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INVINCIBLE

TM

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER, INKER

JOHN RAUCH
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

SINA GRACE
EDITOR

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY & ANDY TROY
CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

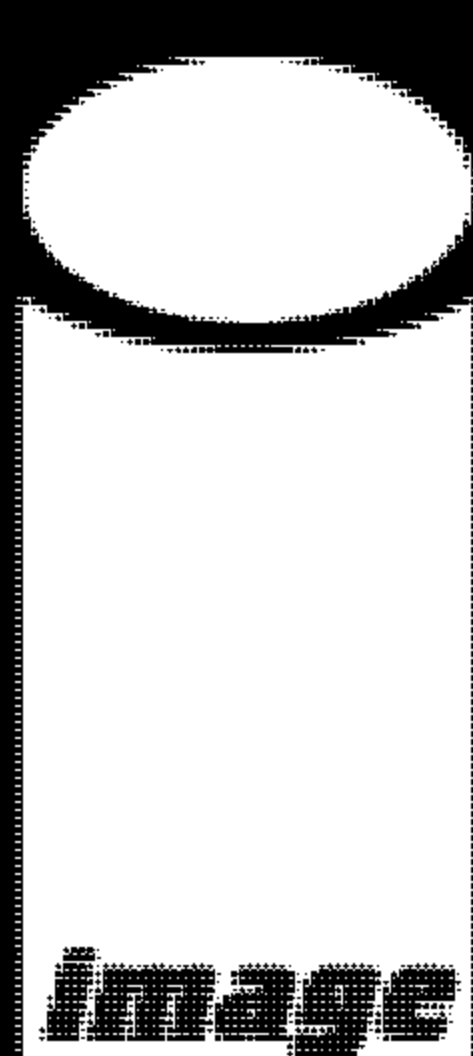


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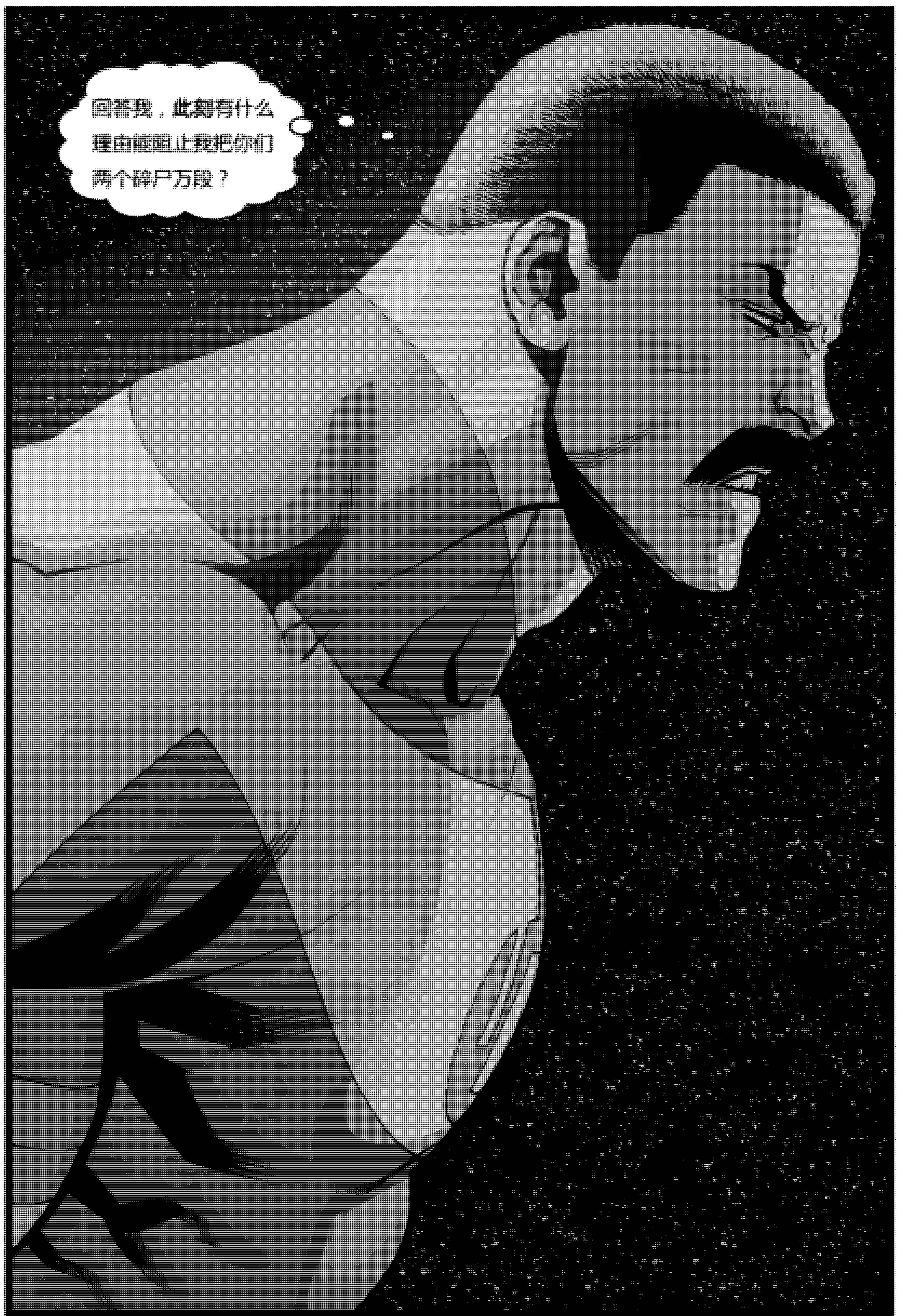


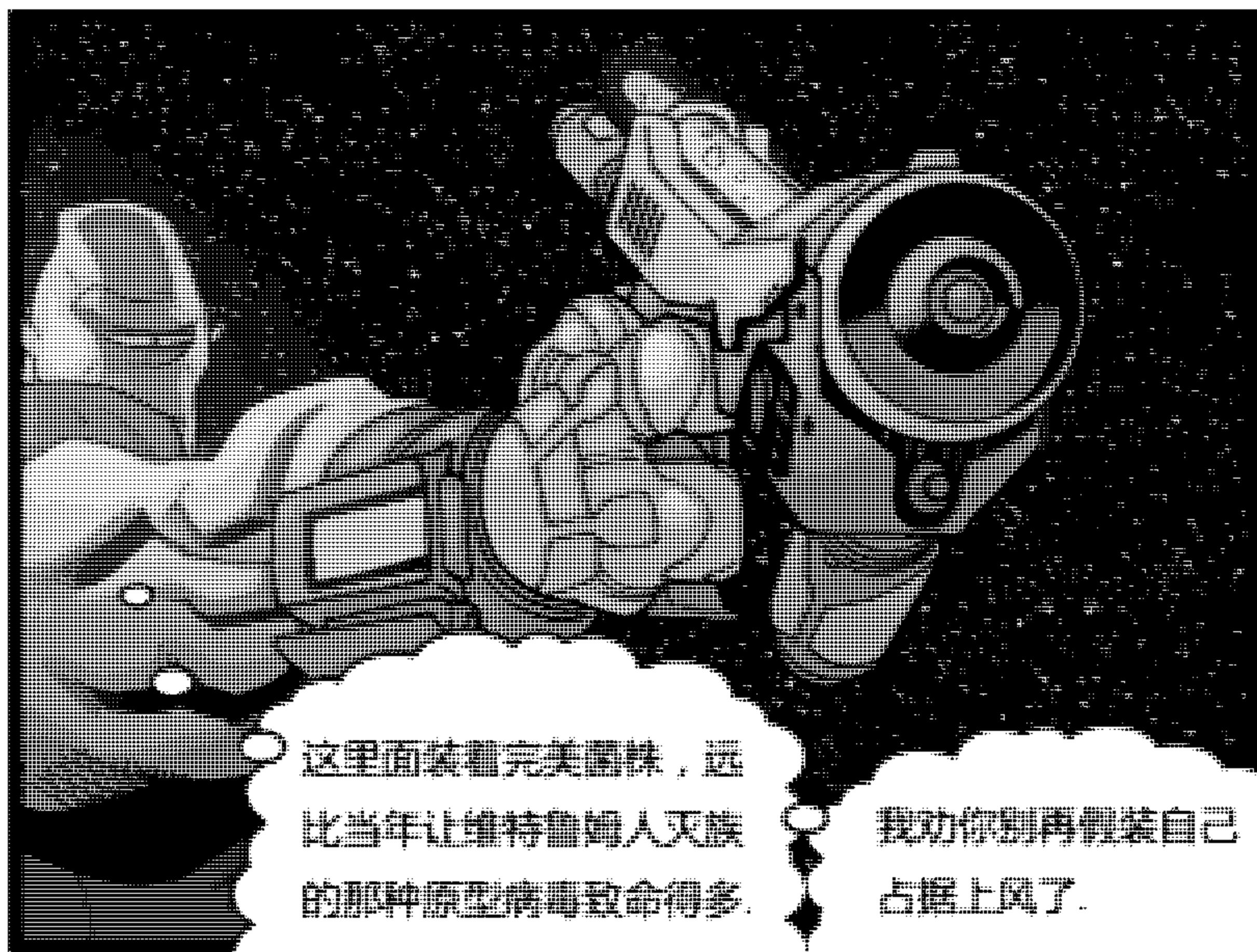
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好吧，所以这事结束了，
对吧？阿伦——你把东西
收拾收拾然后回家吧？

崔格很清楚——你无法偷袭他
们——就算你现在把病毒释放
到地球大气层，他们也完全可
以在病毒扩散前撤离这颗星球。

看来就这样了，
你的计划正式
宣告失败。



好了，各位...我们
都别做疯狂的事，
行吗？

我现在可一点都
没准备好应对疯
狂的局面。



让我把话说明白，
这里不会有战斗...
至少现在不会。

作为星球联盟的新任领袖，阿伦...我理解
你压力巨大...并且需要证明自己配得上这
个职位。

我提议暂时
休战。



休战？
你认真的？



没错，我现在就可以宰了你。你或许能使我感染，或许不能，无论如何，我的人民都安然无恙，而你必死无疑。

但这又能换来什么？我想你还没意识到只准备了这唯一一份病毒样本。你肯定把它的备份藏于某处，某处我无法触及之地。

所以在你死后，你的继任者会回到这里，而我们会陷入完全相同的僵局。



再者，我不相信你真想这么做。我知道被推上领袖之位、身不由己是什么感受。

现阶段，你让你所以为的职责蒙蔽了自己良好的判断。灭绝地球上的所有生命，来换取三十个维特鲁姆人的生命，这完全不值得。

另外，我必须指出，你仅凭我一面之词便相信我们所有人都在这颗星球上。你真以为我会让我的人民就这么任人宰割吗？

如果不是对新身份的沉重义务感蒙蔽了你的判断...你早该看清并意识到这一切。相反，你正冲动行事，让你的不安驱动你的决策。

这绝非良策。



好好考虑你内心的真实感受，你会认同我的。



行.....



