

SAVAGE 259

image



ENTER:

NORTH FORCE

SAVAGE[®] DRAGON

BY

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letters

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void where prohibited



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SAVAGE DRAGON™

WELCOME TO NORTH FORCE!



BROUGHT
TO YOU BY:
ERIK LARSEN
with
NIKOS KOUTSIS
and **MIKE TORIS**
COLORS

FERRAN DELGADO
LETTERS

COME IN
AND MEET THE
TEAM--!



THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT.

YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?

THEY'RE CALLED **SECRET IDENTITIES**.

IF WE LOOKED THE SAME IN OUR **STREET CLOTHES** AS WE DO AS **SUPERHEROES**, OUR **IDENTITIES** WOULDN'T BE **VERY SECRET**, WOULD THEY?

HOLD THE PHONE--

YOU LOOK LIKE THAT **ALL THE TIME?**

HOW DO YOU GO **ANYWHERE** WITHOUT BEING **PESTERED?** HOW DO YOU EVEN **FUNCTION?**

WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP MUCH OF A **LOW PROFILE** WITH **THIS GUY** AROUND.

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO MAKE THIS WORK EXACTLY? WE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE **INCOGNITO** WITH **HIM** ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

I'M SURPRISED HE DIDN'T HAVE AN **ENTOURAGE** WITH HIM.





SOME PEOPLE LIKE ATTENTION.

YOU DON'T AGREE TO HAVING A REALITY TV SHOW MADE ABOUT YOUR LIFE IF YOU DON'T WANT ATTENTION.

NOW, ARE WE PLAYING A GAME HERE OR WHAT?

WOULD IT KILL YOU TO LOOK UP FROM YOUR GAME EVERY NOW AND THEN?

WE'RE HERE TO INTERVIEW THE NEW GUY, FRANÇOIS.

DO US ALL A FAVOUR AND PUT DOWN YOUR STICK FOR A MINUTE OR TWO.

THIS IS IMPORTANT.

IT'S NOT SO IMPORTANT.

IT'S MORE OF A FORMALITY.

WE'D BE CRAZY NOT TO HAVE HIM JOIN OUR TEAM!

MALCOLM DRAGON DEFEATED THOR SINGLE-HANDEDLY AND SAVED OUR LIVES.*

PLUS, DRAGONS ARE LUCKY!

*SEE SAVAGE DRAGON #25B.



YOU GUYS GOING TO HELP ME OUT HERE, OR WHAT?



MY NAME IS **CONNIE CHEN--**

--AND WHEN I PUT ON MY ARMoured FLIGHT SUIT I GO BY THE NAME **BLUE JAY.**



MY NAME IS **MACKENZIE GÓMEZ.**

AND WHEN I'M ARMoured UP I'M CALLED **THE KNIGHT.**



I AM **NINA REDCLOUD.**

AND WHEN I TURN INTO MY BEAR-FORM I AM CALLED **GRIZZLY.**



FRANÇOIS ROUSSEAU.

I'M CALLED **JET** WHEN I'M IN MY ARMOUR.



MY NAME IS **CHAO-XING HUANG.**

I TURN INTO **RAPTOR.**



I'M **DANIELLE DAVIS** AND I BECOME **THE FLAME.**



AND I'M **MICHAEL STRONGHEART,** ALSO KNOWN AS **THE CANADIAN.**



OKAY, NOW WALK ME THROUGH THIS--

HOW DO YOU GUYS EVEN *KNOW* EACH OTHER? HOW DID *NORTH FORCE* COME TOGETHER?

WE JUST KEPT BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER WHEN WE WERE OFF DOING OUR THING.

WE ALL HAD *TERRITORIES* THAT WE COVERED, BUT IF SOMETHING *BIG* CROPPED UP THREE OR FOUR OF US WOULD COME TO THE RESCUE.

I MET THE *KNIGHT* AND THE *FLAME* WHEN *WENDELL WRIGHT'S* ROBOT RAIDERS KIDNAPPED THE PRIME MINISTER'S DAUGHTER.

WE MET EACH OTHER AT DIFFERENT TIMES-- NEVER ALL AT ONCE.

THE FIRST TIME I MET *RAPTOR* WAS WHEN THE *LAVA LORDS* ATTACKED.

AND IT WENT LIKE THAT. *EVENTUALLY* WE WERE ALL KIND OF *AWARE* OF EACH OTHER-- EXCEPT FOR *GRIZZLY*-- SHE KEPT TO HERSELF.

THE *CANADIAN* WAS THE ONE WHO REALLY PULLED THE WHOLE TEAM TOGETHER. THE REST OF US WERE CONTENT PATROLLING OUR OWN PROVINCES.

THE *CANADIAN* SAW THE NEED FOR A GROUP-- SOMEONE WHO COULD TAKE ON THE BIGGER PROBLEMS THAT WE COULDN'T DEAL WITH INDIVIDUALLY.

THERE WERE MORE *CATAclysmic* EVENTS OCCURRING, AND THERE WAS A NEED FOR A *UNIFIED* FORCE TO CONTEND WITH THEM.

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO *POOL* OUR *RESOURCES* SO WE COULD HANDLE THE *BIG* PROBLEMS.

LOCAL POLICE AND OTHER LOCAL SUPERHEROES SEEMED CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE *LITTLE* STUFF.

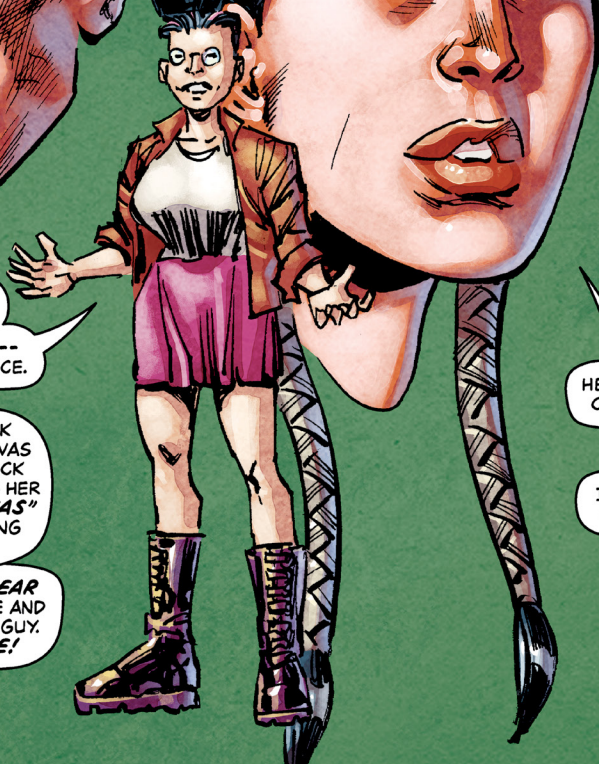
WE BUMPED INTO *GRIZZLY* AT A *BAR* IN *MONTREAL*-- TOTAL COINCIDENCE.

SOME DRUNK *AMERICAN* WAS TRYING TO PICK HER UP, CALLING HER "*POCAHONTAS*" AND GRABBING HER ASS.

SHE TURNED INTO A *BEAR* RIGHT THEN AND THERE AND JUST *MAULED* THE GUY. IT WAS *AWESOME!*

HE HAD IT COMING.

I HAVE NO REGRETS.





SO, WAIT-- IF YOU GUYS ARE HANDLING THE **BIG STUFF**--

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO THE RESCUE WHEN THE **VICIOUS CIRCLE** CAME ACROSS THE **BORDER** AND INVADDED **TORONTO**?*

SURELY THAT WOULD QUALIFY AS A 'BIG PROBLEM.'

WE CAN'T TELEPORT, MALCOLM.

WE WERE IN VANCOUVER AT THE TIME DEALING WITH THE **BEE-MEN**.

*SEE SAVAGE DRAGON #248-249.

OKAY, BUT AFTER THAT...

WE WERE **THERE** WHEN YOU NEEDED US, EH?

WE CAME TO YOUR **RESCUE**.*

*IN SAVAGE DRAGON #255.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE IS **STILL** HERE! THEY'RE SETTLED IN **APARTMENTS** AND **HOMES** ALL OVER **TORONTO**.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US **DO**-- GO **DOOR-TO-DOOR** LOOKING FOR GANG MEMBERS?

DOING **NOTHING** IS NO SOLUTION! THERE'S RUMBLING OF AN IMPENDING **GANG WAR** NOW THAT **DART** IS OUT OF THE PICTURE.

WHEN THEY COME OUT INTO THE **OPEN** WE'LL HANDLE THEM.

WE **CAN'T** BREAK INTO **EVERY** HOUSE.

PEOPLE HAVE **DIED**...

WE **CAN'T** PREVENT PEOPLE FROM **DYING**, YOUNG DRAGON.

WE CAN ONLY **DO** WHAT WE CAN **DO**.

WE **CAN'T** BE **EVERYWHERE** AT ONCE.

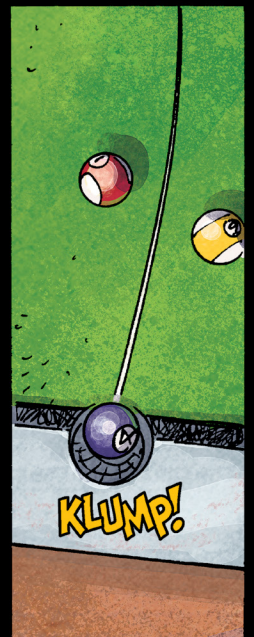
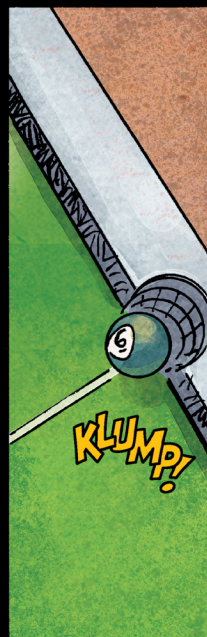
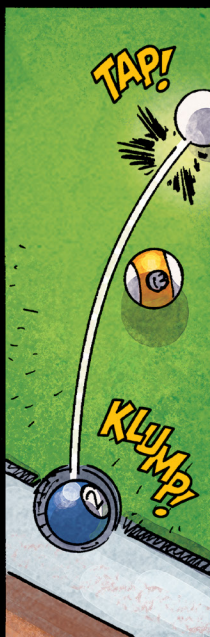
WHAT ABOUT WHEN THE **DEMONOIDS** ATTACKED? WHERE WERE YOU **THEN**?*

DEALING WITH THE **SASQUATCHIANS** OVER IN **MEDICINE HAT**. THE TOWN HAD BEEN OVERRUN.

