

R
ROGUE MATTER

THE
TIME TRADER #1

DOLCE • SOUSSHERPA • BEEZZZ STUDIO



Soussherpa
BEEZZZ
STUDIO

ROGUE MATTER &
BURNING MEN PRESENT...

THE TIME TRADER

Written, Created, and Lettered by **MICHAEL DOLCE**
Art by **SOUSSHERPA**
Colors by **BEEZZZ STUDIO**
Cover A by **SOUSSHERPA** and **TODD RAYNER**
Cover B by **ADMIRA WIJAYA**
Cover C, Sketch Variant



™ **ROGUE MATTER**

Chief Business Officer - Christopher W. Yan
Executive Director - Michael Dolce
Consulting Editor - Renae Geerlings
Marketing Director - Lana Westbrook
Head of Product and Technology - Rogerio Lemos
Creative Executive - Karla Escobar
Creative Assistant - Karla Luiza

Find **ROGUE MATTER** online:


- website • roguematter.com
- facebook • facebook.com/weareroguematter
- instagram • instagram.com/weareroguematter
- twitter • twitter.com/rogue_matter
- youtube • Youtube.com/RogueMatter
- Twitch • twitch.tv/weareroguematter
- Patreon • Patreon.com/roguematter
- Kickstarter • kickstarter.com/profile/roguematter
- Podcast • roguewavpodcast.com



MY NAME IS
DYLAN SHARPE.

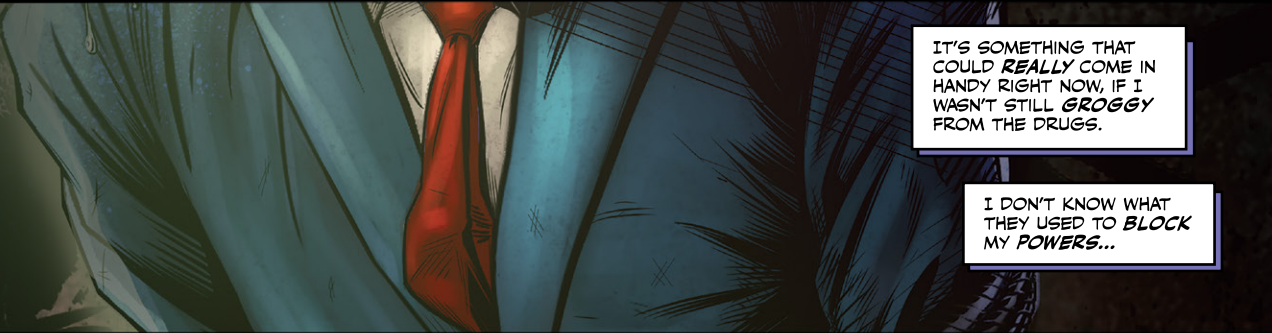
FOR MOST OF MY
LIFE, I'VE HAD THE
UNCANNY ABILITY TO
REWIND TIME.

MORE *SPECIFICALLY*,
TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR
INTERVALS OF TIME.



WHENEVER I *WANT*, I
SIMPLY FOCUS MY
THOUGHTS AND - *BAM!* -
I'M RIGHT BACK WHERE I
WAS THE DAY BEFORE...

...COMPLETE WITH ALL
THE *MEMORIES* AND
EXPERIENCES TO BOOT.



IT'S SOMETHING THAT
COULD *REALLY* COME IN
HANDY RIGHT NOW, IF I
WASN'T STILL *GROGGY*
FROM THE DRUGS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THEY USED TO *BLOCK*
MY *POWERS*...



...OR HOW THEY
EVEN KNEW I HAD
POWERS AT ALL.



WORST OF ALL...
IF IT WASN'T FOR MY
DAMN *MOTHER*...

...I WOULDN'T BE
IN THIS *SITUATION*
TO BEGIN WITH.



THE TIME TRADER

Chapter I: Chasing Returns

SIX MONTHS EARLIER

...TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.

REALLY? I DROP A BOMBSHELL LIKE THAT ON YOU AND ALL YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS MY MOTHER?

I GET THE SENSE YOU DON'T QUITE BELIEVE ME.

THAT YOU CAN REWIND TIME? NO. A BIT MUCH FOR OUR FIRST SESSION, DON'T YOU THINK?

WELL, MAYBE FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, YEAH, BUT...INDULGE ME A LITTLE, WILL YOU?

I KIND OF NEED THIS.

Narcissism!!!
Grandiosity
Delusional
Lack of empathy

VERY WELL. IF YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF...ABILITY, THEN MY FIRST QUESTION IS A FAIRLY OBVIOUS ONE: WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?

WHY AM I NOT SPEAKING TO A MILLIONAIRE RIGHT NOW?

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T?



WELL?
ARE YOU?

WELL, OKAY,
NO, I'M NOT. BUT
THERE'S A
PERFECTLY GOOD
REASON WHY.



AND
THAT IS?



BECAUSE THE
FUTURE'S NOT AS
SET IN *STONE*
AS YOU MIGHT
THINK.

IT'S
ALWAYS
CHANGING.

I...*SEE*.
LOOK, DYLAN,
I UNDERSTAND IF
YOU'RE
ANXIOUS...

...BUT IF WE'RE
GOING TO MAKE ANY
KIND OF *PROGRESS*
TODAY, I HAVE TO INSIST
YOU REFRAIN FROM
SPEAKING IN
RIDDLES.

WHY DON'T YOU
START FROM THE
BEGINNING? HOW LONG
HAVE YOU *BELIEVED*
YOU COULD REWIND
TIME?




DEEP
DOWN...



...I'VE
KNOWN IT MY
ENTIRE
LIFE.




"IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE IN A STATE OF PERPETUAL *DÉJÀ VU*.



"RELIVING CERTAIN **MOMENTS** OVER AND OVER AGAIN, BUT NEVER KNOWING EXACTLY **HOW...OR WHY**.

"THAT WAS ME.



"I'D ALWAYS JUST ASSUMED IT WAS **NORMAL**. MIND PLAYING TRICKS ON ME SOMEHOW.


"AT ONE POINT, I EVEN THOUGHT I WAS **PSYCHIC**."

"WHAT CHANGED?"

"PICKUP TRUCK GOING **SIXTY-FIVE** THROUGH A STOP SIGN.



STOP

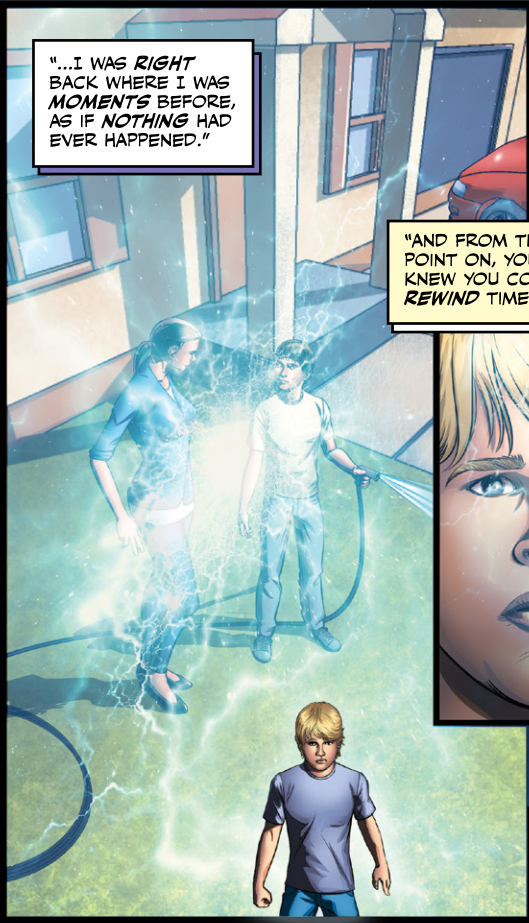


"IT CAME **BARRELING** TOWARD ME SO FAST, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO **REACT**."

