S ALL GONE GIL. THE DOCTORS CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. IT'S LIKE SHE NEVER HAD IT.

WHAT? THAT'S THAT'S AMAZING. CAN I, CAN I SEE YOU GUYS?

NOT YET GIL. I'M NOT READY. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS REAL. I DON'T. I DON'T TRUST YOU.

OKAY OKAY. JUST KEEP ME POSTED ON HOW SHE'S DOING. I'M JUST GLAD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.

AND ANNIE. I LOVE YOU GUYS. I MISS YOU.





GIL, I HAVE THE GRUB.



NIKO, ANNIE CALLED

SHE TOLD ME THAT SLOANE IS CANCER FREE. IT'S GONE.

WHAT WORKED?

WELL, I GUESS IT WORKED THEN?

MY AUNT'S OLD COUNTRY ROMANI JUJUJI.



WHAT? GET THE FUCK OUTTA HERE.

WHAT? I DON'T QUESTION THE WEIRD SHIT THOSE FOLKS DO. I DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF IT. I BELIEVED EVERY WORD SHE SAID.

BUT MAGIC?

LOOK, JUST. WHAT IF IT WAS REAL? BECAUSE FROM WHAT YOU SAID... SLOANE WASN'T LONG FOR THIS WORLD. SO IT'S EITHER A COMPLETE MIRACLE OR... MERCY DID SOME SHIT TO YOU THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SEE IF IT'S REAL. HAVE TO REPEAT THE PROCESS.

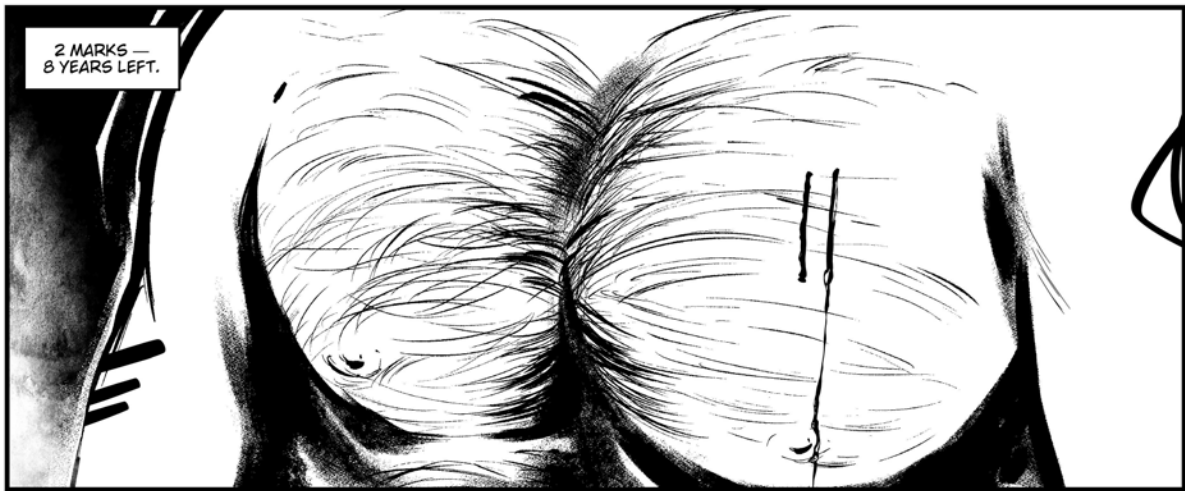
BRING THAT PIZZA TO GO.

THE FUCK? WHERE YOU NEED TO GO?

I NEED TO GO BACK TO MOIRA AGAIN.

AH, GETTING SOME SCIENTIFIC METHOD VIBES HERE. BE CAREFUL.

2 MARKS —  
8 YEARS LEFT.



WHO WAS  
THIS ONE?

I HAVE THIS PICTURE  
IN MY PHONE OF SLOANE  
AND ONE OF HER FRIENDS  
FROM THE CANCER  
WARD.

OH, SAME  
KIND OF DEAL  
WITH HER?

DIFFERENT  
KIND OF CANCER,  
SAME PROGNOSIS. SHE  
WAS ONLY SUPPOSE TO  
BE AROUND ANOTHER  
MONTH OR SO.

IT'S  
A GOOD  
THING.



CAN I DO  
MORE THAN  
ONE?

NOT IN  
A SINGLE  
DAY.

THERE'S ANOTHER  
KID IN HER WARD. I  
FIGURE I'M WORTHLESS.  
LET THEM USE ME UP.

HONORABLE.  
STUPID, BUT  
HONORABLE.

