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US
the FORGOTTEN FIVE
STARRING
JANUS
LUMINOUS
BROADCAST
FIGMENT
UMBRA
SEGURA
CENTURY
KENNEDY
OUR RADICAL BAND OF HEROES MAKE A DARING ESCAPE FROM...
"the CONCRETE CLUTCHES of GRANITE!"

MOST LEGENDS START WITH A **BANG.**

EVEN THIS ONE, THOUGH IT'S BEEN LONG FORGOTTEN.

HERE BEGINS A STORY OF OUTCASTS, OF SO-CALLED "FREAKS" AND NOBODIES STRUGGLING TO GET BY-- NOW SUDDENLY SADDLED WITH SOMETHING NEW AND UNEXPECTED. "GIFTS" THAT FEEL MORE LIKE A CURSE.

THIS IS A STORY OF KIDS LIVING ON THE MARGINS, THRUST INTO THE ROLES OF HEROES AND SAVIORS-- ONLY TO LOSE THEMSELVES IN THE PROCESS.

THESE ARE THE **FORGOTTEN FIVE**

BUT LET'S NOT GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF OURSELVES.

KENNEDY
SEGURA
CENTURY

MIAMI, 2004.

BUT A MIAMI UNLIKE ANYTHING MOST NON-RESIDENTS HAVE SEEN ON TELEVISION.

CHURCHILL'S PUB WAS A NEXUS POINT FOR **OUTCASTS**--FOR THE **FREAKS** LOOKING FOR A RESPITE FROM THE PAINS AND SHARP EDGES OF THE REAL WORLD.

...GUT YOURSELF, GUT YOUR FRIENDS...!

FOR OUR SOON-TO-BE HEROES, CHURCHILL'S IS A PLACE TO SIT BACK AND HAVE A FEW BEERS WITHOUT GETTING CARDED.

The Fuck Nuts

THE DARKNESS... IT'S COMING HARD AND FAST...**FIND YOURSELF**...OUT RUNNIN'...

...MAKE THE FEELIN' LAST...!

THE KIND OF OASIS YOU HELD ON TO WITH YOUR FINGERNAILS.

USMC

IT'S EASY TO SEE THE SPLIT-SECOND PIVOTS IN LIFE THAT CHANGE **EVERYTHING.**

IT'S MUCH HARDER TO BRACE FOR THEM.

I **REALLY** NEEDED THIS TONIGHT!

DAMN RIGHT, EERO.

THE BOYS ARE GETTING GLASSY-EYED, RIN.

C'MON, LET THEM ENJOY IT, MARI.

WE DON'T GET OUT MUCH.

MARI DE LA CRUZ'S LAUGH CARRIES HER FRIENDS THROUGH THE BAR'S WOBBLY DOORS AND OUT INTO THE CHILL MIAMI NIGHT.

AHAHAHAHA-- YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN YOUR FACE, DAGEN.

YOU LOOKED LIKE A BABY STARING UP AT THE STAGE.

IT WAS CUTE.

AHH, CUT IT OUT, ALFRED. PLEASE.

...DO I KNOW YOU?

CHILL, BRO.

SHE'S WITH ME.

EERO, WHAT'RE THE ODDS **RIN** LETS US CRASH AT HER PARENTS' TONIGHT?

YEAH, THAT'S THEM.

BUT TONIGHT--THE EVENING BUBBLES WITH MALICE.

HELL, GIMME ANOTHER BEER AND I'M BOUND TO--

--BLACK OUT.

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP

UUUUUUHH

HHH...

WH- WHAT...

WHERE... WHERE AM I?

QUIET, KID.

RELAX.

FOR **MARI DE LA CRUZ, ALFRED SANDERS, RIN MINAMOTO, EERO HAMILTON,** AND **DAGGER CHAPUT,** THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY MORE QUIET.

JUST A ROILING, UNRELENTING **FEAR.**

--THE **HELL?!**

GUYS...!

LISTEN UP--ALL OF YOU. NAME'S POLLY NAPIER. I'M A FRIEND. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW.

THIS IS A BAD PLACE. IF YOU WANNA LIVE, FOLLOW ME.

