

TALES FROM PARADISE HEIGHTS

Presents

ONE SHOT

Part 1



By

Joe O'Byrne

ONE SHOT: A Tale from Paradise Heights

Hello Dear Reader, and welcome to TALES FROM PARADISE HEIGHTS. More specifically welcome to ONE SHOT - the first graphic novel representation of a Tale from Paradise Heights.

The series has been a part of the North West landscape for well over a decade now. Plays and films playing theatres and film festivals and all meeting critical and audience acclaim. Each tale set in the same community, characters, locations and events all crossing from each self contained tale to self contained tale, and all brought to life by some of the most talented creatives in the region.

There is a strong noir flavour to these tales, along with a hint of the supernatural, but over all they are tales of real people. In the shadows of Paradise Heights you'll find a drug fuelled landscape, painted on a canvas of deprivation, a kingdom of pain where brutality reigns. A place where teenagers are mountain bike hustlers, crack cocaine canvassers, carving out careers on the number of wraps shifted in a night. Where success is your own car and a company gun by the time you're 17. It's a place where Angels walk among the prostitutes, gangsters and pimps; a place where the streets whisper terrible secrets, a place where ghosts won't move on due to unfinished business. Above all it's a place where between the crumbling walls and stripped out shells these people call home you will find heart, soul and humanity.



Tales from Paradise Heights creator
Joe O'Byrne
Photo: Darren McGinn

These tales and characters have gathered a real army of fans across the region, and this tale, more than anything, is for them. A chance to see The Heights in a new form, many of the series favourite characters will appear as the story unfolds.

If one character has burned his name into the flesh of Paradise Heights like a brand, it's Frank Morgan. The first tale all those years ago (*I'm Frank Morgan*, award winning film and stage play) involved the sociopathic Irish loan shark, gambler, enforcer and criminal entrepreneur. Even in tales where the shark didn't appear, audiences and critics said his influence was there, he casts a long dark and dangerous shadow across The Heights. Fitting then that the first graphic novel tale should feature him, his entourage and his adversaries. Initially ONE SHOT was going to be a mere few pages to act as a program for a future play. As I got into it I realised there was more scope for a bigger tale, an epic and episodic noir tale - at least that's what I'm *trying* to do...I could fail...but, I have to give it a shot, right? Joe O'Byrne <http://www.talesfromparadiseheights.com/welcome.html>

Late Walk 'Ome...

Got a light mate? Got a spare fag?
Got a cupla pence so I can get a little bag?
Yer wanna be careful on yer own round here
They'd cave yer fuckin' skull in for the price of a beer

Where you goin' mate? Oh that's about another mile
It's really not safe, I'll walk with you a while
You gotta watch for 'em mate, muggers, scallies and no brainers
You can't be too careful, 'ey I really like them trainers

Lucky you bumped into me, you're a stranger in a strange land
And what goes on round here is not what God had planned
This ain't the road to Damascus mate, more like the road to Hell
The Devil don't shop round here no more 'cos they ain't got souls to sell

They stabbed a bloke last week y'know, Georgie was his name
Took his watch, his wallet and his life, these bastards got no shame
Didn't put up much of a fight, I heard, I think he was a queer
Serves him right, the pansie cunt, shouldn't walk alone round here

I tell you mate, the times and crimes they are just getting sicker
No, you don't want to go that way, trust me this way's quicker
Yeah I know the lights are out, I know it might be dark
But it's alright, don't worry, I know me way through the park

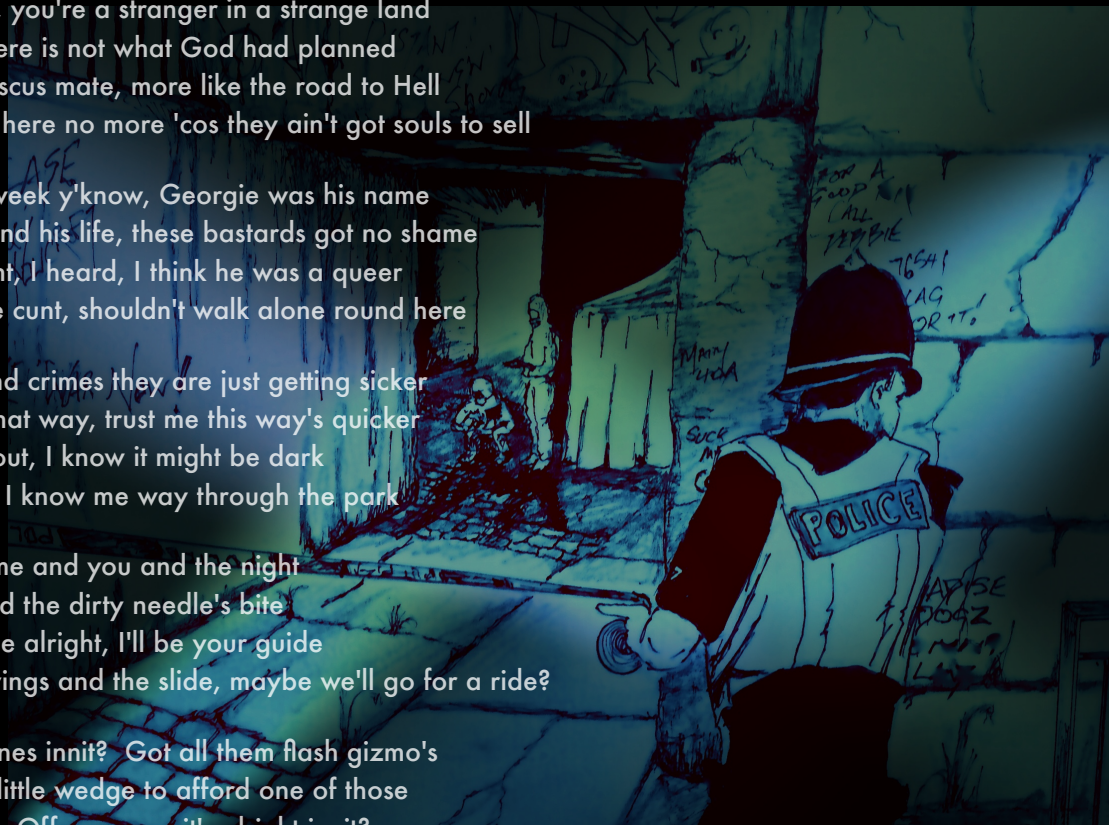
There's no one about, just me and you and the night
Where the nettle's sting, and the dirty needle's bite
Stick with me mate, you'll be alright, I'll be your guide
Maybe we'll stop by the swings and the slide, maybe we'll go for a ride?

That's one of them fancy fones innit? Got all them flash gizmo's
You must be earnin' a nice little wedge to afford one of those
What – you like me watch? Off me mum, it's alright innit?
And speakin' of time, your life's on countdown – you've got less than a minute

You're really trusting aren't you mate, just can't see the danger
Did your mum never tell you not to put your life in the hands of a stranger?

Yeah OK mate, take it easy, I think there's been some mistake
I'm only havin' a laugh mate, y'know? Bit of a piss take?
Ok I'll take the watch off, and I'll do anything you say
There's no reason to cry mate, just put the gun away

I know what's on the back of it, I've read it once before
When I took it off Georgie's wrist, when he was lying on the floor
Yeah, I did regret running away from his still twitching figure
I swear down man I'm sorry, so please don't pull the –



Welcome to Paradise Heights...

The Devil's had his way round here...

Paradise Heights, known to the Diamond Street nick as a 'gang feudal landscape' has seen a relatively quiet 18 months. Turf wars have long ceased and there appears to be an uneasy truce between the '3 Kings'; Porn King 'Dirty Aiden' McGreavy, rising street hustler Jimmy Teeny and property developer and 'Ace of Spades' nightclub owner, Frank Morgan. But in a battered and broken Britain it's outside forces and influences that could have adverse effects on this and the Police are getting twitchy.

Gangs from Eastern Europe are slowly gaining a footing, posing a serious threat to the truce and to Paradise Heights, and in the fog of war the police are aware some crimes are being made to look Eastern European...all the same, it is acknowledged it's a crime lull...

...but the storm is approaching...