BESIDES, YOU HAD **DAREDEVIL** AND **FREAK FORCE** WITH YOU. YOU GUYS HANDLED IT.

*IN SAVAGE DRAGON #239-240.

HEY, ARE WE GOING TO PLAY **POOL**, OR WHAT?





THERE IS NO WAY THAT THIS IS YOUR FIRST GAME OF POOL!

...

YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE SUPERPOWERS, RIGHT?



I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY YOU GUYS WANTED ME TO JOIN YOUR TEAM.

EMERGENCY ALERT!
EMERGENCY ALERT!



SO, WHO'S THIS GUY AND WHAT'S HE GOING ON ABOUT?

THAT'S SHAMUS PUGG.

HE'S SUPPORT STAFF.

I IMAGINE IT'S SOME KIND OF EMERGENCY.



EMERGENCY!
EMERGENCY!

ALIENS HAVE INVADED WINNIPEG!

WE NEED TO GO--

NOW!



YOU HEARD THE MAN--

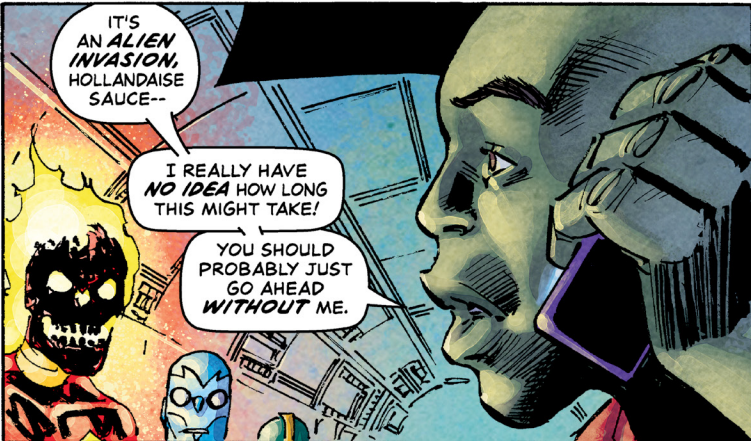
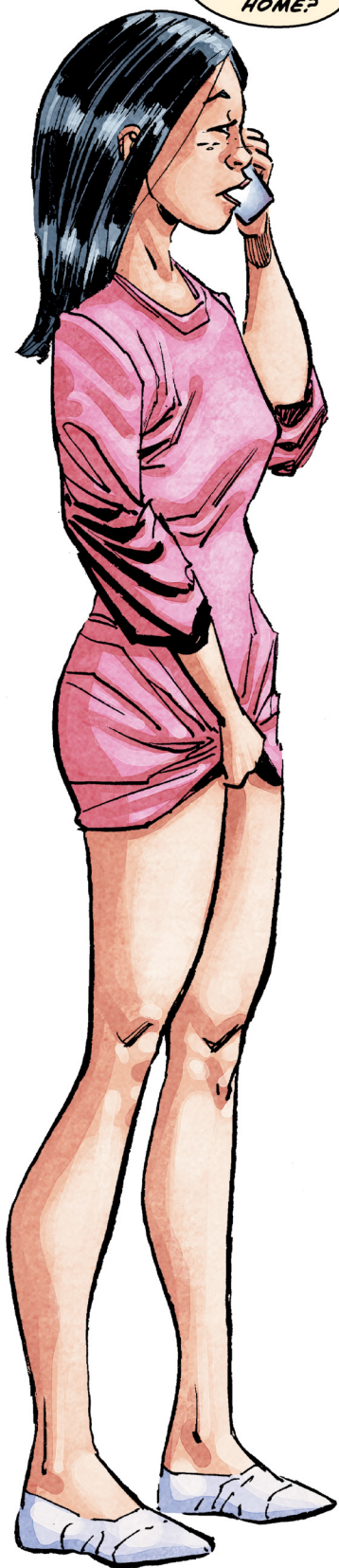
LET'S ROLL!



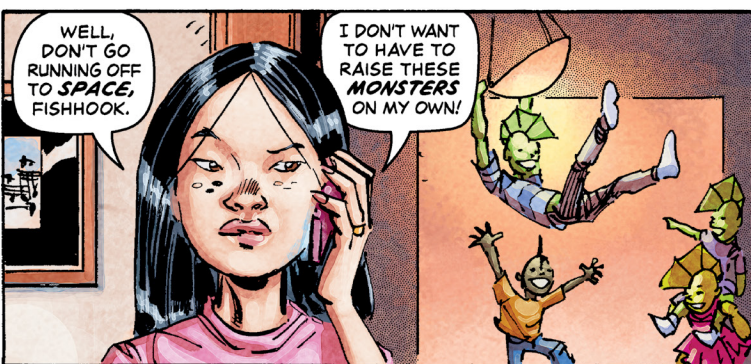
LET'S SAVE SOME LIVES!

THAT WILL NEVER NOT BE WEIRD.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT *DINNER*?
SHOULD WE *WAIT UP* FOR YOU? SHOULD WE EAT *WITHOUT* YOU?
DO YOU HAVE ANY *IDEA* WHEN YOU MIGHT BE *HOME*?



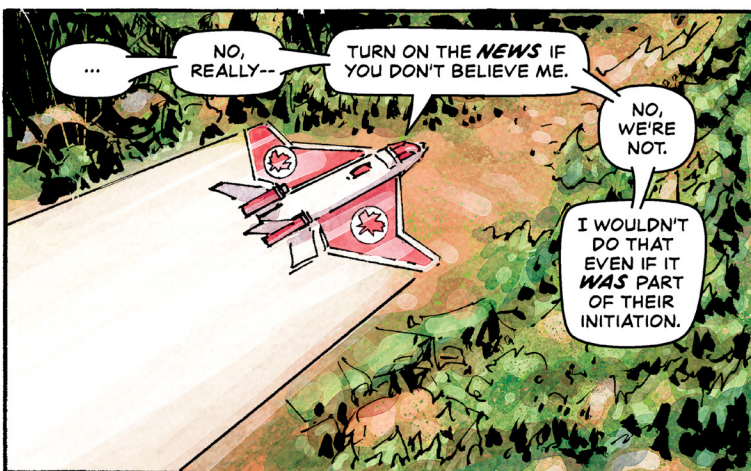
IT'S AN *ALIEN INVASION*, HOLLANDAISE SAUCE--
I REALLY HAVE *NO IDEA* HOW LONG THIS MIGHT TAKE!
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY JUST GO AHEAD *WITHOUT* ME.



WELL, DON'T GO RUNNING OFF TO *SPACE*, FISHHOOK.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO RAISE THESE *MONSTERS* ON MY OWN!



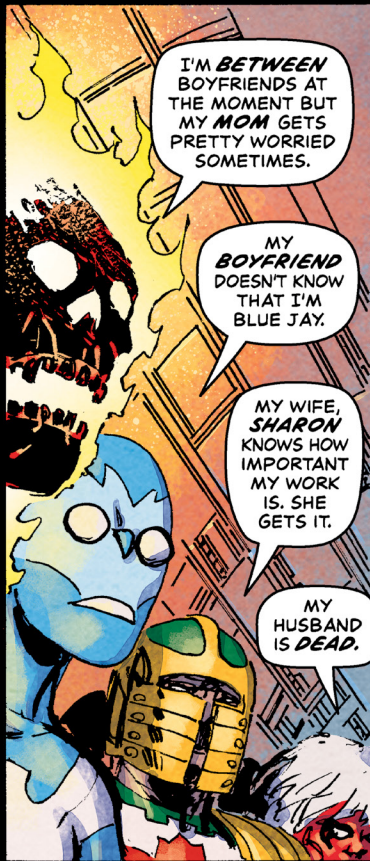
DON'T WORRY, PLEA BARGAIN--
I WON'T.
I WON'T BE GONE *ONE MINUTE* LONGER THAN I HAVE TO.



...
NO, REALLY--
TURN ON THE *NEWS* IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
NO, WE'RE NOT.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT EVEN IF IT *WAS* PART OF THEIR INITIATION.



WHAT?
DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE ANY **HUSBANDS, WIVES** OR **LOVED ONES** WHO CARE ABOUT YOU?



I'M **BETWEEN** BOYFRIENDS AT THE MOMENT BUT MY **MOM** GETS PRETTY WORRIED SOMETIMES.

MY **BOYFRIEND** DOESN'T KNOW THAT I'M **BLUE JAY**.

MY WIFE, **SHARON** KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT MY WORK IS. SHE GETS IT.

MY **HUSBAND** IS **DEAD**.



MY **EX** COULDN'T TAKE IT.

SHE **LEFT** AND TOOK OUR **DAUGHTER**.



WE'VE **ALL** HAD TO MAKE **SACRIFICES**, MALCOLM DRAGON.

IT'S FOR THE **GREATER** GOD.



MY **GRANDFATHER** PASSED HIS POWERS ON TO ME. HE IS VERY PROUD OF ME AND THE WORK I DO.

HE **CHECKS IN** ON ME BUT HE WOULDN'T THINK OF **INTERFERING**.

MAXINE'S **NOT** INTERFERING.

SHE'S JUST **CONCERNED**.



OKAY, **TEAM--** THIS IS IT.

