



**"EACH MORNING SEES  
SOME TASK BEGUN,  
EACH EVENING SEES  
IT CLOSE;  
SOMETHING ATTEMPTED,  
SOMETHING DONE,  
HAS EARNED A NIGHT'S  
REPOSE."**

— HENRY WADSWORTH  
LONGFELLOW



I'M LEARNING IT'S  
THE DAYS, NOT THE  
NIGHTS, THAT ARE  
THE HARSHTEST.

TOLD  
YOU NOT  
TO BOARD,  
KID.

I JUST  
NEED TO HAVE A  
LOOK AROUND. PUT  
THE SCATTERGUN  
DOWN AND WE'LL--



YOU  
WERE  
TOLD.



I WORK WHILE  
EVERYONE I  
KNOW SLEEPS.



IT COMES WITH THE  
JOB. ME AND MY KIND  
HAVE TRAINED OUR  
ENTIRE LIVES TO KEEP  
OUR EMPLOYERS SAFE.  
TO HONOR OUR OATH.



AND SOMETIMES  
TO PROTECT THOSE  
CLOSE TO YOU, YOU  
HAVE TO VENTURE  
INTO DARKNESS.





I SMELL HIM BEFORE I SEE HIM.

LIKE SOUR FISH AND BLACK MILDEW. AS IF I NEEDED ANY MORE REASONS TO HATE THIS GUY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT YESTERDAY. I PICKED UP YOUR GUY STOPPING FOR A GRINDER OFF DORCHESTER. FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BUSTED SOMEBODY BY WAY OF COLD CUTS.



YOU TOOK SOMETHING FROM MY FAMILY. I WANT IT BACK.



THERE'S LITTLE WORSE THAN A POACHER. NO ALLEGIANCES. NO HONOR.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE VIRGOS HAD A NEW SUNDG, AND HARDLY A BABE AT THE TEAT.

TAKE WHAT YOU WILL, WHELPING. THE HAVERSACK TO YOUR LEFT. THE SEA IS MY BOUNTY...THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER PORT, ALWAYS MORE GAME...



A POACHER OF HIS OWN KIND, NO LESS...THIS FANG TRADE IS BECOMING A PROBLEM.



WHAT'S IN THESE CANISTERS?

IS IT REWARDING TO BE A BITCH FOR THE UNDEAD? I'VE LONG WONDERED WHAT THE BENEFITS ARE OF SUCH A POSITION.

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION. WHAT'S IN THE CANISTERS?

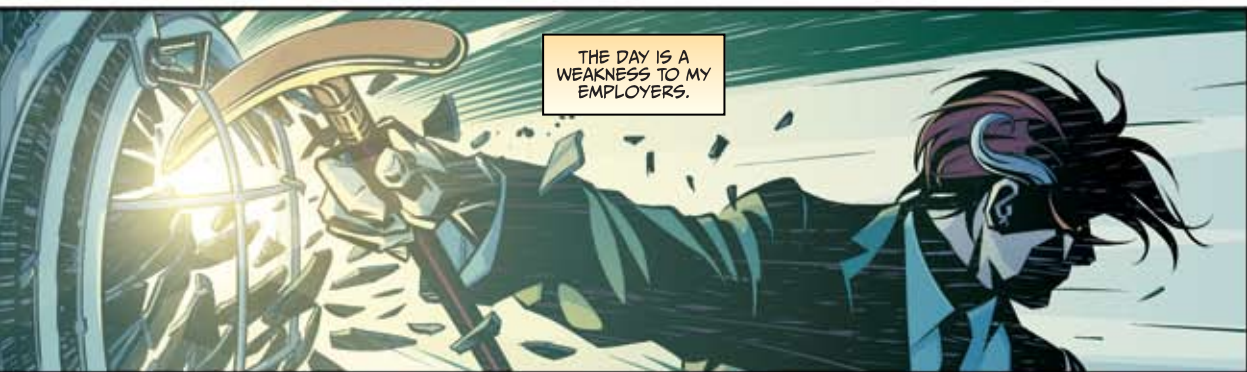


IT'S THEN THAT I REALIZE THE SMELL WASN'T COMING FROM THE VAMPIRE.







