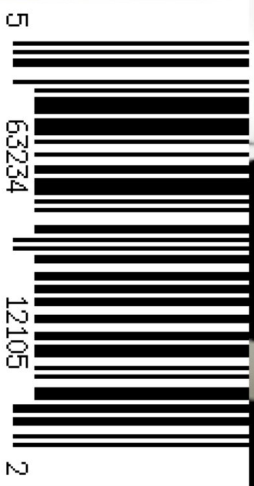


# WILDCARDS

ISSUE #1



UNAPPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

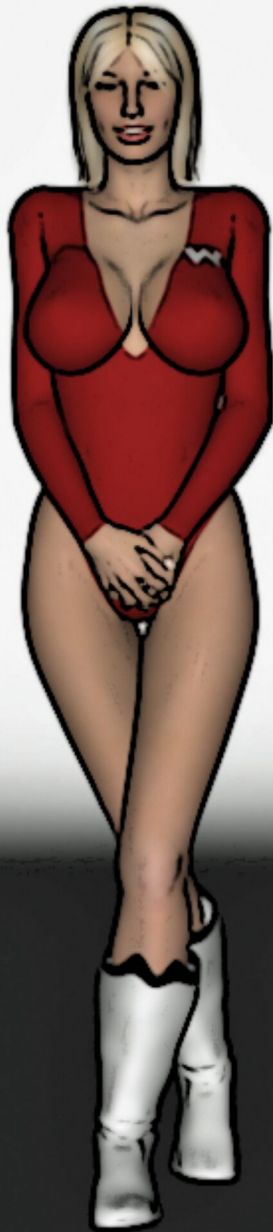


# WILDCARDS



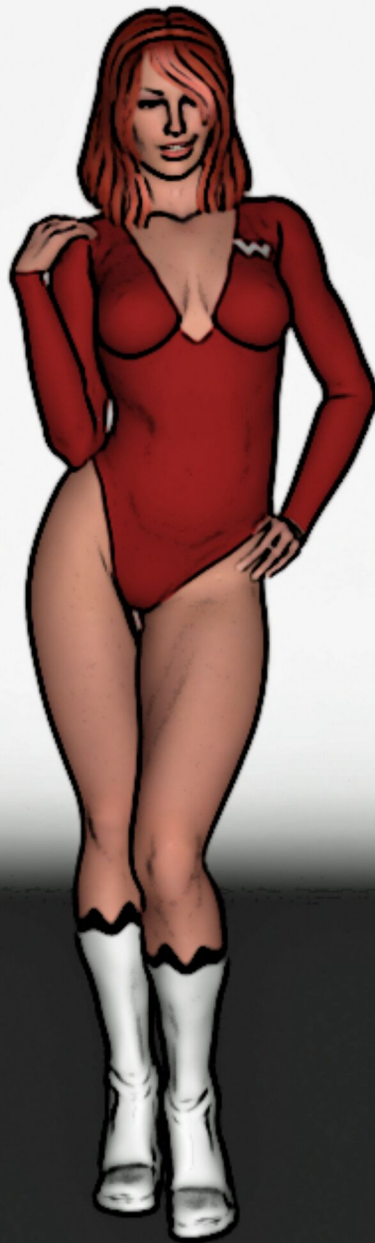
MICHAEL O'NEAL  
POWERHOUSE

STRENGTH



STEPHANIE POWERS  
TRANSPARENCY

INVISIBILITY



VICTORIA DUPAGE  
PLASMA

ENERGY BLAST



DAVID SPEERS  
BOLT

SPEED



## FOREWARD

THIS IS A COMIC BOOK STYLE OF A GRAPHIC NOVEL. IT'S MEANT TO BE LIGHT HEARTED, YET DRAMATIC. THERE WILL BE SOME ROMANCE, SOME SILLINESS, AND OCCASIONALLY A BREAK IN THE FOURTH WALL, BUT IT WILL BE SUBTLE AND YOU MAY NOT NOTICE RIGHT AWAY.

IT'S A STORY ABOUT FOUR FICTIONAL CHARACTERS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD WITH DIVERSE LIFESTYLES AND CLASHING PERSONALITIES. THEY ARE LIKE A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SAVING THE WORLD ALTHOUGH HAVING NEVER MET PRIOR.

YOU WON'T FIND GORE OR GRATUITOUS NUDITY ALTHOUGH I WON'T SAY THIS STORY IS CHILD FRIENDLY. EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE THEIR OWN VERSION OF WHAT THAT MEANS BUT I TRY TO KEEP THINGS AROUND A PG-13 LEVEL. YOU WON'T SEE ANYTHING THAT ISN'T ON A BEACH IN MIAMI.

ALSO, I FIND LANGUAGE PEPPERED WITH SWEAR WORDS AS SOMEWHAT UNNECESSARY. I WANT EVERYONE TO ENJOY IT SO YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING OF THAT SORT.

LASTLY, I'M IRREVERENT AND POLITICALLY INCORRECT. I MAY STEP ON A FEW TOES ALTHOUGH I MEAN WELL. IT'S MEANT TO BE FUN AND THAT'S ALL.

IF YOU ASK WHY THE LADIES HAVE PLUNGING NECKLINES, I SPENT A MONTH TRYING TO SIMPLY MAKE THE UNIFORMS STRETCH ACROSS THE CHEST AREA AND NOTHING OFFERS THE STYLE I WAS LOOKING FOR. SO I SIMPLY REMOVED THE PROBLEM ALTOGETHER. TWO MONTHS HAVE GONE BY SINCE I WANTED TO GET STARTED AND ITS TIME TO TELL IT RATHER THAN WORRY WITH SOMETHING NOT THAT SIGNIFICANT.

BREAST SIZE HAS BEEN QUESTIONED ALREADY. I'M USING MORPHS ALTHOUGH I'VE ACTUALLY SCALED DOWN SOME FROM THE STOCK VERSION. STILL, I'M KIND OF LEANING TOWARDS THE STYLE THAT OTHER COMICS HAVE FOR FAMILIARITY. I DON'T CARE FOR THE DARK AND GRITTY, I'M LOOKING FOR THE MORE LIGHT HEARTED OF YESTERYEAR.

IT IS A LABOR OF LOVE FROM ME TO YOU. I HOPE YOU GET AS MUCH ENJOYMENT READING IT AS I'VE HAD MAKING IT.

RANDY



# PART ONE

## THE GATHERING OF THE TROUPS





IN A SMALL RURAL TOWN NOT FAR FROM THE COAST...

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAIT MR. O'NEAL



WELL, YOU ARE SAVING ME A CAB FARE AT LEAST.



I'M AGENT SARA SINCLARE WITH THE I.I.C.\*

TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?



\* INTERNATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

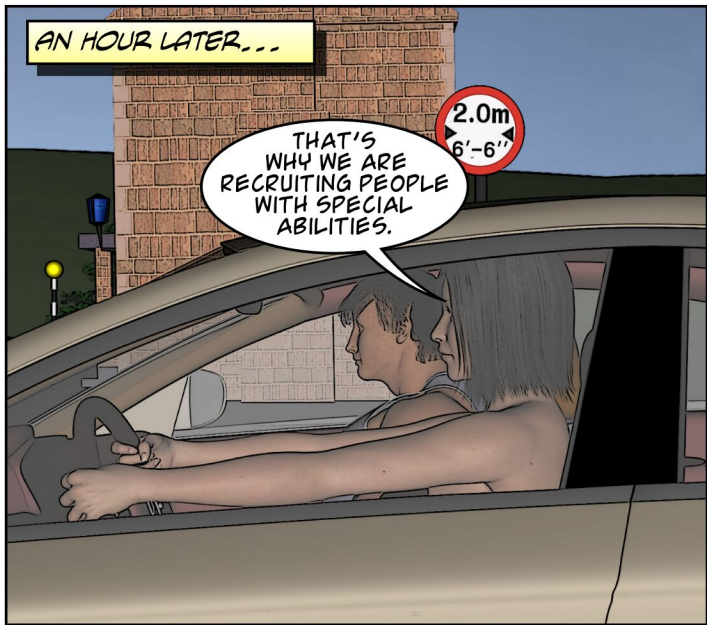
I WISH IT WERE PLEASURE. I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING IN THE CAR.

IT'S A FORTY-FIVE MINUTE DRIVE TO THE APARTMENT, GIVE OR TAKE.

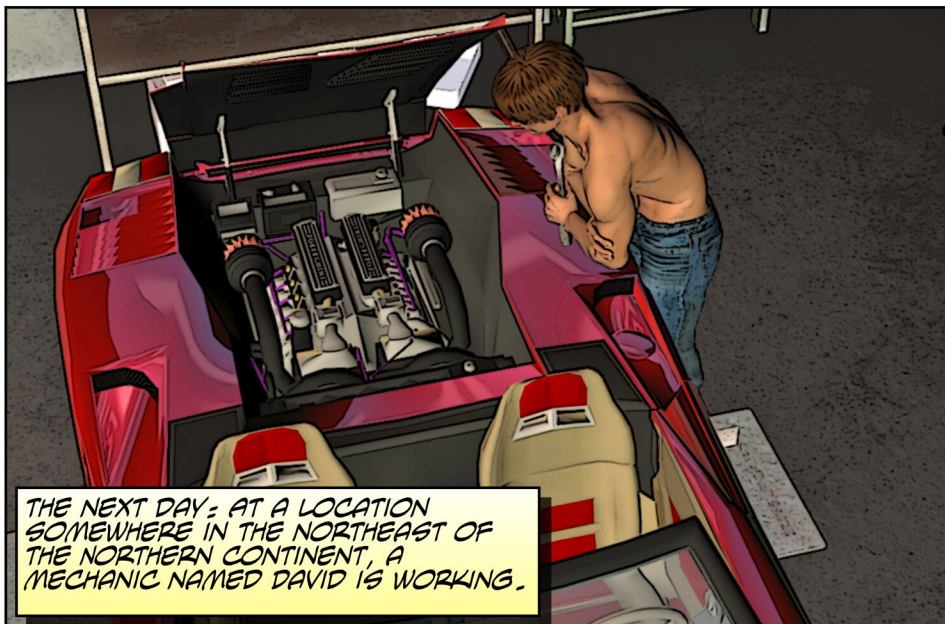
IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE THAT LONG.







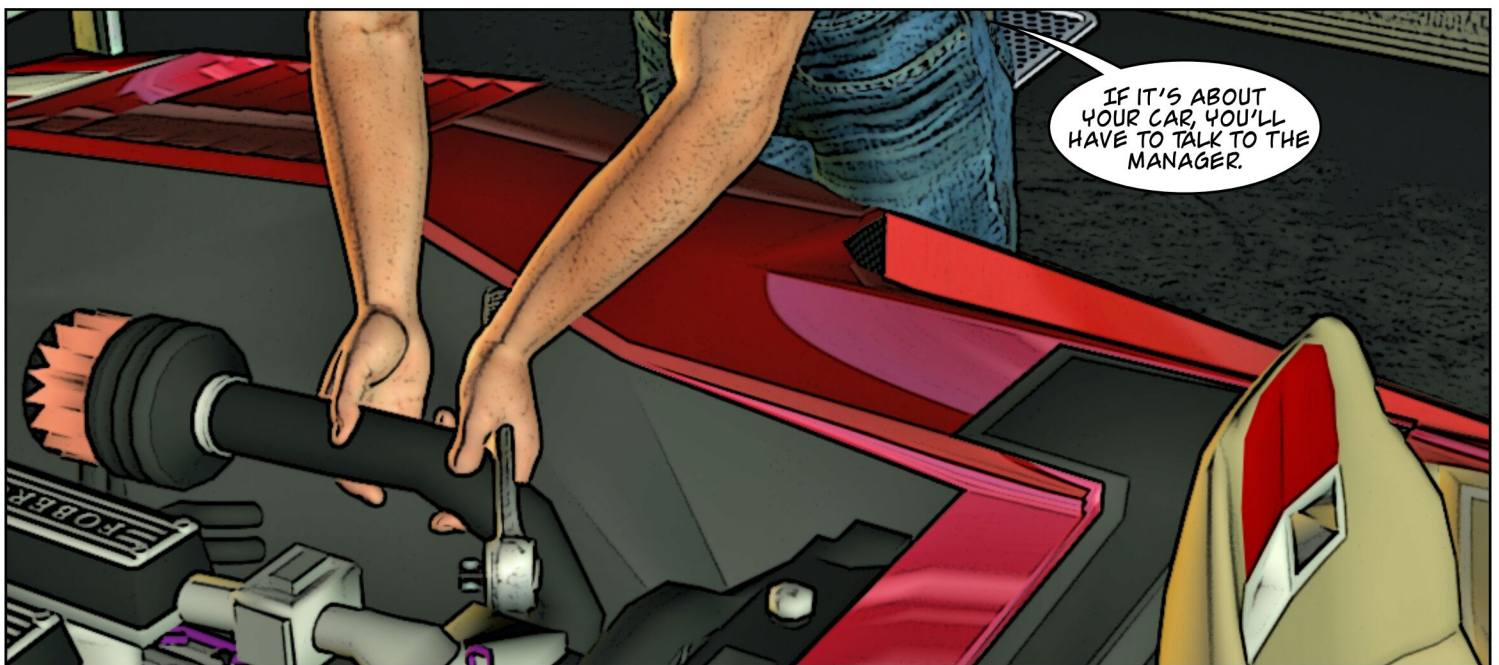




THE NEXT DAY: AT A LOCATION SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTHEAST OF THE NORTHERN CONTINENT, A MECHANIC NAMED DAVID IS WORKING.



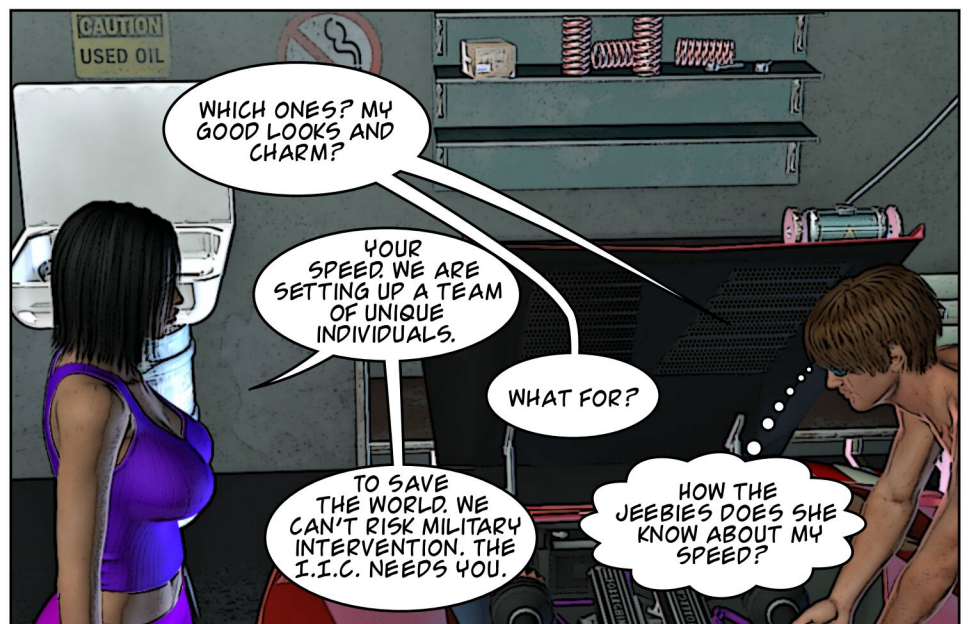
MR. SPEERS, MAY I HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?



IF IT'S ABOUT YOUR CAR, YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE MANAGER.



I'M SARA SINCLARE WITH THE I.I.C. WE NEED SOMEONE WITH YOUR UNIQUE ABILITIES.



WHICH ONES? MY GOOD LOOKS AND CHARM?

YOUR SPEED. WE ARE SETTING UP A TEAM OF UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS.

WHAT FOR?

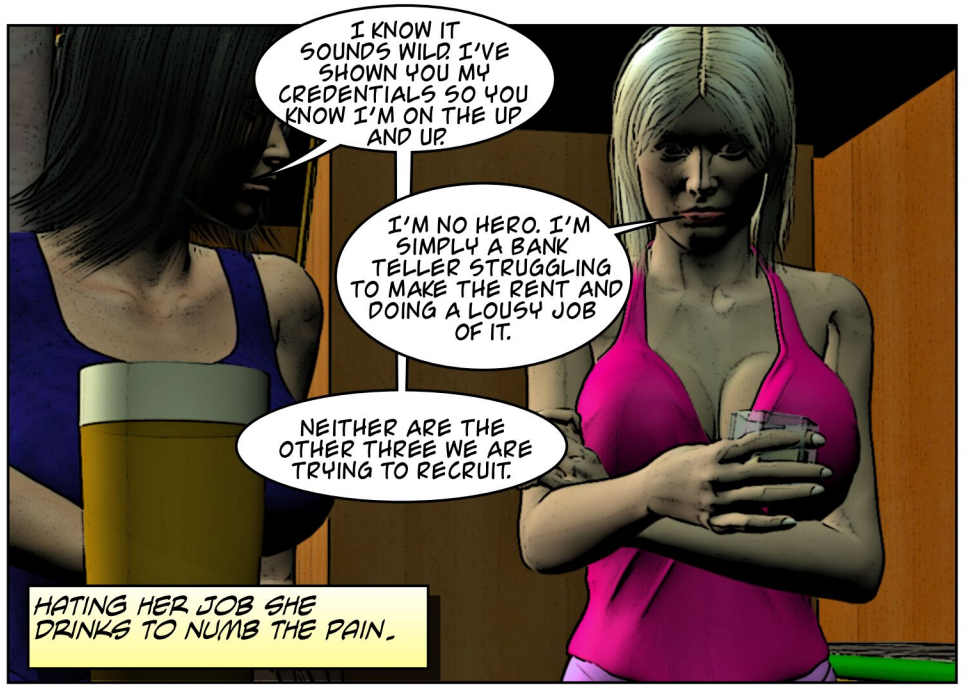
TO SAVE THE WORLD. WE CAN'T RISK MILITARY INTERVENTION. THE I.I.C. NEEDS YOU.

HOW THE JEEBIES DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT MY SPEED?

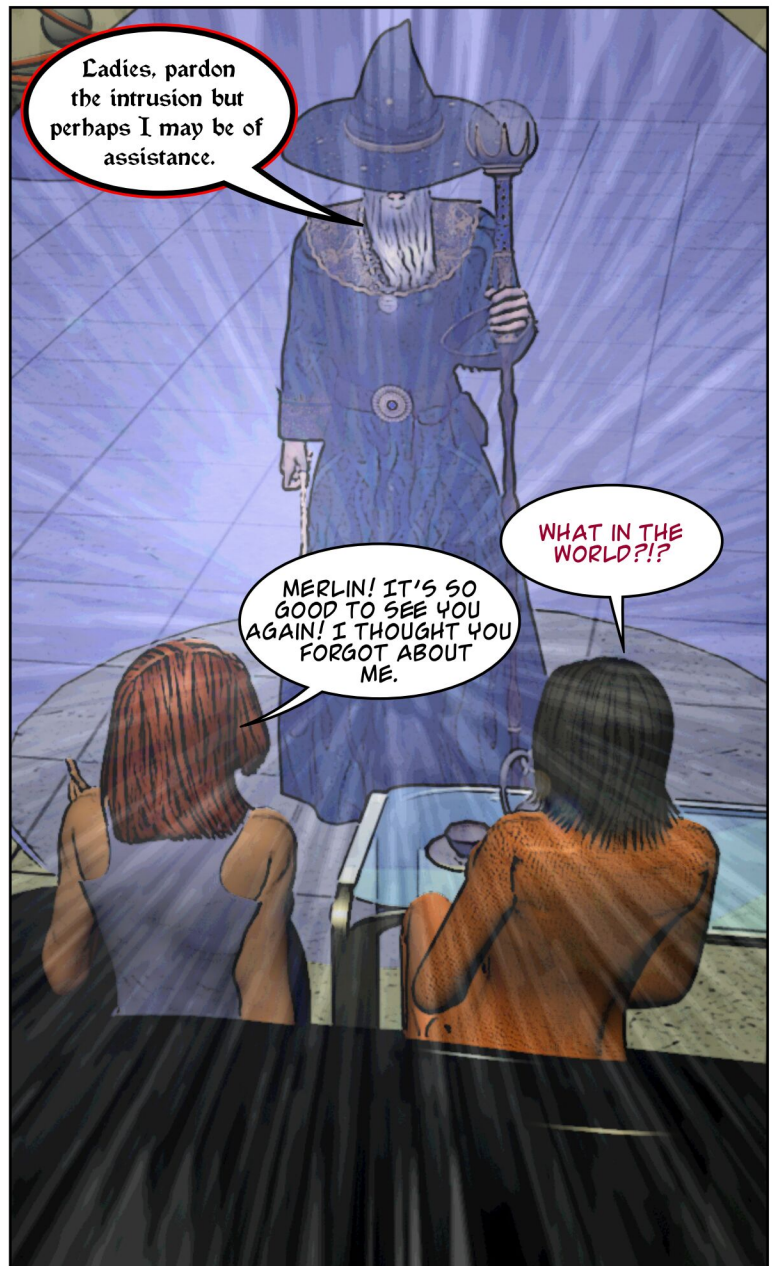
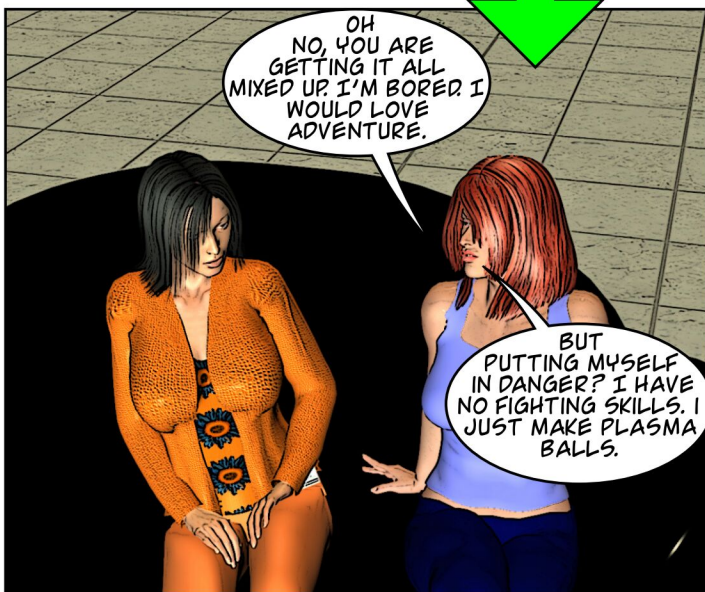
















Ladies, watch closely. Time is of the essence.

