

**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS

No. 1

# THE EMPTY MAN



CULLEN BUNN  
JESÚS HERVÁS  
NIKO GUARDIA

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STUDIOS

# THE EMPTY MAN™

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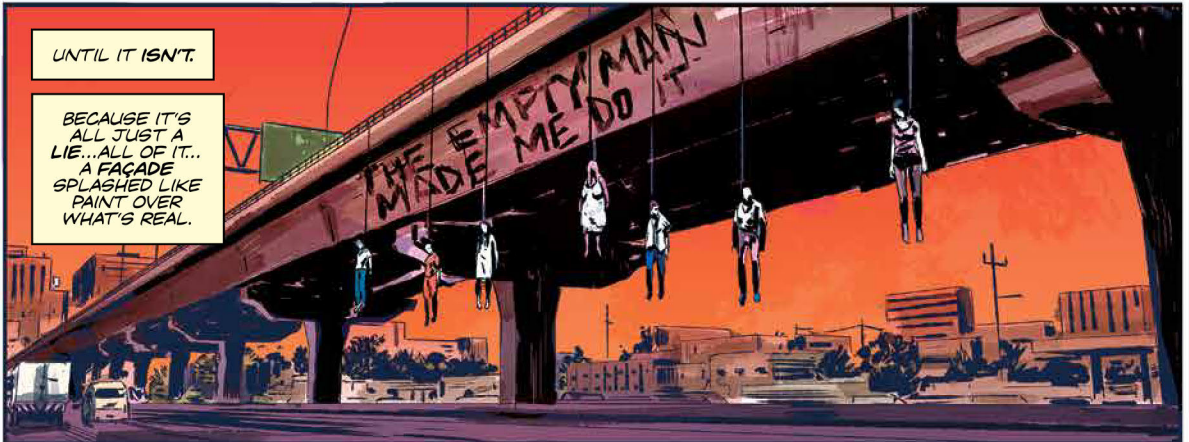
SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH ME.

BUT I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ALL OF US.



YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TELL...NOT BY LOOKING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN.

ON THE SURFACE...ALL IS WELL.



UNTIL IT ISN'T.

BECAUSE IT'S ALL JUST A LIE...ALL OF IT... A FAÇADE SPLASHED LIKE PAINT OVER WHAT'S REAL.



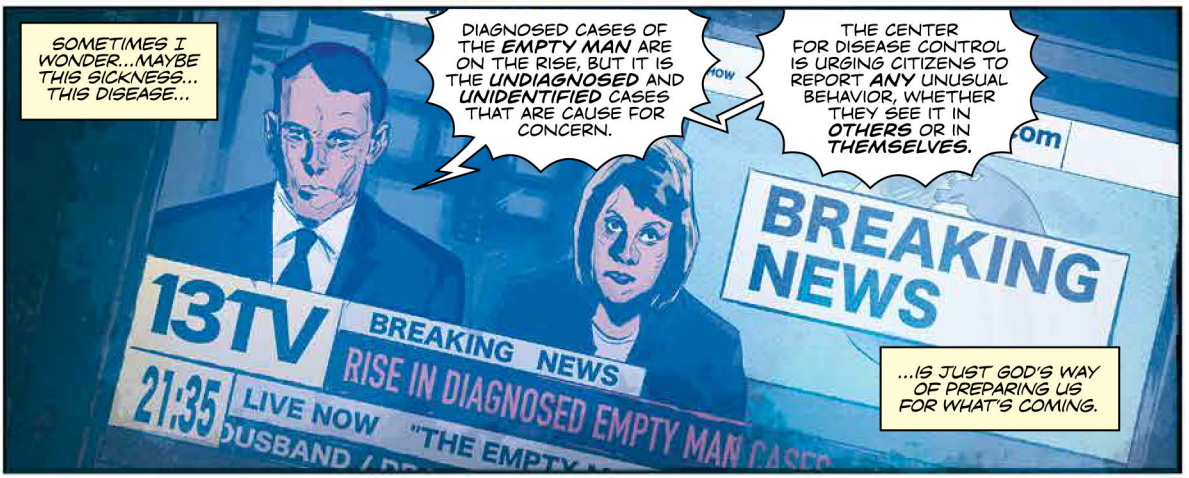
SOONER OR LATER, SOMETHING WILL WASH THE PAINT AWAY.

