



CELEBRATING 20 GOLDEN YEARS!

GOLD DIGGER

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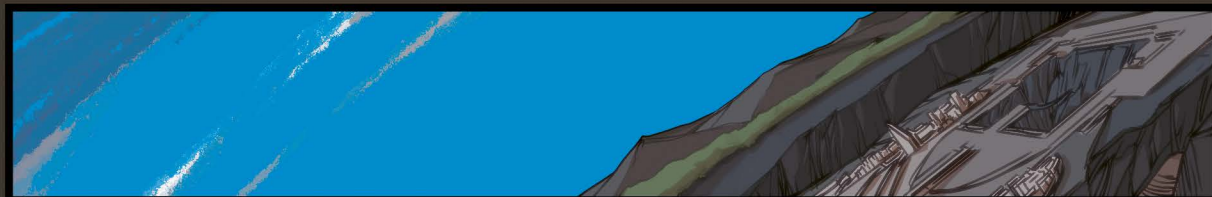
FRED PERRY

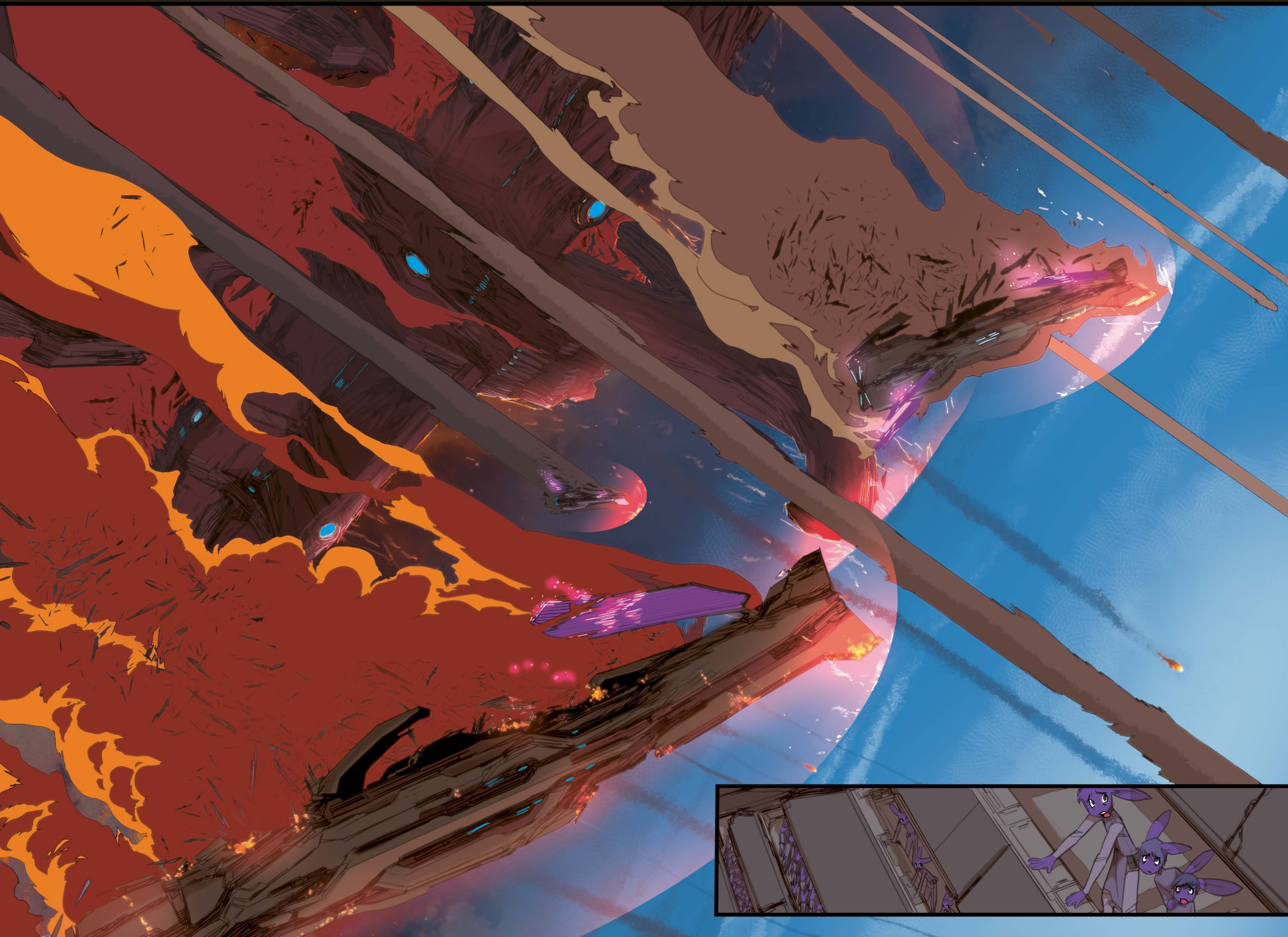


DECEMBER 2011



PLANET AYZENTHLAY OF THE EFRAFA SYSTEM
AMARAN DEFENSE RESEARCH COLONY







THE SECRET
IS IN THE
AGITATION!

"THE FLAVOR"
ONLY COMES TO
THOSE WHO
BLEND WITH
CARE!



TSK. ALL I
WANTED WAS
A CUP OF
INSTANT
COFFEE,
GINA.

SOMETHING
HOT TO DRINK.

I DON'T WANT NO
JECKYL AND HYDE
JUICE FROM YOUR
EASY-BAKE
CHEMISTRY SET!



AHHH, THE VACUOUS,
VAPID SIGHS OF THE
NON-BELIEVER!

TRUST ME, BABY SISTER,
THERE IS *NOTHING* QUITE
AS *SAVORY* AS COFFEE
BREWED ON A *BUNSEN*
BURNER...

...AND MY TECHNIQUES
HAVE BEEN PASSED
DOWN FROM TEACHER TO
CHEMISTRY STUDENT
FOR *GENERATIONS!*



PROFESSOR
DIGGERS HAS A POINT...
AND "BUNSEN BREW'S"
SECRET INGREDIENT...
IS "SCIENCE"!

OH, YES! LISTEN TO
AGENT DORTON!

"THE FLAVOR" IS THE
PERFECT PICK-ME-UP FOR
OUR STAKEOUT!

YOU'LL SEE!

"THE PERFECT
PICK-ME-UP" WOULD BE
FINDING A TRACE OF
JAN OR ROL, GINA!

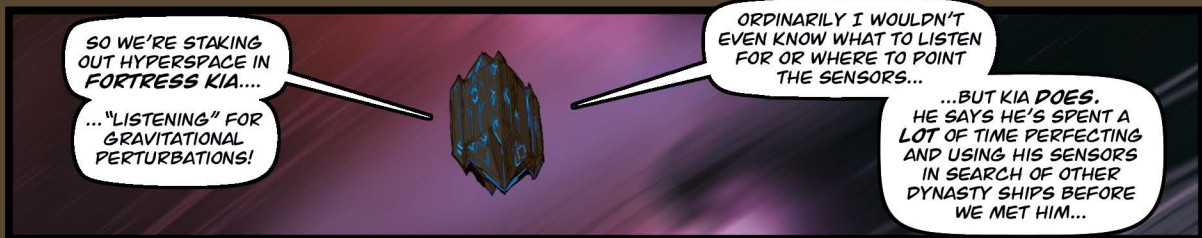
WE SHOULD BE
OUT LOOKING FOR
OUR *FRIENDS*, NOT
LOUNGING AROUND
IN YOUR PET
DEATH STAR!



WE ARE OUT
LOOKING FOR
THEM, BRIT'!

