

HAMMERS

ON

BONE

HAMMERS ON BONE

A SERIES TREATMENT BY
JONA HEADON

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2022

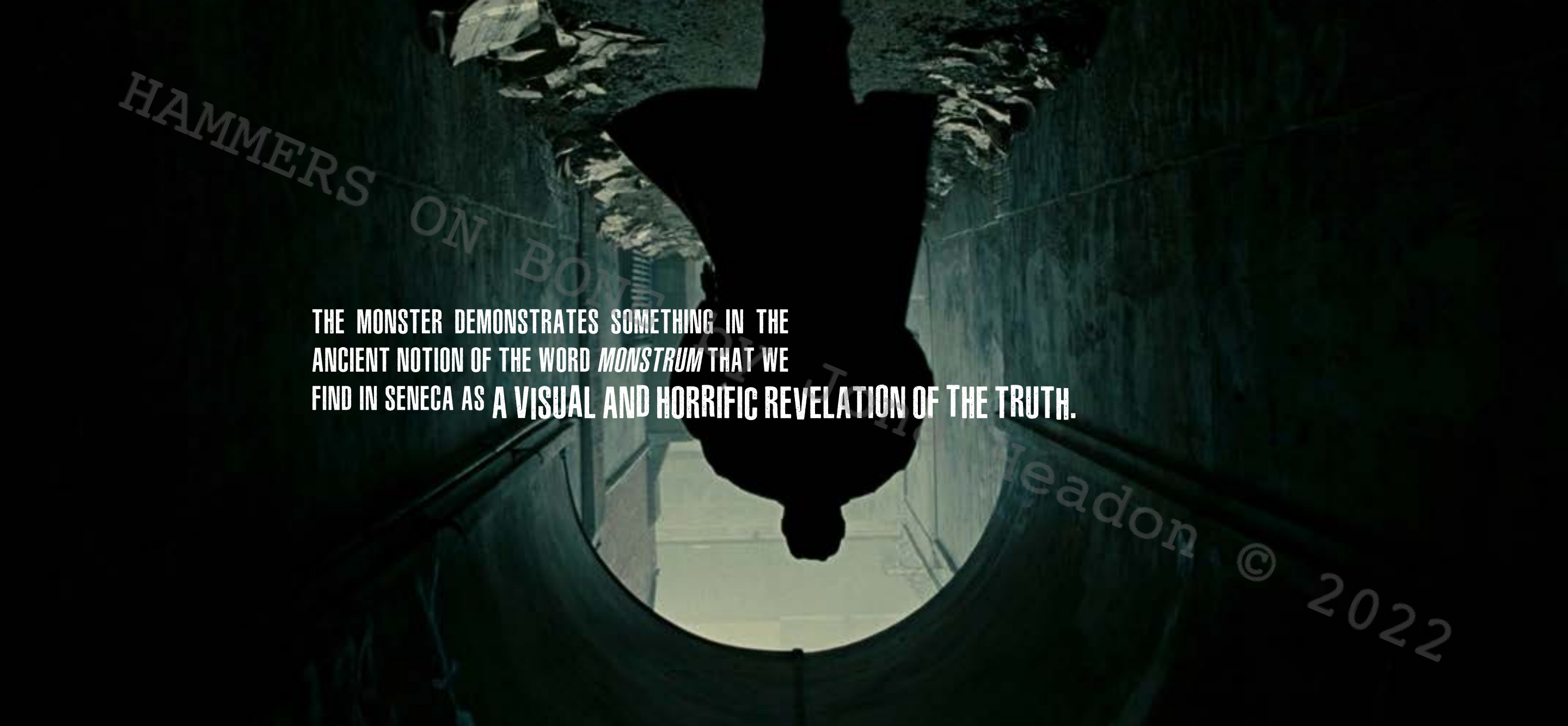




HAMMERS ON BONE by Jona Headon

BASED ON THE NOVELLA
HAMMERS ON BONE
by CASSANDRA KHAW

2022



HAMMERS ON BONES

THE MONSTER DEMONSTRATES SOMETHING IN THE
ANCIENT NOTION OF THE WORD *MONSTRUM* THAT WE
FIND IN SENECA AS A VISUAL AND HORRIFIC REVELATION OF THE TRUTH.

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HAMMERS
LOGLINE

IN THE HEART OF PHILADELPHIA, AN IMMORTAL PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR CURSED WITH THE SEED OF A MONSTER MUST DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO PROTECT A CHILD FROM HIS ABUSIVE FATHER WHILE UNCOVERING A SACRIFICIAL SECT QUICKLY TAKING OVER THE CITY.

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D E L E C T E D

HAMMERS ON BONE IS A CRIME NOIR SCI-FI-HORROR SERIES.

