



**SAVAGE<sup>®</sup> 254**

# **DRAGON**

**VICIOUS  
CIRCLE  
TRIUMPHANT!**



# SAVAGE<sup>®</sup> DRAGON

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felt the whole world was so jive



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# SAVAGE DRAGON™

# VICIOUS CIRCLE TRIUMPHANT!



GOOD.  
THEY  
HAVEN'T  
NOTICED  
ME.

PRODUCED  
BY:  
**ERIK LARSEN**  
*with*  
**NIKOS KOUTSIS**  
*and*  
**MIKE TORIS**  
COLORS

FERRAN DELGADO  
LETTERS

GIMME A  
BREAK,  
GLADYS!

HOW DO YOU  
*KNOW* YOU  
DON'T LIKE IT  
IF YOU HAVEN'T  
*TRIED* IT?

IF  
I'M *EVER*  
TEMPTED  
TO *TRY* IT,  
ROUGHNECK--

IT SURE  
AS *HELL*  
WON'T BE  
WITH  
YOU!



COME ON, BABY--  
YOU *CAN'T* JUST LET  
IT ALL HANG OUT LIKE  
THAT AND EXPECT A GUY  
TO KEEP HIS HANDS  
TO *HIMSELF*--

YOU'RE JUST  
ASKING  
FOR IT--!

GIVE ME SOME OF  
THAT SWEET STUFF--!

**THWAKK!**

NO  
MEANS  
**NO**,  
CREEP!

THAT'S  
MY CUE.

WHILE THEY'RE  
DISTRACTED--

GOT TO MAKE  
TRACKS--  
CONTACT THE  
OTHERS--!



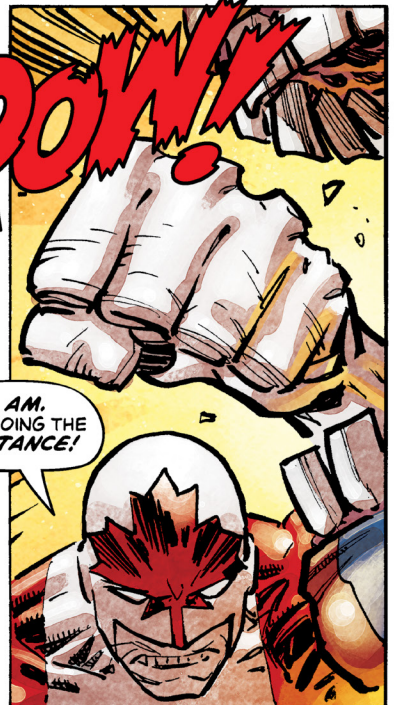
WAIT--

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?

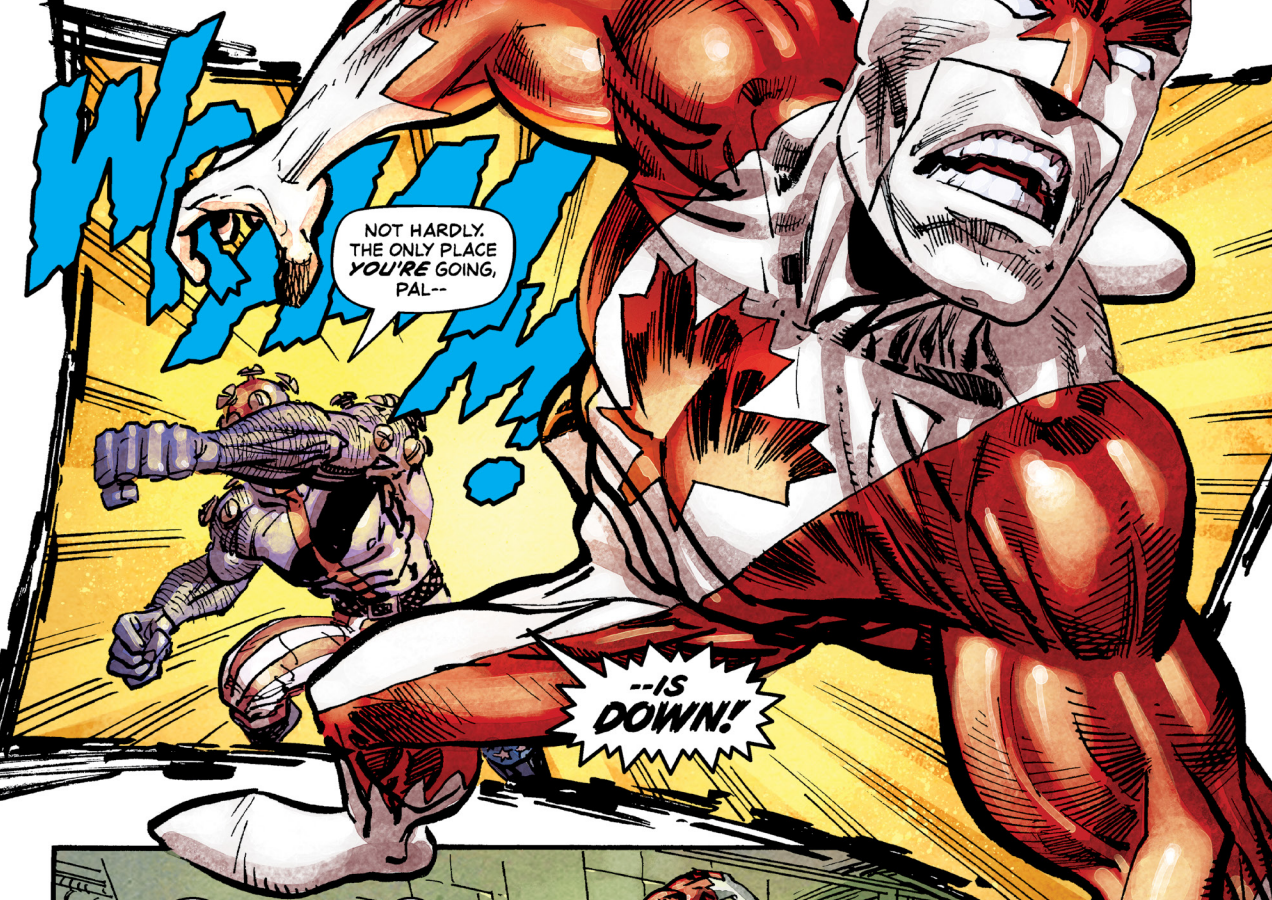
IT'S SOME  
FRUITCAKE  
WRAPPED IN A  
CANADIAN  
FLAG!



GOING  
SOMEWHERE,  
FLAGGOT?

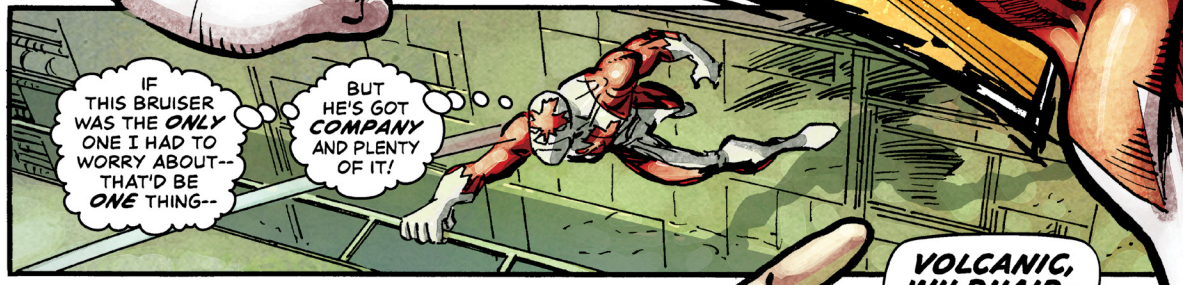


I AM.  
I'M GOING THE  
DISTANCE!



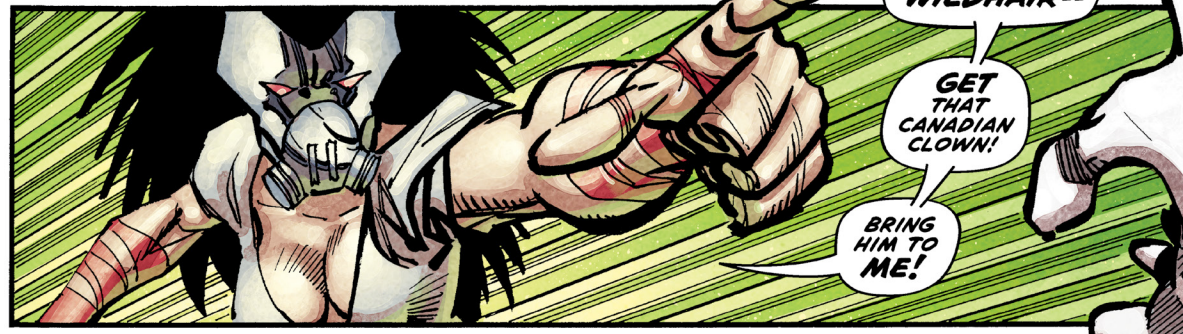
NOT HARDLY.  
THE ONLY PLACE  
YOU'RE GOING,  
PAL--

--IS  
DOWN!



IF  
THIS BRUISER  
WAS THE ONLY  
ONE I HAD TO  
WORRY ABOUT--  
THAT'D BE  
ONE THING--

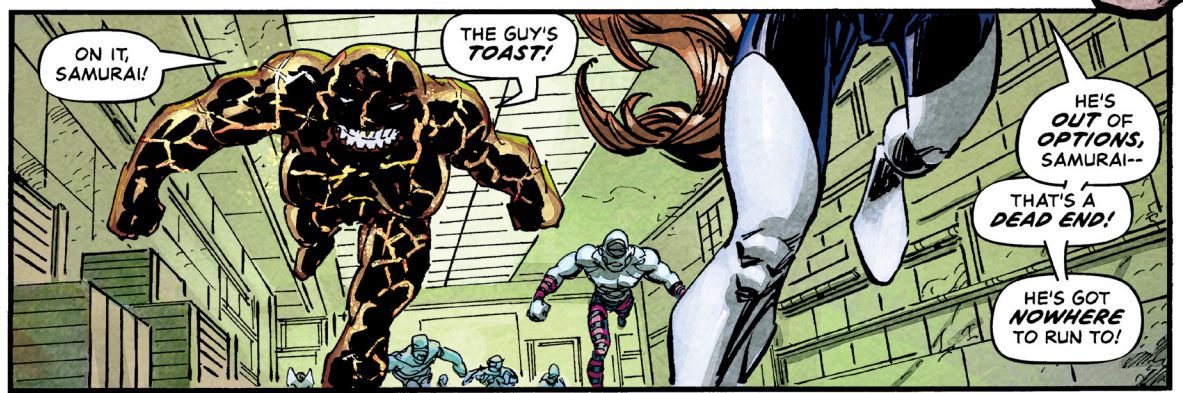
BUT  
HE'S GOT  
COMPANY  
AND PLENTY  
OF IT!



VOLCANIC,  
WILDHAIR--

GET  
THAT  
CANADIAN  
CLOWN!

BRING  
HIM TO  
ME!



ON IT,  
SAMURAI!

THE GUY'S  
TOAST!

HE'S  
OUT OF  
OPTIONS,  
SAMURAI--

THAT'S A  
DEAD END!

HE'S GOT  
NOWHERE  
TO RUN TO!



YOU CAN'T MARRY WALTER, AMY.

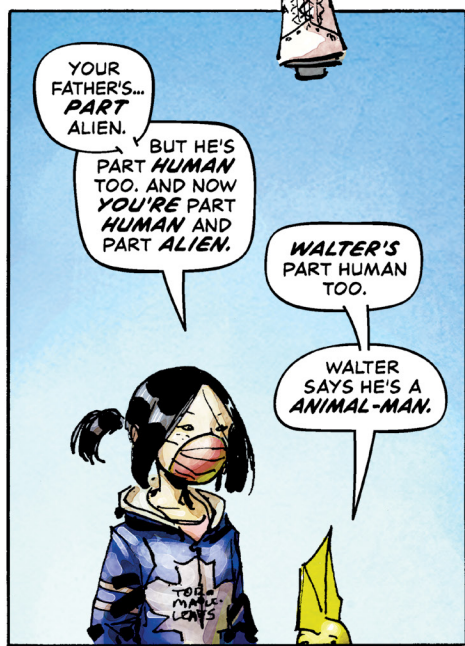
WHY?  
FOR ONE THING-- YOU'RE FIVE YEARS OLD.

HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE?

SIXTEEN, I THINK. IN CANADA.

FOR ANOTHER-- WALTER'S A TIGER AND PEOPLE AREN'T ALLOWED TO MARRY TIGERS.

YOU MARRIED BABA AND BABA IS A ALIEN.

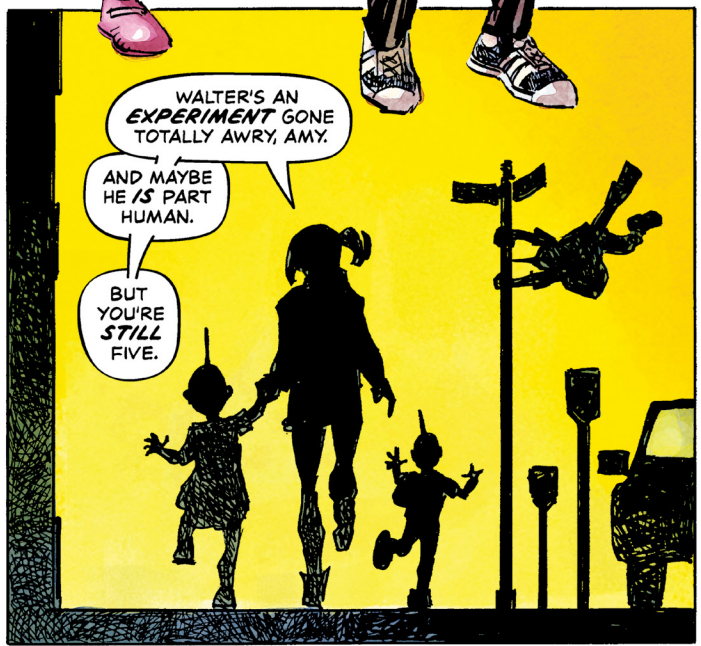


YOUR FATHER'S... PART ALIEN.

