



Joshua Hale Fialkov • Rahsan Ekedal

ECHOES™



Digital
Edition

www.topcow.com



E. Ekedal

Previously in...

ECHOES™

Brian Cohn's schizophrenic Alzheimer's-ridden father confessed on his death bed to being a prolific serial murderer.

He'd kidnap little girls and turn them into tiny stitchwork dolls, using their bodies and clothes for material.

Brian, suffering from the same schizophrenia as his father, becomes convinced that the serial killer gene may be inside him, too.



He receives a package containing a new doll, one that looks just like a little girl that he saw on the playground...



But he doesn't remember blacking out, or losing time or...how he could have done...

Nowhere to turn, he calls the detective in charge of the case to confess to his supposed crime, except...



Caught in his lies, Brian's schizophrenia out of control...



...he begins to hallucinate the little girl and all of his father's victims as he finds more and more evidence of his crimes.

Evidence, Brian discovers that was planted by the very detective Brian had turned to for help.



Now, he's wanted for murder, is having a mental breakdown, and has delivered himself into the hands of the man who's trying to pin it all on him.



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Minotaur Press: a Top Cow Productions company

Echoes created by:

Joshua Hale Fialkov

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for this edition cover by:

Rahsan Ekedal & Eko Puteh of IFS

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I'M IN THE MONROEVILLE POLICE STATION SITTING WITH OFFICER STEVE DAVIS GOING OVER MY STORY FOR THE TENTH TIME.



I'M WITH MY FATHER, WAITING FOR HIM TO DIE, WHILE ANOTHER MAN BEHIND ME MUTTERS TO HIS SON.



NOW I'M STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE THAT STARTED IT ALL FIGURING OUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME.















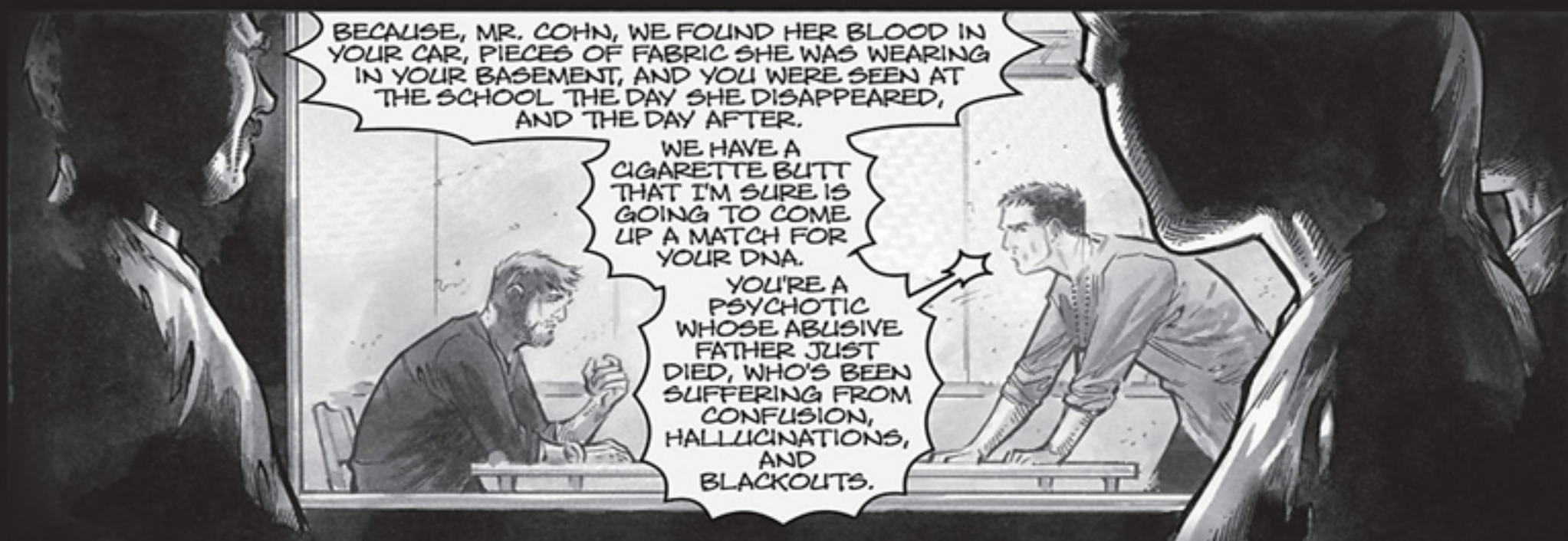


ARE YOU GOING TO ARREST HIM?

NO.



WHY NOT?



BECAUSE, MR. COHN, WE FOUND HER BLOOD IN YOUR CAR, PIECES OF FABRIC SHE WAS WEARING IN YOUR BASEMENT, AND YOU WERE SEEN AT THE SCHOOL THE DAY SHE DISAPPEARED, AND THE DAY AFTER.