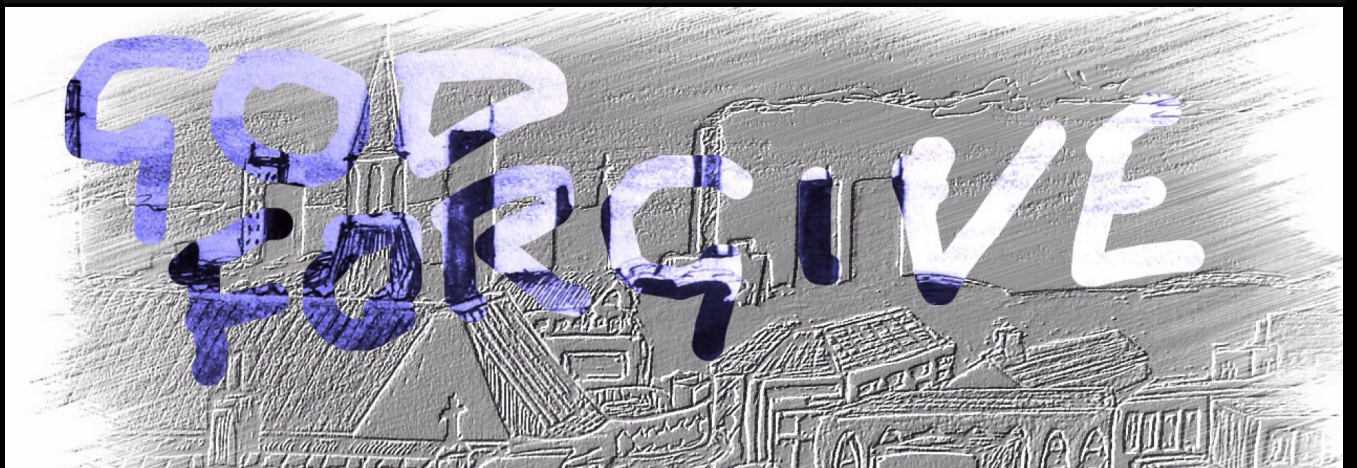
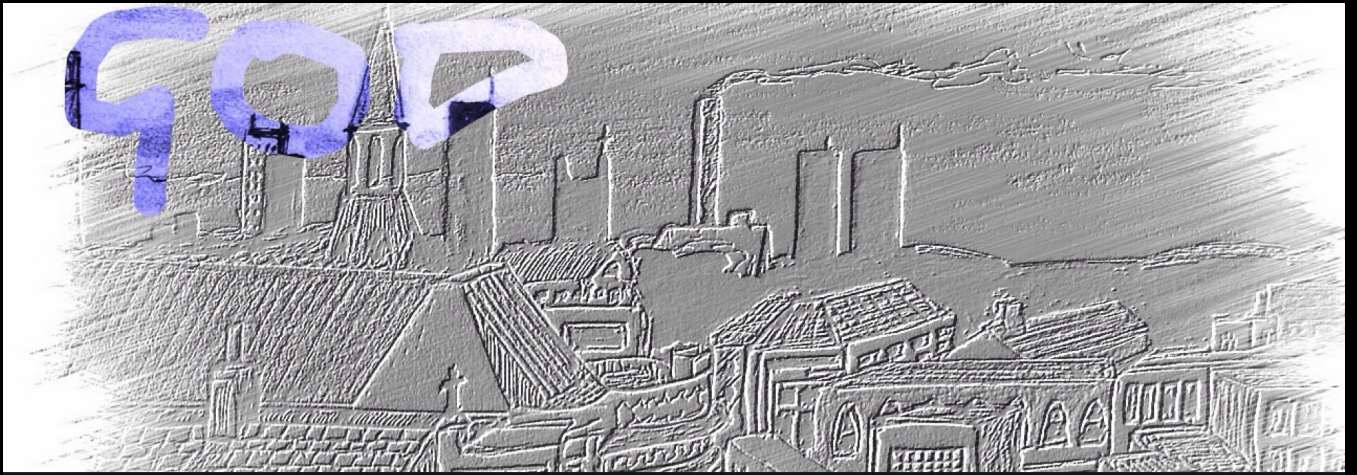
ONE SHOT PART 1

Morgan Arson Case Dismissed

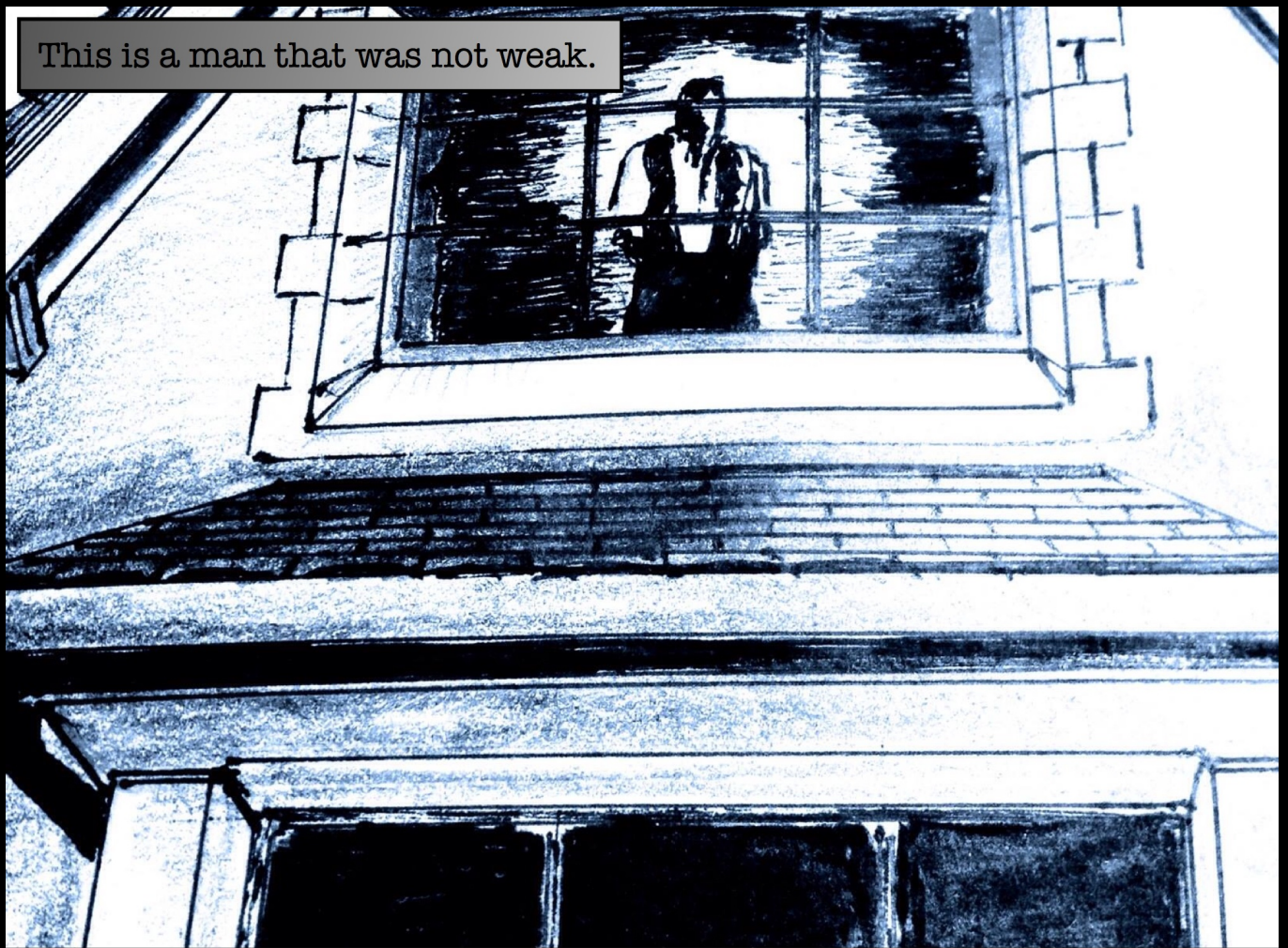
Exclusive by Neal Carr

The arson case against property developer and night club owner, Frank Morgan, was sensationally dismissed this afternoon at Paradise Heights Crown Court.

