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THE WALKING DEAD



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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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RUS WOOTON

Letterer

CHARLIE ADLARD

Penciler, Inker, Cover

SINA GRACE

Editor

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones, Cover Colors

Previously:

The citizens of the Community were confronted by a gang seeking a hostile takeover. Rick's long-term planning and quick thinking ended the situation without any loss of lives on his side. As a result, Douglas stepped down as leader and passed his responsibilities on to Rick. Unfortunately, the outpouring of gunfire during the standoff raised the attention of roamers all around the area.

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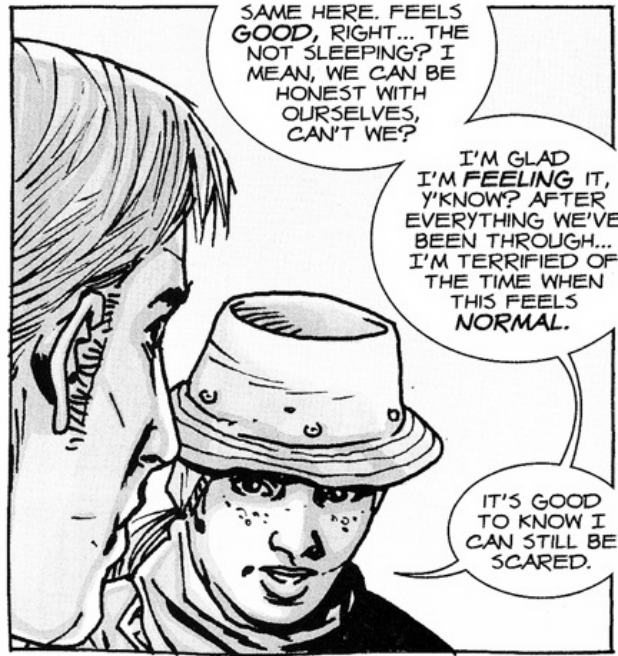
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YOU SLEEP?

BARELY. A FEW MINUTES HERE AND THERE, IT FELT LIKE.



SAME HERE. FEELS GOOD, RIGHT... THE NOT SLEEPING? I MEAN, WE CAN BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES, CAN'T WE?

I'M GLAD I'M FEELING IT, Y'KNOW? AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH... I'M TERRIFIED OF THE TIME WHEN THIS FEELS NORMAL.

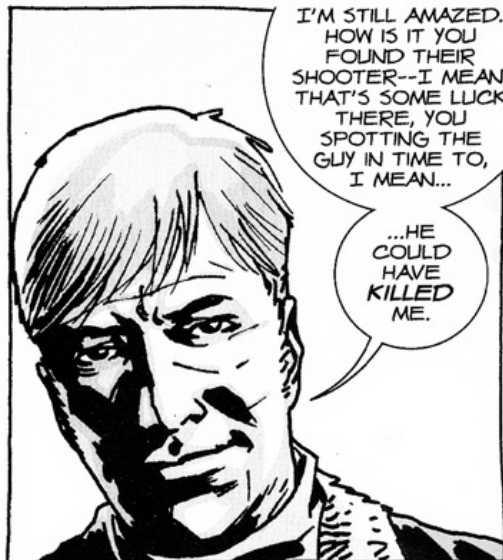
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW I CAN STILL BE SCARED.



NOT SO SCARED YOU COULDN'T SAVE MY LIFE.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

I'M SURE WE'RE FAR FROM EVEN THERE. BUT IT WAS AN AWESOME SHOT, WASN'T IT?



I'M STILL AMAZED. HOW IS IT YOU FOUND THEIR SHOOTER--I MEAN, THAT'S SOME LUCK THERE, YOU SPOTTING THE GUY IN TIME TO, I MEAN...

...HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME.



HE WAS THE FIRST ONE I SAW, CLIMBING ON TOP OF THE AWNING AT THE BANK ACROSS FROM ME. I WAS ABOVE HIM.

HE'S THE REASON I NOTICED THE OTHERS AT THE GATE, POOR DUMB BASTARDS. WASN'T SURE HE WAS WITH THEM UNTIL HE PUT THE GUN ON YOU.

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T POP HIM ON SIGHT...

CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOP!



WHAT
IN--?!



CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOP!



IT'S
AARON,
HELP ME
GET
THE GATE
OPEN!



OKAY--
CLOSE
IT!



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?!



ERIC'S
BEEN
STABBED!



WHOA!
WHOA!

WE'RE
HERE,
ERIC--WE'RE
HERE. IT'S
GOING TO BE
OKAY.



OH, CALM DOWN--
IT'S NOT THAT
BAD, CLU'S NOT
DEEP. I'LL
BE FINE.

GOT
ME?

I GOT
YOU--
COME
DOWN.



LET ME
HELP.



DOCTOR
CLOYD--
OPEN UP!

WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!



WHAT?!

OH, MY
GOD--
BRING HIM
INSIDE!

HEATH?

YOU
LEAVE FOR
A WEEK AND
EVERYONE
STARTS
HOOKING
UP...



WATER?

YEAH,
THANKS.

THE WAITING--
IT'S THE
WORST.

I CAN'T STOP THINKING
ABOUT... LOSING HIM. I
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH
BLOOD IT WAS,
BUT IT SEEMED
LIKE A LOT.



HE
LOST A
LOT.



AARON,
WHAT
HAPPENED
OUT THERE?

THIS WOMAN WAS ALONE...
COULDN'T SEE HER
INTERACTING WITH OTHER
PEOPLE, BUT WE WATCHED
HER FOR TWO DAYS.
SHE GATHERED
FOR SUPPLIES,
HUNTED...

...SEEMED
NORMAL. SHE
CRIED A LOT,
I LOOK AT THAT
AS A GOOD
SIGN.

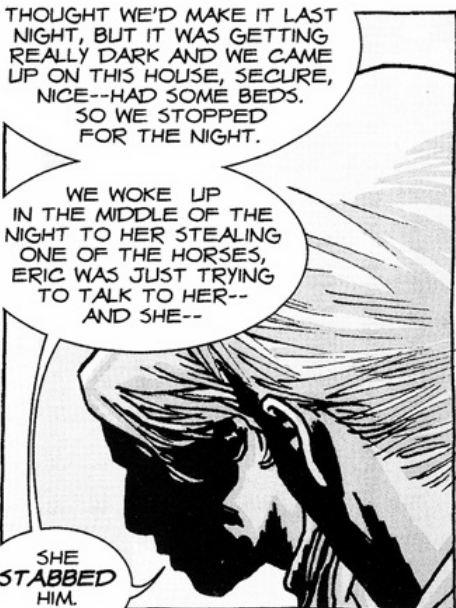
CONVERSATIONS
WENT WELL, SHE
SEEMED REAL NICE.
WE WERE BRINGING
HER BACK HERE.



THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT LAST
NIGHT, BUT IT WAS GETTING
REALLY DARK AND WE CAME
UP ON THIS HOUSE, SECURE,
NICE--HAD SOME BEDS.
SO WE STOPPED
FOR THE NIGHT.

WE WOKE UP
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT TO HER STEALING
ONE OF THE HORSES,
ERIC WAS JUST TRYING
TO TALK TO HER--
AND SHE--

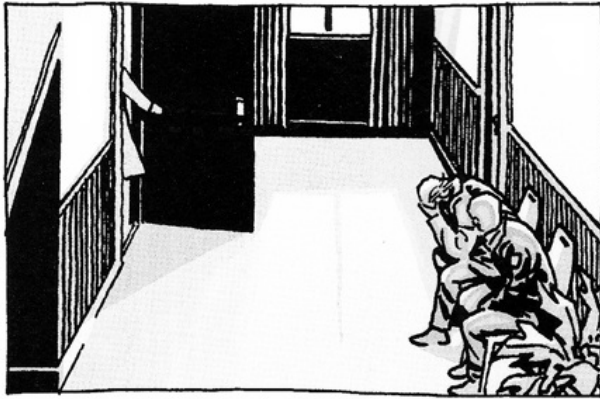
SHE
STABBED
HIM.



