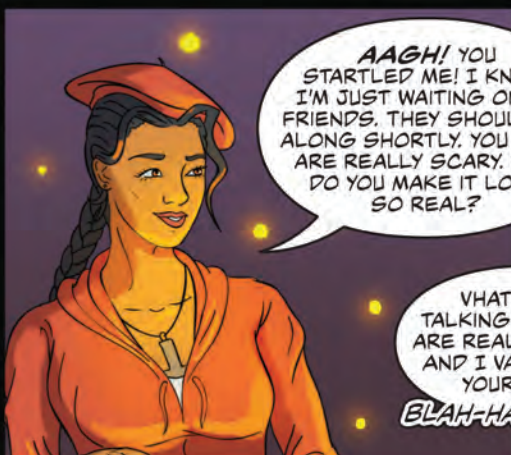




NIGHTMARE AT THE CARNIVAL - VARIANT COVER

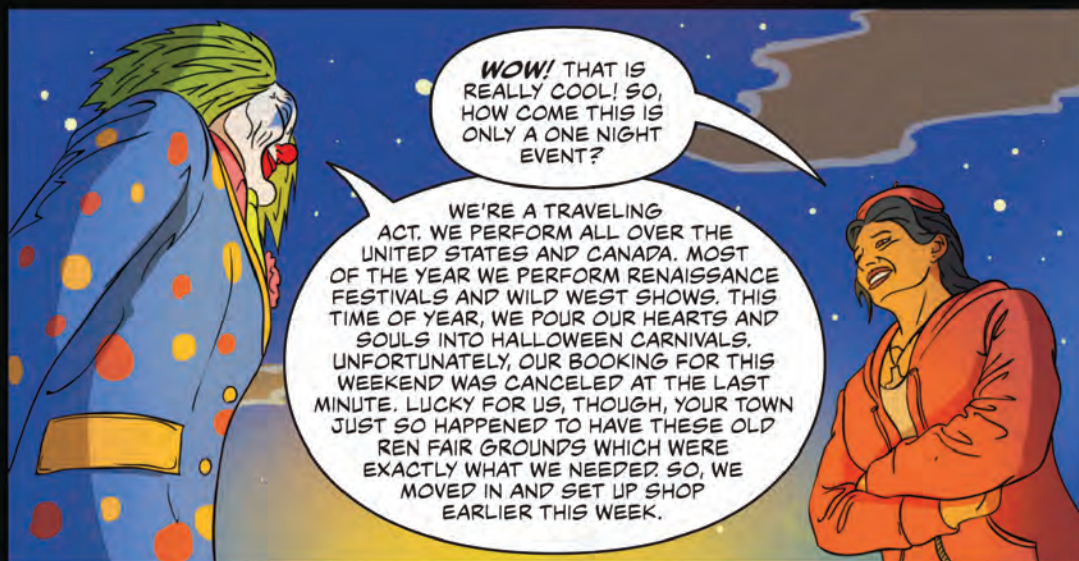




AND, YOURS TRULY, JUST LOOKS THIS CHARMING ALL OF THE TIME.

HE'S FULL OF SHIT! THE SCARY F'N CLOWN HERE IS ALL HAND-CRAFTED FOAM LATEX PROSTHETICS. IT'S ALL GLUED TO HIS FACE. HE'S THE TRUE MASTERMIND. HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE ALL OF US LOOK LIKE THE GRUESOME GHOULS WE'RE PORTRAYING.

HE'S OUR MAKE-UP ARTIST. THE BEST ONE AROUND!



