

FISTFUL OF WITH KEVIN EASTMAN

Welcome to part one, of a four part series, "Behind the Scenes of Fistful of Blood"! So happy that you have joined us, this is going to be fun! I first came up with the concept of doing a parody, something I seem to be well known for... of one of my favorite westerns of all time, "Fistful of Dollars"—but to twist that seed into something of my own if you will—and I brought in my best friend Simon Bisley to help me accomplish that.

The story is simple, seriously simple—Zombies on one side of a present day rundown old western movie filming set location, and Vampires on the other—who prey on stray tourists who might, unfortunately, wander into town. An old actor and his family is trapped in the middle, to do the bidding for these beasts, until one day a "Woman with No Name" stumbles into town—and all hell breaks loose!

We'll talk more about that later...

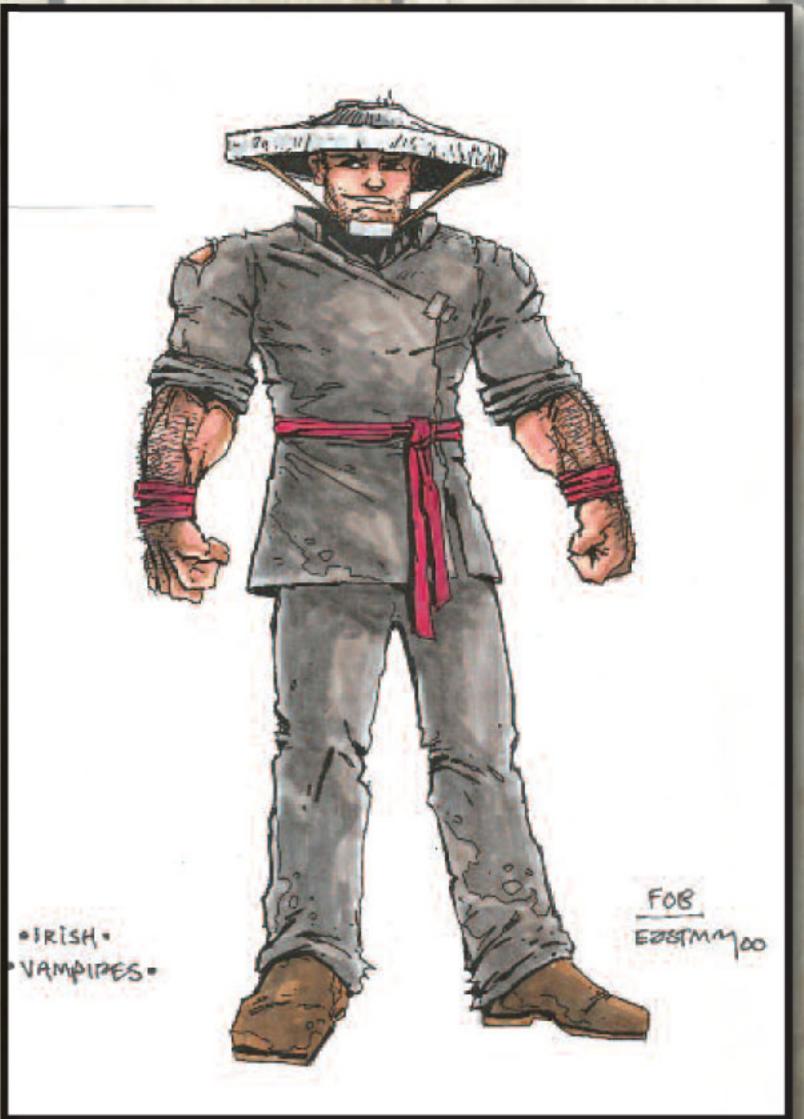
For now, what you've just read, was a re-mastering of the first part of the original series that ran in *Heavy Metal Magazine* fifteen years ago. I was inspired by Simon Bisley's fantastic pencil work he was doing for a book of Bible inspired drawings, and pitched the idea of doing a modern day western... with Zombies, Vampires, and Aliens... long before they became all the rage, and this is what we came up with.

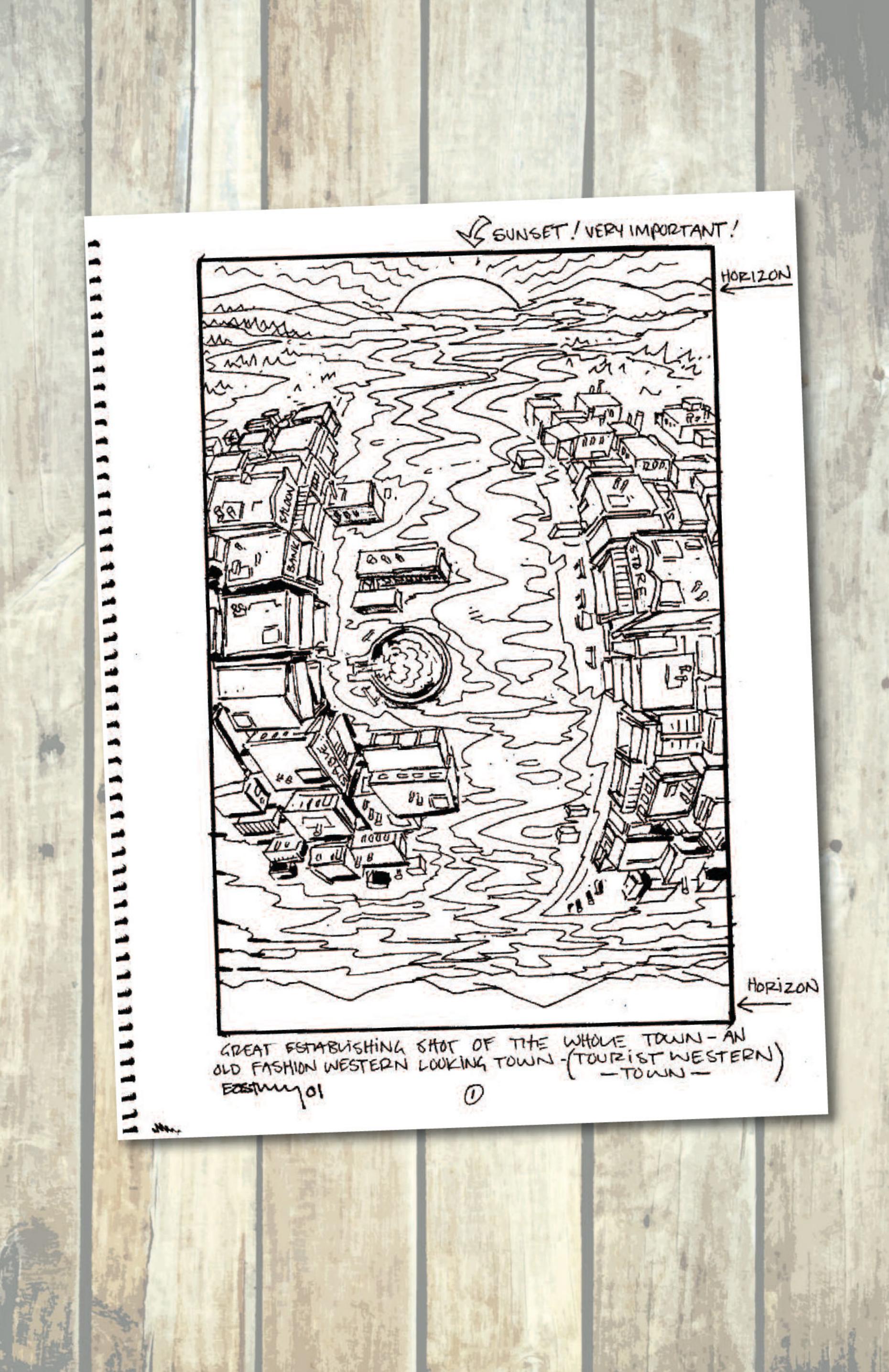
I have re-drawn it, working over Simon's original pencils, every page, and had the good fortune to have artist/colorist Tomi Varga add his own vision to this twisted adventure. If you remember the original, you've never seen it like this, if you haven't, buckle up, and enjoy the ride.

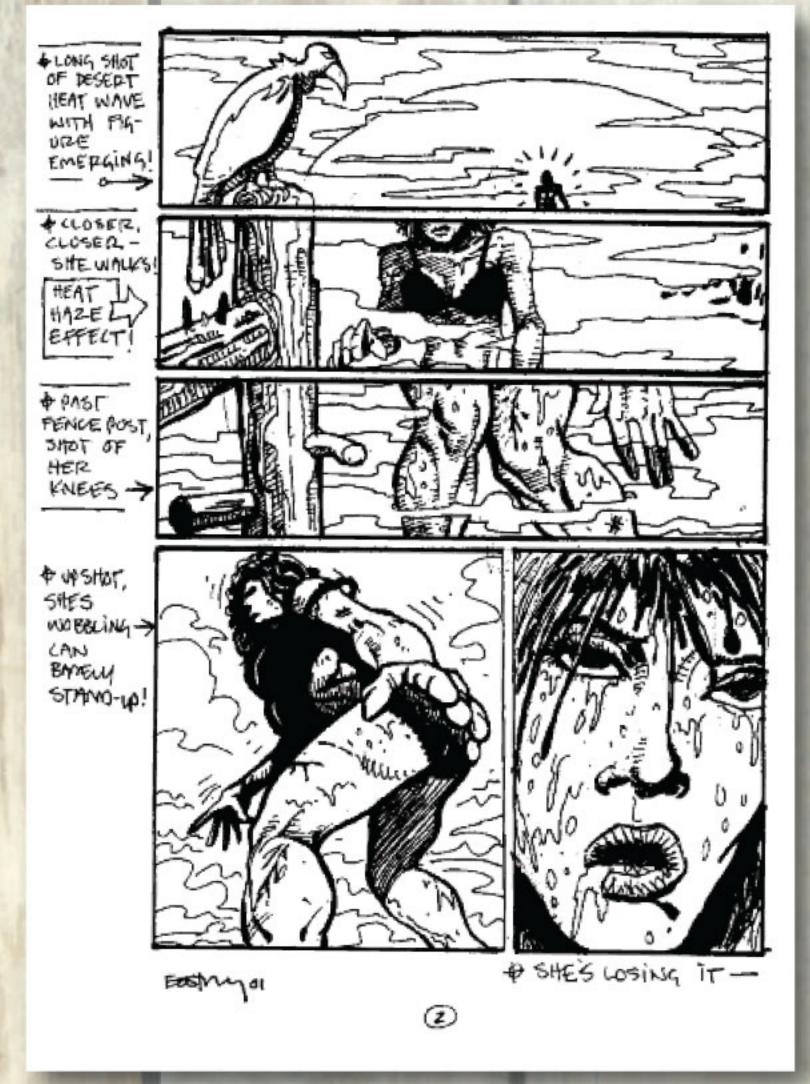
As I walk you through this special re-mastered edition of "Fistful of Blood", each issue will have a ton of behind the scenes stuff, like this, where I can show you a bit of the process, and what I intended the project to be. From my original character designs before Simon Simonized them, to many of my layouts before he made the pages look so crazy/sexy/cool, as well as some of the original pages, before and after, I added my own magic—bringing them a bit closer to the first time I saw this story in my brain.

















