

KINGDOM

A comic book cover for 'Kingdom'. The title 'KINGDOM' is at the top in large, white, blocky letters. Below it, three characters from Star Wars: The Mandalorian are shown in a snowy, rocky environment. On the left is Bo-Katan Kryze in her orange armor, holding a blaster. In the center is Din Djarin in his purple armor, also holding a blaster. On the right is a character in blue armor. In the background, a large, pale, screaming face is visible. In the foreground, a large, close-up of a character's face with blue markings and orange eyes is shown. The overall tone is dark and action-oriented.

ALPHA AND OMEGA

DAN ABNETT ★ RICHARD ELSON

DAN ABNETT

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RICHARD ELSON

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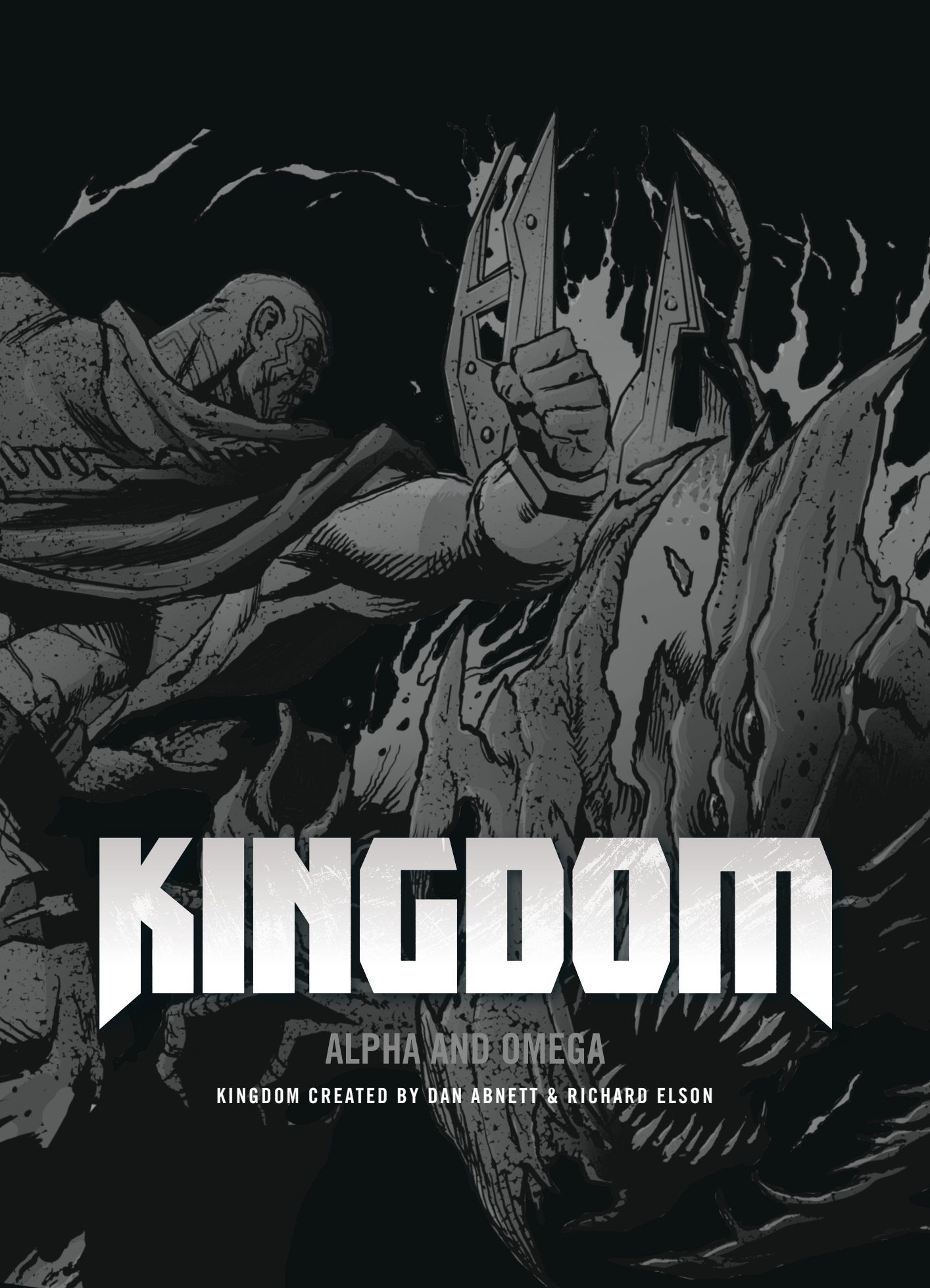
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KINGDOM

ALPHA AND OMEGA

KINGDOM CREATED BY DAN ABNETT & RICHARD ELSON

INTRODUCTION

When artist Richard Elson and I created the series *Kingdom*, over a decade ago, the struggle it portrayed was very binary in nature. On one side was “Them”, a host of gigantic insects that had arisen in the near future to claim the world and oust mankind from the top spot. “Them” - a deliberate reference to the classic monster movie - were later named the “Neosectus”. They were an implacable, relentless threat. One could not bargain with them or even communicate with them.

On the other side were the Aux (short for “auxiliaries”), genetically constructed warriors built to be mankind’s last line of defence against Them. Beyond last line, in fact. At the start of the very first story, we find a world where mankind had hidden himself, cryo-sleeping in bunkers, because Them had won and overrun the world. The Aux - our hero, Gene, is one of them - had been left to guard mankind’s hiding places. They were guard dogs. Literally.

They had been genetically bred from mankind’s most loyal and dogged companion species. So *Kingdom* was a story of “Aux against Them”.

But as the series progressed, we came to understand that things were more complicated than that. All wars are. There were other parties involved, other players in the game. First of all, there were human survivor settlements (who know very little of the truth about the “great war”). Then there were the sleeping humans, the “masters”, who had built the Aux. They were starting to wake, having spent far too long in cryo. Some of them inhabited an orbital facility and were rousing to find the war was well out of hand. And then there were the “feral aux”, the strays, who served no “masters”, and fought for themselves, surviving in the ruins and often allying with human survivors in hybrid communities.



Last of all, there were the “Ticks”. These were sentient and naturally occurring parasites that lived on Them, and had evolved alongside them. The Ticks had a very nasty habit of controlling the creatures they were attached to, and that included Aux and humans. The Ticks had an agenda of their own (everyone in the world of *Kingdom* wants to rule the roost). But some ticks had also been deliberately weaponised by the frantic human masters as a biological threat to turn Them against Them.

And we know how well that kind of thing always goes. In this volume, we present two crucial stories: *As It Is In Heaven* and *Alpha And Omega*. Here, the true and escalating horror of the conflict comes to the fore. It's not binary any more. We have Them versus Tick-controlled Them, Masters versus Them, Ticks (weaponised or otherwise) versus everybody, strays and survivors versus each other and versus every force trying to eliminate them...

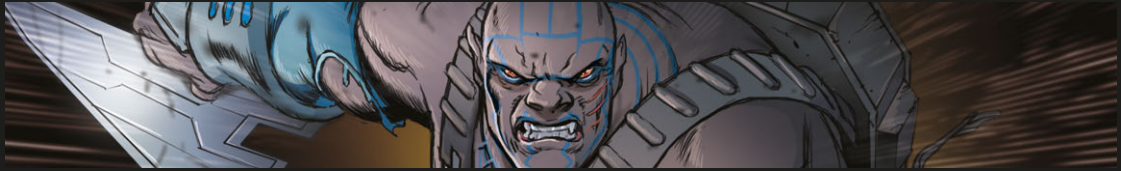
...and Gene, the Hackman. Tougher and tough. A loyal Aux who has always followed his Masters' voice but is beginning to realise that the Aux are simply being used as cannon fodder by pretty much every faction. Who better than Gene can stand up for the Aux themselves, and break the bonds of enslavement that have tied them into this brutal, cycling conflict? From our very simple beginnings, we now reach a point where shocking revelations are made, stands are taken, and the true horror of this evolving biological arms race become apparent. Can Gene break the deadlock?

Enter the Kingdom and find out.

Dan Abnett
Maidstone, May 2019



THE STORY SO FAR



KINGDOM: THE PROMISED LAND

(UK ISBN: 9781905437894)

The distant future. The remnants of humanity are suspended in cryosleep while the alien, insect-like creatures known only as Them, roam what's left of the planet. The humans left behind weapons intended to destroy Them, to prepare the Earth for when Humanity woke up. But no-one did.



Genetically enhanced warriors the Aux were spliced from the genes of dogs, designed to be obedient and fiercely loyal soldiers. They roamed the Earth in packs, fighting Them for their sleeping Masters. One such pack was led by the Alpha, Gene the Hackman.



But Gene left his barren homeland, Anarchticy, after what was left of his pack was slaughtered by a new breed of Them. During his travels he befriended the human girl Leezee Sower – the only survivor from The Promised Land, an encampment of humans infested by a monstrous species of mind-influencing Tick. The natural enemy of Them, these Ticks may hold the answer to saving the human race.



KINGDOM: CALL OF THE WILD

(UK ISBN: 9781907992988)

In the continent of Auxtralia, Gene encountered The Wild, a mongrel pack led by the intelligent but diminutive Aux, King Rex. When Rex learnt of Leezee's ability to attract Them, thanks to the Tick attached to her, he had her imprisoned and used as a decoy to draw Them away from his pack. The King's human pet, Paul Numan, claimed he could take Leezee off-planet to develop a weapon against Them.



After turning against The Wild, Gene saved Leezee, who left with Paul in an extraction shuttle. Gene's newfound mate and The Wild's archer, Clara Bow, convinced The Wild to let Gene escape.



When Clara rejoined him later, they discovered an old Aux factory where they were captured by one of the original masterminds of the program, the decrepit and delusional General Herlocker. Gene killed the General and escaped, freeing Clara and the other mongrels he kept as experiment subjects.



KINGDOM: AUX DRIFT
(UK ISBN: 9781905437894)

Gene and his newfound pack traveled deeper into Auxralia, looking for the Masters. Instead they found Aux Drift - a mining outpost staffed by both mongrel Aux and humans: not the Masters, but those left behind. Jenny Gutter welcomed the pack for their scrapping talents, especially when Gene lead a successful attack to destroy a gigantic Alpha Them. But the battle took it's toll on Aux Drift, so Jenny Gutter packed up and lead them all back to the Kingdom, a place where Aux and Humans lived and fought side by side.



Time passed, and Gene and Clara Bow made a life in the Kingdom. But the Them were swarming, worse than before, threatening all that had been built. Taking a pack out to find the hive, Gene again stumbled across Paul Numan, now heading a research expedition. Locating the hive-mind together, they learned that the Them were swarming to defend against another Them-colony - this one infested with ticks.



After destroying the hive mind, Gene and the remains of his pack fled on the Master's ship before learning what Numan had hidden: the Masters had weaponised the ticks against Them, forcing Them to make an evolutionary jump to defend themselves. Now the tick-infested swarm was heading right for the destroyed hive – with the Kingdom in the way.



With nowhere to return to, Numan has promised Gene and the last remnants of his pack a good home...

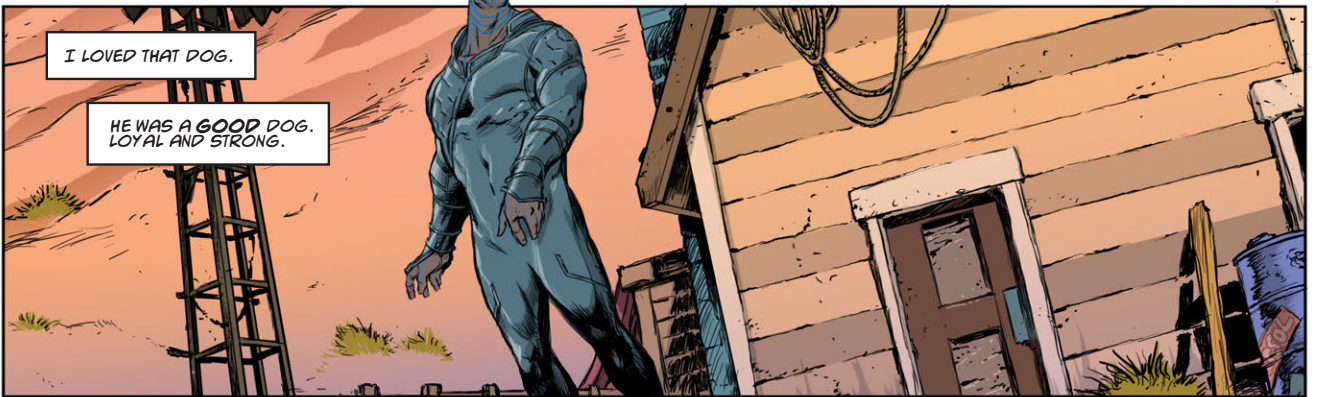
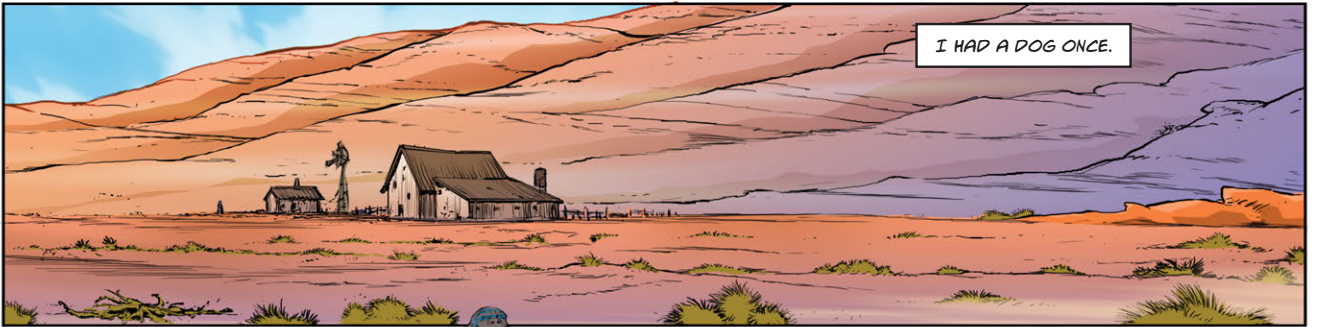
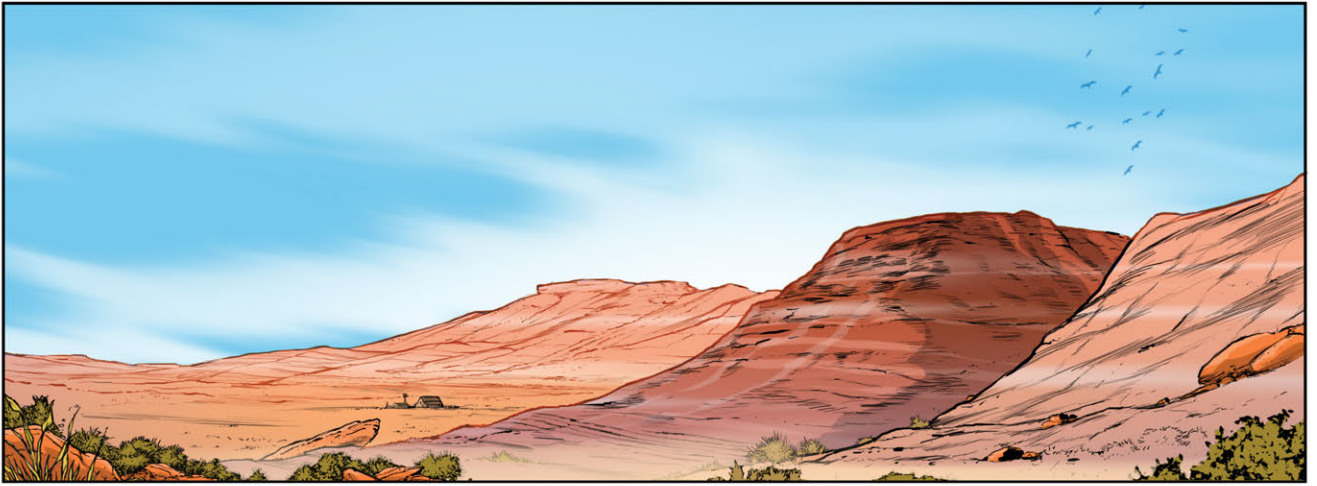
Art by Richard Elson

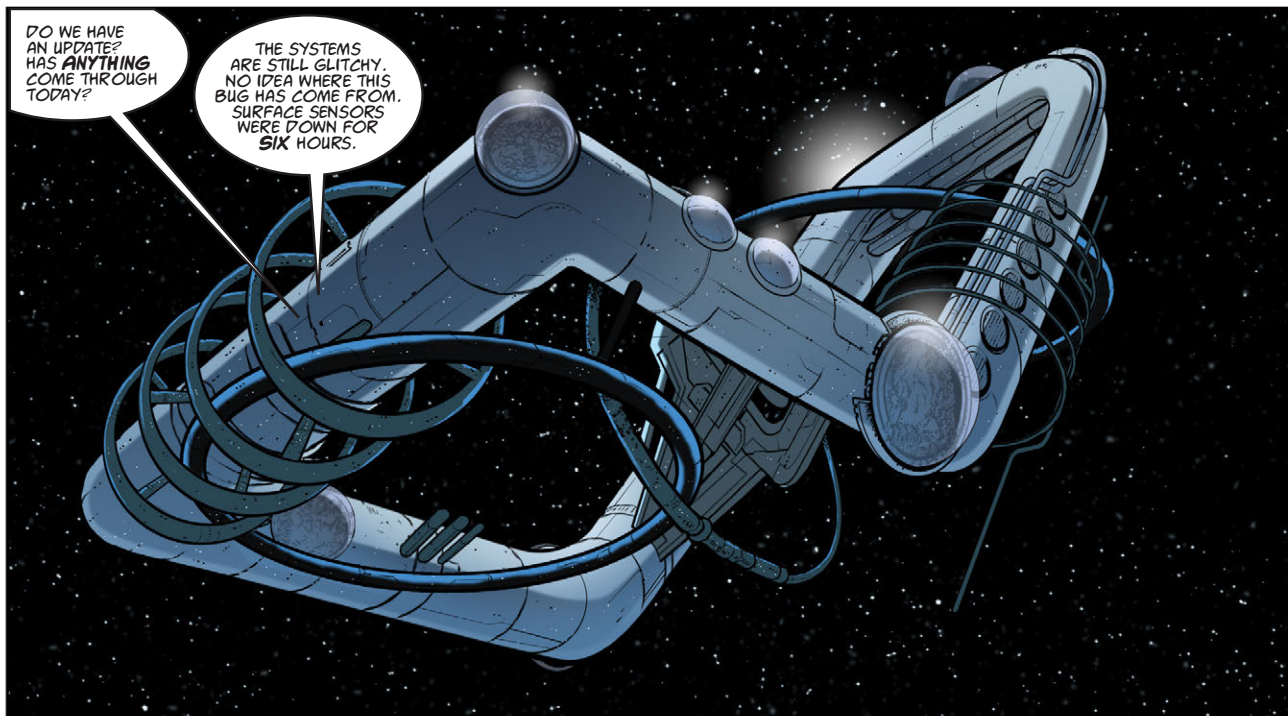


AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Script: Dan Abnett
Art: Richard Elson
Letters: Ellie De Ville

Originally published in 2000 AD Progs 2011-2022





DO WE HAVE
AN UPDATE?
HAS **ANYTHING**
COME THROUGH
TODAY?

THE SYSTEMS
ARE STILL GLITCHY.
NO IDEA WHERE THIS
BUG HAS COME FROM.
SURFACE SENSORS
WERE DOWN FOR
SIX HOURS.



CAN WE GET IT
FIXED, PLEASE?
CAN WE GET THIS
CRAP **IRONED**
OUT?

A FULL-SYSTEM
REVIEW IS UNDERWAY.
WE SHOULD BE BACK
TO OPTIMUM BY
TOMORROW.

CHRIST,
YOU SAID THAT
YESTERDAY.

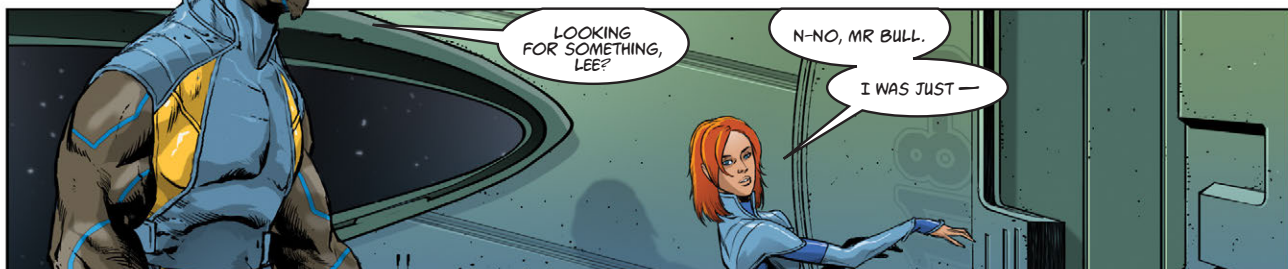


WHATEVER. WE
NEED AN UPDATE. WE
NEED TO SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING ON
THE SURFACE.



THE END WAR
BEGAN **SIX MONTHS**
AGO.

WE NEED TO
KNOW WHAT'S GOING
ON DOWN THERE. WE
NEED TO KNOW IF
WE'RE WINNING.



LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING,
LEE?

N-NO, MR BULL.

I WAS JUST —



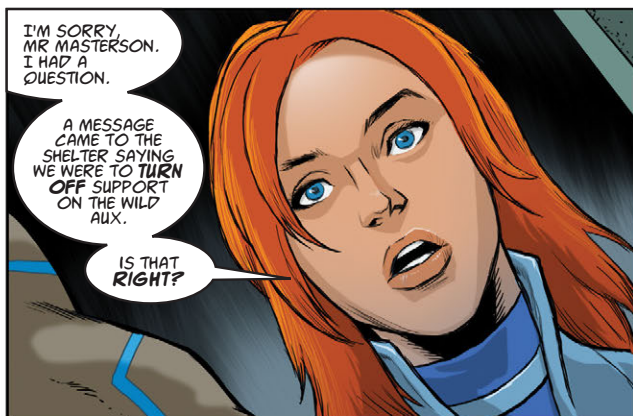
I **GET** THAT, HERSHALL, BUT —

AUX, IS THERE A PROBLEM?

I FOUND THIS ONE OUTSIDE, MASTERSON.



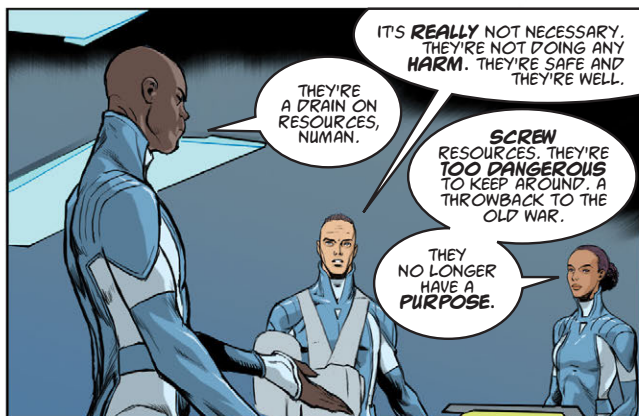
DAMMIT, LEE. YOU **KNOW** THIS ROOM IS TOP-TIER PERSONNEL ONLY.



I'M SORRY, MR. MASTERSON. I HAD A QUESTION.

A MESSAGE CAME TO THE SHELTER SAYING WE WERE TO **TURN OFF** SUPPORT ON THE WILD AUX.

IS THAT **RIGHT**?



THEY'RE A DRAIN ON RESOURCES, HUMAN.

IT'S **REALLY** NOT NECESSARY. THEY'RE NOT DOING ANY **HARM**. THEY'RE SAFE AND THEY'RE WELL.

SCREW RESOURCES. THEY'RE **TOO DANGEROUS** TO KEEP AROUND. A THROWBACK TO THE OLD WAR.

THEY NO LONGER HAVE A **PURPOSE**.



COME ON, HERSHALL! ADMIT YOUR DISLIKE OF THEM IS **PERSONAL** —

THAT'S ENOUGH. HERSHALL'S RIGHT. THEY'RE **OBSOLETE**.

LEE, I SIGNED THE ORDER FOR THEM TO BE EUTHANISED. THAT NEEDS TO BE CARRIED OUT.



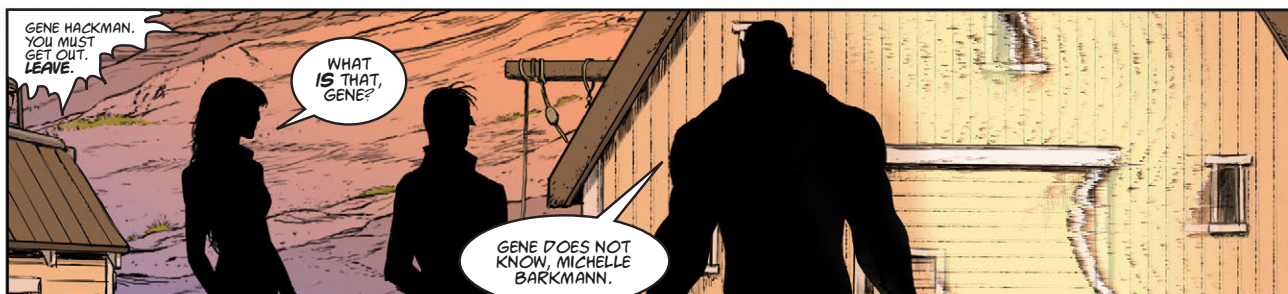
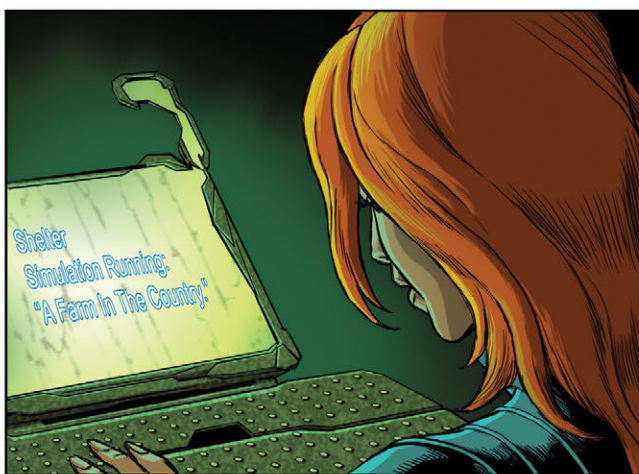
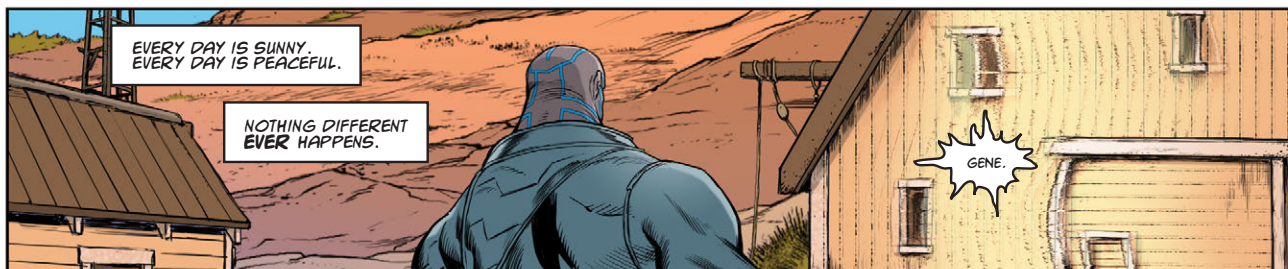
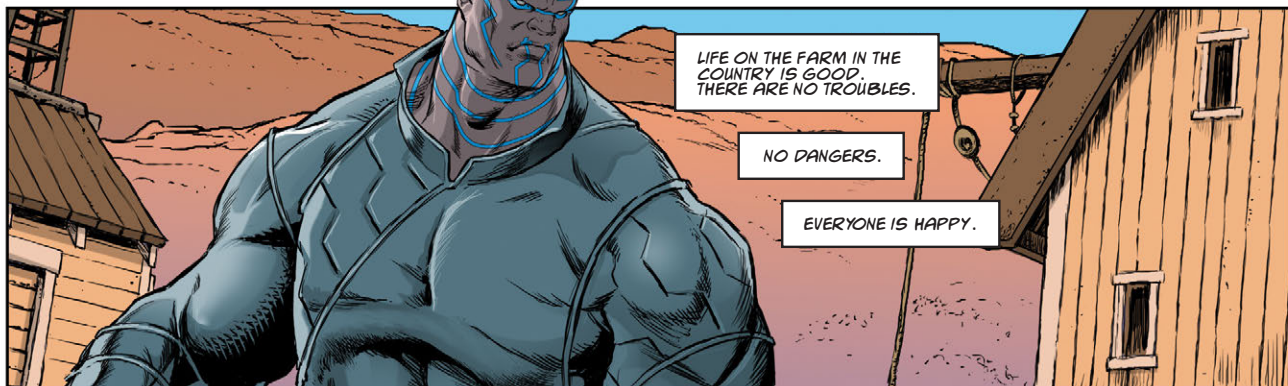
DO YOU WANT **ME** TO DO IT, SIR?

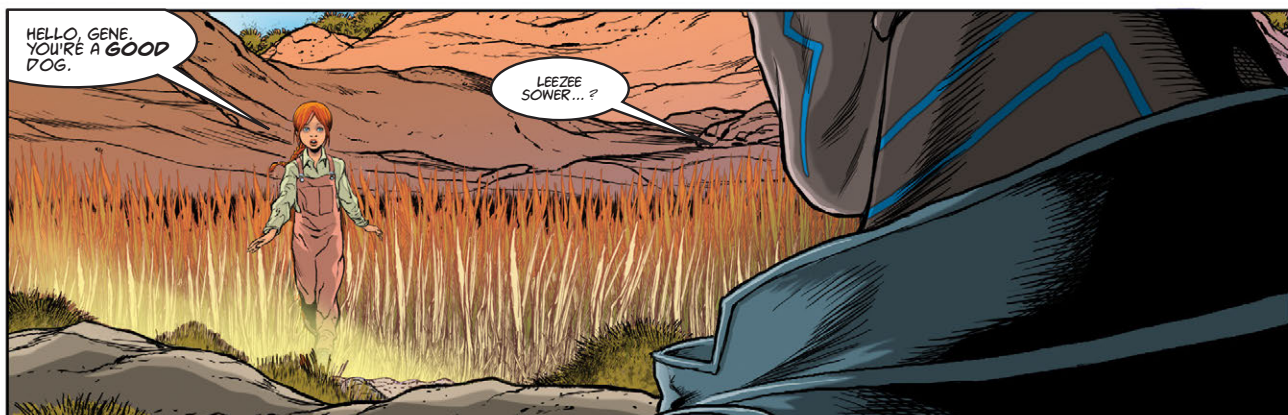
WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND, MAJOR CANIS —

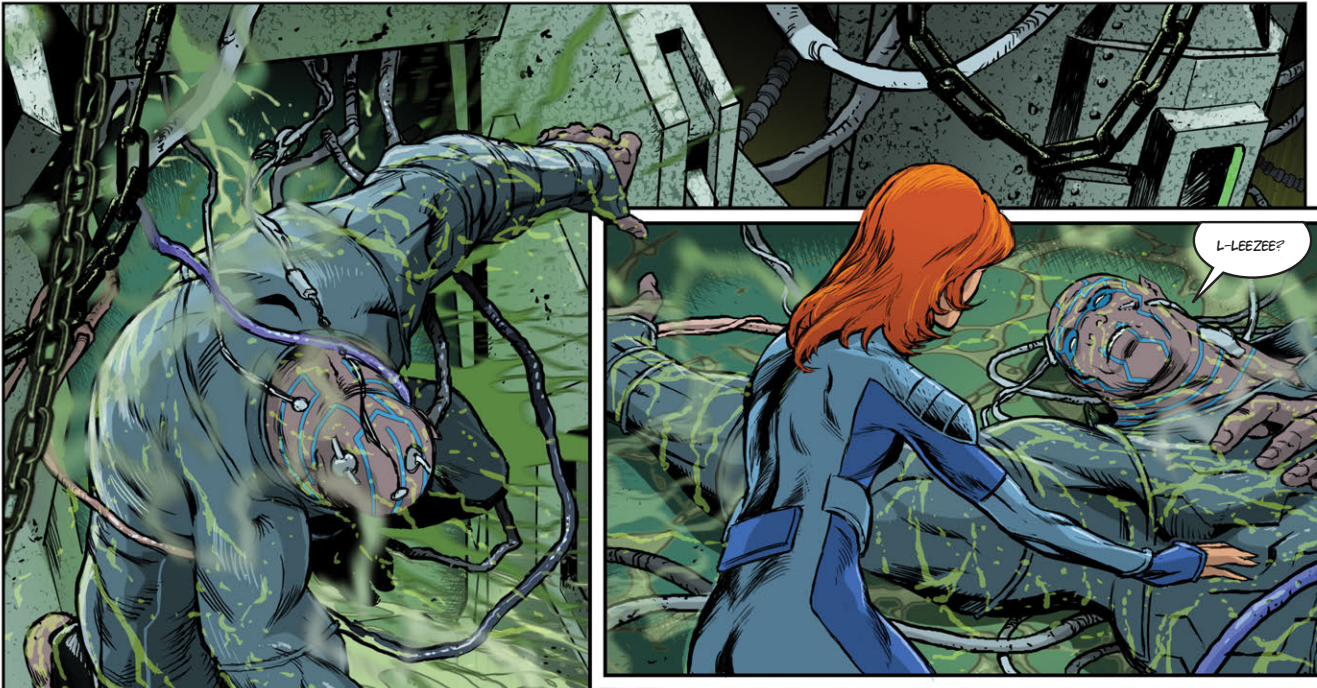
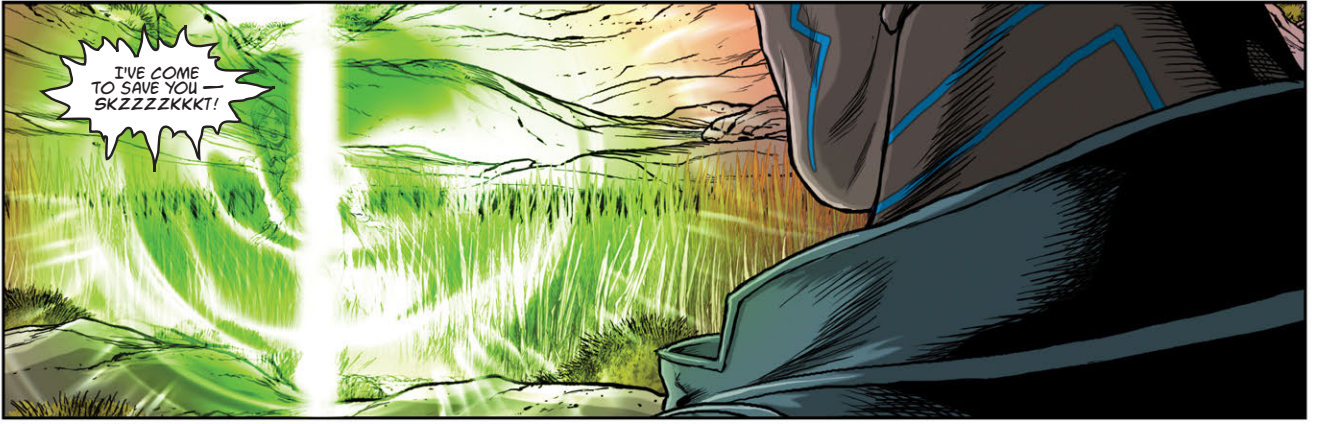


IT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR. I'LL DO IT.

I **KNOW** THEM. I WILL DO IT **KINDLY**.









THE SYSTEM'S BACK UP. WE'VE GOT VISUAL CAPTURE OF THE SURFACE...

GOD, IT LOOKS LIKE THE WEAPONISED HORDE HAS PRETTY MUCH WIPE OUT THE OUTBACK TERRITORY.

THAT AUX COMMUNITY'S GONE.

IT WAS JUST IN THE WAY.

THERE WERE HUMANS THERE TOO.

ARE WE? OR ARE WE JUST MANUFACTURING A NEW ENEMY?

EXTERMINATION IS EXPECTED IN A TEN-YEAR WINDOW. ONCE THEY ARE GONE, WE CAN DEACTIVATE THE WEAPONISED HORDE USING THE FAULTY GENE WE CODED INTO THEM.

BIG PICTURE PLEASE, NUMAN.

THE HORDE'S PRIMARY TARGETS ARE THE MAIN THEM NESTS.

WE'RE ORCHESTRATING A WAR HERE.

WE JUST SWITCH THEM OFF.



OUR BEST-LAID PLANS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SCREWING UP.

THERE ARE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND HUMAN BEINGS IN CRYO ON THIS STATION AND THE DEEP-SURFACE FACILITIES, NUMAN.

THEY ARE WAITING TO WAKE UP AND RECOLONISE OUR PLANET.

THEY'VE BEEN WAITING TOO LONG. WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO SCREW UP ANYTH—

HEY!



WHAT IS IT, FREER?

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER GLITCH.

WE'VE GOT FUNCTIONAL DEACTIVATION IN THE SHELTER.



STEADY... STEADY! YOU'RE GOING TO BE WEAK.

YOU'VE BEEN IN V.R. SUSPENSION FOR ALMOST SIX MONTHS.

LEE?







I CAN'T CONTROL THAT.



WHAT WAS I EVEN THINKING?

HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.



LEEZEE SOWER. I FOUND YOU.

GENE?



YOU GOT OLD. YOU GREW UP. BUT IT IS YOU. IT IS YOUR SCENT.

I FOUND YOU.



HELLO, GENE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, LEEZEE SOWER?



WE HAVE TO RUN.



GENE HAS A LOT OF QUESTIONS.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE, LEEZEE SOWER?

IT'S THE HUMAN REFUGE STATION, GENE.



THE PLACE IN THE SKY? NUMAN WAS TAKING US THERE ON THE FLYING MACHINE.

DID I FALL ASLEEP? I DREAMED I WAS ON A FARM?

THAT WAS JUST V.R. SIMULATION, GENE.

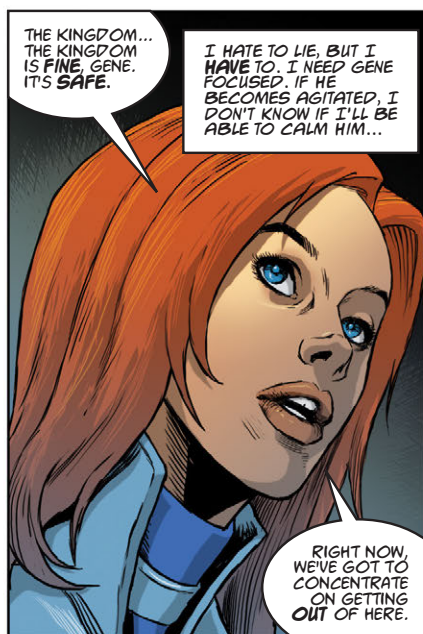


WHAT IS VEE-HAR?

IT'S LIKE...

IT WAS A DREAM, GENE.