OR TO PUT IT MORE
ACCURATELY, WE'RE
LISTENING FOR THEM!

WHEREVER JAN AND
ROL ARE NOW, THEY
USED HYPERSPACE
TECHNOLOGY TO
GET THERE!

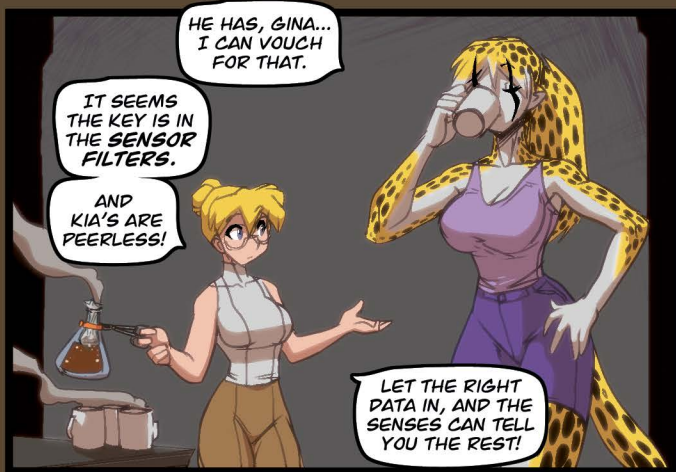


SO WE'RE STAKING
OUT HYPERSPACE IN
FORTRESS KIA....

... "LISTENING" FOR
GRAVITATIONAL
PERTURBATIONS!

ORDINARILY I WOULDN'T
EVEN KNOW WHAT TO LISTEN
FOR OR WHERE TO POINT
THE SENSORS...

...BUT KIA DOES.
HE SAYS HE'S SPENT A
LOT OF TIME PERFECTING
AND USING HIS SENSORS
IN SEARCH OF OTHER
DYNASTY SHIPS BEFORE
WE MET HIM...

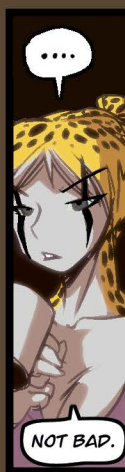


HE HAS, GINA...
I CAN VOUCH
FOR THAT.

IT SEEMS
THE KEY IS IN
THE SENSOR
FILTERS.

AND
KIA'S ARE
PEERLESS!

LET THE RIGHT
DATA IN, AND THE
SENSES CAN TELL
YOU THE REST!



NOT BAD.



"NOT BAD"!?
MEANING
BEYOND YOUR
WILDEST
CAFFEINATED
DREAMS?

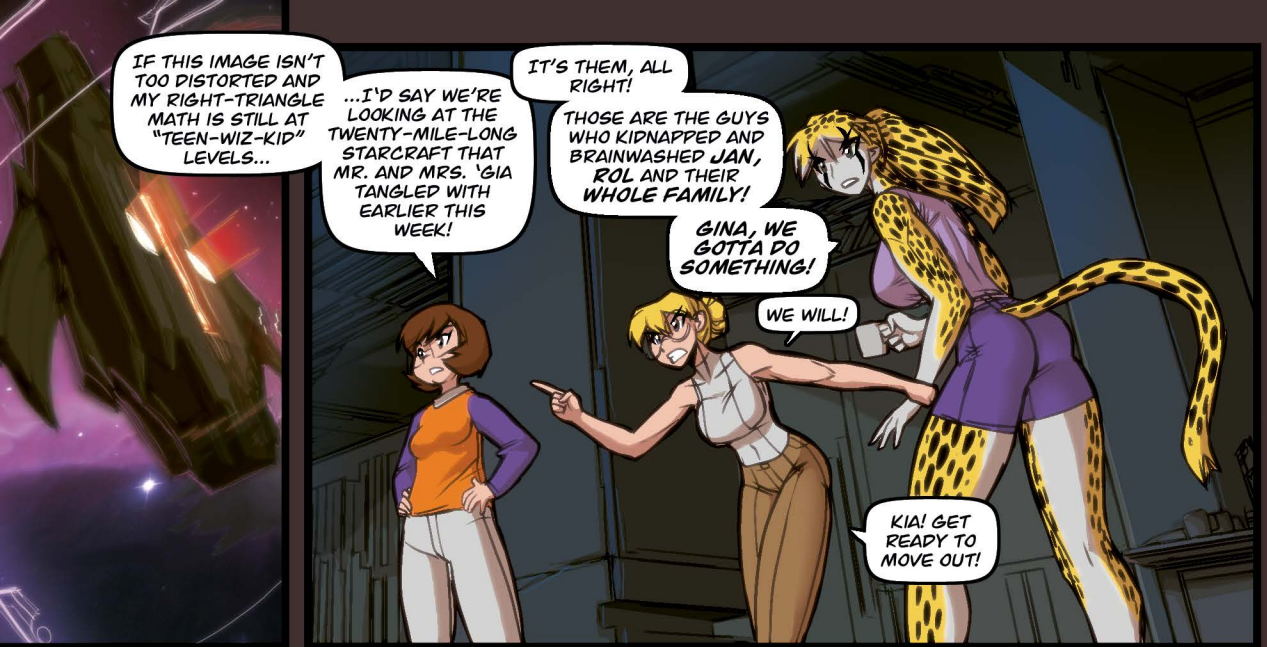
"NOT BAD"
MEANING
"NOT BAD."

GUYS!



I THINK WE GOT
SOMETHING!





IF THIS IMAGE ISN'T TOO DISTORTED AND MY RIGHT-TRIANGLE MATH IS STILL AT "TEEN-WIZ-KID" LEVELS...

...I'D SAY WE'RE LOOKING AT THE TWENTY-MILE-LONG STARCRAFT THAT MR. AND MRS. 'GIA TANGLED WITH EARLIER THIS WEEK!

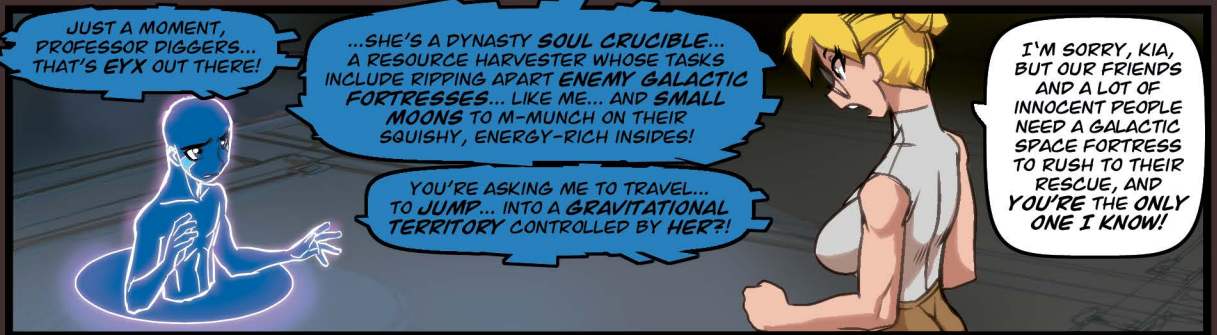
IT'S THEM, ALL RIGHT!

THOSE ARE THE GUYS WHO KIDNAPPED AND BRAINWASHED JAN, ROL AND THEIR WHOLE FAMILY!

GINA, WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

WE WILL!

KIA! GET READY TO MOVE OUT!



JUST A MOMENT, PROFESSOR DIGGERS... THAT'S EYX OUT THERE!

...SHE'S A DYNASTY SOUL CRUCIBLE... A RESOURCE HARVESTER WHOSE TASKS INCLUDE RIPPING APART ENEMY GALACTIC FORTRESSES... LIKE ME... AND SMALL MOONS TO M-MUNCH ON THEIR SQUISHY, ENERGY-RICH INSIDES!

