

N TAKEOVER T

PROVING GROUND

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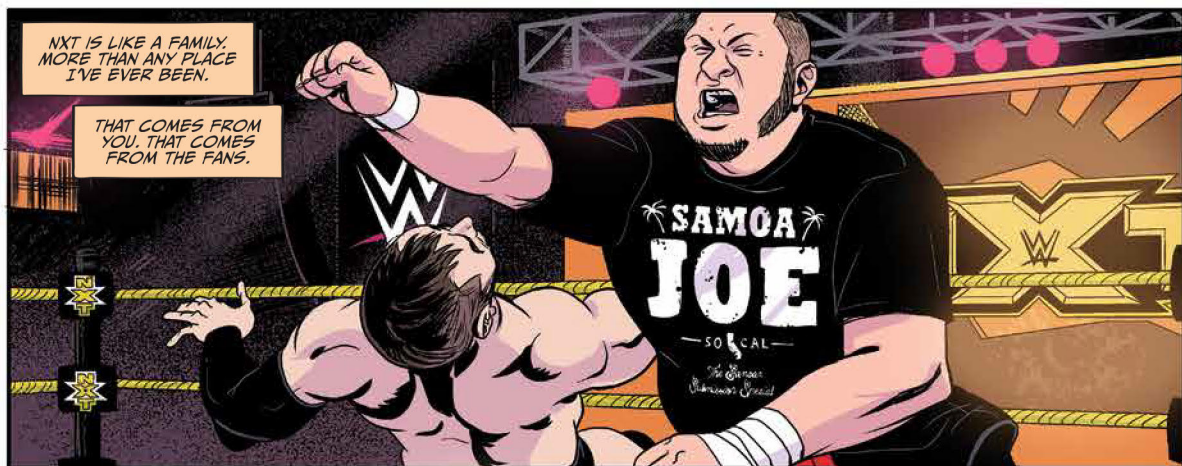
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SPECIAL THANKS TO **GAVIN GRONENTHAL, STEVE PANTALEO, CHAD BARBASH, BEN MAYER, JOHN JONES, STAN STANSKI, LAUREN DIENES-MIDDLEN AND EVERYONE AT WWE.**

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NXT IS LIKE A FAMILY,
MORE THAN ANY PLACE
I'VE EVER BEEN.

THAT COMES FROM
YOU. THAT COMES
FROM THE FANS.



YOU ALL SHOW
UP WEEK IN AND
WEEK OUT.

YOU SING
THE SONGS.
CHANT THE
CHANTS.

YOU PUMP US UP.
YOU HOLD THE
WHOLE THING
TOGETHER.



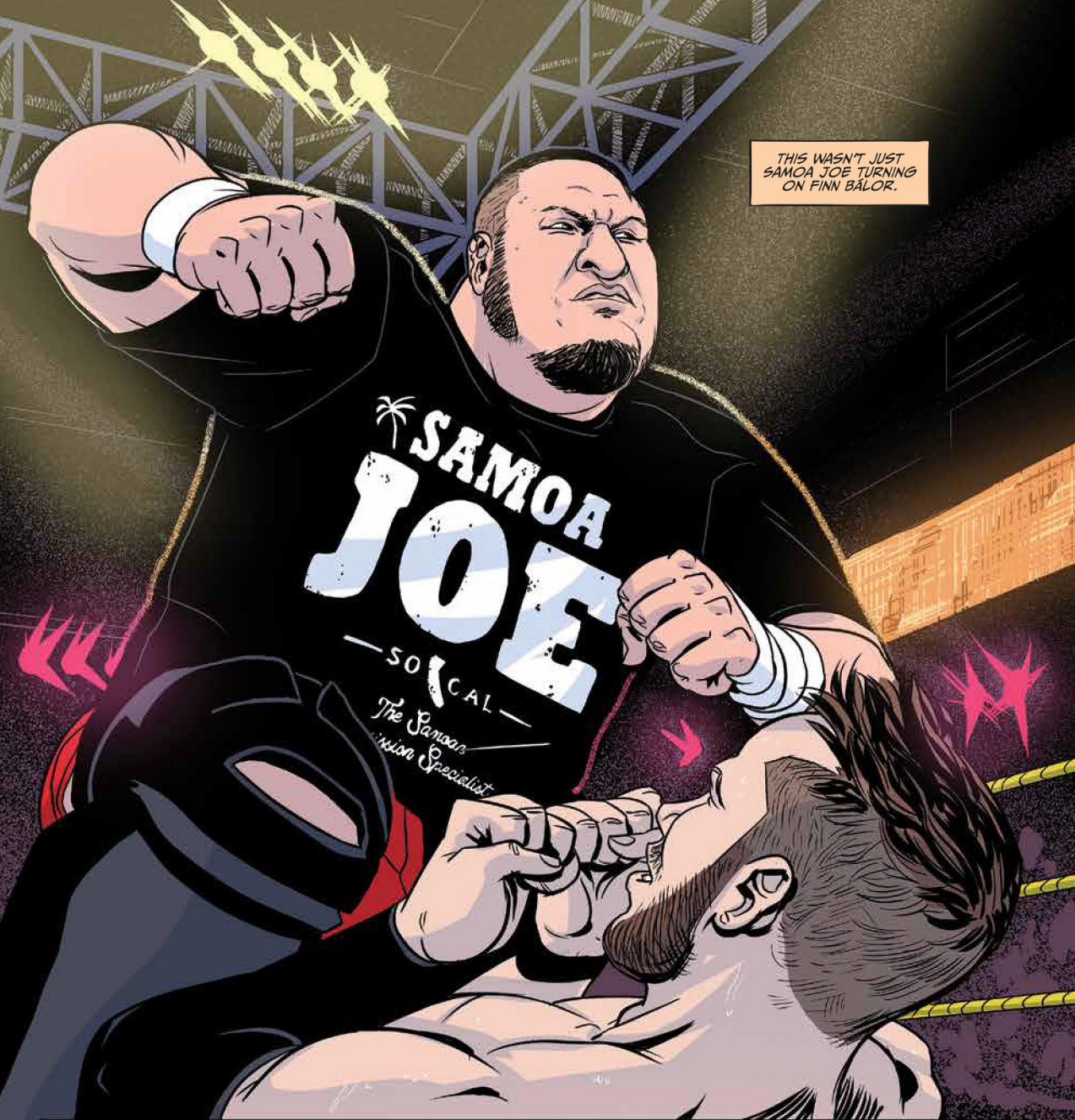
SO, WHEN THIS
RIGHT HERE
HAPPENED...

