

# POSEIDON IX #1

TINI HOWARD • PHILLIP SEVY • JEREMY COLWELL



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# POSEIDON 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.

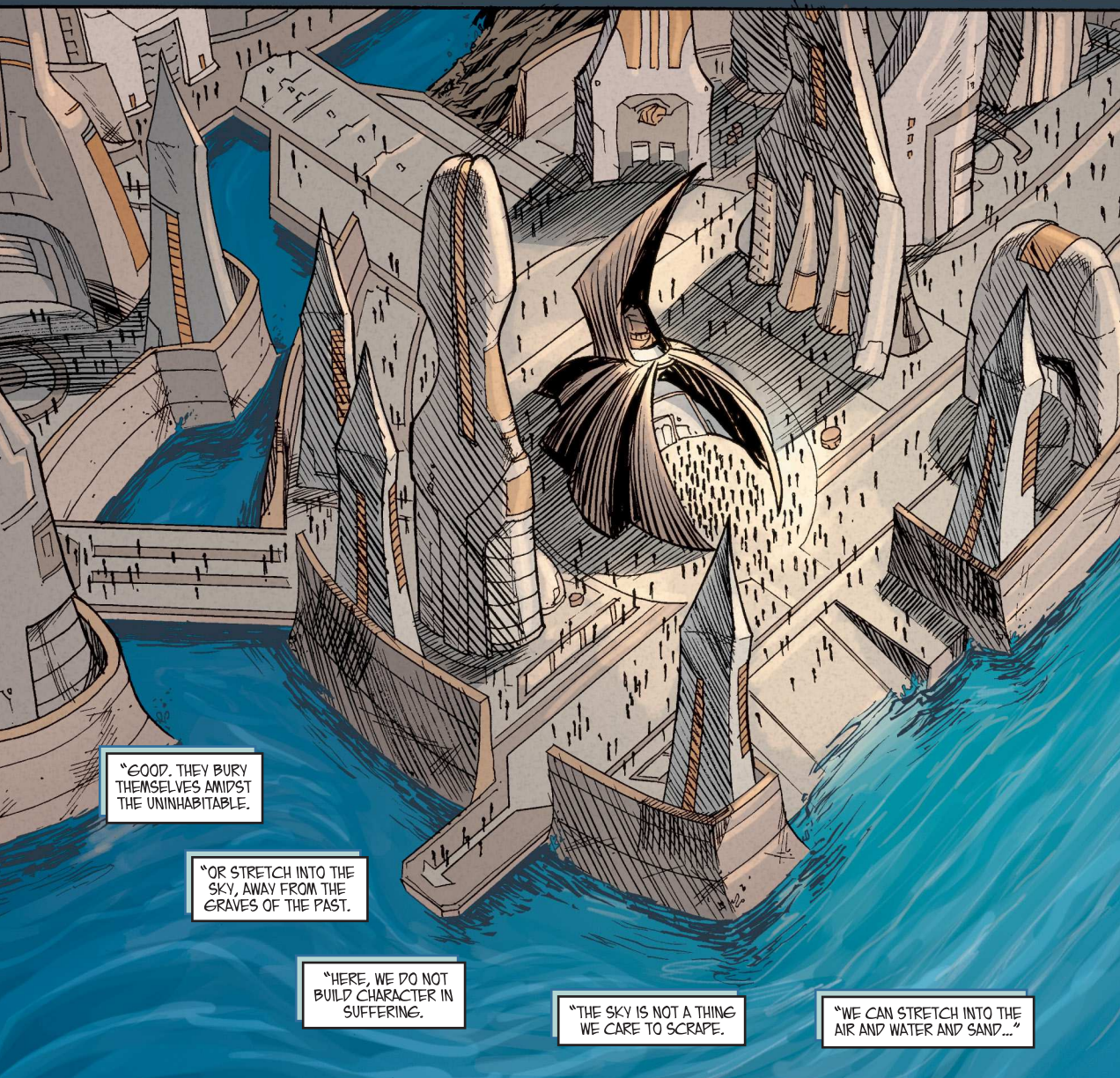
The architect of the Protocol created nine heirs to rule over this new world. They were placed in hibernation for seven-hundred years to be activated in what became known as the ASCENSION; the year 2802, when the self-proclaimed Gods of the IXth Generation took control.

"WHAT ARE THE OTHER CITY-STATES LIKE?"



"ARE YOU LEAVING?"

"NEVER."



"GOOD. THEY BURY THEMSELVES AMIDST THE UNINHABITABLE."

"OR STRETCH INTO THE SKY, AWAY FROM THE GRAVES OF THE PAST."

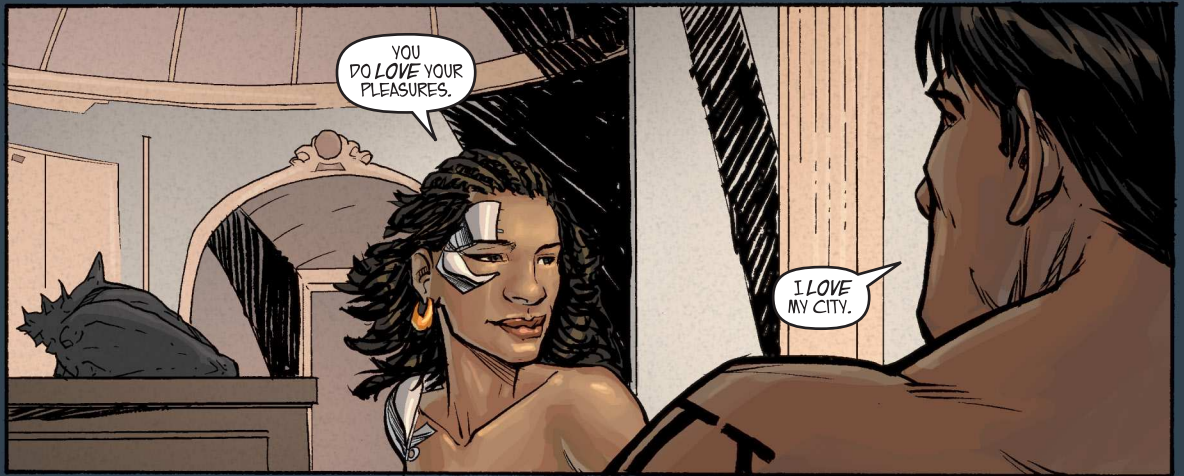
"HERE, WE DO NOT BUILD CHARACTER IN SUFFERING."

"THE SKY IS NOT A THING WE CARE TO SCRAPE."

"WE CAN STRETCH INTO THE AIR AND WATER AND SAND..."

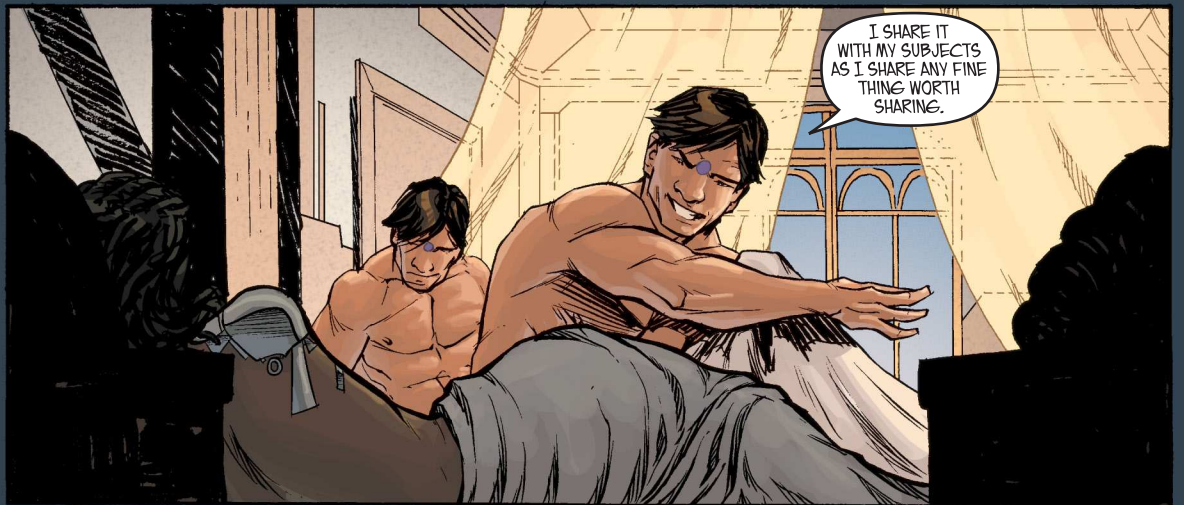


AND TAKE PLEASURE IN WHAT IT PROVIDES.

