

GHOST RIDER

TRAIL OF TEARS



ENNIS
CRAIN

DIRECT EDITION

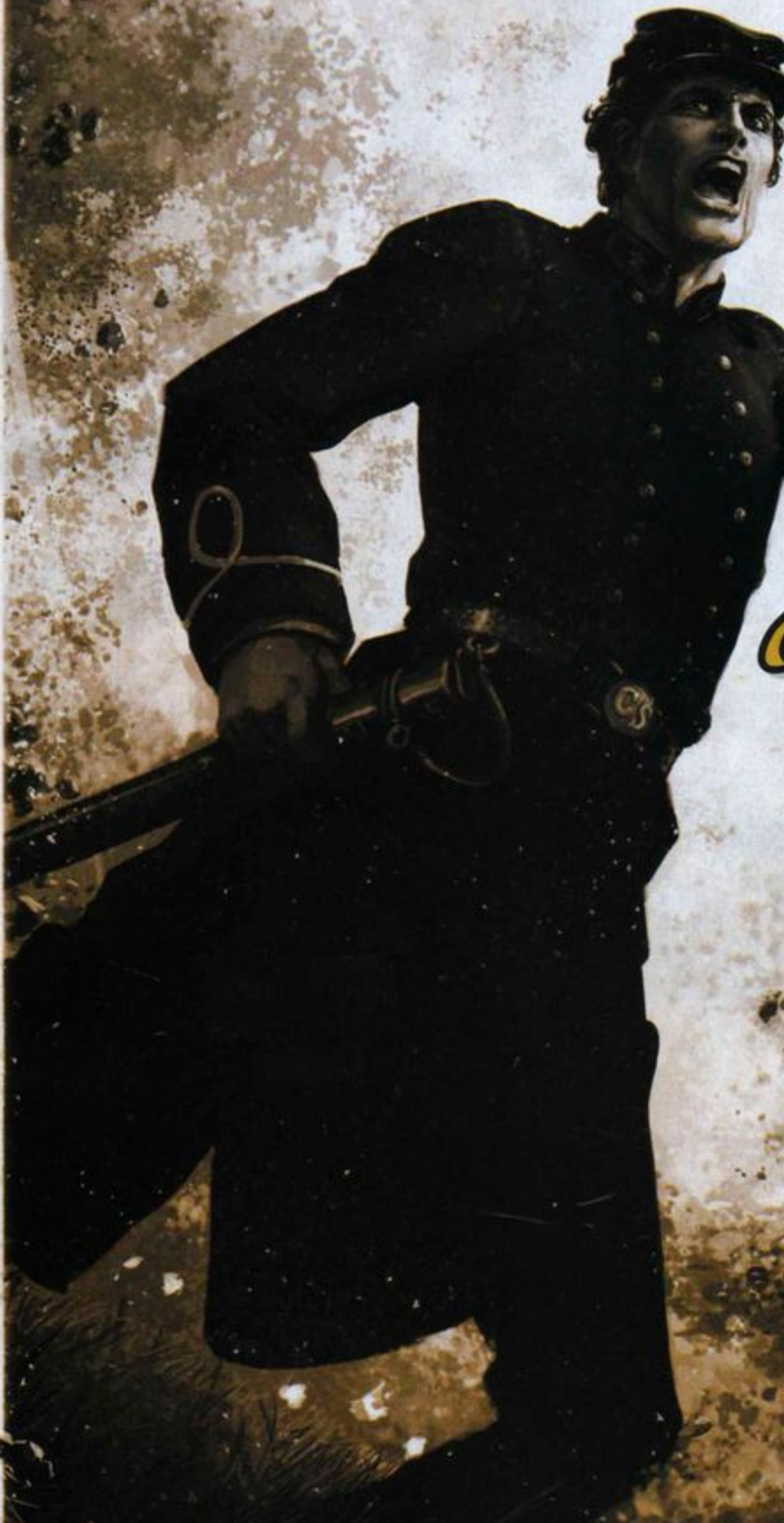
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MEN OF
THE SOUTH,
BE NOT
DISMAYED!

Trail of Tears

Part 1

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T...TO ME,
BOYS....!

AAAAHHH!!
AAAAHHH!!

HEEEEEE!!

R-R-R-RALLY
TO ME!

EEEEEE!!





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING--?

COURAGE,
JOHN! THE
HOSPITAL TENT IS
OVER YONDER!

PARHAM, I
HAVE A HOLE
IN ME A TRAIN
COULD PASS
THROUGH...!



BUT--

HAVE
YOU TURNED
HALFWIT, MAN?
SHOOT ME!

IN THE
NAME OF
GOD ALMIGHTY,
SHOOT
ME!!



I CAN'T DO
THAT--!

YES YOU
CAN, PARHAM!
YES YOU
CAN!



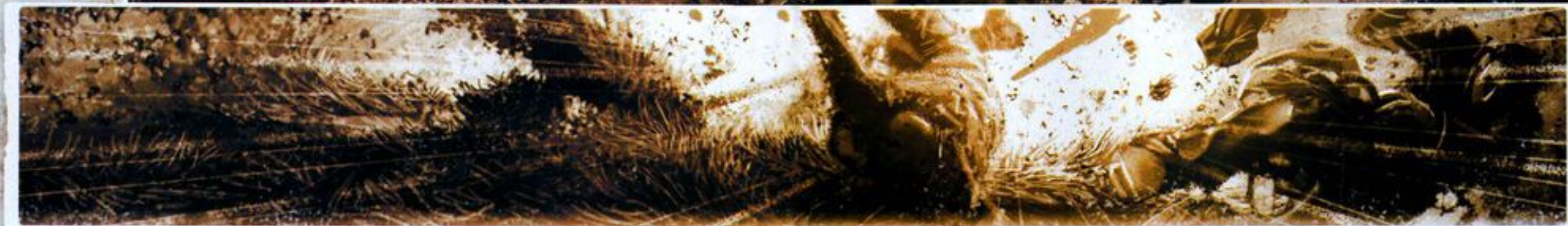
PLEASE.

