

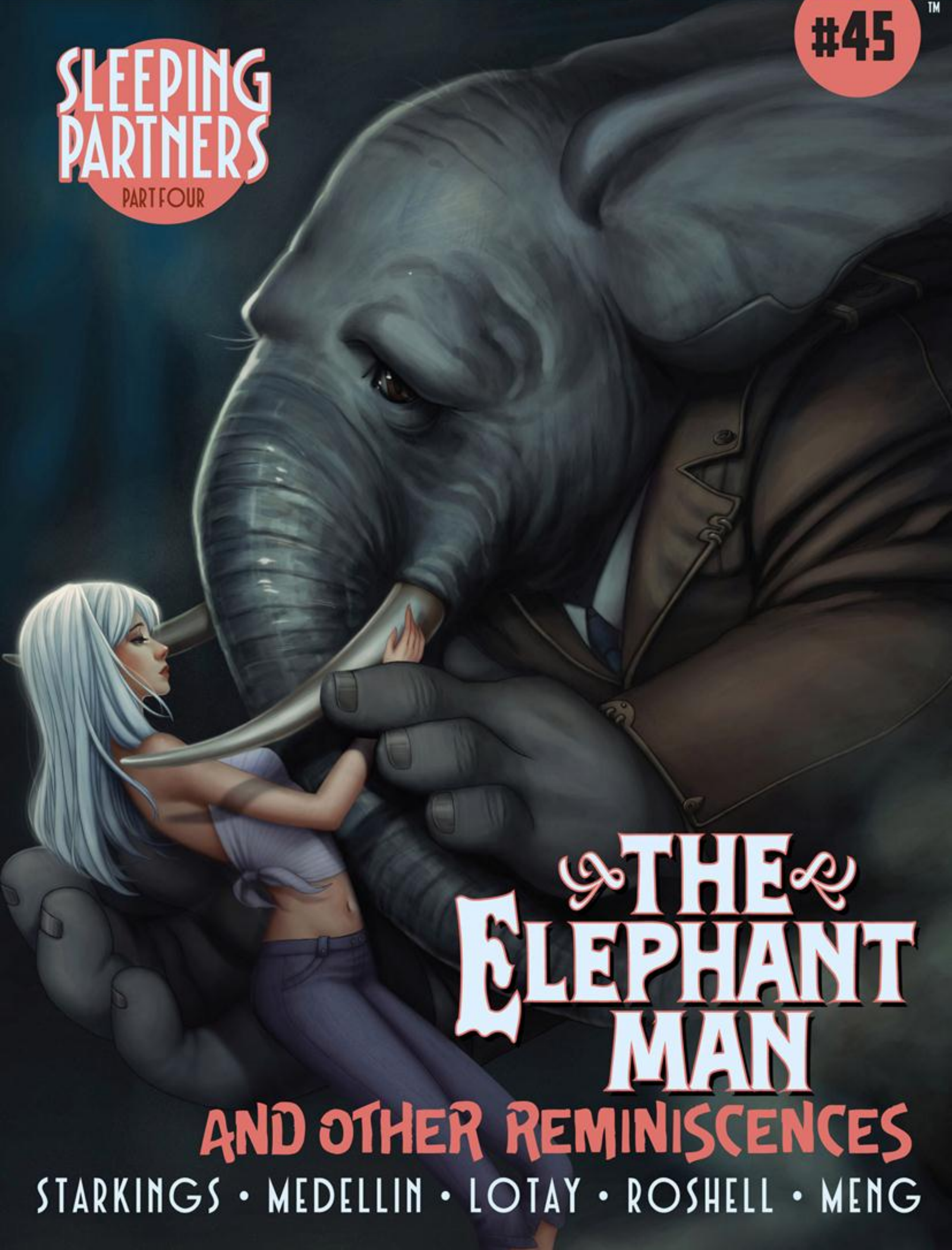


# ELEPHANTMEN™

#45

SLEEPING  
PARTNERS

PART FOUR



THE  
ELEPHANT  
MAN

AND OTHER REMINISCENCES

STARKINGS • MEDELLIN • LOTAY • ROSHELL • MENG

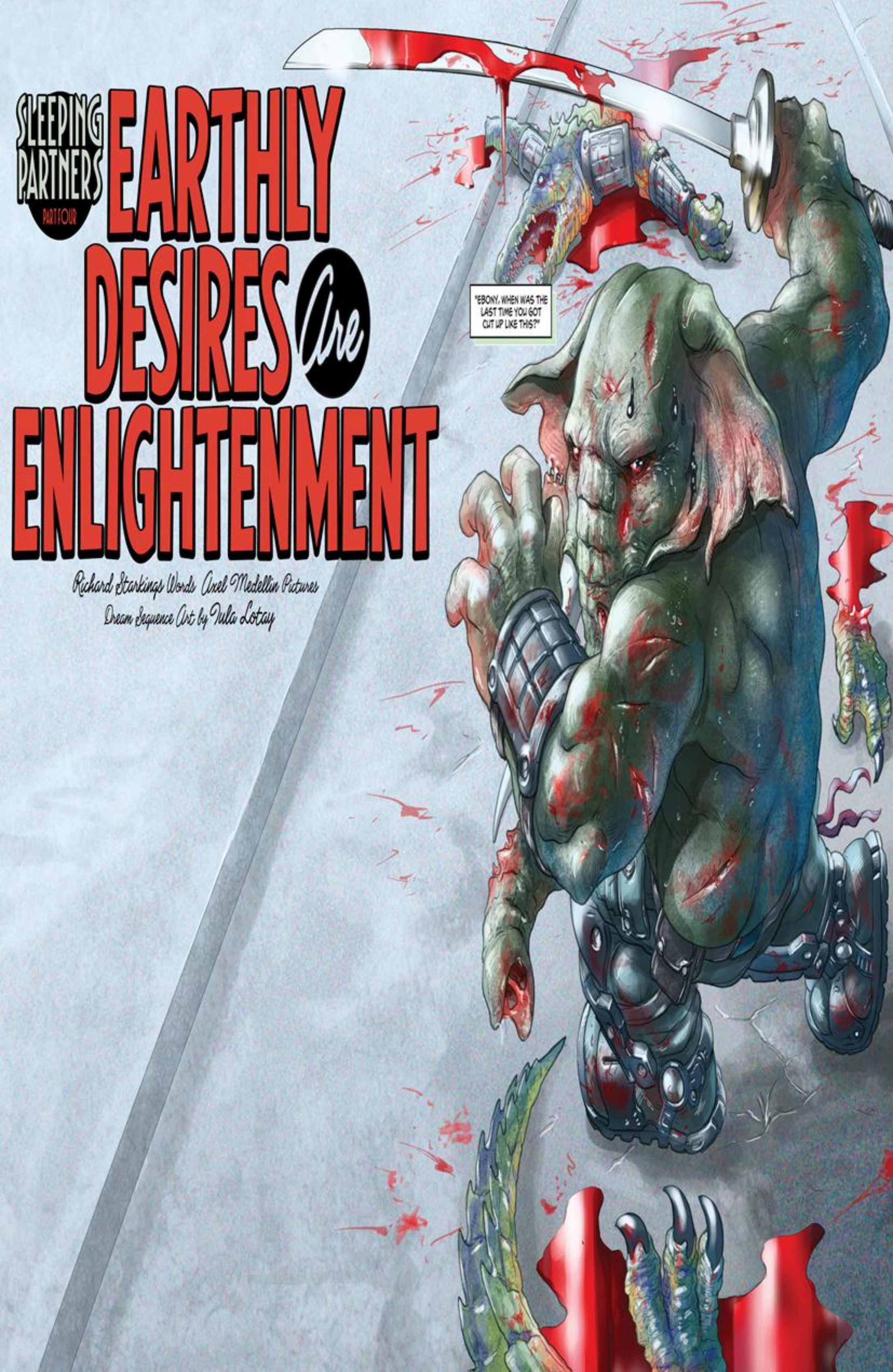


SLEEPING PARTNERS PART FOUR

EARTHLY DESIRES Are ENLIGHTENMENT

Richard Starkings Words Axel Medellin Pictures  
Dream Sequence Art by Tulla Lotay

"EBONY, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GOT CUT UP LIKE THIS?"





BY THE  
CONDITION OF  
YOUR *SKIN*, I'D  
SAY PRETTY  
RECENTLY!

"IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE  
YOU'VE BEEN IN A  
RESTORATION TANK..."

"YOU BEEN UP TO  
SOMETHING WE DON'T  
KNOW ABOUT?"\*

NO, DOC...  
NOT THAT I... Wh,  
REMEMBER...

"...NOT SINCE THE  
END OF THE WAR..."\*

OTHER  
THAN THE DAMAGE  
*YVETTE* INFLECTED TO  
YOUR *TRUNK*,\* HAVE  
YOU BEEN *CUT* IN  
THE LAST COUPLE  
OF MONTHS?

\*See ELEPHANTMEN #39

\*See ELEPHANTMEN #21

\*See MAN AND ELEPHANTMAN #1

"Oh, THAT'S RIGHT,  
YOU WERE *INJURED*,  
PULLED OUT OF THE  
WAR ZONE BEFORE  
*AGATHE*... FLASK  
SAID YOU WERE  
