MATT KINDT
CLAY MANN
BUTCH GUICE
ULISES ARREOLA
VALIANT
#1
NINJAK

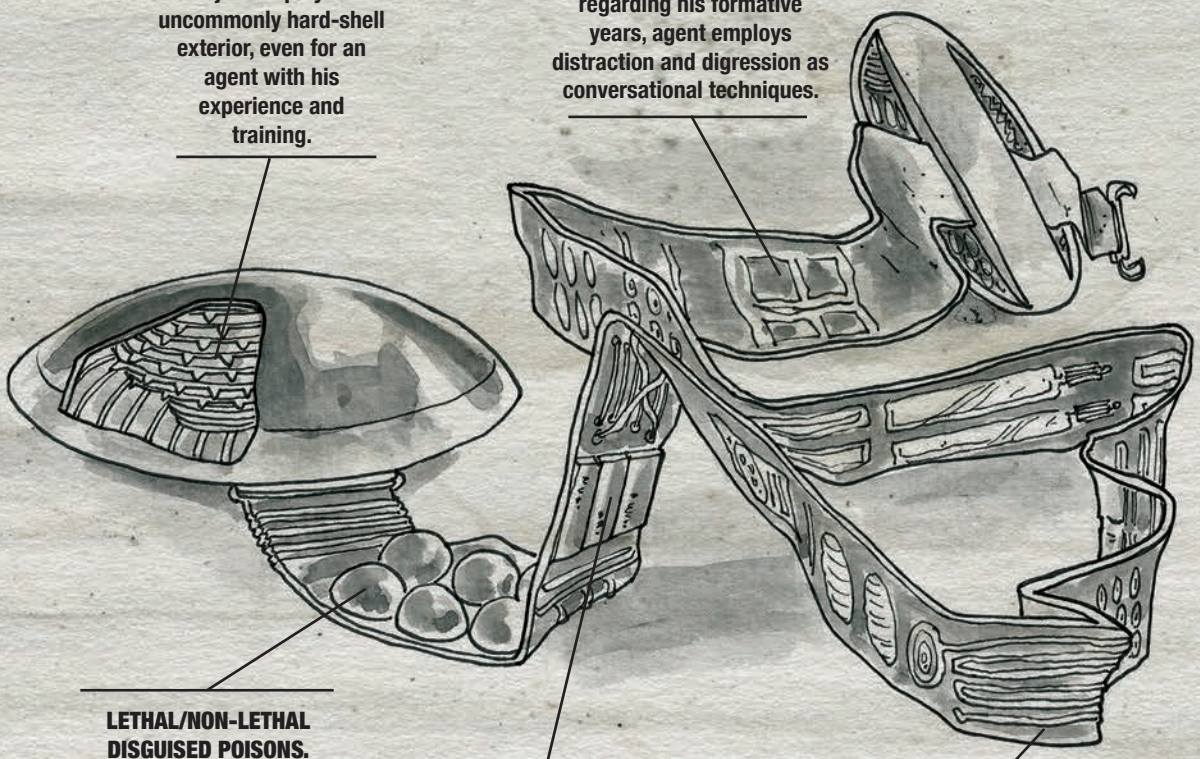
CLASSIFIED

NINJAK SPECIFICATIONS & INSIGHTS

Multi-Tool Battle Belt

5-FUNCTION THROWING DISKS.
Subject displays an uncommonly hard-shell exterior, even for an agent with his experience and training.

POWDERED FLASH-BANG PROJECTILES.
Pressed for information regarding his formative years, agent employs distraction and digression as conversational techniques.



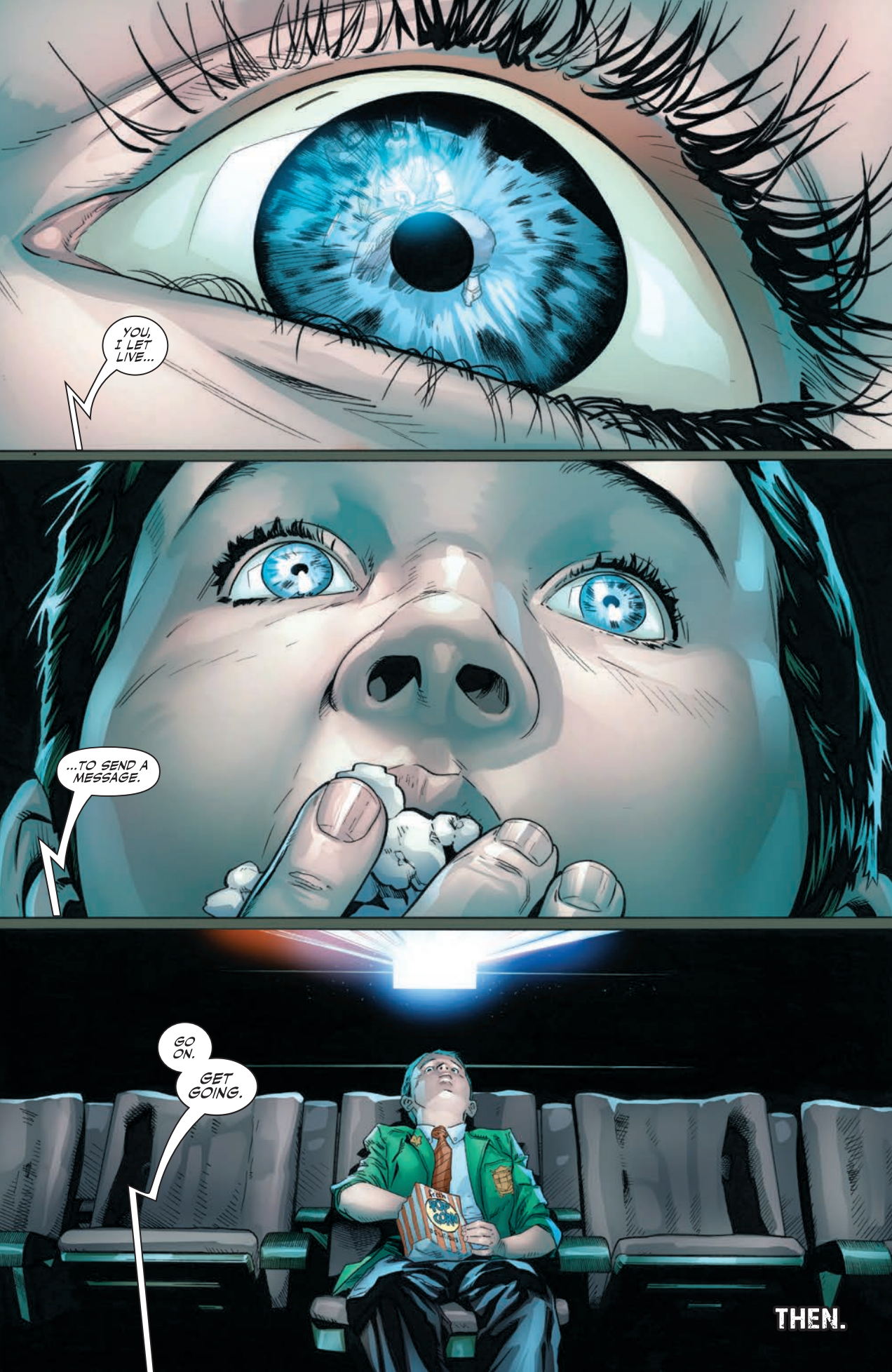
LETHAL/NON-LETHAL DISGUISED POISONS.
His psych evaluation interactions are typical of a subject harboring an unusual or traumatic childhood.