APPLEBY--

PLEASE.
YOUR COLT
REVOLVER,
DRAW IT AND
USE IT.



LET...LET
SOMETHING
BE ACHIEVED
THIS DAY.





WAAAAHH!!



HNNNNH!
HHNNNNNNHHH!!



DEAR
LORD.
WHOSE
SIDE IS IT
THAT YOU
ARE ON?





UH



UH



UH?



JUST
STEPPED IN
A FELLA'S
GUTS.

YOURS
OR HIS?



H...HIS...
MUST BE
YOUR LUCKY
DAY.



NAME'S
CALEB.

TRAVIS
PARHAM...

DOUBT YOU
CAN WALK, TRAVIS
PARHAM. YOU UP
TO RIDIN'?



YOU
HAVE...A
HORSE...?

I BETTER.
YOU SURE AIN'T
RIDIN' ME.



WHY
ARE YOU
HERE...?

ASK
A LOTTA
QUESTIONS,
TRAVIS
PARHAM.

CALL IT
SALVAGE,
LEAVE IT
AT THAT.



JUST ONE
MORE QUESTION.
AN...AN ANSWER I
MUST HAVE.

WHOSE DAY
WAS THIS, IN
THE END?



WHO
WON...?



MY FAMILY,
JACOB AN'
JOSEPH AN'
THEIR MOMMA,
ESTHER.



I...UH...

HOW
LONG IS IT
SINCE...?

FOUR
DAYS. YOU
BEEN SLEEPIN'
THE WHOLE
TIME.

DUG SOME
IRON OUTTA
YOU, YOU WANNA
LOOK AT THE
PIECES.

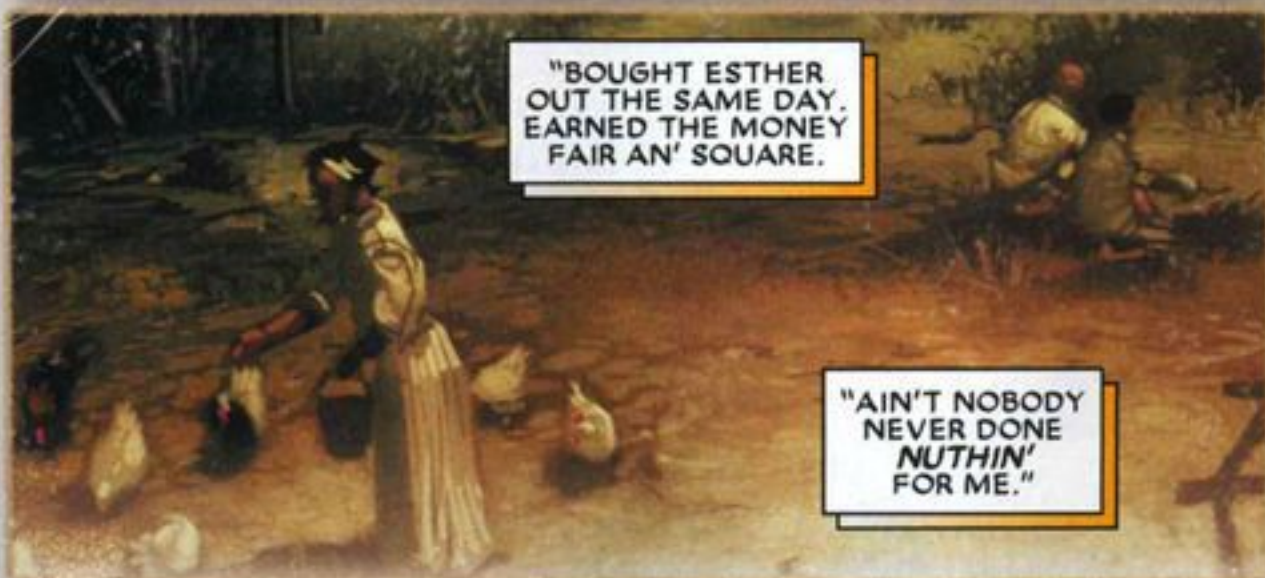


I AM...NOT
YET MYSELF. MY
HEAD FEELS STUFFED
WITH COTTON,
OR THE LIKE.

BOY,
FETCH
ME SOME
WATER...