I DIDN'T
KNOW SHE WAS
DANGEROUS...
I HAD NO
IDEA...

...HOW
COULD
I?







SO, YOU AND DENISE, HUH?

YEAH. I REALLY LIKE HER. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH HER WHEN SCOTT WAS...IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED.

ERIC'S FINE.



YEAH, DENISE TOLD US BEFORE SHE WENT TO CLEAN UP.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I SHOULD PROBABLY HELP HER.



SO... NEVER A DULL MOMENT, HUH?

NO KIDDING, RIGHT? I MEAN... CHRIST.

I MISS THE DAYS... UGH... FEELS LIKE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.

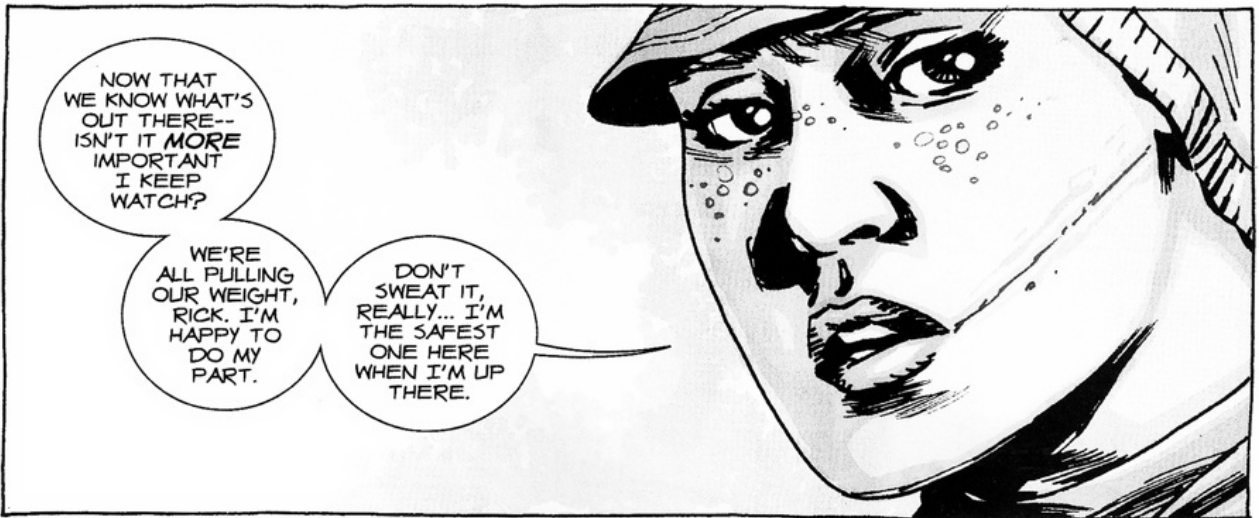


SPEAKING OF WHICH, I SHOULD PROBABLY BE GETTING TO THE TOWER.

TOBIN'S PROBABLY WAITING TO DRIVE ME.



YOU OKAY TO GO OUT THERE? I MEAN, AFTER YESTERDAY, I FIGURED YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF.



NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE-- ISN'T IT MORE IMPORTANT I KEEP WATCH?

WE'RE ALL PULLING OUR WEIGHT, RICK. I'M HAPPY TO DO MY PART.

DON'T SWEAT IT, REALLY... I'M THE SAFEST ONE HERE WHEN I'M UP THERE.



MORGAN?
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



MY WIFE...
SHE'S BEEN
DEAD FOR
A YEAR.

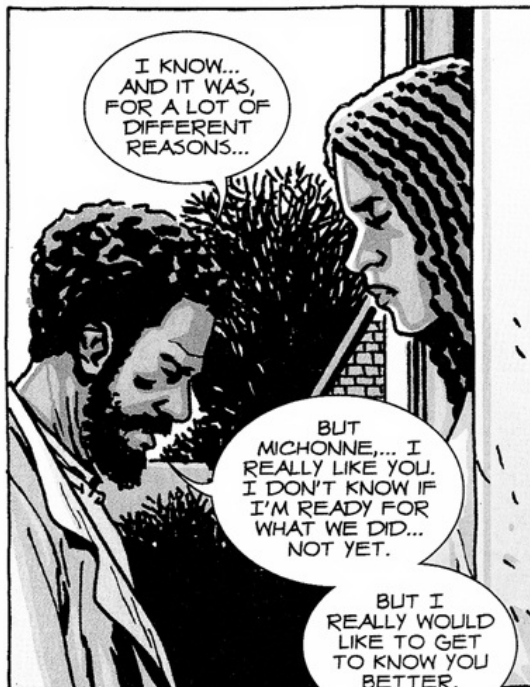
A
YEAR.

I HOPE YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND HOW
I FEEL ABOUT
THAT. I LOVED HER
VERY MUCH AND...
AND IT'S TAKEN A
LONG TIME FOR ME
TO GET USED TO
THE IDEA THAT
SHE'S DEAD.



I
COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND
THAT.

IT'S LIKE
YOU SAID,
WHAT WE
DID WAS A
MISTAKE.



I KNOW...
AND IT WAS,
FOR A LOT OF
DIFFERENT
REASONS...

BUT
MICHONNE,... I
REALLY LIKE YOU.
I DON'T KNOW IF
I'M READY FOR
WHAT WE DID...
NOT YET.

BUT I
REALLY WOULD
LIKE TO GET
TO KNOW YOU
BETTER.



OKAY.

I WAS
GETTING
READY TO MAKE
BREAKFAST.
YOU WANT TO
COME IN?

I'D LIKE
THAT.



MORNING, SON. WHEN'D YOU GET UP?

I GOT UP WHEN YOU LEFT. I HEARD YOU CLOSING THE DOOR... WHERE'D YOU GO?



DIDN'T SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT, WENT TO CHECK THE GATE, SEE HOW THINGS WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.

YOU OKAY?



YEAH. WHY?

WHY? WE WERE ATTACKED YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE SCARED.



WELL, I'M NOT.

WHAT HAPPENED WAS A GOOD THING. NOW MAYBE EVERYONE WILL STOP PRETENDING WE'RE ALL SAFE.



CARL, I--



YEAH, DAD?



IS THERE ANY CEREAL LEFT?



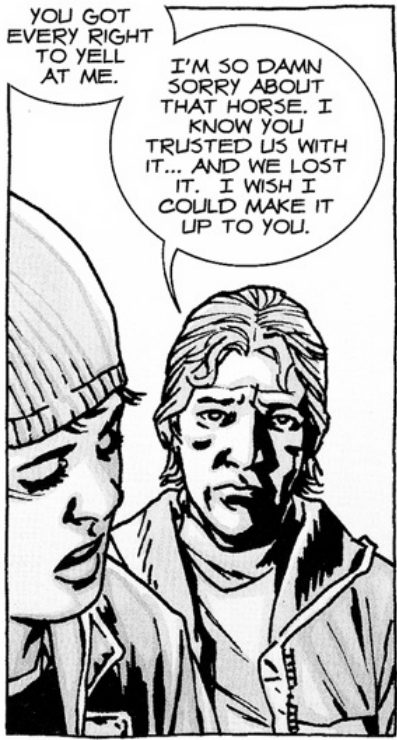


IT'S SO STIFF AND DIRTY.

WELL, IT'S HORSE HAIR, SOPHIA. THEY DON'T USE A LOT OF CONDITIONER. NOT AS MUCH AS YOU OR I AT LEAST.

YOU STILL WANT ME TO TEACH YOU HOW TO RIDE HER?

HEY, MAGGIE...



YOU GOT EVERY RIGHT TO YELL AT ME.

I'M SO DAMN SORRY ABOUT THAT HORSE. I KNOW YOU TRUSTED US WITH IT... AND WE LOST IT. I WISH I COULD MAKE IT UP TO YOU.



AARON, PLEASE. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

HOW'S ERIC?



