

APHRODITE IX

SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!

CYBER FORCE #1

www.topcow.com



MATT HAWKINS
STJEPAN SEJIC

APHRODITE IX

CYBER FORCE

MATT HAWKINS@topcowmatt
www.facebook.com/selffloatingnarcissist

Writer

STJEPAN SEJIC

Cover & Art

TROY PETERI

Letterer

BETSY GONIA

Editor

Cover A,B, & E by **STJEPAN SEJIC**
 Cover C by **MARC SILVESTRI & SUNNY GHO**
 Cover D by **MARC SILVESTRI**



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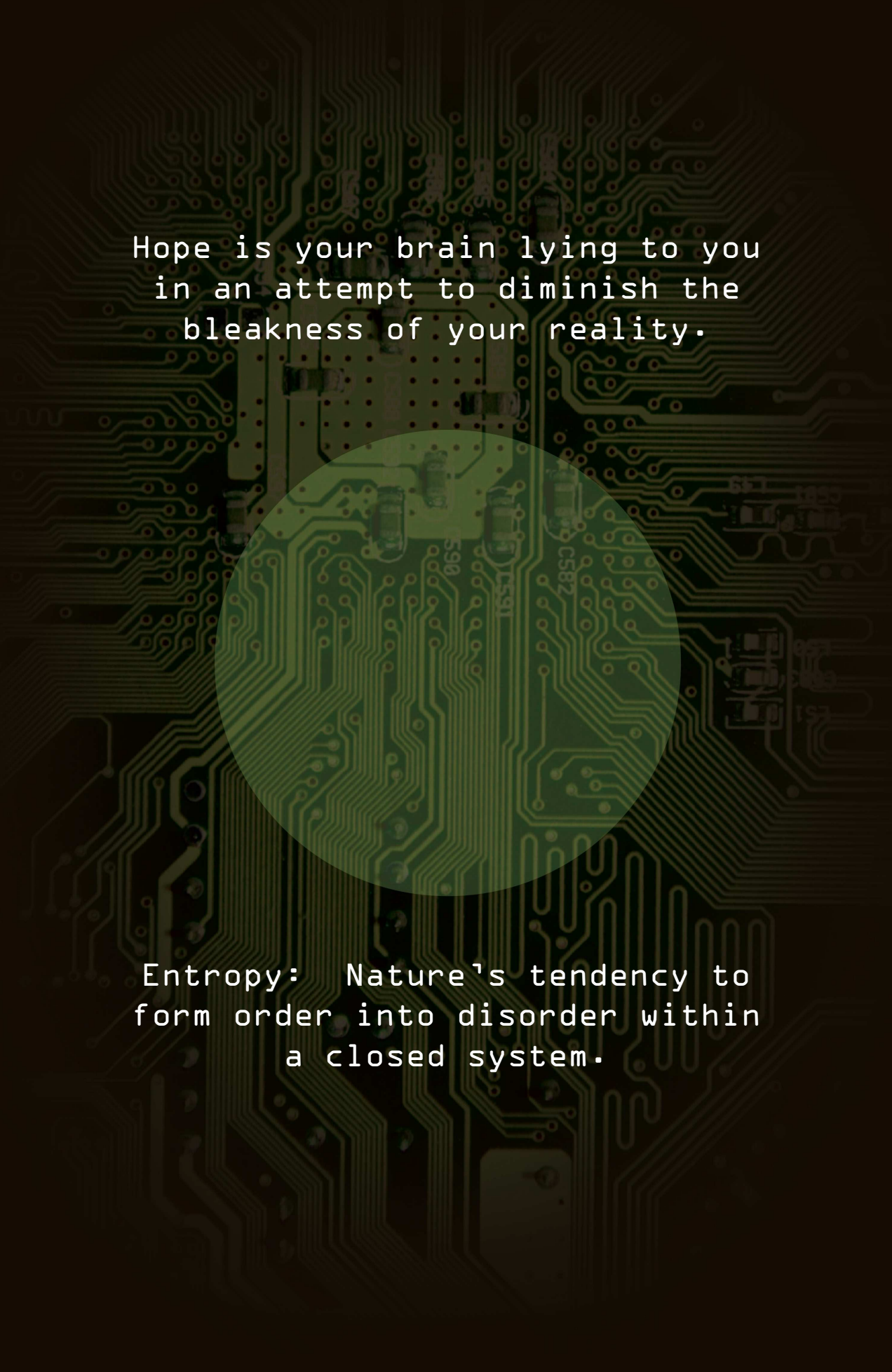
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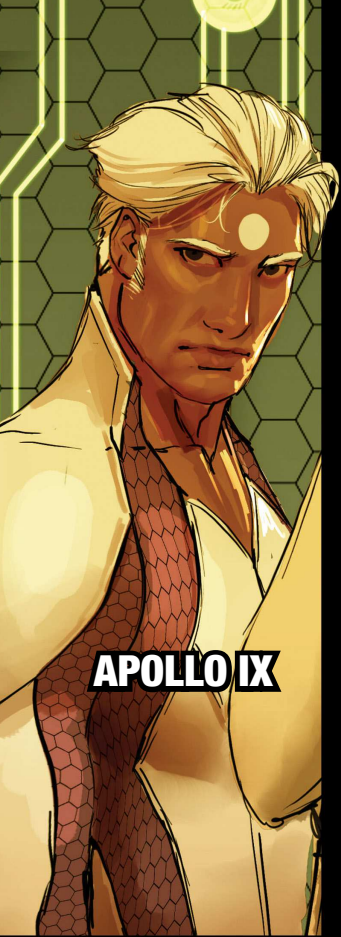


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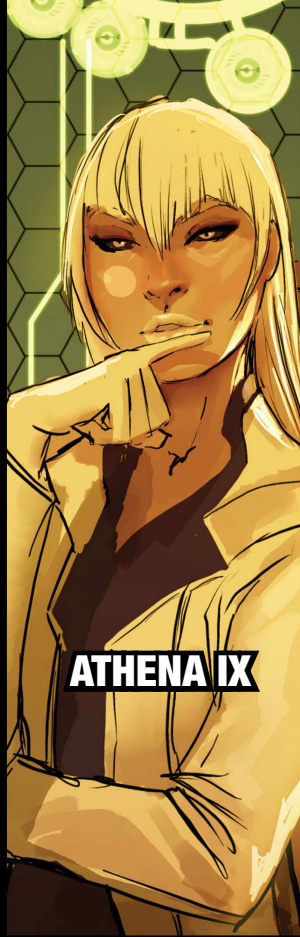


Hope is your brain lying to you
in an attempt to diminish the
bleakness of your reality.

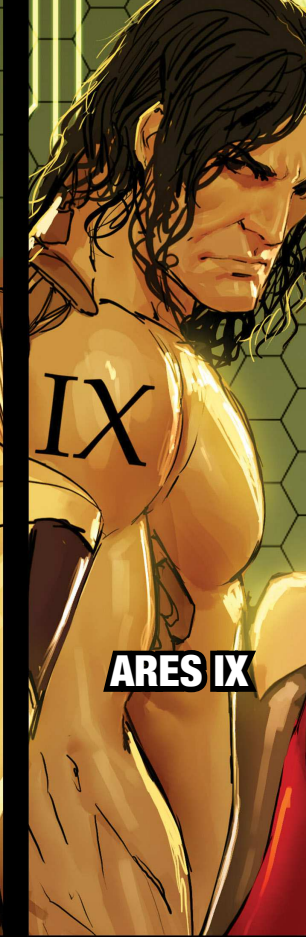
Entropy: Nature's tendency to
form order into disorder within
a closed system.



