

APOLLO IX™ #1

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image

APOLLO IX™

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The Aphrodite Protocol was initiated in the late 20th Century in an attempt to save humanity from a predicted extinction level event that became reality in the year 2102 AD.

The Protocol successfully engineered and evolved humans into new species that survived in this new world via technological singularity and genetic enhancement.

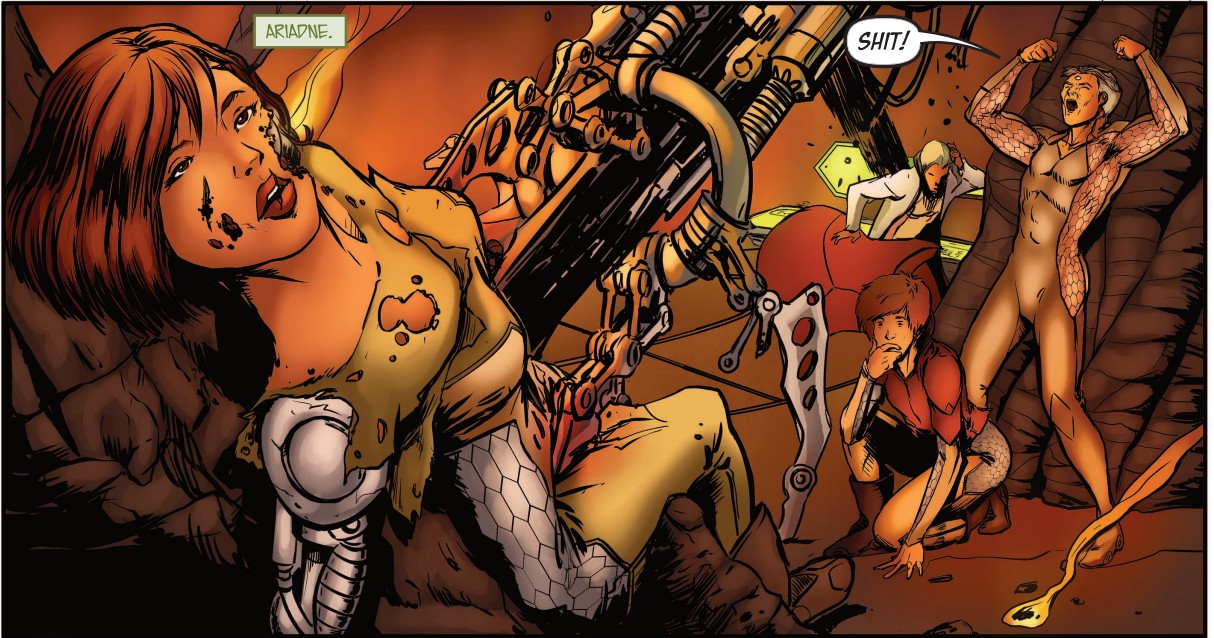
The architect of the Protocol created nine heirs to rule over this new world. They were placed in hibernation for seven-hundred years to be activated in what became known as the ASCENSION; the year 2802, when the self-proclaimed Gods of the IXth Generation took control.



IT WOULD BE PERTINENT FOR EVERYONE TO TAKE COVER IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

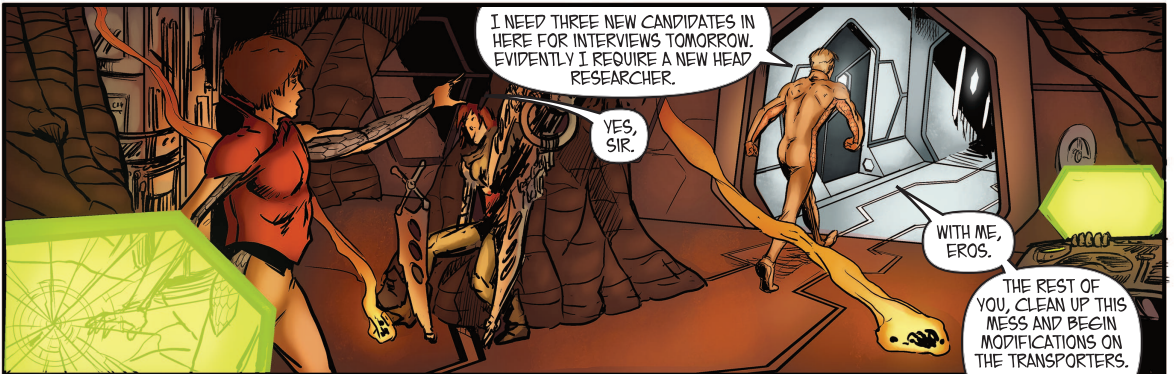


THIS DAY WAS, UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY THE MOST RECENT IN A STRING OF FAILURES.



ARIADNE.

SHIT!

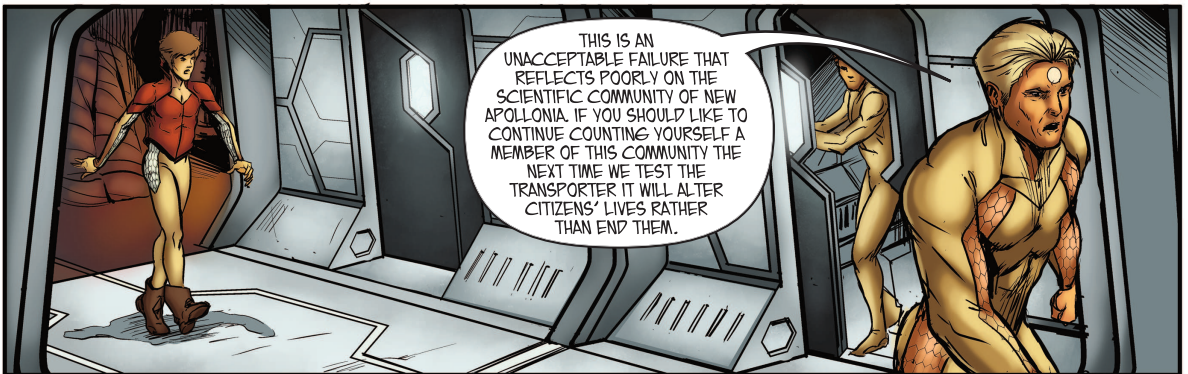


I NEED THREE NEW CANDIDATES IN HERE FOR INTERVIEWS TOMORROW. EVIDENTLY I REQUIRE A NEW HEAD RESEARCHER.

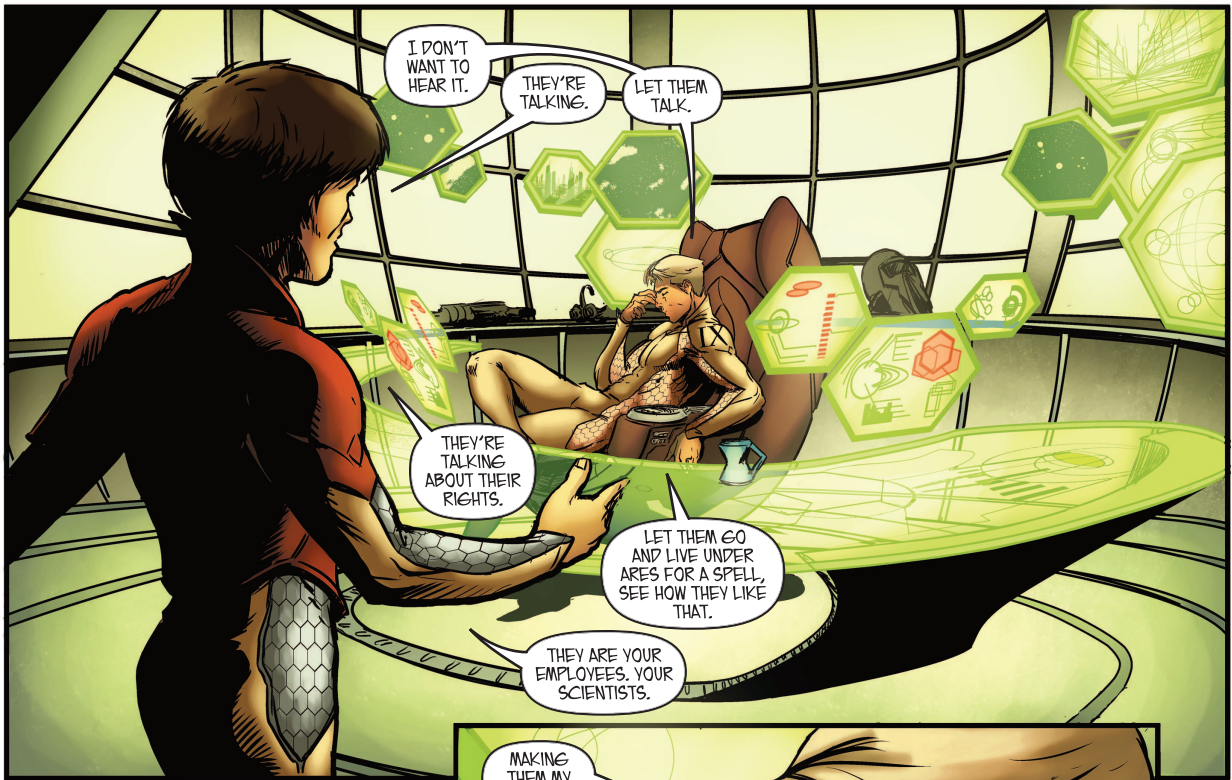
YES, SIR.

