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# THE SCARAB



1

# THE SCHLUB

ISSUE ONE

STORY

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COVER B

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THIS IS ROGER DALTON.

HE SUCKS.

HE'S A DENTIST, A FIVE-TIME AMATEUR BOWLING LEAGUE LOSER, AND HIS CHOLESTEROL IS HIGHER THAN THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.

DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU'D NEVER CALL ROGER A BAD GUY. HE JUST CAN'T MAKE A GOOD DECISION TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

CASE IN POINT-- HE'S CURRENTLY TRYING TO CONVINCE HIS EX-WIFE TO MEET HIM FOR DINNER.

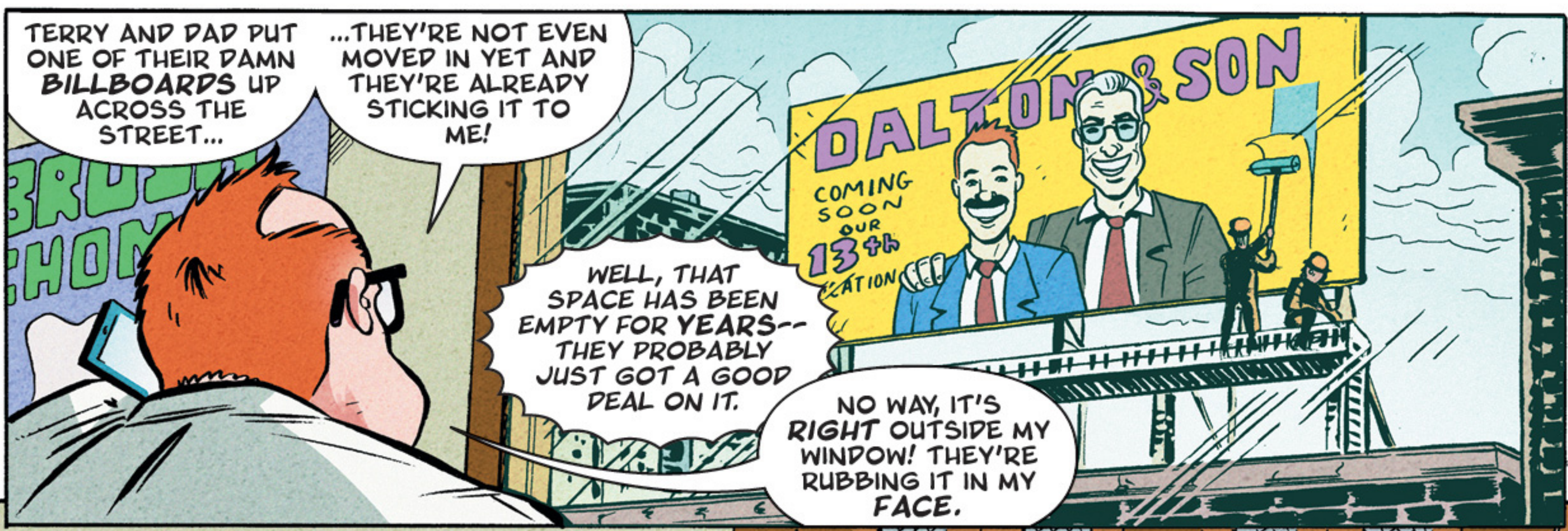
IT'S JUST DINNER, SARA-- WHY DON'T WE GO TO THAT LITTLE ITALIAN PLACE YOU LIKE?

I'M NOT SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, ROGER...

OH FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

~SIGH~ WHAT'S WRONG?



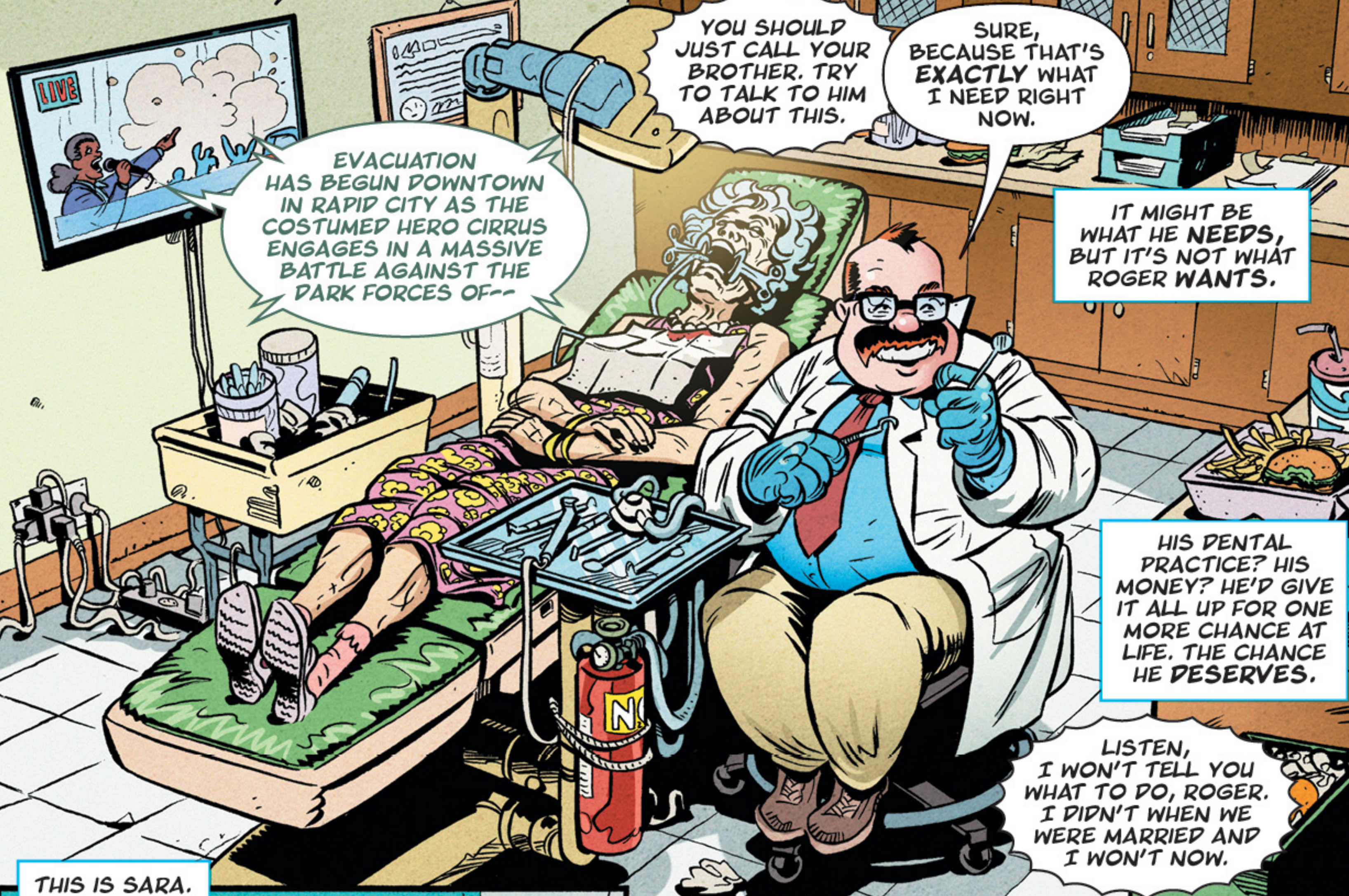


TERRY AND DAD PUT ONE OF THEIR DAMN BILLBOARDS UP ACROSS THE STREET...

...THEY'RE NOT EVEN MOVED IN YET AND THEY'RE ALREADY STICKING IT TO ME!

WELL, THAT SPACE HAS BEEN EMPTY FOR YEARS-- THEY PROBABLY JUST GOT A GOOD DEAL ON IT.

NO WAY, IT'S RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW! THEY'RE RUBBING IT IN MY FACE.



EVACUATION HAS BEGUN DOWNTOWN IN RAPID CITY AS THE COSTUMED HERO CIRRUS ENGAGES IN A MASSIVE BATTLE AGAINST THE DARK FORCES OF--

YOU SHOULD JUST CALL YOUR BROTHER. TRY TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS.

SURE, BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW.

IT MIGHT BE WHAT HE NEEDS, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT ROGER WANTS.

HIS DENTAL PRACTICE? HIS MONEY? HE'D GIVE IT ALL UP FOR ONE MORE CHANCE AT LIFE. THE CHANCE HE DESERVES.

LISTEN, I WON'T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, ROGER. I DIDN'T WHEN WE WERE MARRIED AND I WON'T NOW.

THIS IS SARA. SHE'S GREAT.

REALLY, NO COMPLAINTS. SHE'S SMART AND FUN... BUT MAYBE A LITTLE TOO PATIENT WHEN IT COMES TO ROGER.

BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP AVOIDING THINGS LIKE THIS.

HELL, IT TOOK YOU A DECADE, AND YOU STILL COULDN'T PAINT THIS WALL IN OUR HOUSE.

OH, NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD...JUST WHAT I NEEDED.

DON'T PLAY THE VICTIM, ROGER. YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEART, AND YOU'VE GOT POTENTIAL... YOU JUST HAVE TO STEP UP AND--



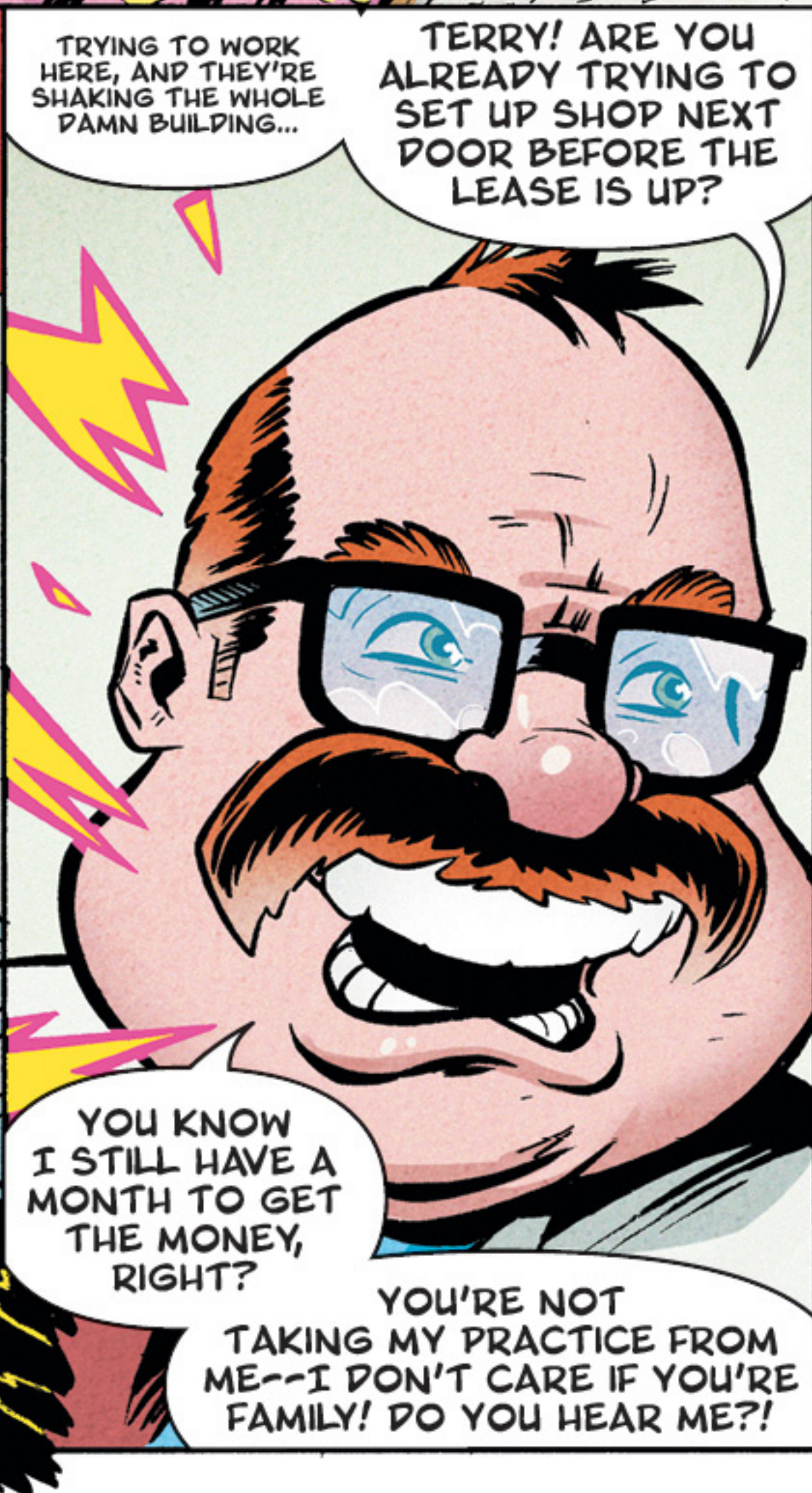
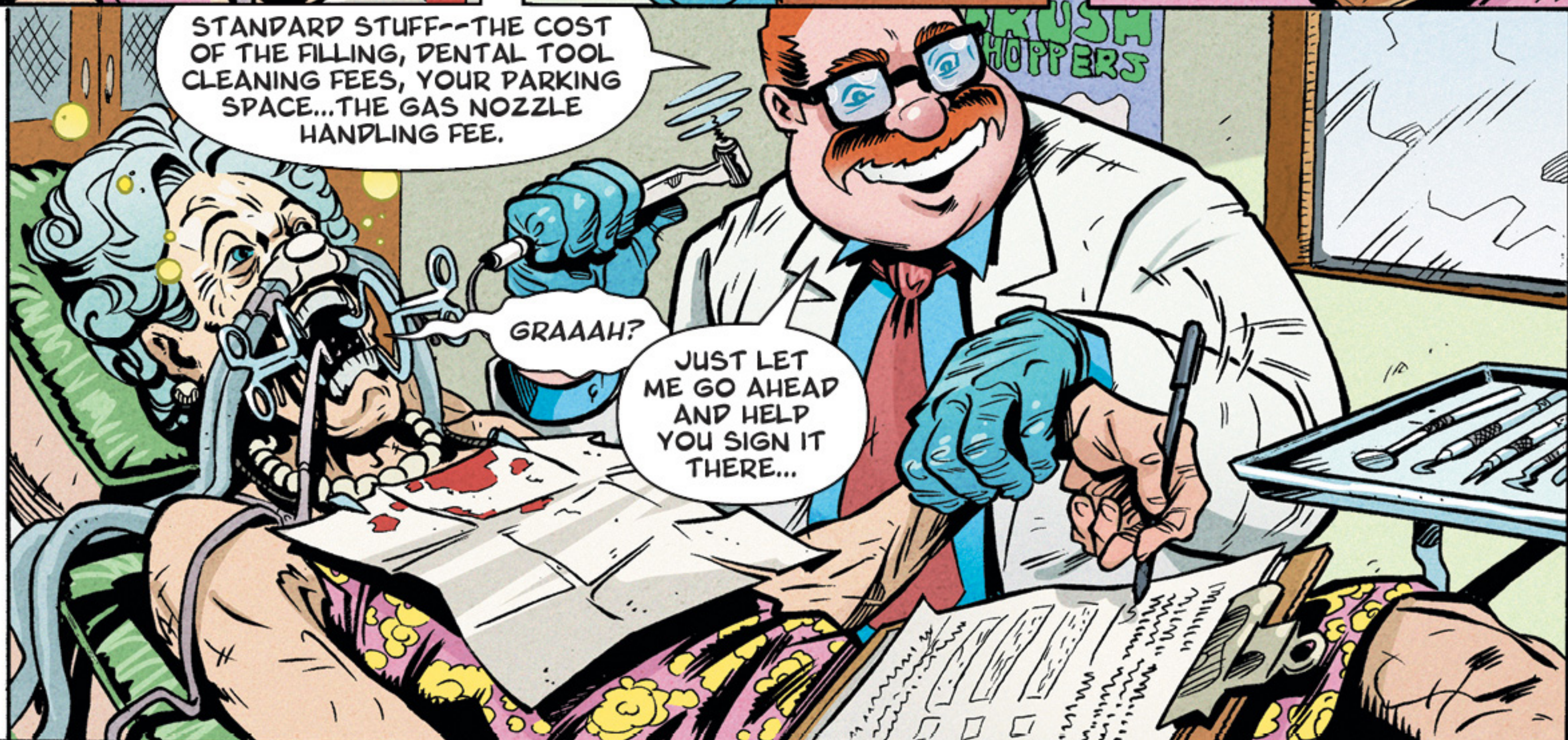
ARRRRRHHHHH!

