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EIGHT BILLION
GENIES™
CHARLES SOULE + RYAN BROWNE
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EIGHT BILLION GENIES™

BY CHARLES SOULE & RYAN BROWNE

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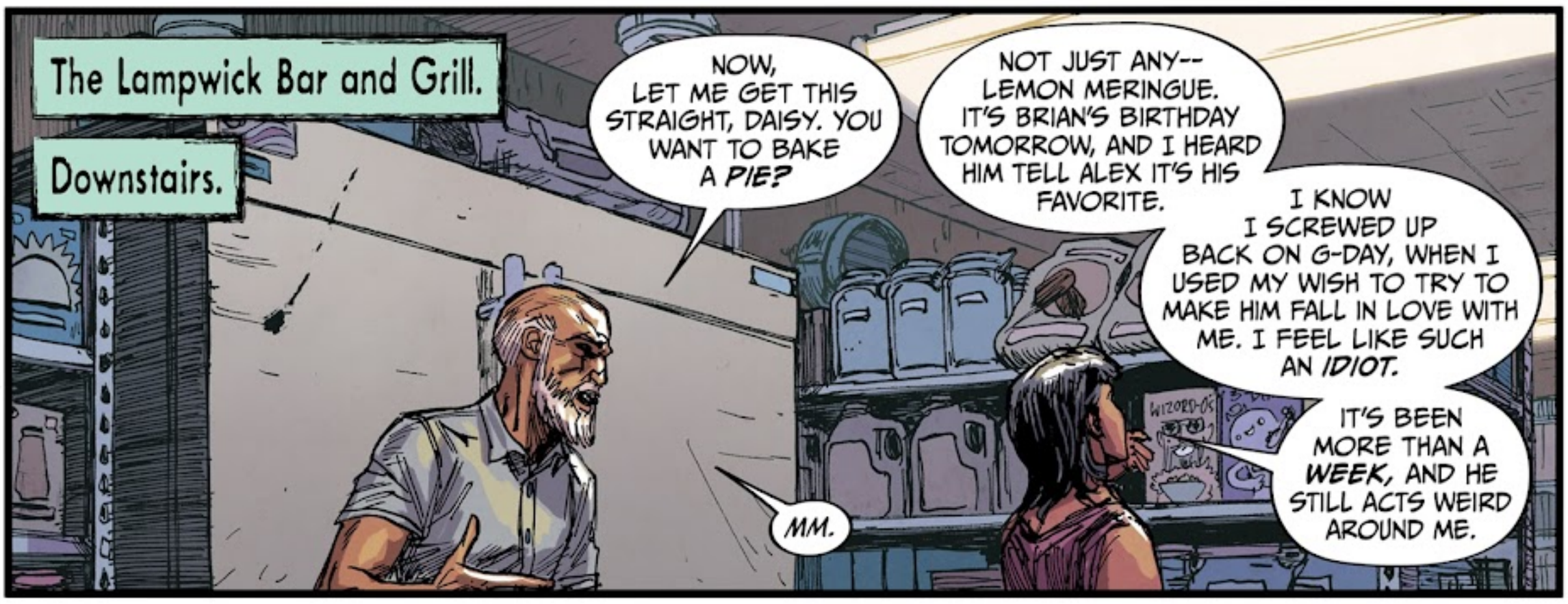