*SLICED UP* PRETTY  
GOOD, RIGHT?"

"HOW DID THAT HAPPEN --  
*FRIENDLY FIRE*, Hmmm?"

"NO, DOC, THAT WAS...  
Hunh... *THAT WAS*  
*YVETTE*, TOO..."

"SHE WAS JUST AS  
FIERCE THEN..."

"OF COURSE, SHE  
WASN'T OUR *ONLY*  
ENEMY AT THAT POINT."



"YVETTE HAD LEFT ME  
AND HIP TO DIE,\* AND IT  
WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE  
RED TIGERS FOUND US...



"I WOULD HAVE  
*WELCOMED* RELEASE  
FROM THIS WORLD...



"...BUT IT WAS  
NOT TO BE...



"AN EXTRACTION TEAM  
WAS RIGHT BEHIND US,  
READY TO CLEAN US UP  
AND PUT US BACK ON  
THE *FRONTLINES*...

SEVEN...  
OVER  
THERE...

MAY  
STILL BE  
ALIVE...







THIS  
ONE TOO --  
MOVE IT!



"WE'D LOST A LOT  
OF BLOOD..."

"THE SKY WAS SHROUDED BY  
A LAYER OF *BURNING ASH*... AND  
THEN, OUT OF THE *DARKNESS*..."



"...I SAW  
DEATH..."

"I FELT MYSELF  
SLIPPING AWAY..."

"BUT THEN A VOICE  
SNAPPED ME *BACK*..."



HOLD ON,  
SOLDIER!

"GABBATHA... HIS SKIN LOOKED *WHITE* TO ME,  
HIS EYES *KIND*... HE WAS NOT LIKE OTHER  
ELEPHANTMEN THEN, ANY MORE THAN HE IS NOW.



STAY  
WITH US!

