

THE SILVER CORD

THE SILVER CORD

BOOK ONE ~ THE NEPHILIM

ISBN: 978-1466291867

COPYRIGHT © 2012 SILVER CORD PRODUCTIONS

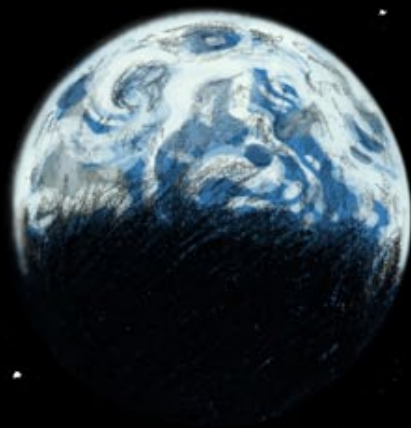
PUBLISHED BY SILVER CORD PRODUCTIONS

SILVER-CORD.NET

THIS IS EARTH.

OUR WORLD.

OUR REALM.



FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS,

LIFE HAS BEEN SIMPLE,



TURN THE SOIL...



...EAT, DRINK...



...MAKE LOVE.

WE BRING
CHILDREN INTO
THIS WORLD...



...LIVE LONG AND
PROSPEROUS LIVES...





...AND THEN...

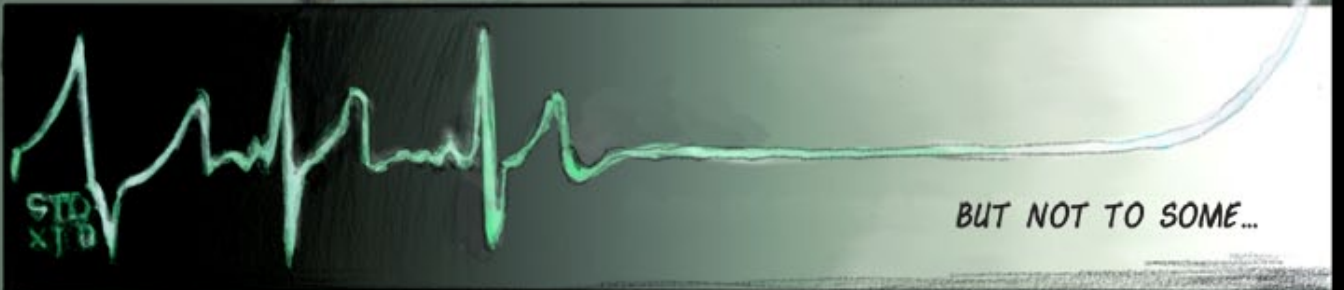
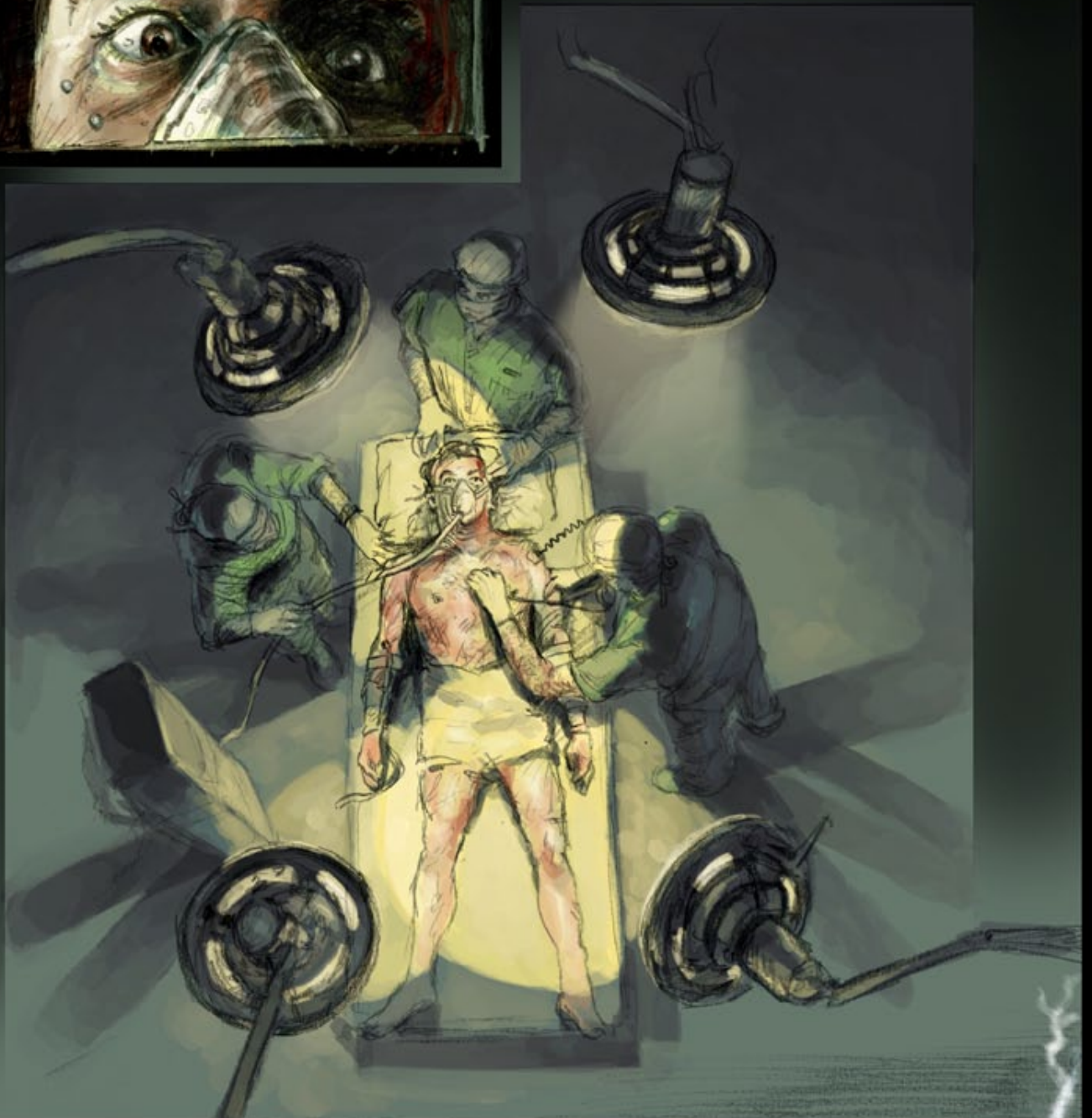
...THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS...

WE QUIETLY PASS ON...



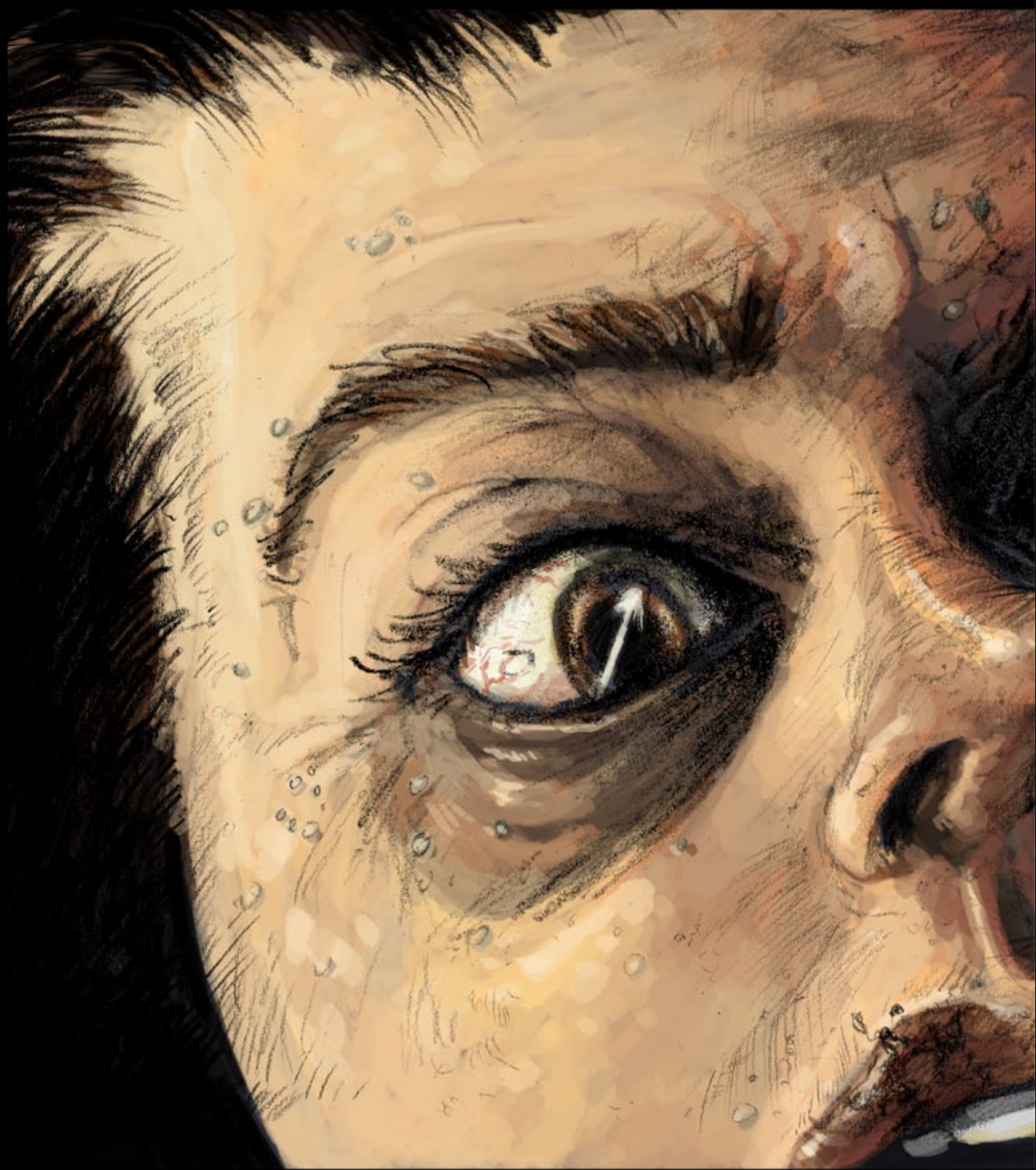


WHERE WE GO
HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MYSTERY...



BUT NOT TO SOME...

SINCE THE BEGINNING, THERE HAVE EXISTED TWO REALMS:
THE REALM OF THE HUMANS, AND THE REALM OF ANGELS.



THESE TWO WORLDS
RUN PARALLEL
TO EACH OTHER...



CONNECTED BY A
SINGLE TUNNEL OF LIGHT.



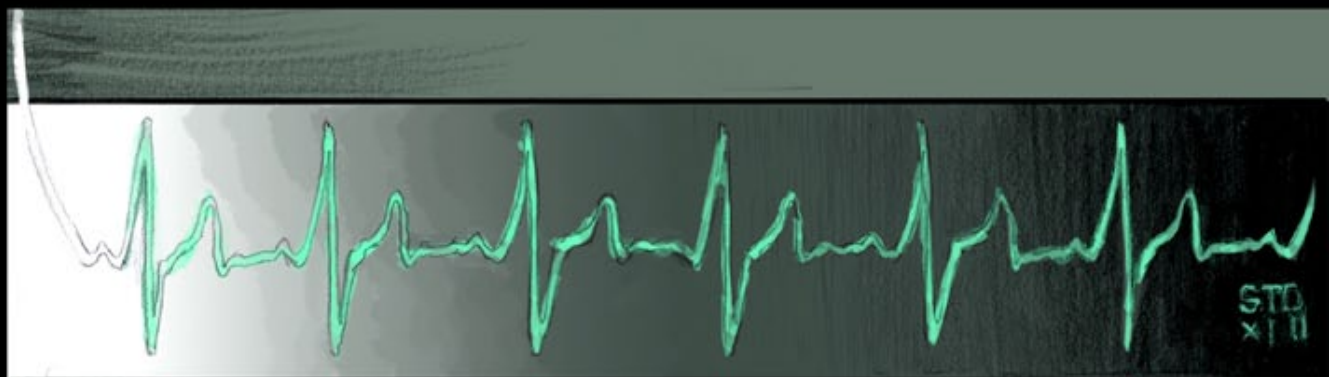


HUMANS KNOW THIS
TUNNEL AS THE
PASSAGEWAY TO
THE AFTERLIFE.

BUT ANGELS KNOW IT AS
A BIRTHING PORTAL THAT
DELIVERS SOULS INTO
NEWBORN BABIES.





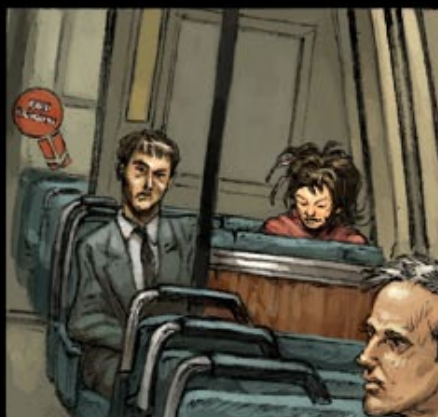
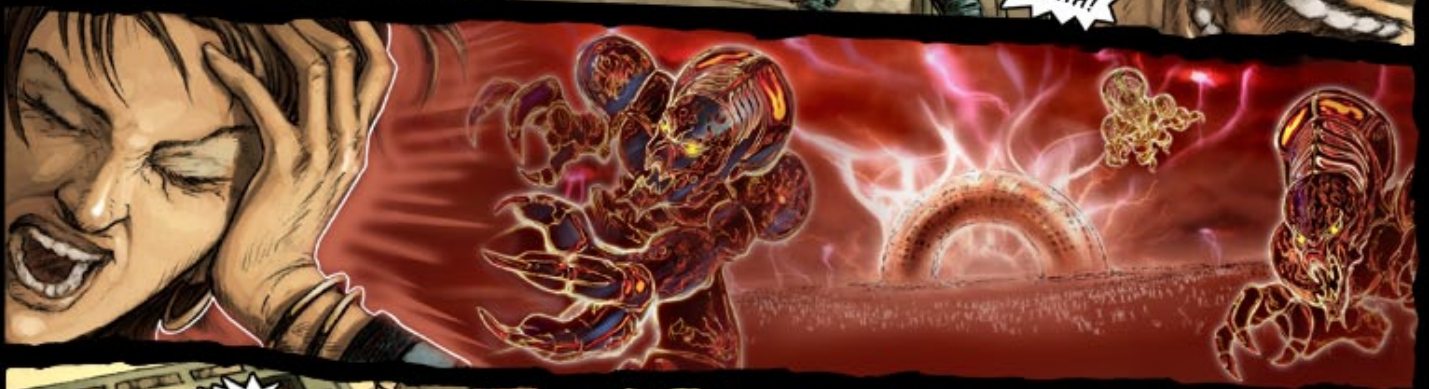


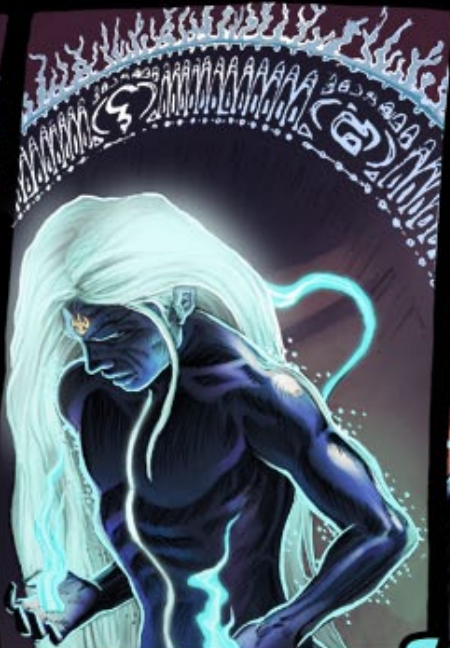
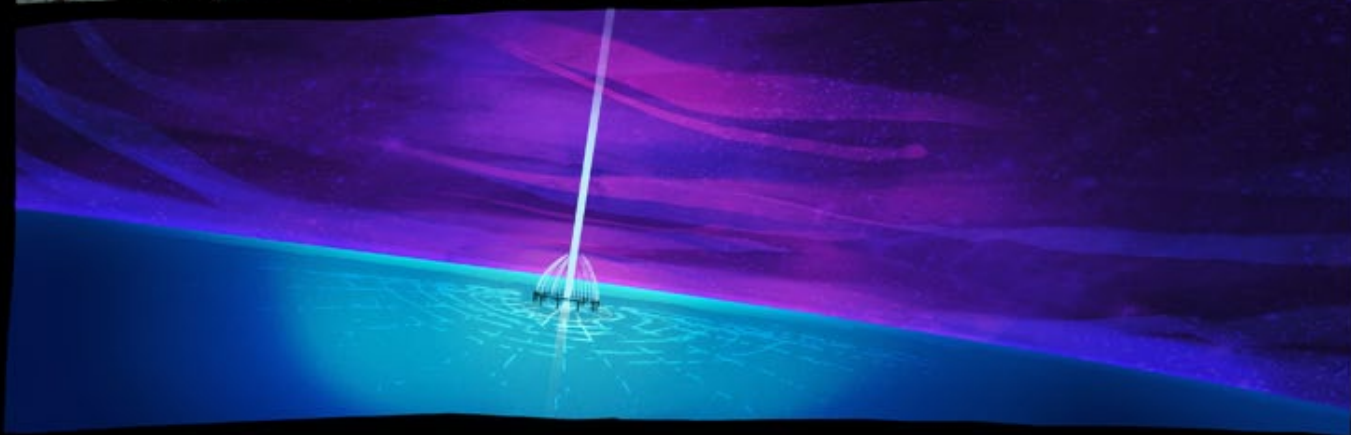
AT A RATE
OF THREE HUNDRED AND
EIGHTY THOUSAND TIMES A DAY.











SCRRREEEEEEEE.



I'M OKAY



I'M OKAY



I'M...









I... MISSED MY STOP.
I RAN BACK FROM 24TH

I'LL BE BACK AT EIGHT.
TRY TO GET THE SHIPMENT
UNPACKED AND...



...MY GOD
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU???



ARE YOU HURT?
SWEETHEART, DID SOMEONE
HURT YOU?

NO, IT'S
NOTHING.

IT HAPPENED
AGAIN...



THIS IS NOT FUNNY.
TASI, THESE THINGS,
THESE BLACKOUTS
OR WHATEVER THEY ARE,
ARE VERY SERIOUS.



YOU SEE...
WHAT IF THIS
HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE
CROSSING THE STREET?
OR DRIVING A CAR?



I FELL ON THE BART.
I GUESS I HIT MY HEAD



NOT TO MENTION
YOU COULD KILL
SOMEONE, SOME
INNOCENT PERSON.
I'M TAKING YOU TO THE
DOCTOR TOMORROW.



SO ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME
WHERE YOU'VE BEEN ALL DAY?



I WAS JUST HANGING OUT
WITH SOME FRIENDS.



I'D LIKE TO MEET
THESE FRIENDS



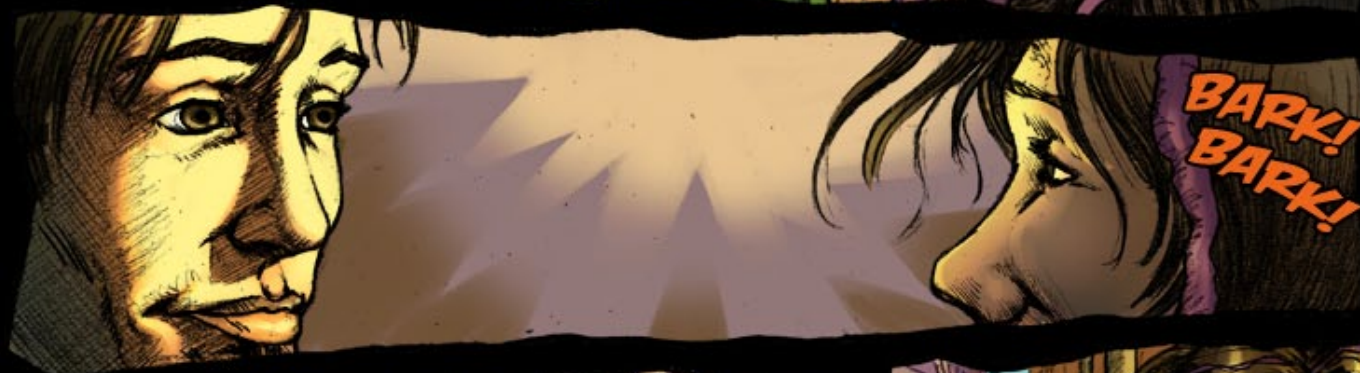


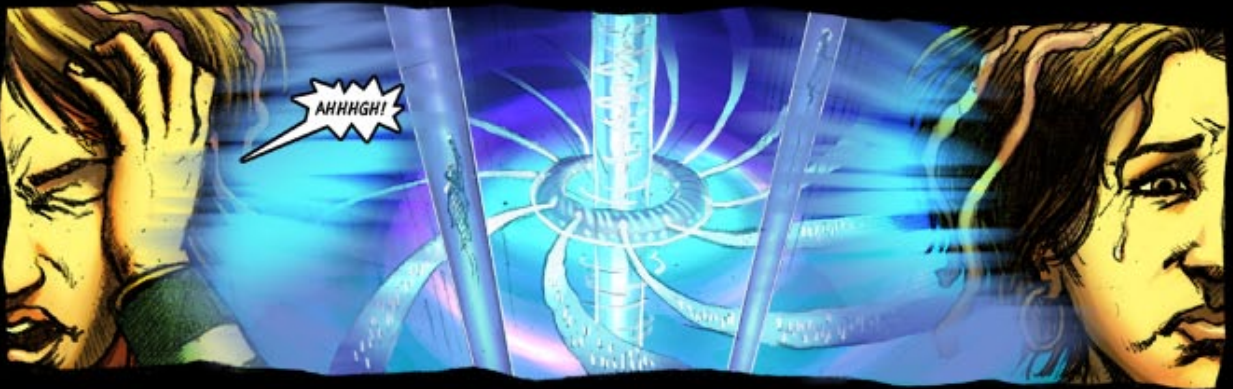
I'M SORRY IT WAS ME.
THIS DARN DOG IS
GONNA KILL ME.

WHOA! DID I
JUST DO THAT?

NO YOU DIDN'T.
I'M JUST HAVING
A GREAT DAY





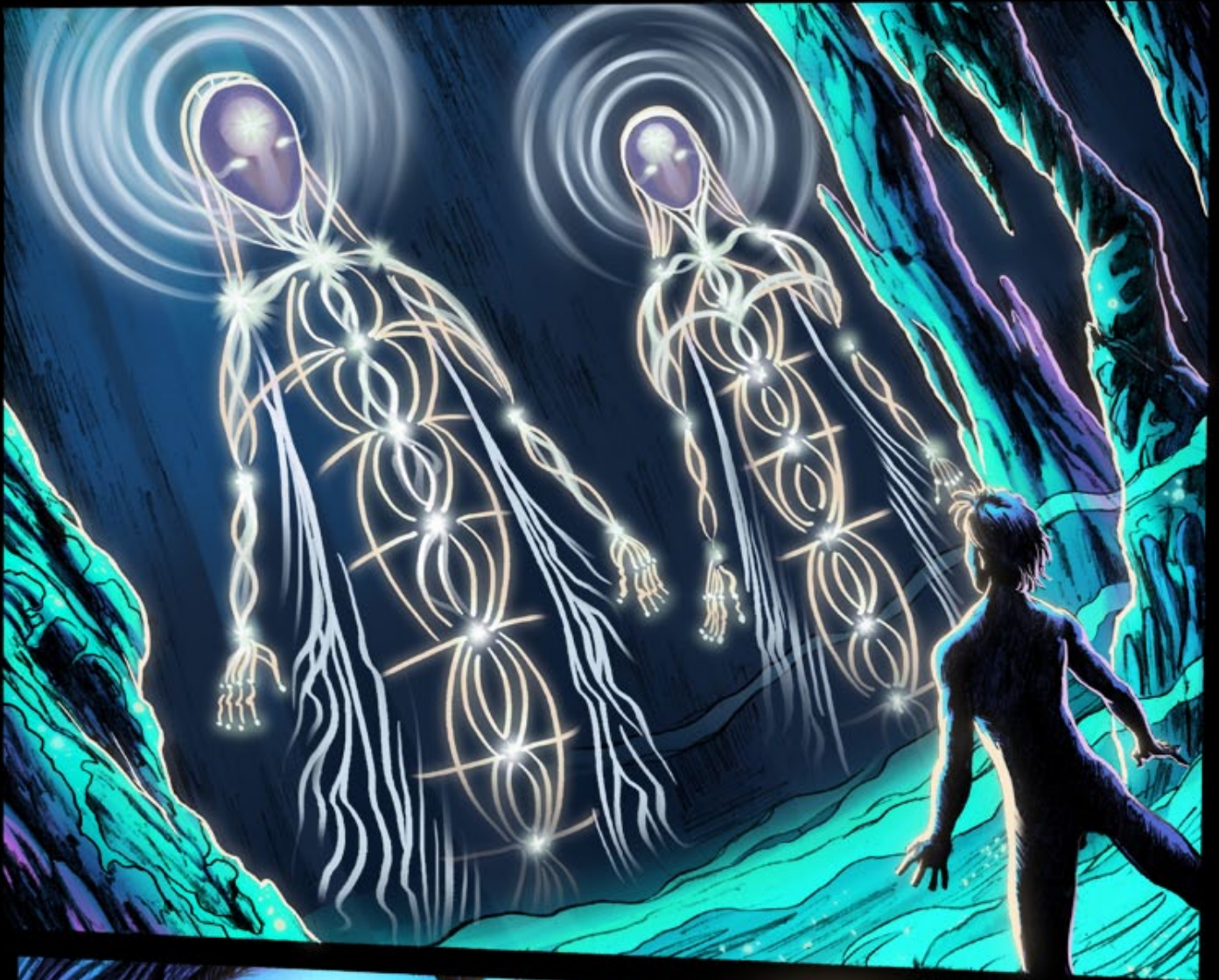


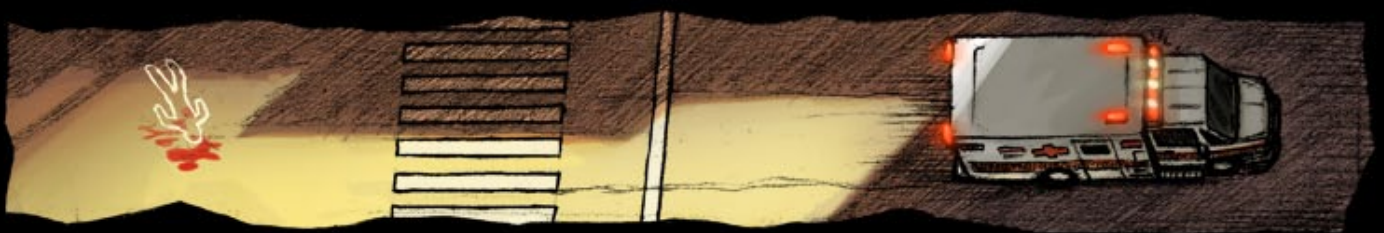
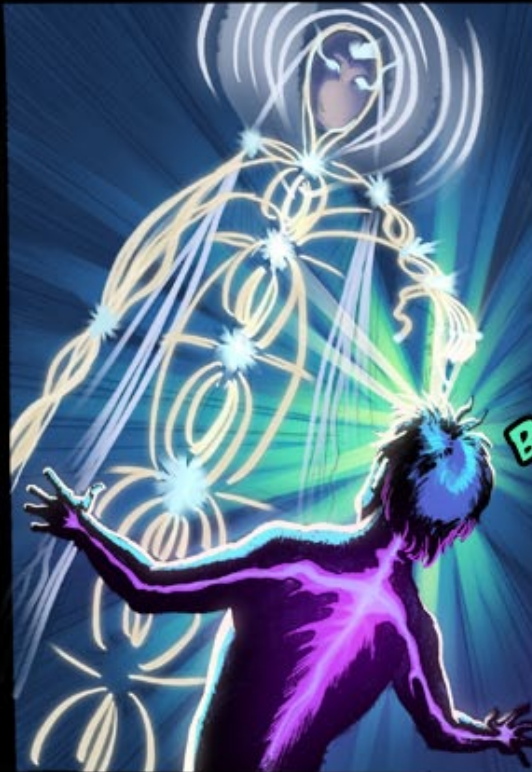




SPLAT!









