

TUMOR

CHAPTER 3

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PAGE 1

PANEL 1

PAGE TITLE: CHAPTER 3

Double Wide Panel - XCU on Evelyn's hand on Frank's.

PANEL 2

We pull back, Evelyn looks lovingly at Frank.

EVELYN

Can we have a minute, doc?

PANEL 3

The doctor looks a bit confused... but excuses himself all the same.

DOCTOR LEVINE

Of course, of course. Just have the nurses page me when you're ready to discuss his release.

PAGE 2

PANEL 1

Frank reaches his far hand to touch hers.

PANEL 2

She jerks her hand away.

EVELYN

What the hell are you doing?

PANEL 3

Frank looks confused.

FRANK

Sorry- I...

PANEL 4

Evelyn stands a few feet away, her arms folded.

EVELYN

You got one chance to tell me who you are, what you were doing in my house, and why I should trust you.

PANEL 5

On Frank... the words don't come.

FRANK

I... I...

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

Evelyn, her face turned sour, as she heads towards the door.

EVELYN

"I... I..."

(break)

Forget it man, I should've left you to die.

PANEL 2

She's out the door.

FRANK (OFF)

Frank Armstrong. I'm a P.I. Your dad hired me to bring you home.

(break)

From what I heard, I figured you went to the cops for protection from him.

PANEL 3

She stands looking in at Frank, just on the edge of the door. Frank's pushed himself up.

FRANK

Your dad isn't a good man.
(break)
I'm workin' for him because I ain't had
a job in years that paid shit, and I
ain't gettin' any younger.

PANEL 4

On Frank.

FRANK

From the sound of things, I ain't
gettin' any older, either.

PANEL 5

Wider on Frank.

FRANK

Then I find your boyfriend with his
head blown off, and watch you put a
hole in a buddy of mine's forehead.
(break - to himself)
Did I just call Adrian a friend?

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

Frank looks like he's got it together, there's a fire in his
eyes.

FRANK

I could take what I saw to one of my
buddies in Hollywood Division and get
your ass in a sling.

PANEL 2

Push in.

FRANK

But I ain't gonna.
(break)
I've seen people in trouble before.

PANEL 3

Over Frank's shoulder at Evelyn.

FRANK

And you, my dear, are in trouble.

(beat)

So, howsabout we cut the tough girl
bullshit and you tell me what's what.

PANEL 4

Push in on Evelyn.

EVELYN

I...

PANEL 5

She's got tears in her eyes.

EVELYN

Oh god...

PAGE 5

PANEL 1

She drops into the chair against the far wall, bent over, and crying.

EVELYN

He's going to kill me, my own father-

PANEL 2

Frank tries to maneuver himself up.

FRANK

You mean literally or figuratively?

PANEL 3

Super close on Evelyn, as she looks up through tear stained eyes at Frank.

EVELYN

Literally.

PANEL 4

Overlaid on top of Evelyn is Rosa.

FRANK

You look just like her.

PANEL 5

On Frank.

FRANK

How... how is that possible?

PAGE 6

PANEL 1

Back on Evelyn, she's confused, the hallucination is gone.

EVELYN

Like who?

PANEL 2

Frank looks down.

FRANK

My wife.

PANEL 3

Evelyn stands up, crossing to Frank.

EVELYN

Oh God, I didn't think...
(break)
Should I call her?

PANEL 4

Frank rubs his temple.

FRANK

No, no. She's uh...
(break)
Passed away.

PANEL 5

On Evelyn. Behind her we see the mid-section of Jimmy Polish, who's just entered the room, unseen by Evelyn.

EVELYN

I'm sorry.

POLISH

Frankie! What'd you do now?

PANEL 6

Polish looks down at Evelyn.

POLISH
Oh, sorry, didn't realize you had
company.
(break)
Miss?

PAGE 7

PANEL 1

Evelyn looks up at Polish, her eyes defensive if not angry.

EVELYN
Oh, hi, I'm-

FRANK (OFF)
She's my niece.