WHAT WAS THAT? ARE YOU WITH A PATIENT RIGHT NOW? ROGER--



GREAT ADVICE, SARA! THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK--GOTTA GO, BYE!

W...twist...twist...twist...  
**SKREEEK**



THIS IS CIRRUS.  
HE'S AMAZING.

HE'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST SUPERHEROES. HE'S  
FOUGHT INTERSTELLAR BEASTS,  
DESTROYED THE WORLD'S  
WORST CRIME SYNDICATES,  
AND EVEN TRAVELED THROUGH  
THE FAR REACHES OF TIME.





HE'S CURRENTLY FIGHTING ONE OF THE UNIVERSE'S DARKEST SORCERERS--WYRM, MASTER OF THE DARK.

NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT WYRM...

WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU DO TO MY OFFICE?!

...BUT IF THERE WAS AN APOCALYPSE TOMORROW, YOU CAN BET HE'D BE THERE WITH A GRIN ON HIS FACE.

CAN YOU STOP FOR ONE MOMENT AND THINK ABOUT THE DANGER THIS RELIC HOLDS?

WHAT IF IT'S IRREVERSIBLE?

I'M COUNTING ON IT!

OOF!

THOK

MRS. WHITMAN, I'M GOING TO RUN...

ARRRRHH?

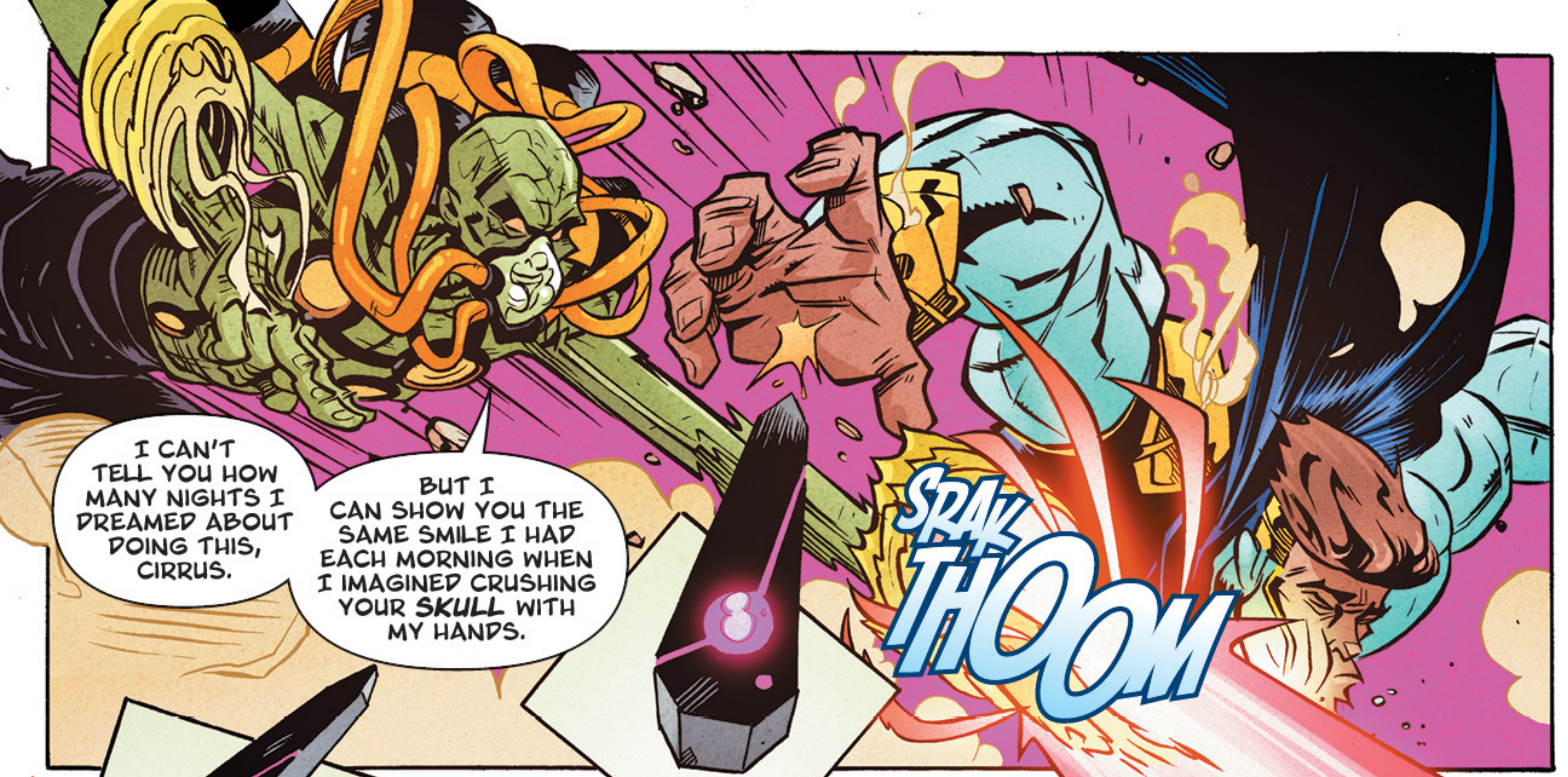
TO GET HELP... RIGHT. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GONNA DO.

YOU WOULD TAKE AWAY THE HOPE OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE? I WON'T LIVE IN A WORLD LIKE THAT!

YOU WON'T HAVE TO--I'M KILLING YOU THE SECOND THIS THING ACTIVATES!

SHIT, SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!

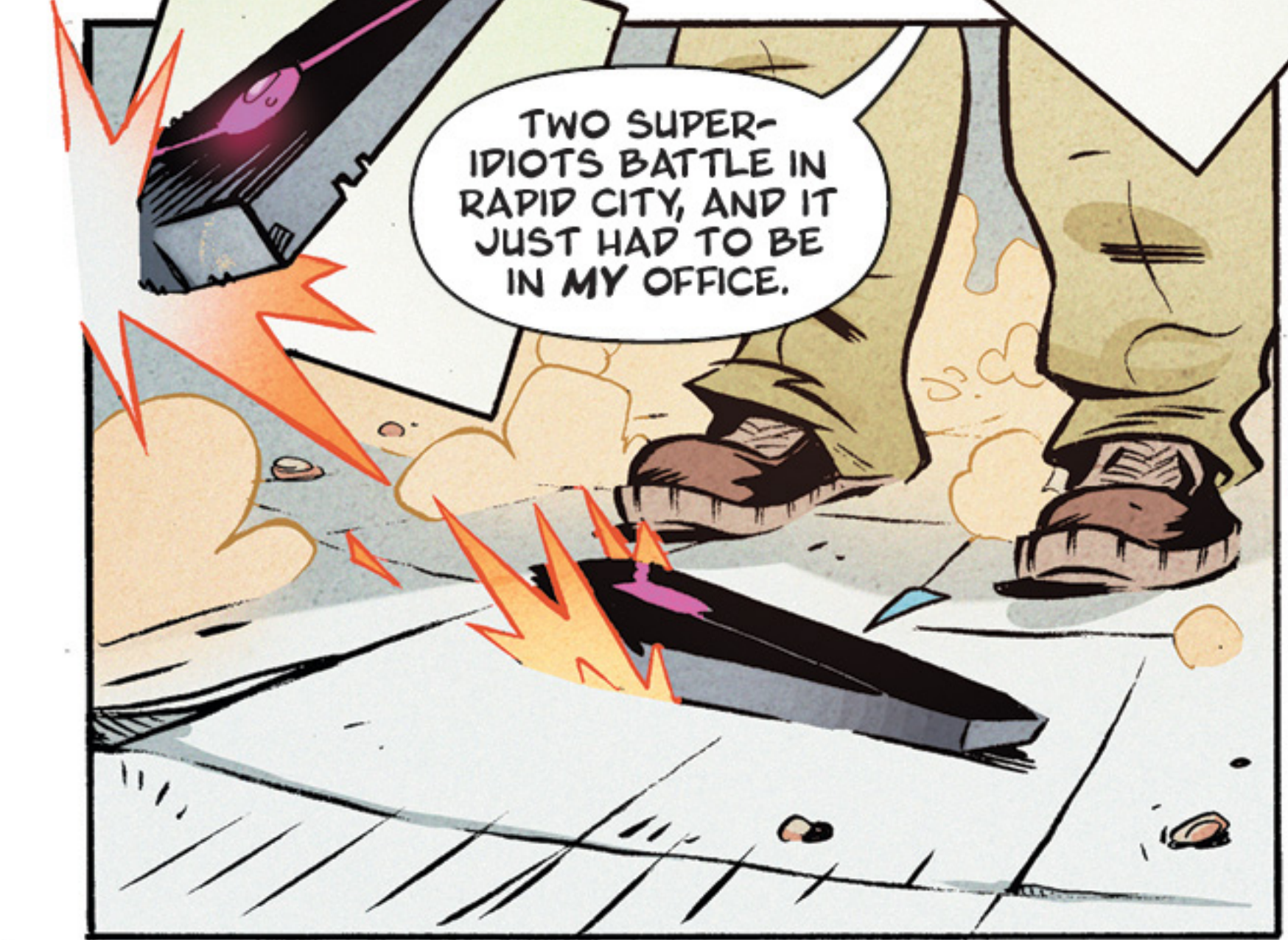




I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY NIGHTS I DREAMED ABOUT DOING THIS, CIRRUS.

BUT I CAN SHOW YOU THE SAME SMILE I HAD EACH MORNING WHEN I IMAGINED CRUSHING YOUR SKULL WITH MY HANDS.

**SPAK THOOO**



TWO SUPER-IDIOTS BATTLE IN RAPID CITY, AND IT JUST HAD TO BE IN MY OFFICE.



