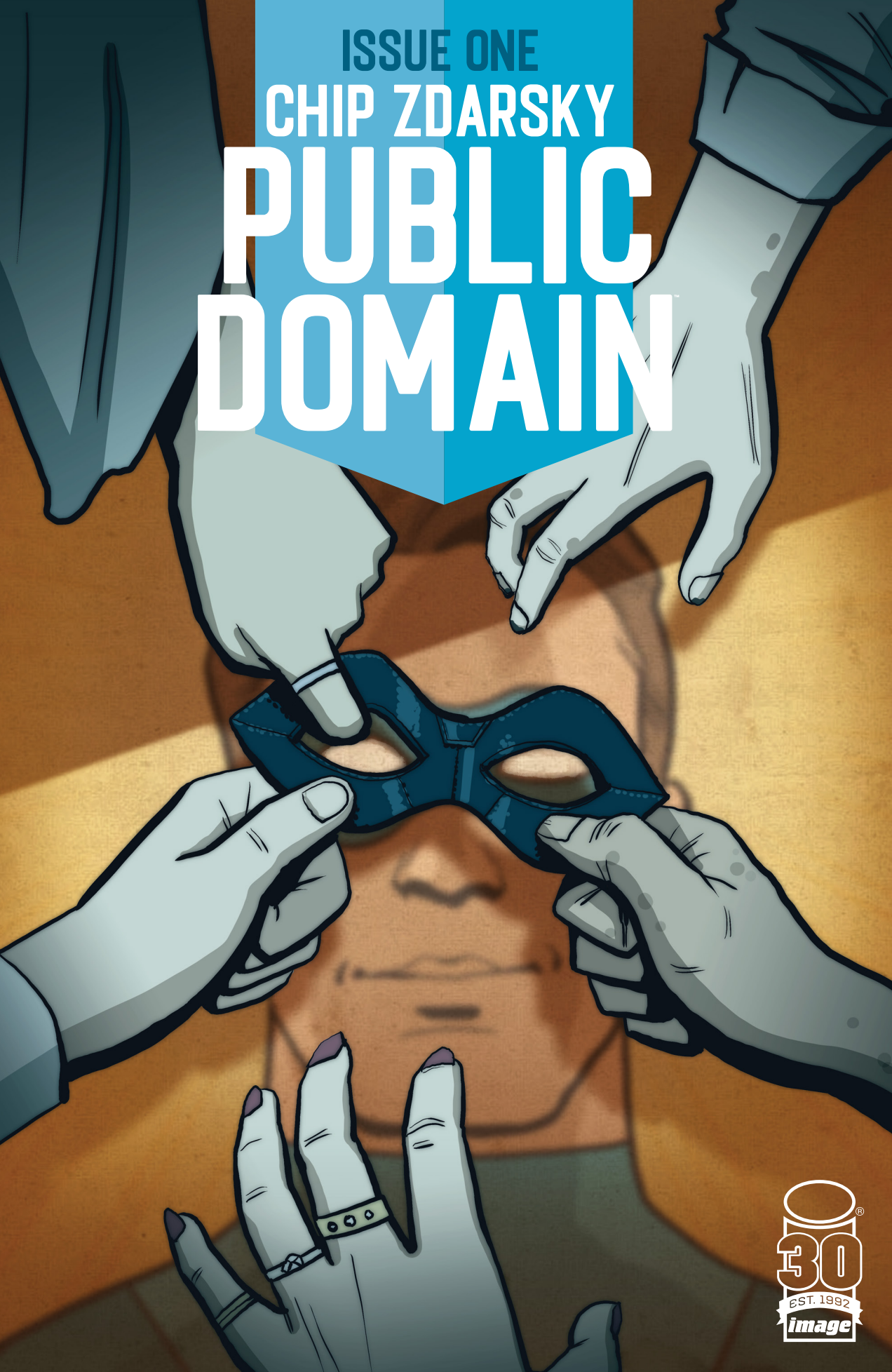
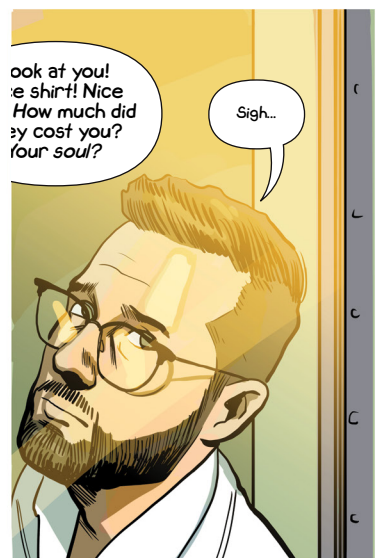
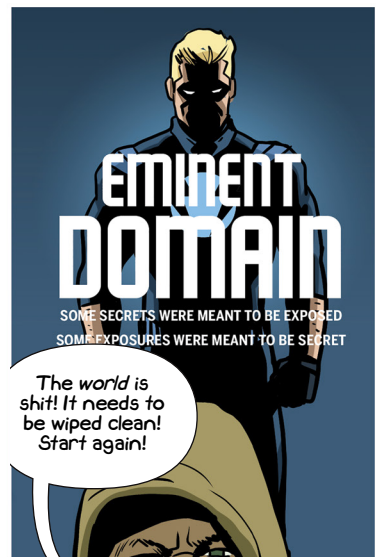


ISSUE ONE
CHIP ZDARSKY
**PUBLIC
DOMAIN**







...fuck me.

CHIP ZDARSKY PUBLIC DOMAIN

CHAPTER ONE: WEREN'T WE THE BAD GUYS?

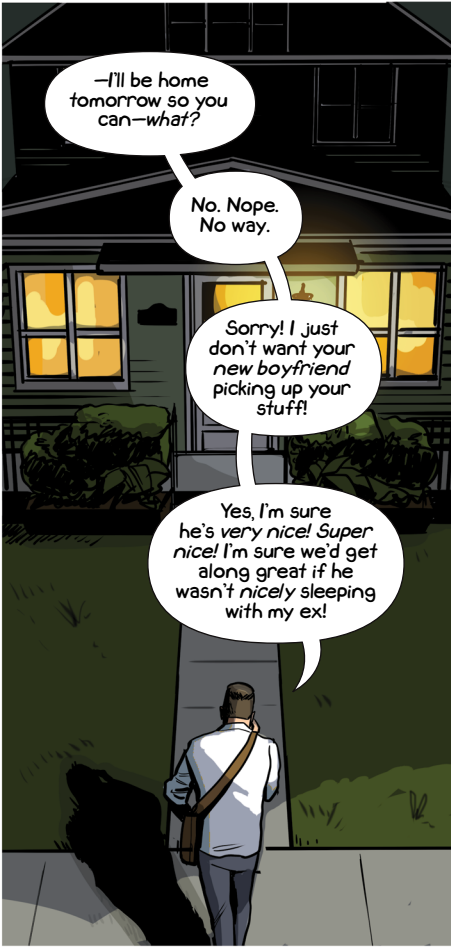
ALLISON O'TOOLE
EDITOR

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SPECIAL THANKS TO SUBSTACK FOR
HELPING ME TELL THIS STORY

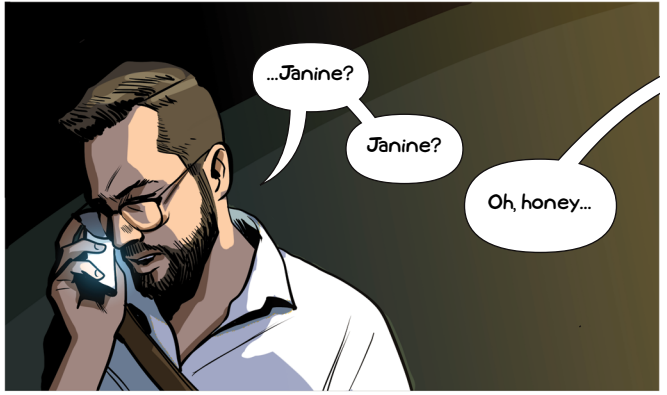


-I'll be home tomorrow so you can—what?

