



Exiles™



#5



MARC BERNARDIN • ADAM FREEMAN • AFUA RICHARDSON

WITCHBLADE®

IT MIGHT
FORGIVE

BUT IT
WON'T
FORGET

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Ongoing Monthly

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Genius

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HERE COMES A TIME IN EVERY MILITARY CAMPAIGN WHEN IT'S CLEAR THAT VICTORY IS NO LONGER WITHIN YOUR GRASP.

WHEN ALL YOU CAN DO IS TRY AND LIMIT THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

Los Angeles  Santa Monica

WHEN YOU'RE GOOD AND TRULY FUCKED.

THE THING IS...THAT'S WHERE THIS STARTED. THERE WAS NO WINNING THIS. JUST LOSING... WITH PURPOSE.



I MIGHT'VE TAUGHT MYSELF TO FIELD-STRIP AN M-16, BUT I ONLY EVER READ THE HOW TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE BOOK ONCE.

OKAY, I SKIMMED.

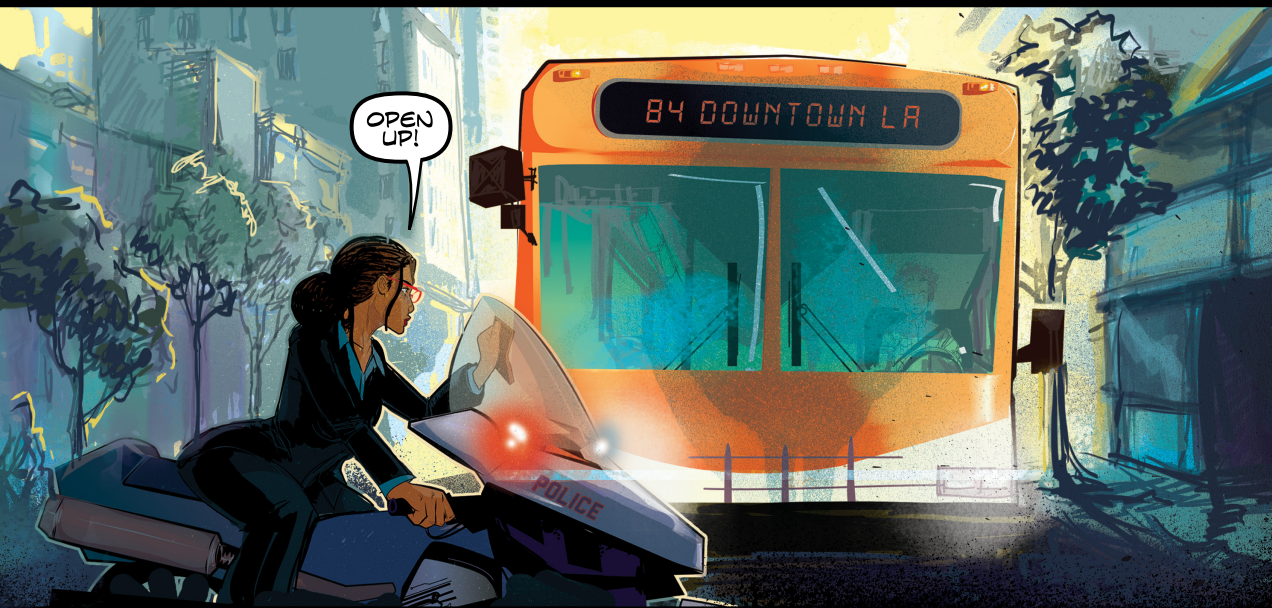


THE ABRAMS TOPS OUT AT 45 MPH. WHICH IS FAST ENOUGH THAT I'VE GOTTA SLOW 'EM DOWN.



I NEED ROAD BLOCKS.





OPEN UP!



WHAT THE HELL?

I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO GO BACK WITH THE PASSENGERS. I'LL ONLY BE A MOMENT.

I JUST PLANTED A BOMB ON THIS BUS. IT'S GOT A MOTION TRIGGER. ANYONE GETS OUTTA THEIR SEAT, YOU ALL DIE!

I NEED THEM TO STAY ON THE BUS. IF THEY RUN, THIS DOESN'T WORK.



IT'S ON THE GUARD NOW. HOW MUCH DO THEY WANT IT?

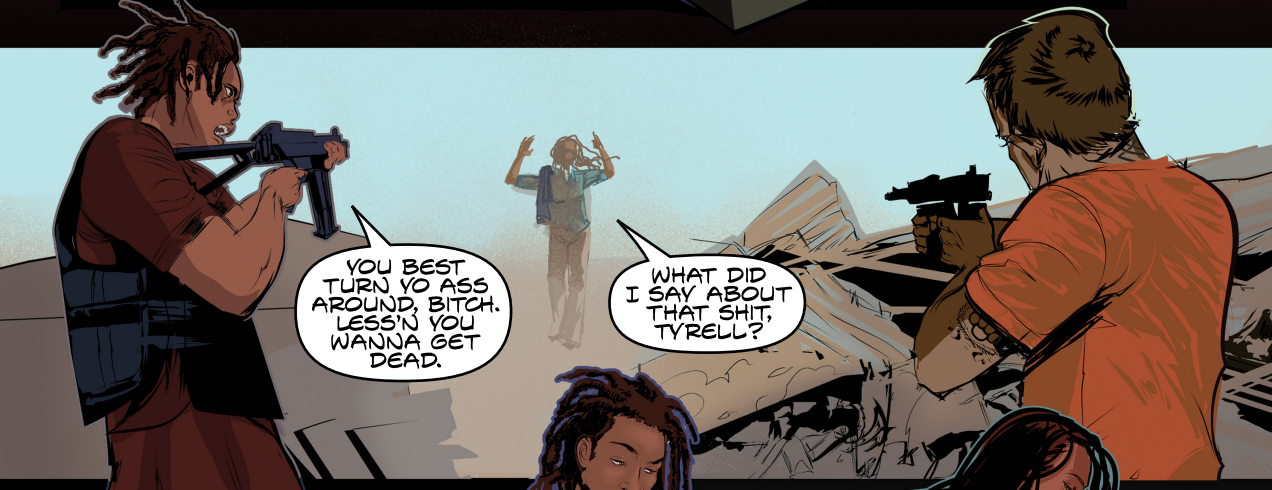


DAMNIT. FIND ME ANOTHER ROUTE!



