

OSAJYEFO • SMITH 3

BLACK MASK



CHAPTER

1

# BLACK DEVIL'S DYE



AYALA  
KANGAS  
LITT  
SOZO  
SHARPE

OSAJYEFO • SMITH 3

# BLACK DEVIL'S DYE



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**BLACK MASK**



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THE NEXT BIG THING IS CALLED VANTA,  
AND WORD ON THE STREET IS IT'S  
HOTTER THAN EX AND HALF THE PRICE.



EFFECTS INCLUDE: EUPHORIA,  
FEELINGS OF INVINCIBILITY, AND  
A HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY  
TO PLEASURE.



SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE:  
CONFUSION, LOST TIME,  
HEADACHES, AND DRY MOUTH.



THERE IS  
SOME SMALL  
PRINT, THOUGH.



MIND YOU, IT SEEMS TO ONLY APPLY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE...SPECIAL.



GOOD LOOKIN' OUT, MANNY. I'LL HIT YOU WITH THE REST'A WHAT I OWE NEXT TIME, A'IGHT?



MAKE SURE THAT FOOL GETS OUT OF HERE? I'M TIRED OF HIM DROOLIN' ON THE COUCHES, MAN.

Mhm.



MMM. DAMN. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

I-I'M LOOKING FOR VANTA. YOU GOT ANY?



->TSK-< YEAH, I GOT SOME.

I COULD GIVE YOU THE **PRETTY GIRL** DISCOUNT IF YOU LIKE, YEAH?



THANKS, BUT I GOT THE **CASH**.

PSSST, WHATEVER YOU SAY.

YOU LOOK LIKE A **PARTY GIRL**. WE'LL SEE HOW IT IS WHEN YOU NEED MORE, RIGHT?



Y-YO MANNY, YOU GOT **ANYMORE** OF THAT NEW SHIT? I'M **HURTING**, MAN.

YO FRED, TAKE CARE OF THIS **MESS**.



HEY! WHAT THE F--

GIMME THAT, BITCH! I NEED IT!

RRRRRRRIIPPP



W-WHA--

WHAT WAS IN THERE?!



THE FUCK?!

YOU ONE OF THEM?!



--NMM--  
--OH GOD!

THE FUCK YOU DO TO ME?!



FRED, THE FUCK MAN! GET IN HERE!





OH GOD,  
THEY'RE  
COMING!



**CLACK**  
**CLACK**



⇒NGH←



OH THANK  
GOD, JUST  
KNOCKED  
OUT.  
  
DAMN, MY  
POWERS ARE FREAKING  
OUT RIGHT NOW...WHAT  
IS GOING ON?



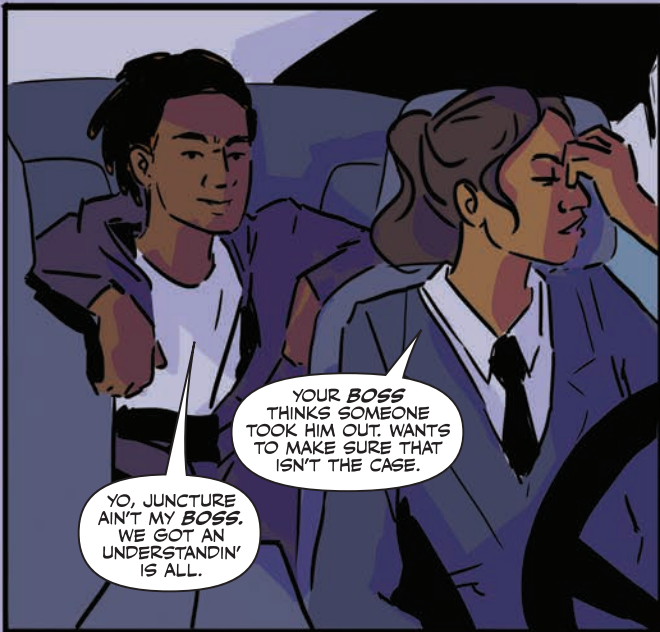
NOW,  
WHERE DID  
MANNY...