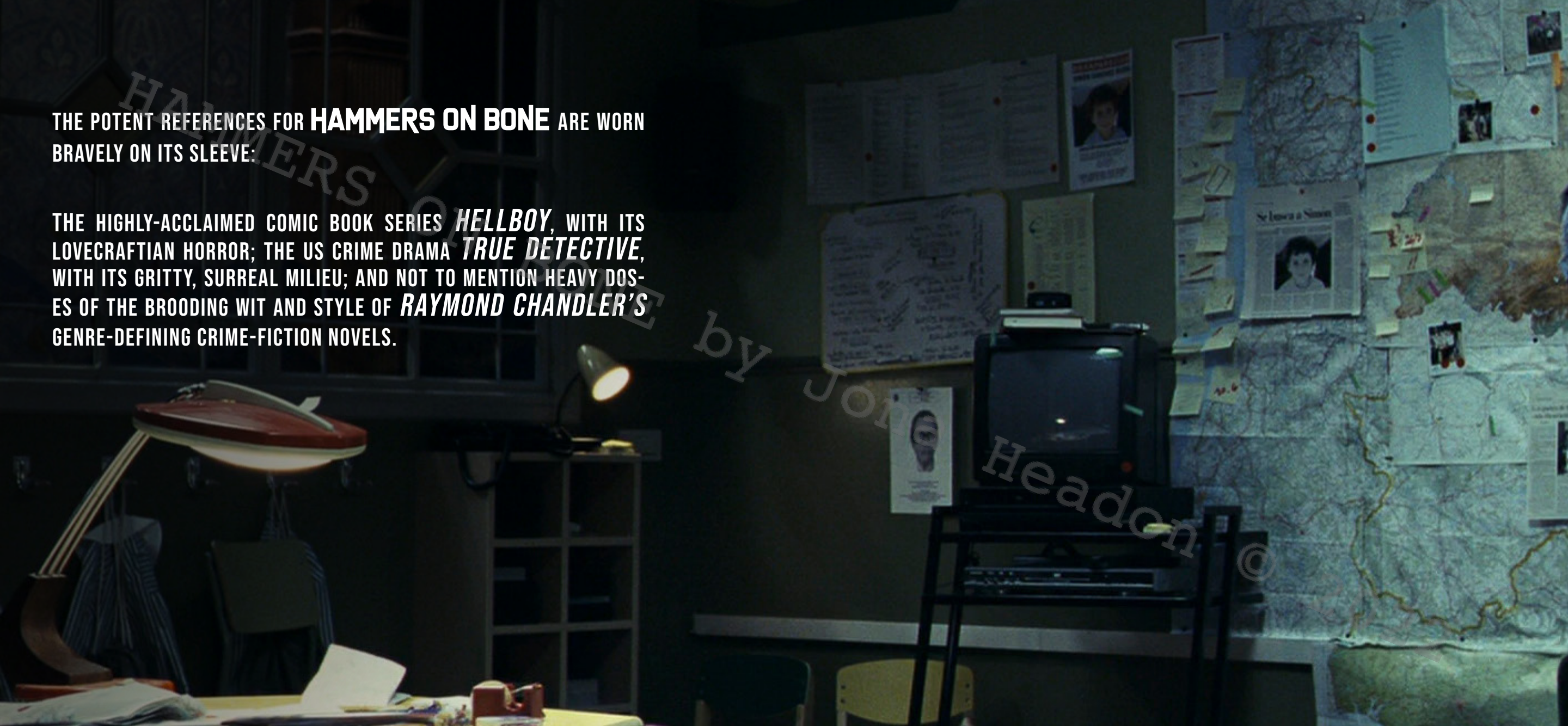
FROM SMOKE-FILLED OFFICES AND SEEDY DIVE ESTABLISHMENTS TO NEON-LIT ALLEYWAYS AND DOMESTIC DOMICILES SWARMING WITH SECRETS AND LIES, THIS SERIES WILL EXPLORE WHAT IT IS TO BE A MONSTER AND WHETHER OR NOT THAT CAN BE CHANGED.

by Jona Headon

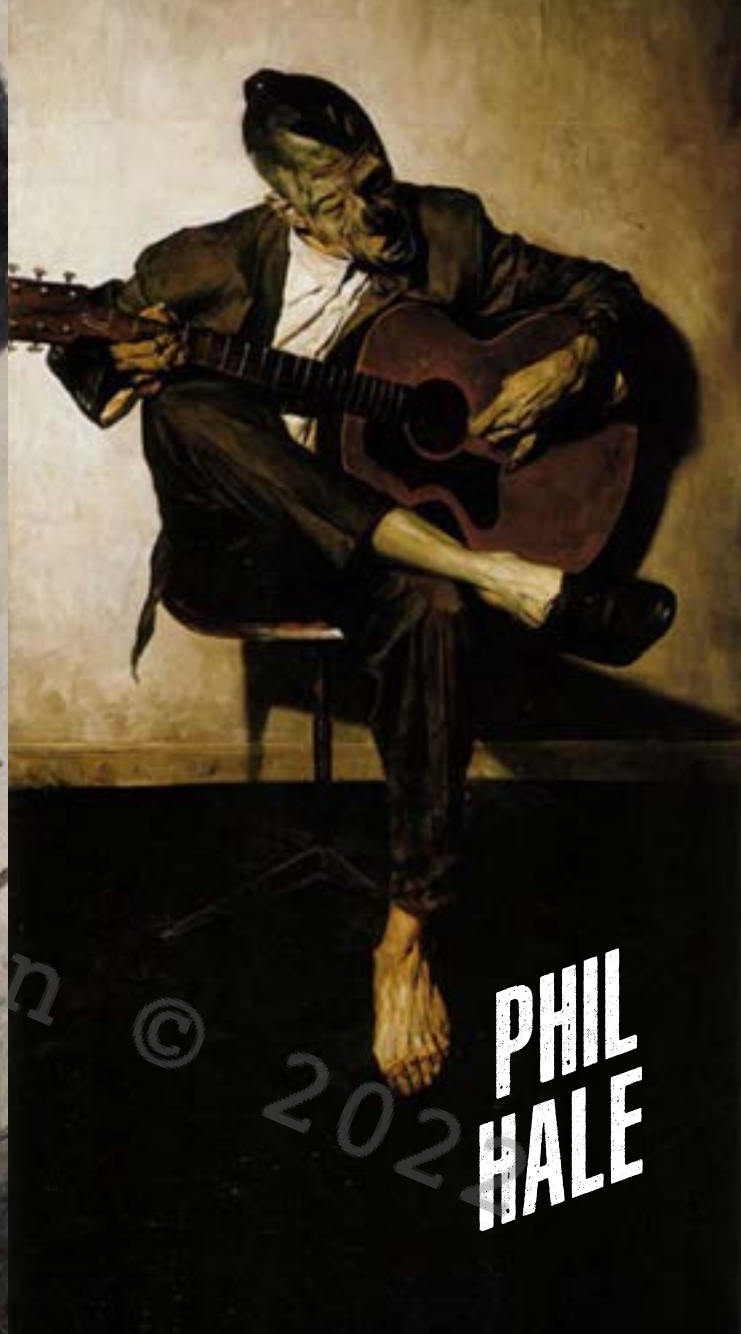
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THE POTENT REFERENCES FOR **HAMMERS ON BONE** ARE WORN BRAVELY ON ITS SLEEVE:

THE HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED COMIC BOOK SERIES *HELLBOY*, WITH ITS LOVECRAFTIAN HORROR; THE US CRIME DRAMA *TRUE DETECTIVE*, WITH ITS GRITTY, SURREAL MILIEU; AND NOT TO MENTION HEAVY DOSES OF THE BROODING WIT AND STYLE OF *RAYMOND CHANDLER'S* GENRE-DEFINING CRIME-FICTION NOVELS.



by Jon Headon ©



OUR MONSTERS DRAW INSPIRATION FROM THE TIMELESS ELDRITCH HORROR GENRE AND MYTHOLOGY, FURTHER VISUALIZED BY THE DISTURBING IMAGINATIONS OF PAINTERS PHIL HALE AND KEN CURRIE.

PHIL
HALE



HAMMERS ON BONE



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KEN CURRIE

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HAMMERS ON BOHE

CHARACTERS

by Jona Heaton

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JOHN PERSONS P.I.

JOHN PERSONS IS A HARD-HEADED PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HAUNTED BY THE HEINOUS CRIME HE COMMITTED CENTURIES AGO. THAT'S RIGHT... CENTURIES.

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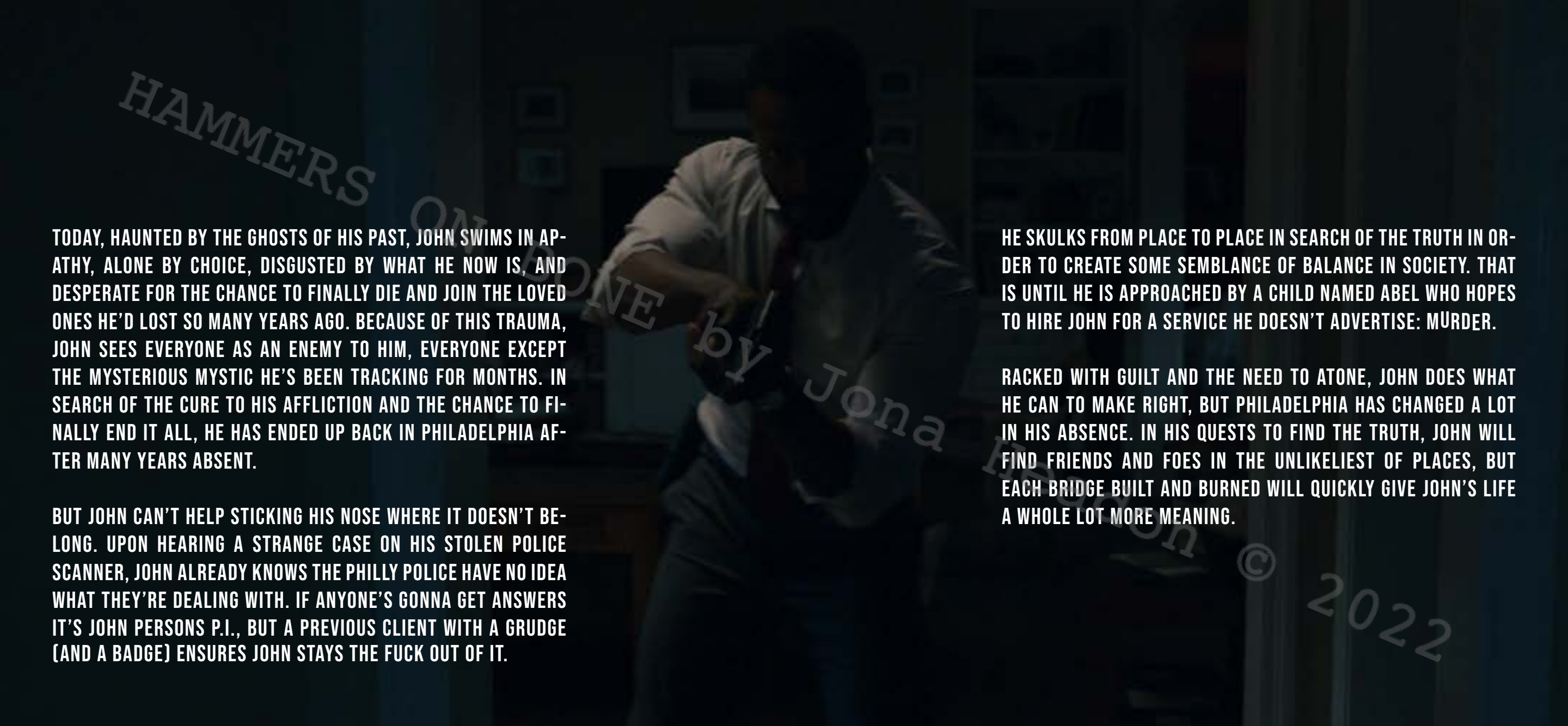
ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA, THE EVE OF 1525, JOHN FELT A SINKING FEELING IN HIS GUT. WITH EYES FIXED ON THE HORIZON, HE KNEW SOMETHING WAS COMING—SOMETHING HE COULD NOT STOP. SO JOHN DECIDED TO DO THE UNFORGIVABLE.

