

SAVAGE DRAGON



THE NEXT GENERATION

SAVAGE DRAGON®

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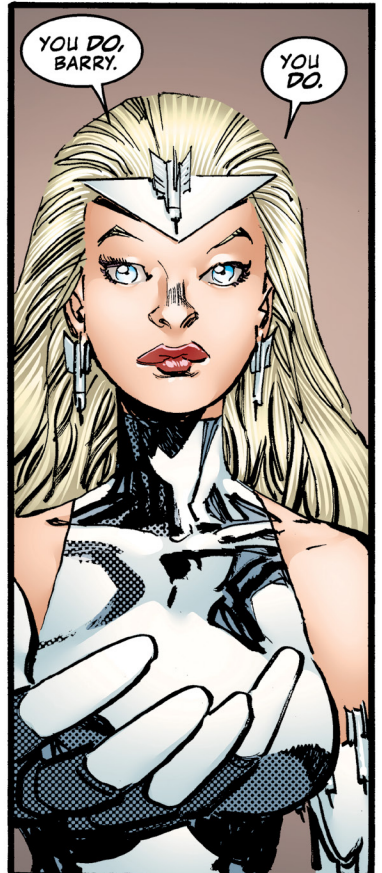
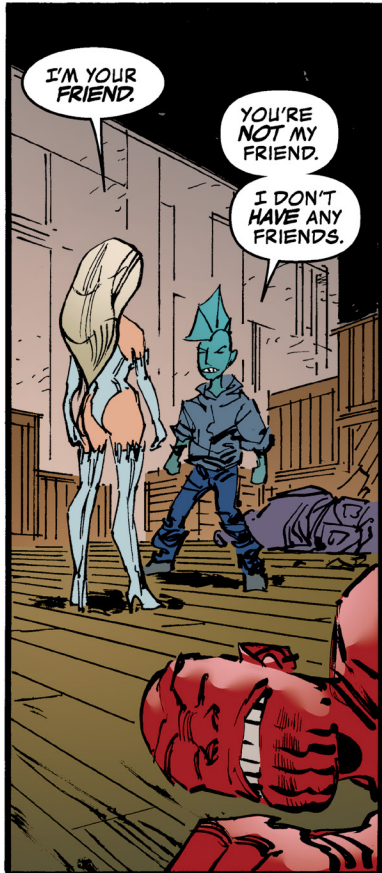
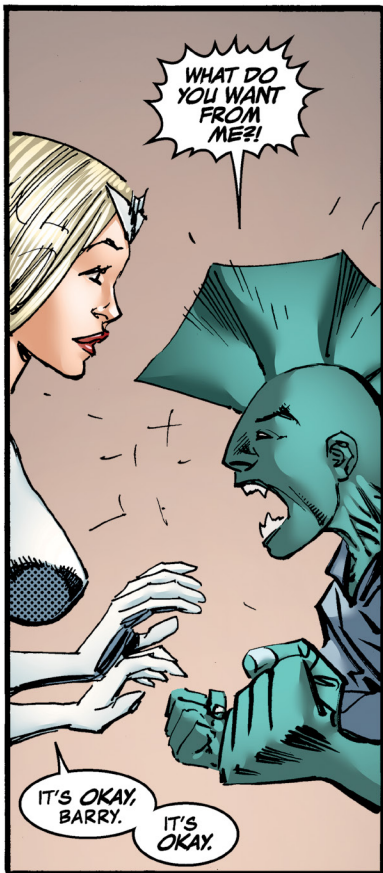
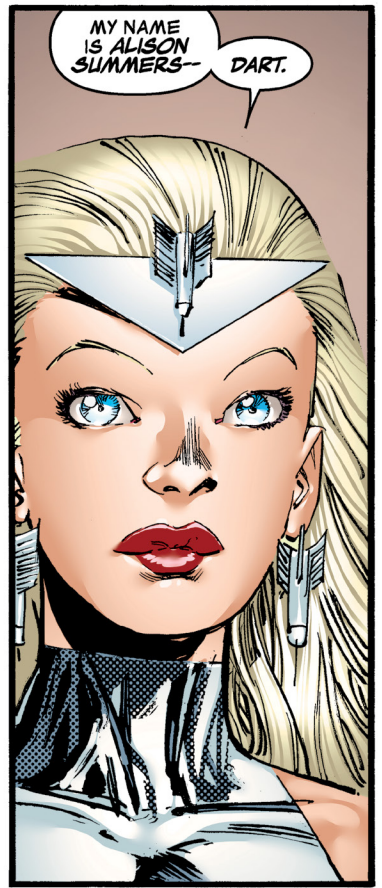
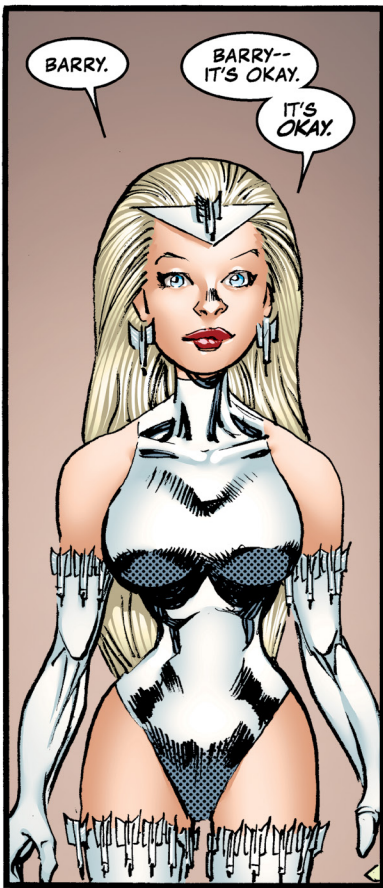


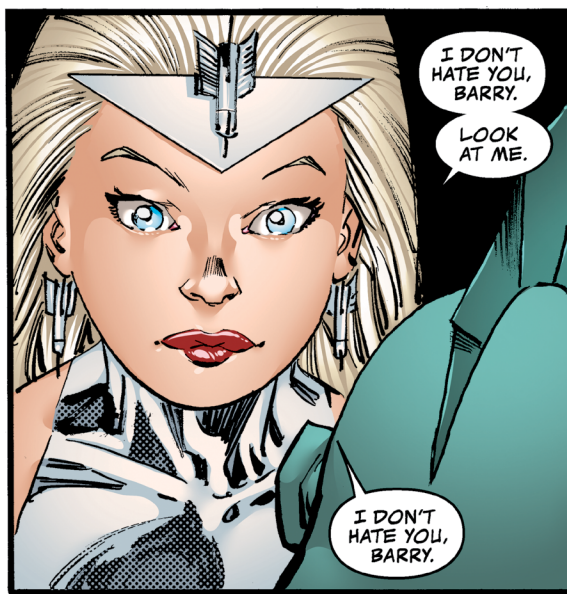
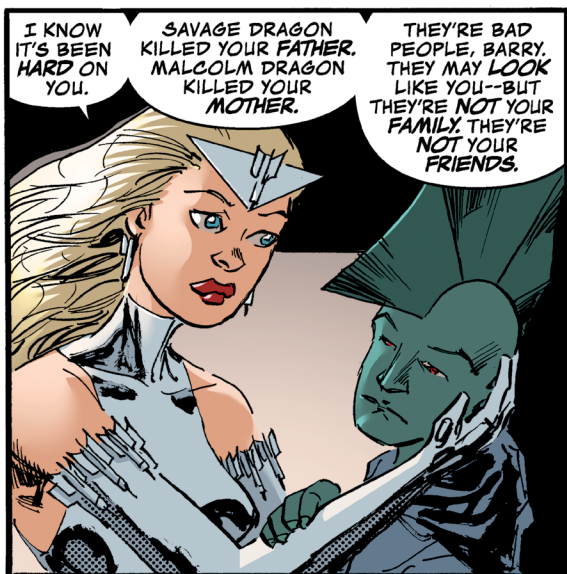
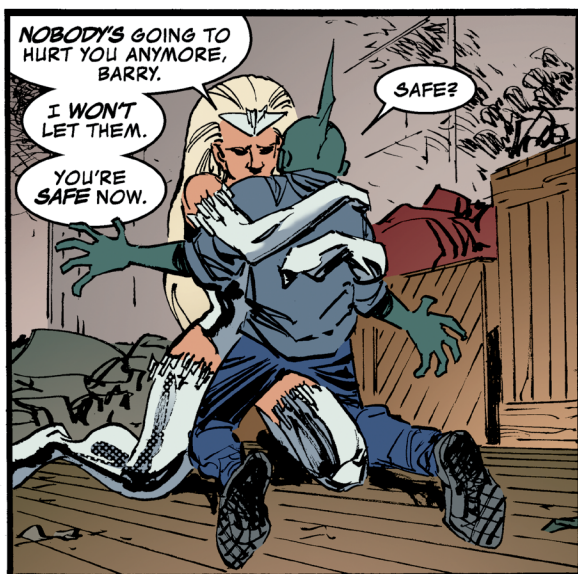
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

I HATE
YOU!



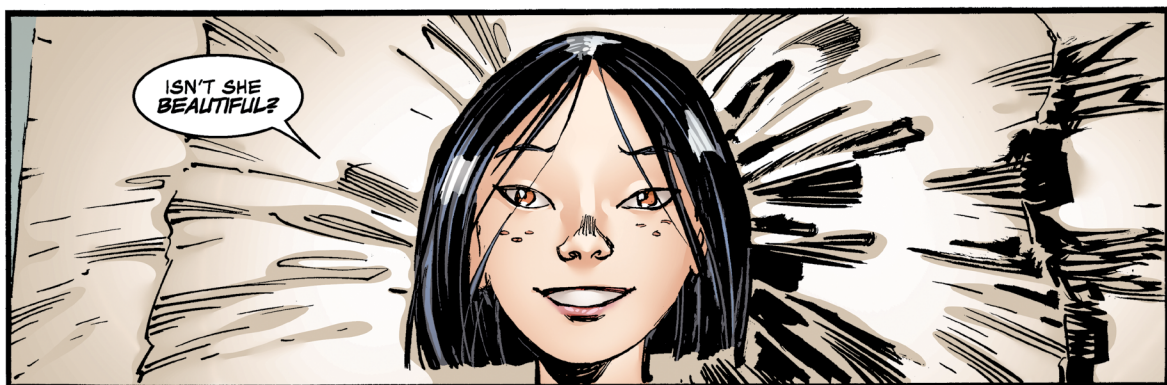
JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!







WHAT THE
HELL.



ISN'T SHE
BEAUTIFUL?



HOW
CAN THIS
BE?

SHE'S GOT
HER MOTHER'S
EYES.

