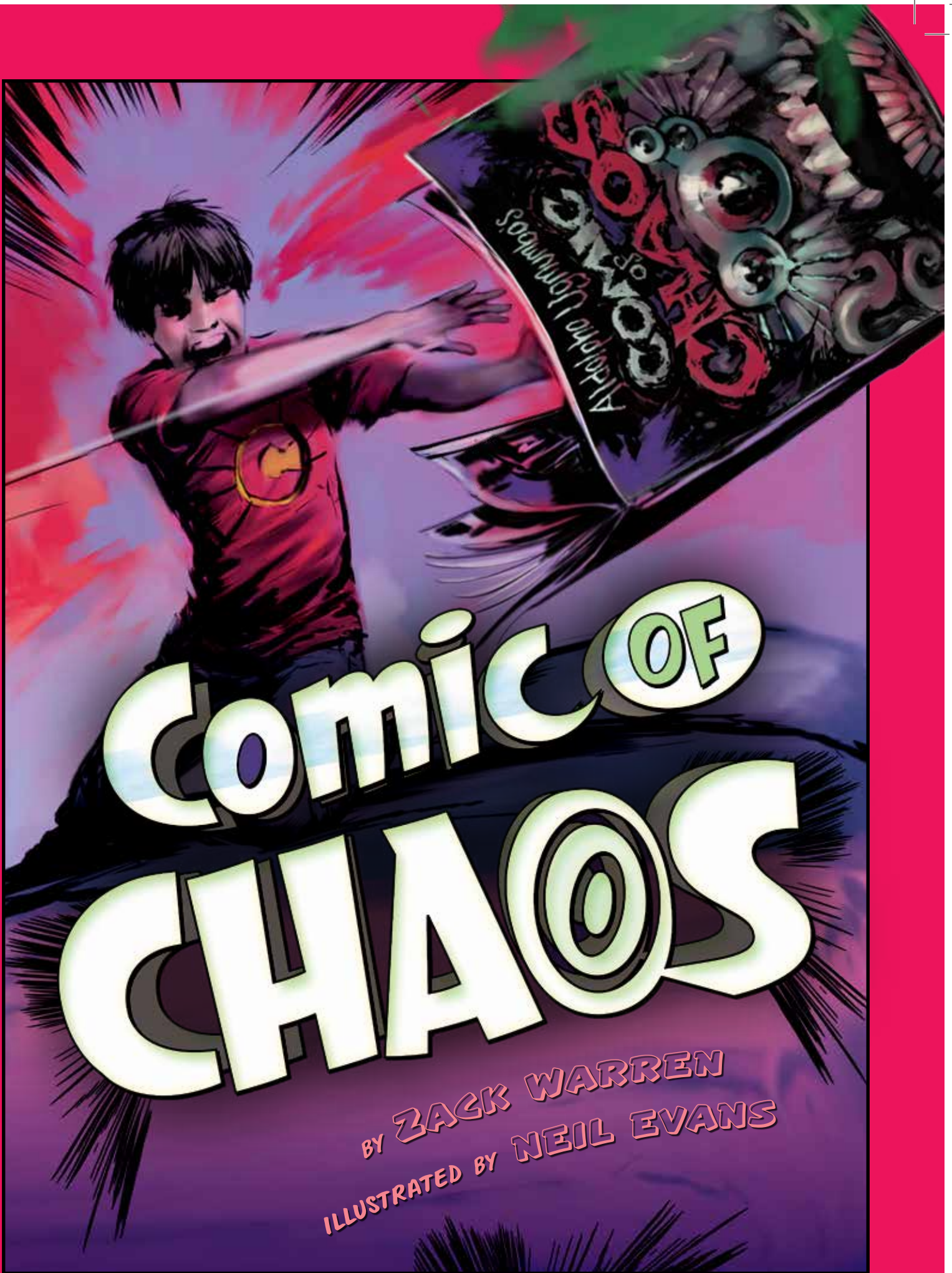


Book Title	Comic of Chaos
Fiction/Nonfiction	Fiction
Genre	Fantasy
Level	Level W / Grade 6 / Phase 3
Page Count/Word Count	16/518
Big Idea	If you do something that you know is wrong, your conscience can haunt you.
Problem (fiction)	Archer purchases a comic book and discovers a second one stuck between the pages. Rather than go back and return or pay for the second comic, he chooses to keep it. Once he starts reading it, however, terrible, haunting images seep off the pages and into his world, threatening to drive him insane.
Hot Spot	Archer tries to destroy the Comic of Chaos to end the horror. When he discovers the comic is indestructible, he fears the madness will never end.
Resolution	Archer must return the comic and admit what he's done, taking responsibility for his action.
Main Character	Archer: 11-12 years old, any ethnicity
Setting	Various locales in and around a town or city: comic book shop, Archer's home and school
Discussion Questions	<p>What does Archer discover when he leaves the comic book store? What does he decide to do about it?</p> <p>What is the cause of the horrible things that start appearing and happening?</p> <p>How does Archer stop the madness?</p> <p>What role does Mr. Caldwell play beyond owning the comic book store? Do you think he's a "good guy" or a "bad guy"? Cite places in the text to support your opinion.</p>

Tier 2	Tier 3	Other Characteristics	Text Features
chaos consumed bizarre insanity slumber reeled rattled woefully teetering		<p>CONTENT</p> <p>-Content interesting to and relevant to the reader (comic books; comic book store)</p> <p>-Some content that requires social and emotional maturity to understand (nightmarish reality that develops as a result of a guilty conscience)</p> <p>THEMES AND IDEAS</p> <p>-Themes and ideas that require a perspective not familiar to the reader (experiencing the world through Archer's eyes and understanding why it has changed so drastically)</p> <p>-Texts with abstract themes that require inferential thinking (the consequences