WHY  
STUPID?

AH AUNT MERCY  
IS A CLEVER ONE. YOUR  
DAUGHTER, UNLESS SHE  
SLIPS OFF A CLIFF, WILL  
LIVE A NORMAL LIFE  
NOW.

MAYBE, BUT I  
MIGHT NOT SEE HER  
ANYWAY. ANNIE ISN'T  
EXACTLY WARMING  
UP.

TIME GOES FAST.  
YOU WANT TO KEEP  
AS MUCH FOR HER  
AS POSSIBLE.



5 MONTHS LATER...  
4 MARKS.



SAY BOYO,  
WHEN I GET SICK  
HAVE YOU ONE  
OF THESE FOR  
ME?

ABSOLUTELY  
NOT. GOTTA HAVE  
STANDARDS.

YOU'RE  
BREAKIN MY  
HEART.



SO  
ANOTHER  
KID?

YEAH. IT'S NOT  
WORTH IT TO SAVE  
SOMEONE'S SICK  
GRANDMA.

I GET IT. BUT  
THAT'S FOUR NOW,  
INCLUDING YOUR OWN  
SO YOU'RE DOWN  
TO WHAT?

43. I THINK  
I SHOULD  
STOP.

WHY'S  
THAT?

WELL, ALL OF  
THE KIDS HAVE  
MIRACULOUSLY  
PULLED THROUGH.

I HAVE  
NO REASON  
NOT TO BELIEVE  
WHATEVER THIS  
THING IS, ALL  
OF IT.




MEANING  
I REALLY DO  
ONLY HAVE  
UNTIL I'M 43.

AND ANNIE  
WANTS TO MEET  
UP NEXT WEEK AND  
HAVE DINNER WITH  
SLOANE ON HER  
BIRTHDAY.



THAT'S  
GREAT  
BROTHER!

MAYBE YOU  
CAN GET YOUR  
LADY BACK SOON  
AND MOVE THE  
FUCK OUTTA  
HERE.



AND NOW I CAN SEE HER AGAIN. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT HER WITH MY SHIT JOB. BUT I KNOW I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HER.

THIS CURSE THOUGH...

WITH HER BEING 8 YEARS OLD AND ME ONLY HAVING 6 YEARS LEFT, I'M NOT SURE THAT I'LL KNOW HER PAST 14. I HAVE TO SAVOR THIS. CAN'T USE ANY MORE.



IT'S BEEN A FEW DAYS  
SINCE THE FIFTH MARK.



WHAT!?



FUCK.

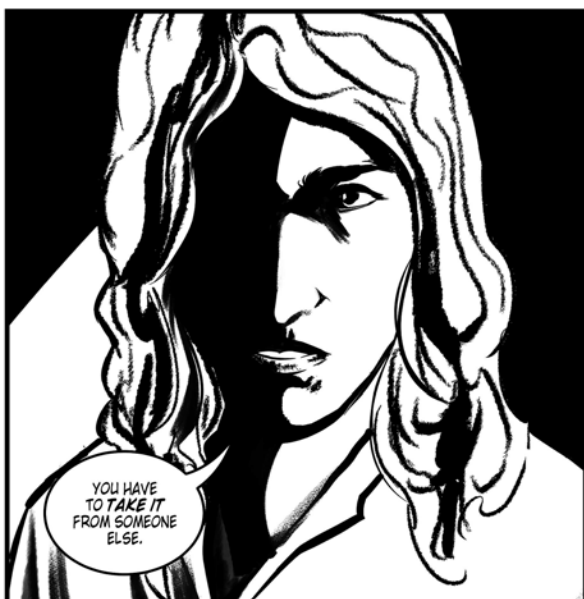
HEY, YOU NEARLY  
SCARED ME TO DEATH  
YELLING LIKE THAT.  
EVERYTHING  
GOOD?

BEATRICE.  
IT'S A MIRACLE.  
SHE'S JUST...  
BETTER. I DON'T  
KNOW HOW.

OH WOW,  
THAT'S GREAT  
RONNIE. I'M  
HAPPY FOR  
YOU.

I AM HAPPY FOR HER,  
AND FOR BEATRICE AND HER  
FAMILY. BUT I WON'T KNOW  
MY DAUGHTER PAST IS NOW.









I THINK ABOUT IT A LONG  
TIME. AND DESPITE WHAT  
YOU SEE, I REALLY DO  
WANT TO BE GOOD.



BUT I WANT TO BE AROUND  
FOR MY DAUGHTER MORE.  
I JUST CAN'T GET CAUGHT.