ADHESIVE OVERWATCH MINI-CAMERAS.
Upon further analysis/hypnosis, subject reveals childhood trauma was regularly visited on him by a family caretaker.

HIGH-TENSILE TITANIUM REINFORCED BELT.
Trauma was delivered to the subject via corporal punishment. Often with the primary caretaker's belt. Parents were a[redacted]

NINJAK® #1 MARCH 2015 VALIANT ENTERTAINMENT LLC. Office of publication: 424 West 33rd Street, New York, NY 10001 Copyright © 2015 Valiant Entertainment LLC. All rights reserved. All characters, their distinctive likenesses and related indicia featured in this publication are trademarks of Valiant Entertainment LLC. The stories, characters, and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional. Printed in the USA. For more information, please visit ValiantUniverse.com. First Printing.

IS ALL OF THIS...
...SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS ME?


YOU, I LET LIVE...
...TO SEND A MESSAGE.
GO ON.
GET GOING.
THEN.

NOW.
NINJAK FIELD BRIEFING.
FROM NEVILLE ALCOTT, MI-6.
:GURGLE:
"YOUR TARGET IS AGENT ROKU. SHE'S BEING HELD IN A TEMPORARY RUSSIAN PORTABLE CONTAINMENT CENTER.
"I'VE GOT TO WARN YOU THAT YOU HAVEN'T FACED AN AGENT LIKE HER BEFORE.
"SOME REPORTS INDICATE SHE FEELS NO PAIN. OTHERS INDICATE THAT SHE ACTUALLY ENJOYS IT.
"SHE IS A MASTER OF IMPROVISATION. AND SHE'S HAD GENETIC TAILORING--MAKING HER HAIR UNIQUE.
"BRAIDED TOGETHER, SHE CAN GARROTE OR BEHEAD A MAN WITH ONLY THREE STRANDS. IT CAN CUT THROUGH METAL AND IT HAS...INCENDIARY CAPABILITIES."
09:18:12:03

"EARLY REPORTS INDICATE THAT SHE TOOK OUT MOST OF THE RUSSIAN GUARDS BY SIMPLY SUGGESTING, VIA THE INTERCOM, THAT THEY KILL THEMSELVES.
"THE PRISON WAS KEPT AT SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES IN AN EFFORT TO SLOW HER METABOLISM. SHE HAS NO CLOTHES. NO WEAPONS."
PLEASE.
"JUST HER BODY."
NO.
"AND HER MIND."

"IN ADDITION TO BEING A WEAPONS AND MARTIAL ARTS EXPERT...
"SHE IS A COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS SAVANT.
"SHE IS IN EVERY WAY EITHER YOUR EQUAL...
"...OR YOUR SUPERIOR.
"ROKU WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO TRANSPORT, SO THEY BUILT A PRISON AROUND HER AT HER CURRENT LOCATION.
"UNDER THE CURRENT CONDITIONS, WE ESTIMATE HER TOTAL INCARCERATION TIME IN THE RUSSIAN PORTABLE PRISON TO BE LESS THAN TWO HOURS."
HEY, ROKU...

NINJAK BOOK 1

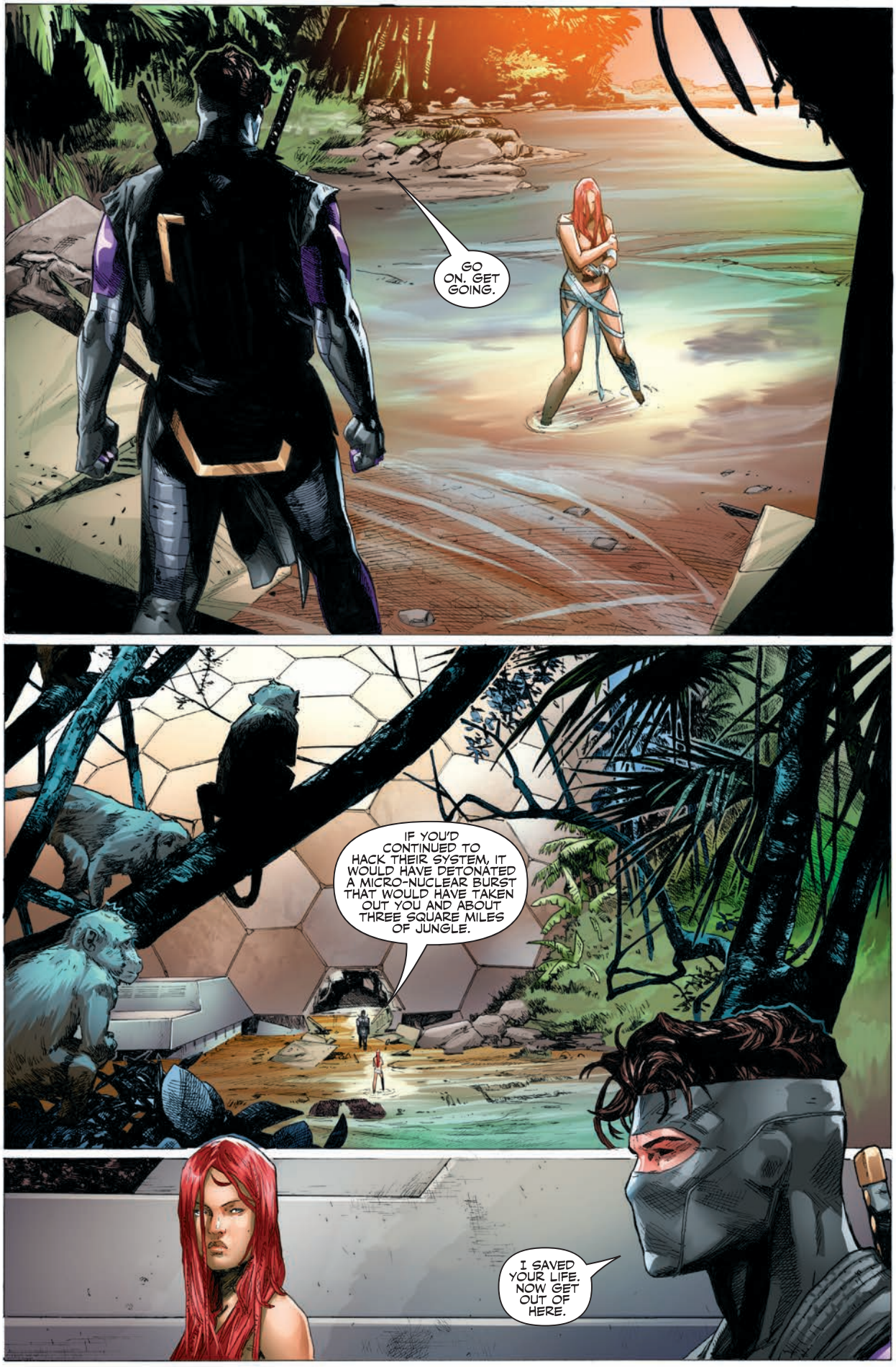
MATT KINDT · WRITER, *CLAY MANN* · PENCILS, *SETH MANN* · INKS, *ULISES ARREOLA* · COLORS, *DAVE SHARPE* · LETTERS, COVER ART BY *LEWIS LAROSA, CLAY MANN, BRIAN REBER, DAVE JOHNSON, MARGUERITE SAUVAGE, TREVOR HAIRSINE & TOM MULLER, TOM BRENNAN* · ASSOCIATE EDITOR, *WARREN SIMONS* · EDITOR

