

ARCADIA™



written by ALEX PAKNADEL
illustrated by ERIC SCOTT PFEIFFER
letters by COLIN BELL

cover by MATT TAYLOR
variant cover by ERIC SCOTT PFEIFFER

designer SCOTT NEWMAN
associate editor JASMINE AMIRI
editor ERIC HARBURN

special thanks WILL DENNIS
arcadia created by ALEX PAKNADEL



PREVIOUSLY:

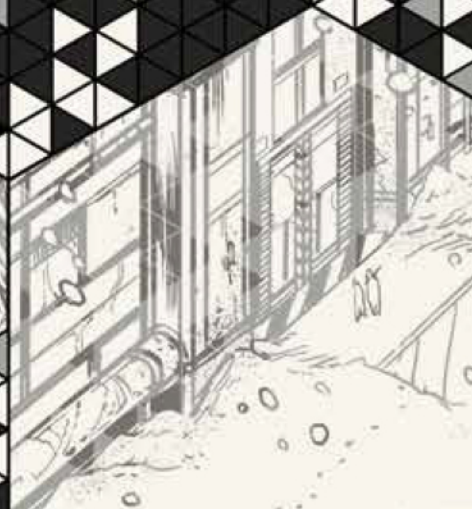
A mental connection was established between Lee Garner and Lee Pepper, leading to Lee Pepper's imprisonment for treason against Arcadia.

The Homesteaders need Giacomo to find the flaw in Arcadia responsible for the death of one of their own, so they have spirited Coral and the boy to safety; however, Giacomo has agreed to help only if his parents are rescued.

BOOM!
STUDIOS
WWW.BOOM-STUDIOS.COM

ARCADIA No. 4, August 2015. Published by BOOM! Studios, a division of Boom Entertainment, Inc., 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 450, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679. ARCADIA is ™ & © Alex Paknadel. All rights reserved. BOOM! Studios™ and the BOOM! Studios logo are trademarks of Boom Entertainment, Inc., registered in various countries and categories.

All characters, events, and institutions depicted herein are fictional. Any similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, events, and/or institutions in this publication to actual names, characters, and persons, whether living or dead, events, and/or institutions is unintended and purely coincidental. BOOM! Studios does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material, call: (203) 595-3636 and provide reference #RICH - 630667. PRINTED IN USA.



**THE MEAT
ALASKA**

SAW SOMETHING
SPRAY-PAINTED OVER A MASS
GRAVE IN PASADENA A FEW
YEARS BACK. STUCK WITH ME
LIKE MOLTEN BLACKTOP.

TONK

"THE WORLD
IS ALL THAT
THE FALL IS."

THEY
EXPECTING
YOU AT TED
STEVENS?

YEAH, I GOT
THE PAPERWORK
RIGHT HERE. SHE'S
BOOKED INTO THE
NINE-SEVENTEEN
TO OAKLAND.

THEY'VE GOT
A REFRIGERATOR
TRUCK ON STANDBY
DOWN THERE.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT THAT MEANT
UNTIL TODAY.

TURN BACK IF YOU
HIT ANY WEATHER,
'KAY? ALICE'D
UNDERSTAND.

NAH,
SHE'D TEAR ME
A NEW ONE AND
YOU KNOW IT.

I'LL SEE TO
IT MRS. GUNN'S
SENT OFF
RIGHT, LEE.

GOOD
MAN.

DRIVE
SAFE.



I'M SORRY, PEPPER. I KNOW YOU WERE CLOSE.

ALICE USED TO MAKE ME PEACH COBBLER EVERY YEAR I MANAGED TO STAY DRY, VALENTIN.

SHE USED FRESH PEACHES FROM... GOD KNOWS WHERE.

IMAGINE THAT. FRESH PEACHES.



SO WHERE ARE WE?

YOU WERE RIGHT. SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY OFF.

I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE PRESIDENT WITH "OFF." MAN. GIVE ME DETAILS.



TWO I.P. ADDRESSES ARE MISSING FROM THE SIMULATION AND WE HAD SOME VERY STRANGE INBOUND TRAFFIC TO THE DATA CENTER.

...

YOU MEAN TWO PEOPLE ARE MISSING FROM THE SIMULATION.