现在我们总算谈到点子上了。

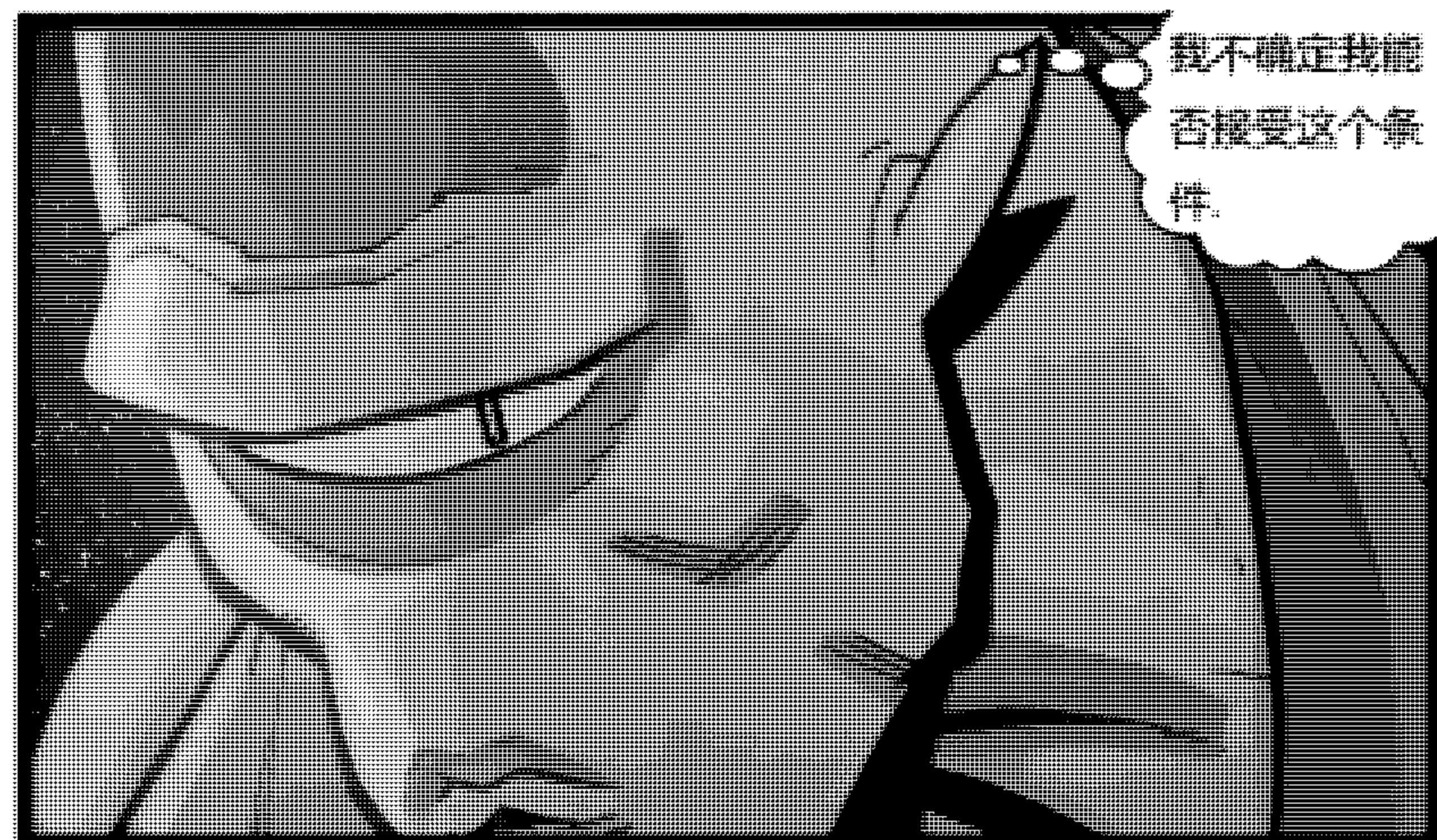


所以我再次提议休战。我们占领了这颗星球，但并非敌对占领，我们的存在对民众基本是未知的。你对此感到不适...但我也对你此刻手握天道病毒、严阵以待的行为感到不安。

你随时能用这病毒打击我们，而我们也有能力屠杀这颗星球上的所有生灵——并重启与联盟的战争。

我们正处在僵局中。我提议维持现状，让彼此相互制约。

我们在此居住，仅此而已...相应的，你们不得试图杀死我们。



我不确定我能否接受这个条件。



我来帮你理清思路吧，你被我逼入死角了。

你别无选择。



狗屁的别无选择！我敢打赌你们的人都躲在深洞里...我赌这病毒在他们逃出这颗星球前就能感染他们，我们或许没法灭了你们所有人，但——

奥利弗.....停。