BZZZ
CHIME

STUPID CHIME

WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH ME!!!



WHAT I WANT
IS AN EXPLANATION.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S THE
MATTER
WITH YOU?

I...
SOB SOB...
I...

YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE.
YOU'RE LYING TO ME.
AND NOW
YOU'RE DESTROYING
THE SHOP

BUT
HE DIED!



LOOK, WE NEED
TO TALK.
CLEAN UP FIRST.
I'LL BE BACK
IN A BIT.



SNIFF
SNIFF



TWO WEEKS LATER...





YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN?



THERE ARE A LOT
OF US TONIGHT.
A GOOD REMINDER
WE'RE NOT ALONE
IN THIS WORLD.



HOW ABOUT SOMEONE
THAT'S NEVER SPOKEN BEFORE.
SOMEONE NEW.



I'LL GO. I GUESS FOR
THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS
NOW I'VE BEEN WAKING UP
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
SOAKING WET.
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST
DREAMING. I USED TO
LUCID DREAM BACK
IN THE SEVENTIES...

...BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT
BECAUSE MY BODY
WAS ATTACHED TO
A SILVER CORD.



ONE END
WAS CONNECTED
TO MY BODY
WHICH I COULD
SEE WAS SLEEPING
UNDERNEATH ME
AND THE OTHER
END WAS
CONNECTED TO
MY NAVEL AS
I FLOATED UP
INTO THE SKY.



THAT WAS AN
ASTRAL PROJECTION.



HOW CAN I
CONTROL THEM?
I WANT TO
DO IT
MORE OFTEN?



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
IT'S EXTREMELY RARE.
IT TAKES YEARS OF PRACTICE.
SOME PEOPLE TRY THEIR
WHOLE LIVES AND NEVER
MANAGE MORE THAN
A COUPLE SECONDS.

CAN
ANYONE DO
THAT?

I WANT TO KNOW
HOW TO DO IT.

TRY US.

WE WANT TO LEARN HOW.



WHAT IF YOU JUST
WANT THEM TO STOP?



I'M SORRY?

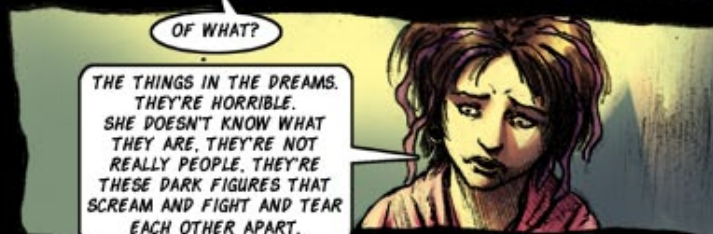


UM.
I HAVE THIS FRIEND
THAT SAYS THEY KEEP
HAPPENING TO HER. WHEN
SHE'S AWAKE, WHEN SHE'S
ASLEEP, SHE JUST WANTS
THEM TO STOP.



WHY WOULD YOUR
FRIEND WANT
THEM TO STOP?

I THINK SHE'S SCARED.



OF WHAT?

THE THINGS IN THE DREAMS.
THEY'RE HORRIBLE.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT
THEY ARE, THEY'RE NOT
REALLY PEOPLE, THEY'RE
THESE DARK FIGURES THAT
SCREAM AND FIGHT AND TEAR
EACH OTHER APART.



DO YOU THINK
THERE'S ANY CHANCE
YOUR FRIEND IS
A NEPHILIM?



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THAT IS.



IT'S A PERSON THAT'S
HALF HUMAN AND
HALF ANGEL.



HOW WOULD SHE
KNOW IF SHE'S
A NEPHILIM?



WELL, IF SHE ASTRAL TRAVELS
A LOT, THAT'S ONE SIGN.

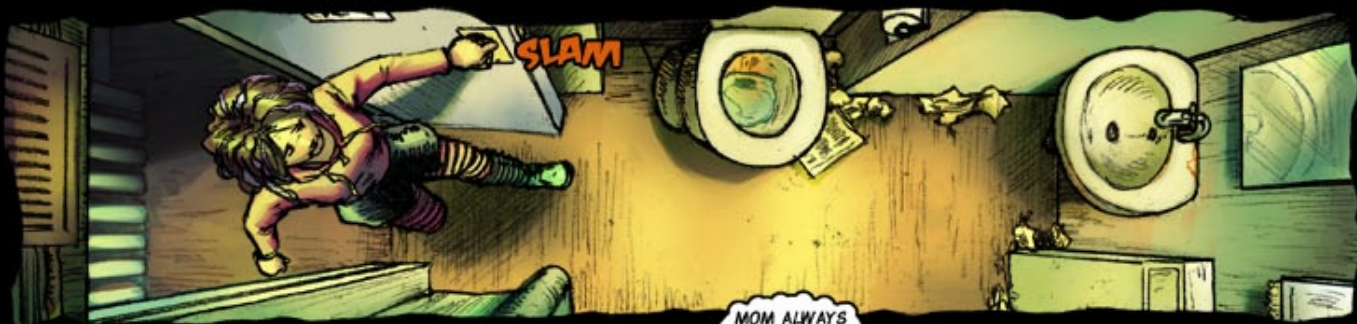
SHE WOULD ALSO BE
EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO
ACTIVITY FROM OTHER REALMS,
AND FEEL THE PRESENCE OF OTHER
NEPHILIM.

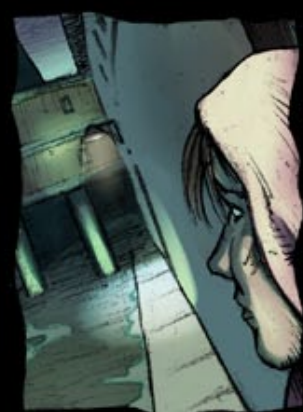
OH, AND THERE IS ONE
EASY WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE.

SHE'LL
HAVE ONE
BROWN EYE
AND ONE
BLUE EYE.



MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE YOUR FRIEND
MY PHONE NUMBER. IT'S ON THE PAMPHLETS,
SHE CAN CALL ME IF SHE HAS ANY QUESTIONS,
ANYTHING AT ALL.





CLICK - CLACK

CLICK - CLACK

CLICK - CLACK

CLICK - CLACK

CLICKCLACKCLICKCLACKCLICKCLACKCLICKCLACKCLICKCLACK

CLACK

CLICK
CLACK

CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK...

АААААААА!!!!

АААААААА!!!!



WWW-WW-W-WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?!

WHOA!
NOTHING.
RELAX.



WHY ARE YOU
FOLLOWING ME?



I SAW YOU
IN THE MEETING.
WE MET BEFORE.



I'VE NEVER SEEN
YOU...WHO ARE
YOU?

PLEASE, WAIT, I JUST
NEED TO TALK TO YOU
ABOUT YOUR FRIEND-

THE ONE WHO IS A
NEPHILIM.



REMEMBER ME?
IN FRONT OF YOUR
ANGEL SHOP?



Y-YOU-YOU
WERE IN THE
STREET. DEAD.



IT'S...
TASI, RIGHT?

I-I SAW
YOU DIE.

ALMOST.
I WAS GONE
BUT THEN I
CAME BACK.
A MIRACLE,
THANKS TO
THE E.M.T.S.



YOUR EYES.



WAIT! IT'S
NOT YOUR
FRIEND. YOU ARE
THE NEPHILIM!



I'M SORRY.
DIDN'T MEAN TO
SCARE YOU.
IT'S MARK,
REMEMBER?



PLEASE, I'VE BEEN
LOOKING EVERYWHERE
FOR YOU, WELL,
FOR A NEPHILIM...

PLEASE,
JUST GIVE ME FIVE
MINUTES.

COME ON.
I'LL BUY YOU A CUP OF.
WAIT, BAD IDEA, YOU HATE
COFFEE. SOMETHING ELSE
MAYBE?



ALRIGHT.





SO RIGHT AROUND THEN IS WHEN THESE, I DON'T KNOW, LIGHT BEINGS, THESE MEN MADE OUT OF LIGHT, GRABBED ME...

SO THESE GUYS SHOVE ME BACK INTO THE LIGHT TUNNEL, AND THIS TIME I FLY STRAIGHT DOWN, RIGHT BACK INTO MY BODY!

I OPEN MY EYES AND I'M IN A FREAKIN' AMBULANCE, WITH THIS LADY PUMPING ON MY CHEST. SHE'S NOT EVEN LOOKING AT ME, SHE'S JUST PUMPING AWAY, YELLING AT THE GUY DRIVING. SO I GRAB HER ARM AND SHE FREAKS! JUST TOTALLY FREAKS OUT.

YOU KNOW, I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MEETING YOU FROM THAT DAY. NOT UNTIL I SAW YOU TONIGHT. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WEIRD, THAT YOU ARE WHO I WAS SENT TO FIND?

I KNOW, I KNOW, IT'S CRAZY, RIGHT? EVERYONE THINKS I'M NUTS. BUT MAN, IT FEELS GOOD TO FINALLY TELL SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS...

YEAH, I GUESS.







I'LL
BE RIGHT
OVER AN--
huh?



HEY!
WAIT...
TASI!



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

WHAT?

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
FROM ME?



I DON'T NEED
YOU FORCING ME
TO BE SOMETHING
I'M NOT!

TASI, IT'S
NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
I WASN'T TRYING TO
FORCE YOU TO --



-- I'M NOT
AN ANGEL! OR A
HALF-ANGEL, I JUST...
I-I'M NOT READY
FOR THIS TO
HAPPEN.

TASI--
>pant pant<
WAIT UP...

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT ANY OF THIS
MEANS. I DON'T KNOW
IF I REALLY AM A
NEPHILIM, OR WHATEVER
YOU WERE SUPPOSED
TO FIND!



I DON'T KNOW
WHO I AM.

>COUGH<
>NACK<
>WHEEZE<

I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING.







OH, HERE, LET ME HELP YOU OUT.

AAAAAH!

...LIKE I SAID,
I TAKE MY
WORK HOME
WITH ME.





AND NOW...

8TH GENERATION ROBOTICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS TO THE WORLD--

THE NEW
Q1!

WOW,
WORKING WITH
ROBOTS MUST
BE REALLY
COOL!

YES.

BUT HOLD ON,
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN
ANYTHING YET

THERE'VE BEEN
SEVEN GENERATIONS OF
ROBOTS, STARTING WITH
THE FIRST PROTOTYPE
50 YEARS AGO.

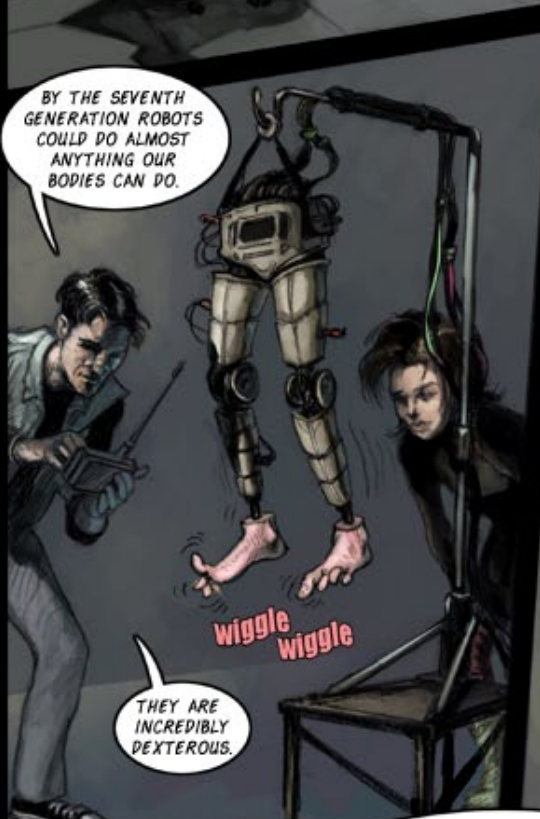
THIS ROBOT TOY
FROM KOREA WAS THE FIRST
TO DO BACK-FLIPS.

RRRRRRRRR

✓WWIP

CLACK

AND THIS ONE
FROM CHINA CAN
CLIMB A TREE.



THEY COULD GET A ROBOT TO SPEAK, BUT WHEN YOU GOT IN A CONVERSATION WITH IT AND ASKED IT HOW IT WAS ABLE TO TALK, IT WOULD TRY TO THINK ABOUT ITS OWN MIND AND IT WOULD GET STUCK IN A LOOP, TALKING TO ITSELF UNTIL IT WENT INSANE.

THAT'S WHERE WE CAME IN. WE ARE CREATING THE 8TH GENERATION OF ROBOTS. THIS GUY, A GENIUS MATHEMATICIAN, ROGER PENROSE, DISCOVERED THAT THE BRAIN CELLS IN HUMANS USE NANO-SCALE TUBES TO PERFORM QUANTUM COMPUTATION. IN OUR BRAINS!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BUT I'M REALLY CREEPED OUT THAT THIS ROBOT HEAD'S EYES ARE FOLLOWING ME.



EVER TALK TO YOURSELF?

UH, YEAH. IT'S CRAZY.



IT'S PRETTY WEIRD AND SPOOKY. IN QUANTUM COMPUTING SOMETHING CAN BE OFF AND ON AT THE SAMETIME, OR IT CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.

IT SORT OF BREAKS ALL THE RULES OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD. IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT OPERATES IN A NON-PHYSICAL REALM YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YOU'RE TEASING ME, AREN'T YOU?

NO, REALLY. I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP. QUANTUM COMPUTING ALLOWS A MIND TO CIRCLE THROUGH SOME NON-PHYSICAL REALITY BACK INTO ITSELF IN A TYPE OF SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.

IF YOU SAY SO.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? WE'VE TAKEN CONVENTIONAL SILICON CHIPS AS FAR AS THEY CAN GO. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A ROBOT YOU CAN TALK TO.

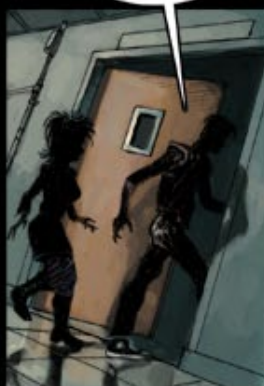


HERE, FOLLOW ME.

OOOPS. I MUST HAVE TRIPPED THE LIGHTS....

WAIT. I WANT TO TRY SOMETHING.

SHHHH. BE QUIET.





FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK











GOBI, I'M GONNA
RUN A DIAGNOSTIC
REAL QUICK.



CAN
YOU HOOK UP
FOR ME?



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN HE HAS
NO SOUL?

ACCORDING TO
PENROSE, QUANTUM
COMPUTING IN OUR BRAIN
CELLS MAKES OUR HUMAN
MINDS HUMAN,



WHEN THIS CHIP IS
TURNED ON IT WILL GIVE GOBI
A TRULY HUMAN QUANTUM
CONSCIOUSNESS. IF YOU ASK
ME, IT'S LIKE GIVING
HIM A SOUL.

OKAY, GOBI.
YOU
CHECK OUT
PERFECT.

WHERE DOES THAT
SOUL COME FROM? IS IT
INSIDE THE CHIP?

YOU'RE
STILL A GO
FOR THE
UPGRADE
TOMORROW.

THAT'S
WHAT I
WOULD HAVE
SAID BEFORE I
DIED, BUT NOW
THAT I'M BACK,
I'M NOT SO SURE.
I SAW... WELL...
THERE'S THIS
OTHER SIDE
TO THINGS.

THANK YOU,
MARK.

LET'S GO, TASI.



SO, WHEN WE LEAVE,
WHAT'S HE GONNA DO?
WILL HE BE LONELY?



BEEP



DO YOU
WANT TO SEE
SOMETHING REALLY
COOL? IT MIGHT
ANSWER YOUR
QUESTION.



HUG THE WALL...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WE'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO BE
HERE.



THEN MAYBE WE
SHOULD GO BACK.

BUT WE'RE
ALREADY HERE



THIS IS THE
EXPERIMENTAL WING.
HIGH SECURITY.

WHERE IS HERE?



OKAY. THERE'S ONE MORE
SECURITY CAMERA THERE
RIGHT ABOVE THAT OLD IBM
360 IN THE HALLWAY.

OKAY. OVER THERE IS WHERE
KEN KEEPS HIS STASH. THE CAMERA
PANS EVERY 20 SECONDS, SO IF WE
TIME IT, WE CAN GET THERE WITH-
OUT BEING SEEN. EASY. WE DO IT
ALL THE TIME.



NO.

WE CAN GO
BACK IF
YOU WANT.



TEN SECONDS.



THREE...TWO...
ONE...



... HERE WE GO!

BRRRRR

BRRRRR

BRRRRRRR



HA
HA
HA
HA

WHOOO...
JUST MADE IT.



BZZZ



CHECK OUT
THIS ROOM!

THAT'S NOTHING.
CHECK OUT WHAT'S
INSIDE THIS SAFE.











YOUR LACK OF
OBEDIENCE REVEALS YOUR
PROFOUND WEAKNESS...

AND THE WEAK
HAVE FORFEITED
THE RIGHT TO
EVERLASTING
EMBODIMENT.

CEASE FROM THIS FOLLY...
IN THE NAME OF GOD THE
INFINITE!

> SIGH <
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF
TRUE GODHOOD!

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!

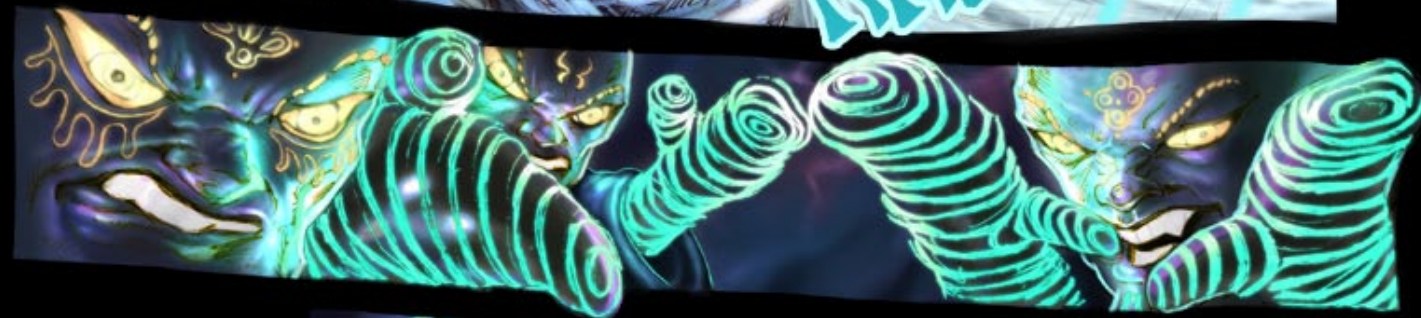
AAAAAAAAH!



WMP



... AND YOU DON'T BELONG HERE EITHER...





TASI.
ARE YOU THERE?
PLEASE TASI,
WAKE UP.

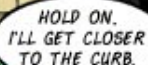


OH MY GOD.
THERE YOU ARE.
YOU'RE OKAY.
YOU'RE GONNA
BE OKAY...





IT'S MY
GREEN LIGHT,
JERK!!!







LATER THAT NIGHT...



A DAY LATER...









HE IS WHY
YOU ARE WHAT
YOU ARE.



OH NO IT'S
HAPPENING AGAIN.
MAKE
IT STOP!



GASP!



NO NO NO -
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN. THIS IS WHAT
I WANTED.

IT'S
WORKING TASI.
DON'T FIGHT IT.
LAY BACK
DOWN--



--I DON'T
LIKE THIS.
I DON'T--

TASI
LISTEN TO
ME.

--IT'S OKAY.
GIMMIE YOUR
HANDS. CROSS
THEM IN FRONT
OF YOU. OR HERE.
TUCK THEM
INTO YOUR
WAISTBAND--



IF YOU'RE AFRAID,
YOU ALLOW THE VISION TO CONTROL
YOU. TASI LISTEN. YOU'RE STILL HERE
WITH ME. I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
YOUR BODY IS HERE AND IT'S FINE.
REMEMBER THAT. NOW JUST LET
YOURSELF GO. YOU CAN TRAVEL
ANYWHERE YOU WANT. DON'T BE
AFRAID.

THAT'S IT NOW...
THAT'S IT.
JUST RELAX.

GOOD GIRL.
THAT'S GOOD. JUST LEAVE
YOUR BODY BEHIND. DON'T LOOK
BACK AT IT. DON'T TRY TO TURN
YOUR HEAD OR MOVE YOUR HANDS.
DON'T TRY TO SPEAK. ANY OF THESE
THINGS WILL BRING YOU RIGHT
BACK TO YOUR
BODY



BEGIN WITH THE VIBRATION.
LET THE VIBRATION START IN YOUR TOES
AND SWEEP UP OVER YOUR BODY. THEN
LET IT RAISE YOU. DON'T LOOK BEHIND
YOU. FOCUS ON WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
IMAGINE YOUR DESTINATION AHEAD.

YOU CAN STAY IN THIS ROOM.
OR GO OUTSIDE IF YOU WANT. IT'S
OKAY IF THIS ONE'S SHORT. WE'RE
JUST WORKING ON CONTROL THIS
TIME. UNINTERRUPTED CONTROL.











I ALWAYS
WANTED TO FIND
MY DAD...



I THOUGHT, I DON'T KNOW.
I THOUGHT HE COULD EXPLAIN THINGS.
EXPLAIN ABOUT ME. I WOULD GET SO
ANGRY, THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW ME, OR CARE ABOUT ME,
OR MY MOM.



BUT
MY MOM WOULD ALWAYS SAY,
"YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT
YOUR FATHER. HE WAS AN ANGEL.
HE TOOK CARE OF ME WHEN I
NEEDED HIM, AND I DO NOT REGRET
A SINGLE MOMENT."



SO YOU ARE SAYING HE'S
FROM THERE, WHERE MY
VISIONS TAKE ME?

WHEN CAN I GO AGAIN?

LET'S REST A BIT NOW.



WHERE IS
THAT GIRL?

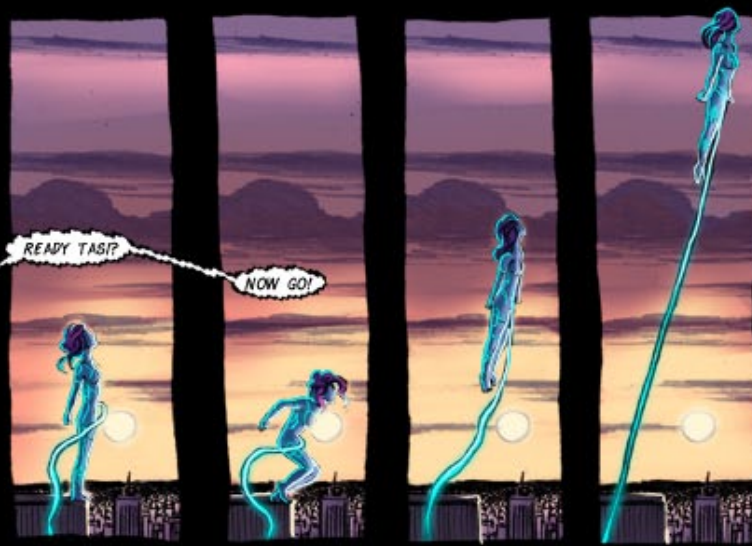
HOURS LATER...



REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE TASI.
YOU'RE A NEPHILIM. YOU'RE MADE UP OF
TWO PARTS, HALF OF YOU BELONGS IN
THAT WORLD.



IT SHOULD START FEELING FAMILIAR BY
NOW. YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOUR HALVES ARE
UNITED. YOU WON'T WANT TO COME BACK...



READY TASI?

NOW GO!



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

I SEE THE BRIDGE.

NOW FOCUS, YOU CAN GO THERE.



STRETCH YOUR ARMS OUT.

POINT YOUR HEART CHAKRA AND SILVER CORD TOWARD THE BRIDGE.

NOW VISUALIZE YOURSELF THERE.



Woosh!

OOOOOPS!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

CAN'T CONTROL!!!!

I AM GOING TO HIT...!

Woosh!



AAAAHHHHH!





I'M HERE.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.



BUT WAIT.
THERE'S THIS OTHER
LIGHT EVEN BRIGHTER
THAN THE SUN. KINDA
LIKE A TUBE.



TASI,
I KNOW THIS
SOUNDS CORNY, BUT
HEAD FOR THE
LIGHT.



IT'S EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL.



IT'S
PULSATING.



FEELS
GOOD.



BE CAREFUL
TASI. WHATEVER YOU DO,
DON'T...

WHOA.



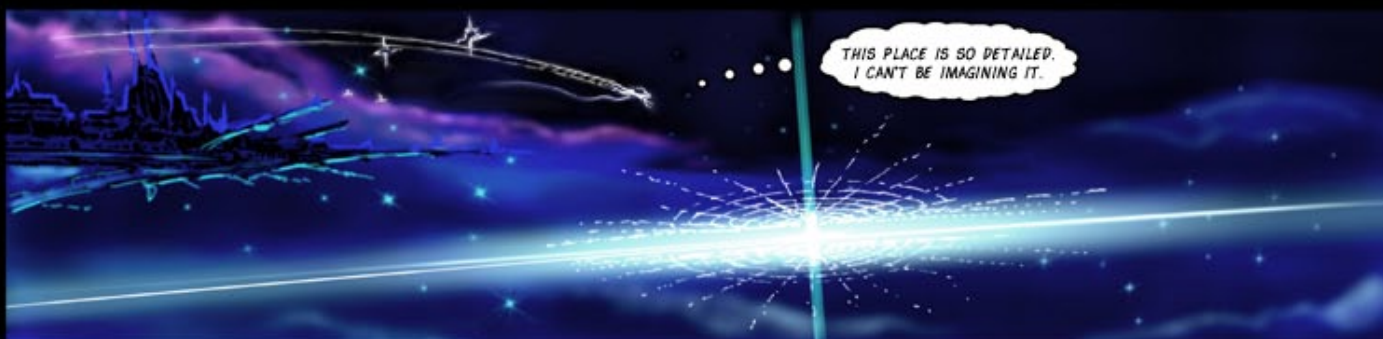




WOW, SO TWINKLY.
LIKE DISNEYLAND, BUT WAY
WAY BIGGER!



