

BOOM!
STUDIOS

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COVER

Fall of Cthulhu



BOOM-STUDIOS.COM



FUGUE, PART 4 OF 5

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*THWACK!
THWACK!
THWACK!*


DAMN. TOO MANY TREES TO GET A CLEAR SHOT.

WE'RE LOSING MOONLIGHT HERE GUYS.

ALL RIGHT. YOU ALL GO BACK AND START THE RITUAL THEN.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS GUY?

I THINK IT'S TIME WE BROUGHT SOME HOUNDS TO THIS HUNT.




GREAT
NODENS, LORD OF
THE ABYSS, MASTER
OF ALL THAT DWELLS
UPON THIS EARTH, I
BESEECH YOU.

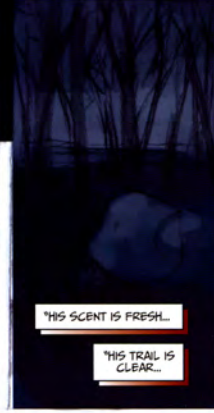


"UNWORTHY EYES SPY YOUR LOYAL
SERVANTS FROM THE SHADOWS. HE
IS A QUARRY BEYOND OUR SKILL."

"BUT NONE CAN ESCAPE
THE GREAT HUNTER."




"THOUGH THIS HUNT IS NO
CHALLENGE FOR YOU, I
STILL OFFER THIS QUARRY
TO YOU UNBIDDEN."

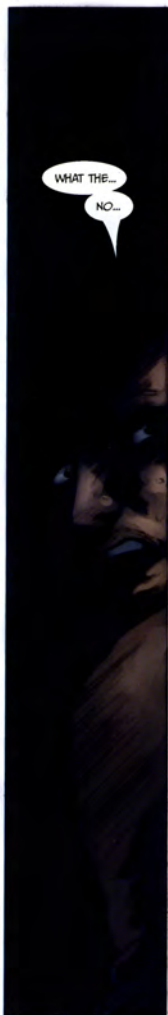
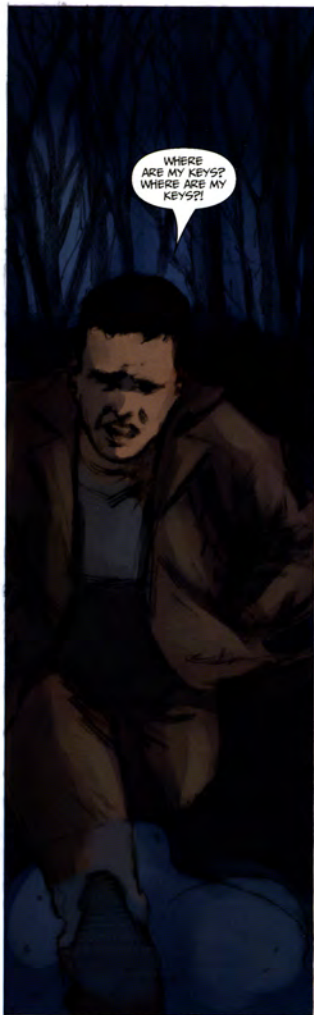
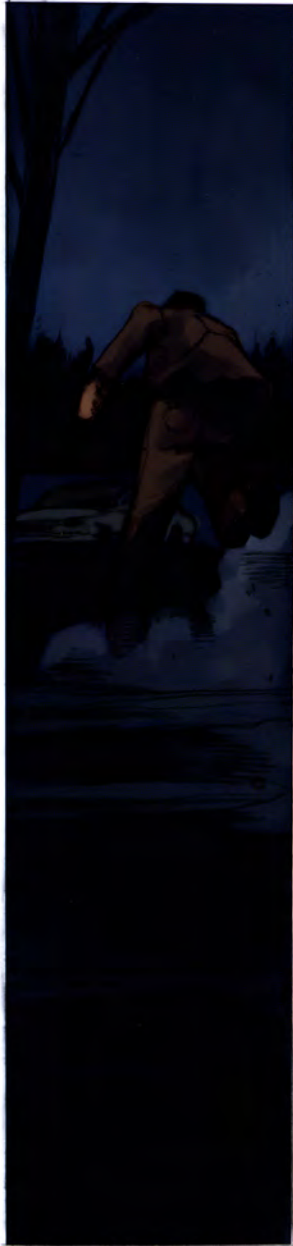


"HIS SCENT IS FRESH...