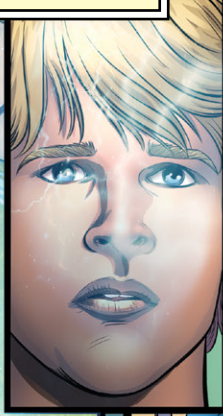


"I CLOSED MY EYES SO **TIGHT**, JUST BEFORE **IMPACT**, THAT WHEN I CAME TO..."

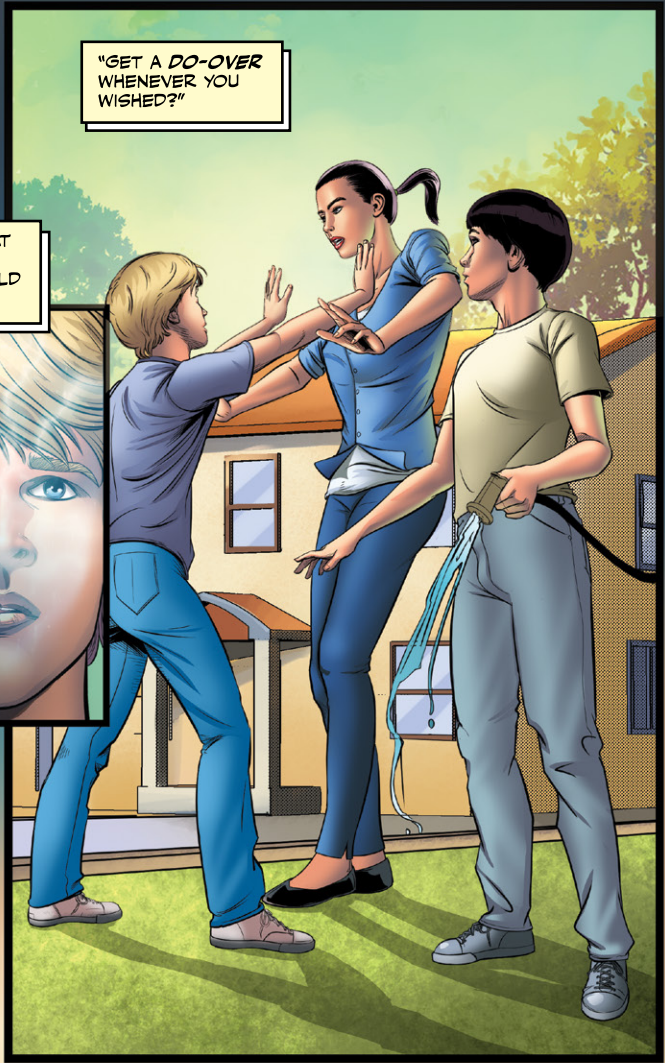
"...I WAS **RIGHT** BACK WHERE I WAS **MOMENTS** BEFORE, AS IF **NOTHING** HAD EVER HAPPENED."



"AND FROM THAT POINT ON, YOU KNEW YOU COULD **REWIND** TIME?"



"GET A **DO-OVER** WHENEVER YOU WISHED?"



"THAT'S THE **LONG** AND **SHORT** OF IT, YEAH."



"AND YOU'RE SURE IT WASN'T A **DREAM**?"

"**POSITIVE.**"



"BECAUSE FROM **THAT** MOMENT ON..."



"...I KNEW HOW TO **CONTROL** IT."

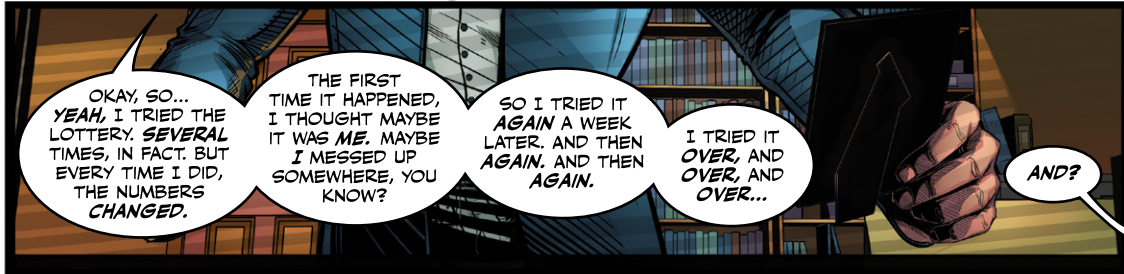


SO THEN I HAVE TO ASK AGAIN, WHY ARE YOU NOT A MILLIONAIRE?

FOR SOMEONE WITH YOUR SUPPOSED ABILITIES, WINNING THE LOTTERY WOULD BE EASY, NO?

YOU WOULD KNOW EVERY NUMBER THE DAY BEFORE THEY CAME OUT.

YOU WOULD THINK...



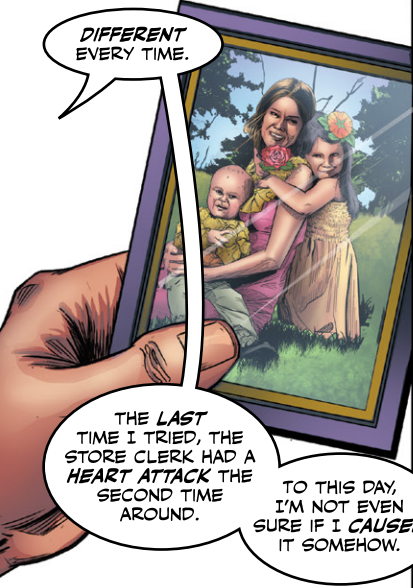
OKAY, SO... YEAH, I TRIED THE LOTTERY. SEVERAL TIMES, IN FACT. BUT EVERY TIME I DID, THE NUMBERS CHANGED.

THE FIRST TIME IT HAPPENED, I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS ME. MAYBE I MESSED UP SOMEWHERE, YOU KNOW?

SO I TRIED IT AGAIN A WEEK LATER. AND THEN AGAIN. AND THEN AGAIN.

I TRIED IT OVER, AND OVER, AND OVER...

AND?



DIFFERENT EVERY TIME.

THE LAST TIME I TRIED, THE STORE CLERK HAD A HEART ATTACK THE SECOND TIME AROUND.

TO THIS DAY, I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I CAUSED IT SOMEHOW.



ALL THAT REWINDING...