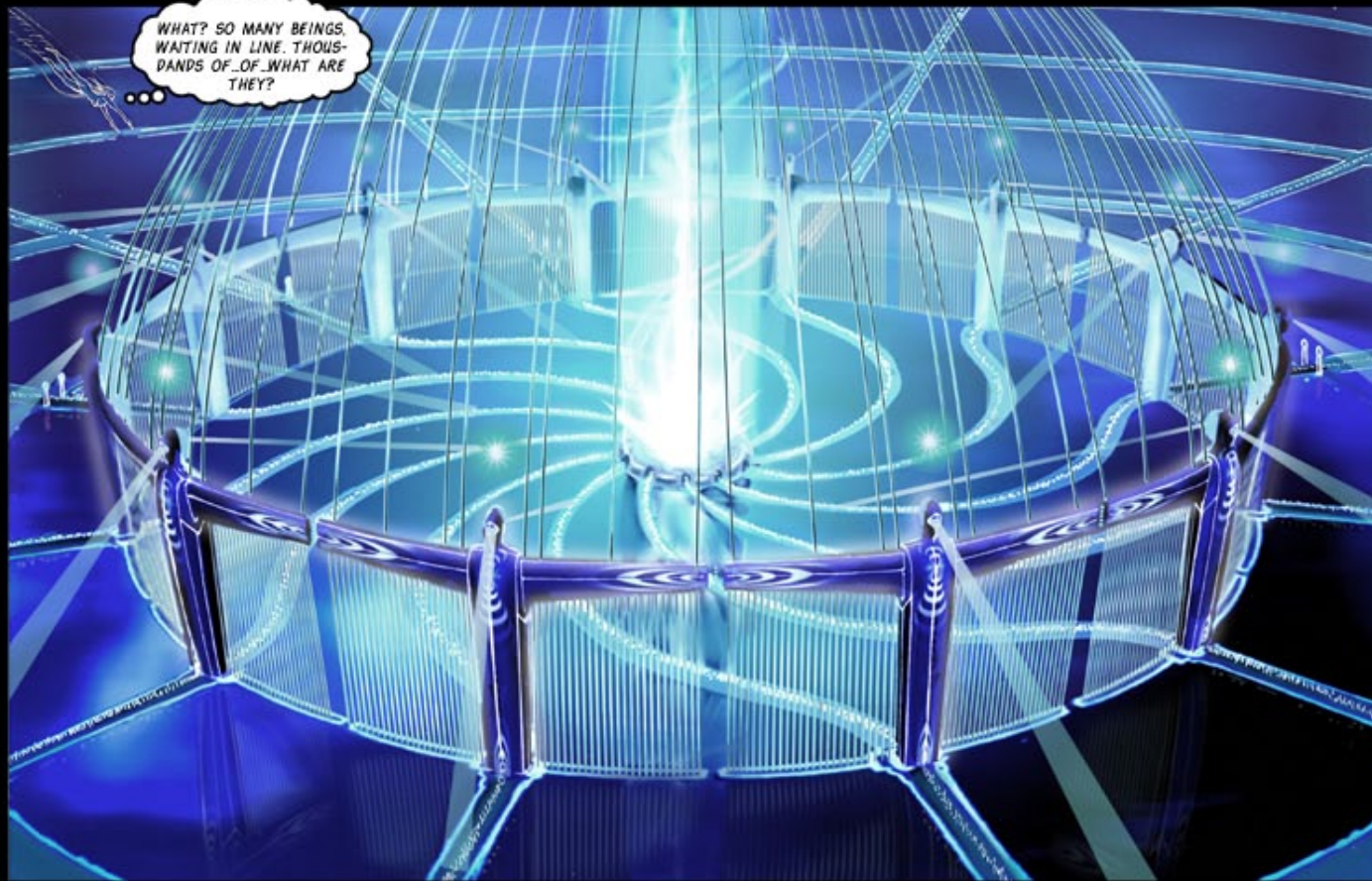
OH NO. IT'S PULLING ME
TO THAT LIGHT BEAM.



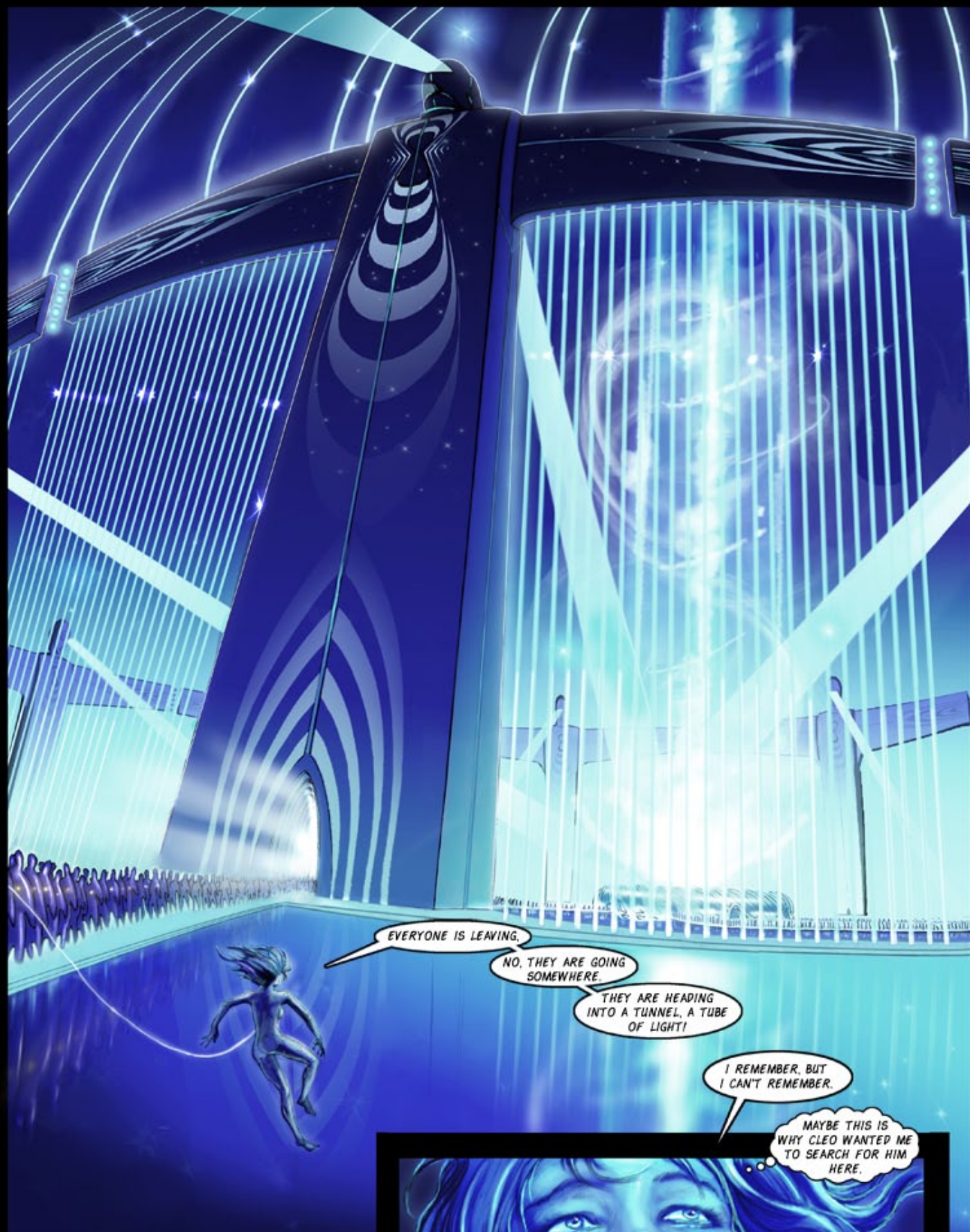
THIS PLACE IS SO DETAILED.
I CAN'T BE IMAGINING IT.



SOUNDS LIKE A GIANT
WATERFALL. I'VE SEEN THIS
IN MY DREAMS BEFORE.



WHAT? SO MANY BEINGS.
WAITING IN LINE. THOUS-
DANDS OF...WHAT ARE
THEY?



EVERYONE IS LEAVING.

NO, THEY ARE GOING
SOMEWHERE.

THEY ARE HEADING
INTO A TUNNEL, A TUBE
OF LIGHT!

I REMEMBER, BUT
I CAN'T REMEMBER.

MAYBE THIS IS
WHY CLEO WANTED ME
TO SEARCH FOR HIM
HERE.









THIS IS MARK'S ALGORITHM.
LEAVE A MESSAGE
"BEEP"

MARK, THIS IS TASI.



...CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU
GET THIS.



I THINK I'VE FIGURED
SOMETHING OUT. I JUST HAD A
CRAZY EXPERIENCE WITH
THE LADY FROM--



ANYWAY
CALL ME
LATER.



I WAS WORRIED.

WHO FORGETS
THEIR OWN
BIRTHDAY?



I'M
OKAY
MOM.

I SEE
THAT NOW.



TASI, WAIT!



I WANTED
TO GIVE YOU
THESE.



THEY WERE
YOUR
FATHER'S.



HE NEVER
TOOK THEM OFF.
WELL, EXCEPT TO
SLEEP.

MOM,
THESE ARE
SO COOL.

I WISH THERE
WAS MORE I
COULD TELL
YOU ABOUT HIM. I
JUST DON'T
KNOW.



NEXT MORNING...



AND RECEIVING NATIONAL ATTENTION THIS WEEK.

SAN FRANCISCO-BASED 8TH GENERATION ROBOTICS CLAIMS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF CREATING THE WORLD'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS ROBOT.

ENGINEERS AT THE COMPANY ARE SAYING THEIR REVOLUTIONARY NEW QUANTUM CHIP, OR Q-CHIP, IS KEY TO A ROBOT CAPABLE OF BEHAVING LIKE A HUMAN.



8TH GENERATION PREDICTS THAT WHEN THEIR Q-CHIP IS INSTALLED IN THEIR ROBOT PROTOTYPE IT WILL NOT ONLY DELIVER PROCESSING SPEEDS AS FAST AS THE HUMAN BRAIN, BUT SOMETHING EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR - CONSCIOUSNESS.



NOT EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING.



CONCERNED ETHICISTS SAY INSTALLING A Q-CHIP IS LIKE PLAYING GOD. NO ONE IS SURE WHAT RIGHTS THESE NEW AUTONOMOUS ROBOTS WILL HAVE.

A FEW CRITICS HAVE EVEN SUGGESTED THAT QUANTUM COMPUTING IS THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN BODY AND SPIRIT.



GIVING A ROBOT A Q-CHIP, THEY SAY, IS LIKE GIVING THEM A SOUL.

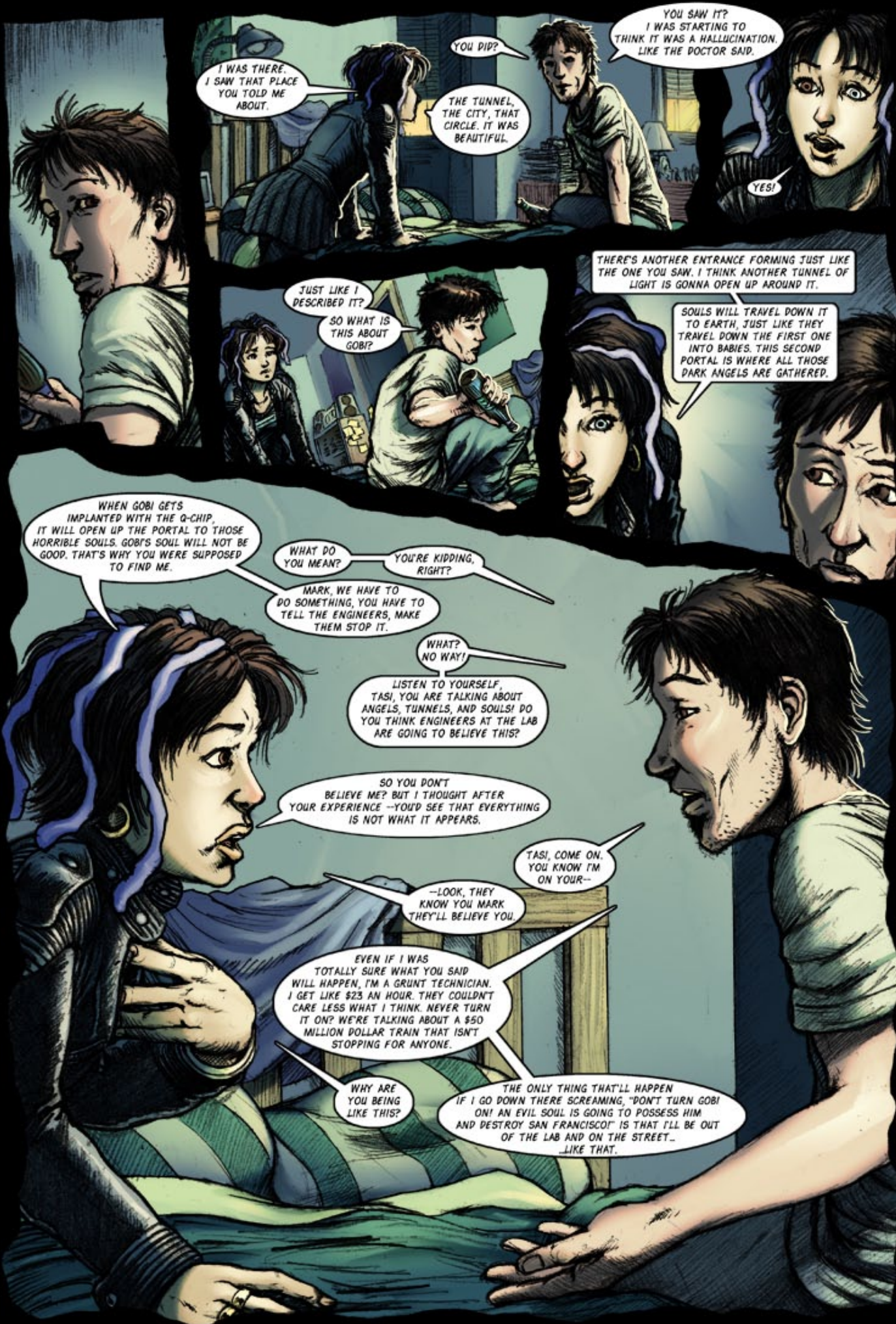


THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES
UPSET BY THIS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT.
WHILE G8 EMPLOYEES PREPARE TO LAUNCH
THE NEW CHIP IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS,
DOZENS OF PROTESTERS ARE ALREADY
LINED UP OUTSIDE G8 OFFICES.

A SPOKESPERSON
SAYS THEY OBJECT TO
POWERFUL ROBOTS WALKING AROUND
UNSUPERVISED. THEY CLAIM THESE
AUTONOMOUS MACHINES ARE DISASTERS
WAITING TO HAPPEN.







I WAS THERE. I SAW THAT PLACE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT.

YOU DID?

THE TUNNEL, THE CITY, THAT CIRCLE. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

YOU SAW IT? I WAS STARTING TO THINK IT WAS A HALLUCINATION. LIKE THE DOCTOR SAID.

YES!

JUST LIKE I DESCRIBED IT?

SO WHAT IS THIS ABOUT GOBI?

THERE'S ANOTHER ENTRANCE FORMING JUST LIKE THE ONE YOU SAW. I THINK ANOTHER TUNNEL OF LIGHT IS GONNA OPEN UP AROUND IT.

SOULS WILL TRAVEL DOWN IT TO EARTH, JUST LIKE THEY TRAVEL DOWN THE FIRST ONE INTO BABIES. THIS SECOND PORTAL IS WHERE ALL THOSE DARK ANGELS ARE GATHERED.

WHEN GOBI GETS IMPLANTED WITH THE Q-CHIP, IT WILL OPEN UP THE PORTAL TO THOSE HORRIBLE SOULS. GOBI'S SOUL WILL NOT BE GOOD. THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND ME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

MARK, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, YOU HAVE TO TELL THE ENGINEERS, MAKE THEM STOP IT.

WHAT? NO WAY!

LISTEN TO YOURSELF, TASI, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ANGELS, TUNNELS, AND SOULS! DO YOU THINK ENGINEERS AT THE LAB ARE GOING TO BELIEVE THIS?

SO YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? BUT I THOUGHT AFTER YOUR EXPERIENCE --YOU'D SEE THAT EVERYTHING IS NOT WHAT IT APPEARS.

TASI, COME ON. YOU KNOW I'M ON YOUR--

--LOOK, THEY KNOW YOU MARK. THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU.

EVEN IF I WAS TOTALLY SURE WHAT YOU SAID WILL HAPPEN, I'M A GRUNT TECHNICIAN. I GET LIKE \$23 AN HOUR. THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT I THINK. NEVER TURN IT ON? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A \$50 MILLION DOLLAR TRAIN THAT ISN'T STOPPING FOR ANYONE.

WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS?

THE ONLY THING THAT'LL HAPPEN IF I GO DOWN THERE SCREAMING, "DON'T TURN GOBI ON! AN EVIL SOUL IS GOING TO POSSESS HIM AND DESTROY SAN FRANCISCO!" IS THAT I'LL BE OUT OF THE LAB AND ON THE STREET... LIKE THAT.



THIS IS THE GUY.

THIS IS GOBI
IF YOU TURN HIM ON
WITH THE Q-CHIP
TOMORROW,
THINK OF THAT.

THINK OF
THAT AND DO
NOTHING.

EVEN IF I
WANTED TO
I CAN'T STOP
IT.

REALLY. I MEAN.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT ME TO DO?
CALL IN A BOMB
THREAT?

CALM DOWN.
YOU ARE GETTING
HYSTERICAL.



TASI, WE'LL
WATCH HIM. IF HE GOES
NUTS, WE'LL JUST SHUT
HIM DOWN.

IT'LL BE
TOO LATE



I NEED TO
USE THE
BATHROOM.

LAST
DOOR ON YOUR
RIGHT.



TWIST
CLICK



B
U
M
P



I'M IN
HERE--



OH, I'M
SORRY.
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ANYONE--



SLAM



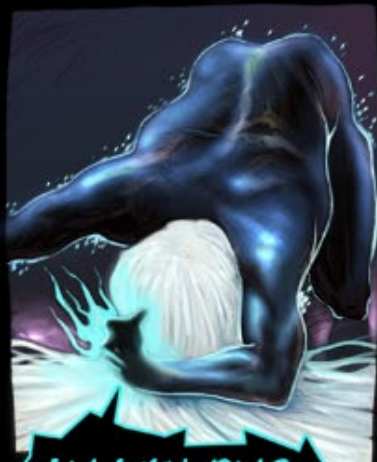
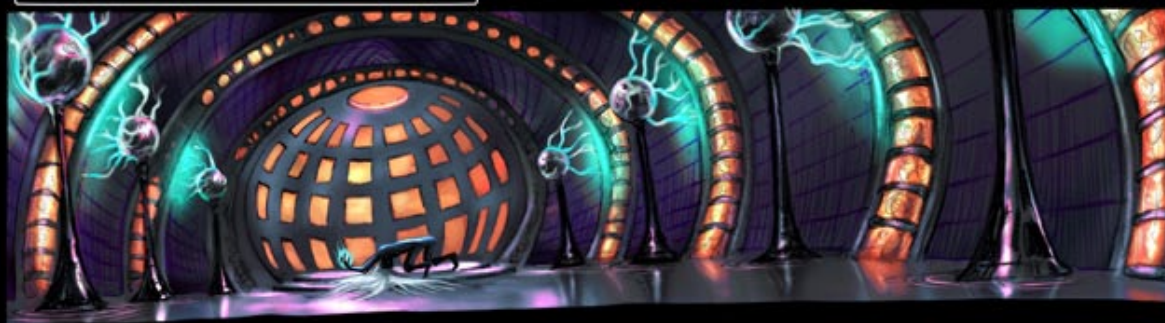
THAT WAS
QUICK.







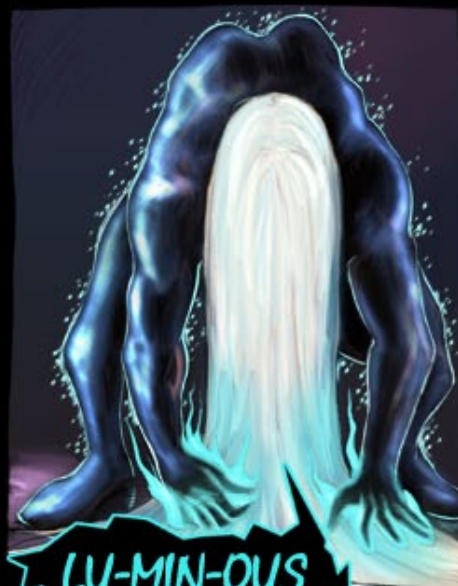
MEANWHILE, IN THE LAIR OF THE BLACK FLAME...



LU-MIN-OUS



LU-MIN-OUS



LU-MIN-OUS





YES...MY...SON...

MY LORD, THE TEMPLE
IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

I HAVE PREPARED A --

-- WHAT ABOUT
THE NEPHILIM?

I HAVE PLANS FOR HER.

IT WILL OPEN SOON,
I FEEL IT...







HEY, YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM US.



WE WERE HOPING
TO SEE YOU AND YOUR
GIRLFRIEND YESTER-
DAY--

--YEAH BRO, WHERE
YOU BEEN HIDING THAT
LITTLE HONEY?



BZZZ



HOLD
THE
DOOR.

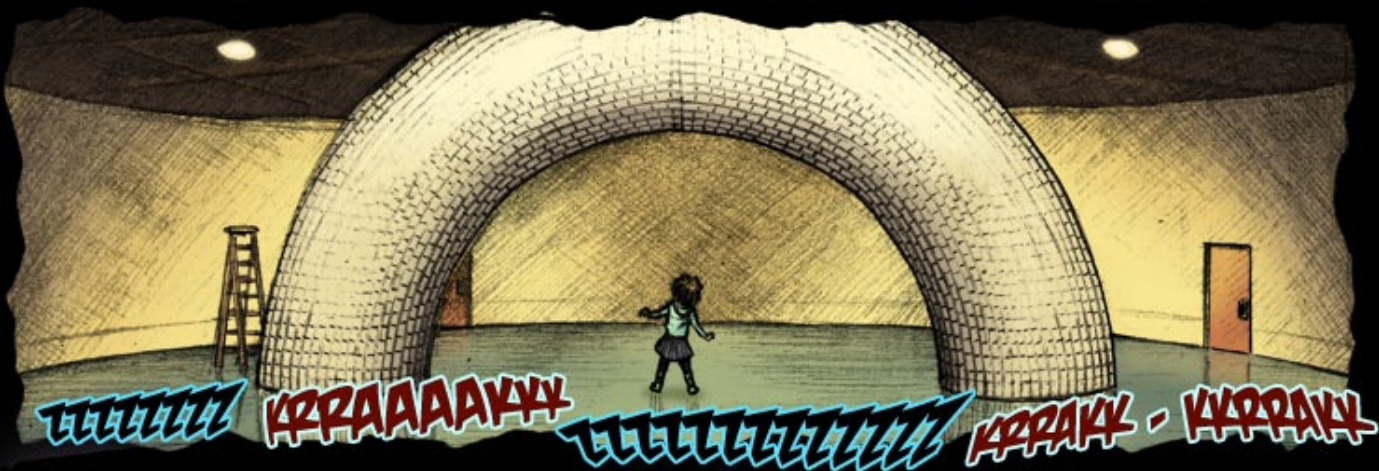
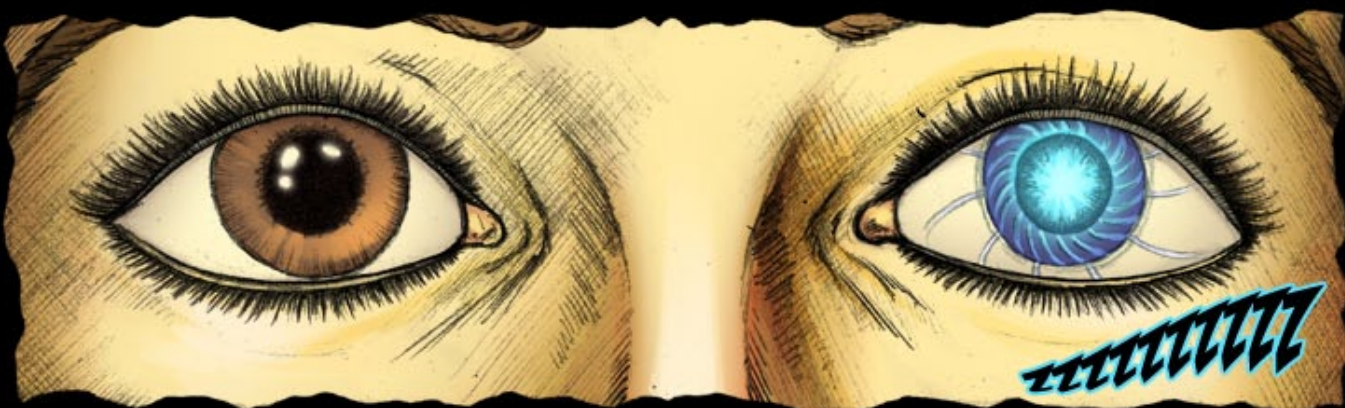
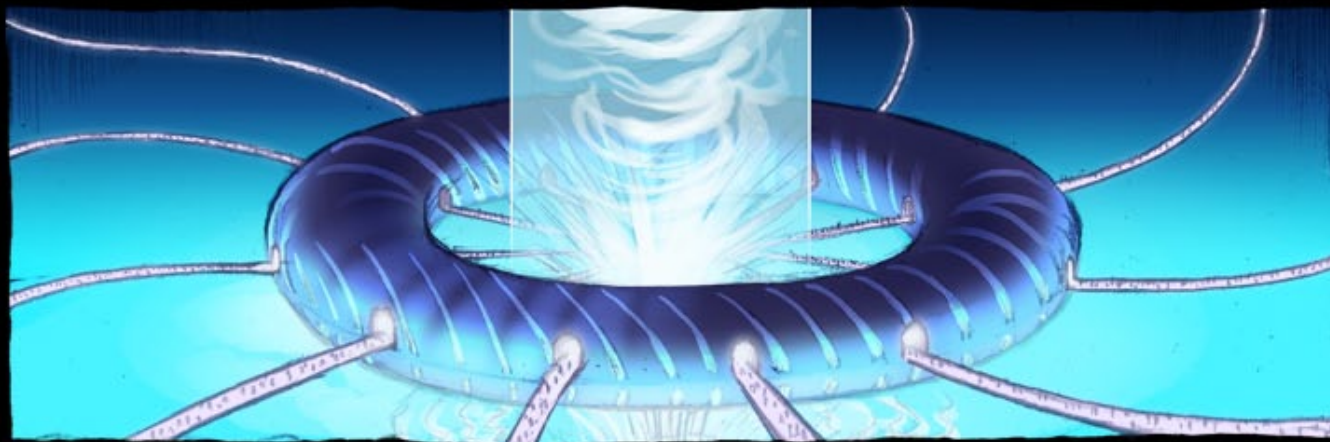
**S
L
A
M**



THANKS!