BUT HE'S PART HUMAN TOO. AND NOW YOU'RE PART HUMAN AND PART ALIEN.

WALTER'S PART HUMAN TOO.

WALTER SAYS HE'S A ANIMAL-MAN.



WALTER'S AN EXPERIMENT GONE TOTALLY AWRY, AMY.

AND MAYBE HE IS PART HUMAN.

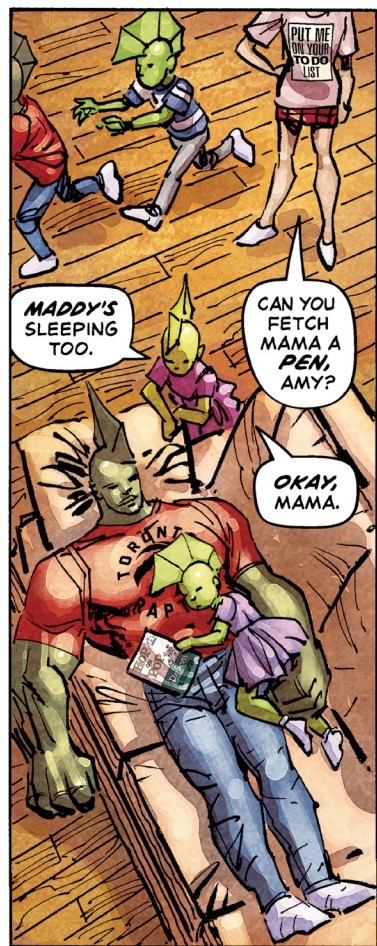
BUT YOU'RE STILL FIVE.



DADDY'S SLEEPING. LOOKS LIKE HE FELL ASLEEP READING TO MADDY.

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FIXING YOU KIDS AN AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK.

BABA'S SLEEPING.



MADDY'S SLEEPING TOO.

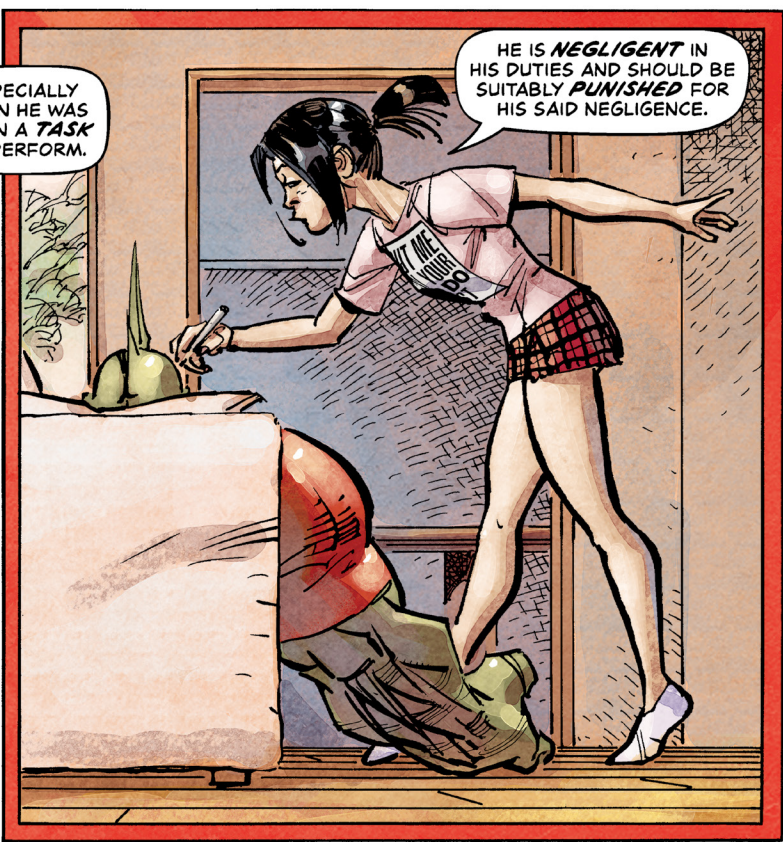
CAN YOU FETCH MAMA A PEN, AMY?

OKAY, MAMA.

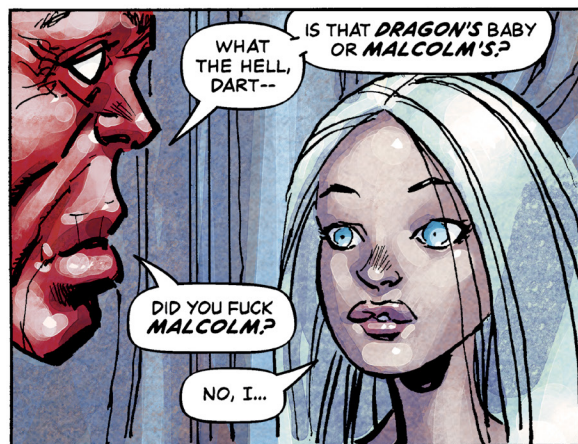
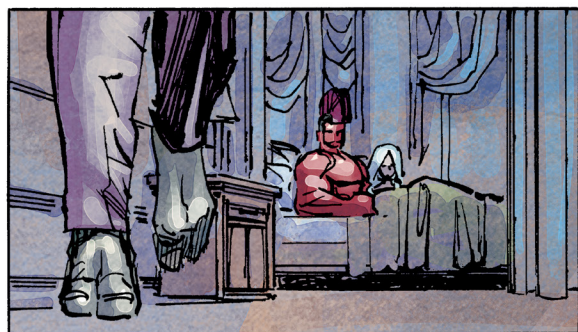
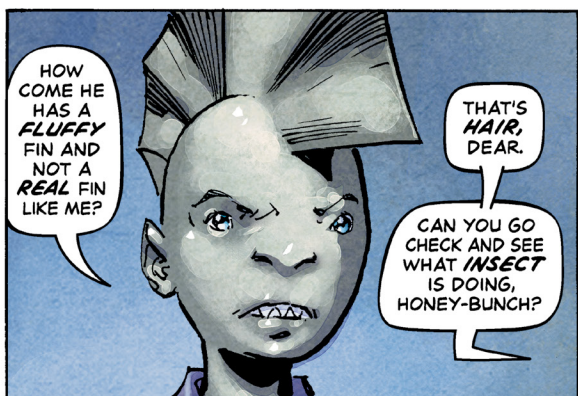
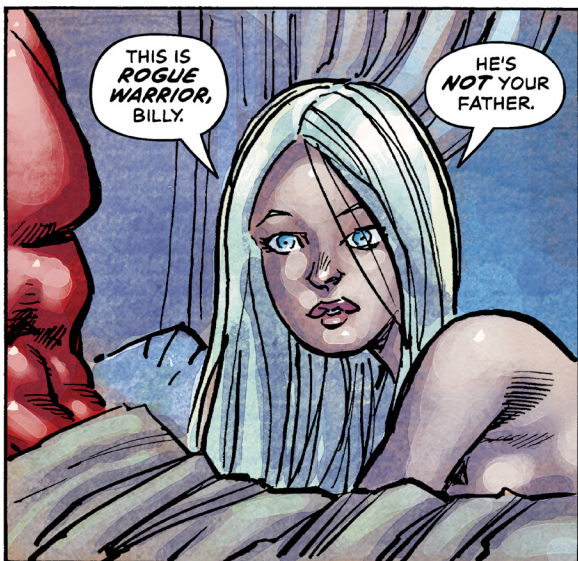
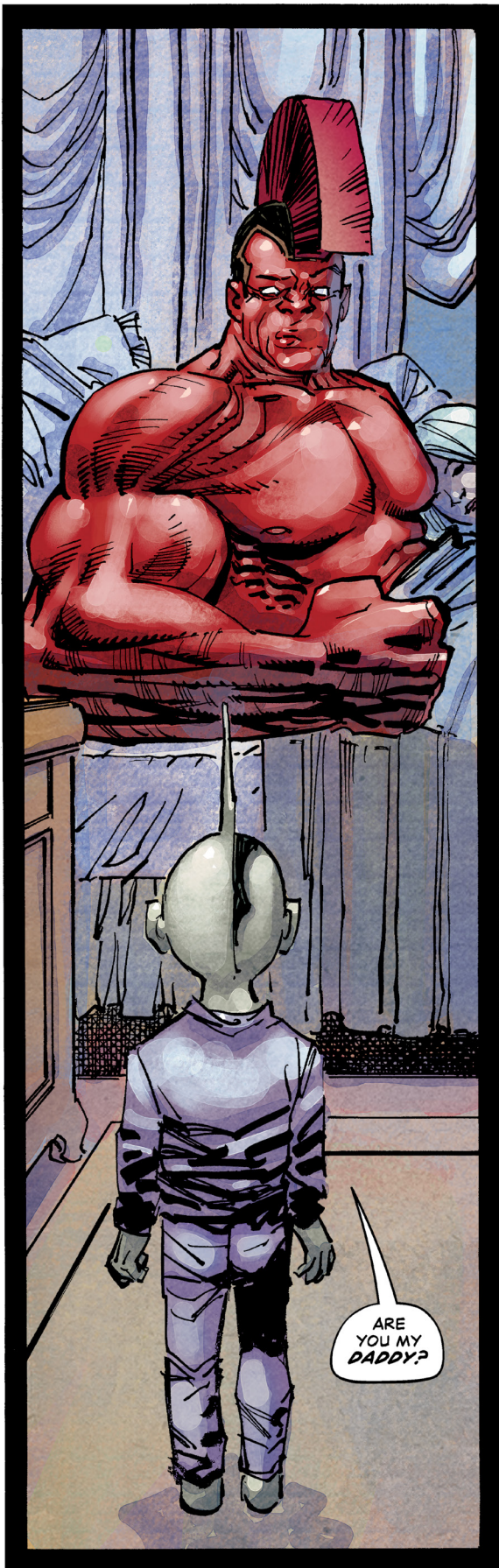


YOUR FATHER WAS AWFULLY CARELESS TO DOZE OFF LIKE THAT.

ESPECIALLY WHEN HE WAS GIVEN A TASK TO PERFORM.



HE IS NEGLIGENT IN HIS DUTIES AND SHOULD BE SUITABLY PUNISHED FOR HIS SAID NEGLIGENCE.

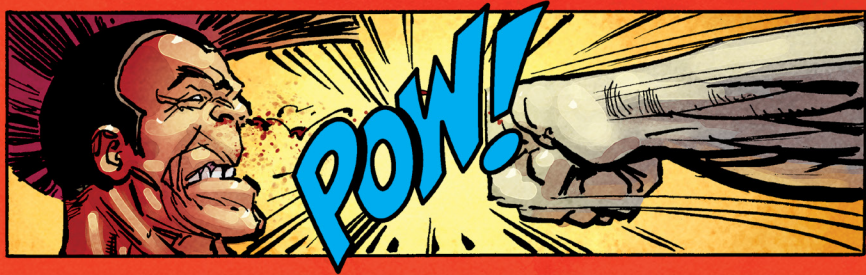


OKAY, THIS IS **BULLSHIT**. WHY AM I TAKING ORDERS FROM **YOU**? I'M BIGGER THAN YOU, STRONGER.

I SHOULD BE THE HEAD OF THE **VICIOUS CIRCLE!**

YOU JUST MADE A **BIG MISTAKE**, MISTER.

I **TOLD YOU** I WAS A LOT TOUGHER THAN I **LOOK**.



WHAT THE **HELL?**

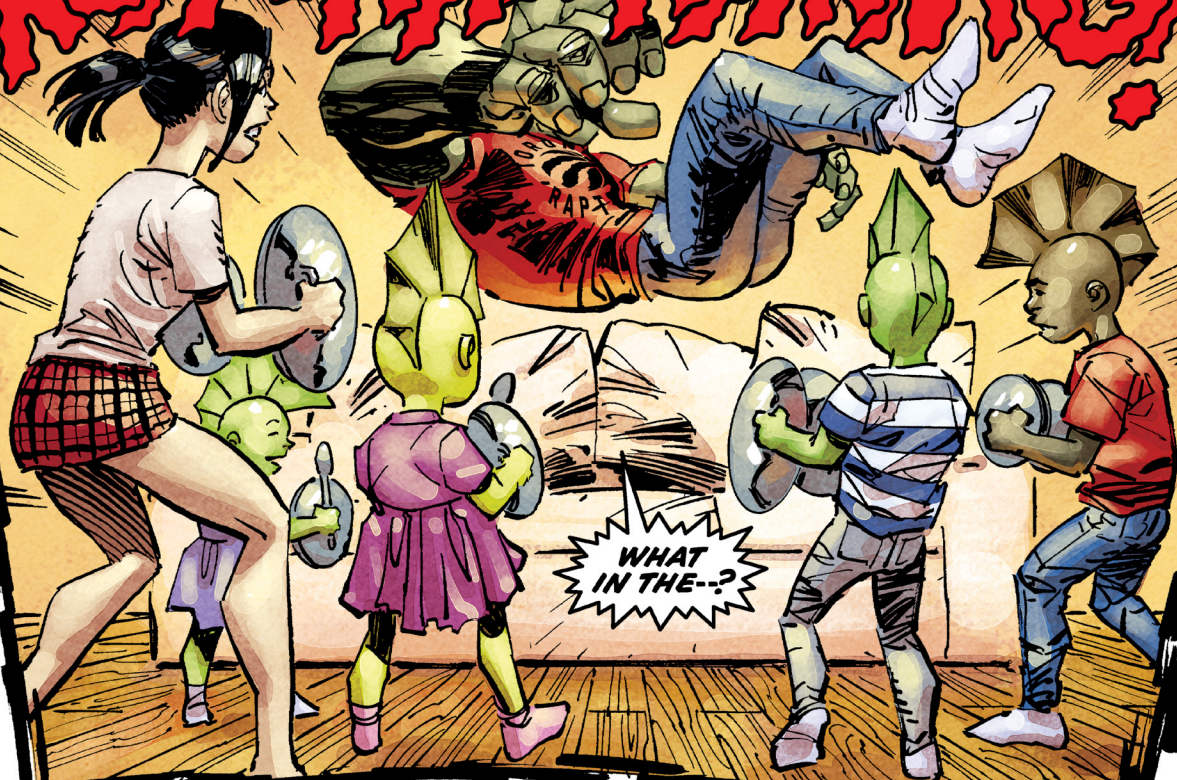
I WAS BITTEN BY **MAKO**, THE SHARK MAN-- HIS BLOOD MIXED WITH MINE\*-- THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.

