


# FATHERHOOD



RYAN K LINDSAY  
DANIEL SCHNEIDER  
PAULINA GANUCHEAU  
BRANDON DESTEFANO

**CHALLENGER  
COMICS**  
ONE-SHOT  
\$4.00

# FATHERHOOD

**Writer** Ryan K Lindsay

@ryanklindsay | ryanlindsay82@gmail.com  
ryanklindsay.com

**Artist** Daniel Schneider

@smashed\_head | dan@smashedheadstudios.com  
smashedheadstudios.com

**Colourist** Paulina Ganucheau

@plinaganucheau | paulinaganucheau@gmail.com  
paulinaganucheau.tumblr.com

**Letterer** Brandon DeStefano

@BG\_DeStefano | brandon.destefano@yahoo.com  
brandondestefano.com

**Designer** Christopher Kosek

@ckosek | christopher.kosek@gmail.com  
christopherkosek.com

**Publisher** Ryan Ferrier

@ryanwriter | ferrier.ryan@gmail.com  
readchallenger.com

*For Jess—if you don't do it, I won't do it. Agreed.*

—RKL



FATHERHOOD. March, 2013. Published by Challenger Comics. First Printing. Copyright (C) 2013 RYAN K LINDSAY. All rights reserved. FATHERHOOD (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo, and all character likenesses are trademarks of RYAN K LINDSAY, unless otherwise noted. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Ryan K Lindsay. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Printed in the USA.



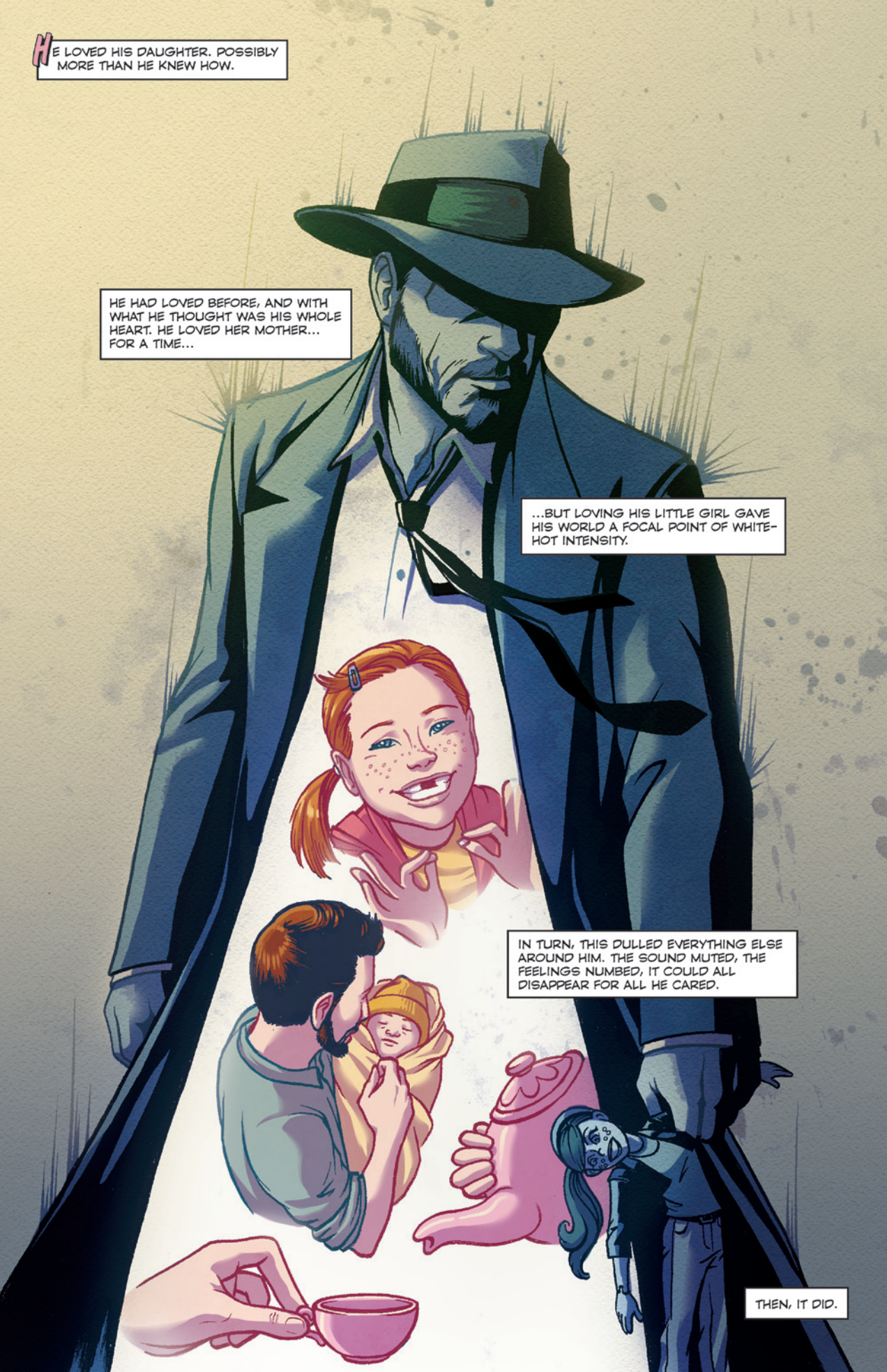
**H**E LOVED HIS DAUGHTER. POSSIBLY MORE THAN HE KNEW HOW.

HE HAD LOVED BEFORE, AND WITH WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS HIS WHOLE HEART. HE LOVED HER MOTHER... FOR A TIME...

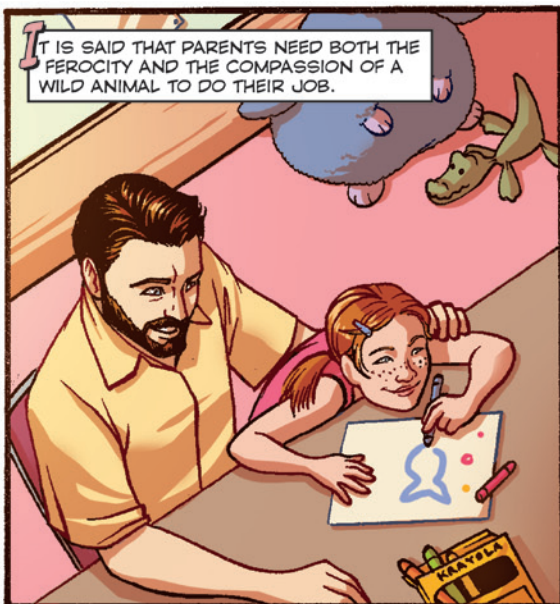
...BUT LOVING HIS LITTLE GIRL GAVE HIS WORLD A FOCAL POINT OF WHITE-HOT INTENSITY.

IN TURN, THIS DULLED EVERYTHING ELSE AROUND HIM. THE SOUND MUTED, THE FEELINGS NUMBED, IT COULD ALL DISAPPEAR FOR ALL HE CARED.

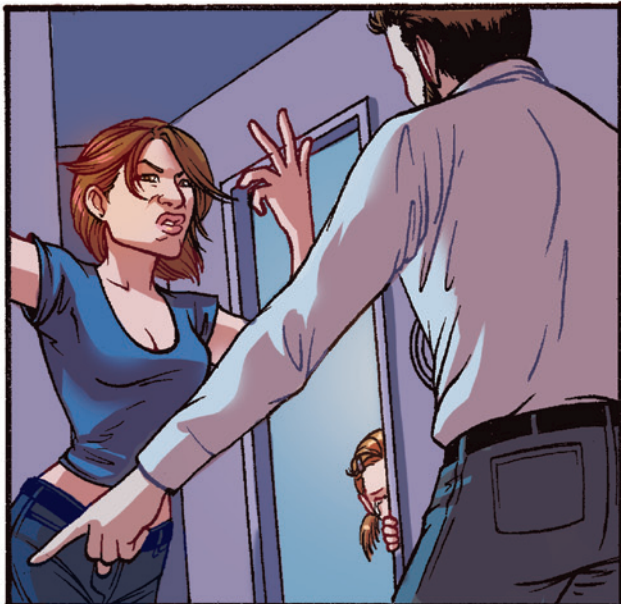
THEN, IT DID.







