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#1

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ESSENCE

DESTINY OF THE TWELVE WARRIORS



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GEVENOIS
KAMAPUTRA
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ESSENCE

DESTINY OF THE TWELVE WARRIORS

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IF YOU ASKED ME ABOUT MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD THIS TIME YESTERDAY I COULD SAY WITH CONFIDENCE I KNEW WHAT IT WAS. WHAT I COULD OFFER THE WORLD.

WH... WHAT ARE YOU! WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS?

NOW, THAT'S ALL...GONE.



EARLIER
SANCTUARY FOREST.



ROAR



COME ON BEAR, BE COOL, WE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM.

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK



WHAT THE...?

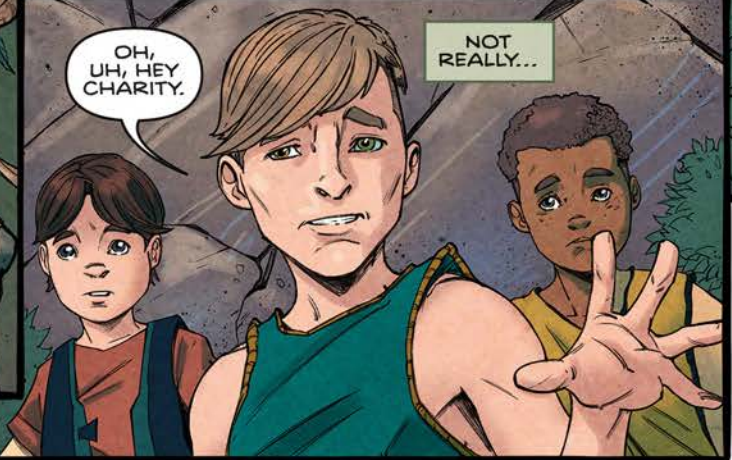
YOU KNOW BOYS, IF YOU KEEP MESSING WITH MY GIRL NALA...



...I'M JUST GOING TO LET HER HAVE A TASTE SOMEDAY.

OH, UH, HEY CHARITY.

NOT REALLY...





I'M KIDDING.

I'M SURE THEY MEAN NO HARM, JUST DOING WHAT BOYS DO.



THANKS.

YEAH, THANKS.



BUT A **HORN BEAR** WILL ALSO DO WHAT THEY DO...

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL OUT HERE.



NALA MAY BE OMNIVOROUS AND LIKE HER BERRIES BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE WON'T TURN DOWN A FLESHY SNACK...

EAT...



... EVEN A CHEWY ONE LIKE YOURSELVES.

UHHHH, WE SHOULD GET GOING.



I LOVE COMING TO THE CITY.



THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE ALWAYS ACCEPTED ME.


AFTERNOON, CHARITY.



AND ALWAYS WELCOMED ME WITHOUT FEAR.

EXCUSE ME LITTLE MISS.

OR JUDGMENT.



MY PARENTS AND I
MOVED TO SUSA WHEN
I WAS A YOUNG GIRL.


FATHER AND I
WOULD COME TO
THE MARKET AND
STAY HOURS PAST
OUR NEEDS.

HE BELIEVES THE PEOPLE ARE THE ROOTS
OF OUR FUTURE, ALL NURTURING EACH
OTHER TO GROW AND BLOSSOM INTO A
WHOLESOME COMMUNITY.



WHENEVER MY PARENTS ARE
IMMERSED IN THEIR WORK,
THE PEOPLE OF SUSA WATCH
OVER ME LIKE I AM ONE OF
THEIR OWN.





IN RETURN, I USE
MY GIFT TO HELP
OUT WHERE I CAN.




SERIOUSLY?!...



...YOU
GOT ALMAS
IN?!

INDEED, MY
BOYS FOUND A
FRESH CLUSTER
GROWING ALONG
THE RIVERBED
JUST THIS
MORNING.

I'LL OF
COURSE TAKE
A COUPLE FOR
THE ROAD
THEN!



IT ALSO
APPEARS YOU'RE
RUNNING LOW ON
THE BILIMBI MRS.
SKOLMOSKI.



AH YES, THOSE ARE A LITTLE HARDER TO COME BY.



NOW THAT, I THINK I CAN HELP YOU WITH.



SUCH A SWEET GIRL.



GO ON AND TAKE SOME OF THOSE ALMAS HOME TO YOUR FOLKS.



YOU'RE THE BEST! I SHOULD BE ON MY WAY TO THE LAB NOW.





YOU'RE A PEPPY ONE, AREN'T YOU CHARITY?



AND QUITE PREDICTABLE...



