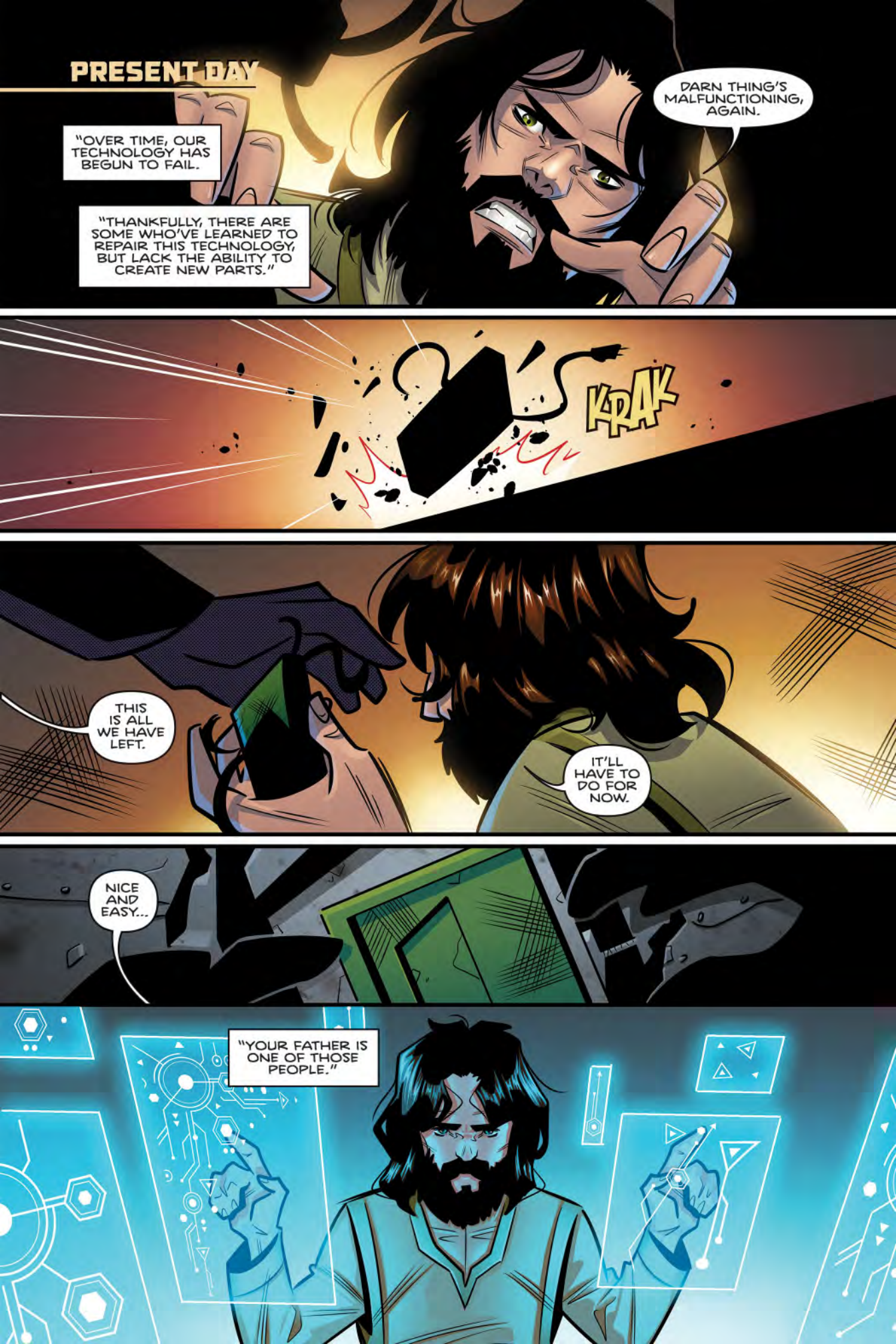

ESSENCE COMICS
VOL #1
ESSENCE
DESTINY OF THE TWELVE WARRIORS ®
DOBES HILL SABBATINI FAJAR GLOVER
KAMAPUTRA MIRIADE TRPCEVSKI.TRIP WOLLET



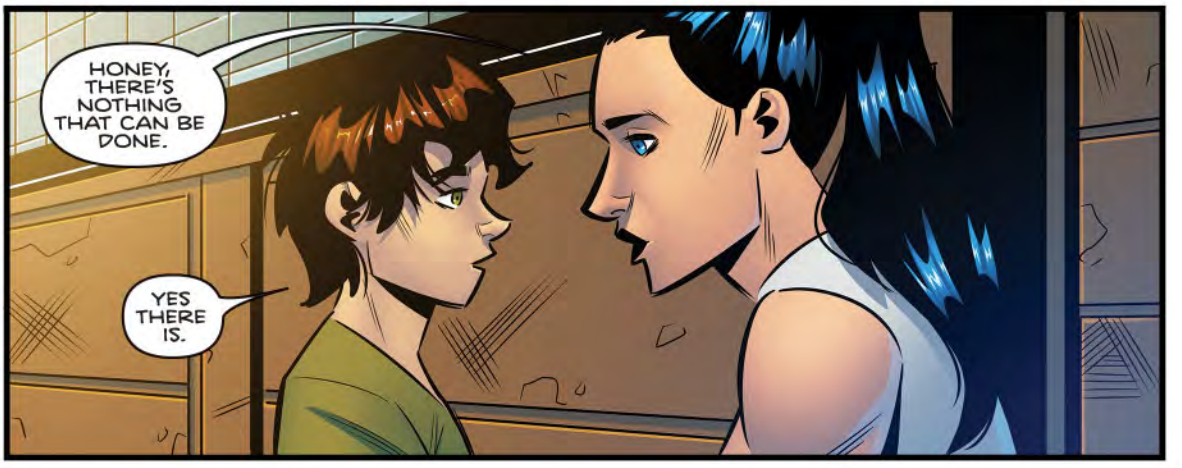
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PRINTED IN CHINA


CRASH
HM?
I...I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!
I'M SO SORRY CONRAD...
LIFE WASN'T MEANT TO BE LIKE THIS WHEN OUR ANCESTORS FIRST CAME TO COLONIZE SEVIA.


A LONG TIME AGO
"PLANET SEVIA WAS SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE OUR PEOPLE WITH A NEW BEGINNING.
"A WAY FOR OUR PEOPLE TO LIVE HAPPILY AFTER BEING FORCED TO FLEE FROM A DYING PLANET.
"UNFORTUNATELY, OUR ANCESTORS FAILED THEIR MISSION.
"SHIPS CARRYING PERSONNEL WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO MAINTAIN OUR TECHNOLOGY WERE LOST."


PRESENT DAY
"OVER TIME, OUR TECHNOLOGY HAS BEGUN TO FAIL.
"THANKFULLY, THERE ARE SOME WHO'VE LEARNED TO REPAIR THIS TECHNOLOGY, BUT LACK THE ABILITY TO CREATE NEW PARTS."
DARN THING'S MALFUNCTIONING, AGAIN.
KRAK
THIS IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT.
IT'LL HAVE TO DO FOR NOW.
NICE AND EASY...
"YOUR FATHER IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE."


"IF THIS TECHNOLOGY FAILS, LIFE ON SEVIA WILL BE UNSUSTAINABLE."
THAT SHOULD HOLD THINGS FOR NOW.
BZZ BZZ BZZ
GAHHHH
I'M SO SORRY FOR BRINGING YOU INTO A WORLD LIKE THIS.
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, MOTHER.
I'LL PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF RENOVARE FROM NOW ON...
WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?


HONEY, THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE.
YES THERE IS.


I'LL SHOW YOU.



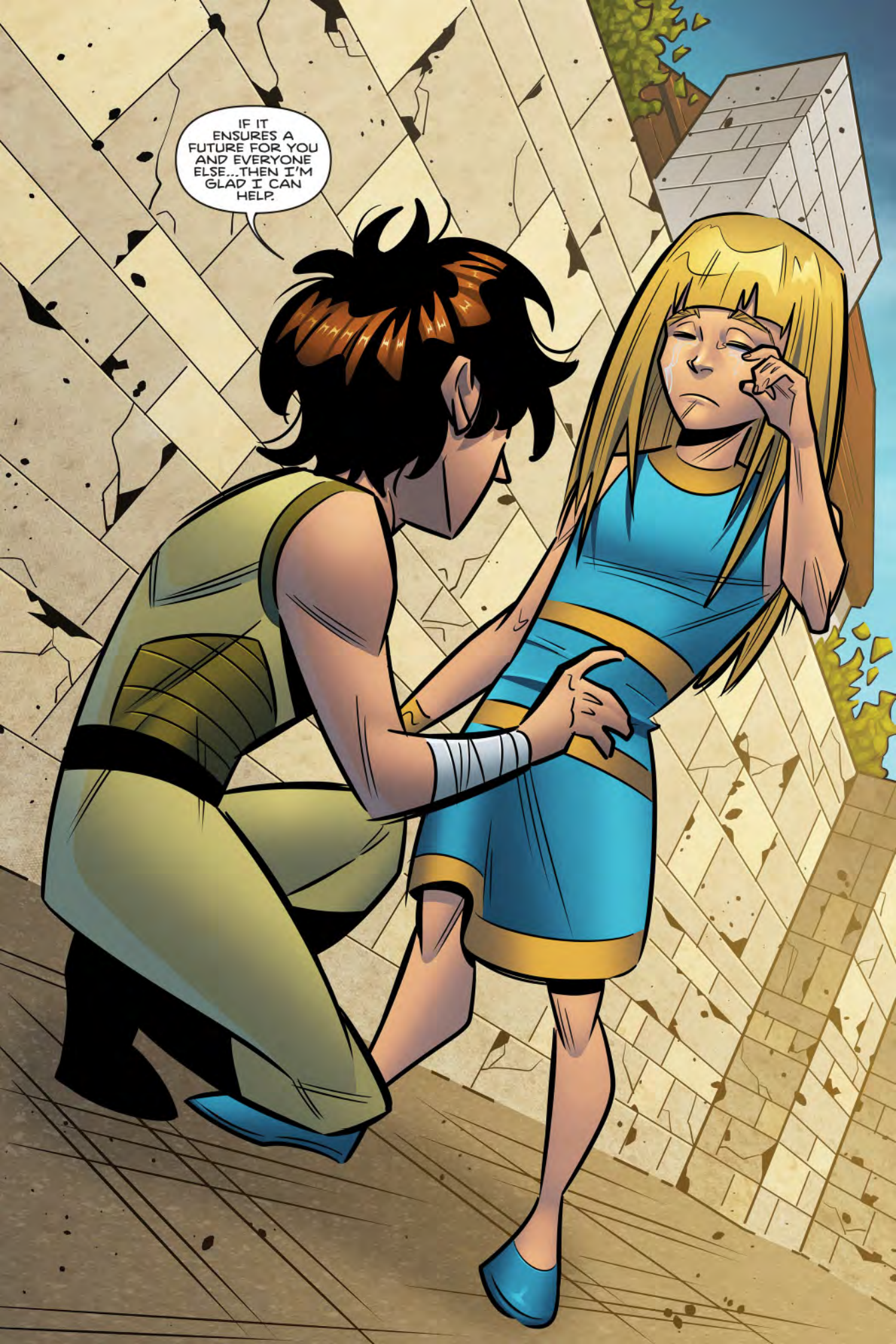

I CAN BARELY MOVE MY BODY.