of a guilty conscience; the concept of "crime and punishment")</p> <p>LANGUAGE AND LITERARY FEATURES</p> <p>-Language that communicates the author's tone</p> <p><i>(heightened</i></p>	<p>Graphic features: narration, word balloons, thought balloons</p> <p>Multiple exclamation points used to convey shock and surprise</p> <p>ILLUSTRATIONS</p> <p>Content extended by information in illustrations</p> <p>BOOK AND PRINT FEATURES</p> <p>Length (16 pages)</p> <p>Less than 2,000 words</p> <p>PRINT AND LAYOUT</p> <p>-Sentences beginning where previous sentence ends</p> <p>-Print and illustrations integrated</p> <p>PUNCTUATION</p> <p>(period, comma, question mark, exclamation point, dash)</p>

		<p><i>language/hyperbole that conveys the heightened reality—i.e., the horror—of Archer’s situation:</i></p> <p>“Within the dark pages... impossible images... forbidden secrets... horrors of the ages...”; “...teetering on the edge of insanity”; “Back home, Archer’s ties to reality hung by a thread—ready to snap any second.”</p> <p>-Setting in fantasy that requires the reader to accept elements of another world that could not exist in the real world</p> <p>Explicit and implied symbolism (in imagery that conveys a world turned upside down)</p> <p>SENTENCE COMPLEXITY</p> <p>-Variation in sentence length and structure</p> <p>-Sentences with a wide variety of parts of speech, including multiple adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases</p> <p>-Some non-sentences for literary effect</p> <p>VOCABULARY</p> <p>-Almost all words in</p>	
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		<p>common oral vocabulary (Tier 1)</p> <p>-Words that appear in the vocabulary of mature language users (<i>Tier 2</i>)</p> <p>-Some words used ironically or satirically</p> <p>WORDS</p> <p>-Many multisyllable words</p> <p>-Wide range of contractions and possessives</p>	
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Text Elements**Genre:** Fantasy**Form:** Graphic**Text Structure:** Narrative**Text Features:** speech bubbles,
thought bubbles**Comic of Chaos**

