

OUT OF BODY

1

PART ONE: GIVING UP THE GHOST

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NEXT TIME, HAVE WHAT I WANT, MAGGOT.

UGH...NGG...
Y-YES, MASTER.
I...P-PROMISE,
DORIAN, I
PROMISE!

AS I
ONCE SAID
TO WHISTLER:
PROMISES
ARE
DREAMS...



...BUT
SO TOO ARE
NIGHTMARES...

UGH...UGH...
AAAGHH!



I SHALL
RETURN
IN TWO DAYS.
YOU'D BETTER
GET TO WORK
WITH YOUR
MAGIC
SPELLS...



...OR
WHATEVER
FRIGHTFUL
THING IT IS
YOU DO...



I...I
SH-SHOULD
NEVER HAVE LET
IT GET THIS FAR.
FOOL. I'M SUCH
A FOOL.

WH-WHO
CAN I TURN TO?
WHO...CAN
HELP ME?



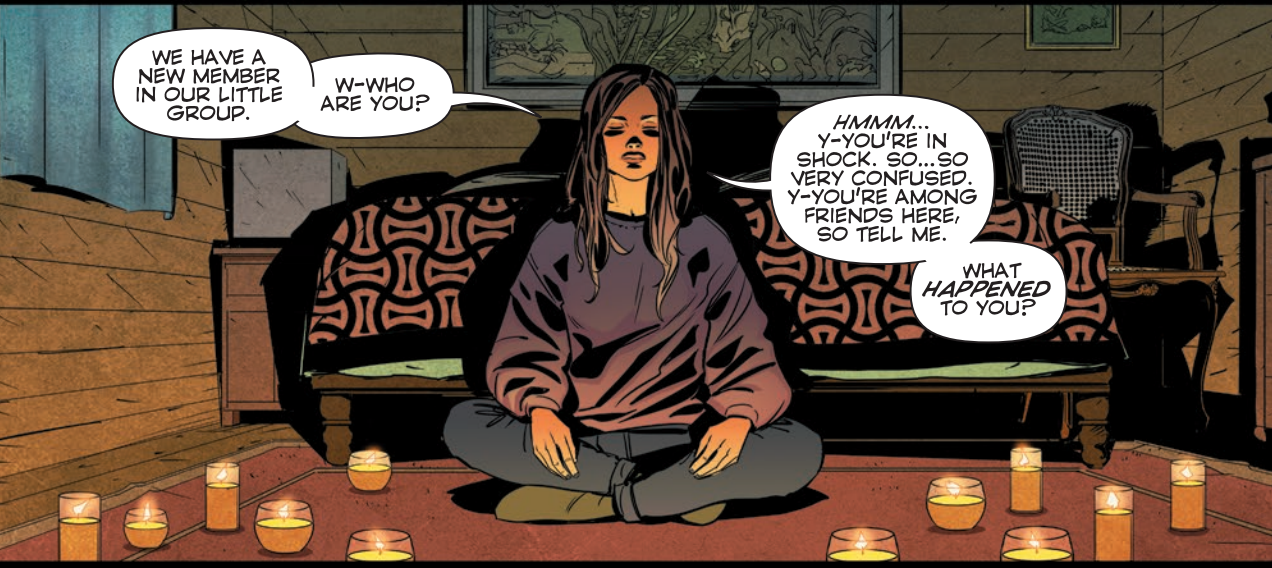
THE GIRL..
OF
C-COURSE...



"...THE OZARKS!"

TAKE IT EASY, FATHER O'CONNOR. I'LL RETURN TO YOU LATER. YOU TOO, PRINCESS ANASTASIA.

OH, BEHAVE NOW, JOSEPH AND LILLY. YOU'VE BEEN DEAD FOR A HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS...A FEW MORE MINUTES WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE...



WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER IN OUR LITTLE GROUP.

W-WHO ARE YOU?

HMMM... Y-YOU'RE IN SHOCK. SO...SO VERY CONFUSED. Y-YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS HERE, SO TELL ME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?



