

"I AM SORRY, REVEREND, BUT THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO."



THE GOOD LORD KNOWS I WISH IT WEREN'T SO, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.

SHE'S GONE.

N-NO...



## THE RISEN CHAPTER ONE

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THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING. NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. NOT MY BABY GIRL!!

SARAH, I'M SO SORRY. I'M SO VERY SORRY.

OH, LORD HAVE MERCY



SAM, I - I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS.

IT'S-IT'S ALL RIGHT, JOE.



IT SURE ENOUGH ISN'T ALL RIGHT. DOCTOR, WHAT HAPPENED? THIS MORNING SHE WAS FINE.

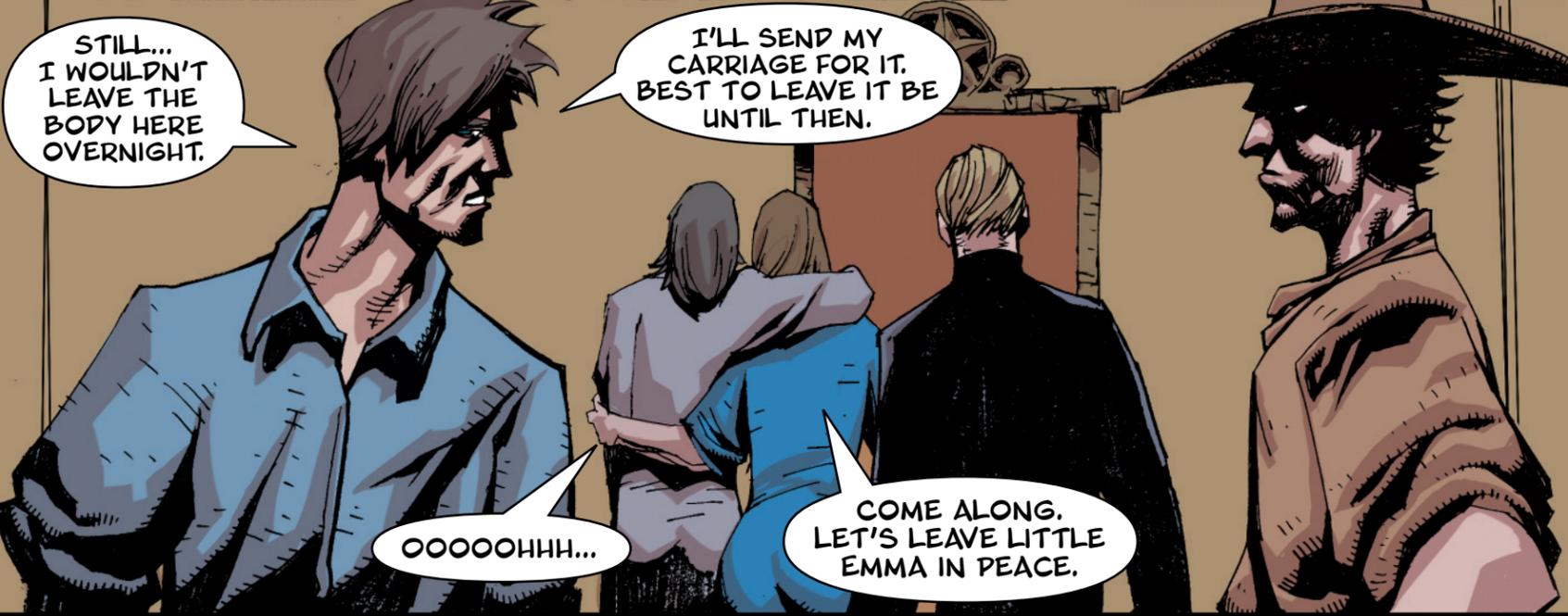
AN AUTUMN FEVER, SHERIFF - SWIFT AND MERCILESS.

IT'S UNCOMMON, BUT KNOWN TO HAPPEN.