WHO CARES.

BLAM!
SPEK

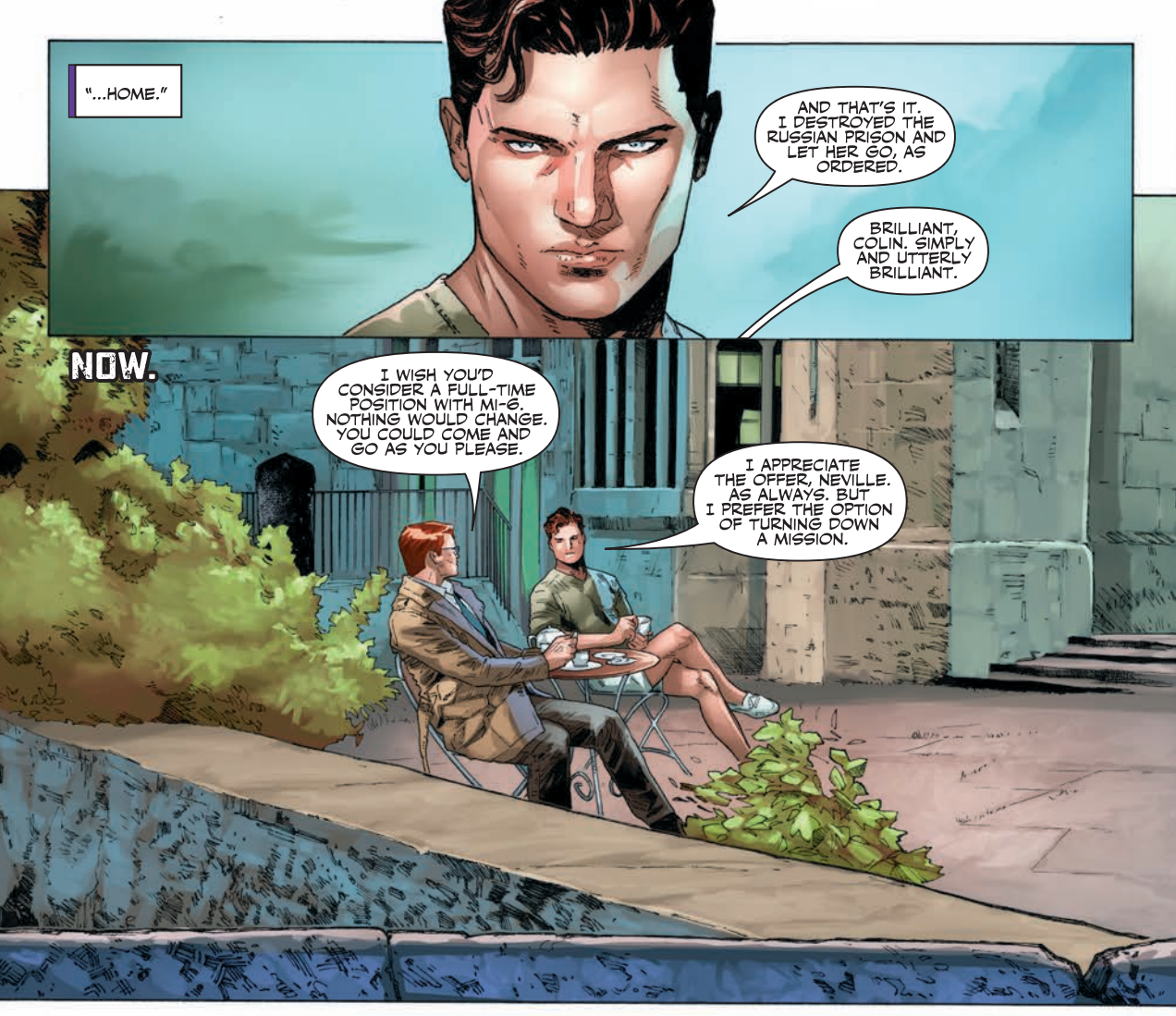
NICE.
BLAM!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE.
HOLD ON.
WAIT FOR IT.
CLIK

