

STAINED

DAVID
BARON

YUSUF
IDRIS

SIMON
BOWLAND



45¢

Imagination to
BURN

ONE
OF FIVE
\$3.99

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LANDLORD'S BAR, 1:23AM.

HEY,
YOU!

I'LL GIVE
YOU A HUNDRED
CREDITS TO TRY
TO KILL ME.

HEY! YOU
LISTENING TO ME,
GIRLY? DO YOUR
EARS WORK?

I HEAR JUST
FINE. WHAT THIS IDIOT
DOESN'T KNOW IS
THAT I'M ACTUALLY
AT THIS BAR TONIGHT
BECAUSE OF HIM.

C'MON TIN CAN, I'M
GOING TO GIVE YOU
A HUNDRED CREDITS
TO SHOOT ME. YOU
CAN COLLECT A
REWARD TOO!

WHAT'S WRONG,
GIRLY? SCARED
OF A MAN ON THE
TOP TEN MOST
WANTED LIST?

BRING ME
IN, YOU'LL GET
TEN THOUSAND
SMACKERS. PLUS
THE HUNDRED
RIGHT HERE IN
MY HAND.

HE'S NEVER
EVEN CRACKED THE
TOP TEN. TOPPED
OUT AT FIFTEEN.
WHAT'S WITH MEN
ALWAYS INFLATING
THEIR NUMBERS?

ALL YOU
GOTTA DO
IS KILL ME.

MORE PRECISELY,
I'M AFTER THE
REWARD HE KEEPS
BLABBING ABOUT.

I'M JUST WAITING FOR
THE RIGHT MOMENT
TO TAKE THIS GUY OUT.
THERE'S NO REASON
TO CAUSE A SCENE.

WITH THAT KIND
OF DOUGH, YOU CAN
GET THAT MESSED
UP **STAINED** FACE OF
YOURS FIXED!

OR MAYBE
THERE IS...



GIRL MISSING FROM UPTOWN

CENTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.





EMMA?! I'M JUST PUTTING SOME OLD CASE FILES AWAY. C'MON BACK.



HOW'D EVERYTHING GO? YOU GET THE BAD GUY?

SURE DID.

THE BASTARD INSULTED MY FACE. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE? I LOVE YOUR FACE!

MAYBE THE GUY IS BLIND...

HE IS NOW. TEMPORARILY, ANYWAYS.



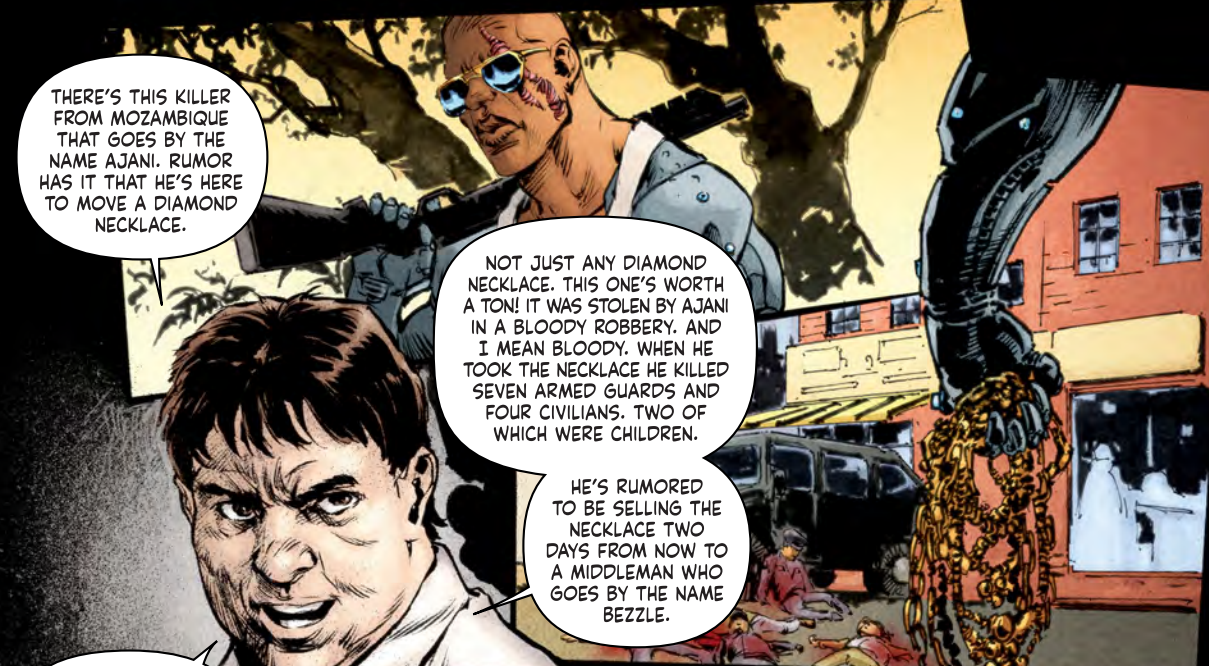
WHAT?

