ESSENCE
DESTINY OF THE TWELVE WARRIORS
DOBES | FAJAR | KAMAPUTRA
essence comics
CARTER | POWERS | WOLLETT
BOOK #1

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WZZZ
NO...
I'M TOO LATE.
I CAN'T LET THESE CREATURES LEAVE THIS PLACE WITH SO MANY TRAPPED SOULS SUFFERING.

SKREEE
I MUST HAVE THAT LIFE FORCE.
DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!
I WILL END YOUR SUFFERING SOON.
HSSSS

ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
SKREEEEE
KRAAA
HSSSSS
ZZZ
HSSSSS
ZZZ
SKREEEEE
KRAAA
ALL OF YOU ARE USELESS!
I CAN FEEL THE POWER BUILDING INSIDE ME.
ROOAARR
BOOM

THIS POWER IS AMAZING.
UNFORTUNATELY...
...IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH.
LEND ME YOUR AID, BROTHERS!
BOOM
WOOOSH
WOOOSH
WOOOSH
WOOOSH

AHHHH.
THIS IS MUCH BETTER!
NOW I CAN DEFEAT YOU.
YOU CAN TRY.

ZZZZ
LET'S END THIS!
LET'S END THIS!
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ

BAM
IT'S ABSORBING MY ESSENCE!
WHAM
CANABALIZING ITS OWN MADE IT STRONGER THAN I'D IMAGINED!
WE HAVE TO END THIS BEFORE IT GETS TOO STRONG.
YOU CAN COUNT ON US, ERA.

I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO ALL OF YOU.

READY?!
LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF!
HOLD STILL!
WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT ME?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY BODY?!
I'LL BE BACK!
AND I'LL COME FOR YOU WHEN I DO.

THE DEORC ARE BECOMING TOO POWERFUL.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT THEM AS WE ARE FOR MUCH LONGER.
EVEN THE CHILD WHO INHERITED MY POWERS SEEMS TO BE STRUGGLING.
IT APPEARS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.

ONE YEAR EARLIER
OUR ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR HOME WORLD.
THEY WERE TRYING TO CONTROL NATURE'S DEADLIEST FORCES.
WHAT WERE THEY TRYING TO CONTROL, CONRAD?
I'M GLAD YOU ASKED.

THEY WERE TRYING TO CONTROL ESSENCE.

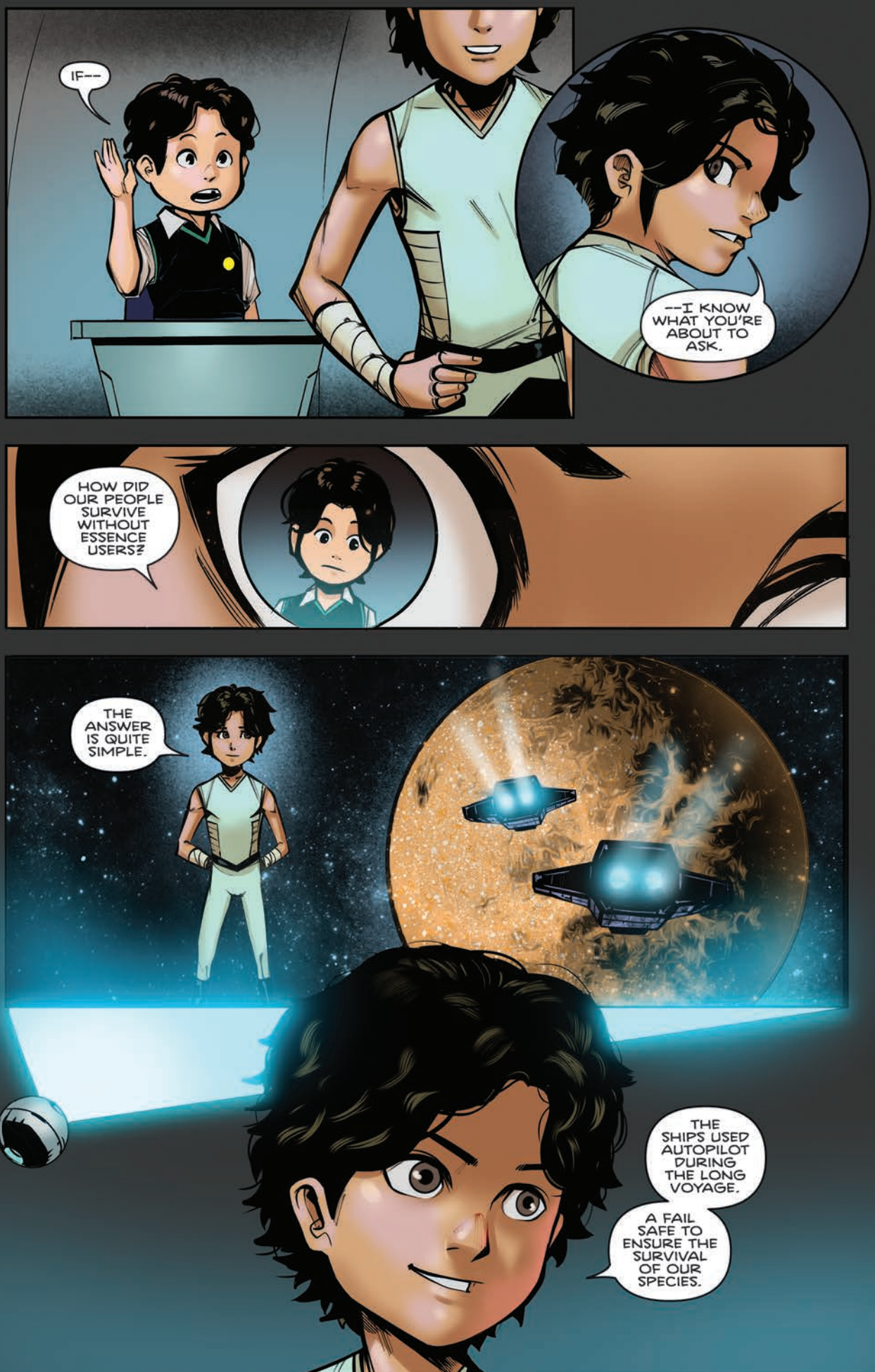
"STUDIES FROM THE SCIENCE AUGURS PROVED HARNESSING ESSENCE COULD CREATE A BETTER WORLD.
"BUT THE MONGERS AMONG THEM WANTED IT FOR THEMSELVES.
"WAR WAS INEVITABLE."