...OH  
GOD...

THE BRONX, NEW YORK

"WAIT, SO LIKE, WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT THIS DUDE AGAIN?"



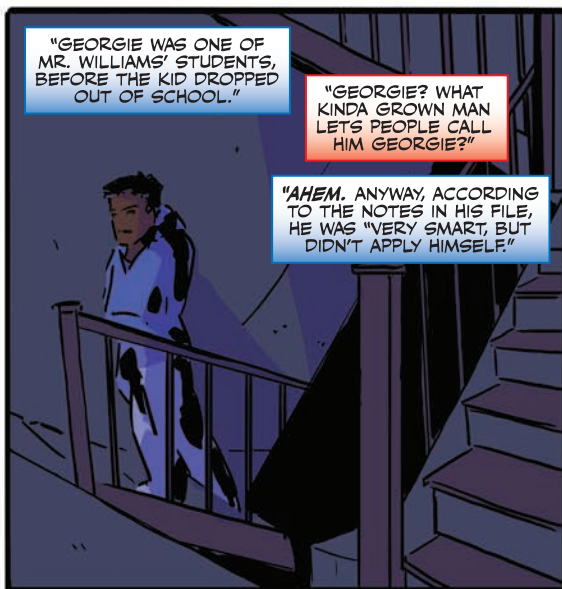


YEAH YEAH, HE IS A GOOD DUDE. I MEANT, WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT HIM.



"PUT YOUR FINGER DOWN AND STOP ACTIN' LIKE A TOURIST."

"THAT'S GEORGIE WATTS."



"GEORGIE WAS ONE OF MR. WILLIAMS' STUDENTS, BEFORE THE KID DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL."

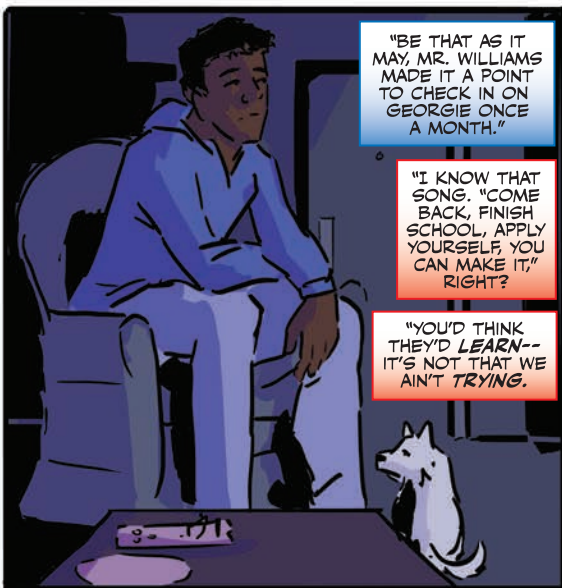
"GEORGIE? WHAT KINDA GROWN MAN LETS PEOPLE CALL HIM GEORGIE?"

"AHEM. ANYWAY, ACCORDING TO THE NOTES IN HIS FILE, HE WAS 'VERY SMART, BUT DIDN'T APPLY HIMSELF.'"



"THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY WHEN THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH US."

SHIT!



"BE THAT AS IT MAY, MR. WILLIAMS MADE IT A POINT TO CHECK IN ON GEORGIE ONCE A MONTH."

"I KNOW THAT SONG. 'COME BACK, FINISH SCHOOL, APPLY YOURSELF, YOU CAN MAKE IT,' RIGHT?"

"YOU'D THINK THEY'D LEARN-- IT'S NOT THAT WE AIN'T TRYING."



"IT'S THAT NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH."



RUFF!  
RUFF!  
RUFF!  
RUFF!

WHOO,  
TOO SLOW  
SUCCA!

YO, CHILL  
HOMIE!

GET  
THE FUCK  
OUTTA MY  
HOUSE!

CRACK!

WHOA!

BLAM!







ARE YOU OKAY? THAT WAS BRUTAL!

RELAX, HE GRAZED ME.



IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY.