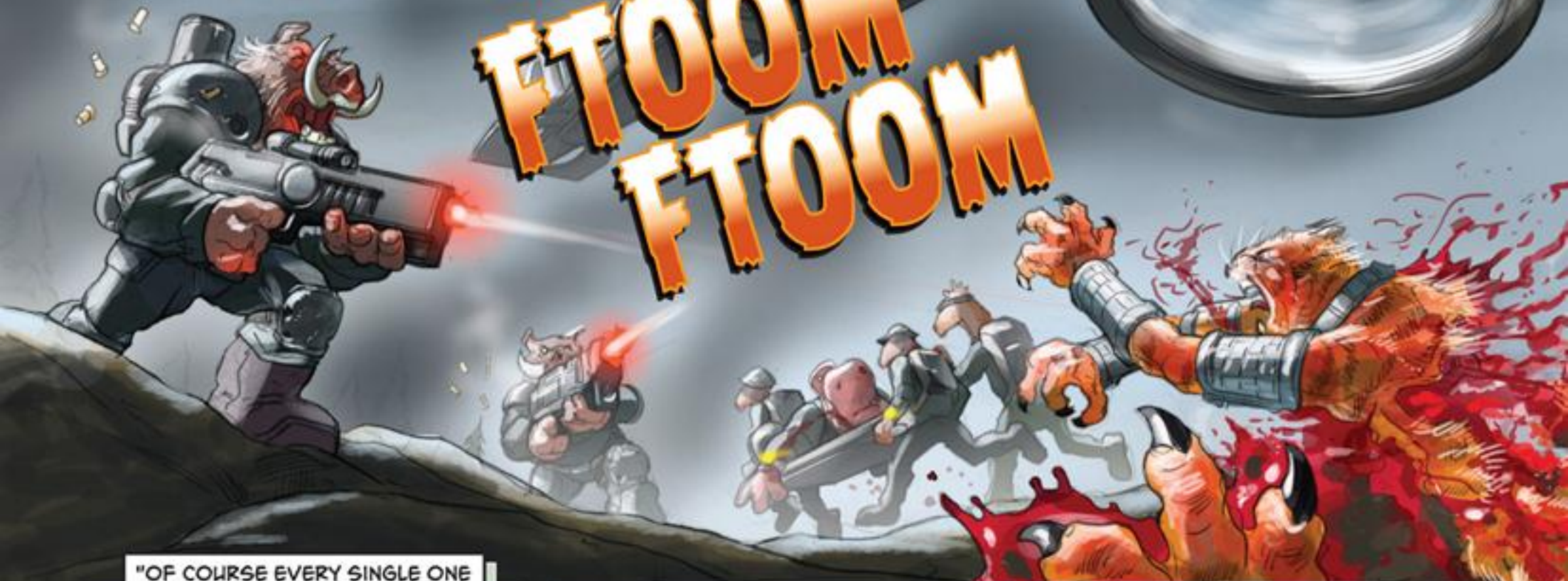
"IT WAS LIKE HE  
WAS *WILLING*  
ME TO LIVE.





"BUT FOR WHAT?"

**FTOOM  
FTOOM**



"OF COURSE EVERY SINGLE ONE  
OF MAPPO'S *FOOTSOLDIERS*  
CARRIED A DOLLAR VALUE...  
*TWENTY MILLION EACH.*

"*STITCH 'EM, FIX 'EM,  
SEND 'EM BACK IN...*



WHI-WHI--  
WHITE ELEPHANT...  
PLEASE...

LEAVE ME,  
LET-- LET ME  
DIE...

WHITE?

Hm. NO,  
MY FRIEND, YOU  
MUST LIVE.



BUT  
PLEASE DON'T  
WORRY...

FOR  
CENTURIES, THE  
IMAGE OF A *WHITE  
ELEPHANT* HAS BEEN  
KNOWN AS THE  
BRINGER OF GOOD  
FORTUNE...

MY  
FRIEND, STAY  
AWAKE...

*Listen...*







...over Three Thousand Years Ago,  
in the North of India, pure-hearted  
Queen Maha Maya fell asleep  
on the night of a Full Moon.

As she slept, the Queen had a  
vivid dream of a Beautiful Lotus  
Flower, out of which emerged  
a stunning White Elephant.





In her dream, the Queen danced with the White Elephant which circled her with Pure Joy, went round her three times...

...and then entered her Womb... disappearing just as Mystically as he had appeared. When the Queen woke, she spoke of her vision to the King.



The King summoned a Brahman to interpret the Queen's Dream, and was told that his wife would soon bear him a son...

Although the King was overjoyed, the Brahman cautioned; If the Prince never left the Palace, he would become a Despotie Ruler...




However, if he left the Palace, He would become a Holy Man, The Wisest Man in All of India; The World Honoured One!

Soon, the Queen did indeed give birth to a Beautiful Baby Boy. They named him Siddhartha, or "One Who has Accomplished a Goal."





The background of the entire page is a large, soft-focus illustration of a man and a woman in a romantic embrace. The man is on the left, looking down at the woman on the right. They are both smiling and appear to be in a state of happiness. The woman has long, dark hair and is wearing a light-colored dress. The man has short, dark hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt. The overall tone is warm and intimate.

There followed Seven Days of  
Joy and Harmony in the Palace;  
Food and Clothes were given  
to the Poor in Celebration...

But the Queen died suddenly, and  
the King was stricken with Grief.  
Now, his son was all that he had  
to remind him of his Lost Love...

Thenceforth, he decided that  
the Prince would never leave  
the Palace walls lest he suffer  
as he had suffered...

Nevertheless, in the Kingdom,  
Women continued to give Birth.

Men still fell Victim to Disease,  
Their Mothers still Grew Old...

Those that Men and Women  
Loved, still Died...

Safe inside the Palace Walls,  
the Prince had no understanding of  
the Miracle of his Birth or of  
the Tragedy of his Mother's Death.



How could he?

ONLY WHEN HE LEFT THE PALACE...

ONLY WHEN HE HAD EXPERIENCED LIFE'S SORROWS HIMSELF...

ONLY THEN DID SIDDHARTHA GUATAMA BECOME A BUDDHA.



\*See ELEPHANTMEN #40

HOLD UP!

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE ANOTHER ONE COMING IN!



"Hah, THINK OF IT... BACK THEN HORN WAS ONLY WORTH TWENTY MILLION..."



"IF HE'D BEEN LEFT TO DIE IN THE MUD... HE'D BE WORTH NOTHING NOW."

