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HE RAN FROM
THE TERROR OF HIS
OWN LAUGHTER.

IT SNAPPED AT HIS HEELS LIKE A CUR AND
SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEMED A THING ALIVE INSIDE
HIM, CURDLED IN HIS BELLY, READY TO COME
BOILING OUT AT ANY INSTANT.

HE RAN FROM THE AWFUL SADNESS OF HIS WIFE'S
EXPRESSION, IN THAT LAST PATHETIC INSTANT AS SHE
HAMMERED AT HIM USELESSLY, SHATTERED WRISTS
MAKING EMPTY MITTENS OF HER HANDS.

AND HE RAN FROM THE VOICE AT THE BASE OF
HIS SKULL, NEW LIKE SHINING STEEL YET ANCIENT AS A
DAGGER, THAT SMIRKING HISS THAT MADE THE THINGS
IT BADE HIM DO FEEL LIKE THEIR OWN REWARD.

HE RAN FROM IT: BUT HE
THOUGHT HE KNEW ITS NAME.

The Thin Red Line

part one



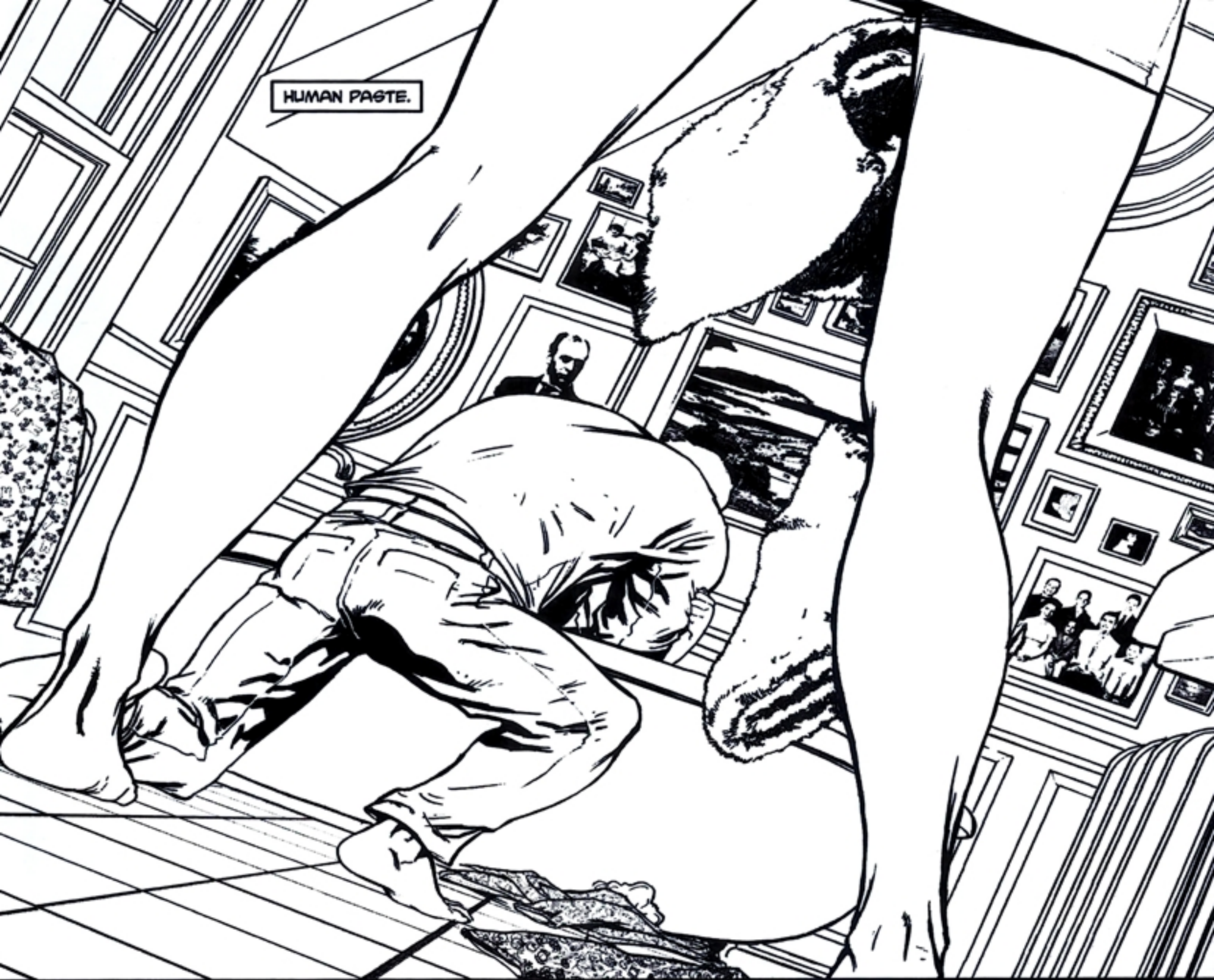
THE WORLD WHIPPED AT HIM, YET HE KNEW HE'D LEFT IT FAR BEHIND ALREADY.