IT IS SAID THAT PARENTS NEED BOTH THE FEROCITY AND THE COMPASSION OF A WILD ANIMAL TO DO THEIR JOB.



HE NEVER THOUGHT SUCH SHIELDS AND SPEARS WOULD BE NEEDED *BETWEEN* PARENTS.



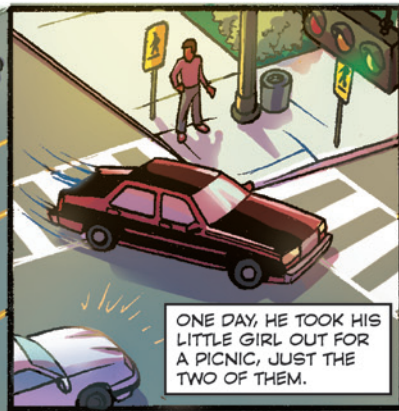
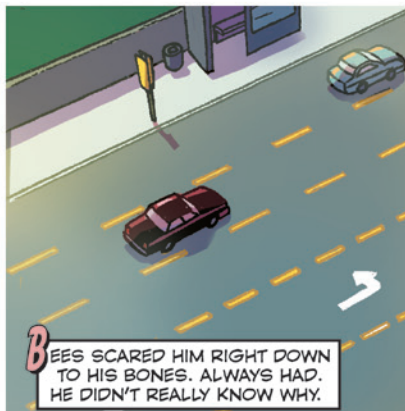
HE DIDN'T EVER REALISE WHAT A BLOOD SPORT PARENTING IS.



HE LOVED HIS LITTLE GIRL WITH  
THE UNBRIDLED POWER OF A  
RUNAWAY LOCOMOTIVE...







**B**EEES SCARED HIM RIGHT DOWN TO HIS BONES. ALWAYS HAD. HE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHY.

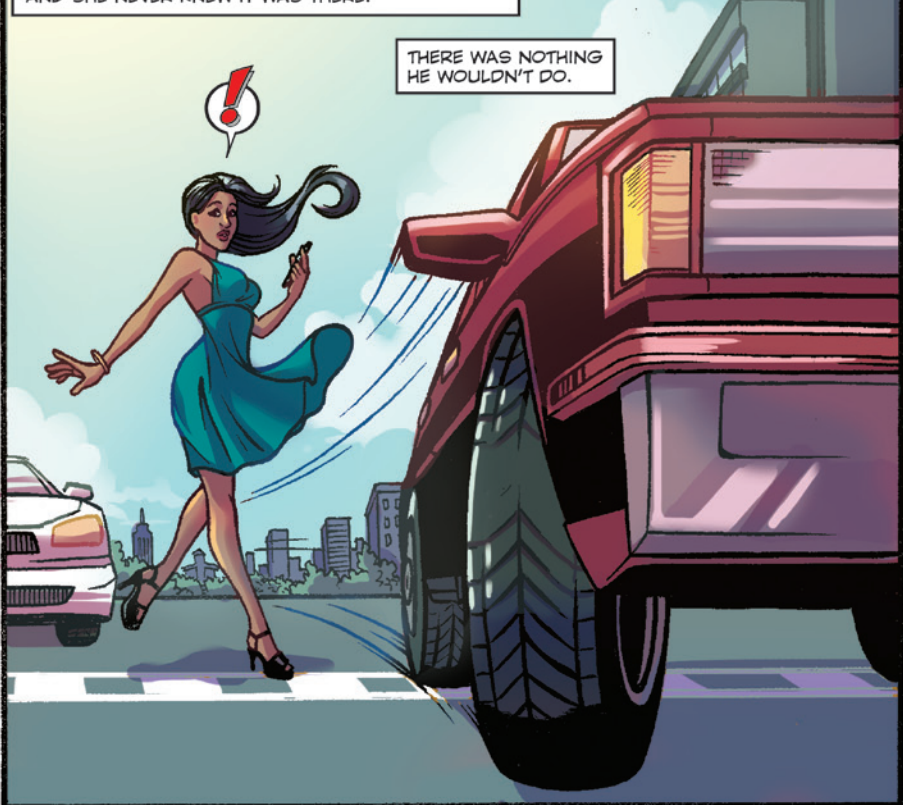
ONE DAY, HE TOOK HIS LITTLE GIRL OUT FOR A PICNIC, JUST THE TWO OF THEM.

HE CUT UP SOME FRUIT, HER FAVORITE CHEESE FROM THE DELI, THE WHOLE NINE YARDS.

THE SUN MADE EVERYTHING LOOK LIKE A HOLLYWOOD FLASHBACK...

THE STINGER WENT INTO HIS HAND AS HE SMASHED IT INTO PASTE WITH A CLOSED FIST. HE HID THE PAIN AND SHE NEVER KNEW IT WAS THERE.

THERE WAS NOTHING HE WOULDN'T DO.



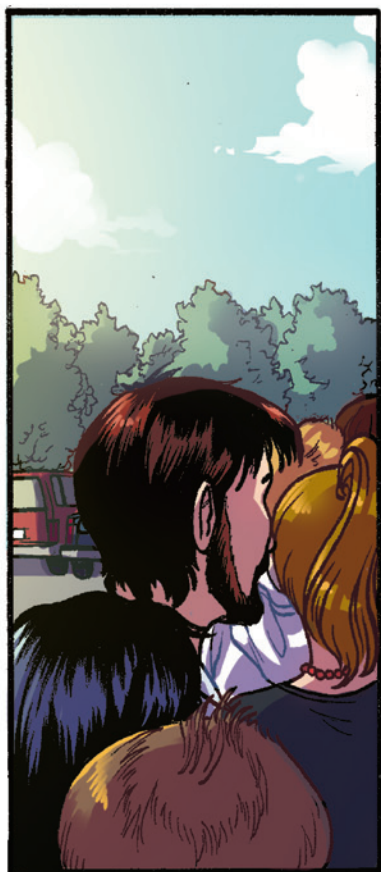
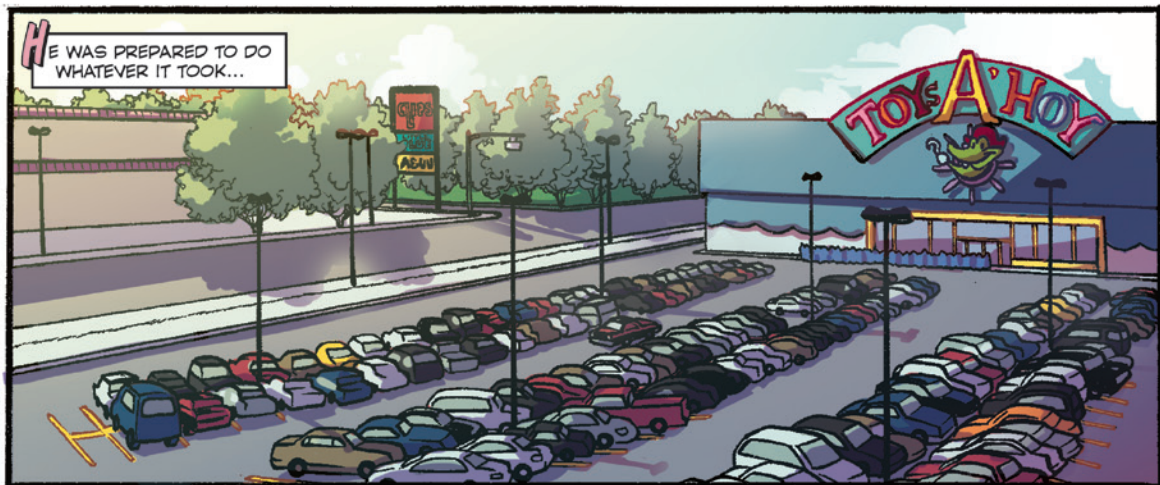
... THEN A BEE LANDED ON THE PICNIC RUG. IT SLOWLY CRAWLED TOWARD HER AND HE DIDN'T HESITATE FOR A SINGLE MOMENT.



