

# **INTO THE COLD**

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22 SCRIPT PAGES  
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## PAGE 1 (FULL-PAGE PANEL)

**PANEL 1:** Open on a full-page panel of a desolate city corner dive bar - Shoeless Joe's. Snow is falling. A good three inches has accumulated already. It is night. The streets that crisscross in front of the bar are void of life and buried in snow. There are scant holiday decorations peppered throughout the city corner. Christmas must be near.

1. **LOCATION BOX:** Shoeless Joe's. South Side Chicago. Christmas Eve.
2. **JACKIE VO BOX:** When the holidays come around people tend to start believin' in MAGIC. You know - the merry elf, feel good, brotherly LOVE kind...
3. **JACKIE VO BOX:** Truth is, there ain't no such thing. Only magic that exists in this world is evil. PURE evil. The kind of magic that would rather consume and DESTROY rather than make little Bobby and Suzy believe in a FAT ASS named Santa Clause.
4. **JACKIE VO BOX:** And if you REALLY think about it - it's ALL evil. EVERYTHING is. The only thing left to trust these days is the cycle. The ORDER of things.
5. **JACKIE VO BOX:** Every end will have a new beginning, and every beginning WILL have an end. It's the one constant truth that you can always bet on. TRUST me...

## PAGE 2 (FIVE PANELS)

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a side shot of Jackie Estacado and Michael Finnegan seated at a bar. The glow of neon beer signs, a light above an old decrepit pool table, and the streetlights bouncing off of the snow outside - are the only thing's providing light to the bar's overall dim interior. The bartender stands across from them, washing a glass while staring mindlessly at the snowfall outside the bar's large picture window. The bartender looks to be in his thirties, dark cropped hair, trimmed beard, reasonably fit. Jackie is taking a sip out of his rocks glass while Finnegan is pouring a shot from a bottle of Irish whiskey. There are a few other empty dirty shot glasses on the bar near

Finnegan. There is also some wadded cash on the bar in front of them. It looks like they have been here for a while. There is no one else inside of the once popular watering hole that has been long past its prime for decades now.

1. **JACKIE VO BOX:** For instance, take my PAL here. This son-of-a-bitch has been my right hand man for YEARS, but what happens? What ALWAYS happens... Evil seeps in and CORRUPTS the weak.
2. **JACKIE VO BOX:** He's staging a COUP. He wants what's MINE and he thinks I have no idea. But I know ALL.
3. **JACKIE VO BOX:** So TONIGHT he ends... And with his end something, or rather - SOMEONE will begin...
4. **JACKIE VO BOX:** But who am I to rob a true Irishman of a proper send off? First the whiskey - then the CLOSURE.

**PANEL 2:** Cut to a closer shot of Jackie Estacado addressing the bartender. Finnegan has slammed his shot and is slamming the shot glass back down on the bar top. The bartender is still lost in his gaze of the snowfall.

5. **JACKIE:** Say pal, what's YOUR story? You ain't got no family? Tendin' an empty bar on Christmas EVE? You Jewish or somethin'?

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a medium solo shot of the bartender placing a just cleaned glass next to the others near his rusted bar sink. He addresses Jackie devoid of emotion.

6. **FREDDIE:** No. No family. Not Jewish.
7. **FREDDIE:** You want another drink?

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a reaction shot of Jackie and Finnegan. Jackie is looking at the off-panel Freddie (the bartender) with a raised brow. Finnegan is looking at Jackie, smirking, while motioning toward Freddie - quite pleased with himself.

8. **FINNEGAN:** Jaysus. Now this man here Jackie, THIS is a man of many words.

9. **FINNEGAN:** Hahahaha.

10. **JACKIE:** Yeah. Let's see if we can change that shall we?

**PANEL 5:** Zoom out to a three shot of them all. Jackie has placed his beautifully ornamented colt .45 handgun on the bar - keeping his eyes on Freddie. Finnegan is a bit taken back, but it's nothing he hasn't seen before. Freddie is eyeing the pistol, but it doesn't seem to affect him much.

11. **JACKIE:** I asked for your STORY. Now how about you consider it a kind CHRISTMAS gesture and INDULGE me. There ain't no one else you tendin', and we got time to kill. I'd hate to SHOOT ya without ever gettin' the chance to KNOW ya. Ya understand?