YOU'RE ASKING ME TO TRAVEL... TO JUMP... INTO A GRAVITATIONAL TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY HER?!

I'M SORRY, KIA, BUT OUR FRIENDS AND A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE NEED A GALACTIC SPACE FORTRESS TO RUSH TO THEIR RESCUE, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I KNOW!



BUT I HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST EYX'S AURA CANNONS...

...I-I HAVE NO PILLARS TO BEND THE SPACE BETWEEN MYSELF AND HER ATOMICS...

...AND I HAVE NO WEAPONS TO FIGHT OFF HER ARMADAS!

THOSE...ARE PRETTY VALID CONCERNS, MR. KIA...

DON'T WORRY! WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING HURT YOU, KIA!

THAT'S RIGHT, KID, WE GOT YOUR BACK!

AND YEAH, IT'S SCARY GOING INTO BATTLE WITHOUT WEAPONS...



...BUT WE INSTALLED A WHOLE @\$\$LOAD OF GINA-GADGETS FOR YOU TO USE ON THIS MISSION!

NOW, ONCE WE LEAVE HYPERSPACE AND BRING OUR BUDDIES INTO PLAY, YOU CAN LEAVE THE SMALL FRY TO US...

...MEANWHILE,
YOU'LL BE KICKING
DEATH STAR BUTT
ALL OVER THE
PLACE WITH YOUR
GIZMOS, KIA!

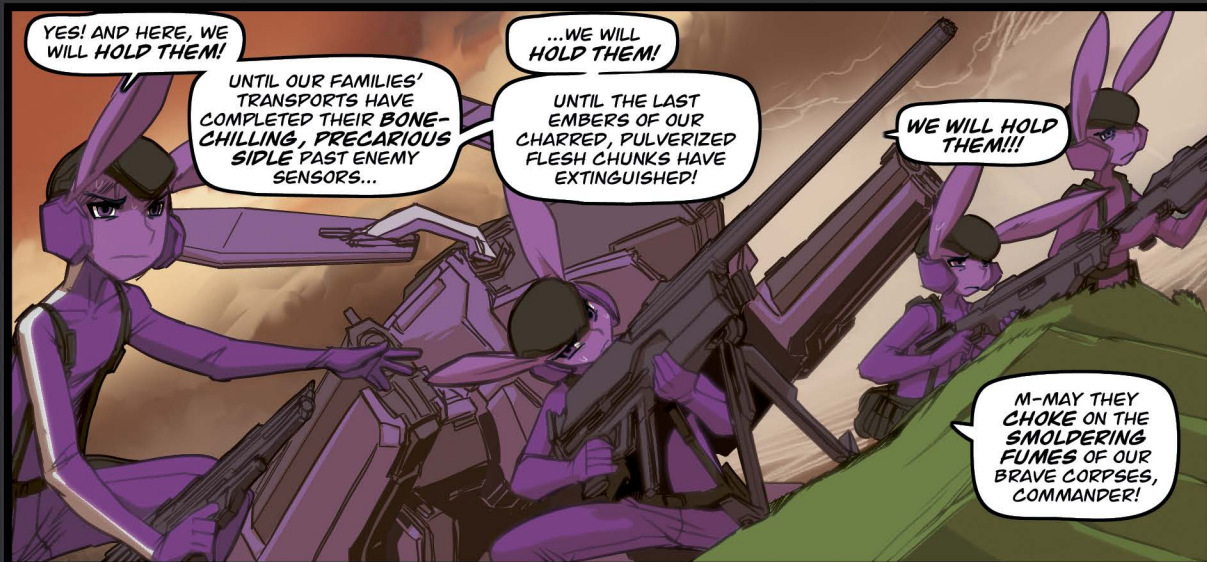
B-BUT I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO USE
ANYTHING THE
PROFESSOR'S
INSTALLED!!!

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT,
KID!

WE GOT A FRIEND
WHO'S BEEN
ITCHING FOR A
CHANCE TO HELP
OUT, AND WEIRD
GADGETS ARE
RIGHT UP HER
ALLEY!

HERE THEY
COME...



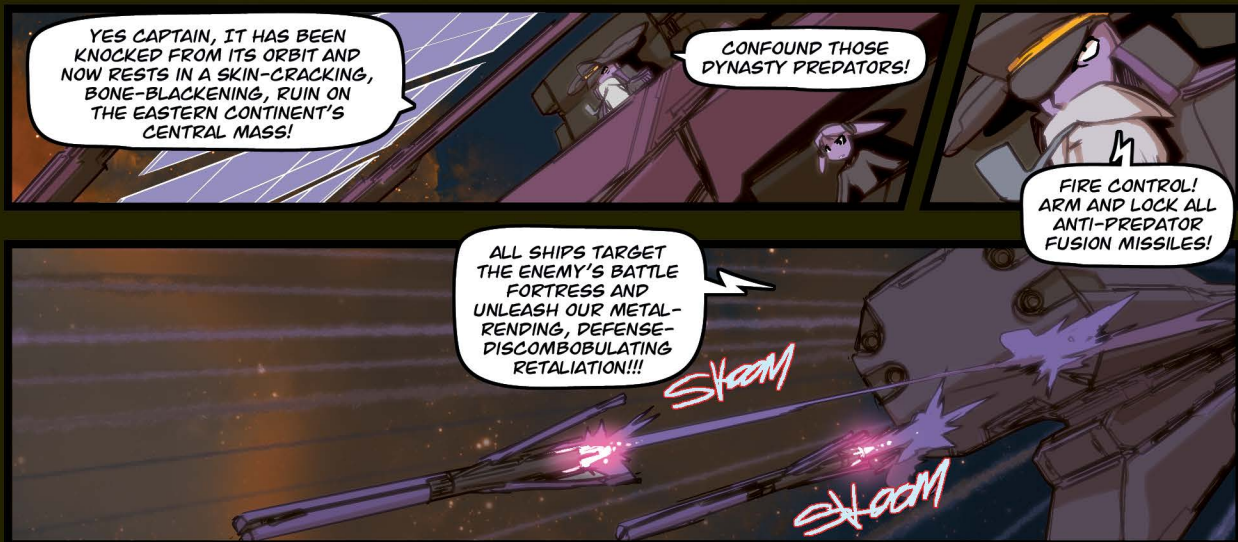




ALL ANTI-PREDATOR
FIGHTERS ACCELERATE
TO TEETH-CLENCHING,
NERVE-STEELING
ATTACK VELOCITY!

REAR ECHELON FRIGATES!
PREPARE TO ENTER THE
ATMOSPHERE TO CONDUCT
RESCUE OPERATIONS ON AS
MANY OF THE GROUND
DEFENSE LABORATORIES
AS YOU REACH!

SCIENCE OFFICER!
HAVE YOU LOCATED
THE EFRAFAN
SPACEPORT
YET!?



YES CAPTAIN, IT HAS BEEN
KNOCKED FROM ITS ORBIT AND
NOW RESTS IN A SKIN-CRACKING,
BONE-BLACKENING, RUIN ON
THE EASTERN CONTINENT'S
CENTRAL MASS!

CONFOUND THOSE
DYNASTY PREDATORS!

FIRE CONTROL!
ARM AND LOCK ALL
ANTI-PREDATOR
FUSION MISSILES!

ALL SHIPS TARGET
THE ENEMY'S BATTLE
FORTRESS AND
UNLEASH OUR METAL-
RENDING, DEFENSE-
DISCOMBOBULATING
RETALIATION!!!

