

OUT OF BODY

2

PART TWO: FEAR OF DYING

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Look.

*I've left
the building.*

*I'm not
at home.*

*I'm not sure if
I'll ever be going
"home" again.*

*I think of my dad,
my late mother,
my friends, the
lovers I've had.*

*All the wonderful,
beautiful and
unpleasant aspects
of my life.*



*And I feel so
ridiculously far
away from it all.*

Is this it?

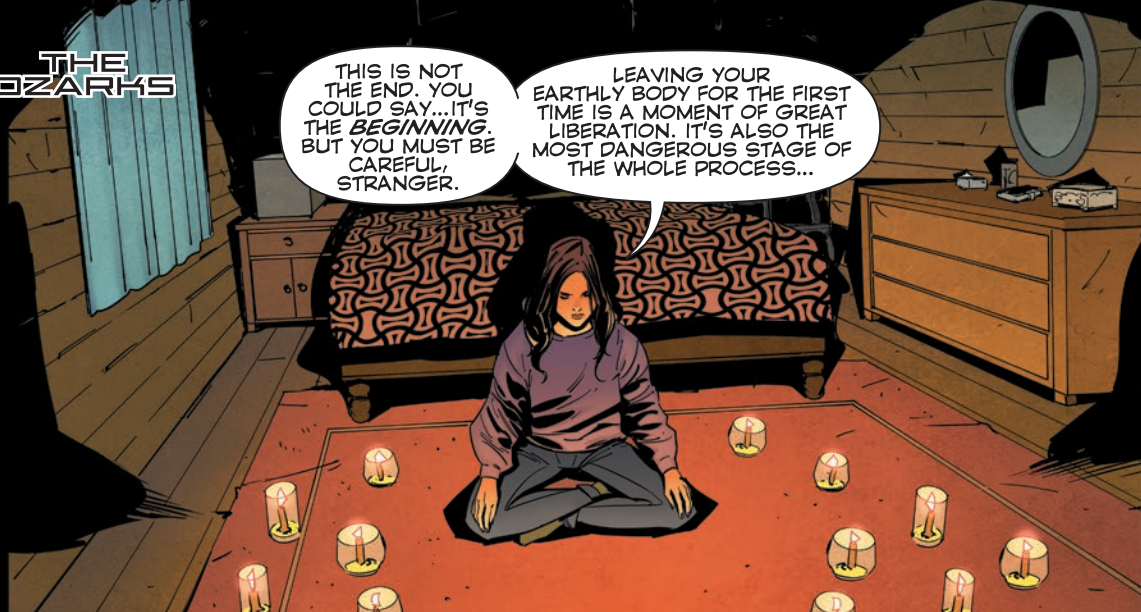


*Is this the thing
we all fear and
try so hard not
to think about?*

*The thing all those
religions try to fool
us into thinking
won't happen so
long as you believe
in their god?*