"HIS TRAIL IS
CLEAR..."



"LET THE HOWLS
OF YOUR HOUNDS
LEAD THE WAY"







AHH! STAY
ANGRY FROM
ME!

Nooooo!!!





HOW THE HELL?

OH DARLING, YOU'RE JUST LIKE A CAT. ALWAYS BRINGING DEAD THINGS TO MY DOORSTEP.



HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, BUT I DO HAVE TALENTS OUTSIDE OF THE BEDCHAMBER.

OH, WELL... THANKS, I GUESS.

INSINCERITY ISN'T VERY ATTRACTIVE, DARLING, BUT YOU ARE WELCOME NONETHELESS.



WHAT WERE THOSE THINGS?

NIGHT GAUNTS, DARLING. THE PERSONAL SERVITORS OF NODENS.

WHO, THAT OLD SHIRTLESS DUDE?

NODENS, GREAT HUNTER, LORD OF THE ABYSS, SUPREME RULER OF PRIMAL EARTH, AND ELDER GOD...

BUT IF YOU FIND SUCH APPELLATIONS DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER, THEN YES, HE IS THAT "OLD SHIRTLESS DUDE."



SOMETHING WRONG?

CY, DARLING, STAND BEHIND ME AND DO NOT SPEAK. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

WHY? WHAT IS IT?

NODENS APPROACHES.

AND HE IS TERRIBLY VEXED.



HARLOT, ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

GREAT LORD NODENS, USING LIONS TO HUNT A TURTLE COVERING IN ITS SHELL IS BENEATH ONE SUCH AS YOU.

TO STRIKE AT MY HOUNDS IS TO STRIKE AT ME! THIS AFFRONT WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!

I HAVE A RIGHT TO PROTECT WHAT IS MINE.



YOURS? THIS ANIMAL WAS OFFERED TO ME AS A GIFT.

YOUR SERVANTS OFFERED THAT WHICH DOES NOT BELONG TO THEM.

YOU CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF THIS THEN?

I DO.



VERY WELL, BECAUSE IT IS A GIFT SO UNWORTHY OF A GOD, YOU MAY KEEP IT. FOR NOW, BUT THERE IS STILL THE MATTER OF MY HOUNDS.



THEY TRESPASSED ON MY LANDS.

MY SERVANTS ARE TO BE GIVEN FREE REIGN OVER ANY AND ALL LANDS I CHOOSE, ARE YOU SUGGESTING LIMITATIONS TO MY DOMINION?

I'M SUGGESTING THAT YOU KEEP YOUR DOGS ON A TIGHTER LEASH.



REMEMBER YOUR PLACE, WHORE!

CRASH!



NOW I WILL TAKE THIS QUARRY FROM YOU AS COMPENSATION FOR YOUR INSOLENCE.


NO...YOU WON'T.



IF ANY HARM COMES TO THIS MAN, EITHER IN THIS OR ANY OTHER WORLD, MY SERVICES TO YOU AND YOURS WILL COME TO AN END.


YOU DARE TO DICTATE TERMS TO ME?

OH YES. AND I HAVE MORE.



MY LANDS ARE NOW SANCTUARY TO ALL YOU HUNT. ALL LEGIONS OF NODENS TRESPASS AT THEIR OWN PERIL. AND MIGHTY LORD, LISTEN CAREFULLY NOW TO WHAT I TELL YOU... I AM THE KEEPER OF SECRETS.

STRIKE ME AGAIN AND I WILL BE THEIR KEEPER NO MORE.



TREAD LIGHTLY, HARLOT. YOUR POWERS DO NOT EXTEND BEYOND YOUR BORDERS. I WILL NOT FORGET THIS DAY.

AND I AM NOT A FORGIVING GOD.



YOU JUST STOOD UP TO A GOD. HOW? ARE...ARE YOU A GOD TOO?

NO. HAVE NO ILLUSIONS. NODENS COULD DESTROY ME IF HE WISHED. BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO BURN THE VICTORY, AND BOTH OUR ENERGIES ARE BEST SPENT ELSEWHERE.

SO, I'M SAFE THEN.

SAFE? NO, DARLING. I'M SORRY, BUT YOUR GREATEST PAIN IS YET TO COME.