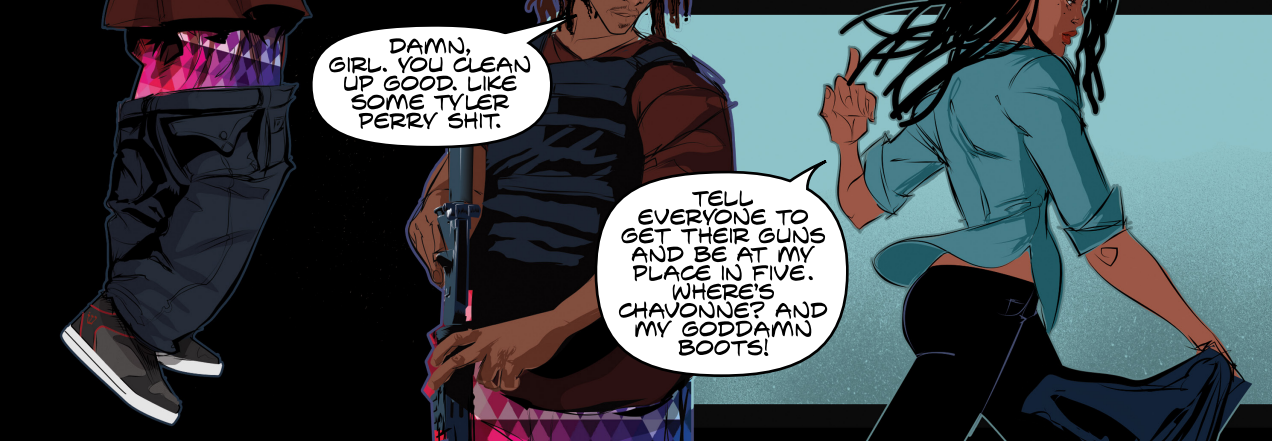
WHAT'S GOING ON, OFFICERS?

WE'RE PULLING OUT. LET THOSE FUCKING ANIMALS HAVE IT, FOR NOW.



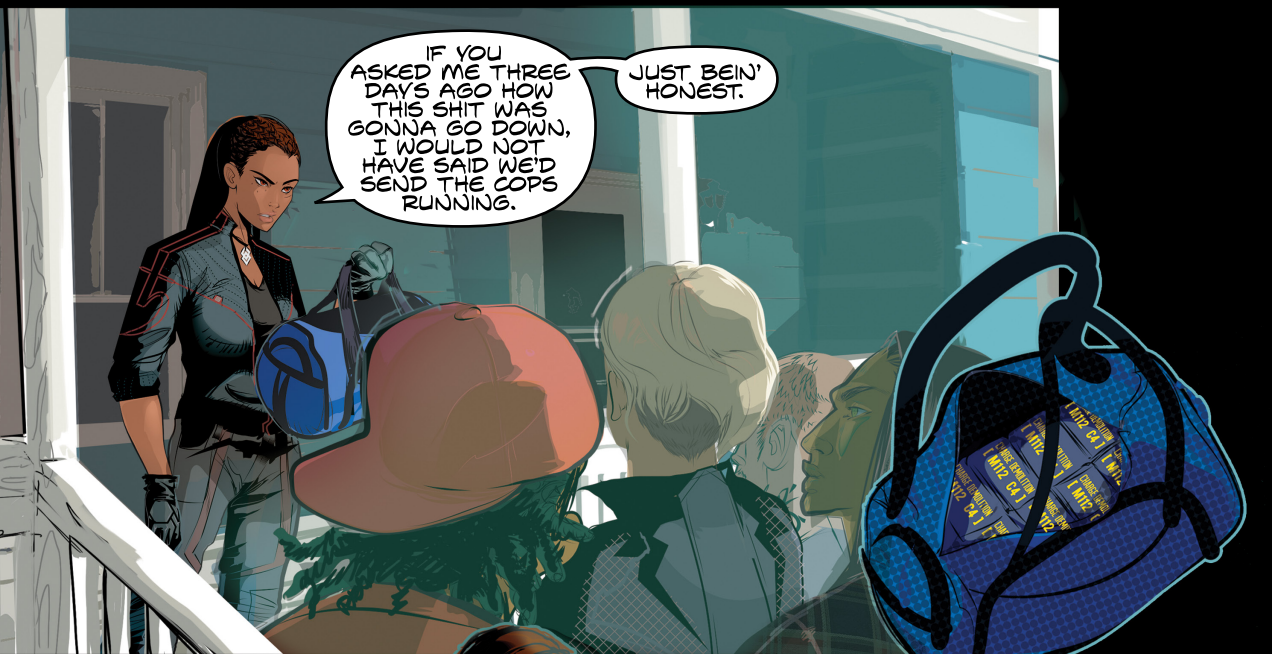
YOU BEST TURN YO ASS AROUND, BITCH. LESS'N YOU WANNA GET DEAD.

WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT THAT SHIT, TYRELL?



DAMN, GIRL. YOU CLEAN UP GOOD. LIKE SOME TYLER PERRY SHIT.

TELL EVERYONE TO GET THEIR GUNS AND BE AT MY PLACE IN FIVE. WHERE'S CHAVONNE? AND MY GODDAMN BOOTS!



IF YOU ASKED ME THREE DAYS AGO HOW THIS SHIT WAS GONNA GO DOWN, I WOULD NOT HAVE SAID WE'D SEND THE COPS RUNNING.

JUST BEIN' HONEST.



BUT THEY'RE NOT LEAVING BECAUSE WE WON. THEY'RE LEAVING BECAUSE THEY'RE GETTING REPLACED BY SOMETHING WE CAN'T BEAT.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

BUT WE CAN SLOW 'EM DOWN. WE CAN MAKE 'EM HURT. WE CAN PRIVATE RYAN THEIR ASSES.