"MISSING" ASSUMES A CHANCE OF FINDING THEM AGAIN. THEY HAVE CEASED TO BE.

...TERRIFIC.



WE NEED TO GET IN FRONT OF THIS RIGHT AWAY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE?



...FOR ONE OF THEM, YES, YES, I DO.

I, UH... I THINK IT MIGHT BE ME, ACTUALLY.

ARCADIA
UNKNOWN



WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO TO UPSET THAT DELIGHTFUL WOMAN?

I GOT HER SENT HERE.

BOTH OF ME DID, NOW I THINK ABOUT IT.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MMM? I'M DEBUGGING.

THE BIBLE?



I'M AMAZED THIS EVER MANAGED TO EXECUTE.



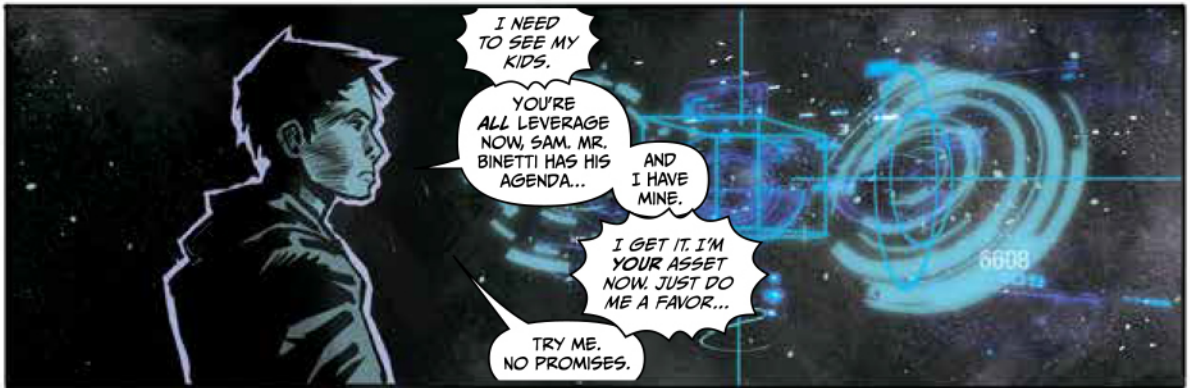
I'M THE BURNING ANGEL'S EYES AND EARS IN HERE, SEE.

HE SENT ME HERE TO CLEAN UP THE OXBOW CODE FROM WITHIN, BUT I WAS TOO LATE. TOO... BOTCHED.



MY COMPANY OVERSAW THE EXPANSION OF ARCADIA ONTO GOVERNMENT SERVERS, FRIEND.

THERE IS NO OXBOW CODE.





IF YOU DESIGNED IT, THEN WHO DID YOU DESIGN IT FOR?

SYBIL... YOU KNOW TH-THE DEMIURGE.

WHO'S SYBIL, COREY?

Y-YOU KNOW MY NAME! I NEVER TOLD YOU MY NAME!



REMEMBER OUR DEAL, GARNER...



WITHOUT THE ROOT PASSWORD IN THAT POOR HEAD...



...SURE YOU DID. "I FIX WORLDS," REMEMBER?

I'M NOT PARANOID! I'M NOT!



THEY'VE TRIED EVERYTHING ON ME, YOU UNDERSTAND? ONE BY ONE I'VE BLUNTED ALL OF THEIR KNIVES!

THEY MUSTN'T HAVE IT!



I BELIEVE YOU!

BURNING ANGEL TAKES MY SCREAMS AWAY!

I SCREECH LIKE A STOVE KETTLE AND THEY NEVER HEAR! NEVER!



ALRIGHT, YOU [REDACTED] WHAT'S THIS BURNING ANGEL NONSENSE? GIVE ME SOMETHING I CAN USE.



THE CDC RETRIEVED A CHARRED THUMB DRIVE FROM BLOOM'S SKULL WHEN HIS APARTMENT BURNED DOWN.

THEY FOUND HIM SAT OPPOSITE A MIRROR IN HIS STUDY. BURNING ANGEL MUST HAVE BEEN THE LAST THING HE SAW.

RATHER AN ELEGANT PSYCHOSIS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?