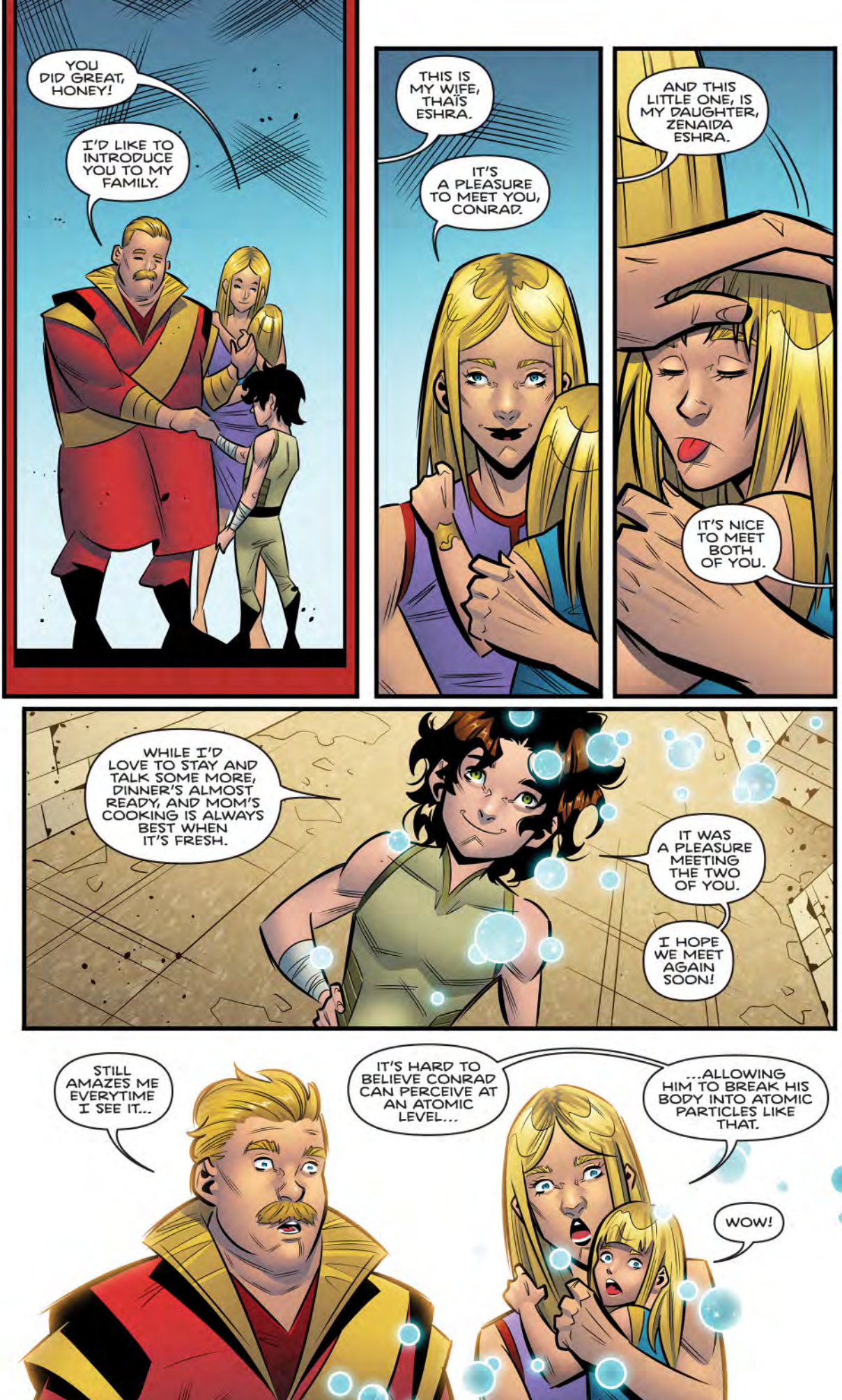

MY INJURIES, ARE GETTING BETTER!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT JUST REPAIRED THE MACHINERY!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?


HELLO, FATHER.
C...CONRAD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAME TO HELP.
WAIT... YOU HAVE POWERS?
THAT'S CORRECT.
THIS IS AMAZING!
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE SPECIAL!
FROM NOW ON I'LL HELP TAKE CARE OF THE CITY.
THANKS TO MY POWER, WHICH I'VE DECIDED TO CALL PERCEPTION, I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO OPERATE, REPAIR AND BUILD THE MACHINERY KEEPING EVERYONE ALIVE.


TWO YEARS LATER
ALMOST DONE!
EVERYTHING'S LOOKING GREAT, CONRAD.
THANKS, MAYOR ESHRA.


"BECAUSE OF YOU, ACCESS TO OUR ANCESTORS' TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN RESTORED.
"THE WATER IS THE PUREST IT'S EVER BEEN.
"AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ABOUT THE CROPS! THIS YEAR WILL BE THE LARGEST HARVEST SEEN IN THE HISTORY OF SEVIA."
EVERYONE APPRECIATES WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, SWEETIE?
T...THANK YOU, C...CONRAD!

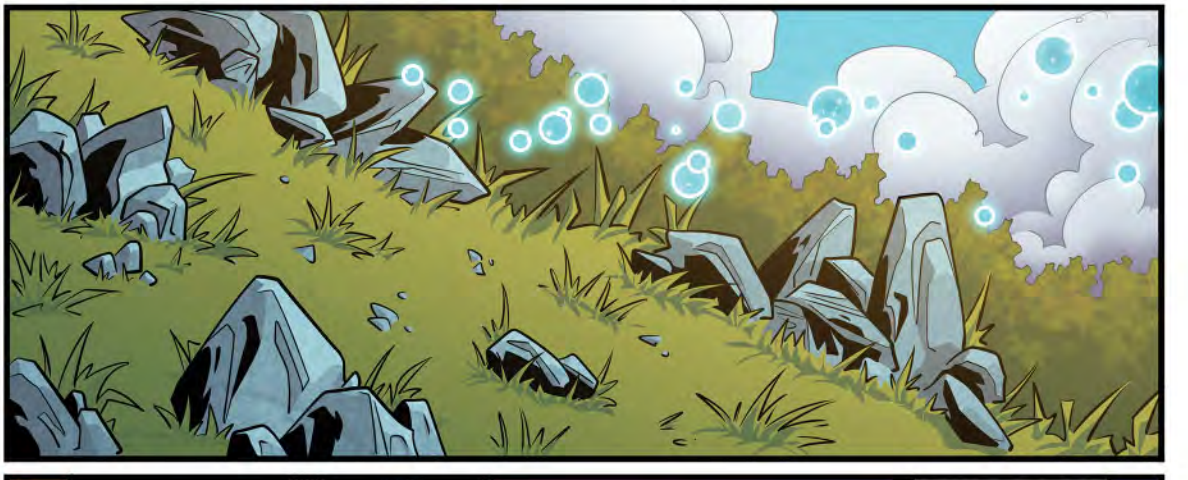

IF IT ENSURES A FUTURE FOR YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE...THEN I'M GLAD I CAN HELP.

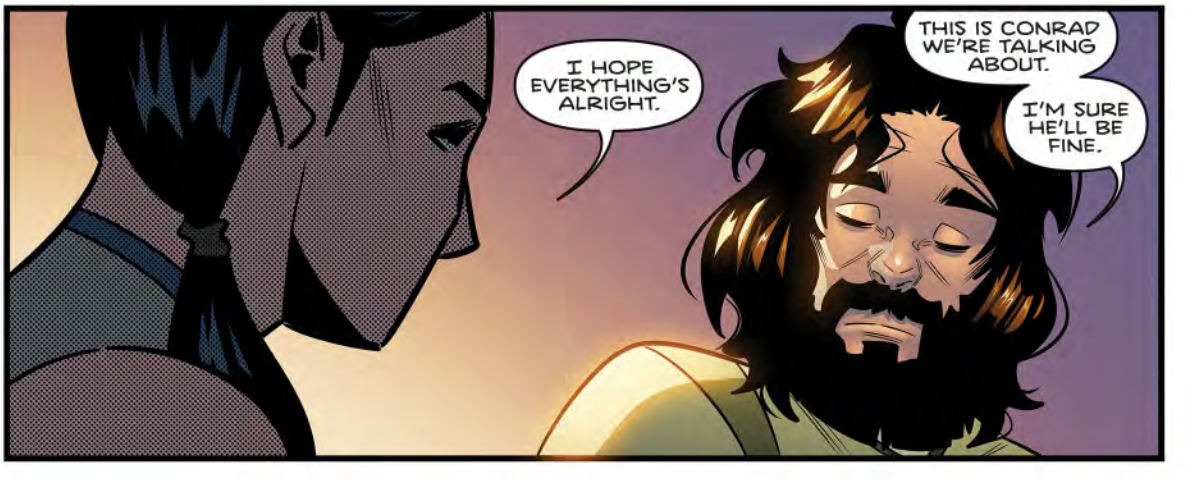

YOU DID GREAT, HONEY!
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FAMILY.
THIS IS MY WIFE, THAÏS ESHRA.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, CONRAD.
AND THIS LITTLE ONE, IS MY DAUGHTER, ZENAIDA ESHRA.
IT'S NICE TO MEET BOTH OF YOU.
WHILE I'D LOVE TO STAY AND TALK SOME MORE, DINNER'S ALMOST READY, AND MOM'S COOKING IS ALWAYS BEST WHEN IT'S FRESH.
IT WAS A PLEASURE MEETING THE TWO OF YOU.
I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN SOON!
STILL AMAZES ME EVERYTIME I SEE IT...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE CONRAD CAN PERCEIVE AT AN ATOMIC LEVEL...
...ALLOWING HIM TO BREAK HIS BODY INTO ATOMIC PARTICLES LIKE THAT.
WOW!


I HOPE YOU WORKED UP A GOOD APPETITE! I MADE YOUR FAVORITE.
ALRIGHT, QUEDESH!
DON'T EAT IT TOO FAST NOW, CONRAD.
WHAT'S THIS?


WHAT IS THAT ENORMOUS AURA HEADING THIS WAY?


I NEED TO GET A CLOSER LOOK.




I HOPE EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT.
THIS IS CONRAD WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE.