GUESS I SHOULD CALL THE DRONE BACK.



DON'T WANT IT TO BE PICKED UP BY THE SKULAR LAB SECURITY.



AGREED. SHE IS PREDICTABLY NAIVE, THAT MUCH IS EVIDENT. MAKES ONE QUESTION HER FORTITUDE FOR THE TRIALS TO COME.



PERHAPS...



"...WE WILL FIND
OUT SOON
ENOUGH."

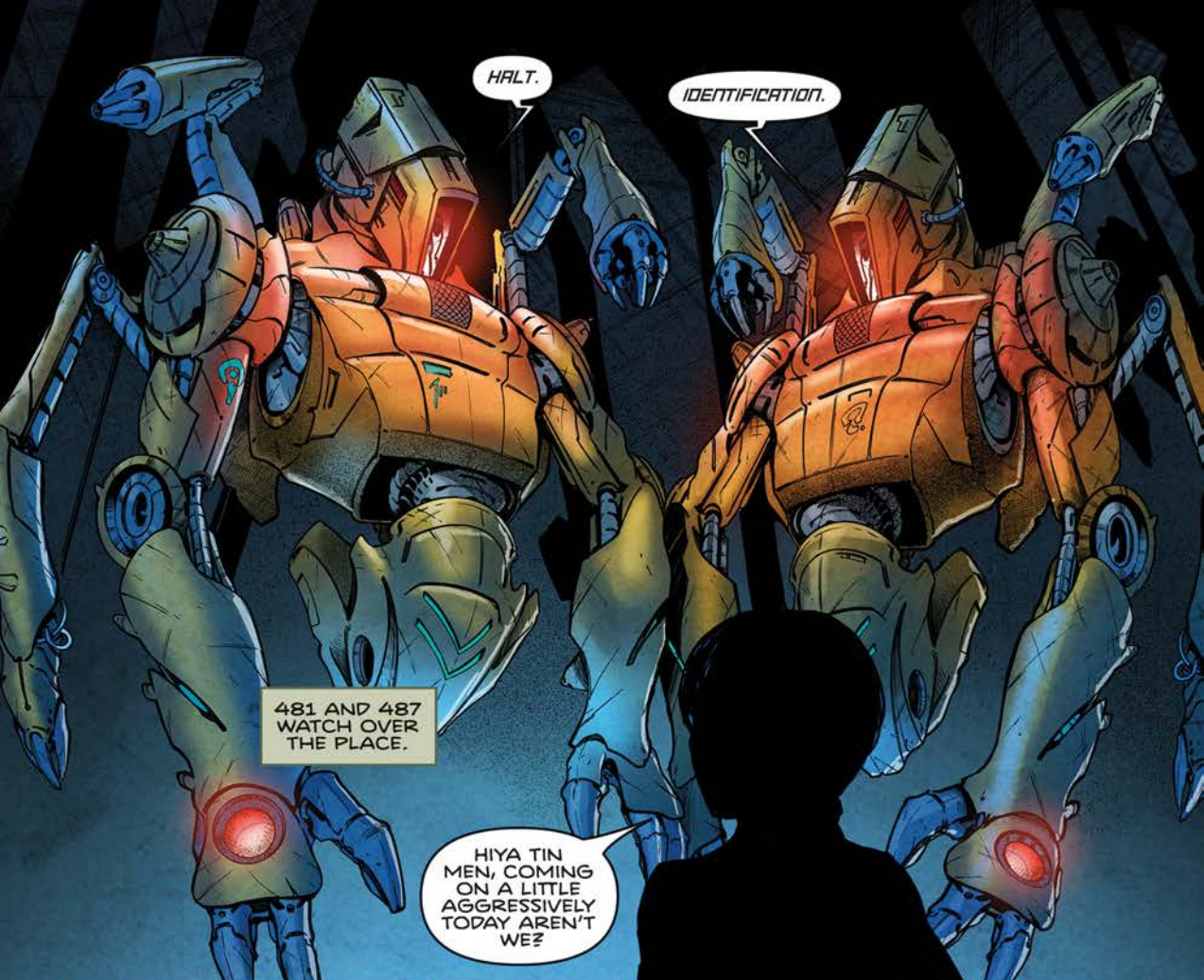
SKULAR LABS



MY PARENTS ARE
BOTH PRETTY SMART,
REVERED IN THEIR
FIELD AS BIOLOGISTS.



HELLO.



HALT.

IDENTIFICATION.

481 AND 487
WATCH OVER
THE PLACE.

HIYA TIN
MEN, COMING
ON A LITTLE
AGGRESSIVELY
TODAY AREN'T
WE?