### **PAGE 3 (FOUR PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a medium frontal shot of Freddie. The gun has gotten his attention. He's trying to play it cool, but he definitely doesn't feel like dying tonight.

1. **FREDDIE:** The name's Freddie. Born Frediano Nevada.

**PANEL 2:** Cut to a shot of Jackie leaning back in his bar stool arms raised, pleased and proud of Freddie's response.

2. **JACKIE:** Ah, FREDIANO. A fellow Italian.

**PANEL 3:** Zoom back out to side shot of the three. Finnegan is rolling his eyes as he pours himself another whiskey shot. Freddie has his bar towel slung over his shoulder as he stands there deadpan, continuing to address Jackie.

3. **FREDDIE:** Half. Mother's side. Father was Spanish.

4. **FREDDIE:** How far back you want me to go?

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a frontal close up of Jackie leaning in, head slightly tilted, addressing Freddie - index finger pointing down on the bar top to accentuate his statement.

5. **JACKIE:** Skip to the GOOD stuff. How'd you end up here, alone, DEAD inside...
6. **JACKIE:** Tell me THAT story Frediano.

## **PAGE 4 (FIVE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Point of view shot of a sweet boy's face looking up smiling. He looks to be eight years old, innocent, and content to be spending the day with his Father. It is mid-day and there is a warm glow of sun filling the panel.

1. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** I had a SON. My first and only...
2. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** He had the face of his Mother but his SPIRIT...
3. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** His spirit was mine...

**PANEL 2:** Zoom out to expose the outer sidewalk entry to a city park. There are a couple of vendors selling hot dogs and balloons, a street clown juggling, and multiple families entering and exiting. Everyone looks happy except for Freddie who is on the phone looking annoyed. His son tags along behind him, balloon in hand looking back at the juggling clown.

4. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** It was mid-day. A random weekend of the same ol'...

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a close up of Freddie on the phone grimacing, one hand pinching the top of his nose as if he has a sinus headache. He would want nothing more than whoever was on the line to finish talking so he could hang up.

5. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** I was on the phone getting an earful from his mother. I thought I'd buy a hot dog to help cure my hangover.

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a medium shot of Freddie handing over cash (still on the phone), in exchange for a hot dog from the vendor. Freddie's son looks concerned, and is both tugging on Freddie's jacket with one hand and pointing at something off panel with the other.

6. **FREDDIE'S SON:** Dad! That clown dropped one of his balls!

7. **FREDDIE:** What? Just a second buddy--

8. **FREDDIE:** --Here you go. Keep the change.

9. **FREDDIE:** --Hey babe - I GET IT okay? I gotta go. I'll call you when we're on our way.

**PANEL 5:** Cut to a close up of Freddie about to take a bite of his hot dog. He is wide eyed and terrified. The hot dog is frozen in mid air, falling out of the hand he was holding it in.

10. **SFX:** Screeeeech!!!

11. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** And before I could even take a bite I  
KNEW...

12. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** First it was the screech--

13. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** Then the THUD.

14. **OFF-PANEL SCREAM:** OH MY GOD!

15. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** That's when I knew life had no GRAND design... A part time CLOWN loses his ball, and I lose my SON? What kind of sense does that make?

## **PAGE 5 (SIX PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a frontal shot of Freddie sitting in a dark hospital room at his son's comatose side. His son lies in the foreground in front of him in a bed hooked up to various life

support devices - badly bruised and bandaged. Freddie is holding his son's hand looking upon him with both worry and disbelief.

Freddie's wife stands next to Freddie, slightly behind him, with her hands on his shoulders attempting to comfort him. *(Note: we could keep her face hidden/undefined to leave open the future possibility of defining her further. i.e. we could do a reveal later that she is actually a character already familiar to the universe etc. Just a thought.)*

1. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** He died the next morning...
2. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** Something BROKE inside me that day.
3. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** His Mother tried all she could to bring me back from the ABYSS I spiraled into. But there was no hope...

**PANEL 2:** Cut to a frontal shot of Freddie walking away from his home, emotionless, packed bags in hand. His wife stands at the open front doorway in the background behind him crying - head lowered in one hand.

4. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** She didn't have the heart to leave me, so she ended up CHEATING instead.. with my fucking SUPERVISOR at that.
5. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** But to be honest, I didn't mind.
6. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** EVERYTHING was dead to me by then.
7. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** I had become... COLD.