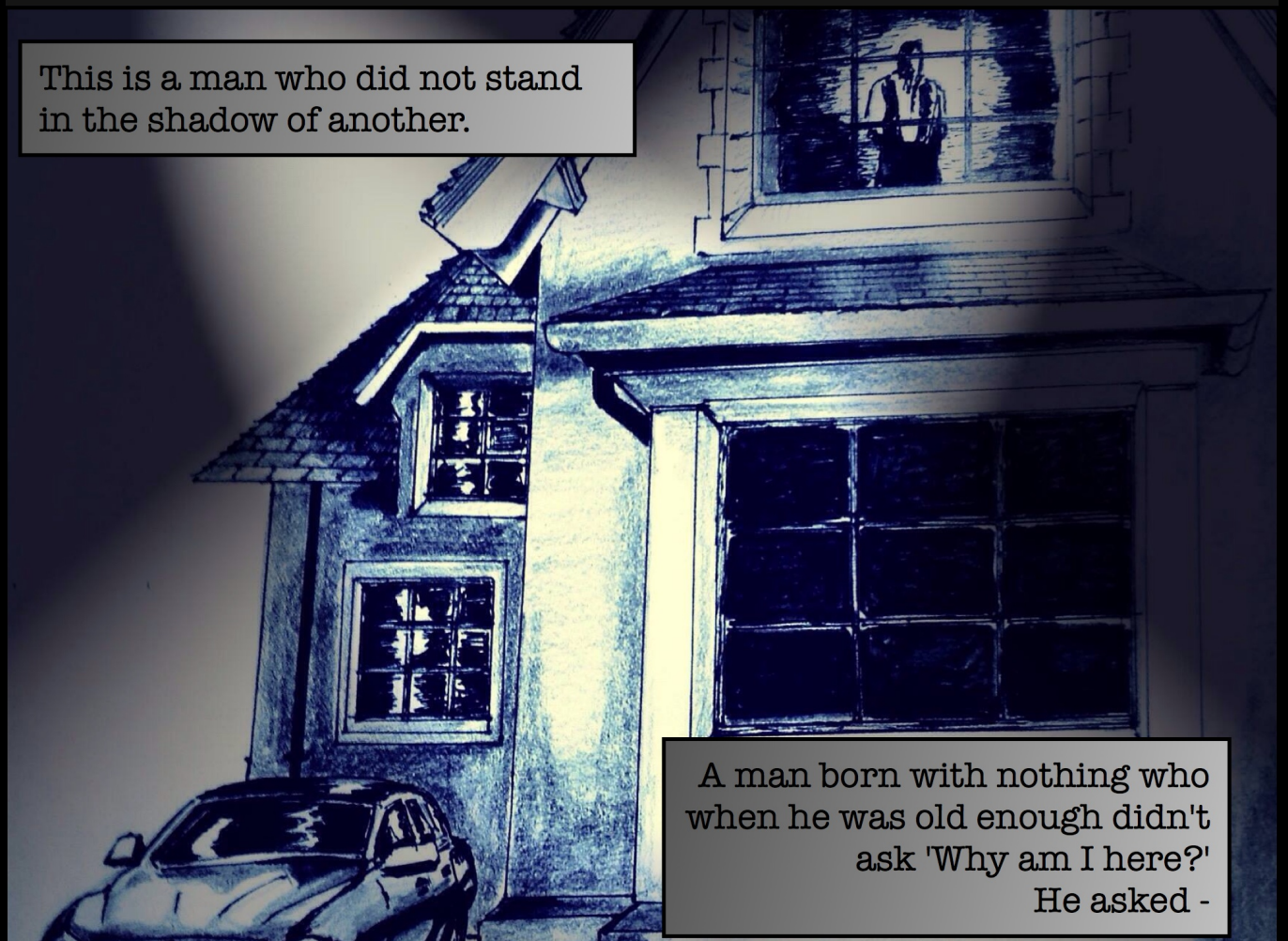
Judge Alistair McNeeley sensationally labelled Paradise Heights Police Department evidence as 'dubious and possibly corrupt' and recommended an inquiry into the entire case against Mr. Morgan. FULL STORY AND PICTURES: PAGE 2/3



This is a man that was not weak.

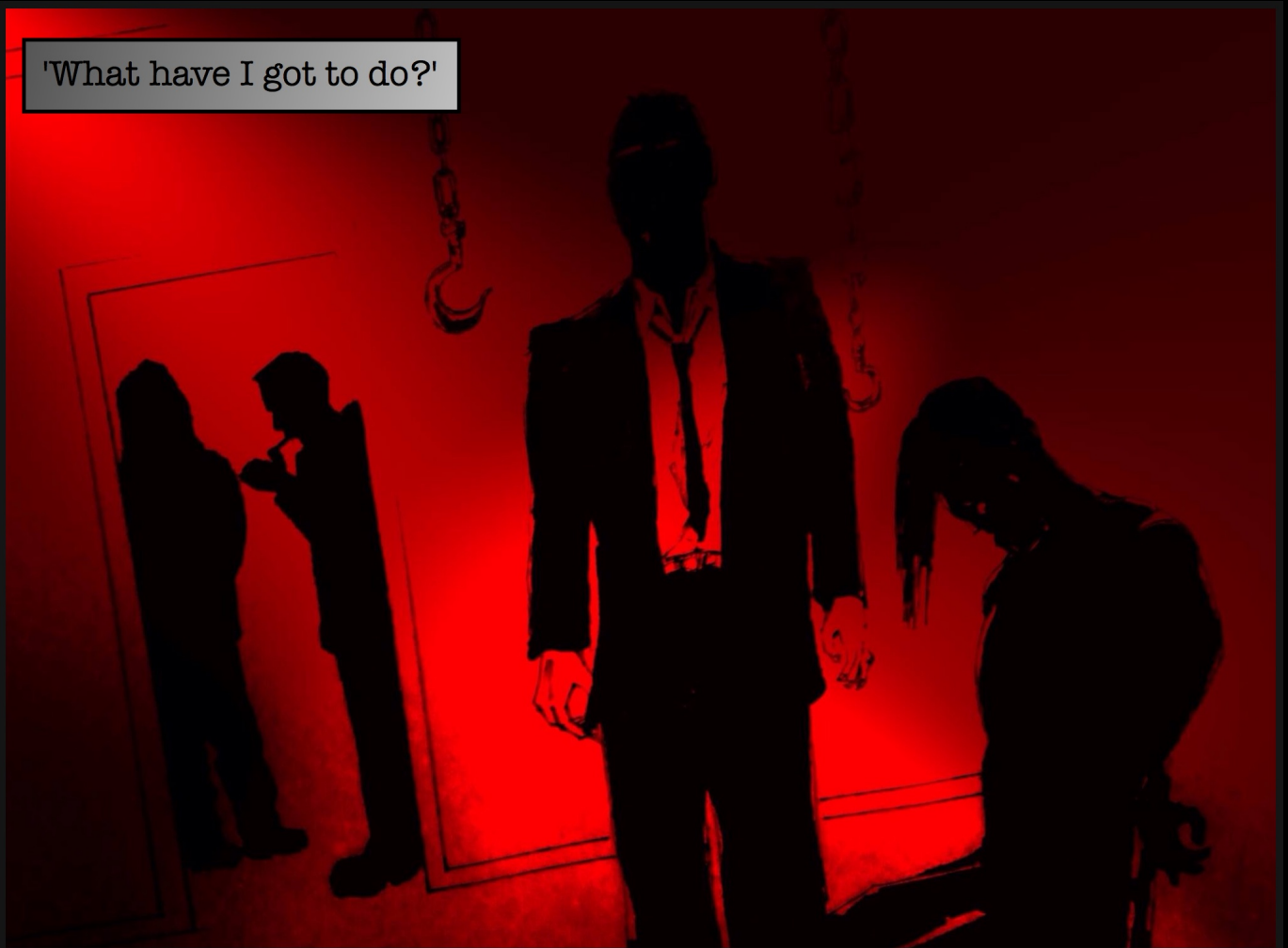


This is a man who did not stand
in the shadow of another.



A man born with nothing who
when he was old enough didn't
ask 'Why am I here?'
He asked -


'What have I got to do?'



One shot.

