



SAVAGE 181

DRAGON



SAVAGE DRAGON

by 

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
Letters

NIKOS KOUTSIS
Colors
MIKE TORIS
Flats

JOSH EICHORN
sends them silly with his
star-shine shimmy shuffle smile

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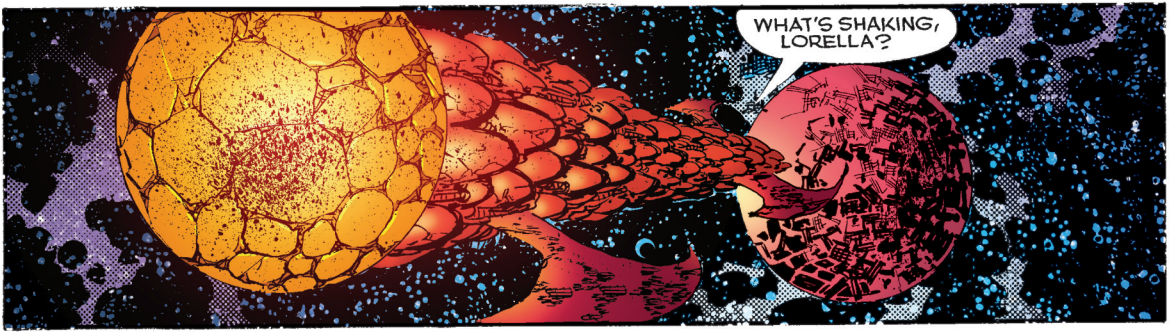
Jana Cook - production artist

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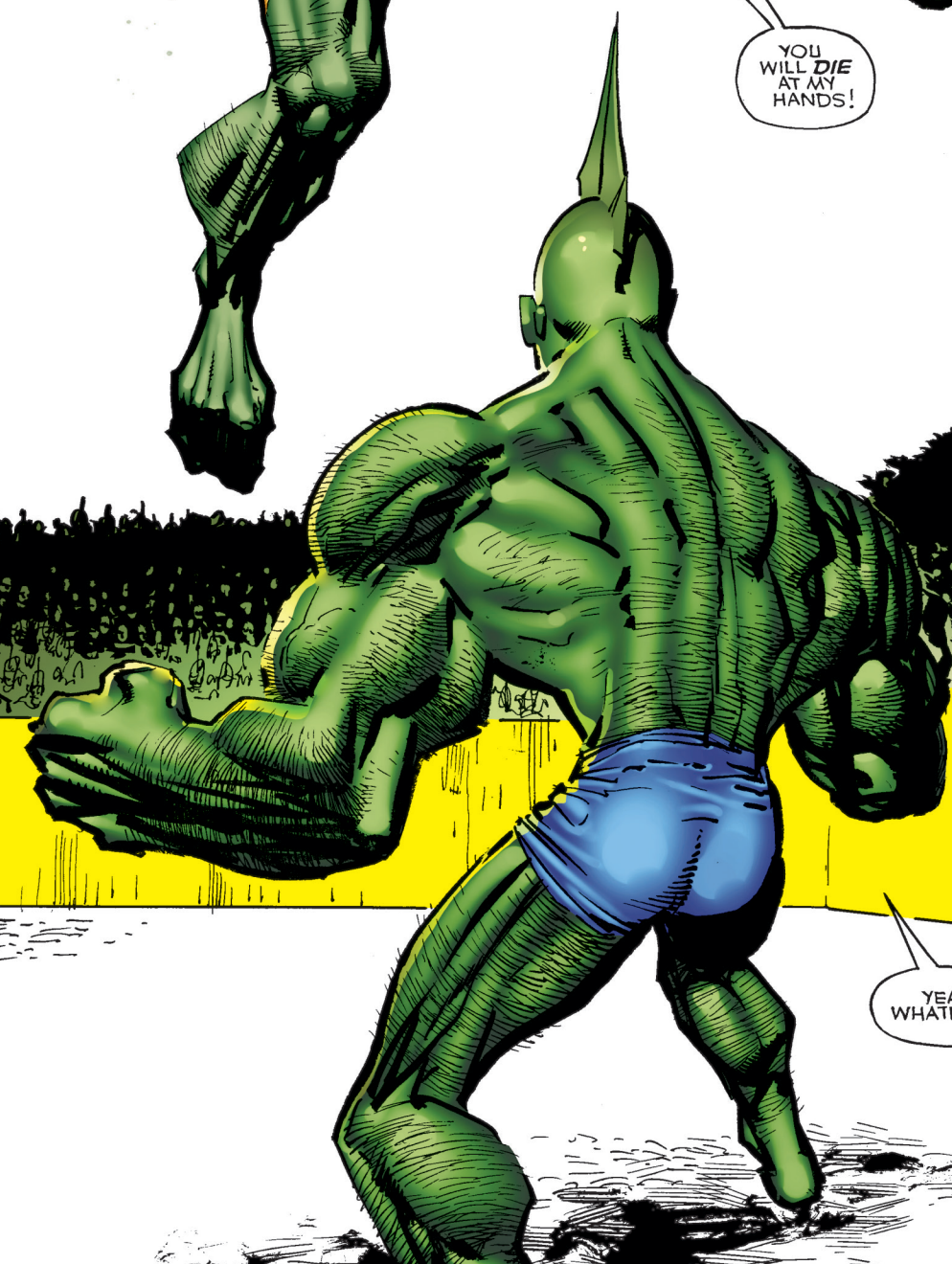
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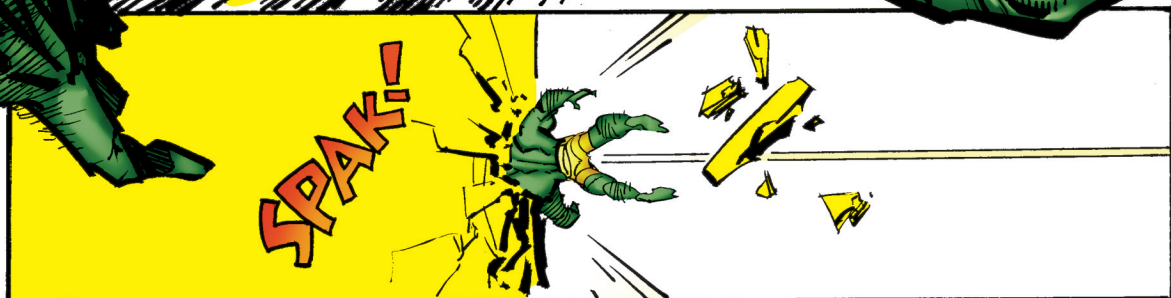
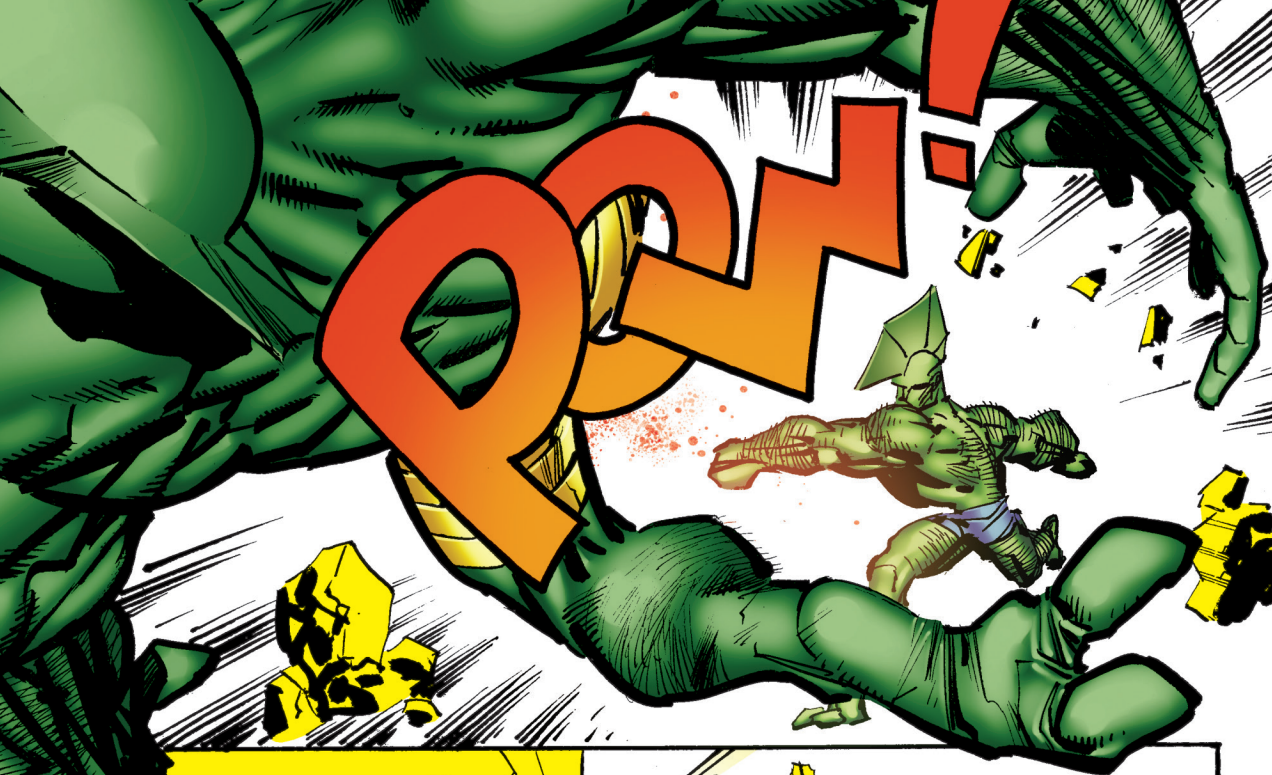