AS A RESULT OF HIS ACTIONS, A SURVIVING LOCAL MYSTIC HAD CURSED JOHN WITH THE SEED OF A MONSTER THAT WOULD GROW WITHIN HIM FOR AN ETERNITY, KEEPING HIM (THE HOST) ALIVE FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY. IMMORTALITY ENSURES JOHN WILL NEVER HAVE A DAY HE ISN'T TORMENTED BY HIS GUILT.

JOHN HAS SOMEHOW MANAGED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE MONSTER INSIDE OF HIM AND DEVELOP A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH IT. NOW HE WALKS AMONG THE OTHER MONSTERS IN SOCIETY WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF SELF-AWARENESS AND SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES.



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TODAY, HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF HIS PAST, JOHN SWIMS IN APATHY, ALONE BY CHOICE, DISGUSTED BY WHAT HE NOW IS, AND DESPERATE FOR THE CHANCE TO FINALLY DIE AND JOIN THE LOVED ONES HE'D LOST SO MANY YEARS AGO. BECAUSE OF THIS TRAUMA, JOHN SEES EVERYONE AS AN ENEMY TO HIM, EVERYONE EXCEPT THE MYSTERIOUS MYSTIC HE'S BEEN TRACKING FOR MONTHS. IN SEARCH OF THE CURE TO HIS AFFLICTION AND THE CHANCE TO FINALLY END IT ALL, HE HAS ENDED UP BACK IN PHILADELPHIA AFTER MANY YEARS ABSENT.

BUT JOHN CAN'T HELP STICKING HIS NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG. UPON HEARING A STRANGE CASE ON HIS STOLEN POLICE SCANNER, JOHN ALREADY KNOWS THE PHILLY POLICE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH. IF ANYONE'S GONNA GET ANSWERS IT'S JOHN PERSONS P.I., BUT A PREVIOUS CLIENT WITH A GRUDGE (AND A BADGE) ENSURES JOHN STAYS THE FUCK OUT OF IT.

HE SKULKS FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO CREATE SOME SEMBLANCE OF BALANCE IN SOCIETY. THAT IS UNTIL HE IS APPROACHED BY A CHILD NAMED ABEL WHO HOPES TO HIRE JOHN FOR A SERVICE HE DOESN'T ADVERTISE: MURDER.

RACKED WITH GUILT AND THE NEED TO ATONE, JOHN DOES WHAT HE CAN TO MAKE RIGHT, BUT PHILADELPHIA HAS CHANGED A LOT IN HIS ABSENCE. IN HIS QUESTS TO FIND THE TRUTH, JOHN WILL FIND FRIENDS AND FOES IN THE UNLIKELIEST OF PLACES, BUT EACH BRIDGE BUILT AND BURNED WILL QUICKLY GIVE JOHN'S LIFE A WHOLE LOT MORE MEANING.

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ROSE

ROSE IS A RECENT GRADUATE SAVANT WHO IS STARTING HER NEW BUSINESS IN THE SAME DILAPIDATED OFFICE BLOCK AS JOHN. SHE'S MOVED INTO THE ONLY OTHER OFFICE WITH LIGHT BULBS WHICH HAPPENS TO BE RIGHT ACROSS THE HALL.

CONSIDERING HERSELF A WORKAHOLIC, ROSE OFTEN WORKS UNSOCIABLE HOURS, BUT JOHN FINDS OUT ROSE HAS A SICK, BED-BOUND MOTHER BACK AT HOME WHO REQUIRES CONSTANT ATTENTION. OF COURSE ROSE LOVES HER MOTHER, BUT SHE HAS GROWN WEARY OF FEELING HER LIFE IS ON HOLD AS SHE'S OBLIGATED TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE SIMPLY BEARABLE.

ROSE'S INNOCENCE AND NAIVE POSITIVITY ABOUT THE STATE OF THE WORLD HELPS HER GET THROUGH THE DAY, BUT IT'S A TRAIT SHE FORCES AS SHE HOLDS A TROUBLING SECRET. IN HER FINAL YEAR OF UNI, ROSE FLED THE SCENE AFTER A FATAL HIT AND RUN, AND NOW SHE FORCES HERSELF TO BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN EVERYONE... BECAUSE THERE HAS TO BE, RIGHT?

HER DETERMINATION TO GET TO KNOW PEOPLE MEANS SHE CAN'T LET GO OF THE MYSTERY THAT IS JOHN PERSONS. SHE REALIZES THINGS DON'T OFTEN ADD UP WITH HIM. BUT WHEN SHE ATTEMPTS TO CONFRONT HIM AT HIS HOTEL, SHE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH DANGERS SHE'S NEVER SEEN BEFORE. THAT NIGHT SHE SEES THE REAL JOHN—THE MONSTER—AND LEARNS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DARKENED CORNERS OF SOCIETY.

WITH HER WHOLE WORLDVIEW TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, SHE ATTEMPTS TO ABSOLVE HER OWN PAST SINS BY HELPING JOHN FIND THE MYSTIC TO HELP CURE HIM OF HIS MONSTROUS CURSE.

