

INVINCIBLE



R. OTTLEY



THE END OF ALL THINGS

PART EIGHT OF TWELVE



INVINCIBLE

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WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, THEN?!

IF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE IS DEAD-- IF YOU DON'T SEE ANY HOPE FOR OUR PEOPLE--**WHY BUILD THE ARMY?! WHY CONQUER PLANETS?!**

WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT ALL?



ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

REVENGE.



YOU AND YOUR FATHER... CHOSEN, GIFTED WITH THE BLOOD OF ARGALL, DESTINED TO RULE THE EMPIRE... AFTER I DEVOTED MY ENTIRE LIFE TO SAFEGUARDING IT!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BOW TO THE SCUM WHO OBLITERATED OUR HOME PLANET?!

I'M EXPECTED TO STEP ASIDE WHILE YOU ASSUME COMMAND?!

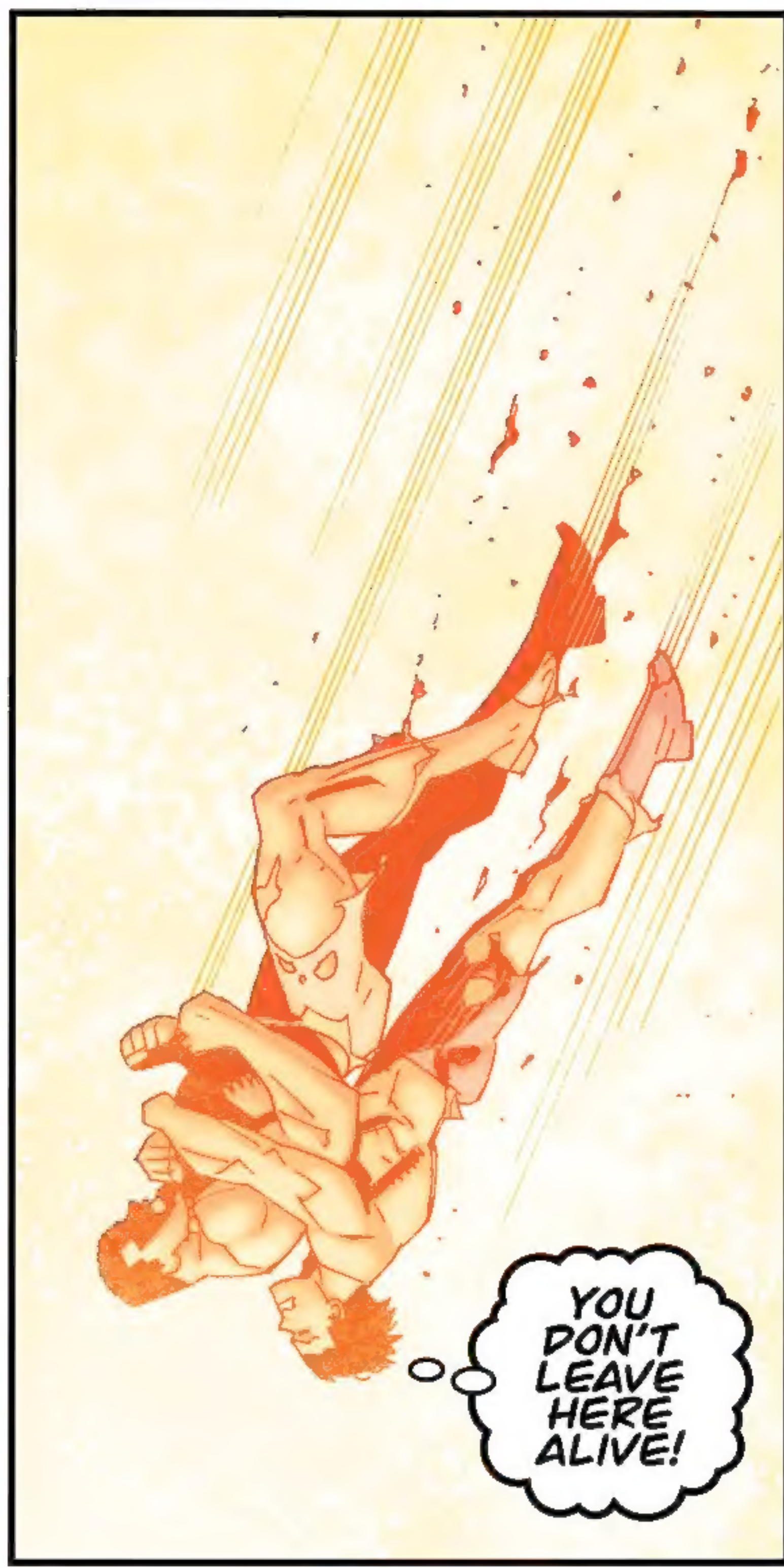


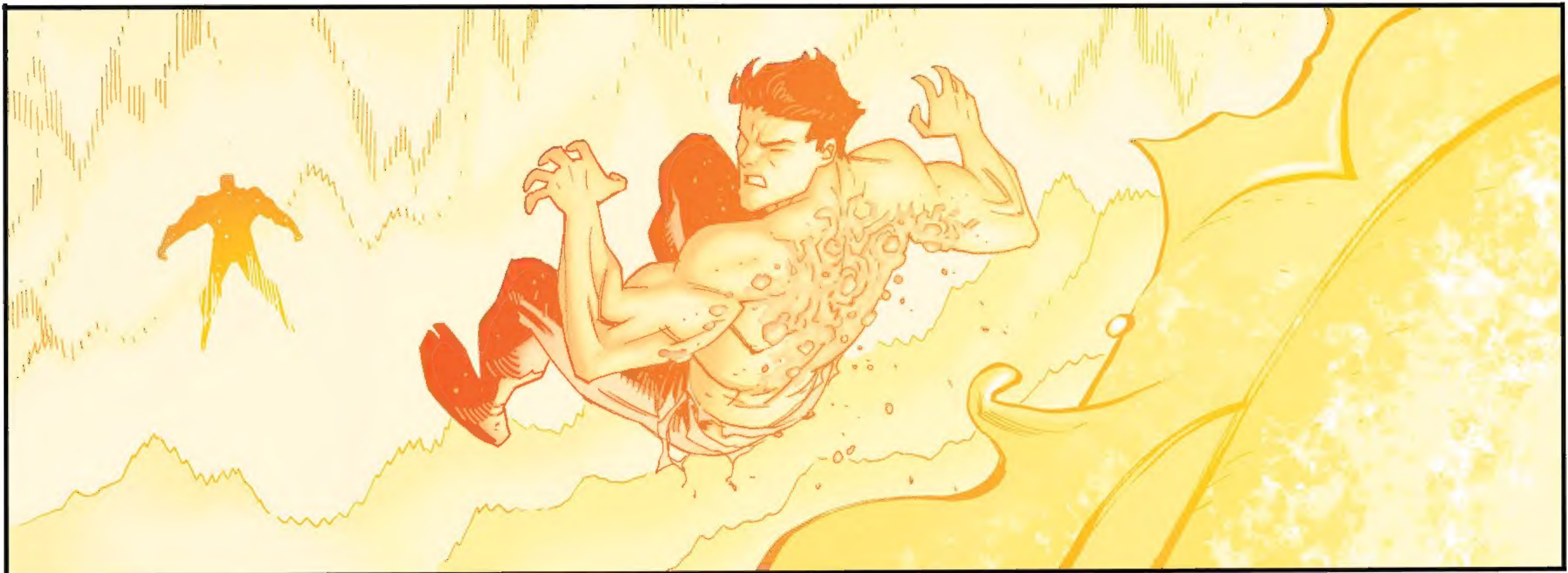
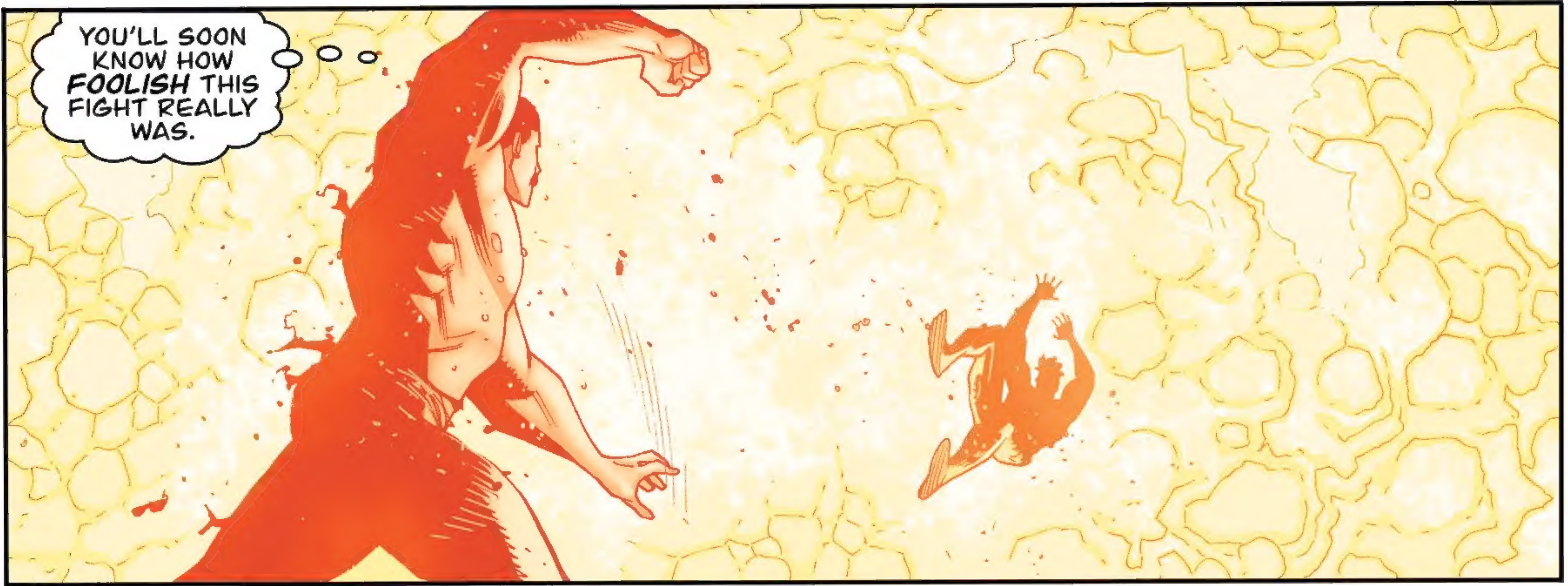
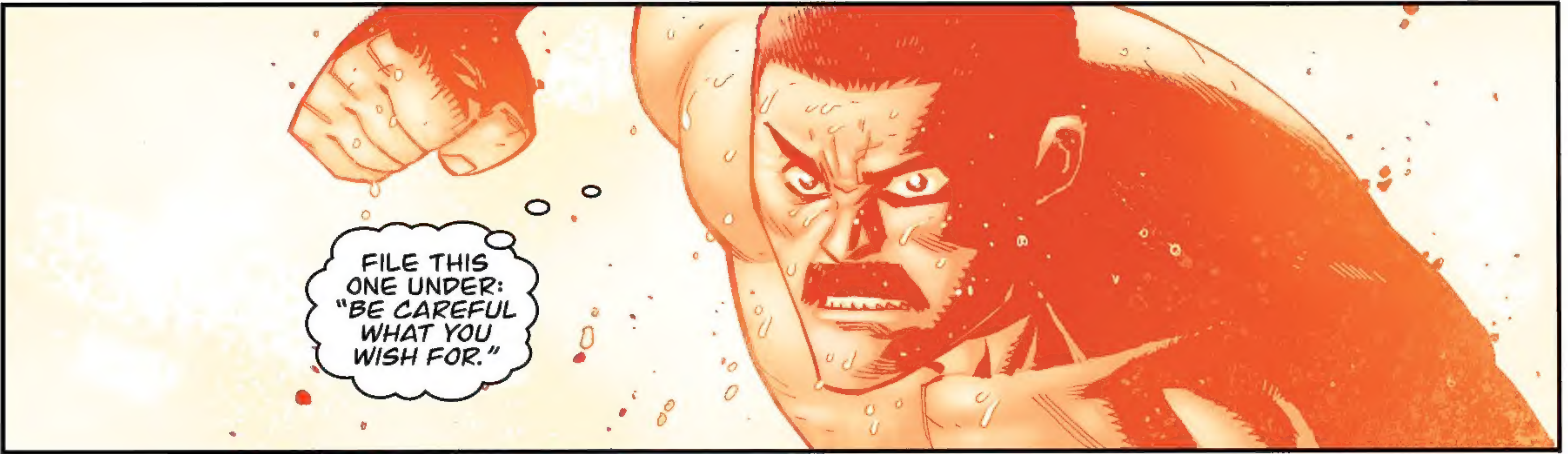
NO.