Behold, the future, one month from now!



NO, OH NO...

I KNEW ABOUT THIS BUT SEEING IT IS HORRIBLE! IT'S UNTHINKABLE!

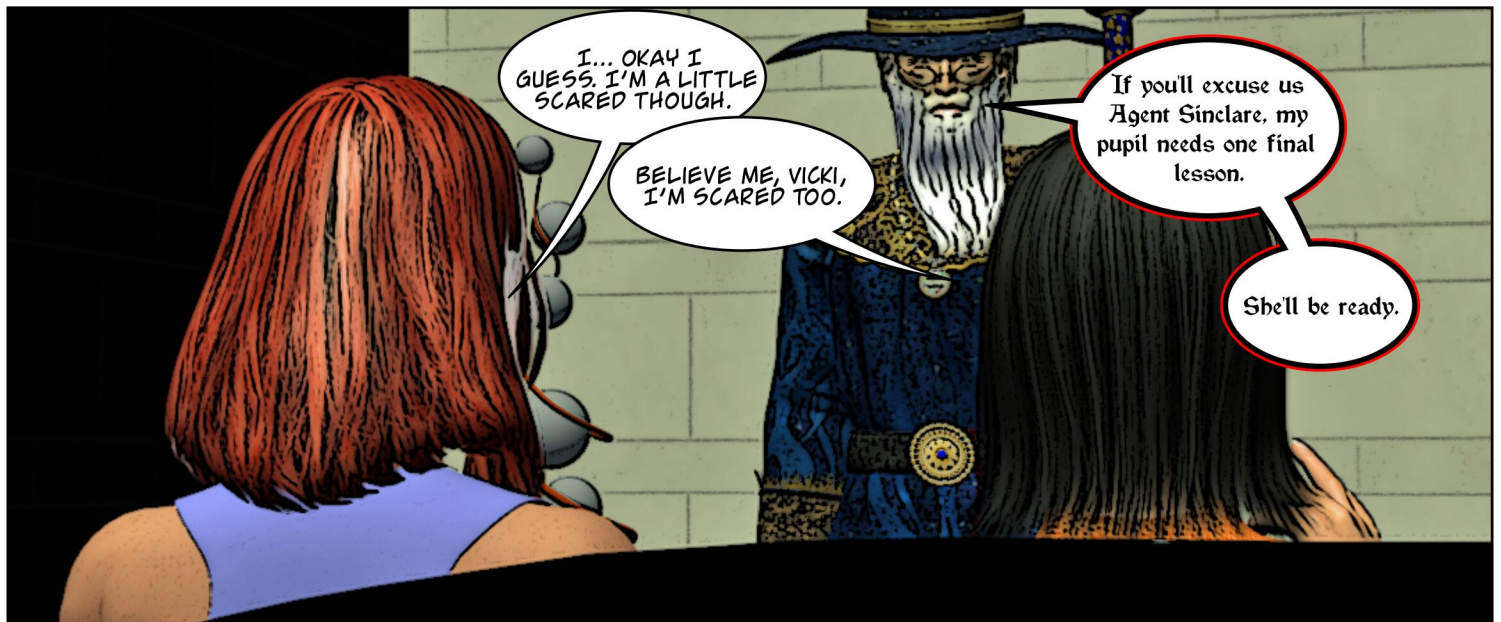
Without you and three others, all visions of the future look like this.

THE WORLD ENGLTFED IN FLAMES.



I can't guarantee that you will succeed, only that if you do not try this is what the world will be like.

COMPLETE AND UTTER DEVASTATION. NOTHING LEFT BUT CINDERS AND ASHES.



I... OKAY I GUESS. I'M A LITTLE SCARED THOUGH.

BELIEVE ME, VICKI, I'M SCARED TOO.

If you'll excuse us Agent Sinclair, my pupil needs one final lesson.

She'll be ready.



# PART TWO

## A MEETING OF MINDS







SOMEWHERE OVER THE OCEAN...



FLIGHT CONTROL, THIS IS TANGO FOXTROT SIERRA ONE FOUR, OVER.



TANGO FOXTROT SIERRA ONE FOUR, ADJUST YOUR ALTITUDE TO 32,000, OVER.

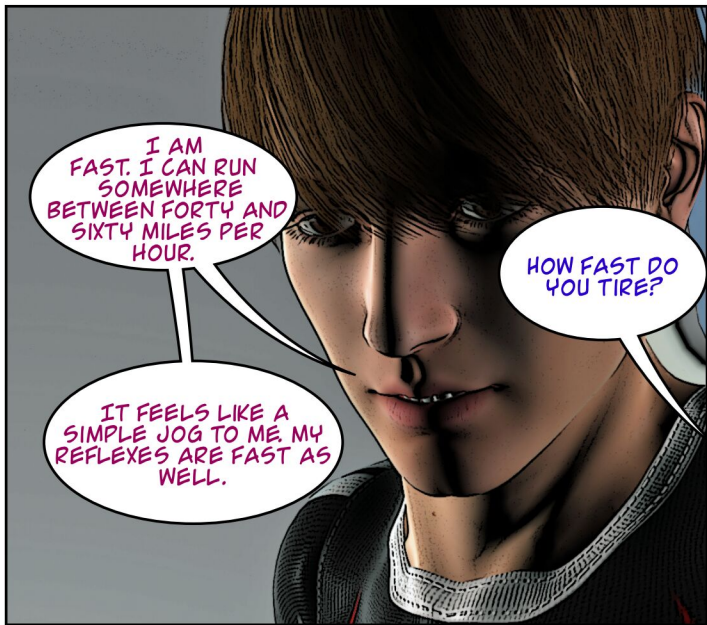


ADJUSTING ALTITUDE TO 32,000. TANGO FOXTROT SIERRA ONE FOUR, OVER AND OUT.









I AM FAST. I CAN RUN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FORTY AND SIXTY MILES PER HOUR.

HOW FAST DO YOU TIRE?

IT FEELS LIKE A SIMPLE JOG TO ME. MY REFLEXES ARE FAST AS WELL.



I CAN CREATE PLASMA TYPE SPHERES AND HURL THEM. I CAN ALSO MAKE SHIELDS.

LIKE A BURNING OR ELECTRICAL PLASMA?

IT'S MORE KINETIC. IT'S LIKE SOLID ENERGY IF THAT MAKES ANY SENSE.



I CAN MAKE MYSELF AND ANY OBJECT I'M IN CONTACT WITH INVISIBLE TO ALL FORMS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES.

EVEN RADAR?

YES AND ANY HEAT SIGNATURE I GIVE OFF ALSO DISAPPEARS. COMPLETE INVISIBILITY.



LIKE THIS WINE GLASS FOR INSTANCE.





INVISI-WHAT?

YOU CAN BE STRONG GUY. YOU CAN BE INVISI-LASS. YOU CAN BE LOUD MOUTH, AND I CAN BE THE DREADED BOLT.

SO WE'RE LIKE THAT COMIC BOOK, "THE LEAGUE OF SUPERHEROES!"

WE ARE NOT SUPERHEROES!

I ALREADY DREAD BEING AROUND YOU.



THE ONLY REASON WE'RE HERE IS TO PREVENT THE END OF THE WORLD.

AND THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A COMIC BOOK TO YOU?





WELL, IF I'M GOING TO WEAR SPANDEX I'LL NEED TO GO ON A DIET OR JUST STAY INVISIBLE THE WHOLE TIME.

COOL! WE'LL GET COSTUMES!

WILL YOU SHUT UP?

WAIT, WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT SPANDEX?

I'M SURE IT WON'T BE THAT BAD.

EDITOR'S NOTE: FAMOUS LAST WORDS, MIKE.



MUCH LATER, THEY ARRIVE AND ARE SOON IN THE LOCKER ROOM.



AWESOME!



ON THE COUNT OF ONE... TWO... THREE...

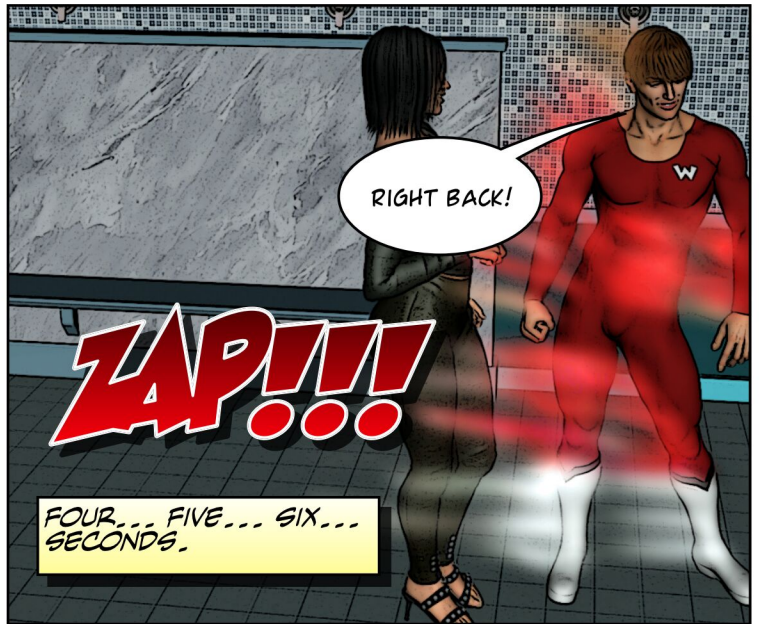
I'LL BE...



RIGHT BACK!

ZAP!!!

FOUR... FIVE... SIX... SECONDS.



IT ISN'T SPANDEX. IT'S A MATERIAL CALLED GRAIFT.

THAT LOOKS AMAZING!

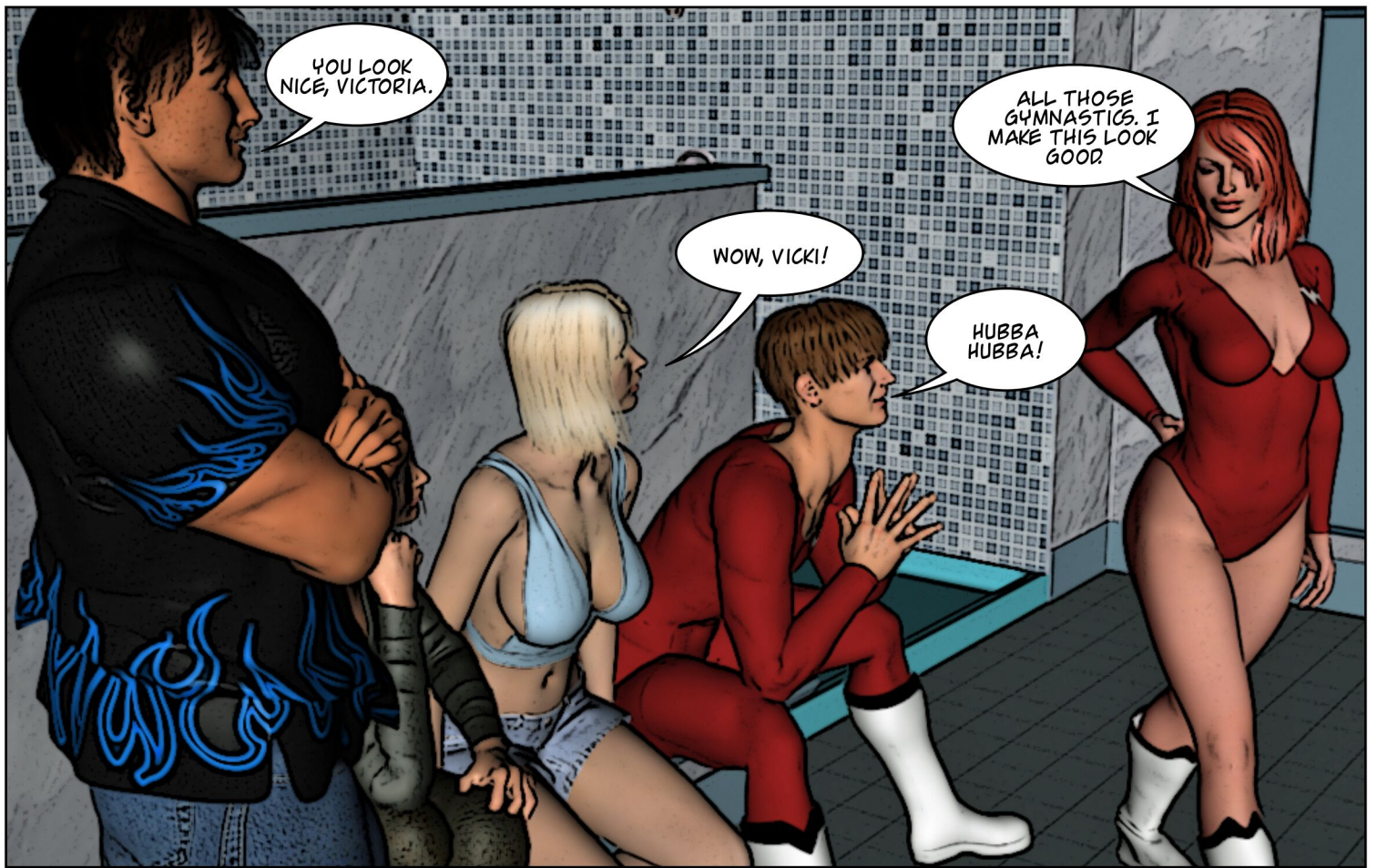
IT'S NON-BINDING AND MOLDS ITSELF TO THE WEARER WITHIN CERTAIN CONSTRAINTS OF COURSE.



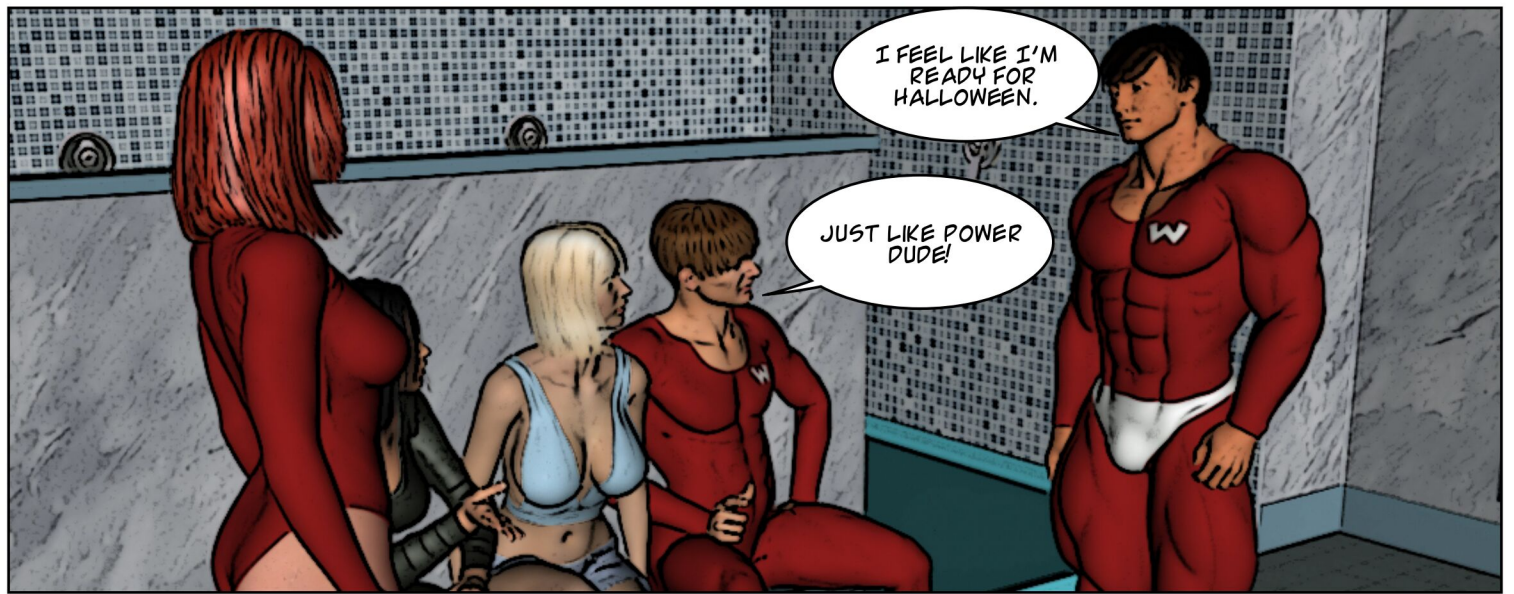
I'M NEXT!











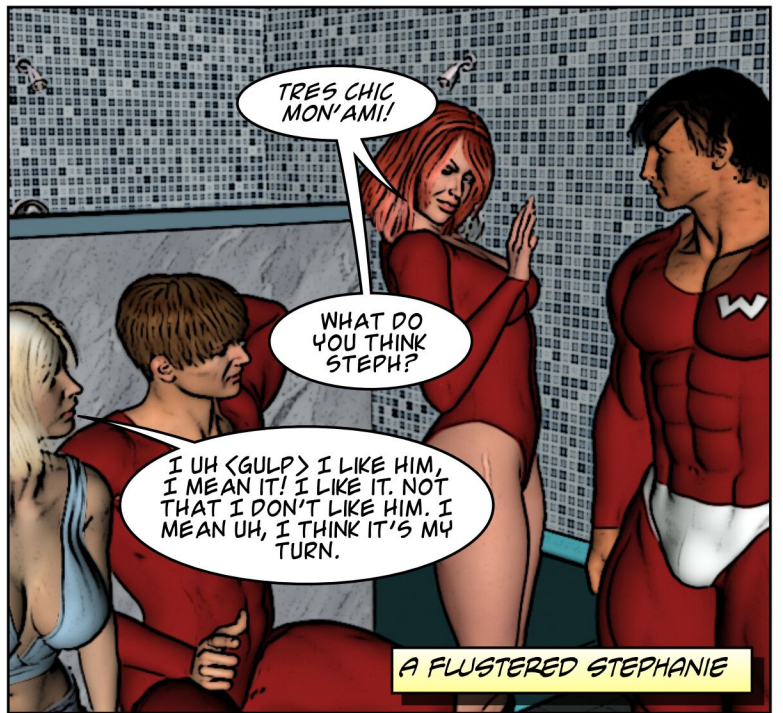
I FEEL LIKE I'M READY FOR HALLOWEEN.

JUST LIKE POWER DUDE!



WOW.

OH MY.