MR. PHILLIPS HAS THAT ROOFING TAR BEHIND HIS HOUSE. SOMEONE GET IT.



CHARGER AND FLEETWOOD, YOU GET ON THE LINE. CHAVONNE, YOU TAKE CUTLASS AND PREP THE BACK DOOR.

THUNDERBIRD, YOU'RE WITH ME.



THE BACK DOOR?

THIS WILL NOT GO WELL, CHAVONNE WE'RE AT THE END OF IT. AND WE BOTH HAVE OUR ROLES TO PLAY BEFORE IT'S DONE.

DON'T PUT THE FUSE IN UNTIL AFTER YOU DIP AFTER YOU LIGHT 'EM, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE A FEW SECONDS.

DRE, YOU AND TY GO DOWN HERE. BOBBY, YOU AND TRAIN UP ON THE LEFT.

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK, DEE?

MINUTES, MAYBE. YOU GOT YOUR LIGHTER?

DESTINY...?

WHY
AIN'T THIS
WORKING,
DEE?

JUST
RELAX, MAN.
IT'LL LIGHT
WHEN IT HAS
TO LIGHT.

WE NOT
MAKING IT
OUTTA HERE,
ARE WE,
DEE?

JUST
RELAX.

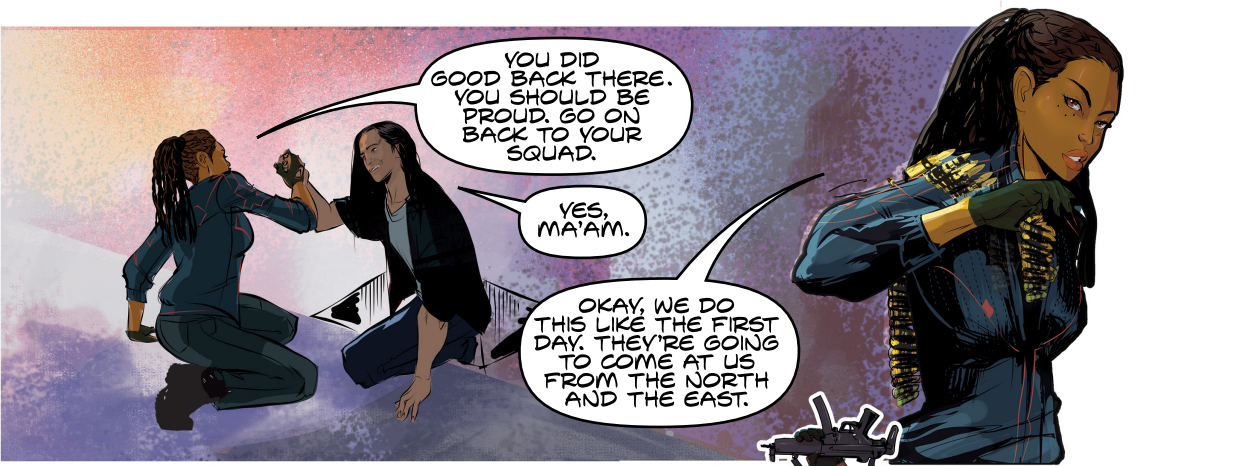
SEE?

NO. WE ARE NOT
MAKING IT OUT
OF HERE.

RUUMMBLE

IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
NOWHERE NEAR
ENOUGH.





YOU DID GOOD BACK THERE. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. GO ON BACK TO YOUR SQUAD.

YES, MA'AM.

OKAY, WE DO THIS LIKE THE FIRST DAY. THEY'RE GOING TO COME AT US FROM THE NORTH AND THE EAST.

DON'T RUSH. DON'T WASTE YOUR BULLETS. DON'T FORGET WHY WE'RE HERE.

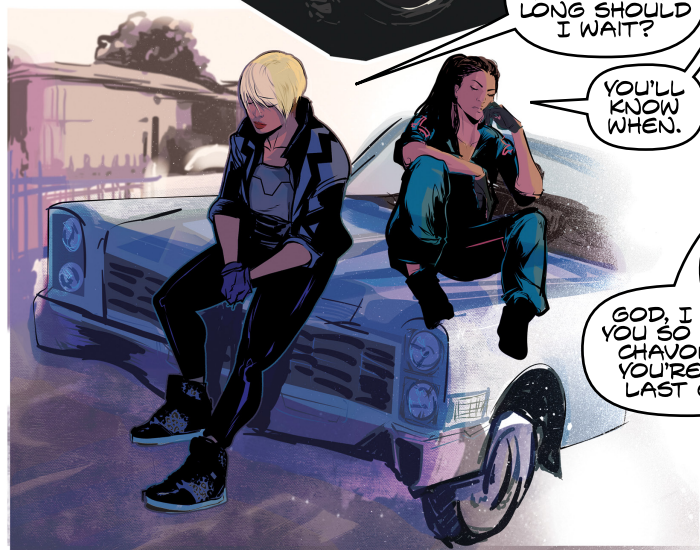
AND MAKE THEM REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY ROLL IN TO OUR HOME UNINVITED.



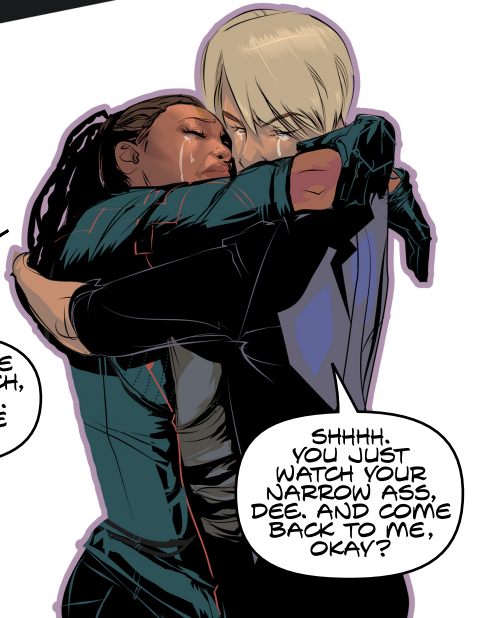
COPS WERE ONE THING, BUT THE NATIONAL GUARD? WE'RE NOT GONNA LAST LONG.

