

DRAT DRAFFICUS

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ORIGINS: CHAPTER ONE



DRATTICUS

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STORY & ART

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Born of my love of medicine and art, Dratticus now enters the world.

May he serve as a voice of empowerment for every reader along their own personal journey through life.

Fran

MELBOURNE.

THE CITY I'VE CALLED HOME MY WHOLE LIFE.

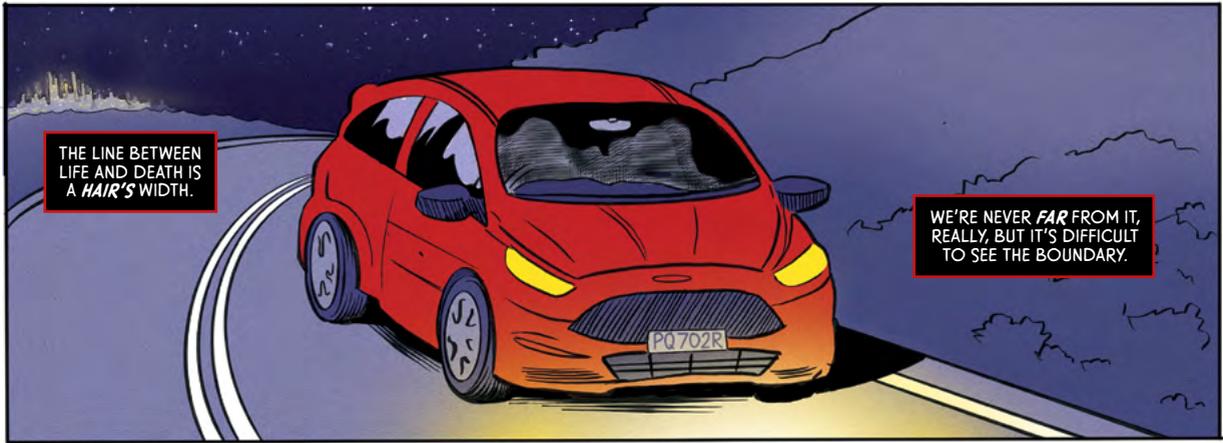
ON A CLEAR NIGHT LIKE THIS, IT'S A *SPECTACULAR* VIEW. AND I'M TAKING ONE *LAST* LOOK.

LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS, WE TAKE FOR *GRANTED*.

WARM SUN ON YOUR SKIN. FEELING EXHAUSTED AFTER A GOOD WORKOUT... A LOVED ONE'S VOICE.

IT'S FUNNY. YOU NEVER SEEM TO *MISS* THEM UNTIL THEY'RE *OUT* OF REACH.





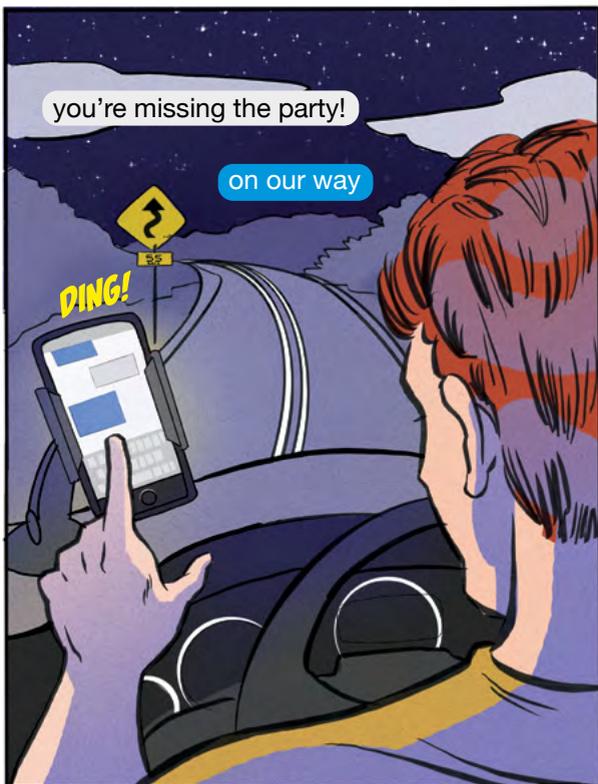
THE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH IS A HAIR'S WIDTH.