IF YOU STAY--YOU'LL BE DEAD BY DUSK. BANK ON IT.

WHAT... WHAT **IS** THIS PLACE?!

IT'S A FEELING EX-CONTINGENCY AGENT **POLLY NAPIER** KNOWS ALL TOO WELL.

IT'S SCARY AS HELL, KID. I KNOW.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK IT OVER. WE GOTTA MOVE.

OH... OKAY... OKAY...

FIRST STEP? GET OUT OF BED.

ALL OF YOU. STRETCH THOSE LIMBS. YOU'VE BEEN PUMPED FULL OF ALL KINDS OF SHIT.

BUT WE GOTTA **MOVE.**

WEE-OOO- WEEE-OOO!

WEE-OOO- WEEE-OOO!

C'MON, LET'S FOLLOW THIS LADY...

C'MON-- THIS WAY! THEY'RE ONTO US!

I DUNNO ABOUT YOU ALL, BUT I'M NOT STAYING HERE. LET'S LISTEN TO THIS POLLY LADY...

"...AND RUN LIKE HELL."

MERRILL, WE'VE GOT A BREACH IN THE MAIN STAGING AREA--

I SEE 'EM--IS THAT NAPIER, TOO?

GRANITE'S GONNA LOSE HIS SHIT-- SHE HAS THE CASE!

DON'T LET THEM GET THROUGH THE HATCH!

THE LITTLE ONE, GRAB 'IM!

OOOMPH! WAIT! I--

WAIT-- PLEASE!

EERO, HURRY!

WE CAN'T WAIT--EITHER WE ALL *DIE* HERE, OR SOME OF US MAKE IT OUT.

"YOUR FRIEND'S ON HIS OWN."

=HUFF, HUFF=

WE GOT THIS LITTLE TADPOLE, AT LEAST!

IT'S OKAY, **EERO.** WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE. WE KNOW YOU'RE **SCARED.**

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.

=HUFF, HUFF=

I KNOW PEOPLE LIKE YOU, LADY. BIG PROMISES. SOFT WORDS.

HEARD YOUR SMOOTH, SILKY TALK...

...TOO MANY TIMES!

AIIIIEEEERRGH!

THE LIGHT! I'M BLIND-- CAN'T SEE!

OOOF!

IT'S IN THAT MOMENT THAT EERO AND HIS FRIENDS REALIZE THERE IS NO GOING BACK--NO "NORMAL" TO STRIVE FOR.

IF THERE **EVER** WAS.

"...AND RUN LIKE HELL."

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IF THERE **EVER** WAS.

A SHORT WHILE LATER--AS THE DARKNESS SINKS IN.

LEGS ACHE...GOTTA REST...

NO TIME, KIDDO--NOT EVERYONE MADE IT. WE HAVE TO.

HEY, YOU'RE RIN, RIGHT?

Y-YES... YES.

CUT THROUGH THERE--LAY LOW. THEN CIRCLE BACK AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

STICK TO THE GREENERY AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.

...REALLY THINK THOSE FREAKS WOULD COME *THIS* WAY?

BOSS SAYS CUT THROUGH THE SWAMP, WE CUT THROUGH THE FUCKIN' SWAMP.

HMMH?

SPLISHH

OH NO...

GOTCHA!

NO, NO, NO--PLEASE...

THOUGHT I JUST IMAGINED YOU SLITHERING AROUND HERE.

GRANITE'S GONNA GIVE ME A HELLUVA PROMOTION FOR FINDIN' YOU.

NO--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T *BELONG* HERE. PLEASE DON'T...

...MAKE ME DO THIS!

YOU'RE A *FAILURE*, RANDY! A SAD *JOKE!* NO ONE *LOVES* YOU!

OH GOD, NO! *DAD?!* WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON--

JESUS CHRIST...NO... THIS CAN'T BE REAL...