INTERESTING...A CARAVAN IS HEADING TOWARDS RENOVARE.
IT SEEMS NEWS OF OUR PROSPERITY HAS BEGUN TO SPREAD.
IT ALSO APPEARS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH POWERS.
GUESS I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF!


HM?
WHAT IS IT, MOM?
I'M NOT SURE.


HEY THERE! I'M CONRAD.
HI, UH... CONRAD?


WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CAN I?
GO ON... I DON'T THINK HE MEANS US HARM.
MY NAME'S MALIK!
SORRY...MALIK DOESN'T ALWAYS CONTROL HIS STRENGTH.
MY NAME'S PHAY.
MONTHS PRIOR
I FOUND HIM, MOM!
CAN WE LEAVE NOW?!
MWUEHHH
"MALIK'S STRENGTH CAN SOMETIMES BE A BLESSING AND A CURSE."


I'M SORRY, CONRAD.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
I HOPE HE HASN'T DONE THIS TO ANYONE ELSE.
MS. PHAY. I TAKE IT YOU'RE AWARE MALIK IS, UM, DIFFERENT?
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT YOUR AVERAGE CHILD, THAT'S FOR SURE!
MOM!
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE DIFFERENT YOURSELF.
WHAT'S YOUR POWER?

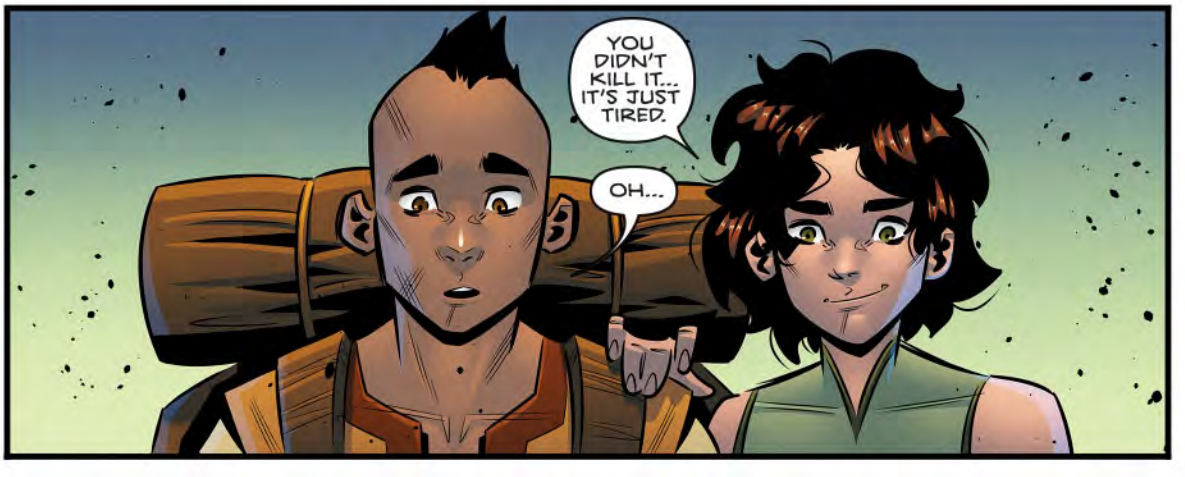

WOAH, SETTLE DOWN!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
IT APPEARS WE NEED TO POSTPONE OUR CONVERSATION.
=UGH=
MWUEHHH
ARE YOU OKAY, MISTER?




THANKS, YOU TWO.
MWUEHHH
THAT WAS ALL MALIK.

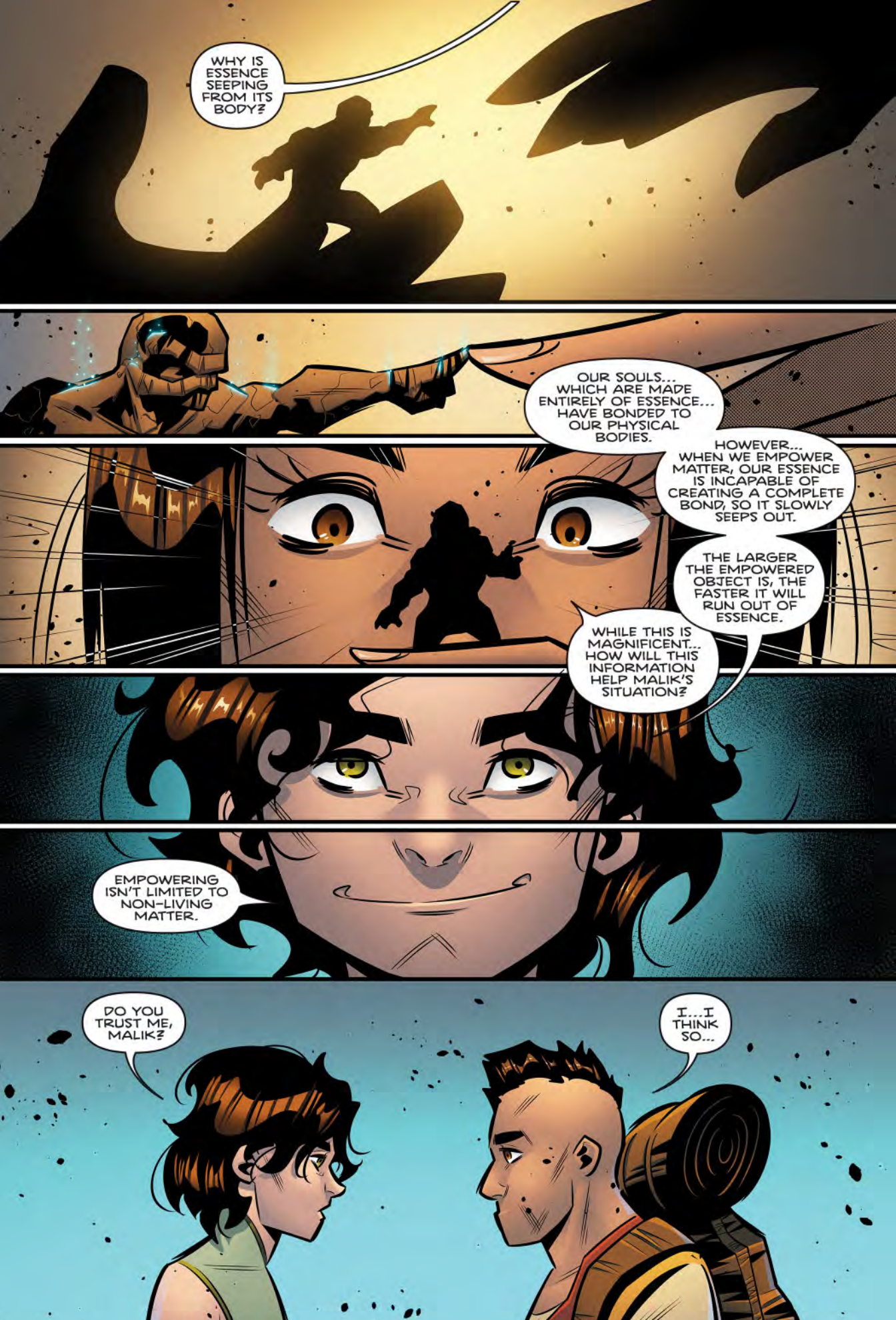



THUD
I KILLED IT...

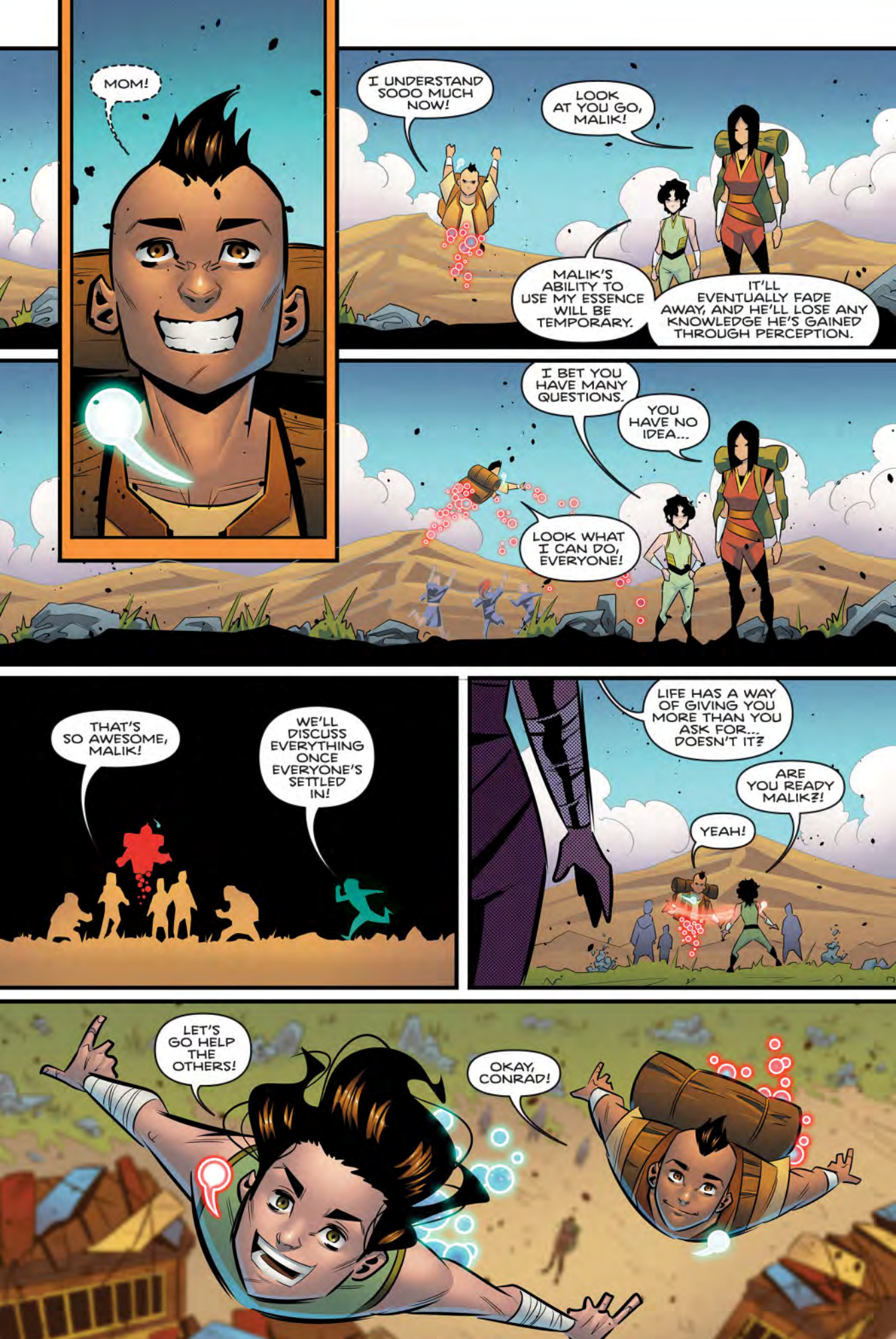

YOU DIDN'T KILL IT... IT'S JUST TIRED.
OH...