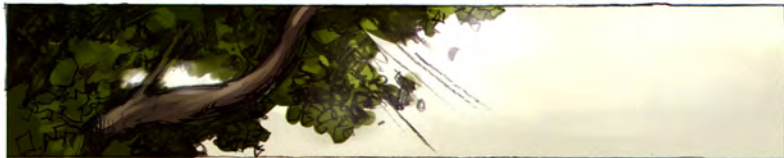


WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

PLEASE, NO MORE QUESTIONS. YOU MUST GO. GOOD BYE, DARLING.

WHAT PAIN? PLEASE! NO, WAIT! WHAT PAIN? I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

NO. BUT YOU WILL.



...UNOH...





SHERIFF, I WANT TO REPORT A MURDER.

A MURDER, HUM? OKAY.

WHERE'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND? OUT GETTING HER "FLEET OF LAWYERS?"

SHE'S AT HOME. LOOK, I KNOW YOU AND I DON'T HAVE THE BEST RELATIONSHIP.



IT'S CY MORGAN, RIGHT?

...YEAH.

CY, DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF GUY THAT HAS RELATIONSHIPS?

NOT REALLY, NO.

OKAY THEN.

breet! breet!

YOU GONNA ANSWER THAT?



CY? CY WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M AT THE POLICE STATION. LOOK, I CAN'T TALK NOW.

YOU WERE GONE WHEN I WOKE UP! I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK HERE!

I KNOW, I CAN EXPLAIN LATER. I HAVE TO GO SWEETIE, I'M SORRY.

Cy...



THE KNIFE'S BACK, CY. AND IT WON'T STOP LOOK-

CLICK

TROUBLE IN PARADISE?

NO, EVERYTHING'S FINE.

SURE IT IS. YOU WANNA TELL ME ABOUT THIS MURDER THEN?



THE WOODS OUT NORTH OF 17. A BUNCH OF GUYS KILLED SOMEONE WITH BOWS AND ARROWS.

BOB, GRAB YOUR COAT. WE'RE GOING FOR A DRIVE.



THIS YOUR CAR?

YEAH, THEY DID THAT.

THEY KILLED SOMEBODY WITH BOWS AND ARROWS THEN KEYED YOUR CAR?

PRETTY MUCH.



GET IN.

WHY IN BACK?

BECAUSE I SAID SO. BE THANKFUL I'M NOT CLIPPING YOU FIRST. NOW GET IN.



IT HAPPENED BACK IN THERE.

WE'LL FOLLOW YOU.



WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT HERE LAST NIGHT, CY?

I WAS... THERE WAS THIS HUNT.

AT NIGHT? FUNNY, YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS THE HUNTING TYPE.

I'M NOT. I WAS INVITED BY MISTAKE, BUT I THOUGHT I'D COME CHECK IT OUT ANYWAY.



THIS YOUR BODY?

IT...IT CAN'T BE.

YOU KNOW, FOR A COLLEGE BOY YOU'D THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MAN AND A DOG.

I SWEAR, I WATCHED THEM KILL HIM.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

ARRESTING YOU.

FOR WHAT? I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT FOR A SECOND. LET'S GO.



I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE ARRESTING ME.

BECAUSE YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF. HOW'S THAT FOR A REASON?

YOU CAN'T ARREST ME JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE ME.

OH, I'M SURE I CAN THINK OF A BETTER REASON BEFORE WE GET BACK.



ALL RIGHT, COME ON OUT OF THERE AND LISTEN UP.



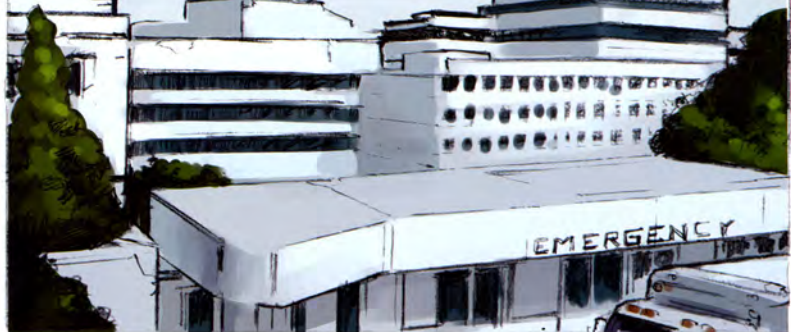
WHATEVER THE HELL IT IS YOU'RE INVOLVED IN--AND I KNOW YOU'RE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING--GET OUT. IF NOT FOR YOURSELF THEN FOR THAT FIREBRAND OF A GIRL YOU GOT.