"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR A VICTOR TO BE DECIDED.
"FEARING UNFETTERED MONGER SAVAGERY, THE AUGURS HAD TO WIN AT ANY COST.
"THEY FOUND ANOTHER WAY TO FIGHT BACK."

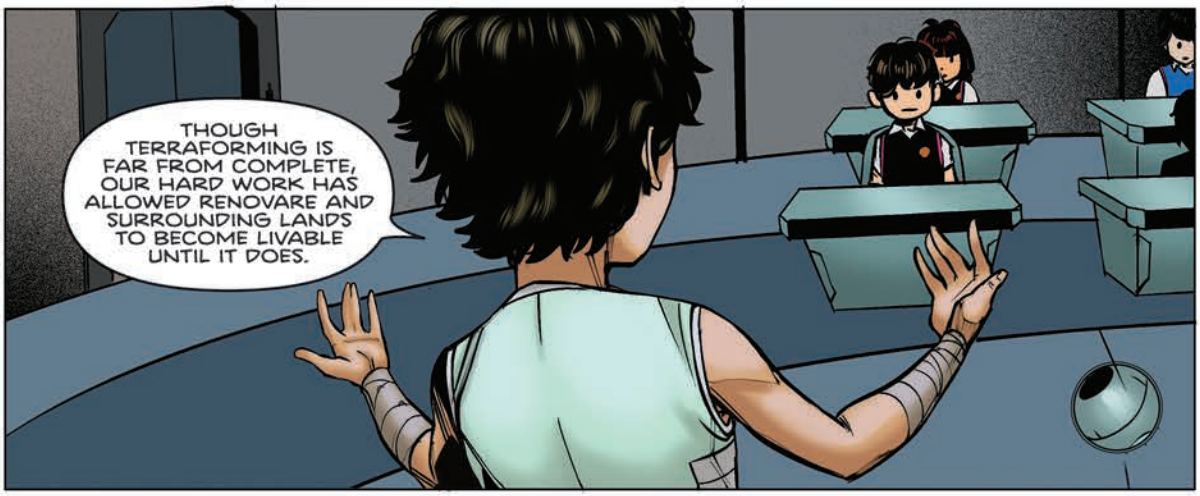
"SCIENTISTS ACROSS ASTRA CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE A WEAPON THAT COULD EXTRACT ESSENCE FROM THEIR SUN.
"MANY VOICED THEIR CONCERNS...
"...BUT IT WAS A RISK MOST WERE WILLING TO TAKE."

"AFTER DEFEATING THE MONGERS, THE PEOPLE OF ASTRA WERE STILL FORCED TO FLEE.
"THEIR SUN HAD BECOME TOO UNSTABLE."
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE WHO COULD STILL USE ESSENCE?
HOW DOES THAT INVOLVE SEVIA?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION!
WOAH... HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!

OUR ANCESTORS RECRUITED NON-ESSENCE USERS TO COLONIZE A NEW WORLD.
THEY STAYED BEHIND TO SAVE THE PLANET.
INTERNAL CONFLICT BEGAN SPREADING AMONGST THE REMAINING ESSENCE USERS.
BEFORE THEY KNEW IT...
OH...
WOW...
HRMMM
BOOM!
BOOM!
SLAM
ESSENCE USERS WERE NO MORE.

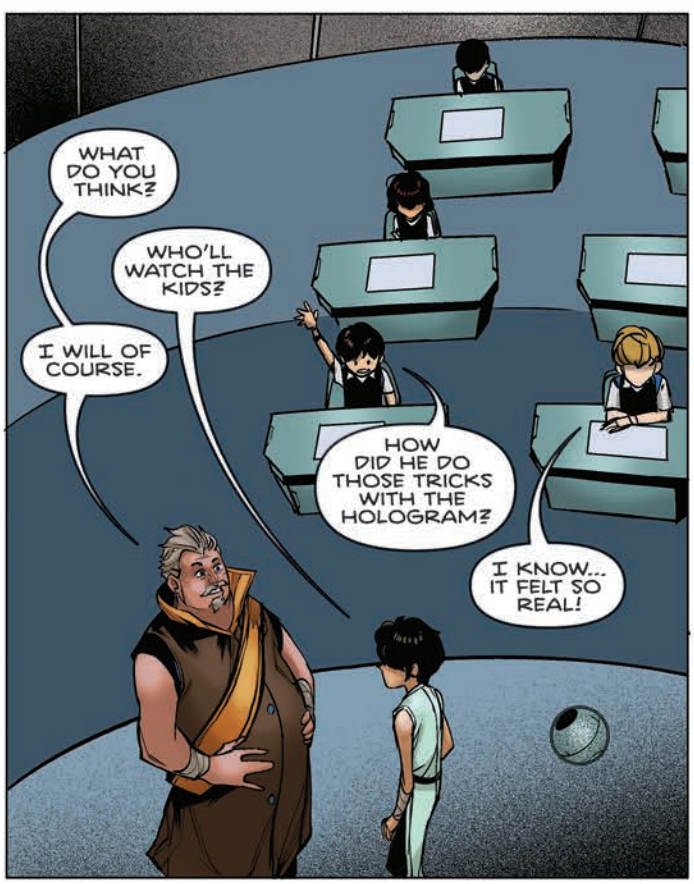

IF--
--I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO ASK.
HOW DID OUR PEOPLE SURVIVE WITHOUT ESSENCE USERS?
THE ANSWER IS QUITE SIMPLE.
THE SHIPS USED AUTOPILOT DURING THE LONG VOYAGE.
A FAIL SAFE TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF OUR SPECIES.

"SINCE OUR ARRIVAL ON SEVIA, THE FIRST SETTLERS USED THE TOOLS THEY HAD AND HARD WORK TO SURVIVE.
"ALL IN THE HOPES THAT THEIR EFFORTS WEREN'T IN VAIN.
"AND THEY WEREN'T."


THOUGH TERRAFORMING IS FAR FROM COMPLETE, OUR HARD WORK HAS ALLOWED RENOVARE AND SURROUNDING LANDS TO BECOME LIVABLE UNTIL IT DOES.