**BOTTOM LINE--**

YOU DO **NOT** WANT TO FUCK WITH ME!

\*SEE SAVAGE DRAGON #191.

# KLAAAARRRRRING!



WHAT IN THE--?



# HAHAHAHA!



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR GODDAMNED MIND?? I HAVE SUPERPOWERS, MAXINE--

IF I'D IMPULSIVELY LASHED OUT I COULD HAVE RIPPED YOU IN HALF! THAT WAS TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE!

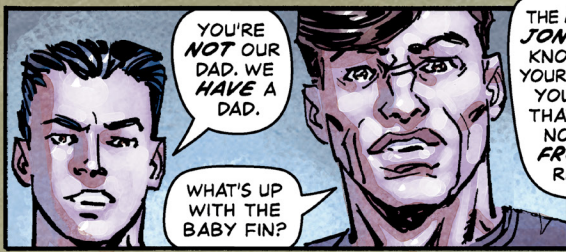
IT'S NOT FUNNY!



# BWA-HAHA!

HAHAHAHA!

HAHAHAHAHA!



YOU'RE NOT OUR DAD. WE HAVE A DAD.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE BABY FIN?

THE **WILLIAM JONSON** YOU KNOW *ISN'T* YOUR REAL DAD. YOU *KNOW* THAT. YOU'RE NOT EVEN FROM THIS REALITY.

YOU CAME OVER HERE FROM AN **ALTERNATE EARTH** WITH **MALCOLM, ANGEL AND JANEY.** \* IN MY REALITY *I* WAS YOUR FATHER.

WELL, ME *AND* WILLIAM. YOUR FATHER AND I WERE **MERGED** AT THE TIME. THE WIZARD **FON-TI** PULLED US APART—TURNING US INTO SEPARATE PEOPLE.

BUT YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY THAT DRAGON! YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE FROM AN **ALTERNATE REALITY.**\*\*

I MEAN, YEAH--A **VERSION** OF YOU WAS MERGED WITH DAD BUT IT *WASN'T* YOU.

**\*AFTER THEIR WORLD WAS DESTROYED IN SAVAGE DRAGON #103.**

\*\*PAUL DRAGON ARRIVED ON THIS EARTH IN SAVAGE DRAGON #250.

IT'S THE SAME THING! WE WERE **ESSENTIALLY** THE SAME PEOPLE--JUST SOME OF THE **DETAILS** ARE DIFFERENT.

THE **TIMELINE** IN MY REALITY PLAYED OUT QUITE DIFFERENTLY.

FON-TI MAGICALLY TRANSFORMED THE TWO OF YOU INTO **ADULTS** SO YOU COULD HELP ME FIGHT THE FORCES OF EVIL.



I DON'T REMEMBER THAT. DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?

NOT... REALLY. IT'S HARD TO TELL SOMETIMES. EVERYTHING IS A **JUMBLE.**

THINGS GOT PRETTY **CONFUSING** AFTER ALL OF THE **REALITIES** MERGED.\*\*\*

SO YOU GUYS JUST SKIPPED OVER OUR ENTIRE **CHILDHOOD**? THAT'S PRETTY MESS'D UP.

YOU **EXPERIENCED** YOUR CHILDHOODS. FON-TI JUST **REPLACED** YOU WITH **FUTURE VERSIONS** OF YOURSELVES.

WE **NEEDED** TO **SAVE** THE **WORLD.** THERE **WEREN'T** A LOT OF GOOD **OPTIONS.**



\*\*\*THE MERGING OF MULTIPLE WORLDS OCCURRED IN SAVAGE DRAGON #223-225.

YOU **EXPERIENCED** EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR CHILDHOOD.



YOU'RE MY **SONS!** I WAS PART OF YOUR **LIVES!**

**MALCOLM** DIDN'T EVEN **EXIST** IN MY REALITY.

YOU **HAVE** TO **REMEMBER!** YOU **HAVE** TO!

**SORRY,** PAUL.



I GOT **NOTHING.**

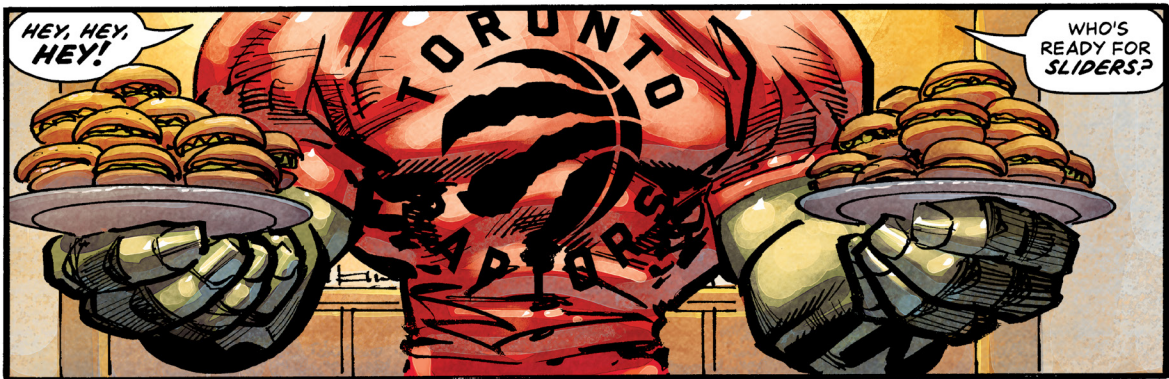
THAT  
OUGHT TO  
DO IT.

THESE GUYS  
WON'T GIVE  
YOU ANY MORE  
TROUBLE,  
DART.

ARE  
WE DONE  
HERE?



I THINK WE'VE MADE OUR POINT.



HEY, HEY, HEY!

WHO'S READY FOR SLIDERS?

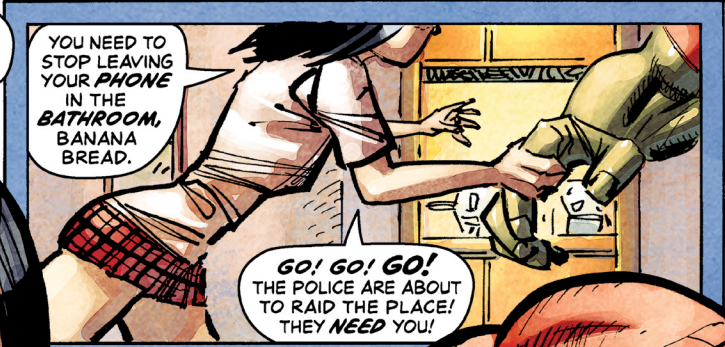


**MALCOLM!**

THE POLICE NEED YOU AGAIN!

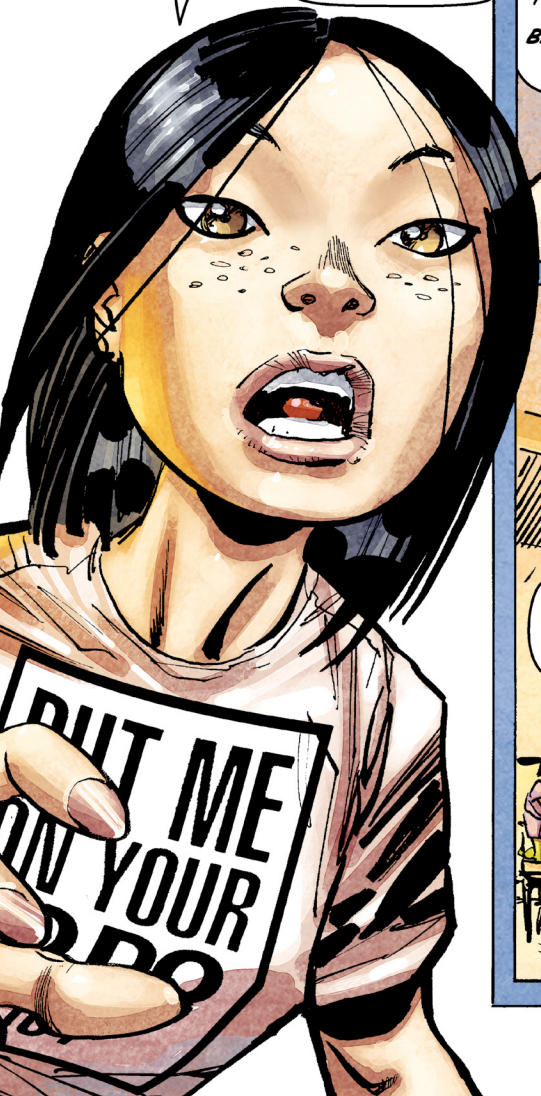
A BUNCH OF VICIOUS CIRCLE GOONS JUST TOOK OUT A ROOMFUL OF MOBSTERS!

THEY'RE AT THE BIJOU ROOM ON KING STREET WEST!



YOU NEED TO STOP LEAVING YOUR PHONE IN THE BATHROOM, BANANA BREAD.

GO! GO! GO! THE POLICE ARE ABOUT TO RAID THE PLACE! THEY NEED YOU!



I'M ON IT, MUFFIN TIN!

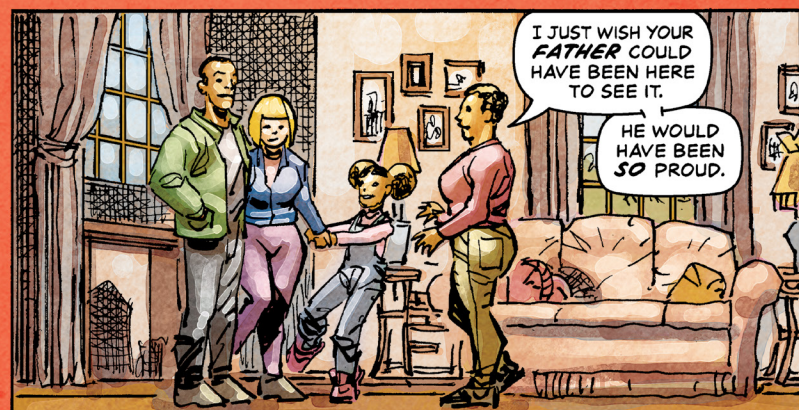
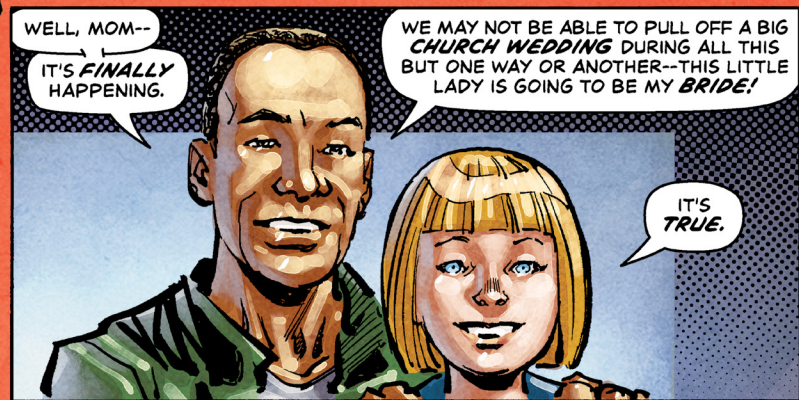
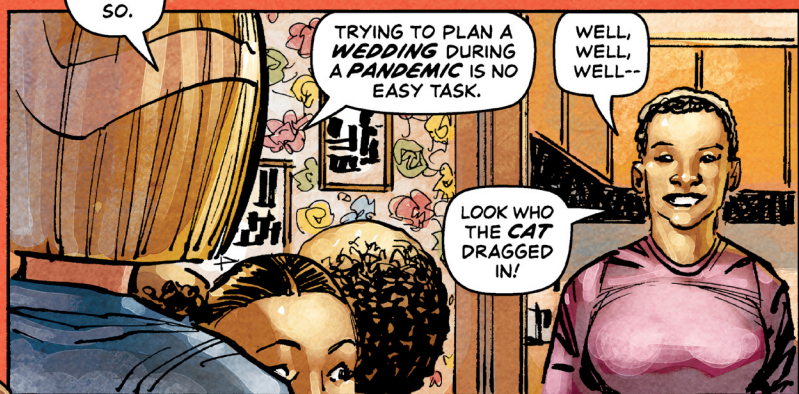
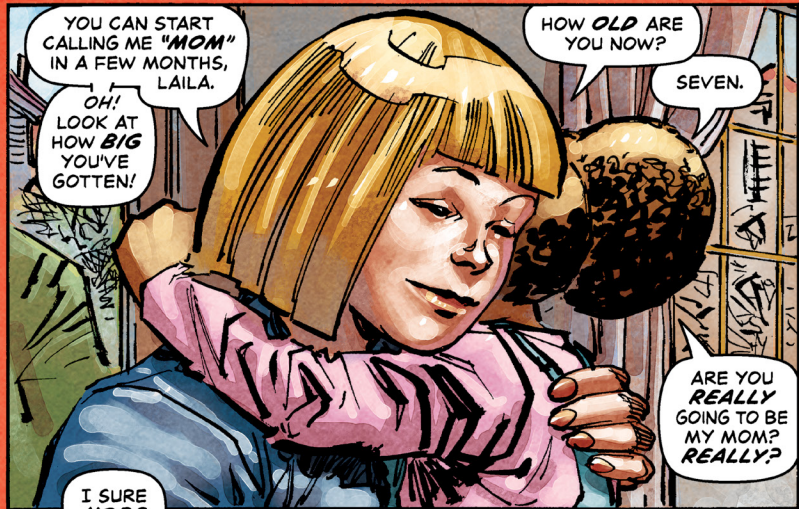
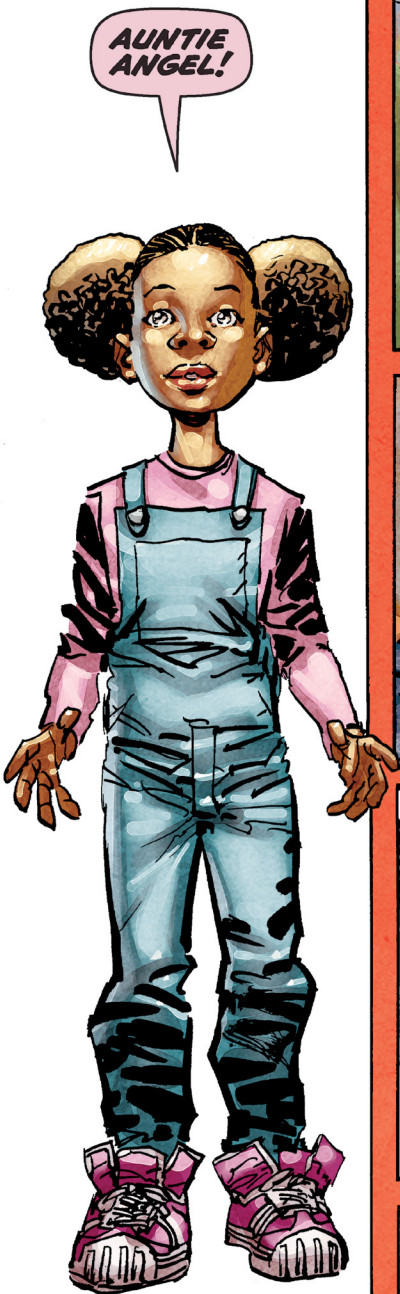
SAVE ME A FEW BURGERS!