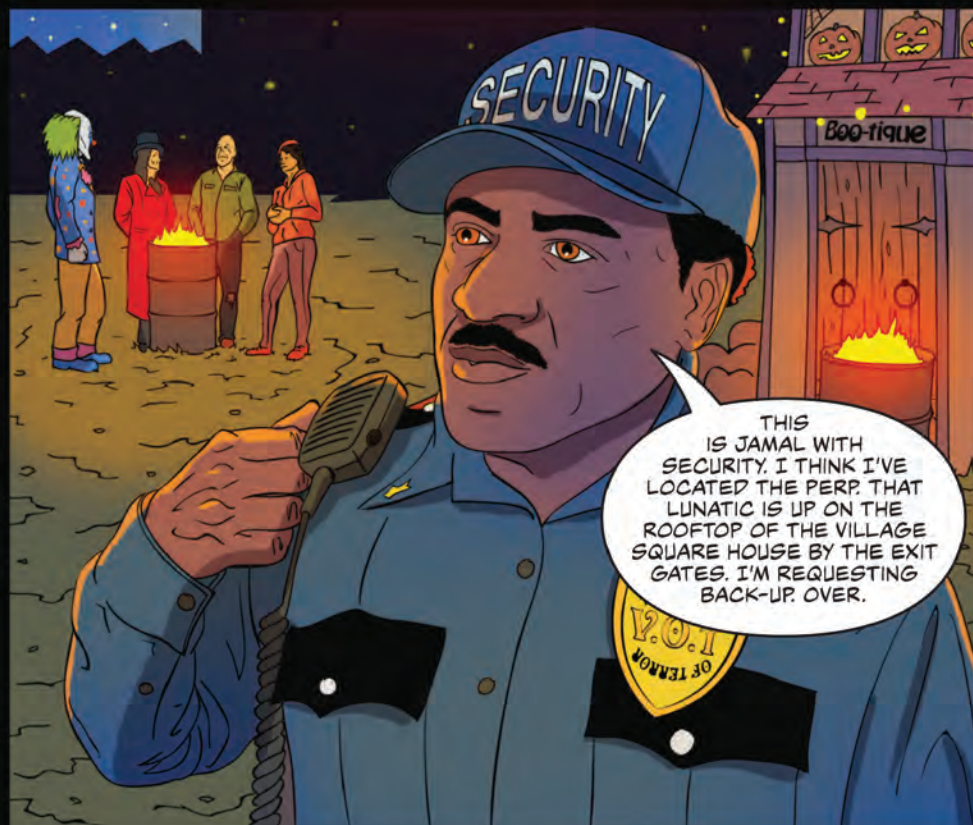
WOW! THAT IS REALLY COOL! SO, HOW COME THIS IS ONLY A ONE NIGHT EVENT?

WE'RE A TRAVELING ACT. WE PERFORM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. MOST OF THE YEAR WE PERFORM RENAISSANCE FESTIVALS AND WILD WEST SHOWS. THIS TIME OF YEAR, WE POUR OUR HEARTS AND SOULS INTO HALLOWEEN CARNIVALS. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR BOOKING FOR THIS WEEKEND WAS CANCELED AT THE LAST MINUTE. LUCKY FOR US, THOUGH, YOUR TOWN JUST SO HAPPENED TO HAVE THESE OLD REN FAIR GROUNDS WHICH WERE EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED. SO, WE MOVED IN AND SET UP SHOP EARLIER THIS WEEK.



SO COOL! I HOPE YOU GUYS COME BACK NEXT YEAR. THIS WAS SO MUCH FUN. ALSO, THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY WHILE I WAIT FOR MY FRIENDS. I HOPE THEY WON'T BE MUCH LONGER.

EH, DON'T MENTION IT.

