





FOREWORD BY FRANK QUITELY

John Lees Alex Cormack Shawn Lee Colin Bell







SINK: Welcome to Glasgow

Volume 1

First Printing. July 2018 ISBN: 978-0-9967724-7-1

SINK Volume 1: Welcome to Glasgow. Contains material originally published in magazine form as SINK #1-5. Published by ComixTribe. All associated characters and groups, and their likenesses are © John Lees & Alex Cormack. All rights reserved. The events and characters presented in this book are entirely fictional. Any similarities between names, characters, persons and/or situations with those of any living or dead person or institution, without satiric intent, is purely coincidental. Now get in the van.

PRINTED IN KOREA.



Story by **John Lees** Art by **Alex Cormack**

Colors by **Alex Cormack & Lisa Moore**Letters by **Shawn Lee & Colin Bell**Logo by **Tim Daniel**

Series Covers by

Alex Cormack, Charles Paul Wilson III, Iain Laurie, Joe Mulvey, Cesar Feliciano, Ryan Kincaid, Steven Wilcox, Ryan Lee, Andrew Jerz, Greg Kirkpatrick, Franck Uzan & Robert Wilson, IV

WELCOME TO GLASGOW VOLUME ONE



That sinking feeling...

SINK starts with the end of a night out in the city centre. A young Glaswegian suburbanite misses his last bus home, and with his phone dead, has to walk. His walk across the very real city of Glasgow takes him through the thankfully fictitious, yet horribly familiar, East End area of Sinkhill.

Sinkhill is the stage and backdrop to five standalone stories that together paint a harrowing portrait of a Glasgow slum, and are connected by more than just their location. The stories of the main characters and their supporting cast recur and overlap, interweaving urban legends, surreal horror, human bloodsports, torture, ultra violence and death.

SINK is both cleverly layered and boldly anarchic, claustrophobic and explosive, funny, familiar and frightening, and unashamedly thrilling.

John Lees and Alex Cormack are at the top of their game here.

Together, they take us on a ride that changes pace, tone and genre to suit the story, characters or scene, along paths that feel dreadfully inevitable, yet are full of surprising turns, and leaves us at destinations we hadn't expected to arrive at.

SINK is a thrill-ride.

So get in the van.

Frank Quitely Glasgow, 2018





Welcome to Glasgow



"BLUE VAN COUNTRY"

ONE







































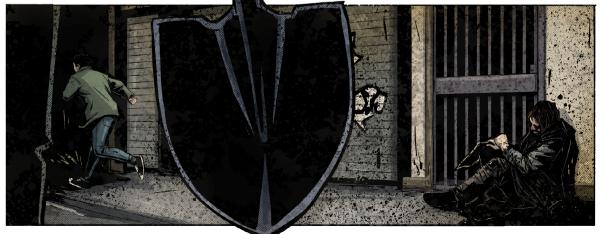






















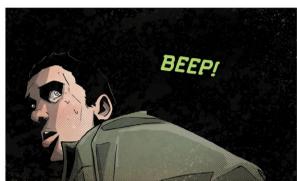
















































































































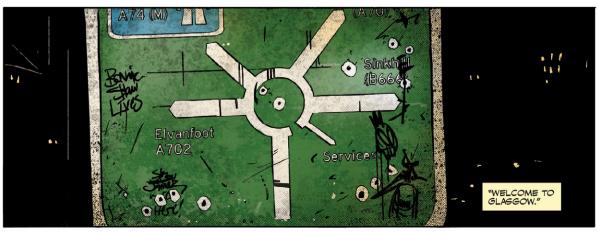
























SINK #1 VARIANT COVER BY ALEX CORMACK



"THE DOOR AT THE END"

