

KILL ME FIRST

A RICHARD RUDY FILM

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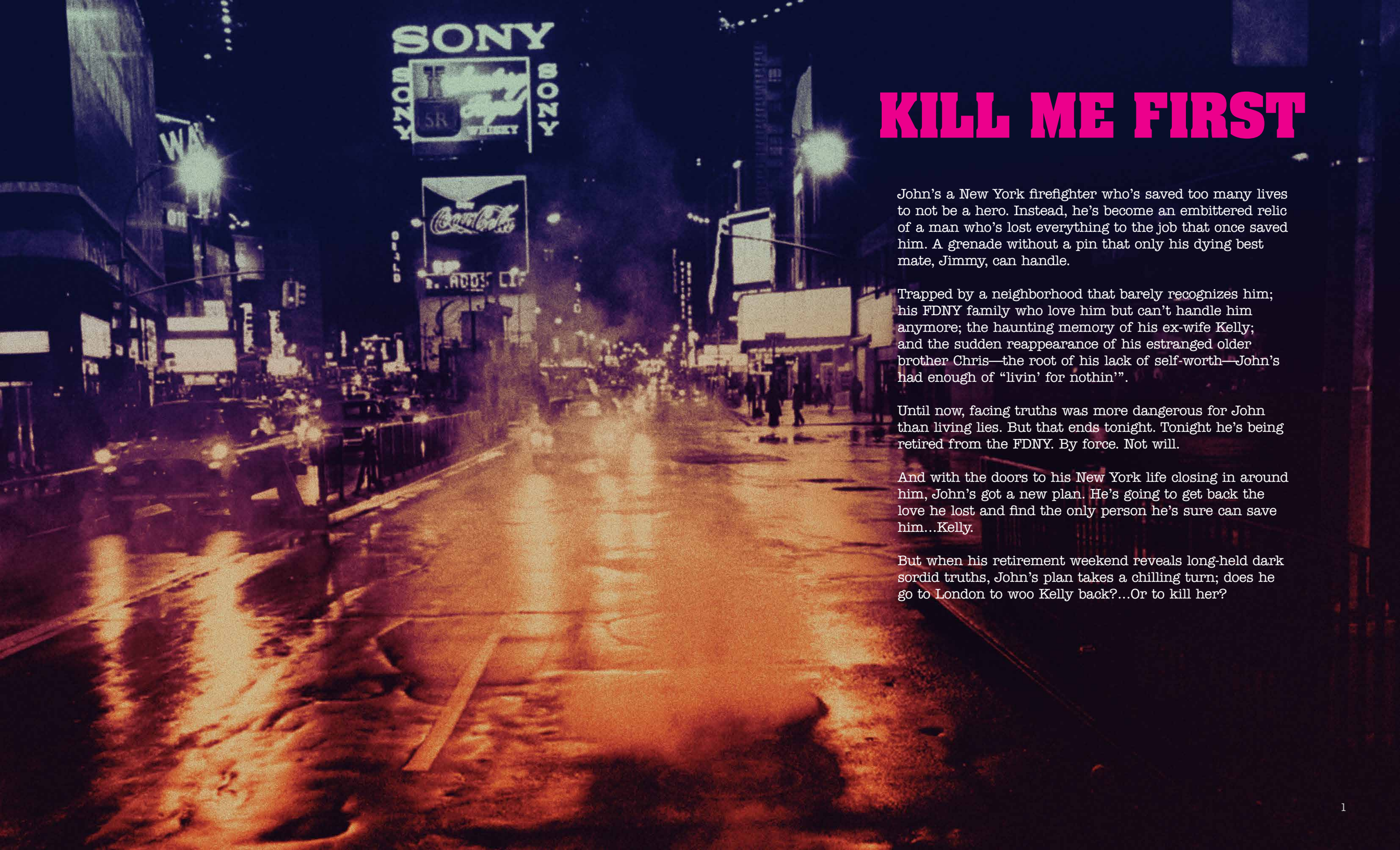


**“Don’t go lookin’ for the
missing piece in your life”**



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KILL ME FIRST

John's a New York firefighter who's saved too many lives to not be a hero. Instead, he's become an embittered relic of a man who's lost everything to the job that once saved him. A grenade without a pin that only his dying best mate, Jimmy, can handle.

Trapped by a neighborhood that barely recognizes him; his FDNY family who love him but can't handle him anymore; the haunting memory of his ex-wife Kelly; and the sudden reappearance of his estranged older brother Chris—the root of his lack of self-worth—John's had enough of “livin' for nothin'”.