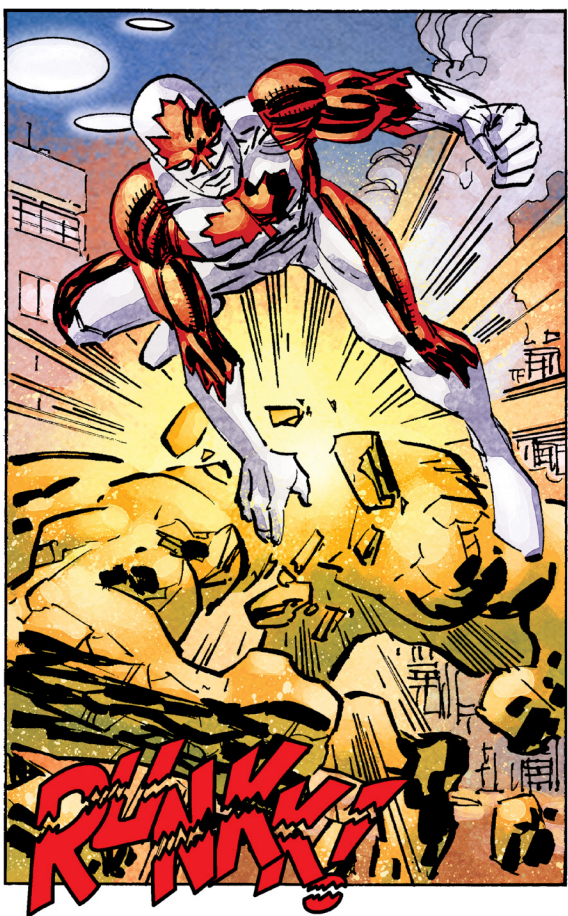
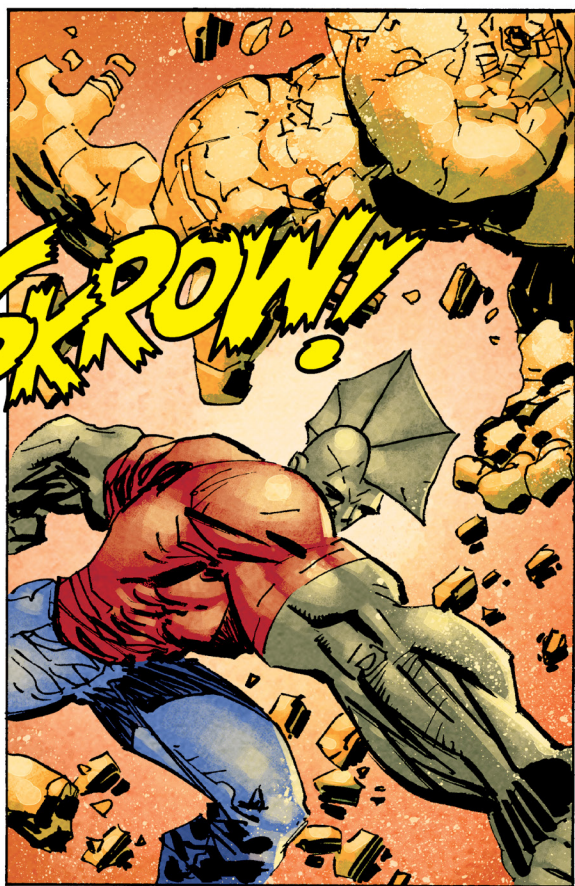
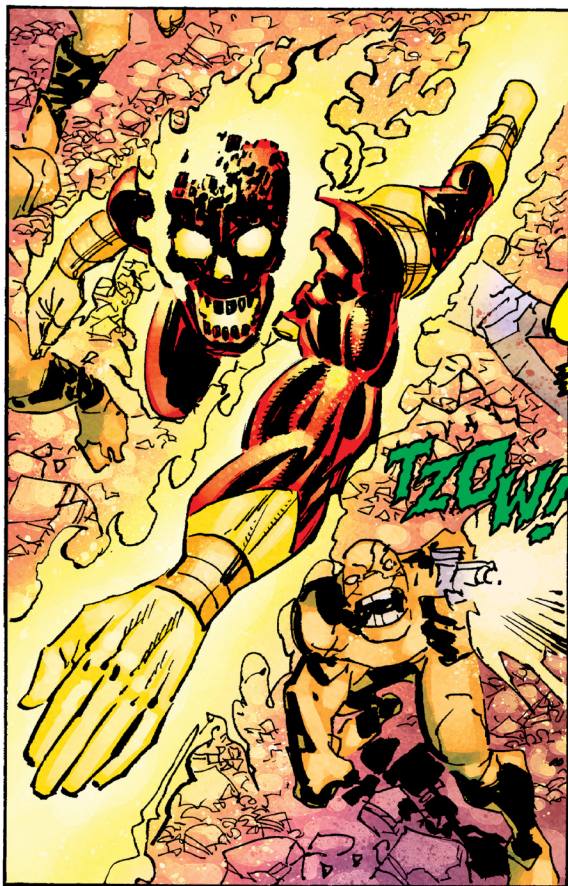
YOU **KNOW** THE **DRILL--**

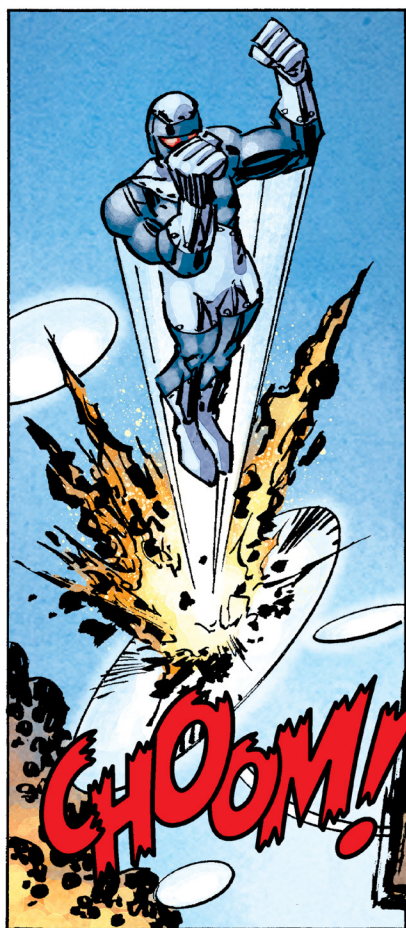
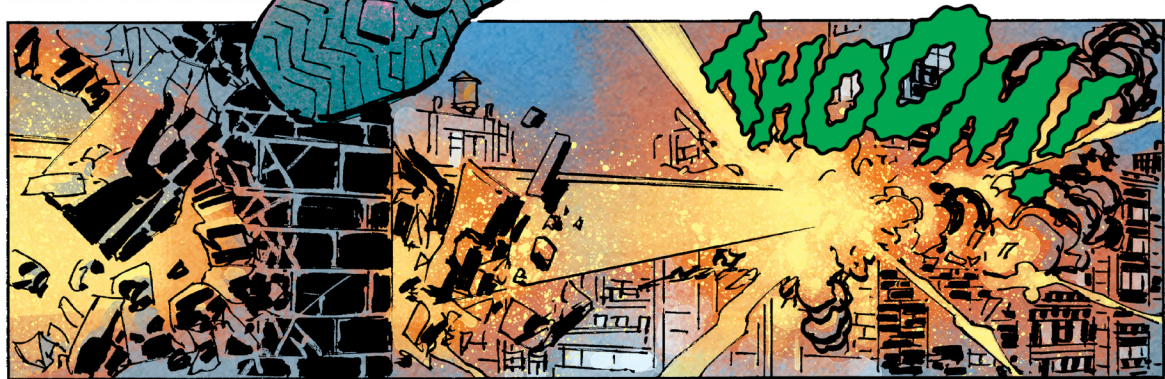
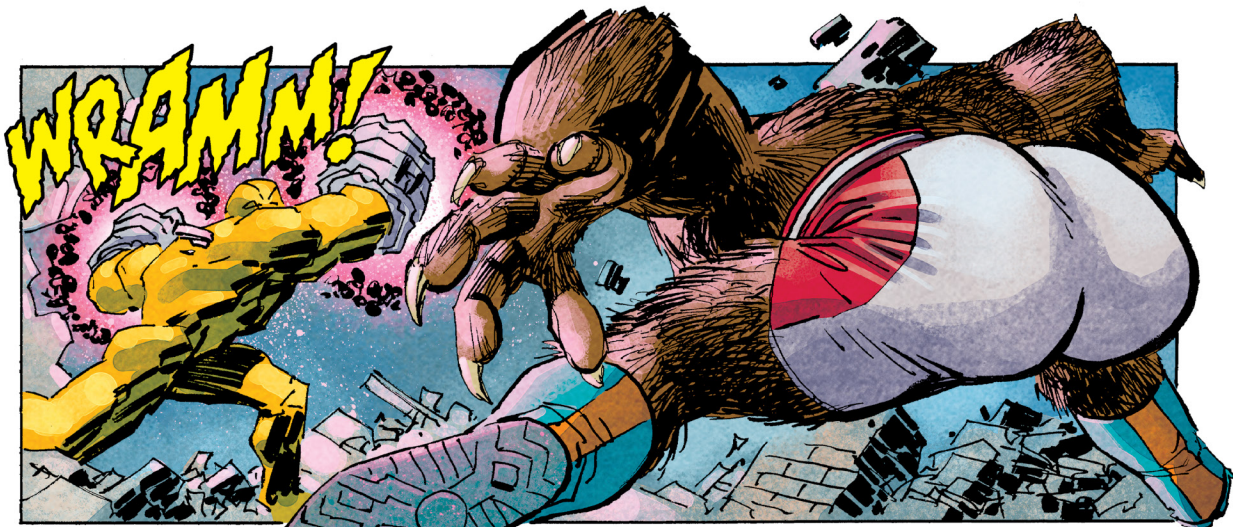
**LET'S
DO
THIS!**