NOTHING.

YOU HEAR OF ANYTHING AROUND THE OFFICE THAT MIGHT GIVE ME MY NEXT PAY DAY? I CAN REALLY USE THE CREDITS. RENT'S DUE SOON AND TAXES KEEP TAKING ALL THE FUN OUT OF THIS JOB.



NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I'VE HEARD SOME WHISPERS ABOUT SOME BAD GUYS WHO MIGHT BE IN TOWN THIS WEEK FOR AN EXCHANGE OF GOODS. THE STOLEN TYPE. DANGEROUS STUFF!



THERE'S THIS KILLER FROM MOZAMBIQUE THAT GOES BY THE NAME AJANI. RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE'S HERE TO MOVE A DIAMOND NECKLACE.

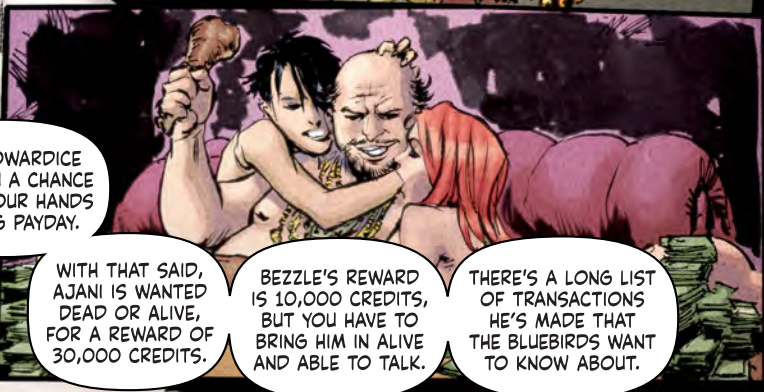
NOT JUST ANY DIAMOND NECKLACE. THIS ONE'S WORTH A TON! IT WAS STOLEN BY AJANI IN A BLOODY ROBBERY. AND I MEAN BLOODY. WHEN HE TOOK THE NECKLACE HE KILLED SEVEN ARMED GUARDS AND FOUR CIVILIANS. TWO OF WHICH WERE CHILDREN.

HE'S RUMORED TO BE SELLING THE NECKLACE TWO DAYS FROM NOW TO A MIDDLEMAN WHO GOES BY THE NAME BEZZLE.

HE'S SOMEONE YOU CAN FIND AROUND DIRTY MONEY, BUT NOT THE TYPE TO GET DIRTY HIMSELF.

IT'S JUST A RUMOR THAT THEY ARE IN TOWN, BUT IF IT'S TRUE, AND YOU INTERCEPT THE TRANSACTION, YOU COULD MAKE A SMALL FORTUNE. THE CCPD DOESN'T WANT TO TOUCH IT UNTIL AJANI IS OUT OF THE PICTURE. YOU KNOW, CONSIDERING HE SEEMS TO KILL EVERYONE HE DOESN'T LIKE.

THEIR COWARDICE GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON A BIG PAYDAY.



WITH THAT SAID, AJANI IS WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE, FOR A REWARD OF 30,000 CREDITS.

BEZZLE'S REWARD IS 10,000 CREDITS, BUT YOU HAVE TO BRING HIM IN ALIVE AND ABLE TO TALK.

THERE'S A LONG LIST OF TRANSACTIONS HE'S MADE THAT THE BLUEBIRDS WANT TO KNOW ABOUT.



AND THE DIAMOND NECKLACE, UNDAMAGED, FOR MORE CREDITS THAN BOTH OF THOSE IDIOTS COMBINED. THAT'LL PAY YOUR RENT FOR A GOOD LONG TIME, TAXES OR NOT.

HURT THE PEOPLE, PROTECT THE DIAMONDS. SOUNDS LIKE I'M THE RIGHT GIRL FOR THE JOB.

BE CAREFUL EMMA, THIS COULD GET MESSIER THAN YOU THINK. BEZZLE MIGHT BE A WORM, BUT WHAT I HEAR ABOUT THIS AJANI FELLA, HE'S NOT SOMEONE TO MESS WITH.



I LOVE IT WHEN YOU WORRY ABOUT ME, GEORGE. MAKES ME ALL WARM INSIDE.

AND DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT PLANNING TO GET THAT CLOSE TO HIM.