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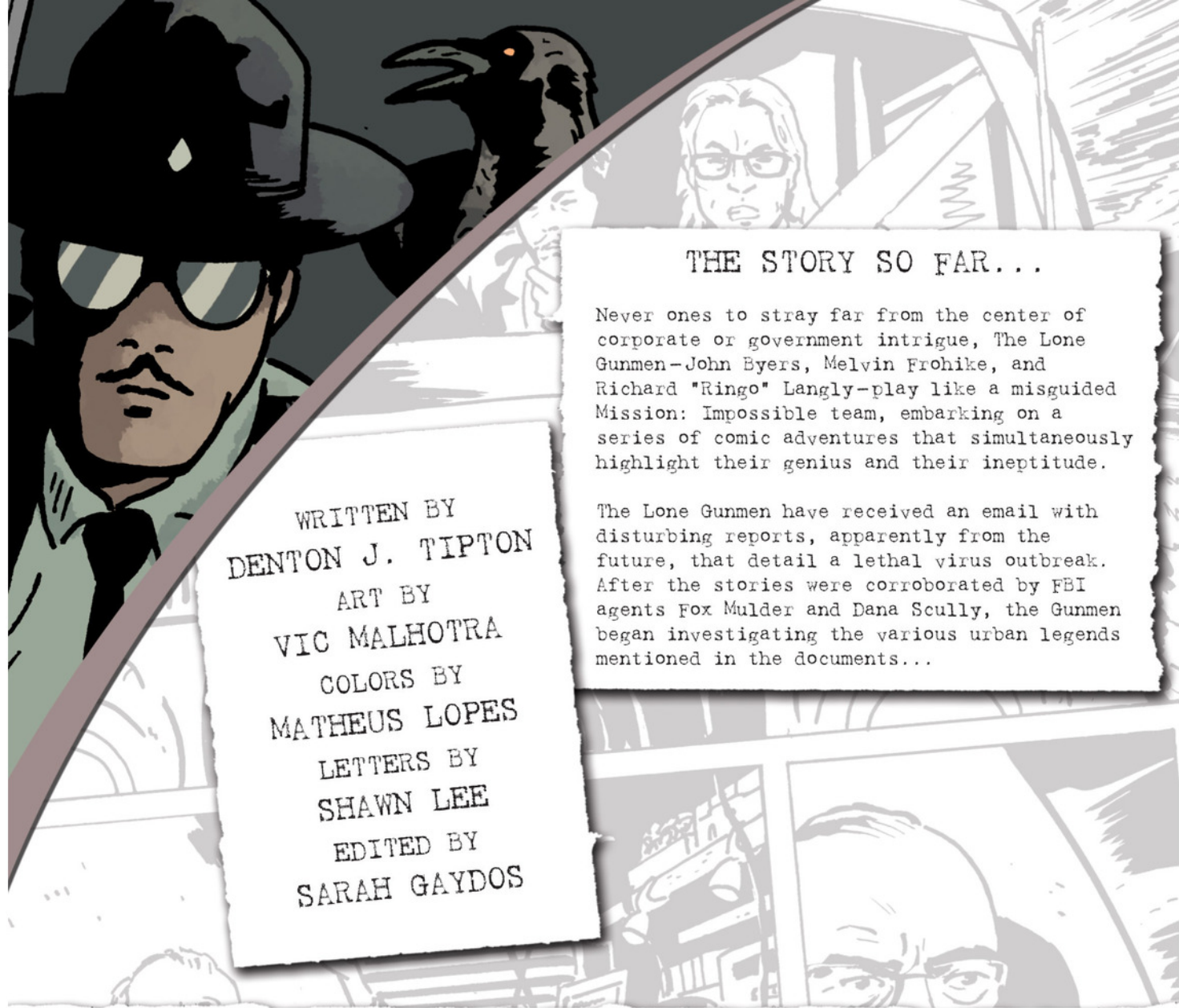
**TIPTON
MALHOTRA
LOPES**

T H E X F I L E S[™]
C O N S P I R A C Y

the **CROW**[™]



CONSPIRACY
PART 5 of 6



THE STORY SO FAR...