!@#&\$!

THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULDN'T DO.





...HE WAS PREPARED TO BECOME WHATEVER WAS NEEDED...

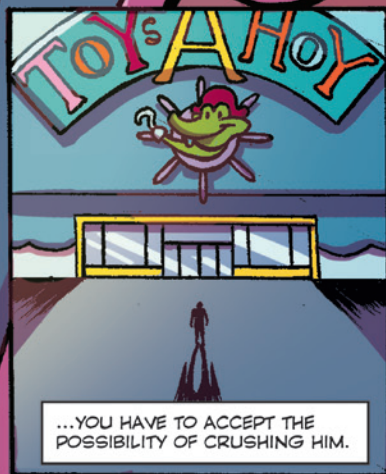








WHEN YOU GIVE A MAN A LOVE  
THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD...



...YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE  
POSSIBILITY OF CRUSHING HIM.

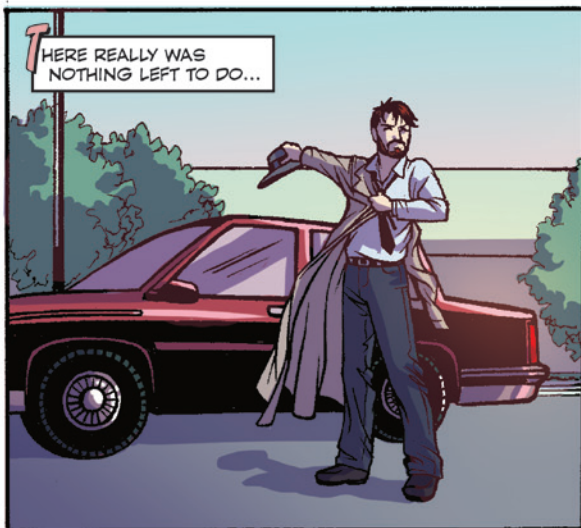
LIKE A MAN STRUGGLING NOT TO BE DRAGGED INTO DARK WATER BY STRONG TENTACLES, HE REFUSED THE IDEA OF GIVING UP...



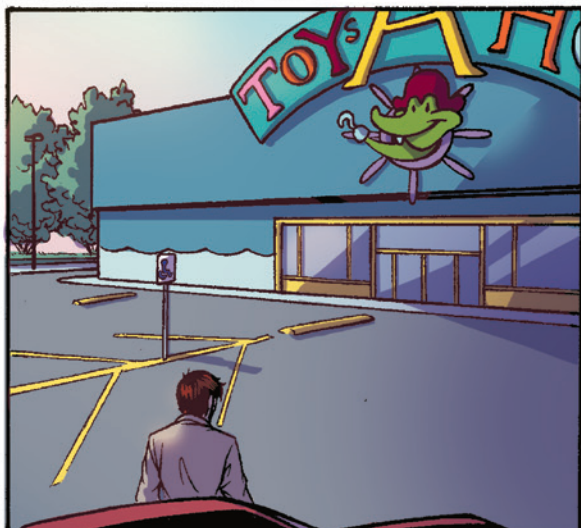
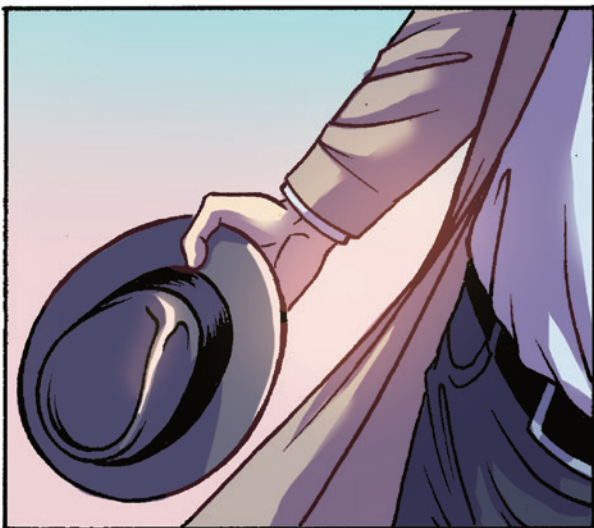
...BUT HE KNEW HE HAD HIS LIMITS.







THERE REALLY WAS  
NOTHING LEFT TO DO...



...SO I KNEW I  
HAD TO DO IT.



LET'S GO  
SEE ABOUT THIS  
DOLL, SHALL  
WE?





I CAME FOR SOMETHING  
AND I'M DAMN WELL  
GOING TO LEAVE WITH IT.

EMPLOYEE'S  
ONLY



I LOVE MY LITTLE GIRL AND I'LL DO  
ANYTHING TO SEE HER SMILE, EVEN  
IF IT'S ONLY ONE MORE TIME.



HEAVEN HELP THE PERSON  
WHO GETS IN MY WAY.



HEY,  
MR--

MILLER,  
HERE FROM  
WORMALD ABOUT  
THE SECURITY CODES.  
YOU THE GUY TO  
TALK TO?

NOT REALLY,  
SOUNDS LIKE  
STEPHENS--

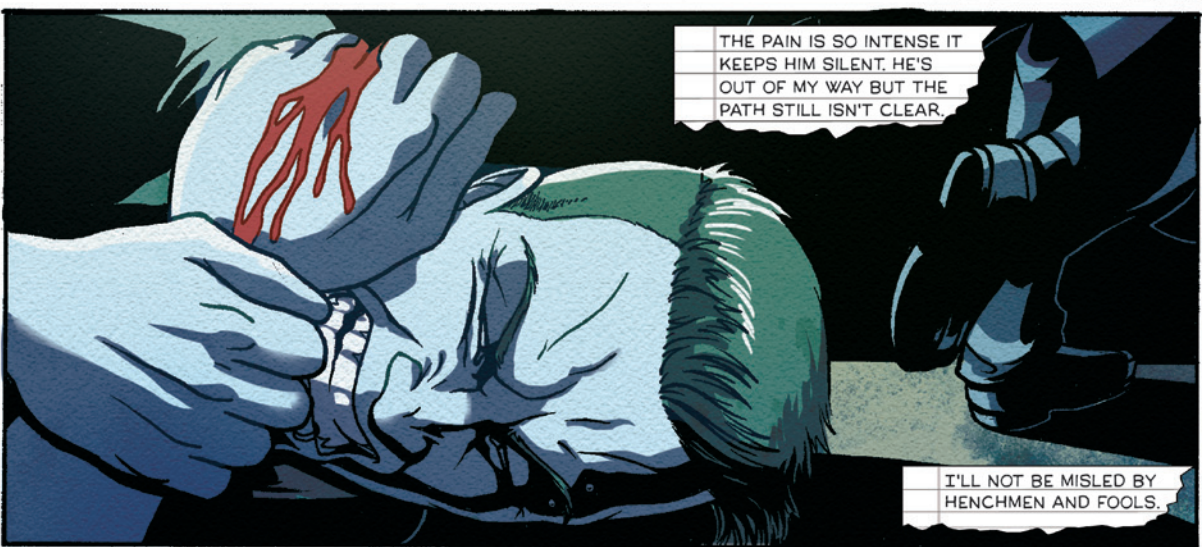


I'LL TAKE  
IT TO STEPHENS  
THEN. THANKS,  
KID.