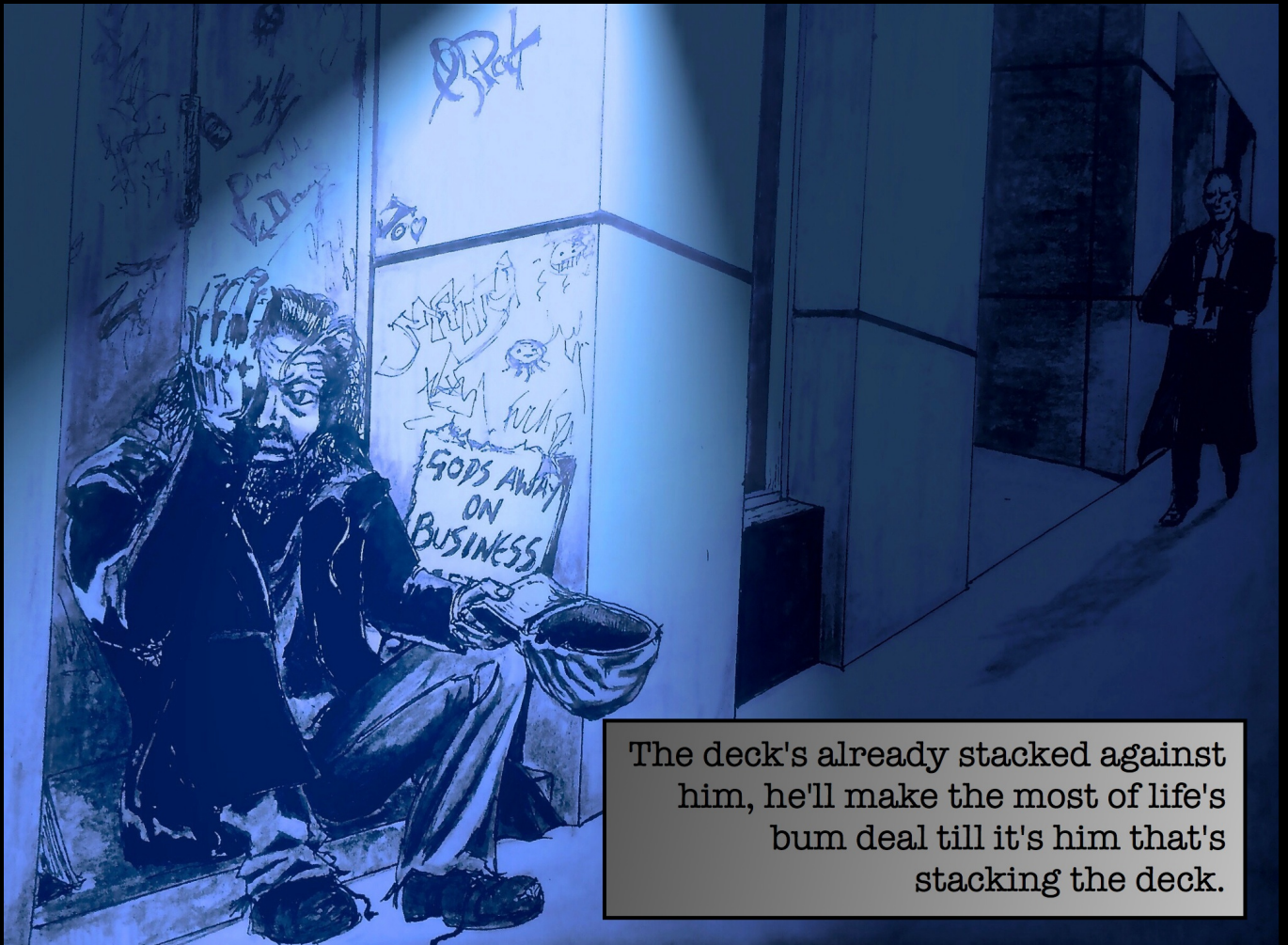


That's all you get in this world.

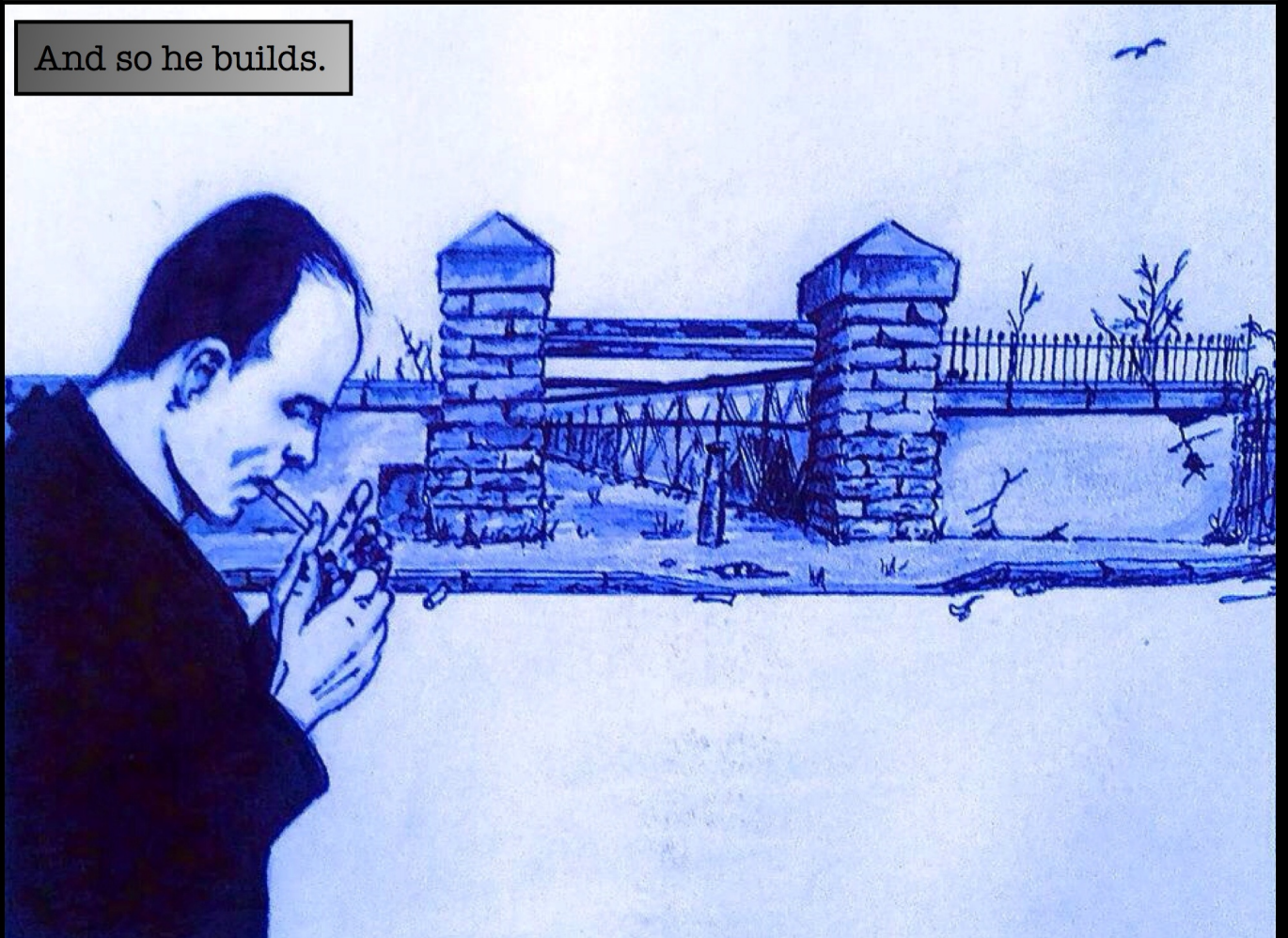
A man in a dark suit and white shirt is shown from the chest up, looking out of a window. The window has a grid pattern, possibly from a security screen or a window frame. The lighting is dramatic, with the man's face partially in shadow. The overall tone is serious and contemplative.

And this man knows he will
make his mark.

Even if it's a scar.