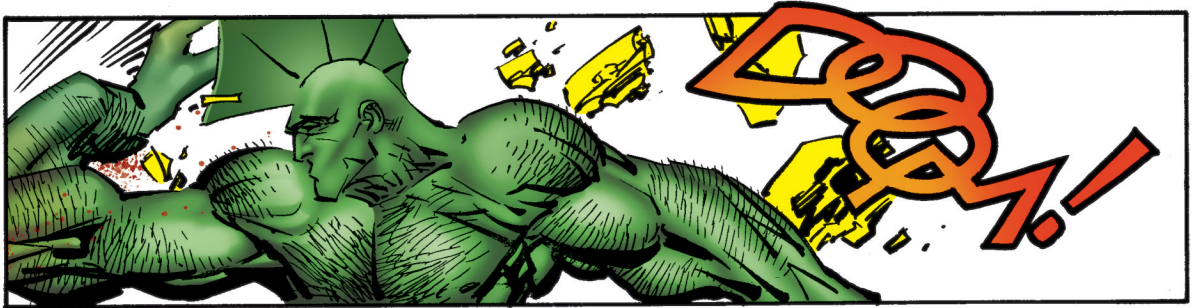
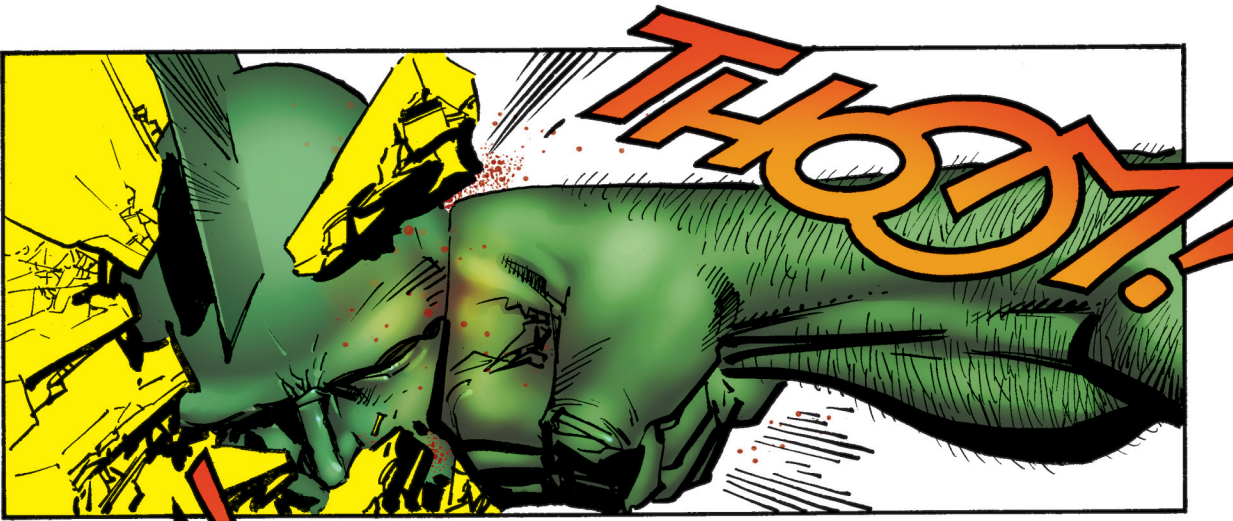
IT HAS
COME TO
THIS,
FATHER!

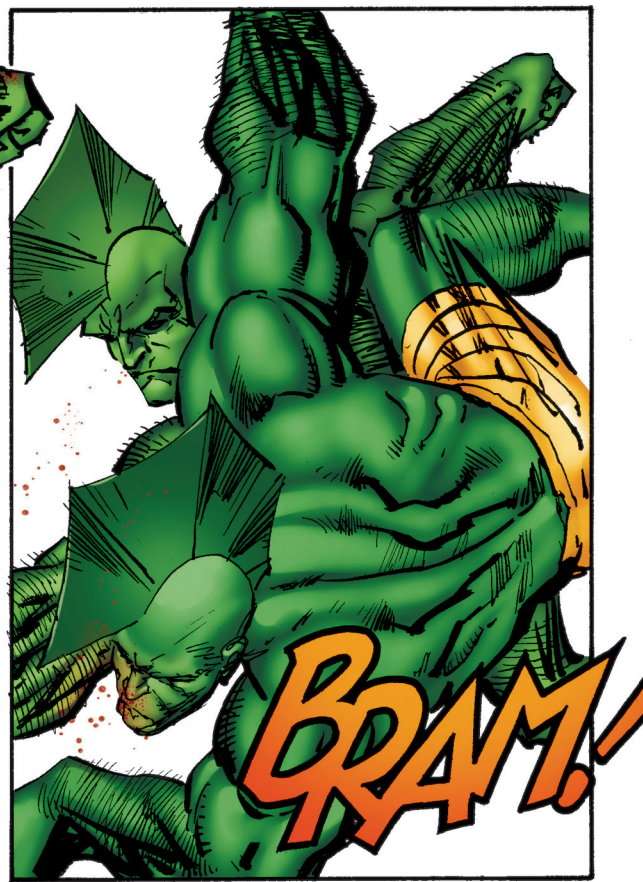
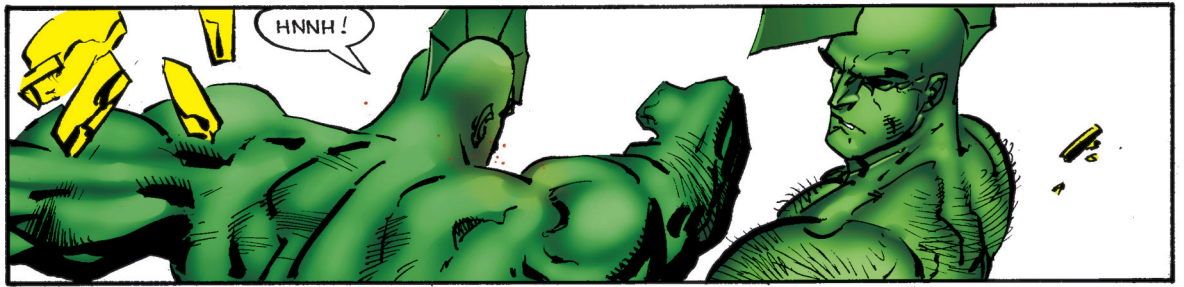
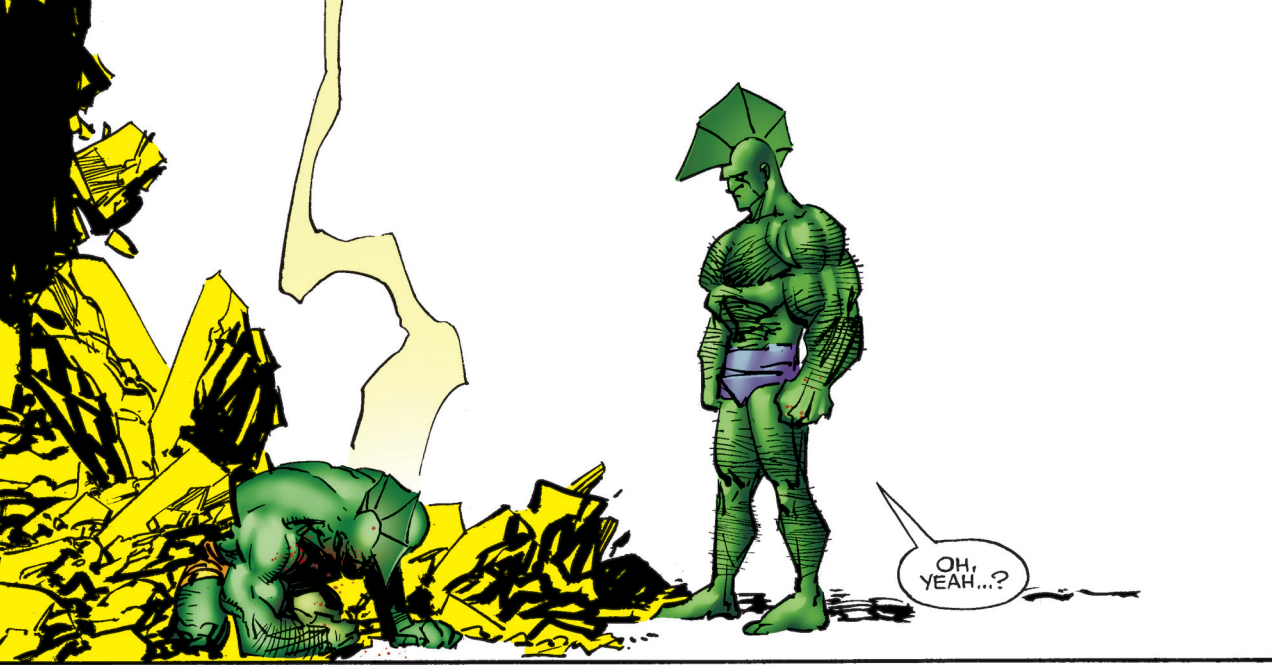
YOU
WILL *DIE*
AT MY
HANDS!

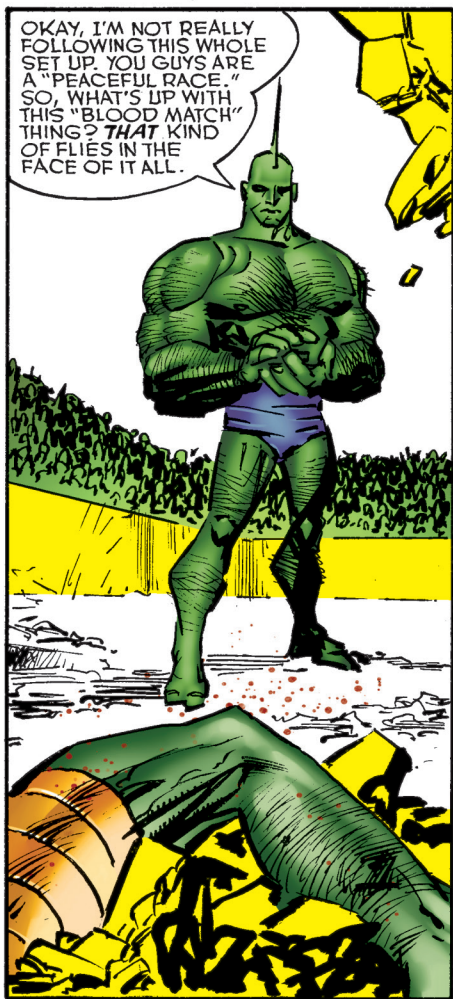
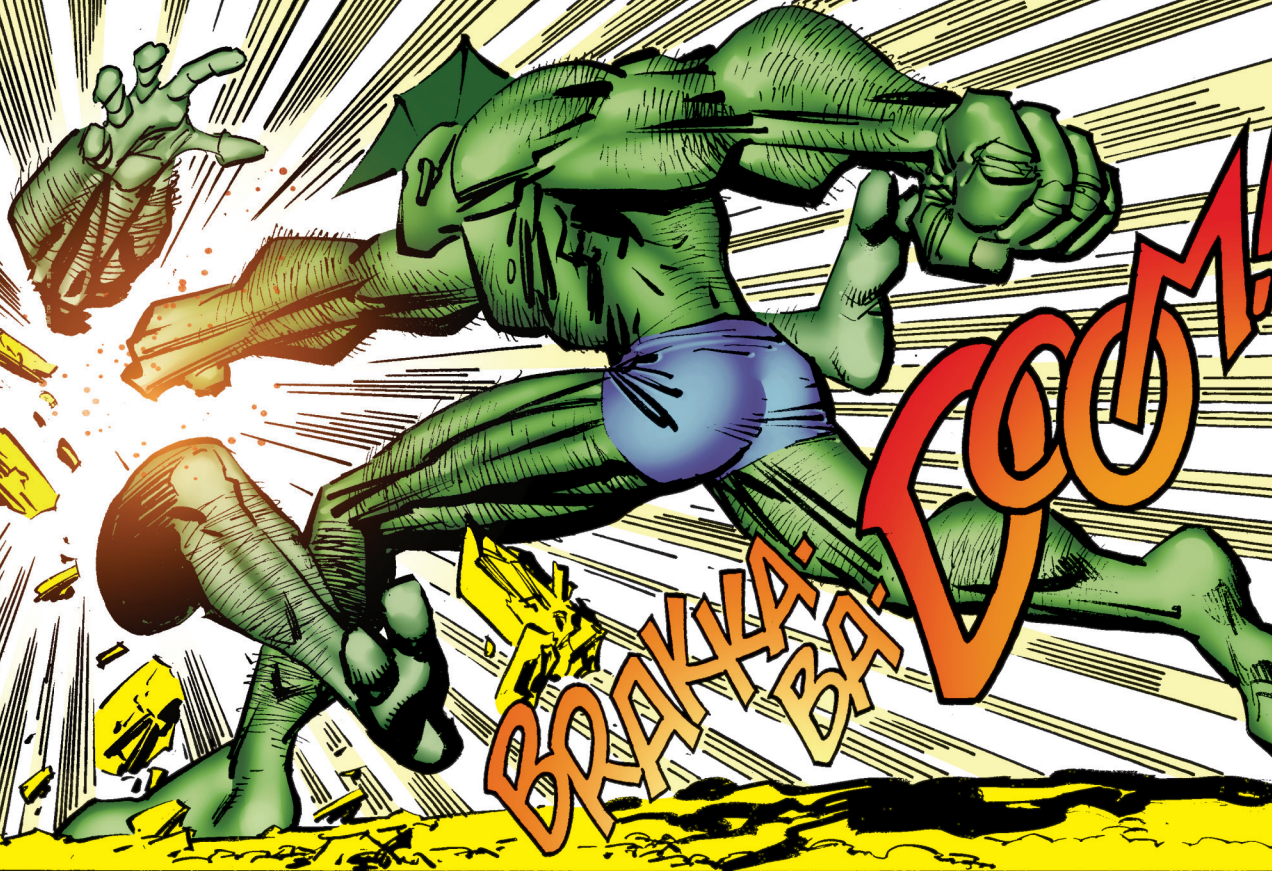


