

A NEW
GRAPHIC NOVEL



Tumor

Joshua Hale Fialkov & Noel Tuazon

Chapter Four



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Kindle Edition Design by Marlan Moore & Scott Newman

Published by Archaia Entertainment, LLC

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Hollywood, CA 90028

www.archaia.com

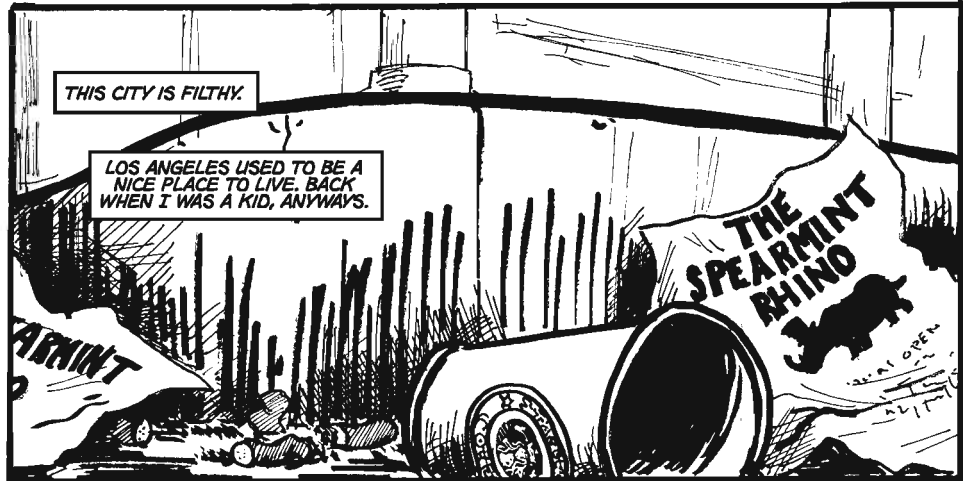
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ARCHAIA



THIS CITY IS FILTHY.

LOS ANGELES USED TO BE A NICE PLACE TO LIVE. BACK WHEN I WAS A KID, ANYWAYS.

THE SPEARMINT RHINO



PEOPLE RAN LIKE HELL FROM NEW YORK TO GET OUT HERE. THEY KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE THE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.



LOOK AT ME, MA, STANDING ON TOP OF THE GODDAMN CESSPOOL OF THE WORLD.

C'MON, MOVE YOUR ASS.

STOP FLICKING PULLING ME...

4









THIS IS THE L.A. THE WORLD
FELL IN LOVE WITH.
LA CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES.

WHEN THOSE FIRST MOVIE PEOPLE
CAME OUT HERE AND SAW HOW PRETTY
THE LIGHT WAS, THEY PICKED UP AND
MOVED OUT HERE FAST AS THEY COULD.
BROUGHT CIVILIZATION WITH 'EM.



BUT EVEN BEFORE THAT, PEOPLE
WERE FIGHTING OVER LAND. SHIT.
THEY BURNED CHINATOWN TO THE
GROUND JUST SO THEY COULD MAKE
ROOM FOR MORE WHITE PEOPLE.

THE FIRST CHINATOWN. NOT
THE ONE THAT'S STILL THERE
AND WAS IN THE MOVIE.



HELL, MY HOMETOWN
USED TO BE THE ORANGE
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

OR SOMETHING.

NOW, YOU'RE LUCKY IF
YOU CAN GET A DECENT
ONE IN A GROCERY STORE.



I HAVEN'T LOST CONSCIOUSNESS
FOR A WHILE. WHATEVER
THE DOC DID MUST'VE WORKED.

FIFTH
AND HILL.

WE
GOTTA GO,
COME ON.