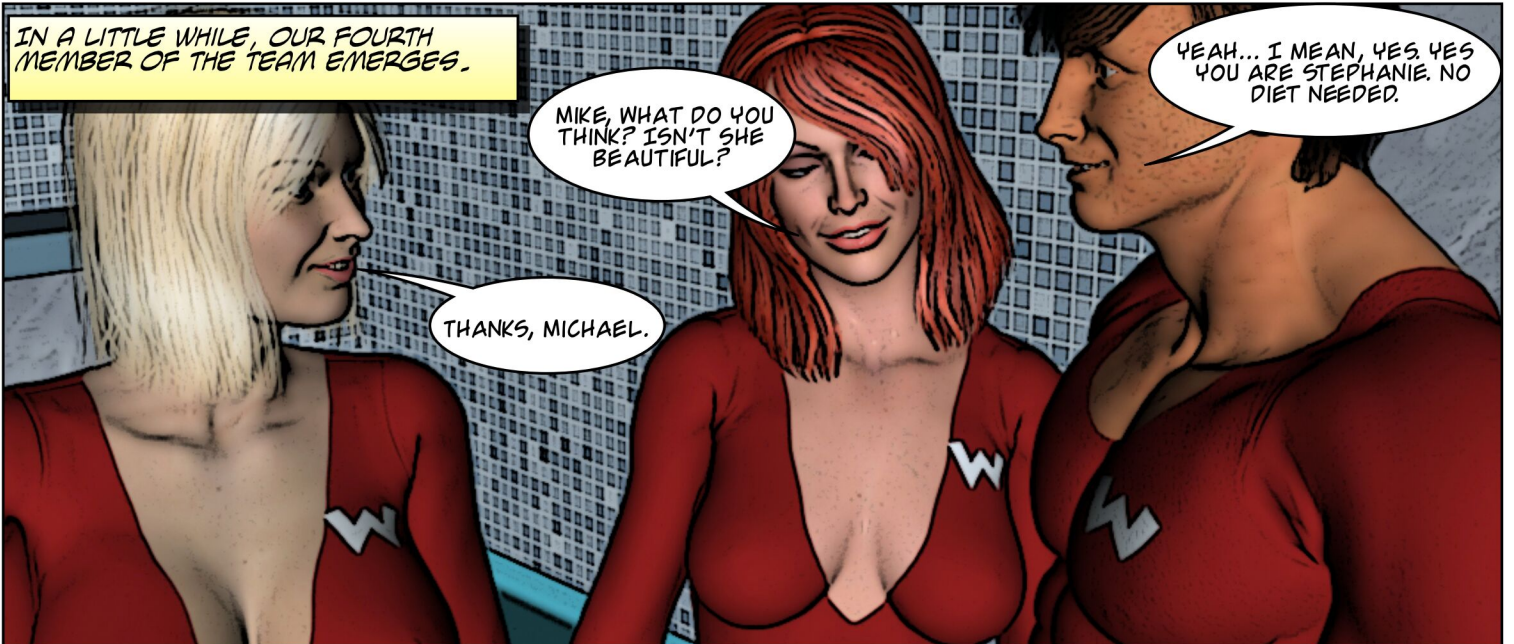


TRES CHIC MON'AMI!

WHAT DO YOU THINK STEPH?

I UH <GULP> I LIKE HIM, I MEAN IT! I LIKE IT. NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE HIM. I MEAN UH, I THINK IT'S MY TURN.

A FLUSTERED STEPHANIE



IN A LITTLE WHILE, OUR FOURTH MEMBER OF THE TEAM EMERGES.

MIKE, WHAT DO YOU THINK? ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL?

YEAH... I MEAN, YES, YES YOU ARE STEPHANIE. NO DIET NEEDED.

THANKS, MICHAEL.





WE DO LOOK LIKE A TEAM NOW.

YES, WE DO. AND WE ARE.



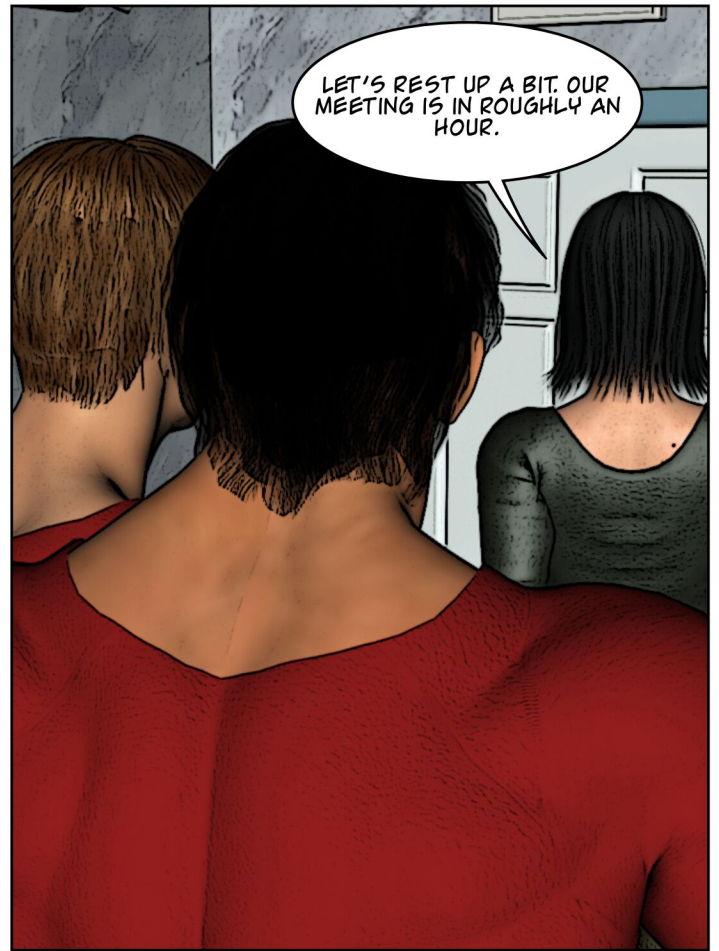
I HAVE A QUESTION. WHAT DOES THE "W" STAND FOR?



YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT IT IN THE BRIEFING BUT IT STANDS FOR "WILDCARDS", YOUR CODE NAME.

IT'S MORE THAN AN INSIGNIA THOUGH. IT'S ALSO A COMMUNICATOR. IT SENDS SOUNDS THROUGH YOUR BODY SO THAT YOU CAN HEAR IT BUT NO ONE ELSE.







AN HOUR LATER EVERYONE IS ASSEMBLED IN THE MEETING ROOM.

WE ARE ON A TIME CONSTRAINT. A WOMAN BY THE NAME OF DEEDRA MCFADDIN

HAS DECIDED TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN HER IMAGE. YOUR JOB IS TO STOP HER.

SARA WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS. SARA?

SHE BELIEVES THAT A WORLD FILLED WITH ONLY PERFECT PEOPLE WILL MAKE IT A UTOPIA.

SHE'S BROUGHT COUPLES FROM ALL OVER TO HER PRIVATE ISLAND TO REPRODUCE AND CREATE THE PERFECT RACE.

SHE SOUNDS LIKE A FASCIST DICTATOR FROM HISTORY. SHE JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE ARMY THOUGH.

NO BUT SHE HAS SOMETHING WORSE, THE XNS4 BOMB.

WON'T THAT POISON EVERYONE ON THE PLANET?

YOU'RE WELL READ MS. POWERS. YES, XNS4 IS A DEADLY TOXIN CAPABLE OF INFECTING THE AIR, WATER, AND SO-ON.

BUT THAT'S INSANE! THIS IS AN ECOSYSTEM. A LARGE DISRUPTION WOULD.. I CAN'T FATHOM THE RESULTS.

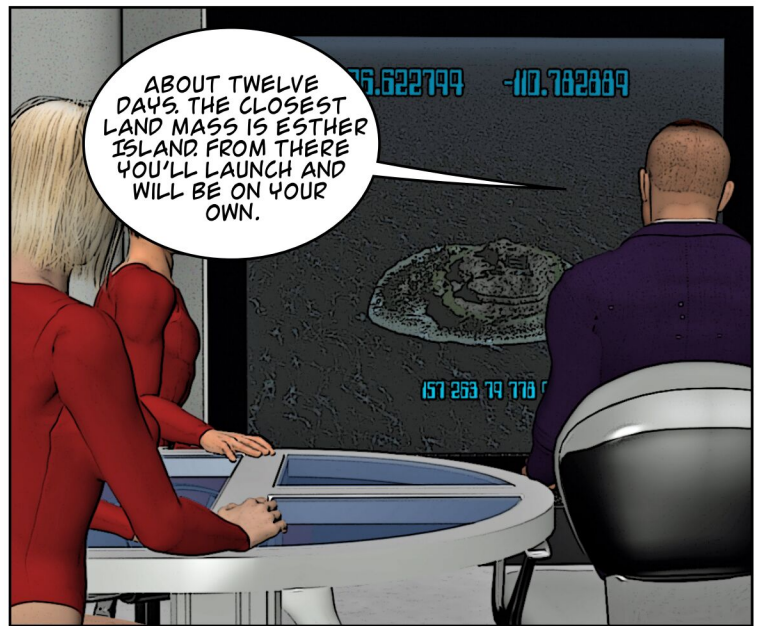




SHE'S A NUT CASE WITH A BIG BOMB. A TERRIBLE COMBINATION.

SO WE HAVE TO GO IN UNDETECTED AND DO THE IMPOSSIBLE. HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?

YOU JUST HAD TO SAY "IMPOSSIBLE" DIDN'T YOU?



ABOUT TWELVE DAYS. THE CLOSEST LAND MASS IS ESTHER ISLAND. FROM THERE YOU'LL LAUNCH AND WILL BE ON YOUR OWN.

75.622799 -110.782889

157 253 79 778



WE NEED A PLAN. WE NEED STEALTH, SPEED, AND A BOAT.



I'LL PROVIDE THE STEALTH.




I COULD PUSH THE BOAT IF IT IS SMALL ENOUGH AND GET US THERE QUICKLY.



I THINK WE HAVE THE BEGINNING OF A PLAN FORMING. I SUGGEST WE HASH IT OUT TONIGHT AT THE HOUSE.



A man with a shaved head, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie, is shown from the chest up. He has a surprised expression with wide eyes and an open mouth. The background is a server room with racks of equipment and a computer monitor. Three speech bubbles are present: one on the left, one on the right, and one at the bottom right.

MICHAEL, YOU'LL LEAD THE TEAM.  
IT'S A HEAVY BURDEN TO BEAR WITH  
THE WORLD AT STAKE I KNOW.  
HOWEVER, IN CASE OF A FINAL DECISION  
SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE IT.

YOUR CODE NAME IS  
**WILDCARDS.**

WE WEREN'T  
KIDDING WHEN WE  
SAID WE NEED YOU  
TO SAVE THE  
WORLD

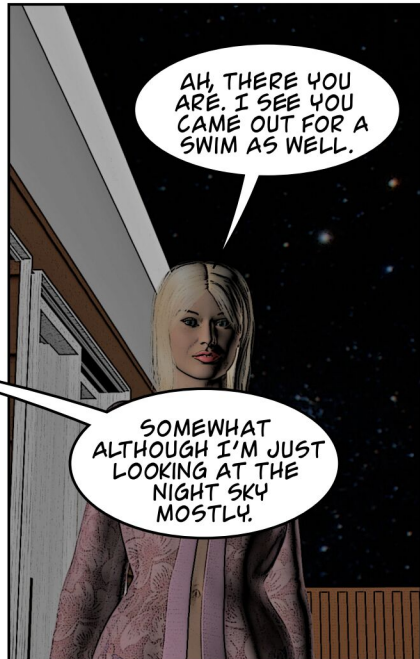
**NOW GO SAVE US  
ALL.**



THAT NIGHT, MIKE IS CONTEMPLATING.

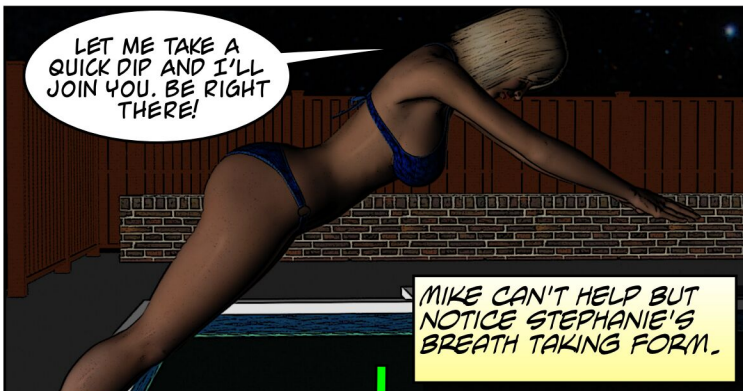


ME IN CHARGE. WHAT IF I FAIL TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS?



AH, THERE YOU ARE. I SEE YOU CAME OUT FOR A SWIM AS WELL.

SOMEWHAT ALTHOUGH I'M JUST LOOKING AT THE NIGHT SKY MOSTLY.



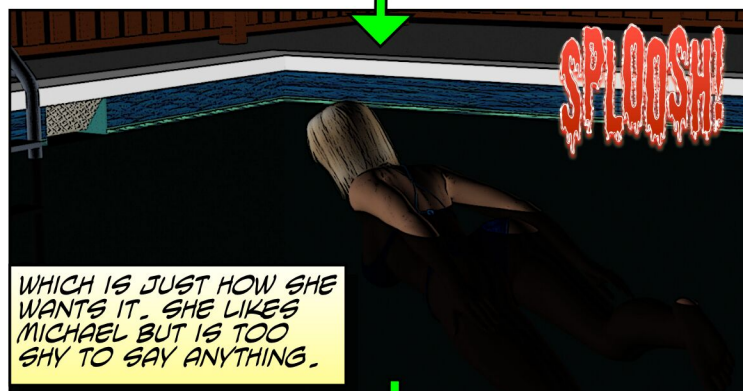
LET ME TAKE A QUICK DIP AND I'LL JOIN YOU. BE RIGHT THERE!

MIKE CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE STEPHANIE'S BREATH TAKING FORM.



SOMETIMES A QUICK SWIM HELPS ME RELAX.

I DO THE SAME ALTHOUGH IT'S USUALLY A LONGER ONE.



SPLOOSH!

WHICH IS JUST HOW SHE WANTS IT. SHE LIKES MICHAEL BUT IS TOO SHY TO SAY ANYTHING.



IT'S BEAUTIFUL OUTSIDE TONIGHT. SO MANY STARS.

IT RELAXES ME WHEN I'M OFF CONTEMPLATING THINGS.



YOUTHFUL ROMANCE, BEAUTIFUL AND COMPLICATED.





THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND THAT THE WHOLE WORLD DEPENDS ON US?

SORT OF I'M WORRIED THAT I'LL MAKE A WRONG DECISION AND GET US ALL KILLED.



REGARDLESS, IF WE GO DOWN, WE GO DOWN TOGETHER BLAMELESS.



YOU HAVE A GOOD TEAM. THEY RESPECT YOU. KEEP IN MIND THAT WE ALL HAVE SPECIAL TALENTS.

AND SOMETIMES ALL WE NEED IS A NUDGE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND WE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.





THAT WILL BE ALL MARCI, THANK YOU. IT LOOKS WONDERFUL.



LET'S GO OVER IT ONE MORE TIME.



EACH HAS A ROLE...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CLIFF CLIMBING.



EACH HAS AN INPUT...

I'LL MAKE THE BOAT AND EVERYONE INVISIBLE. IT'S TAXING BUT I CAN DO IT.



I'LL SWIM AND PUSH THE BOAT AT HIGH SPEED.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I THINK IT IS TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD. LET'S DO IT.

FINALLY, IT GOES QUIET.



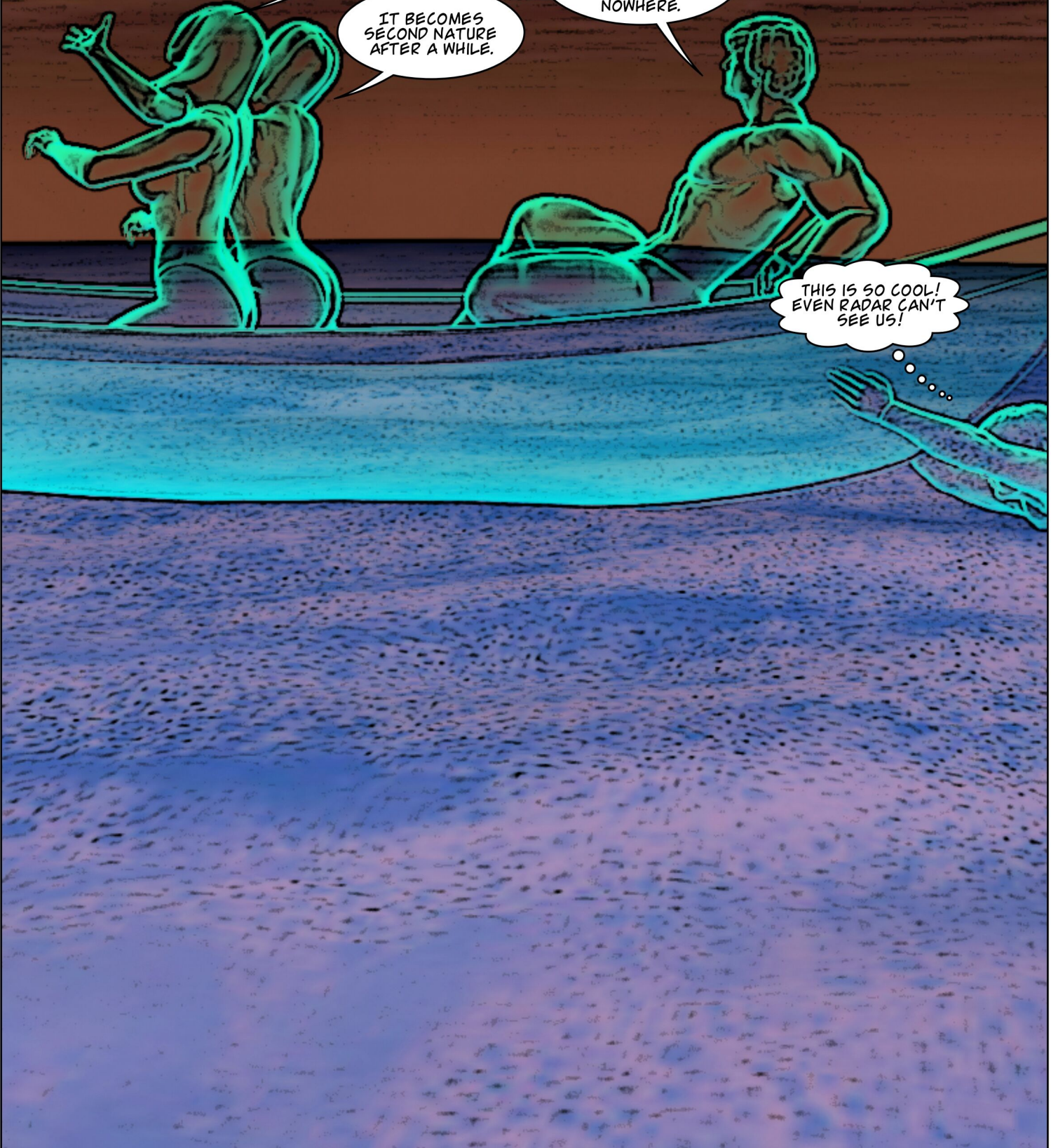
WITH THE STEALTH PROMISED BY STEPHANIE THE BOAT GOES UNSEEN TO THEIR DESTINATION.

SO THIS IS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE INVISIBLE. I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER GET USED TO IT.

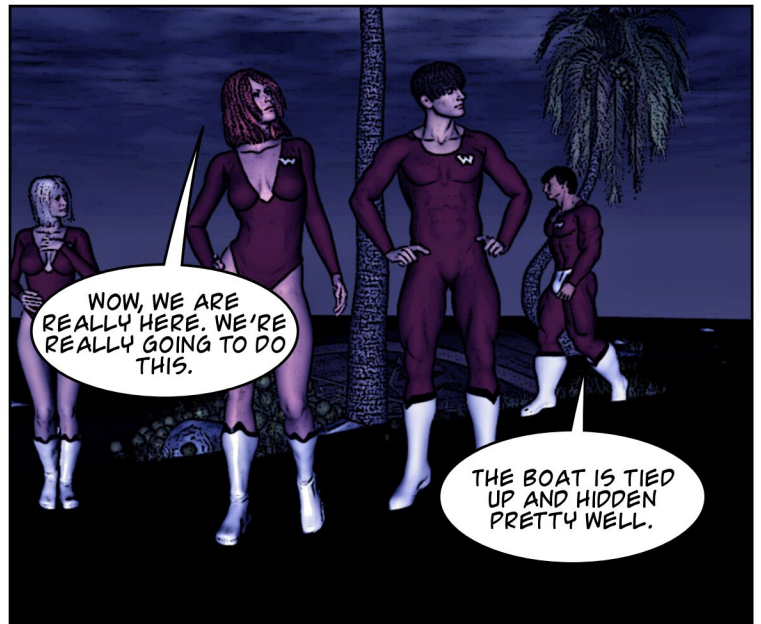
IT BECOMES SECOND NATURE AFTER A WHILE.

IT'S EERIE. I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE BOAT. IT'S LIKE I'M FLOATING BUT I'M NOWHERE.

THIS IS SO COOL! EVEN RADAR CAN'T SEE US!