I'D PREFER TO DO THIS  
EASILY. QUICKLY.



ALL I WANT IS WHAT  
I ~~WANT~~ NEED.

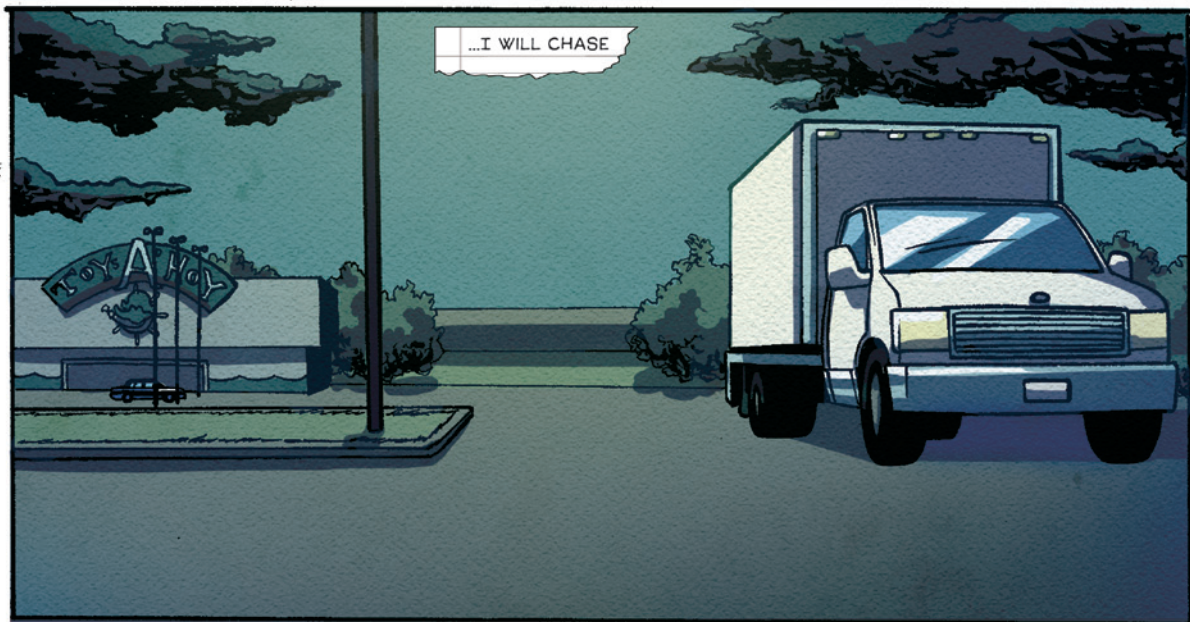


IF THEY GIVE ME THAT, THIS  
MIGHT JUST END FINE.



IF THEY RUN...

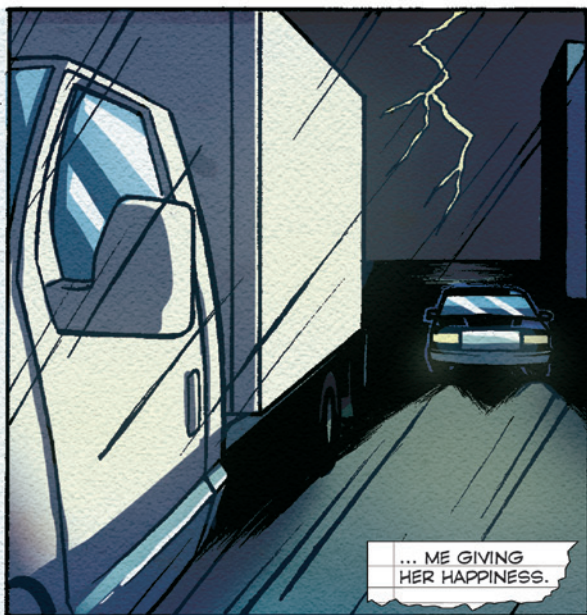




...I WILL CHASE

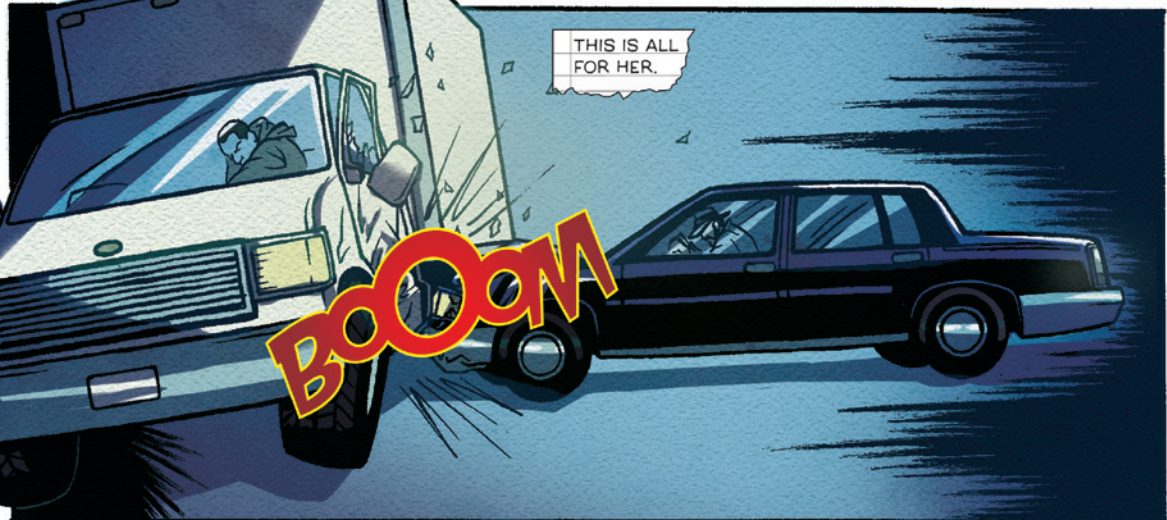
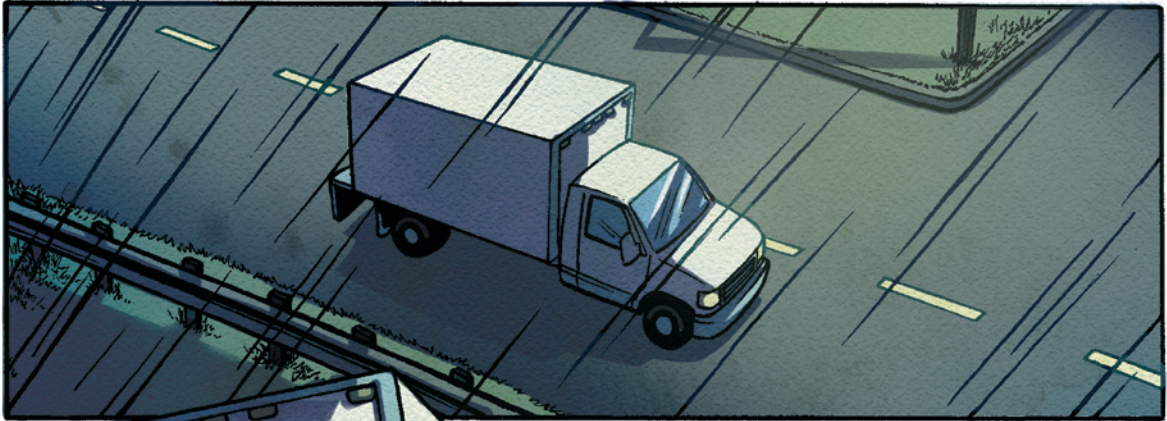
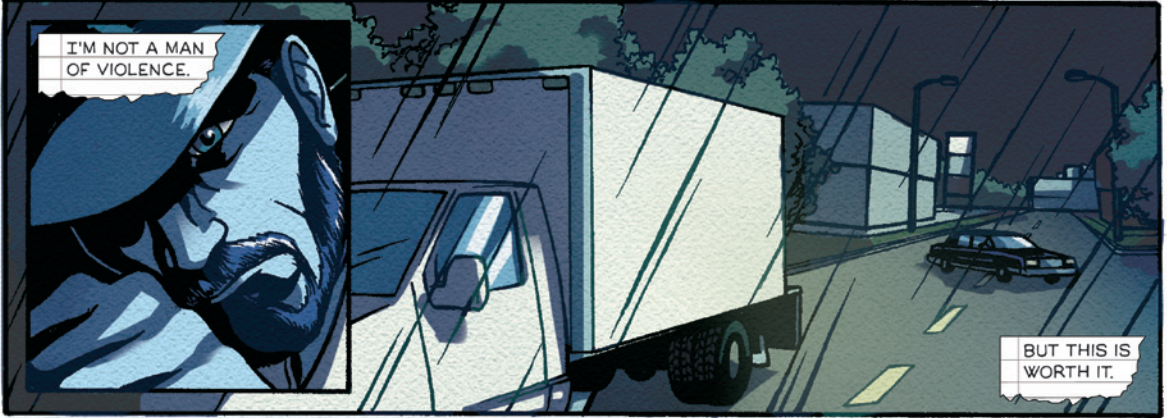
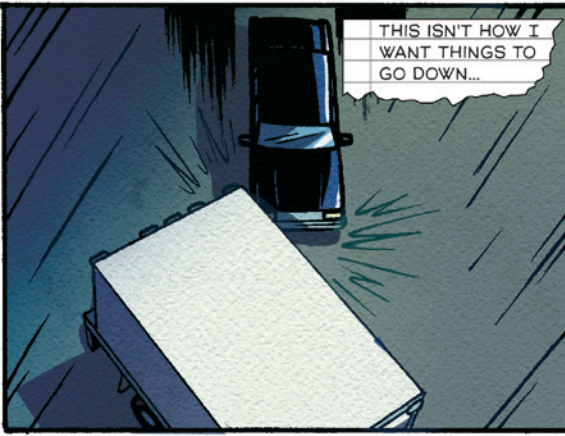


