

ED BRUBAKER SEAN PHILLIPS

# FATALE™



Number Seven

**Previously...**

Following the events in **FATALE Book One: Death Chases Me...** In modern times, Nicolas Lash finds a clue leading to Josephine's past, in Hollywood, right before his life explodes in violence again. And in 1970s Hollywood, a B-movie actor named Miles rescues his friend Suzy from a cult murder scene, and stumbles across Jo's path, the estate in the hills where she's kept herself hidden for nearly a decade....

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## Chapter Two

IT WAS JUST BEFORE SUNRISE WHEN THE NEWS GOT TO THE METHOD CHURCH'S COMPOUND...



...ALONG WITH BROTHER STANE'S BODY.

AND THE BUYER?



HE DIDN'T MAKE IT, EITHER.

I LEFT CYRIL AND TWO OTHERS TO CLEAN UP THE MESS.



GOOD. WE DON'T NEED THE FISS LOOKING OUR WAY.

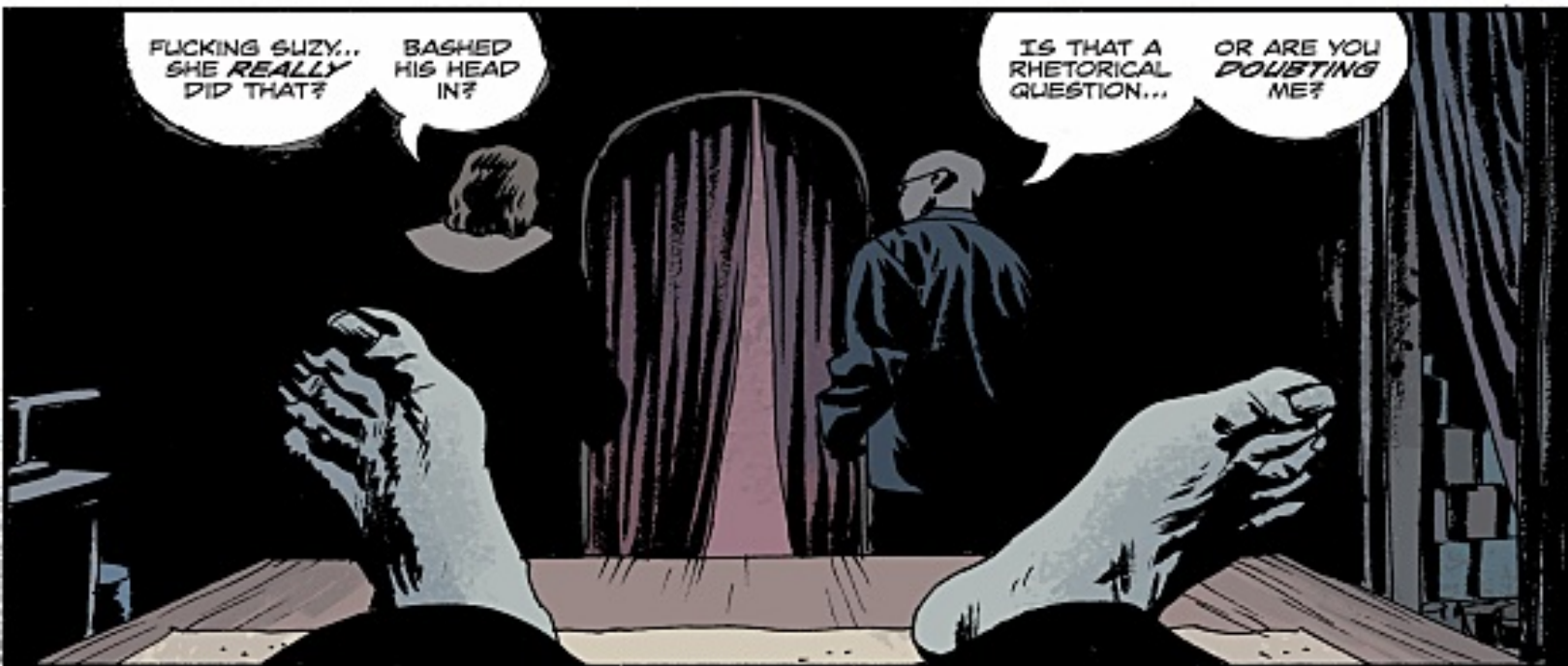


FUCKING SUZY... SHE REALLY DID THAT?