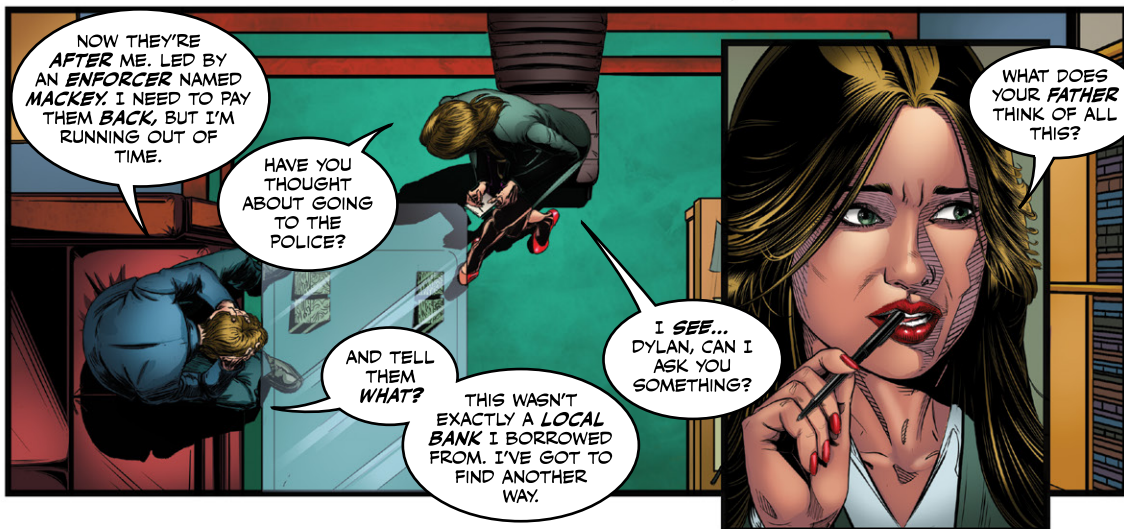
SO YOU GAVE UP TRYING TO CASH IN ON YOUR ABILITIES, THEN?



NOT QUITE. REMEMBER THAT SUPER BOWL WHERE THE GUY CAUGHT THE BALL WITH HIS HELMET?

NO...

YEAH. NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE. SEEMS MY LITTLE JINX APPLIED TO SPORTS TOO. ONLY THIS TIME, I DIDN'T JUST LOSE MY CASH. I BORROWED SOMEONE ELSE'S AND LOST THEIRS TOO.



NOW THEY'RE AFTER ME. LED BY AN ENFORCER NAMED MACKEY. I NEED TO PAY THEM BACK, BUT I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

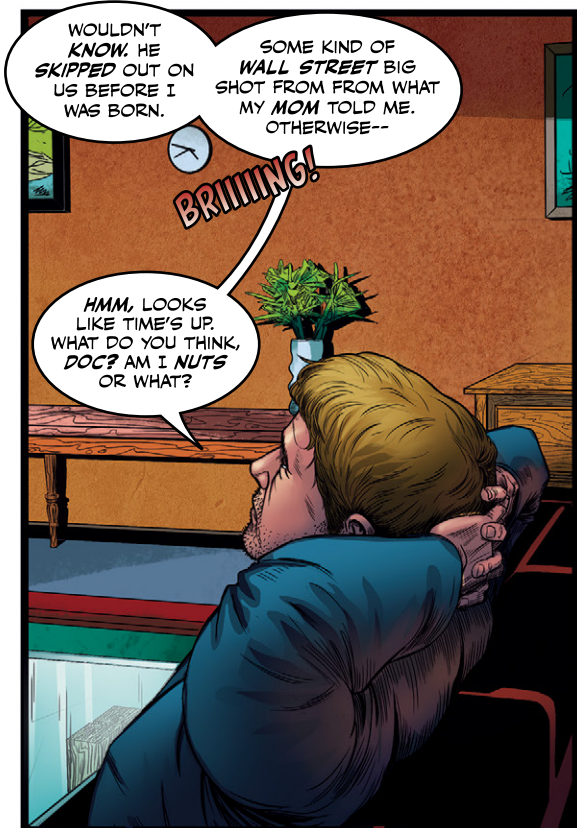
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO THE POLICE?

AND TELL THEM WHAT?

THIS WASN'T EXACTLY A LOCAL BANK I BORROWED FROM. I'VE GOT TO FIND ANOTHER WAY.

I SEE... DYLAN, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

WHAT DOES YOUR FATHER THINK OF ALL THIS?



WOULDN'T KNOW. HE SKIPPED OUT ON US BEFORE I WAS BORN.

SOME KIND OF WALL STREET BIG SHOT FROM FROM WHAT MY MOM TOLD ME. OTHERWISE--

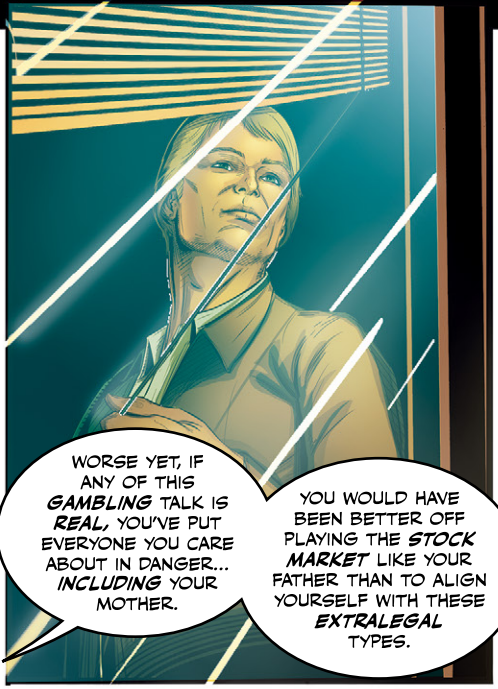
BRINGING!

HMM, LOOKS LIKE TIME'S UP. WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOC? AM I NUTS OR WHAT?



I THINK YOUR MOTHER WAS RIGHTLY **CONCERNED** TO SCHEDULE THIS APPOINTMENT.

IT WILL TAKE **MONTHS**, MAYBE EVEN **YEARS**, OF INTENSE THERAPY TO UNDO THE **WARPED** SENSE OF SELF YOU'VE CREATED AROUND THESE **DELUSIONS**.



WORSE YET, IF ANY OF THIS **GAMBLING** TALK IS **REAL**, YOU'VE PUT EVERYONE YOU CARE ABOUT IN DANGER... **INCLUDING YOUR MOTHER**.

YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF PLAYING THE **STOCK MARKET** LIKE YOUR FATHER THAN TO ALIGN YOURSELF WITH THESE **EXTRALEGAL** TYPES.



BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

THE SOONER YOU CAN ADMIT YOU NEED **HELP**, THE SOONER WE CAN GET IT TO YOU. **IF YOU'RE WILLING** TO TAKE THAT STEP.

YOU KNOW WHAT, DOC? YOU'RE **ABSOLUTELY** RIGHT!



WHAT DO YOU KNOW... I'M **CURED**.

WELL I DON'T THINK IT'S AS **SIMPLE** AS--

ACTUALLY, FOR ME, IT KIND OF IS.

CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR ADVICE.

NOT THE WHOLE DELUSIONS PART. BUT THE STOCK MARKET... THAT WAS BRILLIANT!

WZZZAAA



"I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T THINK OF IT THE FIRST TIME AROUND..."

...I AM CALLING THAT THERAPIST AND MAKING YOU AN APPOINTMENT!

POP!
POP!



...I AM CALLING THAT THERAPIST AND MAKING YOU AN APPOINTMENT!

HMM? WHAT? OH. NO NEED, MOM.

POP!



I'VE GOT IT ALL UNDER CONTROL.

MY SUIT IN THERE?

NEW YORK CITY.
SIX MONTHS LATER.

I GUESS I COULD
HAVE STAYED HOME
AND DAY TRADED...

...BUT WITH **MACKEY**
ON MY **TRAIL**, THE
WORK-FROM-HOME
OPTION REALLY WASN'T
IN **PLAY** ANYMORE.

BESIDES, WHERE'S THE
FUN IN THAT ANYWAY? THIS
CITY IS **ELECTRIC**,
ESPECIALLY IF YOU'VE GOT
THE **CASH** TO DO IT RIGHT.