DON'T FORGET TO--

YOU MIGHT WANT TO--

OH, HELL.



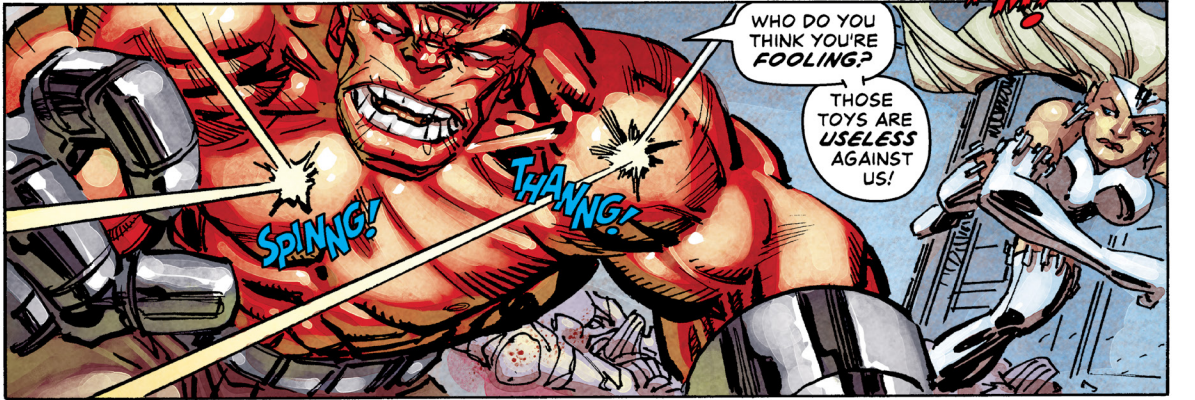
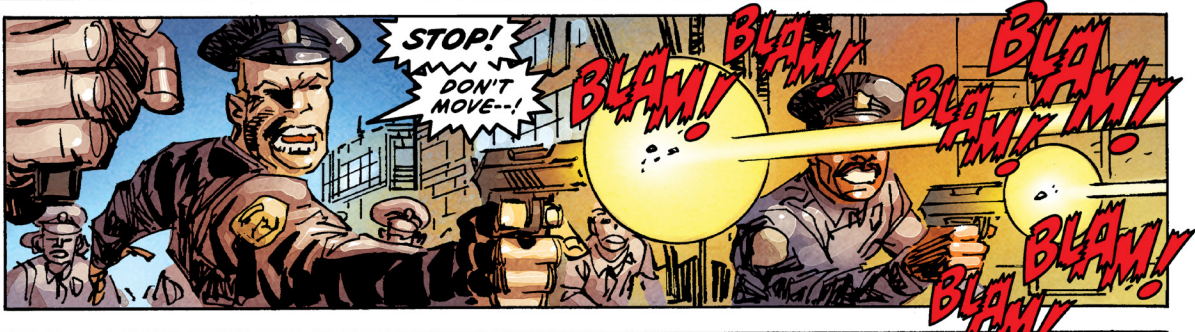
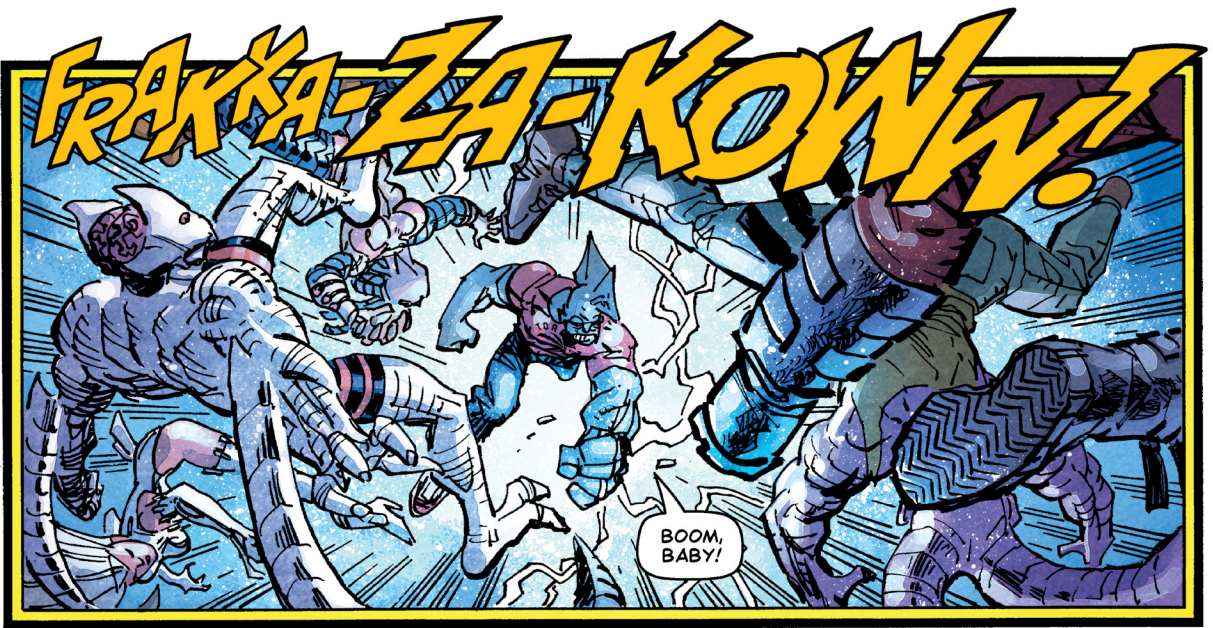




**SKRANK! WASH!**

**LET'S  
DO  
THIS!**

**TORONTO**



**THRA-RUMPH!**

THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO AGAINST US--

--IS DIE!

AAAIEEE!

EEAUGH!

**WRONN!**

IS THIS A JOKE TO YOU?

DO YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?

OKAY, THAT'S NOT WORKING OUT SO WELL.

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY SOMETHING ELSE--

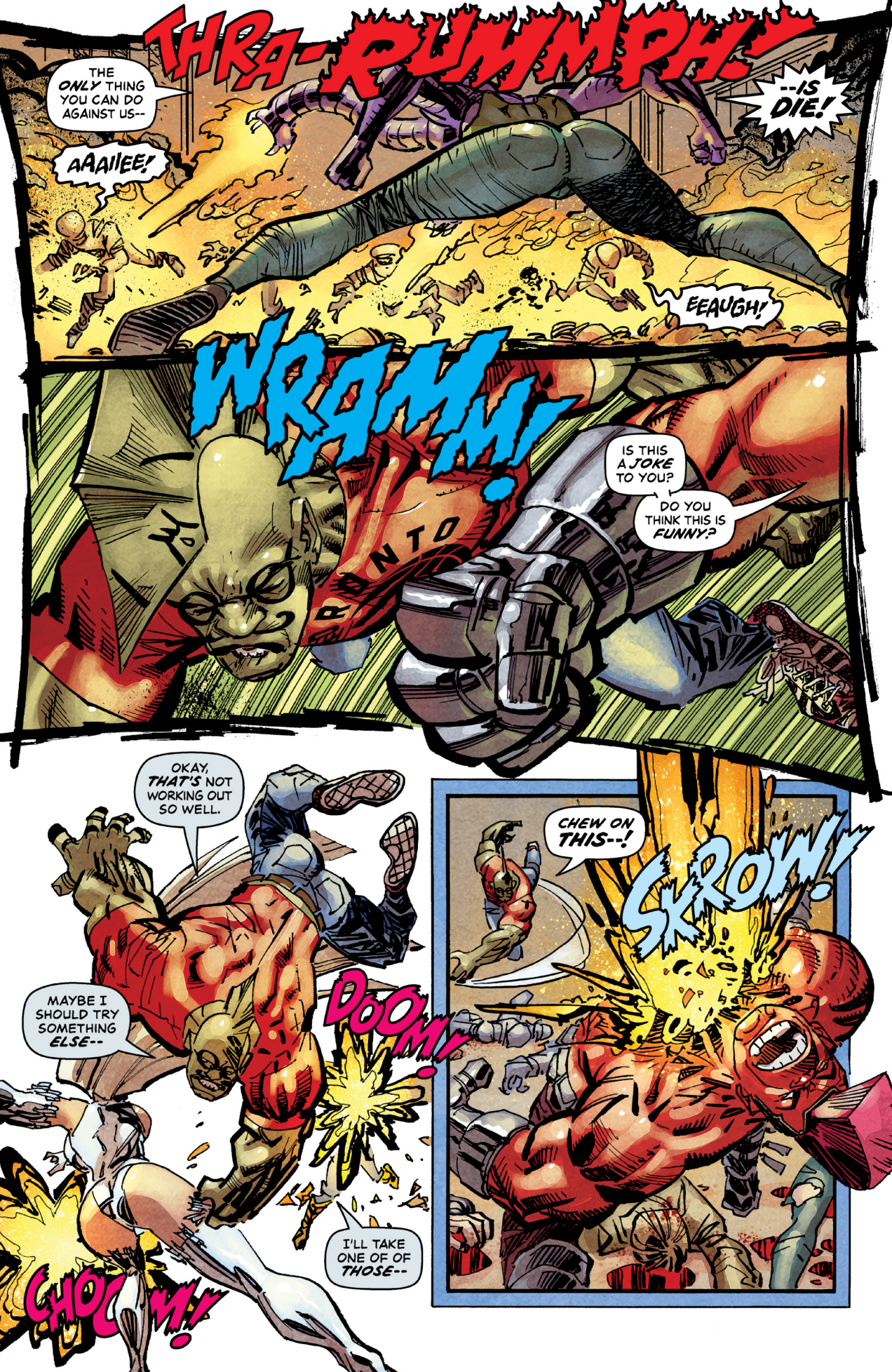
**DOOM!**

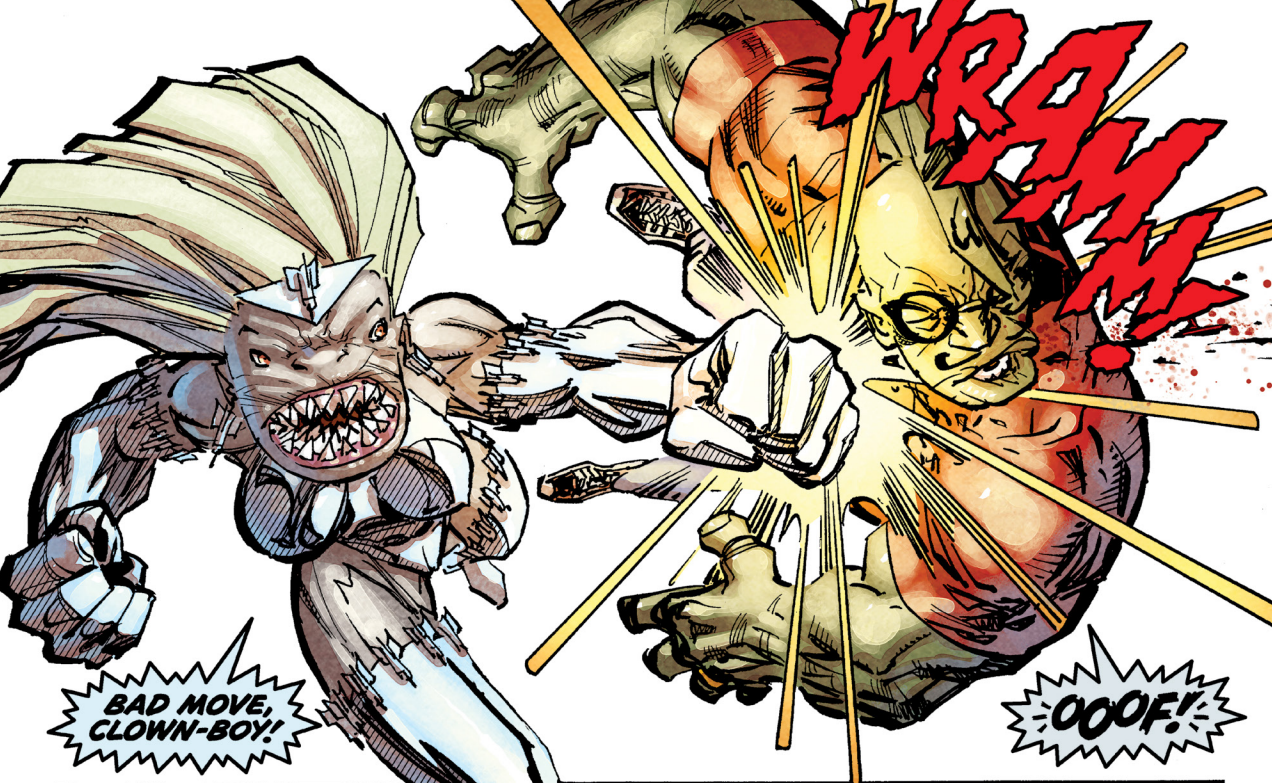
I'LL TAKE ONE OF OF THOSE--

CHEW ON THIS--!