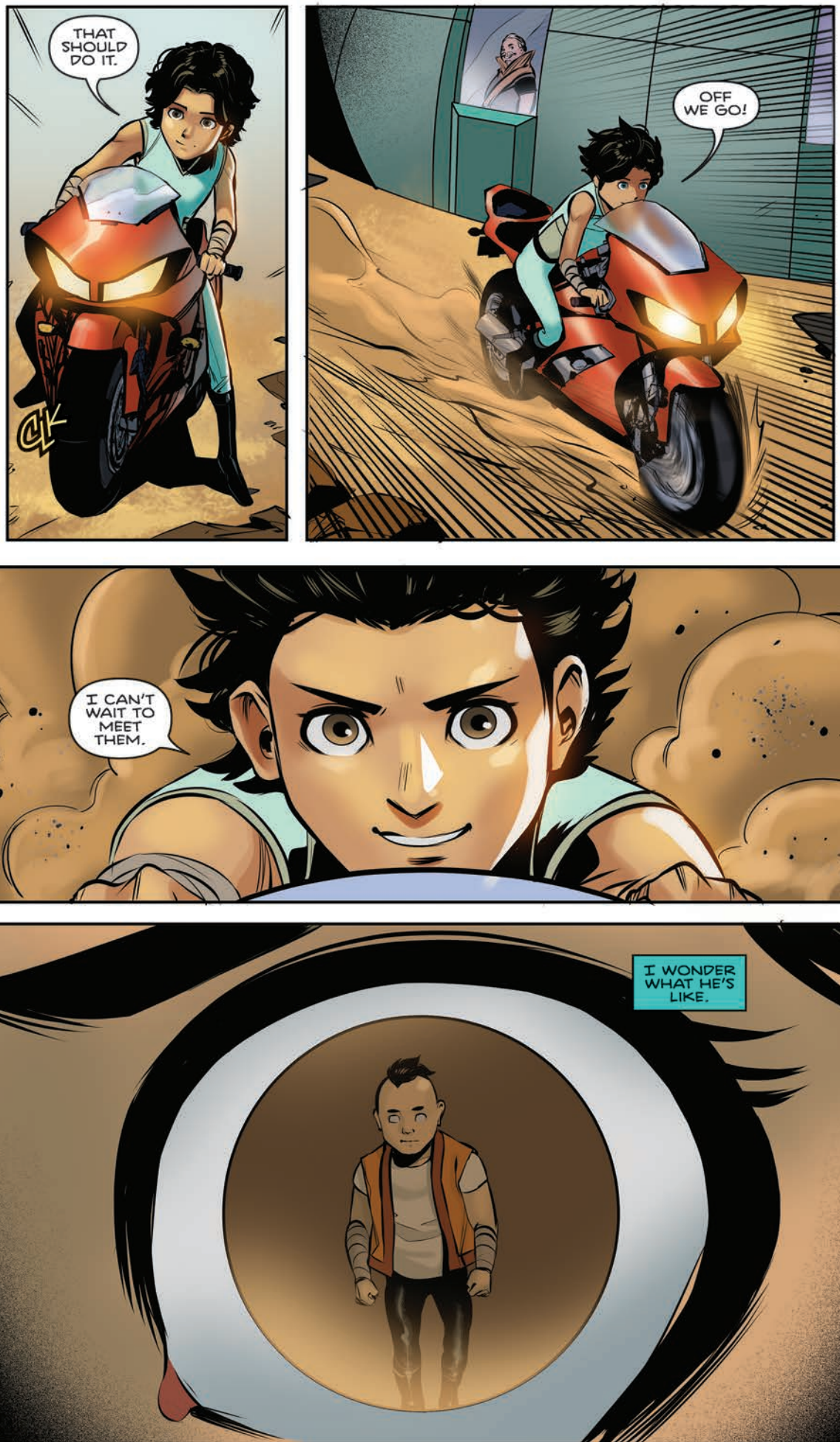
CLINK CLINK CLINK
WHO IS IT?

SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION, CONRAD.
NEW REFUGEES APPROACH THE GATES OF RENOVARE.
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR CITY, I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GREET THEM.


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHO'LL WATCH THE KIDS?
I WILL OF COURSE.
HOW DID HE DO THOSE TRICKS WITH THE HOLOGRAM?
I KNOW... IT FELT SO REAL!

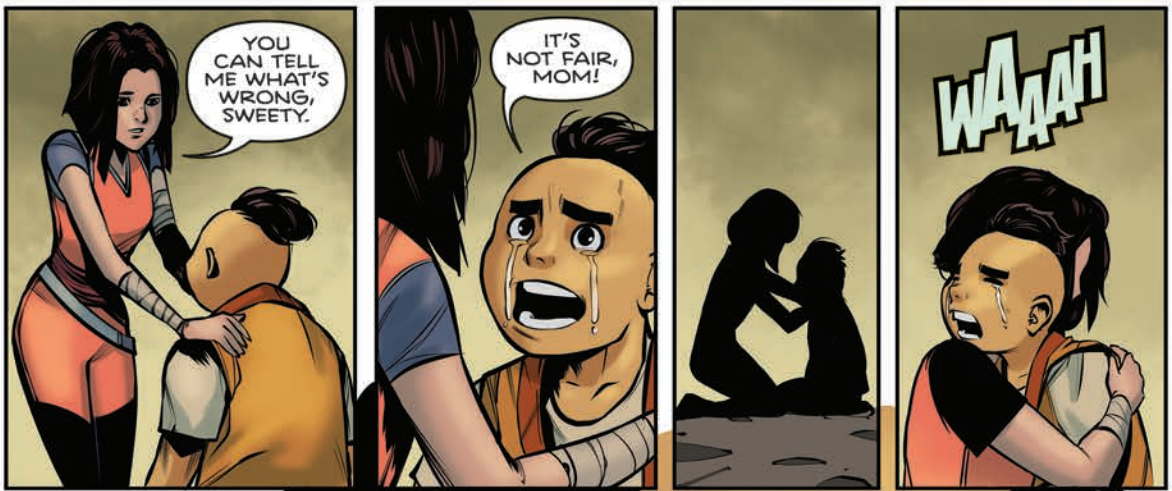
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
GOOD TIMING, TAYLOR.