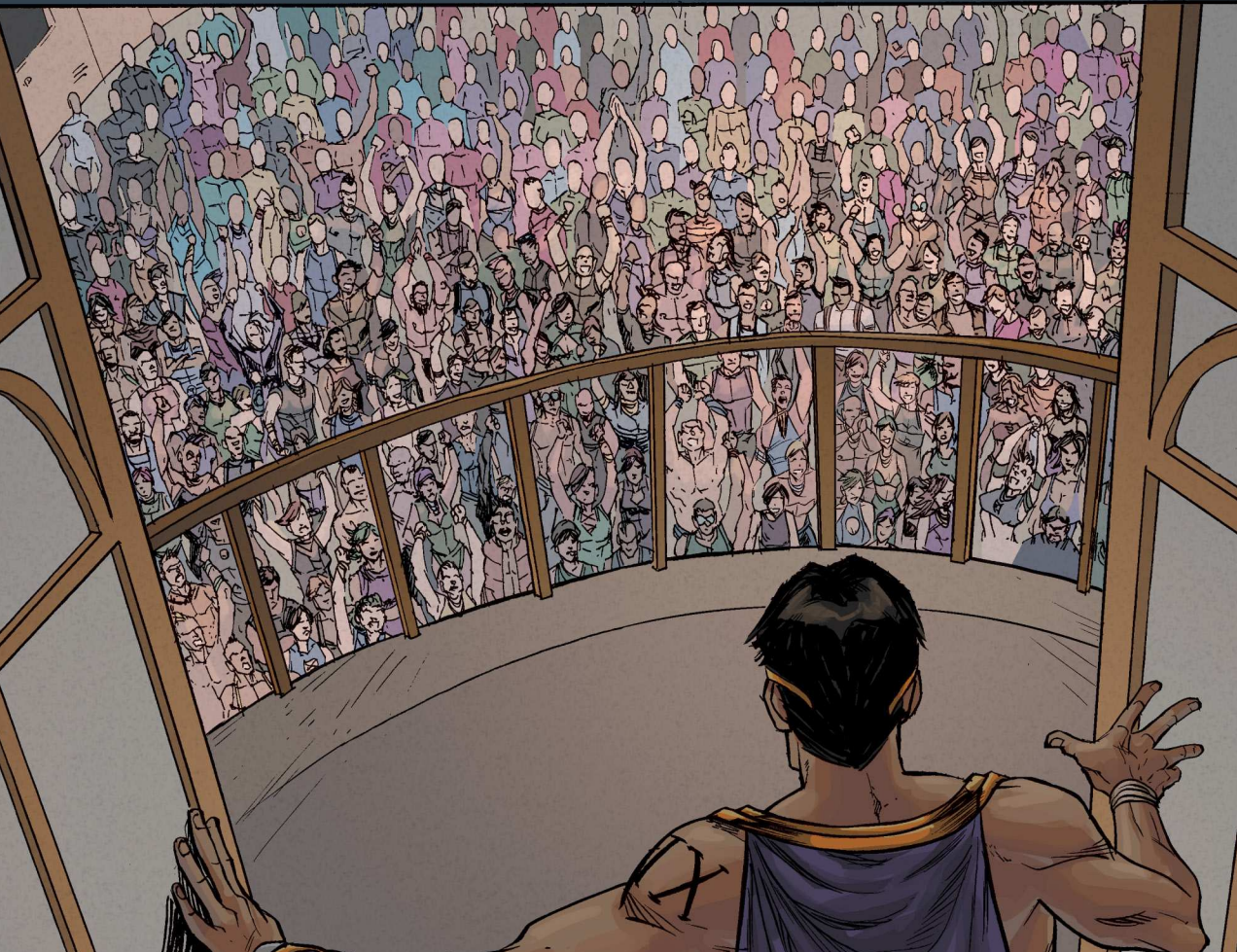


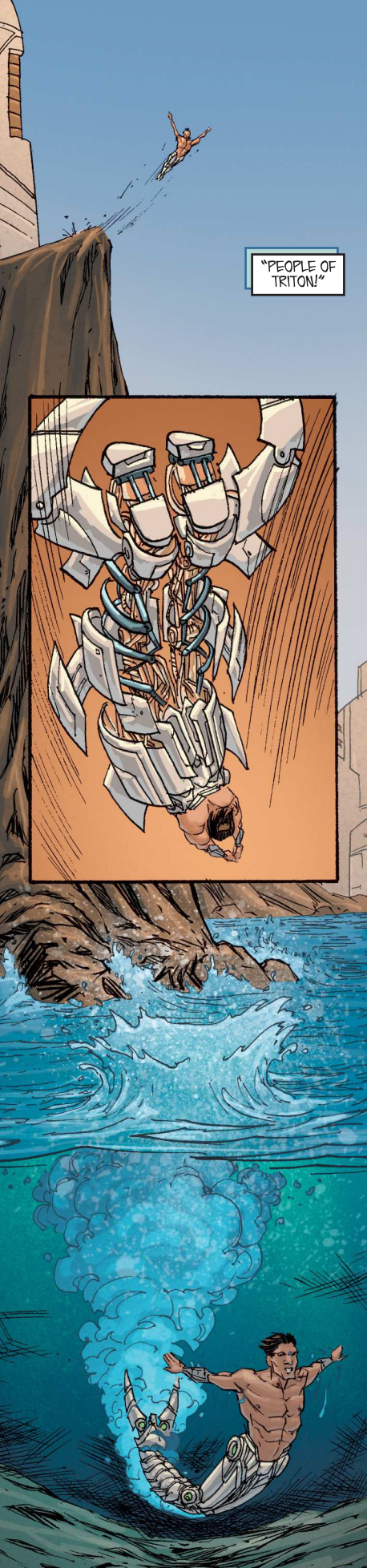
YOU DO LOVE YOUR PLEASURES.

I LOVE MY CITY.



I SHARE IT WITH MY SUBJECTS AS I SHARE ANY FINE THING WORTH SHARING.



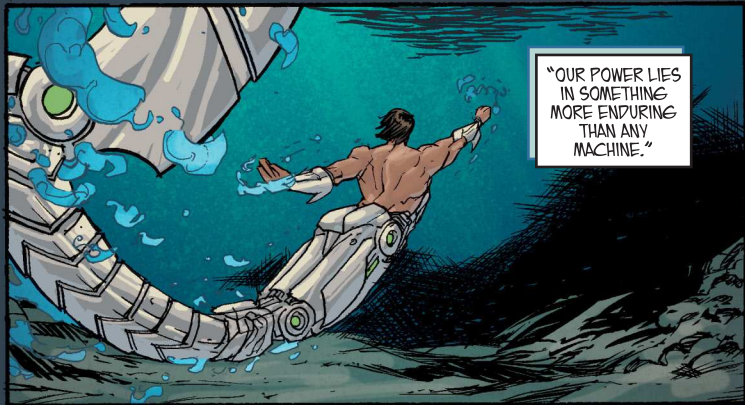


"PEOPLE OF TRITON!"

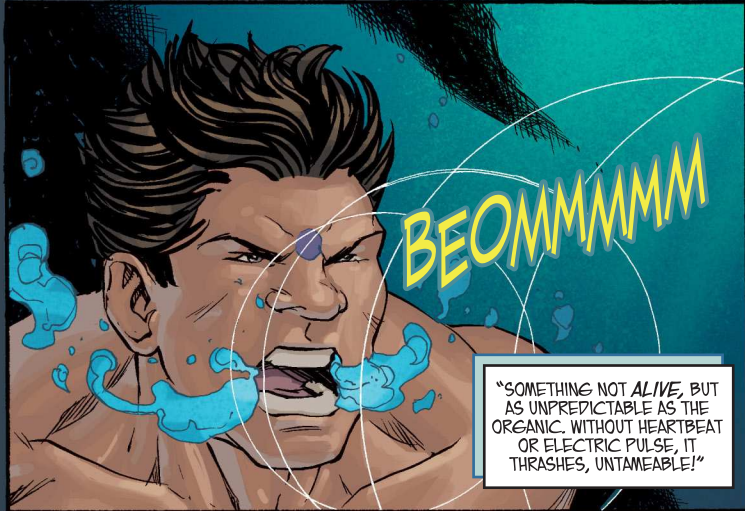


YOU WAKE TO THE DAY, AND YET LIVE WITHIN A DREAM!

THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET HAVE WARRIED OVER POWER -- THE GENERATIVE BLOOM OF THE LIVING OR THE CAREFUL PRECISION OF THE MECHANIZED?

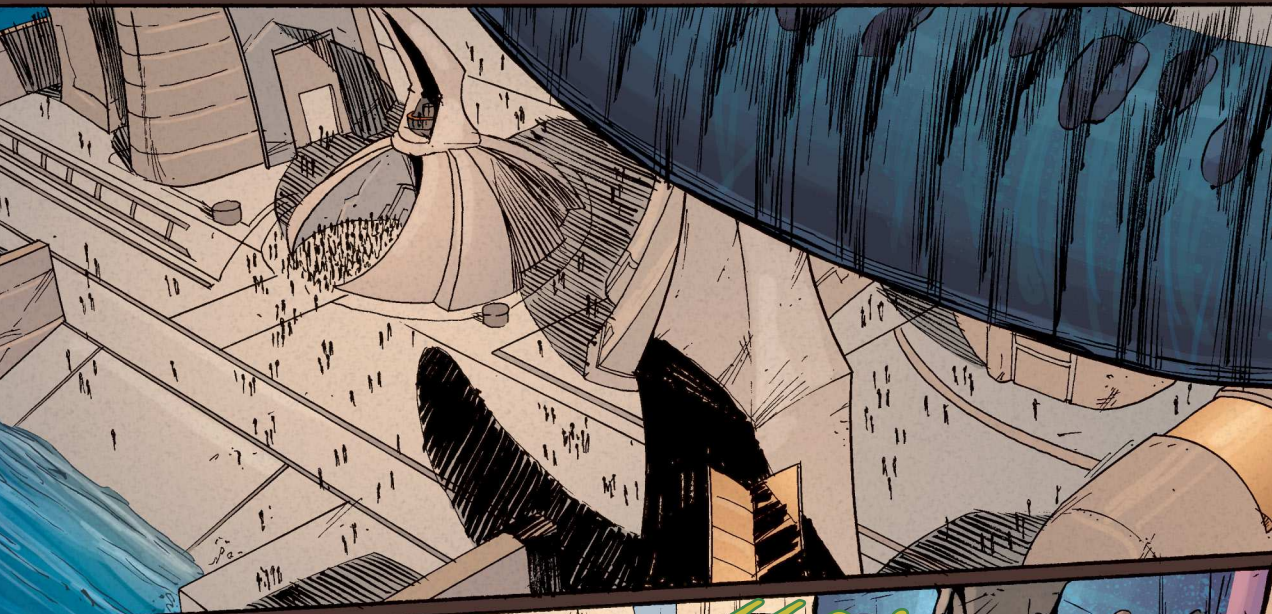


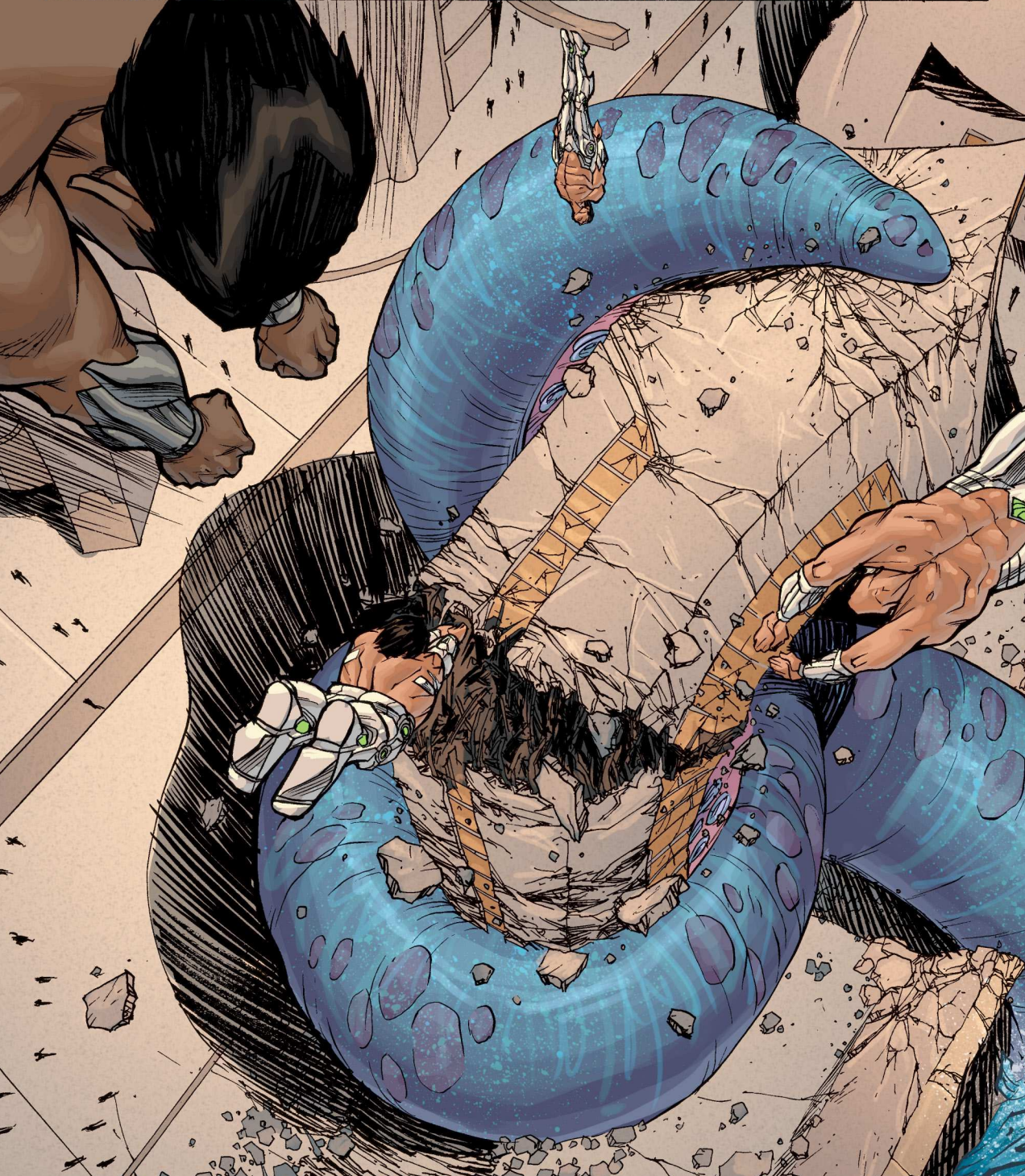
"OUR POWER LIES IN SOMETHING MORE ENDURING THAN ANY MACHINE."



BEOMMMMM

"SOMETHING NOT ALIVE, BUT AS UNPREDICTABLE AS THE ORGANIC. WITHOUT HEARTBEAT OR ELECTRIC PULSE, IT THRASHES, UNTAMEABLE!"







MY LIEGE, WE'VE MANAGED TO DAMAGE IT.

THEN KEEP AT IT. WHATEVER IT IS, I WANT IT DEAD.

