

AWAKENING 10

Tapalansky Eckman-Lawn Maurer



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#1 OF 5
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MR

MATURE
READERS

IT'S *HARD* TO THINK
ANYTHING'S WRONG WITH THIS
PICTURE. IF SOMEONE DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER, THEY'D SAY
THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT PARK
FALLS WAS SUPPOSED TO
LOOK LIKE ON A WINTER DAY.

THEN AGAIN, THAT'S WHY PEOPLE
LIKE ME DO WHAT WE DO. WE HAVE
TO HELP THE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T
SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, OR
WORSE--DON'T *WANT* TO.

WHY?

BECAUSE WE
KNOW *BETTER*.

JANUARY 29TH

IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS
FEELING, I'D THINK
SHE'D BEEN LYING. HELL,
I'M STILL ON THE FENCE
ABOUT IT. BUT...

THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE...
STRANGE THINGS. THE MURDERS,
THE DISAPPEARANCES: THESE THINGS
HAVE A CONNECTION, I *KNOW* IT.

IN THE LAST
THREE WEEKS
ALONE PARK
FALLS HAS FOUR
MISSING AND
THREE MURDERS.
WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH SOME
BAD TIMES BUT
NOTHING QUITE
LIKE THIS.

THIS IS OUT OF CONTROL.
THE POLICE STILL THINK
THEY'RE CHASING ONE
GUY, A REPEATER AND
A SICK ONE AT THAT.
THE M.O.'S THE SAME,
BUT *SOMETHING'S*
NOT RIGHT...


--REPEAT, WE'VE GOT A POSSIBLE REPEAT
ATTACK ON BLOSSOM BOULEVARD, VICTIM SAYS
ASSAILANT WALKED, REPEAT, *WALKED* AWAY
SOUTH BOUND TOWARDS ACADEMY AVENUE.

CLICK

PROCEED WITH
CAUTION, SUSPECT
CONSIDERED
POTENTIALLY
ARMED AND
DANGEROUS.
REPEAT WE'VE--




THIS TIME HE LEFT A
WITNESS BEHIND. FIRST
TIME THAT'S HAPPENED.
THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN
FOUND MASSACRED,
RIPPED TO SHREDS BY
"UNKNOWN MEANS".

WORD IS THERE WERE
TEETH MARKS ON
WHAT WAS LEFT OF
THE BODIES.



IF WHAT CYNTHIA TOLD ME
IS TRUE, IT WOULD FIT WITH
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE--
TO SOME DEGREE, ANYWAY.
BUT IT SEEMS A LITTLE TOO
BIZARRE TO JUST ACCEPT.

AND COMING FROM
CYNTHIA, THERE'S
ALWAYS THE POTENTIAL
FOR...INACCURACIES.



BUT IF WHAT SHE'S
SAYING IS TRUE, THEN
THE SHIT IS ABOUT TO
HIT THE FAN.

TWO DAYS EARLIER...



...AND HE SAID
I MUST BE CRAZY, BUT
I SAID HE WAS AN ASSHOLE
IF HE DIDN'T JUST *LISTEN* THAT
THIS WHOLE CITY--MAYBE EVEN
THE *WORLD*--WAS IN DANGER.
ALL BECAUSE OF THOSE
LYING BASTARDS...

...OH, BUT
I'M THE CRAZY
ONE!



FIRST THEY FIRE ME AND THEN
THEY DISAPPEAR! THAT'S
NO COINCIDENCE!

THEY FORCED
ME OUT BECAUSE
I KNEW TOO MUCH,
AND THEN THEY RAN
SCARED WHEN IT
WENT BAD!


COME
IN, CYNTHIA.
PLEASE.




DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?! IT'S A
CONSPIRACY! *THEY'RE*
THE ONES BEHIND ALL
OF THIS. IT'S *THEM!*
SICK! THEY'RE
ALL SICK!

WHAT DO
YOU *WANT*,
CYNTHIA?






DERRICK, YOU
NEED TO LISTEN TO ME.
SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* IS
HAPPENING AND I KNOW WHY.




WHAT NOW? A
SHADOWY GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATION CONTROLLING
OUR MINDS? OR MAYBE THE
MAYOR IS SELLING CHILDREN
TO THE CANNIBALS UP
NORTH? *AGAIN*.



NO, NO,
NO, NO, NO,
NO!

THIS IS REAL
AND I CAN PROVE
IT THIS TIME! I *KNOW*
WHO'S KILLING THOSE
PEOPLE ALL OVER
THE CITY.



