



2<sup>of</sup>  
4  
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# GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES

MARK SABLE

PAUL AZACETA



A cartoon illustration by Dave Coverly depicting a chaotic scene where several men are being hit with yellow star-shaped projectiles. The men have various expressions of pain and surprise. Red sound effects like "POP", "THUG", "POK", "PAP", "CLIK", and "TEK" are scattered around the action.

A comic book illustration of a fight scene. In the foreground, a man with a shaved head and a pink shirt is being thrown or punched by a larger, muscular man with a black and white striped shirt. The scene is filled with sound effects like 'KIKOW', 'POK', and 'PAF'. In the background, there's a building and a person on a rooftop. The style is reminiscent of classic comic book art.

LAST  
FALL



«WHAT IS  
WRONG, MY  
FRIEND?»\*



\* TRANSLATED  
FROM PASHTUN

«YOU SEEM...  
TROUBLED?»



«I KNOW YOU ARE  
DISAPPOINTED IN ME,  
COMMANDER. BUT  
I CANNOT LEAVE MY  
CHILDREN FOR  
JIHAD.»



«I AM NO  
LONGER YOUR  
COMMANDER.  
I AM SIMPLY  
RASHID. YOU ARE A  
WIDOWER, YOU HAVE A  
FAMILY TO SUPPORT. IT  
IS **HOW** YOU SUPPORT  
THEM THAT SADDENS  
ME, BROTHER.»

«THE  
AMERICANS'  
WHEAT-»



«IT'S THE  
GOVERNMENT'S-»

«AS I SAID,  
THE **ENEMY'S**  
WHEAT. IS IT  
THE MONEY?  
WE CAN HELP  
WITH THAT.»

«IT IS AGAINST  
ISLAM TO GROW  
WHAT YOU WANT  
ME TO.»



«NOT  
IF YOU ARE  
GROWING IT FOR  
NON-MUSLIMS.  
IT IS OUR BEST  
WEAPON.»



⟨DOGS ARE FILTHY ANIMALS. PETS ARE FOR BABIES.⟩



⟨OF COURSE, WE WOULD NEVER MAKE YOU GROW IT. I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE.⟩

⟨FORGIVE ME, MAULAVI. I DID NOT STUDY IN MADRASSA LIKE YOU. I... WILL BE HAPPY TO GROW FOR THE CAUSE.⟩



⟨IT PLEASES ME TO HEAR THAT. I DON'T THINK YOUR BOY IS READY FOR FIGHTING, YET.⟩



⟨SURELY YOUR DAUGHTER KNOWS TO COVER HERSELF SHE IS GETTING OLDER NOW. AND PIOUS MEN LIKE OURSELVES ONLY WISH TO GAZE ON THE FACES OF OUR BRIDES.⟩

⟨OF COURSE, WE TOO HAVE WIDOWERS, IF YOU FEEL SHE IS READY...⟩



⟨THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUCH TALK, MAULAVI. OUR BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED.⟩



⟨YOU WILL HAVE MONEY, AND OF COURSE, OUR PROTECTION. ALL WE ASK FOR IS OUR USHR, OUR TIME. LET US HOPE THAT WILL BE YOUR ONLY SACRIFICE IN THIS STRUGGLE.⟩





LAST  
SPRING.

CUTE  
DOG,  
KID?

WE'RE  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
WINNING HEARTS AND  
MINDS, REDDICK,  
NOT FRATERNIZING  
WITH THE LOCAL  
FALUNA.

PAT  
PAT



DOES HE  
UNDERSTAND WE  
CAN **PAY** HIM NOT  
TO GROW THIS SHIT?  
ASK HIM IF HE KNOWS  
THAT IT WILL END UP  
IN THE VEINS OF  
A KID LIKE HIS  
ONE DAY.

CAPTAIN, HE  
WANTS TO KNOW  
WHY HIS NEIGHBOR  
IS ALLOWED TO  
GROW, BUT  
NOT HIM.



THE AFGHAN  
ARMY...THEY  
DON'T BOTHER  
MEMBERS OF  
KARZAI'S  
TRIBE.

WHAT  
DOES HE  
MEAN?

TELL  
HIM—









LAST  
SUMMER.

TELL HIM  
WE'RE SORRY...  
IT'S OUT OF OUR  
HANDS. THESE ARE  
CONTRACTORS,  
NOT U.S.  
MARINES.

TELL HIM  
WE CAN STILL  
PAY HIM--

I DON'T  
LIKE THAT THEY'RE  
SENDING SMOKE  
SIGNALS, BOSS.  
WE'RE IN INDIAN  
COUNTRY.





I--UGH--  
GOT CAPTAIN  
KNIGHT. LET THE  
PMCS PICK UP  
THEIR OWN  
GODDAMN  
DEAD.

COPY THAT,  
THOSE FLUCKS  
PUT A GODDAMN  
TARGET ON US FOR  
THE MOOJ.