Until now, facing truths was more dangerous for John than living lies. But that ends tonight. Tonight he's being retired from the FDNY. By force. Not will.

And with the doors to his New York life closing in around him, John's got a new plan. He's going to get back the love he lost and find the only person he's sure can save him...Kelly.

But when his retirement weekend reveals long-held dark sordid truths, John's plan takes a chilling turn; does he go to London to woo Kelly back?...Or to kill her?

SURVIVORS

JOHN

John's childhood was predicated upon perpetual antagonism. It was only under Jimmy's wing, in the FDNY, that John found purpose in life.

But after decades saving others to avoid saving himself, he's being forcibly retired. Overwhelmed by a lack of worth, truth, and the survivors guilt that's crushed his soul, it's hard to imagine a man more broken. Alcohol, drugs, and Jimmy are the only things keeping him alive. And once Jimmy's cancer wins, there'll be no one left to save him in New York.

John's believes his only shot at salvation lies in wooing back his ex-wife, Kelly. His one true love, Kelly always rescued him. But after years spent helping John battle his darkness, Kelly fled to London to save herself, decades ago.

To find her, John's not only going to have to leave America for the first time, but find the courage to believe he's even worth saving.

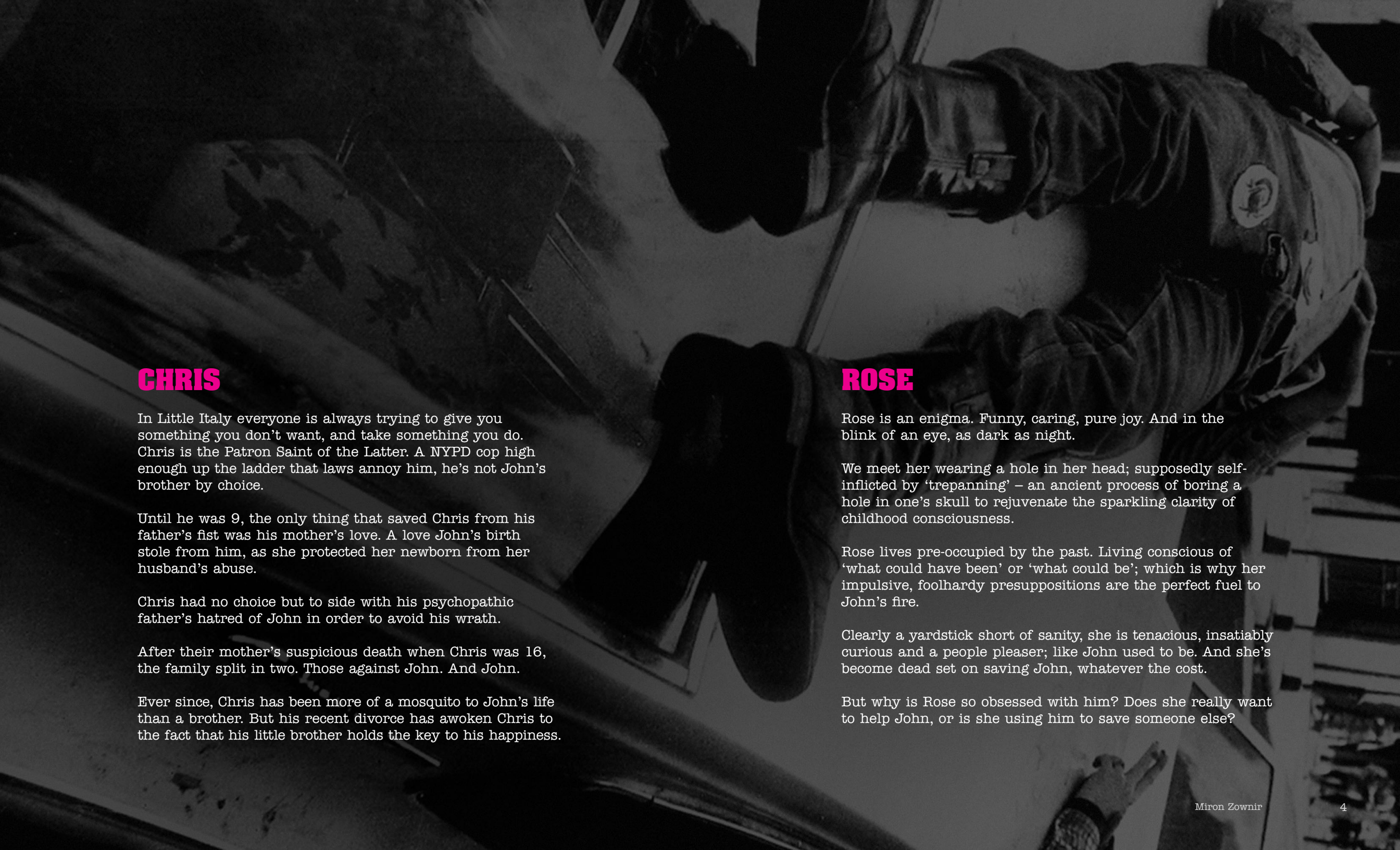
JIMMY

Jimmy's lived a life in service of others. Driven by patriotism and loyalty to an old America. Republican. Direct. Clear.

Jimmy is Kelly's older brother. He became John's mentor after John's mother died. He taught John about brotherhood, honor and how to party past failure.

As a life-long FDNY 'chauffeur' (engine driver), Jimmy's never saved anyone. He's lived life on the sidelines. But 9/11 changed that. The lies that the pile was 'safe' gave him terminal cancer and eroded his loyalty. America never gave a shit about him. Clearly.

His dying hope is to make sure John and his brother, Chris, reconnect so that John has a lifeline in New York when he dies. But to do that Jimmy's going to have to get up off the sidelines. He's going to have to tell John the truth about why Kelly left. Because no one else is going to do the right thing.



CHRIS