THE MURDERS?
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO
TO THE POLICE?

I *DID*. THEY
TOLD ME I WAS CRAZY
AND WOULDN'T EVEN LISTEN
TO WHAT I HAD TO *SAY*. I HAVE
EVERYTHING THEY NEED AND
THEY JUST *KICKED*
ME OUT.

I KNEW
YOU'D LISTEN,
THOUGH. YOU
HAVE TO.

ALRIGHT, WHO
IS IT THEN?


A person wearing a dark hooded jacket and a white face mask sits on a dark, worn couch. They are positioned in front of a window with a white frame. The background wall is covered in a collage of brown and tan textures, resembling torn paper or wood. A speech bubble points to the person from the right, containing the word "ZOMBIES." in capital letters. The floor is covered with a red and brown patterned rug.

ZOMBIES.







HOW *DARE*
YOU! YOU HAVEN'T
EVEN HEARD WHAT I HAVE
TO SAY! I CAN *PROVE* IT
ALL! I JUST NEED A
LITTLE HELP!



YOU *DO*
NEED HELP; I'M
JUST NOT QUALIFIED
TO GIVE IT. GET
OUT. NOW.



NO, IF
I LEAVE THEN
ALL OF THIS WILL BE
ON MY CONSCIENCE
AND I WON'T
HAVE IT!



I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I
CAN DO ALONE!



ALRIGHT,
TALK.

TELL ME WHAT
YOU KNOW ABOUT
THE KILLINGS.

"I WAS WALKING HOME
LAST NIGHT, WHEN I HEARD
SOMETHING STRANGE FROM
AN ALLEY. I THOUGHT IT WAS
THOSE DAMN RACCOONS
AGAIN, ALWAYS COMING IN
FROM THE SUBURBS.



"I WAS GOING TO SCARE
THEM AWAY, MAYBE SMASH
ONE IF I COULD. YOU KNOW,
TEACH THEM A LESSON. THE
SOUNDS GOT LOUDER AND
SOUNDED...SOUNDED LIKE
SOMETHING WAS *EATING*.



"THAT'S WHEN
I SAW HIM. /7.
THE KILLER.



"I COULDN'T TELL WHO IT WAS, BUT THE PERSON IT WAS...*EATING*... WAS ROBERT JENKINS.



"THERE WAS A LIGHT ON HIS FACE THAT MADE HIM--/T LOOK SO *SAD*.

I REMEMBER ROBERT'S FACE WAS STILL INTACT. HIS STOMACH WAS...NOT.




"THEN HE--/T-- IT NOTICED ME.





"THAT'S WHEN
I RAN."






SHIT. I CAN'T
EVEN GET A
GOOD NIGHT'S
SLEEP THANKS
TO HER.

I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS.

CLINE PHARMACEUTICAL
IS JUST OUTSIDE OF THE
CITY, OUT AROUND ALL
THAT UNUSED FARMLAND.



I'LL SEE WHAT
I CAN FIND OUT
HERE FIRST, DO
SOME DIGGING
TOMORROW.

CLICK



TOMORROW.





THIS OUGHTA BE
GOOD...SOMEONE WANTS
TO TALK TO ME? *NOW?* I'LL
TELL YOU WHAT THEY CAN DO--
BETTER YET, *I'LL* JUST
TELL THEM!



LISTEN HERE,
ASSHOLE, I DON'T
CARE *WHO* YOU ARE,
GOT IT? THIS IS *MY*
STATION AND--



UH-HUH...



YES SIR,
I REALIZE THAT
BUT WE HAVE THAT
UNDER CON--


UH-HUH.



OF COURSE, SIR.
I UNDERSTAND.




NO SIR,
THANK *YOU*
FOR SPEAKING
WITH ME.




SO, SON, DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME HOW IT IS I WAS JUST CHEWED OUT BY THE FUCKING *SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES*?


I THINK HIGHLY OF MYSELF, BUT NOT *THAT* HIGHLY.




JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU AND ALL YOUR CRAP HAVE TO DO WITH MY MURDER INVESTIGATION?



I'M NOT REALLY AT LIBERTY TO SAY. TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, I'M NOT SO SURE MYSELF, BUT WHEN THE POWERS THAT BE SAY "GO TO PARK FALLS," I'M ON THE NEXT TRAIN. THAT'S JUST HOW IT WORKS.



WELL, HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON BEING A PAIN IN MY ASS, EXACTLY?



AS LONG AS IT TAKES, I SUPPOSE.