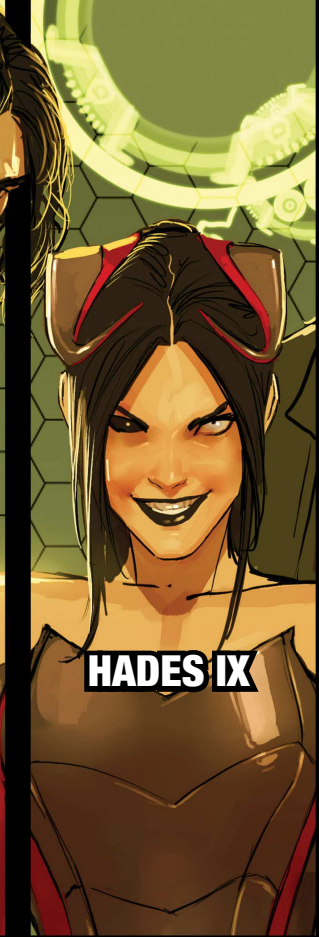
APOLLO IX



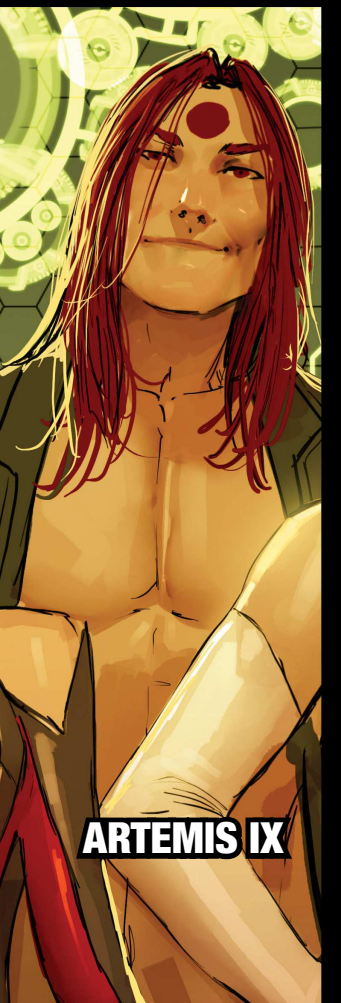
ATHENA IX



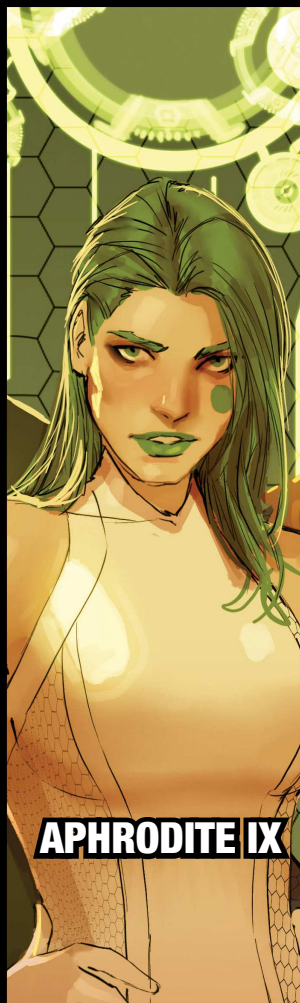
ARES IX



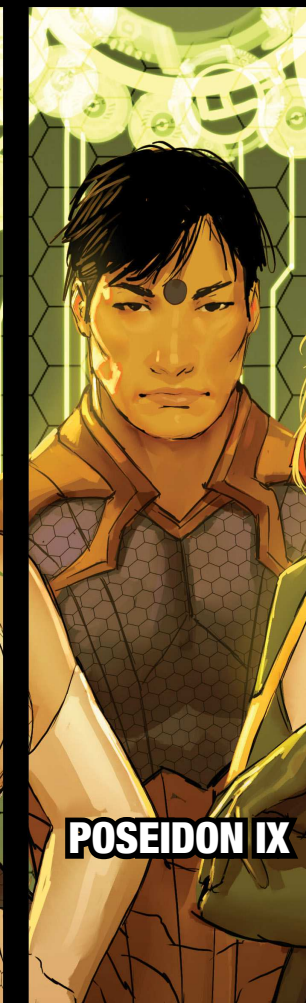
HADES IX



ARTEMIS IX



APHRODITE IX

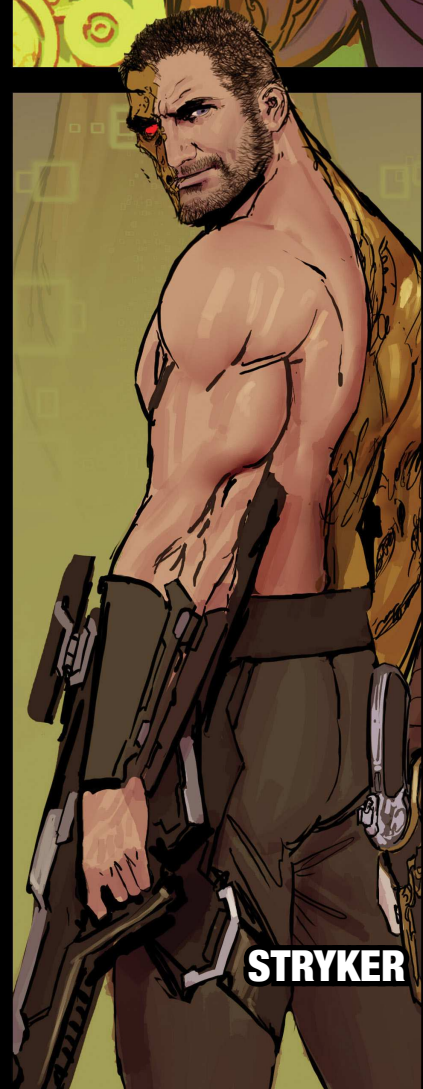


POSEIDON IX

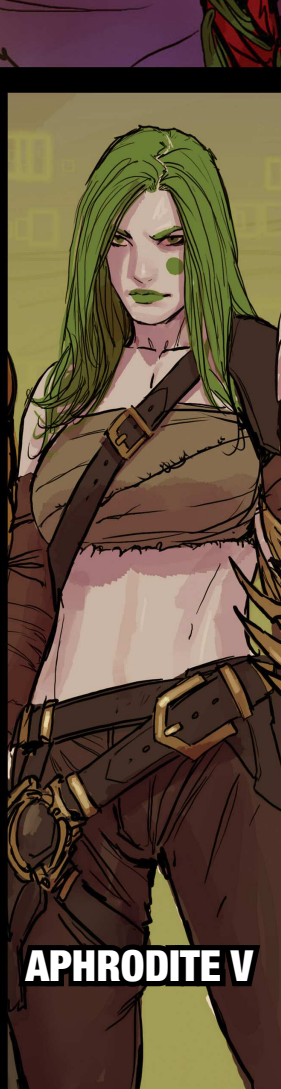


HERMES IX

MOTHER



STRYKER



APHRODITE V



RIPCLAW



VELOCITY

The Aphrodite Protocol was initiated in an attempt to save humanity from a predicted extinction level event.

Its mission was to engineer and evolve humans into new species that could survive via technological singularity or genetic enhancement to repopulate the Earth.

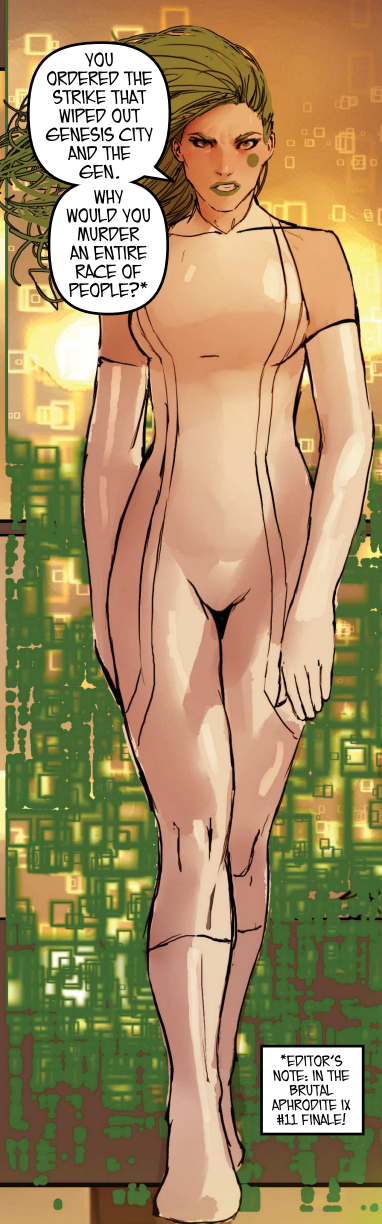
Aphrodite IX was prematurely activated and enmeshed in a conflict between two of these new species who were at war.

Seven of the other nine generation IXs also woke up: Hades, Ares, Apollo, Athena, Hermes, Poseidon, and Artemis. Hephaestus was the ninth, but he went missing.

Aphrodite was reunited with the other Nines aboard an orbital Sanctuary. There they made virtual contact with a woman called Mother, who appears to be their leader.

Meanwhile the war on the surface continued. As one side was about to reign victorious, Mother instituted an orbital fusion strike which destroyed them.

Confused by this destruction, Aphrodite confronted Mother, who we know as the former Cyber Force member Velocity, now nearly millennia old.



YOU ORDERED THE STRIKE THAT WIPE OUT GENESIS CITY AND THE GEN.


WHY WOULD YOU MURDER AN ENTIRE RACE OF PEOPLE?*



FOR PEACE, OF COURSE. THE APHRODITE PROTOCOL'S DIRECTIVE IS CLEAR.



IX




ARE YOU INSANE? YOU HIDE IN THIS VIRTUAL WORLD AND METE OUT LIFE AND DEATH LIKE SOME DEITY.

HIDING IMPLIES FEAR, AND I'M NOT AFRAID, FAR FROM IT IN FACT. I'M HOPEFUL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES. THE GEN FOLLOWED HUMANITY INTO AN OBLIVION NECESSARY FOR OUR SURVIVAL.

I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?

*EDITOR'S NOTE: IN THE BRUTAL APHRODITE IX #11 FINALE!



I WAS BORN CARIN TAYLOR, AND WE BOTH ARE CHILDREN OF CHAIRWOMAN FRANCESCA TAYLOR. I WAS THE PROTOTYPE FOR WHAT YOU AND YOUR NINTH GENERATION WOULD BECOME.

SOME CALL ME MOTHER NOW AS AN HONORIFIC. I AM THE ELDEST OF US ALL, AND WAS VIGILANT WHILE THE REST OF YOU SLEPT PEACEFULLY IN STASIS.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I TOO QUESTIONED, BUT WITH LONGEVITY COMES WISDOM, AND AN AWARENESS THAT SOME SPECIES ARE BETTER OFF EXTINCT.

"YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY, THE WORLD WAS ONLY YEARS AWAY FROM DESTROYING ITSELF."

"TECHNOLOGY HAD EVOLVED BEYOND HUMANITY'S ABILITY TO RATIONALLY USE IT."

"OUR MOTHER, HER FIRST HUSBAND, AND A SMALL GROUP OF SCIENTISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS FORMED A COMPANY CALLED CYBER DATA INDUSTRIES. THEY GREW IN POWER BY MAKING WEAPONS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR THE MILITARY."

"THE ALGORITHM THEY USED TO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW THE WORLD WOULD END I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD, BUT IT WAS BASED ON SEVERAL MILLION FACTORS."

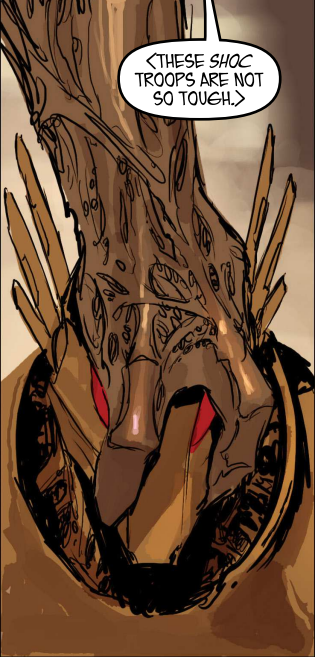
"THEIR GOAL WAS TO DELAY THE ONSET OF THIS EXTINCTION LEVEL EVENT LONG ENOUGH TO CREATE NEW SPECIES THAT WOULD SURVIVE IN THE AFTERMATH. THE PRIMARY OBSTACLE TO THEIR SUCCESS WAS THAT THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDED DIDN'T EXIST YET."



"AS THEIR CORPORATE POWER GREW, THEY USED ANY MEANS NECESSARY TO GIVE THEM THE TIME NEEDED TO ADVANCE THE SCIENCE."

"IT WAS DECADES INTO THIS, AFTER THE BATTLE OF PARIS, WHEN FRANCESCA PHYSICALLY TRANSFORMED INTO THE CHAIRWOMAN."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE CYBER FORCE REBIRTH!



<THESE SHOC TROOPS ARE NOT SO TOUGH.>

"THE RUSSIANS AND CHINESE WERE AWARE OF CDI'S PLANS, AND WOULDN'T SIT IDLY BY LETTING AN AMERICAN WOMAN REWRITE THE NEW WORLD WITHOUT THEM IN IT."

<STRYKER, I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME. YOU CLAIM TO FIGHT FOR A FREE WORLD, YET DO CDI'S BIDDING.>

<DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THE CHAIRWOMAN IS DOING?>

<SHE PLAYS WITH PRIMAL FORCES THAT WILL KILL US ALL.>



<WHEN WE FOUGHT TOGETHER IN GUANEZHOU, YOU GAVE ME YOUR WORD SHE WOULD DIE.>

SHUT HIM UP, PLEASE.

COPY THAT.



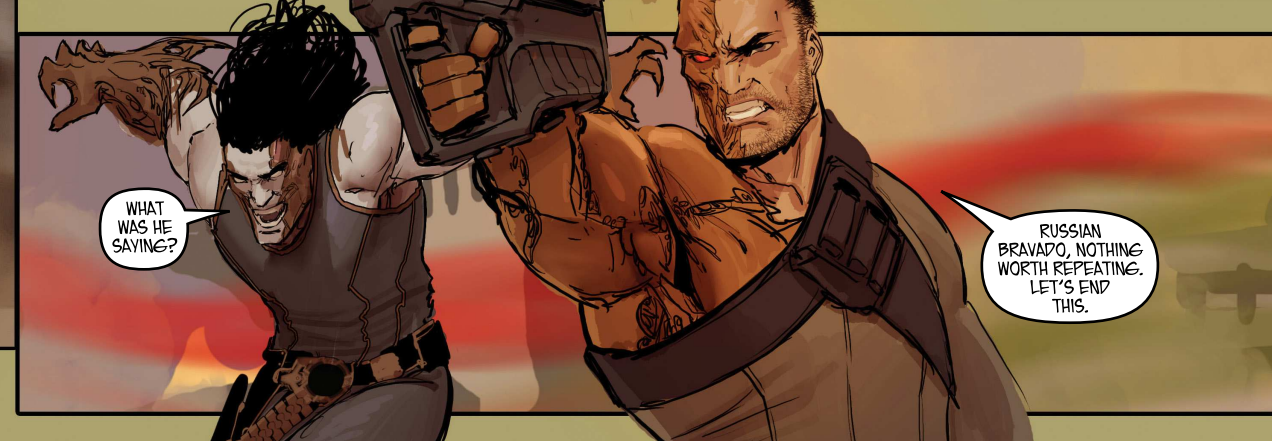
<YOU ARE
A LIAR, AND A
COWARD,
AND-->



THWTTTT




TARGET
DOWN.



WHAT
WAS HE
SAYING?

RUSSIAN
BRAVADO, NOTHING
WORTH REPEATING.
LET'S END
THIS.





"I WAS THERE IN
PARIS. IT WAS THE
LAST TIME I SAW
STRYKER."

YOU SHOULD
HEED YOUR OWN
ADVICE, OLD
MAN.

HE WAS MY FATHER, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAD A ROCKY START, I GREW TO LOVE HIM VERY MUCH. CYBER FORCE WAS THE ONLY REAL FAMILY I EVER HAD.

I LIKED APHRODITE VI BETTER THAN V. DESPITE THE SAME GENETIC TEMPLATE, THEY WERE VERY DIFFERENT. EVEN AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THE SCIENCE. THAT WAS NEVER MY STRONG SUIT.

AFTER STRYKER WAS GONE, OUR MOTHER'S POWER GREW UNCHECKED UNTIL SHE HAD A TOTALITARIAN GRIP ON MOST OF THE WORLD.

"AS THE 21ST CENTURY CAME TO A CLOSE, SHE HAD ALMOST COMPLETED THE NEEDED TECHNOLOGIC ADVANCEMENTS, BUT THE PEOPLE REBELLED AGAINST HER TYRANNY."



"SHE NEEDED MORE TIME, AND REALIZED THE ONLY WAY TO BUY IT WAS FOR HER TO DIE."



"YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL HER AND TAKE HER PLACE."