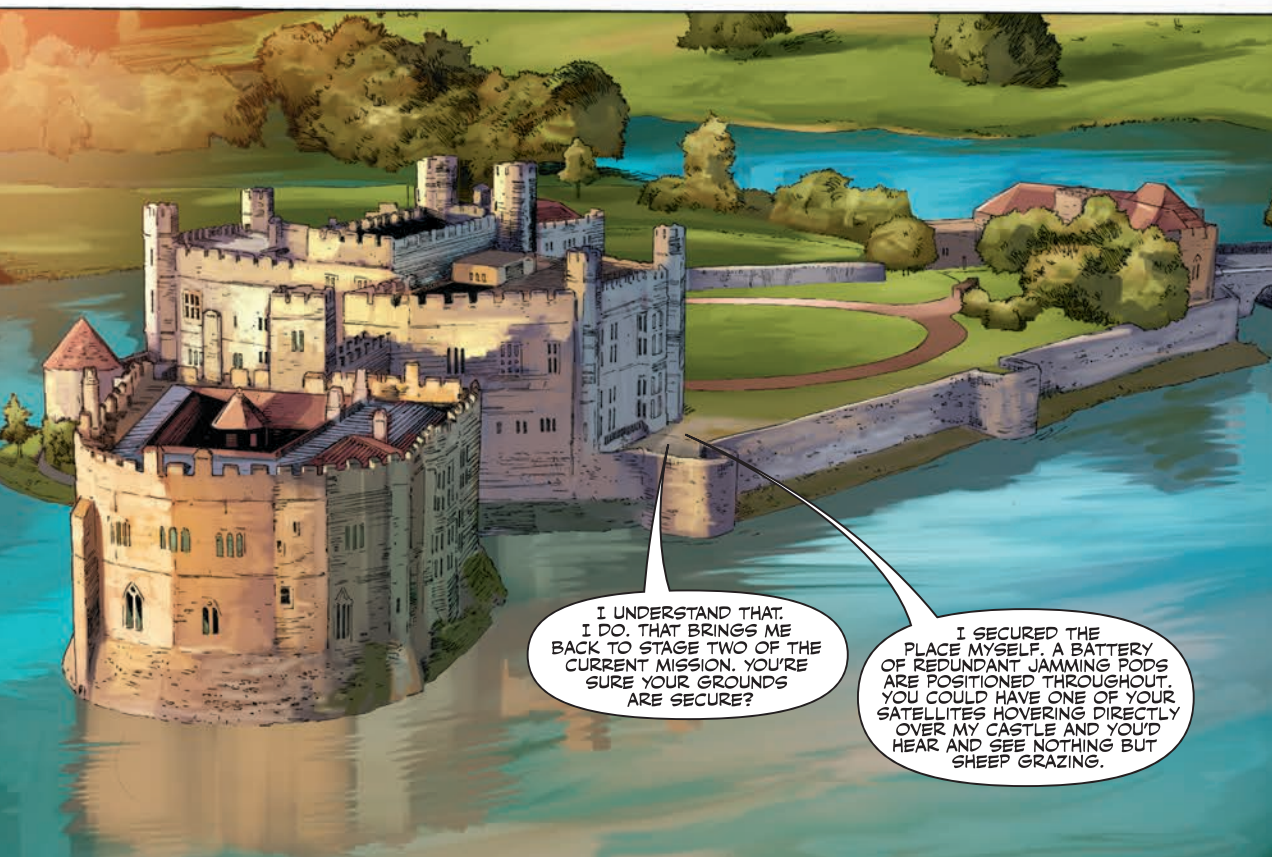
BOOOOOOM
WHAM
C'MON. STOP IT!
GET OUT!


GO ON. GET GOING.
IF YOU'D CONTINUED TO HACK THEIR SYSTEM, IT WOULD HAVE DETONATED A MICRO-NUCLEAR BURST THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN OUT YOU AND ABOUT THREE SQUARE MILES OF JUNGLE.
I SAVED YOUR LIFE. NOW GET OUT OF HERE.