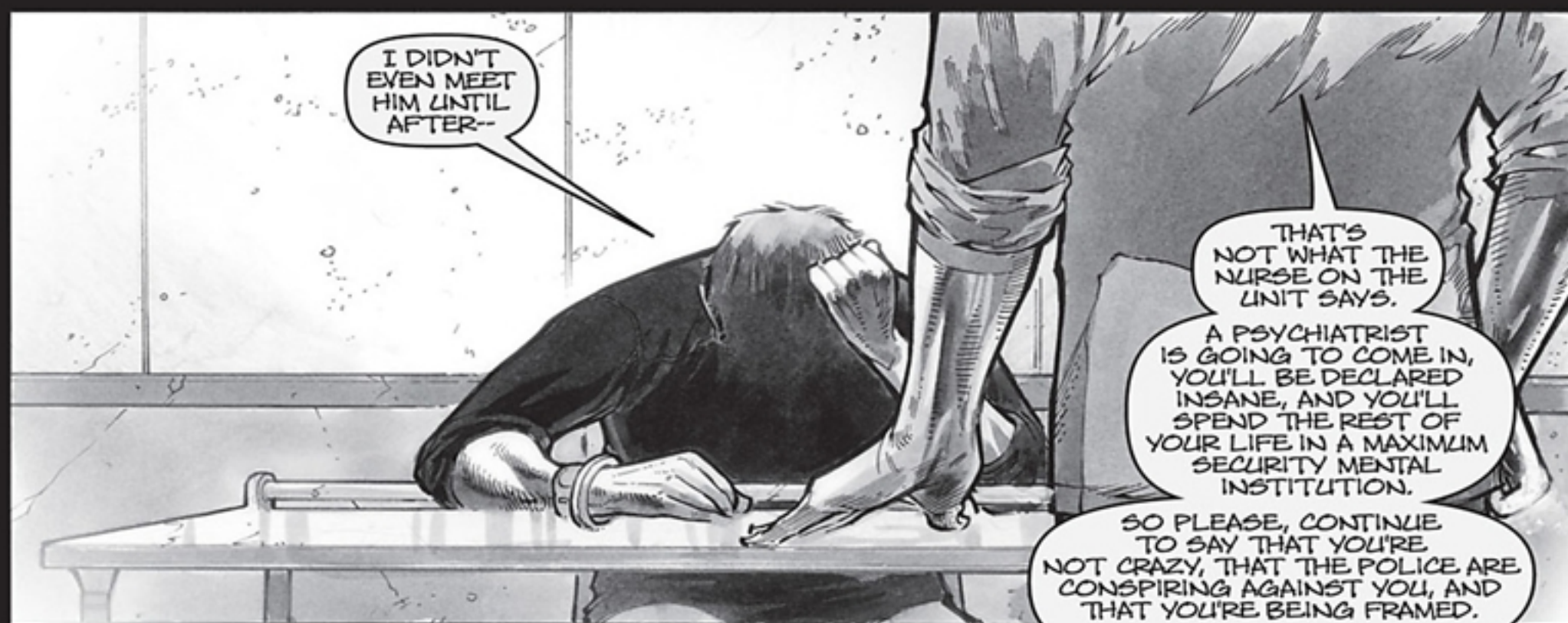
WE HAVE A CIGARETTE BUTT THAT I'M SURE IS GOING TO COME UP A MATCH FOR YOUR DNA.

YOU'RE A PSYCHOTIC WHOSE ABUSIVE FATHER JUST DIED, WHO'S BEEN SUFFERING FROM CONFUSION, HALLUCINATIONS, AND BLACKOUTS.



DETECTIVE ROBERT NEVILLE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A TWENTY YEAR VETERAN, A DECORATED POLICE OFFICER WHO I'VE KNOWN PERSONALLY SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.

A MAN YOU MET WHILE YOUR FATHERS' DIED SIDE BY SIDE, AND WHO GAVE YOU HIS BUSINESS CARD.



