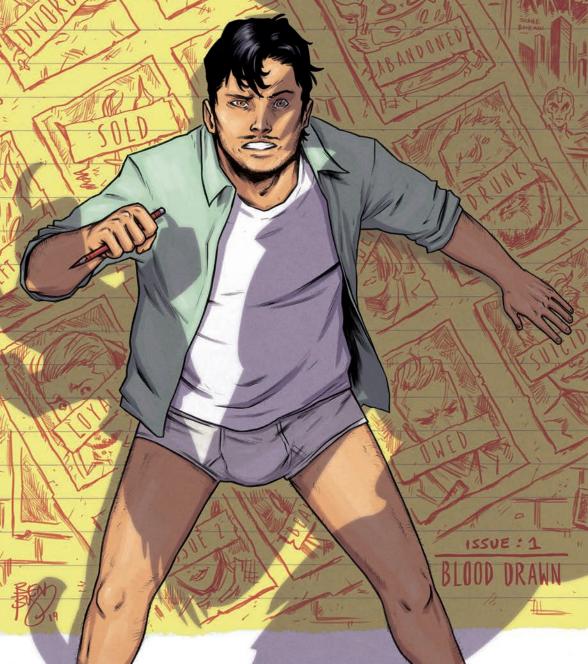


DRAWING: BLOOD, G

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES

KEVIN EASTMAN • DAVID AVALLONE • BEN BISHOP



DRAWING: BLOOD

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES-

CREATED BY / STORY BY

KEVIN EASTMAN & DAVID AVALLONE

SCRIPT

DAVID AVALLONE

LETTERS

TAYLOR ESPOSITO

ARTWORK

BEN BISHOP

FLASHBACKS

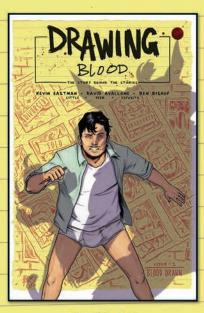
LAYOUT - BEN BISHOP FINALS - KEVIN EASTMAN

COLORS

BRITTANY PEER

HALLUCINATIONS

LAYOUT - BEN BISHOP FINALS - TROY LITTLE





COVER A BEN BISHOP COVER B

KEVIN EASTMAN

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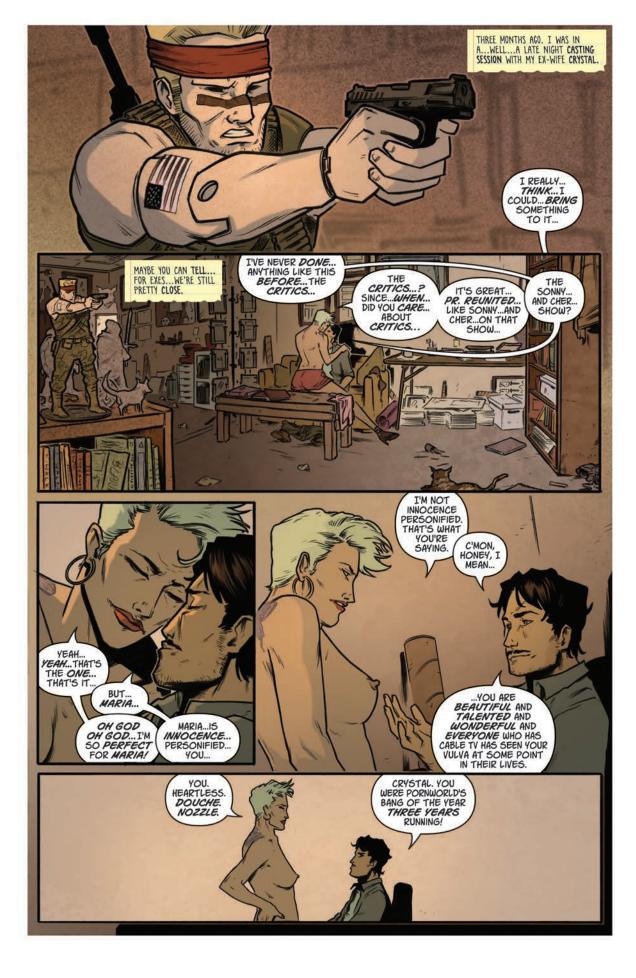