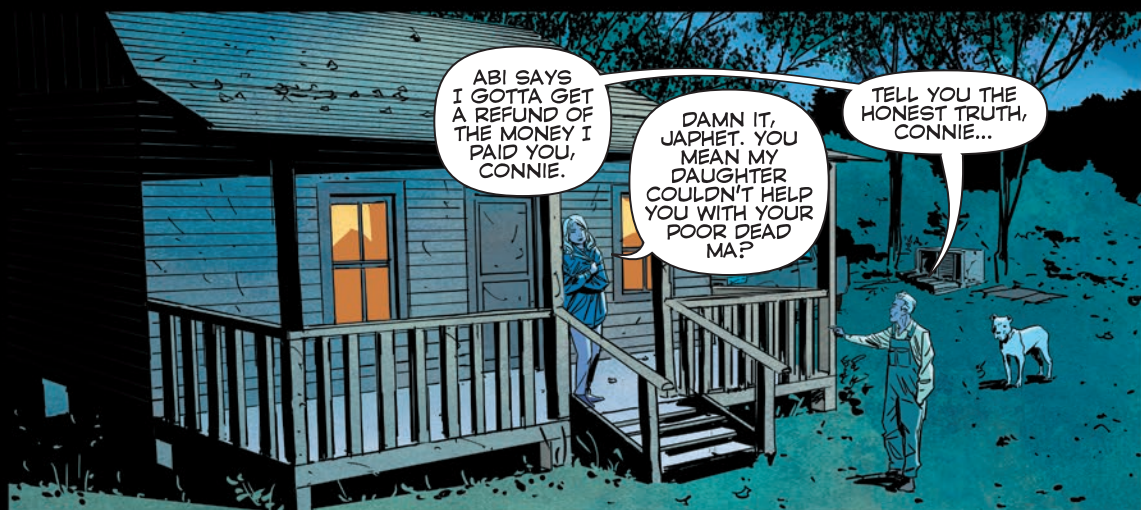


*Is this
The End?*



THIS IS NOT THE END. YOU COULD SAY...IT'S THE **BEGINNING**. BUT YOU MUST BE CAREFUL, STRANGER.

LEAVING YOUR EARTHLY BODY FOR THE FIRST TIME IS A MOMENT OF GREAT LIBERATION. IT'S ALSO THE MOST DANGEROUS STAGE OF THE WHOLE PROCESS...



ABI SAYS I GOTTA GET A REFUND OF THE MONEY I PAID YOU, CONNIE.

DAMN IT, JAPHET. YOU MEAN MY DAUGHTER COULDN'T HELP YOU WITH YOUR POOR DEAD MA?

TELL YOU THE HONEST TRUTH, CONNIE...

"...I RECKON THAT GIRL'S GOT OTHER THINGS ON HER MIND..."



RELEASE THE SHACKLES... LET GO OF THE PHYSICAL BODY...

...BREATHE...

...RISE...