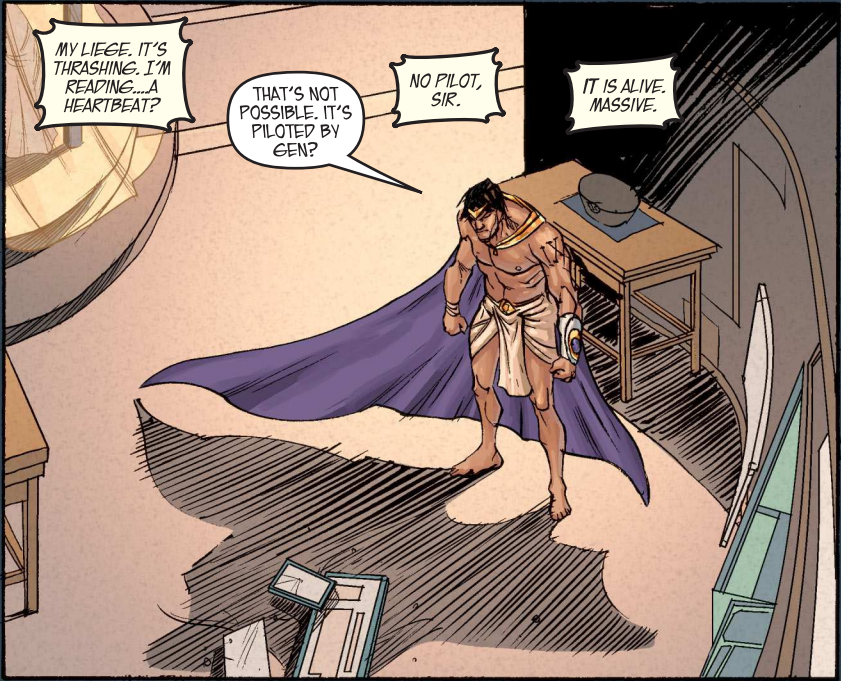
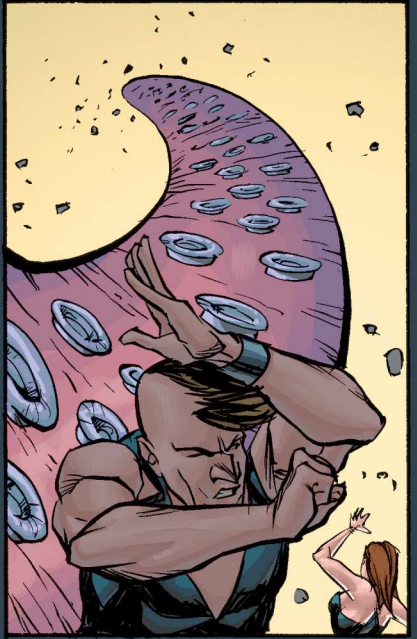
A SLIGHT PROBLEM, MY LIEGE.



FIRSTLY, IT--I--  
KZZZZHHH?



DAMN IT! STAY IN ONE PIECE! I NEED UPDATES -- WHO SENT IT, WHAT MAKE IS IT?



MY LIEGE, IT'S THRASHING. I'M READING...A HEARTBEAT?

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. IT'S PILOTED BY GEN?

NO PILOT, SIR.

IT IS ALIVE. MASSIVE.

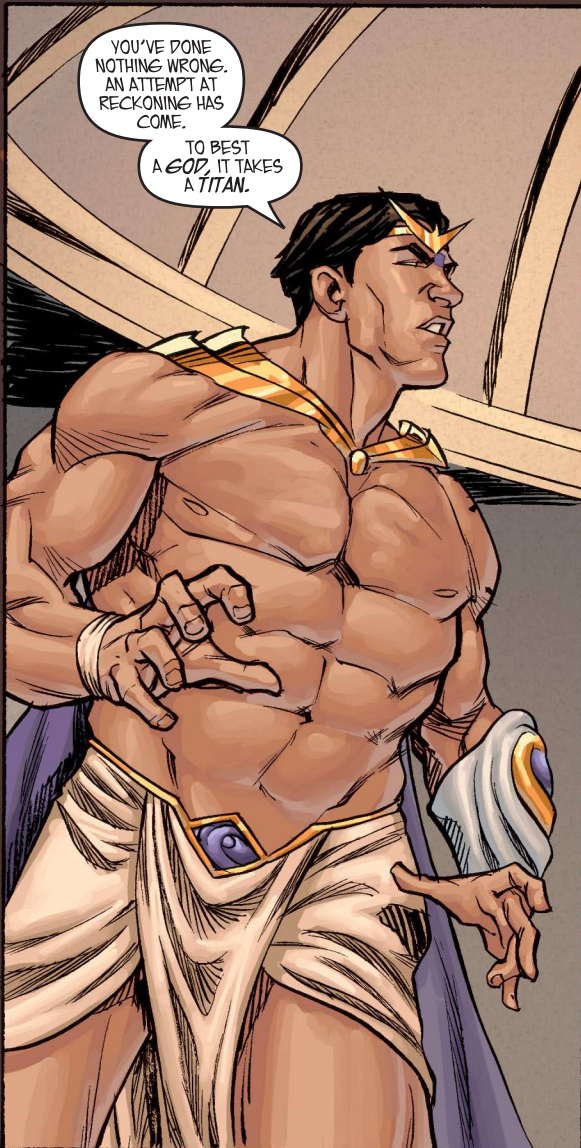


...MASSIVE, YOU SAY?



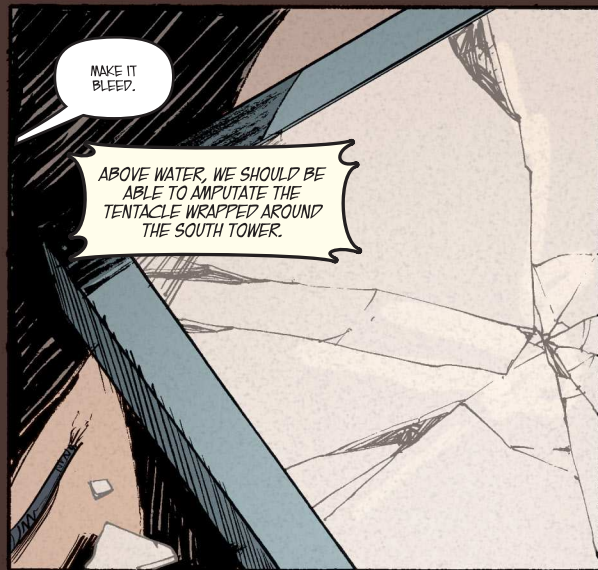
LISTEN,  
MY XVS. THIS  
IS BIGGER  
THAN YOU  
OR I.

SIR?



YOU'VE DONE  
NOTHING WRONG.  
AN ATTEMPT AT  
RECKONING HAS  
COME.

TO BEST  
A GOD, IT TAKES  
A TITAN.

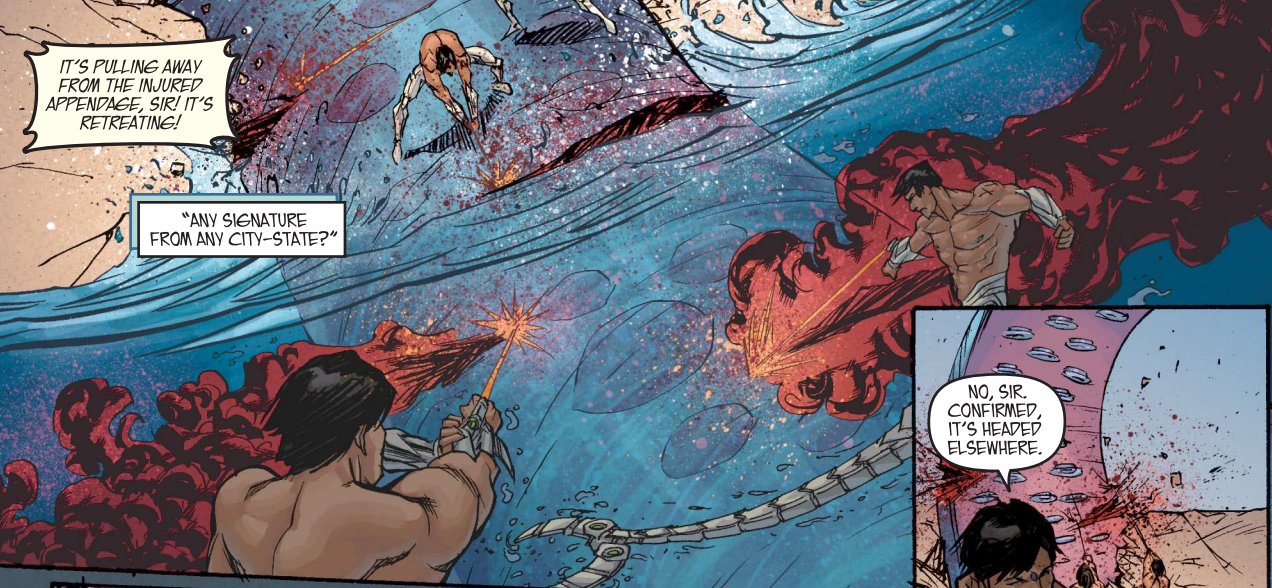


MAKE IT  
BLEED.

ABOVE WATER, WE SHOULD BE  
ABLE TO AMPUTATE THE  
TENTACLE WRAPPED AROUND  
THE SOUTH TOWER.




DESTROY  
IT! DENY IT  
LIFE!



IT'S PULLING AWAY FROM THE INJURED APPENDAGE, SIR! IT'S RETREATING!

"ANY SIGNATURE FROM ANY CITY-STATE?"



NO, SIR. CONFIRMED, IT'S HEADED ELSEWHERE.

"EXCELLENT. SO SHALL I PREPARE MY CRAFT..."