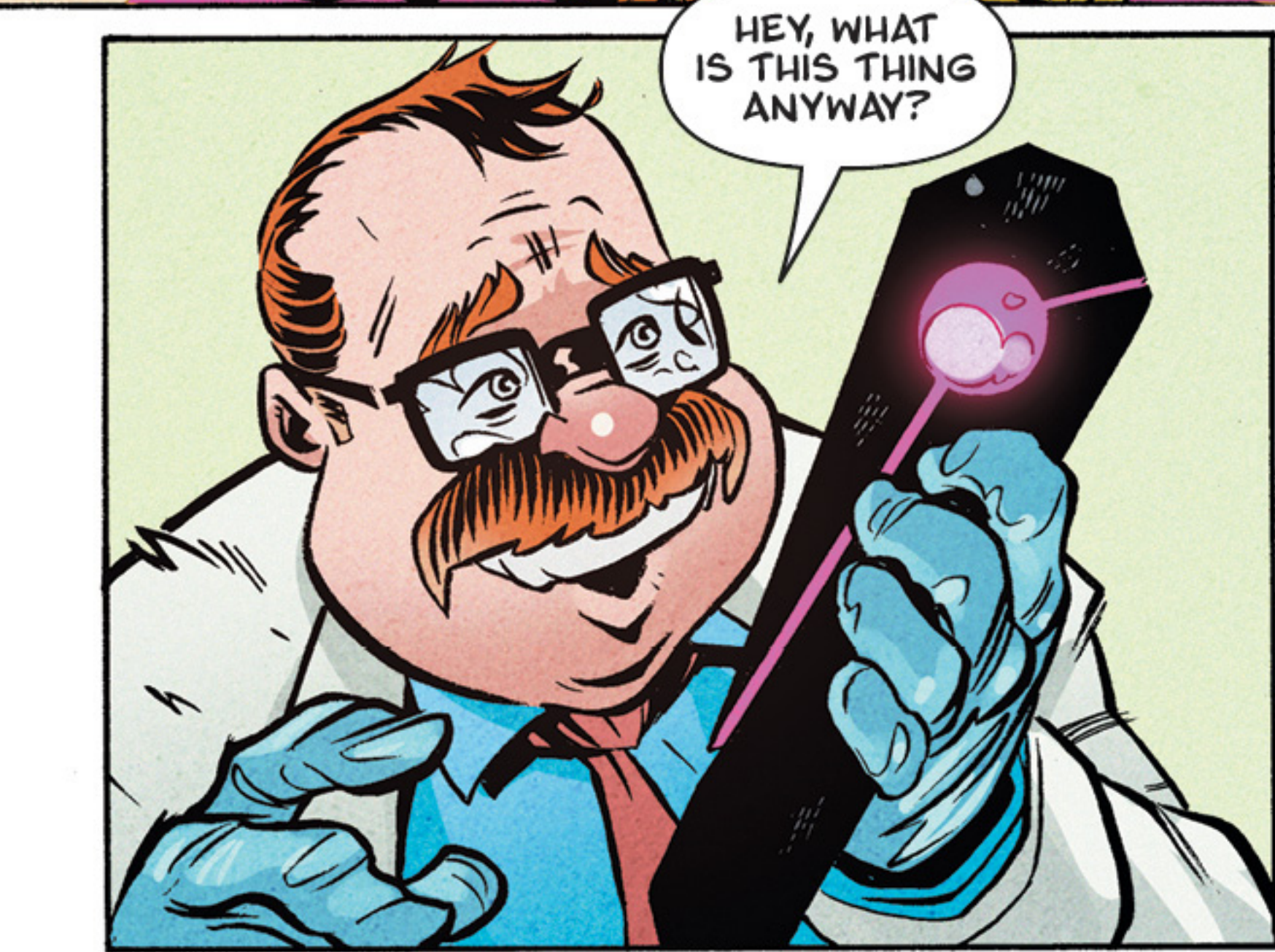
WHAT AM I, A CRAP MAGNET?



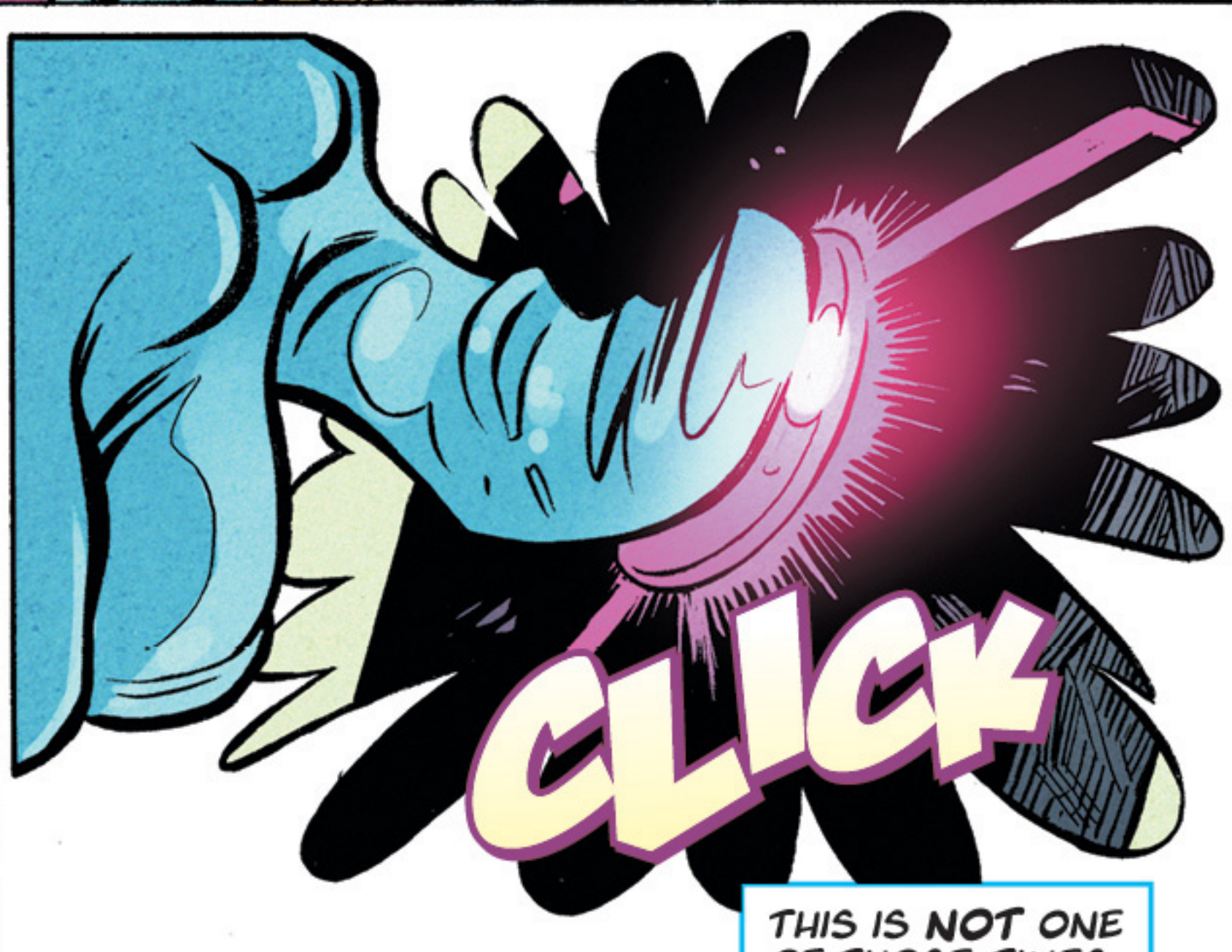
THERE COMES A POINT IN A MAN'S LIFE WHEN HE HAS A DECISION TO MAKE.



WHEN THEY'RE IN A CRISIS, ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE GUMPTION TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND PREVENT A CATASTROPHE.



HEY, WHAT IS THIS THING ANYWAY?



**CLICK**

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

# BOOM!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, MORTAL?!

OH, MY, GOD.

I'M YOU!



YOU'VE DOOMED YOUR OWN PLANET, YOU IMBECILE! WITHOUT MY BODY, I CAN'T DEFEND YOUR WORLD, MINE, OR COUNTLESS OTHERS!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS FEELING? I'VE NEVER FELT SO STRONG AND POWERFUL...IT'S LIKE I COULD CRUSH A CAR JUST BY CLOSING MY DAMN FISTS.





I SPENT HUNDREDS OF YEARS FIGHTING MY WAY TO THIS EXACT MOMENT AND YOU RUINED IT IN LESS THAN A MINUTE.

YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING I HAD TO LIVE FOR!



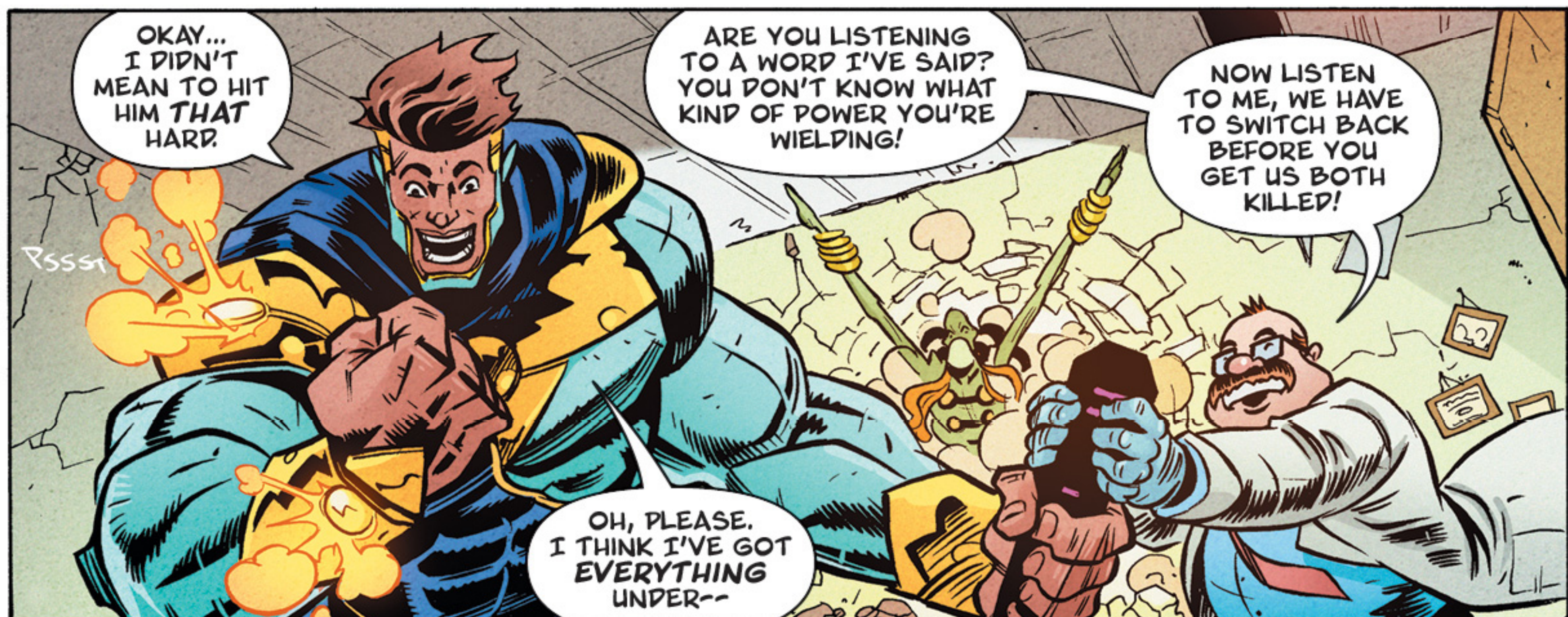
GLAD SOMEONE KNOWS HOW IT FEELS TO BE ME FOR A CHANGE.

BUT WHATEVER THIS THING IS, YOU'RE NOT GETTING IT--SO BACK OFF, BUDDY.



SMACK

THOOM

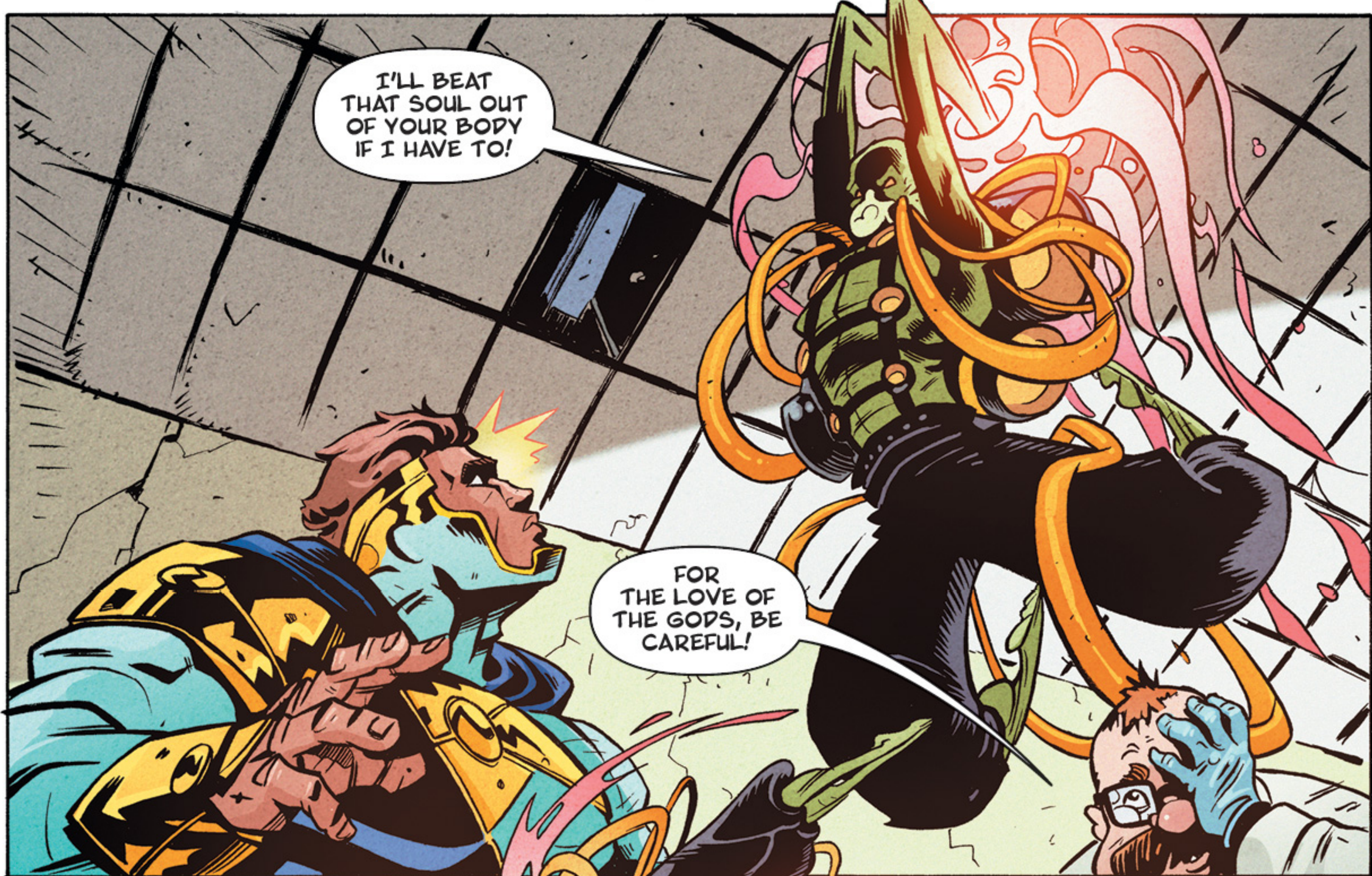


OKAY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT HIM THAT HARD.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO A WORD I'VE SAID? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF POWER YOU'RE WIELDING!

