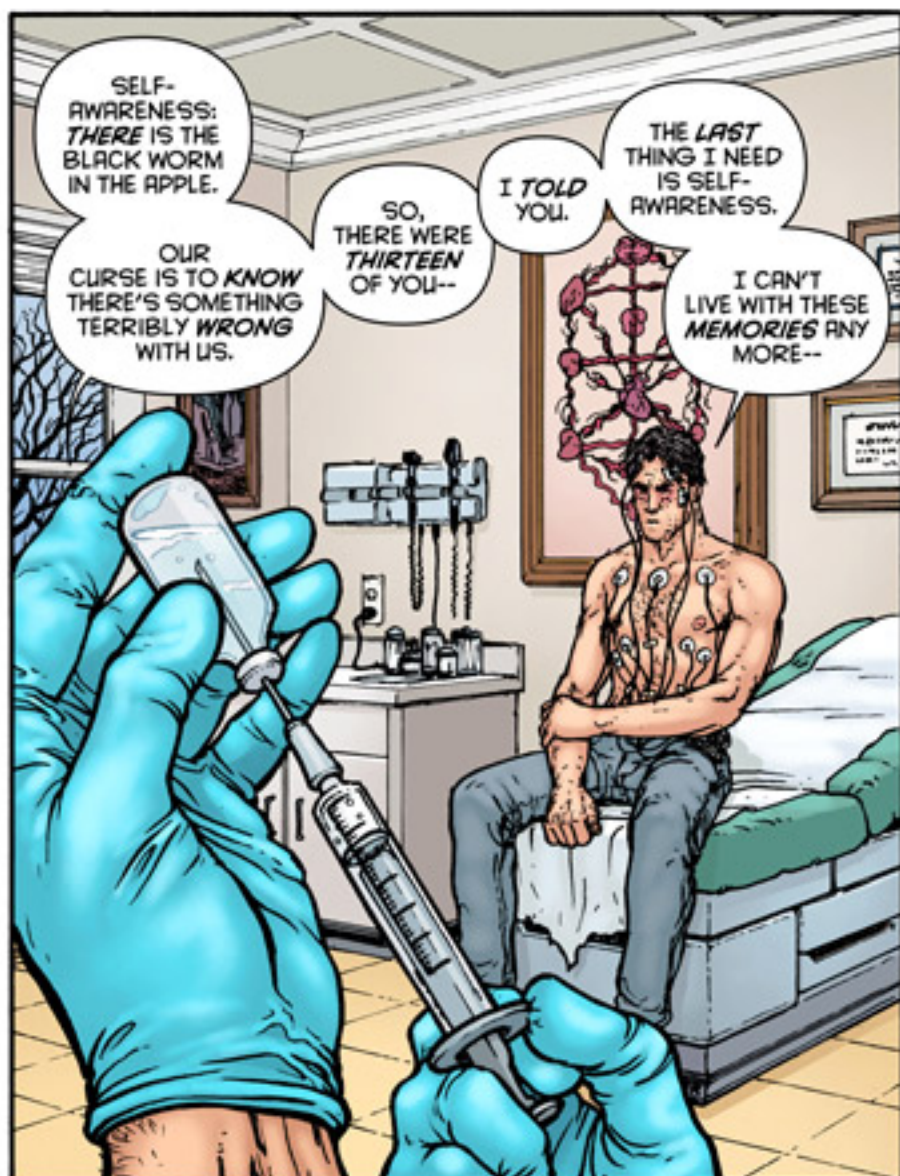




THE PURPOSE OF CREATION IS TO HUMBLE AND DESTROY US.

HUMANKIND IS A DISEASE, A MALIGNANT MISTAKE.

THE NATURAL WORLD SEEKS TO PURGE ITS BLISSFUL, IGNORANT EDEN OF OUR CONTAGION.



SELF-AWARENESS: THERE IS THE BLACK WORM IN THE APPLE.

OUR CURSE IS TO KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG WITH US.

SO, THERE WERE THIRTEEN OF YOU--

I TOLD YOU.

THE LAST THING I NEED IS SELF-AWARENESS.