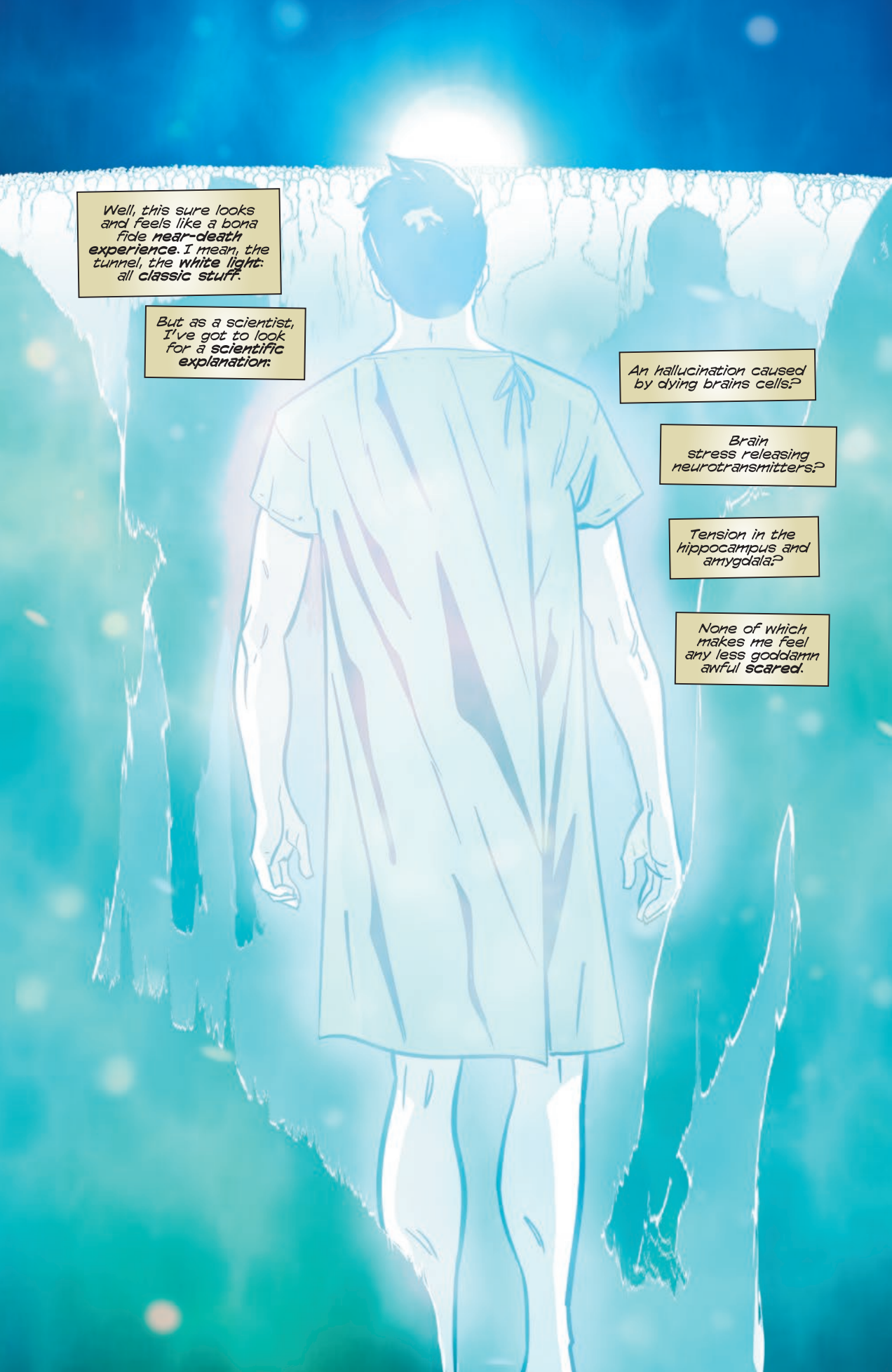


...YOU ARE IN DANGER, STRANGER... TERRIBLE DANGER...

...FORGET WHAT ALL THE MANUALS SAY...



...AND FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T FOLLOW THE WHITE LIGHT!

A person with dark hair, seen from behind, is walking away from the viewer down a long, brightly lit tunnel. They are wearing a white lab coat with a small bow at the back of the neck. The tunnel is lined with a textured, possibly stone or concrete, wall. At the far end of the tunnel, a bright, circular light source creates a strong glow. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-yellow and orange tones, with some darker shadows on the walls and floor. The person's shadow is cast onto the floor ahead of them.

Well, this sure looks and feels like a bona fide near-death experience. I mean, the tunnel, the white light: all classic stuff.

But as a scientist, I've got to look for a scientific explanation:

An hallucination caused by dying brains cells?

Brain stress releasing neurotransmitters?

Tension in the hippocampus and amygdala?

None of which makes me feel any less goddamn awful scared.

MY ERIN, ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD AND LOSING HER MOTHER. OH GOD, WHO'LL LOOK AFTER THE POOR CHILD?

PATRICK? THAT SLOB CAN BARELY LOOK AFTER HIMSELF.

As a psychologist, I instinctively want to help her.

But how do I do that?

ONLY MEANT TO SCARE HER. W-WANTED TO MAKE HER SEE THAT SHE LOVED ME.

HOPE SHE FEELS GUILTY NOW...

THE PAIN OVER. A BLESSED RELEASE. WELL, MAGGIE...WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON.

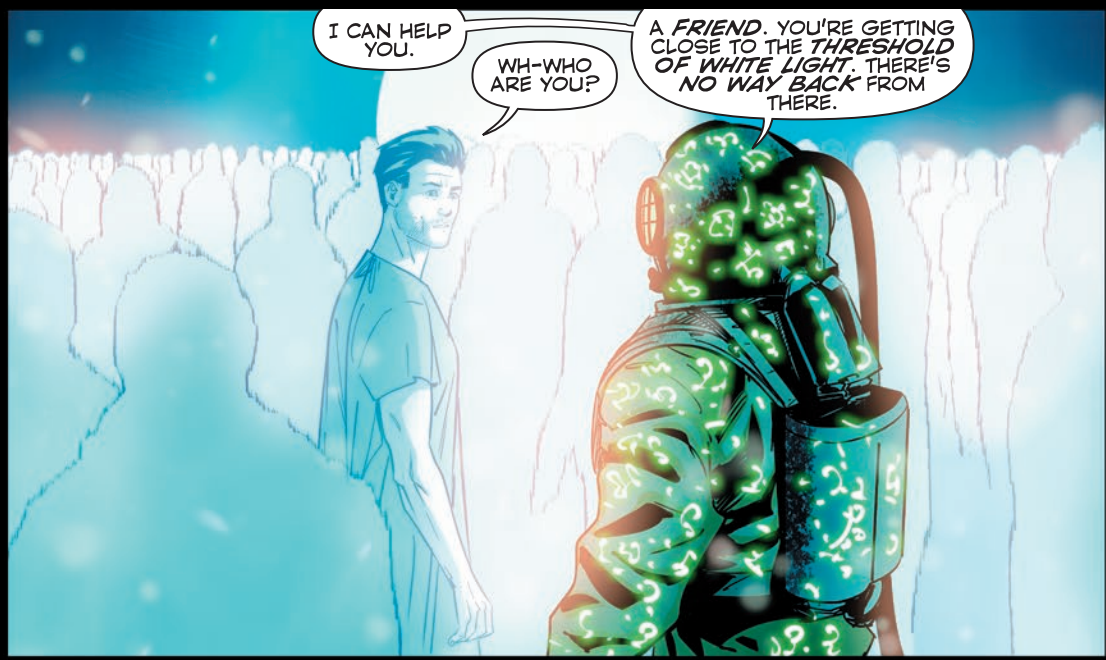
DAMN YOU, BILLY-JOE. SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED YOUR ASS...