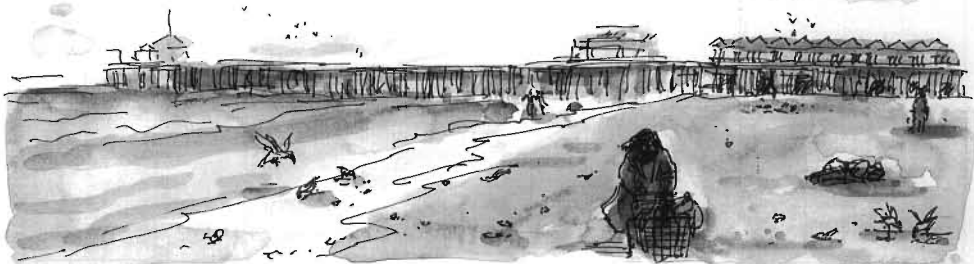
WHERE
ARE WE-



NOT THAT THE CITY DIDN'T HAVE ITS NICE BITS.

LIKE SANTA MONICA BEACH. BEFORE THEY REBUILT THE BOARDWALK.

LIVING ON THE EAST SIDE MEANS NEVER SEEING THE OCEAN.



GROWING UP IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MEANS NEVER EVEN KNOWING THERE WAS AN OCEAN THERE.

THIS HAPPENED BEFORE. I KNOW WHERE I AM. I'M NOW, THIS IS THEN.



HOW'S IT POSSIBLE, PAPI?

HOW'S A BIG SOPHISTICATED WHITE BOY NEVER SEEN THE OCEAN?

I WAS WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO SHOW ME.

WELL YOU FOUND YOUR SOMEONE.

YER DAMN RIGHT.



NO!

FRANK, WAKE UP, C'MON.

HUH?



SORRY, I... SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY LEG.

THERE'S BLOOD ALL OVER IT.





IT'S FINE, WE GOTTA KEEP MOVING. MY GRANDPARENTS HAVE A PLACE JUST UP THE HILL.



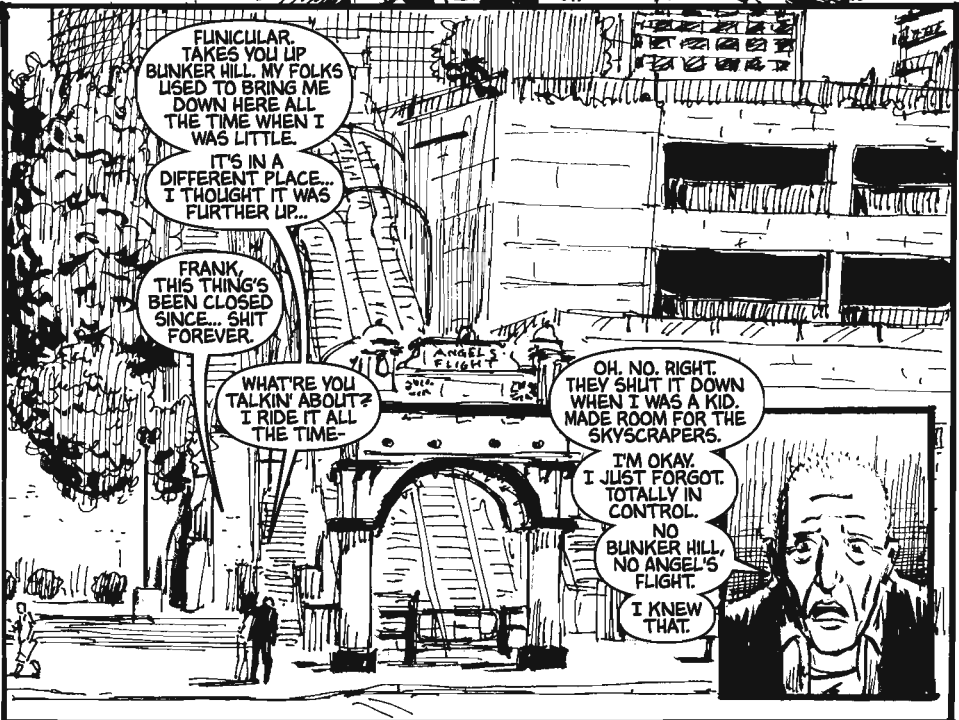
LIP THE HILL?
YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK.