WE'RE ALL TIRED.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THESE PEOPLE, MALIK?
CAN I?!
HOW CAN I SAY NO TO THAT FACE?
BUT, HOW CAN MALIK HELP?
HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL HIS POWER VERY WELL.
I'M ALSO PRETTY SURE IT WOULD END IN CHAOS TOO.
THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

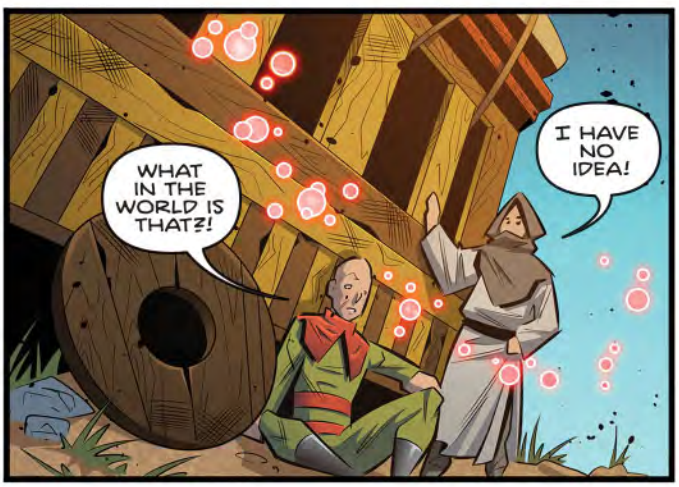

WHAT IS THAT?!
THIS IS MY LIFE ENERGY.
I CALL IT ESSENCE.
ESSENCE CAN BE USED IN MANY WAYS.
"WATCH AND LEARN."
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
BY GIVING ESSENCE TO NON-LIVING MATTER, WE CAN MANIPULATE, CONTROL, AND CREATE ANYTHING WE DESIRE.
I CALL THIS EMPOWERING.
EMPOWERED MATTER CAN USE ESSENCE IT'S BEEN GIVEN TO EMPOWER AND CREATE OTHER NON-LIVING MATTER.
SO LONG AS NON-LIVING MATTER IS EMPOWERED WITH OUR ESSENCE, WE CAN USE IT FOR NEARLY ANYTHING.


WHY IS ESSENCE SEEPING FROM ITS BODY?
OUR SOULS... WHICH ARE MADE ENTIRELY OF ESSENCE... HAVE BONDED TO OUR PHYSICAL BODIES.
HOWEVER... WHEN WE EMPOWER MATTER, OUR ESSENCE IS INCAPABLE OF CREATING A COMPLETE BOND, SO IT SLOWLY SEEPS OUT.
THE LARGER THE EMPOWERED OBJECT IS, THE FASTER IT WILL RUN OUT OF ESSENCE.
WHILE THIS IS MAGNIFICENT... HOW WILL THIS INFORMATION HELP MALIK'S SITUATION?
EMPOWERING ISN'T LIMITED TO NON-LIVING MATTER.
DO YOU TRUST ME, MALIK?
I...I THINK SO...

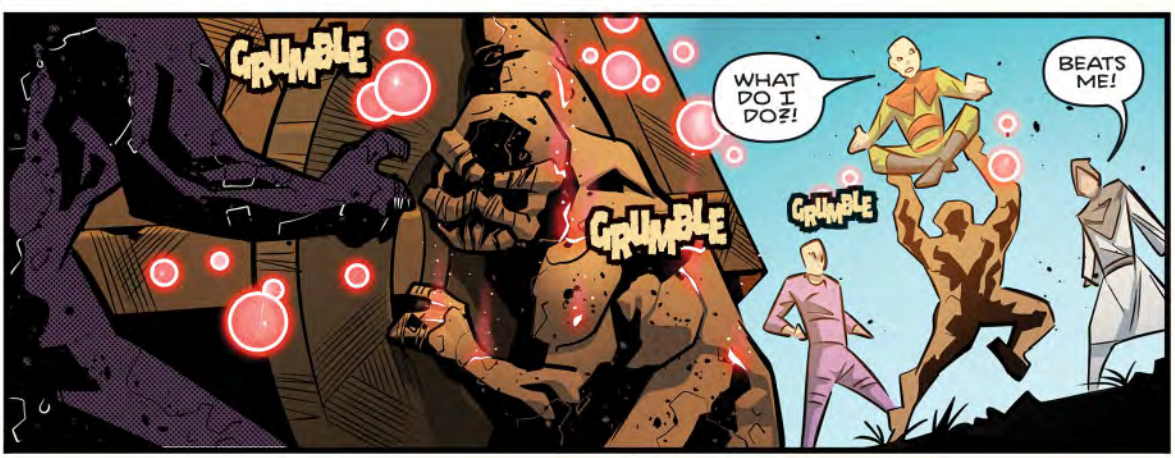

BY EMPOWERING MALIK WITH MY ESSENCE, HE'S GAINING ACCESS TO MY ABILITY, WHICH I CALL PERCEPTION.
PERCEPTION ALLOWS ME TO PERCEIVE NEARLY ANYTHING...
...SUCH AS SIZE, DISTANCE, OTHERS' ABILITIES, AND MORE.
THIS IS WHY I UNDERSTAND SO MUCH WITHOUT PRIOR TRAINING.

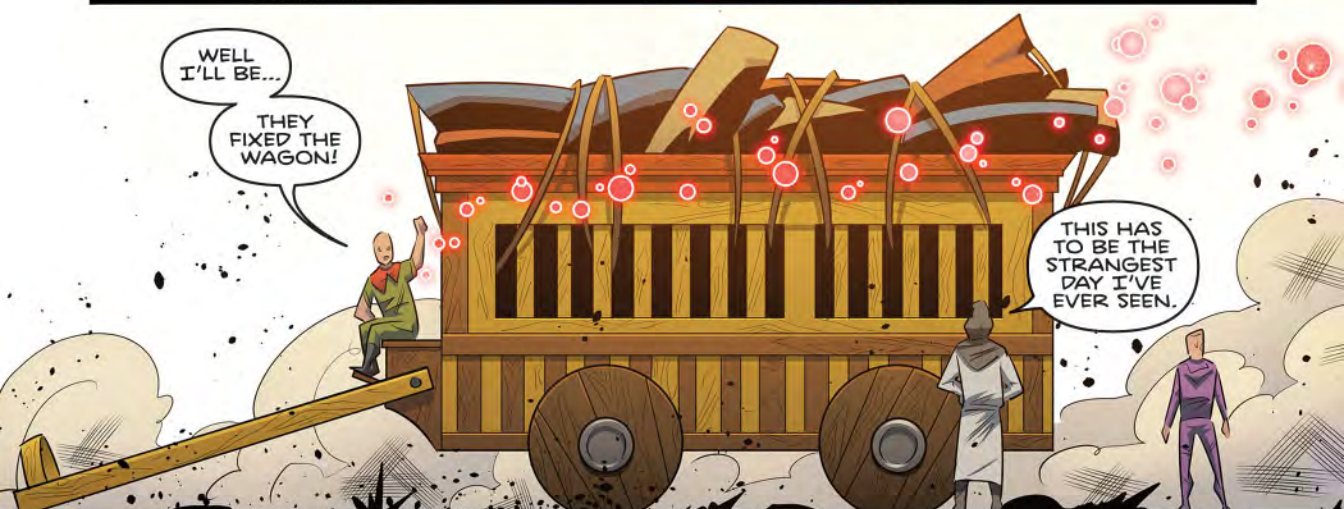

MOM!
I UNDERSTAND SOOO MUCH NOW!
LOOK AT YOU GO, MALIK!
MALIK'S ABILITY TO USE MY ESSENCE WILL BE TEMPORARY.
IT'LL EVENTUALLY FADE AWAY, AND HE'LL LOSE ANY KNOWLEDGE HE'S GAINED THROUGH PERCEPTION.
I BET YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA...
LOOK WHAT I CAN DO, EVERYONE!
THAT'S SO AWESOME, MALIK!
WE'LL DISCUSS EVERYTHING ONCE EVERYONE'S SETTLED IN!
LIFE HAS A WAY OF GIVING YOU MORE THAN YOU ASK FOR... DOESN'T IT?
ARE YOU READY MALIK?!
YEAH!
LET'S GO HELP THE OTHERS!
OKAY, CONRAD!




WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?!
I HAVE NO IDEA!


W...WOAH! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

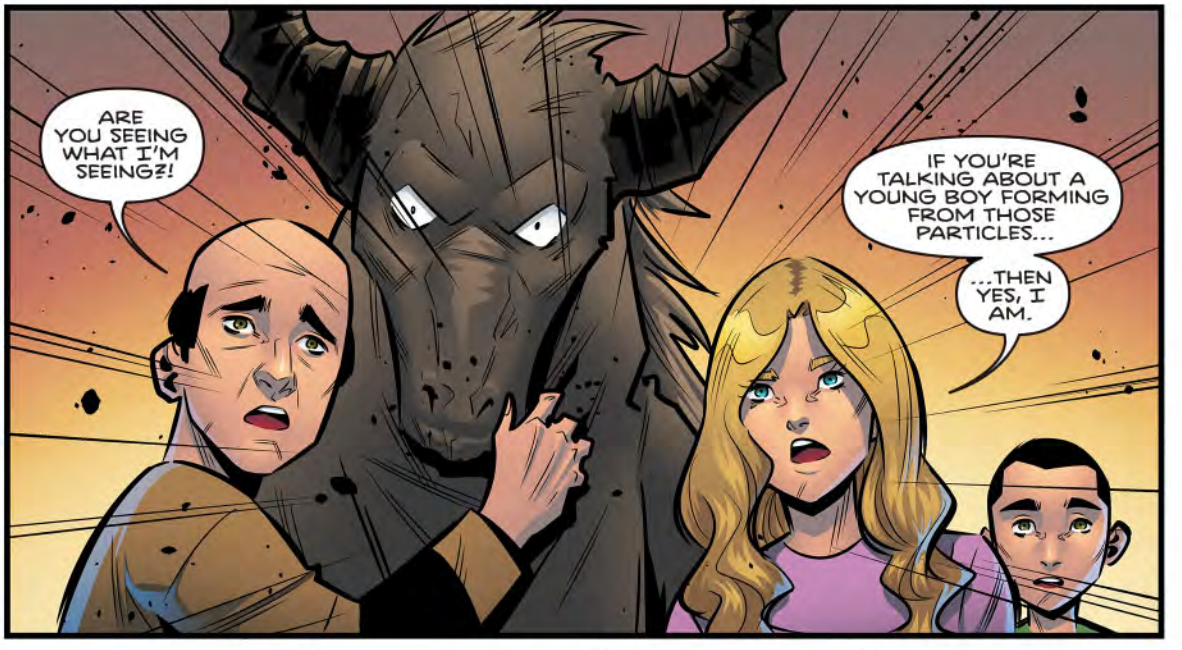

GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
WHAT DO I DO?!
GRUMBLE
BEATS ME!