**PANEL 3:** Cut back to the bar where Finnegan is holding up a shot glass smiling and winking at Jackie who is still seated next to him. Finnegan is clearly feeling the alcohol course through him. Jackie does not look amused, almost embarrassed.

8. **FINNEGAN:** I'll drink to THAT! Hear HEAR!

**PANEL 4:** Cut to Freddie at the head of a craps table inside of a casino. He is the dealer of the table but he is zoned out, sporting a vacant stare. Another dealer with the craps stick in

hand, is slightly leaning into Freddie trying to nonchalantly speak under his breath and snap Freddie out of his daze.

9. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** I lost my JOB at the casino...

10. **OTHER DEALER:** Freddie - what are you DOING? Wake UP and PAY the man.

**PANEL 5:** Cut to the inside of a psychologist's office. A stuffy looking Psychologist sits with a notepad, slightly annoyed with the again vacant looking Freddie. Freddie sits on the couch across from her - looking through her, devoid of emotion.

11. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** Tried "talking" to people... but it was all BULLSHIT...

12. **PSYCHOLOGIST:** In order for you to get anything out of this Mr. Nevada, you NEED to speak to me. I assure you it WILL help.

**PANEL 6:** Cut to Freddie sitting on a small concrete wall under a dead end sign of a city street. The sun is setting as Freddie has a beer in hand, staring off into space. It looks like he hasn't showered or slept for days.

13. **FREDDIE VO BOX:** No one KNOWS. No one CARES... This world is FUCKED...

## **PAGE 6 (FOUR PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut back to the bar to a frontal shot of Freddie, hunched forward - hands on the bar, addressing Jackie and Finnegan.



1. **FREDDIE:** Fast-forward ten years through the addictions, the recklessness, etcetera...
2. **FREDDIE:** And I'm serving you two in a down n' out bar on the anniversary night before our supposed Christ SAVIOR was born.

**PANEL 2:** Zoom out to a shot of all three of them. Freddie is as he is in the previous panel. Finnegan and Jackie are still seated, observing Freddie as he speaks.

3. **FREDDIE:** They say he DIED for our SINS you know...

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a two shot of Finnegan and Jackie. Jackie is sitting calmly - still looking forward while Finnegan is looking at him with a drunken disbelief.

4. **FINNEGAN:** Holy SHITE man. This nob has been through the RINGER.

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a zoomed in frontal solo shot of Jackie who is sitting calmly. His hand is now resting on his pistol that lays on the bar in front of him. He looks very "calm before the storm."

5. **JACKIE:** That he did Freddie. But have you ever wondered if he would've died for us if Judas hadn't--

## **PAGE 7 (FIVE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a small overlay panel of a Darkness tentacle grabbing ahold of the glowing blue Glacier Stone necklace Finnegan had tucked in his shirt and snapping it off his neck.

**NO DIALOUGE**

**PANEL 2:** Cut to another small overlay close-up of Finnegan looking at the Glacier Stone escape him in terror.

1. **FINNEGAN:** Jackie - NO... I'm SORRY! I wouldn't have --

**PANEL 3:** Full-page background panel shot of Jackie still seated at the bar. One of his Darkness tentacles has wrapped itself around Finnegan's waist and has lifted him up out of his barstool - holding him in the air. Another Darkness tentacle has hold of the Glacier Stone, keeping it far away from Finnegan's reach. Jackie is shooting Finnegan in the head as he looks forward at Freddie - angered and screaming at him with conviction. One side of Finnegan's head is exploding like a watermelon by the bullet travelling through it. Finnegan's body is trying to fly sideways with the force, but is being held back by the tentacle's grasp. Freddie is jumping back in shock and terror in a wide-eyed disbelief looking at Finnegan's now lifeless body being held by something only seen in nightmares.

2. **JACKIE:** -- BETRAYED HIM?!!!

3. **FREDDIE:** FFFUUUCKKK! WHA--

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a smaller overlaid panel close-up of Freddie's face. He looks as if he doesn't know whether to cry, scream, or puke. He's an emotional wreck.

#### **NO DIALOUGE**

**PANEL 5:** Cut to another smaller overlaid panel of a blood sprayed Jackie - still seated, gun lowered, addressing Freddie aggressively.

