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# THE MAXX

*maximized*



# THE MAXX MAXXIMIZED

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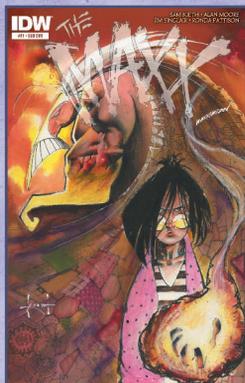
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C. I. A. HEADQUARTERS,  
CIRCA 2005 A.D.

AGENT JOHN FOSTER PARNES HAS A SQUEAKY-CLEAN DUDLEY-DO-RIGHT KIND OF WAY, AND AN IRRITATING AIR OF BOYSCOUT OPTIMISM THAT CONSTANTLY SUR-ROUNDS HIM.

AGENT GLYNN FRANKLIN STARES INTO THE EMPTY SPACE IN FRONT OF HIM AND MUMBLES TO HIMSELF DIS-JOINTEDLY. THREE YEARS AGO FRANKLIN WAS DRIVEN MAD ON A CASE FOR THE AGENCY THAT INVOLVED ALIEN ABDUC-TIONS.

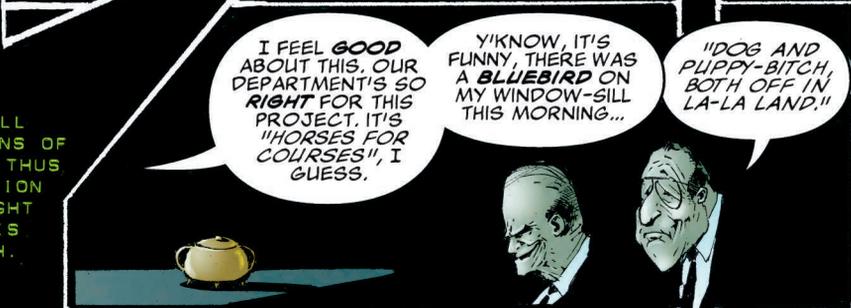
AGENT LARRY MATTOX HAS VERY HIGH COPING ABILI-TIES AND VERY LOW SOCIAL SKILLS, WHICH IS TO SAY THAT WHILE HE'S A VERY GOOD AGENT, HE'S PERSONALLY OBNOXIOUS AND HATES EVERYONE.

SUDDENLY, TEN YEARS LATER:

THE URN CONTAINS THE ASHES OF THE FORMER HEAD OF PARANORMAL EVENT PROCESSING AT THE C. I. A., MAJOR IRWIN ROSTEVAL. ROSTEVAL SPONTANEOUSLY COM-BUSTED DURING A PARTICU-LARLY UGLY CASE INVOLVING CATTLE MUTILATION IN WISCONSIN THE PREVIOUS JULY. HE IS, HOWEVER, STILL APPROACHABLE BY MEANS OF A OUIJA BOARD, AND THUS CONTINUES TO FUNCTION AS THE GUIDING LIGHT AND MENTOR OF THIS AGENCY SUB BRANCH.



THE WALL IS A FLICK-ERING MOVING COLLAGE OF IMAGES THAT CONSTANTLY SHIFT AND FLOW INTO SURREAL CONFIGURATIONS. THIS IS AN EFFECT OF THE WALL-SIZED IMAGING SCREENS THAT ROSTEVAL HAD INSTALLED BEFORE HE COMBUSTED. TRUTH BE TOLD, THEY DON'T ACTUAL-LY DO MUCH EXCEPT LOOK COOL AND BIZARRE, WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY THE SLIGHTLY DEMENTED MAJOR WANTED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.



MAJOR ROSTEVAL WAS GAY, AND CONTINUES TO HARBOR THE SAME PRO-CLIVITIES ON THE OTHER SIDE. HIS OUIJA BOARD MESSAGES ARE FULL OF INNUENDO. THE THREE SURVIVING AGENTS, OUT OF RESPECT AND PROFESSIONAL LOVE FOR THEIR DEPARTED CHIEF, ATTEMPT TO IGNORE THIS.



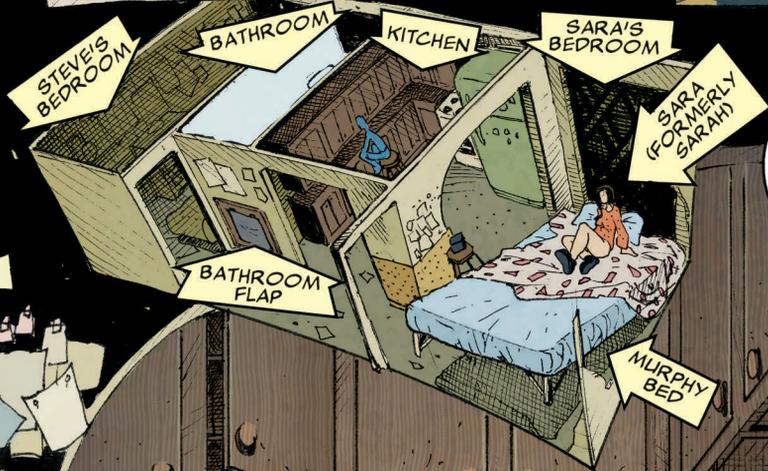
STEVE



STEVE'S GLASS OF WATER



...LOWENCORP CEO SKIT BICKERS IS IN THE SPOT-LIGHT AGAIN.



EIGHT YEARS AGO, BICKERS FOUND HIMSELF ON THE CONGRESSIONAL HOT SEAT FOR INTRODUCING THE TOBACCO ADDITIVE NICOTINE INTO THE PRODUCTS OF LOWENCORP SUBSIDIARY NABIKTO FOODS.