EMPRESS
CHARITY, YOUR
VISIT IS
UNEXPECTED.



REALLY? BUT
I'M HERE
ALMOST
EVERY DAY!



WE WILL
ANNOUNCE
YOUR
ARRIVAL...



I LIKE TO MESS
WITH THEIR USER
INTERACTION
SYSTEMS.

THAT
WON'T BE
NECESSARY
481, 487.



IT KEEPS MOM
ON HER TOES.

WHY
DO YOU
INSIST THEY
ADDRESS YOU
AS SUCH?

MOM CAN BE A BIT
OF A PESSIMIST, SHE'S
A REAL STICK-TO-
THE-BOOK TYPE.

I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
YOU MEAN,
THIS CLEARLY
MUST'VE BEEN
DAD'S DOING.

MHMM.

SETTLE
DOWN
YOU
TWO.

DAD'S MORE OF A FREE SPIRIT AND ALSO THE FOUNDER OF SKULAR LABS, WHICH HE STARTED WITH MOM'S HELP.

THEIR PASSION FOR BIOLOGY AND DESIRE TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE IS WHAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER.



DAD!

HOW'S MY PRINCESS? DID YOU FIND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR FROM THE MARKET TODAY?

EVEN BETTER! MRS SKOLMOSKI HAD SOME FRESH ALMAS ON HAND.



ALMAS? A RARE TREAT INDEED!



I SEE YOU'VE BOTH BEEN BUSY!

WE HAVE!

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO MY STUDIES OF EPIMORPHOSIS REGENERATION WITH LIFE CHANGING POTENTIAL, THEN YES, IT'S GOING QUITE SWELL.

YEAH THAT STUFF.



AND YOU SHOULD BE TOO!

OH, YOU MEAN MY SCHOOL WORK?

I'LL CATCH UP AFTER MY CHORES.



SOME PARENTS CAME BY AND TOLD US WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER.

WE KNOW.

IT WASN'T NALAS FAULT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

THEY FILLED US IN AND APOLOGIZED FOR THE BOYS ACTIONS.

BUT NOW FOR MORE PRESSING MATTERS. CHARITY, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORING VILLAGE WITH THEIR DROUGHT?

THEY ASKED FOR YOUR HELP.

MAYBE...

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THAT MEANS YES DEAR.

BEING CLEVER I SEE. YOU GOT ME THERE!

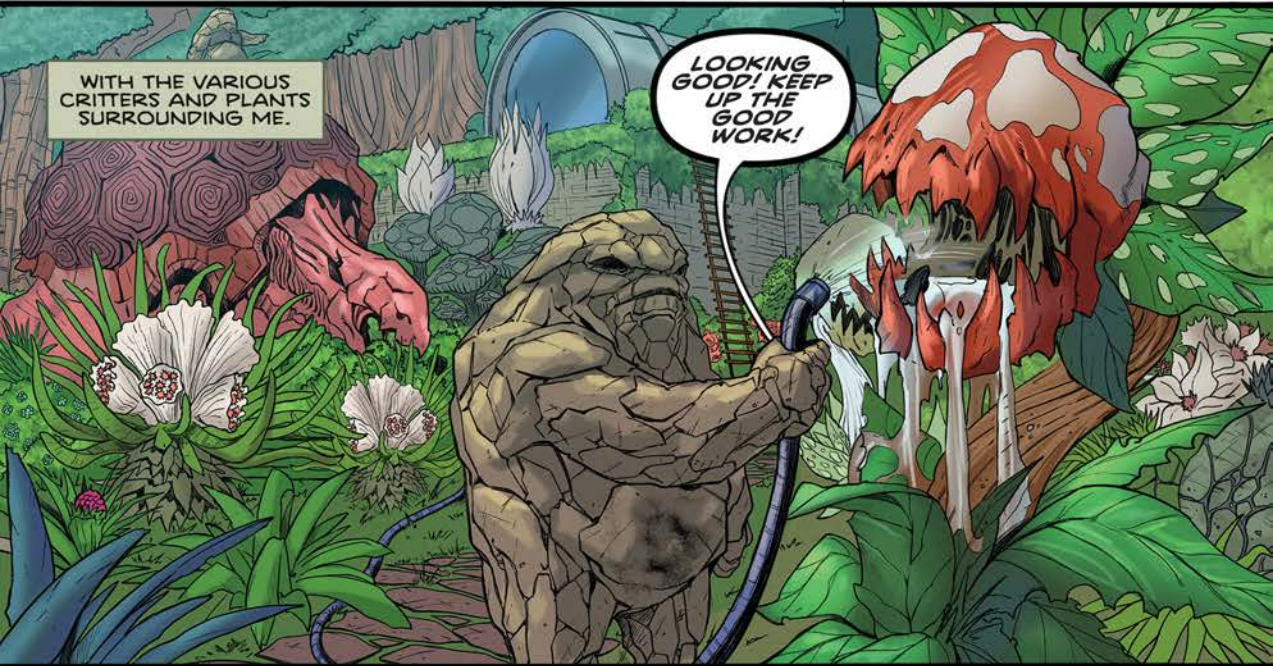
IT DOES APPEAR WE HAVE SOME VISITORS. SHALL WE DISCUSS THE DETAILS OVER DINNER?