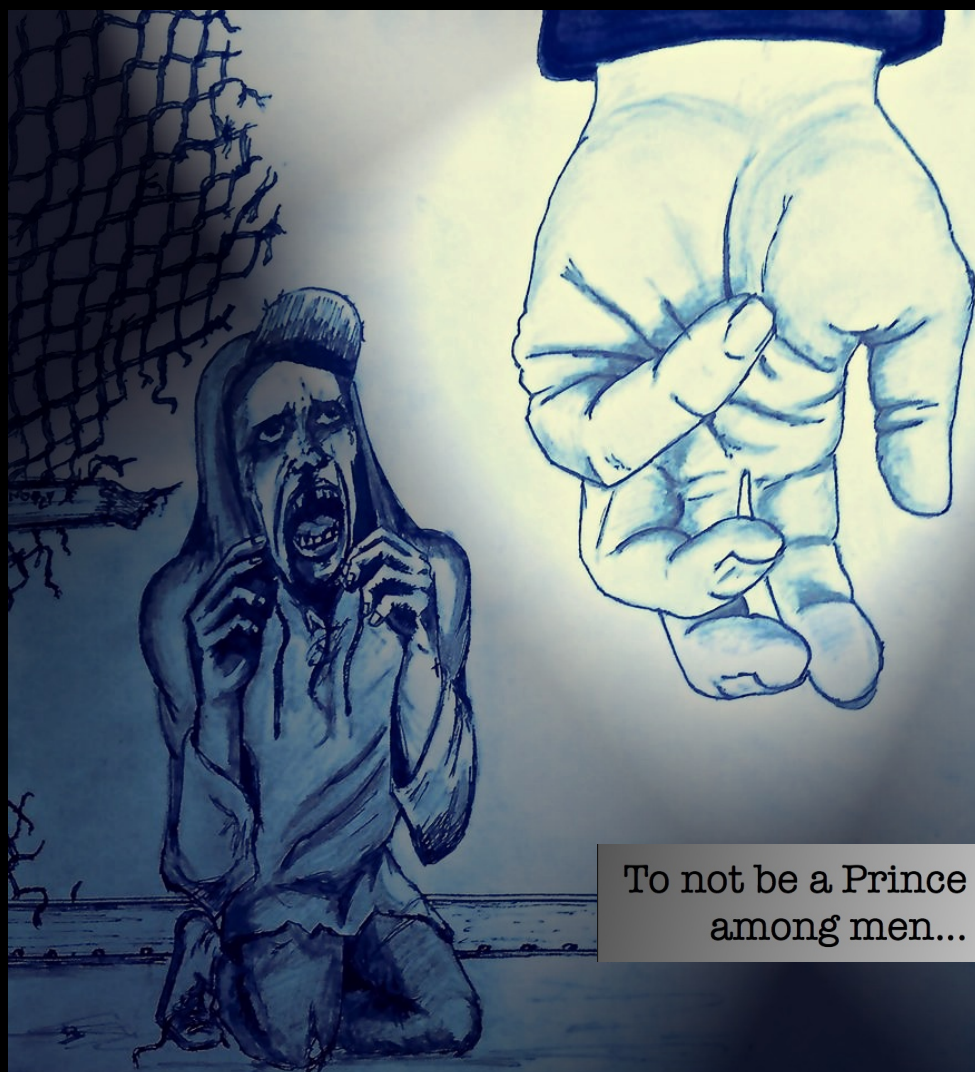
And so he builds.





Forged not by a will to survive...

A will to thrive.



To not be a Prince
among men...

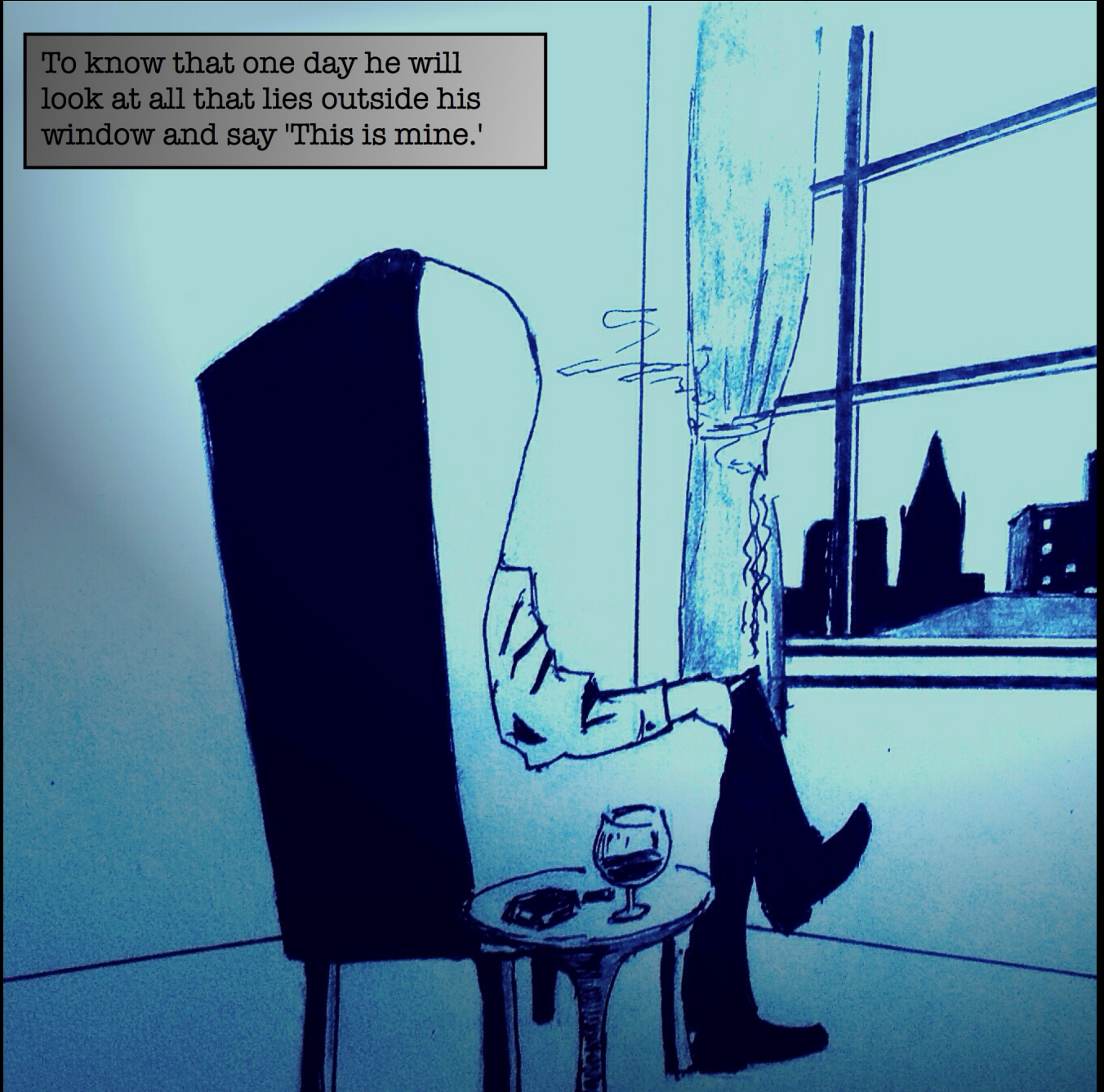
...to be a Warrior, a Conquerer...



...a King.