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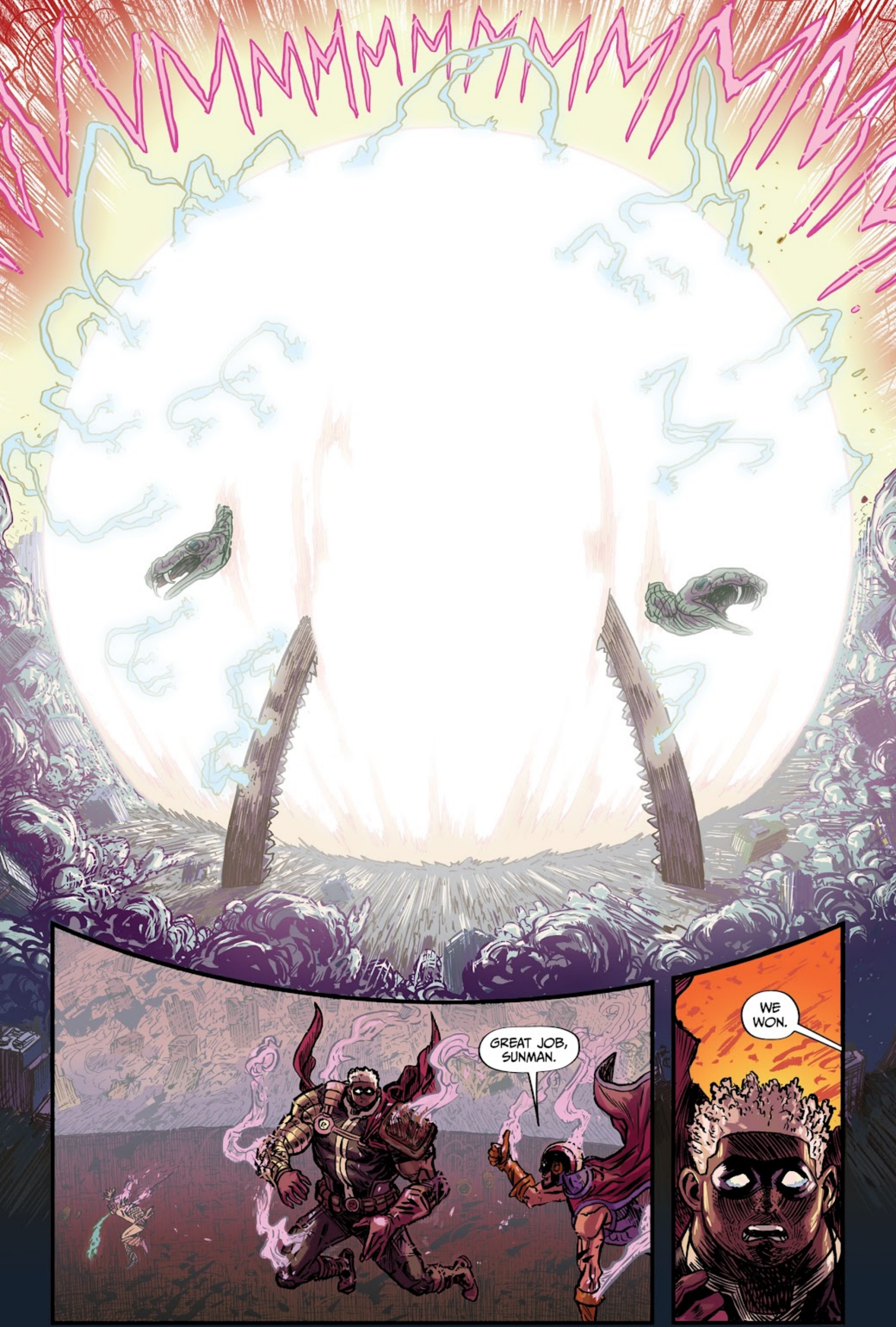

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Week five.

SO I WAS GETTING MY CPA DEGREE FROM WAYNE STATE. I WAS PAYING FOR THE WHOLE THING WITH LOANS. LIKE... ALL OF IT.

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD INVESTMENT, YOU KNOW? ACCOUNTANTS HAVE A CAREER RIGHT AWAY, MAKE GOOD MONEY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

I'M DECENT WITH NUMBERS, SO IT JUST SEEMED... EASY.

BUT I GOT THROUGH MY THIRD YEAR AND I WAS JUST LIKE *FUCK,* WHAT AM I DOING? I DON'T WANT TO BE AN *ACCOUNTANT.*

I WANT TO MAKE *HORROR MOVIES.* I WANT TO BE LIKE JOHN CARPENTER AND WRITE AND SHOOT THEM AND COMPOSE THE SCORES.

SO WHEN I APPLIED FOR THE LOANS FOR MY LAST YEAR I ASKED FOR LIKE TWICE WHAT I ACTUALLY NEEDED FOR SCHOOL.

THE BANK DOESN'T CARE. THE MORE YOU BORROW THE MORE THEY MAKE ON THE INTEREST.

I FIGURED I'D TAKE THAT DOUGH AND USE IT TO SHOOT MY MOVIE. IT'S CALLED *FANGBANG,* KIND OF A SEXY VAMPIRE THING. VAMPIRES ARE AWESOME.

NO, THEY ARE NOT.

YOU *STOLE* THAT MONEY?