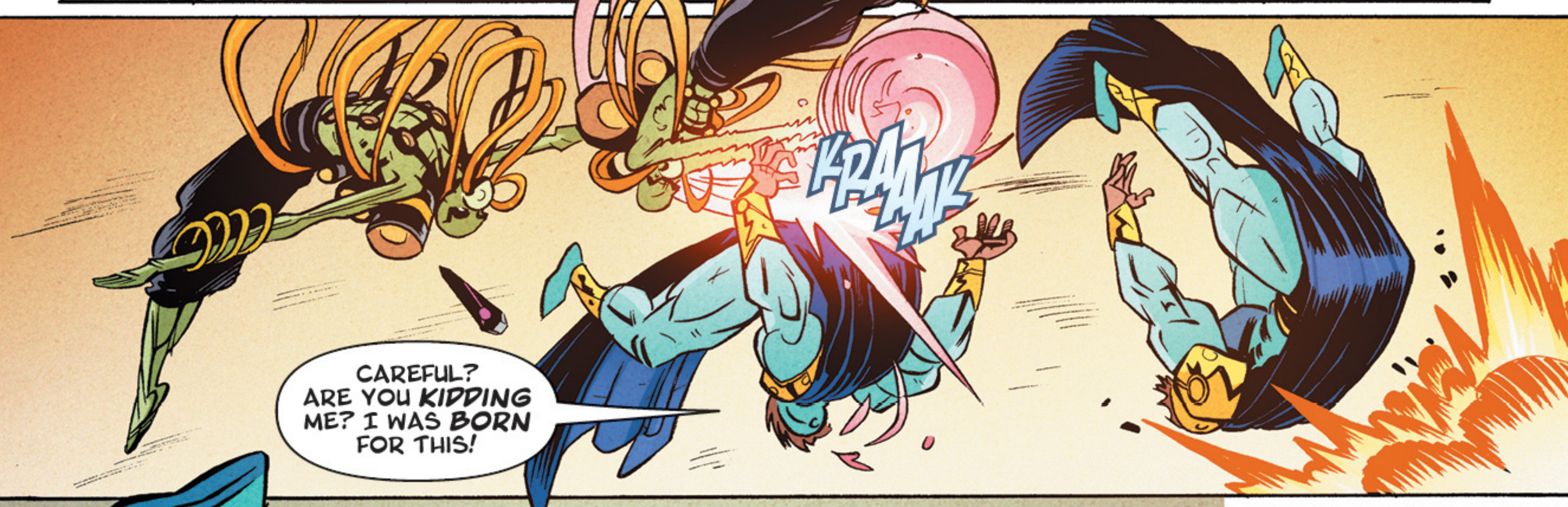
NOW LISTEN TO ME, WE HAVE TO SWITCH BACK BEFORE YOU GET US BOTH KILLED!

OH, PLEASE. I THINK I'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER--

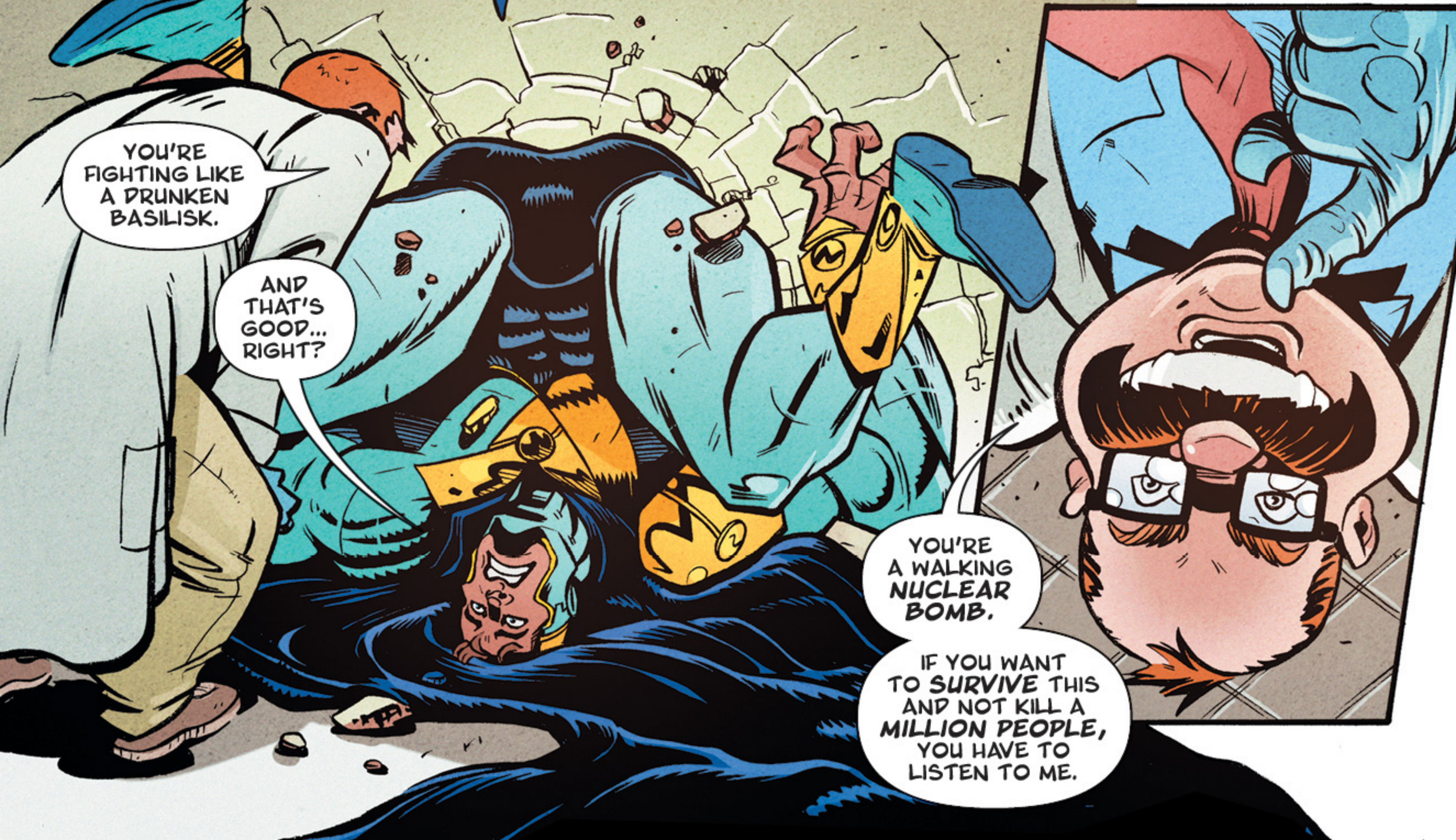


I'LL BEAT THAT SOUL OUT OF YOUR BODY IF I HAVE TO!

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GODS, BE CAREFUL!



CAREFUL? ARE YOU KIDDING ME? I WAS BORN FOR THIS!



YOU'RE FIGHTING LIKE A DRUNKEN BASILISK.

AND THAT'S GOOD... RIGHT?

YOU'RE A WALKING NUCLEAR BOMB.

IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS AND NOT KILL A MILLION PEOPLE, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME.





BA-BOOOOM

BADOOOM

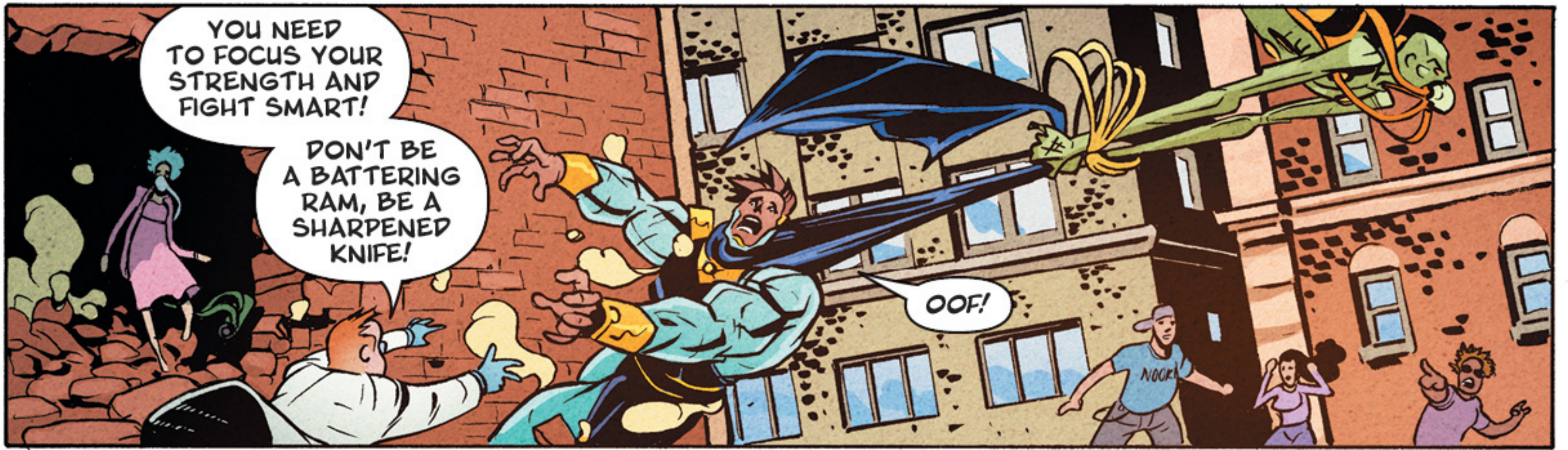
OH GREAT... NO ROOT CANAL IN THE WORLD IS PAYING FOR THAT.

I GET TO BE A SUPERHERO AND IN FIVE MINUTES MY BUILDING'S ALREADY RUINED.

ARE YOU READY TO START FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS AND STOP GETTING MY BODY BEATEN TO A PULP?

I'VE CONSIDERED IT... AND I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.

Photo Sm Lgreens



YOU NEED TO FOCUS YOUR STRENGTH AND FIGHT SMART!

DON'T BE A BATTERING RAM, BE A SHARPENED KNIFE!

OOF!



I'M TRYING TO BE A KNIFE OR WHATEVER, BUT IT'S NOT WORKING.