"...THERE'S RESEARCH TO BE DONE."




NEW APOLLONIA, THE LABORATORY OF APOLLO IX.



YOU'RE LUCKY YOU WERE RIGHT.

NOT LUCKY. JUST RIGHT.



WOULD SOMETHING THAT BLEEPS AND IT TENDS TO LIMP AWAY.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR XV GOT RIGHT UP TO IT BEFORE IT WOKE UP. PERHAPS HIS SONAR IS WHAT STIRRED IT?



SEEMS SO.

AND AN ANDROID IS PROBABLY THE LAST THING SHE WANTED TO SEE.



EXCUSE YOU, I AM GORGEOUS.

BROTHER, SHE'S A LIVING, PRESUMABLY CARNIVOROUS THING, AND THERE'S NOTHING ALIVE FOR HER TO EAT.



OR IT IS A TITAN, A RECKONING FROM THE PLANET ITSELF SENT TO UNDO MY MAJESTY.

SHE'S AN ANIMAL, POSEIDON.



NOT AN INVADING ARMY WITH A GENERAL TO OUTWIT.

IT WANTS TO EAT, BREED, AND FEEL SAFE.



YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN TITANS?

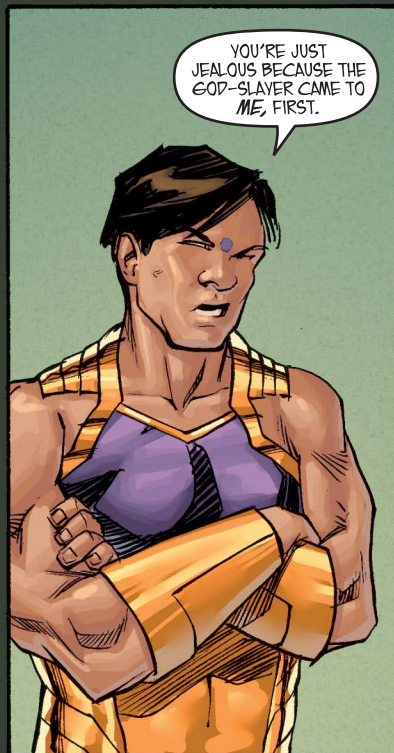
NO.

IN VENGEANCE?

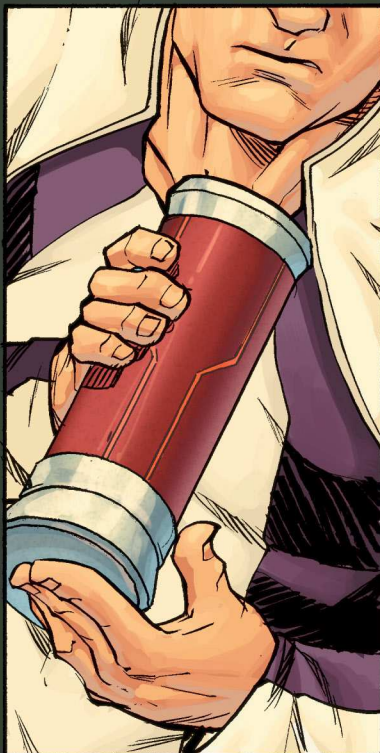
NOT LIKE THAT.



THEY'RE A FANTASY FROM A PEOPLE THrice-REMOVED FROM THE LAST KINGDOM MANKIND EVER HAD. SO NO, I DON'T TAKE ANY SOUND ADVICE FROM THEM.



YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE THE GOD-SLAYER CAME TO ME, FIRST.



SO IT'S HUNGRY, OR SHE?



IF ONE MEMBER OF A SPECIES LIVES THIS LONG, IT'S LIKELY FEMALE, EVOLUTIONARY REASONS.

DISGUSTING.



THIS BIOLOGY TALK IS REALLY QUITE FOUL.

THEN YOU WON'T LIKE MY NEXT IDEA...

FWOOSH



AND WHAT IS THAT?

MEAT. ORGANIC FLESH. I'VE BEEN GROWING IT FOR SOME TIME.



WHY?

SCIENTISTS LIKE TO SEE IF WE CAN, AND ASK WHY LATER.



IT'S HUNGRY. APPEASE IT.

GIVE IT A TREAT AND SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE IT BEHAVE.



BUT IF YOU TAKE MY EXPERIMENT TO USE AS BAIT, I'M GOING TO WANT A NEW ONE.





FROM THERE, WE WILL PROCEED TO THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF THE TITAN.

MUST YOU CALL IT THAT?

I'LL LURE IT TO THE EMPTY SANCTUARY. YOU ALL WILL TRAP IT WITHIN.



AFTER IT EATS, I SHOULD WAKE IN A PROPER BODY BACK AT TRITON. AND IT SHOULD GO DORMANT TO DIGEST.

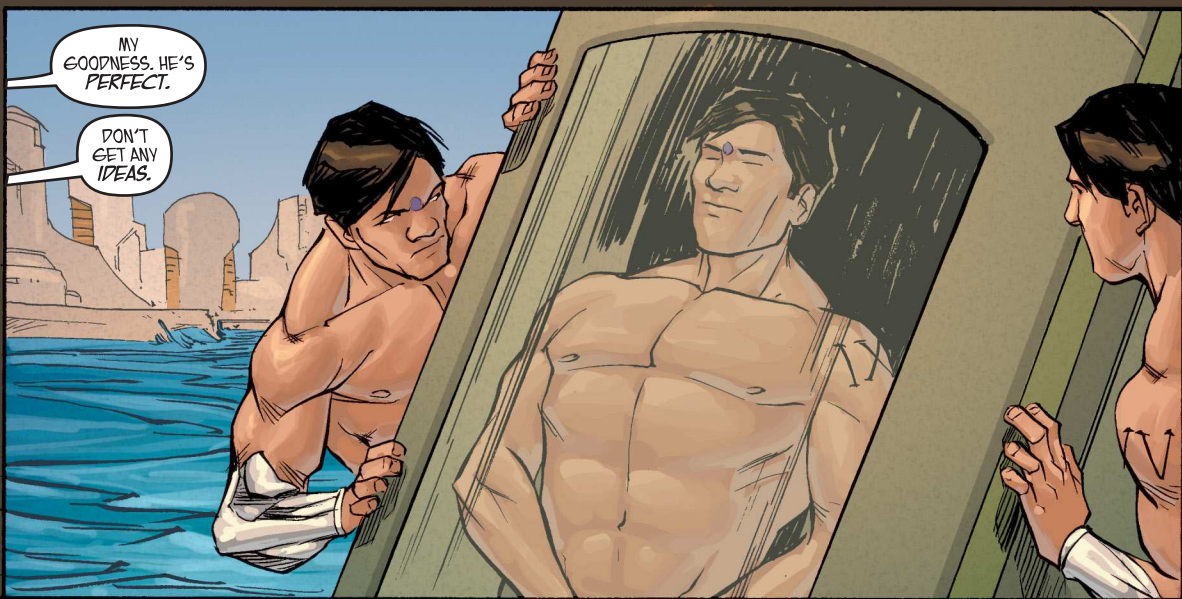


WERE YOU ABLE TO MAKE THE COSMETIC CHANGES?

I WAS. IT LOOKS...AS YOU REQUESTED, NOW.

