



THREE
OF EIGHT

EIGHT BILLION GENIES

CHARLES SOULE + RYAN BROWNE



EIGHT BILLION GENIES

BY CHARLES SOULE
& RYAN BROWNE

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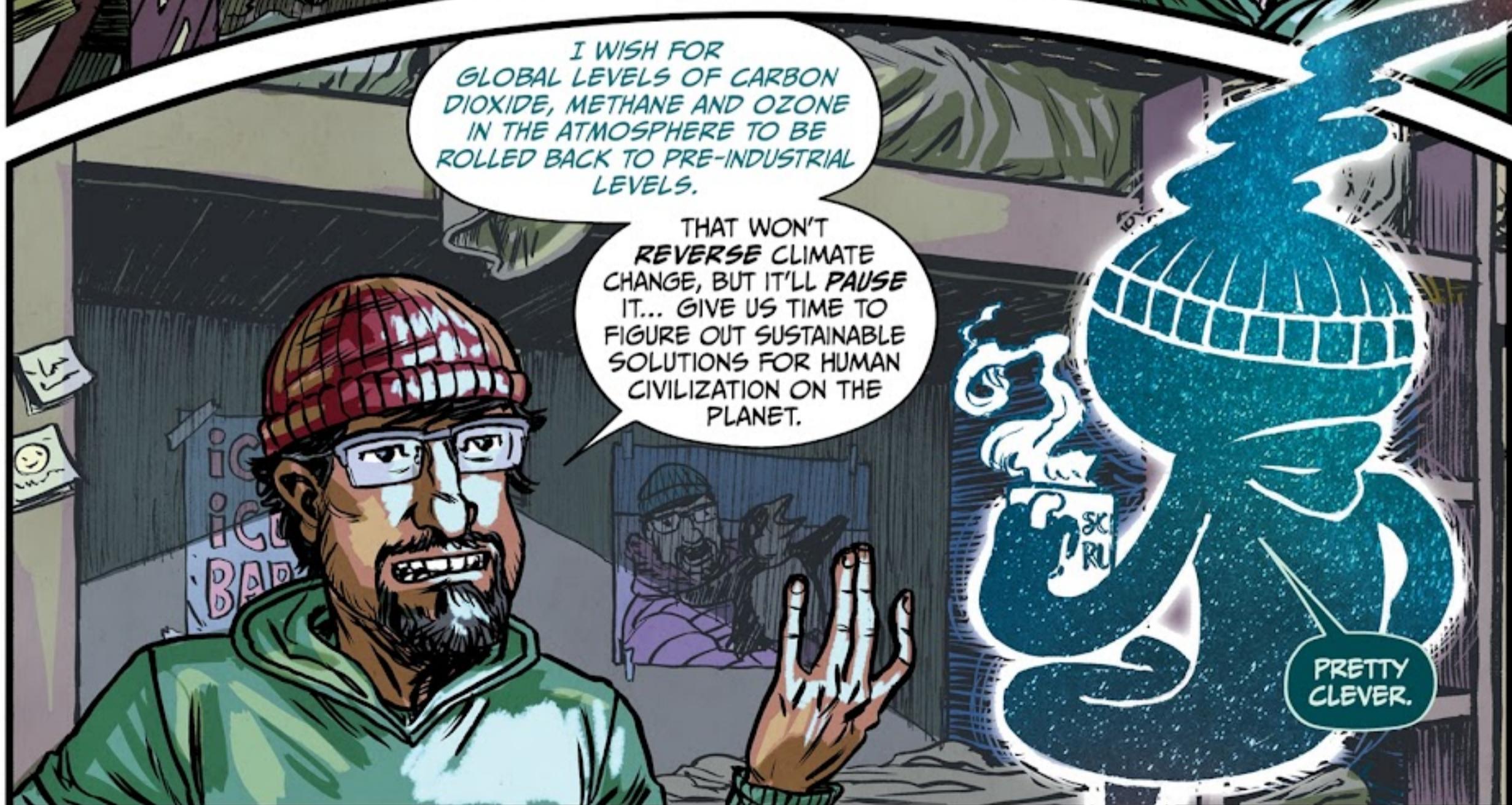