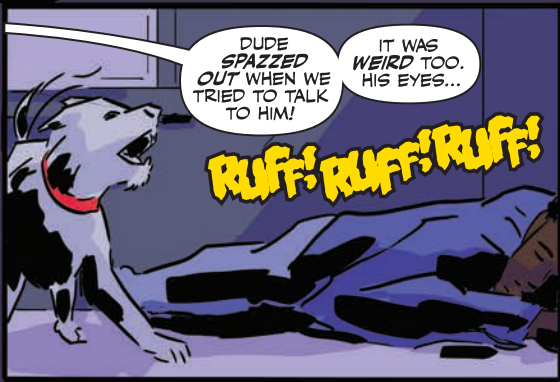


INDIGO, HEY, UH, HOW YOU BEEN? YOU DO SOMETHING NEW WITH YOUR HAIR?



FOOL, PLEASE. YOU SAW ME LIKE A WEEK AGO.

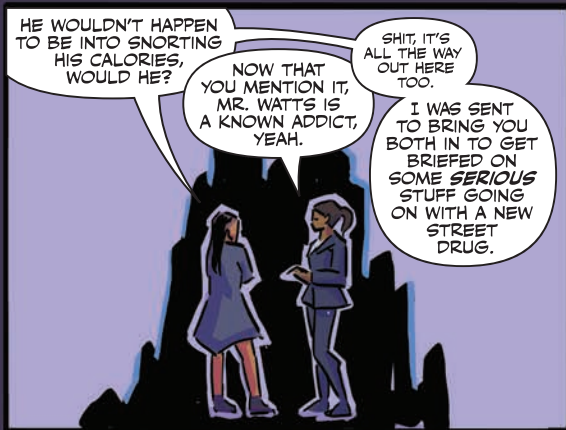
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?



DUDE SPAZZED OUT WHEN WE TRIED TO TALK TO HIM!

IT WAS WEIRD TOO. HIS EYES...

**RUFF! RUFF! RUFF!**



HE WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE INTO SNORTING HIS CALORIES, WOULD HE?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MR. WATTS IS A KNOWN ADDICT, YEAH.

SHIT, IT'S ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TOO.

I WAS SENT TO BRING YOU BOTH IN TO GET BRIEFED ON SOME SERIOUS STUFF GOING ON WITH A NEW STREET DRUG.



WHAT ABOUT HIM? I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.



WE'LL SEND A MEDICAL TEAM. HE SHOULD BE OKAY UNTIL THEN.

--STILL THINK IT'S **FUCKED UP** WE LEFT THAT DUDE KNOCKED OUT IN HIS LIVING ROOM.

WHAT IF HE **PUKES** AND **CHOKES** ON IT?

YOUR **CONCERN** IS NOTED, X. TRUST THAT WE HAVE HIM COVERED, AND LET DR. PISTORUIS-QUAIFE BRING YOU UP TO SPEED.

WHY YOU ALWAYS SAY HER NAME LIKE THAT?

WE **KNOW** WHO SHE IS...

YOU WERE SAYING, DOCTOR? **VANTA?**

YES, **VANTA**. A NEW **PARTY DRUG** TO HIT THE STREETS. IT FIRST PINGED OUR RADAR ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO.

WE THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT AT FIRST, BUT THEN THERE WERE... **INCIDENTS**.

BLACK PEOPLE--**EMPOWERED** BLACK PEOPLE--**LOSING** CONTROL. **DESTROYING** PROPERTY, **HURTING** PEOPLE.

THERE HAVE EVEN BEEN SOME **DEATHS**.

FOR MOST PEOPLE, THE DRUG ACTS SIMILARLY TO CRACK COCAINE--**EUPHORIA**, **LOSS** OF TIME, **INTENSE** EMOTIONS, **SOMETIMES** TEMPORARY INVULNERABILITY.

THE ADVANTAGE, SO FAR AS THERE IS ONE, IS THAT THE TRANSITION FROM INTOXICATED TO SOBER IS **SMOOTH**, ALMOST LIKE TURNING ON A **LIGHT SWITCH**.