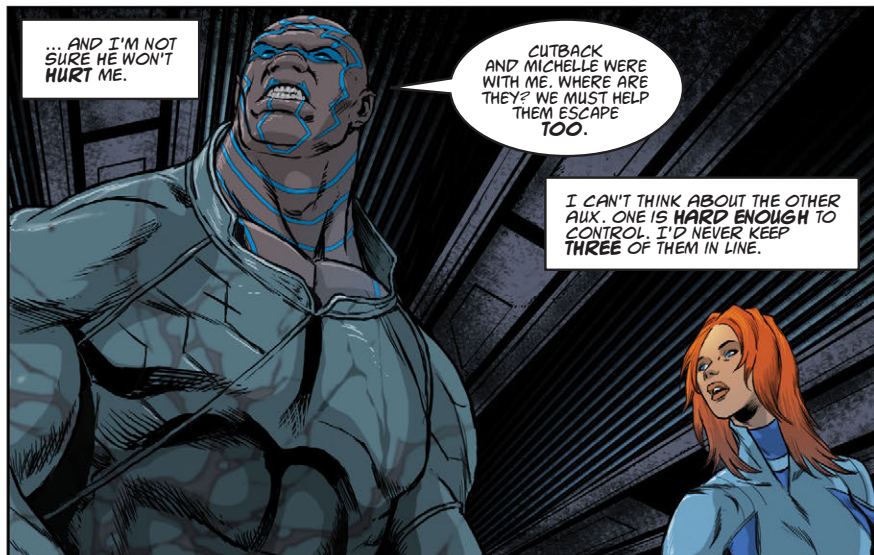
THE KINGDOM WAS BEING ATTACKED. I MUST GO BACK FOR CLARA BOW AND —



THE KINGDOM... THE KINGDOM IS FINE, GENE. IT'S SAFE.

I HATE TO LIE, BUT I HAVE TO. I NEED GENE FOCUSED. IF HE BECOMES AGITATED, I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO CALM HIM...

RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING OUT OF HERE.



... AND I'M NOT SURE HE WON'T HURT ME.

CUTBACK AND MICHELLE WERE WITH ME. WHERE ARE THEY? WE MUST HELP THEM ESCAPE TOO.

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THE OTHER AUX. ONE IS HARD ENOUGH TO CONTROL. I'D NEVER KEEP THREE OF THEM IN LINE.

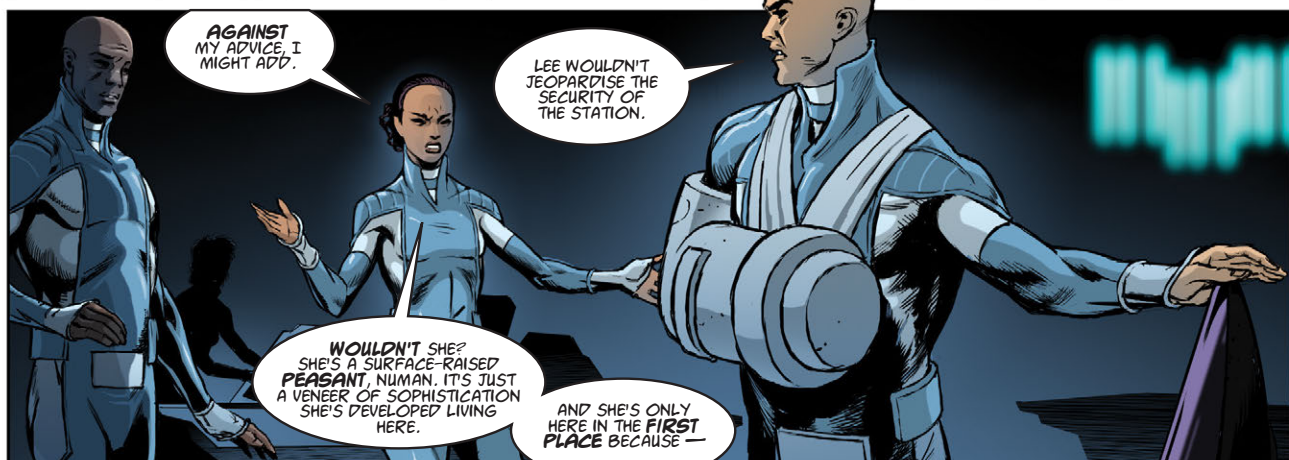
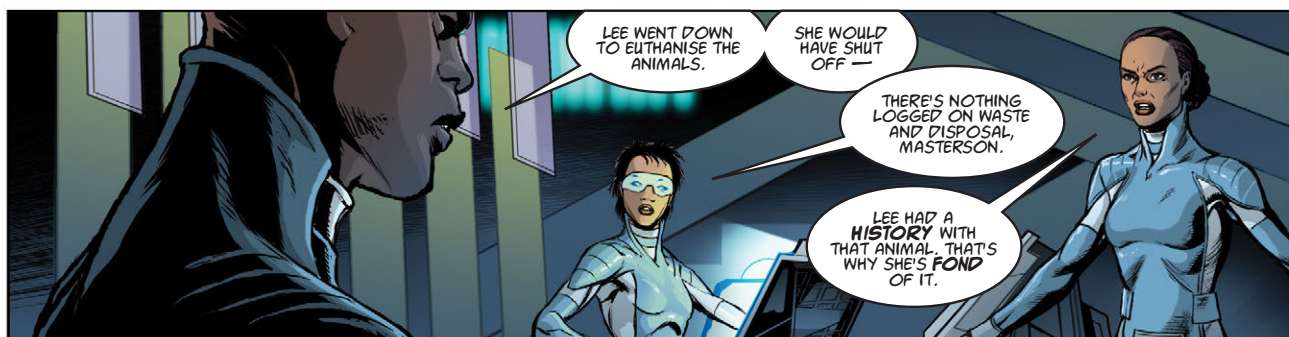
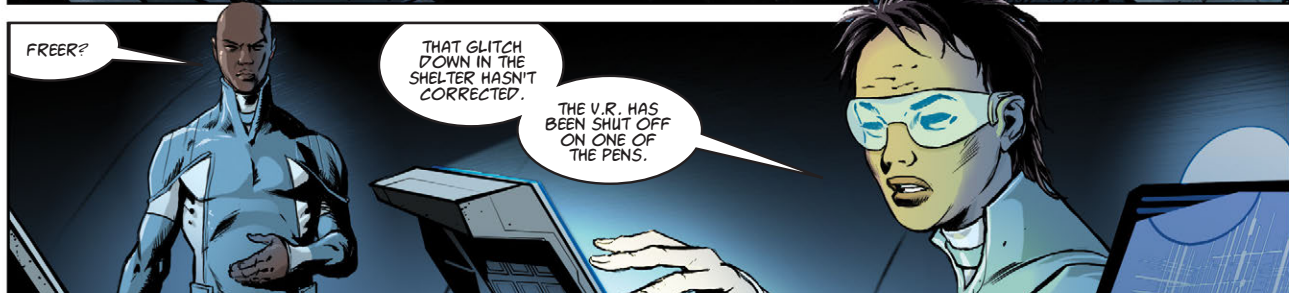


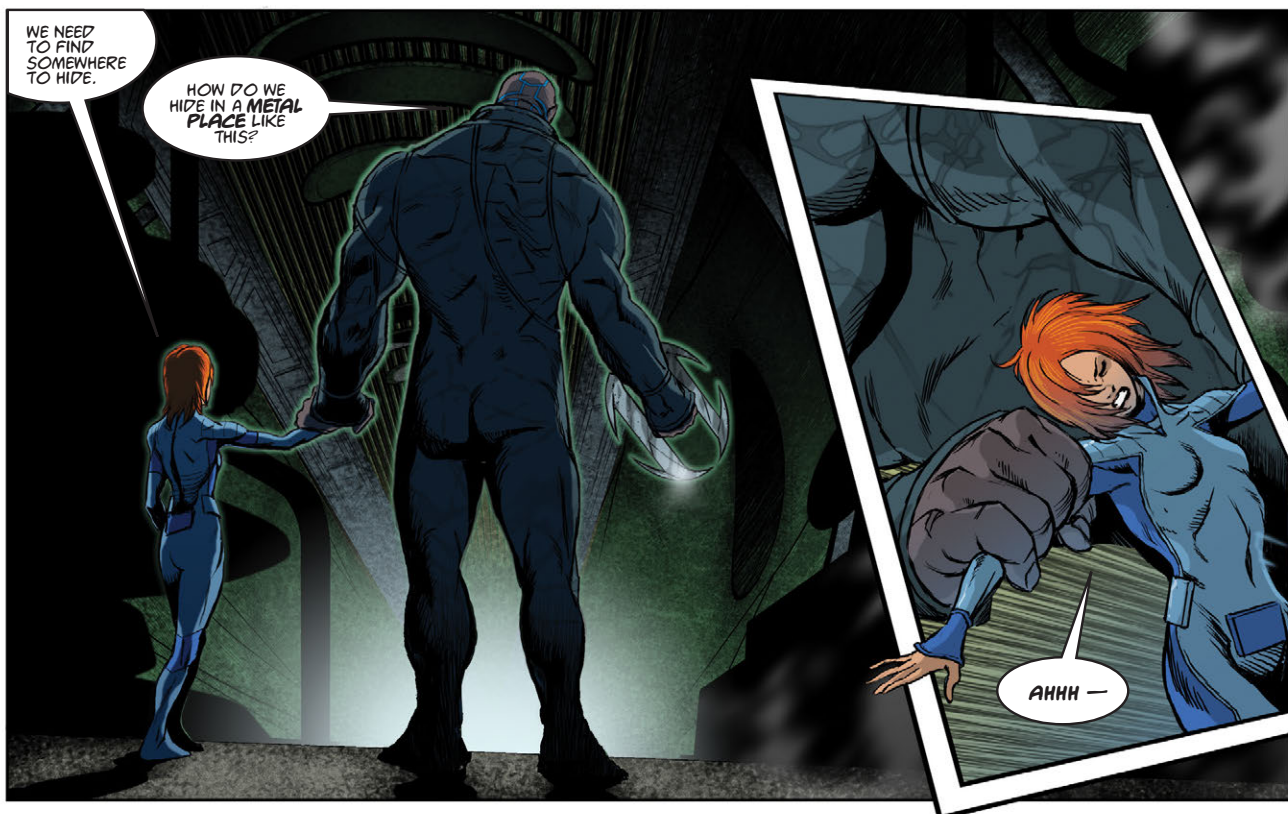
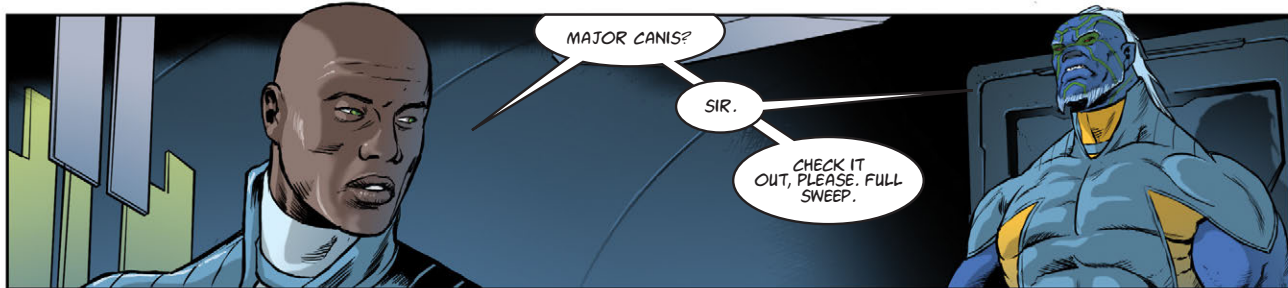
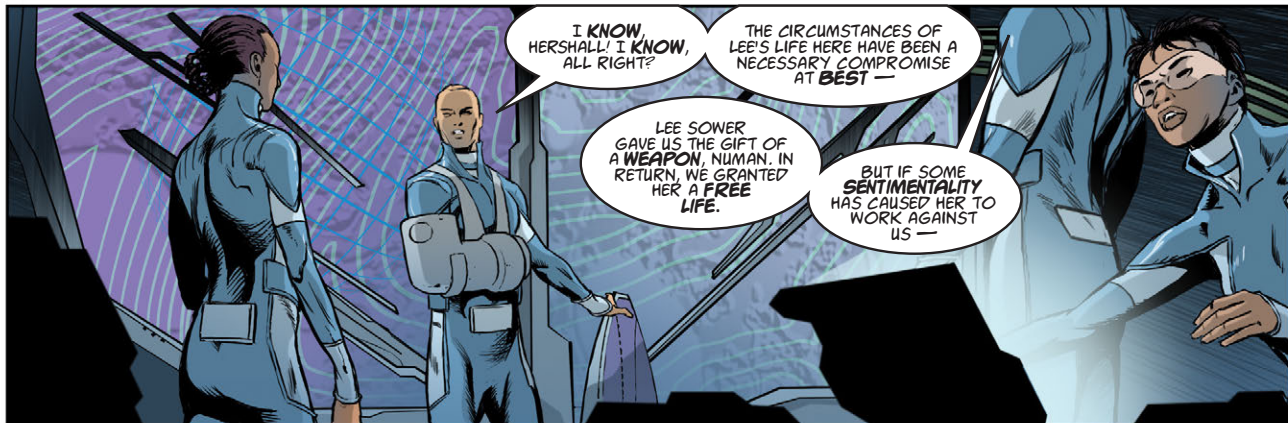
THEY'RE SAFE, GENE. WE'LL GET TO THEM LATER.

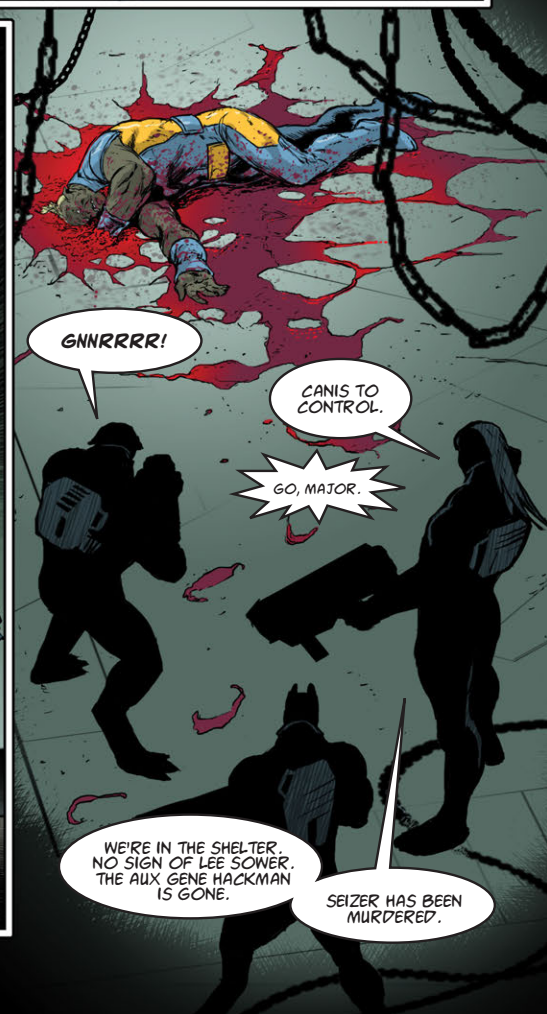
RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO FIND A GOOD HIDING PLACE.

OKAY?

OKAY, LEEZEE SOWER.

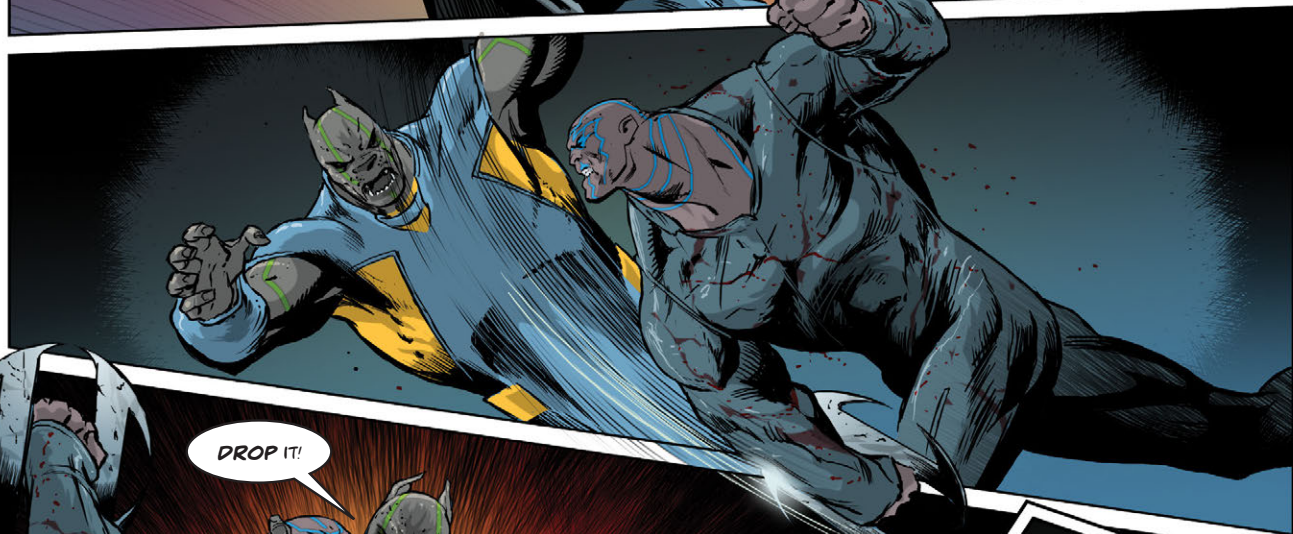














GAAAAAH!

GNNH!



YOU'RE TOUGH,
MONGREL. I'LL
GIVE YOU
THAT.



T-TOUGHER
AND TOUGH...



WHATEVER.



MR
SULTAN...



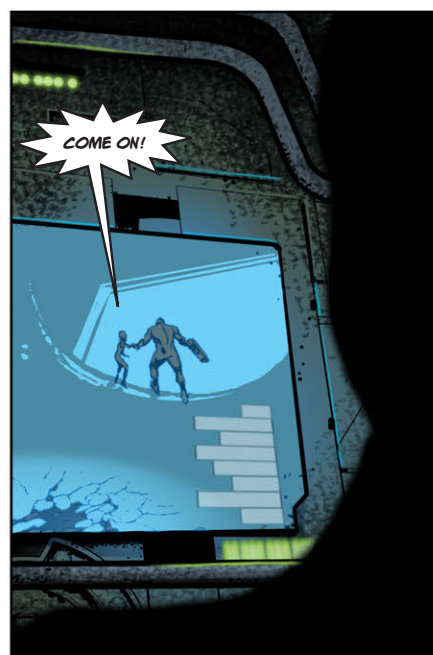
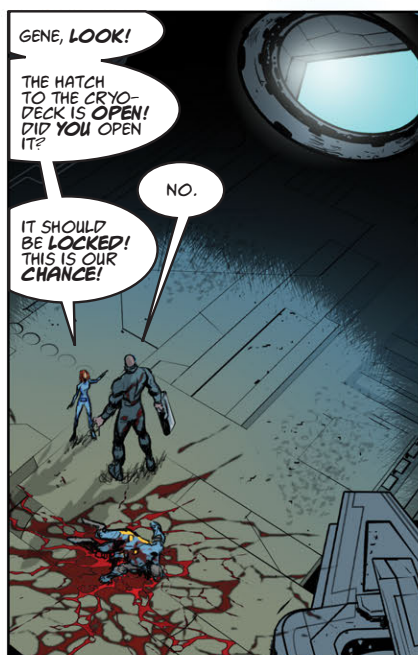
... YOU LEAVE
GENE ALONE
NOW.

DON'T BE AN
IDIOT, LEE.

I MEAN IT.
LEAVE HIM ALONE
OR I PUT YOU
DOWN.

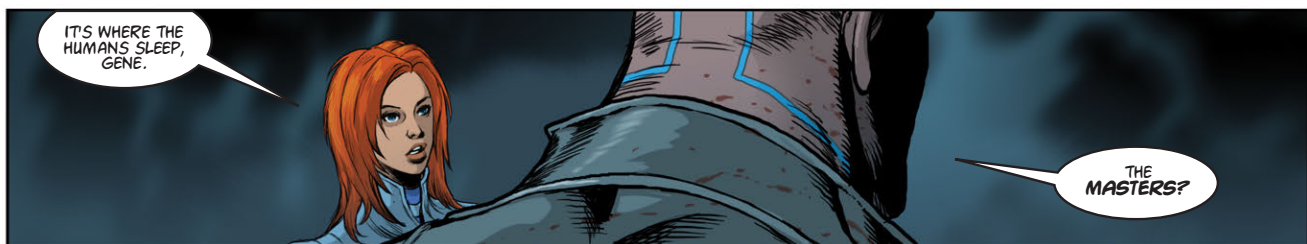


GIVE ME
THE GUN, YOU
LITTLE —





WHAT IS THIS
'CRY-O-DECK',
LEEZEE
SOWER?



IT'S WHERE THE
HUMANS SLEEP,
GENE.

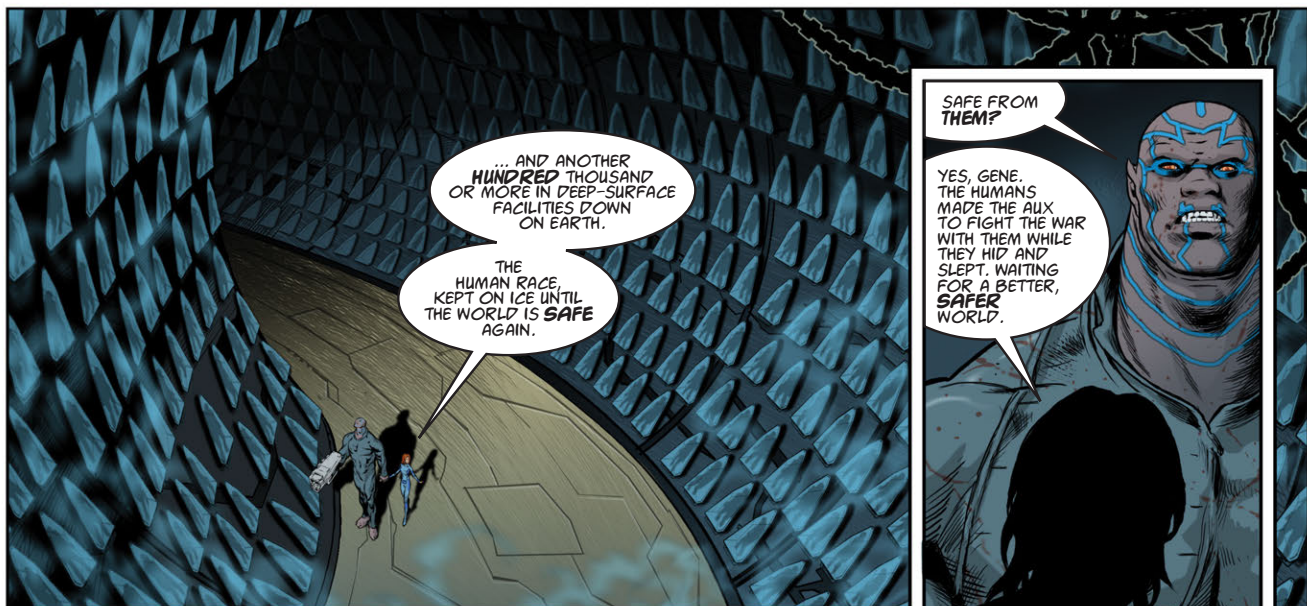
THE
MASTERS?



I GUESS
SO.

THERE ARE
MANY. THEY
ARE FROZEN
IN ICE.

COLD-STORE
HIBERNATION. THERE ARE
SEVENTY THOUSAND HERE,
SO MR NUMAN SAYS...



... AND ANOTHER
HUNDRED THOUSAND
OR MORE IN DEEP-SURFACE
FACILITIES DOWN
ON EARTH.

THE
HUMAN RACE,
KEPT ON ICE UNTIL
THE WORLD IS **SAFE**
AGAIN.

SAFE FROM
THEM?

YES, GENE.
THE HUMANS
MADE THE AUX
TO FIGHT THE WAR
WITH THEM WHILE
THEY HID AND
SLEPT. WAITING
FOR A BETTER,
SAFER
WORLD.

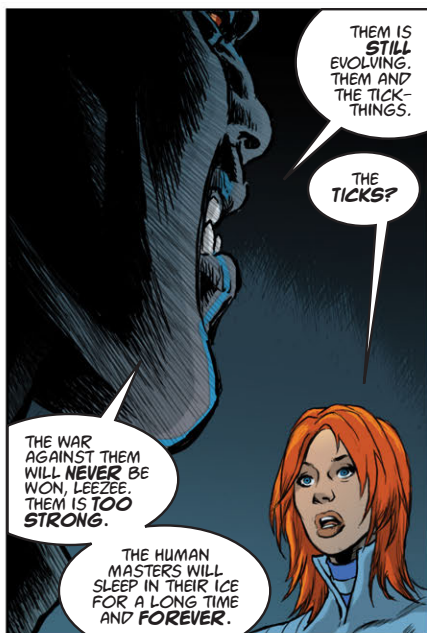


THE MASTERS,
THEY SOUND LIKE
COWARDS.

WHY DID **THEY**
NOT FIGHT THEM? WHY
DID THEY MAKE AUX
TO FIGHT THE WAR
FOR THEM?

MR NUMAN
SAYS THE HUMAN
RACE WAS TOTALLY
OUTCLASSED. THEY
KEPT **EVOLVING**
ALL THE TIME.

WE
COULDN'T
KEEP UP WITH
THE **ARMS**
RACE.



THEM IS
STILL
EVOLVING.
THEM AND
THE TICK-
THINGS.

THE
TICKS?

THE WAR
AGAINST THEM
WILL **NEVER** BE
WON, LEEZEE.
THEM IS **TOO**
STRONG.

THE HUMAN
MASTERS WILL
SLEEP IN THEIR ICE
FOR A LONG TIME
AND **FOREVER.**



HOW DO I GET BACK
DOWN TO THE REAL
WORLD?

GENE,
IF THEY IS
WINNING —

THE
KINGDOM WAS
ATTACKED, LEEZEE. I
LEFT **CLARA BOW**
AND THE **PUPS**
THERE —



I NEED TO GO
BACK AND **FIND**
THEM.

THAT
WAS **MONTHS**
AGO, GENE.

I NEED TO
GO **BACK.**

WHERE IS
THERE A **SHIP**
OR A **FLYING**
MACHINE I
CAN USE?



WE'LL
FIND ONE.
BUT NOT
YET.

WE'VE GOT A
CHANCE. GENE. A
CHANCE TO **HIDE.** TO
MAKE **PLANS.**

IT WAS **HUGE**
LUCK THAT THE HATCH
TO THE CRYO-DECK
WAS UNLOCKED.

WHY?

BECAUSE
THIS IS THE MOST
PRECIOUS PART OF THE
STATION. PROJECTILE
WEAPONS ARE
FORBIDDEN IN
HERE.

THEY
CAN'T RISK THE
SAFETY OF THE
SLEEPERS...



'... THEY WON'T DARE
BRING THE HUNT IN
HERE AFTER US.'

MAJOR CANIS?
REPORT.

THE
ROGUE AUX HAS
KILLED **SULTAN**, MR
MASTERSON.

THAT'S **TWO** HE'S
TAKEN. THE MONGREL
WILL PAY.

TELL BULL
HE'LL GET HIS
PAYBACK.

HAVE
YOU GOT A LEAD
ON THE AUX AND
THE GIRL?



THEY'VE EXITED
THE SHELTER
BLOCK AND FLED
INTO THE CRYO-
DECKS.

THEN
WE GO **KILL**
THEM!



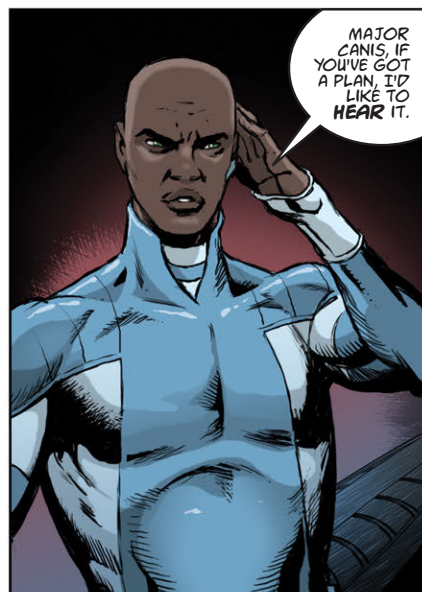
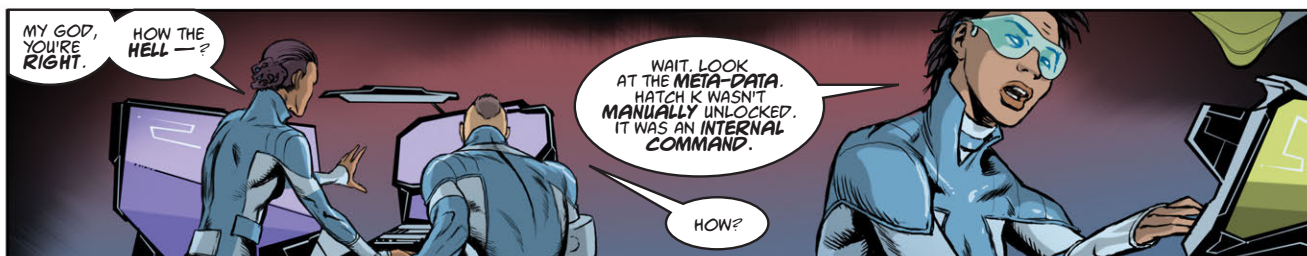
CRYO-DECKS,
BULL! YOUR HEAD
IS FULL OF
DUMB!

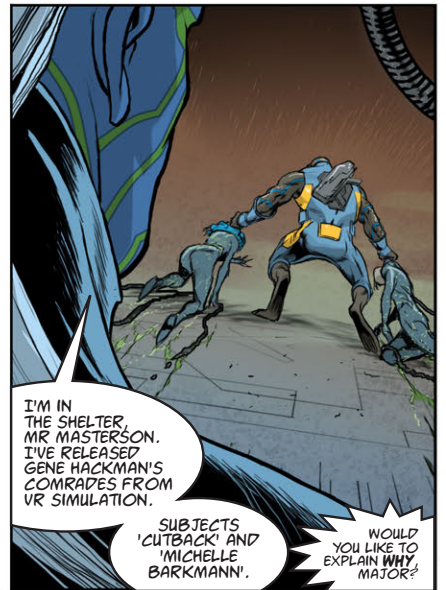
NO GUN
WEAPONS ON
THE CRYO-DECK!
YOU **KNOW** THE
LAWS!

HHNNH!
WHAT THEN,
CANIS?

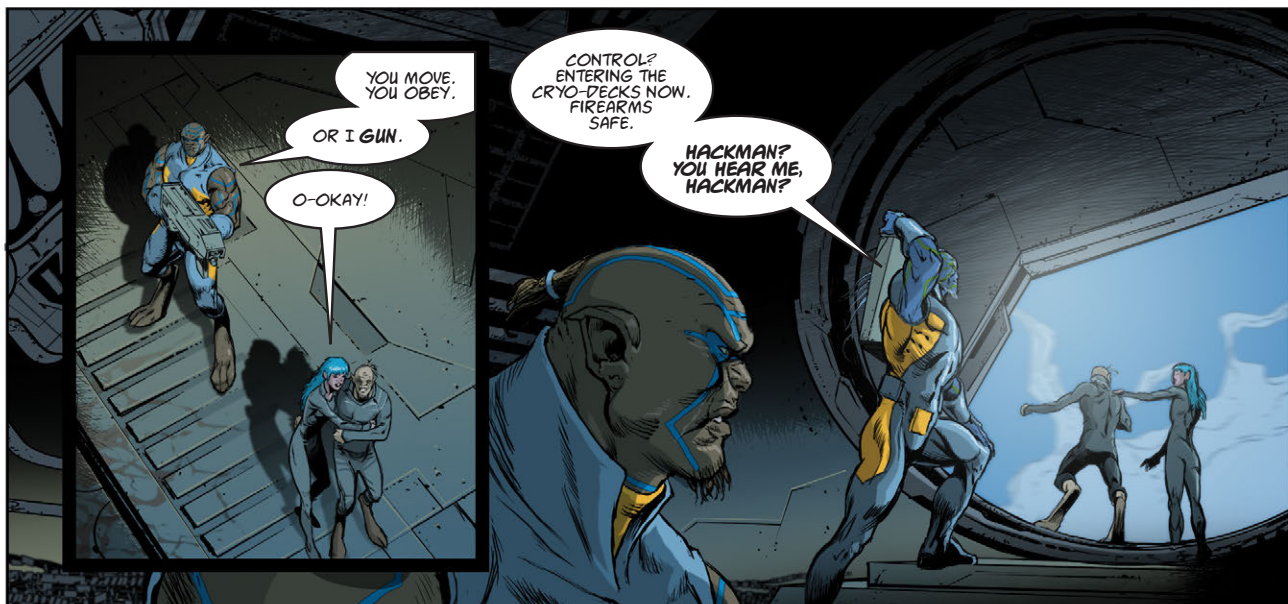
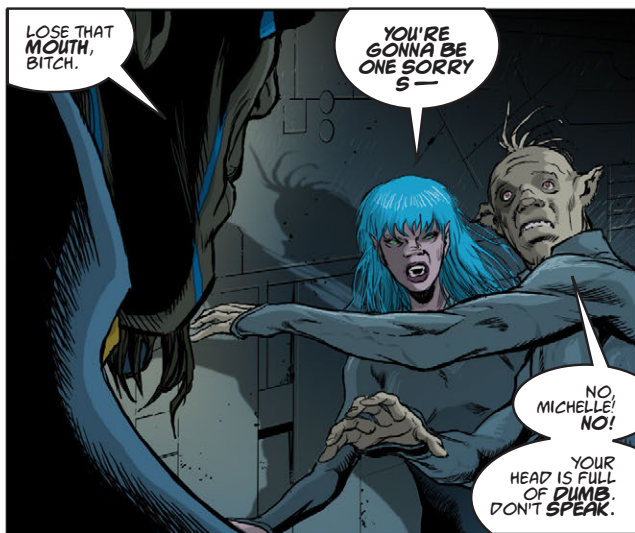
I HAVE AN
IDEA.

CANIS? DID
YOU SAY THE AUX
HAS ACCESSED THE
CRYO-DECKS?











HACKMAN!
HACKMAN!

SHOW
YOURSELF!



COME OUT,
HACKMAN! I'VE
GOT SOMETHING
YOU WANT!

IGNORE
IT, GENE.



THIS IS A PLACE
TO HIDE, LEEZEE
SOWER?

YES, GENE-
DOG.

HMM.
FOR A WHILE,
MAYBE...



... THEN WHAT?

WE CAN'T
HIDE HERE FOREVER.
NOT LIKE THE
MASTERS.

GENE WON'T
HIDE.

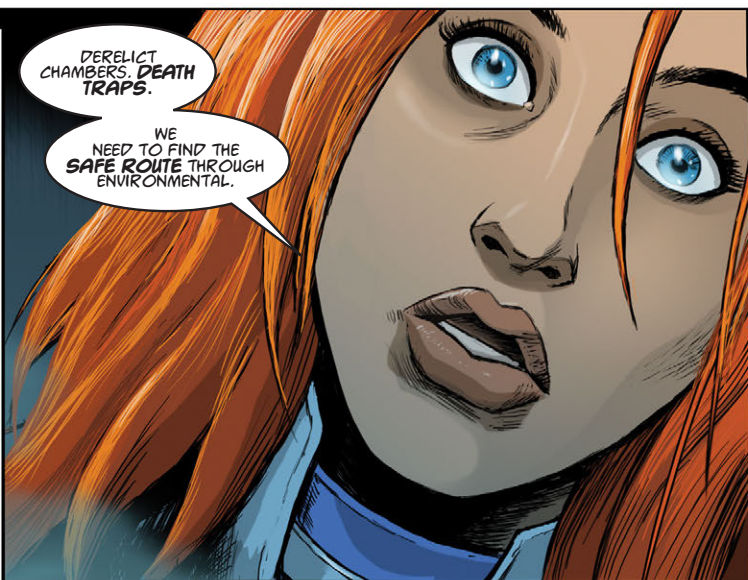
I'M
HOPING WE CAN
FIND A WAY THROUGH
TO ENVIRONMENTAL,
THEN MAYBE TO THE
HANGAR DECKS.



IT WON'T BE EASY. THERE
ARE WAYS DOWN THROUGH
THE UNCONTROLLED
SECTIONS OF THE STATION,
BUT NOBODY GOES
THAT WAY.

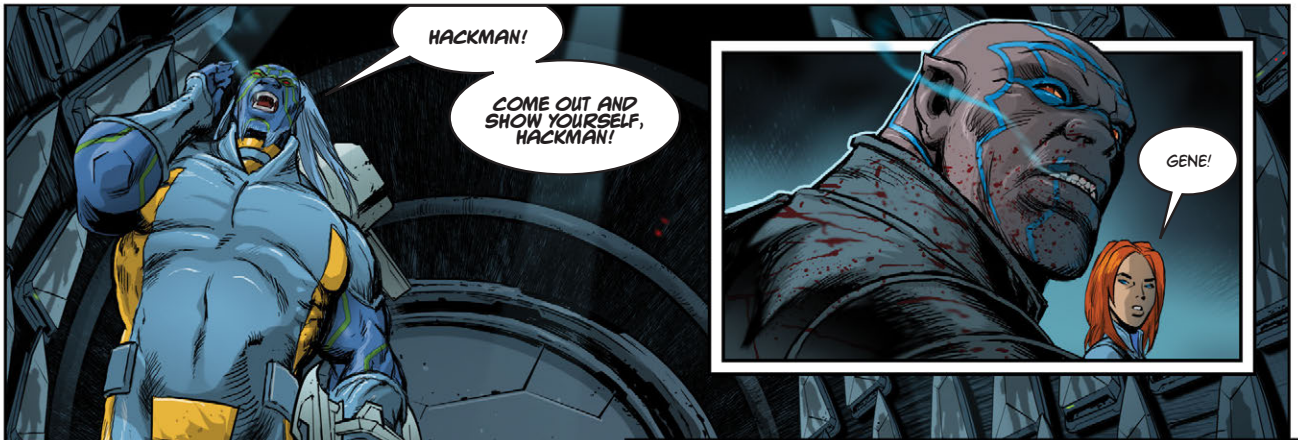
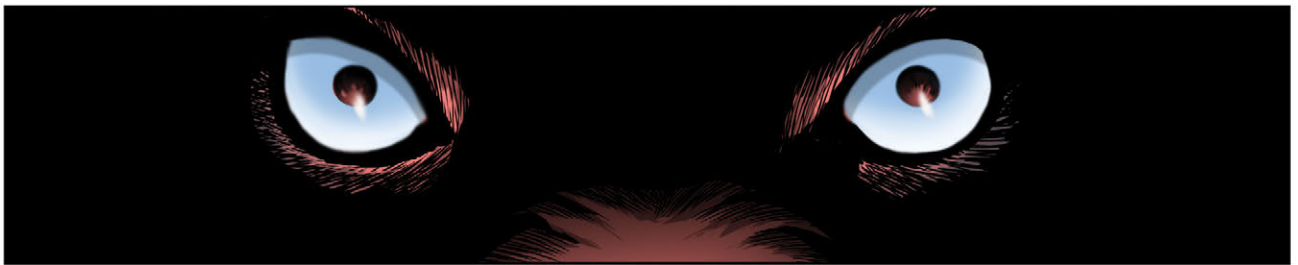
I DON'T WANT
TO HAVE TO GO
THAT WAY.

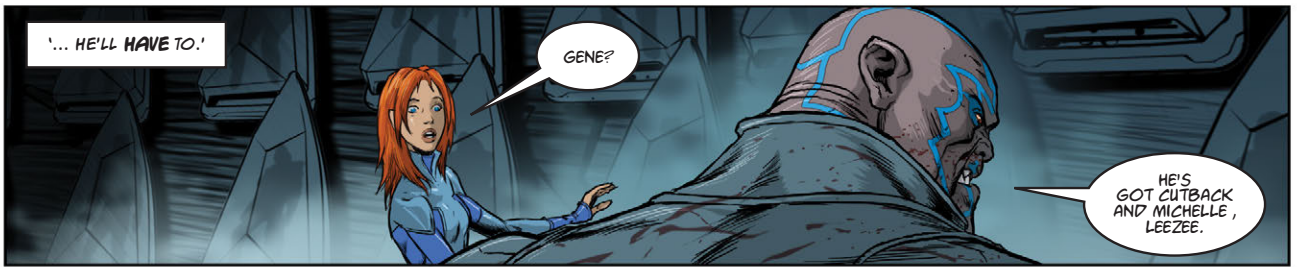
WHAT
ARE THESE
SECTIONS?



