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Marc Silvestri · Stefano Raffaele · Agustín Padilla
Prianto & Co. · Troy Peteri

The Darkness



**TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS AGO.**

TELL ME
HOW TO GET RID
OF THE DARKNESS,
SONATINE.

...YOU
HAVE ONE
MINUTE.

NO NEED FOR
THREATS, JACKIE--I'M
HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY
QUESTIONS. BESIDES,
HASN'T THERE BEEN
ENOUGH KILLING
LATELY?



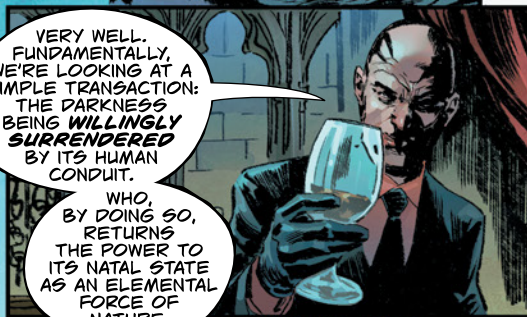
SPEAKING OF
WHICH, TERRIBLE
WHAT HAPPENED
TO JENNY. SO
SAD.

...THIRTY
SECONDS.



VERY WELL.
FUNDAMENTALLY,
WE'RE LOOKING AT A
SIMPLE TRANSACTION:
THE DARKNESS
BEING **WILLINGLY
SURRENDERED**
BY ITS HUMAN
CONDUIT.

WHO,
BY DOING SO,
RETURNS
THE POWER TO
ITS NATAL STATE
AS AN ELEMENTAL
FORCE OF
NATURE.



WHAT?



MY APOLOGIES,
I SOMETIMES
FORGET TO WHOM
I'M SPEAKING.

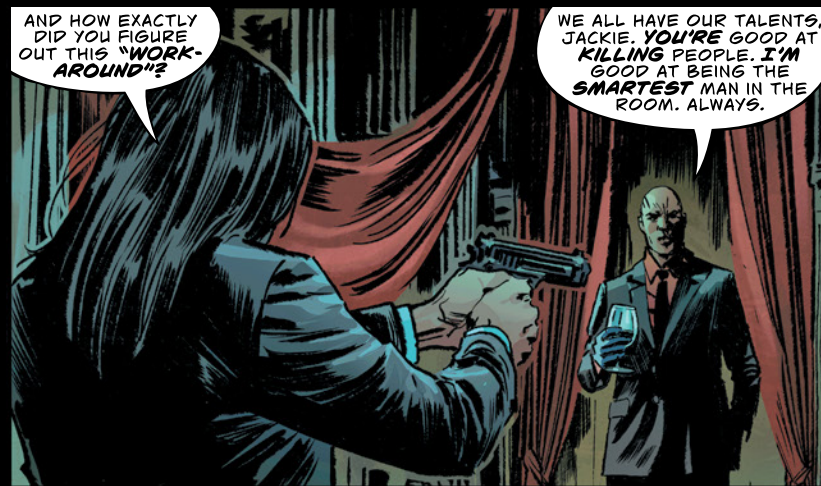


IN SIMPLE,
LAYMAN'S TERMS,
YOU **GIVE** THE
DARKNESS TO
ME.



THAT'S IT?
I JUST "GIVE" IT
TO YOU? WHAT
ABOUT THE WHOLE
HAVING A BABY AND
DYING THING?

OH, I HAVE A
WORKAROUND
FOR THAT.

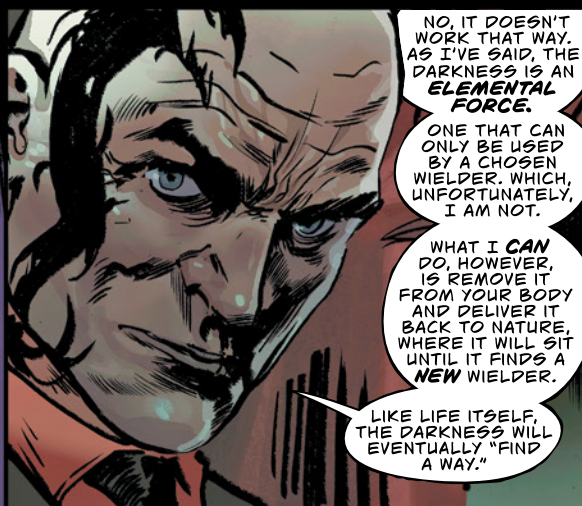


AND HOW EXACTLY
DID YOU FIGURE
OUT THIS "WORK-
AROUND"?

WE ALL HAVE OUR TALENTS,
JACKIE. YOU'RE GOOD AT
KILLING PEOPLE. I'M
GOOD AT BEING THE
SMARTEST MAN IN THE
ROOM. ALWAYS.



OF COURSE.
AND I'M SUPPOSED
TO JUST HAND THE
DARKNESS OVER
TO YOU AND YOUR
GOONS TO RUN
WILD WITH?



NO, IT DOESN'T
WORK THAT WAY.
AS I'VE SAID, THE
DARKNESS IS AN
**ELEMENTAL
FORCE.**

ONE THAT CAN
ONLY BE USED
BY A CHOSEN
WIELDER. WHICH,
UNFORTUNATELY,
I AM NOT.

WHAT I **CAN**
DO, HOWEVER,
IS REMOVE IT
FROM YOUR BODY
AND DELIVER IT
BACK TO NATURE,
WHERE IT WILL SIT
UNTIL IT FINDS A
NEW WIELDER.

LIKE LIFE ITSELF,
THE DARKNESS WILL
EVENTUALLY "FIND
A WAY."