WE'RE NEVER *FAR* FROM IT, REALLY, BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE THE BOUNDARY.



where are you?

DING!



you're missing the party!

on our way

DING!

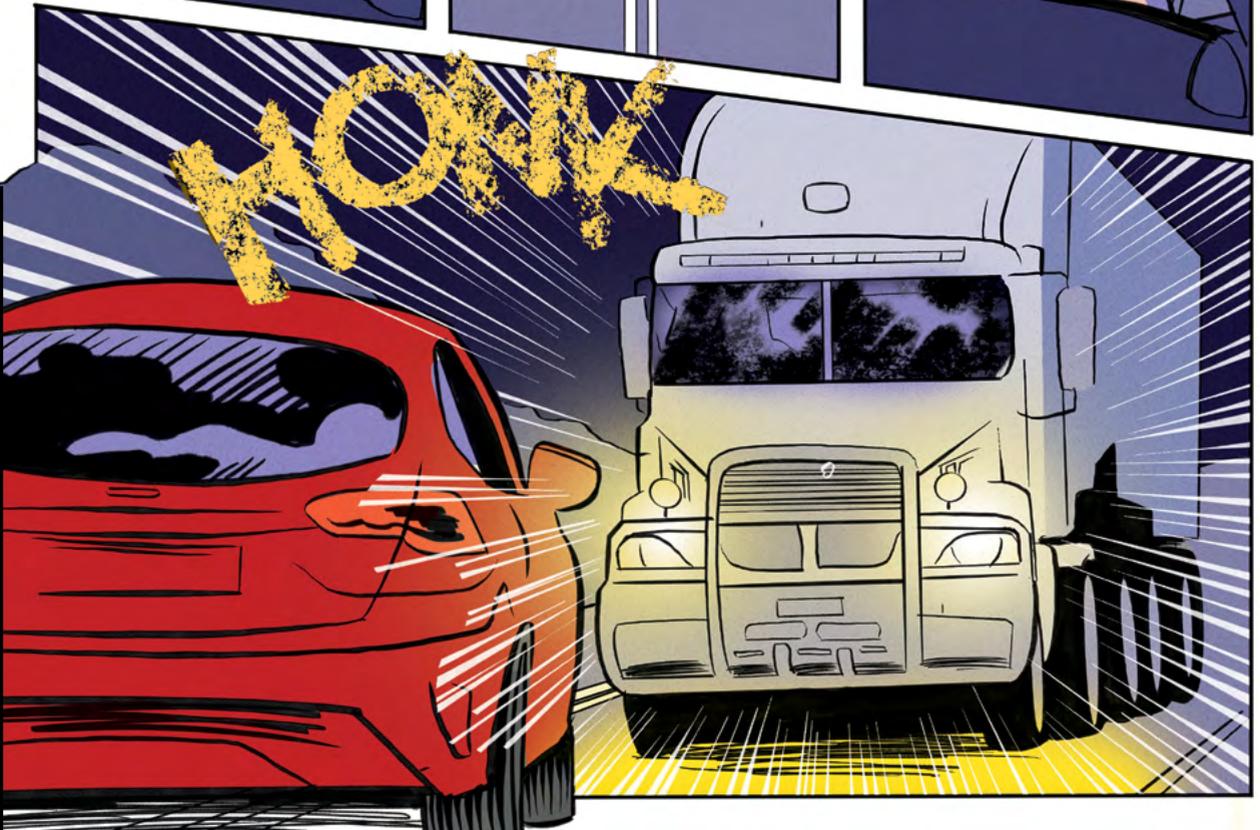
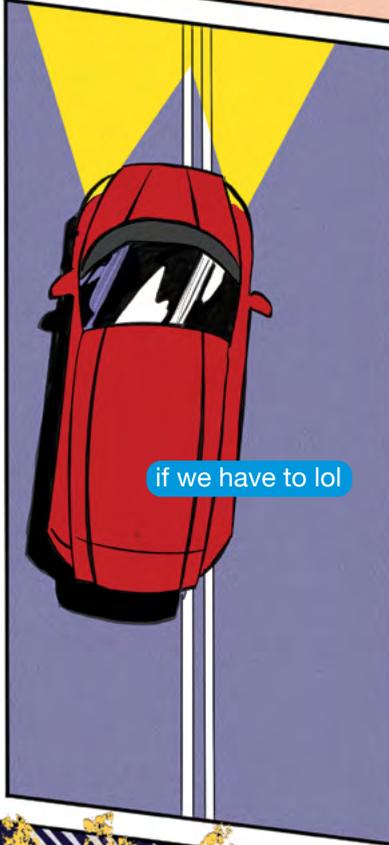
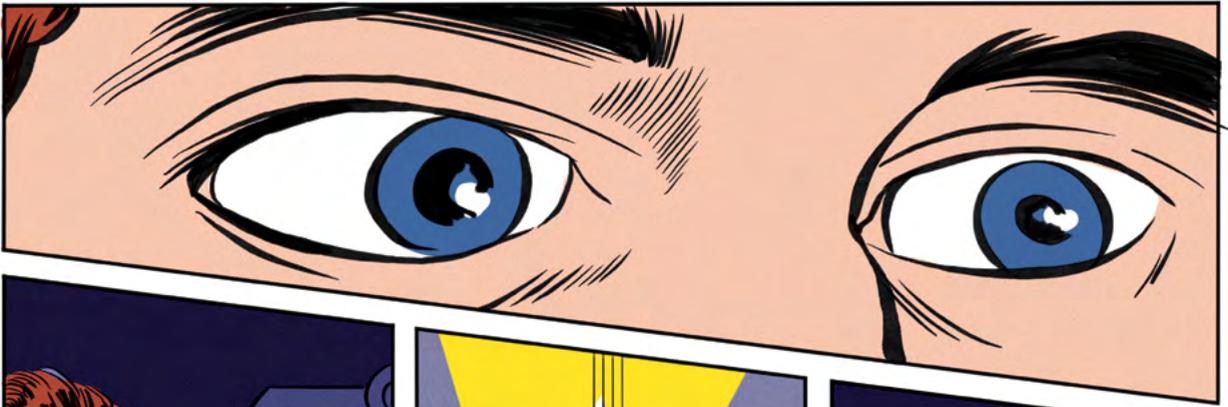