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Fountas & Pinnell Classroom

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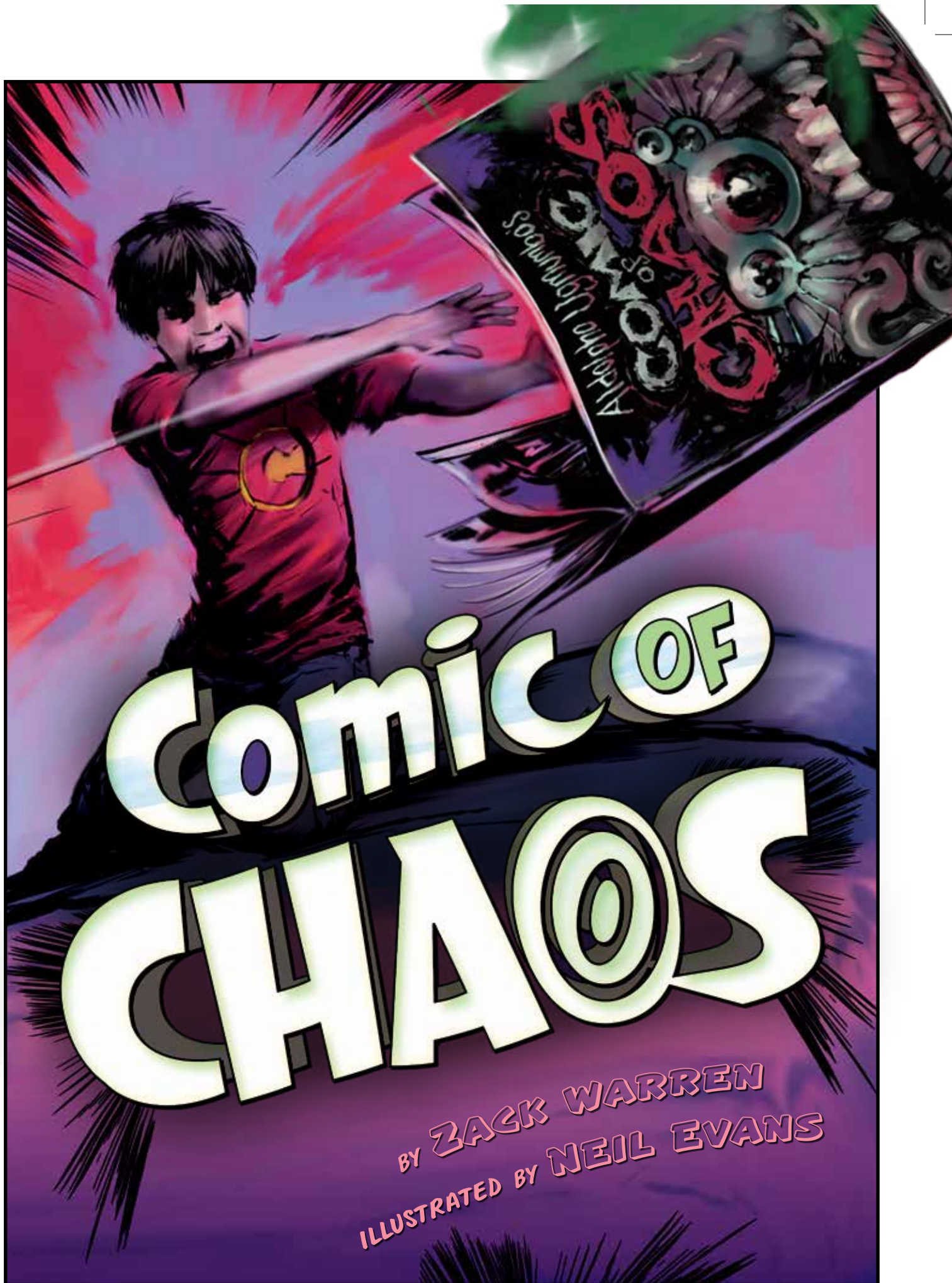
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Editorial Development by Brook Editorial Services**Credit**