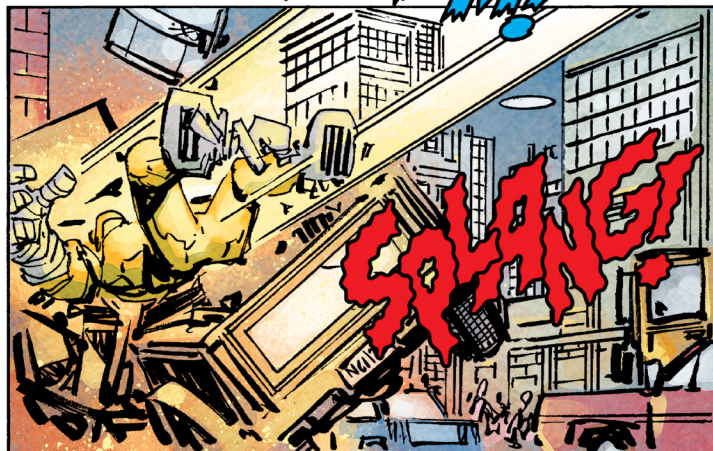
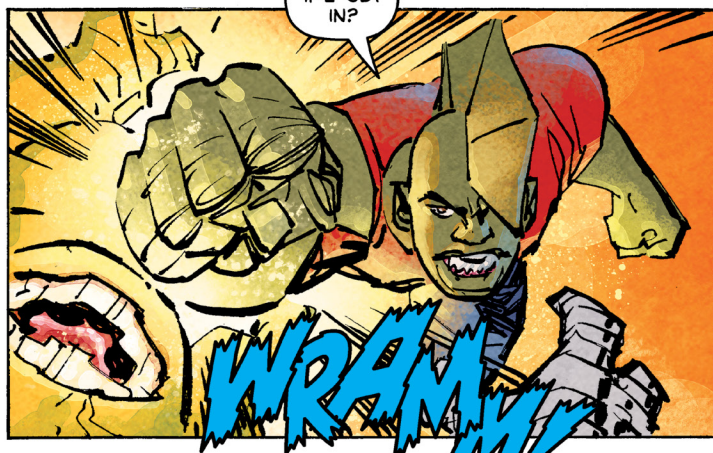
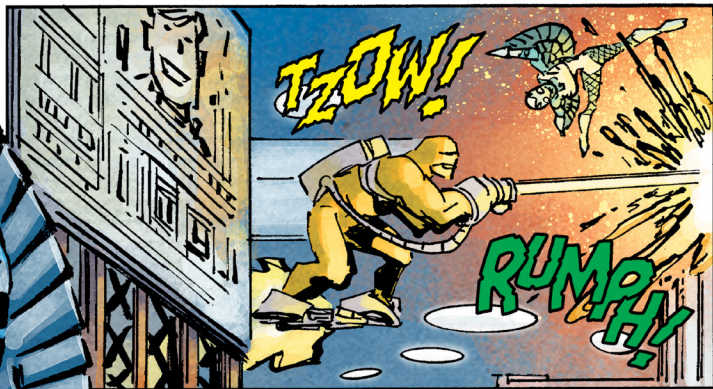
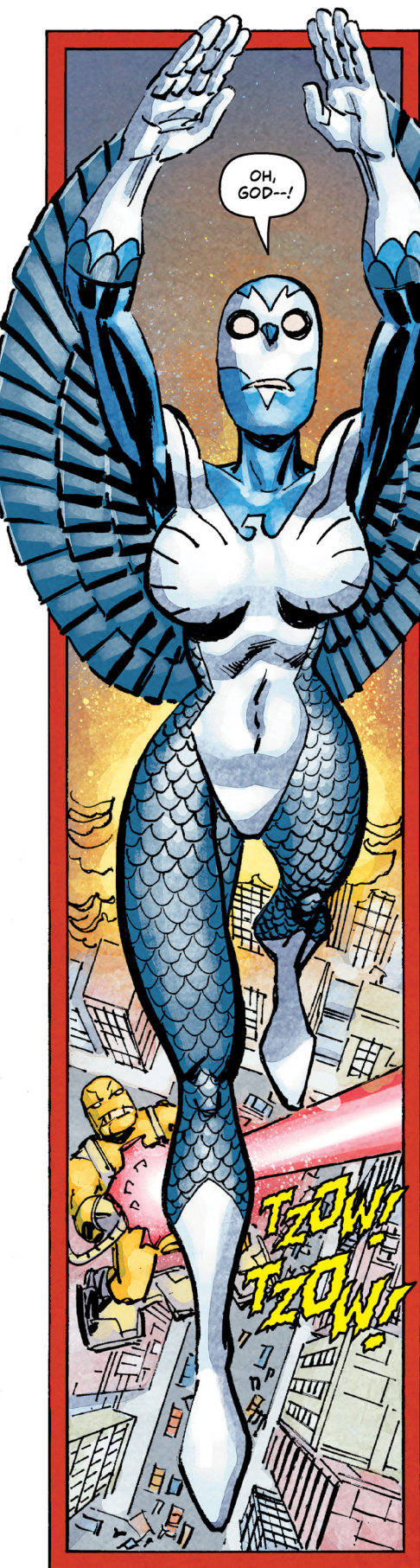


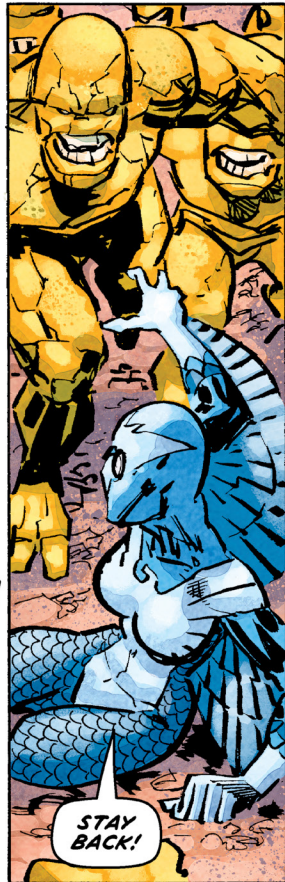
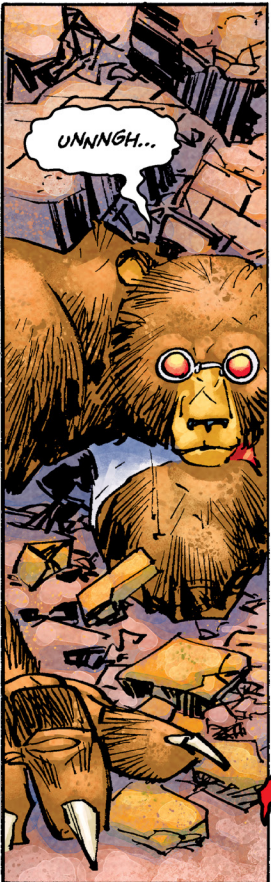
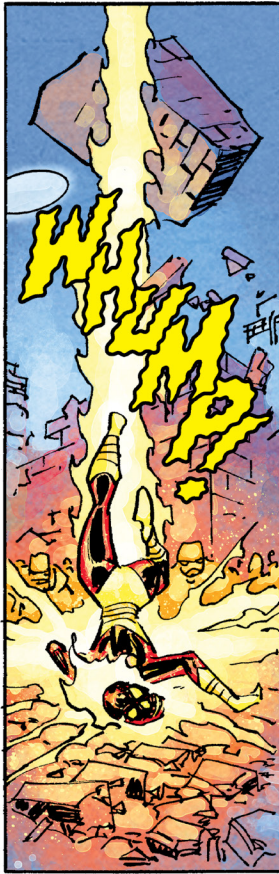
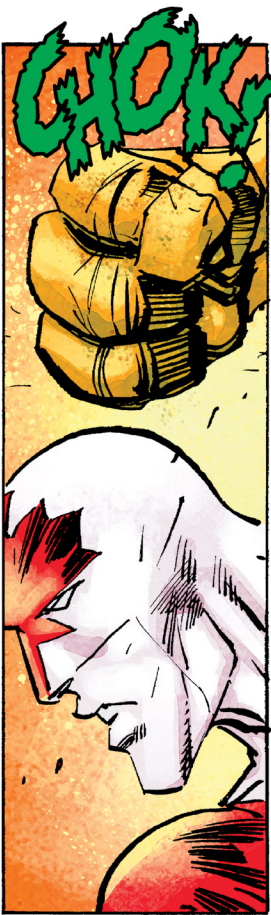


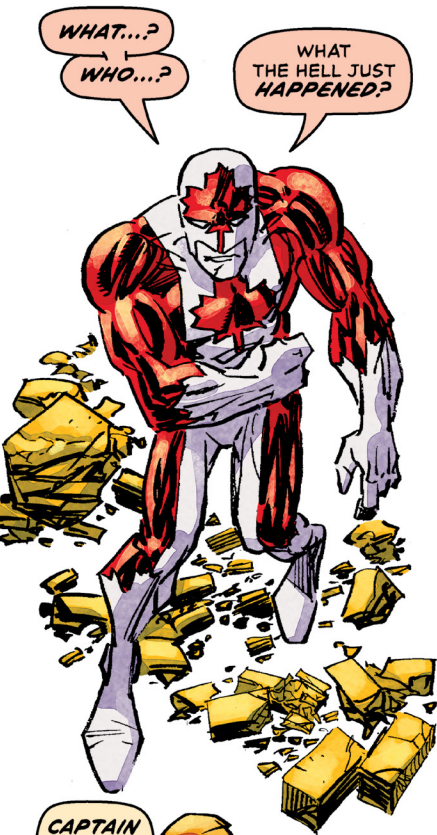












WHAT...?
WHO...?

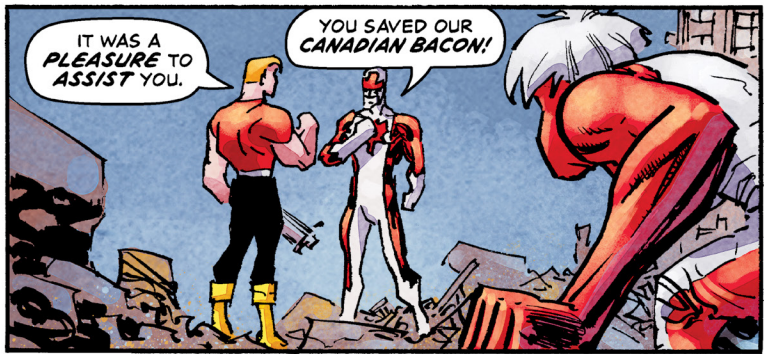
WHAT
THE HELL JUST
HAPPENED?