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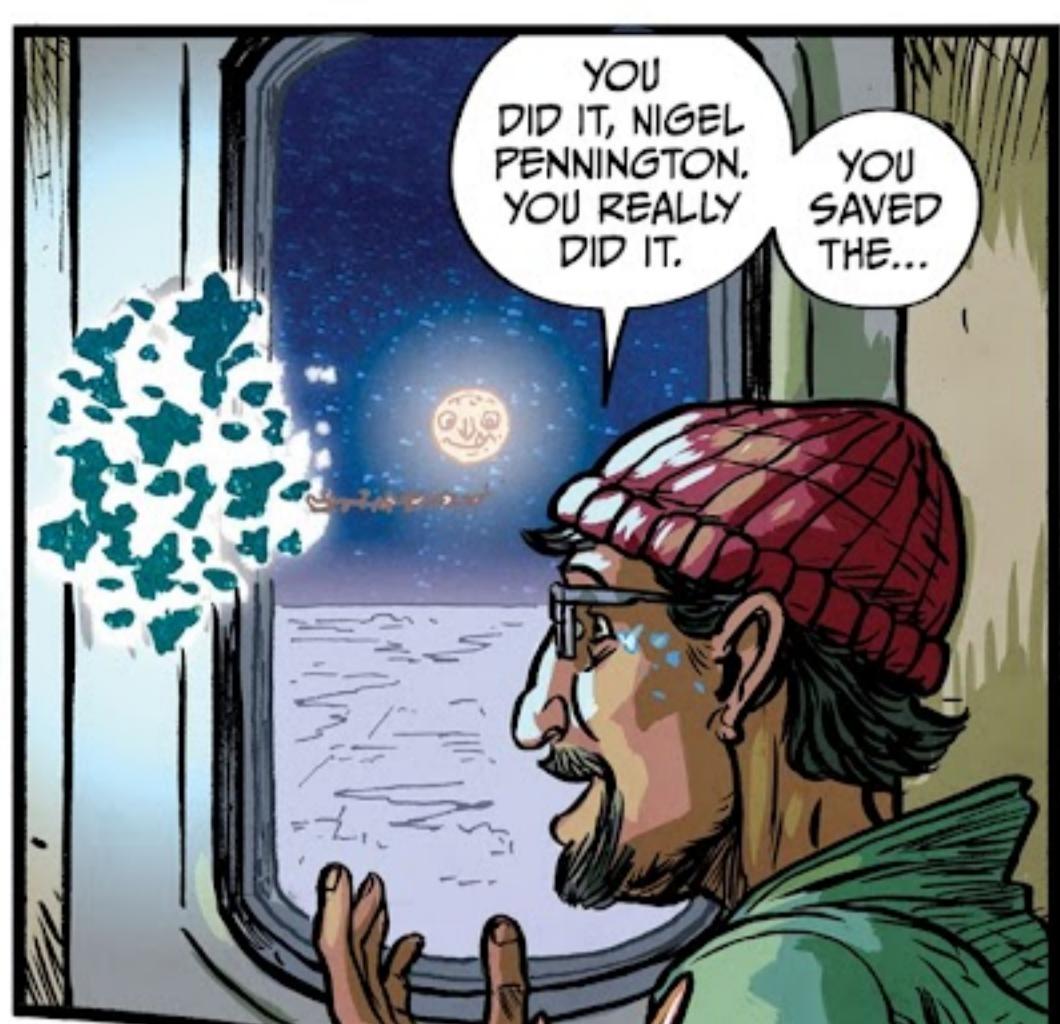
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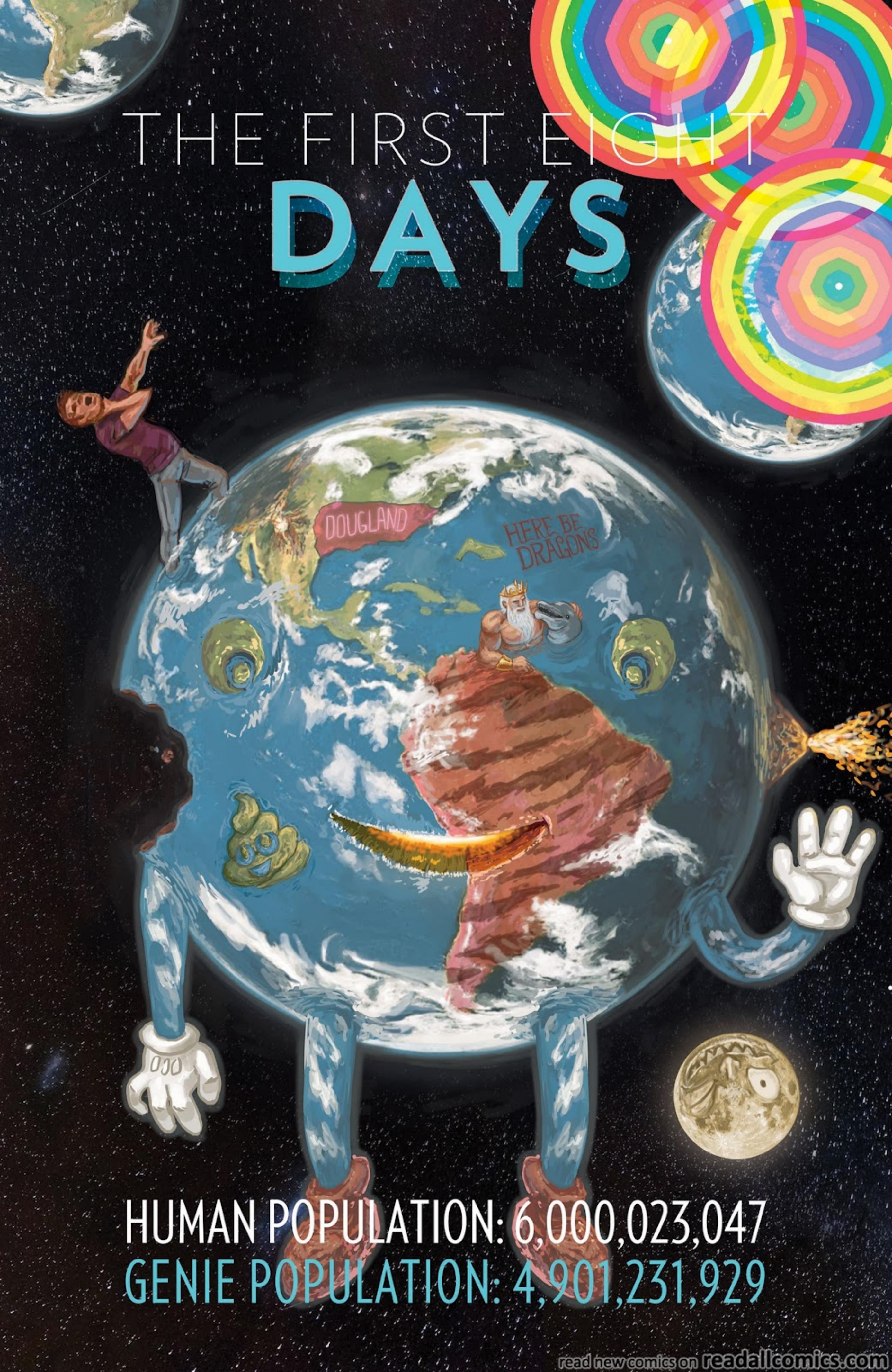
G-day. Hour seventeen.