FULL PAGE SHOT OF HER IN THE CLOTHES HE GOT FOR HER! NICE ...

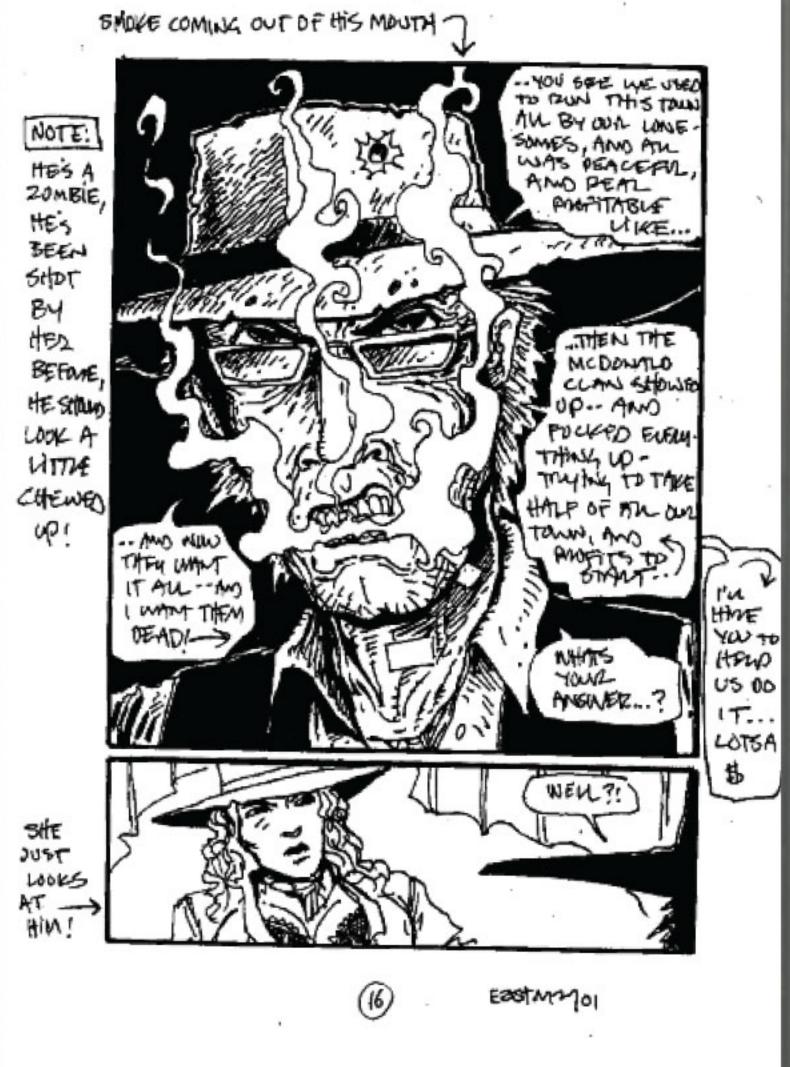


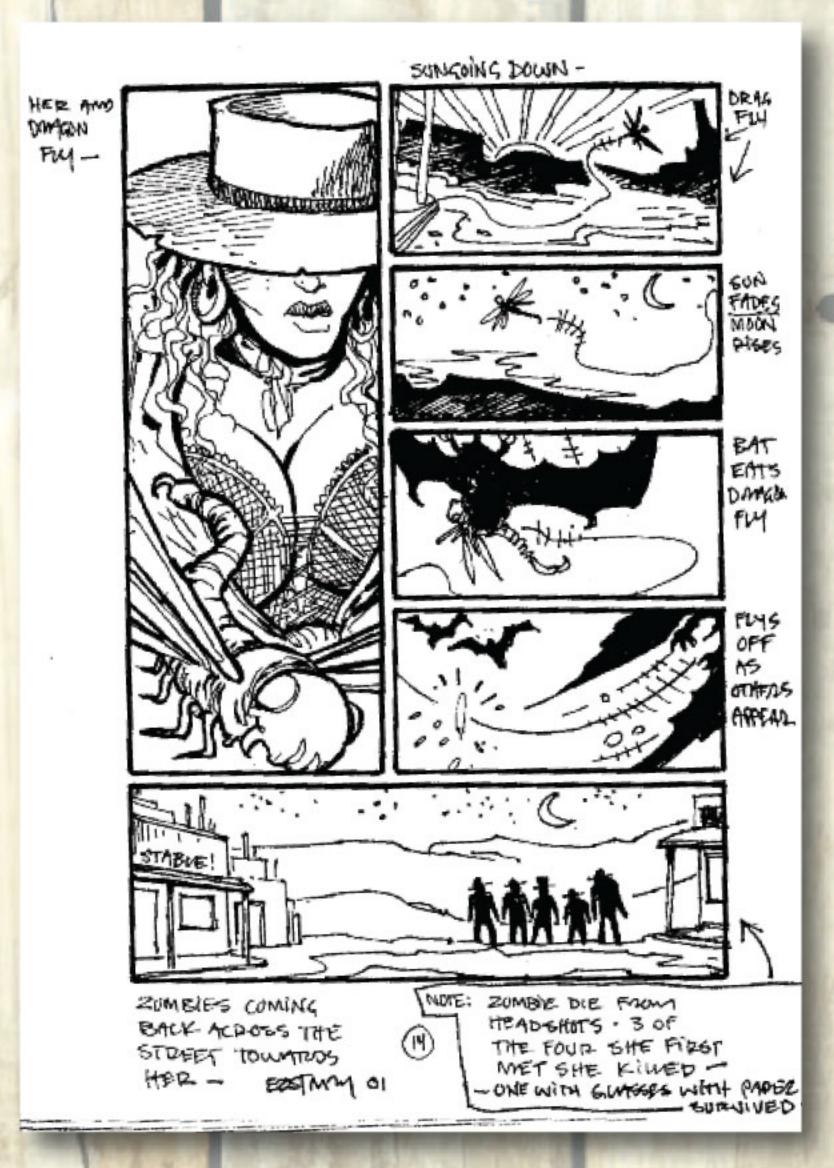
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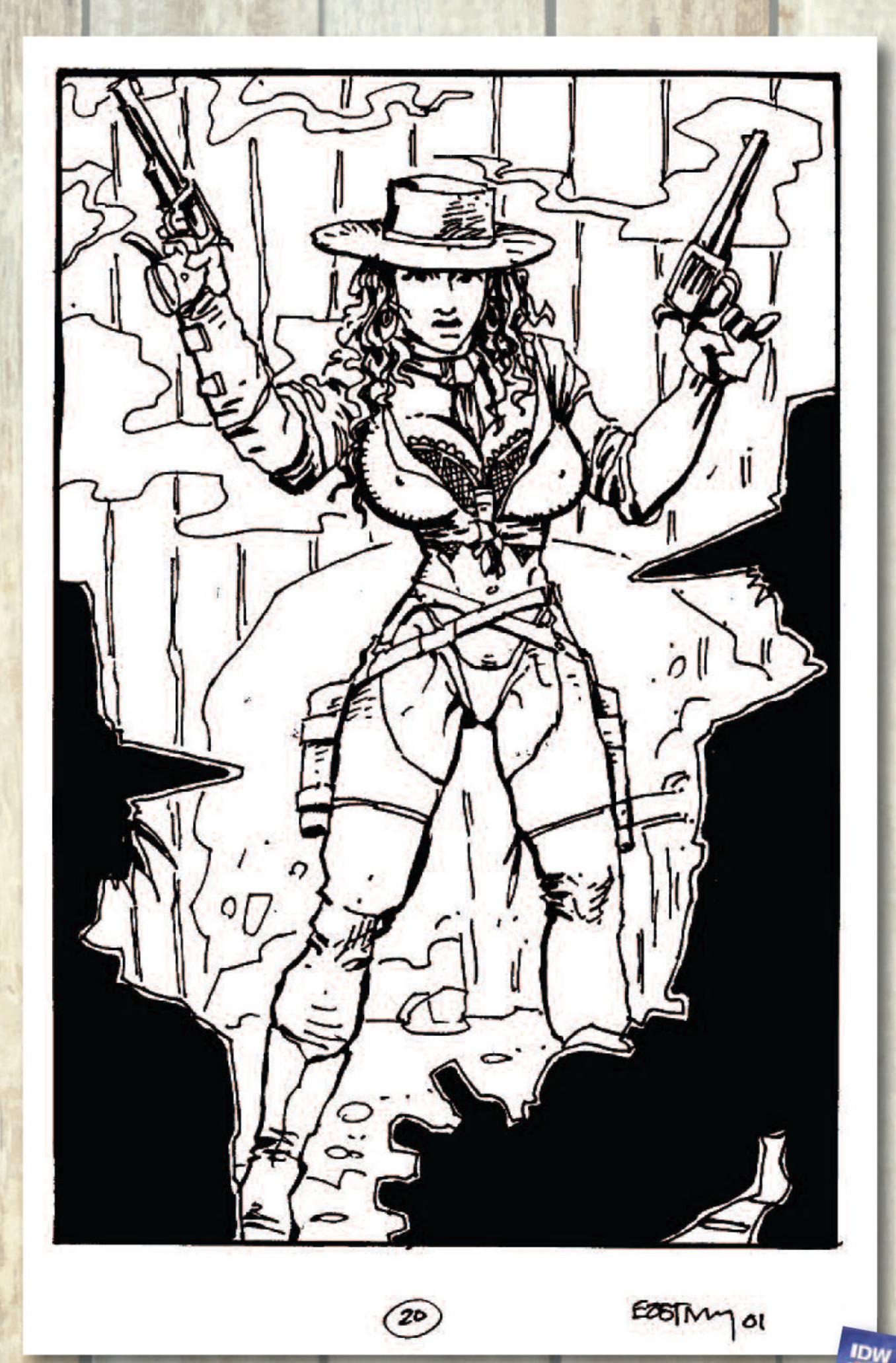