AND HER
MOTHER'S
NOSE.

AND HER
MOTHER'S
MOUTH.

AND HER
MOTHER'S...
HAIR.

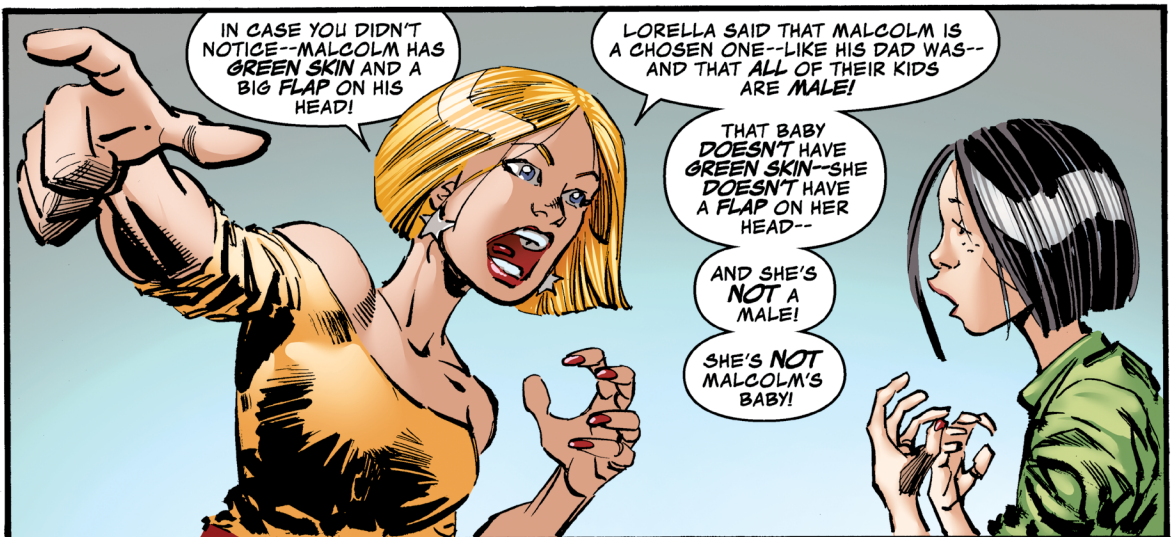
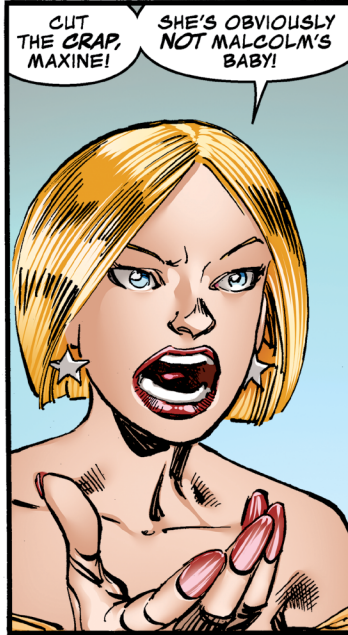
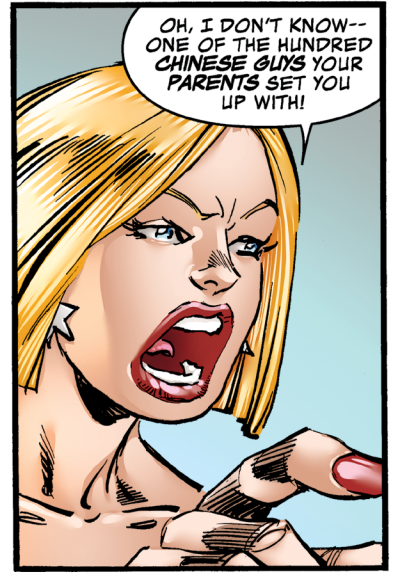
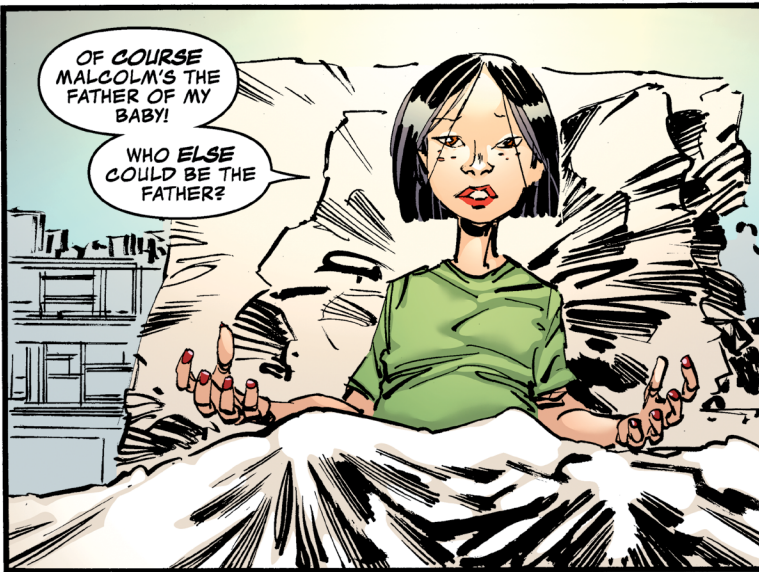
SHE PRETTY
MUCH LOOKS
LIKE HER
MOTHER.

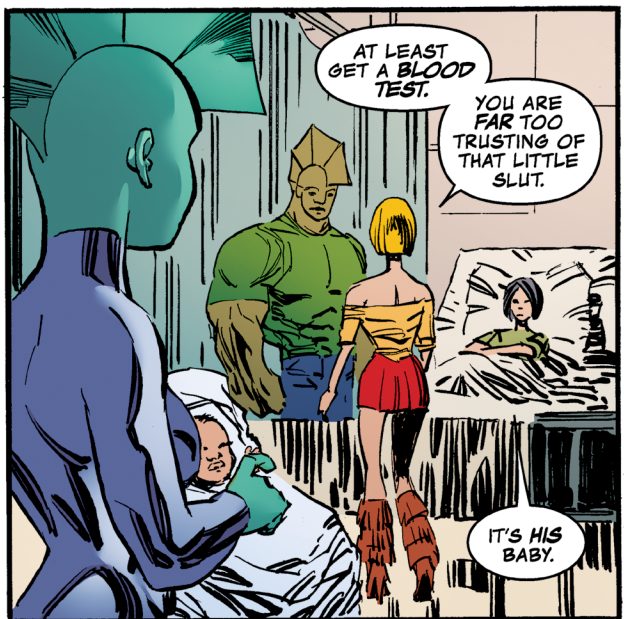
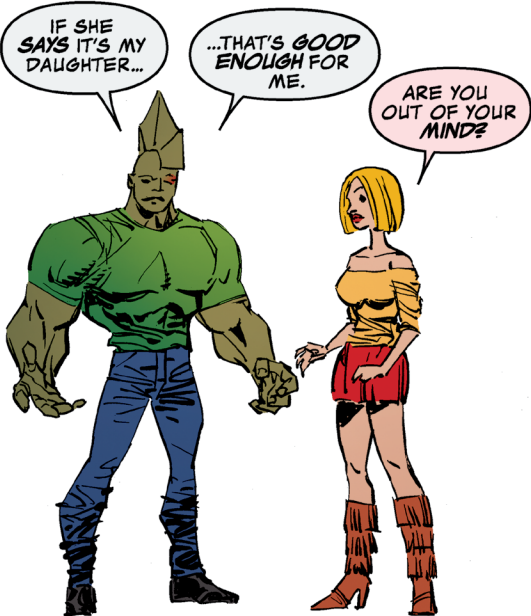
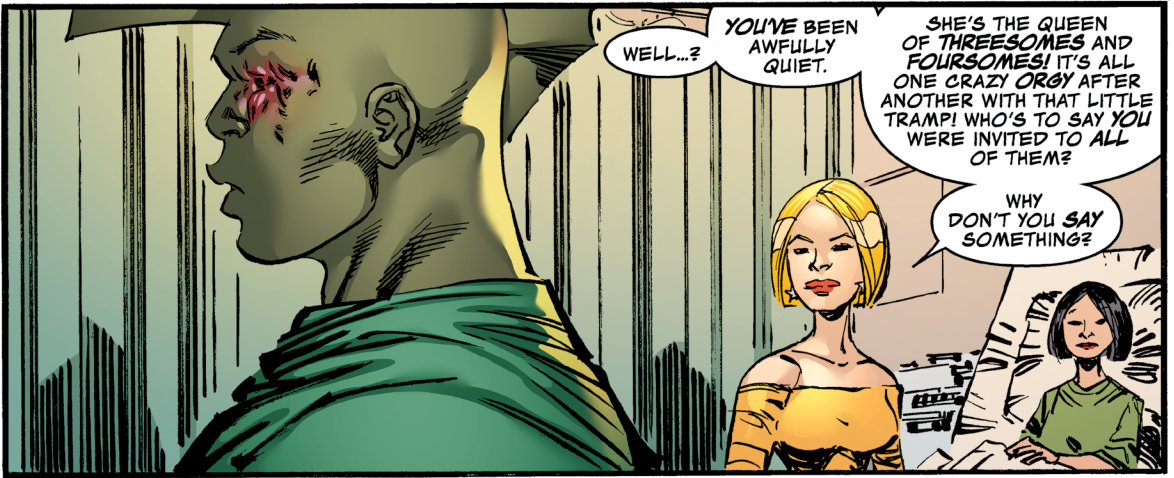


