In 2050, the failure of world governments to reduce carbon emissions to a pre-industrial level sets the stage for an unavoidable “Hothouse Earth” scenario.

Over the next several decades, global warming and severe climate catastrophes become commonplace. Sea levels rise, coastlines are obliterated, and extreme weather events - hurricanes, fires, floods, and worse - are facts of life.

By the dawn of the 22nd century, human society has adapted successfully to an earth that grows less habitable by the day. But adaptation does not guarantee survival, and as for those who do survive...

What are they living for?
“I think ghost stories are fundamentally optimistic, don’t you? If there are ghosts, then that means we survive death.”

-Stanley Kubrick to Stephen King, on the set of *The Shining*
HE’S PICKED OUT A SOUVENIR!
WHATCHA GOT THERE?

SEE FOR YOURSELF
The priest is already inside?

Yes.

They used to call it the most haunted place in Los Angeles.

Stairways collapsed.

Quietly. It’s down there. The only door that still closes.
Wait, is that--

Ah-hhhhh!

Helluva collection, I guess.
You were a touch less complimentary in your Times profile!

Callum Shah is at least interesting. For an oligarch, a certified spiritualist (I guess he didn’t get the memo back in 1906 when they proved it was all bunk), his Exca-vacations thus far all require overpaid ghost-busting assistants…"

That’s very cute.

Is it true that you coined the term?

Exca-vacation.

Very cute. But this is not a “hobby” for me, Mr. Park.

This is not bunk. This collection has been the driving focus of my life since primary school.

The England I grew up in was still a gray and gloomy one. There were haunted houses ‘round every corner...

But you didn’t schedule this meeting to float in front of your collection while I slowly die of poverty, did you?

No, I scheduled this meeting to offer you a job.
NEXT WEEK, I BEGIN THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK OF MY LIFE. AND I WANT YOU TO DOCUMENT IT.

YOU HATE MY COVERAGE OF YOU. YOUR CRITICISM ONLY LENDS ME CREDIBILITY.

SKETICS MAKE THE BEST CONVERTS.

THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK OF YOUR LIFE IS A GHOST TOUR? I DON'T BELIEVE IN ANY OF THIS SHIT, MR. SHAH.

AND YOU WILL BE A CONVERT, MATT. THIS IS MARCO POLO, AMELIA EARHART, YURI GAGARIN.

AN EXPEDITION THAT WILL REWORK THE WORLD. A CHANCE TO PROVE THAT SOMETHING GREATER AWAIT US THAN A SLOW DEATH.

THINK IT OVER. I'LL PAY BETTER THAN WHATEVER RAG YOU'RE WRITING COPY FOR THESE DAYS. MAKE A LIST OF PROS AND CONS, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES. BUT YOU WILL COME WITH ME, MATT.
"COME WITH ME AND BELIEVE IN SOMETHING MORE THAN THIS."

PRO – Makes this an easy gig.

CON – Ghosts Aren’t Real.

CON – Shah is an ultrarich, manipulative asshole.

CON – You cannot maintain journalistic integrity under these circumstances.

PRO – Might as well take some of his money.
PRO – You haven’t had journalistic integrity since The Guardian fired you.

PRO – You need the money.

PRO – Ghosts! Aren’t! Real! So what’s the worst that could happen?

PRO – You have nothing better to do.

[ ] Environmental Alert: Air Quality within Acceptable Danger Levels
[ ] Missed Call: Dr. Bormann Easy
[ ] Billing Alert: Your Account ending in...
A LITTLE EARLY FOR THAT, DON'T YOU THINK?

Hmm? OH, NO WAY—IT'S A SATIVA BLEND DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED?

WANT SOME?

Uhhh, NO THANKS. I'M ANXIOUS ENOUGH ALREADY.

SUIT YOURSELF HERE FOR SHAH'S LATEST WILD GOOSE CHASE?

I'M MADDI.

MATT AND MADDI... THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE CONFUSING, OR ANYTHING.