WE DON'T NEED TO WALK, WE CAN JUST TAKE ANGEL'S FLIGHT.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, FRANK?



WHAT?
YOU NEVER RODE ANGEL'S FLIGHT?
IT'S A...
WHAT'S THE WORD?



FLINCLAR, TAKES YOU UP BUNKER HILL. MY FOLKS USED TO BRING ME DOWN HERE ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS LITTLE.

IT'S IN A DIFFERENT PLACE... I THOUGHT IT WAS FURTHER UP...

FRANK, THIS THING'S BEEN CLOSED SINCE... SHIT FOREVER.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? I RIDE IT ALL THE TIME.

OH, NO. RIGHT. THEY SHUT IT DOWN WHEN I WAS A KID. MADE ROOM FOR THE SKYSCRAPERS.

I'M OKAY. I JUST FORGOT. TOTALLY IN CONTROL.

NO BUNKER HILL, NO ANGEL'S FLIGHT.

I KNEW THAT.





WE NEED TO GET OUT OF THE STREET, SOME PLACE SAFE.

MY PLACE?

NO, THEY'LL FIND US.

GOT IT.

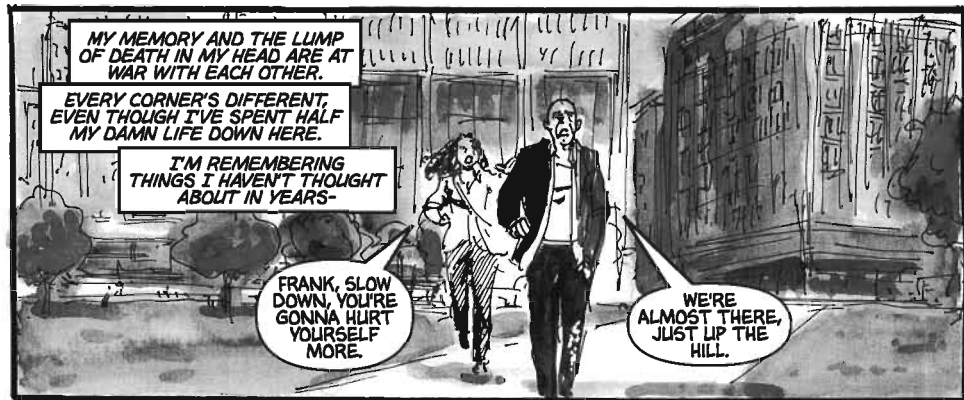


YOUR LEG?

IT'S FINE, JUST A SCRATCH. CAN'T FEEL A THING.



DAMN CITY CHANGES TOO MUCH. NOTHING LOOKS LIKE IT WAS.



MY MEMORY AND THE LUMP OF DEATH IN MY HEAD ARE AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER.

EVERY CORNER'S DIFFERENT, EVEN THOUGH I'VE SPENT HALF MY DAMN LIFE DOWN HERE.

I'M REMEMBERING THINGS I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IN YEARS-

FRANK, SLOW DOWN, YOU'RE GONNA HURT YOURSELF MORE.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, JUST UP THE HILL.

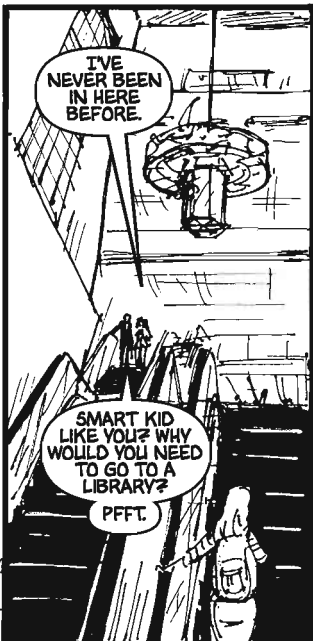


YOU'RE KIDDING ME. THE LIBRARY?

HERE, C'MON.



TRUST ME, YOU WANT TO LOOK LIKE DEATH, SMELL EVEN WORSE AND NOT STICK OUT, THIS IS WHERE YOU GO.