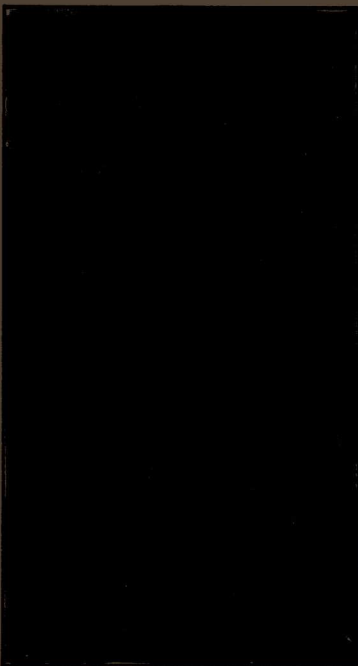
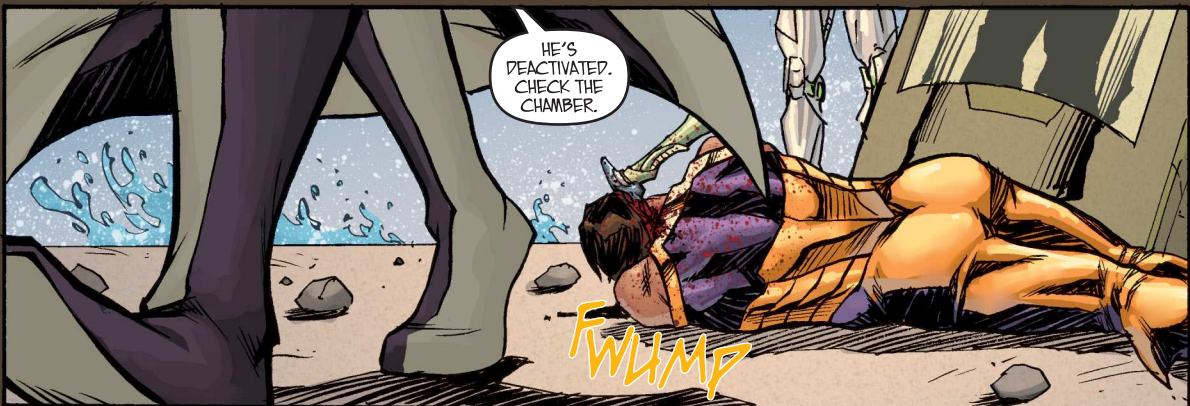


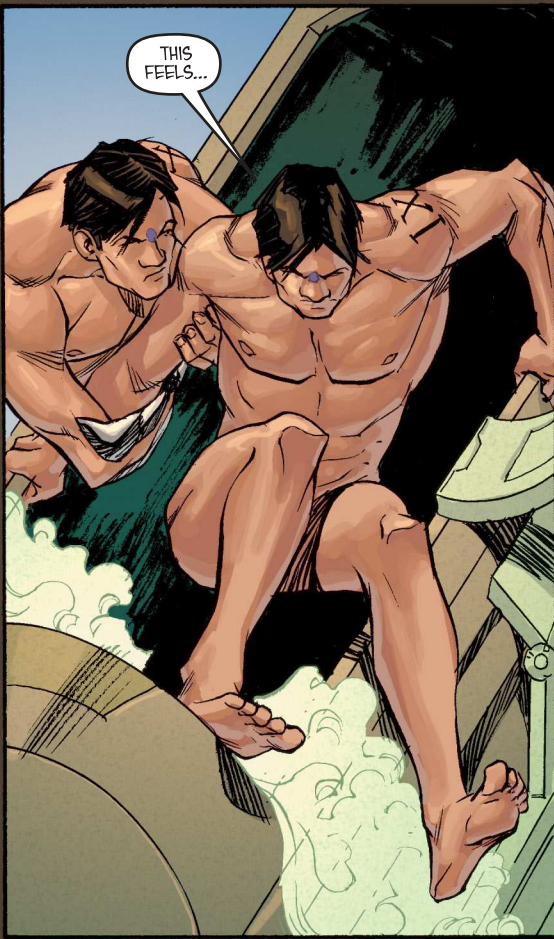
GENTLEMEN? MY CHAMBER, PLEASE.



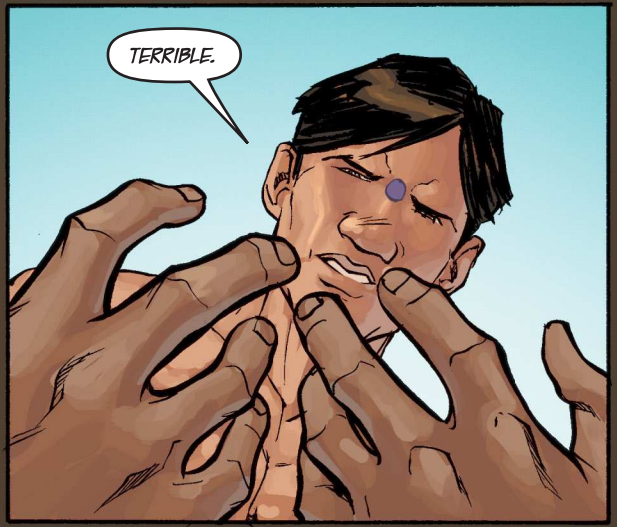
MY GOODNESS. HE'S PERFECT.

DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.





THIS FEELS...



TERRIBLE.

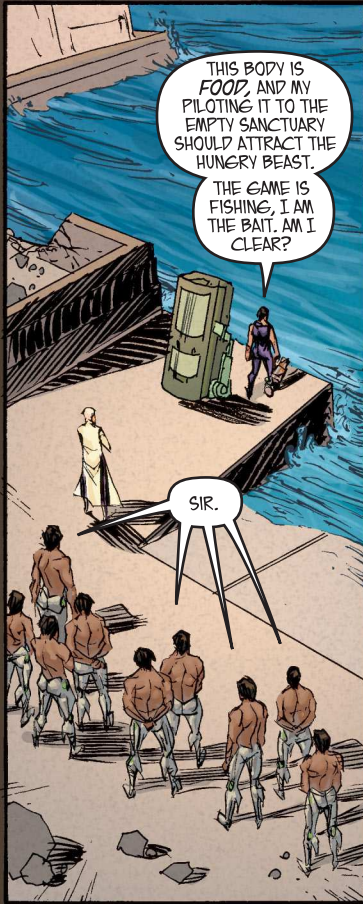


I COULD HAVE DONE IT GENTLY. YOU PROVOKED ME.

...GET MY SUIT.



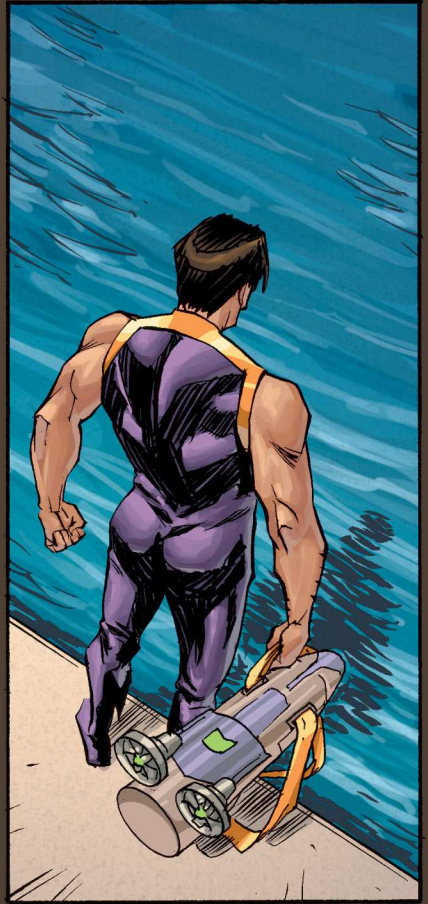
I WANT A TIGHT FORMATION. IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE DOWN THERE, I CAN'T FIGHT IT.

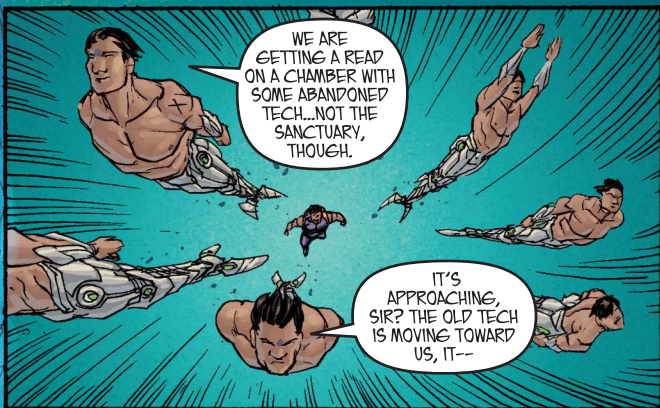
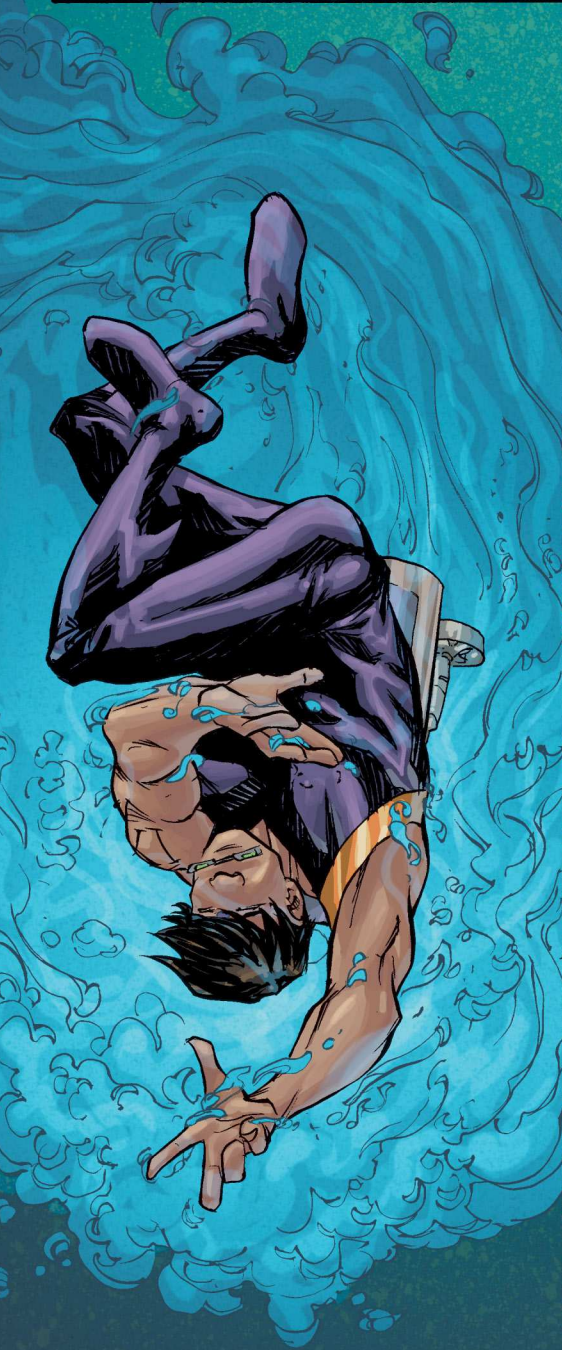