SHOOM

SHOOM



CAPTAIN!
INTERFERENCE!

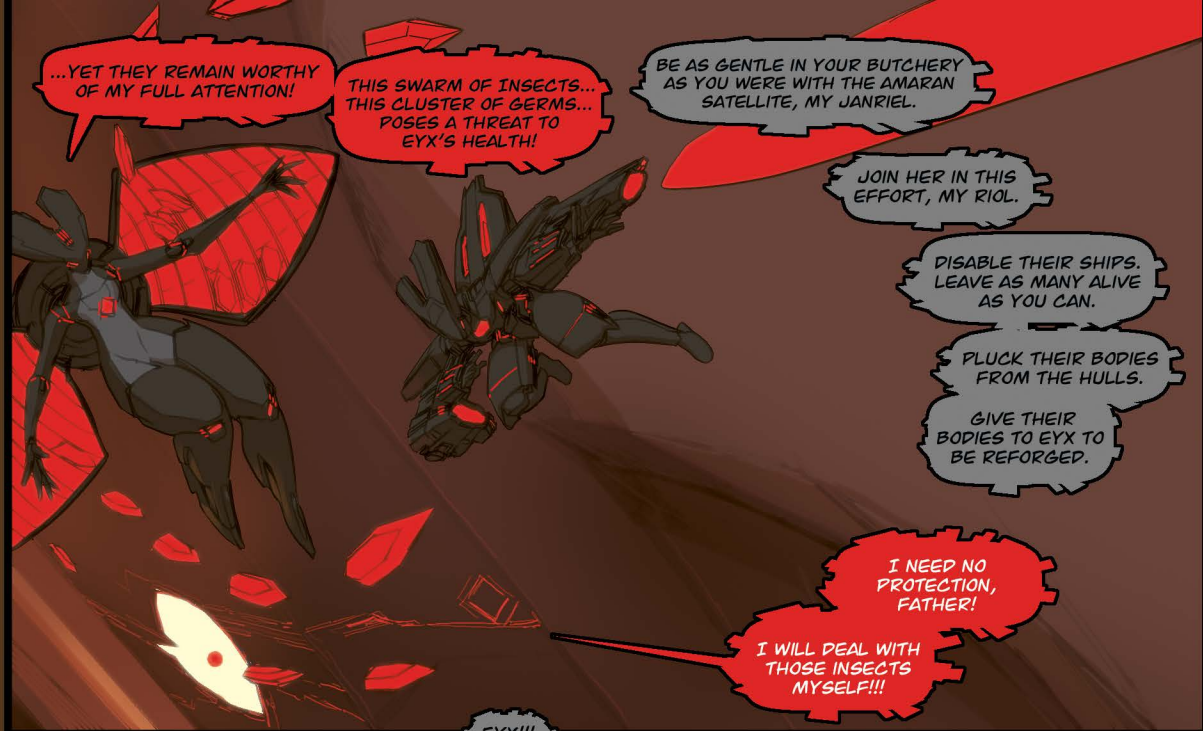
THE DYNASTY'S FORCES
ARE SHOOTING DOWN OUR
ANTI-PREDATOR MISSILES!

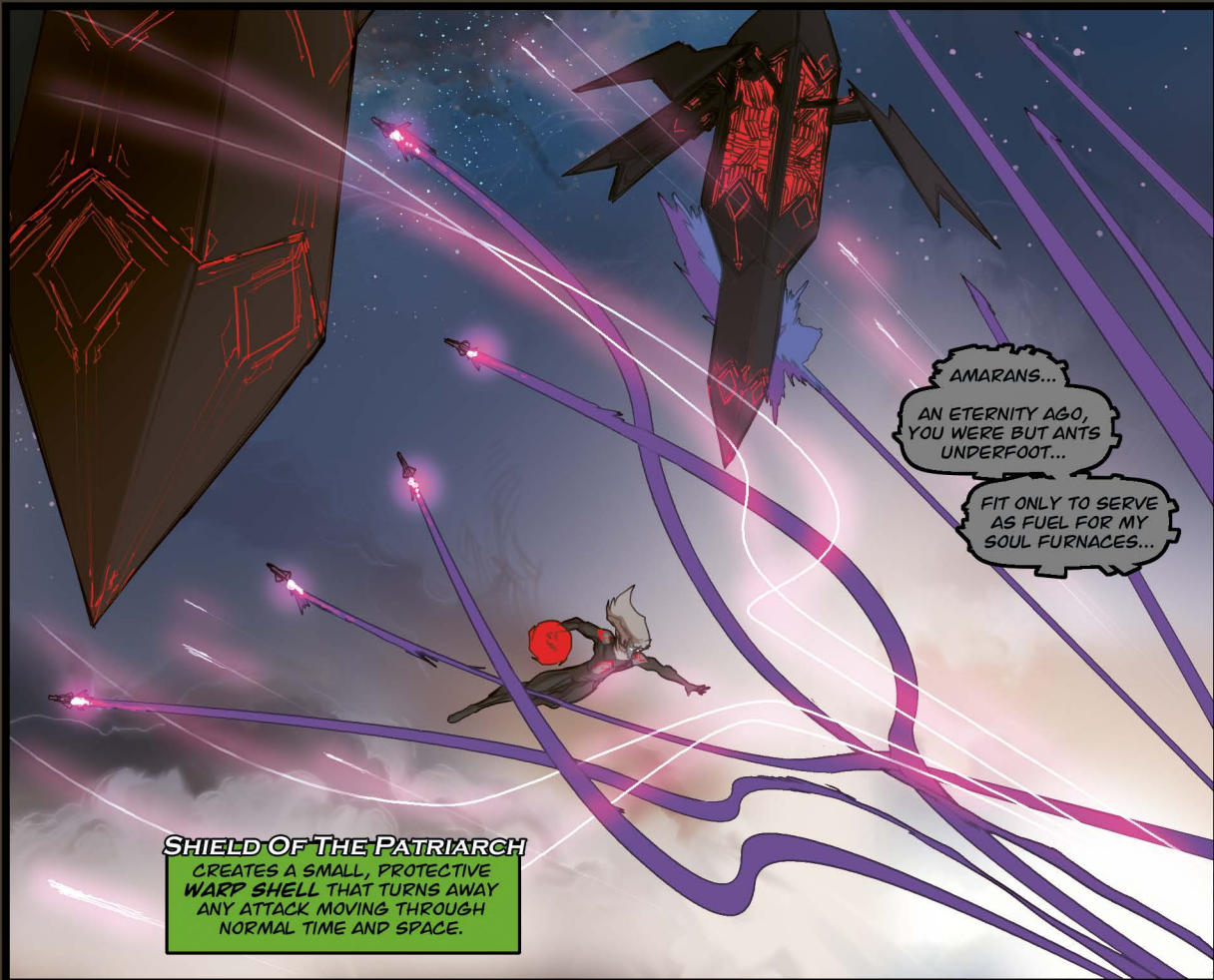
CONFOUND THEM!
CONFOUND THOSE
CARNIVOROUS
BASTARDS!

THEIR STORM IS
BROKEN, FATHER!

AND NOT A SINGLE DROP
OF THEIR HULL-MELTING,
IRON-SPLITTING RAIN
SHALL TOUCH US...







AMARANS...
AN ETERNITY AGO,
YOU WERE BUT ANTS
UNDERFOOT...
FIT ONLY TO SERVE
AS FUEL FOR MY
SOUL FURNACES...

SHIELD OF THE PATRIARCH
CREATES A SMALL, PROTECTIVE
WARP SHELL THAT TURNS AWAY
ANY ATTACK MOVING THROUGH
NORMAL TIME AND SPACE.