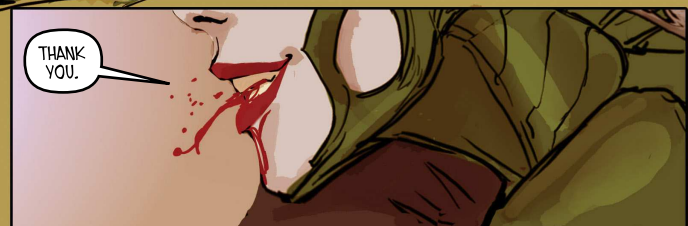


"WHEN YOU DIDN'T, I HAD TO."

SHINK



CARIN.



THANK YOU.

"SHE HAD LEFT A SERIES OF RECORDED HOLOVIDS FOR YOU DETAILING PLANS FOR EXECUTING THE REST OF THE PROTOCOL."

"WATCHING THEM CONVERTED ME TO THE CAUSE COMPLETELY."


"SUPER VOLCANOES, A FUSION ALTERED HELIUM ATMOSPHERE...A NATURAL END UNNATURALLY ESCALATED BY MAN'S OWN HUBRIS, AND DELAYED BY THE FACILITATORS OF THE APHRODITE PROTOCOL."

"A YIN AND YANG OF DEATH."






"HUMANITY WAS DOOMED ANYWAY."



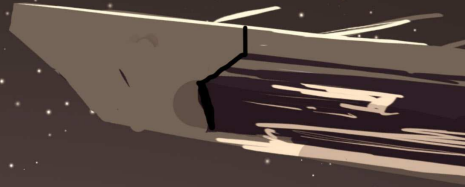
"ABOUT TEN YEARS AFTER HER DEATH, THE OLD WORLD FINALLY ENDED."

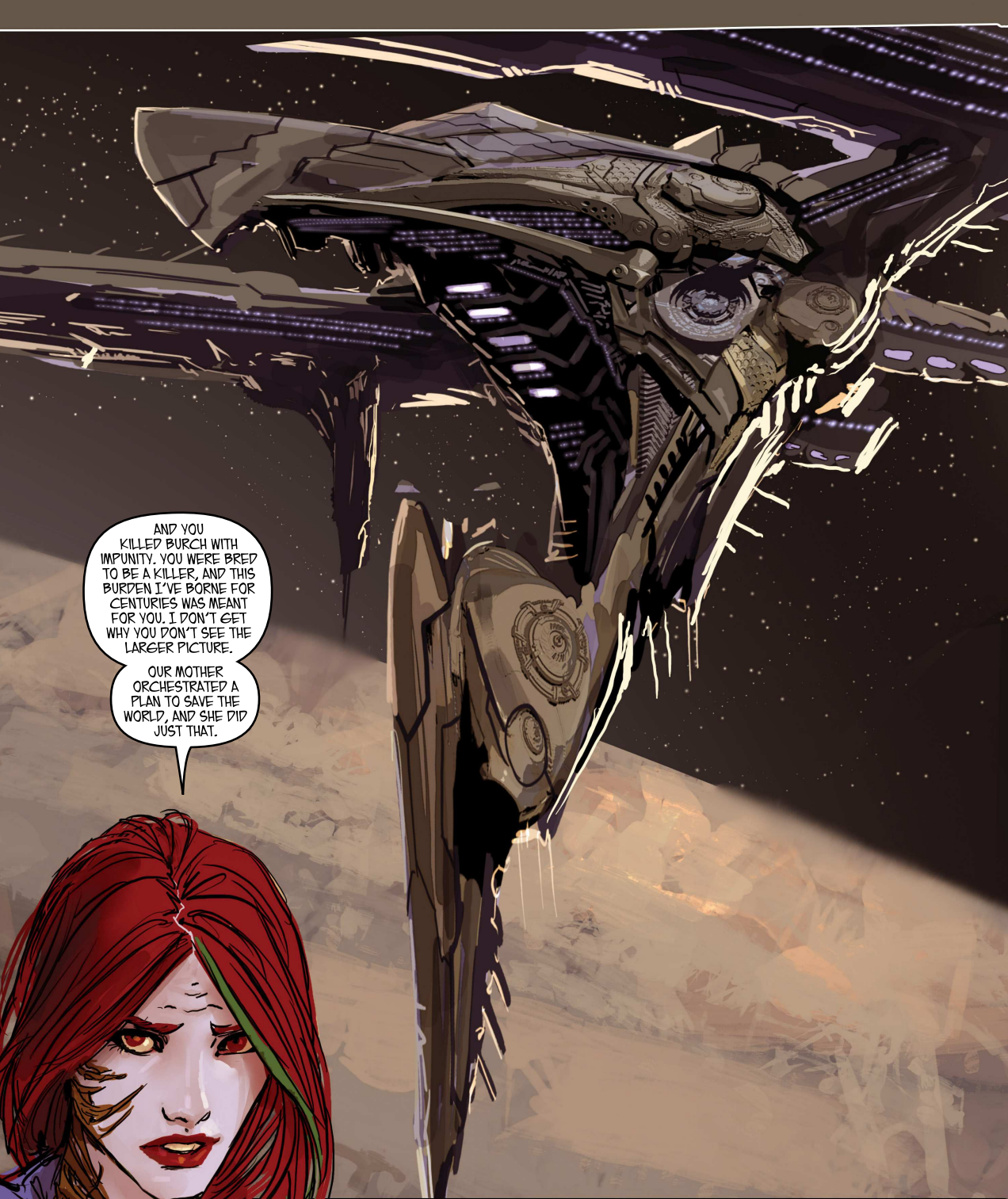


"THERE WAS A BRIEF TRIBULATION PERIOD THAT FOLLOWED WHERE SOME SURVIVED, BUT THE FUTURE NEEDED A CLEAN GENETIC SLATE, SO THEY WERE PUT DOWN."

"IT WAS MERCY AFTER ALL. THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED THE THREE CENTURIES IT TOOK THE EARTH'S BIOSPHERE TO RESET."

"A HANDFUL OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS, LIKE ROBERT BURCH, WERE PUT INTO STASIS AS A FAILSAFE, BUT THEY WERE ALL STERILIZED."





AND YOU
KILLED BURCH WITH
IMPUNITY. YOU WERE BRED
TO BE A KILLER, AND THIS
BURDEN I'VE BORNE FOR
CENTURIES WAS MEANT
FOR YOU. I DON'T GET
WHY YOU DON'T SEE THE
LARGER PICTURE.

OUR MOTHER
ORCHESTRATED A
PLAN TO SAVE THE
WORLD, AND SHE DID
JUST THAT.



THIS NEW AGE
WILL BE THE UTOPIA
THAT LEGIONS OF
PHILOSOPHERS AND
WRITERS ONLY
DREAMT ABOUT.

I AM HEADED
YOUR WAY. WHEN WE
MEET IN PERSON,
WE CAN CONTINUE
THIS.





LISTENING TO HER RATIONALIZATIONS MADE ME WONDER HOW MUCH OF THAT SHE REALLY BELIEVED.

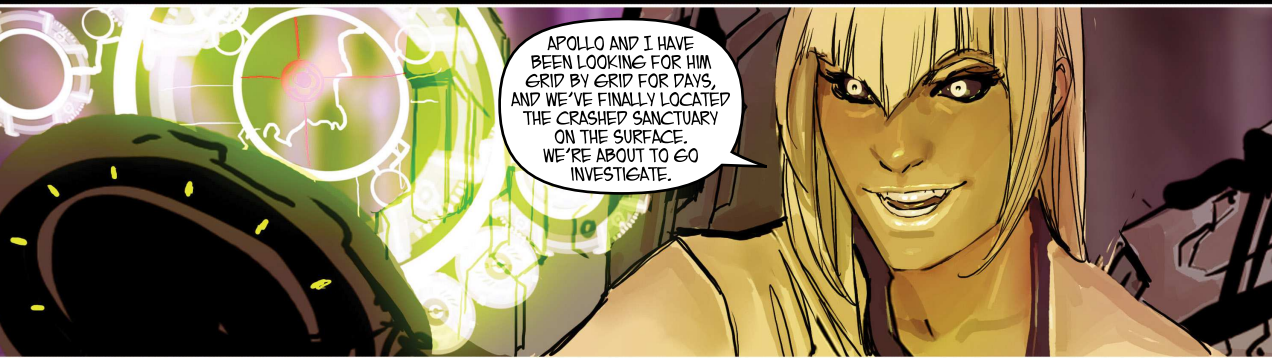
PEOPLE WITH GUILTY CONSCIENCES FREQUENTLY HAVE LONG WINDY EXPLANATIONS FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

FOUND HIM.

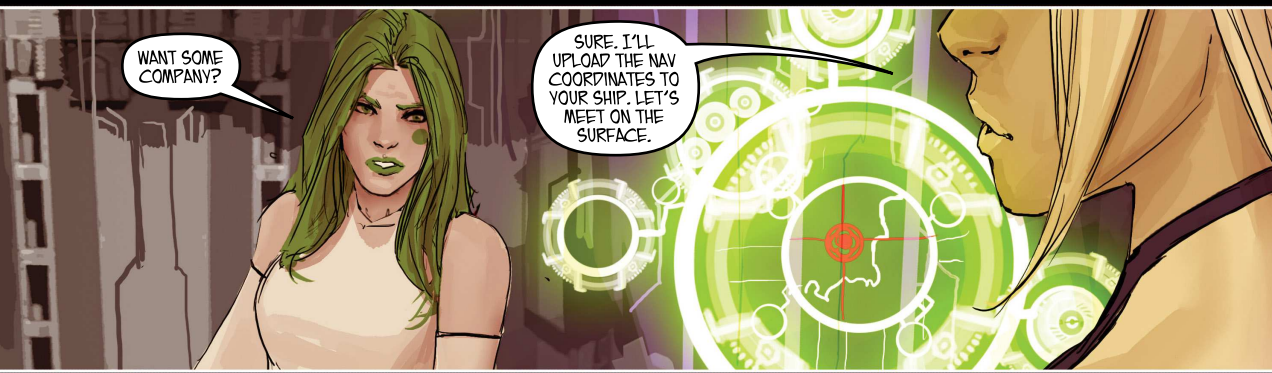


WHAT'S THAT?

FOUND HEPHAESTUS... HIS SANCTUARY AT LEAST.



APOLLO AND I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM GRID BY GRID FOR DAYS, AND WE'VE FINALLY LOCATED THE CRASHED SANCTUARY ON THE SURFACE. WE'RE ABOUT TO GO INVESTIGATE.



WANT SOME COMPANY?

SURE, I'LL UPLOAD THE NAV COORDINATES TO YOUR SHIP. LET'S MEET ON THE SURFACE.



TAKE ARES WITH YOU... AND SOME FIFTEENS... AND BE CAREFUL.

THE OTHER NINES TALK LIKE WE'RE NEWLY MINTED GODS OR SOMETHING, BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A CONSENSUS ON HOW TO ACT LIKE ONE.

OUTER HULL BREACH CAUSED BY WHAT LOOKS LIKE CLAW MARKS.

SCAN OF INTERIOR SHOWS NO BIO SIGNS.

OPEN IT UP.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

BODIES.

LOTS OF SMASHED UP FIFTEENS. LOOKS LIKE PHYSICAL TRAUMA, NO ENERGY BURNS.

SO SOMETHING ATTACKED THIS SANCTUARY IN ORBIT, CLAWED ITS WAY INSIDE, AND PROCEEDED TO TAKE OUT A SMALL ARMY. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

DID HEPHAESTUS STALL THE ORBIT TRYING TO DEFEND IT?

IT WASN'T HEPHAESTUS.



WE'VE LOCATED HIS BODY. HE NEVER LEFT STASIS.

ANY INTACT FIFTEENS WE CAN PROCESS FOR MEMORY RECALL?



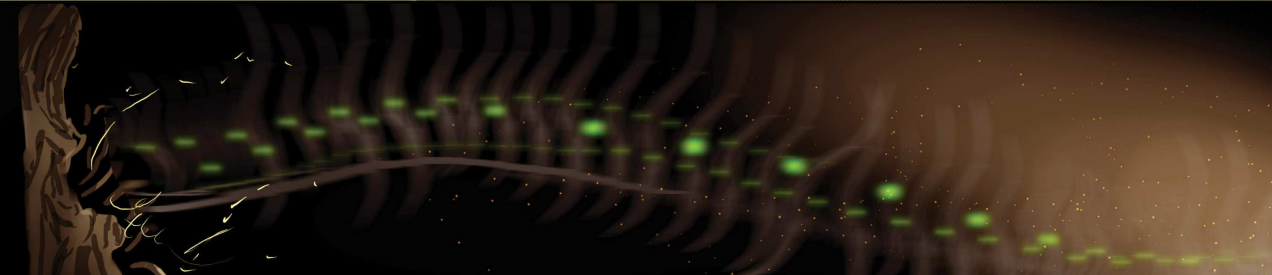
I'VE GOT ONE WITH AN UNPAWAGED HEAD -- SHOULD BE SALVAGEABLE.