No. Nope. No way.

Sorry! I just don't want your new boyfriend picking up your stuff!

Yes, I'm sure he's very nice! *Super nice!* I'm sure we'd get along great if he wasn't *nicely* sleeping with my ex!



...Janine?

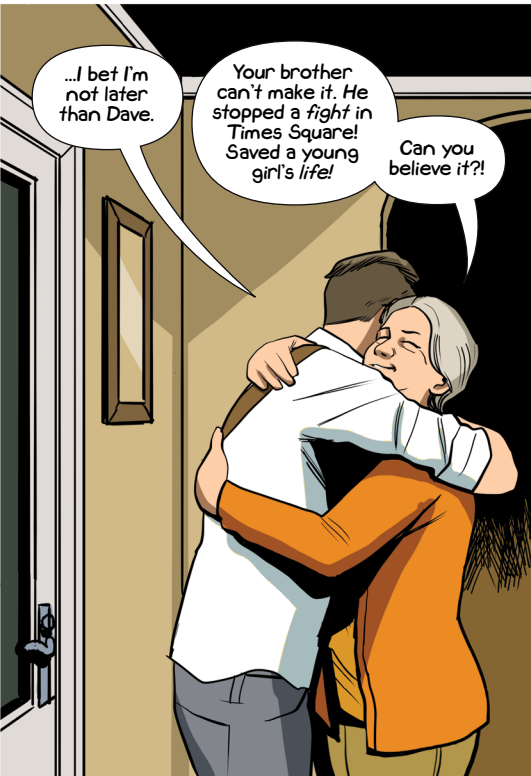
Janine?

Oh, honey...



...you're so late! It's ten minutes to dinner!

Yeah, well...



...I bet I'm not later than Dave.

Your brother can't make it. He stopped a fight in Times Square! Saved a young girl's life!

Can you believe it?!



Sure he did, Mom.

Are you okay? You look tired.

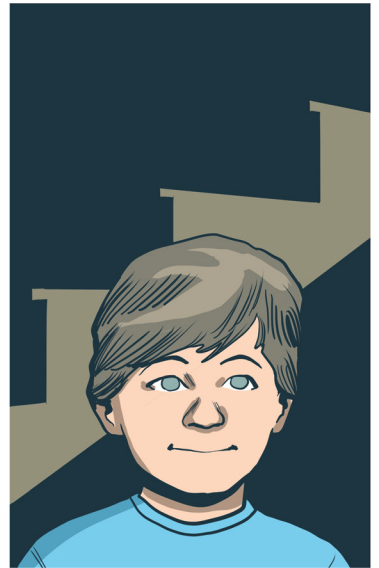
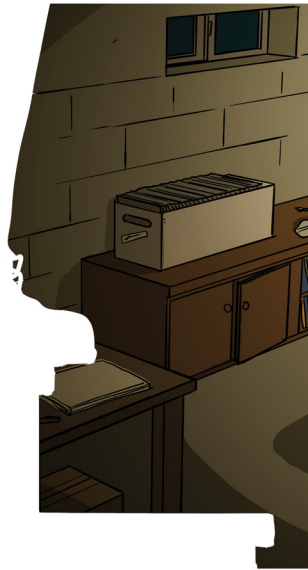
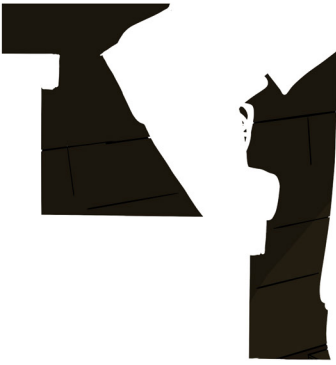
Just work. Where's Dad?

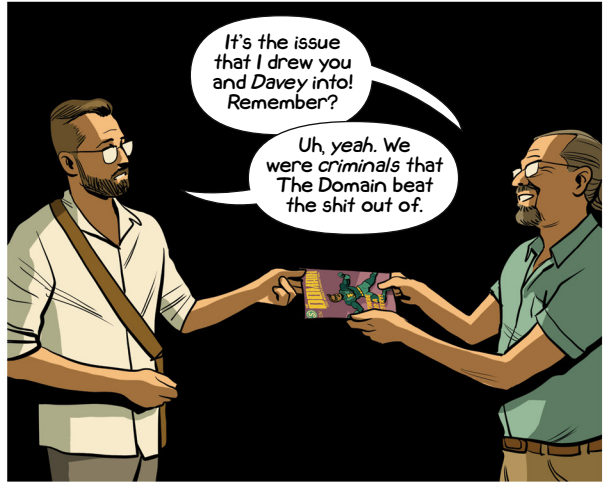


Oh, he's packing for LA.