UNTIL THE
NEXT S*P LIKE
ME COMES
ALONG AND
YOU CAN START
YOUR WORLD
DOMINATION
BULLSHIT ALL
OVER AGAIN,
YEAH?

YOU
DON'T DO
ANYTHING
OUT OF THE
GOODNESS OF
YOUR HEART,
SONATINE.
WHAT'S IN IT
FOR YOU?

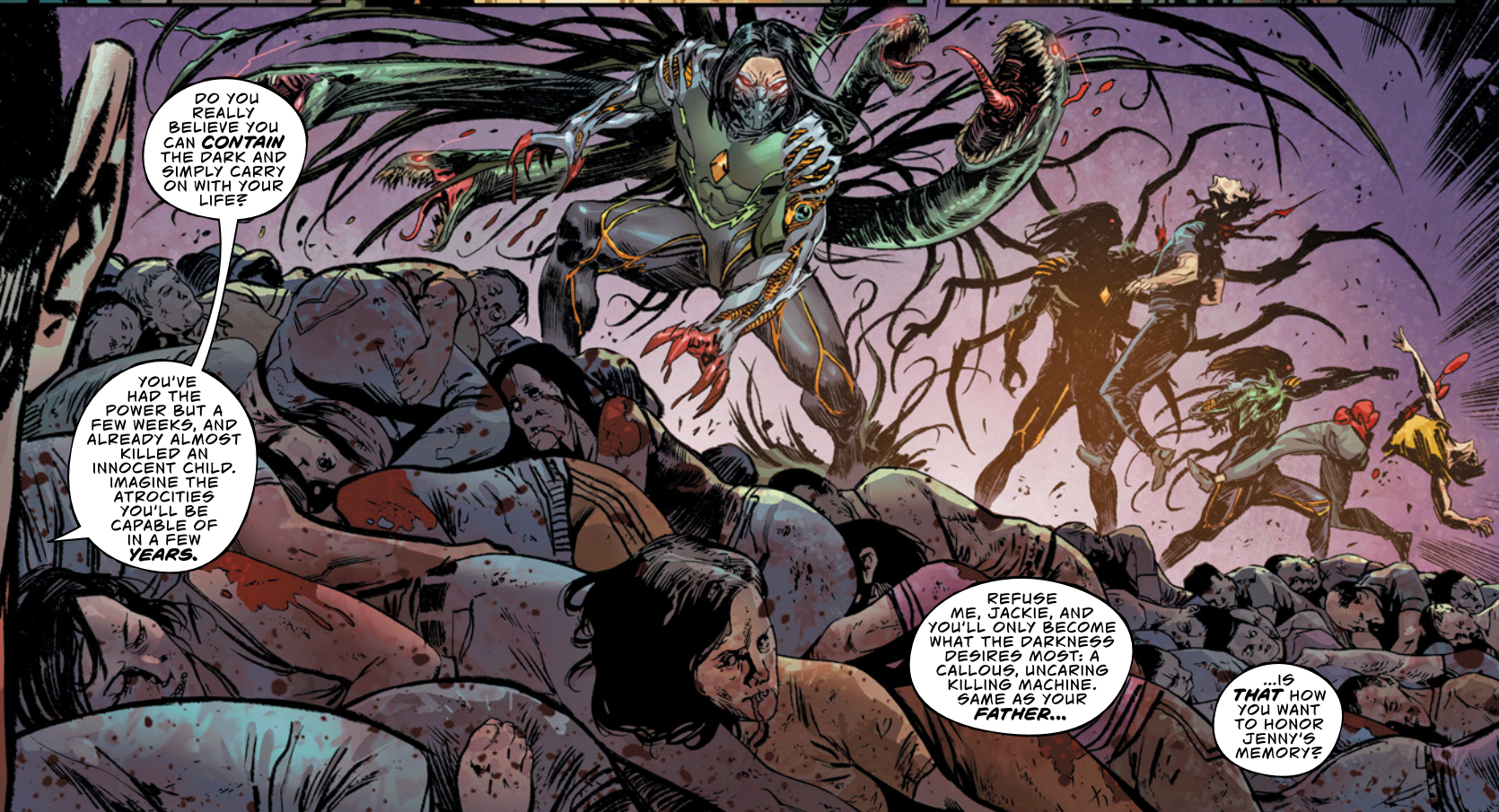


WELL, TO BE
BLUNT, AS A WIELDER
OF THE DARKNESS, YOU,
AS THEY SAY, "SUCK." I'M
HOPING THE NEXT ONE
WILL BE LESS OF A
DISAPPOINTMENT.

I SEE. MAYBE
I SHOULD JUST TELL
YOU TO ~~S*P~~ OFF,
WASTE YOU AND ALL THE
OTHER BROTHERHOOD
CLOWNS, AND TAKE
MY CHANCES.



DON'T BE
NAIVE.



DO YOU
REALLY
BELIEVE YOU
CAN **CONTAIN**
THE DARK AND
SIMPLY CARRY
ON WITH YOUR
LIFE?

YOU'VE
HAD THE
POWER BUT A
FEW WEEKS, AND
ALREADY ALMOST
KILLED AN
INNOCENT CHILD.
IMAGINE THE
ATROCITIES
YOU'LL BE
CAPABLE OF
IN A FEW
YEARS.

REFUSE
ME, JACKIE, AND
YOU'LL ONLY BECOME
WHAT THE DARKNESS
DESIRES MOST: A
CALLOUS, UNCARING
KILLING MACHINE.
SAME AS YOUR
FATHER...

...IS
THAT HOW
YOU WANT
TO HONOR
JENNY'S
MEMORY?