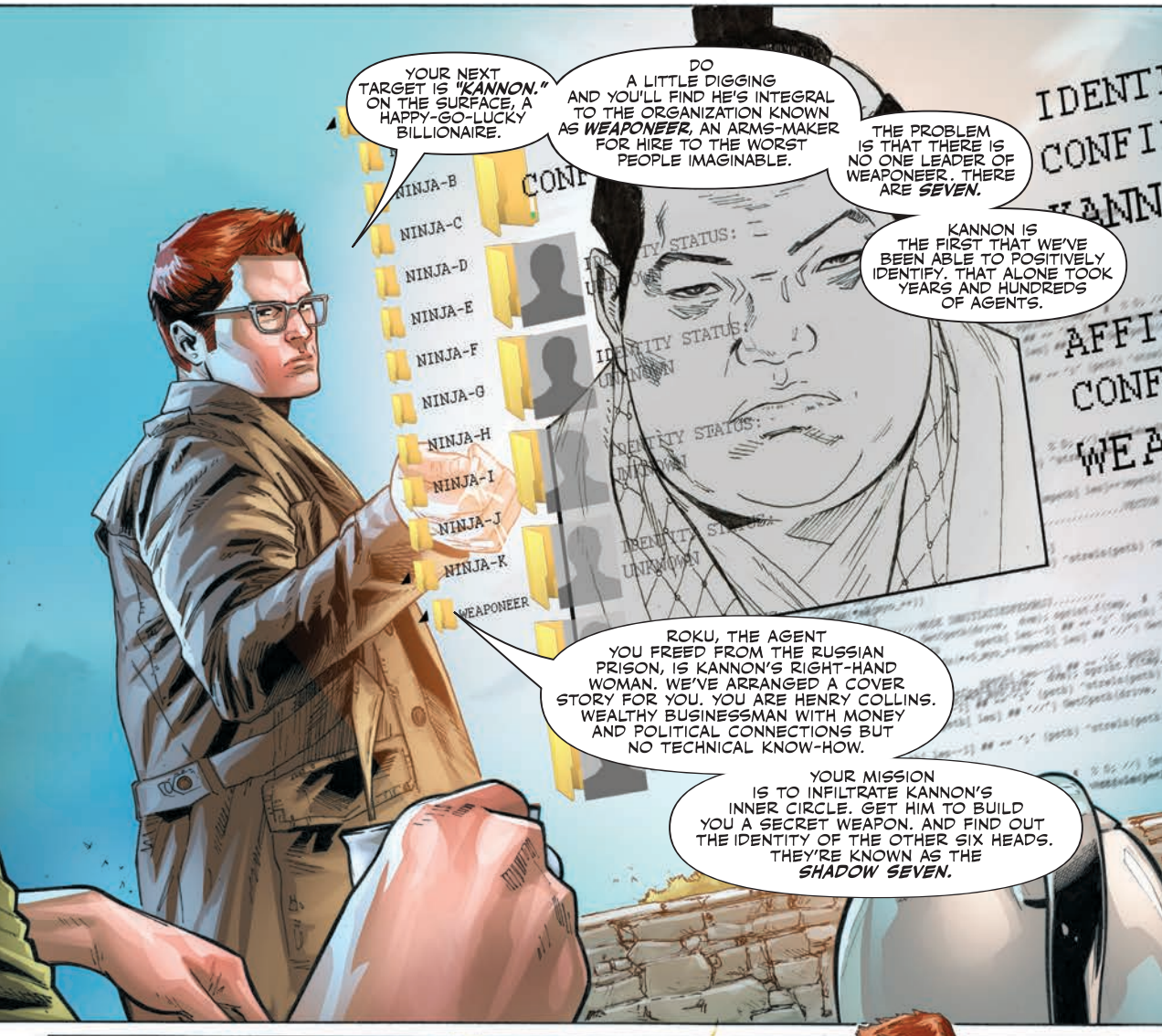
"AND NINJAK?
"BEFORE YOU LEAVE...
"...DON'T FORGET TO CLEAN UP."
CLIK
BOOOOOMM

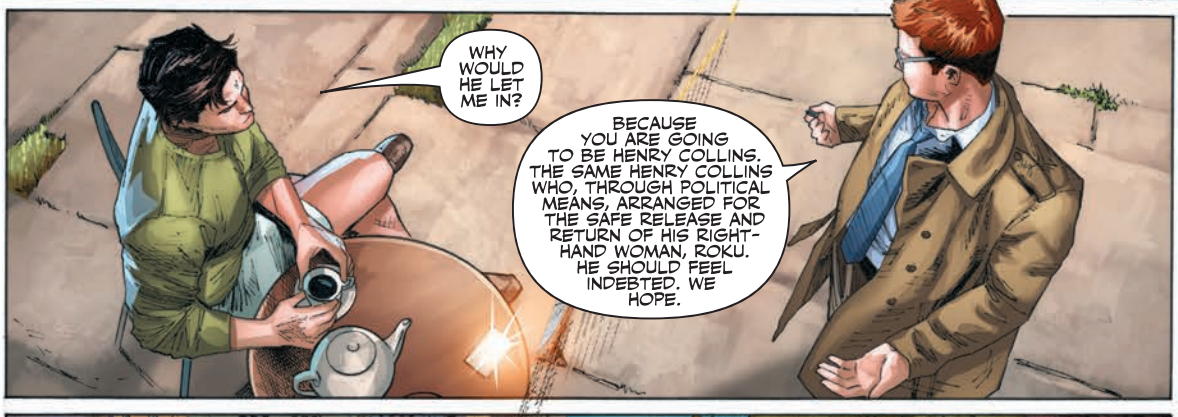
THEN.
THE END
CHICHI'S REVENGE
ADULT HITS
24 HOURS
KINDA YOUNG TO BE IN THIS PART OF TOWN, KID. PARENTS KNOW YOU'RE OUT?
MY PARENTS COULDN'T CARE LESS. TAKE JUNCTION EIGHT OFF THE M20. IF YOU KEEP QUIET THERE'S AN EXTRA TWENTY IN IT FOR YOU.
OFF TAXI DUTY
JUNCTION EIGHT...? ISN'T THAT KING'S CASTLE?
NO. YES... I JUST CALL IT...

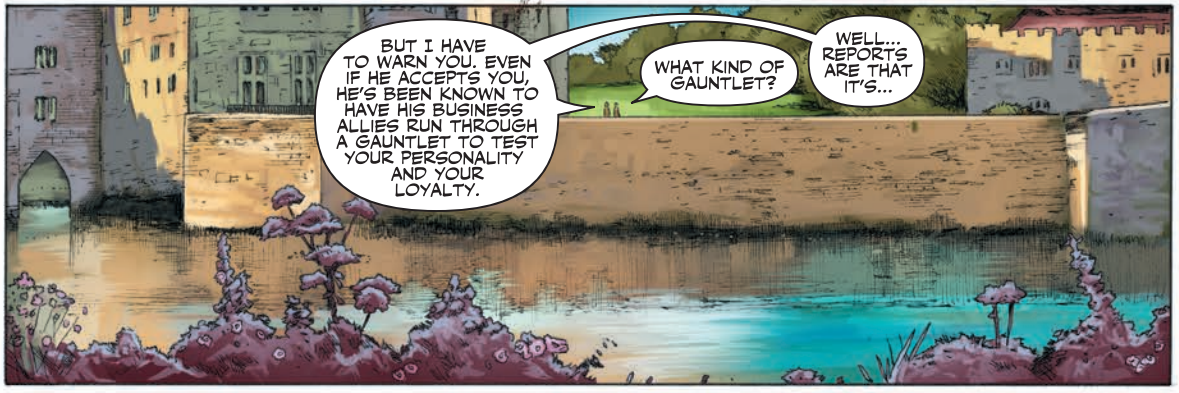

"...HOME."
AND THAT'S IT. I DESTROYED THE RUSSIAN PRISON AND LET HER GO, AS ORDERED.
BRILLIANT, COLIN. SIMPLY AND UTTERLY BRILLIANT.
NOW.
I WISH YOU'D CONSIDER A FULL-TIME POSITION WITH MI-6. NOTHING WOULD CHANGE. YOU COULD COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE.
I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, NEVILLE. AS ALWAYS. BUT I PREFER THE OPTION OF TURNING DOWN A MISSION.


I UNDERSTAND THAT. I DO. THAT BRINGS ME BACK TO STAGE TWO OF THE CURRENT MISSION. YOU'RE SURE YOUR GROUNDS ARE SECURE?
I SECURED THE PLACE MYSELF. A BATTERY OF REDUNDANT JAMMING PODS ARE POSITIONED THROUGHOUT. YOU COULD HAVE ONE OF YOUR SATELLITES HOVERING DIRECTLY OVER MY CASTLE AND YOU'D HEAR AND SEE NOTHING BUT SHEEP GRAZING.

IN THAT CASE, LET'S GET TO IT.
I'VE BROUGHT ALL OF THE INTEL WITH ME.
FOR THE TIME BEING, EVEN I'M KEEPING THIS MISSION OFF THE BOOKS. PAYING YOU WITH OUR BLACK SLUSH FUND. SO NO WORRIES THERE.
NINJA PROGRAM
NINJA-A
NINJA-B
NINJA-C
NINJA-D
NINJA-E
NINJA-F
NINJA-G
NINJA-H
NINJA-I
NINJA-J
NINJA-K
THERE'S ACTUALLY A "NINJA-A"?
UH. THERE WAS. ANYWAY... HERE IT IS...