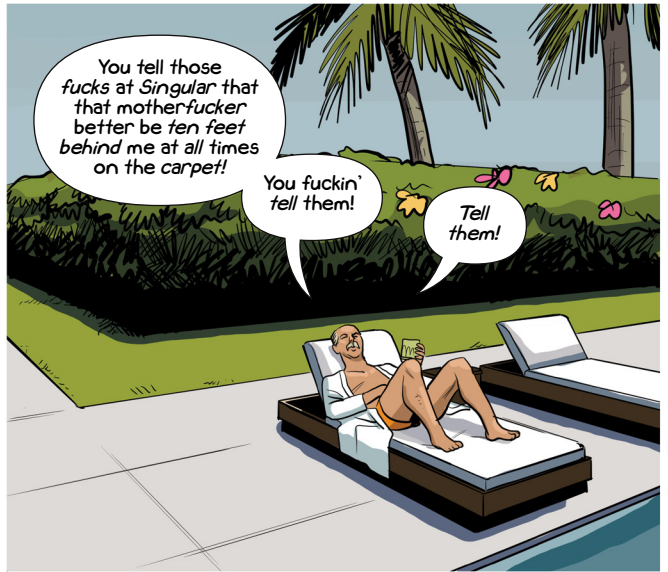
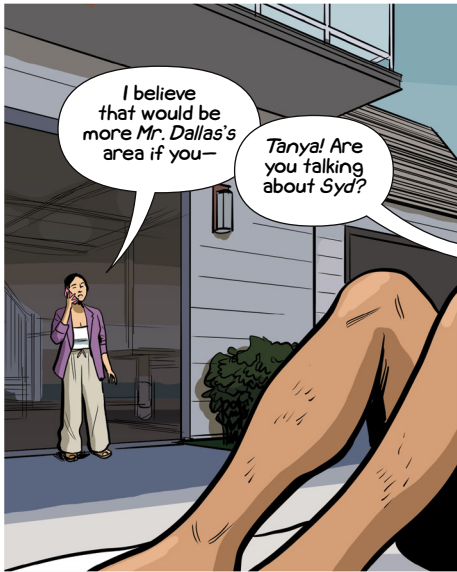
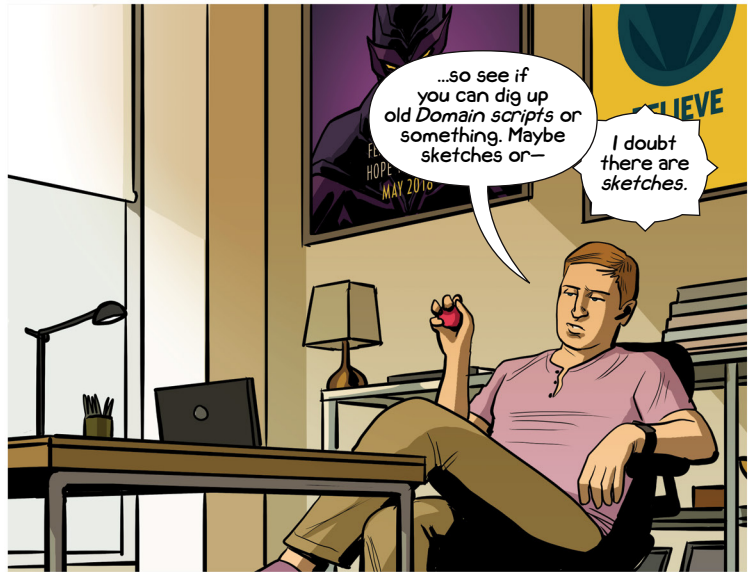
Are you—

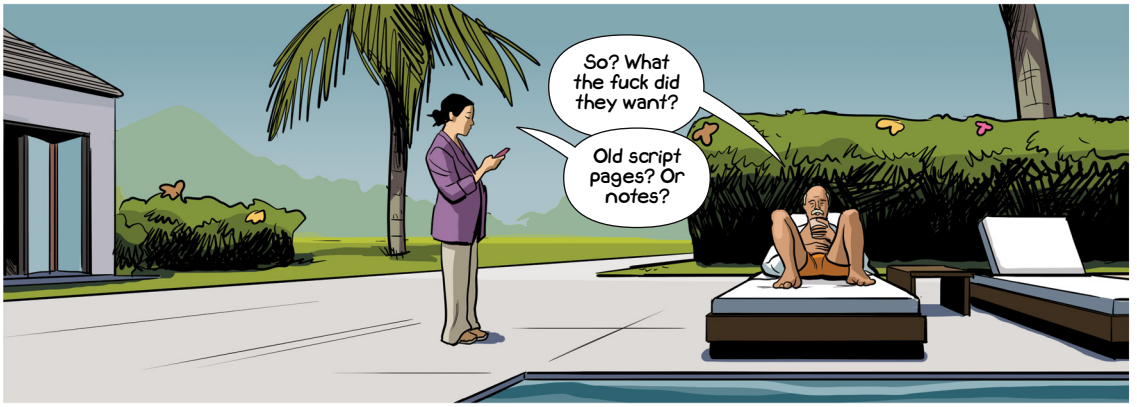
Oh God no! I find those movies loathsome!

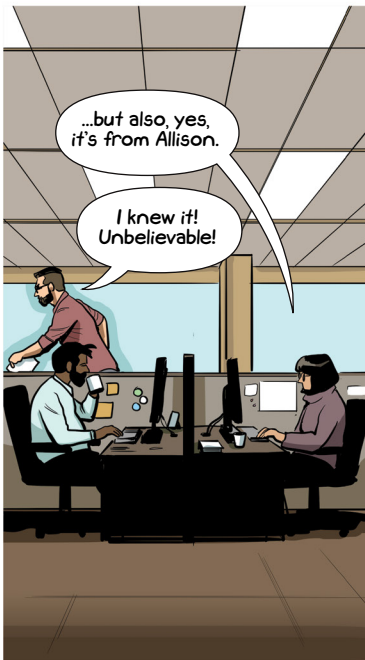














First of all, you know I'm the editor-in-chief of the paper, right?

I've actually got much bigger things to think about than you, a goddamn entertainment reporter.

I'm actually more of an "Arts & Life" reporter...



And second of all, do you see that dog article there? On my wall?

I, uh... yeah?

Well...



...I wrote it.



Won my first journalism award for it. You know why?

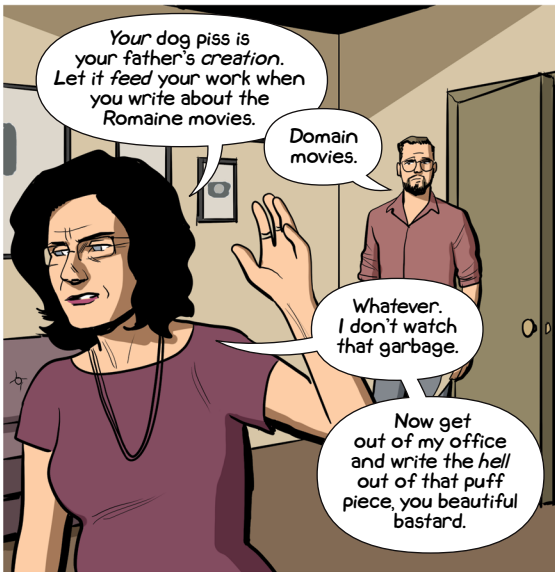
Because I was passionate about the subject.

Because I fucking hate dogs.



When I was a kid a dog knocked me over and urinated on my face. As it ran away I swear I heard it laugh.

I hated that dog. And I carried that hate with me every single day until I finally got to pour it all into that article.



