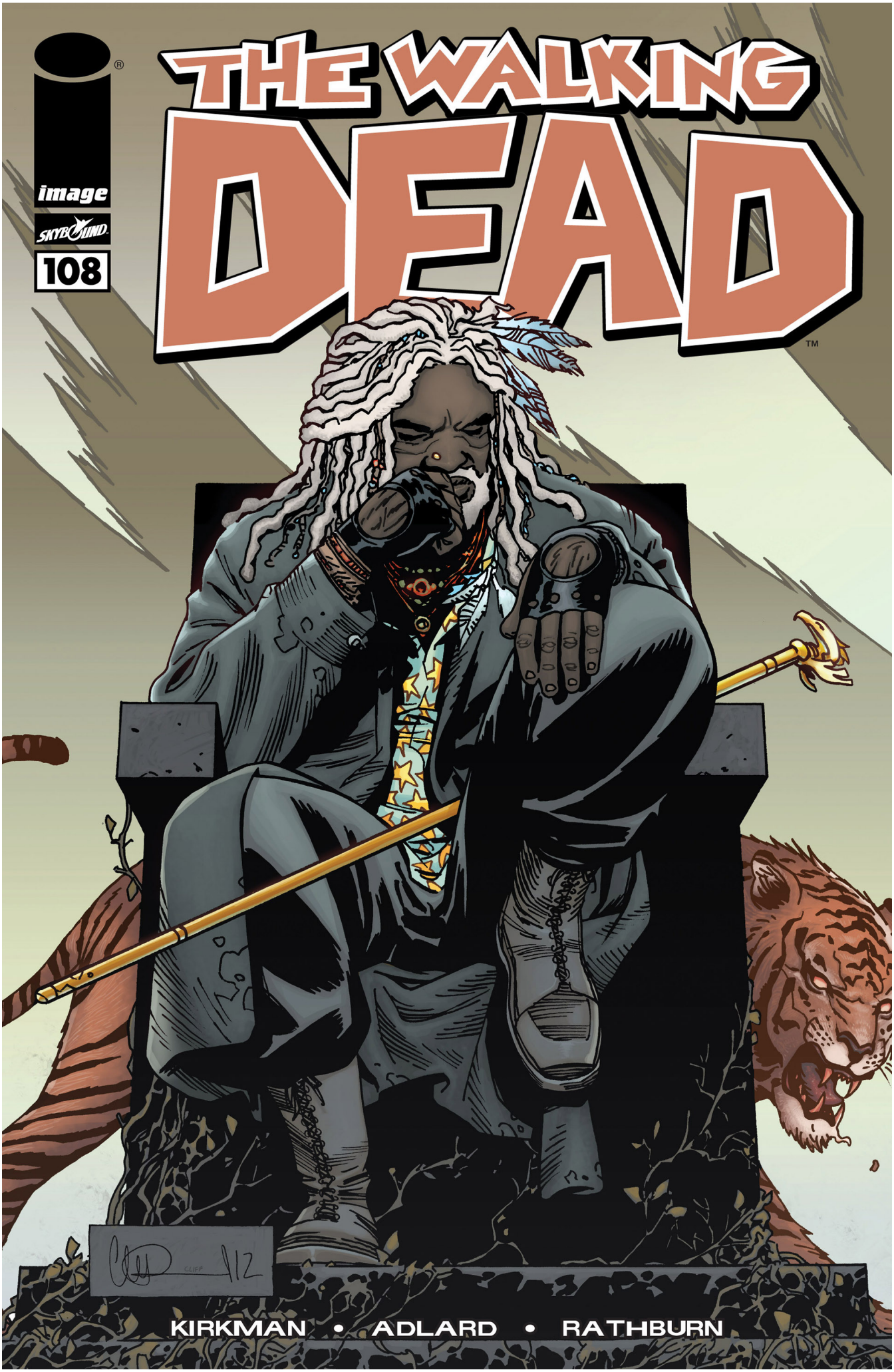

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THE WALKING DEAD
KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN



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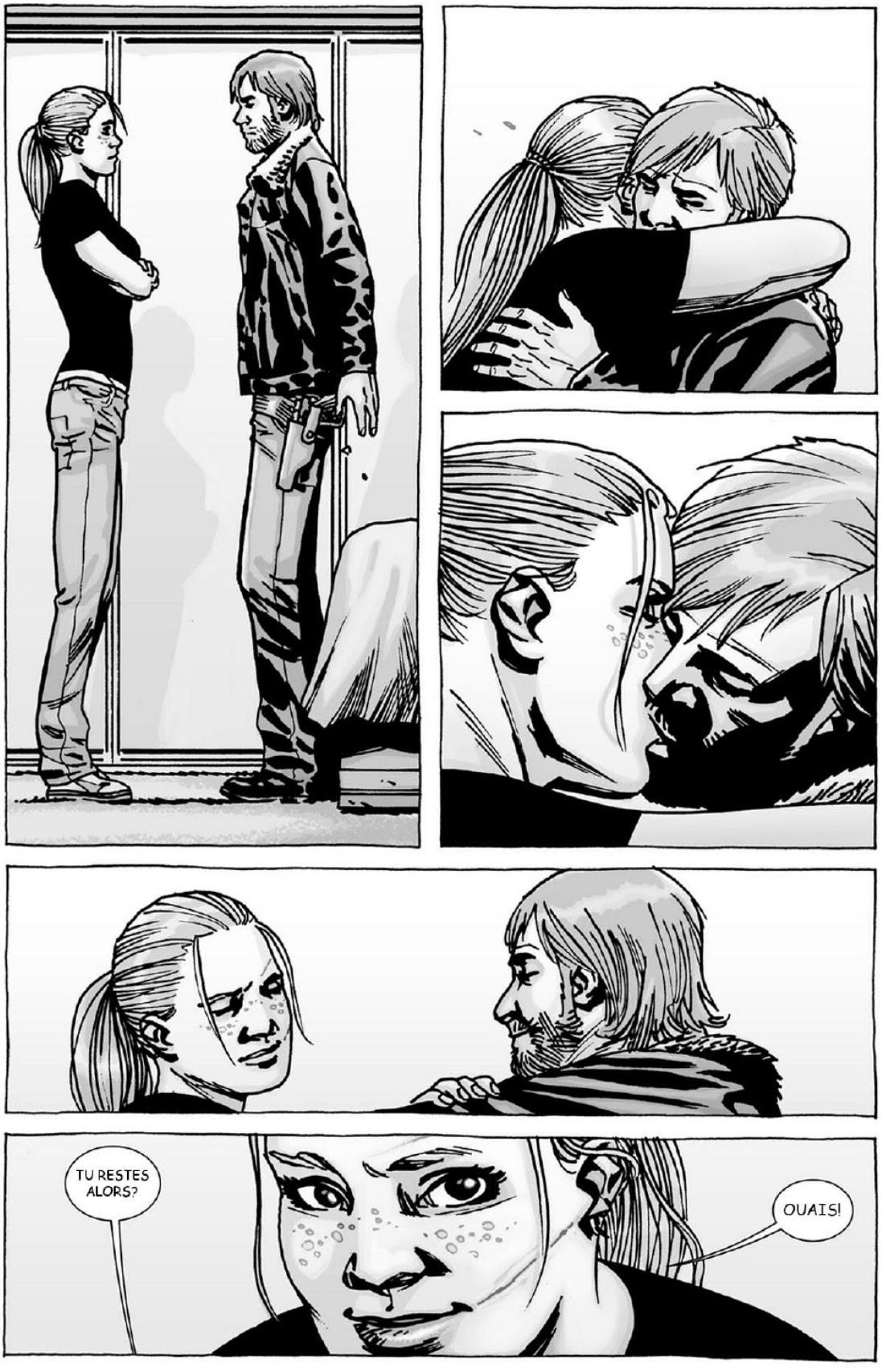
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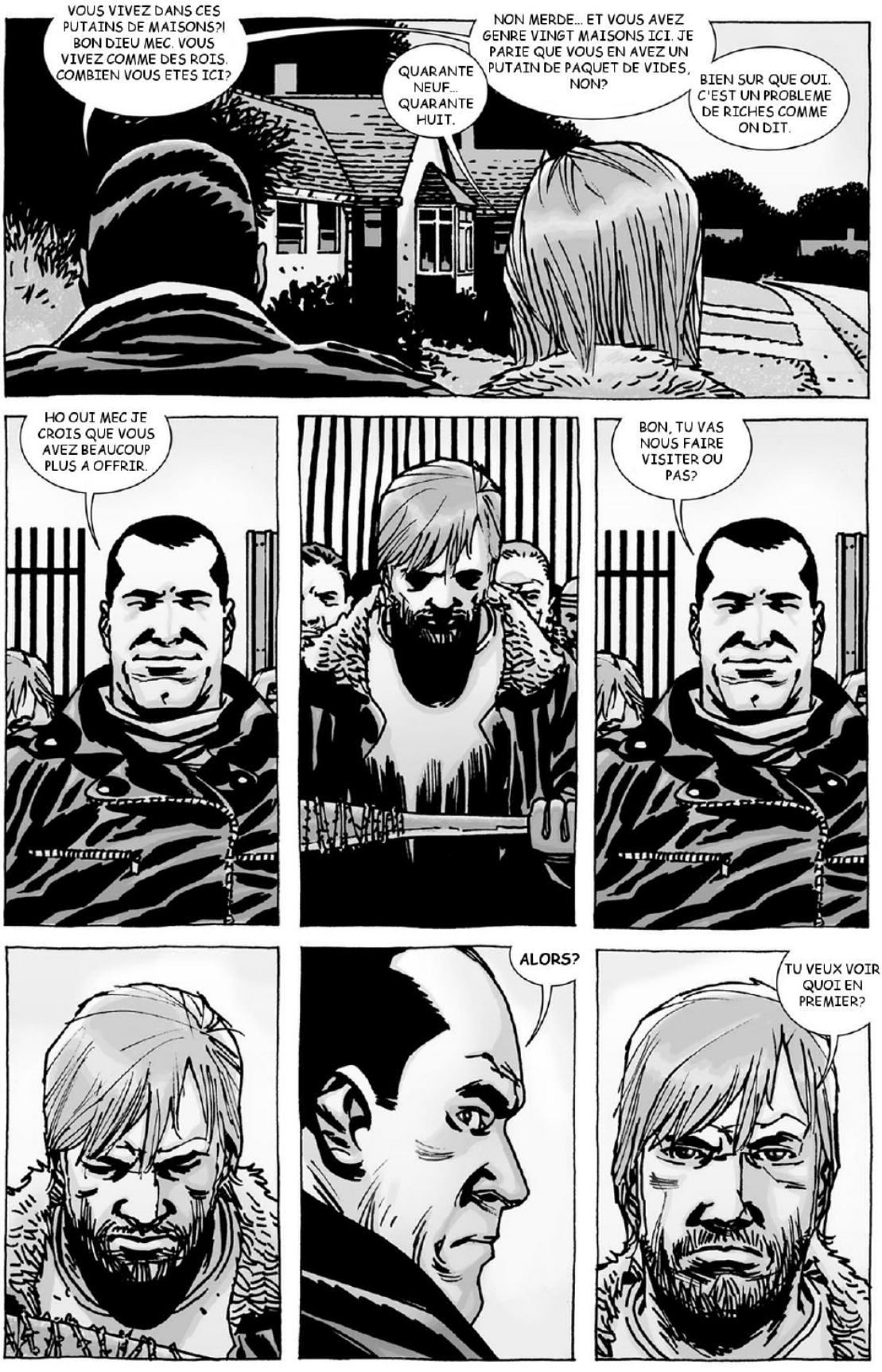
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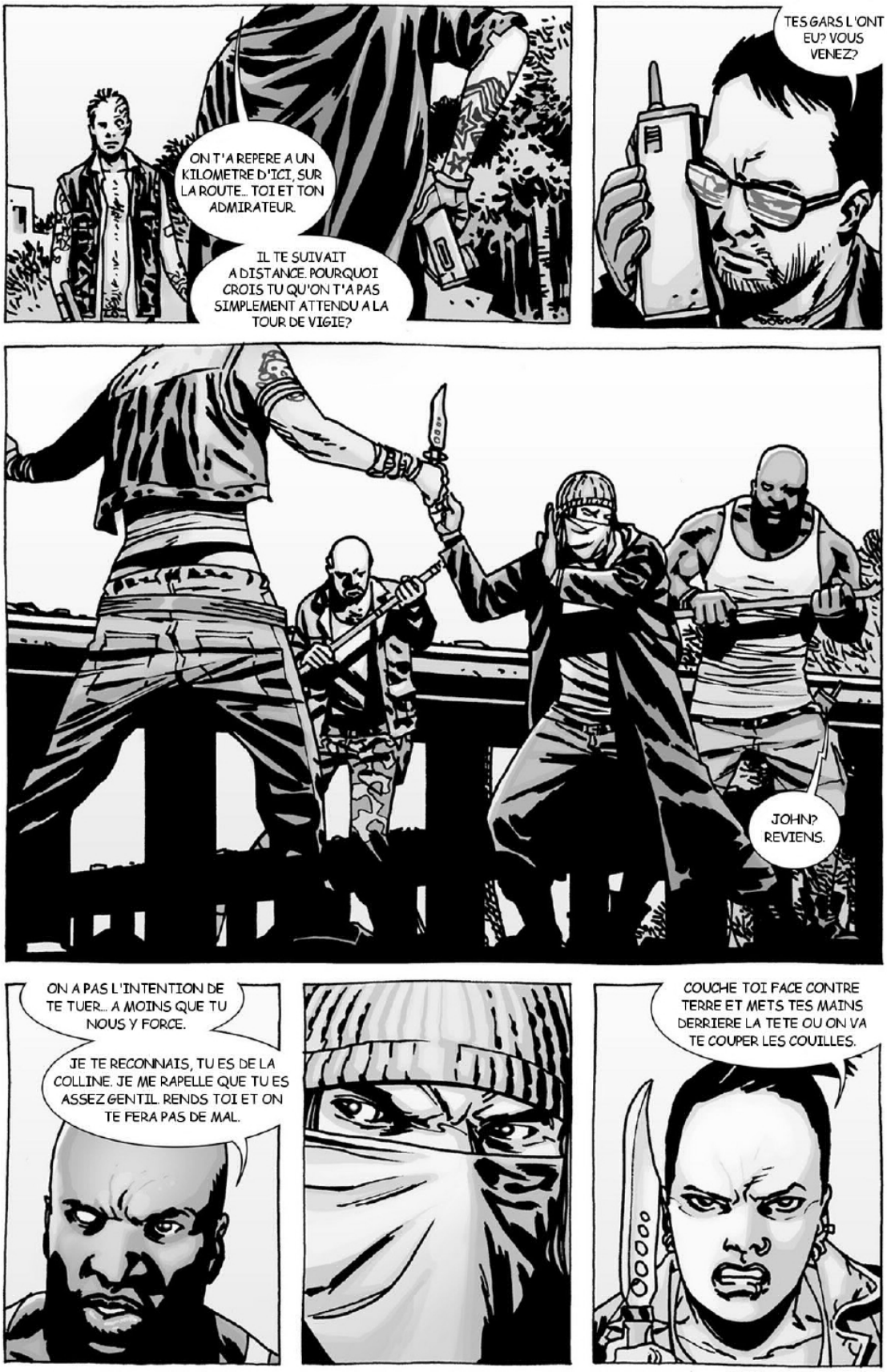








