

NIGHTMARE: THE BEGINNING #3

Andy Mangels

Page One:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

We see a hazy vista of the prehistoric world, trees and bogs and rocks and shadows in the early morning.

1 CAP: In the beginning, the first creature intelligent enough began to dream.

(Panel) 2.

Zoom in on a furry beast of some kind, curled and sleeping. Smaller ones (its children) sleep nearby.

2 CAP: Its dreams were simple then. . .

(Panel) 3.

It twitches, paws clawing at its face, bothered by something.

3 CAP: . . . create . . .

(Panel) 4.

It twitches again, violently, face contorting in pain. One of the children wakes up, startled.

4 CAP: . . . seek . . .

(Panel) 5.

It's stomach ruptures from the inside, spraying blood, as it wakes up and squeals. The child jumps back, scared, as the other children awaken.

5 CAP: . . . consume . . .

(Panel) 6.

A horizontal panel. The parent creature dies, its blood seeping darkly into the ground. Its face and black eyes face us, a few glints of light from the early sun in them. The first child nuzzles it, trying to bring it back to life with love. The others look on sadly, shocked into stillness.

6 CAP: . . . survive . . .

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Page Two:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

A photocopy blow-up of the last panel of page one, closing in on the face and the eyes.

1 CAP: As more creatures dreamed, the energy of the millions of dreams gathered in other places and began to coalesce into entities of their own.

(Panel) 2.

Another photocopy blow-up, closing in even further. The blackness of the eyes overtakes almost the whole panel. In the blow-up, we see that there are a lot more light glints than we previously thought.

2 CAP: In each of them were the same aspects as those who had brought them into being.

(Panel) 3.

An all-black panel (bordered in white), as the light glints begin to swirl together and coalesce, almost as if a universe was forming.

3 CAP: They also began to create . . .

(Panel) 4.

In the shadowy darkness, we see movement, ghostly figures both beautiful and horrifying.

4 CAP: . . . to seek . . .

5 CAP: . . . to consume . . .

(Panel) 5.

The figures begin to take shape more, to come into focus and into being.

6 CAP: . . . and to survive.

(Panel) 6.

Some of the figures are more frightening and demonic, the early Dream Demons. They leave the others, turning away and towards us, slaving and hungry, the light of madness in their eyes.

7 CAP: Though the creatures of this DreamWorld were largely benign, the more willful of them became Nightmares.

8 CAP: And, in time, the Nightmares became dissatisfied.

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Page Three:

This is the title page. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Maggie is curled into a fetal position in something dark. We can't really make out what it is, but we feel as if it's organic, and almost comforting, though scary at the same time. What it is is an amniotic sac as we'd find in a womb, only this is the womb into Hell. She has her eyes closed, and we can't see her right hand as it's tucked behind her legs and other hand. Design this the same way you did page three of the first two issues, but maybe the panel is more organic, or seeming to grow out of the page rather than square and boxed off.

1-CAP: "I feel safe now. . .2-CAP: "I'm protected. . .3-CAP: "I'm home."

(Panel) 2.

A brilliant light is behind Freddy, illuminating him from behind. His hat is off, and he has his arms to his sides, palms facing us, in an almost angel-like supplicating manner. His head is slightly bowed. Although he looks benign, and almost safe, something about him still gives us a sense of menace.

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Page Four:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Maggie dreams, peacefully.

1 CAP: "Mother's here . . . and . . .

(Panel) 2.

Suddenly her eyes open in shock and pain. She looks down at her hidden right hand. Bubbles escape from her mouth. We realize she's in liquid.

2 CAP: "No!

(Panel) 3.

She pulls it out, and her hand has mutated and burned into something resembling Freddy's glove.

3 CAP: "It's not mine!

(Panel) 4.

She presses the other hand against the membranous walls, trying to look out. A dark shadow of a man nears the outside.

4 CAP: "Where am I?

(Panel) 5.

She holds up her claw tentatively, moving it towards the membrane and the dark figure, who's now reaching towards her with one hand as well.