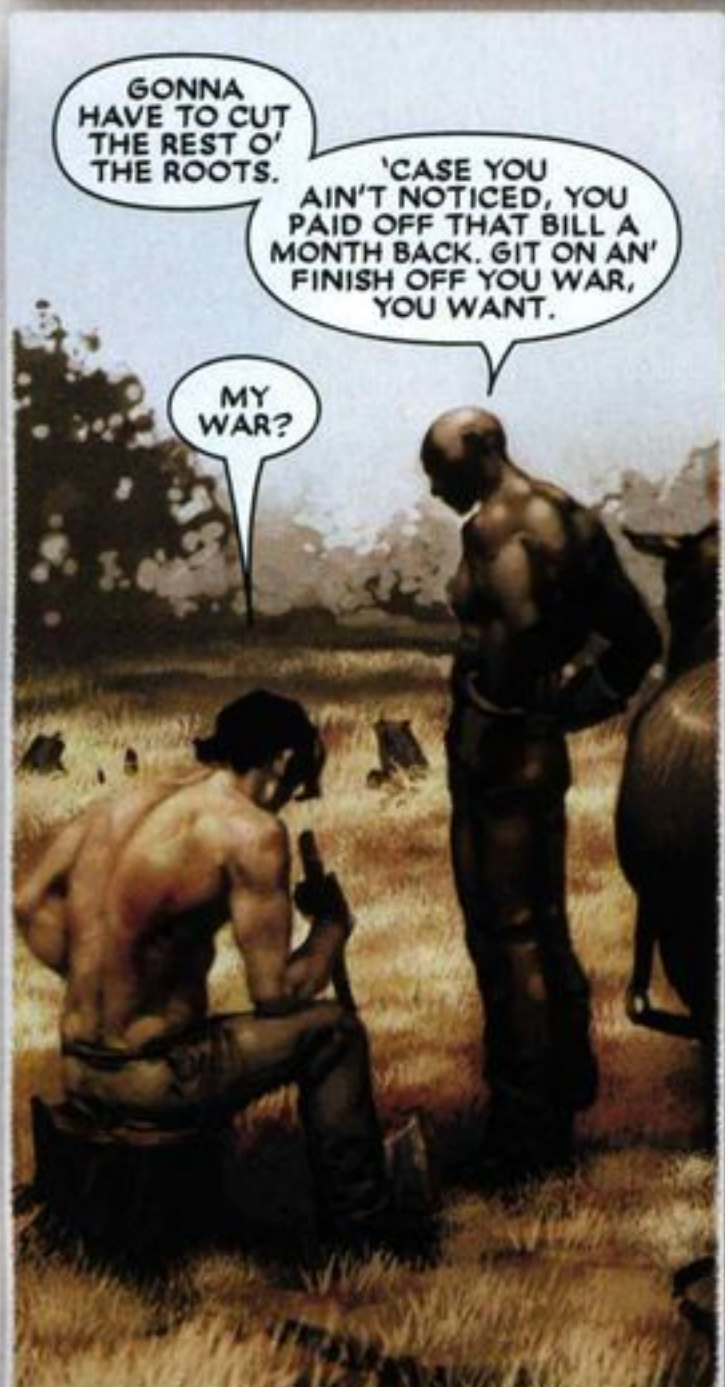
I'LL TAKE
A MOMENT
ALONE WITH
OUR GUEST.





FINE--
STRETCH OF
LAND THAT--
FELLOW SOLD
YOU--

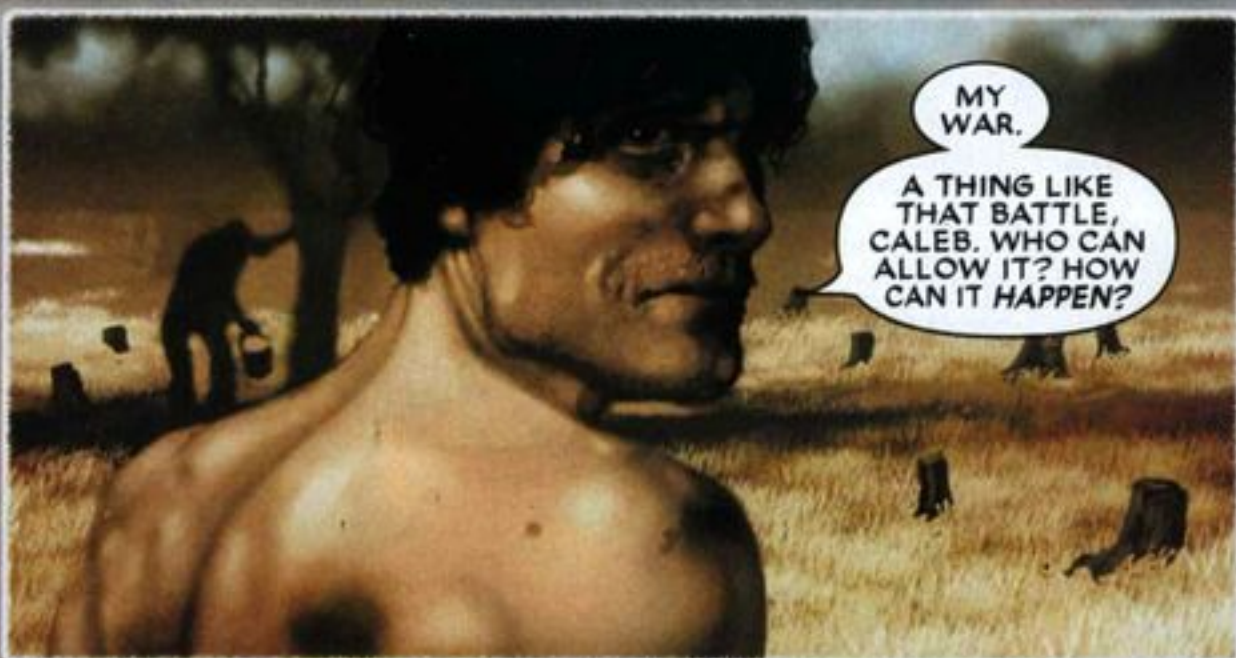
ALMOST
LIKE HE--PICKED
IT OUT FOR ME
SPECIAL--



GONNA
HAVE TO CUT
THE REST O'
THE ROOTS.