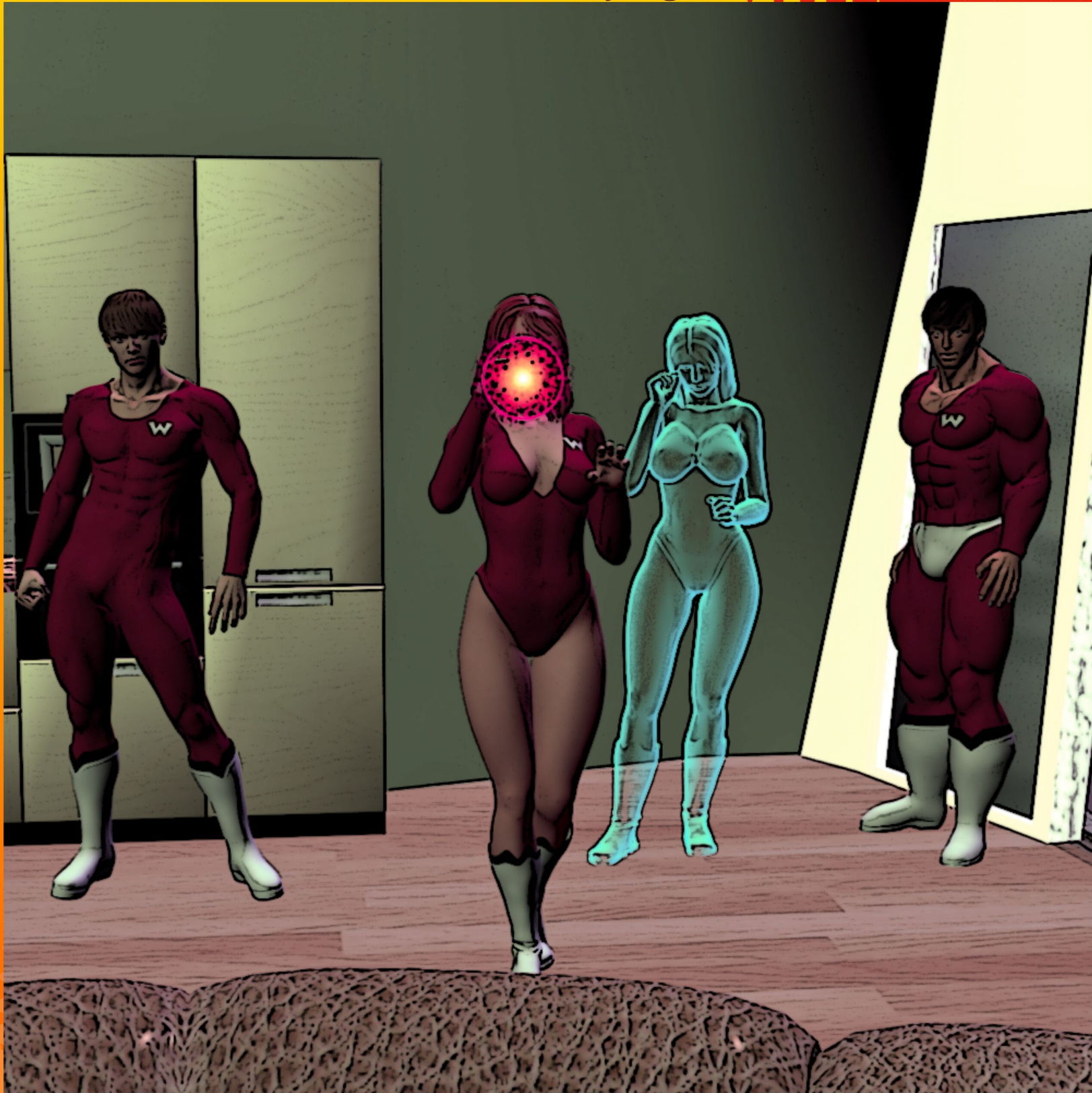


**IF WE GO DOWN, WE GO DOWN TOGETHER.**



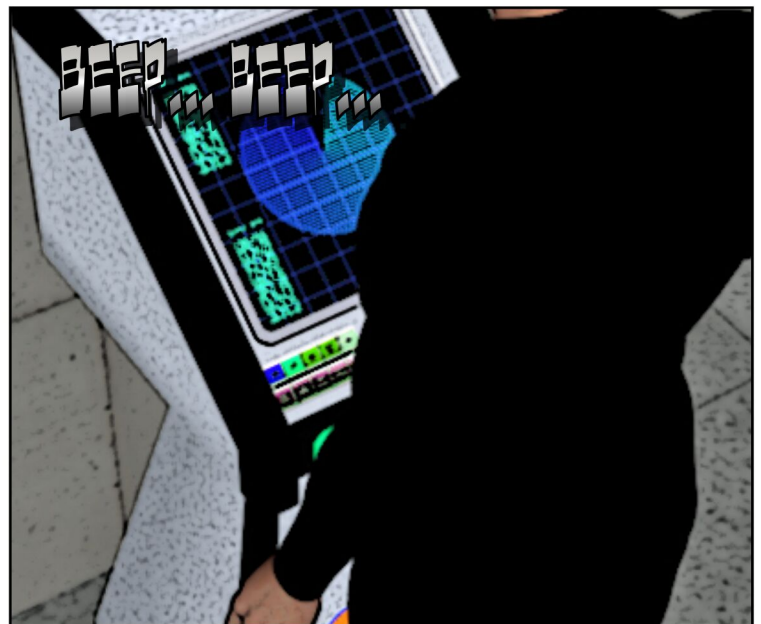
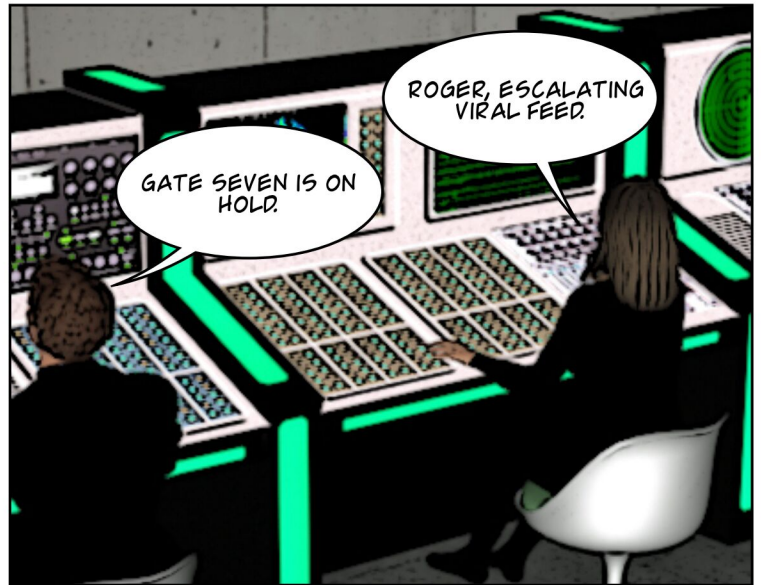
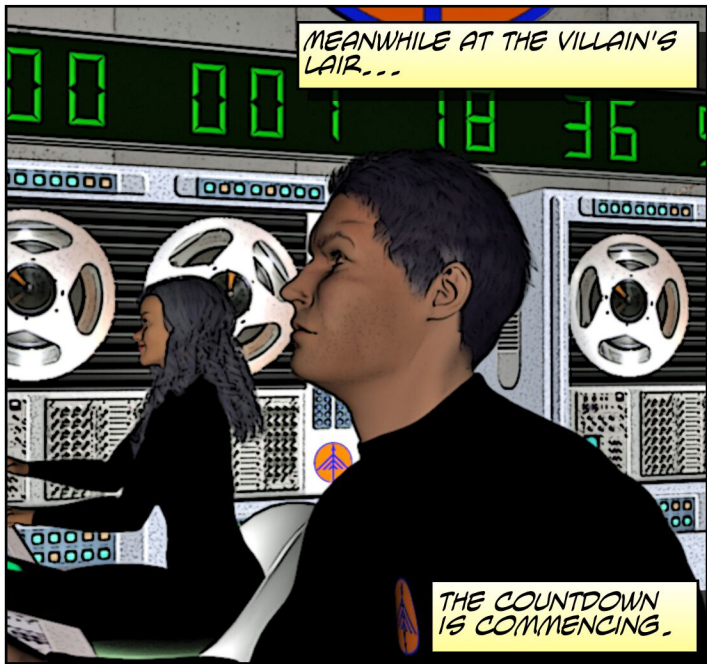


# PART THREE THE INVASION

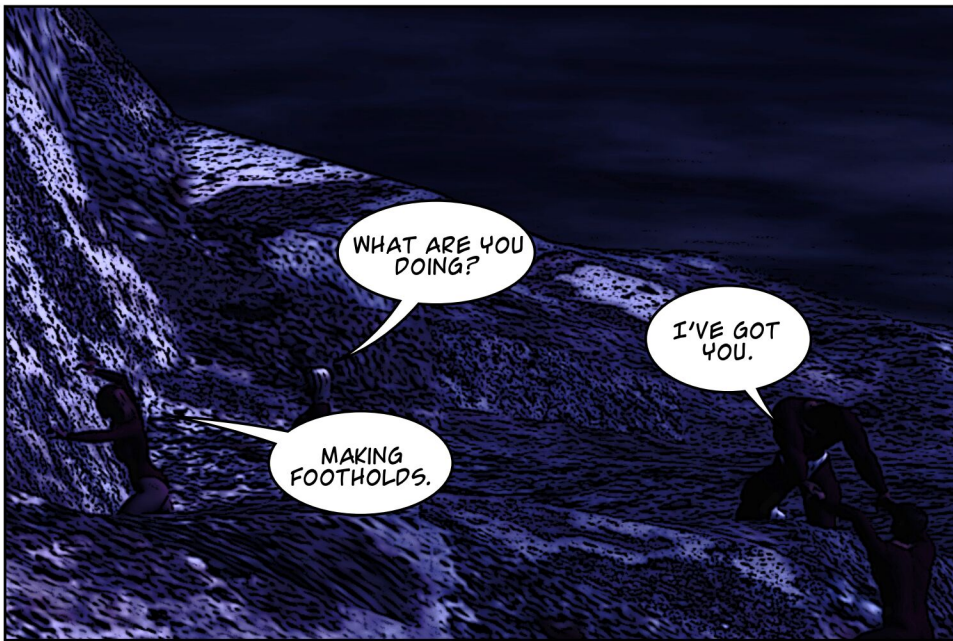


OUR HEROES ARE ABOUT TO GO INTO A HEAVILY FORTIFIED LAIR WITHOUT A CLUE AS TO HOW IT IS LAID OUT. THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THEM.

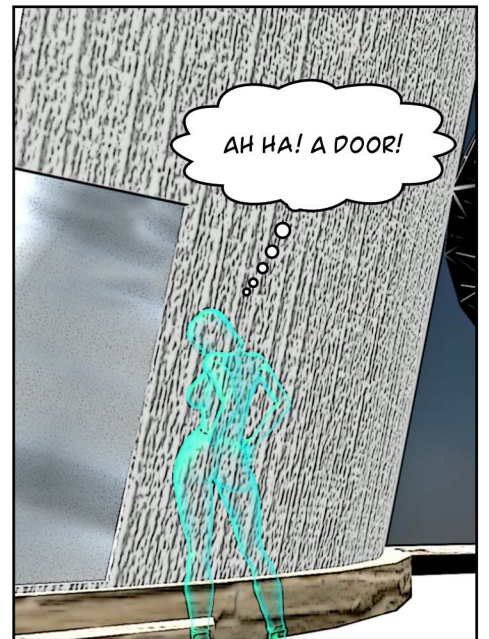
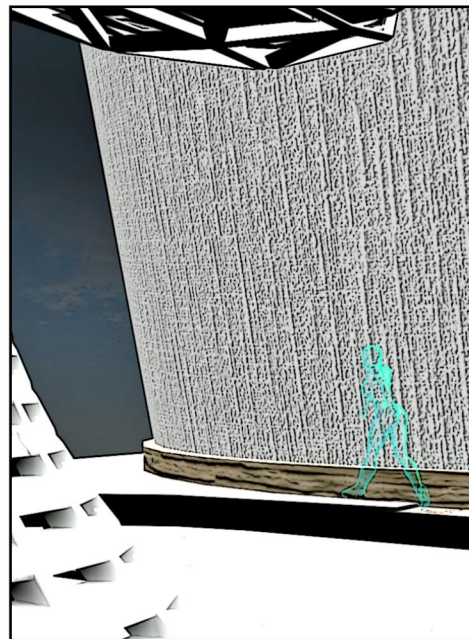
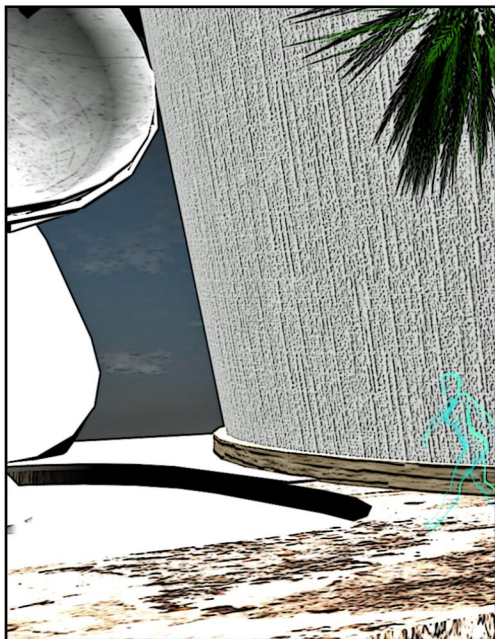
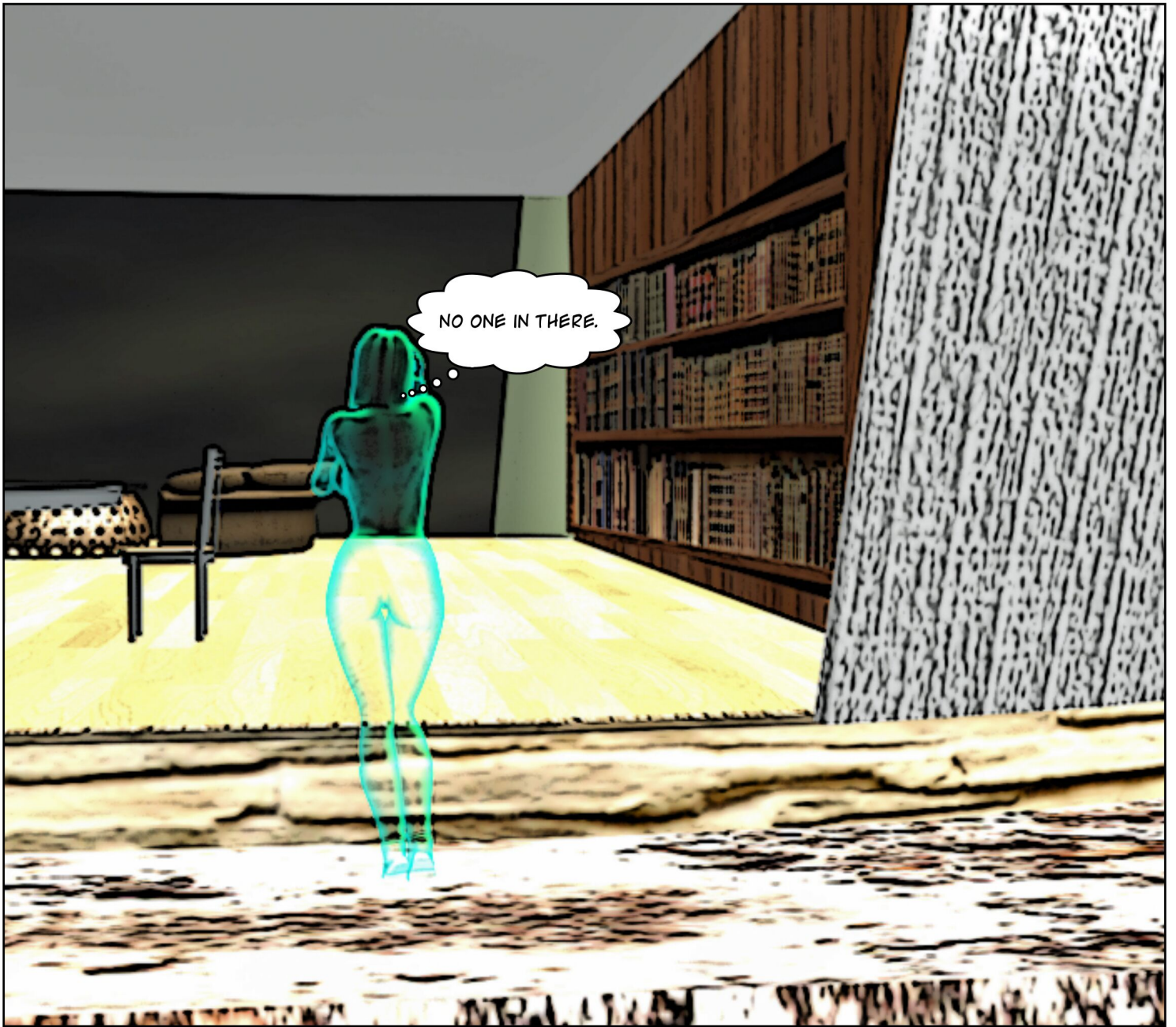














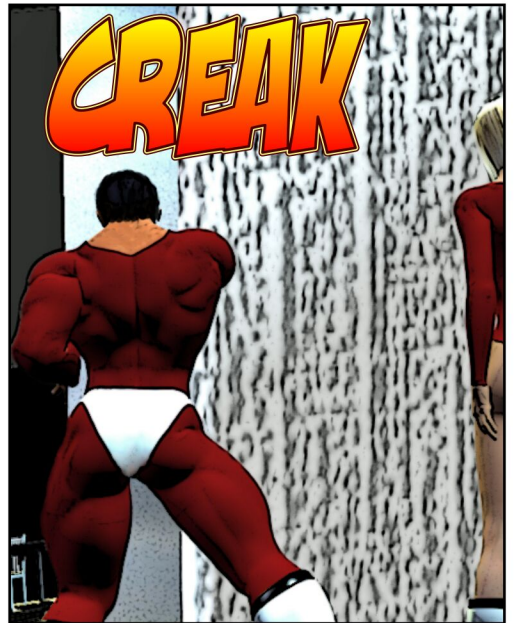


I FOUND A DOOR IN THE BACK.

DAVID VICKY, COME ON. STEPHANIE, LEAD THE WAY.



I'LL FORCE IT OPEN. BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.



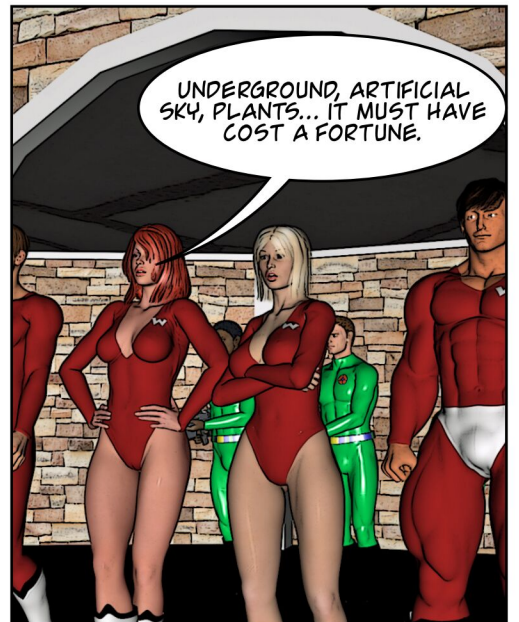
CREAK



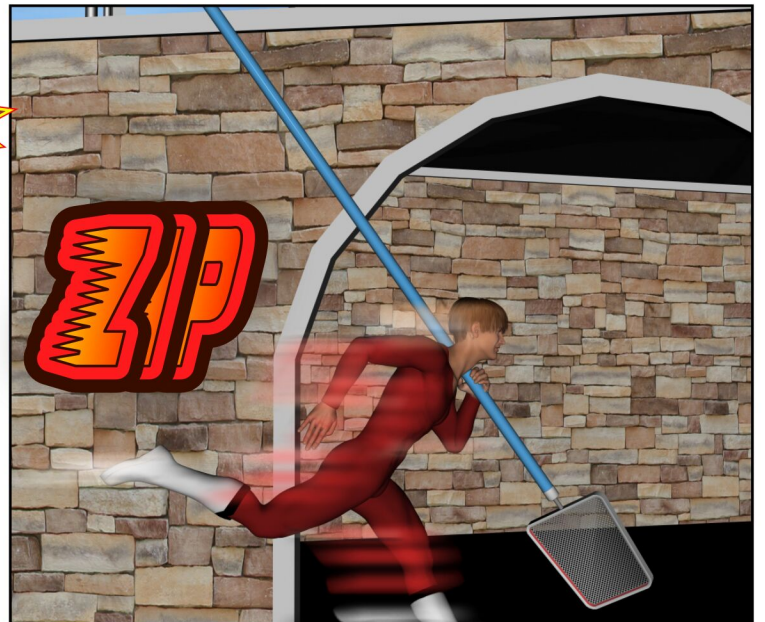
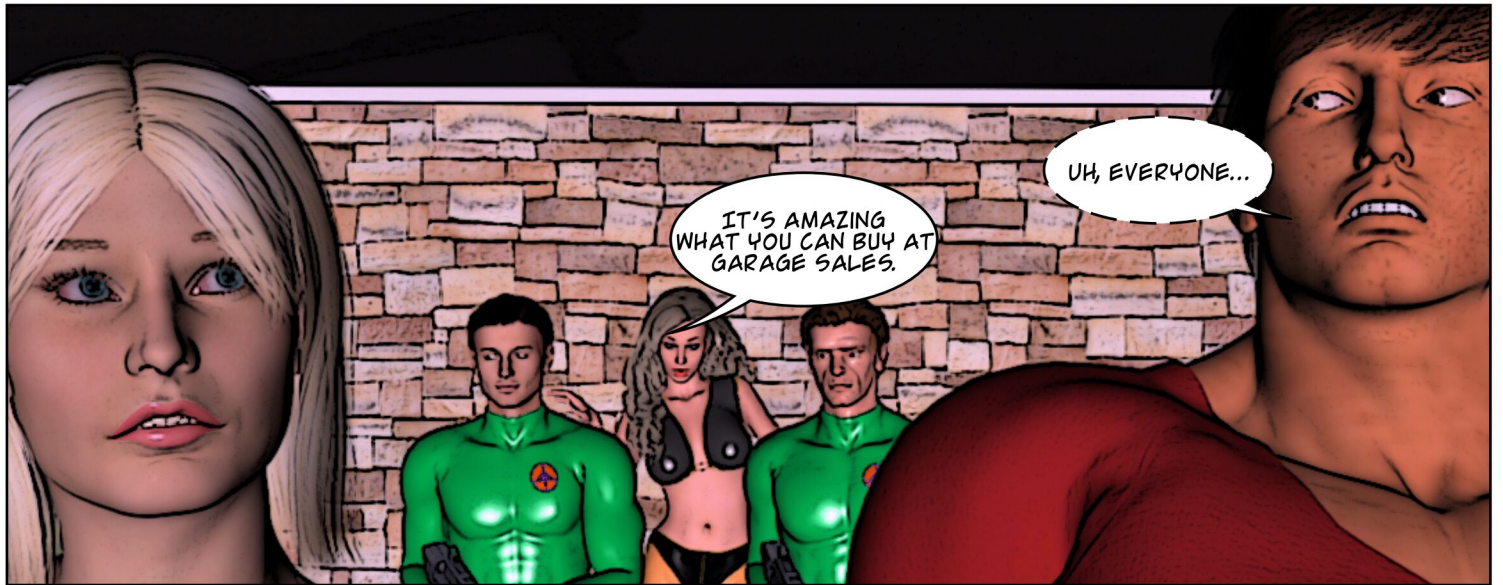
I'M SURPRISED IT ISN'T HEAVILY GUARDED

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S ON A CLIFF AND THEY ARE OVER CONFIDENT.