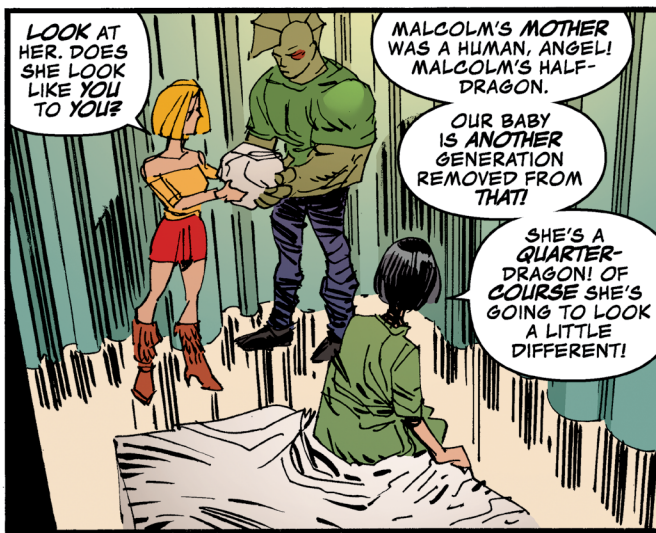
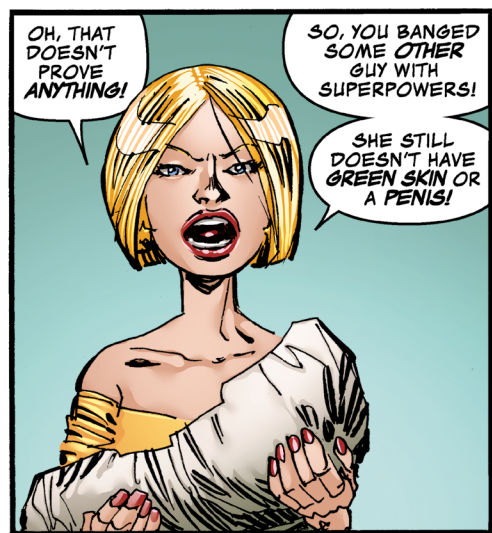
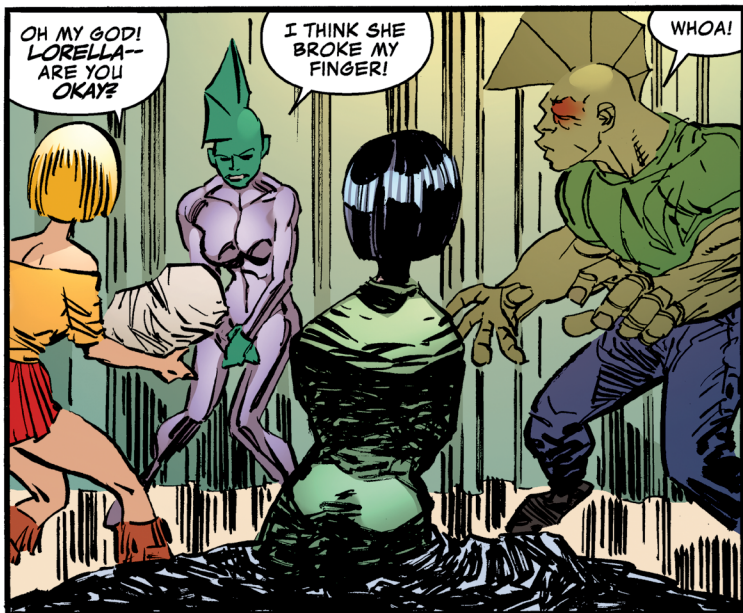
QUIT
BEATING AROUND
THE BUSH,
MALCOLM.

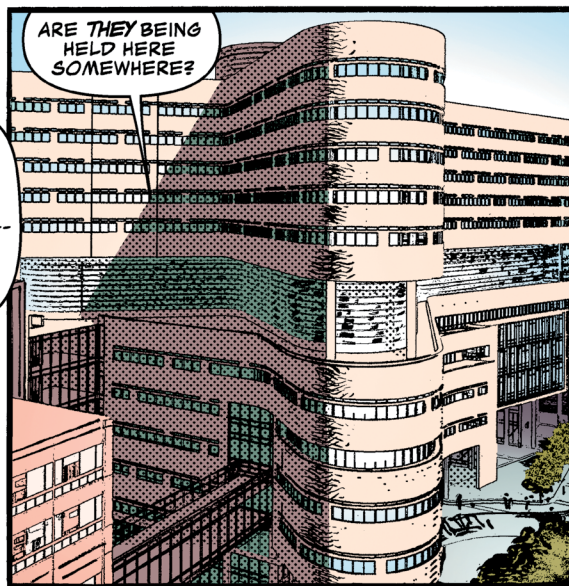
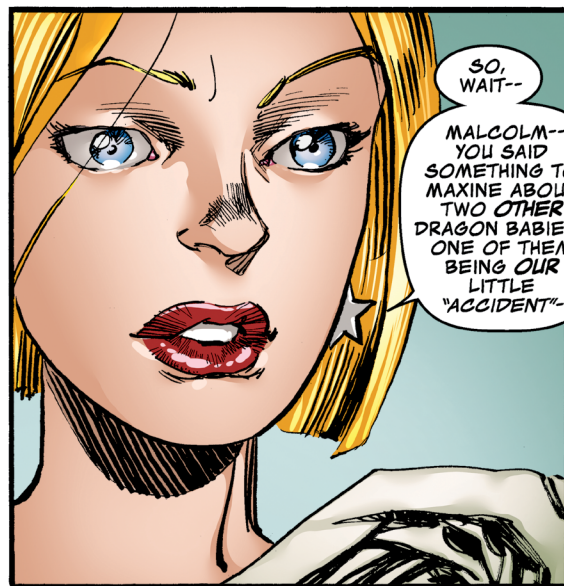
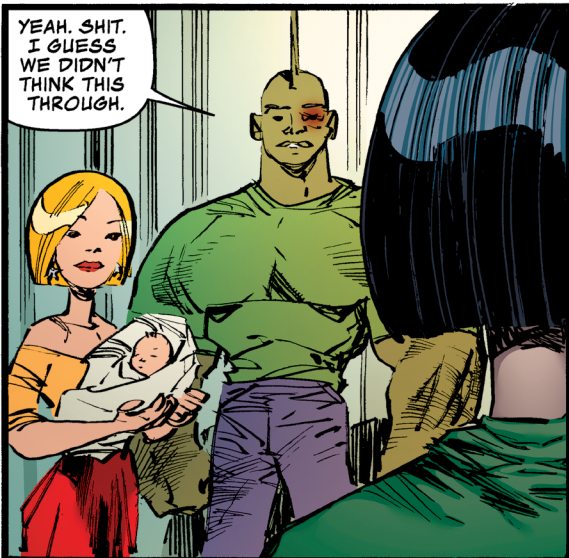
IF YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
COME OUT
AND SAY IT,
I WILL--

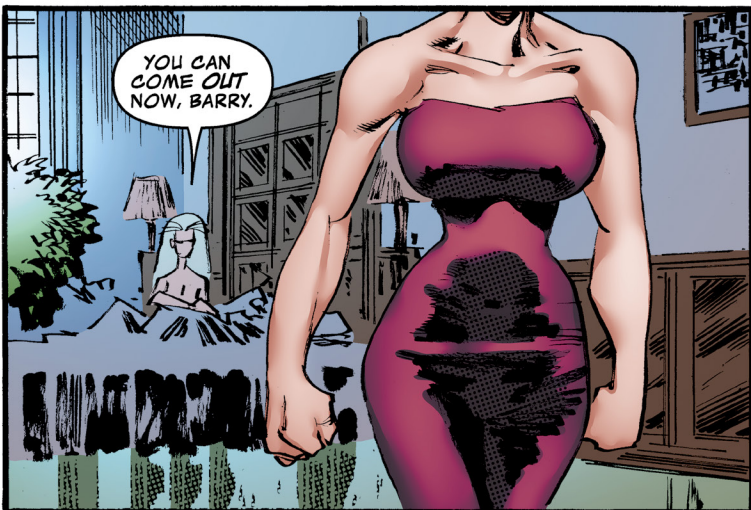
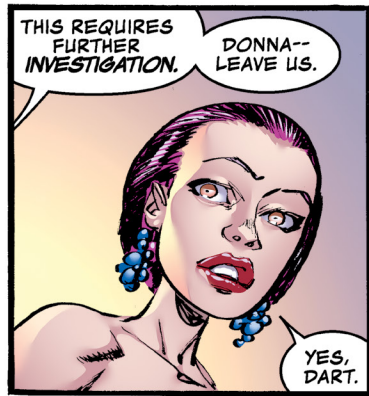
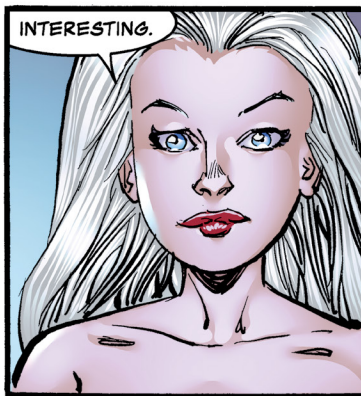
MALCOLM
ISN'T THE
FATHER OF
YOUR BABY!