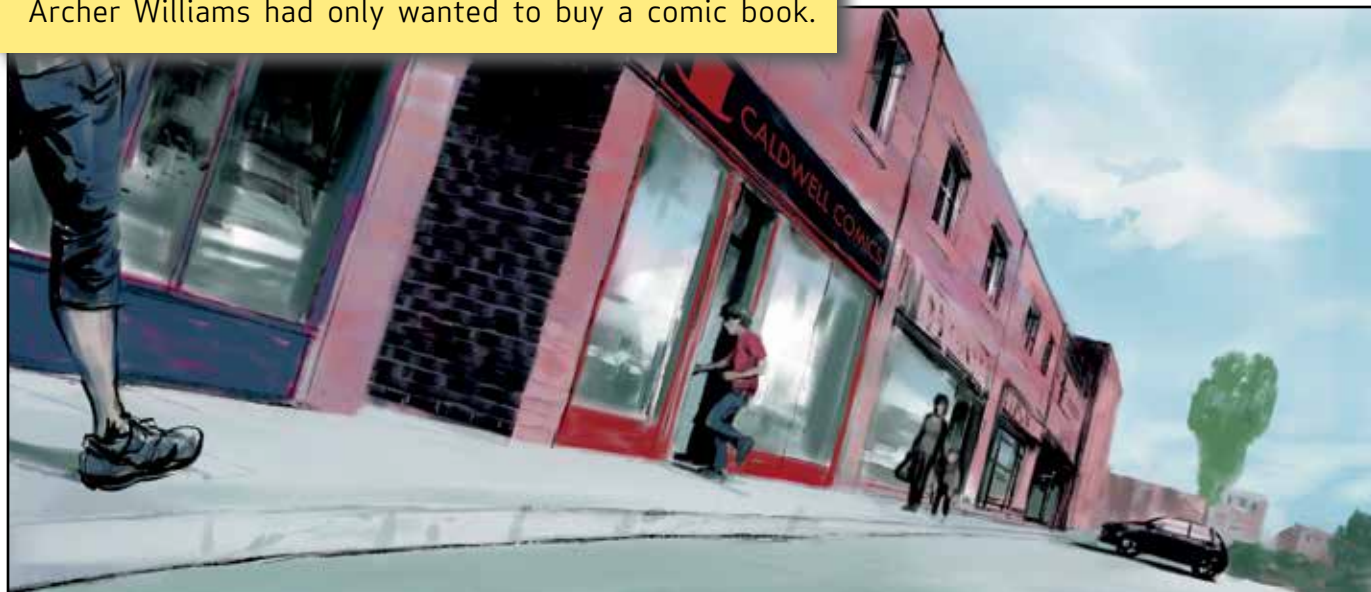
Illustrations: Neil Evans

Printed in China

20 21 22 23 24 25 RRD 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Archer Williams had only wanted to buy a comic book.



But not just any comic book.




The latest issue of his favorite comic had just come out.



2

As far as Archer was concerned, it was a gift beyond measure.

A comic book page with a diagonal split. On the left, a man in a grey suit and a tall black top hat is seen from the back, looking towards a young man. The young man has dark hair and is wearing a red t-shirt with a yellow and black graphic. He is smiling and holding a comic book. In the background, there is a comic shop with shelves of books and a sign that says "NEW Arrivals". On the right, a hand is shown holding a comic book titled "CAPTAIN FANTASTIC". The comic book cover features a character in a yellow and red suit. A green, smoky or gaseous effect is emanating from the comic book. A man in a grey suit and a tall black top hat is standing behind a counter, looking at the comic book. The page is numbered "3" in the bottom right corner.

I figured I'd see you in here today, Archer.

I gotta see how Captain Fantastic gets out of that lava trap he got stuck in last time!

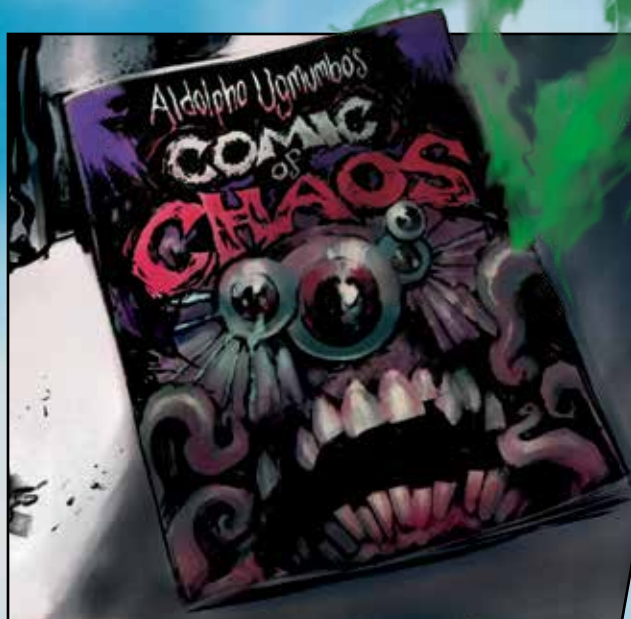
Should be a good one. I hear it's full of surprises.