BASHED HIS HEAD IN?

IS THAT A RHETORICAL QUESTION...

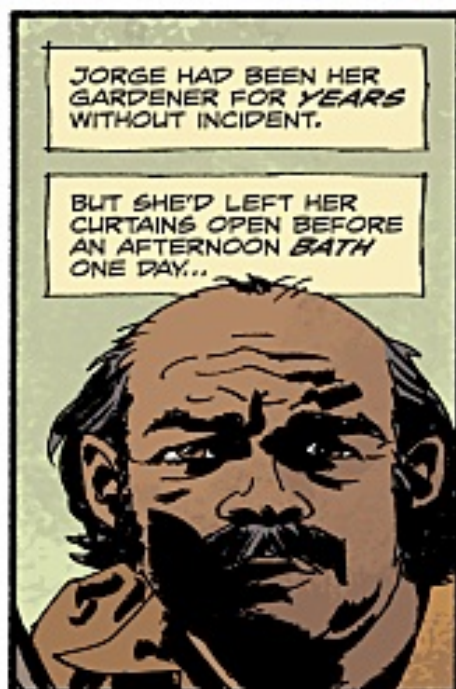
OR ARE YOU DOUBTING ME?











HELLO? WHERE DID YOU GO?



MILES HAD KNOWN TOO MANY ACTRESSES TO BE EASILY DRAWN IN BY A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN.



BUT HE COULD ALSO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REAL MYSTERY...



...AND AN ACT.







THAT'S NOT HANGING FOR A REASON.


WHAT?




OH, SORRY...



FROM TRESPASSING TO SNOOPING... WHAT'S A GIRL TO DO?



SO, DID YOU STILL WANT THIS?



YEAH. BUT NOT FOR WHAT YOU THINK.

WHAT I THINK IS THIS THING IS GOING TO GET YOU **KILLED**, BUT THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS.



SO WHY DID YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE **METHOD CHURCH**, THEN?



THERE WAS A BOOK ONE OF THEM WAS **READING FROM**, BEFORE THE... **SACRIFICE**, I GUESS...

SOME **RELIGIOUS** TOME... SURE...



THEY'RE **CRAZY** FOR THAT SHIT...

WELL, CLEARLY... **CRAZY**...



LOOKS, UH...  
LIKE YOU  
COLLECT THE  
SAME KINDA  
STUFF...



NO, I  
INHERITED  
MOST OF  
THESE.




BUT... YOU  
WANT THE  
ONE YOU SAW  
ON THE  
FILM?



I'M NOT  
SURE...



...BUT I  
WANT A  
BETTER  
LOOK AT  
IT...



MILES ALMOST COULDN'T BELIEVE  
HE WAS VOLUNTEERING TO HELP EVEN  
AS HE HEARD HIMSELF DOING IT...


--SEE WHAT I  
CAN FIND  
OUT, JUST  
KEEP AN EYE  
ON SUZY...

SHE CAN BE A  
HANDFUL.


I'M  
SURE...



BUT HE'D BEEN MAKING  
A LOT OF OUT OF  
CHARACTER DECISIONS  
LATELY.



LIKE NOT RUNNING THE  
SECOND HE SAW SUZY  
COVERED IN BLOOD AND  
SCREAMING IMMINENT  
DISASTER.



IF HE WASN'T CAREFUL, HE  
MIGHT START THINKING HE WAS  
A DECENT HUMAN BEING.

BUT HE KNEW THERE WASN'T *REALLY* MUCH DANGER OF THAT.

YOU NEED SOME *WORK'S*, TOO, MAN?

YEAH. YEAH, THANKS.