HE'S GOING TO BE FINE. I MIGHT HAVE OVERREACTED A LITTLE--I GUESS THE WOUND WASN'T SO BAD--BUT WHAT THE HELL, I'M NO DOCTOR. I SEE BLOOD, I FREAK.

YOU REALLY NOT MAD ABOUT THE HORSE?



NO, I'M REALLY NOT. I KNOW YOU TRIED EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO KEEP THAT WOMAN FROM STEALING HER--BUT THE TRUTH IS I'M KIND OF GLAD SHE'S GONE.

THIS PLACE IS GOOD FOR US-- BUT NOT FOR THEM. THAT'S WHY I OFFERED FOR YOU AND ERIC TO TAKE THEM OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE DON'T HAVE ROOM IN HERE--I CAN'T KEEP THEM IN A BACKYARD FOR WEEKS ON END. THEY NEED WIDE OPEN SPACES.

I JUST HOPE THAT WOMAN, WHOEVER SHE IS, TAKES CARE OF BUTTONS. I HOPE SHE'S HAPPY.

THANKS, I JUST WANTED TO COME BY AND CHECK IN ON YOU, MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING BY OKAY.

I BROUGHT SOME FOOD.

NO, NO-- THANK YOU. PLEASE, COME IN. HAVE A SEAT. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BRINGING THIS.

IS RON AROUND? I WAS GOING TO BRING CARL WITH ME, BUT HE'S GOT HIS NOSE STUCK IN SOME BOOK HE SEEMS TO LOVE. SO HE WANTED TO STAY AND READ.

HE'S STILL IN HIS ROOM, DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD COMPANY FOR CARL ANYWAY.

SO IT'S FOR THE BEST.

SO, HOW IS HE DOING NOW? THINGS OKAY?

WE'RE FINE. WE'RE GETTING BY. IT'S HARD, AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW.

SOMETIMES YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO THEM, YOUR KIDS... Y'KNOW?

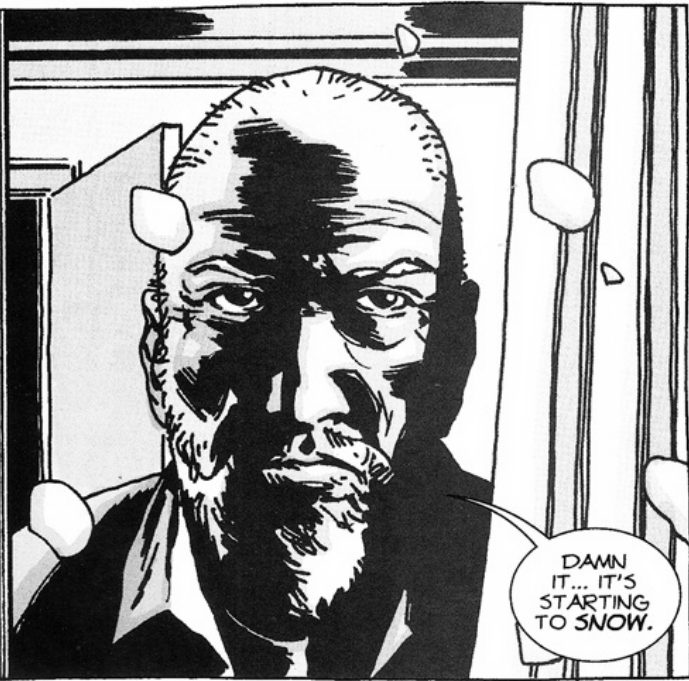
WHAT YOU SAID AT THE FUNERAL, THAT'S HELPED... THAT'S REALLY HELPED A LOT WITH WHAT TO SAY TO HIM.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO THANK YOU FOR THAT. IT'S BEEN A BIG HELP. AND IT WAS...

IT WAS THE TRUTH AS I SEE IT. NOTHING MORE.

I WAS HAPPY TO SPEAK ON YOUR HUSBAND'S BEHALF, WHAT HAPPENED... I'M NOT GOING TO SAY IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, BUT... IT'S NOT FAIR TO BLAME IT ALL ON HIM.

...VERY KIND.

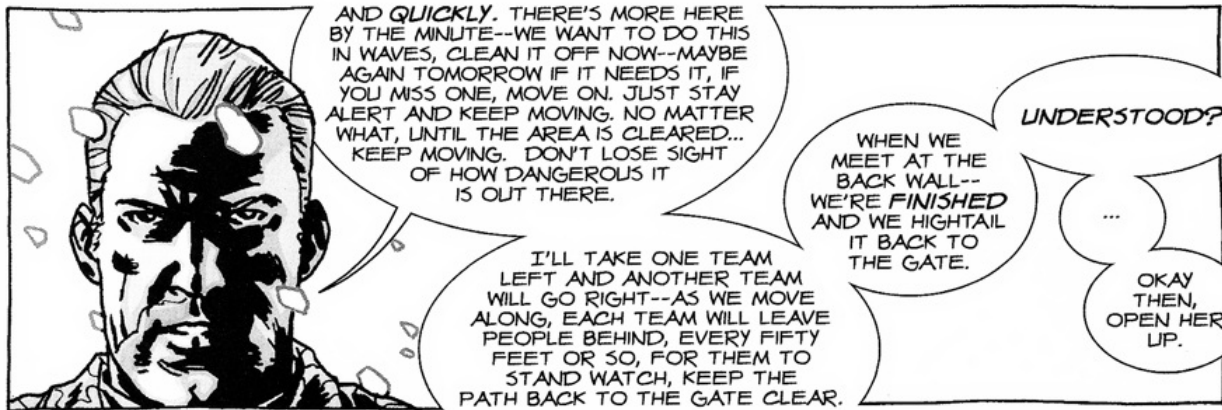




AS YOU CAN SEE BEHIND ME, OUR RECENT GUNPLAY HAS DRAWN QUITE A BIT OF ATTENTION OUR WAY.

WE'VE GOT TWICE AS MANY ROAMERS SURROUNDING THIS PLACE AS WE USUALLY DO--AND THEY ALL SHOWED UP TODAY. SO WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN THEM OFF.

SINCE GUNS ARE WHAT DREW THEM HERE--WE AIN'T USING THEM. HACK INTO THEIR HEADS, BASH THEIR SKULLS IN--WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO, BUT DO IT QUIETLY.



AND QUICKLY. THERE'S MORE HERE BY THE MINUTE--WE WANT TO DO THIS IN WAVES, CLEAN IT OFF NOW--MAYBE AGAIN TOMORROW IF IT NEEDS IT, IF YOU MISS ONE, MOVE ON. JUST STAY ALERT AND KEEP MOVING. NO MATTER WHAT, UNTIL THE AREA IS CLEARED... KEEP MOVING. DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF HOW DANGEROUS IT IS OUT THERE.

WHEN WE MEET AT THE BACK WALL--WE'RE FINISHED AND WE HIGHTAIL IT BACK TO THE GATE.

UNDERSTOOD?

I'LL TAKE ONE TEAM LEFT AND ANOTHER TEAM WILL GO RIGHT--AS WE MOVE ALONG, EACH TEAM WILL LEAVE PEOPLE BEHIND, EVERY FIFTY FEET OR SO, FOR THEM TO STAND WATCH, KEEP THE PATH BACK TO THE GATE CLEAR.

OKAY THEN, OPEN HER UP.



HERE WE GO!





MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT RICK. HIS CREW-- THEY'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT. I HEARD ABOUT ANDREA TAKING THOSE GUYS OUT FROM THE BELL TOWER--AND THE BIG ONE-- ABRAHAM, ISN'T IT? HE TOOK OVER FOR TOBIN AS LEADER OF THE CONSTRUCTION CREW...

...I DON'T KNOW, DOUGLAS. MAYBE THEY DO KNOW BETTER THAN US. JUST TOOK ME BY SURPRISE, YOU GIVING UP THE TOP SPOT.

BUT DON'T SAY THIS COMMUNITY IS A SHAM. YOU SHOULD TRY LEAVING FOR A WHILE AND COMING BACK HERE.