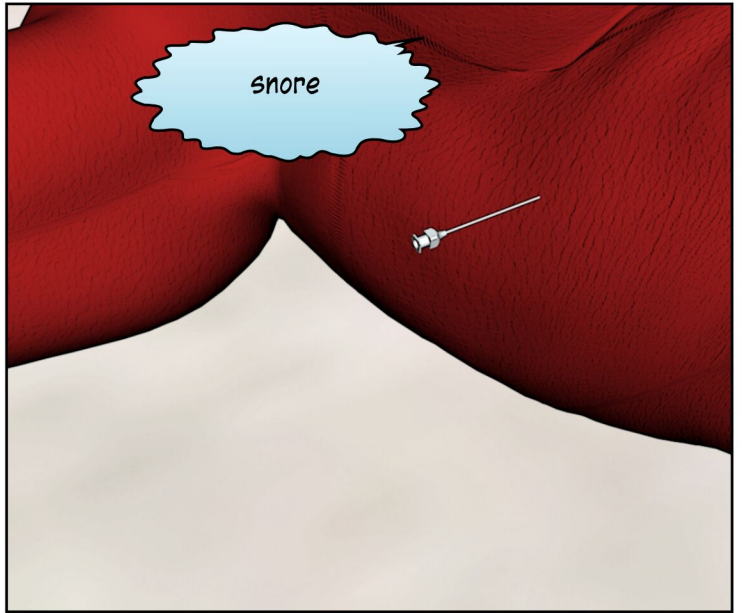




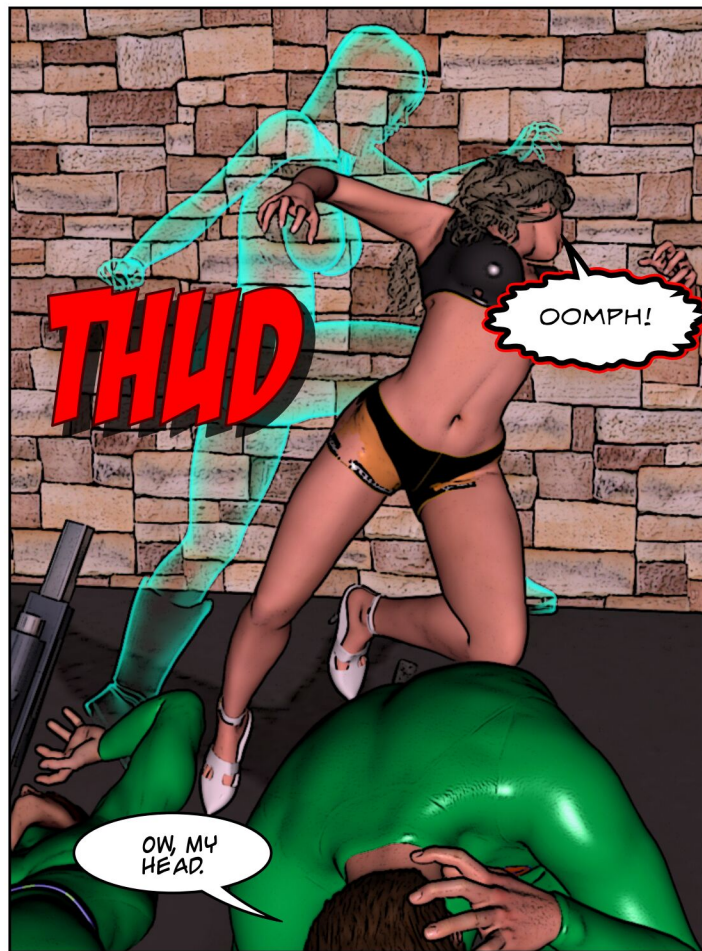
















SURRENDER NOW AND NO ONE WILL BE HARMED I COULD USE ALL OF YOU IN THE NEW WORLD.



SURRENDERING THE THREE ARE LED TO THEIR HOLDING CELL.

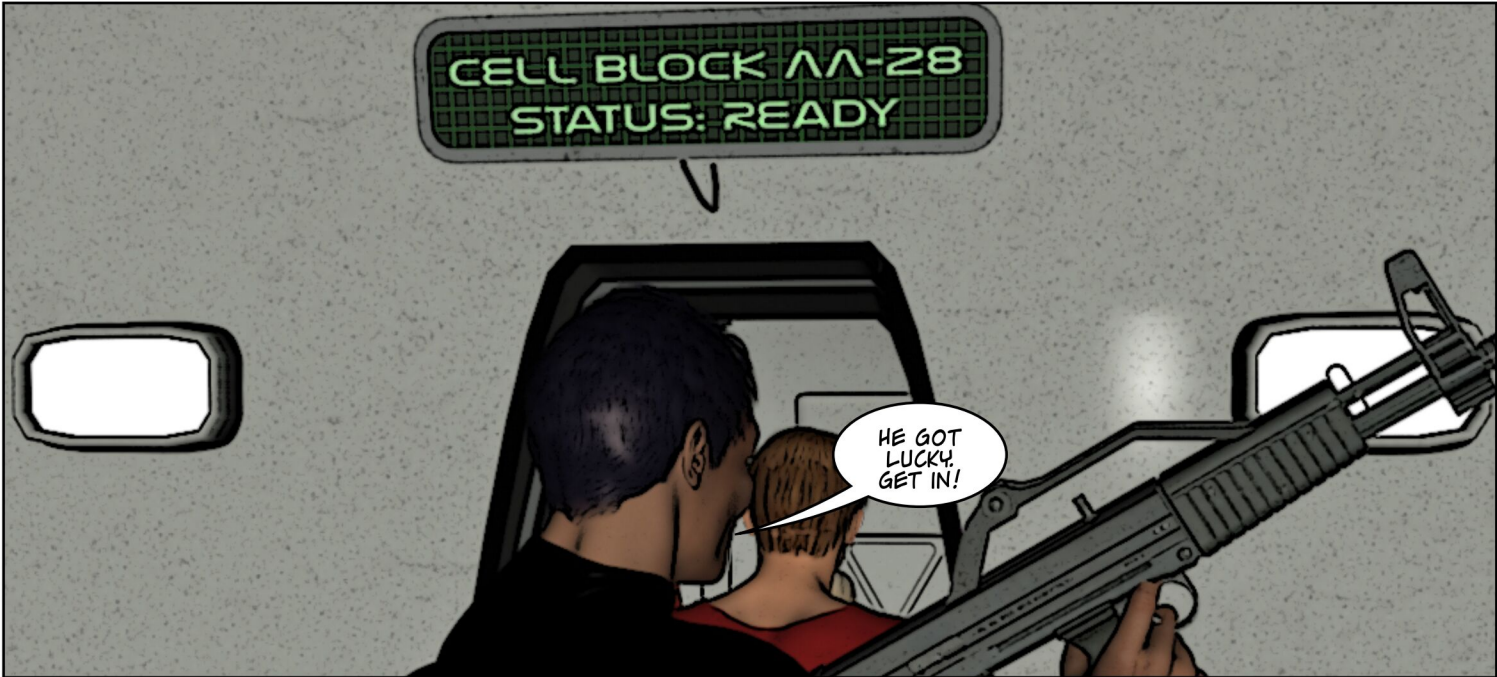


STOP RIGHT THERE.



SOME SUPERHEROES YOU TURNED OUT TO BE. POWER DUDE WOULD NEVER LET HIMSELF BE CAUGHT.

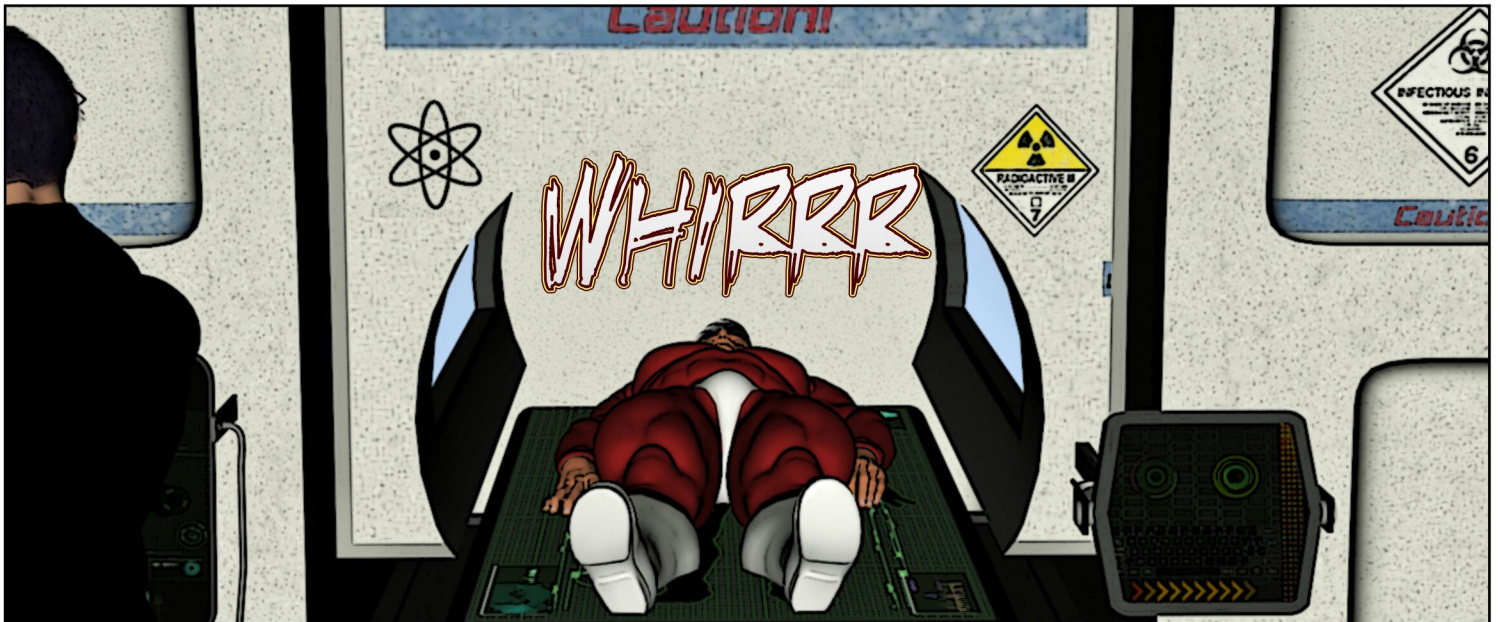
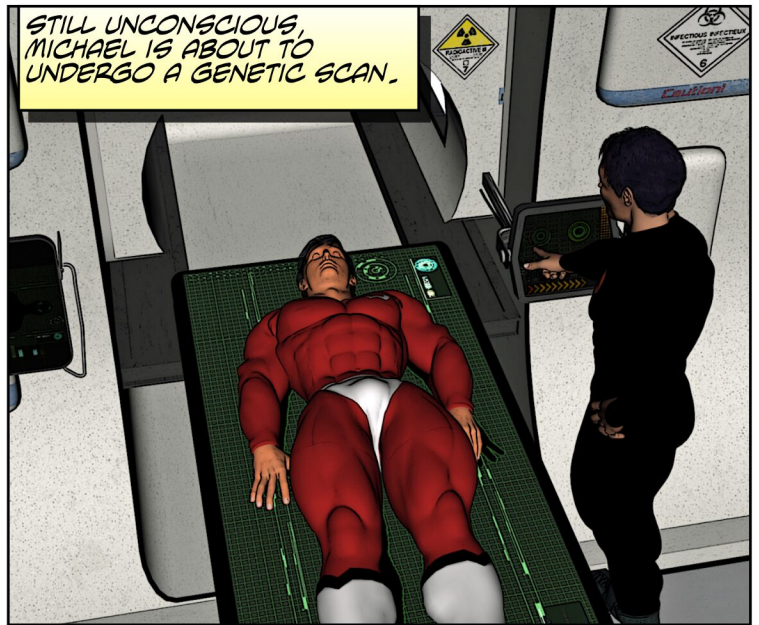
THERE WAS THAT TIME IN ISSUE #144 WHERE HE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO GET CAUGHT SO HE COULD FIGURE OUT THE VILLAIN'S PLAN.



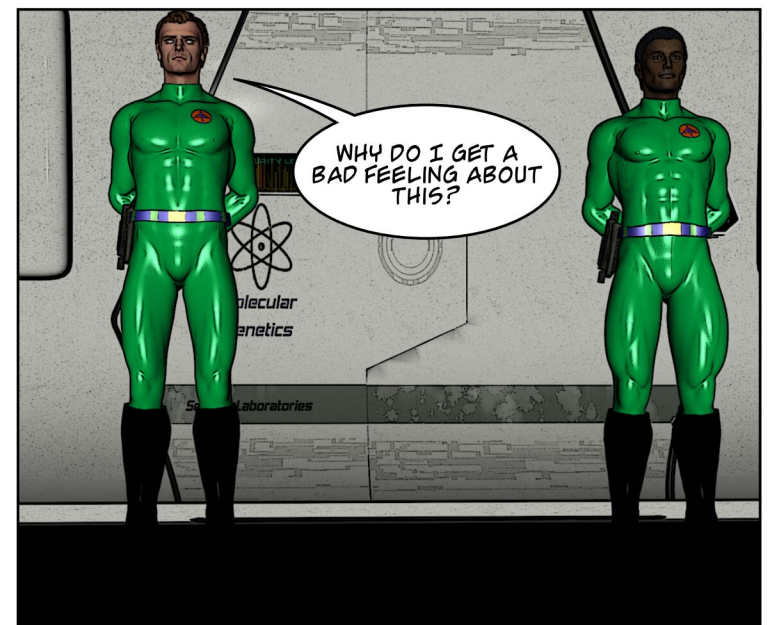
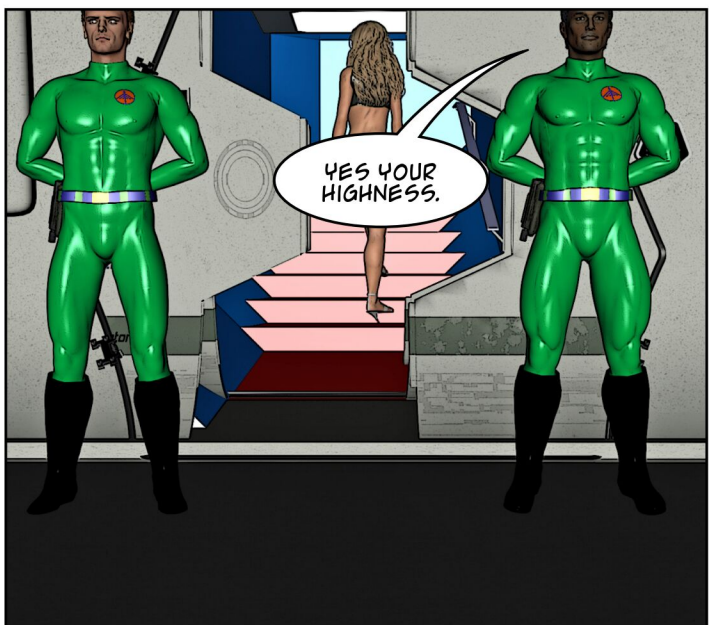
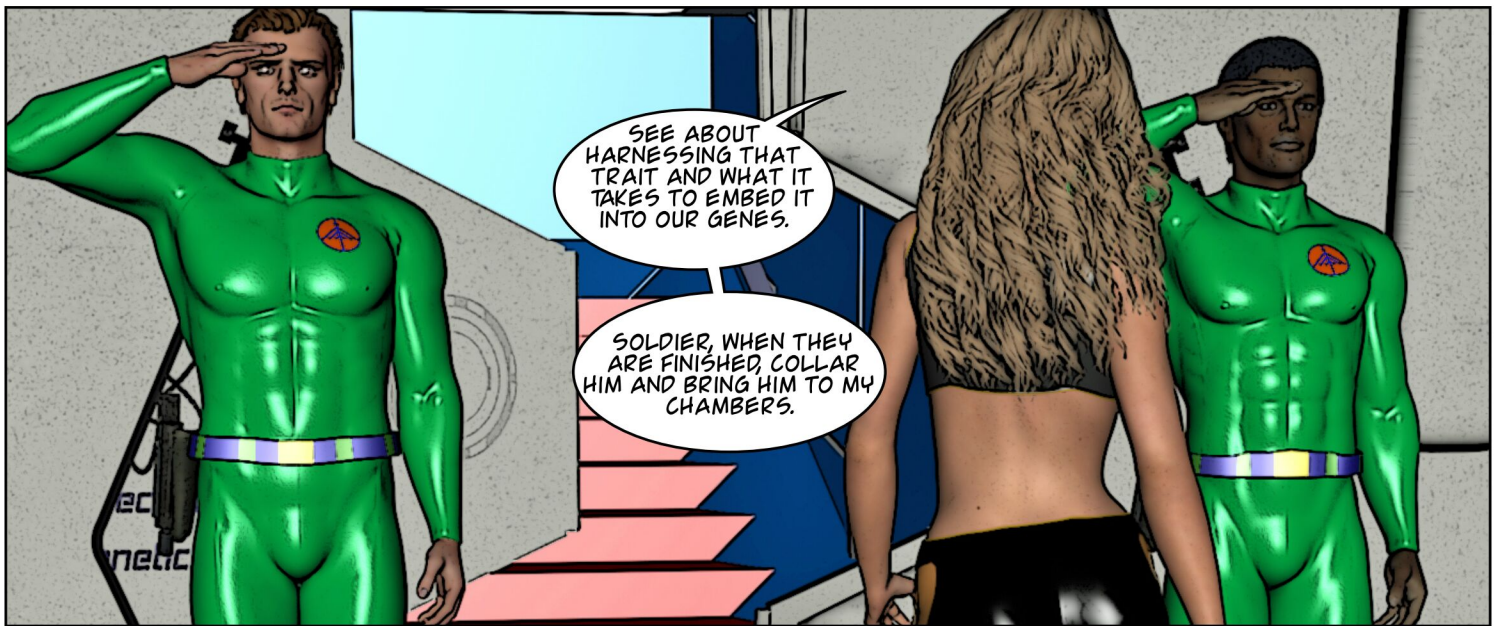
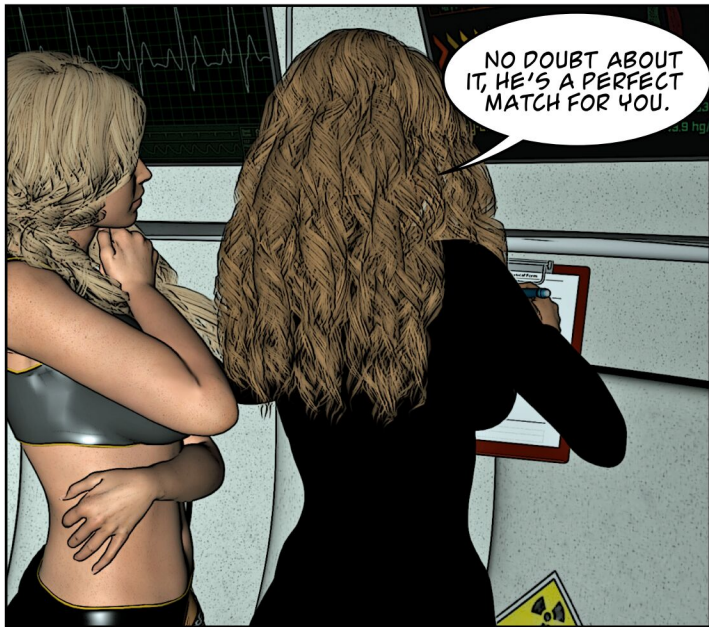
CELL BLOCK AA-28  
STATUS: READY

HE GOT LUCKY. GET IN!