5 CAP: "Am I dead?

(Panel) 6.

She touches the membrane, clawing it open.

6 CAP: "Did we win?"

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Page Five:

This page will have five panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Large panel as Maggie sloshes out of the womb into Hell (or a close approximation thereof) We see now for the first time that she was in a large fluid-filled sac, growing from a sickening membranous wall. Other sacs may be in the far distance, down corridors. Picture a scene from Aliens (the second film). Viscous liquid spills out with her. Goo this up so it looks really sickening. Freddy stands before her, minus hat and glove. He smiles, almost fatherly.

1 SFX: SHHHPLLLOOOOOOSSH HHH2 MAGGIE: Wuuaagggggg

(Panel) 2.

He reaches to help her up, and she swats his hand away, getting up herself.

3 FREDDY: Welcome back.4 MAGGIE: Get away from me!

(Panel) 3.

She wipes gunk from her face, as she points at him angrily with the glove.

5 MAGGIE: How did you come back? We killed you!

(Panel) 4.

He smiles condescendingly at her.

6 FREDDY: I came back because you recreated me.

(Panel) 5.

She reacts, shocked and afraid.

7 FREDDY: I came back to train you and all the others . . .8 FREDDY: . . . to take my place.

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Page Six:

This page will have six panels.

(Panel) 1.

It's twilight. Tracy sits outside in Maggie's car, the door open. Her charred coat is on the car hood.

1 CAP: "Maggie's gone.

(Panel) 2.

We see that Tracy has rummaged through Maggie's bag, and has gotten the gun out, and is holding it in her hands, looking at it. The scrapbook is nearby on the seat, and a flashlight is next to it.

2 CAP: "I saw Freddy for an instant before she disappeared. I'm not sure if I was seeing her flashbacks, or if he somehow came back.

(Panel) 3.

We look over her shoulder as she turns and looks at the power plant (reference from the second film).

3 CAP: "I'm scared to go inside again.

(Panel) 4.

She sits, studying the gun, deep in contemplation.

4 CAP: "If he's there, he might kill me.5 CAP: "This gun I found in Maggie's purse isn't gonna do me much good against a guy who keeps returning from the dead."

(Panel) 5.

She grabs the scrapbook in one hand, putting the gun in a pants pocket. The flashlight rolls as she picks up the scrapbook.

6 TRACY: Screw it!

(Panel) 6.

Largest panel. She stands at the gates to the power plant (as did the girl in the second film) in the fading light, scrapbook in one hand, flashlight in the other.

7 TRACY: I told Maggie I'd back her up.

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Page Seven:

This page will have seven panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Tracy is inside the plant, her flashlight shining. Everywhere are dark catwalks, wet dripping pipes, and a very light mist.

1 TRACY: (shouts) Maggie?

(Panel) 2.

She turns the corner and comes to a junction facing a large furnace. It's metal grating grins at her, almost like a mouth. The scrapbook begins to extrude a mist.

2 ECHO: Maggie aggie aggie

(Panel) 3.

She throws the now steaming scrapbook down in front of the furnace.

3 TRACY: (shouts) What the Hell?

(Panel) 4.

Steam and smoke envelop the junction as the furnace roars to a fiery life. Tracy draws the gun, but she can't see very well.

4 SFX: WWWHOOOOARRRRRRR

5 ECHO: at the Hell hell hell

(Panel) 5.

Close-up on her as she trains the flashlight around in the smoke, holding the gun in a trembling hand.

6 TRACY: I don't like this.

7 TRACY: (shouts) I've got a gun, Krueger!

(Panel) 6.

Large panel, looking over Tracy's shoulder. From the smoke emerge the murdered Elm Street children, all young and dressed in white clothes, and looking haunted but beautiful. In the center is Alice Neeley, the little girl from the first issue.