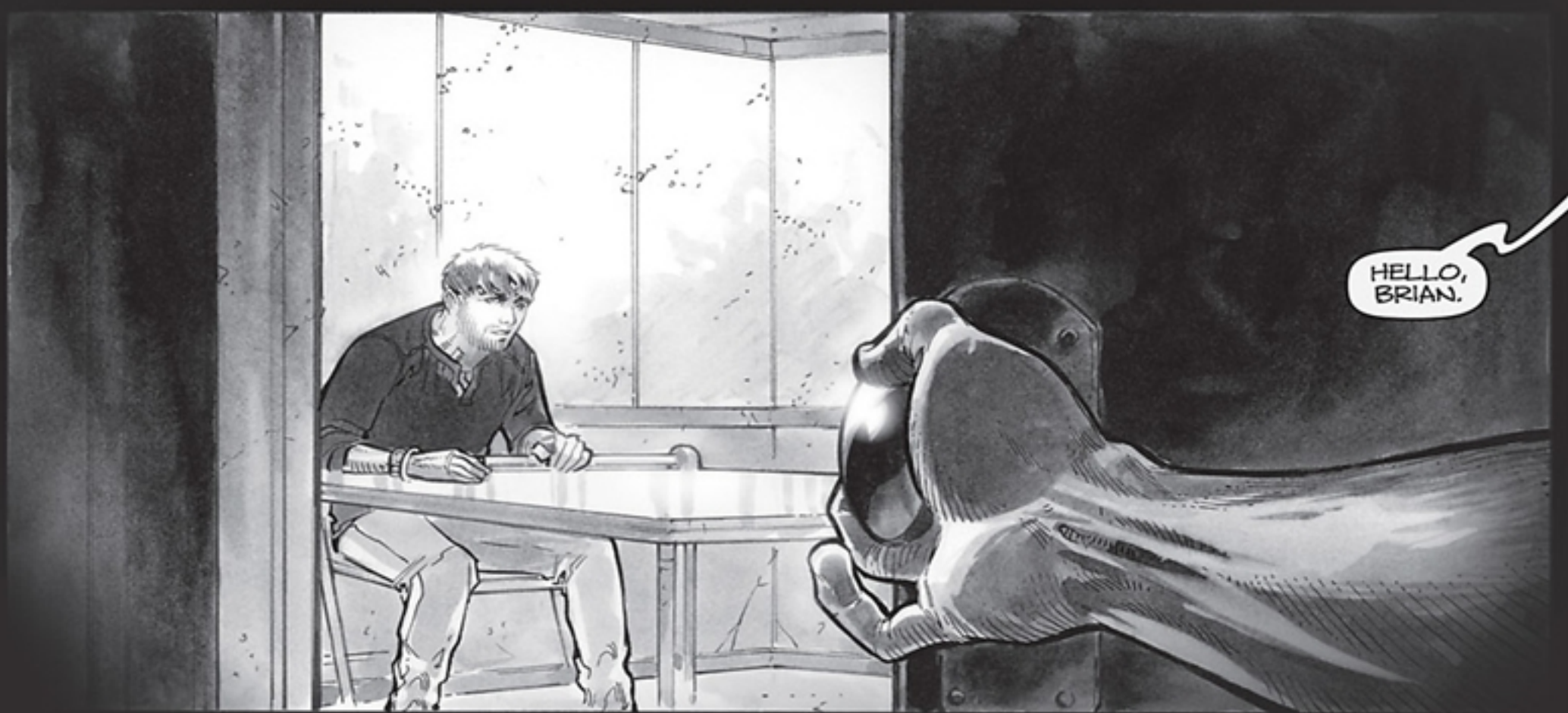
I DIDN'T EVEN MEET HIM UNTIL AFTER--

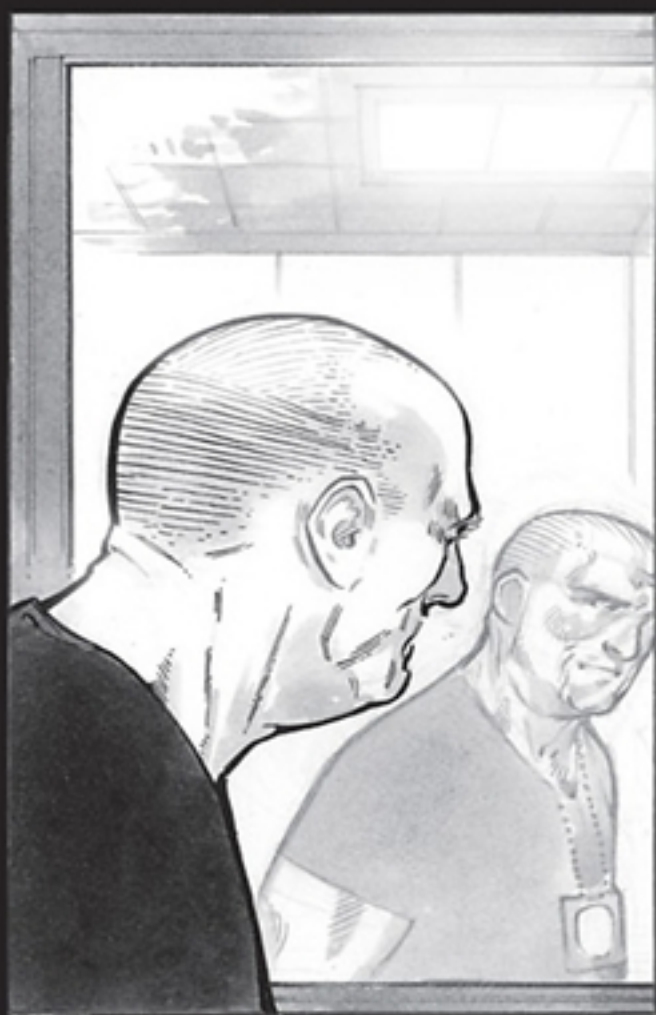
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE NURSE ON THE UNIT SAYS.