THE **STONE
MEN** HAVE
INVADED
BEFORE.

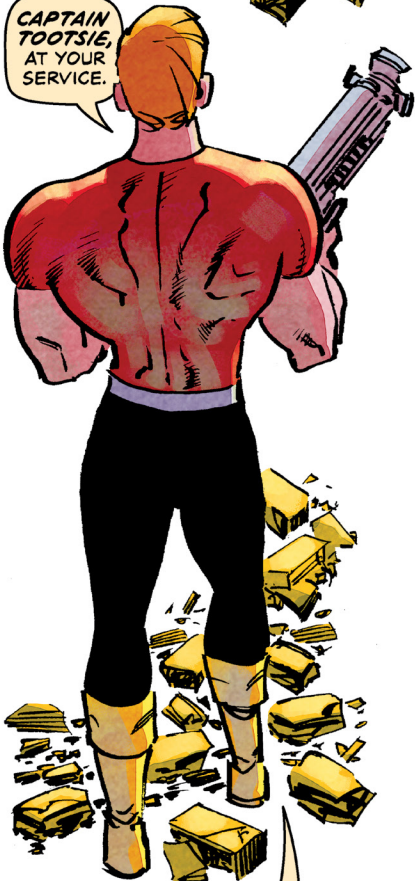
I FACED THEM
BACK IN '51 WITH THE
**SECRET LEGION
AND SPACE FORCE.**

THEY'VE HAD
70 YEARS
TO RECOVER BUT
THEY'RE STILL
VULNERABLE
TO THE SAME
**DISRUPTION
RAY.**

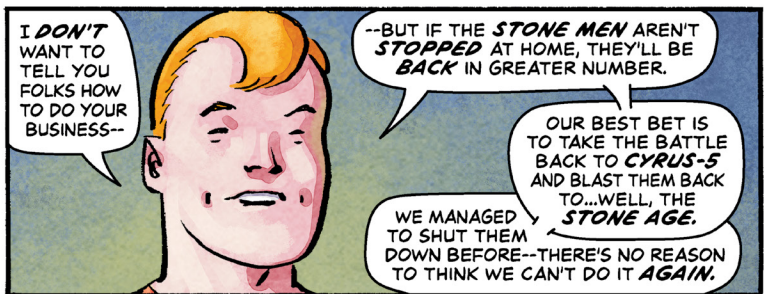


IT WAS A
PLEASURE TO
ASSIST YOU.

YOU SAVED OUR
CANADIAN BACON!



**CAPTAIN
TOOTSIE,**
AT YOUR
SERVICE.

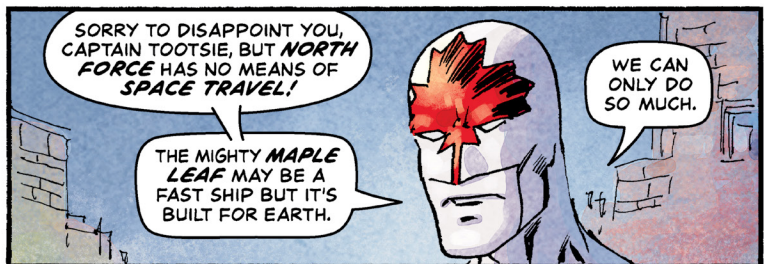


I **DON'T**
WANT TO
TELL YOU
FOLKS HOW
TO DO YOUR
BUSINESS--

--BUT IF THE **STONE
MEN** AREN'T
STOPPED AT HOME,
THEY'LL BE
BACK IN GREATER NUMBER.

OUR BEST BET IS
TO TAKE THE BATTLE
BACK TO **CYRUS-5**
AND BLAST THEM BACK
TO...WELL, THE
STONE AGE.

WE MANAGED
TO SHUT THEM
DOWN BEFORE--THERE'S NO REASON
TO THINK WE CAN'T DO IT **AGAIN.**



SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU,
CAPTAIN TOOTSIE, BUT **NORTH
FORCE** HAS NO MEANS OF
SPACE TRAVEL!

THE MIGHTY **MAPLE
LEAF** MAY BE A
FAST SHIP BUT IT'S
BUILT FOR EARTH.

WE CAN
ONLY DO
SO MUCH.

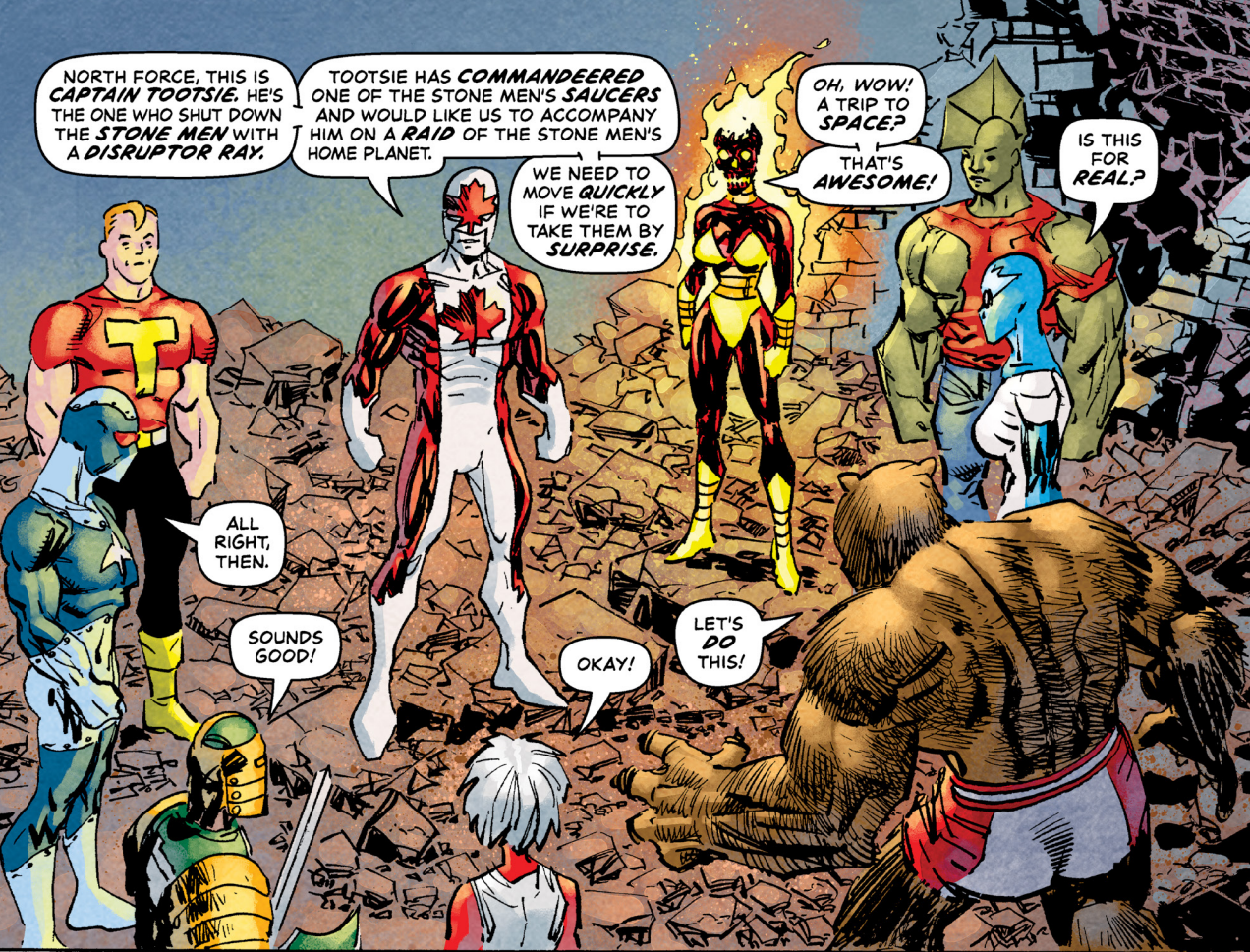


WELL, AS LUCK MAY HAVE IT,
I MANAGED TO CAPTURE
ONE OF THEIR **SAUCERS**
OVER **THUNDER BAY.**

AND I'VE
PILOTED
ONE OF THESE
THINGS BEFORE.

YOU FOLKS
UP FOR A
ROAD TRIP?

AND I JUST USED MY **FARGO-RAY**
TO BLAST THOSE NASTY
STONE MEN INTO **OBLIVION.**



NORTH FORCE, THIS IS **CAPTAIN TOOTSIE**. HE'S THE ONE WHO SHUT DOWN THE **STONE MEN** WITH A **DISRUPTOR RAY**.

TOOTSIE HAS **COMMANDEERED** ONE OF THE **STONE MEN'S SAUCERS** AND WOULD LIKE US TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON A **RAID** OF THE **STONE MEN'S** HOME PLANET.

OH, WOW! A TRIP TO **SPACE**?

THAT'S **AWESOME!**

IS THIS FOR **REAL?**

WE NEED TO **MOVE QUICKLY** IF WE'RE TO TAKE THEM BY **SURPRISE**.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

SOUNDS GOOD!

OKAY!

LET'S **DO THIS!**

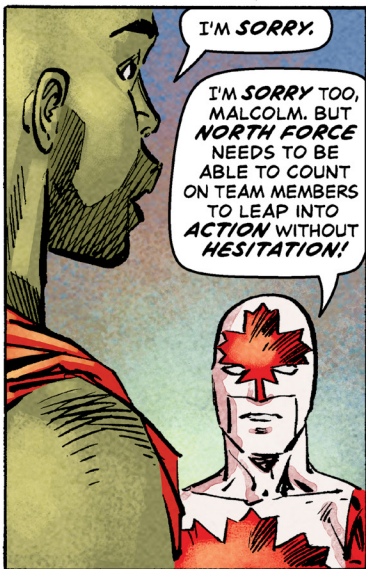


I **CAN'T** GO TO **SPACE!**

I HAVE A **WIFE** AND **FOUR KIDS** AT HOME!