THIS PLACE IS A SHINING BEACON OF HOPE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WASTE LAND. I DO AGREE THAT IT'S NOT WITHOUT ITS FLAWS...

...BUT IT'S NOT TIME TO GIVE UP.



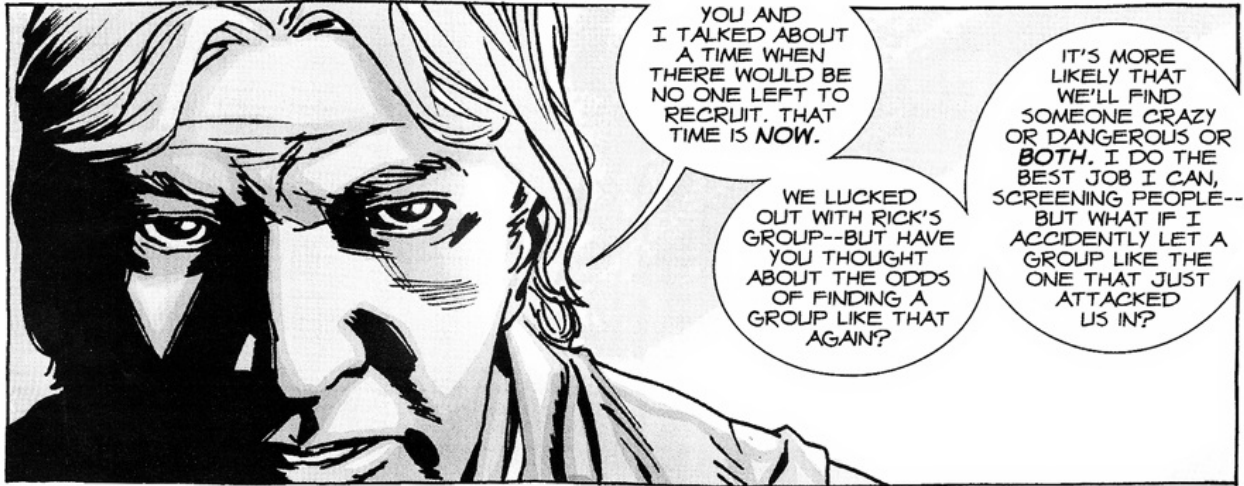
IN FACT, I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT I'M NEVER LEAVING AGAIN.

WHAT?



WE'VE GOT TO TIME THIS SO WE GET TO THE BACK WALL THE SAME TIME AS THE OTHER GROUP! I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ARE BACK THERE AND I DON'T WANT THEM UP AGAINST IT ALONE!

HOLLY, STAY HERE AND KEEP OUR PATH CLEAR! THE REST OF YOU--FOLLOW ME!



YOU AND I TALKED ABOUT A TIME WHEN THERE WOULD BE NO ONE LEFT TO RECRUIT. THAT TIME IS NOW.

WE LUCKED OUT WITH RICK'S GROUP--BUT HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE ODDS OF FINDING A GROUP LIKE THAT AGAIN?

IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT WE'LL FIND SOMEONE CRAZY OR DANGEROUS OR BOTH. I DO THE BEST JOB I CAN, SCREENING PEOPLE-- BUT WHAT IF I ACCIDENTLY LET A GROUP LIKE THE ONE THAT JUST ATTACKED US IN?



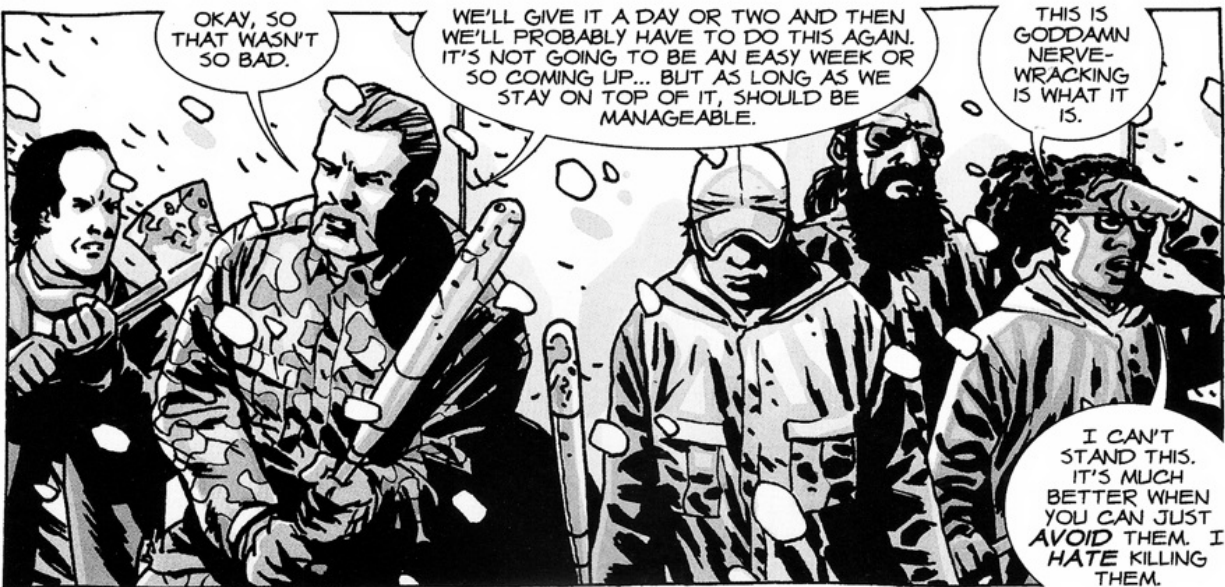
OR WHAT IF RICK HAD BEEN WAY WORSE--AND WANTED TO BE LEADER, BUT YOU WEREN'T WILLING TO GIVE IT UP?

I DON'T WANT ANOTHER DAVIDSON SITUATION.



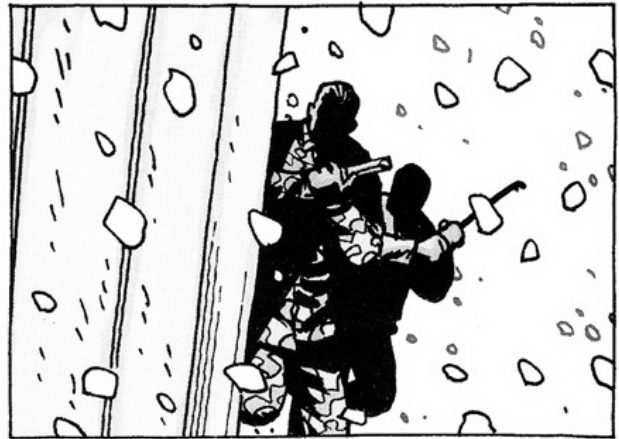
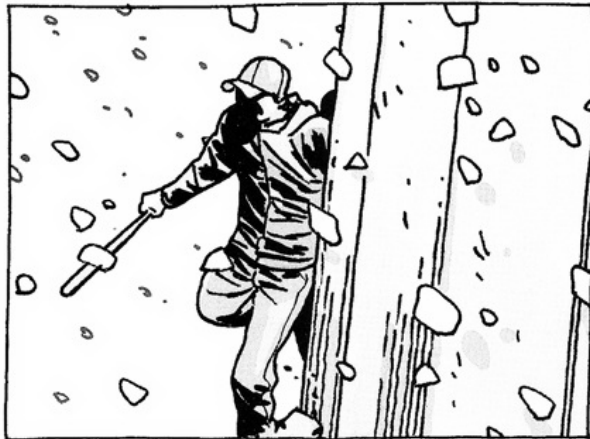
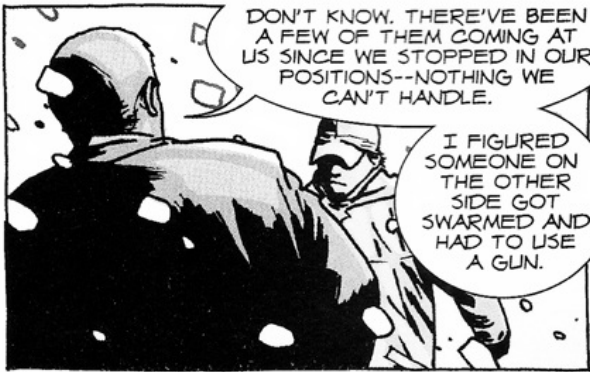
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE BACK WALL--KEEP MOVING!