WHATEVER SPOKE TO HIM DEVoured HIM. SLOWLY, STEADILY EXTINGUISHED EVERY OTHER INSTINCT HE POSSESSED.

ITS BRILLIANCE LAY IN INFILTRATING NUMB ROUTINE WITH FRESH IMPERATIVES: NOT LONG HOME, AWAITING SUPPER, HE'D GLANCED AT THE PICTURE OF THE FOUR OF THEM TWO SUMMERS BACK, AND SEEN INSTEAD THE MONOCHROMES OF HELL THAT SPLIT THE PRIOR CENTURY.



HISTORY HE'D SHUDDERED AT AND SHRUGGED AWAY, BUT HERE IT WAS. THE WIRE. THE GATES. *ARBEIT MACHT FREI*. PILES OF LIMBS THAT WERE NOT STICKS.



HUMAN PASTE.

AND THEN THERE CAME A VAST BLACK SHAPE, A SOUND SO HUGE IT EVEN DROWNED THE SCREAMING THING INSIDE HIM, BUILDING, GROWING, SWELLING UNTIL IT FILLED HIS WHOLE EXISTENCE AND FOR ONE VITAL SECOND BECAME THE VOICE OF WHAT HE USED TO BE:



YOU FOOL.

WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE, YOU FOOL.



THEY LOVED YOU.



AAAH!

AAAH!

AAAH!

AAAAAAHHHHH!

JESUS—!

JESUS CHRIST!

OH, GOD...

WELL GEE IF HE'S ALL RIGHT, FOR FUCK'S SAKE!

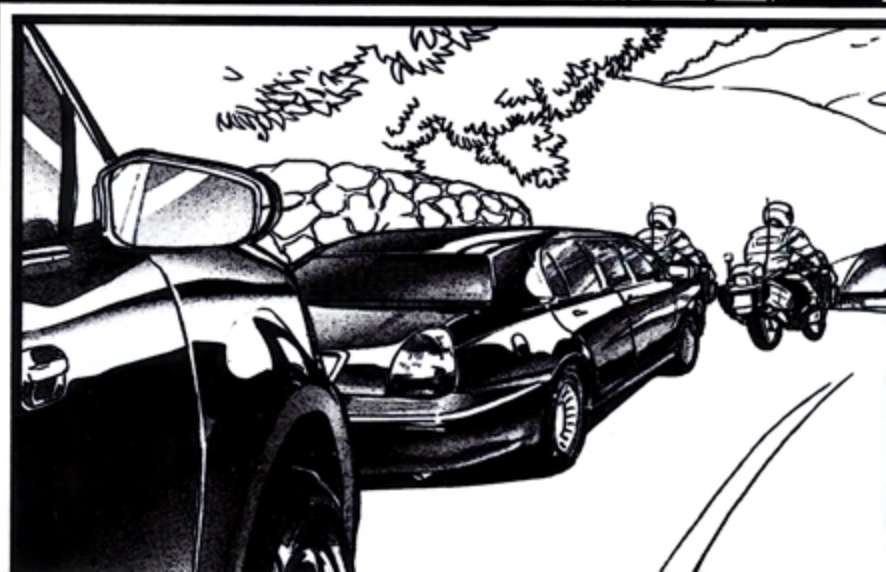
GARGE, HE'S BLEEDIN' ALL OVER THE PLACE--