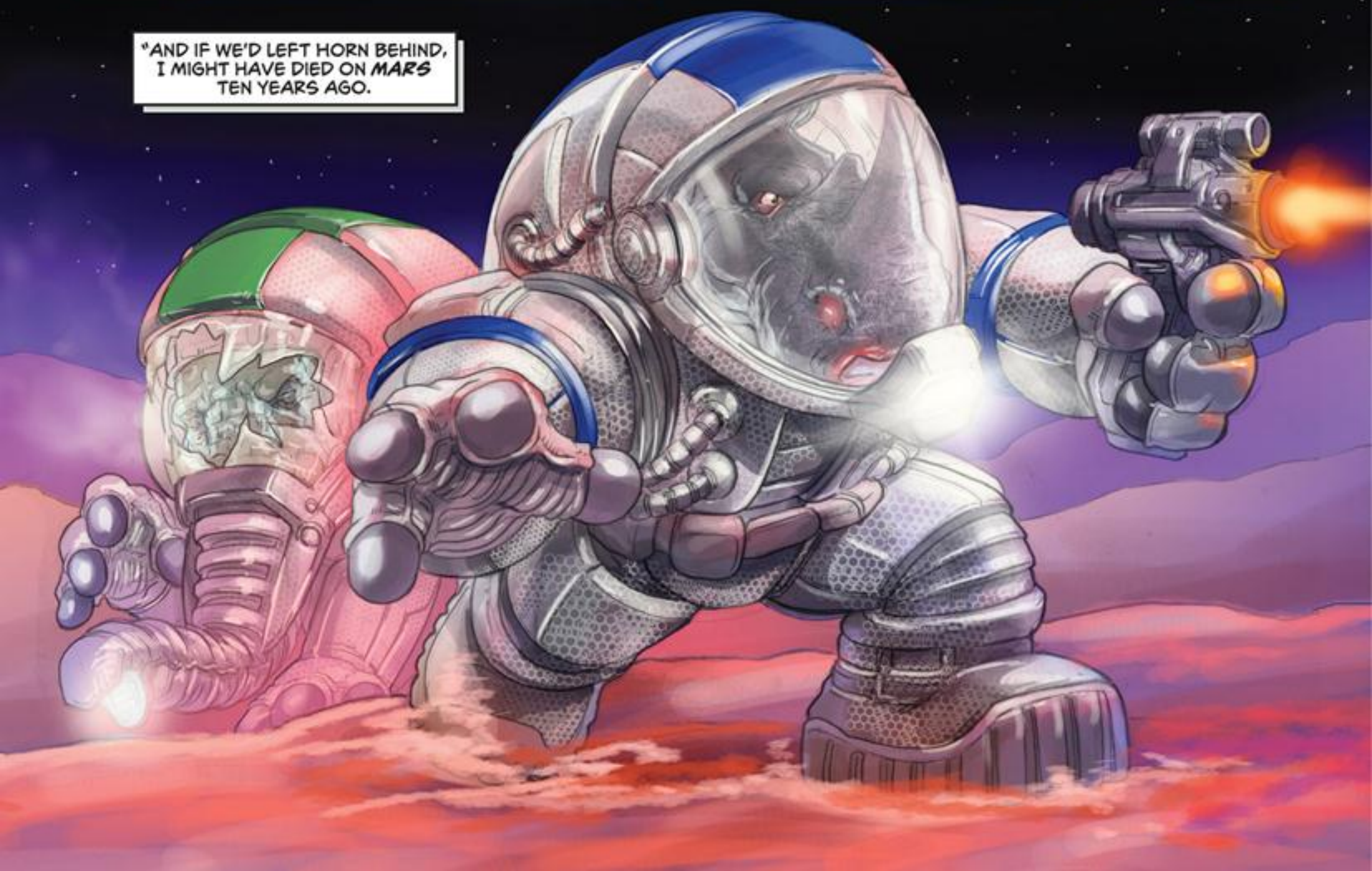


QUICKLY!





"AND IF WE'D LEFT HORN BEHIND, I MIGHT HAVE DIED ON *MARS* TEN YEARS AGO."







WE'RE STILL ALIVE, MUST BE SOMETHIN' WE HAVETA DO, RIGHT?

I GUESS WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER, EH, DOC? THANKS.

YEAH, I GUESS SO...

AND, YOU'RE WELCOME.

THEY LOOK UP TO YOU.

RESPECT YOU.

AND WHAT DO YOU DO?



YOU LOOK DOWN ON THEM.



NOT *TUSK* MAYBE.\*

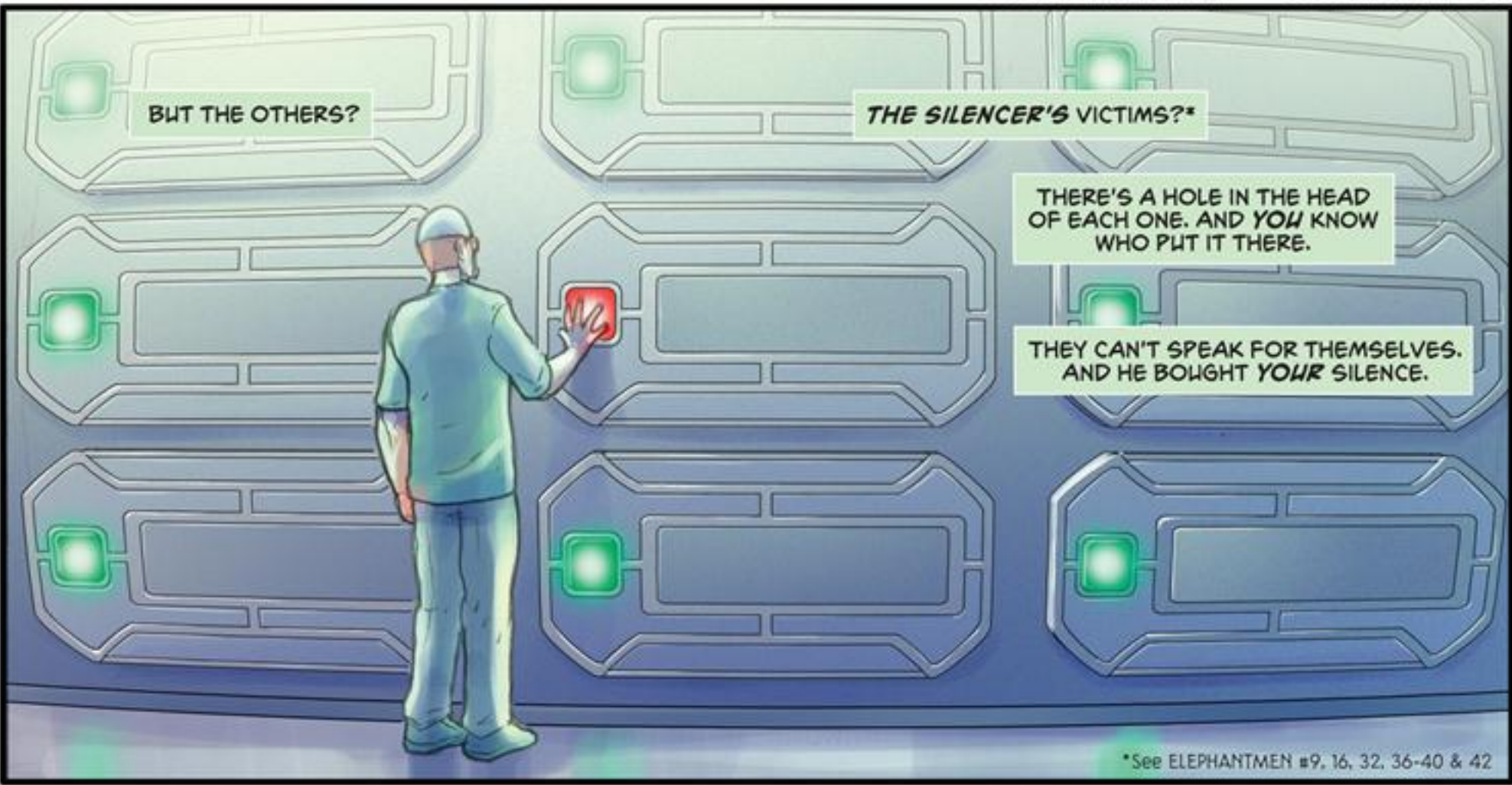
IT WAS EASY TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