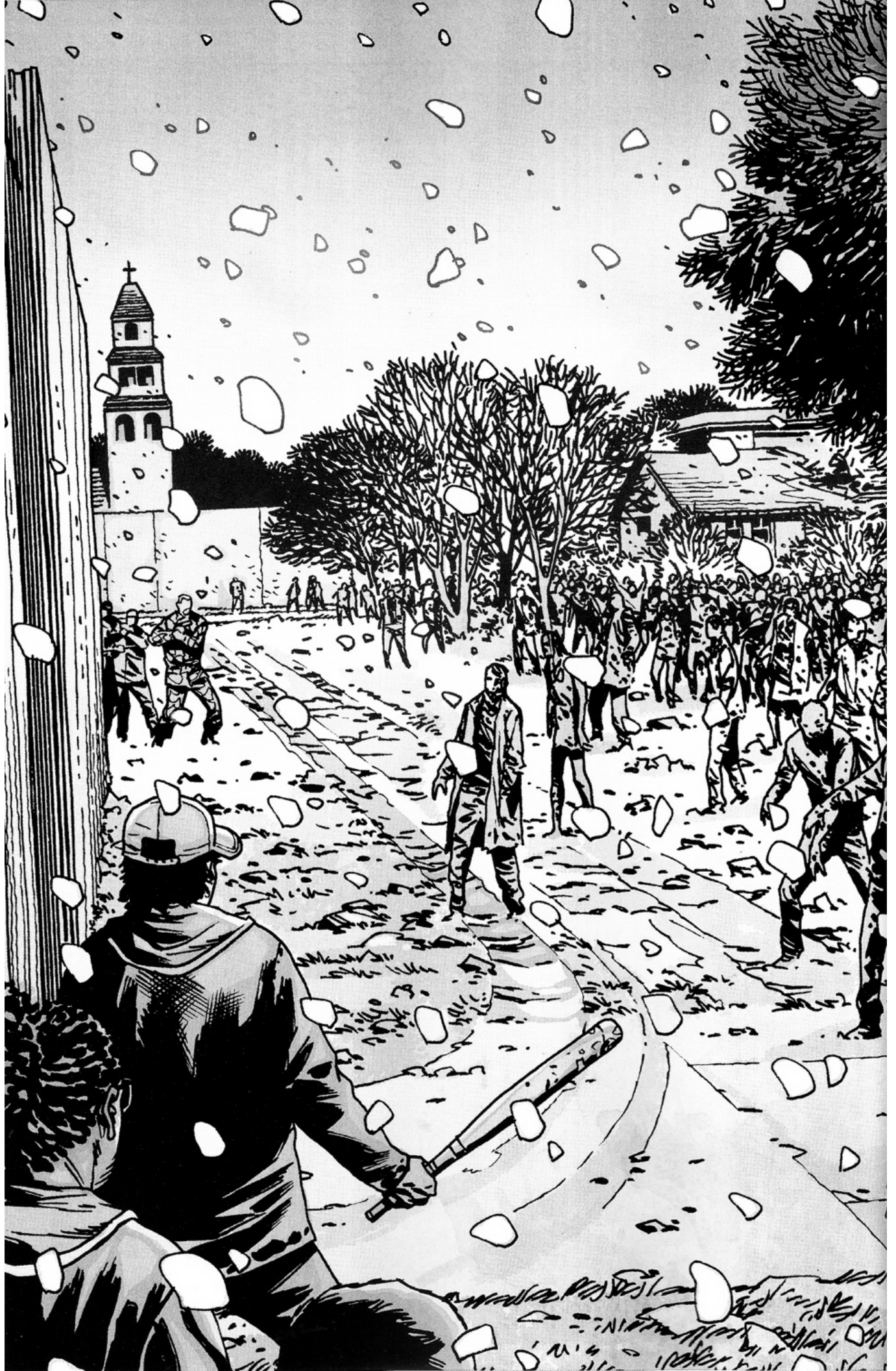












LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 1870
RICHMOND, KY 40476

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

So, hey, that show called The Walking Dead is on AMC at this point, and you are all amazed by the fourth episode -- which Robert penned! Good work, Robert.

Speaking of good work: thank you everyone for checking the TV series out, and letting us know your thoughts! The folks at AMC put out a great show, and everyone's been super supportive, and now we've got a second season! Big woot!

A lot happened in issue 77, so let's devote some space to your awesome readers...

Dear Robert and Sina,

Something I miss is the letter columns of times past. The small print, multiple pages, etc. Now, with Sina I would think you would have more time to devote to such things. It's one of the main reasons I buy the book in floppy format to begin with-- along with the fact that the book is like crack and I can't wait for the collections. But in the golden olden days, one could look forward to a few pages of letters in small print and lots of back and forth, I miss that. Just thought I'd share my two cents.

Sincerely,

Matt (still not mike) Cashel
thanks for your time.

Well, Matt. We haven't changed the ingredients to make the crack any less potent for you, and we'll do our darndest to cram more letters!

At the end of the day, I love letters columns as much as the next guy, but I was spending a LOT of time on them in the past and that time just isn't there anymore, I'm sorry to say. Even Sina has much better things to do than devote 5 hours to a 10 page letters column. That said, I do miss them, too... maybe we'll go back and do one like that every now and then when time permits. I'll see what I can do. (I'm in italics, I'm Robert Kirkman, you guys get that I'm in italics without me having to tag every response with my name right? Good.)

Dear Robert, Charlie, and the WD gang,

I really enjoyed Issue #77, especially the cliffhanger at the end. (You're the king of those, Robert...not Sylvester Stallone). It's downright frightening you can pull this off every month (or so). Are you robots or something? So, we all knew the walls would come crashing down eventually, but I hope the "No Way Out" conflict isn't just a rehash of the prison. I think I remember you assuaging such fears during a previous Letter Hacks column.

Robert, Charlie, Cliff, and Rus are complete machines when it comes to this book, yes. I think this issue alone will prove that "No Way Out" is building to be a completely different path than the prison. I've got two comments/questions: 1) Charlie, I like that you don't overuse splash pages. It always seems essential to the overall through-line and characters. What's your criteria for using one and what artists do you admire for their splash page abilities? (OK, I guess that's a two-parter.)

From the desk of Mr. Charlie Adlard:

Well, for starters, let me say that the use of splash pages is in the script. So it's Robert being frugal with their use... not me.

Having said that, I totally agree with the way he approaches the comic, and, I too, wouldn't use the splash page unless I had to.

The splash page for me functions as a device to emphasize a moment or to show a BIG happening. That's it. Artists and writers have tended to overuse the technique in the last 15 years to showcase how great they are at drawing something or to put in reams and reams of dialogue with out bothering to break it up into panels... Heaven forbid, that might require storytelling!

If I'm pushed to single out an artist purely on their splash page abilities though - I'd have to say the great Sergio Toppi does it for me. There's a guy who can compose a beautiful full page panel... Can't tell a story to save his life, but, when you have images this amazing, and in total contrast to what I've just said, then I can forgive him that!

Charlie? Christ... did you just compliment and bash a guy in the same breath? You brits are hardcore. I thought Andrew Lincoln was brutal, but sheesh!

2) Douglas' relationship with Rick is intriguing. His political past seems to serve him well in manipulating Rick to do his dirty work. Robert, is that what you were going for with those two?

Absolutely.

Stay Frosty,

Kyle Lemmon

By the way Kyle, when we call you 'Lemon,' we're not referring to comic genius Jack Lemon, we're referring to Tina Fey's fictional Liz Lemon from 30 Rock. That said, thanks for writing us, Lemon.