I'VE NEVER BEEN IN HERE BEFORE.

SMART KID LIKE YOU? WHY WOULD YOU NEED TO GO TO A LIBRARY?

PFFT.



YOU KNOW WHAT, MAN? FUCK YOU. TALKING DOWN TO ME LIKE YOU'RE SO FUCKING SMART.



I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT I'M THE ONE SAVING YOU FROM-

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME, MAN. YOU THINK I'M SOME DEAD BITCH.







GET ON THE COMPUTER WEB THING AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT. IF THEY'VE LEAKED YOUR PICTURE TO THE PAPERS.

OKAY.

I NEED TO GO TO THE LITTLE BOY'S ROOM AND CLEAN UP.



SIR... CAN YOU...?



MOVE IT, ASSHOLE.

HEY!



I'M GONNA CALL SECURITY IF YOU GUYS DON'T KNOCK IT OFF!



HE PUSHED THIS YOUNG LADY OUT OF THE WAY, MA'AM, I WAS JUST HELPING HER OUT.

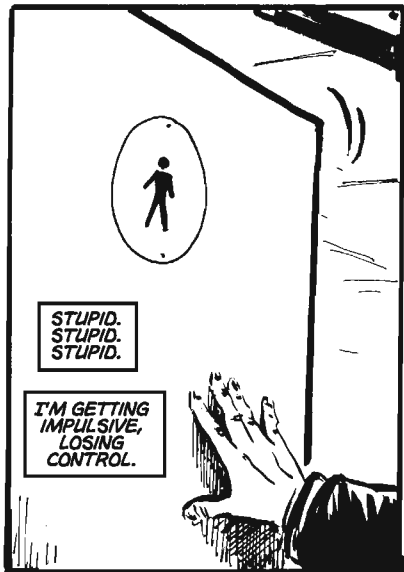
WHAT THE FLICK'RE YOU-



SMACK

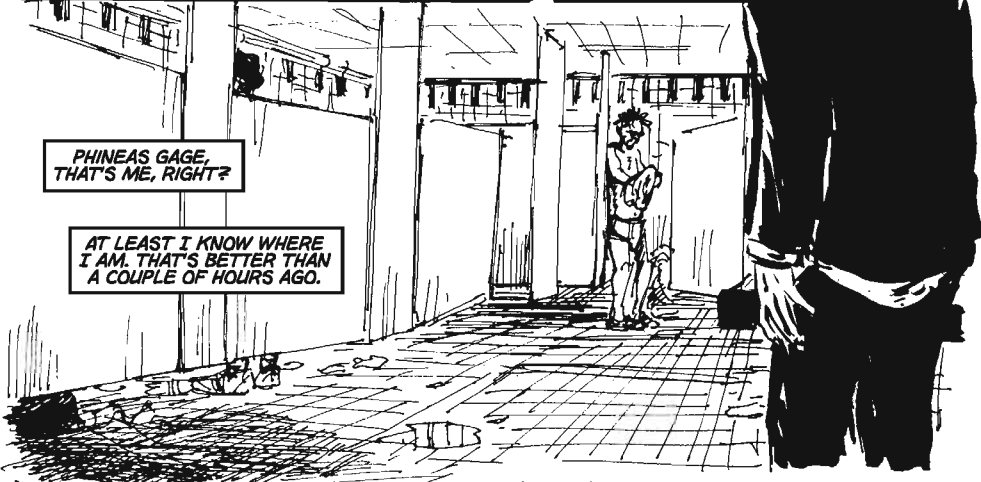


GET ON THE COMPUTER, SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



STUPID.
STUPID.
STUPID.

I'M GETTING
IMPULSIVE,
LOSING
CONTROL.



PHINEAS GAGE,
THAT'S ME, RIGHT?

AT LEAST I KNOW WHERE
I AM. THAT'S BETTER THAN
A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO.



POLISH USED TO BE A FRIEND.
I KNEW HE WAS CROOKED, BUT
GETTING WRAPPED UP IN THIS...

MAKING WHAT THE CITY PAYS,
I GUESS YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM.

