

"It's Deadwood by way of Stephen King. It's Undeadwood. It's witty, it's disturbing, and it's a must-read."

-Mark Waid

"One of the strongest and strangest concepts I've ever heard, executed with horrific precision."

-Ed Brubaker

ROTTEN™



Rahner · Horton · Dougherty

ROTTEN

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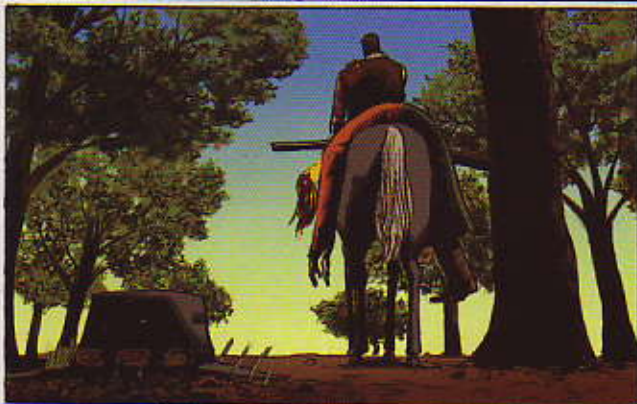
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I NEED HELP!

YOU ARE NOT WELCOME AT THIS HOUR! GIVE OUR FAMILY THE PEACE IT DESERVES AND GO HOME!



MY WOMAN'S BEEN KILLED AND I'VE BEEN SHOT!



THERE'S A DOCTOR A MILE NORTH UP THE TRAIL... AND A SHERIFF. IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, NOW LEAVE US ALONE!



I AM AN AGENT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT RUTHERFORD B. HAYES... AND I ORDER YOU TO OPEN THIS DOOR AND GIVE ME AID!

DAMN YOU, OPEN THIS DOOR IN THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT, OR YOU SHALL BE... I SHALL CHARGE YOU WITH...



... WITH CRIMINAL...

... YOU BURY THIS WOMAN, DO YOU HEAR ME? YOU BURY HER...



... LIKE A MURDERER...



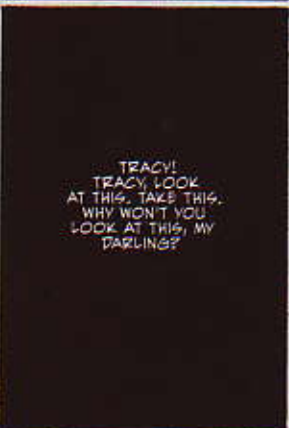
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING UNWARRANTED THINGS TO GET INTO THE HOUSE, BUT YOU GUYS TAKE THE PRIZE...



OH, NO... MISTER, YOU JUST RELAX.

"TRACY SHILO"

CREATED BY MARK RAHNER
WRITTEN BY MARK RAHNER & ROBERT HORTON
ART BY DAN DOUGHERTY
LETTERING BY SEAN KONOT





Confidential Report from
Agent John J. Flynn.

I am concerned by Agent Wade's
failure to meet me following his
presumed escape from the horrors
of the mining town of Shimmer.



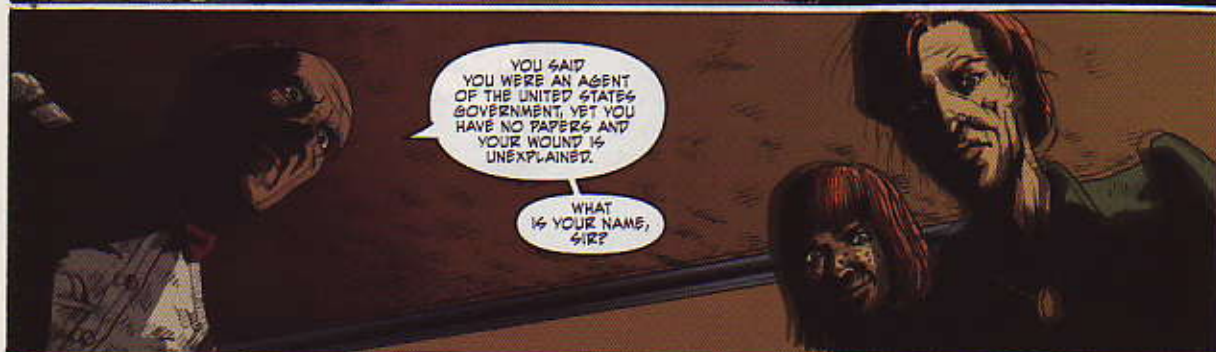
I have set out back in that direction
to ascertain his whereabouts-- or his
mortal fate. Did Wade fall victim to
the town's inexplicably reanimated
and homicidal dead in his attempt to
rescue a lone woman? To its corrupt
inhabitants? Or was he waylaid by the
remaining hostile Indians? I mean to
find my partner at all costs,
President Hayes.