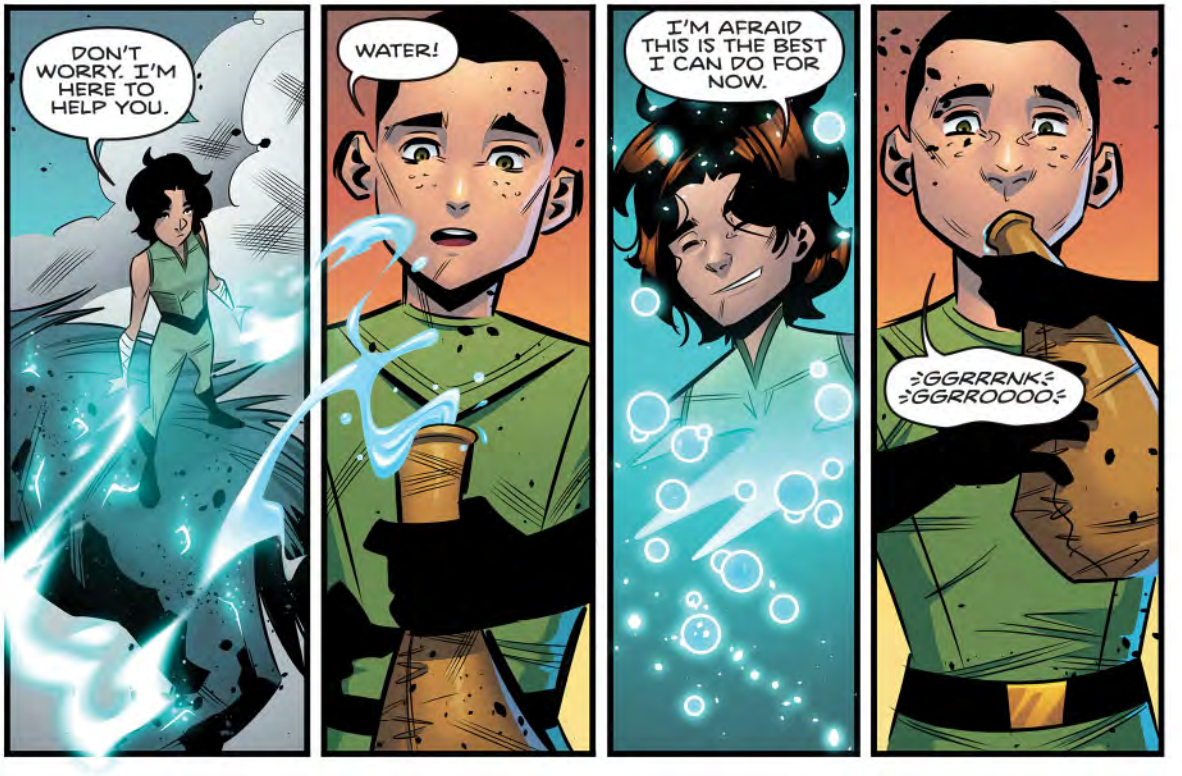

WELL I'LL BE...
THEY FIXED THE WAGON!
THIS HAS TO BE THE STRANGEST DAY I'VE EVER SEEN.


POOR THING'S AT ITS LIMIT.
I'M SO THIRSTY AND HUNGRY!
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT, SWEETY.
WE'LL BE TO THE CITY SOON, DON'T WORRY.
WHAT ARE THOSE?!
I...I'M NOT SURE.
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON, WE WON'T MAKE IT MUCH FARTHER.
COULD THIS DAY GET ANY WORSE?!
GRUMBLE
MWUEHHH??
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
MWUEHHH


I'M JUST AS CONFUSED AS YOU ARE.
MWUEHHH




ARE YOU SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING?!
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A YOUNG BOY FORMING FROM THOSE PARTICLES...
...THEN YES, I AM.


DON'T WORRY. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
WATER!
I'M AFRAID THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO FOR NOW.
:GGRRRNK:
:GGRROOOO:


DONE ALREADY?
I'M SO TIRED!
ME TOO.
EVER SINCE OUR CITY BECAME UNINHABITABLE, THE ONLY HOPE WE HAD WERE RUMORS OF A BOY WHO'D UNLOCKED THE SECRETS OF OUR ANCESTOR'S TECHNOLOGY.
IT APPEARS THOSE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HOPE BACK TO OUR PEOPLE, CONRAD.
HOURS LATER
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.


NEXT DAY
HI, THERE!
WHO ARE YOU?
NAME'S, CONRAD.
WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?
OUR NAMES DON'T MATTER.
WE'RE HERE TO GET RID OF YOU!


IF I HIT HIM HARD ENOUGH, I SHOULD KNOCK HIM OUT WITH ONE PUNCH.
THAT SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH.
WHAT'S THIS?
W...WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?!
LET GO!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES FIRST?


VI, HE'S GOT ME!
M-MAX?
I'M COMING, MAX!
WZZZ
THANKS, VI.
WZZ
SHOULD WE GO AFTER HIS FRIEND INSTEAD?
HE'S OVER THERE.
I FINISHED HELPING THE PEOPLE, CONRAD.


WZZZ
THAT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
HUH?
WZZZ
SMASH
AHHH
THAT'S NOT VERY NICE!
YOU'VE MADE ME REALLY MAD!


MAX!
HEY, THERE.
AAAHHH
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
VI?
I'M COMING, VI!
LEAVE MY SISTER ALONE!


YOU'LL NEED TO DO BETTER THAN THAT IF YOU PLAN ON BEATING ME.
HOW'D HE TURN HIMSELF INTO A CLOUD OF FREEZING ICE?!
I KNOW YOU'RE STRONGER THAN THAT.
VI. I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN.
COMING, MAX.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BEAT HIM?
WZZZ
I...I DON'T KNOW.
WZZZ


YEAH!
I'M READY FOR MORE!
UNLESS YOU'RE READY TO GIVE UP?
SHOULD I USE LINK ON HIM?
I DON'T KNOW... YOU'RE STILL NOT USED TO THAT POWER YET. DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK ON HIM?


LINK WILL CONNECT HIS CONSCIOUSSNESS WITH OURS.
WE'LL KNOW HIS EVERY ACTION BEFORE HE DOES.
REMEMBER NOT TO HURT HIM.
WZZZ
WZZZ
UNDERSTOOD.
WZZZ
I THINK HE KNOWS ABOUT LINK.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE USING THAT POWER.
WZZZ
HOW COULD THAT BE POSSIBLE?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING, AND WE STILL CAN'T READ HIS ACTIONS.
OH? WHAT ARE YOU TWO PLANNING NOW?
I HAVE TO AGREE.
WZZZ
RIGHT.
WZZZ
THEN WE SHOULD APPLY PRESSURE AND TRY TO WEAR HIM DOWN.
VERY CLEVER.
BOOM


DO YOU THINK IT WORKED?
I MADE SURE IT WOULD.
SHE EMPOWERED THE GROUND BENEATH ME?
THESE TWO ARE A LOT MORE SKILLED THAN I THOUGHT.
GAHHHH
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW POWERFUL THEY'LL BECOME WITH PROPER TRAINING.
WOOSH
CRASH


THERE'S NO WAY HE LOST FROM THAT ATTACK.
WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT DONE YET!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO GOOD AT USING YOUR POWERS!
BE READY, VI.
OKAY.
YOU BOTH DID WELL.
BEFORE YOU START JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, NO... I CAN'T READ YOUR THOUGHTS.
BUT I DO KNOW WHAT YOUR ABILITIES DO AND THAT YOU'RE USING THEM ON ME.
IF SHE OPENS A TWO-WAY CONNECTION WE CAN TALK.
I KNOW YOU'RE BEING FORCED TO FIGHT ME.


DO IT, VI.
OKAY.
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT US?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SINCE I ARRIVED BY USING MY ABILITY.
I CALL IT PERCEPTION.
IT ALLOWS ME TO PERCEIVE SIZE, DISTANCE, OTHERS' ABILITIES, AND MORE.
THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT US.
YEP!
THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE ATTACKING YOU?
YOU DON'T WANT THOSE BAD MEN WATCHING US TO KNOW WE'RE COMMUNICATING.
FIGHT ME WITH EVERYTHING YOU GOT.
I'LL BE FINE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON DOWN THERE?
I'M NOT SURE.


OKAY!
DON'T BLAME ME IF I KILL YOU.
ADD YOUR ENERGY TOO, VI!
RIGHT!


LET'S SEE YOU STOP THIS!
SCHLING
AHHHH
THNK
IS THIS YOUR BEST?
YOU EVEN STOPPED THAT ATTACK?!
HOW STRONG IS HE?!


YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS, CAN'T YOU?
SCHLING
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!
THAT'S A LITTLE BETTER!
BUT YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR POWERS.
I HOPE THIS DOESN'T KILL HIM.
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU SEE MALIKS' POWER.


MALIK CALLS HIS POWER OVERLOAD.
W...WHAT'S HAPPENING MAX?
I...I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S NOT DOING WHAT I TELL IT TO.
WHAT'D YOU DO?!
I USED MALIK'S ABILITY TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR WEAPONS BY EMPOWERING THEM WITH HIS ESSENCE.
I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET.
NOT ONLY DO I CONTROL THE MATTER YOU EMPOWERED THANKS TO OVERLOAD.
I CAN ALSO USE THE ESSENCE THEY CONTAIN WITHIN THEM.
WZZZ


WZZZ
HE'S USING TRANSPLANT, VI!
LET'S KEEP OUR DISTANCE FROM HIM UNTIL WE FIND A WAY TO BEAT HIM.
WZZZ
RIGHT!
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
W...WHERE'D HE GO?
DO YOU SEE HIM?!
N... NO!
SMASH
MAX!
GAHHHHH
HE'S USING OBSCURE TOO?!
BOOM


NOW'S A GOOD CHANCE TO RUN WITHOUT THOSE BAD MEN BECOMING SUSPICIOUS.
MAINTAIN THE LINK BETWEEN OUR CONSCIOUSNESSES SO YOU CAN EXPLAIN YOUR SITUATION TO ME IN THE MEANTIME.
I WANT TO HELP YOU ESCAPE YOUR TORMENT.
WZZZ
WZZZ
THEY WERE TOO STRONG FOR US.
YOUR FATHER WILL BE FURIOUS WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHAT HAPPENED.
YOU'LL BE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE WHEN HE'S THROUGH WITH THE TWO OF YOU!
YOU'LL BE OKAY, MAX.
WZZZ
WZZZ
WE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU PROMISE TO HELP US.