THIS BODY IS *FOOD*. AND MY PILOTING IT TO THE EMPTY SANCTUARY SHOULD ATTRACT THE HUNGRY BEAST.

THE SAME IS FISHING. I AM THE BAIT. AM I CLEAR?

SIR.







YES!



COME AND GET ME, YOU LIVING RELIC!




IT-- IT--



IS IT GONE?

BIO-READOUTS INDICATE IT RIGHT BENEATH US, SIR.

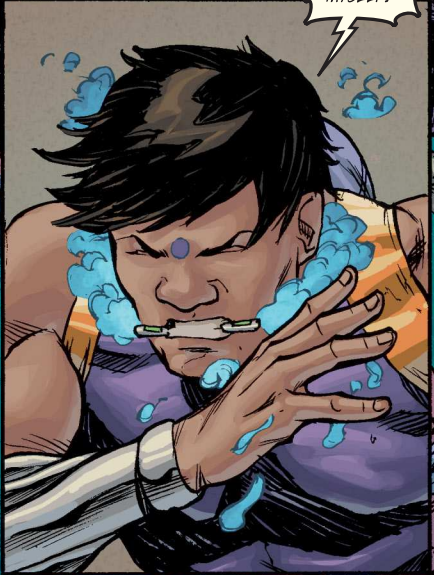


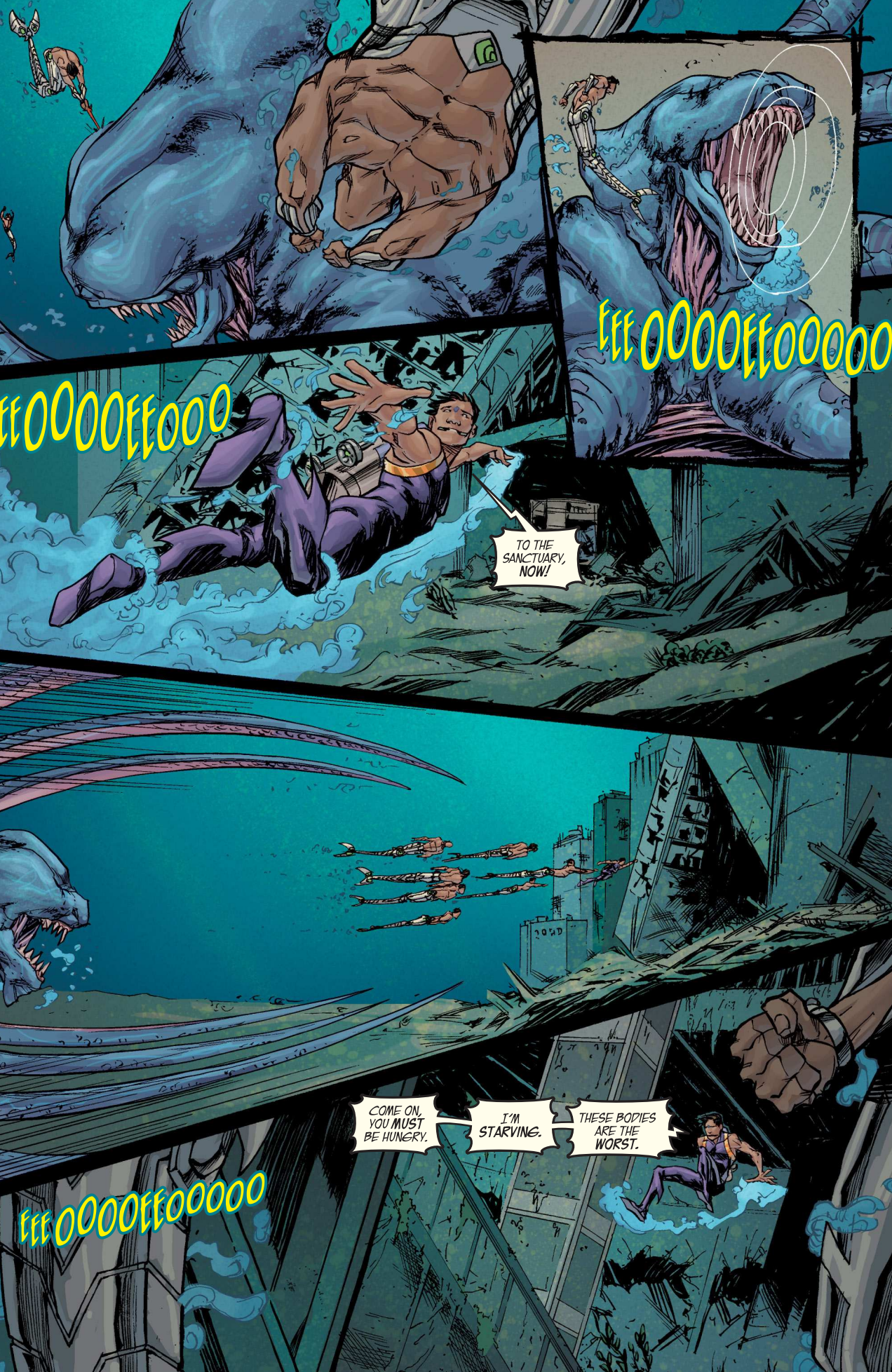
XVS. GET IT TO THE SANCTUARY BEFORE IT VANISHES AGAIN.

SIR, IN THE WATER, I DON'T EVEN THINK IT CAN FEEL OUR WEAPONS.

I HAVE LITTLE ENOUGH ENERGY AS IT IS...

AND EVEN LESS TO REPEAT MYSELF.





FFF OOOO FFOOOO

FFF OOOO FFOOOO

TO THE SANCTUARY, NOW!

COME ON, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.

I'M STARVING.

THESE BODIES ARE THE WORST.

FFF OOOO FFOOOO

EEEOOOOEEEOOO



SU--ESS!

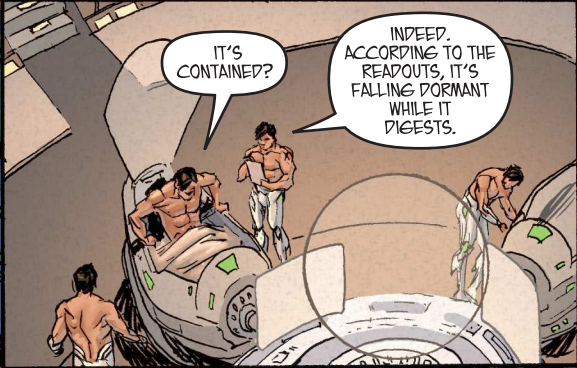
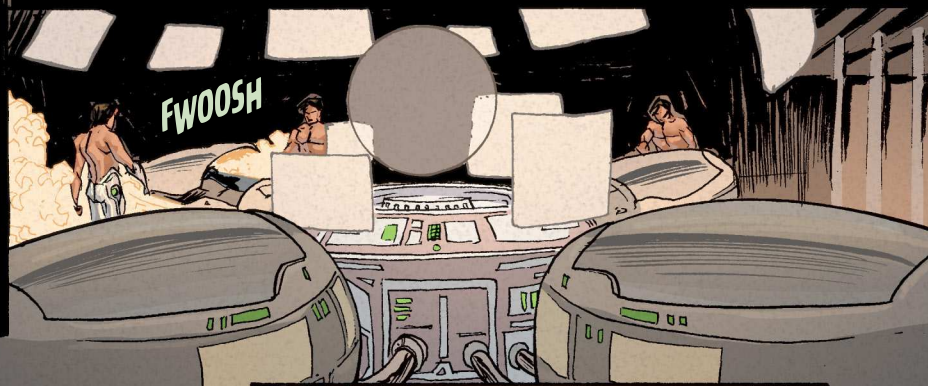


TI--N HAS BE-  
CON--AINED.