PANEL 2

Frank stares her down.

FRANK (OFF)
My sister's kid. She's at USC.
(beat)
Joanie called her when the hospital
called.

PANEL 3

Evelyn stares back, confused.

PANEL 4

Polish sticks out his hand to Evelyn, smiling lasciviously.

POLISH
Hard to believe someone so beautiful
could be related to that old pit bull.

PANEL 5

Polish stands at Frank's bedside.

FRANK
Why you here, Jimmy?

POLISH

Heard you were down in the shit, Frank.
I was worried you got popped, all that
business you're involved in...

PAGE 8

PANEL 1

He pulls up a chair and sits down.

POLISH

About the girl...

PANEL 2

Across Frank's body, so that we see Frank's face, and Polish's,
as he leans in to whisper to Frank.

POLISH

She's in this shit way deeper than I
knew.

(break)

The guys he was with, took one in the
temple.

FRANK

Yeah?

POLISH

You make it to his place?

PANEL 3

Frank wipes his nose, Polish a lumpy silhouette in the
foreground.

FRANK

No, I was headed there, and uh, well...

POLISH

Good.

PANEL 4

On Polish.

POLISH

Look, this thing's out of control,
Frank, you need to just let it go.

(break)

I'm gonna put some uni's on the door
here, keep you safe, in case Atwater
comes after you.

PAGE 9

PANEL 1

EXCU on Frank, he's picked his head up a bit, talking into
Polish's ear.

FRANK

You think the girl did it?

POLISH

She's wanted on a double, Frankie.
There was another body with her
boyfriend.

PANEL 2

Frank leans back in bed.

JIMMY

Some guy, Adrian Enselmo. You know
him?

FRANK

Never heard of him.

PANEL 3

Jimmy stares at Frank, trying to figure out if he's lying or not.

POLISH

He worked for Atwater, too. We figure
the girl popped the boyfriend, and got
surprised by the heavy.

(break)

You're done with this, yeah?

FRANK (WEAKLY)

Yeah.

PANEL 4

Jimmy crosses to leave, stopping too close to Evelyn, who still sits in the chair by the door. She's clearly shaken by what he told Frank. Jimmy touches her arm with the back of his hand.

POLISH

What'd you say your name was, sugar water?

FRANK (OFF)

Get your fuckin' hands off her, Jimmy.

PAGE 10

PANEL 1

Top Half of Page - Jimmy turns back with a laugh looking at Frank, who's pushing himself angrily out of bed.

POLISH

Calm down, Frankie, just gettin' to know her-

FRANK

You know her as well as I'm comfortable.
(break)
Get out.

PANEL 2

On Polish.

POLISH

I'm going.
(break)
Be careful Frankie, you're already in this shit too deep.

PANEL 3

Frank, his eyes like slits shooting rage at Polish.

FRANK

I told you I'm out. Got my own fucking problems.

PANEL 4

Polish heads down the hall.

POLISH

I bet you do.

(break)

See you on the other side, my man.

PAGE 11

PANEL 1

Wide of the room, Evelyn leaning against the wall, Frank motionless in bed.

EVELYN

What the fuck was-

FRANK

Shh.

PANEL 2

Same framing, they sit in silence.

PANEL 3

Frank leans forward.

FRANK

Is he gone?

PANEL 4

Evelyn gets up and looks out the doorway.

EVELYN

Yeah, he's gone.

(beat)

What do they mean I killed-

PANEL 5

Frank swings his legs off the bed as he prepares to stand up.

FRANK

Call the nurse, tell her I need my exit paperwork. We gotta go.

PAGE 12

PANEL 1

Evelyn looks confused.

EVELYN

What?

PANEL 2

Frank pulls the IV in his arm out.

FRANK

Detective Polish over there knows who you are. I think he's working for your dad.

PANEL 3

Evelyn's is at Frank's side, trying to stop him from getting up.

EVELYN

You need to stay in bed-

FRANK

Evelyn, he came by my place earlier and told me where to find your boyfriend. Now your boyfriend's dead and with another body right next to him.