SECURE IT AND HEPHAESTUS'S BODY, AND BRING THEM TO THE SHIP FOR DEEP SCAN.

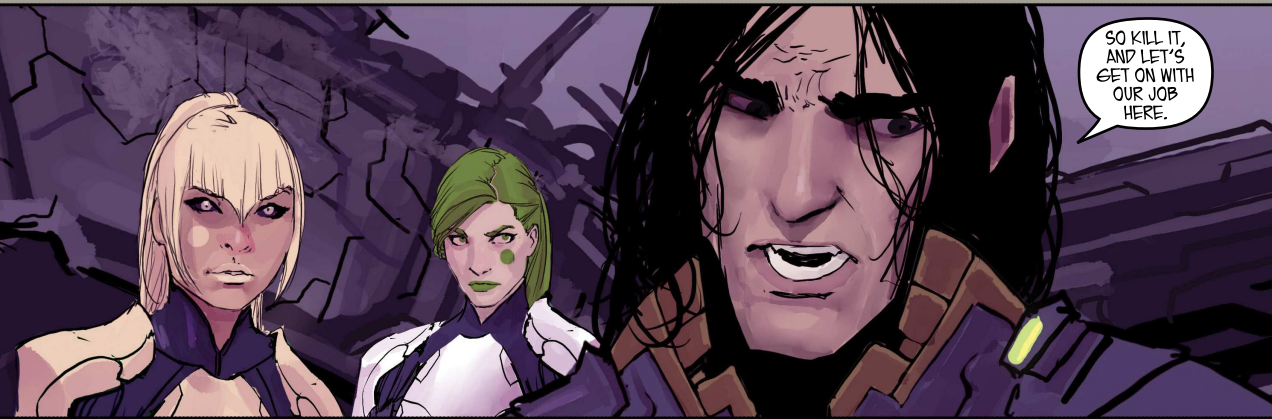


WHAT THE?





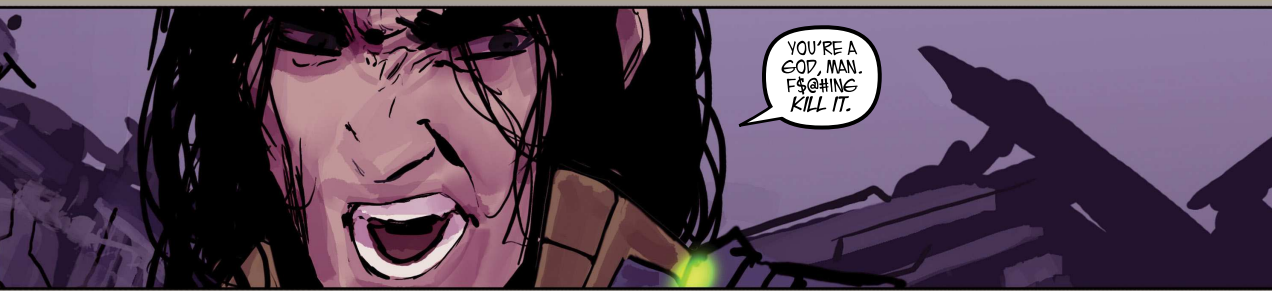
WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK. SOME KIND
OF AMORPHOUS
REPTILE.



SO KILL IT,
AND LET'S
GET ON WITH
OUR JOB
HERE.

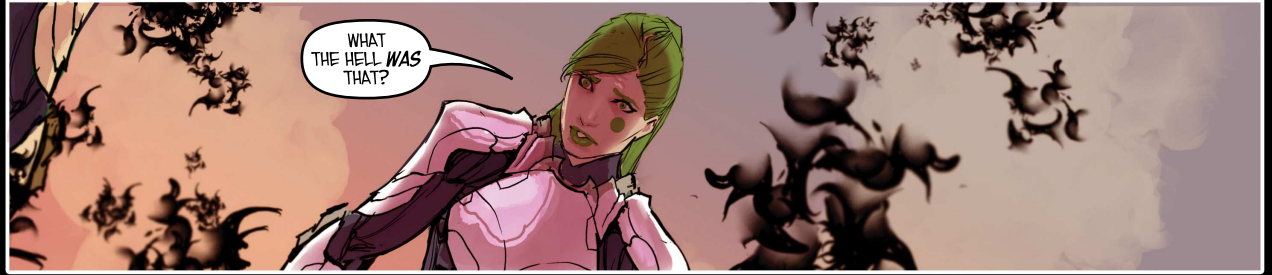
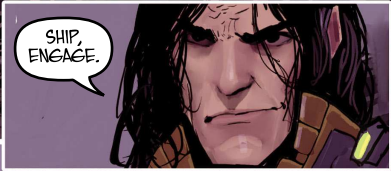
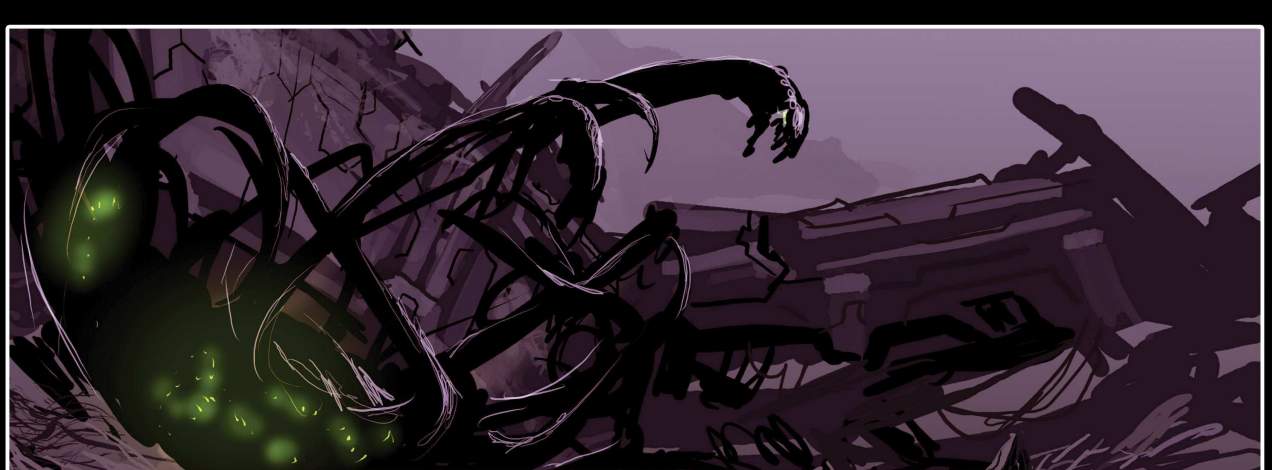


IT'S
CHANGING
SHAPE,
GROWING.



YOU'RE A
GOD, MAN.
F&@#INE
KILL IT.

AHHHH!



SANCTUARY I

IN HINDSIGHT, THE ACHILLES HEEL OF THE APHRODITE PROTOCOL WAS CLEAR...HUBRIS THAT THE NINES WOULD BE THE SOLE APEX PREDATOR IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT.

THAT WAS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN A WHILE. I WAS AFRAID THIS WHOLE NEW WORLD THING WOULD BE BORING.

BORING? ATHENA SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU DIDN'T JUST LOSE SOME OF YOURS. THAT THING IGNORED OUR WEAPONS AND ONLY RETREATED BECAUSE OF THE SUNLIGHT. WE NEED TO USE THE SANCTUARIES TO DESTROY THAT THING IMMEDIATELY.

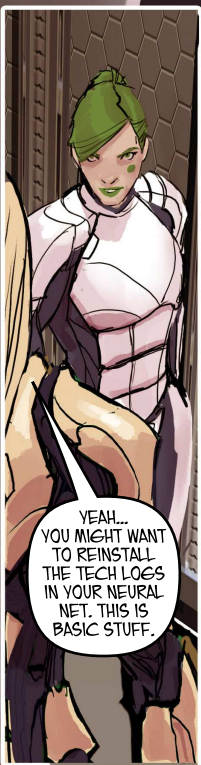
THAT'S MOTHER'S DECISION, NOT YOURS. FIRST WE ANALYZE HEPHAESTUS'S CORPSE HERE, THEN BRING HIM BACK.

BRING HIM BACK? TO LIFE?

YES, OF COURSE. WITH EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF HIS DNA, WE CAN REPLICATE HIM FAIRLY EASILY. THAT WITH A NEURAL DOWNLOAD OF HIS STORED CONSCIOUSNESS, AND HE'S GOOD TO GO.



REALLY?

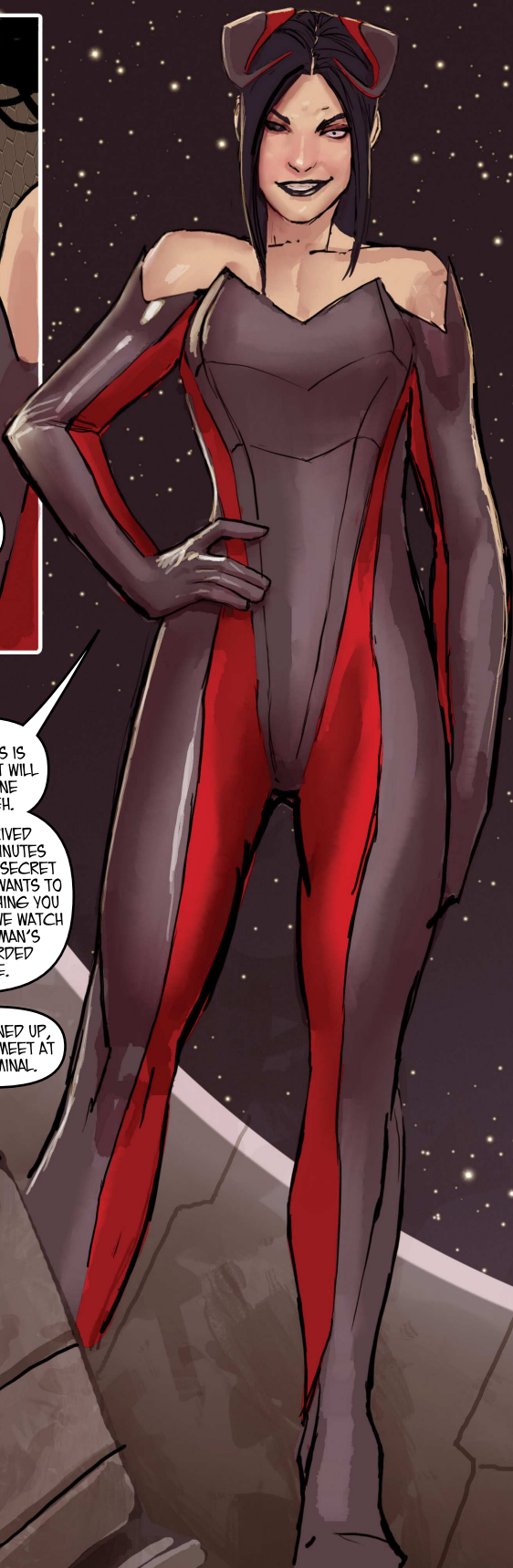


YEAH... YOU MIGHT WANT TO REINSTALL THE TECH LOGS IN YOUR NEURAL NET. THIS IS BASIC STUFF.



I'LL DO THAT.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.



GLAD HEPHAESTUS IS BACK IN WHAT WILL PASS AS ONE PIECE. HEH.