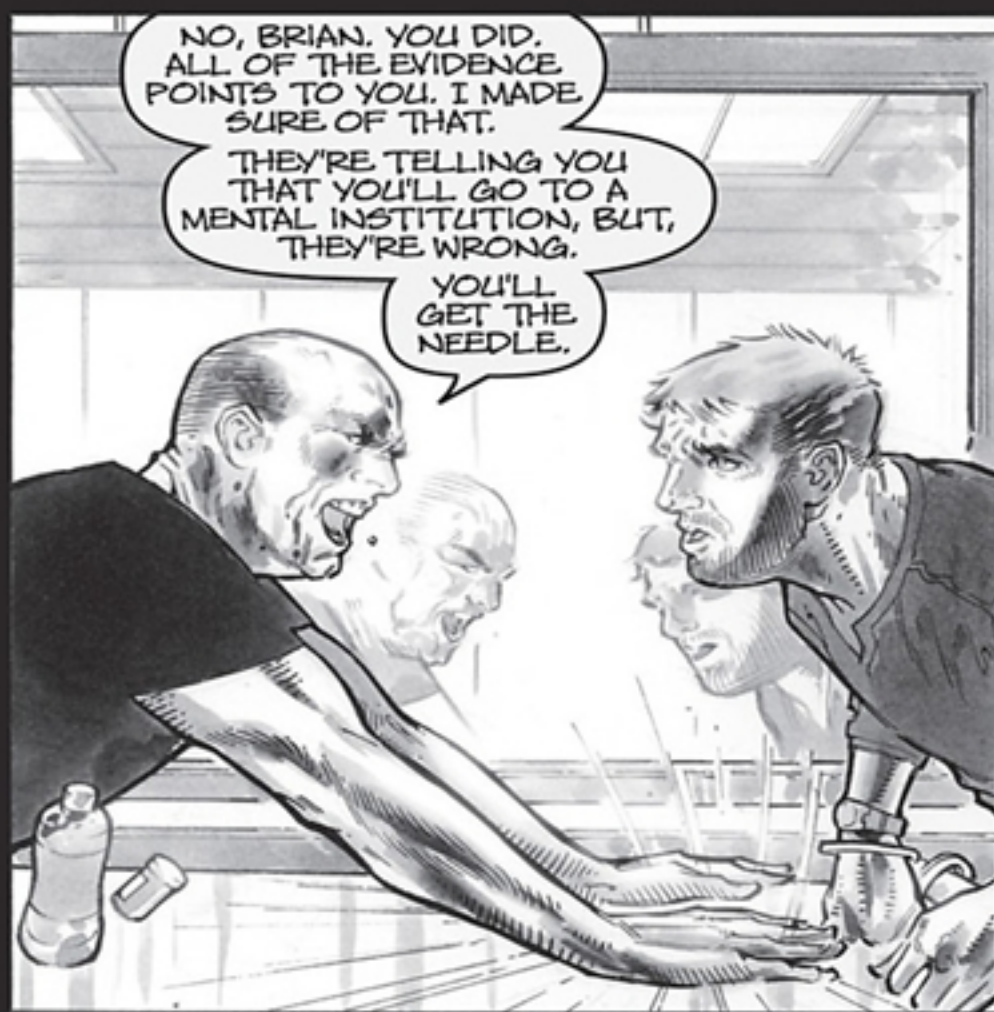
A PSYCHIATRIST IS GOING TO COME IN, YOU'LL BE DECLARED INSANE, AND YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY MENTAL INSTITUTION.


SO PLEASE, CONTINUE TO SAY THAT YOU'RE NOT CRAZY, THAT THE POLICE ARE CONSPIRING AGAINST YOU, AND THAT YOU'RE BEING FRAMED.












I'M SORRY
THAT YOUR FATHER
HEARD WHAT MY
FATHER SAID. EVEN
SORRIER THAT HE
REPEATED IT BACK
TO YOU.

ECHOLALIA.
ALZHEIMERS
PATIENTS GET A
SENTENCE OR
TWO TRAPPED
IN THEIR HEADS,
AND THEY JUST
CAN'T STOP
SAYING IT.

MY DAD
MUST'VE
CONFERSED SO
MANY TIMES
THAT YOUR POP
CAUGHT THE
BUG.