Your faithful servant,
John J. Flynn.

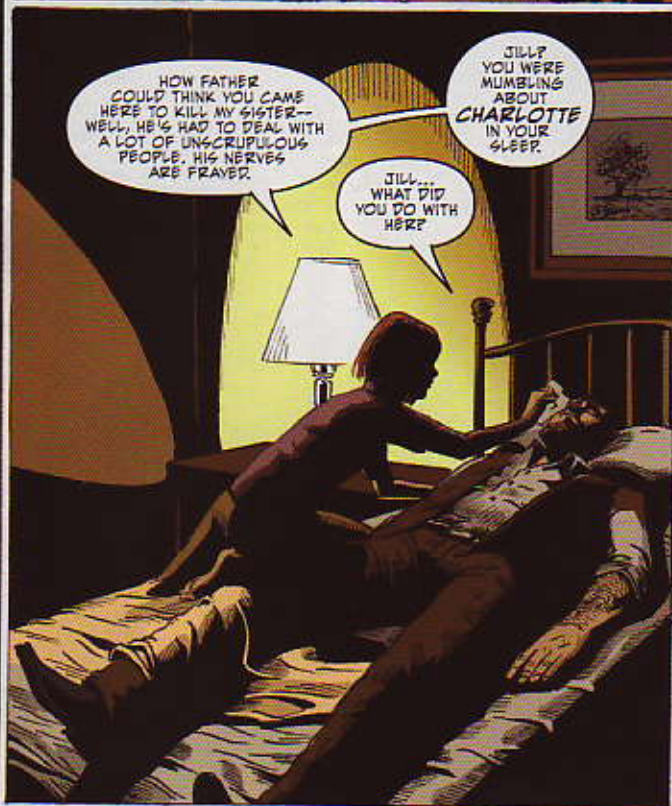
... WHO
HE SAID
HE IS...

... DEARER A...

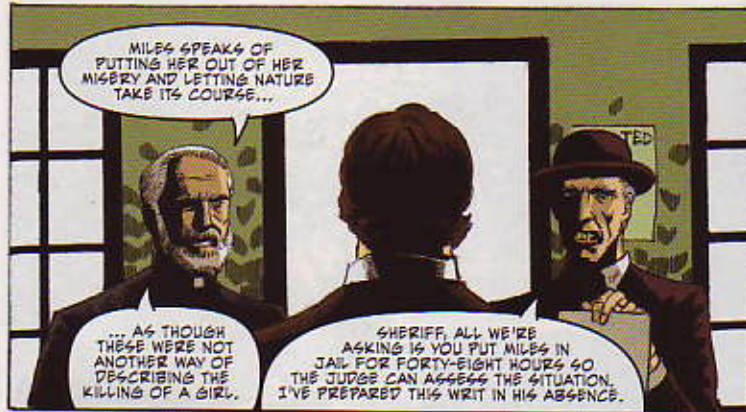
... BUT
YOUR WISHES
ARE...













HELLO THERE!
FRIEND APPROACHING.
GENTS. FRIENDLY!

KEEP YOUR
HANDS WHERE WE
CAN SEE 'EM.



IT'S OKAY,
FELLAS. JUST SAW
YOUR FIRE AND HOPED
YOU'D ALLOW ME TO
REST HERE WITH
YOU A SPELL.

YOU A
MARSHALL?

NO,
SIR.



YOU SURE
YOU'RE NOT A
MARSHALL?

AFRAID NOT,
FRIEND. WERE
YOU *NEEDING*
A MARSHALL?

NO, WE
WASN'T.



