

Mature Readers \$2.99 3 of 5

ARNOLD

GUARALDI-BROWN



T H E F I N A L  
**PLAGUE**

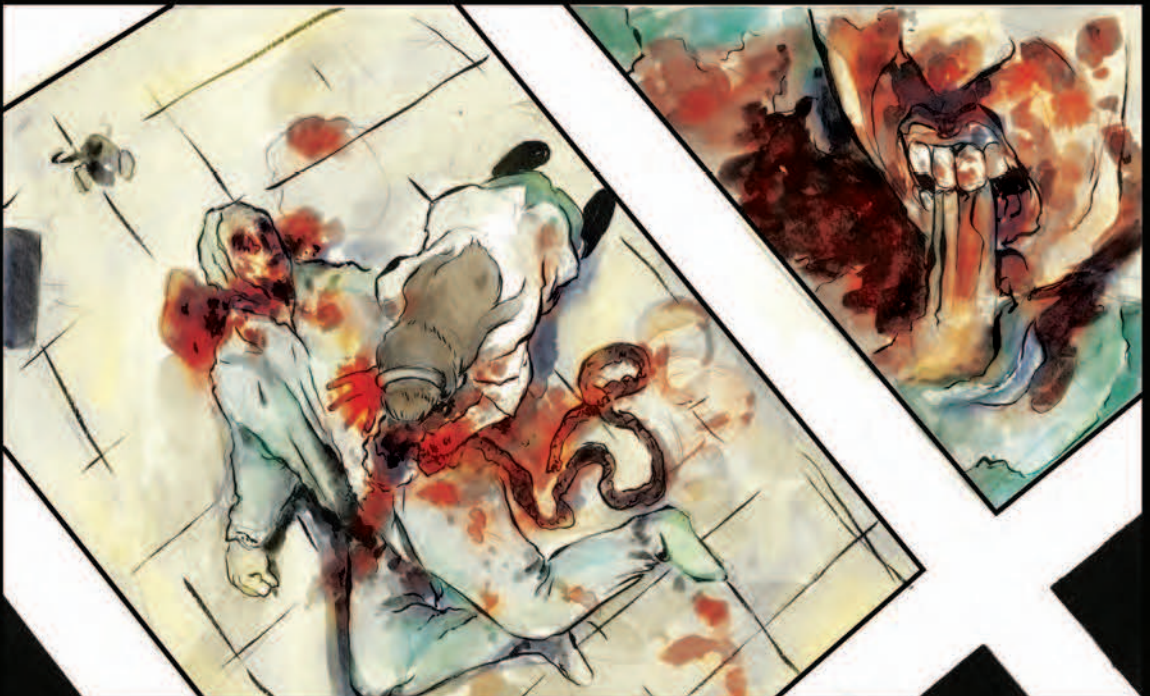






**Duty Officer's Log; Captain Eric Stroemen, United States Navy.**

You'll forgive the casualness of this entry. To say the past 48 hours have been trying would be the understatement of all time. This serves as much as a report of the events at McGuire Labs as it does a distress call. We are lost, deep within enemy territory, somewhere in the wilds of New Jersey. I send this not knowing if anyone is left to listen. From what we've seen in the past two days, I fear there is not. I'll strive for brevity. I have no way of knowing where or how it started...



...so i'll assume it started with us.





We know the rats infected the facility. At the time of confiscation, Dr. Stohr's lab contained 46 infected specimens. We also know that at least some of these specimens escaped prior to the facility being completely compromised.

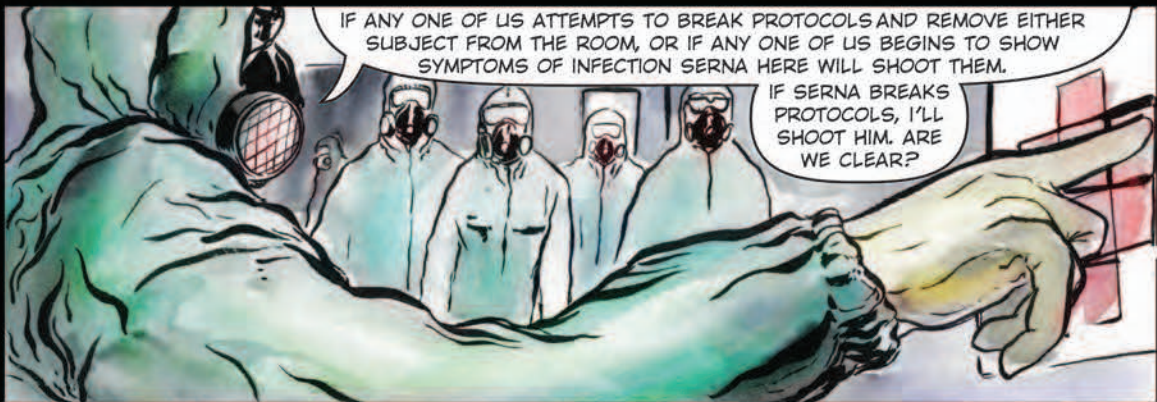


Whether or not this was the cause of the widespread distribution of the disease we have seen since leaving McGuire I can't say. I'll leave the speculation to the scientists. My job is to report on what I've seen, and try to keep us, and this Intel, alive.



A job that, save for myself and the two lucky bastards by my side, I have failed with **flying** colors these past two days.





IF ANY ONE OF US ATTEMPTS TO BREAK PROTOCOLS AND REMOVE EITHER SUBJECT FROM THE ROOM, OR IF ANY ONE OF US BEGINS TO SHOW SYMPTOMS OF INFECTION SERNA HERE WILL SHOOT THEM.

IF SERNA BREAKS PROTOCOLS, I'LL SHOOT HIM. ARE WE CLEAR?

Our Patient Zero was one Francice Baker. She contracted the virus after being exposed to the blood and saliva of one of the infected rodents. She was not bit. I think this is significant.



UM...

CRYSTAL...  
BASTARD

I HEARD THAT, DOCTOR.

GOOD.

Her quarantine was purely precautionary, as we had not yet determined the nature, or severity, of the infection. The rats in question had been a pet project, no pun intended, of Dr. Jeremy Stohr. Stohr and his colleague Dr. Freidman were in my custody pending investigation of their unauthorized research when the incident with Ms. Baker occurred.



FRIEDMAN. BEHIND US. SERNA. TASER AT THE READY.

TASER?

CAPTAIN, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT WILL DO TO HER IN HER ALREADY AGITATED STATE.

YOU COULD JUST AS EASILY INDUCE A HEART ATTACK AS RENDER HER UNCONSCIOUS. PLEASE...

YOU THINK TERRY WISHES HE HAD A TASER WITH HIM WHEN HE WENT IN?





Ms. Baker had attacked an attending nurse during a attempt to draw a blood sample.



Video surveillance was inadequate at accurately ascertaining the condition of either subject.



Upon entering the quarantine containment chamber it became immediately apparent that nurse Kurz had expired, victim of a vicious attack at the hands of Ms. Baker.



Clearly agitated and, as we discovered later, infected by the very same virus that had infected the rats, Ms. Baker attempted to attack Dr. Friedman, Corporal Serna, and myself as we entered the chamber. Corporal Serna and I quickly, and effectively, subdued the subject...