WORKS FOR ME!

HOME

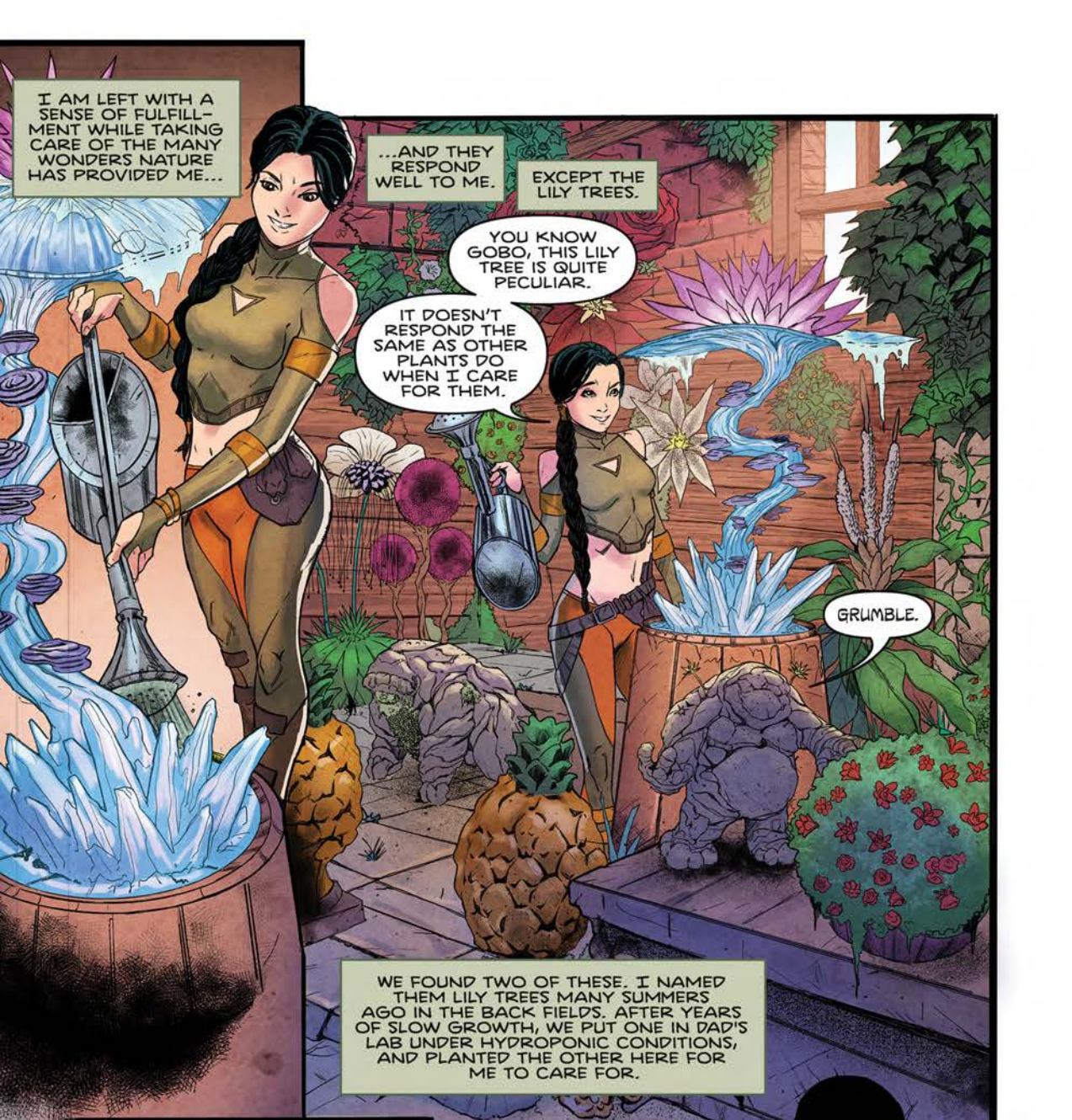


HOME IS A PLACE I LIKE SPENDING MY TIME AWAY FROM WORRIES OR CARES. A PLACE I CAN BE AT PEACE.