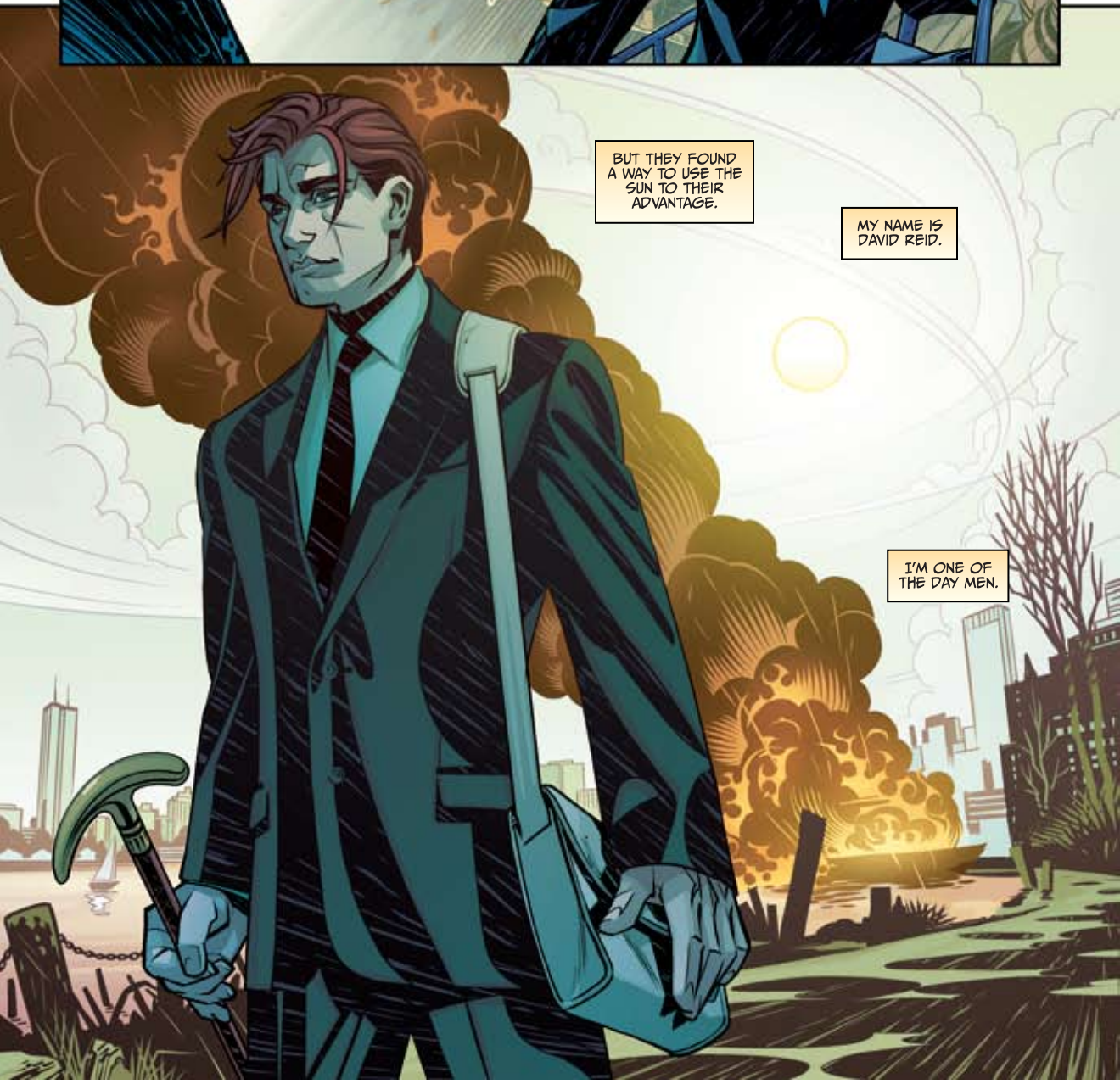


THE DAY IS A  
WEAKNESS TO MY  
EMPLOYERS.



NO.  
NOOOOOOOO!

AAAAHHHH!!!