HE'S--

SUMMER 2008







UPCOMING CROSSED

JACEN BURROWS COVER GALLERY



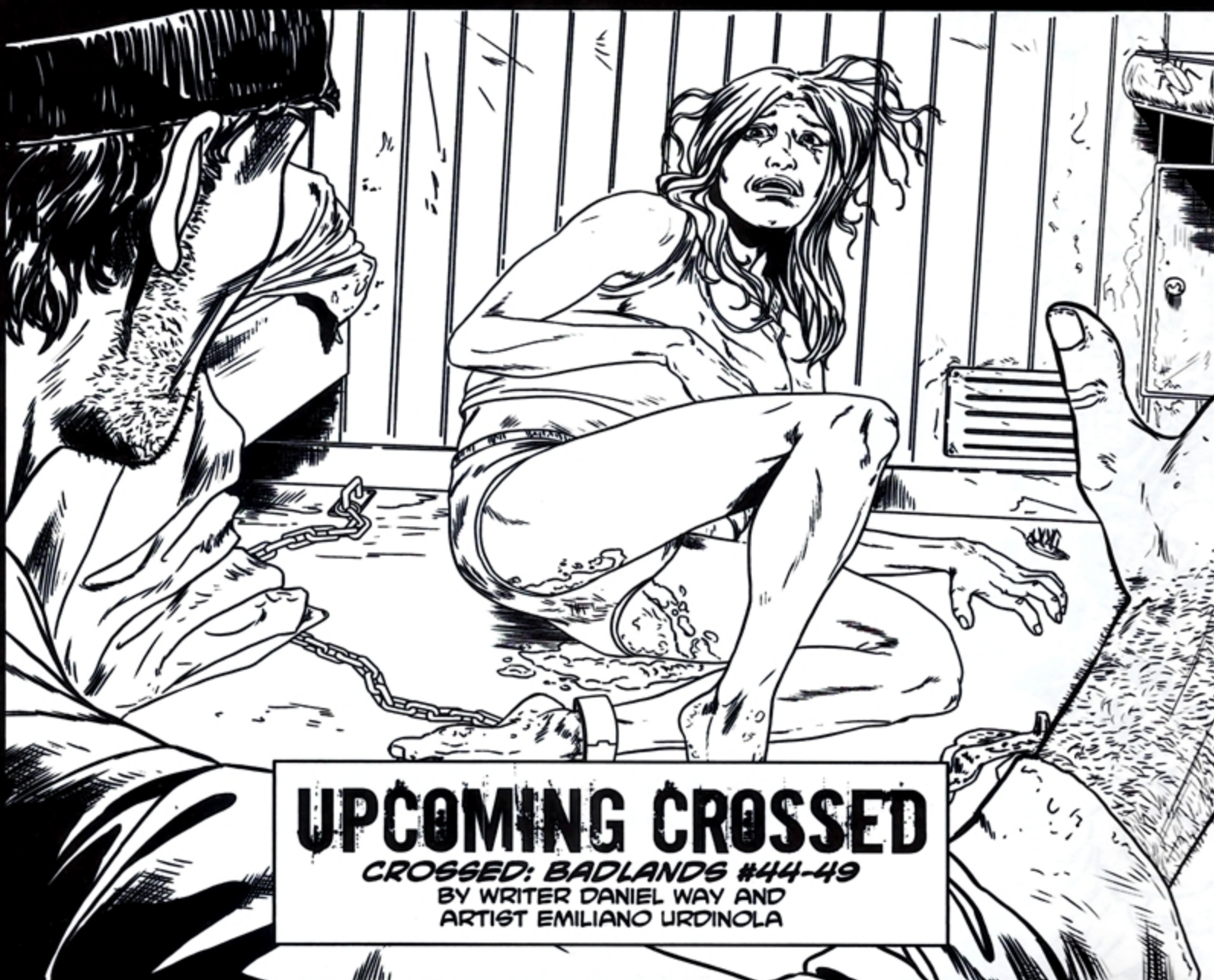