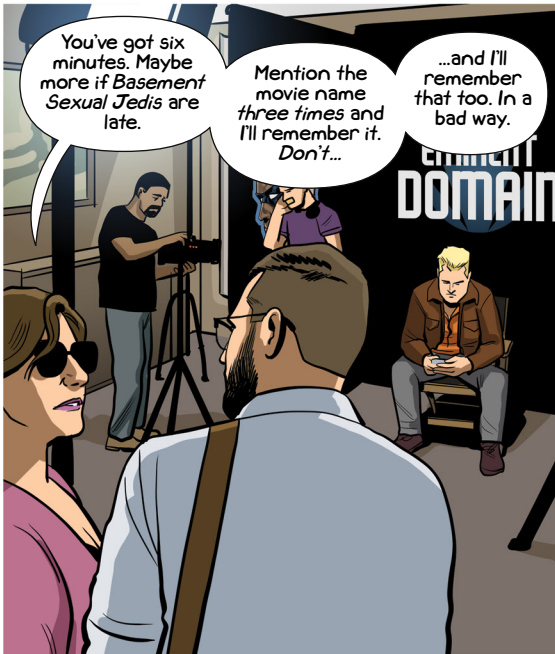
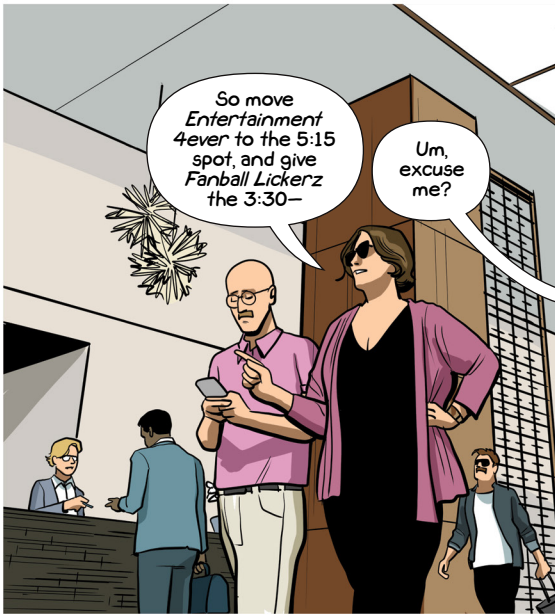
Your dog piss is your father's creation. Let it feed your work when you write about the Romaine movies.

Domain movies.

Whatever. I don't watch that garbage.

Now get out of my office and write the hell out of that puff piece, you beautiful bastard.







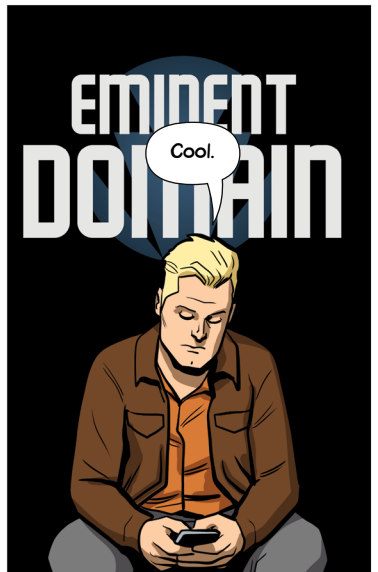
Four more and you're on the LA flight.

Cool.



Okay! Let's do this!

It's newspaper. No video.



Cool.



All right.

The Domain... is a beloved comic book character.

...What drew you to the role?



Superhero movies are our modern mythology.

I'm just extremely excited to bring that mythology to the people.



Superhero comics.

What?

The superhero comics are the mythology. You're just adapting them.



Hm, yes. Obviously I respect the original comics and their fans—

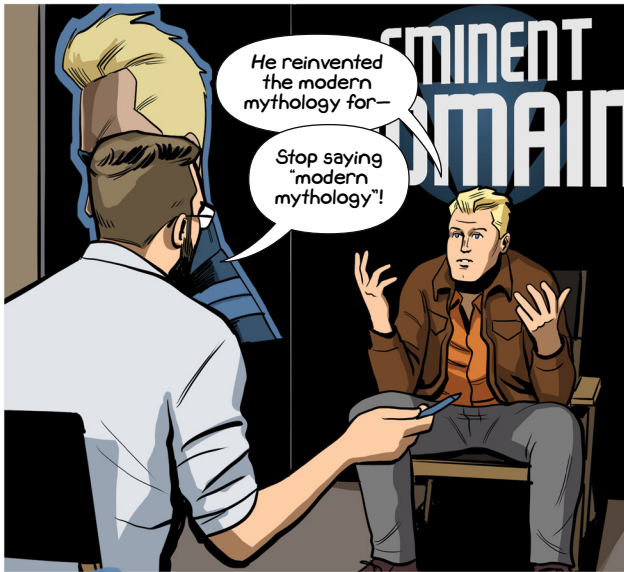
Oh yeah?



Have you read them?

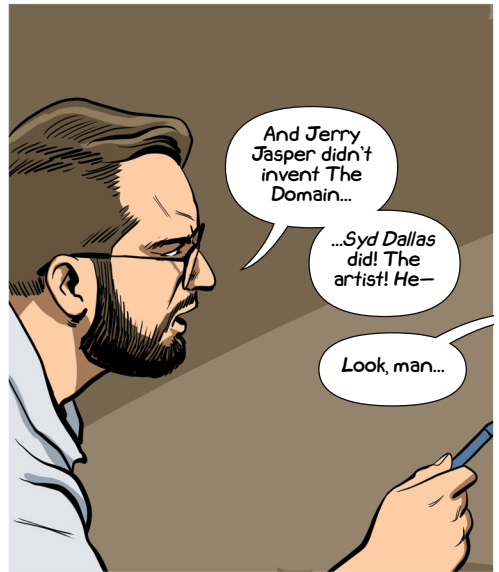


Of course! I'm a huge fan of Jerry Jasper.



He reinvented the modern mythology for—

Stop saying "modern mythology"!



And Jerry Jasper didn't invent The Domain...

...Syd Dallas did! The artist! He—

Look, man...



...I don't know what your deal is, but I'm promoting a movie, all right?

I'm not taking some kind of *nerd purity test*.



I'm not— this isn't about gatekeeping!

You and— and *Singular Studios* don't give a *shit* about the people who put you in that seat!

Whoa, wait, let's just—

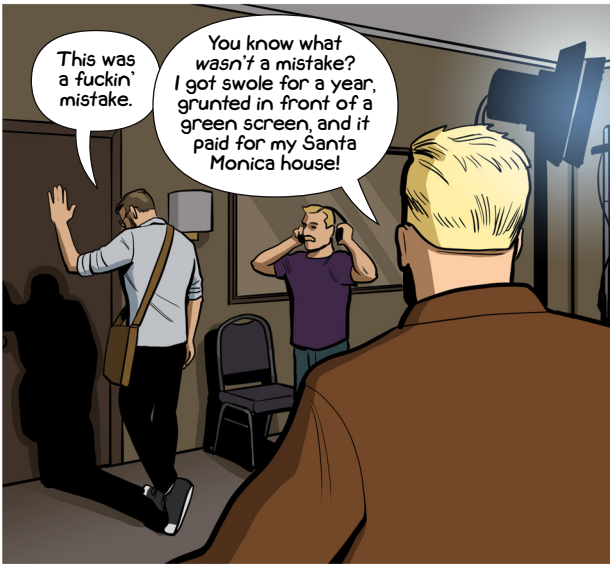


You get the millions that the creators *should* have received, just for looking pretty in a *Hallowe'en costume*!

Are you fuckin' kidding me right now?

I'm just promoting some dumb superhero movie! What's your problem, man?

It's—it's actually a *wonderful* superhero movie and—



This was a fuckin' mistake.

You know what wasn't a mistake? I got swole for a year, grunted in front of a green screen, and it paid for my Santa Monica house!



Pal, comics are just old kiddy bullshit that looks better on the big screen!

Whoever "Syd" is, he didn't paint the fuckin' Mona Lisa!



And you know who agrees with me? The entire world!