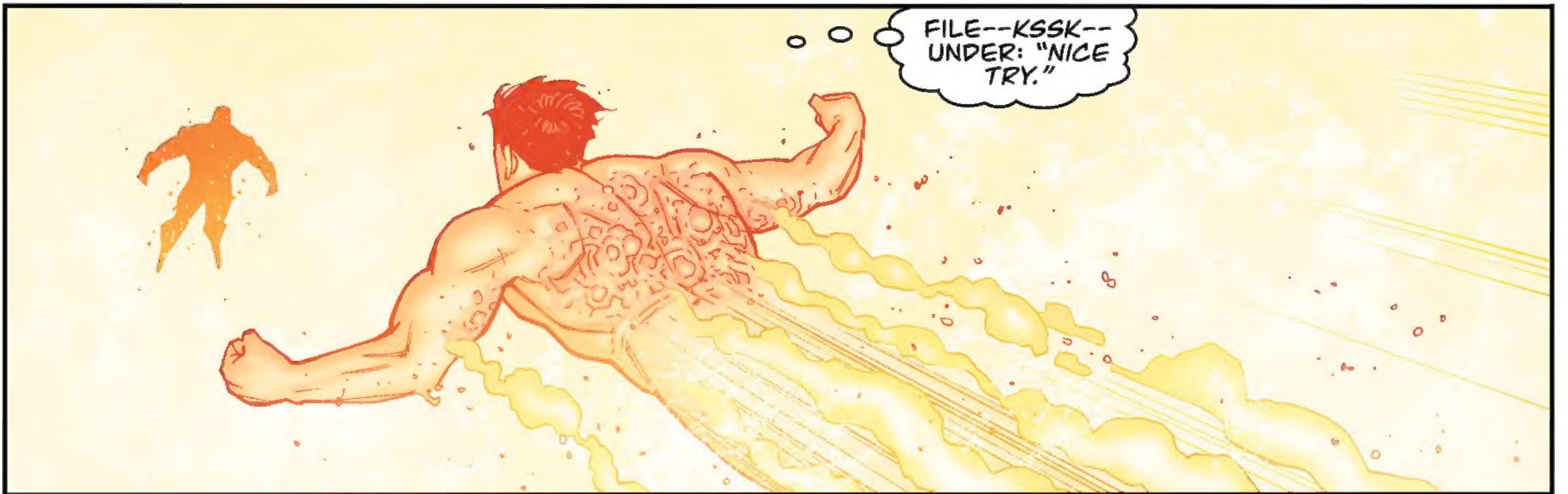
I'LL SEE YOUR TRAITOROUS BLOODLINE ERASED FROM HISTORY!