**SKRON!**

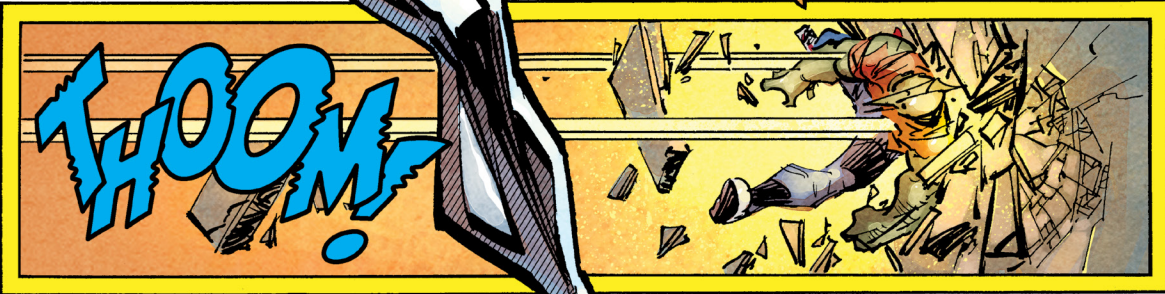
**CHOC MY!**





**BAD MOVE,  
CLOWN-BOY!**

**OOOF!**



THAT TOOK  
THE FIGHT OUT  
OF HIM!

LET'S  
FINISH  
OFF THIS  
FOOL!



THAT'S  
NOT  
HAPPENING!

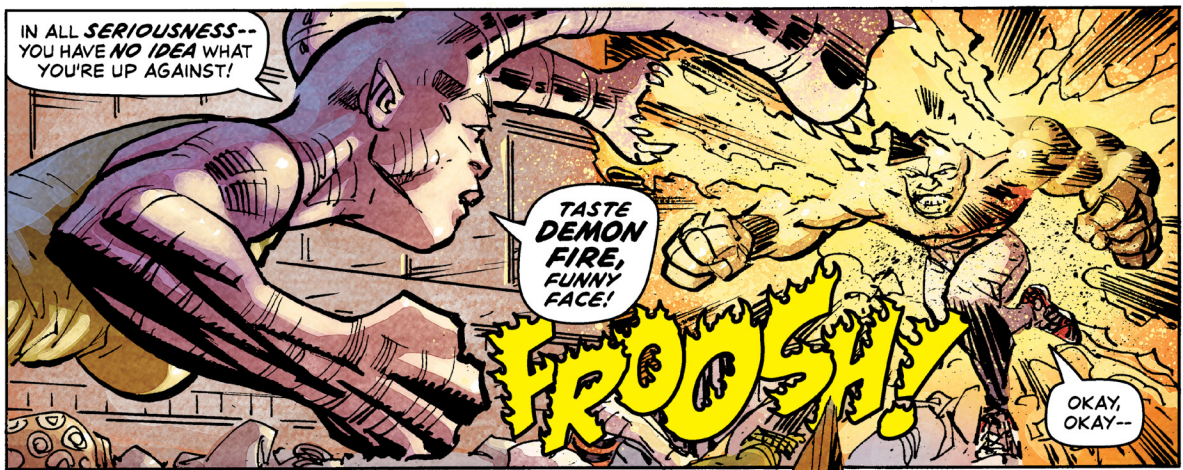
**FINLZAK!**



THOSE WERE YOUR HEAVY HITTERS.

--AND THEY'RE ALL DOWN FOR THE COUNT.

IN ALL SERIOUSNESS-- YOU MIGHT WANT TO RE THINK THIS.



IN ALL SERIOUSNESS-- YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST!

TASTE DEMON FIRE, FUNNY FACE!

**FROOSH!**

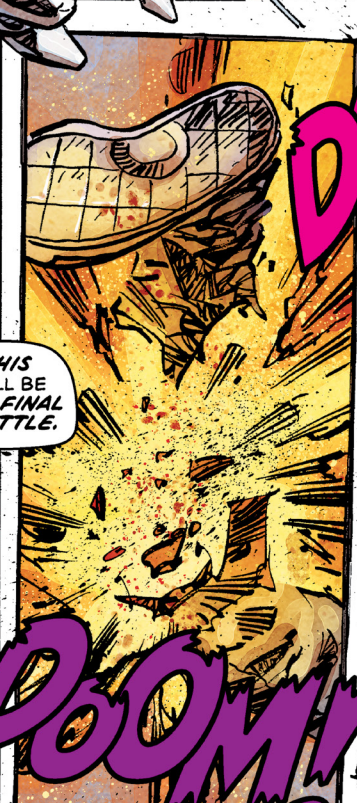
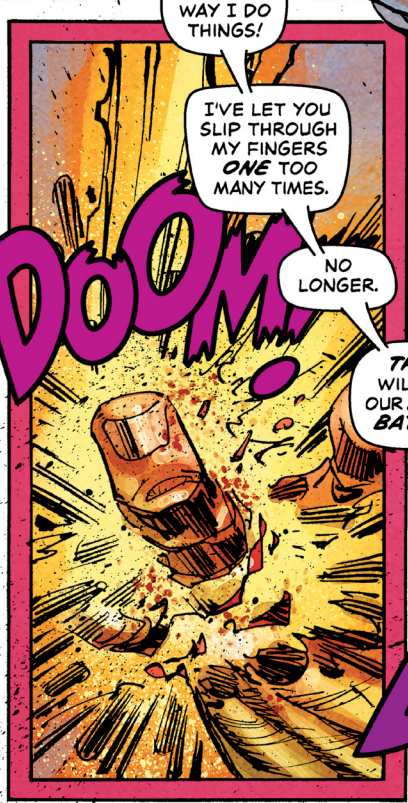
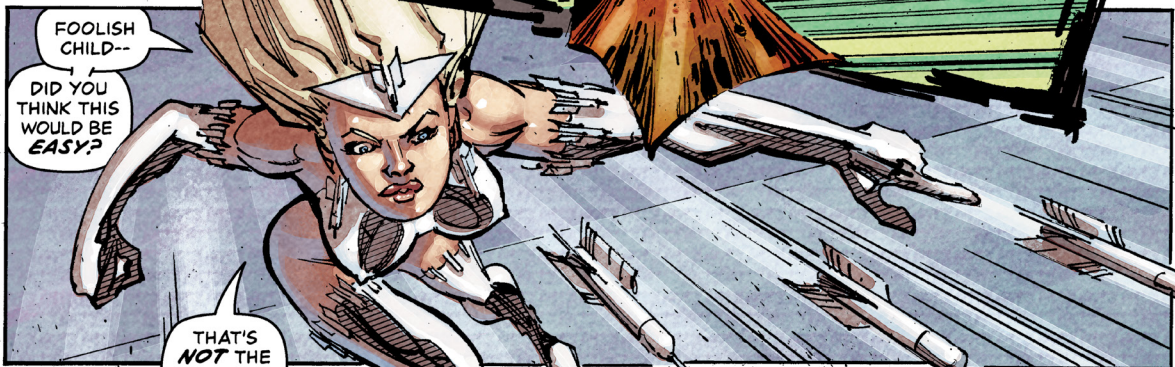
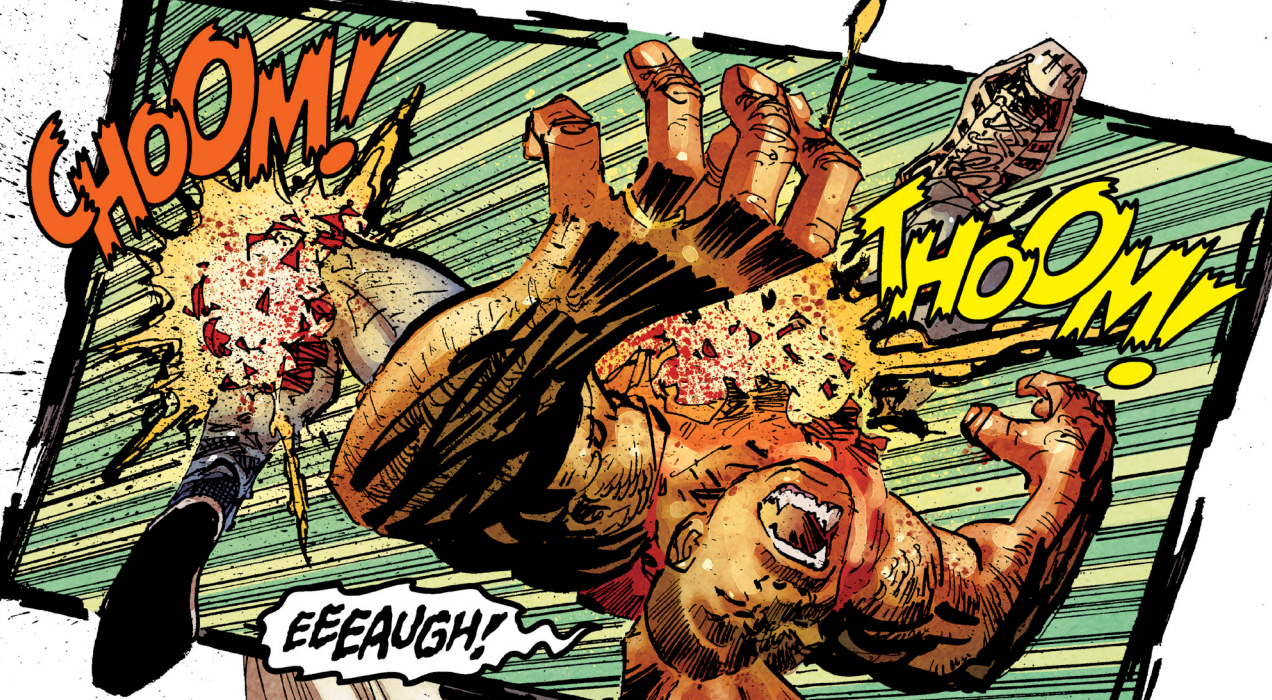
OKAY, OKAY--



IF YOU WANT TO DO THIS THE HARD WAY--

--WE CAN DO THAT!

**WRUWH!**





HONESTLY,  
MALCOLM--

HOW DID  
YOU *THINK*  
THIS WAS  
GOING TO  
END?

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**THE** **EMPTY**  
**GRAVE!**

# FIN ADDICTS

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2701 NW VAUGHN ST., SUITE 780  
PORTLAND, OR 97210

e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at [www.savagedragon.com](http://www.savagedragon.com)

Welcome to SAVAGE DRAGON #254. Things have been having great runs of late. SAVAGE DRAGON #250, 252 and 253 have all gone back to print due to high demand and the back issue prices of SAVAGE DRAGON issues post #200 or so all seem to have gone through the roof. Sales are on the rise and life is good. In any case, here's the mail.

Hey Erik,

It's been a really long, I mean really long time, since I've done my civic duty as a Fin-Addict by writing in to aimlessly ramble about the book and then some. Let it be known I've never fallen off the wagon, still a supporter buying and reading the book. I suppose I've been preoccupied the past four years being a first time father. Keeping up with my son is equal parts rewarding and exhausting. Now that he's four, he's going with me to pick up Savage Dragon!

Just picked up issue 249, which I believe is the first issue for sale during the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm glad there are still stores that were able to weather the economic storm. My family and I moved from New Jersey back to my home state of Virginia at the beginning of March just as states were starting quarantines. The cost of living was ridiculous and took its toll on us. I was desperate honestly and had to sell my entire comic collection to help fund my family's move. It broke my heart to do so, but I vowed the one series I had collected since day one, Savage Dragon, would be the one series I would own once again. Through the generosity and affordability of some offers of generous fellow Dragon fans in Facebook groups, I've regained well over 100 issues over the last month. Now to fill in the holes. So if anyone has doubles, let me know!

Back to the topic of 249. Due to the use of real time in your book, it's very cool to see Angel addressing COVID-19. I believe I read somewhere yours is the first comic to do so. Also really dig the planned layouts sort of homaging the dynamic and bombastic pages of '90s comics. At least that's what I assume and felt like to me. Also think I spotted quite a few self homages? A lot of killer inking in this issue too, and Mike and Nikos on point with the colors as always. I met Nikos at NYCC this past October before the world went to hell. Really cool and kind guy. Let me extend a special thanks to him for shipping me a large chunk of the issues he's worked on all the way from Greece very affordably. I might try to woo him for five issue of a series I'm penciling and inking for Blue Juice Comics. I'll let you know when there's an announcement on that and solicitation is in Previews.

On a side note, I'm also getting the Archives volumes again. Some of them I was initially missing, so it's great to finally have all nine volumes released up until this point. Even though I love the single issues, there's something about the purity of the black and white page.

As I write this, 250 is going to go on sale in a couple of weeks. As a lifelong fan who's been through the wringer losing it all, and trying to regain it for the pure love and enjoyment of the book, I'm glad I'm here to participate in supporting you with this milestone. Thanks again for all you do for comics.

Good Times,  
Nick Justus  
Cumberland, VA

**Thanks for being there for me, Nick. I couldn't do this without you and readers like you. It's been a crazy journey for everybody involved.**

Another great issue, Erik!

It was fun seeing the kids back in dimension-x vs. them all grown up with superpowers! It was great seeing Dart take out that wannabe Kingpin! It would've been even better if Dart had been on more than one page! (Did I mention, that I love Dart?) Anyway, looks like I was right about Angel not being quite ready to settle down! I can't wait to see how all this turns out! Thanks for the years of entertainment! Issue 250 is just around the corner! I can't wait!

Jonathan Tidwell  
Jackson, TN

**It was my absolute pleasure. I can't tell you how thrilled I am to have been able to do this book all of these years.**

Dear Mr. Larsen.