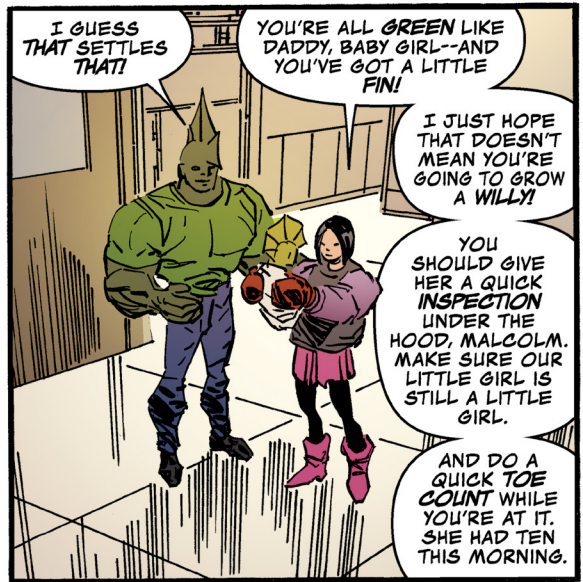


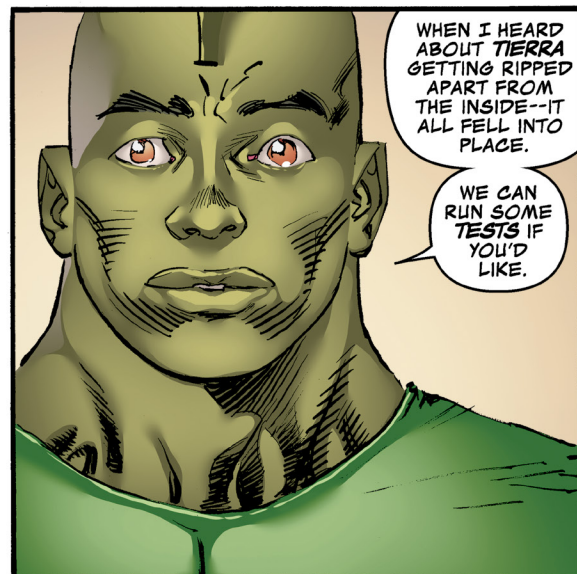
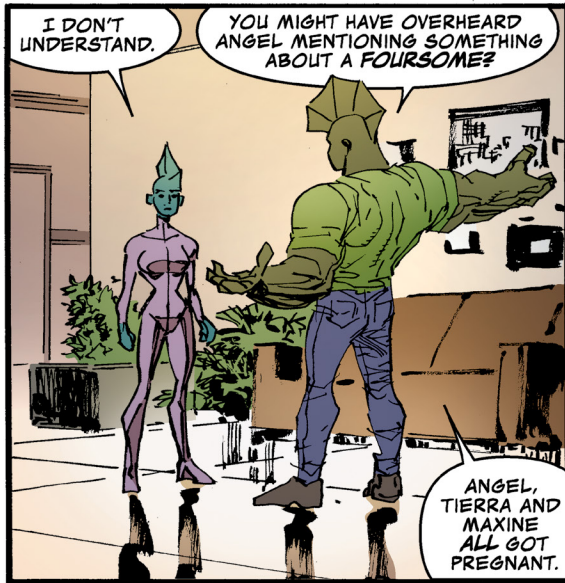
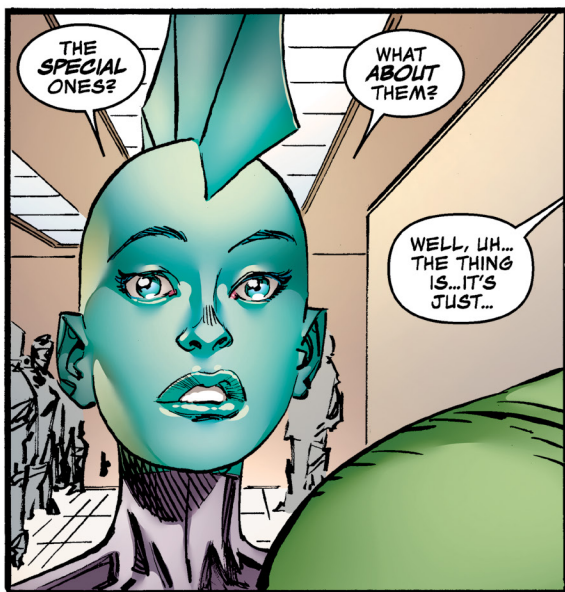












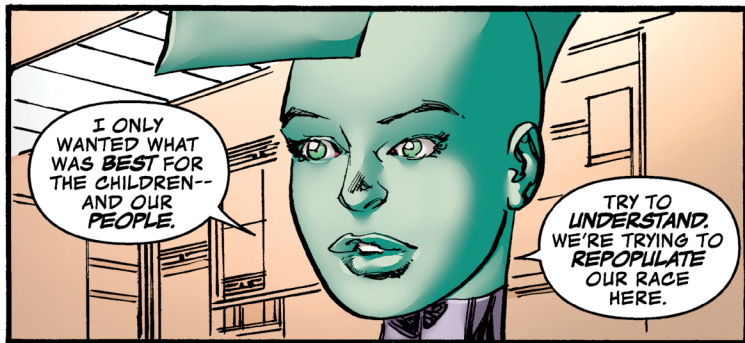
THE DNA
AND BLOOD
TESTS WERE
CONCLUSIVE.

THE BOYS
ARE INDEED
YOURS,
MALCOLM.



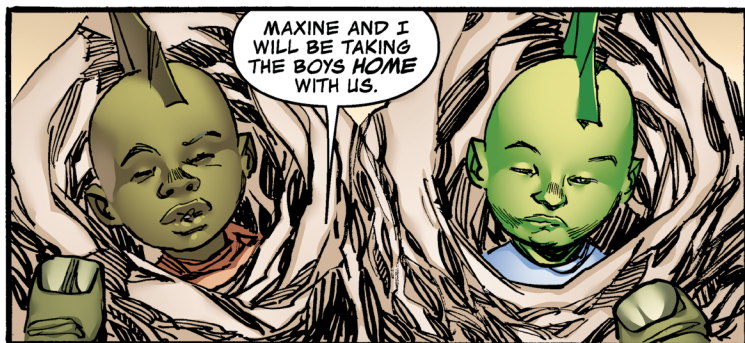
YOU KNEW ALL
ALONG, DIDN'T
YOU?

YOU KNEW
BUT YOU DIDN'T
WANT ME TAKING
THEM AWAY FROM
HERE. YOU HAD YOUR
"CHOSEN ONES"
THAT YOU COULD
RAISE WITH ALL OF
THE OTHER "NORMAL"
"DRAGON-BABIES."

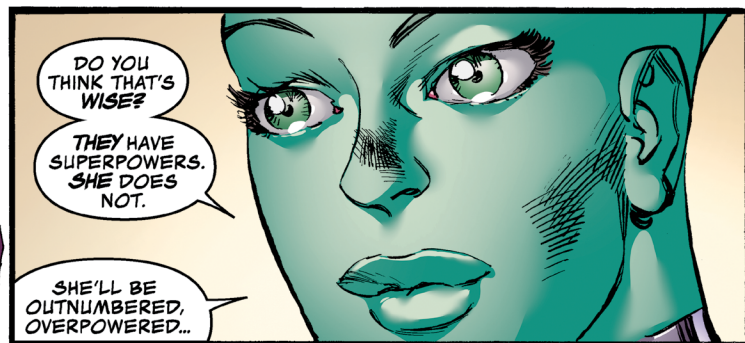


I ONLY
WANTED WHAT
WAS **BEST** FOR
THE CHILDREN--
AND OUR
PEOPLE.

TRY TO
UNDERSTAND.
WE'RE TRYING TO
REPOPULATE
OUR RACE
HERE.



MAXINE AND I
WILL BE TAKING
THE BOYS HOME
WITH US.



DO YOU
THINK THAT'S
WISE?

THEY HAVE
SUPERPOWERS.
SHE DOES
NOT.

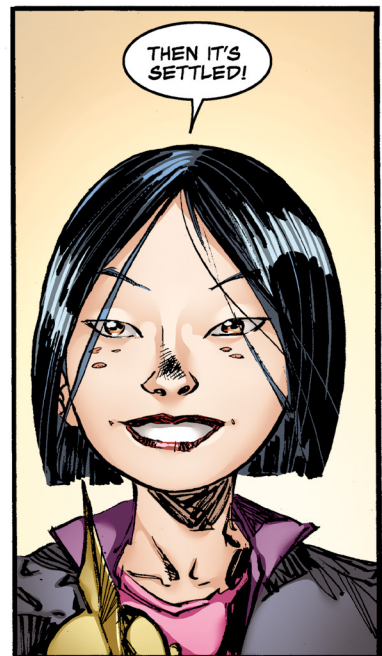
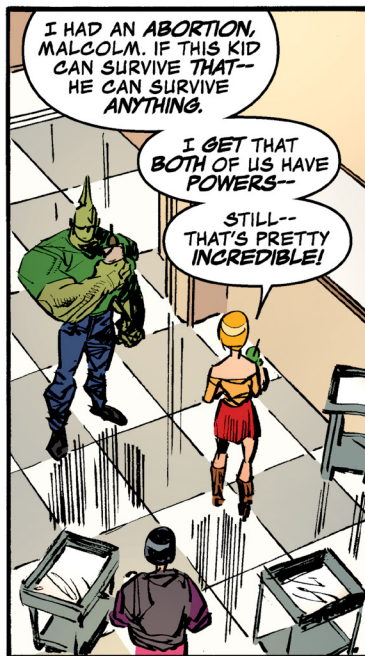
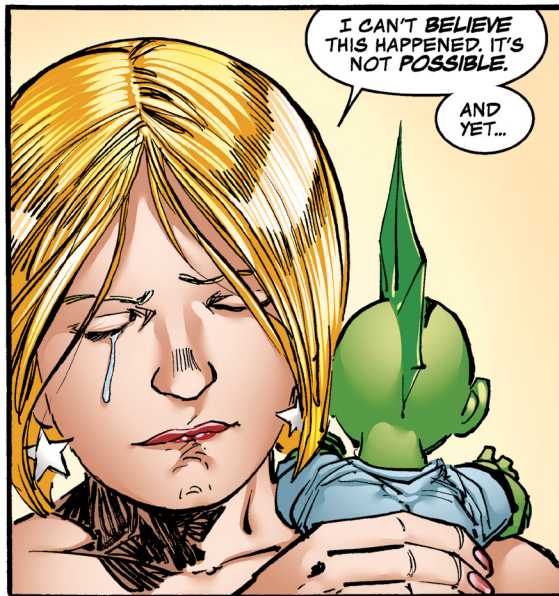
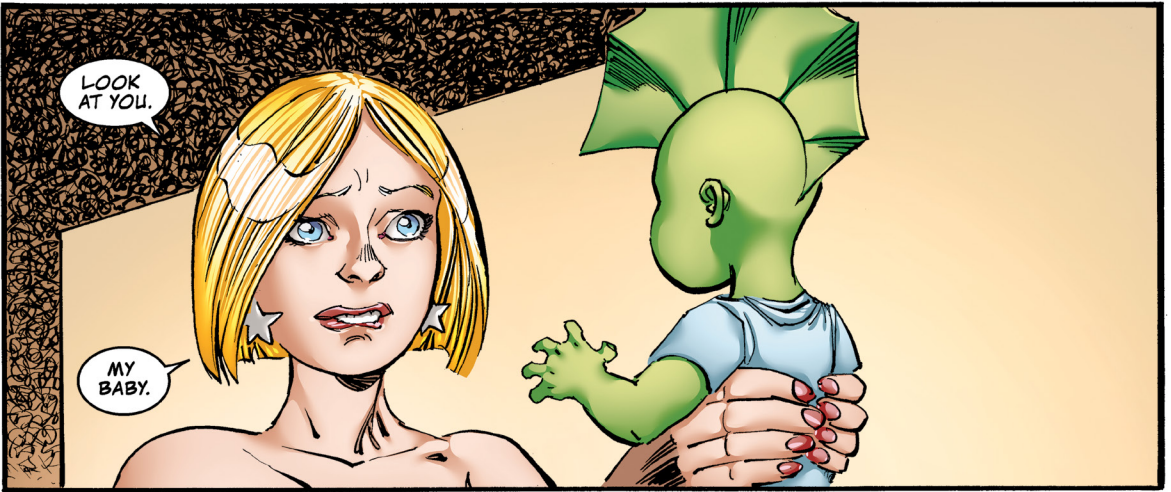
SHE'LL BE
OUTNUMBERED,
OVERPOWERED...