BUT WHEN HER MOTHER DIES, ROSE REALIZES THE FREEDOM SHE LONGED FOR IS LONELY AND SCARY. BEING LEFT WITH HER THOUGHTS DOES NOTHING BUT EXACERBATE HER ANXIETIES, AND WHILE ATTENDING A GROUP GRIEF MEETING, SHE MEETS SOMEONE WHO INVITES HER TO JOIN HER 'CHURCH'.

MCKINSEY

MCKINSEY IS A MUCH-LOVED LAD OF THE WORKING-CLASS PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY AT THE BRICKWORKS FACTORY WHERE HE'S EMPLOYED. UP UNTIL THE PHILADELPHIA RIOTS OF 2020, BOOZE, FOOTBALL, AND BARELY-LEGAL GIRLS WAS ALL THAT KEPT THE DISTURBING LEER ON MCKINSEY'S FACE.

THE RIOTS HAD AWAKENED SOMETHING INSIDE OF HIM TURNING HIM INTO A REVOLUTIONARY PREACHING ABOUT TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES AND BEING MORE THAN JUST PERAMBULATING MEAT. PEOPLE STARTED TO TAKE NOTICE, AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT, THE CLANDESTINE HIGHER-UPS EMERGED FROM THE SHADOWS AND SHOWED HIM A NEW WAY OF LIFE IN THE SECT OF SHUB-NIGGURATH.

HE WAS ONCE A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER IN THE SECT, BUT WHEN HE FELL FOR LISA, HIS POSITION GREW ROCKY. AND WHILE LISA WAS PREGNANT WITH ABEL, MCKINSEY WAS RUTHLESSLY EJECTED.

MCKINSEY SOUGHT OUT THE PARASITE THAT TURNED HIM INTO A MONSTER TO PROVE HIS DEDICATION TO THE SECT, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH. NOW LIVING WITH THIS AFFLICTION, MCKINSEY GROWS STRONGER DAILY, BUT EVERY DAY HE DOESN'T GET WHAT HE WANTS, THE FURY ALSO BUILDS.

IN AND OUT OF BLACKED-OUT CARS AND SECRET MEETINGS, MCKINSEY WEASELS HIS WAY CLOSER TO HIS GOAL. BUT HE RECKS OF DESPERATION, NOT POWER. HE ISN'T TAKEN SERIOUSLY UNTIL HE CAN BRING A WORTHY OFFERING TO HELP RELEASE SHUB-NIGGURATH FROM HER COSMIC SHACKLES.

UPON LEARNING OF JOHN'S ARRIVAL, MCKINSEY SECRETLY FORMS AN UNLIKELY TEAM WITH ABEL TO LURE JOHN INTO HIS NET—HE'S CERTAIN JOHN WOULD BE A WORTHY SACRIFICE FOR SHUB-NIGGURATH, ONCE AGAIN ASSERTING HIS POSITION BACK INTO THE SECT. BUT BETRAYAL IS THE LAST THING HE SEES COMING.



LISA

LISA HAS BEEN SQUIRRELING MONEY AWAY FOR AS LONG AS SHE CAN REMEMBER, HOWEVER, THE PLANS FOR HER AND HER SONS' ESCAPE HAVE NEVER QUITE MANAGED TO COME TO FRUITION; NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY SHE HAS SAVED, SHE'LL NEED MORE COURAGE TO PULL THE TRIGGER. WITH HER HUSBAND BEING THE MONSTER THAT HE IS, THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

REMNANTS OF STREET-SMARTS FROM HER TIME AS A SEX WORKER LINGER, BUT THEY'RE DULLED AND BURIED BENEATH. STILL DREAMING OF WHAT HER LIFE COULD BE, LISA SOMEHOW REMAINS HOPEFUL AND ROMANTIC, ALWAYS READY TO SMILE FOR HER KIDS.

LISA UNDERSTANDS A SUGAR-COATED VERSION OF THE SACRIFICE MCKINSEY HAD MADE FOR HER, AND THEREFORE BLAMES HERSELF FOR THE MAN HE HAS BECOME. BUT SHE ALSO KNOWS ABEL ISN'T HIS BIOLOGICAL SON. THE GUILT OF THESE TWO BURDENS AND THE CONSTANT PRESSURE APPLIED BY MCKINSEY ARE WHAT FORCE HER TO ENDURE THE ABUSE.

WITH JOHN BREATHING DOWN HER NECK FOR ANSWERS, TENSIONS RUN HIGH. MCKINSEY FINDS AND SPENDS LISA'S ESCAPE STASH, AND PEACOCK REFUSES TO HELP HER. WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN, LISA MUST HATCH A CUNNING PLAN TO ESCAPE WITH HER CHILDREN FROM THE MONSTER. SO SHE RETURNS TO THE DARK AND DANGEROUS STREETS TO FIND COURAGE—BUT THE STREETS DON'T EXACTLY WELCOME HER BACK WITH OPEN ARMS...

ABEL

ABEL HAS HIRED JOHN TO KILL HIS FATHER. EVEN THOUGH HE TURNS UP TO JOHN'S OFFICE WITH A PIGGY BANK RATTLING WITH CHANGE, JOHN TAKES THE CASE SINCE HE FEELS AN OBLIGATION TO A CHILD IN NEED OF PROTECTION AGAINST HIS FATHER; IT HITS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO HOME FOR JOHN.