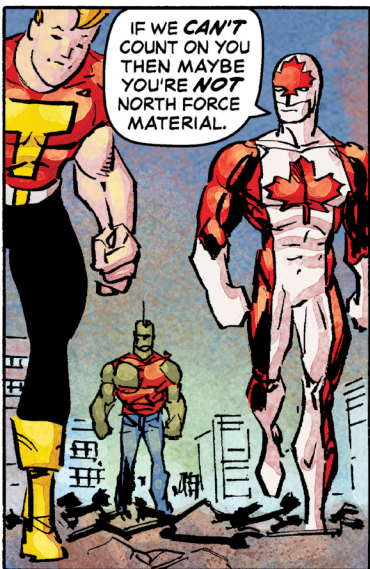
IF YOU NEED MY HELP ON **EARTH-- I'M YOUR GUY--** BUT I **CAN'T** GO RUNNING OFF ON SOME KIND OF **GALAXY QUEST**.

MY **FAMILY** NEEDS ME **HERE!**



I'M **SORRY**.

I'M **SORRY** TOO, MALCOLM. BUT **NORTH FORCE** NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON TEAM MEMBERS TO LEAP INTO **ACTION** WITHOUT **HESITATION!**



IF WE **CAN'T** COUNT ON YOU THEN MAYBE YOU'RE **NOT** NORTH FORCE MATERIAL.



NEXT ISSUE: TORMENT!

Welcome to Savage Dragon #259. This issue shines the spotlight on Image Comics' newest superhero sensations: North Force! Ever since they were introduced, fans have been clamoring for the inside scoop on this awe-inspiring assemblage. Well, here you go!

Dear Erik,

Sorry, I'm not as long winded as some of your correspondents, but I will say in brief that I really loved issue 256. Of course, I love your writing and the artwork, but one other major reason I'm enjoying Savage Dragon even more lately is that I finally noticed the coloring has been getting better and better with the slight gradations, more intricate color patterns, etc. So, it's time for hats off to Nikos Koutsis and Mike Toris!

As for the aforementioned story, which is really what holds the book together, I loved the pacing for this issue and how so many characters are involved. We follow Benedict Milhous as he steals Mako blood and starts off on a tear to look for the Vicious Circle. We get quiet (and not so quiet sexual) moments at Malcolm's home during the holidays. And we get Paul from another dimension getting maimed by Benedict-Mako and Malcolm coming to save his bacon and getting defeated also. And we have Maxine not wearing panties most of the time. That's hilarious!

Oh, and the pet nickname thing? I thought that would get old after a while, but I'm still enjoying it!

Thanks so much for the entertainment!

Alan Bowman

Noda City, Chiba, Japan

Not to worry, Alan, there's no minimum word count requirement for inclusion in the letters page. Glad to see that you enjoyed the issue and I'll make sure to pass off your kind words to Nikos and Mike!

Dear Erik,

Savage Dragon 257 brought back your version of Thor, and it's a lot of fun to see him back in these pages. The opening pages not only looked great, but they looked unlike any other scene you've done, which is always appreciated. And since Ragnok was too much to handle for Malcolm in 242, and he's then brutally taken down by Thor, it's reminder that Thor is one of the most powerful characters in this book. The trick to restore his eyesight was cool, even if it did remind me a bit of Thor in the MCU.

It looks like you might have some plans for North Force, but I can't shake the feeling that they're cannon fodder. And now that they're facing an angry god, it doesn't look great. I guess Thor probably won't kill every single one of them, but he's certainly capable of messing them up. It might give them a bit of a tragic turning point since it seems they might be sticking around in some form or another.

Like Malcolm, I still have a few concerns about Paul Dragon, but I might be warming up to him. It is nice to see that he and Alex might be heading toward a happy marriage. It's not what I (or Alex, probably) pictured when she met Dragon almost 30 years ago, but it's sort of a happy conclusion. For now, anyway.

Taylor Porter

Halifax, Nova Scotia

It's about as happy an ending as things seem to get around here, I'm afraid.

Erik,

With issue #257 we get the long awaited return of the Mighty Evil Thor! Farewell Grünhildä, we hardly knew ye! It seems like such a waste to kill off such a cool looking character; however, that's never gotten in your way before, Erik!! can respect that.

It looks like poor Ragnok can't catch a break. When his body isn't getting outright snatched by some aristocrat, it's getting mutilated by the God of Thunder! Geesh! Speaking of Ragnok, has anyone told you that you draw the best flying molars in the business?

The accidental death of Miki by Thor's hand (or hammer) instantly brought me back to when Mako accidentally exploded the original Dart's face with an unintentional blow from his fist. If he wasn't before, Malcolm has just become public enemy number one in Thor's (or dare I say, Ragnok's) eyes.

After reading the exchange between Malcolm and the Canadian, it got me wondering how many people think Malcolm is more of a reality television star acting the part, rather than an actual formidable superhero. It was a real blast to see the Canadian and the rest of North Force back so soon and in the spotlight. I dig them and can't wait to find out more about the individual members!

Lastly, it was bittersweet getting the final part of the Ethereal Warriors serial in this issue. It's always a thrill to read comics created by Gary Carlson and Frank Fosco. I'm hoping we see some more back ups from them sometime in the near future.

Before I let you go, I would certainly be remiss if I didn't close out a proper fan letter without a few questions:

1. How did Ragnok escape God Town? Aren't the gods forbidden from leaving, or did I forget something?
2. Does North Force depend on Gully and his police helicopter to get them (at least those that don't fly) around? No North Force Quinjet or Blackbird?
3. Are the Freak Force guys still honing their skills on the reservation? Any chance Chief Wren Feather makes it into a "regular" issue? It only took me one page to fall in love with the character. How about some North Freak Force action? It would be neat to see Barbaric and Grizzly testing their might against each other!

Anyway, that's enough nonsense from me. Thanks for making the best funnybook money can buy!

Sincerely,

Craig Olsen

Philadelphia, PA

I would expect that a lot of people look at Malcolm the way they'd look at any second generation celebrity that seemed to be born into fame.

1: AllGod rescinded the non-interference vow to enable the Gods to live free amongst mortals at the end of the Savage Dragon: God War miniseries. Ragnok and several other gods strayed from God Town to live their lives on their own.

2: North Force has its own transport but it had taken the rest of the team to fight Thor so it wasn't available for the Canadian to use.

3: I'd like to at some point but I'm curious how to draw him in the "real" world, since he would be drawn in that faux-Tumbleweeds style in which he first appeared. As far as Freak Force meeting North Force--maybe someday. At this point there's not a lot of travel across the border.

Erik,

These last comics have been amazing, I always love to read every single issue and absorb all the lines, all the unique inking and the character designs. I have written to you before saying how you brought me back to comics and that continues to be true, but in the last year I had drawn a lot less than I should, that was true until the death of my father-in-law by Covid in January. After what was an absolute nightmare of a time I decided to buy a tablet and start drawing a few "Funnies", the idea was to try to make finished short comics without worrying if they were good enough, with this I started feeling a joy that I think I never felt before, with this feeling I have been able to make drawing my "Second Job"

and at every free moment from work I have been honing my craft. Because of all that I was curious, how did you make your way through the comics ladder? Did you take art classes? How did you transform your early style of drawing into a professional one?

And again, as I said to you on Twitter, as long as you make Savage Dragon I will be reading it and using it as guidance to draw and write, Keep up the amazing work!

Lovingly,

Leonardo Mourato

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

I drew dozens of unpublished comics as a kid on 8½ x 11 paper folded in half. In those I created a ton of characters and taught myself some of the basics of storytelling. I never went to art school. I learned everything from reading art books and a ton of comics.

At one point my dad bought a tabletop offset printing press, which I learned how to use. I self-published a fanzine called Graphic Fantasy when I was 19 years old. That fanzine was my first step toward becoming a professional.

Several people who bought it ended up hiring me. One of those guys was writer/publisher, Gary Carlson with whom I co-created the character Vanguard in his book, Megaton. That was step two.

From that point I just worked my way up the food chain, showing samples and getting jobs at various comic book companies and leapfrogging from one job to the next. Jim Shooter gave me my break at Marvel, hiring me to draw a Hulk vs. Thor story which we hammered out in the hotel lobby during a convention in Chicago.

That job led to other jobs and several regular gigs on various titles at Marvel and DC, including the Amazing Spider-Man.

In 1992 a group of young upstarts left Marvel to form Image comics and I've been here writing and drawing Savage Dragon ever since.

Hey Erik,

The Dragon and the Thunder God! From the opening splash page, very cool inks throughout this issue. The extra splattering here and there breaking panel borders, and use of crayon, especially. Also liked the dusting of white snow on characters shoulders here and there from Nikos. Looks great.

Thor killing Ragnok and liberating his eyes for his own use is brilliant! Made me shudder and laugh all at once. Grünhildä is an awesome looking character, and if Thor kills her off panel too that's a shame. I'd like to think she escapes the burning cottage and will seek out her revenge. Since Mikki gets decimated at the end of the issue by Mjöltnir, perhaps I'm onto something. All very tragic, but brutal great storytelling.

Wow, I can't believe Paul proposed to Alex. Didn't see that coming. I kind of just thought they'd coast along in friends with benefits mode. Alex cooking tacos too! Come on! I can't blame Paul for wanting to make it official. Damn, now I'm craving tacos. With Malcolm's hesitancy in accepting Paul as quickly and easily as everyone else, I'm beginning to wonder if his suspicions might have some relevance. I mean, he did get his arm ripped off in battle helping Malcolm so that's got to count for something. Angel's even having Paul walk her down the aisle at her wedding. Assuming that still happens. We all know anything can happen between now and then.

Back to Thor! Great brawl with North Force and Malcolm. Up until the very end when Thor unwittingly and tragically obliterates his own son by turning his face into a scattered pile of 80/20 ground meat! Hope to see Malcolm return Thor's angry lightning power with the force of his own. I can't see any other way out of this one! Upcoming solicitations look great so keep 'em coming!