I CAN'T LIVE WITH THESE MEMORIES ANY MORE--



October. Halloween late afternoon.



MAJOR ED MERRITT--veteran of Fort Meade and the Goat Lab.

And me.

And the Ghost House.

STAR OF FEAR

writer GRANT MORRISON

artist CHRIS BURNHAM

colorist NATHAN FAIRBAIRN

letterer SIMON BOWLAND



Trick or treat.





SO WHAT'S IN THE BOX, DOC?

AN ITEM WE RETRIEVED FROM THE BASEMENT HERE AND SUBJECTED TO SOME TESTS.

POTTER'S GRANDFATHER, A SOMEWHAT UNSCRUPULOUS MARINER BY ALL ACCOUNTS, STOLE THE DAMN THING--

FROM THE DEVOTEES OF NAN SAMWOHL--



NEW CALEDONIAN MORAY EEL GOD, WORSHIPPED AT THE RUINS OF NAN MADOL.

I SPENT MOST OF MARCH IN POHNPEI--

YOU CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR STUFF, YOUNG MAN.

EXCELLENT.

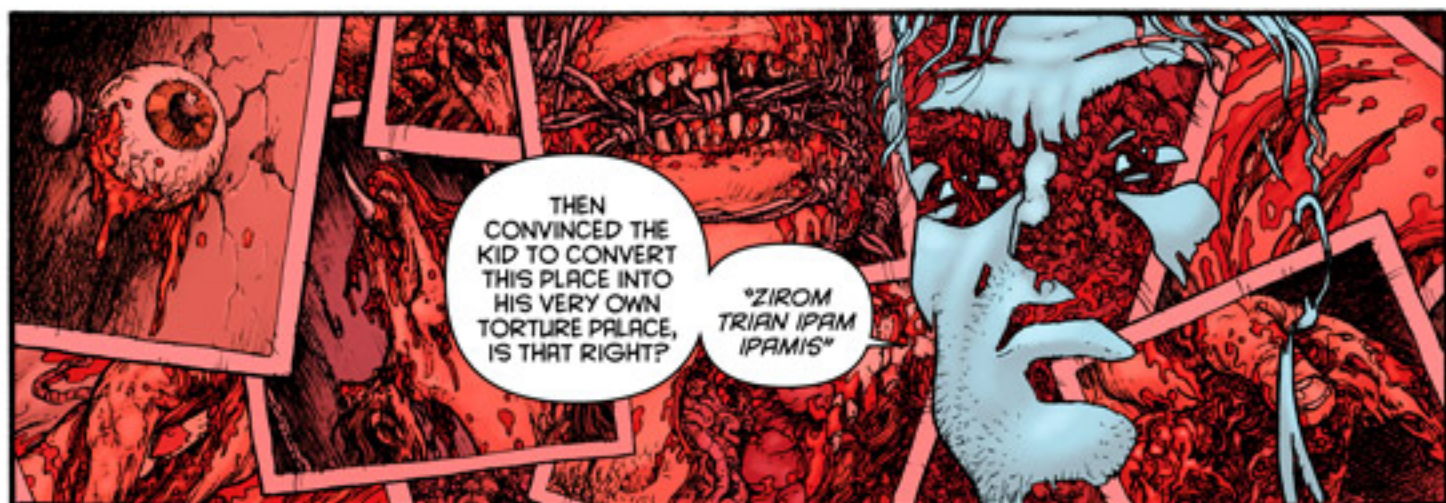
NEPOTISM WILL ONLY TAKE YOU SO FAR.



ANYWAY-- YOU'VE BEEN BRIEFED:

THE POTTER BOY KEPT AN ONLINE DIARY OF HIS INTERACTIONS WITH WODELLO, HIS SO-CALLED SPIRIT GUIDE.

WODELLO TALKED OF A FIFTH PLANET AND A COSMIC WAR BETWEEN "TITANS" AND "OUTSIDERS" FROM THE ANTI-UNIVERSE.



THEN CONVINCED THE KID TO CONVERT THIS PLACE INTO HIS VERY OWN TORTURE PALACE, IS THAT RIGHT?

"ZIROM TRIAN IPAM IPAMIS"