4. **JACKIE:** THERE it is Freddie... That's the most emotion you've FELT in years - ISN'T IT?! Maybe you just needed to witness another DEATH to remind you of the LIFE you PISS away!

## PAGE 8 (FIVE PANELS)

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Jackie now standing beside his barstool, tossing Finnegan aside toward the pool table with one tentacle - and bringing the Glacier Stone necklace to his hand with the other.

1. **JACKIE:** I KNOW who you ARE Freddie. I came here for a REASON. I came to give you a GIFT.

**PANEL 2:** Cut closer to a two shot of Jackie and Freddie. Jackie has retracted his Darkness tentacles. He now holds the glowing blue Glacier Stone in one hand and still has his gun lowered in the other. Freddie leans back against his liquor bottle wall apprehensively - unsure as to what Jackie will do next.

2. **JACKIE:** You said it yourself... This world is BULLSHIT.
3. **JACKIE:** And it is. But you don't know me kid. I've CHANGED worlds...

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a frontal solo shot of Jackie with his armed extended in front of him, displaying the mesmerizing Glacier Stone to the off-panel Freddie. Jackie is smirking, looking slightly crazed.

4. **JACKIE:** And YOU could change this one WITH me Freddie. Put this on and you'll understand...

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a side shot of Freddie cautiously taking the Glacier Stone necklace from Jackie. Freddie looks utterly confused - still trying to process what all has happened.

5. **FREDDIE:** What are you TALKING about? Who - who ARE you? And what do you mean you KNOW me?

**PANEL 5:** Cut to a close-up of Freddie looking down at the swirling blue energy of the Glacier Stone. Blue light bounces

off of the stone and dances upon his hypnotized face, almost as if it were communicating with him.

6. **FREDDIE:** ...What IS this?

## **PAGE 9 (THREE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a solo medium shot of Jackie motioning to Freddie with his gun tip, in an encouraging non-threatening kind of way.

1. **JACKIE:** An ANSWER Freddie. Now PUT it ON.

**PANEL 2:** Zoom out to a shot of Freddie warily putting the Glacier Stone necklace around his neck.

2. **FREDDIE:** Fine. NOW what?

3. **JACKIE:** Just close your mind and feel--

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a large solo panel of Freddie transforming into the traditional Glacier Stone frost giant in a grand dramatic fashion. His arms are outstretched and his head is jerked back, screaming out as if possessed by another. He is now entombed by a fierce-looking, solid-ice shell, which increases his size and stature significantly. Think ice Hulk.

4. **FREDDIE:** G'yAaAA--

5. **FREDDIE (FROST GIANT FONT):** --KNEEL BEFORE THE WINTER KING!

## **PAGE 10 (SEVEN PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Freddie's frost giant shell now shattering and bursting off of him. His human form that resides at its core is

taken aback - almost unable to process what's happening. He is screaming.

1. **FREDDIE:** aaAAHhhhhH!

**PANEL 2:** Cut to Jackie frozen in mid-air spinning around, almost horizontally, dodging the shards of the frost giant shell that jet toward him. Some of the shards are impaling and shattering against the walls and support beams of the bar all around him.

2. **SHARD SFX:** FFFT! WHZZZ! KRSHHH!

**PANEL 3:** Cut to Freddie bent over in exhaustion. He is looking down at the Glacier Stone pendant with a fearful curiosity, trying to catch his breath. The stone is clear and empty - no longer the trademark glowing blue it has always been.

3. **FREDDIE:** I - I ask you again...

4. **FREDDIE:** What - the HELL - IS this?

**PANEL 4:** Zoom out to Jackie smiling and walking toward Freddie. Freddie is still as he was in the previous panel.

5. **JACKIE:** You're new BEST FRIEND. I've never seen it take to anyone like that before. It's an ARTIFACT Freddie. One of the THIRTEEN that are responsible for making this world tick. The REAL world everyone else chooses to ignore.

6. **FREDDIE:** This - ALL of this... it CAN'T be REAL.

**PANELS 5,6,& 7:** A series of small overlay panels illustrate a point of view shot of Freddie looking down at the Glacier Stone pendant that he now holds in his hand. The clear empty stone of the pendant slowly fills back up with blue energy in each panel, starting from the bottom filling upward - much like a mercury thermometer rising in temperature. The stone should be fully blue and glowing in Panel 6.