WHAT ARE
YOU LOOKING
AT?



THIS IS ALL WAY
TOO FAMILIAR.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO ROSA. HOW
SHE GOT... DONE.

I SHOULD'VE
PROTECTED HER
BETTER.

ROSA TRUSTED ME AND
IT GOT HER KILLED.

THIS ONE SEEMS
SMARTER.



WHAT... MAN,
PUT YOUR DAMN
PANTS ON.

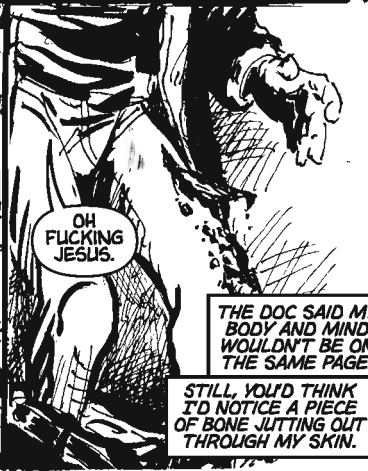
YOU'RE
ONE TO
TALK.



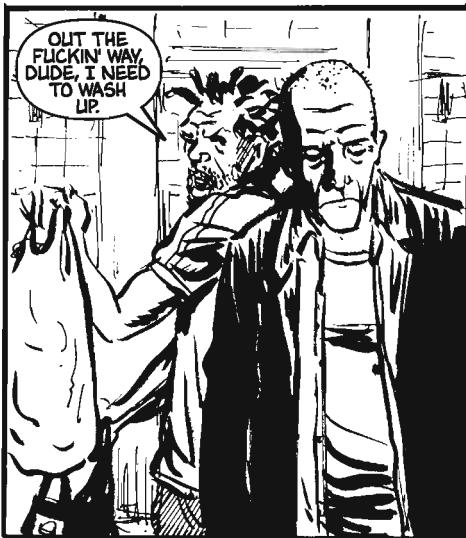
OH
FUCKING
JESUS.

THE DOC SAID MY
BODY AND MIND
WOULDN'T BE ON
THE SAME PAGE.

STILL, YOU'D THINK
I'D NOTICE A PIECE
OF BONE JUTTING OUT
THROUGH MY SKIN.

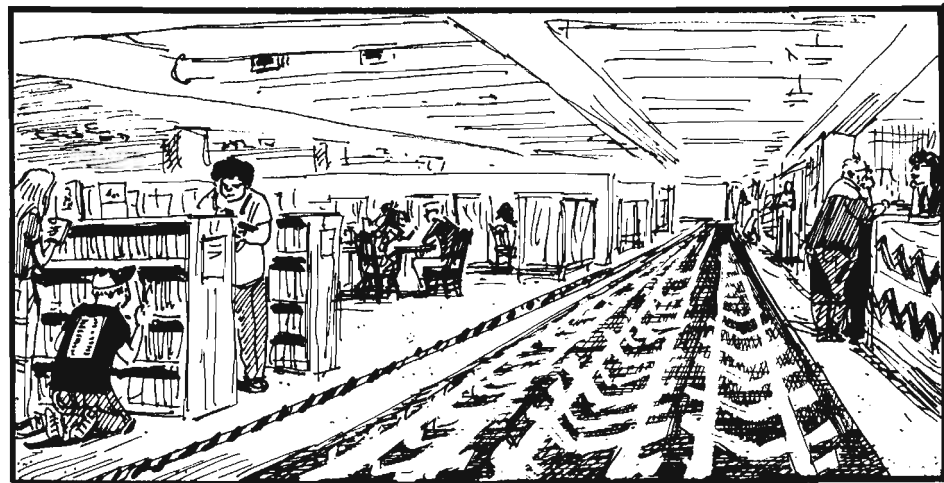
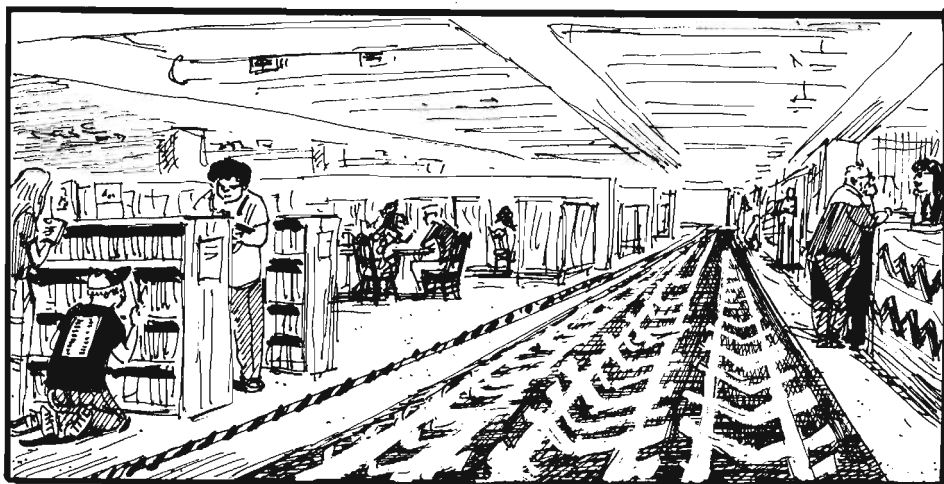