WHICH, THANKS TO
THAT **THERAPIST**,
I NOW **DID**.



KIND OF CRAZY SHE
BROUGHT UP MY
FATHER LIKE THAT.

TRUTH BE TOLD, I
HAVEN'T THOUGHT
ABOUT HIM IN **YEARS**.
CAN'T MISS WHAT YOU
NEVER **HAD**, RIGHT?

BUT SHE WAS
RIGHT. SEEMS
THE GLOBAL
ACTIONS OF
MOVERS AND
SHAKERS...



...DIDN'T REALLY
VARY MUCH FROM
DAY TO DAY.

WHICH MEANT MY
LITTLE **JINX** JUST
DIDN'T SEEM TO
APPLY ANYMORE.

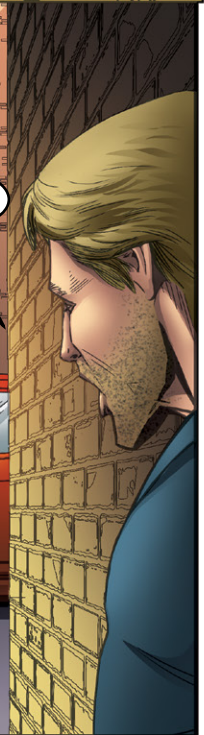
I BOUGHT MYSELF
SOME **TIME**. ENOUGH
FOR MY PLAN TO
REALLY KICK INTO
HIGH GEAR.



ALL I NEEDED
WAS A LITTLE
PATIENCE.

EVAN!

AND A HECK
OF A LOT OF
DO-OVERS!



EVAN WAS THE KEY. PENNY STOCKS RAISED MY PROFILE AND MY CAPITAL LEVEL. BUT NO WAY COULD I PASS MY SERIES 7 IN TIME TO BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER.

WHAT'S UP, BROSEFF? FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU HERE.

YEAH, WHAT A COINCIDENCE, HUH?

LISTEN, YOU GOT A MINUTE TO TALK?

I NEEDED SOMEONE TO MAKE ME ONE INSTEAD. TOOK A LOT OF NETWORKING AND SOME TRIAL AND ERROR TO GET INTO HIS INNER CIRCLE.

BUT ONCE I DID, I KNEW HE'D BE MY TICKET TO THE BIG LEAGUES.

HE WAS MORE CONNECTED THAN THE PHONE COMPANY.

POWERS? YOU GOT THE MEETING WITH MAX POWERS?!

OF COURSE I GOT THE MEETING WITH MAX POWERS.

C'MON MAN, WHO'S GOT THE JUICE?

SAY IT. SAY "EVAN, YOU GOT THE JUICE."

CAN'T. ON MY WAY TO A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING WITH MR. YOU-KNOW-WHO...

CAN I TAG ALONG?

TAG ALONG? BRO...

...YOU'RE THE MAN HE'S LOOKING TO MEET!

WAIT...

RRREEEEEEEE

IT LOOKED LIKE THINGS WERE LOOKING UP...

...WHEN OUT OF NOWHERE...

...EVERYTHING WENT STRAIGHT TO HELL!

BWOOOM!
AAAGH!

EVAN!

EVAN WAS DEAD AND MY WHOLE PLAN STARTED TO UNRAVEL BEFORE MY EYES.

AND THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN EVEN JUST THAT.

KRAK

RRREEEEEEEE

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

IT BECAME PRETTY CLEAR IN A HURRY...

...THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT.

NO...

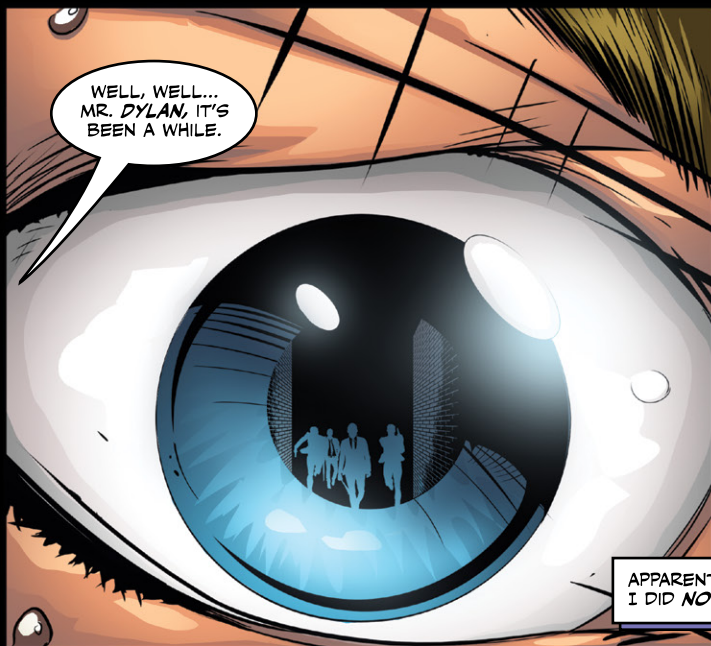
HE'S GETTIN' AWAY! HURRY!

BRARRPP
BRARRPP BRARRPP

THEY WERE **DEFINITELY** MACKEY'S GUYS. ONLY QUESTION WAS **WHY?**

>HEFFK

I **THOUGHT** I HAD BOUGHT MYSELF MORE TIME WITH HIM.



WELL, WELL... MR. DYLAN, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

APPARENTLY, I DID **NOT**.

I COULD HAVE **JUMPED BACK** AT ANY MOMENT, BUT I **HAD** TO KNOW WHY HE WAS THERE.

I WAS **ALSO** GOING TO NEED A NEW PAIR OF **PANTS**.

MACKEY, **WAIT!** WHAT ARE YOU **DOING** HERE? YOU GOT MY LAST PAYMENT. WE'RE **GOOD** FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF MONTHS!

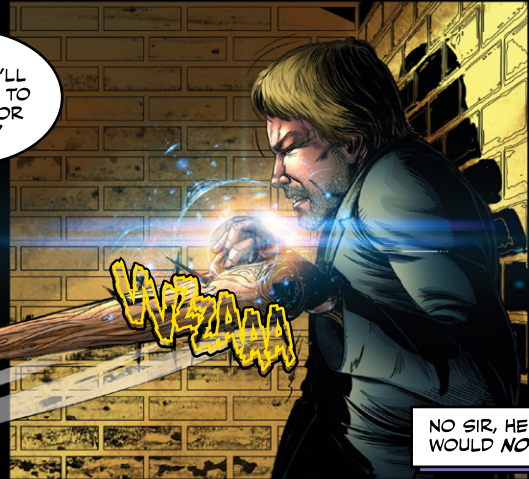


WHAT CAN I **SAY?** BOSS GOT **IMPATIENT**. HE WANTS YOU PAID IN FULL, **NOW**.

BUT I DON'T **HAVE** THAT KIND OF MONEY **YET!**



THEN I GUESS HE'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR **LIMBS!**



NO SIR, HE WOULD **NOT**.

I CUT MY
DISAPPEARING
ACT A BIT *TOO*
CLOSE FOR
COMFORT...

...AND IN THE *END*, I
STILL HAD NO *REAL*
EXPLANATION WHY HE
WAS THERE. WHY ALL
OF A SUDDEN MY
SITUATION *CHANGED*.

WORSE *YET*, I COULDN'T
EVEN JUMP BACK THE
FULL *TWENTY-FOUR* AT
THAT POINT.