BUT YOU'VE
REMADE YOURSELVES
WHILE I'VE BEEN AWAY.

WILL OF THE PATRIARCH
SPILLS FORTH STREAMS
OF RED-SHIFTED
(FASTER THAN LIGHT)
ETHEREAL PARTICLES.

MOST DYNASTY
AURA-WEAPONS FIRE
RED-SHIFTED ETHER
BEAMS, STREAMS OR
BURSTS.



YOU'VE BECOME
AS STRONG AS
THE HEROES'
TRIBE...
THE KRYN...

...OR THE
MYSTICS' TRIBE...
THE ATLANTIANS!



DO THEY, YOUR ALLIES,
KNOW THE HIDDEN
SOURCE OF YOUR
STRENGTH, AMARANS?

DO THEY KNOW
YOU SOAR THROUGH
THE STARS ON MY
WINGS?

DO THEY KNOW
YOU HAVE FILLED
YOUR FLESH WITH
MY BLOOD?



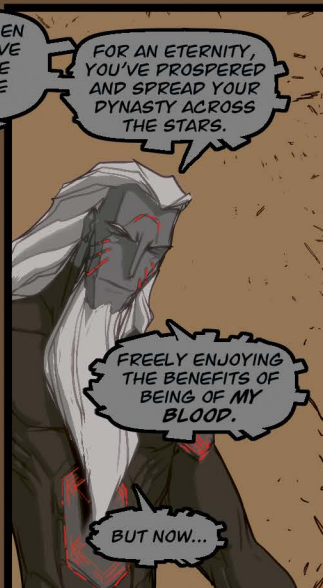
DO NOT
DENY IT.



DO NOT
DENY ME.

FOR AN ETERNITY, YOU'VE STOLEN
SECRETS FROM THE RELICS I'VE
LEFT BEHIND, AND HIDDEN THE
SOURCE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE
FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

GAAHH



FOR AN ETERNITY,
YOU'VE PROSPERED
AND SPREAD YOUR
DYNASTY ACROSS
THE STARS.

FREELY ENJOYING
THE BENEFITS OF
BEING OF MY
BLOOD.

BUT NOW...



...FATHER IS
HOME!

GAAHH

ACE AND PENNY HERE!
WE'LL RUN INTERFERENCE
FOR THOSE AMARAN SHIPS!

BUT ONCE WE REGULATE,
IT'S THE AFTER-PARTY!

RIGHT!

AGENT D AND I WILL
ISOLATE JAN, ROL AND
THEIR FAMILY!

WE'LL KEEP THEM
FROM HARM...

...AND THEM FROM
HARMING US!

THAT LEAVES BRIT' AND
ME TO WHEEL AND DEAL
WITH THE DYNASTY
PATRIARCH!

ALL WE
NEED IS A "K.O."!

WITH THE PATRIARCH UNCONSCIOUS, I
CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HIS SYMBIOTS
AND GET THEM TO FREE JAN AND ROL
FROM DYNASTY CONTROL!

THE PATRIARCH
THINKS HE CAN
JUST GO
WHEREVER HE
WANTS, ENSLAVING
WHOEVER HE
WANTS!

HE THINKS HE CAN JUST
SNATCH UP OUR FRIENDS AND
TURN THEM AGAINST US!

BUT GINA
AND I FOUGHT
THIS JERK BEFORE!
WE KNOW HIS
GAME!

SO EVERYBODY
COVER YOUR
BASES AS BEST
YOU CAN WHILE WE
KNOCK IT OUT OF
THE PARK!

SO...IT IS THE HEROES
WHO CHALLENGED ME
ON EARTH, AEBRA AND
EL-AHRAIRAH.

THEY DOG MY
HEELS.

THEY
CONTINUE
TO DEFEAT
ME.



THEY PRESUME
TO END MY REIGN
NOW THAT I AM
WEAKENED AND
MALNOURISHED.

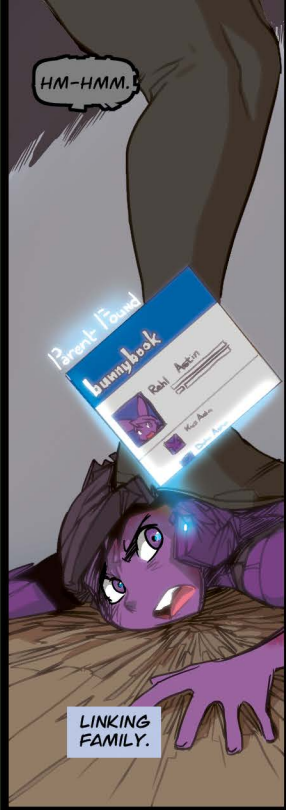
HEROES ARE
MORE THAN A
MATCH FOR THE
STRENGTH OF
MY REFORGED
FIGHTING
DRONES...

...BUT NOT FOR
THE STRENGTH
OF MY
REFORGED
CHILDREN!



FIND.
PARENTS.

BUNNYBOOK
INITIALIZED.



HM-HMM!

LINKING
FAMILY.



AMARAN FAMILIES ARE VAST...
THOUSANDS OF COUSINS...
MILLIONS...SOMETIMES BILLIONS!

BUT A HUMAN FRIEND OF
YOUR PEOPLE CREATED A
SOCIAL NETWORK TO
HELP YOU ALL!

AND EVERY AMARAN
PARENT INTEGRATED
THAT NETWORK INTO
YOUR TECHNOLOGY!



TECHNOLOGY YOU
STOLE FROM RELICS
I LEFT BEHIND!

AND THROUGH THAT
LINK, I POUR FORTH
MY WILL!

THE "NANO-MACHINES" YOU
BOUND TO YOUR ARMOR AND
FLESH AWAKEN AS DYNASTY
SYMBIOTS.

JUST AS YOU
AWAKEN AND NAME
ME AS YOUR
PATRIARCH!



F--

FATHER...



LONG AGO, ONLY THE CHILDREN I SIRED COULD SURPASS THE POWER OF THE STRONGEST OF MY SLAVE COMMANDERS...

...AND MY CHILDREN WERE FAR TOO FEW.



BUT NOW MY DYNASTY CROWDS THE STARS!

TO HEAL THE LIFE FORCE OF THIS UNIVERSE... WITH DEATH!



EYX!
REFORGE AS MANY OF MY CHILDREN AS YOU CAN!

THEY MUST JOIN ME IN BATTLE WITH THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT!



F-FORGIVE ME FATHER...
I ONLY H-HAVE STRENGTH TO REFORGE TWO OFFSPRING!

FOOLISH EYX.

FATHER WARNED YOU TO SAVE YOUR STRENGTH!



BUT FEAR NOT!

MY SISTER AND I WILL MORE THAN SUFFICE!

I CAN REFORGE FIFTY MORE...

...A HUNDRED MORE...



CRAP!
"SCENARIO EW!" JUST REARED ITS HEAD ON US, GANG!

...IF YOU BRING ME THE HEART OF THE ENEMY'S FORTRESS!

BRAINWASHED AMARAN FLEET CLOSING ON POOR KIA!

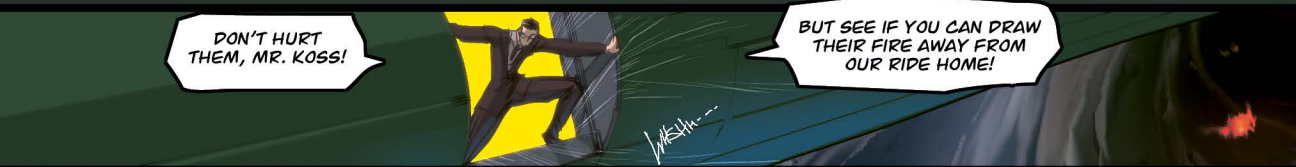
MISSILES INBOUND!