THE DRUG IS PROCESSED BY THE SYSTEM FAIRLY QUICKLY, AS FAR AS CHEMICALS IN THE BODY ARE CONCERNED. IT DOESN'T SHOW UP IN BLOOD WORK AFTER THE HIGH WEARS OFF.

A'IGHT, SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE DOING A REAL SHITTY JOB OF MAKING THIS SOUND *BAD*, DOC.

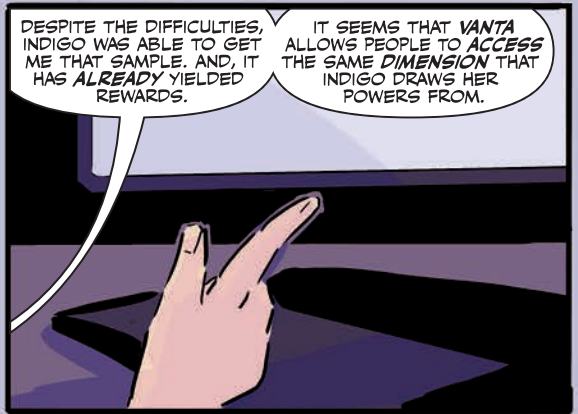


IN *EMPOWERED* BLACK PEOPLE, HOWEVER, SOMETHING *DIFFERENT* OCCURS.

THE THRESHOLD IS DIFFERENT WITH EACH RECORDED CASE, BUT ONCE THERE IS ENOUGH OF THE DRUG IN THEIR SYSTEM, THEY HAVE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PTSD-LIKE BREAK WITH REALITY.



BECAUSE IT DISAPPEARS FROM THE BODY SO QUICKLY, WE HAD TO GET A SAMPLE OF THE DRUG ITSELF SO THAT DR. PISTORIUS-QUAIFE COULD STUDY IT FURTHER.



DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES, INDIGO WAS ABLE TO GET ME THAT SAMPLE. AND, IT HAS *ALREADY* YIELDED REWARDS.

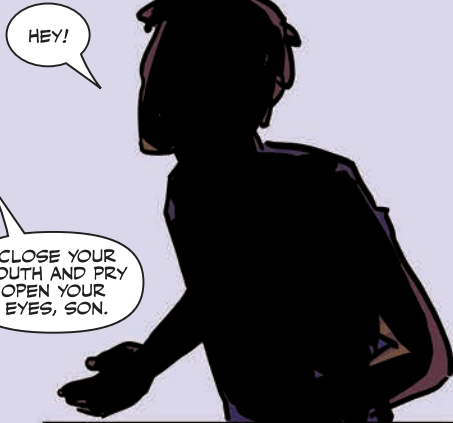
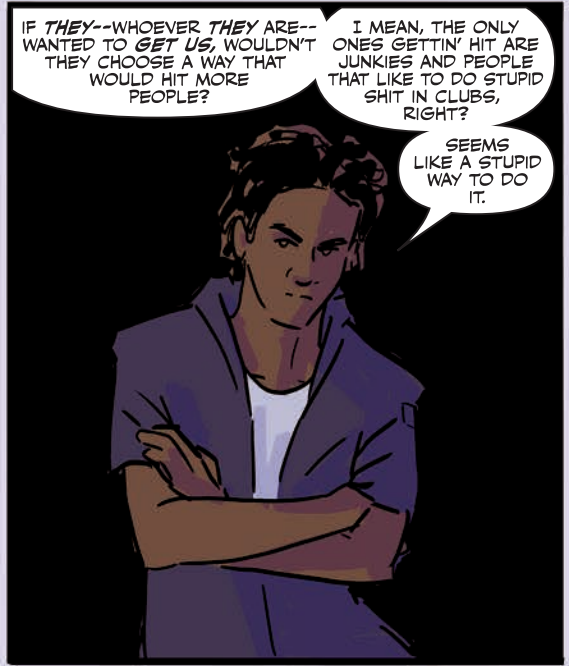
IT SEEMS THAT VANTA ALLOWS PEOPLE TO *ACCESS* THE SAME *DIMENSION* THAT INDIGO DRAWS HER POWERS FROM.