TWO





































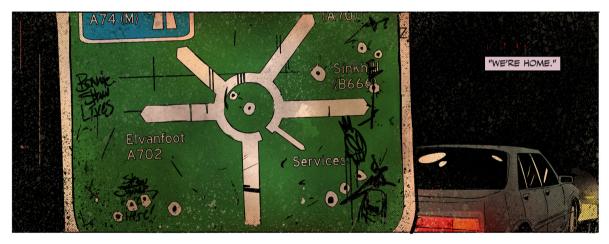














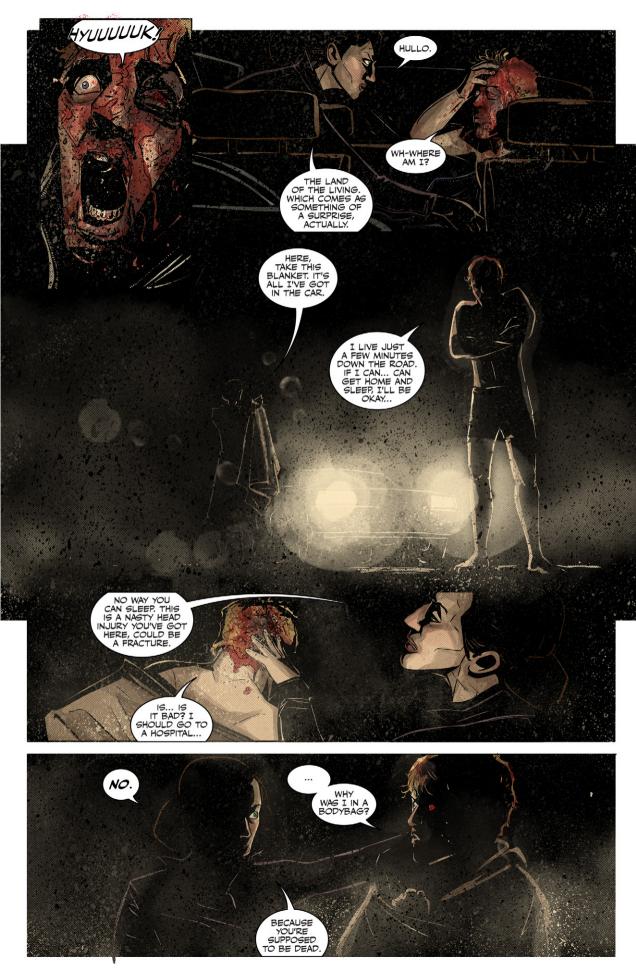














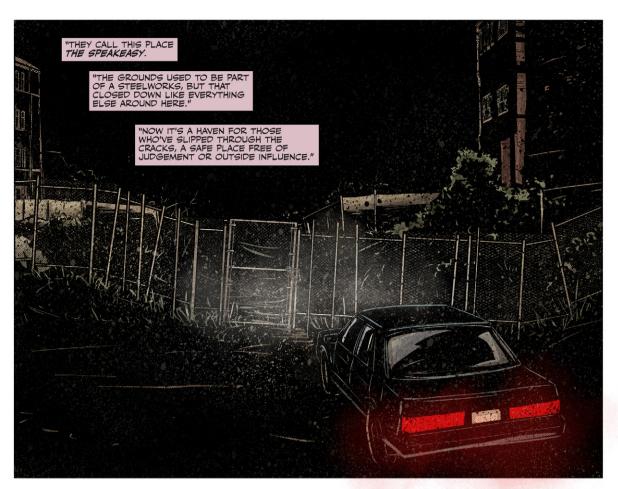




















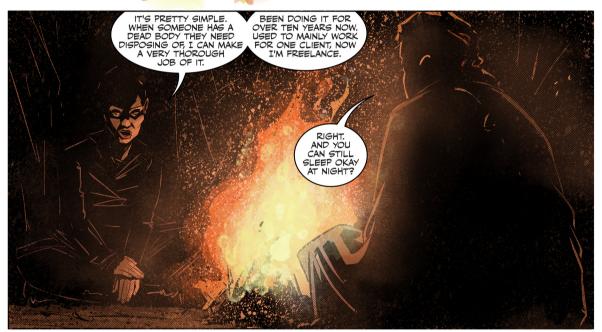














































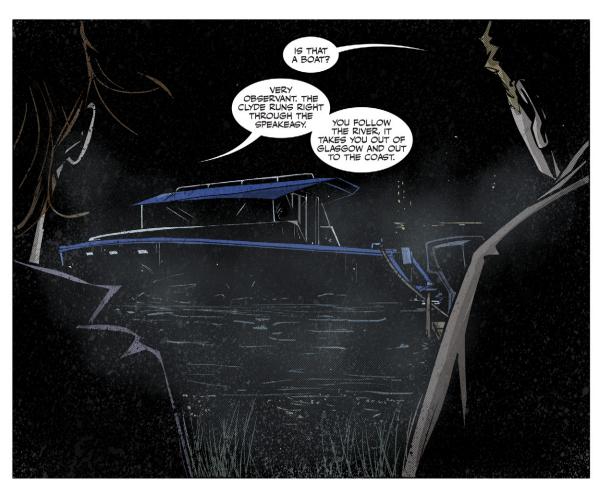


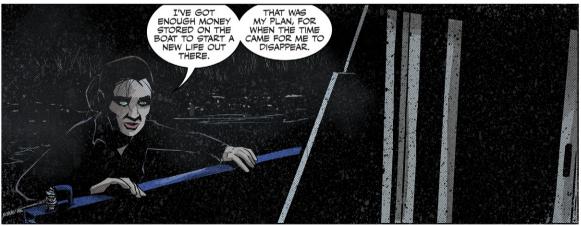


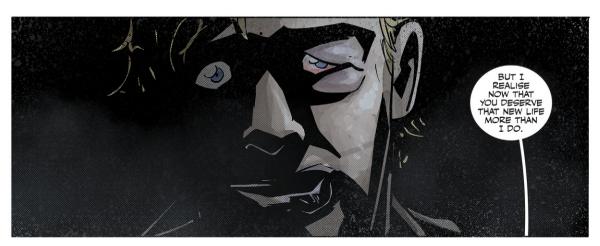




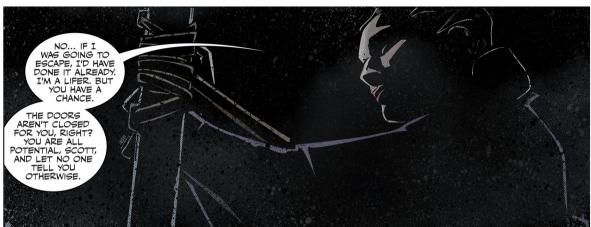








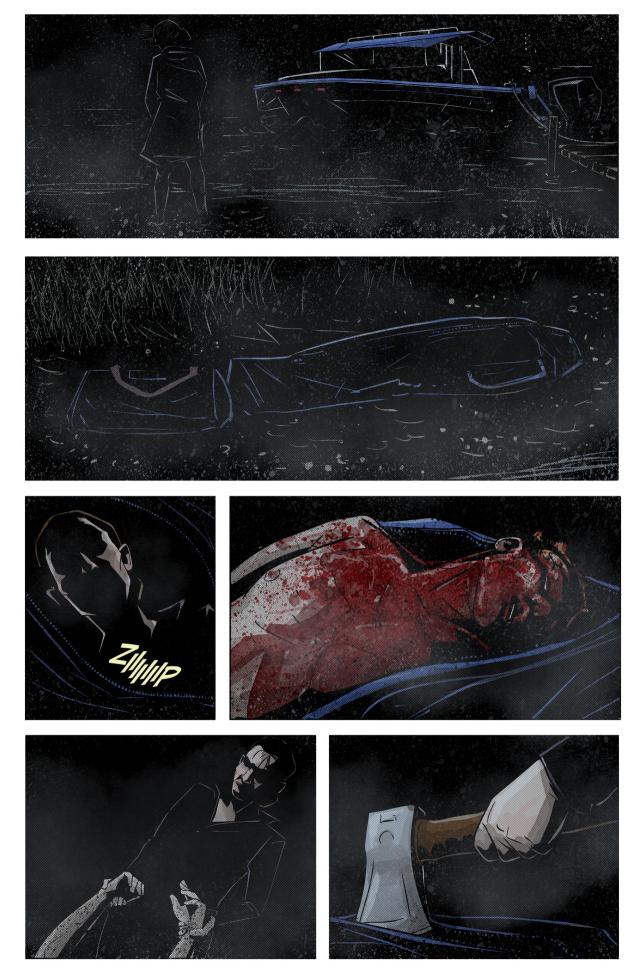






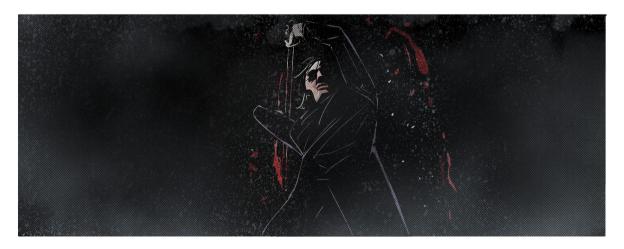


















"A HEAD FULL OF WASPS"