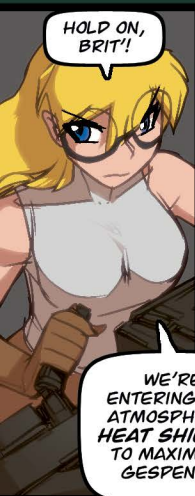
DON'T WORRY! WE'VE GOT THIS COVERED!

R-RIGHT, COACH?

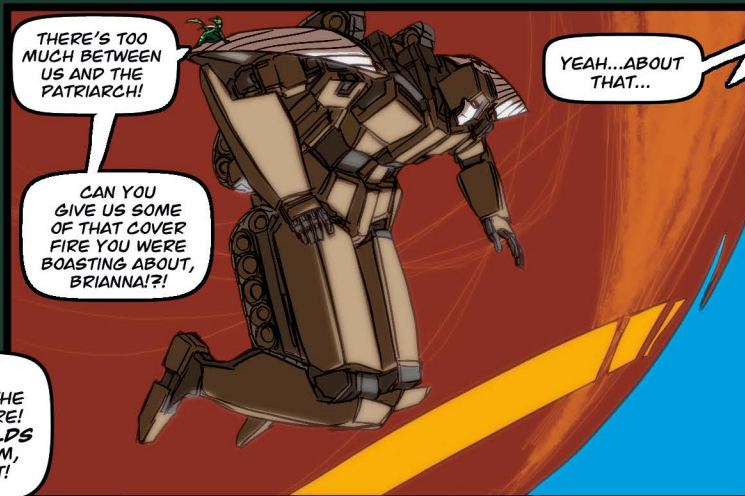
LEAVE IT TO US, GINA!

GO, GO GAHJET PIN-POINT BARRIER!





HOLD ON, BRIT!



THERE'S TOO MUCH BETWEEN US AND THE PATRIARCH!

CAN YOU GIVE US SOME OF THAT COVER FIRE YOU WERE BOASTING ABOUT, BRIANNA!?

YEAH...ABOUT THAT...



I'M GONNA NEED A BETTER ANGLE, GUYS!

THE STUPID WARP PILLARS ARE IN THE WAY!

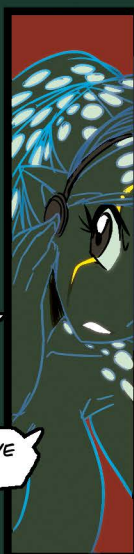


THE PILLAR'S STUCK IN DEFENSE MODE PROTECTING THE DYNASTY DADDY'S CABOOSE...

...DANG IT! I CAN'T GET A SHOT THROUGH!

NEVER MIND ABOUT THE DEFENSE THINGIES, BRIANNA!

GINA AND I HAVE COMPANY!



LICK OFF SOME SHOTS TO SCARE AWAY THE PAIR OF GIANT, ARMORED, SPACE BUNNIES STALKING US!

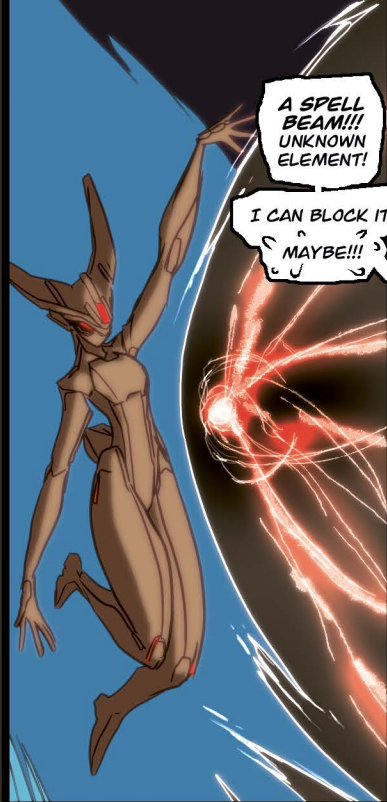
ZOINKS!

WE CAN'T TAKE ANY EVASIVE ACTION OR RAISE A DEFENSE RIGHT NOW!

ALL GESPIE'S SHIELD ENERGY IS BEING USED TO FIGHT OFF MEAN OLD MR. ATMOSPHERIC MCFRICTION!



CRAP! ONE OF THEM'S CASTING! STEP ON IT, GINA!!!



A SPELL
BEAM!!!
UNKNOWN
ELEMENT!

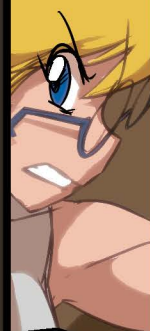
I CAN BLOCK IT!
MAYBE!!!

NNG!



AGENT "M"!
THIS IS GINA!!!
WE'RE BEING
AMBUSHED!

WE COULD REALLY
USE A HAND TO HELP
US SHAKE LOOSE!



AGENT DORTON
HERE,
PROFESSOR
DIGGERS!

I WAS JUST
ABOUT TO CALL
YOU FOR HELP!



WE'RE IN THE
MIDDLE OF OUR
SNATCH AND
GRAB OPERATION!

BUT JAN'S "KIDDIE
POPS" CAN'T SUPPORT
THEMSELVES ALONE!

THAT MEANS ALL OF JAN'S LAUNCHED
PODS HAVE TO BE SNATCHED UP FIRST
AND STORED IN THUNDERBOLT TWO'S
SUPER-ALLOY LIFE-SUPPORT
CARGO HOLD!

IT'S LIKE CATCHING
AN ANGRY BEEHIVE
ONE BEE AT A
TIME!



HOLD ON, AGENT
DORTON!

"M" HAS
ANOTHER POP...!
HE HAS TWO!

D-SHIFTING
HIM TO THE
CARGO HOLD...



SHIFT COMPLETE!

"M", ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

NH!

MORE OR LESS...

I'LL TRY CATCHING THE REST OF THEM ON MY OWN, "M"!

TAKE FIVE!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, "D"!

YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD THE AMARAN VICTIMS STILL FOR YOU!

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO SHIFT A MOVING TARGET!



INCOMING!

YO! AGENT DORTON!

BANK HIGH RIGHT! PENNY AND I WILL COVER YOU!

TH-THANKS, ACE!

THEY'RE TRYING TO FREE THE VICTIMS WE RESCUED!

THE SUPER-ALLOY HULL IS HOLDING STRONG...

...BUT THIS SORTIE'S GETTING DICEY!

DAMN IT!



WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING HANGING OUT ON KIA'S REAR END, DAD!

WE NEED TO GET PLANETSIDESIDE AND HELP GINA END THIS BATTLE!

IT'S A DANGEROUS DISTANCE FOR A TELEPORT SPELL WHEN THERE'S A TORRENT OF WILD ETHER AND NO ATTUNEMENT TO THE DESTINATION!



BUT WE SHOULDN'T GIVE UP ON THIS VANTAGE POINT YET, APPRENTICE.

TELL ME...

...HOW MUCH ATTENTION WERE YOU PAYING DURING MY GLYPH-WRITING LESSONS?