I'M GOING
TO SAVE THE
WORLD.





THE FIRST EIGHT DAYS



HUMAN POPULATION: 6,000,023,047
GENIE POPULATION: 4,901,231,929

St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

The Lampwick Bar and Grill.

Day two.

BARKEEP!
I'M DRY! HOW
DARE YOU LET
ME RUN OUT OF
WHISKEY, YOU
BASTARD!

ERNEST,
YOU ARE A
TRIAL AND A
DELIGHT.

YOU'RE RUNNING UP
QUITE A TAB, SIR. YOU
WANT TO SHOW ME THE
COLOR OF YOUR MONEY
BEFORE I POUR YOU
ANOTHER?

I'M ERNEST FUCKING HEMINGWAY,
YOU SON OF A BITCH. YOU'RE ASKING
IF I CAN PAY MY TAB?

I COULD WRITE
THREE LINES ON A COCKTAIL
NAPKIN AND SELL IT FOR ENOUGH
TO BUY THIS SHITTY CANTINA
OF YOURS.

DON'T KNOW
WHETHER TO PUNCH YOUR
LIGHTS OUT OR KICK YOUR
TEETH IN!

DON'T MAKE ONE OF YOUR FAMOUS
SCENES, PAPA. SO PERFORMATIVE.
WE'RE ALL JUST TRYING TO HAVE
A GOOD TIME.

BLUSTER IS
THE TOOL OF
A FOOL.

LET'S
TRY THINKING,
INSTEAD.

WE APPEARED
IN THIS WORLD WITH
NO MONEY AND EVEN
FEWER MEMORIES, BUT
I HAVE INTIMATED THAT
OUR, AH, FRAGRANT
FRIEND HERE SEEMS
TO BE A SORT OF
MUSICIAN.

PERHAPS MR.
MORRISON MIGHT...
SING FOR OUR
SUPPER?

...?

OH, YEAH,
BABY.

I'LL BRING
OUT THE LIZARD
KING. LET HIM
DANCE.



LET'S SEE WHAT WE GOT. HMM.

YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE AN ORGAN... BUT WE CAN MAKE IT WORK.

"ROADHOUSE BLUES," "BREAK ON THROUGH..." THOSE GO PRETTY GOOD WITH JUST GUITAR.

SO DOES "BACK DOOR MAN," NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.

EW.

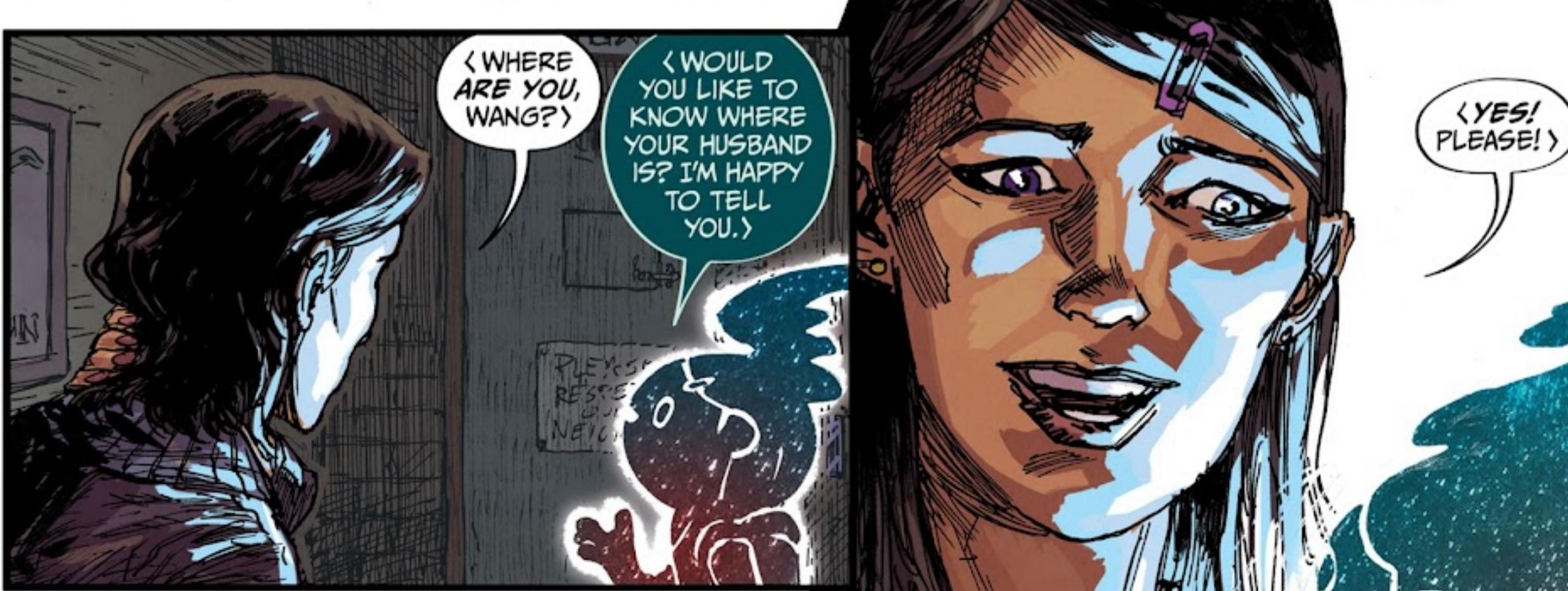
YOU KNOW ANY OF THOSE TUNES HE CALLED?