I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER. I RUN THROUGH ALL THE SCENARIOS OF ME GIVING HER THIS ONE THING...

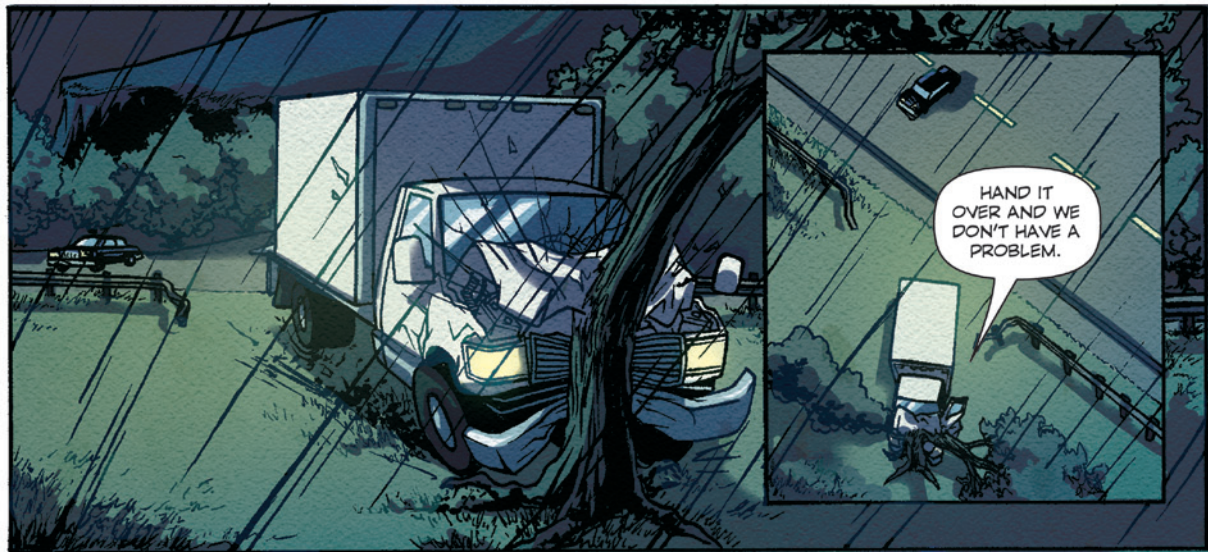


... ME GIVING HER HAPPINESS.









HAND IT  
OVER AND WE  
DON'T HAVE A  
PROBLEM.



ANYTHING  
ELSE AND  
I'LL MAKE YOUR  
WORLD DARK.



SOMETIMES, THINGS  
WORK WITH YOU...

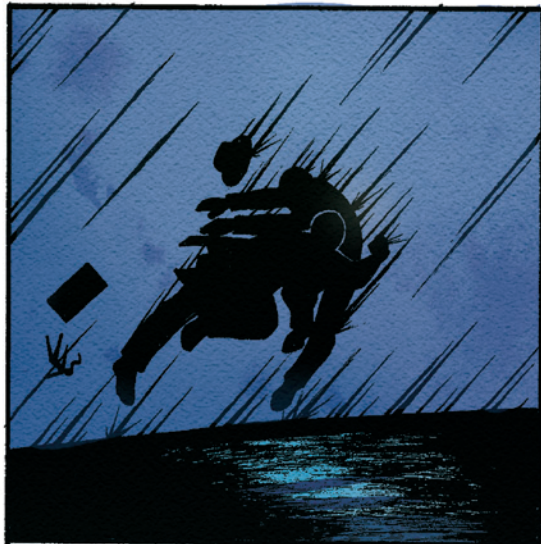


...AND SOMETIMES IT ALL  
GOES THE OTHER WAY.



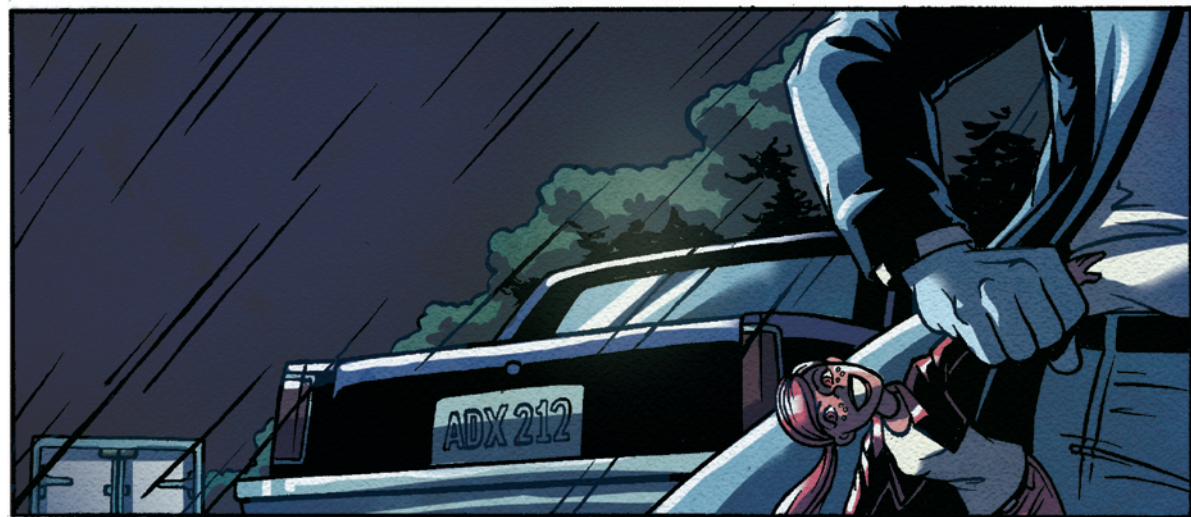
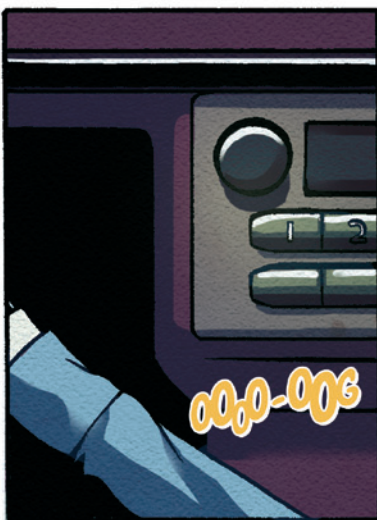
THE WORLD WAS NOT BUILT TO BE  
EASY. IT EXISTS TO CHALLENGE US  
ALL SO ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE.