Kirkman,

I just got into twd about a month ago and I'm only a few issues away from being totally caught up. Utterly brilliant series so far. My only complaint is why why why did you make Rick shave his beard in 69??? Seriously, bearded Rick is like the most badass person on the planet, without the beard he just seems so helpless. I mean when he first got shot he wasn't bearded and look what happened he ended up in a coma. Bearded Rick has beaten his hand until it was useless and then had said hand cut off, been shot and sucked it up, survived half of his family being massacred, taken a serious ass whooping from Tyreese (RIP), and seriously kicked a lot of ass. Please tell me it's coming back, Rick is like the White Rick Ross when he has his beard.

Rush1

Huh, that is actually an interesting point you bring up. Robert's characters with facial hair seem to be incredibly super strong, badass, and impervious to long term harm (Viltrumites, anyone?). Way to continue with the biblical themes, Samson Kirkman.

Rick's been rocking some sick sideburns lately. I wonder if the rule applies to mutton chops?

Only time will tell, Sina. Only time will tell.

Dear Walking Dead Folks,

This is my favorite comic book of all time. If I had to put my finger on what I loved best about it I would say that it's believable. Not the zombie part, the people part. The characters, what they say and do, what they feel, is believable. No one can go through what they have and be 'okay' in any sense of the word. Sometimes to survive we have to do things at the cost of our humanity. These guys have done that and it shows. These are damaged people who carry on as best as they can.

My first issue was 14, and I hunted down back issues and haven't missed a new one yet. I haven't done that since I was twelve. Damn fine job you guys do with this comic. If you haven't patted yourselves on the back, please take a moment and do so.

I have to confess that I am worried about Carl. I like Carl a great deal, but what he's gone through will surely mold him into a mad dog killer. Despite his remorse, he continues to see justification in what he did to Ben through his father and the community. That kid is on the train to psycho town.

That kid is on the train to Awesome Town, population: stud! It's funny that you all write to suggest Rick & co.

find a boat, or an arms specialist, or British people, but no one is like: "hey, did any child psychologists survive the apocalypse?"

Another matter or two...

If Rick and the others find themselves back in the open, I would suggest that they locate some firecrackers. Zombies are drawn to loud noises, a few black cats could be an excellent diversion. Speaking of loud noises, why has no one located a weapon with a silencer? They have them at my gun shop... A crossbow or hunting bow and arrows would eliminate the loud noise factor, and grant the characters range. Also, how come no flame thrower yet? Not that the lack of a flame thrower would deter me from reading these fine comics, but I bet Charlie could draw the hell out of some flaming roamers. Hey, a geek can dream.

Thanks again. Can't wait for the show.
-Chuck

Could you imagine the stink of dozens of burning roamers? Foul.

It would be a smell akin to old bacon. A smell as old as bacon.

Baby killer,

I would like to request more aliens and super hero TWD characters in issue 100 just to piss Axel R from Mexico off. He obviously doesn't pay much attention to the letters columns. I couldn't help but to laugh. It brought a nice sense of humor to a normally dark comic.

Hey! No fighting. Let's all just agree that Robert is a baby killer and keep the peace.

...(note that ellipsis is in italics.)

I would also like to let you know I have cable now just so I can watch TWD. I haven't had cable TV in 3+ years because I never watched it. I always watched movies or shows on the internet or DVD. You made me do this and I hate you for it. Even though I don't watch the AMC channel I love their shows. Breaking Bad is the shit. I've only seen a few episodes of Mad Men and it is amazing as well. By the way. If you go to their website and check out The Zombie Make-Up Photos... Picture 4 is undead Jim Carrey and pic 6 is undead Kevin Bacon.

Questions:

1: Are any of the characters you create based off of personalities you know in real life?

Robert works tirelessly to give his son the same issues that Carl has.

I like to joke that The Governor is based on Joe Quesada. But that's only a joke.

2: Why do you think people must insist on asking questions like: Why don't they find an island? My answer... It makes for a really boring Cast Away comic that has no zombies. So stop asking.

Well, let's not forget that Kirk-boss can make anything into an interesting story. Think about this story arc: Rick gets mad at a womanizer. Who'da thunk it would have been so awesome?

3: What if a tornado picked up zombies and threw them over the town's wall?

Then I would be reading the book out of pleasure instead of obligation!

4: Have you read World War Z or The Zombie Survival Guide yet? My guess is no. You're missing out.

Robert, wanna take this? I know the answer, but I don't want to speak for you...

Please do, I'm sick of answering this one.

In short: Robert knows there are too many similarities in what Max Brooks is doing and what is going on in The Walking Dead to read his books and say safely that he's not jocking. Robert would prefer to keep his mind undiluted through the run of The Walking Dead. This is where he jokes "So when I'm done with The Walking Dead, I'll read World War Z, which is never."

5: You mentioned you failed in the creation of certain characters. Who?

Robert?

That would be telling... and I don't remember.

6: Do you mix any of your personal beliefs or political standings into your stories? I've noticed some things that could be taken that way. I think its just story though.

It is Robert's personal belief that Beef Jerky stroganoff is delicious.

7: Just for fun... What do you think is the most under-rated thing in life? My answer is a cold beer with a hot shower.

Robert?

Holy crap these are hard questions. Adult-sized footy pajamas? I mean... they're so under-rated they're not even commercially made (that I can find) but holy hell I bet they'd be the most comfortable clothes ever. I mean, it's the future god damn it... shouldn't we all be walking around in something silly looking and comfortable?

Thanks for sticking to your guns with no one-shots or spin offs. I used to really like Wolverine but Marvel has run him to the ground. Thus I don't buy it anymore. Crossovers I don't mind so much. But one-shots and spin offs can suck it.

Dan

I try to imagine a Walking Dead that Robert isn't writing, or if someone new was drawing. It just ends up feeling like an #epicfail in my head.

Hello Mr Kirkman!

Long time reader of your masterpiece The Walking Dead, but just one question. Do you have any plans of making side stories or one shots pertaining to Walking Dead? Maybe some stories about the many groups Rick and company have ran into along the way? Keep up the amazing work and can't wait for the tv show to air

- Thomas Hughes

Thomas, how interesting that you ask this immediately after Dan applauded Robert for NOT spinning off and telling tangential stories! What strange timing (or placement by the editor).

The closest thing fans will be getting to an expansion on The Walking Dead comic book universe is through the trilogy of novels coming out in 2011 through St. Martin's press. Robert will be plotting the stories, and horror maestro Jay Bonansinga will be killing it, so to speak.

Once we have more details, you Hacks will be the first to find out!

Hey Guys! Loving the series as per usual. This morning I had a little free time and wrote a little something I'd like to share. Looking forward to the TV show.

I flipped on the TV early this morning
Just in time to see the final warning
It's too much to take so I laid in bed
Tonight I am hiding from the Walking Dead

Every turn I make could be my last
I can't stay here long so make it fast
No place safe like the newsman said
Tonight I am running from the Walking Dead

We must adapt as the old ways are gone
Hurry up now we got to keep moving on
So sit with me tonight and share this bread
Tonight I am living with the Walking Dead

You are my friend and I ask only of you
To do the thing that you know you must do
Please just put a bullet in my bloody head
Tonight I am eating with the Walking Dead

Hope all is well. Love, love, love the direction the series is heading. Count me in for at least another 80 issues. Hope Halloween is extra good to you all.

Thanks,

Jason Hart
Tulsa, Oklahoma

This made my day, my week, my month.

Poems?! Damn.

Dear The Walking Dead crew,

I've never written to a comic book before, but there's a first time for everything. I just finished issue 76 and I'm quite impressed. I'm actually surprised Rick is still inside. I guess that's what I like about this series - I'm never certain what's going to happen. As I get older I read less comics and I'll admit I just discovered TWD about six months ago (voraciously reading the graphic novels and spending a good portion of my tax return on them), but your book makes me interested in comics again. It's that good.

There are two things I'd like to address and hopefully I'll see my little letter on the Letter Hacks page, but I won't hold my breath.