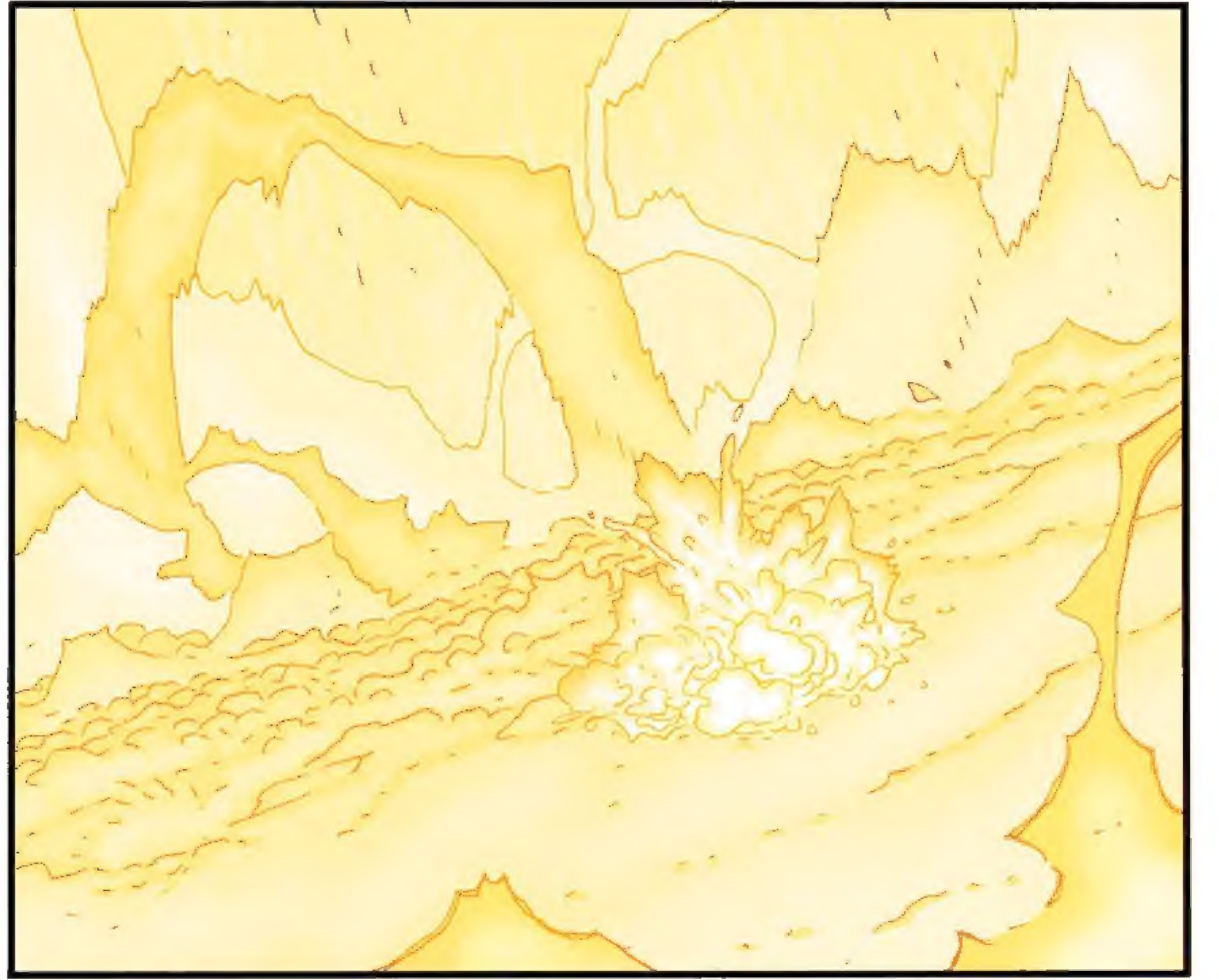
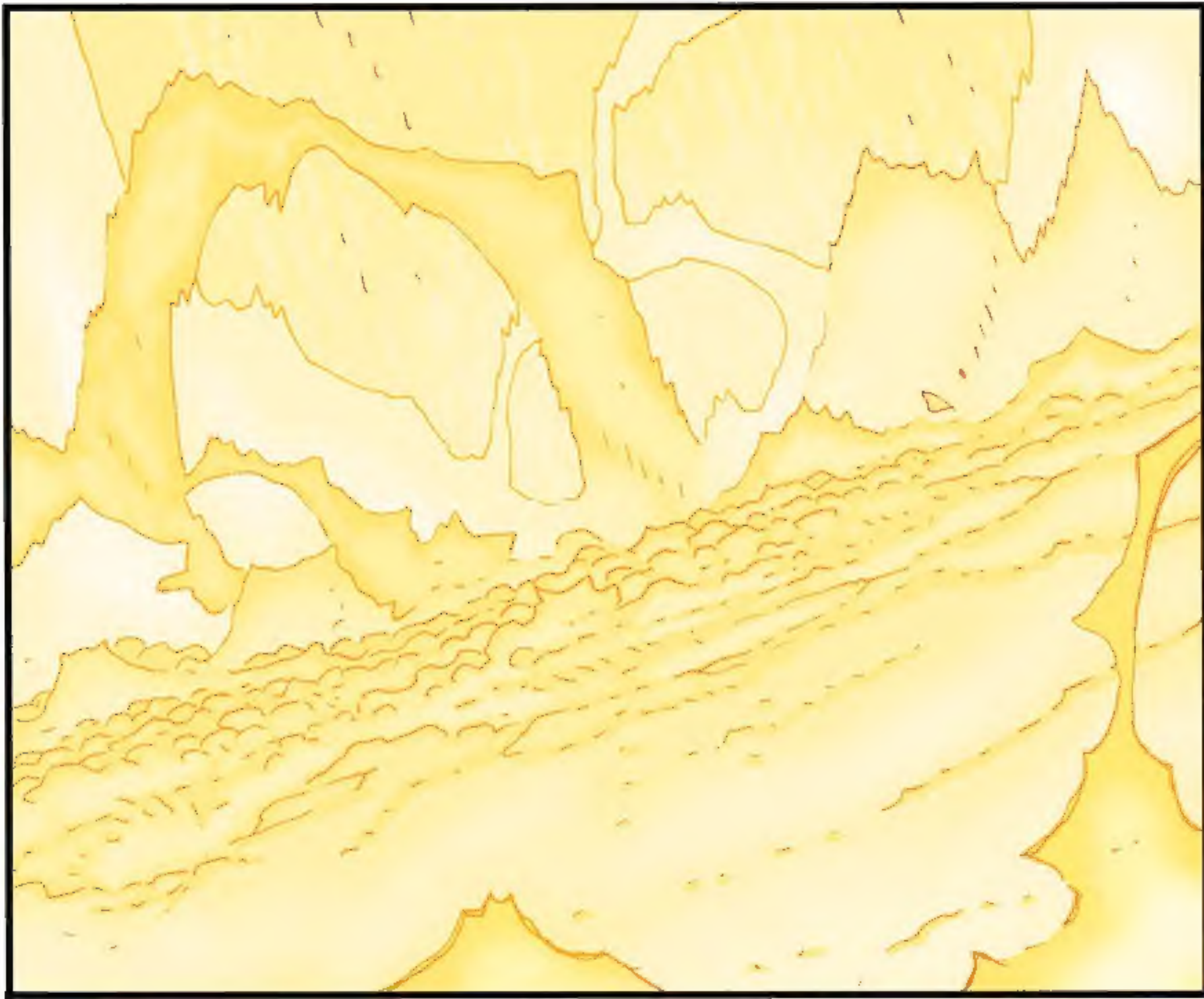
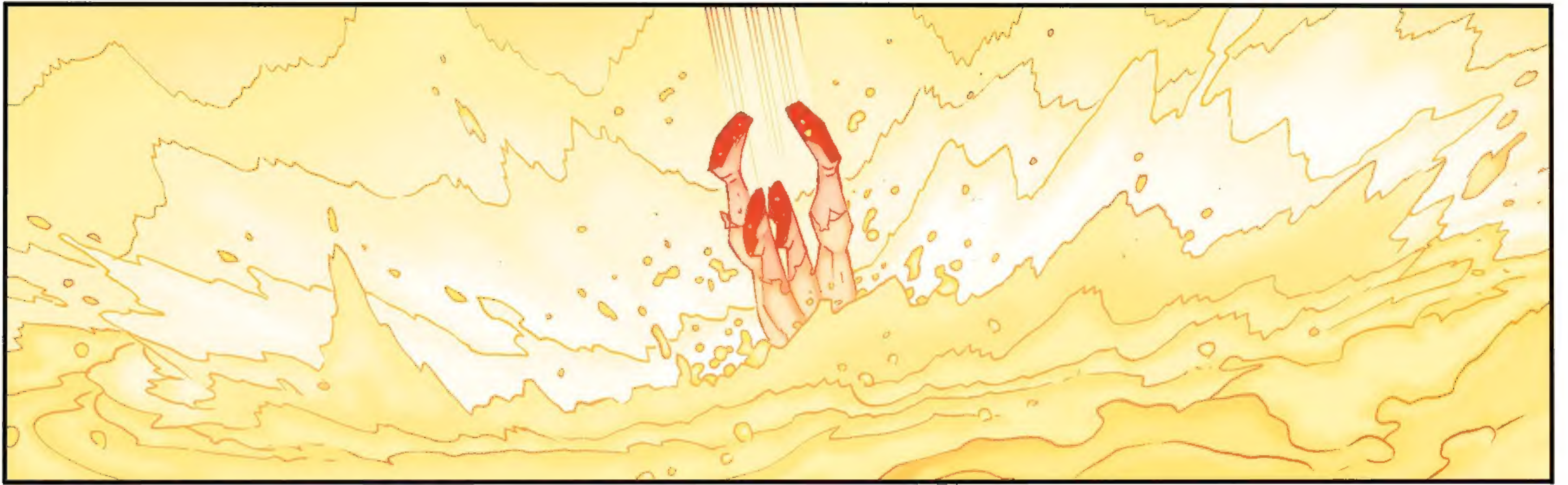
I'LL--







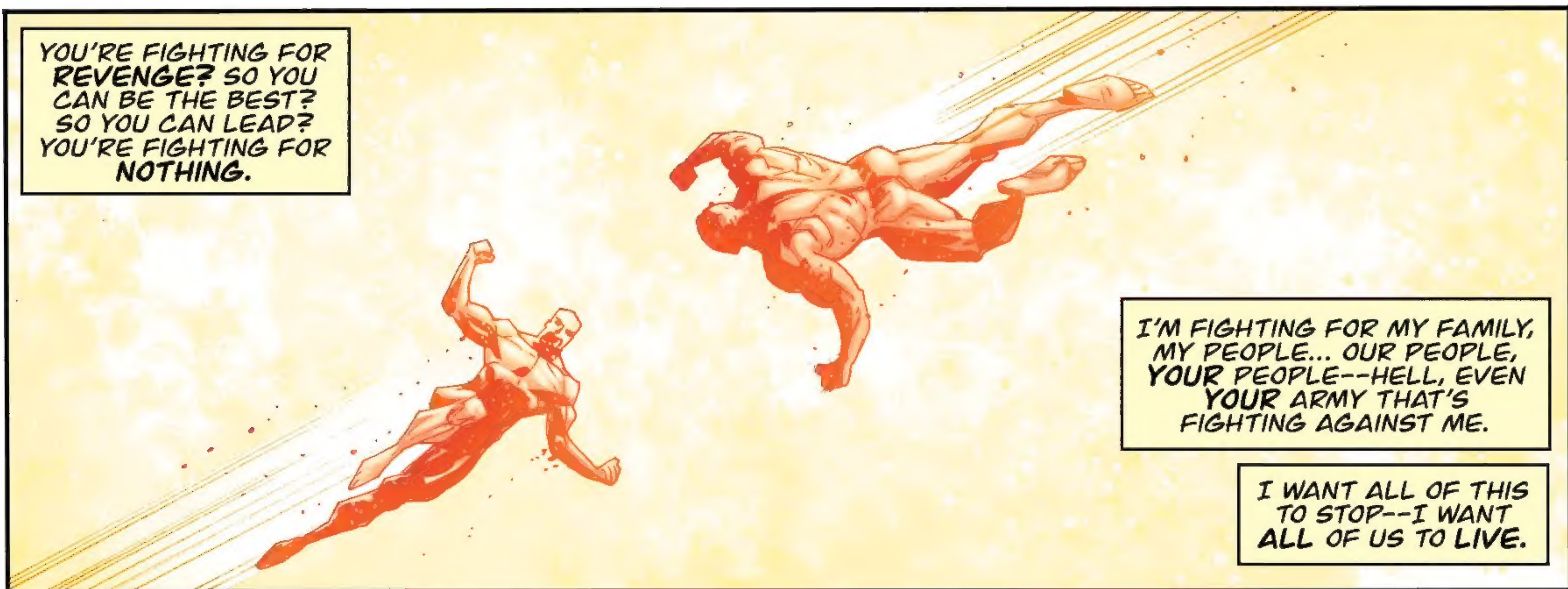






I WISH YOU
COULD HEAR
ME.