SO YOU'RE NOT ARRESTING ME?

DON'T THINK I CAN'T. I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THE EXTRA PAPERWORK. NOW GET OUT OF HERE AND DON'T EVER LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN.

WHAT ABOUT MY CAR?

TAKE IT UP WITH YOUR INSURANCE.





SO, I WENT AND DID
SOMETHING REALLY STUPID THE
OTHER DAY. I BOUGHT A GUN. I
KNOW, ME AND GUNS GO
TOGETHER ABOUT AS WELL AS
ONIONS AND CHOCOLATE.
TOLD YOU IT WAS STUPID.



SOMEONE BROKE INTO OUR
HOUSE THE SAME DAY
AS...WELL, ANYWAY I GOT
SCARED. I JUST WANTED TO
KEEP JORDAN SAFE, YOU
KNOW?

THE GUN DOESN'T DO ANY
GOOD THOUGH, JUST SITS IN A
SHOEBOX UNDER THE COUCH.
I'M TOO SCARED TO TOUCH THE
DAMN THING.

SUPPOSE THAT'S PROBABLY
FOR THE BEST.



I CAN'T STOP IMAGINING JORDAN
IN THAT BED INSTEAD OF YOU. GOD,
IT MAKES ME SICK INSIDE. I CAN'T
TAKE A CHANCE LIKE THAT WITH
HER. NOT WITH HER.

SO I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW
THAT I'M DONE WITH ALL OF UNCLE
WALT'S BIG BAG OF CRAZY. I KNOW,
FAT BIT OF GOOD IT DOES YOU
NOW, HUH?

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I'M SORRY.
I WON'T ASK FOR FORGIVENESS
THAT I DON'T DESERVE. JUST...

JUST GET BETTER, OKAY.





HELLO, MR. ARKHAM?

ANYONE HOME?

CAN I HELP YOU?

OH...HEY. YEAH, I WAS JUST WONDERING IF MR. ARKHAM'S AROUND.

HE'S IN THE COURTYARD. SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

DING! DING!

I WAS REALLY HOPING TO TALK WITH MR. ARKHAM.

THIS WAY THEN.



MR. ARKHAM, YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR.

THANK YOU, CONNOR. ONE MOMENT IF YOU PLEASE, YOUNG MASTER MORGAN. I JUST NEED TO BRING THIS INTO FOCUS... LIKE...SO...

AH! THERE IT IS.



AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO DO THAT AT NIGHT?

AH, WITH THE RIGHT FILTERS I CAN STARGAZE AT ANY TIME I WISH, DAY OR NIGHT. AND WHAT IS THE SUN BUT A STAR ITSELF!

ARE YOU A STUDENT OF OUR CELESTIAL NEIGHBORS, YOUNG MASTER MORGAN?

CAN'T SAY AS I AM.



BUT THEY ARE FIELDS OF ENDLESS BOUNTY! IT IS THE STARS THAT HAVE IGNITED MANKIND'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

STONEHENGE, THE PYRAMIDS, GLOBAL NAVIGATION, SPACE TRAVEL!

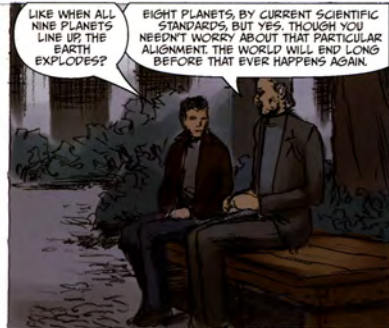
EVER SINCE MAN FIRST LOOKED OUT INTO THE DARKNESS WITH CURIOUS EYES, HE HAS LONGED TO KNOW WHAT WAITS IN THE VOID.



AND SOMEDAY, CY, SOMEDAY SOON, HE WILL HAVE HIS ANSWERS.




NUMEROUS CULTURES SPEAK OF THESE CELESTIAL PORTENTS, THAT WHEN CERTAIN STARS ALIGN, GREAT AND HORRIBLE EVENTS WILL FOLLOW.



LIKE WHEN ALL NINE PLANETS LINE UP, THE EARTH EXPLODES?