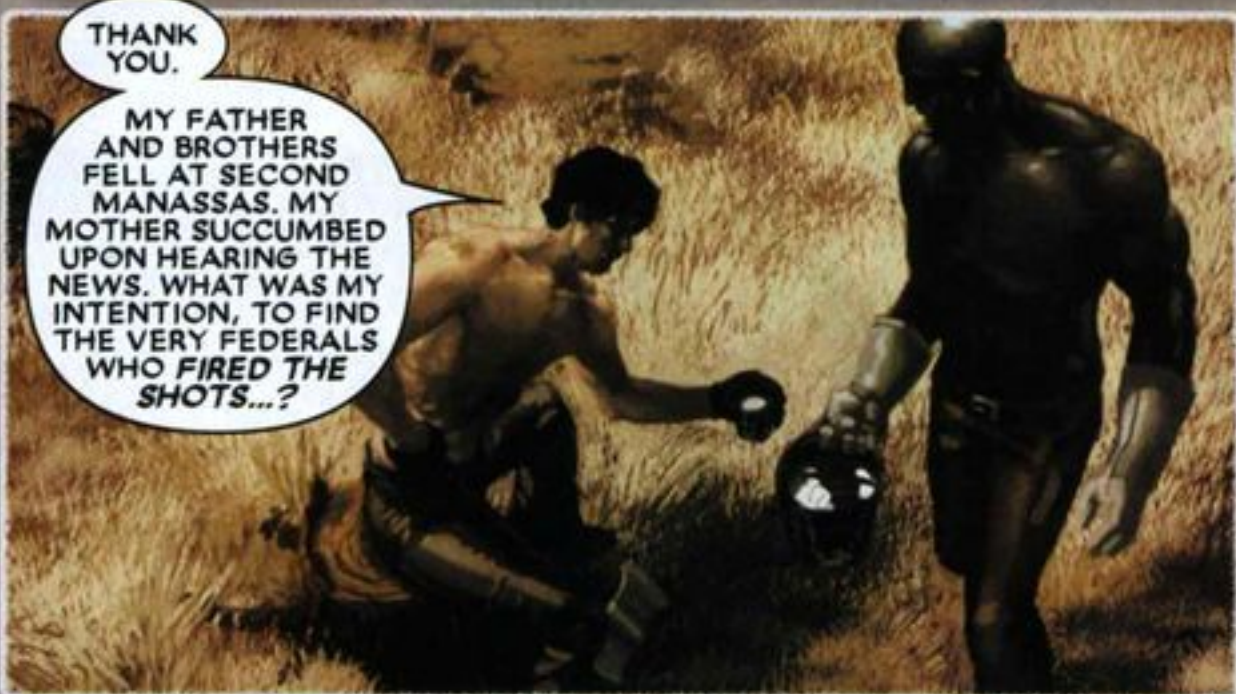
'CASE YOU
AIN'T NOTICED, YOU
PAID OFF THAT BILL A
MONTH BACK. GIT ON AN'
FINISH OFF YOU WAR,
YOU WANT.

MY
WAR?



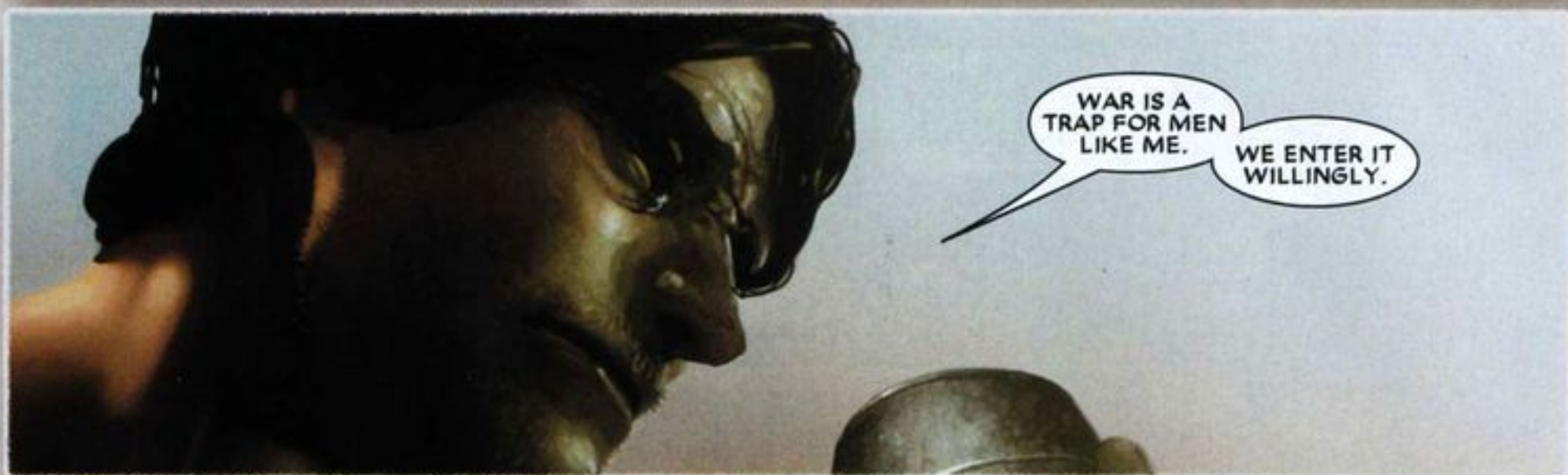
MY
WAR.

A THING LIKE
THAT BATTLE,
CALEB. WHO CAN
ALLOW IT? HOW
CAN IT HAPPEN?



THANK
YOU.

MY FATHER
AND BROTHERS
FELL AT SECOND
MANASSAS. MY
MOTHER SUCCUMBED
UPON HEARING THE
NEWS. WHAT WAS MY
INTENTION, TO FIND
THE VERY FEDERALS
WHO FIRED THE
SHOTS...?



WAR IS A
TRAP FOR MEN
LIKE ME.

WE ENTER IT
WILLINGLY.