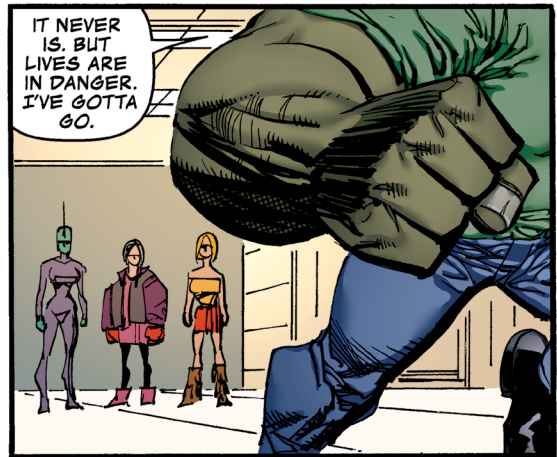
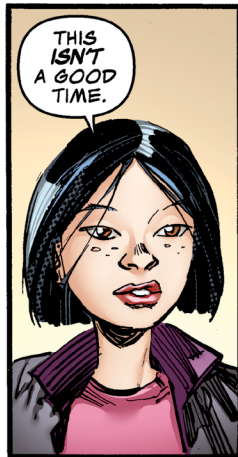
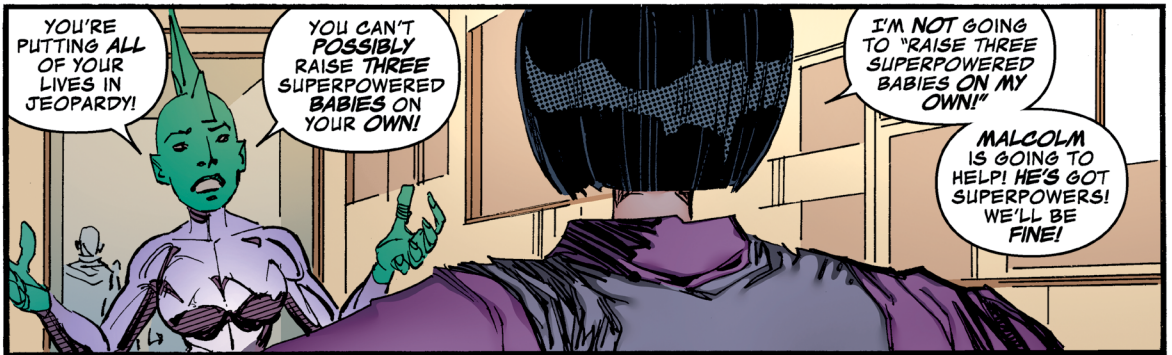
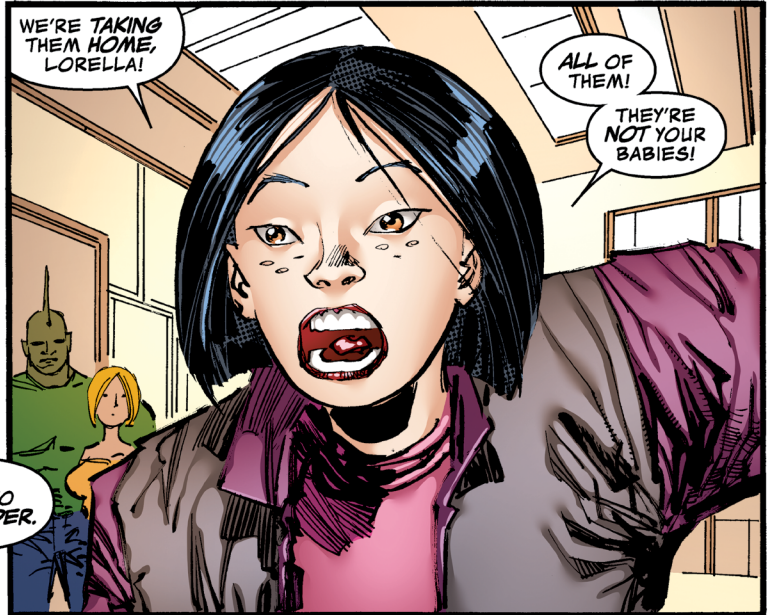
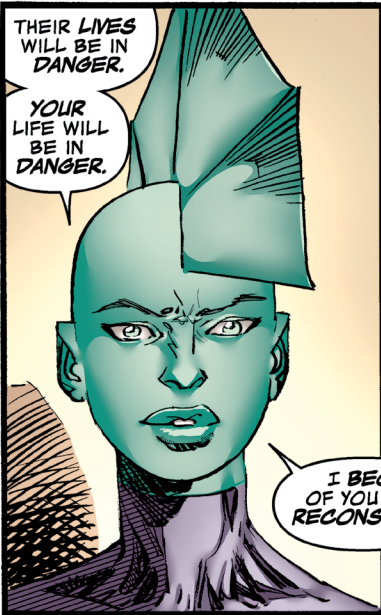


THEY
MAY KILL
HER.

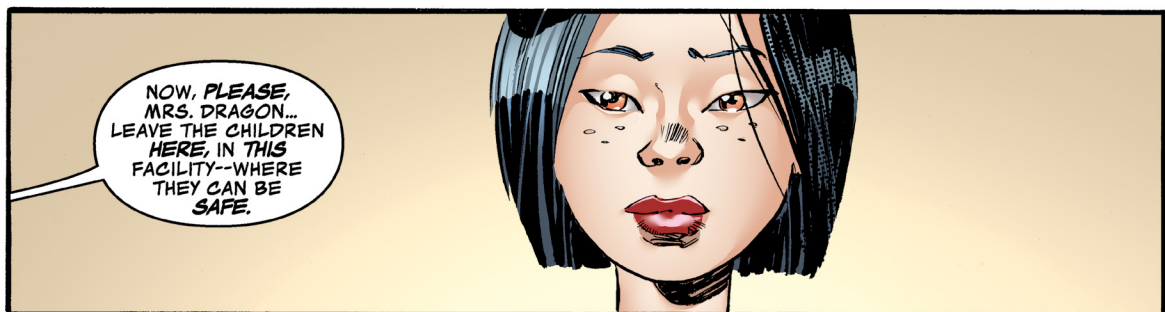
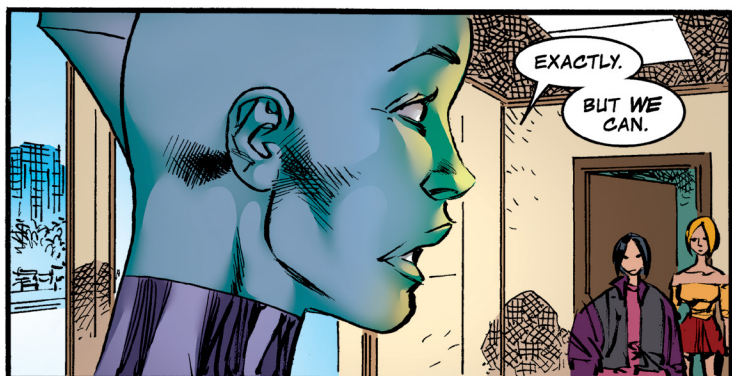
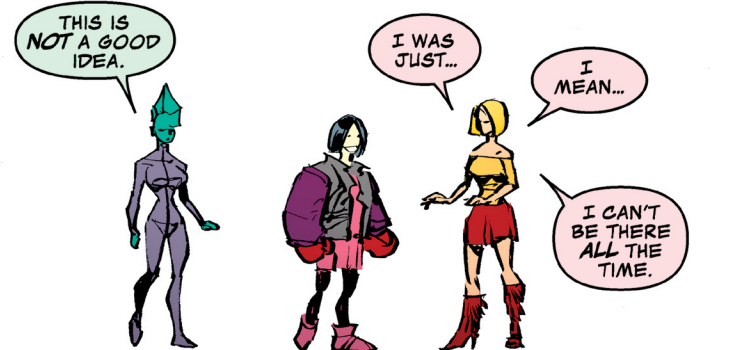
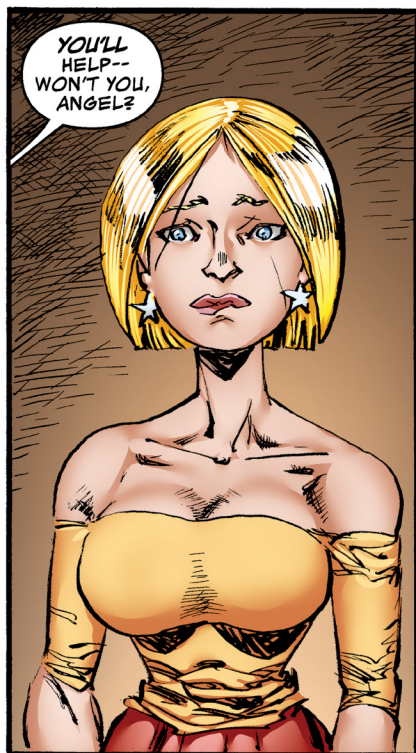
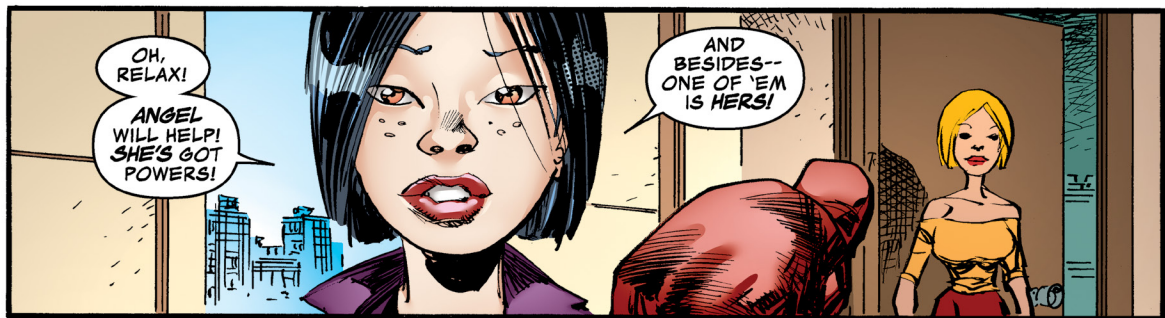
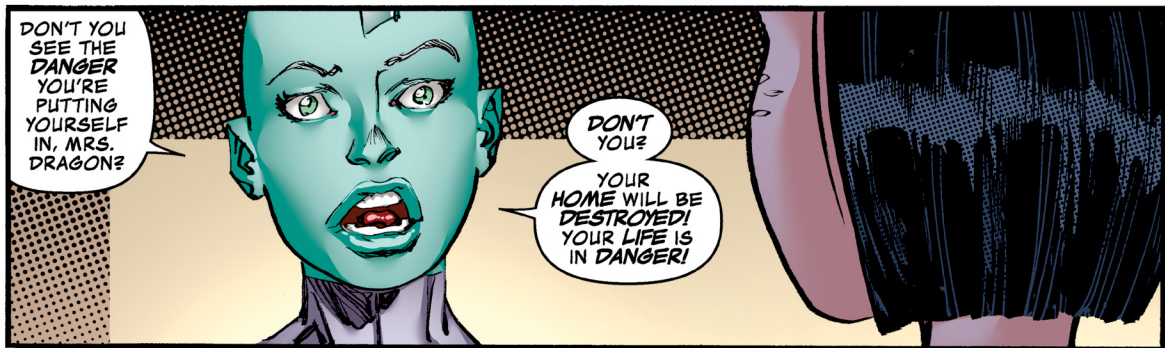
THEY
WOULDN'T
HURT THEIR
MOMMY.