THE BACK DOOR IS READY. HOW LONG SHOULD I WAIT?

YOU'LL KNOW WHEN.



GOD, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, CHAVONNE. YOU'RE THE LAST OF--



SHHHH. YOU JUST WATCH YOUR NARROW ASS, DEE. AND COME BACK TO ME, OKAY?

IS THIS WHAT CUSTER FELT? LEONIDAS? SHAKA ZULU?



KNOWING FULL WELL THAT YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE, THAT NO AMOUNT OF BATTLEFIELD TRICKERY WOULD WIN THE DAY?



WERE THEY THIS AT PEACE?

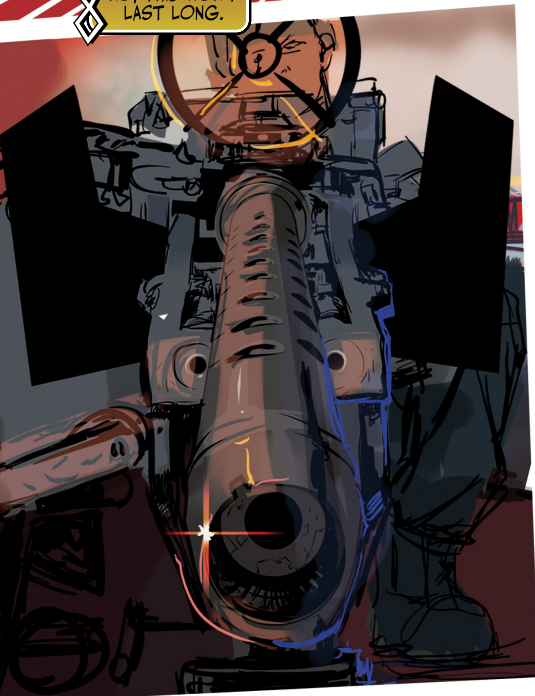


HERE WE GO! HOLD YOUR POSITIONS!





NO, THIS WON'T
LAST LONG.



OUTNUMBERED AND
OUTGUNNED.



HIT
'EM!

CHAVONNE,
IT'S TIME.
THUNDERBIRD,
YOU'RE WITH
ME!

REMEMBER WHEN I SAID
BATTLEFIELD TRICKERY
WOULDN'T HELP?

I MIGHT'VE LIED.
JUST A LITTLE.

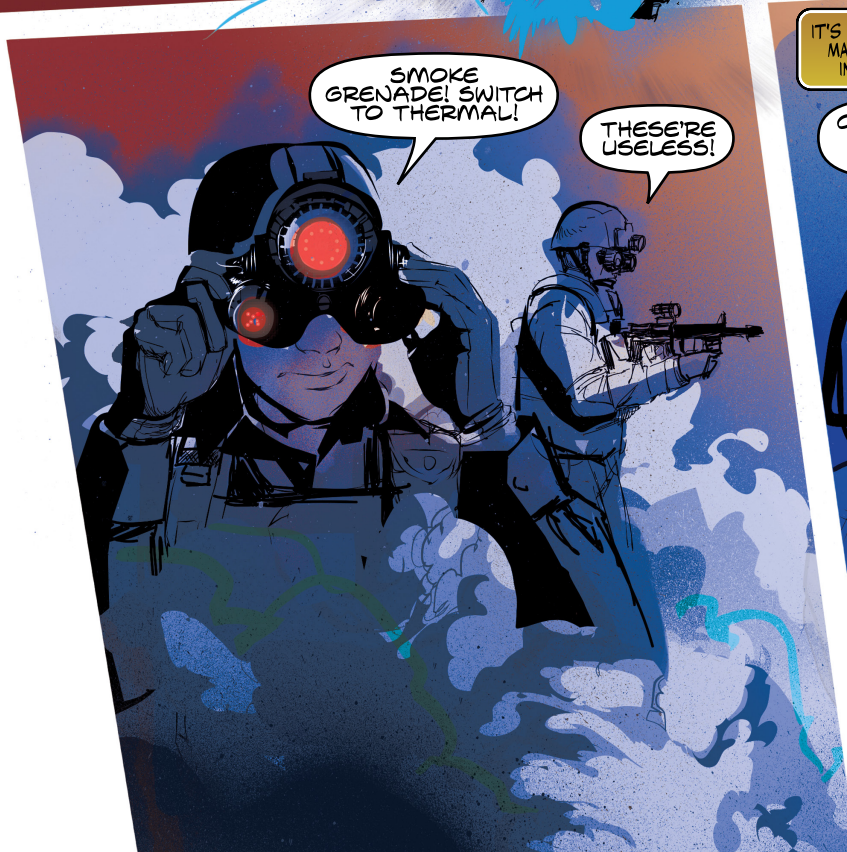


SMOKE
GRENADE! SWITCH
TO THERMAL!

THESE'RE
USELESS!

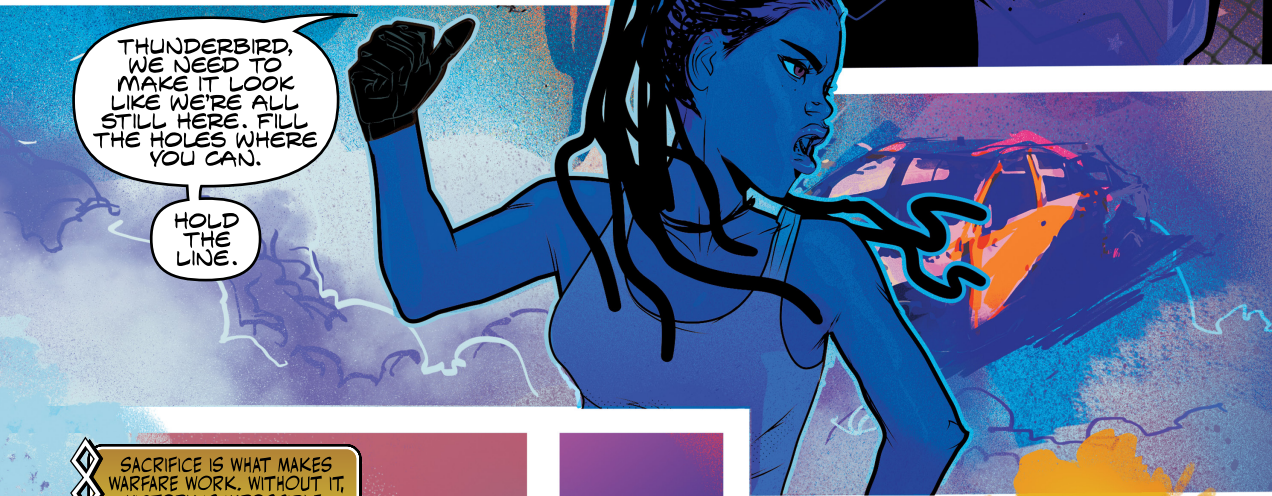
IT'S HOT TODAY. A HUNDRED DEGREES,
MAYBE. HOT ENOUGH TO MAKE US
INVISIBLE. BUT NOT FOR LONG.