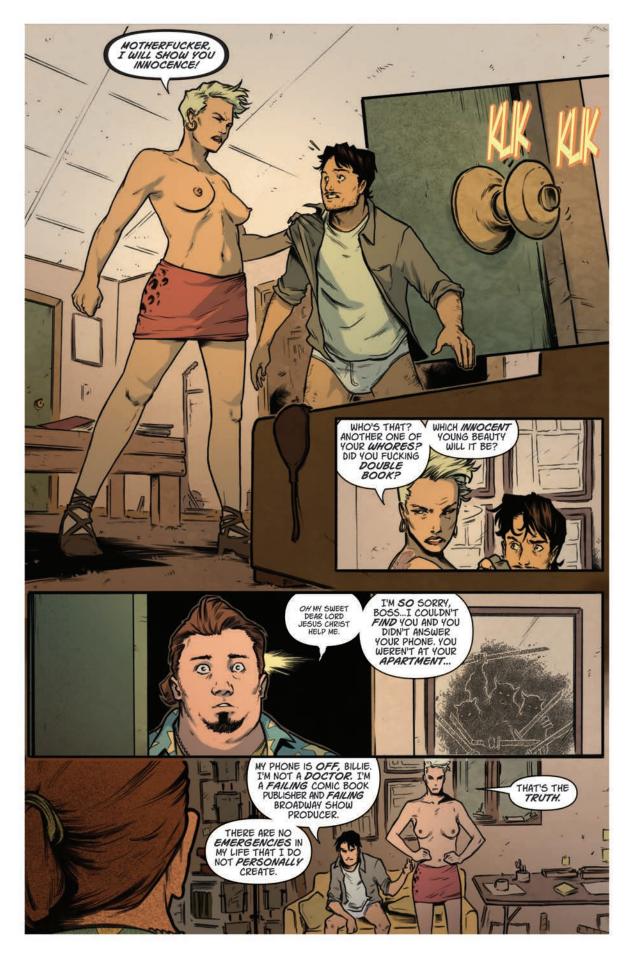




















































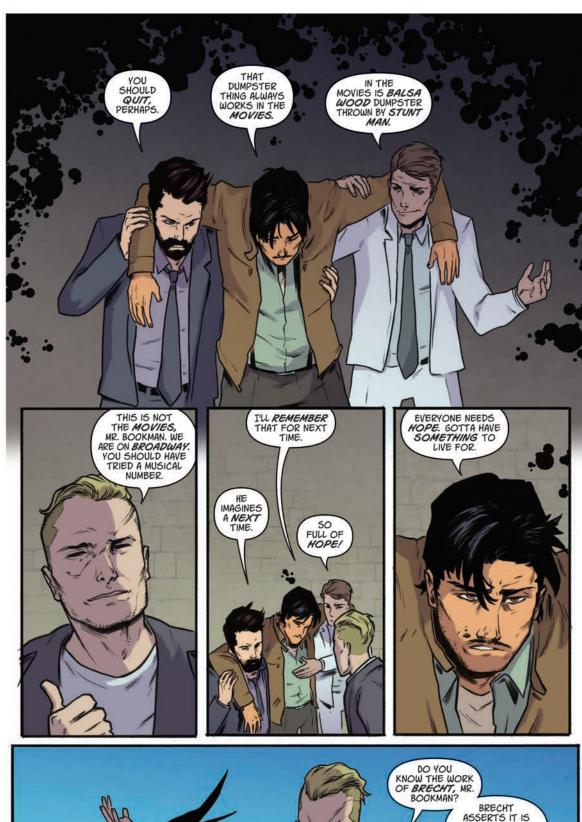




















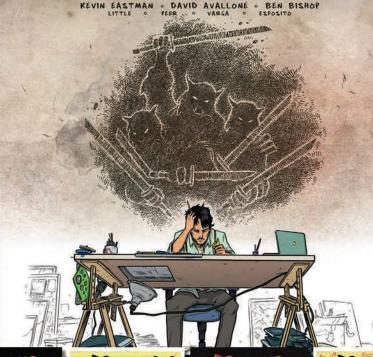




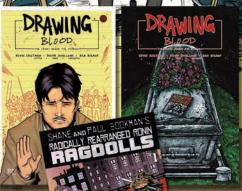


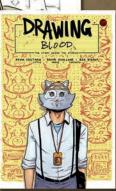
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THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES BEHIND THE STORY by David Avallone

So it's been fun...

but this is where we have to drop the mask,
and the jokes, and set Mr. Shane "Books" Bookman aside for a few minutes...

and be honest.

This project begins entirely in the mind of Kevin Eastman.

In 2015, I hadn't yet met Kevin. I was a veteran of about a quarter century in the film industry, doing about every job you can imagine (my IMDb page is a mess), and had recently been offered an opportunity to branch out into comic book writing. I took the opportunity and ran with it, which is why I was at Emerald City Comic Con that year.