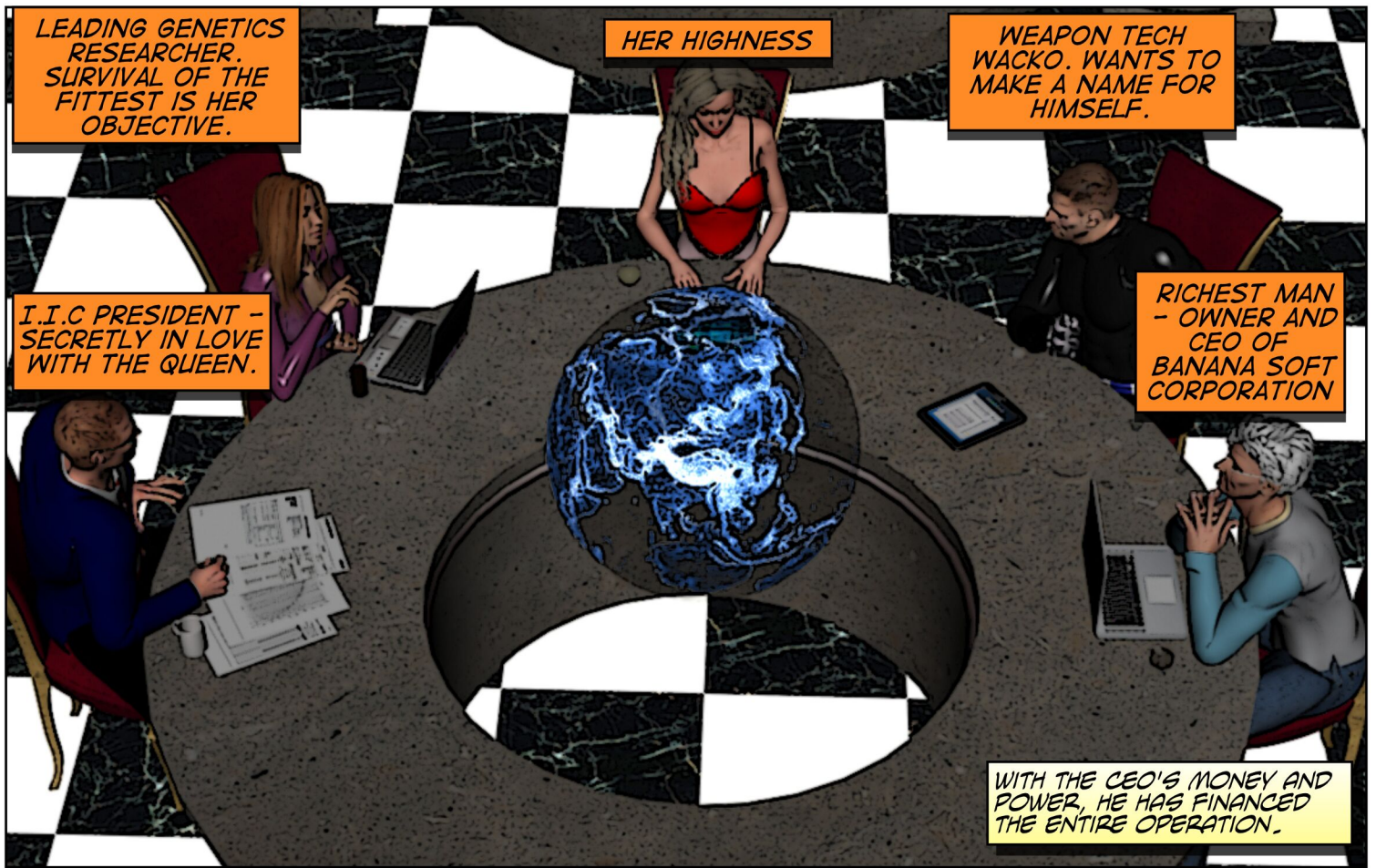












LEADING GENETICS RESEARCHER. SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST IS HER OBJECTIVE.

HER HIGHNESS

WEAPON TECH WACKO. WANTS TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.

I.I.C PRESIDENT - SECRETLY IN LOVE WITH THE QUEEN.

RICHEST MAN - OWNER AND CEO OF BANANA SOFT CORPORATION

WITH THE CEO'S MONEY AND POWER, HE HAS FINANCED THE ENTIRE OPERATION.



HOW IS OUR PRIDE AND JOY COMING ALONG?



THE TOXIN IS PRIMED THE MISSILE WILL BE ON SCHEDULE FOR LAUNCH.

OF COURSE I REPLACED IT WITH THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IN THE WORLD.

NATURALLY, VILLAINS USUALLY HAVE THEIR OWN HIDDEN AGENDAS.

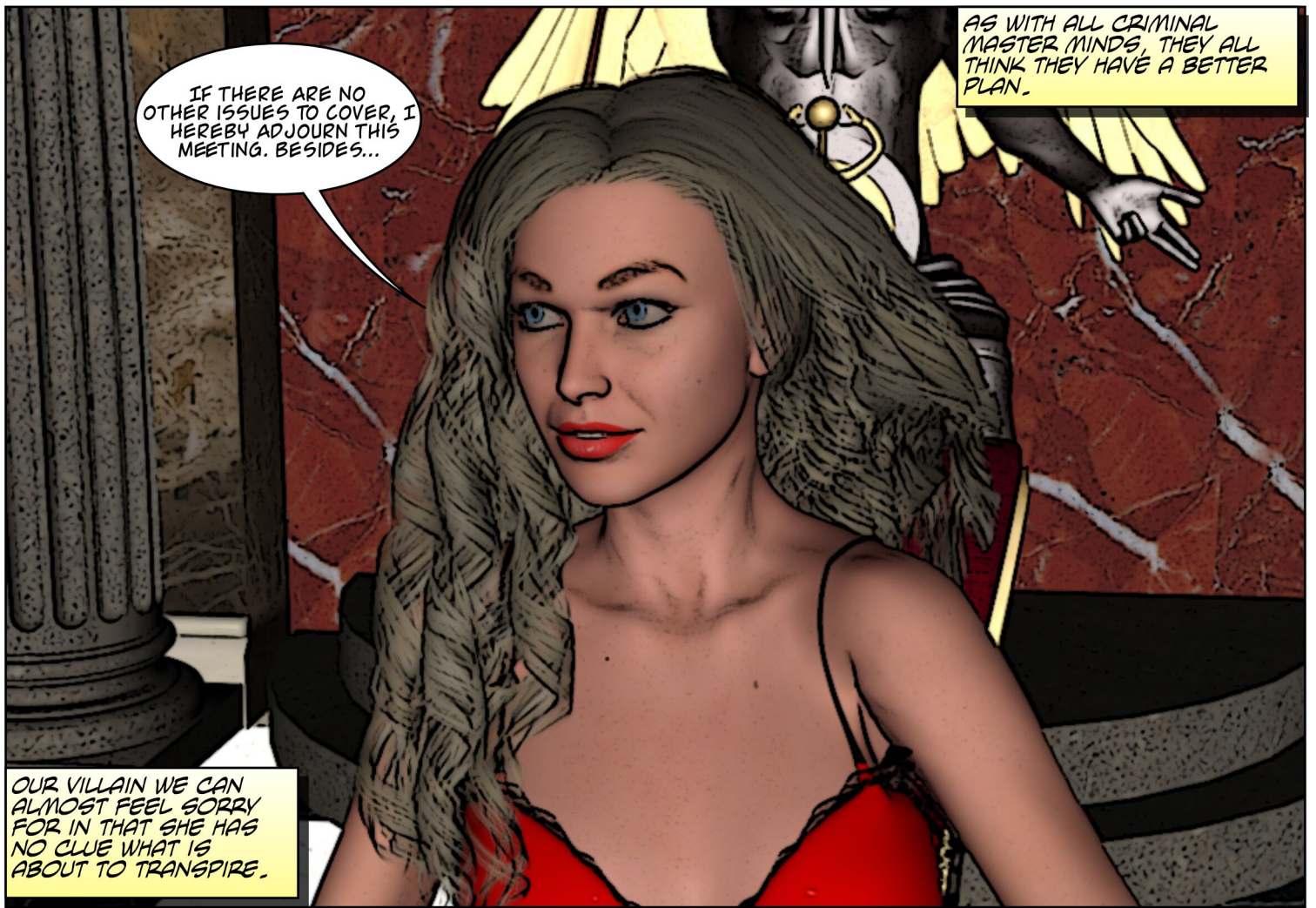












IF THERE ARE NO OTHER ISSUES TO COVER, I HEREBY ADJOURN THIS MEETING. BESIDES...

AS WITH ALL CRIMINAL MASTER MINDS, THEY ALL THINK THEY HAVE A BETTER PLAN.

OUR VILLAIN WE CAN ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR IN THAT SHE HAS NO CLUE WHAT IS ABOUT TO TRANSPIRE.



MY MATE AWAITS.



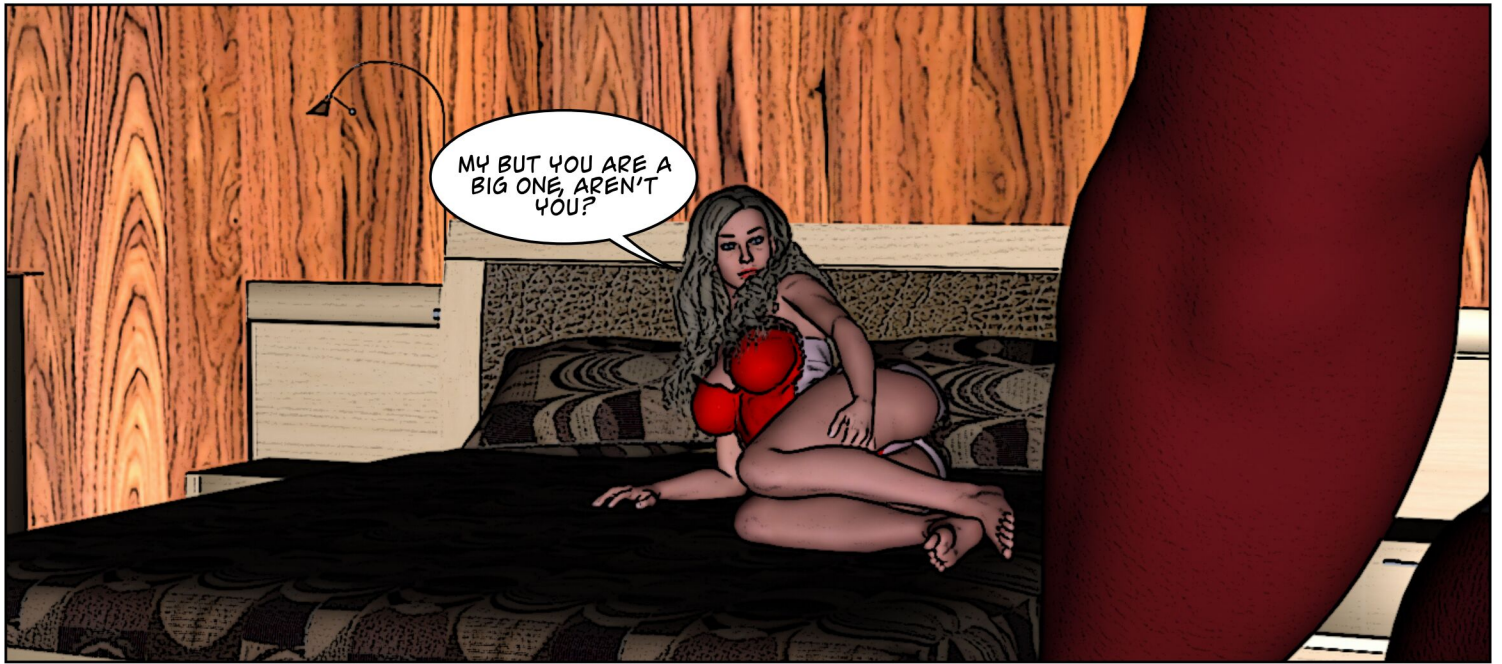
MOMENTS  
LATER...

GO ON UP HER  
HIGHNESS IS  
EXPECTING YOU.

WE'LL BE  
WAITING DOWN  
HERE, JUST IN  
CASE.

HIGHNESS? OH  
BOY HAS THE CHEESE  
SLIPPED OFF HER  
CRACKER.





MY BUT YOU ARE A BIG ONE, AREN'T YOU?



I HAVE AN EXPLODING COLLAR ON. I'M NOT QUITE IN THE MOOD.

I CAN CHANGE THAT FOR YOU. I AM A LITTLE OVERDRESSED.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?



YOU, SILLY. WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK I SUMMONED YOU HERE?



YOU ARE TO BE MY MATE, MY KING OF THE NEW WORLD

**TO BE CONTINUED**



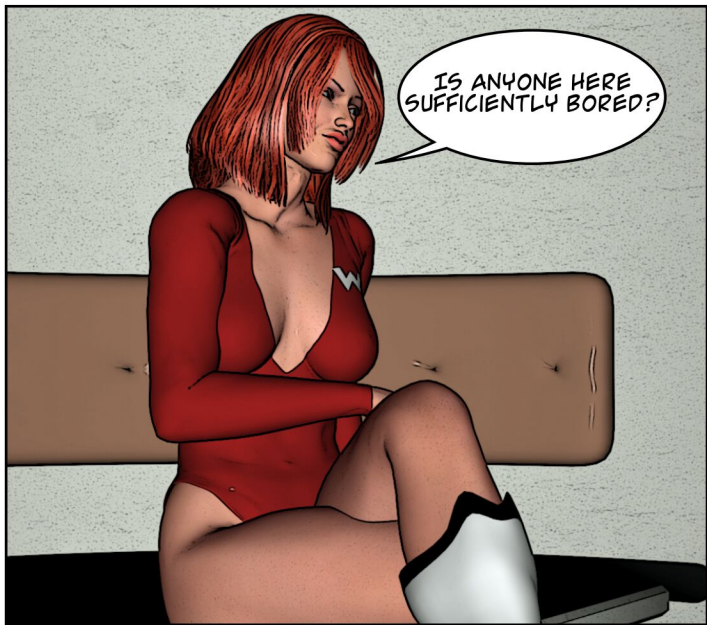
# PART FOUR

## THE GRAND FINALE



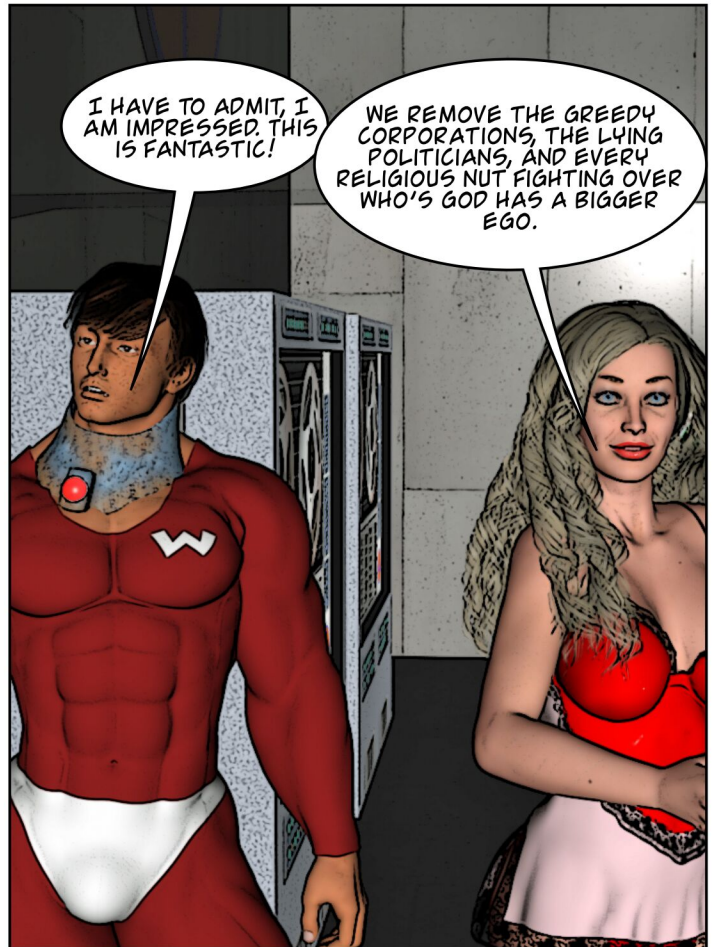
WILL OUR HEROES PERSEVERE  
OR WILL THE WORLD TURN TO  
ASH? READ THE CONCLUDING  
CHAPTER TO FIND OUT.



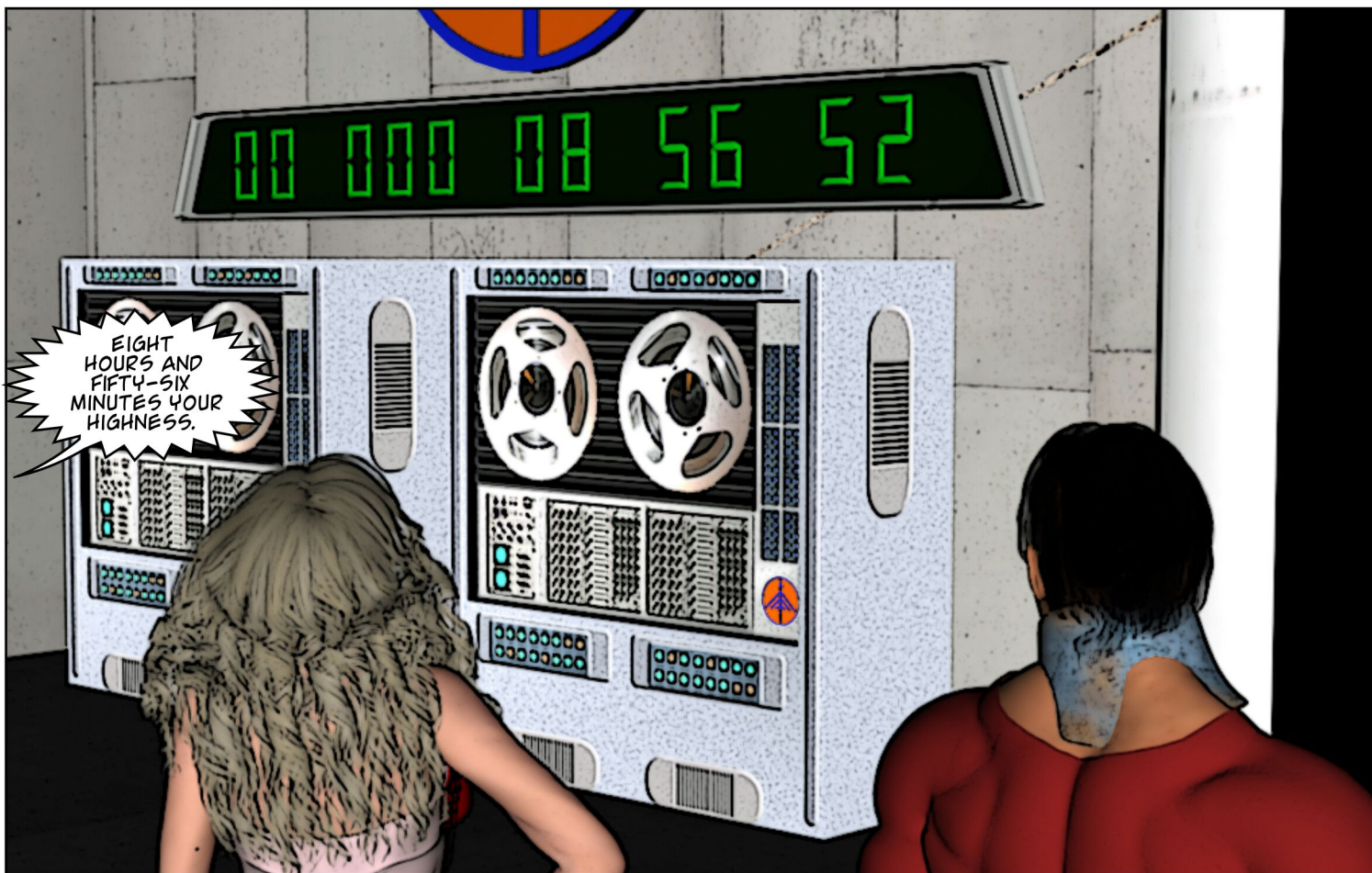




MEANWHILE LET'S SEE WHAT THE QUEEN HAS IN STORE FOR MICHAEL.