SHIT, YOU ARE ANXIOUS. NEVER WORKED FOR A WAR CRIMINAL?

...SHAH MADE HIS FORTUNE IN DATA ACQUISITION, NOT DEFENSE.

HE'S A BILLIONAIRE.

THEY'RE ALL WAR CRIMINALS.
FANTASTIC TIMING. OUR LAST TWO STRAGGLERS--

HOLD UP.

STOLEN DIRECTLY FROM THE U.N. DISASTER RESPONSE CORPS, OUR CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER... DR. MADISON O'CONNELL.

AND MATT PARK--YOU'RE ALL UNDOUBTEDLY FAMILIAR WITH HIS SCATHING COLUMN AND COMP REEL TAKEDOWNS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA DISCOURSE. HE'LL BE OUR MAN BEHIND THE CAMERA.

WELCOME ABOARD.
EXCELLENT. NOW, I MUST REMIND YOU—BY ENTERING, YOU’VE ALREADY AGREED TO OUR NDA.

OBVIOUSLY, I STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT.

AND OUR, uh, DESTINATION?

IN GOOD TIME, IN GOOD TIME!

I’VE GOT TERABYTES OF INTEL YOU CAN SPOOL THROUGH ON THE FLIGHT OUT.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE SUZANNE GERSHWINN, CHIEF OF SECURITY, AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES, TWO PURPLE HEARTS—ST. PETERSBURG AND ISTANBUL.

CONSIDER HER THE WORLD’S MOST EXPENSIVE BABYSITTER.

CALL ME GERSH.
IN TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES, THIS TINY ISLAND OFF THE BAJA COAST HAS SEEN MORE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS, SPIRITUAL APPARITIONS, AND UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

IT GOT A NAME?

UNOFFICIALLY, THEY CALL IT "ISLA LODO."

TO THE CONQUISTADORS, APPARENTLY.

SOME LINGUISTIC MISUNDERSTANDING LED THEM TO THE NAME "MUD ISLAND."

LEMMIE GUESS: "SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES" THOUGHT THE LAND WAS CURSED.

THE LAND IS CURSED, MR. PARK.

FAMOUSLY CURSED AND FULL OF GHOSTS, BUT NONE OF US HAVE HEARD OF IT?

SINCE 1906, THE ISLAND'S BEEN THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THE RASMUSSEN FUEL CONGLOMERATE, AND THEY TRY TO LIMIT THAT KIND OF PUBLICITY.

NO WAY RASMUSSEN'S BEEN TOO-BIG-TO-FALL, SINCE DIAL-UP SOME GRAINY GHOST PHOTOS AND SCARED WORKERS AREN'T BAD PUBLICITY TO THEM.

THIS ISLAND'S HISTORY IS FULL OF VIOLENCE.

AND THE VICTIMS OF THAT VIOLENCE LINGER.

SO WHY LET US INVESTIGATE? RASMUSSEN WOULDN'T JUST SUDDENLY OPEN TO VISITORS.

NO, BUT SUICIDES ARE VIOLENT EMPLOYEE DISPUTES, UNEXPLAINED MASS MENTAL ILLNESS, MURDERS.
There are still corporate facilities leftover from before California's mandatory evacuation—and there is, of course, the Rasmussen Manor, which is surprisingly well intact.

But Rasmussen doesn't care about whatever we do over these next three days...

Because next week, the island won't exist.

The Pacific Rim desolation.

A colorful term... but accurate. Most of the class fivers peter out, or send the tsunamis further north, but this storm...

Well, you get the picture. In three days—four at most—we lose Isla Lobo.

There's no place like it left on the planet—trust me, I've looked.

This is our last chance to prove—to a world without hope—that there is hope for more than this world.

Come outrun this storm with me. Come cross the veil.
“HUNDREDS OF EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS, PICTURES THAT COULD BE STAGED BUT AREN’T DOCTORED OR ‘SHOPPED’ IN ANY WAY. INCIDENT REPORTS FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFFS.”