1. A letter from DMC (is he too chickenshit to put his name?) annoyed me. I understand you think the book's slow, but it's an ongoing series about people living after a zombie apocalypse, not the zombie apocalypse itself. Real life isn't very exciting - today I read the last few TWD issues, played with my cats, played drums for a while, and read some more. I also watched last week's Mad Men. Usually nothing exciting happens in our lives; Kirkman's writing reflects this sometimes. Personally, I think a great deal happens in this book, even when zombies aren't killing or getting killed. Also, saying Adlard's, "crude and simplistic art doesn't keep the story afloat," is an asinine statement. His art is spectacular; just what this book needs. Adlard picks up the emotion in each character's face perfectly, which is much more important than seeing the undead torn to shreds in a Todd McFarlane fashion. Sorry he isn't Rob Liefeld...thankfully (although Liefeld's artwork in "What If?" issue 7 is amazing).

Dudes are entitled to their opinions.

And speaking of Rob Liefeld, is anyone else checking out Zombie Jesus?

Rob is the bomb, anyone who doesn't think so can bite the bobo!

2. This is a silly thought my friends and I had in high school: wouldn't the zombies start decomposing after a while? I remember the zombies were slowed down by winter weather in the early graphic novels, so why doesn't the sun make them rot? I'm not knowledgeable in the details of bodily decomposition, but I'm sure bringing this up could end the series before its prime. Nobody, but possibly DMC, wants that. I'd like this series to continue until I'm in an assisted living facility, which seems more like TWD than anything else.

I think we covered this last letters column: sometimes you need a little suspension of disbelief when it comes to keeping a corpse alive. Also: people still keep getting bit and killed off around the world, there are new zombies sprouting up.

Keep doing what you're doing, and I'll keep parting with my somewhat hard earned cash. Just please keep Andrea alive. She's my favorite character and reminds me of my girlfriend, who thought your book was sexist. It's OK though, I told her I thought Judith Butler was too feminist. =)

E. Malchiodi

Yeah, your girlfriend should break it down with Feminist Studies major Sarah Wayne Callies, who has a thing or two to say about a woman's agency in a post-apocalyptic zombie world. No joke.

P.S.: You guys have a lot to live up to with the AMC series. Mad Men and Breaking Bad are incredible shows, which set the bar pretty high for that network. I'm hoping TWD television series can keep up. I'm confident it can.

Robert's cool, he can handle the heat.

Also, so far at least, The Walking Dead is killing those two TV gems in the ratings... which is pretty crazy.

Mr Kirkman/Ms Grace

Yeesh.

Given that the tv series looks like being a success are you Robert going to be able to juggle future involvement on both TV & comic? I thought Y The Last Man was brilliant but the shipping & storyline seemed to diminish in brilliance once BKV got involved with Lost - admittedly different stories but the comic to TV step...

That's why Ms. Grace is here, to keep Robert on track with the greatest comic books ever. Tyler Shainline at Image calls me Ms. Grace, but he knows I'm a dude...

Issue #77 - I'm getting a sense of foreboding for what's ahead. This in spite of death & decay & devastation that courses through the book. I think that's impressive storytelling to make me feel that way & why TWD remains first read when shipped.

I have 2 requests in return for my continuing expenditure on this franchise:

1. Don't kill Andrea EVER

No deal.

2. I believe you previously confirmed in Letter Hacks, Capes #1 was the "1st" appearance of Walking Dead (the preview) - what's the print run on that book? As I'm asking, what was the print run on TWD #1?

Uff-da, I have no clue about Capes, but The Walking Dead was something like 7K for the first printing, right Robert K?

Yeah, and Capes is very similar. Maybe 6K. those were the days... I had no money to spend so I spent all my time writing letters columns.

Here's hoping the moving pictures capture what you manage on the page.

Kind regards

Theo Crush
London
England

I like all of this speculative optimism now that we've already seen episodes of the show. Relax, dudes! The show is good!

To everyone at TWD,

Thanks for making one of the greatest comics ever. I sent you a couple of pics of my tattoo of Rick from issue 60. Since that picture was taken I've gotten two more pieces done on what will be a sleeve, next is Carl. If this actually makes it into the book I wanted to say what's up to Gary from the inkwell (he does the ink) and my boy Sasso over at Dark Tower Comics in Newburgh NY. Anyway thanks again and keep on doing what you're doing.

Adam Kooperman
Newburgh, NY

Oh yeah Invincible is fucking awesome too!

Man, this guy knows how to write fan mail! Compliment the book, show off hardcore fandom, shout out to his peeps, AND give Invincible props? In five sentences! Good work, Adam. And your tattoo is sick.

Yeah... let's print that thing!



Hello,

I just purchased "The Walking Dead: The Covers" hardback and I was wondering why the Erik Larsen cover wasn't included in this collection.

Thanks,
Ryan

We decided to keep the book about Charlie and Tony, and the genesis of the series covers. While that variant cover is amazing, and we all loves us some Erik Larsen, it would have been a strange addition to the collection, and fits better as a collector's item to be sought out.

Next month, Rick grows a beard and becomes impervious to criticism.

If you live in the states and haven't been able to check out the TV show yet, go download episodes on iTunes! While we're on the topic of plugging The Walking Dead miscellany, check out the following ad for Walking Dead "human" target prints, featuring art by some amazing artists. They're limited, they're signed, and they're sick. Thanks Secret Headquarters for collaborating on such a cool concept!

Grah,

-Sina Grace

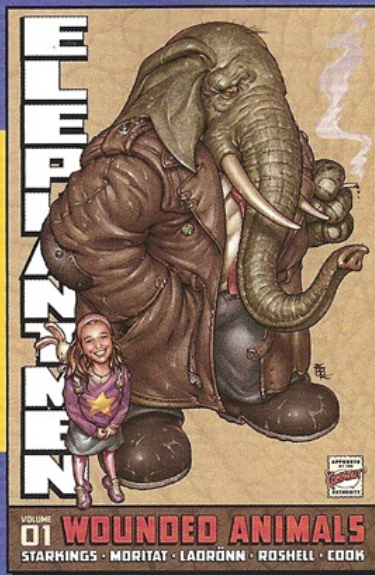
BYE!

-Robert Kirkman

NOVEMBER 2010

ELEPHANTMEN VOL. 1: REVISED & EXPANDED

The sold out first volume of Elephantmen is now back in print. The revised and expanded edition includes the sold out #0 issue with art by Ladrönn, as well as an all-new sketchbook section, as well as the English & Media Studies backmatter from the single issues!

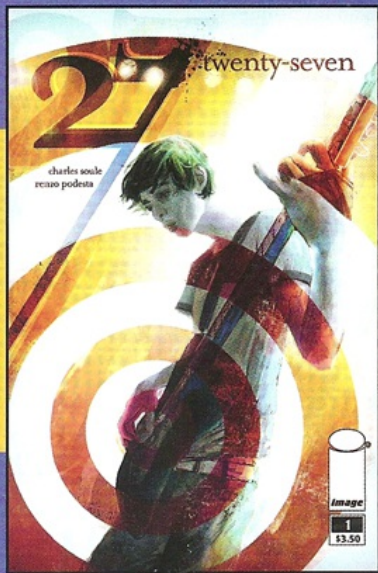


HALCYON #1

What happens when the never-ending battle for Truth and Justice ends? The heroes of HALCYON achieve their final victory only to face their greatest challenge ever. An all-star collaboration courtesy of **Tara Butters** (TV's *Reaper*), **Marc Guggenheim** (*Amazing Spider-Man, Resurrection*), **Ryan Bodenheim** (*Red Mass For Mars*), and **Mark Englert**.

YESTERDAY'S TOMORROWS TP

An eclectic and stylish collection of comics from Rian Hughes, renowned illustrator and graphic designer. The volume features infamous and hard-to-find collaborations with Eisner Award winner Grant Morrison, a Science Service story with John Freeman, and a Raymond Chandler story adapted by novelist Tom DeHaven (*It's Superman*).