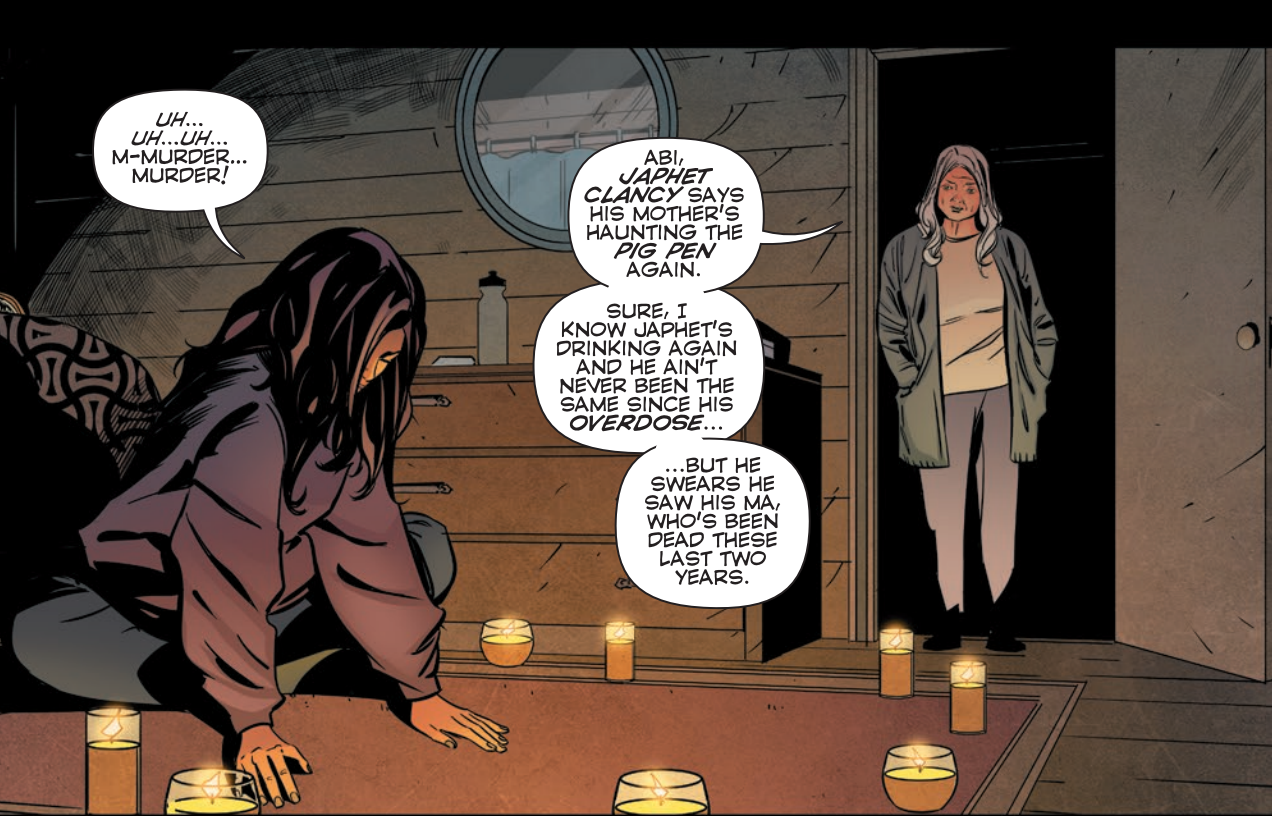
WAIT. I SEE IT...YES...A FIGURE...OUT OF THE DARKNESS...

...A FIGURE...



E! EE! AA!





UH...
UH...UH...
M-MURDER...
MURDER!

ABI,
JAPHET
CLANCY SAYS
HIS MOTHER'S
HAUNTING THE
PIG PEN
AGAIN.

SURE, I
KNOW JAPHET'S
DRINKING AGAIN
AND HE AIN'T
NEVER BEEN THE
SAME SINCE HIS
OVERDOSE...

...BUT HE
SWEARS HE
SAW HIS MA,
WHO'S BEEN
DEAD THESE
LAST TWO
YEARS.



HE WANTS
YOU TO *TALK*
TO HER.



T-TELL HIM TO COME
BACK LATER, MA. I'M IN
TOUCH WITH A REAL
T-TORTURED SOUL
HERE.

JAPH CLANCY
IS A *PAYING*
CUSTOMER.



I SAID
LATER!



DAMN. I
THINK I'VE
LOST YOU.

D-DON'T BE
AFRAID. DYING IS
THE MOST NATURAL
THING IN THE
WORLD. COME
ON... I KNOW
YOU'RE THERE...

...STEP
OUT OF THE
DARK...

"...LET ME GET A LOOK AT YOU."



YOUR BROTHER IS ON LIFE-SUPPORT, MR. COLLINS.

LIFE SUPPORT?



Y-YOU MEAN...WITHOUT ALL THIS MACHINERY HE'D DIE?

IT'S SO REFRESHING TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE WITH A LITTLE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE. YES, THE MACHINE'S KEEPING HIM ALIVE--AT LEAST UNTIL HE'S ABLE TO DO SURVIVE ON HIS OWN.

CAN HE HEAR US?

Oh, yes, I can hear them. I can see them, too.

I try to speak or make a noise. Let my brother Luke and the doctor know that I'm in here.

But there's a disconnect between my brain and my mouth.



HE JUST BLINKED! HE'S CONSCIOUS!

PROBABLY JUST AN INVOLUNTARY SPASM.



WE'LL HAVE TO DO MORE TESTS. BUT LATER. WE DON'T WANT TO TIRE HIM OUT. YOUR BROTHER'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

Wait. What does that mean? What exactly have I been through?



I don't remember a thing.

Unable to move.
Unable to speak.
What happened
to me?

I must treat myself
as though I'm one of
my patients. Coax the
painful memories out
from their shadows.

If I can remember
what happened...why it
happened...maybe...just
maybe...I'll wake myself
from this nightmare.

I fight down
the panic. Got
to stay calm
here.

Come on,
you're a
psychologist
for pity's sake!

A memory stirs.
Now we're getting
somewhere. Doyle's. My
all-time favorite bar.

I'm leaving, headed
for my car. Like I've
done a hundred
times before.

Why am I
remembering
this?

Wait.

A footstep
behind me.
I turn.

Then...
then...

Nothing.

Absolutely
nothing.