MWUEHHH
I'LL GO SPEAK WITH THEIR FATHER TO SEE WHAT HE WANTS TO DO ABOUT THEIR FAILURE.
TAKE THEM TO THE DINING ROOM WHILE WE WAIT FOR HIS RESPONSE.
OKAY, BOSS.


MAX?
WHAT DO YOU THINK FATHER'S GOING TO DO TO US?
I...I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SCARED.
I HAVE SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL FOR YOU TODAY.
THERE YOU GO, VI.
ENJOY, MAX.
YOUR FATHER SAYS NOT TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR LOSS.
THAT'S STRANGE. DAD'S NEVER THIS FORGIVING.


LOOKS THE SAME AS ALWAYS, DOESN'T IT, VI?
BUT IT TASTES MUCH WORSE!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA


W... WHAT'S GOING ON?
I...I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD, MAX.
TH THUD
TH THUD
ACHHH
ACHH
ACHH
DAD...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
YOUR FAILURE CANNOT BE TOLERATED!
THAT BOY'S INFLUENCE WILL RUIN MY PLANS FOR SEVIA.
P...PLEASE STOP!
WE DIDN'T MEAN TO DISSAPOINT YOU!


I HAVE TO HELP VI SOMEHOW.
CLANK
WHAT DO YA THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YOU'LL BE JOINING YOUR SISTER SOON ENOUGH!
VI...
SOMP
CLANK
I...I'M SORRY...
WHO ARE YOU TWO?!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
N...N... NOOOO!


MINUTES LATER
MAX...MAX... WAKE UP, MAX.
LOOK! HE'S WAKING UP!
W...WHAT HAPPENED.
WE ALMOST DIED, BUT CONRAD AND MALIK SAVED US.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?!
"THEY WON'T BE HURTING ANYONE, ANYMORE."


I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MAX?!
HE NEEDS SOME FOOD.
THE TWO OF YOU HAVE GONE TOO LONG WITHOUT PROPER NOURISHMENT.
STAY HERE WITH MAX, VI.
COME WITH ME, MALIK.
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.
YOU'LL BE OKAY, MAX.
CONRAD WILL MAKE SURE WE'RE SAFE.


TWENTY MINUTES LATER
DO YOU SMELL THAT, MAX?
YEAH.
I'VE NEVER SMELLED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
DINNER'S READY!
I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD APPETITE!
THIS SMELLS AMAZING.
WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS CALLED QUEDESH.
IT'S A SPECIAL MEAL MY MOTHER MAKES FOR ME.


TEN MINUTES LATER
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME STAY IN MY CITY?
I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO BETTER USE YOUR POWERS THERE.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MAX?
HMMM.
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE HERE IN ESTHEER?
WITH VI'S ABILITY TO TELEPORT AND MY ABILITY TO PERCEIVE DISTANCE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO COME BACK AT ANY TIME.
OH...
CAN WE THINK ABOUT IT?
SURE!
THERE'S MORE FOOD IN THE KITCHEN IF YOU'RE HUNGRY.
CLINK
OH BOY!


MAX AND VI'S ROOM
THIS IS WHERE YOU SLEEP?!
THIS IS UNNACCEPTABLE!
SLAM
WHAT'S HE DOING?
I'M NOT SURE.
OKAY.
NOW YOU CAN COME IN.


OH WOW.
VI. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?
IT'S AMAZING.
EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED IS HERE.


THANK YOU, CONRAD!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
HRRMMM
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
LATER
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
I'M NOT SURE.
I WANT TO, BUT I'M SCARED.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GOING WITH THEM?
I THINK WE'D BE HAPPIER.


NEXT DAY
IS IT MORNING ALREADY?
WHERE ARE CONRAD AND MALIK?
I'M NOT SURE.
THEY'RE NOT IN HERE.
NOT IN HERE EITHER.
WHY'D THEY LEAVE US?
MAX!
DID YOU FIND THEM?


THIS IS AMAZING.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS, MAX.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ESTHEER LIKE THIS BEFORE.
NEITHER HAVE I.


THINK THAT'S CONRAD AND MALIK COMING OUR WAY?
THAT'S DEFINITELY THEM!

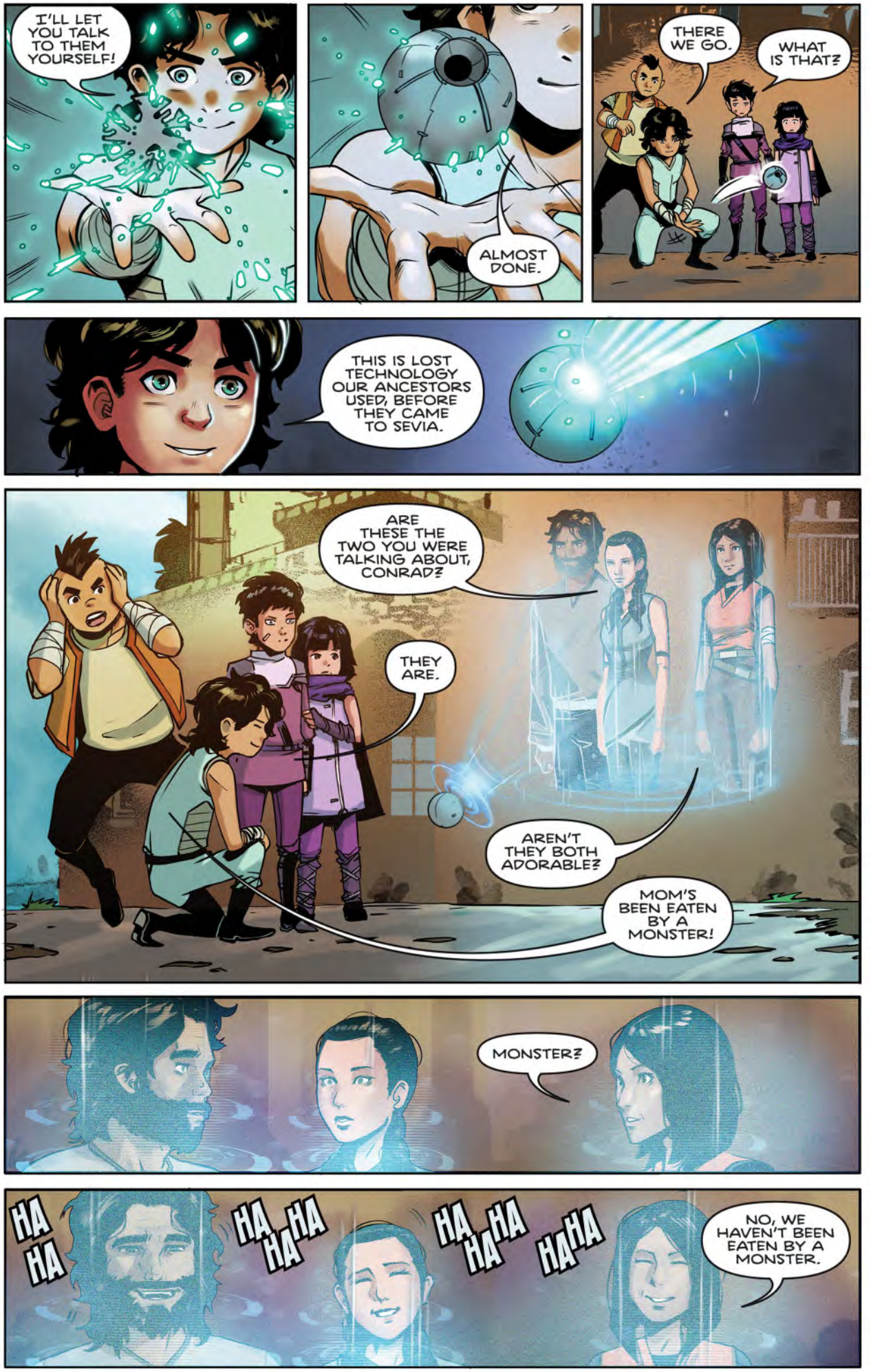





DID YOU DO THIS TO THE CITY?
YEP!
YOU CAN TOO, ONCE YOU LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR POWERS.


ISN'T THAT COOL, VI?!
YEAH!


HAVE YOU MADE A DECISION?
AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE SAFETY OF YOUR CITY, OR ITS PEOPLE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT WILL YOUR PARENTS THINK?


I'LL LET YOU TALK TO THEM YOURSELF!
ALMOST DONE.
THERE WE GO.
WHAT IS THAT?
THIS IS LOST TECHNOLOGY OUR ANCESTORS USED, BEFORE THEY CAME TO SEVIA.
ARE THESE THE TWO YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, CONRAD?
THEY ARE.
AREN'T THEY BOTH ADORABLE?
MOM'S BEEN EATEN BY A MONSTER!
MONSTER?
HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA
NO, WE HAVEN'T BEEN EATEN BY A MONSTER.


THIS IS A COMMUNICATION DEVICE OUR ANCESTORS USED.
IT ALLOWS US TO TALK WITH OTHERS WHO'RE FAR AWAY.
OH...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO CONRAD.
THE TWO OF YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO JOIN US HERE IN RENOVARE.
I AGREE.
IT'S NOT HEALTHY FOR CHILDREN SO YOUNG TO GROW UP WITHOUT A FAMILY
YOU KNOW YOU WANNA!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, VI?
OKAY, BUT ONLY IF MAX IS OKAY WITH IT.
I DO WANT TO LEARN HOW TO USE ALL OF MY POWERS.
AND I ALSO WANT TO BEAT THAT CONRAD KID, TOO.
ALRIGHT, WE'LL GO WITH YOU.


GREAT!
I'LL MAKE YOU QUEDESH. IT'S ONE OF CONRAD'S FAVORITE DISHES.
OH, BOY! THAT FOOD TASTES SO GOOD!
WE HAD IT LAST NIGHT.
YEAH... AND WE LIKED IT A LOT!
WE'LL SEE YOU KIDS SOON!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS A SECRET RECIPE ONLY YOU KNOW.
I SEE YOUR POINT.
THAT BOY KNOWS EVERYTHING!
I NEVER FACTORED CONRAD INTO IT.
ARE YOU READY?
YEAH!


HOW'RE WE GOING TO GET TO YOUR CITY?
BY COMBINING MY POWER WITH VI'S.
SINCE VI CAN TELEPORT ANYWHERE SHE SEES, AND I CAN SEE LONG DISTANCES, IT SHOULDN'T BE PROBLEM!
DO YOU TRUST ME?
I DO.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING AN ORB TOO?
I...I DON'T KNOW!
THIS IS SOMETHING UNIQUE TO MAX AND VI.
AS TWINS, THEY HAVE A UNIQUE SPIRITUAL BOND, WHERE ANY ABILITY SHARED WITH ONE...IS ALSO GAINED BY THE OTHER.
THAT'S SO COOL!
ARE YOU READY?!
YEAH!
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ


WEEKS LATER
READY FOR YOUR FIRST DAY OF TRAINING?
YEAH!
AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, OUR LIFE ENERGY IS CALLED ESSENCE.
ESSENCE IS ALL AROUND US.
IT'S WHAT GIVES US LIGHT.
THE DIVERSE COLORS.
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY... IT'S WHAT OUR SOULS ARE MADE OF.
NOW TO SHOW YOU WHAT YOU'LL BE LEARNING DURING YOUR TRAINING.