ABEL IS A STOIC CHILD THAT WAS BORN HARD AS NAILS. UNAWARE THAT MCKINSEY ISN'T HIS BIOLOGICAL FATHER, HE'S LEARNED TO BE A MAN FROM THE ABUSIVE ALCOHOLIC, AND HIS TUMULTUOUS UPBRINGING HAS RENDERED HIM "THE PROBLEM CHILD" AT SCHOOL. ONLY HIS YOUNGER BROTHER JAMES SEES THE SOFTER SIDE TO HIM. JAMES IS THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS ABEL YOUNG, CARING AND KIND.

TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, ABEL BETRAYS HIS FATHER AT THE VERY LAST SECOND. JUST WHEN MCKINSEY THINKS HE'S WON AGAINST JOHN, ABEL MURDERS HIS FATHER IN COLD BLOOD.

JOHN HAD HIS SUSPICIONS ABOUT ABEL SETTING HIM UP FOR FAILURE, BUT HE HAD NO IDEA ABEL WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH SASHA THE WHOLE TIME. ABEL'S REAL MOTIVATION WAS TO TAKE HIS FATHER'S POSITION IN THE SECT AND RISE UP.

ABEL WITNESSED HIS FATHER ABUSING HIS MOTHER, AND IT SEEMED MCKINSEY ALWAYS GOT RESULTS THROUGH ANGER AND VIOLENCE.

...MCKINSEY SHOULD'VE SEEN IT COMING.

SASHA

SASHA IS A HYPER-INTELLIGENT STUDENT OF LIFE WHO WORKS AT HER AUNT'S CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT ON THE MAIN STREET. BOLD IN FASHION CHOICES AND OUTSPOKEN, HER CONFIDENCE IS OFTEN MISINTERPRETED AS FLIRTATION. BUT THINK BEFORE YOU ACT BECAUSE SHE POSSESSES A SHARP TONGUE THAT WOULDN'T HESITATE TO CUT YOU DOWN TO SIZE. SHE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW TO SURVIVE IN THESE MEAN STREETS.

SASHA MAKES LIFE HARDER FOR JOHN BY BEING BOTH CURIOUS AND UNTRUSTWORTHY. SHE PURPOSEFULLY LEADS JOHN DOWN DEAD ENDS AND FEEDS HIM LITTLE LIES FOR HER OWN PLEASURE.

IN THE FINAL EPISODE, IT IS REVEALED THAT SASHA IS VERY SIMILAR TO JOHN: SHE'S ALSO A MONSTER. SASHA BEARS THE SEED OF SHUB-NIGGURATH AND ACTS AS A VESSEL IN WHICH SHUB COMMUNICATES FROM THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE COSMOS.

HOWEVER, UNLIKE JOHN, SASHA EMBRACES HER CONDITION, THEREFORE, MAKING HER STRONGER THAN JOHN, AND HER ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO BUILD THE ARMY OF THE SECT IN ORDER TO HARNESS MORE POWER TO BREAK SHUB-NIGGURATH OUT FROM THE SHACKLES OF HER COSMIC PRISON. IF SHE COULD MANAGE TO BRING JOHN OVER TO THE DARK SIDE, THAT'LL BE THE CHERRY ON TOP.

GOLDMAN

GOLDMAN IS A FLOWER IN A SLAB OF CONCRETE, A MOUSE IN A PIT OF SERPENTS. HIS RELENTLESS KINDNESS OFTEN KEEPS HIM OUT OF TROUBLE, AND THE ONE THING THAT MAKES HIM HAPPY IS HIS CROONING HORN THAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD KNOWS HIM FOR.

HE BECOMES A QUICK ALLY TO JOHN AS HAVING AN EYE ON THE STREETS HE KNOWS MORE THAN PEOPLE THINK, AND THAT INFORMATION OFTEN PROVES ITSELF AND ITS SOURCE MORE VALUABLE THAN JOHN COULD IMAGINE.

MOST OF GOLDMAN'S SONGS ARE ABOUT THE GIRL HE STILL PINES FOR, DESPITE HER RUINING HIS LIFE MANY YEARS AGO. AND UNFORTUNATELY, HE SEES A LITTLE BIT OF HIS LOST LOVE IN LISA.


BECAUSE OF THIS, HE GOES OUT OF HIS WAY AND PUTS HIMSELF IN DANGER IN ORDER TO HELP LISA WHEN SHE FINDS HERSELF TRAPPED IN A PERILOUS SITUATION. SURE, HE PROTECTS HER, BUT HE LOSES HIS TRUE LOVE IN THE PROCESS: HIS HORN. A NEW DARKNESS BREWS IN GOLDMAN AS HE LEARNS THAT IN THIS TOWN, KINDNESS CAN ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.



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DETECTIVE HANNAH BURROWS

DETECTIVE BURROWS HAS ALWAYS FOUND A WAY TO RATIONALIZE THE INSANE, ABSURD, OR SUPERNATURAL, BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING ABOUT JOHN THAT SHE'D NEVER TRUSTED. NOW HE'S BACK AND ALREADY OVERSTEPPING ON THE STRANGEST CASE BURROWS HAS ENCOUNTERED IN YEARS. THE LAST THING SHE WANTS IS A SUSPICIOUS GUM-SHOE SNOOPING AROUND HER TERRITORY.

FROM THE JUMP, JOHN TAKES THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS AND STEALS A KEY PIECE OF EVIDENCE FROM BURROWS. THIS WOULD PISS HER OFF ON ANY GIVEN DAY, BUT ON THE SAME DAY HER DAUGHTER IS KIDNAPPED WHILE ON A SCHOOL TRIP, BURROWS DOES EVERYTHING IN HER POWER TO STAY ABOVE WATER.