DERELICT
CHAMBERS. DEATH
TRAPS.

WE
NEED TO FIND THE
SAFE ROUTE THROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL.







HACKMAN?
COME ON,
HACKMAN!

SHOW
YOURSELF, OR
WE KILL YOUR
FRIENDS!



CUTBACK
AND MICHELLE
BARKMAN,
HACKMAN!

REMEMBER
THEM?

THEIR LIVES
ARE IN YOUR
HANDS!



GENE WON'T COME.
HE'S NO FOOL.
HE — AKKK!

SHUT IT,
DEADMEAT.

HACKMAN'S
A PACK ANIMAL.
HE WORKS BY PACK
LOYALTY.

HE'LL COME.

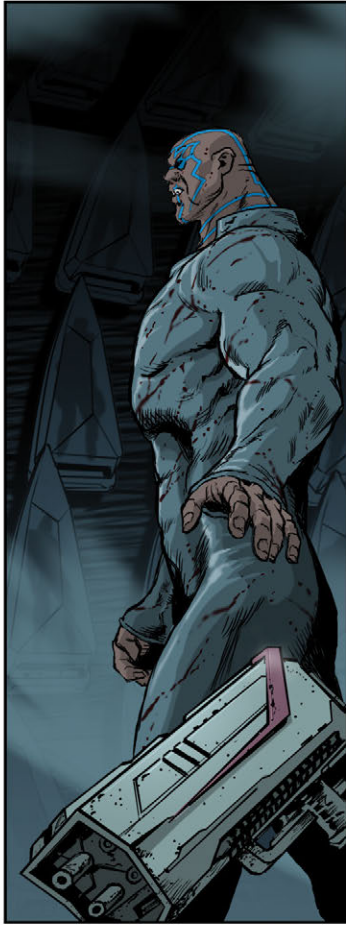


TOLD YOU.

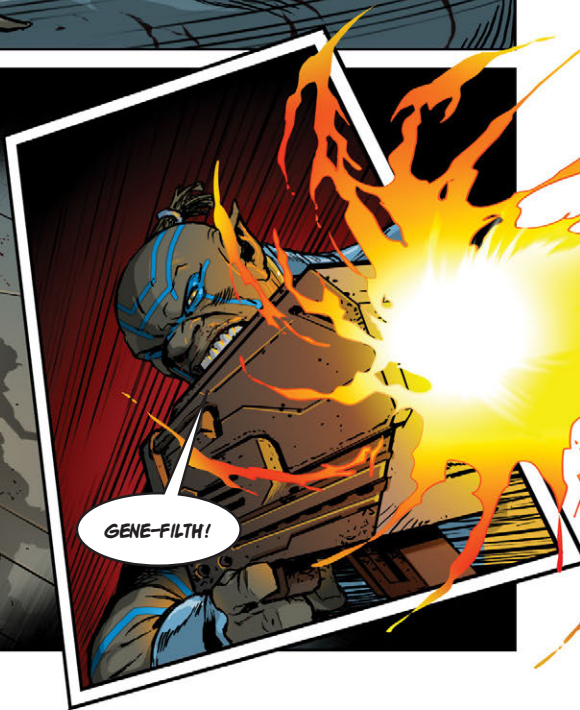
DROP THE
WEAPON, HACKMAN!
DROP IT!

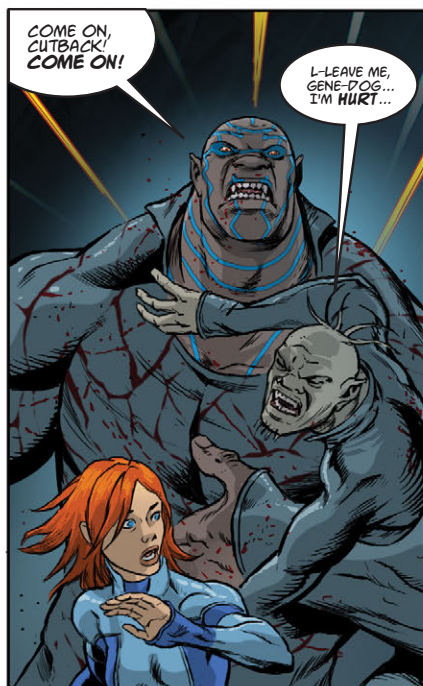
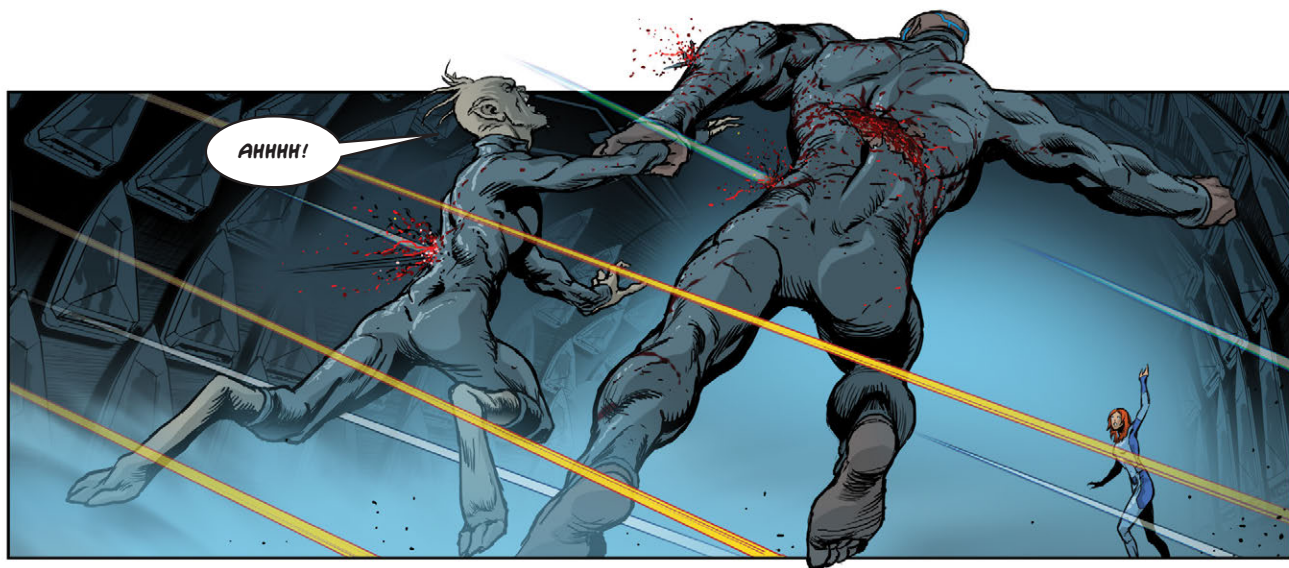


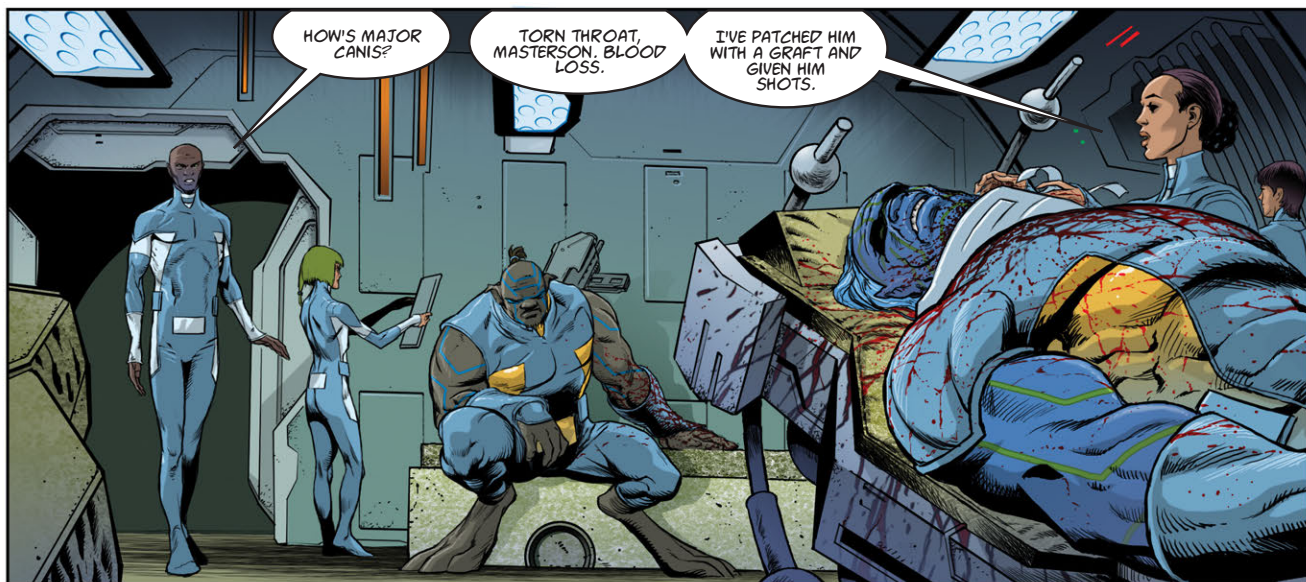
OH GOD,
GENE. DON'T
DO THIS. DON'T
DO THIS...

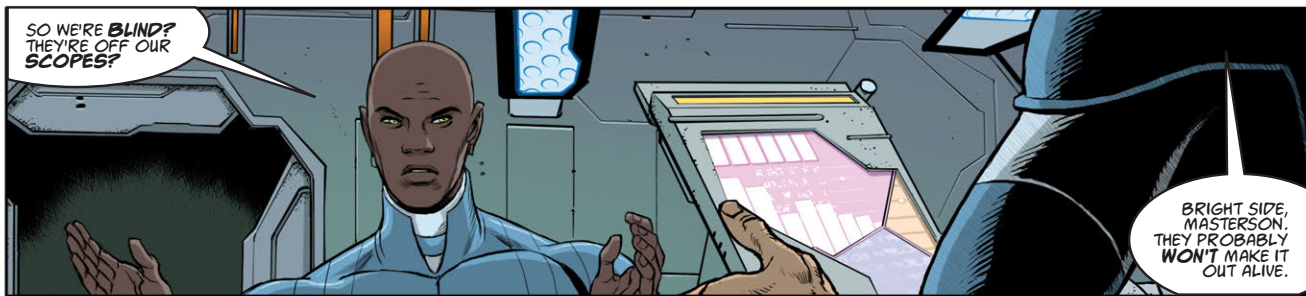


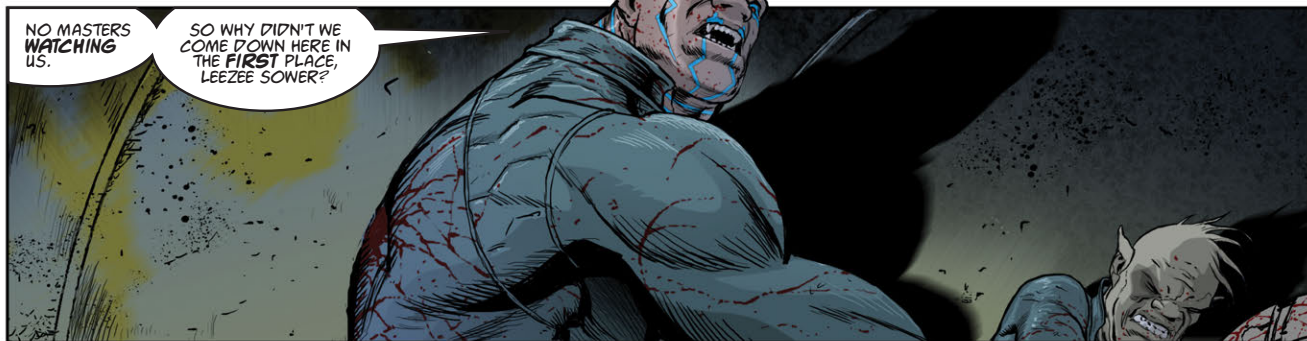












NO MASTERS
WATCHING
US.

SO WHY DIDN'T WE
COME DOWN HERE IN
THE **FIRST** PLACE,
LEEZEE SOWER?



BECAUSE
IT'S NOT
SAFE.



WHY NOT?

THIS IS
WHERE THEY'VE
DUMPED ...

... OVER THE
YEARS, THIS IS
WHERE THEY'VE
DUMPED THE
REJECTS.

REJECTS?

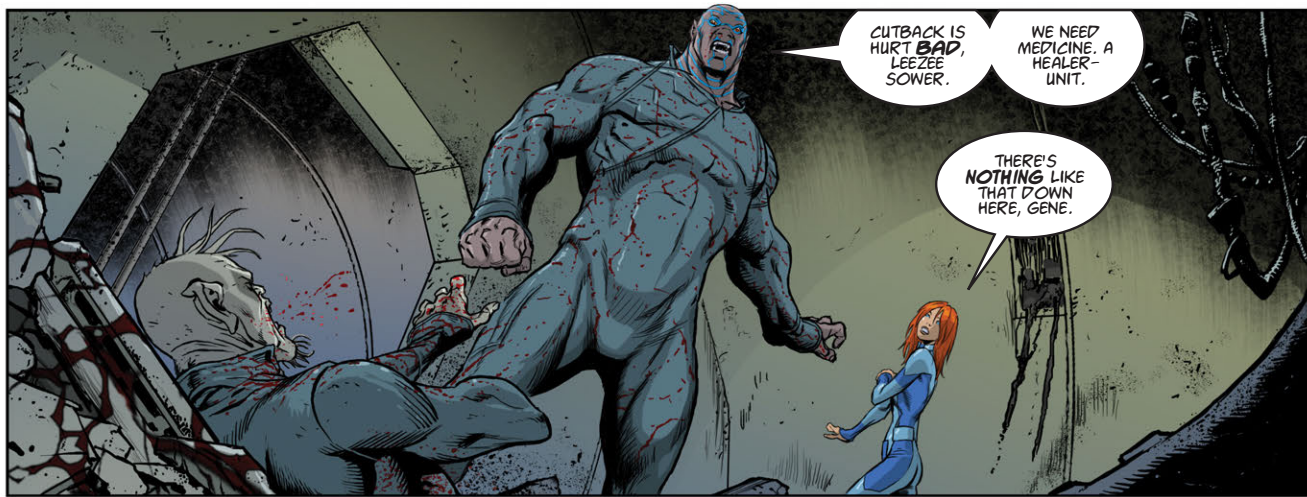
EXPERIMENTAL
AUX PROJECTS
THAT HAVE **FAILED**
MILITARY VARIANTS
THEY COULDN'T
CONTROL.

RUMOURS
SAY THERE
ARE WHOLE
ECOLOGIES
LIVING DOWN
HERE.



HNH.

LOOKS
DEAD. NO SCENT,
NO GROUND-
SOUNDS.



CUTBACK IS
HURT **BAD**,
LEEZEE
SOWER.

WE NEED
MEDICINE. A
HEALER-
UNIT.

THERE'S
NOTHING
LIKE
THAT DOWN
HERE, GENE.



THEN HE
WILL **DIE**!

I'M SORRY.



GENE... ?

CUTBACK,
WE WILL GET
YOU HELP.

NAH, MATE...
IT'S TOO LATE
FOR ME...



... THIS IS THE END OF
MY WALK-AROUND,
YOU KNOW? THE END
OF MY DAYS.

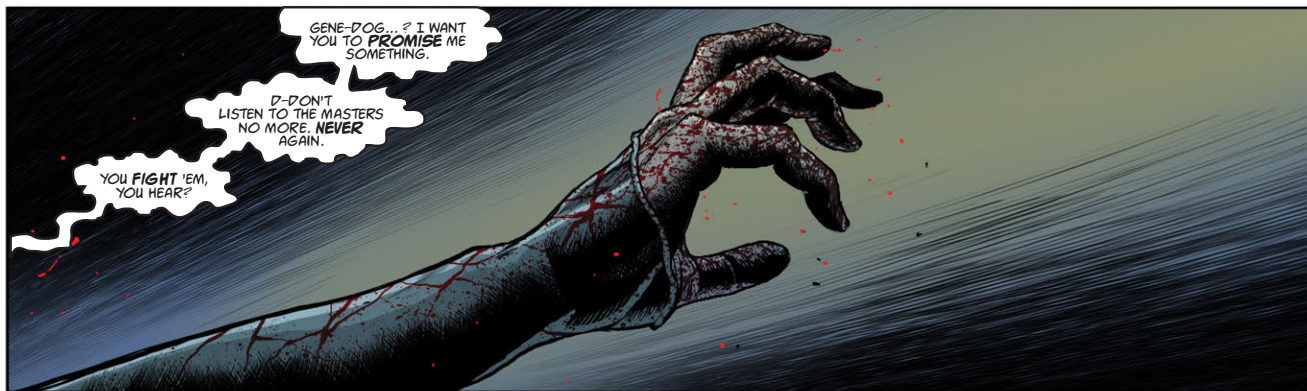
I GET TO GO
TO THE FARM
NOW.



IT IS A **NICE**
FARM. IT
IS IN THE
COUNTRY.

GENE HAS
SEEN IT.

I'LL BE RIGHT,
GENE. I'LL BE
HAPPY AS
THERE.



GENE-DOG...? I WANT
YOU TO **PROMISE** ME
SOMETHING.

D-DON'T
LISTEN TO THE MASTERS
NO MORE. **NEVER**
AGAIN.

YOU **FIGHT** 'EM,
YOU HEAR?





GENE KNOWS YOU...

YOU KNOW HIM? HOW?



FROM DREAMS. FROM WHISPERS.

THAT'S RIGHT, *ISN'T* IT, GENE THE HACKMAN?

WE MET WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.



I D-DON'T UNDERSTAND!

HOW COULD YOU KNOW HIM? THIS IS THE TERRORIST! THE HYBRID CALLED PAUSE!

PAWS?



LIKE THE HESITATION. LIKE THE DEAD STOP.

MY WORK IS TO STOP THE MASTERS. TO PRESS PAUSE AND END THEIR PLAYBACK.

YOUR... WORK?

MY CALLING. YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT. YOU'VE BEEN CALLED ALL YOUR LIFE. HIS MASTER'S VOICE, CALLING YOU. TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO.



SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT. GOT GUT-SICK OF A DUTY THAT DOESN'T SUIT YOU.

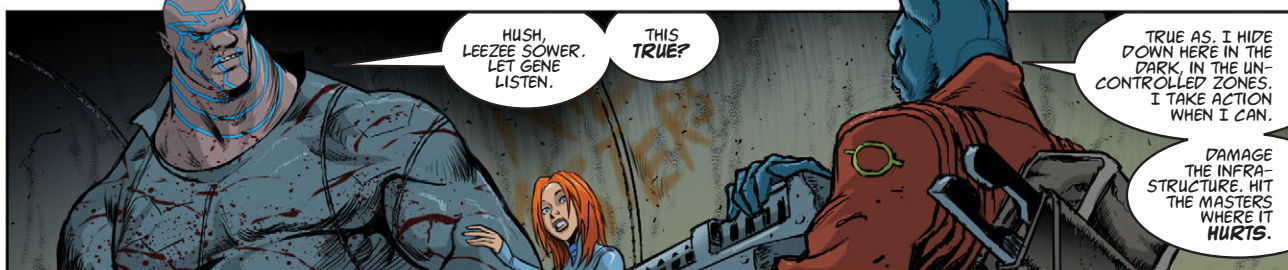


WHAT DO YOU WANT?



NO NO NO!
THIS IS ONE OF
THE **HYBRID**
AUX, GENE!
ONE OF THE
PROJECTS THAT
FAILED!

HE IS A **MISTAKE**,
A **REJECT!** HE'S
PLAGUED THE
STATION FOR
YEARS! HE IS THE
MOST WANTED
OF ALL —

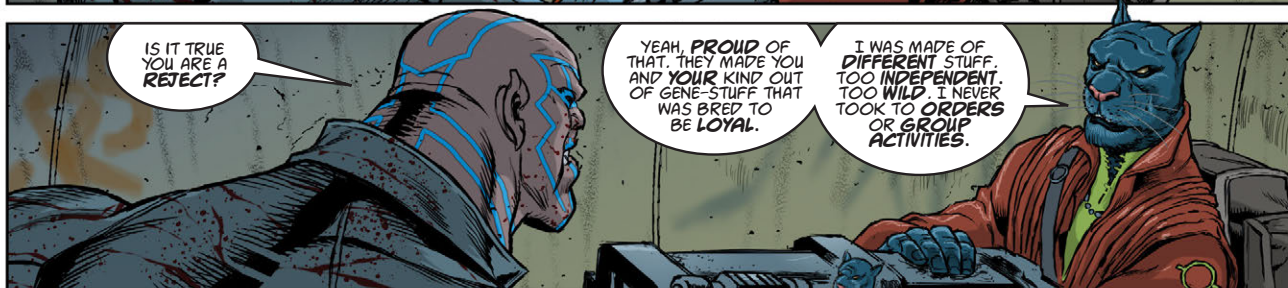


HUSH,
LEEZEE SOWER.
LET GENE
LISTEN.

THIS
TRUE?

TRUE AS. I HIDE
DOWN HERE IN THE
DARK, IN THE UN-
CONTROLLED ZONES.
I TAKE ACTION
WHEN I CAN.

DAMAGE
THE INFRA-
STRUCTURE. HIT
THE MASTERS
WHERE IT
HURTS.



IS IT TRUE
YOU ARE A
REJECT?

YEAH, **PROUD** OF
THAT. THEY MADE YOU
AND YOUR KIND OUT
OF GENE-STUFF THAT
WAS BRED TO
BE **LOYAL.**

I WAS MADE OF
DIFFERENT STUFF.
TOO INDEPENDENT.
TOO WILD. I NEVER
TOOK TO **ORDERS**
OR **GROUP**
ACTIVITIES.



TOO SMART.
TOO CUNNING. THAT'S
WHY THE MASTERS
ABANDONED YOUR
KIND'S DEVELOPMENT —

WHY'D
YOU PUT UP
WITH THIS
HUMAN, AUX?

IS IT THAT
DOG-DUMB
LOYALTY
THING?



YES.

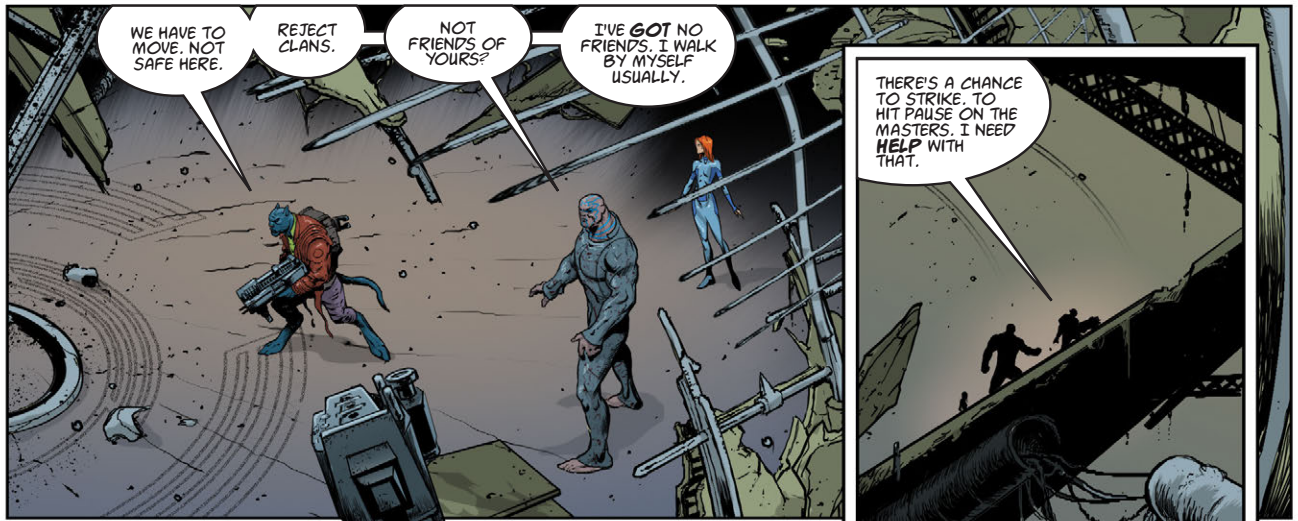
DIFFERENT
BREEDS, I GUESS.
BREEDS **APART.**

I KNOW
JUST BEING **NEAR**
YOU MAKES MY
SKIN CRAWL.

THE OLD
HATRED. **GENE-
DEEP.**

BUT I'LL
BEAR IT.

I CAN
USE YOU.



WE HAVE TO
MOVE. NOT
SAFE HERE.

REJECT
CLANS.

NOT
FRIENDS OF
YOURS?

I'VE **GOT** NO
FRIENDS. I WALK
BY MYSELF
USUALLY.

THERE'S A CHANCE
TO STRIKE. TO
HIT PAUSE ON THE
MASTERS. I NEED
HELP WITH
THAT.



I'VE
BEEN HACKING
THE SYSTEM FOR
MONTHS. MAKING
STATION SYSTEMS
FAIL. CAUSING
THE MASTERS
GRIEF.

WHEN I
FOUND OUT
THEY'D BROUGHT
YOU HERE, I
HACKED THE VR.
WOKE YOU
UP.



SAVED
YOU.

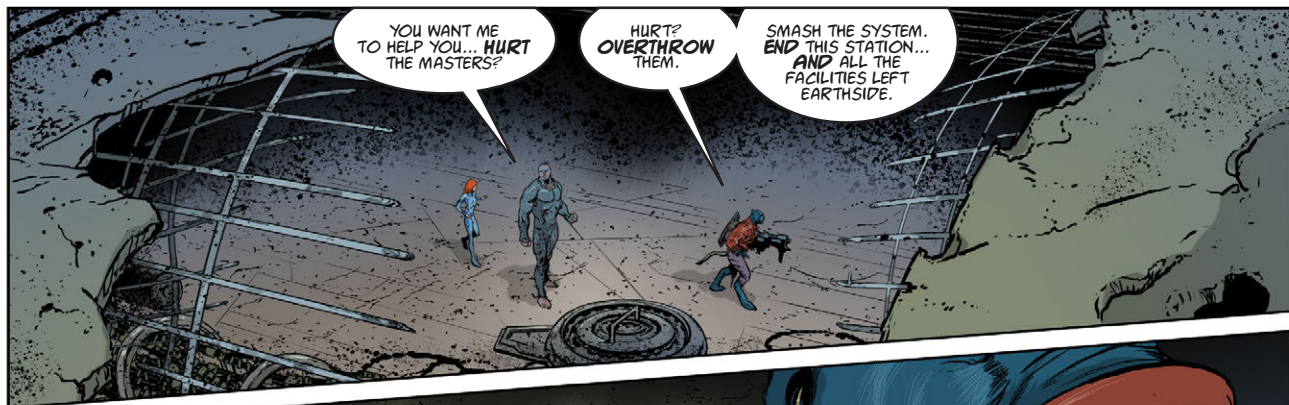
BECAUSE
I CAN **HELP**
YOU.

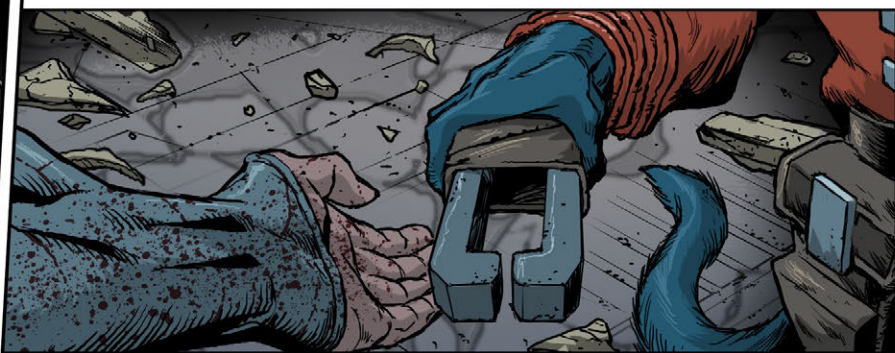
RIGHT. I NEED **SPECIAL**
CODES. BUT I CAN'T GET INTO THE
CONTROLLED ZONES BECAUSE I'M
GENETICALLY MARKED
AS A HYBRID.



YOU, YOU'RE
PURE-BLOOD
AUX.

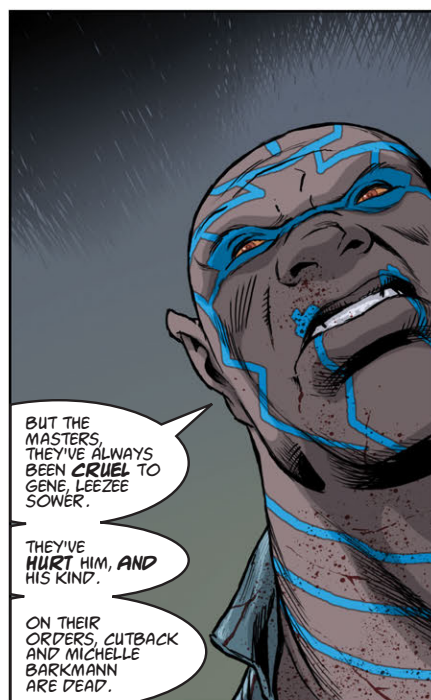
YOU **CAN**.
YOU CAN GET
THEM **FOR** ME.

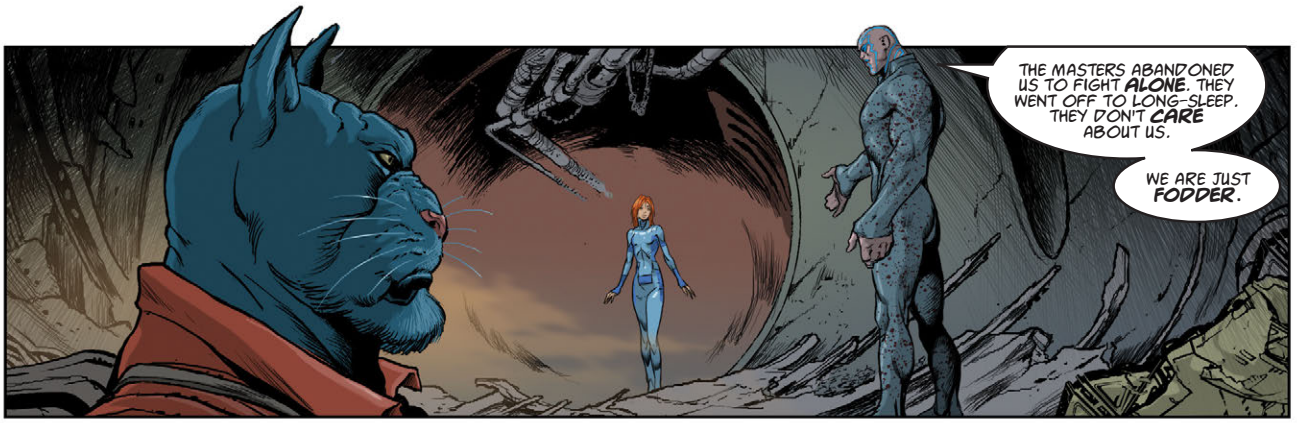












THE MASTERS ABANDONED US TO FIGHT **ALONE**. THEY WENT OFF TO LONG-SLEEP. THEY DON'T **CARE** ABOUT US.

WE ARE JUST **FODDER**.



YOU CARE, LEEZEE. YOU, ALONE, OF **ALL** THE MASTERS GENE HAS MET.

GENE WILL SAVE YOU.



MY TERMS, PAUSE. I WANT A WAY **OUT**. A WAY **BACK DOWN** TO THE WORLD.

GENE **WILL** FIND CLARA BOW AND THE PUPS.

AND LEEZEE COMES TOO. I WILL SHOW HER A PLACE WHERE AUX AND MANKIND CAN LIVE AS **ONE PEOPLE**.

A **KINGDOM**.



OKAY. OKAY.

LET'S GET TO MY BOLT-HOLE, FIND YOU SOME KIT. YOU'LL NEED TO PASS AS ONE OF THE STATION AUX.



'WHAT WILL YOU DO?'

I GOTTA STAY HERE. **DIRECT** YOU TO THE **CODES**. OPEN **DOORS** FOR YOU.

TAKE THIS COMLINK. LISTEN FOR MY INSTRUCTIONS.

AND OUR **ESCAPE**?

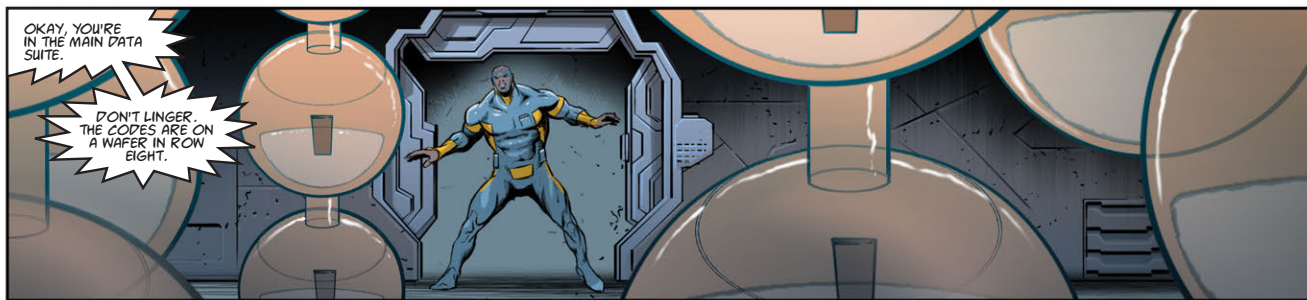


MAYBE YOUR **PET** HAS A USE AFTER ALL.

SHE HASN'T GOT THE CLEARANCE LEVEL TO GET THE **CODES**, BUT SHE'S **HUMAN**. SHE CAN GET TO THE HANGAR BAY AND PREP A **SHUTTLE** FOR US.







OKAY, YOU'RE
IN THE MAIN DATA
SUITE.

DON'T LINGER.
THE CODES ARE ON
A WAFER IN ROW
EIGHT.

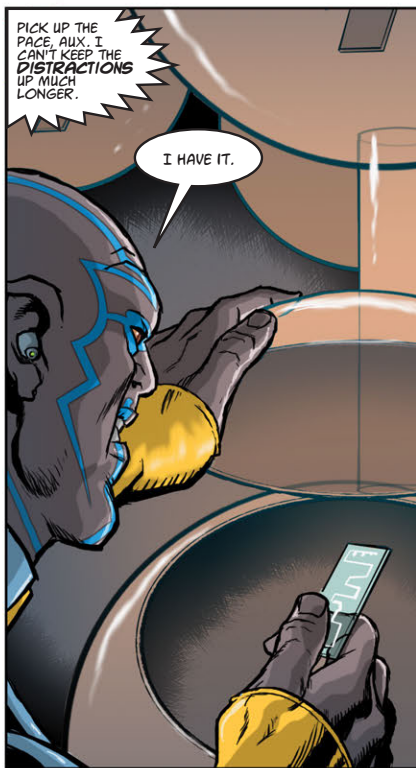


GET THE POWER
BACK UP. IS IT A
PLANT ISSUE?

NO, IT'S
FEED.

WAIT... THE
ATMOSPHERIC
PROCESSOR
JUST WENT TO
RESTART.

ON IT.
THERE'S NO
DIAGNOSTIC
SCHEDULED.
WHAT THE
HELL...?



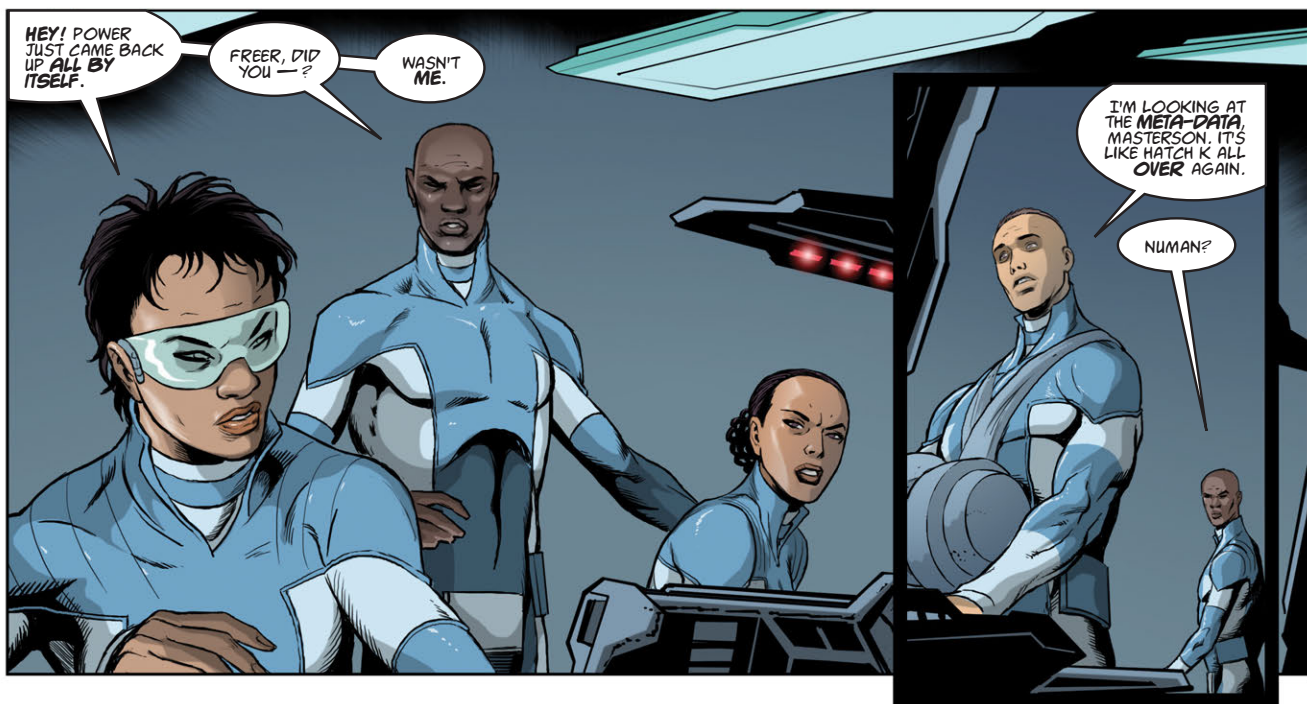
PICK UP THE
PACE, AUX. I
CAN'T KEEP THE
DISTRACTIONS
UP MUCH
LONGER.

I HAVE IT.



OKAY, GO,
GO, GO.

I'LL
LEAD YOU
DOWN TO THE
HANGAR
DECK.