Archer couldn't wait to dive into the further adventures of Captain Fantastic. Little did he know...

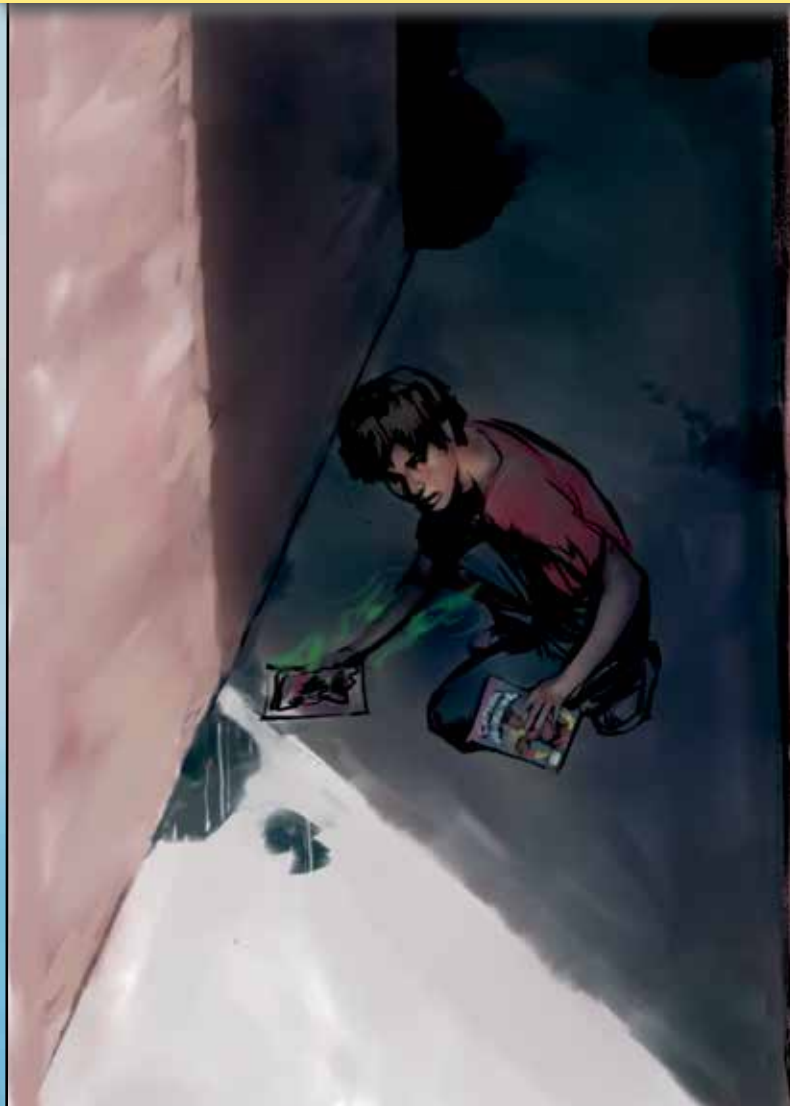


...he got more than he bargained for.