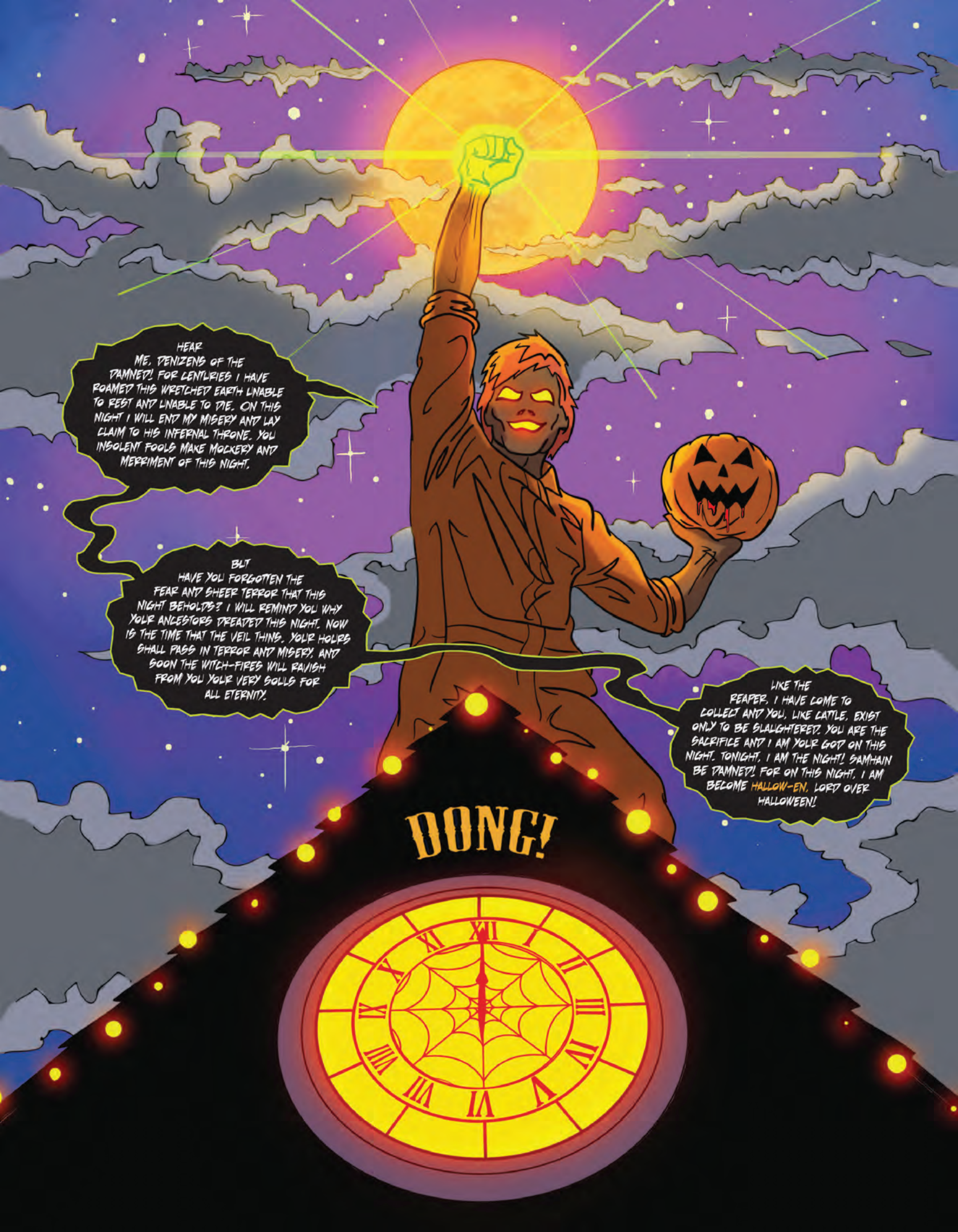


THIS IS JAMAL WITH SECURITY. I THINK I'VE LOCATED THE PERP. THAT LUNATIC IS UP ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE VILLAGE SQUARE HOUSE BY THE EXIT GATES. I'M REQUESTING BACK-UP. OVER.



COPY THAT. THANK YOU, JAMAL. BACK-UP IS IN ROUTE.

HEY, BUDDY! I'M GONNA HAVE TO ASK YOU TO GET DOWN FROM THERE RIGHT NOW!



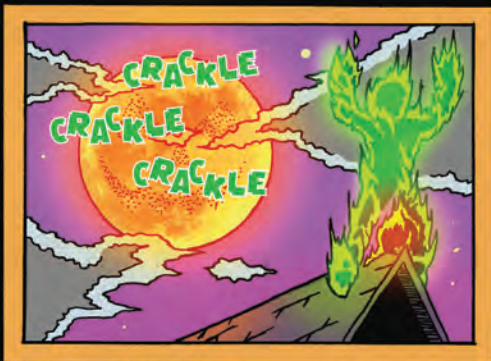
HEAR  
ME, DENIZENS OF THE  
DAMNED! FOR CENTURIES I HAVE  
ROAMED THIS WRETCHED EARTH UNABLE  
TO REST AND UNABLE TO DIE. ON THIS  
NIGHT I WILL END MY MISERY AND LAY  
CLAIM TO HIS INFERNAL THRONE. YOU  
INSOLENT FOOLS MAKE MOCKERY AND  
MERRIMENT OF THIS NIGHT.