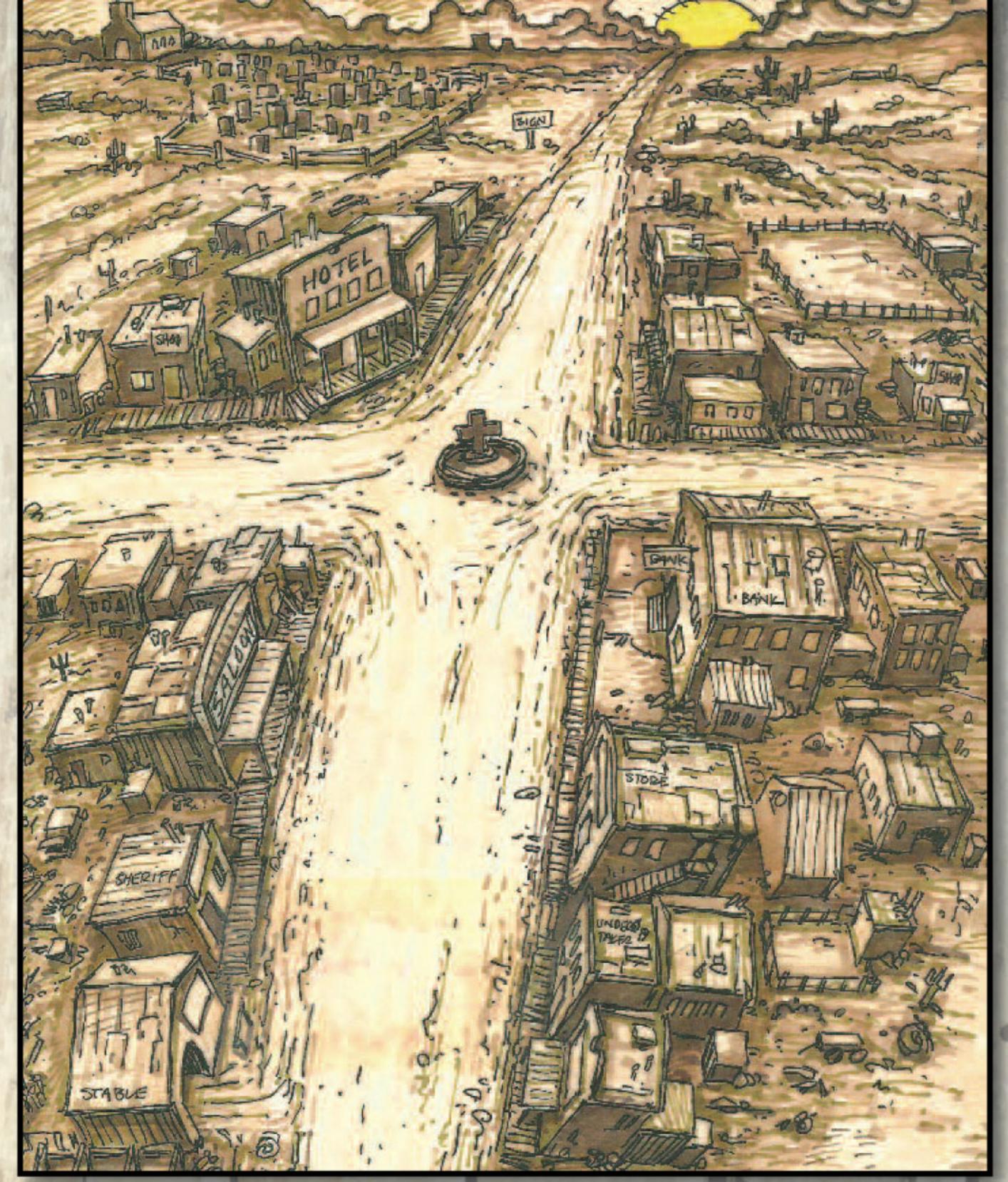


The characters probably, well, not probably, definitely, changed considerably in the process—as you can see from some of mine here—but as always, when I work with Simon, I do my part and unleash him on his—the end result is always an enjoyable and a completely insane collaboration.



Okay, there you go, a bit of a tease, yes, but as the full re-mastered "Fistful of Blood" ninety-six page story unfolds over the next four months, I'll keep feeding you, issue by issue, more history, thoughts, and some of the

best laid plans gone right or wrong, but in the end, I hope you find this twisted little tale as much fun to watch (read?) as we did bringing it to you. See you next month for issue #2.



FISTING OF

Welcome back! I'm hoping you got a big enough kick out of the first issue to keep you tuned in for this issue, part two of four. If this is your first glance through the series, I hope you'll dig it enough to add this and issue one to your stack of comics for this month's purchases and hang with us through the end of the series. It only gets crazier from here. "Hard to imagine," you might be thinking, but oh so TRUE!

As I mentioned in the first behind-the-scenes section, Simon and I had been working together for several years on a number of different projects, and did a few more after this one, but *Fistful of Blood* was a real passion project. Having grown up on so many classic western films, my son Shane is actually named after the character Alan Ladd played in the 1952 western (of the same name—the film was

called *Shane*.) but the Eastwood films took it to a whole other level for me. So when this project started to come together, with the Biz onboard, I was more than thrilled.

For those of you who don't know the history of the film I based this comic series on, A Fistful of Dollars was directed by the incredible Sergio Leone. Well, Sergio actually based his film on a mind-blowing cutting-edge 1961 Japanese film, called Yojimbo by the equally incredible director, Akira Kurosawa, and starring the legendary Toshiro Mifune.

I'll talk more about these guys in the next installment of this extras section—in the meantime, the title image on this page was the map of the town I did, after we started the series, so I could lay out the action more consistently.

Speaking of which, consistency is always a challenge in every story, and as this one was originally printed in black and white, it didn't "really" matter a wicked lot. But when I organize the writing and the layouts for any story it is critical to me to be 100% spot on for all the details, especially passage of time, but at some point along the completion process for these ninety-six pages, I just kind of gave up, and let it roll—the time of day didn't really seem to affect the overall look.

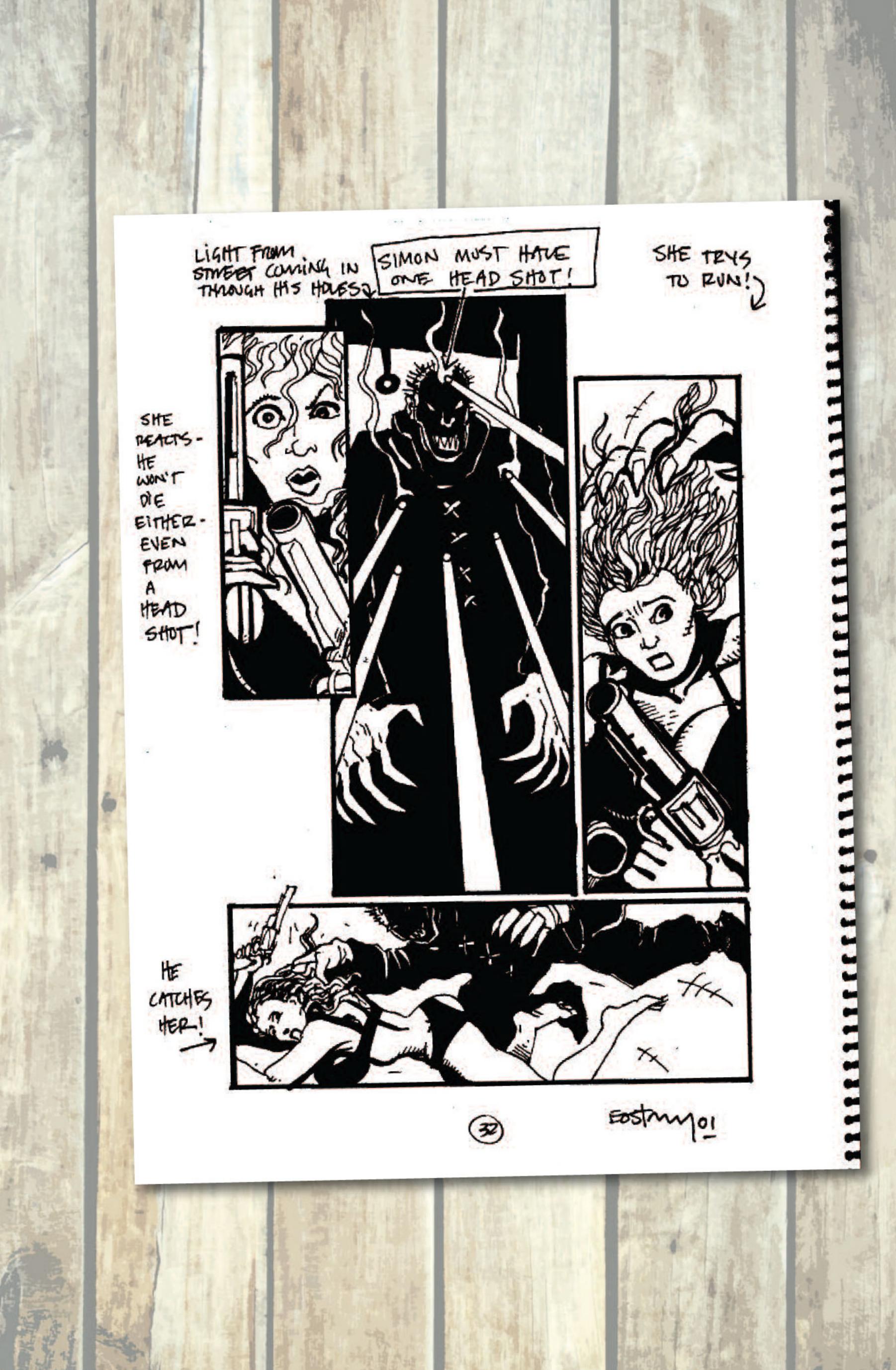
As I was writing, I knew the Zombies could be out either night or day, but the Vampires can only come out at night, so I would always try to be fully aware of all this during the process. After I handed off the layouts to Simon, he had his way with them, and they looked so cool when he turned them in, no matter what time of day it was supposed to be, I could live with it, or figured I could write around it... somehow.

However, fifteen years later, I'm trying to tweak things AND work with Tomi on his coloring work, and thank goodness for his fresh eyes. He picks up lots of things I miss.