AFTER INVESTIGATION BY THE FDA FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS, BICKERS WAS FINALLY ACQUITTED OF ALL ILLEGAL ACTIVITY WHEN THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE FAILED TO REACH ANY CONCLUSIONS WHATSOEVER...

...AND THE ONCE-CONTROVERSIAL USE OF NICOTINE IS NOW COMMONPLACE.



...COMET IS HOWEVER EXPECTED TO MISS THE EARTH BY ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION MILES.

MEANWHILE, THE MEXICAN ECONOMIC CRISIS: SHOULD WE SEND TROOPS?

THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS YES, BUT PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRAT SENATOR GURN BLANDSEN SAYS NO?

"HELL, IT'D BE ANOTHER 'NAM, HALF-HOUR FROM SAN DIEGO!"

MORE ON THAT IN A MOMENT. FIRST, "BRINGING BACK FATHER", A REPORT ON THE NEW CHILD MAINTENANCE ACT.

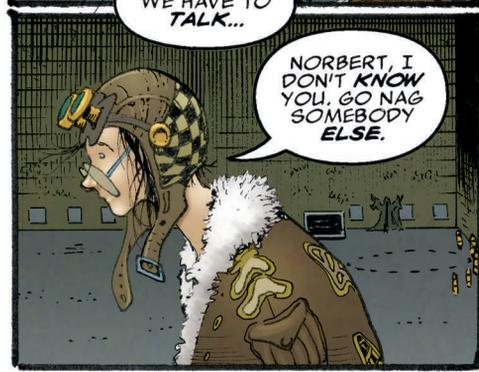
ARE FATHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR OLD DEBTS, OR...



SARA!  
HEY, SARA!

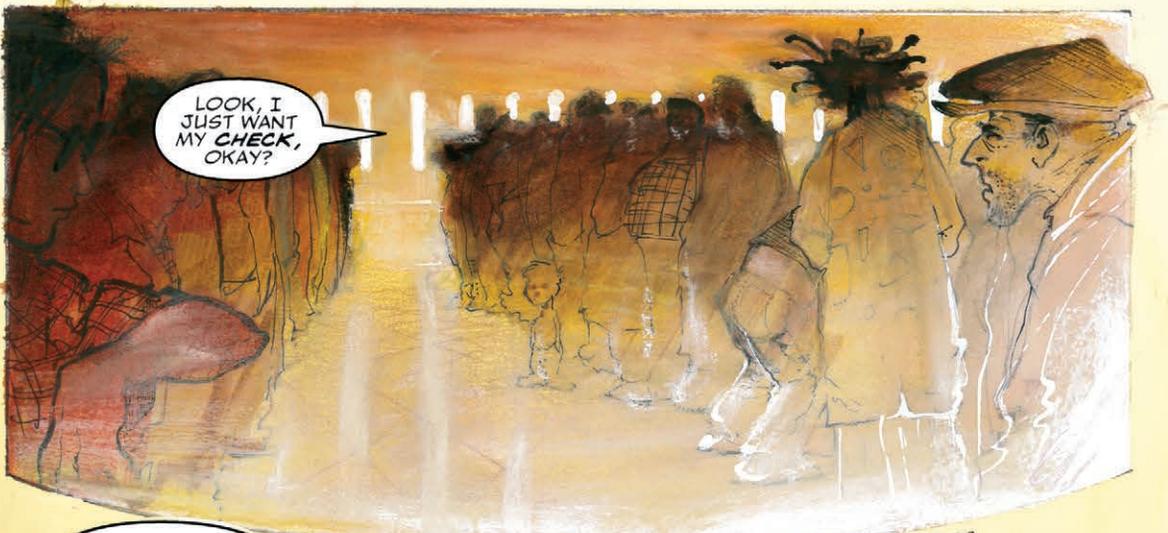


SARA,  
WE HAVE TO  
TALK...



NORBERT, I  
DON'T KNOW  
YOU. GO NAG  
SOMEBODY  
ELSE.



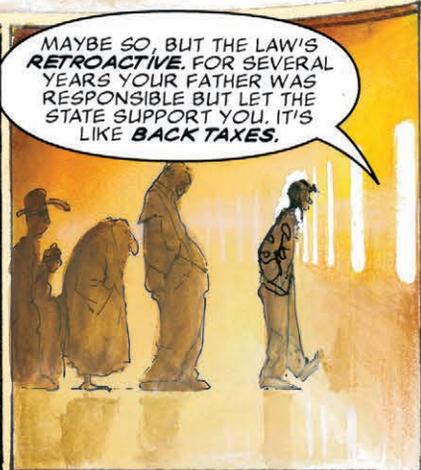


LOOK, I JUST WANT MY CHECK, OKAY?



THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. THE NEW CHILD MAINTENANCE ACT MAKES YOUR FATHER RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR UPKEEP, RATHER THAN THE STATE.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD!



MAYBE SO, BUT THE LAW'S RETROACTIVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS YOUR FATHER WAS RESPONSIBLE BUT LET THE STATE SUPPORT YOU. IT'S LIKE BACK TAXES.



WAIT A MINUTE--ME, GET MONEY OFF MY FATHER? ME AND MOM DIDN'T EVEN WANT CONTACT WITH MY FATHER...



THAT'S TOO BAD, HONEY, BECAUSE HE'S WHERE YOU GET YOUR HANDOUTS FROM NOW ON.

NEXT, PLEASE.

I DON'T #@&9%\*+ BELIEVE THIS!



I NEED EIGHT DOLLARS FOR A QUART OF FOOD.