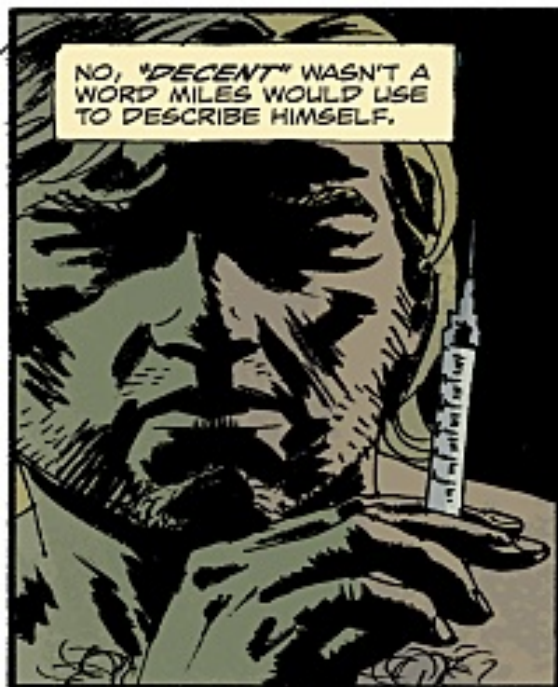
THE THINGS HE'D *SEEN*, THINGS HE'D *DONE*...



...THAT HE *STILL* REMEMBERED THROUGH THE HAZE...



NO, "*DECENT*" WASN'T A WORD MILES WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE HIMSELF.



AND HE'D NEVER BEEN ASHAMED OF THAT...



...UNTIL THIS MORNING... UNTIL JOSEPHINE...



BUT THE *SPEEDBALL*  
TAKES CARE OF THE SHAME.



PUTS HIS MIND OFF  
THE WOMAN AND  
BACK ON TRACK...



ON HIS  
WAY OUT.



HE SHOULDN'T HAVE HELPED  
SUZY... SHOULDN'T HAVE  
TAKEN THE *FILM REEL*...

WHAT...?



BUT HE  
HAD.



WHICH WAS A  
*LESS* OUT OF  
CHARACTER  
MOVE...

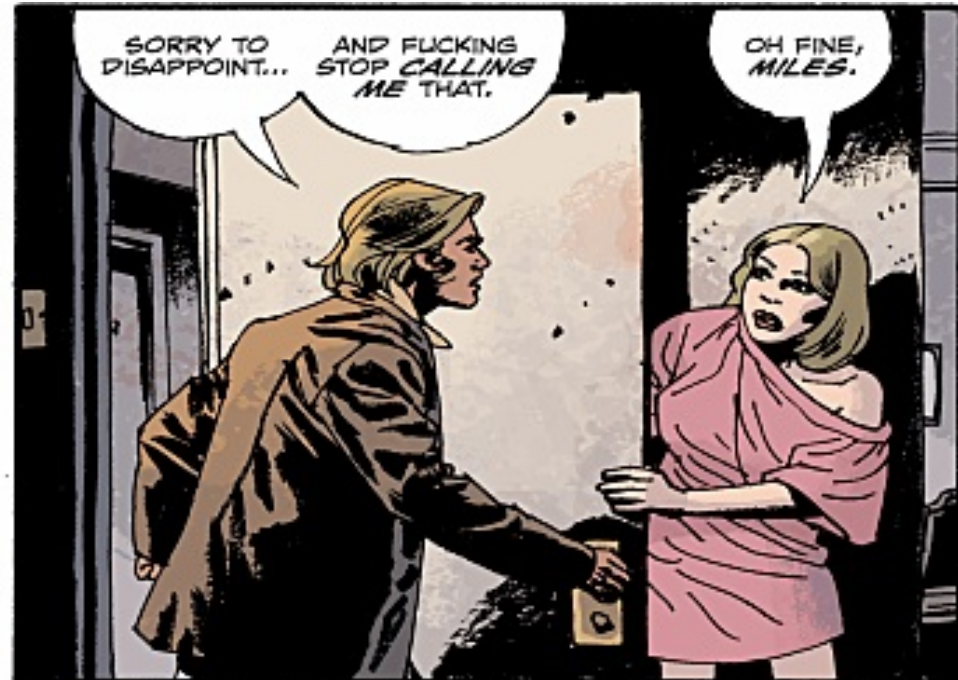


...BECAUSE HE KNOWS THIS  
TOWN IS FULL OF MEN WITH  
STRANGE APPETITES.



POWERFUL MEN, THE  
KIND WHO COULD MAKE  
AN ACTOR'S CAREER.









AND SHE USUALLY GOT TO HIM. BECAUSE HE WAS JUST AS SCREWED UP AS SHE WAS.



HER SUCCESS YANKED HER OUT OF HIS ORBIT, INTO THE STRATOSPHERE, AND MADE HIS FAILURE EVEN WORSE.



