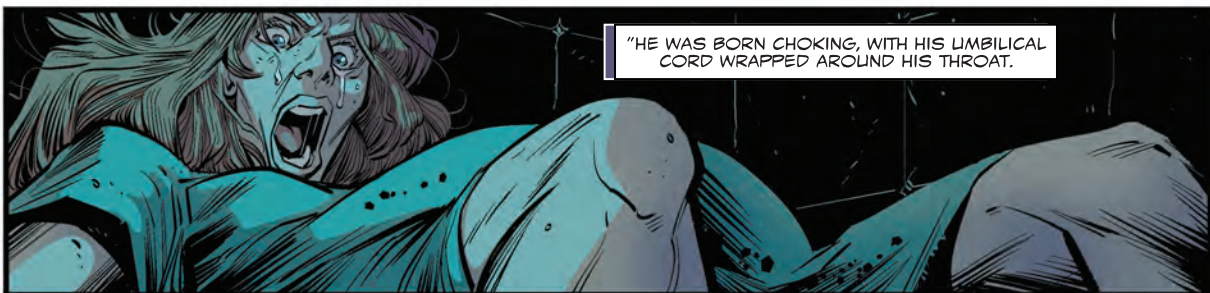




"CLETUS KASADY WAS BORN ON A WEDNESDAY IN THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

"IT WAS ALSO HERE, ON THIS VERY TERRIBLE NIGHT, THAT CLETUS KASADY DIED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.



"HE WAS BORN CHOKING, WITH HIS UMBILICAL CORD WRAPPED AROUND HIS THROAT.



"NO ONE CARED.

"AND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF SAID INFANT STRANGLING, CLETUS KASADY DIED NINETEEN MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS AFTER HE WAS BORN.



"BUT THEN...HE WAS REBORN.

"AND NO ONE TO THIS DAY KNOWS WHY.



"CLETUS KASADY CLAIMS TO REMEMBER THIS MOMENT.

"THE DYING.



"AND IF YOU ASK HIM WHAT THIS MEMORY OF DYING CONSISTED OF, EXACTLY...

"...HE WOULD TELL YOU THAT NINETEEN MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS AFTER HE WAS BORN...



"...HE WAS SENT TO HELL.

"WHEN PRESSED ABOUT THE MEMORY, KASADY VIVIDLY TESTIFIED TO A COURT-APPOINTED PSYCHOLOGIST THAT WHEN HE AWOKE IN HELL, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRAPPED...IN A CAGE...



"...IN AN ENDLESS BLACK ABYSS.



"IT WAS THIS INITIAL TRAUMA, THIS FEELING OF **BEING CAGED**, THE PSYCHOLOGIST STATED, THAT FORMED THE FOUNDATIONS OF CLETUS' PARTICULAR... DEVOTION.




"YOU SEE, IN CLETUS' MIND...HE WAS NEVER MUTILATING HIS VICTIMS...



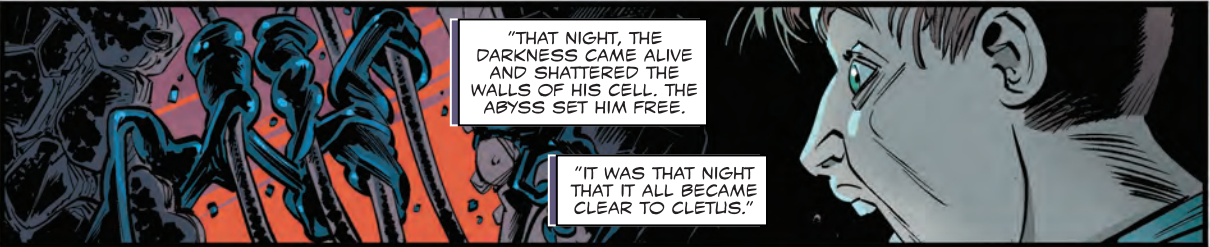
"...HE WAS SETTING THEM FREE.



"IT IS PERHAPS COSMICALLY FITTING THAT CLETUS' SECOND REBIRTH WOULD BEGIN..."



"...INSIDE THE WALLS OF A PRISON."



"THAT NIGHT, THE DARKNESS CAME ALIVE AND SHATTERED THE WALLS OF HIS CELL. THE ABYSS SET HIM FREE."

"IT WAS THAT NIGHT THAT IT ALL BECAME CLEAR TO CLETUS."



"WHAT HE WAS DOING. WHO HE WAS."


"WHAT HE HAD BEEN PUT ON THIS EARTH TO *BECOME*."

"HIS DESTINY. HIS FATE."



"IN THAT MOMENT, WHETHER HE KNEW IT OR NOT..."

"...HE BECAME AN AGENT OF THE VOID."



"THAT DAY HE LEARNED THE TRUTH."

"THERE IS NO RIGHT. NO WRONG. NO BLACK OR WHITE."



"THERE IS ONLY *LIFE* AND *DEATH*."

"*BLOOD* AND THE *ABYSS*."

"THE UNIVERSE IS *BLACK* AND *RED*."

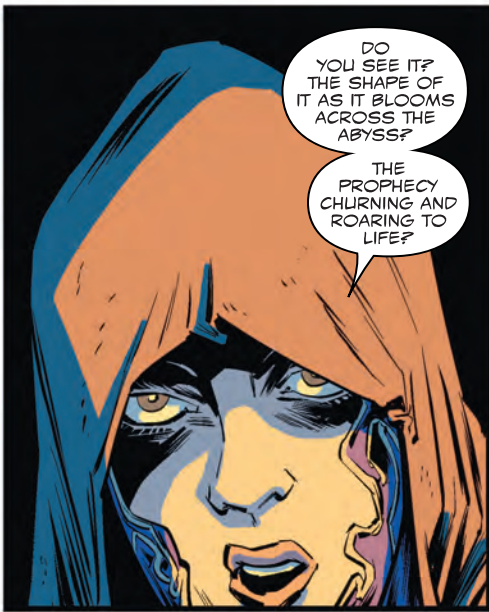
"TRUTH IS *CHAOS*..."

"...GOD IS
CARNAGE."





AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A GRAND, NEW DARK HAS COME.



DO YOU SEE IT? THE SHAPE OF IT AS IT BLOOMS ACROSS THE ABYSS?

THE PROPHECY CHURNING AND ROARING TO LIFE?



MANY HAVE WORN OUR GOD'S LIVING DARKNESS, STUMBLING INTO IT. UPON IT.

BUT THE DARKNESS *CHOSE* HIM.

KASADY WAS BORN ON THIS EARTH TO SHATTER THE WALLS OF OUR CAGES. HE HAS DIED AND BEEN REBORN FOR US. FOR HIM.



KASADY. HE IS THE ONE.

HE WILL RISE.