7. **JACKIE (OFF-PANEL)**: Oh it's VERY real Freddie. Take some TIME with it. Get to KNOW it. I'll return for you when you're ready.

## **PAGE 11 (FIVE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Jackie shooting out the pool table light that was illuminating Finnegan's fallen body. Freddie is now standing, still stunned, but slowly accepting the insanity that is occurring around him. He is flinching at the gunshot.

1. **JACKIE:** Oh - and one other thing. You may have a visitor soon. I needed some INSURANCE in case I wasn't able to take out our Judas over there as easily as I did.

**PANEL 2:** Cut to a different angle of the two. Jackie is now holstering his pistol inside of his jacket.

2. **JACKIE:** It may be worth it to get in some PRACTICE before then. She'll DEFINITELY want to take that from you - and she DOESN'T play nice.
3. **JACKIE:** You mustn't let her. If you do, you'll wind up in a place MUCH worse than this. There is no telling the MADNESS she could awaken.

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a full shot of Freddie walking forward, arms extended in a questioning pose - with a look of "you have GOT to be kidding me."

4. **FREDDIE:** Wait! You're LEAVING?! You're going to come in here, EXPOSE me to the fucking MATRIX, tell me someone is basically coming to KILL me, then LEAVE ME with a DEAD BODY?!

**PANEL 4:** Cut back to Jackie now standing next to Finnegan's body. A shadow hole has opened in the floor and the top half off Finnegan's body has been pulled in. Two little darklings (small demons) have appeared and assist in putting Finnegan's body into

the hole. One of them is smiling and waving at an off-panel Freddie as he pushes the body into the shadow hole.

5. **JACKIE:** Oh no. The body is coming with me. YOU focus on communing with your new gift and preparing yourself for what is to come. Everything else will fall into place Freddie. TRUST me.

**PANEL 5:** Cut back to a close up reaction shot of Freddie. He looks almost like he has given up. At this point, he has become numb to the shock and insanity. But yet his eyes have watered up.

6. **FREDDIE:** Wait! Can it - can it bring back...

7. **FREDDIE:** My SON?

## **PAGE 12 (FIVE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Jackie hovering down - entering the shadow hole. He is almost knee deep in. He is giving Freddie a friendly goodbye head-nod/salute. The darklings and Finnegan's body are now gone.

1. **JACKIE:** Baby steps Freddie. ANYTHING is possible. But first - you need to learn to WALK. Your son isn't going anywhere.
2. **JACKIE:** FOCUS.

**PANEL 2:** Zoom out to expose the slightly trashed bar, random ice spikes peppered throughout - no sign of Jackie or Finnegan - and Freddie looking around in a stunned silence.

### **NO DIALOUGE**

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a medium shot of Freddie looking down at the Glacier Stone he holds with a hesitant curiosity.

3. **FREDDIE:** Okay then... COMMUNE.
4. **FREDDIE:** TALK to me stone...
5. **FREDDIE:** SHOW me what you do.

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a close up shot of Freddie. His head is lowered and his eyes are closed. He has a look of sincerity as he addresses the Glacier Stone. The stone is now glowing brighter, bathing Freddie's face in blue light.

6. **FREDDIE:** USE me. I SUBMIT myself to you.

**PANEL 5:** Cut to an extreme close up of the Glacier Stone. It can barely be seen vibrating in the background through the extreme bright blue light that fills the panel.

**NO DIALOUGE**

## **PAGE 13 (FIVE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a great battle on a snowy mountainside of Frost Giants battling Rock Giants in the great Norse homeland of Jotunheim. A Fire Dragon has swooped down with its talons, digging them into the chest of the mightiest looking Frost Giant there is. The mighty Frost Giant is falling back - reaching out for the Glacier Stone necklace that has broken free from him due to the Fire Dragon's strike. He looks desperate and very concerned at losing his prized possession. *(NOTE: All of the panels on this page need to have some type of effect that insinuates the Glacier Stone is relaying these images to Freddie's mind's eye.)*

1. **FROST GIANT:** NOOOOOO!!!
2. **GLACIER STONE VO:** FORGED by GODS...