AND HE WAS DISGUSTED BY HOW MUCH THAT MADE HIM WANT HER...

USUALLY.



BUT NOT TODAY. WAS HE GETTING OVER IT?

HEY, HEY...



...YOU'RE LIKE, MILES, RIGHT...?



METHOD CHURCH GIRLS. WHAT THE HELL WERE THEY DOING OFF THE COMPOUND?



I'M EM... THIS IS CANDIE...

YOU KNOW SUZY SCREAM, RIGHT?

I USED TO, WHY?

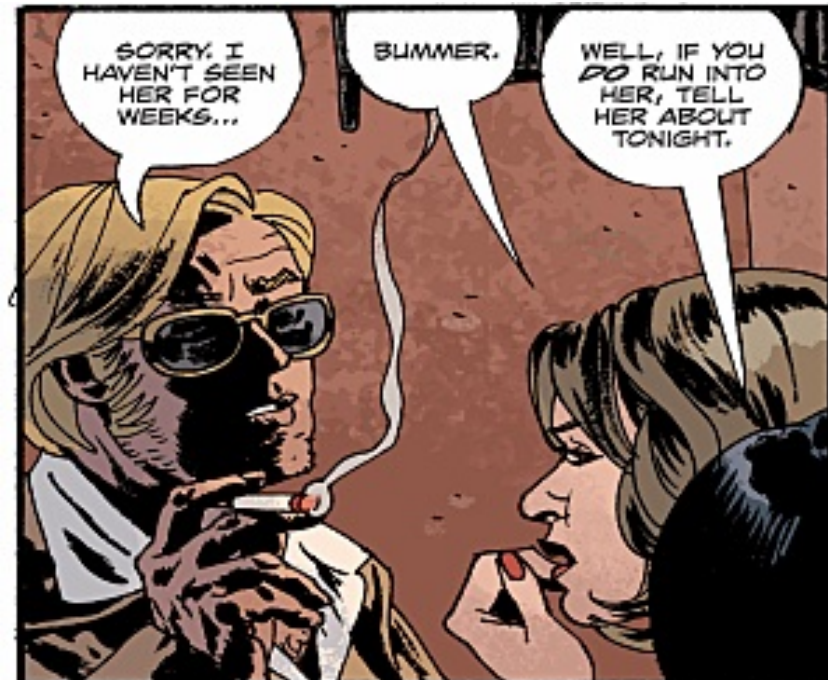


SHE DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT, AND EVERYONE'S LIKE WORRIED...

YEAH, WE'RE ALL OUT TRYING TO FIND HER...







HE'S TIRED OF WAITING FOR GAVIN WILDER, HE TELLS HIMSELF.

THAT'S WHY HE HURRIES BACK TO JOSEPHINE'S HOUSE.

THE ASSHOLE PROBABLY WASN'T GOING TO CALL ANYWAY...

...MILES? YOU WERE SAYING?

UH, YEAH... SORRY... SORRY...

LOST MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT...

ANYWAY, SO THE METHOD ARE HAVING SOME KINDA BLACK MASS TONIGHT...

A SEND-OFF FOR THEIR FALLEN BROTHER ...

MIGHT BE A CHANCE TO GET A LOOK AT THAT BOOK YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN.

WILL YOU GO WITH ME?

SURE... YEAH...

SNEAKING AROUND A METHOD CHURCH CEREMONY WOULD BE IMMENSELY STUPID...

GREAT, I'LL GO GET READY.

...BUT HE KNEW HE'D SAY YES BEFORE SHE EVEN ASKED.

ARE YOU CRAZY?

I DON'T KNOW.

IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME, THEY COULD BE LOOKING FOR YOU, TOO.

I DON'T KNOW... SOUNDS LIKE THEY LIED TO THE FOLLOWERS...

AND NO ONE REALLY SAW ME LAST NIGHT...

I WAS JUST SOME GUY WALKIN' THROUGH THEIR ORGY...

EITHER WAY, SHE CAN'T GO BY HERSELF.

JESUS, ARE YOU FUCKING HER?

WHAT? NO. I JUST...

LOOK, SHE'S HELPING US, SO I'M HELPING HER, OKAY?

I DON'T LIKE IT, MILES.

I'LL BE FINE, OKAY... TRUST ME.