THERE





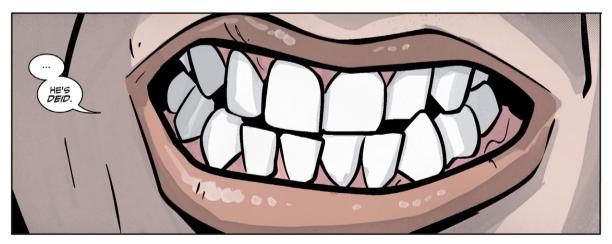




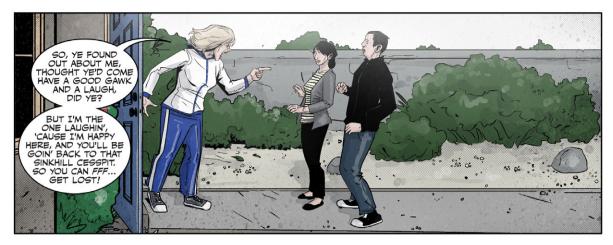








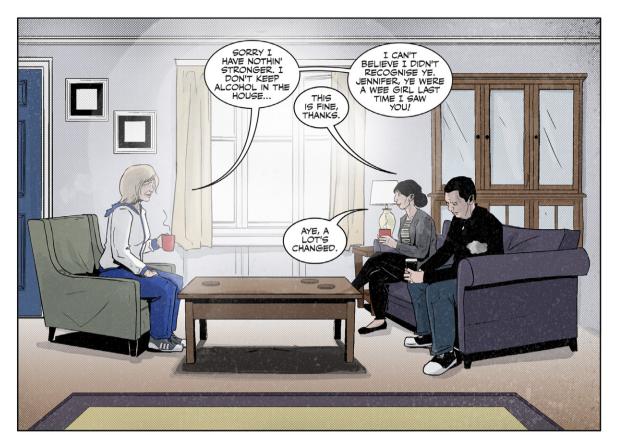












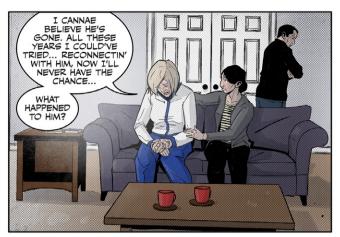




















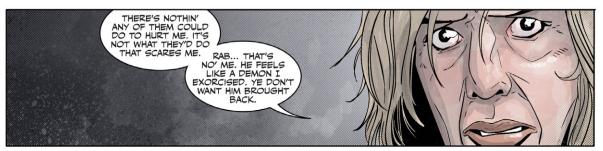




























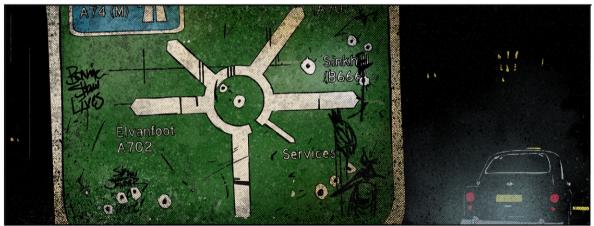


































































































"YOUNG TEAM"

FOUR





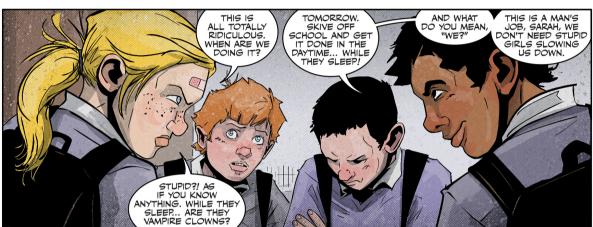














































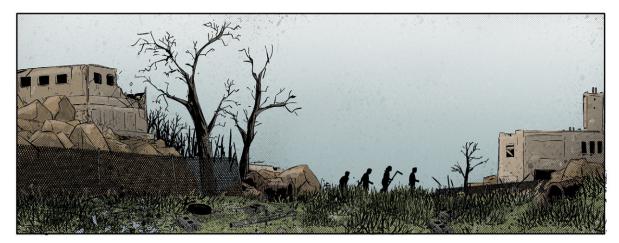






























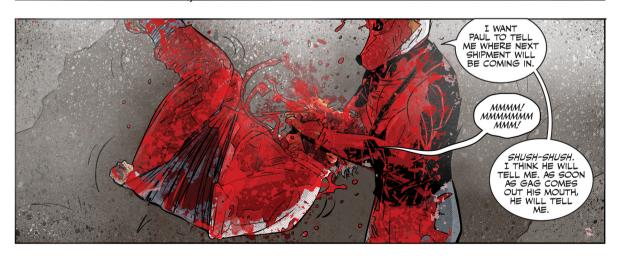
































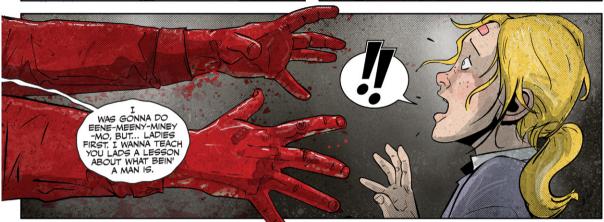




















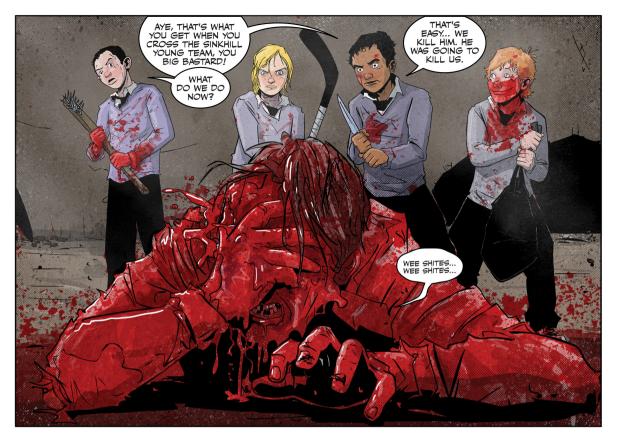




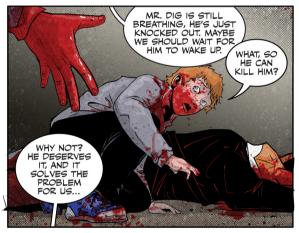
















































"WHITE DOG"







































