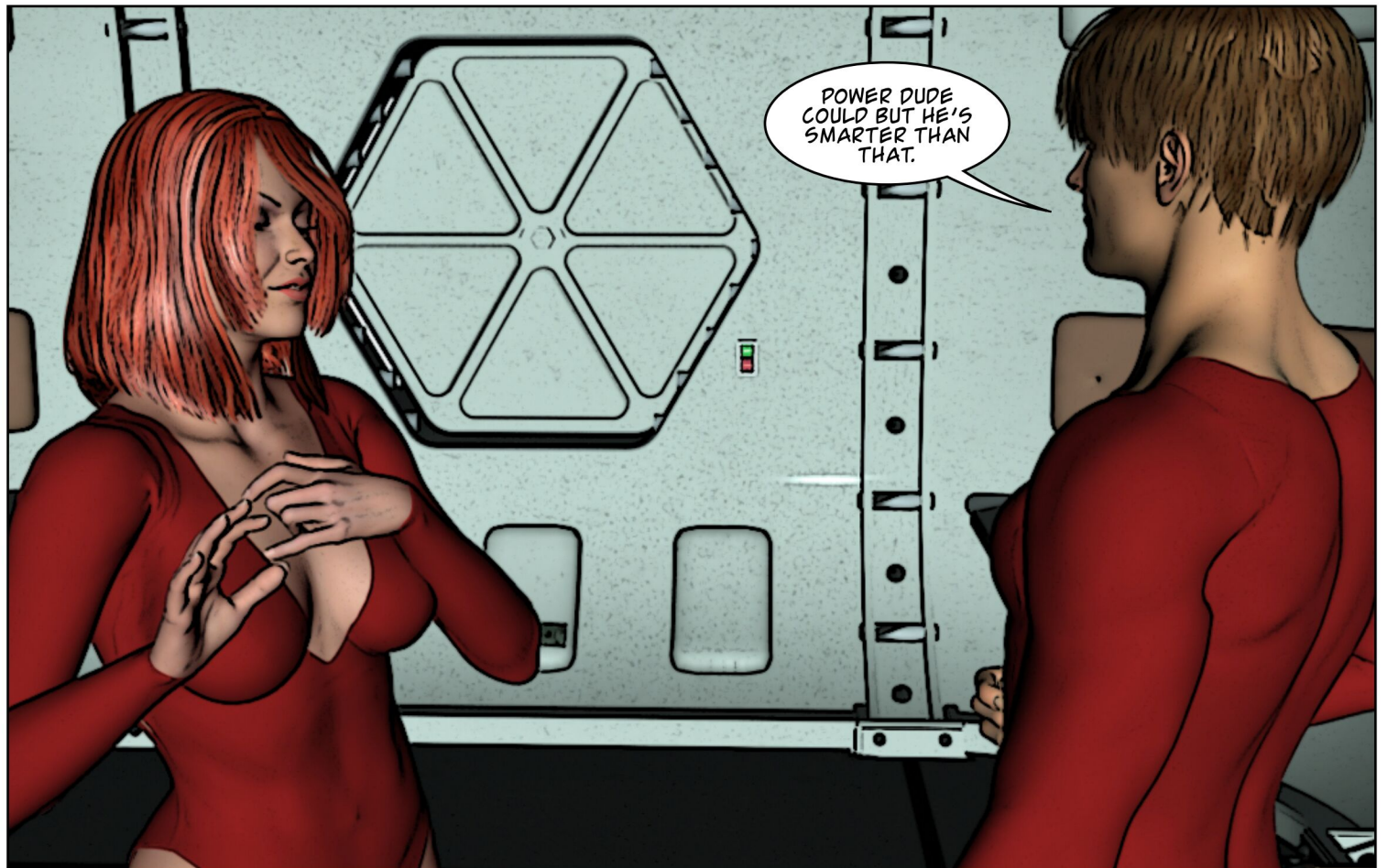
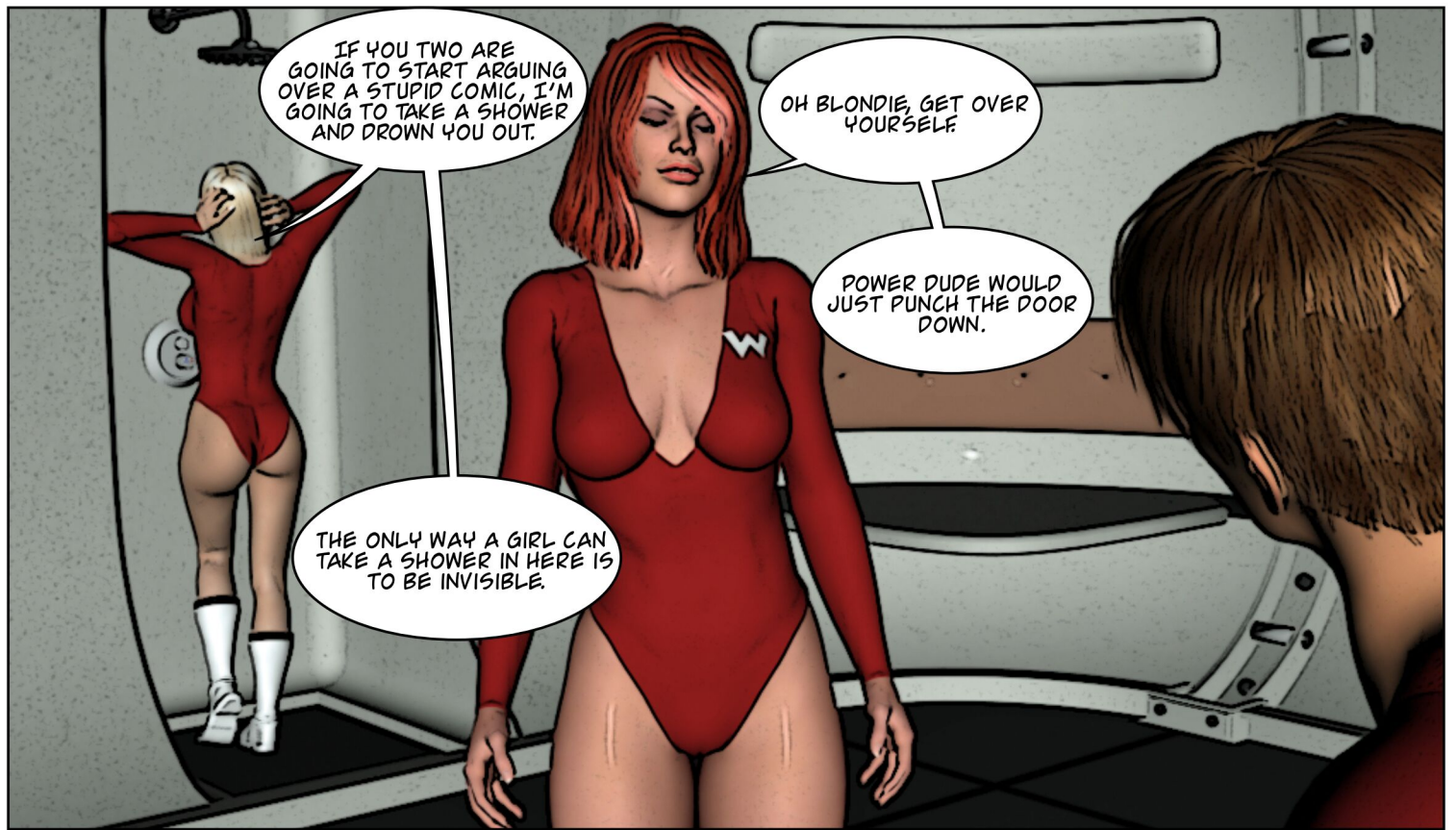




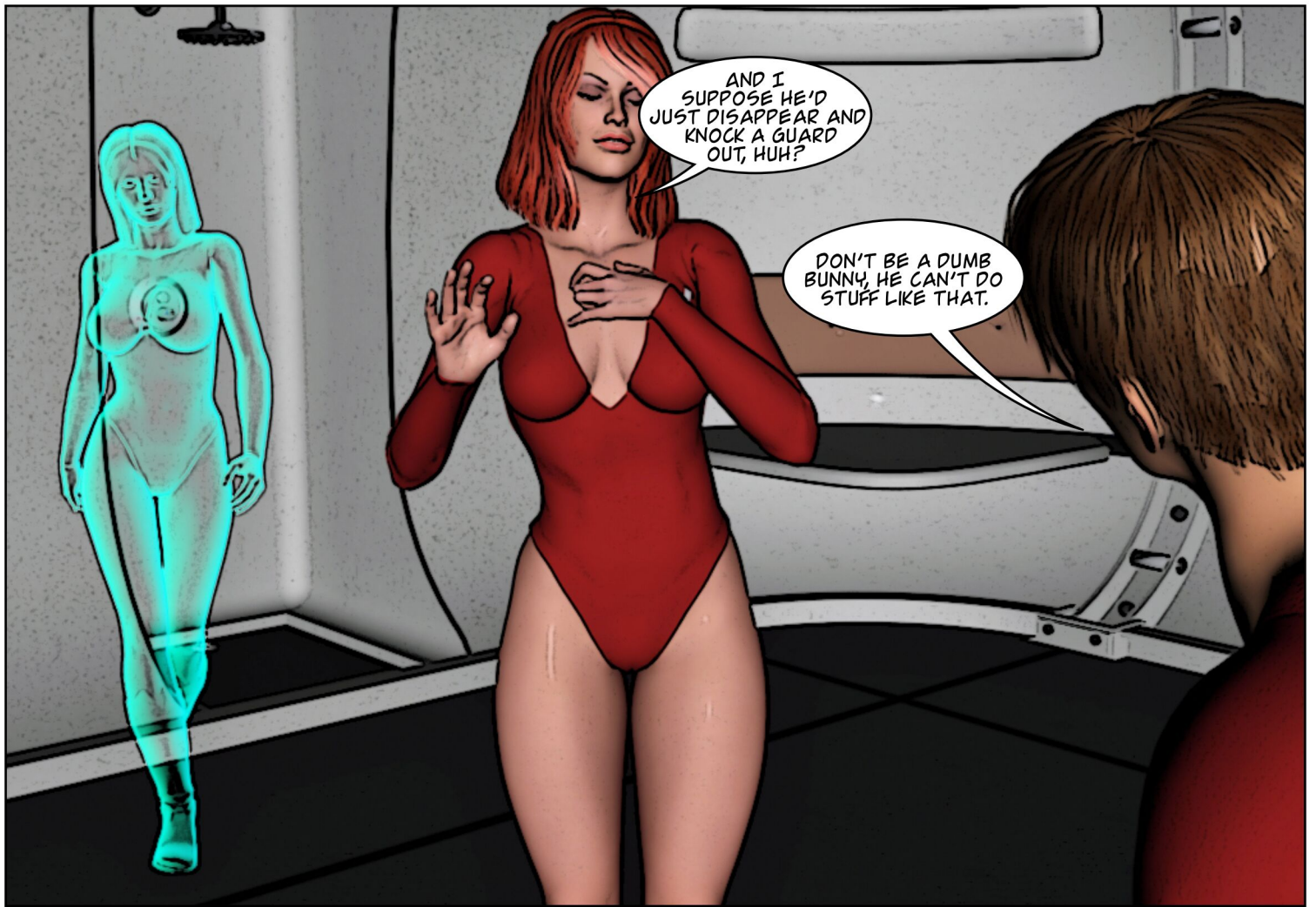












AND I SUPPOSE HE'D JUST DISAPPEAR AND KNOCK A GUARD OUT, HUH?

DON'T BE A DUMB BUNNY, HE CAN'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT.



HEY! NONE OF THAT INVISIBILITY STUFF...

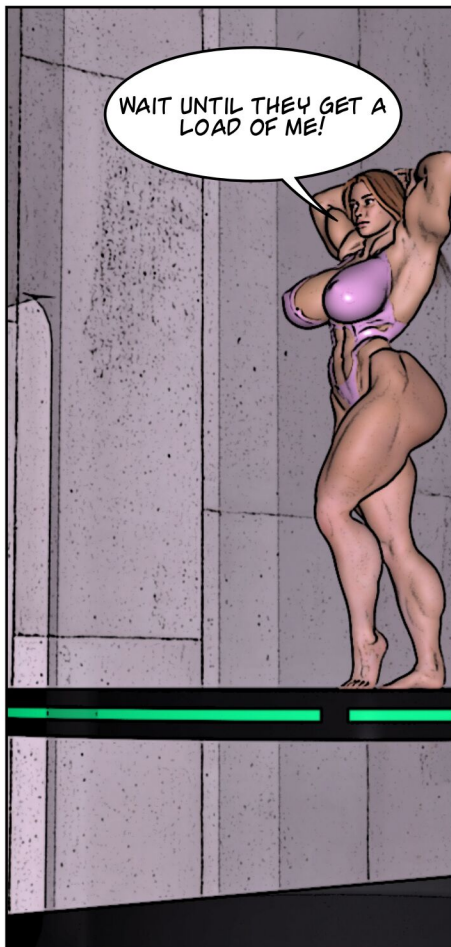
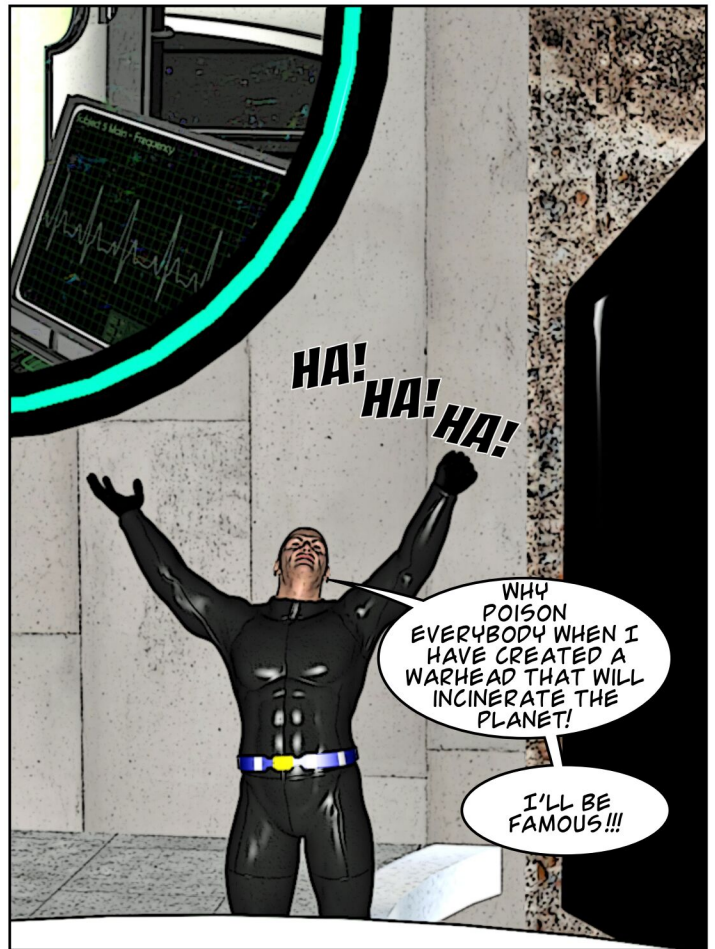


HE CAN'T, BUT I CAN!

OOF!!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!





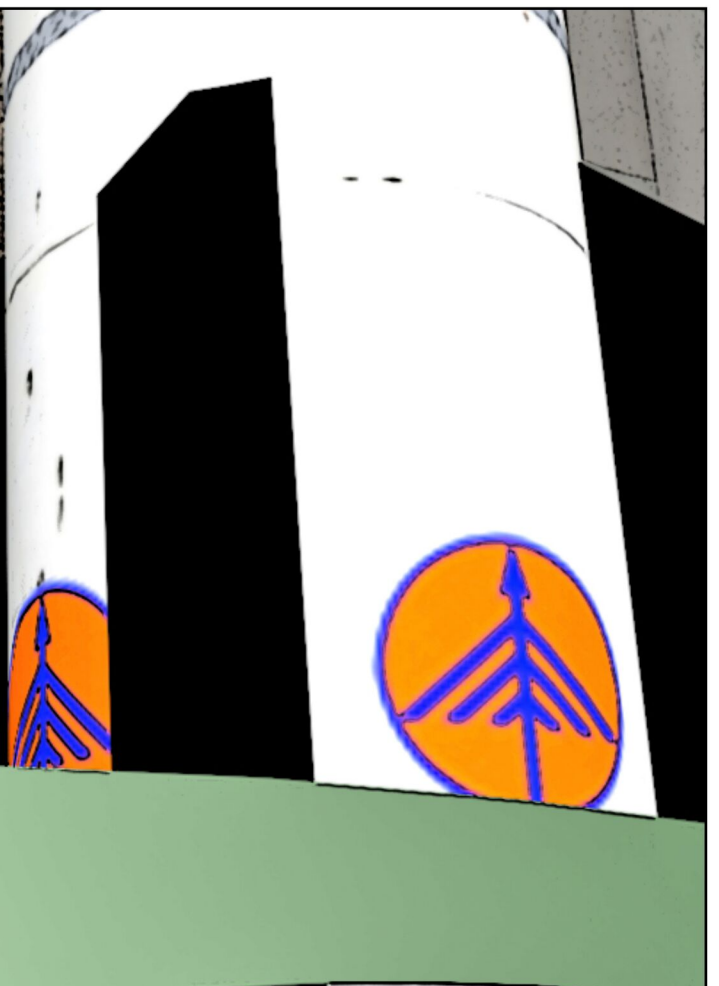




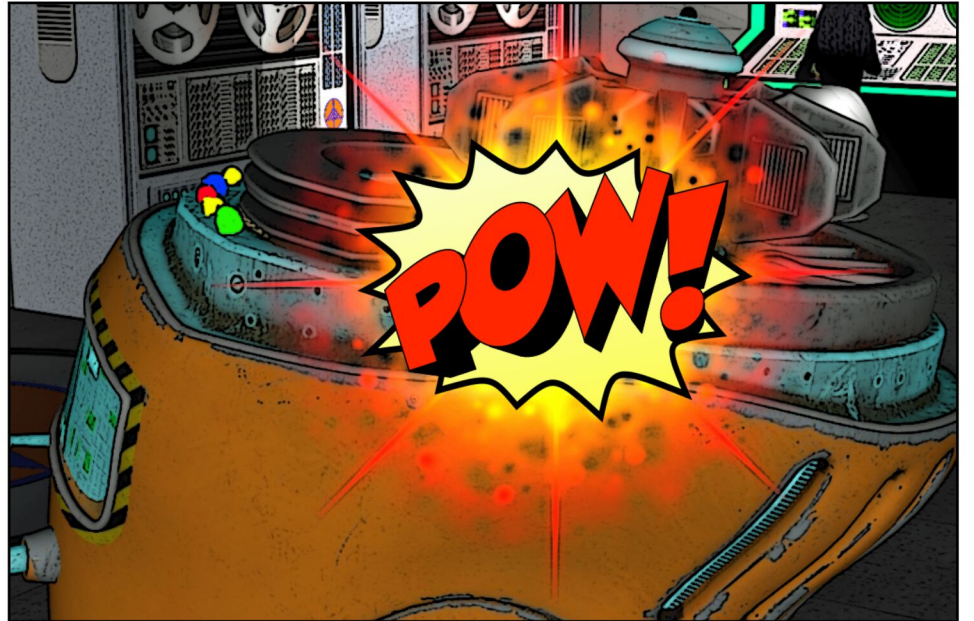
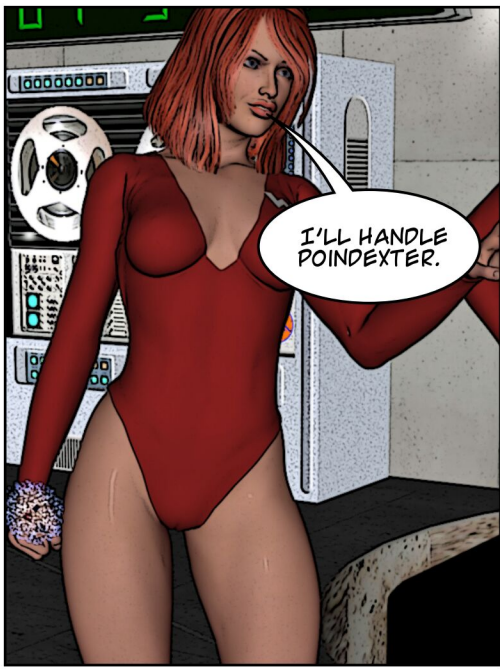
















MY BANANASOFT  
COMPLI-CONTROLLER!  
YOU'VE RUINED IT!