So, yeah, sorry I don't know some loser who doodled guys in tights back in the forties!



Now get the fuck out before I—

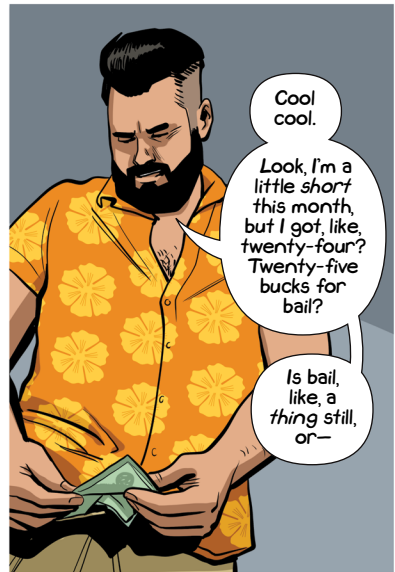


"Lookin' for a guy named Miles Dallas?"



He's like, *this tall*. And *this angry*.

Yeah, we picked him up an hour ago.



Cool cool.

Look, I'm a little *short* this month, but I got, like, twenty-four? Twenty-five bucks for bail?

Is bail, like, a *thing* still, or—



It's not.

Nobody's pressing charges, Dave.



God, I'm so proud of you, brother!

Finally arrested! Like a badass!

Nf! Can we just go, please?



You're just lucky the movie people don't want this kind of press.

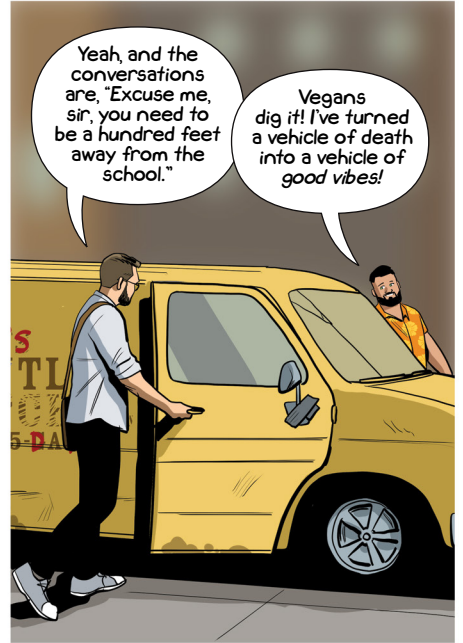
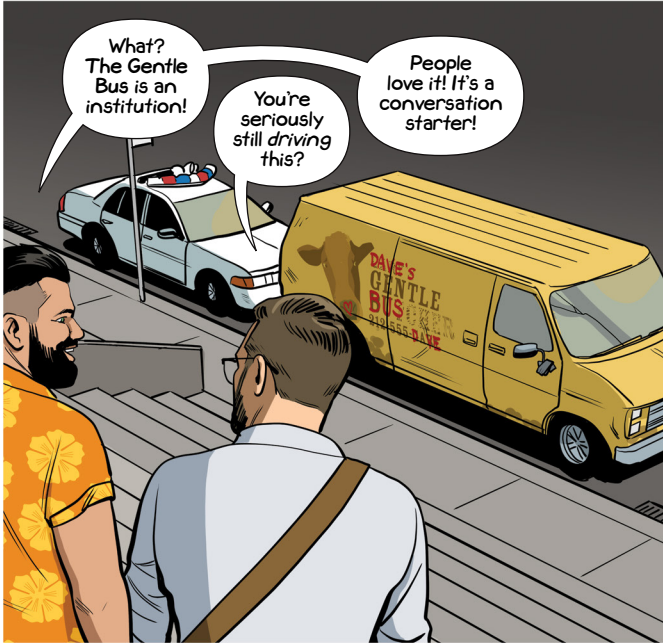
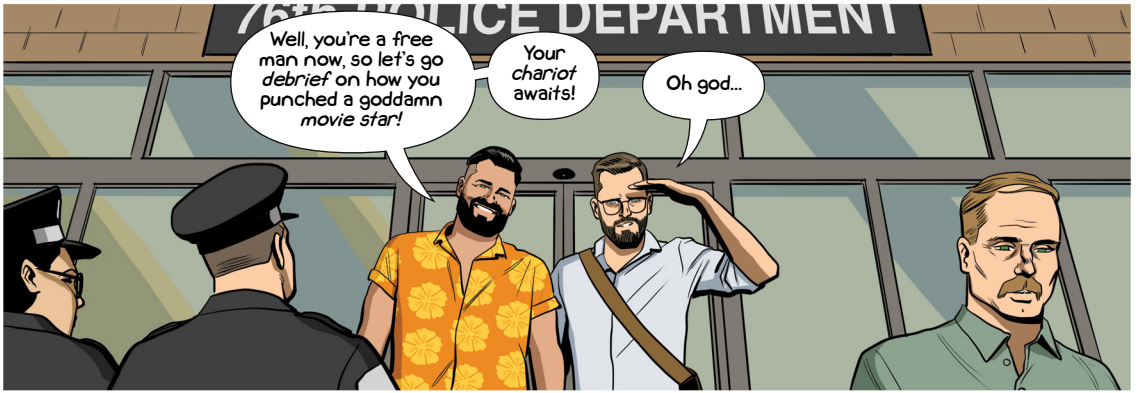
Keep your nose clean, you hear me?

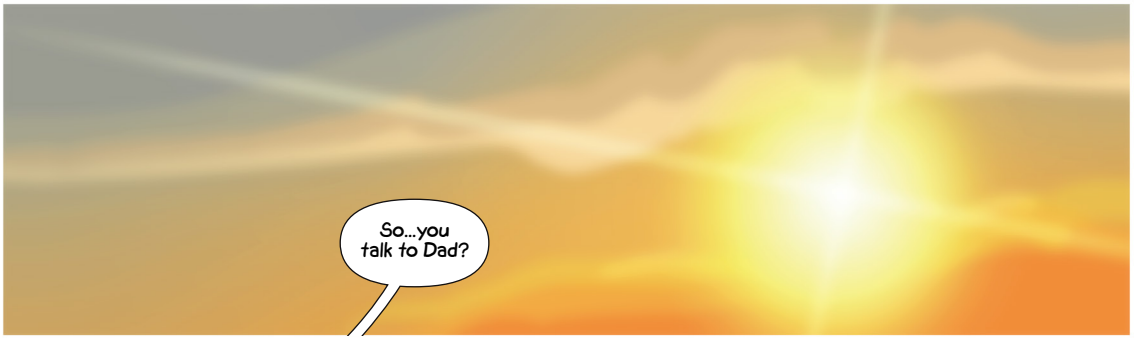
I... sure.



I can't decide what's more embarrassing: being arrested, or having some dipshit tell me to "keep my nose clean" ...

Man, cops and their anti-coke bullshit...