I sit here typing halfway through the infamous year 2020 to say "thanks for creating something to perk up spirits".

This letter concerns Savage Dragon 248-9.

Wow!

I don't know if it was because it had been so long since 247 or just that it was just that good. But #248 was everything I had been missing in SD. Scene changes about every page. Showing both the U.S. and Canada. Tons of info and meaningful things. The breakout alone was awesome.

It was great seeing some of the baddies in their designed bad guy outfits instead of generic freaks.

Page 4: 2 of my favorite characters. I hope Alex will be placed on a path that adds reason for her being part of the cast.

Poor Dung. But nice to see him aged and engaging his next generation baddies.

Back in Chicago, the fanboy in me digs the forgotten characters reappearing just to mix generations and because I still like their designs. But one of the biggest scenes is we get old characters turned into new super humans.

The freak-out spread over Chicago just shows how dangerously close to a totalitarian country it has become. I worry about Rock and his gang. Then Frank jr. proposing and Angel shown as little Angel for a panel. I hope this works out.

The action scenes are great but I love Maxine being so scared of her daughter. Whoever drew the Angel back cover needs to be placed on an upcoming back-up! Great!

249: I know you're not fond of flashback scenes but I loved this one, especially because it was dated.

Then an awesome two page splash showcasing some real baddies and introducing the Covid-19 virus. Malcolm getting hit out of the panel has to be from an old spidey book. More recognizable bad guys and girls! Then we hear that Freak-Out will no longer be utilized and we get to see gen 2 baddies making the splash with good reason! Kingpin offered in one page; and, only you, Erik, would come up with two totally identical characters being sexual together.

I think you spoiled us in the early days of Dragon when tons of designed characters were thrown at us every page. Probably, because you had invented so many of them earlier in life. I'm looking forward to more new designs AND more super teams. As far as I know; God-Squad, Brute Force, S.O.S., and Freak Force are all that inhabit the highbrow universe... and most of them we only see in back-ups. But you're creating a great bizarre cast in Toronto with Tootsie, Greta Gearbox, Kevin, the new foursome, Frank jr, tons of kids, Alex, etc. I look forward to seeing an all-new creative Larsen designed Canadian super team- I mean, there has to be one, right?

As for utilizing the remainder of the horrible year, I await how the virus and extreme separation of citizens and pre-revolution/civil war is handled. Not to mention the upcoming election. Lots of potentially interesting upcoming sub-plots! cannot wait for the big 250 and it's back-ups.

For the record my favorite characters are 1) Alex 2) Frank jr. 3) Rock 3.5) Vanguard, but I'd love to catch-up with the gods, etc.

Damn, I wish sales would allow for a second Highbrow universe book. Anywho, 9.5 on two greatly filled issues.

An in-training fin-head,  
Matthew B.B. Cashel

**As always, thanks for checking in. I'm doing the best I can with the tools at my disposal.**

Erik,

It's been a while since I've written, but honestly it's been a while since I had anything to write about. Y'see, due to circumstances beyond my understanding, I received issues 247 and 249 on the same day from my LCS. I, of course, blame The Coronavirus. I have been extremely lucky in that the only way I have been directly affected by the bastard thing is that I can't always get my funnybooks exactly when I want them. Sadly, me and my White Privilege are far more fortunate than most. It sucks when your urge to protest and stand up for millions of folks who've gotten the shaft for hundreds of years in this country has to be tempered by your desire to keep your children alive. Malcolm's got the right idea, I need to move my family north.

Anyhoozles, I had to wait until today to receive my copy of 248. Reading three new issues of Dragon leading into the BIG anniversary 250 was quite a treat. I didn't feel as lost as I probably would've were circumstances different. I do have some thoughts and question-y type bits, and these are those:

- The artwork seems to go through peaks and valleys. In these issues the quality is definitely ramping up. I have to wonder if this has something to do with your freelance work cutting into the time you can spend on Dragon. I completely understand that you have things that draw your attention, things you want to do besides SD, things that probably help keep the lights on. I honestly have no idea if there is a direct correlation between these valleys and your freelance work, and this is probably the most backhanded compliment you've received or that I've given, but I'm trying to say the book is looking better with these issues, and that includes the entire team, the colors have been outstanding, too.

- The Vicious Circle- Gotta say, the run for the border makes perfect sense. Hopefully, the end of the use of Freak Out is permanent, so the Freaks that survived the crop-dusting and made it across the border and their progeny can mess with Malcolm and keep him hopping for a while. I loved the disposal of Philson Wisk by Dart, and the mythologizing of Overlord, sure would be cool if some crazy lady found a spare suit of armor...

- The arrival of Crusader, Destroyer and the Webster Twins- It's nice to see we've got the makings of a new super-team in the nick of time. Busloads of Vicious Circleers would be a handful for Malcolm by himself. Though new to the game, they seem capable enough.

-Maxine Dragon- I've got a feeling she may not be long for this world. She's becoming a less and less likable character, unfortunately. She's being portrayed as a nymphomaniacal, self-centered booze-bag who's scared of her own children and, as a result, a shitty, derelict mother. I hope Maxine digs herself out of this and gets right, but if not, deuces. I can't abide somebody, real or fictional, getting shit-faced around her kids and begging for orgies from relative strangers.

- Finally, I'd like to echo the sentiments of MC Timmy and others in welcoming Olav Beemer back to the backmatter. I've been reading comics since I was five years old, over 35 years, and Olav is one of the LOC Legends. When you see his name in a letters page, you stop and read the letter. Thoughtful, smart and passionate, glad you're back, Sir. Now if only that Augie guy could find his way out of his ivory tower and back to a Fin-Addicts page...

David Bewsey  
Rockin' The Suburbs, just like Josh Eichhorn did

I don't have much to add to a lot of your comments but let me address the peaks and valleys of the artwork which you mentioned. It's hard to articulate just how blind a person can be to their own work. I'll often look back at my previous work and wonder what I was thinking at the time and wonder why I couldn't see then the distortions and oddities that are so obvious to me now. And I'm sure I'll look back at what I'm doing now at some point and be equally appalled but at every period, I can assure you that I was trying to do my very best.

Erik,

By the time you read this message, the historic and highly anticipated Savage Dragon #250 will be, at least close to being, in stores. I know myself, and so many other fans, are looking forward to this milestone as you keep plugging away bringing us the adventure, action, drama and straight up weirdness that comes with our favorite fin-headed superhero.

What a crazy and hard year this has been for us all. I have not been to my work office since March and my local comic store is located in downtown Seattle where my place of employment is so I haven't read many comics since we got shutdown in the Pacific Northwest. I finally just had my LCS ship me the titles in my box which, of course, includes Savage Dragon. At the end of this week, I had the rare privilege of reading #248 and #249 back-to-back in one sitting.

Enjoying the build up to the big book event and seeing a bunch of freaks coming up into Canada given the government's actions in Chicago so they can get pounded by Dragon and friends. Maxine and Dragon's relationship remains a real centering aspect of the book and provides, especially these two issues, some hilarious and awkward moments.

At any rate, see you soon for #250. Congratulations, truly, for this milestone and all your hard work in getting to this revered place in comic book history. Take care of yourself and hope you have a few spare moments to celebrate!

Dave Lester  
Seattle, WA

**"Spare moments?" What are those exactly?**

Dear S.D crew

I loved issue 250! the complete immersion in a Covid-19 infected world was crazy to me. I mean when has a comic book ever done something like you are doing (on the same level at least) I thought the ending of the main story was awesome, the return of PAUL DRAGON!!!! Or is it? The artwork was stellar as it's ever been and I've always enjoyed your writing I honestly hope that story goes somewhere crazy. The side stories were delightful. Brilliant talent was displayed and I especially loved the story with the "adult mutated evil tortoises" if you know what I mean. Please continue to craft the most epic ongoing storyline in all of comics, I just have one question though.

So my favourite character in the series is Red Giant (Rita Medermade/Jonson). And I'm pretty curious as to what her first appearance is. Everywhere I look it says issue 3 of the ongoing but I have analyzed every panel of that book and cannot find her, would you mind clearing that up for me? Thanks.

One last thing, have you ever considered compiling all of the classic Paul Dragon comics from graphic fantasy and megaton into one volume? I think soon would be a good time since it looks like the character has returned, just a thought.

Yours sincerely,  
Leo Brocklehurst  
Manchester, England

**SAVAGE DRAGON ongoing series #3 is indeed Rita's first appearance. She's in one panel. It's the last page, panel two and she's in the lower left-hand corner (although her hair was miscolored). When the next issue rolled around her hair was colored red and while not settled in and on-model it was made expressly clear that it was Rita in the added pages to the trade paperback SAVAGE DRAGON: A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH (or in SAVAGE DRAGON ARCHIVES #1).**

Collecting the Paul Dragon material is problematic because there's so little of it. There's not enough material for a decent-sized trade paperback. The two *Graphic Fantasy* stories were reprinted already in SAVAGE DRAGON issues #225 and 250, and the Megaton stories were reprinted a few years ago in the SAVAGE DRAGON ARCHIVE comic books (not to be confused with the SAVAGE DRAGON ARCHIVES TPBs). If I searched high and low, I might be able to scrape together just over a hundred pages, which would make for a pretty slim volume. All of the comics I drew as a kid were destroyed in 1991 when my house burned down, so there really aren't a lot of possible leads to follow. Plus, it's all pretty amateurish. I can spruce it up a bit with color, as I have with the two *Graphic Fantasy* stories, but it would take a lot of work and I'm not sure there's much demand for seeing this stuff. It's pretty rough.

Dear Erik,

I wanted to admit something and then get into SD 250. I always said I loved the Marvel universe but that it was just too hard to find a starting point. Well, I loved the Uncanny X-Men when Claremont was on it. Gavin introduced me to Johnathan Hickman's group of X-titles and I fell in love. At first, I loved the turning of everything upside down, I loved the gigantic cast of characters, the scope of Marvel Universe, themes, etc. But I feel to follow the layered story, you need to follow up with the related titles. At first, I could do six and I liked all of them but then everything went crazy and the cross-over events were whacked and it was a real chore to follow the story but I thought, this will be the final Marvel Universe run I will buy since it includes a lot of other Marvel characters. But, and I'm not trying to sound 'so independent' but Marvel is just SO big business and there is no one-on-one contact with creators. I'm still trying to follow this run until the end but it's getting frustrating and, like I said, expensive.

Then there's Erik Larsen's Highbrow Universe which consists of ONE comic. And, you know what? I love it. I love that you allow annoying fans such as myself to touch base with you. I love and was spoiled by the real time aspect, I loved the letter page, I loved the back-ups, and I love your ability to go anywhere

at anytime. You know, as soon as Hickman's era is over, the next creator will change everything back. SD feels like a bud. I love your passion and I even enjoy Maxine, now. In fact, 250 showed me how awesome your main cast rocks in an out-there kinda way. A Golden Age hero and his little fan club, Malcolm, Greta Gearbox, Kevin, etc.

250 was great and I can't wait for 251's explanation about there being a physical Paul after the merging of all realities. I just love your universe and how personal it is.

Thank-you for your continuing continuity!

Sincerely,  
Matt Cashel

**You're certainly welcome.**

Dear Erik,

If you would indulge me, I would like to try another go at my last letter. I know these won't see print as they are so late but I felt my last missive focused too much on another comic than it did yours.

Your comic, though, I may gripe, is a classic c. And I love the fact that sometimes the changes throw me off, at first. But, later, I love them and see them for what they are. The geek in me loves huge mythologies that include tons of characters but, Toronto run, for example, are wonderful once you sit and give them a reread. Just little things that other comics don't include such as the Dragon kids leaping from cushion to cushion to avoid the lava. I remember doing that. And when I bother you about what I want to see or what characters I don't think should die yet-it's because YOU made me care for them like family.

Now, I am gonna pull a Claremont-moment again but his run on X-Men wasn't 89% focused on the big bad. There were approx. seven main characters and you felt like you were part of a family. I feel that with Dragon. And never worry that your continuity is too convoluted - comparing you to X-Men again.

250's artwork was great and I have to admit, I "enjoy" the sexuality of Angel talking on the phone more than being totally naked. That's a strange direction for me to take but it is what it is.

250 was an event.

And confined as it was-it never felt that way. I, of course, will continue to bug you with my fan wishes but just ignore them and know I share them only because I love this continuity so much. And, it doesn't have any enforced company cross-over events shoved on it. If I was a writer for Marvel and this empire thing took over-it would drive me nuts.

What I'm trying to say, your book, at some point, has explored many comic types and it doesn't feel scrambled or shoved unnaturally onto the reader. You MADE me enjoy Maxine. I don't know how it happened but she contributes a great deal to your ensemble.

If there was a fire at my place; cats and dog saved first and then your Highbrow books.

And fuck those of us that feel offended by a viewpoint, aspect, or political whatever's-that is what makes this universe what it is. Never feel that you have to compromise. Stay loud!

Sincerely,  
Matthew Cashel

**I'll do the best I can.**

Hi Erik,

What a task this must've been: drawing and writing in another artist's edition way. I have to say, this is another milestone you created! Since the beginning, you have challenged yourself and your readers with page layouts and drawing styles to keep Savage Dragon a book that keeps anyone on their toes. Taking on this issue is more than just a step beyond of what you've been doing, wow!!

Dr. Rex, Amy & Walter but especially Runningbear made me laugh so hard. I can only imagine how much effort and perhaps also frustration drawing and writing this issue must have brought you. But then again, I can also imagine the sheer fun you had with this. It's one thing to come up with ideas, it takes another breed of people who actually go with ideas and execute them. It's a quirky road to embark on and will hold no guarantees. But if someone had told you back in the '90s you'd be passed issue 252 in 30 years time, would you have believed him? This is why this book sticks out, and I hope you will keep on going with throwing these curveballs at us.

Lennart Boorsma  
Bussum, the Netherlands

Certainly I would have hoped that I'd still be toiling on this book 28 years later. That was the goal when I started. One of the things I told myself early on was that if I ever started writing and drawing a Savage Dragon comic book that I would work on it for the rest of my career. For a decade or so I put that off because I didn't want the rest of my career to start just yet--but now--here we are. If I can ride this out for another 28 years I'd be ecstatic.