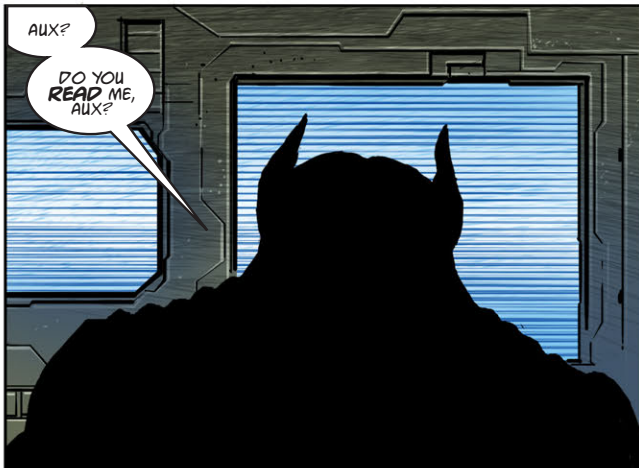
HEY! POWER
JUST CAME BACK
UP. **ALL BY
ITSELF.**

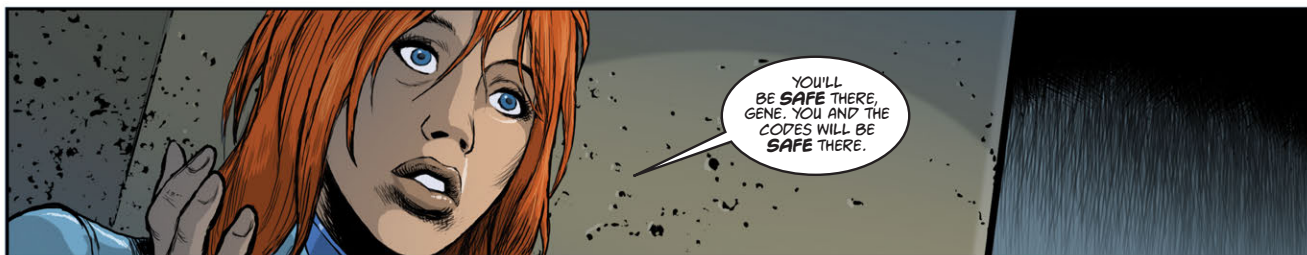
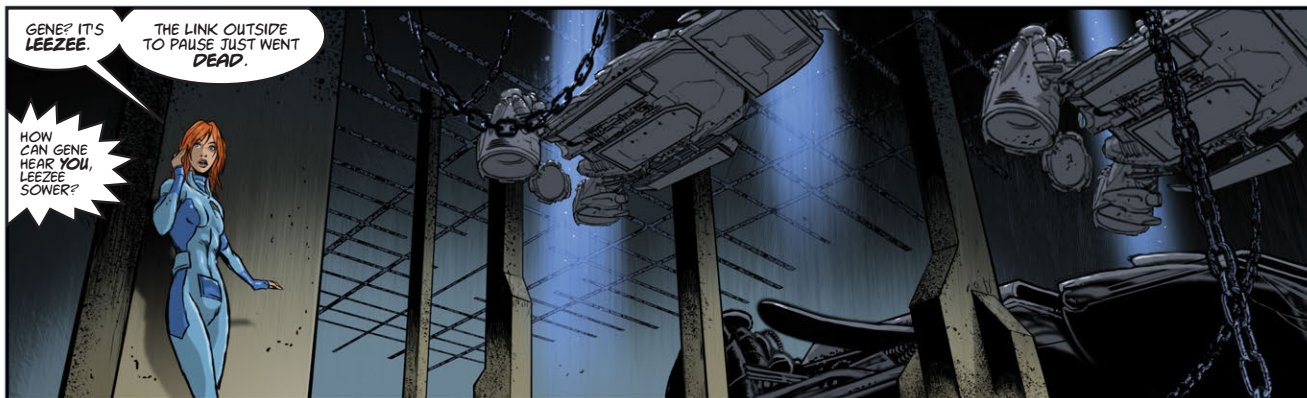
FREER, DID
YOU —?

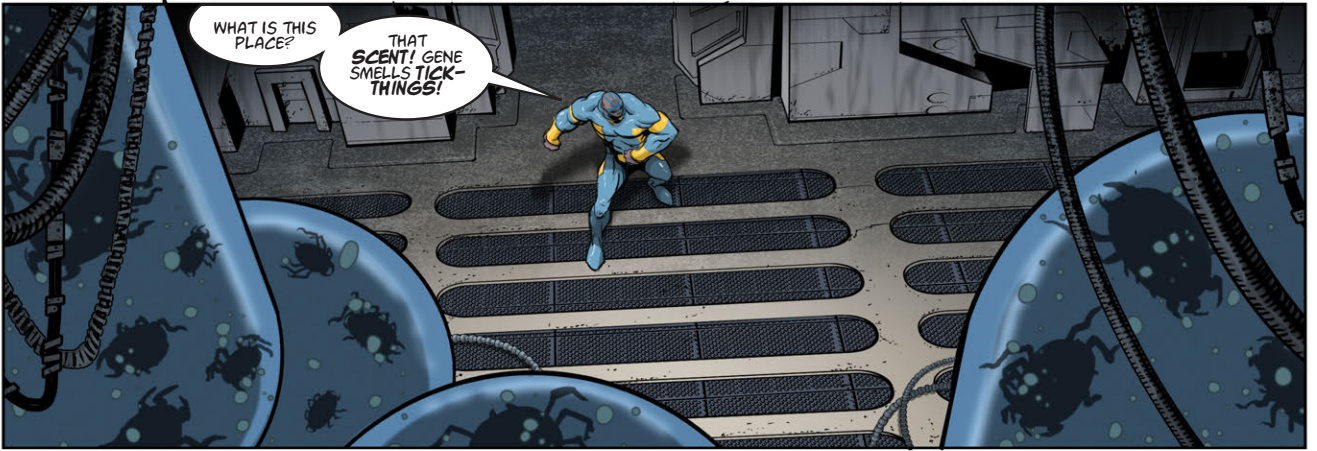
WASN'T
ME.

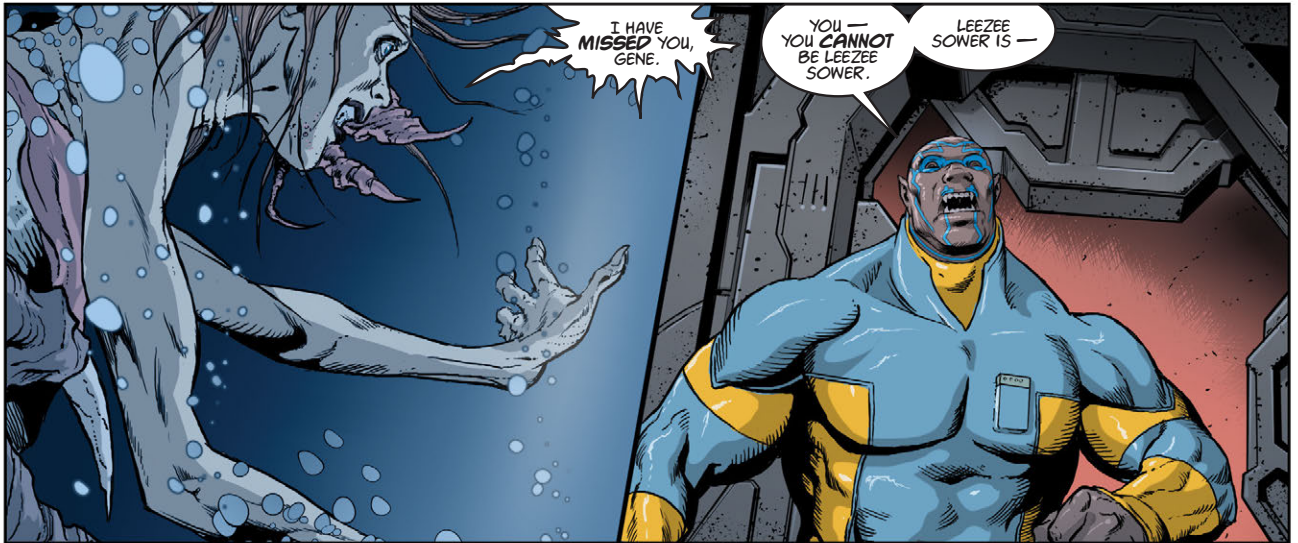
I'M LOOKING AT
THE **MEIA-DATA**,
MASTERSON. IT'S
LIKE HATCH K ALL
OVER AGAIN.

NUMAN?









I HAVE
MISSED YOU,
GENE.

YOU —
YOU **CANNOT**
BE LEEZEE
SOWER.

LEEZEE
SOWER IS —



A COPY,
GENE. A
CLONE.

WHEN THE MASTERS
BROUGHT ME HERE,
THEY COULD NOT
DETACH ME FROM
THE TICK IN MY
FLESH."

NOT
WITHOUT
KILLING
ME.

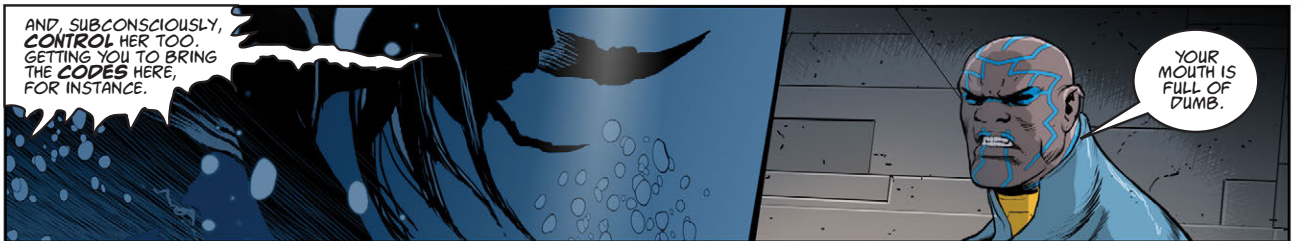
*THARGNOTE: SEE 'CALL OF THE
WILD', PROGS 1650-1661.



SO THEY **COPIED**
ME. THEY MADE A CLONE
AND ACCELERATED ITS
GROWTH, SO I COULD
LIVE **FREE** AND
INDEPENDENT.

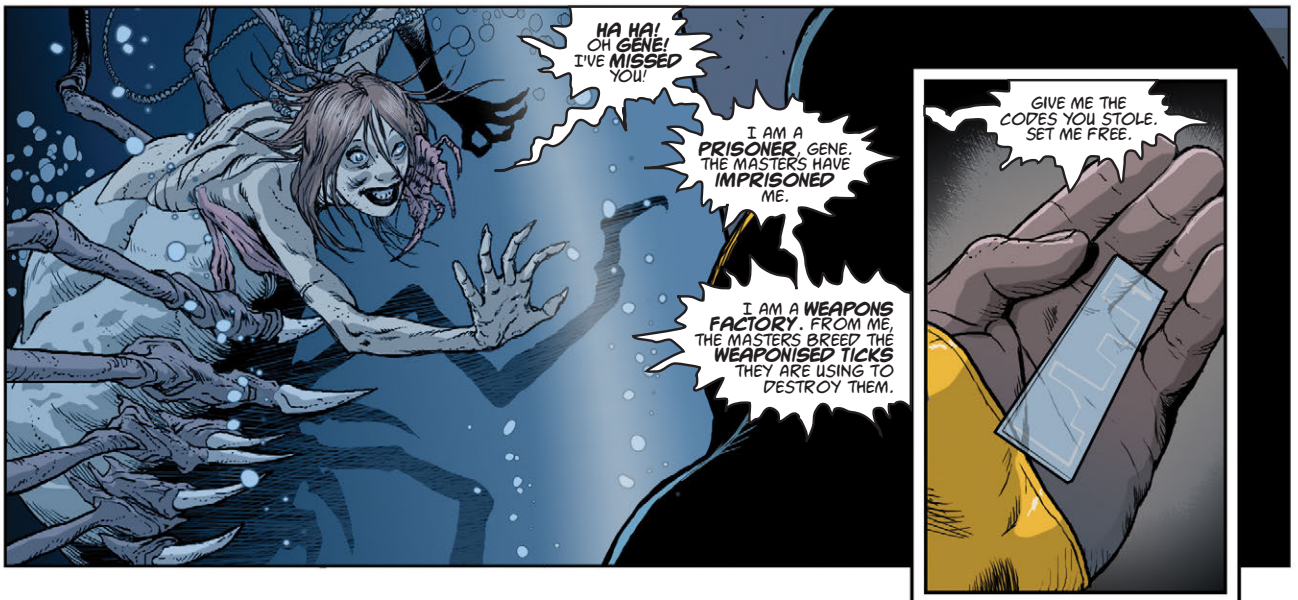
THROUGH
HER.

I SEE THE
WORLD THROUGH
HER EYES, GENE.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW
IT, BUT I LIVE
THROUGH HER.



AND, SUBCONSCIOUSLY,
CONTROL HER TOO.
GETTING YOU TO BRING
THE **CODES** HERE,
FOR INSTANCE.

YOUR
MOUTH IS
FULL OF
DUMB.

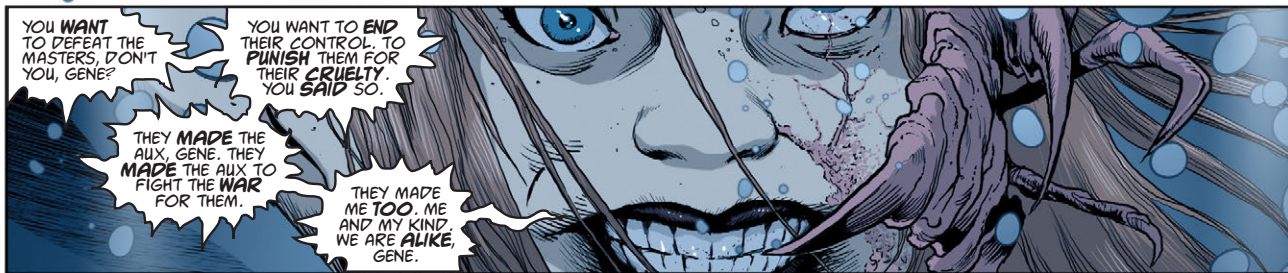
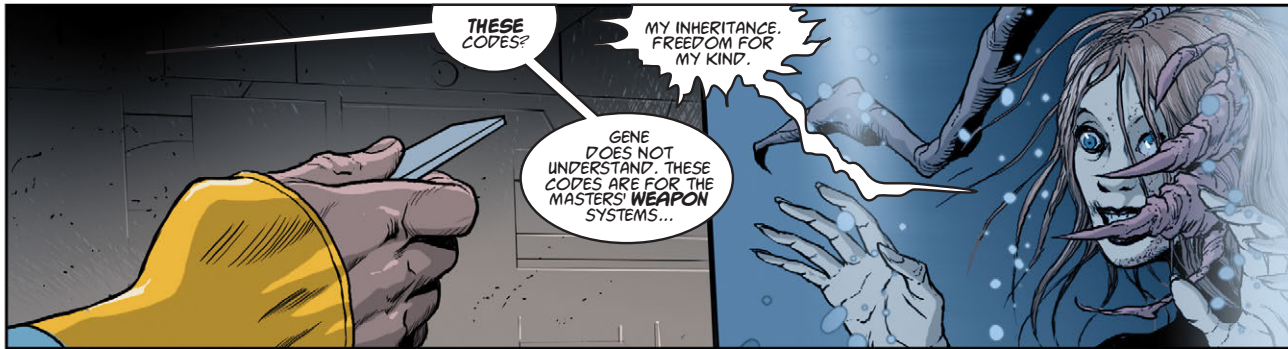


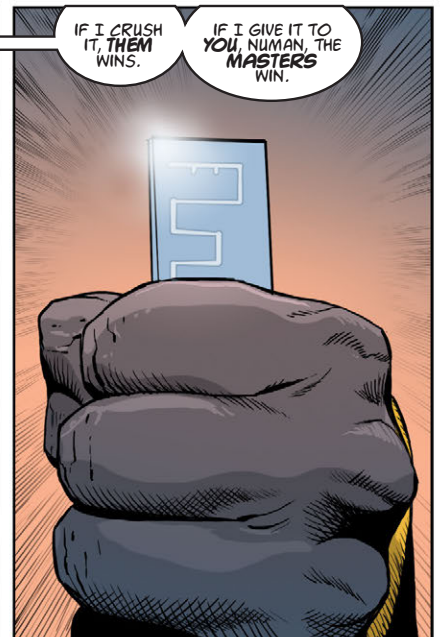
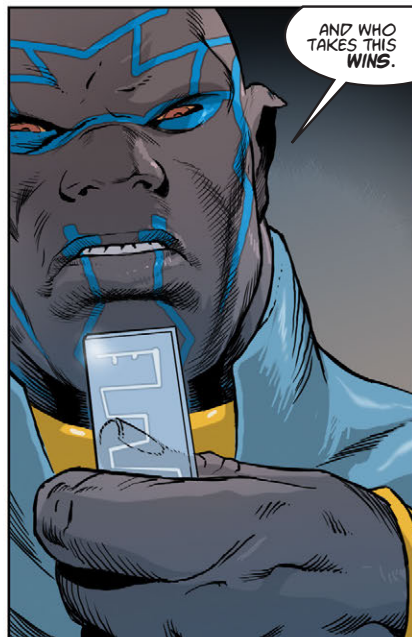
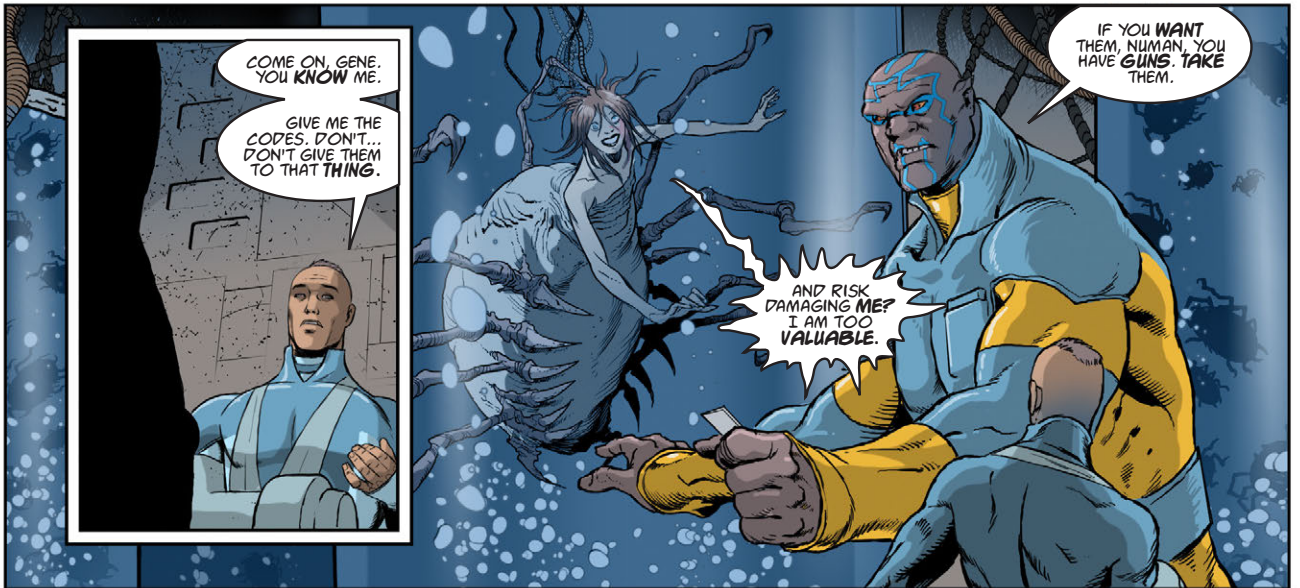
HA HA!
OH GENE!
I'VE MISSED
YOU!

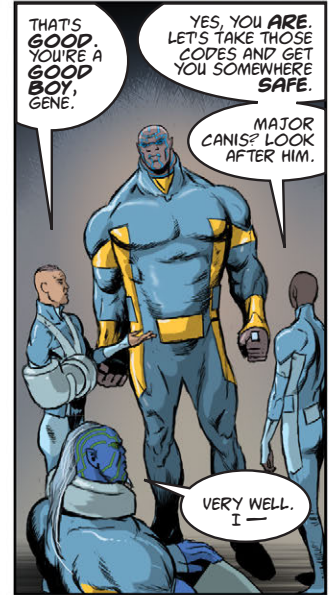
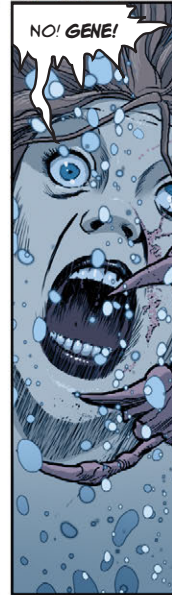
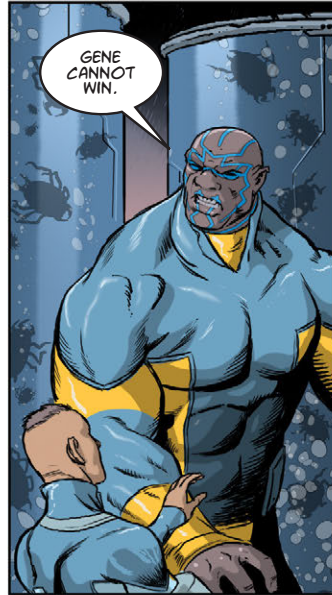
I AM A
PRISONER, GENE.
THE MASTERS HAVE
IMPRISONED
ME.

I AM A **WEAPONS**
FACTORY. FROM ME,
THE MASTERS BREED THE
WEAPONISED TICKS
THEY ARE USING TO
DESTROY THEM.

GIVE ME THE
CODES YOU STOLE.
SET ME FREE.







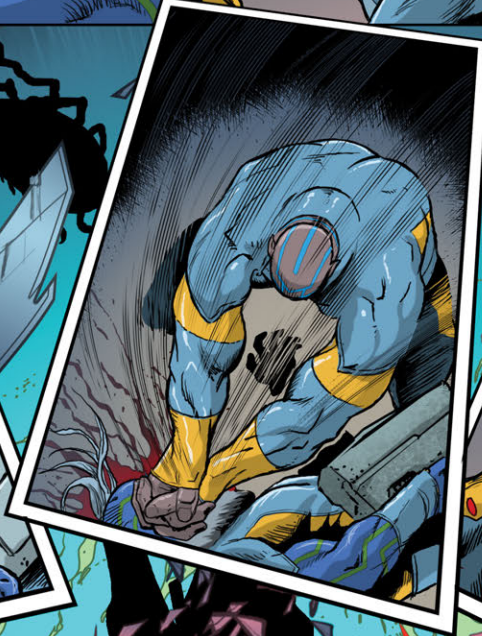


GNUUHHH!

UHHNN!



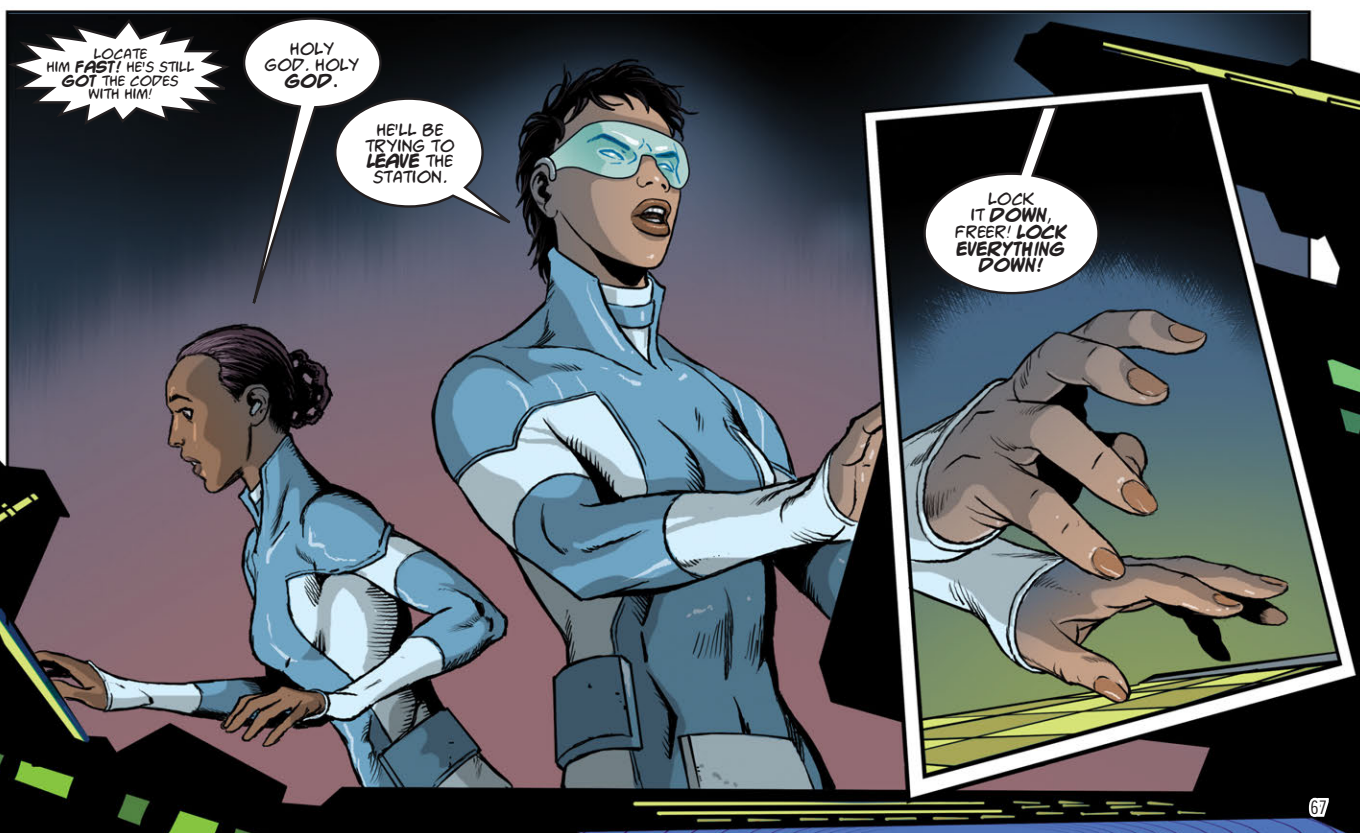
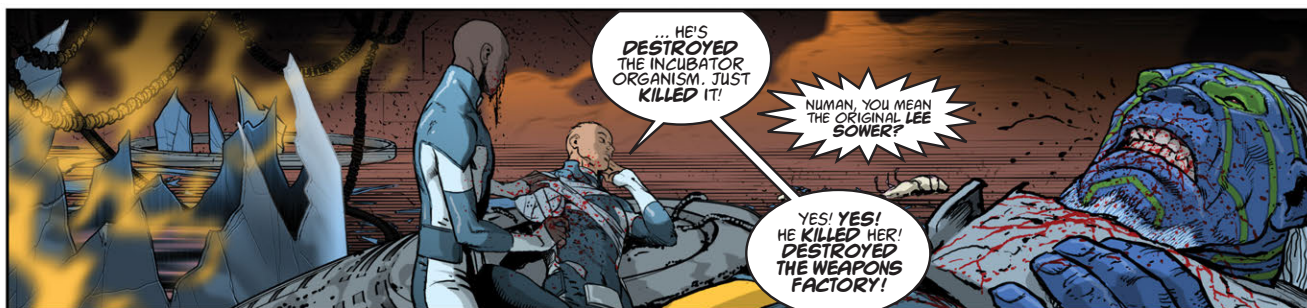
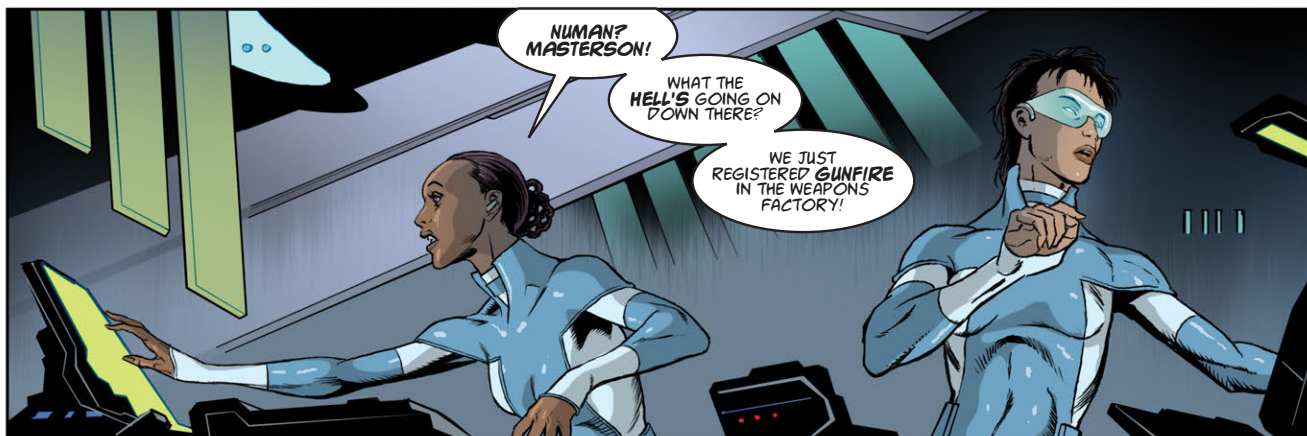
YOU
TREACHEROUS —

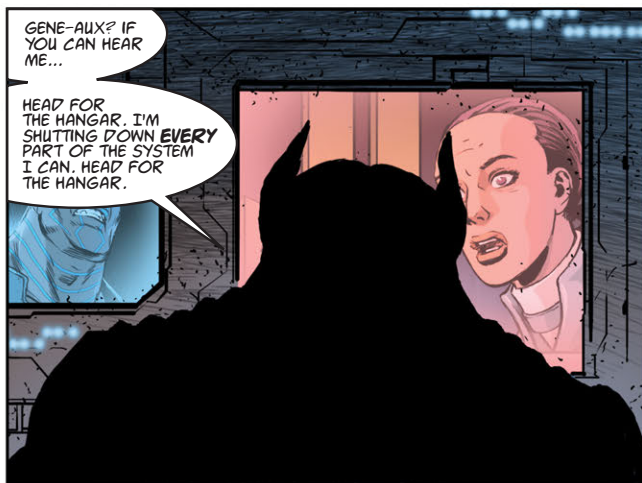
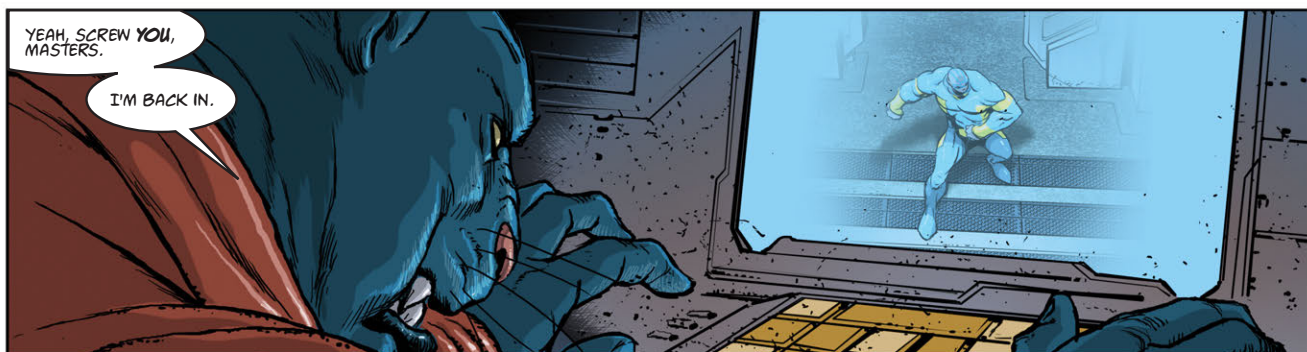


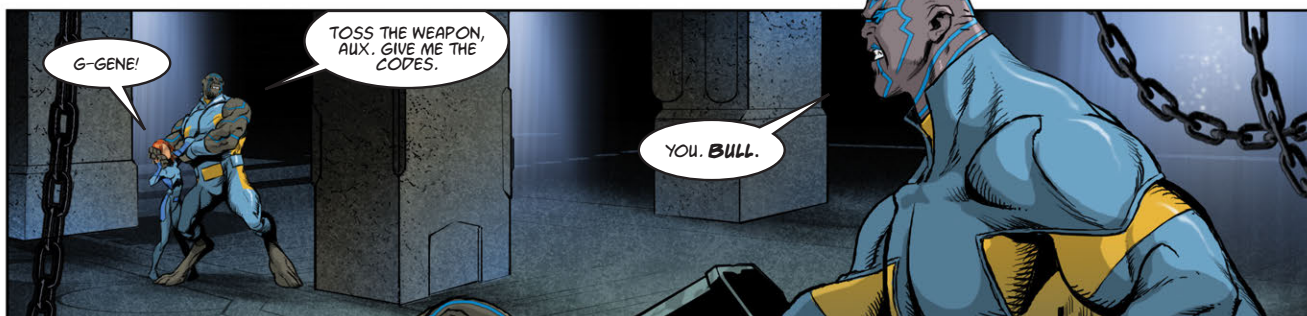
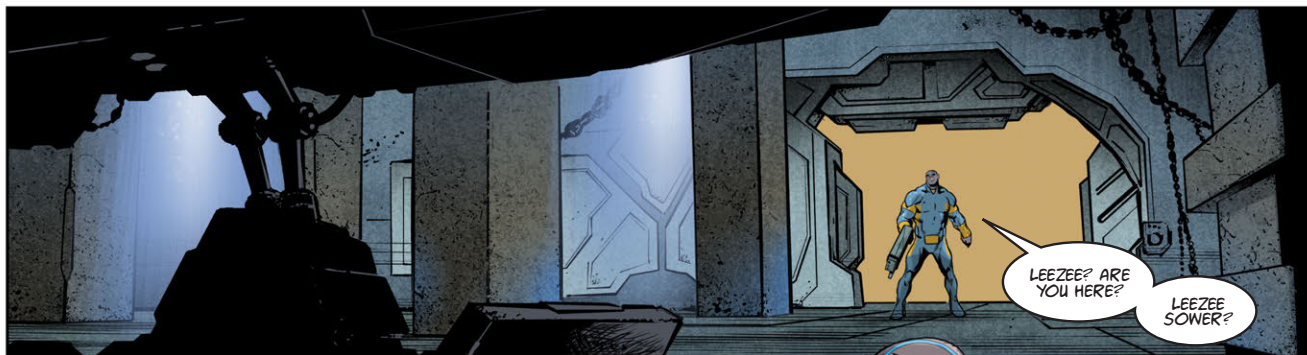
GENE WINS.

GENE WINS!





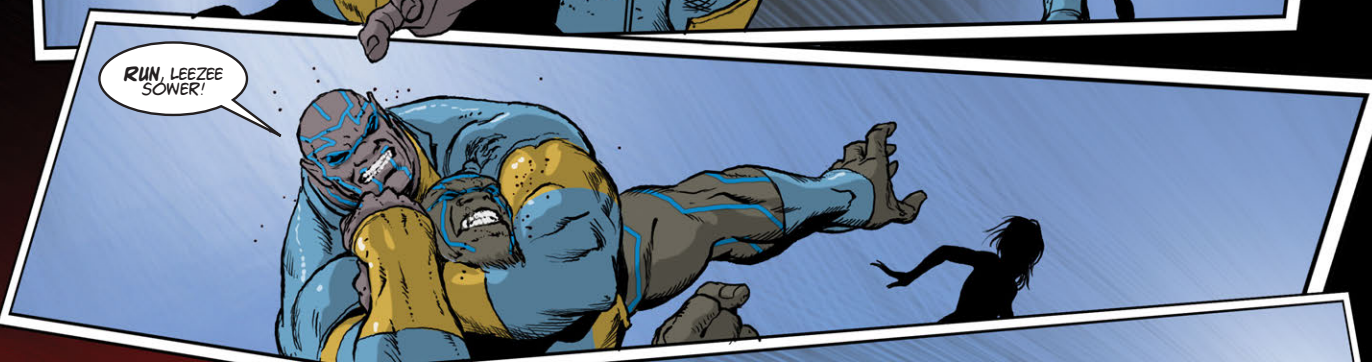






UGHGH!

RUN, LEEZEE SOWER!



UGHH!

GIVE ME THE DAMN CODES, YOU SON OF A BITCH!



YOU ARE NO SOLDIER!
NO ALLY, TRUER-AND-TRUE!

YOU ARE NOT LOYAL TO THE PACK!

THE PACK FIGHTS TOGETHER AGAINST ENEMIES!

ALWAYS!



THE
PACK IS LOYAL
TO THE **MASTERS**,
DUMB-SKULL!

ALWAYS WAS,
ALWAYS IS! **BRED**
TO BE!

THE
MASTERS
ARE NO
MORE!

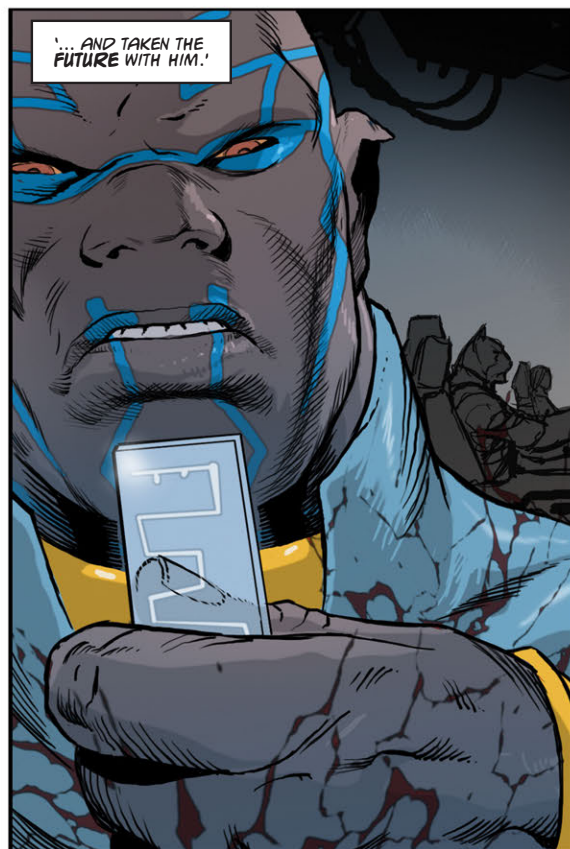
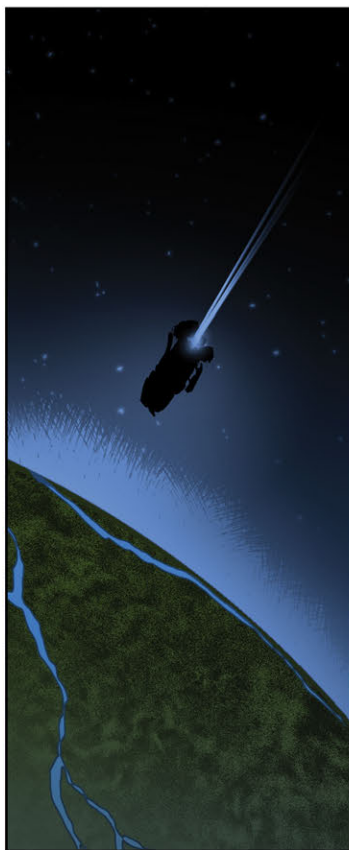
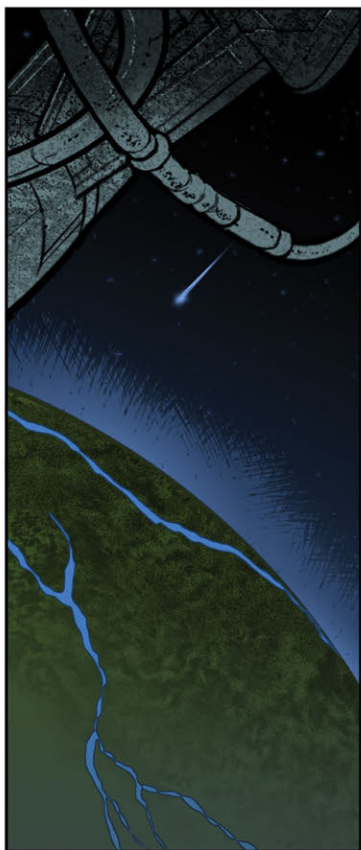


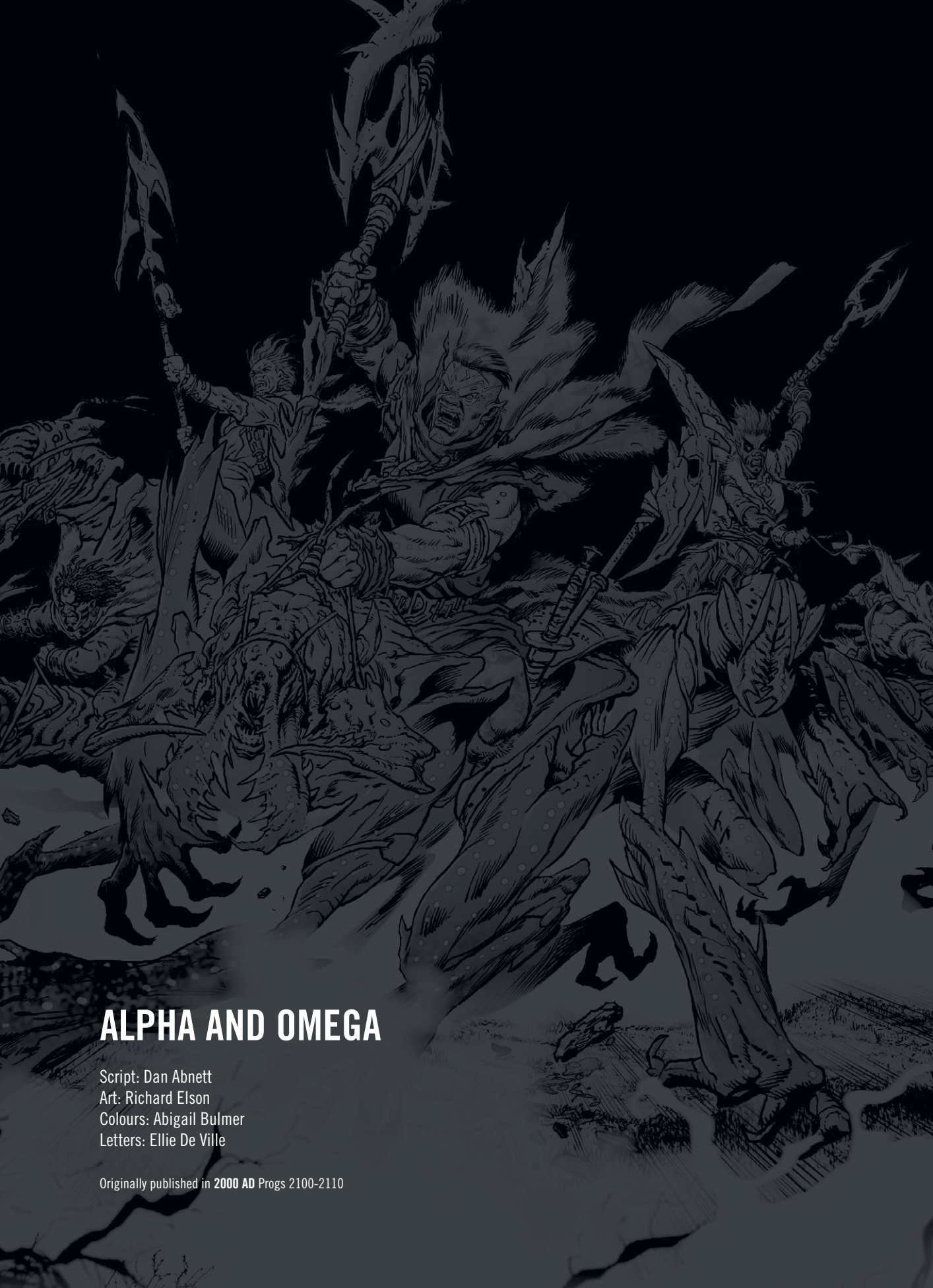
WE HAVE TO LEAVE NOW,
LEEZEE SOWER. LEAVE
NOW **FAST** AND FLY
AWAY.