**PANEL 2:** Cut to a great armored Knight standing above a fallen armored King in a great hall - holding the fallen King's crown



up in respect, admiring the Glacier Stone that is mounted to its center. The King's guard was too late to arrive to the hall and now lower their weapons in fear - knowing the power the great Knight now holds.

3. **GLACIER STONE VO:** SERVANT to KINGS...

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a burning Japanese village in feudal Japan. One armored Samurai has cut the arm off of another armored Samurai with an uppercut slice from his katana. Blood sprays throughout the panel from the sliced Samurai's open side. The arm that is frozen in mid-air has the Glacier Stone embedded in the forearm's bracer.

4. **GLACIER STONE VO:** KEEP me from my BROTHERS...

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a group of American World War II soldiers rummaging through a room of great works of art. One soldier has opened a dusty glass case, exposing the Glacier Stone. The soldier is mesmerized.

5. **GLACIER STONE VO:** My SONG does sing...

**PANEL 5:** Cut to the inside of a very eclectic antique shop. The Glacier Stone is seen in the glass counter case that the proprietor stands above - greeting someone who has entered off-panel. The proprietor is bald, Asian, and has a long Fu Manchu mustache and chin beard.

6. **CURATOR:** Ah, come in sir. I have JUST the thing for someone like you.

**PAGE 14 (SIX PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut back to the bar. A wincing Freddie is stumbling back holding his head with one hand - and trying to distance himself from the Glacier Stone's bond with the other.

1. **FREDDIE:** Aaaaah! Stop! I got it. I GOT it!

**PANEL 2:** Cut to Freddie holding the Glacier Stone and addressing it as if it were a person.

2. **FREDDIE:** ... You're like a super power version of the Holy GRAIL...

**PANEL 3:** Cut to Freddie raising one arm up in front of him. He is focusing on his forearm while his other hand clasps the Glacier Stone around his neck.

3. **FREDDIE:** Okay. Let's start simple.

**PANEL 4:** Cut to an extreme close up overlay panel of Freddie's closed eyes. They are closed tightly as he is exerting all the focus he can muster.

#### **NO DIALOUGE**

**PANEL 5:** Cut to a similar panel set up as panel three, but now Freddie's raised arm is encased with steaming cold frost armor. He looks shocked and joy can actually be seen on his face.

4. **FREDDIE:** Ha!

5. **FREDDIE:** Holy SHIT!

**PANEL 6:** Cut to Freddie now looking down at the Glacier Stone - one arm still encased in frost armor. He has noticed the blue energy encased in the Glacier Stone has gone down a slight bit. He sports a look of realization.

6. **FREDDIE:** METERED...

7. **FREDDIE:** And just how FAR do you GO?

## PAGE 15 (5 PANELS)

Cut to a montage of Freddie absolutely destroying the bar. His ecstasy increases in each panel. This is the most alive he has felt in years and he is LOVING it.

**PANEL 1:** Freddie is shooting ice bolts at the liquor bottles behind the bar. They are shattering upon impact.

1. **SFX: KRSHHH**

**PANEL 2:** Cut to Freddie performing an ice slide kick where he skims across an ice slick with great speed - striking through a support beam of the bar with an ice encased leg.

2. **SFX: CRACKKKK**

**PANEL 3:** Cut to Freddie having slashed through the line of barstools with Wolverine-like ice claws. He is capping off his long sweeping strike with a frozen in mid-air uppercut slash - slashing through one of those cheap counter top multi-game machines that sits at the end of the bar.

3. **SFX (SLOT MACHINE): FZZZT**

**PANEL 4:** Cut to the pool table being broken in half by a two-handed ice hammer that Freddie wields.

4. **SFX: SMASHHHH!!!**

**PANEL 5:** Cut to the last shot of the montage of Freddie bent over with his hands on his knees, animated - laughing his ass off. The Glacier Stone is about half-way full of blue energy.

5. **FREDDIE:** WOOT! FUCK YEAH!

6. **FREDDIE:** Hahahaha --

## PAGE 16 (FOUR PANELS)

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Freddie in essentially the same pose as previous panel but he now shields his eyes with a raised arm looking at Glorianna Silver swoop into the bar, shattering the front door, with a flaming fire shell encasing her.

1. **FREDDIE:** What the--

**PANEL 2:** Glorianna is walking toward Freddie with great confidence - her flaming shell is almost completely extinguished. Freddie is now lowering his arm to get a better look and is quite unsure how to react.