YEAH...
WHATEVER.









OKAY, I'M NOT REALLY FOLLOWING THIS WHOLE SET UP. YOU GUYS ARE A "PEACEFUL RACE." SO, WHAT'S UP WITH THIS "BLOOD MATCH" THING? *THAT* KIND OF FLIES IN THE FACE OF IT ALL.



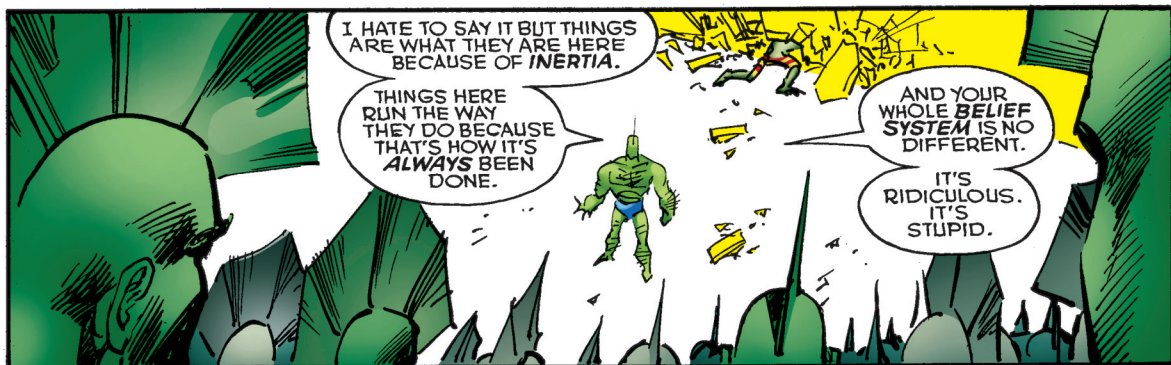
AND, IN ALL SERIOUSNESS-- HAVING ONLY GUYS WITH **SUPERPOWERS** BE THE DE FACTO LEADER IS PRETTY SCREWY.

IT'S NO WONDER THINGS ARE SO MESSED UP WITH YOU GUYS.

BACK ON EARTH WE HAD THIS THING CALLED A **DEMOCRACY**. INDIVIDUALS WOULD CAMPAIGN TO BE THE LEADER AND THE PEOPLE WOULD VOTE TO CHOOSE THE PERSON THEY THOUGHT WOULD DO THE BEST JOB.



WE *DIDN'T* JUST SLUG IT OUT TO SEE WHO WOULD RUN THINGS. WHAT MAKES THE GUY WITH THE MOST POWER THE MOST QUALIFIED TO CALL THE SHOTS?



I HATE TO SAY IT BUT THINGS ARE WHAT THEY ARE HERE BECAUSE OF INERTIA.

THINGS HERE RUN THE WAY THEY DO BECAUSE THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN DONE.

AND YOUR WHOLE BELIEF SYSTEM IS NO DIFFERENT.

IT'S RIDICULOUS. IT'S STUPID.



SOMEBODY WRITES DOWN SOME BIT OF NONSENSE AND YOU ALL JUST GO ALONG WITH IT INSTEAD OF QUESTIONING ITS VALIDITY.

YOU PUT IN PLACE THIS WHOLE SET OF RULES AND BELIEFS AND BECAUSE OF IT NOTHING GETS DONE. IT'S NO WONDER YOU COULD NEVER FIND A SUITABLE PLANET TO CALL HOME.

ALL OF YOUR RULES PREVENTED THAT FROM HAPPENING. ANY PLANET CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE INEVITABLY HAD LIFE AND WAS THEREFORE UNSUITABLE. NO WONDER YOU'VE WANDERED THE GALAXY FOR UNTOLD MILLENNIA.

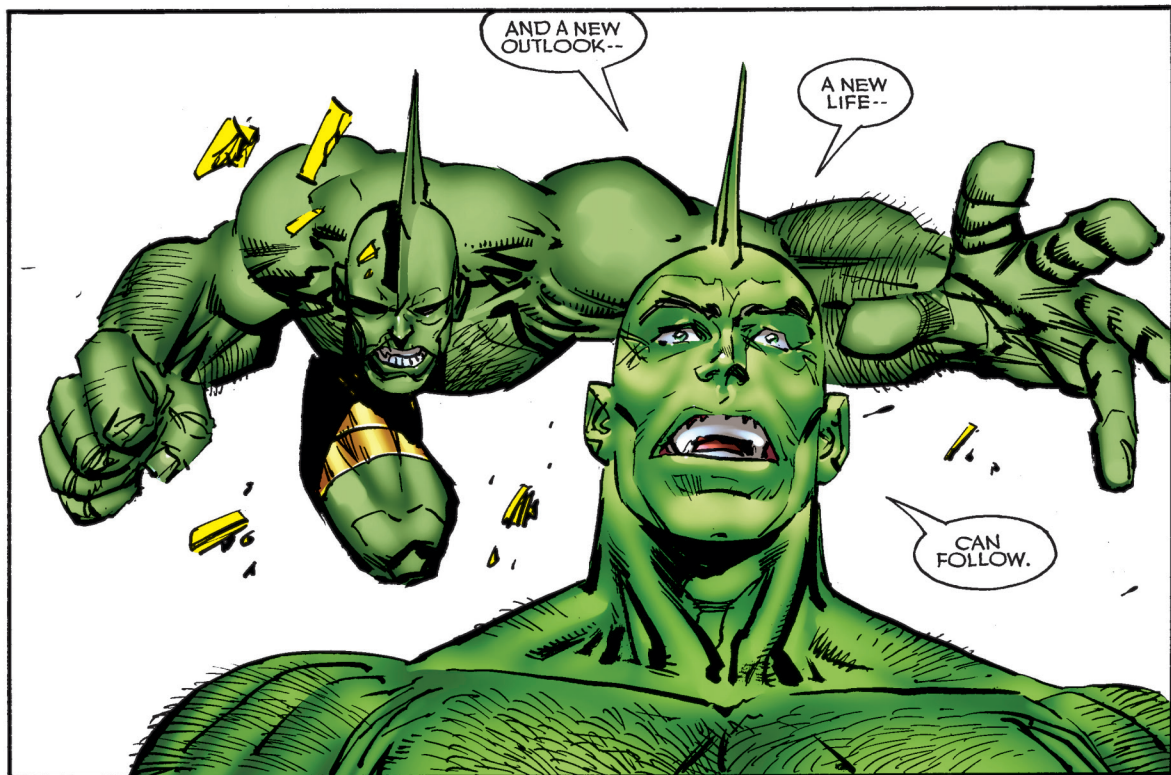


IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT WAY.

PEOPLE CAN CHANGE AND CHANGE CAN BE GOOD.

A NEW WORLD AWAITS YOU. IT'S YOURS NOW. IT CAN BE ANYTHING YOU MAKE OF IT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE STUCK ON THIS GODFORSAKEN TUB SEARCHING THE UNIVERSE FOR A HOME. THIS CAN BE YOUR HOME.