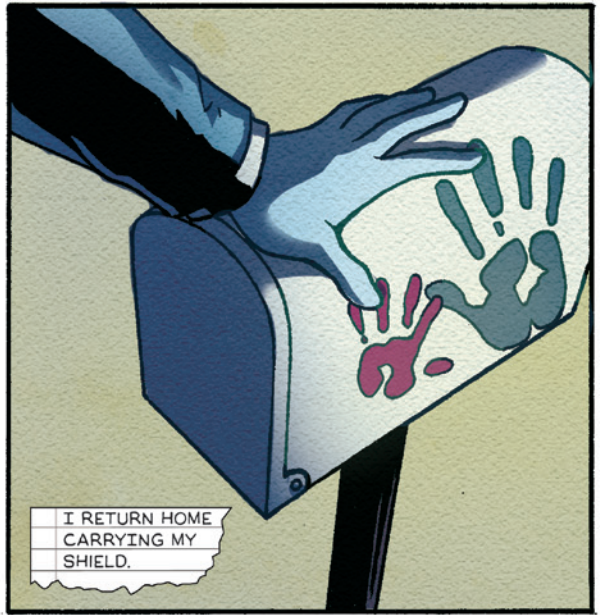
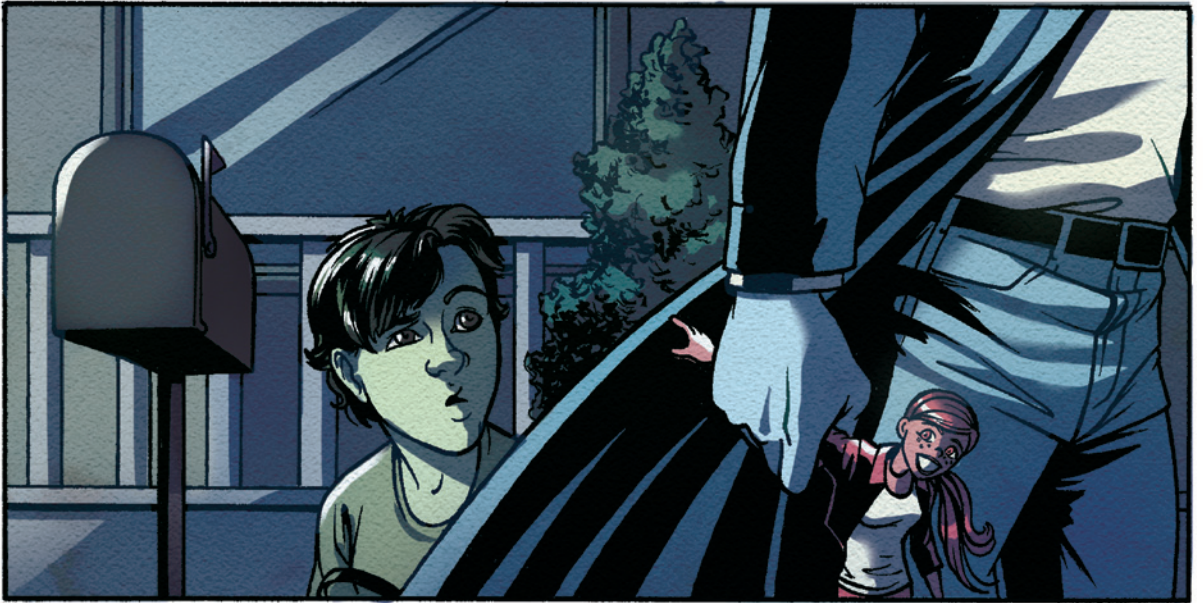


I WILL NOT  
BE BESTED.

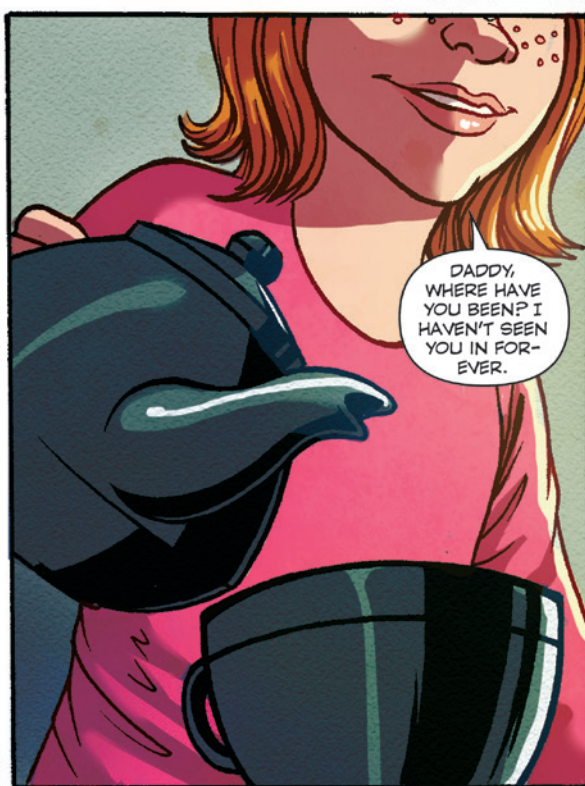
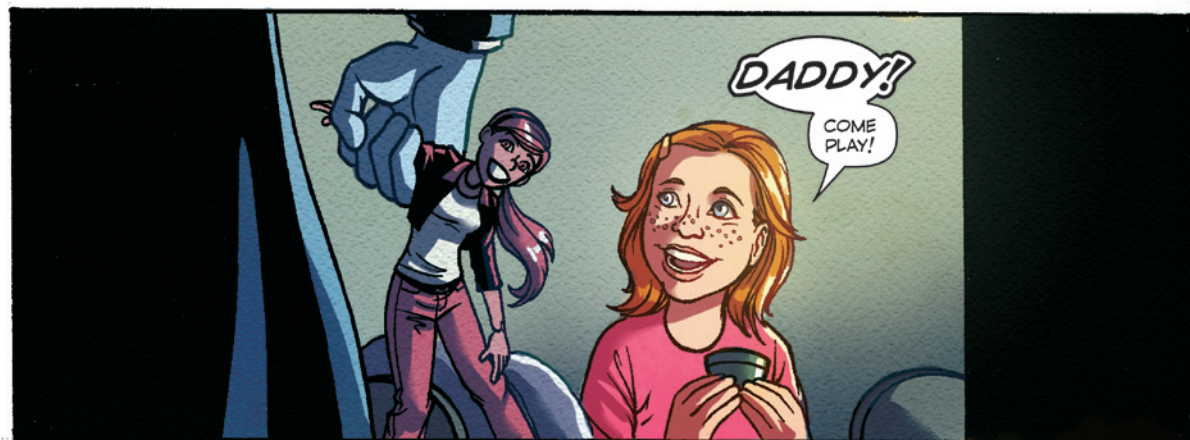
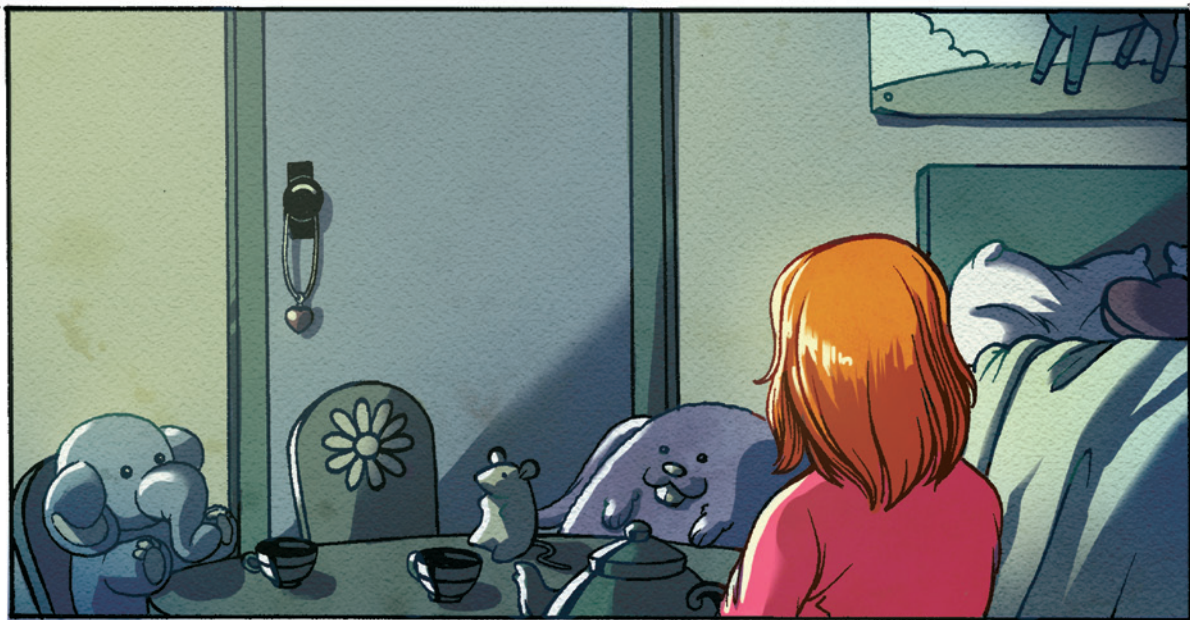