EIGHT PLANETS, BY CURRENT SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS, BUT YES. THOUGH YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR ALIGNMENT, THE WORLD WILL END LONG BEFORE THAT EVER HAPPENS AGAIN.



YOU'RE PRETTY CAVALIER ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD, AREN'T YOU?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN *TOMORROW*. AH, BUT THIS TOPIC BORES YOU. LET'S MOVE ON TO OTHER THINGS. HERE TO INVENTORY MORE OF YOUR UNCLE'S BELONGINGS I TAKE?

SORT OF ABOUT HIS THINGS...

I WANT YOU TO HAVE THEM.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHATEVER WAS GOING ON WITH MY UNCLE, WHATEVER THING HE WAS TRYING TO STUDY, I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF IT ANY MORE. SO I'M GIVING YOU HIS STUFF. SELL IT, BURN IT, I DON'T CARE.

I SEE.

BUT CAN ONE TRULY BE DONE WITH FAMILY? FAMILY IS WHO WE ARE. IT'S A PART OF US. TO BE DONE WITH FAMILY WOULD BE TO BE DONE WITH OURSELVES.

SO? JORDAN IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THAT. MORE THAN MY UNCLE WALT, MORE THAN MY SISTER, MORE THAN MYSELF.

AGAIN, SORRY TO DUMP ALL THIS ON YOU.

THINK NOTHING OF IT. I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL PAY HANDSOMELY FOR THAT GRUESOME THING IN YOUR UNCLE'S ROOM. NOW GO. SEE TO HER.

THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING, MR. ARKHAM.

OF COURSE, YOUNG MASTER MORGAN. MY FONDEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR LOVELY BRIDE-TO-BE. TONIGHT I WILL RAISE A GLASS OF MY FINEST WINE IN HER HONOR. GOOD DAY, CY.

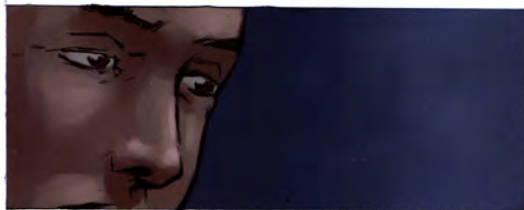
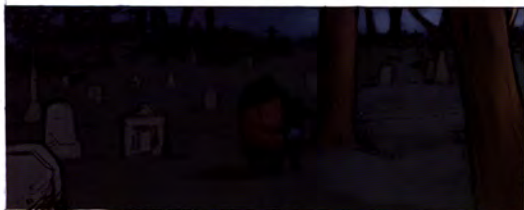
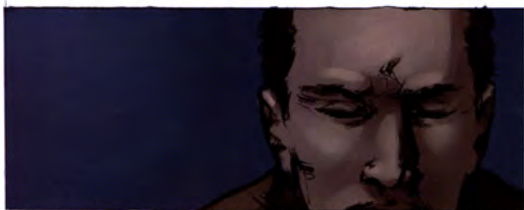
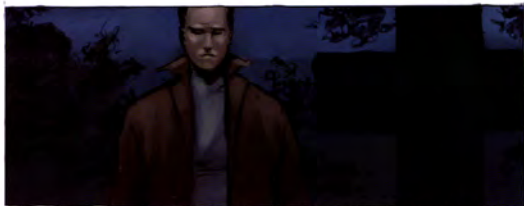
GOODBYE.

I KNOW IT'S AN INCONVENIENCE AND I APOLOGIZE, BUT IT'S RUINING MY LIFE. I'VE BEEN NEARLY KILLED I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES, I DON'T SLEEP WELL, AND JORDAN IS READY TO LEAVE ME.

I CAN'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN. I WON'T. I LOVE HER, SO I'M DONE.

THEN DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE TELLING HER INSTEAD OF AN AGING LANDLORD GIDDY OVER STELLAR OMENS?





HEY, UNCLE WALT.

NOT REALLY SURE WHAT TO SAY,
WHICH IS KIND OF ODD SINCE YOU
WERE ALWAYS SO EASY TO TALK
TO.

STILL HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING
FROM SARAH, BUT YOU KNOW HOW
SHE IS, SHE'LL CALL WHEN SHE'S
READY TO, I GUESS. BUT DON'T
WORRY ABOUT HER, SHE'LL DEAL.
SIS IS A TOUGH COOKIE.