<YOU  
SAID YOU'D  
PROTECT  
US...>

<I'M SORRY, MY  
FRIEND. WE HAVE OUR  
OWN DOCTOR. WE'LL  
GET YOU TO HIM.  
AND IF YOU DON'T  
MAKE IT...>

<WHY ARE  
YOU APOLOGIZING?  
WHAT IS THERE TO  
PROTECT? OUR IN-  
VESTMENT IS GONE,  
AND SOON HE'LL  
BE, TOO.>

<DON'T WORRY.  
WE'LL TAKE A DOWRY  
IN LIEU OF THE USHR  
YOU OWE US. THERE  
WILL BE BRIDES AWAIT-  
ING BOTH OF US  
TONIGHT.>















F.A.C.  
KIM? IS WHAT  
I AM SEEING  
THE RESULT OF...  
OVERINDULGING  
MYSELF?

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



CAPTAIN?  
NO...



YOU SURE  
THIS IS SAFE,  
DOCTOR?

THEIR BLOOD  
TYPE IS A MATCH.  
EVERYONE BUT YOU IS  
FIGHTING, AND *YOUR*  
BLOOD IS FILLED WITH  
*POISON*. YOUR MEDIC  
ALREADY HAS ENOUGH  
OPIATE IN HIM.



I MEAN,  
SOMETHING  
BIT WILSON.

SOME-  
ONE. BUT  
I'M FINE.

POKE

DUDE, I  
KNOW WATCHING  
MOVIES MUST BE LIKE  
EATING PORK FOR DOCTOR  
MOHAMMED HERE, SO I  
GET THAT *HE* DOESN'T  
COMPREHEND WHAT'S  
GOING ON.

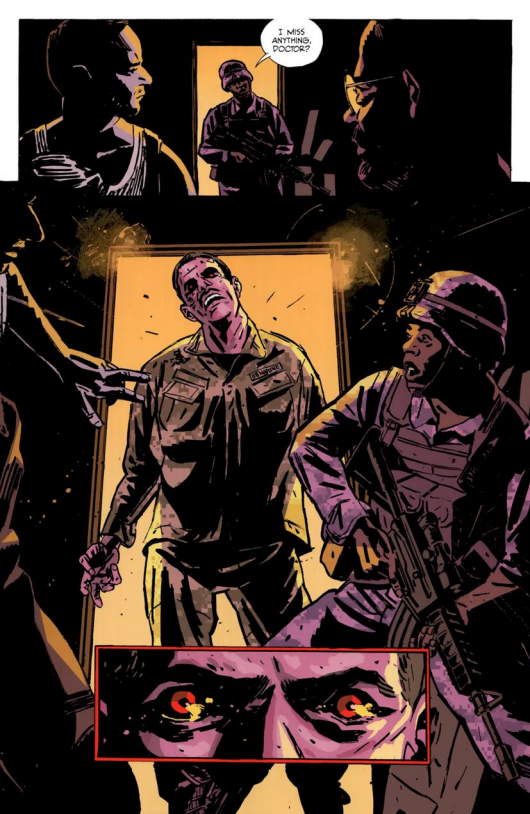


BUT EVEN  
IN *BUMBLEFUCK*  
YOU MUST HAVE  
SEEN SOMETHING LIKE  
THIS, YOU REDNECK  
IDIOT. THAT HAJJI  
WHO BIT YOU WAS  
THE *SAME ONE*  
YOU SHOT.



THEY  
ALL LOOK  
THE SAME  
TO ME.





I MISS  
ANYTHING,  
DOCTOR?











WHAT THE HELL DO THEY WANT?

REFUGE. SANCTUARY IS A TENET OF PASHTUN-WALI--

DO I LOOK PASHTUN TO YOU, MOTHERFUCKER? YOU TELL THEM IF THEY COME ONE STEP CLOSER, I'LL GO MAI LAI ALL OVER THEIR ASSES.



YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING. LET THEM IN.

ARE YOU KIDDING, LT? YOU REALIZE THAT HALF THESE GUYS ARE TALIBAN--

WE CAN USE EVERY ABLE-BODIED DEFENDER WE CAN GET. LOOK.



THEY'D BE MORE USE SLOWING THEM DOWN. AS FOOL, SIR.



IF THAT HORDE REACHES THEM, THEY WON'T BECOME FOOD. THEY'LL TURN, AND WE'LL HAVE MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE.

THEY WANT ME TO TELL YOU THEY HAVE NO WEAPONS.

THEY NEVER DO WHEN WE SEARCH THEM. THEY PROBABLY CAN'T GET TO THEIR HIDDEN CACHES. NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO FINISH THEM.

WHAT ABOUT BOMBS?



TELL MASON TO SUIT UP.



YOU'VE GOT  
TO MOVE  
FASTER.

YOU'VE GOT  
TO BE KIDDING. IF  
IT WERE UP TO ME,  
WE'D BE CUTTING  
THEM OPEN.



I DOUBT  
THEIR DOCTOR HAS  
BEEN SURGICALLY  
IMPLANTING BOMBS  
IN THEM WHILE  
HE'S BEEN OUR  
DETAINEE.

THAT'S RIGHT,  
HE'S TOO BUSY  
GIVING *BITEES*  
TRANSFUSIONS.



TRANS-  
FUSIONS?  
HOW COULD  
YOU LET THAT  
HAPPEN?!



WHAT  
THE--

YOU  
NOT TOUCH  
HER, YOU  
NOT TOUCH  
WOMAN!