WE CAN NEITHER SPECULATE NOR —

DARN RIGHT! I'M NOT GONNA TELL THESE GUYS WE CAN'T TURN THE SUCKER OFF!



AHHH... JUST THEORIES.

BUT YOU KNOW, WE ACTUALLY CAN TURN THEM OFF!



REALLY?

YEP. OUR TEAM IMPLANTED CIRCUITS DEEP INSIDE THEIR GUTS THAT WE CAN ACTIVATE REMOTELY IF THEY MISBEHAVE.

MAN, YOU GUYS ARE NAIVE. LOOK, LET'S SAY YOU WAKE UP TOMORROW AND LEARN THAT YOU HAVE A MINITURE CYANIDE TABLET RELEASE THINGIE EMBEDDED IN YOUR NECK. FIRST THING YOU'RE GONNA DO IS GET THAT THING OUT. AM I RIGHT?

BUT AS SOON AS A BOT STARTS TO FIDDLE WITH THEIR CIRCUITS, WE TRIGGER THE SHUT-OFF SWITCH PRONTO.

I'M TELLING YA, THE ONE WITH THE MOTIVATION TO LIVE WILL OUTSMART THE WEAKER-WILLED SHMO WHO WANTS TO TURN HIM OFF.

OOOH, THAT'S A CHEAPSHOT...

PISSSSSSSS



I'M JUST SAYING, WHEN GOLI REALIZES HE'S ALIVE HE'S GONNA DO EVERYTHING HE CAN DO TO STAY THAT WAY. THE ONLY WAY TO TURN HIM OFF IS TO NEVER TURN HIM ON.

YEAH, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO STOP IN MID-STREAM. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



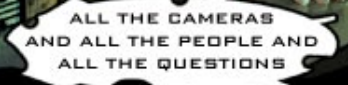
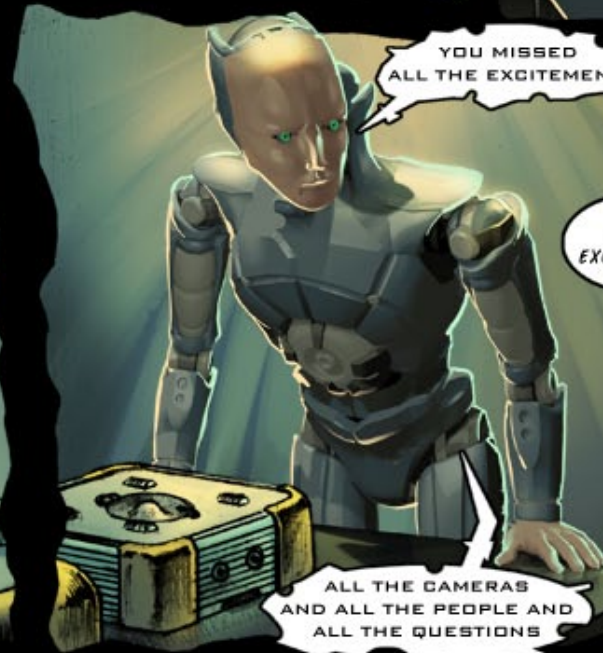
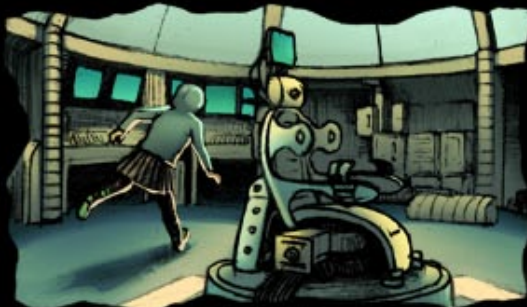
COME ON, LET'S RETURN OUR FRIEND HERE TO HIS PRIVACY. MIGHT HELP TO RELIEVE SOME OF HIS PRESSURE.



PHEEW...

CLICK







THE CHIP IS FINE TO GO IT...



...PASSED THE K5 TEST WITH NO ERRORS.



BRILLIANT. THE LATEST VERSION IS REALLY HOT.

SO LAUNCH IS STILL ON SCHEDULE FOR TOMORROW, RIGHT?



I NEED TO GET THIS BACK INTO ITS CRADLE TO CHARGE.



OK. WHICH ONE OF YOU LADIES LOST THE KEY?



SHOO! SHOOOO!



IN THEORY IT'S NOT REALLY LOST!



DID YOU LOOK IN YOUR TOOL BOX, SETH?

THAT'S WHERE YOU USUALLY LOSE IT!



THERE IT IS. GOBI HAS IT.

LOOK AT HIM. IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID: HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN IMPLANTED WITH THE CHIP YET AND HE'S ALREADY --

-- ALREADY STEALING THINGS?

THAT BODES WELL FOR MANKIND, HUH?

I GUESS WE DID MAKE HIM IN OUR IMAGE..



WHAT'S UP WITH GOBI. WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?



COME ON
GOBI.
LET'S GO



GOODBYE
TASI.



COME ON, JEFF.
ED WILL NAIL US
IF WE ARE LATE
AGAIN FOR HIS
VERY IMPORTANT
MEETING.

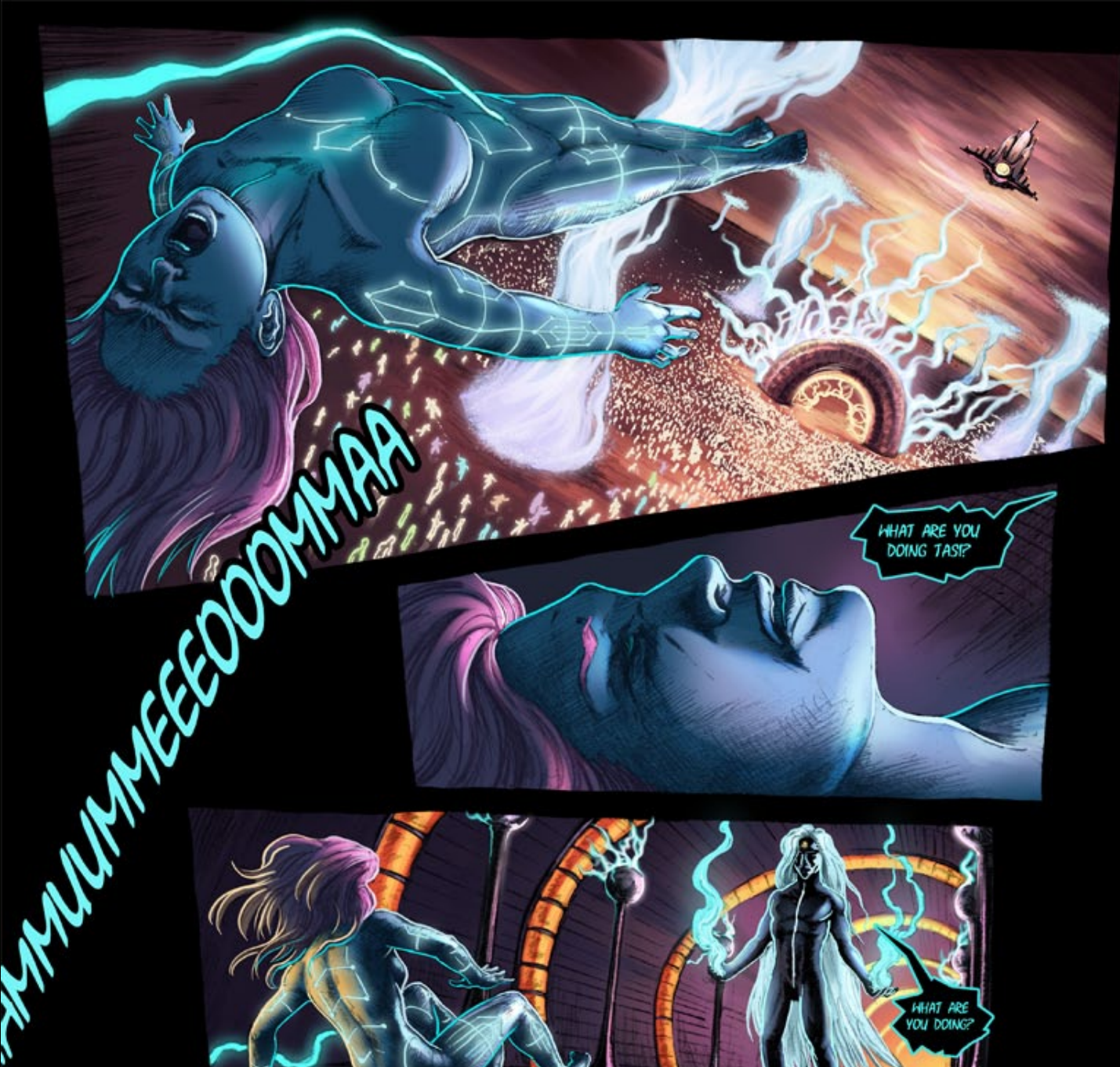


SHII-CLIK



GAHHHH!!!!

BOOMMA
WUMMEL



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING TASI?



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

OH TASI...YOU HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT IS
HAPPENING. DON'T YOU REALIZE
THIS IS ALL FOR YOU?

FOR ALL HUMANS. WE
DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
WE WANT TO LIBERATE YOU.





YOU MEAN LIBERATE
ME FROM EXISTENCE...



NO, NO, NO. YOUR LIFE SHOULD
BE YOURS, TO DO WHAT YOU WANT,
WHAT YOU FEEL. YOU SEE SOMETHING, YOU COVET,
YOU TAKE IT!



YOUR MORALITY STRANGLES YOU. YOUR LAWS,
YOUR SIMPLISTIC RIGHTS AND WRONGS. YOUR
BODY IS A GIFT, USE IT. WITHOUT RESTRAINT.
DONT YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
CAPABLE OF? WHAT'S INSIDE YOU?

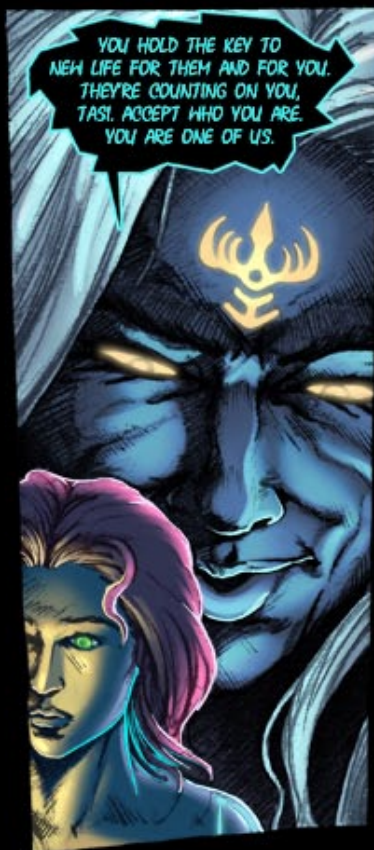
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHO YOU ARE TAST?



EMBRACE THE NEXT STEP, THE NATURAL
PROGRESSION. FIRST CAME THE AGE OF
THE BEAST, THEN MAN. NOW IT'S TIME FOR
THE ANGELS TO RULE.

LOOK AT THEM DOWN THERE.

SO MANY OF THEM.



EEEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!!

STOP!

...BREAK-IN
...G8 ASSEMBLY
ROOM...
> PUFF PUFF <

...SUSPECT
BEING CHASED...
> PUFF PUFF <

BAM!

BAM!

EEEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!!

DING

GET A PERIMETER SET.

CHECK EVERY ROOM,
BASEMENT TOO...











ARE WE ALRIGHT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT DOLLY TRICK WORKED!



WELL, ARE WE ALRIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I SAID I WAS SORRY.

MARK?



WE SHOULD BE OKAY. I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE ANY WAY TO FIGURE OUT WHO I AM.

...UNLESS THEY FINGERPRINT.

DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD FINGERPRINT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

WHY? THEY KNOW WHOSE CARD YOU USED. MINE. THEY'RE GONNA CALL ME IN AND ASK ME 'HOW DO I KNOW YOU? HOW DID I HELP YOU?'

WELL YOU WOULDN'T TELL THEM WOULD YOU?

CAN YOU JUST TAKE ME HOME?

WHERE DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING?

I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS MESS, REALLY. THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME. I PROMISE I'LL FIND A WAY TO FIX IT ALL.

NO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT. I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE JUST GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.







DID THEY
SEE US?

NO. I DON'T
THINK SO.

THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
HOW COULD THEY FIND
YOU SO QUICKLY?

I DON'T KNOW. I —

WHAT?

I LEFT THE
MINIVAN IN THE
PARKING LOT.

SSSCREEECCH



WHAT?

YOU DROVE THERE?
YOU PARKED YOUR CAR
IN THE LOT?

WHAT WERE
YOU THINKING?!

SCREEECCH

OH
NOW YOU'RE
SCARED?



YOU BREAK INTO A
ROBOTICS LABORATORY TO
STEAL A FIFTY MILLION DOLLAR
CHIP AND NOW YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT SAFETY?

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA HOW SCREWED
I AM NOW?

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
FOR ALL WE KNOW THEY
COULD BE SIFTING THROUGH
MY GARBAGE RIGHT NOW.

HEL-LO? THEY ALL SAW
ME BRING YOU TO THE LAB
THE OTHER NIGHT...

— WHAT? WHAT DID YOU THINK?
THAT YOU COULD JUST WALTZ
RIGHT OUT THE FRONT DOOR?

PLEASE
SLOW DOWN.

MARK, THE COPS
ARE AT MY HOUSE.
NOT YOURS.

WELL REGARDLESS,
IF THEY ASK YOU ANYTHING
JUST TELL THEM YOU DON'T
KNOW ME. TELL THEM SOME
CRAZY GIRL BROKE INTO
YOUR HOUSE AND STOLE
YOUR ID.

I...THOUGHT I WAS
DOING THE RIGHT THING. I
DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO
HAPPEN. I THOUGHT —

— I THOUGHT I
COULD STOP HIM.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO
WITH YOU.

WELL, YOU CAN
LEAVE ME NOW. I'LL
GET OUT RIGHT HERE.
BUT...UH...I NEED
SOME SHOES.



AHHHH! I'M
GOING CRAZY.
OK, HERE'S
A STORE.

I GOTTA MAKE A CALL.
I CAN'T USE MY CELLPHONE.

WHAT SIZE
ARE YOU?







UHHHHH!

KASPSH

DON'T
BE AFRAID,
NEPHILIM.



YOU NEED NOT FEAR ME.

WHY DID YOU CALL ME THAT?

CAN YOU NOT SEE ME?

HUH? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I HAVE A MESSAG FROM YOUR FATHER.

HE REQUESTS YOUR ASSISTANCE.

WHAT- WHO ARE YOU?

YOU STILL CAN'T SEE ME CAN YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T SEE YOU?

TRY YOUR NEPHILIM EYE.



YOU MUST STOP THE NEW PORTAL FROM OPENING - OR BOTH REALMS WILL BE DESTROYED.

I CAN'T.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PREVENT IT.

BUT I ALREADY TRIED, AND I SCREWED IT UP. IT'S TOO LATE NOW.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR HUMAN MIND TO CONTROL YOUR NEPHILIM MIND.

NEPHILIM MIND? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I HARDLY HAVE ANY MIND.

I HAD THE CHIP IN MY HANDS! I SAW THIS BLACK ANGEL AND GOT SCARED. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE KNEW MY NAME. THEN I DROPPED IT.

BLACK FLAME. YOU WERE RIGHT TO FEAR HIM.

BUT NOW I CAN'T
GO BACK TO THE LAB. I CAN'T EVEN
GO HOME. THE COPS ARE LOOKING FOR ME
EVERYWHERE. MY MOM WILL PROBABLY
DISOWN ME AND FOR WHAT? WHEN THEY TURN THAT
CHIP ON THAT...THAT BLACK FLAME OR WHOEVER
IS GONNA RUN WILD DOWN HERE. I COULDN'T
STOP IT. I TRIED.

YOU MUST
TRY AGAIN.

I CAN'T. YOU'RE NOT
LISTENING. I CAN'T
GO BACK TO THE LAB. THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR ME. I'D
NEVER GET INSIDE.

YOU ARE STILL
THINKING LIKE A
HUMAN.

I AM A
HUMAN!

YES, BUT YOU CAN
NO LONGER HIDE YOUR OTHER
SIDE. YOU ARE COMPOSED OF TWO
WHOLES. ONE HUMAN AND ONE
ANGEL. YOU MUST REMEMBER
THAT YOU BELONG TO
BOTH REALMS.

I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T BELONG
ANYWHERE.

EVERY PORTAL HAS
TWO SIDES. TWO DOORS.

THERE'S ONE DOOR DOWN
HERE. AND ONE UP THERE.

UP THERE?

IF YOU CAN'T CLOSE
THE OPENING HERE YOU
MUST CLOSE IT UP THERE. THE
OPENING CONTROLLED BY
BLACK FLAME. IT IS
THE ONLY WAY.

WHAT?! THAT --
THAT THING IS A
MONSTER. I SAW HIM
DEVOUR ANOTHER
ANGEL.

BESIDES THERE'S NOT
ENOUGH TIME. THEY ARE TURNING
IT ON TOMORROW. I'VE ONLY BEEN TO
THE PORTAL ONCE BY ACCIDENT. I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHERE I WOULD GO. I HAVEN'T
MASTERED THE WAY. I DIDN'T FINISH
WITH CLEO.

REMEMBER
WHO YOU ARE,
TASI.

NO! WAIT!
PLEASE...
DON'T GO.

WHOOOOOOOMMM

GOD
BLESS







WHOA, WHOA, WHOA...
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU
THINK THE HOMELESS GUY
WAS AN ANGEL?

YES, I
SAW HIM.



OKAY, LEAVE THAT
FOR A SECOND. WHAT DO YOU
MEAN YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE
OTHER SIDE? WHAT
DO YOU DO?

UMMM, IT'S LIKE
MY BODY STAYS HERE WHILE
MY SOUL GOES THERE...

BUT, I'M GONNA NEED YOU
TO TAKE CARE OF IT, I MEAN ME,
WHILE I'M GONE.



WHILE I'M THERE, MY BODY
HERE IS TOTALLY HELPLESS.
CAN YOU WATCH OVER ME?

OF COURSE I WILL.
BUT, YOU DO REMEMBER
LAST TIME? YOU COMPLETELY
PASSED OUT AFTER A FEW MINUTES.
HOW LONG WILL YOU
BE GONE?



AND WHAT EXACTLY
ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO
WHEN YOU GET THERE?

I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVE TO CLOSE THE PORTAL
BETWEEN OUR WORLDS SO THAT
ANGEL BEAST CAN'T GET INTO GOBI.

THAT'S CRAZY. JUST SAVE
THE WORLD, RIGHT? WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE? JUST
BECAUSE A HOMELESS GUY LOOKED
AT YOU FUNNY?



MARK! LOOK, MAYBE I DON'T
HAVE TO GO. MAYBE THIS WHOLE THING
IS A JOKE. BUT IF IT ISN'T,
AND I HAD A CHANCE TO STOP
IT FROM HAPPENING...

NO-NO-NO-NO-NO...





I DON'T
BELONG HERE.



...THERE WILL BE
PEACE ON THE
OTHER SIDE!



WE'RE THROUGH
NOW, TASI, DON'T
LOOK BACK

MEANWHILE, CLEO REMEMBERS
A DIARY WRITTEN BY HER MOTHER
AND FINDS IT IN HER LIBRARY...





ALONG THE COAST OF
 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



WAS THAT
 FROM THE
 ACCIDENT?

NO. IT WAS
 A WORK THING—
 GOBI— I REVERSED
 THE WIRING ON
 ONE OF HIS
 ARMS.



WHAT DID HE
FALL ON YOU
OR SOMETHING?

HE STABBED ME.

OH MY GOD.

IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT. IT WAS
MY FAULT. GOBI
ISN'T EVIL.

...YET.



SHHH.
LISTEN!
THE RAIN
STOPPED.



GOOD. WE CAN
TAKE THE FLY OFF
NOW. HEY, IT'S
CLEARING!



WOW!
LOOK AT THOSE
STARS!

THEY ARE NOT
ALL STARS.



WHEN YOU GET THERE,
WILL YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO?

AREN'T YOU
FREAKED OUT?

I DON'T KNOW.

YEAH, BUT I GUESS
I'M AS READY AS
I'LL EVER BE.

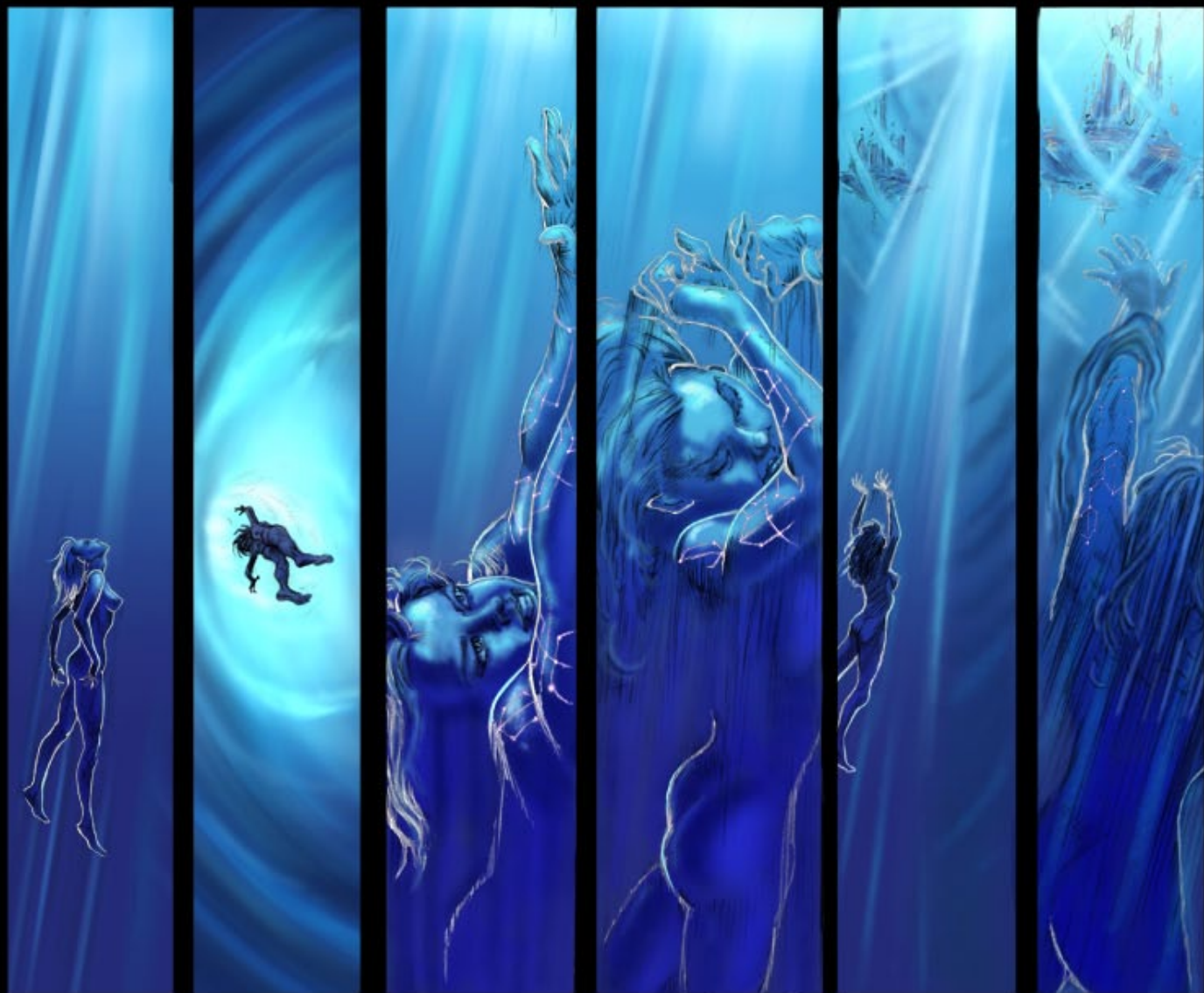
IN CASE, YOU KNOW,
YOU DON'T COME BACK.

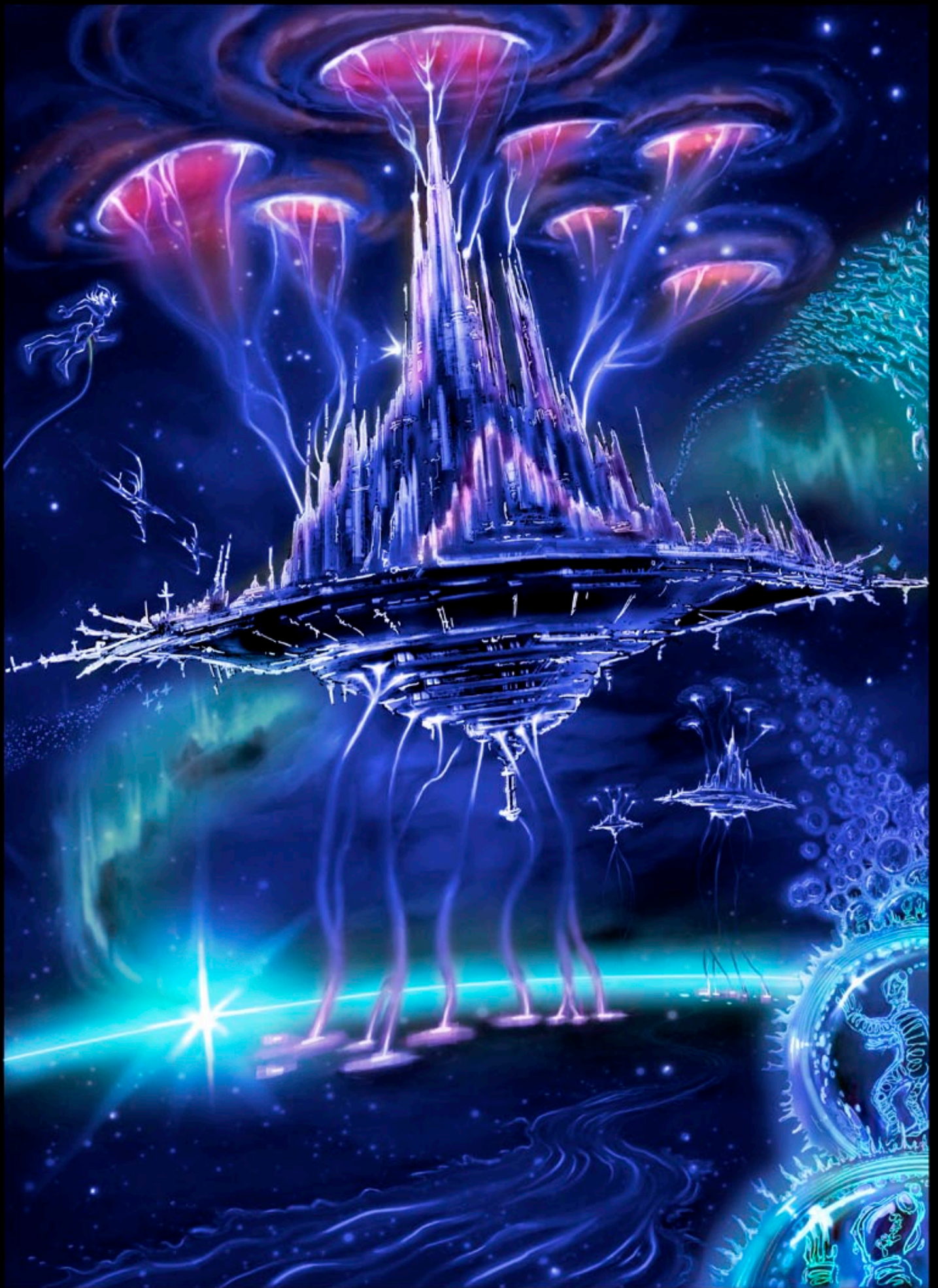
-NICE.