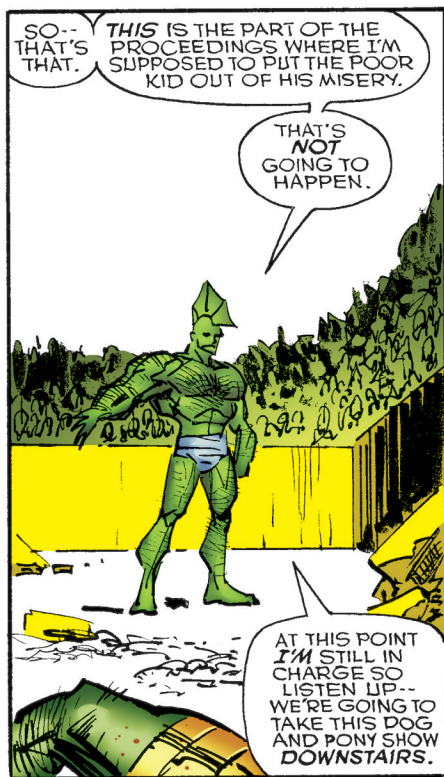
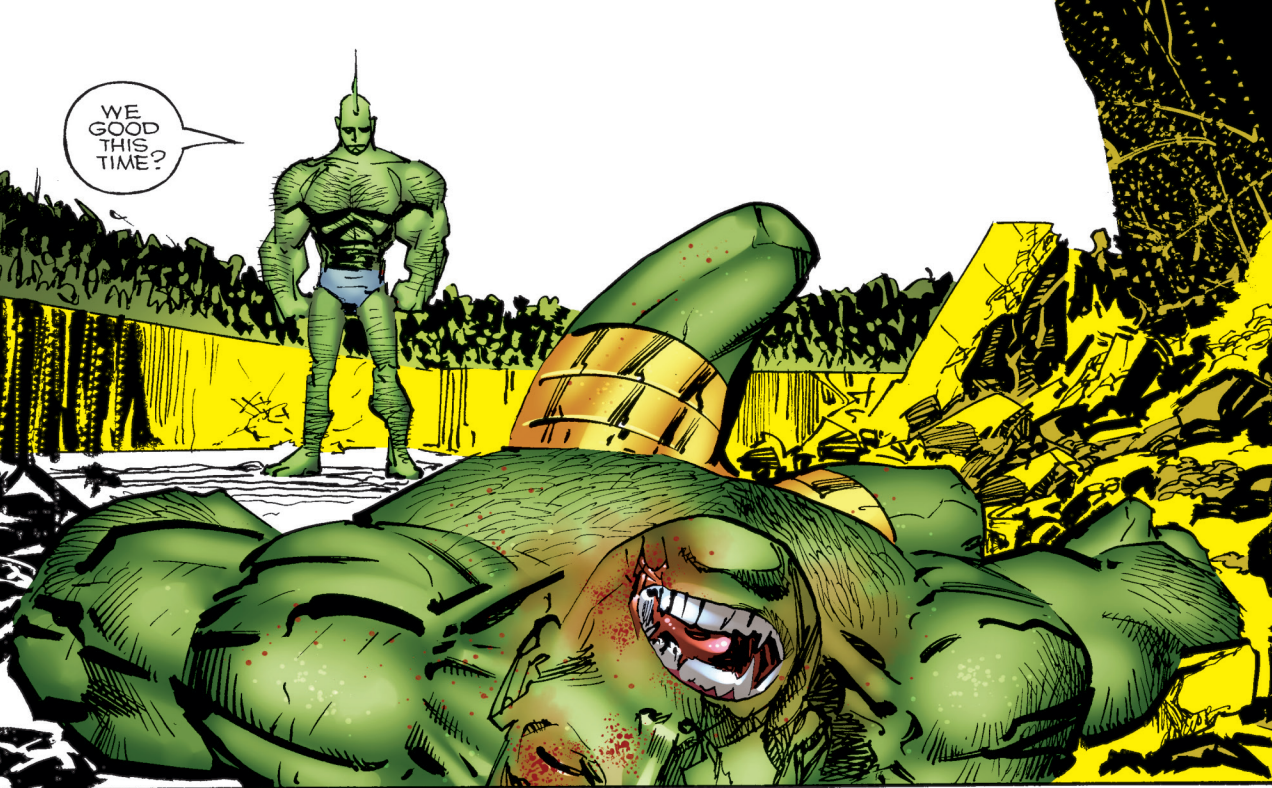


AND A NEW OUTLOOK--

A NEW LIFE--

CAN FOLLOW.







**GOD
IS
DEAD.**

IN OUR
DARKEST
HOUR
GOD CAME
TO OUR
RESCUE.

GOD
ERADICATED
THE INVADING
ALIENS--
DESTROYED
THEIR
SHIPS!

GOD
EXPENDED
ALL OF HIS
MIGHT TO
SAVE US
ALL.

AND, DRAINED
OF HIS POWER,
VULNERABLE AND
WEAK, **GOD** WAS
BLOWN TO PIECES
BY AN AIR FORCE
PILOT WHO
MISTOOK HIM
FOR THE
ENEMY.

GOD
IS DEAD--
AND WE
KILLED
HIM.



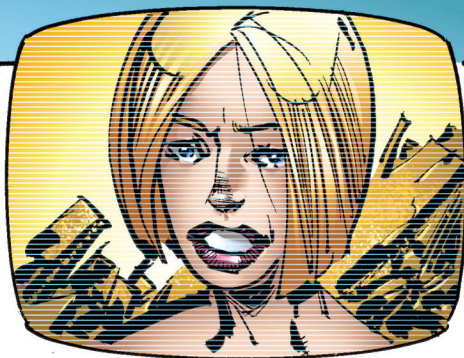
ANGEL
DRAGON WAS
ON THE SCENE
AND WITNESSED
WHAT HAPPENED
FIRSTHAND...

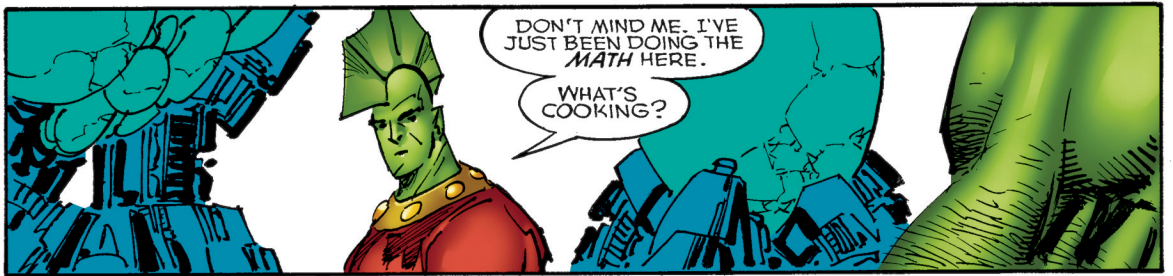
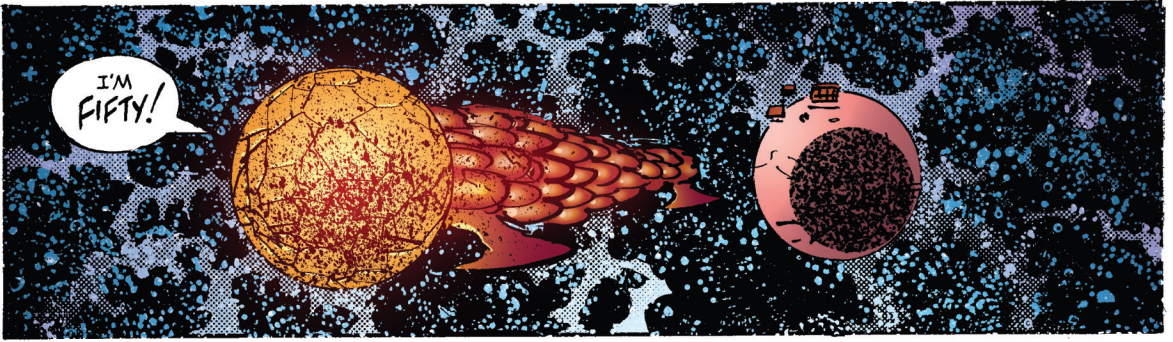
ALL **GOD**
DID WHAT...

WE WERE
IN TROUBLE.
WE CALLED HIM
TO HELP.

ALL **GOD**...
SAVED THE
WORLD...

AND NOW
ALL **GOD** IS...
IS DEAD.







IT'S HARD
TO KNOW
WHERE TO
START.

WE'RE NOT GOING
TO FIX IT ALL
OVERTIGHT.

ASTOUNDING
WHAT DAMAGE
THOSE ALIENS
DID IN JUST--
WHAT-- SIX
HOURS?

MILLIONS
DEAD.

MILLIONS.

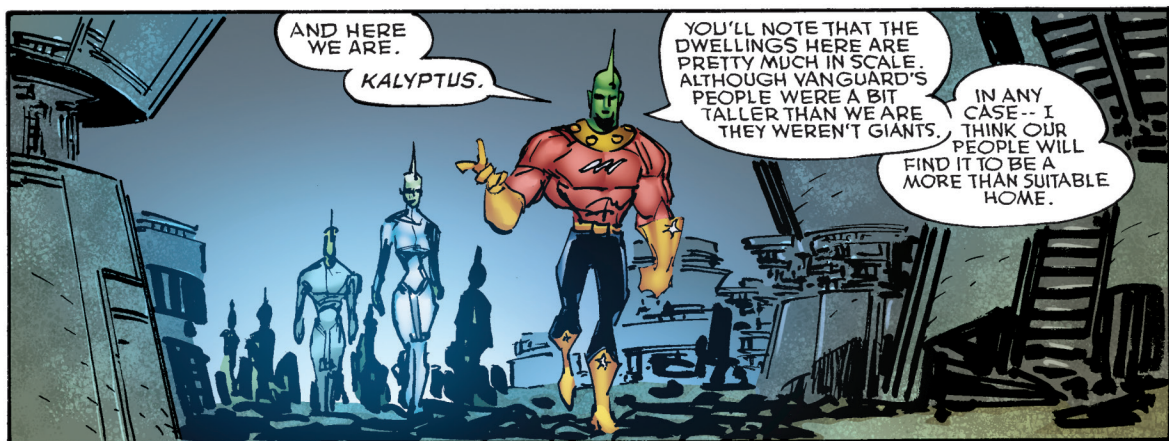
THIS IS
NEVER
GOING TO
BE OKAY.

POPSENSE. KIDS
WILL BE BACK IN
SCHOOL IN A FEW
WEEKS. PEOPLE
WILL BE BACK
TO WORK.

LIFE GOES ON AND A
THING LIKE THIS ONLY
HELPS BRING US
TOGETHER IN A
STRANGE WAY. WE'VE
ALL BEEN THROUGH
SOMETHING TRAGIC.

BUT WE'VE ALL BEEN
THROUGH IT *TOGETHER*.
WE SURVIVED. AND FOR
ALL OF US IT'S IMPOR-
TANT THAT LIFE GOES ON.

IT'LL BE OKAY. IF WE CAN
MAKE IT THROUGH
SEBASTIAN KHAN, MR. GLUM,
AND A COUPLE OF WORLD
WARS-- WE CAN BOUNCE
BACK FROM THIS.



AND HERE WE ARE.

KALYPTUS.

YOU'LL NOTE THAT THE DWELLINGS HERE ARE PRETTY MUCH IN SCALE. ALTHOUGH VANGUARD'S PEOPLE WERE A BIT TALLER THAN WE ARE, THEY WEREN'T GIANTS.

IN ANY CASE-- I THINK OUR PEOPLE WILL FIND IT TO BE A MORE THAN SUITABLE HOME.



IT'S NOT A HOME. IT'S A GRAVEYARD.

THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK, SWEETHEART.



ONE GROUP INVADES AND ANOTHER IS WIPED OUT. IT'S HAPPENED TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

THE BIG DIFFERENCE HERE IS THAT THE ONES I TOOK OUT **HERE** HAD JUST KILLED OFF **THIS WORLD'S** NATIVE PEOPLE. THEY WEREN'T LOCALS-- THEY WERE CONQUERORS-- INVADERS-- KILLERS.

THEY WERE A THREAT TO EVERYBODY IN THE UNIVERSE AND FROM WHAT I KNOW, THEIR OUTPOST HERE IS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. THESE GUYS ARE CRAWLING ALL OVER THE PLACE-- INCLUDING BACK ON **EARTH!**

THIS WAS **LESS** THAN WHAT THEY DESERVED.