In Little Italy everyone is always trying to give you something you don't want, and take something you do. Chris is the Patron Saint of the Latter. A NYPD cop high enough up the ladder that laws annoy him, he's not John's brother by choice.

Until he was 9, the only thing that saved Chris from his father's fist was his mother's love. A love John's birth stole from him, as she protected her newborn from her husband's abuse.

Chris had no choice but to side with his psychopathic father's hatred of John in order to avoid his wrath.

After their mother's suspicious death when Chris was 16, the family split in two. Those against John. And John.

Ever since, Chris has been more of a mosquito to John's life than a brother. But his recent divorce has awoken Chris to the fact that his little brother holds the key to his happiness.

ROSE

Rose is an enigma. Funny, caring, pure joy. And in the blink of an eye, as dark as night.

We meet her wearing a hole in her head; supposedly self-inflicted by 'trepanning' – an ancient process of boring a hole in one's skull to rejuvenate the sparkling clarity of childhood consciousness.

Rose lives pre-occupied by the past. Living conscious of 'what could have been' or 'what could be'; which is why her impulsive, foolhardy presuppositions are the perfect fuel to John's fire.

Clearly a yardstick short of sanity, she is tenacious, insatiably curious and a people pleaser; like John used to be. And she's become dead set on saving John, whatever the cost.

But why is Rose so obsessed with him? Does she really want to help John, or is she using him to save someone else?



SAVIORS

KIERA

Kiera's the best damn cocksucker in New York City, because she's been taught its the only way to escape the streets before they kill you. Like they did her Mom.

Kiera knows her quickest path out of the gutter is to find a sugar daddy to save her. Protect her. But, Kiera's not going to settle for the first 'Boo' she finds. Because the truth is, beneath her hardened exterior lies an old-school romantic. She may not be drop-dead gorgeous, but her big 'Disney eyes' want to soften any hardened soul.

And it's behind her eyes where Kiera's real beauty lies; caring, loyal, with a heart of gold for those she trusts. Thirsty for knowledge and conspiracy theories, she's smart and curious, with conversation for days.

A loving girlfriend in waiting, she nonetheless was born from fire; her straight right could knock out Tyson if she had too.