(break)

You're being set up.

PANEL 4

Evelyn stares at Frank, running through the logic.

EVELYN

I'll go get the nurse.

FRANK

No, not the nurse, just the paperwork. The medication and stuff. We don't have time to check out.

PANEL 5

Frank swings his legs off around, so he's sitting up. Evelyn still stands nearby.

FRANK

What are you standing for?

(break)

GO. NOW.

PAGE 13

PANEL 1

Evelyn heads out of the room, and Frank looks after her.

CAPTION

Adrenaline's a helluva thing.

PANEL 2

Frank pushes himself up, gingerly. He pulls his oxygen line off with one of his hands.

CAPTION

Couple a minutes ago, I felt like I'd just sit here till I'd drop.

PANEL 3

He pulls open the drawer next to his bed, his clothes are stacked neatly inside.

CAPTION

But, you tell me some girl's gonna get clipped, and I'm off to the goddamn races.

PANEL 4

Frank's dizzy. The world is a vortex around him.

CAPTION

Mostly.

PANEL 5

Evelyn's back, she's got some paperwork in her hand.

EVELYN

The nurse said the doctor wants to see you before you-

PAGE 14

PANEL 1

Frank is frozen, locked in a moment, almost. Evelyn approaches slowly.

EVELYN

Frank, are you...

PANEL 2

Her hand, as she reaches out to touch him.

PANEL 3

The spot on his arm that she touches.

PANEL 4 - INK WASH - DOUBLE WIDE

We're back in the past, Rosa is standing where Evelyn just was. Their apartment is trashed, as Frank packs a small suitcase for her.

ROSA

Frank! Why do we have to go?

FRANK

It's not safe, Rosa. We gotta go. Now.

CAPTION

I remember this day. This was the day that she-

PAGE 15

PANEL 1 - IW

Frank grabs Rosa roughly.

FRANK

Look, I don't want to do this any more than you do.

(break)

But we're done. If we want to survive, then we have to go. Now.

PANEL 2 - IW

Frank resumes packing.

PANEL 3

We're back in the now. Frank's making a mess, knocking things

over. Evelyn's trying to stop him.

EVELYN

Frank what are you doing?

PANEL 4

The doctor returns, along with the nurse. He sees the melee before him.

DR. LEVINE

Mr. Armstrong, stop!

PANEL 5

The doctor's up on Frank, and Frank gives him a big old fashioned haymaker across the jaw.

SFX

THWAK!

PAGE 16

PANEL 1

Frank pulls his pants on as he shrieks at the nurse.

FRANK

Where's my paperwork?

NURSE

I...

FRANK

Lady, I ain't got time-

PANEL 2

She bends down and pulls papers off the top of the clipboard, next to the doctor's crumpled body.

NURSE

Here... please, just don't hurt me...

PANEL 3

Frank stares at her, confused as hell. His shirt is on but unbuttoned.

FRANK

Why would I hurt you?

PANEL 4

He grabs the papers, with his coat slung over his arm, and his undershirt still showing, and he grabs Evelyn's arm.

FRANK

We gotta go, now.

(break)

Tell the doc I'm sorry I hit him.

PANEL 5

He pulls Evelyn out of the room, as she tries an apologetic goodbye to the nurse and doctor.

EVELYN

Thank you!

PAGE 17

PANEL 1

They're barreling down the hallway, Frank pulling her. The place is filled with staff and patients and visitors.

EVELYN

You're hurting me.

FRANK

They'll be here soon. We have to go.

PANEL 2

From around the corner, Frank walks into an intersection of hallways.

FRANK

Shit!

(break)

Get back!

PANEL 3

They're against the side wall of the original hallway, Frank peering around the corner.

EVELYN

What is it...?

FRANK

Your dad's men.

PANEL 4

Reverse shot, Frank's POV. There's a bunch of tough looking guys talking to Polish.

FRANK (CAPTION)

"Son of a bitch."