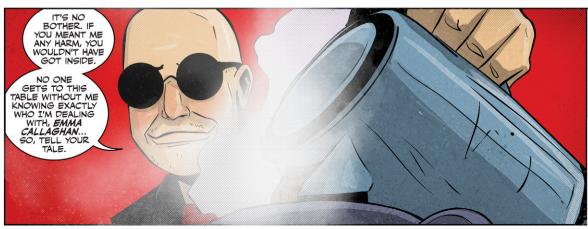




















































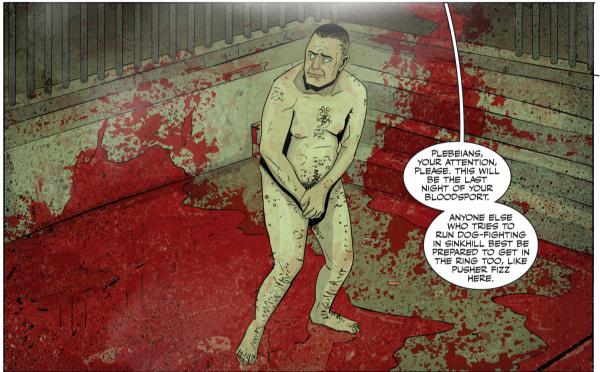




























































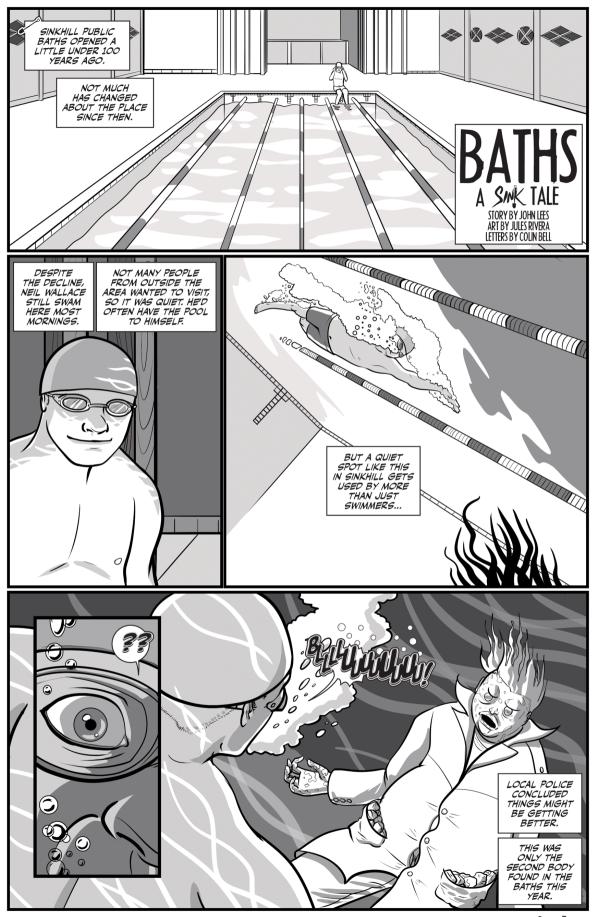










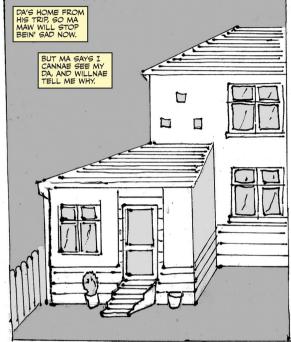




DAS HOKE STORY BY ALEX CORMACK | ART & COLOURS BY JOHN LEES | LETTERS BY SHAWN LEE



DA'S HOME FROM
HIS TRIP, SO MA
MAW WILL STOP



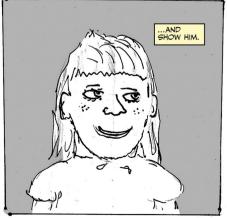


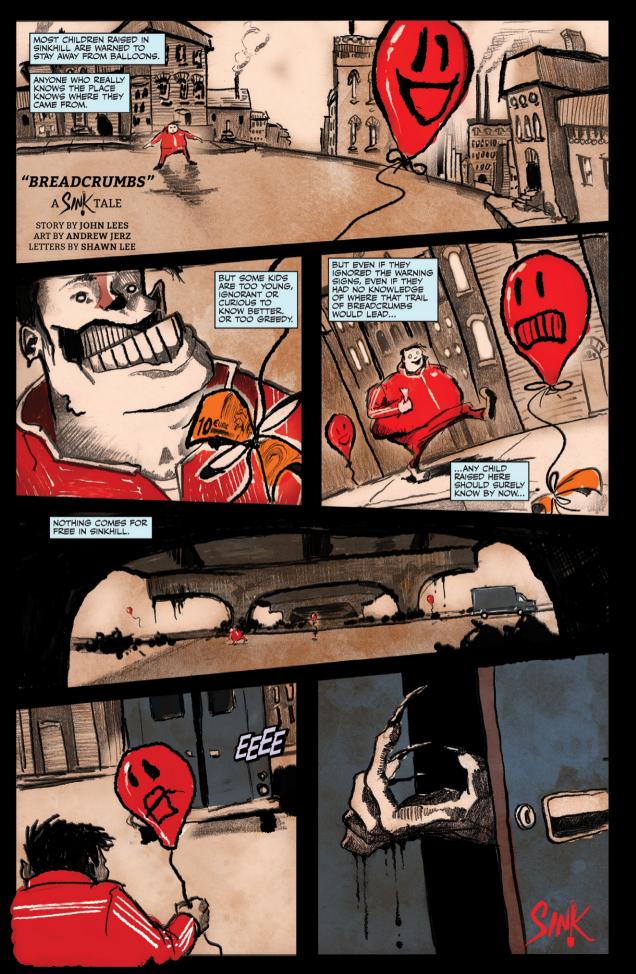












TILL A Sink Christmas Tale by John Lees

Christmas Eve, and it was snowing in Sinkhill.