Never ones to stray far from the center of corporate or government intrigue, The Lone Gunmen—John Byers, Melvin Frohike, and Richard "Ringo" Langly—play like a misguided Mission: Impossible team, embarking on a series of comic adventures that simultaneously highlight their genius and their ineptitude.

The Lone Gunmen have received an email with disturbing reports, apparently from the future, that detail a lethal virus outbreak. After the stories were corroborated by FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, the Gunmen began investigating the various urban legends mentioned in the documents...

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U.S. HIGHWAY 50
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
THREE DAYS AGO

...AS LONG AS YOU GET ME BACK IN TIME.

OUR USUAL SPOT, THEN?

OR DO I HAVE TO CANCEL THE ROOM LIKE I DID BRYCE RESORT LAST WEEKEND?

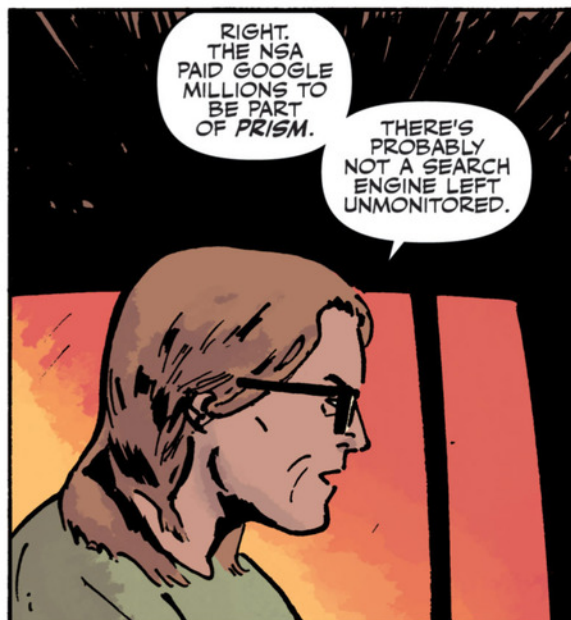
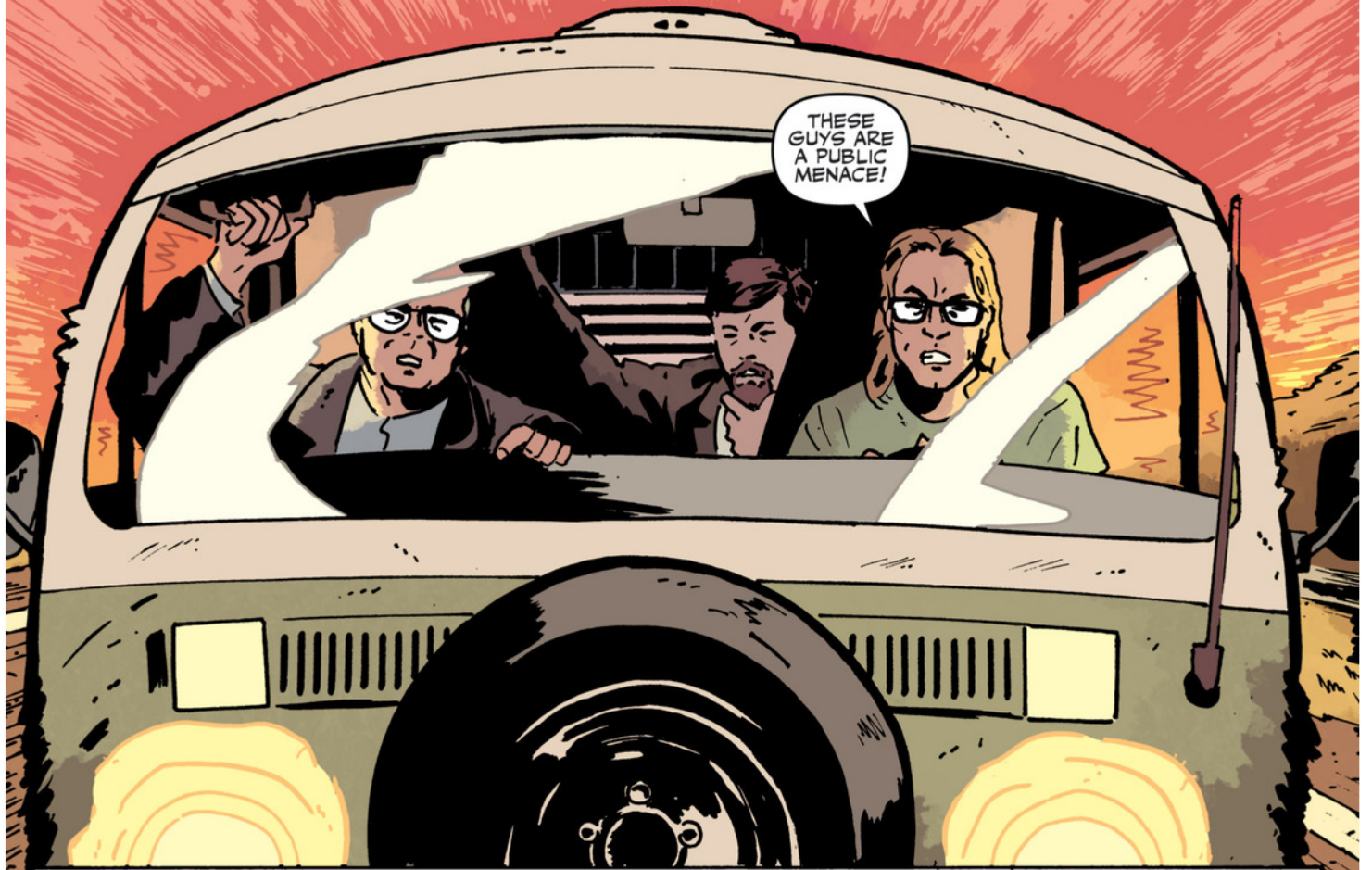
BERNIE, YOU KNOW YOU SPRUNG THAT WEEKEND GETAWAY ON ME LAST-MINUTE.