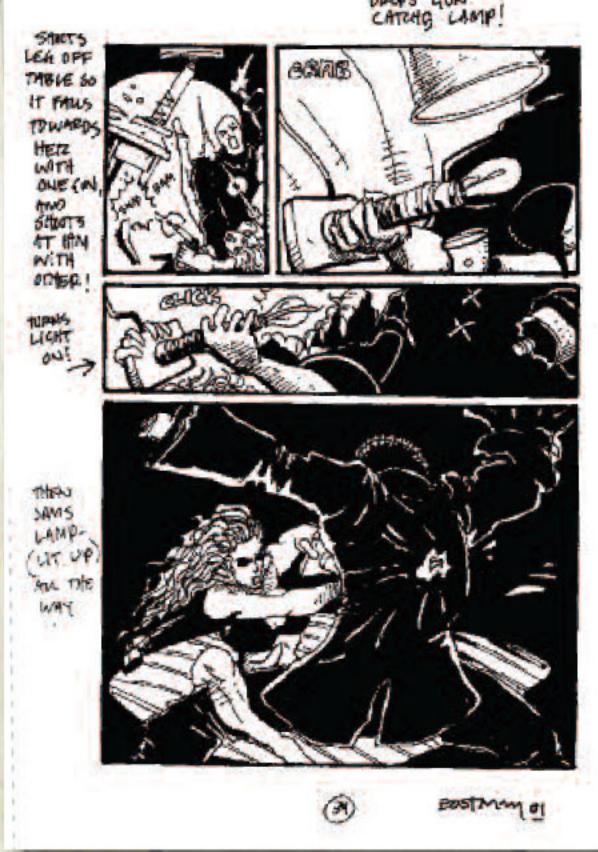






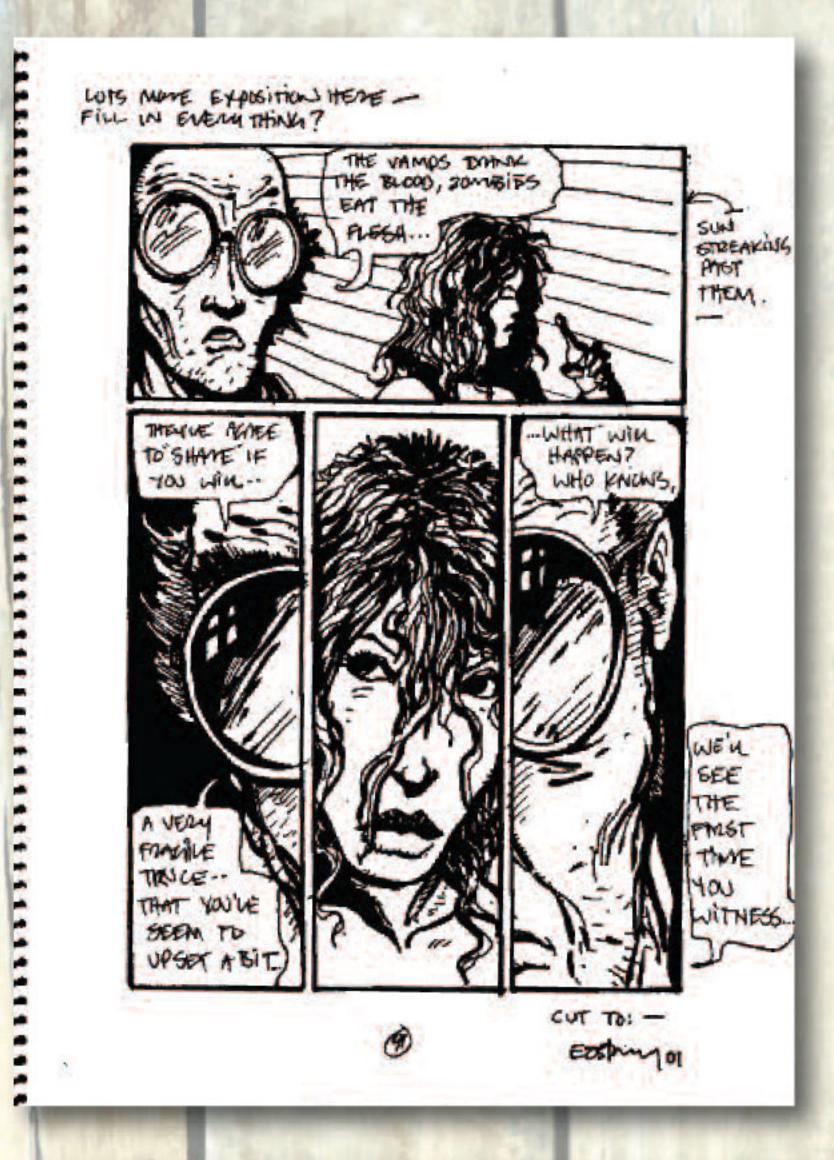






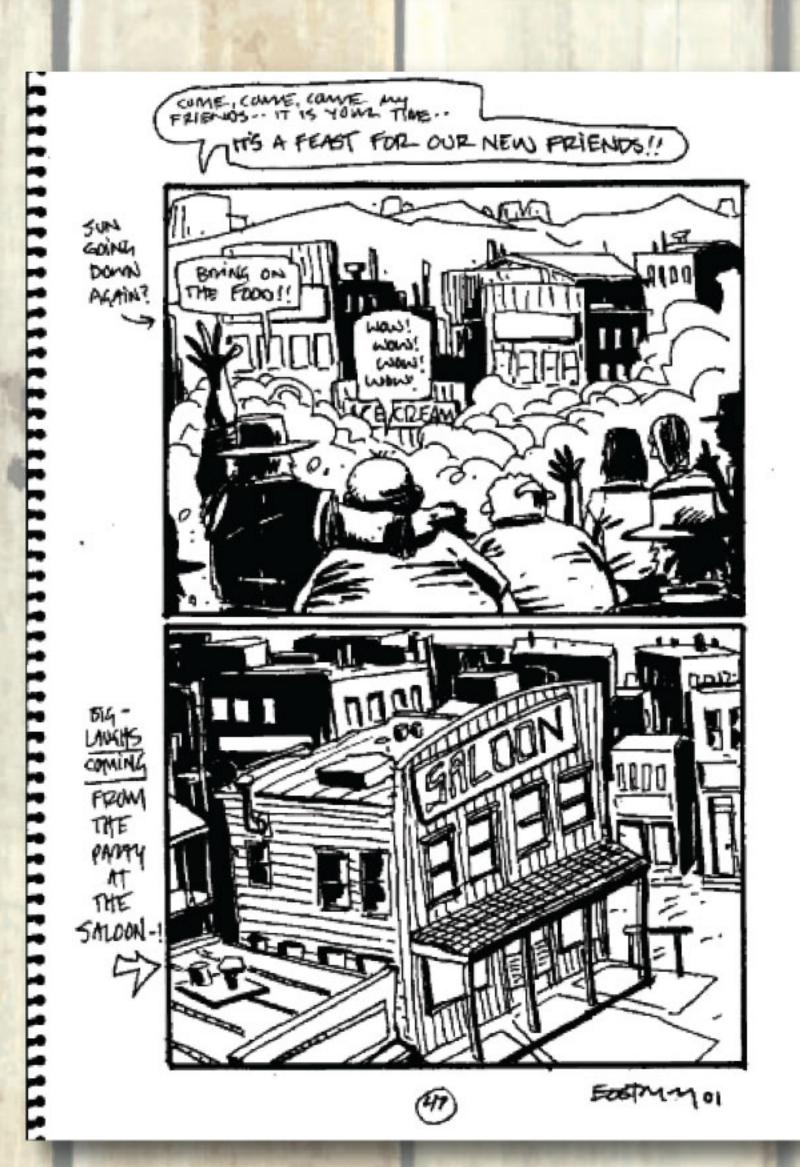


















Like in the first extras section, I wanted to share some more of the original character designs I did before they were Simonized. Simon's designs worked very well for the comic/graphic novel, but I had designed the story overall as something I could direct as a film, so the characters looked more "normal" if you will, something I could do with a limited budget of prosthetics and in-camera effects. The film project is something I still want to do, and the options are still very much alive— I'll give you more insight on that next issue. A lot has changed since the original graphic novel; I finished a few drafts of a

screenplay, and much more.

Let's check out some more of my original layouts from 2001. Hard to imagine these were done fourteen years ago, as many of the ideas in them still seem fresh in my mind. Simon and I used this system of working together from very early on, like most of the work I did with Peter Laird back in the TMNT days, Simon and I work out a basic script for the story, and I would break everything down in layouts, and we'd often enlarge and light table the layouts into finished art, which was a great way to capture and keep the energy from the more gesture-style sketching there, in the final art.

So once I completed my rough script for FOB, I did these layouts for Simon to work from, he liked the process, as what needed to be covered on each page was already worked out, and he could focus on making each panel cooler.



Next issue, I'll have more characters and layouts to show you, but I'll also get into some of the early adventures of working to get this funded and made into a film. Besides re-writing the story into a full script,

I also did about two hundred pages of storyboards, and tons of set and additional character art. I'm excited to share some of that work, most of it has never been seen before. I think you'll get a kick out of it.



FISTIFUL OF

Howdy! I hope you enjoyed the third installment of "Fistful of Blood!" The action really starts to heat up here, not that books one and two were all that light on it! But in this installment, Blondie's plan really starts to take shape, but then spins out of control in a big way.

Much like the film that inspired this twisted tale of ours, around this point in the movie, and this comic, the main character understands clearly the horrific place the family trapped in the middle of this gang war is in, and decided to do something about it. She pretends to join the side of one gang, and then the other, she then lures them outside of the town, hoping while they're gone to

help the family escape. She'll deal with the gangs when they return, in this case with explosives, but gets caught! She gets beaten up, badly, and the hotel manager helps her escape.