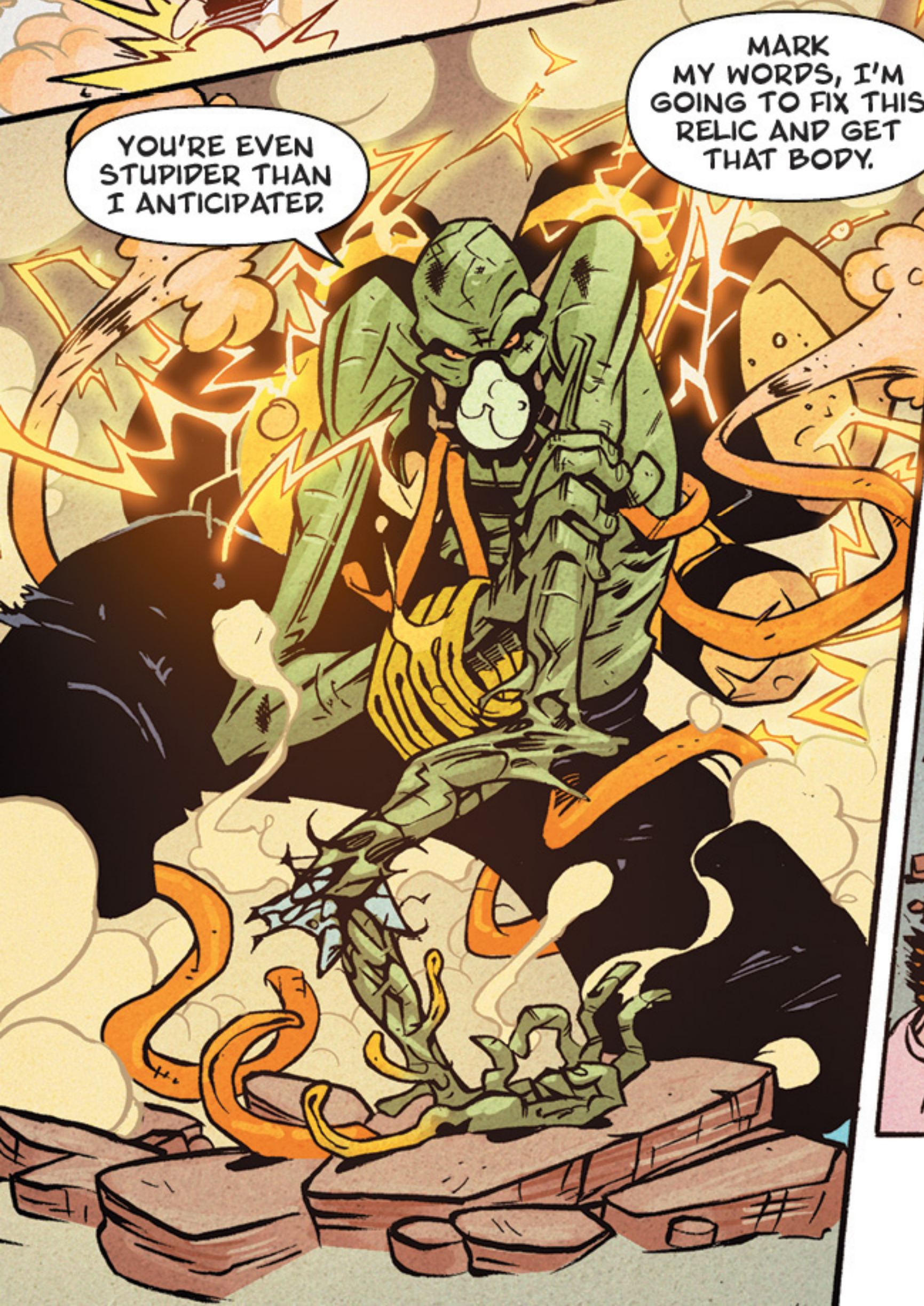
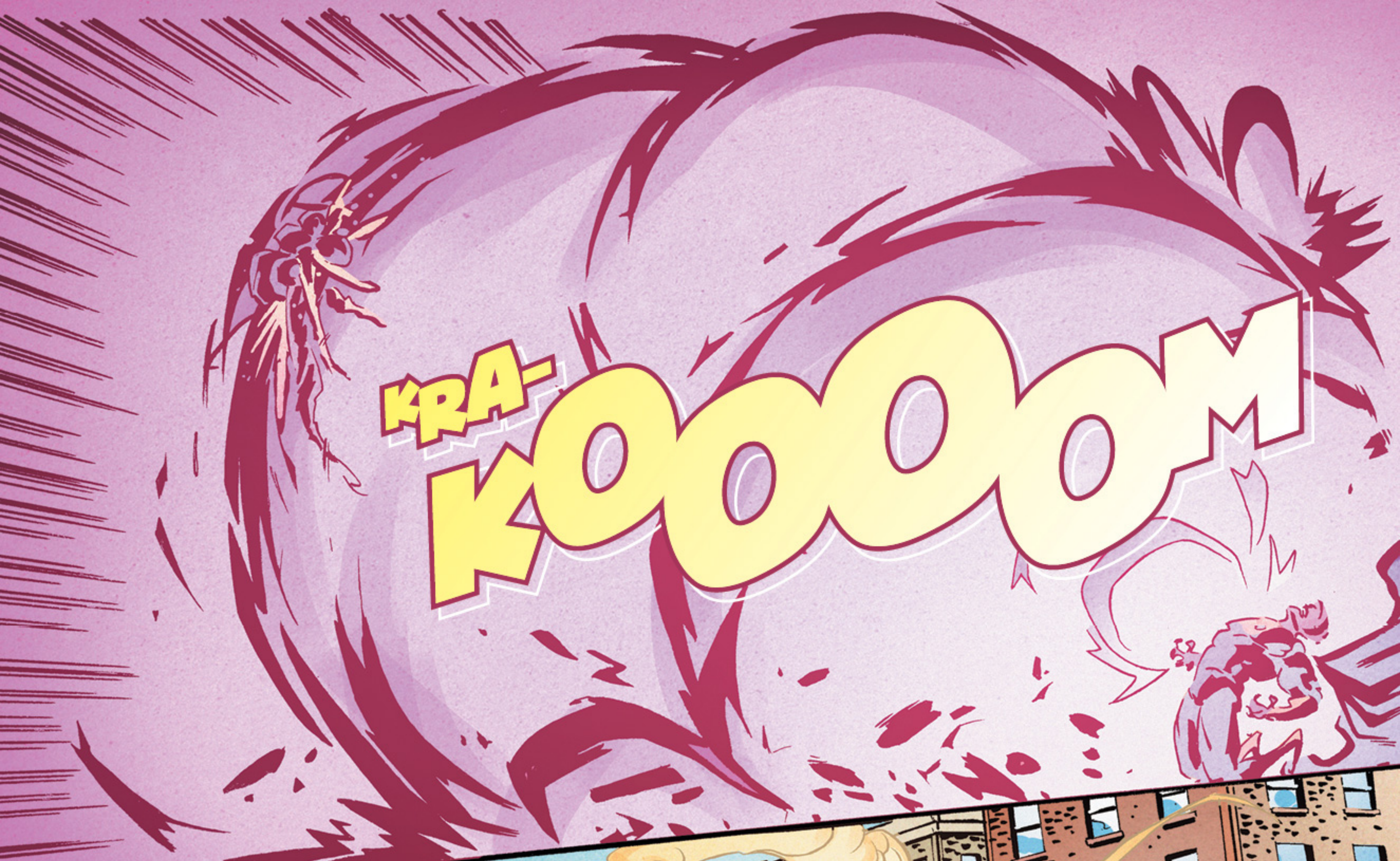
TRY HARDER! IF YOU LOSE CONTROL YOU'RE GOING TO KILL SOMEONE!

HOLD STILL. THIS KIND OF POWER WASN'T MADE FOR PATHETIC WEAKLINGS.

YOU MIGHT BE A FAILURE, BUT REST EASY KNOWING YOUR DEATH WILL USHER IN A BETTER ERA.

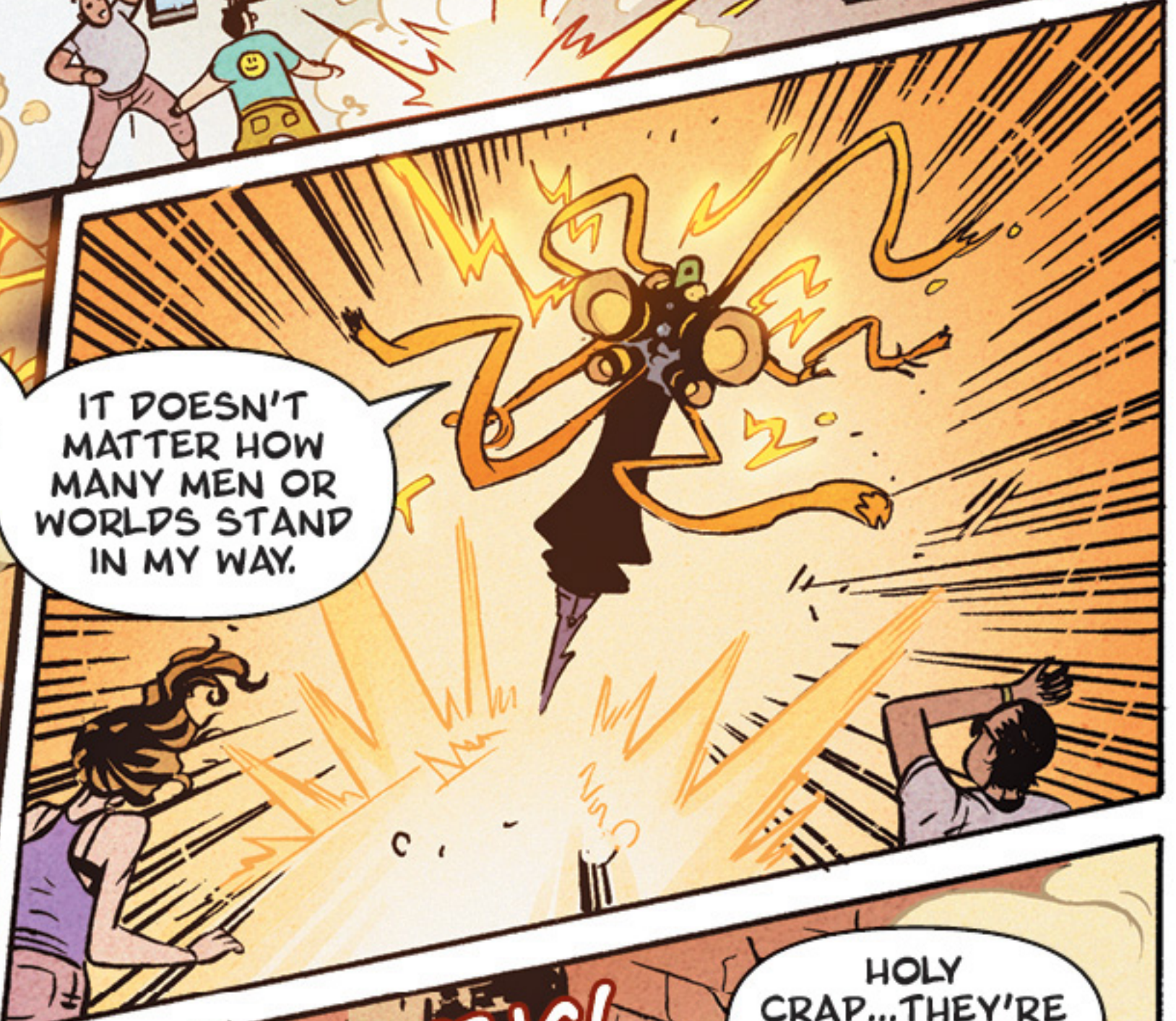
THE WORLD WILL BE BETTER OFF WHEN YOU'RE GONE.

DON'T CALL ME A FAILURE!



YOU'RE EVEN STUPIDER THAN I ANTICIPATED.

MARK MY WORDS, I'M GOING TO FIX THIS RELIC AND GET THAT BODY.



IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY MEN OR WORLDS STAND IN MY WAY.



CIRRUS! CIRRUS!  
CIRRUS!

HOLY CRAP... THEY'RE CHEERING FOR ME?





WE HAVE TO GET OFF THE STREET--WE CAN'T LET PEOPLE SEE ME LIKE THIS!

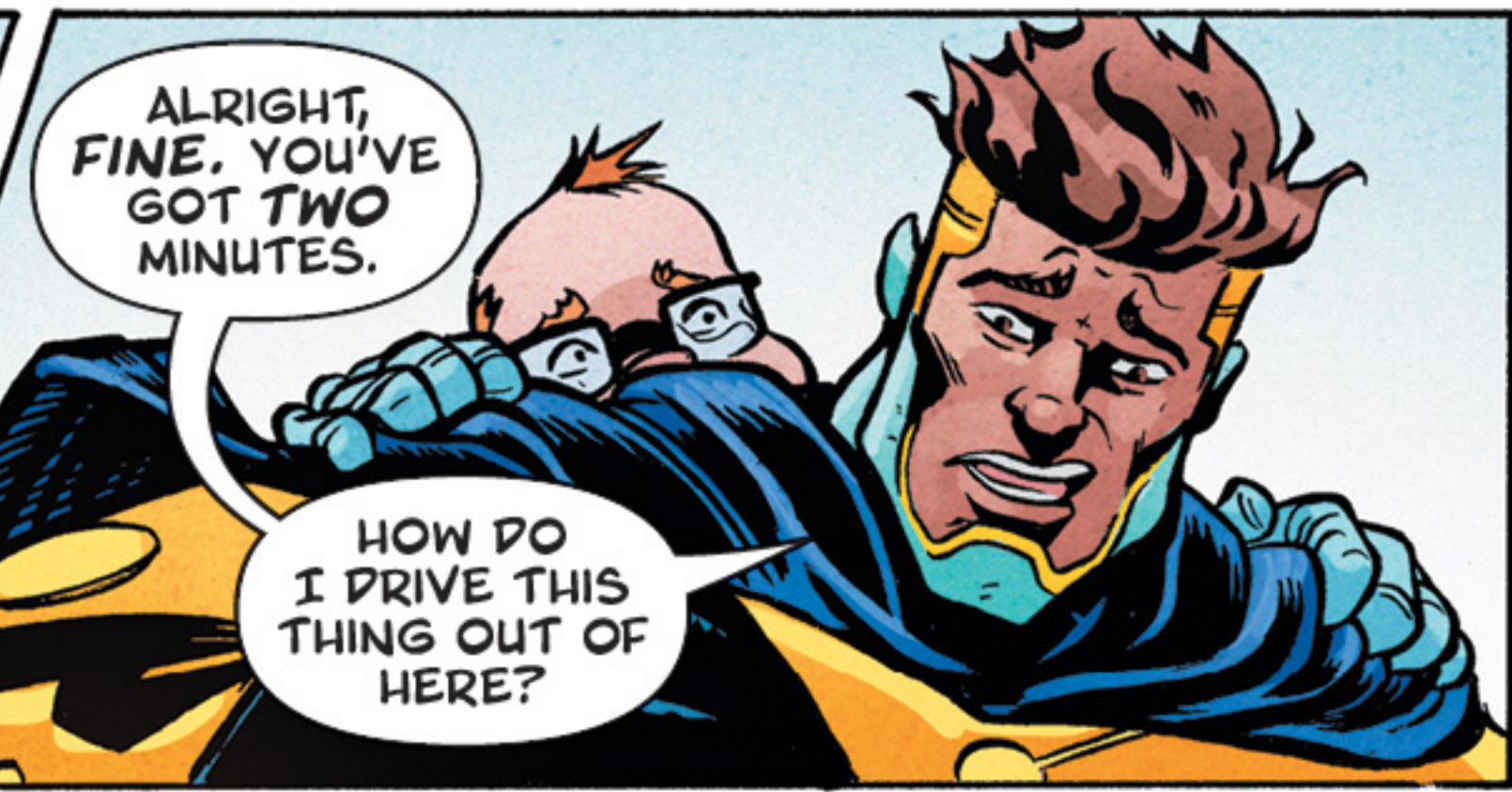
ARE YOU KIDDING? I WANT EVERYONE TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.



WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

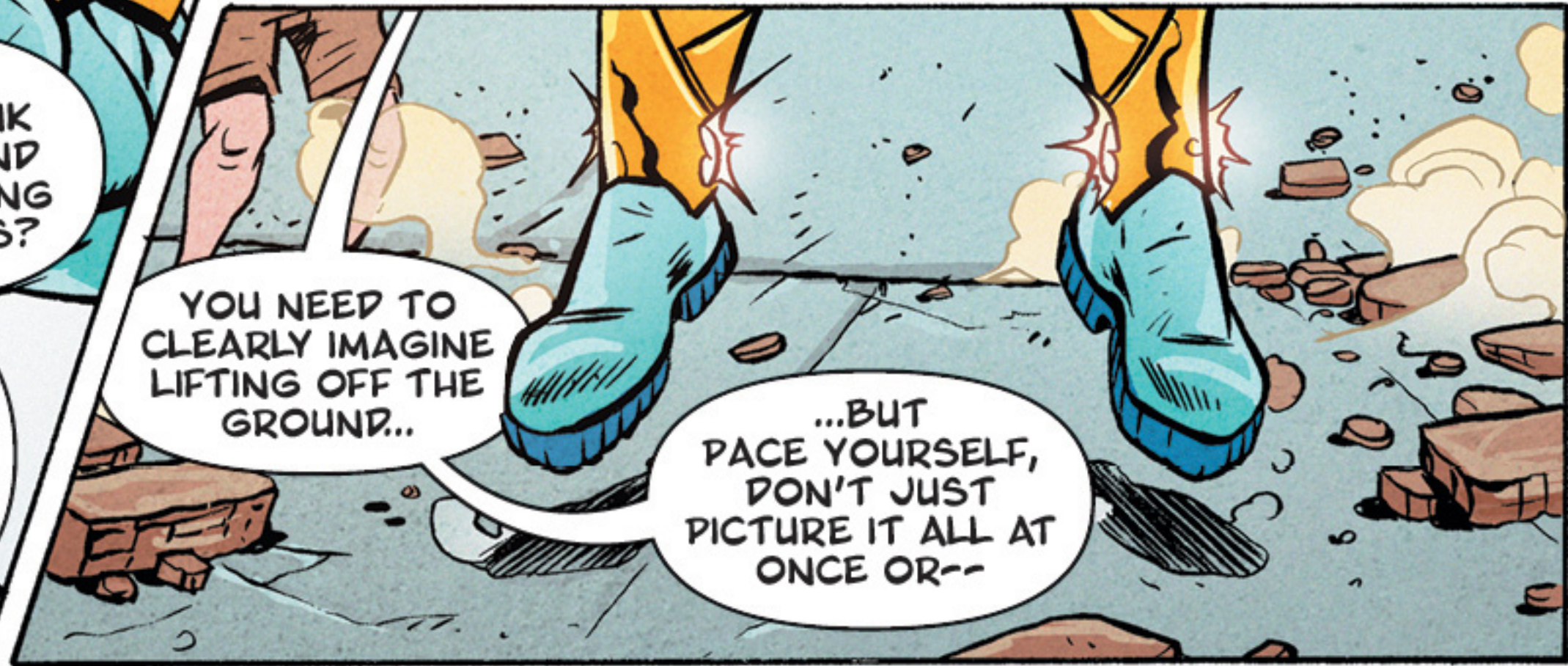
WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF DEATH, AND YOU'RE SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS?

IF ANY OF MY OTHER ENEMIES FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, THEY'LL KILL ME, YOU, AND EVERYONE YOU LOVE. YOU WANT THAT TO HAPPEN?



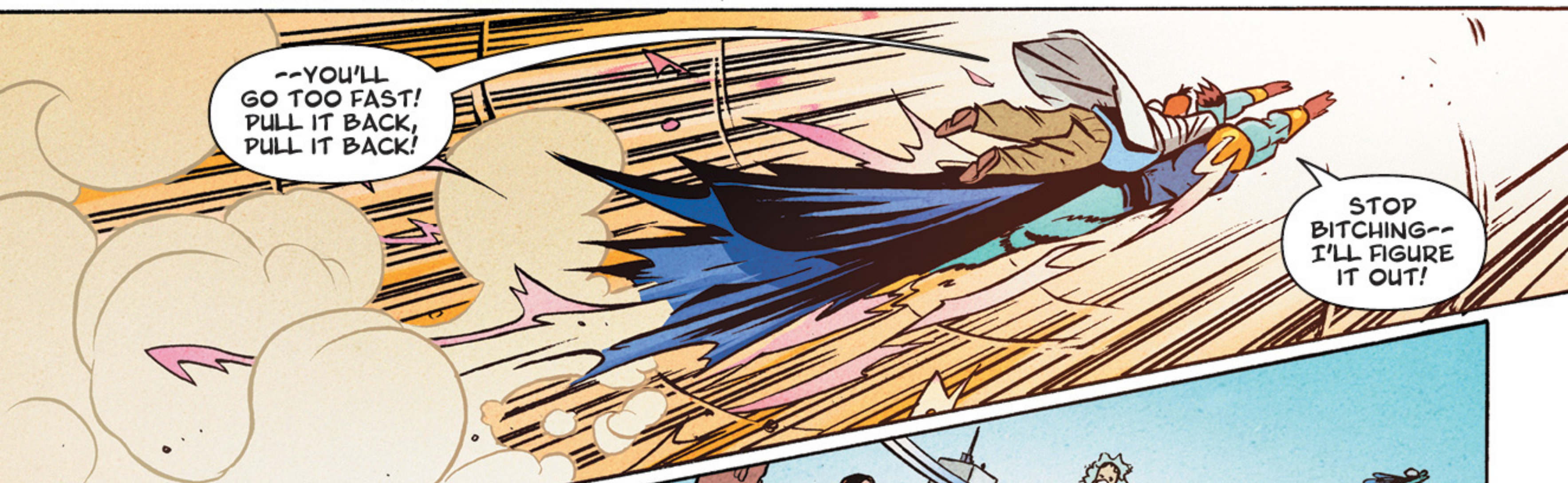
ALRIGHT, FINE. YOU'VE GOT TWO MINUTES.

HOW DO I DRIVE THIS THING OUT OF HERE?



YOU NEED TO CLEARLY IMAGINE LIFTING OFF THE GROUND..

...BUT PACE YOURSELF, DON'T JUST PICTURE IT ALL AT ONCE OR--



--YOU'LL GO TOO FAST! PULL IT BACK, PULL IT BACK!

STOP BITCHING-- I'LL FIGURE IT OUT!



**LATER.**

THIS IS JUST A TASTE OF THE CHAOS WYRM WILL BRING TO YOUR WORLD.

HE'S SPENT YEARS TORMENTING ME AND ATTACKING INNOCENTS, BUT NOW HE'S CLOSE TO ACTUALLY CONQUERING THE REALMS.

HIS REASONS ARE...COMPLICATED, BUT I PROMISE YOU I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SAVE THIS PLANET AND SWITCH US BACK.

NO RUSH, PAL. THIS NEW BODY IS SA-WEET.

I WISH I HAD IT BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL. I COULD'VE FINALLY CLIMBED THE ROPE IN GYM CLASS.

CRUMPH!

ENOUGH WITH THE GAMES-- YOU'RE NOT GRASPING THE SCOPE OF THIS SITUATION!

# MAXTERRA.

"I COME FROM A REALM OF TECHNOLOGY AND POWER SO ADVANCED IT'D MAKE ONE OF YOUR SUPER-COMPUTERS LOOK LIKE A ROCK.

"WE'VE SPENT EONS CRAFTING THE PERFECT WARRIORS TO DEFEND THE COSMOS.

"BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO DON'T AGREE WITH OUR CAMPAIGN OF PEACE.

"WYRM IS THE WORST OF THE LOT. A SORCERER WITH POWERS SO VAST HE'S KEEPING A DEAD BODY ALIVE JUST TO STORE IT ALL.

"IF THAT KIND OF POWER HAD A VESSEL LIKE MY BODY--

"THE UNIVERSE'S FIRST AND ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST EVIL WOULD BE GONE.

"AND EARTH WOULD BE THE FIRST PLANET HE'D SOAK WITH BLOOD, BILE, AND TEARS.

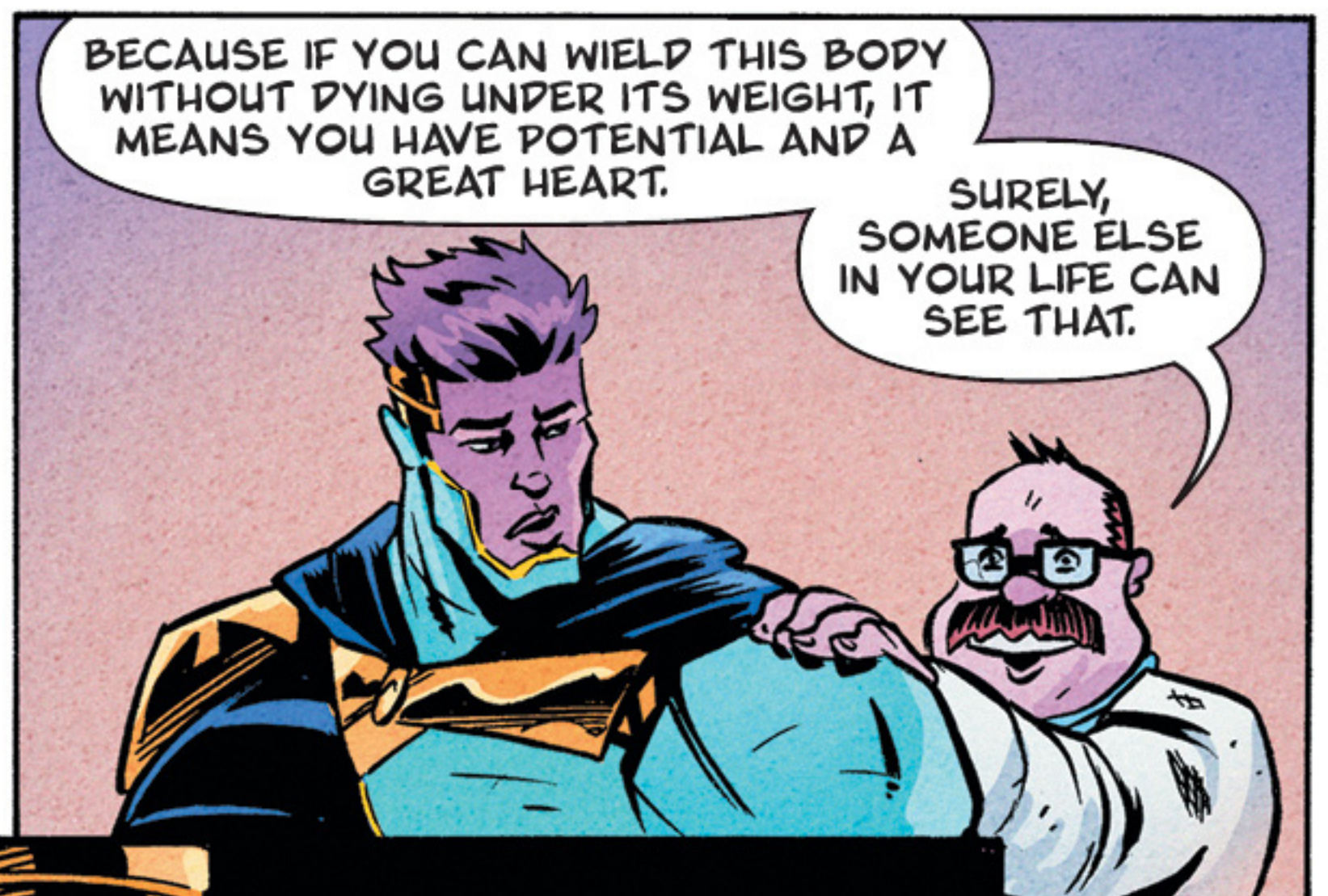
"DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?"

MURDER  
FALCON



YEAH, WELL...IT'S NOT LIKE THIS WORLD IS ALL THAT GREAT ANYWAY.

NO ONE EVER STUCK THEIR NECK OUT FOR ME, WHY SHOULD I DO THE SAME FOR THEM?