I COULDN'T MISS THE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR RICHARD'S MOTHER. IT WOULD'VE RAISED TOO MUCH SUSPICION. AND SHE HATES ME ENOUGH ALREADY.

WHAT DO YOU CARE? YOU'VE BEEN CLINGING TO THAT MARRIAGE FOR FAR TOO LONG. IT'S NOT HEALTHY, ROBIN.



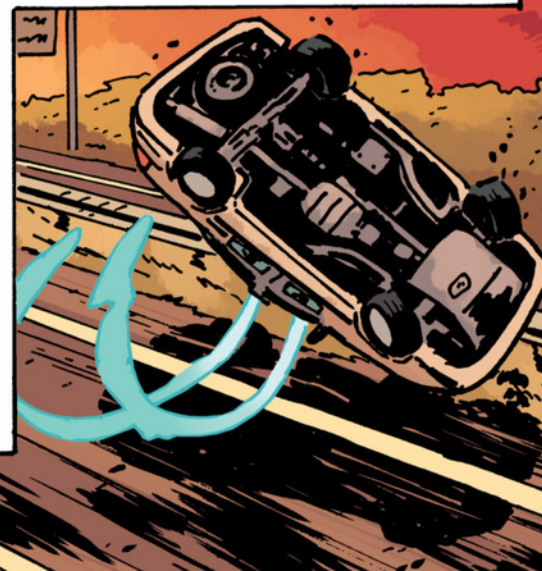
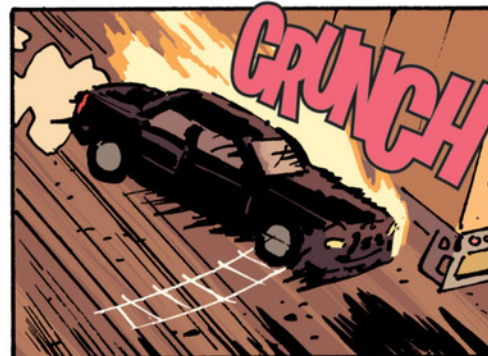