I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING. IT WAS A *LOAN.* I WOULD HAVE PAID IT BACK ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

IT ALL HIT MY ACCOUNT TWO DAYS BEFORE G-DAY. I WAS TRYING TO DECIDE IF I WAS REALLY GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT.

GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.

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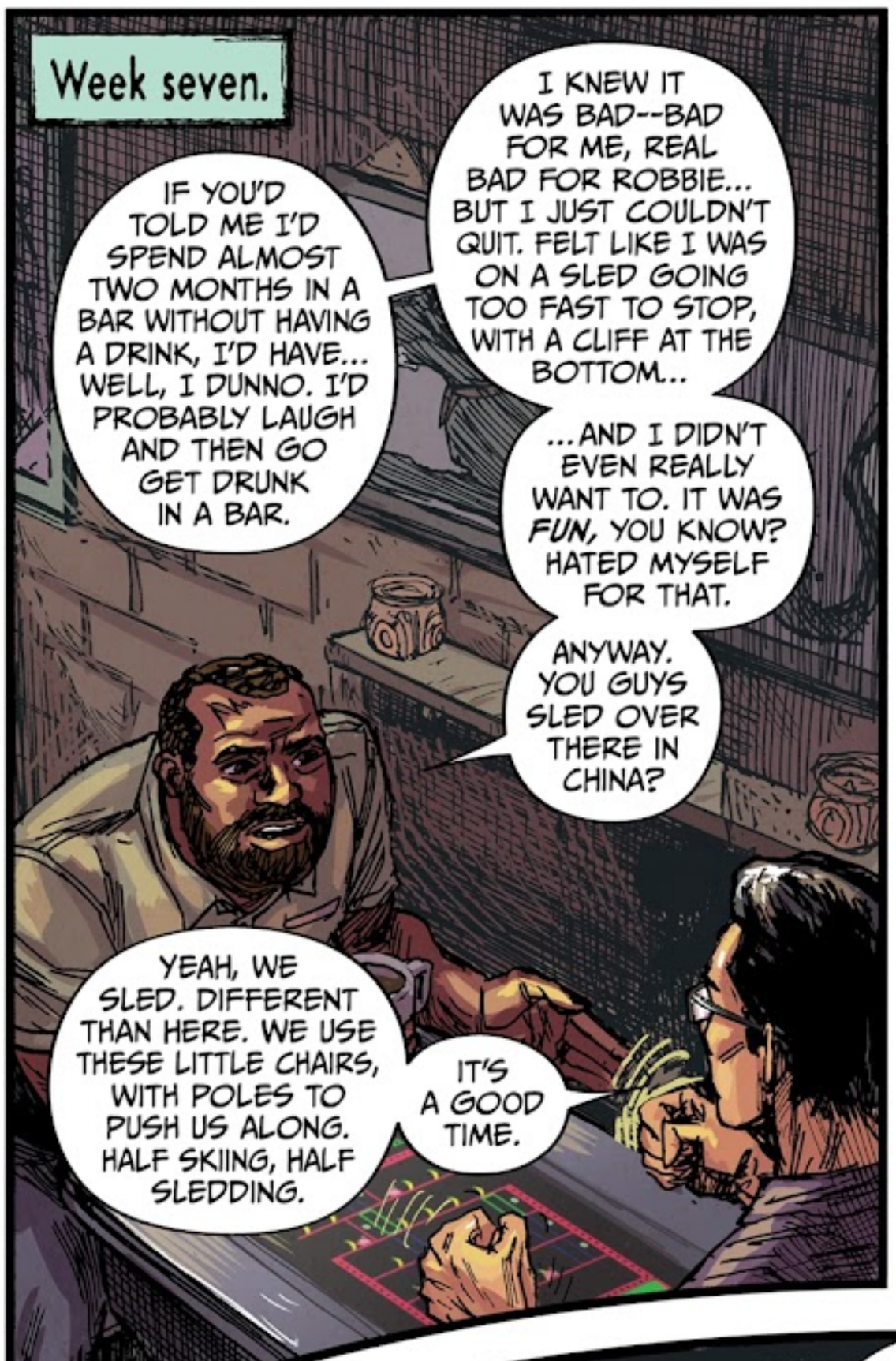