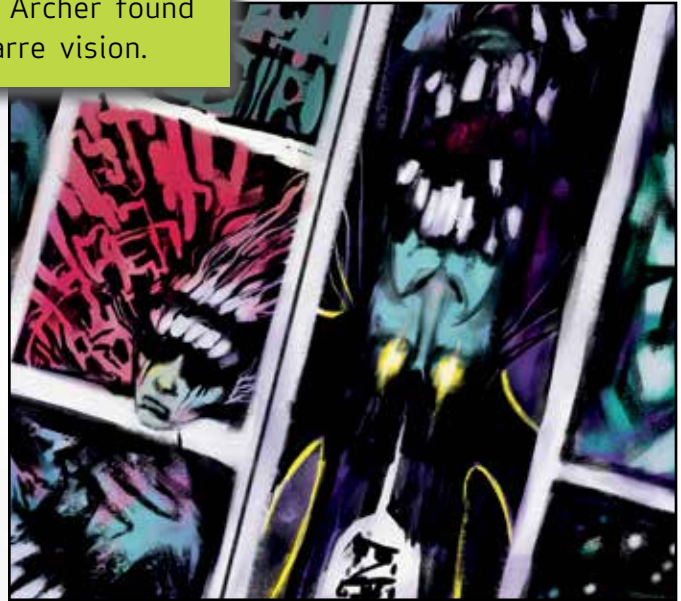


Sometimes things got mixed up at the factory. Two comics could easily be stuffed into the same bag. Archer knew he should probably just head back into the store and hand the extra one over to Mr. Caldwell.



But he didn't.

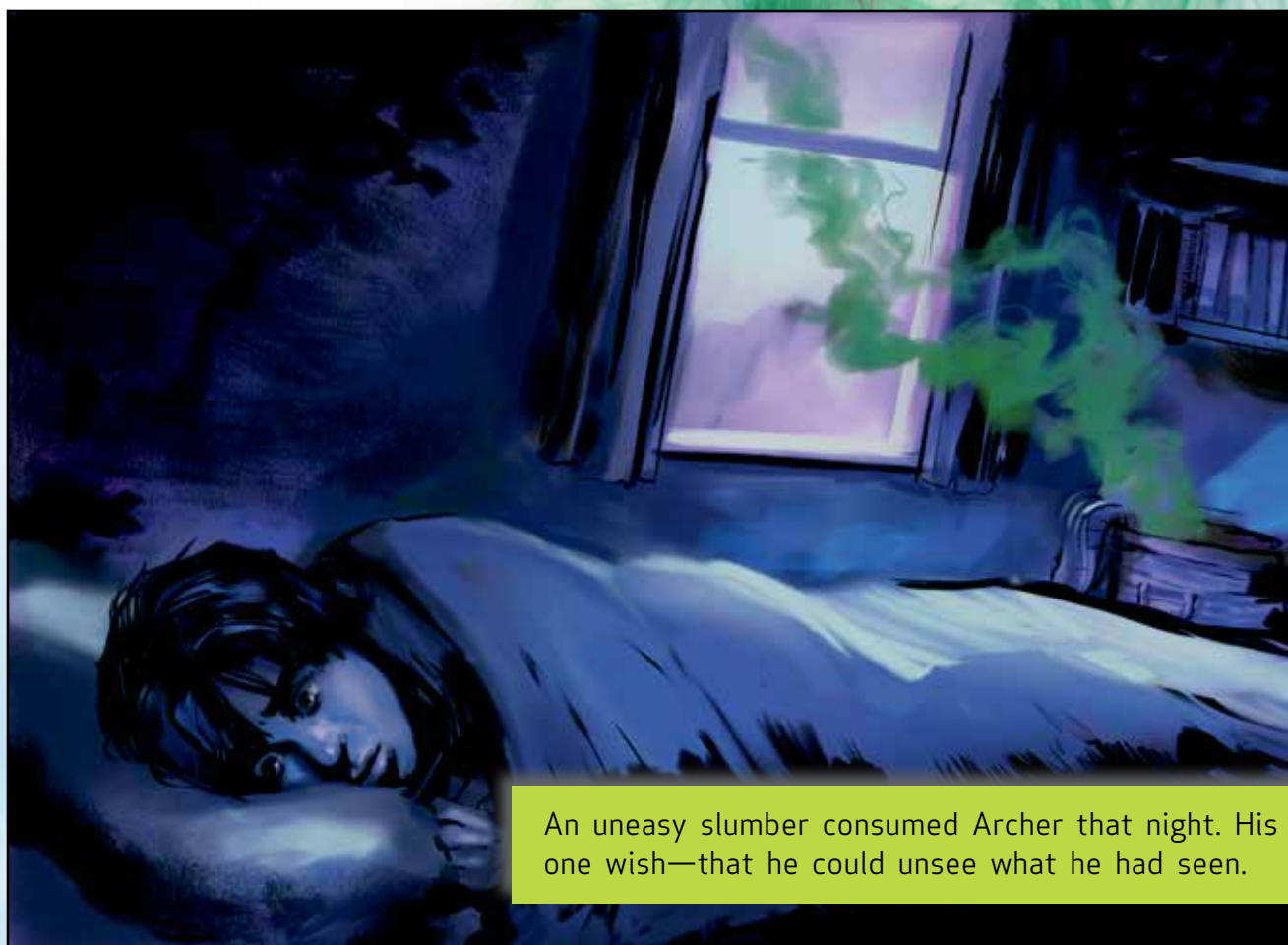
At home, Captain Fantastic was forgotten and Archer found himself consumed by Aldolpho Ugmumbo's bizarre vision.