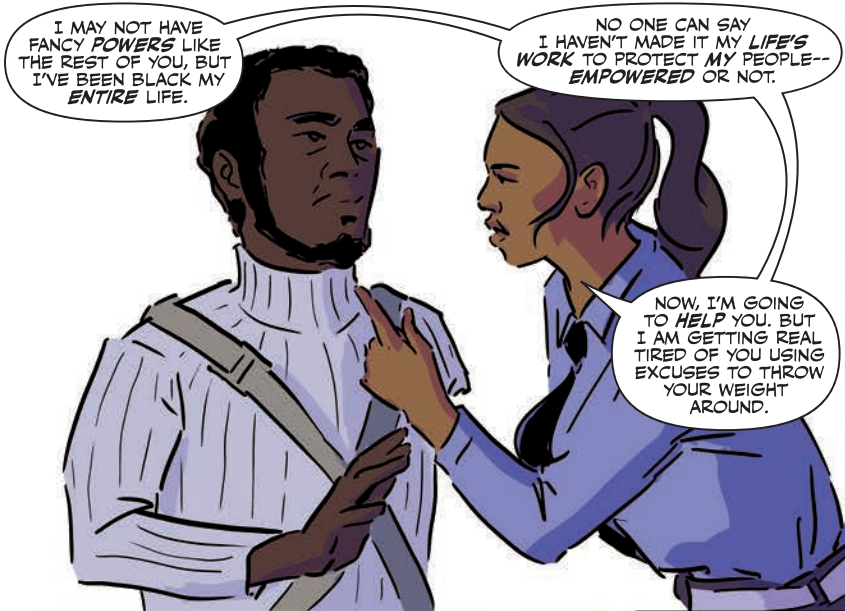


THEY BECOME *CONDUITS*, LIKE HER. EXCEPT THEY AREN'T *SUPPOSED* TO BE, AND SO IT LEADS TO MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF STRESS ON THEIR MINDS, AND BODIES.



LIKE A PANIC ATTACK ON STEROIDS.





LOOKIN'  
GO-OD, GREEN,  
BIG AND  
STRO-ONG.

I'MMA KEEP  
SINGIN' THIS SONG,  
SO YOU KEEP ON  
KEEPIN' ON!





YOU... YOU THAT CREW PEOPLE BE *WHISPERIN'* ABOUT THEM ANTI-SPOOK SPOOKS!



YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WE BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE WE NEED *YOUR HELP*, TREES.



WHATCHU NEED FROM AN OLD JAILBIRD LIKE ME? WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY HELP *YOU* WITH?

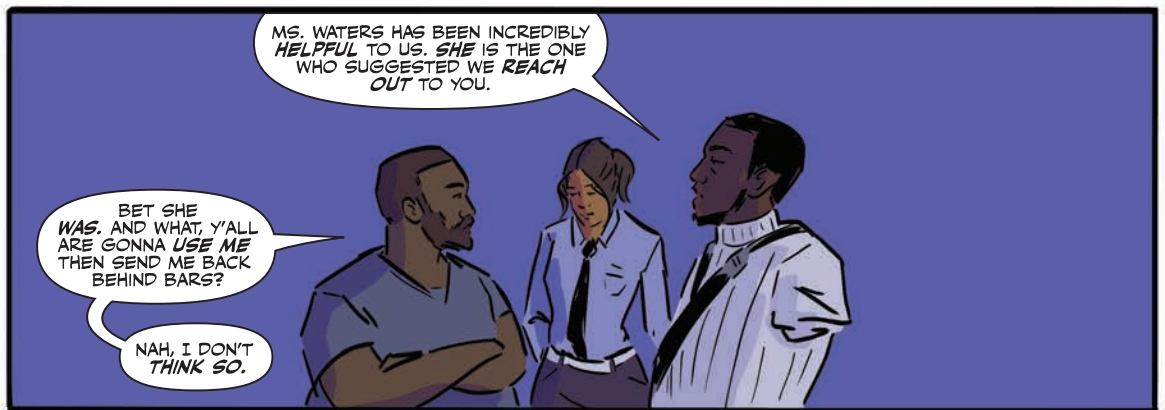


NOBODY KNOWS SECRETS LIKE *YOU*. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO *FIND* SOMEONE, TREES.