The people of Glasgow generally do not expect snow on Christmas, settling instead for more of the punishing rain that tends to fall for much of the rest of the year. But this year, it would seem a fortuitously timed touch of Christmas magic had fallen on Glasgow. Not that much of that magic made it out as far as Sinkhill.

Most of the local businesses based in Sinkhill had long been closed down and shuttered, but even the few that remained open had shut up shop, and would remain closed for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The residents of Sinkhill had either retreated back to their homes, or scurried to one of the grimy local pubs that were always open, which would always be open, which would be open even after the nuclear apocalypse where the only survivors would be the cockroaches and the pub regulars swaying eternally from the edge of the bar. But one local business did still have the lights on this bitter cold Christmas Eve night.

Isa's Cafe was struggling, and perhaps Isa would have accepted defeat by now if she didn't have so much invested in the place. It wasn't just that her name was above the door, written on a battered, faded banner decades old. It was that she lived in the wee flat above the small cafe, that she spent all her time here. It was her life. And she made just enough to get by and keep the engines running. Enough people, mostly old pensioners like her, stopped by daily at lunchtime for tea and tattie scones to make the venture worthwhile. And Isa was thankful for that, grateful that she had a livelihood and a roof over her head that many didn't. That's why, each Christmas, she kept the doors open, and offered free meals and hot drinks to any of the area's homeless who stopped by for some shelter from the cold.

It was near 8pm, and only a handful of people were in Isa's Cafe. This made Isa concerned. There was no shortage of homeless people in Glasgow, and many found themselves gravitating to Sinkhill. The Speakeasy out on the fringes of the district drew them in like a siren call: a derelict quarry which the authorities steered clear from, which had become a sanctuary of sorts to many of the city's lost and disenfranchised. But Sinkhill was not a safe place for anyone after dark, least of all those with no doors to lock themselves behind, and things had been getting worse lately. The fact that some regulars of previous years were nowhere to be seen worried Isa deeply. But there were a couple of new faces, including a gaunt teenage boy, shivering in clothes that would be hopelessly inadequate in shielding him from the elements. Isa's heart ached as she looked at him, slumped in a chair at the corner of the cafe, eyes darting around nervously. Sighing, she spooned some hot chocolate into a cup and took it over to him.

"Have some hot chocolate, son," Isa said, smiling gently, "It'll heat you up."

"Aye, thanks," the boy replied, not making eye contact as the cup was sat on the table in front of him.

It had not been Ryan's intention to be rude, or dismissive of Isa's kindness. Truth was, his mind was just occupied on other things. Chiefly, a mad bastard called Big Mark. Ryan wasn't too torn up about being away from home at Christmas, because that place had never been much of a home to him nor the people in it much of a family, so fuck them. No, it was Big Mark that weighed on Ryan's mind, and the £100 that Ryan owed him. Or, at least, that Big Mark said Ryan owed him.

Big Mark was a Dickhead. Not just in terms of his personality. He was one of the Dickheads, the gang that ran roughshod through Sinkhill. Ryan knew to avoid them whenever he could, and had been successful in doing so for the most part, but his luck ran out the day before, when he crossed paths with Big Mark. Towering a good head taller than him and twice as wide, Big Mark had taken great delight in backing Ryan into a corner and informing him of the rent he owed. The way Big Mark saw it, the Dickheads owned the streets of Sinkhill, and that made the homeless people living their tenants, which meant Ryan owed him rent money. £100, he'd said, he didn't care how he got it. All that mattered was that Ryan had until the clock struck midnight on Christmas Day began to get it to him. If he didn't make that deadline, there would be consequences.

That's what was running through Ryan's mind as he sat in Isa's Cafe, sipping anxiously at his cup of hot chocolate. In his position, £100 might as well be £1000, £10,000. He looked out the window and thought of all the people who had casually thrown away £100 in the City Centre this past week like it was nothing, on junk to wrap up for Christmas that would be forgotten about by New Year. Then he looked across at the ticking clock hung up on the wall and realised that time was running out. He could try to run, hide, but he knew Big Mark would find him before long. Or he could just wait here for Big Mark to come for him, that way he could at least be warm for what remained of his life...

Then Ryan's eyes wandered to the front of the cafe, and to the open till.

Isa had disappeared, heading up to her flat and leaving the front of the store briefly unattended. She must not have realised that her till at the checkout had popped open, revealing a wad of £10s and £20s sitting there temptingly, announcing themselves to Ryan as the solution to all his problems. If he'd had a minute, Ryan would have been disgusted with himself at the very thought of stealing that money. Isa was a frail old lady, clearly having a tough time getting by herself, and she was going out of her way to try to help those in need. She had been nice to him, something no one else had been in quite some time. If he'd had a minute, Ryan would have pushed that horrible, selfish thought right out of his mind.

But he didn't have a minute. And so, before his brain could even really process what he was doing, his legs were carrying him up to the open till, and his hands were stuffing all the notes into his pocket. Then he was running out the door, back out into the cold, alone once more.

Running through the snow, hands stuffed in his pockets, the first feeling to hit Ryan was raw, visceral relief. A whole day thinking he was a dead man, and just in the nick of time a solution had fallen into his lap. The endorphins were coursing through him, his heart pounding in his chest. But something else was running through him, a gurgling nausea at the pit of his stomach over what he'd done. He told himself that it was the survival instinct kicking in, that having a sense of self-preservation didn't make him wicked. But that didn't make his stomach feel any better.

And with all the inner turmoil going on within him, Ryan failed to notice the figure trailing a little behind, barely visible through the snow. A man with a fox mask, following him...

"Here he is, dead man walking!"