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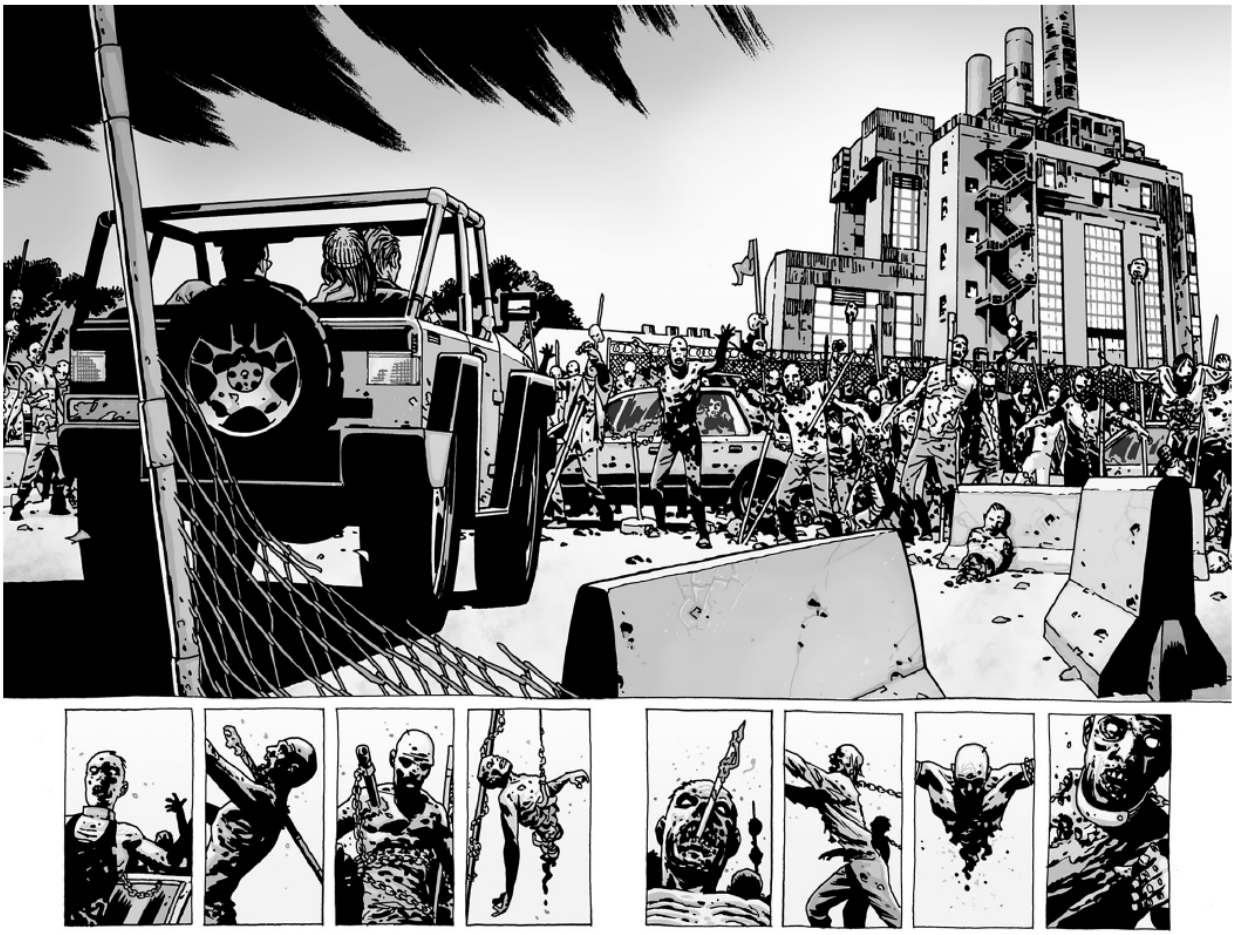
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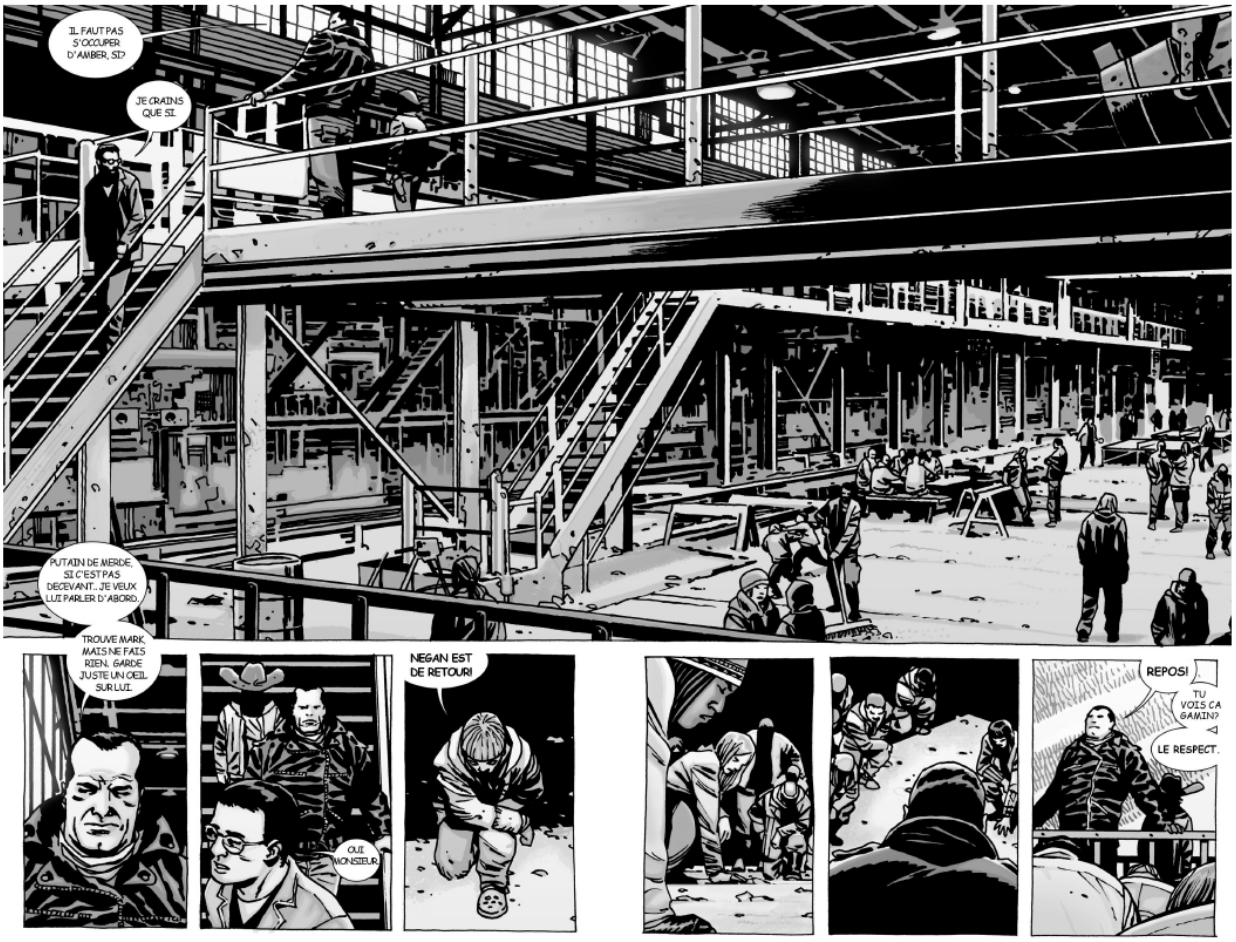
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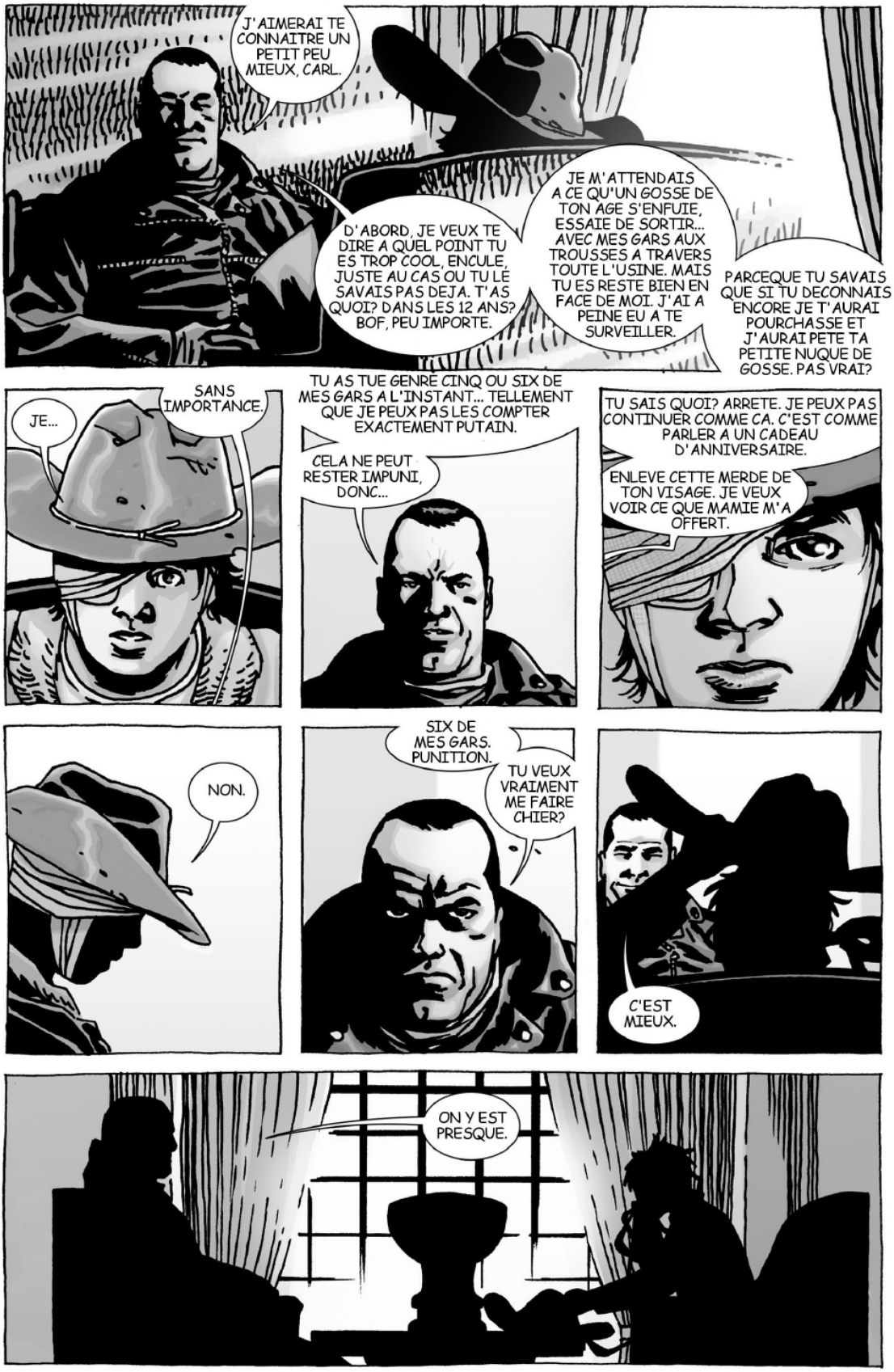
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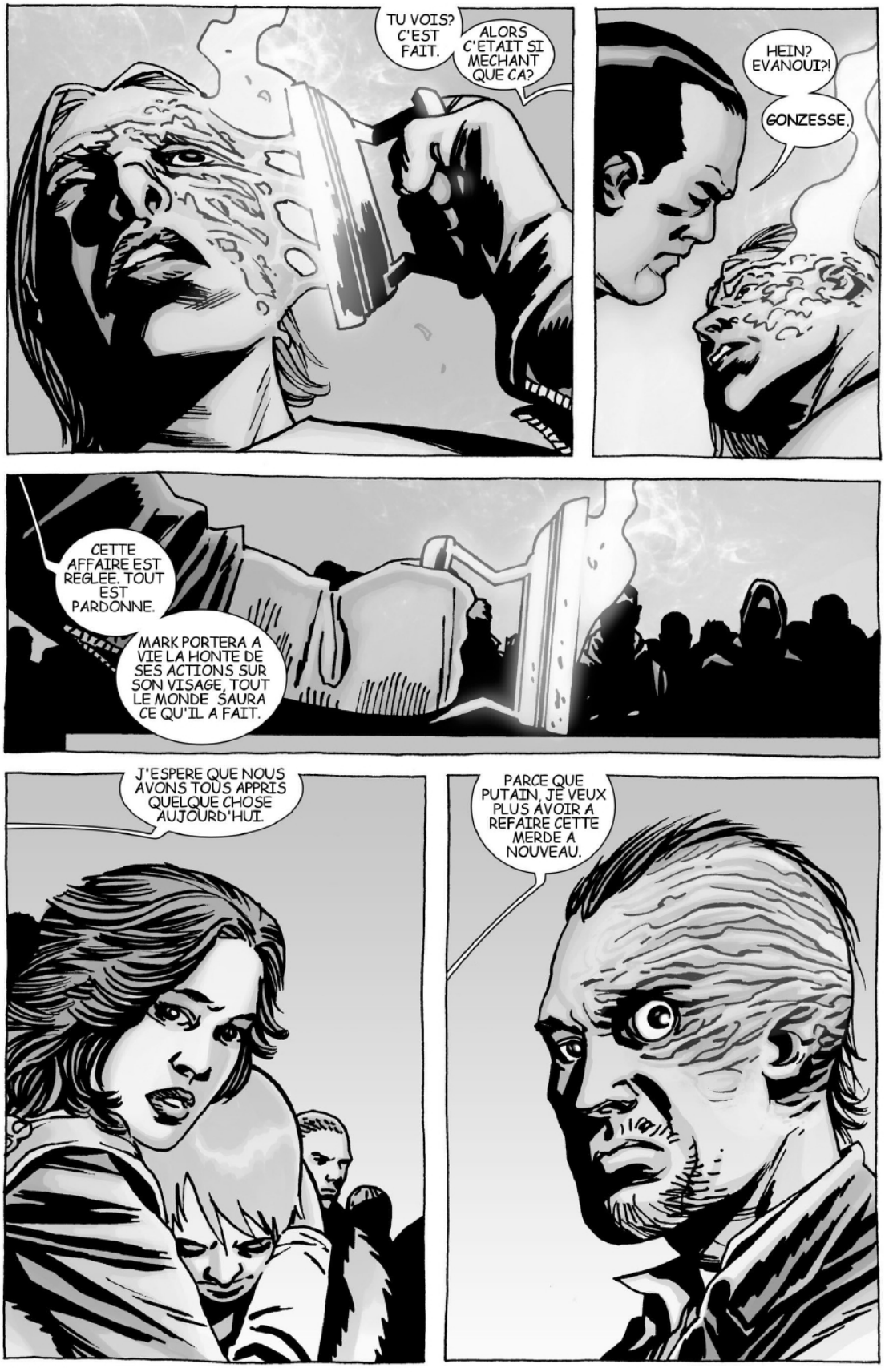


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KRAK!


KRUKK!
VROOM!
ENFIN !



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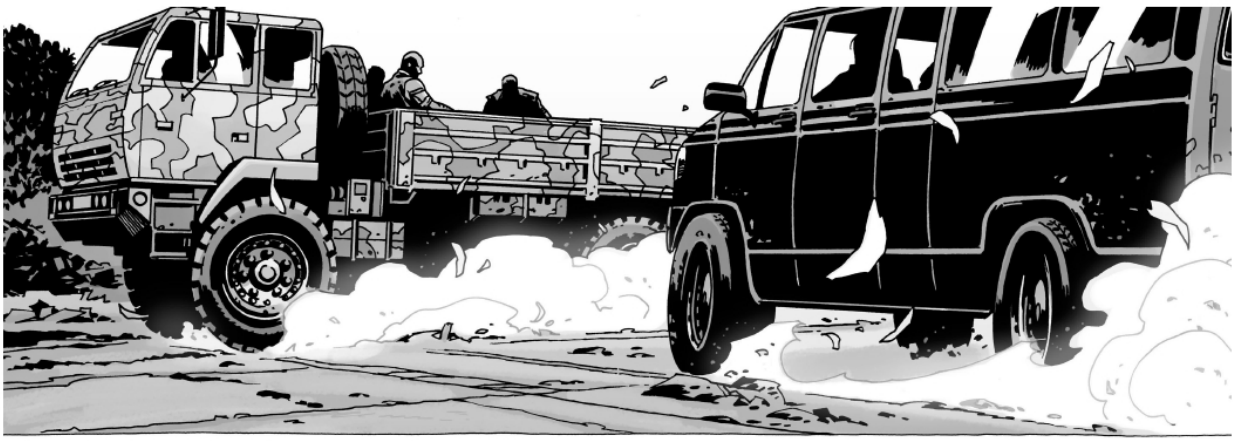
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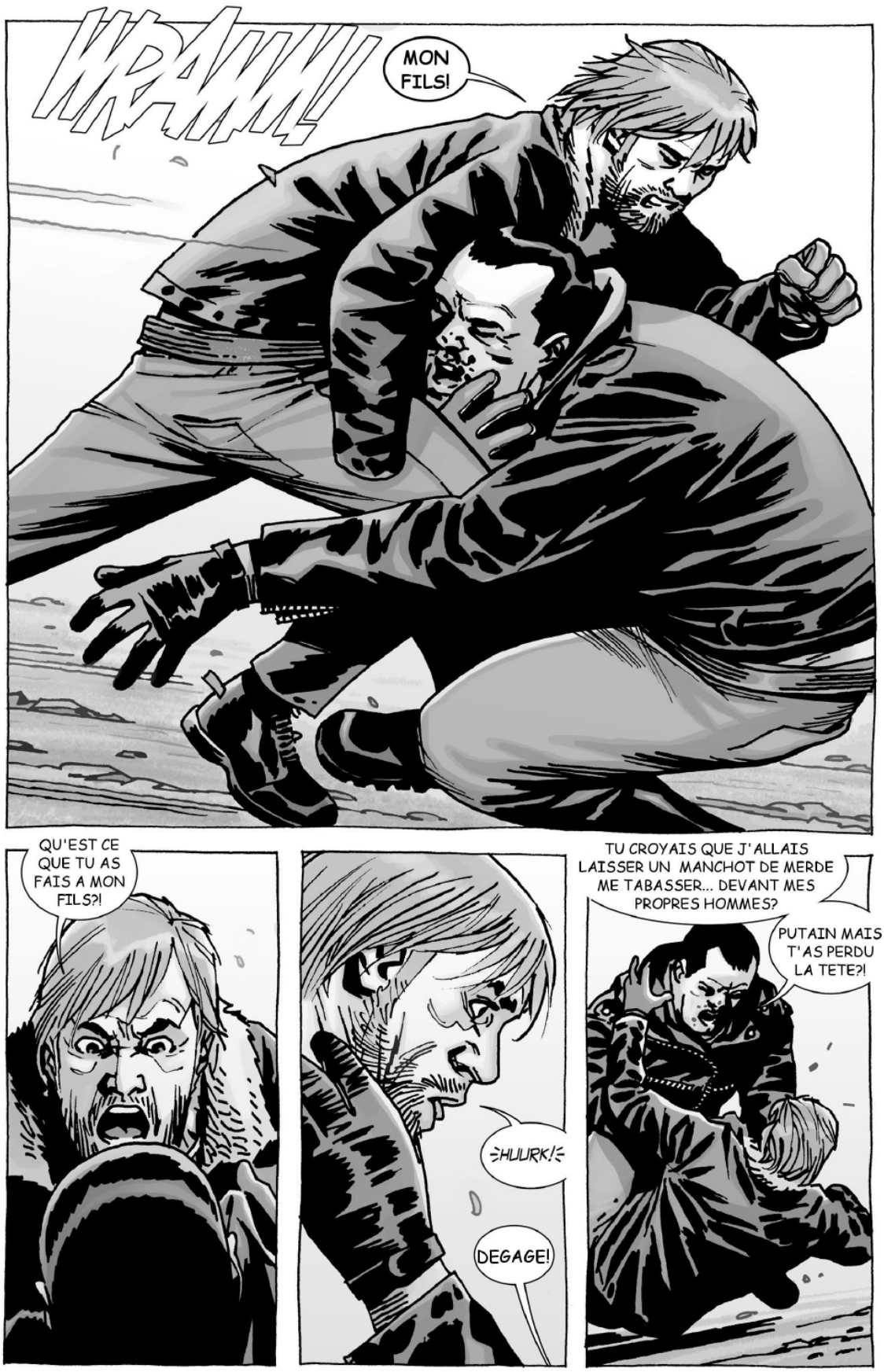
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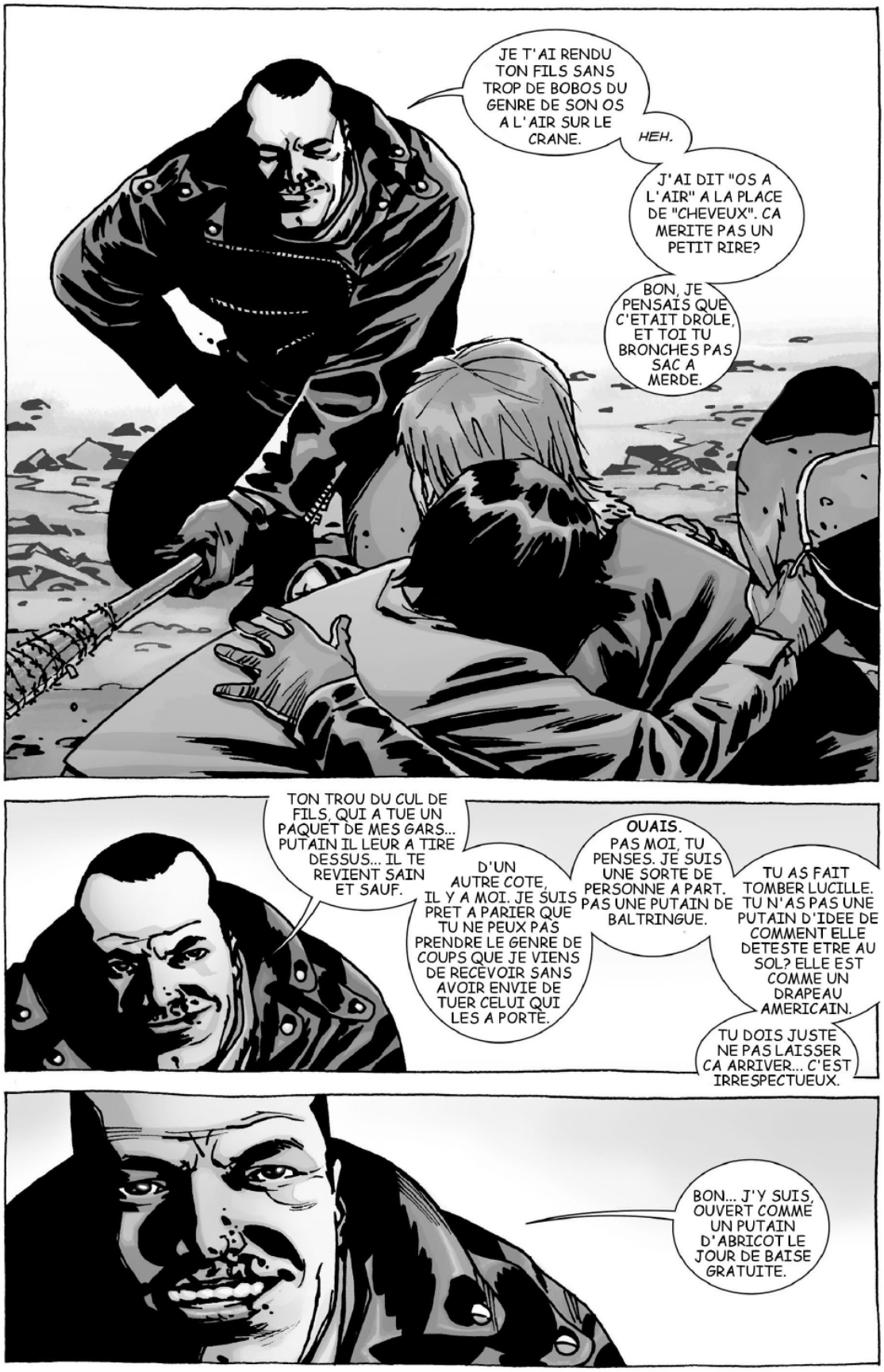
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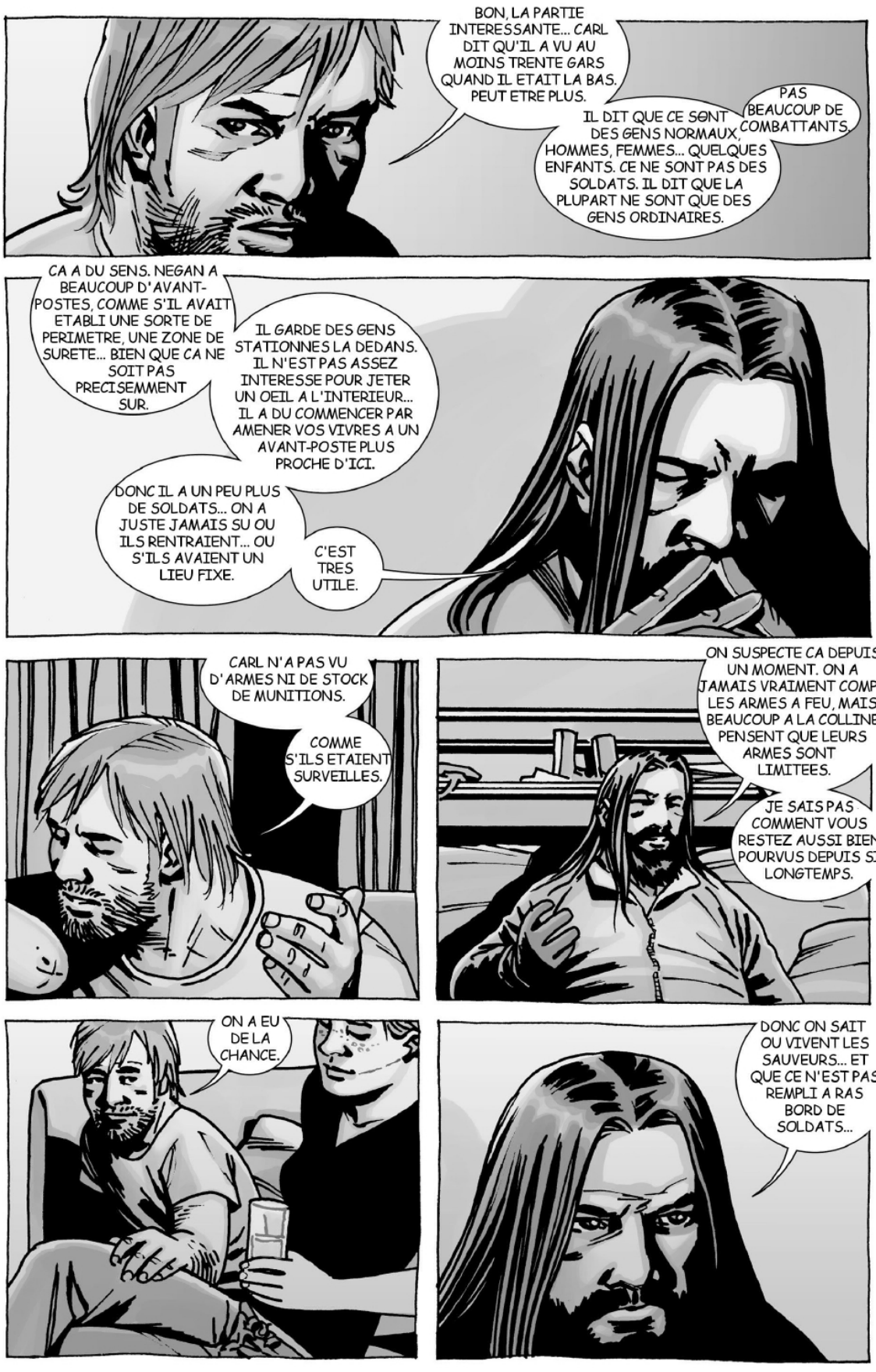








