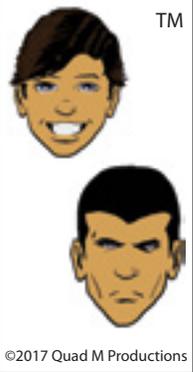


\$0.00 #4  
JULY

QUAD M PRODUCTIONS

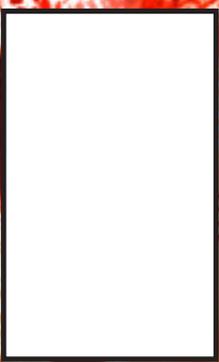
QUAD M  
TESTED  
QUAD M  
APPROVED



# ENIGMA

TM

**FREE  
PREVIEW**







NOW...

OKAY. CAN WE GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME?

SERIOUSLY, PAUL?

HEY. CUT ME SOME SLACK, CELESTE.

I'M RUNNING ON PRACTICALLY *NO SLEEP* WHAT WITH ALL THIS BLOOD BANDIT *CRAZINESS* GOING ON.\*

AND WHEN I DO MANAGE TO GET A NAP IN BETWEEN *MURDERS* AND *BOMBINGS*...

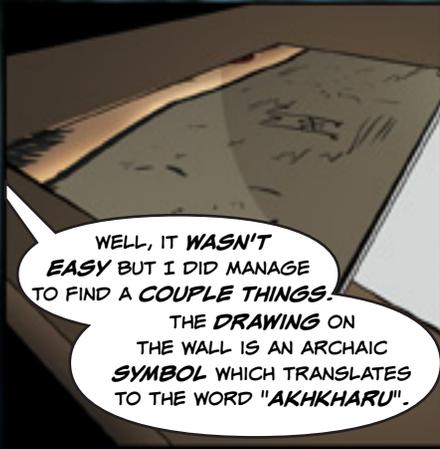
...THAT'S WHEN *JK* CALLS AND SAYS TO *MEET* HIM HERE *ASAP*.

ALL RIGHT, PAUL. *SETTLE DOWN*.

*ALEX* IS IN *SERIOUS TROUBLE* AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE.

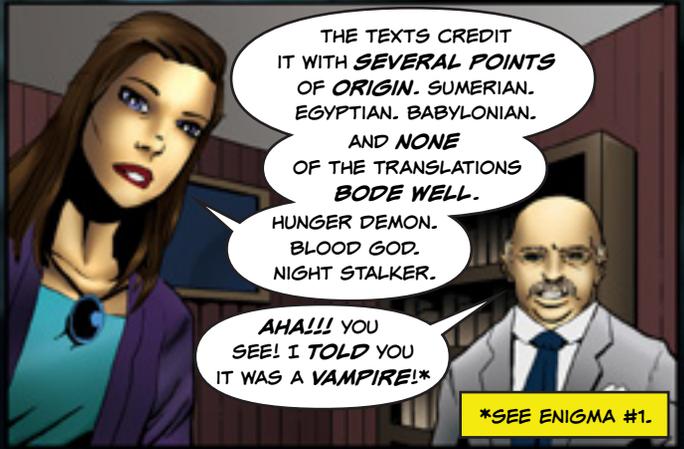
*CELESTE*, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING ABOUT THE *INSCRIPTIONS* IN THE *PHOTO* I GAVE YOU.

\*AS SEEN IN THE LAST THREE ISSUES.



WELL, IT **WASN'T EASY** BUT I DID MANAGE TO FIND A **COUPLE THINGS**.

THE **DRAWING** ON THE WALL IS AN **ARCHAIC SYMBOL** WHICH TRANSLATES TO THE WORD "**AKHKHARU**".



THE TEXTS CREDIT IT WITH **SEVERAL POINTS OF ORIGIN**. SUMERIAN. EGYPTIAN. BABYLONIAN. AND **NONE** OF THE TRANSLATIONS **BODE WELL**.

HUNGER DEMON. BLOOD GOD. NIGHT STALKER.

**AHA!!!** YOU SEE! I **TOLD** YOU IT WAS A **VAMPIRE!\***

**\*SEE ENIGMA #1.**



SHUT UP, PAUL.

SO, WITH THAT BEING SAID, **WHAT** IS THE **BANDIT'S END GAME?**

IS HE TRYING TO **APPEASE** HIS GOD? IS HE GOING TO **ATTEMPT** SOME **B.S. RITUAL?** **WHAT** THE HELL MAKES **ALEX** SO **SPECIAL?**



WHATEVER IT IS WE HAVE TO **ASSUME** THE **WORST**.

IF THE **BANDIT** IS PLANNING TO USE **ALEX** IN SOME KIND OF **RITUAL...**

...WE MAY ALREADY BE **TOO LATE**.



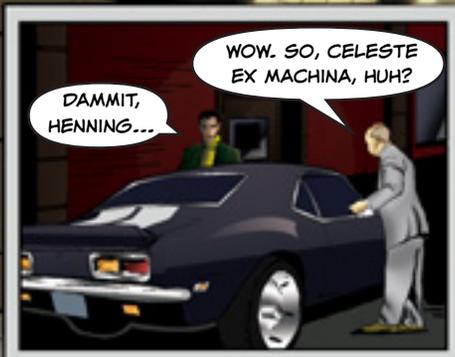
LET'S TRY TO **KEEP** A LITTLE BIT OF **OPTIMISM** HERE, 'KAY?

HENNING AND I WILL HEAD OUT AND LEAVE YOU TO DO YOUR THING.