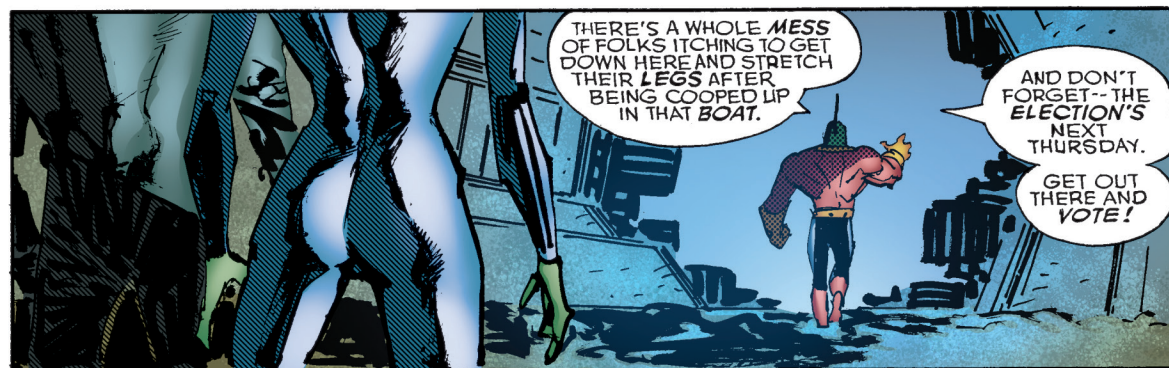
WE ARE A **PEACEFUL** RACE, EMPEROR DRAGON.

OUR TEACHINGS-- SCRIPTURE-- HAVE ALWAYS GUIDED US ON A PATH TOWARD PEACE.

THIS IS-- UNSPEAKABLE.

SO **QUIT** TALKING ABOUT IT.

YOU DON'T WANT TO LIVE HERE-- **FINE--** GO BACK TO THE **SHIP** AND STAY **THERE**. BUT IT'S GOING TO GET MIGHTY **LOVELY** UP THERE.



THERE'S A WHOLE **MESS** OF FOLKS ITCHING TO GET DOWN HERE AND STRETCH THEIR **LEGS** AFTER BEING COOPED UP IN THAT **BOAT**.

AND DON'T FORGET-- THE **ELECTION'S** NEXT THURSDAY.

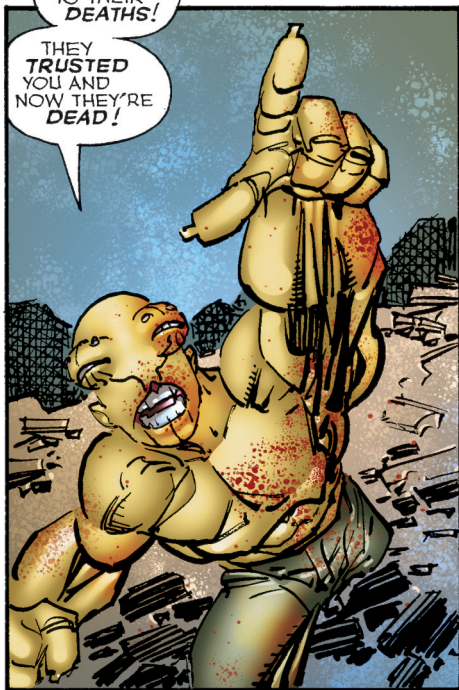
GET OUT THERE AND **VOTE!**



NOTHING
BUT **DEATH** AND
DESTRUCTION
AS FAR AS THE
EYE CAN SEE.

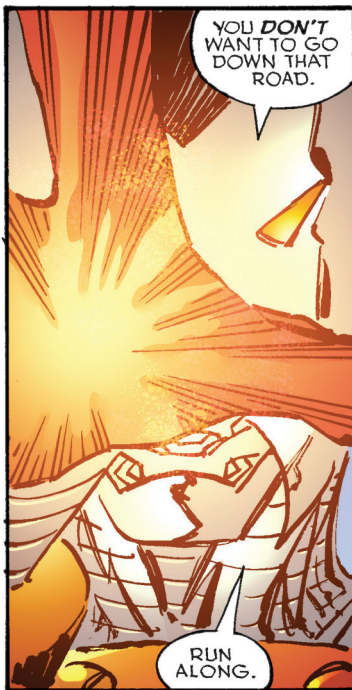


THE **ALIENS**
ARE GONE BUT
AT WHAT A
PRICE... !



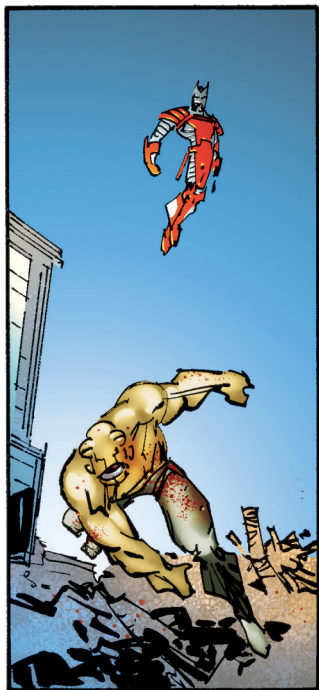
YOU LED
THEM
TO THEIR
DEATHS!

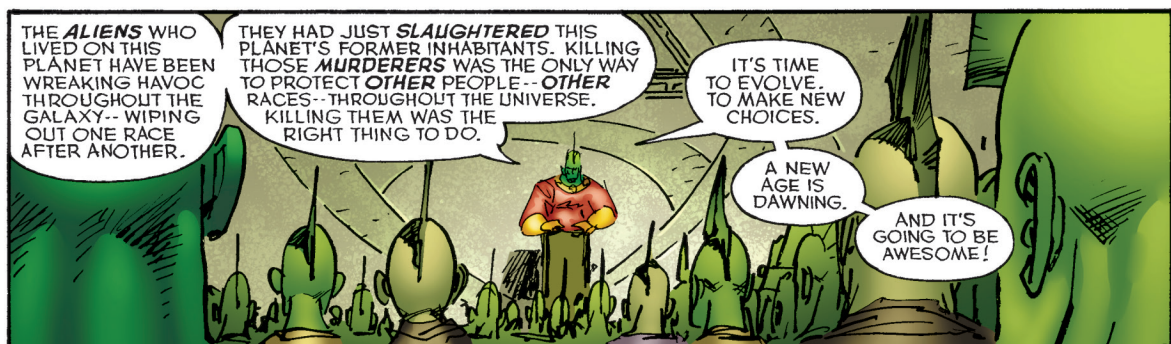
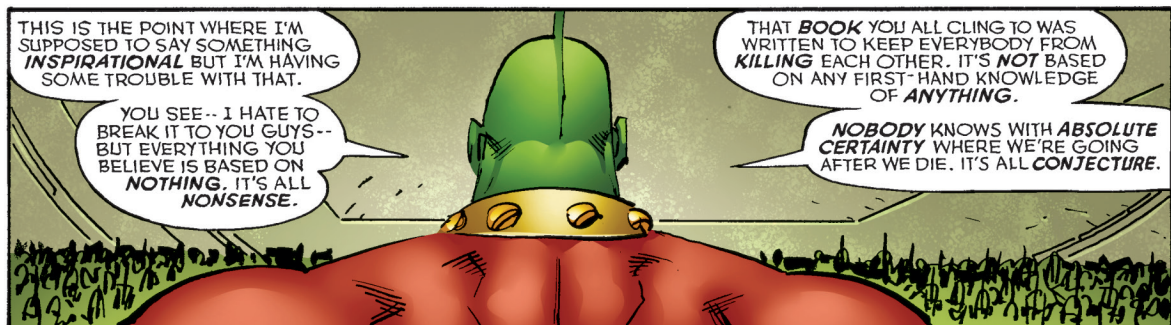
THEY
TRUSTED
YOU AND
NOW THEY'RE
DEAD!

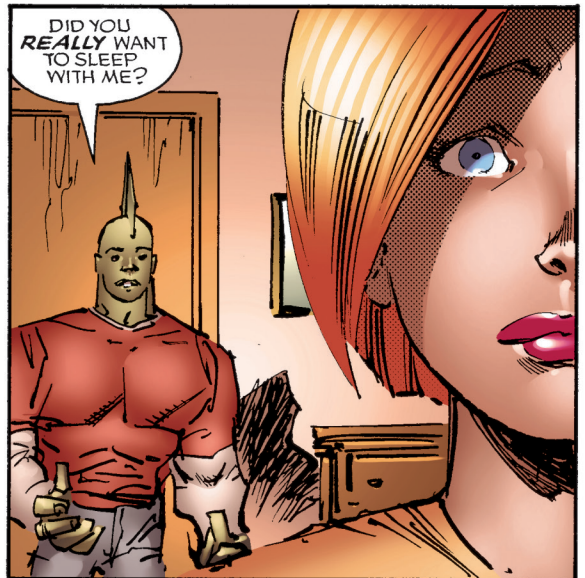
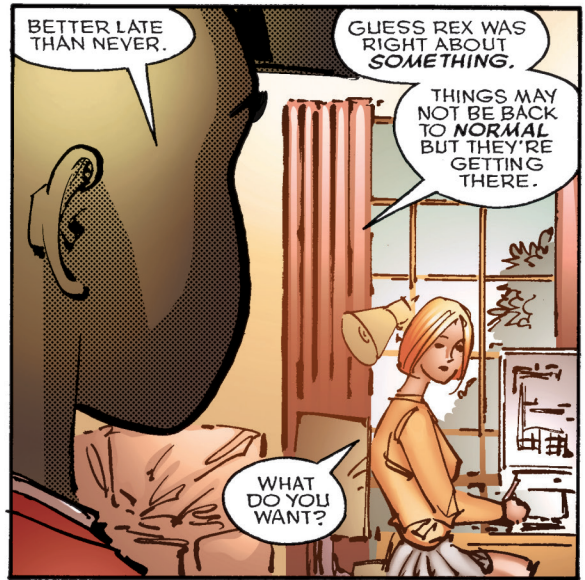


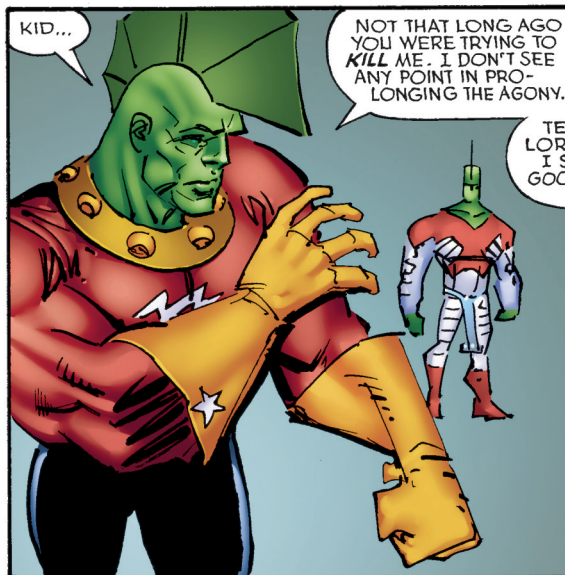
YOU **DON'T**
WANT TO GO
DOWN THAT
ROAD.