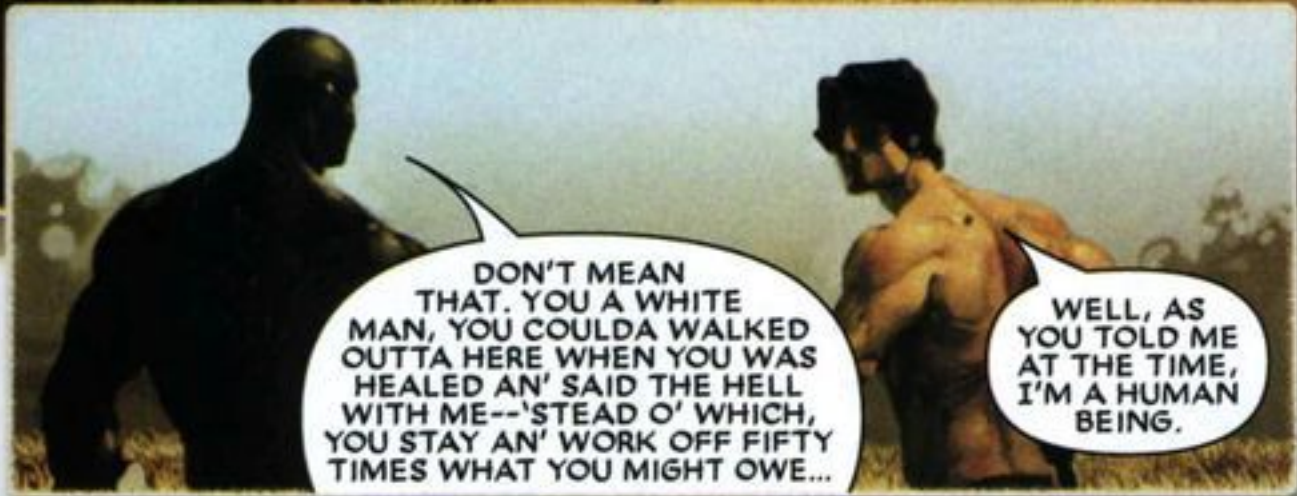


AND THE JAWS
SLAM SHUT, AND
THE RESULT IS A
THING TO SHAME
ALMIGHTY GOD.



YOU A
STRANGE
ONE, TRAVIS
PARHAM.

AN AFTERNOON
IN HELL WILL
RENDER ANYONE
PECULIAR.



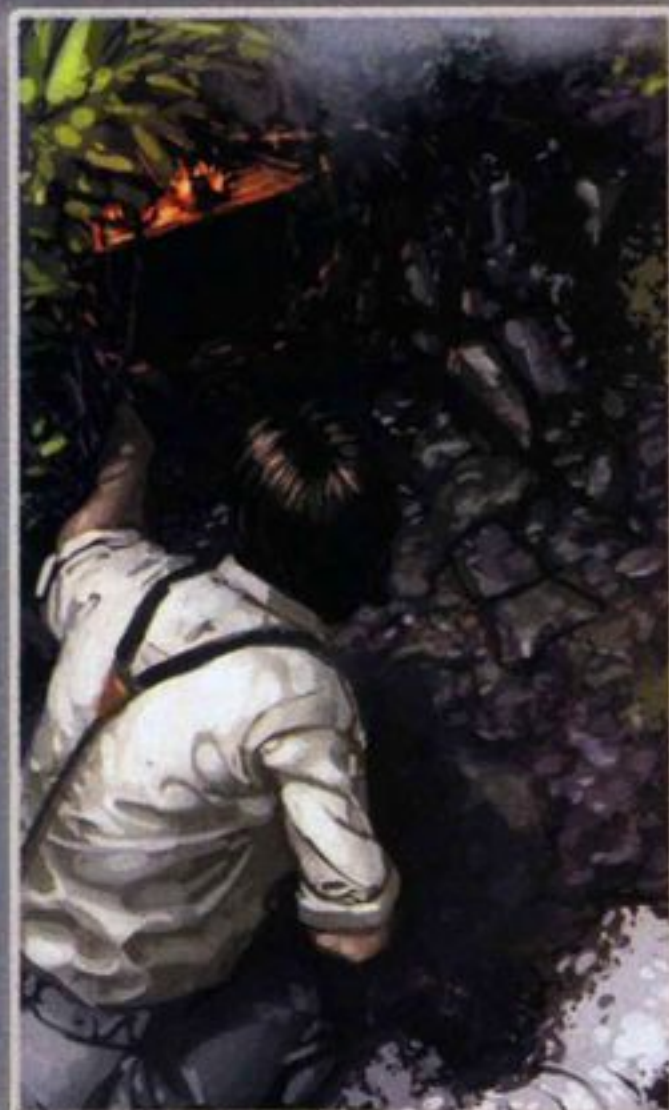
DON'T MEAN
THAT. YOU A WHITE
MAN, YOU COULDA WALKED
OUTTA HERE WHEN YOU WAS
HEALED AN' SAID THE HELL
WITH ME--'STEAD O' WHICH,
YOU STAY AN' WORK OFF FIFTY
TIMES WHAT YOU MIGHT OWE...

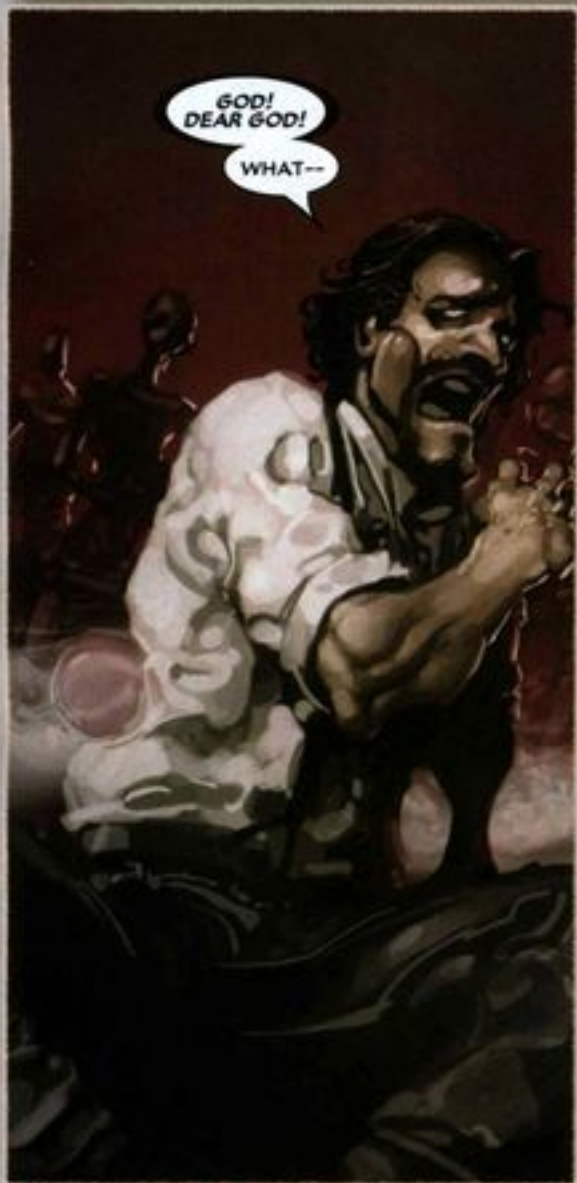
WELL, AS
YOU TOLD ME
AT THE TIME,
I'M A HUMAN
BEING.