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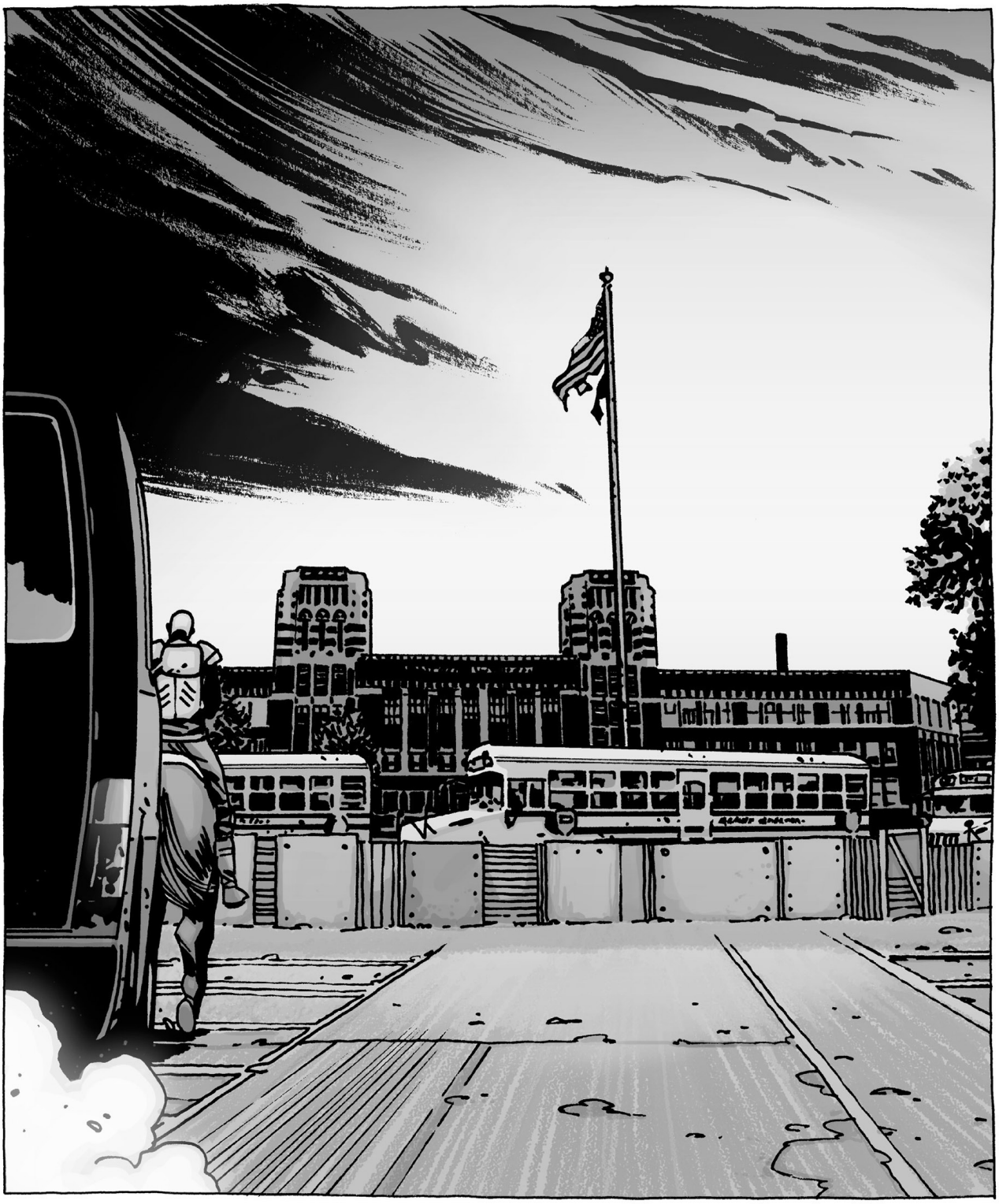


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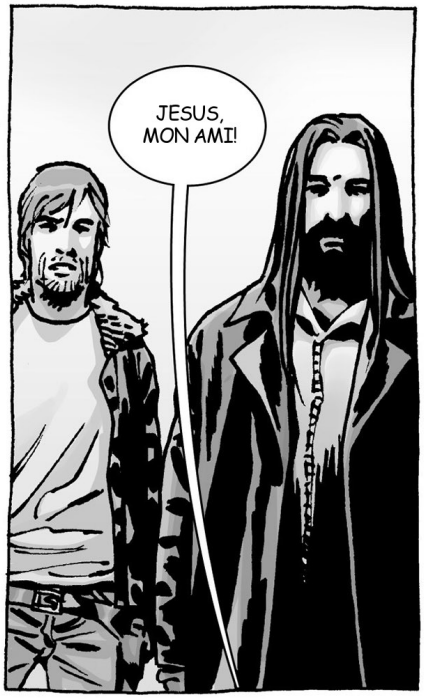
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BONUS

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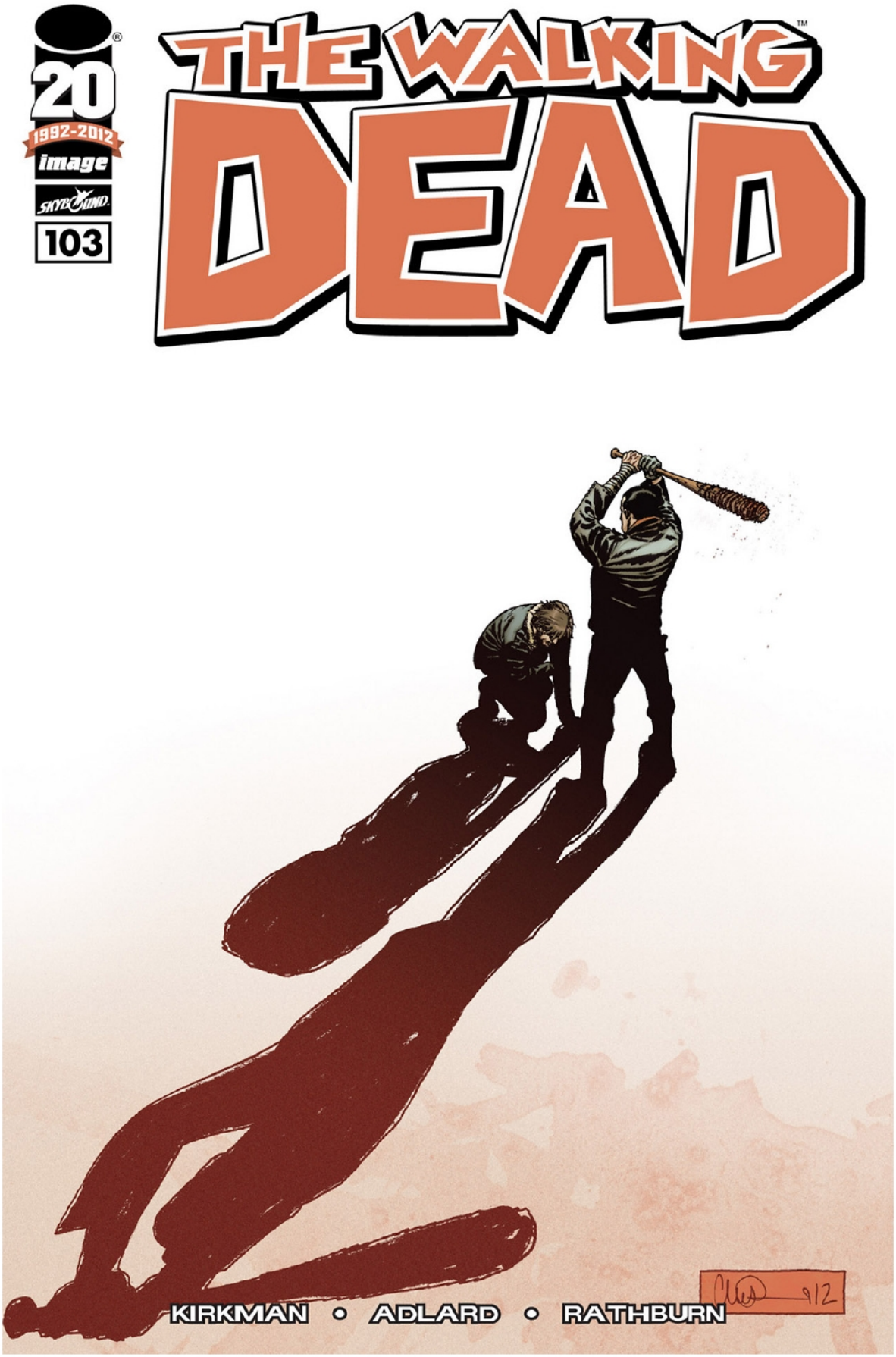
COUVERTURES des 4 magazines Walking Dead

MICHONNE'S STORY paru dans Playboy

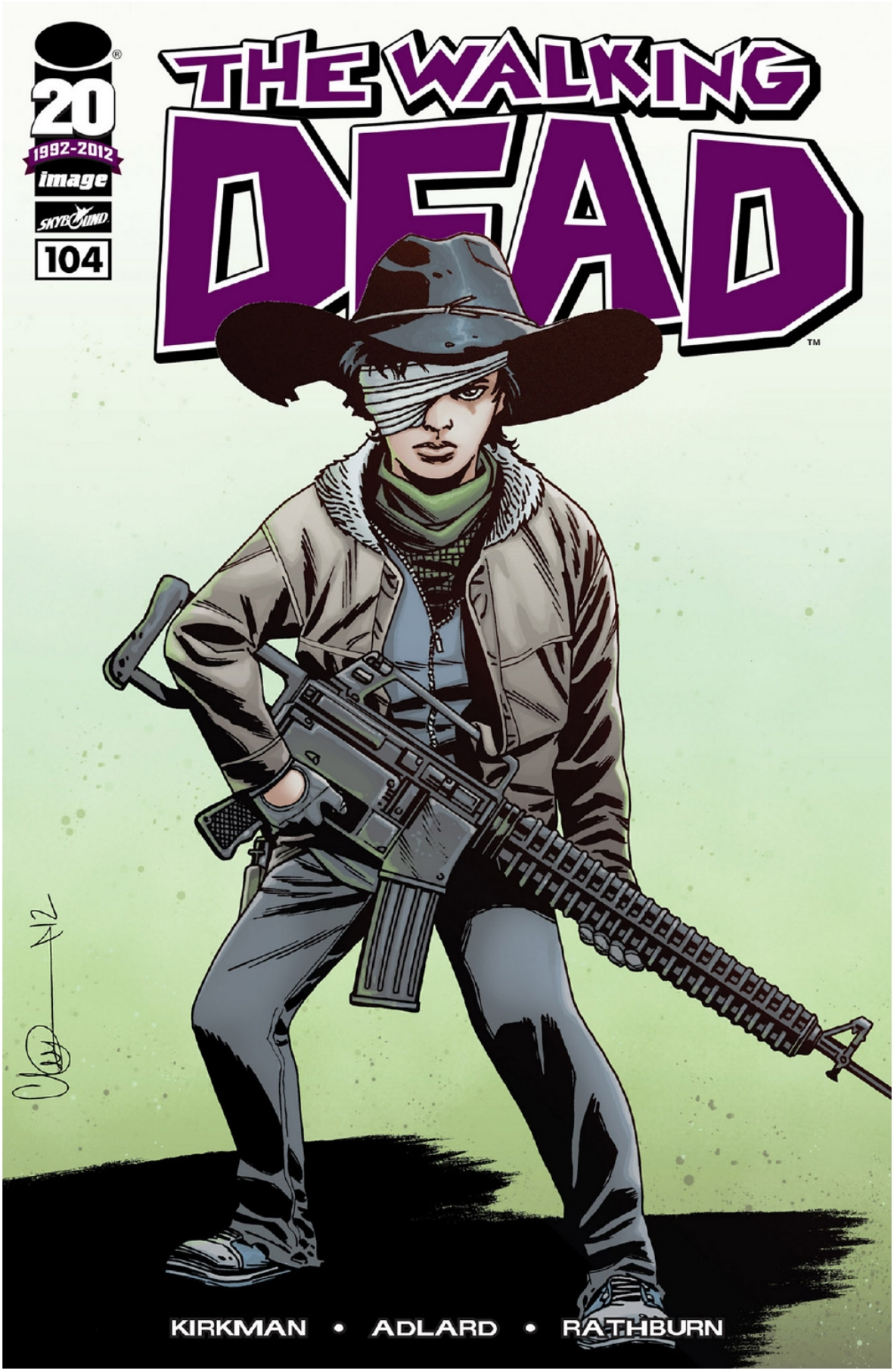
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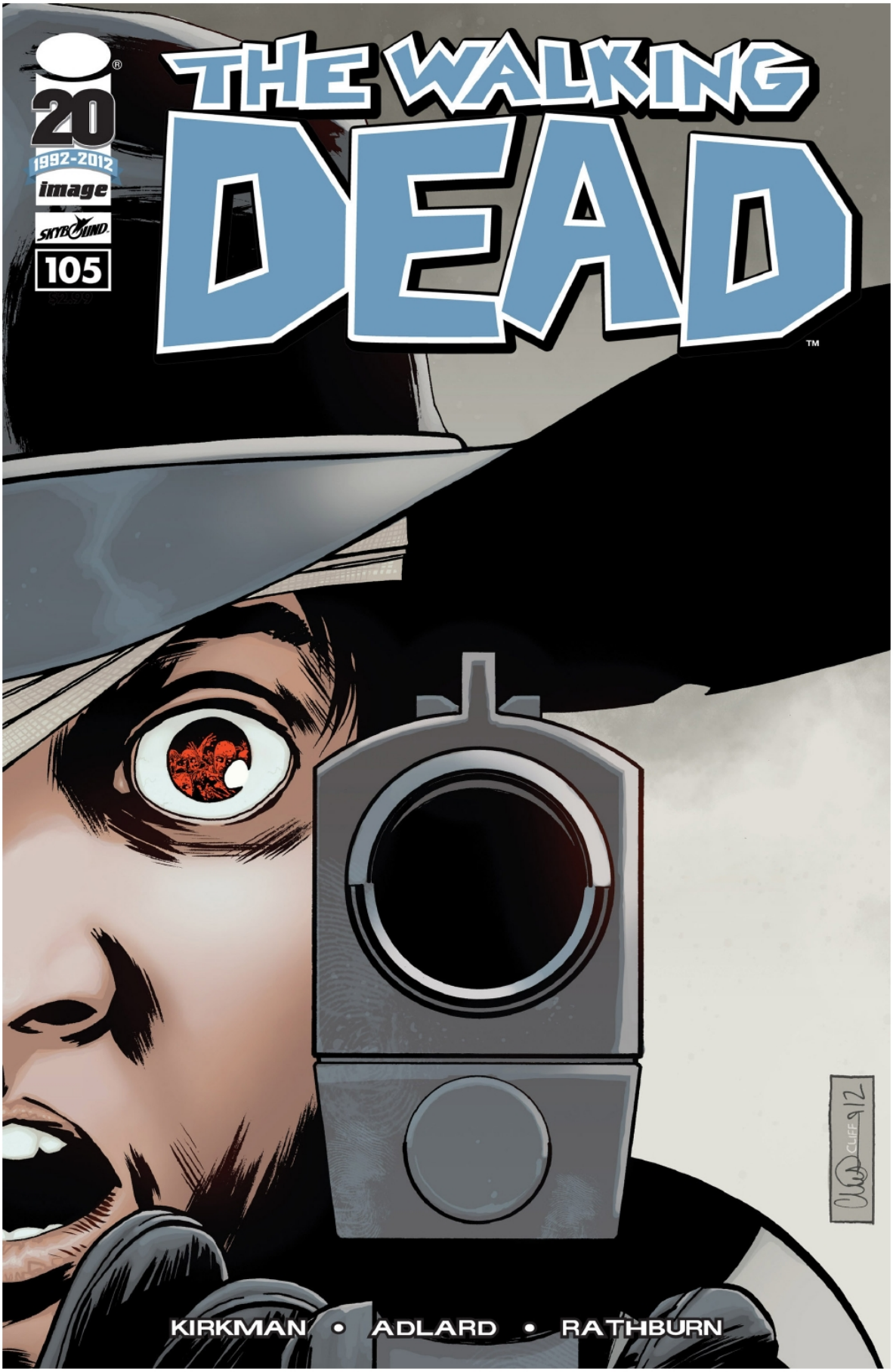