8 ECHO: gun Krueger krueger krueger

9 ALICE: You don't need it. He's not here now.

10 BOY: We are.

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Page Eight:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Maggie takes a tremendously fast, furious swipe at Freddy with her claw. It looks as if she's going to behead him, and he doesn't even react.

(Panel) 2.

With lightning speed and tremendous calm, his arm shoots up and stops her, the glove appearing on his hand and disappearing off of hers.

(Panel) 3.

Close-up of two faces framing the panel as Freddy leans into Maggie's face and leers at her, wagging his finger in a "no-no" movement as to a child. Maggie leans back, scared (or, maybe he's got bad breath).

(Panel) 4.

He puts an almost fatherly arm behind her back, walking her forward, explaining. They're about to enter what could almost be a huge vagina (see H.R. Giger's Alien designs), on the other side of which strange lights blur and whirl in the distance.

(Panel) 5.

Maggie scrunches her eyes closed as they squeeze through the goo-filled vagina-opening. Some of it oozes on her hair.

(Panel) 6.

From in front, as Freddy leans in and licks the goo off her hair with his Freddy-tongue, grinning at her. She's about to open her eyes. They've exited on the other side.

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Page Nine:

This is a full-bleed splash page.

(Panel) 1.

They've come out into Hell, or the DreamWorld's equivalent thereof. They're on a ledge, from which leads a pathway through the air made of ? (you pick: entrails, bones, human souls/bodies, snot) leading through out the huge realm that doesn't seem to end. There is a whole evil world here.

For visions of Hell, refer to Swamp Thing's Hell, Hellblazer's Hell, H.R Giger's Aliens, and Miracleman's London (included). **Now outdo them.** This should be a truly grotesque, shudder-producing page, the pinnacle of your horror career so far. Bodies or humans are being tortured, eaten, crawling, impaled, etc.

The strange lights we saw earlier were spirit-like will o' wisps flitting through the air.

Will use quotes from: Psalm 73:3-9

"For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth."

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Page Ten:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

We're back in the boiler plant with Tracy and the kids. Alice Neeley (the little girl) is gesturing for Tracy to lower the gun.

(Panel) 2.

Alice speaks to her, smiling sadly.

(Panel) 3.

Tracy's eyes get big as she reacts in surprise and sadness.

(Panel) 4.

She beds down onto one knee, while the children come forward. One very cute kid (about ten) gestures off one direction.

(Panel) 5.

Tracy and Alice talk face-to-face, now that Tracy's on her level. We can barely see through Alice, though she is ghostly.

(Panel) 6.

Tracy asks a question.

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Page Eleven:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Alice looks at the other children, some of whom look worried and bite their lips.

(Panel) 2.

Alice replies back to Tracy, trying to be glib, but we can see she's hiding something. Tracy doesn't see it yet.

(Panel) 3.

Several of the kids break off and motion for Tracy to follow them in the misty catwalks.

(Panel) 4.

Tracy stands and starts to follow them, looking back at Alice questioningly. Alice waves her away to follow the children.

(Panel) 5.

As Tracy disappears into the misty darkness, many children troop along behind, some skipping, a touch of excitement at the destruction of their prison to come. An older girl (Susan Hopkins, 13) asks Alice an apprehensive question.

(Panel) 6.

Close-up as Alice looks troubled, a sadness in her eyes. Susan bites her lip behind her.

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Page Twelve:

This page will have five panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Maggie and Freddy descend into Hell.

(Panel) 2.

They step off the bridge/walkway into one tier of Hell. Several screaming people/demon/things have organic tubes running from their eyes and mouths and foreheads and stomachs out of panel.

(Panel) 3.

Big panel, no borders, full bleed. The organic tubes connect to a giant queen demon, her body bloated and obscene, her head a big fish-head of some kind, Dream Demons suckling at her moldy breasts, her arms tentacles and claws. She is on a platform, and coming from underneath her (is she pissing it or laying it?) is a viscous black oily liquid oozing and sliming down into a trough rough-carved from the floor that leads off-panel.

(Panel) 4.