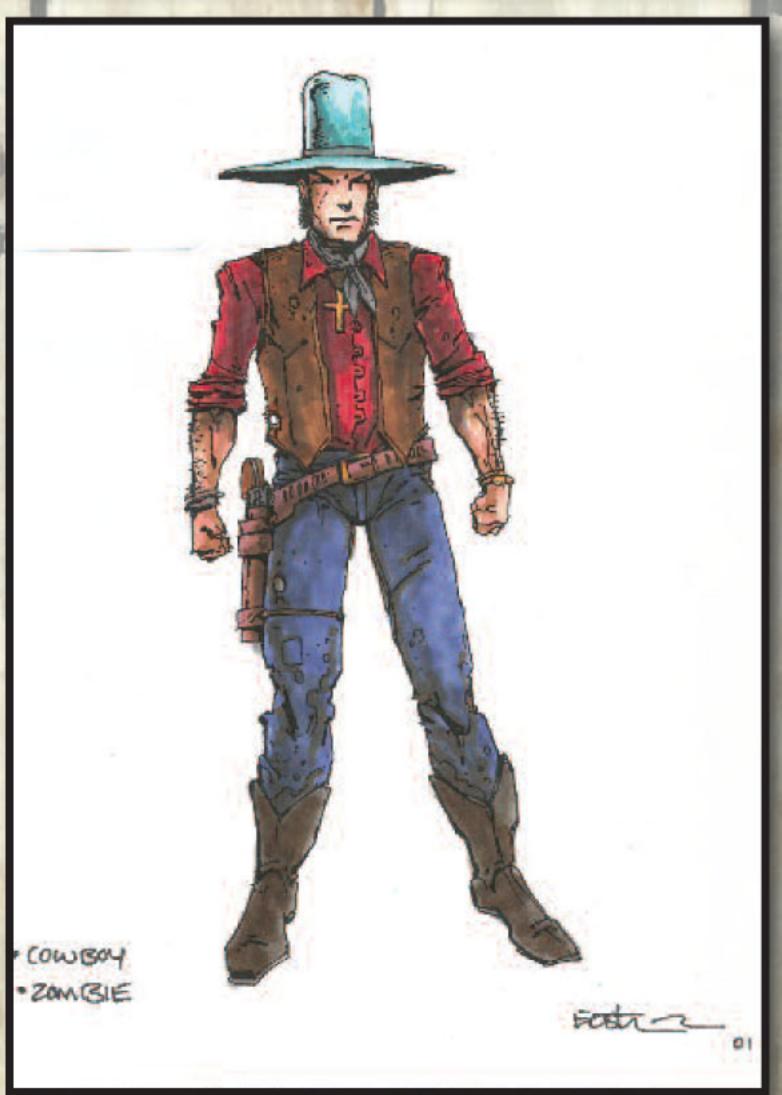
Like so many "Shoulders of Giants" I and many other pop culture creators stand firmly upon, Akira Kurosawa was said to have been inspired to do Yojimbo after reading Dashiell Hammett's "Red Harvest" novel. Sergio Leone grew up on John Ford and John Wayne westerns, and well, I'm a fan of all of those. And hell, fifty more years of cool movies and comics that have come out since.

Years after I finished the graphic novel with Simon, I reworked the entire story into a film script with my pal Josi Konski and Paul Jenkins, taking much of the story in a wide variety of directions. We dug in deep on all the characters' backstory and personalities, changing many of them back to the original drawing I did, adding additional characters, and so much more. It was fun to take it to that place, and since the film script that was completed in 2005, I've done two more rewrites since, and am working on a third—ten years later! I'm hoping the story is getting better, I guess if the film gets made, we'll find out then.

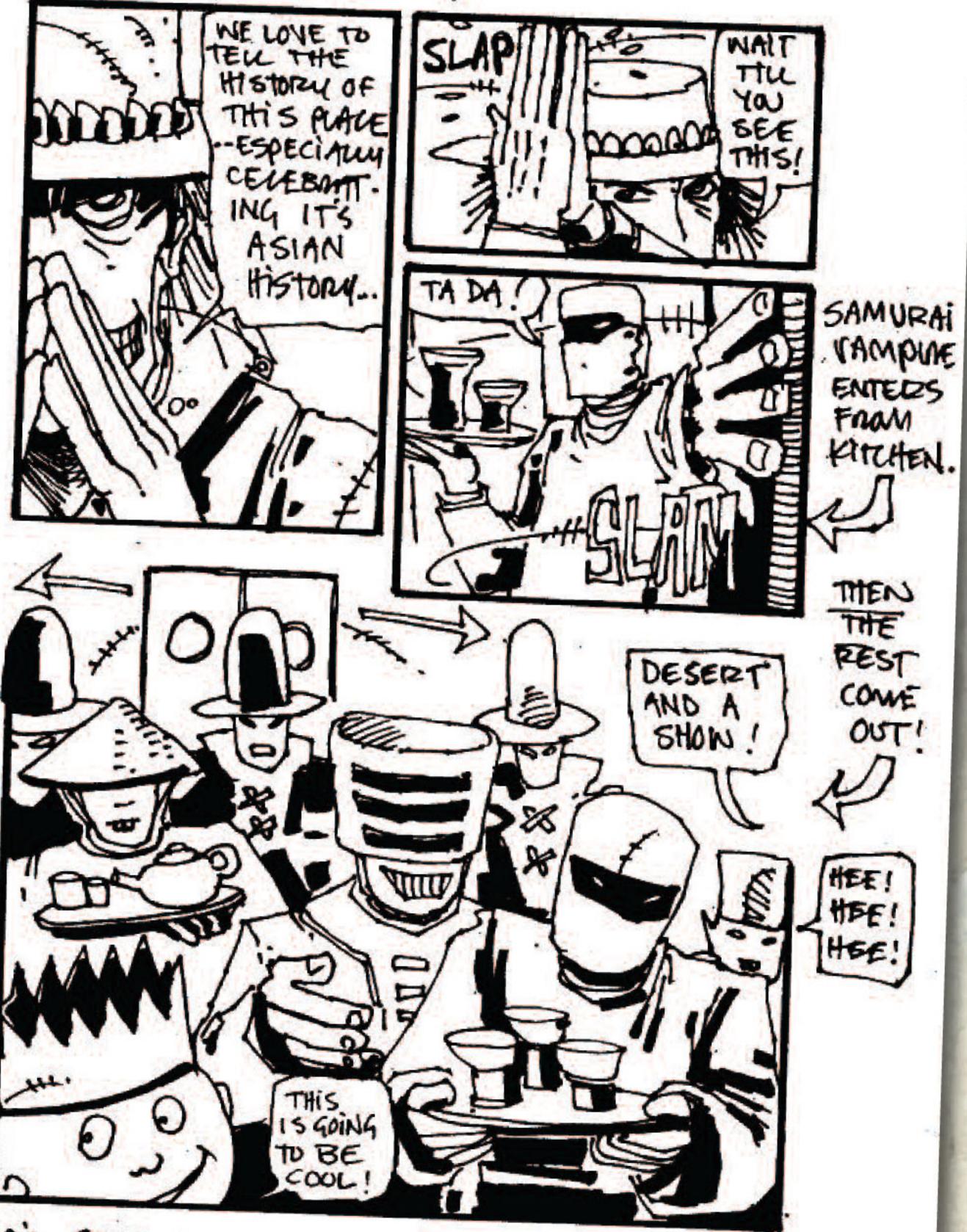
Around 2010, during one of the re-writes, I actually came up with a concept for a part two and three, loosely based on "For a Few Dollars More" and the epic "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." Both ideas will see the light of day... one day, either as a comic series or some other form — but for now let's see where this first tale takes me.