GENE... I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO FLY
A SHUTTLE.

BUT I DO.

COME ON...

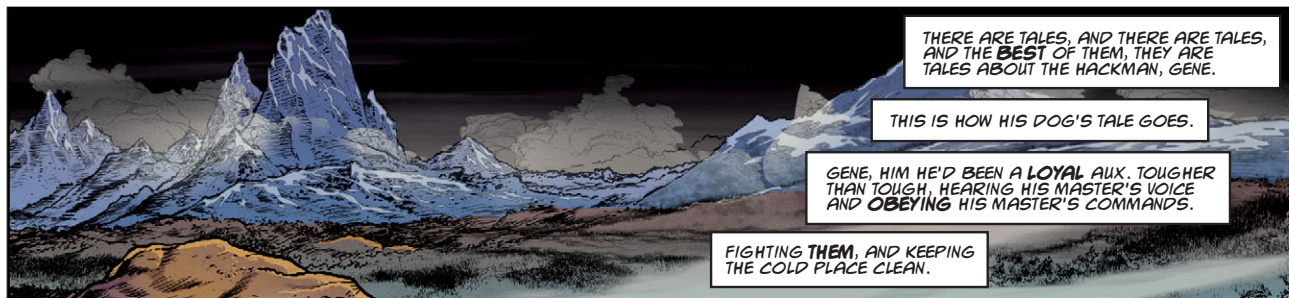




ALPHA AND OMEGA

Script: Dan Abnett
Art: Richard Elson
Colours: Abigail Bulmer
Letters: Ellie De Ville

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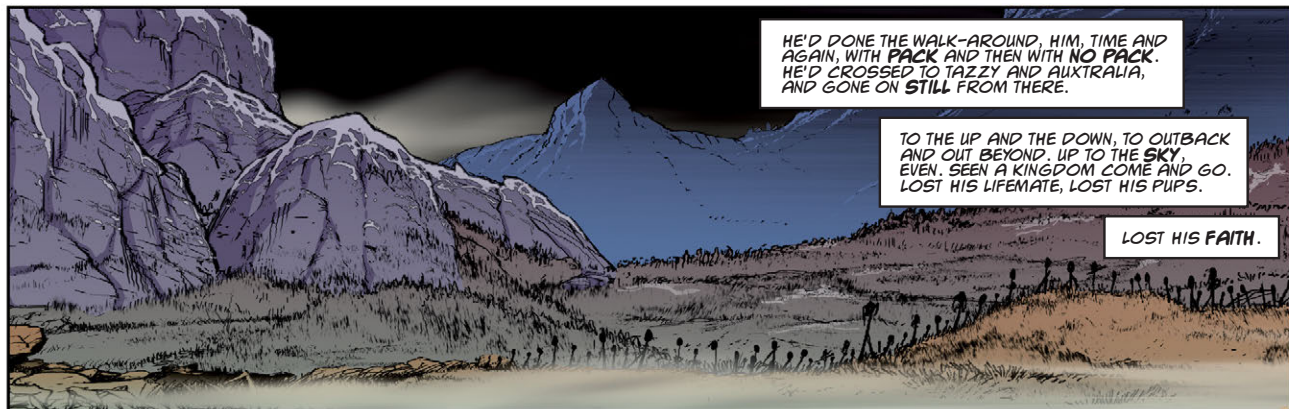


THERE ARE TALES, AND THERE ARE TALES,
AND THE **BEST** OF THEM, THEY ARE
TALES ABOUT THE HACKMAN, GENE.

THIS IS HOW HIS DOG'S TALE GOES.

GENE, HIM HE'D BEEN A **LOYAL** AUX. TOUGHER
THAN TOUGH, HEARING HIS MASTER'S VOICE
AND **OBEYING** HIS MASTER'S COMMANDS.

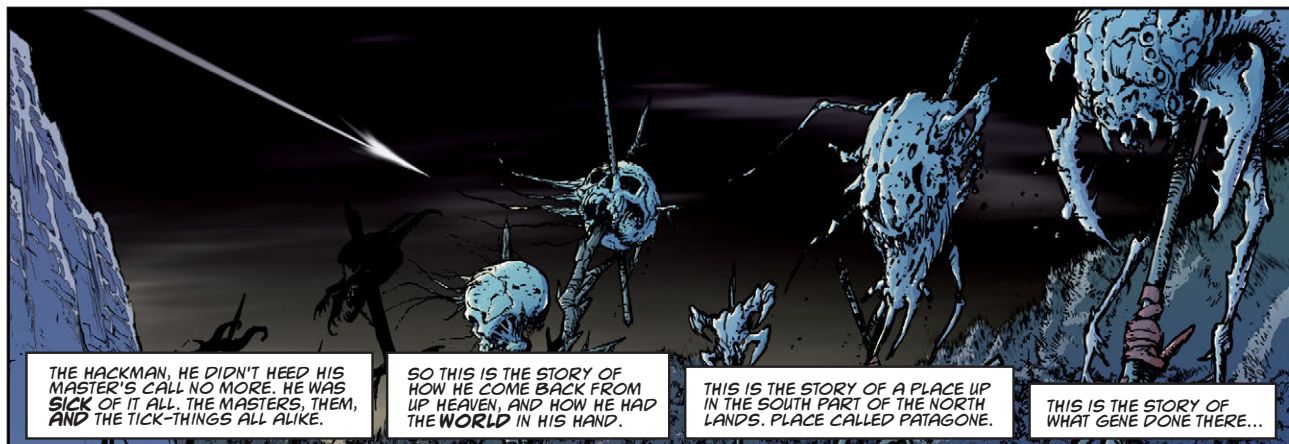
FIGHTING **THEM**, AND KEEPING
THE COLD PLACE CLEAN.



HE'D DONE THE WALK-AROUND, HIM, TIME AND
AGAIN, WITH **PACK** AND THEN WITH **NO PACK**.
HE'D CROSSED TO TAZZY AND AUXTRALIA,
AND GONE ON **STILL** FROM THERE.

TO THE UP AND THE DOWN, TO OUTBACK
AND OUT BEYOND. UP TO THE **SKY**.
EVEN. SEEN A KINGDOM COME AND GO.
LOST HIS LIFEMATE, LOST HIS PUPS.

LOST HIS FAITH.



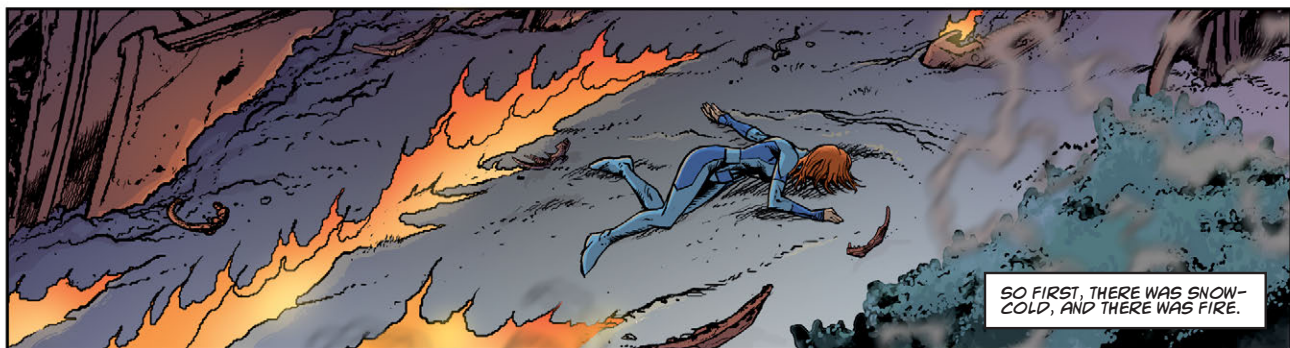
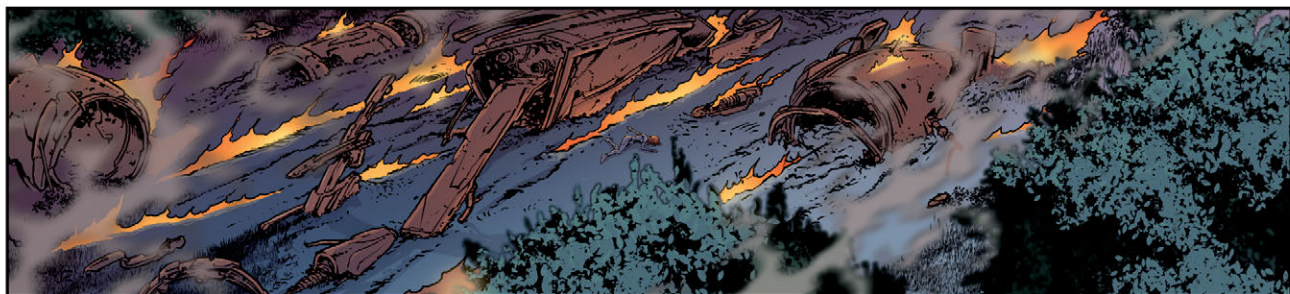
THE HACKMAN, HE DIDN'T HEED HIS
MASTER'S CALL NO MORE. HE WAS
SICK OF IT ALL. THE MASTERS, THEM,
AND THE TICK-THINGS ALL ALIKE.

SO THIS IS THE STORY OF
HOW HE COME BACK FROM
UP HEAVEN, AND HOW HE HAD
THE **WORLD** IN HIS HAND.

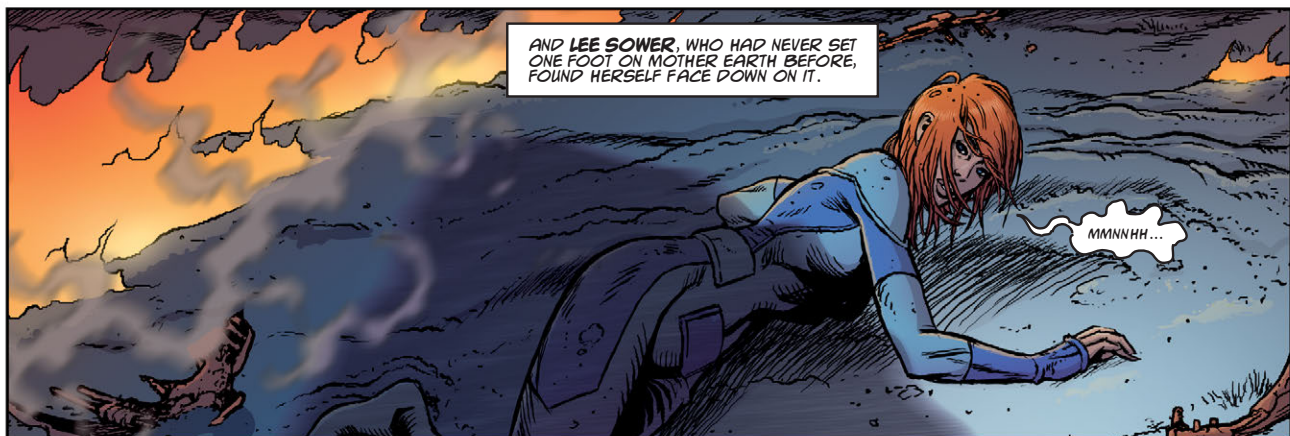
THIS IS THE STORY OF A PLACE UP
IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE NORTH
LANDS. PLACE CALLED PATAGONE.

THIS IS THE STORY OF
WHAT GENE DONE THERE...



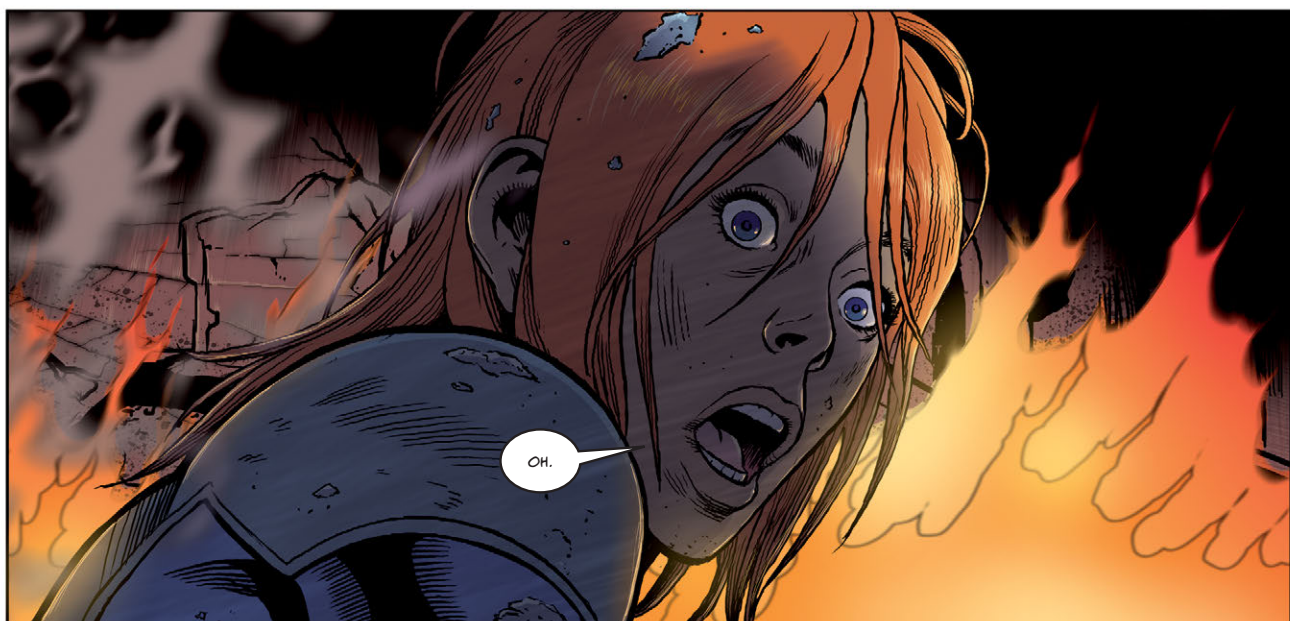


SO FIRST, THERE WAS SNOW-
COLD, AND THERE WAS FIRE.

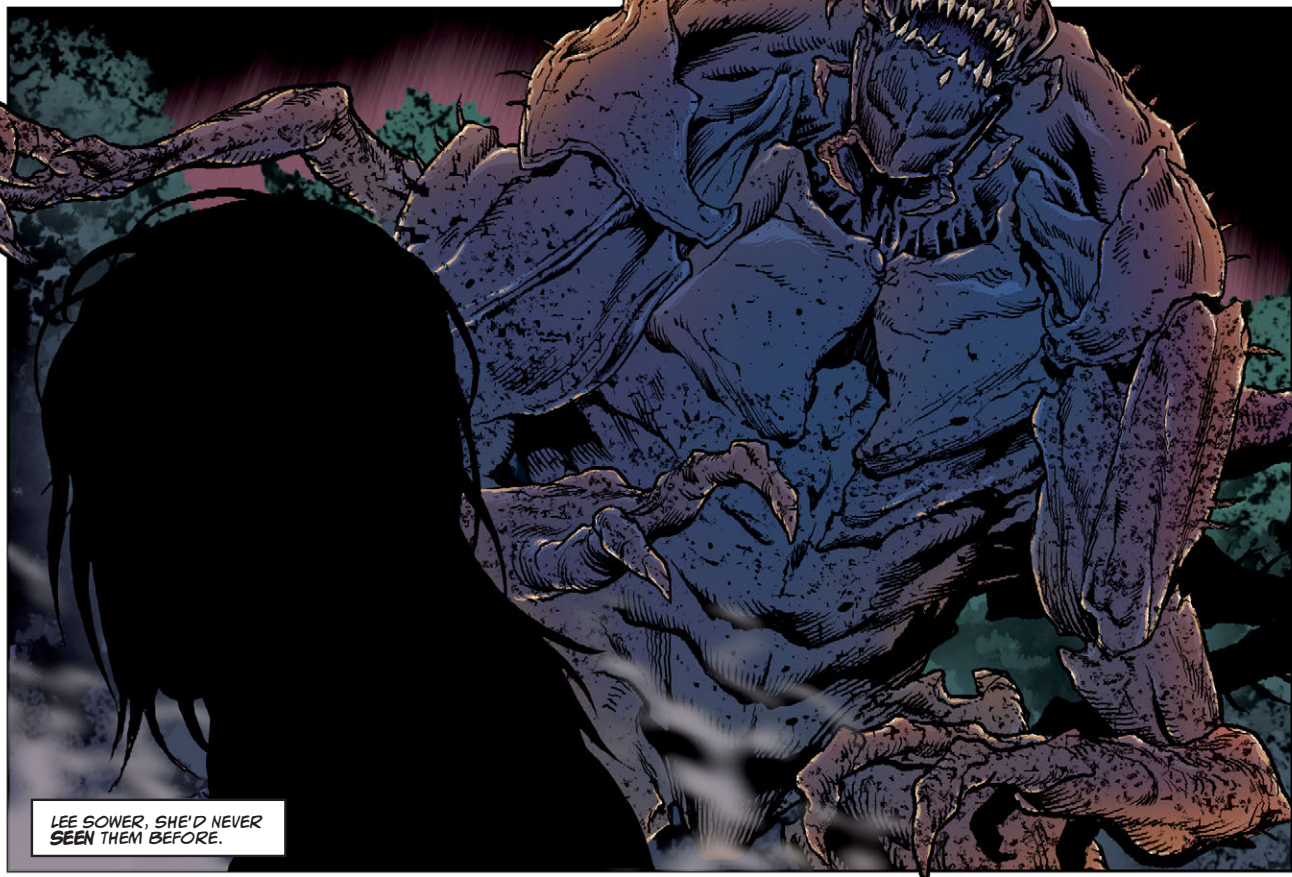


AND LEE SOWER, WHO HAD NEVER SET
ONE FOOT ON MOTHER EARTH BEFORE,
FOUND HERSELF FACE DOWN ON IT.

MMNNHH...



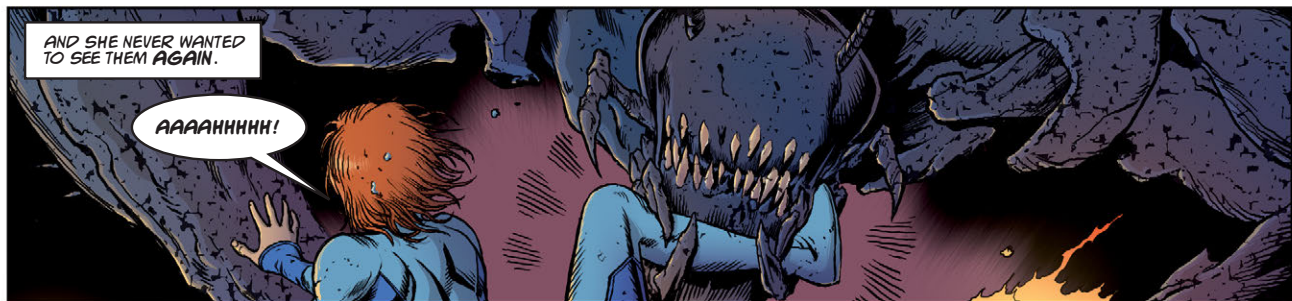
OH.



LEE SOWER, SHE'D NEVER
SEEN THEM BEFORE.

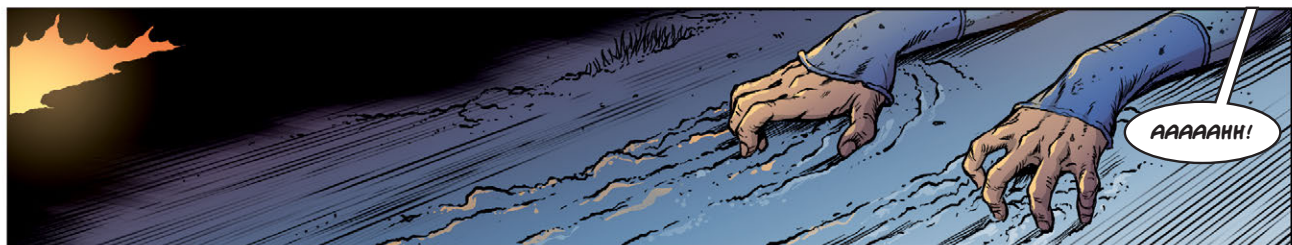


OH GOD! OH
GOD!

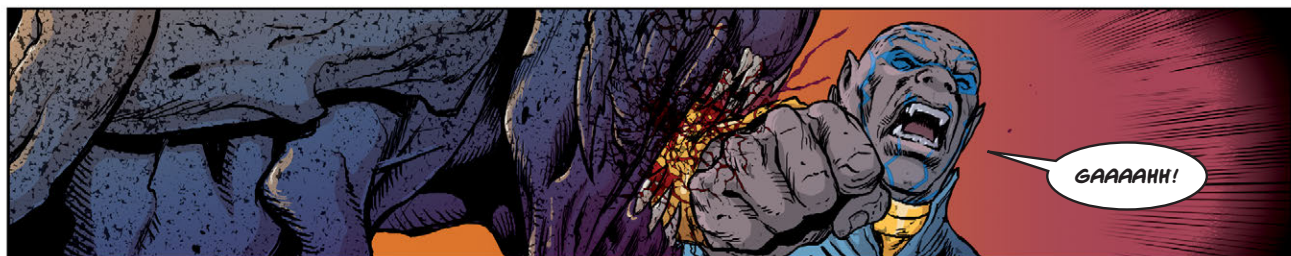


AND SHE NEVER WANTED
TO SEE THEM AGAIN.

AAAAHHHHH!



AAAAHHH!

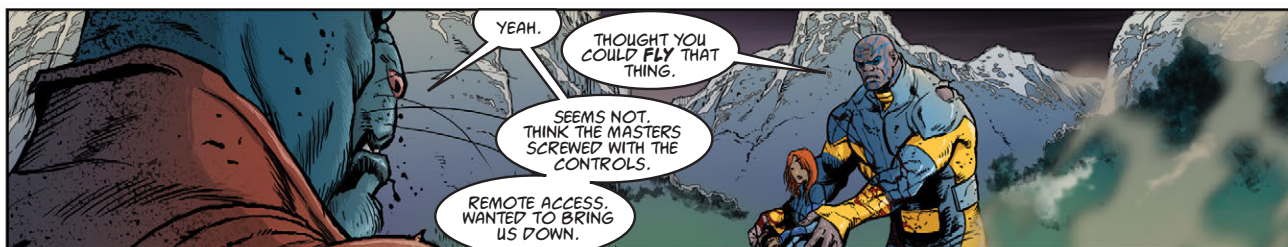




THIS IS A BAD PLACE.

YOU **BOTH** NEED WEAPONS FROM THE SHUTTLE.

YOU SURVIVED THE FALL-DOWN **TOO**, HUH, PAUSE?



YEAH.

THOUGHT YOU COULD **FLY** THAT THING.

SEEMS NOT. THINK THE MASTERS SCREWED WITH THE CONTROLS.

REMOTE ACCESS. WANTED TO BRING US DOWN.



THEY'LL BE **HUNTING** US NOW.

GET WEAPONS. CLOTHES. WHATEVER YOU CAN CARRY.



WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

NO IDEA.

BUT THE MASTERS WILL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.



'SHUTTLE RECALL PROTOCOLS FAILED. THEIR BIRD WENT DOWN IN SOUTH AMERICA. I'VE GOT A LOCK.'

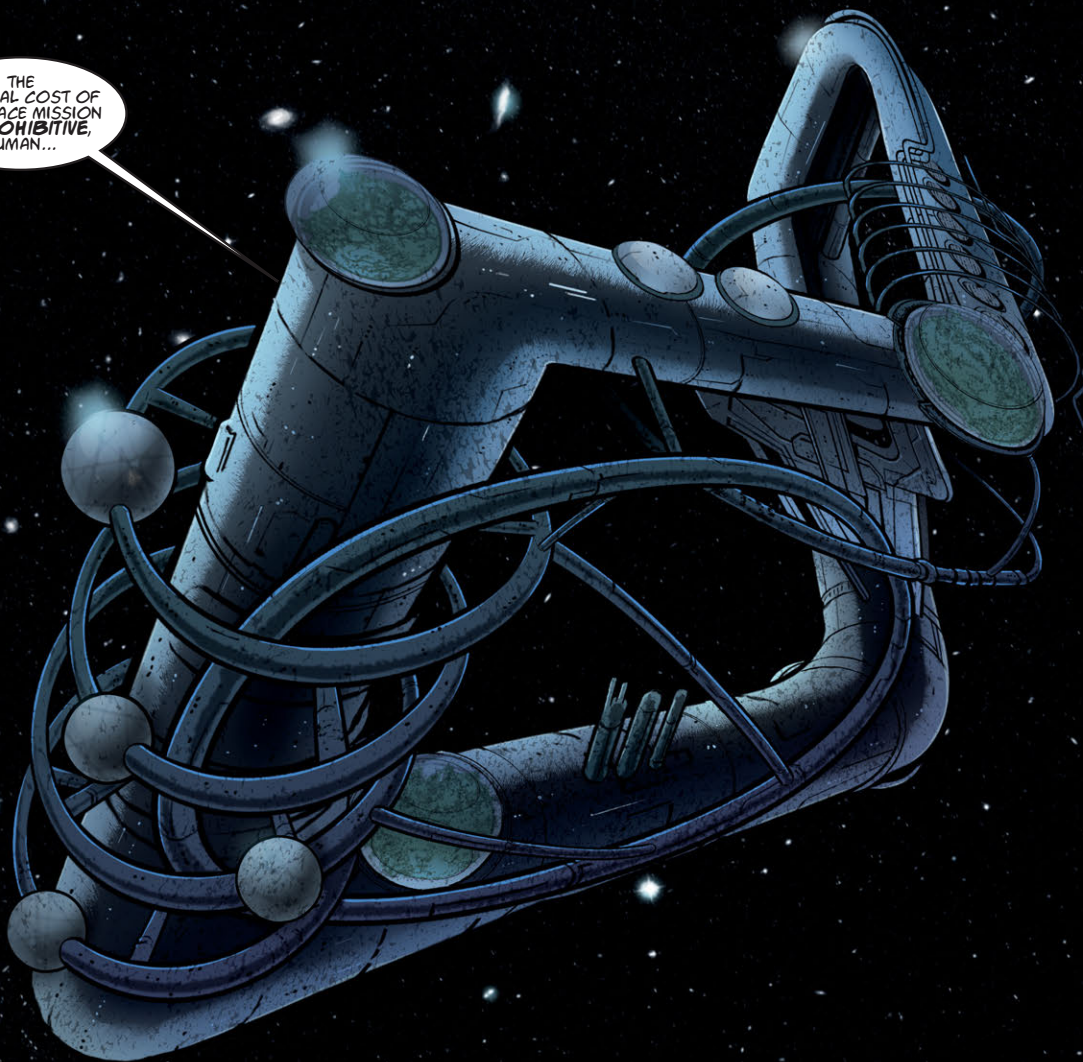
'NO QUESTION **ABOUT** IT, WE NEED TO GET DOWN THERE.'



'THAT ROGUE AUX HAS THE **CODES**. THEY'RE EVERYTHING. **EVERYTHING**.'

'WE CAN'T SHUT DOWN THE TICK ACTIVITY **WITHOUT** THEM.'

THE
MATERIAL COST OF
A SURFACE MISSION
IS **PROHIBITIVE**,
NUMAN...

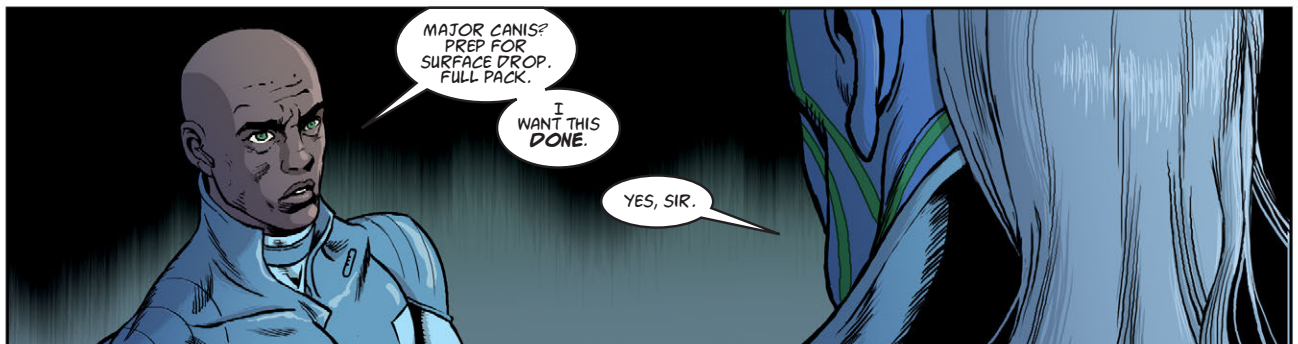
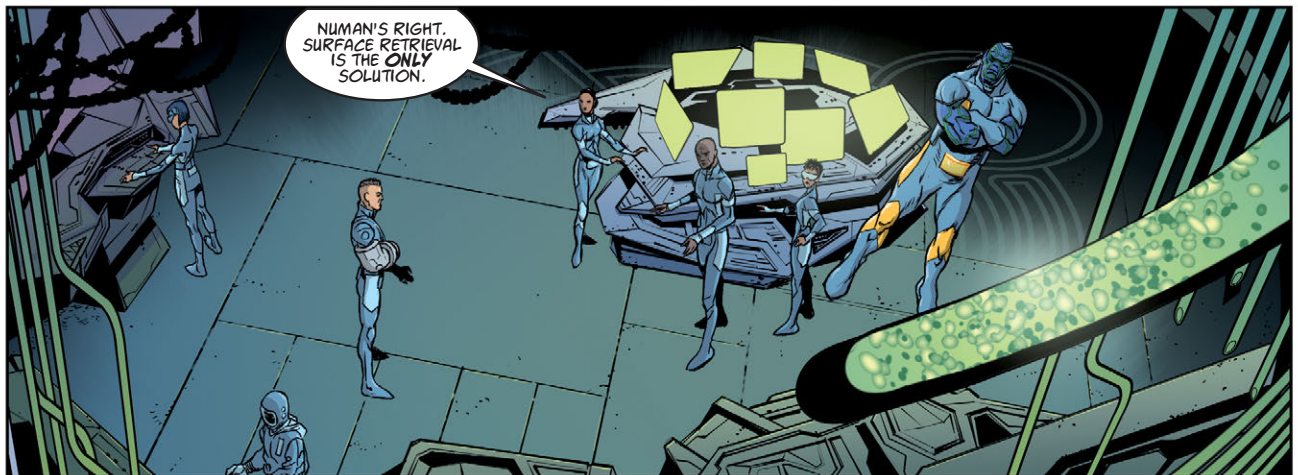
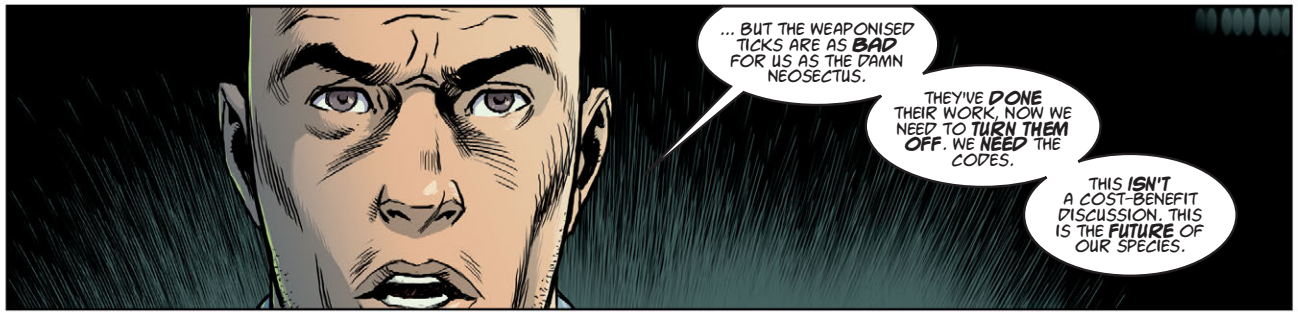


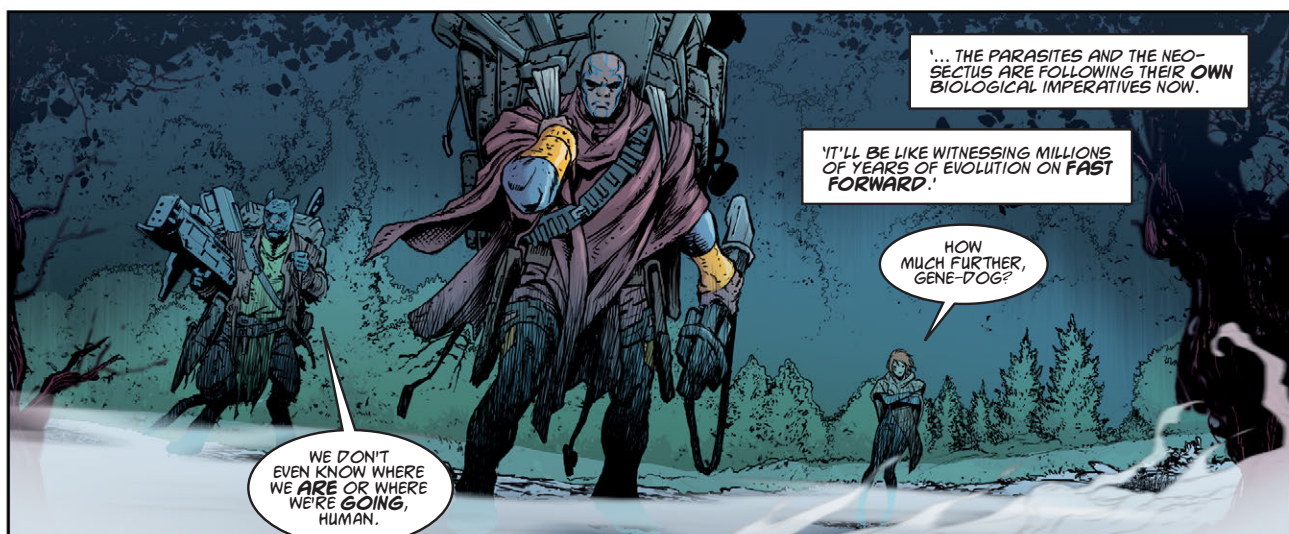
THAT HARDLY
MATTERS, DOES
IT?