NOT WHEN I'D
ALREADY USED
MY POWERS
ONCE THAT DAY.

THAT'S THE *CATCH*.
IF I USE MY POWERS
AT ALL WITHIN A
TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR
TIME SPAN...

...THE *BEST* I CAN DO
IS REWIND BACK TO
THE POINT AT WHICH
I *LAST* JUMPED.

WHICH, CONSIDERING I
USED THEM TO HELP
SET UP THAT *"RUN-IN"*
WITH EVAN IN THE
FIRST PLACE, PUT ME
SQUARELY BACK--

BWHOOF

--HERE!

EVAN!
>HEFFK EVAN,
IT'S ME!
>HEFFK

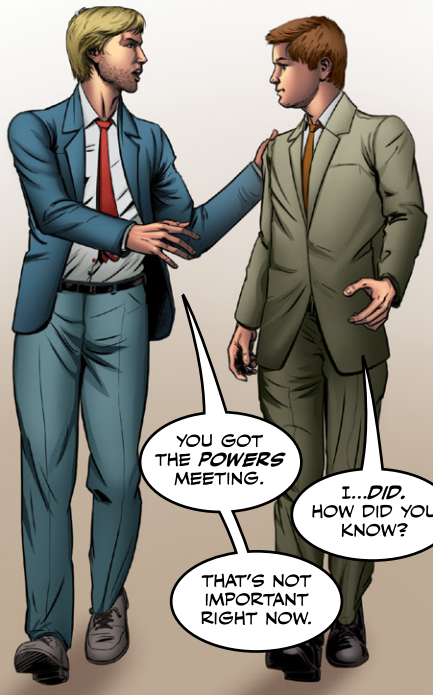


THERE WAS NO TIME FOR SMALL TALK...

WHAT'S UP BROSEF? FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU--



I HAD TO ACT FAST.



YOU GOT THE POWERS MEETING.

I...DID. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.



WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU FOLLOW ME.



AND WE GET AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS WE CAN.

HMMM...

THEATRICALS ASIDE, I WASN'T GOING TO LET SOME *LOWLIFE* LIKE MACKEY STAND IN MY WAY.

MAX POWERS WAS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL INVESTOR OF OUR TIME. HE WAS THE MAN *BEHIND* "THE MAN," IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

AND FROM THE WAY EVAN *DESCRIBED* IT...

MR. POWERS, YOUR ELEVEN O'CLOCK IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

...HE *SPECIFICALLY* ASKED TO SEE ME.

YOU CAN HEAD RIGHT IN. HE'S *EXPECTING* YOU.

GENTLEMEN, *PLEASE*, WELCOME. HAVE A SEAT.

THANK YOU, MR. POWERS. HOW WAS YOUR TRIP TO *HONG KONG*?

READ ABOUT THAT *DID* YOU?

ALAS, MY PROFILE HAS BECOME SO MUCH MORE *ELEVATED* IN THIS DIGITAL AGE. MUCH TO MY *CHAGRIN* I MIGHT ADD.

BUT I *DIGRESS*. INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR FRIEND.

MY TIME IS *SHORT* AND THEREFORE EXTREMELY VALUABLE.

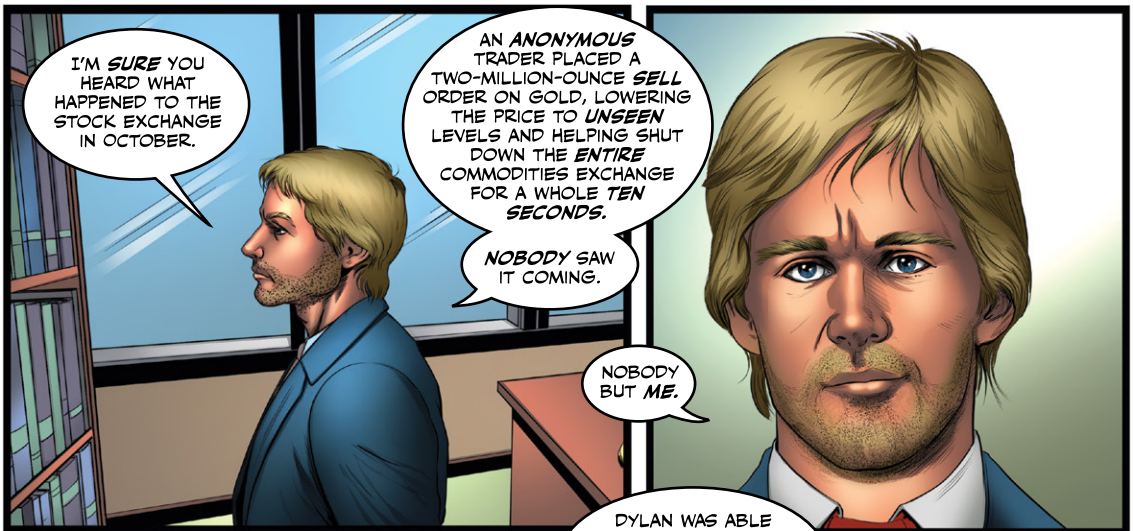
RIGHT, SIR. THIS IS DYLAN *SHARPE*, THE MAN I TOLD YOU ABOUT. HE'S--

WITH ALL DUE *RESPECT*, MR. POWERS--

PLEASE, CALL ME *MAX*.

WITH ALL DUE *RESPECT*, *MAX*...

...*I'M* THE MAN THAT'S BEEN *LINING* EVAN'S *POCKETS* THE PAST SIX MONTHS. AND I'M PREPARED TO DO THE *SAME* FOR YOU.

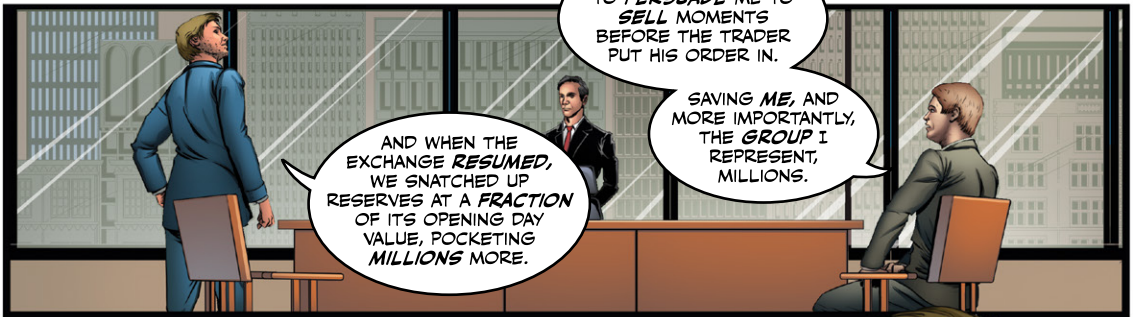


I'M SURE YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN OCTOBER.

AN ANONYMOUS TRADER PLACED A TWO-MILLION-OUNCE SELL ORDER ON GOLD, LOWERING THE PRICE TO UNSEEN LEVELS AND HELPING SHUT DOWN THE ENTIRE COMMODITIES EXCHANGE FOR A WHOLE TEN SECONDS.

NOBODY SAW IT COMING.