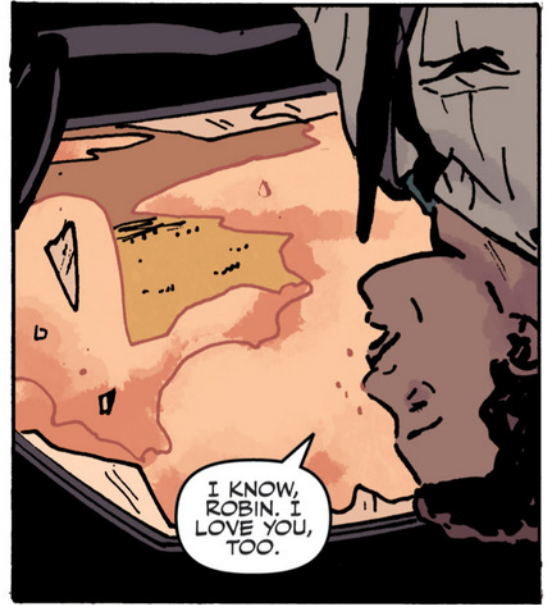
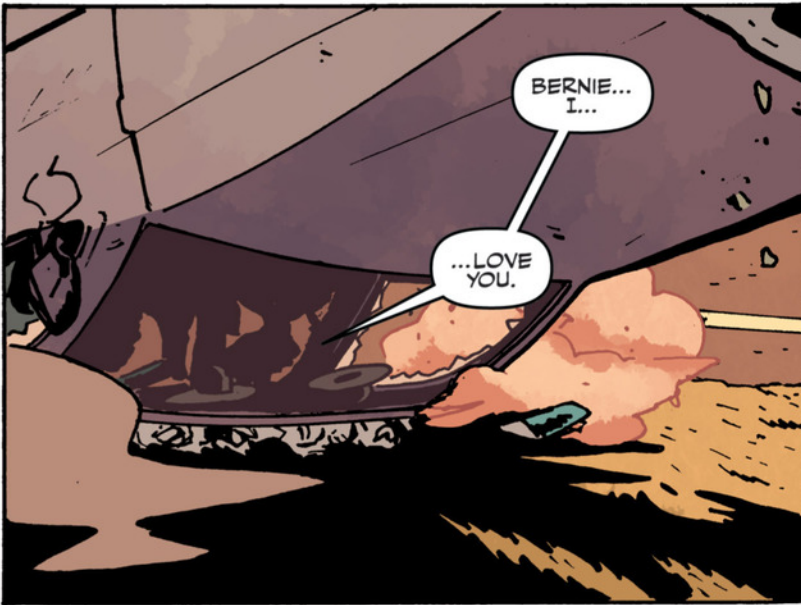
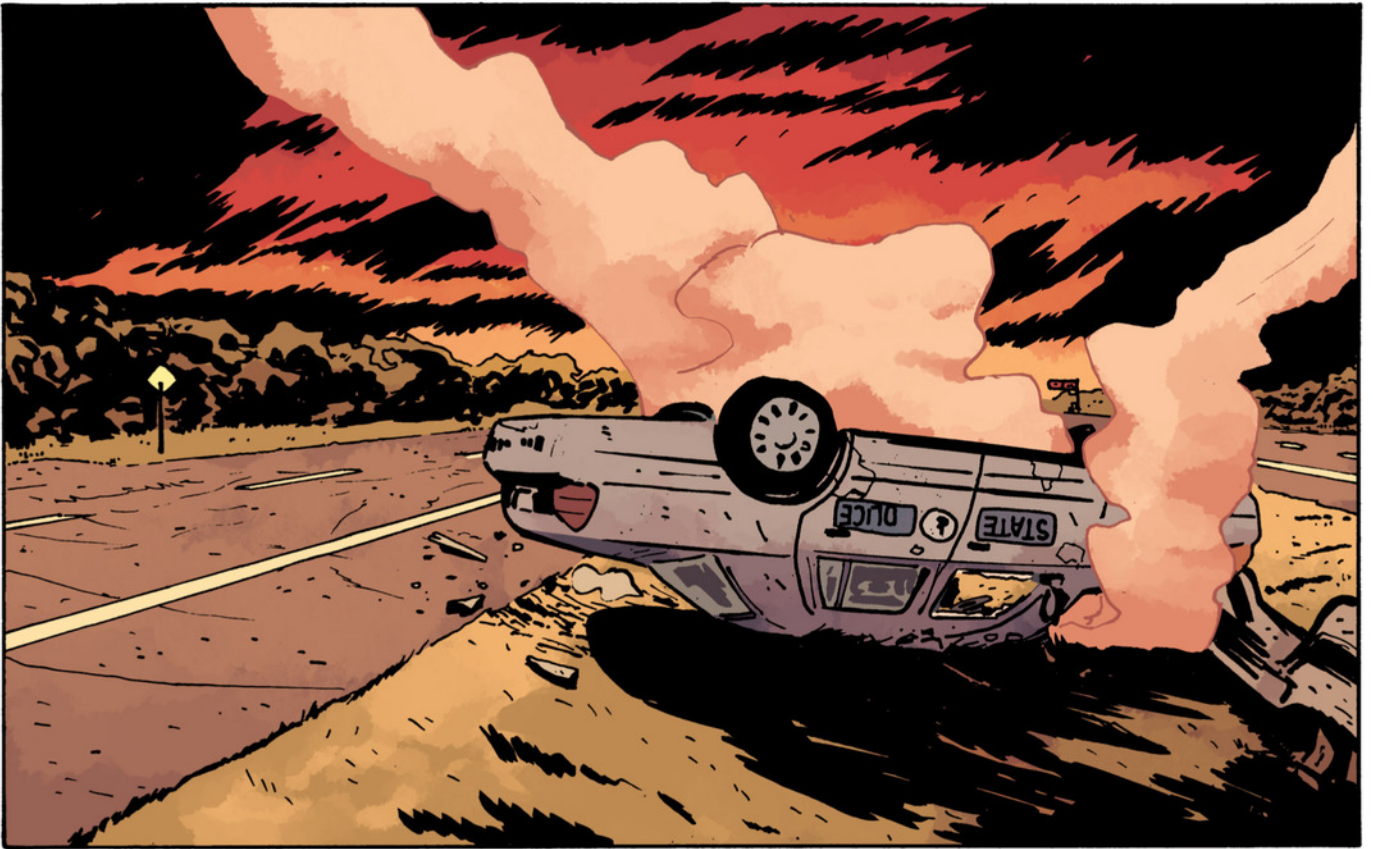