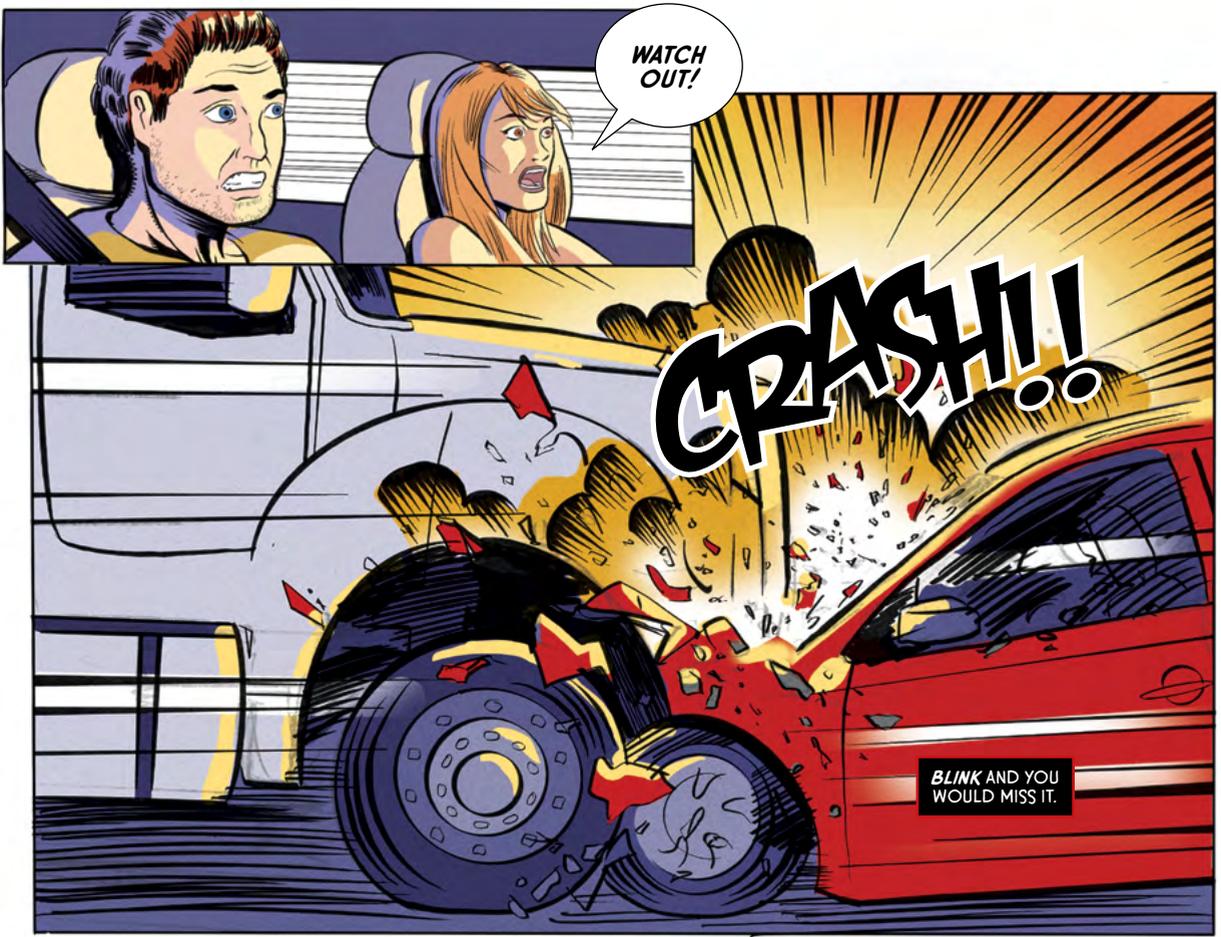
where are you?