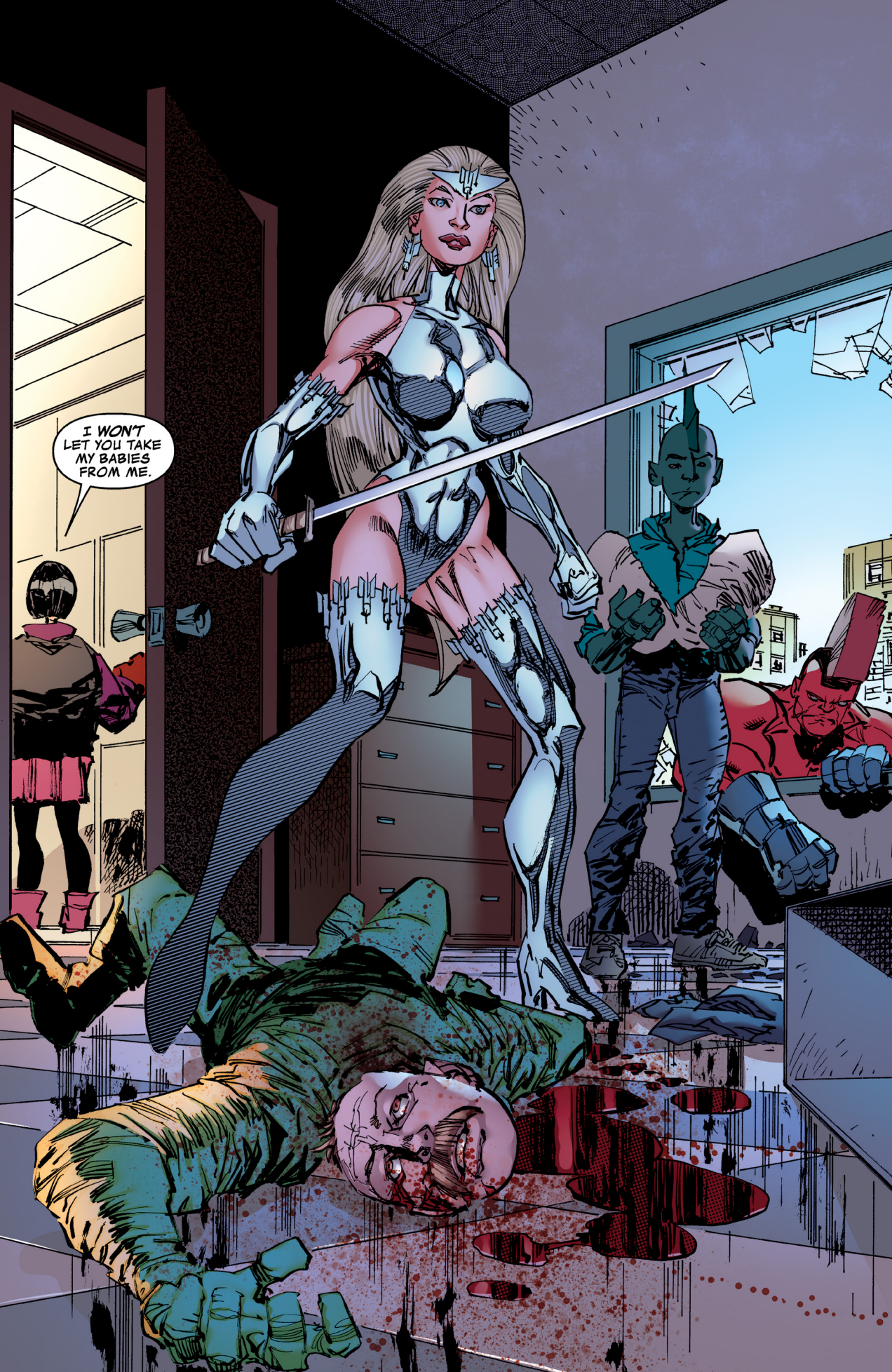
WOULD
THEY?











I WON'T
LET YOU TAKE
MY BABIES
FROM ME.

e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at www.savagedragon.com

Things are pretty hectic around these parts. Those of you who have been reading for a while know I have two kids--I announced their births in these pages some time back--and this year my youngest boy, Joe is graduating from high school while his older brother graduates from college. Crazy to think that much time has passed since I started this book.

And now it's Malcolm and Maxine's turn to spawn the next generation of Savage Dragons in this book! It's an issue I've been looking forward to for a while. It's one of the joys of doing a book set in real time to be able to introduce new characters and see their lives unfold over the decades which follow. At this point I'm nearly 24 years in and it's still a blast!

Still chugging away on Spawn as well. I encourage you to give that a gander.

And now--onto your letters--!

Hey Erik,

Savage Dragon #211, just got into my mitts and to my shock and awe, it was actually quite different from the Savage Dragon Legacy issue. A true director's cut of a comic, and I say that with extreme praise as what was already a great issue, just got even better. A great jumping on point of an issue, while still full of rich material that should appease any long term reader.

Great to see Dart hacking her way through low-tier members of the Vicious Circle again. The page was very reminiscent of the OverLord pages in the books early years. Eerie, yet captivating and powerful in expressing the characters mentality and merciless tenacity. It's actually what I'm looking for in my villains. Speaking of villains, your penchant for creating new ones holds no bounds. Fountainhead, Ragdoll, and Wrath are all great. Really hope we see more of Wrath real soon.

I'm also really hoping Dragon's tenure as a death row inmate is close to coming to an end. I really hate seeing the poor guy trapped like a turkey in an oven, when he should be out and about solving crimes as a private eye, or whatever he would do now that he doesn't have any powers. Still, it's nice that Malcolm still makes the journey over for some fatherly advice, as I'm sure his old man could use a pep boost after staring at a wall for who knows how many hours a day.

The almighty questions have arrived!

Angel was fighting some bizarro dudes at the start of 210, lets see if we can get them named? There was the guy in the opening with the second being on his forehead. On the DPS there was the green guy with a spider/crab head, and then there was the purple dude with the white streaks on his body?

A few more names from SD 210, the Jack Kirby themed Tiki Gods. (If Grey Gargoyles had a name, so should these guys) There is the bluish tint guy with the crown, there is the yellow guy with the bulging eyes, the green one with the huge mouth, and then there the grayish/purple guy with a mug only a mother could love.

Rudehead?! Easily one of your best visual creations. Coming back anytime soon?

What was going on with Wrath at the start of the issue? It seems like we walked into something and missed the entrance to the battle. It sounds like he just received his powers recently and went nuts?

211 is a helluva number to reach, and each month you inch your way closer to that covenant 300 milestone of consecutive issues done by the same guy. Sure Spawn will be the first Image title to get there, but you'll be the first person to do it all by yourself once you hit #301. It's honestly not that far off. Either way, you're doing great and I continue to wish you the best because you really do know what it takes to make a fine funnybook.

Sincerely,
Benny Hasa
San Jose, CA

The guy in the opening with the second being on his forehead is called Angry Ivan.

On the double-page spread, the green guy with a spider/crab head is called Freak-Face, and the purple dude with the white streaks is called Domestic Violet.

As for the Tiki Gods--the bluish one is Kanaloa, the yellow guy is Kane, the green one is Ku, and the grayish/purple guy is Lono.

There are no firm plans for Rudehead at the moment--but I wouldn't put anything past me. I often use guys on the spur of the moment and with that gentle nudge he's back on my radar.

Erik,

That kinetic cover to SD #211 (a nostalgic nod to the 1st ever mini-series issue) was poetry in motion! For the record, I dig the new logo. Thank God I picked up the FCBD version, or else the wait woulda killed me. It was interesting to see what dialogue you decided to rework and why -- the fact that Malcolm and Maxine no longer acknowledge their unborn child as being male had me wondering...

I think getting rid of some big information dumps makes the dialogue flow more smoothly now, but new fans to the book undoubtedly got a lot out of the expository FCBD info. It's not often we get to see 26 pages of the lead story (akin to the mini-series days)... Much obliged!

This ish demonstrates your uncanny ability to create wondrous new characters -- rivaling the prolific creative genius of your idol... Jack Kirby. If only Fountainhead would change his super-villain ways and help Malcolm clean up his city, rather than rain on his parade. (I'll refrain from making a pointed penal code joke.)

Having Malcolm join the Chicago Police Department -- just like his dear old dad, the original Savage Dragon -- is a perfect way to pass the torch. Interestingly, whereas the Golden Age iterations of the Human Torch and the Vision were fellow police officers, their modern Marvel counterparts are not. Neither is Dragon for that matter, who's gone from cop to convict. Hopefully, Malcolm won't follow suit (of the orange prison kind). It's funny how nowadays, the Torch is human in more than name only, and it's the Vision that's an android. Even more peculiar is how Rex Dexter gradually became a robot over time. (May his death serve as a monition to anyone foolhardy enough not to back up their computer files; conversely, I make a point of deleting my browser history.) The way you have Malcolm partnered up with Frank Darling, Jr., pays tribute to his dad's legacy, but this is very much Malcolm's book now. More importantly, SAVAGE DRAGON is YOUR legacy... very much your vision (Jack Kirby's "The Vision" notwithstanding). With all you've accomplished, you must be bursting with pride, Erik. Luckily, your comic-book chef-d'oeuvre never required a birthing process along the lines of Tierra's weebegone womb. Phew!

Sincerely,
Sotiris Gravas

P.S. You seem to like putting Dragon babies into perilous situations... I hope nobody calls Child Protective Services on you. Question: How strong are Dragon's kids, anyway?

P.P.S. I see Dart's back... Yes! (Her front ain't too shabby, either.)

Though the dialogue was revised somewhat from the FCBD edition for space and pacing purposes, the basic idea remains the same--chosen ones are supposed to conceive only male offspring. Malcolm's kids are relatively strong. Not as strong as Malcolm is (yet) but certainly not pushovers.

And Dart is indeed back--in this very issue as well.

Dear Mr. Larsen

I read 211 not too long ago, I really enjoyed it to say the least. I have been reading huge amounts of Savage Dragon lately. I wanted to say I personally prefer the modern stuff. Not that the old stuff is bad by any means, obviously that is where I began. But I just think your art has really transformed over time. But I really like where the story is going, I hope to see some more superpowered friends or cast members.

