

MERCY SPARK, AS THE STORY GOES, WAS BORN IN THE LAND OF SHEOL, A STRANGE PLACE BETWEEN HEAVEN, HELL AND PURGATORY. AGAINST HER WILL SHE WAS SENT TO OUR WORLD, CHARGED WITH A MISSION FROM GOD!

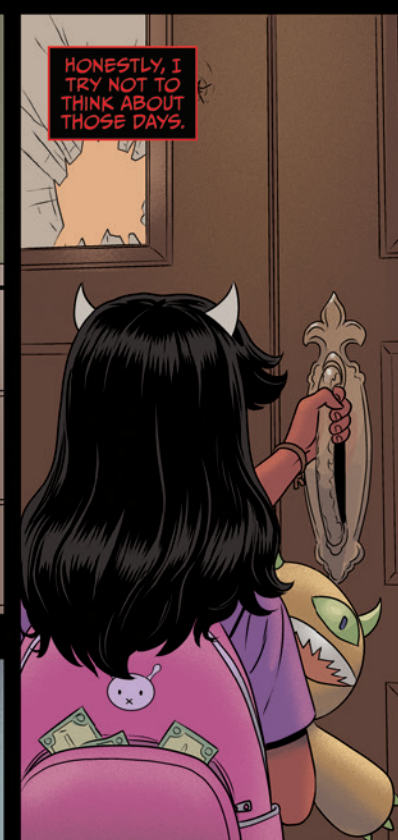
MERCY SPARK

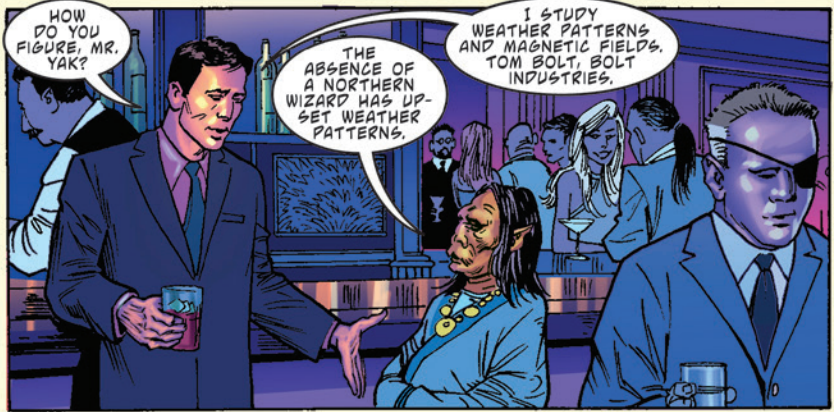
YEAR ONE

BUT THAT'S NOT WHERE HER STORY STARTED.

THAT WAS
A LONG TIME
AGO.

WRITTEN BY JOSH BLAYLOCK
ART BY MATT MERHOFF
COLORS BY GREG + FAKE STUDIOS
LETTERS BY MICAH MYERS





BADGER



AFTER A LENGTHY AND CONVOLUTED SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, HAM, DAISY AND NORBERT (AKA BADGER) FIND THEMSELVES IN MOSCOW AS GUESTS OF VLADIMIR PUTIN! THIS MUCHO-MACHO DESPOT PRIDES HIMSELF ABOVE ALL AS MASTER OF THE MANLY ART OF COMBAT. TO ANSWER PUTIN'S CHALLENGE, BADGER CONFIDENTLY ENTERS THE RING.

NO DIS-PUTIN'

MIKE BARON
WRITER

VAL MAYERIK
ARTIST

WILLIE SCHUBERT
LETTERER

CHALLENGING COMICS
BOSS/ST

ALEX WALD
EDITOR



hahh

hahh

UNGH

SOVAAA



hahh

SKREEE SKREEE

hahh



hahh



EAAHGH!

URHHGAH!



CHID,
SOZ...



REO...