you're missing the party!

on our way
be there in 20

hey can you pick up cla
on the way? :/





WATCH
OUT!

CRASH!!

BLINK AND YOU
WOULD MISS IT.

BUT FROM *ONE* MOMENT
TO THE NEXT, YOUR *LIFE* WILL
NEVER BE THE SAME *AGAIN*.



TRUST ME.

A BRUSH WITH *DEATH*
MAKES YOU APPRECIATE
THE *LITTLE* THINGS.

I SHOULD KNOW.
A WEEK AGO I
WAS *DEAD*.

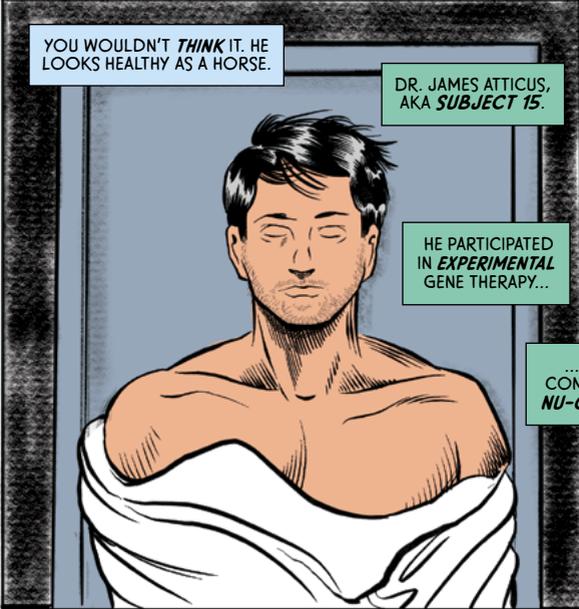
ONE WEEK AGO.



SO, WHAT HAVE WE GOT TODAY?