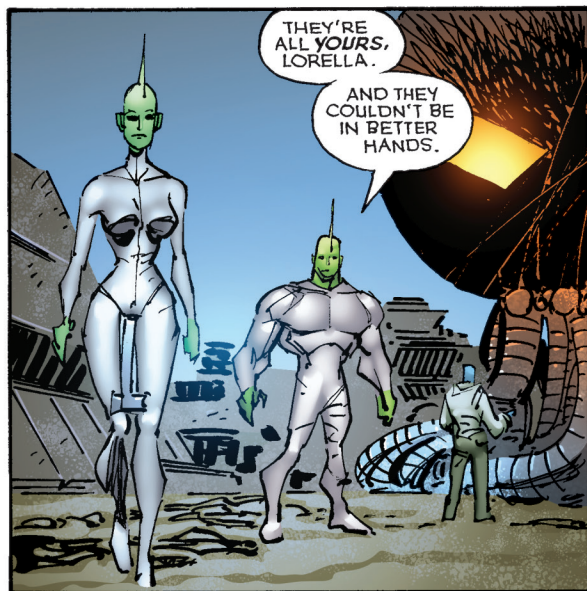
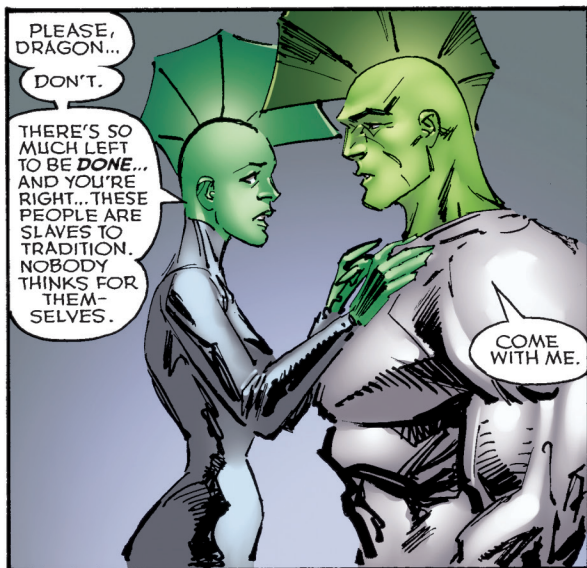
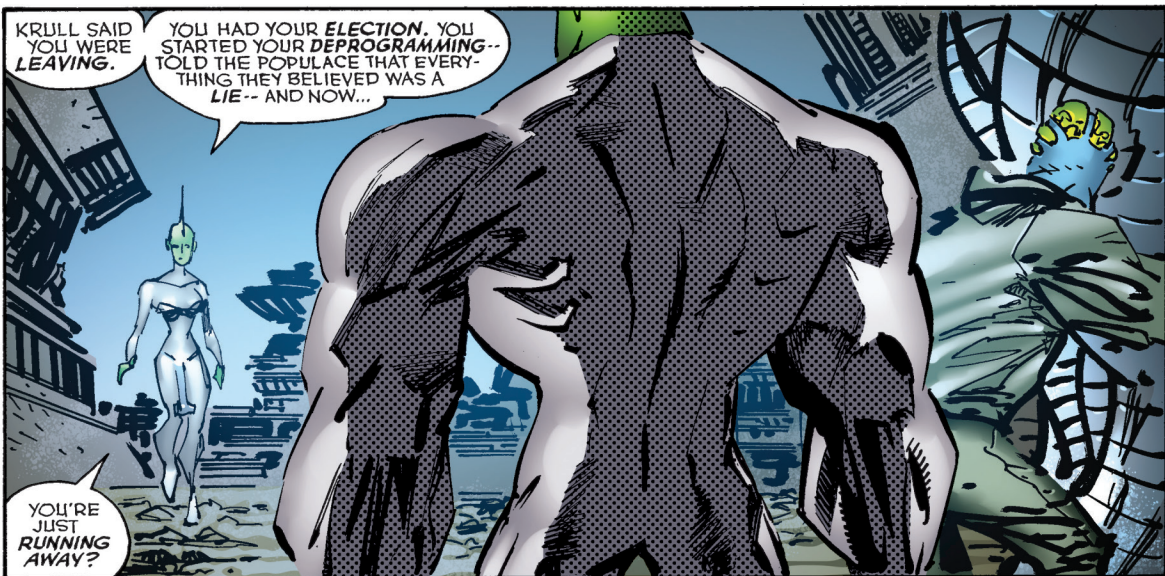
RUN
ALONG.

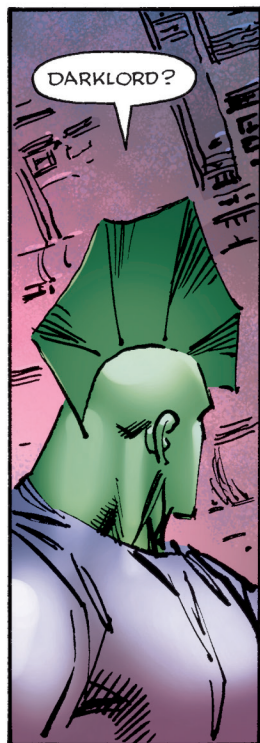
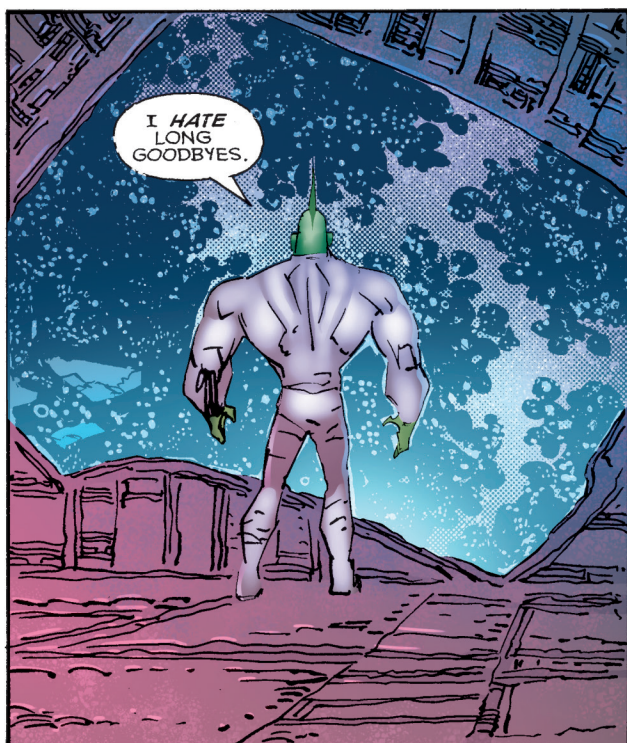
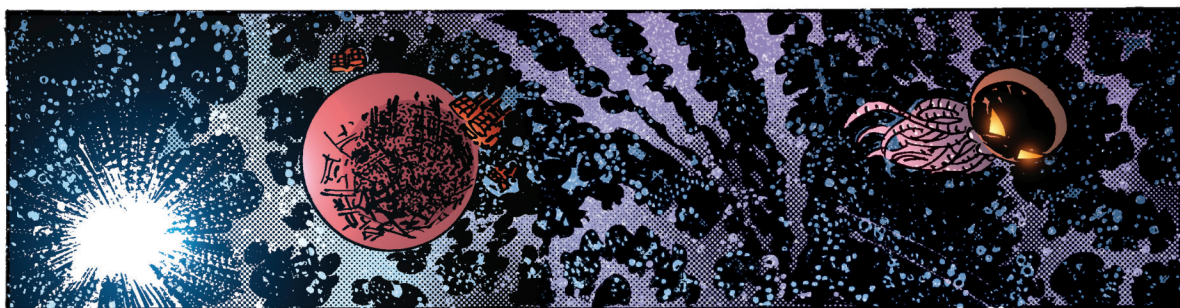
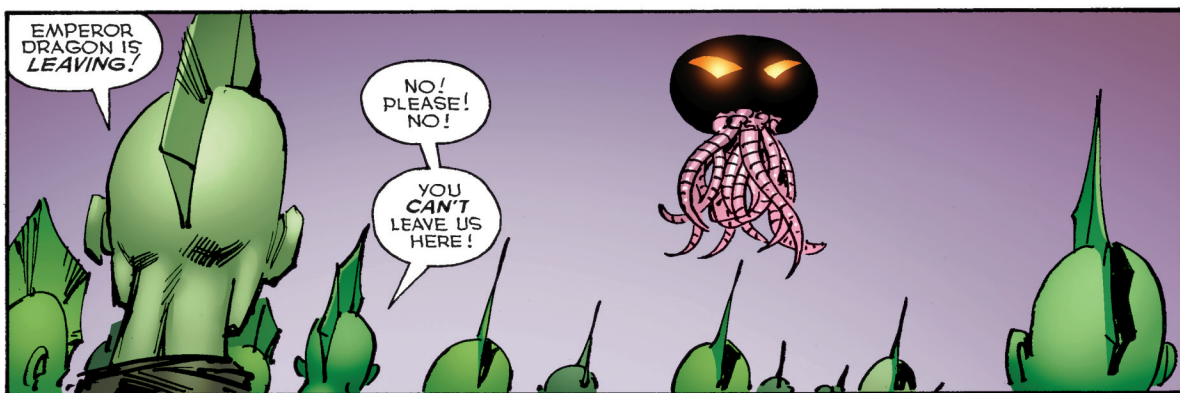














GREAT.



Send letters to:

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Berkeley, CA 94704

e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at www.savagedragon.com

It was inevitable, I suppose, but Savage Dragon #179 received no mail whatsoever. Consequently, this is what the letters page looks like without you doing your part.

-Erik Larsen

NEXT: OVERLORD.

And hey, don't forget to keep reading this book for more big-time funnybook fun!

Question of the Month

"WATCHMEN, not because the story itself will teach anyone anything, but the way the story is told really demonstrates how comics aren't always simplistic stories for kids. And it does all this while still utilizing super-heroes, which is what most people think of when they think of comic books."

Jay Faerber
NEAR HEATH

"WHAT COMIC DO YOU WISH YOU HAD TO READ IN SCHOOL?"

"Probably some Jack Kirby comics like The Demon or Devil Dinosaur. I didn't truly appreciate his work as a kid because I wasn't interested in those old superhero comics and I had not yet seen some of the more weird stuff he did later in his career."

Ken Garing
PLANETOID

"I think Channel Zero could have inspired me to use all my anger to tell stories or at least make things, instead of just being a big spazz."