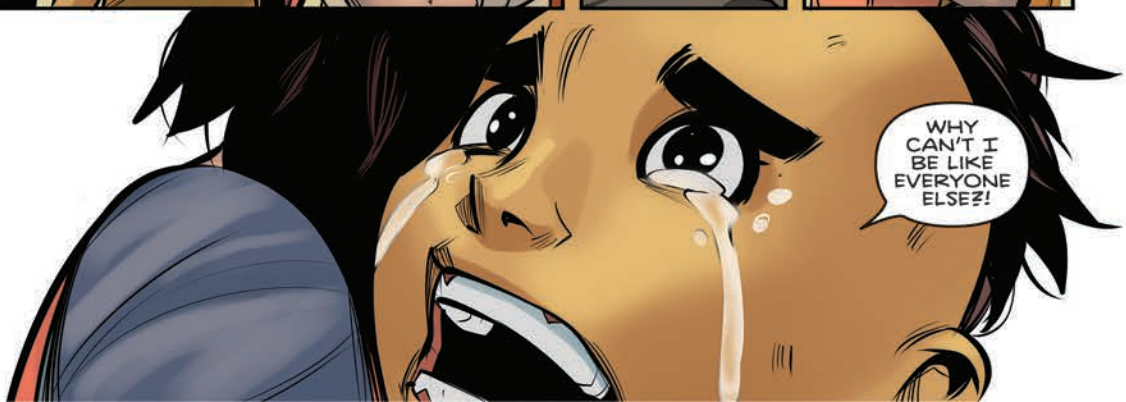
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.


THAT SHOULD DO IT.
OFF WE GO!
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THEM.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE.

ARE YOU OKAY, DEAR?
YEAH...

LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH!
SUCH A VILE CREATURE!


YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG, SWEETY.
IT'S NOT FAIR, MOM!
WAAAH


WHY CAN'T I BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?!

MAYBE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WHERE WE'RE GOING.
CAN THEY?
I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING THAT CAN HELP A MONSTER LIKE YOU.
MY SON ISN'T A MONSTER!
HE'S THE KINDEST SOUL I KNOW.
MALIK TRIES TO PROVE HIMSELF MORE THAN ANY OF US.
IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW HIM, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT!

DID SHE REALLY JUST SAY THAT?
I THINK SHE DID.
HA HA HA HA HA
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY LOVE AN ABOMINATION LIKE THAT?
IT'S BROUGHT NOTHING BUT SUFFERING AND DESTRUCTION FROM THE DAY IT ENTERED THIS WORLD.
IT SHOULDN'T EXIST...NOR BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
HE'S NOT AN ABOMINATION.
YOUR IGNORANCE IS UNBECOMING.

WHO IS THIS KID?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU FEEL IT'S OKAY TO TALK DOWN TO SOMEONE.
WHATEVER YOUR REASONS FOR THOSE STATEMENTS...
THEY'RE UNNECESSARY.
WHAT COULD A CHILD LIKE YOU POSSIBLY KNOW ABOUT A CREATURE LIKE THAT?!
IT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OUR MISFORTUNES.
W-WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

I'M CONRAD.

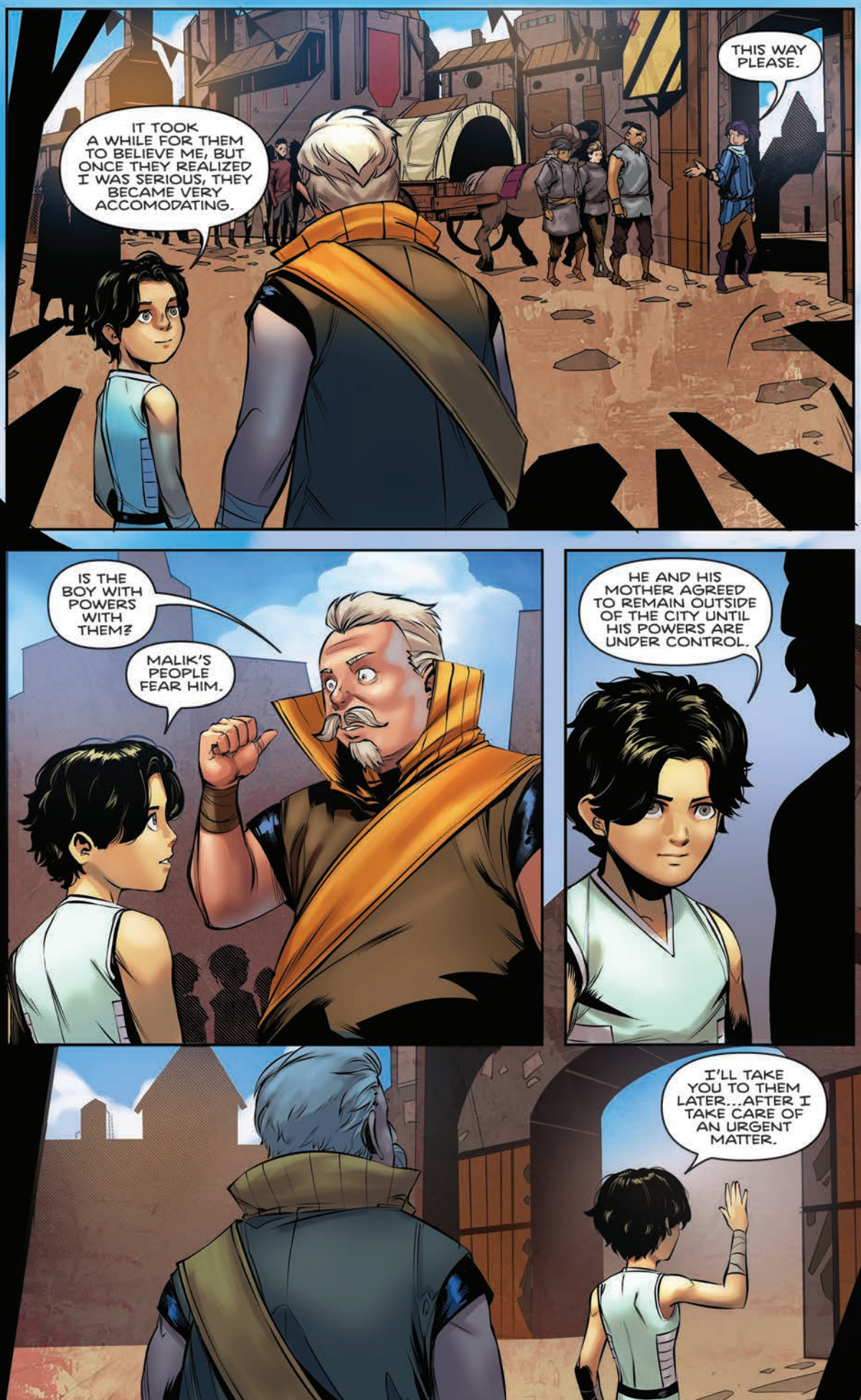
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN WALTZ IN HERE TELLING ADULTS WHAT THEY CAN AND CAN'T DO?!
HOW ABOUT YOU LEARN SOME MANNERS!
SMACK
WHAT HAVE I JUST DONE?