SUBJECT IS A 34 YEAR OLD MALE WHO SUFFERED FROM **NORMAN-WOLFE SYNDROME**.

A RARE GENETIC DISORDER.



YOU WOULDN'T *THINK* IT. HE LOOKS HEALTHY AS A HORSE.

DR. JAMES ATTICUS, AKA **SUBJECT 15**.

HE PARTICIPATED IN **EXPERIMENTAL** GENE THERAPY...

... IN TRIALS CONDUCTED BY **NU-GENX CORP.**



YOU MEAN, OUR **EMPLOYER**. AND NOW THEY WANT TO KNOW WHY THEIR PET PROJECT **FAILED**.

DURING HIS THREE MONTHS IN HOSPITAL, HE SHOWED **NO RESPONSE** TO THIS, OR ANY COURSE OF TREATMENT.

HE BECAME COMATOSE AND WAS PRONOUNCED **DEAD** AT 0400 THIS MORNING.



RIGHT, LET'S GET GOING.



I'M NOW MAKING THE 'Y' INCISION.



NOW.



DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. GOT TO ACT FAST.



YOU OK?

I'M ALRIGHT. THINK I BROKE MY ARM... BLEEDIN'.

SIT TIGHT. KEEP PRESSURE ON THAT WOUND.



OH MY GOD! IS EVERYTHING OK? I- I KNOW FIRST AID!

CALL 000. STAY WITH HIM.

OH RIGHT...OK. I'VE GOT MY MOBILE.



TRUCKER LOOKS LIKE HE'LL PULL THROUGH. HOPE THE OTHER DRIVER CAN SAY THE SAME.



HEY! CAN YOU HEAR ME? OPEN YOUR EYES!

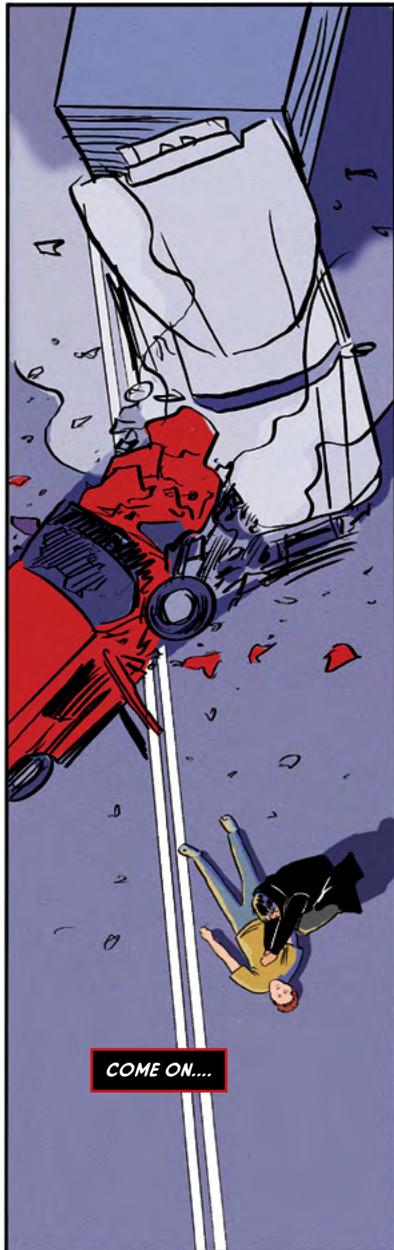


HE'S NOT **BREATHING**. GOT TO GET HIM ON THE GROUND.

LUCKY HE WAS WEARING HIS **SEATBELT**.



GOT TO KEEP THE **BLOOD PUMPING**.



COME ON....



BREATHE!

3 MONTHS AGO



BREATHE.
GOOD...AND
OUT.

EVERYTHING
LOOKS GREAT
SALLY.

YOU'RE
HEALTHY AS
CAN BE.



I GAVE UP
COFFEE.

IT'S REALLY
MADE A
DIFFERENCE.

WELL,
YOU'VE
GOT MORE
WILLPOWER
THAN I DO.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE THE
MORNING
WITHOUT IT.