Also one last reminder to have anyone interested order Anne Bonnie from Blue Juice Comics. I'm on pencils and inks issues 10-14 and it's solicited in March Previews. As a lifelong fan of yours, I'm hoping it shines through a little in my work.

Best-

Nick Justus

Cumberland, VA

Grünhildä was my loving tribute to a girl Simon Bisley drew in a Heavy Metal calendar. As cool looking as she was--she was too derivative for me to justify keeping around.

Time will tell on the other stuff.

Congratulations on your comics gig!

Dear Erik at Fin Addicts,

Omigosh! Loved issue 257 of Savage Dragon. This issue had a little bit of everything!

1. First, I loved the cover! A nice take off of a Marvel type cover we could've seen in the '80s or '90s...well, maybe even the '70s. And the cover art was very Kirbyesque.

2. So, this is definitely not your father's Thor. Well, it may be your great-great-great-great-etc. father's Thor from Norse mythology, but not the Marvel Thor. He's very vicious! And who is Mikki? I might have to go look him up to see if a son of Thor appears therein.

3. Petri Dish and Bird Seed: love how you're still coming up with the nicknames! Oh, and Maxine? If she walked around my apartment with no pants, I wouldn't mind.

4. The Paul/Alex/Angel sub-plot is getting good. I wonder if Paul will attempt to save the day next issue? Don't know how much he would be able to do. He seems fairly low-powered compared to Malcolm. Or is that just an assumption on my part?

5. North Force getting their butts kicked. Well, I didn't expect that but it was amusing. Malcolm had to come in and pull their butts out of the fire. And hey, I was reading in the letter col about the names of North Force and their sports team name origins. I don't know why I didn't notice that. I guess there are some untapped Canadian Football League names that you can use in case you add more members, such as Stampede (Stampeder?) or Roughrider. Argonaut?

6. I have to admit though, as a long time reader of the Byrne Alpha Flight starting from the Uncanny X-Men issues, I found it hard not to think of Guardian or Vindicator whenever I saw The Canadian.

7. Well, I guess the stuff hits the fan next issue because Thor will want his "revenge" even though HE'S the one who killed his own son. Nice use of the projecting blame onto someone else plot detail.

All right, well I didn't even read past the letter section yet so I've still got lots of other stuff to enjoy about issue 257. Thank you so much!

Alan Bowman

Sagamihara City, Japan

1: Thanks!

2: Mikki first appeared in Savage Dragon #108. This son is not taken from actual Norse mythology. In Norse mythology, Móði (anglicized Módi or Mothi) and Magni are the sons of Thor. Their names translate to "Wrath" and "Mighty," respectively. Along with Thor's daughter Brúðr ("Strength"), they represent their father's attributes. I figured a fourth child wouldn't take the name of any of Thor's previous children and opted to give him a name which sounded similar.

3: You might if Malcolm dropped in unexpectedly.

4: Paul is older, presumably wiser, but certainly less energetic and headstrong than Malcolm.

5: There were others I considered (and there is a team called the Dragons, so Malcolm would fit right in) and if the roster changes I may include them.

6: Wrap anybody in the Canadian flag and they're going to share some visual similarities. When Vindicator first showed up he was accused of ripping off Captain Canuck.

7: That's how that goes with some people--it's never their fault. They find a way to shift the blame to somebody else. People don't like to admit their own mistakes.

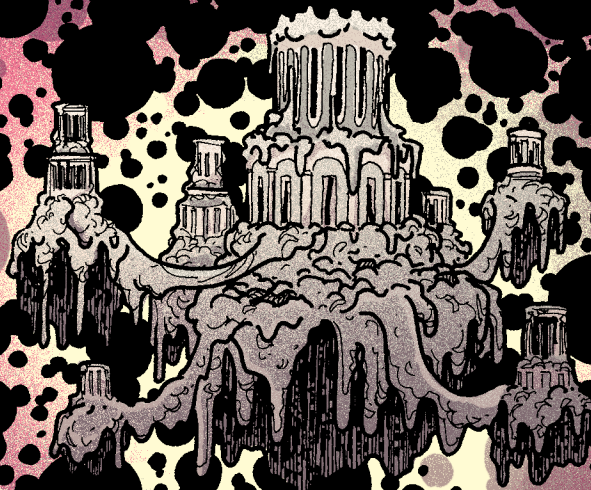
-Erik Larsen

NEXT: Torment.

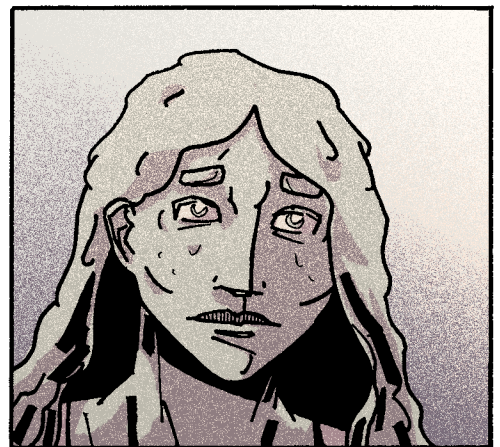
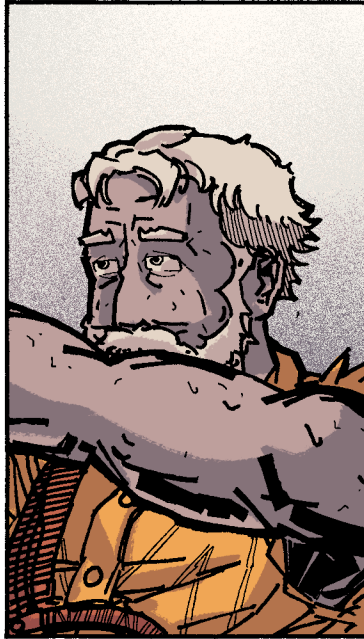
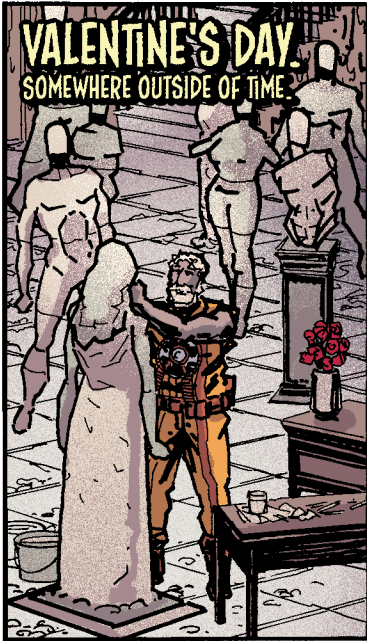
Hey, don't stop reading now--there's plenty of additional funnybook fun to be had in the pages that follow--!