WITH ME, EROS.

THE REST OF YOU, CLEAN UP THIS MESS AND BEGIN MODIFICATIONS ON THE TRANSPORTERS.



THIS IS AN UNACCEPTABLE FAILURE THAT REFLECTS POORLY ON THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OF NEW APOLLONIA. IF YOU SHOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE COUNTING YOURSELF A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY THE NEXT TIME WE TEST THE TRANSPORTER IT WILL ALTER CITIZENS' LIVES RATHER THAN END THEM.



I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

THEY'RE TALKING.

LET THEM TALK.

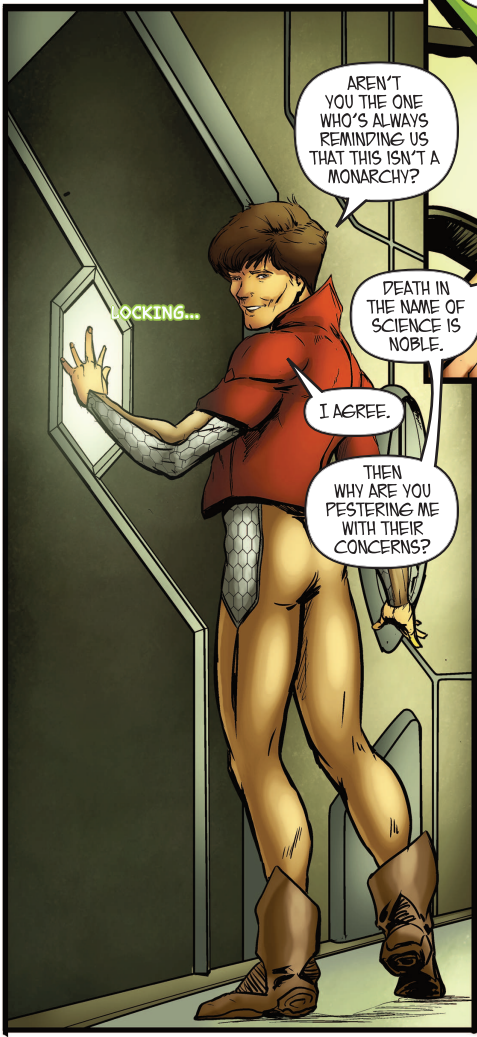
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS.

LET THEM GO AND LIVE UNDER ARES FOR A SPELL, SEE HOW THEY LIKE THAT.

THEY ARE YOUR EMPLOYEES. YOUR SCIENTISTS.



MAKING THEM MY SUBJECTS.



AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS REMINDING US THAT THIS ISN'T A MONARCHY?

DEATH IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE IS NOBLE.

I AGREE.

THEN WHY ARE YOU PESTERING ME WITH THEIR CONCERNS?



I CONSIDER IT MY JOB TO KEEP YOU IN GOOD SPIRITS.

YOUR JOB IS TO AID IN MY RESEARCH AND FROM TIME TO TIME, SHOULD I INVOKE THE NEED FOR SACRIFICE IT BECOMES YOUR JOB TO DIE WITH HONOUR.



CAREFUL, YOU'LL FRIGHTEN ALL YOUR WORKERS AWAY.

THEY LOVE ME.

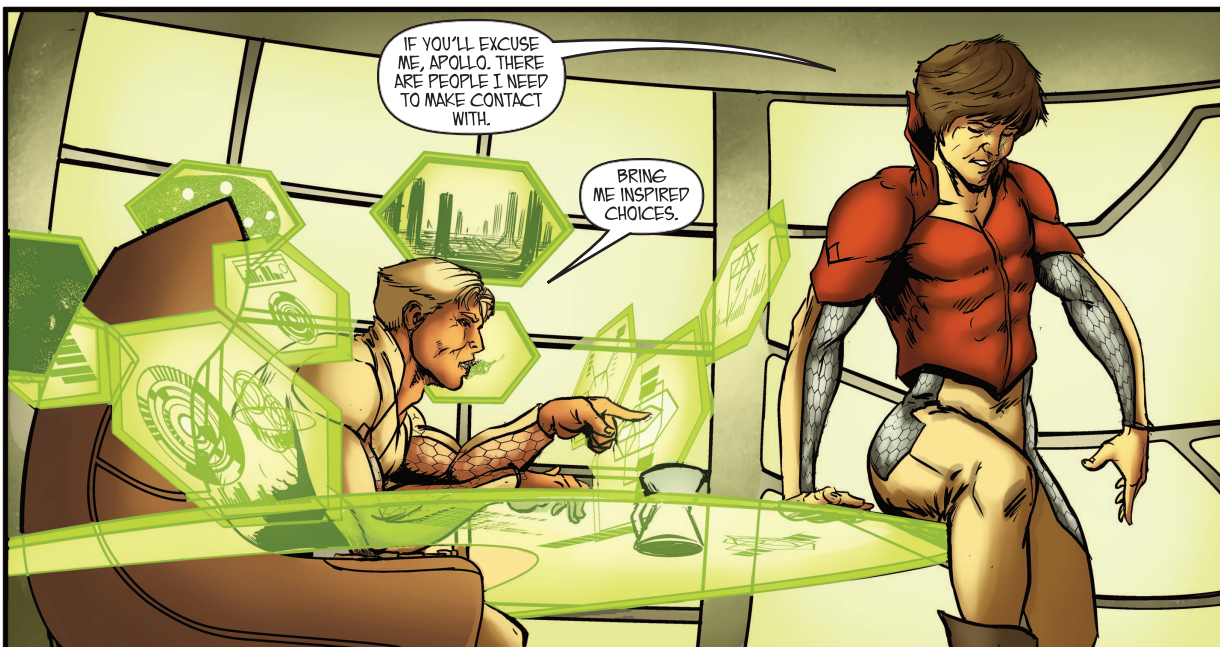
I LOVE YOU.



I'M NOT MAKING YOU HEAD RESEARCHER, EROS.

...BUT, WE WORK SO WELL TOGETHER.

SANCTUARY II IS A RESEARCH FACILITY, NOT A MONARCHY. YOU ARE NOT MY PROTEGÉE REGARDLESS OF YOUR MYRIAD OF TALENTS.



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, APOLLO, THERE ARE PEOPLE I NEED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH.

BRING ME INSPIRED CHOICES.

THE NEXT DAY

I DIDN'T THINK THE STAIN WAS NOTICEABLE.

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO DISCUSE YOUR RECREATIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE YOU HAVE NO WAY OF ASSURING ME OF YOUR DEDUCTIVE CAPABILITIES.

YOU CAN GO.

LATER

I SIMPLY MUST HAVE SCIENTISTS THAT ARE ABLE TO PERFORM AT PEAK PHYSICALITY--

YOU MAY GO NOW.

EVEN LATER

A POOR SHOWING, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

THE DAY IS NOT OVER YET.