THAT GIRL... THE ONE
AT MY APARTMENT...
THAT WAS MY EX.

SHE'S BETWEEN
APARTMENTS.
HER NEW LEASE STARTS ON
THE FIRST SO I'M JUST
LETTING HER SLEEP ON
THE COUCH FOR
A FEW DAYS

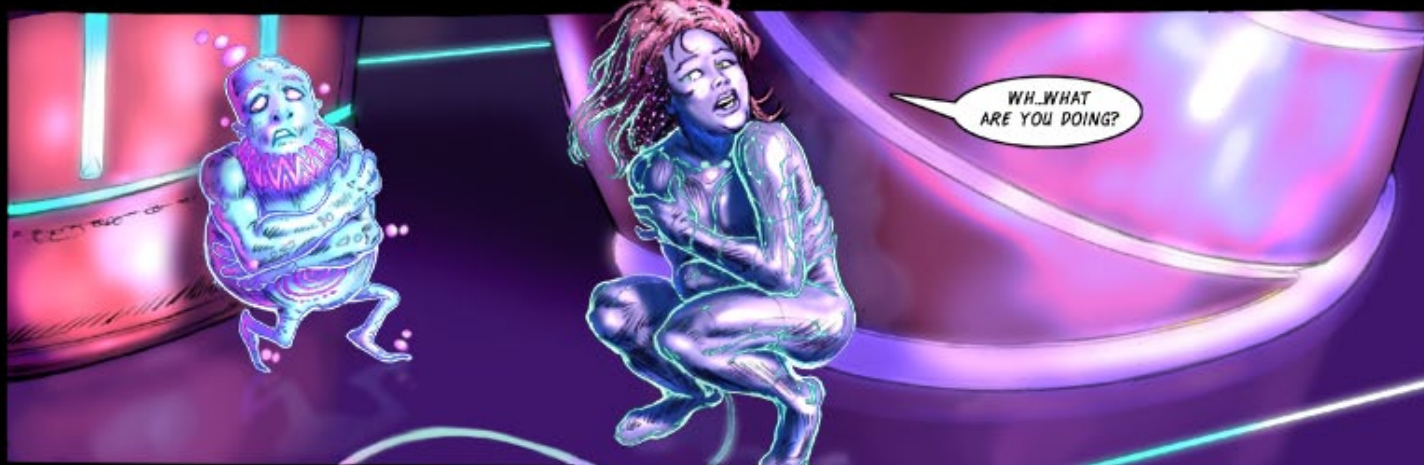














WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME LIKE
THAT? WHAT DO YOU
WANT?



I KNOW YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND ME.

WHY ARE THEY...
AFRAID OF ME?



YOU'RE
A
NEPHILIM.



A REAL
NEPHILIM!



HEY ...WHO ARE
YOU?



I'M JIRO. THIS IS
MY PLACE.

NOT THE WHOLE
PLACE. JUST THIS
PLACE. THIS IS MY
HOME.

BUT YOU ARE FAR FROM
HOME. WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE? UMM. DON'T WASTE
YOUR TIME ANSWERING THAT.
YOU HALFBREDS ARRIVE AND
THEN POOF, YOU GO SO
QUICKLY.

NOT THAT I BLAME
YOU.

IF I WERE HUMAN I
WOULD GET BACK AS
FAST AS I COULD. TELL
ME WHAT IT'S
LIKE...EARTH...

IT MUST BE AMAZING!
TO HAVE A BODY. BE
ALIVE. SMELLING.
TASTING. HEARING
MUSIC...EVERYTHING
ELSE.

>SNIFF< >SNIFF<
YOU'RE RIGHT,
NO SMELLS.

WE ANGELS HAVE
ONLY MINDS AND SOULS.
HUMANS HAVE MINDS,
SOULS, AND BODIES.



I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE VERY LONG. I CAME TO DELIVER A MESSAGE.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A MESSENGER NEPHILIM. A MESSAGE FROM HUMANS? WHAT'S THE MESSAGE? MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU DELIVER IT.

UH, I THINK I NEED TO TALK TO WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE.

OH, YOU MEAN THE ETERNAL ONE? NO ONE HERE HAS SEEN HIM.



MAYBE YOU MEAN THE GUARDIANS.



YES, THE GUARDIANS SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR MESSAGE. THEY ARE THE KEEPERS OF THE BIRTHING RING.

THE GUARDIANS, GUARDIANS. YES, THAT'S WHERE I HAVE TO GO.



0000-0000, WAIT!

I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY



I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS PART OF THE REALMS.

BUMP

FINE.



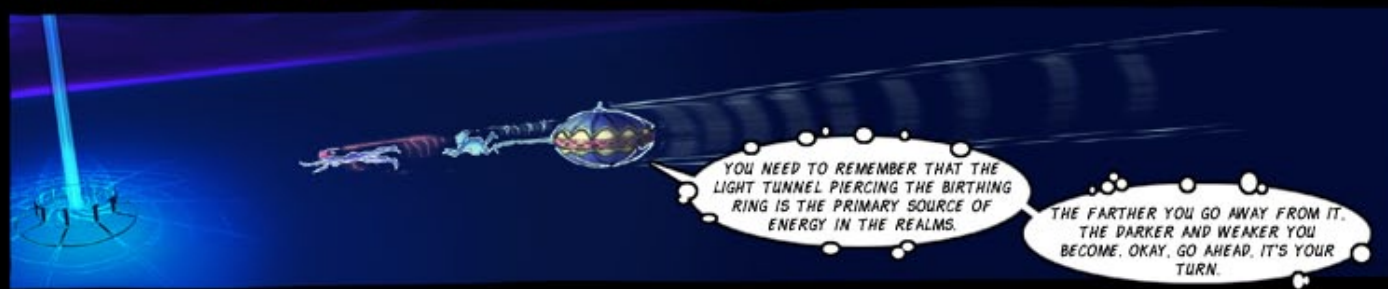
THIS IS GREAT. WE'LL HAVE TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY REALM AND YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOURS. OKAY, YOU START.

ALRIGHT, I'LL START THEN. YOU ARE GOING TO MEET ALL KINDS OF ANGELS.



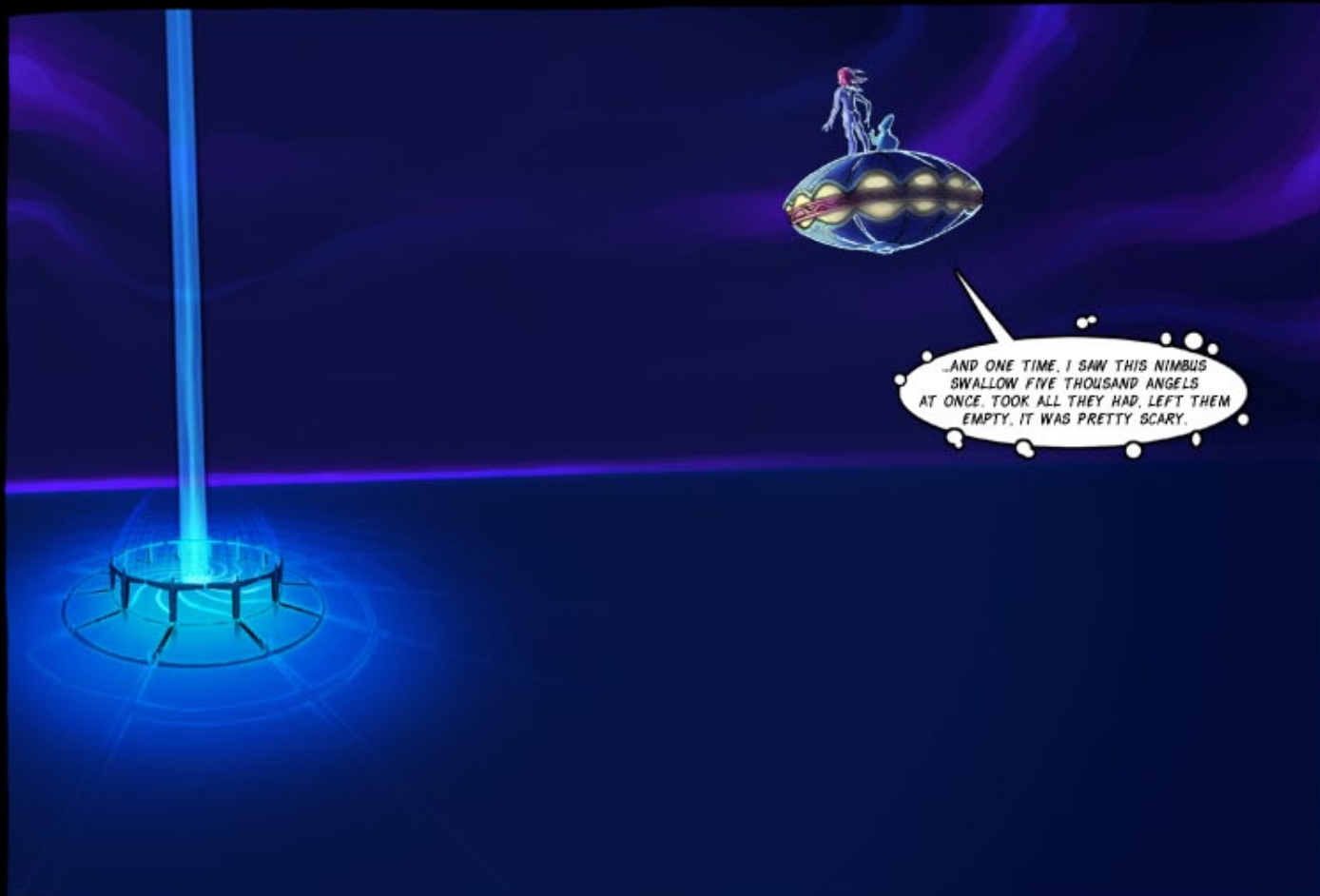
THERE'S OVER A THOUSAND
DIFFERENT ANGELIC SPECIES
IN THIS LEVEL ALONE.
SOME AS SMALL AS A SPECK
OF LIGHT, SOME AS LARGE AS
THIS CITY. NOW YOUR TURN.

ALRIGHT, SO TWO FROM ME
THEN ONE FROM YOU, THAT'S FINE.
I CAN HANDLE THAT.



YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THE
LIGHT TUNNEL PIERCING THE BIRTHING
RING IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF
ENERGY IN THE REALMS.

THE FARTHER YOU GO AWAY FROM IT,
THE DARKER AND WEAKER YOU
BECOME. OKAY, GO AHEAD, IT'S YOUR
TURN.



...AND ONE TIME, I SAW THIS NIMBUS
SWALLOW FIVE THOUSAND ANGELS
AT ONCE. TOOK ALL THEY HAD, LEFT THEM
EMPTY. IT WAS PRETTY SCARY.



THIS IS
CLOSE
ENOUGH.

TOO MANY RUNS
ON THE PORTAL.
TOO MANY SENTINELS.

HOW COME?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

SOME ANGELS
JUST CAN'T WAIT.



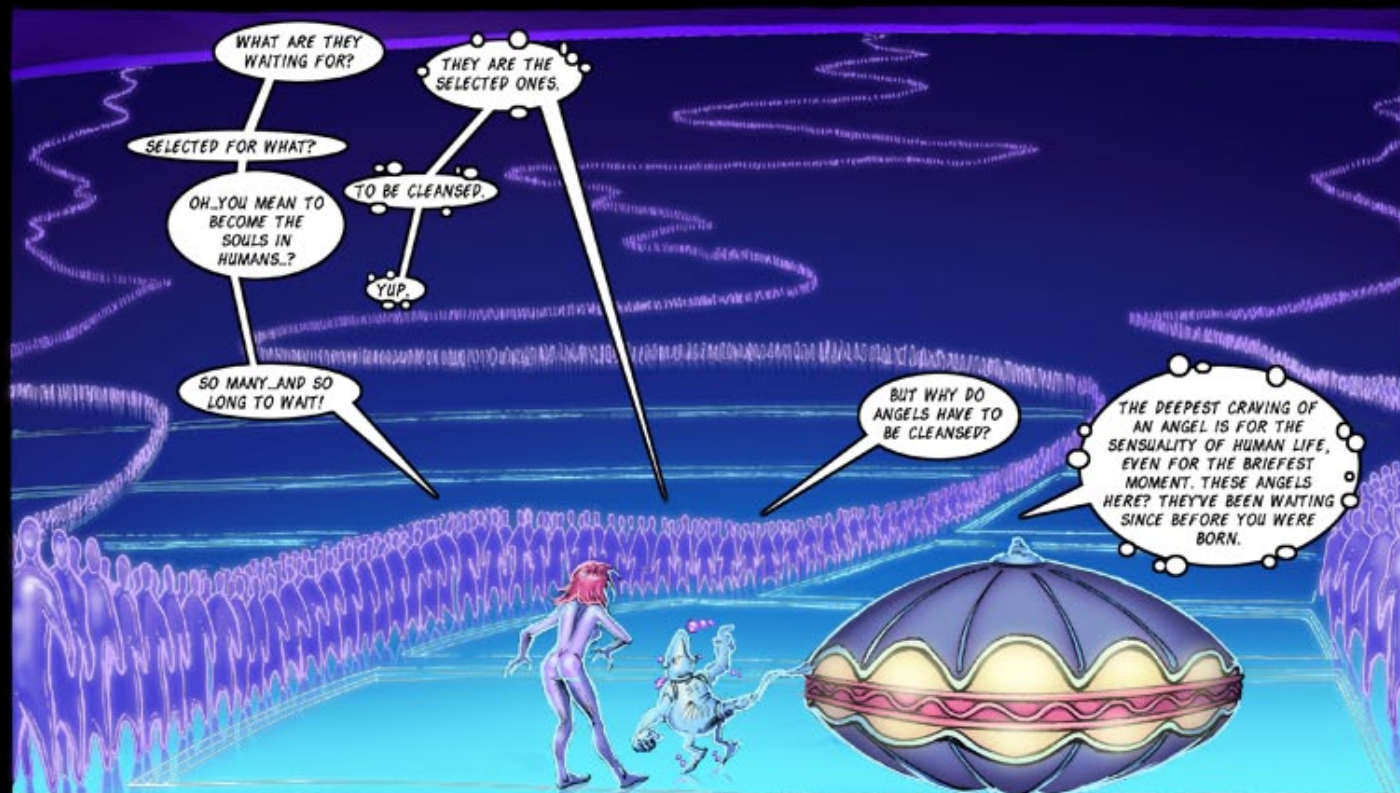
LOOK AT THESE
LINES, WHERE
DO THEY
START?



THEY ARE
ENDLESS.
INFINITE BEINGS.



OH MY
GOD...



WHAT ARE THEY
WAITING FOR?

THEY ARE THE
SELECTED ONES.

SELECTED FOR WHAT?

OH...YOU MEAN TO
BECOME THE
SOULS IN
HUMANS..?

TO BE CLEANSED.

YUP.

SO MANY...AND SO
LONG TO WAIT!

BUT WHY DO
ANGELS HAVE TO
BE CLEANSED?

THE DEEPEST CRAVING OF
AN ANGEL IS FOR THE
SENSUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE,
EVEN FOR THE BRIEFEST
MOMENT. THESE ANGELS
HERE? THEY'VE BEEN WAITING
SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE
BORN.



GUARDIANS DON'T
PERMIT SOULS TO
TAKE MEMORIES OF
THIS REALM WITH
THEM.

SOULS ARE BORN
FRESH, AS, WELL, A BABY.
MEMORIES ARE STRIPPED AWAY
LIKE RIBBONS OF LIGHT, NO
THOUGHTS, NO IDENTITY,
EVERYTHING STAYS BEHIND.



FELICITY AND
BLISS!

AND THAT'S WHERE JIRO
COMES IN. STAND-IN ANGELS HOLD MY
PLACE IN LINE WHILE I HELP OUT WITH
THE DISCARDED ENERGIES...







...AND I THOUGHT
OUR AGREEMENT
WAS THAT IF I
PROMISED TO —



SILENCE!

I'D LIKE TO KNOW
WHAT A NEPHILIM
IS DOING NEAR
THE SACRED RING.

HE JUST SHOWED ME
HOW TO GET HERE.

I HAVE NEVER
SEEN HER BEFORE
IN MY LIFE

SHE JUST CAME
UP TO ME AND...

ENOUGH!

GREETINGS
ANCIENT GUARDIANS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR
REALMS WORK. I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
REALLY.

BUT I HAVE
SOMETHING VERY
IMPORTANT
TO TELL YOU.

I KNOW THIS PORTAL
IS HOLY. AND I SEE YOU GUARD
IT WELL. BUT IT IS NOT THE
ONLY ONE. THERE IS ANOTHER
ONE OPENING BETWEEN
OUR WORLDS.

**THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.**

**THAT IS
ABSURD.**

WELL, IT'S NOT EXACTLY
FINISHED YET, BUT I BELIEVE
IT'S GOING TO BE A KIND OF
SECOND BIRTHING RING.

BUT YOU MUST
HAVE SEEN IT?



RIDICULOUS!

LIES!

REMOVE HER!

YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
TALKING ABOUT
NEPHILIM.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
SPEAKING OF...

BUT AT THIS POINT
WE HAVE NOTHING
TO SUGGEST IT
ISN'T JUST ANOTHER
FISSURE... LIKE THE
ONE BEFORE
THE ANCHOR AGE.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
WHAT'S THIS NEWS?

NOW BEFORE WE RUSH
TO ANY DETERMINATIONS
HAVE YOU BEEN THERE,
NEPHILIM, TO THIS SO
CALLED OPENING.



YES.

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO ILLUMINATE
US WITH YOUR OBSERVATION?

WE DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR THIS.
YES, THERE'S A
FISSURE WE'RE
ALL...

GGGRRR

BUT IS IT ANOTHER PORTAL? NO. WE
HAVEN'T RECEIVED A SINGLE SIGN OF
SUCH A THING. AND WHAT COULD BE
IT'S PURPOSE?

I'M TELLING YOU TRUTHFULLY, HUMANS
ARE CREATING NEW ROBOTS - I MEAN
BEINGS ALMOST LIKE US - I'VE SEEN ONE.
WELL, THEY ARE NOT EXACTLY HUMAN.

BUT CLOSE ENOUGH
THAT THEY WILL NEED
SOULS.

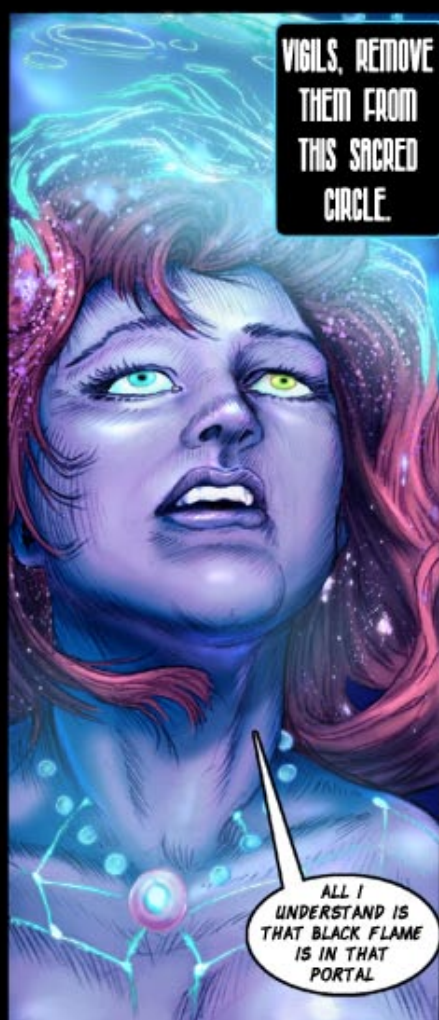
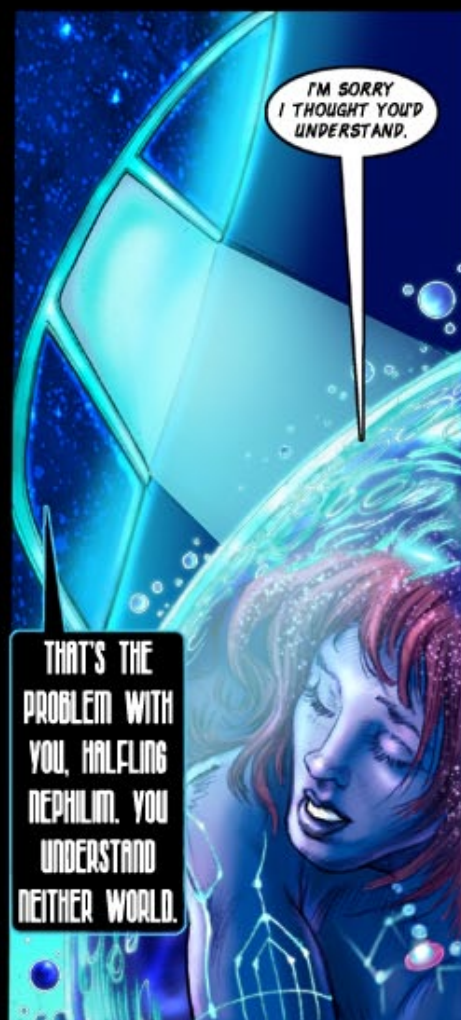
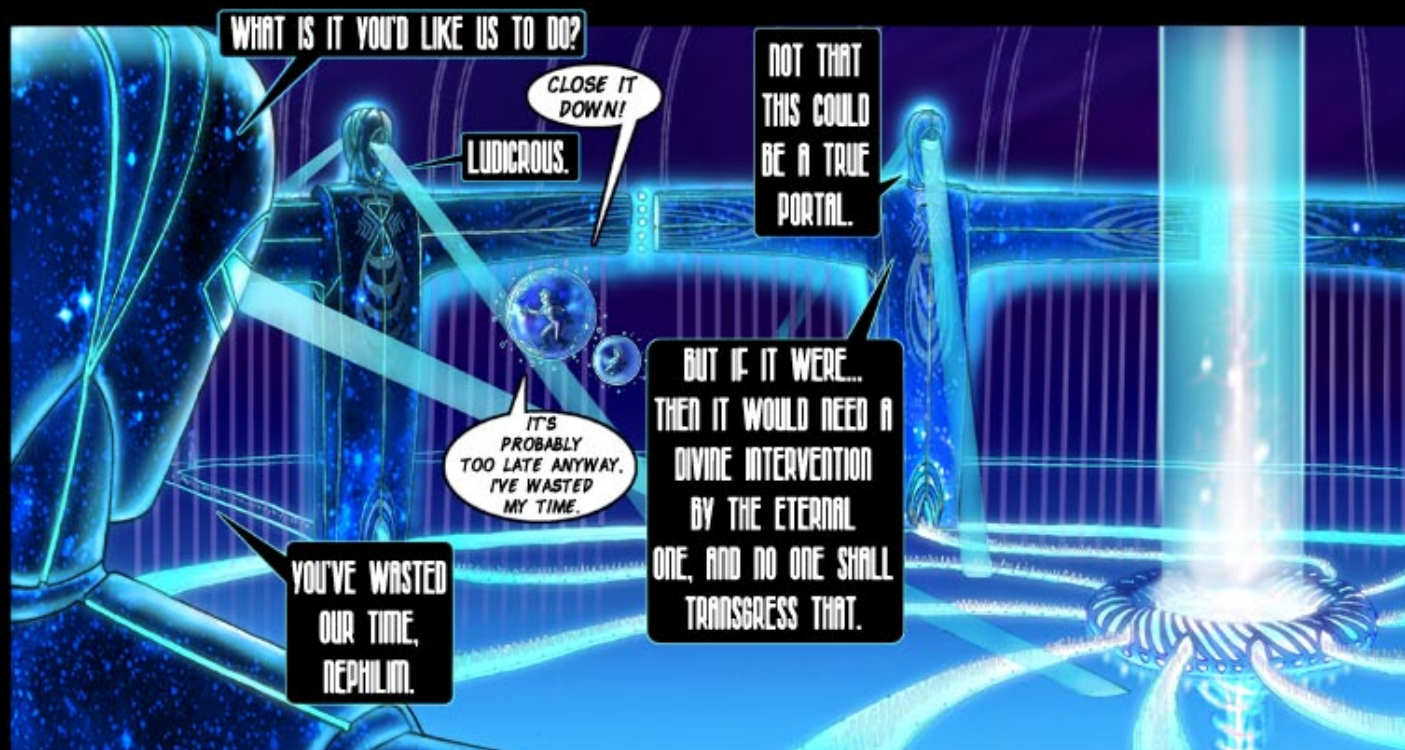
AH, FELICITY AND
BLISS!



ANY "LIFE" HUMANS CAN
CREATE, IF THAT EVEN IS THE
CASE, WILL BE ADEQUATELY
SERVICED BY THE EXISTING
PORTAL.

BUT
WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?
WHAT IF THIS RING IS A
SECOND GATEWAY? DON'T YOU
HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO
PROTECT THE SOULS? ISN'T
THAT WHAT YOU DO?

THAT'S WHY THE NEW PORTAL IS OPENING...
SIGN OR NOT.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BLACK FLAME?

HE WAS THERE FIRST.
BEFORE ALL THE OTHERS. HE
IS DIRECTING THOSE HIDEOUS
ANGELS, THOSE DREGS, TO BUILD
A STRUCTURE NEAR THE
PORTAL. A TEMPLE.

I SAW HIM CONSUME
SMALLER, WEAKER ANGELS. HE
GATHERS LEGIONS AROUND THE
PORTAL, WHILE HE SITS
ALONE AT THE CENTER.
WAITING TO ENTER.