CHAVONNE!
LEAD 'EM
OUT!





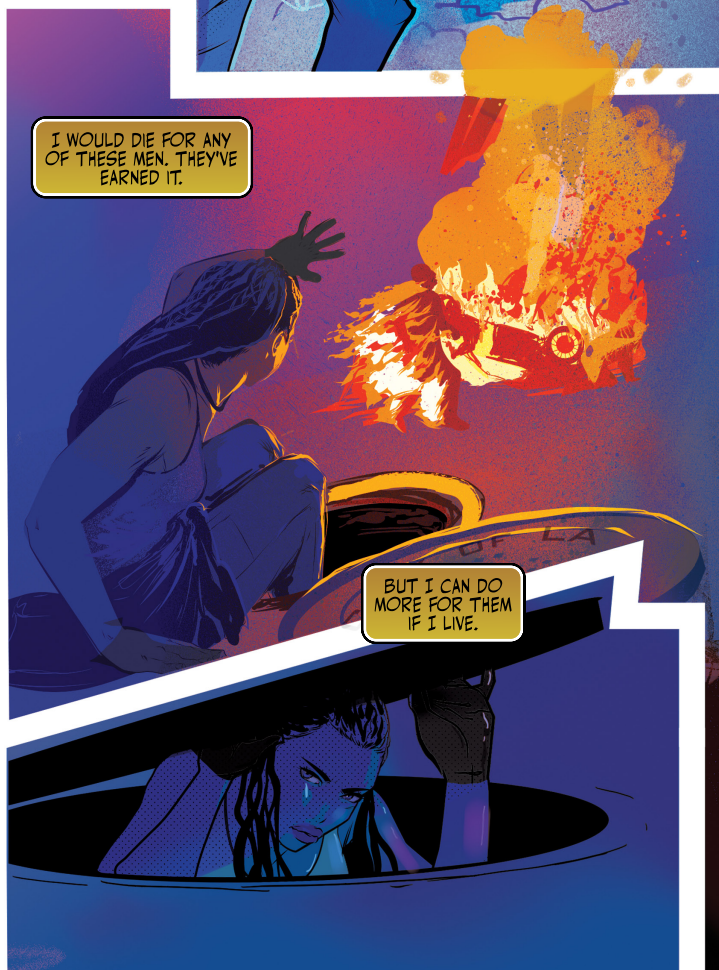
GUNS IN THE ACID, THE RIDES ARE A BLOCK AWAY. MOVE!



THUNDERBIRD, WE NEED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE ALL STILL HERE. FILL THE HOLES WHERE YOU CAN.

HOLD THE LINE.

SACRIFICE IS WHAT MAKES WARFARE WORK. WITHOUT IT, VICTORY IS IMPOSSIBLE.



I WOULD DIE FOR ANY OF THESE MEN. THEY'VE EARNED IT.

BUT I CAN DO MORE FOR THEM IF I LIVE.



YEAH, I'M
RUNNING AWAY.



IT WAS
ALWAYS PART
OF THE PLAN.



BUT, SOMETIMES, THE PLAN CURDLES
IN YOUR STOMACH LIKE RANCID MILK.



HELLO, 911.
THIS IS DESTINY
AJAYE. SINCE
YESTERDAY
MORNING, I
KILLED ABOUT
90 POLICEMEN.
PROBABLY
MORE.

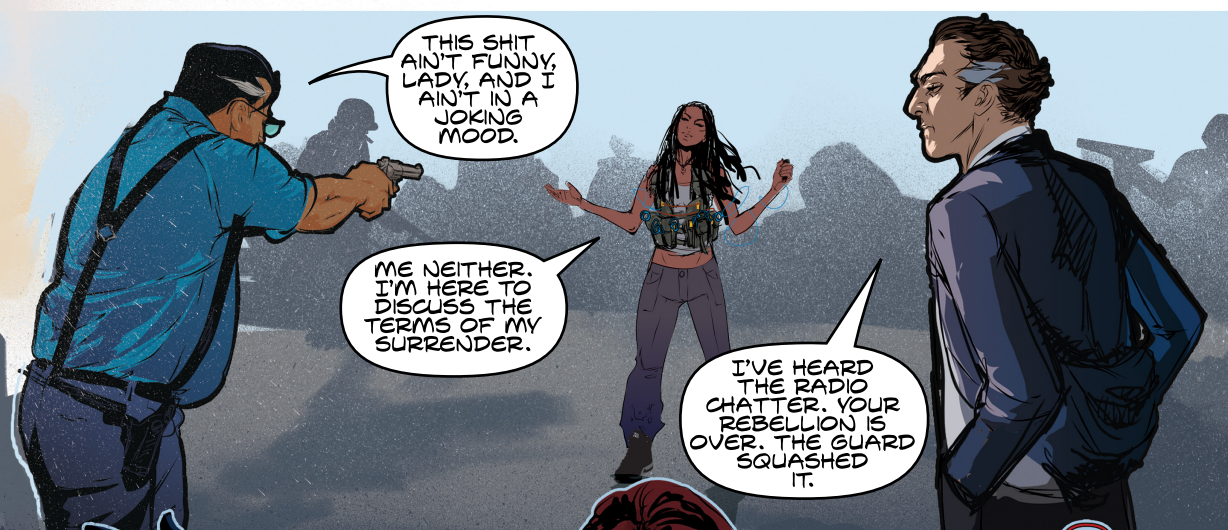
I NEED
TO TALK TO
DETECTIVE
GRAY AND
CAPTAIN
HARDY...