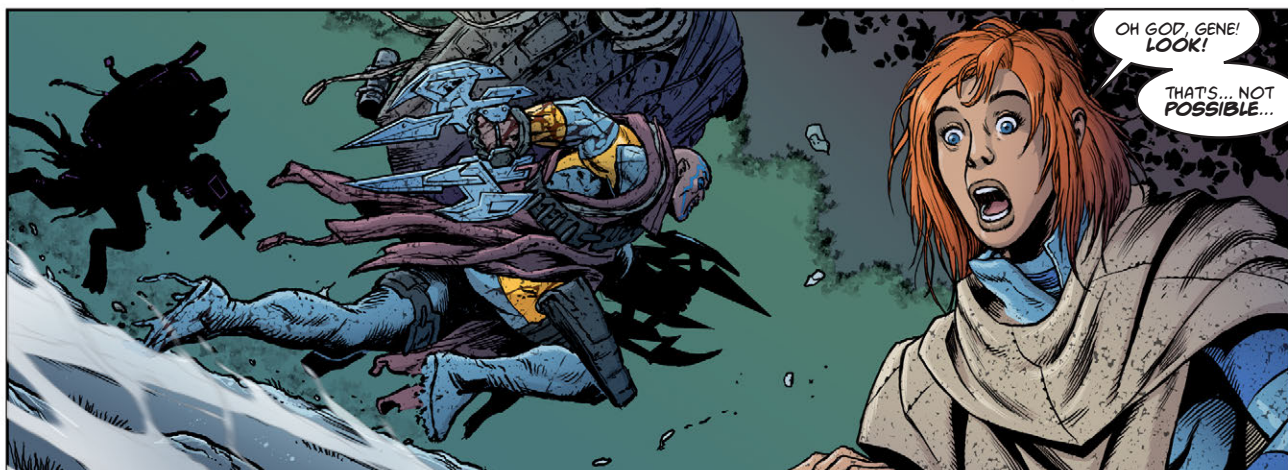
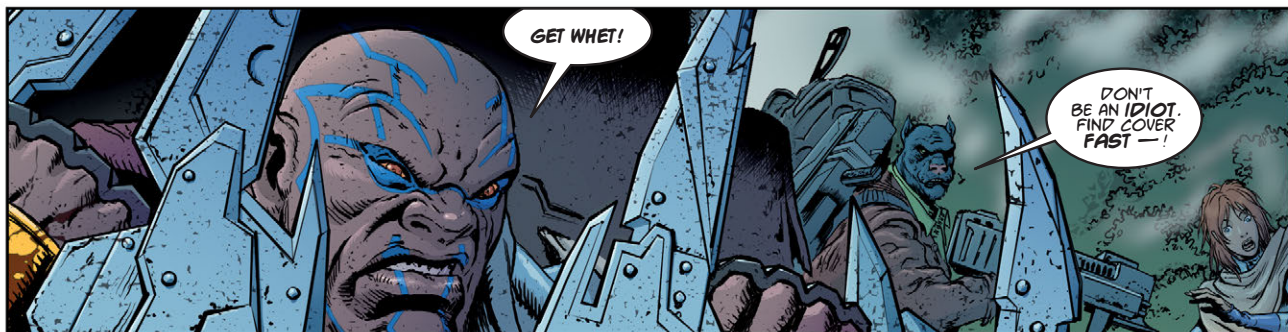
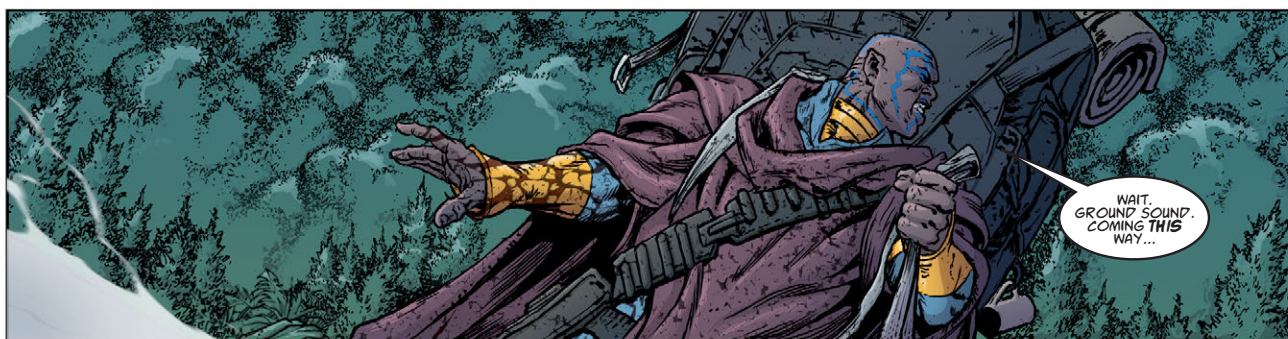
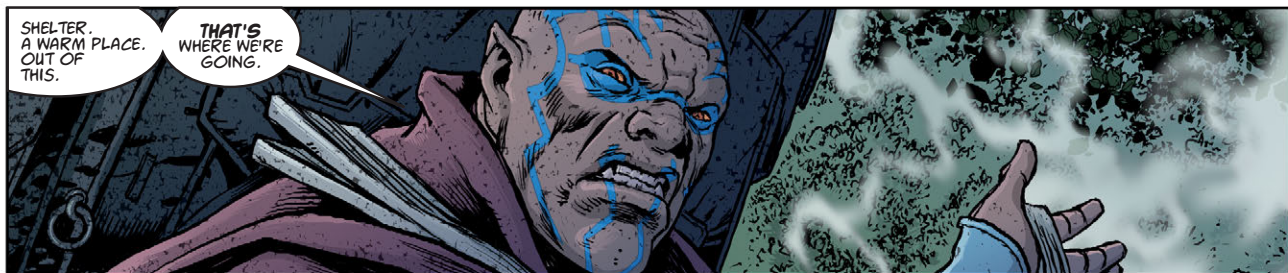
WE'VE UNLEASHED
A **BIO-WEAPON**
DOWN THERE. IT'S
GOT THE XENOPTERA
NEOSECTUS ON
THE ROPES.

AND THAT'S
GOOD. A WIN
FOR MANKIND AT
LONG LAST...









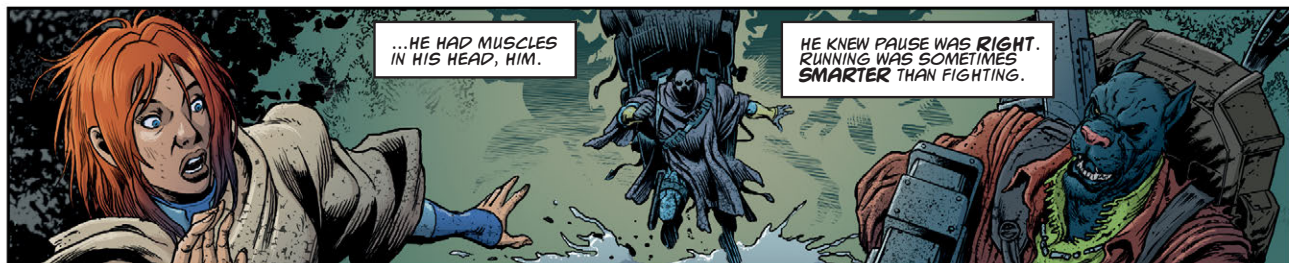


YEAH, AND THEN GENE'S
HACKLES THEY ROSE. HIM,
HE SAW WHAT HE SAW AND
COULD NOT BELIEVE IT.

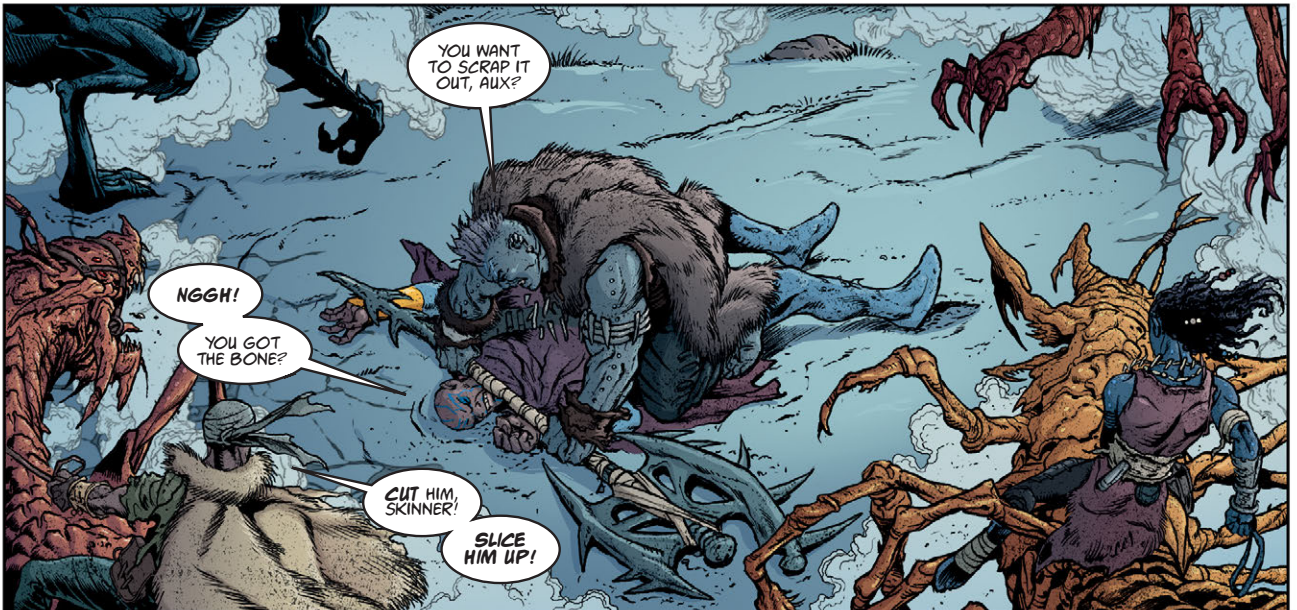
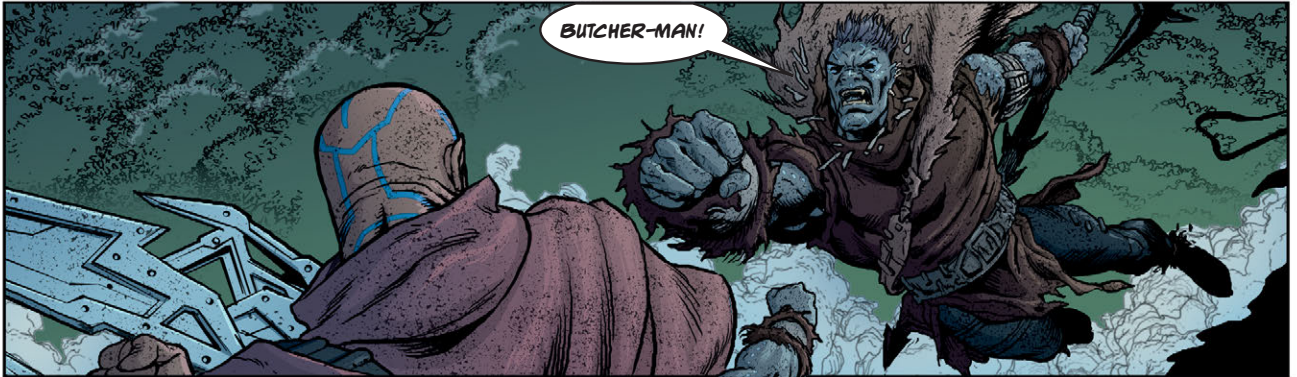
AUX AND WILD AUX BOTH,
AND MASTERS ALIKE,
RIDING IN ON THEM.

A HUNTING PACK
COMING TO KILL...



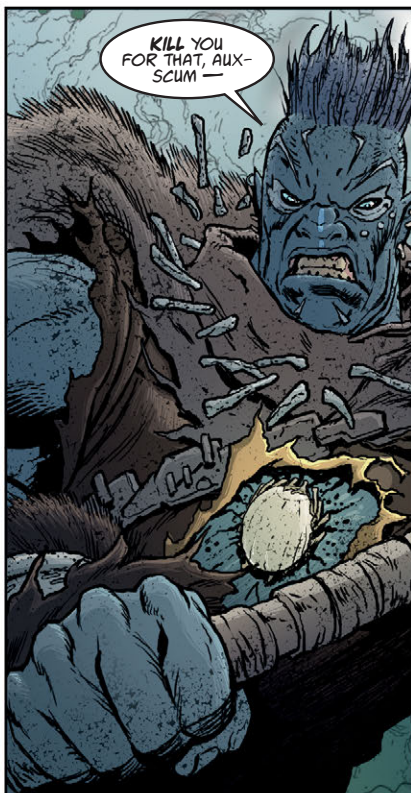








GAAAAAH!



KILL YOU
FOR THAT, AUX-
SCUM —



A TICK-THING!
THERE'S A TICK-
THING IN YOU!



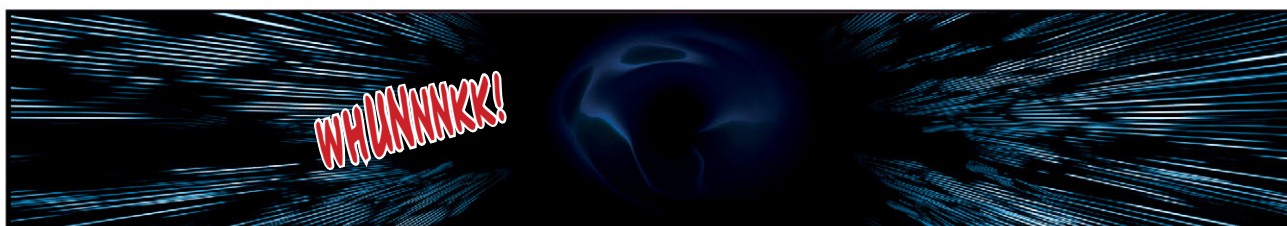
GENE —

FORGET HIM,
GIRL! RUN!



GENE **HATES**
TICK-THINGS —

TAKE HIM!



WHUNNKK!



GENE THE HACKMAN,
TOUGHER AND TOUGH,
WAS A PRISONER NOW.



A PRISONER OF THE
RIDERS, THE TICK-CURSED
MEN AND AUX WHO RODE
ON THE BACKS OF THEM.

ME, I'M
SKINNER.

LEADER.

YOU?



WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

YOU.

YOUR
NAME
FIRST.



GENE.



GENE WHAT?

GENE
NOTHING.

YOU'RE AUX.
PURE-BREED.
AN ALPHA.

BUT
NO PACK. NOT
EXCEPT THOSE
TWO WHO WERE
WITH YOU.



WHERE ARE
THEY?

WE'LL FIND 'EM.

GENE, THERE'S
FOOD FOR YOU,
AND WATER. I CAN
CUT YOU FREE —

WHAT ARE
YOU?



RIDERS. JUST
RIDERS.

THE NEW ORDER
OF THINGS IN THE
WORLD.

MEN AND AUX...
WHO RIDE ON
THEM?

UH-HUH.



'COZ
YOU KNOW
WHY?

WE STAND
AGAINST ALL
OTHERS. ALL
OF THE
OLD.

THE **MASTERS**
WHO RULED, THE
AUX PACKS WHO
SERVED THE
MASTERS' WILL.

AND **THEM**
WHO CAME AFTER
AND RULED
INSTEAD.

WE'RE
TIRED
OF BEING
RULED.



BUT YOU **ARE** RULED. THE **TICK-THINGS** —

THESE? NAH, THEY'RE JUST **TOOLS**, GENE.



HELP **MEN** FORGET THE OLD HIERARCHY OF BEING **MASTERS**.

THE **TICKS**, THEY ALLOW US **GREATER FREE WILL**.

HELP **AUX** BREAK THE OBEDIENCE BRED IN THEM BY THE **MASTERS**.

THE **TICKS** LET US STAND TOGETHER, **FREE** AND **ALL AS ONE**.



AND THEY HELP US **CONTROL THEM**. **BREAK THEM** AND **RIDE** THEM.

THE **TICKS** ARE **FREEDOM**, GENE, AND WE ACCEPT THEM **FREELY**.

THEY ARE **NOT FREEDOM!** GENE **KNOWS!**



THE **TICKS** ARE **WEAPONS** MADE BY THE **MASTERS** TO **KILL** THEM AND **WIN** THE **LONG WAR**.

YOU ARE A **DUMB-HEAD** TO THINK THEY ARE ANYTHING ELSE.



NOT **THESE**, GENE. NOT THE ONES WE **BOND** WITH.

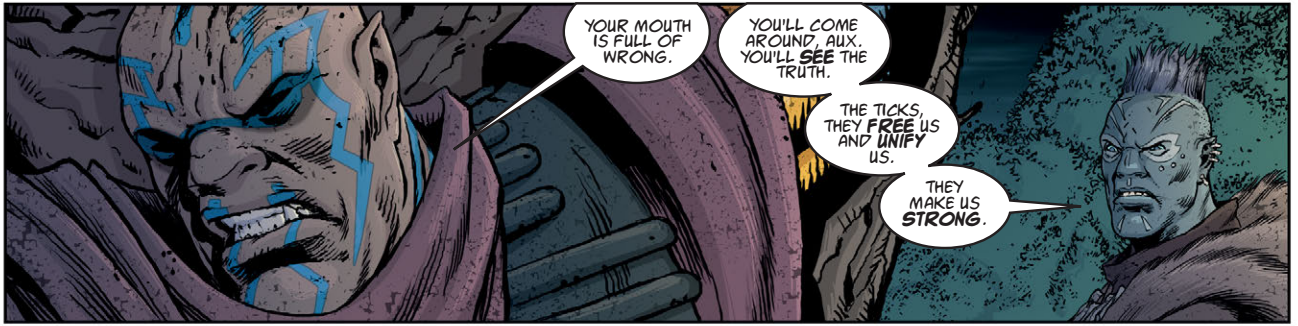
THE **TICKS** EVOLVED **NATURALLY** IN RESPONSE TO THEM, A **NATURAL** PARASITE AND **PREDATOR**.

YEAH, THE **MASTERS** GENE-BRED SOME. **WEAPONISED** THEM.



BUT **THESE**, GENE, THESE ARE THE **ORIGINAL** ONES. **WILD** AND **UNTouched** BY THE **MASTERS**.

THEY **AREN'T** THE **HYBRIDS** TURNED INTO **WEAPONS** BY THE **HANDS** OF THE **MASTERS**.



YOUR MOUTH
IS FULL OF
WRONG.

YOU'LL COME
AROUND, AUX.
YOU'LL **SEE** THE
TRUTH.

THE TICKS
THEY **FREE** US
AND **UNIFY**
US.

THEY
MAKE US
STRONG.



AND EACH RIDER
WE ADD MAKES US
STRONGER.

WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
RECRUITS...



...LIKE
YOU, GENE
NOTHING.



PAUSE!

WE **HAVE**
TO GO BACK!
WE HAVE TO
RESCUE
GENE!



THOSE RIDERS ARE
STILL **OUT** THERE,
LEEZEE. **HUNTING**
FOR US.

BUT, GENE —



HUH.

PAUSE, HIM HE HAD NO LOYALTY.
GENE HACKMAN WAS A LOST CAUSE
TO HIM. HIM, HE WALKED ALONE.

HE WASN'T GOING TO BE TURNED
BY LEEZEE SOWER'S SENTIMENT.

BUT GENE, HIM, HE
HAD THE CODES, THE
MASTER CODES THAT
WOULD WIN THE WAR.

AND PAUSE, HIM HE
WANTED THAT KIND
OF POWER. POWER
OVER MASTER, THEM,
TICK AND DOG-AUX.

OKAY. WE
GO BACK
AND SAVE
HIM.

GOOD. THAT'S
WHAT GENE-DOG
WOULD DO TOO. GO
BACK TO HELP.
I —

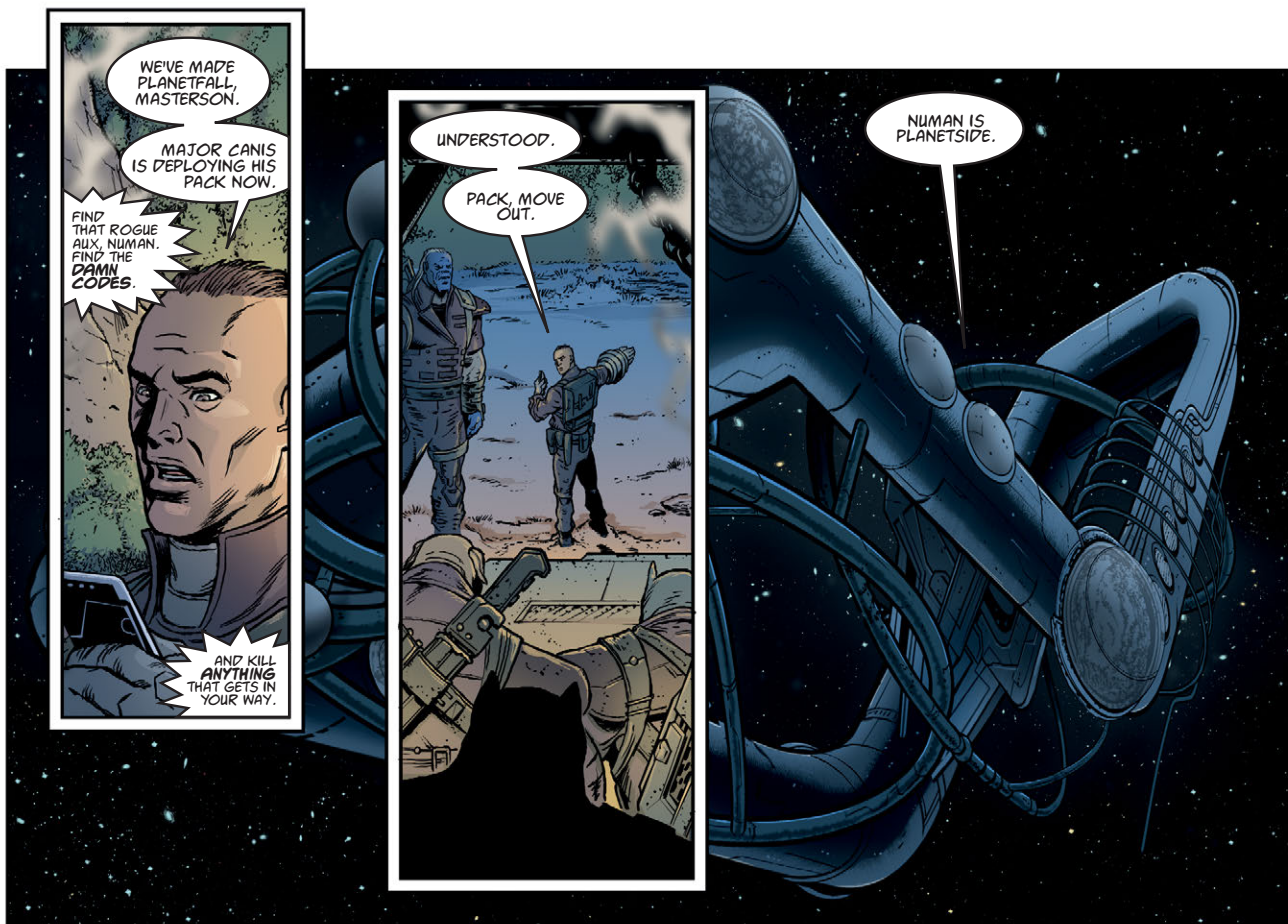
LOOK —!

THAT'S A
SHIP...

'... THE MASTERS HAVE
SENT A RECOVERY
TEAM TO THE SURFACE.'

THIS IS NUMAN TO
STATION. DO YOU
COPY??

COPY YOU,
NUMAN.



WE'VE MADE
PLANETFALL,
MASTERSON.

MAJOR CANIS
IS DEPLOYING HIS
PACK NOW.

FIND
THAT ROGUE
AUX, NUMAN.
FIND THE
DAMN
CODES.

AND KILL
ANYTHING
THAT GETS IN
YOUR WAY.

UNDERSTOOD.

PACK, MOVE
OUT.

NUMAN IS
PLANETSIDE.



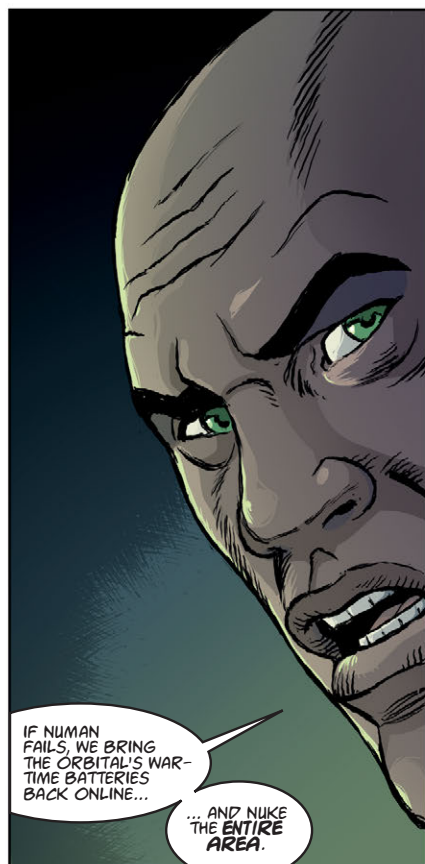
THEY'RE
MOVING OUT
TO MAKE
RETRIEVAL.

THEY
HAVE TO GET
THOSE CODES
BACK. IT'S THE
ONLY WAY.



NO, HERSHALL,
NOT THE ONLY
WAY.

IF HE FAILS,
THAT'S IT. BETTER
THAT NOBODY
GETS THE
CODES.



IF NUMAN
FAILS, WE BRING
THE ORBITAL'S WAR-
TIME BATTERIES
BACK ONLINE...

... AND NUKE
THE ENTIRE
AREA.



MOVE, DOGS.
FAST.

YOU GOT
HIS SCENT,
MAJOR?



YES, MASTER
NUMAN.

I GOT
THE HACKMAN'S
SCENT. HE IS
CLOSE...



'... AND HE IS
SCARED.'

SO,
GENE NOTHING.
YOU THINK?

YOU THINK
ON MY WORDS?



NOTHING TO
THINK ABOUT,
SKINNER.

WE'LL SEE,
WE'LL TALK MORE
WHEN SUN-COME-
UP.

SKINS? A
WORD —



WHAT ITCHES,
WALKER-
DOG?

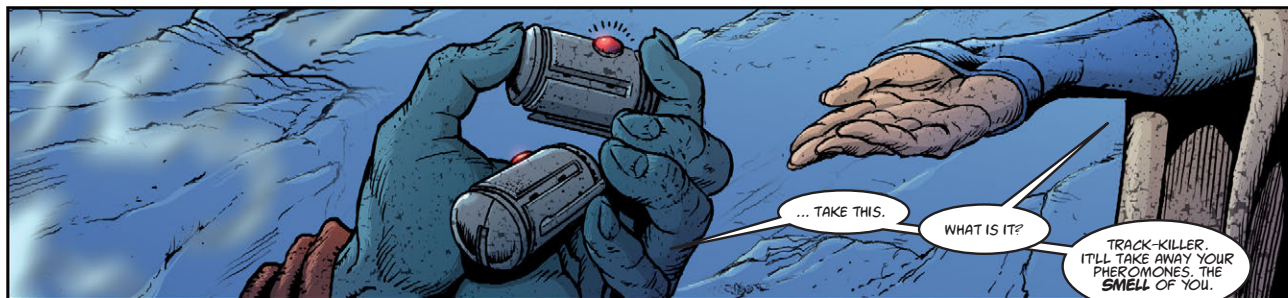
WE SIN A
LIGHT, A HEAVEN
LIGHT, FALLING
STAR.

MASTER-
STAR.

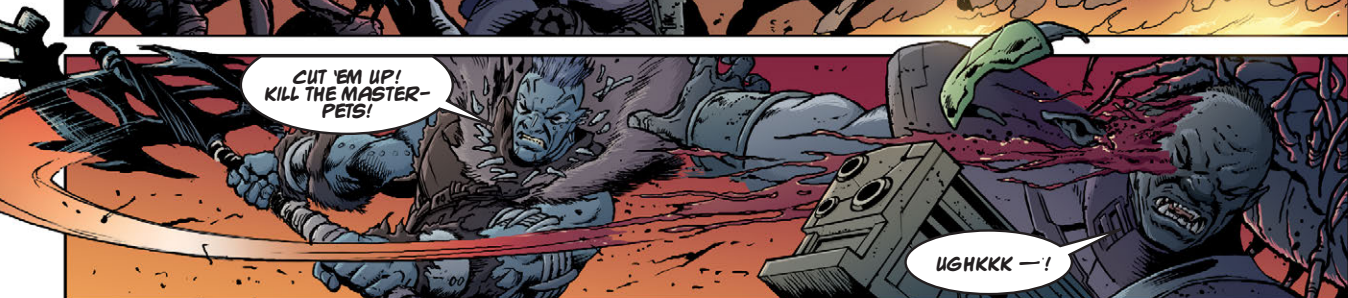


HNH.

GET LOCKED.
GET WHET.









MOVE!
FALL BACK!



MASTER? MASTER
NUMAN?



MASTER! MASTER
NUMAN!



HELLO,
MASTER.

OH SHIT!
SHIT!



THERE'S
A GOOD
BOY!



YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME LOOKING FOR ME, NUMAN.



G-GENE... ?

WHAT ARE THESE CREATURES?

SEEMS THEY ARE THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS NOW.



AH, YOU HEAR THAT? GENE NOTHING, HE'S LEARNING ALREADY.

'NUMAN'? THAT YOUR NAME, MASTER?

NEW MAN?

WE'RE ALL NEW MEN HERE.



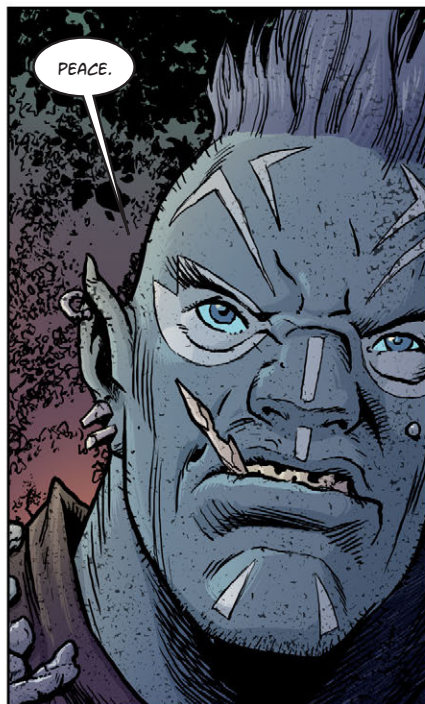
TRIBES LIKE US, THEY'RE RISING UP EVERYWHERE. HUMANS AND AUX, PUREBRED AND FERAL, LIVING AS ONE.

WITH POWER OVER THEM.

HOW IS THAT... EVEN POSSIBLE?



THROUGH UNITY. FUSED IN THE FLESH.





NOT AT **ALL**. LISTEN TO ME. ACROSS THE WORLD, NEOSECTUS COLONIES ARE AT WAR WITH **OTHER** COLONIES INFECTED BY THE PARASITES.

THEY WILL EXTERMINATE **EACH OTHER**.

YEAH? AND THEN WHAT?



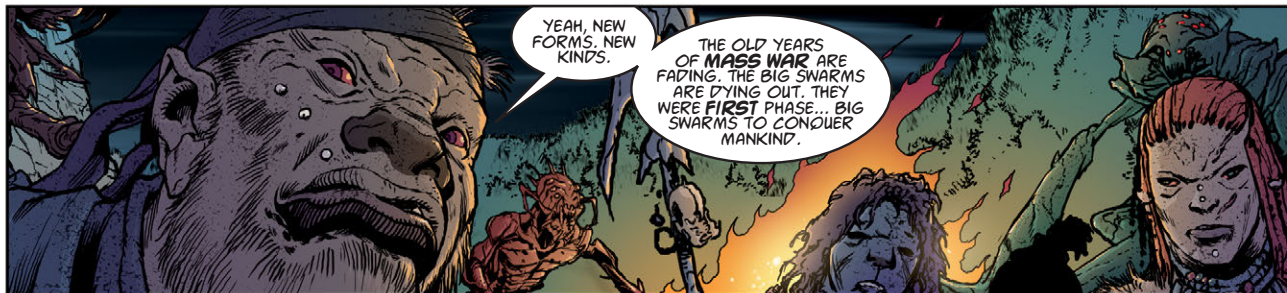
THE MASTERS. THEY HAVE A CODE THAT WILL SWITCH OFF AND **KILL** THE TICKS THEY HAVE MADE.



HNH. PLAYING **GOD** AGAIN.

THERE **IS** NO GOD... OR IF THERE **IS**, HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU, HUMAN.

THE WAR WON'T END THAT WAY. THEM IS **STILL** EVOLVING. EVOLVING **FAST**. WE'VE **SEEN** IT.



YEAH, NEW FORMS. NEW KINDS.

THE OLD YEARS OF **MASS WAR** ARE FADING. THE BIG SWARMS ARE DYING OUT. THEY WERE **FIRST** PHASE... BIG SWARMS TO CONQUER MANKIND.



WALKER'S RIGHT. WE'RE **FINAL** PHASE NOW. THEM HAS LEARNED FROM THE **AUX**, YOU SEE?

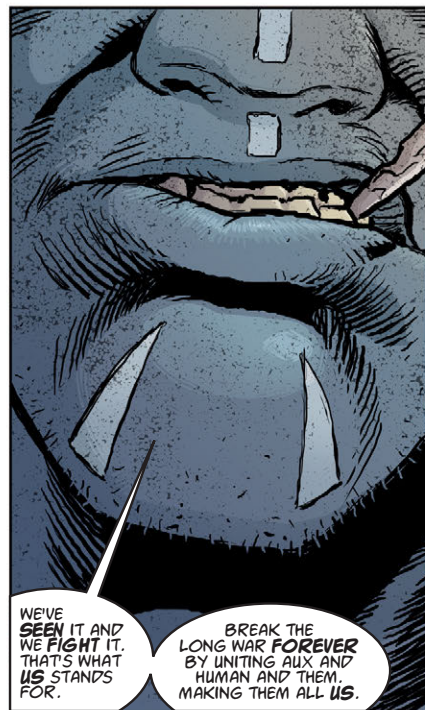
SMALLER GROUPS WITH **HIGHER** INTELLIGENCE. FASTER, **SMARTER**, MORE **MOBILE**.

THAT'S HOW THEY'LL FINISH THE JOB.



YOU'VE ACTUALLY SEEN THIS?

OH MY GOD, WE KNEW **HYPER-EVOLUTION** WAS IN PLAY... YOU'VE ACTUALLY **SEEN** THIS?



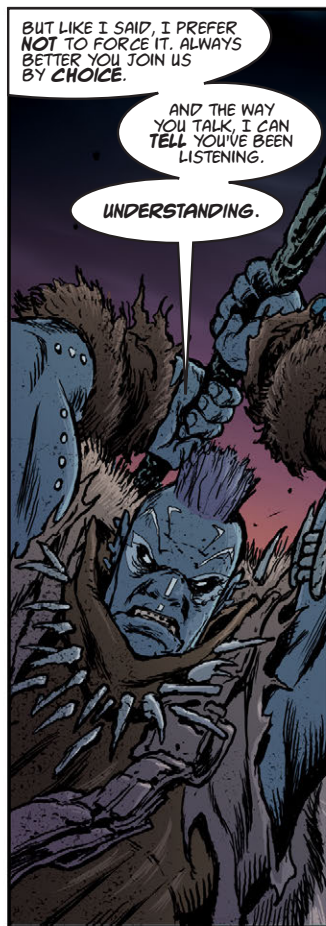
WE'VE **SEEN** IT AND WE **FIGHT** IT. THAT'S WHAT **US** STANDS FOR.

BREAK THE **LONG WAR FOREVER** BY UNITING **AUX** AND HUMAN AND THEM. MAKING THEM ALL **US**.





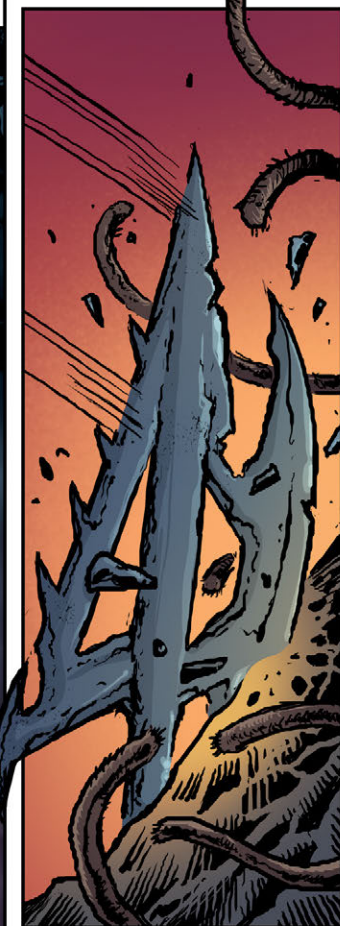
YOU'D BE
A GOOD
RIDER, GENE,
SO I'M
TEMPTED.



BUT LIKE I SAID, I PREFER
NOT TO FORCE IT. ALWAYS
BETTER YOU JOIN US
BY **CHOICE**.

AND THE WAY
YOU TALK, I CAN
TELL YOU'VE BEEN
LISTENING.

UNDERSTANDING.



RIDE
WITH **US**, GENE
NOTHING.

LEARN AND SEE.
THEN MAKE YOUR
CHOICE.



CANIS TO
STATION. DO
YOU COPY?



THIS IS HERSHALL,
MAJOR. WHAT'S THE
SITUATION?

WHERE'S
NUMAN?

MASTER
NUMAN IS
TAKEN.



TAKEN?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?

A
PRISONER,
ALONG WITH
SPICA.



THERE IS A
TRIBAL GROUP
HERE. THEY HAVE
THE HACKMAN AUX
PRISONER.

WE ATTEMPTED
RECOVERY. MASTER
NUMAN AND SPICA WERE
CAPTURED. DRACONIS
AND PROCYON WERE
KILLED.

THERE ARE
ONLY FOUR OF
YOU LEFT?

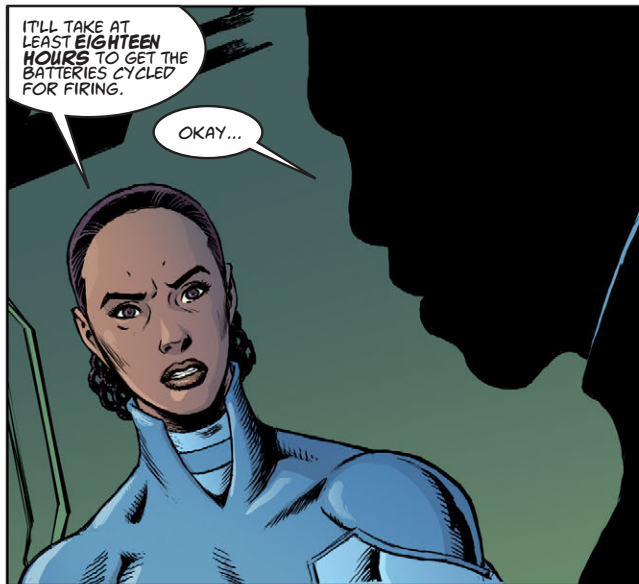
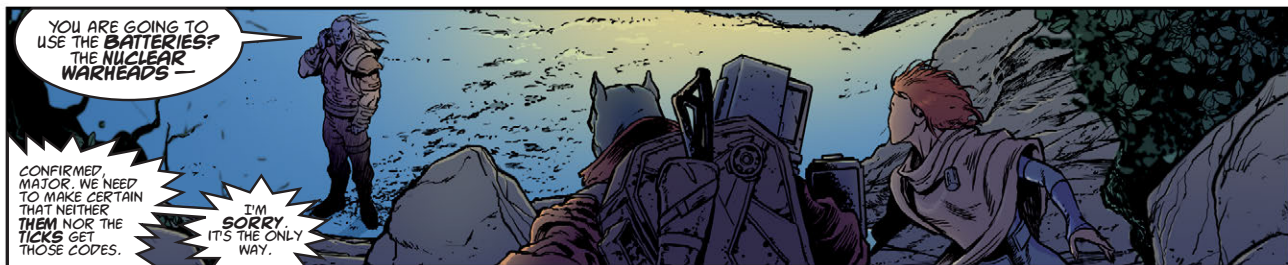
YES. REQUEST
FURTHER SUPPORT.
TWO MORE STRIKE
TEAMS —



ABSOLUTELY
NOT.

MAJOR, THIS
IS MASTERSON.
WE DON'T HAVE THE
RESOURCES FOR
THAT KIND OF
LANDING.

EXFIL NOW AND
RETURN TO STATION.
WE'LL HAVE TO GO
WITH AN ORBITAL
STRIKE.





GENE THE HACKMAN, HIM HE WENT RIDE-ALONG WITH THE RIDERS THAT WERE US.

HE'D BEEN GIVEN A CHOICE.

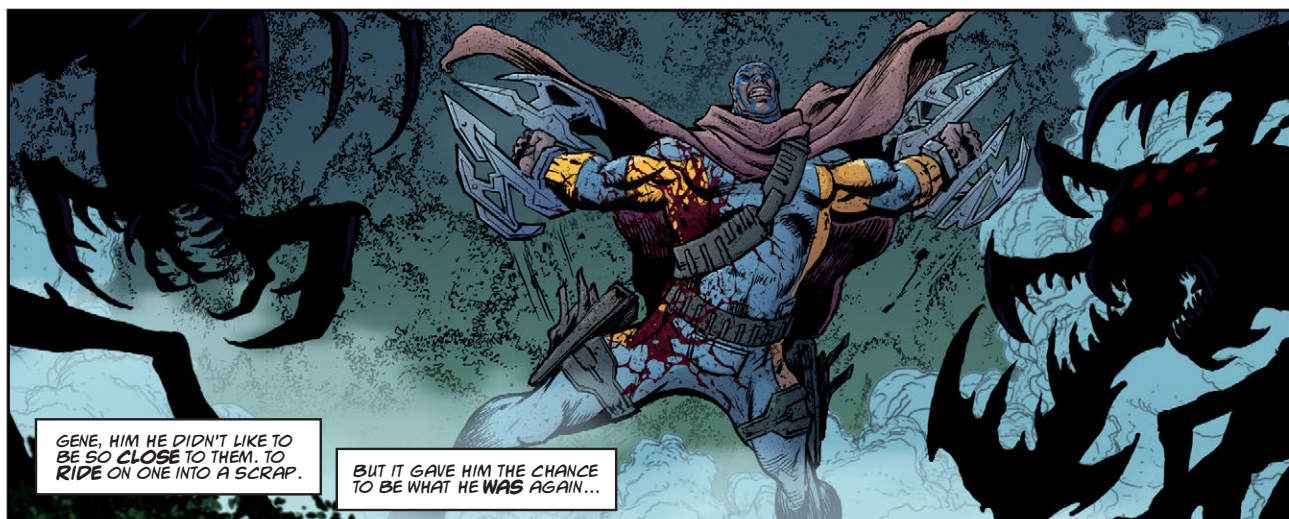


LEARN THEIR WAYS. DECIDE IF HE WANTED TO BE ONE OF THE US.

