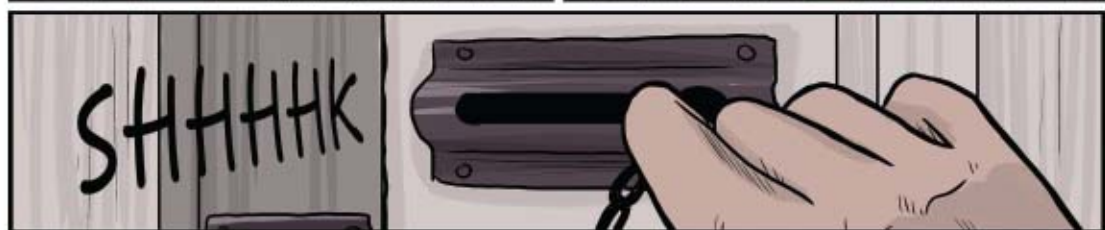


PRESENT.





CHAPTER THREE: UNTIL THE LIGHT

ALRIGHT,
WHAT'S SO
FUNNY?

YOU'VE
BEEN EYEING
ME THIS WHOLE
DRIVE LIKE I'M
ABOUT TO DROP
A PUNCHLINE.

HAVE
I?

GUESS
I'M JUST
NOT USED
TO SEEING
YOU IN...
UH...

~~WELCOME~~
NOW ENTERING
MADISON
DOWNTOWN



SHIRTS.

AHA!

WELL, THOUGHT I'D SPRUCE UP AND PUT SOME FABRIC ON FOR YOU.

WHAT A GENTLEMAN.



I DO WHAT I CAN.

BUT MOSTLY STILL ABSORBING THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY HERE... BRAVING THE CITY CENTER RUINS.



LAST TIME WE TALKED YOU PRACTICALLY THREW UP WHEN I SUGGESTED THE RIVER.

WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?



I GUESS I FIGURED IF YOU LIKE IT OUT HERE, IT CAN'T BE AS BAD AS EVERYONE SAYS.



MEH. PEOPLE SEE WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE.

RUINS, DOOM, DEATH, TEMPEST, BLAH, BLAH, ALL THAT.

BUT I DUNNO, IF YOU SQUINT AND TILT YOUR HEAD A BIT, IT ACTUALLY LOOKS KINDA NICE.



AND I GUESS THAT SMELL IS JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER IN CASE YOU FORGET WHERE YOU ARE?

HAH! THAT'S JUST THE BODY'S WAY OF SAYING "DON'T STAY TOO LONG OR YOU MIGHT DIE" KINDA THING.

WHICH, HONESTLY, IS GOING TO HAPPEN ANYWAY SO I DON'T KNOW WHY EVERYONE IS SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT.

WE'VE ALL BREATHED ENOUGH TOX FOR TEN LIFETIMES, MIGHT AS WELL BE HAPPY WHILE WE CAN, RIGHT?



WHAT'S WRONG?



I...UH... I THINK I MADE A BIG MISTAKE.