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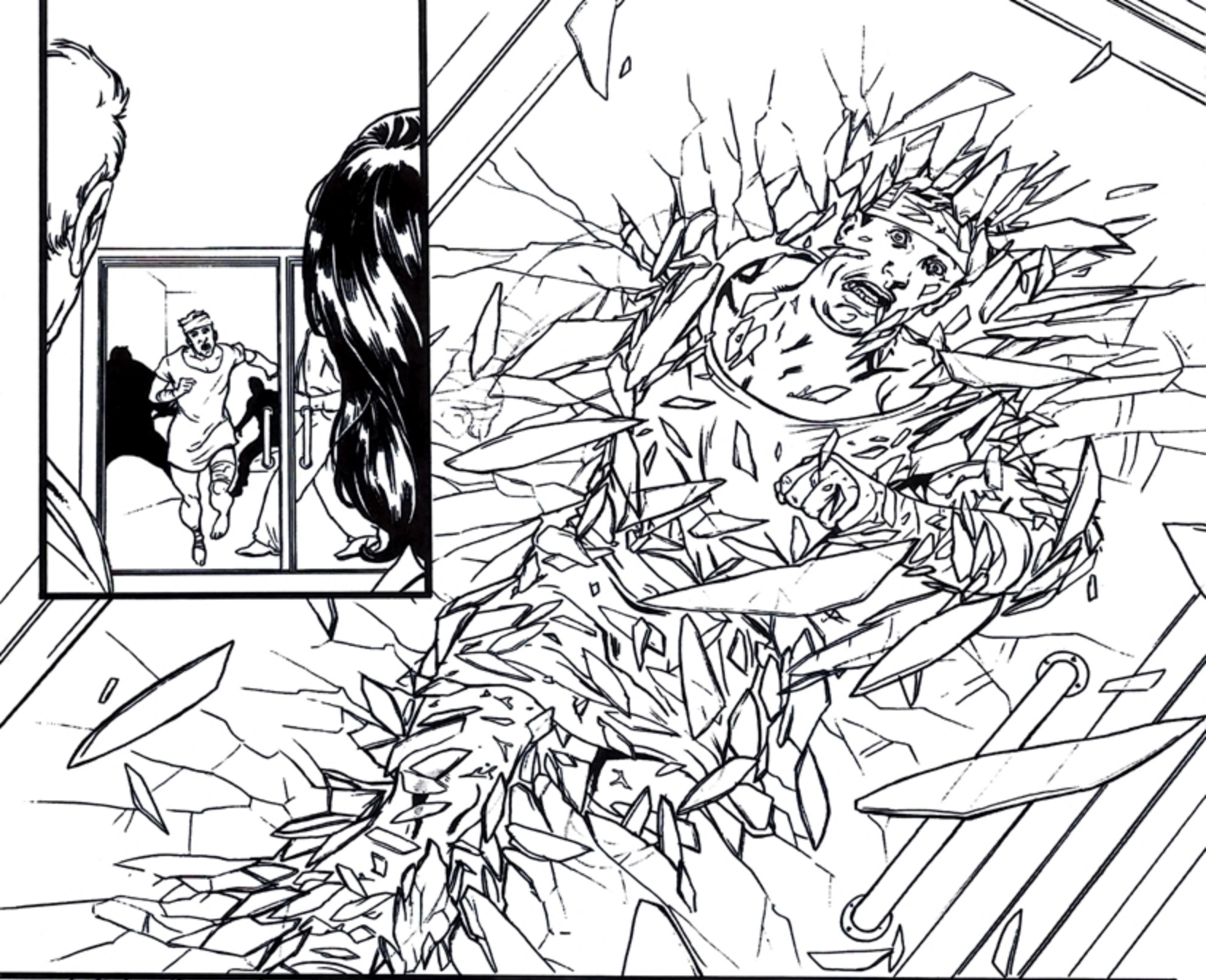
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