AND I HAVE
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING TO GO
HOME TO.

LET'S SEE
IF WE CAN GET
THIS DAMN
THING OUT BY
SUNDOWN.







THEM TREES
WE CLEARED,
YOU CAN SEE
RIGHT THROUGH
TO IT NOW.

DUMB NOT
TO THINK
O' THAT.



SKULLS...

UH-HUH.

MY PA
AN' HIS PA AN'
HIS PA.



WE BRUNG
OUR OWN WAYS WITH
US, WHEN WE WAS TAKEN.
SAY THE DEAD WATCH OVER
THE LIVIN', FATHERS
STAYIN' WITH FAMILIES
THEY RAISED.

BRUNG
OUR OWN
GODS, TOO. THIS
ONE...AIN'T GOT
NO NAME.



HE S'POSED TO
SPEAK TO THE LIVIN'
THROUGH THE DEAD.
'BOUT WORK NEEDS
DOIN', OL' BUSINESS
ON THE GROUND
HE ON NEEDS
SETTIN' RIGHT.

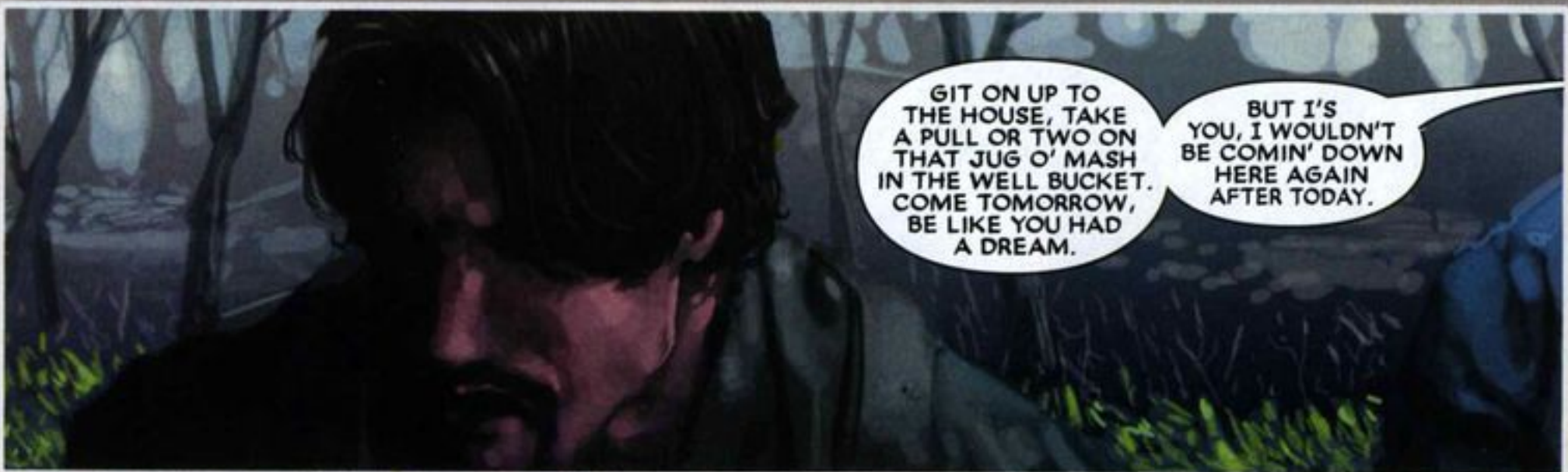
YOU...

YOU MEAN
AVENGED,
DON'T YOU?



WHAT
YOU SEE IN
THERE, TRAVIS
PARHAM?

'SIDE FROM
A BIG OL' SKINNY
FELLA WITH HIS
NOGGIN ON FIRE,
THAT IS.



GIT ON UP TO
THE HOUSE, TAKE
A PULL OR TWO ON
THAT JUG O' MASH
IN THE WELL BUCKET.
COME TOMORROW,
BE LIKE YOU HAD
A DREAM.

BUT I'S
YOU, I WOULDN'T
BE COMIN' DOWN
HERE AGAIN
AFTER TODAY.



WAR'S OVER.

WELL, GOOD FOR IT.



DAY BEEN COMIN' A WHILE, I GUESS.

I RECKON SO.

YOU HAD A LOOK ABOUT YOU THIS PAST WEEK, LIKE YOU GITTIN' READY TO MOVE ON.



THE WAR WAS A DISTRACTION, CALEB. A MISSTEP ON THE AMERICAN TRAIL. NOW IT'S FINISHED, WE CAN GET ON WITH THE TASK OF SETTLING THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

THERE ARE FORTUNES TO BE MADE OUT WEST, AND THAT IS WHERE I INTEND TO SEEK MY OWN.



OH, MONEY TO BE MADE, ALL RIGHT.

THE LAND IS THERE FOR THE TAKING. IT IS WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED OUR *MANIFEST DESTINY*, AND RIGHTLY SO.

BEEN CALLED SLAUGHTER, TOO. 'CEPT THAT DON'T SOUND SO FINE.



YOU RECALL SAYIN' TO ME HOW THE WAR WAS A TRAP?