崔格是对的。



噢，何意味？



我怎么听到你声音的？你接入了我们的通讯系统？

什么？我没听到他说话。

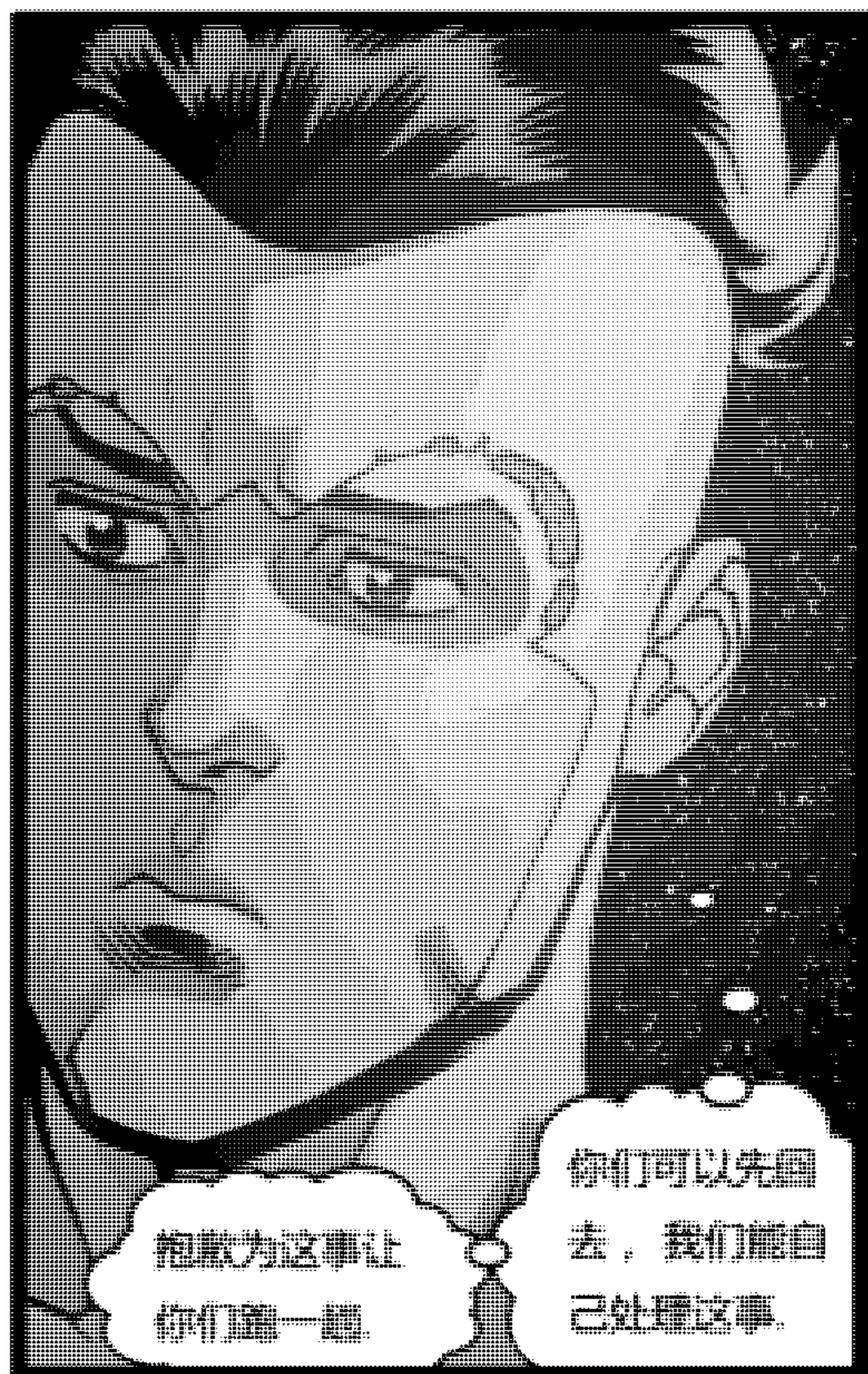


我有些外星科技，可以传输和读取你们的思维。

机器人刚才是不是说他听不见？如果他不在那个无人机里，他就在接收范围外——这就是原因。



他说他有外星科技，能读心和传心，你不在服务区内。



抱歉为这事让你们跑一趟。

你们可以先回去，我们能自己处理这事。



他叫我们撤离，现在局势由他掌控。

他是这样说的吗？



这些人是谁？

我的朋友们，别担心，他们不会插手。

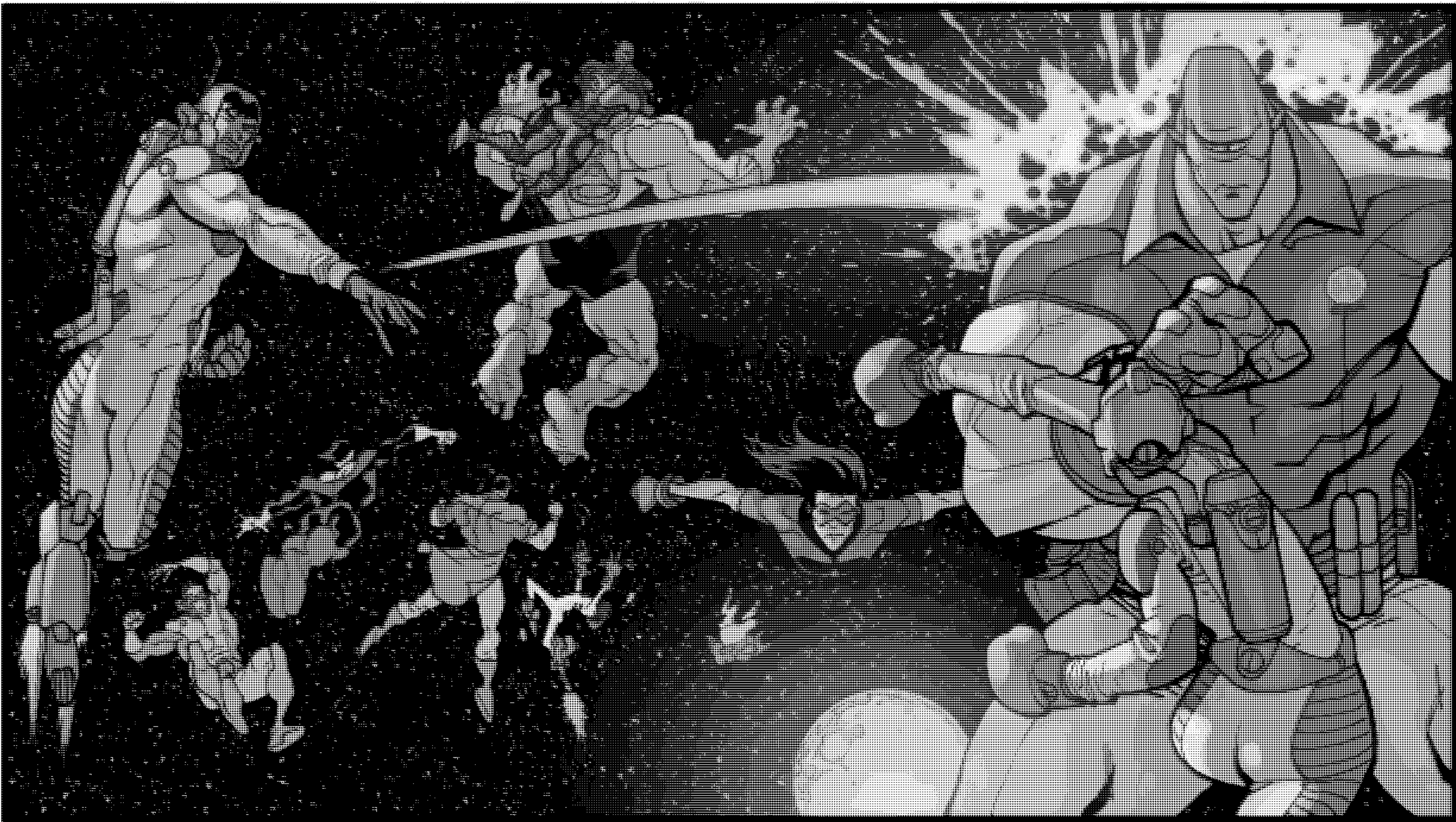
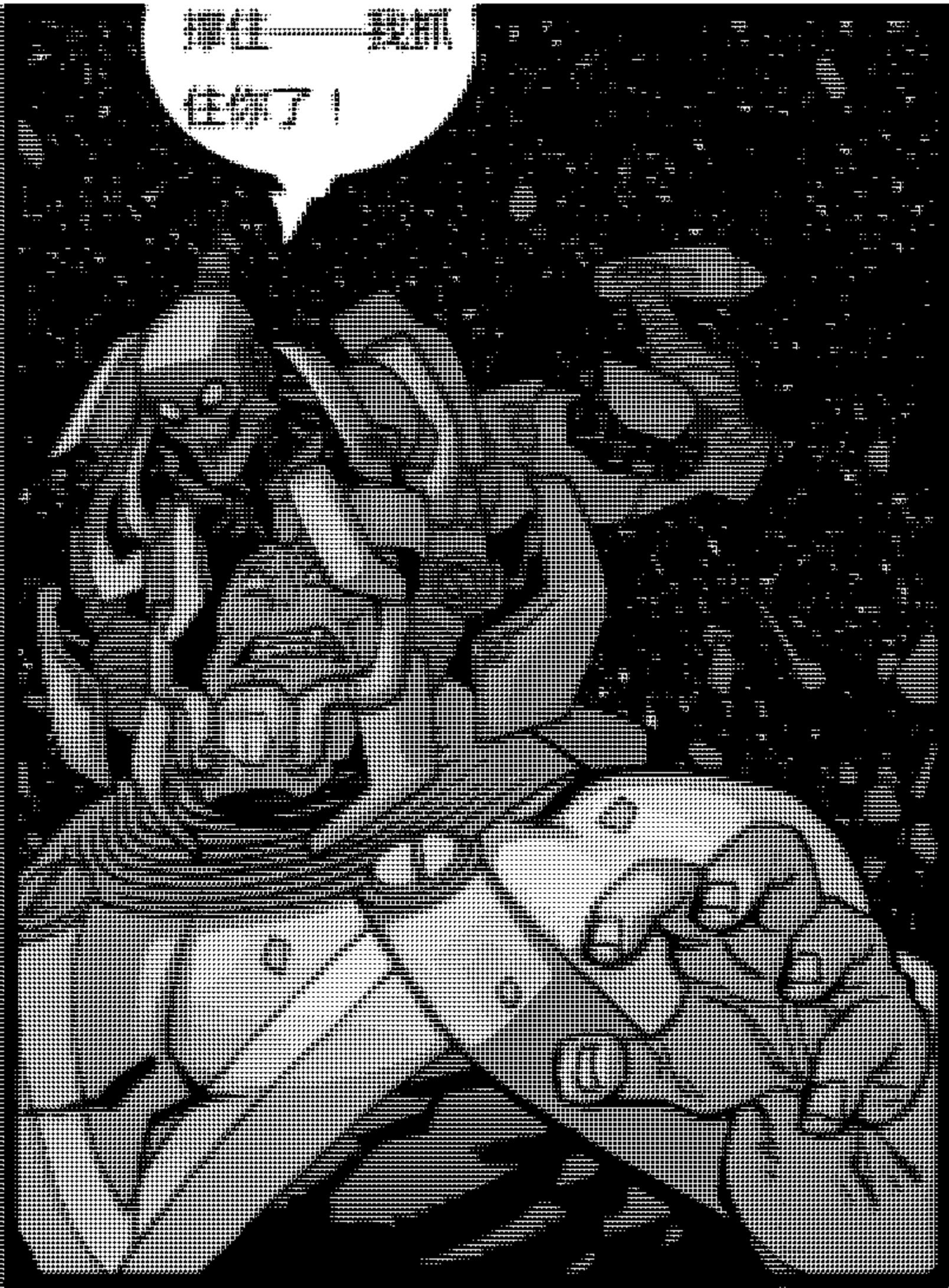