AW *HELL* NAH, NOT *THIS BITCH!* Y'ALL KNOW SHE A DAMN *COP?* Y'ALL WORKIN' WITH *PIGS?*

I USED TO BE HER C.I., YOU KNOW THAT? SECOND I GOT CAUGHT, THOUGH, BITCH LEFT ME HUNG OUT TO DRY!





"--YOU AIN'T GONNA LIKE IT."

Yooooo!

THIS THE HOTTEST CLUB ON THE STREETS!



SO MANY FINE FEMALES OUT HERE!

GROSS.

WHATEVER, YOU ALLERGIC TO FUN.



WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE THE SHIT THAT'S HURTING PEOPLE COMES FROM.

TRY AND KEEP THAT IN MIND AS YOU'RE WINDIN' N' GRINDIN' AND ACTING LIKE YOU'RE NEW?

JUST SAYIN', DAMN...



EYE ON THE PRIZE, FOOL.



YOU LOOK FAMILIAR.

-GIGGLE- I WISH, RIGHT? FIRST TIME HERE. HEARD THIS IS THE REAL PARTY SPOT!

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

SHUT UP, IDIOT!





YOU DON'T LOOK 21.

WHAT CAN I SAY, BLACK DON'T CRACK RIGHT? JUST LOOKIT SADE.

DAMN GIRL, CLEARLY.



WHAT'RE YOU, DOMINICAN?

→SIGH← NO, BLACK AND WHITE. BUT I GET THAT A LOT.

YEAH, THAT'S A COMPLIMENT, GIRL. YOU GOT A LOT OF FLAVOR.



THANKS.

YOU HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, NOW.

SHOT DO-OWN!  
HAAA



YOU AIN'T LOOK OLD ENOUGH TO BE IN HERE, BOY. ROLL OUT BEFORE WE GOT TROUBLE.

BUT, YOU LET HER THROUGH, AND WE'RE THE SAME AGE! RIGHT, SELENA?



YOU KNOW THIS DUDE?

THAT FOOL? HE WAS CAUSING TROUBLE IN THE LINE. AND I THINK HIS CHAIN'S FAKE.

EVERY-ONE UNDER 20 LOOKS THE SAME TO ME.



THAT'S FUCKING ICE COLD Y'ALL!

HIT THE ROAD, JACK.

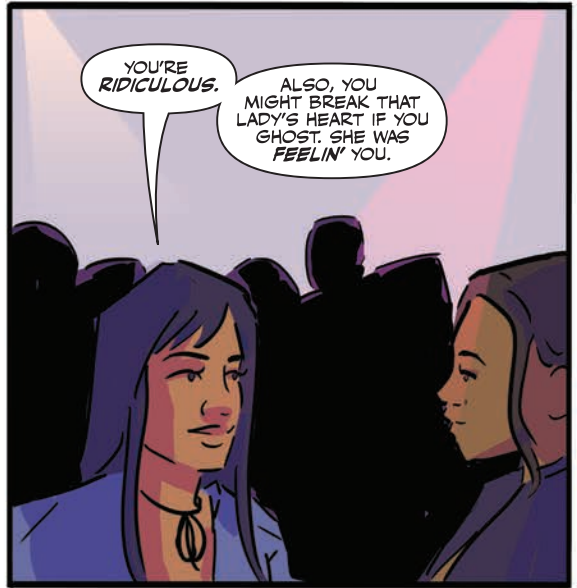
FINE! WHATEVER! I DON'T EVEN WANNA COME IN THIS BUSTED ASS CLUB ANYWAY!





THAT WAS... I MEAN, ARE YOU...

GOOD AT MY JOB? VERY.



YOU'RE RIDICULOUS.

ALSO, YOU MIGHT BREAK THAT LADY'S HEART IF YOU GHOST. SHE WAS FEELIN' YOU.