Big Mark smirked as Ryan shuffled towards him. He'd stepped outside the pub for a smoke and spotted his scrawny little form approaching. He'd not told Ryan where to find him, he liked the idea of making the kid sweat trying to seek him out, running from place to place in the biting cold. Not that Big Mark expected him to have any actual money, no, he was expecting excuses, readying himself for Ryan to fall on his knees and start begging. Big Mark was looking forward to that.

Ryan noted the mean-spirited grin spreading across Big Mark's face, and all of a sudden felt like a mouse approaching a cat to offer cheese in exchange for being left alone. For a fleeting moment he considered turning on his heels and running, using the money he'd grabbed to get a train to somewhere far away. But as much as Big Mark frightened him, somehow the prospect of leaving Glasgow frightened Ryan more. So, forward he went, until he was standing face-to-face with his tormentor.

Like all Dickheads, Big Mark wore a condom over his head at all times, giving his brow a greasy sheen. You might think it'd look ridiculous, but no one would dare laugh in Big Mark's face. He had a big bulbous nose and a row of crooked, yellowing teeth, and as Ryan got closer he started to get a strong whiff of B.O. rising from under his tracksuit. Even after weeks of living rough, Ryan somehow had better standards of hygiene than this guy. He was not a pleasant person to be around, and Ryan told himself that the sooner this interaction was over with, the better. £100 and it would all be done with, he'd be off the hook and Big Mark would move on to some other poor sod. And it turned out Ryan had lifted a little more than £100 out the till, so he'd been able to keep some extra money aside to get himself a nice meal or two in the week ahead. All he had to do was get this over with...

"You got my rent money?" Big Mark asked.

"Yeah," Ryan replied, "£100."

Ryan pulled the £100 out of his pocket, and handed it over to Big Mark, who looked surprised, and even a little disappointed. He stared down at the wad of notes in his greasy hand, and said nothing.

"So, that's us done, yeah?" Ryan asked, "Now you'll leave me alone?"

As he pushed the money into his pocket, a smile once again crept across Big Mark's face.

"Naw, mate," he said, "We're not done."

And out of nowhere, Big Mark whacked Ryan across the face with a stiff right hook. Ryan's legs immediately gave out from under him, and he hit the ground like a sack of potatoes. Casually tossing his cigarette aside, Big Mark gave Ryan a swift kick in the gut while he lay on the ground.

"Aye, we're square on rent," Big Mark said, "But turns out, I have another use for you. See, I'm sick of wearing this thing on my head all the time, and I'm thinking what I want for Christmas is a promotion, start getting paid to be an Enforcer or a Pusher for Si McKirdie. And to get that, all I need to do is have a Witness record me doing something really nasty. You can help me out with that, can't you, pal? I've got some great ideas."

Ryan was crawling along the ground now, desperate to somehow get away even as he knew deep down he wasn't going anywhere. Why had he come here? Why hadn't he just stayed at Isa's?

"I'm getting a Witness now," Big Mark said with a chuckle, taking out his phone, "You just lie right there, I'll get back to you in a..."

DUUM!

Ryan was looking down at the ground. He didn't see the shovel connect with the back of Big Mark's head. All he saw was a spray of red on the white snow, closely followed by a cluster of those yellow teeth landing in an arc on the ground in front of him. Then, Big Mark collapsed forward, felled like a tree, landing on the ground next to Ryan. For a moment, Ryan was frozen with surprise as he found himself staring into the pulverised face of Big Mark, semi-conscious and baffled as blood pooled around his head at the point where he'd landed.

"Wuzzat?" Big Mark muttered incoherently, "Wuzzat fox?"

Then those survival instincts kicked in, and Ryan made to push himself up to his feet. But before he could, he felt a foot on his back, pressing his chin back down into the snow. A hand reached down over him and grabbed onto the condom on Big Mark's head, pulling it off with a little POP sound, like an elastic band snapping.

"No presents for him this Christmas," a deep, eerily cheerful voice boomed above Ryan, "He was on naughty list."

The foot came off Ryan's back, and immediately he spun around onto his back, scrambling backwards. Looming over him was a muscular man even taller than Big Mark, wielding a bloody shovel. But even more than the shovel, what Ryan found himself staring at was the man's face. He was wearing a fox mask, and behind the mask were a pair of beady, wild-looking eyes glaring out at him. Somewhat incongruously, the man was also wearing a Santa hat.

"You're on naughty list too, mate," Mr. Dig said, "I followed you from Isa's. You have something that's not yours in your pocket. Hang on, that reminds me..."

Mr. Dig turned his attention back to Big Mark, leaning over and retrieving the £100 from his pocket. Big Mark let out a feeble whimper, prompting Mr. Dig to give him an extra boot in the arse for good measure. He turned back to face Ryan.

"You gave him some, but you have rest. I saw you."

"Please," Ryan said, "He was going to kill me. I didn't have a choice..."

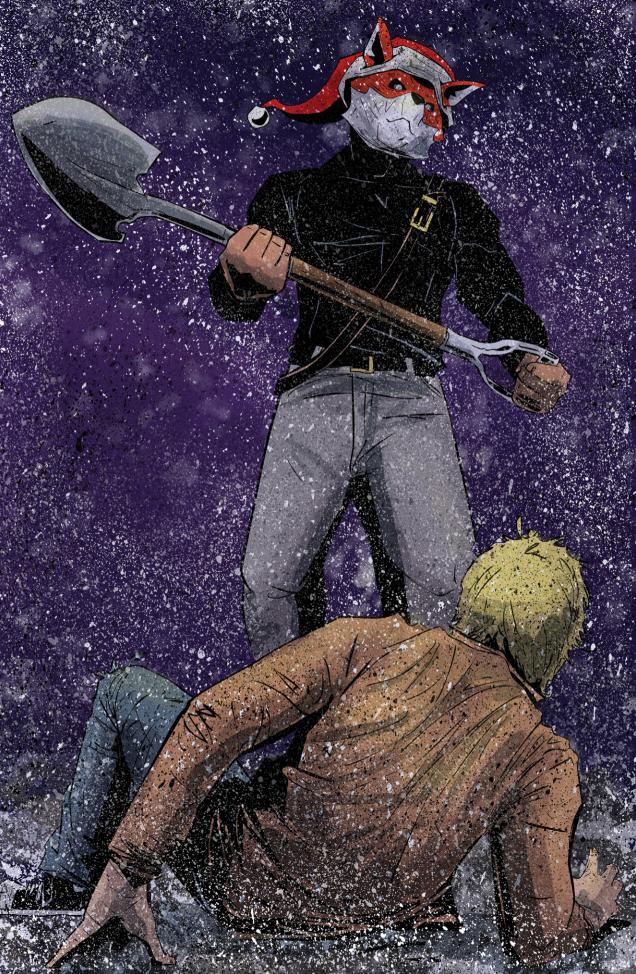
"You always have choice," answered Mr. Dig.