BECAUSE I JUST FIGURED
OUT WHY I'M GOING TO WIN
AND YOU'RE DEFINITELY
GOING TO LOSE.



YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR
REVENGE? SO YOU
CAN BE THE BEST?
SO YOU CAN LEAD?
YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR
NOTHING.

I'M FIGHTING FOR MY FAMILY,
MY PEOPLE... OUR PEOPLE,
YOUR PEOPLE--HELL, EVEN
YOUR ARMY THAT'S
FIGHTING AGAINST ME.

I WANT ALL OF THIS
TO STOP--I WANT
ALL OF US TO LIVE.

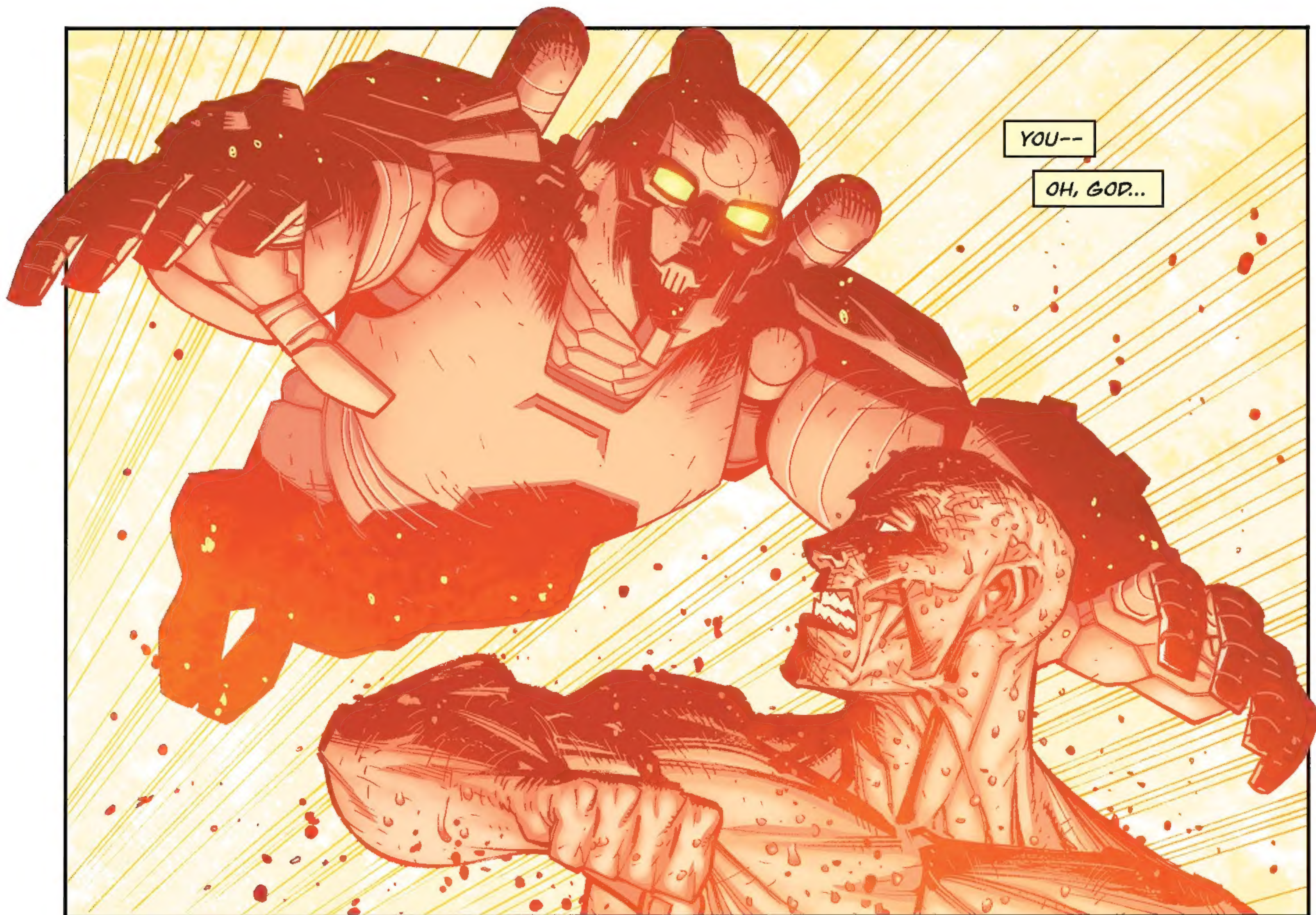


MY FATHER... I YELLED AT HIM
FOR LETTING YOU LIVE, BUT I SEE
NOW THAT'S WHEN HE PROVED
HE WAS A LEADER.

THAT'S WHEN HE
SHOWED WHAT OUR
PEOPLE COULD BE.

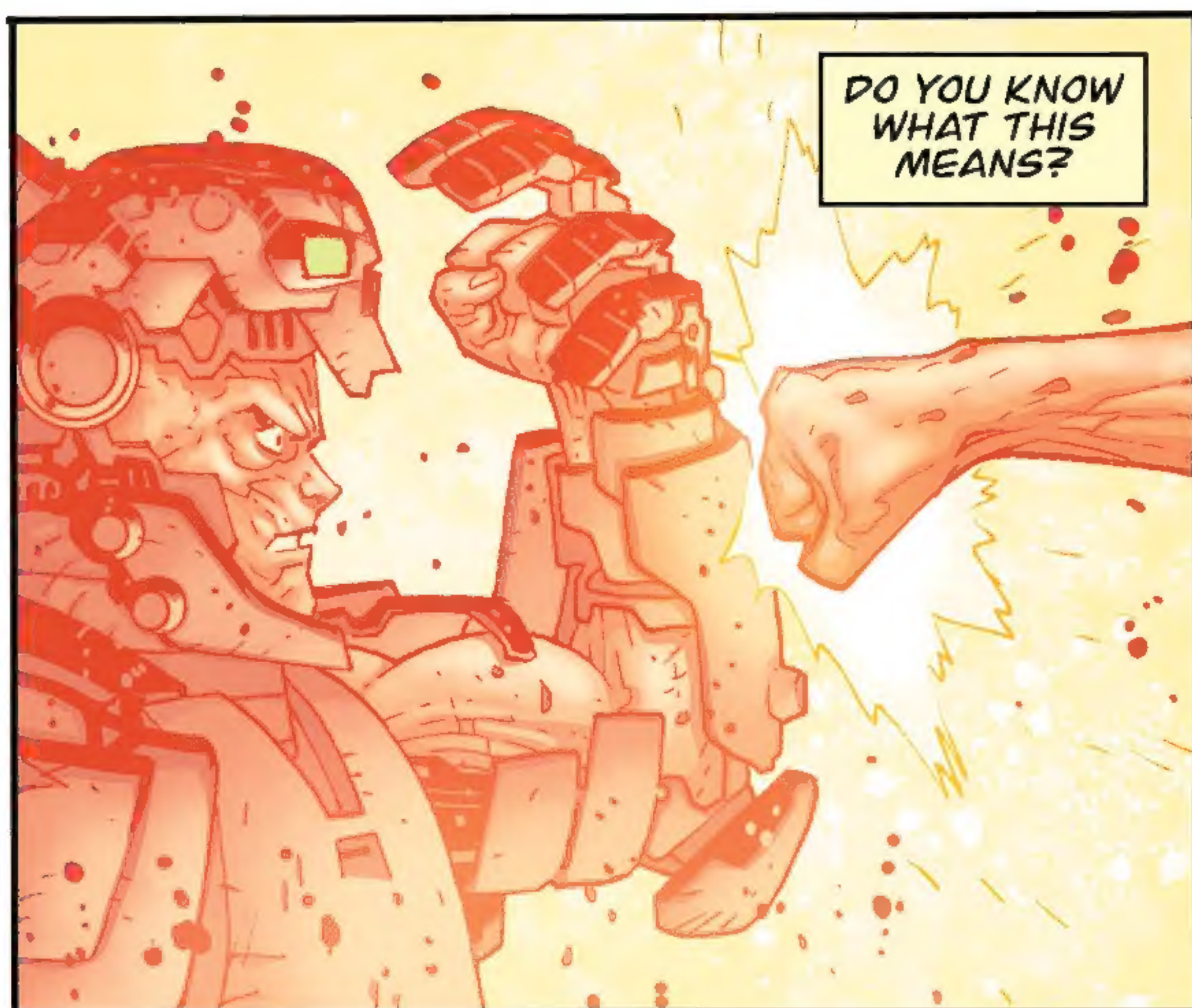


YOU... YOU SORRY SACK
OF SHIT. YOU NEVER
SAW OUR POTENTIAL.