SHE'LL SURVIVE. BETTER LIKE THIS, ANYWAY.

MARRIED TO THE JOB, JUST LIKE MY DADDY, AND I SAW HOW THAT AFFECTED THE REST OF HIS RELATIONSHIPS.



AWW, COME ON BABY. LEMME BE YOUR SUGAR DADDY!

THERE'S ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF YA!

NASTY. WHY ARE THEY LIKE THIS?



ONLY ENOUGH BLOOD TO RUN ONE HEAD AT A TIME, I IMAGINE.

PAY HIM NO MIND, INDIGO. HE AIN'T WORTH YOUR TIME.

"NOT WHEN WE  
GOT EYES ON THE  
REAL PRIZE."



**TO BE CONTINUED!**

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BLACK MASK



CHAPTER

2

# BLACK DEVIL'S DYE



COMING  
NEXT MONTH

AYALA  
KANGAS  
LITT  
SOZO  
SHARPE

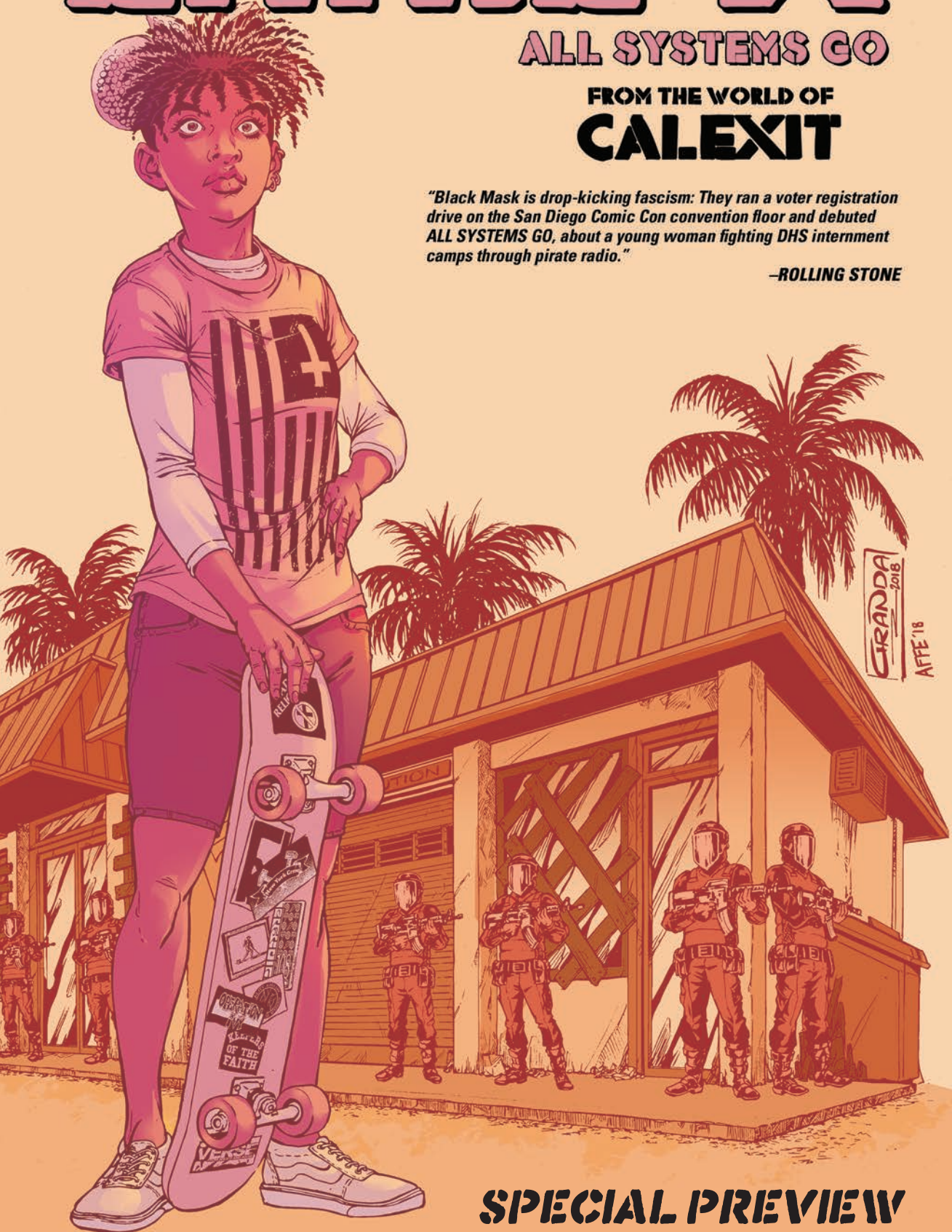
# EMMIE-X

ALL SYSTEMS GO

FROM THE WORLD OF  
**CALEXIT**

*"Black Mask is drop-kicking fascism: They ran a voter registration drive on the San Diego Comic Con convention floor and debuted ALL SYSTEMS GO, about a young woman fighting DHS internment camps through pirate radio."*

—ROLLING STONE



**SPECIAL PREVIEW**



BLACK MASK STUDIOS PRESENTS

# EMMIE-X

ALL SYSTEMS GO





