

# **THE EIGHTH SEAL – Chapter 1**

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## **Screen One**

PANEL 1 – We see an office door with an opaque plane of glass. On the door reads – DR. ELLIOTT WEST, PSYCHOLOGIST.

WEST: Tell me what happened.

PANEL 2 – (This panel should fill the next two thirds of the page) DR. ELLIOTT WEST, a thin, 67 year old psychologist with gray hair is sitting in a chair on the left side of the panel, writing in his notebook. He is talking with AMELIA GREENE, our dashing protagonist and FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES (although we won't learn that until the end of the chapter). AMELIA is 38, with long dark, well kempt hair and glasses. She's wearing a fashionable, professional looking suit. She is sitting at the end of a long couch adjacent to DR. WEST'S chair, looking away. She's nervous. Hiding something.

WEST (Panel 1): Amelia... I **know** there was another incident. Brian told me when he set up this appointment last night.

WEST (Panel 1): How bad was it this time?

AMELIA: ...

AMELIA: Worse than ever... I haven't been able to sleep.

AMELIA: I can still hear them screaming.

On the swipe – PANEL 3 is overlaid over the final third of the page, where AMELIA is sitting – We're tight on AMELIA as she starts to tell her story.

AMELIA: I was sitting in on a kindergarten class. I was reading them a story... I... I can't remember what, honestly. Some picture book the kids liked.

## **Screen Two**

PANEL 1 – Establishing Shot – Elementary School in WASHINGTON DC – We can see the Washington Monument in the background.

CAPTION: “I spent most of my adult life teaching... You know that. Hell, everyone knows that.

CAPTION: “It’s why education’s been my main focus. But sitting in these small kindergarten classrooms day after day... Reading the most inane stories...

CAPTION: “I hate it. I really do. It’s so far from what I want to do. The kind of difference I want to make. I spend the entire time just hating everything... even the children.

PANEL 2 – AMELIA GREENE is reading a story in a book.

CAPTION: “But this time, it got out of hand...”

AMELIA: And so little Willy Boggins picked up the magic wand and said--

BOY: Um, Missus Greene?

On the Swipe – PANEL 2 replaced with PANEL 3 – AMELIA puts the book down to see who has asked her a question.

AMELIA: Hmm?

PANEL 4 – A nervous young BOY stands to ask his question. His classmates are all sitting on the ground, some are looking up at him, interested, some are just looking around, bored.

BOY: Do you... um... Do you think you could do the voices?

BOY: Miss Marsh does the voices...

### **Screen Three**

PANEL 1 – FULL SCREEN of AMELIA smiling in response to the BOY’S question... A frozen moment in time, The BOY is standing up

AMELIA: The voices?

On the swipe – a small panel (PANEL 2) appears, askew, and violent looking (as though it’s a rip in the page, revealing another reality beneath it), this panel is highlighting AMELIA’S FACE as it RIPS OPEN. Her smile has become something totally inhuman, with the flesh in her cheeks tearing open to spread her smile from ear to ear – Her eyes have turned jet black and her teeth have been replaced with something jagged and razor sharp – Like Shark’s teeth. Her eye sockets are ripping open at the seams.

AMELIA (Lettering now jagged and violent): I cAN Do aLL **SortS** oF vOicES.

On the swipe – PANEL THREE (FULL SCREEN) The horror from the small panel spreads to the entire page, but everything should be situated exactly as it was in PANEL 1. AMELIA GREENE'S ARM has extended out, all the way across the room to reach the young boy's head. Large Black insectoid TALONS are jutting out from the broken skin that was once her hand, and they are ripping into the BOY'S flesh unnaturally, as though it were putty (SEE BELOW – Kinda along the lines of this image from Morrison/Quitely's New X-Men). Her horrifying shiny black hand is under the BOY'S skin, with one finger coming out an eye socket, and a couple others breaking through the skin. The Children around him are screaming.



#### Screen Four

PANEL 1 – The MONSTER THAT WAS AMELIA, pulls the BOY close to her, crushing his head in one hand, and reaching for another CHILD with the other, now extended arm that has talons of its own. The others are running and screaming.