BUT  
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE  
FEAR AND SHEER TERROR THAT THIS  
NIGHT BEHOLDS? I WILL REMIND YOU WHY  
YOUR ANCESTORS DREADED THIS NIGHT. NOW  
IS THE TIME THAT THE VEIL THINS. YOUR HOLIES  
SHALL PASS IN TERROR AND MISERY, AND  
SOON THE WITCH-FIRES WILL RAVISH  
FROM YOU YOUR VERY SOULS FOR  
ALL ETERNITY.

LIKE THE  
REAPER, I HAVE COME TO  
COLLECT AND YOU, LIKE CATTLE, EXIST  
ONLY TO BE SLAUGHTERED. YOU ARE THE  
SACRIFICE AND I AM YOUR GOD ON THIS  
NIGHT. TONIGHT, I AM THE NIGHT! SAMHAIN  
BE DAMNED! FOR ON THIS NIGHT, I AM  
BECOME HALLOW-EN. LORD OVER  
HALLOWEEN!

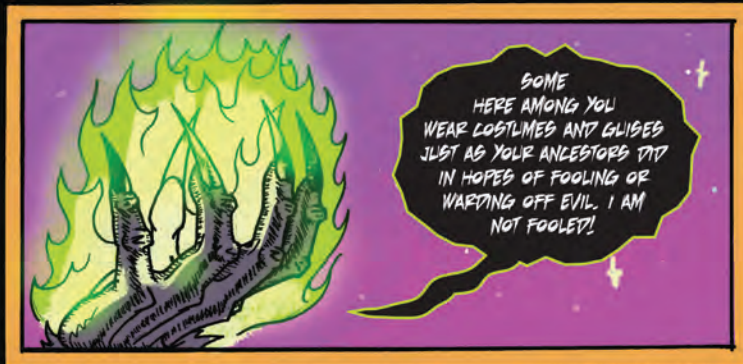
**DONG!**





YES!  
RUN, YOU MISERABLE  
COWARDS! FEAR ME! BEAR  
WITNESS TO MY UNHOLY  
POWER AND REMEMBER  
WHAT TERROR THIS NIGHT  
BEHOLDS!







-AAAAAGH!

YES!  
LET THE FIRES BAPTIZE YOU  
IN MY NAME. FEEL THE OLD FLESH  
BURN AWAY TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE  
NEW! LET THE CANDLES OF YOUR SOULS  
BURN BRIGHTLY WITHIN. LIKE THE WICK OF A  
WICKED JACK-O'-LANTERN. RISE UP, MY  
CREATURES OF THE NIGHT! THERE IS  
MUCH WORK TO BE DONE.