WITH THE VARIOUS CRITTERS AND PLANTS SURROUNDING ME.

LOOKING GOOD! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



I AM LEFT WITH A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT WHILE TAKING CARE OF THE MANY WONDERS NATURE HAS PROVIDED ME...

...AND THEY RESPOND WELL TO ME.


EXCEPT THE LILY TREES.

YOU KNOW GOBO, THIS LILY TREE IS QUITE PECULIAR.

IT DOESN'T RESPOND THE SAME AS OTHER PLANTS DO WHEN I CARE FOR THEM.

GRUMBLE.

WE FOUND TWO OF THESE. I NAMED THEM LILY TREES MANY SUMMERS AGO IN THE BACK FIELDS. AFTER YEARS OF SLOW GROWTH, WE PUT ONE IN DAD'S LAB UNDER HYDROPONIC CONDITIONS, AND PLANTED THE OTHER HERE FOR ME TO CARE FOR.



BOTH ENVIRONMENTS SEEM TO PROVIDE THE SAME RESULTS.

NOTHING WRONG WITH LETTING THEM GROW NATURALLY, RIGHT?



GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE.

EXACTLY. I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER.



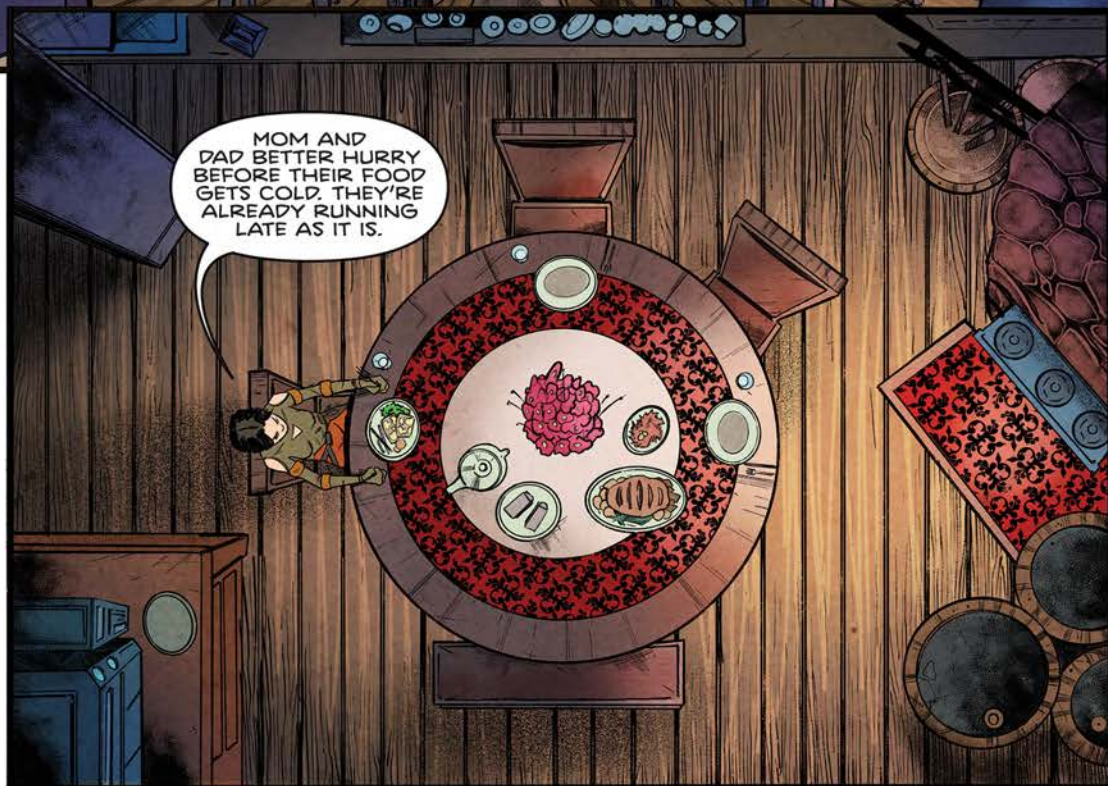
I ADMITTEDLY SPEND A LOT OF TIME ALONE. READING, WRITING.



CARING FOR THE ANIMALS.



AMONG OTHER THINGS.







SKREEEEEE HSSSS





MFK.
2-18

ART BY ALEX ARIZMENDI



PANKIEVICZ
TROM
LEHMANN



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**SPRING
2019**

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