Reaching forward, Mr. Dig grabbed a handful of Ryan's jacket and hauled him up to his feet. Then he patted him on the shoulder.

"You are stupid boy," Mr. Dig said, "But it's not too late to be good. Come with me."

•••

Ryan and Mr. Dig walked together through the snowy night, not encountering another soul. They didn't exchange any words, but Ryan would occasionally look up at the tank of a man walking alongside him with a mix of terror and wonder. Who was he? And why had he helped him? Or was he even helping him? Maybe his goal had been to retrieve the stolen money, or beat the snot out of Big Mark, and saving Ryan's life had been incidental.



Of course, Ryan knew where they were going. And before long, he saw the warm glow of the lights from inside Isa's Cafe. Then that nausea in his stomach started to come bubbling back. Ryan stopped walking, and Mr. Dig turned to face him.

"Move," he said.

Ryan took out the remaining money from his pocket, extending it towards Mr. Dig with a trembling hand.

"You give it to her," Ryan said, "I can't face her, after what I did."

Mr. Dig didn't take the money. Instead, he took out the £100 he'd taken back off Big Mark and slapped it down onto Ryan's open hand.

"No," Mr. Dig replied, "Your mess. You clean it up."

Ryan put the money back in his pocket, taking big gulps, trying not to cry.

"I know I messed up, and I'm sorry. I was scared, okay? I was scared and I did something stupid. And I want to fix it. But please... please don't make me go back in there and face that nice old lady. Everyone else thinks I'm garbage but her, she was nice to me. And when I tell her what I did, she's going to realise that everyone else is right and I am garbage. She's going to look at me like that too. I can't take it!"

Mr. Dig stared at him with those unhinged, pinpoint eyes, not saying anything for a moment. When he finally spoke, it was just to repeat one word.

"Move."

Then he turned and continued walking towards Isa's Cafe. Letting out a defeated sigh, Ryan trudged on after him.

...

The cafe had a few more people in it now, all looking grateful for the food and shelter. Isa was happy for them, but her stomach was in a knot with anxiety over the stolen money. How could she be so careless? But her eyes brightened as Mr. Dig stepped into Isa's Cafe.

"Mr. Dig!" she exclaimed with joy, not paying heed to some gasps of surprise coming from the others in the cafe, "There he is! The nice young man who helped me set up my Christmas tree! What a good boy you are, come on in."

"Thanks, Isa, think I will."

Mr. Dig gave Isa a hug and stepped inside. That's when Isa noticed the boy from earlier walking in after him, looking shamefaced.

"There you are," Isa said, "I was worried about you. What happened? Why did you run off?"

Eyes fixed down on the ground, Ryan pulled the stolen money out of his pocket and handed it over to Isa.

"I.." Ryan began, "Sorry, I..."

"He was very stupid," cut in Mr. Dig, putting a hand on his shoulder, "Dickhead came into cafe while you were upstairs, stole money from your till, and idiot here ran after him to get it back. Got punch in face for his troubles. But I helped him out and we got your money back."

"Oh, thank you so much!" Isa exclaimed, pulling in a stunned Ryan for a hug.

Isa led Ryan over to a seat, then turned to Mr. Dig.

"It's just about to turn midnight," she said, "Why don't you ring in Christmas with us, Mr. Dig? I've got Yule log."

Mr. Dig looked around at the people in the cafe. Sinkhill was a horrible place, but there were still good people and acts of kindness to be found, if you looked hard enough.

"Aye," he said, "Why not."

Sitting down his shovel next to the Christmas tree, Mr. Dig took a seat at the far corner of the cafe. He looked up at the clock. Midnight.

"Merry Christmas, Sinkhill."

THE END







SINK #1 NEW YORK COMIC CON BRAIN TRUST EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY STEVEN WILCOX



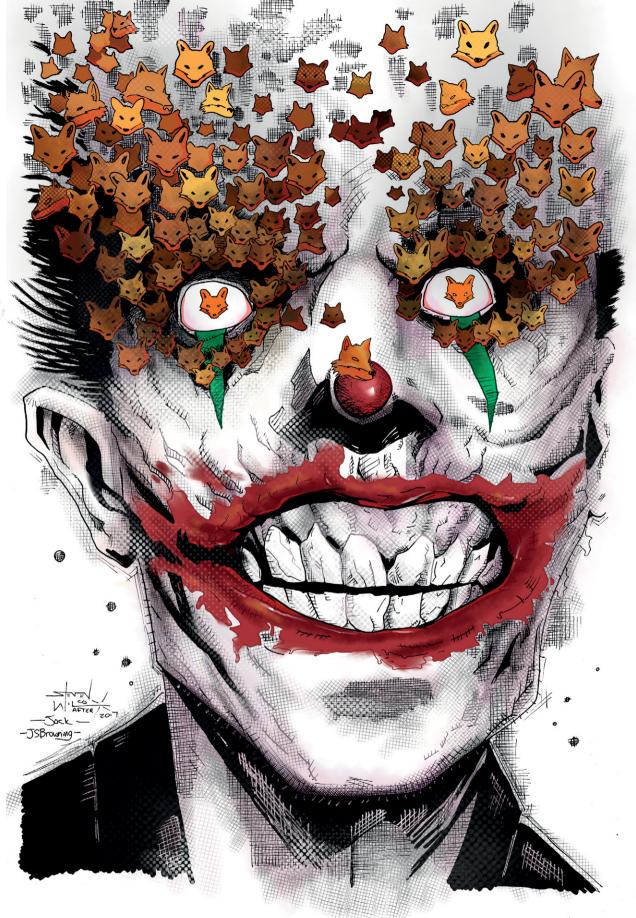




DON'T GET IN THE VAN.