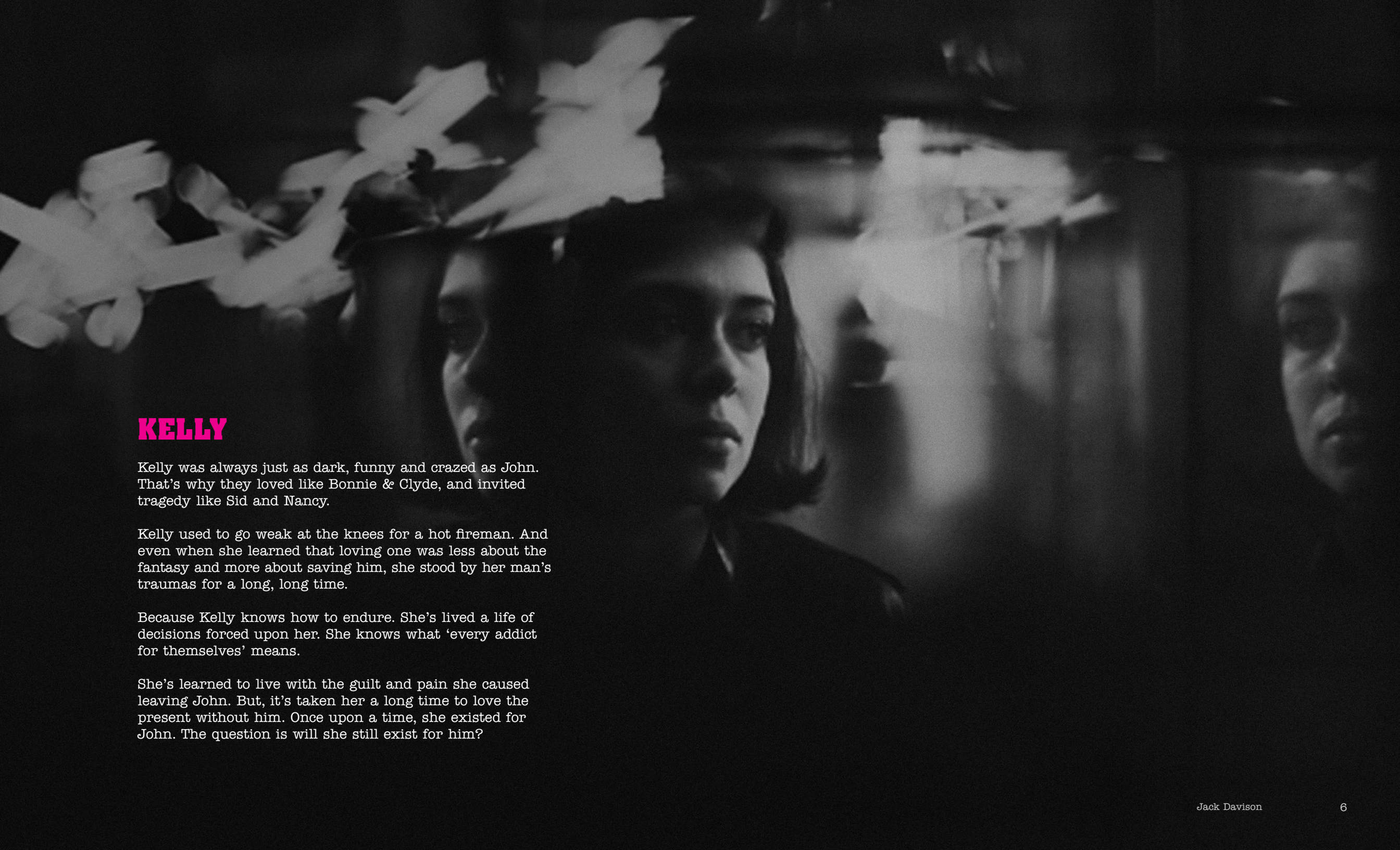
GIL

Rose's eternal protector and confidant. Without Gil, Rose wouldn't have ever made it this far. He knows her better than she knows herself. And knows John better than he'd ever want to be known.

Because Gil's seen it all. Surviving through a wealth of life experience, he subconsciously analyzes the pros and cons of every situation. To choose the right path. To correct the wrong path. Even when no one wants to listen to him. Even to his own detriment.

But why is Gil so pre-occupied with making sure John survives his time in London? What's his ulterior motive? Whether Gil finds reason in living by resolving other peoples chaos or is simply losing his mind is up for debate.

What is undeniable is that Gil's patience has its limits. And John loves pushing limits.



KELLY

Kelly was always just as dark, funny and crazed as John. That's why they loved like Bonnie & Clyde, and invited tragedy like Sid and Nancy.

Kelly used to go weak at the knees for a hot fireman. And even when she learned that loving one was less about the fantasy and more about saving him, she stood by her man's traumas for a long, long time.

Because Kelly knows how to endure. She's lived a life of decisions forced upon her. She knows what 'every addict for themselves' means.

She's learned to live with the guilt and pain she caused leaving John. But, it's taken her a long time to love the present without him. Once upon a time, she existed for John. The question is will she still exist for him?

**“If you can’t kill the lie,
kill the liar”**