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MEAN?!
WHY?!
SEE?!
THIS IS WHAT I MEAN!
HE'LL DESTROY US ALL!
I WANT TO KNOW WHY!
YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN, BIG GUY.
HM?
DON'T GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT.

ARE YOU THE LEADER OF THESE PEOPLE?
WHY DOES THAT MATTER TO YOU?

I CAME HERE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
LISTEN, KID...
WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY?

BECAUSE I'M HERE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RENOVARE.


IT TOOK A WHILE FOR THEM TO BELIEVE ME, BUT ONCE THEY REALIZED I WAS SERIOUS, THEY BECAME VERY ACCOMODATING.
THIS WAY PLEASE.
IS THE BOY WITH POWERS WITH THEM?
MALIK'S PEOPLE FEAR HIM.
HE AND HIS MOTHER AGREED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE CITY UNTIL HIS POWERS ARE UNDER CONTROL.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THEM LATER...AFTER I TAKE CARE OF AN URGENT MATTER.

DO YOU THINK THAT BOY CAN HELP ME?
I'M NOT SURE.
HE SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD, THOUGH.
I CAN DEFINITELY HELP YOU.
MY NAME IS CONRAD, AND THIS IS TAYLOR ESHRA, MAYOR OF RENOVARE.

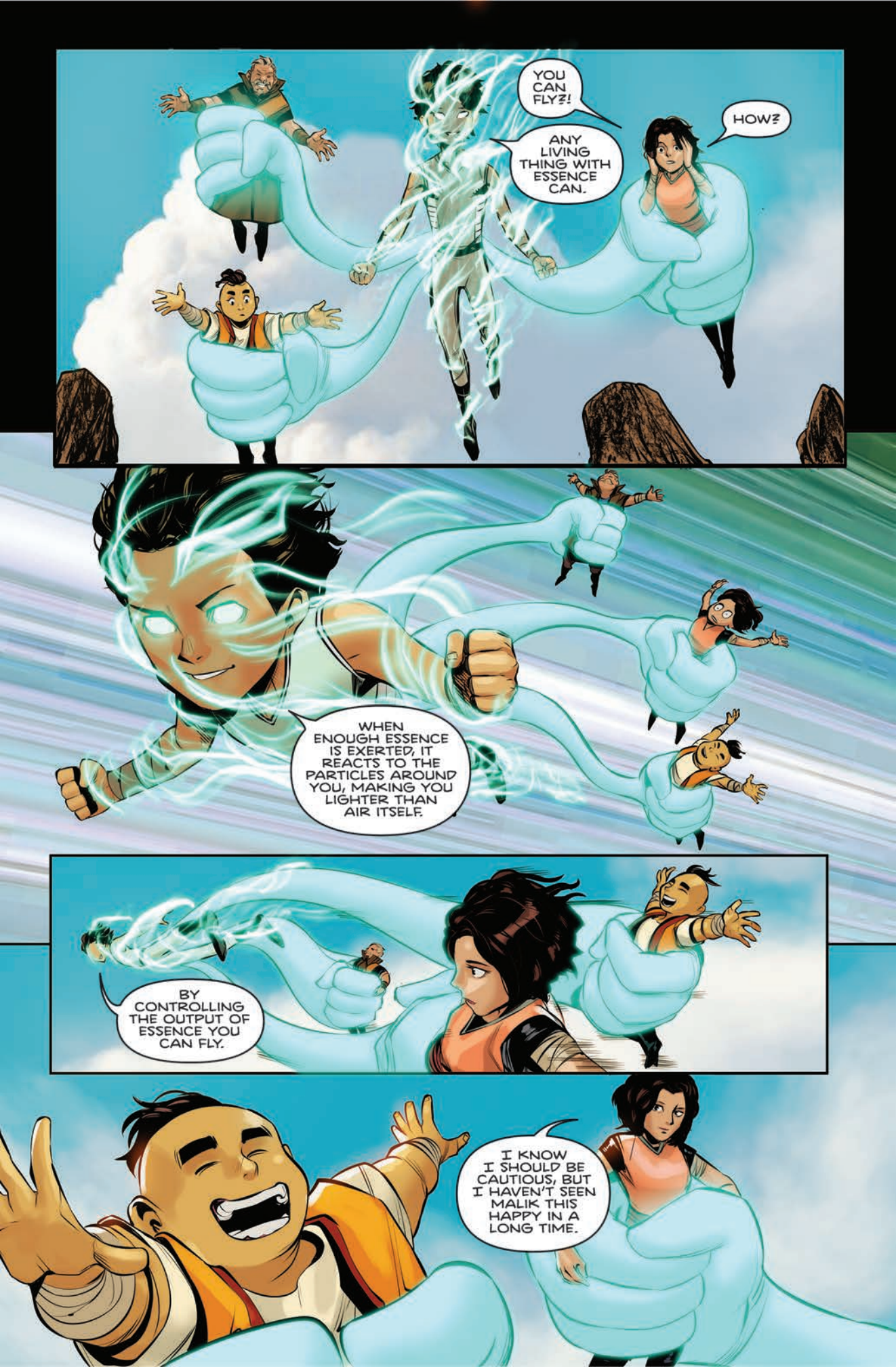
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MOM?!
I DID!
SO HOW CAN YOU HELP MY SON?
FIRST... ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN MY ABILITY.

MALIK DIDN'T GAIN HIS POWERS THE WAY OUR ANCESTORS DID.
WOW.
HRM?
THEY WERE GIVEN TO US BEFORE BIRTH.
WHAT?
ALL I KNOW IS THEY WERE GIVEN TO US BY SOMETHING VERY POWERFUL.
I UNDERSTAND THIS THANKS TO THE ABILITY I INHERITED.

I HAVE THE POWER TO UNDERSTAND THE UNKNOWN.
I CALL IT PERCEPTION.

MALIK INHERITED AN ABILITY DIFFERENT FROM MY OWN.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MALIK'S ABILITY?
NOT MUCH.
I THOUGHT SO.
SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?
NOT AT ALL.

WE'LL NEED TO MOVE FURTHER FROM THE CITY TO SHOW YOU MORE.