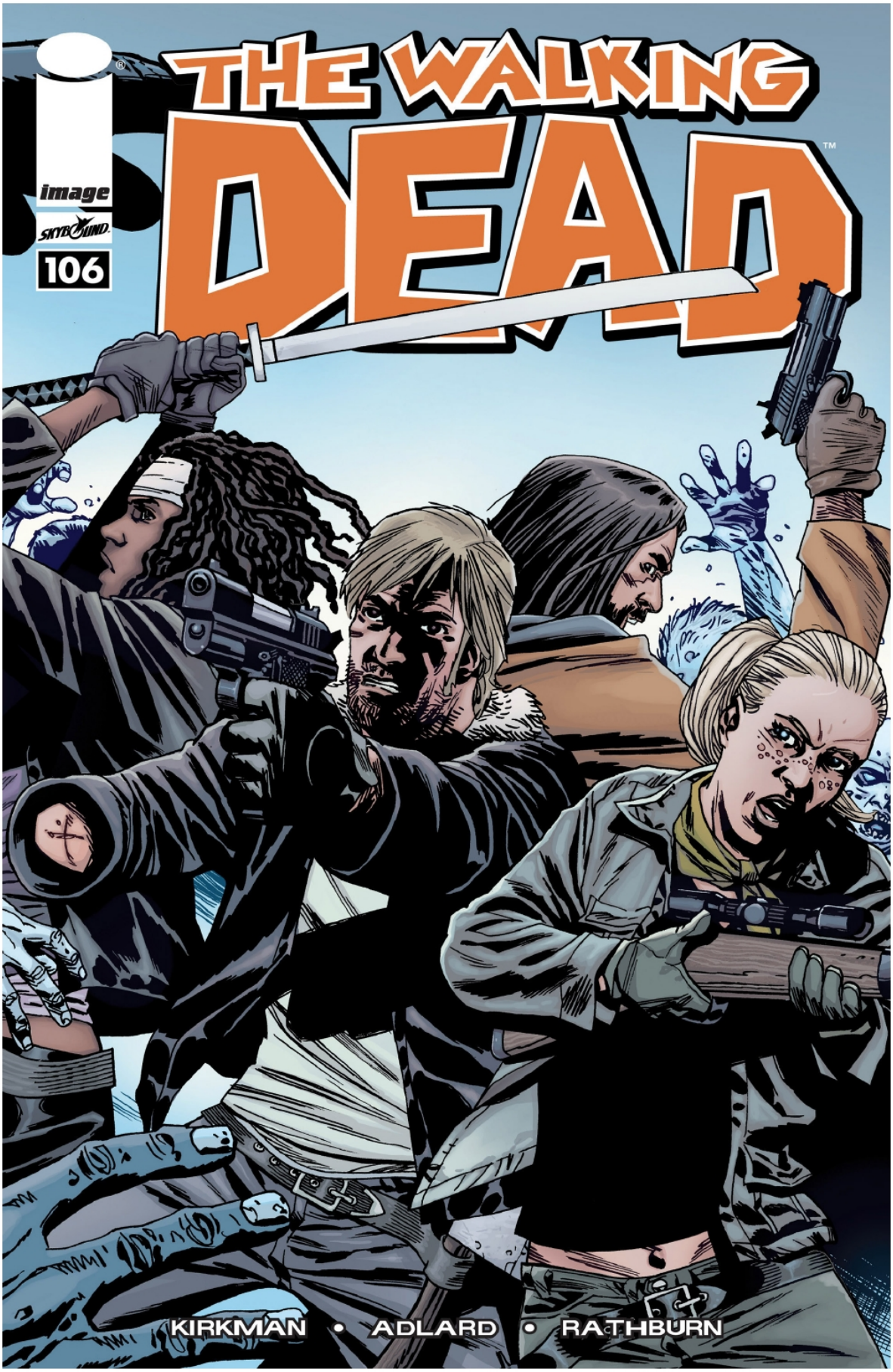
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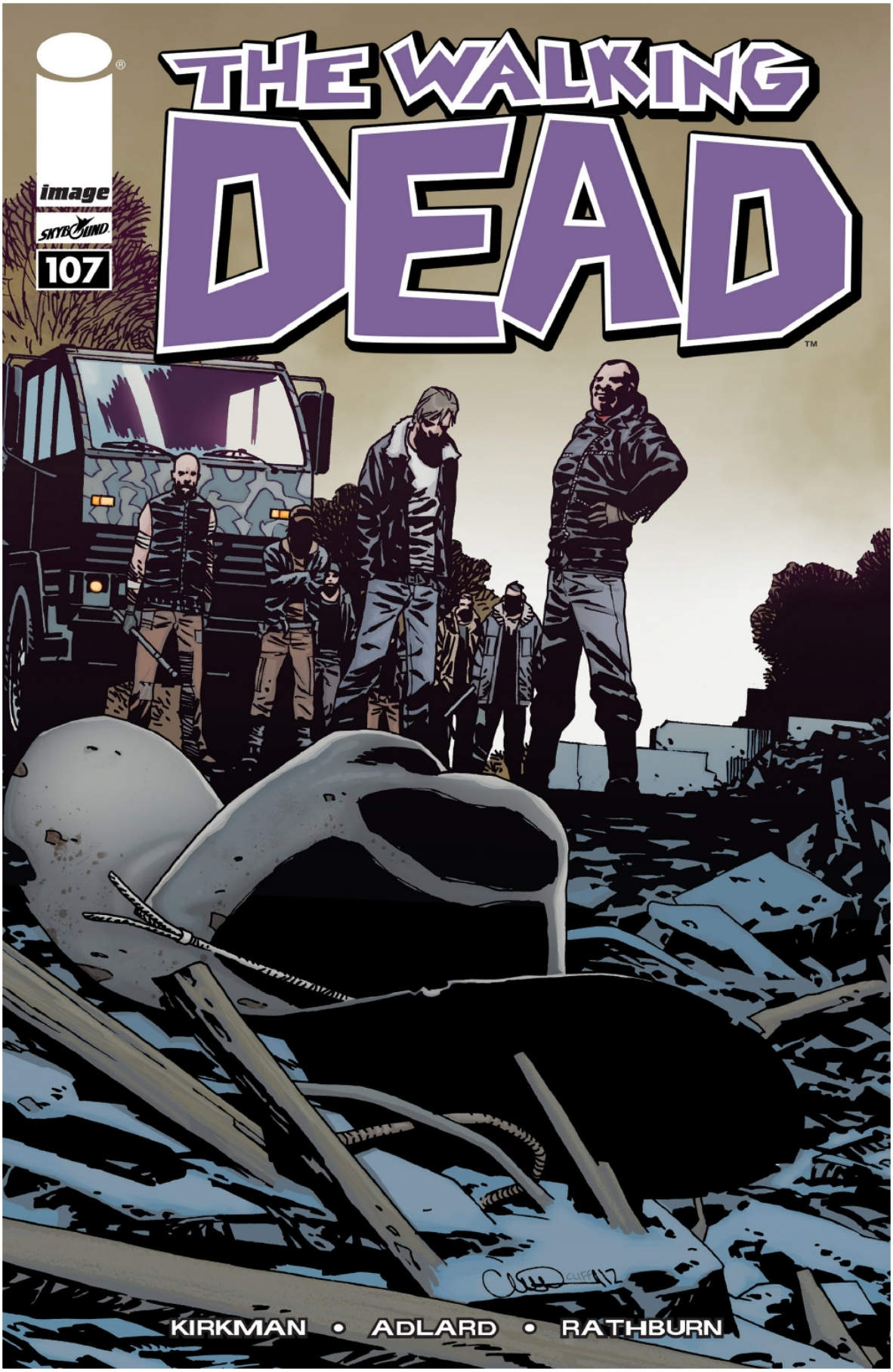
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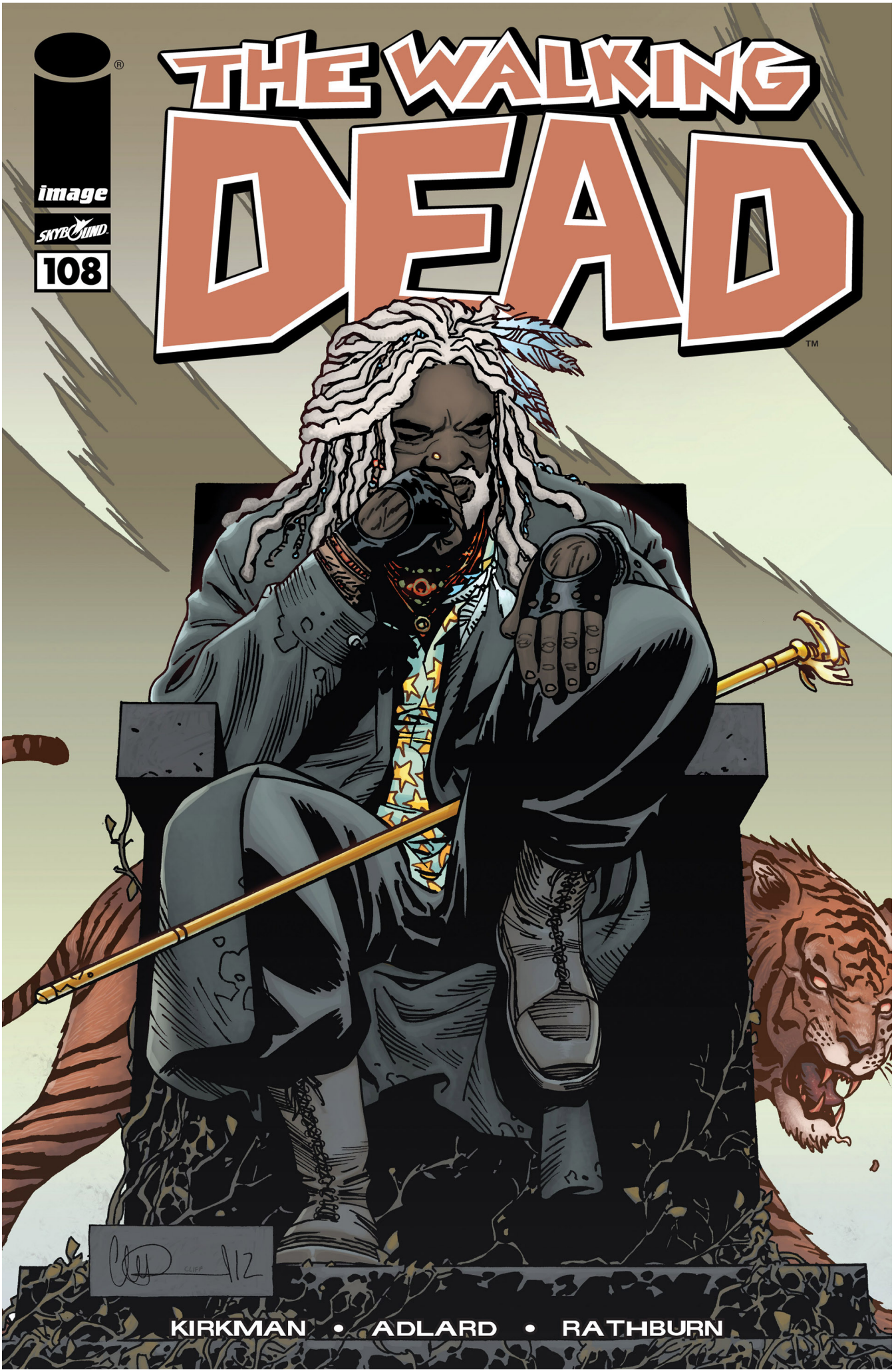
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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

ROBERT KIRKMAN
Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD
Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones, Cover Colors

RUS WOOTON
Letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
Editor

CHRIS GIARRUSSO
Variant Cover

Previously:

Following Glenn's death, everyone looks to Rick to retaliate against the Saviors. But to their shock and dismay, he lets their only prisoner, Dwight, free. They will comply with Negan's demands. But in secret Rick has instructed Jesus to follow Dwight back to the Saviors' camp, and learn their every secret...

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LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Letter Hacks!

Sean Mackiewicz here. Now that "Something to Fear" is over, the status quo has been reset, everything's back to normal and...wait. This Rick/Negan beef is FAR from being cooked.

Yeesh, man... yeesh. That's your opener? Okay... well, I guess it's good to start the bar low. Let's answer some mail!

Dear Robert,

Please don't allow Negan to slide his cock down Rick's throat.

Sincerely,
John Camara

When I first read your letter, John, I thought, who IS this sick fuck? And then I got the rest of this issue's script...and know that you're not the only one out there.

Negan made good on his threat from issue 100 in this very issue... but FIGURATIVELY! For now at least... wocka wocka!

You bastards, how can you say you're not going to make Daryl a character in THE WALKING DEAD comic series and then have the cover art for something to fear part five have a guy with a crossbow on it. Issue 101 had no one with a crossbow anywhere in it. That was a dirty nasty trick. Stop teasing the fans like that. Either put him in or not. Maybe I'm not being patient enough. I wrote a letter once that did not get published and that was when I had nice things to say. But now I'm pissed I was really looking forward for Daryl to be introduced to us. I want to see Daryl in the comics NOW, if you don't heed to my wishes I will hate you forever. Go die now.

Sincerely,
Michael James of Standish, Maine

P.S. By the way I'm in a wheelchair and I can run faces over.

One quick question, why no disabled zombies or disabled survivors rolling and hobbling around? That would be cool. Wheelchair people have souls too dammit.

Robert and my faces are both about six feet off the ground, so you better have some monster treads. But I agree: wheelchair people, the disabled, do indeed have souls. Survival skills? Maybe not so much.

Maybe. We'll likely never know... or will we? Now, onto the Daryl issue. By now, you know that the crossbow wielding fellow on the cover to issue 101 was not Daryl from the TV show but was indeed our new villain character Dwight, who killed Abraham, with his crossbow. And he WAS in issue 101 even if he wasn't wielding his crossbow at the time (he was tied up, cut him some slack).

Sexy day guys,

I dig all of the delicious work that has been put in these comics over the years. You have something truly special here. (I'm about 3 years old in dog years, so I'm qualified to say that.) Before I started THE WALKING DEAD, I wasn't much of a reader; but I can honestly say now, I have retired my old ways of reading the stories on cereal boxes to focus 100% on the possible sexy stories coming in the future. *Exciting dolphin clap!*

I have a
few questions, so I hope you don't mind answering them:

1. The beef jerky stroganoff from previous issues. Who was the genius that came up with this? Robert!? Whoever it was, I thank you and hate you at the same time. Those are two very, very delicious foods and you have combined them to create an orgy of gargantuan proportions. I'm eternally hungry. It sounds almost as good as macaroni & cheese with Spam. (P.S. Have you made this?)

I thought a really crappy dish to make in the apocalypse would be Stroganoff made with beef jerky instead of hamburger... I don't know if it's really ever been done before, I'm sure someone has tried it. I just figured jerky would last and boxed stroganoff is essentially just a dust pouch, right? I now want someone to make it and see if it's edible.

2. Now that Glenn has had his face smashed in, when can we expect another Asian-American to join the team? I've been having glenndrawals :(

When Maggie's baby pops, that count?

And don't forget KAL at the hilltop, the guy throws a mean spear--he's awesome!

3. Jesus is very ninja-like. I haven't seen a cooler ninja since Chris Farley. May I ask how Jesus obtained these skills? Did he just become experienced over time by fighting the dead? If you can't tell me now, are you planning to tell this in the upcoming issues?

Yes.

Thanks for the gorgeous readings,

Lupe Phillips, Jr.

P.S. Nothing cool has ever happened in my life. Print this and I'll send you my best goat.

I'mma go make room in the warehouse and get this spit set up.

Holy smokes--it's GOAT TIME! I've always wanted a goat! I'm going to feed it tin cans!

Dear Kirkman and co.