NO OFFENSE TO YOUR FINE EDUCATION, BUT I BEG TO DIFFER. I'VE BEEN WANDERING THE FRONTIER FOR THE BETTER PART OF TWENTY YEARS. I'VE SEEN FEVERS BURN MANY A MAN ALIVE -- STRONG MEN, GOOD MEN, BUT NOTHING THIS FAST. WHAT DID THIS? IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

NO, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. AS I SAID, AN AUTUMN FEVER.



STILL... I WOULDN'T LEAVE THE BODY HERE OVERNIGHT.

I'LL SEND MY CARRIAGE FOR IT. BEST TO LEAVE IT BE UNTIL THEN.

OOOOOHHH...

COME ALONG. LET'S LEAVE LITTLE EMMA IN PEACE.



TELL ME, REVEREND, DID EMMA GO INTO THE CEMETERY ANYTIME TODAY?

UH - W-WELL, YES. SHE AND BECKY WERE RUNNING BETWEEN THE GRAVESTONES WHEN SHE FELL ILL. W-WHY DO YOU ASK?

OH... NO REASON. THERE WAS A NORTHERLY WIND THIS MORNING, PERHAPS SHE CAUGHT A CHILL WHILE THEY WERE OUT PLAYING.

NORTHERLY WIND? IT WAS AN ILL WIND, I TELL YA. ILL AND FULL OF EVIL.



I TOLD YOU TO KEEP THOSE GIRLS AWAY FROM THE GRAVEYARD, SAMUEL. IT'S BAD LUCK.



THE DEAD WON'T TAKE NO DISRESPECT. NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED.

COME ON, JACK, THAT'S JUST FOOLISH TALK AND YOU KNOW IT.



'FOOLISH TALK'? UHMPH!!

I ALWAYS SAID IT WOULD GO BAD FOR THIS FAMILY IF WE LEFT THE EAST -- NEVER ENOUGH RAIN, HARSH WINTERS, THE PRAIRIES FULL OF SAVAGES...

AND NOW THE RAILROADS BRINGING IN THOSE GODLESS CHINAMEN WITH THEIR DARK MAGIC AND WICKED WAYS.

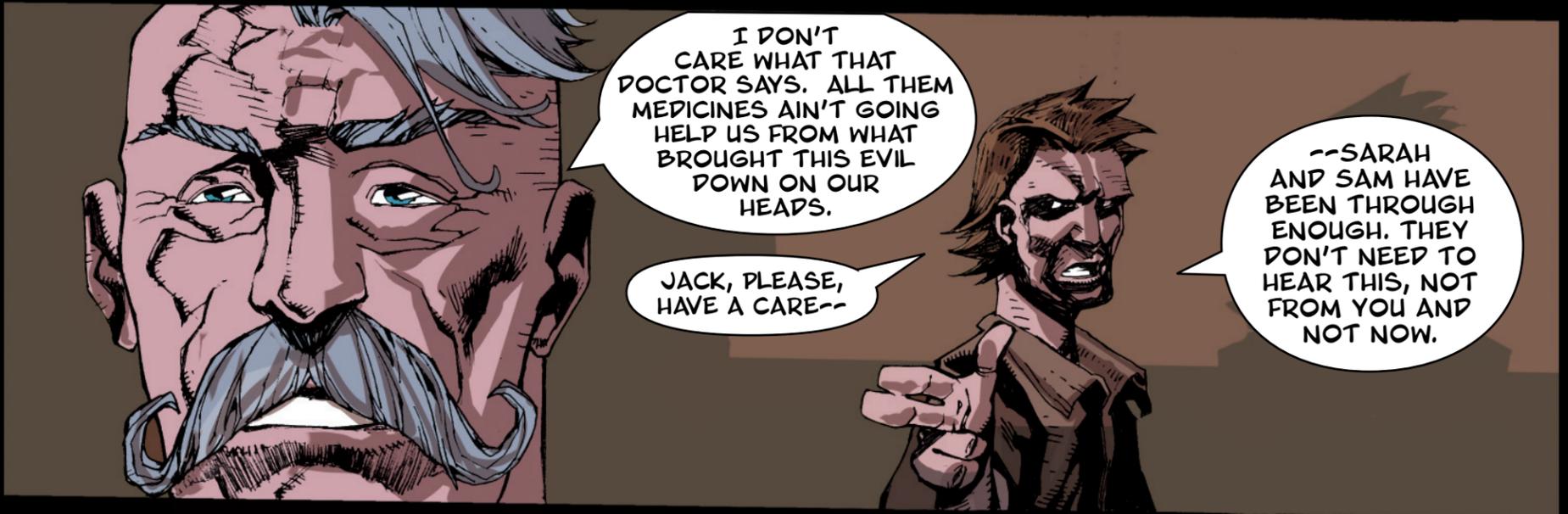
I TELL YOU, IT'S A CURSED LAND. THE DEAD FIND NO REST HERE.