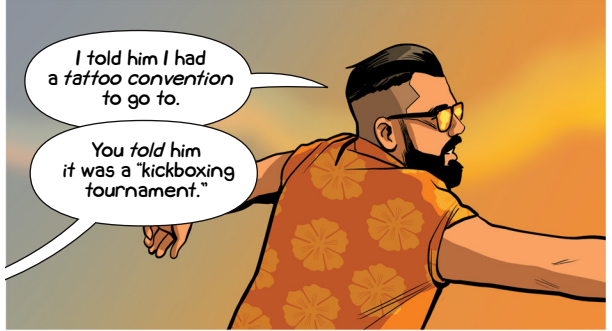


So...you talk to Dad?



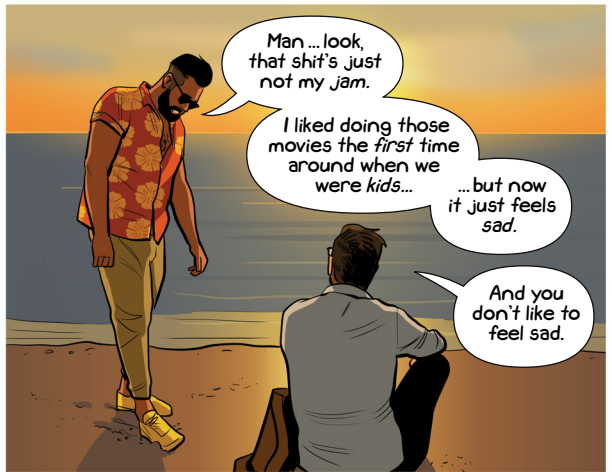
Huh? About what?

Like...the premiere? The fact that he's going alone?



I told him I had a tattoo convention to go to.

You told him it was a "kickboxing tournament."



Man ...look, that shit's just not my jam.

I liked doing those movies the first time around when we were kids...

...but now it just feels sad.

And you don't like to feel sad.



Who does?

But you can't just be happy all the time!

Sometimes you've gotta... gotta suck it up and do the thing you don't want to do because your loved ones need you.

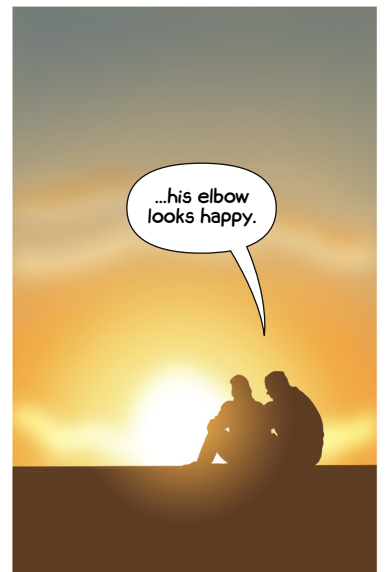
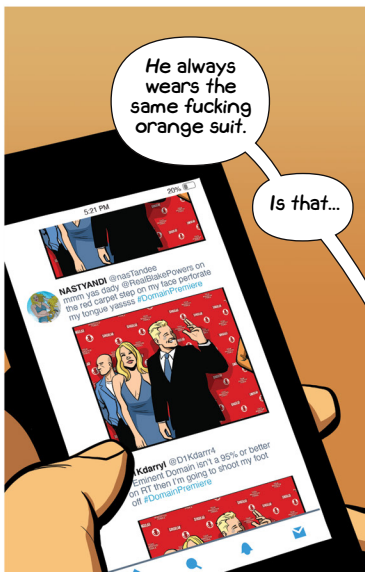


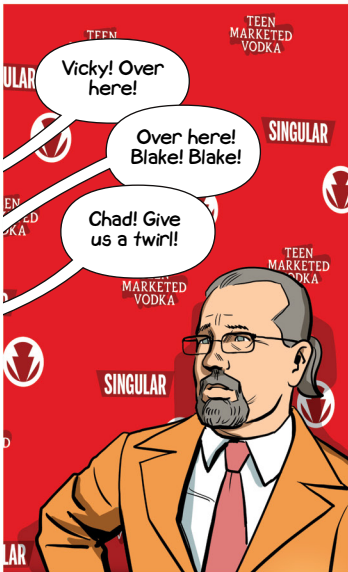
Well, what about you?

I guess you couldn't go because of your violent tendencies?

Assaulting actors put you on the no-fly list?



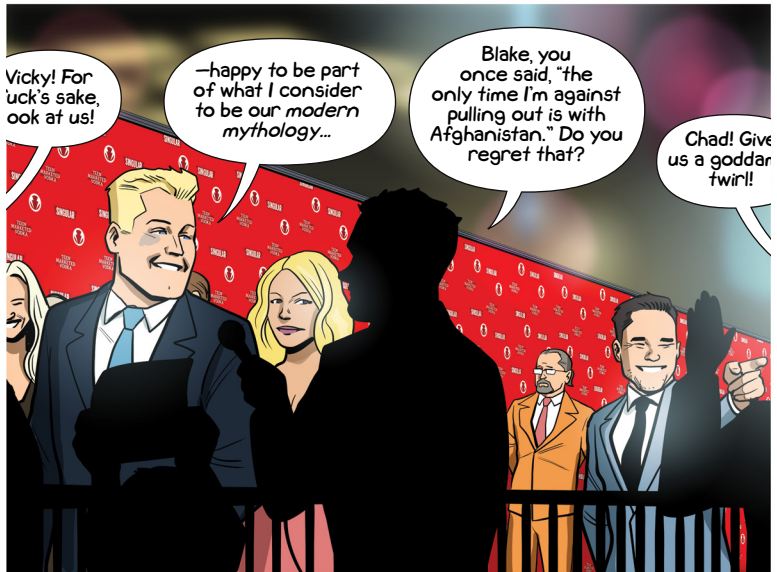




Vicky! Over here!

Over here! Blake! Blake!

Chad! Give us a twirl!



Vicky! For fuck's sake, look at us!

—happy to be part of what I consider to be our modern mythology...

Blake, you once said, "the only time I'm against pulling out is with Afghanistan." Do you regret that?

Chad! Give us a goddam twirl!



Is that... is that Syd Dallas?

Should we get a shot of him and Jerry together?

Seems like that's a worthwhile picture: the creators of *The Domain*....



First of all, never refer to them as the "creators." *Singular Comics* are the official creators.

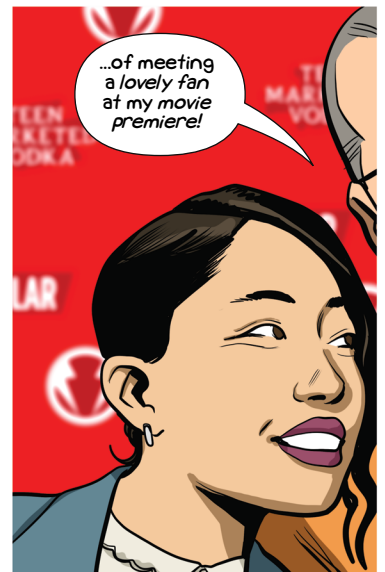
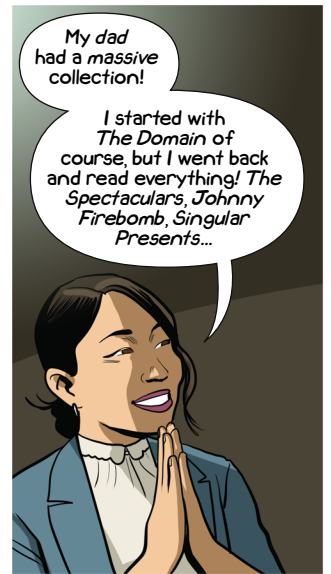
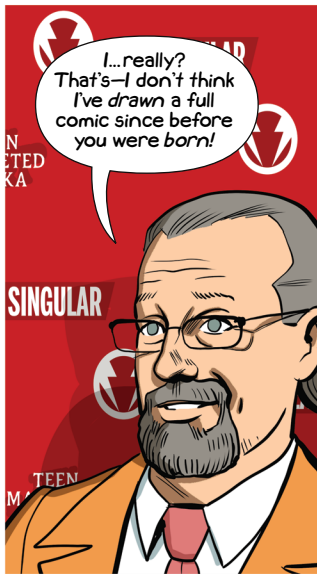
Second of all, Jerry would rather die than have his picture taken with Syd.