-Erik Larsen

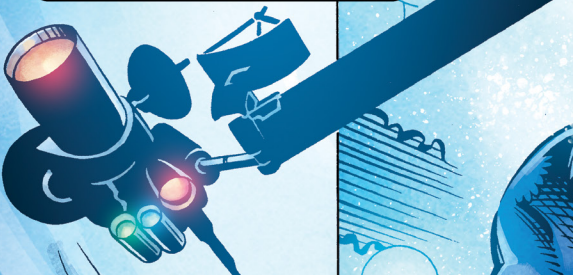
**NEXT: The Empty Grave.**

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

# ETHEREAL WARRIORS

PART 4

**DATA RETRIEVAL:** COM-SAT3, A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE FORMERLY USED TO TRANSMIT PAY TELEVISION SIGNALS TO CUSTOMERS WITH SATELLITE DISHES. CURRENTLY SERVING AS A PRISON HOUSING ONE INMATE: THE PSYCHOTIC FEMALE KNOWN AS MODEM!

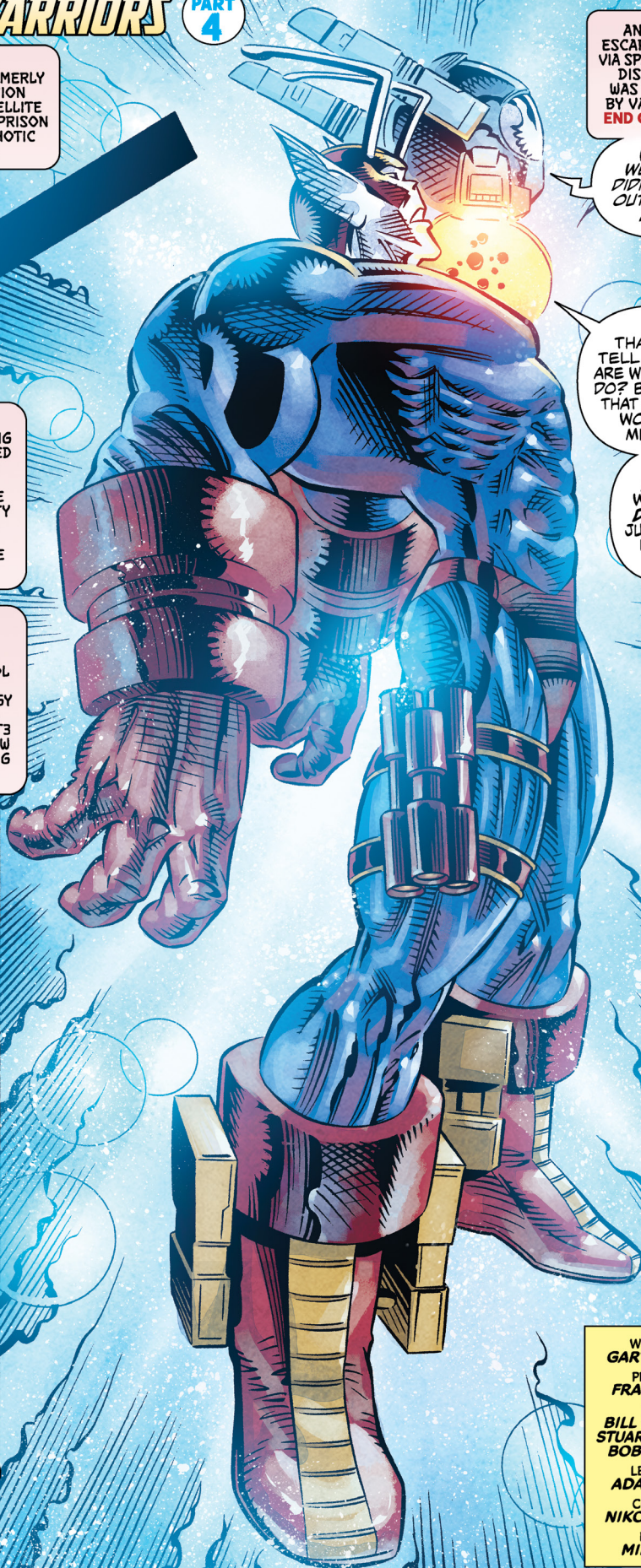


**DATA RETRIEVAL CONTINUES:** SCIENTIST STACY SWAN WAS TESTING A TELEPORTATION DEVICE THAT CROSSED FREQUENCIES WITH VANGUARD'S TELEPORTATION DEVICE. WHEN HER SCATTERED MOLECULES WERE REASSEMBLED, SHE HAD THE ABILITY TO INTERFACE AND CONTROL ALL COMPUTERIZED MACHINERY AND TO TRANSMIT HER MOLECULES LIKE A TV ELECTROMAGNETIC SIGNAL.

**DATA RETRIEVAL CONTINUES:** CALLING HERSELF MODEM, SWAN VOWED REVENGE AND TRIED TO KILL VANGUARD BY TAKING CONTROL OF ROBO-SERVITOR WALLY, WITH INTENTION OF CLAIMING TECHNOLOGY ON VANGUARD'S SHIP AND RULING THE EARTH. HER ESCAPE VIA COM-SAT3 WAS THWARTED WHEN WALLY BLEW OUT THE SATELLITE'S TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING CAPABILITIES.\*



\*IT HAPPENED WAY BACK IN VANGUARD #2 AND #4.  
\*\*SEE VANGUARD: STRANGE VISITORS #1.



AN EARLIER ESCAPE ATTEMPT VIA SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY-3 WAS THWARTED BY VANGUARD.\*\*  
**END OF REPORT.**

**WHEW!**  
WELL, THAT DIDN'T HELP US OUT ONE IOTA, DID IT?!

NOT THAT I CAN TELL. SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? BLOWING UP THAT SATELLITE WOULD BE MURDER!

WE DON'T WANT HER DEAD-- JUST SAFELY LOCKED AWAY!

WRITTEN BY GARY CARLSON  
PENCILS BY FRANK FOSCO  
INKS BY BILL ANDERSON  
STUART KAROUBAS  
BOB PETRECCA  
LETTERS BY ADAM PRUETT  
COLORS BY NIKOS KOUTSIS  
FLATS BY MIKE TORIS

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

JUST KEEP HER AWAY FROM ME! WHEN SHE TOOK OVER MY BRAIN TO KILL YOU IT WAS HORRIBLE!

HER MIND IS TWISTED AND SO FULL OF HATE! I STILL FEEL SO UNCLEAN!

WALLY! WHERE'S ALL THIS ENERGY COMING FROM? I THOUGHT WE BLEW OUT THIS SATELLITE, AND NOW IT'S GOING SUPER-NOVA!!!

VAN--THIS SATELLITE ISN'T TRANSMITTING OR RECEIVING! ALL ITS CIRCUITS ARE FUSED SOLID!

AND THE ENERGY IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE --NOT ON EARTH, KALYPTUS, OR ANYWHERE ELSE!

GASP! THERE'S A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL--A WORMHOLE--OCCUPYING THE SAME SPACE AS COMBAT HERE!

"VAN--MY ERGOMETER IS GOING CRAZY! THERE'S A MASSIVE POWERSURGE COMING! IT'S GONNA BLOW!"

**BWA- DOOM!**

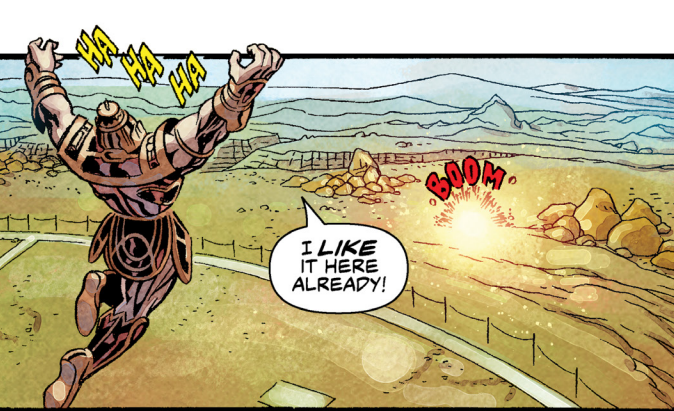
HUH? NOTHING HAPPENED, WALLY? HA HA! IT WAS A BIGGER DUD THAN THE NEW MILLENIUM!

NO, IT WASN'T, VAN! THE ENERGY IS BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH THIS SATELLITE TO SOME POPCORN TOWN IN ARIZONA!

I'LL CHECK IT OUT! BEAM ME DOWN THERE!

GOOD IDEA! I'LL STAND GUARD UP HERE--

--WHERE MODEM CAN'T TOUCH ME!



I LIKE IT HERE ALREADY!

BOOM!



ER, PARDON ME, SIR!

WHAT? WHO DARES TOUCH THE PERSON OF AN ETHEREAL WARRIOR?



I DARE, BOZO!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE PRINCE ALBERT IN A CAN--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE RULLING ANYTHING AROUND HERE!

BA-DOOM

IT'S PSYCHO GOONS LIKE YOU THAT GIVE THE REST OF US ILLEGAL ALIENS A BAD NAME!

I DUNNO WHERE YOU'RE FROM, BUT AROUND HERE IT'S ILLEGAL TO KILL THE LOCALS--

--OR ANYBODY ELSE!

WHERE I COME FROM, YOU IGNORANT BEAST, I AM CONSIDERED A **GOD!**

AND LIFE IS MINE TO EITHER GIVE--

--OR TAKE!

**ARRGGH!**

**FRAZZLAKK!**

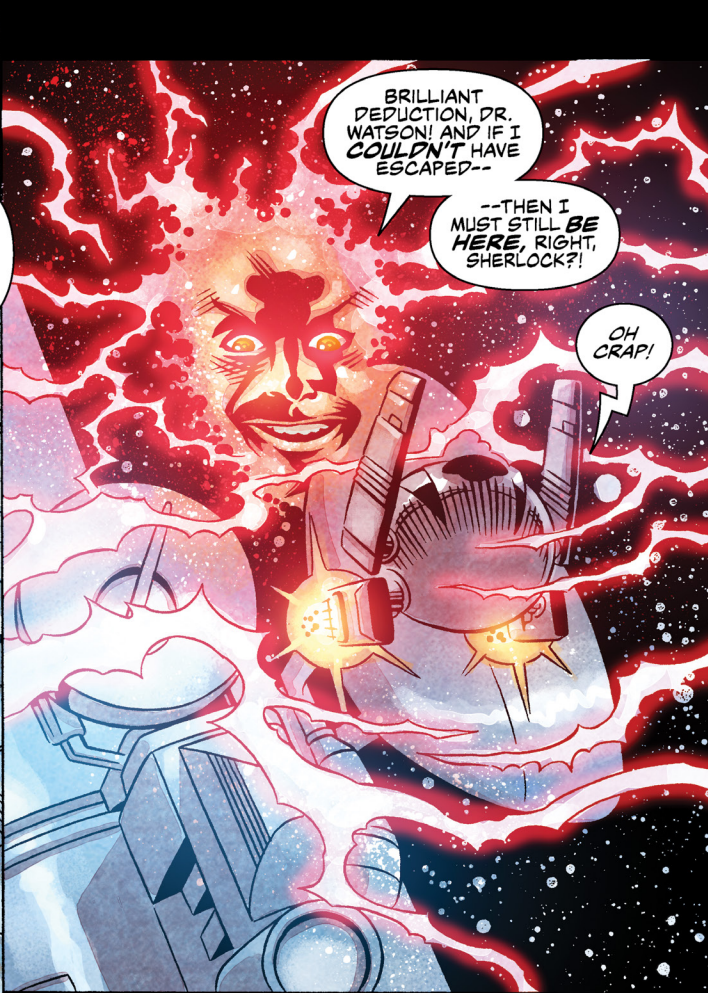
**BAM!**





STRANGE!  
THIS ENERGY  
EMANATES IN ANOTHER  
DIMENSION! WHILE IT  
USES THIS COM-SAT AS  
A TUNNEL BETWEEN  
WORLDS--

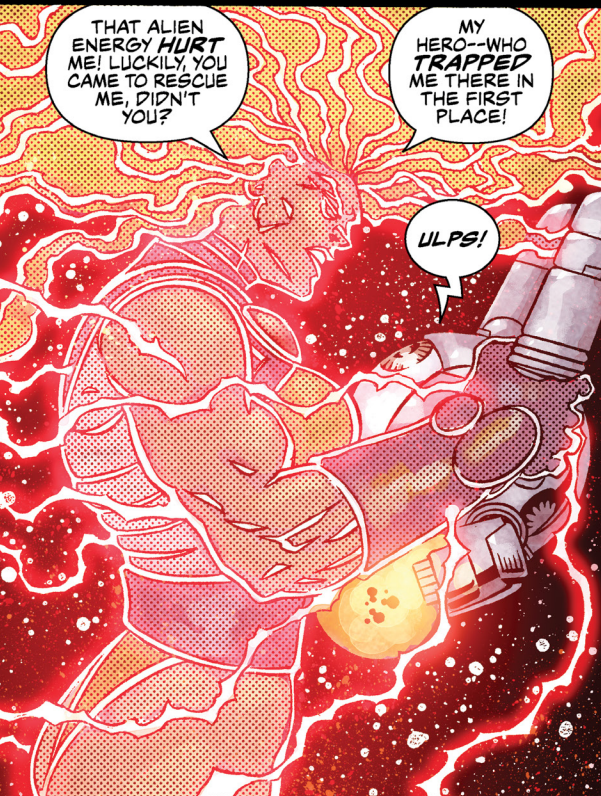
--THE  
ENERGY NEVER  
ACTUALLY TOUCHES  
THE SATELLITE! SO  
HOW DID MODEM  
HITCH A RIDE ON THE  
CARRIER WAVES  
TO ESCAPE?



BRILLIANT  
DEDUCTION, DR.  
WATSON! AND IF I  
COULDN'T HAVE  
ESCAPED--

--THEN I  
MUST STILL BE  
HERE, RIGHT,  
SHERLOCK?!