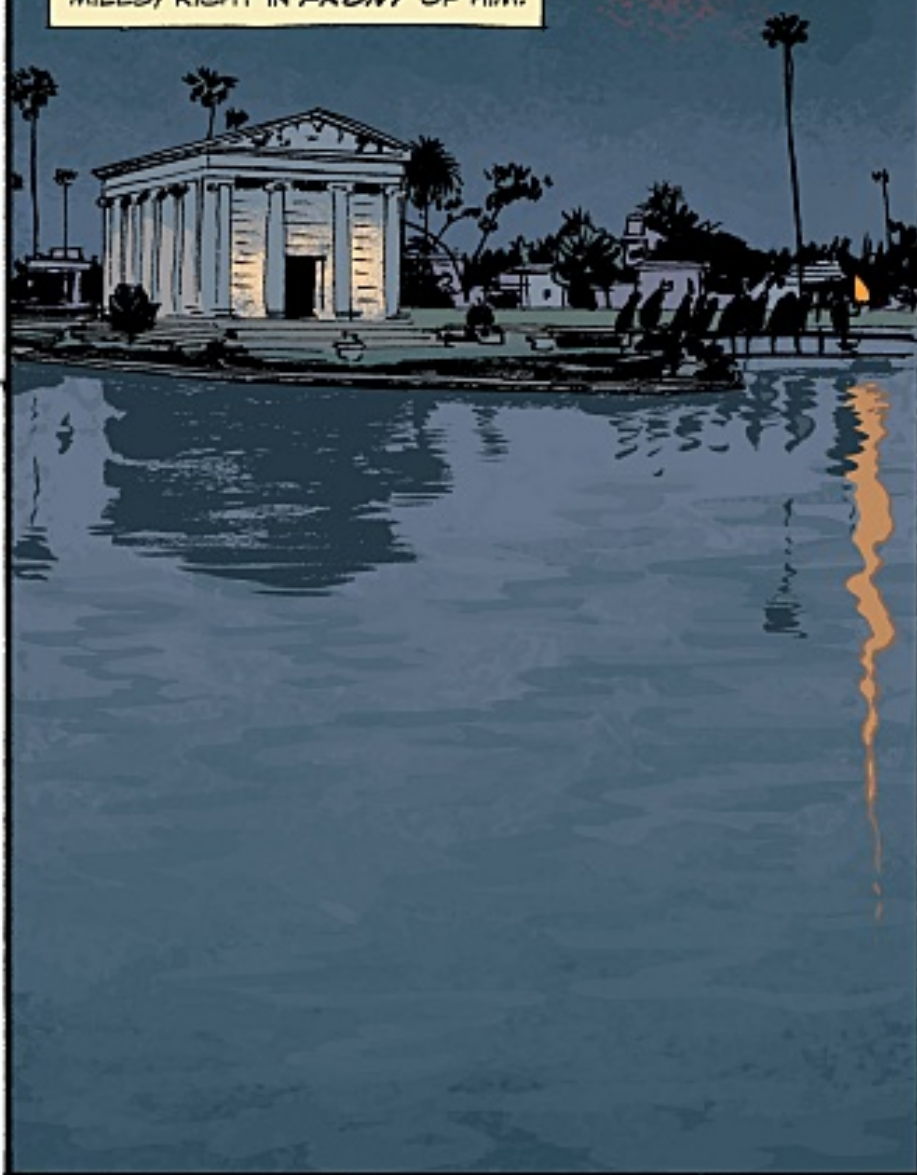
AND HEY, DON'T LET THE OLD LADY CATCH YOU WITH THAT SMACK, OKAY?

SHE SEEMS PRETTY UPTIGHT...

...AN' YOU DON'T WANNA GET KICKED OUT OF HERE.

HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT MISS JANSEN. SHE WAS *FURIOUS* JOSEPHINE WAS GOING ON A *SECRET* OUTING...

WARNING HER NOT TO *TRUST* MILES, RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF HIM.