SUCH AS EMPOWERING.
SHARING OUR ABILITIES.
FLIGHT!
WE'LL START WITH THESE THREE.
BY THE TIME YOU'RE FINISHED, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO EVERYTHING I JUST SHOWED YOU... AND MORE!
WHO TAUGHT YOU?
MY ABILITY.
ONE OF THE MANY BENEFITS PERCEPTION HAS, IS TO PERCEIVE AND UNDERSTAND OUR POWERS.
WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR ABILITIES?
I CALL MINE OBSCURE AND BOND.
VI'S ARE TRANSPLANT AND LINK.
YOU HAVE TWO ABILITIES?!
IT'S ANOTHER UNIQUE TRAIT OF THEM BEING TWINS. THEY EACH CONTAIN TWO ABILITIES.
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU'RE UNIQUE IN YOUR OWN WAY, MALIK.
I AM?
YOU ARE. YOU'LL SEE.
OKAY.


SEVERAL DAYS LATER
NON-LIVING MATTER HAS A LIMIT.
EMPOWER IT WITH TOO MUCH ESSENCE, AND IT'LL EXPLODE.
THIS DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT USEFUL.
BOOM
ESPECIALLY WHEN FACING LARGE NUMBERS OF ENEMIES.


WEEKS LATER
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF NON-LIVING MATTER.
PHYSICAL AND DARK.
YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO EMPOWER PHYSICAL MATTER, SO I'LL TEACH YOU ABOUT DARK MATTER.
DARK MATTER IS ALL AROUND US.
IT CAN'T BE SEEN AND DOESN'T AFFECT ITS SURROUNDINGS.
IT'S AS IF IT DOESN'T EXIST.
ONLY BY EXPOSING IT TO CONCENTRATED LEVELS OF ESSENCE CAN YOU FORCE DARK MATTER TO TAKE A PHYSICAL FORM.
THIS REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF ESSENCE, BUT THE REWARD IS WORTH IT, BECAUSE DARK MATTER IS MORE DURABLE AND CAN HOLD MORE ESSENCE THAN PHYSICAL MATTER.
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SO DIFFICULT ABOUT IT.
OH...
ME EITHER.
THAT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR ABILITIES.
BOND ALLOWS MAX TO EMPOWER MATTER AT A REDUCED COST, WHILE MALIK HAS MORE ESSENCE THAN ANY OF US, THANKS TO OVERLOAD.
HAH!
I'M BETTER THAN YOU AT SOMETHING!
EACH ABILITY IS UNIQUE IN ITS OWN WAY.


MONTHS LATER
NOW THAT YOU'VE LEARNED TO CONTROL YOUR ESSENCE THROUGH EMPOWERING, IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED HOW TO FLY.
THIS IS WAY HARDER THAN FLOATING, VI.
I CAN'T DO IT, CONRAD!
WE'RE ABLE TO FLY BECAUSE OUR ESSENCE IS REACTING TO THE MATTER AROUND US, CAUSING US TO BECOME LIGHTER THAN AIR.
USING MORE ESSENCE AT ONCE...
WOOOSH
...MAKES US STRONGER AND FASTER!
BOOM


NOT SO EASY, IS IT?
WHY WAS IT SO EASY WITH YOU?
MY ABILITY HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND, WITHOUT TRAINING.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GIVE YOU MY ESSENCE, THEN PERCEPTION DOES THE REST.
NOW YOU'RE JUST RUBBING IT IN.
IF YOU DON'T TRUST YOUR ALLIES OR HAVE EMOTIONAL CONTROL...
...YOUR BOND WITH THE OTHERS WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED, OR FAIL.
WE CAN SHARE WITH TWO PEOPLE AND CONTAIN TWO ABILITIES AT A GIVEN TIME.
MAX'S OBSCURE ABILITY IS AN EXCEPTION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OBSCURE HIDES ITS PRESENCE, ALLOWING SOMEONE TO HAVE AN EXTRA ABILITY WITHOUT IT AFFECTING THEM.


SEVERAL MONTHS LATER
GNNNNNN
THEY'RE DEFINITELY GETTING STRONGER.
AHHHH
AHHHH
AHHHH
GUESS I'LL NEED TO BE MORE SERIOUS.
WZZZ
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
RIGHT!


WZZZ
WZZZ
WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE, CONRAD!
IS THAT SO?
LET'S SEE HOW MUCH THE THREE OF YOU HAVE IMPROVED, THEN.
AHHHH
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, IF YOU WANT TO BEAT ME.
LET'S SEE HOW YOU HANDLE THIS!


H...HOW'D HE DO THAT SO FAST?!
I...I CAN'T REACT IN TIME!
BOOM
GAHHHH
CRASH
THERE'S STILL THIS MUCH OF A GAP BETWEEN US?
MAX!
LET'S ATTACK TOGETHER, MALIK.
WZZZ
WZZZ
OKAY, VI.


NOT GOOD! I'M STARTING TO RUN OUT OF ESSENCE.
GREAT USE OF TEAMWORK, YOU TWO.
GRUMBLE
OVERLOAD IS USEFUL WHEN COMBINED WITH MY OWN ABILITIES.
WZZZ
BY USING TRANSPLANT TO INSERT MALIK'S ESSENCE INTO CONRAD'S GRUMBLEN, OVERLOAD WILL TAKE CONTROL OF IT.
CRASH
NOW I CAN USE THE ESSENCE CONRAD EMPOWERED THIS GRUMBLEN WITH TO HEAL MAX'S INJURIES.
THANKS, VI.
EVEN THOUGH MY INJURIES ARE HEALED, MY ESSENCE IS STILL NEARLY DEPLETED.
LOOKS LIKE I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT.


IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING TIRED!
YEAH!
LET'S END THIS!
YOU WIN.
WE CAN STOP NOW.
BASH
AHHHH
GRAHHHH
SMASH
THIS IS GONNA HURT.
HYEEEEE
OOOFF


YOU WIN! YOU WIN! YOU WIN!
SMASH
BOP
BASH
SMACK
CRACK


WE THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DO SOMETHING ELSE.
GNUHHHH
SORRY, CONRAD.


HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA


YOU THREE DID WELL.


THAT WAS SOME QUICK THINKING TODAY.
ESPECIALLY YOU, VI.
USING OVERLOAD TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE GRUMBLENS SO YOU COULD HEAL MAX USING MY ESSENCE.
THANK YOU, CONRAD.

TSSSSSS

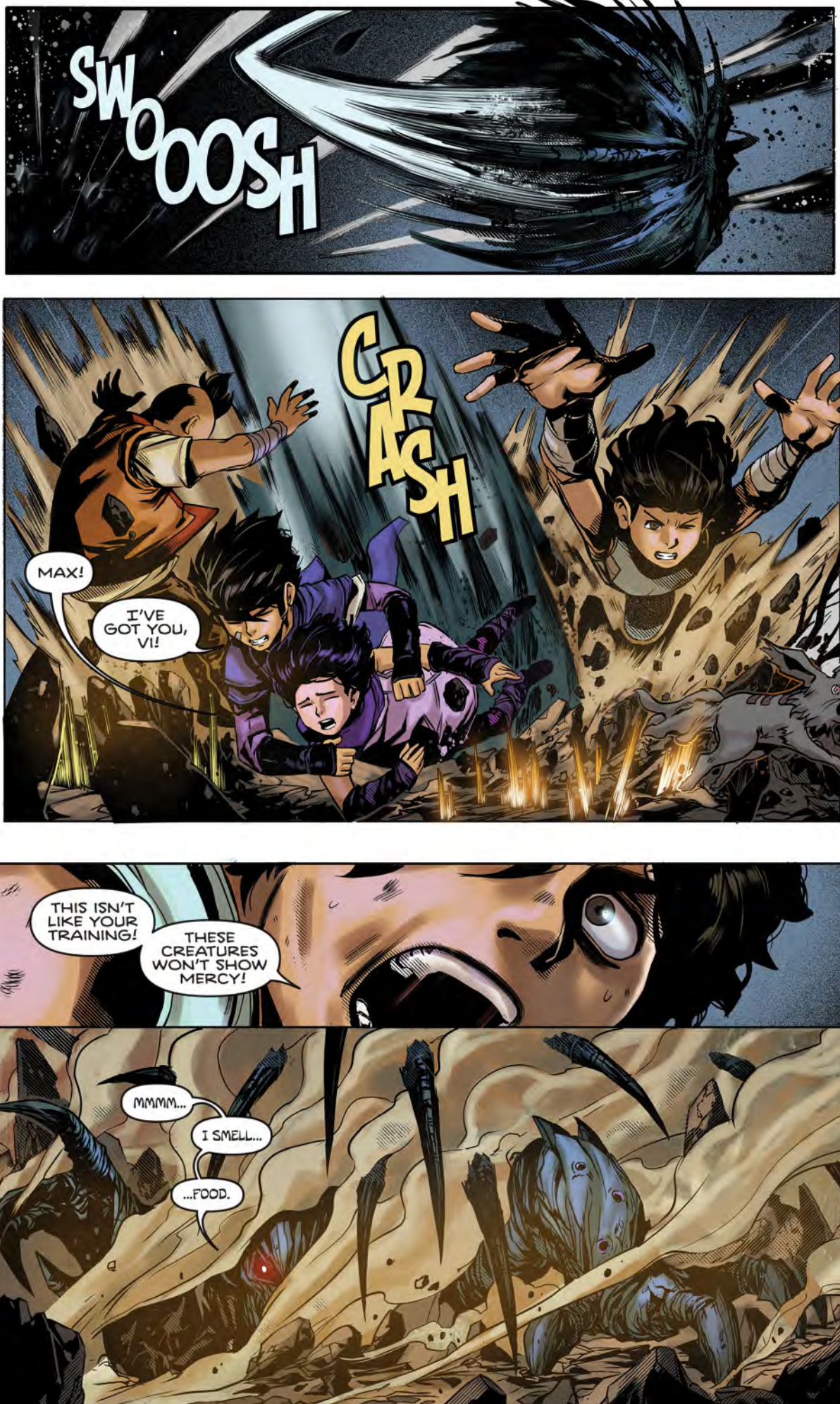

ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?
YEAH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK'S OUT THERE?




I DON'T KNOW, BUT I HOPE TO FIND OUT SOME DAY.


WHAT'S THIS PRESENCE I'M SENSING.
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING.
WAKE UP! WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
GET OUT HERE, THIS IS SERIOUS!