AND WHAT EXACTLY
CAN I DO TO EXPEDITE
YOU GETTING THE HELL OUT
OF PARK FALLS?

FOR STARTERS,
I'LL NEED TO SEE ALL
OF YOUR FILES REGARDING THE
MURDERS AND MISSING PERSONS
THAT ARE POPPING UP ALL
OVER THE CITY.



THIS IS EVERYTHING SO FAR.
NAMES, DATES, AND PICTURES
THAT'LL PROBABLY MAKE YOU
LOSE YOUR LUNCH.

I'M SURE
I CAN HANDLE
IT, THANKS.



I THINK I'LL
GO REVIEW THESE
IN MY LAB.

BATHROOM'S
ON THE LEFT.



BLECH!

HUAAARK!

ECHHK*



DIDN'T SEE
THAT COMING.



THOSE PICTURES...
THESE PEOPLE WERE
EATEN ALIVE!

OUTSIDE!

SOME OF
THEM IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT!

WHAT THE HELL
DID THEY GET ME
INTO NOW?



Vincent Nordone
January 14th
8:44AM
Santa Rita East



ANDREW GRIEMMS

Andrew Griensmann
January 17th
2:36AM
Roachdale Rd.



ROBERT JENKINS

Robert Jenkins
January 26th
7:35PM
Terwillinger Avenue

On the night of January 26th, this officer received a call to respond to violence on Terwillinger Avenue. The call was anonymous though the caller, Cynthia Ford, later came forward.

Witness stated that another person ("zombie") was seen eating victim, Robert Jenkins, in the alley in which the body was found. This officer discovered the body, badly injured and unrecognizable, where the caller had directed.

Body was in a state that I, in my years as a police officer, have never been privy to before. Bite marks were visible across mid-section, neck, and limbs. The abdomen was torn open and internal organs were badly damaged and strewn across alleyway.

The witness, Cynthia Ford, came to the police station the following morning to explain what she saw. Witness was hysterical - cited Cline Pharmaceutical, her former employer, as the cause of the murder. Believes they created the "zombie" she saw. After taking her statement, the witness was assured that any leads would be pursued and was escorted

Dental records
not on file.

Done by
hand?
No sign of
weapon/tool.

Cline
Pharma-
ceutical?

Autopsies
pending.


ry 27
icide



WHAT DID
THEY DO?




WHAT DID
THEY LET
LOOSE
HERE?



FEBRUARY 1ST

IT'S *HARD* TO THINK ANYTHING'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE. IF SOMEONE DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, THEY'D SAY THIS WAS *EXACTLY* WHAT PARK FALLS WAS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE ON A WINTER DAY.



THEN AGAIN, THAT'S WHY PEOPLE LIKE *ME* DO WHAT WE DO. WE HAVE TO *HELP* THE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE--OR WORSE--DON'T *WANT* TO.

WHY?

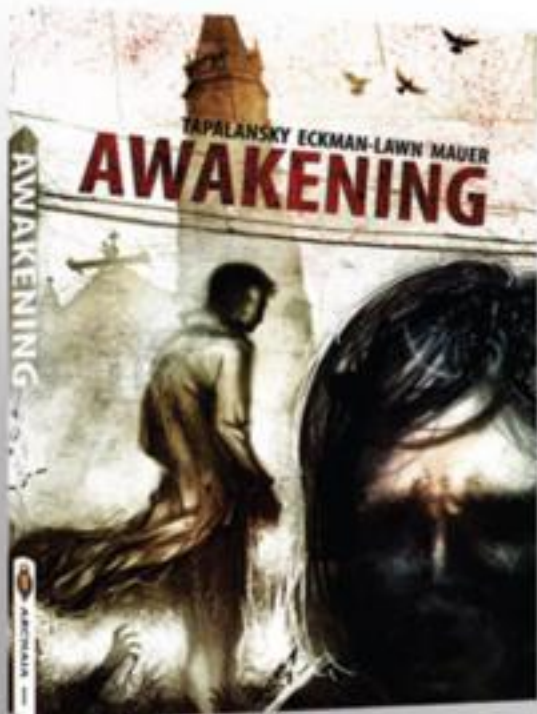
BECAUSE WE
KNOW BETTER.



NEXT ISSUE



NICK TAPALANSKY • ALEX ECKMAN-LAWN
AWAKENING ISSUE TWO



VOLUME ONE

AWAKENING

COLLECTED EDITION HARDCOVER

NICK TAPALANSKY • ALEX ECKMAN-LAWN

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