And, frankly, so would I. We need him getting snapped with the actors, not other old men.

Yeah...of course.







Well, I'd love to take one too. Or you can send—

Now how do I get this to you...

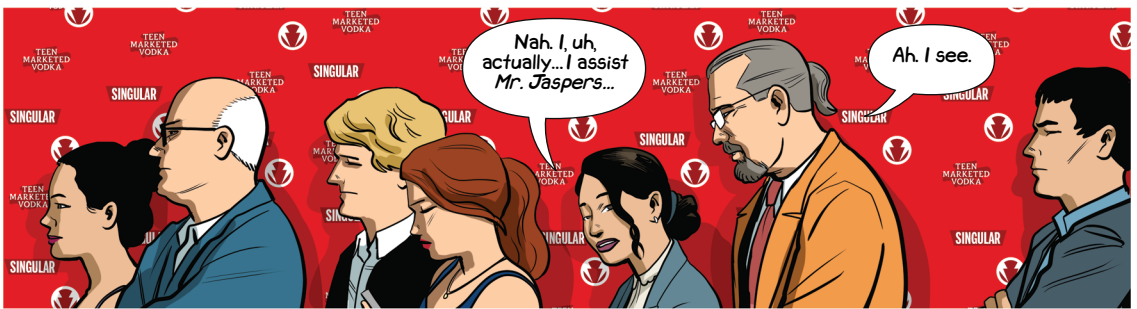


Here. I'll give you my number and you can text it.

Ah. Wonderful.

So...did you work on the movie, or...

Come on, gotta clear the carpet.



Nah, I, uh, actually... I assist Mr. Jaspers...

Ah. I see.



But—but really I want to be a writer!

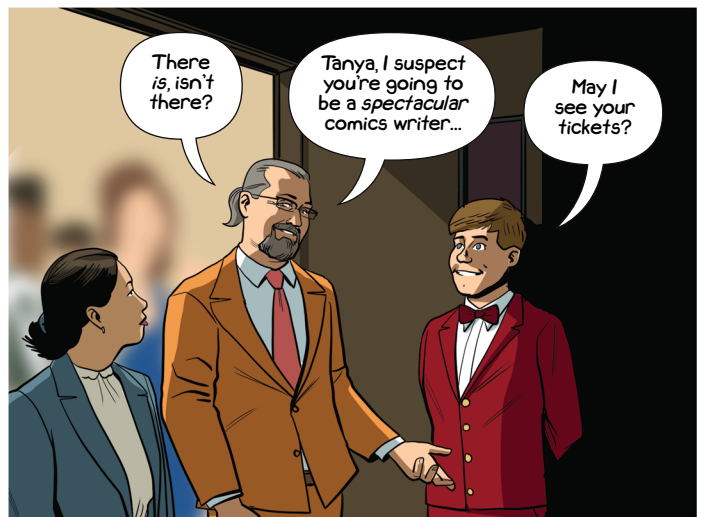
Ah ha! A creative type! Screenwriting? Novels?



Actually... comics.

I just love them. The movies are great, but...

...there's something magical about just a couple of people creating worlds on a page.



There is, isn't there?

Tanya, I suspect you're going to be a spectacular comics writer...

May I see your tickets?



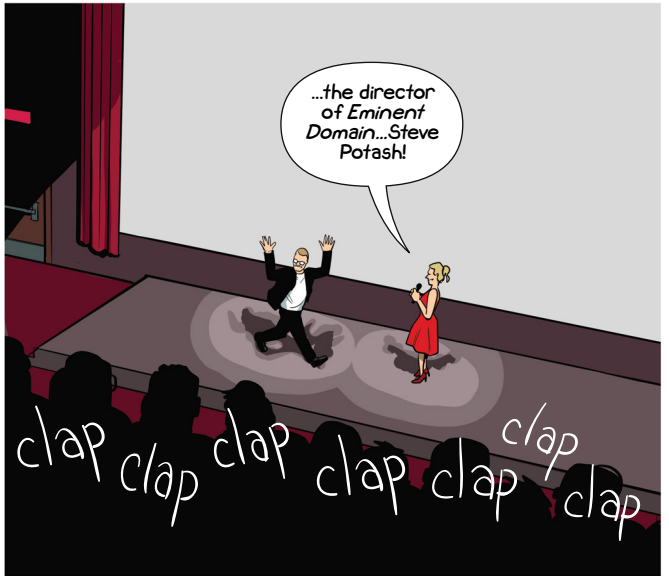
A true pleasure, my dear!

Oh! Same, Mr. Dallas! And thank you!



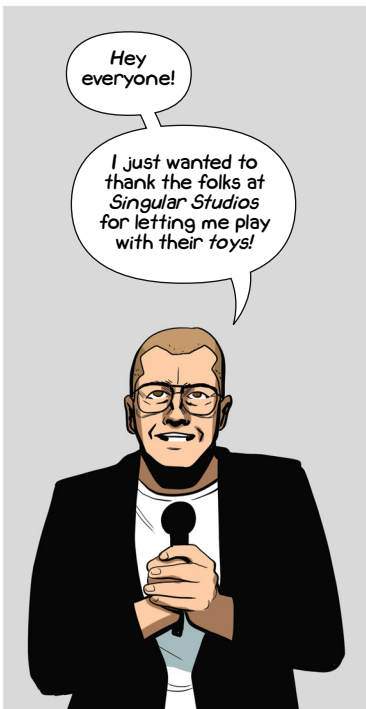
Christ, this better not be one of those two-and-a-half-hour bullshit—

Ladies and gentlemen...



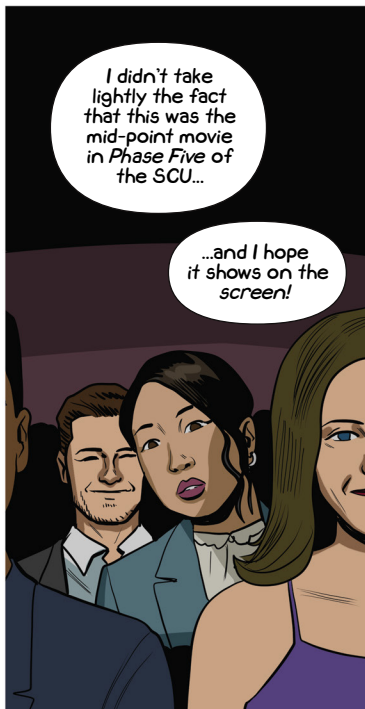
...the director of *Eminent Domain*... Steve Potash!

clap clap clap clap clap



Hey everyone!