**BZZZZ!**

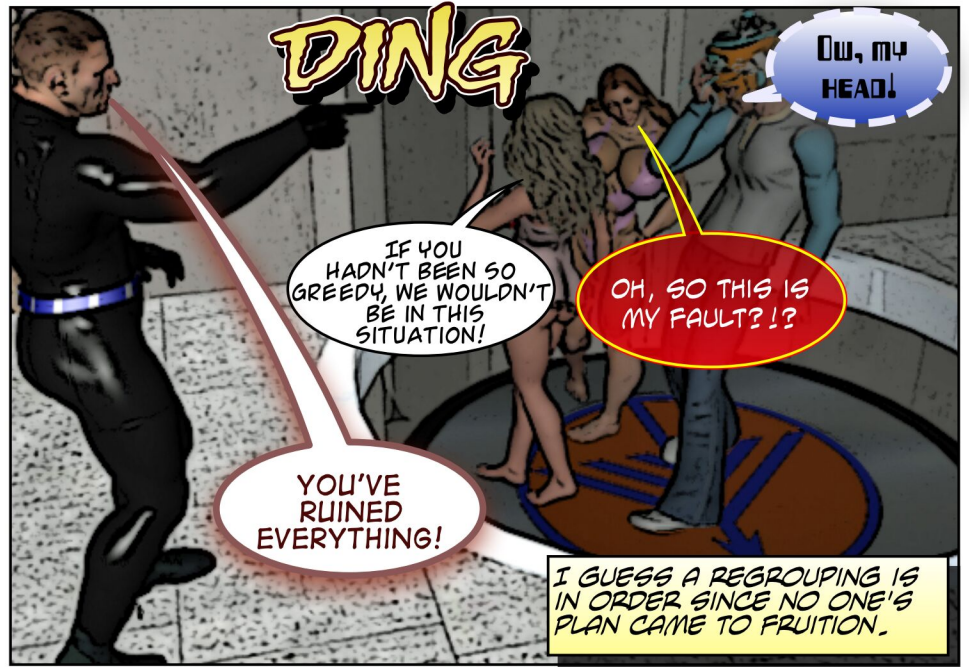




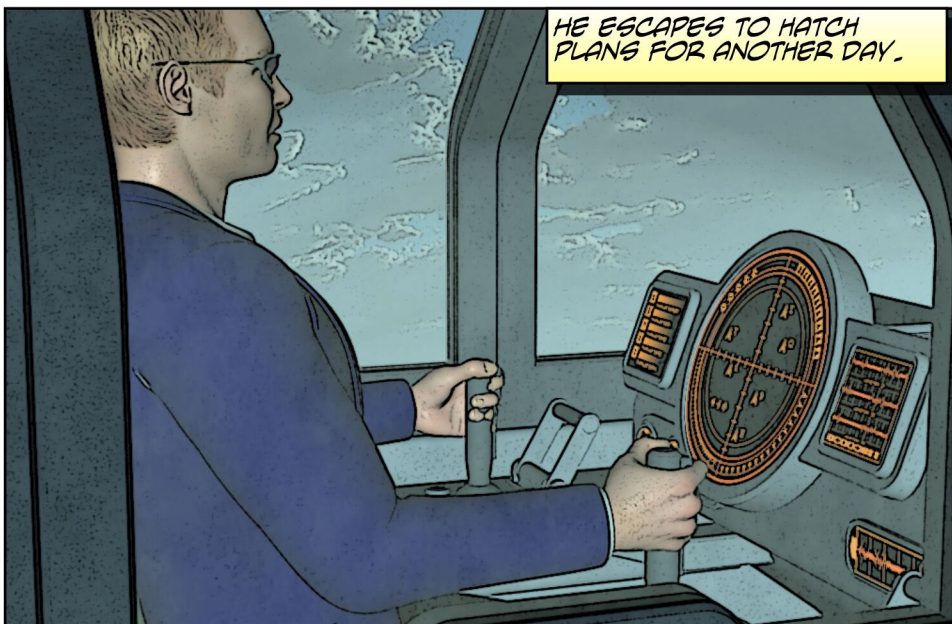








ATOP THE LAIR THE TRAITOR TO THE I.I.C. HAS GONE UNNOTICED AND OUR HEROES HAVE NO IDEA THEIR EMPLOYER IS INVOLVED.







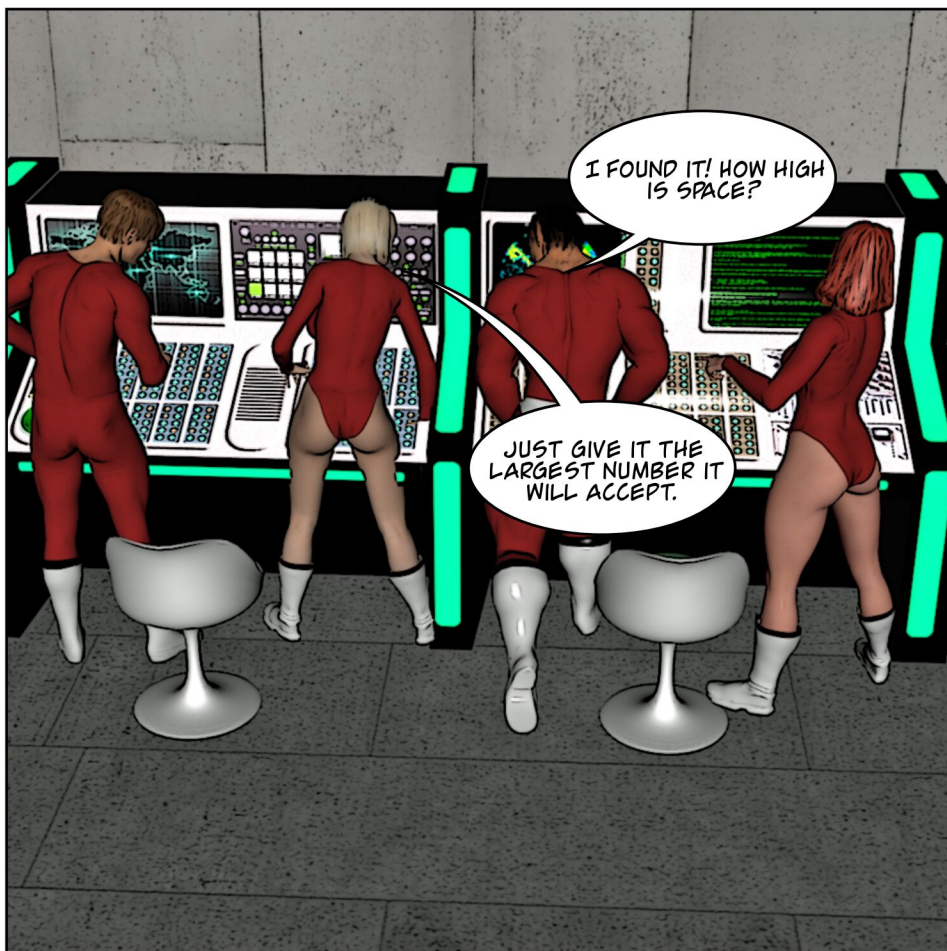




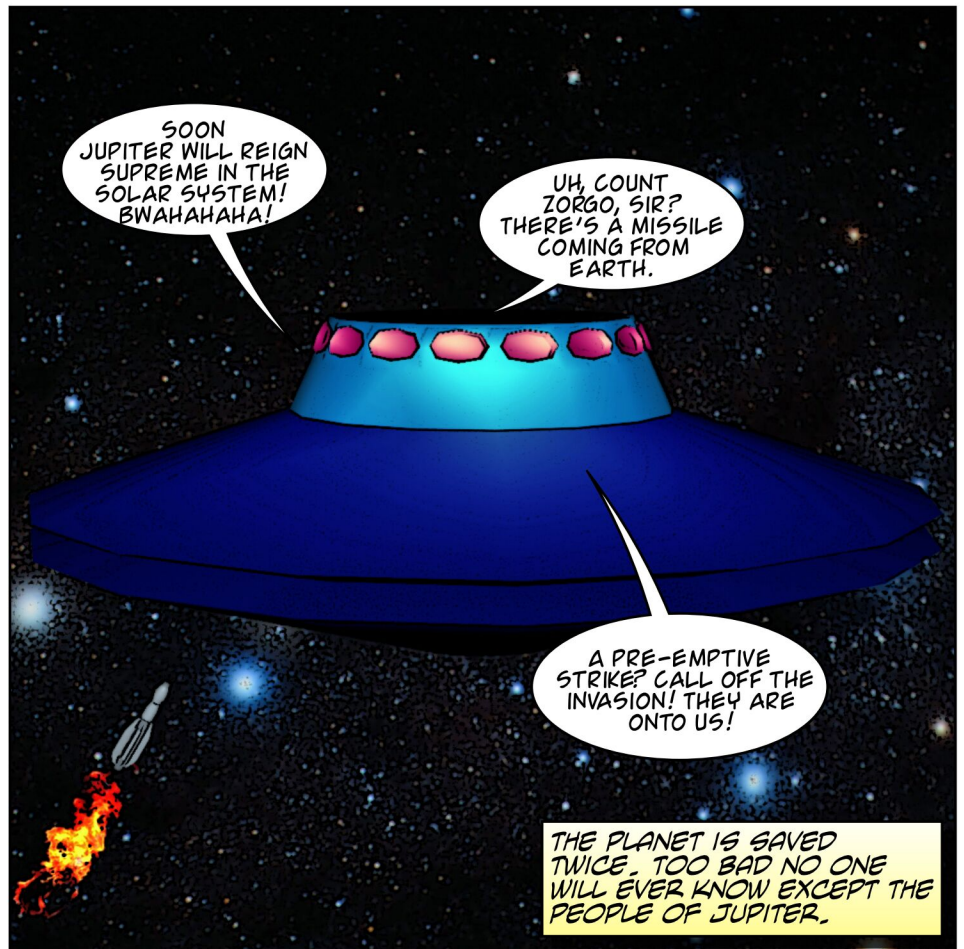
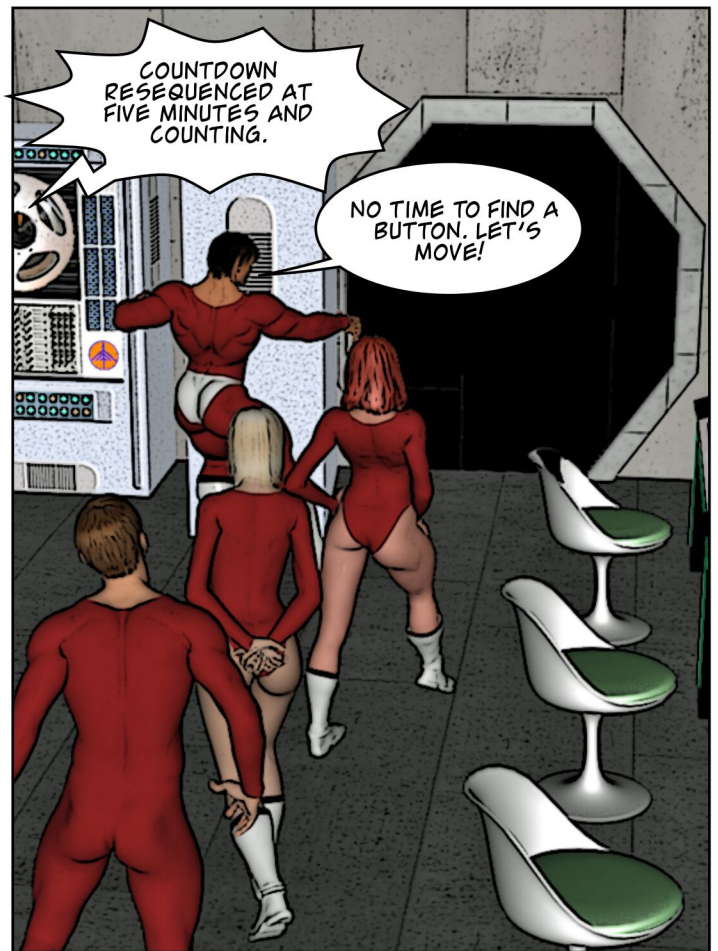














AFTER MUCH SEARCHING...



FINALLY, THE EXIT!



HEY WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LADIES FIRST?



IN CASE THE HATCH IS STUCK I'LL FORCE IT OPEN.

I KNOW, I'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH YOU.

BESIDES, YOU'RE NO LADY.

GO RUN YOURSELF RAGGED!



I SEE SOME STUFF OVER HERE. I'LL GRAB IT IN CASE WE CAN USE IT.



HOURS LATER AS NIGHT FALLS...

I FOUND SOME CAN GOODS, A COUPLE OF JARS, AND A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

OUR SHELTER IS READY.

GOT THE FIRE GOING.

AND THERE GOES THE FIRST FLARE.





SEVERAL HOURS LATER

WHIRRR

I SEE THEM,  
RIGHT OVER  
THERE.

I'LL RAISE THEM ON  
THE COMM INSIG.

WHIRRR

AFTER MUCH TOASTING THAT IS

I THINK THEY ARE  
SLIGHTLY  
INEBRIATED.

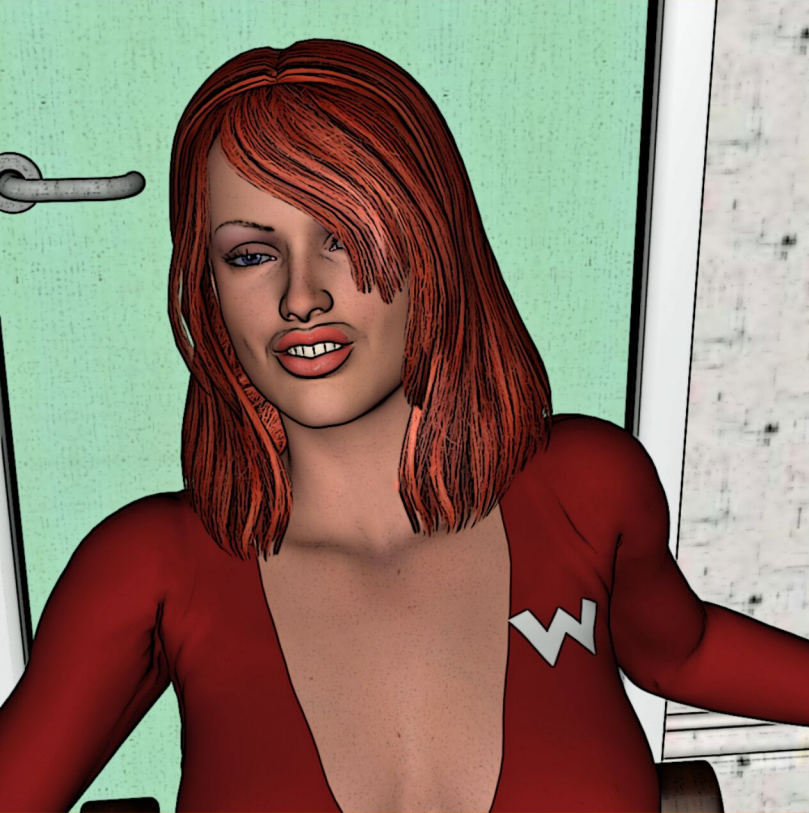
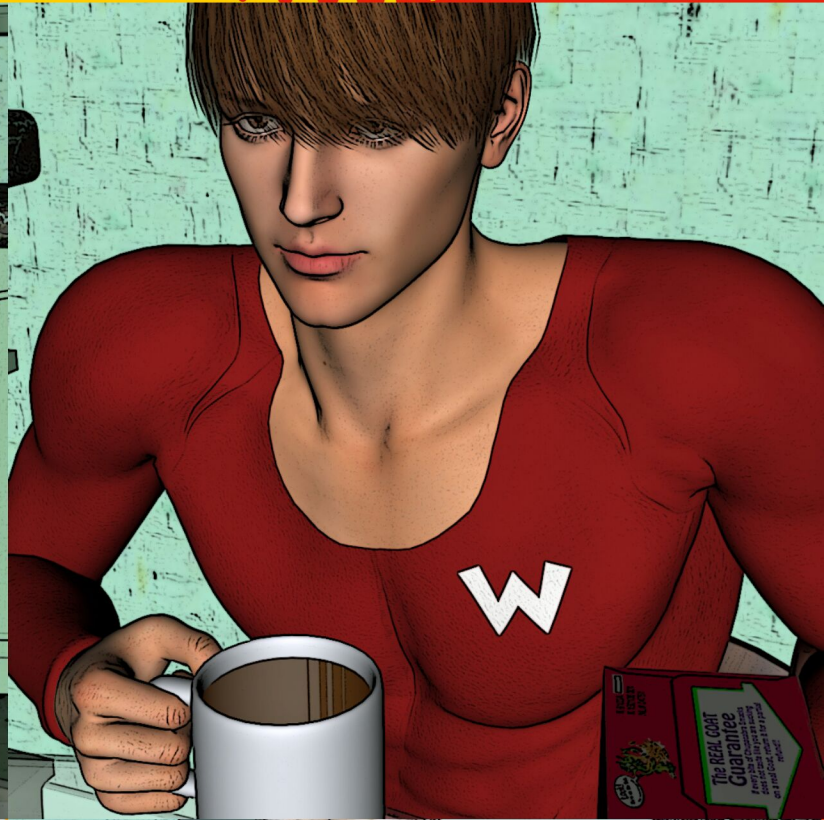
ARE THEY DANCING  
NAKED AROUND A  
FIRE?

\*SIGH\* LET'S PICK  
THEM UP.

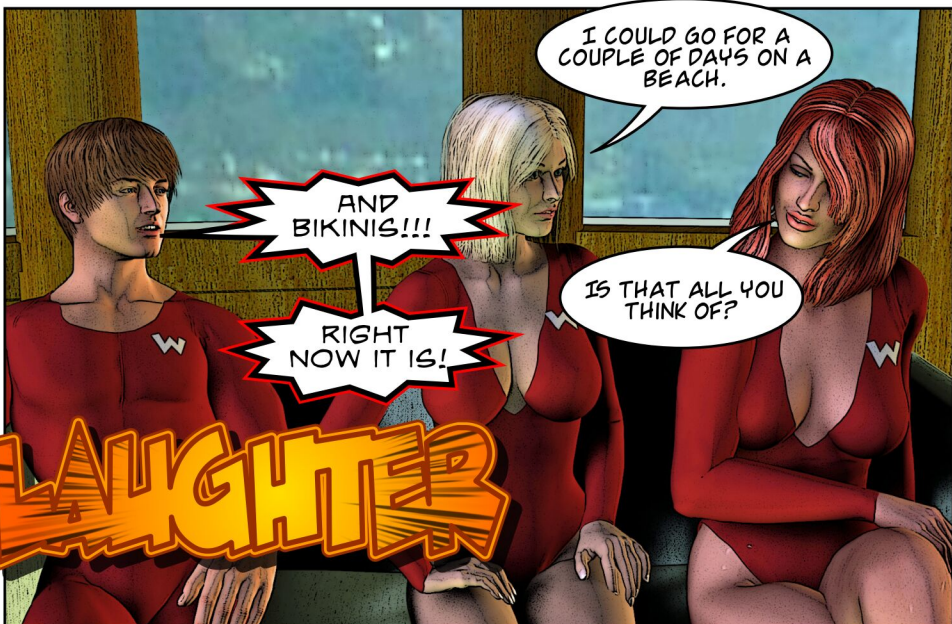
bzzzt...  
roll me over in the clover  
roll me over lay me down  
and do it again.



# EPILOGUE



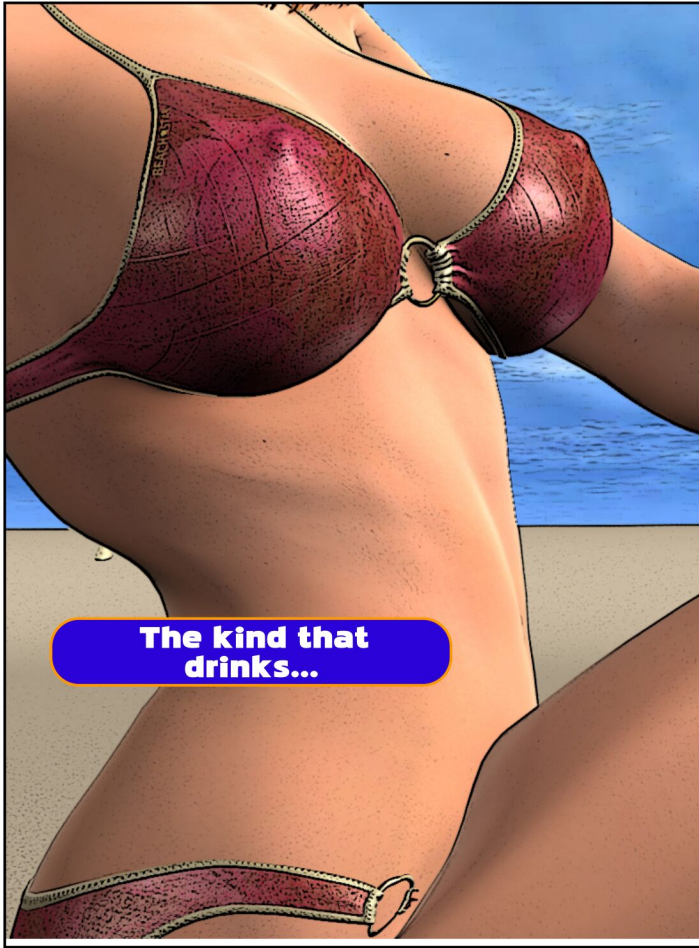








**There is only one kind of man for me.**



**The kind that drinks...**



**Wildcards Beer.**

**THE END**