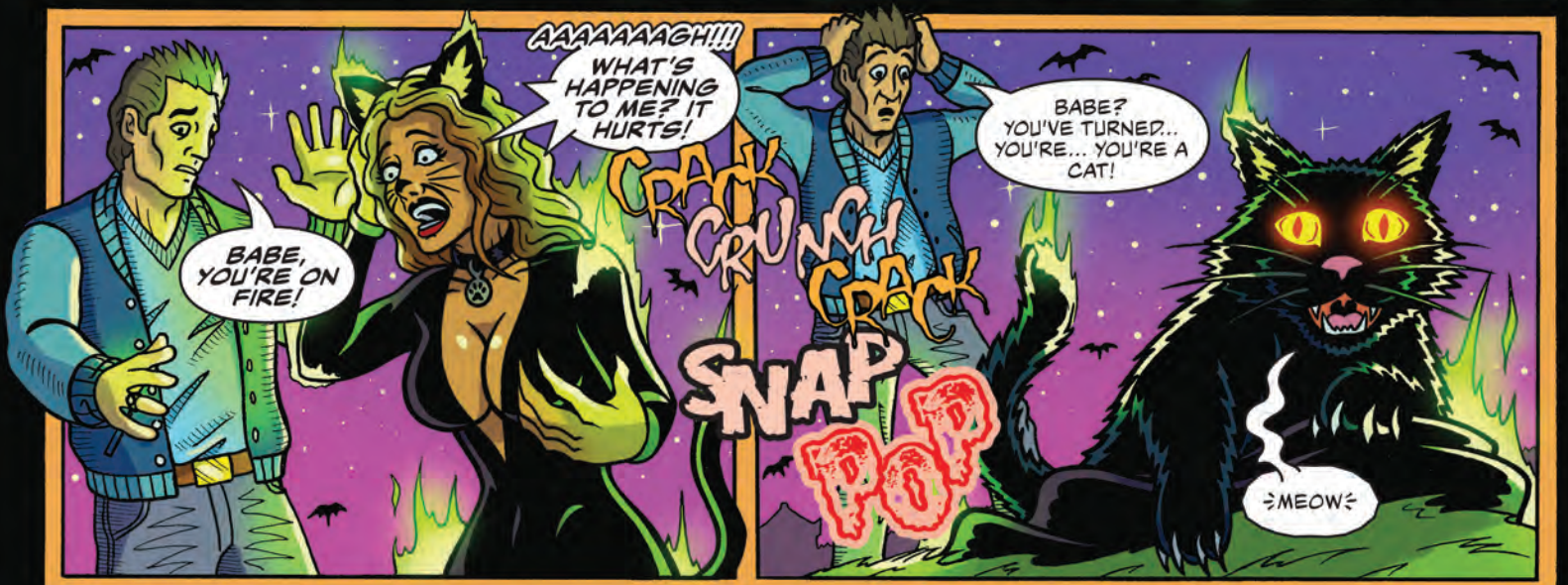
--IT  
BURNS!

-HELP  
ME!

-MAKE  
IT STOP!

SHRIEK

YEEAARGHHH















SHHH! STAY LOW AND BE QUIET.

I'LL CALL THE POLICE.

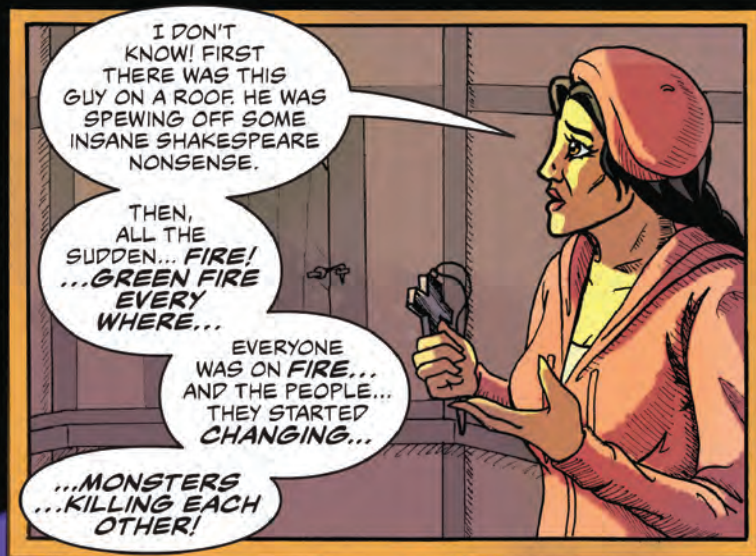


I ALREADY DID. THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY.



OH, GOD. WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING OUT THERE?

NONE OF THIS IS PART OF OUR SHOW.



I DON'T KNOW! FIRST THERE WAS THIS GUY ON A ROOF. HE WAS SPEWING OFF SOME INSANE SHAKESPEARE NONSENSE.