Within the dark pages...impossible images...forbidden secrets...horrors of the ages...



Insanity.




An uneasy slumber consumed Archer that night. His one wish—that he could unsee what he had seen.


Archer awoke the next morning to find himself trapped in a nightmare.

What the...? How...?

Archer's mind reeled at the sight awaiting him in the kitchen. It was all too much.




Morning, Archer.



Aren't you hungry?

No...I...
I need to...



Have a good day
at school, honey!

He had to get
out of there!





Back home, Archer's ties to reality hung by a thread—ready to snap at any second.

Stop! Please!
I can't take any more!
Where is...?

He reached for the comic.

Leave me alone!

Why are you
doing this to me?

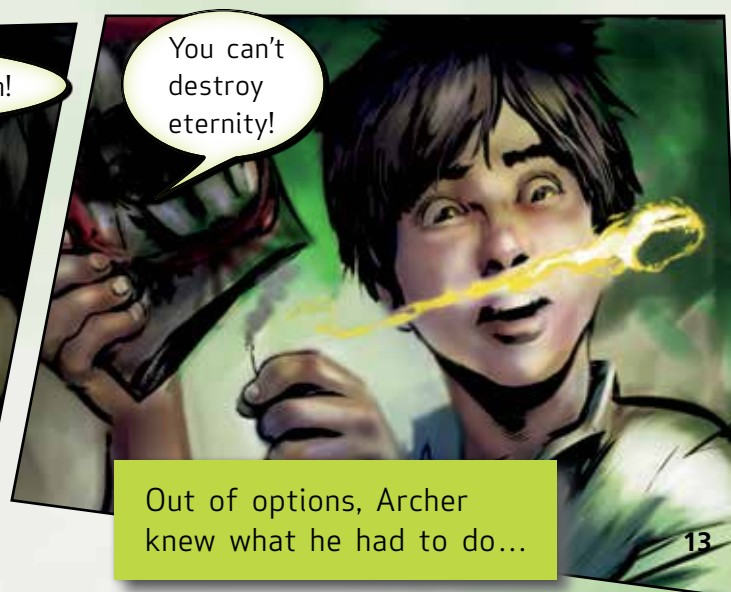
The fun's
just beginning!

I'm opening your mind
to the cosmos!! Experience
what lies beyond!

Having no desire to glimpse the forbidden beyond, Archer ripped the comic apart.



The comic was powerful, but it was still made of paper. Archer made his way to the kitchen and opened a cabinet.



Out of options, Archer knew what he had to do...

...he only hoped it wasn't already too late.



Please take this!

Whatcha got there, Archer?
Is that Captain Fantastic?