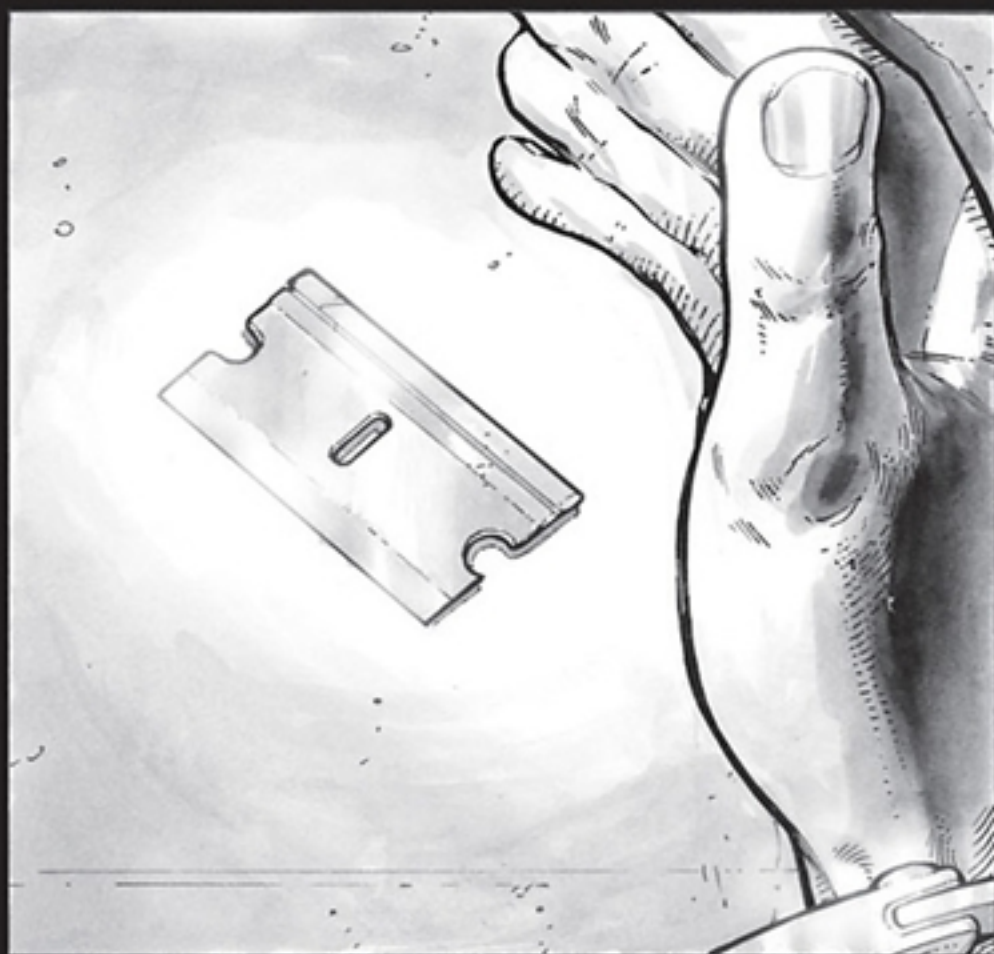
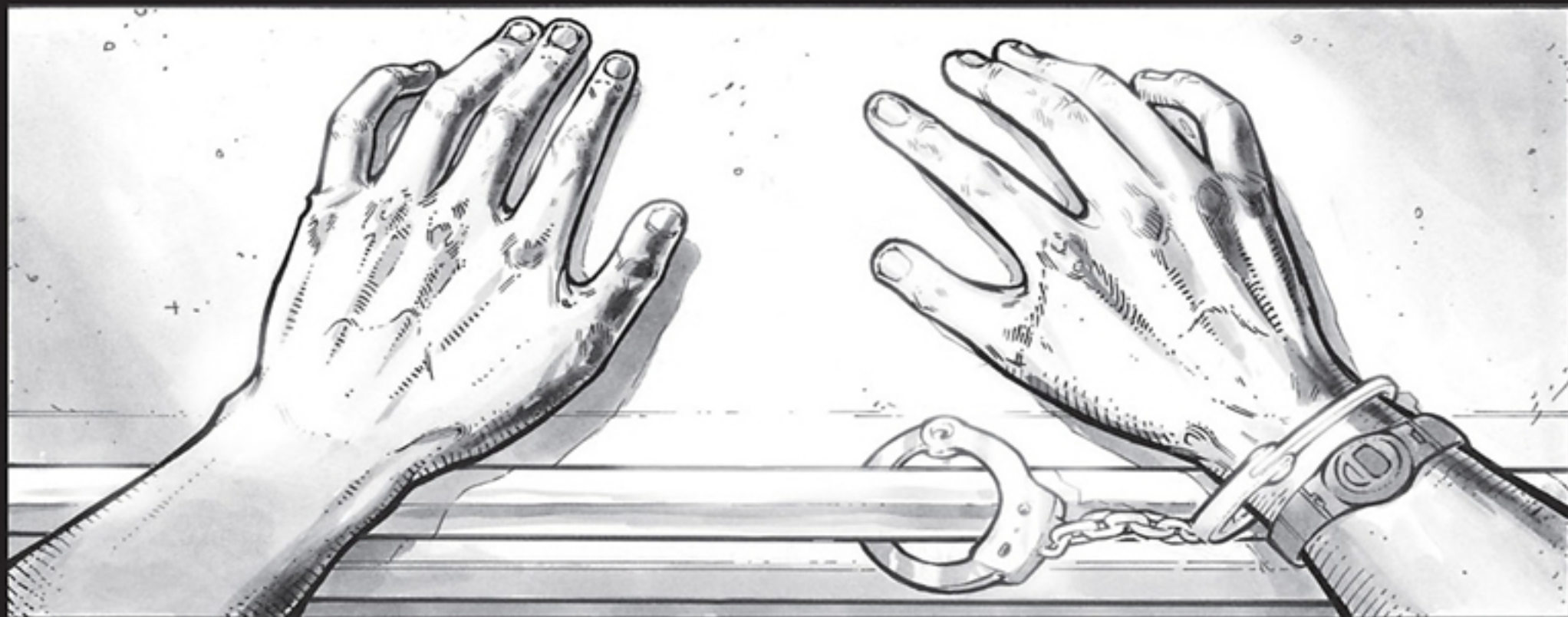
IF ONLY
CRAZY CHRIS
WASN'T IN
THE HOSPITAL
THAT NIGHT,
RIGHT?
HANDS
ON THE
TABLE.