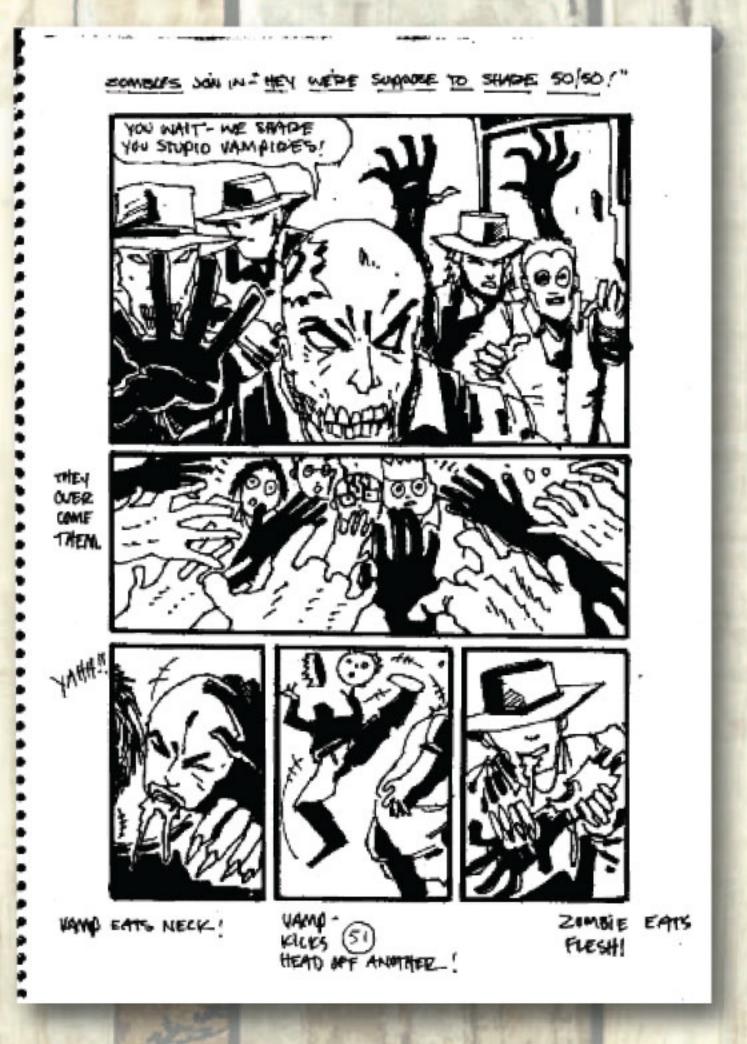
LEAD ZOMBIE INTRODUCES A NEW SHOW



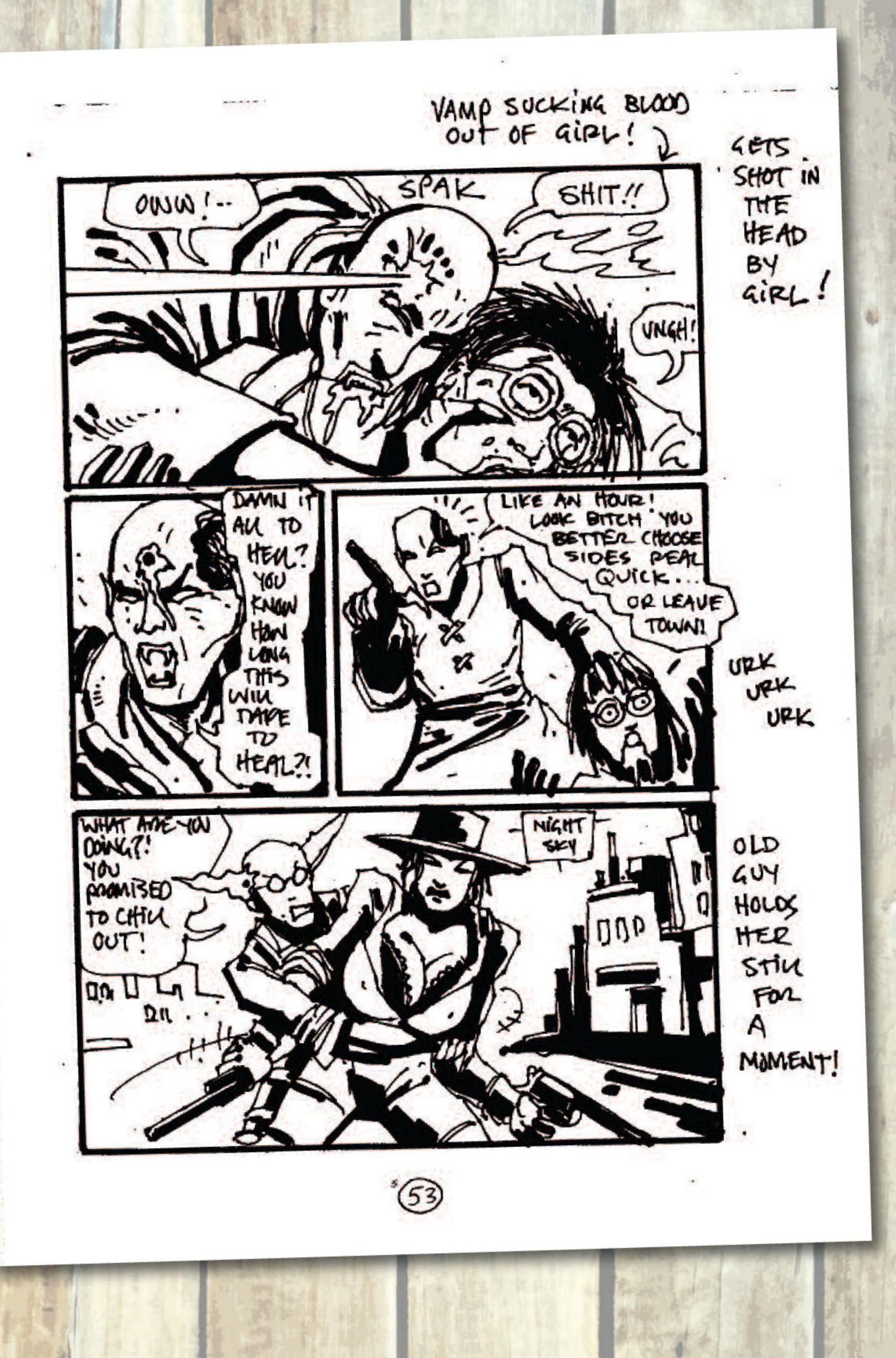
VAMP'S SUPPOUND
TABLE OF TOURISTS. (49)

HENN HAROW









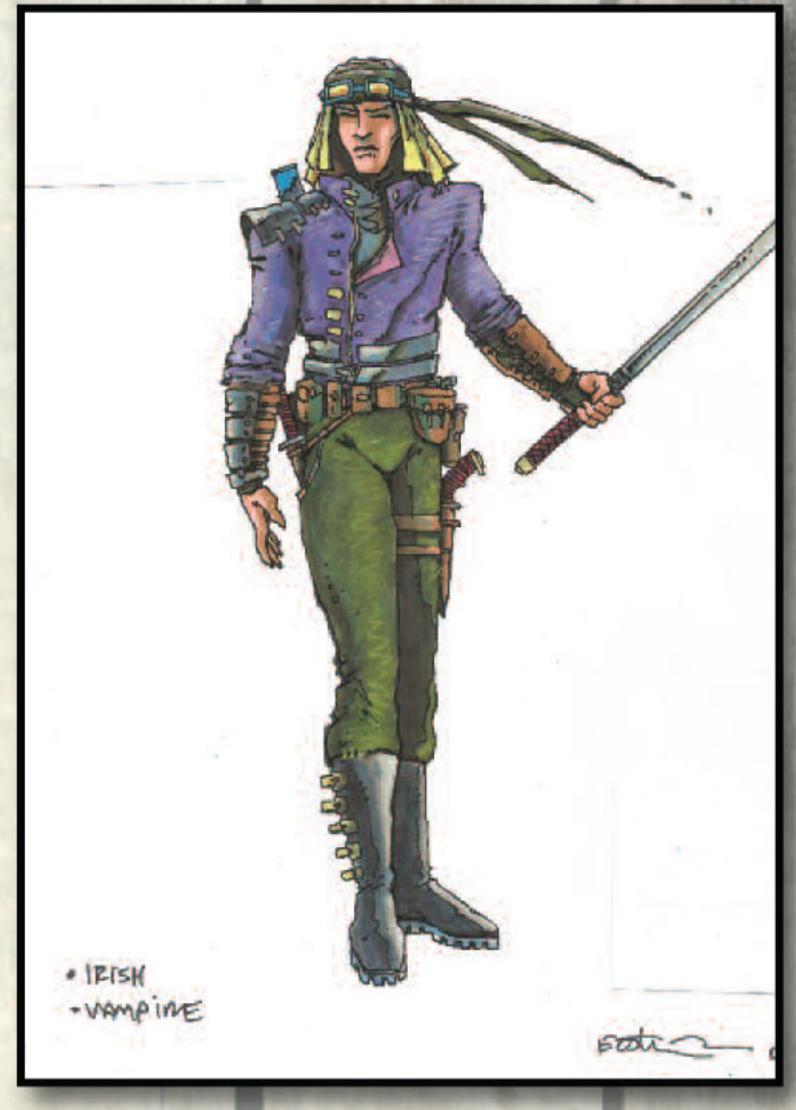














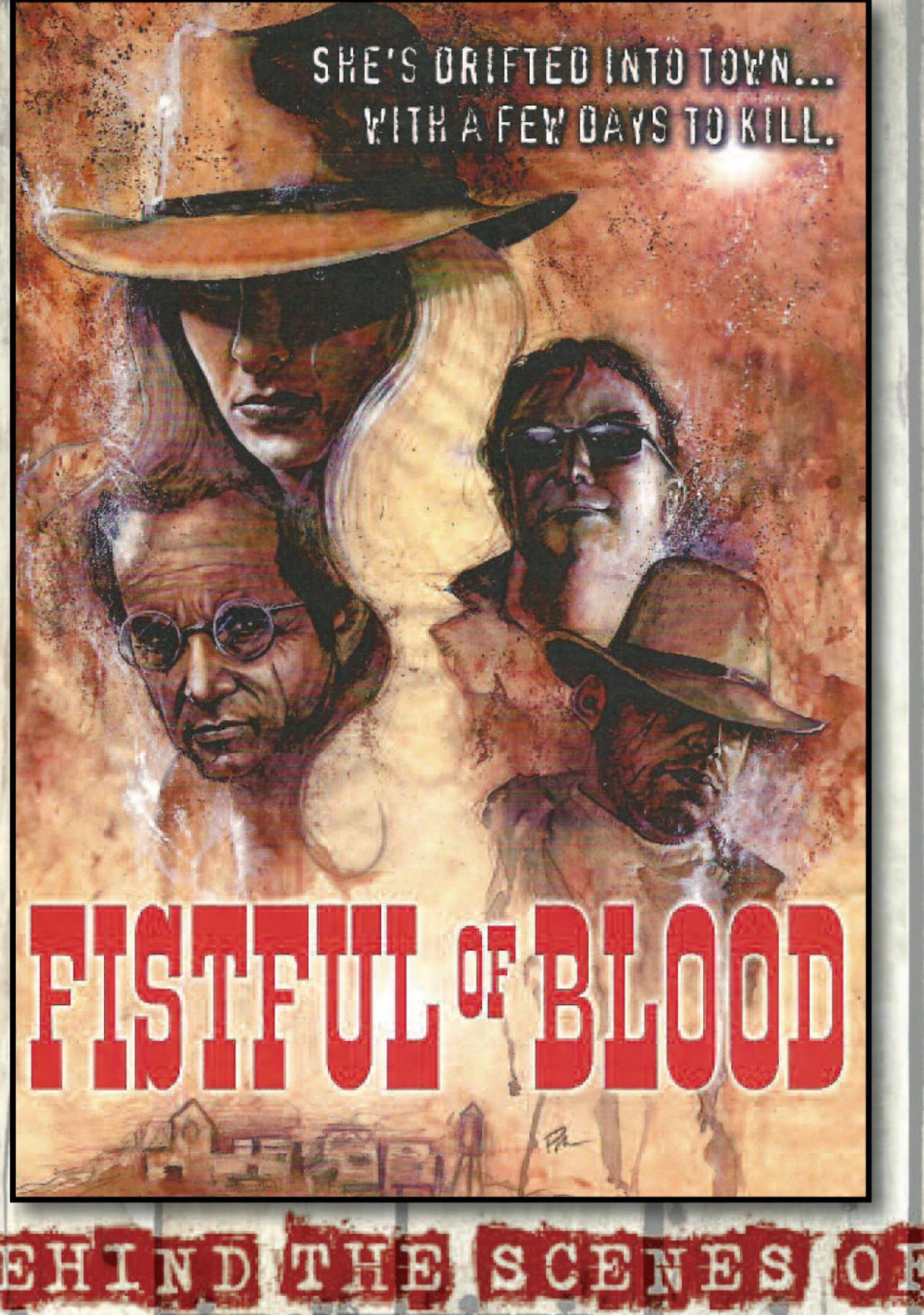
Let's talk about boob size for a minute. Yes, I'm laughing as I write this, as it is no secret that Simon Bisley is a fan of big boobs. I'm not saying that I'm not, (still laughing) but one thing that tended to happen in this series, as we worked in the same studio space when drawing most of it, that the later at night we worked, as I passed on the layouts, and Simon finished the pages, the boobs got bigger, much bigger. By three or four in the morning they got huge. Sometimes the main character's outfit would change as well... Again, not that there is anything wrong with that, but that was one of the main "continuity" things I wanted to correct when inking and doing all the grey tones for the re-release. As I touched on last issue, there were so many continuity problems with the ninety-six page story: time of day, look of all the main character constantly changing, etc., etc., etc. Back then I just kinda gave up trying to keep it all straight and let it roll out no matter what. Well, this time around I wanted to reel much of that back in, and try to get it a little closer to the original vision I had. I have gotten a few notes from some of the original fans, concerned that IDW censored the work for some reason. I just want to make it clear, all the tweaks and changes in this version were my decision, and mine alone.