EVEN IN DEATH, WHEN *YVETTE* WORE HIS SKULL AS SOME SORT OF BIZARRE *TROPHY*.\*

THAT POOR *MUNT*. IT FELT TO YOU TO PUT HIM BACK TOGETHER.

MAYBE IT HELPED YOU FEEL SUPERIOR.

\*See ELEPHANTMEN #4, 15, 17 \*See ELEPHANTMEN #36-39



BUT THE OTHERS?

THE SILENCER'S VICTIMS?\*

THERE'S A HOLE IN THE HEAD OF EACH ONE. AND YOU KNOW WHO PUT IT THERE.

THEY CAN'T SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. AND HE BOUGHT YOUR SILENCE.

\*See ELEPHANTMEN #9, 16, 32, 36-40 & 42

AND THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE REFLECTING ON THIS SITUATION NOW?

THE SILENCER KILLED YOUR *DOG*.

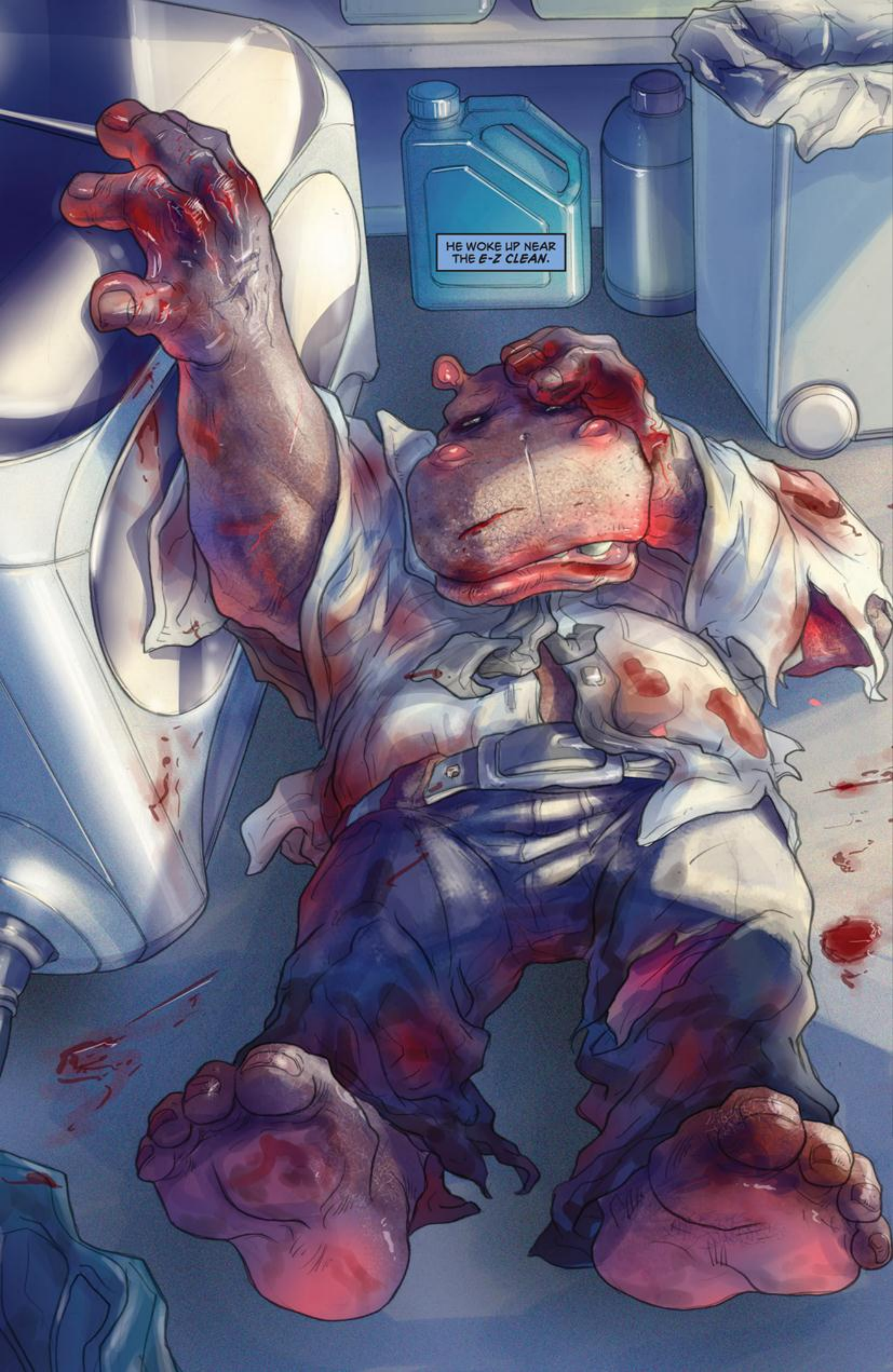
ELEPHANTMEN DIE EVERY DAY, BUT SOMEHOW YOUR PET HAS A SPECIAL MORAL STATUS?

BAD DECISIONS MAKE GOOD STORIES?



ONLY IF YOU *LIVE* TO TELL THE TALES, DOC.





HE WOKE UP NEAR  
THE E-Z CLEAN.





HAD HE BEEN  
IN *FIGHT*...?

DID HE *FALL*?



DID SOMETHING  
FALL ON HIM?



HE REMEMBERS  
WALKING AIMLESSLY  
THROUGH THE CITY...