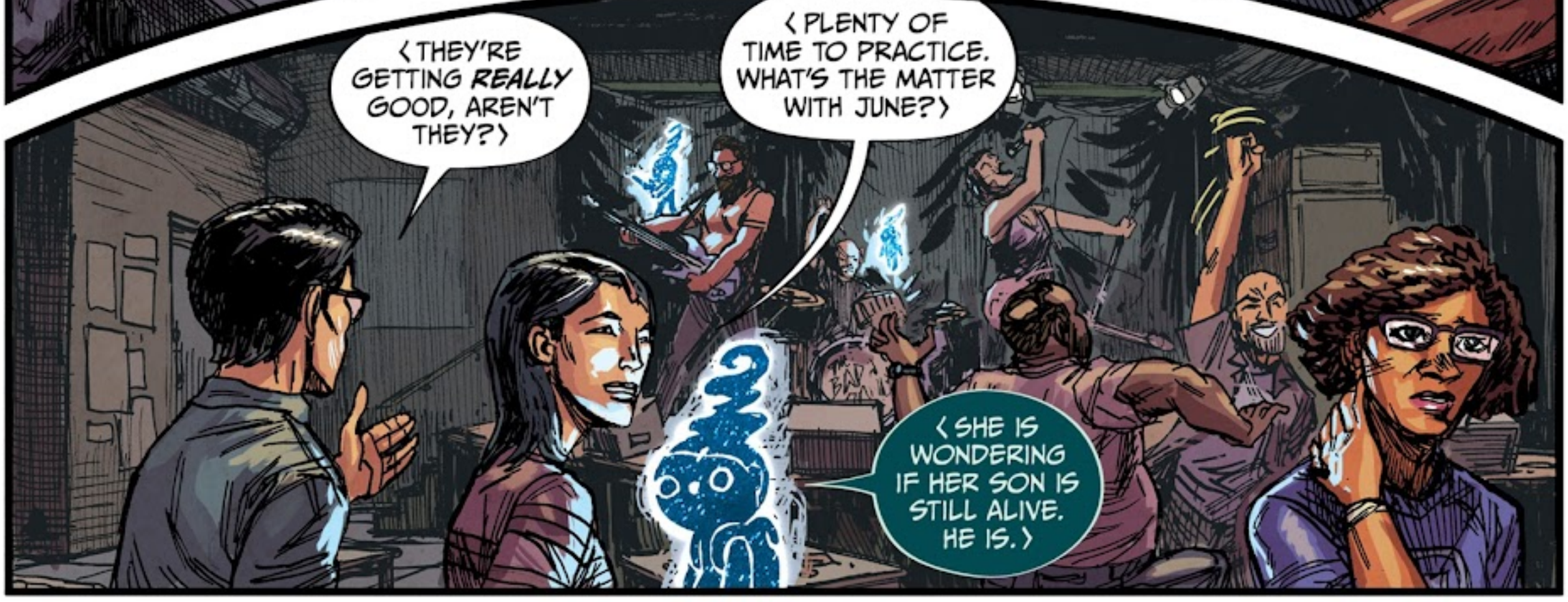

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"...HE'S TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

"FOR INSTANCE, RIGHT NOW HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE IN TOKYO TRYING TO STOP TWO GODZILLAS FROM DESTROYING WHAT'S LEFT OF THE CITY.

"BUT IT'S COMPLICATED FOR HIM. ROBBIE DOESN'T KNOW IF THEY'RE REMNANTS, WHICH HE COULD JUST KILL WITHOUT ANY GUILT...

BOOM!

"...OR PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO BE KAIJU, WHICH MEANS HE'D BE MURDERING HUMAN BEINGS.

VAT!

"HE'S SEEN *WAY* TOO MUCH OF THAT. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE PART OF IT ANYMORE.

ZUT!

ZOT!

ZAT!

"HE'S TRYING HIS BEST."

BOOM!

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE LIKE A BANANA...

BOOM!

...AND SPLIT!

"BUT HE'S NOT WHO HE WAS."

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NNF! WHA--? LET ME... GO!

WELL. YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE. TOO STRONG TO CRUNCH.

NNNGH... CAN'T... MOVE...

WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE A GOOD LITTLE THINK ON HOW TO HANDLE YOU.

PWOOF!

GOOD-BYE.

DOOF!

OOF!

WHY IS ALL THIS HAPPENING? I JUST WANTED TO FIND SOMEPLACE SAFE TO TAKE MY PARENTS!

