

BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Thomas Tuna

Adapted from **Beneath The Surface** by Richard D. Kinsella

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Panel 1: Half-page horizontal panel--reader sees murky, black pond with skeletal trees--rundown house in background--swampy area--animals walk around.

Caption 1: This is not a good neighborhood. But it's what Andy has always known.

Caption 2: Andy is 14. And he's already led a very rough life.

Panel 2: Interior shot of shack--reader sees a young teenager bending over a table and looking out at reader--his mother (a very old 40-year-old) is striking him with a cane as he bends over--she is smirking--he is grimacing.

Caption 1: Andy has been through this many times before.

Caption 2: He thinks, as the cane strikes him, "There's a place I go when mama beats me...I go to the pond. And step into it."

Panel 3: Panel border has wavy lines (like a dreamscape)--Andy steps into a murky pond--he seems to float in a dusk-like atmosphere.

Caption 1: "Sometimes I go deep into the darkness. But today, something is different.

Caption 2: "There's something else down here.

Panel 4: Same wavy lines--reader sees a huge pair of evil, red-rimmed, demonic eyes--Leviathan--staring out of the darkness.

Caption 1: "And it's horrible...and beautiful.

Caption 2: "And it speaks to me."

Panel 5: Reader sees images--Andy's mama's eyes, a broken liquor bottle, the shack in flames.

Andy: Who are you?

Leviathan: I am always. And I can set you free.

Panel 6: Shot of Andy as his mother strikes him from behind--he grimaces.

Andy: (thought balloon): How?

Leviathan: Open the door and let me in.

PAGE 2

Panel 1: Shot of Andy's mom as she walks away--he stands up--she stares at him.

Mom: You are truly your daddy's seed. And it's my job to beat it out of you.

Panel 2: Andy stares out at the murky pond--tears in his eyes.

Andy (whispering): I am the water. I go deep into the source. The darkness rises from the deep. And it will help me.

Panel 3: Small panel shows Andy walking up the stairs in his house.

Panel 4: Shot of Andy in his mom's bedroom--he reaches into her pocket and takes keys--reader sees liquor bottles on floor.

Panel 5: Mom opens her eyes and glares angrily at Andy--he is at her bedside.
Mom: You're just like your father. I guess you don't get clean water from a poisoned well.

Panel 6: Mom falls back asleep--Andy looks at her sadly as he leaves room, holding keys.

PAGE 3

Panel 1: Shot of Andy as he stand at front door of shack and fits key into lock--his look is intense and sad.

Andy: The door is open.

Panel 2: Reader sees mist creeping into house--but it has eyes and a huge, horned head--sharp teeth and scales--(the Leviathan)--it comes into house and looks at Andy--Andy shrinks back from it.

Caption: "I almost regret what I have done. But this...thing..is too strong"

Caption 2: "It will do what it will do."

Panel 3: Shot of Leviathan as it stand next to Andy's mom's bed--slavering--murderous.

Panel 4: Shot of Andy, still standing at front door--sweating, shaking--scared--he hears screams from upstairs--SFX SCREAMS, CRASH

Panel 5: Closeup of Andy as he holds hands to his face--tears stream down his face--eyes wide and scared.

Caption: Nothing will ever block out the sounds Andy hears that day.

Panel 6: Exterior shot of house and reader sees Andy on front porch--he throws a lighted torch into house and it starts to blaze.

Caption 1: They say fire is a cleanser, Andy thinks.

Caption 2: But can anything cleanse me of what I have been through...

Caption 3: ...and what I have done.

END