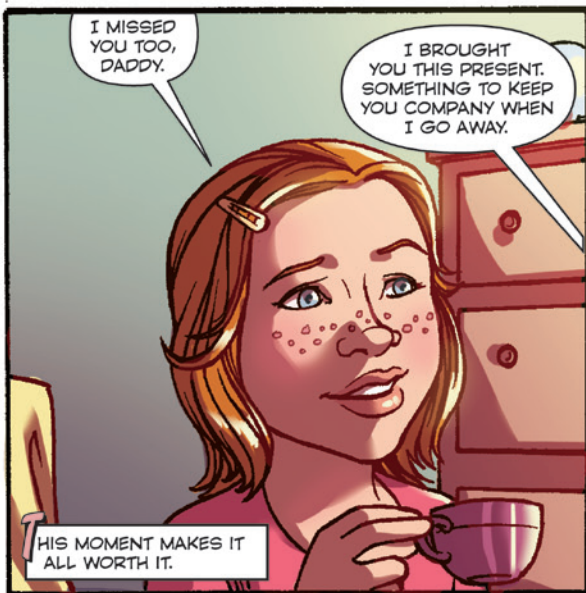








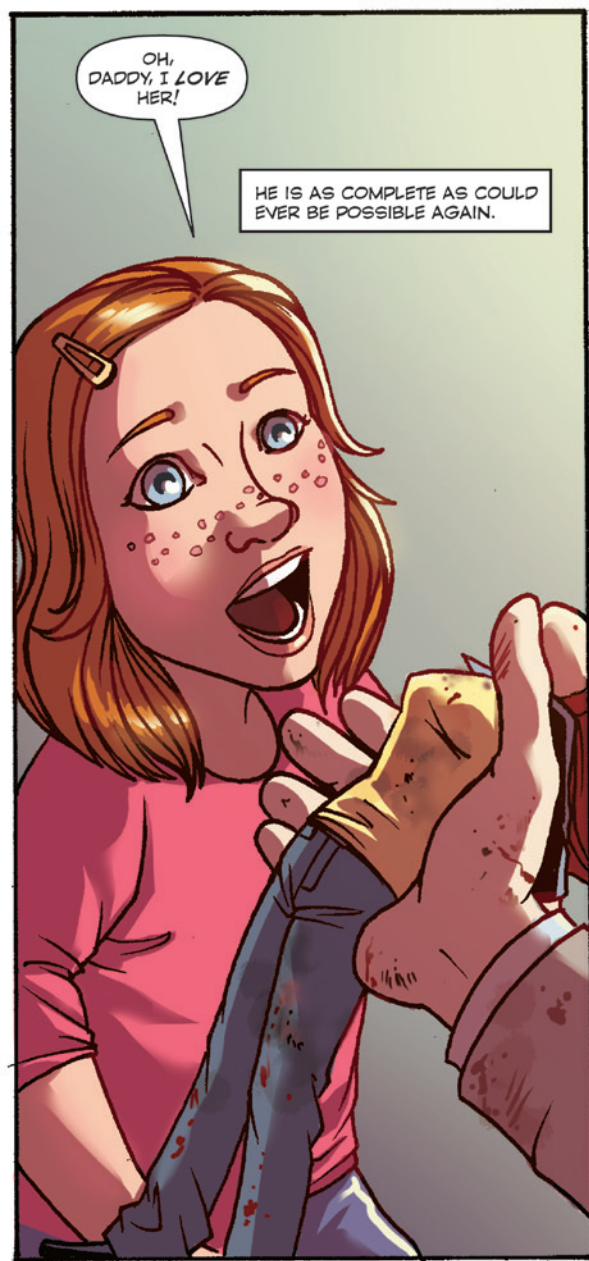
DARLING,  
I DIDN'T WANT  
TO BE AWAY. I MISSED  
YOU SO MUCH. I'M SO  
SORRY, I MISSED  
YOU.



I MISSED  
YOU TOO,  
DADDY.

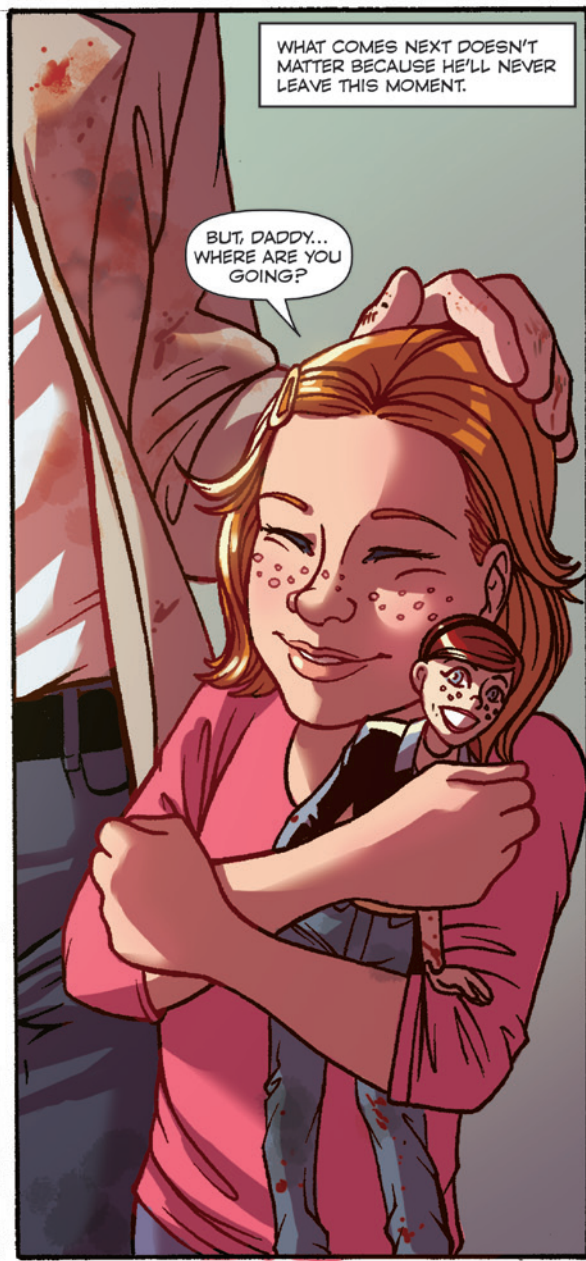
I BROUGHT  
YOU THIS PRESENT.  
SOMETHING TO KEEP  
YOU COMPANY WHEN  
I GO AWAY.