Riley Rossmo
GREEN WAKE, NEHEL BLOND

"Remake" by Lamar Abrams because it's hilarious!"

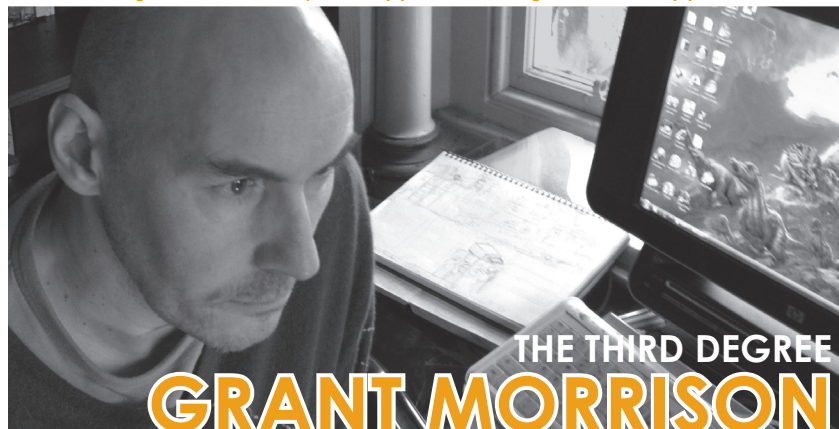
Ross Campbell
GLORY

SEPTEMBER 2012

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the word
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Grant Morrison is one of those writers who almost doesn't need an introduction. Aside from era-defining work on All-Star Superman, Batman and Robin and JLA, he's also written New X-Men, Doom Patrol and Animal Man, and created The Invisibles, Joe the Barbarian, The Filth and We3. And that's not even a full list! Grant makes his Image Comics debut this month alongside artist Darick Robertson, with an offbeat new crime miniseries, Happy!

What are you working on right now?
'Happy' #2 and Action Comics #13, a Halloween issue entitled 'The Ghost in the Fortress of Solitude'.

What's the best part of your job?
It's also my hobby.

What's the worst part of your job?
Sunny days.

How did you first discover comics?
My family was always into comics. I can't remember a time I haven't been a fan.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
I'd be writing a lot more for other media.

What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?
'Your work stopped me from killing myself.'

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
Enid Blyton. Alan Garner. Dennis Potter.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
The Filth.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
Geordie Shore, the Brit version of Jersey Shore.

What was the last comic book you bought?
Bulletproof Coffin.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?
Tarzan.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
Food, water, air.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
History.

What makes you laugh?
Limmy's World of Glasgow.

What is one of your favorite places?
Rarotonga in the South Pacific.

What music are you listening to these days?
Tyler the Creator, Akira the Don, Momus

What is your favorite film of all time?
O Lucky Man!

Who is your best friend?
My wife Kristan.

What is the best advice you've ever received?
Don't follow leaders.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
During my recent life or death struggle in space with Sinestro Corps member Arkillo

Name someone you really admire and explain why.
Odin.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
More new and unexpected stuff.

HAPPY #1 (of 4)



Meet NICK SAK - a corrupt, intoxicated ex-cop turned hit-man, adrift in a stinking twilight world of casual murder, soulless sex, eczema and betrayal. With a hit gone wrong, a bullet in his side, the cops and the mob on his tail, and a monstrous child killer in a Santa suit on the loose, Nick and his world will be changed forever this Christmas. By a tiny blue horse called Happy...

GUARDING THE GLOBE #1



The Guardians of the Globe are BACK in an all-new, all-exciting ongoing series! Your favorite heroes - Brit, Outrun, Invincible, Robot, Yeti, Kaboomerang, and more - face new challenges of epic proportions in stories by the all-star team of PHIL HESTER & TODD NAUCK!

VALENTINE, VOL. 1 TP

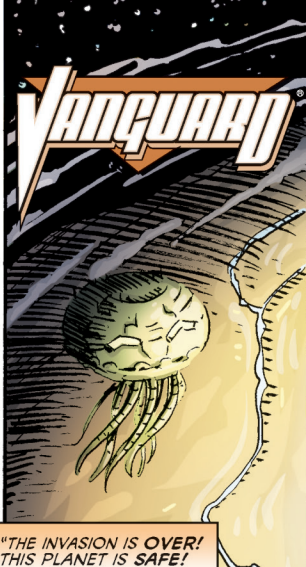


1812. As the mightiest army in the world is pitilessly ground into dust by the Russian winter, two soldiers, lost in a blizzard, are given a package by a dying general. Suddenly the young soldiers find themselves hunted by relentless, blood-eyed monsters out of their worst childhood nightmares. For these tales of terror and legend told across the Earth all have a kernel of truth: humans are not alone.

THIEF OF THIEVES #8

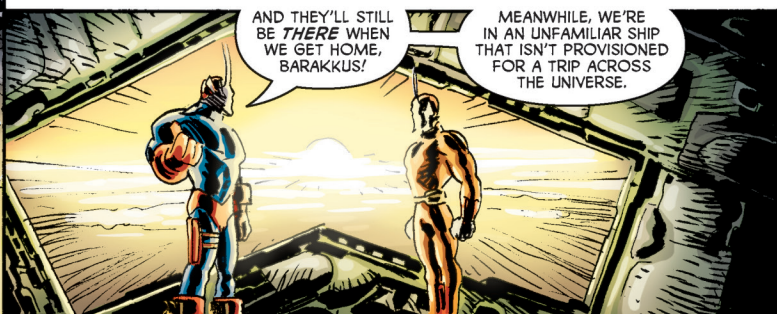


Redmond's big heist did not turn out as planned... and the aftermath shows that every action has an equal - and equally violent - reaction. GENERATION HOPE writer James Asmus kicks off an all-new story arc!



"THE INVASION IS OVER!
THIS PLANET IS SAFE!"

"WHY ARE WE STILL HERE,
VANGUARD? THE BUGS ARE
CRAWLING ALL OVER OUR
OWN WORLD OF KALYPTUS!"



AND THEY'LL STILL
BE *THERE* WHEN
WE GET HOME,
BARAKKUS!

MEANWHILE, WE'RE
IN AN UNFAMILIAR SHIP
THAT ISN'T PROVISIONED
FOR A TRIP ACROSS
THE UNIVERSE.



I'M TIRED
OF WAITING,
VANGUARD.

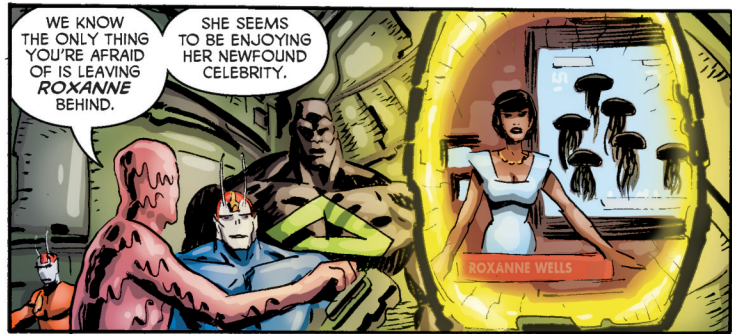
IF YOU'RE *AFRAID*
TO GO, THRAMM
AND I WILL TAKE THIS
SHIP AND CONTINUE
THE FIGHT ON
OUR OWN.



ONE OF
THESE DAYS...
BANG--
ZOOM!

HE IS MUCH
MORE LIKE THE
OTHER KALYPTANS
I MET YEARS AGO
THAN YOU ARE,
VANGUARD.

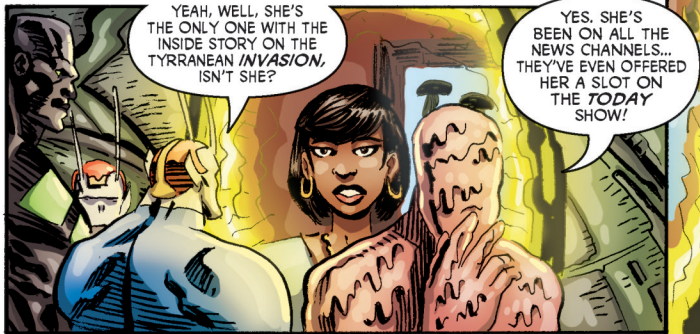
ARROGANT.
AGGRESSIVE.
PRESUMPTIVE.



WE KNOW
THE ONLY THING
YOU'RE AFRAID
OF IS LEAVING
ROXANNE
BEHIND.

SHE SEEMS
TO BE ENJOYING
HER NEWFOUND
CELEBRITY.

ROXANNE WELLS



YEAH, WELL, SHE'S
THE ONLY ONE WITH THE
INSIDE STORY ON THE
TYRRANEAN *INVASION*.
ISN'T SHE?

YES, SHE'S
BEEN ON ALL THE
NEWS CHANNELS...
THEY'VE EVEN OFFERED
HER A SLOT ON
THE *TODAY*
SHOW!



HEADS
UP, FELLERS.
WE'VE GOT
COMPANY!

HIS NAME IS...

ETHRIAN

STORY GARY CARLSON • ART FRANK FOSCO • LETTERS ADAM O. PRUETT • EDITOR ERIK LARSEN
COLORS DAVID SELTZER WITH RED HERRING COLOR: NICK RODGERS • KENNY MADRID • TRAVIS EDSON

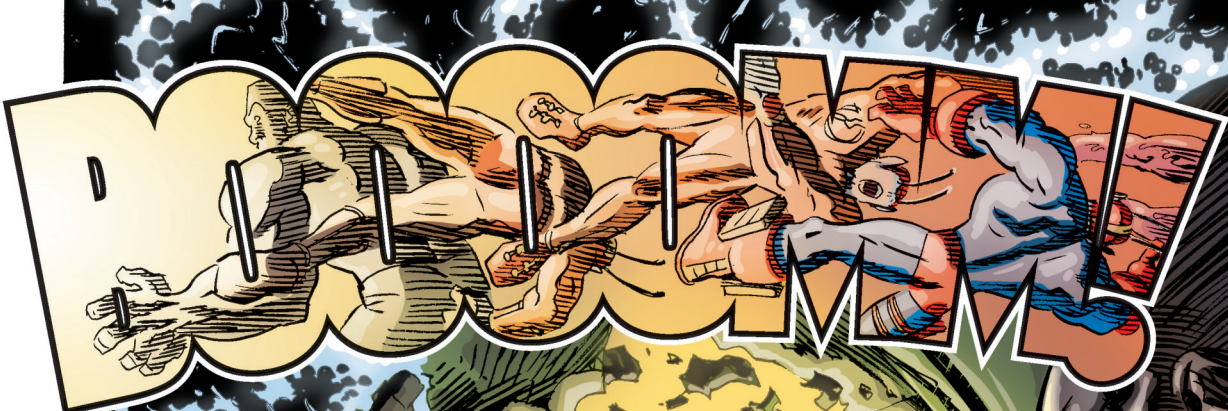
NOT LONG AGO, HE WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NAMED JAMES PETERSON, UNTIL A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH ALIENS IN THE ARIZONA DESERT TURNED HIM INTO A DEMI-GOD CHARGED WITH PROTECTING THE EARTH.*



TODAY HE'S PISSED BECAUSE HE ALMOST FAILED AT HIS TASK. EARTH WAS **OVERRUN** BY A HORDE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL BUG WARRIORS, AND WHILE HE DECIMATED HUNDREDS OF THE FIENDS, THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS MORE OF THEM WRECKED HAVOC ALL OVER THE PLANET.