“AND THE DEATHS—RASMUSSEN’S SEALED DOCUMENTS ALONE LIST OVER SEVENTY-NINE SUICIDES ON THE ISLAND.”

“THIS IS THE CLOSEST WE GET TO ‘CRUISING ALTITUDE,’ FOLKS. SO IF YOU WANNA CATCH A FEW HOURS’ SLEEP BEFORE WE LAND, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.”

“I’M SURE A FEW HOURS ON THE ISLAND WILL CONVINCE YOU BETTER THAN THOSE RASMUSSEN FILES CAN.”
WE DON'T GET OFF THAT ROCK IN TIME. WE'LL ALL FIND OUT WHO'S RIGHT...

...THE HARD WAY.

AT LEAST THESE GUYS HAVE THEIR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

I DUNNO, MAN. I KINDA BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.

DON'T GET IT BACKWARDS, MATE--I'M A BELIEVER, TOO.

SAME HERE.

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

Oh, I almost forgot...

YOU'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THE FULL CAMERA AND DRONE ARRAY ON THE ISLAND, BUT THERE'S NO REASON YOU CAN'T START PLAYING AROUND WITH THE INTERFACE.

HAVEN'T USED SOMETHING THIS HIGH-END IN A WHILE.

NEARLY 360 DEGREES OF PERFECT HIGH-DEFINITION VIDEO.

IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO CALIBRATE, THOUGH...
"I GUESS A LITTLE SLEEP CAN'T HURT."

HOLD ON THE DESCENT A MINUTE.
I GOTA HIT THE HEAD.

?sniff? hm?

HEY, COOL IF I RECORD A LITTLE OF OUR APPROACH FROM IN HERE?
WHOA--

COME ON, MAN!

HELP!
THE PILOT'S HAVING A SEIZURE!

HEEEEELP!
"It's the island... we're flying over the island!"

What the... I don't know! He just passed out.

Move.
ONE OF YOU GRAB THE STICK, PER CHRISAKE!
LET EVERYBODY BACK THERE KNOW...

"...WE'RE LANDING A LITTLE SOONER THAN EXPECTED!"

KRRRR- SPLSHH
“APOLOGIES FOR THE ROCKY LANDING, EVERYONE."

“HOW’S OUR MAN?”

“HE’S READING NORMAL, NOW... LOOKS LIKE A TYPICAL SEIZURE."

“You’re sure he’s got no history?”

“HELL, I’M NOT HIS MOM. WHAT DO I KNOW?”

“What... What is that?”
PLENTY OF TIME TO FOR THAT LATER, I THINK...

TAKE A LOOK, THERE, EVERYONE!

"IGLA LODO'S GIVING US A WELCOME."

TO BE CONTINUED.
NEXT ISSUE:
THE LAST HAUNTED HOUSE ON EARTH.
GALLERY | CHARACTER DESIGNS

Matt Park
Callum Shah
Dr. Maddi O’Connell
Father Domingo Sandoval
Gersh
Gersh, suited up
Rasmussen
CREATIVE TEAM

Ryan Cady
Ryan Cady is a writer of comics and horror based in Southern California. Best known for his work on superhero properties like Green Lantern and Batman: Urban Legends, Cady has also collaborated on graphic novels with several high profile musicians, including Poppy and Machine Gun Kelly. His previous creator-owned project with Andrea Mutti, Infinite Dark, is also available through Image/Top Cow.

Andrea Mutti
Andrea Mutti began drawing comics in his native Italy during the early 1990s collaborating with various European publishers on such series as DNAction (Xenia Edizioni), Lazarus Leed and Nathan Never (both for Star Comics). In 2001, he landed in the U.S. market drawing acclaimed series such as The Executor and DMZ for DC/Vertigo, various Iron Man series for Marvel and G.I. Joe Origins for IDW, among many others.

Frank Cvetkovic
Frank Cvetkovic is a comic book letterer who hates when people assume that all he does is put words inside bubbles. There's a little more to the job than that. For instance, sometimes he puts them in boxes. His work can be seen in Blink, Count Crowley, and the Cyberpunk 2077 comics.