YOUR NEXT TARGET IS "KANNON." ON THE SURFACE, A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY BILLIONAIRE.
DO A LITTLE DIGGING AND YOU'LL FIND HE'S INTEGRAL TO THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS WEAPONEER, AN ARMS-MAKER FOR HIRE TO THE WORST PEOPLE IMAGINABLE.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE IS NO ONE LEADER OF WEAPONEER. THERE ARE SEVEN.
KANNON IS THE FIRST THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY. THAT ALONE TOOK YEARS AND HUNDREDS OF AGENTS.
NINJA-B
NINJA-C
NINJA-D
NINJA-E
NINJA-F
NINJA-G
NINJA-H
NINJA-I
NINJA-J
NINJA-K
WEAPONEER
ROKU, THE AGENT YOU FREED FROM THE RUSSIAN PRISON, IS KANNON'S RIGHT-HAND WOMAN. WE'VE ARRANGED A COVER STORY FOR YOU. YOU ARE HENRY COLLINS. WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN WITH MONEY AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS BUT NO TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW.
YOUR MISSION IS TO INFILTRATE KANNON'S INNER CIRCLE. GET HIM TO BUILD YOU A SECRET WEAPON. AND FIND OUT THE IDENTITY OF THE OTHER SIX HEADS. THEY'RE KNOWN AS THE SHADOW SEVEN.


WHY WOULD HE LET ME IN?
BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO BE HENRY COLLINS. THE SAME HENRY COLLINS WHO, THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS, ARRANGED FOR THE SAFE RELEASE AND RETURN OF HIS RIGHT-HAND WOMAN, ROKU. HE SHOULD FEEL INDEBTED. WE HOPE.


BUT I HAVE TO WARN YOU. EVEN IF HE ACCEPTS YOU, HE'S BEEN KNOWN TO HAVE HIS BUSINESS ALLIES RUN THROUGH A GAUNTLET TO TEST YOUR PERSONALITY AND YOUR LOYALTY.
WHAT KIND OF GAUNTLET?
WELL... REPORTS ARE THAT IT'S...

"...A STRANGE ONE."
NINJAK FIELD REPORT: FIRST OF ALL, NEVILLE. YOUR ASSESSMENT OF KANNON WAS ACCURATE, IF A LITTLE VAGUE.
...BECAUSE...
...FOREVER...
...WILL NEVER...
KANNON WAS A TYPICAL PARANOID MEGALOMANIAC WITH THE USUAL QUIRKY FETISHES THAT ACCOMPANY SUCH PERSONALITIES.
HIS "GAUNTLET" WAS FAIRLY BASIC. CREATING SCENARIOS TO PUT THE CANDIDATE (MYSELF) IN UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATIONS.
...DIE...
TO SEE HOW THEY WILL REACT.
TO SEE HOW FAR THEY ARE WILLING TO GO.
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES.
TO GET AT THEIR TRUE NATURE.

THEN.
CLIK!
MASTER COLIN... STEPPING OUT AT THIS LATE HOUR? YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.

NOW.
KANNON'S REASON FOR STRIPPING ME WAS OBVIOUSLY TO CHECK FOR WIRES AND BUGS. AND SECONDLY, TO TEST MY RESOLVE.
HE DROPPED ME OFF FIVE MILES OUTSIDE OF TOKYO WITH NO CLOTHES AND NO MONEY AND AN APPOINTMENT AT EIGHT A.M. SHARP AT HIS OFFICE. IF I WAS LATE... NO DEAL. HE'D NEVER TALK TO ME AGAIN.
TWO UNCONSCIOUS TEENAGERS, ONE PAIR OF SKINNY JEANS, AND ONE MOPED LATER, I ARRIVED ON TIME FOR OUR MEETING.
TO KNOW A MAN, YOU MUST SEE HIM AT WHAT *HE* THINKS IS HIS WORST.
AND THEN SHOW HIM WHAT HIS *TRULY* WORST IS.
GENTLEMEN... *SHOW HIM.*

NNNF!
THE FINAL TEST WAS A PHYSICAL ONE. I SIMPLY HAD TO TAKE A BEATING.
ODDLY ENOUGH, IT WASN'T THE PAIN THEY DEALT ME THAT WAS DIFFICULT.
IT WAS FIGHTING BACK THE URGE TO SNAP EVERY ONE OF THEIR NECKS BEFORE THEY EVEN REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
AND THAT WAS THE TRUE TEST. I HAD TO SHOW...
...THAT I WAS ABSOLUTELY NOT A THREAT.
STOP.

THEN.
YOUR PARENTS WON'T BE HOME FOR ANOTHER WEEK, COLIN.
DO TRY TO BEHAVE, WON'T YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE LOST FILES