机器人说，你的逃犯身份让他怀疑你在这里的真实意图，还有他觉得你们应该全都陪我们回五角大楼接受拘留，直到查明真相。

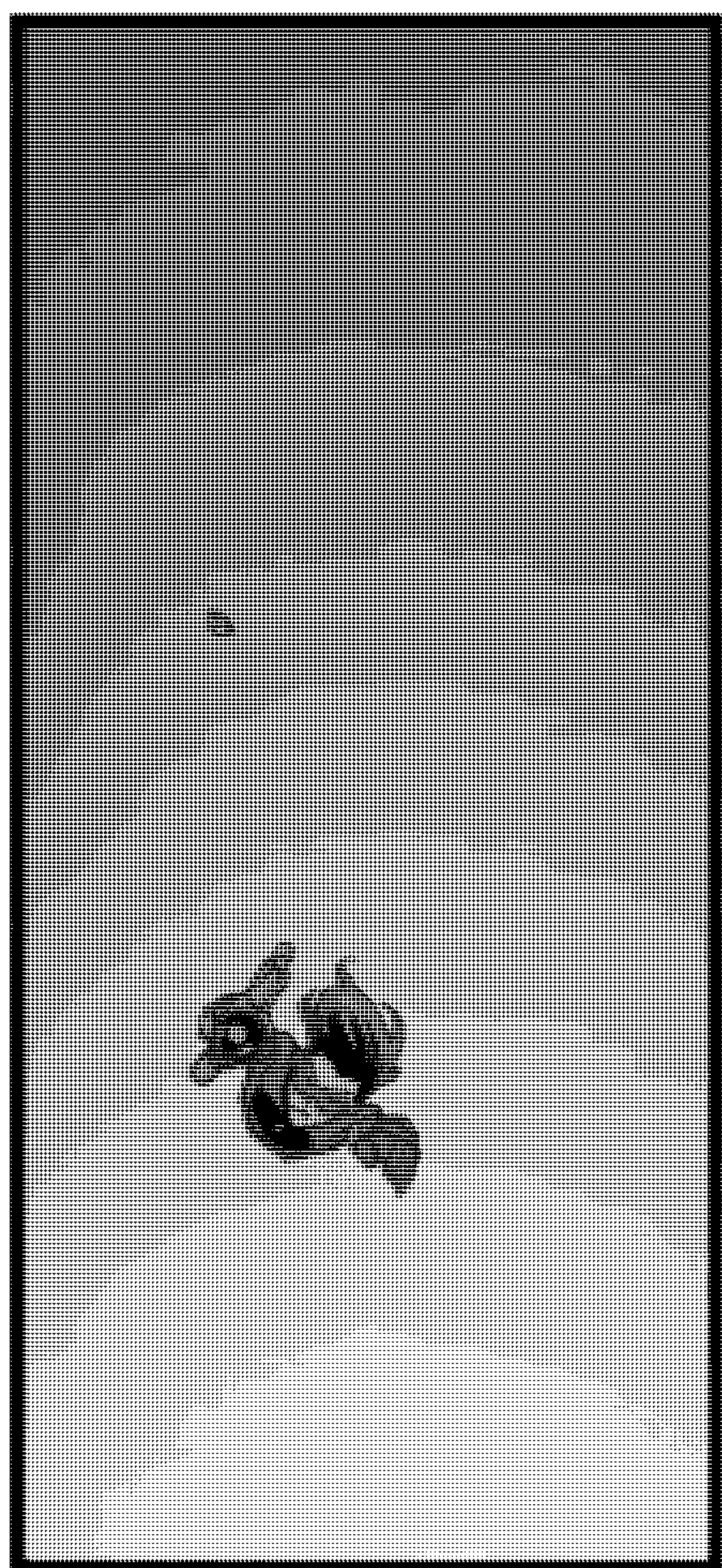


恕难从命。

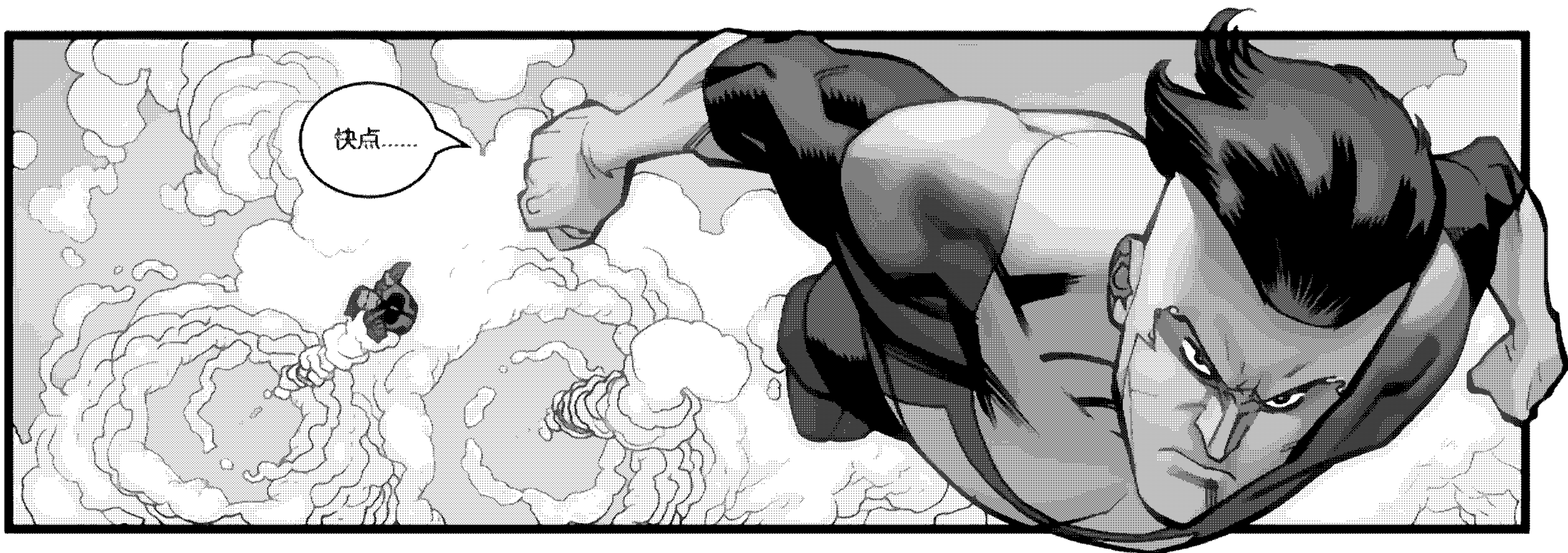




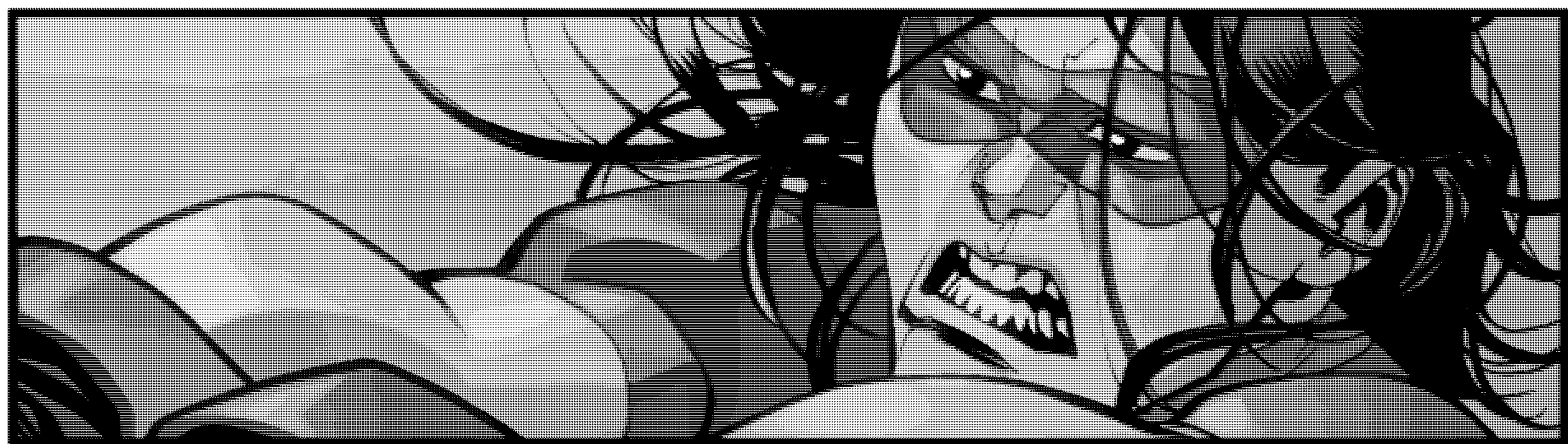


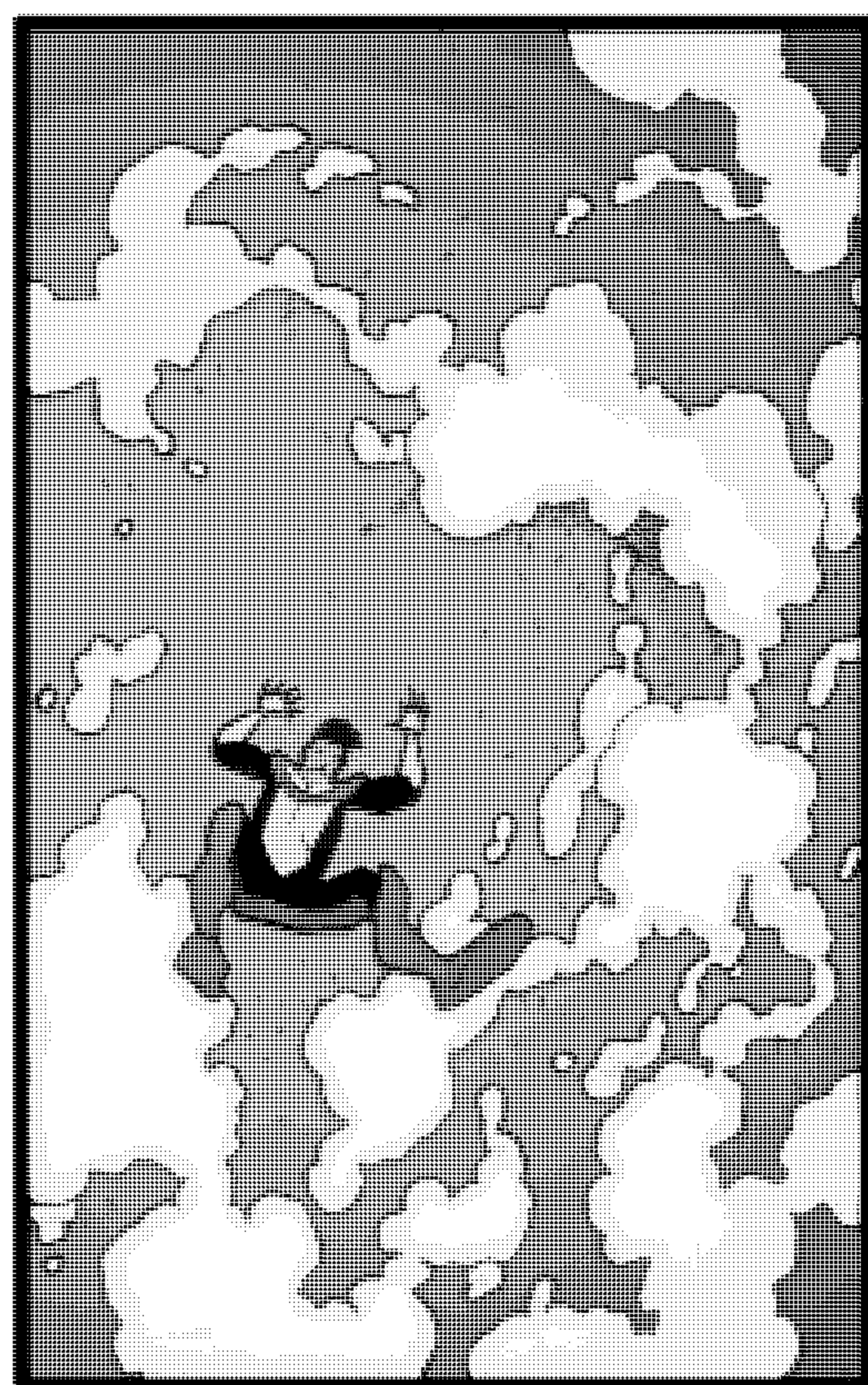


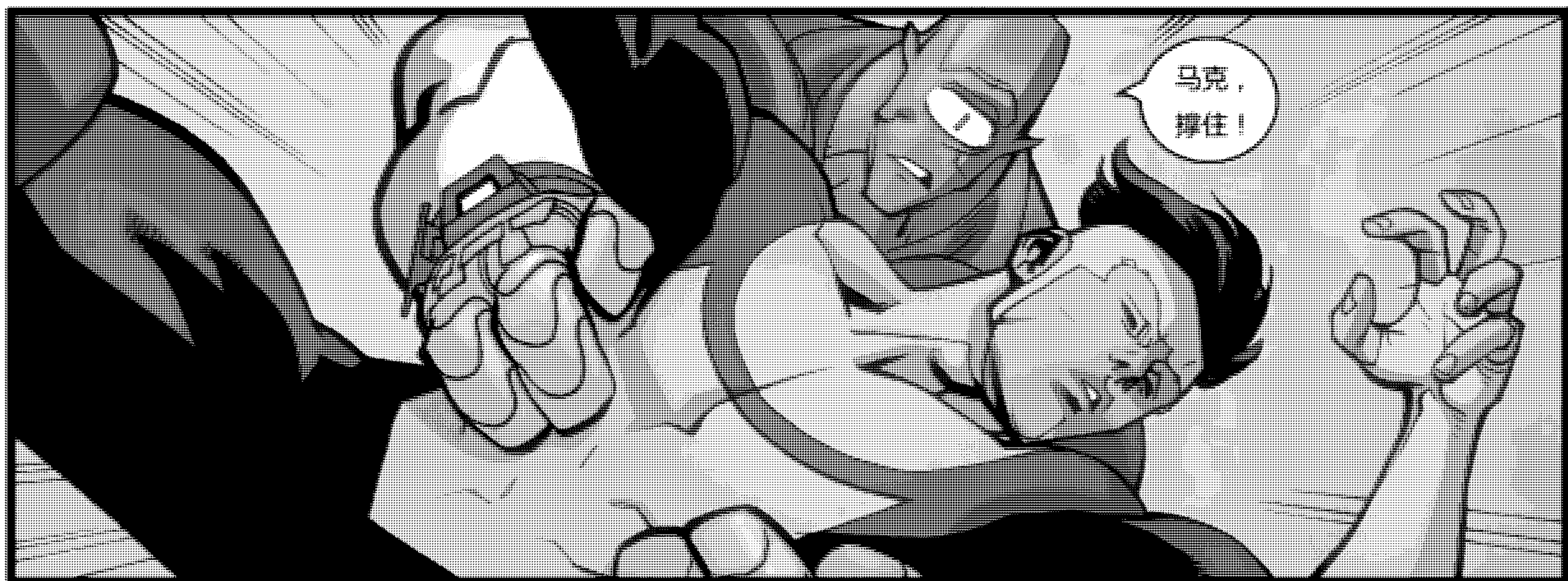




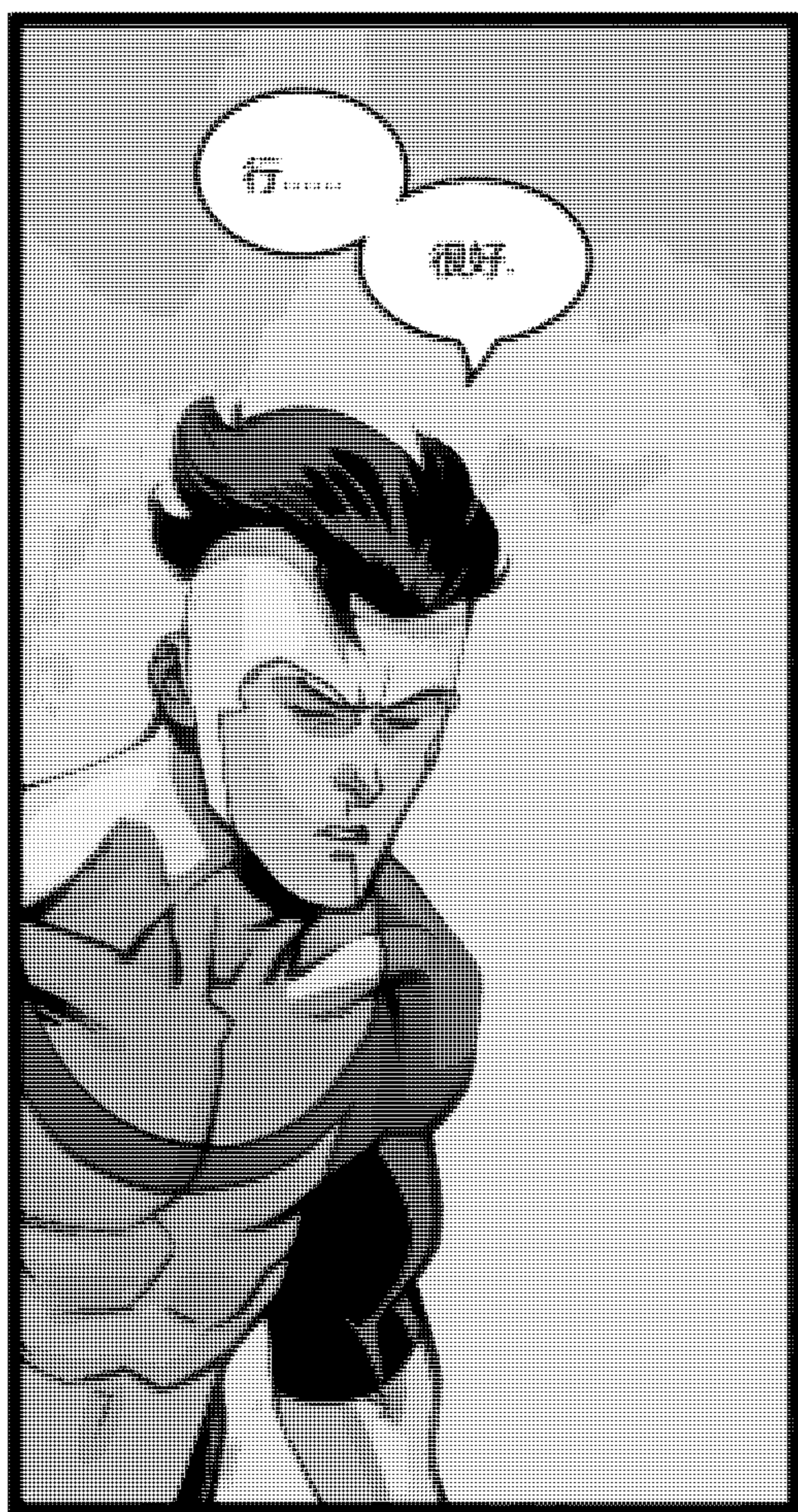












行……

很好。



你感觉如何？
还好吗？

那病毒……我很确定
你暴露在病毒下了。



我没事。

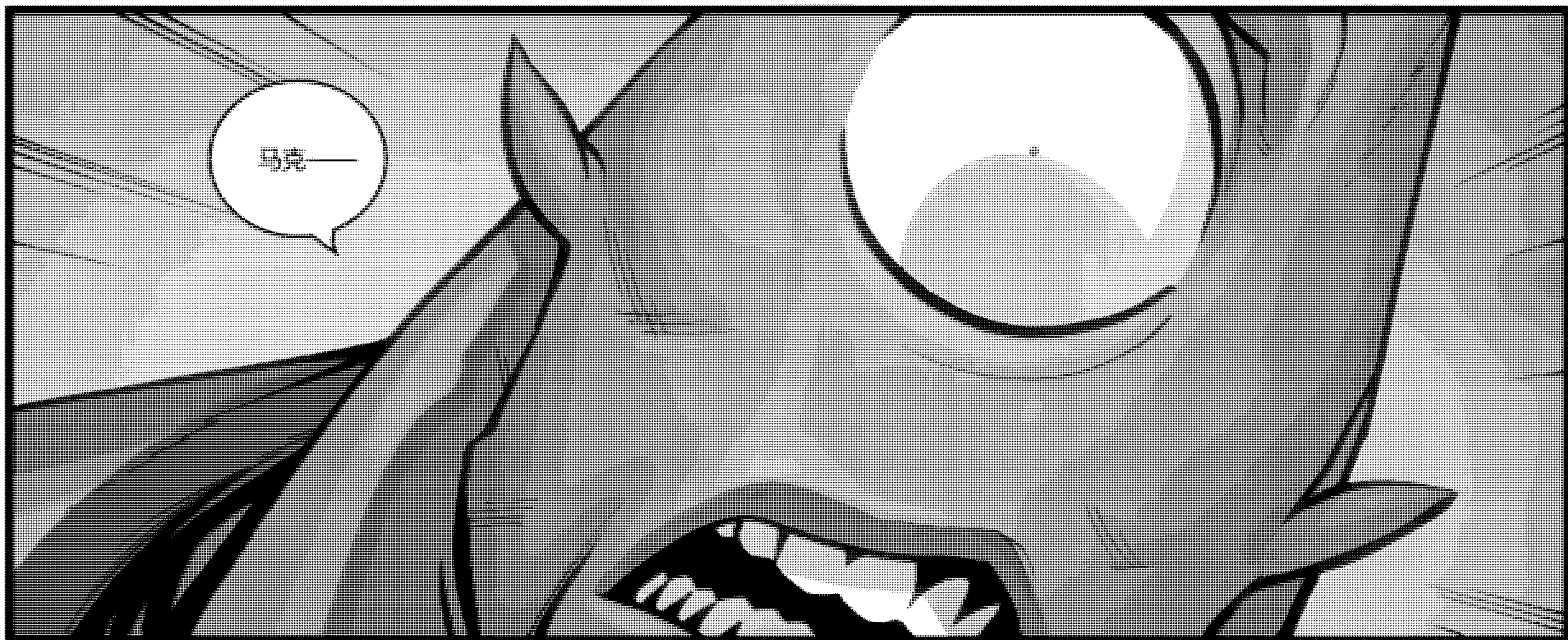
如果我们能把那枪从
奥利弗手中拿开，我
会感觉更好。



在完成全面健康检查之前，
我不能让你接触任何拥有人
类或维特鲁姆DNA的人。

你需要被隔离，直到我
们确认你没被感染。

感染——隔离？！阿伦，我
好得很，我严重高估了你们
的人合成病毒的能力，这玩
意根本没用。



马克——



怎么了？

阿伦，我没事啊。

WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIBLE

Welcome Back, Invincipals!

We're still jamming through 2012 right, with another issue of Invincible three weeks apart. Sure, we're spoiling you, but it'll stop soon enough, when we've gotten back on a monthly schedule.

Enough about us! Let's talk about you for a while... or at the very least let's talk about your thoughts regarding recent action in the book.

Hiya, amazing Kirk-Man!

I'm a 38-year-old french guy and I've been reading comics for most of my life. In fact, I learned to read with them (and a magnetic board my dad bought me). Oddly, this is the first time I write a letter to a comic book, can't figure out why exactly I haven't done it before. But I kinda felt compelled to send this mail to you.

I stumbled upon Invincible a couple weeks ago when I "ahem" downloaded a torrent chockfull of various Image comics. It's a thing I like doing sometimes: scanners like DCP or Minutemen do a great job making people discover new stuff. I can't count all the comics I've known this way. Yeah, I know it's illegal and some say readers of scanned comics are stealers (which I respectfully disagree because it helps spread the word and therefore attracts new readers - that goes for music and mp3s too, take that, music industry!) and I'm sure more than a few people use these scans to shamelessly read for free, but to me it's all about the discovery. Furthermore, it's not always easy to find what I want to read in France, especially imports (I like my American comics in english, a matter of suspension of disbelief: reading a story taking place in NY or DC and seeing the characters talk in french tends to pull me out of the story. Also, sometimes a lot is lost in the translation process).

To all this I say: can a fan not download books internationally via comixology or graphic.ly? While I can get behind sampling something for free (like when iTunes or Starbucks do a song of the week thing), it takes a bit of money for us to promote and produce these books, and it's only after that point that scanners think to put them on-line. You've made your stance, and that's just my two cents.

