

ONE

Panel 1: NIGHT. OSCAR is in the lobby of his shabby hotel near the front desk. Oscar is a slim half-Armenian guy in his 20s with dark hair (see Adrien Brody). Behind the desk, the DESK CLERK calls out to Oscar. The desk clerk is a skinny guy with pock marks.

1. DESK CLERK: Oscar? You got a message.

Panel 2: Close up of a note on top of the desk on Hotel Rimbaud stationary.

2. [NOTE]: Tommy's dead. Record's missing.

Panel 3: Oscar leaning in towards the desk clerk.

3. OSCAR: Weird question. Where can I get some cheap heroin? Asking for a friend.

Panel 4: The desk clerk leans in closer.

4. DESK CLERK: Of course you are. And that's not the weirdest question I've been asked working here.

TWO

Panel 1: Oscar walking past storm damaged houses, still not rebuilt after Katrina.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Close up of posted signs about damage and danger.

NO COPY

Panel 3: FEMA Xs spray painted on houses with numbers in the bottom quadrant indicating dead bodies (DB) found.

NO COPY

Panel 4: Railroad tracks run behind a warehouse. THREE MEN in dirty jeans and hoodies sit hunched against the rusty corrugated metal of the warehouse's back wall.

NO COPY

Panel 5: Oscar stands in front of the three men.

1. OSCAR: Tommy's dead.

THREE

Panel 1: The man on the left looks left. The man on the right looks right. The man in the middle frowns up at Oscar. The MIDDLE MAN's stringy hair hangs into his eyes.

1. MIDDLE MAN: We're all dead or getting there.
2. OSCAR: I think someone helped him get there faster.

Panel 2: Wide shot of warehouse and all four men small in front of it. The train tracks stretch away into the night.

3. MIDDLE MAN: Lucky break.
4. OSCAR: Was anyone asking after him? Or a record?

Panel 3: Same as above but now with two large men approaching Oscar from behind.

5. LEFT MAN: What's it worth?
6. OSCAR: Tommy's life.
7. RIGHT MAN: Not much then.

Panel 4: Oscar has turned to look as the two large men approach him. One has a knife.

NO COPY

Panel 5: The three sitting men are looking down, uninterested, as Oscar starts to run.

NO COPY

FOUR

Panel 1: Oscar running past the ridged metal side of the warehouse.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Oscar skidding around corner of the warehouse.

NO COPY

Panel 3: As he rounds the corner, Oscar sees ATHENA with a baseball bat raised and starting to swing. Athena is a black woman in her 30s with hair in tight braids (see Shotgun Mary). She wears jeans and a leather vest and looks ready to bust heads. A machete hilt can be seen over one shoulder with its harness under the vest.

NO COPY

Panel 4: Oscar's skid turns into a baseball slide to get under the bat's swing.

NO COPY

Panel 5: Athena swings the bat into the knee of the Oscar's first pursuer as he rounds the corner of the warehouse.

NO COPY

FIVE

Panel 1: Athena swings bat again and knocks a knife out of the second pursuer's hand.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Second pursuer half lifting the first pursuer and helping him limp back around the corner of the warehouse.

NO COPY

Panel 3: Athena holding the bat down at her side. Oscar is still on the ground, staring up at her shocked.

1. ATHENA: Learn anything useful?

2. OSCAR: What?

Panel 4: Athena leans the bat on her shoulder, looking down at Oscar with a half smile.

3. ATHENA: Tommy lost his life and the record. You're on the hunt to find who took both.

SIX

Panel 1: Oscar scrambles to his feet.

1. OSCAR: Who are you?
2. ATHENA: Athena.

Panel 2: Oscar eyes Athena warily as she reaches into her vest pocket.

3. ATHENA: Think of me as an independent contractor.
4. OSCAR: You have a buyer for the record?

Panel 3: She tosses him a matchbook.

5. ATHENA: I'm not running a charity.

Panel 4: Oscar reads the name of the new dance club on the matchbook.

6. ATHENA: That should get you started.
7. OSCAR: Why are you helping me?

Panel 5: Athena walks off, speaking over her shoulder. Oscar is left standing looking down at the matchbook.

8. ATHENA: You'll figure it out.

SEVEN

Panel 1: Flashback / Dream. Over the shoulder shot of three theater producers (black silhouettes) in theater seats facing the theater's stage. ROSALIND, small at center stage, is auditioning for a role. She is a curvy young black woman with straightened hair.

1. ROSA: Love is merely a madness, and, I tell you, deserves as well a dark house and a whip as madmen do...

Panel 2: Over the shoulder of 12-year-old Oscar watching Rosa from the stage wing.

2. PRODUCER 1: We'll call you.

3. PRODUCER 2: Next!

Panel 3: Rosa standing with Oscar in the wings. He's excited. She looks defeated.

4. OSCAR: Rosa, you were so good! I'm sure they'll pick you!

5. ROSA: I doubt it.

Panel 4: Rosa looking back over her shoulder at the stage, angry and sad.

6. ROSA: I don't have what they're looking for.

7. OSCAR: What are they looking for?

Panel 5: Oscar looking up at her and Rosa looking down with a softer expression.

8. ROSA: I'll tell you what I'm looking for. Hot chocolate!

9. OSCAR: Yes!

EIGHT

Panel 1: Oscar's hotel room. Sleepy Oscar with tousled hair reaching for ringing hotel phone beside the bed.

1. SFX: Ring!

Panel 2: Oscar lying back in bed with his arm over his eyes talking on the phone.

2. PABLO (on phone): I've got a local contact for you. She has a gardening store in the Bywater.

3. OSCAR: And she's dialed into the weird around here?

Panel 3: Pablo standing and talking on a pay phone on a street corner. The hand not holding the phone is blocking the noise to his free ear.

4. PABLO: Fully. Are you there alone?

5. OSCAR: Zhang is unavailable. And Rosalind...

6. PABLO: ...doesn't approve. Yes, I'm aware.

Panel 4: Oscar holding the phone away from his ear and looking at it.

7. SFX: [static]

Panel 5: Oscar holding the phone to his ear.

8. OSCAR: Pablo? Hello?