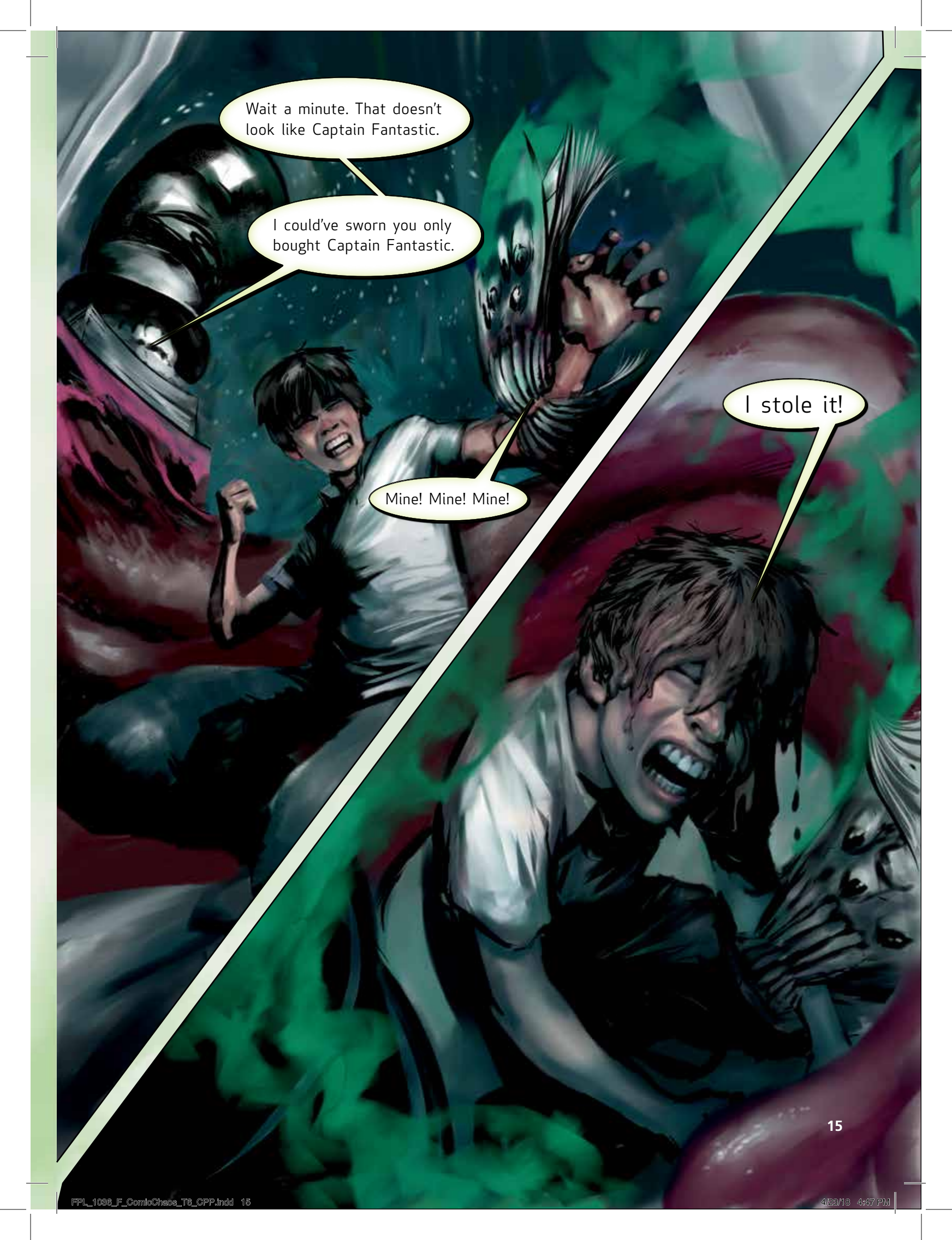
Take it!

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I'm yours, Archer!
And you're mine!





Wait a minute. That doesn't look like Captain Fantastic.

I could've sworn you only bought Captain Fantastic.

Mine! Mine! Mine!

I stole it!



You stole it?



That's very brave of you to admit, Archer. Very brave indeed.



I tell you what. Let's just say you borrowed it, and now you've returned it. And we'll leave it at that.



Thank you! Thank you so much! It won't happen again!

16



I know.



A Note From the Author

I really enjoyed writing *Comic of Chaos* because it gave me a chance to test the limits of my imagination. Rather than rely on tried and true monsters and villains, this was a chance to create horror from the ground up. I pulled from a variety of sources but, in the end, I hope I've come up with some things you've never seen before.

Enjoy!

—Zack Warren



CHAOS IS SEEPING INTO OUR WORLD

Archer's new comic book is strange
and disturbing, and it appears to be
bleeding into reality. Will he
ever be sane again?

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Fiction: Fantasy

518 Total Running Words

Level W