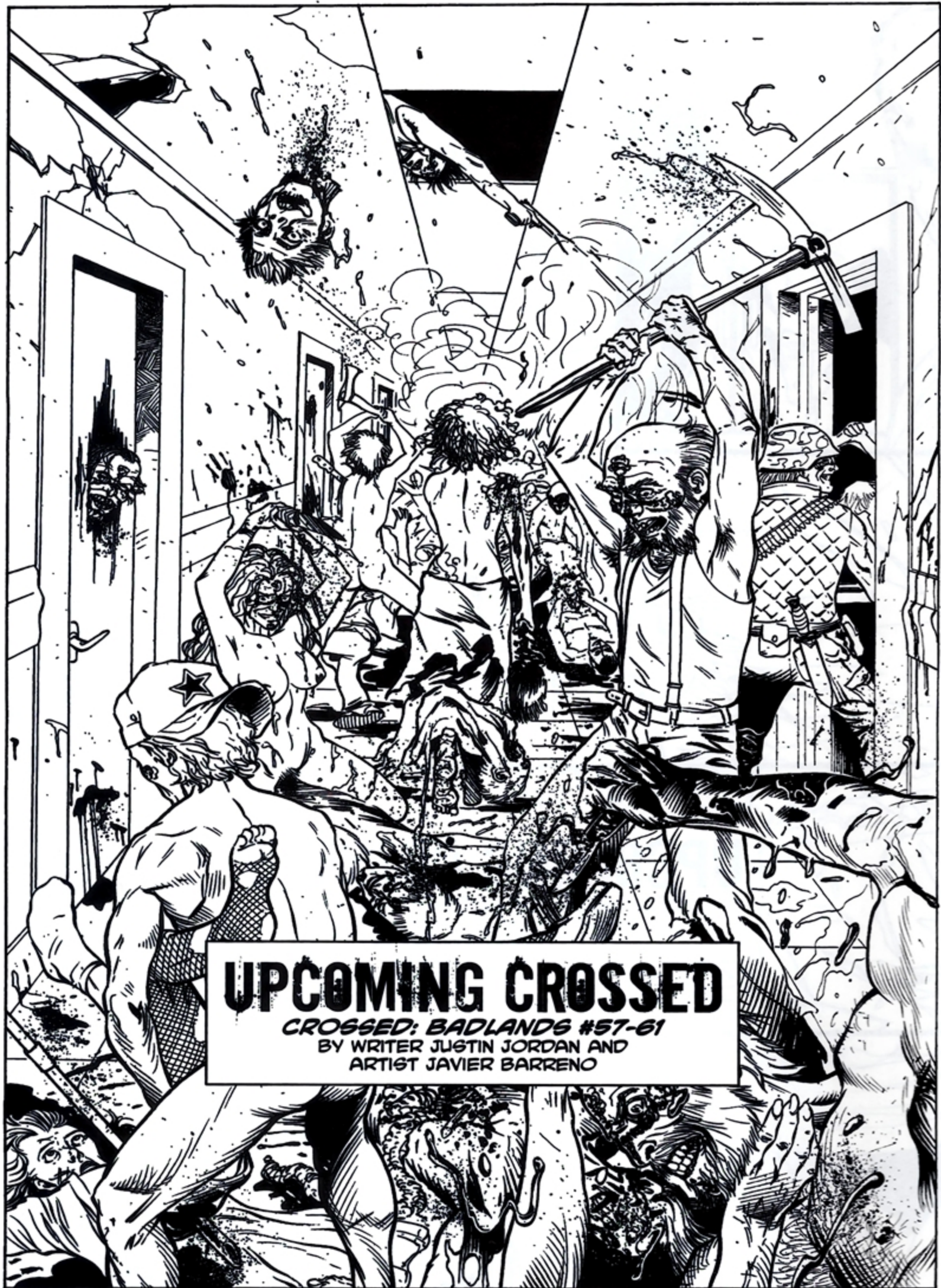


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