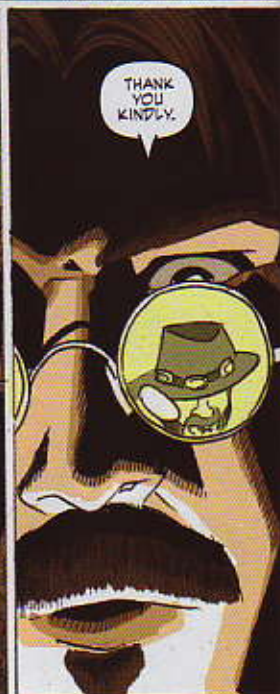
THEN
CAN I
JOIN YOU
MEN?

I CAN
PAY.

TAKE
A LOAD
OFF.



THANK
YOU
KINDLY.





DON'T HAVE MUCH, MISTER.

BEANS IN THAT PAN. SOME COFFEE-- WHICH I WOULDN'T TRY UNLESS YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF NEWSPAPER IN YER SADDLE BAG.

NOT TO READ, I GATHER, THANKS FOR THE WARNING.



GOT SOMETHING STRONGER, TOO.

AH, MUCH APPRECIATED.



WHERE YOU HEADED?

GENERAL DIRECTION OF SHIMMER, LOOKING FOR A COUPLE OF FRIENDS.



WHERE YOU GENTS COMING FROM?

OH, HERE AND THERE.

MAY I ASK IF YOU'VE COME ACROSS A MAN AND WOMAN ON ONE HORSE ANYWHERE BETWEEN HERE AND THERE?

YOU MAY ASK. CAN'T SAY AS WE HAVE.



HOW ABOUT ANY... SICK-LOOKING FOLKS?

NO, JUST FOLKS RIDIN' ALONE NOW 'N' AGAIN.



YOU WORRY ABOUT TRAVELIN' ALONE?

I RELY ON MEETING STRANGERS AS FRIENDLY AS YOU FELLAS. BY THE WAY, MAY I COMPLIMENT YOU ON THAT FINE HAT YOU'RE WEARING?

YOU MAY, IT'S SOME FANCY HAT, HEY? HOW MUCH MONEY YOU GOT?



OH, I DON'T WANT TO BUY IT.

THAT AIN'T WHY I ASKED.









"I LIKE IT WHEN IT'S
QUIET LIKE THIS AT
NIGHT, BILLY..."



...NO SHOUTING
FROM THOSE TOWN
PEOPLE.

WISH YOU COULD
TELL ME ABOUT YOU AND
YOUR LADY FRIEND.

JILL...
WHAT DID
YOU DO WITH
HER?



DO YOU
THINK RUTH IS
A PRETTY NAME,
BILLY?

YES.

I NEVER
LIKED IT AS WELL
AS "TRACY." MOTHER
AND FATHER ALWAYS
LIKED HER BETTER.
BOYS, TOO.



SHE'S IN
SUCH A **TERRIBLE**
STATE, BILLY. SHE'S
SO SICK.

HOW?

FATHER
DOESN'T KNOW.
DOC WELLS WAS
STUMPED.

WE THOUGHT
SHE WAS **GONE**,
AND THEN... I DON'T
KNOW, SHE'S LIKE
AN **ANIMAL**. SHE
DOESN'T TALK.



AND ALL THOSE PEOPLE BUTTING IN...
THIS IS THE WORST THING THAT'S
EVER HAPPENED TO ME.

I'LL
NEVER
LEAVE THIS
HOUSE,
BILLY.



YOU
MUST HAVE
SUCH AN
INTERESTING
LIFE.

DO YOU
GET IN
A LOT OF
SHOOT-
OUTS?



RUTH...

I LIKE IT
WHEN YOU SAY
MY NAME.



LEAVE
HERE WITH
ME.

OH, BILLY...



GET MY
GUN, HORSE.
RIGHT NOW.
WHILE THEY'RE
GONE.



DO YOU
REALLY MEAN IT?
YOU'D TAKE ME
WITH YOU?

YES.

AND WE
COULD GO TO
WASHINGTON AND
MEET PRESIDENT
HAYES?

YES.
HURRY, HELP
ME UP.



I DON'T BELIEVE
YOU, BILLY! YOU'LL
SAY **ANYTHING**,
LIKE THE
OTHERS!

BUT I'VE
GOT YOU TO
MYSELF FOR A
LITTLE WHILE
LONGER.



WHAT DID
YOU WANT
TO SEE ME
ABOUT?



TO TALK
LIKE CIVILIZED
PEOPLE.

THAT
WOULD BE
NOVEL.













**NEXT ISSUE:
CONCLUSION!**