ONLY FOOD TRUCKS PRESENTS

MERCY, SMOKE & STEEL™

ISSUE 02

BENEATH THE YARD



Created and written by Raleigh Rob / Rob Campbell

STYLE-MATCHED REVIEW EDITION

MERCY, SMOKE & STEEL™

ISSUE 02 — BENEATH THE YARD

Created and written by

Raleigh Rob / Rob Campbell

Presented by Only Food Trucks

WELCOME BACK TO METROVALE

A city built on steel. A community built around food.

The Yard is still closed. Its people are still showing up. And an old engineering plan has left Mason Mercer with a name he knows—and questions he never expected to ask.

Between shared coffee, old photographs and a deadline nobody can ignore, the community begins to uncover what lies beneath the place they call home.

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This is a work of fiction. Characters, places and events are fictional.


CITY ENGINEERING RECORDS
PROJECT ENGINEER:
MICHAEL MERCER
CITY OF METROVALE
You didn't know he worked on this?
No.
I knew he worked for the city.
He never talked about this place.
PROJECT ENGINEER:
MICHAEL MERCER
CITY OF METROVALE

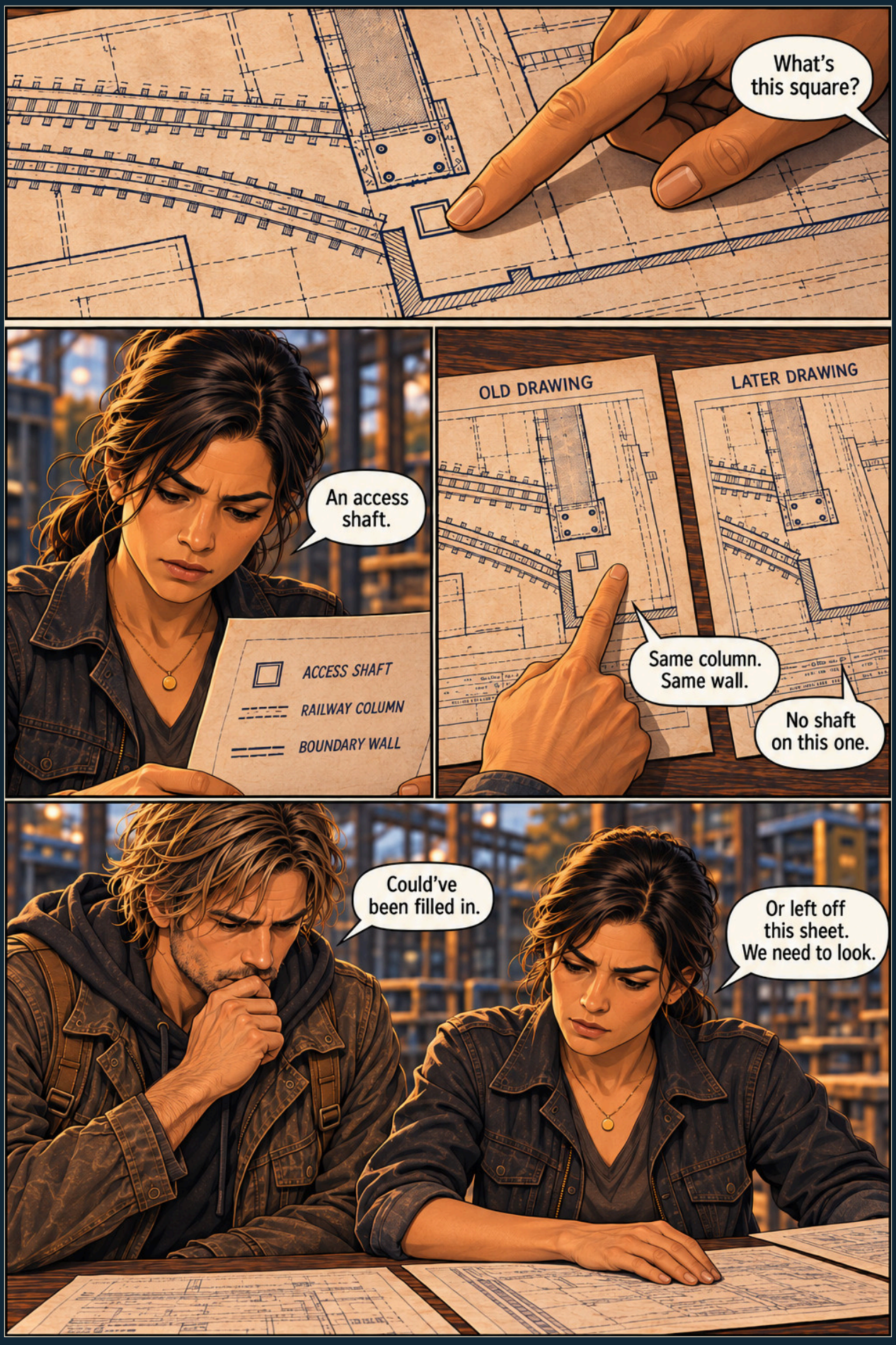

He used to fix things at our kitchen table.
Always made room for me to watch.
PROJECT ENGINEER:
MICHAEL MERCER
CITY OF METROVALE
Can you ask him about it?
METROVALE CITY ENGINEERING RECORDS
He left. Never came back.
We can take a minute.
First, let's get a copy.
PROJECT ENGINEER:
MICHAEL MERCER
CITY OF METROVALE


Back at The Yard.
SPICE ROUTE
Loretta's KITCHEN
LIVEWIRE
THE YARD
CLOSED
NO FOOD SERVICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
SPICE ROUTE
No, don't come in tonight.
I'll call as soon as we know.
Staff
How many more?
Loretta's KITCHEN
Enough that nobody goes home empty-handed.
Loretta's KITCHEN
LIVEWIRE


MERCY SMOKE BBQ
You're becoming predictable.
Brought coffee.
I was aiming for dependable.
I've got food.
You've got work. This is dinner.
Loretta's KITCHEN
We found something in the city records.