THEN, ALL THE SUDDEN... **FIRE!** ...**GREEN FIRE EVERYWHERE...**

EVERYONE WAS ON **FIRE...** AND THE PEOPLE... THEY STARTED **CHANGING...**

...**MONSTERS** ...**KILLING EACH OTHER!**



I NEED TO WARN MY FRIENDS. THEY'RE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

JUST KEEP QUIET. THOSE THINGS OUT THERE COULD HEAR US.

ELSEWHERE AT THE FESTIVAL:  
THE RUBBLE LOOKOUT.

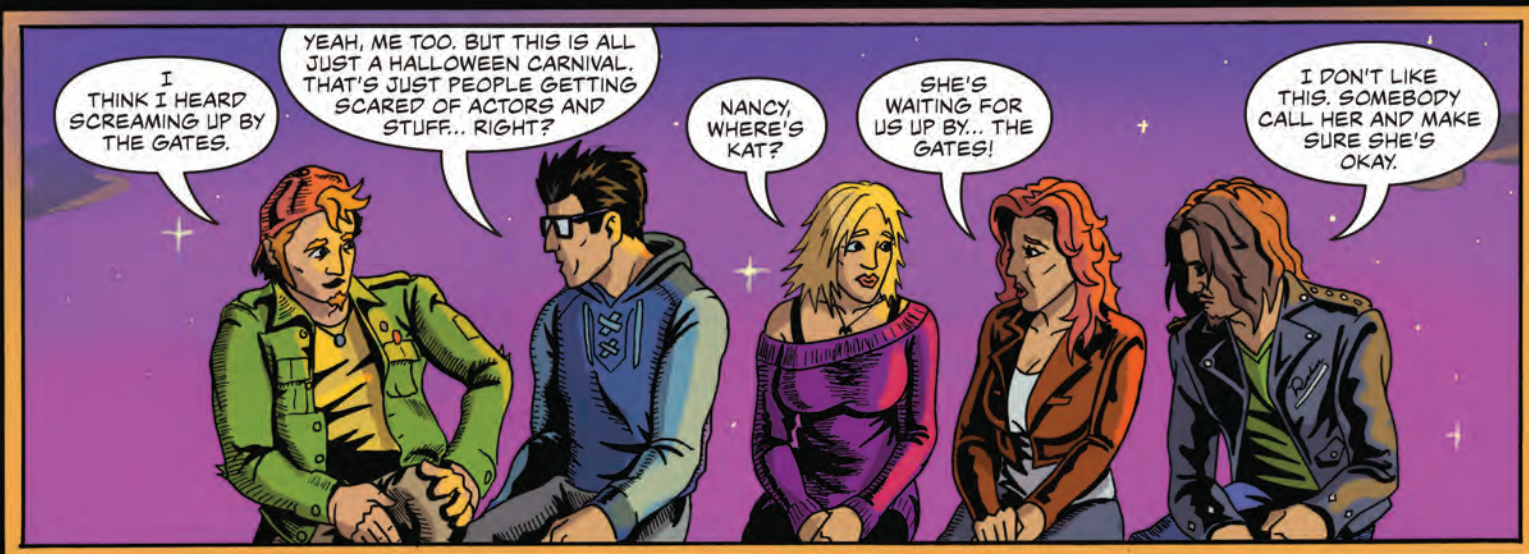
WHAT THE HELL KINDA HOCUS POCUS SHIT IS THIS!? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO THE MOON?

UMM... I'M NO SELENOLOGIST OR ASTRONOMER, BUT HOW THE HECK IS IT DOING **THAT**?

WHAT WAS IN THOSE S'MORES? IS THIS A DREAM?

GUYS... I DON'T THINK THIS IS A DREAM... THIS **IS** REALLY HAPPENING.

THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN **THAT**!? SOMEBODY CARVED A FREAKING JACK O' LANTERN FACE IN THE MOON!



I THINK I HEARD SCREAMING UP BY THE GATES.

YEAH, ME TOO. BUT THIS IS ALL JUST A HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL. THAT'S JUST PEOPLE GETTING SCARED OF ACTORS AND STUFF... RIGHT?