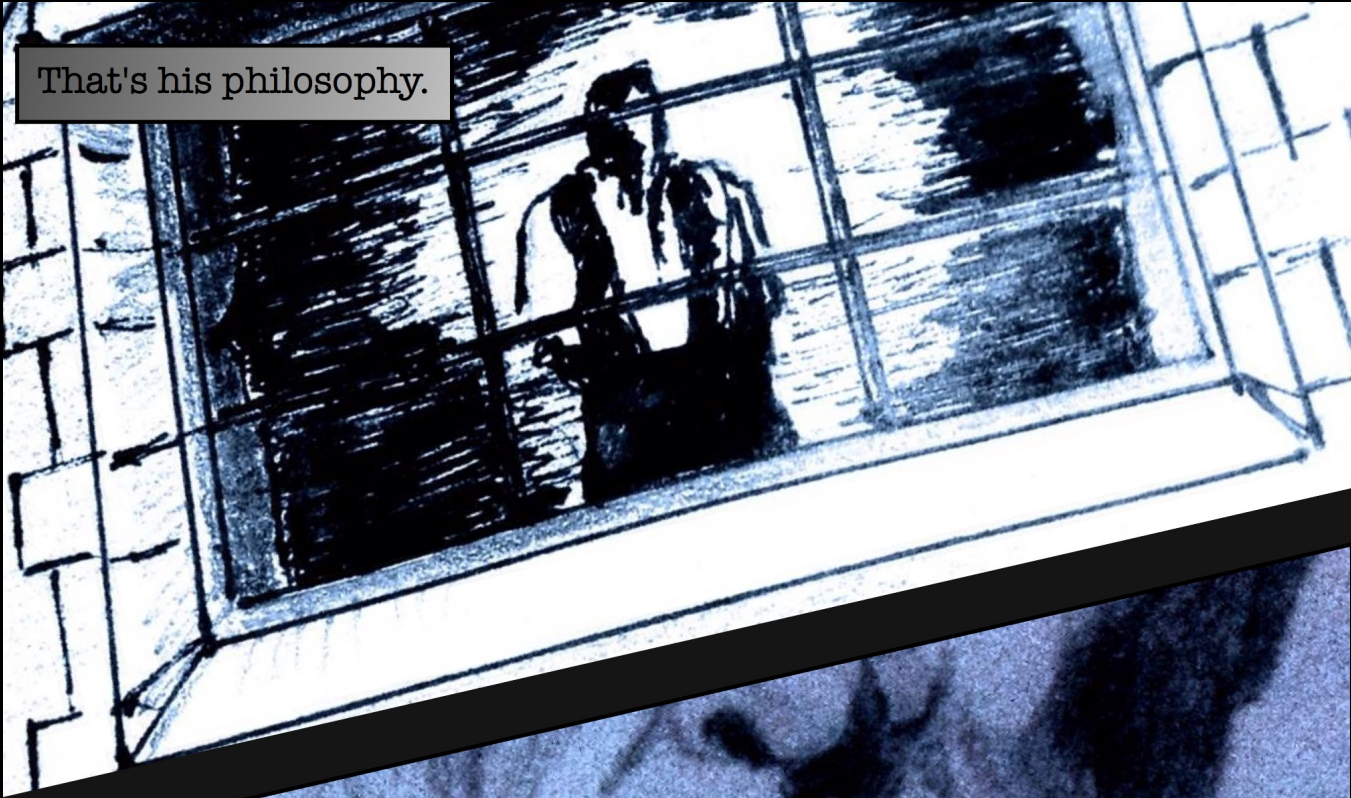


To know that one day he will
look at all that lies outside his
window and say 'This is mine.'

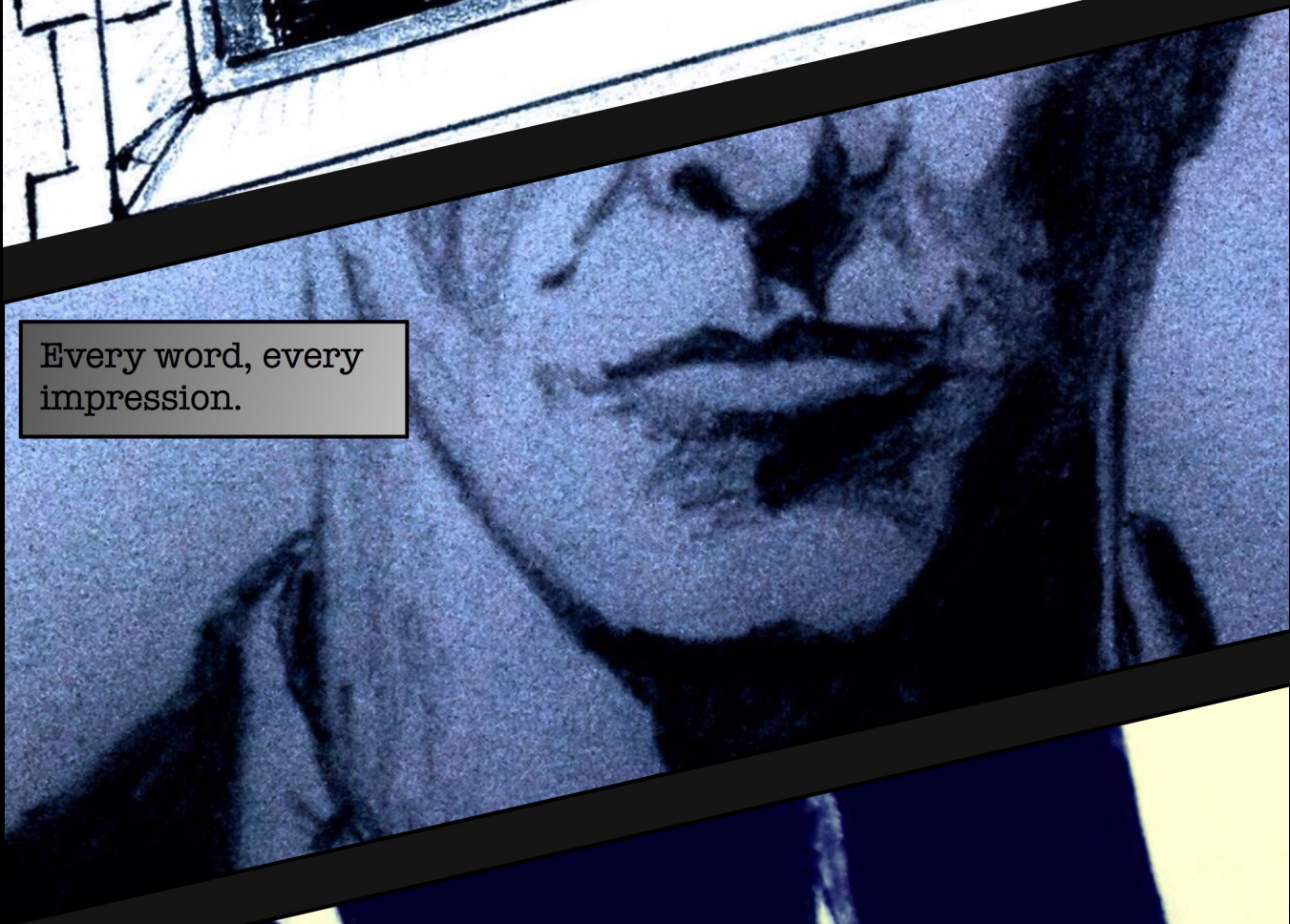


One shot.






That's his philosophy.



Every word, every impression.



Every action, every deal...

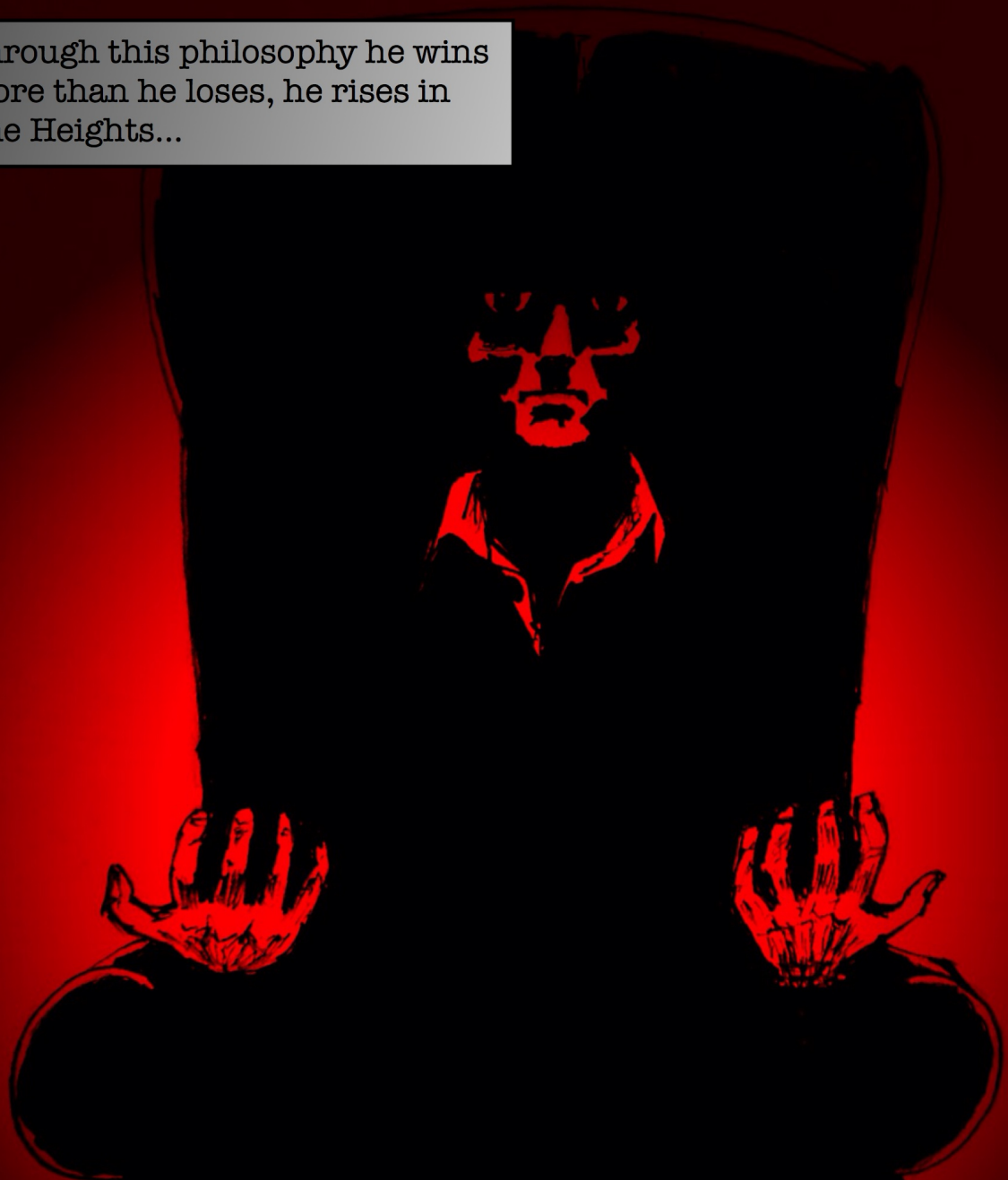
...every fight.