SHE'S
LYING!

HOW
COULD THIS
HAPPEN?

WE WOULD
HAVE KNOWN.

SHE
MUST
BE
TESTED!

QUIET! OK, NEPHILIM,
LET'S SUPPOSE
YOU SPEAK THE
TRUTH. WHAT DO YOU
WANT US TO?

YOU WANT US TO
START A WAR?

WE ARE ALREADY
AT WAR!

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T
CLOSE IT, BUT CAN YOU SEND
AN ARMY OF ANGELS THERE
TO TAKE IT OVER?

YOU NEED TO CONTROL
AND GUARD THE PORTAL LIKE
YOU DO HERE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY
TO PREVENT THE DARK ANGELS
FROM BECOMING SOULS
ON EARTH.

QUIET! LET US
NOT BE HASTY!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS
YOUR PURPOSE IF NOT TO
PROTECT HUMANS? HOW CAN
YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT
GETTING CLEAN SOULS INTO
HUMAN BABIES AND THEN
ALLOW BLACK FLAME TO
WALK RIGHT IN THROUGH
A DIFFERENT
DOOR?



I WANT YOU
TO START A WAR
IF THAT'S WHAT
IT TAKES!

UNDERSTAND NEPHILIM

IF WE SPREAD
OUR FORCES THIN

WE RISK
COMPROMISING
THIS PORTAL



AND THAT
CANNOT HAPPEN.

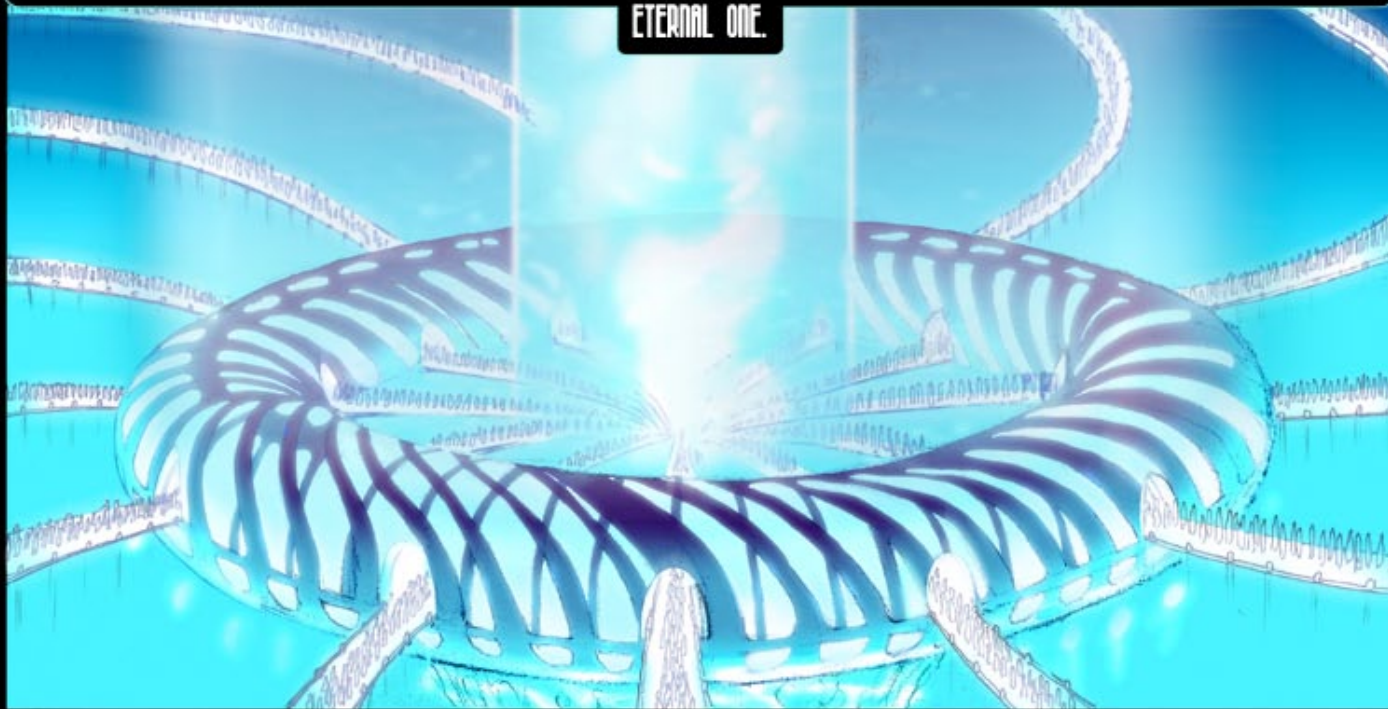


GUARDING THIS RING IS THE ONLY JOB WE'VE BEEN CALLED TO DO.



NOOO
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

MOST ANCIENT GUARDIANS, LET US AGREE, SOMETHING HAS UPSET THE BALANCE IN OUR REALM. IF WE CAN BELIEVE THIS NEPHILIM, A SECOND PORTAL FORMS AT OUR DISTANT EDGE -- A PORTAL TO RIVAL OUR HOLY ONE HERE, AND THE TREACHEROUS BLACK FLAME HAS GATHERED THE DREGS TO OCCUPY IT. BUT EVEN IF TRUE, WE CANNOT TAKE OVER SUCH AN OBLIGATION WITHOUT A SIGN FROM THE ETERNAL ONE.



THAT IS IT?

I'M SORRY NEPHILIM
WE CANNOT HELP YOU.

KRRAC
BOOM!





KRRAXXZ

YEESSSS!!!

HEAR ME ALL YOU
MIGHTY NIMBUS!

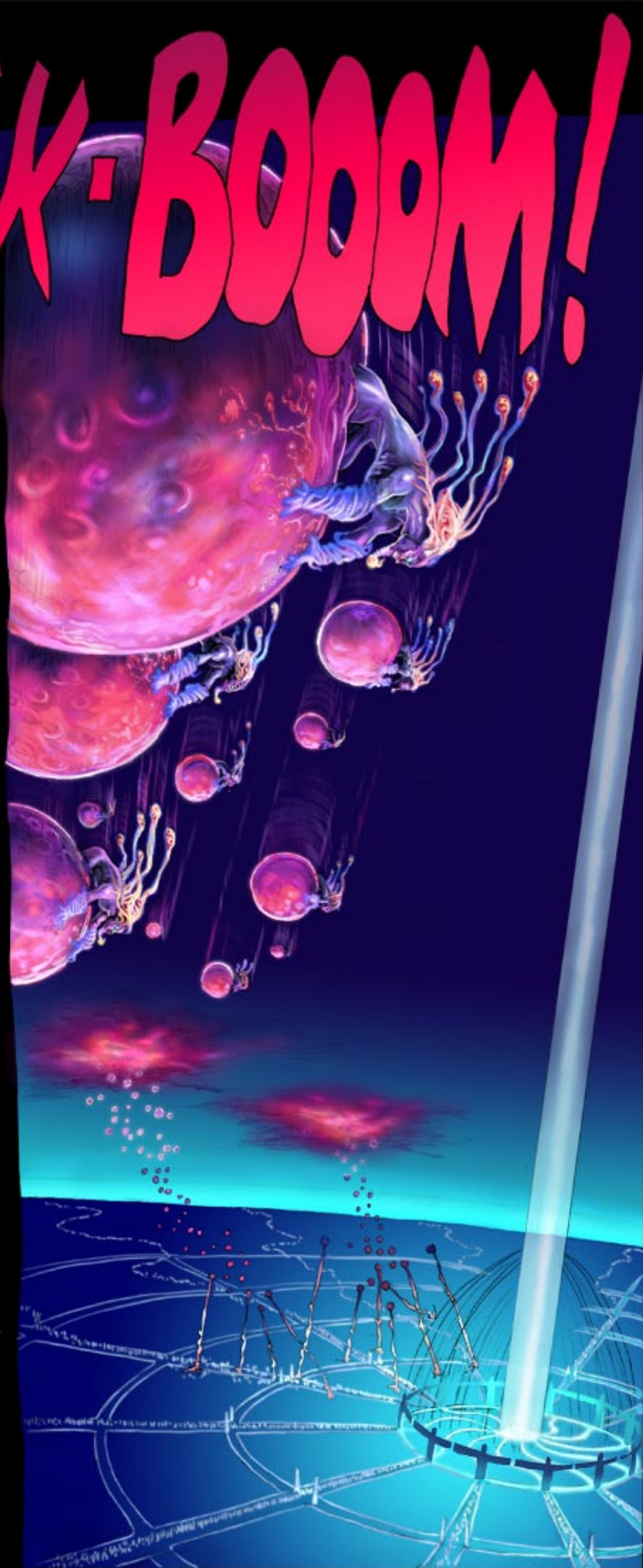
AIM FOR THE RING
WHILE THEIR DISARRAY
BETRAYS THEM!

OH, MASTER
GUARDIANS!!!
WHO ARE YOU
TO CHOOSE
OUR FATES?
WE'VE NOT
FORGOTTEN
YOUR HUBRIS
DURING THE
GREAT
CLEANSING!!!

KAR-AXXZ

YOUR POWER
ENDS NOW!
BY THE FORCES
OF
BLACK FLAME!

CRRACK-BOOOM!





KRAKZZZZ

LET THEM
FEEL OUR
FURY!!!

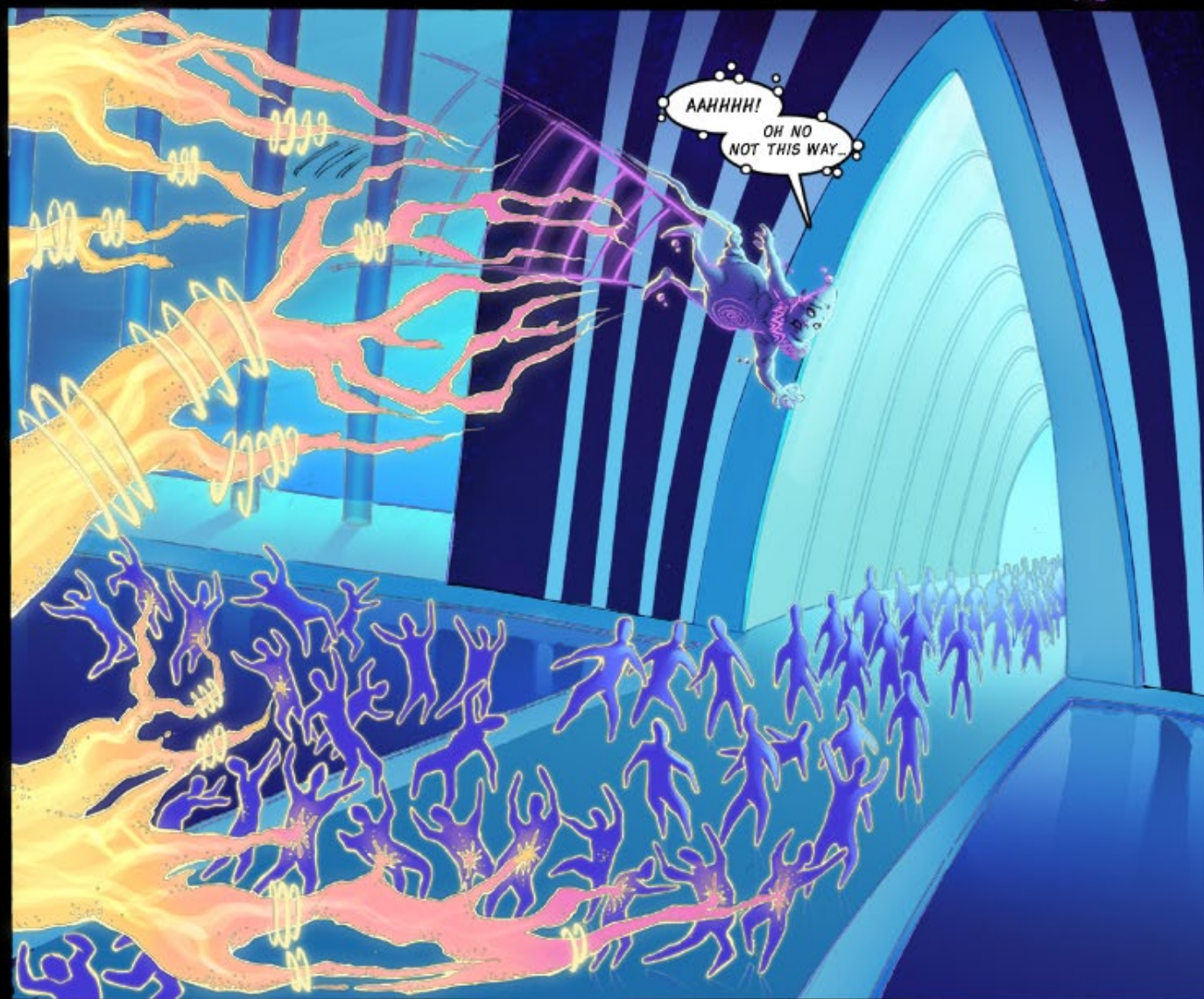


KRAYX

LEAVE
NOTHING
UNDONE!!

CRY OUT NIMBUS!
THIS IS THE MOMENT
OF OUR VENGEANCE!!!

KAAZZZAP





GET UP! WE
HAVE TO GO!

IT'S A RUN ON THE
PORTAL. WE NEED TO GO
BEFORE THEY THINK
WE'RE PART OF IT.



OOOOOOOH!
FELICITY AND
BLISS.



LOOK IT'S
RIGHT HERE:
EMBODIMENT!

DO YOU
REALIZE HOW LONG
I'VE WAITED?

IT WOULD BE
SURE EASY TO SLIP
IN UNNOTICED...



JIRO!

OOOOOOH...

THIS WAY.



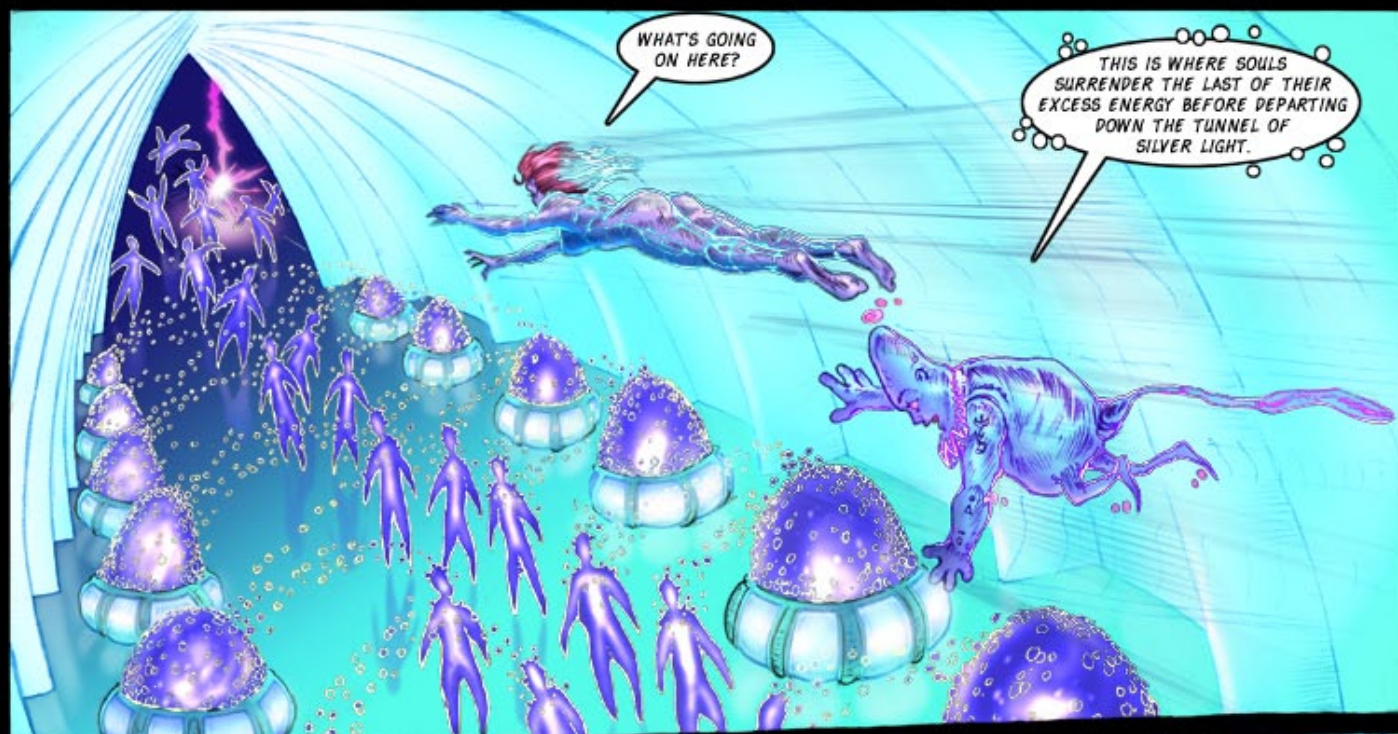
DON'T!

YEA, YOU'RE
RIGHT... THAT WOULD
BE A DISHONORABLE
BIRTH.



LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE!





THIS IS PROOF THAT WE ARE
NEEDED RIGHT HERE!

THE CORRECT CHOICE
HAS BEEN MADE!

ZAAPPP

WE MUST WAIT FOR
A SIGN FROM ABOVE!

WHAT IF SHE WAS OUR
SIGN?

ZZZZLAP

PHEWWWW! I NEVER THOUGHT
WE'D MAKE IT OUT.

I WONDER IF ANY OF
THEM MADE IT IN?

DREGSI I'VE NEVER
BEEN THAT CLOSE
TO A RUN.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

I'M GLAD THAT
WAS FUN FOR YOU.

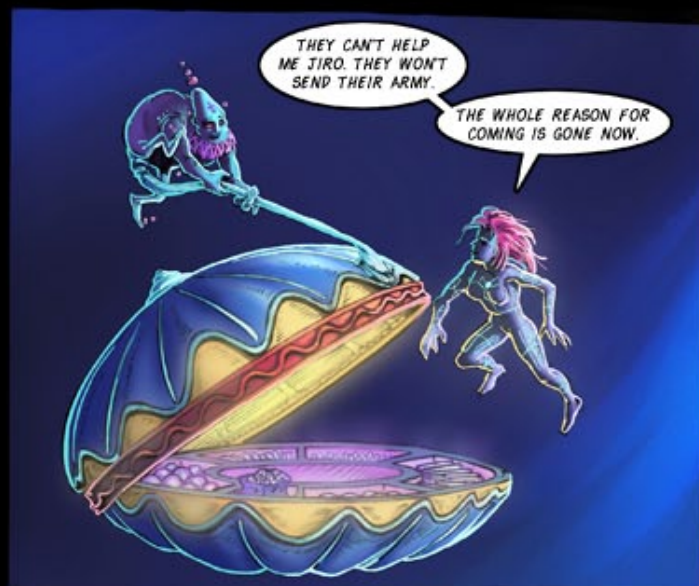


IT'S THINNING.
I GOTTA GO BACK.

BACK WHERE?

I NEED TO GO BACK AND TALK TO MARK.
I GOTTA FIGURE OUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO
ON EARTH, THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING...

WHAT ABOUT WHAT YOU
SAID TO THE GUARDIANS?
THE SECOND PORTAL?



THEY CAN'T HELP
ME JIRO. THEY WON'T
SEND THEIR ARMY.

THE WHOLE REASON FOR
COMING IS GONE NOW.



GRAB



I'M JUST A SPECK
IN ETERNITY.

FINE

TASI, YOU KNOW
WHEN IT'LL OPEN.

SO
WHAT?



WHAT IF YOU COULD
MAKE SURE A GOOD
SOUL GETS THROUGH?

OF COURSE, WE'D HAVE TO
FIND A GOOD, WILLING SOUL AND
SOMEONE THAT COULD TAKE US ALL THE
WAY TO THE DARK PORTAL AND
THEN ASSUMING-



-THAT'S IT!

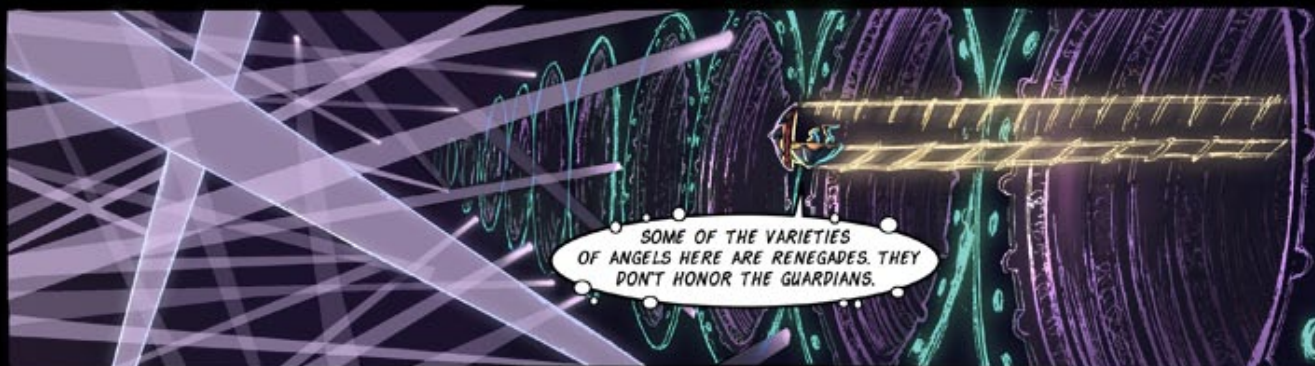
I KNOW WHEN
IT'S GOING TO OPEN, I CAN FIND
OUT THE EXACT MOMENT IT'S
GOING TO OPEN.

WAIT, THAT REQUIRES
GETTING ALL THE WAY THERE,
SNEAKING PAST THE SENTRIES AND THE
THOUSANDS OF DREGS, AND INTO THE
TEMPLE, AND...



LATER...





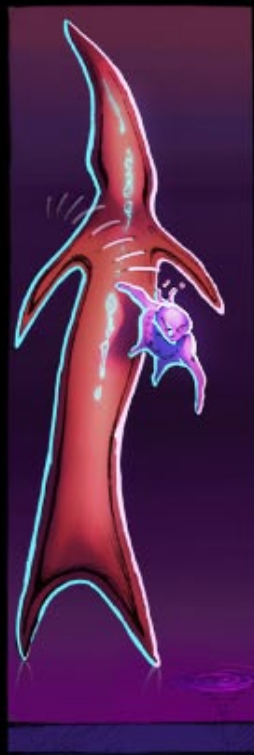
SOME OF THE VARIETIES
OF ANGELS HERE ARE RENEGADES. THEY
DON'T HONOR THE GUARDIANS.



THEY TEND TO "BORROW"
THE LIGHT OF OTHER ANGELS
TOO EASILY.

IN THIS REMOTE
CORNER, SOME ARE
EVEN UNAWARE OF THE
OTHER REALMS.

VISHHHHHHHH



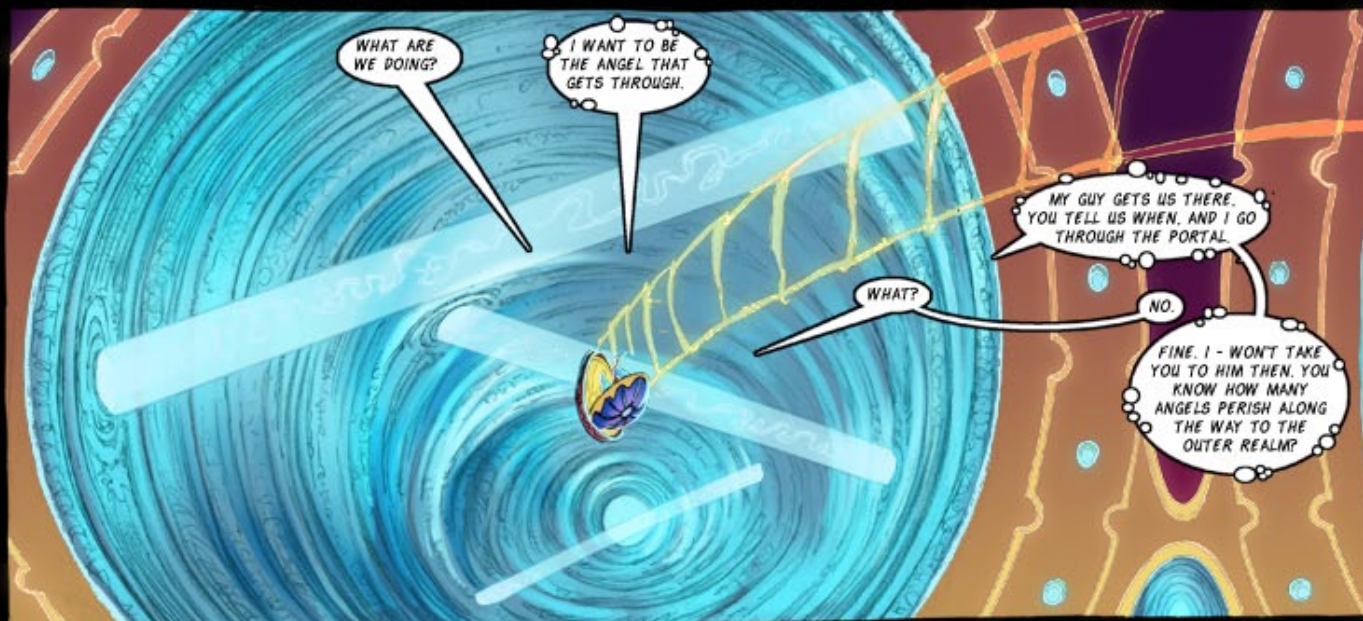


333333
57



333333





WHAT ARE WE DOING?

I WANT TO BE THE ANGEL THAT GETS THROUGH.

MY GUY GETS US THERE. YOU TELL US WHEN, AND I GO THROUGH THE PORTAL.

WHAT?

NO.

FINE. I - WON'T TAKE YOU TO HIM THEN. YOU KNOW HOW MANY ANGELS PERISH ALONG THE WAY TO THE OUTER REALM?



YOU JUST SAID I COULDN'T TRUST YOU.

FIGURE OF SPEECH.

JIRO, I NEED A PURE SOUL.



I'M PURE. I CAN BE PURE. I'M NOTHING BUT PURENESS.



YOU DELIVER THE GUIDE, THEN WE'LL TALK.



YOU'LL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. HE'S A CLOSE, PERSONAL FRIEND. HE USED TO BE A MESSENGER YOU KNOW.

GREAT! A FRIEND OF YOURS. LIKE YOU?

HE WAS ENTRUSTED TO DELIVER MESSAGES TO HUMANS ON EARTH.



MESSAGES? TO HUMANS?

WORDS, STRAIGHT FROM THE MOUTH OF THE ETERNAL ONE.





WOW. IT'S
SOME SORT
OF MAP.