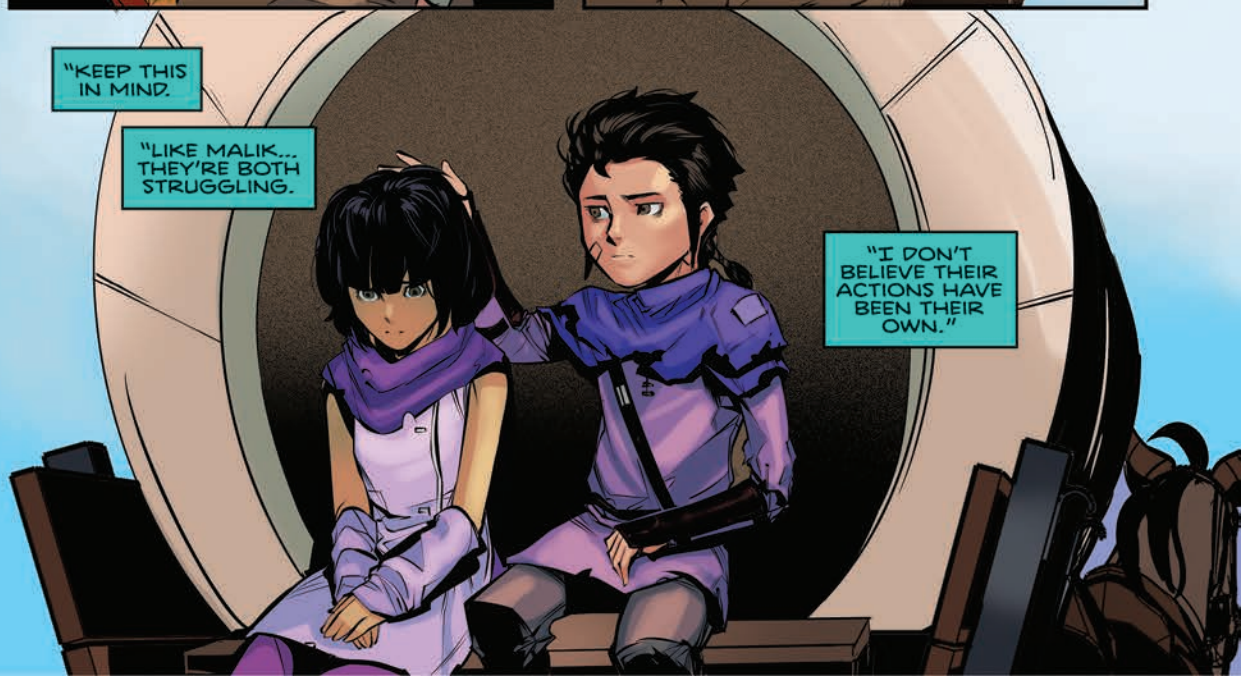

YOU CAN FLY?!
ANY LIVING THING WITH ESSENCE CAN.
HOW?
WHEN ENOUGH ESSENCE IS EXERTED, IT REACTS TO THE PARTICLES AROUND YOU, MAKING YOU LIGHTER THAN AIR ITSELF.
BY CONTROLLING THE OUTPUT OF ESSENCE YOU CAN FLY.
I KNOW I SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN MALIK THIS HAPPY IN A LONG TIME.

WOOOSH
WOOOSH
WOOOSH
WE'VE REACHED OUR DESTINATION.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO TELL YOU.
THERE ARE TWO OTHERS I KNOW OF WITH POWERS LIKE MALIK AND ME.
THEY CAME TO RENOVARE WITH YOUR CARAVAN.
"I'VE BEEN WATCHING THEM SINCE."

YOU BROUGHT US HERE TO CONFRONT THEM?
I HAVE QUESTIONS AND THIS MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO HELP THEM.
I'LL NEED MALIK'S HELP IF THEY DECIDE TO FIGHT.

THOSE ARE THE SAME KIDS THAT DESTROYED OUR CITY!
MALIK'S RIGHT.

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME FIGHT THEM AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.
I SEE YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED THEM BEFORE.


"KEEP THIS IN MIND.
"LIKE MALIK... THEY'RE BOTH STRUGGLING.
"I DON'T BELIEVE THEIR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN THEIR OWN."

DON'T WORRY, MALIK.
WOOSH
I'LL BE THE ONE TO FIGHT IF THEY ATTACK.
BUT I WILL NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE.
DO YOU TRUST ME?
I DO.
WHOA.
BZZZ
ZZ
BZZZ
ZZZ

WOOOSH
W-WHAT IS THAT, MAXZ!
I-I DON'T KNOW, VI!
WOOOSH
HRMZ
HRMZ
HRMZ
HRMZ
HAAAAAA
INTERESTING...