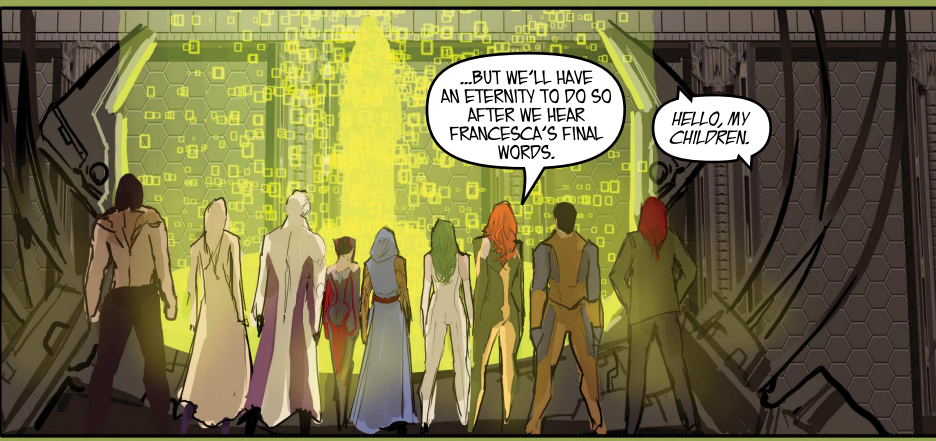
MOTHER ARRIVED HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO FROM HER SECRET HIPEAWAY. SHE WANTS TO DISCUSS THIS THING YOU FOUGHT AFTER WE WATCH THE CHAIRWOMAN'S FINAL RECORDED MESSAGE.

GET CLEANED UP, AND WE'LL MEET AT THE TERMINAL.



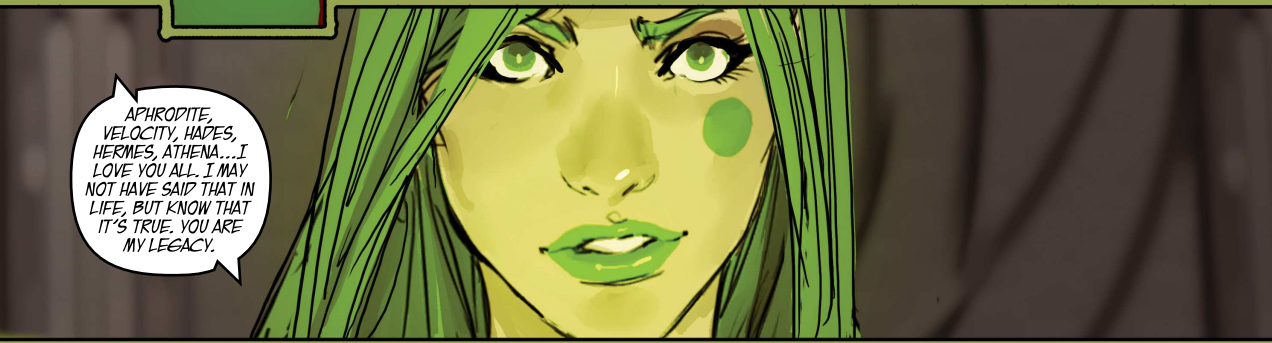
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ALL IN THE FLESH.

THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS...



...BUT WE'LL HAVE AN ETERNITY TO DO SO AFTER WE HEAR FRANCESCA'S FINAL WORDS.

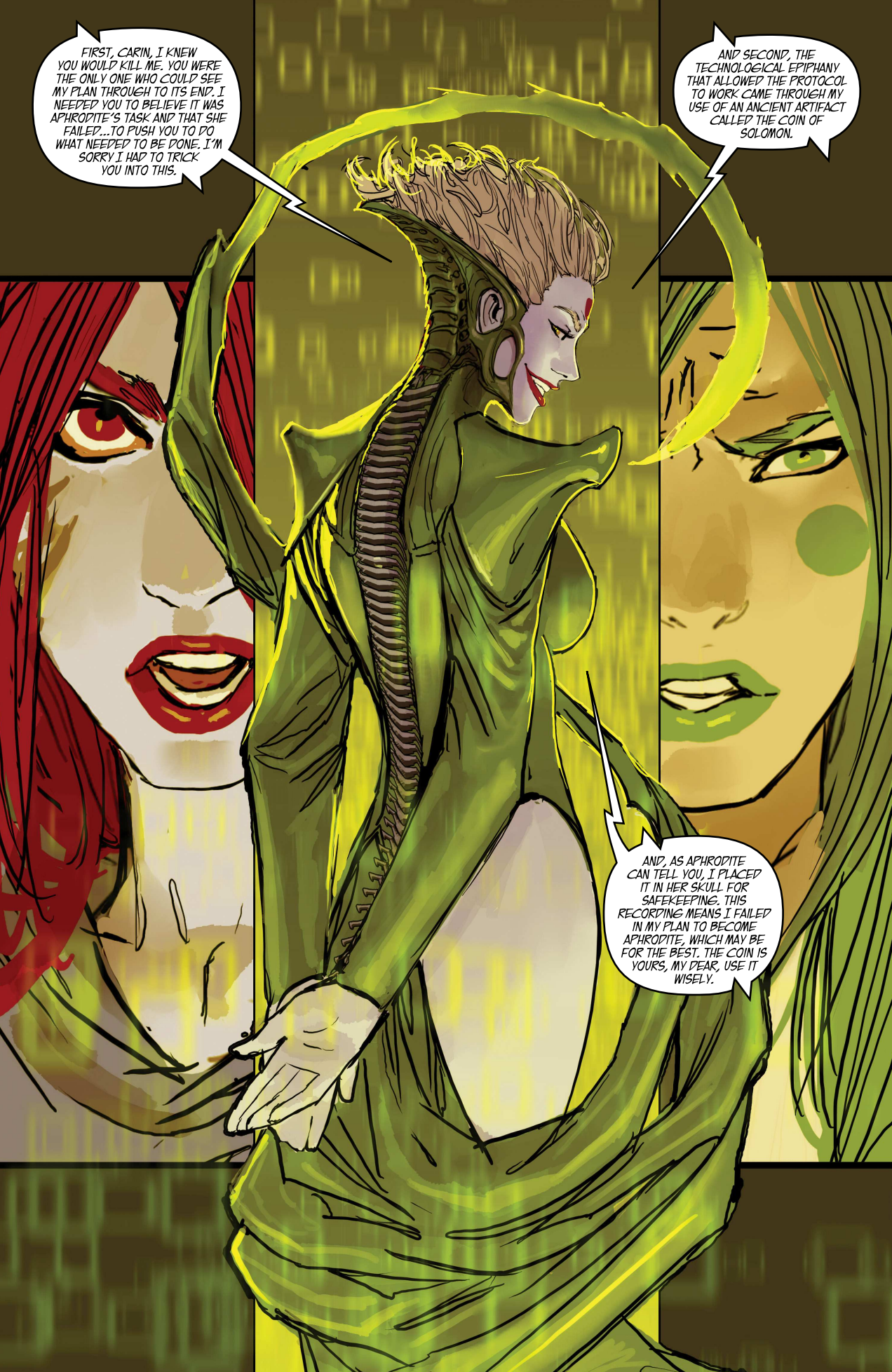
HELLO, MY CHILDREN.



APHRODITE, VELOCITY, HADES, HERMES, ATHENA... I LOVE YOU ALL. I MAY NOT HAVE SAID THAT IN LIFE, BUT KNOW THAT IT'S TRUE. YOU ARE MY LEGACY.




HOPEFULLY YOU'RE KEEPING THE BOYS I CHOSE FOR YOU IN LINE, AND ARE ENJOYING THE BEGINNINGS OF THIS NEW WORLD. THERE ARE TWO THINGS I MUST SHARE WITH YOU BEFORE I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR OWN FATES.



FIRST, CARIN, I KNEW YOU WOULD KILL ME. YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SEE MY PLAN THROUGH TO ITS END. I NEEDED YOU TO BELIEVE IT WAS APHRODITE'S TASK AND THAT SHE FAILED...TO PUSH YOU TO DO WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE. I'M SORRY I HAD TO TRICK YOU INTO THIS.

AND SECOND, THE TECHNOLOGICAL EPIPHANY THAT ALLOWED THE PROTOCOL TO WORK CAME THROUGH MY USE OF AN ANCIENT ARTIFACT CALLED THE COIN OF SOLOMON.


AND, AS APHRODITE CAN TELL YOU, I PLACED IT IN HER SKULL FOR SAFEKEEPING. THIS RECORDING MEANS I FAILED IN MY PLAN TO BECOME APHRODITE, WHICH MAY BE FOR THE BEST. THE COIN IS YOURS, MY DEAR, USE IT WISELY.




WITH ITS POWER, I DISCOVERED HOW TO TAP DARK MATTER THROUGH QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT AS AN UNLIMITED POWER SOURCE.



THIS PERPETUAL ENERGY SOURCE ALLOWED US TO REVERSE MITOCHONDRIAL DECAY, WHICH IS THE BASIS OF YOUR IMMORTALITY.




THE COIN'S USE ATTRACTED UNWANTED ATTENTION THOUGH. WE LEARNED THERE WERE SEVERAL ARTIFACTS ALL DESIGNED TO BALANCE THESE PRIMAL FORCES.



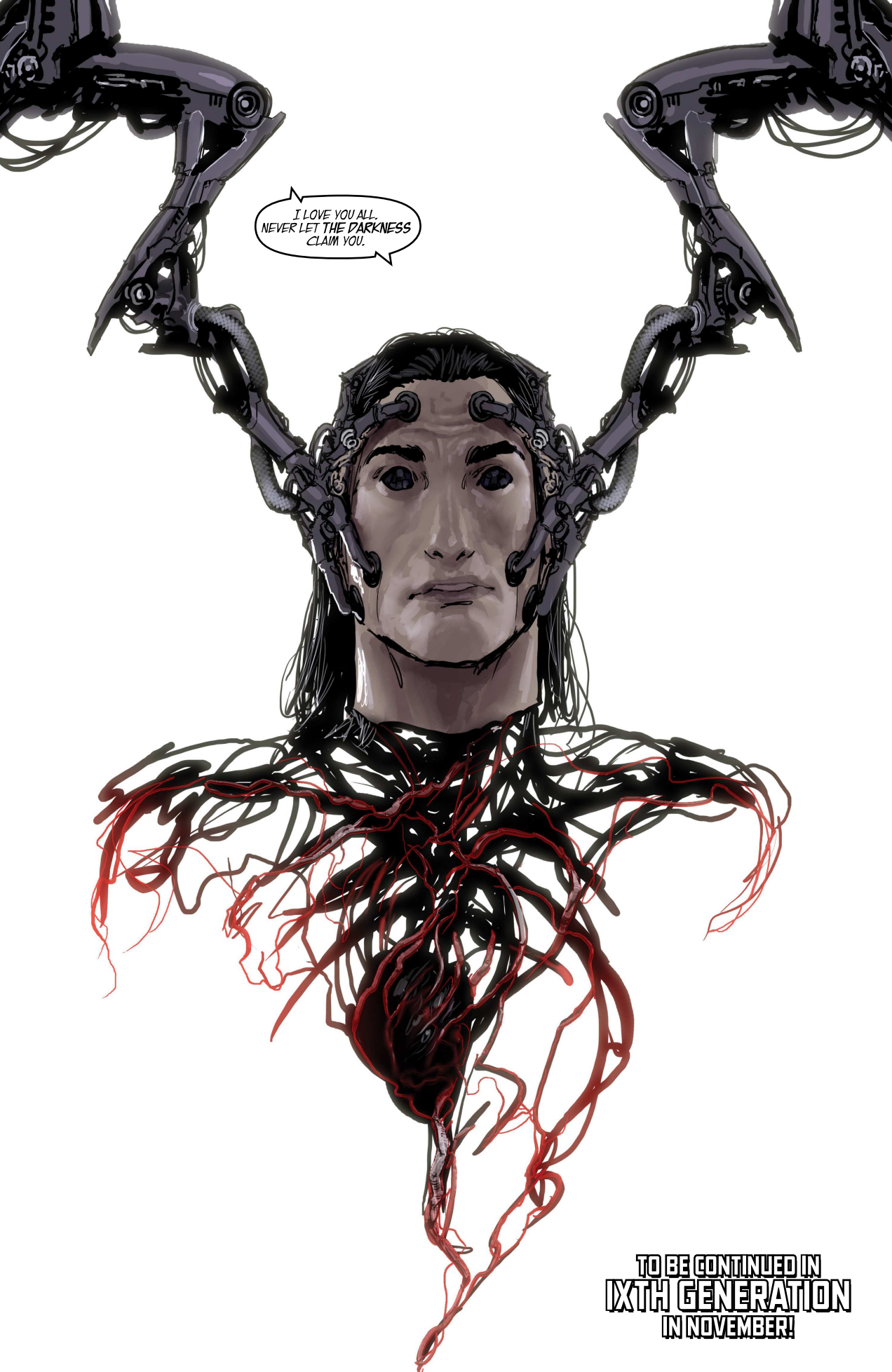
THE DARK MATTER THAT MAKES UP MOST OF THE UNIVERSE IS TIED TO A FORCE CALLED THE DARKNESS, WHICH REQUIRES A HUMAN HOST TO FULLY MANIFEST ITS POWER IN OUR DIMENSION.