THIS MOMENT MAKES IT  
ALL WORTH IT.



OH,  
DADDY, I LOVE  
HER!

HE IS AS COMPLETE AS COULD  
EVER BE POSSIBLE AGAIN.



WHAT COMES NEXT DOESN'T  
MATTER BECAUSE HE'LL NEVER  
LEAVE THIS MOMENT.

BUT, DADDY...  
WHERE ARE YOU  
GOING?





HE IS GOING AWAY.  
AND RIGHTFULLY SO.



# FATHERHOOD

## A STUDY IN THE DUALITY OF MAN

**FATHERHOOD BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN A MAN.** I know this for a certainty. But it also swells up this great raging tide of other things against which the man will fight for the rest of his life. Fear. Anger. Elation. Uncertainty. Raw emotion.

As a man, I never felt I was good with emotions. I had them, somewhere, but I didn't always know what to do with them. Fatherhood only gave me more so it was sink or swim. Before fatherhood, I could pack them away, I feared not mortality. As a man, I was an island.

Then suddenly I became an interconnected archipelago. A networked web of land and rights and newfound strength and other strange artefacts dug up in the sand. I had a wife and a son. Suddenly, I knew true emotion. They say having a child is to see your heart go walking by. That certainly sounds like a violent and painful process to go through, and it is. But it's for the better.

When I was a nascent parent, I wrote a comic short called *Survivor*. You can read it for free on the Challenger Comics site: [readchallenger.com](http://readchallenger.com)—the premise of the tale is a man constantly fleeing from a galactic terror. He has lost his wife and now runs with his baby child. At the end of the tale, he is forced to answer a question: to what ends will you protect your child? It was a difficult piece to write and cathartic in many ways. It allowed me to investigate parental fears within myself. Being creative, my mind thinks up a dozen insane scenarios each day in regards to the safety of my family. What would I do faced with a night intruder, an attacking dog, a bee swarm, etc? My mind has concocted multiple play throughs on each of these scenarios and I vary from heroic to being forced to watch Grand Guignol style displays of horrible. Being a father and having a creative brain can be an absolute nightmare. I wrote *Survivor* to work through this problem and excise something terrible. *Fatherhood* is similar in that I wanted to put some feelings under the microscope. This time, I invited some horrible things in. I do like writing about being a father, though, it is so personally informed.

Being a parent, being a father, tests you constantly and it changes you. You become a different man. But the greatest challenge I could ever fear to face would be losing my family. And yet this is the most common, statistically speaking, challenge faced daily for people. I'm sure many handle it fantastically with grace and understanding. Me, I'd probably dissolve into myself like our main character here.

Hopefully I'll never have to find out what this great tearing pain feels like but it was interesting to delve into the mind set for 22 pages. I learn a lot about myself through my writing. I learn what I could do, what I shouldn't do, and what I would never do. I might not become deranged but that isn't the point of *Fatherhood*. The point is that every single father wants to bring happiness to his child. I would do anything in the world to make my son smile and laugh. It's a drug to elicit this reaction and I don't know how anyone could ever give it up.

I hope you dug this story. It's about emotion so I also hope you felt something. I've spent the last six months with this tale and it's made me be a better father and forevermore want to be a better father. Those are two states I hope I never leave.

—Ryan K Lindsay



## CREATORS

### MEET DANIEL SCHNEIDER

Daniel was one of those fate entries into my life. He stumbled across me, I'll never know how, and then I saw his art and I knew I had to ask. The man's got game, you all know this by now, and the fact he brought it to my script makes me feel so incredibly lucky. From his very first character sketch, I knew he was going to dominate. He did. He and I already have another project in the works which I can't talk too much about right now but we're excited to bring you more fantastic in 2013.

### MEET PAULINA GANUCHEAU

Put this book down and give Paulina a nice slow clap, please. Didn't she just knock all of this out of the park? I met Paulina through a friend (thanks Jesse) and I fell in love with the emotions she brings to the page. She's got this amazing ability to see into the script and the pencils and pull out the true meaning. I know *Fatherhood* would not be the package it is without Paulina's expert eye and tireless efforts. I cannot thank her enough. Though I will try as I aim to drag her through many more projects in the future.

### MEET BRANDON DESTEFANO

I also met Brandon through a friend (thanks Clayton) and ever since I've been bowled over by his great work and his superb nature. Brandon is a good man, a great letterer, and he works hard to bring his best to the page. I worked with him before on a one-shot that wasn't quite a one-shot and ended up a digital thing. It's a long story, I'll buy you a beer, tell you one time, and Brandon fought the good fight then and he's battle strong every other time I talk with him.

### MEET CHRISTOPHER KOSEK

The silent partner on all this, Christopher is the designer on this book and he's done a spectacular job. That front cover you're holding, the new age high art pulp noir—fu spectacular was all him. He's got an insane eye for detail and emotion and he brought everything to every single page of this document. And all while accepting a new child into his life and becoming one hell of a parent. Christopher is one of life's good guys, no doubt.

### MEET RYAN FERRIER

He's the guy behind the desk with the cigar and loud voice. He's the boss. Thanks for giving this a home, Ferrier. Viva la Challenger!

### MEET RYAN K LINDSAY

Hey. I just wanted to thank you so much for taking a chance on this book. It's something I'm incredibly proud of and something I hope really shakes people up. I wrote this beast on my iPad, from initial notes, to a 22 page break down, to the script itself. It was the project I took with me on the go, something I could tool up in spare moments. It was nice to always have it with me, and now it's nice to see it off into the world.

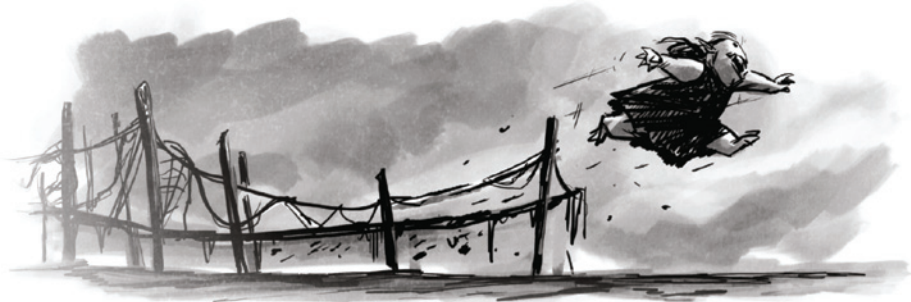
They say you should write what you know, well clearly I'm terrified of being a father. I think, if you really understand the job description, you always are, always will be, and forevermore should be. And I'm fine with that.

Salut.



ALLOR • BOATWRIGHT

# ORC GIRL



"The world is as large as you want it to be..."



#MAKECOMICS  
#READCHALLENGER

CHALLENGER  
COMICS

READCHALLENGER.COM



IT IS SAID  
PARENTS NEED  
BOTH THE FEROCITY  
AND THE COMPASSION  
OF A WILD ANIMAL  
TO DO THEIR JOB.

READCHALLENGER.COM  
**CHALLENGER  
COMICS**

ONE-SHOT  
\$4.00