WATCH IT!









I JUST WANT TO
BE WITH HER.



ROBIN, WHERE
ARE YOU?



WHY IS IT SO DARK?
WHERE AM *I*?



IS THAT SMOKE? MY
SENSES ARE SO DULL.



IS THE CRUISER ON FIRE?
JESUS, AM I BURNING?









BUT COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD, AREN'T YOU?

HOW ARE YOU TALKING IN MY HEAD?



YOU CAN ALSO SEE THROUGH MY EYES. GET OVER IT, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE DEAD, WE DON'T HAVE AN ETERNITY.



Y-YOU KEEP SAYING I'M DEAD.

YOU ARE, HERE—SEE FOR YOURSELF.



MY EYE...



...WAS BLOWN OUT THE BACK OF YOUR SKULL.



BUT LIKE THE CAT THAT CURIOSITY KILLED, YOU GET AN EXTRA LIFE, TOO. JUST ONE OF THEM, THOUGH.

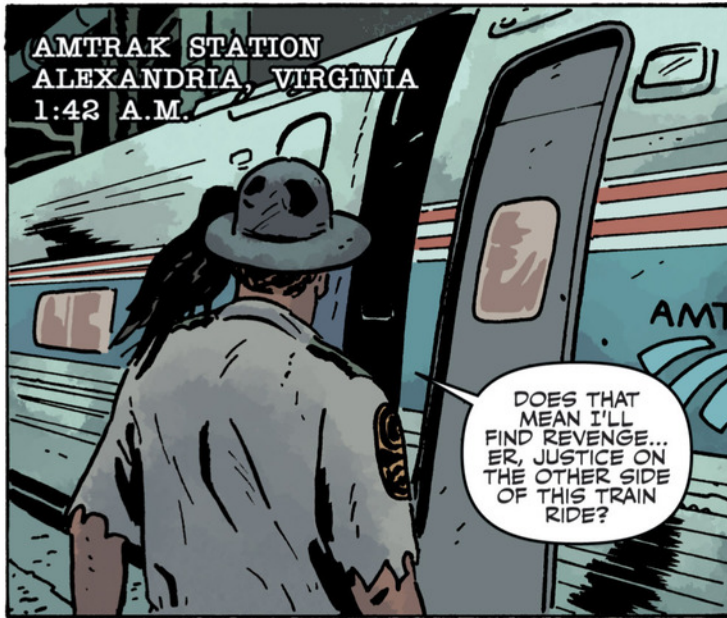
AND ROBIN?