LISTEN, I'M
NO DOCTOR,
BUT... ARE
YOU OK?

YOU
DON'T LOOK
SO FLASH.



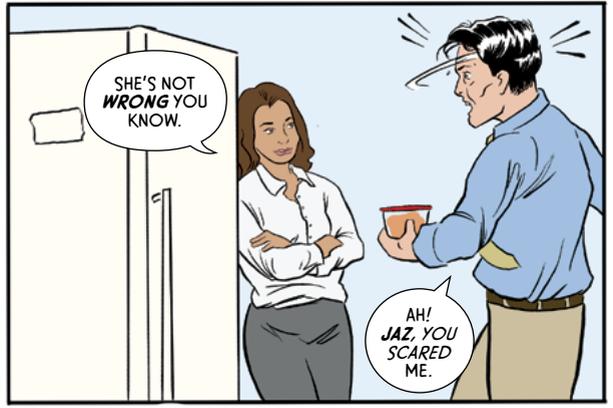
HAHA, OH
I'M FINE,
THANKS.

JUST...
WORK YOU
KNOW. LONG
HOURS.



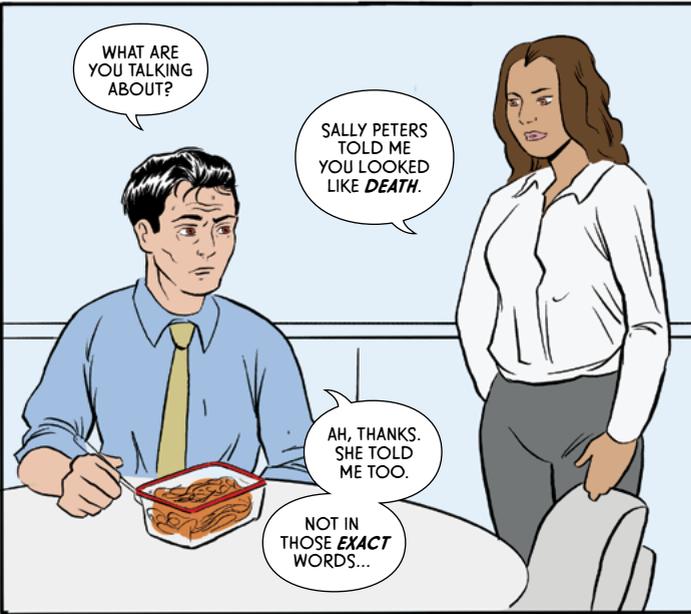
SO, JUST STOP
BY RECEPTION
AND THEY'LL
FIX YOU UP.

TA. SEE
YOU NEXT TIME,
DR. ATTICUS.



SHE'S NOT **WRONG** YOU KNOW.

AH! **JAZ**, YOU SCARED ME.

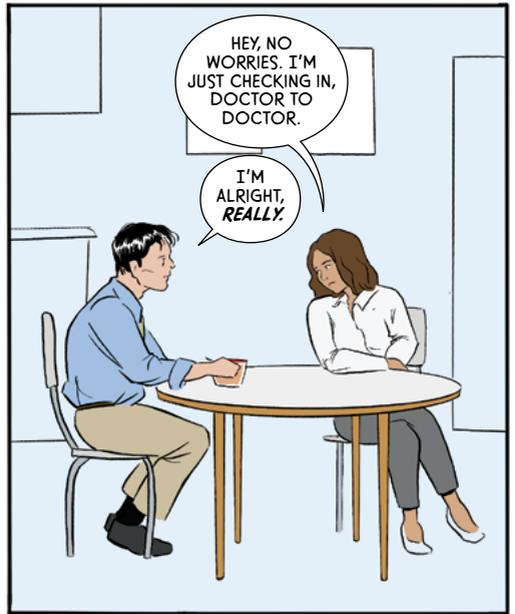


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SALLY PETERS TOLD ME YOU LOOKED LIKE **DEATH**.

AH, THANKS. SHE TOLD ME TOO.