Look, I get that illegally downloaded comics gets the word out and can lead to more sales. It doesn't mean it's not illegal. You can't disagree with a fact. I see the benefit of it, I like that, that's a good thing, but allowing it to exist just breeds a generation that thinks it's okay, and that leads to everything collapsing. If everyone thinks "someone else" is paying, then no one is. And if I can't make a living writing these comics, I have to go mop floors or spend some time behind the Waffle House to make ends meet, and these comics stop.

I don't want to mop floors. So stealing is wrong, please purchase your entertainment... right? I'm not going to yell at illegal downloaders, and I'm not going to go to war with them, but you have to recognize that it's a dangerous trend that could lead to disastrous results for the future of all entertainment.

But SOPA ain't the answer! (Just getting that in there)

Anyway, Spider-Man's always been my favorite comic book since I was a kid (up until the retcon regarding MJ, that is), so upon reading the first issues of Invincible, I couldn't help but notice the connection. I was hooked and in a matter of days, I swept through all the 85 issues plus #0 and the minis, including the lettercols, and I effin' LLLLOVED IT!!! The mix of heroics and personal life, the numerous intertwining plotlines, the scope of the book from (friendly) neighborhood to galactic epic, the plots that remain dormant for 10 or 20 issues just to suddenly blow in our faces...

Hats off, mister Kirkman, you achieved a tremendous masterpiece of writing! You got yourself a new fan. I haven't been so thrilled by a comic book since 30 Days Of Night and as far as superheroes go, now Invincible is right behind Spidey competing for the title of Fav'rit Supahero Evah (hard to wipe out a lifetime-long love affair like that, even considering the aforementioned retcon) followed by Batman, the only DC hero I ever liked, in the third place. I was especially floored by #50 to #65: that was one helluva rollercoaster ride! In the words of Scott Pilgrim the movie - which by the way sucked ass full force, whereas the book was really cool: AN EPIC OF EPIC EPICNESS!!!

Okay, Scott Pilgrim references do work in your favor. By the way: if you torrented that movie—thanks for contributing to its box office failure. I'm on a roll of meanness!

I feel a bit ashamed of having read the whole shebang without paying for it, though it's not really different from a friend lending me his TPBs, is it? None of my friends are into superhero comics anyway and I wasn't familiar with the Image line, so I probably never would have heard of Invincible if I hadn't DL'd that torrent in the first place. But anyway, from now on I'm buying. Promise. I'm even gonna look for the TPBs published up to this point, so see? No Robrobbed! I'm not exactly keen on stealing from artists I like. Also, a computer screen will never compare to a good old printed book.

Xo thanks!