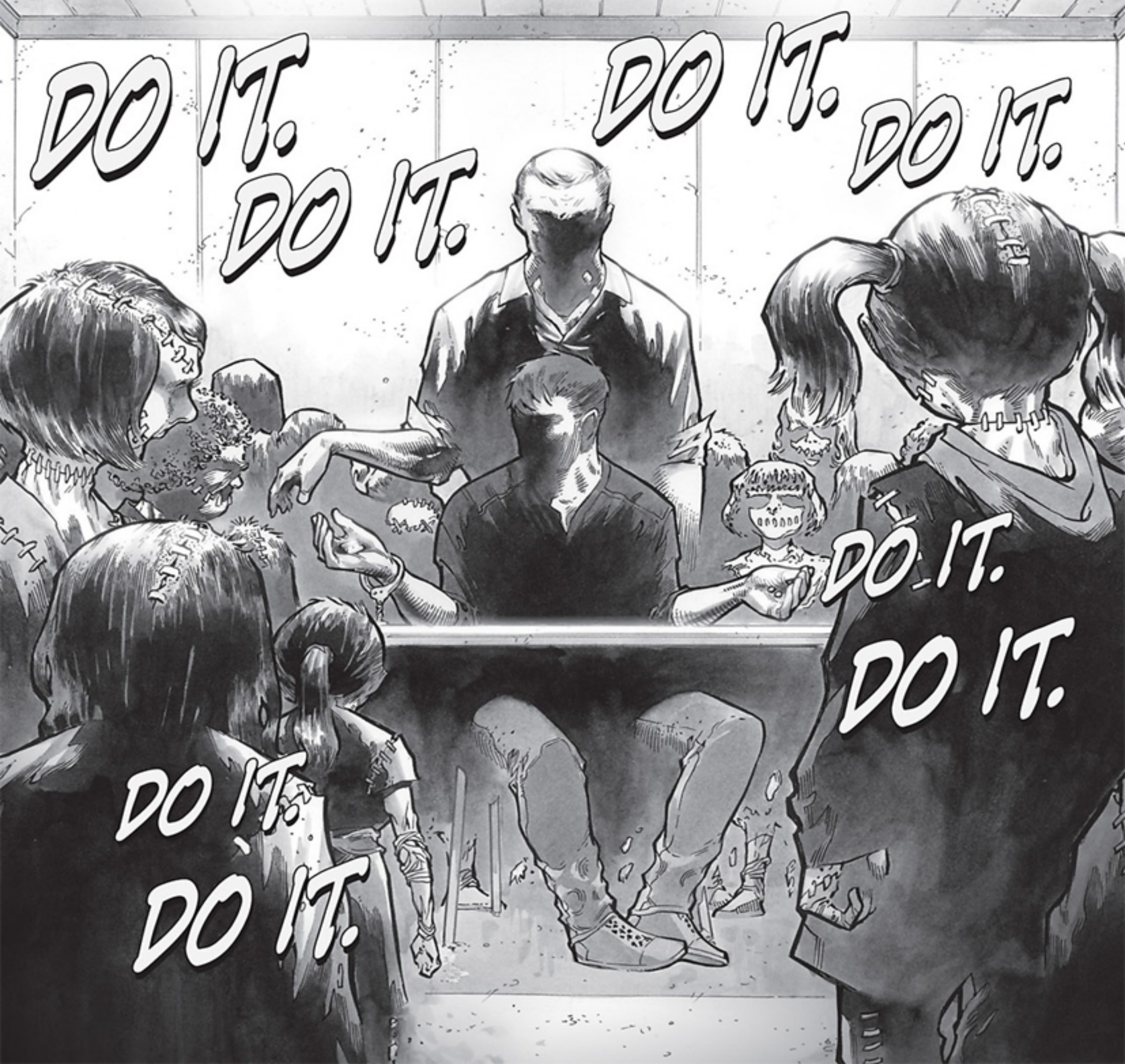


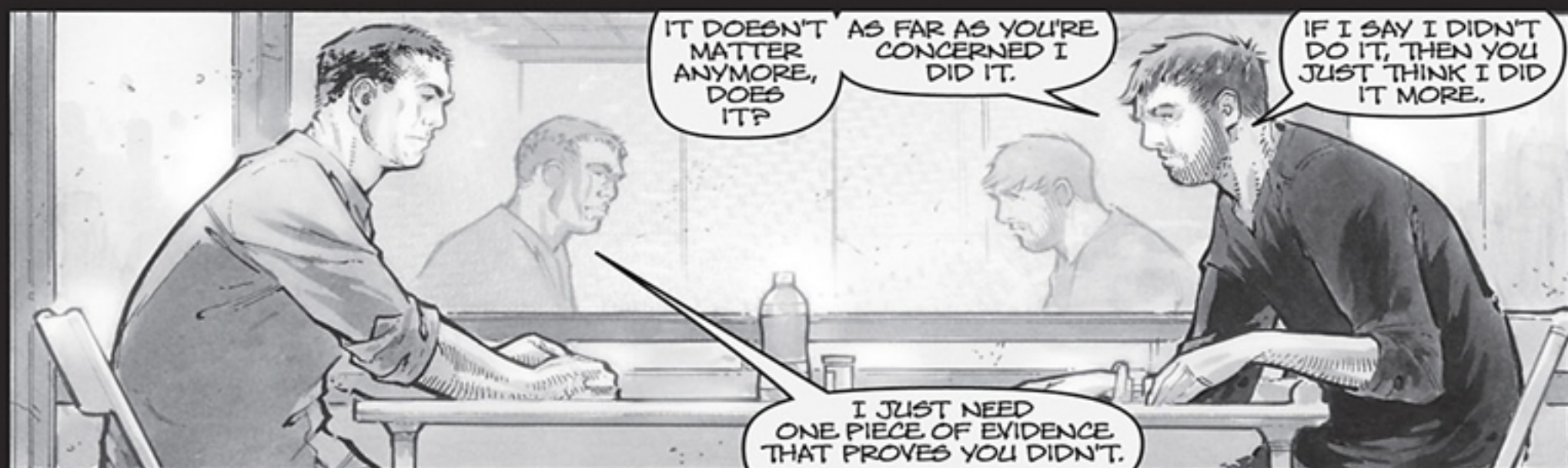
--OD HAVE
MERCY ON
YOUR SOUL,
MR. COHN.