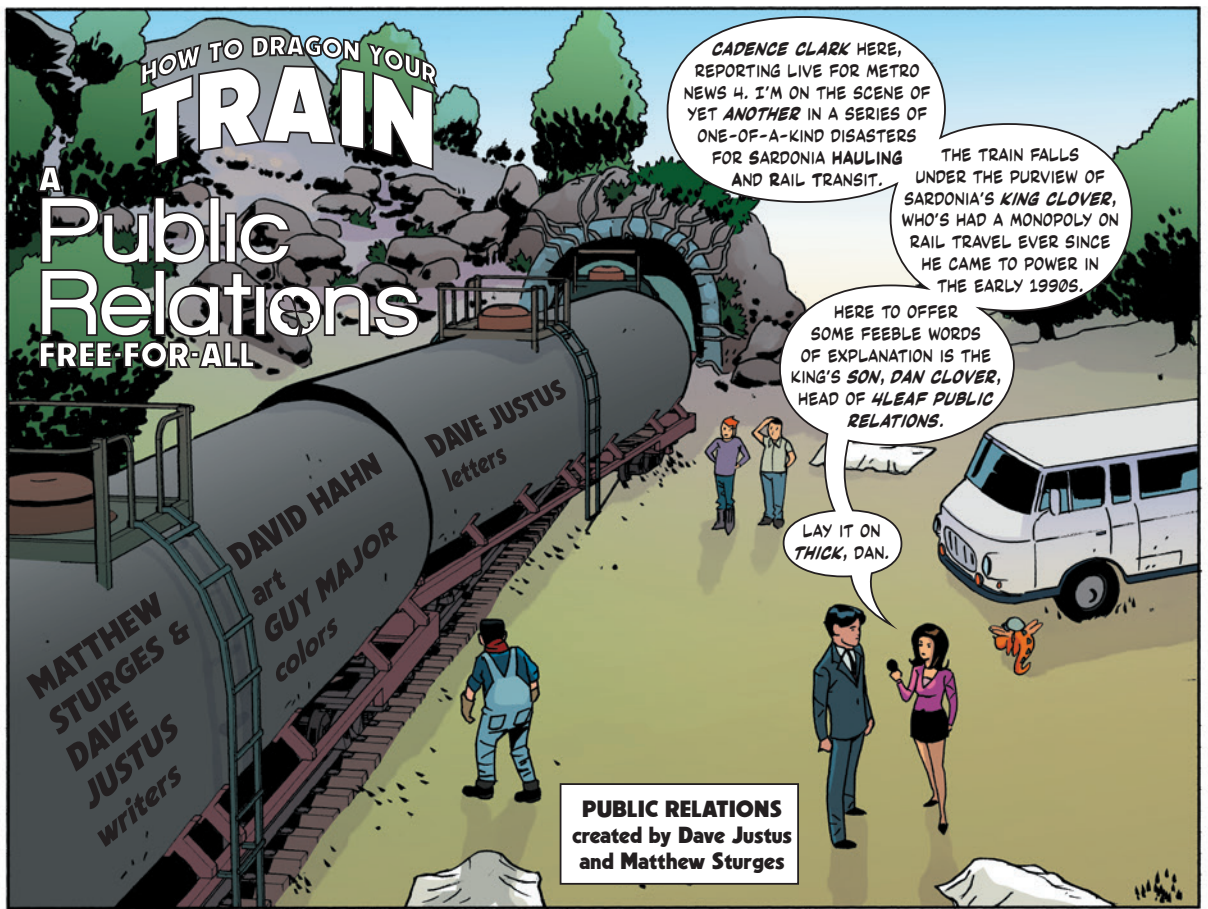
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WHERE'ZA
REO?
REO...



HOW TO DRAGON YOUR TRAIN

A Public Relations FREE-FOR-ALL

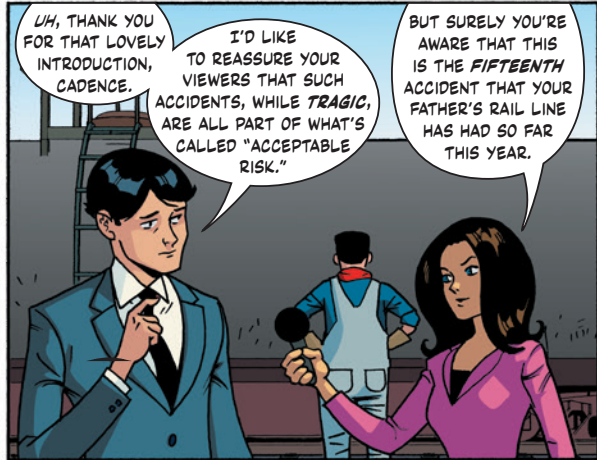
CADENCE CLARK HERE, REPORTING LIVE FOR METRO NEWS 4. I'M ON THE SCENE OF YET ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF ONE-OF-A-KIND DISASTERS FOR SARDONIA HAULING AND RAIL TRANSIT.