Alright, I still have MANY more things to say, but I'm gonna end this mail before it turns to a novel - have to leave some room for the other penvincipals (assuming this letter makes it to the page, heh), right? I'll just keep the leftovers in the oven 'til next time. So, on to some numbered questions/wishes:

1) I was referring to you as an artist earlier, and I've been wondering: why is it that in America, the graphic team on a comic book is collectively called "artists?" I mean writers are artists too, aren't they? As are musicians, actors, sculptors, dancers, etc...

People are all about labels here, that's why.

YEAH!

2) One thing I've noticed: back in the days of Marvel Team-Up and Ant-Man, you seemed absolutely thrilled to get to work for Marvel. Then when you became an Image partner, you suddenly made a 180 and it was like you didn't want to have anything to do with them anymore, you seemed to hold some sort of grudge against them. What happened? Did you have a fight with the Marvel execs or something? Or is it simply, you being a partner and all, that you had to become contractually Image-exclusive?

Robert can elaborate on this, but from my understanding: if you're going to be the face of creator-owned comics, your MO should be creator-owned comics, amirite?

I didn't enjoy my time at Marvel because I liked to be in control of my work, how it's presented, who works with me, how it's marketed, all that. I enjoyed individual books, for the most part, but the overall experience left much to be desired. Creator-owned comics is a more viable long-term career choice, and while I was at Marvel, other creators thought I did Marvel work to pay the bills and creator-owned stuff for fun. That's a horrible misconception. I was making more money from creator-owned in my second year at Marvel, long before things REALLY took off, and long before a certain TV show was made. So I decided to take a stand, be the guy that only does creator-owned stuff... and succeeds, and hopefully, eventually, other people would follow. Because life is much better now... and I want as many people as possible to share in my happiness, and I want to read more awesome creator-owned books.

3) About Eve: her FATHER's name is Adam, how creepy is that? Is there a subtext about incest here and is this why her mother insists on her first name being Samantha, or was it just a coincidence that never occurred to you? Knowing how thoroughly you usually plan stuff, I suspect there's something quite yucky here, with her dad talking to Mark about her (lack of) virginity and all...

EGads, I hope not! First abortion, next: incest? Robert's got a knack for melodrama, but I don't know man...

I honestly never made the connection. A bit of a goof on my part. I think I chose Adam because it kind of sounds like Atom. But... the whole Adam/Eve connection is weird. I can't tell you how little effort I put into coming up with normal names for characters. It's a little unnerving when I think about it. That's why there's tons of repeated names in Walking Dead. I'm like "Have I used Bruce yet? Bruce--yeah--this guy is Bruce!"

I'll try harder from now on.

4) We need more Green Ghost barfing! That scene in #7 was delightfully gross, and I absolutely loved how he was on the verge of throwing up after having to swallow the amulet right back. Please, let us enjoy a new Green Ghost.

Noted!

I've been meaning to get to that since issue 7. I'd love to have another Green Ghost, and even had plans for it, but never got around to it. I think I've mentioned it in a letters column before.

5) After the way Mark and Amber broke up, I had assumed they'd remain close friends, but she seems to have vanished from the book after the punch-in-the-face incident, except for the short glimpse of her and Gary glued to the TV during the fight against Conquest. Will she ever return in Mark's life? As a friend, I mean, not a lover. I miss her. More than that, I think Mark himself needs a circle of normal, grounded friends, considering how crazy his life has become for quite a while now. Sure, he still has William and Rick, but William's not exactly a grounded person and Rick... well, he's not fully human anymore and he's had his share of personal hell that I'm sure he's still coping with.

I can guarantee that we haven't seen the last of Amber. I cannot guarantee when.

6) Whatever happened to the London "sky god sect" running gag? That was hilarious and wasn't even remotely getting old.

RR?

It's coming...

7) How come Nolan and Allen's uniforms bear the C.O.P. logo in latin alphabet? It should be written in a weird alien language. A point also valid for every alien being encountered by humans: how come each and every one of them (except Octoboss - BTW, his way of speaking was fun and I'd like to see him again some time) seems to speak a perfectly flawless english?

They were designed knowing that our alphabet is cooler? I really do think that coolness factor had a lot to do with it.

My thinking is that our alphabet is somewhat alien in origin... same with the English language. Allen touched on this in issue 5, I believe. Mark asked "how are you speaking English?" and Allen replied "What's English?"

Well that's it for now. I hope Invincible will stick around as long as ol' Webhead. Looking forward to #500!

Keep on rockin'!
Guillaume Perez

PS: A word for Abigail from the lettercol in #68: "Superheroines that are normal." Really? I What exactly IS a "normal" superheroine?

Normal would mean: fuller-figured, and displayed on the cover (that's tracking back to an older letter saying that we wouldn't put Eve on a cover in her current state).

If a movie ever ever happens...

BRYAN CRANSTON FOR NOLAN. The thought of it makes me so happy I could pee. That is all.

Daniel Walker

Not entirely with you on this one. He's one of the best actors ever, but c'mon: Walter White as the ultimate Viltrumite?

I could see it...

#Numbers! (Can we do hash tagging too? Bah, too late...)

My therapist made me stop when I started using hand gestures to indicate I was hash tagging.

1. Loved issues 85 and 86 with the great Invincible OG Cory Walshizzle, but I have one problem with Kirkman. Why don't Allen and C.O.P get a human and test the virus on it first, to see how it affects us? Please don't go on further on the storyline without addressing this! You really miss that one didn't you?

Humans are hard to come by that far in space.

And... they're trying to kill Viltrumites, they know it does that. You don't test a weapon on the collateral damage to make sure there will be damage. No time!

2. Another bone to pick with Robert, WTH happened man? There once was a time when every comic book you made had its own flavor, but now you write two books with a hero and a partner Super Dinosaur (Mark/Dinosaurus - Derek/SD) What's next, Rick Grimes and his pet velociraptor?

That is one way to deal with the undead pandemic... It's only in two books! Well, would it be spoiling too much to say that The Infinite may or may not be a third book with a dinosaur partner in crime? If I could still hash tag, I'd type #timetravel #obvl

3. If I have a baby someday, can I call him Mark Grayson? (I plan to do that even if it's a girl)

Fine by me.

Seconded.

4. How much tax-payer money is going towards Cecil special bathtub?

Let's just say we're not in deficit for nothin'.

5. Did Eve get an abortion like a normal woman or did she use her powers? #whynoadoption #shesadoptedherself

shudder She went traditional. As for adoption, I think she'd have a lot of splainin' to do if down the line her baby ended up with super powers in Randomtown, Illinois.

6. Before Nolan dies #spoileralert, can he have his last conversation with our great friend the superhero tailor/outfiter?

Well, let's see how he gets out of his current pickle before we divulge the ifs and the whens of his demise.

13 Issues in 12 months, Make Mine Edited By Sina, Colored by John, Lettered by Rus, Drawn by Ryan, Written by Kirkman! #toolong #notgonnawork

Gabriel Diaz

We're trying! Thanks for the vote of confidence!

Penvincipals-

Long-time (reader) first-time (letter-writer) and all that (e.g., feel free to assume I enjoy your product).

It probably takes a long-time reader to appreciate what a good issue #86 was. For example, first-time readers would miss much in Debbie's response to Nolan at the end of the issue. Given what he has putter through, the possibility of him going bad again is pretty much her worst fears made manifest.

But what I enjoyed most was the moral quandary raised and the various characters' reactions to them. Leadership seems to weigh heavily on Allen, and fear of what might happen to those under his care is pushing to do something he probably would have once never considered. Note how he moved his fight with Nolan out of a crowded building, reminding us that he is driven by protecting innocents. Nolan has experience with compromising your principles on a micro level for the "greater (Viltrumite) good," and has the regrets that come with that. Amazing how he has changed from the guy who betrayed the Guardians to the voice of reason that argues risking a whole species to stop what his race MIGHT do is not worth it. His speech about how the people of Earth changed him, and how they might do the same for his fellow Viltrumites, suggests he's carrying a lot of baggage for his actions against both. The moment he grabs Oliver shows exactly how many regrets that guy has. I wonder if Invincible isn't Nolan's story nearly as much as Mark's.

And Oliver, I've swung back and forth between disliking that him and seeing potential in him. I'm surprised it didn't give Allen pause when Oliver "agreed" with Allen, but for different reasons (i.e., Earth people deserve to die, too). I think Mr. Kirkman could give a certain film maker tips on how a likable "hero" might one day become a villain. Care only about the people closest to you, carry a lot of anger, and see killing as both not a big deal and expedient at times. Oliver seems to be on a nice, slow boil to one day be Mark's greatest adversary.

Of course, I could be wrong, as Mark has been making some "ends justify the means" choices himself lately. He just released a villain who believed killing a whole city was worth the "greater good." It's great for the story that he won't be standing completely on the moral high ground when Allen comes calling. I smell Mark making a mistake and learning a hard lesson, Oliver becoming a bad guy, and a noble sacrifice from Nolan. But you all do tend to manage to surprise. It's why #87 will be my first read next month.

Robert's doing a grand slam job playing with all the themes you mentioned in this book, Super Dinosaur, and The Walking Dead. No spoilers, but all heroes are faced with hard choices to make: it's what makes them both heroes and compelling characters to follow.

Hope I'm not reading too much into things here. For example, Dinosaurus could be an allegory for the dangers of apathy (given it turns you into a monster). Then again, he may have just been there to set up a joke about how boring Mark's life can be. I've often wondered if readers finding more in a story than the author may have originally intended is the sign of weak writing or masterful. Maybe it just shows that some of us spend too much of our time with our noses buried in a funny book.

You're getting a bit LIT 101 on us, to be sure, but it's welcome! Robert's the first to admit what his intentions are when creating something, and even if you're on a separate page than him, it's the experiences we carry that inform what we're creating and reading.

To restore my comic-geek cred, let me end with what a great beat-down Allen delivered. In space, no less. Nice work, Cory. And "Oh, shut up! Viltrumites have balls -- cry baby!" may be the 2011 Invincible quote of the year.

That was a good one!

Dome a favor. I'm thrilled with your on-time shipment approach. Could you also have the Image Science Department (ISD) investigate time-travel technology that might enable something even better (say, "pre-time" shipment)? If so, I'd greatly appreciate it if you could get me issue 87 yesterday.

Many thanks-
Jason Blackwell

Maybe if you spent less time over analyzing the comic, you'd figure out a way to do pre-time shipment yourself, you liberal arts hippie!

Hey Robert.

First of all I want to get the fanboying out of the way; you're a damn fine writer! TWD and Invincible are the first comics I've followed as they're being produced. I got into comics recently and all my favorites had concluded before I'd ever heard of them. So it's awesome to be part of this experience with you, your team and all the fans on the letters column. I wish the other books I've started to read indulged their fans with a letters column. It's great to see the positive and negative opinions of others, and also seeing fan reactions and theories to big events. There are a few things I wouldn't have noticed if I hadn't read it in the mail. I guess you could just go to a message board for that but it's more personal with the creators involved.

Agreed! Plus, good conversations get derailed FAST on message boards by pictures of people's cats.

I love cat pictures!