YOUR CONFIDENCE IS CERTAINLY YOUR BEST QUALITY.

BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN IS--

DO YOU BOYS NEED ME TO COME BACK?

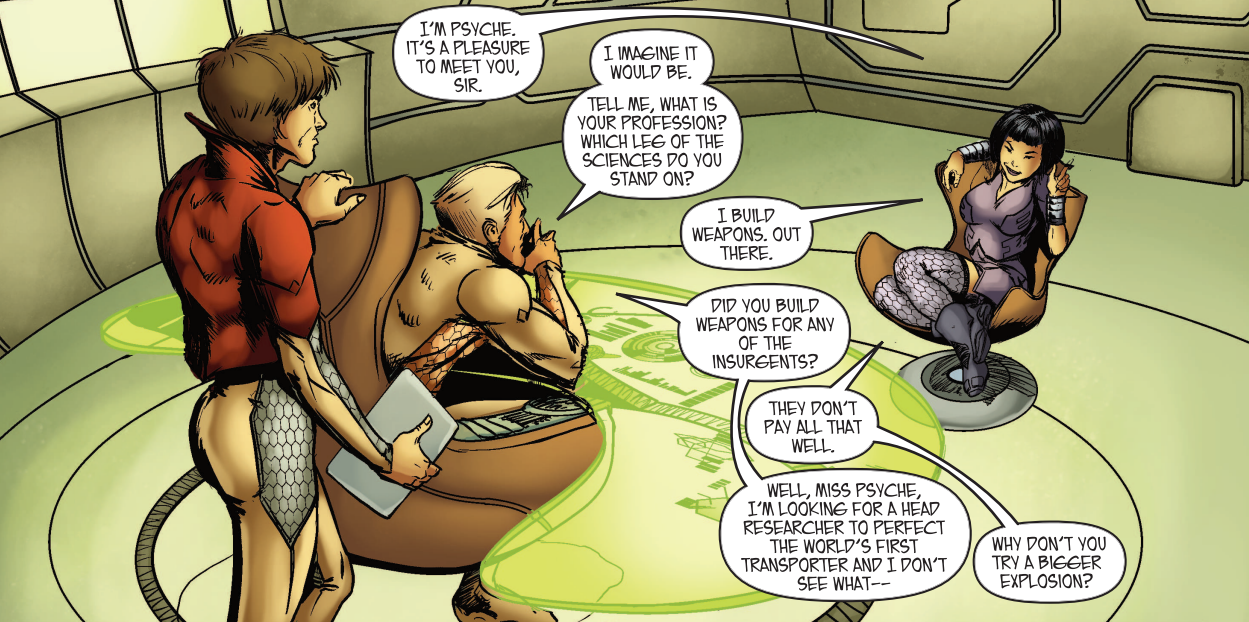
I TOOK A BUNCH OF TUBES TO GET HERE AND I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING IT AGAIN.



I'M NOT IN THE MARKET FOR A TERMINALLY UNIQUE EMPLOYEE.

YOU PRACTICALLY HAVE THAT BEHIND YOU.

CLEVER. ARE YOU A SCIENTIST?



I'M PSYCHE. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SIR.

I IMAGINE IT WOULD BE.

TELL ME, WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSION? WHICH LEG OF THE SCIENCES DO YOU STAND ON?

I BUILD WEAPONS. OUT THERE.

DID YOU BUILD WEAPONS FOR ANY OF THE INSURGENTS?

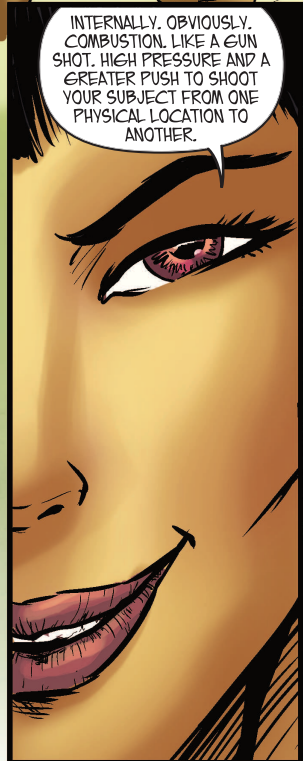
THEY DON'T PAY ALL THAT WELL.

WELL, MISS PSYCHE, I'M LOOKING FOR A HEAD RESEARCHER TO PERFECT THE WORLD'S FIRST TRANSPORTER AND I DON'T SEE WHAT--

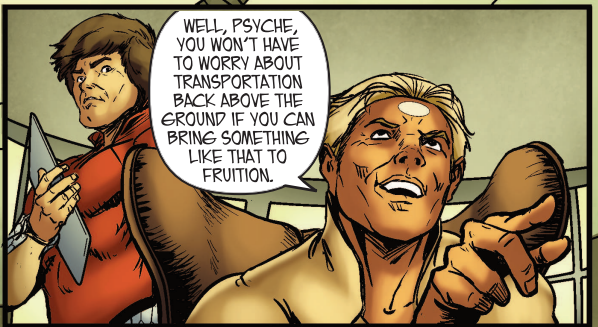
WHY DON'T YOU TRY A BIGGER EXPLOSION?



EXCUSE ME?



INTERNALLY. OBVIOUSLY. COMBUSTION. LIKE A GUN SHOT. HIGH PRESSURE AND A GREATER PUSH TO SHOOT YOUR SUBJECT FROM ONE PHYSICAL LOCATION TO ANOTHER.



WELL, PSYCHE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TRANSPORTATION BACK ABOVE THE GROUND IF YOU CAN BRING SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO FRUITION.



WHEN DO I BEGIN?



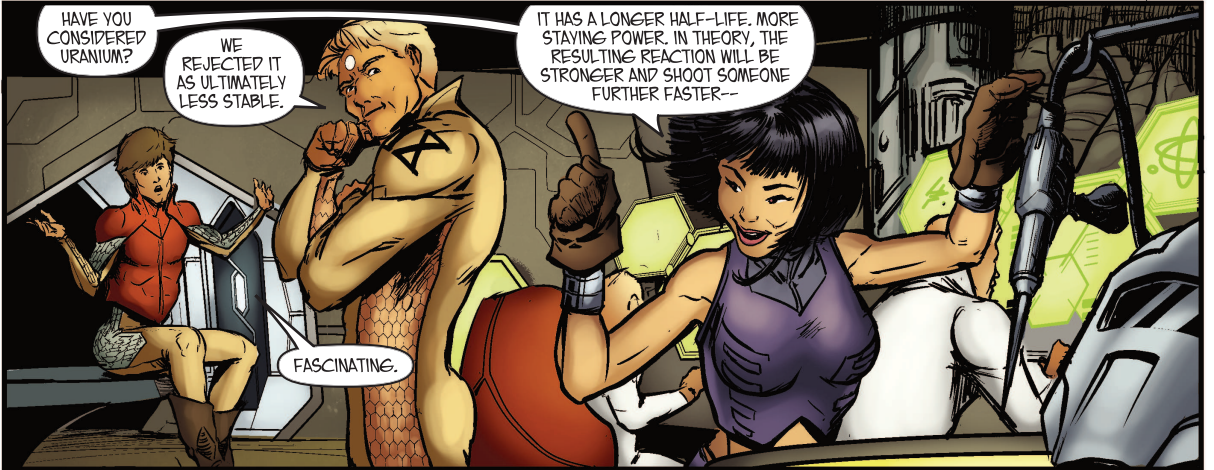
DAYS LATER

WHAT WERE YOU USING AS A CATALYST PREVIOUSLY?

PLUTONIUM-239.

INTERESTING. BREAKING THE EQUATION DOWN TO AN ATOMIC LEVEL BY EMPLOYING A NUCLEAR REACTION.

PRECISELY.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED URANIUM?

WE REJECTED IT AS ULTIMATELY LESS STABLE.

IT HAS A LONGER HALF-LIFE. MORE STAYING POWER. IN THEORY, THE RESULTING REACTION WILL BE STRONGER AND SHOOT SOMEONE FURTHER FASTER--

FASCINATING.