IT WAS NO CURSE THAT TOOK POOR EMMA'S LIFE, MR. KRUMMEL. JUST A FEVER, I ASSURE YOU.

NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I REALLY SHOULD BE GOING. I WILL SEND MY CARRIAGE FOR THE BODY RIGHT AWAY.



I DON'T CARE WHAT THAT DOCTOR SAYS. ALL THEM MEDICINES AIN'T GOING HELP US FROM WHAT BROUGHT THIS EVIL DOWN ON OUR HEADS.

JACK, PLEASE, HAVE A CARE--

--SARAH AND SAM HAVE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH. THEY DON'T NEED TO HEAR THIS, NOT FROM YOU AND NOT NOW.



DON'T THEY? IF I DON'T TALK SOME SENSE INTO THEM, WHO --

HEY! SOMEONE'S OUT THERE, WATCH'N US!

THAT'S JUST DR. ROSEN HEADING HOME. NOW, PLEASE, SIMMER DOWN.



HOW'S L'IL BECKY HOLDING UP?

I DON'T REALLY THINK SHE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING. SHE'S ONLY FIVE. H-HOW DO I EXPLAIN THIS TO HER? HOW COULD SHE BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND? THOSE TWO WERE ALWAYS SO CLOSE, SO CLOSE...



"...LIKE TWO HALVES OF THE SAME COIN."

SISSY?

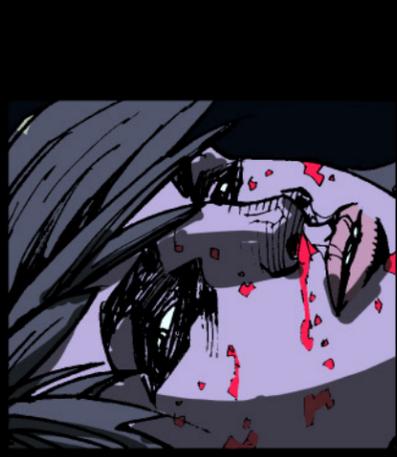


SISSY, COME ON, GET UP. MOMMA'S REALLY SAD. SHE DON'T WANT YOU TO SLEEP NO MORE.

SISSY? CAN YOU HEAR ME? SISSY?



...UUUUUUUUUUH...



...SSS-SIS...



SISSSSY?

YES, IT'S ME!



OH, YOU SCARED ME. I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T WAKE UP. BUT YOU'RE ALL BETTER NOW, AREN'T YOU? HOW DO YOU FEEL?



FEEEL... SIISSSY, I FEEL -



-- HUNGRY!

NUHHHH!!!





**BAM! BAM!  
WHAAAM!!!**

NO NEED FOR ALL THAT RACKET. WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO, BREAK THE DOOR--?

GRAB HER!!!