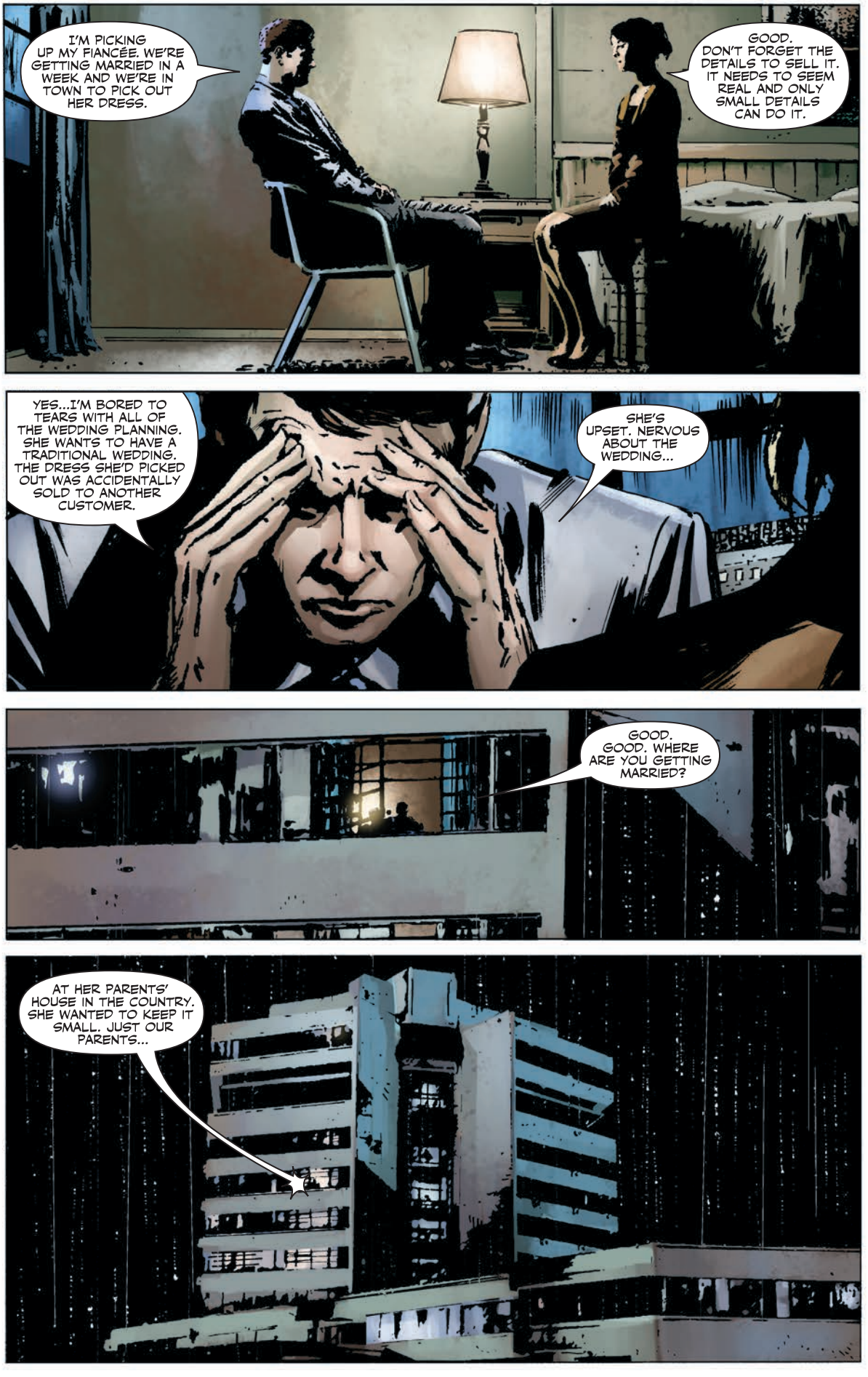
MATT KINDT
WRITER

BUTCH GUICE
ARTIST

ULISES ARREOLA
COLORS

DAVE SHARPE
LETTERS

I GET IT. YOU'RE DOING FINE. YOU AREN'T THE FIRST NEW RECRUIT I'VE HANDLED. YOU'VE GOT PROMISE.
COLIN. YOU'RE GOING TO DO JUST FINE.
LET'S GO OVER YOUR STORY ONE MORE TIME.


I'M PICKING UP MY FIANCÉE. WE'RE GETTING MARRIED IN A WEEK AND WE'RE IN TOWN TO PICK OUT HER DRESS.
GOOD. DON'T FORGET THE DETAILS TO SELL IT. IT NEEDS TO SEEM REAL AND ONLY SMALL DETAILS CAN DO IT.
YES...I'M BORED TO TEARS WITH ALL OF THE WEDDING PLANNING. SHE WANTS TO HAVE A TRADITIONAL WEDDING. THE DRESS SHE'D PICKED OUT WAS ACCIDENTALLY SOLD TO ANOTHER CUSTOMER.
SHE'S UPSET. NERVOUS ABOUT THE WEDDING...
GOOD. GOOD. WHERE ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?
AT HER PARENTS' HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY. SHE WANTED TO KEEP IT SMALL. JUST OUR PARENTS...

GI-GIRLS
FOLLY

LATER THAT EVENING...
"I WAS NERVOUS. WE LEFT THE MOVIE A LITTLE EARLIER THAN WE SHOULD HAVE. I HAD TO GET JULIE...THE PACKAGE... ACROSS THE CITY AND TO DOCK 42 BEFORE TEN OR WE'D MISS THE PICKUP.

"THE STREETS WERE STILL BUSY WITH DINNER AND MOVIE TRAFFIC. I REMEMBER THE SMELL IN THE AIR. A MIX OF SEWER AND FRIED RICE. I FELT SICK...

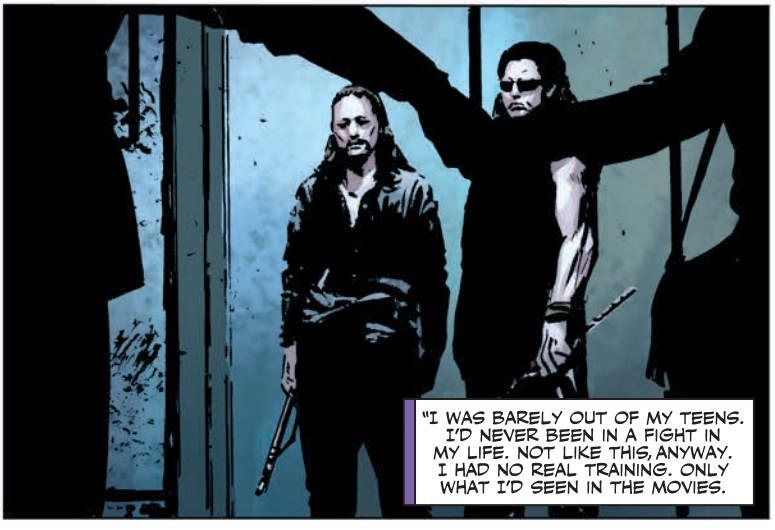
"I COULD FEEL THE NERVES IN THE...PACKAGE'S HAND VIBRATING. I WAS JUST AS SCARED AS SHE WAS. MAYBE NOT SCARED. ADRENALINE. MAKING MY ARMS AND LEGS FEEL LIKE RUBBER."

"I PANICKED FOR A MINUTE AND WE JUST STARTED OFF WITHOUT THINKING.
"AS A KID, I'D ALWAYS LIKED THE IDEA OF ACTING. OF TRICKING MY MIND INTO THINKING I REALLY *WAS* SOMEONE ELSE. *SOMEWHERE* ELSE.
"EVEN FOR JUST A MOMENT.
"AND FOR THAT MOMENT IT WORKED. I FORGOT WHO I WAS. WE PLAYED THE PART. YOUNG LOVERS.
"THE POLICE WOULD JUST PASS US BY. WE'D BLEND INTO THE BACKGROUND."
‹HEY.›

"FOR THOSE BRIEF SECONDS I WAS A YOUNG MAN, IN LOVE, GETTING MARRIED. LOVING HIS FIANCÉE."
〈TAKE THAT BUSINESS HOME. NOT HERE IN THE STREET.〉

〈Y-YES... YES, SIR.〉

"WE WERE A FEW MINUTES EARLY. IF I'D BEEN A FEW MINUTES LATER, MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE MISSED THOSE GUYS.