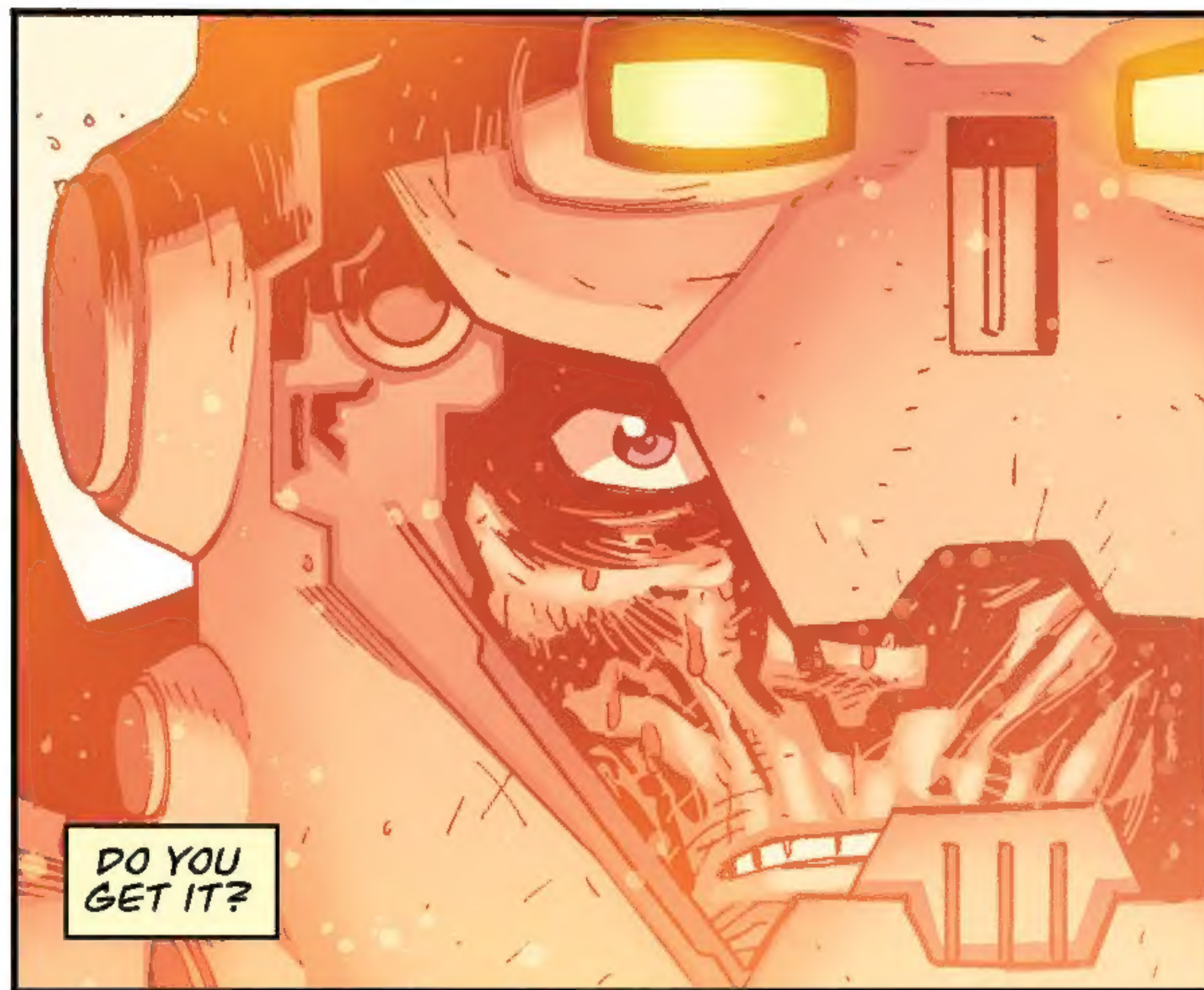


YOU--

OH, GOD...



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS
MEANS?



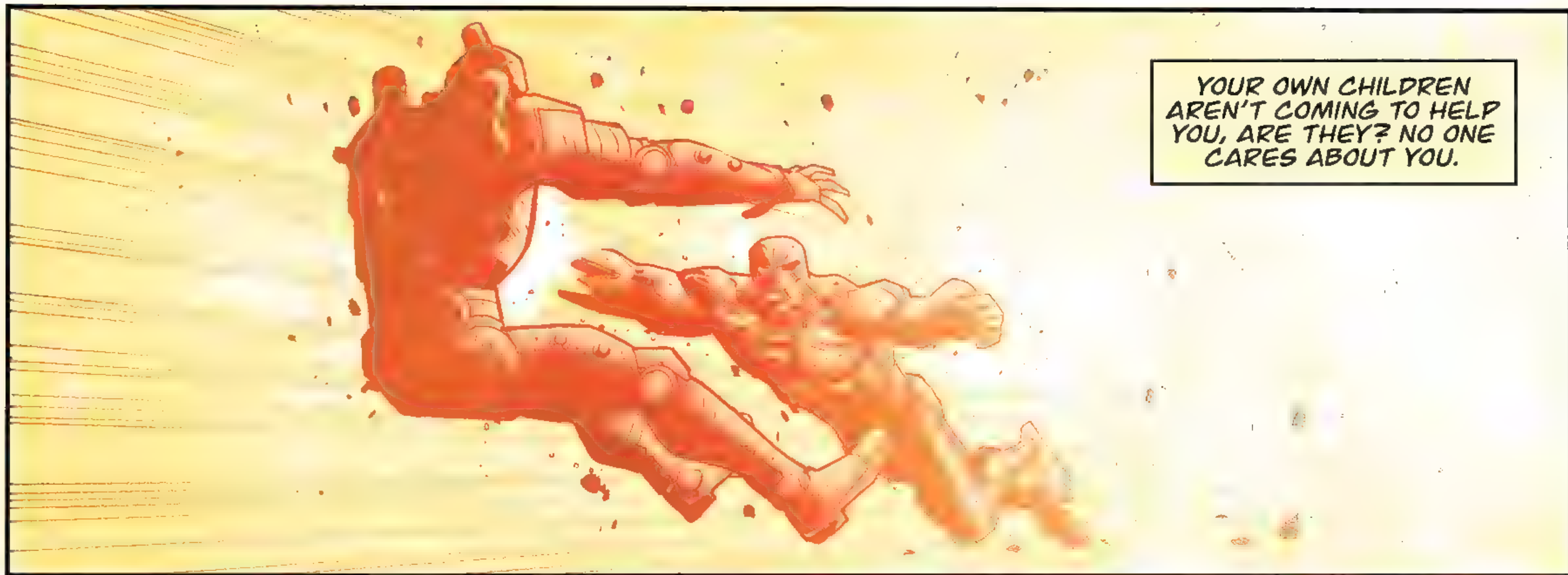
DO YOU
GET IT?



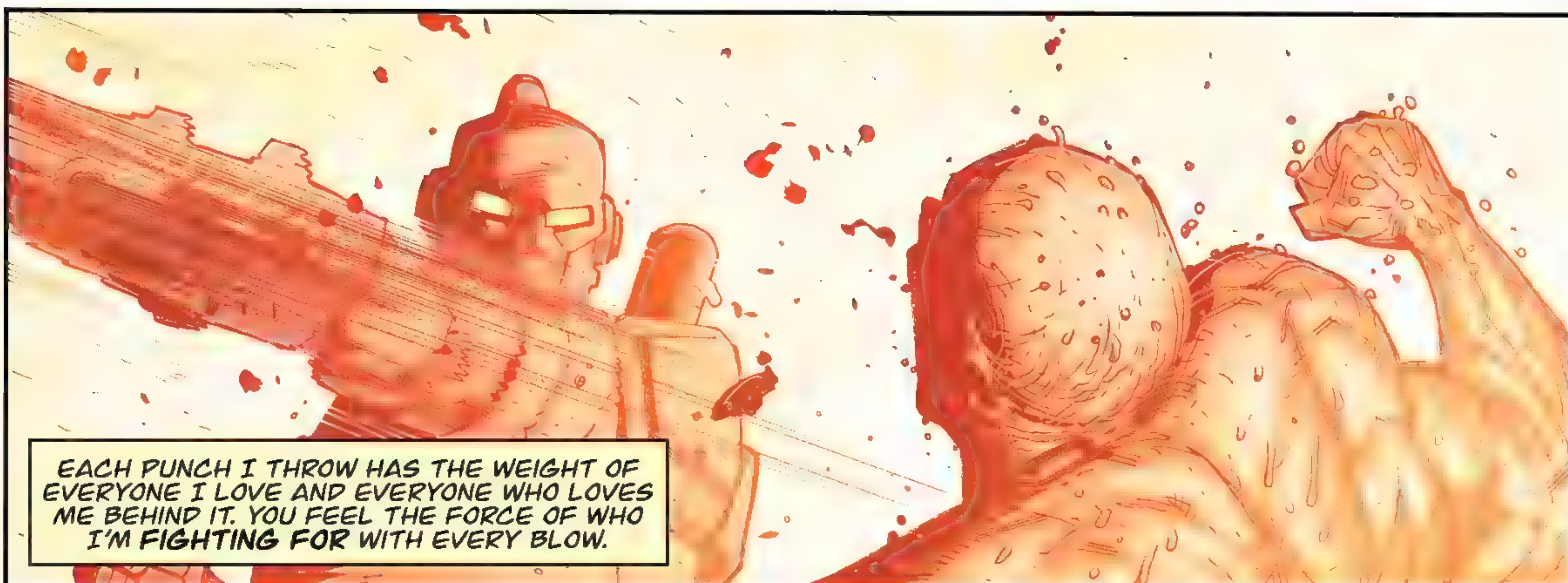
MY ENEMY HAS SENT HIS
OUTERMOST PROTECTIVE
SHELL TO HELP ME.