WE FOUND A WAY TO SUBVERT THAT HOST.



YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY FIVE BILLION YEARS BEFORE OUR SUN DIES TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.



I LOVE YOU ALL,
NEVER LET THE DARKNESS
CLAIM YOU.

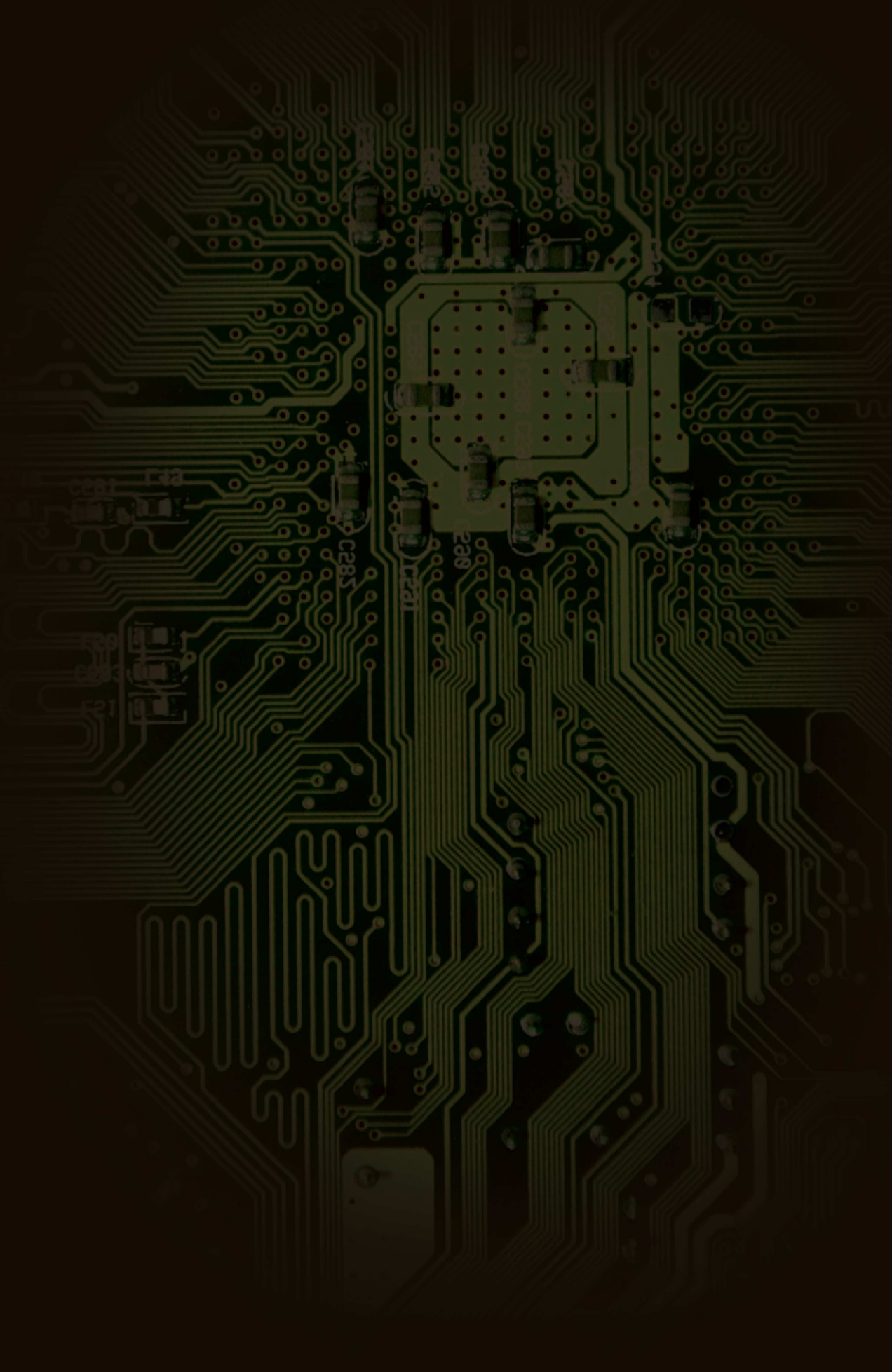
TO BE CONTINUED IN
IXTH GENERATION
IN NOVEMBER!

Coming in November
follow Aphrodite's story in

IXth GENERATION

#1!







Talent Hunt Writer Runner-Up Story

“WHERE’S SOL?”

JOEY CRUZ

Writer

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Artist

BILL FARMER

Colorist

TROY PETERI

Letterer

BETSY GONIA

Editor



IT IS IN THE NATURE OF CURRENCY TO CHANGE HANDS.

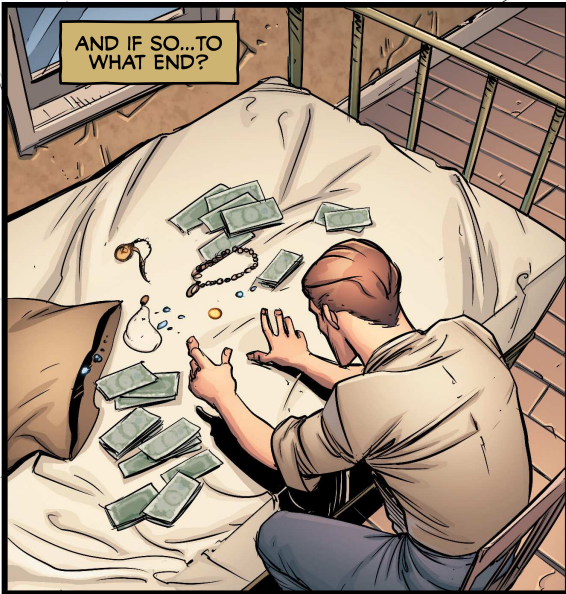
NOBODY MOVE, THIS IS A STICK UP!



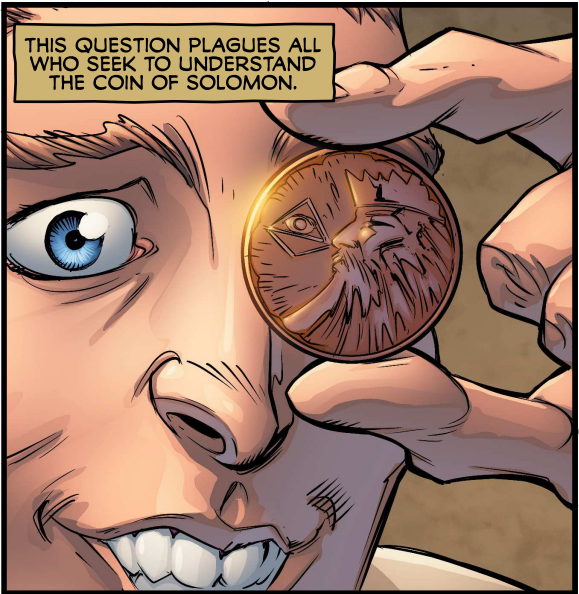
TO REMAIN IN CONSTANT TRANSIT IN SERVICE TO THE SPENDER.



BUT COULD A COIN ACTUALLY PURSUE ITS OWN PURPOSE?



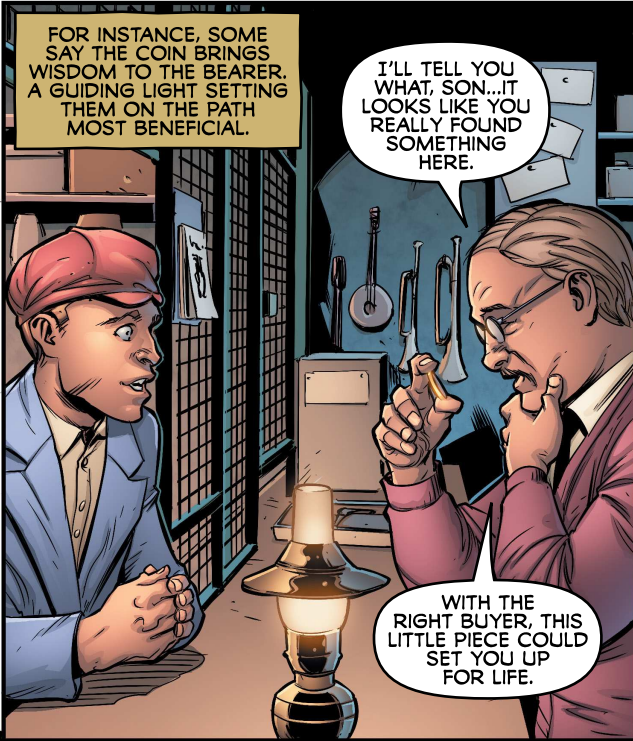
AND IF SO...TO WHAT END?



THIS QUESTION PLAGUES ALL WHO SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE COIN OF SOLOMON.



BUT TO UNDERSTAND THE COIN, ONE MUST FIRST EXAMINE THE EFFECTS IT HAS ON ITS SURROUNDINGS.



FOR INSTANCE, SOME SAY THE COIN BRINGS WISDOM TO THE BEARER. A GUIDING LIGHT SETTING THEM ON THE PATH MOST BENEFICIAL.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, SON...IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY FOUND SOMETHING HERE.

WITH THE RIGHT BUYER, THIS LITTLE PIECE COULD SET YOU UP FOR LIFE.



MAN-O-MAN, WAS I HOPING YOU WOULD SAY THAT.

THIS IS THE BREAK I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. NO MORE STICK-UP WORK, NO MORE SCRAPING BY.

I'M FINALLY GETTING OUT.



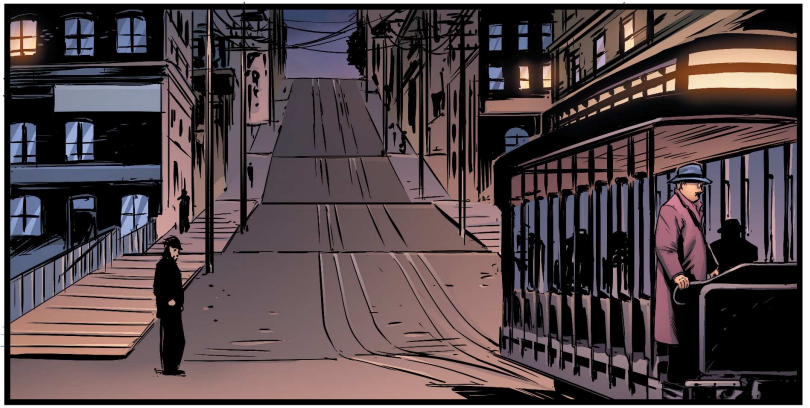
BLAM



SOME CALL IT THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL.

A JUSTIFIABLE
ASSESSMENT.

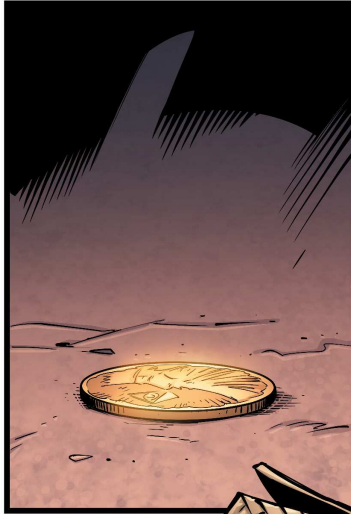
THE COIN *HAS*
INSPIRED ITS
FAIR SHARE
OF EVIL.