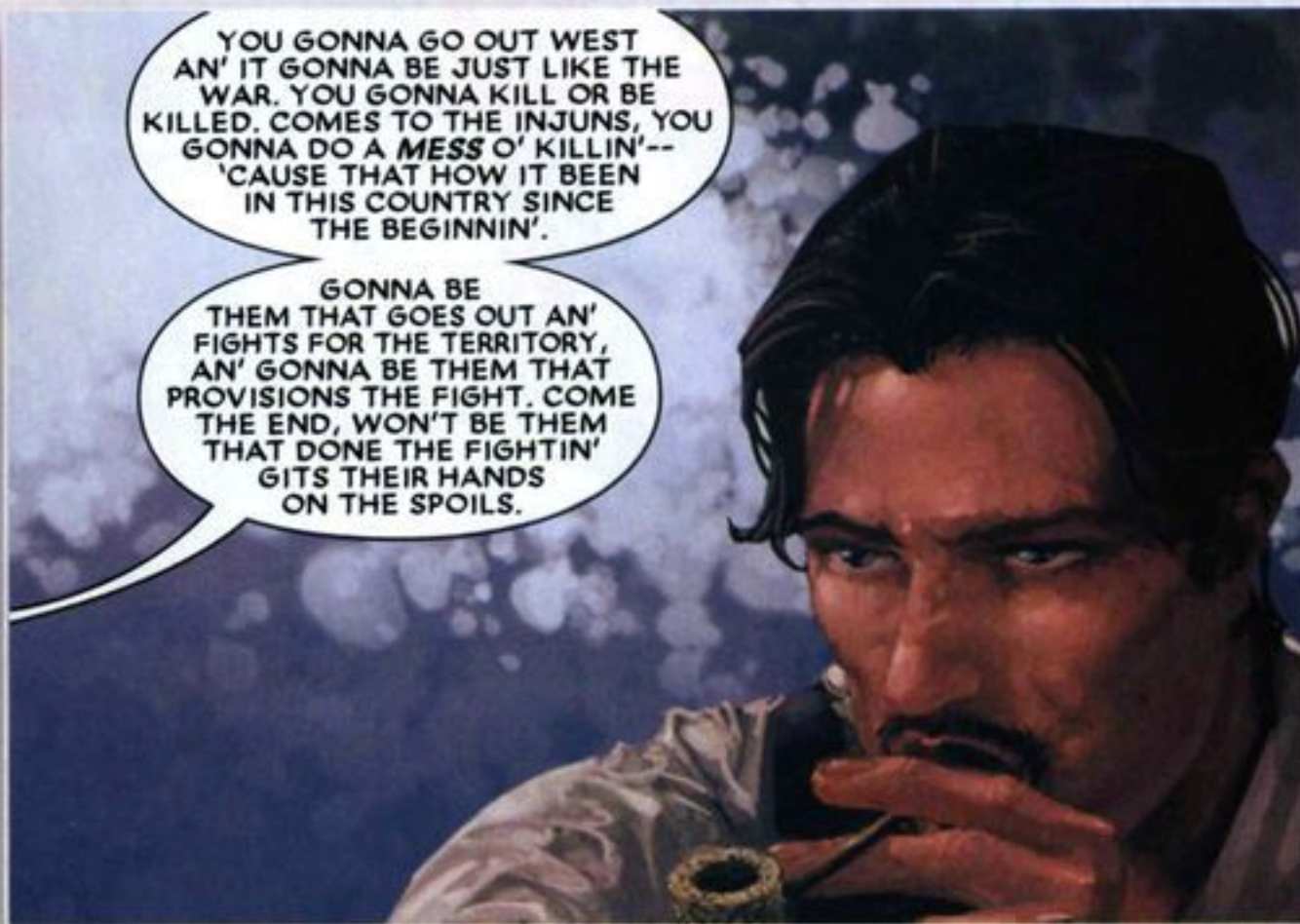
EVER GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO WHO MIGHTA SET IT?

YES...



I DON'T FOLLOW YOU.

FOLKS I'D START WITH, MOST LIKELY BE MISTER COLT AN' HIS FRIENDS.



YOU GONNA GO OUT WEST AN' IT GONNA BE JUST LIKE THE WAR. YOU GONNA KILL OR BE KILLED. COMES TO THE INJUNS, YOU GONNA DO A *MESS O' KILLIN'*-- 'CAUSE THAT HOW IT BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY SINCE THE BEGINNIN'.

GONNA BE THEM THAT GOES OUT AN' FIGHTS FOR THE TERRITORY, AN' GONNA BE THEM THAT PROVISIONS THE FIGHT. COME THE END, WON'T BE THEM THAT DONE THE FIGHTIN' GITS THEIR HANDS ON THE SPOILS.



YOU LISTEN TO ME NOW, I WAS A SLAVE FOR THIRTY YEARS O' MY LIFE. A MAN OWNED ME.

I KNOW A THING OR TWO 'BOUT WHAT FOLKS GONNA DO TO TURN A PROFIT.



THAT...IS NOT THE KIND OF OPINION YOU OFTEN ENCOUNTER...

WELL, I AIN'T THE KINDA FELLA YOU OFTEN ENCOUNTER.



I SEEM TO RECALL YOU DOING A LITTLE WAR PROFITEERING YOURSELF, THE VERY NIGHT WE MET.

I AIN'T DENYIN' IT. DIFFERENCE IS I NEED THE MONEY, DAMN SIGHT MORE'N MISTER COLT DO.



YOU STILL WANT IT, I KEPT THAT OL' PISTOL YOU WAS CARRYIN'.