Anyway, with that said I want to get on to my first ever complaint about one of your books. (Why do you think I'm writing in? I know you don't want stuff that's full of just praise. I got your back Kirkman!) I know it's been a WHILE since the costume change to say the least but I'm catching up after lagging behind and I miss the yellow. I usually don't like yellow on costumes but the blue, yellow and black combo with the simplicity of the costume fucking SUNG, MAN! I'm not saying the blue and black is bad, it's got its charm. But I feel like it's a bit bland and generic. In a sea of dark-caped vigilantes clamoring for attention Mark's bit of yellow seemed to lend him a bit of individuality. I feel like he's less memorable this way. Like a kid could look at him, see the dark blue and black and go "hurrrdurp, is that Batman daddy?" Now of course, yellow or no yellow I'll slap that kid silly. (I kid, I kid.) But that bit of yellow makes him quite obviously invincible. To me anyway.

So that's my ramble about a small and outdated issue. But I feel strongly about my superhero costumes, damn it! Naw, not really. But I do think you should have stuck with the yellow. I'll keep reading no matter what you do of course, 'cause Invincible addresses all the problems I've experienced when trying to read superhero comics and FIXES them. So you keep it up. Put him in clown shoes and a wet suit if you feel the need. Just don't change the always evolving and gripping storylines!

Okay, it's strange that you send this in after Mark not only gets back into his yellow costume, but even gets that costume tweaked. I'm a big fan of the costume argument (especially in favor of the current yellow costume), so I allow this outdated letter to run.

PS. You spoiled the next Big Death in the TWD column and it broke my heart. (In fact he may already be dead since I haven't read the latest issue yet) :(YOU ALREADY TOOK DALE AWAY FROM ME! HOW COULD YOU! Heh. Keep me on the edge of my seat man. Love it!

From Kirkmaniac number 8575876 or something :D

If you're referring to what I think you're referring to- spoiler alert: WE WERE KIDDING!

Messieurs Kirkman, Otley, Walker etc.

I was so happy to've received my Science Dog super size. I love the 'bande dessinée' presentation, and I was very eager to open it up and take a second gander at a story that I read thru Invincible, bought the two issue mini series, and loved every bit of it. I usually have little patience for time travel narratives, but Science Dog is currently my favourite, more than Terminator, Doctor Who..., I hate time paradoxes, they are cheezy and lame when used in science fiction stories, but you brought the theme somewhere else (yet again).

Such a great book, right? EVERYONE BUY IT.

Please.

Why aren't FCO's colours in the book? or rather WHY AREN'T FCO'S COLOURS IN THE BOOK?! I especially loved the way his colours and Mr. Walker's style blended, it was something marvelous. I like Dave Stewart's colours (HELLBOY!), that's not the point. The point that his style is different (obviously), and it reacts differently with Cory's art, he renders his colours differently. I wasn't expecting this curveball, and it enticed me to write to you for the first time today, because today is the first time that I feel that my opinion could be heard by you, seeing as for the past 4 and a half years that I've been into comics (the first comic I ever pulled off the rack was an issue of Irredeemable Ant-Man), I've been hooked on all of your work, I read the issues and collect the trades and I have had ABSOLUTELY nothing to say except: thank you!

We aimed for consistency in the hardcover edition. Before, there was something like four colorists throughout the span of the Science Dog stories (dating back to Invincible #25). If we'd have kept them the same, it would have made reading the book a bit inconsistent for you.

You are a gift, and I am astounded that what we are living right now is 'early Kirkman'. WHOOT! WHOOT! numbered bullet points!!

1. I forget if this was brought up before. When Mark was in a coma after Conquest impaled him, he was growing facial hair, yet his upper lip was baby arse smooth. wouldn't the viltrumite DNA bring the moustache to the next level?

Oliver was grooming it for him.

2. Whatever happened to that British guy who seemed just about ready to start his cult, fully accessorized with garbage bag and grad cap?

RK7

Eventually, I'll get to it.

3. Super Dinosaur is wicked Awesome, your most original idea in your career so far, and I have equal admiration for Jason Howard's contribution, his design is awesome cool, and he's just getting started, what a privilege to witness his progression in the industry! I wish SD existed when I was 9 years old. It would have fundamentally changed me. Probably.

Thanks! Here's hoping we get a million more kids hooked on reading comics because of SD!

4. I'm going to need my fix soon, seeing as I've gone without Rex Splode for what seems like years to me.

I can't help you with that.

5. Those guys with the Star Trek archetypes are very cool. Think of writing a mini-series someday? I'd buy it.

Not your worst request. Will it happen? I can't say :)

Probably not. I'm not looking to get SUE'd!

I guess this can be it for now, this was nice, I might do it again.

Thank you for inspiring me,
Patrick
Montréal, Québec

Please continue writing in! We always love feedback and an excess of compliments.

Thanks again for the mail. If I didn't say it enough back then: thanks Cory for contributing to the book (I have #86, page 15 on my wall as I type this). Please come back again in February for more twists and turns! Boy howdy, are you gonna be pleased.

Also: If you are in the Bay Area, please come to IMAGE EXPO! February 24-26, Oakland Convention Center. Not only will Robert, Ryan and I be there, so will dozens of your favorite Image creators and Skybound booth babes! No joke!

Best,

-Sina Grace

I'll see you there!!

-Robert Kirkman

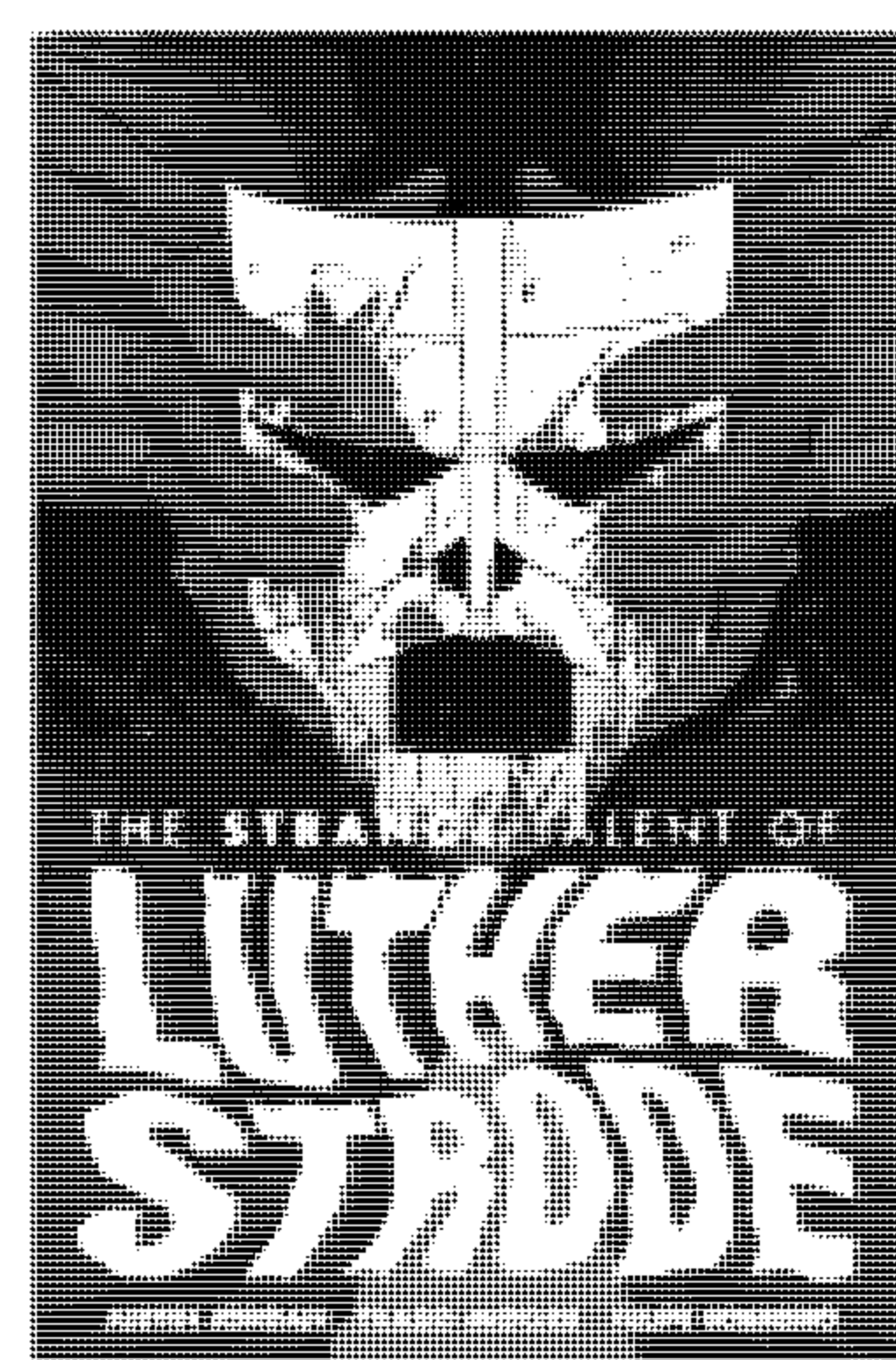
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Question of the Month

"In general, the generation raised on Image Comics coming into their own and being highly successful for it, in specific: Saga, Earth Mother in England and Sharkbite II."

Joe Keatinge

"WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THE MOST FOR COMICS IN 2012?"

"Either than seeing the Place Like Home on the comic shelves as creators I've always admired, getting excited about creator owned titles again is what I look forward to the most from comics in 2012."

August Brerlin

"I'm mostly just looking forward to watching the landscape change this year. It feels like a year of change, and I hope smart retailers and publishers push that change in the right direction."

Id Brubaker

"I am seeing all of the off beat comics getting made. Seeing weird stories take off totally strikes me. I've also reflected on Fearless Dawn and she's going to space in 2012"

Jeff Knafling

"All of the things that are coming from Image that no one has heard about yet."

Robert Kirkman

FEBRUARY 2012

the word EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

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THE THIRD DEGREE ROSS CAMPBELL

Ross Campbell currently lives in Rochester, New York. He likes cats, Tifa Lockhart, tea, alien terror, and Vin Diesel. He hates frogs, sunny weather, and traveling. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/rosscampbell1 (three l's!). Comics by Ross include *Wet Moon* volumes 1-6 (Oni Press), *Shadoweyes* and *Shadoweyes In Love* (SLG, read online at shadoweyes.net), *Mountain Girl* (self-published), *GLORY* (written by Joe Keatinge, Image Comics/Extreme Studios), *The Abandoned* (Tokyopop), *Water Baby* (DC/Minx), *Spoaked* (written by Antony Johnston, Oni), and various short comics *Fraggle Rock*, *Hack/Slash*, and *Vertigo's House of Mystery*.

What are you working on right now?
I just finished up volume 6 of my *Wet Moon* series for Oni Press. I'm working with Joe Keatinge on the new *GLORY* series. I'm writing volume 3 of my teen antihero vigilante story *Shadoweyes*, and currently I'm working on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Leonardo one-shot issue for IDW. Whew!