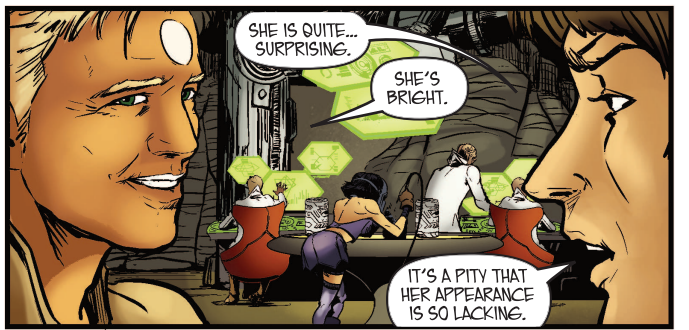


YOUR STORAGE MECHANISM FOR THE BIOLOGICAL SIGNATURE LOOKS SOLID.

SO, I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THAT.

YOU FLATTER ME.

I HAVEN'T EVEN BEGUN YET.



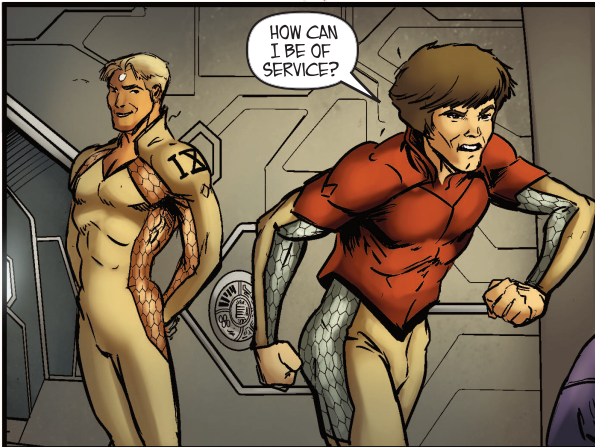
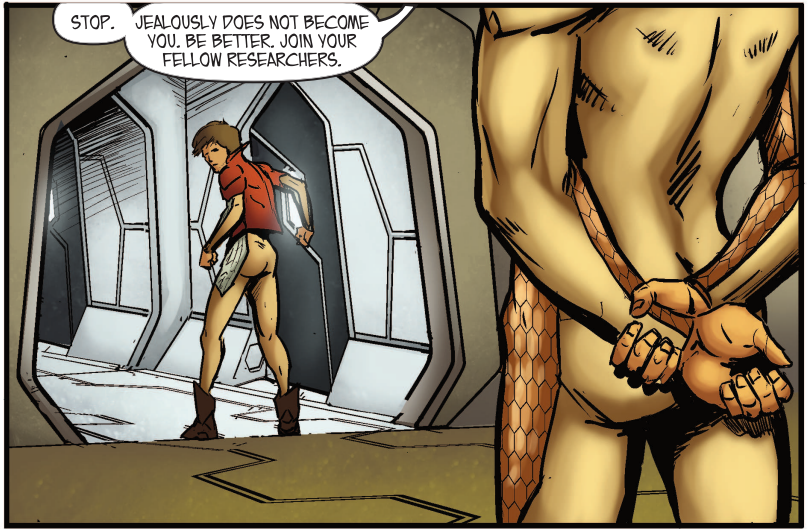
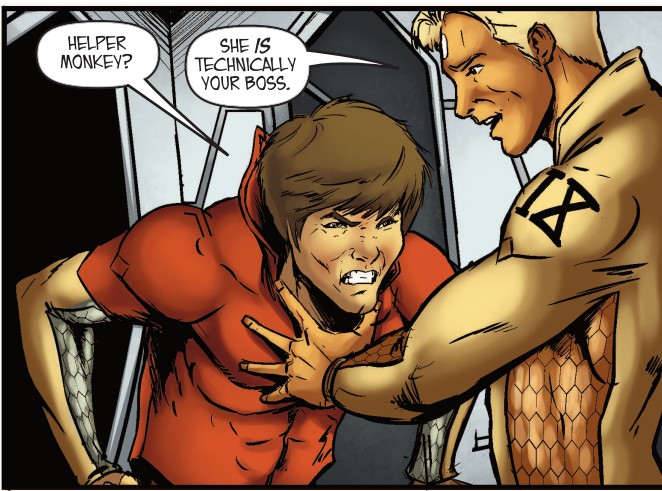
SHE IS QUITE... SURPRISING.

SHE'S BRIGHT.

IT'S A PITY THAT HER APPEARANCE IS SO LACKING.



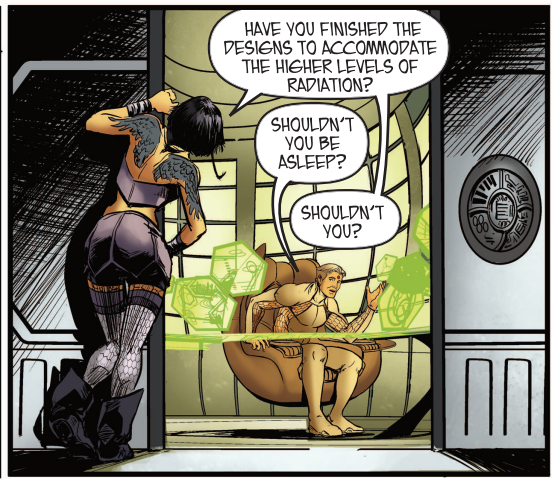
I CAN HEAR YOU, HELPER MONKEY.





ENTER.

BEEP BEEP



HAVE YOU FINISHED THE DESIGNS TO ACCOMMODATE THE HIGHER LEVELS OF RADIATION?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE ASLEEP?

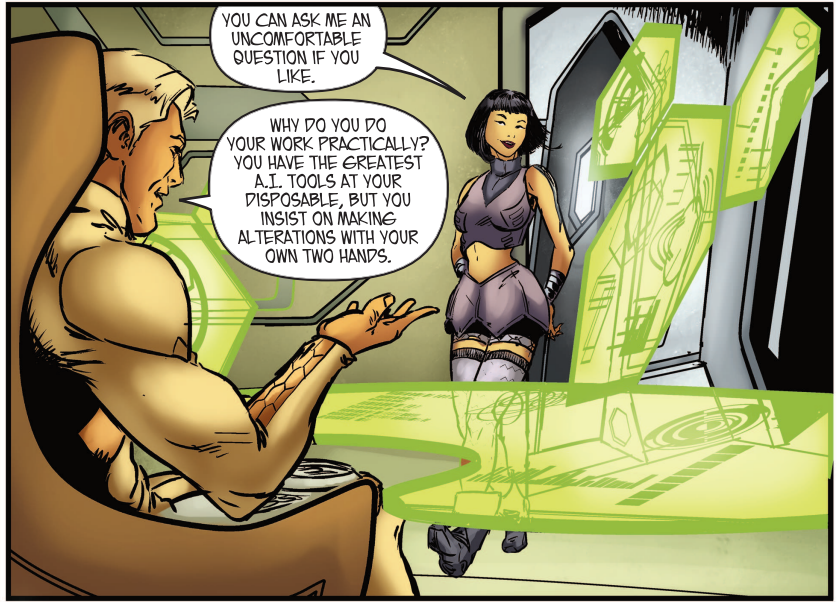
SHOULDN'T YOU?



I ENJOY MY SOLITUDE, IT ALLOWS ME TO WORK.

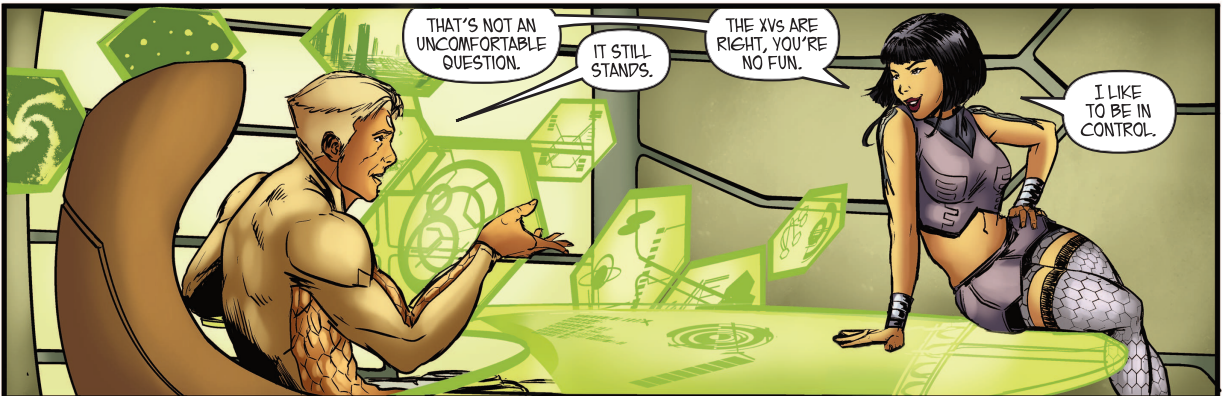
NOT ACCORDING TO EROS.