BUT HE WAS  
TRYING *NOT* TO  
REMEMBER...



LOSE  
HIMSELF...

HE WAS TRYING  
TO *FORGET* A  
LOT OF THINGS.

IT WASN'T AS  
*EASY* AS HE'D  
HOPED...









**WHINCH**

**ZZZKT**

**WHAMM**







WHOA!

DUDE! CHILL!  
THAT'S THE REAL  
THING, MAN... THIRST  
QUENCHING,  
TOO.



I GET IT,  
MAN... YOU HAD  
A BAD DAY...



YOU JUST  
HAD TO HIT  
SOMETHING,  
RIGHT?



BUT  
YOU'RE  
GOOD NOW,  
RIGHT...



YOU'RE  
GOOD...

SOMEHOW HE MUST  
HAVE MADE HIS  
WAY HOME...



HOW DID EVERYTHING  
GO SO HORRIBLY  
WRONG...?

MIKI...

SHE'D GROWN CLOSE  
TO HIM IN JUST A FEW  
SHORT WEEKS...

ARE  
YOU OKAY,  
BIG GUY?

ALLOWED HIM TO  
FEEL HUMAN...

HIP...



EVEN AFTER SHE  
HAD SEEN THE  
MONSTER INSIDE HIM...\*

JUST  
STAY AWAY  
FROM ME!

SHE STILL CAME  
BACK TO HIM...

LOVED HIM.

HE HADN'T FELT  
THAT WAY FOR  
A LONG, LONG  
TIME...



SINCE MARS...

Oh,  
HIERONYMUS,  
MY LOVE...

I WONDER  
IF YOU TRULY  
KNOW OF MY  
FEELINGS FOR  
YOU...

SO, BACK TO  
SQUARE ONE.

AGAIN.

UM... HEY  
BOSS... ARE  
YOU OKAY?

I, UH... I WAS  
WORRIED...

SO I  
CALLED  
MIKI...

SHE'S, UH,  
ON HER WAY  
OVER....

THAT'S  
GOOD,?  
RIGHT





ACTIVE IMAGE COMMUNICATIONS

**HOT  
STUFF**  
GET IT  
ALL-DAY  
ALL-NIGHT  
EVERYONE  
WANTS TO GET  
THEIR HANDS  
ON OUR RIBS, OR  
DIVE INTO OUR  
SURF AND TURF



**HOOTERS**

ASK ABOUT OUR  
CRAB LEGS

OUR GIRLS  
ARE THE  
REAL  
DEAL!







HEY,  
EBONY, GRU  
FIGURED YOU'D  
BE DOWN  
HERE...



HOW  
ARE YOU,  
BIG GUY?

Wh, FINE,  
I WAS JUST,  
Y'KNOW, SCHRODT  
GAVE ME A CHECK  
UP -- THE ALL  
CLEAR...



HOW'S  
YOUR *TRUNK*  
FEELING...

Wh, LIKE  
NEW... BUT, I'm  
SENSITIVE.



SEE,  
ALL YOU NEEDED  
WAS A LITTLE  
*T-L-C!*

*T-L-C?*

YOU  
KNOW...  
TENDER  
LOVING  
CARE!



VANITY...  
I-- I LOVE  
YOU TOO...

!





EBONY!  
NO... I--



HEY! YOU GET  
YOUR DIRTY HANDS  
OFF OF HER YOU  
BIG APE!



IT'S  
OKAY...

I SEEN  
YA OUT  
HERE--

I  
DIDN'T--



YOU'RE  
LIKE ANY OTHER  
UGLY GUY... JUST  
OGLING THE GIRLS,  
LONGING TO  
TOUCH US UP,  
RIGHT?



NO,  
IT'S OKAY, WE  
WORK TOGETHER,  
HE'S NOT --  
I MEAN...

HE'S  
HAD A ROUGH  
TIME LATELY...



HE DIDN'T  
MEAN ANY HARM...  
RIGHT, EBONY...

EBONY ?