...WHEN I SMASHED EVERYBODY'S
FAVORITE DEMON DOWN
THROUGH THE MAT.



I KNOW WHAT
YOU SAW.

I GET WHY
YOU BOOED.



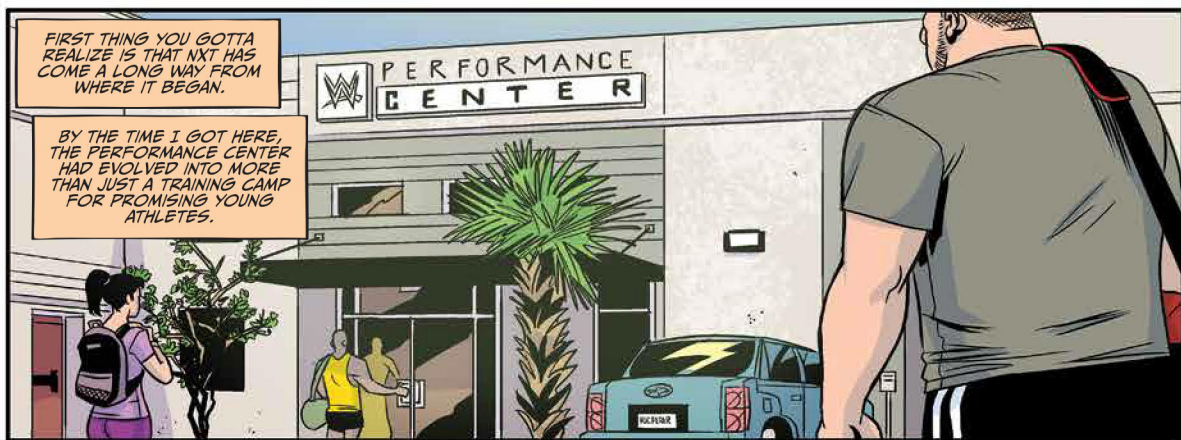
THIS WASN'T JUST
SAMOA JOE TURNING
ON FINN BALOR.



I WAS BETRAYING THE
ENTIRE NXT FAMILY.

SO HOW DID I GET HERE?
WHY DID I DO IT?

WELL...



FIRST THING YOU GOTTA REALIZE IS THAT NXT HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM WHERE IT BEGAN.

BY THE TIME I GOT HERE, THE PERFORMANCE CENTER HAD EVOLVED INTO MORE THAN JUST A TRAINING CAMP FOR PROMISING YOUNG ATHLETES.



NXT HAD BECOME A PROVING GROUND.

A BIG BRIGHT SPOTLIGHT THAT GETS ALL THE RIGHT EYEBALLS LOOKING.



MAKE THE RIGHT IMPRESSION BETWEEN THE YELLOW ROPES, IT'S NEXT STOP WWE.

WHERE FORMER NXT SUPERSTARS ARE BEGINNING TO STEAL THE SHOW--



--AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING MY WHOLE CAREER.

SEE, I'M NOT
SOME YOUNG
PUP FRESH OUT
OF SCHOOL.

I'M A ROAD-
WEATHERED
VETERAN. BEEN
THROWING HANDS
FOR THE BETTER
PART OF TWO
DECADES.

I'VE LOCKED HORNS
WITH THE BEST OF
THE BEST.

AND WON THE PRIZE
MORE OFTEN THAN
NOT.

BOUNCING ALL OVER
THE GLOBE.

PULLING TITLES OFF
OF ANY CHAMPION
MAN ENOUGH--

I'VE GOT SCARS OLDER
THAN SOME OF THESE
KIDS AROUND HERE.

GOT SCARS TO
GIVE 'EM TOO
IF IT COMES
TO THAT.

SAMOA JOE DOESN'T HAVE
ANY TIME TO WASTE--

--SHOWING
BABY FRESH
BRAWLERS
THE ROPES.

--TO LET ME
IN HIS RING.

I GET
THE MEAN THING'S
ALWAYS WORKED
FOR YA, JOE.