NOT IN THOSE **EXACT** WORDS...



HEY, NO WORRIES. I'M JUST CHECKING IN, DOCTOR TO DOCTOR.

I'M ALRIGHT, **REALLY**.



ARE YOU? **EVERYONE**'S WORRIED, JAMES.

I MEAN, JUST THIS LAST MONTH YOU'VE LOST SO MUCH WEIGHT, YOU SEEM TIRED, **OLD** EVEN, YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST...

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT SEEING A **SPECIALIST**?



WHY? THE ANSWER WILL BE THE SAME.

THERE'S **NO** TREATMENT FOR NORMAN-WOLFE SYNDROME. IT'S A GENETIC ANOMALY.

I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH IT **MY WHOLE** LIFE.



I KNOW HOW THIS ENDS...

AND I JUST WANT TO DO AS MUCH AS I CAN UNTIL THEN.

I KNOW-BUT...

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A **BREAK**.



BEING A **DOCTOR**... HELPING OTHERS, IT GIVES ME A PURPOSE.

JUST BECAUSE I'M **DYING**.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE UP THE THINGS I LOVE...



I..YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

BUT WHAT IF A TREATMENT **DOES** EXIST.

WE JUST HAVEN'T **FOUND** IT YET.



JAZ...

IT'S NOT **JUST** ABOUT YOU, REMEMBER.



WHAT ABOUT **US**? WHAT ABOUT...ME?

I...

JAMES?



UNGH..

JAMES!

NOW.

HE'S NOT *RESPONDING*...
BEEN AT IT FOR A WHILE
NOW, BUT I HAVE TO
KEEP *GOING*.



WAIT! I- I CAN SEE HIS
HEART! *AMAZING!* HOW
IS THIS *POSSIBLE!?*



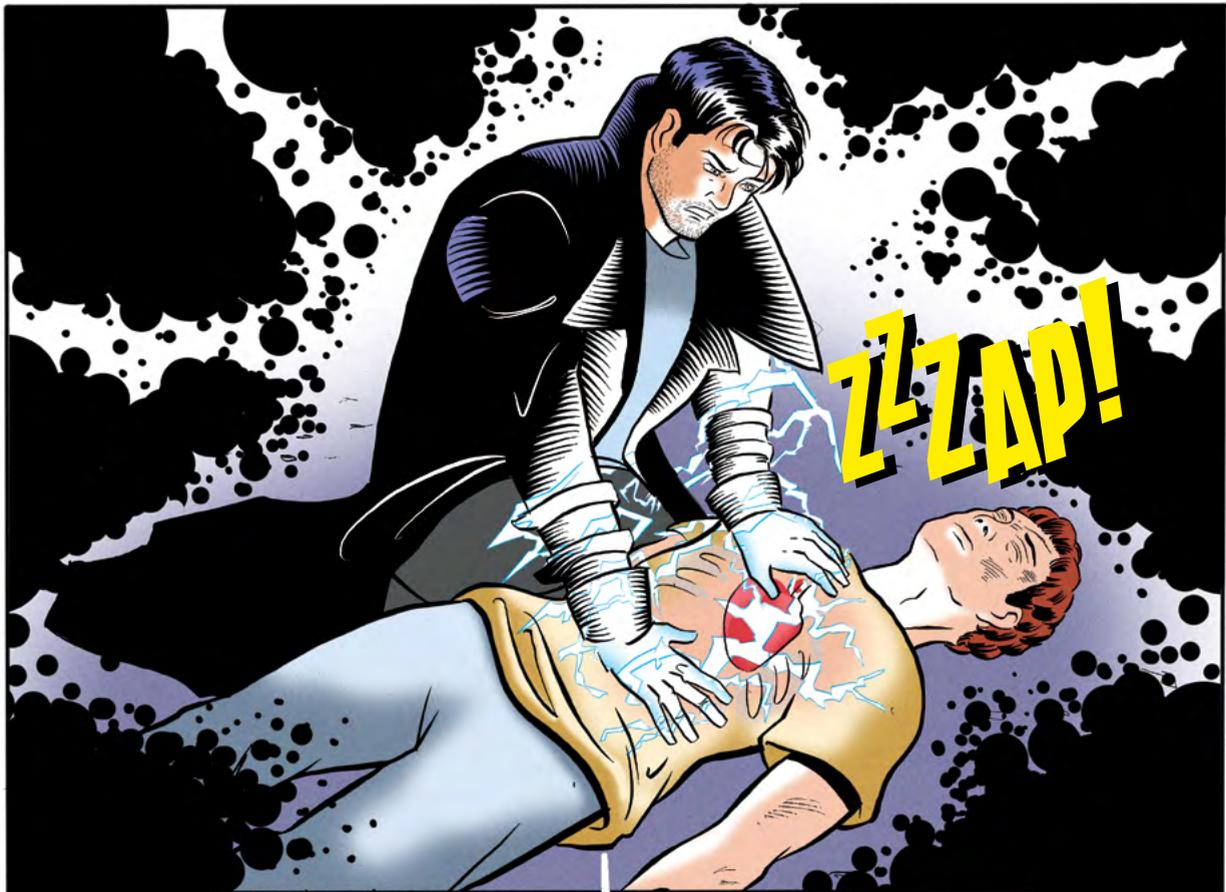
IT'S IN
*VENTRICULAR
FIBRILLATION* --
IT'S NOT PUMPING
ANY BLOOD.