MOMMY, I'M SCARED! MOMMY!

SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER I LOVED HER. IF I ONLY KNEW HOW SHORT TIME WAS...

WAIT, YOU, WAIT UP!

HUH?



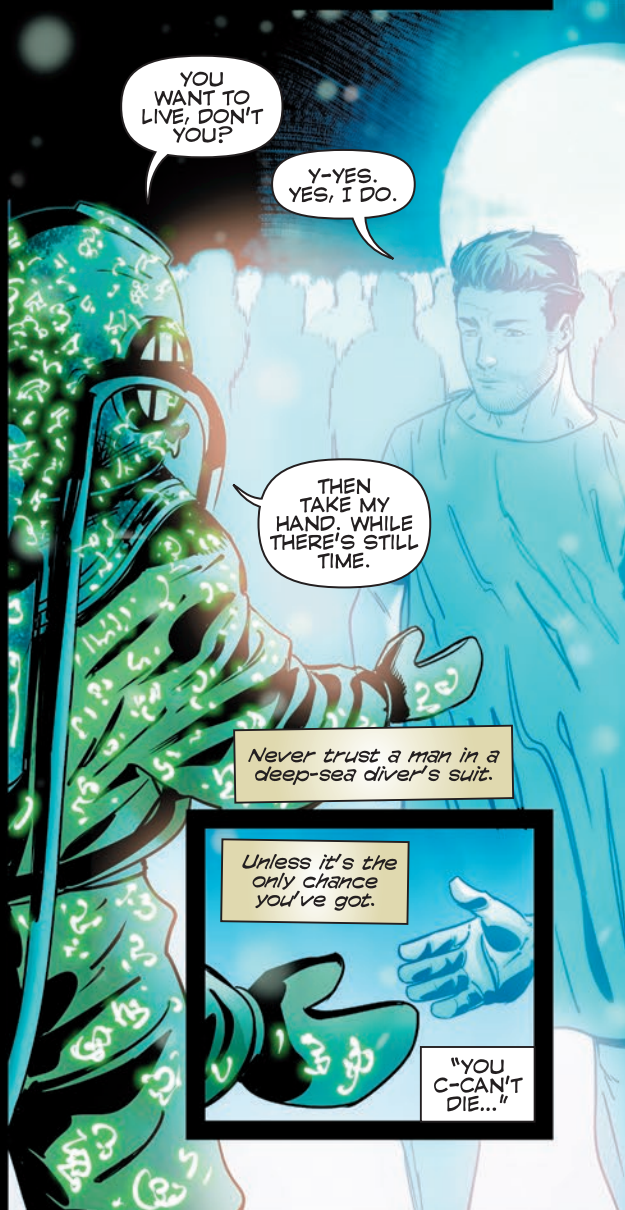
I CAN HELP YOU.

WH-WHO ARE YOU?

A FRIEND. YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE THRESHOLD OF WHITE LIGHT. THERE'S NO WAY BACK FROM THERE.



YOU WANT TO LIVE, DON'T YOU?



YOU WANT TO LIVE, DON'T YOU?

Y-YES. YES, I DO.

THEN TAKE MY HAND. WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME.

Never trust a man in a deep-sea diver's suit.

Unless it's the only chance you've got.

"YOU C-CAN'T DIE..."