I just wanted to thank the folks at *Singular Studios* for letting me play with their toys!



I didn't take lightly the fact that this was the mid-point movie in *Phase Five* of the SCU...

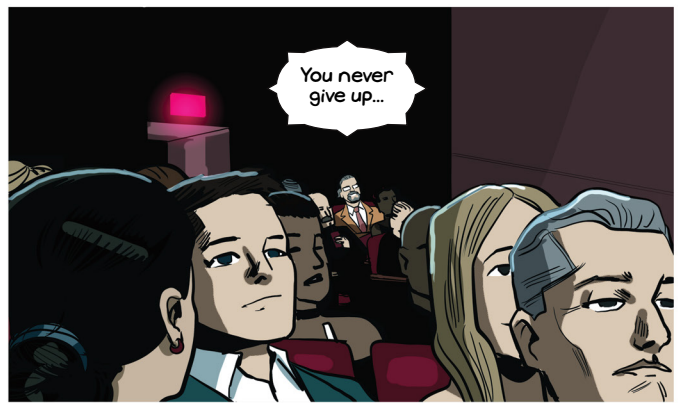
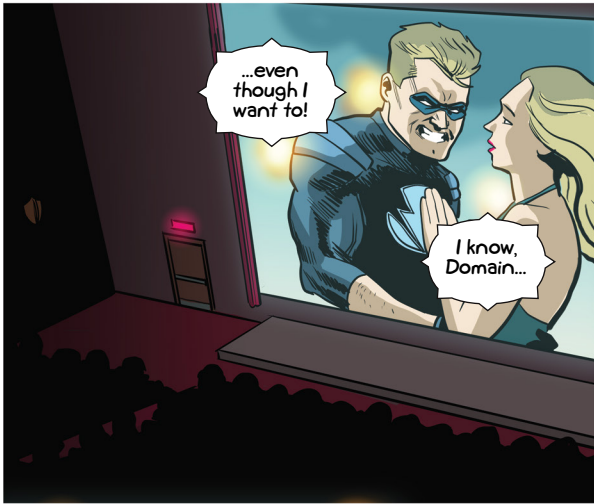
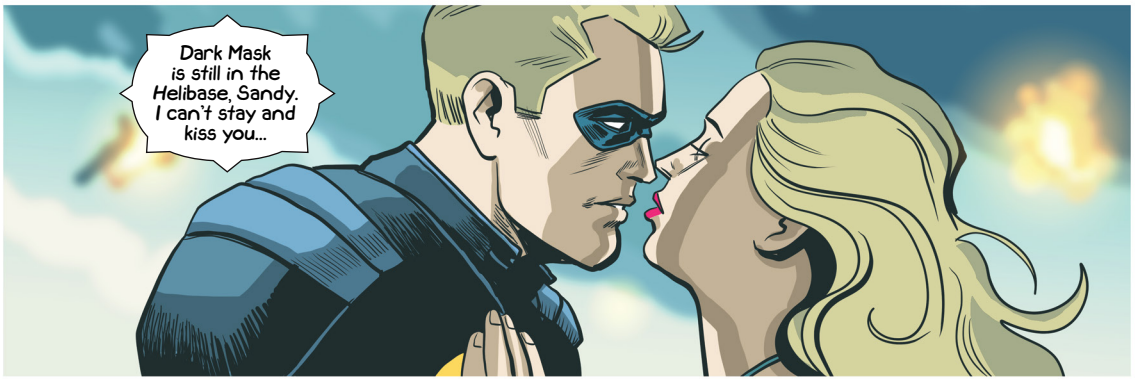
...and I hope it shows on the screen!



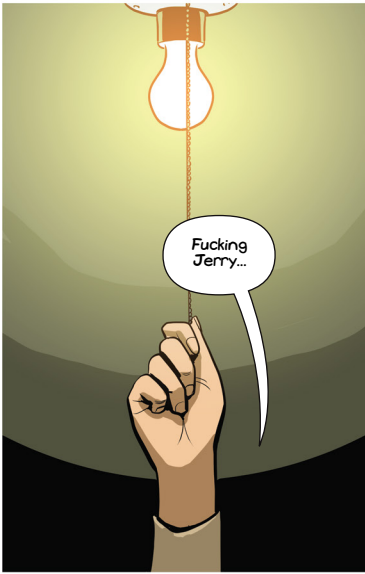
So, on behalf of *Chad*, *Vicky* and everyone at *Singular*...

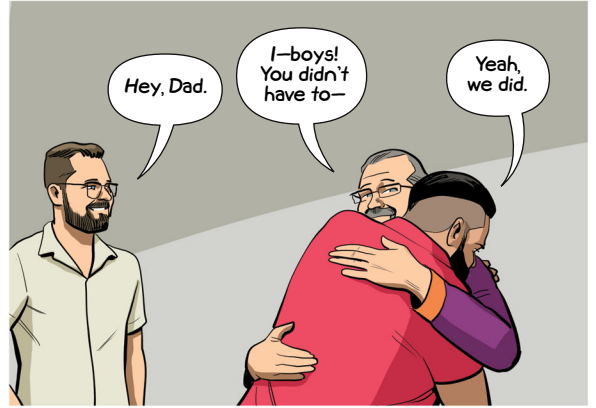
...thank you! Now let's roll!!

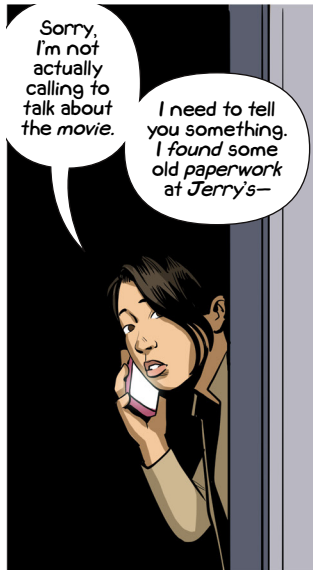
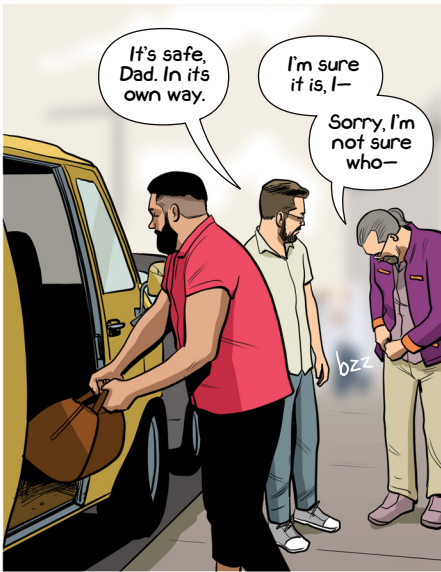
clap clap clap clap















Rated **M** / Mature