My father drew this.
PROJECT ENGINEER: MICHAEL MERCER
CITY OF METROVALE
Mason...
I didn't know either.
So he knew what was under here?
He worked on this route. That's what we can say so far.
LIVEWIRE
GOOD FOOD STRONGER PEOPLE
Then sit down. Show us the rest.
Loretta's Kitchen


GOOD FOOD STRONGER PEOPLE
Over here, Ash.
LIVEWIRE
East loading bay. Down one flight. Two left turns.
Let's keep the dates with each sheet.
This records the route beneath The Yard.
It doesn't tell us whether it's still accessible.
LIVEWIRE


What's this square?
An access shaft.
ACCESS SHAFT
RAILWAY COLUMN
BOUNDARY WALL
OLD DRAWING
LATER DRAWING
Same column. Same wall.
No shaft on this one.
Could've been filled in.
Or left off this sheet. We need to look.


That puts it along the back wall.
That strip used to be bare brick and concrete.
Before the planters went in.
Mrs. Alvarez photographed every birthday we held here.
How far back?
She'll tell you herself.
LIVEWIRE


THE YARD
Who can receive the work notice?
I can take it.
CLOSED
NO FOOD SERVICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
GOOD FOOD BRIGHTER DAYS SOON
SITE CLOSURE WORKS
OBSOLETE UTILITY FIXTURES / ACCESS COVERS
WORK COMMENCES TOMORROW — 7:00 A.M.
Which covers?
The site office has the marked schedule.
TACOS
BBQ
COFFEE
We still haven't seen the inspection report.
I only deliver the notices.


They're taking the covers out tomorrow?
THE YARD
CLOSED
NO FOOD SERVICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
We need the marked schedule to know which ones.
SITE CLOSURE WORKS
OBSOLETE UTILITY FIXTURES / ACCESS COVERS
WORK COMMENCES TOMORROW — 7:00 A.M.
LIVEWIRE
Please leave a message.
I'm requesting the work schedule, the report and the reopening conditions together.
SITE CLOSURE WORKS
We can record what's there now.
Before anything changes.
THE YARD
CLOSED
NO FOOD SERVICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE


Wide shots first. Then each fitting.
THE YARD
LIVEWIRE
Keep the originals. I'll match them to the drawing.
And we check what we actually saw.
I've got every turn written down.
THE YARD
No, sweetheart. The one where your husband dropped the cake.
Loretta's Kitchen
GOOD FOOD BRIGHTER DAYS SOON
Loretta's Kitchen


3:42 PM.
Got it.
Anything marked on it?
Nothing I can read from here.
LIVEWIRE
YARD
BLDG C
Get the next column too.
LIVEWIRE


There he is. Wearing half the cake.
Wait. Can you send me that?
LIVEWIRE
The column lines up.
So does the corner of the wall.
LIVEWIRE
YARD BLDG C
We walk past that every day.
LIVEWIRE


Is that your old folding table?
Still got it.
THE YARD
TACOS
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
GOOD
FOOD
STRONGER
TOGETHER
The cover's in the right place for the shaft.
Now we need to know where it goes.


They acknowledged the request.
REQUEST RECEIVED
Did they send the schedule?
Not yet.
THE YARD
TACOS
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
WORK COMMENCES TOMORROW — 7:00 A.M.
We have a location.
We have a photograph.
We still don't know why the shaft is missing from the later sheet.
THE YARD
Then we keep asking.


That evening.
Ten minutes. All of you.
THE YARD
Loretta's Kitchen
LIVEWIRE
I work better under these conditions.
You eat better under every condition.
THE YARD
I'll take these to the crew.
Tell them we'll call tomorrow. Even if there's no news.
Loretta's Kitchen


The planter blocked the hinge side in my shot.
I want one clear picture before tomorrow.
3:42 PM.
I'll come with you.
Two minutes. Then we're all going home.
LIVEWIRE
THE YARD
Hold on.
THE YARD


THE YARD
LIVEWIRE
Fresh scrape along the edge.
It wasn't like this.


This was covered.
I photographed it. Four hours ago.
THE YARD
LIVEWIRE
The work starts tomorrow.
THE YARD
Someone got here first.

THE STORY CONTINUES

MERCY, SMOKE & STEEL™

ISSUE 03

THE WAY IN

Someone opened it.
Now they have to decide
whether to follow.

TO BE CONTINUED

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AN OLD NAME.
A NEW WAY UNDER.

His father’s name is on the plans.
The Yard is on the clock.

With the trucks silent and answers in short supply, Mason and Elena turn to the people who know this place best. An old photograph points them toward something the official record seems to have forgotten.

Some places hold a community together.
Some keep its secrets.



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