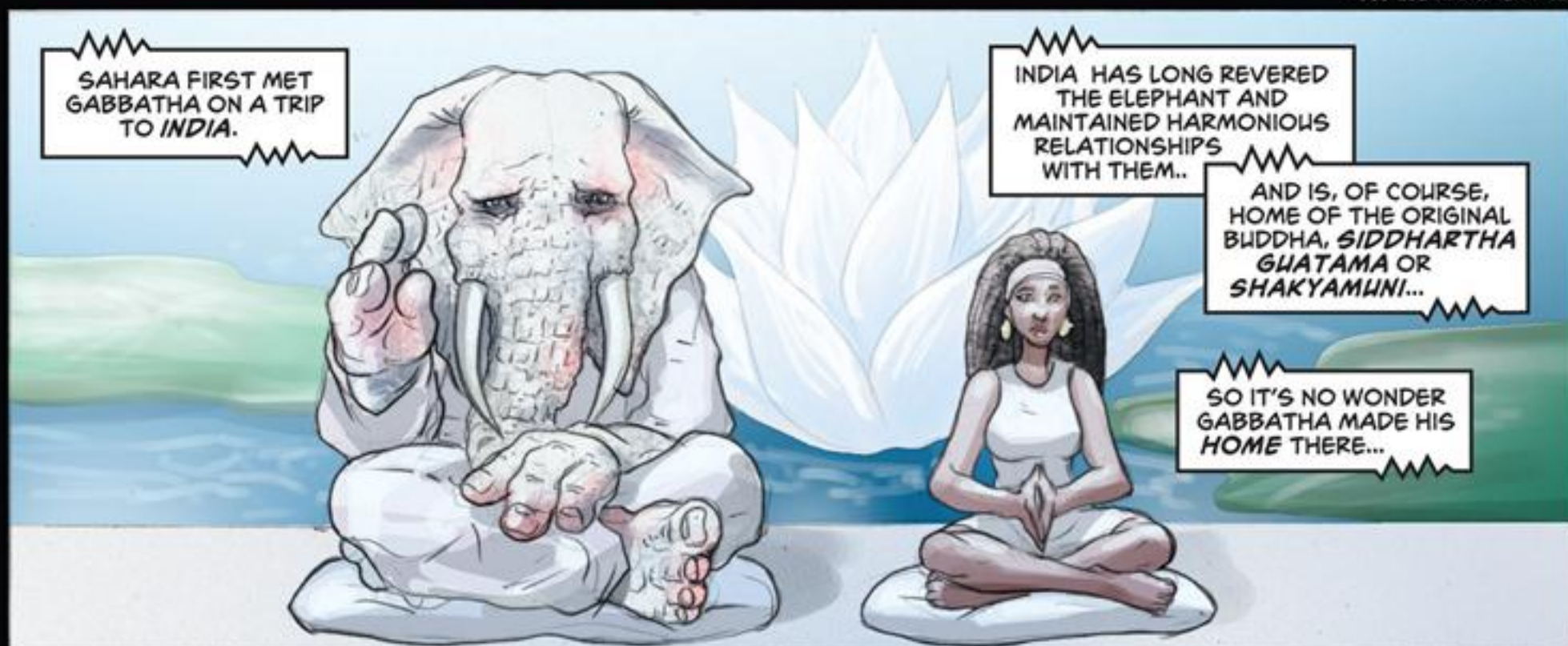


IN AMIDST ALL THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE PREGNANCY OF OBADIAH HORN'S FIANCEE, SAHARA,\* THEIR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, GABBATHA, WILL BE IN OUR STUDIOS TOMORROW...

HE'LL BE DEBATING TRANSGENIC RIGHTS WITH CHILDREN OF GOD COALITION LEADER, PERRY FALWELL...

WON'T THAT BE FUN...

\*See ELEPHANTMEN #42



SAHARA FIRST MET GABBATHA ON A TRIP TO INDIA.

INDIA HAS LONG REVERED THE ELEPHANT AND MAINTAINED HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM...

AND IS, OF COURSE, HOME OF THE ORIGINAL BUDDHA, SIDDHARTHA GHATAMA OR SHAKYAMUNI...

SO IT'S NO WONDER GABBATHA MADE HIS HOME THERE...



WE'LL SEE IF GABBATHA HAS ANYTHING MORE TO SAY THAN THE WORDS WE ARE MOST USED TO HEARING FROM HIM...

THE BUDDHA RESIDES IN A PURE HEART.

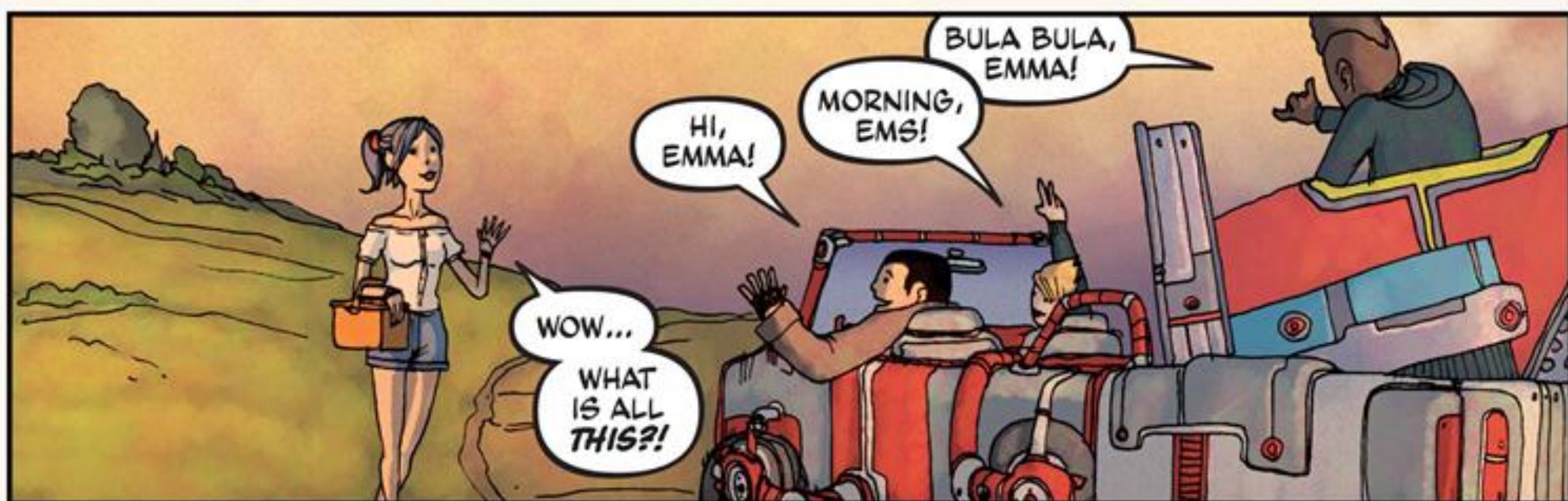
HE'S OUR TARGET.

THERE'S FIVE MILLION IN IT FOR YOU.