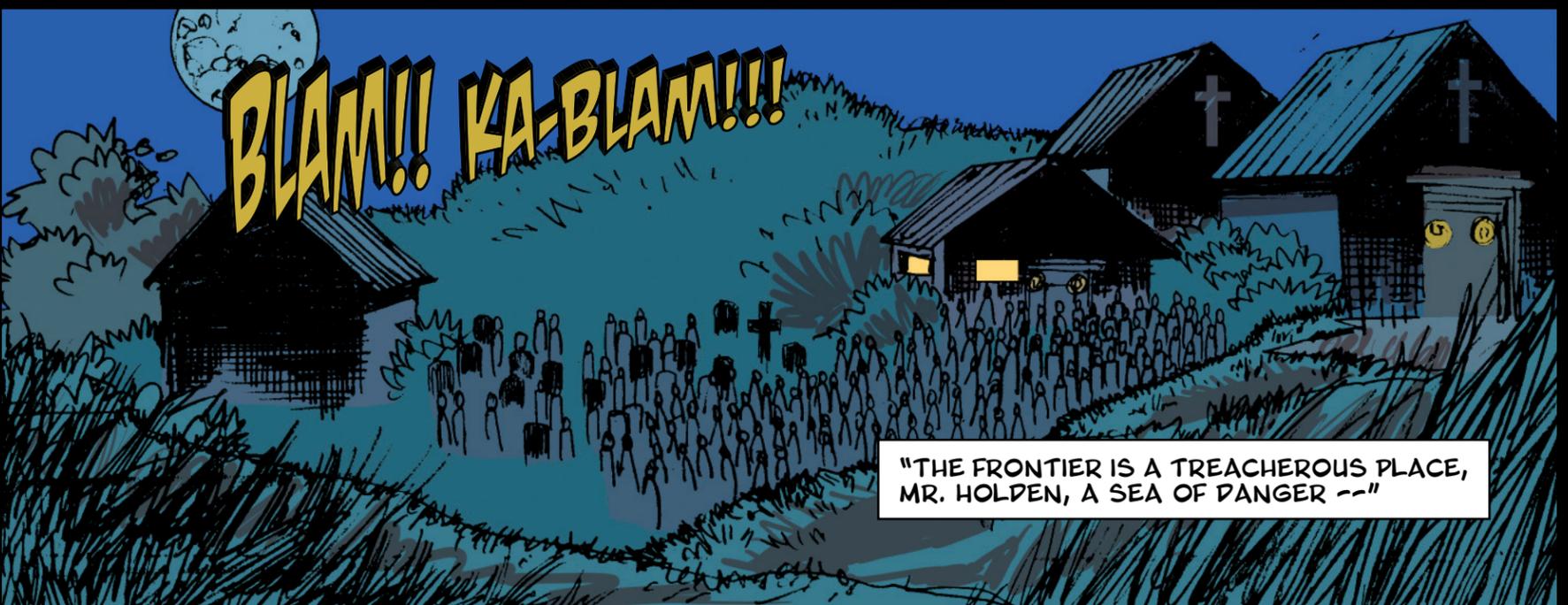
AAAAHH!!!! SHE BIT ME!!!



--DOWN?  
OH, MERCY!