AMELIA/MONSTER: CoME heRe LitTle CHILdReN!

PANEL 2 – TIGHT on THE MONSTER'S FACE, which is starting to extend. The skin around her eyes has ripped further back revealing THREE MORE EYES above each of her original eyes.

AMELIA/MONSTER: I HaVE mOre stoOrIEs to tELL yOU!!

PANEL 3 – THE MONSTER'S MOUTH UNHINGES, dropping down unnaturally huge, like a Cobra about to swallow a rat. And it begins to ROAR.

AMELIA/MONSTER: ROAAAAAAAAARRRRRR

On the SWIPE - BLACKNESS

BOY: Um... Missus Greene? Are you okay?

### Screen Five

PANEL 1 – AMELIA is being helped to her feet by two MEN IN SUITS (These are Secret Service agents, but we shouldn't draw attention to them, yet. They should seem non-descript, like just people in the room.) She passed out during the vision.

AMELIA: What... What happened?

MAN 1: You blacked out, ma'am.

PANEL 2 – AMELIA Smiles as she cracks a joke.

AMELIA: I have to say, young man, that was one heck of a question. It knocked me right off my feet!

PANEL 3 – CHILDREN'S Faces as they laugh.

SFX: Hahahaha!

On the SWIPE – We gray out the Children laughing and layer in narration.

CAPTION: "I told the teacher I just hadn't eaten. That I was just feeling a little light-headed. Nobody suspected anything more serious was wrong..."

CAPTION: "But I thought the medication you gave me was supposed to suppress these... visions."

CAPTION: "There's never been so much carnage. So much blood."

### Screen Six

PANEL 1 –Dr. West.

WEST: The medication can only do part of the work, Amelia. I've told you before, this is just stress acting up with an overactive imagination...

AMELIA: It doesn't feel like that, Doctor.

PANEL 2 – Dr. West and Amelia

AMELIA: If anything, these visions are starting to seem more real than my day-to-day life. And that frightens me.

AMELIA: Because I know there's part of me that wants to be doing these horrible, horrible things.

AMELIA: Now, in this moment, I might be terrified... But every time it happens, it's the most exquisite feeling I've ever known...

PANEL 3 – Close on Amelia, losing her composure a little. She's trying to hide her fear from Doctor West by covering her face with her hands

AMELIA: You **can't** imagine how good it feels to tear into the flesh of a young boy. To feel his blood running down your fingers.

ON THE SWIPE – AMELIA looks up, frightening and intense, at DR. WEST.

AMELIA: I **can**.

## Screen Seven

PANEL 1 – OUTSIDE the doors of Dr. West's office, we see a small desk with a VERY irritated looking middle-aged secretary. She is looking off-panel at something she finds VERY distasteful. On the front of her desk is a sign that reads "NO CELL PHONES."

BRIAN: Mom... Mom, can you let me talk, please?

PANEL 2 – We see what's pissing her off - BRIAN MARCH is pacing around in the waiting room of DR. WEST's office talking on his SMART PHONE. He's a fashionable African-American man in his early 30s, and is AMELIA's CHIEF OF STAFF. A gay man, who will be stalwart at AMELIA's side for much of the series.

BRIAN: Of course I can't tell you where I am right now. We've been through this before. It's part of the job.

BRIAN: I'm NOT saying I don't trust you, I'm saying it is literally my job not to tell you where I am right now.

PANEL 3 – BRIAN picks up an old VASE from a table, looking at it absent mindedly while he talks.

BRIAN: >Sigh< No. This is not some kind of secret terrorist thing. It is literally the opposite of some kind of terrorist thing.

SECRETARY (off-panel): Excuse me, sir?

BRIAN: And that doesn't mean we're going to war! Jesus, mom, This isn't some kind of guessing game.

ON THE SWIPE - PANEL 4 – BRIAN looks surprised, and looks over his shoulder.

SECRETARY (off-panel): Sir?!

BRIAN: Hmm?

## Screen Eight

PANEL 1 – The SECRETARY is standing right behind him, furious. BRIAN looks at the VASE, sort of disgusted.

SECRETARY: First off, this vase cost \$12,000 and is not a toy for antsy assistants to play with.