TELL THEM
I'M RIGHT
OUTSIDE.





ABOUT TIME. IT'S GETTING HOT IN THIS THING.



THIS SHIT AIN'T FUNNY, LADY, AND I AIN'T IN A JOKING MOOD.

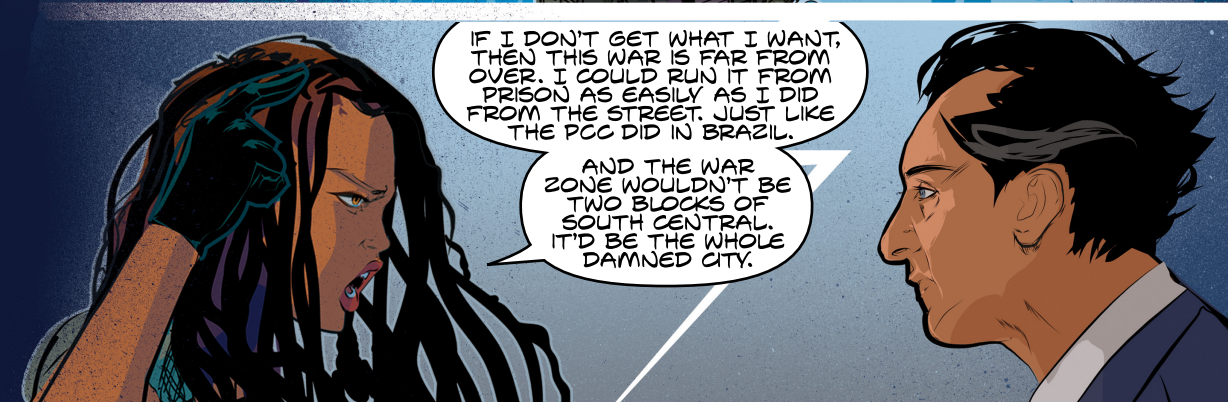
ME NEITHER. I'M HERE TO DISCUSS THE TERMS OF MY SURRENDER.

I'VE HEARD THE RADIO CHATTER. YOUR REBELLION IS OVER. THE GUARD SQUASHED IT.



WAIT FOR THE CASUALTY REPORTS. THEY'LL TELL YOU THAT THEY FOUND MAYBE A DOZEN GANGBANGER BODIES.

YOU WERE THERE. YOU KNOW HOW MANY MEN I HAD. ASK YOURSELVES: WHERE'D THEY ALL GO?



IF I DON'T GET WHAT I WANT, THEN THIS WAR IS FAR FROM OVER. I COULD RUN IT FROM PRISON AS EASILY AS I DID FROM THE STREET. JUST LIKE THE PCC DID IN BRAZIL.

AND THE WAR ZONE WOULDN'T BE TWO BLOCKS OF SOUTH CENTRAL. IT'D BE THE WHOLE DAMNED CITY.



I COULD BRING THIS CITY TO ITS KNEES WITH A CELL PHONE.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A CEASEFIRE. AND AMNESTY FOR MY MEN. NO APBS. NO MOST-WANTED LISTS.

BESIDES, I'M THE ONE YOU WANT. I'M THE ONE THAT GETS YOU THE PROMOTION. I'M THE ONE THAT GETS THE MAYOR RE-ELECTED.

ARREST ME. PUT ME AWAY. BUT ONLY ME.



TAKE THE DEAL, BOSS.

I CAN'T MAKE THAT CALL, REGGIE. IT'S WAY ABOVE MY PAY GRADE.

BUT NOT ABOVE MINE.



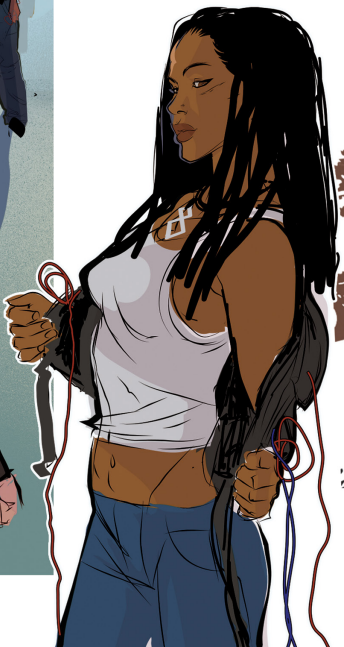
THE KILLING STOPS?

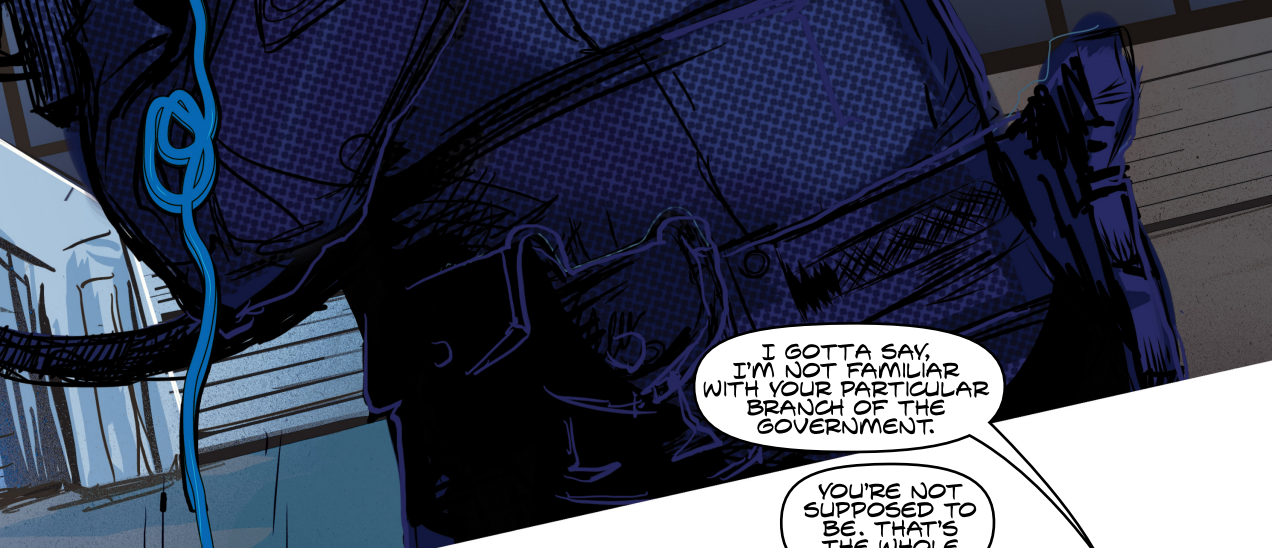
YES. NO MANHUNTS?