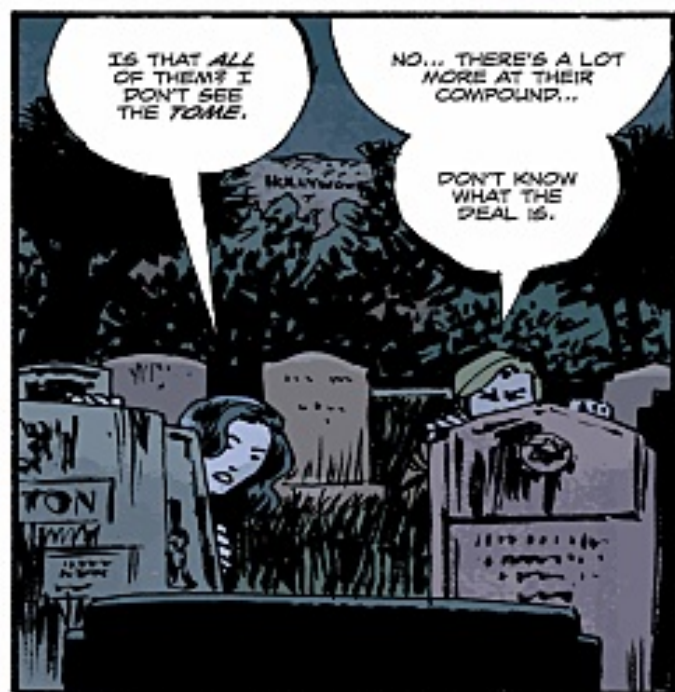
HE COULD ONLY IMAGINE HER REACTION IF SHE SAW *THIS*...



IS THAT ALL OF THEM? I DON'T SEE THE *TOME*.

NO... THERE'S A LOT MORE AT THEIR COMPOUND...

DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DEAL IS.



THAT CHICK TOLD ME THEIR LEADER WAS GONNA BE HERE...

IT'S NOT THAT GUY IN THE GLASSES?



NAH, THAT'S JUST ONE OF THEIR INNER CIRCLE.



HANGEL'S LIKE... LH... LIKE IF *JAGGER* WAS *JESUS*...

YOU'D KNOW WHAT I MEAN IF YOU SAW HIM...







SHE WAS GOING TO GET THEM CAUGHT.

HEY!

ANY OTHER GIRL, HE'D HAVE JUST LEFT HER THERE, WANDERING THE TOMBSTONES.



AND MILES IS WONDERING WHY HE ISN'T DOING THAT...



...WHEN HIS BLOOD RUNS COMPLETELY COLD.



DOWN,  
NOW.



WHAT? ARE THERE MORE?

JUST SHUT UP AND DON'T MOVE.



DON'T EVEN BREATHE.



...WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?



NO, DON'T ANSWER THAT...



...THE MASTER WILL WANT TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS PERSONALLY.



YES... HE'S GOING TO BE VERY -



**KNNCH**



COME ON! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE FOR?





JOSEPHINE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING UNTIL THEY'RE FAR AWAY FROM THERE.

UP SOME WINDY STREET OFF MULHOLLAND, SOMEWHERE NO ONE EVER GOES.

AND EVEN *THEN*, SHE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING THAT MAKES ANY *SENSE*...

--IT'S NOT POSSIBLE... THEY'RE ALL DEAD...

JUST CALM DOWN, YOU'RE OKAY...

NO, NO, I'M NOT... DON'T YOU GET IT?

THEY SAW ME.

BUT... THEY DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, RIGHT?

SO, YOU'RE SAFE NOW...

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, MILES...

HER LIPS ARE QUIVERING WHEN SHE KISSES HIM, LIKE SHE'S AFRAID.

AND THAT BRINGS TEARS TO HIS EYES...

AND HE WONDERS, WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO ME?



HANSEL?  
ARE YOU  
AWAKE?



ALWAYS...  
WHAT IS  
IT?

SHE'S BEEN  
SEEN...



GAGON SAW  
HER LAST NIGHT,  
HE'S CERTAIN  
OF IT.

GOOD, THEN  
WE'LL BE  
GETTING  
OUR FILM  
BACK.

AND WE CAN  
FIND A NEW  
BUYER.



IS  
THAT  
SO...?



NO, NO...  
NOT SUZY,  
MASTER.  
FORGIVE  
ME.

I MEANT  
THE  
CONSORT.



SHE'S HERE,  
IN LOS  
ANGELES.

**To Be Continued**

# Discover the world of Brubaker and Phillips...





**FATALE Number Seven Ed Brubaker Sean Phillips**

**Rated M / Mature**