THE SECOND YOU GET ANY TYPE OF **HIT OR LOCATION**, YOU LET US **KNOW**.

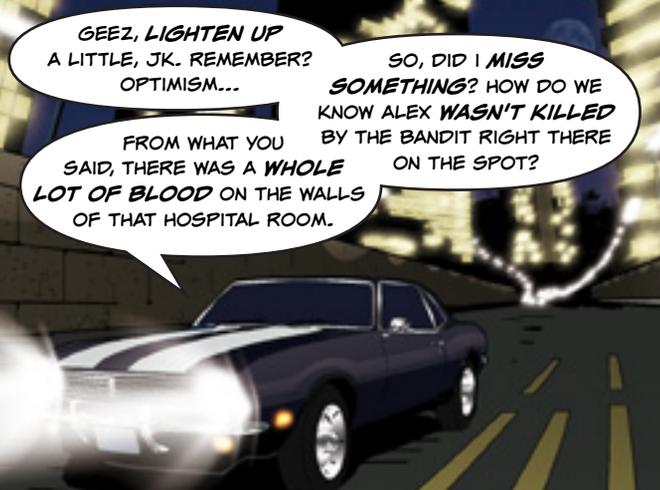
OKAY. **BE CAREFUL**, YOU TWO.

BYE, CELESTE.



DAMMIT, HENNING...

WOW. SO, CELESTE EX MACHINA, HUH?



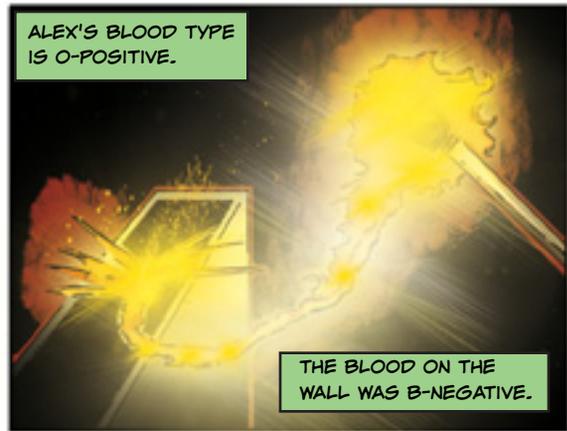
GEEZ, **LIGHTEN UP** A LITTLE, JK. REMEMBER? **OPTIMISM...**

FROM WHAT YOU SAID, THERE WAS A **WHOLE LOT OF BLOOD** ON THE WALLS OF THAT HOSPITAL ROOM.

SO, DID I **MISS SOMETHING?** HOW DO WE KNOW **ALEX WASN'T KILLED** BY THE **BANDIT** RIGHT THERE ON THE **SPOT?**

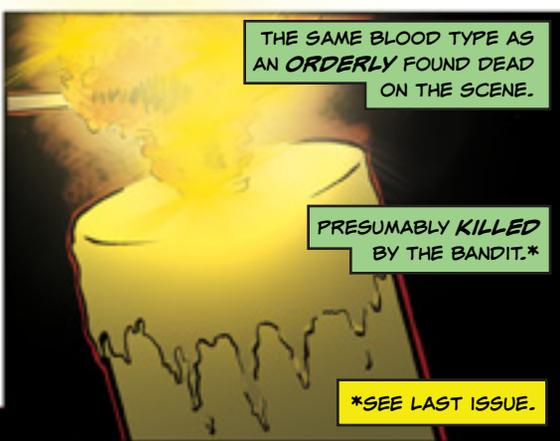


THE BLOOD TYPE DIDN'T MATCH.



ALEX'S BLOOD TYPE IS O-POSITIVE.

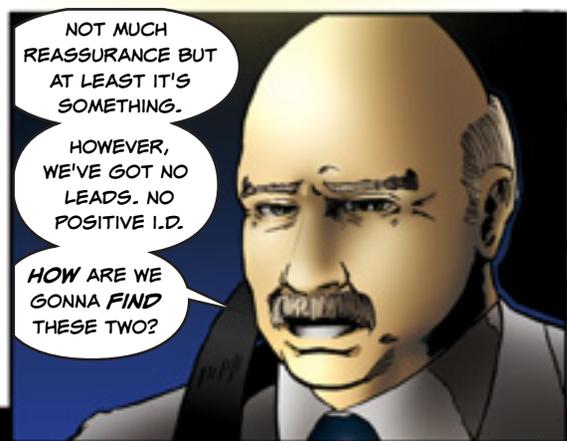
THE BLOOD ON THE WALL WAS B-NEGATIVE.



THE SAME BLOOD TYPE AS AN **ORDERLY** FOUND DEAD ON THE SCENE.

PRESUMABLY **KILLED** BY THE BANDIT.\*

\*SEE LAST ISSUE.



NOT MUCH REASSURANCE BUT AT LEAST IT'S SOMETHING.

HOWEVER, WE'VE GOT NO LEADS. NO POSITIVE I.D.

HOW ARE WE GONNA **FIND** THESE TWO?

HOPEFULLY, CELESTE WILL BE ABLE TO GET US A GENERAL VACINITY. SOMEPLACE TO START NARROWING THE SEARCH.

THAT'S NOT GIVING US A WHOLE LOT OF OPTIONS TO GO WITH.

RIGHT NOW, IT'S THE ONLY OPTION WE'VE GOT.

AND I'D RATHER NOT DISCUSS THE ALTERNATIVE.