NOPE. I MEAN, MY PARENTS THOUGHT HE WAS A BIG DEAL. I THINK HE DIED, LIKE, FIFTY YEARS AGO.

I KNOW HIS BAND WAS THE DOORS, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.

IF ALL THIS WASN'T HAPPENING, I COULD JUST LOOK UP THE CHORDS ONLINE.

BUT WE'VE GOT DRAGONS AND ALIENS RUNNING AROUND OUTSIDE. THERE'S NO WAY THE INTERNET'S STILL--



Outside.

"*WANG IS WALKING ALONG A HIGHWAY CALLED I-696, TOWARD THE CITY OF ROYAL OAK, WHERE HE HOPES TO FIND THE LAMPLIGHTER TAVERN.*"

"*HE HAS ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS TO GO, AND WILL SEE MANY STRANGE AND WONDERFUL THINGS ON THE WAY.*"



HUH.

"*HE IS STILL WEARING THE ARMOR HE WISHED FOR, WITH ITS MANY ABILITIES AND PROTECTIONS.*"

"*IT'S POSSIBLE HE MIGHT EVEN SURVIVE!*"

ON
THE
RIGHT
PATH.

BEER
CAN.

YOU'RE
A BIG OLD
BEER
CAN!

HUH?





"WANG AND I DECIDED TOGETHER THAT HE SHOULD MAKE A WISH WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE UTILITY."

AND IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT...

YOU WILL REMAIN THIRSTY...

...FOREVER.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO MY HUSBAND THAN PROTECTING HIS FAMILY.

"NOW..."

YOU TOOK MY FANGS, YOU BASTARD!

I DID NOTHING. YOU DID THIS...

SCHLAZ!

TO YOURSELF.

"...AND IN THE DAYS TO COME."

THANK YOU,
THANK YOU FOR
THE APPLAUSE.

THANK YOU.
WE TOOK THAT TO A
REAL GROOVY PLACE,
AND I'M GLAD YOU
WERE HERE TO
SEE IT.

HOW
ABOUT THAT?
FUNNY OLD
WORLD.

ONE MINUTE
YOU'RE DEAD, NEXT
MINUTE YOU'RE BACK
WITH YOUR FAMILY
WATCHING JIM
MORRISON.

CLAP CLAP CLAP!
CLAP!

THE
LIZARD KING IS
REBORN!

THE
LIZARD KING
CAN NEVER
D--



WHEEESSSS

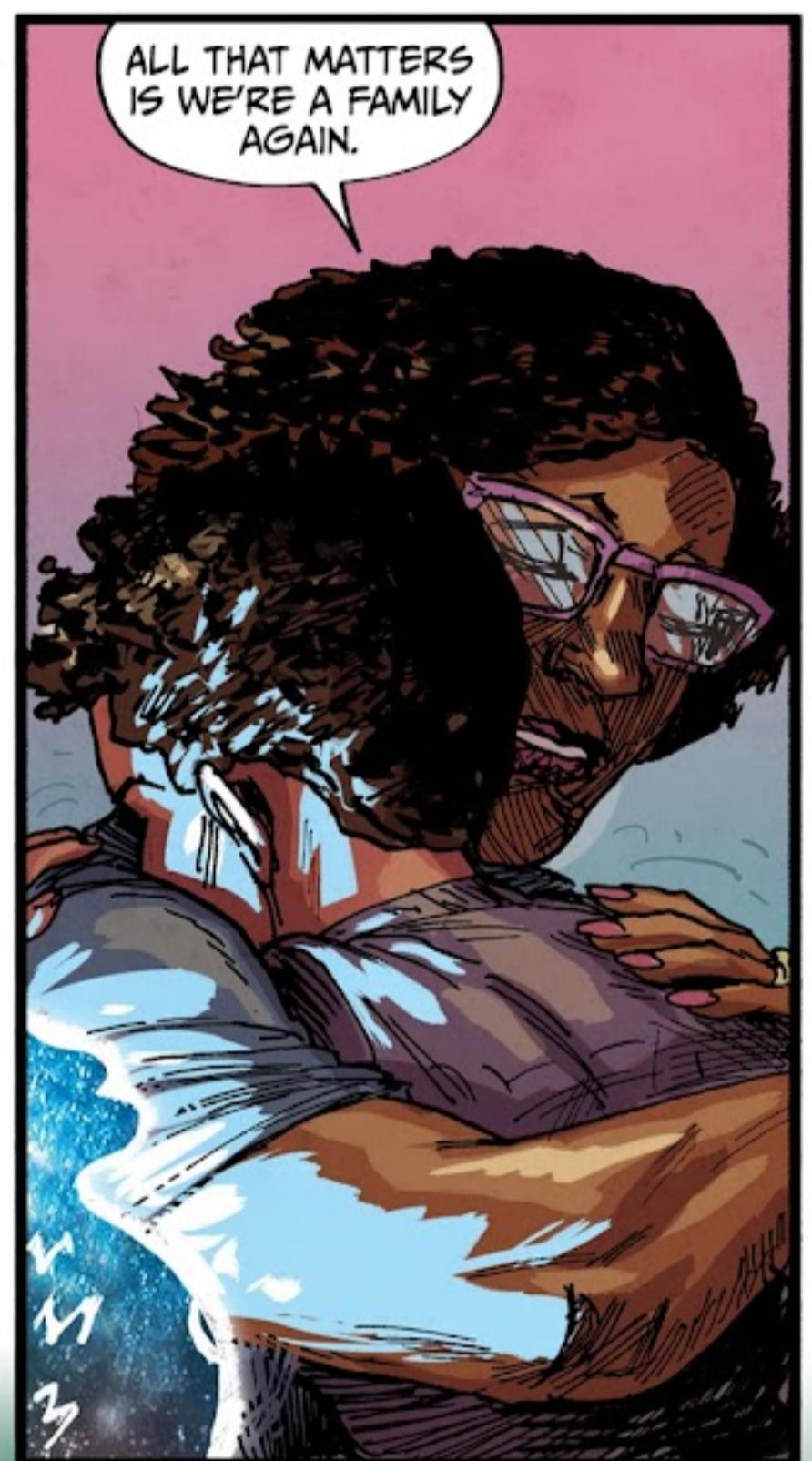
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HIM?