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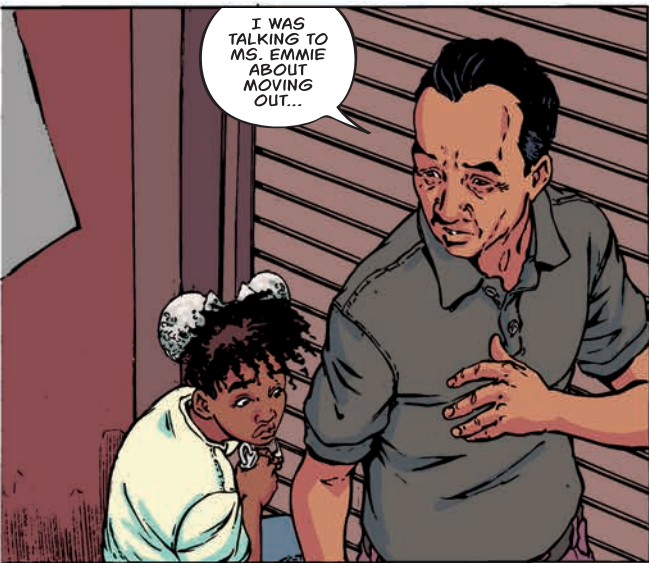


I WAS JUST TALKING TO MS. EMMIE ABOUT MOVING OUT OF THE SHOP.



I MEANT WHY CAN'T I HAVE THE GIRL, TOO?

SHE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE STRIP MALL RENT AS A MASCOT.



I WAS TALKING TO MS. EMMIE ABOUT MOVING OUT...



BUT SHE REMINDED ME THAT SHE IS IN A LEASE AND CANNOT BE FORCED TO MOVE OUT.



HERE ARE THE KEYS TO THE OTHER SHOPS.

FINE.

CAN'T IMAGINE THIS RAP STORE GETS VERY BUSY.

I DON'T SELL RAP.



WHAT KIND OF SHOPS ARE THEY OPENING?



THEY AREN'T OPENING SHOPS, MS. EMMIE.

OHMIGOD

THEY'VE RUN OUT OF ROOM AT CASA LEMON GROVE FOR DETAINING THE BORDER-JUMPERS TRYING TO ESCAPE TO MEXICO.

IN STORES WINTER 2019

SEARCHING FOR LOVE, DRUGS,  
AND BLOOD, SEVEN SOULS WILL  
CONVERGE AT THE HOTTEST CLUB  
IN TOWN ON A NIGHT THAT NONE  
WILL EVER FORGET.  
IF THEY SURVIVE.



MARIA LLOVET  
2018

MARIA LLOVET

LOLO!



SNAP FLASH  
*HUSTLE*

*NOTHING  
IS AS  
IT SEEMS*

NOVEMBER  
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HERS IS BEING  
REWRITTEN

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