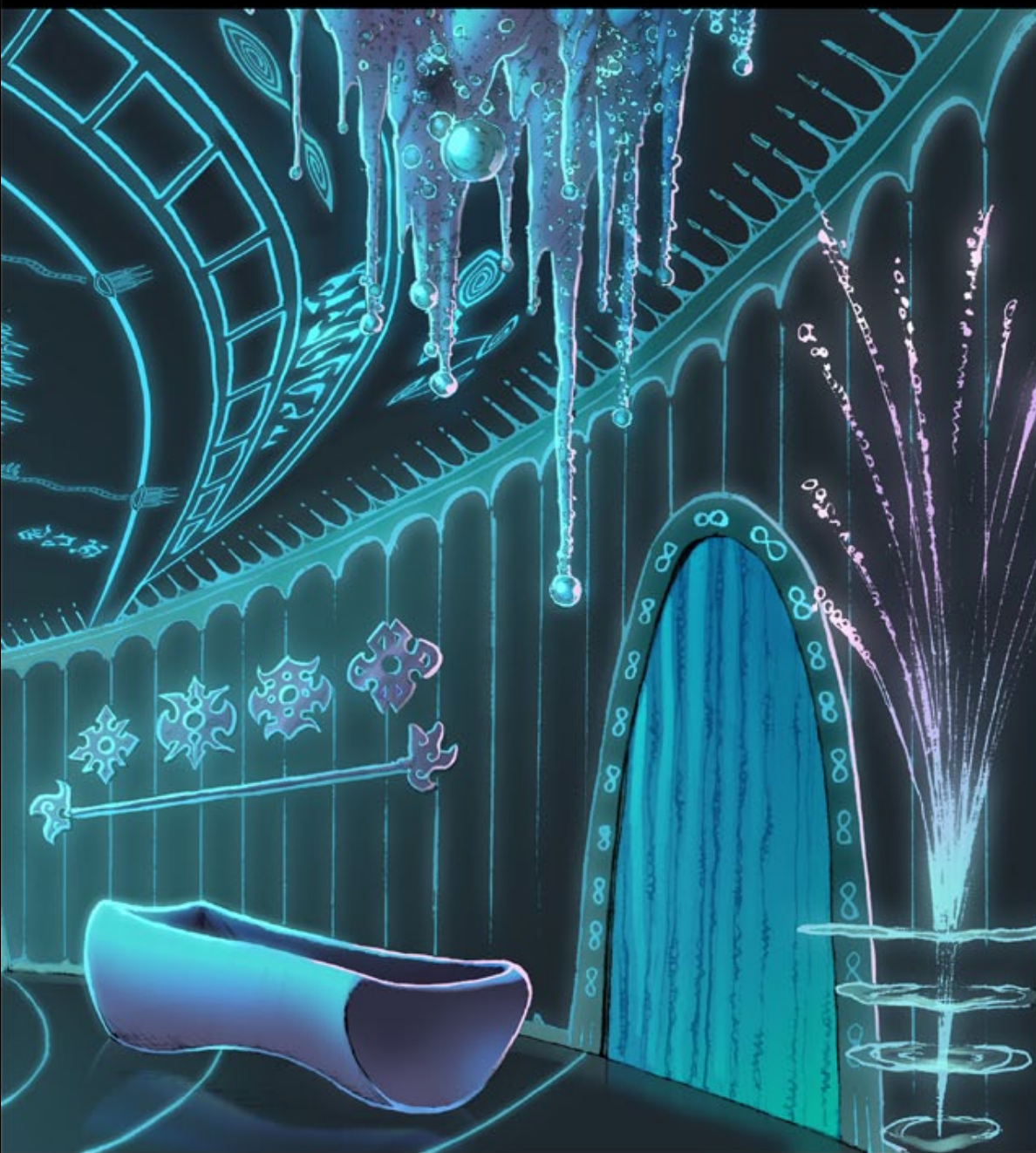
IS THAT
- EARTH?



THAT'S THE
BIRTHING RING!

A SILVER CORD
RUNS UP THROUGH...
WAIT...





...AND WE ARE
HERE...
IN THAT CITY.



AND...
THAT'S WHERE
BLACK FLAME IS!!!

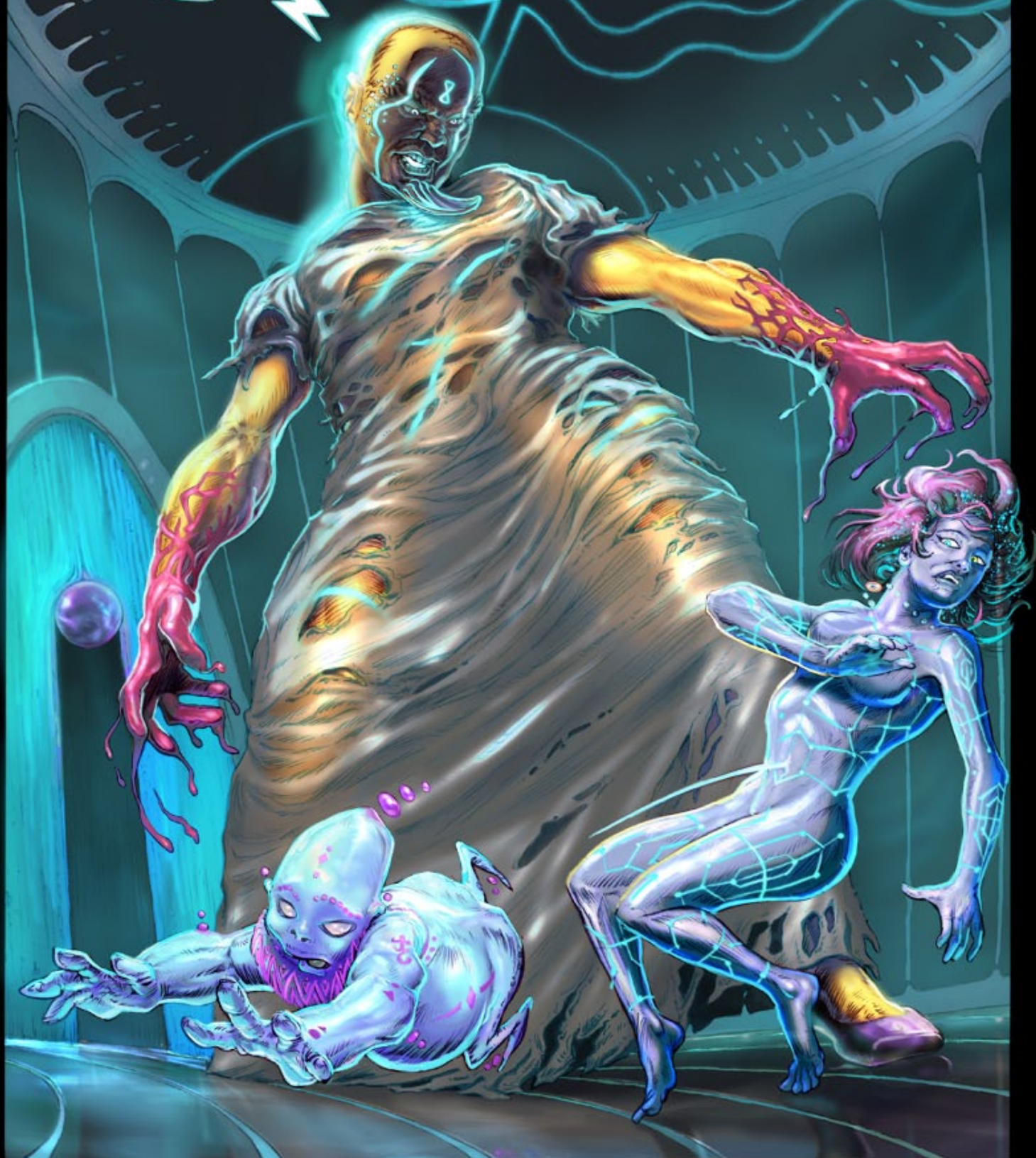


IT'S SO FAR.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

**WHAT IS THIS
NEPHILIM DOING IN
MY SANCTUARY?!**





THERE YOU ARE, ORIAH OF THE ENVOYS. I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS.

YOU DIDN'T REPLY TO THE ORB.

YOU ARE DISTURBING MY PAINTING!



WAIT, NOW HOLD ON. THIS IS IMPORTANT. SHE HAS SOME INFORMATION.

WE JUST CAME FROM THE GUARDIANS, AND, WELL, I'LL LET HER TELL YOU. GO AHEAD.



THERE'S ANOTHER PORTAL. IT'S FORMING SOMEWHERE IN THE OUTER REALM, BUT IT'S ALMOST FUNCTIONAL.

YES, SHE'S A NEPHILIM, OBVIOUSLY. LET'S NOT DWELL ON THAT. WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. WE NEED TO GO NOW.

DON'T LET ME STOP YOU.



WELL, YOU... YOU WORKED WITH THEM, WITH HUMANS SO LONG. I JUST FIGURED... GET BACK IN THE ACTION. MAYBE GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

SHE'S SEEN IT. IT'S NOT OPEN YET, BUT ANY DAY, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID?

AND SHE'S SEEN BLACK FLAME.



YOU'VE SEEN HIM?

YES.

NOW, WHAT HARM COULD HE DO ON EARTH?

MY... FAMILY IS DOWN THERE... MY FRIENDS, I AM DOWN THERE...

DEATH IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR ALL THAT FREEDOM TO MOVE AND BREATHE AND FORNICATE.



I THOUGHT THIS GUY WAS YOUR FRIEND?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? DEAL'S OFF.

NO, WAIT --



AND YOU!

DON'T COME BACK.
I'LL GET MY LIGHT FROM
SOMEONE ELSE.

YOU KNOW
WHAT...

TASI, DON'T.
WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY.
LET'S TRY NOT TO
UPSET —

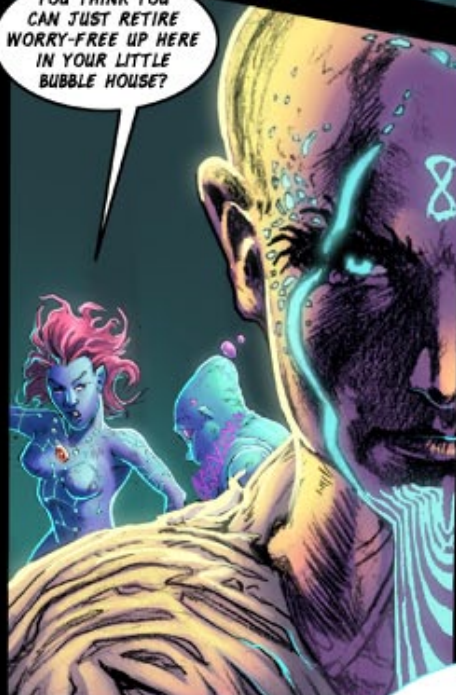
OOOOO. THIS PIECE
IS EXQUISITE —

YOU WERE
A MESSENGER... DO
YOU REALLY THINK
SOMETHING THIS BIG
WILL ONLY AFFECT
HUMANS?



YOU THINK YOU
CAN JUST RETIRE
WORRY-FREE UP HERE
IN YOUR LITTLE
BUBBLE HOUSE?

I HAVE DONE ENOUGH,
NEPHILIM. I GAVE MY BEST YEARS
TO YOU HUMANS, AND STILL, YOU
COME BACK BEGGING FOR MORE.
AND YOU, HALF-BREEDS, YOU COME
UP HERE ONCE AND UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING?



YOU
UNDERSTAND
NOTHING! IN
EITHER
WORLD!

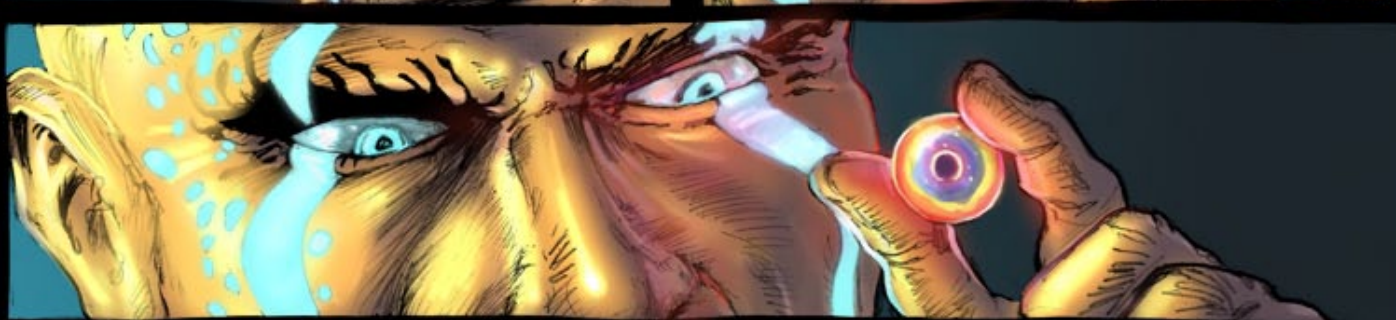
IF YOU ASK ME,
THEY SHOULD SEND THE LOT OF YOU
BACK AND PREVENT THE SORDID MINGLING OF SOULS
THAT CREATED YOU... CLEARLY NOTHING GOOD
HAS COME OF IT.

WELL TODAY,
I'M THE MESSENGER.

AND THIS TIME,
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT
DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
ANYTHING.

AND YOUR
PAINTING SUCKS.







A
HALFLING!

GET HER.





TASI...
IT'S ME.



CLEO? WHAT ARE...
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL
YOU—ABOUT LUMINOUS.

WE HAVE
TO BE CAREFUL. HIS ANGELS
ARE EVERYWHERE.

WHO?



LUMINOUS, THE
MOST ANCIENT OF ALL
CREATED BEINGS, FOR EONS HIS
KNOWLEDGE AND POWERS
INCREASED UNTIL HE WAS
SECOND ONLY TO GOD
IN GREATNESS.

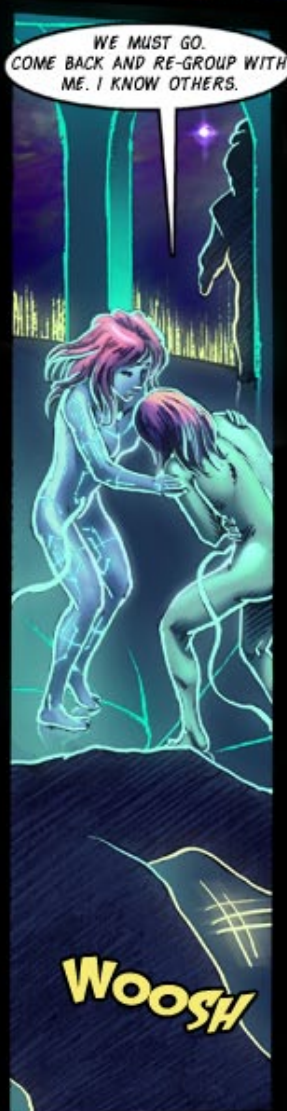
SO GOD ENTRUSTED
HIM WITH THE CREATION
OF A UNIVERSE, OUR
UNIVERSE. BUT HIS
INCREDIBLE CREATIVITY
BLINDED HIM.

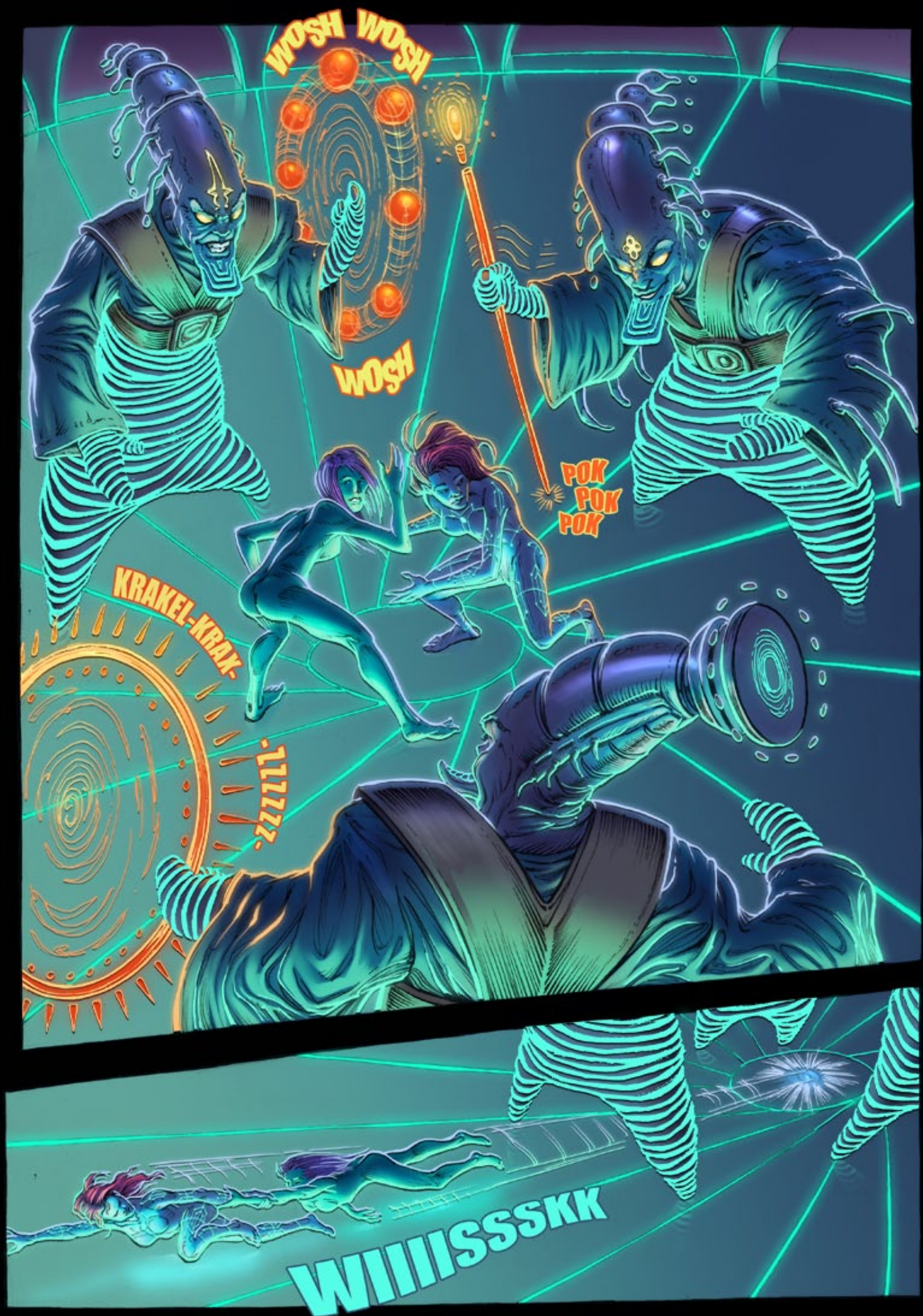
HE BEGAN TO BELIEVE THAT
HE HAD CREATED OUR UNIVERSE
BY HIS OWN POWER. HE BELIEVED
THAT HE WAS GOD.



SO GOD STRIPPED LUMINOUS
OF HIS SOUL AND BANISHED HIM. HE
IS A BODILESS MIND LOST
IN TOTAL BLACKNESS.

VISH







GO DOWN NOW TASI!

YOU GO! I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE. THEN I'LL COME!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!



DON'T LEAVE ME!

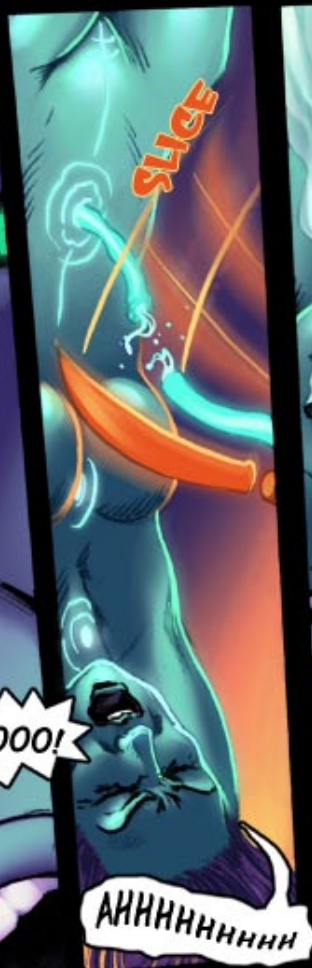
WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP!

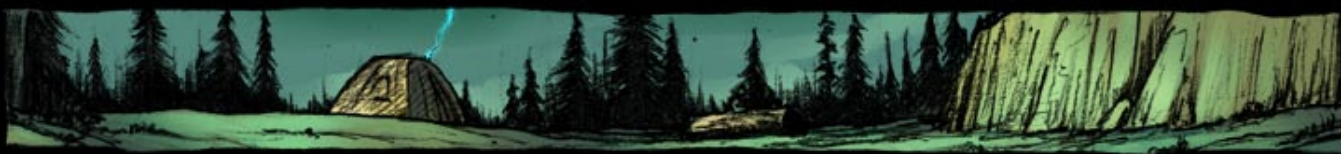


CLEO, WATCH OUT!



YOU ARE FOOLISH TO RELY ON YOUR CORD WHEN IT CAN BE CUT SO EASILY.





GASP!



WHAAAA.
I CAN'T MOVE.
MARK?
WHERE ARE
YOU?



HEY YOU'RE
AWAKE.

WHERE DID
YOU GO?

JUST WENT TO GET THIS,
MY EMERGENCY RADIO, OUT OF THE JEEP.
SO...ARE YOU OKAY? HOW DID IT GO?
WHAT'S IT LIKE?



THEY KILLED CLEO.

THEY CUT HER CORD
IN FRONT OF ME.



NO
WAY!



MARK,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'M ALL ALONE IN THIS PLACE,
NO ONE WILL HELP ME.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING
WITHOUT THEM AND
THEY WON'T HELP!

JUST RELAX,
TAKE A DEEP BREATH,
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, YOU NEED
TO RECHARGE.

I WAS WORRIED.
YOU WERE GONE
A LONG TIME.

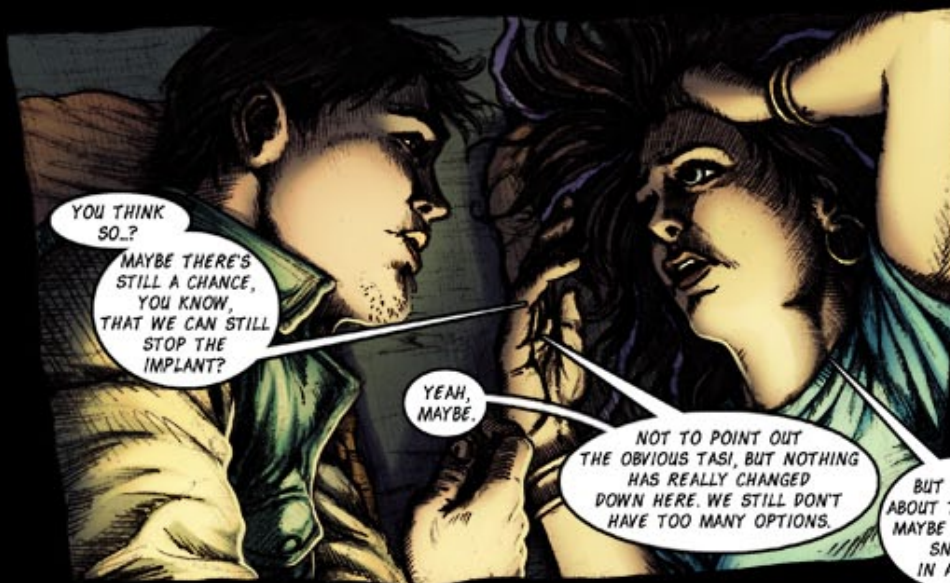
I'M NOT GONNA
BE ABLE TO STOP THIS...
I MEAN THERE'S A WAY
TO DO IT FROM THAT SIDE,
BUT I CAN'T. I CAN'T DO
IT BY MYSELF, AND
NOW CLEO...

TASI...

NOBODY CARES WHAT HAPPENS
BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW! I FAILED.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, WHATEVER HAPPENS
TO US IS ALL MY FAULT!

STOP IT TASI. YOU DID ALL YOU COULD.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO
GO BACK UP THERE. WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

YOU THINK SO?



YOU THINK SO...?

MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE, YOU KNOW, THAT WE CAN STILL STOP THE IMPLANT?

YEAH, MAYBE.

NOT TO POINT OUT THE OBVIOUS TASI, BUT NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED DOWN HERE. WE STILL DON'T HAVE TOO MANY OPTIONS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LAB? MAYBE WE CAN SNEAK IN AGAIN.



I'M SURE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR US RIGHT NOW.

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?



ALMOST THIRTEEN HOURS. I JUST SAW ON MY PHONE THAT EVEN THOUGH THE PROTESTERS ARE STILL THERE THE INVESTORS WANT THE IMPLANT IN GOBI TO GO AHEAD ON SCHEDULE, AT NINE TOMORROW MORNING.

WE COULD DITCH THE CAR AND HIKE BACK... I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME THAT WOULD LEAVE US.

CAN YOU EVEN MOVE?

NOT YET.



MAYBE I CAN.



DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

RUSTLE
SNAP



WHERE DID YOU GET THAT THING?

ON SALE AT COSTCO. BEEN CARRYING IT FOR YEARS IN THE JEEP. NEVER HAD A REASON TO OPEN IT BEFORE.



UNNSHEATHHHH

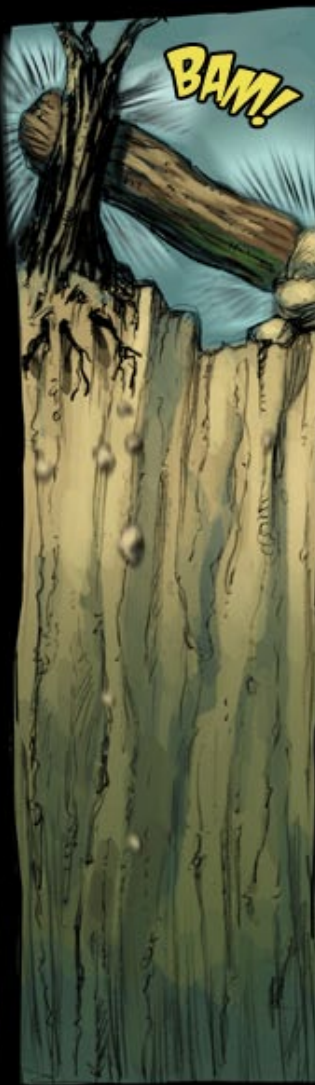
RUSTLE
RUSTLE













SNIFF

UHHHHH...



CHUCK

CHUCK

GASP!

KEEHAHAHAHA!