Like most artists, I am my own worst critic, but I have had the time of my life re-mastering this story into something I hope the original fans will like as much, and people checking it out for the first time would just find it cool, period. Perhaps we'll do a special edition one day that could include both versions...



In the last "Extras" section in book two, I promised you a sneak peek into the movie development work, and there is a ton of it. I decided I'll save that for the book four section—as I can talk about both the evolution of the story and characters, and make some cool points that

would be better served once you finished the last issue. Okay, back to the drawing board: I'm wrapping up the last few pages of book four as I write this now, can't wait for you to see what happens there...



FISHE SCENES OF

It's the last ROUND UP—ISSUE FOUR! Well, at least for now. Hopefully they'll be a bunch more stories in the world of *Fistful of Blood*. I guess that depends on how much you liked this one!

In the "Behind the Scenes" sections of the last three issues, I pretty much spilled all the history part of this project: the original inspirations, the first version published by *Heavy Metal*, and the remastering/coloring of this version. I have teased you along the way about the concept of doing this as a film, something I would like to direct.

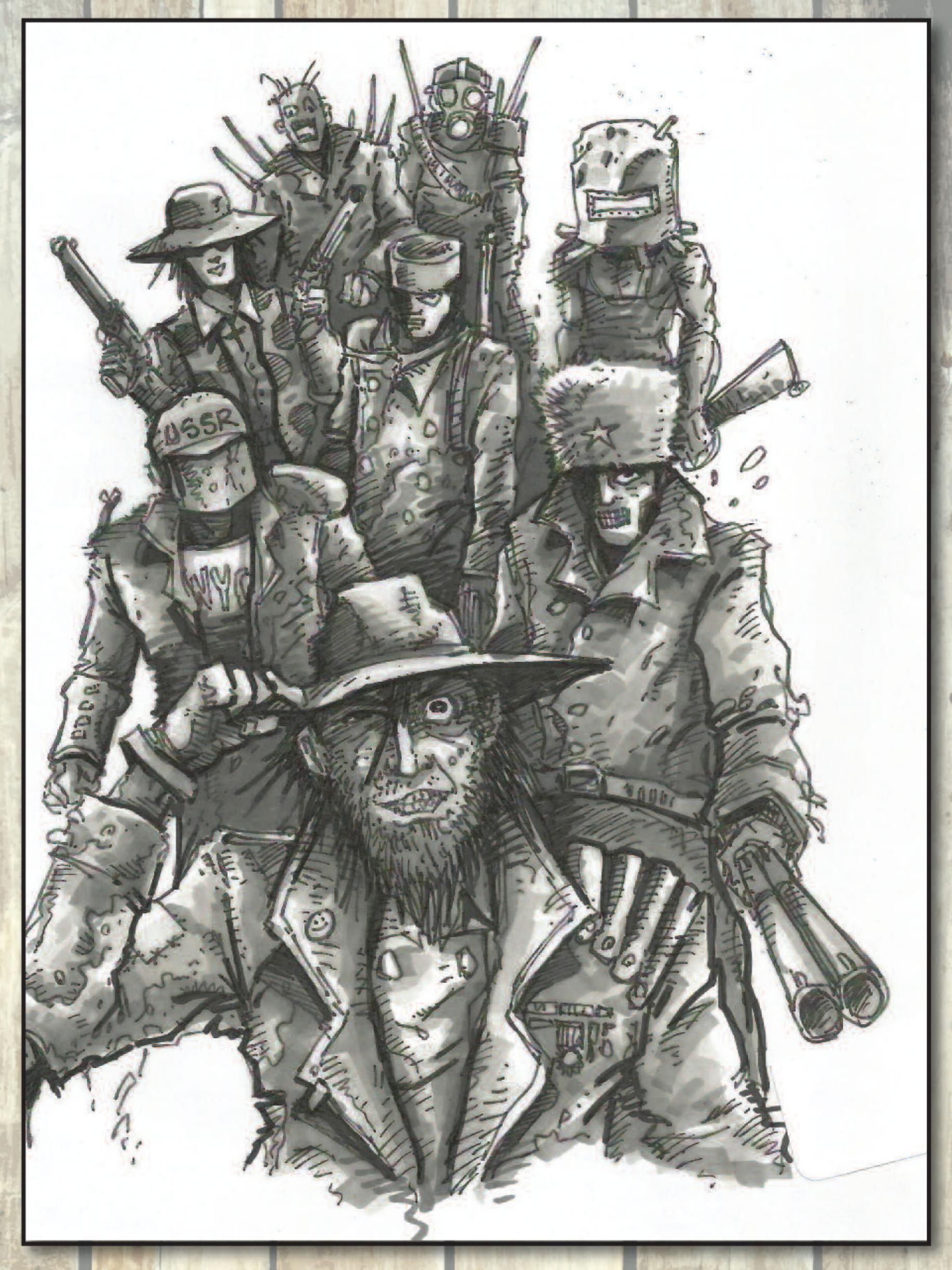
That will be left up to the "Gods of Funding" in Hollywood to see if that ever happens. Along the way, a

few years after the original series and graphic novel was published, I did a lot of preparation on the film side, and later partnered with Co-owner/Producer Josi Konski to do a lot more. I did a lot of concept art and a few drafts of a script in the early 2000's, as well as a ton of storyboards, and another few drafts of the script with Josi and Paul Jenkins in 2005 and 2006. I'm currently working on a revised draft now, let's see if that is the one that can take it all the way to the big screen.

The title page image above is an early 2000's movie poster concept my buddy Rob Prior did, as part of our pitch package/presentation. Very cool.



During the first round of development for the movie pitch, I also worked with Rob Prior on the possible re-design of many of my original character concepts. Here's a fun sketch of one of the first passes on the Vampires. In one of the later script drafts, I referred to them as "Irish Samurai Vampires."



For the characters I would now refer to as "Russian Cowboy Zombies," this is another concept from the early days I did with Rob Prior. Rob was awesome to work with. He has a great visual sense, and is a very accomplished painter. If the film ever moves forward, I would definitely bring him back in for all the pre-visualization.

EARLY STORYBOARDS: I did about 1100 drawings based on an early version of the script with Rob Prior, this is from the opening sequence, where we first enter the town.

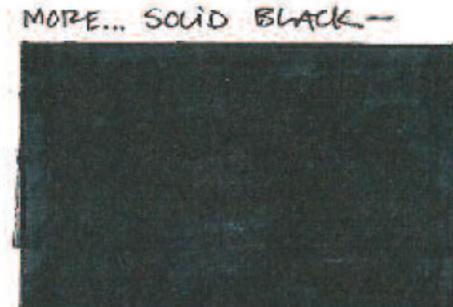


BLOOD - ALL IN SEPTA TONE! Susymm of lonion



SOLID BLACK ...





PAUGE ...



FLASHES OF WHITE-

FADE IN ->



PULL UP OUT OF THE UNDER BRUSH . POU- VERY LOW - GROUND LEVEL . IT GRAVEYARD IN DISTANCE.

MOVING FORWARD! TO GRAVE YARD. MIGHT.



INTO GRAVEYARD-NIGHT.

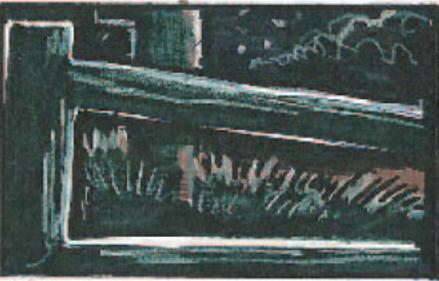
FISTFUL! OF BLOOD - ALL IN SEPIA TONE! ECOTION OF DIOR

PAGE



UPSHOT.

CAN RUN MORE CREDITS OVER THESE IMAGES -> ALL LOW SOOTS! - - CHURCH-



NIGHT- OUT OF GRAVE YARD INTO DESERT. THROUGH FENCE.



PAST CACTUS - DESERT.



POU- RIGHT TO CHURCH .

FIRST

POST ->

TOWN



PON-LEFT TO TOWN!



PON- TOWARDS TOWN - UP TO FIRST SIGN. R SECOND SIGN IN BACK GROUND.



SIGN- TO SECOND SIGN.

NIGHT-NEARING DAMN!

EARLY STORYBOARDS: To better set up the history and story behind the Russian Cowboy Zombies, I extended the first scene of them in their "SALOON" headquarters.

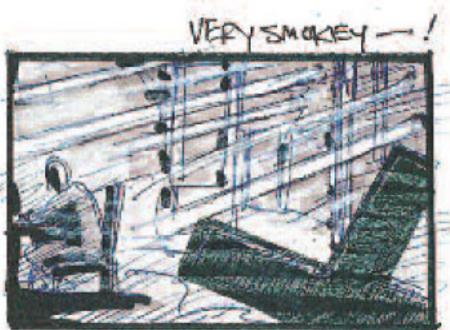


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LONG POU PAN ACROSS EALDON - MORNING SUNLIGHT





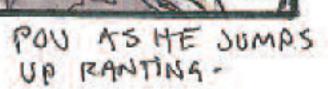


SLOW PAN ALPUSS TITE SALOON BAR-ROOM - ALL THE CHARACTERS - CROSSES - CIGHT

CON BOY ZOMBIES TAUS MORE

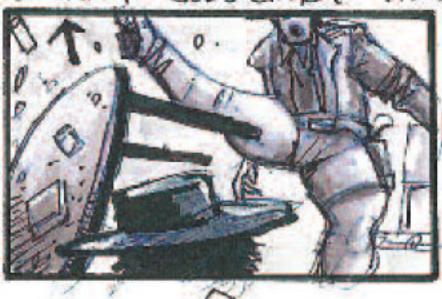
DMITRIY CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MONE -!







DMITRIY - GOES CRAZY - PISSED.



KICKS TABLE OVER!

FISTFUL OF BLOOD EUSTRIN 05/ PRIOR.



INT. SALDON MORNING -



DMITRIY STOMPHIG AROUND FREAKING OUT - WALKS OVER -





UNDER ONE OF THE COWBOY ZOMBIES - THEN WALKS OVER TO BAR ANEA -

DMITRIY-



WACKS HAT OFF ZOMBIE



THEN SMASHES HIS STUFFED TURTUE.



AND POURS HIMSELF A SHOT STILL PANTING! -

EARLY STORYBOARDS: I wanted the fight scenes in the film to be as epic as I could make them, using practical in-camera effects. Here are some of the extended sequences for Blondie's first shootout with the Zombies.