KRAAAA
HSSSS
SKREEEE
FIND AND DEVOUR THE SOURCE!
HSSSS
KRAAAA
SKREEEE

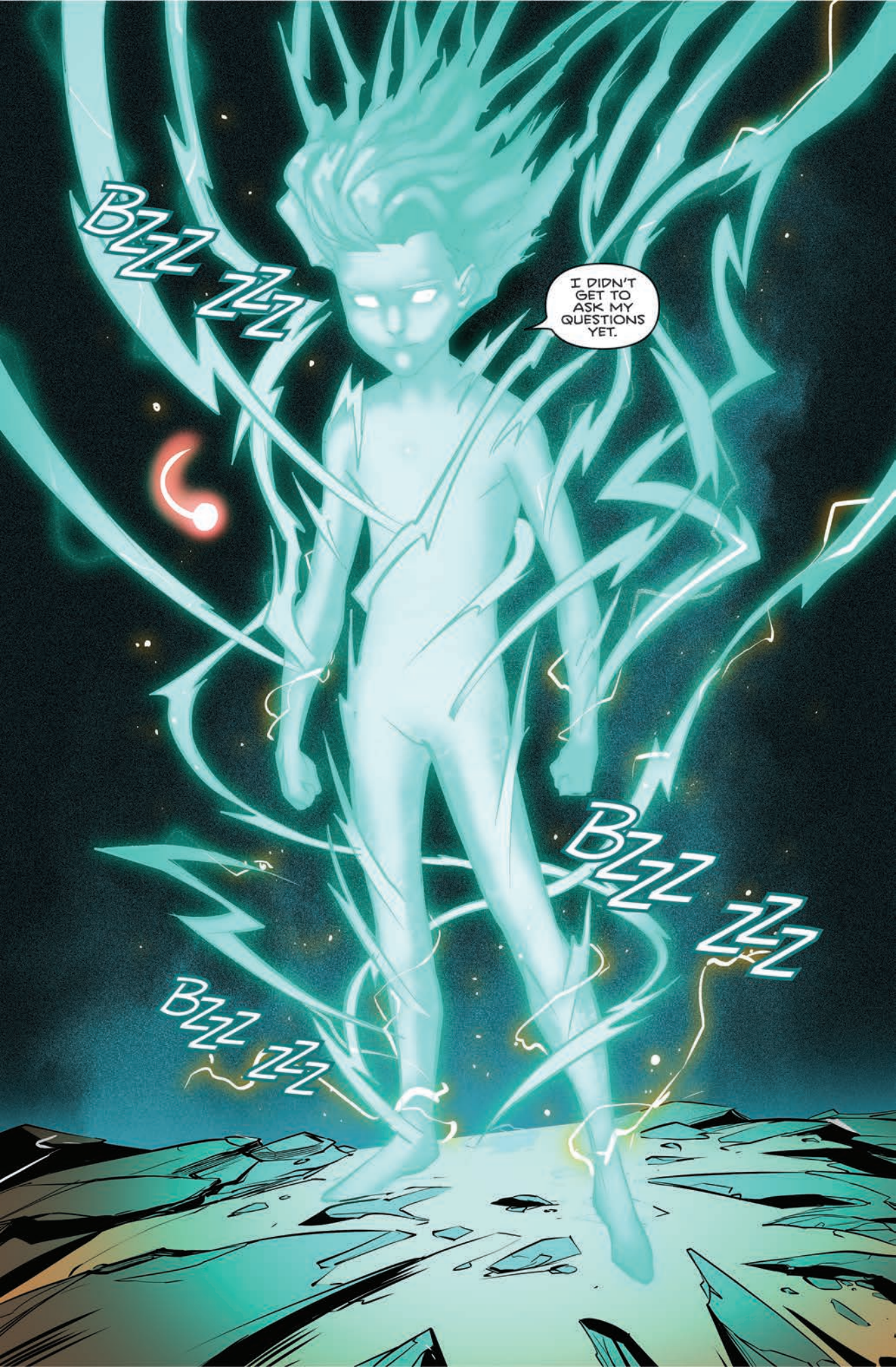
WOOOSH
WOOOSH
BZZZZZ
W-WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
I'LL LET MALIK EXPLAIN.
BUT MALIK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
I DO NOW.
CONRAD SHARED HIS PERCEPTION WITH ME.
SO THAT'S HOW HE'S GOING TO HELP MALIK.
BY ALLOWING MALIK TO PERCEIVE.

W-WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS, VI?
I-I DON'T KNOW, MAX!
HI...I'M CONRAD.

CAN I ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?
S-SHOULD WE RUN?
I-I'M NOT SURE.
WOOOSH
I GUESS NOT.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WHO DO YOU THINK HE IS?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT.

KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
THAT WAS CLOSE.
THINK WE'RE SAFE?
HE'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY FAST TO CATCH UP TO US NOW.
WHERE'D THAT KID COME FROM?
YOU THINK HE WANTED TO TALK?
WELL... I'D RATHER NOT FIND OUT.
I AGREE.

BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ
HE'S COMING.
THAT WAS FAST.
WAY TOO FAST.
NOT EVEN LINK HELPED.
BZZZ ZZZ
STOP HIM, VI!
BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ
BRRWEHH
BZZZZZ


BZZ ZZ
I DIDN'T GET TO ASK MY QUESTIONS YET.
BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ

GET US OUT OF HERE, NOW!
WZZZ
BZZ ZZ
I'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER.
BZZ ZZ
LOOKS LIKE I GOT YOU TWO ALONE.
BZZ ZZ
WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
WZZZ
WZZZ
BZZ ZZ

SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME, THEN?
BZZZ ZZZ
AHHHH
AHHH

BZZZ ZZ
I HOPE THIS ISN'T THE BEST YOU CAN DO.
NOT IF YOU INTEND TO BEAT ME.
BZZZ ZZ
WAAAH
BZZZ ZZ
BZZZ ZZ
WAAAH
THUD
THUD
CRASH
OKAY.
WZZZ

YA YA
HM HM
BZZ ZZ
YA YA
HM HM
HM YA YA
HM
WOOOSH
WOOOSH
YOU TWO DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ
AHHH

WZZZ
BZZZZZZ
IF YOU THINK YOUR PLAN IS GOING TO WORK ON ME...
BZZZZZ
WOOOSH
I PROMISE IT WON'T.
TAP
TAP
TAP

AHHH
FLICK
BZZ ZZ
BZZ ZZ
WZZZ

SMACK
TH THUD
TH THUD
TH THUD
UGH...
...WHY DOES THAT HURT SO MUCH?
ARE YOU OKAY, MAX?
WHZZ
YEAH.
WHAT DID HE DO TO MAKE THAT HURT SO MUCH?

HE'S STRONG, LIKE THAT ONE KID WE FOUGHT BEFORE.
DO YOU THINK WE CAN BEAT HIM, MAX?
I DON'T KNOW.

WE DIDN'T FIGHT THAT OTHER KID AT OUR FULL STRENGTH BEFORE EITHER.

BZZ ZZ
WHY DO YOU NEED THE CORES?
BZZ ZZ
OUR LIVES DEPEND ON THOSE!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH!
I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

THEN PROVE IT.

AHHHH
AHHHH
THIS JUST GOT INTERESTING.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, VI.
I DO.
LET'S SEE WHAT THE TWO OF YOU CAN DO.

AHHHH
BZZ ZZ
CRACK
CRACK
AHHH

BZZ ZZ
WZZ
WZZ
WZZZ
CLACK
WZZZ
BZZ ZZ
CRASH
BZZ ZZ

HEH
BZZZ ZZZ
BZZ ZZ
WHA

GNH
BZZZZZ
WZZZ
BZZZZZ
BZZZ ZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
HUH?