This past issue really affected me. I, like so many others I've heard of, were sitting there reading the issue in a pile of grief, dreading yet unwilling to stop as we flipped the pages through the first issue of THE WALKING DEAD I've not dared to read twice.

I've been thinking these past months about why this issue had such an impact on me. Why a simple death of a 'sidekick' could keep me up nights. Well, there's a lot to this answer, so I should just get to it.

How often do you see a lovable Asian sidekick? Well...Pretty often. But Glenn was different. He was what they so often label in Asia as an ABC (American Born Chinese). And while he is obviously not Chinese, I'm sure the majority of people would more willingly gloss over that detail rather than deal with changing the catchy acronym.

Growing up an ABC, I didn't have many ethnic role models for myself in American media. And this isn't to say that I believe Glenn was intended to be an ethic role model. But that's exactly the point—his lack of obvious representation of a foreign ethnic group is in itself the most accurate portrayal I could have ever hoped for of an ABC (although I am, in fact, a Canadian). He was a 'nice-guy', looking

TRAD by DaMMaD

for some love who, and when faced with unthinkable situations, reacted with a healthy mix of fear and courage. He wasn't stereotypically "book smart" or "honorable." He was just a pizza delivery guy who did some petty crime.

This nuanced character model is something I've been searching for my whole life. And placing him in this environment of societal breakdown added a crucial dimension to the mix.

In university, I was given an opportunity to spend a summer in the former killing fields of Rwanda. I received an internship at a Genocide Memorial Center that gave me the chance to spend time interviewing survivors of the genocide for research purposes. Many of my coworkers were survivors themselves. And, time after time, as they began to open up their experiences to me, I was painted a bleak picture of humanity. I was placed before me a world where, for 100 days, the social structure that keeps us in check disappeared overnight. Doctors, teachers, preachers, and all other ordinary folk alike were driven to make the impossible choices so often referred to in THE WALKING DEAD. Many decent people turned into mass murderers, serial rapists, and militant leaders overnight. It affected me dearly—as this was where my slight obsession with the darker side of the human condition began.

In THE WALKING DEAD, I found in Glenn a character that, being placed in a similar world to that of a genocide, ended up finding, and sticking to an amiable purpose—doing his best for a community that needed him and a family that loved him.

And no matter how fucking shitfaced angry I was when he died, I'm in retrospect grateful he was not spared. Using him too long as a lovable token would have made him into just that, a token. But he died, unjustly, and might I add quite vividly. He was not given special treatment. And in a world like that, no one is. Especially the nice guys.

Anyways, this is more than anything just a big old thank you for bringing this character into my life. And while I am still pessimistic about humanity as a whole, I at least know there is hope for myself.

Adam
Toronto, Ontario

P.S. I also may or may not have loved having an Asian male character with a non-Asian girlfriend. Mostly to shove in my girlfriend's face and say "See! We're not the only ones!!"

I'm sure she appreciates it too. I'm not sure, I haven't asked her.

Also, please make their baby cute.

Charlie, make with a cute baby.

Thanks for writing this letter, Adam. Glenn has a special place in my heart as well, I only hope keeping him around for 99 issues makes up for his death. I recognize the importance of having an Asian American prominently featured in the cast due to all the mail I've gotten on the subject since the book started. Thankfully, he's still alive and well in the TV show and portrayed by that amazing actor whose name I just can't... seem... to place... right now...

Oh, well...

Your book has gone pretty sour. I don't know if it's from you becoming a millionaire, or just a lack of creativity, but your book is getting pretty bland nowadays. Ish hundo (yes, I just typed that) was no surprise. I honestly thought you would have done something a lot more significant than kill off boring old Glenn (Ooohhh he has a baby! Wait, haven't I read this before?). I think it might be time for someone else to take the reins for a month or two while you deal with all that money.

cough
hack
weeze

Sina

Justin Birkhimer
Bethel Island, CA

Faith in humanity meter: dropping...

Little does Justin know...I don't have a lot of time for writing, due to all the time spent swimming in my money bin. Sina's too busy flying my plane, and me and my three nephews go on a lot of adventures with the maid's granddaughter. (At least, I THINK she's her granddaughter...) BLATHERING BLATHERSKITE!!

Kirkman and Sina,

I've got to say I'm one of your recent readers that read 1-101 in a week...Now I'm reading THE RISE OF THE GOVERNOR. I've got a few questions and some ideas.

How well do the zombies handle water? Do they float or sink? Would a river carry them away? Would they just walk into a river if someone was on a boat attracting them?

It would cause them to rapidly decay if they stayed submerged for an extended period of time. By now they would have expelled all gasses and they would sink. Depends on the strength of the current, I'd say mostly yes. Probably, while I do not subscribe to the idea of smart or evolving zombies, I would say that there can be some zombies that are more intelligent, or rather, more driven than others... so some might, some might not.

I ask these questions because I have an idea for clearing out zombies. When I was in basic training they had these artillery simulators powered by compressed air or propane. These simulators are much louder than a gunshot and can be heard for a very long distance. These simulators are not very large either around the size of a large cooler. In the DC area they have Duck Tours. The tours use fully restored WWII amphibious military personnel carriers called DUKW. So my plan would be to look around Quantico or Fort Belvoir for one of these simulators. Then mount it on a DUKW. Clear two widely spaced paths to the Potomac River and just drive along slowly booming all the way. With its 7 foot sides, front prow, and high ground clearance I doubt even a herd could stop one. Once your reach the river drive on in and drop anchor in the middle and boom away for a few days. The river will wash away any roamers that wade in. Do this monthly and pretty soon DC is zombie free. I just wouldn't want to be the guys downstream.

It's too bad Abraham is dead as he's the only one I could see plausibly suggesting the artillery simulator. It would still be really cool to incorporate a DUKW. Maybe Negan has one back at his base.

Also, is Barrington House a real place? I was looking for it and the only hits I got for Barrington House was a B&B in North Carolina. Was it inspired by Mount Vernon? Mount Vernon would be an awesome location to hole up at.

Grant Autry

"Atta, boy!" Letter of the Month! Let it be known going forward that Letter Hacks is science friendly. Thoughtful, innovative techniques to combat the zombie menace are always welcome.

I zoned out after answering all his questions. What'd he say?! KIDDING! Barrington House is fiction, but it is based on those old time estates like Mount Vernon that are turned into tourist attractions. Where's the Biltmore House? North Carolina? Places like that.

Robert,

I was thinking this week something like, "If only the INVINCIBLE series could have the humanity of TWD, and TWD the energy of INVINCIBLE!"...I figure it may be worth it to actually switch pencil artists—Charlie Adlard for Ryan Ottley, and vice versa—for an issue; like they did once in the early days of Image! I think Jim Lee did Savage Dragon, Rob Liefeld did Shadowhawk, etc. This issue was great, but really just another issue.

Andrew J. Shaw

Know what happened after Jim Lee drew Savage Dragon? Erik Larsen redrew that issue because he didn't want his run interrupted. And with Charlie only three issues away from hitting 100(!) consecutive issues, I don't imagine you'll get your wish anytime soon.

Also, I like the fact that both books are pretty different and the great artists that do both books (who I won't bother naming, phooey) are a big part of that. I think THE WALKING DEAD often times has a ton of energy and INVINCIBLE often times has a ton of heart, so basically, what I'm saying is "Suck it, Andrew J. Shaw!"

Turn the page and check out the preview of Skybound's newest title: CLONE! Written by David Schulner and illustrated by Juan Jose Ryp and Felix Serrano, it hits stands 11/14, the same day as the next issue of THE WALKING DEAD. Pick it up!

Sean

CLONE?! I'm so there! That book looks A-MAZE-ING! Dazzling! Woo!

-Robert Kirkman

TRAD by DaMMaD

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

ROBERT KIRKMAN
Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD
Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones, Cover Colors

RUS WOOTON
Letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
Editor

Previously:

While Jesus tails Dwight, Rick reveals to Andrea his plan to find the Saviors' camp. But those not let in on Rick's secret agenda, including Carl, find it harder to trust his leadership. Especially when Negan arrives to collect his tribute and assert his dominance...

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LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Letter Hacks!

Sean here. I was almost stampeded by a zombie horde at NYCC last week and now I officially feel like "one of you." Thanks goes to all of you that stopped by the Skybound booth and said what's up. Except for Michael Rooker. That dude dropped an anarchy bomb when he swung through after THE WALKING DEAD Season 3 panel. One of our booth workers may or may not have stink palmed him.

HA! I can't follow that! Letters!

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

While I have loved nearly everything you have done I've been supporting you since BATTLE POPE and was there to anxiously pre-order issue #1 of TWD. For the record, I knew it would be a hit the moment I read it. I have made two hour roundtrips for years just to get new issues of BATTLE POPE, TWD, INVINCIBLE, etc. (Hang in there, there's a point to all of this cred building.) A few months after TWD came out, I even drove all the way to Texas to get an original page and meet the former artist who shall not be named., but having said all of this, I seriously must question your choice on the direction of issue #102. What? You were probably expecting to me to moan about Glenn getting his skull crushed in. Hell no! Fuck Glenn! (I'm secretly crying inside.) What I am questioning is your choice to hire an editor named Sean Mackiewicz. I've known this Mackiewicz family you speak of and every last one of them is a godless commie. If you're not careful, before you know it, strong characters like Rick and Michonne will be secretly edited to be mindless followers only good for bowing to their communist overlord Negan. Oh shit! It's already happening...

Sincerely,
godless commie Thomas Mackiewicz

Thomas, you're about to become an unperson. More perogies for me at Christmas, sucka!

So far, this is like the best letters column we've ever done.

Great job printing Steven's letter. It was both hilarious/sick. Also I live in Philly and unfortunately we have a football coach who's been repeating himself (as one reader accused Mr. Kirkman of) for 14 seasons. Not once has he offered any explanations for his repeated blunders other than to say, "I gotta do a better job." How refreshing was it to read an eloquent explanation from the top guy for a particular course of action. Kudos on connecting with your audience. And remember every gripe about offing Glenn is a testament to your superb character development. Umm OK, I think that's enough gushing. Long time comic fan, first time I chose to write in. Here's hoping it makes it to print (feel free to edit huge chunks) and if it does also hoping Andy Reid is as big a fan as I am.

Keep Writing,
Rasheed Williams
Philly

A chance to talk sports and leave Robert speechless? Done. If Andy Reid were in THE WALKING DEAD, let's just say he would still be kicking around after 100 issues, while his community was doomed by poor decisions and clock mismanagement. Also, go Pats!

I honestly don't even know who Andy Reid is.

Congratulations, team, I'm back! I was wandering from the group for months but have now found my way back to the site. I was lost due to disparaging dialogue, anti-climactic action, the book seemingly taking a back seat to the show (HUGE NO-NO!), and a round-about, seen-it-before plot. Hey, I get it, we all become a little bit bored with the things we've been doing for years. This goes for both sides - the receiver and the giver. I've been lumbering with you since issue #30 and haven't stopped. Needless to say, I was getting a bit tired. I was also resenting that it seemed as time went on more time went into Letter Hacks than the story.

Okay... back to work...

I've re-read the entire series in three sittings and I gotta say I miss when the people getting into Hacks seemed like family that I wanted to pay attention to: the large font drew me in, only one page (front and back), and somewhat intelligent responses to the stories are what made me want to stick around. Then it tuned into a bombardment of stupidity about "why this?", "why that?", and "how dare you?!" bullshit. Here is why: BECAUSE THAT'S HOW THE STORY IS WRITTEN!! Putting up with the cry-baby fanboy shit for three pages - three pages of which took longer to read than the actual comic (HUGE NO-NO!) began to wear me down. I was losing faith in TWD as a whole. The story and the fans were becoming watered down. I used to save TWD to read last of my three monthly titles. Then it became the first.

Issue #102 rejuvenated me! It had dialogue worth paying attention to. I could feel the anxiety and importance of the story. It felt alive and I'm glad for that. I'm glad that I feel at home again with the group and not like an outsider begging for a chance. It might have taken me re-reading 101 previous issues, but it worked, and I suggest doing the same to any TWD veteran who feels lost or out of touch with the story.

Thankfully, anyone fitting that description is SURELY reading this letters column.

I hope you feel the same way too, Robert, because this is the real story, print is the real deal and will be here way longer than any lifeless digital format.

Long live analog and welcome back to the back of the line.

P.S. In Hacks #67 you said you had enough story written out for 388 issues. Where are you at with that number now?

Mr. Mitchell T. Pilon

I was joking with the specific number. I have a solid plot through issue 200 and general ideas that could continue after that. I'm at a point with the series where I plot in 24 issue chunks, loosely... and then flesh things out as I write. I try to have at least four of those chunks planned, but there are times when a new chunk of issues is dropped in and things get pushed back... that's why I have such far reaching plans. Basically, I'm saying this book looks like it will be around for a while.

Mr. Kirkman,

First and foremost I want to thank you for bringing me back into the comic world. Your title of THE WALKING DEAD is the best suspense/action/drama I have ever read. It is totally unpredictable! I have to ask you...when Negan called his bat Lucille, it made me chuckle. It reminded me of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air when Uncle Phil broke out Lucille to help them out hustle money in a game of pool. Lucille is also the nickname of B.B. King's guitars...so my question is, why the name Lucille?? And any relevance to Fresh Prince?

Keep up the good work!

Arthur Gallucci.

P.S. If you include this in your comic book I promise to buy 100 copies!

One of my favorite episodes of The Fresh Prince.

Lucille was on my mind because of the scene in COOL HAND LUKE. I didn't even really think about the BB King thing... if it had occurred to me, I would have picked a different name.

Dear Mr. Kirkman (and hello and welcome Sean!),

First off I need to do some ass kissing, because TWD is amazing. The comic, the show, the game, they are all amazing. Great writing and art, compelling characters. I couldn't sleep well for a week because of Glenn's death! There aren't many pieces of media that have affected me like this story has. Absolutely brilliant. It was enough to get me to start reading comics again.

Anyway, enough boot kissing. I love your inclusion of gay characters in TWD, though I wish you would spend more time on Aaron and Eric. It's not something many horror series address without it being the means of their death as some kind of a morals lesson or something. It's nice that someone acknowledges that gay people will exist whether our society is here or not. I love this, but have you ever considered having other LGBTQ characters in your book? I think my heart would explode with joy if I saw a transgender woman, as a transgender woman, in media that isn't a villain or a stereotype. Just a thought.

Much love,
Mila

I can't speak for whether we get to see more of Aaron and Eric, but the LGBTQ community is just as important to the tapestry of TWD as real life. Thanks for the support!

I want to have Aaron and Eric featured more in the book and

TRAD by DaMMaD

I do have plans to do that. As far as a transgendered woman goes, I'm certainly not opposed to that, and there are currently plans for that to appear in a different series that I do.

Hello guys,

Greetings from Costa Rica! I have read every number of the comic and can't wait to read #103. How far are they from the sea or from a big lake they can use for fishing?

Alexandria is built upon the Potomoc River, so pretty damn close.

Yup... and you'll be seeing it... soon. Maybe that's too big a spoiler... should I delete that? Bah!

They always complain about running out of food and instead of hunting, fishing is something pretty much everybody could do. I wonder why this argument hasn't been explored in the past 102 issues.

They used to hunt, we've seen that many times. It's too dangerous, currently... and zombies eat animals... so they're somewhat scarce. Imagine if the current population was suddenly roaming the hills eating every animal in sight (that they could catch). It's slim pickins out there... that's why those people in the Fear The Hunters arc... were hunting people (that and hunting animals was more difficult).

Food cans and coffee should disappear any moment now as well as medical supplies. They have stayed there more than enough time and unless they can get some roosters and medicinal plants from Hilltop, I don't see how they are going to make it.

Anyway, thanks for this great entertainment, it is the only comic book I have read ever.

Esteban Morales
Costa Rica

Then read more comics! What else do you do with your time?!

Hi Mr. Kirkman,

Am I the only one who thinks that "Something to Fear" lacked sufficient development and seemed rather crude and artificial? Am I the only one who got less bothered with the brutal death of Glenn than with the overall plot misguidance and with how unrealistic and senseless some crucial events were handled in this arc?

I hope so...

Everybody who has followed TWD knows that it had always been marked by difficult decisions, tense moments where the guts or the heart end up winning over the reason (which sometimes brought tragic consequences for some characters). But however irrational were such choices and events, none of them so far have been so inconsistent with the personality and previous experience of the characters.

Rick is a seasoned and experienced survivor and knew from the very beginning that the Saviors would never give up their domination over everyone and everything. Nevertheless, in "Something to Fear" you've made him take two senseless and ridiculous decisions which are totally incompatible with his knowledge and personality: 1) leaving one gangster alive to "give the message to Negan." What for?

To draw them out? Rick had no other way of finding them. Also, he was overconfident and thought, like everyone else he's encountered since the Governor, that he would be way more capable than them and would pose a bigger threat to them than they did to him... and he was WRONG.

2) Abandoning the community right after an attack to seek help from Jesus (what Jesus alone can possibly do to help him, since it was Jesus who first looked after Rick for help against the Saviors?) only to arrive at Hilltop, punch Mr. Gregory and turn back.

Well, hold on there. Rick needed more man power and information... two things he knew he could get at The Hilltop. And as far as leaving when he did... another, better planned attack, could have killed them all... and by leaving RIGHT AFTER the attack, he know that would give him the most time before the next attack, no matter when it happened. That's logical. Also, again... Rick was overconfident. He's dealing with that now.

Negan, in turn, is a ruthless leader and certainly does not give a damn about the lives of those over whom he dominates. However, even after having subdued and trapped the guy who defied his leadership, he incomprehensibly refrained from killing him. In a situation like this, it is evident that the vision of the severed heads of Rick and the others would greatly undermine the morale of the rest of the survivors, making the subjugation of the community almost automatic. Why preserve Rick, Carl and the rest?

Now you're just spitballing, man. I don't mean to be confrontational, but I know more about Negan than you. COULD he have done what you suggest, sure... but there are reasons he did not.

In the case of the Governor, who also wanted to take everything from Rick, it is clear that the preservation of Rick's life occurred because of a very clear and strong reason: he needed Rick alive in order to discover the location of the prison. However, there were no such reasons in neither Rick's decisions nor in Negan's. Such choices were completely meaningless and inconsistent with the personality of both characters. If "Something to Fear" was an episode in a RPG campaign, the players (me included) would surely have the right to complain that the story told by the Dungeon Master (you) has lost its internal coherence.

Wait... what? I'm a dungeon master now?! You can criticize me ALL DAY LONG... but don't call me a dungeon master! (Commence hate mail from RPG fans now!)

Please don't misunderstand me. I know that your intention in this arc was to create something really scary, to put the characters in a situation where they really FEARED something and that this blow necessarily had to be delivered in TWD 100. I understand that you decided to twist the storyline in this way in order to create a strong and lasting sense of impotence among Rick and the others.