BUT EVERYTHING'S NUTS! IT'S ALL JUST... HORRIBLE!

I'M NOT READY FOR THIS! I'M ONLY TWELVE!

HEH.

I'M ONLY... ELEVEN.

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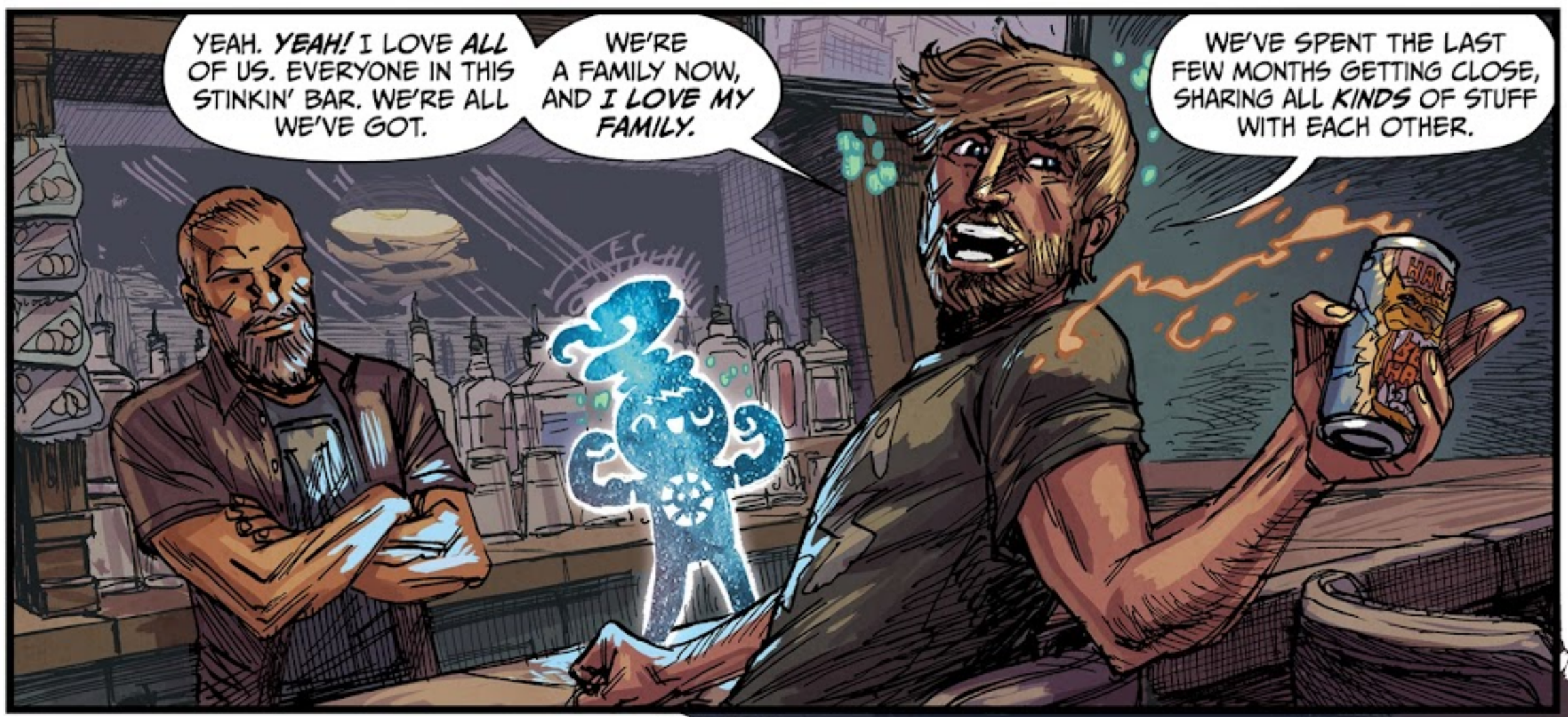

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THE *LAST* GENIE, TO BE MORE PRECISE.

...WHAT?

WE'RE ABOUT THROUGH THE POWERS PHASE, WHICH MEANS THE NEXT THING WILL BE ALONG SHORTLY.

SEEMS LIKE THE RIGHT TIME TO LAY IT ALL OUT FOR YOU NICE PEOPLE.

ALL OF THIS... THE GENIES SHOWING UP... IT HAPPENS FROM TIME TO TIME.