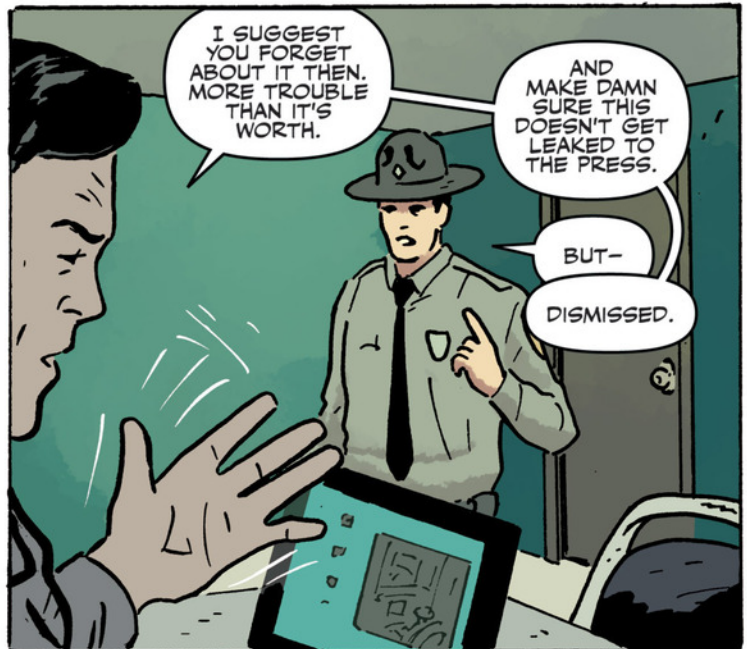
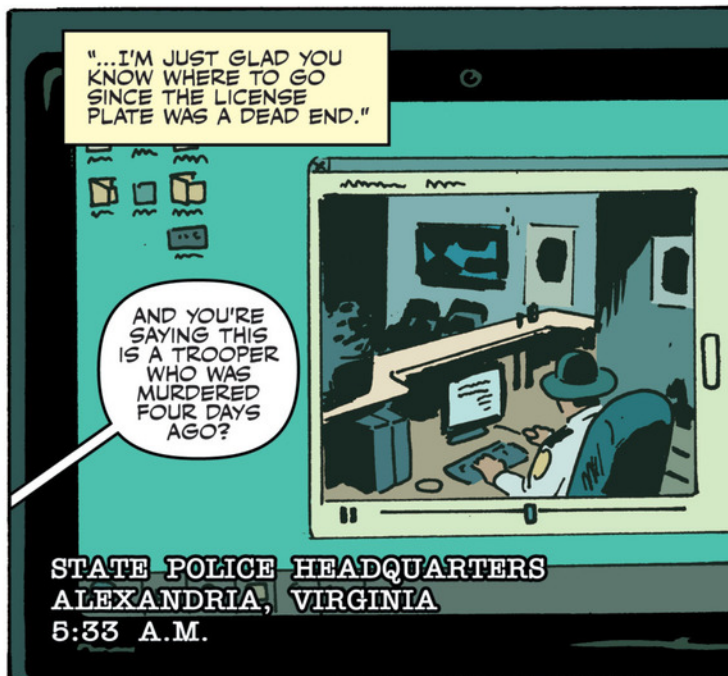