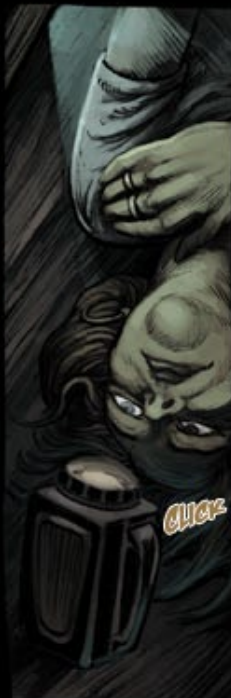
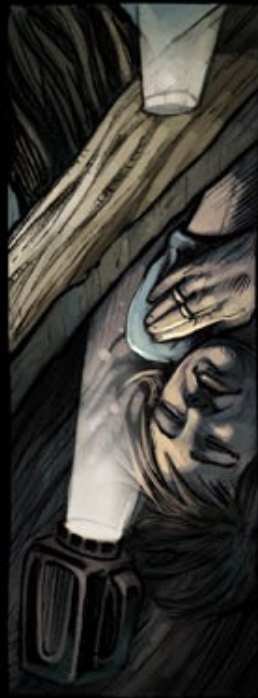
CHUCK



FWIK

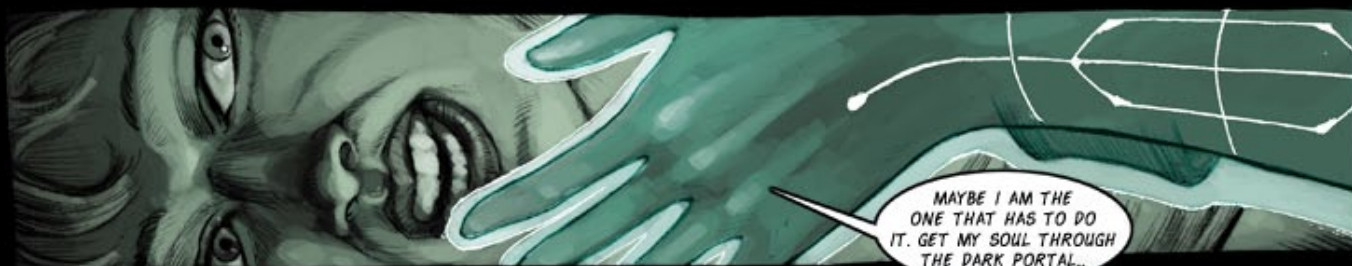
AAAAGGGG!



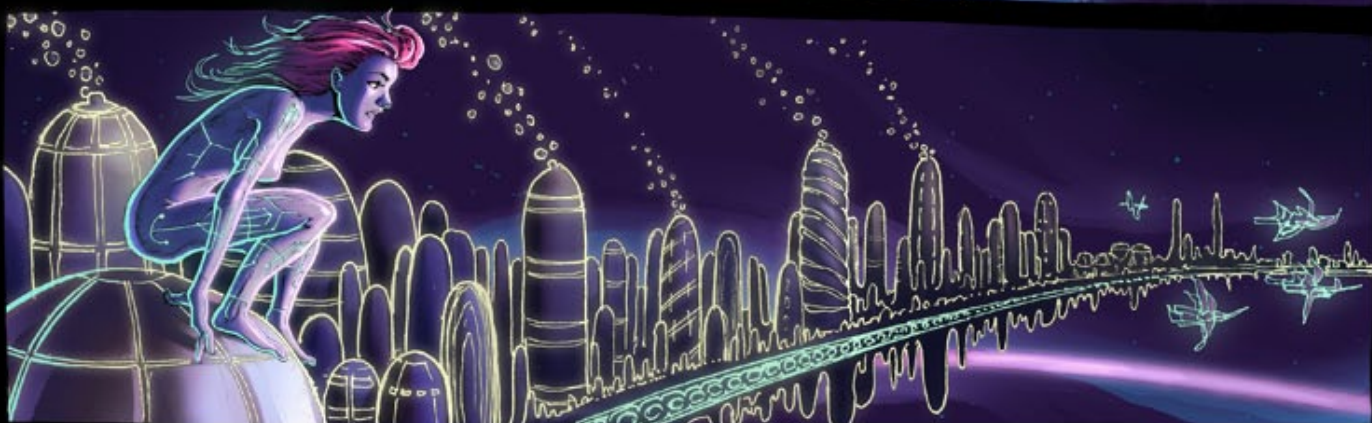




I... I AM A NEPHILIM.



MAYBE I AM THE
ONE THAT HAS TO DO
IT. GET MY SOUL THROUGH
THE DARK PORTAL...



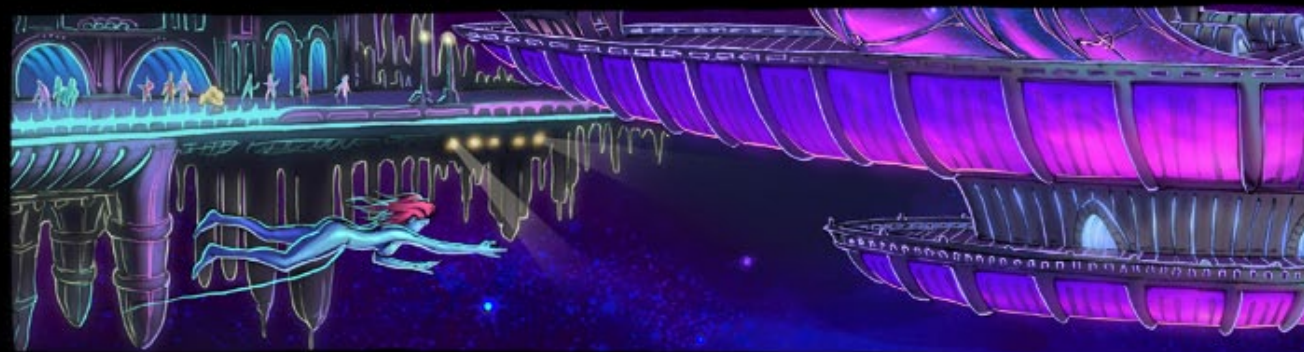


DO YOU KNOW WHERE
I CAN FIND SOMEONE LEAVING
THE CITY? GOING THAT WAY?



EXCUSE ME...
HELLO...FELICITY...

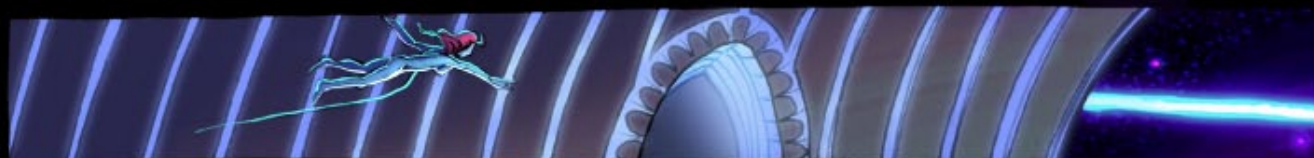
UH, YES, SHE'S
"THE ARDOR." IT'S
UNFURLING NOW.

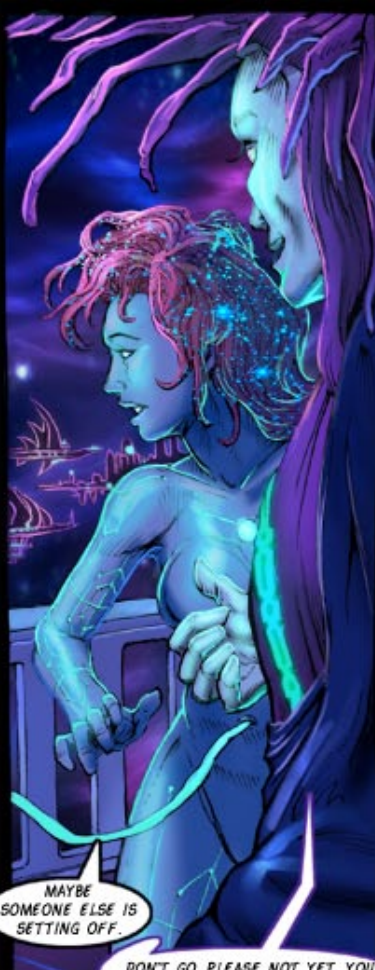


"THE ARDOR."



HELLO..?





...EVERY INCH OF THE SHIP. SPENT MY
WHOLE LIFE ON HER.

YOU KNOW, MAYBE...MAYBE I'LL
GO ASK THE BOSS.

MAKE SURE WE CAN'T TAKE A
STOWAWAY.

WE ALWAYS HAVE
ROOM FOR ONE
MORE...

SO HERE WE ARE
AGAIN.

THAT'S TWICE NOW
YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY FROM US.
IMPRESSIVE. AND YET, HERE
YOU STAND BEFORE US, LIKE,
HOW IS IT YOU SAY? A DEER IN
HEADLIGHTS?

WE KNOW
YOU'RE
BLEEDING.

HOW MUCH
TIME DO YOU
THINK YOU
HAVE?

BUMP

GRAB

NO!



LET HER GO!

HERE IT IS...THE LIFELINE TO YOUR
WORLD. YOUR SECURITY AND
MORTALITY ROLLED UP INTO ONE
THIN LITTLE VULNERABLE CORD.



PLEASE
I'LL DIE!

YOU HUMANS THINK
DEATH IS THE END.
DEATH IS WHEN
YOUR LIFE BEGINS...

BESIDES,
WHAT'S LEFT
TO RETURN
TO ANYWAY?

PLEASE LET
HER GO.

GO GET
MY LANCE.

GIVE ME YOUR
BLADE.

I SAID...

GIVE IT.....

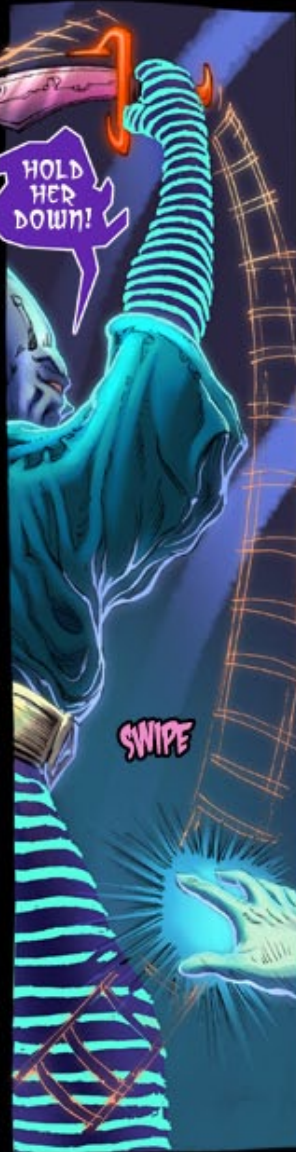
HOLD
HER
DOWN!

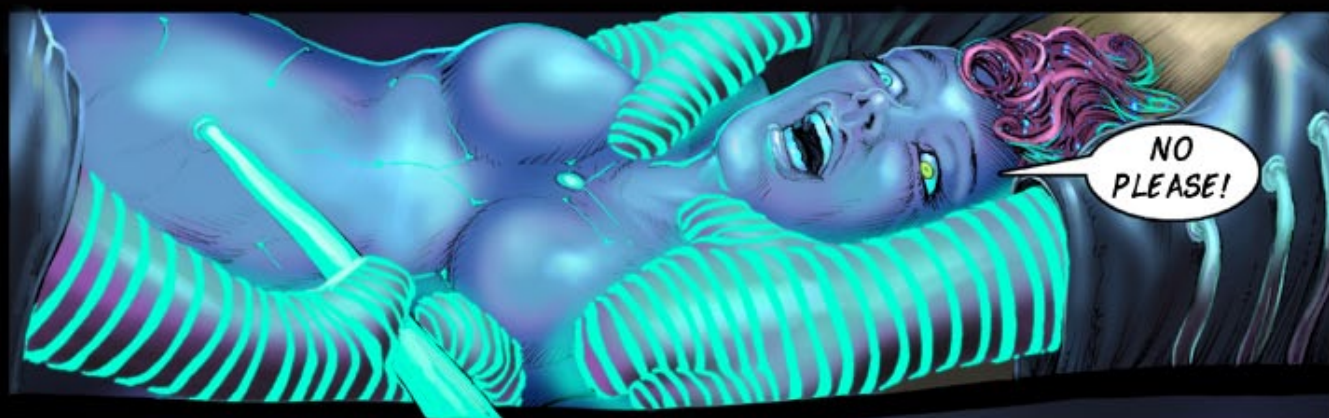


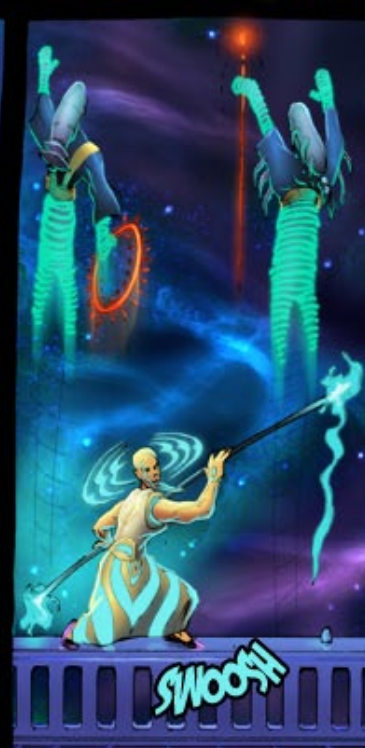
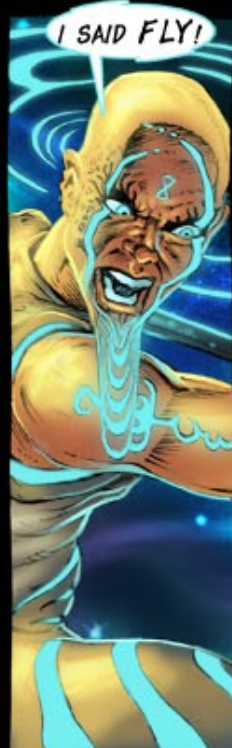
HE'S DEAD.

THEN GIVE ME
YOUR BLADE.

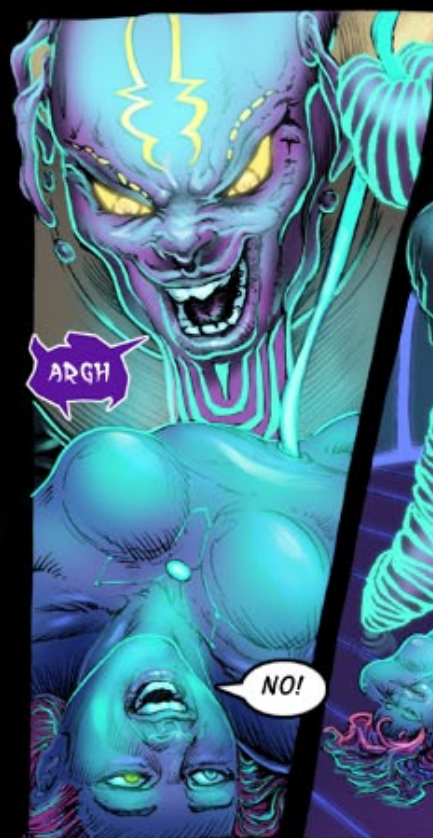
THIS
DOESN'T
INVOLVE
ME

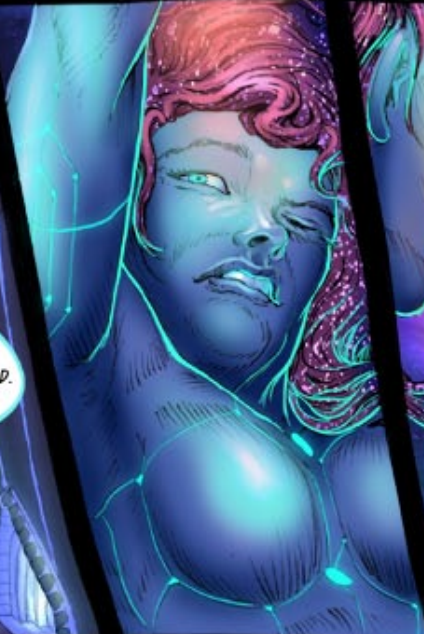
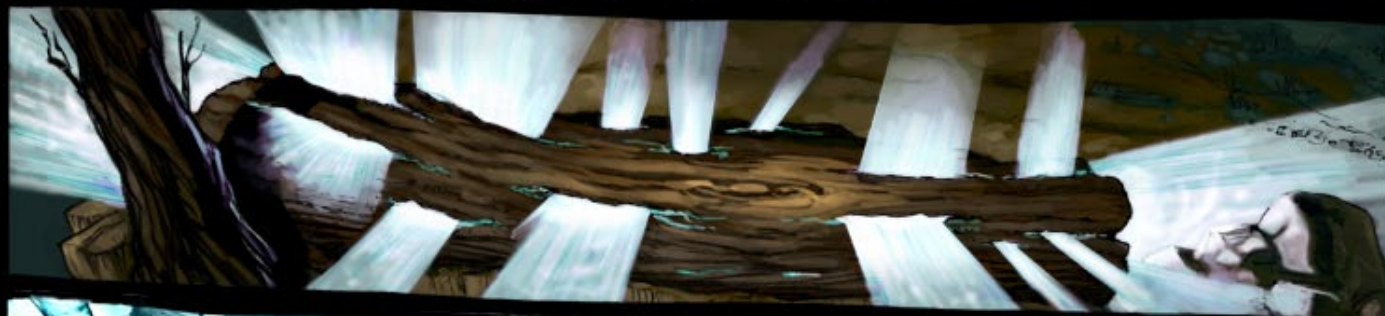






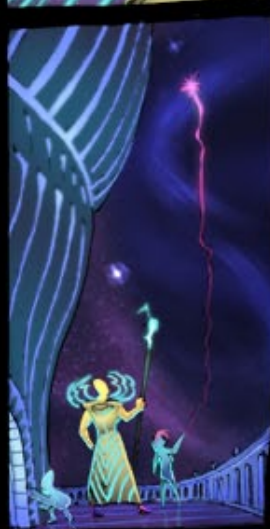








BY THE HOLY GUARDIANS! I'VE NEVER SEEN A DREG CHIEFTAIN LOSE IT'S CENTER.



YOU WON'T NEED ALL THIS, WILL YOU?

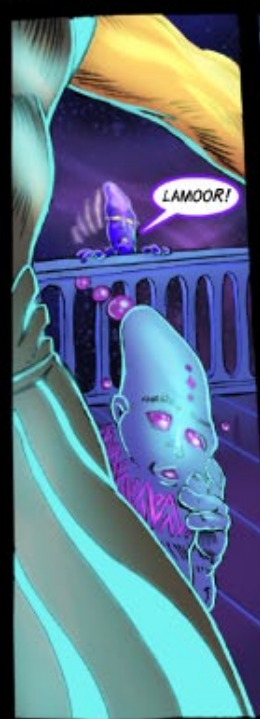
T-TAKE IT TAKE IT! IT'S YOURS. I DON'T WANT IT. I MEAN YOU NO HARM, AND THE NEPHILIM GIRL.



THEY'LL TORTURE ME.



WHAT'S ALL THIS FOR?



LAMOOR!



HUH?



HEY!

OOPS!



GET BACK HERE!



SO LAMOOR, YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME?

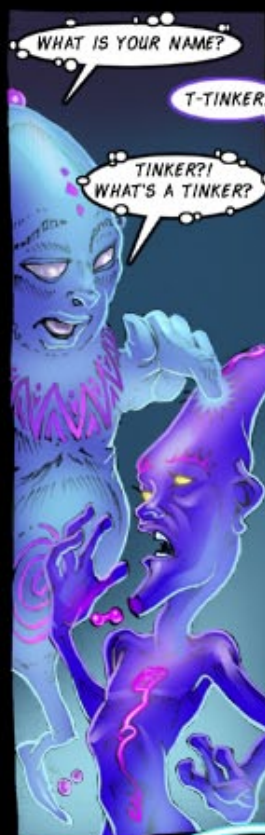
I.I CAN'T, THEY'LL BANISH ME.

GOT HIM!

UHHH



SIT DOWN.



WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

T-TINKER.

TINKER?! WHAT'S A TINKER?



THANK YOU FOR COMING. I'M SORRY I SAID WHAT I SAID.

I'LL TRY NOT TO GET INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE, SO I WON'T HAVE TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN.

WE CAN USE THIS SHIP
THERE'S ENOUGH LIGHT TO MAKE IT THERE AND BACK.



YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF US. REMEMBER WE MADE A DEAL.

YOU WILL?

ME AND MY FRIEND WILL TAKE YOU TO THE PORTAL.



CAN YOU SAIL THIS SHIP?

WHY?

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SAIL THIS SHIP?

UHH... DECK CAPTAIN, SOME LIGHT STEWARDS...



YOU, STAND UP.



STEWARDS GOTTA BE STRONG,
AND CONFIDENT.
AND AT LEAST THIS TALL.



YOU'LL
DO.

HAAAAAAAAAHHAAAAA





THE TIME IS UPON US. YOU HAVE ALL
TRAVELED A LONG WAY, AND YOU WILL ALL
GET WHAT YOU CAME FOR!

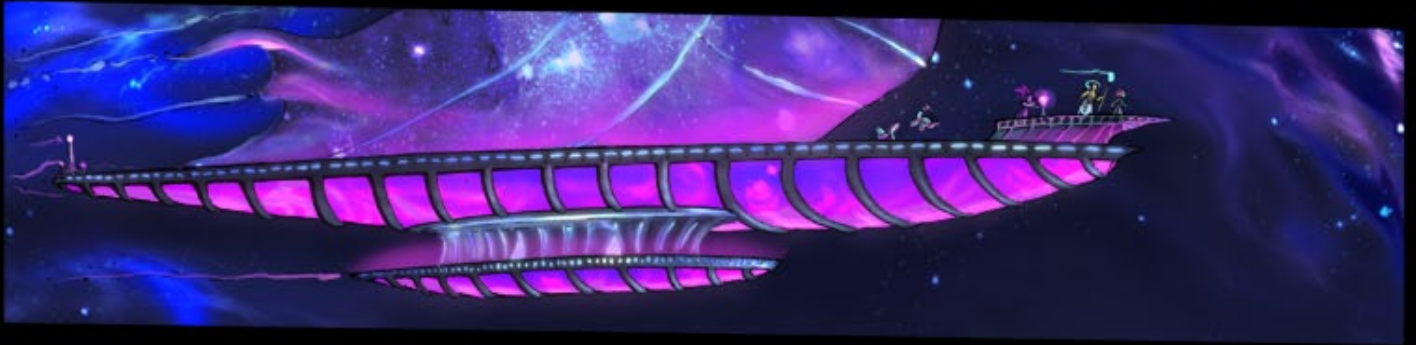
YOU ARE THE FIRST, THE PIONEERS. WHEN
THE PORTAL OPENS, YOU WILL BE CALLED TO
GO FORTH AND USHER IN THE NEW WAY. THE
AGE OF THE ANGEL HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

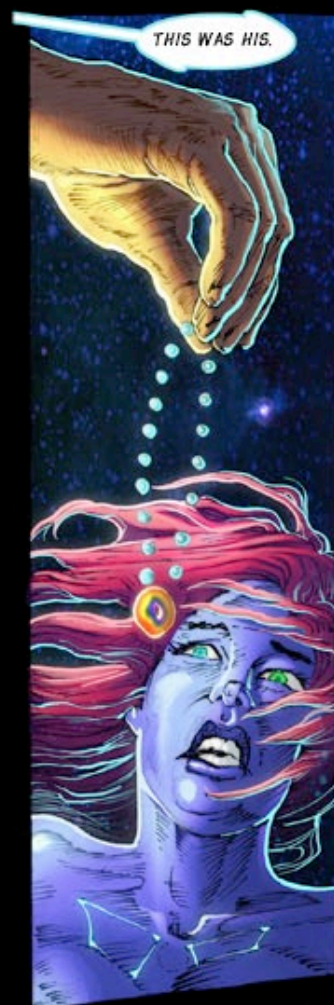


MORE SOULS WILL COME. AND WITH THEM,
MORE OPPORTUNITY, MORE LEGITIMACY. BUT
FIRST, WE MUST GROW THIS ARMY,
TEN-FOLD. ENCIRCLE THE PORTAL, LET NO
UNBELIEVING ANGEL NEAR THE GATE.

AND TO ANYONE OF YOU WHO
FIND ME A NEPHILIM. YOUR
REWARD WILL BE GREAT!

BRING ME HER
SILVER CORD!



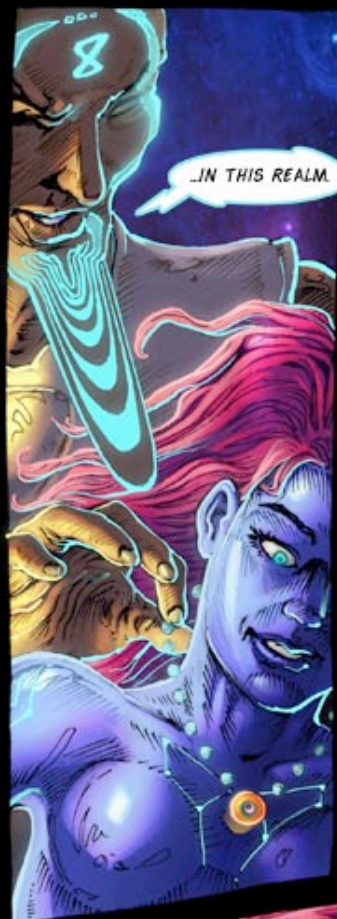


THIS WAS HIS.



YOU'VE WORN IT
SINCE BIRTH...

...WHEN I FIRST
PUT IT ON YOU...



...IN THIS REALM.



HE WAS AN ANGEL...?
MY FATHER?

AND SO ARE YOU.
IF YOU'RE READY TO BE.



End of Part One

NEXT: **Silver Cord ~ The Ensoulment**

THE SILVER CORD

SILVER CORD CHARACTERS & UNIVERSE:
KEVIN KELLY & STEVE MASSERONI

STORY:

KEVIN KELLY, STEVE MASSERONI, KIEL MURRAY & PHIL LORIN

SCRIPT:

KIEL MURRAY & PHIL LORIN

STORYBOARDS:

STEVE MASSERONI & KEVIN KELLY

PENCILS & INKS:

LOUIS SOLLUNE & STEVE MASSERONI

COLORS:

JOE HARRIS, RAFAEL RIVERA & STEVE MASSERONI

LETTERING:

THOMAS KRAKY & LUKE EASTER

PRODUCTION:

CAMILLE CLOUTIER

FONT DESIGNS:

STEVE MASSERONI

CHARACTER DESIGNS:

STEVE MASSERONI, ALEX JAEGER & GUS DIZON

3D MODELS:

STEVE MASSERONI (ORTHOGRAPHIC DESIGNS)
TIM NAYLOR (3D MODELING AND RIGGING)
RICK NARVARTE (POSING, LIGHTING AND RENDERING)

COVERS DESIGN:

STEVE MASSERONI

STRATEGY:

RUSTY RUEFF & RALPH WINTER

WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
FUND THE COMPLETION OF THIS STORY BY MAKING A MODEST
CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PROJECT AT KICKSTARTER. THERE ARE LOTS OF
BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO JOIN, INCLUDING GETTING THE
CONCLUSION FIRST. YOU CAN GET MORE DETAILS AT
[KICKSTARTER.COM/PROFILE/SILVERCORD](https://kickstarter.com/profile/silvercord)

