Here's my observation about the Orphan Works and the copyright review process. I'm not a lawyer but I've watched Law and Order.

For the last few days, I've been circulating this video, with all the names and links, for people to do their due diligence, in the hopes of getting people to look at it, do some research and talk about it.

I'm doing some research, myself, and have reached out to a lot of fellow artists and a few lawyer friends. Plus, based on my personal experience trying to create a brand and the expense behind it, I find it a little disheartening to see people quick to dismiss the one thing that could possibly unite us all and give us a voice - being aware that laws can change, without us even knowing or participating in the conversation.

I've noticed some dismissive comments. The one thing I see that's truly positive is that we're talking about something that can affect anyone that's trying to make a living in this business.

It seems to me, the only time I see people rallying around something is when there's some drama happening at a convention, or a blog post about somebody drawing something that might offend someone else. Or when someone is sick or dying; or when someone is promoting a crowdfunding campaign; or some red meat, sensational slamming of somebody doing something; or promoting a big Hollywood movie.

I've been fortunate to meet and work with some of the best people in the comic book industry and, honestly, everybody's always hustling, trying to make a living, working on a deadline for a job and then looking for the next job, while running from convention to convention, or doing Kickstarters - a constant treadmill to try to make a living in comics. And I'm talking about professionals, not the countless students that are graduating, every year, with student loan debts that they can never pay off, with jobs that are constantly being outsourced.

So I just don't get it. Here's a chance to actually rally - to discover the truth and get behind it. Why aren't we looking for a reason to actually bring people together and have a voice?

I called the copyright people. I've read the briefs. And I'm old enough to know things aren't always what they seem.

But to downplay and discount the importance of the possibility that something like this could actually be happening seems too dismissive. Let's just work on finding reliable sources, getting the facts and figuring out how to communicate the facts to all of us, effectively and efficiently. Because nobody else is going to do it for us. We have to find a way of protecting our interests and then taking action.

Maybe we shouldn't be so quick to dismiss this.

I just think it's an opportunity to connect with other artists that are trying to make a difference, connect with them and be able to objectively make good decisions and rally behind things that affect us. And most importantly, be informed. The tobacco industries, the oil industry, the agricultural industry, the chemical companies, all have lobbyists that spin things. Everything they say is questionable. We can't even agree on global warming.

To get to the truth takes work - more than just clicking a link or reading a twitter post. We need to work together to make ourselves stronger, not work against each other.

That's my 2 cents:

Sincerely,
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