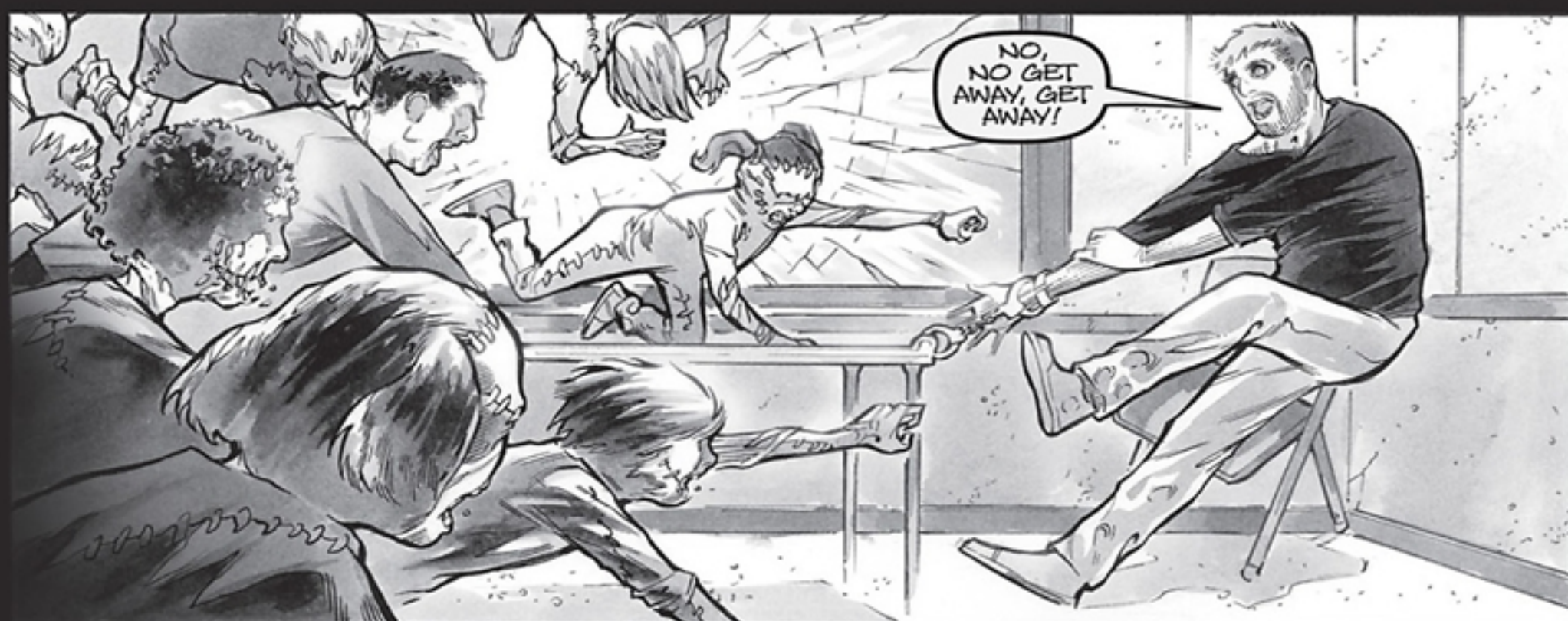
YOU CAN'T
DO THIS TO ME.
I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING!

CLICK









"MRS. COHN, YOUR
HUSBAND'S BEEN
TAKEN AWAY.

"TAKEN AWAY
WHERE?"

"DURING A BREAK IN
THE INTERROGATION
HE BEGAN TO PANIC...
HE'S HAVING A
PSYCHOTIC EPISODE.

"NO HE..."

"WE FOUND A RAZOR
BLADE IN THE ROOM,
AND HE REFUSED TO
TAKE HIS MEDICATION.

"NO, THAT...
IT CAN'T..."

"DO YOU HAVE A
GOOD LAWYER?"





I'M IN A BED ON THE
EIGHTH FLOOR OF
FORBES.