I MISS YOU. GOD, I MISS YOU LIKE
CRAZY. YOUR SANTA CLAUS LAUGH,
THE WAY YOU'D ALWAYS STROKE
YOUR BEARD WHEN YOU WERE
TRYING TO THINK...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DID
WHAT YOU DID. I TRIED TO, I
REALLY DID BUT...

I CAN'T DO THIS. I KNOW I
PROMISED YOU, BUT IT'S A
PROMISE I JUST CAN'T KEEP. NOT
IF IT MEANS LOSING JORDAN.

I'M SORRY UNCLE WALT,
BUT I'M DONE.

breet!
breet!

CY..

JORDAN, SWEETIE,
BEFORE YOU SAY
ANYTHING I WANT TO
TELL YOU SOMETHING.
YOU WERE RIGHT. I WAS
WRONG AND I AM
SO SORRY.

JORDAN, CAN YOU
HEAR ME? YOU'RE
BREAKING UP. I THINK
WE'VE GOT A BAD
CONNECTION.

-FZZT- CAN
HEAR Y-
FZZT-
JUST FINE.

GODD. BECAUSE
I WANT YOU TO KNOW
THAT I'M DONE. I'M DONE
WITH IT ALL. ALL OF THIS
NONSENSE WITH UNCLE
WALT IS OVER.

DON'T
TEASE ME,
CY.

I'M SERIOUS, SWEETIE.
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN
ANYTHING AND I DON'T
WANT THIS TO TEAR
US APART.

REALLY? YOU
M-
FZZT-N
THAT?

GOD,
YES.

CY YOU
HAVE NO IDEA
HOW MUCH THAT
MEANS TO
ME.

WHAT DO YOU SAY
WE GO AWAY FOR THE
WEEKEND. WE'LL CATCH
THE RED-EYE TO NEW
YORK, OR ATLANTIC
CITY.

HEY Y-
FZZT- STILL IN
THE DOGHOUSE WITH ME,
BUSTER. WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK I'D GO
-
FZZT-WHERE WITH
YOU?

LET'S JUST SAY
I'M FEELING
LUCKY.

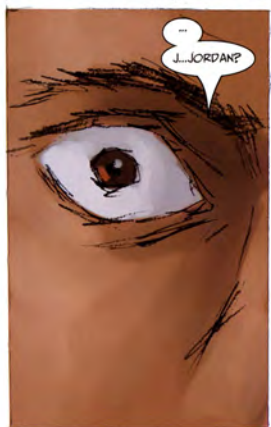
FEELING
LUCKY, HUH?
WELL, HOW'D YOU
LIKE TO GET
LUCKY?

OOH, I'M
LISTENING.

YEAH?
WHERE ARE
YOU R-
FZZT-
NOW?

I JUST
WALKED IN THE
FRONT DOOR.
WHERE ARE
YOU?

I'M IN THE
BATHROOM.
TAKING A
BATH.



STOP LOOKING
AT ME!



Polish Brothers Construction

Funny company name, huh? Or maybe not so funny a name for a construction company -- but a film company?

THE POLISH BROTHERS -- Mark and Michael -- have spent nearly 10 years building an incredible reputation in the film business. They started back in 1999 with TWIN FALLS IDAHO, a smash hit at Sundance which made them the new buzz independent filmmakers.

Since then, they've been generating head-turning, ground-breaking films like JACKPOT and NORTHFORK, working with legends in the film business like James Woods, Nick Nolte, Daryl Hannah, Anthony Edwards, Peter Coyote, Adam Baldwin, Claire Forlani, the list goes on and on. Their latest, starring Billy Bob Thornton and Virginia Madsen, is THE ASTRONAUT FARMER.

From independent film origins to modern cutting edge writer-directors who attract the best of the best actors, the Polish Brothers are an honor to work with. They call their company "Polish Brothers Construction" because it's the way they approach filmmaking. Two down-to-earth, hard-working, middle class dudes rolling up their sleeves and getting down to the art of filmmaking.

Check out their latest: SALVADOR, coming this spring from BOOM! Studios. Join co-writer Sebastian A. Jones, cover artist J.K. Woodward, and painter Steph Stamb. And see what Polish Brothers Construction is all about.

best,
-R

BOOM! STUDIOS UPCOMING



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