One shot to
make it count.



Through this philosophy he wins
more than he loses, he rises in
The Heights...



...and the man
becomes a
King.

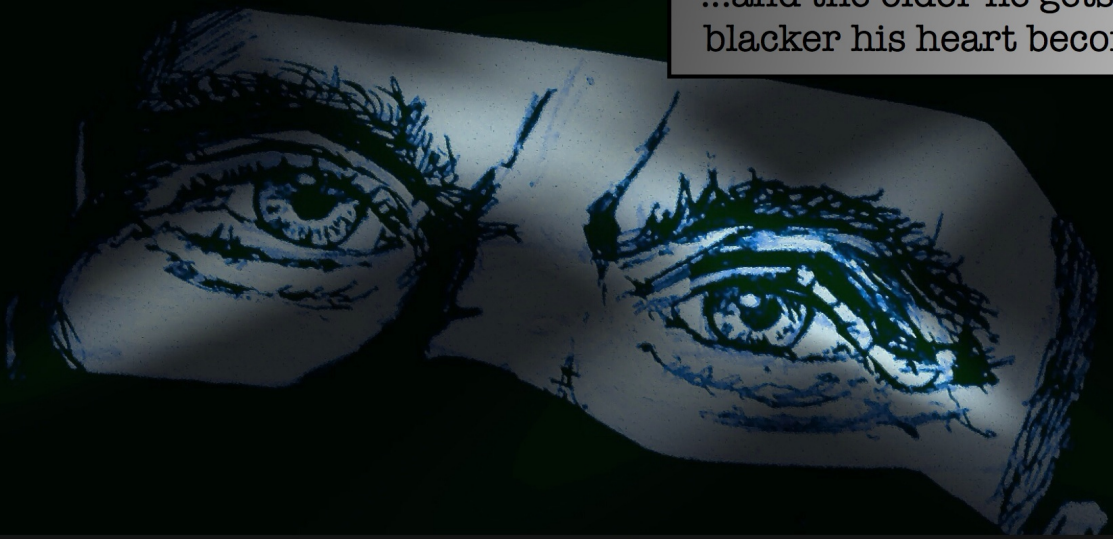




His hands have given
him everything, his
bloodied hands...



...and the older he gets, the
blackier his heart becomes.



A heart that once beat red
is now charcoal black -
and broken.



The world outside his
window is changing, and
no longer by his hand.



Somewhere along the way life
has snatched back the deck.



The cards aren't what they
were, and when the lights
go out...





...the demons come.



One Shot.

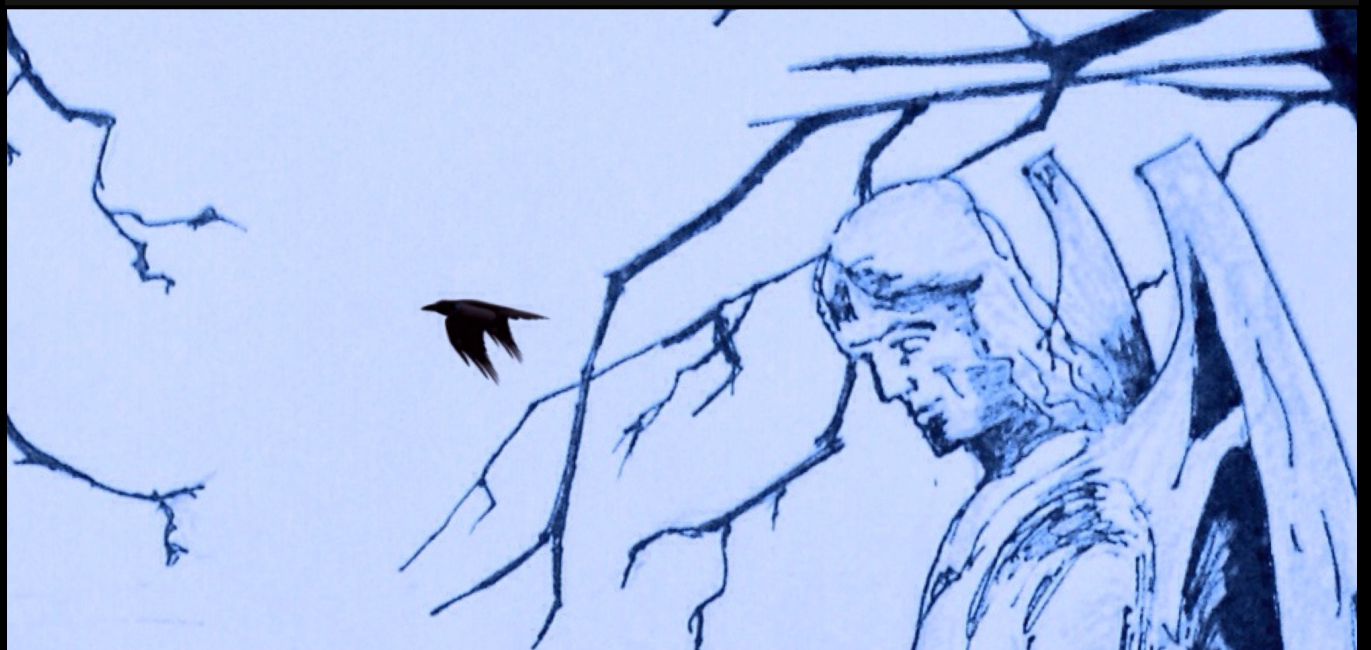


Aiden McGreavy
commit suicide on
New Years Eve.

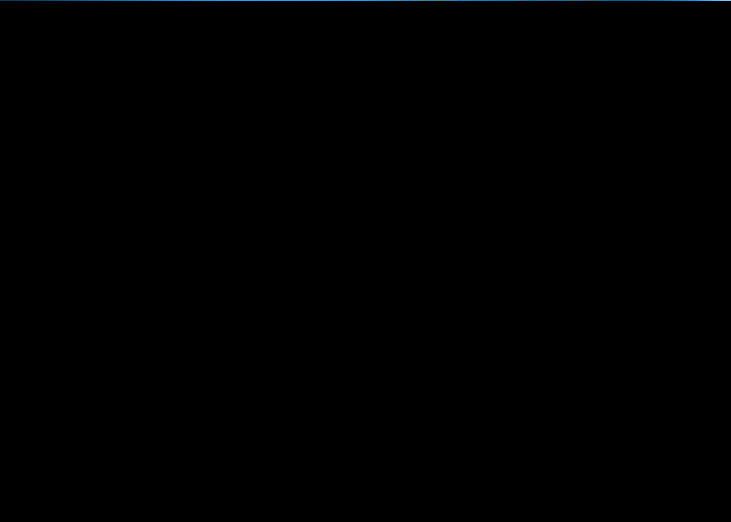
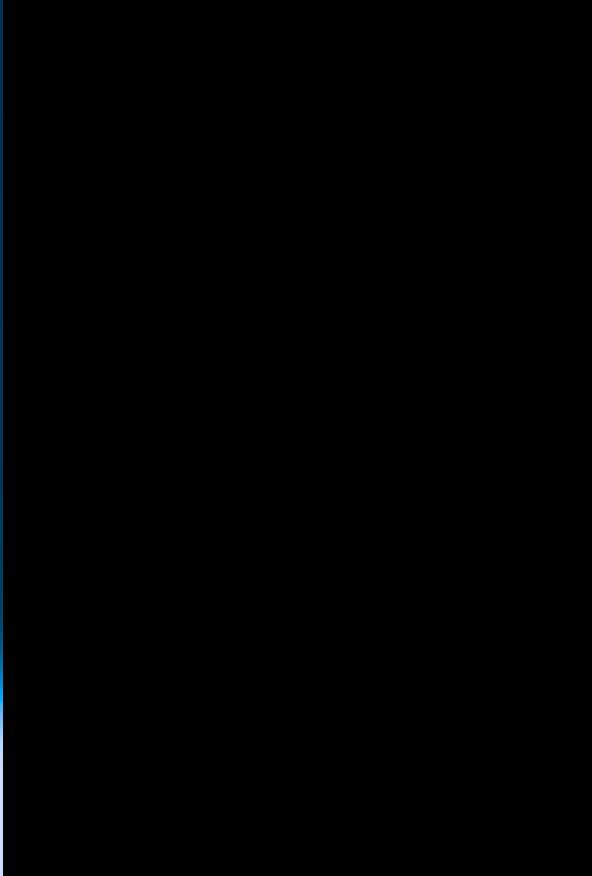