EVELYN (CAPTION)

"What?"

PANEL 5

Closer on Polish laughing with one of the thugs.

FRANK (CAPTION)

"I never liked that asshole."
(break)

"Alright, we gotta find another way out."

PAGE 18

PANEL 1

Frank turns back, only to find Dr. Levine standing there.

DR. LEVINE

Frank, you're have a psychotic episode.

FRANK

Fine. So what?

PANEL 2

Tighter on the two of them as they stand face to face.

DR. LEVINE

You can't leave here.

FRANK

That's a problem, doc.

DR. LEVINE

Frank, you're killing yourself.

PANEL 3

Frank pushes past the doctor, Evelyn following behind.

FRANK

I've been doing that for years.
(break)
Why stop when it's just starting to
work.

PANEL 4

They go around another corner, leaving Dr. Levine staring after them.

DR. LEVINE

Dammit.

PANEL 5

Same shot, they're gone. Dr. Levine is calling down the hall.

DR. LEVINE

Security!

PAGE 19

PANEL 1

They're at a security exit, marked with a large sign that reads, "EMERGENCY EXIT" and "ALARM WILL SOUND IF OPENED."

FRANK

C'mon.

PANEL 2

The push through the door, white light fills the room (as in issue 1).

SFX

beep beep beep beep beep beep.

PANEL 3

White out.

SFX

beep beep beep beep beep beep.

CAPTION

And, so it goes.

PANEL 4

The white starts to subside, we can barely see Frank, his arm up to keep the sun out of his eyes.

FRANK

Too bright.
(break)
Jesus.

PANEL 5

Back to normal. Frank looks really disoriented.

FRANK

Whereami? Whatsgoingon?

PAGE 20

PANEL 1

Big panel, revealing the hospital. (Let's use Linda Vista Hopstial... it's the filming location for just about everything with a hospital in it. :D <http://www.lindavistalocation.com/>)

FRANK

Whereami?

PANEL 2

He looks at Evelyn.

FRANK

Rosa? Issityou?

PANEL 3

Evelyn realizes that she's made a mistake.

EVELYN

Oh god. You're completely fucking insane aren't you?

SHOUTS (OFF)

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!

PANEL 4

Minimalist panel - Just Frank, as he 'clicks back in' to what's going on. It's like a hero shot, almost. Very Will Eisner.

FRANK

We've gotta go. C'mon.

PAGE 21

PANEL 1

They start to run, Frank going as best he can, Evelyn quite a bit in front of him.

EVELYN

Where are we going?

FRANK

The park over there. Just go.

PANEL 2

They're heading down the hill into the huge sprawling park just across the way from the hospital.

FRANK

Keep moving, go!

PANEL 3

Of Frank, we see in the background the security guards from the hospital chasing him, he looks over his shoulder at them.

PANEL 4 - IW

We flash to the old days, everything matches, except the guys chasing Frank look like goombahs, with fedoras and guns out.

FRANK

Rosa, GO!

PANEL 5

Frank trips, and tumbles down the hill.

PAGE 22

PANEL 1

Evelyn's standing at his side, Frank's in a pile on the ground.

EVELYN

Are you-

FRANK

Yeah, fine, just..

PANEL 2

The security guards are gaining on them.

SECURITY GUARD 1

Mr. Armstrong! Hold on, you're gonna hurt yourself.

PANEL 3

Frank pushes himself up off the ground.

FRANK

Come on.

EVELYN

Frank, I think you-

PANEL 4

Frank pulls her along as they start to run.

CAPTION

The only thing going through my mind the whole time...

PANEL 5 - SMALL

We push in on him, low, though.

CAPTION

Echoing over and over...

PANEL 6 - SMALL

Push in further, there's a spot on his pants, just below his knee.

CAPTION

was how much...

PANEL 7 - SMALL

Closer still, we realize that spot on his pants, which has gotten pretty damn big, is blood.

CAPTION

I missed this shit.

(break)

It's nice to feel useful again.