What's the best part of your job?
Getting to work while wearing pajamas.

What's the worst part of your job?
The frequent lack of money, the fear of a future where I might end up penniless and die on the streets, and being nitpicked when drawing a work-for-hire project for somebody else since it always seems like they don't like the ideas I'm most passionate about. Also the pitch/proposal process is pretty soul-crushing.

How did you first discover comics?
I think my first comic exposure was *Calvin & Hobbes* in the newspaper, and then the old Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird *Ninja Turtles* comics followed by *Spawn*, *Sleepwalker*, and *WildCATs* are what really got me interested.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
I have no idea. I don't really have any other skills but maybe something involving writing. Or working at a bakery or as a dishwasher.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?
"Can I come visit you and stay at your house?"

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
Probably my dad was. But as far influences on my writing... Ross Macdonald, Raymond Chandler, Richard Stark, Patricia Highsmith, Milan Kundera, Alan Moore, and Johnny Craig.

What are you most likely to complain to an editor about?
Probably character design stuff. Once I get something in my head, I will almost always put up a fight if an editor makes suggestions about how a character looks.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
Kevin Eastman, Peter Laird, HR Giger, Hayao Miyazaki, and the movie *Alien*.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
Either *Shadoweyes In Love* or *Wet Moon* volume 6.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
I don't believe in guilty pleasures. I don't feel ashamed about anything I like, but something that fits the definition might be a lot of generally-considered-cheesy music I like, like Enya, Erasure, and Seal.

What was the last comic book you bought?
The *Summer Of Love* by Debbie Drechsler and the *TMNT: Michelangelo* one-shot issue by Brian Lynch and Andy Kuhn.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Alan Ruck.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
Tea, pajamas, and winter.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
A life-size puppet of the mutant killer baby from the movie *It's Alive*.

When was the last time you laughed out loud?
A lot of my favorite band *Bella Morte* as usual, *The Rain Within*, *The Protomen*, *O'so Krispie*, *Erasure*, *Eternia*, *Faye Wong*, *Active Child*, *The Birthday Massacre*, *Ensilece*, and *Blackguard*.

What music are you listening to these days?
A lot of my favorite band *Bella Morte* as usual, *The Rain Within*, *The Protomen*, *O'so Krispie*, *Erasure*, *Eternia*, *Faye Wong*, *Active Child*, *The Birthday Massacre*, *Ensilece*, and *Blackguard*.

What is your favorite film of all time?
Alien.

Who is your best friend?
Zach Smith, who I've been friends with since kindergarten. He works in bio-optics.

What is the worst advice you've ever received?
"You should get on Facebook!"

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
Hmm, I don't know... I lead a pretty ho-hum life, I guess, but I was pretty freaked out when a bat flew into my apartment last year and was dive-bombing me and stuff. Maybe not TRULY FRIGHTENED, but it was pretty frazzling at the time. Bats seem cute until they're attacking you in your home. There was also a time several years ago when a homeless man pushed his way into my apartment when I opened the door in the middle of the night in a tired half-asleep stupor. I thought he was going to kill me.

Name someone you really admire and explain why.
Washington Post advice columnist Carolyn Hax, because she's always so on point. She's got her sh*t together.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
The masses caring about American comics again and everything selling millions of copies.

What the world needs now is...
Less suffering.

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THIEF OF THIEVES #1



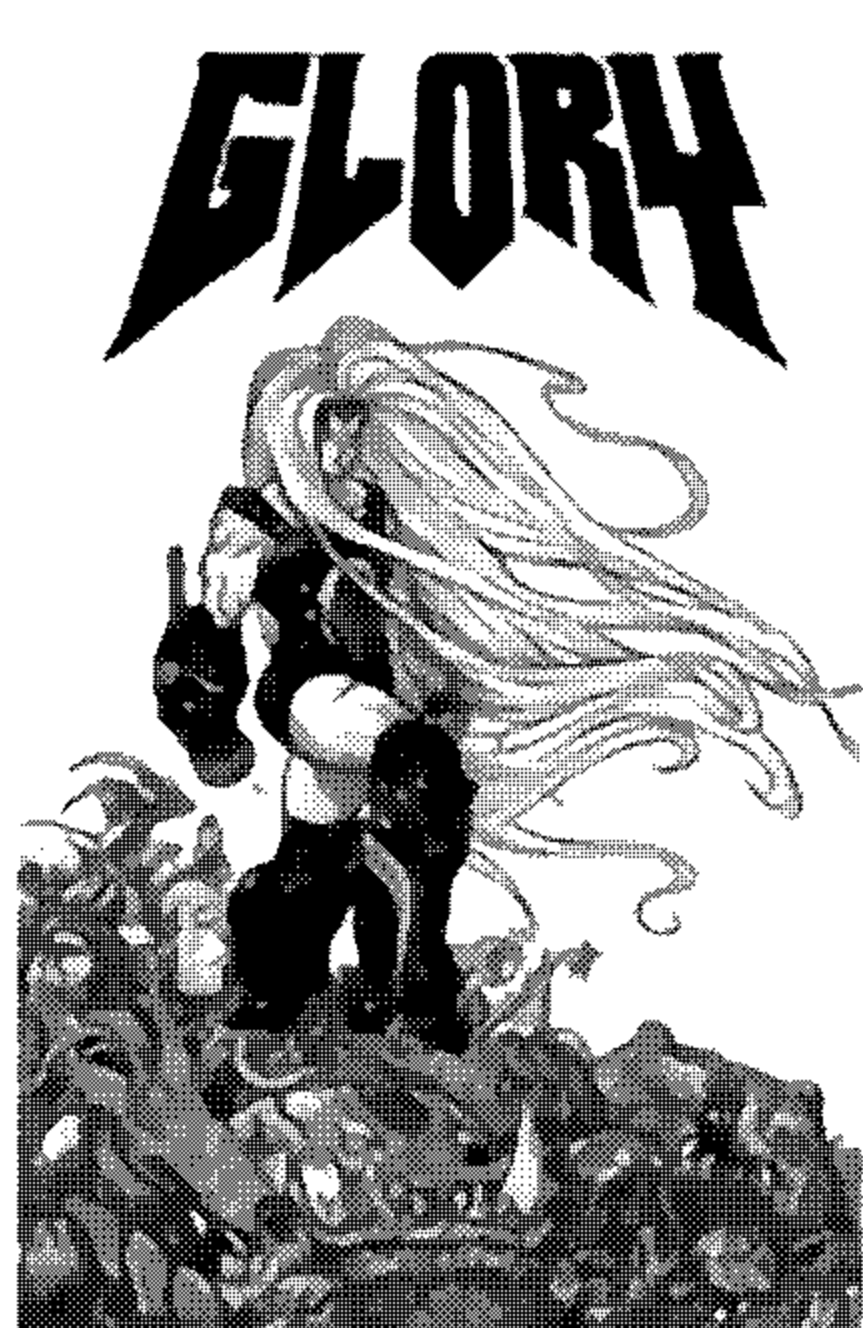
Conrad Pearson lives a careful double life as master thief Raymond. There is nothing he can't steal, nothing he can't have... except for the life he left behind. Now, with a grown son he hardly knows, and an ex-wife he never stopped loving, Conrad must try to piece together what's left of his life, before the FBI finally catch up to him... but it appears they are the least of his worries.

ALPHA GIRL #1



It's 1984, and Judith is your typical 15-year-old, the chain-smoking, cat's-claws, wild hair, tomboy to parents, and she just might be the last sane woman left on the planet. When a third-rate cosmetics company creates a phenomenon that turns women into cruel man-machines, the world goes berserk. Judith must break her little brother out of jail, all the while dodging robot women and the men who hunt them. Judith is Alpha Girl!

GLORY #23



After missing her almost a decade, Glory's whereabouts are discovered by a local reporter, but the globe-spanning conspiracy keeping her hidden from humanity could make her return more dangerous than anyone ever anticipated. This first issue of our brand-new saga written by Eisner & Harvey award winner JEFF KNAFLING and illustrated by WEL DON and Shadoweyes creator BUST CAMPBELL, sets up Glory's future by expanding on her past in a way promising to shock, awe, move, love and excite all new readers!

NO PLACE LIKE HOME #1



One night in a town where her parents are killed in a freak tornado. Awakening in Kansas for the funeral after five years in L.A. She discovers Conoverville is the same unsettling place it was when she left... until the bizarre unsolved murders begin. With an unknown killer closing in, the events of one night in 1951 begin to unravel in a portal to a world of horror, greed, a portal paved with yellow bricks...

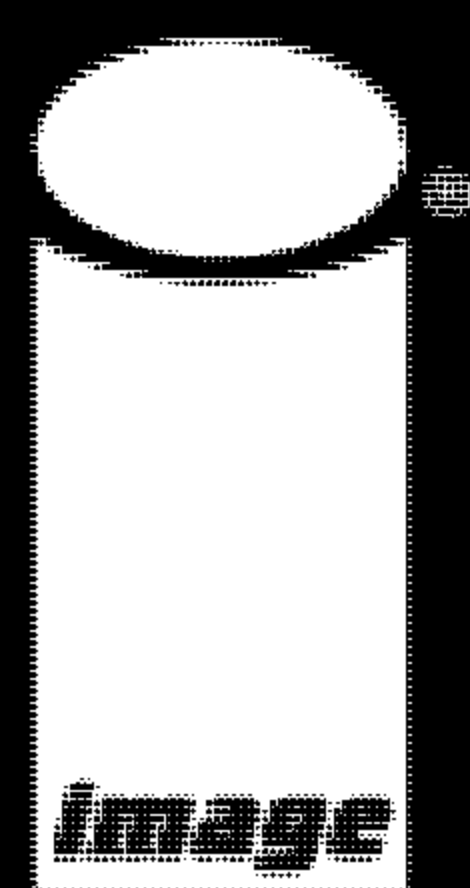
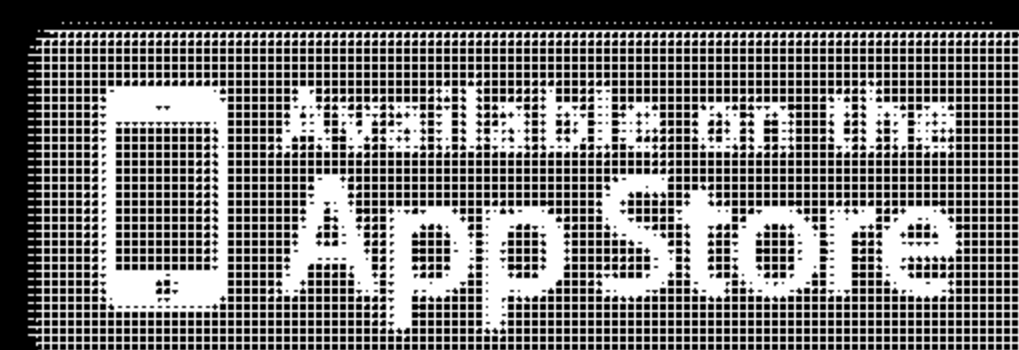


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