WHENEVER THE WORLD GETS TOO FULL OF *WANT.*

"YOU EVER FLY OVER A CITY AT NIGHT, LOOK OUT THE AIRPLANE WINDOW?

"ALL THOSE LIGHTS--ALL THOSE HOUSES IN THE SUBURBS, ALL THOSE CARS, ALL THOSE APARTMENTS. ALL THOSE *MINDS.*

"ALL THOSE *HOPES.* ALL THOSE *DREAMS.*"

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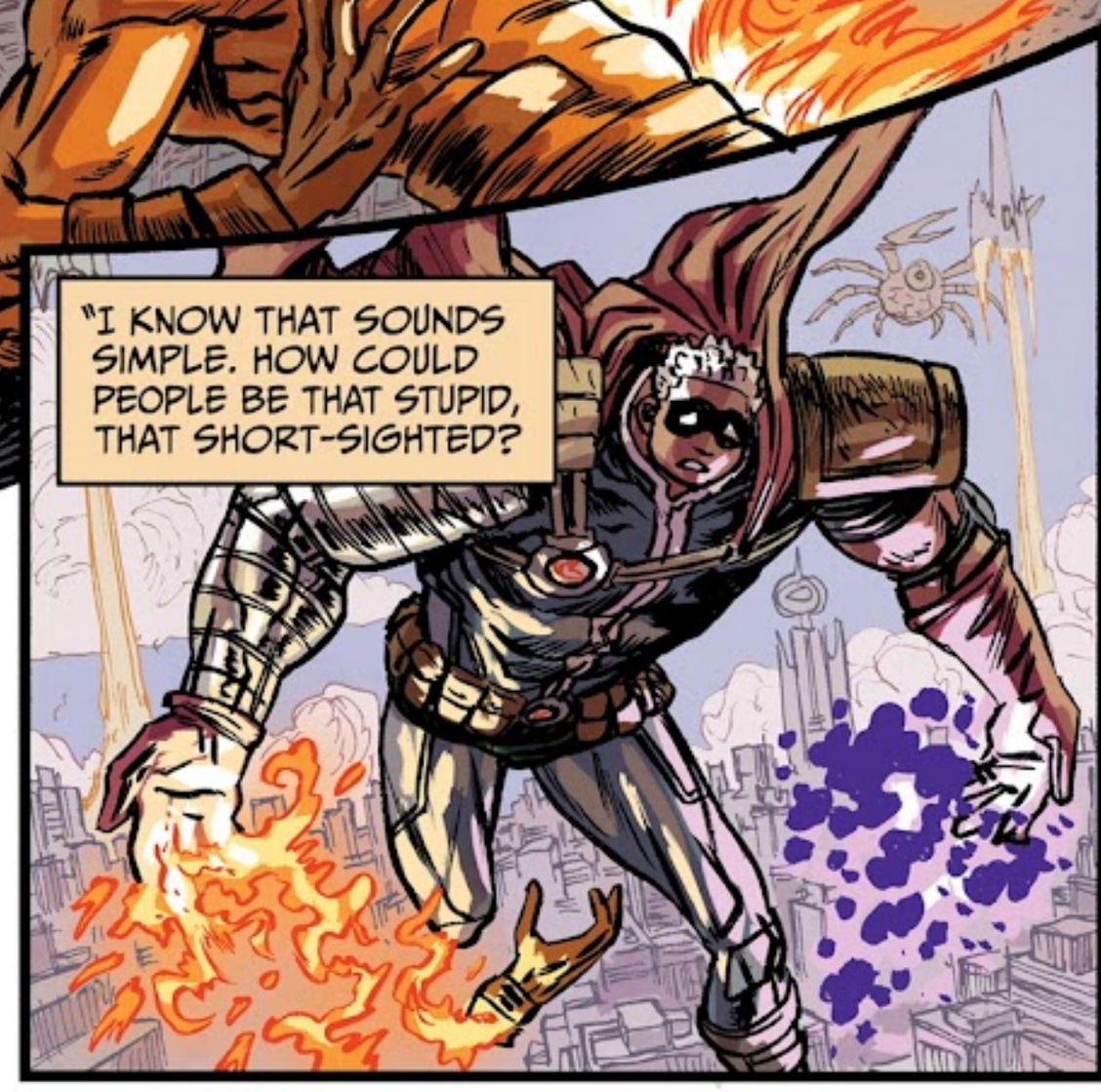
"EVERY TIME THIS GOES DOWN, SOME PEOPLE WISH TO BE MORE THAN THEY ARE. THEY WISH FOR THEIR OWN MAGIC.