RIN MINAMOTO *FEELS THE ENERGY COURSE OUT OF HER, BECOME SOMETHING ELSE.*

SOMETHING THAT ***TERRIFIES*** *AND* ***HURTS.***

BUT IN THIS MOMENT... SHE IS ***THANKFUL.***


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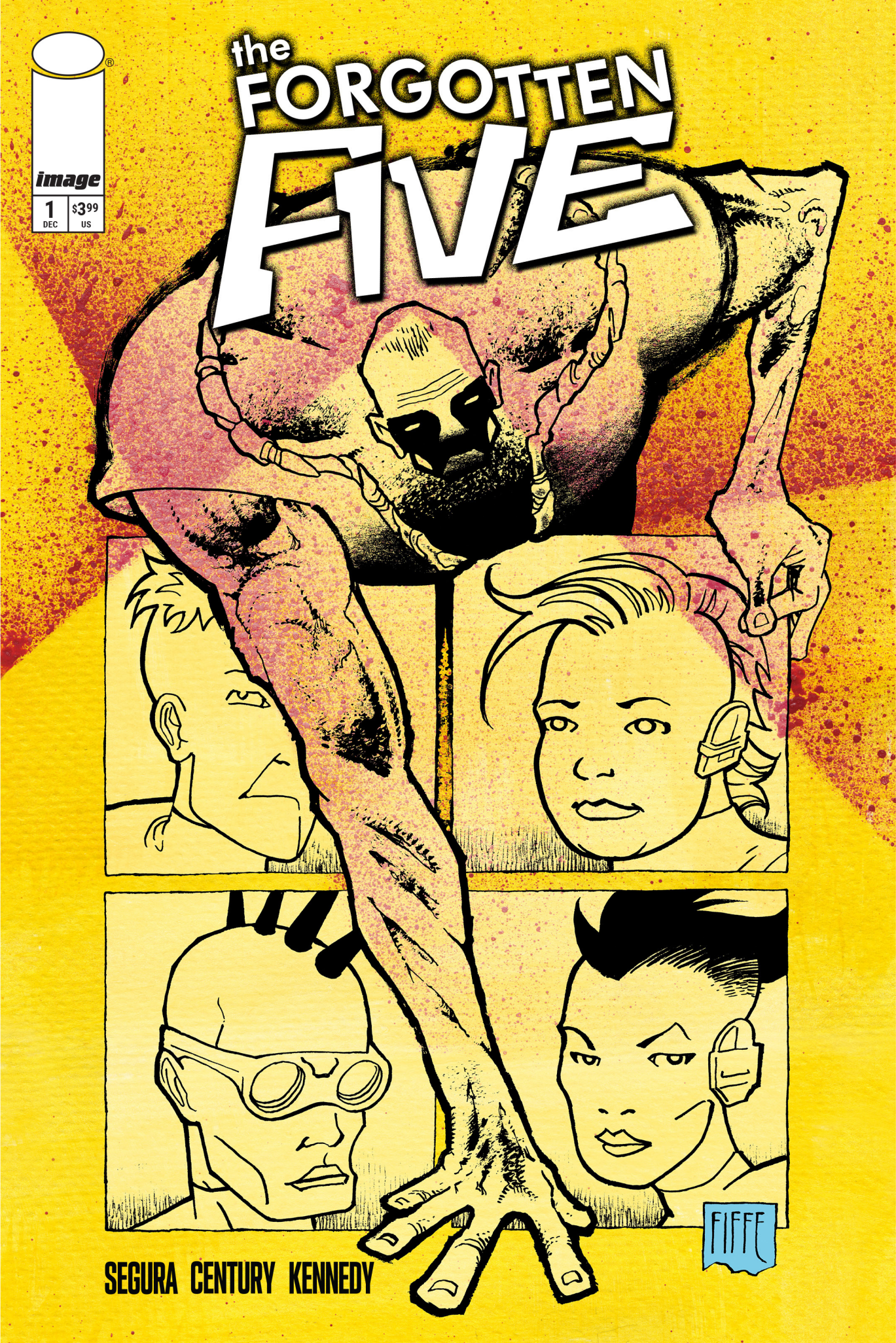

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BY ORDER OF
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POLLY PAPIER
GILLY STOKES
AMINA BEGUM
MARI DE LA CRUZ
ALFRED SANDERS
LOOKS LIKE GRANITE WANTS TO BRING US IN--
--DEAD OR ALIVE!!
JERRY ORDWAY 2026
SEGURA
CENTURY
KENNEDY