BUT THEY FOUND  
A WAY TO USE THE  
SUN TO THEIR  
ADVANTAGE.

MY NAME IS  
DAVID REID.

I'M ONE OF  
THE DAY MEN.





THIRTEEN HOURS LATER.

THE LAST GUY NEVER MADE ME COFFEE.



I GUESS THE LAST GUY DIDN'T HAVE HIS PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

APPARENTLY *NOT*.

CASEY KENNEDY. HEAD OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS FOR THE VIRGO FAMILY. MY HUMAN COUNTERPART INSIDE THE VIRGO'S COUNTRY ESTATE.



CASEY HAS AN MBA FROM DARTMOUTH...OR WAS IT PURDUE? KEEPS THE WHOLE FAMILY OPERATION RUNNING LIKE BILL GATES DRESSED IN MICHAEL KORS.

OH, YOUR W2 FINALLY CAME IN. I CAN HAVE THE FAMILY ACCOUNTANT FILE IT FOR YOU, OR YOU CAN FILE TAXES YOURSELF.

I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THE ACCOUNTANT, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

AND THE END OF THE MONTH IS COMING UP, SO I'LL NEED ALL YOUR CREDIT CARD RECEIPTS.



MM, I'LL COMPILE THEM TONIGHT AND HAVE THEM FOR YOU TOMORROW. I CAN GUARANTEE AT LEAST HALF OF THEM HAVEN'T ENDED UP IN THE LAUNDRY.

YOUR FUNERAL. THE HORRORS OF THE NIGHT HAVE NOTHING ON A PISS-OFF ACCOUNTANT WHEN COLUMN A AND COLUMN B DON'T ADD UP.



HA! I'M SURE THEIR FANGS CUT THE *DEEPEST*.

MY DAYS ALWAYS START THE SAME NOW. CASEY DRIVES INTO THE CITY ON HER WAY HOME FROM THE NIGHT SHIFT AT THE VIRGO ESTATE.

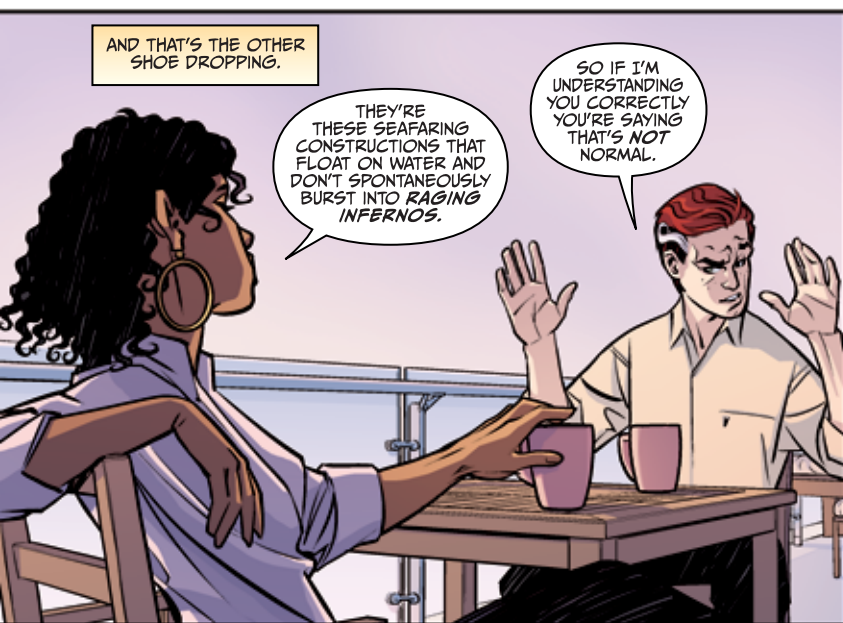
SHE FILLS ME IN ON WHAT TRANSPIRED THE NIGHT BEFORE AND GIVES ME MY MARCHING ORDERS FOR THE DAY.




WE'VE BEEN MAKING IT A ROUTINE TO HAVE COFFEE AND WATCH THE SUN COME UP AS HER DAY ENDS AND MINE BEGINS.

SO... LET'S TALK ABOUT *BOATS*.