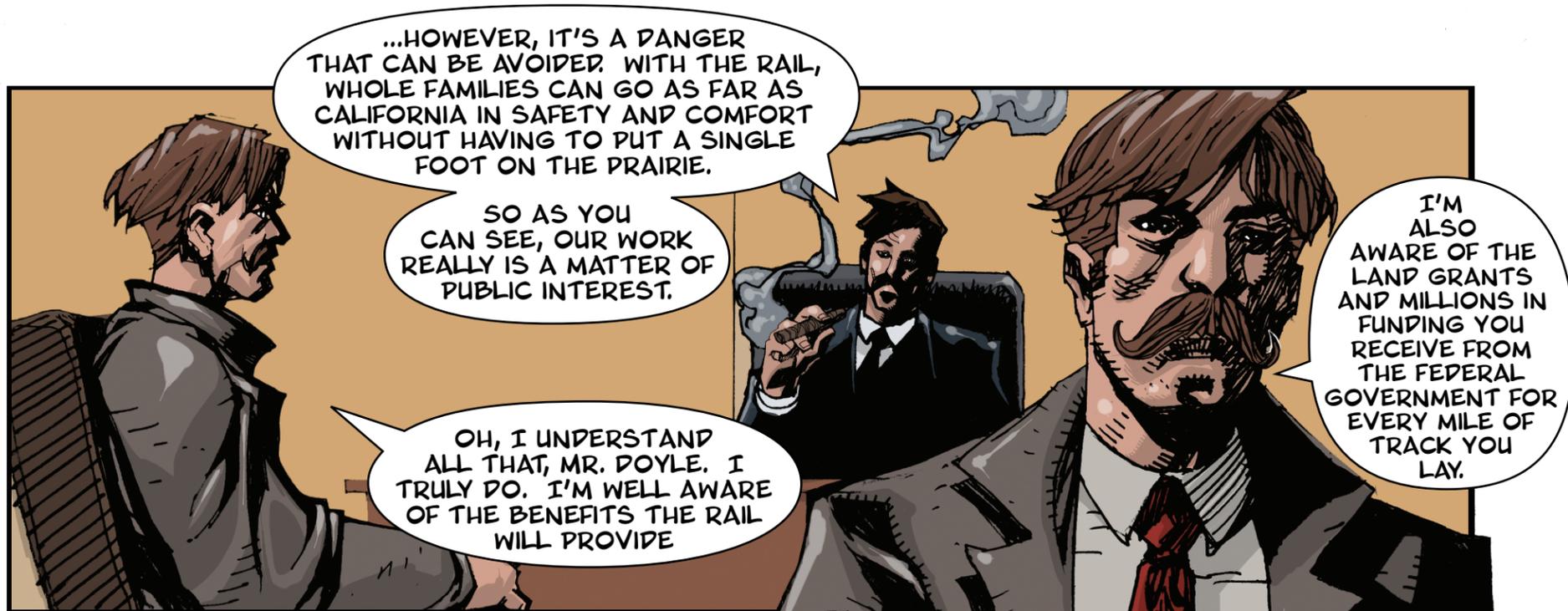


**AAAAAHHHH!!!!!!**



**BLAM!! KA-BLAM!!!**

"THE FRONTIER IS A TREACHEROUS PLACE, MR. HOLDEN, A SEA OF DANGER --"



...HOWEVER, IT'S A DANGER THAT CAN BE AVOIDED. WITH THE RAIL, WHOLE FAMILIES CAN GO AS FAR AS CALIFORNIA IN SAFETY AND COMFORT WITHOUT HAVING TO PUT A SINGLE FOOT ON THE PRAIRIE.

SO AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR WORK REALLY IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

OH, I UNDERSTAND ALL THAT, MR. DOYLE. I TRULY DO. I'M WELL AWARE OF THE BENEFITS THE RAIL WILL PROVIDE

I'M ALSO AWARE OF THE LAND GRANTS AND MILLIONS IN FUNDING YOU RECEIVE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR EVERY MILE OF TRACK YOU LAY.



MONEY AND LAND THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FOR THE SERVICE WE DO THIS COUNTRY.