THE TRAIN FALLS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF SARDONIA'S KING CLOVER, WHO'S HAD A MONOPOLY ON RAIL TRAVEL EVER SINCE HE CAME TO POWER IN THE EARLY 1990S.

HERE TO OFFER SOME FEEBLE WORDS OF EXPLANATION IS THE KING'S SON, DAN CLOVER, HEAD OF 4LEAF PUBLIC RELATIONS.

LAY IT ON THICK, DAN.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
created by Dave Justus and Matthew Sturges



UH, THANK YOU FOR THAT LOVELY INTRODUCTION, CADENCE.

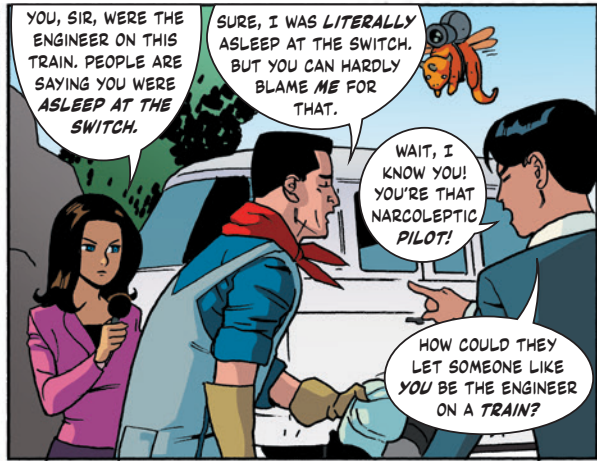
I'D LIKE TO REASSURE YOUR VIEWERS THAT SUCH ACCIDENTS, WHILE TRAGIC, ARE ALL PART OF WHAT'S CALLED "ACCEPTABLE RISK."

BUT SURELY YOU'RE AWARE THAT THIS IS THE FIFTEENTH ACCIDENT THAT YOUR FATHER'S RAIL LINE HAS HAD SO FAR THIS YEAR.



THE NUMBER DOES SOUND HIGH, BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT'S NOT TOO FAR OFF THE GLOBAL AVERAGE FOR A BUSINESS THIS SIZE OVER THE COURSE OF AN ENTIRE YEAR.

YOU ARE AWARE THAT TODAY IS JANUARY FIRST, RIGHT?

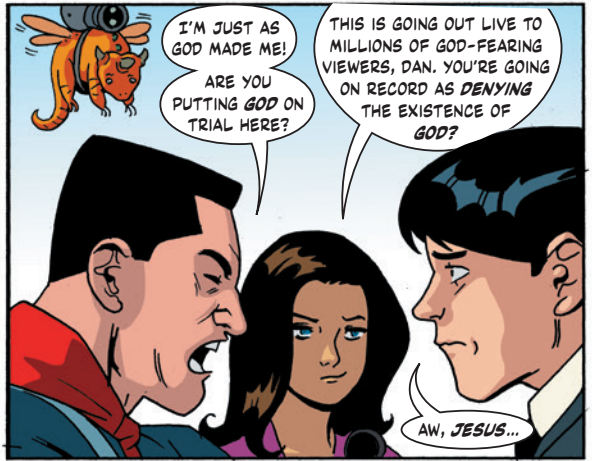


YOU, SIR, WERE THE ENGINEER ON THIS TRAIN. PEOPLE ARE SAYING YOU WERE ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH.

SURE, I WAS LITERALLY ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH. BUT YOU CAN HARDLY BLAME ME FOR THAT.

WAIT, I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THAT NARCOLEPTIC PILOT!

HOW COULD THEY LET SOMEONE LIKE YOU BE THE ENGINEER ON A TRAIN?



I'M JUST AS GOD MADE ME! ARE YOU PUTTING GOD ON TRIAL HERE?

THIS IS GOING OUT LIVE TO MILLIONS OF GOD-FEARING VIEWERS, DAN. YOU'RE GOING ON RECORD AS DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF GOD?

AW, JESUS...