WAITING FOR SOMEONE
TO WAKE ME UP FROM
MY NIGHTMARE.



I'M AT HOME, HOLDING MY
WIFE, FEELING THE SPLASH
AS HER WATER BREAKS.

I'M RUSHING HER
TO THE HOSPITAL...



I'M HOLDING HER HAND
AS SHE DELIVERS
OUR BABY BOY INTO
THE WORLD.





END ECHOES CHAPTER FIVE.
END ECHOES.

WRITTEN AND CREATED BY: JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV

ART BY: RAHSAN EKEDAL

LETTERED BY: TROY PETERI

EDITORS: FILIP SABLIK & PHIL SMITH

ECHOES™

"THE END"

I told you it wasn't going to end well for Brian. Or maybe I didn't, but you probably could've guessed, right? After doing two books with what were upbeat downer endings, (*Elk's Run* and *Tumor*), I figured it was time to stop jerking people around and just give them an ending so bathed in misery and sadness and hopelessness that I crushed their tiny spirit.

That's probably not true. What I wanted was to do something that these stories never have. A real ending. The fact is that the scariest thing in the world isn't not knowing whether or not you did a crime. No, it's being chained to a bed for the rest of your life (unless they stick a needle in your arm) for a crime you DIDN'T commit.

Or did he?

I've had quite a few people who read the book in it's entirety early on come back and ask me if he did it or not. If everything was a dream. If in fact the whole book is a dream. Well, I learned from stacks of interviews by David Lynch and-

Fuck it. Of course he didn't do it. Of course he was framed. Of course he's going to spend his life chained to a bed, drugged out of his mind, softly hallucinating his father sitting over him, while his wife lives out her days as a single mom with a kid who'll one day ask "Where's daddy?"

Unless he didn't. Unless he didn't not do it, that is. Unless he did do it. Unless he never did anything, save be crazy and locked up in that institution Nicole mentions way back in issue 2. Unless...

Maybe we oughta save that for ECHOES 2: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO.

I joke, but, there is an idea for a sequel that's been rattling around in my head since starting on the book, that's a very, very different book about these very same characters, and many of the same themes. But that brings us back around to you guys.

If you've enjoyed *Echoes*, and if you haven't, why are you reading this note? Is it just to piss yourself off some more? Anyways, assuming you did enjoy the book, even though this issue completes it, I come to you, hat in hand, and beg you, please TELL PEOPLE. Shout from rooftops, scream it in the streets. Or, y'know, the modern day equivalent, which is to Tweet and Facebook and Goodreads and Amazon, etc. We're working on what's sure to be a beautiful collection of the whole series, and, I've heard it makes an excellent mid-summer solstice gift for the potential serial killers or psychologically traumatized in your family.

Books like *Echoes* are not done for money. They're done because each member of this team found something in this little story to be passionate about, and, to share that passion with the other creators and with you, our readers. That being said, I've got a kid to feed and Rahsan can't survive without the fanciest of duds. Don't get me started on Top Cow Publisher Filip Sablik and his ever expanding collection of hummels.

So, y'know, please, buy the collection. As a gift, as something to share with your loved ones. As a symbol that you want comics that aren't mass produced or planned by committees, but made by passionate, committed creators who want nothing more than to make you wet your pants. If you're one of those sado-masochistic ones who hated it but can't stop reading, buy it to remind you how much better at each of our jobs you would be if only you had enough time between all that being a jerk online and playing Xbox.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of my collaborators, including the amazingly talented Rahsan Ekedal, who put more care and love into every page than I thought possible. Filip Sablik over at Top Cow for his commitment to making the best comics and helping to make them even better. Phil Smith and Troy Peteri for their beautiful handcrafted contributions on the design, editorial, and lettering fronts. Our tremendously talented colorists for the beautiful covers, and to Atom Freeman and Christine Dinh who busted their asses telling a generally disinterested industry about our book. Special thanks to Matt Hawkins for letting us do the book in the first place. Big gratitude to Phil Hester, Tony Fleecs, and Chris Ryder for reading the book as it was going, and giving me some amazing and thoughtful feedback. As always, I couldn't do even a third of what I do without my amazing, beautiful, and talented wife Christina, and our stunning little baby girl, Gable.

And finally, I dedicate this book to my dad. He did the best he could, and as I'm not a serial killer, I'd guess that was probably enough.

Be seeing you.
Joshua Hale Fialkov
North Hollywood, CA

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A massive thank you to Josh for his continuing support, collaboration, and faith. Thanks also to Filip, Phil, Troy, and the entire Top Cow team for their talent and hard work. And I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my partner, Shannon, whose constant support and assistance, both personal and creative, makes everything possible.

Rahsan Ekedal
Los Angeles, CA

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for exclusive behind the scenes content.

ECHOES™

ECHOES by Joshua Hale Fialkov and Rahsan Ekedal is one of those special creative endeavors you feel lucky to be part of. We felt strongly that it deserved a special presentation for the collected edition, which you've enjoyed thus far. An immense amount of work, thought, and love was poured into this project. Joshua and Rahsan have decided to share some behind-the-scenes extras to show their process.

- Filip Sablik
Publisher, Top Cow Productions, Inc.

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