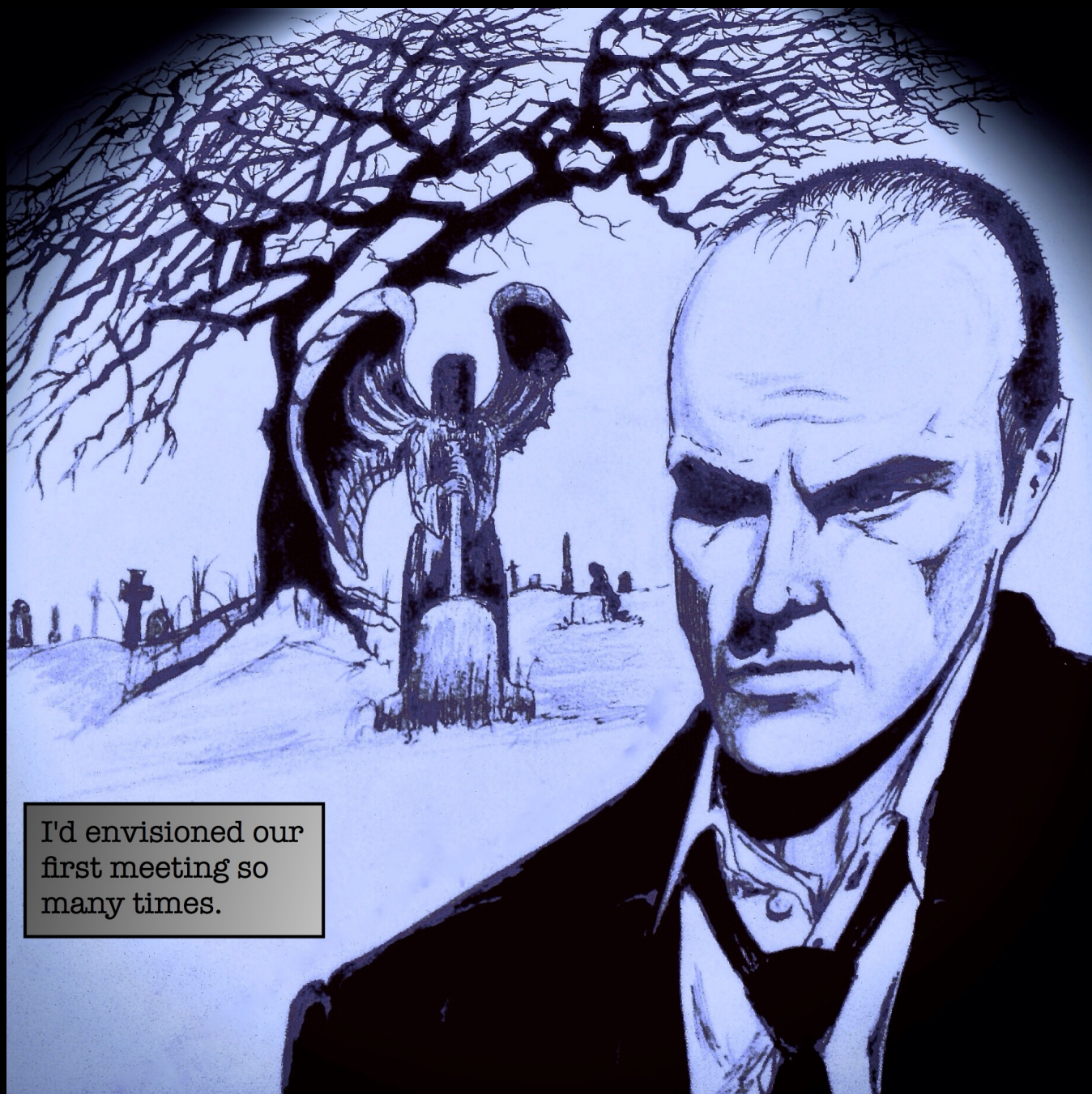
That one shot
changed
everything.











I'd envisioned our first meeting so many times.



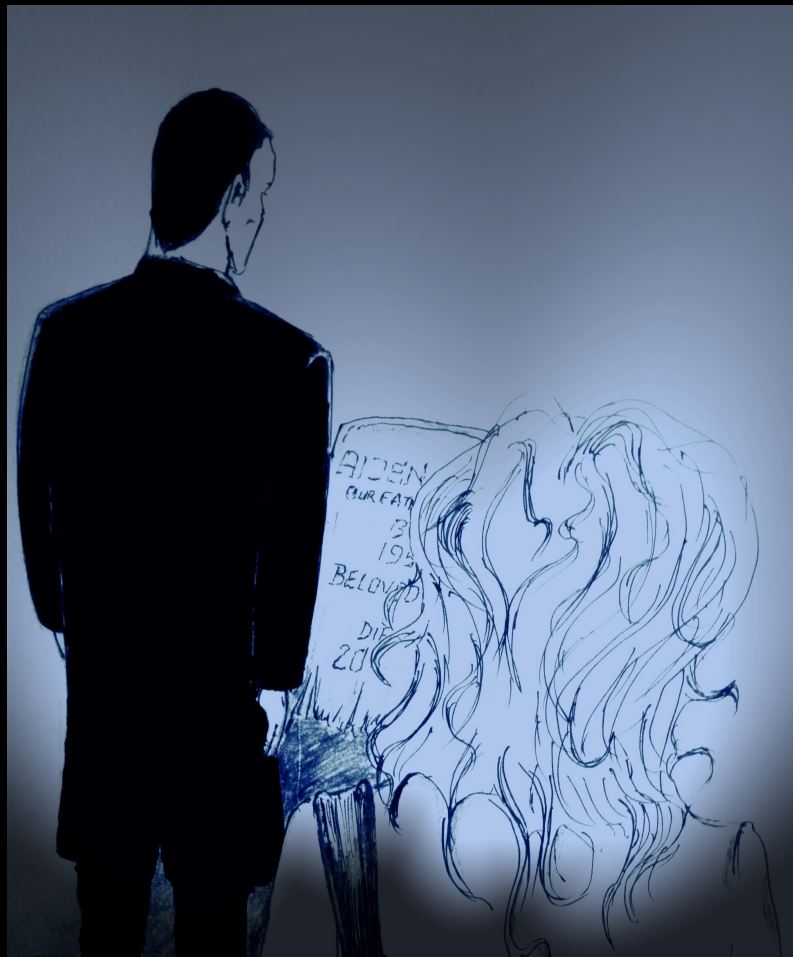
This wasn't by
happenstance or
pure chance...



No. This was by
design...



The relationship between
Frank Morgan and I,
would be born in a
graveyard.



...I knew you'd be
watching, and I
wanted to make
you so proud.



End of Part One

TALES FROM PARADISE HEIGHTS
PRESENTS

One Shot

STORY & ARTWORK
BY
JOE O'BYRNE

PART 1

One

Shot

ONE SHOT: Part 2

Coming Soon