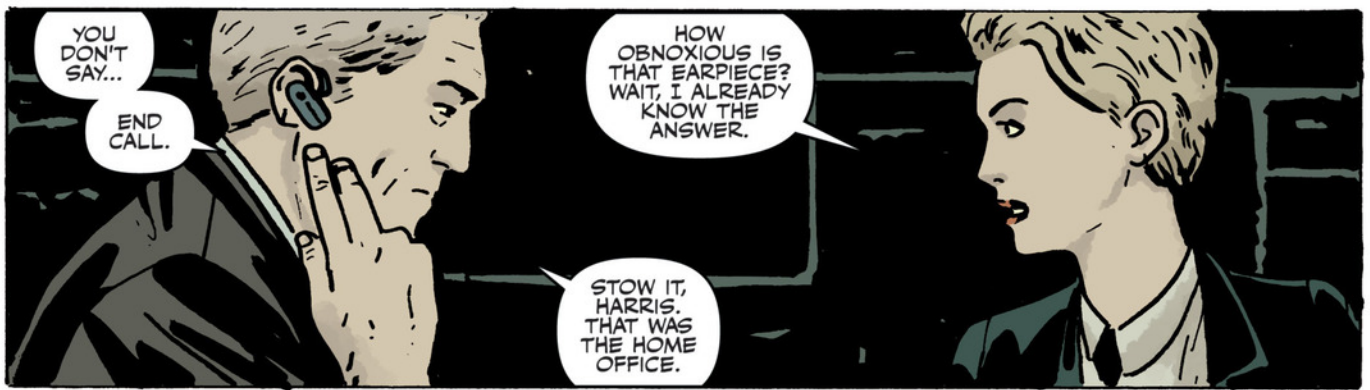
I'M AFRAID ROBIN DIDN'T GET THE SAME... OPPORTUNITY.

BUT YOU DO HAVE THE CHANCE TO AVENGE HER, AND YOUR UNBORN SON.