I like your work very much and I'm not going to stop with TWD just because you did something I disliked (in fact, I believe that nobody who ever wrote such thing to you really quitted. It's just ridiculous). However, after the end of the arc, I felt that the disturbance you tried to create among us readers was not so strong and lasting as it could be because of the undeniable artificiality of Rick's and Negan's decisions. It seems to me that, in the end, the strength of the horror of Glenn's horrible slaughter and of Rick's powerlessness ended up dazzled by the fact that those events didn't evolved naturally but were rather "forced" in the storyline.

Perhaps if you had given those events some more development and time to properly mature before unleashing them, they'd surely be much more terrible. I'm sure you could have done better than that.

Best regards,

João Paulo S. Vilas Boas
Brazil

Brazil?! Are you reading this book on illegal downloads, too?

I appreciate the criticism, truly. Thanks for writing in and I hope that upcoming issues are much more to your liking.

Dear Walking Dead Geeks (rich geeks, sure, but still geeks)....

I want to say that issue #102 of TWD was the best THE WALKING DEAD letters column ever. I love the fact you have to live in constant fear now. When you think about it, that should give you a better feel for Rick and his happy group of campers as they go through their day. So, in this case, the death threats probably make you a better writer ...and.....hey.....make you even richer.....

Kirkman.....you disgust me.....You are the 1 percent.....and your fans just enabled you...

Take care....

Michael Heffron

Keep those stories coming, that is, unless Steven Yeun finds you out on the street.... seriously, be very careful. He is Asian. Probably has ninja blood...

Thank you? And you probably have white-person-make-people-sad blood?

Yeah, Ninja Blood? Totally racist, man. Jesus.

Robert and Crew,

Thanks for stretching out the comics as much as you stretched out the first portion of the second season of THE WALKING DEAD. My assumption is we will actually get some realization as to what the fuck is going on in about 15 years in the comics, which equates to about 150 years of the show.

At >$2 a pop, the current comics aren't even worth torrenting for the time it would take me to do so, let alone the money I have spent on the actual editions. I am surprised AMC and your publishing group aren't paying people to watch and read. The first season and first, say, 60 comics were great, now you have sold out and are saying, "fuck the fans".

I have NEVER said "fuck the fans." I've literally never said those words... I mean, SEPARATELY... yeah... together... no.

I would rather watch the corpse of the original Starz Spartacus fight again than read your joke of a zombie comic. Way to be a sellout guys! How about delivering some real content in issues rather than continuations into milestone issues since the show came around?

It must be great to be as on-subject as the new Resident Evil movie is to the original gaming franchise that changed zombies forever, only to ruin them through commercialization.

I consider it an honor.

He's seen every Resident Evil movie, you know. In the fucking theater.

Thanks a lot, fuck you.

Ben D.

The immortal Ben Dover, everybody!!! Not often we get a REAL celebrity around these parts.

More letters should end with "fuck you." That was AWESOME!

And that's all we got time for this month. But, wait, there's more comics! Check out a preview of that returning Skybound favorite, WITCH DOCTOR! The new volume, MAL PRACTICE, kicks up the horror of the original series, and it's written and illustrated by the same guys, Brandon Seifert and Lukas Ketner! It comes out in two short weeks, November 28th. Get one for you and another for your momma, too!

-Sean Mackiewicz

You're mamma told me she likes Witch Doctor a lot... last time I was "with" her, I mean. You get what I'm saying when I say "with?" Get it?

See you next month, readers! And remember...

...fuck you!

-Robert

TRAD by DaMMaD

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Previously:
Negan's first trip to Alexandria leaves the community scrambling to replenish their supplies. Carl is the lone resistance, stowing away on the caravan headed back to the Saviors' camp. As the truck is unloaded, Carl opens fire, killing several men before he's overtaken and given a proper greeting by Negan.

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LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Season's greetings, Letter Hacks! Now's the time of year that we can be thankful for the psychopaths, sycophants, miscreants and degenerates that write in every month. And all the "balanced" people, too. We wouldn't have it any other way.

Happy Holidays! Letters!

Having worked on a zombie book long enough to have thought about this stuff waaaay too much. I feel that it's my duty to pass on the one thing that doesn't get used nearly enough in zombie stories... Trip wire. Simplest line of defense.

Maybe Robert has an entire story line with trip wire in it that I haven't read. But, for what it's worth, take it. Run with it. All yours free and clear!

Okay. Back to the rainbow corp.
Peaz,
Aaron Kuder

Hey, check it out! Green Lantern: New Guardians' artist A-to-the-motherfuckin'-K! Well, it's like on Breaking Bad where the writers have to leave out a couple steps so people aren't really cooking meth... Robert doesn't want folks knowing how to REALLY survive a zombie apocalypse. Selfish? You decide.

Also, there are things, like tripwire that make perfect sense, but at the same time are used so often in action movies that it seems far-fetched and a little out of place (to me at least) if it were to appear in these stories. That said, I wouldn't rule it out from ever happening.

Mr. Kirkman,

There should be an issue of THE WALKING DEAD where they go to your house and find the scripts to the next few issues of THE WALKING DEAD. That would make for an interesting story arc.

Kyle Genoni
Pleasanton, CA

Maybe Grant Morrison could pull something like that off.

I certainly couldn't.

As I write this, Superstorm Sandy has just passed through my town in pastoral Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Even 35 miles from ocean, we were battered with 75+ mph gusts for two solid hours. Trees uprooted and devastation everywhere. When dawn broke, the scene was even worse. I lost trees. My neighbor had a pine crush his car and house. No power, water, fuel. Nothing. Also growing up at the Jersey Shore, the scenes of destruction I accessed through the phone were numbing.

With nothing much to do, I walked to a local Exxon and waited on line for a cup of coffee. For an hour. People talked about the storm. Someone mentioned it was like the apocalypse. I have to admit, like many Walking Dead and general comic/zombie fans, my mind went immediately to the prospect of this unlikely, yet now strangely true, scenario. One could see how in any society, it would only take one person to storm the store and all would erupt in chaos. I thought of The Rise of the Governor book, how the early times after the breakout were described. It was a good distraction from a myriad of crazy feelings; loss of property, sad for friends, lucky to be alive - will work be open the next day?

I think at its heart, this comic is and always has been about people. I know that has been said before. But after this day, I will never read a story within these pages the same way again. Rick and the crew give us hope. The story is about as real as it gets, when you think of how quickly society would de-evolve given certain situations. But even through it all, we can move forward. Jersey is a strong place with good people. It will take a lot of work, but it will get done.

Thanks for making my favorite form of entertainment a little more than words and pictures on a page.

Patrick Bivona
Lebanon Borough, New Jersey

Patrick, good to hear you, as well as the other Sandy affected readers, are safe! Coming out of a disaster like this, there were still the inevitable stories of looters piloting boats toward flooded beach homes or impersonating electrical workers to get into abandoned apartments... let's face it. The knuckleheads won't ever quit, but they can be outweighed by the folks banding together to help out their neighbors and complete strangers. Which there were a LOT of.

I often talk about this with Scott Gimple in the Walking Dead writer's room. A lot of what happens in this book is due to my belief that if civilization were to fall, we wouldn't unite, we would turn on each other. Which, by extension, seems to mean that I believe people are inherently bad, and civilization keeps them at bay. I don't think I really believe this, I think it's more that I believe this is POSSIBLY true. I'm grateful when I hear stories of people coming together to deal with Sandy, that I seem to be proven wrong.

KIRKMAN,

You bearded swine! Have you no shame? No decency? You dishonor yourself and your family!

Maybe I should back up and explain my rant, but the temptation to hurl a few more insults is strong, you scruffy-looking tease.

So, this Michonne special issue thing totally sucked. I don't say that lightly. I already knew it was a reprint of her first appearance with just a little something extra. I already knew it was from Playboy, so I didn't think it would be too racy. I was not, however, prepared to deal with the handful of wishy-washy pages I found within.

I learned nothing new about the character, and the "voice over" bits of her talking to her dead boyfriend seemed a little wimpy for the woman who went at the Governor with pliers and a blowtorch.

I guess "betrayed" is too strong a word; I just feel a little let down is all...

Everyone else in the TWD crew is awesome, and I love you. However, Kirkman, you're on thin ice. You're gonna have to cut off Rick's other hand or a foot or something to redeem yourself.

Jesse Memphis, TN

I'll get right on that! (Sorry, Rick.) In my defense, I'll just say that those were Michonne's inner thoughts, which we've never seen, but we have seen, over time that her gruff exterior, was for the most part, a facade. So there.

Robert and co,

First off, I pretty much hate you. You failed to print my last letter when I was so praising of you. Now, I'm pissed. You leave Maggie at the Hilltop and now we're just supposed to forget about her and Sophia? It's not that I like Maggie so much as a character; I actually like the dynamic between Carl and Sophia. It's sad that we won't get to see them together for now. It's been great to see them grow as a "couple." And now that's dead (at least for now). That sucks. Secondly, after reading the letter hacks in issue 103, I decided to try out the stroganoff with beef jerky. Surprisingly good. The jerky actually does soften up a bit. Not so much that you can't tell it's jerky, but it's still pretty good. That will now become my "I'm too broke to get real food" meal in place of Ramen. So thank you for that. I guess I can forgive you for the first transgression thanks to this.

I honestly don't know if anyone's ever made that before... I just made it up for that scene. I'd never heard of anyone doing that, I wasn't even sure it would be edible... you're a brave man!

And now on to Sean. You don't have the same snarky humor that Sina had, but your commentary is still pretty funny. And yes, snarky is a word. Look it up if you must.

There's lots of things I don't have that Sina does: a fashion sense, the ability to draw real well, a feminine name...

Is that snarky enough for you? #youllneverbesina

Keep up the good work guys. Your ability to make people passionately hate you and fall head over heels in love with your book is amazing.

JD Shoemate

Uh... thanks?

So I'm slowly making my way through the second compendium, and I noticed something: What is it with Robert Kirkman's love affair with the big, strong, dumb, noble, loyal archetype? Rick's second-in-command throughout this series has generally been a man who not only fits this type, but also seems to have some unspoken manlove for Rick. First, it was Shane. Then, Tyrese. Now it's Abraham. What's the deal, Kirkman? Not that there's anything wrong with it, but man, I feel like parts of this series is just an exploration into your bottom-to-bear power fantasies.

TRAD by DaMMaD

Eugene

Have you ever Googled "Robert Kirkman bear"?

Oh, here we go...

Dear Walking Dead Team,

What the hell is Glenn's last name? I figure, since he's dead now and all... I'd like to know.

Thanks for satisfying my curiosity.

Vince
Modesto, CA

I honestly don't believe I ever gave him one. He's got one on the show, and I believe Steven Yeun actually came up with it. So... I haven't bothered to remember it. Screw that guy.

Well hey there, Mr. Kirkman!

Just wanted to say that Negan is SICK (in both the good and the bad sense), loved issue 103! And my question:

I read somewhere that you regret cutting off Rick's hand. Is this true? I really think this was a vital part of the book and made him into what he is "today."

Greetings from Buglaria,

Rosi

I don't regret doing it, I never regret story decisions on this book. BUT, that said, it's led to some difficulties, and there are storytelling cheats that we do from time to time. Every now and then Rick does something he just shouldn't be able to do. So, due to those limitations... I wouldn't do it again if I had the chance (TV SHOW?) but that doesn't mean I regret it.

I'll make this simple and quick, after 2 plus years into the zombie apocalypse (I'm guessing that's the right time frame), where the HELL do you find bread to make a sandwich??

PS. This comic is like crack and I've been on board since day 1.

Ramon

Taco shells are where it's at.

You can still MAKE bread. The ingredients would keep. Shut up.

Dear Robert and Sean,

Carl! The kid has insane amounts of machismo. If I have one hope for this book, it is that Carl gets his first legit kill with Negan. Let that crazy kid go wild with Lucille and play some sweet music on Negan's skull.

Daniel Bellay

What the-- Legit kill? Shane! Ben! A six pack of Saviors last issue! What more do you want?

Seriously... what's a "legit kill?" Is that like a kill where a woman's body activates to shut the kill down? Is that even funny? I don't know, it's late... I'm just going to leave it in just in case. Shut up, Bockrath--I'm tired. I'd like to see you do better!

Dear Robert,

Okay...normally I'd have jumped all emotional to my computer and trashed you for killing off Glenn (like I did when you shot Carl in the eye). But I decided to sit on it for a few months and let it set in. Now let's go back in time...

It's a Sunday afternoon and I have the long anticipated Walking Dead Issue #100. I tell everyone to leave me alone, I am going to have a great afternoon and read my favorite comic. It's a great triumph for me as I have been with you since issue #1 and we did it...Issue #100. So...I finish the book...and I say out loud, "Wow, I didn't enjoy that AT ALL!"

I was going to tell you that while reading the comic, when Glenn says, "I can't stop thinking about tomorrow." I said OUT LOUD, "Except there ain't gonna be no tomorrow for you, Glenn." I would have called that bad storytelling. But that's the old me.

I was going to tell you the "Iny Meny Miny Moe" thing was a direct rip off of Natural Born Killers, right down to the "My Mother says..." But that's the old me.

I could say Negan is The Governor 2 and I was really going to trash you. But that's the old me.

Looking back I'm GLAD you killed Glenn. It was horribly dramatic. The image of the close up of Glenn evoked the horror of Romero's Night of the Living Dead. I liked that. The senseless disregard for "human" life was Dawn of the Dead on steroids.

Though I still don't care much for most of the characters or the sometimes soap opera-ish relationships. The book is fine. I like that already by #102 we see that Rick has a plan. Oh this is gonna get GOOD.

I want to tell you that The Walking Dead is the ONLY comic book I read nowadays since all my favorite Marvel titles got "strange" and don't feel like "home" anymore. Home is now The Walking Dead for better or for worse. I LIKE it even if it makes me feel like shit like issue #100. Thanks, it was a GREAT RIDE.

Now another thing I'd like to bring up I was quite horrified to see after the letters page was uh...Walking Dead lunch boxes. You do know that this comic book is for adults right? I'll explain it to you in a way you might understand. Do you want some fuckitty fuck shitty shit seven fuck shit year olds reading your fuckitty fuck fuck shit, 'cause he fucking fuckitty fuck seen it on a lunch fuck shit box. Put the TV show on it instead if you must. See, then it will be a big collectors' item.

The lunch boxes are for collectors... not for kids. Adults eat lunch too, y'know.

I have a bone to pick with you Robert and Image. What's with the alternate covers? I am not a collector anymore, but I remembered when your grand epic zombie graphic novel came out, I knew it was something good and I bought 2 issues of #1 right there as soon as it came out. It was a long time ago, but I KNEW I did. I also know now that they are valuable, so I figured I'd give one to my 27 year old daughter to keep for a few decades for the grandkids. So I checked. Oh I DID buy 2 Issues of #1 alright! I bought the valuable one and the fuckitty fuck shit issue that's not worth a fuckin' shit fuck shit! I gave the one good one I had to my daughter and the shit one I gave to her stepson who is a teenage fan of your comic and the show. Why would you do that to your fans right out of the gate with Issue #1 and FUCK them like that by printing alternate covers? Being with you since issue ONE and not being one of the TV show coat-tail riders, you and Image OWE me an ORIGINAL issue ONE. Or your insides will be on your outsides.

I disagree that I owe you an original issue one. What version of issue one did you buy that's worthless?

Now back to the book...I think you should consider ENDING IT SOON. It's great as it is. Just kill everybody off already. I think you should KILL IT BY ISSUE 150. Let it STAND ALONE. The BEST TV series are only 3 or 4 seasons, that's what makes them special. Though I think yours could go a good 5 or maybe 6 seasons. Anyway I'm looking forward to EVERYBODY getting killed in the comic book. Your fans are way too rabid...um...passionate about the book and the PEOPLE in it. But relax fans, they are not REAL PEOPLE. It's just a comic book.

I promise you I will not be ending this series at issue 150. You may not like it, or maybe you do, I can't quite tell, but thankfully, other people really enjoy it, including me... and Charlie, and Rus, and Cliff (I think)... hell, even Sean likes it. So we'll keep going.

Have FUN, Robert. Kick ass. The book is great. Rick does stupid shit all the time that gets people killed...I think it's GREAT! I can't wait to see what mess they get into this time. Enjoy it, but end it...for the books sake.

One last thing...after reading issue #100...I'm now rooting for the zombies.

Sincerely,
Victor Gaspar

P.S. I'll be waiting for my Issue #1. You better sign it too. That's interest.

Sorry.

Hi Robert,

So as a long time reader and a student of writing, after issue 100, I decided I would make an effort to write to you with a question. Couple of things writing courses and books highlight, is:

1) Make us care about the characters.

2) Make inspired/unexpected choices.

Obviously the success of Walking Dead can be attributed to both these factors. The latter being a highlight of the series, I mean where else would someone else have the balls to kill off main characters like you do. Glenn's death was emotional, upsetting gut wrenching and many other things because we cared about him and had been with him for so long.

But then I started wondering at what stage do you hit a point on diminishing returns in terms of the story? Right now the original group is just down to a few people, people whom the readers have been heavily invested in since the beginning of the series. How far do you go before the two points I made earlier are in conflict with each other?

At this rate somewhere down the road we are going to have a totally different cast of characters and players. Aren't you worried that people won't care as much cause they don't know any of these new people? How do you keep readers invested if there is no one to invest in? Just wondering what you thought.

Keep up the good work.

Z

Ah... this old discussion is rearing its ugly head. "I like this book a lot, but how are you going to keep it interesting forever? Maybe you should end it at 150." Well, all I can really say is that I know what's ahead, and I think there's a lot to look forward to. I've got some really cool things planned that are unlike anything that's appeared in the book thus far, and I'm confident I can keep this story compelling for many years to come... and if I ever run out of ideas, and feel the book is starting to suck--I'll just have aliens invade, which I predict will happen around issue 275. You have been warned.

And speaking of diminishing returns, we are out. Be back next month and celebrate Charlie Adlard's 100th issue of THE WALKING DEAD. This is only my fourth issue. I got to get a few tips from him on how to keep this relationship fresh.

-Sean Mackiewicz

And do it quickly, Sean. Sheesh. Okay kids... it's been fun, and I really hope you dug this issue... I'll see you all back here next month for Charlie's 100th issue. It's going to ROCK.

-Robert Kirkman

TRAD by DaMMaD

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

ROBERT KIRKMAN
Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD
Penciler, Inker, Regular & Variant Covers

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones, Cover Colors

RUS WOOTON
Letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
Editor

Previously:

After his assault on the Savior's base, Carl has become Negan's guest. While there, Negan forces Carl to show him the wound beneath his bandages. Negan also learns that one of his wives cheated on him. For that, her lover receives the Iron, where his face is horrifically burned as a permanent mark of betrayal. Now Carl must pay his own price for killing Negan's men.

For Skybound Entertainment

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TRAD by DaMMaD

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

100 straight issues. In the comics world, that is an unbelievable milestone for an artist to hit. Charlie Adlard makes my job so much easier, and he gets better all the goddamn time. Congrats!

This really is a HUGE deal. You should all thank Charlie for the fact that we even got to this point... especially so quickly. He's constantly pushing me to y'know... get script turned in, and he's always picking up my slack when I fall behind due to the TV show or... I don't know... watching a TV show. So we really wouldn't have been monthly EVERY MONTH for the last THREE YEARS without him.