A *SHOCK* MIGHT RETURN
IT TO A NORMAL RHYTHM.
IF ONLY I HAD AN *A.E.D!**

**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.*



MY... HANDS!
THEY'RE...
GLOWING!



HE'S BREATHING!







WE TAKE OUR DAYS
FOR GRANTED.



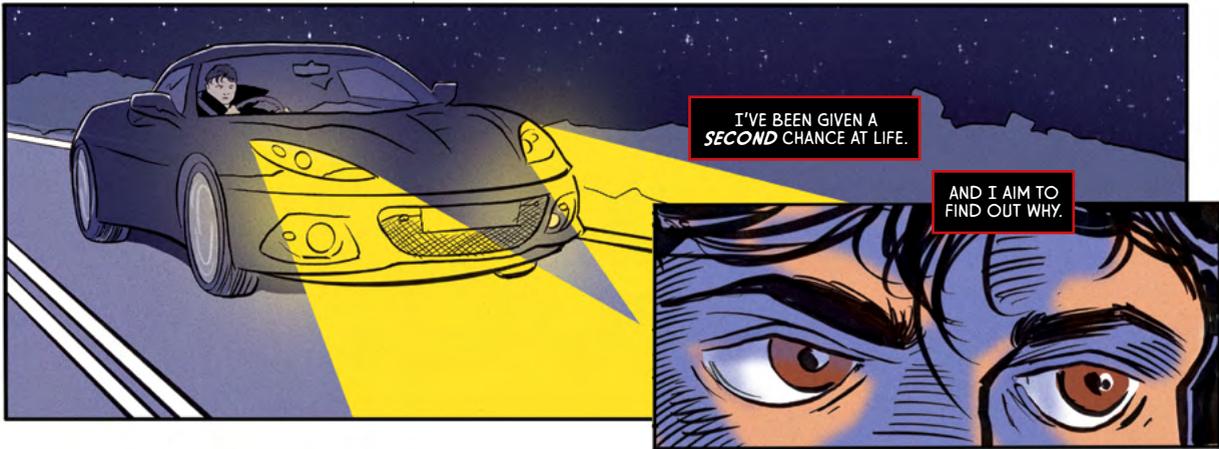
BUT EVERY
MOMENT IS
PRECIOUS.



WHEN WE BRUSH CLOSE
TO THE LINE BETWEEN
LIFE & DEATH...



IT REMINDS US OF HOW
IMPORTANT THOSE
MOMENTS REALLY ARE.



I'VE BEEN GIVEN A
SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE.

AND I AIM TO
FIND OUT WHY.

END: CHAPTER 1

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

DRAT T I C U S





COMICS • DRINKS • EVENTS



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