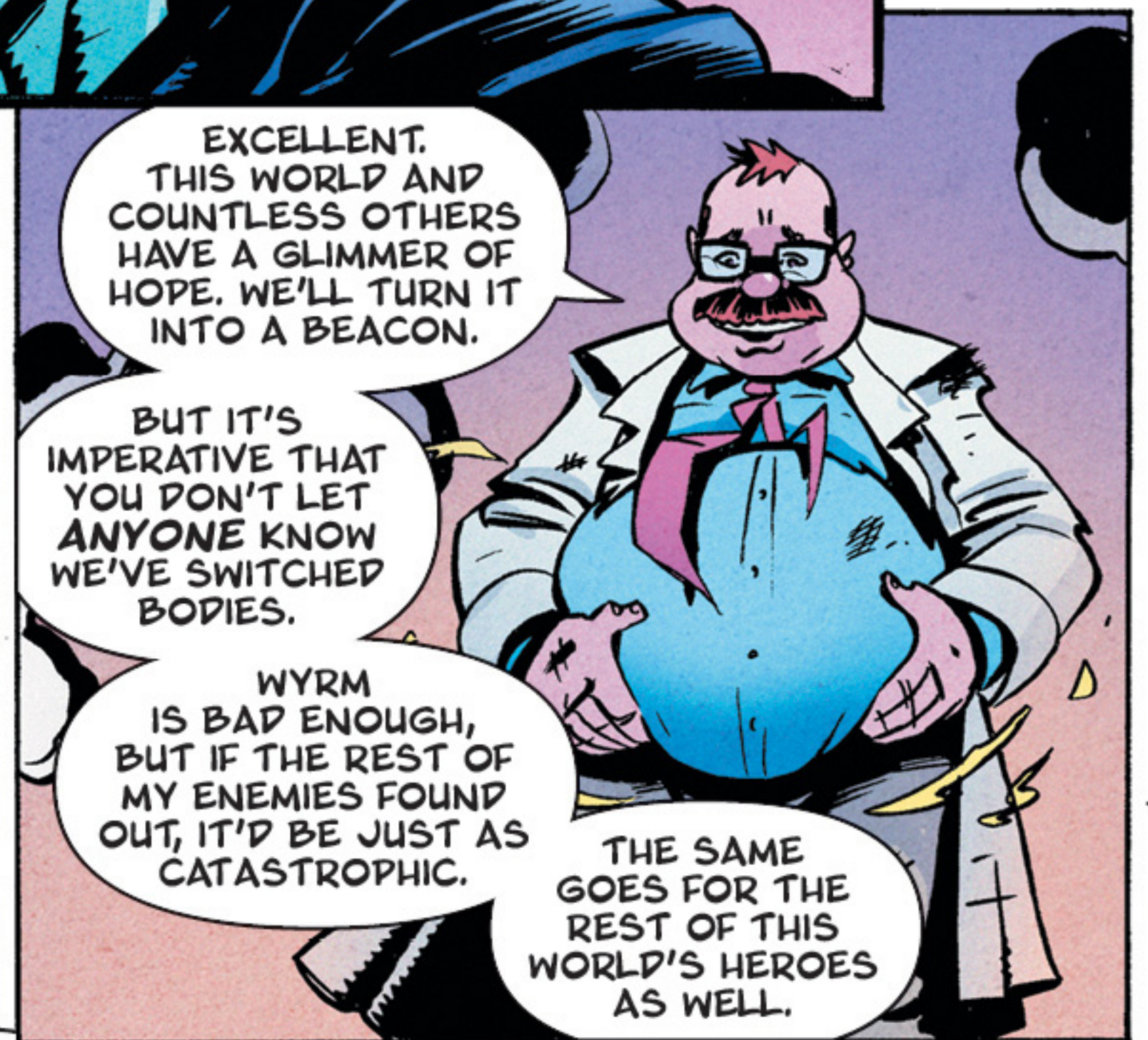
BECAUSE IF YOU CAN WIELD THIS BODY WITHOUT DYING UNDER ITS WEIGHT, IT MEANS YOU HAVE POTENTIAL AND A GREAT HEART.

SURELY, SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR LIFE CAN SEE THAT.



OKAY, FINE-- I'LL GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY.

BUT IF IT COMES DOWN TO SAVING COMPLETE STRANGERS OR MY BROTHER, I'M LETTING TERRY FEND FOR HIMSELF.



EXCELLENT. THIS WORLD AND COUNTLESS OTHERS HAVE A GLIMMER OF HOPE. WE'LL TURN IT INTO A BEACON.

BUT IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DON'T LET ANYONE KNOW WE'VE SWITCHED BODIES.

WYRM IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT IF THE REST OF MY ENEMIES FOUND OUT, IT'D BE JUST AS CATASTROPHIC.

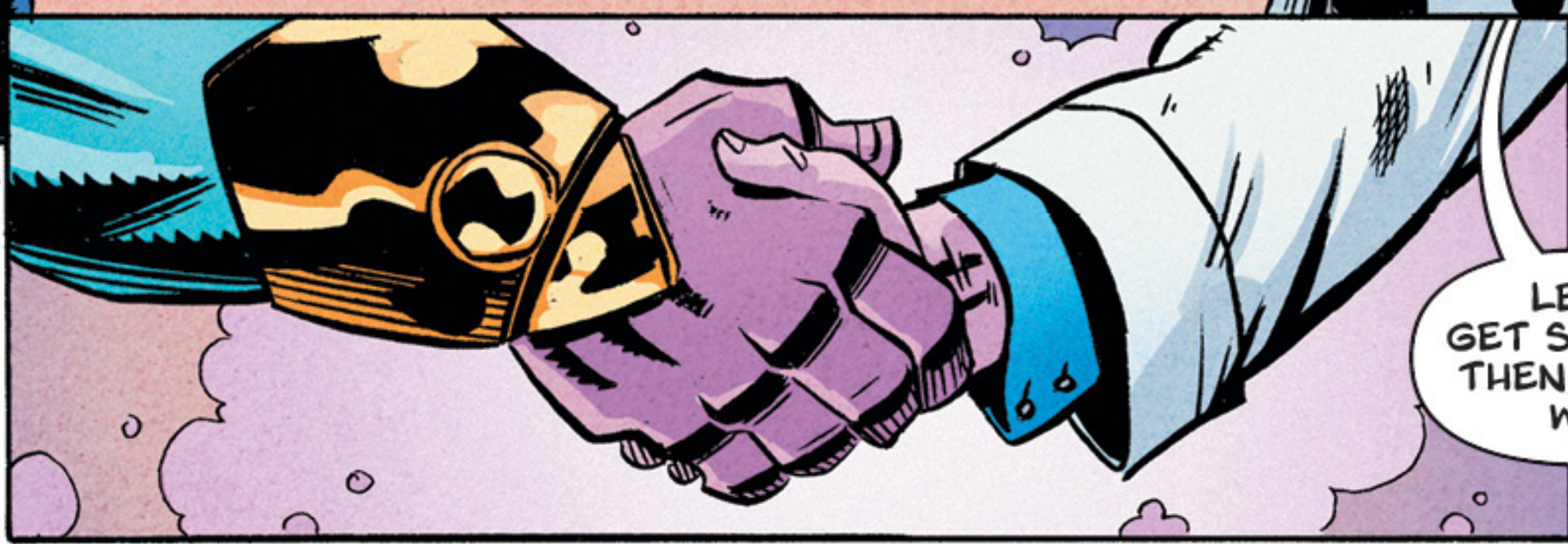
THE SAME GOES FOR THE REST OF THIS WORLD'S HEROES AS WELL.



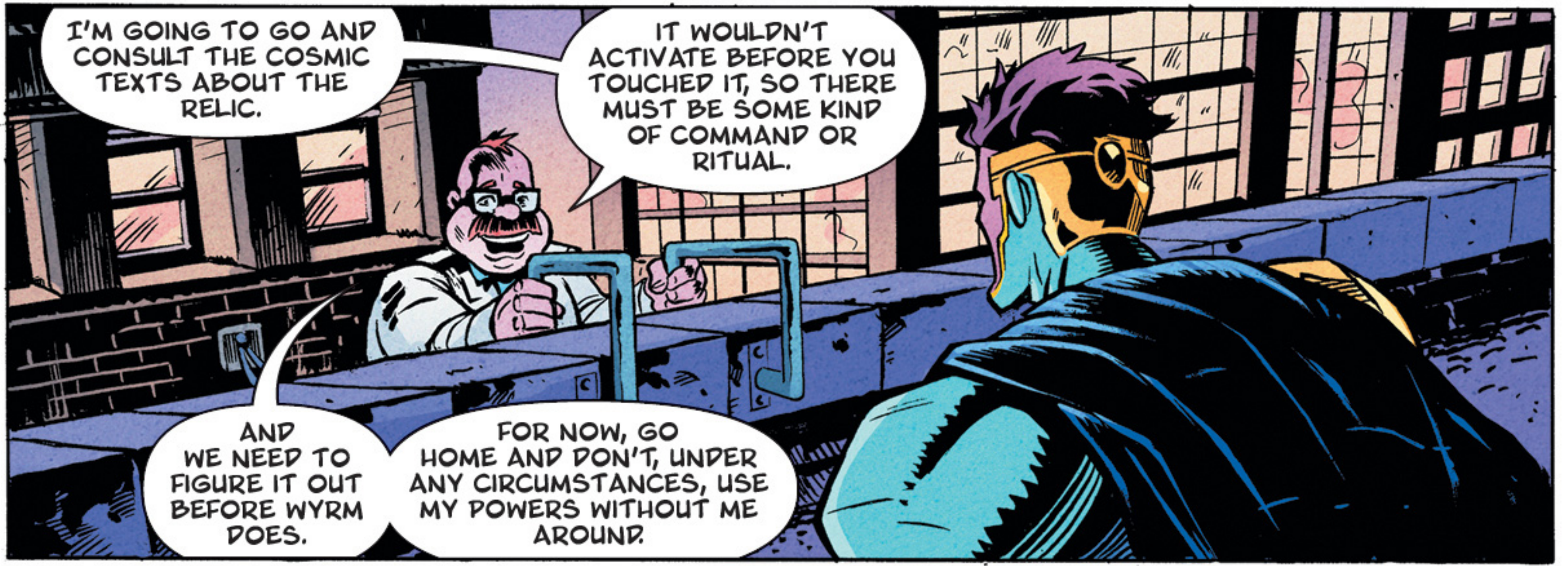
LISTEN, PAL... IF THERE'S ONE THING THIS WORLD KNOWS HOW TO DO, IT'S PUSH ROGER DALTON DOWN.

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO'S GONNA KEEP GETTING BACK UP, I'M YOUR GUY.

GOOD MAN.



LET'S GET STARTED THEN, SHALL WE?



I'M GOING TO GO AND CONSULT THE COSMIC TEXTS ABOUT THE RELIC.

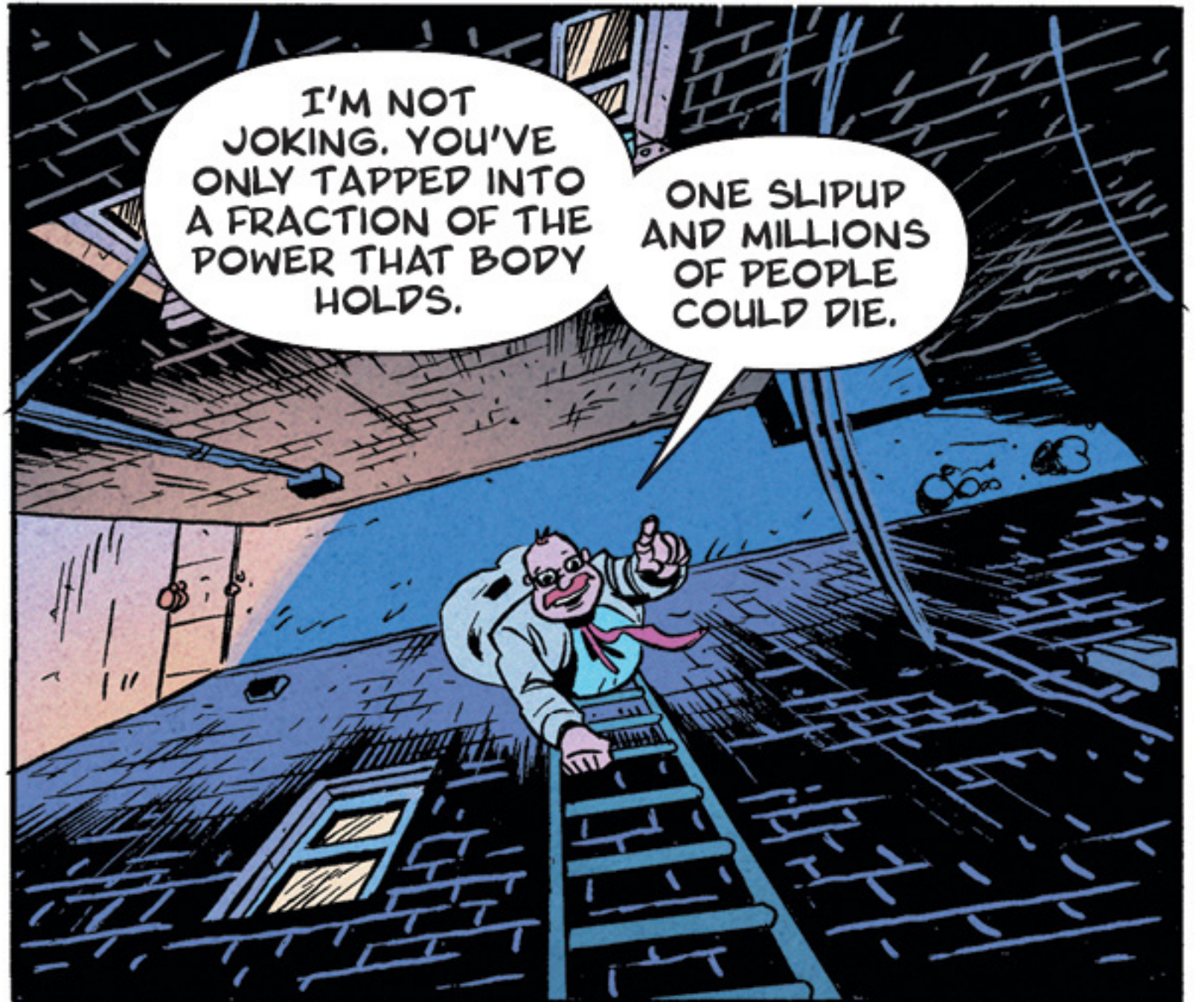
IT WOULDN'T ACTIVATE BEFORE YOU TOUCHED IT, SO THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF COMMAND OR RITUAL.