BRIAN: Seriously? This old thing?

ON THE SWIPE – The SECRETARY grabs the VASE out of BRIAN'S hands

SECRETARY: Secondly. There are NO cell phones allowed in the waiting room. I don't care WHO the patient is.

PANEL 2 – Tight on BRIAN, on the phone.

BRIAN: Hear that?

BRIAN: Yeah, she looks like one too. Love you, mom.

PANEL 3 – BRIAN waves the shut phone in her face. THE SECRETARY points to the chairs lining the walls.

BRIAN: See? Dephoned.

SECRETARY: Now, sit and stay quiet!

PANEL 4 – BRIAN sits in the chair, saluting.

BRIAN: Sir, Yessir!

## **SCREEN NINE**

PANEL 1 – BRIAN Is sitting, antsy in the chair.

ON THE SWIPE – He’s startled when the Door behind him opens and AMELIA walks out of the office

AMELIA: Sitting around on the job, huh?

PANEL 2 – BRIAN shoots the SECRETARY an evil look as he gets up and walks with AMELIA

BRIAN: Not by choice... And I’ll have you know I was getting plenty of work done before someone rudely restricted my phone privileges.

AMELIA: Is that so?

BRIAN: Yes.

PANEL 3 – AMELIA grins, wryly. BRIAN is

AMELIA: Hmm. Work. And how **is** your mother doing, Brian?

ON THE SWIPE, BRIAN Relents.

BRIAN: >sigh< She’s doing fine.

AMELIA: Can’t pull one over on me, Brian.

BRIAN: I wouldn’t dream of it ma’am. But that’s besides the point...

PANEL 4 – BRIAN and AMELIA

BRIAN: What did he say? Are you okay?

AMELIA: Brian, if you keep asking me that, I’m going to have you fed to alligators.

BRIAN: I sincerely doubt that, ma’am.

## **Screen Ten**

PANEL 1 – AMELIA, defensive, trying to laugh off the memories of her vision, and avoid a serious conversation. BRIAN is concerned. They're outside the office now, walking down to a BLACK LINCOLN TOWNCAR parked in front of the building.

AMELIA: What? You don't think I know a guy who knows a guy? I'm a **very** well connected woman, as you well know.

BRIAN: Amelia... Please.

PANEL 2 – AMELIA pauses. They're right in front of the car.

AMELIA: ...

AMELIA: He upped the medication. Says it's all the stress. Says I should get some rest, skip some meetings, get some exercise...

AMELIA: Same as he always says.

PANEL 3 – AMELIA looks at her Reflection in the CAR WINDOW.

BRIAN: And what do you think?

On the SWIPE, we get the same kind of isolated panel over her reflection – Looking like a crack in reality or a rip in the page. AMELIA'S REFLECTION has been replaced with an image of HER MONSTROUS SELF

BRIAN: Ma'am?

PANEL 4 – AMELIA looks to BRIAN, her reflection has gone back to normal. She looks concerned. Surprised

AMELIA: I think...

On the swipe, She starts grinning again, shaking off what she's just seen.

AMELIA: I think that I could definitely get one of these guys to feed you to an alligator.

## **Screen Eleven**

PANEL 1 – A SECRET SERVICE AGENT is holding the car door open as AMELIA climbs in. BRIAN looks exasperated.



BRIAN: (Sigh)

AMELIA: I mean, what are they going to say? No?

PANEL 2 – BRIAN is climbing in, and the SECRET SERVICE AGENT is shutting the door.

AMELIA: I do happen to be married to their boss, you know.

PANEL 3 – CLOSE on the SEAL on the door to the CAR – THE SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

## **Screen Twelve**

PANEL 1 – DR. WEST is watching the car pull away from the other side of the window, in his office. He is dialing a number on his cell phone.

PANEL 2 – DR. WEST puts the phone to his ear.

WEST: It's me.

WEST: She just left. I'm sorry to say The First Lady's symptoms are worse than ever... Nothing seems to be slowing her visions down.

PANEL 3 – CLOSE on DR. WEST

WEST: This is all starting to happen much too soon.

TO BE CONTINUED