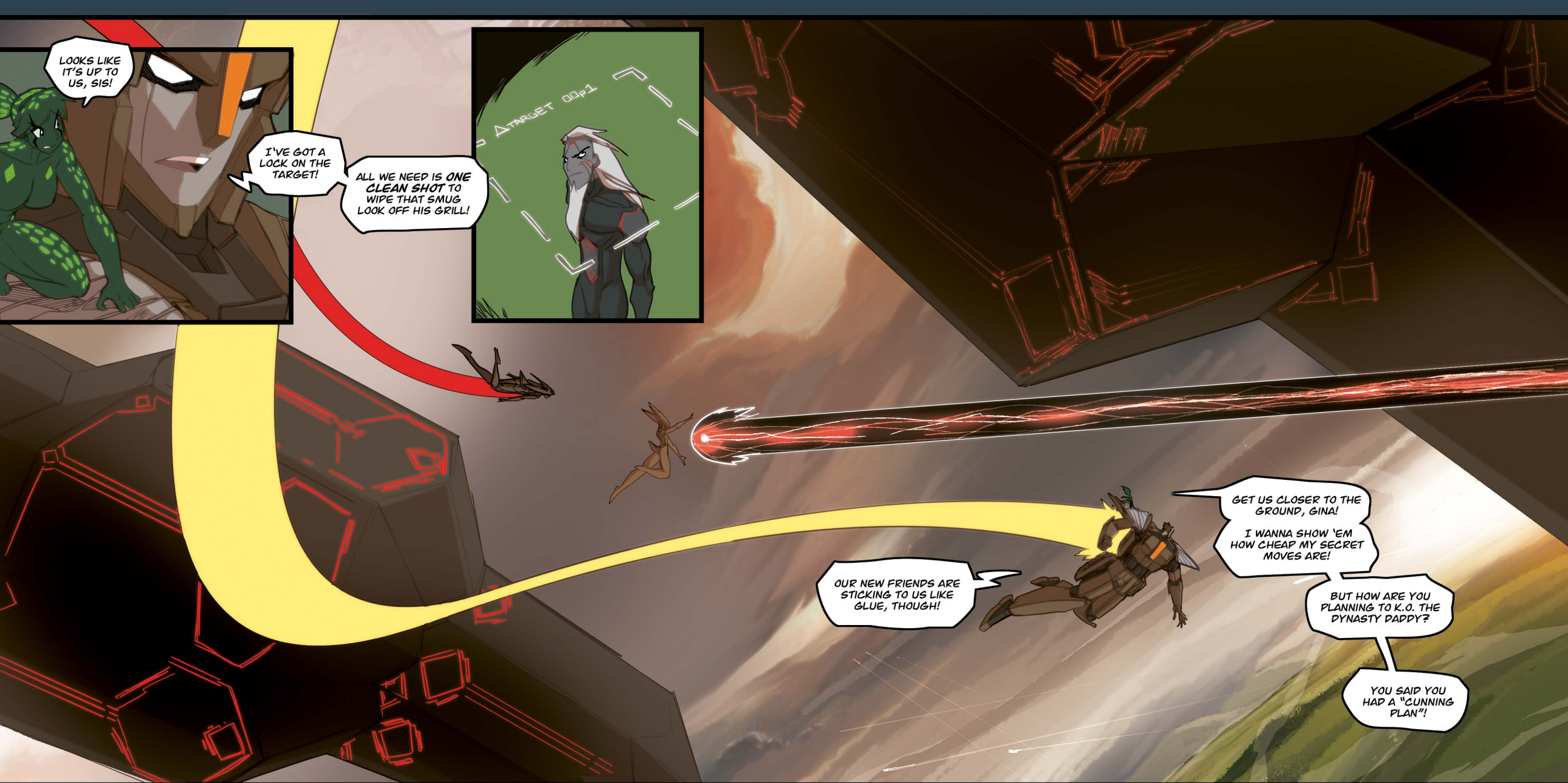


.....HEH!

HEH HEH HEH!

DAD...

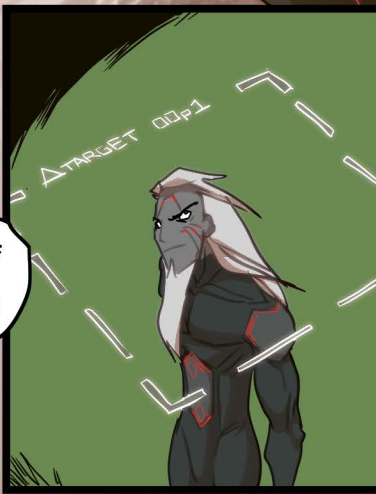
...I SLEPT THROUGH THAT CLASS!



LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO US, SIS!

I'VE GOT A LOCK ON THE TARGET!

ALL WE NEED IS ONE CLEAN SHOT TO WIPE THAT SMUG LOOK OFF HIS GRILL!



OUR NEW FRIENDS ARE STICKING TO US LIKE GLUE, THOUGH!

GET US CLOSER TO THE GROUND, GINA!
I WANNA SHOW 'EM HOW CHEAP MY SECRET MOVES ARE!

BUT HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO K.O. THE DYNASTY DADDY?

YOU SAID YOU HAD A "CUNNING PLAN"!



SHOCK ROD TECHNOLOGY
BIO-ELECTRIC FEEDBACK TECHNOLOGY THAT IS EXTREMELY POTENT IN RENDERING TARGETS UNCONSCIOUS. (BUT IT'S ONLY EVER BEEN USED BY ACCIDENT... AND ON BRITANNY.)

WHAT!? IT'LL WORK RIGHT THIS TIME! I SWEAR!

I SURE DO, BRIT!
SAY HELLO TO MY GOOD FRIEND...
...MR. "MECHA-SIZED SHOCK ROD!"

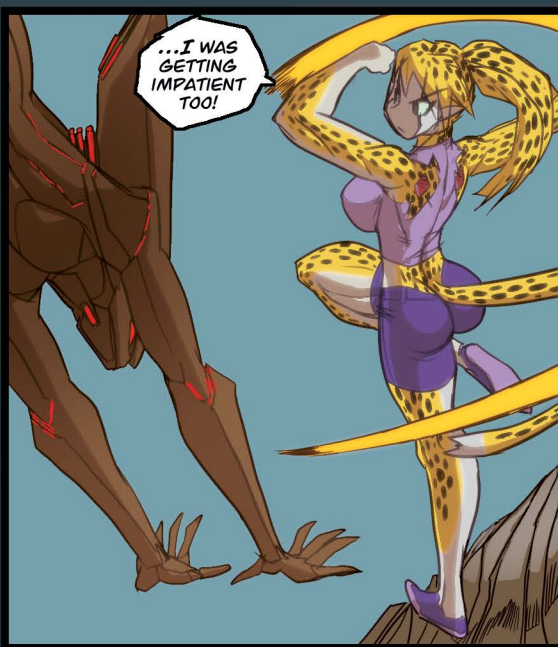


WHOA! BRIANNA! WAS THAT YOUR SHOT?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING OVER THERE!
SOMEONE NEEDS TARGET PRACTICE!