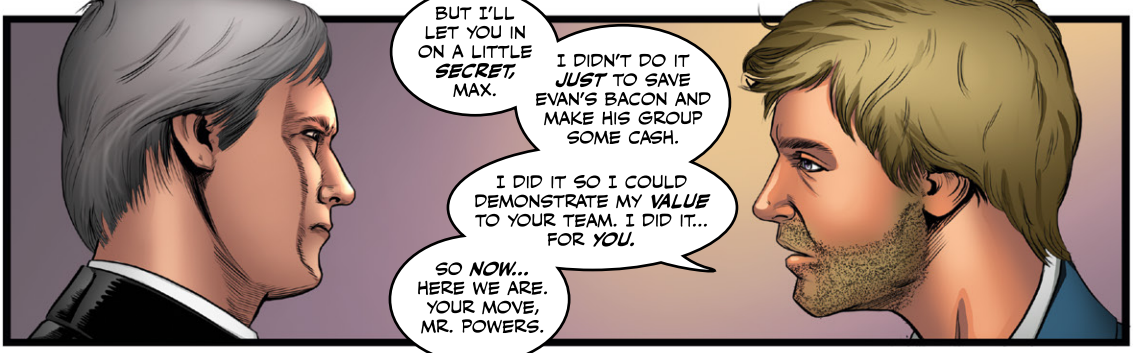
NOBODY BUT ME.



DYLAN WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE ME TO SELL MOMENTS BEFORE THE TRADER PUT HIS ORDER IN.

AND WHEN THE EXCHANGE RESUMED, WE SNATCHED UP RESERVES AT A FRACTION OF ITS OPENING DAY VALUE, POCKETING MILLIONS MORE.

SAVING ME, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE GROUP I REPRESENT, MILLIONS.

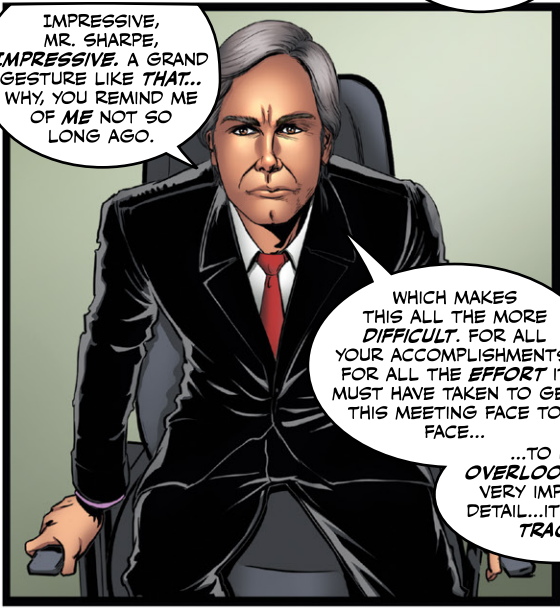


BUT I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET, MAX.

I DIDN'T DO IT JUST TO SAVE EVAN'S BACON AND MAKE HIS GROUP SOME CASH.

I DID IT SO I COULD DEMONSTRATE MY VALUE TO YOUR TEAM. I DID IT... FOR YOU.

SO NOW... HERE WE ARE. YOUR MOVE, MR. POWERS.



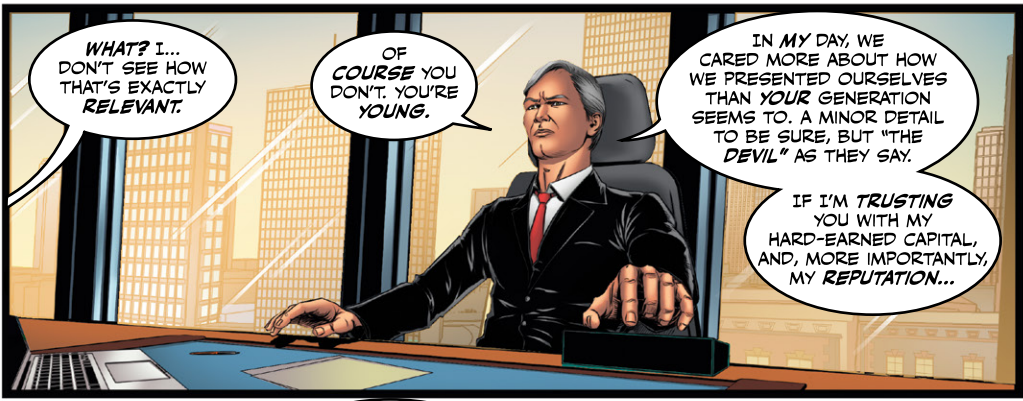
IMPRESSIVE, MR. SHARPE, IMPRESSIVE. A GRAND GESTURE LIKE THAT... WHY, YOU REMIND ME OF ME NOT SO LONG AGO.

WHICH MAKES THIS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT. FOR ALL YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. FOR ALL THE EFFORT IT MUST HAVE TAKEN TO GET THIS MEETING FACE TO FACE...

...TO HAVE OVERLOOKED ONE VERY IMPORTANT DETAIL...IT'S SIMPLY TRAGIC.



YOU FORGOT TO SHAVE.



WHAT? I... DON'T SEE HOW THAT'S EXACTLY RELEVANT.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T. YOU'RE YOUNG.

IN MY DAY, WE CARED MORE ABOUT HOW WE PRESENTED OURSELVES THAN YOUR GENERATION SEEMS TO. A MINOR DETAIL TO BE SURE, BUT "THE DEVIL" AS THEY SAY.

IF I'M TRUSTING YOU WITH MY HARD-EARNED CAPITAL, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MY REPUTATION...



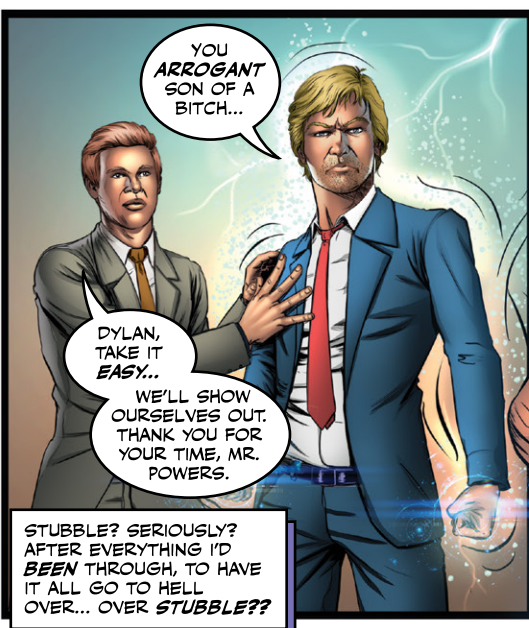
...I EXPECT NOTHING TO GO OVERLOOKED, DOWN TO THE LAST, MINUTE DETAIL.

FROM YOUR SUIT DOWN TO YOUR STUBBLE, YOU ARE TO DEMONSTRATE A PREPARATION UNMATCHED IN ALL SITUATIONS.

IN THIS CASE, YOURS WAS SORELY LACKING.



I'M SORRY YOU'VE WASTED MY TIME.