Maggie is understandably grossed-out and squeamish, while Freddy cackles and gestures with his claw.

(Panel) 5.

One of the Dream Demons (who we recognize as one of Freddy's three mentors) quits suckling and turns to see Maggie, grinning. Black liquid oozes from the bitten gash where it had been suckling, and oil drips from his teeth.

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Page Thirteen:

This page will have five panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Maggie hurries away from the grotesque sight, with Freddy following close by.

(Panel) 2.

Medium panel, no borders, full bleed. Maggie enters into a tremendously huge cavern made of bones and cars and pieces of dreams. Horizontal in places all over the walls are mirrored pools with dreams and visions inside them. This should have an element of terrifying grandeur.

(Panel) 3.

Maggie reaches forward to touch one of the pools. Inside it is a sleeping child, fitful in its dreams.

(Panel) 4.

Her hand shimmers in the pool, calming the child down by brushing its forehead.

(Panel) 5.

Big panel, no borders, full bleed. She whirls, extracting her arm, to see Freddy standing behind her, the three Dream Demons with him. We see their full bodies for the first time now, hideous amalgamations of human, insect, fish, and alien. They should look enough like their old selves to recognize, however.

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Page Fourteen:

This page will have six panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

Maggie backs up as Freddy advances on her, smiling, the Demons flowing with him like bizarre bodyguards.

(Panel) 2.

Horizontal panel, no borders, full bleed. As he walks forward, Freddy's features shift to those of the pre-burned Freddy, to a grinning skull, to a more demonic look, and back to Freddy. His body shifts subtly (or not so subtly) as he nears Maggie.

(Panel) 3.

Freddy nears Maggie, leering at her, his claw/glove out to stroke her chin chillingly.

(Panel) 4.

She grabs his arm with her hand, angry.

(Panel) 5.

No borders, full bleed. Her hand metamorphosizes into a long spider-like claw, tentacle-like fingers stretching around his arm, grotesque knuckles. He reacts with surprise, while she gets a subtly evil grin on her face. Her corruption is beginning.

(Panel) 6.

She pulls his gloved hand off, the tendons and veins snapping and popping. He screams, and she revels in it. She brings her other arm up to his chest level, as it reforms into a fleshy spear.

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Page Fifteen:

This page will have seven panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Sixteen:

This page will have seven panels. Bleed page black.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Seventeen:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Eighteen:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Nineteen:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Twenty:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Twenty-One:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Twenty-Two:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Twenty-Three:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Twenty-Four:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

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Page Final Page:

This page will have seven panels.

(Panel) 1.

Establishing shot of a small town. Anywhere USA. Not Springwood.

(Panel) 2.

Children play happily on the sidewalks outside a house with a rather unkempt yard. They don't belong to this house.

1 VOICE: (from house, yelling) Stupid damn kid!

(Panel) 3.

Inside, a large disgusting mother is beating at her small son with a belt. He's nine, and trying to cover his face with his arms. He's bruised in several places.

2 WOMAN: I shoulda had you killed when you wuz inside me!3 SFX: krak krak4 SON: No, mama!

(Panel) 4.

She shoves him into a small broom closet, closing the door. It's cramped inside.

5 WOMAN: Don't you tell me no! Get in there and ask for forgiveness!6 WOMAN: You pray that you'll get to be a better boy!

(Panel) 5.

In the darkness, he hugs his knees to his chest. His face is deranged, damaged. He's beyond the ability to cry.

7 WOMAN: (from outside) You pray!

(Panel) 6.

Over his shoulder, in the darkness, we see a shape forming in a mop -- or are we just imagining it? No, it's a shape that looks like Freddy's face on a dream-demon body. Another demon is materializing beside him.

8 FREDDY: Hey. . .9 FREDDY: Hey Jeffrey. . .

(Panel) 7.

The boy smiles, tentatively, as the Freddy demon whispers seductively in his ear. He's on his way to madness.

10 FREDDY: We know what you want.

11 CAP: . . . the cycle continues. . .