

THE FOLK OF HARROW COUNTY
PUT THE WITCH TO DEATH...

...BUT THE WITCH
DID NOT DIE EASILY.

HESTER BECK HAD BEEN
SHOT, STABBED, BEATEN...

...AND FINALLY
HANGED BY
THE NECK.

SHE HAD BEEN ONE OF THEM,
THOUGH--A NEIGHBOR AND...
AT TIMES... A FRIEND...

...AND THEM THAT KILLED HER
WOULD'VE GIVEN HER A PROPER
BURIAL AND LAST RITES...

...BUT THE RAIN WASHED THE
PAGES OF THE BIBLE CLEAN.

IN LIFE, HESTER HAD
BEEN A HEALING WOMAN.

SHE CURED FRAILTIES AND
AILMENTS WITH WHISPERED
INCANTATIONS...

...CHASING THEM AWAY
AS EASILY AS SHOOSING
STRAY TOMCATS.

FOR A TIME, FOLK TURNED A BLIND EYE WHEN LIVESTOCK STARTED DYING IN HESTER'S PRESENCE.

"THERE MUST BE A TRADE," THEY MIGHT SAY. "WHAT IS TAKEN MUST BE GIVEN."



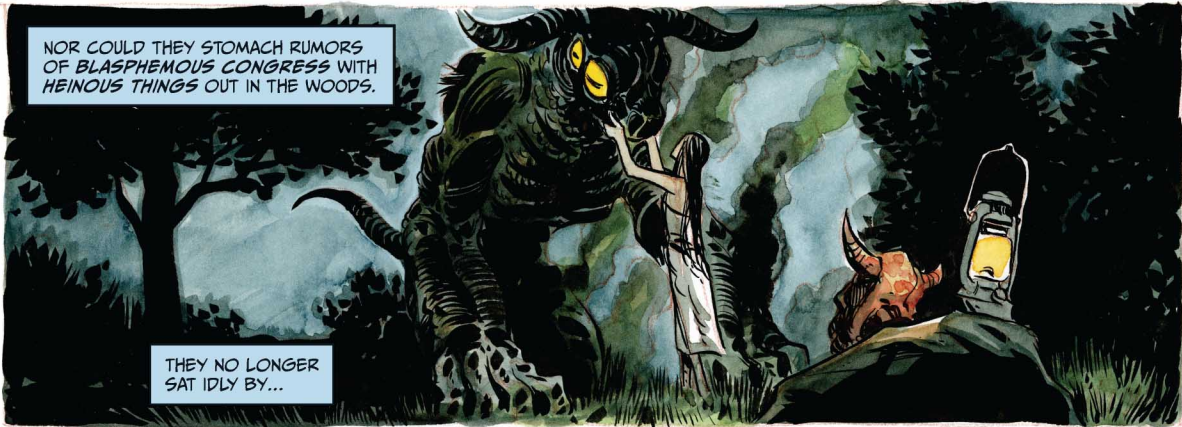
BUT THEY COULD SCARCELY ABIDE THE LOCAL CHILDREN FOLLOWING HER OUT TO SULFUR CREEK...

...AND PARTICIPATING IN STRANGE SERMONS AND BAPTISMS.



NOR COULD THEY STOMACH RUMORS OF BLASPHEMOUS CONGRESS WITH HEINOUS THINGS OUT IN THE WOODS.

THEY NO LONGER SAT IDLY BY...



...WHEN THEY DISCOVERED HOW SHE FED HER VILE COMPANIONS...

...AND HOW SHE STRENGTHENED HER OWN SUPERNATURAL GIFTS.



THESE MURDEROUS FRIENDS
AND NEIGHBORS KNEW...

...JUST AS HESTER
COULD CURE OTHERS...

...SHE MIGHT
HEAL HERSELF.



AND SO THEY PUT
HER TO BULLET AND
BLADE AND NOOSE...



...AND FINALLY FIRE.

GOD
HELP ME.



BUT EVEN AS HER
FLESH BURNED AWAY
FROM THE BONE...

...HESTER BECK
TREMBLED AND
HISSED.



...NOT
THE END...

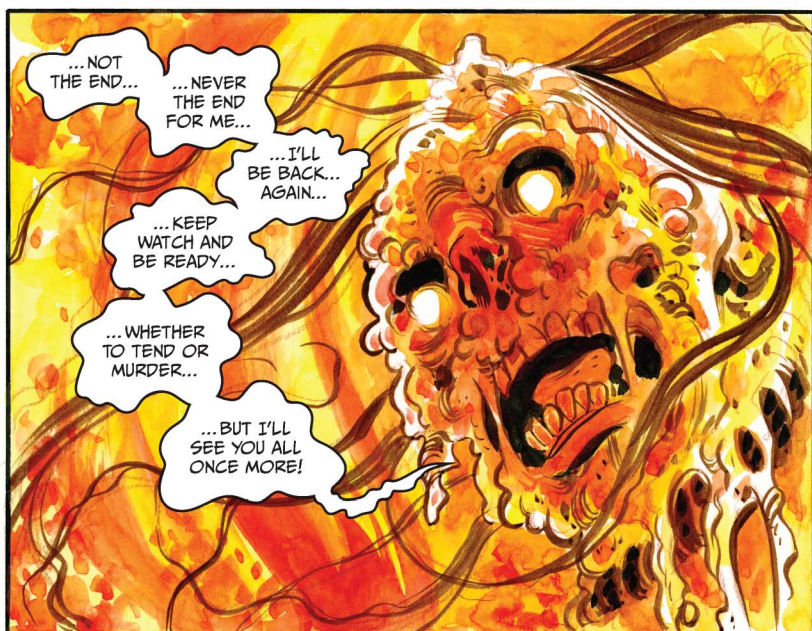
...NEVER
THE END
FOR ME...

...I'LL
BE BACK...
AGAIN...

...KEEP
WATCH AND
BE READY...

...WHETHER
TO TEND OR
MURDER...

... BUT I'LL
SEE YOU ALL
ONCE MORE!



THERE WAS TRUTH IN THE
DEAD WOMAN'S WORDS...

...A PROMISE TO REVISIT
THE SINS OF THE DAY...



... TO JUDGE AND PUNISH THOSE
INQUITIES THAT NOT EVEN THE
RAIN COULD WASH AWAY.