

VERTIGO
DC COMICS

Pat McGreal Stephen John Phillips Steven Parke

Red

democratic rival contender

The darkroom.

Some of the others, they don't need places like this anymore, they've gone completely digital.

It's cleaner, they say, and faster.
No more chemicals, no more waiting.

Fuck those assholes.

Me, I like the chemicals, I like the smell,
I like the waiting.

I like the darkness.

This is ground zero. The quiet, stinking,
volcanic place where I develop bombs...

...where I find out which
of my little land mines
are duds and which are
primed to explode.

I'm there now, waiting
for something to develop.
See, three days ago, my life
unraveled, it became a
nightmare, I lost what I
valued most.

But right before that,
last time I worked in the darkroom...

... I hit pay dirt.

Okay. Pretend you're an ordinary person. Hey, we're all ordinary people, right? So what do you think when you see something like this?

Are you intrigued?
Repulsed? Do you
want to know? Do
you care at all?

Yeah, right, you'd probably toss the piece of shit in the trash, but...

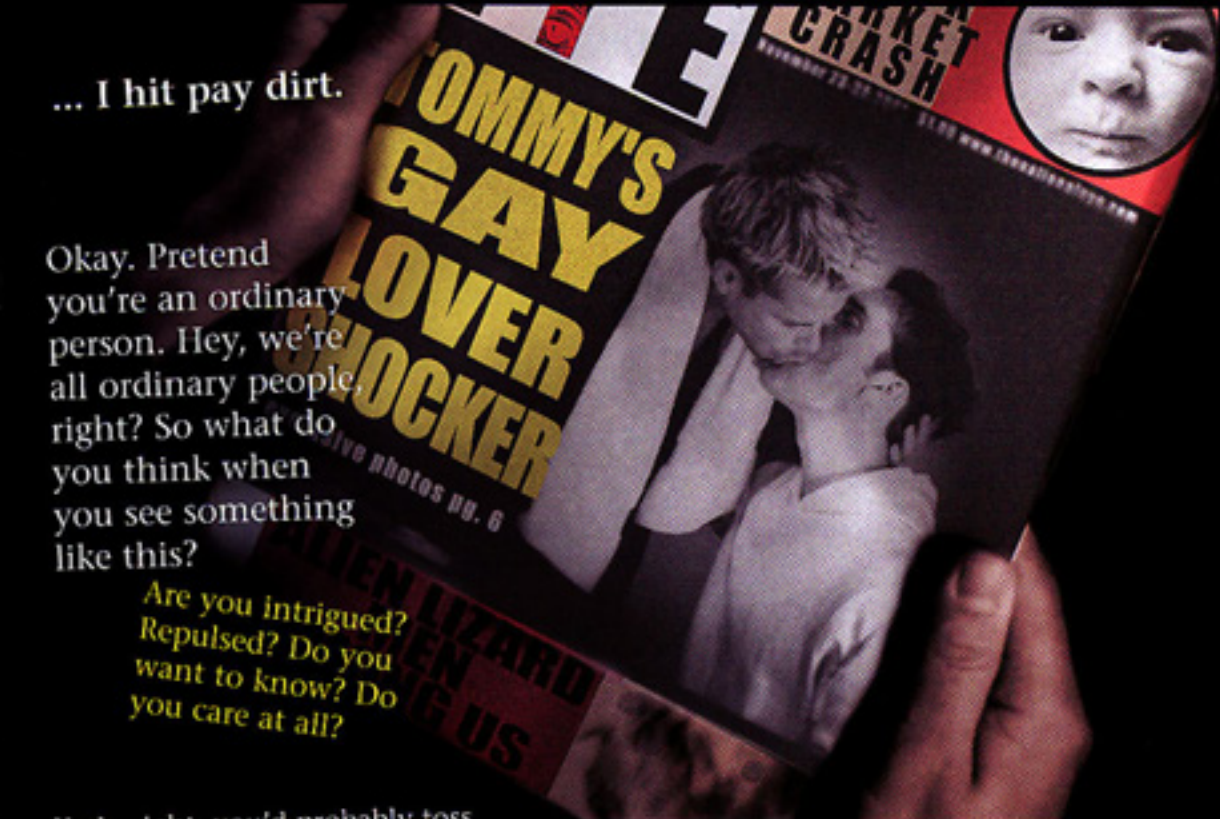
... why'd you buy it in the first place?

Admit it, you either love this stuff or you want to wipe your ass with it.

If you love the stuff, it's obvious. You have an inquisitive mind.

If you want to wipe your ass with it...well, fuck, what can I say?

You're a loser.



Especially if you're the guy in the picture.

"Thomas, is it true?"

"Did the Eye get it right?"

"Are you coming out?"

*"Looking good, Tom.
How about a smile?"*

"Who's the stud, Tommy?"

*"We're on your side, man.
Over here."*

Look at the poor chump. A deer in the headlights. What does he tell them? A lie? The truth? Doesn't matter, he's given up his privacy by one more increment. That's right, Tommy, keep your trap shut and walk your fruity pooch.

By the way, that's me in the passing car. I'm not interested in ambushing this bozo with the rest of the pack because I'm the one-ton gorilla who got the shot of him that ran in the Eye.

My name's Jake McGowran. I photograph celebrities and I'm the star of this story.

Can I get a close-up, please?