And... my god, this book looks SOOOOOO cool. Watching Charlie's style evolve from issue 7 to now, man... it's amazing. And he's STILL evolving. He hasn't settled into a rut, he's just continuing to improve and expand his skill sets.

The joy of my life has been to collaborate with such talented, awesome people. And Charlie Adlard is at the top of that list. He makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks, Charlie!

Hey Robbie,

Can I call u Robbie? Anyway, Rob, I've been fucking obsessed with zombies thanks to you, man, I'm a big fan of your work, I'm writing you here not wanting to rant about some character's death like some people are, but to make a suggestion that has nothing to do with the storyline. My suggestion is please, at least release 2 issues per month or more if you could, man. Stop being an asshole. I feel like you hooked us into your work to disappoint us, why? Your monthly release is already killing us, not to mention fucking cliffhanger endings on each issue.

Sorry for my English, I'm Cambodian, probably the only person in the country to be reading THE WALKING DEAD. I hate my friends, coz when I tried to talk to them about the Comic, they was like "What? The TV is based on comic?" That's major face palm right there, mister, you follow me?

HA!

You can refer to me in your letter hacks as Bobby Personal cock sucker if you like, coz I will do anything for you to release more than 1 issue per month, I will pay $5 a pop on the issue.

Thanks
Regards, DeadHarvester

Letters like this frustrate me. I guess a lot of people read this comic that have never read comics, or don't know how it works, and that's an AMAZING thing. But getting 36 issues out in three years, and getting nearly 120 issues out in ten years, I believe we'll be at 116 when we hit our tenth anniversary this October... is AMAZING and, I believe, unprecedented for an independent comic. But instead, I'm getting cussed at for not releasing issues faster...

You just can't win.

Still, I'm glad people love the book enough to be begging for more... really beats the alternative.

Kirkman,

Now that I have bought THE ROAD TO WOODBURY and the video game, you don't need to worry about selling me either of them. They are both great and I enjoy them equally.

Yeah, but did you buy THE WALKING DEAD ASSAULT game for your iPhone and iPad yet?! Check out that ad on the back cover. It's freakin' bonkers, man. Anyways...

There's always something to sell... sorry, guys.

However, I would like to know which is supposed to be canon to the comic series? I won't mention any spoilers for those who haven't read/played them yet, but Lilly Caul has two different stories even though both the video game and novel were described as canon to the comic series. I'm not gonna lie and say this mess up didn't upset me a bit. I would love to hear what you have to say about it. Thanks.

Jake Trusheim

Officially, the Lilly from the video game is not the Lilly from the comic. The one from the novels IS. BOTH take place in the same "universe" as the comic... but it's a universe with more than one Lilly.

Mr. Kirkman

I love the series, but I will admit I love the show more, heck, the PS3 game rocks, too. I know having the use of hindsight helps flesh out issues in the story and improve on characters being more organic, that's why I still keep reading the comics! My only complaints are really with how short each comic is. They seemed so much longer back in the day... oh and one thing that came to mind while reading...

Carbines fire arms do not have any kick. Standard M-16/M-4 (and almost all civilian copycat firearms) do not have full auto, single shot and burst fire. They can be rigged, but why would you if ammo is a concern? Carl might have fumbled the weapon a bit, maybe even dropped it, but no kick = no getting thrown to the ground.

Keep up the fire!

Jacob

P.S You know a WALKING DEAD game with the openness of Fallout/Elder Scroll series would be amazing!

While fact checking this I disappeared into the gun-loving internet and remembered an afternoon I spent firing guns in Arkansas. And I still have no idea if this is true, but we'll assume it is.

We most certainly will not. I know Jacob would love to point out some kind of inaccuracy in this comic, but I ain't no fool. I do my research thank you very much--and a machine gun of any kind, has tremendous kick back and would definitely knock Carl off his feet like that. Trust me.

Dear Robert "The Dungeon Master" Kirkman and Sean "The Commie" Mackiewicz,

Man. What an issue. If Carl hadn't been so intent on looking cool he could've put an end to this whole Ray Steven...uh...Negan business once and for all. He did look cool, though. Until he actually fired the rifle and got knocked on his butt. Didn't look so cool then, did you, Carl? Maybe if you weren't so concerned with your appearance and concentrated more on actually getting the job done by choosing the right fucking weapon, you wouldn't be in this mess and have to rely on Jesus to bail you out! Fucking Carl. Should've stayed in the house.

Rob Shelor
Roanoke, VA

You don't know anything about guns, Rob Shelor. You should listen to Jacob.

Okay, Kirk, I like you, really I do. But I was pissed off the second Rick didn't tell Carl his plan. I mean, Carl is an annoying piece of shit, I forgive him for it because he's a kid in a zombie apocalypse. Whatever. I've just accepted he's annoying.

There is an ungodly amount of hate for Carl this month that I completely disagree with. But go on.

The thing is, the TV show makes him even more annoying. I'm sure you've seen the "where's Carl" jokes about it. So yes, Carl has a habit of disappearing, of taking things into his own hands. You think his father would understand this by now. Rick was worried about Michonne, he talked to her. Why did he not do the same with Carl? I'm so annoyed. I really don't like Carl now. And I will always love Rick, and I will always want him to be on top of the world, but GODDAMMIT, he is a terrible father. Ugh. And that directly conflicts with him being on top of the world, so you can understand my frustration. I might be going off track here. I think I am. Can you just please make Rick seem less stupid when it comes to Carl? How did he not see that coming? I did. I saw it coming way before it happened. Please don't do something like this again.

Sincerely,
Fatin

P.S. If you have anything to do with how the show is going and you have a hand in building the storyline, can we please have a Daryl sex scene? I almost loved the comics more, but the show has Daryl.

I'll see what I can do.

P.P.S. Um. I'm from Pakistan. I've read all your comics illegally online or through torrents. Sorry...can I please have an autograph? I mean, c'mon...I live in Pakistan. Where am I supposed to find your comics here and oh God, I've never had an autographed anything. Please be nice.

What would I sign? A computer screen?

Dear Mr. Kirkman

In #104 letter section, you managed to throw away a lot of the respect I had for you.

"Brazil? Are you reading this book on illegal downloads, too?"

That was hard to read from a user who spent more than $100 on your digital content. In fact, your comic is published here in Portuguese too, but I can't wait the delay, so I buy them digitally. You should read about Brazil a little bit, it being the sixth economy in the world and a solid democracy, you know?

TRAD by DaMMaD

Anyway, good series, getting better in recent editions.

MARCELO

If a country is good enough to host the World Cup, I've got no beef. Besides, we all know PAKISTAN is the problem.

I was just making a joke! I didn't mean to offend you. As the previous letter shows, at times, foreign readers are only able to get the books illegally. Due to the success of the show, that is becoming less true by the month as THE WALKING DEAD is translated into more and more countries, and Comixology continues to sell the books digitally worldwide in English... but... I was making a joke!

Plus, I'm American, so I don't know the difference between Brazil and Pakistan. Wocka wocka.

Can I get some of that respect back now?

Kirkman,

Just read #104. Please for the love of god wrap this Negan/Governor rehash coasting up as soon as possible. Why are you so heavily and obviously padding such a rehashed storyline??? The plot from #101 - #104 could have been done in 1 issue (2 very comfortably). I could send you some layouts if you disagree...

PLEASE DO!

Anyways...if you wanted to do something predictable, why didn't you at least go with something new that people would have (not just paid for) but actually liked (like adding Daryl or someone from the TV show)?

Just please get to the point and have Negan either die horribly or become Rick's gay lover/best friend, because seriously...we both know it's going to be something close to one or the other.

Also, please move away from the "community vs. community" stories after this. Can you say de-luge? Anyone who's read your comic from the beginning has seen this before and while an alternate Governor storyline plays out on TV, we comic readers get the not so new Neganovenor storyline. I'm not so sure this comic lends itself to having so many characters wandering around in the background that barely anyone gives a shit about. It was much more interesting when there were more zombies and less people. It's evolved into nothing but a cheap "Redneck Game Of Thrones" with a few zombies wandering about.

Redneck Game of Thrones! Let's go pitch THAT to AMC!

I really wish you had just had Carl kill Dwight and Negan and take over at the end of #104, then tell his dad, "That's the way you do it...you have to murder these kind of people...all of them if you have to." That would have been tits. Having Carl somehow think it would be a good idea to try to take Negan into custody and then manage to hit everyone in front of him BUT Negan and Dwight was some hokey mind-boggling Bendis-y characterization bullshit for the obvious sake of padding. Watching Rick and crew do NOTHING BUT get punked out for god knows how long is starting to get boring as fuck. Somebody cool needs to DO something cool real soon. You're a great writer, I'm sure you've just hit a comfortable slump, you'll get through it.

Thanks!
Floyd Herbert

Thanks for the support, Floyd. I'm sure I'll get through it, too. I'm sorry you don't enjoy the current storyline but I don't agree with you. The only thing Negan has in common with The Governor is that they are male, and are opposing Rick. By your logic Lex Luthor and Braniac are the same because they both fight Superman. They're antagonists... and they're vastly different.

The Governor never had a baseball bat!

To all at TWD,

Well, this 65-year-old male is back reading comics again. I was hooked on the story by the TV episodes and that lead me to the comics, which I was able to get at our local library in the consolidated issues. Now I'm reading the monthly issues via my iPad.

One of the things that has struck me about TWD is how similar this is for the survivors to the time of the Middle Ages. The Black Plague was a surge that nearly wiped out Europe and what arose were these mercenary units of men that we know as knights. Communities built walled cities to resist these armies and later raised their own armies and created these entities we know as city-states. I see the same thing developing here and it has lead me to hit the histories of the time. Most specifically, Barbara Tuchman's "A Distant Mirror." See the Wikipedia entry for the book to get a better idea of what I'm saying. I believe somewhere some history major with an English minor will write a thesis on the parallels between the 14th C. and TWD.

My question, and I have one, has Robert read any histories of the Middle Ages and incorporated any of the themes into TWD? Oh, I also believe that the focus of the stories in both the graphic novel and the TV series is not so much Rick, but Carl. It's the loss of innocence and learning the world is just not what it is, is, in my mind, the most interesting part of the story lines.

Finally, the TV series "Revolution" while it has no "walkers," is also in the same vein. Powerful men build armies, terrorize the populace and there's an element of science mystery. In fact, I'd say that NBC has ripped off TWD.

Michael Wallace
Sebastopol, CA

"Powerful men build armies, terrorize the populace and there's an element of science mystery." So, EVERY civilization since the advent of Christianity?

Just kidding. I love Jesus. He's practically a ninja!

I'm not touching this one...

Dear Walking Dead Team,

Will we dedicated readers ever get a book of nothing but Letter Hacks? I'm talking The Complete Letter Hacks Compendium Edition. I would love to read each and every letter, but do not have the time to read the back of all 100+ issues (I'm too busy watching the show and playing the video game). Anyhow, carry on now, Hail Kirkman, zombies are cool, blah blah blah.

Daniel Bellay
Fairmont, WV

Yeah, remember the good ol' Letter Hacks days of Michonne's Rape and Carl's Face? It's been a while since there's been a good controversy. We barely even get Glenn letters anymore.

Just wait until... oh, never mind.

I love money as much as the next person, but a book collecting just letters columns seems CRAZY to me. Would people actually want that? Just feel like they're dated and not something that really should be preserved in that way. And it's cool that there's something ONLY in the single issues... I don't know...

Dear Sean and Kirkman,

Carl has turned into a complete bad ass after trying to gun down Negan and his lowly group of thugs. I can honestly see Carl turn into a Negan-like character as he matures and grows even darker and cold blooded. I have a few brain teasers for you guys.

Does Carl respect his father or the others at all anymore?

Of course he does, he's not a monster.

Would it be in Carl's nature to eventually look up to Negan and his dastardly ways?

Maaaaaaaybe... keep reading.

Please get that stinking fur collared jacket off of Rick.

Anyhow, between the TV show, the comic, the video game, and the nonstop talking about the above mentioned items...I now have no social life. Thanks a lot Kirkman, you jerk!

Daniel Bellay
Fairmont, WV

You again?!

Dear Mr. Kirkmanikov & Mackleonardiezierdi,

FIRST OFF:

Fuck You! You said you wanted more letters to end that way, but Fuck You, that's how I'm beginning the letter!

Awesome!

SECOND OFF:

Carl is finally going to do some serious shit, and I'm seriously tense for how this is gonna turn out. I'm scared that he'll become evil, which is totally not what I was expecting. We all envisioned Carl taking the leadership role like his dad (it seems like where the story was heading)... but Oh My Goodness! That sociopath Negan really knows the kind of asset he's stumbled onto here. The plot thickens in such a dangerous way... I didn't see this coming. Rick is planning an offense while pretending to NOT plan an offense, which is plot-thickness in itself, but Carl is resentful, violent, passionate... and IN THE HANDS OF NEGAN!!! Will he maintain his perspective? Or will his young mind fall victim to the wiles of Negan? Will this be the element that finally breaks Rick and makes him submit? Find out in the next few episodes!!!

THIRD OFF:

I just finished the first collection of Prophet... I know you're not associated with it, but it's an Image comic and it's one of the coolest things I've ever read. We need more sci-fi! I don't want to do more month-to-month comics so I'm waiting for the next trade, but Prophet has an awesome story built up and I'm looking forward to reading more. Ed Brisson worked on Prophet, and he also works on the Murder Books... have you guys read those??? Some amazing storytellin' and awesome art.

No, but I read The Comeback, Ed's new Image book. Check it out!

FOURTH OFF:

Fuck You!

(I'm just joking!)

Dripping with love,
Patt Mayne

Dear Kirk,

I'm glad you're not a Dungeon Master. Playing for a DM like you would go as follows:

1. All NPC's you encounter talk in monologues.
2. The party would only have one monster encounter per session. 2. For each new campaign, the party would encounter the same situations.

You'd be a suck-ass DM.

Been reading since around #13, keep it up. Oh and my mother loves the show, so don't fuck it up (any worse). Love you, Mom!

Kindly go fuck yourself,
Mitchell Lenyo
Bloomington, Indiana

Uh.... thanks?

I can't wait for next month where we discuss Carl's Face: The Revenge.

Also, the new issue of the Walking Dead Magazine is out and there's interviews with David "The Governor" Morrisey and all sorts of cool people. Check it out!

-Sean Mackiewicz

Please do! See you all back here next month!! For Charlie's 101st issue and my 107th!

-Robert Kirkman

TRAD by DaMMaD

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

ROBERT KIRKMAN
Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD
Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones, Cover Colors

RUS WOOTON
Letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
Editor

Previously:

Carl's missing, and Rick hasn't stopped searching for him. So when Jesus returns to Alexandria with the Saviors' whereabouts and news of Carl's possible involvement there, Rick rides out with his best people to show up at Negan's front door...

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TRAD by DaMMaD

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Ezekiel?! Have you ever in your life known an Ezekiel? I doubt it. There you go, getting all writerly. Who do we meet next, Persephone? Amadeus?

Is this how we're opening letters columns now? Are our letters not critical enough for you? The editor of the book needs to pile on even more?! Come on, Sean, I thought better of you.

Ezekiel is a cool name, damn it. And the end of the issue wouldn't have had much impact if Jesus said, "I think it's time I introduced you to Bill."

I hate you, Sean.

LETTERS!!!!!

Robert and Co,

Woah Negan is so handsome I fell in love with him but I'm still a lesbian I think. Seriously though, I wasn't gonna send one of these in, but my inherit love of Negan got to me. Plus, also, I was bored.

And since I'm bored I'm gonna gently bully Robert. The shit you're coming up with is ridiculous. The bit about the baseball bat being eaten out like a lady? Do you ever just sit back and look at what you've written and just go 'wtf???????'.

Happy Holidays xoxoxo,
Suha Kakish

I'm pretty sure that's Robert's favorite page he's ever written.

It's ridiculous, I know. I honestly think Negan is the most fun character I've ever written. I'm actually a bit of a prude. I've been known to curse as much as Negan at times, and maybe in the same playful manner, but the sex stuff, the p word... I don't really use that stuff in my vocabulary. So getting to write a character that's so unlike me is a lot of fun, and he's just weird... "Nicer than a fuckless fuck on free fuck day"? I have no idea where that came from. It's really a game to try and write sentences with as many instances of the SAME curse word as possible.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

WTF, so in one of issue 105's letter hacks there was a graphic novel mentioned. Since you insist on only publishing one book a month I decided I would try to find said novel and read while I wait for the next book to be released. Anyways so I run to my computer fire up the dial up "bebebebebrrrraaaakBRAHRINGRINGRINGBEEPBEEPBEEP," open my web browser and begin to type in Robert Kirkman graphic novel. Only I didn't get that far I got as far as Robert Kirkman and do you know what Google suggested I look at in order:

Robert Kirkman net worth
Robert Kirkman
Robert Kirkman Gay

I have a feeling this is due to you Googling your own net worth repeatedly and looking to Google as some kind of magic 8 ball to discover your sexuality. Don't worry though, I've started a campaign to try and fix your Google cred. I've began searching the following in an attempt to fix this little problem:

Robert Kirkman has sex with newborn donkey
Robert Kirkman illegal Alien

And of course: Robert Kirkman how about some fucking double issues, a rise of Negan or at least a fucking two hour fucking finale/mid season finale or a summer time episode, you slack ass.

Thank you,
Calvin Freid

We've dealt with the issue of Googling Robert before. It can lead to some pretty unpleasant results...

I am extremely proud of the fact that I'm popular enough with the bear loving subset of the gay community enough for their Google searches of me to appear so close to the top. Either that or former editor Sina Grace spends way too much time on the internet Googling me to alter the search results.

I thoroughly enjoyed issue 105. It took a while to get here but finally we get to learn more about Negan. After reading the issue's Letter Hacks, I feel the need to speak up as a long time fan of the comic. Sean's comment on a letter:

"Have you ever Googled Robert Kirkman Bear"?

Well, of course I had to look it up after that. Maybe I missed the reference in the past. I couldn't for the life of me remember ever hearing of this before. So I watched.

Then I came up with two conclusions.

1. If someone suggests that you do a Google search for Robert Kirkman Bear.
DON'T

2. I forgot what the other conclusion was. Just don't Google search Robert Kirkman bear.

I've told myself to remember #2 going forward. If I forget in the future, I'm getting a Momento-style tattoo. "Don't Google search Robert Kirkman Bear" and "Forget you, Sean."

Jay Chudley
La Mesa, Ca

P.S. 105 was great. No Rick in this one huh?

Every day I strive to do my job to the best of my ability—consider this one in the WIN column.

Y'know... I've honestly never Googled that... at least I don't recall doing it. And I'm not trying to be cool, I vanity Google myself all the time to make sure that "sasquatching" thing has died down.

Hello,

Tripwires are part of any decent radical defense perimeter, aren't they? HA!