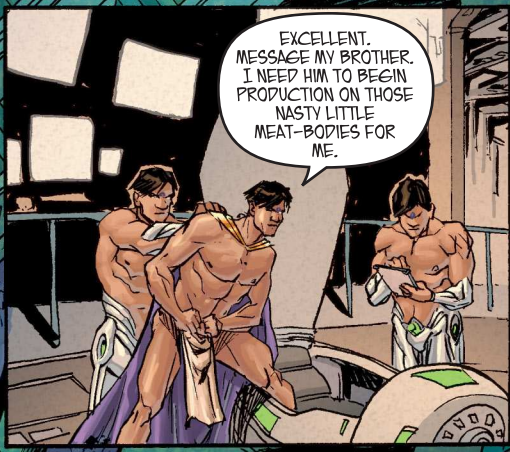
HAAAAA...





IT'S CONTAINED?

INDEED. ACCORDING TO THE READOUTS, IT'S FALLING DORMANT WHILE IT DIGESTS.



EXCELLENT. MESSAGE MY BROTHER. I NEED HIM TO BEGIN PRODUCTION ON THOSE NASTY LITTLE MEAT-BODIES FOR ME.



MY LIEGEE? WHAT FOR?

FISH FOOD, DEAR.



OUR NEW LITTLE PET IS QUITE THE WEAPON.

END

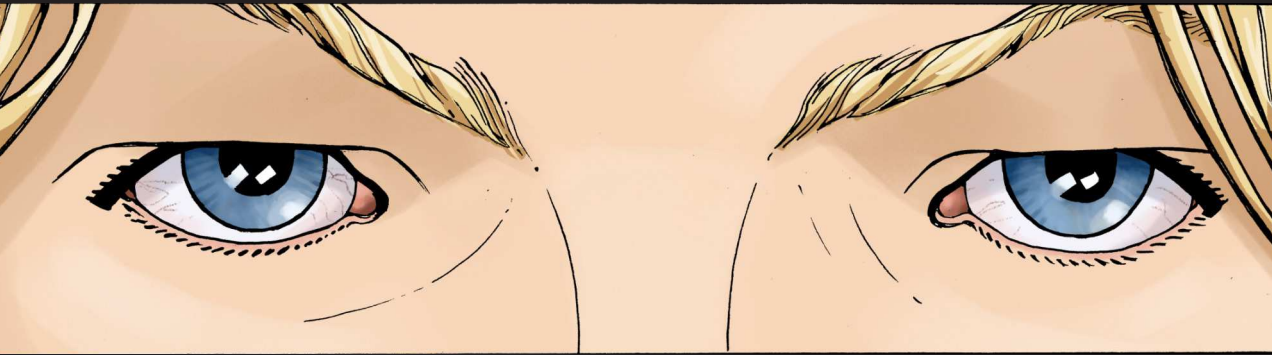
THE STORY CONTINUES IN

# IX<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION #5



TOP COW IS PROUD TO PRESENT...

# THINK TANK™

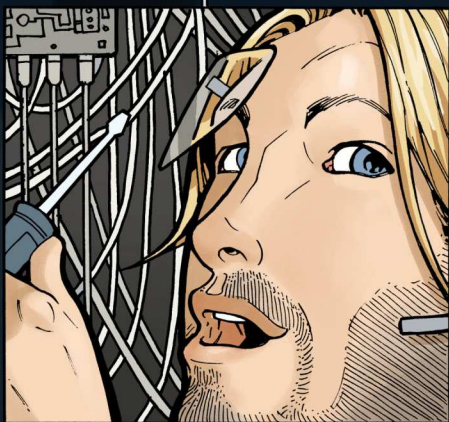
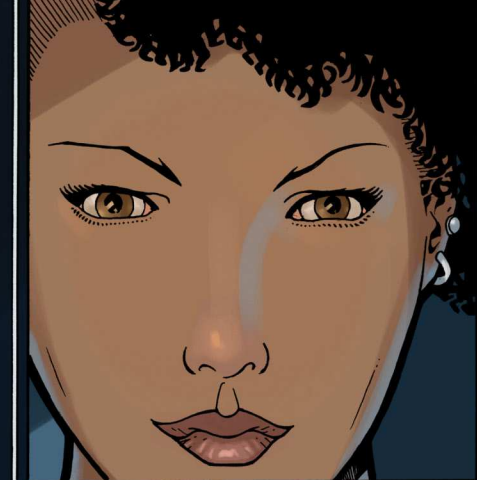


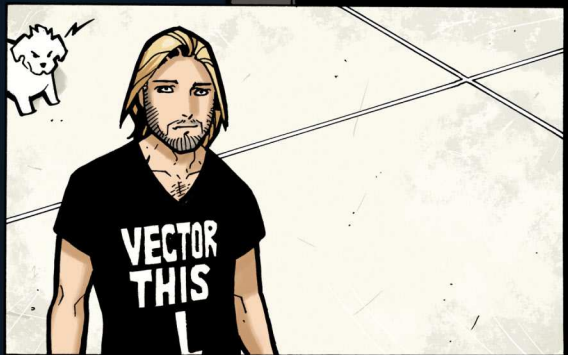
**"CREATIVE DESTRUCTION" #1**  
ART PREVIEW

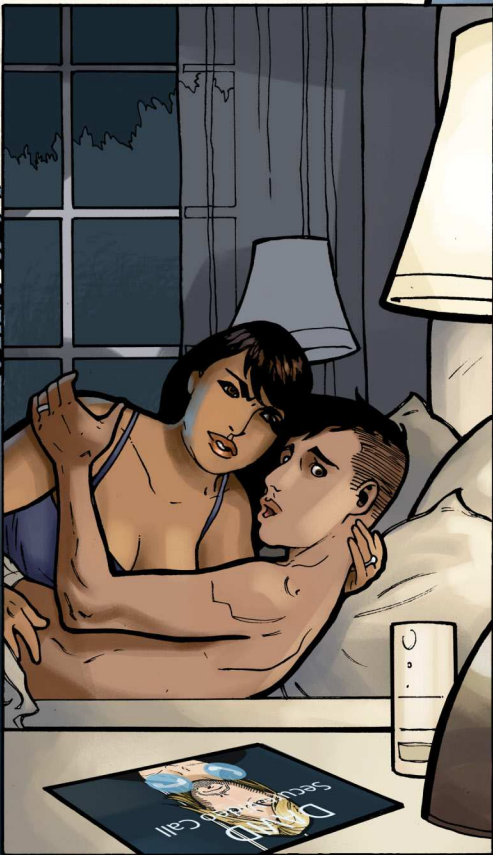
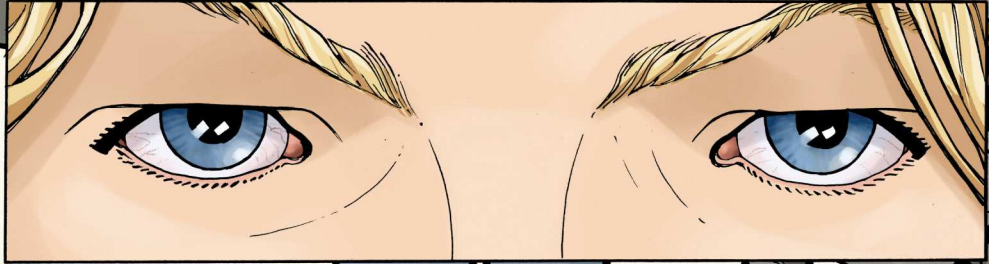
**MATT HAWKINS**  
CO-CREATOR & WRITER

**RAHSAN EKEDAL**  
CO-CREATOR & ARTIST

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