FISTFUL OF BLOOD

EBSMM 05 price



BLOWDIE CLOSE UP - SHE GETS IT! OTHER FOUR THINK SHE'S UNARMED ... AND MOVE IN FOR THE KILL!



THESE GUYS DIE FROM HEAD 5HOTS!





BLONDIE - PULLS TWO GUNS OF DEAD COURSY ZOMBIE #6-





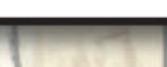
DMITRIY UM. DMITRY SAYS -- "WATT WHAT ABOUT NIEDLI'S GUNS ?!"



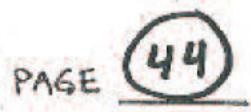
pop up over THE BAR AND MAY DOWN SOME COVERING FIRE. T



A PEW TIMES - STUPPING THEM IN THEIR TRACKS -



FISTFUL OF BLOOD EXETMIN 05 PMIOR



EXT. HOTEL CLINT ON PORCH - FREAKING - THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE - A GUNFIGHT LIKE THIS -- WITH A WOMAN?





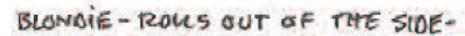


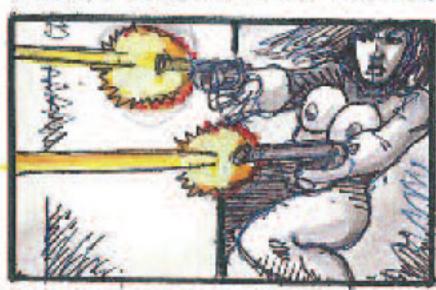




MAY BE THEY DE FIGHTING OVER HER?

sumps cutar





- OF THE BAR BLAZING AWM!



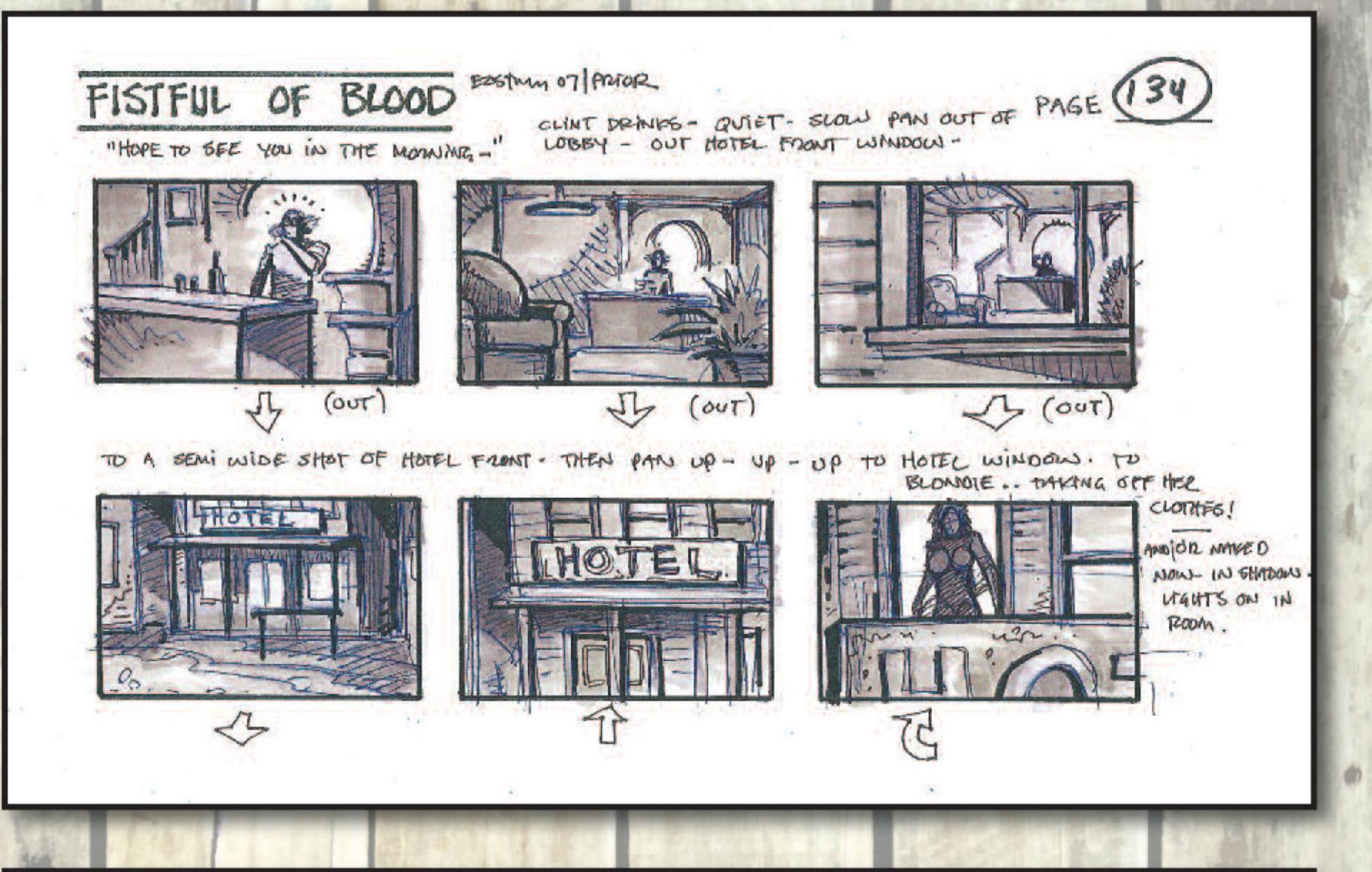


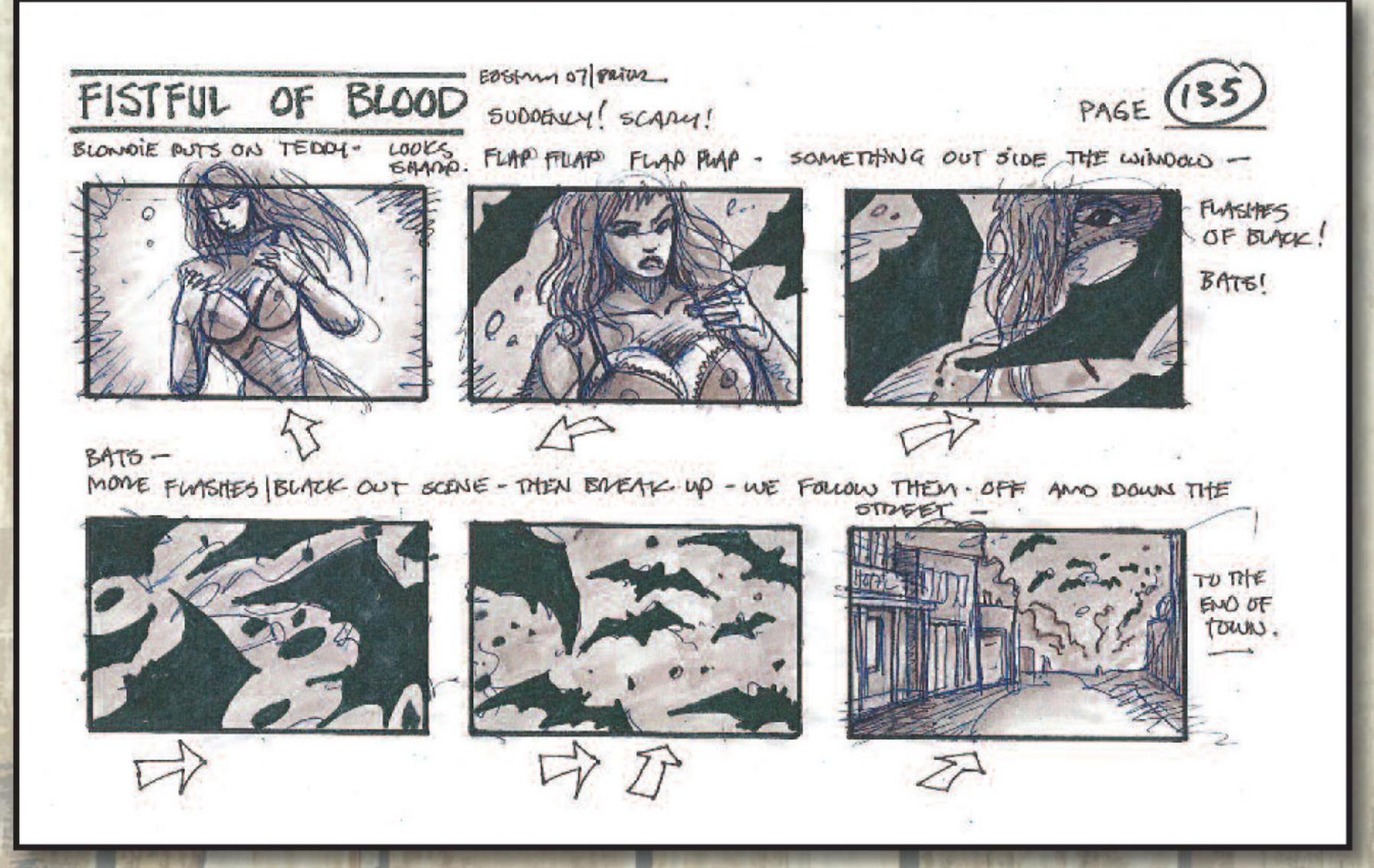




AS THE POUL ACROSS THE SALDON FLOOR -

EARLY STORYBOARDS: And finally, I wanted all the transitions to be highly stylized, and funky. Here's part of one of my favorites, just before Blondie first meets the Irish Samurai Vampires. Fun stuff!







So, with the past and present for Fistful of Blood all laid out here, lets see what the future will bring. I hope you enjoyed the re-master version of the series, and come back and hang with us if I get to do more. With that, I want to thank all the cool folks at IDW for making this happen— especially Bobby Curnow and Robbie Robbins—as well as give a HUGE shout out

to co-creator Simon Bisley, co-owner Josi Konski, cover artist James Ryman (additional covers for issues 2, 3, and 4) and the incredible Tomi Varga, who did an amazing job coloring this beast! The icing on the cake here, is this awesome pin-up by Josh Zingerman and colored by Tomi. Sweet.



COVER BY SIMON DISLEY



SIMON DISLEY & KEVIN EASTMAN





COVER BY JAMES RYMAN







JAMES RYMAN



SIMON DISLEY & KEVIN EASTMAN





COVER BY JAMES RYMAN





SIMON DISLEY & KEVINEASTMAN