THEN, SOMETHING HAPPENED. THE ATTACK WAS BROKEN AND THE INVADERS TURNED TAIL AND LEFT! JAMES IS TIRED, BUT THE ETHRIAN PART OF HIM IS STILL FUMING WITH PENT-UP FURY. LUCKILY, ONE LAST SKULL SHIP HAS APPEARED FOR HIM TO VENT HIS RAGE UPON.

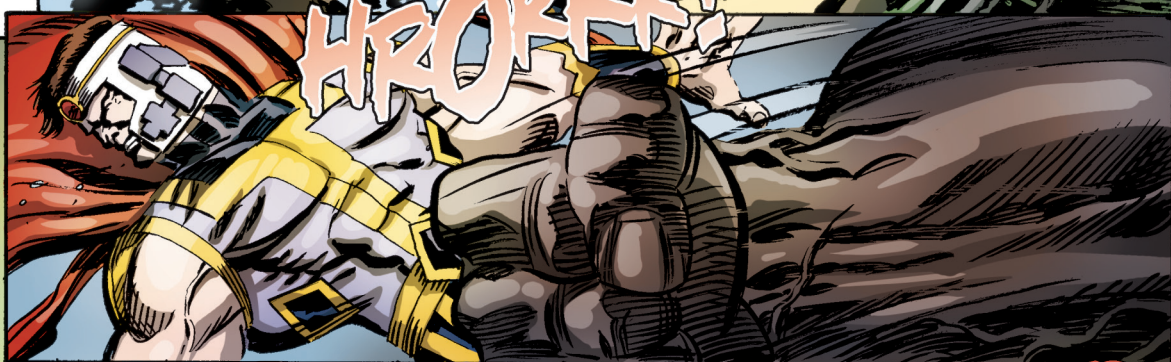
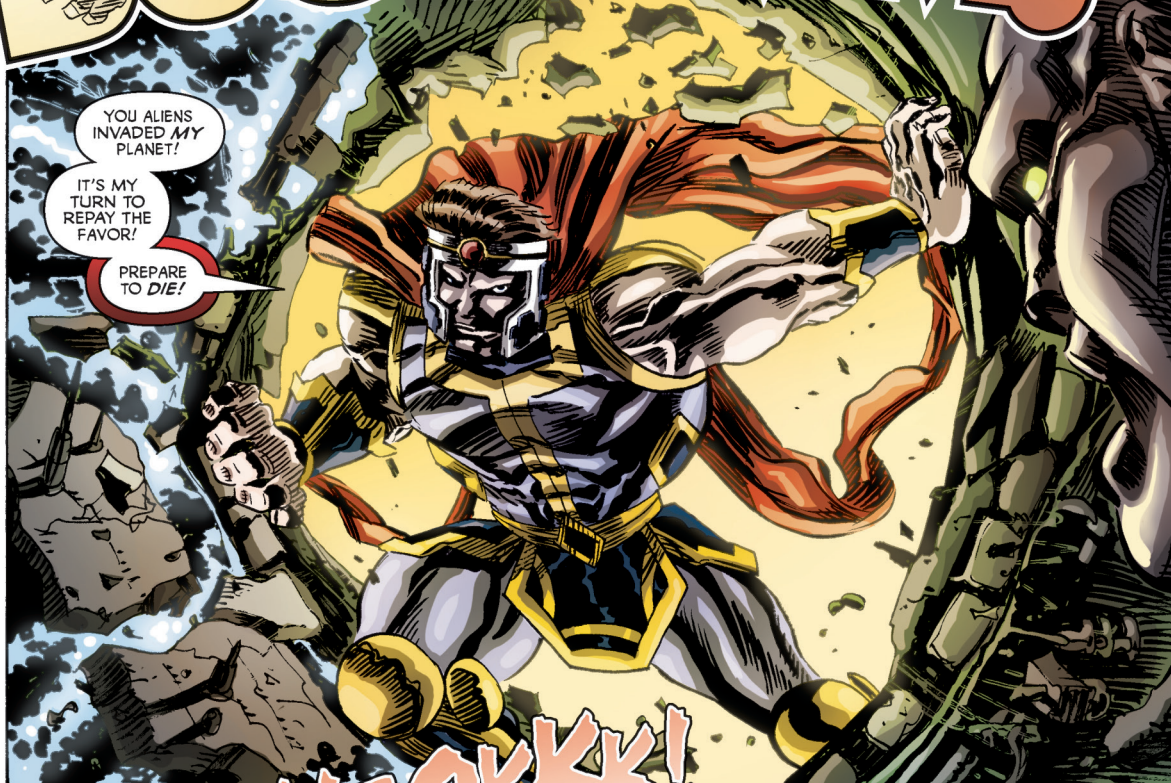
*FOR THE WHOLE STORY, SEE SAVAGE DRAGON #145-159.



YOU ALIENS
INVADED MY
PLANET!

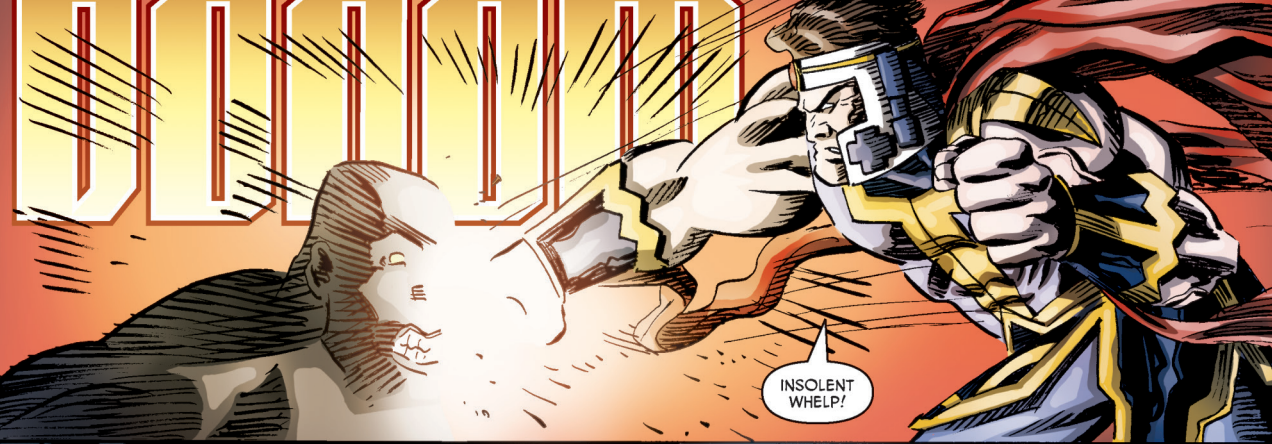
IT'S MY
TURN TO
REPAY THE
FAVOR!

PREPARE
TO DIE!



DID YOU
COME HERE
TO TALK OR
FIGHT, PRETTY
BOY?





INSOLENT
WHELP!



IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT BLOW
WOULD HAVE
SHATTERED A
MOUNTAIN!

I
ACTUALLY
FELT THAT,
LITTLE
MAN!

I'M
GOING
TO ENJOY
THIS.



EASY, GUYS.
WE'RE ALL
FRIENDS
HERE!

VANGUARD? MY
APOLOGIES!

WE THOUGHT
YOU *DIED* WHEN
YOUR CRUISER
EXPLODED!

NOPE. WE
ALL ESCAPED
TO THIS SKULL
SHIP.

ALMOST
ALL OF US.



THEN I
BRING GLAD
TIDINGS!

ONE OF
YOUR FRIENDS
TELEPORTED
TO POWERHOUSE
AFTER THE
EXPLOSION!

WALLY?!!
HE'S OKAY?

LET'S
GO GET
HIM!



FLIN
FLIN

TOWERING HIGH ABOVE THE ARIZONA DESERT, **POWERHOUSE**: CREATED BY VISITORS FROM A DISTANT WORLD, IT IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE EARTH. ITS DUTY-- TO POWER THE ETHEREAL WARRIOR ETHRIAN!

HIS JOB IS TO PROTECT THE TOWER-- AND THE PLANET!

LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN BUSY!

THERE WERE **PLENTY** OF THEM, THAT'S FOR SURE!

I TOOK CARE OF THE ONES THAT CAME BY **AIR**!

THE SKULL SHIPS KEPT **BURROWING** UNDER THE SURFACE AND SETTING UP **HIVES**!

CHUK AND GALIAN KEPT THE **TUNNELERS** OUT UNTIL I COULD DESTROY THE **COLONIES**!

YO, VANGUARD.

I THINK WE FINALLY HAVE THE **BUG** PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL.

EXTERMINATION?

MORE LIKE **COMPOSTING**!

GALIAN IS RELEASING THEIR **LIFE ENERGY** INTO THE EARTH TO HELP REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY CAUSED IT.

HE'S STILL **PISSED** THAT THE ETHEREAL POWER WAS PASSED ON TO **ME**.

NOW HE YEARNS TO RETURN TO HIS OWN **PLANET**.

IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR IS GALIAN GETTING **YOUNGER** EVERY TIME I SEE HIM?

POSSIBLY. THE ETHEREAL ENERGY IS STILL **STRONG** IN THAT ONE!

ER, YOU SAID THAT MY **FRIEND** WAS HERE?

YES. FOLLOW ME INTO **POWERHOUSE**.



VALERIE IS
THE KEEPER
HERE.

I BELIEVE
YOU MET HER
PREDECESSOR,
KRELL?

POWERHOUSE
REMEMBERS
YOU FONDLY,
VANGUARD.



THAT MAY BE
WHY YOUR FRIEND
WAS DRAWN HERE
WHEN YOUR SHIP
EXPLODED.



SHE WAS...
DAMAGED
SOMEHOW.

SHE?!



VANGUARD!
HE'S DEAD,
VANGUARD!



MODER.



POWERHOUSE
HAS BEEN *UNABLE*
TO CURE OR
CALM HER.

I AM
SORRY.

**"THE MOST UNLIKELY ACT OF MAGIC IS THE CREATION
OF SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING. SOMETHING NEW AND
UNEXPECTED THAT HAS NEVER EXISTED BEFORE. COMICS
OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-EXPRESSION THAT NO OTHER
MEDIUM CAN MATCH. COMICS = MAGIC."**

GRANT MORRISON



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VANGUARD



RATED T+ / TEEN PLUS