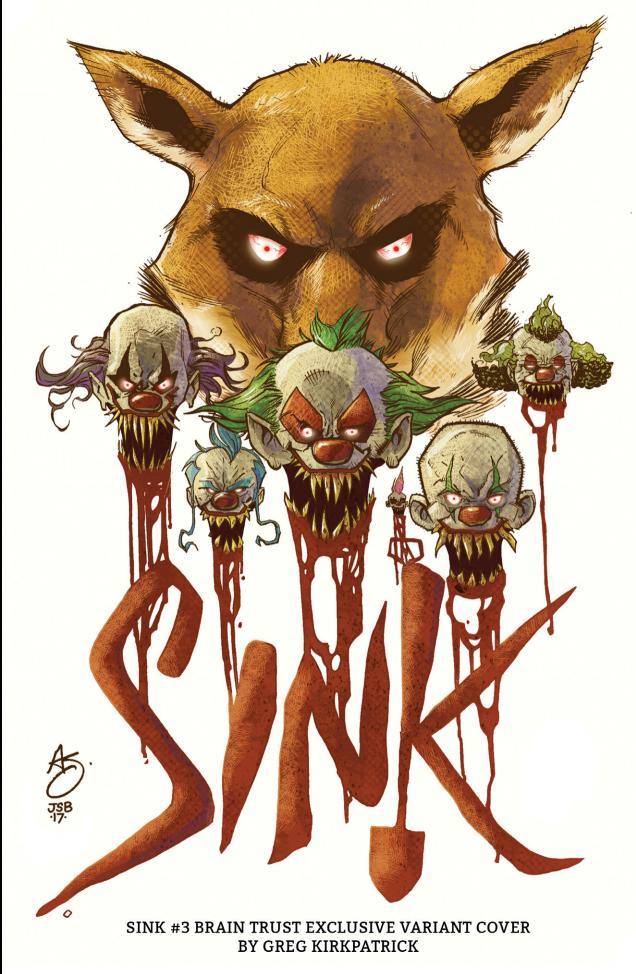
SINK #1 LARRY'S COMICS VARIANT COVER BY ALEX CORMACK





SINK #2 DALLAS FAN DAYS BRAIN TRUST EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY STEVEN WILCOX (AFTER JOCK)





SINK #4 BRAIN TRUST EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY FRANCK UZAN, COLORS BY HEDWIN ZALDIVAR

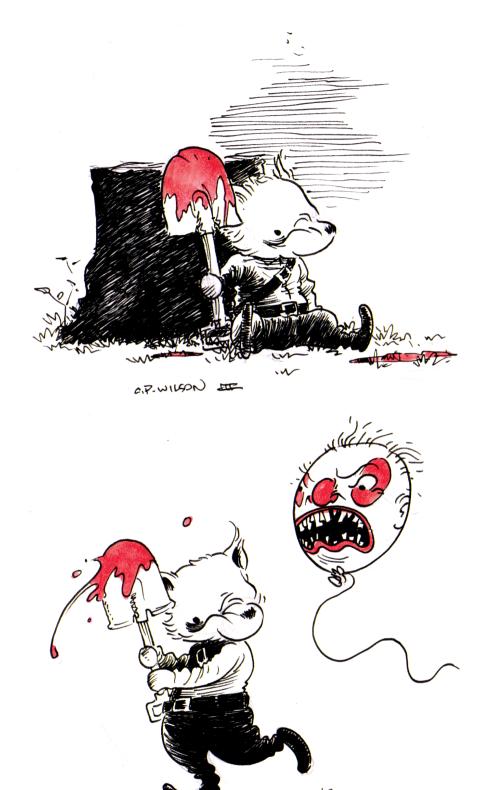




SINK #5 BRAIN TRUST EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY RYAN KINCAID







 ${\it SINK}$ sketches by Charles Paul Wilson (${\it The Stuff of Legend}$)













THE BLUE VAN WILL RETURN IN...





VOLUME TWO

"AS A HORROR LOVER, SINK HAS QUICKLY MOVED ITS WAY TO THE TOP OF MY PULL LIST..."

WEIG YOU'SH (CERVEDY MACAZINE)

"CLEVERLY LAYERED..."

"THRILLING..."

"STILL ENJOYING SINK AFTER MULTIPLE READINGS...
NFAR PERFECT"

- MIKE CLARKE (POP CULTURE PODIUM)

"CLAUSTROPHOBIC AND EXPLOSIVE..."

"INTRIGUING, WELL-ILLUSTRATED AND ULTIMATELY THOUGHT-PROVOKING..."

- CRAIG NIELSON ADAMS (BIG COMIC PAGE)



"SINK IS UNCOMFORTABLE AND EDGY IN A WAY COMICS HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS..."
- DUSTIN CABEAL (COMIC BASTARDS)

"FAMILIAR AND FRIGHTENING..."

"IF YOU LOVE HORROR STORIES AND COMICS, THEN GO NO FURTHER THAN SINK "

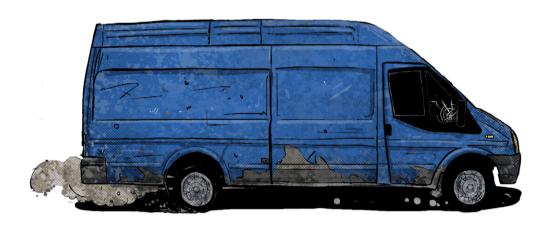
- BRAD GISCHIA (BAG & BORED)

"BOLDLY ANARCHIC..."

"SINK NEVER DISAPPOINTS. IT PULLS NO PUNCHES AND ALWAYS DELIVERS A SOLID HORROR READ..." - JAMES FERGUSON (HORRORTALK)

"FUNNY..."

"TERRIFYING..."



A forgotten East End district of a warped funhouse mirror vision of Glasgow, Scotland, **Sinkhill** is a hive of crooks, deviants and killers, and ordinary folk unfortunate enough to live among them.

If killer clowns prowl the streets in a blue van, a shovel-wielding vigilante in a fox mask serves brutal justice after dark, and the last bus home is always full of corpses...

YOU MUST BE IN SINKHILL!



SINK.COMIXTRIBE.COM