I ONLY WISH I
KNEW HOW TO USE
THIS THING--
IT HAS WEAPONS
THAT COULD HURT
EVEN YOU. STILL,
THIS WILL PROTECT
ME FOR A FEW
MOMENTS BEFORE
IT COMPLETELY
MELTS.

WHERE IS
YOUR HELP?



YOUR OWN CHILDREN
AREN'T COMING TO HELP
YOU, ARE THEY? NO ONE
CARES ABOUT YOU.



EACH PUNCH I THROW HAS THE WEIGHT OF
EVERYONE I LOVE AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES
ME BEHIND IT. YOU FEEL THE FORCE OF WHO
I'M FIGHTING FOR WITH EVERY BLOW.



YOUR PUNCHES
HAVE NOTHING
BEHIND THEM
BUT YOUR OWN
STRENGTH.



BECAUSE YOU'RE
A VILTRUMITE
WHO CLINGS TO
THE OLD WAYS.

YOU VALUE AND
RESPECT ONLY
STRENGTH. YOU FEEL
ONLY THE **STRONG**
DESERVE TO LIVE.

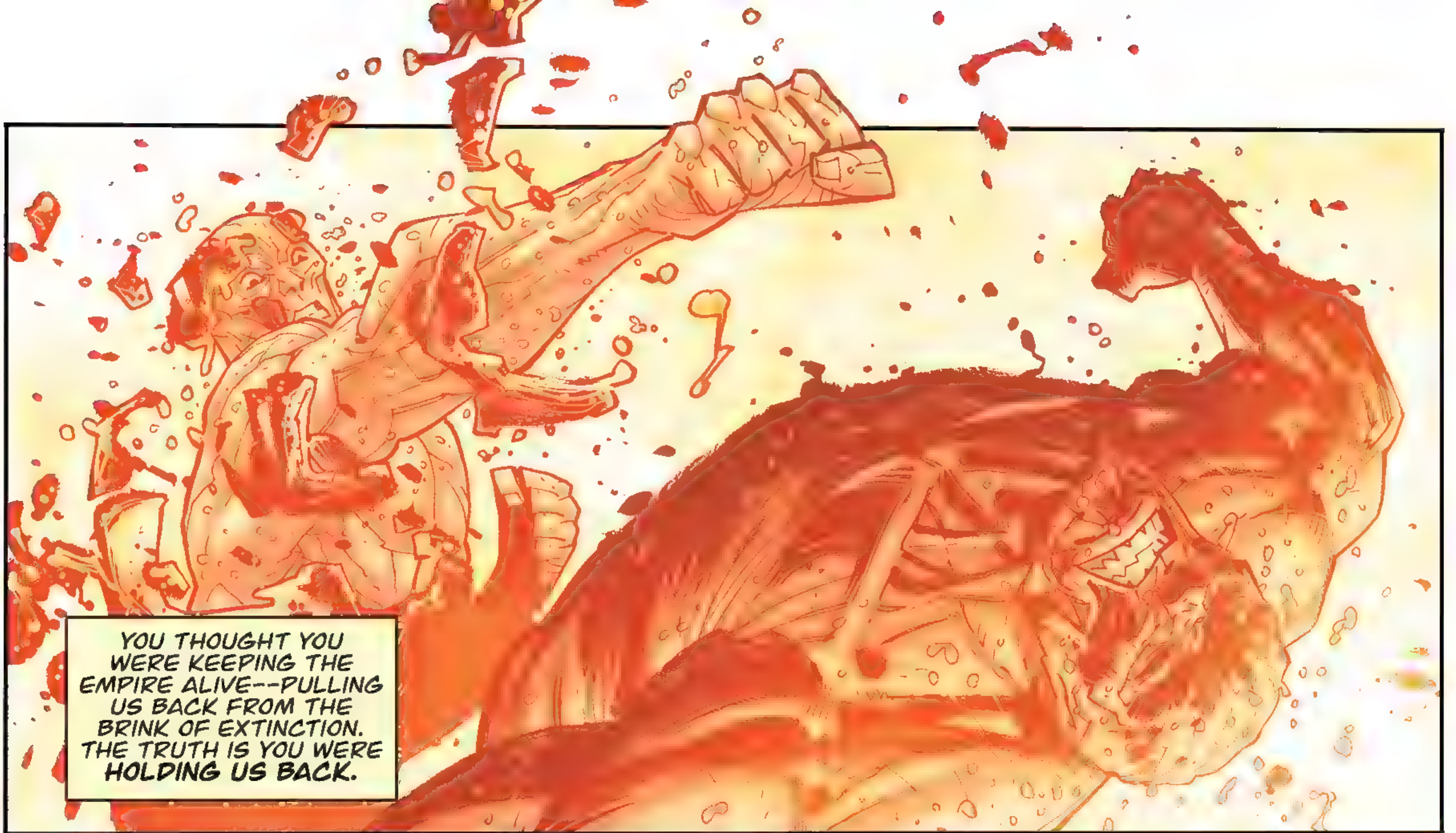
YOU CLING TO
PRACTICES THAT
PUSHED OUR PEOPLE
TO THE BRINK OF
EXTINCTION.

YOU SEE US AS
PEOPLE LIVING ONLY
FOR CONQUEST,
MEASURED ONLY BY
THE SIZE OF OUR
EMPIRE.

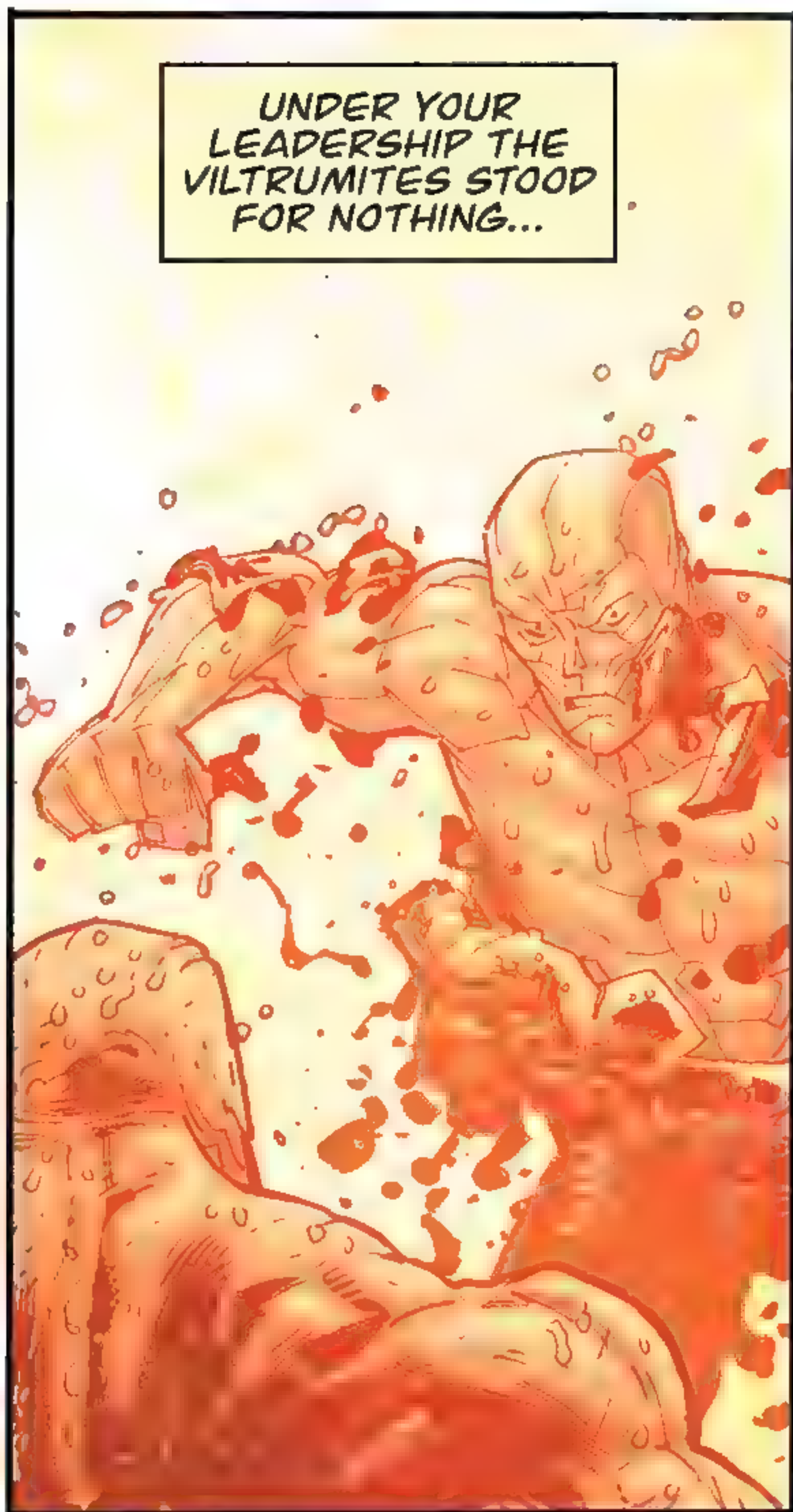
NO ROOM FOR PEACE.