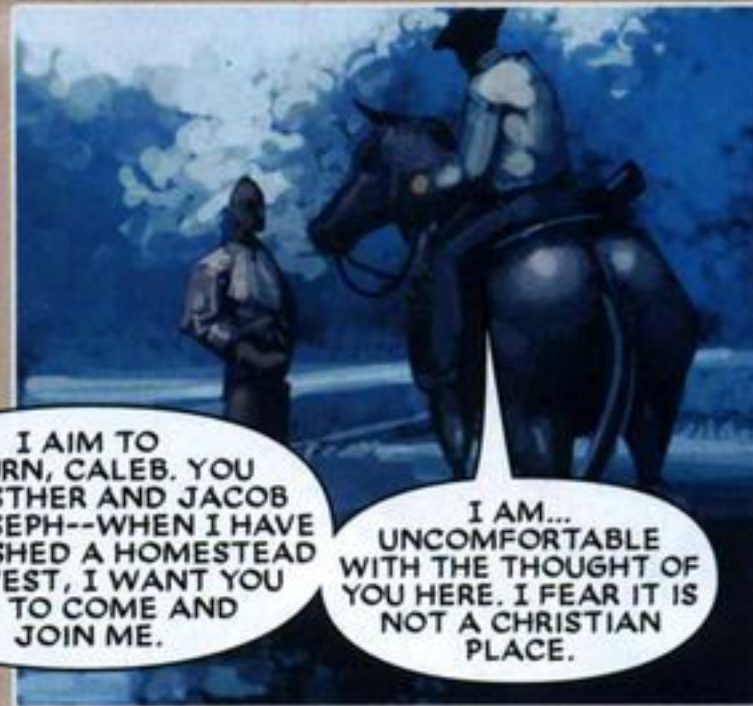


...NO, LET THEM SLUMBER, CALEB. BID THEM GOODBYE FOR ME WHEN THEY AWAKEN.



I STILL INTEND TO PAY YOU BACK FOR THE HORSE, YOU KNOW.

TWO YEARS YOU BEEN HERE, YOU ALREADY DID.



I AIM TO RETURN, CALEB. YOU AND ESTHER AND JACOB AND JOSEPH--WHEN I HAVE ESTABLISHED A HOMESTEAD OUT WEST, I WANT YOU ALL TO COME AND JOIN ME.

I AM... UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE THOUGHT OF YOU HERE. I FEAR IT IS NOT A CHRISTIAN PLACE.



HELL, YOU GO WATCH WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM INJUNS. YOU GONNA SEE NOT CHRISTIAN THEN, I TELL YOU.

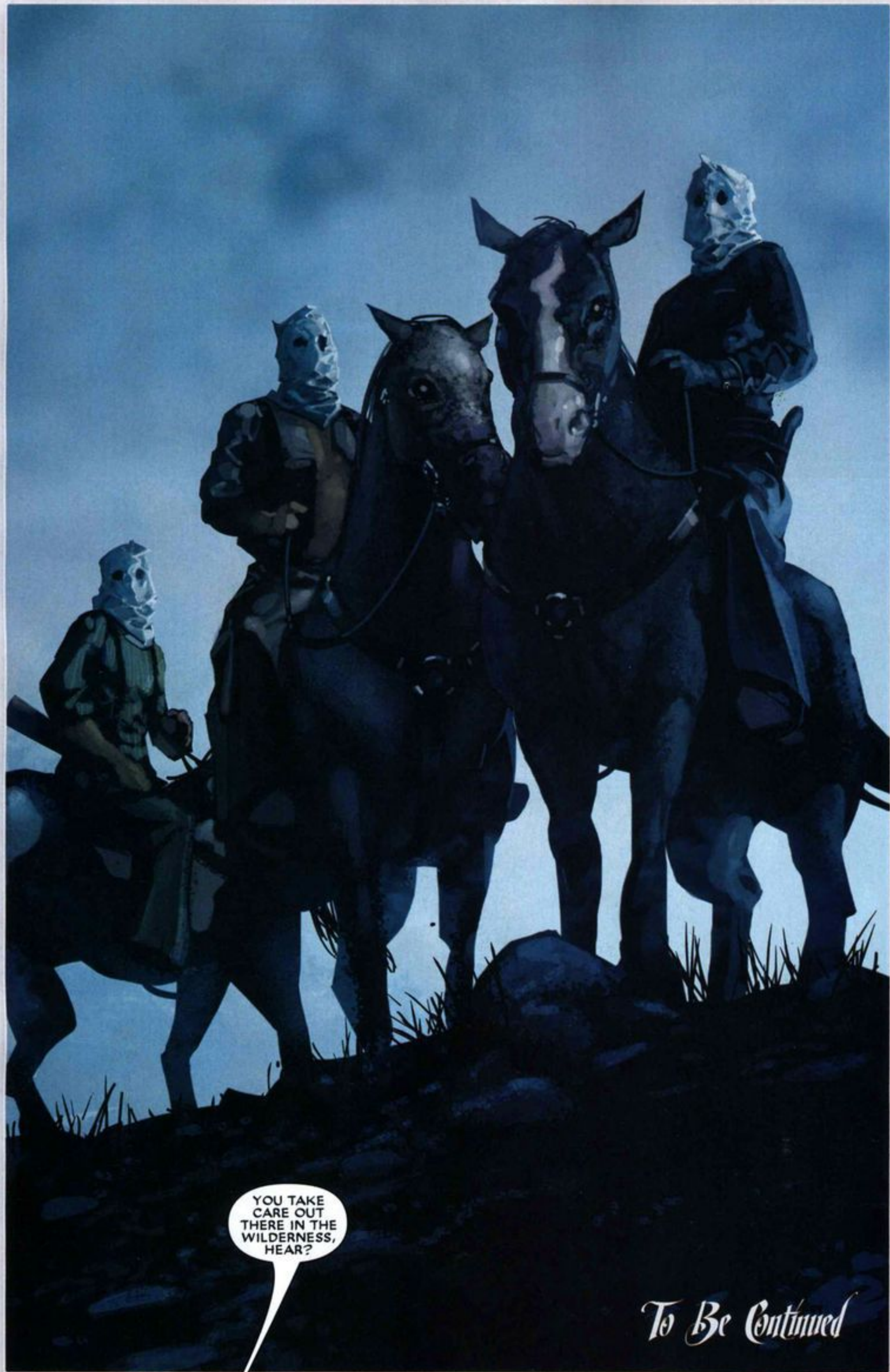


GOODBYE, MY FRIEND.



WELL... GOODBYE, TRAVIS PARHAM.

I SWEAR.



YOU TAKE
CARE OUT
THERE IN THE
WILDERNESS,
HEAR?

To Be Continued