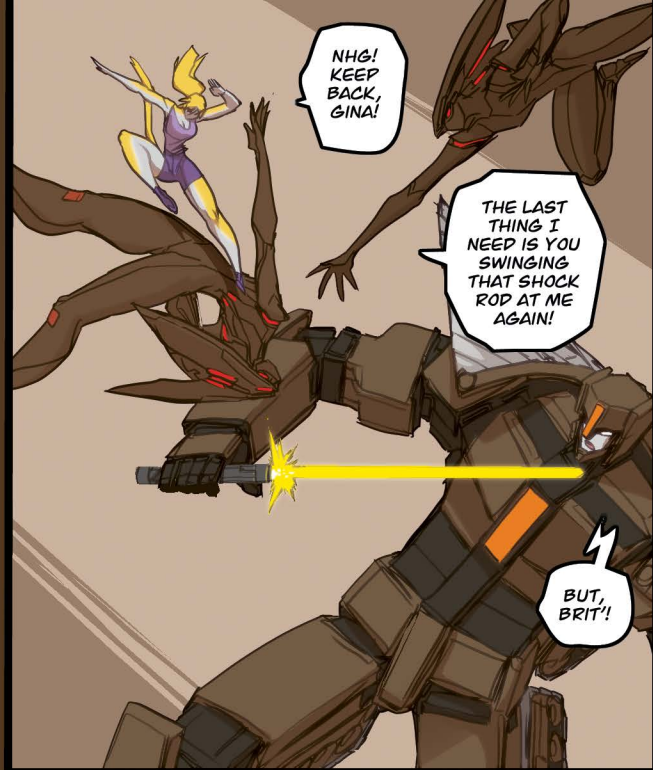


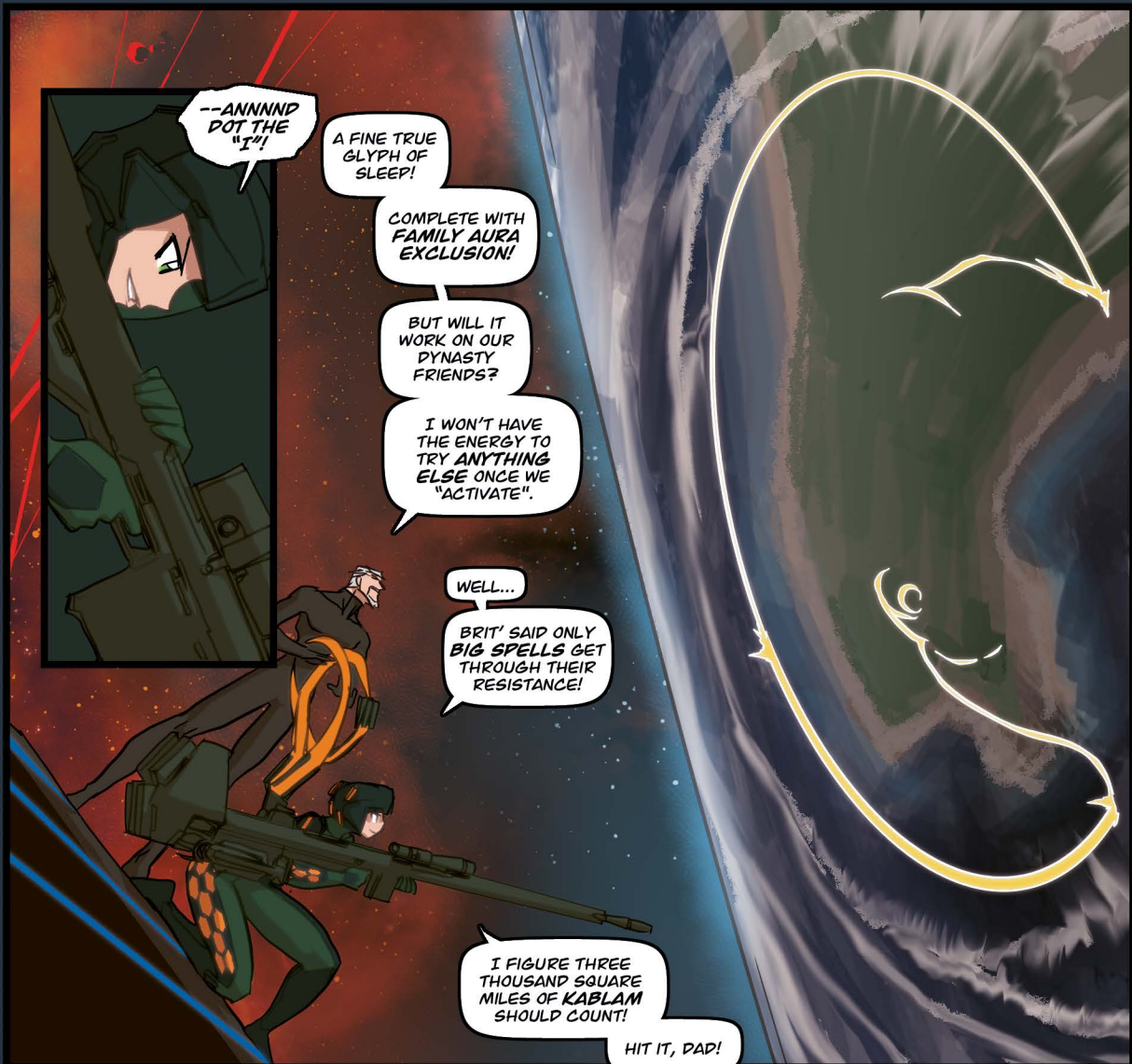
BRIANNA GETS IMPATIENT, GINA...
...LIKE OUR NEW BUDDY WHO'S TIRED OF ME, IN MY TEMPEST MOOD, BLOCKING ALL HER SPELL \$#!=!!!

FUNNY THING IS...



...I WAS GETTING IMPATIENT TOO!





--ANNND
DOT THE
"I"!

A FINE TRUE
GLYPH OF
SLEEP!

COMPLETE WITH
FAMILY AURA
EXCLUSION!

BUT WILL IT
WORK ON OUR
DYNASTY
FRIENDS?

I WON'T HAVE
THE ENERGY TO
TRY **ANYTHING**
ELSE ONCE WE
"ACTIVATE".

WELL...

BRIT' SAID ONLY
BIG SPELLS GET
THROUGH THEIR
RESISTANCE!

I FIGURE THREE
THOUSAND SQUARE
MILES OF **KABLAM**
SHOULD COUNT!

HIT IT, DAD!

OH, YEAH!
NIGHTY-NIGHT!!!

WROOHOOMMM



EVERYONE SHOULD BE OKAY... ALL OF OUR SHIPS HAVE REALLY SMART A.I.S FOR AUTOPILOT!



ALL EXCEPT KIA. BEING A DYNASTY SPACE FORTRESS, HE'S BASICALLY A LIVING "TREE"!

DAD'LL WAKE KIA UP AFTER HE'S CAUGHT HIS BREATH.

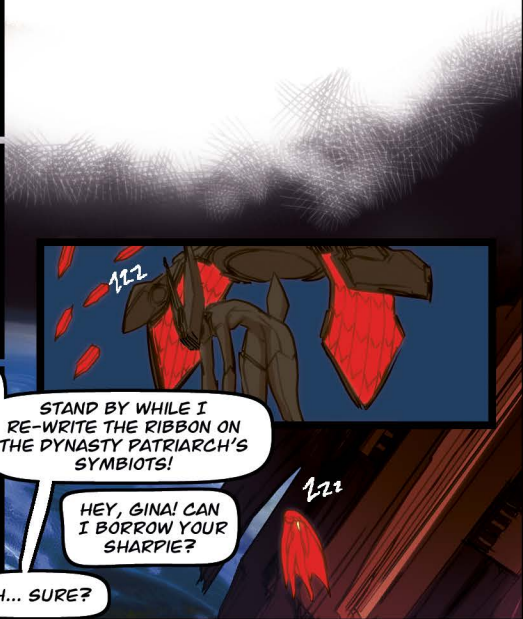
GOOD WORK UP THERE WITH THAT SPELL, BRIANNA.



STAND BY WHILE I RE-WRITE THE RIBBON ON THE DYNASTY PATRIARCH'S SYMBIOTS!

HEY, GINA! CAN I BORROW YOUR SHARPIE?

UH... SURE?



BRIT'? WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?

I DIDN'T GET TO TAUNT THIS GUY!

SO I NEED TO LEAVE HIM A LITTLE REMINDER OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SCREW WITH ME AND MY FRIENDS!