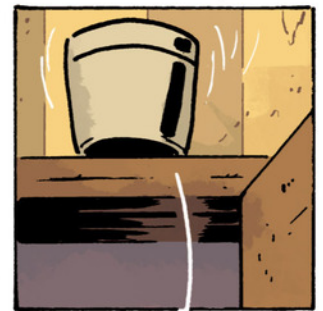




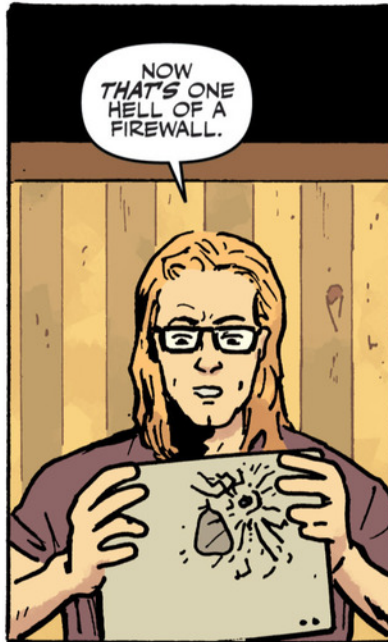






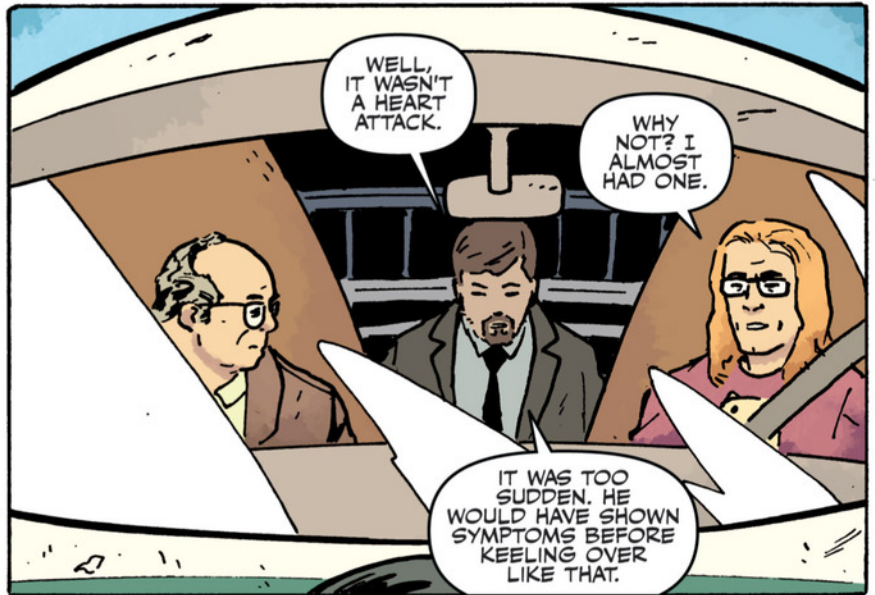








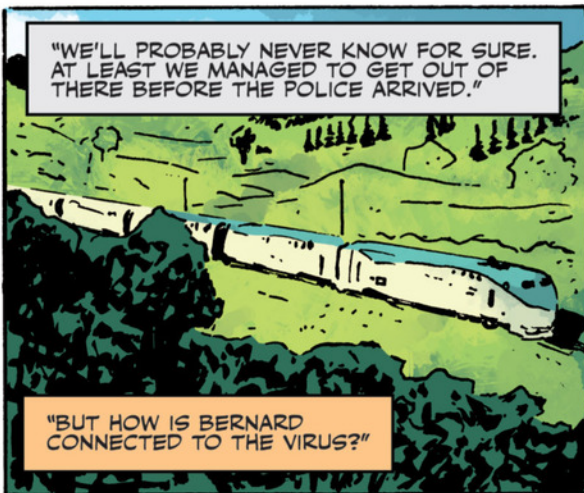
"JUST BECAUSE HE WAS MISSING A TOOTH DOESN'T MEAN IT WAS HOLLOW AND FILLED WITH CYANIDE."



WELL, IT WASN'T A HEART ATTACK.

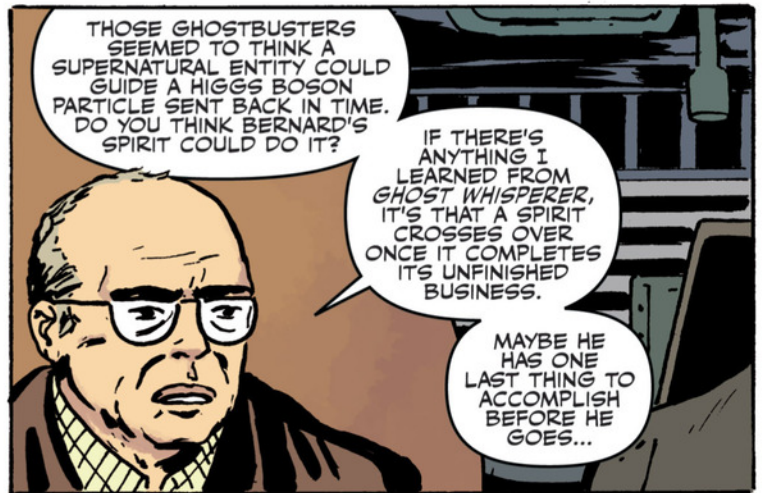
WHY NOT? I ALMOST HAD ONE.

IT WAS TOO SUDDEN. HE WOULD HAVE SHOWN SYMPTOMS BEFORE KEELING OVER LIKE THAT.



"WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW FOR SURE. AT LEAST WE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THERE BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVED."

"BUT HOW IS BERNARD CONNECTED TO THE VIRUS?"



THOSE GHOSTBUSTERS SEEMED TO THINK A SUPERNATURAL ENTITY COULD GUIDE A HIGGS BOSON PARTICLE SENT BACK IN TIME. DO YOU THINK BERNARD'S SPIRIT COULD DO IT?

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I LEARNED FROM GHOST WHISPERER, IT'S THAT A SPIRIT CROSSES OVER ONCE IT COMPLETES ITS UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

MAYBE HE HAS ONE LAST THING TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE HE GOES...



"...LIKE SAVING THE WORLD."

Robin Farmer
April 4, 1981
May 30, 2014

As the bird free of its cage
seeks the heights, so the soul
in death flies home.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
THE X-FILES: CONSPIRACY #2!