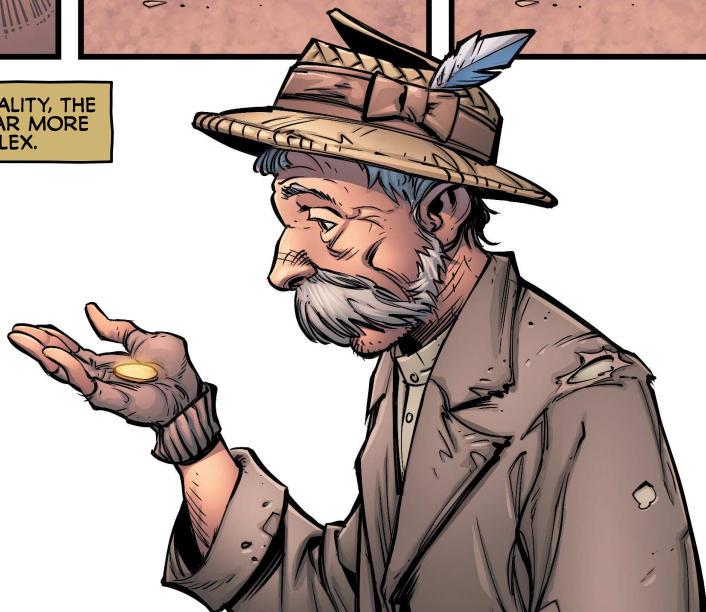
BUT, SOME WILL CALL
ANYTHING EVIL THAT THEY
DO NOT UNDERSTAND.



'SCUSE.



WHEN IN REALITY, THE
TRUTH IS FAR MORE
COMPLEX.





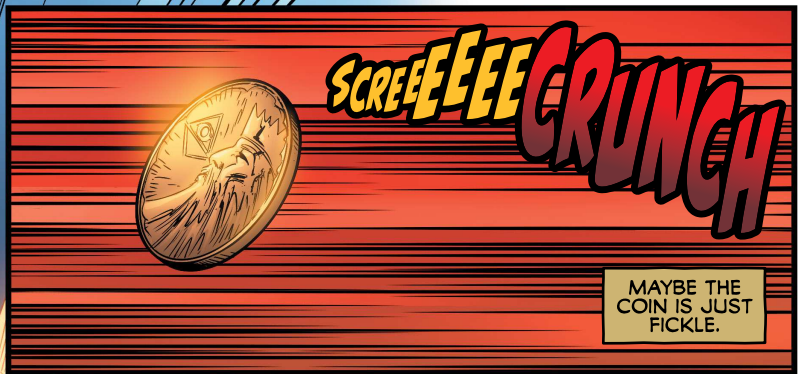


WE MAY NEVER KNOW THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS. PERHAPS THAT'S FOR THE BEST.



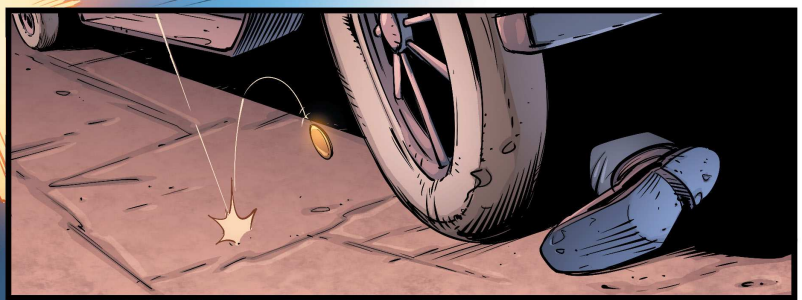
AFTER ALL, WHO KNOWS?

HOOONNNNK

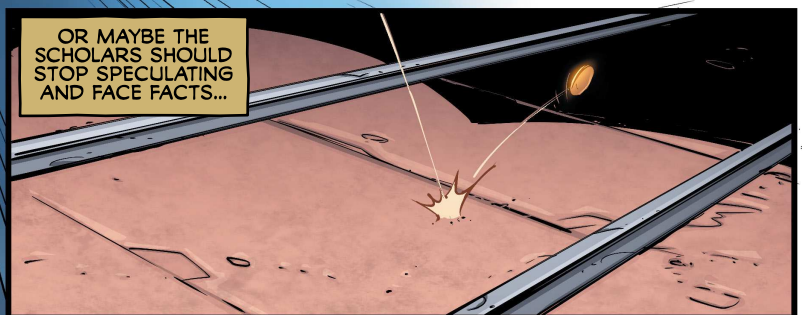


SCREEEEEE CRUNCH

MAYBE THE COIN IS JUST FICKLE.

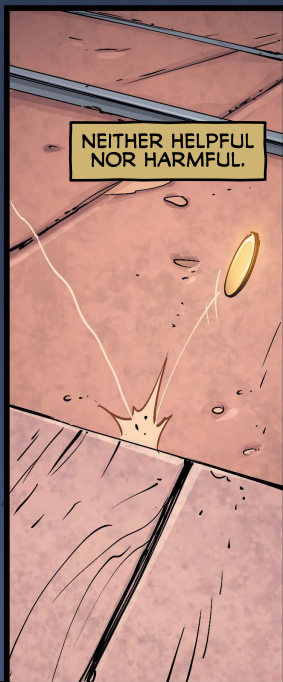


OR MAYBE THE SCHOLARS SHOULD STOP SPECULATING AND FACE FACTS...

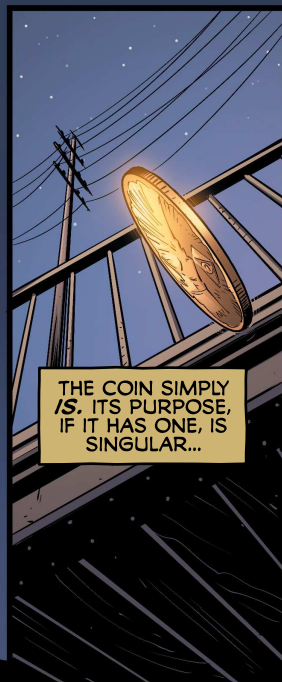




THE COIN IS
NEITHER GOOD
NOR EVIL.



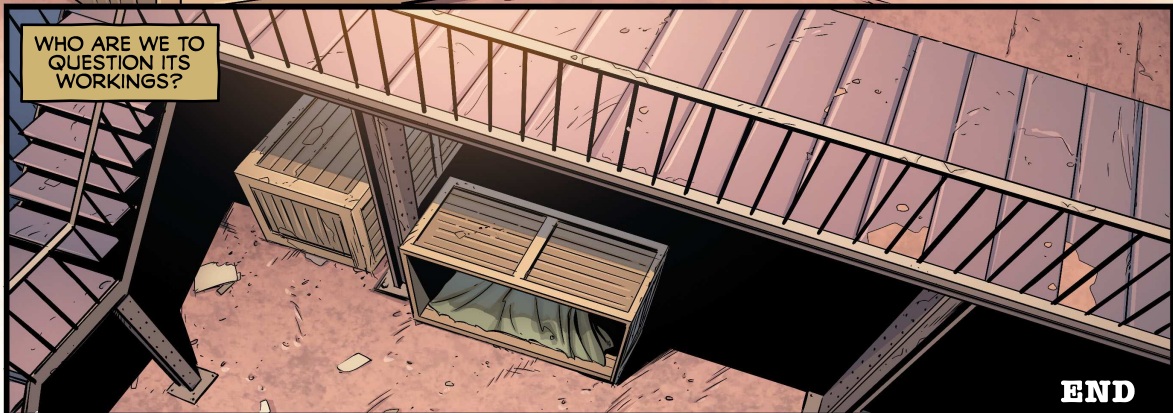
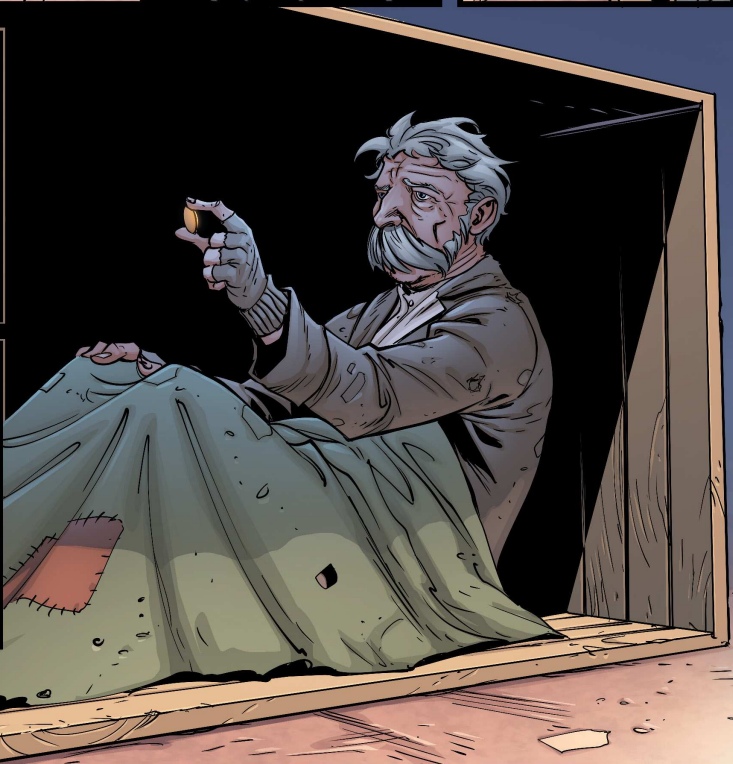
NEITHER HELPFUL
NOR HARMFUL.



THE COIN SIMPLY
IS, ITS PURPOSE,
IF IT HAS ONE, IS
SINGULAR...



...AND KNOWN
ONLY TO ITSELF.



WHO ARE WE TO
QUESTION ITS
WORKINGS?

END

APHRODITE IX & CYBER FORCE

-Cyberforce, vol. 1 #1 – October 1992

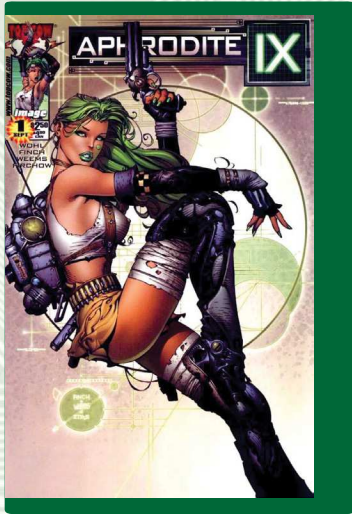


- Cyberforce, vol. 1 #2 – March 1993
- Cyberforce, vol. 1 #3 – May 1993
- Cyberforce, vol. 1 #4 – July 1993
- Cyberforce, vol. 1 #0 – September 1993
- Cyberforce Art Portfolio #0 – October 1993
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #1 (WildC.A.T.s Crossover) – November 1993
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #2 (WildC.A.T.s Crossover) – January 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #3 (WildC.A.T.s Crossover) – March 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #4 – April 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #5 – June 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #6 – July 1994
- Cyberforce Universe Sourcebook #1 – August 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #7 – September 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #8 – October 1994
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #9 – December 1994

PUBLICATION TIMELINE

- Cyblade/Shi #1 – January 1995
- Cyberforce Origins: Cyblade #1 – January 1995
- Cyberforce Origins: Stryker #2 – February 1995
- Cyberforce Universe Sourcebook #2 – February 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #10 – February 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #11 – March 1995
- Cyberforce Annual #1 – March 1995
- Ripclaw, vol. 1 #1 – April 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #12 – April 1995
- Ripclaw, vol. 1 #2 – May 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #13 – June 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #14 – July 1995
- Ripclaw, vol. 1 #3 – July 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #15 – August 1995
- Ballistic #1: September 1995
- Cyberforce/Strykeforce Opposing Forces #1 – September 1995
- Cyberforce/Strykeforce Opposing Forces #1 – October 1995
- Ballistic #1 - October 1995
- Ballistic #1 - November 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #16 – November 1995
- Cyberforce Origins: Impact #3 – November 1995
- Velocity #1 – November 1995
- Velocity #2 – December 1995
- Ripclaw, vol. 2 #1 – December 1995
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #17 – December 1995

- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #30 – February 1997
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #31 – March 1997
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #32 – April 1997
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #33 – May 1997
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #34 – July 1997
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #35 – September 1997

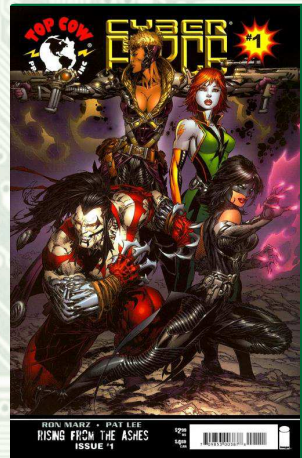


- Aphrodite IX, vol. 1 #1 – August 2000
- Aphrodite IX, vol. 1 #0 – March 2001
- Aphrodite IX, vol. 1 #2 – March 2001
- Aphrodite IX, vol. 1 #3 – December 2001
- Aphrodite IX, vol. 1 #4 – March 2002