YES. AND WE'RE DONE HERE.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE MADRASA INSTITUTE I ACCEPT THOSE TERMS.

GOOD. THIS MUCH PLAY-DOH IS HEAVY.

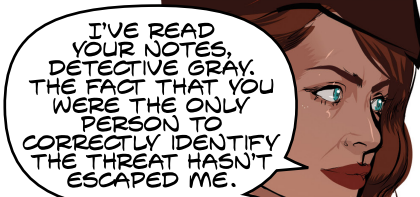




I GOTTA SAY, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH YOUR PARTICULAR BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE. THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA.

EVEN SOMEONE WITH SUCH EXEMPLARY PATTERN RECOGNITION SKILLS AS YOURSELF WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING IT.



I'VE READ YOUR NOTES, DETECTIVE GRAY. THE FACT THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON TO CORRECTLY IDENTIFY THE THREAT HASN'T ESCAPED ME.

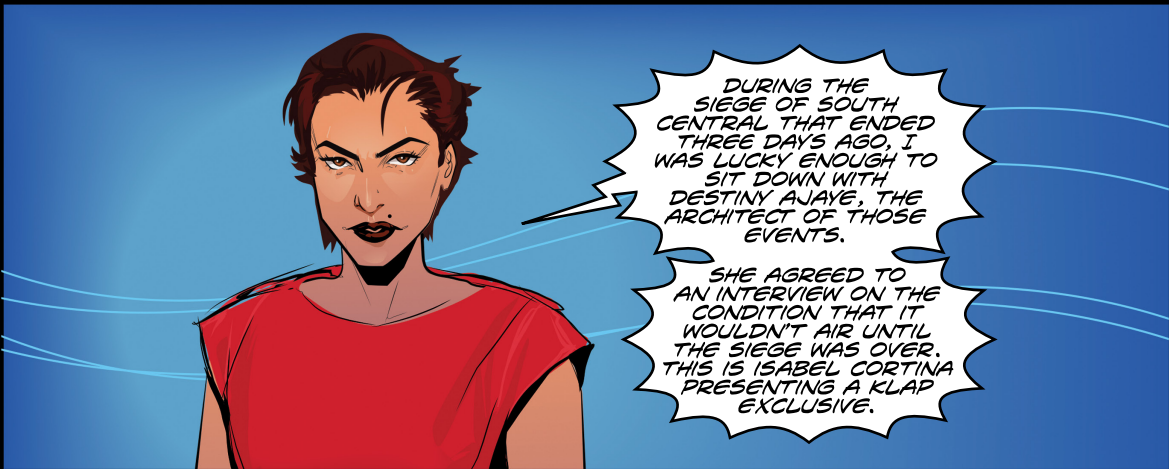


WE COULD ALWAYS USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MORE AND GET SHOT AT LESS.



WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HER?

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'LL BECOME OF DESTINY AJAVE, COME WORK FOR ME. IF NOT: CLASSIFIED.

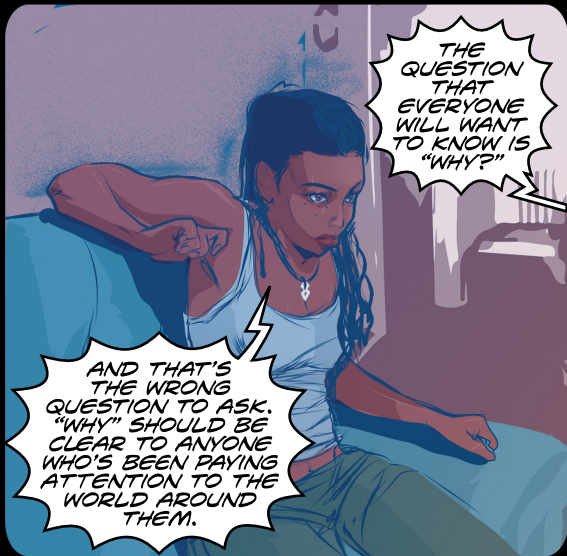


DURING THE SIEGE OF SOUTH CENTRAL THAT ENDED THREE DAYS AGO, I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SIT DOWN WITH DESTINY AJAYE, THE ARCHITECT OF THOSE EVENTS.

SHE AGREED TO AN INTERVIEW ON THE CONDITION THAT IT WOULDN'T AIR UNTIL THE SIEGE WAS OVER. THIS IS ISABEL CORTINA PRESENTING A KLA P EXCLUSIVE.