HAVING ONCE HIRED JOHN TO INVESTIGATE HER CHEATING SPOUSE, THINGS TOOK A TURN WHEN JOHN'S SLEUTHING COMES UP POSITIVE IN THE MAIL AND THE SPOUSE'S BODY IS FOUND THE NEXT MORNING HALF-EATEN, CRAMMED INSIDE OF A FOX HOLE.

LENGTHY POLICE INVESTIGATIONS EVENTUALLY CLEAR BURROWS' NAME, BUT THE LACK OF ANSWERS IS WHAT COMPELS BURROWS TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE AND CLIMB THE LADDER. THE ABUSE AND MISOGYNY EXPERIENCED ALONG THE WAY MADE HER FEROCIOUS, AND DECIDING AGAINST CHANGING HER LAST NAME SERVES TO REMIND HER WHY FAILING A SINGLE CASE IS NOT AN OPTION—ESPECIALLY THE CASE OF HER MISSING DAUGHTER.

ADAM PEACOCK

ADAM PEACOCK IS CAMPAIGNING TO BECOME PHILADELPHIA'S NEW MAYOR WITH PROMISES OF A CITY-WIDE REJUVENATION SCHEME FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES.

DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT EXPLODE OUT OF PEACOCK'S DEPARTMENT. NOW THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC HAVE LABELED HIM A "MODERN-DAY MONSTER", AND A PUBLIC TRIAL ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE FOR HIM. BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO PLAY THE GAME, PLAY UP FOR THE CAMERAS, TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR. AND TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, HE STILL MANAGES TO WIN THE RACE.

HE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF ABEL, BUT A STRICT NDA AGREEMENT AND A HANDSOME CASH SETTLEMENT KEPT ABEL AND LISA OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF MIND.

PEACOCK'S MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS JUST A CHILD, AND HIS STEP MOTHER DID NOTHING BUT NEGLECT HIM UNTIL HE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO PROCURE THE AFFECTION OF WOMEN WHETHER THROUGH MANIPULATION OR PAID SERVICES. THIS FUELED THE BELIEF THAT POWER WILL ALWAYS GET HIM WHAT HE WANTS.

PEACOCK AND JOHN DON'T MEET UNTIL THE VERY END OF SEASON ONE WHEN IT IS REVEALED MAYOR ADAM PEACOCK IS A LEADER OF THE SHUB-NIGGURATH SECT, BUT HE INDIRECTLY MAKES JOHN'S JOB ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE BY MAKING LISA'S LIFE A LOT HARDER.

WITH PEACOCK REFUSING TO HELP HER IN HER MOST DESPERATE HOUR, LISA MUST FIND OTHER WAYS TO SOLVE HER PROBLEMS. BOTTOM-OF-THE-BARREL SOLUTIONS FORCE HER TO RETURN TO HER DARK, UNSAVORY PAST.

SHUB-NIGGURATH

AKA THE BLACK GOAT OF THE WOODS
WITH A THOUSAND YOUNG

KNOWN AS THE ALL-MOTHER, SHUB-NIGGURATH IS A DEITY OF FERTILITY. AS A COSMIC COLOSSUS, SHUB-NIGGURATH IS A PERVASIVE GALACTIC CONTAMINATION. ONCE SHE SETTLES SOMEWHERE, SHE INUNDATES PLANETS WITH LIFE. HER PROLIFIC SPEWING OF SPAWN IS THE REASON FOR ALL LIFE—THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DOWNRIGHT HORRENDOUS.

MATING WITH HUMAN-CULTISTS, ANIMALS, AND EVEN ALIENS, SHE IS MOTHER TO CROSS-BRED SPAWN, HORRID, CHAOTIC GROWTH WITHOUT NATURAL ORDER—THE CREATOR WITHOUT CARE.

HOW CAN ONE BELIEVE THAT MAN IS INHERENTLY GOOD WITH SOMETHING LIKE SHUB-NIGGURATH AS A PROGENITOR?

WORSHIPED BY DERANGED HUMAN (AND INHUMAN) CULTS, BLOOD SACRIFICES IN THE WOODS ARE OFFERED IN RETURN FOR BOUNTIFUL HARVESTS AND MANY CHILDREN, THOUGH NOT ALL OFFERINGS ARE DEEMED WORTHY.

SHUB-NIGGURATH'S EXACT LOCATION IS CURRENTLY UNKNOWN, BUT SHE IS IMPRISONED BY ANOTHER ALIEN SPECIES WHERE HER STRENGTH HAS BEEN DIMINISHING OVER THE MILLENNIA. NOW SHE RELIES ON HER CULT FOLLOWING MORE THAN EVER TO PROVIDE HER WITH THE STRENGTH TO RETURN AND TAKE OVER BEFORE HER NEMESIS THE GREAT DREAMER CTHULHU AWAKENS FROM HIS SLUMBER.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO SEE SHUB-NIGGURATH AS EVIL BECAUSE ALL LIVING THINGS ARE HER SPAWN. WE ARE HER 'DARK YOUNG'. WHEN WE LOOK IN THE MIRROR, IT IS HER FACE WE SEE.

...S
ING
AM to 9 PM

HAMMERSTON

SETTING

PHILADELPHIA, PA

SET IN A SPRAWLING, WORKING-CLASS URBAN ENVIRONMENT ON THE CUSP OF BIG CHANGE, THIS GRITTY MODERN-DAY TALE CREEPS INTO THE CORNERS OF SOCIETY MANY OF US TRY TO AVOID OR ESCAPE.