For the last 40 issues I've been wondering when our gang was going to run low on ammo and solve the problem by switching to 12 gauge shotguns, reloading the shells with dimes. At least the money would have value again, right? Immediate value I'll bet.

Also flamethrowers are easy...while all of those cars sitting around have fuel in them, that gasoline is continually going to spoil with age.... It will end up shellacy and useless in a vehicle's engine. However, it still makes a wonderful flame. More and more our heroes are encountering threats that are alive in the form of raiders, rival groups, etc. Flame cannot be underestimated in its efficacy against a living foe.

"Flame cannot be underestimated in its efficacy against a living foe." Fuuuuuck... I gotta use that some time.

Pikes for killing the dead. They could make them out of steel rakes, and other such metal ended common garden tools.

Just my completely unsolicited arm-chair-quarterback two cents.

Thanks for making this comic. It makes me feel like a kid again waiting for it to come out each month and reading it.

Roger in Iowa

As this book continues to progress, you will begin to see more and more makeshift weapons. The spears at the Hilltop were just the beginning. We're easing into it. The idea is that this is a gradual shift to an almost unrecognizable world. You shouldn't notice the change from issue to issue, but when you eventually compare issue 10 to issue 280... you'll see how much things have changed.

Hi. I was wondering, when writing for TWD do you have anything you do to get in the proper mood for TWD? Like, a song to listen to or something.

Stool Pigeon

Robert needs to run out of other things to do first. Then maybe he starts writing. (Or maybe he listens to "The Very Best of Hall & Oates"...which is about the most GANGSTER music on his laptop.)

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds and The Dirty Three helps, music wise. I don't really have to get in the mood, or anything like that. Emails from Charlie let me know he's going to need script soon helps. I'm a mess.

Hi Robert Kirkman,

First off, I'm huge fan of both the comics and TV series, as well as the game and the novels. Great storytelling and Charlie Adlard brings the story to life so well through his art. THE WALKING DEAD is one best series, if not the best of the last decade. A couple of questions I would like to clear up and plot holes I would like to clear up.

First off, as disappointed as I am of the deaths of Abraham and Glenn who were my favorite characters, I like the direction you're taking the series with Negan and the Saviors as the new villains. I liked the Governor, but Negan blows him out of the water. As you said yourself, no one lives forever in the series, so it's a no brainer Negan will die eventually and I'm curious to see how Rick and co. will bring him down.

Second, I understood why you killed Glenn off, but why did you kill

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Abraham? He still had a lot of potential in him. Did you kill him to pursue the storyline of Rick and co. giving into the Saviors because he was important as muscle to the group and they were screwed without him?

It was his time. His death provides a lot of cool story potential, same as always.

Third, what happened to Jeff Grimes? I know you like to leave dangling story bits, like what you did with Alexander Davidson, but I think it would be cool for Rick to somehow come across his brother randomly. It would be shocking, unexpected and it could make for a great storyline. If not, you should at least clear the air on whether he is alive or not. After Rick found Lori and Carl and settled down at the prison, wouldn't he think to go look for his parents and/or brother? Unless they lived far away and he most likely considered them dead. Still, Jeff Grimes should make an appearance.

No, he shouldn't. Rick has a brother named Jeff. Like a lot of adult brothers, they didn't live near each other, and it would be dangerous and impractical to go and find him.

MAYBE Jeff is awesome, and there's another group out there led by Jeff Grimes. Or maybe he's an idiot and he sucks. Rick probably talks about Jeff from time to time, but that kind of conversation would be pointless and boring, so that's the kind of thing you don't get to see in the book. Like when Abraham pooped... let me tell you, that guy was pooping all the time.

You will never see Jeff Grimes in this book. Michonne has an ex-husband... that's not a dangling plot thread, that's just back story mentioned about a character.

Fourth, I've heard you say before that Rick will not survive the entire run of the book and the book could carry on with someone else like Michonne. Is this still the case? Any ideas on how much longer he will go on if it is the case, without spoiling too much because I've heard you say before your constantly changing storylines around.

Yes, I would love to write this book long past Rick's death. It seems unrealistic that he would survive all the way to the end, I'm not ruling it out though--maybe this story ends when he dies. Or maybe it doesn't. I'm not going to ever tell you when a character is going to die. That would ruin the fun.

Fifth, this has to do with the TV show, why did you kill off Oscar? He was a great character. What a waste of potential by killing him off.

Oscar was awesome. And Vincent Ward did an amazing job playing him. It's actually a pretty tough thing for me, because characters on the show are often times mapped out to their death before an actor is even hired. So we knew, or at least, were pretty sure and had plans in place to kill Oscar before Vincent was even cast. It was a bummer to lose that guy... just like it's been a bummer to lose all the fantastic actors on the show whose characters have been killed off. I don't mean to sound sappy, but it really does bug me. It's so much easier with the comic.

Anyways, I hope this letter gets into Letter Hacks and you can answer these questions that have been bothering me for a while, need answers, thanks.

Sincerely,
Andrew Mulligan

OK, Kirkman, we're both busy people with better things to do, so let's cut to the chase: Please explain how in the HECK the right side of Carl's head grew back. 'Cause that humungous pic from #83 was pretty clear on showing us that from his eye outward (including a good chunk of THE HAT, which did NOT grow back) was completely gone. How does that work? Thanks, and keep up the good work, love the comic, yadda yadda yadda.

Wendy Bodine
Jamesburg, NJ

This oughta be interesting...

Look again. A lot of people see that hole in Carl's head as going straight back through the back of his head--it actually shot through his eye at an angle, which you can see in that two page spread, see the meat of his head inside the wound? The bullet went in his eye, left out of his temple, and damaged his hat.

Any differences between the exposed bone face Carl has now and the initial wound we saw on that splash, would be due to the work of Doctor Cloyd stopping the bleeding and cleaning the wound so it can heal properly.

Hey guys, love the comic and the show. I'll keep this short and sweet: why are there no dogs? Like, anywhere in either the series or comic. To the best of my recollection there hasn't been a single dog to be seen anywhere. Seriously, wouldn't Rick and co. have run into some dogs by now (for better or for worse)? They were on a farm for christ's sake! Or some bad guys be running with a pack of ill-tempered strays they found. The populous is on the run or zombified, but their dogs, man! What happened to all of their dogs?

Nathaniel

PS I think Carl needs a dog. A Rottweiler.

Okay, fine... dogs... or maybe TIGERS? Is that better?

Kirkman,

I recently became a correction officer in Passaic County and my first day in the jail all I could think about was how I would utilize the jail during the apocalypse, so thank you for that haha... My question is what's going on with the Cutting Room Floor book? I'm dying to read it!!! Thanks.

Jeff Heff

You're not supposed to ask about the Cutting Room Floor ever. EVER!!!!!! But when it's good and ready, we'll resolicit.

I'm very sorry about that. It's been much more difficult to put that book together than I anticipated. So we've pulled it from the schedule and will resolicit it when it's finally done. It's going to be awesome when it comes out, I promise.

Dear Robert and the Skybound crew,

Have you considered making Skybound titles longer than 22 pages? I know 22 pages is the industry standard, but Skybound titles are beyond industry standard; they are excellent. These books are far superior to anything coming out of Marvel or DC, yet Skybound still sticks to their standards. Why not differentiate the formats of the Skybound titles by giving your readers a little something extra, beyond the excellent stories of course. You can market your books as giving the readers more than what Marvel or DC give them. My local comic shop publishes its percentage of overall sales by each company. Marvel and DC always blow Image out of the water, but Image is always 3rd and hovers around 15 percent of overall sales. This is the time to shake things things up; Image seems like it has something special going with all these great new stories, but you need a carrot to lure in new readers. Image has superior writers and when it comes to sci-fi, crime and horror, Marvel and DC don't even come close. I propose extending only Skybound labeled books to 30 pages. As it stands, the story barely moves along at a snail's pace in THE WALKING DEAD and it's just frustrating reading the book month to month. The TPBs are thoroughly enjoyable since it's a bulk of content. When I first started reading TWD in 2008, it took me a while to get into it because the book is over in 10 minutes, then you have to wait another 30 days for 10 more minutes of story.

Greg Taylor

Industry standard (say, Marvel and DC) is 20 pages per issue nowadays, at least for $2.99. Charging an extra dollar and adding pages wouldn't move the market share number. We'd make more money per issue and perhaps gain ground on dollar share, but with no guarantee that sales will increase. We put out at least 7 books—over 140 pages—a month. That's a new trade's worth of content monthly. We've heard about the issue of not getting enough WALKING DEAD (or INVINCIBLE, etc.)...but everyone works hard to get you issues monthly...and we'd like you to be happy with that. We good?

Also, I'll point out that the 22 page standard isn't just what Marvel and DC does. It's the amount of work days in the average month. Drawing a monthy comic is hopefully done at the rate of a page a day. So 22 work days equals 22 pages. More than that... would just make the books late. So you're getting the same amount of pages no matter what.

You've done a great job of showing us all the lengths people will go to survive in the Zombie Apocalypse but you seem to ignore the ones who would really be in charge in a Zombie Apocalypse: Necrophiliacs. Why haven't Rick and co. run into any Necrophiliacs yet? Are you saving them for the Biggest Bad of the series?

Jason

If you coitus a zombie, is it really necrophilia? Dead means inanimate. But zombies move; they're in a state between life and death. So is it really necrophilia...or some brave new sexual terrain?

Unless you're talking about a zombie with its brains blown out. Because if you're talking about fucking a brain damaged zombie, that shit's foul—and most definitely necrophilia.

No... just... no.

Dear Walking Dead team,

Any plans to put out a graphic novel adaptation of Rise of the Governor? Nothing against the written word, but it would be great to see the Governor's origin story in all its illustrated glory!

Thanks for all your hard work,
Stephen

Nope. If you want that story... you're just going to have to read the novel. The story is specifically designed to work better in novel form--it wouldn't be the same, or as good, as a comic. Try it out--you may love it... then you can try Twilight next!

Dear Kirkman,

I need your help settling a reoccurring argument between a friend and myself. Paul "JESUS" Monroe, is it pronounced Jesus or the Spanish Jesús? I know it's trivial and petty, but a few seconds of your time please. Oh concerning Carl, you've tortured the kid enough; throw Andrea around for a while or something. Best wishes.

H.P.

Andrea will get hers! As for Jesus... it's a nickname he got because of his long hair and beard... so it's the traditional biblical JESUS.

Dear Kirk,

If Negan in #105 is any indication, SOMEONE may have some severe issues with jealousy and women. That's all I'm going to say about that. Moving on, I have a question: is the implication that the cheating wife may leave Negan, go back to their former peasant life with the man they cheated with, and he then won't get "the iron"? Because if that's the case, whoever cheats with these women is seriously not right in the head. ESPECIALLY now, after we see that at least two people have gotten the iron in this community. The most troubling part is that, if these women may leave free and clear, while also sparing their illicit lovers the iron, they sure have some icy hearts by allowing their fellow philanderers to be adorned with a permanent scarlet letter.

Bitches be crazy, I guess.

Mitchell Lenyo
Bloomington, Indiana

"Bitches be crazy?" Let's start at the top of the crazy pyramid and leave it at Negan is fucking crazy.

Yeah, come on, man. There's an awful lot of manipulation and brain washing going on at the Savior's factory... people aren't exactly themselves.

Flame cannot be underestimated in its efficacy against a living foe. Words to live by.

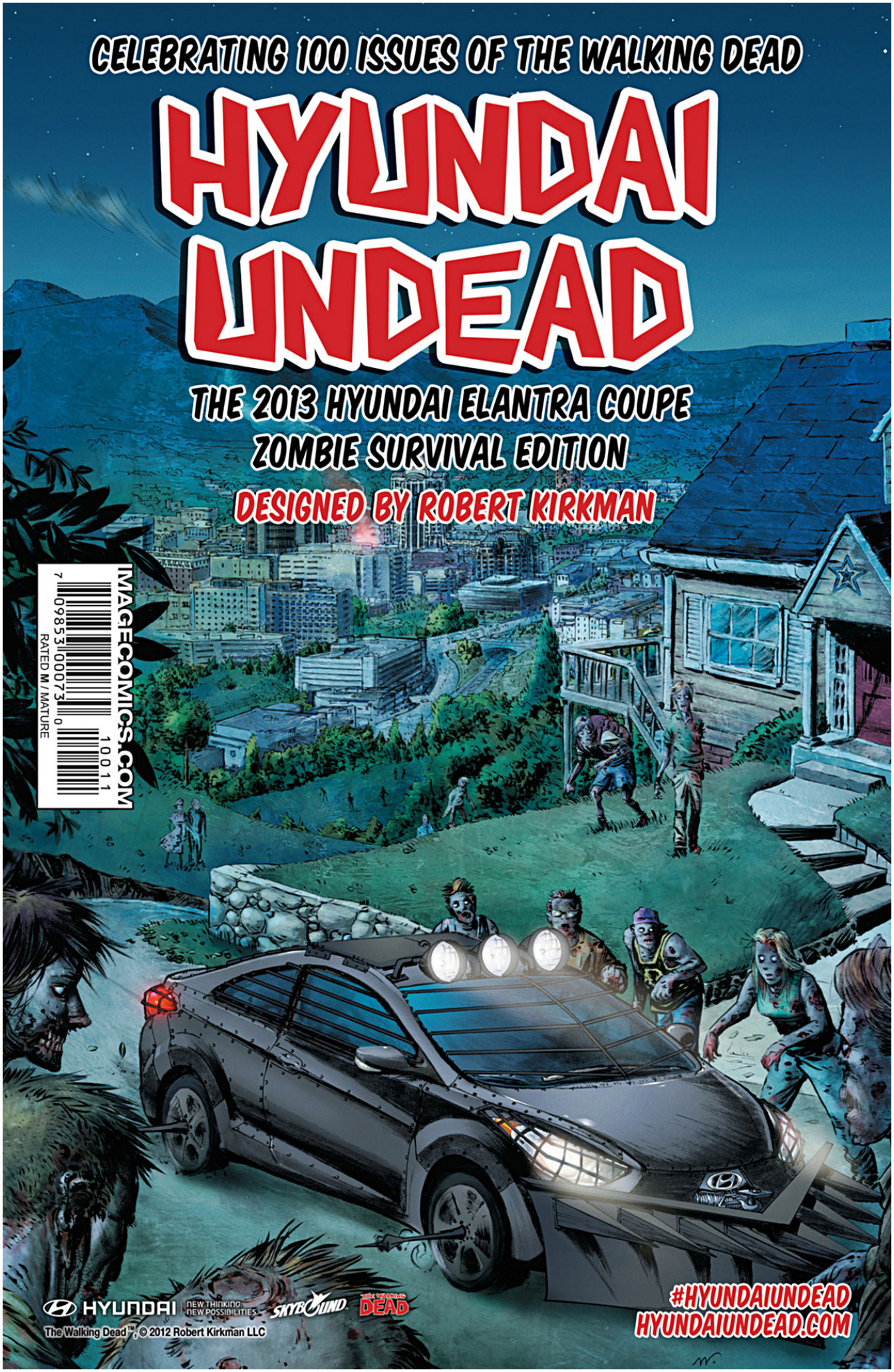
-Sean

Also, next month, we meet Ezekiel. He has a tiger.

Yep! And it's going to be awesome!! I'll see you then!

-Robert Kirkman

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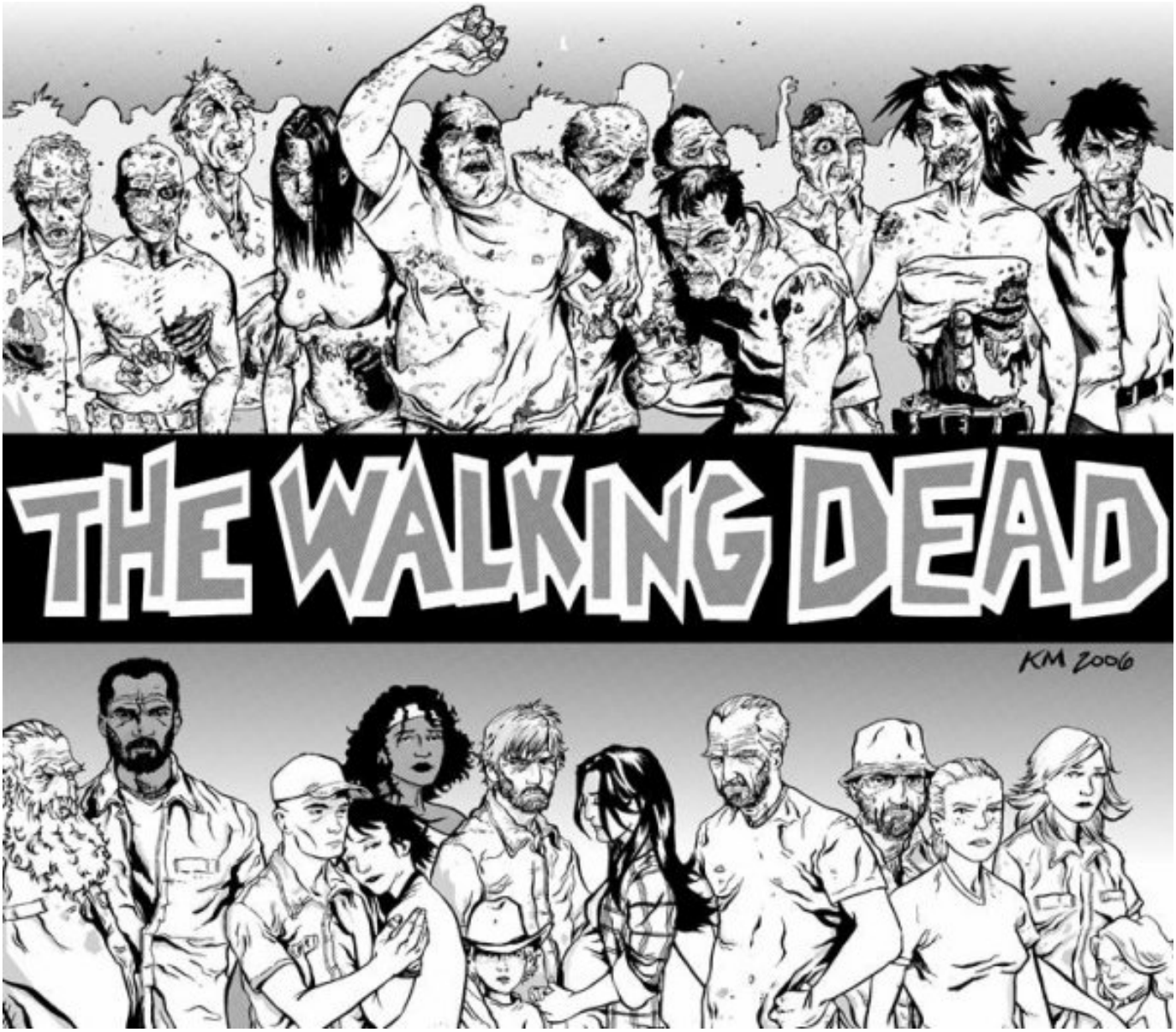
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