A mutual friend introduced me to Kevin right after (what else?) a signing, and we sat down for cocktails together in a hotel bar. Even at the time, if felt more like a reunion with an old friend than meeting someone new. We had actually just missed meeting each other a bunch of times for years, starting all the way back in 1989 when I quit working for Limelight Productions a few weeks before they started making...

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Oh well. It happened when it was supposed to, I guess.

By July of 2016 we were friends, and hanging out at San Diego Comic Con at (surprise) a hotel bar. Kevin started to tell me about this dream project he had that maybe I could help him with. He had a working title he didn't like much ("On The Shoulders Of Giants.") It would be a story of a comic book creator facing a personal crisis... a man with a biography similar to Kevin's, but not identical.

It sounded interesting but, of course, Kevin had a signing to go to.

I walked with him from the Bayfront Hilton to the IDW booth.

Just as we were walking in the back door of the Convention Center I tapped him on the shoulder and said,

"DRAWING BLOOD." He title is DRAWING BLOOD." He said something like, "Awesome, man!" Kevin is an

enthusiast, and he always lets you know when he likes something.



Here's the surprise for you: Kevin wasn't talking about a comic book.

Initially the idea was to turn the story into a movie. He gave me a ton of research and ideas and notes and I looked at all of it and said, "This isn't a movie. It's a TV show. Like a 'quality TV' cable show." He agreed, having just reached the same conclusion himself.

So we worked on the story. I wrote an outline, a pilot script, and we worked on a series bible. But getting a TV show launched is time-consuming work, and Kevin and I got impatient. He suggested... why not make the comic book while we continue to pursue other outlets for DRAWING BLOOD?

And that's where Kickstarter (and you) came in.

Kevin and I had laid out a nine issue series, (covering the first season of the TV show.) We figured we could do the first four issues of **Drawing Blood** (and the Ragdolls bonus) for a reasonable amount of money, while still paying the people working with us good, respectable rates. But who were those people going to be?

Kevin and I talked about artists. Who was available? Who was great? What style should the comic be in? We decided that the story required a ground-breaking approach, artistically. Shane Bookman's story existed in three "spaces": current reality, flashbacks and hallucinations/fantasies.

Kevin thought this would best be conveyed with three artists.

Kevin, of course, would draw the flashbacks. We'd need someone with a relatively "realistic" style for the majority of the book, and we'd need someone with a wilder style for the fantasy stuff.

I was down visiting Kevin in San Diego, and he handed me **Troy Little's** adaptation of FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS and I agreed with him that Troy would be the perfect artist to bring the Radically Rearranged Ronin Ragdolls origin comic to life, and do the hallucinations of the Dolls haunting Shane in the main series.

It was an easy decision... if we could get him. Lucky for us all he said yes.

Kevin had another book on his desk. Something he was writing a blurb for, as a favor.

He handed it to me, "What do you think of this guy?

He's got the skills to pull off all the 'acting' we'd need to make the story work."

It was Ben Bishop's THE AGGREGATE. The art immediately blew me away. The work was sharp, well-laid out, dramatic, emotional, beautiful. "This is great!" After a very brief discussion, Kevin was reaching out to Ben to bring him on board. Our luck holding... Ben also said yes.



Ben turned out to be our secret weapon: not just a great artist, but an experienced Kickstarter campaign veteran. The rest of the team came together easily: Ben's colorist Brittany Peer (for the first three chapters of DRAWING BLOOD), Kevin's colorist Tomi Varga (for chapter four and the RADICALLY REARRANGED RONIN RAGDOLLS comic.) I brought on my favorite letterer, Taylor Esposito.

If you're reading this edition of this book, you probably know most of the rest.

Kevin and I finally met Ben in person at San Diego Comic Con 2017.



Then a week later... we launched the Kickstarter. The response -- your response -- was overwhelming.

Thrilling and humbling. We reached our goal, and our stretch goal...

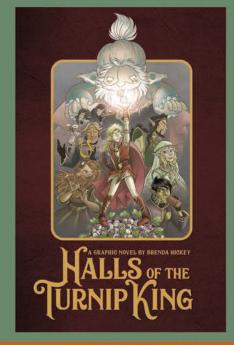
and then we got to work.

That work you now hold in your hands. We loved making it, and we hope you love reading it.

David Avallone July 2018, Hollywood



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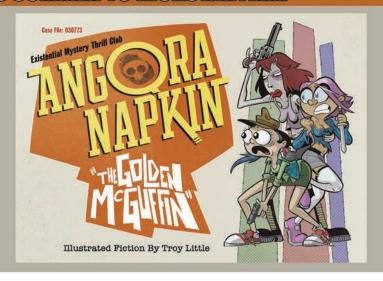


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