THE RUMOURS THAT AROUND IN THIS COMPOUND ARE OUTSTANDING.



YOU CAN ASK ME AN UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTION IF YOU LIKE.

WHY DO YOU DO YOUR WORK PRACTICALLY? YOU HAVE THE GREATEST A.I. TOOLS AT YOUR DISPOSABLE, BUT YOU INSIST ON MAKING ALTERATIONS WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS.



THAT'S NOT AN UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTION.

IT STILL STANDS.

THE XVS ARE RIGHT, YOU'RE NO FUN.

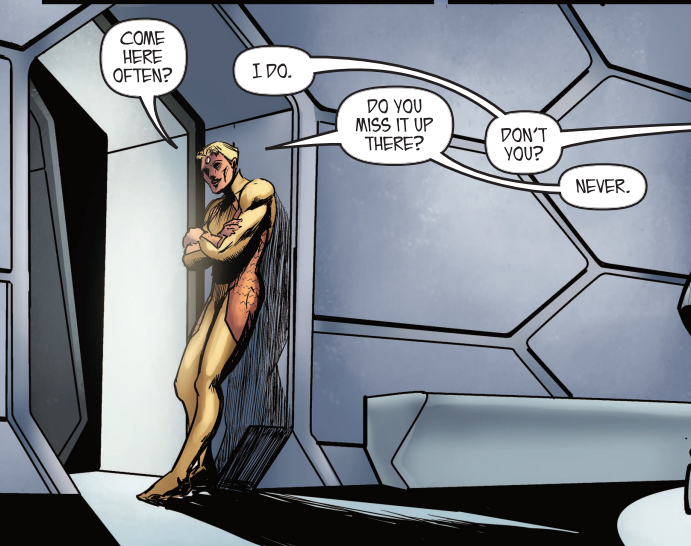
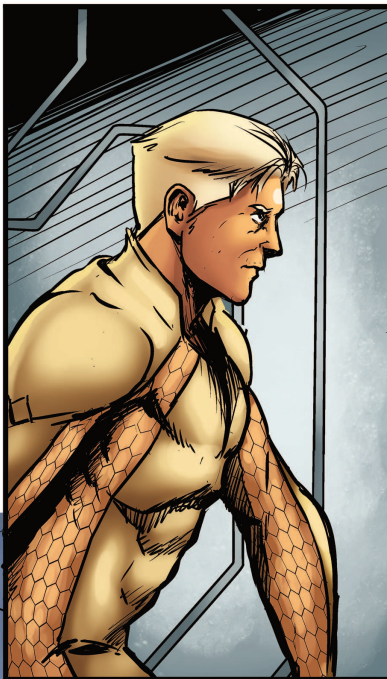
I LIKE TO BE IN CONTROL.



WELL, GOOD NIGHT.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL WORKING?

YOU DON'T HAVE IT DONE FOR ME. I'D INVITE YOU ALONG, THOUGH I HAVE A FEELING I'M NOT TO YOUR TASTE.



COME
HERE
OFTEN?

I DO.

DO YOU
MISS IT UP
THERE?

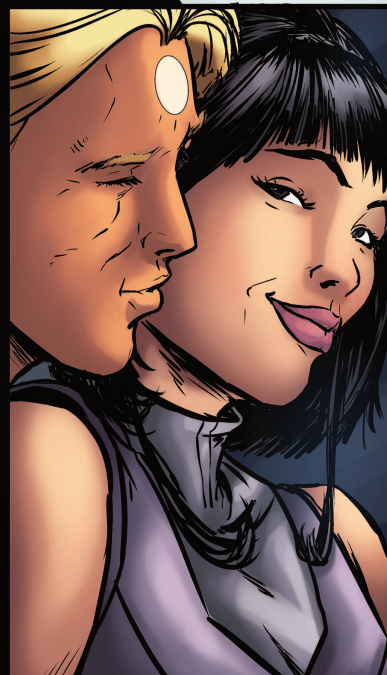
DON'T
YOU?

NEVER.



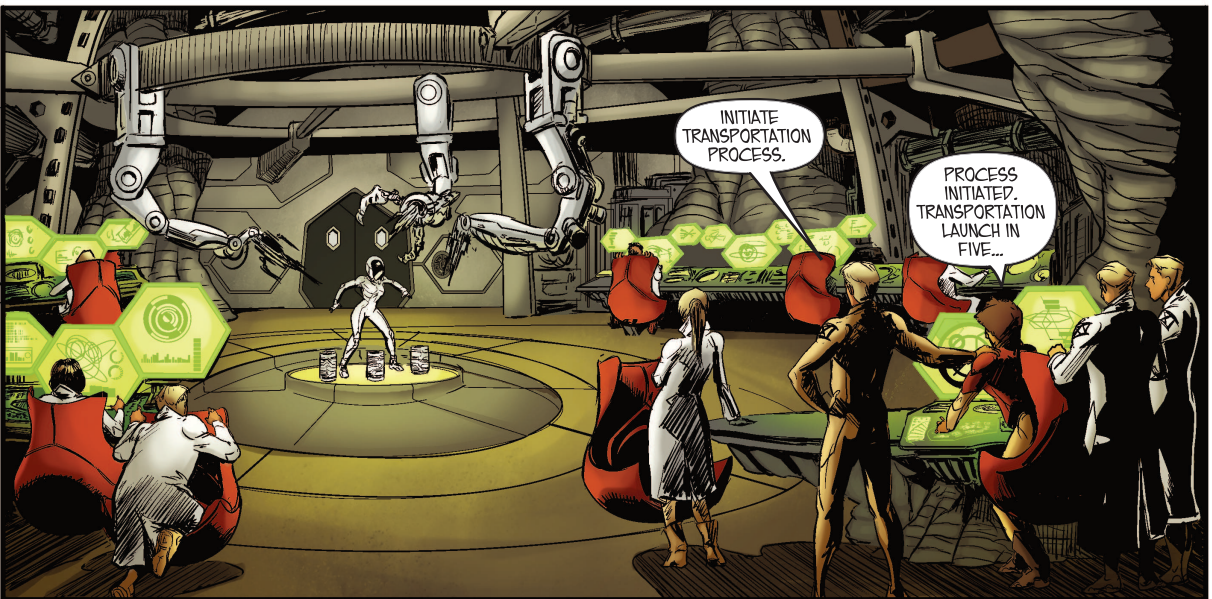
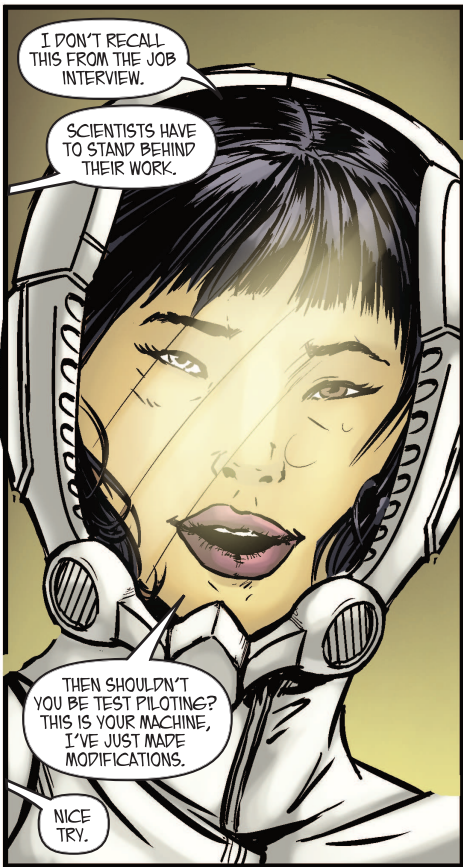
I'M ALWAYS
THE SMARTEST
PERSON IN THE
ROOM, BUT HERE I
GET EVERYTHING
THAT I WANT.