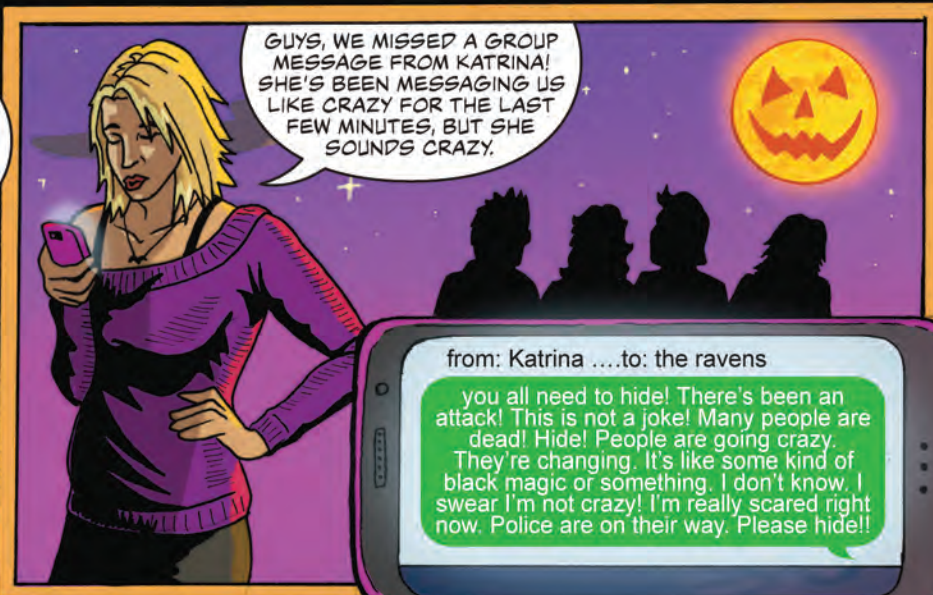
NANCY, WHERE'S KAT?

SHE'S WAITING FOR US UP BY... THE GATES!

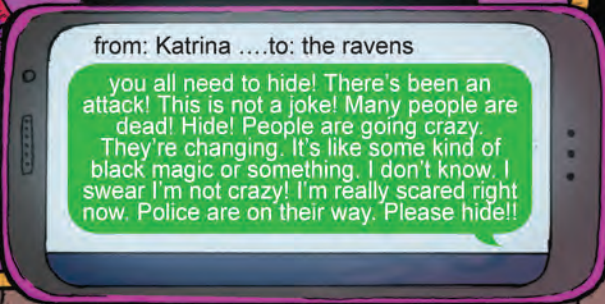
I DON'T LIKE THIS. SOMEBODY CALL HER AND MAKE SURE SHE'S OKAY.



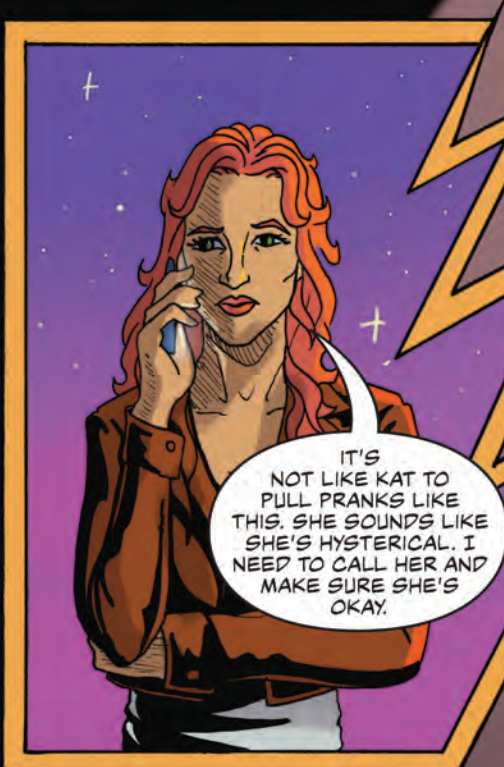
I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING RIGHT NOW. WE NEED TO FIND KAT AND MAKE SURE SHE'S ALRIGHT. LET'S START HEADING BACK.