"TWO PAYMENTS  
NEED TO BE  
COLLECTED TODAY.  
ONE CASH, THE  
OTHER ALTERNATE  
CURRENCY."

"IS THIS ALTERNATE  
CURRENCY  
PERISHABLE?"


"NO. THE GAMMORIAN SISTERS  
NEGOTIATED A BARTER OF  
SERVICES FOR A RELIC IN THEIR  
POSSESSION. WHATEVER YOU DO,  
DON'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT IT."



"TAKE THE CASH AND  
USE IT TO PAY OFF  
OFFICER BRISBANE AT  
THE 3RD PRECINCT."

"ALL OF IT?"

"ALL OF IT. HE  
TURNED DOWN A  
PROMOTION FOR  
US AND WE NEED  
HIM FIRMLY IN OUR  
POCKET."




"THERE WAS A FEEDING  
ACCIDENT ON WESTCHESTER.  
MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF BODY  
BAGS YOU USE--YOU'RE ALREADY  
OVER BUDGET THIS MONTH."



"AND TAKE SOME GROCERIES  
TO ROWLAND'S MISTRESS AND  
HER BOY. LIVING IN A 1600  
SQUARE FOOT PENTHOUSE SUITE  
MEANS LITTLE IF YOU CAN'T EAT."

"IT REFLECTS  
POORLY ON THE  
FAMILY IF WE  
DON'T TAKE  
PROPER CARE  
OF OUR TOYS."



"SOME TOWNIES HAVE TAKEN  
TO LOITERING AROUND ONE  
OF OUR SAFE HOUSES.  
SHOW THEM THE ROAD  
BEFORE THEY END UP ON  
SOMEONE'S DINNER PLATE."

"WHERE  
EXACTLY IN  
NEUTRAL  
TERRITORY?"

"AND LASTLY, NYBOR HAS  
BEEN ON A 48-HOUR BENDER.  
GO LOOK IN ON HIM. BUT  
TREAD CAREFULLY, DAVID.  
HE'S IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY."



THE DARK ROOM.  
A VAMPIRE PLEASURE  
DEN MASQUERADING AS  
A SALTY ROAD HOUSE  
JUST OUTSIDE  
BRIDGEPORT.

THIS THIN TRACT OF LAND IS  
SO HORRID AND BLEAK THAT  
NEITHER THE VIRGOS NOR THE  
RAMSES HAVE ANY DESIRE TO  
CONTEST ITS OWNERSHIP.  
THUS, NEUTRAL TERRITORY.

VIRGO LAW CARRIES  
ABOUT AS MUCH  
WEIGHT AS A PARKING  
TICKET AROUND HERE.

AND THAT CAN BE  
A PROBLEM...

GENTLEMEN.

PRIVATE  
ESTABLISHMENT.  
MEMBERS  
ONLY.

IT TAKES ALL OF ONE  
SECOND TO SEE THESE  
BOYS AREN'T YOKELS  
BEING PAID IN BEER  
MONEY AND LAP DANCES.

THE ONE WHO SPOKE,  
JUDGING BY HIS ACCENT  
AND HIS CASUAL YET  
OBVIOUS KRAV MAGA  
STANCE, IS MOST LIKELY  
FORMER MOSSAD.

THE BRUISER WITH THE  
SIG-SAUER P226 ON HIS HIP,  
A NAVY S.E.A.L., AND I DOUBT  
THE THIRD GOT HIS SPECIAL  
FORCES RING ON EBAY.

ON MY BEST DAY,  
I COULD MAYBE TAKE  
ON TWO AND STILL  
HAVE ENOUGH  
ORGANS FUNCTIONING  
TO CALL MYSELF AN  
AMBULANCE. BUT  
THREE IS TROUBLE  
I DON'T NEED.

I'M NOT A  
MEMBER. BUT  
MY...FRIEND IS. I'M  
HERE TO RETRIEVE  
HIM. NOTHING  
MORE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN HERE YESTERDAY.  
YOU COULD HAVE SAVED  
CARTER ONE HELL OF A  
HEADACHE AND YOUR  
FRIEND ONE HELL OF A  
BAR TAB.