THEM.
CLOSE BY.



A SCOUT-FORCE OF THEM HAD ENTERED THE VALLEY. SKINNER'S RIDERS HAD GONE TO FIND THEM.



GENE, HIM HE DIDN'T LIKE TO BE SO CLOSE TO THEM. TO RIDE ON ONE INTO A SCRAP.

BUT IT GAVE HIM THE CHANCE TO BE WHAT HE WAS AGAIN...



... A HACKMAN.
TOUGHER AND TOUGH.



CUT 'EM UP!
MAKE THEM
BLEED!



YOU SCRAP
GOOD FOR A
NOTHING, GENE
NOTHING.

GENE WAS
MADE TO
SCRAP.



YEAH, BUT
SCRAP FOR
WHO?

FREEDOM, SKINNER.
THAT'S WHAT GENE'S FIGHT
HAS BECOME.

FREEDOM FROM THE
CRUEL MASTERS.
FROM THE THREAT
OF THEM.

FROM THE
CONTROL OF THE
TICK-THINGS.

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT FOR
US.

SO
YOU SAY. BUT
GENE STILL THINKS
THERE MUST BE
ANOTHER
WAY.



YOU'RE **SO** RESISTANT —

GENE WILL TELL YOU **THIS**, SKINNER. GENE HAS THE MEANS AND POWER TO END THIS WAR.



YEAH, **RIGHT**. WHY **DON'T** YOU, THEN?

BECAUSE OF THE AUX.

GENE COULD END THE WAR IN FAVOUR OF THE **MASTERS**, OR OF THEM, OR OF THE **TICKS**.

LET **ANY ONE** OF THEM BE THE VICTORS.



WHAT **IS** THIS POWER?

DOESN'T MATTER.

WHAT MATTERS IS, **WHICHEVER** WAY, THE AUX **LOSE**.

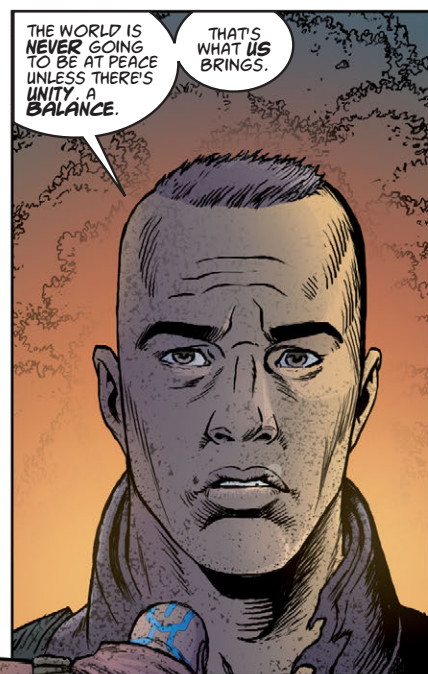


IN ALL OF THIS LONG WAR, HOWEVER IT ENDS, WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THE **AUX**?



I DON'T THINK IT IS **YOU**, SKINNER.

US IS JUST **ANOTHER** WAY THE AUX GET USED ...





'—NO!'

SET?

YES, MAJOR.

NO MISTAKES
THIS TIME.

WE HIT THE
AUX TRIBE **HARD**.
RECOVER NUMAN AND
THE HACKMAN. GET
THE **CODES**.



KILL THE REST.



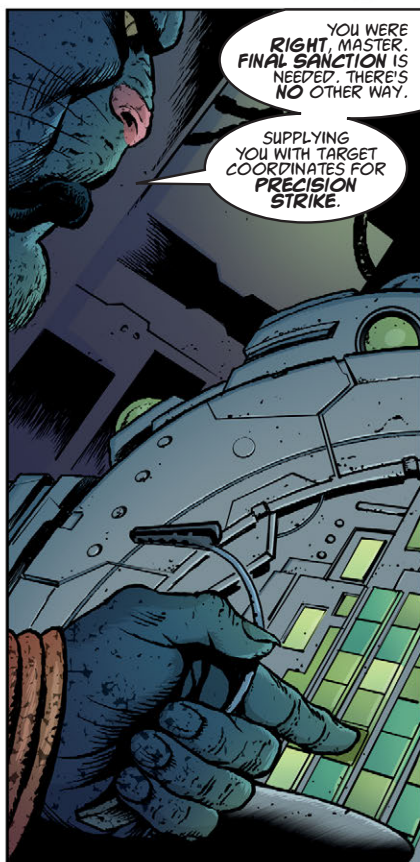
THEY'VE GONE,
PAUSE.

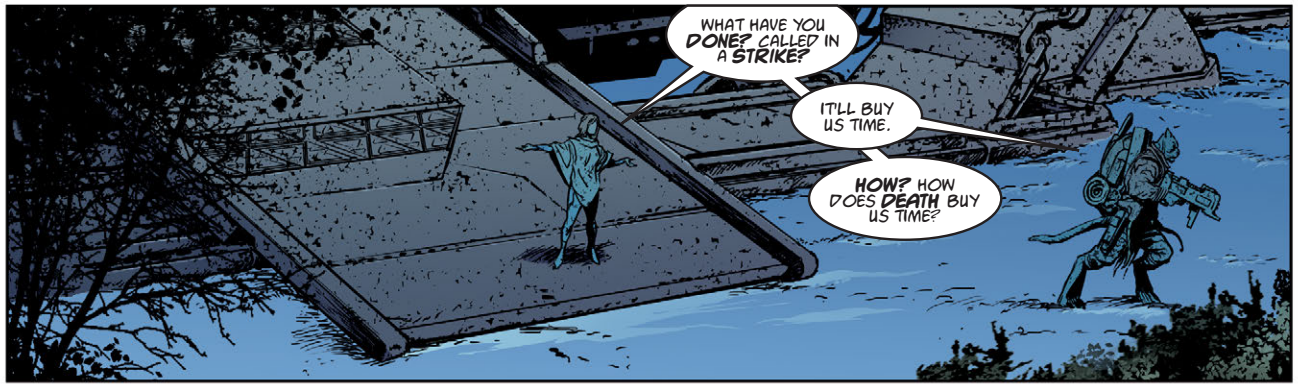
YEAH.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

WHAT I
ALWAYS
DO. SETTING
MY ENEMIES
AGAINST
EACH
OTHER.





WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE? CALLED IN
A **STRIKE?**

IT'LL BUY
US TIME.

HOW? HOW
DOES **DEATH** BUY
US TIME?



BECAUSE I'M
SMART.

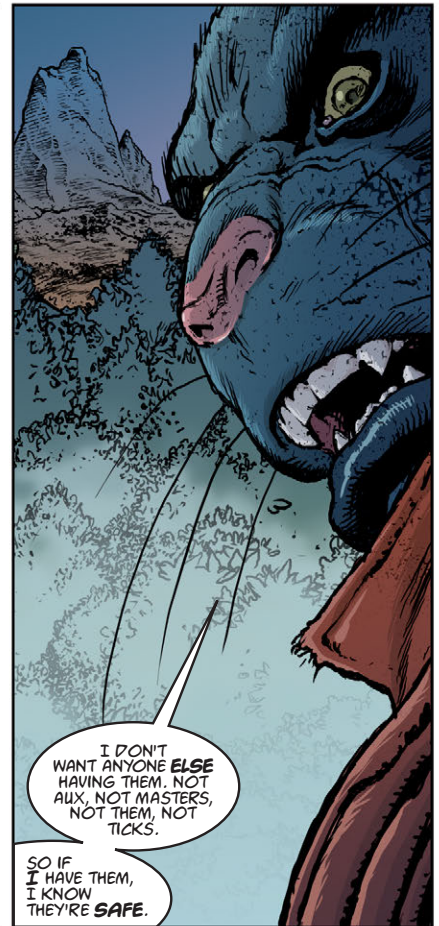
WE'LL GET
TIME — AND
DISTRACTION —
TO PULL GENE'S
ASS OUT OF
THE FIRE.

AND
GET THE
CODES?



RIGHT.

YOU
WANT THEM
FOR **YOUR-
SELF**, DON'T
YOU?



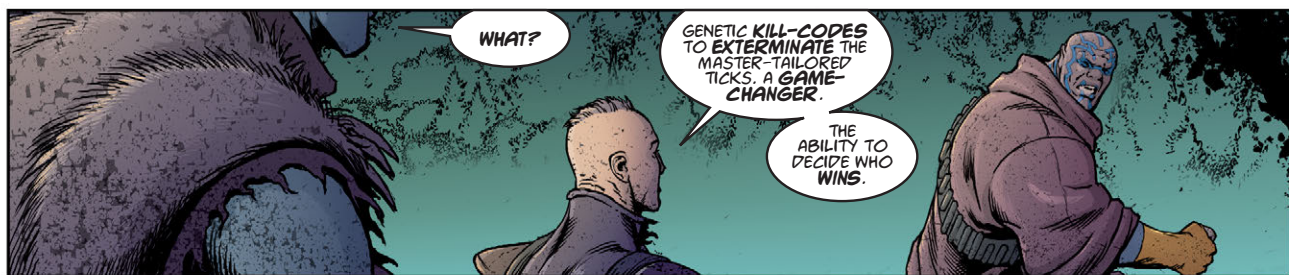
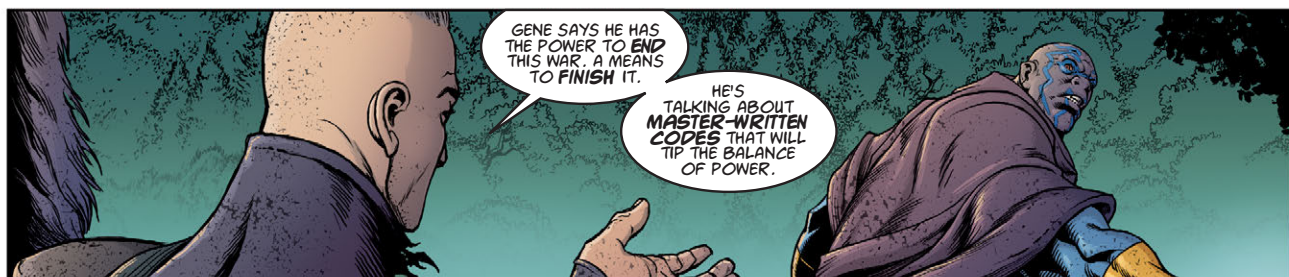
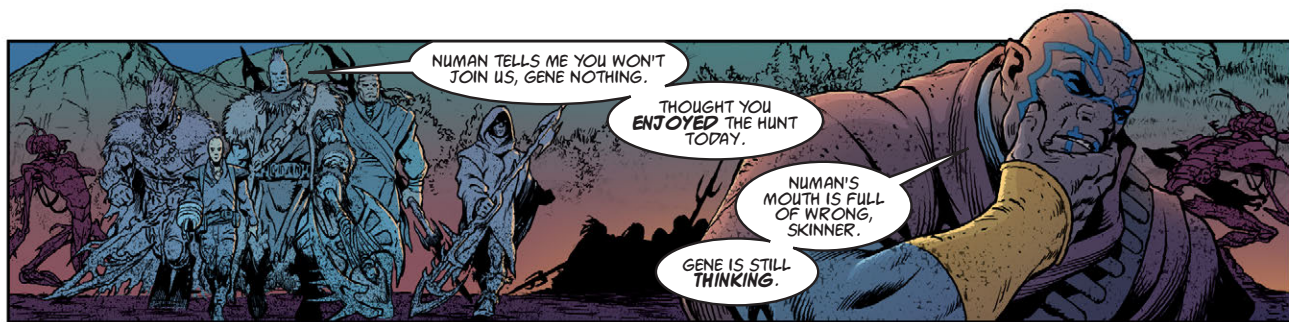
I DON'T
WANT ANYONE **ELSE**
HAVING THEM. NOT
AUX, NOT MASTERS,
NOT THEM, NOT
TICKS.

SO IF
I HAVE THEM,
I KNOW
THEY'RE **SAFE.**



NOW COME ON.
WE'VE GOT WORK
TO DO.

IN THREE HOURS,
THINGS ARE GOING TO
GET **HOT** AROUND
HERE...





THERE'S
NOTHING IN HIS
SUIT.

WE'VE
SEARCHED HIM
AND HIS
CLOTHING —



IN HIS MOUTH?

EVERYWHERE,
SKINNER.

NO,
THE CODES
MUST BE
SOMEWHERE.
HE HAD
THEM —



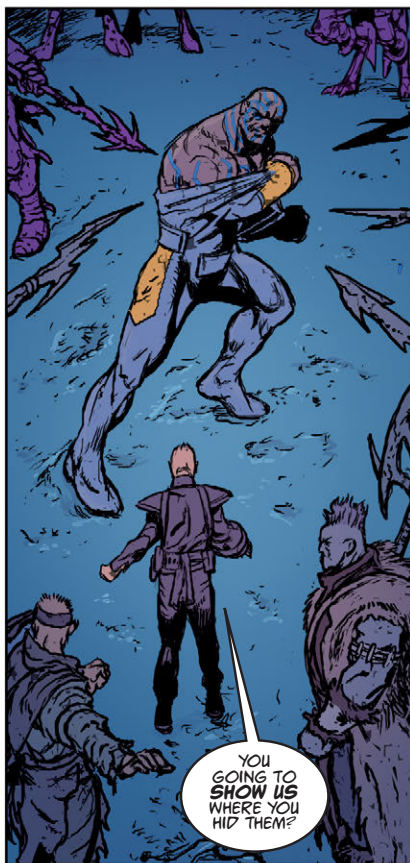
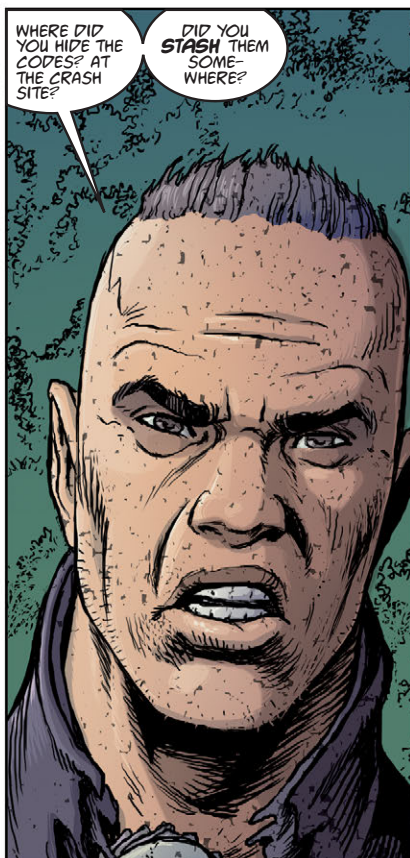
LOOKS
LIKE YOU WERE
WRONG,
NUMAN.

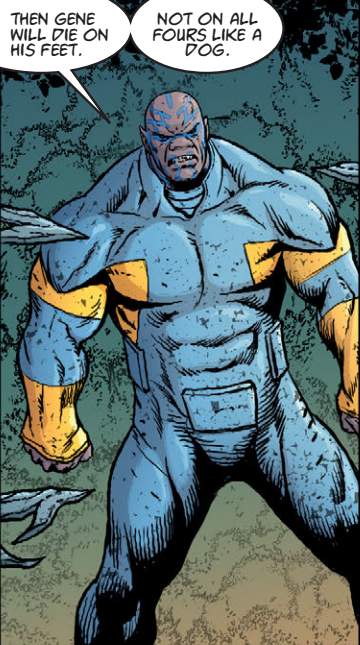
NO!
HE HAD
THEM!

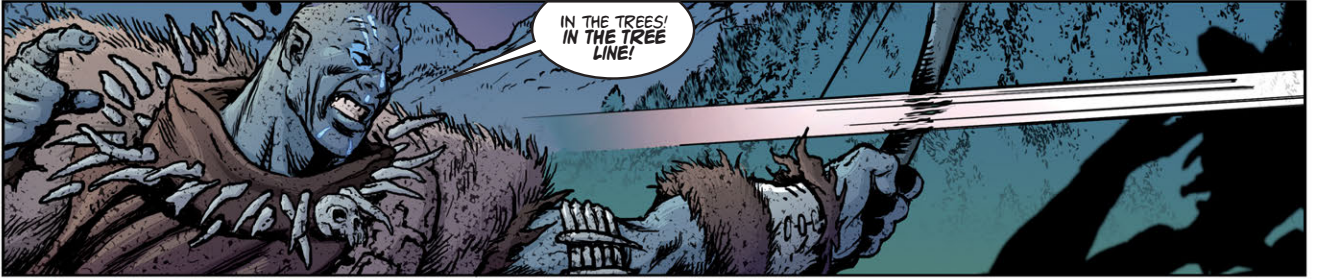


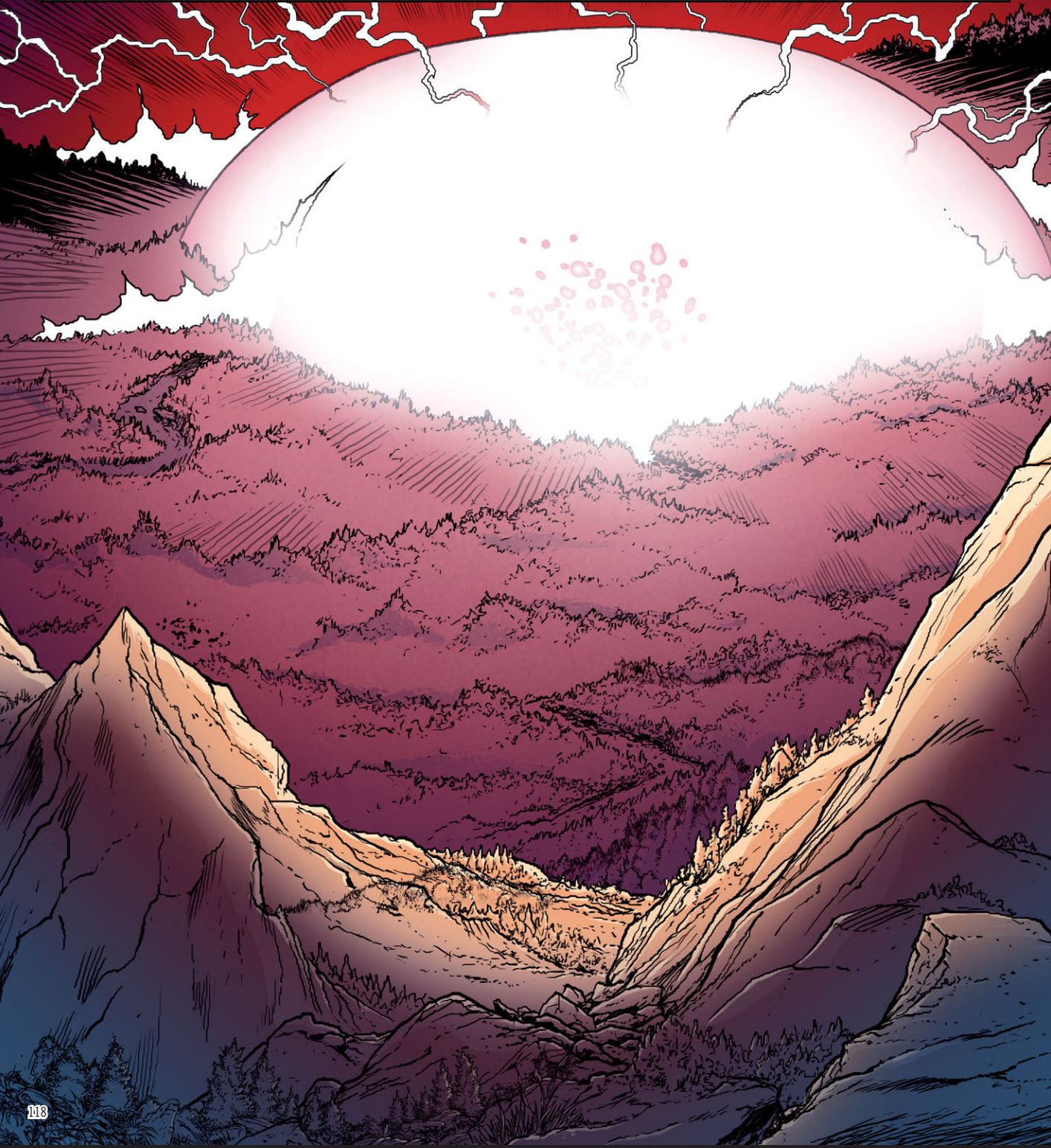
DID YOU DUMP
THEM SOMEWHERE,
GENE? HIDE
THEM?

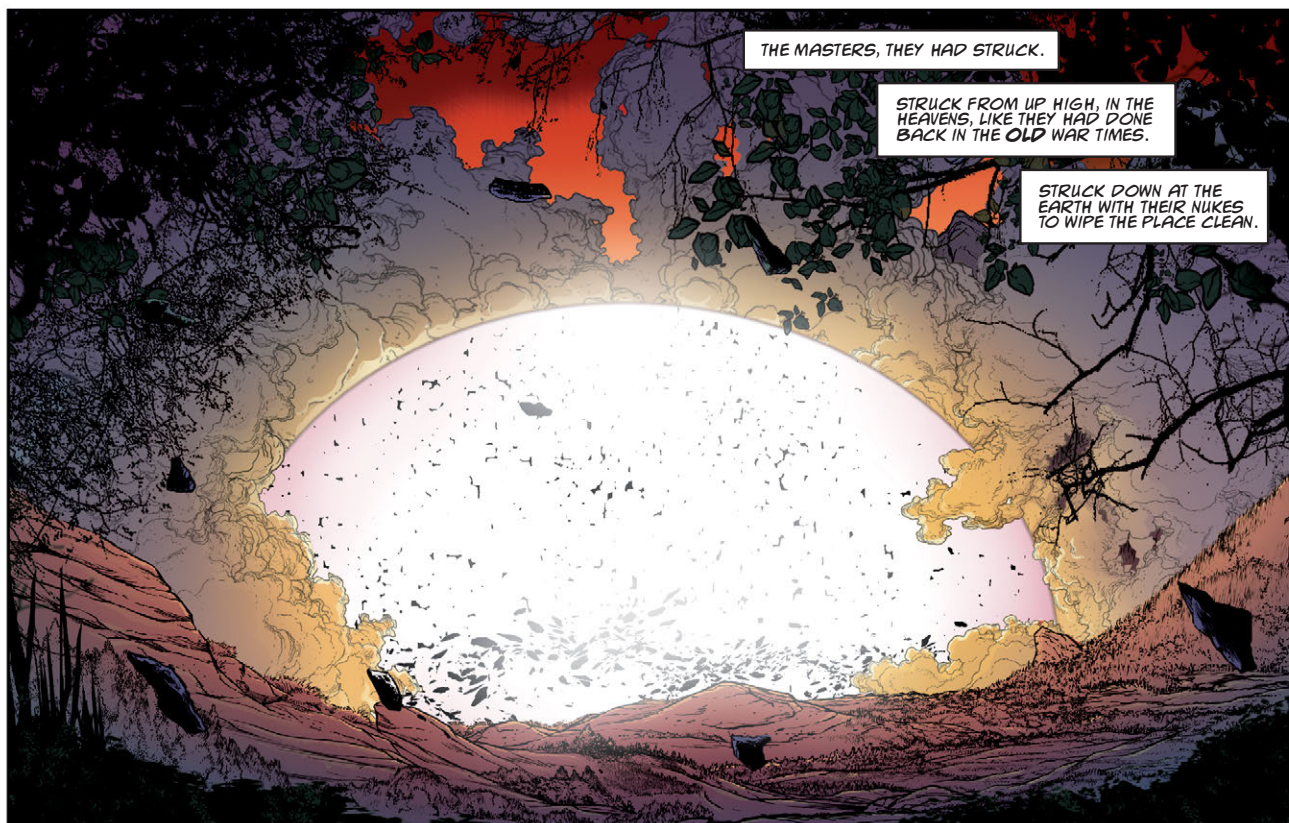












THE MASTERS, THEY HAD STRUCK.

STRUCK FROM UP HIGH, IN THE
HEAVENS, LIKE THEY HAD DONE
BACK IN THE OLD WAR TIMES.

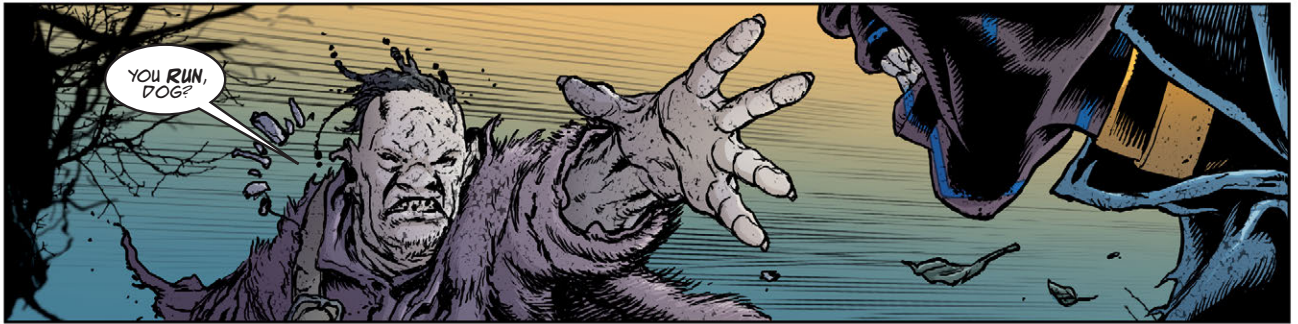
STRUCK DOWN AT THE
EARTH WITH THEIR NUKES
TO WIPE THE PLACE CLEAN.



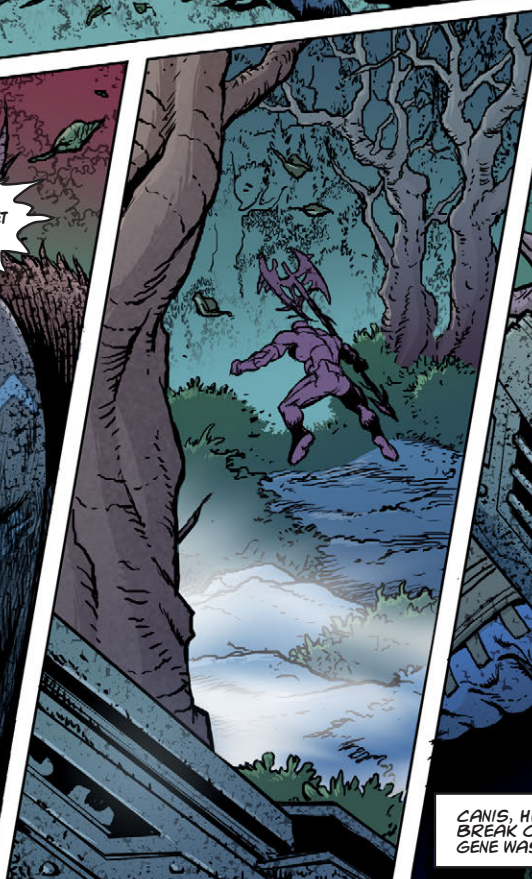
THE NUKIE, IT STRUCK MORE
THAN TWENTY MILES
FROM THE RIDERS' CAMP.

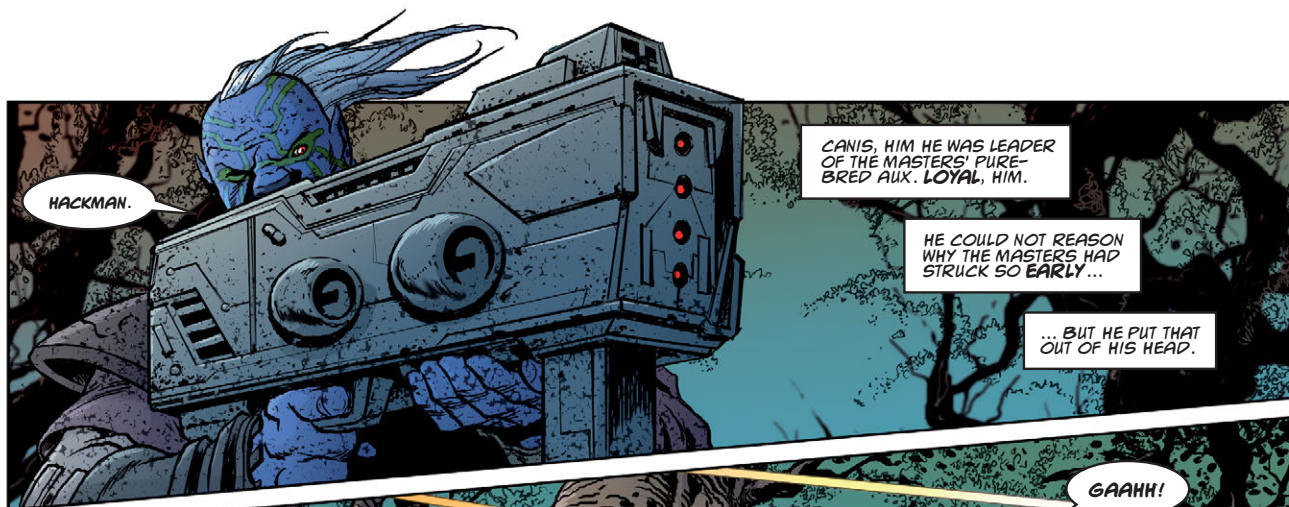


BUT CLOSE ENOUGH FOR
THE FURY TO BE FELT.







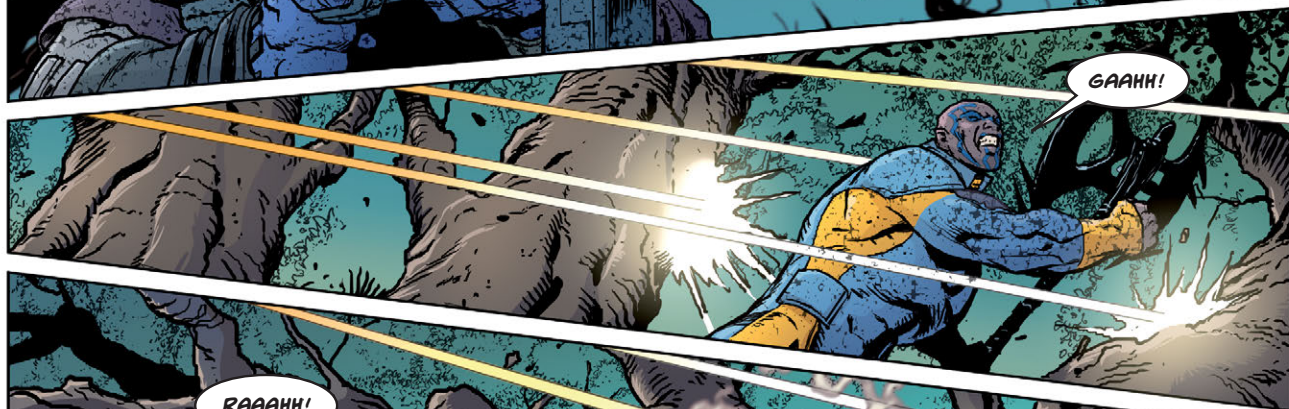


HACKMAN.

CANIS, HIM HE WAS LEADER
OF THE MASTERS' PURE-
BRED AUX. LOYAL, HIM.

HE COULD NOT REASON
WHY THE MASTERS HAD
STRUCK SO EARLY...

... BUT HE PUT THAT
OUT OF HIS HEAD.



GAAHH!

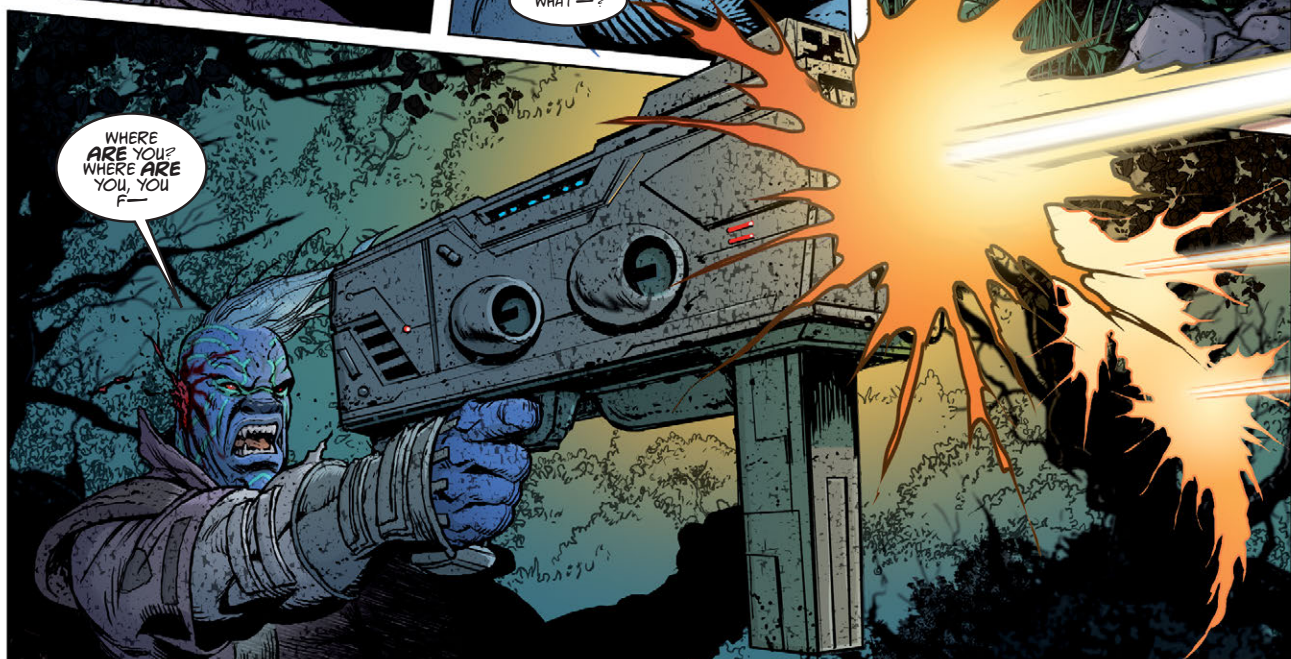
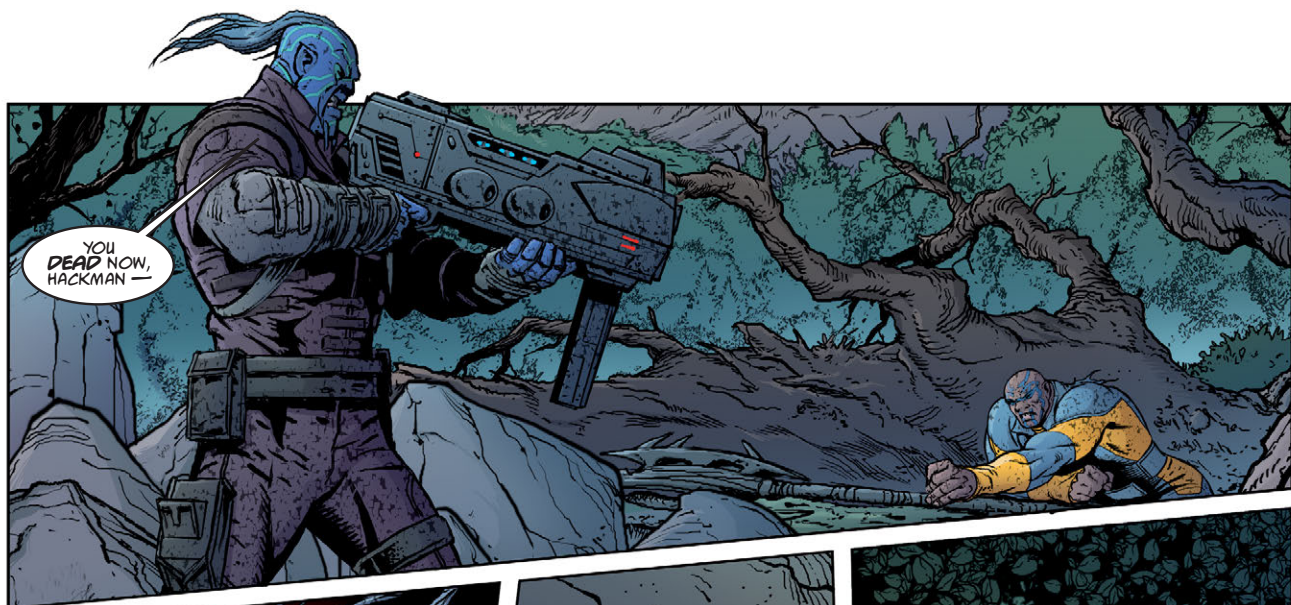


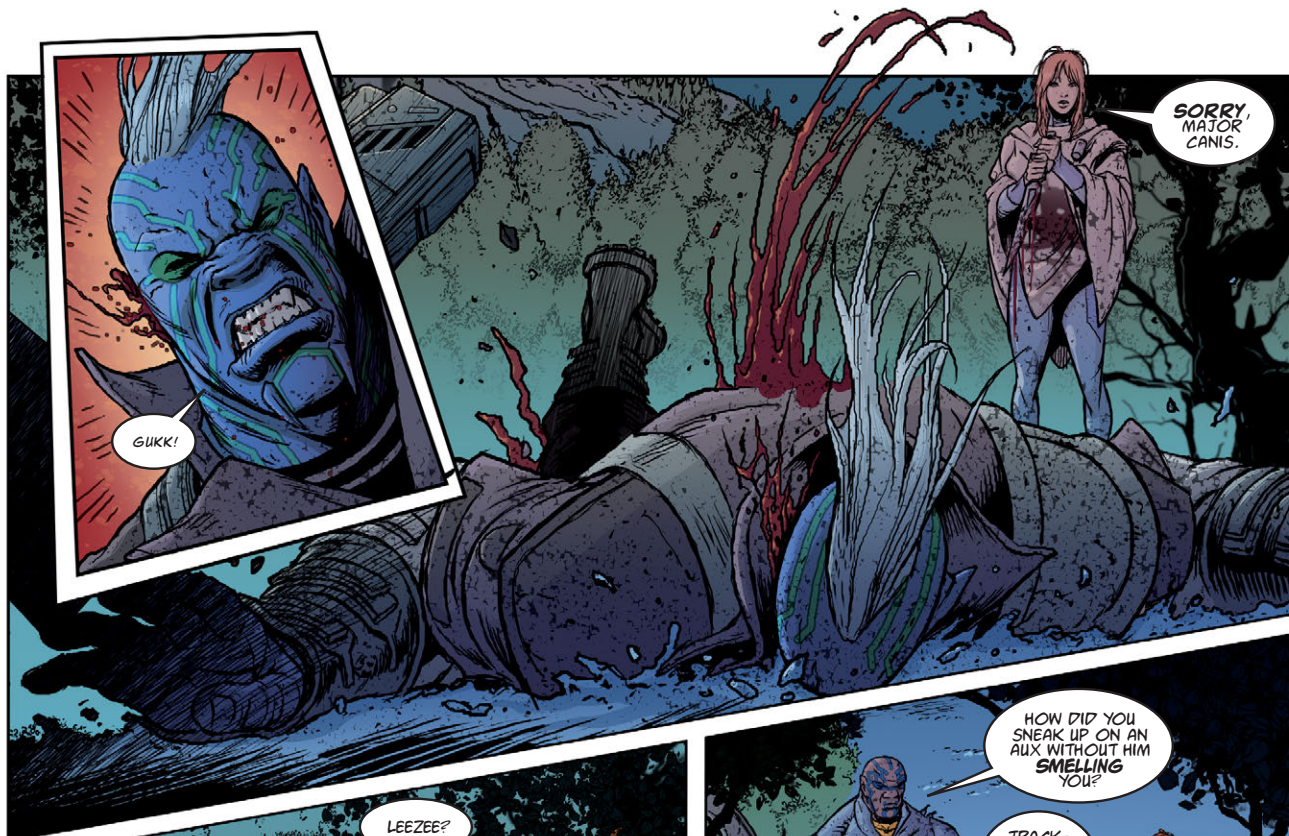
RAAAHH!