WELL...

...HE WAS A
REMNANT.

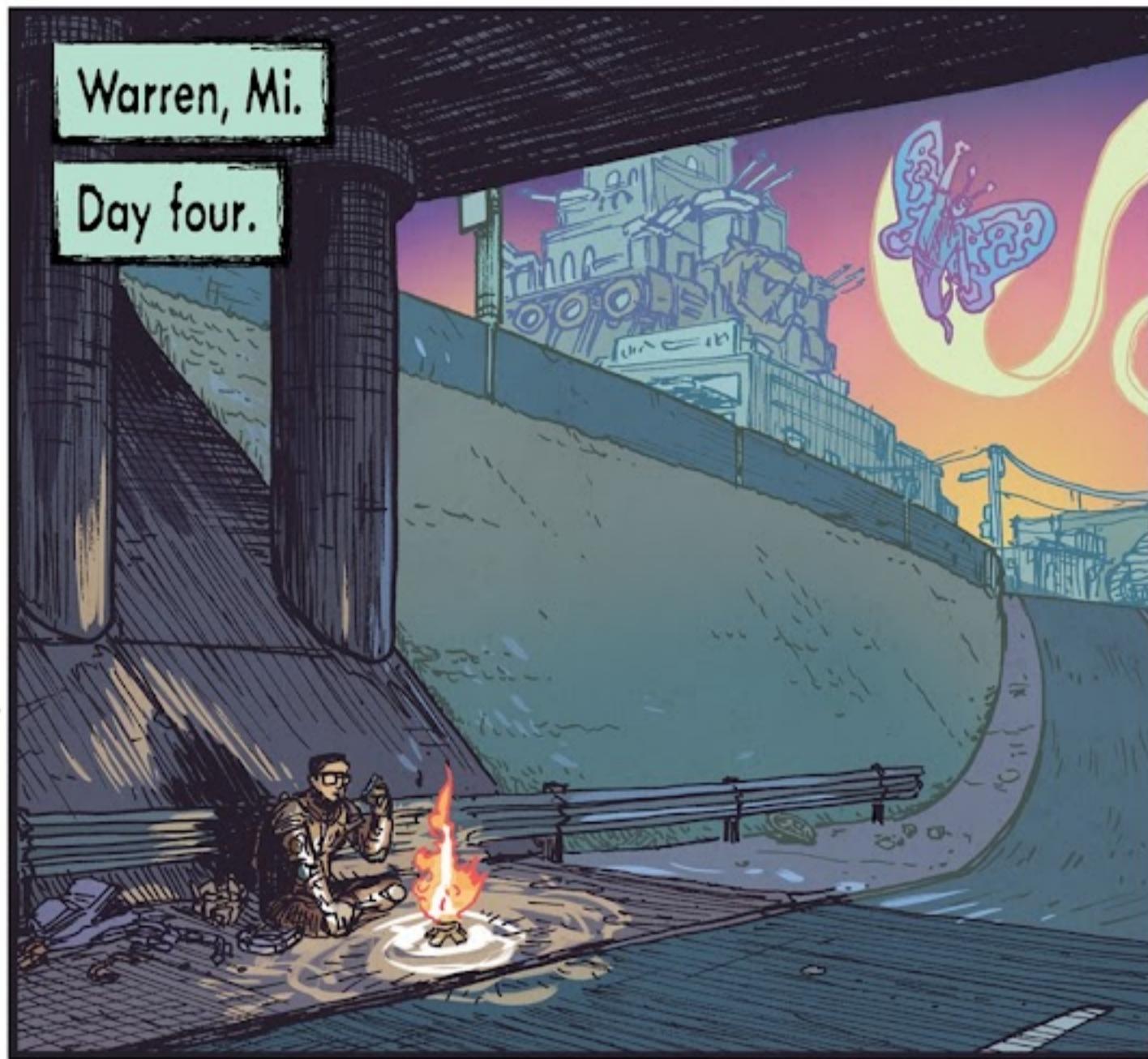
REMNANTS
STICK AROUND AS
LONG AS THE PERSON
WHO WISHED THEM INTO
EXISTENCE IS ALIVE,
BUT ONCE THEY'RE
GONE...