NO ROOM FOR COMPASSION.

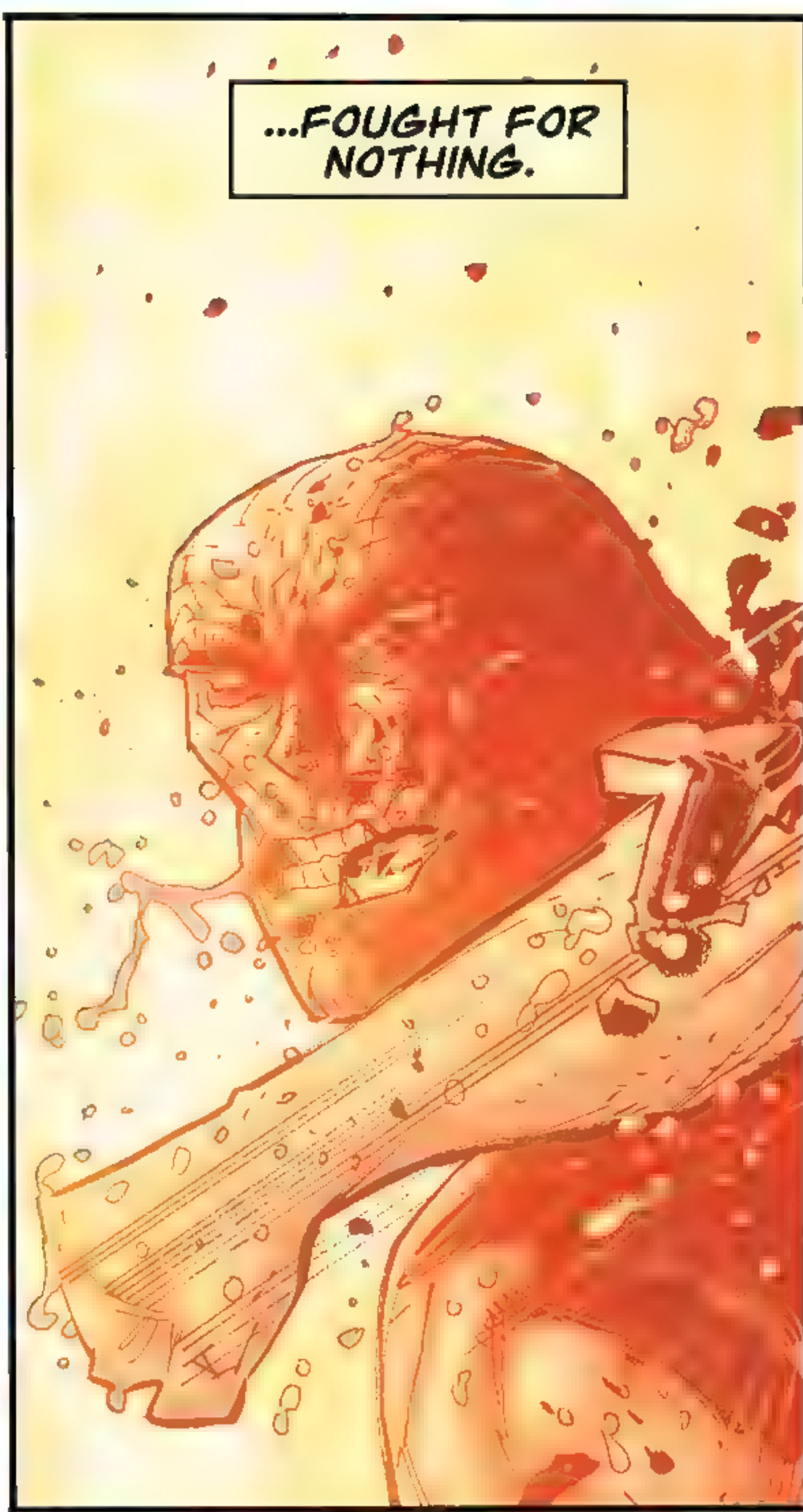
NO ROOM FOR LOVE.



YOU THOUGHT YOU
WERE KEEPING THE
EMPIRE ALIVE--PULLING
US BACK FROM THE
BRINK OF EXTINCTION.
THE TRUTH IS YOU WERE
HOLDING US BACK.



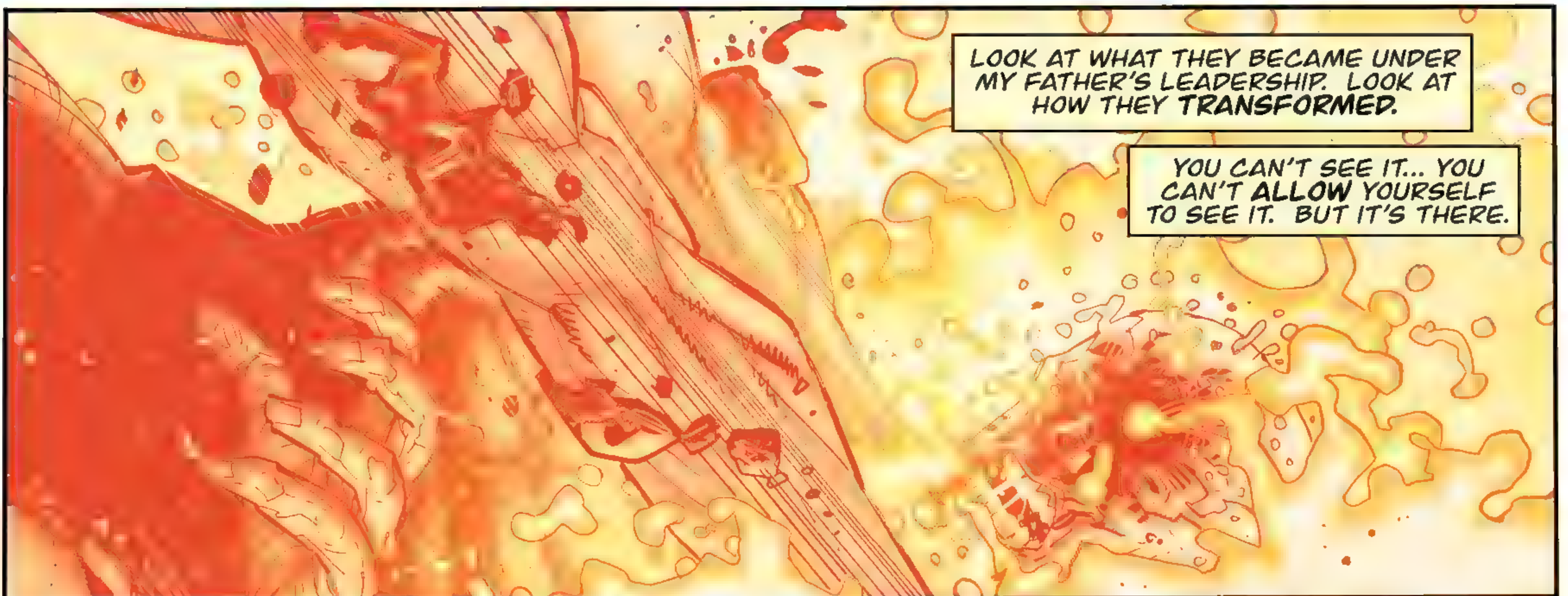
UNDER YOUR
LEADERSHIP THE
VILTRUMITES STOOD
FOR NOTHING...



...FOUGHT FOR
NOTHING.