AND WE NEED TO FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE WYRM DOES.

FOR NOW, GO HOME AND DON'T, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, USE MY POWERS WITHOUT ME AROUND.

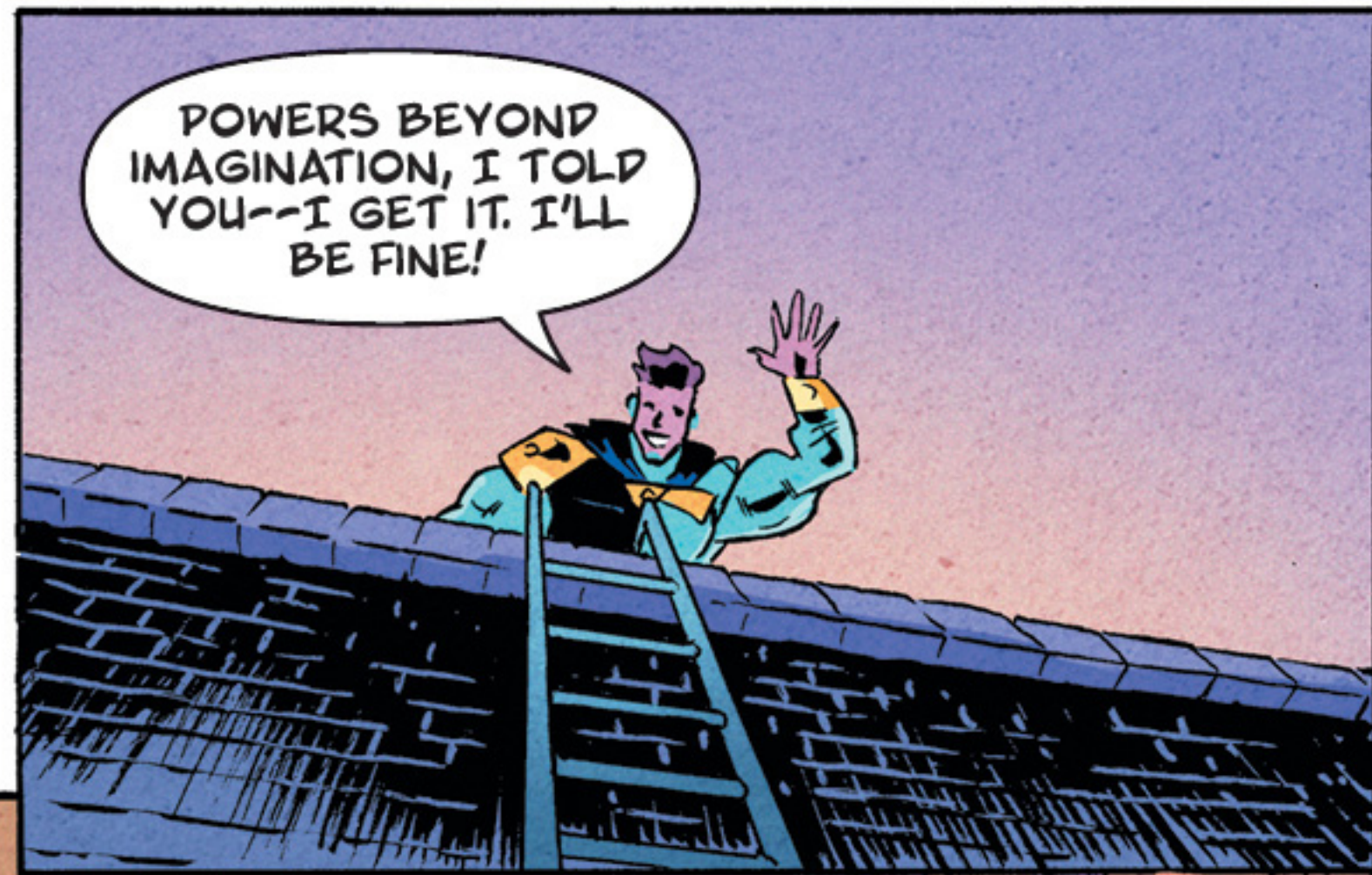


YOU GOT IT, CHIEF!



I'M NOT JOKING. YOU'VE ONLY TAPPED INTO A FRACTION OF THE POWER THAT BODY HOLDS.

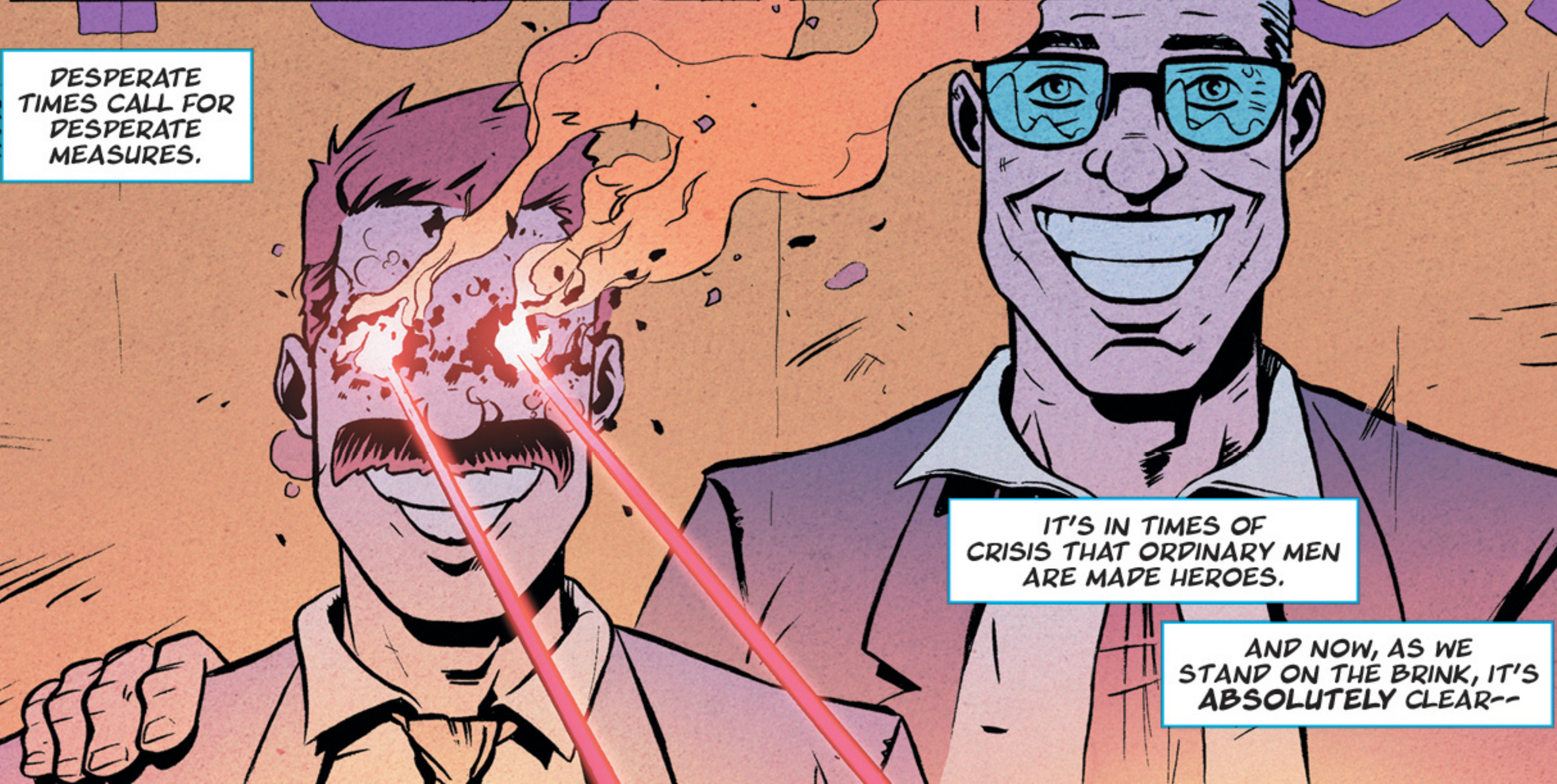
ONE SLIPUP AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE COULD DIE.



POWERS BEYOND IMAGINATION, I TOLD YOU--I GET IT. I'LL BE FINE!



DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.



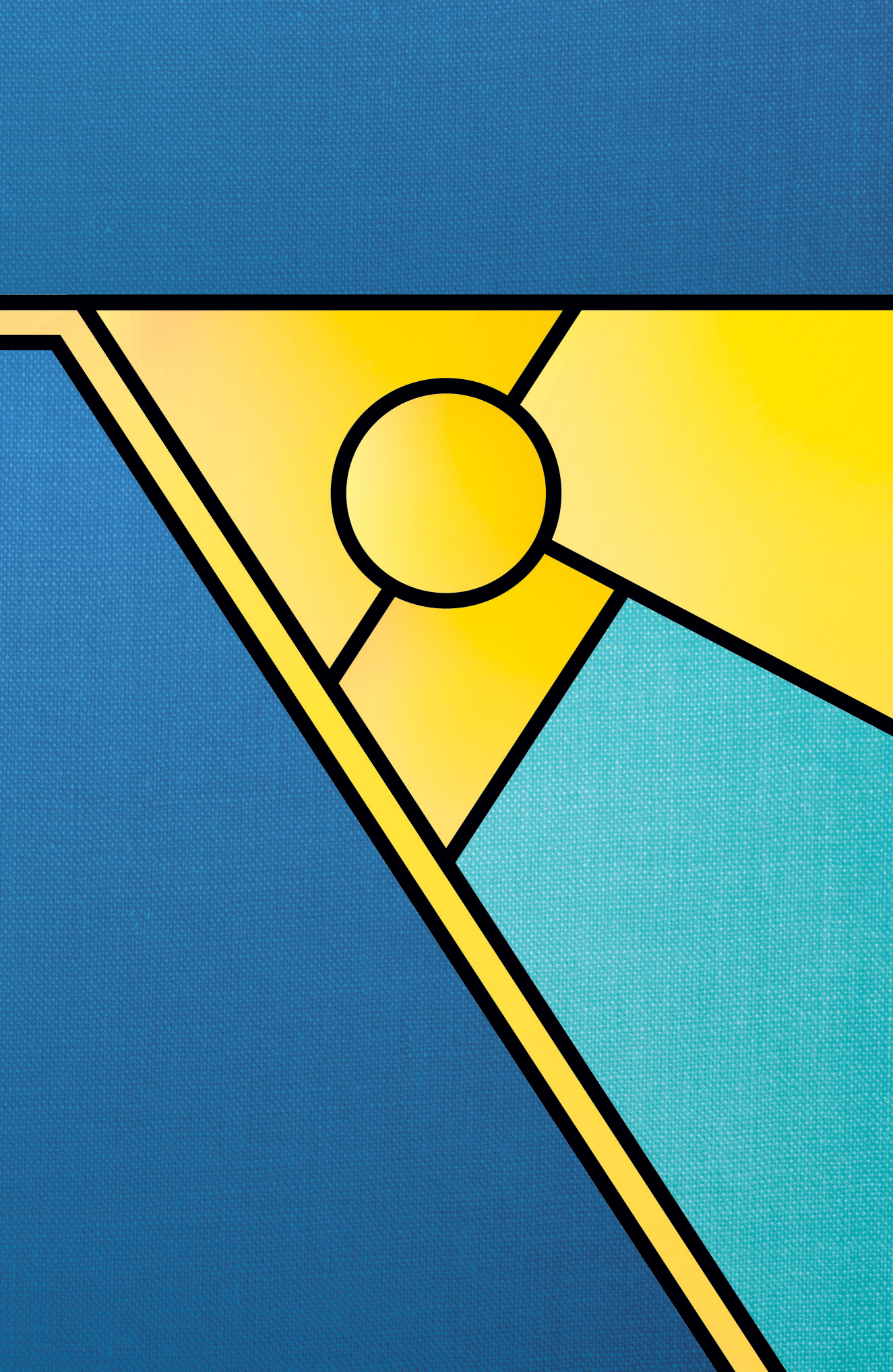
IT'S IN TIMES OF CRISIS THAT ORDINARY MEN ARE MADE HEROES.

AND NOW, AS WE STAND ON THE BRINK, IT'S ABSOLUTELY CLEAR--

THIS IS  
NOT GOING  
TO GO WELL.

PAYBACK  
TIME.

TO BE  
CONTINUED



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# THE SCHLUB



2

HEAD TO YOUR  
LOCAL COMIC SHOP &  
PREORDER THE NEXT  
EXCITING CHAPTER!



2



An  
ancient  
hunger  
will  
feed  
again.



STORY **ETHAN S. PARKER & GRIFFIN SHERIDAN**  
(KLC PRESS)

ART / COVERS **ROBERT QUINN**  
(*Knights of X, Captain America*)

LETTERS / DESIGN **JOHN J. HILL**  
(*VANISH, Harley Quinn*)

# KILL YOUR DARLINGS



A NEW FANTASY / HORROR SERIES  
ISSUE ONE COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

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