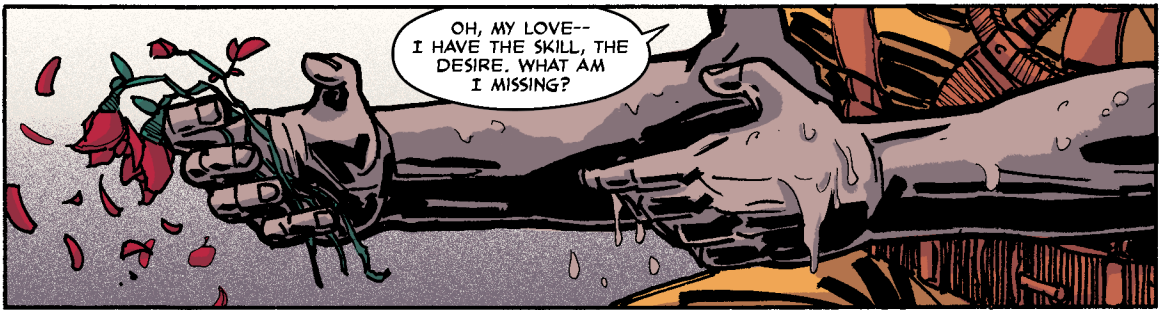
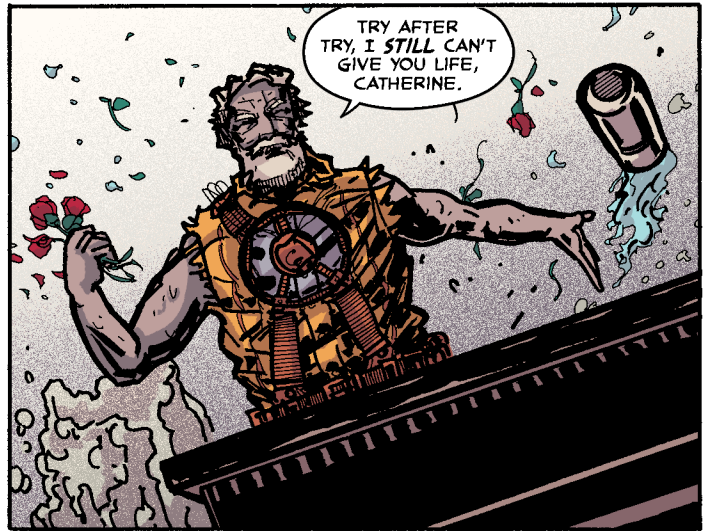
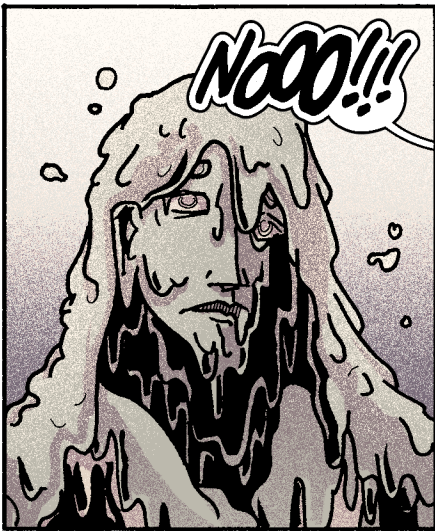
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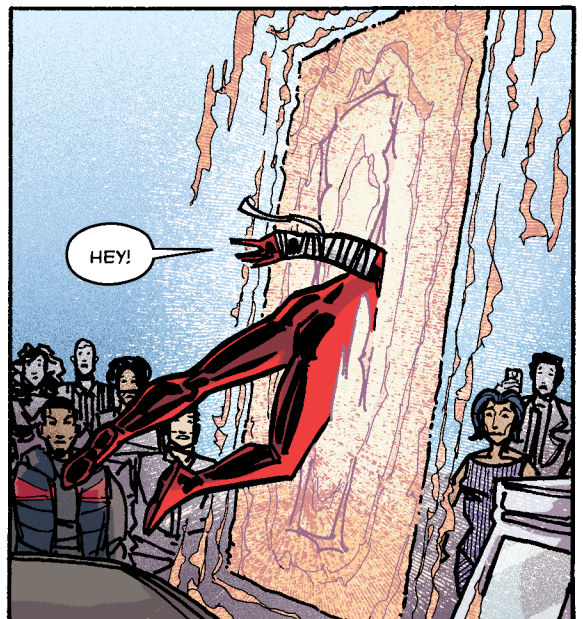
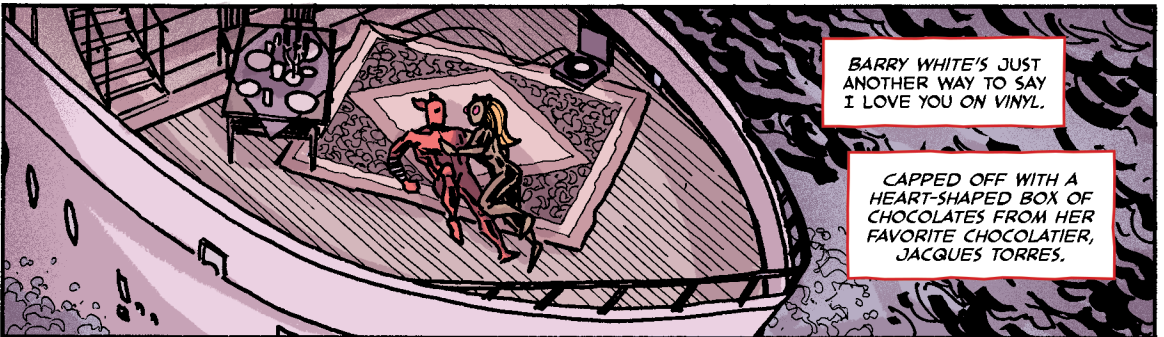
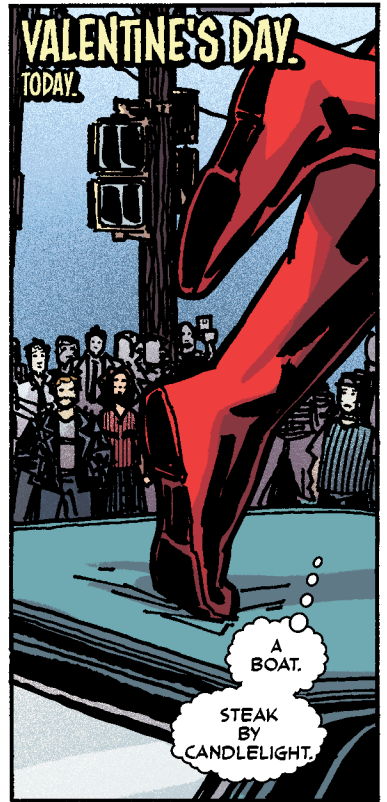
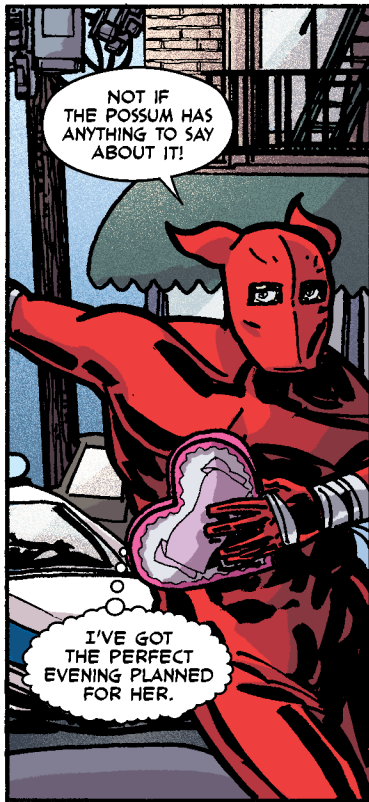
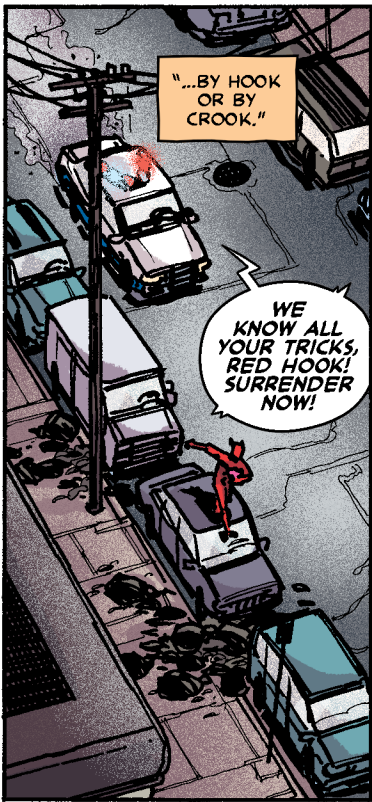
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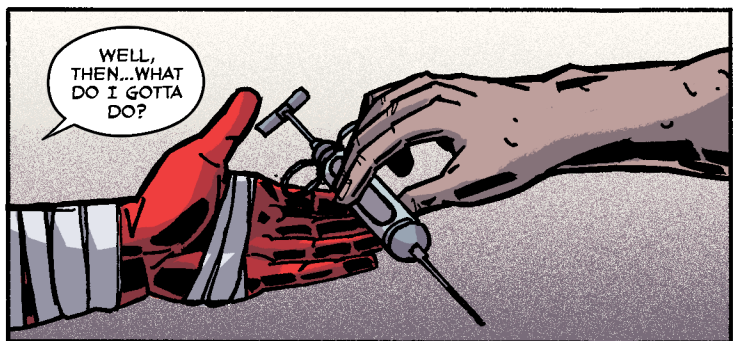
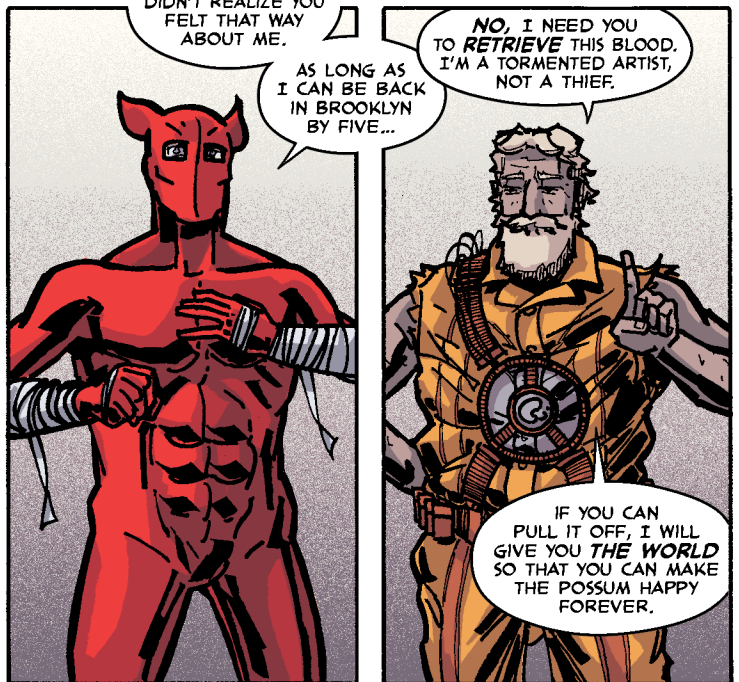
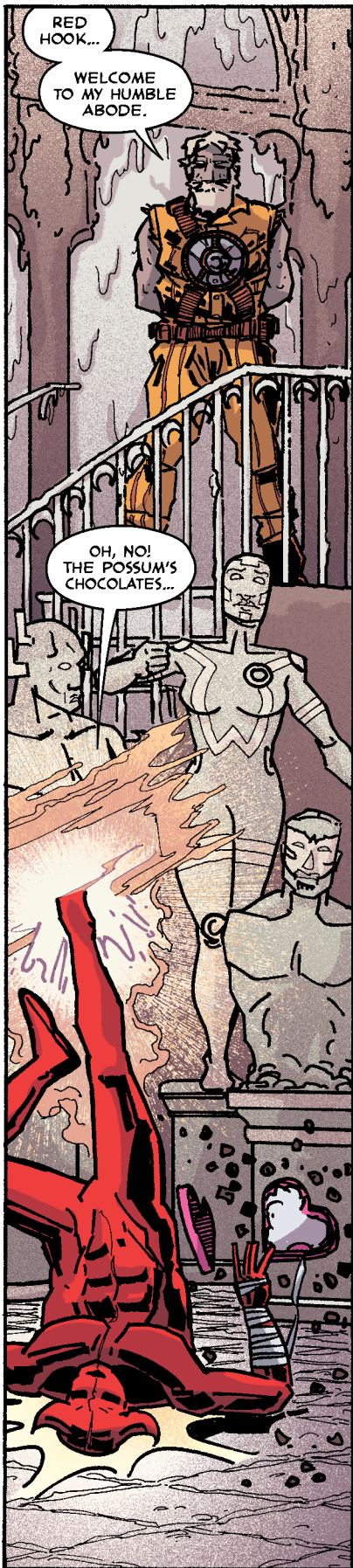


written by **DAVE KELLY** from a story by **DAVE KELLY & DEAN HASPIEL** artwork by **BRETT HOBSON**
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