Derek Green

Well, cool.

Hi Erik,

It was great being able to see you in person and shake your hand at this year's New York Comic-Con! I've been reading Savage Dragon since Image Comics exploded onto the scene in 1992. Long before I was pressing pause on my TV just to process huge shocks from shows like Game of Thrones, I was putting down your comic just to process ridiculous shockers like Overload killing Dragon, a Dragon imposter

cuffing and killing Ann Stevens, Dragon being disintegrated, Jennifer Murphy being killed by her daughter, Dragon having his brains eaten, and most recently Tierra's horrific labor. I skirted over quite a few shockers in that list, but naming all of them would have made my typing fingers burn. All that to say that I can never go too many months reading Savage Dragon without my jaw hitting the floor at least once. The fact that you've been able to keep up this momentum for almost 25 years is so amazing.

I just picked up issue #211 and I really enjoyed it. I love the new logo!! As a graphic designer, I'm curious what was it about the previous "new" logo that you wanted to update. I liked the previous "new" logo as it seemed to fit the "high school hero" direction of the comic. I think the brand new one is an improvement though. The rounded lines and block letters give the new logo a really strong and otherworldly vibe that will go great with whatever direction you take your characters in the future. Great job!!

I have a few questions:

1. Were those dragon babies really "Dad" Dragon's or were they Malcolm's two "on-the-loose" kids? If they were "Dad" Dragon's, where are those babies being kept? I had a hard time grasping where those babies came from I guess...

2. You are now writing and drawing the two longest running Image comics ever. Congrats! When taking over a long running comic, what kind of research did you have to do? Did you have to read every issue of Spawn? How about for really long running comics like Spider-Man or Aquaman?

Anyway, thank you for putting out the best comic on the stands month after month. I'm really enjoying your Spawn run as well.

Best regards,

Trian Koutoufaris

The logo change was about Malcolm Dragon graduating, entering adulthood, and becoming more like his father.

1: Those babies were indeed Malcolm's. They were found in the wild and "returned" to the facility where the others were being born because it was presumed that it was their place of origin.

2: I've read most of the Spawn run and I'm catching up as need be. There's a particular run of issues where Todd wasn't really overseeing things to the extent he should have, which contradict much of what he had established, those will likely go unread as they would add more confusion than clarity.

On Aquaman I counted on the editor to keep me up to date. The entire run was not accessible to me so I made the most with what I had.

On Spider-Man I had read everything previously so that wasn't an issue.

On any book I work on the goal is largely to plow forward instead of dwelling in the past. I'm more interested in blazing new trails than going over the old ones. I have no interest in trying to do one of those "everything you know is wrong" stories which contradicts an origin or something. The past is the past. Let it stay there where it belongs. I'm more interested in the future.

Erik (Larsen),

Tierra, we hardly knew ye! Well...I personally have never read about anybody named Tierra in SD; don't even know what she looked like! So, how is this a "1st Issue in a Bold New Direction", exactly? What was so new? Admittedly, I haven't read the last several issues. Did you know that Savage Dragon. com no longer seems to add new issues?? Not since August, it hasn't.

Where is Angel!! She wasn't in this issue, #211, only mentioned in passing.

Wrath was a pretty cool villain, if you can get by the oh-so-basic name of Wrath.

Ever done an issue of Savage Dragon where, like, Every character you've ever created for this series has appeared??? You don't have to call it a crossover! See you next month.

Cheers,

Andrew J. Shaw

What's "new" is Malcolm joining the police force and everything which comes along with that.

www.savedragon.com is going through some changes. If it hasn't been updated yet, it will shortly.

Angel is back. I skipped her in #211 as a way of focusing that issue more on Malcolm as a police officer.

No, I have not done an issue featuring every character I've created in the book. Many characters are dead after all these years and even if I just used those who are alive the book would be some crammed full of characters there wouldn't be much space to do anything with them.

Dear Erik,

It's been a while since I've written to Fin Addicts, but I realized I had several questions concerning Savage Dragon that I've been wondering about for some time now. So I wanted to take the opportunity to see if you might be able to provide some answers.

1) Obviously the Earth from the original continuity seen in issue #s 1-75 was shown to be destroyed by Universo in issue #103. But what about the reality that was created in issue #98 when Dragon traveled back in time to his original reality and saved Ann Stevens from being murdered by Doctor Nirvana? That diverged shortly before the events of issue #75. If the Dragon in that world listened to "our" Dragon and did not kill Darklord, then he would still be around later to stop Universo. So, does a version of the original Dragon's timeline still exist in that reality, and if it does might we see it again someday?

2) In issue #103, when Universo destroyed the Earth, who were the unidentified people who tossed Malcolm, Angel and the other kids into Dimension X to save them from dying? That scene recently got recapped in the Savage Dragon: Legacy release on Free Comic Book Day, reminding me that I've been wondering about this one for over a hundred issues now.

3) Is there any particular significance to the flashbacks from #193 and #194 where young Malcolm learns that his mother Rapture was dead and had been replaced by an alternate reality version by Li'l Darklord? I'm wondering if you're going to follow up on this if Darklord appears again. When exactly did those scenes take place? I'm guessing that they were in the original timeline at some point between Dragon getting shunted to the "Savage World" reality in #75 and Earth getting destroyed in #103.

4) Why exactly did the Angel from the current timeline go bad? Was it because she grew up with Mister Glum and he was a really negative influence? Was it a case of Stockholm Syndrome or brainwashing by Glum? Or was it because when the God Gun gave Glum total control over everyone on Earth, he made Angel kill her own mother? If it's the last one, I can see that this could cause her to lose her mind out of a combination of grief & guilt and cause her to flee to Dimension-X. It could also explain why Angel had such an obvious love-hate relationship with Glum, which was very much on display in the issues shortly before she died.

Okay, enough with the questions. I recently sat down and re-read Savage Dragon #193 to 210. Your work on this series over the past two years was really good. A lot of the plotlines and character arcs from those issues led into the latest issue #211, which is an excellent start to the next stage of Malcolm's life. I'm looking forward to seeing where you go with him and Maxine and all the other characters.

It was really great meeting you at New York Comic Con this past October. I had very briefly met you at a couple of other shows in years past, but this was the first time I really had an opportunity to talk to you and tell you face-to-face how much I enjoy your work. Thanks for coming to NYC for the show, and for drawing such a great sketch of Beautiful Dreamer for me.

Keep up the great work, Erik!

Ben Herman

Queens, NY

1: It likely does exist but I don't think there's much of a point in revisiting it. There are countless alternate timelines and any one of them makes things more confusing for the readers and eats up valuable space which I'd rather devote to this world.

2: They're the same ones in Dimension-X with them--Hotwire and WildStar and all the rest.

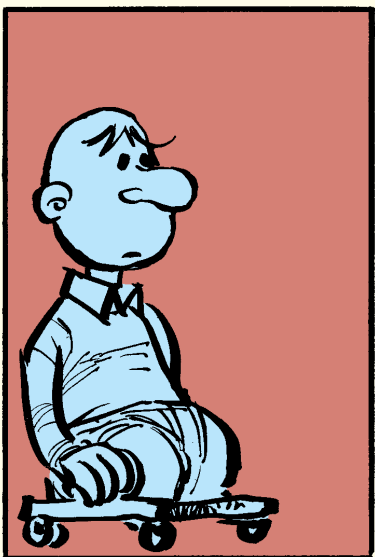
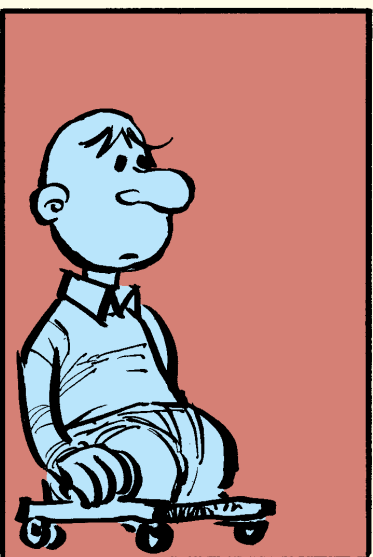
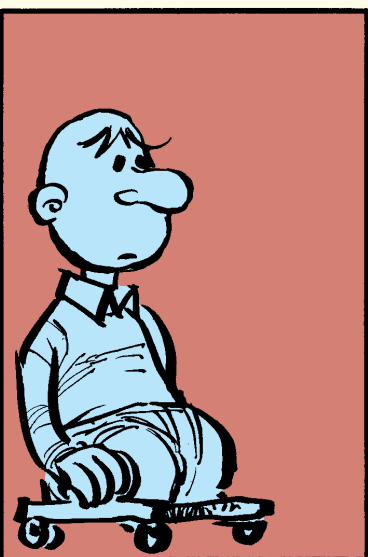
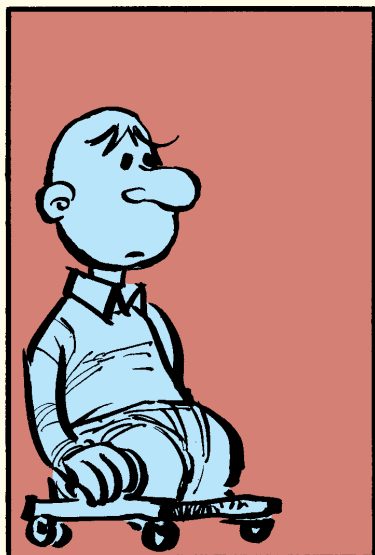
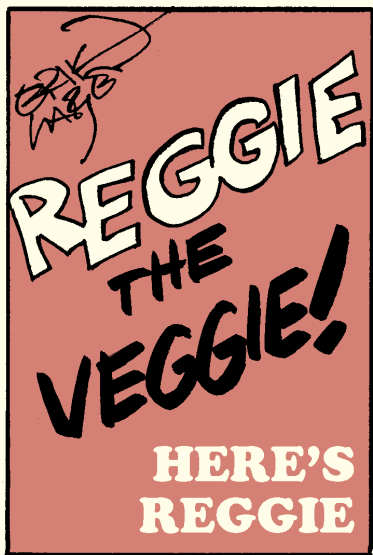
3: The point was to simply fill in some Malcolm back story. To establish who his mom was and what his early years were like.

4: "Going bad" is a relative term. I think it was really the long exposed influence of Mr. Glum. Once she'd lost her inhibitions and moral compass after he'd made his world-conquering wish all bets were off. With a few deaths under her belt it was all over for her. There was no going back.

-Erik Larsen

NEXT: Tantrum! Dart! Things get crazy!