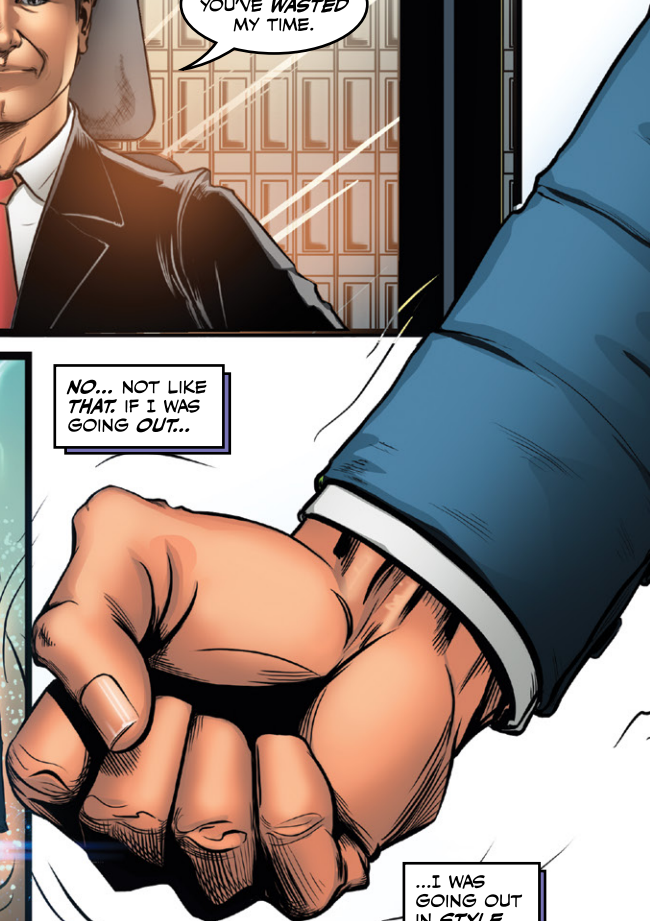
YOU ARROGANT SON OF A BITCH...

DYLAN, TAKE IT EASY...

WE'LL SHOW OURSELVES OUT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, MR. POWERS.

STUBBLE? SERIOUSLY? AFTER EVERYTHING I'D BEEN THROUGH, TO HAVE IT ALL GO TO HELL OVER... OVER STUBBLE??

NO... NOT LIKE THAT. IF I WAS GOING OUT...



...I WAS GOING OUT IN STYLE.



YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME, MAX?!

WHIRAK

KRRSSSH!

DYLAN, JESUS, MAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



SHOWING THIS GUY WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE!
WE DON'T NEED HIS HELP!

CRASH!



COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T NEED YOU EITHER, "BRO"!

THWOK



ASHLEY! I NEED SECURITY IN HERE NOW!



YOU THINK YOU'RE SO BIG, MAX? THINK YOU'RE THE BIG BOSS MAN AROUND HERE? I WILL END YOU! RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!

I WILL END YOU!!!!

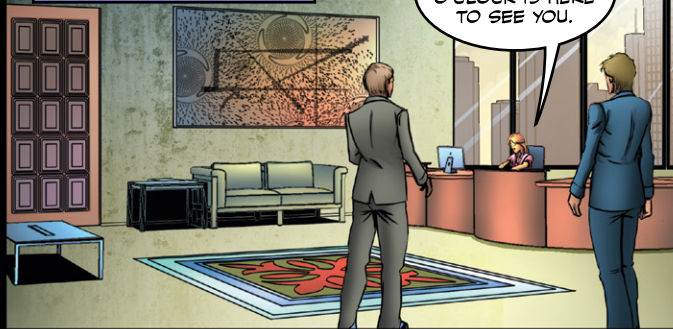


OKAY, SO MAYBE I WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD.



BUT WHAT'S THE FUN OF HAVING POWERS LIKE *MINE* IF YOU CAN'T CUT *LOOSE* EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?

MR. POWERS, YOUR ELEVEN O'CLOCK IS HERE TO SEE YOU.



CLEARLY, I *INSULTED* THE MAN BY NOT COMING IN CLEAN SHAVEN.

YOU CAN HEAD RIGHT IN. HE'S EXPECTING YOU.



AND *THAT'S* A MISTAKE I'D NEVER MAKE TWICE.



BRO, THAT WAS IN-*SANE!* I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!



THAT PART ABOUT YOUR LEVEL OF *PREPARATION?* WHAT DID YOU SAY? "FROM MY *SUIT* DOWN TO MY *STUBBLE...*" MAN, HE ATE THAT SHIT UP!

IT'S WHAT I *DO*, EVAN. IT'S WHAT I *DO*. GO ON, YOU CAN SAY IT...



WHO'S GOT THE *JUICE?* SAY IT. SAY "DYLAN, YOU GOT THE *JUICE.*"





HAHA! YOU **KNOW** IT, BRO! THIS IS IT, EIGHT O'CLOCK, MAX'S **MANSION** UP IN WESTPORT. BRING YOUR **A-GAME**. THERE WILL BE PLAYERS THERE.



A-GAME? EVAN, ARE YOU **SERIOUS?**



"WHEN DO I EVER BRING ANYTHING **LESS?**"

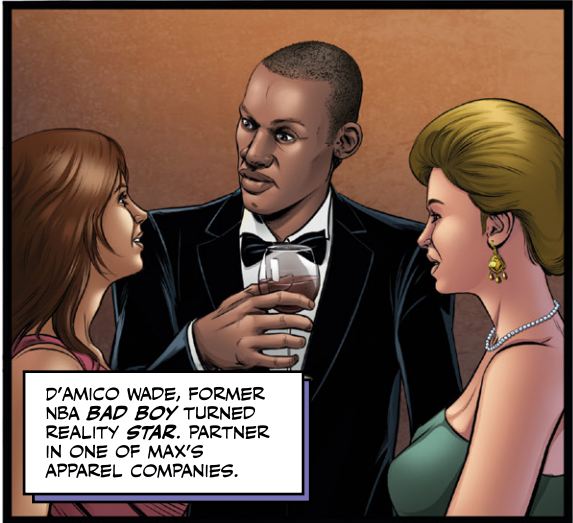


TAKE YOUR **COATS**, GENTLEMEN?

EVAN WASN'T KIDDING. THE PLACE WAS **HUGE**. AND TO THINK, IT WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF MAX'S **SMALLER** ABODES.



ENTREPRENEURS, TECH GENIUSES, COMMODITIES BROKERS...YOU NAME IT. THEY WERE ALL THERE.



D'AMICO WADE, FORMER NBA **BAD BOY** TURNED REALITY **STAR**. PARTNER IN ONE OF MAX'S APPAREL COMPANIES.

SANDRA EAGLE, **PSYCHOTHERAPIST** TO THE **STARS**. HER ROLODEX ALONE WAS A **WHO'S WHO** OF CELEBRITIES AND HIGH ROLLERS.



STRESS, ANXIETY, PRESSURE OF THE JOB... **HELL**, SHE WAS PROBABLY TREATING **HALF** THE ROOM THERE.



TAKING IT ALL IN, DYLAN? YOU SHOULD. THIS **SHIT** IS HIGH CLASS.



ISN'T IT THOUGH?

(ULP) MR. POWERS! I-I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!



IT'S SUCH AN **HONOR**... THANK YOU **AGAIN** FOR INVITING US.

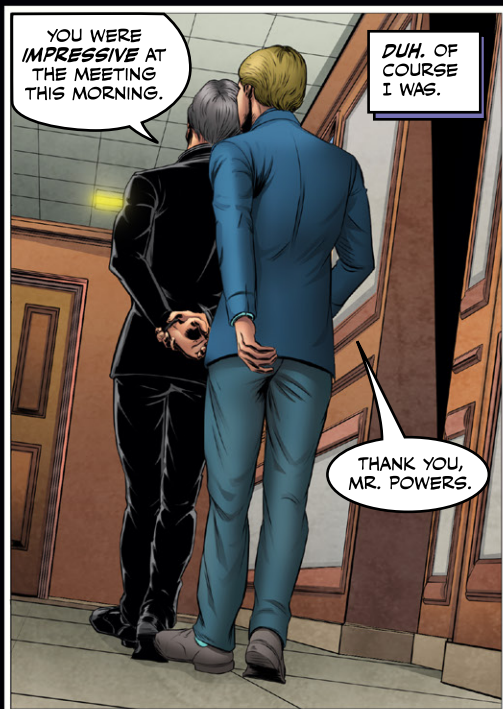
SHRRM WHAT HE SAID.