...THE CLOCK
STARTS TICKING.
EVENTUALLY...
POOF!



Warren, Mi.

Day four.



PLEASE, DON'T.
I DON'T MEAN
ANY HARM.

I JUST COULD
USE SOME HELP,
THAT'S ALL.

HELP WITH
WHAT?





Day five.

ANOTHER MOUNT DOOM IS ERUPTING IN NEW ZEALAND. THIS MAKES EIGHT SO FAR, AND--

WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD WISH FOR A VOLCANO?

ESPECIALLY ONE CALLED MOUNT DOOM? I MEAN, TALK ABOUT FORESHADOWING.

SOME SILLY THING, I'M SURE. LOTS OF SILLINESS OUT THERE, ERNEST. I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SURPRISED.

HUMAN BEINGS ARE STUPID BY NATURE AND FOOLISH BY CHOICE.

SAY, GENIE. GET OVER HERE. I NEED A WORD.

HOW MANY FOLKS OUT THERE WISHED FOR, SAY, THEIR CANCER TO BE CURED?

OR WHATEVER OTHER AILMENTS THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD?

LET'S SEE... QUITE A FEW, REALLY. A FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE WISHES WE'VE GRANTED SO FAR WERE RELATED TO HEALTH.

HEH. WE'RE FIVE DAYS IN. YOU STILL GETTING A LOT OF THAT?

IN FACT... WE ARE NOT.

YEP. PEOPLE ARE PUTTING IT TOGETHER.

SURE, YOU CURE YOUR CANCER, SURE, YOU SAVE YOUR LIFE... BUT FOR WHAT?

I GUESS EVEN A GRADE-A MORON LEARNS IF YOU HIT HIM OVER THE HEAD ENOUGH TIMES, EH, DOROTH--

SSSSSS

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE.

ANOTHER MARTINI IF YOU PLEASE, MR. WILLIAMS.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE PROPERLY SOUSED WHEN MY NUMBER COMES UP.



Royal Oak.

Day six.



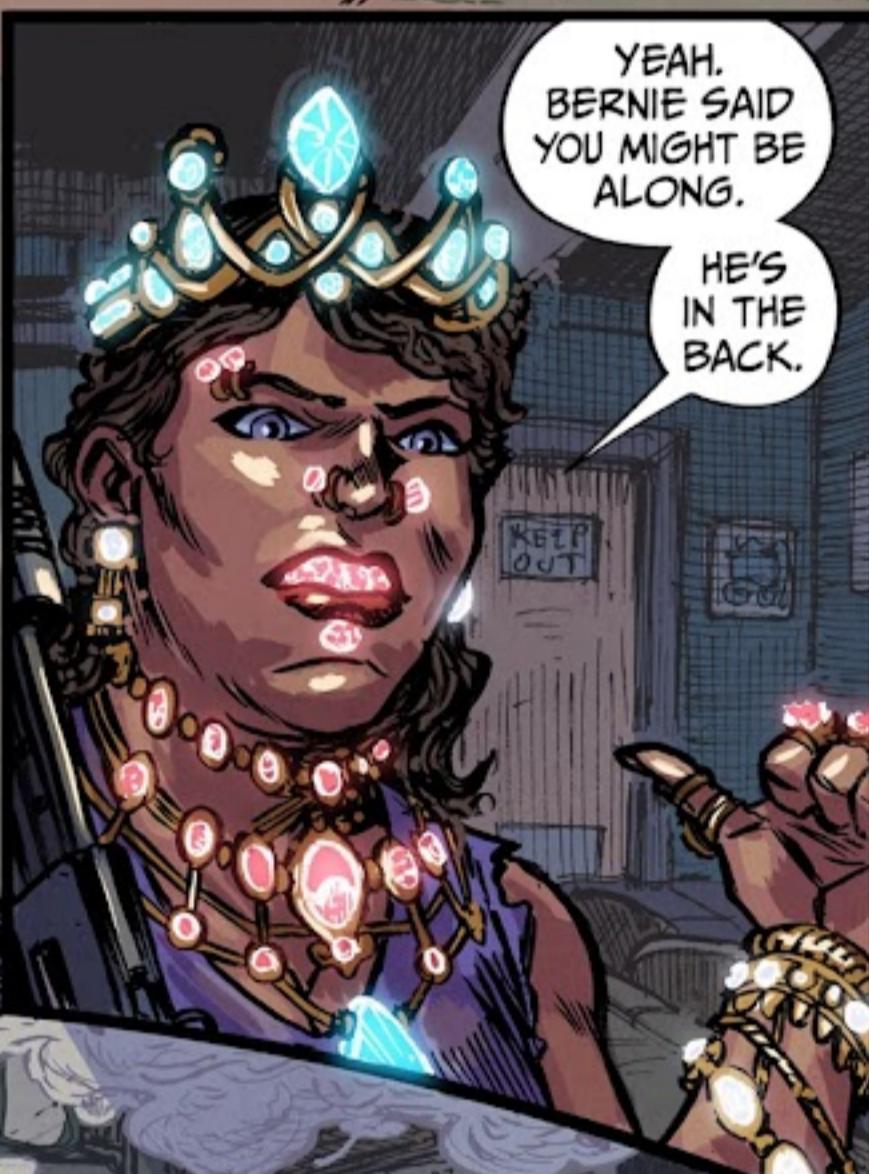
YOU LOOKING
FOR TROUBLE,
IRON MAN?