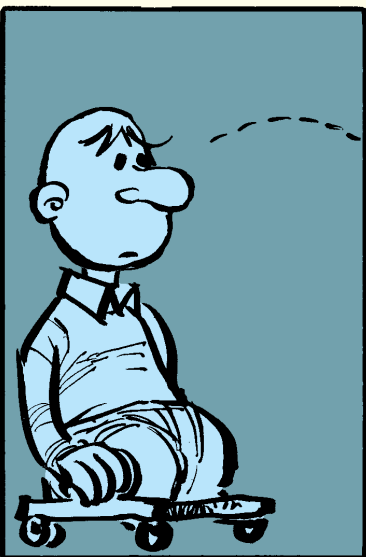
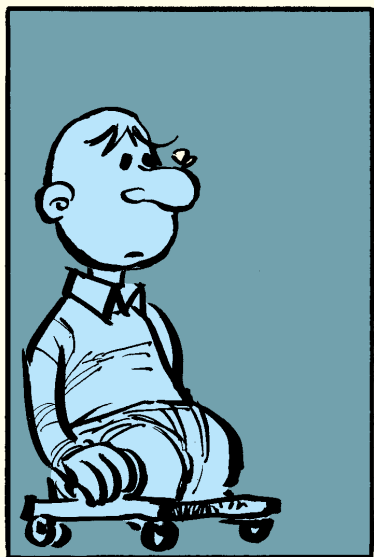
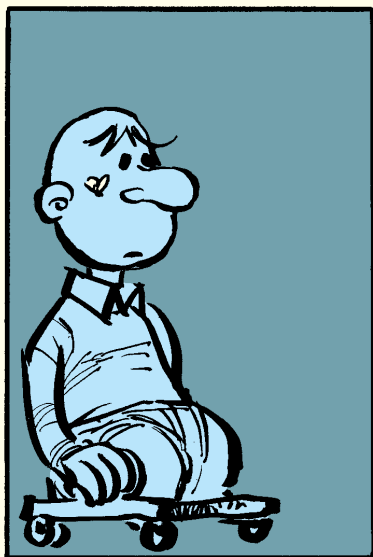
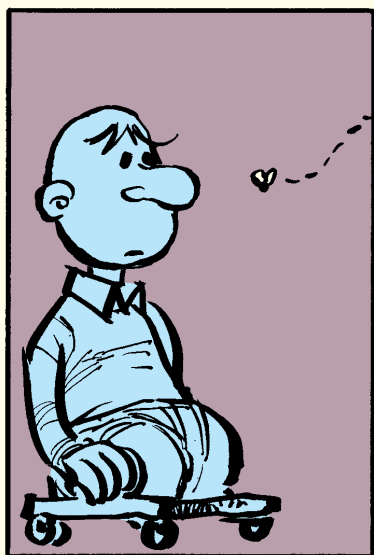
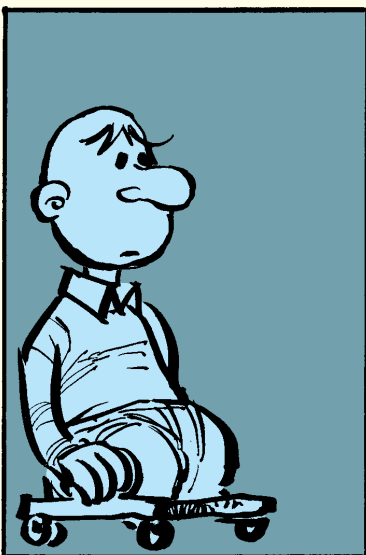
Hey, don't stop reading now--there's plenty of additional funny-book fun to be had in the pages that follow--!

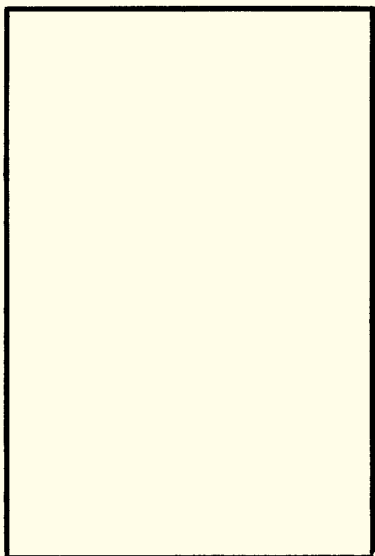
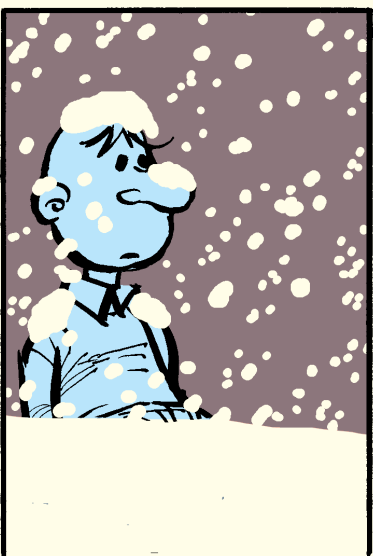
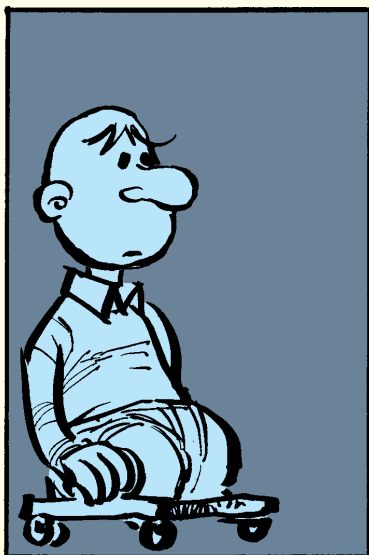
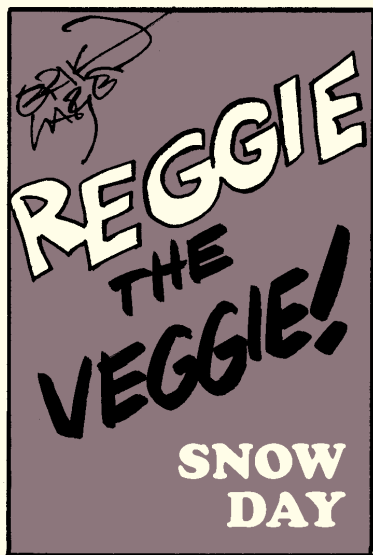


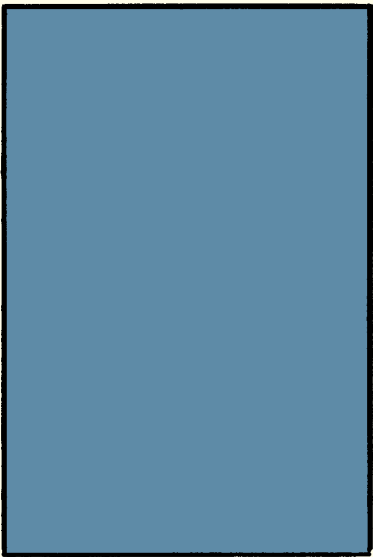
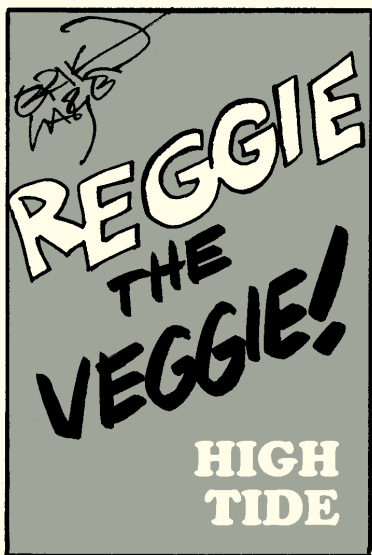
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REGGIE THE VEGGIE!

HAS A
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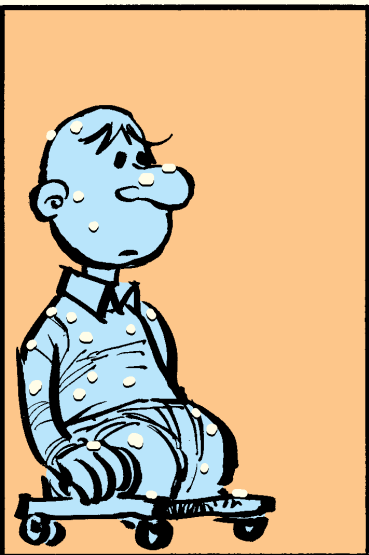
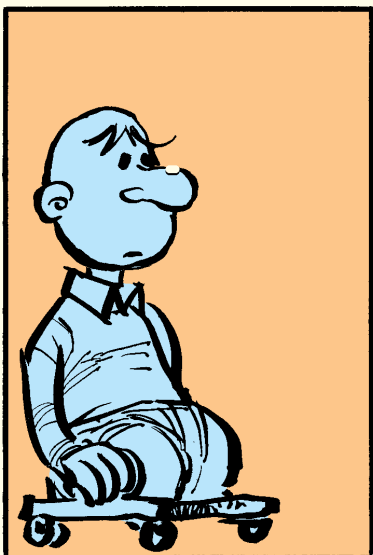
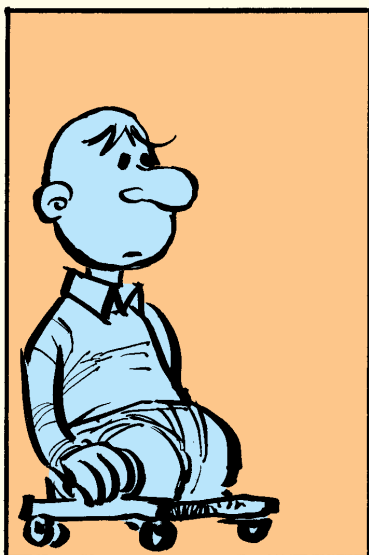


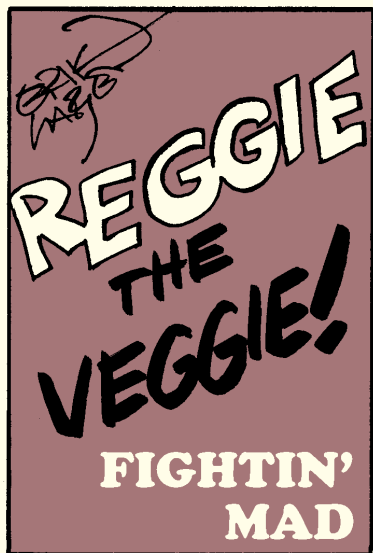


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REGGIE THE VEGGIE!

THE
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Unfinished, unpulished cover
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COMING SOON...



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