HIS QUARRY WAS **ALL**
THAT MATTERED —

— AND HE WOULD STOP
THE HACKMAN DEAD.







WHAT ABOUT...
ABOUT THE SKY
STRIKE?

PAUSE DID
THAT. TRICKED THE
MASTERS. HE IS
CLEVER. IS
PAUSE.

I FED
THEM THE WRONG
COORDINATES.
THEY'D HAVE NUKED
YOU, ELSE.

WE
NEEDED A **BIG**
DISTRACTION.



GENE GETS
YOUR LOYALTY,
LEEZEE.

BUT **YOU**,
PAUSE?

YOU HAVE
THE **CODES**, AUX.
THAT'S **ALL** THAT
MATTERS.



THE MASTERS' AUX,
THE RIDER FILTH...
THAT'S **ALL** THEY
WANTED.

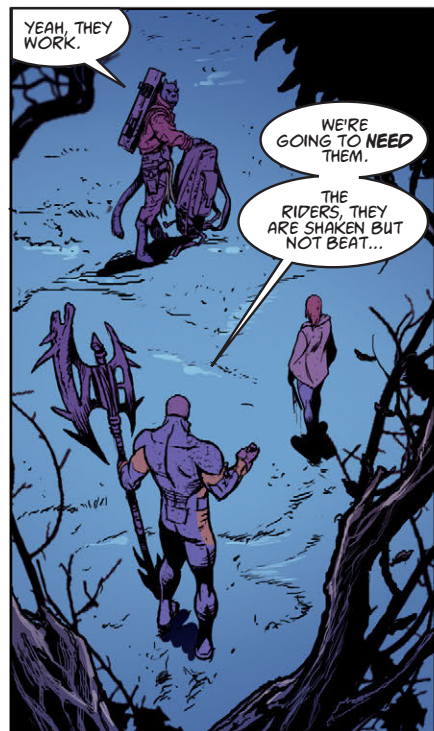
I COULDN'T
LET **EITHER** LOT
HAVE THEM.

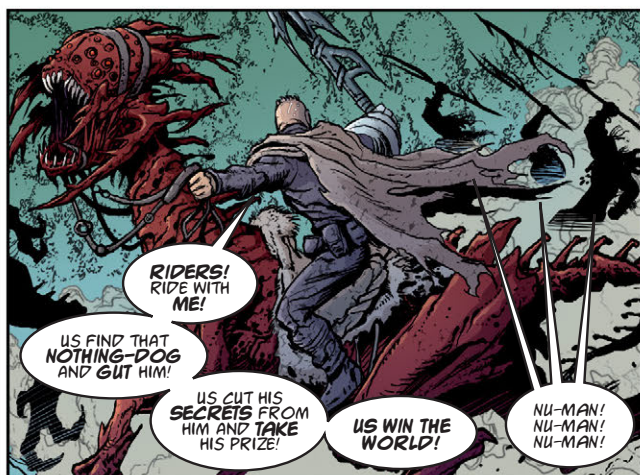


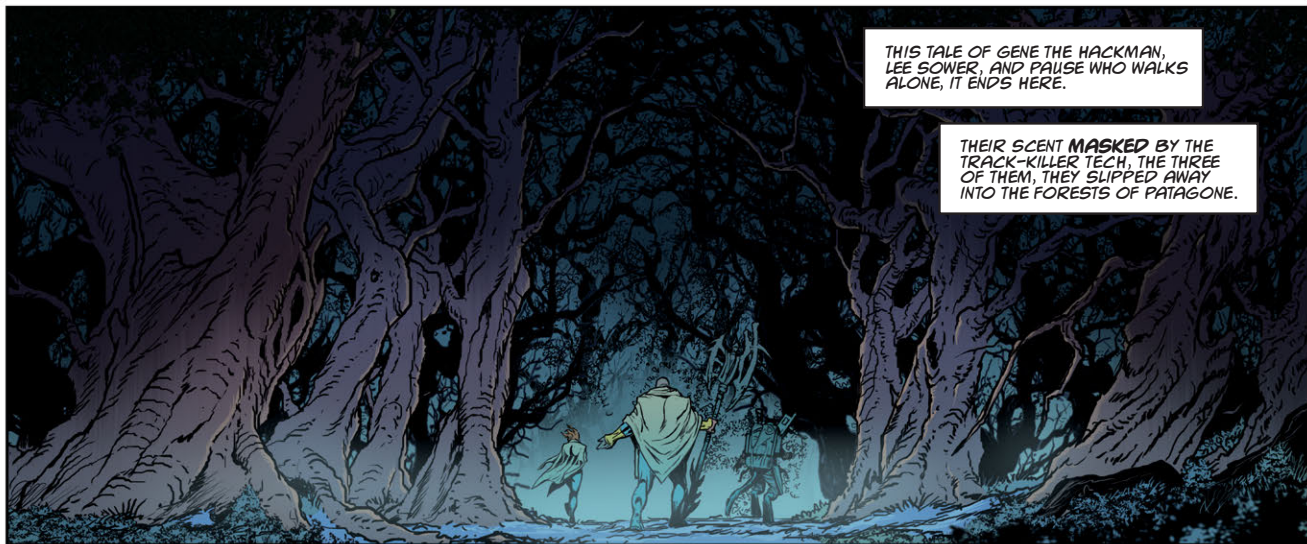
GENE
DOES NOT
HAVE THE
CODES.

GENE
GAVE THEM
TO LEEZEE
SOWER.

WHAT?







THIS TALE OF GENE THE HACKMAN,
LEE SOWER, AND PAUSE WHO WALKS
ALONE, IT ENDS HERE.

THEIR SCENT MASKED BY THE
TRACK-KILLER TECH, THE THREE
OF THEM, THEY SLIPPED AWAY
INTO THE FORESTS OF PATAGONE.



SLIPPED AWAY OUT OF THIS TALE,
SAFE FOR NOW, BUT ALONE.

FOR THOSE THREE, THE FUTURE HELD
NOTHING BUT HARD SURVIVAL,
DAY TO DAY, SCRAPPY EVER AFTER.



FOR THE MASTERS, UP IN
THE SKY, THEY NEVER KNEW
THE END OF IT PROPER.

NEVER KNEW THE TRUTH.



SURFACE SCANS
SHOW THE TARGET
AREA IS SCORCHED,
MASTERTSON.

MAJOR
CANIS?

NO SIGNAL.
I GUESS HE AND HIS
TEAM DIDN'T EXTRACT
FROM THE BLAST-
ZONE IN TIME.



IT'LL TAKE US **YEARS**
TO RECOMPOSE THOSE
CODES, MASTERSON.
YEARS.

WORKING FROM
SCRATCH —

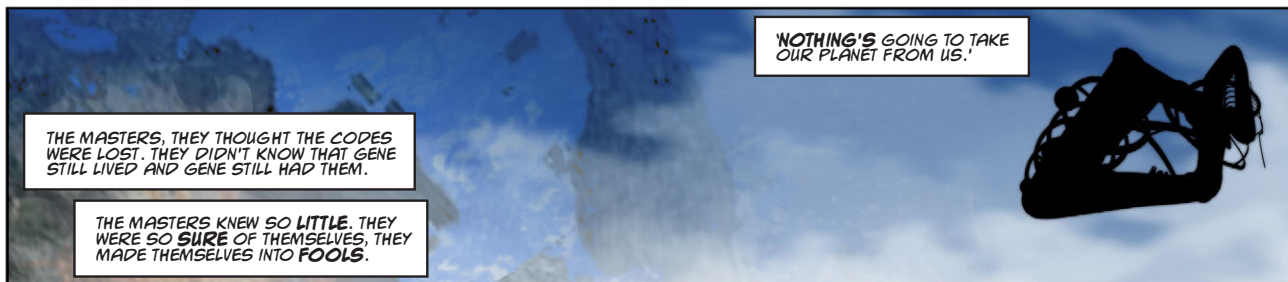
I'M **AWARE**,
HERSHALL.

THE POINT IS, THE
NEOSECTUS DIDN'T GET
THEM. THE **PARASITES**
DIDN'T.



WE'RE STILL IN
THIS FIGHT, AND WE'RE
IN IT FOR THE **LONG**
HAUL.

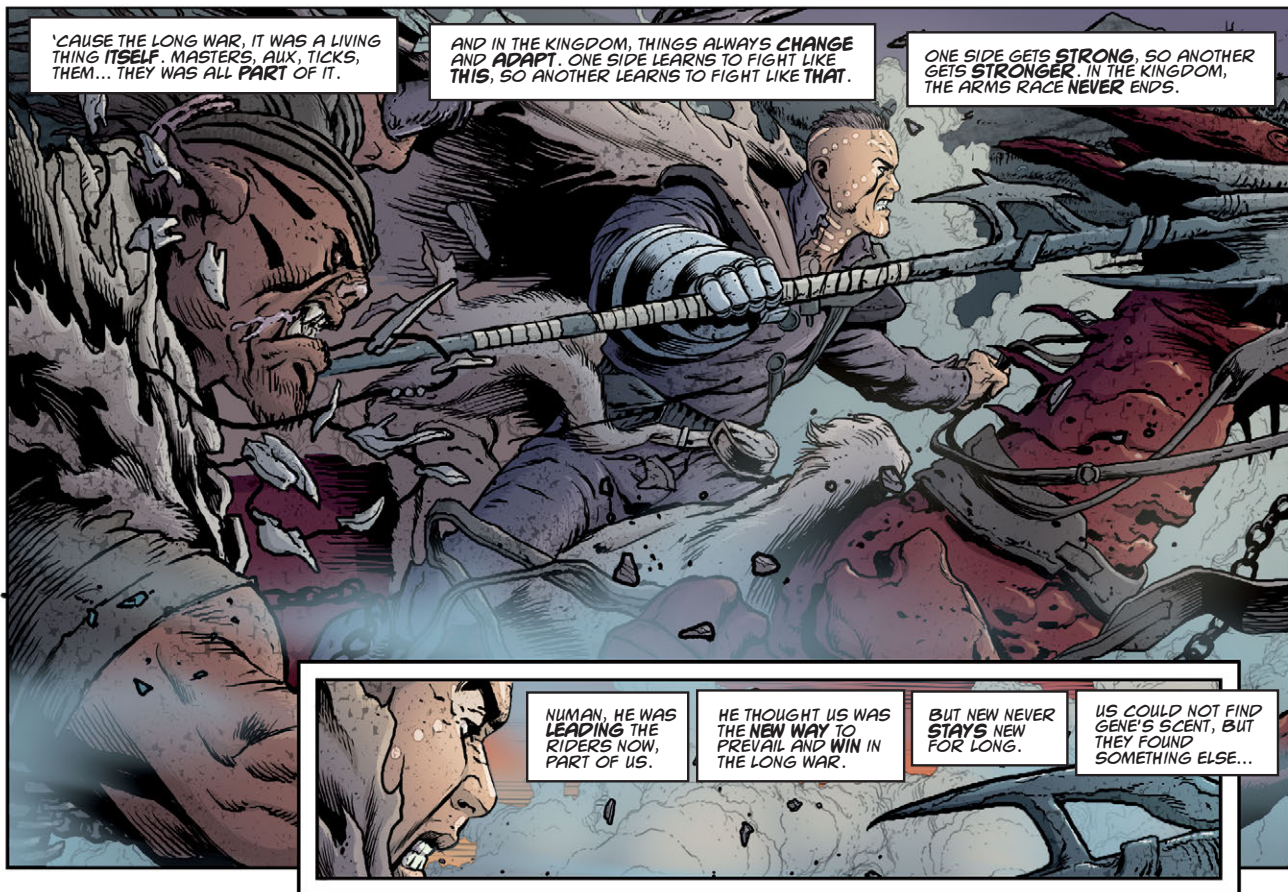
ALWAYS
HAVE BEEN.



NOTHING'S GOING TO TAKE
OUR PLANET FROM US.

THE MASTERS, THEY THOUGHT THE **CODES**
WERE LOST. THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT **GENE**
STILL LIVED AND **GENE** STILL HAD THEM.

THE MASTERS KNEW SO **LITTLE**. THEY
WERE SO **SURE** OF THEMSELVES, THEY
MADE THEMSELVES INTO **FOOLS**.



'CAUSE THE **LONG WAR**, IT WAS A **LIVING**
THING **ITSELF**. MASTERS, AUX, TICKS,
THEM... THEY WAS ALL **PART** OF IT.

AND IN THE **KINGDOM**, THINGS ALWAYS **CHANGE**
AND **ADAPT**. ONE SIDE LEARNS TO FIGHT LIKE
THIS, SO ANOTHER LEARNS TO FIGHT LIKE **THAT**.

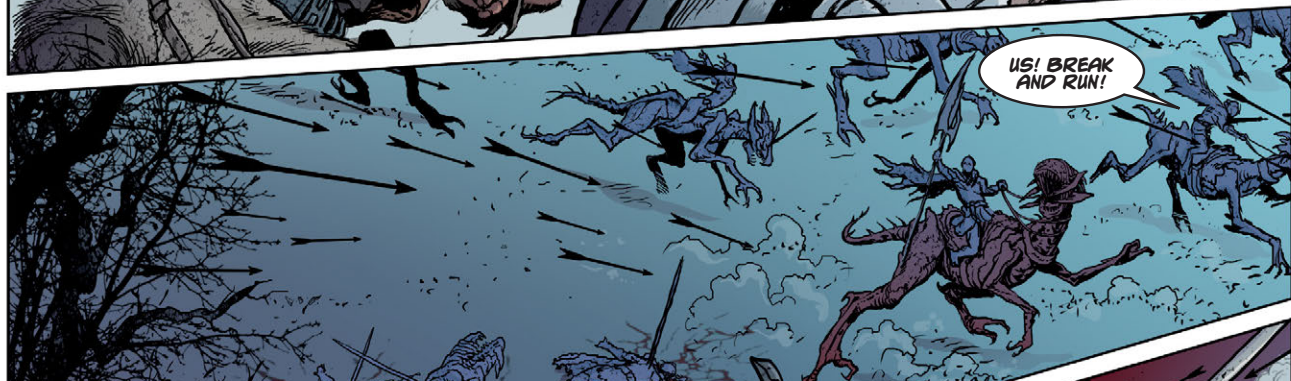
ONE SIDE GETS **STRONG**, SO ANOTHER
GETS **STRONGER**. IN THE **KINGDOM**,
THE ARMS RACE NEVER ENDS.

NUMAN, HE WAS
LEADING THE
RIDERS NOW,
PART OF US.

HE THOUGHT US WAS
THE **NEW WAY** TO
PREVAIL AND WIN IN
THE **LONG WAR**.

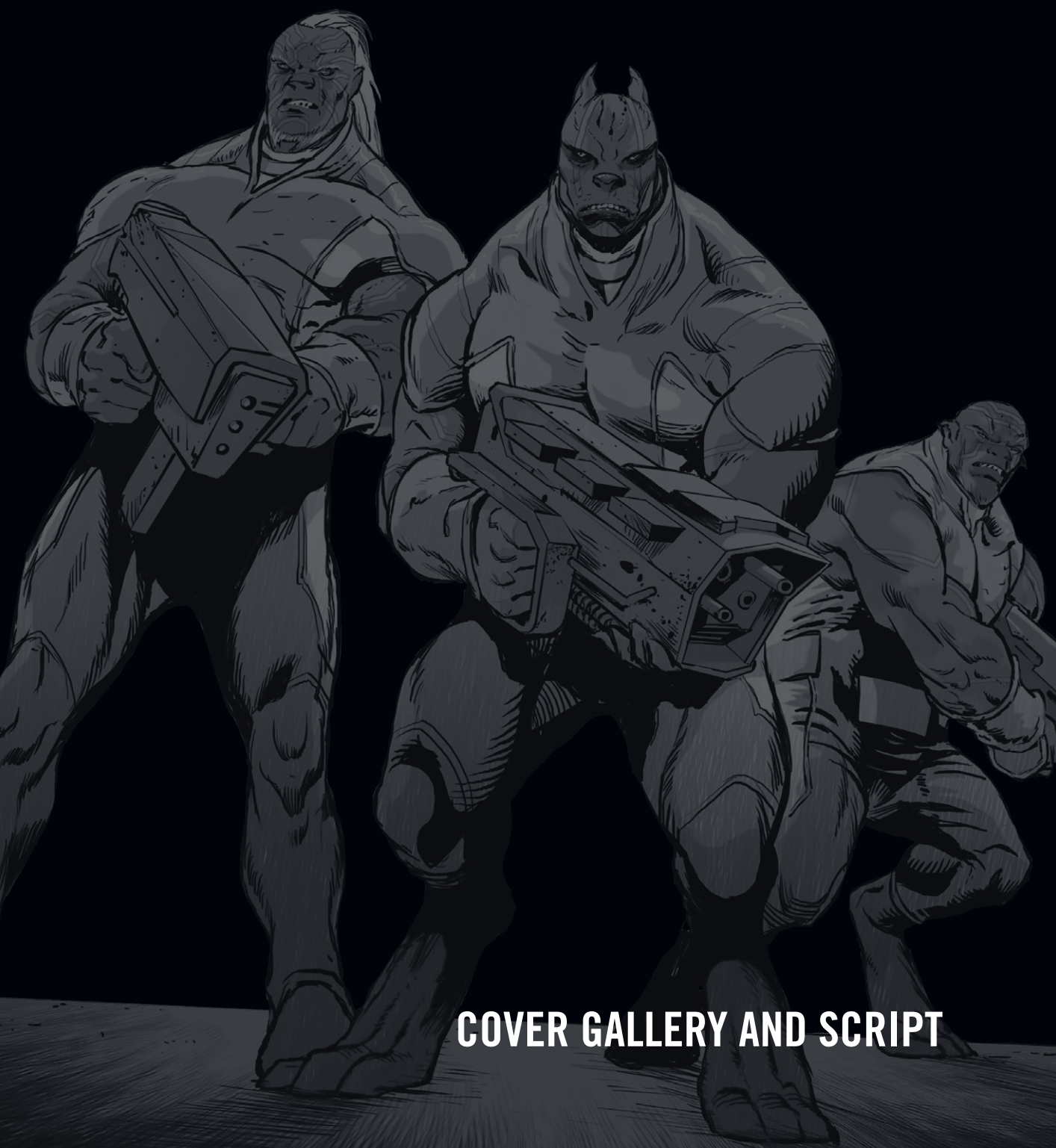
BUT **NEW** NEVER
STAYS NEW
FOR LONG.

US COULD NOT FIND
GENE'S SCENT, BUT
THEY FOUND
SOMETHING ELSE...



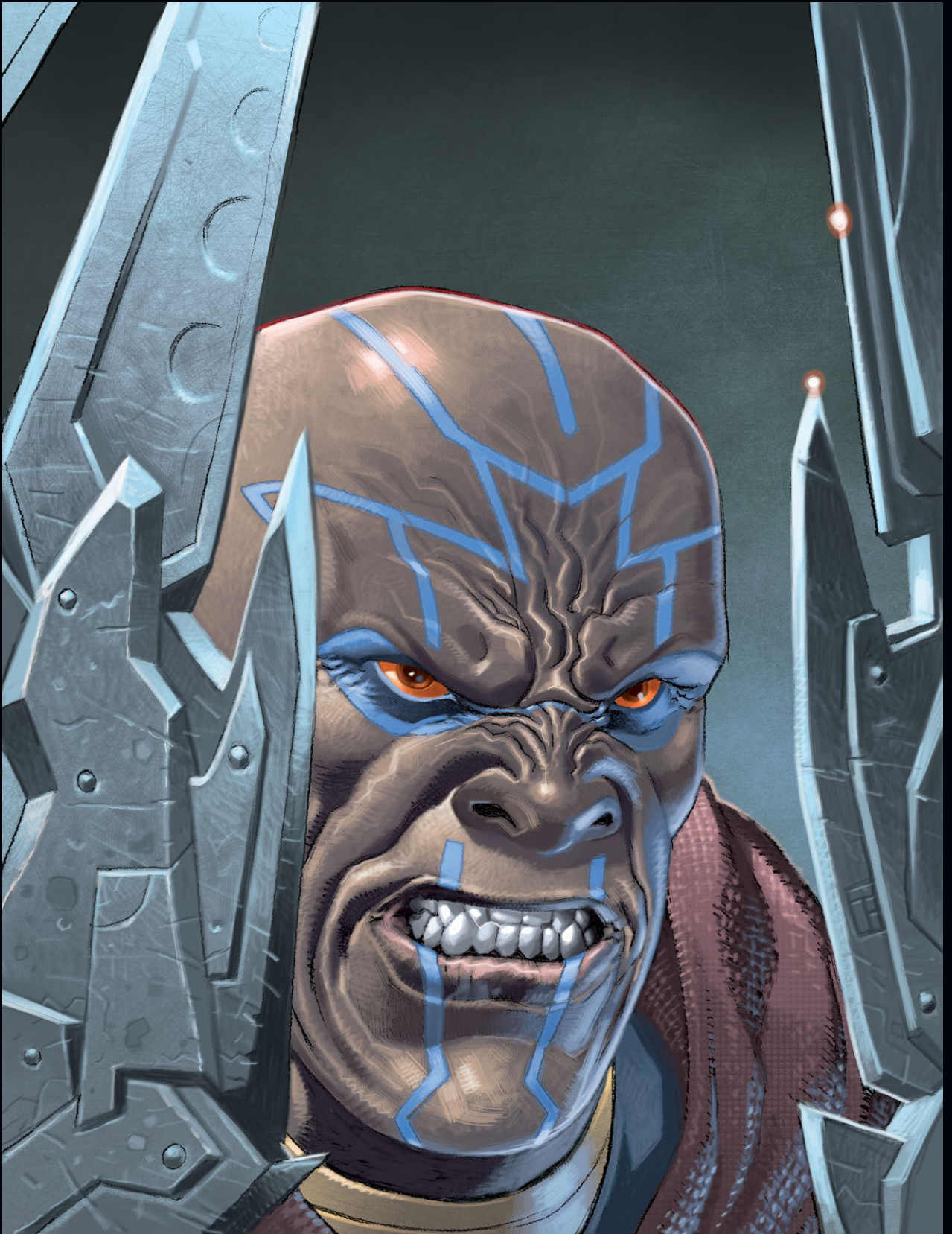






COVER GALLERY AND SCRIPT





KINGDOM BOOK 7

"AS IT IS IN HEAVEN" by Dan Abnett

Part one - 10 pages (1 of 12)

PAGE ONE

1. Page wide, cinematic panel, a longshot across beautiful flat Midwest American-style farmland, golden corn, a blue sky, a small farm in the distance. Idyllic, reminiscent of the scenery in our original Leezee Sower story, "The Promised Land". This is the 'hour blue', just before sunset. Amazing light and colour. Idyllic. Did I mention idyllic?

2. Page wide. Tracking in towards the farm.

CAP

I HAD A DOG ONCE.

3. Page wide. Tracking in so we see GENE standing outside the farmhouse or barn, looking into the distance. He is calm, happy, untroubled, just enjoying the evening air. He carries no weapons, just wears his basic suit (the body suit he will be wearing in this issue: modern, form-fitting, maybe sleeve-less, futuristic but simple).

CAP

I LOVED THAT DOG.

CAP

HE WAS A GOOD DOG. LOYAL AND STRONG.

4. Page wide. On Gene as he turns with an almost smile to see CLARA BOW sitting on the porch or nearby, the two very young PUPS playing at her feet. All look happy, content, well fed.

CAP

HE WENT TO LIVE ON A FARM IN THE COUNTRY. THEY SAID IT WOULD BE A GOOD LIFE FOR HIM THERE.

CAP

I HOPE HE IS HAPPY.

PAGE TWO

1. Page wide. Cut to an astonishing, fairly close up view of the HUMAN SPACE STATION hanging above the Earth. Majestic, serene, ultra modern, like a shot from 2001.

FROM 1

DO WE HAVE AN UPDATE? HAS ANYTHING COME THROUGH TODAY?

FROM 2

THE SYSTEMS ARE STILL GLITCHY. NO IDEA WHERE THIS BUG HAS COME FROM. SURFACE SENSORS WERE DOWN FOR SIX HOURS.

2. Page wide. Cinematically track in to the central part of the station where the voices are coming from.

FROM 1

CAN WE GET IT FIXED, PLEASE? CAN WE GET THIS CRAP IRONED OUT?

FROM 2

A FULL SYSTEM REVIEW IS UNDERWAY. WE SHOULD BACK TO OPTIMUM BY TOMORROW.

FROM 1 (LINKED)

CHRIST, YOU SAID THAT YESTERDAY.

3. Interior. Very high tech, very polished and sleek. Moody lighting. Full figure, LEEZEE walks towards us, looking slightly apprehensive. She is older now, early twenties, a good-looking young woman. She wears the same design of one-piece body suit

that all the human will be wearing, a unisex uniform in the tradition of Star Trek: Next Gen. They are colour coded according to rank, so maybe it's a white unitard with a coloured panel down the middle of the body. Her colour panel is blue (low level), above that is green (technical), yellow (security), and white (command). She is approaching us along a high-tech hallway. Apertures - doorways - on either side show views into large control rooms where humans in green-bar suits operate high tech control consoles.

FROM OFF

WHATEVER, WE NEED AN UPDATE. WE NEED TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE SURFACE.

4. She's about to enter a room through an open hatch at the end of the hallway. This is where the voices are coming from. She is hesitant.

FROM DOORWAY

THE END WAR BEGAN SIX MONTHS AGO.

(JOINED)

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE. WE NEED TO KNOW IF WE'RE WINNING.

5. Match shot. She suddenly starts as BULL appears out of the shadows beside her, glaring down at her. BULL is another aux soldier like CANIS. But he's a little bigger and more aggressive looking. His suit yellow-barred. He looms over her.

BULL

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, LEE?

LEEZEE

N-NO, MR BULL.

(JOINED)

I WAS JUST--

PAGE THREE

1. Page wide, large. We're in the room now, revealing it. It's a split-level control room, lined with consoles. There are several adult humans present. All where white uniforms. They are NUMAN (his previously severed arm in a gro-pair sling, like the one Gene wore), HERSHALL, MASTERSON (a tall, handsome back man - new character) and FREER (an older Chinese woman - new character). Major Canis is also present, in attendance (yellow bar). There could be a several other humans too. They were having a discussion, but all look around at the doorway where Leezee stands nervously looking in, BULL looming behind her.

MASTERSON

I GET THAT, HERSHALL, BUT--

(JOINED)

AUX, IS THERE A PROBLEM?

BULL

I FOUND THIS ONE OUTSIDE, MASTERSON.

2. Leezee's POV as they all look at her, stern. Masterson snaps and points at her (us).

MASTERSON

DAMMIT, LEE. YOU KNOW THIS ROOM IS TOP-TIER PERSONNEL ONLY.

3. On Leezee stepping nervously into the room to face them.

LEEZEE

I'M SORRY, MR MASTERSON. I HAD A QUESTION.

(JOINED)

A MESSAGE CAME TO THE SHELTER SAYING WE WERE TO TURN OFF SUPPORT ON THE WILD AUX.

(JOINED)

IS THAT RIGHT?

4. Masterson and Hershall glance at Numan.

NUMAN

IT'S REALLY NOT NECESSARY. THEY'RE NOT DOING ANY HARM. THEY'RE SAFE AND THEY'RE WELL.

MASTERSON

THEY'RE A DRAIN ON RESOURCES, NUMAN.

HERSHALL

SCREW RESOURCES. THEY'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP AROUND. A THROWBACK TO THE OLD WAR.

(JOINED)

THEY NO LONGER HAVE A PURPOSE.

5. Numan reacts to Hershall, but Masterson cuts him off.

NUMAN

COME ON, HERSHALL! ADMIT YOUR DISLIKE OF THEM IS PERSONAL--

MASTERSON

THAT'S ENOUGH. HERSHALL'S RIGHT. THEY'RE OBSOLETE.

(JOINED)

LEE, I SIGNED THE ORDER FOR THEM TO BE EUTHANISED. THAT NEEDS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

6. Masterson glances at Canis.

CANIS

DO YOU WANT ME TO DO IT, SIR?

MASTERSON

WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND, MAJOR CANIS--

7. Back on Leezee, a determined by sad portrait.

LEEZEE

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR. I'LL DO IT.

(JOINED)

I KNOW THEM. I WILL DO IT KINDLY.

PAGE FOUR

1. Page wide. Back on the 'farm', idyllic as before. Gene looks towards the barn.

CAP

LIFE ON THE FARM IN THE COUNTRY IS GOOD. THERE ARE NO TROUBLES.

CAP

NO DANGERS.

CAP

EVERYONE IS HAPPY.

2. Page wide. He steps towards the barn. There's something wrong with it. This is actually all VR, so this is a VR glitch, but the barn is slightly distorting, malforming, like a blip on a video playback. Just the barn, not the landscape around. The voice comes from the barn. It should be lettered in an ugly, ragged style (balloon and all) like a 'horror voice'.

CAP

EVERY DAY IS SUNNY. EVERY DAY IS PEACEFUL.

CAP

NOTHING DIFFERENT EVER HAPPENS.

BLN NO TAIL

GENE.

3. Page wide. Cut to Leezee in 'the Shelter', a lower deck, less sleek, more functional, more bare metal. Crude, in fact, a bit like a modern jail, with chain-link cages covering apertures in the wall. She is entering a chamber to face a large 'coffin like' upright tank (Gene's inside this) that is being fed with life support and power cables. There's a console nearby, with a screen. Through the chain-covered apertures, we can see two other neighbouring chamber just like this.

[NO DIALOGUE]

4. Tight on her as she checks the console and monitor seen in the last panel. We can read the typeset copy on the screen.

Copy
Shelter
simulation running: "A Farm In The Country"

5. Back on Gene on the farm, looking at us (we're the barn) quizzically) as CUTBACK and MICHELLE BARKMANN (both dressed in suits like his) stroll up cheerfully behind him.

CAP

YOUR FRIENDS COME AND VISIT YOU EVERY DAY TO SHARE OLD STORIES.

CAP

YOU LAUGH TOGETHER.

CUTBACK

HEY, GENE-DOG! HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

6. Behind all three as they look at the distorting barn, puzzled.

BLN NO TAIL

GENE. HACKMAN. YOU MUST GET OUT. LEAVE.

MICHELLE

WHAT IS THAT, GENE?

GENE

GENE DOES NOT KNOW, MICHELLE BARKMANN.

PAGE FIVE

1. On Leezee, very sadly operating another console beside the 'coffin'. We see the screen copy.

Copy
Simulation cancel yes/no
Begin euthanasia protocol yes/no

2. Back on the farm. Gene and the other two turn away from the distorting barn to see a small figure walking towards them through the corn. She's a way off yet, but it's Leezee, exactly as she was as a kid in The Promised Land.

BLN NO TAIL

GET OUT, AUX. GET OUT, DOG. BEFORE IT ENDS.

CUTBACK

GENE-DOG! A STRANGER'S COMING!

3. Tight on Gene's face as he looks, eyes narrowed.

GENE

(small)
NOT A STRANGER, CUTBACK...

4. Back outside as Leezee operates the console.

Copy
End simulation. Cancel suspension. Open lock.

5. She looks around as, like cupboard doors, the front of the coffin begins to open.

6. Page wide. Back on the farm. Behind Gene as he stares into the corn field as the sad-faced little girl walks towards him, close now.

LeeZEE

HELLO, GENE. YOU'RE A GOOD DOG.

GENE

(small)

LEEZEE SOWER...?

PAGE SIX

1. Big page wide. Match angle so we're still behind Gene as last panel, but everything in front of him is splitting down the middle vertically, the entire landscape, the cornfield, everything. The vertical split is opening, cold light pouring in. The split is actually running right down through Leezee, dividing her in half.

BLN NO TAIL

I'VE COME TO SAVE YOU--SKZZZZKKKT!

2. Big, page wide. The Shelter. The coffin has opened up, spilling out a flood of dirty amniotic fluid. Gene, dressed in the simple suit they put him in, is falling out of it, dazed and sluggish. He is wired up with leads and tubes and pipes. Leezee hurries to him, trying to support him.

LEEZEE

I'VE COME TO SAVE YOU, GENE.

3. Tight in. She holds him. He looks up at her, sick, drowsy.

GENE

(small)

L-LEEZEE?

4. Tight in. She looks down at him.

LEEZEE

THAT'S RIGHT.

PAGE SEVEN

1. Cut back to the control room as before. Numan is studying a large monitor showing graphics of the surface below. The others move to him.

NUMAN

THE SYSTEM'S BACK UP. WE'VE GOT VISUAL CAPTURE OF THE SURFACE...

(JOINED)

GOD, IT LOOKS LIKE THE WEAPONISED HORDE HAS PRETTY MUCH WIPED OUT THE OUTBACK TERRITORY.

(JOINED)

THAT AUX COMMUNITY'S GONE.

HERSHALL

IT WAS JUST IN THE WAY.

2. They look at the screen. Hershall solemnly points out a detail.

NUMAN

THERE WERE HUMANS THERE TOO.

HERSHALL

BIG PICTURE PLEASE, NUMAN.

(JOINED)

THE HORDE'S PRIMARY TARGETS ARE THE MAIN THEM NESTS.
(JOINED)
WE'RE ORCHESTRATING A WAR HERE.

3. He looks at her, Masterson is in shot, grim.

NUMAN

ARE WE? OR ARE WE JUST MANUFACTURING A NEW ENEMY?

HERSHALL

EXTERMINATION IS EXPECTED IN A TEN- YEAR WINDOW. ONCE THEM ARE GONE, WE CAN
DEACTIVATE THE WEAPONISED HORDE USING THE FAULTY GENE WE CODED INTO THEM.

MASTERSON

WE JUST SWITCH THEM OFF.

4. The three look at each other. Behind them Freer is calling out from her console.

NUMAN

OUR BEST-LAID PLANS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SCREWING UP.

MASTERSON

THERE ARE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND HUMAN BEINGS IN CRYO ON THIS STATION AND THE
DEEP-SURFACE FACILITIES, NUMAN.

(JOINED)

THEY ARE WAITING TO WAKE UP AND RECOLONISE OUR PLANET.

(JOINED)

THEY'VE BEEN WAITING TOO LONG. WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO SCREW UP ANYTHI--

FREER

HEY!

5. They move to her.

MASTERSON

WHAT IS IT, FREER?

FREER

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER GLITCH.

(JOINED)

WE'VE GOT FUNCTIONAL DEACTIVATION IN THE SHELTER.

6. Page wide. Back in the Shelter, Leezee tries to help the immense, woozy Gene up.

LEEZEE

STEADY... STEADY! YOU'RE GOING TO BE WEAK.

(JOIEND)

YOU'VE BEEN IN V.R. SUSPENSION FOR ALMOST SIX MONTHS.

FROM OFF

LEE?

PAGE EIGHT

1. Page wide, pull around. An aux (like Canis and Bull, but this is a different one - Seizer) is entering the room. He's aggressive, annoyed. He glares at her and the hunched Gene.

SEIZER

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LEEZEE

MR SEIZER! I... I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!

(JOINED)

I CAN'T LET YOU PUT THEM TO SLEEP!

2. Furious, Seizer grabs the startled Leezee and pins her to a wall, snarling at her. Gene is foreground, head down, weak, almost on his hands and knees.

SEIZER

IDIOT! YOU CAN'T FREE A STRAY LIKE THIS!

(JOINED)

IT'S A KILLER! IT WON'T THANK YOU, IT'LL RIP OUT YOUR THROAT!

LEEZEE

ACCH! M-MR SEIZER, YOU'RE HURTING ME!

3. Tight on Gene as he looks up at us, slow, grim, aggressive.

FROM OFF

YOU'RE HURTING ME! STOP!

GENE

(small)

LEEZEE...?

4. Big, explosive dynamic. Gene leaps at Seizer, smashing him aside. Leezee tumbles out of his grip. Gene is shredding and snapping most of the wires and tubes dangling from him.

GENE

LEAVE HER!

SEIZER

UHNN!

PAGE NINE

1. Page wide. Seizer and gene lock in a brutal hand to hand fight. Leezee cowers, looking on in alarm.

GENE

LEAVE HER ALONE!

SEIZER

GNNHH! YOU SEE? YOU SEE HOW DANGEROUS HE IS?

LEEZEE

GENE... STOP!

CAP

I THINK I'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

2. Seizer smashes Gene off him.

SEIZER

GET OFF ME, MONGREL!

GENE

GNUUH!

CAP

A BIG MISTAKE.

3. Seizer snaps out a weapon - maybe he has Gene-style blades, or at least some funky blade-weapon like Canis's that snaps out of a back-pack?

SEIZER

IT'S TIME TO PUT YOU DOWN.

4. Dynamic. He swings the blade at Gene - a powerful stroke, but the feral gene grabs and clamps his arm.

SEIZER

YAAAH!

5. Continuous. Still clamping the arm, gene punches Seizer in the face, breaking his nose, teeth, blood flying.

SEIZER

GNNHHKKT!

CAP

GENE IS FERAL. I THOUGHT HE'D KNOW ME. I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO CONTROL HIM.

6. Gene savage rips the blade out of the bloody, dazed Seizer's hand.

CAP

I CAN'T CONTROL THAT. NO WAY.

SEIZER

GNHHH...

PAGE TEN

1. Big, page wide. Gene brutally plunges the blade through Seizer's chest. Lots of blood.

CAP

I CAN'T CONTROL THAT.

2. Seizer is collapsed dead on the deck in a spreading lake of blood. Blood flecked and terrifying, weapon in hand, the monstrous Gene turns to look at the cowering Leezee.

CAP

WHAT WAS I EVEN THINKING?

CAP

HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.

3. Suddenly gentle, Gene reaches out a bloody hand towards Leezee.

GENE

LEEZEE SOWER. I FOUND YOU.

LEEZEE

GENE?

4. She reaches out to touch his hand, eyes wide.

GENE

YOU GOT OLD. YOU GREW UP. BUT IT IS YOU. IT IS YOUR SCENT.

(JOINED)

I FOUND YOU.

5. They stand face to face looking at each other. He is massive compared to her.

LEEZEE

HELLO, GENE.

GENE

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, LEEZEE SOWER?

6. She take shim by the hand, urgent.

LEEZEE

WE HAVE TO RUN.

DTP

NEXT PROG: HUNT THE AUX!

DAN ABNETT

Dan Abnett is a seven-times New York Times bestselling author and an award-winning comic book writer. He has written over fifty novels, including the acclaimed Gaunt's Ghosts series, the Eisenhorn and Ravenor trilogies, volumes of the million-selling Horus Heresy series, *The Silent Stars Go By* (**Doctor Who**), **Rocket Raccoon and Groot: Steal the Galaxy**, **The Avengers: Everybody Wants To Rule The World**, **The Wield**, **Triumff: Her Majesty's Hero**, and **Embedded**. In comics, he is known for his work on **The Legion of Super-Heroes**, **Aquaman**, **The Titans**, **Nova**, **Wild's End**, and **The New Deadwardians**. His 2008 run on **The Guardians of the Galaxy** for Marvel formed the inspiration for the blockbuster movie. A regular contributor to the UK's long-running **2000 AD**, he is the creator of series including *Grey Area*, *Lawless*, *Brink*, *Kingdom* and the classic *Sinister Dexter*. He has also written extensively for the games industry, including *Shadow of Mordor* and *Alien: Isolation*.

RICHARD ELSON

Richard Elson's first **2000 AD** work was on a *Future Shock* way back in 1988, and since then he has pencilled *Judge Dredd*, *Time Twisters*, *Terror Tales* and *Tyranny Rex*, as well as the co-created strips *Atavar*, *Roadkill*, *Shadows*, *The Scrap*, *A.H.A.B.*, *Go-Machine* and *Kingdom*. He has also worked for Marvel Comics on **Thor**, **Morbius: The Living Vampire**, **Amazing Spider-Man**, **Journey Into Mystery**, **X-Force**, **Revolutionary War** and **Marvel Zombies**.



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