"THEY THINK IT WILL HELP THEM SURVIVE IN THE NEW WORLD, OR IT'S JUST ANOTHER FANTASY.

"IN OTHER GO-ROUNDS, THEY CALLED THEMSELVES GODS. IN *THIS* CYCLE... IT'S SUPERHEROES AND SUPERVILLAINS.



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"MOST OF YOU."

I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!

"SOME OF YOU, THOUGH, THINK ONLY ABOUT WHAT'S COMING."

OH CRUD.

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.

W-WHAT? WHAT IS THAT?

"THE PLANNERS.

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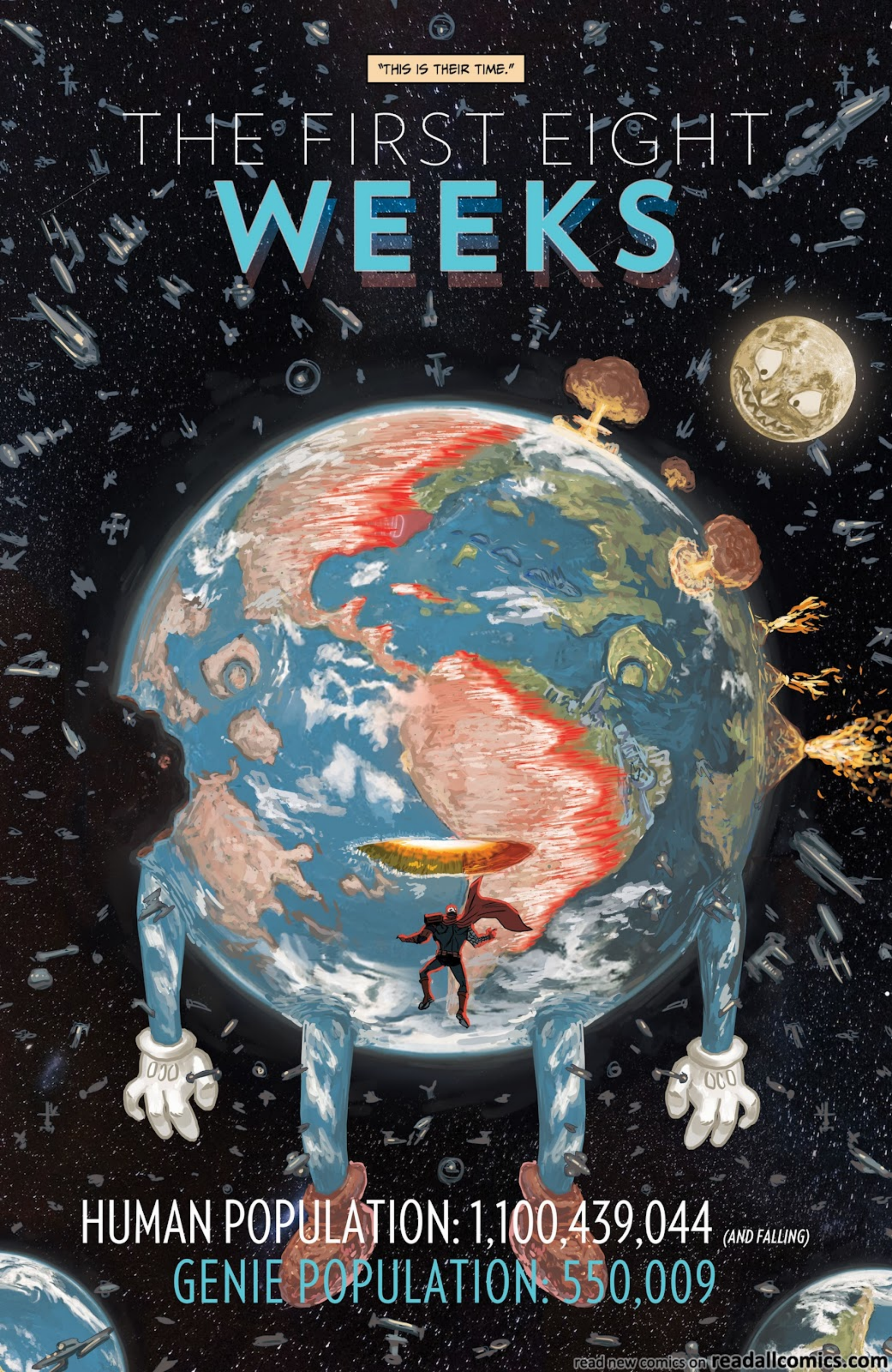