DAD--

STAY HERE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

AND...OH GOD... SO MANY OF US WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE TRUTH THAT IS REVEALED.



SOMETIMES I WONDER...MAYBE THIS SICKNESS... THIS DISEASE...

DIAGNOSED CASES OF THE EMPTY MAN ARE ON THE RISE, BUT IT IS THE UNDIAGNOSED AND UNIDENTIFIED CASES THAT ARE CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL IS URGING CITIZENS TO REPORT ANY UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR, WHETHER THEY SEE IT IN OTHERS OR IN THEMSELVES.

13TV BREAKING NEWS RISE IN DIAGNOSED EMPTY MAN CASES  
21:35 LIVE NOW "THE EMPTY MAN CASES"  
HUSBAND / ...

...IS JUST GOD'S WAY OF PREPARING US FOR WHAT'S COMING.



BUT IF GOD'S BEHIND THIS...THEN HE'S MAD, TOO.

MELISSA?

HONEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT UP THERE?

OR MAYBE...THE DISEASE IS GOD.



THAT'S WHAT MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE.

AND IT CONTROLS THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM IT... MAKES THEM ACT OUT IN STRANGE WAYS.



AND WHAT'S GOD IF NOT A PUPPETEER...

...ONE WHO MAKES US DANCE...™

...ONE WHO CRAVES AND DEMANDS ATTENTION?



NOT LONG AFTER THE EMPTY MAN STARTED TO SPREAD, DOZENS OF FRINGE RELIGIOUS GROUPS STARTED POPPING UP.

THEY WORSHIPPED THE SICKNESS...AND WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO TELL THEM THEY'RE WRONG?

IF THE WHOLE WORLD'S SWIRLING DOWN THE TOILET...

...THEY ONLY WANT TO BE WORSHIPFUL LITTLE SPECKS OF FECEES.



WE ALL WORSHIP AT THE ALTAR OF THE EMPTY MAN...

THE TWO CHILDREN HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES AT THE CENTER OF A MEDIA FRENZY...

...BECAUSE THEY CLAIM TO HAVE MET THE EMPTY MAN FIRSTHAND...

...BRINGING HIS MESSAGE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

...WHETHER WE ADMIT IT OR NOT.



THE EMPTY MAN'S IDOLS TAKE MANY SHAPES.

MEL?

YOU ALL RIGHT IN THERE?

HIS AGENTS ARE LEGION.



I KNOW I AM SICK.

I AM LOSING MYSELF.

AND I'M DRAGGING MY FAMILY DOWN IN THE UNDERTOW.

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT.

THE EMPTY MAN MADE ME DO IT.

MADE ME DO IT

ATTENTION WHAT IS GOING ON

WE ALL WORSHIP AT THE ALTAR

OF THE EMPTY MAN

THEY ONLY WANT TO BE NURSHIPFUL



GOD!

MELISSA!  
ARE YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

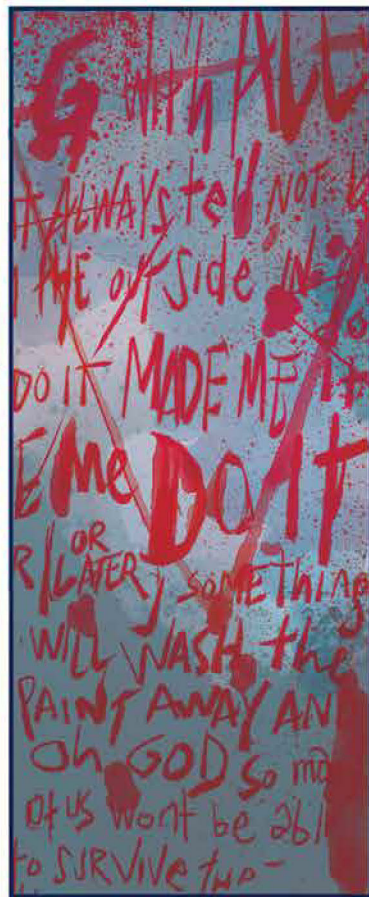
WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?



NO  
CUTS.

NO  
SCRATCHES.

WHERE--



ANDREW...  
IT'S OKAY.

I'M ALL  
RIGHT.

IT'S  
NOT MY  
BLOOD.



THEN...

...WHERE  
DID IT COME  
FROM?