"I WAS BARELY OUT OF MY TEENS. I'D NEVER BEEN IN A FIGHT IN MY LIFE. NOT LIKE THIS, ANYWAY. I HAD NO REAL TRAINING. ONLY WHAT I'D SEEN IN THE MOVIES.

"AND I GUESS WHAT I'D SEEN WAS ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE BRAVADO THAT GOES WITH SKILL..."

"EVEN IF THE SKILL WAS LACKING."
PTOO!
RUN!
"I GUESS THE UPSIDE OF REALLY GETTING THE $%?$ KICKED OUT OF YOU...
"...IS YOU DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF IT.
"I'M ASSUMING JULIE MADE IT OUT?
"I'M HOPING SHE MADE IT OUT."

SHE DID MAKE IT, COLIN.
AND WE... RETRIEVED YOU SOON AFTER.
"WE"? DID YOU... FOLLOW ME?
I'M YOUR HANDLER, COLIN. IT'S MY JOB TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
I...
THANK YOU, ANGELINA.
CAN I JUST SAY...NEXT TIME? TRY NOT TO PICK A DARK ALLEY. STICK TO THE CROWDED STREETS. YOU'RE A SPY, COLIN.
NOT A FIGHTER.
Last Laugh
PUB
TO BE CONTINUED...

VALIANT NEXT®
COMPASS POINTS

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THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

"Yo, this comic be the truth."

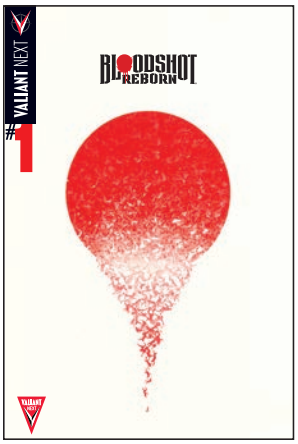
This was one New York City reader's comment after getting an early read of NINJAK #1.

We're not all sure what that means at Valiant HQ, but we've asked one of our resident young people and they assure us that it is a very good review. Right before making a strong push for constantly streaming episodes of *Broad City* into the office. It's...unlikely to go their way.

But today one thing is guaranteed to go everyone's way, because NINJAK #1 has finally arrived and it was well worth the wait. As far as debuts go, this one had a lot of pressure on it (almost as much as *The Interview*) and high expectations. Matt Kindt, Clay Mann, and Butch Guice responded by meeting and exceeding those expectations with an awesome first issue.

Ninjak #4 – Cover by Jelena Kevic-Djurdjevic

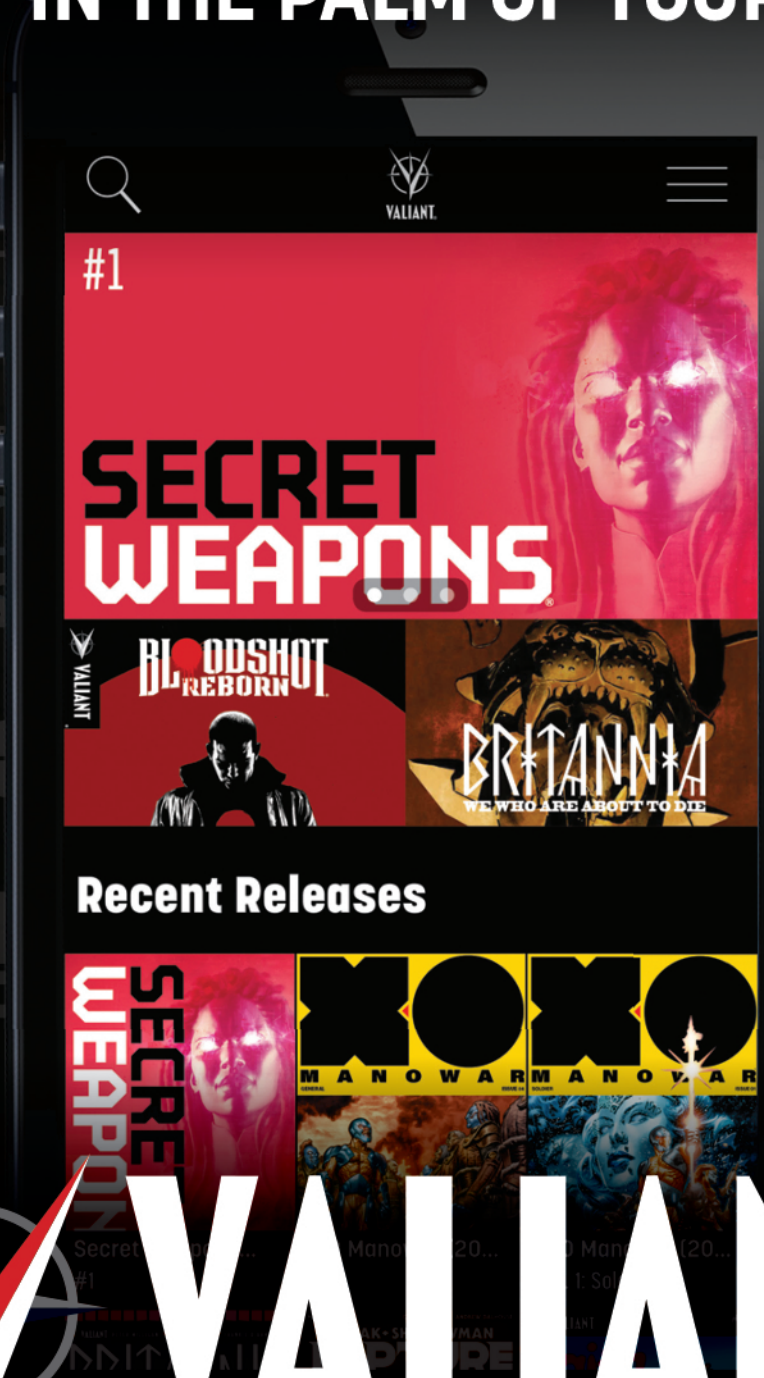
It's going to be an exciting first arc as Ninjak's story unveils a new side of the Valiant Universe, with new missions that put his elite arsenal of abilities on full display. And we finally get a peek into the mysterious past that shaped a young Colin King into the superspy we know and love. There's also going to be quite a few new characters to look out for in this series, starting with Roku, another deadly merc who might just be a tad better at killing than Ninjak. Just wait 'til you read issue #4.



VALIANT NEXT is in full swing and one month from now there's another dose of "the truth" to look forward to on April 15th... BLOODSHOT REBORN #1!

'Til Next Time
Compass Points

EVERY HERO. EVERY BATTLE. EVERY ISSUE.
RIGHT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND



VALIANT

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