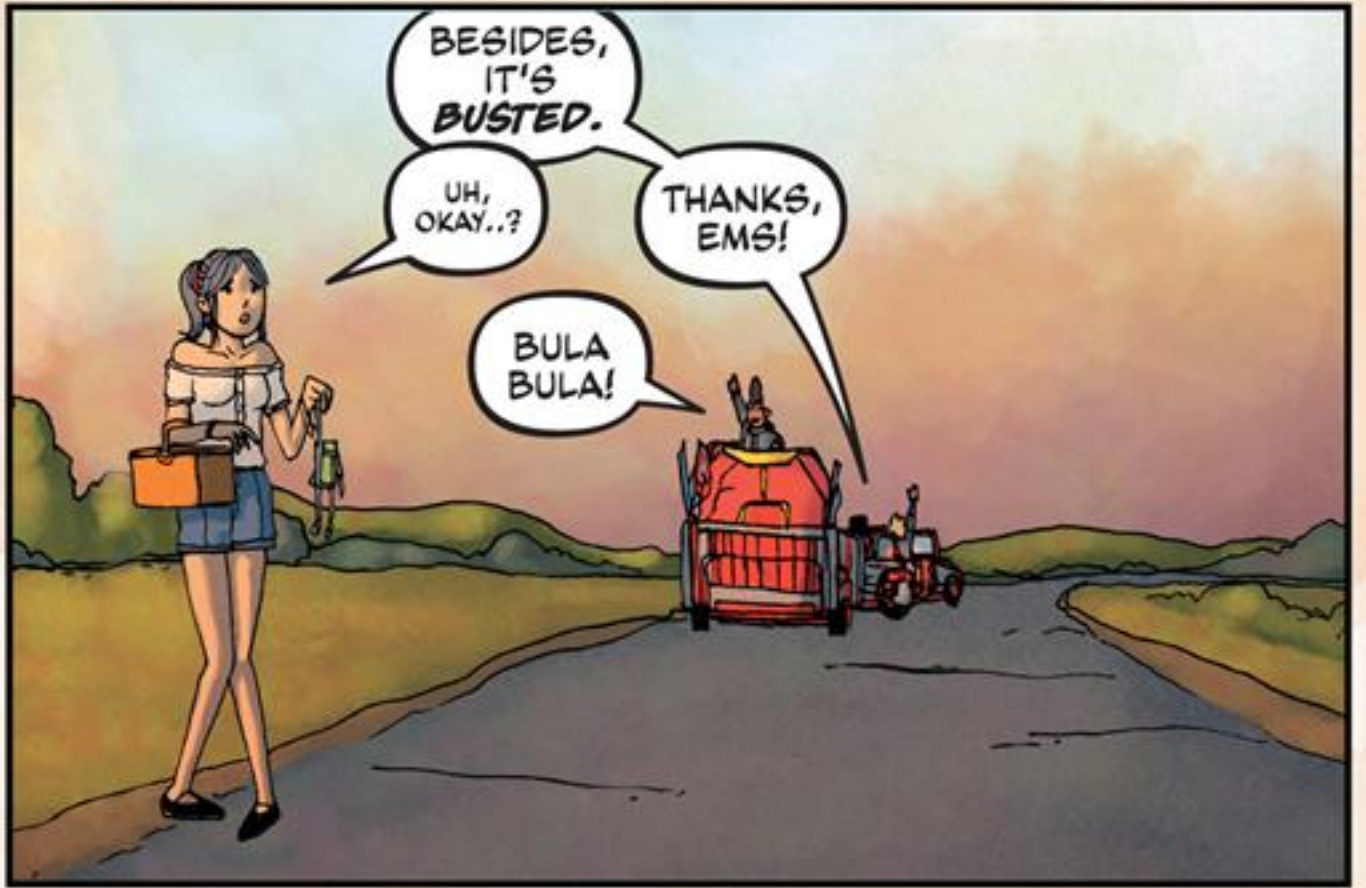
I'M DOWN.

To Be Continued!











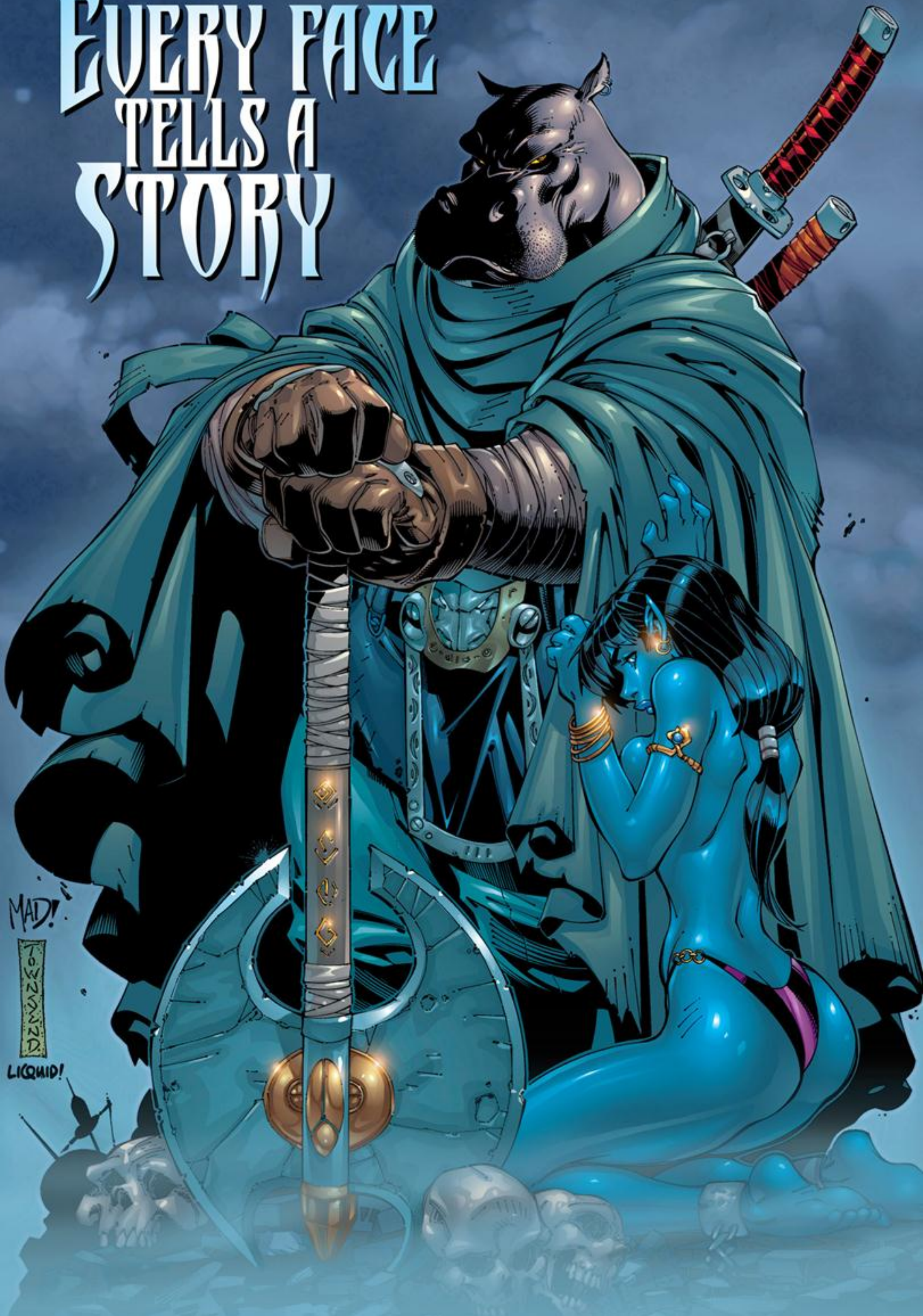
BUT...



TO BE CONTINUED...



# EVERY FACE TELLS A STORY



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