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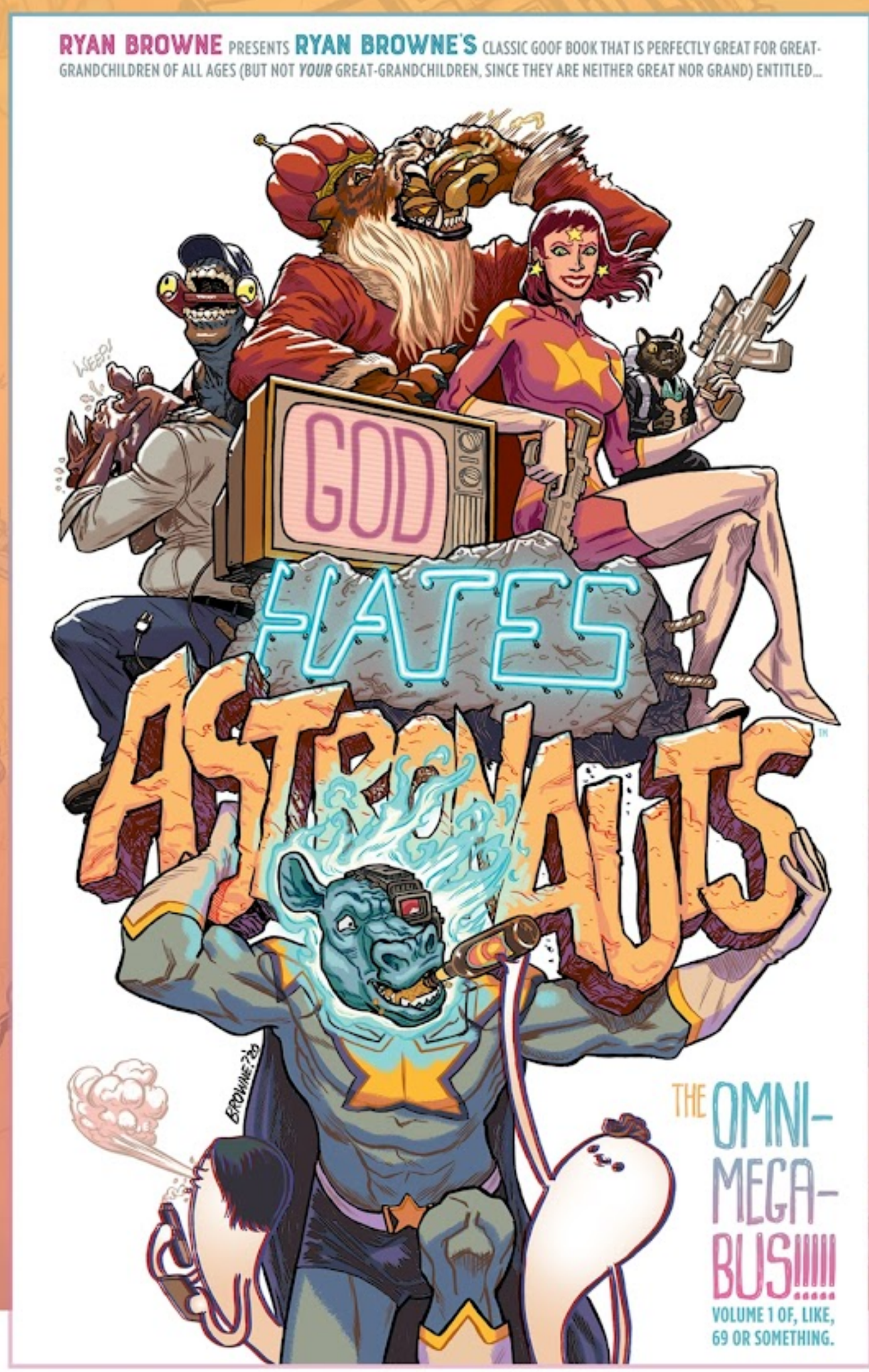

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