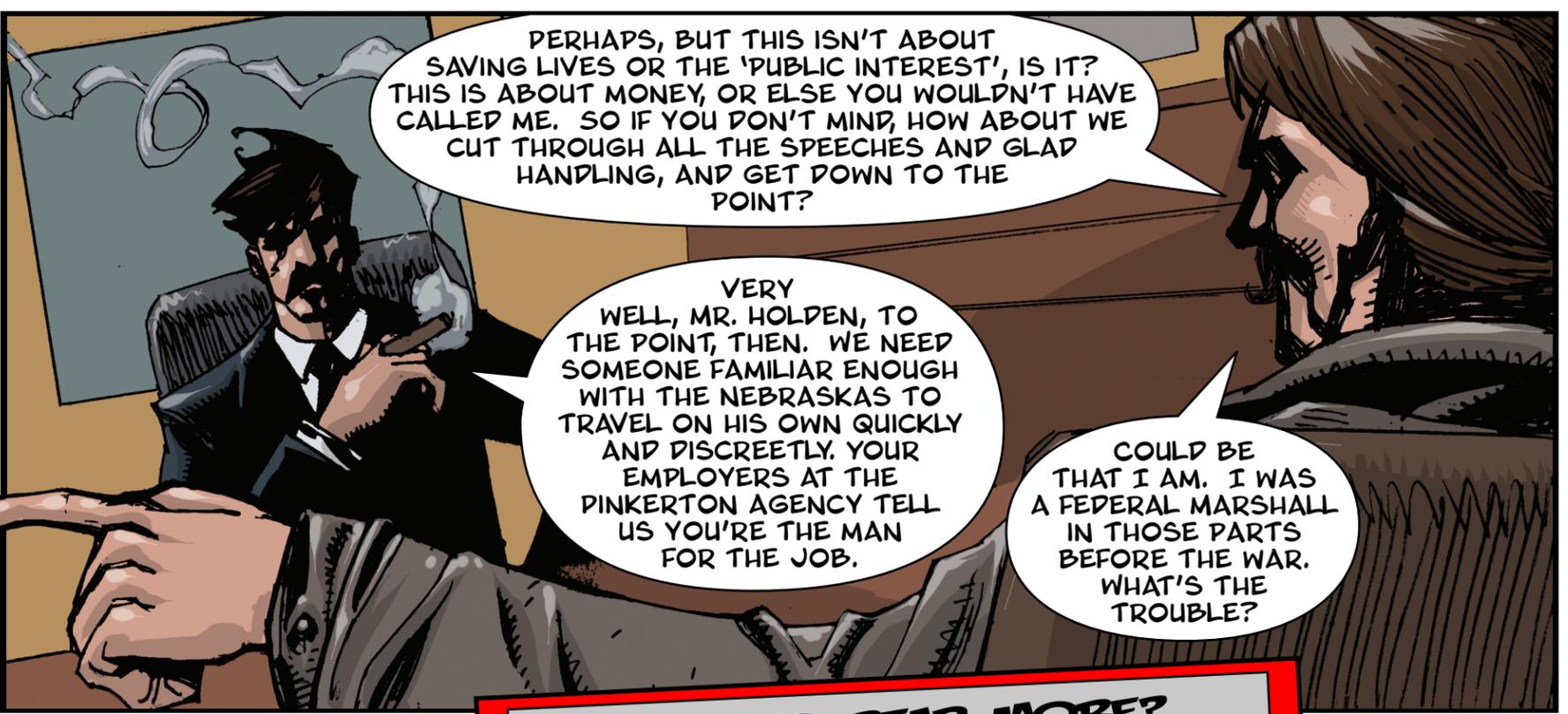
AND CENTRAL RAILROADS FEELS THE SAME, NO DOUBT.



I'M SURE THEY DO, BUT THOSE SHOP KEEPERS AT CENTRAL HAVEN'T THE KNOW-HOW OR RESOURCES TO FINISH THE JOB, AND IF THEY CAN'T, WHO ELSE BUT US?

ASK YOURSELF, MR. HOLDEN, HOW MANY HAVE ALREADY DIED IN WAGON TRAINS? THOUSANDS? YET MORE SETTLERS HEAD WEST DAILY, LOOKING FOR LAND AND GOLD. THEY WILL KEEP COMING, TOO, UNTIL THE WEST IS AS CROWDED AS THE EAST.

WE MAY PROFIT - WE'RE A BUSINESS, AFTER ALL - BUT WE'RE STILL SAVING LIVES.



PERHAPS, BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT SAVING LIVES OR THE 'PUBLIC INTEREST', IS IT? THIS IS ABOUT MONEY, OR ELSE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED ME. SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, HOW ABOUT WE CUT THROUGH ALL THE SPEECHES AND GLAD HANDLING, AND GET DOWN TO THE POINT?

VERY WELL, MR. HOLDEN, TO THE POINT, THEN. WE NEED SOMEONE FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE NEBRASKAS TO TRAVEL ON HIS OWN QUICKLY AND DISCREETLY. YOUR EMPLOYERS AT THE PINKERTON AGENCY TELL US YOU'RE THE MAN FOR THE JOB.

COULD BE THAT I AM. I WAS A FEDERAL MARSHALL IN THOSE PARTS BEFORE THE WAR. WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

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NOVEL... AVAILABLE SOON!**