2. **FREDDIE:** You must be the INSURANCE.

3. **GLORIANNA:** Ha. Is that how he referred to me?

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a solo shot of Glorianna looking around the bar, checking things out with a sarcastic "impressed" look on her face. She wears the Ember Stone around her neck much like Freddie wears his Glacier Stone. The Ember Stone is glowing orange.

4. **GLORIANNA:** My myyyy... Jackie ACTUALLY went through with it. Color me impressed. I never did like that Irishman anyway.

5. **GLORIANNA:** So he gave YOU the Glacier Stone? Why would he do that?

6. **GLORIANNA:** Well, no matter. This will be quick.

**PANEL 4:** Zoom out to a shot that exposes both Glorianna and Freddie in panel. Glorianna is approaching him smirking - with a flaming fireball casually hovering in one hand. Freddie looks on with concern and realization, eyeing Glorianna's Ember Stone and grasping his Glacier Stone with one hand.

7. **FREDDIE:** FIRE... That's another of the - THIRTEEN...

8. **GLORIANNA:** You've put two and two together. Congratulations SIMPLETON. Now HERE is your PRIZE!

## **PAGE 17 (FIVE PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Glorianna and Freddie in action. Glorianna has hurled her fireball but it is striking an ice wall that Freddie has created. Freddie is sliding backward from the crumbling wall on an ice slick - and he has an ice boomerang created that is cocked back, ready to let loose. He has a slightly panicked look on his face, whereas Glorianna's is in all business "kill" mode.

1. **GLORIANNA:** HAND OVER THE GLACIER STONE!

2. **FREDDIE:** SHHIIIT!

**PANEL 2:** Cut to Freddie letting the ice boomerang loose while still sliding back on his ice slick.

3. **FREDDIE:** Hng!

**PANEL 3:** Cut to a small overlay panel of the boomerang whizzing through the air.

### **NO DIALOUGE**

**PANEL 4:** Cut to the boomerang, which has hooked back around, striking Glorianna in the back of the head - causing her to wince and stumble forward a bit.

4. **SFX:** WHACK!

5. **GLORIANNA:** ARGH! You FOOL!

**PANEL 5:** Cut to a side shot of the two standing across from each other - reminiscent of high noon standoff. Glorianna is now annoyed. Freddie looks concerned. He doesn't feel good about

this matchup. He wields an ice shield in one hand and has an ice-spear ready to hurl with the other. Think Spartan warrior.

6. **GLORIANNA:** You KNOW not what you do, nor where this path TRULY leads IMP. Now hand OVER the stone!
7. **FREDDIE:** That's NOT going to happen. What I DO know, is that this stone wants to stay VERY far away from you.
8. **FREDDIE:** If you want it, you'll have to TAKE it.

## **PAGE 18 (FULL-PAGE PANEL)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a dramatic full-page shot of Glorianna hovering in air - arms extended, engulfed in a fiery flame dragon shell.

1. **GLORIANNA:** Then DEATH, it IS!

## **PAGE 19 (FOUR PANELS)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to Glorinna (in flaming dragon form) swooping in at Freddie. Sheer terror has overcome him. He is frozen still, unsure what to do. The Glacier Stone is glowing very brightly and vibrating vigorously.

**NO DIALOUGE**

**PANEL 2:** Cut to Glorinna's talons striking the frost giant armor that the Glacier Stone has triggered just in time to absorb the blow. The MASSIVE impact has sent Freddie flying backward as the ice armor shatters off of him.

1. **SFX:** SMASH!
2. **FREDDIE:** GyaAHHhhhH!

**PANEL 3:** Glorianna stands above Freddie with her arms back and her chest jutting forward, charging up great fire energy that swirls all around her hands. She looks crazed and is cocked back - primed to let loose all she has upon the downed, defeated, Freddie. Freddie can barely lift his head to look at Glorianna. He looks to be in significant pain.

3. **GLORIANNA:** Know that you CHOSE this death!

4. **FREDDIE:** I... I welcome it... there is someone I'd - I'd like to SEE...

5. **FREDDIE:** DO it.

**PANEL 4:** Cut to a close-up shot of Glorianna being suddenly blindsided with a VICIOUS right hook from a large black and orange, glowing stone, brimstone hulk fist.