WHAT'S WRONG, CONRAD?
I'M STILL SLEEPY.
ME, TOO.
WHAT ARE THOSE, CONRAD?!
I...I DON'T KNOW.
WHATEVER THEY ARE... THEY WANT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING.


SWOOOSH
CRASH
MAX!
I'VE GOT YOU, VI!
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOUR TRAINING!
THESE CREATURES WON'T SHOW MERCY!
MMMM...
I SMELL...
...FOOD.


ROOAARR


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WATCH OUT!
CONRAD!
I THOUGHT THIS'D BE MORE DIFFICULT!
GUESS I WAS WRONG.


CONRAD'S ALIVE!
THAT'S A DECOY.
WHAT'S THIS?
HOW DARE YOU MOCK ME!
IT WON'T BUY US MUCH TIME, THOUGH.
WHAT DO WE DO, CONRAD?
WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE CREATURE LATER.
I'LL MAKE ALL OF YOU PAY!


WE HAVE TO SAVE--
I...IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE.
CONRAD.


AAAAHHH


ROOAARR
USE TRANSPLANT, VI!
RIGHT!
I CAN FEEL YOUR PAIN, CONRAD.
I'LL START WITH YOU FIRST!
RELEASE YOUR RAGE, CONRAD!


ROOAARR
I'LL MAKE THESE MONSTERS PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO OUR FAMILY.
NOT WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!
I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW POWERFUL WE CAN BECOME TOGETHER!
GRAHHH
SUCH POWER!
HOW?!
THESE POWERS WERE GIVEN TO US AT BIRTH.
THANK YOU MALIK, MAX, AND VI.
WITHOUT YOUR POWERS, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BEAT THIS CREATURE.
YOU THREE STAY HERE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
WHEEE


WHY DID CONRAD GO SAVE EVERYONE BY HIMSELF?
THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO SAVE.
THERE'S LOTS OF PEOPLE.
T-THERE'S THE CITY PEOPLE... CONRAD'S PARENTS... MOM...
THOSE CREATURES KILLED EVERYONE BEFORE WE HAD THE CHANCE TO REACT.
CONRAD WENT TO KEEP THE MONSTERS FROM LEAVING THE CITY.


W...WHAT YOU SAY ISN'T TRUE!
IT CAN'T BE!
CONRAD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO GO.
HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SUFFER LIKE HE IS.
I DON'T CARE!
I WANT TO SEE MY MOM!
I'M SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS TO YOU, MALIK.
PERCEPTION WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CAN'T GO.

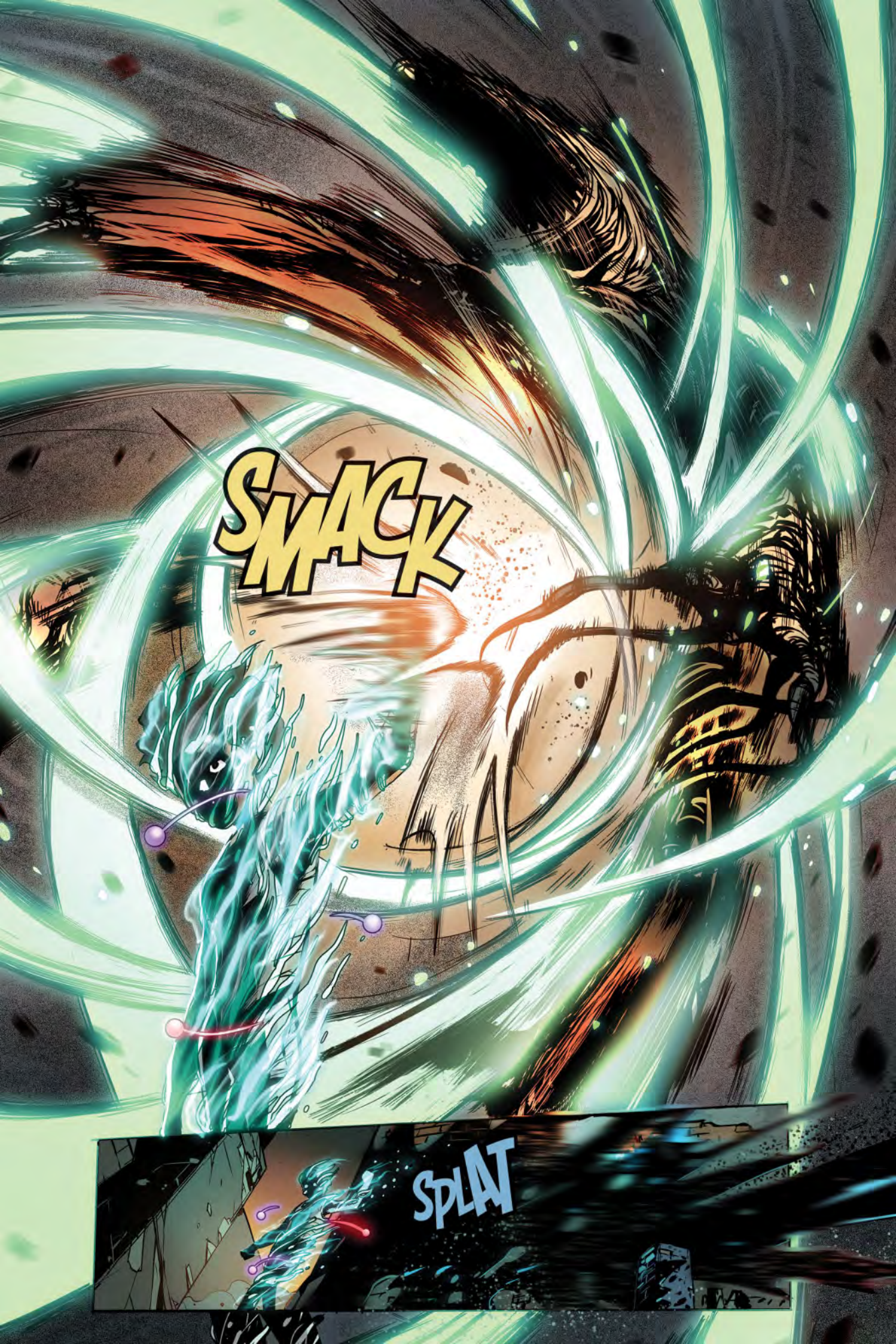

I UNDERSTAND HIS PAIN, BUT HE SHOULDN'T SUFFER BY HIMSELF.
WE FEEL THE SAME WAY.
"CONRAD BELIEVES THIS IS HIS FAULT.
"HE WANTS REVENGE FOR WHAT THOSE MONSTERS TOOK AWAY."
HSSSSS


SKREEEEEE
SKREEEEEE
HSSSSS
HSSSSS
KRAAA
KRAAA
SKREEEEEE
SCHLING
SCHLING
SCHLING
SCHLING
SCHLING
SCHLING
SKREEEEEE
KRAAA
SKREEEEEE
HSSSSS
SKREEEEEE
KRAAA
HSSSSS
KRAAA
HSSSSS
SKREEEEEE
EXHALE


BOOM
HSSSSS
KRAAA
SKREEEEE
SKREEEEE
HSSSSS
KRAAA
SKREEEEE
HSSSSS
WOOOSH
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE


SKREEEEE
KRAAA
HSSSSS
SKREEEEE
HSSSSS
HSSSSS
KRAAA
SKREEEEE
KRAAA


WHAT IS THIS SMELL?
GWAAAH
I MUST HAVE IT!
DEVOURING YOUR LIFE ENERGY WILL MAKE EVERYONE FEAR ME!


SMACK
SPLAT


M... MOM...
D... DAD...
I...I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU.
IF WE'D BEEN IN THE CITY WHEN THEY ATTACKED, YOU'D STILL BE HERE.
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
MOM!
WUAAAHHH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW.


HOURS LATER
EVEN IN DEATH YOU STILL SMILE.
I GUESS...
...IT'S TIME I SAY GOODBYE.


IT WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL TO THOSE WE LOST IF WE LEFT THEM THIS WAY.
I'LL MISS YOU.
WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR THE OTHERS AS WELL.
COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF IT FROM HERE, VI?




WHAT WILL WE DO NOW, CONRAD?
I...I DON'T KNOW.



CONRAD

PERCEPTION

CONRAD STRUNYE

PERCEPTION

CONRAD CAN:

1. Break himself into particles and then reassemble.
2. Use his particles to increase cellular regeneration in himself and others.
3. Transmogrify into known and unknown elements.
4. See far and wide into the distance.
5. Discern any ability in its entirety.




MALIK
OVERLOAD

MALIK STRAHL

OVERLOAD

MALIK CAN:

1. Give more Essence to non-living matter.
   a. Overload allows empowered matter to exceed normal capacity.
2. Command more non-living matter than his peers.
3. Take control of non-living matter empowered by someone else.
4. Become stronger based on how many individuals are empowered by him.




MAX
OBSCURE & PEAK

MAX EXVEL

OBSCURE & BOND

MAX CAN:

1. **Hide or alter the colors of orbs floating around him.**
2. **Become invisible.**
3. **Empower others, even if the person he's empowering is at capacity.**
4. **Empower non-living matter at a fraction of the cost.**
5. **Use any ability Vi is empowered with.**





VI

LINK & TRANSPLANT

VI
EXVEL

TRANSPLANT & LINK

VI CAN:

1. **Teleport herself, others, or empowered matter to any location in view.**
2. **Instantly transfer Essence from one source to another.**
3. **Link the consciousnesses of anyone in view.**
4. **Use any ability Max is empowered with.**




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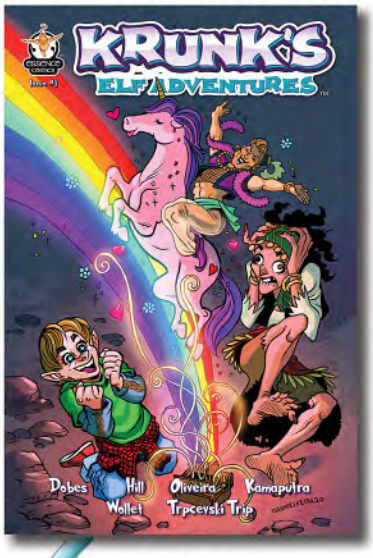
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Using his powers to save Renovare from the verge of collapse, news of Conrad, "The young boy who could save the people of Sevia," begins spreading across the land, attracting refugees seeking asylum from their ailing towns.

Conrad quickly befriends Malik, a young refugee with an ability of his own. Together, the two youngsters combine their powers and save Malik's people from an unknown future, but it doesn't take long for their next journey to begin.

Shortly after meeting, Conrad and Malik are confronted by Max and Vi – twins with a unique set of powers rivaling theirs and an eagerness to defeat the young boys in battle.

Why is this duo challenging Conrad and Malik? And what will come from their battle?

Find out in Volume One of Essence: Destiny Of The Twelve Warriors®.

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