-JLA/Cyberforce #1 – July 2005

- Cyberforce/X-Men #1 – January 2007
- Pilot Season: Ripclaw #1 – August 2007
- Pilot Season: Cyblade #1 – September 2007
- Pilot Season: Velocity #1 – October 2007

- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #18 – January 1996
- Ripclaw, vol. 2 #2 – January 1996
- Velocity #3 – January 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #19 – February 1996
- Ripclaw, vol. 2 #3 – February 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #20 – March 1996
- Ripclaw, vol. 2 #4 – March 1996
- Ripclaw, vol. 2 #5 – April 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #21 – May 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #22 – May 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #23 – June 1996
- Ripclaw, vol. 2 #6 – June 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #24 – June 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #25 – August 1996
- Cyberforce Annual #2 – August 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #26 – September 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #27 – October 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #28 – November 1996
- Cyberforce, vol. 2 #29 – December 1996



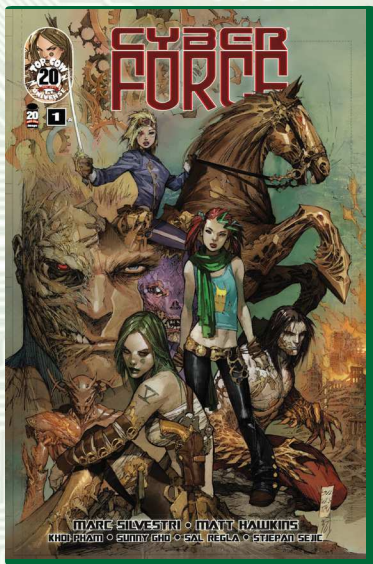
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #1 – June 2006
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #2 – April 2006
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #3 – May 2006
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #0 – June 2006
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #4 – July 2006
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #5 – October 2006
- Cyberforce, vol. 3 #6 – November 2006

- Cyblade #1 – October 2008
- Cyblade #2 – December 2008

- Cyberforce/ Hunter Killer #4 – January 2010
- Cyberforce/ Hunter Killer #5 – March 2010

- Velocity #1 – June 2010
- Velocity #2 – September 2010
- Velocity #3 – December 2010

- Velocity #4 – April 2011



- Cyberforce: Rebirth #1 – October 2012
- Cyberforce: Rebirth #2 – December 2012

- Cyberforce: Rebirth #3 – February 2013
- Cyberforce: Rebirth #4 – April 2013
- Cyberforce: Rebirth #5 – August 2013
- Cyberforce: Rebirth #6 – September 2013
- Cyberforce: Rebirth #7 – November 2013

- Cyberforce: Rebirth #8 – January 2014
- Cyberforce: Rebirth #9 – May 2014

- Cyblade #3 – January 2009
- Cyblade #4 – March 2009

- Cyberforce Hunter Killer First Look (2009 FCBD) #0 – May 2009

- Cyberforce/ Hunter Killer #1 – July 2009
- Cyberforce/ Hunter Killer #2 – September 2009
- Cyberforce/ Hunter Killer #3 – November 2009



- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #1 – May 2013
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #2 – June 2013
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #3 – July 2013
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #4 – August 2013
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #5 – September 2013
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #6 – November 2013

- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #7 – January 2014
- Aphrodite IX: Hidden Files #1 – January 2014
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #8 – February 2014
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #9 – March 2014
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #10 – May 2014
- Aphrodite IX: Rebirth #11 – June 2014

SCIENCE CLASS

Hey all welcome to the first *Aphrodite IX/Cyber Force* cross-over, and maybe the last, who knows, hah! First off, let me tell you that this has been one hell of a ride over the last two years with Stjepan Sejic, Marc Silvestri, Betsy Gonia, and I planning and creating this whole futuristic world of the Top Cow Universe. People have repeatedly asked us where are the artifacts? Well here they are. If you have NOT read the story yet, please stop reading this and return after doing so as there are spoilers to follow.

JUMPING ON POINT?

The trouble with cross-overs like this is that they are both the icing on the cake for existing readers of the *Aphrodite IX* and *Cyber Force* series, and also potentially someone's first time reading any of it. You want to balance not making it too difficult to read for someone's first go, but with enough detail and payoff for the existing readers to make it worth their while (and not too much repetitive catch up). In rereading the finished product, I think this book falls more on the existing reader side. If you bought this book and it's the first of either *Aphrodite IX* or *Cyber Force* that you've read, hit me up on Twitter or Facebook (handles at the end of the Science Class), and I will send you a link where you can read some free digital copies of both series that we have posted already.



CONTINUITY

Continuity is an interesting thing. I think it was Marv Wolfman who said decades ago that the problem with continuity is you shackle your best writer to the ideas of your worst. One of the reasons I wanted to do this futuristic tale was to avoid tying into too much of the present day Artifacts continuity, and let me have somewhat of a free hand. I don't think any of those stories are bad, but there are SO MANY of them. And we have far less continuity than Marvel or DC. I don't know how those writers do it. Props to them, I have newfound respect!

In the original *Aphrodite IX* story by Davids Wohl and Finch, Aphrodite was supposed to kill the Chairwoman and in the end chose not to. I always liked that part of the story and thought it made Aphrodite more human. We abandoned the idea that she was a full android in this rendition, but paid homage to that with the Aphrodite XV's. With the Rebirth Universe we were also able to retcon things without actually "ignoring" it.



We also had a self-generated problem - we made this storyline very complex (maybe too much). That's both good and bad. When I have to review charts and timelines to make sure I didn't F-up, I wonder if readers will even get the nuance.

DARK MATTER

What is dark matter? The question we've been seemingly answering over the past two decades is "what isn't it?" Scientists have theorized that 68% of the universe is dark energy, 27% dark matter, and 5% normal matter. Yes, you read that correct; 95% of the universe they're theorizing is not what we perceive and see every day.

This definition of dark matter from NASA:

"We are much more certain what dark matter is not than we are what it is. First, it is dark, meaning that it is not in the form of stars and planets that we see. Observations show that there is far too little visible matter in the Universe to make up the 27% required by the observations. Second, it is not in the form of dark clouds of normal matter, matter made up of particles called baryons. We know this because we would be able to detect baryonic clouds by their absorption of radiation passing through them. Third, dark matter is not antimatter, because we do not see the unique gamma rays that are produced when antimatter annihilates with matter. Finally, we can rule out large galaxy-sized black holes on the basis of how many gravitational lenses we see. High concentrations of matter bend light passing near them from objects further away, but we do not see enough lensing events to suggest that such objects to make up the required 25% dark matter contribution."

<http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2012/10/image/a/>



ABOUT THIS IMAGE

This composite image shows the distribution of dark matter, galaxies, and hot gas in the core of the merging galaxy cluster Abell 520, formed from a violent collision of massive galaxy clusters.

Superimposed on the image are "false-colored" maps showing the concentration of starlight, hot gas, and dark matter in the cluster. Starlight from galaxies, derived from observations by the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, is colored orange. The green-tinted regions show hot gas, as detected by NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory. The gas is evidence that a collision took place. The blue-colored areas pinpoint the location of most of the mass in the cluster, which is dominated by dark matter. Dark matter is an invisible substance that makes up most of the universe's mass. The dark matter map was derived from the observations of the Hubble Wide Field Planetary Camera 2 which detects how light from distant objects is distorted by the cluster of galaxies, an effect called gravitational lensing.

The blend of blue and green in the center of the image reveals that a clump of dark matter resides near most of the hot gas, where very few galaxies are found. This finding confirms previous observations of a dark-matter core in the cluster. The result could present a challenge to basic theories of dark matter, which predict that galaxies should be anchored to dark matter, even during the shock of a collision.

Abell 520 resides 2.4 billion light-years away.

<http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/focus-areas/what-is-dark-energy/>

<http://www.technobuffalo.com/2014/06/22/nasa-wants-to-study-the-universes-dark-energy-using-an-infrared-probe/>

<http://discovermagazine.com/2013/may/12-what-does-dark-energy-mean-for-the-fate-of-the-universe>

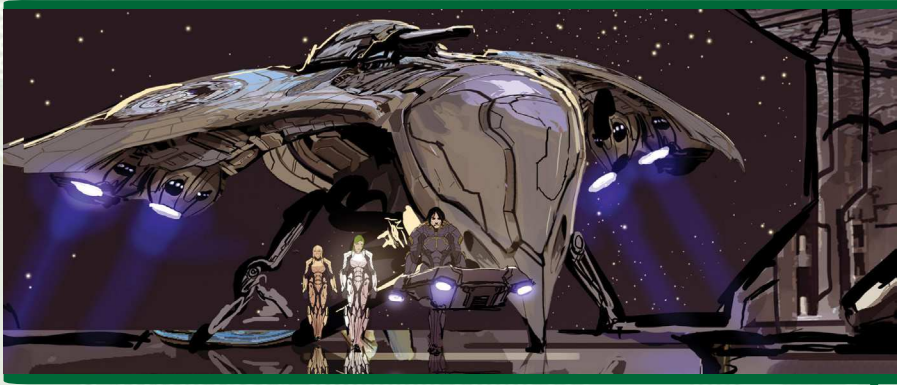
There's a great FAQ at Discovery. I'll post the link here; here is the first one:

“What is dark energy?

It's what makes the universe accelerate, if indeed there is a “thing” that does that. (See below.)”

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/cosmicvariance/2011/10/04/dark-energy-faq/#.U6mKNI1dWrw>





QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT

The other big concept I've used in this story is quantum entanglement. The Wikipedia entry for this is surprisingly good and is layman friendly. Let's start there:

"Quantum entanglement is a physical phenomenon that occurs when pairs or groups of particles are generated or interact in ways such that the quantum state of each particle cannot be described independently – instead, a quantum state may be given for the system as a whole."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_entanglement

Ultimately, I'm using quantum entanglement as a means of transferring energies. This is fundamental to the story.

<http://phys.org/news/2014-06-effect-gravity-quantum-entanglement-space.html>

Quantum mechanics started this whole thing off and has branched into so many other things, including alternate dimensions and so much more. The easiest way to think about it is that it seems things on a subatomic level may be able to be in more than one place at the same time. Wrap that around your noodle for a bit. I don't want to get too heavy into the science of it, but a great video you can watch for free is here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STF0moww_zQ



WITCHBLADE ANIME

One interesting side effect of what we've done with this future is that the *Witchblade* anime story fits in seamlessly. If the Chairwoman can use science to subvert the Darkness, it makes sense that other governments would try the same. That's just what happens in the anime - the Japanese attempted to clone the power of the Witchblade. If you haven't watched the anime, it's awesome. The first episode is free on iTunes and the whole thing is on Netflix as well. So this story was canon! At some point in the late 21st century, the Witchblade went to Japan.



LONGEVITY

This is a big part of this story. How can we beat death? How can we regenerate cells and slow or prevent/reverse mitochondrial decay? That's the big question. I found this list of possible ways to beat death, which is interesting:

<http://arthurwindermere.hubpages.com/hub/SoAboutThisImmortality>

This Ted Talk speaks about death being the biggest problem mankind faces:

http://www.ted.com/talks/nick_bostrom_on_our_biggest_problems

How would living longer affect our minds? I've theorized that people who are long-lived have less empathy. It's an interesting thing to think about, and has been covered endlessly in vampire fiction. I want to talk about this more, but it's so central to the *IXth Generation* story we're doing, I'm going to hold off.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-2Xw-GNkUQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbh5I0b2-0o>

That's it for now folks, thanks for reading! Feel free to hit me up on any of my social media feeds - I do try and respond. See you in *IXth Generation*!

Carpe Diem!

Matt Hawkins

Please pester me on any of my feeds..... or Stjepan on his!

@topcowmatt

@stjepansejic

<https://www.facebook.com/Selfloathingnarcissist>

<http://nebezial.deviantart.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Aphrodite-IX/452004668191047>

<https://plus.google.com/+topcow>

CAN A CARPET REPAIR BOY
AND A FROG

BE HEROES OF THE
UNIVERSE?

ONGOING

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