6. **SFX:** WHAMMMM!

7. **TOM JUDGE/RAPTURE VOICE OFF-PANEL:** Come now Glorianna, he JUST got the thing.

8. **GLORIANNA:** UNG!

## **PAGE 20 (FULL-PAGE PANEL)**

**PANEL 1:** Cut to a full-page panel continuation shot of the previous panel. The Rapture in all his brimstone hulk glory is following through with his smashing hook shot that has sent Glorianna crashing through the bar's large picture window. She is flying outward into the snowy streets outside the bar.

1. **SFX:** kRsSshHH!

## PAGE 21 (SEVEN PANELS)

**PANELS 1, 2, & 3:** Cut to a series of smaller panels that illustrate Glorianna tumbling end over end through the snow covered city street. Each tumble causes her fiery shell to diminish more and more.

### NO DIALOUGE

**PANEL 4:** The tumbling series ends with her slamming into the side of a snow covered parked car in a seated position. She is conscious but is struggling to focus and piece together what just happened.

1. **GLORIANNA:** Hnnnn...

**PANEL 5:** Cut to Tom Judge (still in Rapture Brimstone Hulk mode) standing at the picture window, leaning out - addressing Glorianna across the street.

2. **TOM JUDGE/RAPTURE VOICE:** Let the man EASE into this trinity for Christ's sake.

**PANEL 6:** Cut to a point of view shot of Tom Judge looking down at his watch. The brimstone hulk shell is now receding, exposing his human form below. The watch dial shows 12:13am.

3. **TOM JUDGE:** After all...

**PANEL 7:** Cut to Tom Judge, now in his human form with modern fallen priesthood attire. A faint smoky black mist still dissipates around him. He still partially stands in the broken picture window frame - but is now looking back and smiling at Freddie, lighting a cigarette. Freddie is still lying on the ground wounded and unsure what to think at this point.

4. **TOM JUDGE:** It IS Christmas.



## PAGE 22 (SIX PANELS)

**PANEL 1:** Glorianna is attempting to stand. It is obvious to both the reader, and her, that she knows she is too weak. She is not pleased and stares down Tom Judge.

1. **GLORIANNA:** The stone WILL be mine Judge...

**PANEL 2:** Glorianna has mustered all of her remaining energy to flame up and fly away. She is rising upward with great speed, escaping the scene with a streak of flame.

2. **GLORIANNA:** And I will make certain that you are the FIRST to taste the MADNESS of PANDORA.

**PANEL 3:** Cut to an askew point of view shot of Freddie looking up at Tom Judge. Judge is leaning down, looking friendly, extending a helping hand to help Freddie get to his feet.

3. **TOM JUDGE:** Don't listen to her. She says that ALL the time. I'm sure she's a real sweet girl under all the bravado.

4. **TOM JUDGE:** The name's JUDGE. Welcome to the club.

**PANEL 4:** Judge has lifted Freddie to his feet and is supporting him as he surveys the absolute TRASHED state of the bar. Freddie is tired, confused, and still in some pretty significant pain.

5. **TOM JUDGE:** JESUS. Your boss have insurance?

**PANEL 5:** Zoom closer to Freddie looking at Judge in disbelief. He can't believe that the madness seems to have just begun. Judge is taking a drag of his cigarette.

6. **FREDDIE:** So is this pretty much par for course for Artifact bearers?

7. **TOM JUDGE:** Yep. Sorry bud. This is your new life.

8. **TOM JUDGE:** At least you don't have to be a bartender anymore... So you got that going for you...

**PANEL 6:** Cut to Jackie standing on the street corner across from the bar surveying the scene. He has the collar on his trench coat raised and he is leaning on a building, attempting to remain unnoticed. He is looking on like a proud father.

1. **JACKIE VO BOX:** And that's the day Frediano Nevada was REBORN. Some might ask, "Why Freddie?" Well - Freddie and I actually go WAY back.
2. **JACKIE VO BOX:** We did TIME together in an - "old world" let's call it. He helped me through a VERY dark place when I was unable to HELP myself. When things lined up as they did, I knew it'd be the PERFECT time to return the favor.
3. **JACKIE VO BOX:** Besides, if it hadn't worked out this way - he would've ended up back where he first met me... in HELL. And I can ASSURE you, his SON doesn't wait for him there.

**THE END**