HOW
NICE.



BEST OF LUCK
TOMORROW,
PSYCHE.

WAIT--
WHAT?

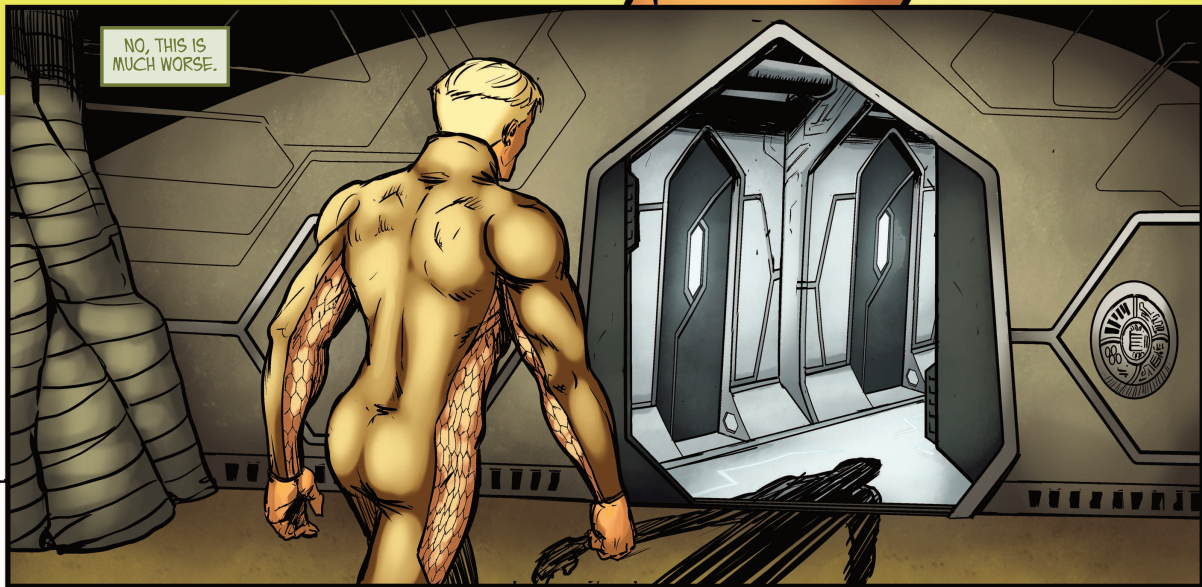
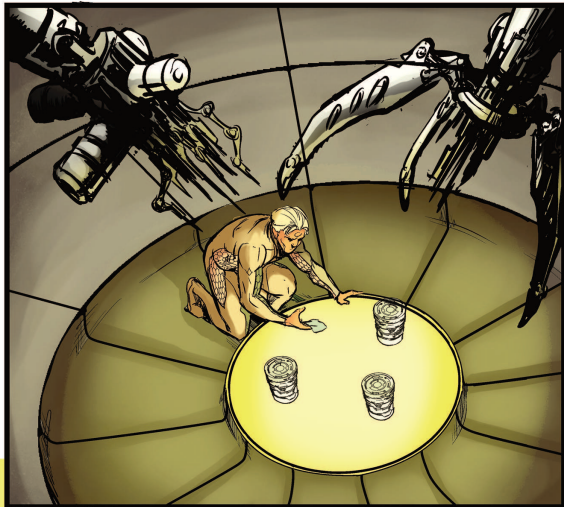




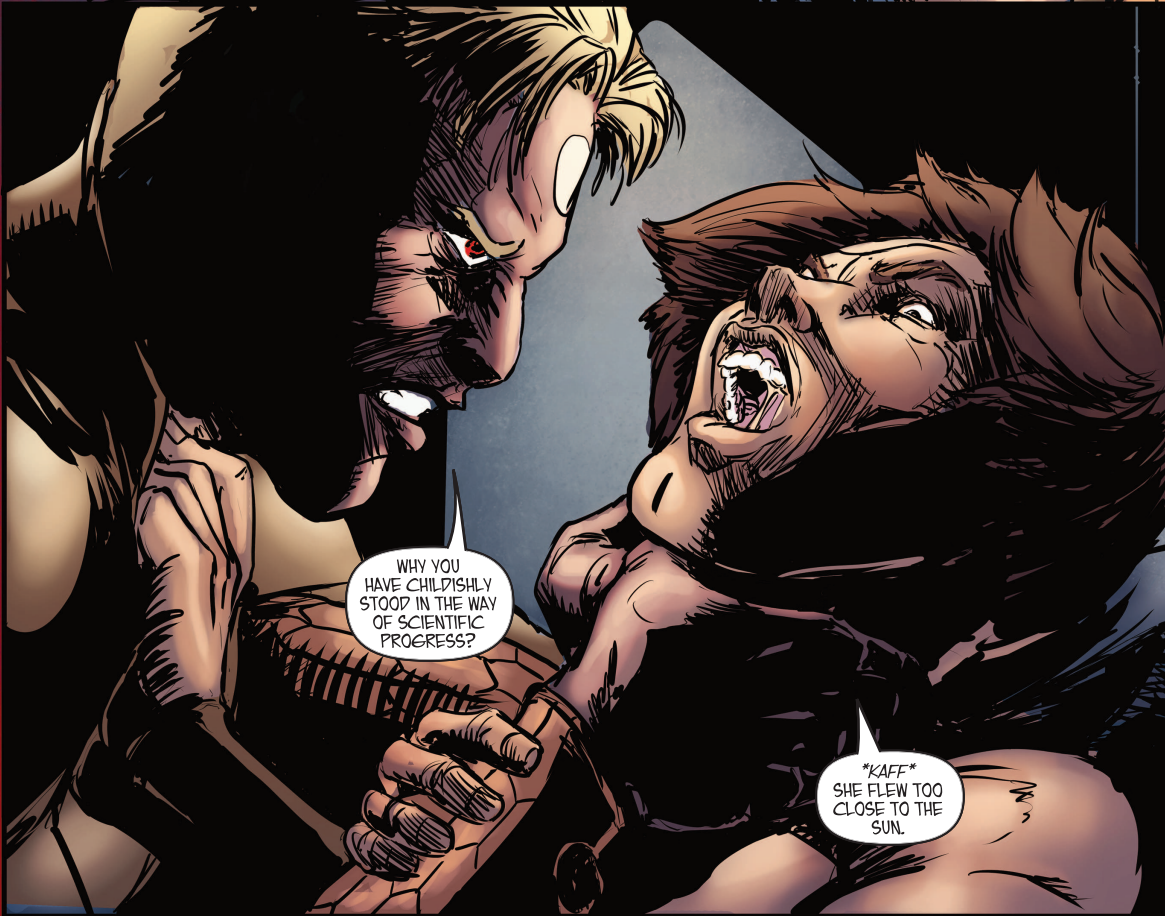
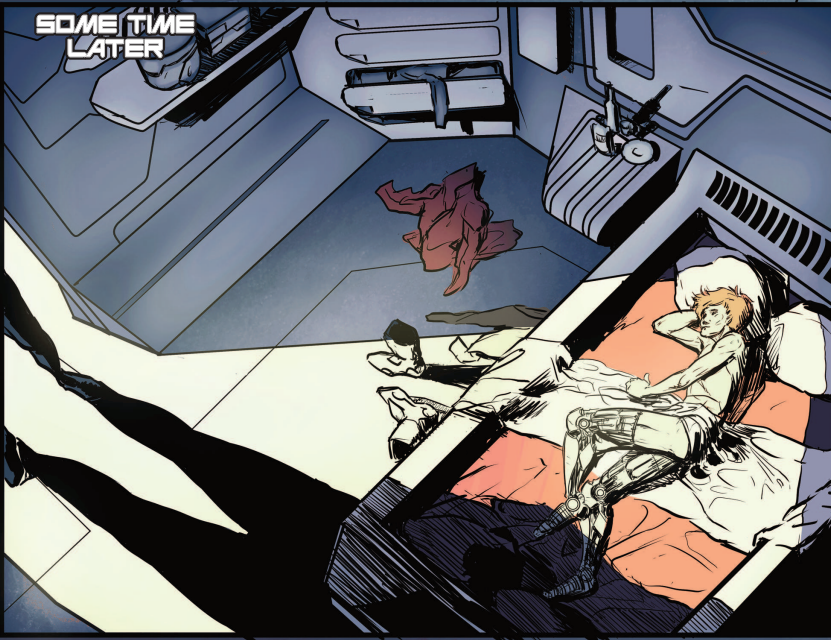


HAVE YOU
EVER HEARD THE
PHRASE "TOO SMART
FOR YOUR OWN GOOD",
DARLING?