GUYS, WE MISSED A GROUP MESSAGE FROM KATRINA! SHE'S BEEN MESSAGING US LIKE CRAZY FOR THE LAST FEW MINUTES, BUT SHE SOUNDS CRAZY.



from: Katrina ....to: the ravens  
you all need to hide! There's been an attack! This is not a joke! Many people are dead! Hide! People are going crazy. They're changing. It's like some kind of black magic or something. I don't know. I swear I'm not crazy! I'm really scared right now. Police are on their way. Please hide!!



IT'S NOT LIKE KAT TO PULL PRANKS LIKE THIS. SHE SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S HYSTERICAL. I NEED TO CALL HER AND MAKE SURE SHE'S OKAY.



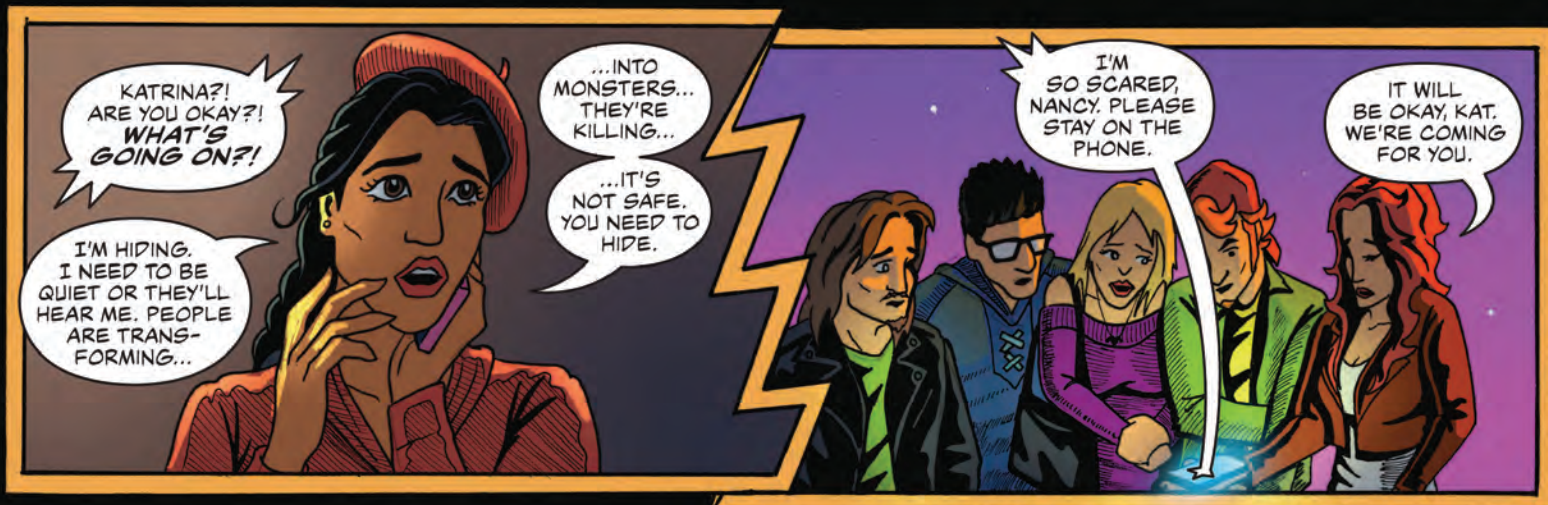
!GASP!  
OH, NO!

RING

RING

RING

NO! QUIET! SILENCE IT! QUICKLY! THEY'LL HEAR!





AT  
LONG LAST!

BEHOLD!  
THE SHADOW  
IN THE DARKNESS! THE  
RULER OF THE NIGHT! THE  
SCOURGE OF SACRED  
SAMHAIN! THE HARVESTER  
OF SOULS! ALL HAIL  
**LORD HALLOW'EN!!!**

**AAAAGH!**  
THEY'RE KILLING ME!  
THEY'RE KILLING  
MEEEE!!!