NO TROUBLE. I'M
MEETING SOMEONE.
BERNIE HAYSMITH.

I HAD AN
APPOINTMENT...
BUT I'M SIX DAYS
LATE. MY NAME IS
ZHANG WANG.

YEAH.
BERNIE SAID
YOU MIGHT BE
ALONG.

HE'S
IN THE
BACK.



WELL
HOW ABOUT THAT?
MR. ZHANG. YOU
MADE IT.

GUESS I
KNOW HOW YOU
MADE YOUR
WISH.



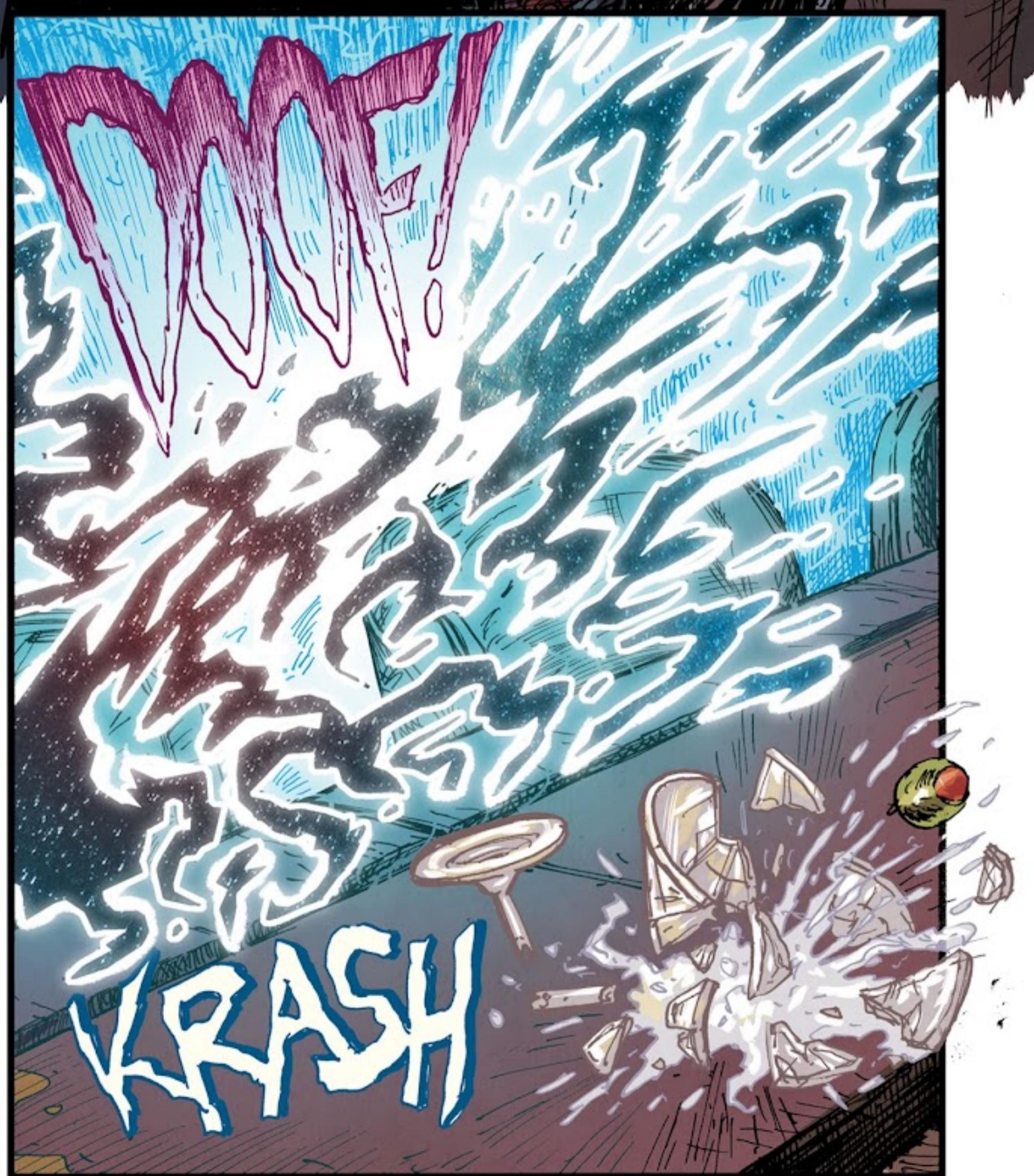




Day seven.







Day eight.

GENIE?

I'M READY
TO MAKE MY
WISH NOW.

RIGHT ON!
LET'S DO THIS
THANG!

WAIT
A SECOND...
LET'S SLOW IT
DOWN THERE,
KIDDO.

NO. I
KNOW WHAT I
NEED TO DO,
DAD.

'POW!'