OUT THE
FLICKIN' WAY,
DUDE, I NEED
TO WASH
UP.



YOU WANT
TO MAKE FIFTY
BUCKS?







THANKS.



YOU SHOULD REALLY BE IN THE HOSPITAL.

YEAH, I KNOW.



WHO SAYS HAVING A BRAIN TUMOR'S NOT A GOOD THING?

SHIT, COMPARED TO HOW MUCH THAT SHOULD'VE HURT, I'M DOING A-OKAY.



I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT.

I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY, CAUSE I'M TERMINAL AND ALL THAT.



BUT I MEAN THROUGH THIS, MAYBE I CAN SAVE THE GIRL, GET HER INTO SAFE HANDS, BUT, THEN, THAT'S IT.

DONE, DADDY, DONE.



FINALLY, I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE.



HEY!
HEY!



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

SHH!



I'M JUST COPYING
SOME SHIT DOWN,
WHY'RE YOU SPAZZING
OUT?

THAT'S
A PHONE,
RIGHT?



YEAH?



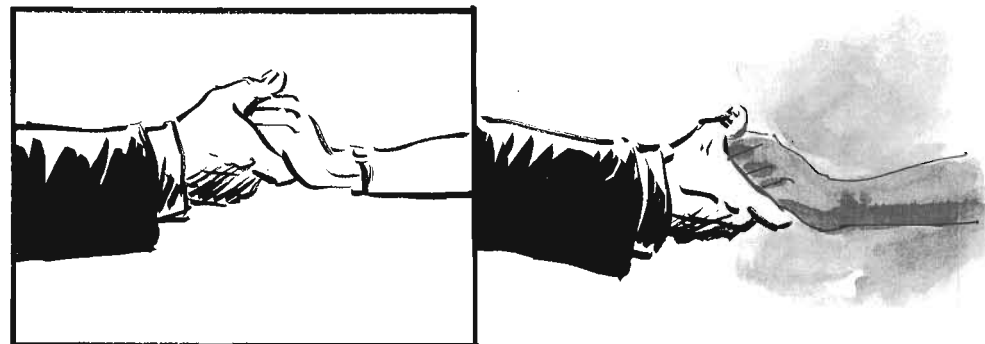
THEY CAN TRACK
PHONES. IT'S GOT
A CHIP IN IT OR
SOMETHING.

I...



I SAW
THAT ON
TV.





HE SAID HE'D MEET US IN A HALF HOUR. ALL WE GOTTA DO IS STAY SAFE.

I'M SCARED, FRANK.

DON'T BE. I'M HERE.

I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYBODY HURT YOU!



EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.





END CHAPTER 4

**Chapter Five Available for download
October 5th Exclusively from
the Amazon Kindle Store.**



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