SOME TIME
LATER



WHY YOU
HAVE CHILDISHLY
STOOD IN THE WAY
OF SCIENTIFIC
PROGRESS?

KAFF
SHE FLEW TOO
CLOSE TO THE
SUN.

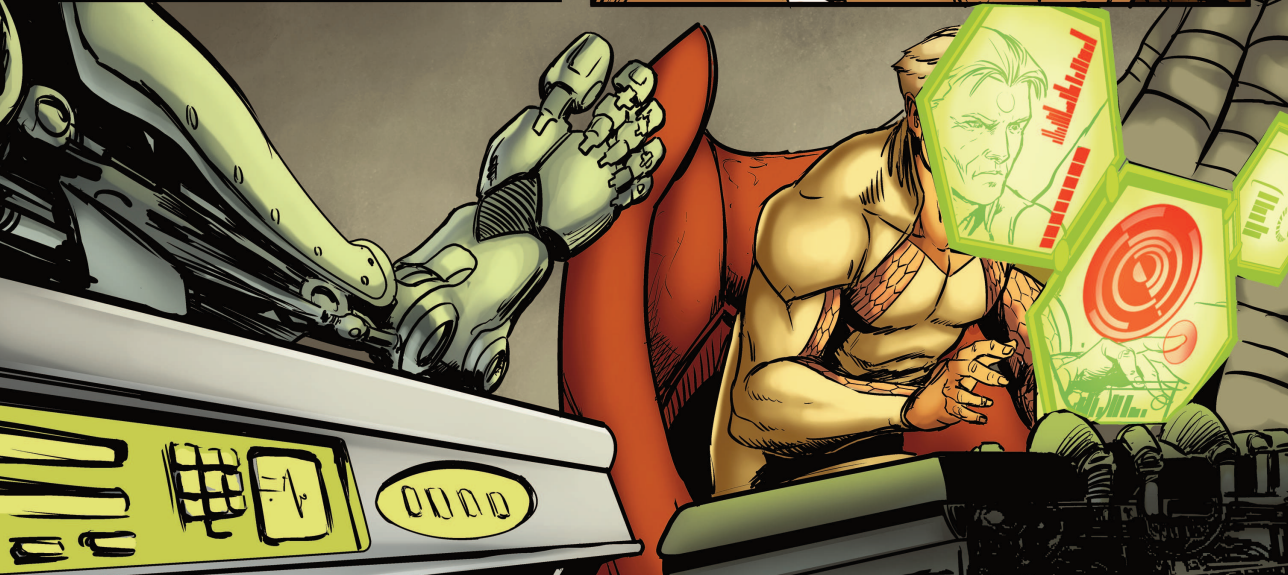
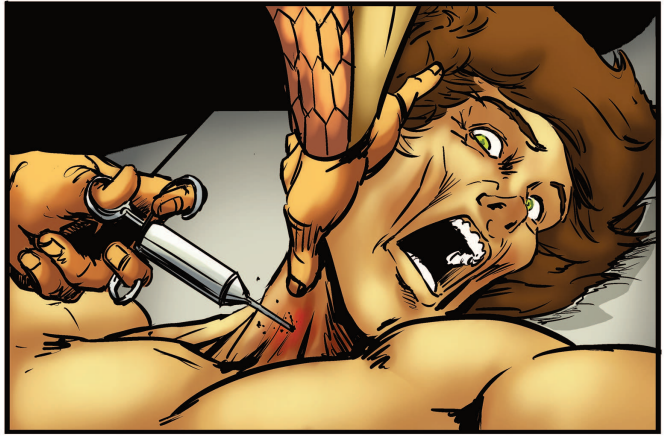
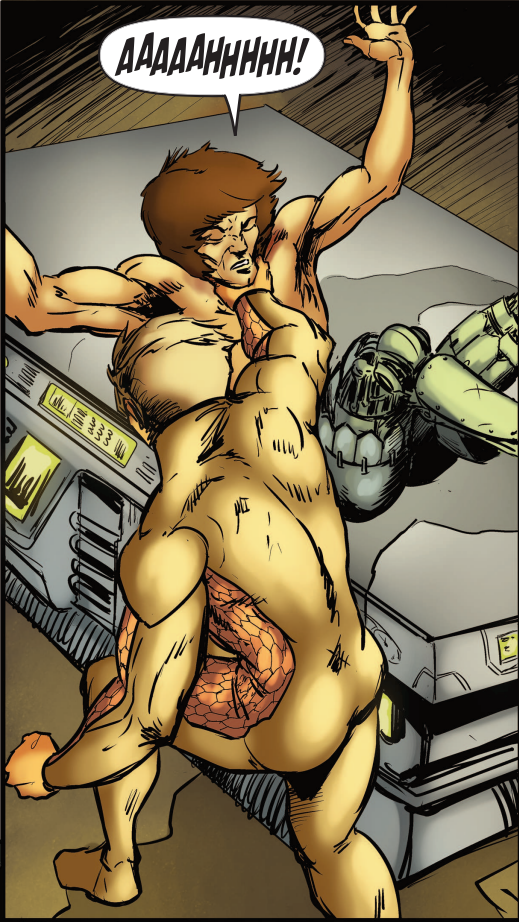
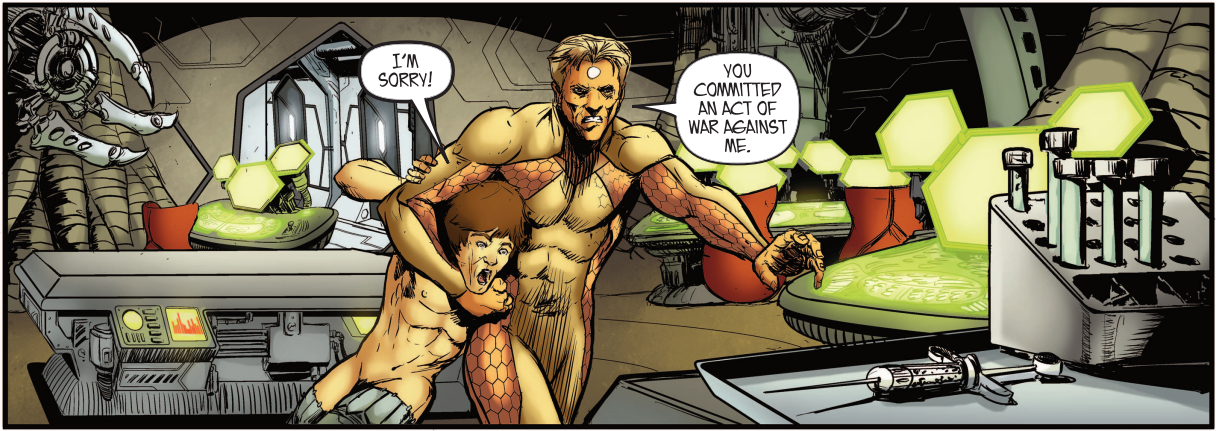