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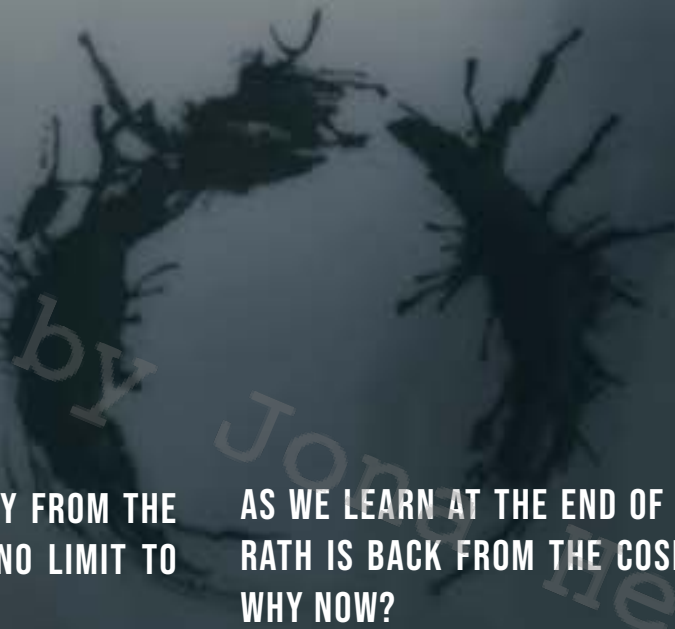


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THEME - CIV BONE BY JONAS HEARDEN © 2022

HAMMERS ON BONE



SINCE **HAMMERS ON BONE** MINES ITS CORE MYTHOLOGY FROM THE VAST COSMIC WORLD OF LOVECRAFTIAN HORRORS, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHERE THE SERIES CAN GO.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CRIMES TO BE SOLVED, AND THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BIGGER, BADDER MONSTERS SALIVATING AT THE HEELS OF THIS TORTURED GUMSHOE.

AS WE LEARN AT THE END OF SEASON ONE, THE ALL-MOTHER SHUB-NIGGURATH IS BACK FROM THE COSMIC BLACK AND JOHN WANTS TO KNOW WHY. WHY NOW?

JOHN NOW HAS A NEW LEASE FOR LIFE. YOU'LL NEVER SEE HIM FROLIC IN A FIELD, BUT GONE ARE THE DAYS WHERE APATHY AND MISANTHROPY DETERMINE HIS MOOD. HE NOW HAS SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR: EKING OUT THE GOOD OF MANKIND, FINDING THE TRUTH TO IT ALL.

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SUCCESSIVE SEASONS WILL EXPLORE JUST HOW DEEP THE RABBIT HOLE GOES, INTRODUCING NEW TERRIFYING MONSTERS, NEW MYSTERIES, AND NEW AVENUES INTO THE FOLLOWING OF THE DEITY SHUB-NIGGURATH. IT WILL BE NO EASY FEAT, BUT NO ONE UNDERSTANDS BETTER THAN JOHN PERSONS THAT SOMETIMES IT TAKES A MONSTER TO KILL A MONSTER.







WRITER'S STATEMENT

FIRSTLY, AS A BORN-AND-RAISED LONDONER, I HAVE HAD FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE WATCHING MY ENVIRONMENT CHANGE AROUND ME.

I GREW UP IN HOXTON IN THE 90s WHEN ONLY THE POOR AND THE DANGEROUS STOMPED THE SAME PAVEMENT. WHAT FELT LIKE A PIECEMEAL INVASION OF A HEAVY HAND WHILST ALL THE WHILE BEING TOLD IT'S A GOOD THING WAS DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE WITH. EVEN AS A CHILD, SEEING A NEW INDIE CINEMA OR A TRENDY ESOTERIC RESTAURANT POP UP NEXT TO A CHURCH OR A CORNER SHOP WAS JARRING, THOUGH EXCITING. BUT AS YOU GROW, YOU LEARN THERE ARE IMPLICATIONS TO ALL OF THIS CHANGE, AND SO IF YOU CAN'T KEEP UP, EXILE IS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP LIVING.

AND SECONDLY, BEING OF MIXED HERITAGE (BLACK AFRICAN AND WHITE BRITISH), I'VE CONSTANTLY INTERROGATED MYSELF AND MY IDENTITY. WHERE DO I BELONG? WHERE DO I FIT? WHO AM I? WHAT AM I? THESE ARE ALL QUESTIONS THAT I'VE

ASKED MYSELF, AND HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED OF BY OTHERS, AND IN ALL HONESTY, I STILL DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER. I COULDN'T EVEN FATHOM WHAT THE ANSWER COULD BE, LET ALONE WHAT THE TRUTH OF IT IS. IT IS IN THIS VEIN THAT I IDENTIFY WITH JOHN PERSONS AS HE ALSO HAS CONFLICTS BETWEEN WHO HE IS ONE DAY, AND WHO HE SHOULD BE THE NEXT.

HAMMERS ON BONE IS A STORY THAT ASKS THE QUESTION "WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?" WHEN YOU'RE FORCED INTO A CORNER, BACKED UP AGAINST THE WALL, ON THE CUSP OF ACHIEVING GREATNESS, OR GIFTED WITH THE POWER TO HELP OR HARM, WHAT DO YOU DO? DOES THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION DECIDE WHO YOU ARE?

IF WE'RE BEING HONEST, WE'VE ALL GOT A DARKNESS INSIDE OF US THAT WE KEEP UNDER LOCK AND KEY. SO I SUPPOSE THE REAL QUESTION IS, "WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU... REALLY?"

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