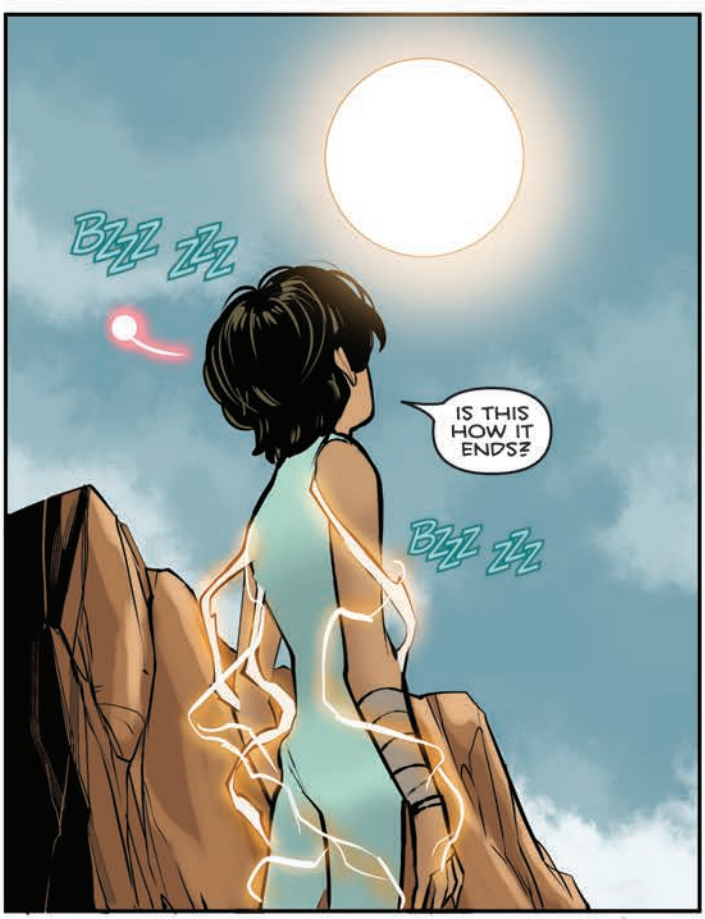
HE GOT YOU?!
UH-HUH.

BZZZZZ
THIS IS DRAGGING ON A LITTLE LONGER THAN I EXPECTED.
BZZZZZ
BZZZZZ
CLACK
I BETTER END THIS SOON.
WILL YOU BE OKAY, VI?
M-HM

HERE HE COMES!
BZZZZZ
BZZZZZZ
I THINK WE'RE WEARING HIM DOWN!
DON'T HOLD BACK, MAX!
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZZZZ
CLACK
BZZZZZ

HE'S STARTING TO FALTER.

WZZ
WZZ


BZZ ZZ
IS THIS HOW IT ENDS?
BZZ ZZ

AHHHH
AHHHH

SCHLING

M-MAX...
W-WE KILLED HIM.

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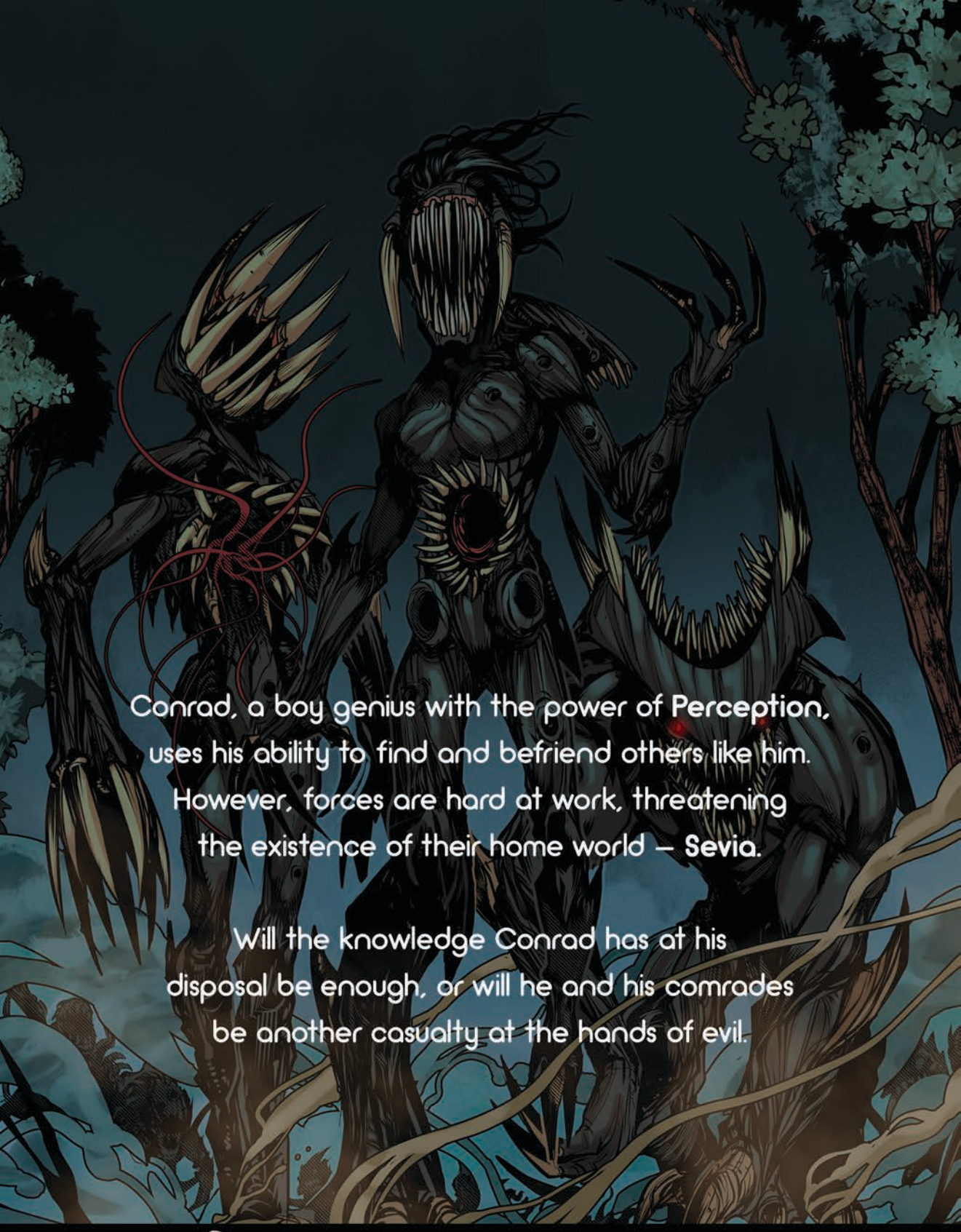

Conrad, a boy genius with the power of **Perception,** uses his ability to find and befriend others like him. However, forces are hard at work, threatening the existence of their home world – **Sevia.**

Will the knowledge Conrad has at his disposal be enough, or will he and his comrades be another casualty at the hands of evil.

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