GET IN  
THERE, GET  
HIM, AND GET  
GONE.

THANK  
YOU.



THE DARK ROOM IS POPULATED WITH THE DANGEROUS AND THE DESPERATE. ALL SHARING A COMMON DESIRE TO FORGET THE WORLD OUTSIDE THESE WALLS.

AND A VISCERAL HATE FOR ANYTHING, OR ANYONE, THAT REMINDS THEM OF ALL THEY'VE LOST IN THE WORLD.



YOU CARTER?  
I'M HERE FOR A FRIEND.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS HERE.

HIS NAME IS NYBOR. THE SOONER YOU POINT ME IN HIS DIRECTION, THE SOONER I CAN LEAVE YOU TO YOUR... BUSINESS.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH USE FOR NAMES HERE-- CUSTOMERS PREFER IT THAT WAY. NOW GET YOUR SORRY ASS GONE.



BOY, YOU DON'T *GET* OFF ME I'LL HAVE SECURITY BASHIN' YOUR SKULL INTO SOUP IN LESS THAN TEN SECONDS.

AND YOU'LL BE ON THE FLOOR WITH A SHATTERED WINDPIPE IN *FIVE*. TELL ME OR I'LL GO THROUGH EVERY ROOM YOU HAVE UNTIL I FIND HIM. NOT IDEAL FOR PROTECTING YOUR CLIENTS' *PRIVACY*.



...YOU BETTER MAKE IT REAL FAST. THIRD DOOR ON THE LEFT.

THE ONLY WAY PEOPLE LIKE CARTER CAN SURVIVE IS TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.



SO I UNDERSTAND HIS HESITATION.

BUT I HAVE A LOW TOLERANCE FOR PEOPLE TOO STUPID TO KNOW WHEN TO HELP THEMSELVES.







A VAMPIRE'S TRUE DEATH IS MUCH LIKE PORNOGRAPHY. HARD TO DEFINE, BUT I KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT.

I HAVE A THOUSAND QUESTIONS, BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO ASK THEM.

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE THAT THE VAMPIRE WAS A WANDERER OR A NOMAD. BUT I HAVE A SINKING FEELING IN MY GUT.



A SINKING FEELING IT'S A RAMSES.



NYBOR, GET UP. WE HAVE TO GO. NOW.

DAVID... I NEED A SMOKE...

NO, YOU NEED TO LEAVE, NOW C'MON. YOU CAN'T BE SEEN HERE.

...WHERE ARE MY CIGARETTES...



...WHAT TIME IS IT?

DON'T WORRY. MY CAR'S IN THE GARAGE. JUST KEEP MOVING AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.





DEATH ISN'T UNCOMMON IN PLACES LIKE THE DARK ROOM. AND EVERYONE KNOWS TO KEEP THEIR EYES TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR TONGUES STILL. BUT STILL TONGUES AREN'T AS SILENT AS DEAD ONES.

I'M CHARGING THE VIRGOS FOR THIS MESS. YOU HEAR ME, SUNDOG?

JUST KEEP MOVING.



...I'M MISSING SOMETHING...

I'LL BUY YOU A NEW PACK OF CIGARETTES--KEEP MOVING.

NO...MY BIRD... I THINK I LEFT IT IN...PRAGUE, WAS IT?

NYBOR, YOU'RE DRUNK AND BABBLING. JUST GET IN THE CAR.



I'M SO... TIRED...

SLEEP IT OFF IN HERE. I'LL HAVE YOU IN A PROPER COFFIN BY SUNDOWN. DON'T SAY A WORD UNTIL WE'RE BACK IN VIRGO TERRITORY.



I CAN'T TAKE HIM BACK TO THE MANSION. IF THERE'S BLOWBACK, I DON'T WANT IT LEADING DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILY. THE SAFE HOUSE I CLEARED THIS MORNING SHOULD WORK.



THERE'S JUST ENOUGH TIME TO GET NYBOR THERE BEFORE SUNSET. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE FOUND IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY AFTER DARK.

THE LAST THING WE WANT IS A SHOWDOWN WITH RAMSES VAMPIRES, OR WORSE...