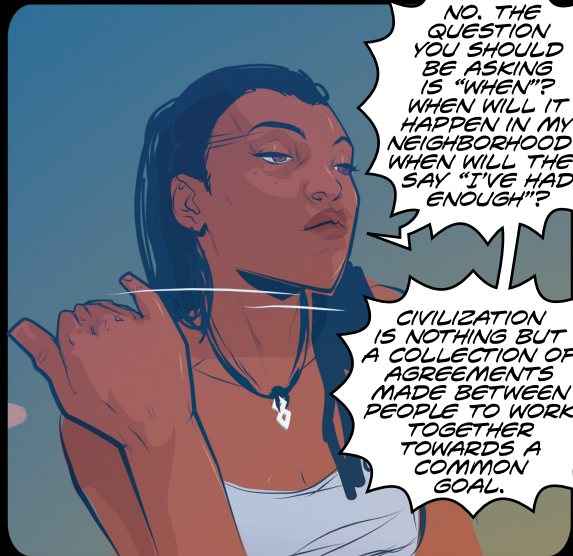
KLA NEWS 8

SOUTH CENTRAL UNDER SEIGE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



THE QUESTION THAT EVERYONE WILL WANT TO KNOW IS "WHY?"

AND THAT'S THE WRONG QUESTION TO ASK. "WHY" SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ANYONE WHO'S BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO THE WORLD AROUND THEM.



NO. THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING IS "WHEN"? WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD? WHEN WILL THEY SAY "I'VE HAD ENOUGH"?

CIVILIZATION IS NOTHING BUT A COLLECTION OF AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL.



HOW LONG BEFORE PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THOSE AGREEMENTS AREN'T IN THEIR BEST INTEREST?



ORDER IS ALWAYS ONE REALIZATION AWAY FROM DISINTEGRATION.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU'RE DONE?



HEH. IF I SURVIVE...?



"OH, I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO LOCK ME UP FOR A LONG, LONG TIME."



"THEY WILL STICK ME IN A HOLE..."

THE MADRASA INSTITUTE



Operation Overlord
Code name: D-Day

"...FAR AWAY FROM EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE."

"YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE ME AGAIN."



UNTIL I'VE LEARNED EVERYTHING THEY HAVE TO TEACH. UNTIL MY MIND IS RAZOR-SHARP.

UNTIL I'M READY.

The end.

THEY AREN'T FIGHTING TO SAVE THE WORLD...

THEY'RE
FIGHTING
TO
SURVIVE

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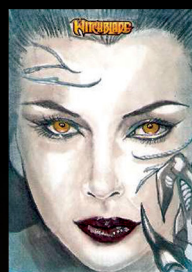
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*"Writer Kel Symons and artist Mathew Reynolds have parlayed
their mutual love for classic adventure stories into a sharp,
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**VOLUME ONE
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IT'S ONLY
A MATTER
OF TIME...

UNTIL GMOs
SPREAD
LIKE FIRE.

MATT HAWKINS
LINDA SEJIC

IN STORES NOW

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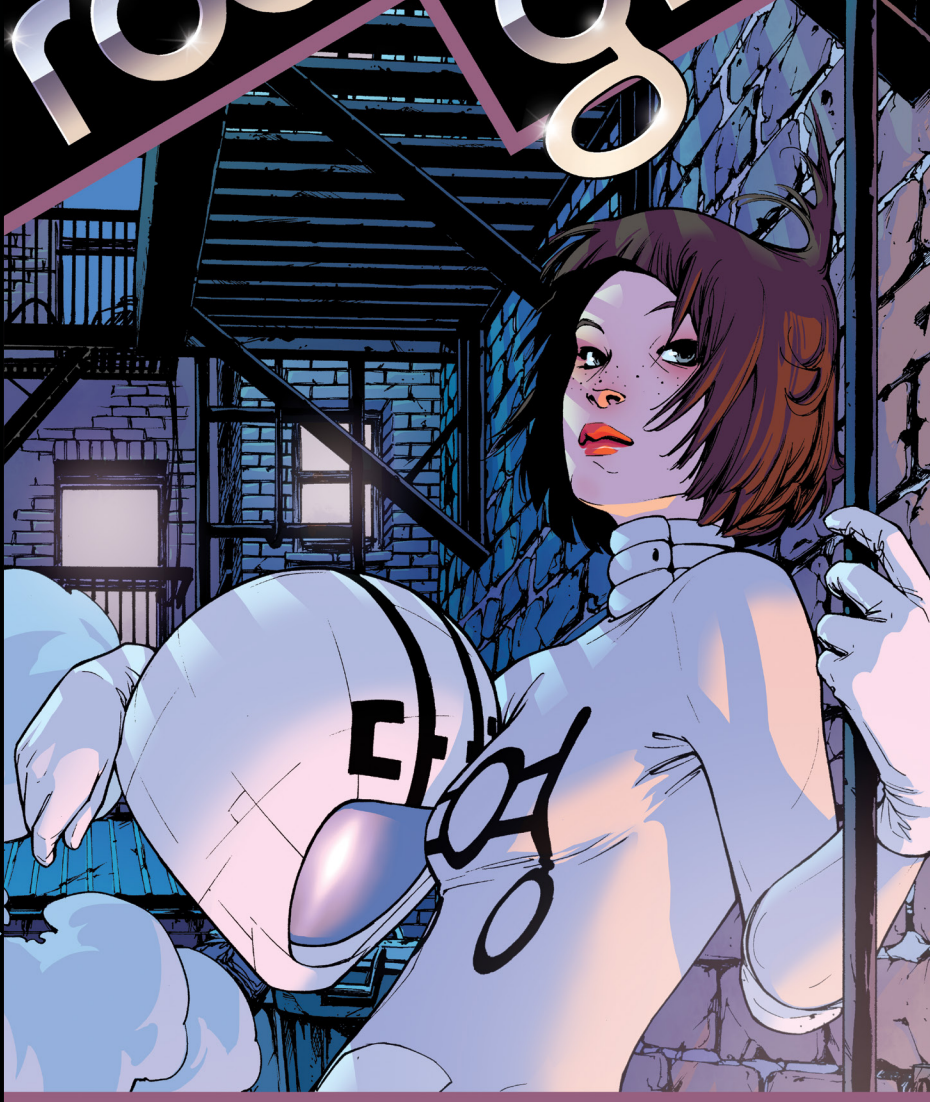


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When a teenage cop from a high tech future is sent back in time to 1986 New York City to investigate a dubious megacorporation, she discovers the future she calls home shouldn't exist at all...

brandon montclare
amy reeder

rocket girl



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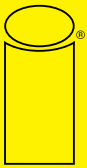


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