HAHA! AT **EASE**, BOYS, NO ONE'S BEING **TESTED** TONIGHT. YOU PROVED YOURSELF QUITE **ADEPT** EARLIER TODAY. YOUR ONLY REQUIREMENT IS TO **INDULGE** YOURSELVES AT MY EXPENSE. I **INSIST!**



THAT BEING **SAID**... EVAN, WOULD YOU MIND **EXCUSING** DYLAN AND I FOR A FEW MINUTES? I'D LOVE TO **CHAT FURTHER** WITH HIM.

OF **COURSE**, MR. POWERS.



YOU WERE IMPRESSIVE AT THE MEETING THIS MORNING.

DUH. OF COURSE I WAS.

THANK YOU, MR. POWERS.



PLEASE, CALL ME MAX. I WANT TO PICK YOUR BRAIN A BIT MORE, DYLAN.

AWAY FROM PRYING EYES. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAKES YOU TICK.



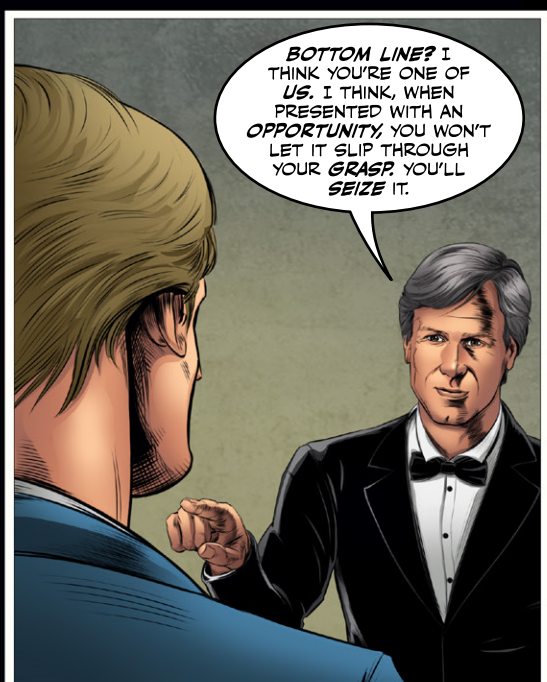
CUBAN?

OH, NO, THANK YOU. I DON'T SMOKE.



SEE? THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE YOUR OWN MAN. DO YOU KNOW, HALF THE GUESTS UPSTAIRS WOULD BE TOO AFRAID TO SAY NO TO ME?

EVEN FOR SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A CIGAR?



BOTTOM LINE? I THINK YOU'RE ONE OF US. I THINK, WHEN PRESENTED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY, YOU WON'T LET IT SLIP THROUGH YOUR GRASP. YOU'LL SEIZE IT.



"YOU REMEMBER MY ASSISTANT ASHLEY, DON'T YOU?"

IT GOT PRETTY WEIRD FROM THAT POINT ON. GOOD WEIRD, BUT STILL...

ASHLEY, PLEASE TAKE MR. SHARPE ON A PROPER TOUR OF THE MANY BEDROOMS THIS HOUSE HAS TO OFFER.

YES, MR. POWERS.

UHMM...

GO ON, DYLAN. SEIZE. BUSINESS WILL BE HERE WHEN YOU RETURN.

I MUST SAY, I'VE NEVER SEEN MR. POWERS SO IMPRESSED BY A NEW RECRUIT BEFORE.

DO TELL.

DID HE MENTION HOW IMPRESSED I WAS, AS WELL?



UMMM...

YOU'RE NERVOUS. RELAX.



LET ME TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...



(GULP)

I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.



BUT BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.

GOOD NIGHT, MR. SHARPE.



SWEET DREAMS...

AND THAT PRETTY MUCH BRINGS US UP TO *SPEED*.

GASP!

THE LAST I REMEMBER, I WAS WATCHING ASHLEY UNDRRESS...

...WHEN, THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M TIED UP HERE ALL **BRUISED** AND **BLOODY**.



I STILL CAN'T *FOCUS* EITHER. THE *SYNAPSES*... THEY'RE NOT CONNECTING. I CAN'T--

MACKEY?!

I WOULDN'T TRY *REWINDING* IF I WERE YOU.



EVEN IF YOU DID, IT'S *PAST* THE TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR MARK. YOU'D *REWIND* RIGHT BACK INTO THAT CHAIR.

REWIND? MACKEY... HOW DO YOU...

THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR ANSWERS WHEN *MR. POWERS* GETS HERE.





I DON'T UNDERSTAND... **MAX...** WHY WOULD HE BE WORKING WITH YOU?

WORKING WITH ME? DON'T YOU GET IT?



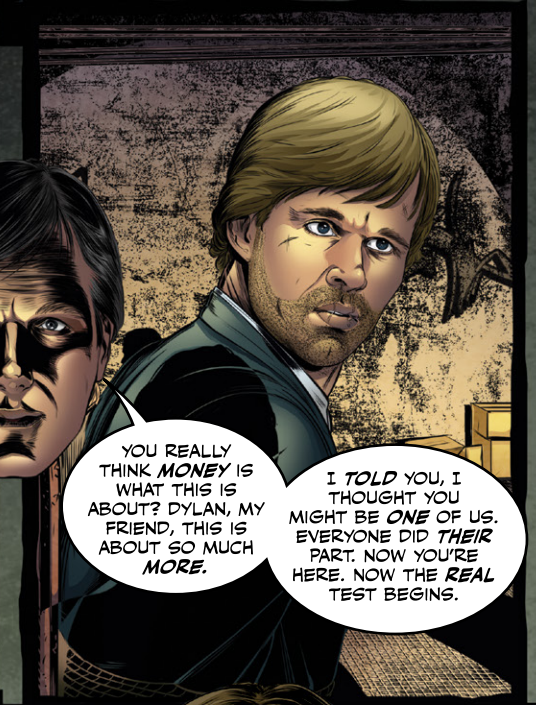
I WORK FOR HIM. ALWAYS HAVE.



THAT'S ENOUGH, MACKEY. LET THE MAN GET *SITUATED*. I'M SURE HE HAS *PLENTY* OF QUESTIONS FOR US BOTH.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY *SENSE*. I NEVER BORROWED ANY MONEY FROM YOU.

DR. SIMMONS? PLEASE UNTIE OUR GUEST.



YOU REALLY THINK *MONEY* IS WHAT THIS IS ABOUT? DYLAN, MY FRIEND, THIS IS ABOUT SO MUCH *MORE*.

I TOLD YOU, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE *ONE* OF US. EVERYONE DID *THEIR* PART. NOW YOU'RE HERE. NOW THE *REAL* TEST BEGINS.



I BELIEVE IT'S TIME YOU AND HE HAD ANOTHER "*SESSION*." THIS TIME FOR *KEEPS!*

WHAT. THE. HELL?



YES, I BELIEVE IT IS.

REMAND ME TO THANK MY MOTHER IF I EVER MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE...

TO BE CONTINUED...



THE TIME TRADER²

DOLCE • SOUSSHERPA • BEEZ STUDIO



COMING SOON!