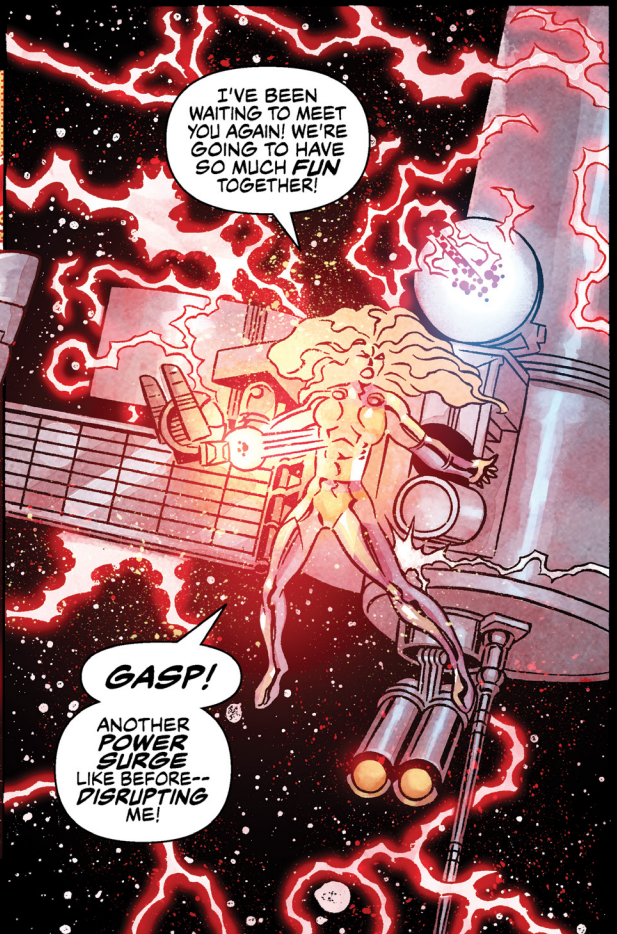
OH  
CRAP!



THAT ALIEN  
ENERGY HURT  
ME! LUCKILY, YOU  
CAME TO RESCUE  
ME, DIDN'T  
YOU?

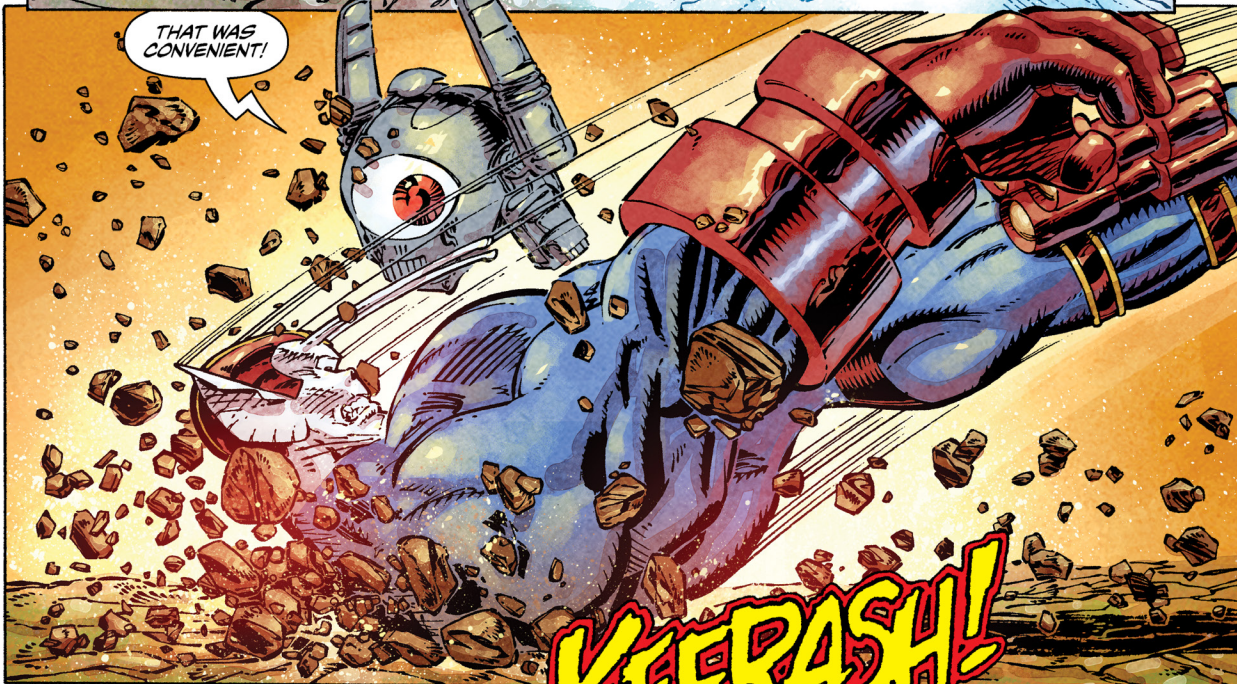
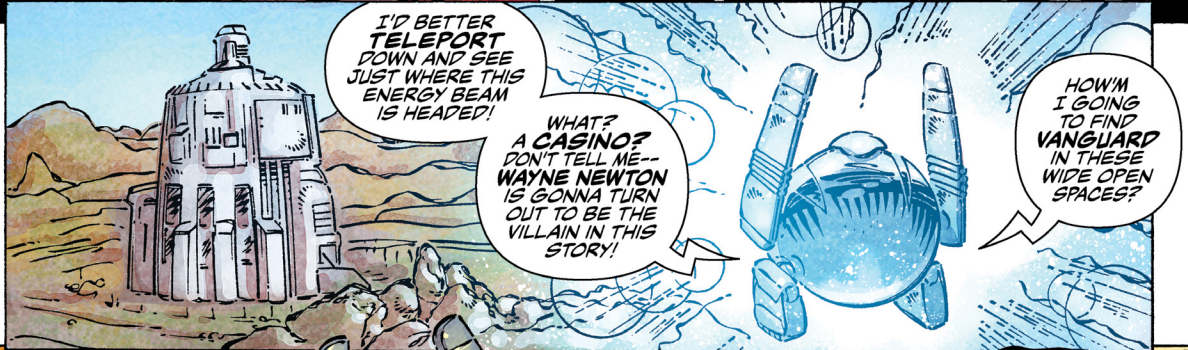
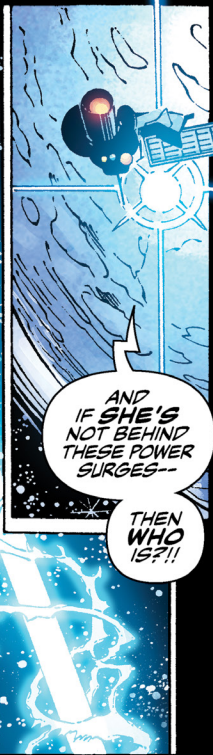
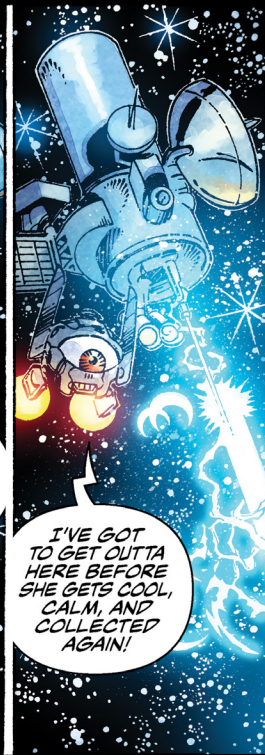
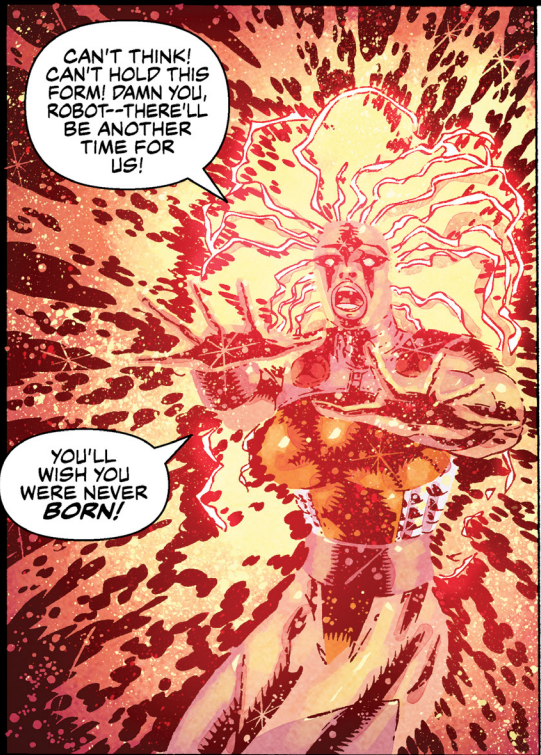
MY  
HERO--WHO  
TRAPPED  
ME THERE IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE!

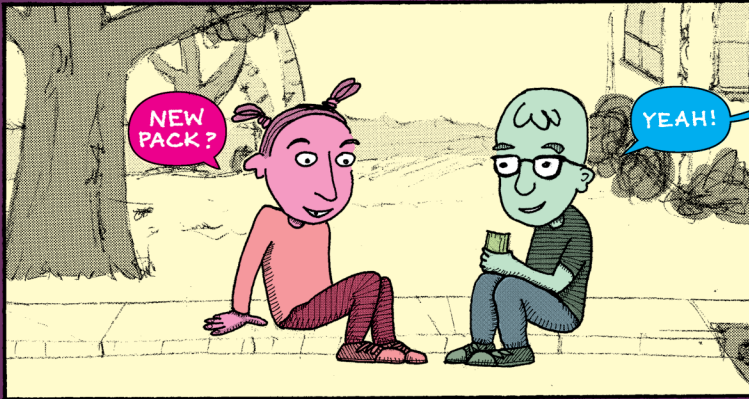
ULPS!



I'VE BEEN  
WAITING TO MEET  
YOU AGAIN! WE'RE  
GOING TO HAVE  
SO MUCH FUN  
TOGETHER!

**GASP!**  
ANOTHER  
POWER  
SURGE  
LIKE BEFORE--  
DISRUPTING  
ME!



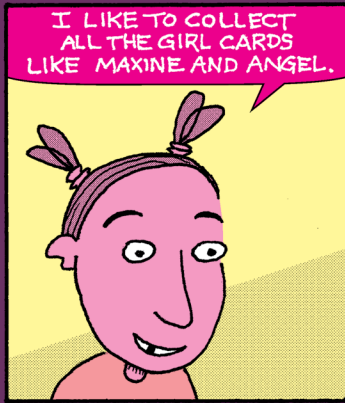


NEW PACK?

YEAH!



MY DAD GOT IT FOR ME.



I LIKE TO COLLECT ALL THE GIRL CARDS LIKE MAXINE AND ANGEL.



THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL.

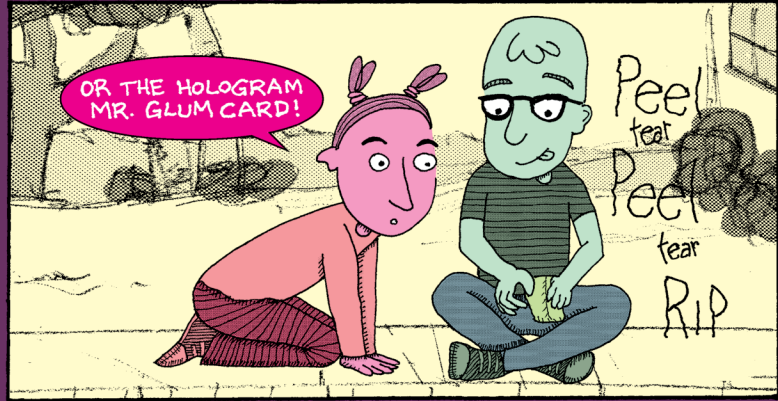


No. 'CAUSE THEY'RE AWESOME.

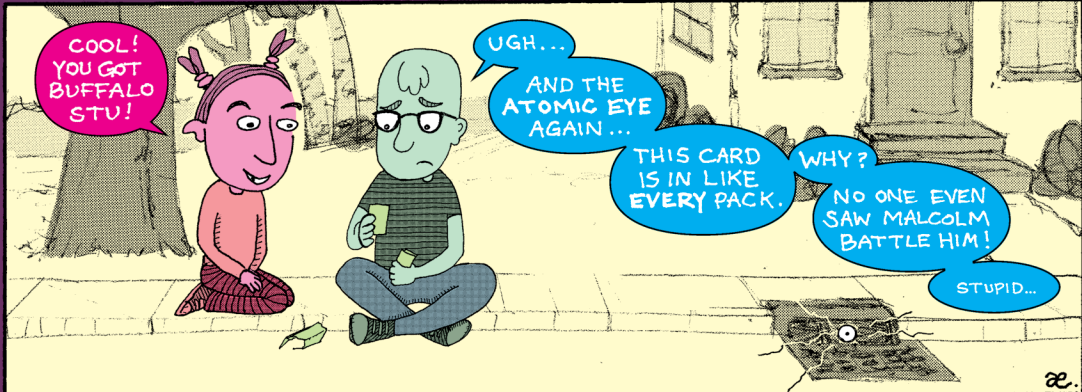


HEY!

MAYBE I'LL GET NEIGHBOR CRAIG! OR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL MALCOLM!



OR THE HOLOGRAM MR. GLUM CARD!



COOL! YOU GOT BUFFALO STU!

UGH...

AND THE ATOMIC EYE AGAIN...

THIS CARD IS IN LIKE EVERY PACK.

WHY?

NO ONE EVEN SAW MALCOLM BATTLE HIM!

STUPID...

“A gem of a comic”  
—Comicbook.com

“Manages to tick off all  
the proverbial boxes  
for a near-perfect  
horror thriller”  
—AIPT

“The darker and monstrous  
elements have been perfectly  
matched with human and  
endearing characters”  
—Monkeys Fighting Robots

MIRKA ANDOLFO'S

# MERCY

THE FAIR LADY, THE FROST,  
AND THE FIEND

DECEMBER 2020

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RATED **M** / MATURE