MOM'S A
REMNANT. JUST LIKE
HEMINGWAY AND THE OTHER
TWO. AND YOU WISHED
HER INTO EXISTENCE,
DAD. THAT MEANS THAT
WHEN YOU DIE, SHE
WILL TOO.

IN THIS
WORLD... UNLESS
WE STAY IN THIS BAR...
THAT'LL HAPPEN
PRETTY SOON.
I DON'T WANT
THAT.

OH, BABY...
HOLD ON NOW.
TALK TO US.
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

I THOUGHT ABOUT WISHING
YOU IMMORTAL, DAD... BUT
I'VE READ ENOUGH COMICS TO
KNOW THAT BEING IMMORTAL
MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A
GREAT THING.

I KNOW
WHAT I HAVE
TO DO.







CHARLES SOULE + RYAN BROWNE

CURSE WORDS™

WITH
ADDISON DUKE
& CHRIS CRANK



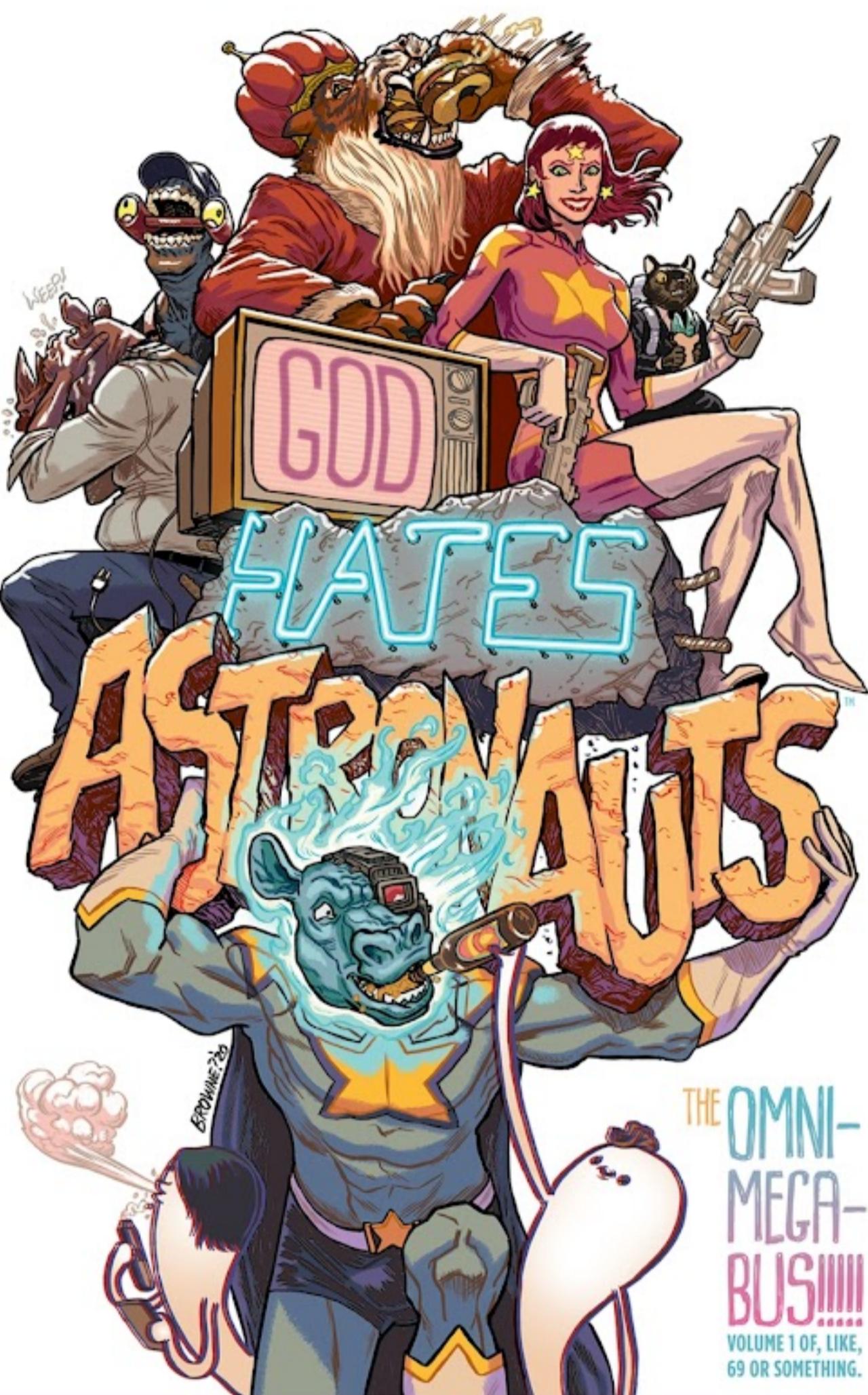
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FROM THE CREATORS OF EIGHT BILLION GENIES AND IMAGE COMICS. JUNE 2022.

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"I DON'T WANT TO OVERSELL WHAT RYAN BROWNE HAS ACCOMPLISHED HERE, BUT I GAVE GOD HATES ASTRONAUTS TO A BLIND MAN AND HE REGAINED HIS SIGHT."—JONATHAN HICKMAN

GOD HATES ASTRONAUTS THE OMNIMEGABUS TP

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IT'S OUT RIGHT NOW, DAMMIT! PLEASE, PLEASE BUY IT... PLEASE?



RATED M / MATURE