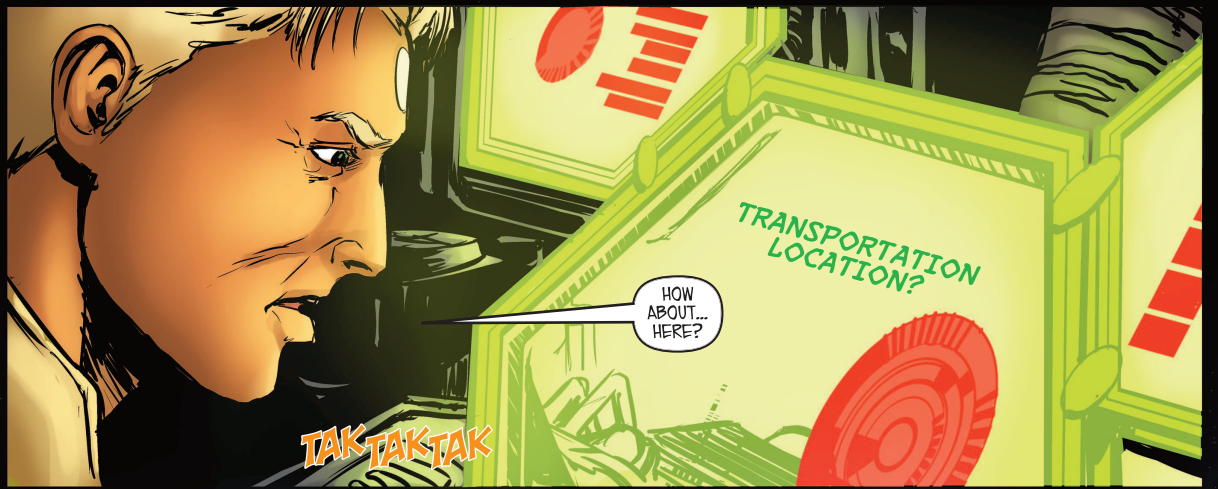
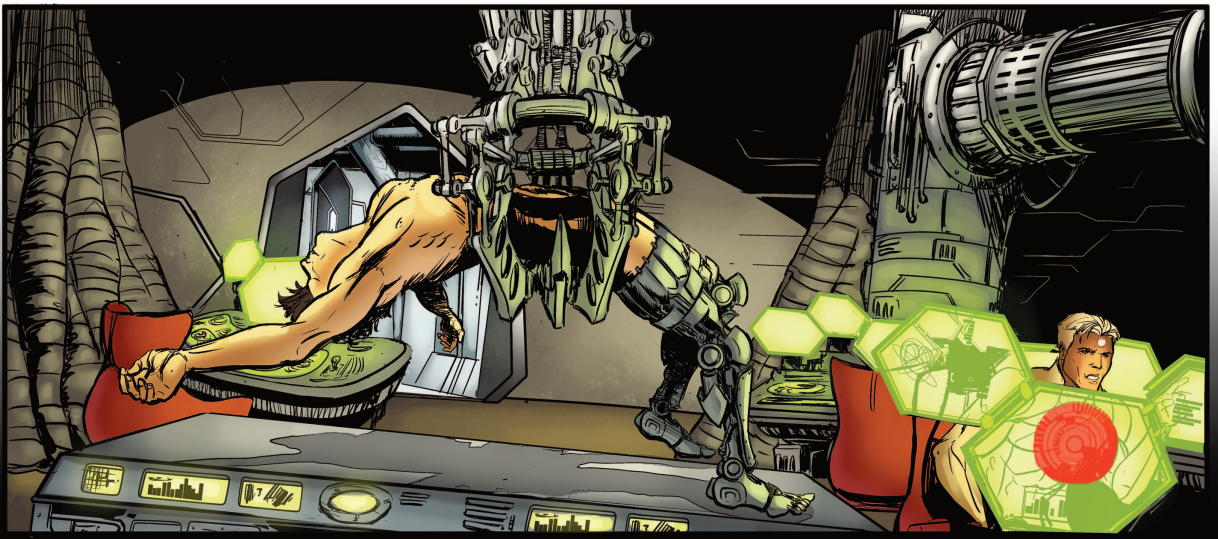
TELL ME WHY.

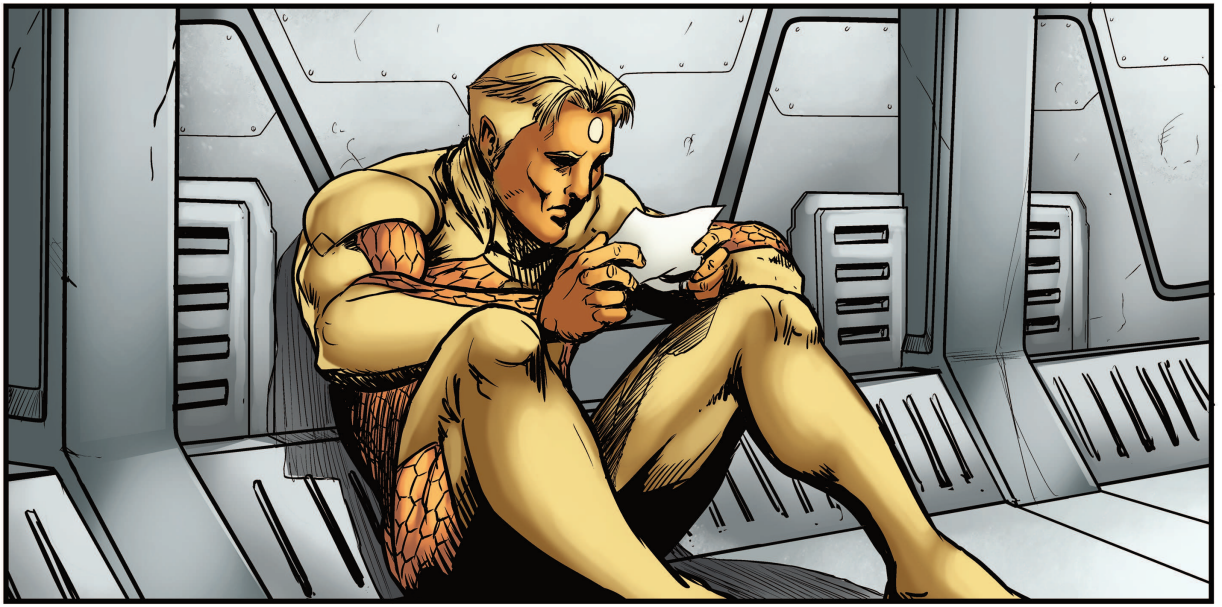
WHY WHAT?

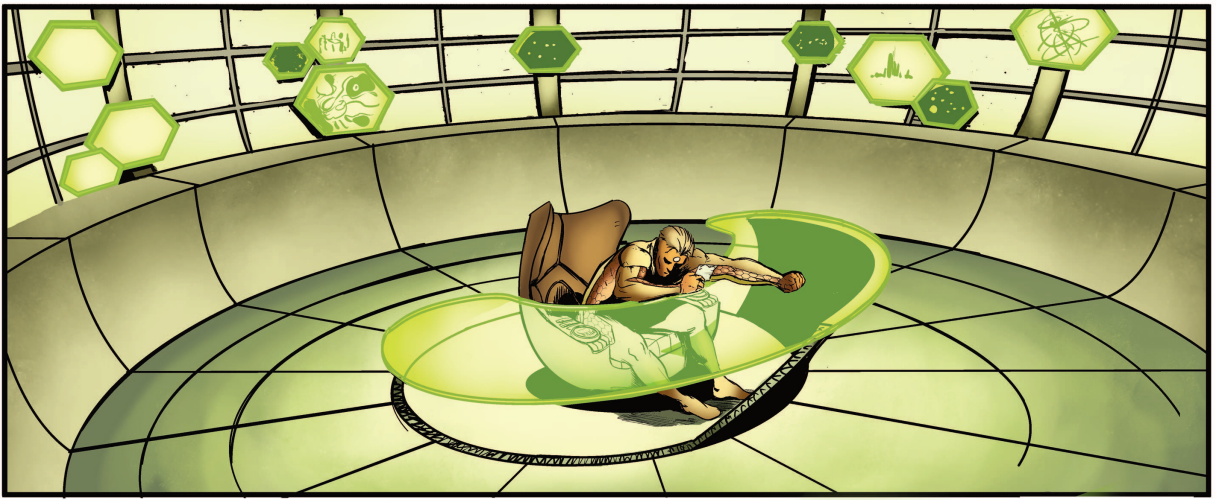


THAT WAS ICARUS, YOU PLEBEIAN.









END

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