27 #1 (of 4)

Hendrix, Cobain, Joplin, Morrison. All belong to the "27 Club," which admits only the most brilliant musicians and artists...and kills them dead in their 27th year. Will Garland is a famous rock guitarist. He's also 27! With mad scientists, long dead rock legends and cosmic entities in his way, can he make it to 28?

- 27 #1
- ARTIFACTS #3
- ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #25
- BLACK HARVEST TP
- BOMB QUEEN VI #2 (of 4)
- CHEW TP VOL 3: JUST DESSERTS
- DAN BRERETON: THE GODDESS & THE MONSTER HC
- DARKNESS #87
- ELEPHANTMEN #28
- ELEPHANTMEN, VOL. 1: WOUNDED ANIMALS REVISED & EXPANDED TP
- FIREBREATH, VOL. 3: HOLMGANG #1 (of 4)
- GUARDING THE GLOBE #3
- HACK/SLASH TRAILERS PART 2
- HALCYON #1
- HAUNT #11
- INVINCIBLE #75
- MAGE VOL. 1: THE HERO DISCOVERED HC (NEW PRINTING)
- MICE TEMPLAR SKETCHBOOK #2
- MORNING GLORIES #4
- NANCY IN HELL #4 (of 4)
- SAVAGE DRAGON #166
- SCI-SPY THE COMPLETE SERIES TP
- SKULLKICKERS #3
- SKY PIRATES OF NEO TERRA TP
- SPAWN ORIGINS TP VOL 8
- THE SWORD COMPLETE COLLECTION DELUXE HARDCOVER
- THE WALKING DEAD #79
- THE WALKING DEAD TP VOL 13: TOO FAR GONE
- WITCHBLADE #139
- YESTERDAY'S TOMORROWS TP VOL 1

CHECKLIST

The Third Degree: JIM ZUBKAVICH

IMAGE COMICS'
MONTHLY Q&A
SESSION

A lifelong gamer, Jim Zubkavich intimately understands the motifs he knocks sideways each month in the hit comic *Skullkickers*. Zubkavich also teaches art and animation in Toronto and creates digital illustrations for diverse clients, from comics publishers to toy companies to movie studios.

What are you working on right now?
Final preparations for my impending nuptials (which will be a done deal by the time this sees print) and writing *Skullkickers* #5+.

What's the best part of your job?
Figuring out which sound effects best exemplify excessive violence.

What's the worst part of your job?
Convincing family, friends and strangers that working in comics/art/creative stuff isn't easy.

How did you first discover comics?
Probably reading *Spidey Super Stories* in the old *Electric Company* magazine, graduating up to superhero comic obsession through my teens.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
I actually teach at Seneca College in Toronto as part of their Animation faculty, so I'd be doing more of that while daydreaming about working in comics.

What are you most likely to complain to an editor about?
Why don't the printed comics glow with vibrant color like the jpegs do on my monitor?

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
You wouldn't know it by reading *Skullkickers*, but the early films of Hayao Miyazaki brought me immense joy. I hope something I do excites people even a fraction of that.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
I created a graphic novel called *The Makeshift Miracle* back in 2001, and even though it's raw and unprofessional in spots, it taught me to follow my passions and finish what I start.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
There's a website called 'Fandom Secrets' where hardcore fans discuss how TV, comic, anime or video game characters have affected their lives/turn them on. Reading it brings on a strange mixture of amazement and schadenfreude.

What was the last comic book you bought?
Morning Glories #3. Gotta support my fellow Image-ites.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?
A puppet.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

A fan asked me for my professional opinion on the sexual habits of two popular video game characters, hoping I could settle an argument he was having with his friends.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
Breathable air, food/water, dreams.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
A jar with my four extracted wisdom teeth in it.

When was the last time you laughed out loud?
This morning's Fail Blog entry. Injury footage shouldn't be so funny, but it is.

What music are you listening to these days?
Orchestral soundtracks to help fill my head with epic ideas and to drown out the sound of renovations happening next door.

What is your favorite film of all time?
Hard to nail down, just one... but right now I'll say *My Neighbour Totoro*. In a couple days it could be *Army of Darkness* or *Fight Club*.

Who is your best friend?
My fiancée, Stacy. She's helped me through thick and thin over the past few years, supported the work I do, and patiently let comic stuff worm its way into every aspect of our lives.

What is the worst advice you've ever received?
"You need to make a choice between responsibility and creativity. There's no room for both."

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
Weeks ago I lied awake at night wondering whether anyone would buy and enjoy *Skullkickers*. Months and months of work was distilled down into that night of pure neurotic fear that it would fail.

Name someone you really admire and explain why.
My friend Ray Fawkes has an uncompromising vision of how he wants to develop as a writer and the type of work he wants to be associated with. I deeply respect that.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
Even more diversity, less immature sexist bull\$%^& from every publisher and, most of all, more joy in the content. Comics are pure fun and people should embrace that.

What the world needs now is...
A good book and a well poured pint of cider.

Question of the Month

Who would you cast as the lead in film adaptation of your comics?

"One of those kids from one of those shows on the Disney channel or the Nickelodeon channel. Or William H. Macy."

Chris Giarrusso
G-MAN

"For *The Sword*, we're in the process of having it adapted, so we shouldn't say. For *Girls*, same. For *Ultra*, Evangeline Lilly as *Ultra*."

Jonathan & Joshua Luna
THE SWORD, GIRLS, ULTRA

"Invincible - Ray Romano, Grizzly Shark - Ray Romano."

Ryan Ottley
INVINCIBLE,
SEA BEAR & GRIZZLY SHARK

"I always imagined Ed Asner as the voice of *Hip Flask*!"

Richard Starkings
ELEPHANTMEN

"The big guy would either be Ray Stevenson or Vin Diesel. The dwarf would be Zach Galifianakis whipped into a murderous rage."

Jim Zubkavich
SKULLKICKERS

the word
image

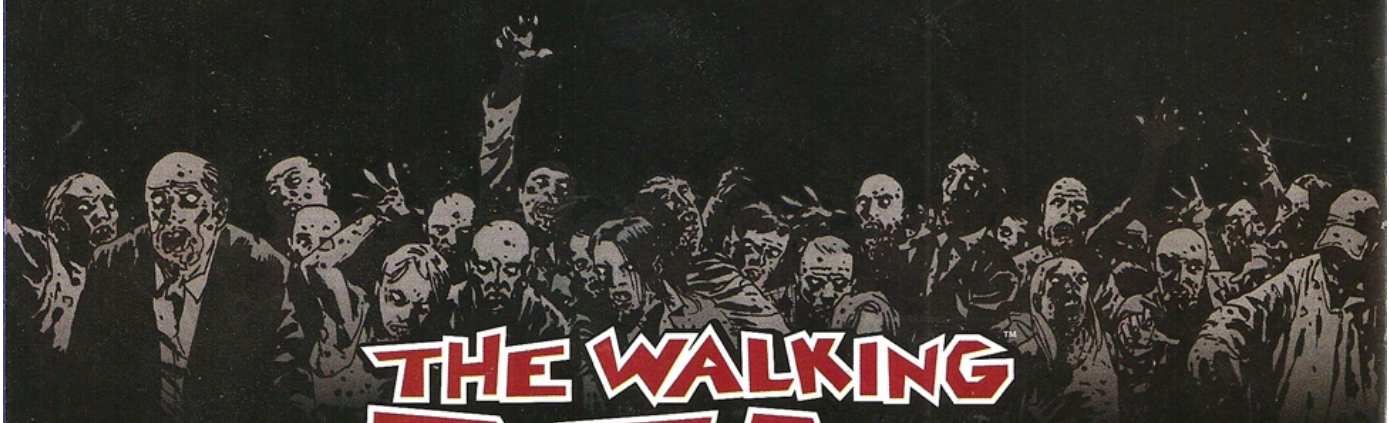
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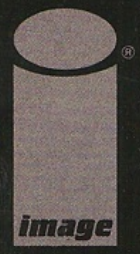
NO WAY OUT



THE WALKING DEAD

beginning in issue 80

DECEMBER





MarrowScan
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