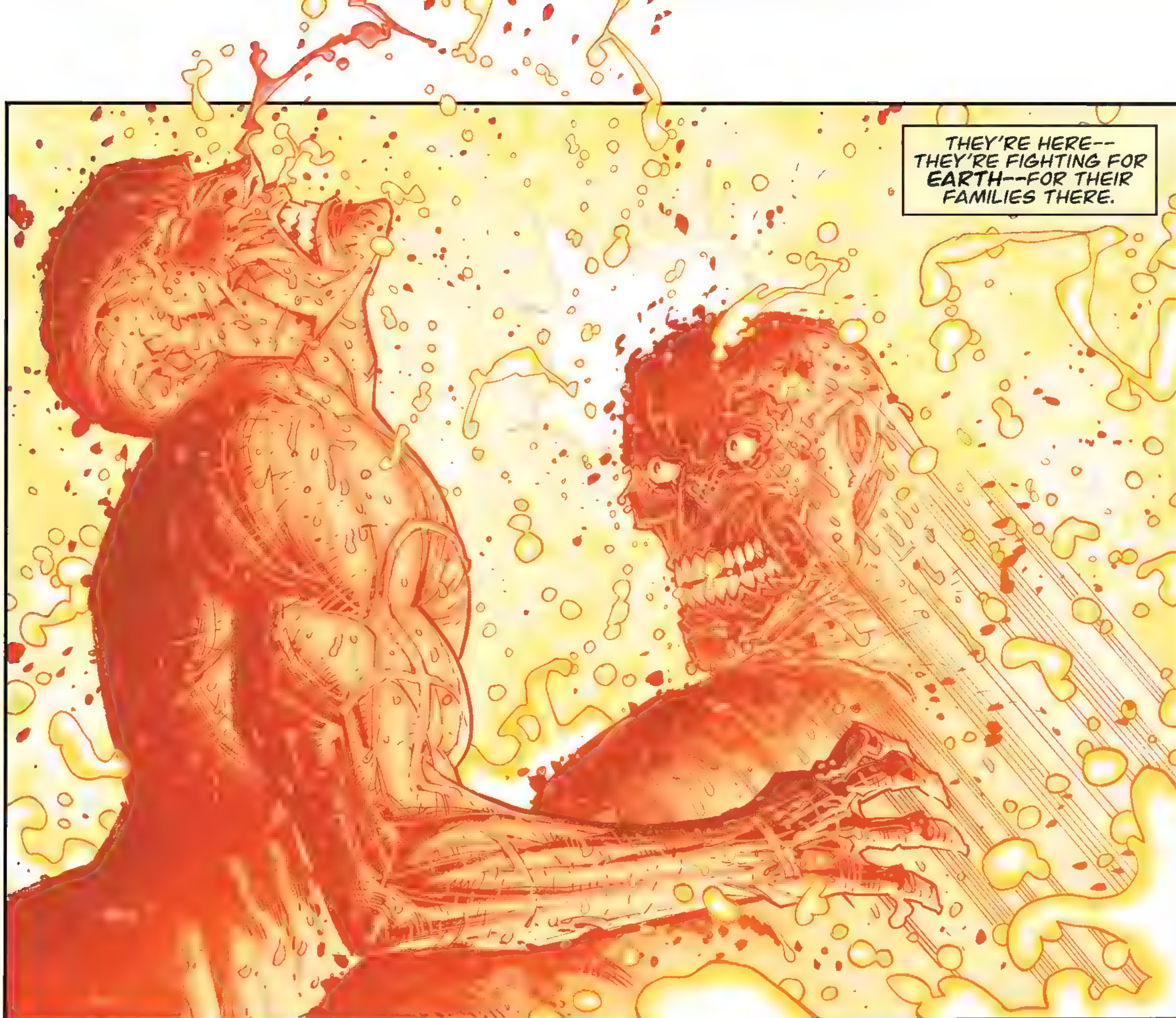


JUST LIKE YOU.



LOOK AT WHAT THEY BECAME UNDER
MY FATHER'S LEADERSHIP. LOOK AT
HOW THEY TRANSFORMED.

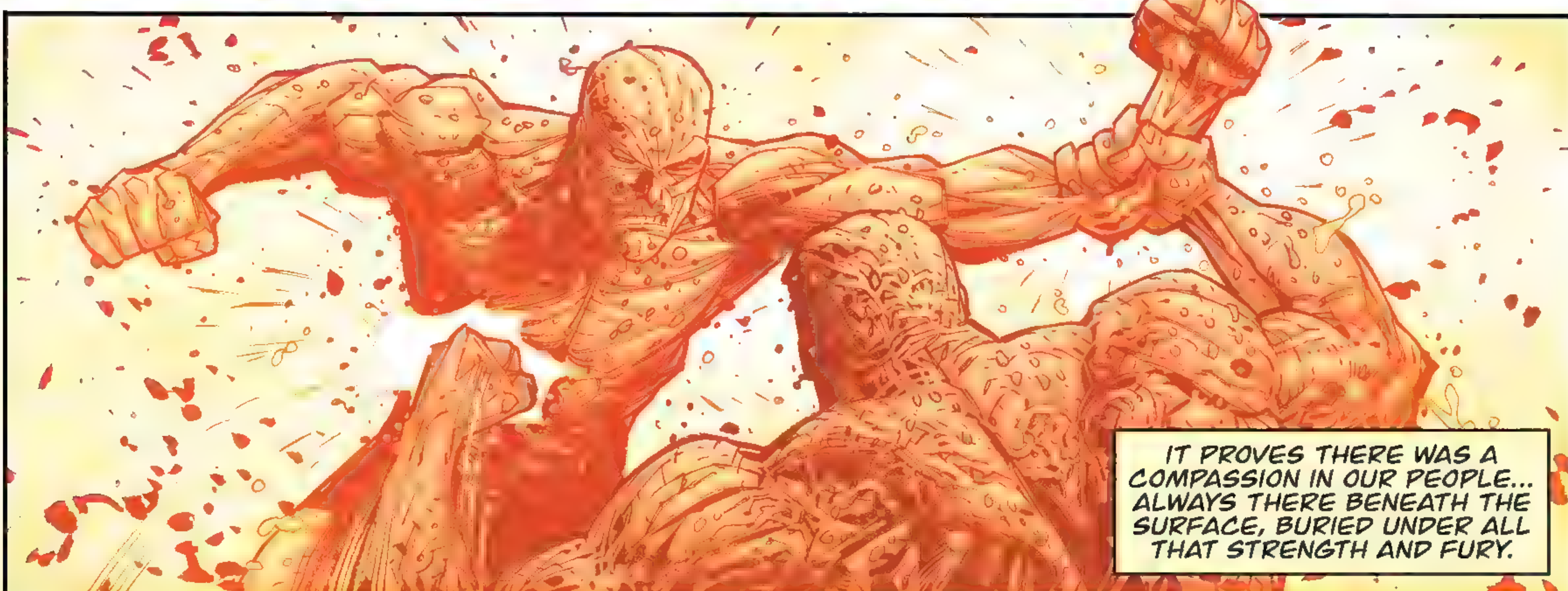
YOU CAN'T SEE IT.. YOU
CAN'T ALLOW YOURSELF
TO SEE IT. BUT IT'S THERE.



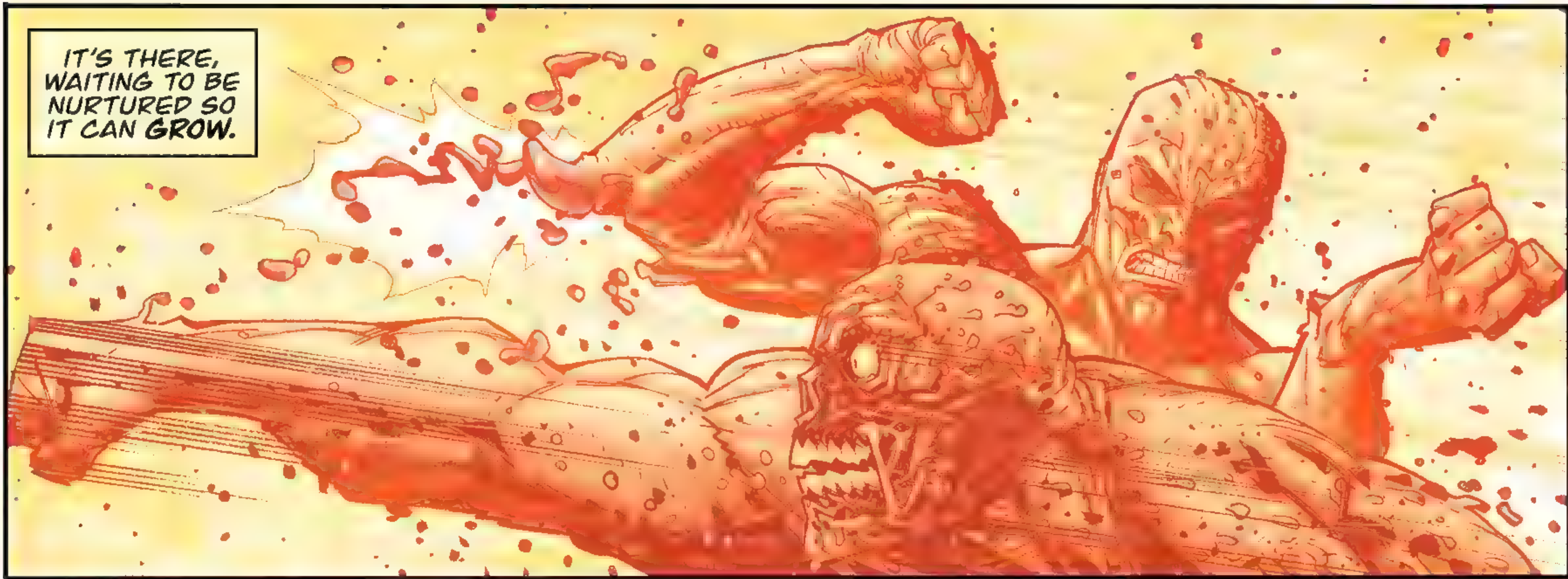
THEY'RE HERE--
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR
EARTH--FOR THEIR
FAMILIES THERE.



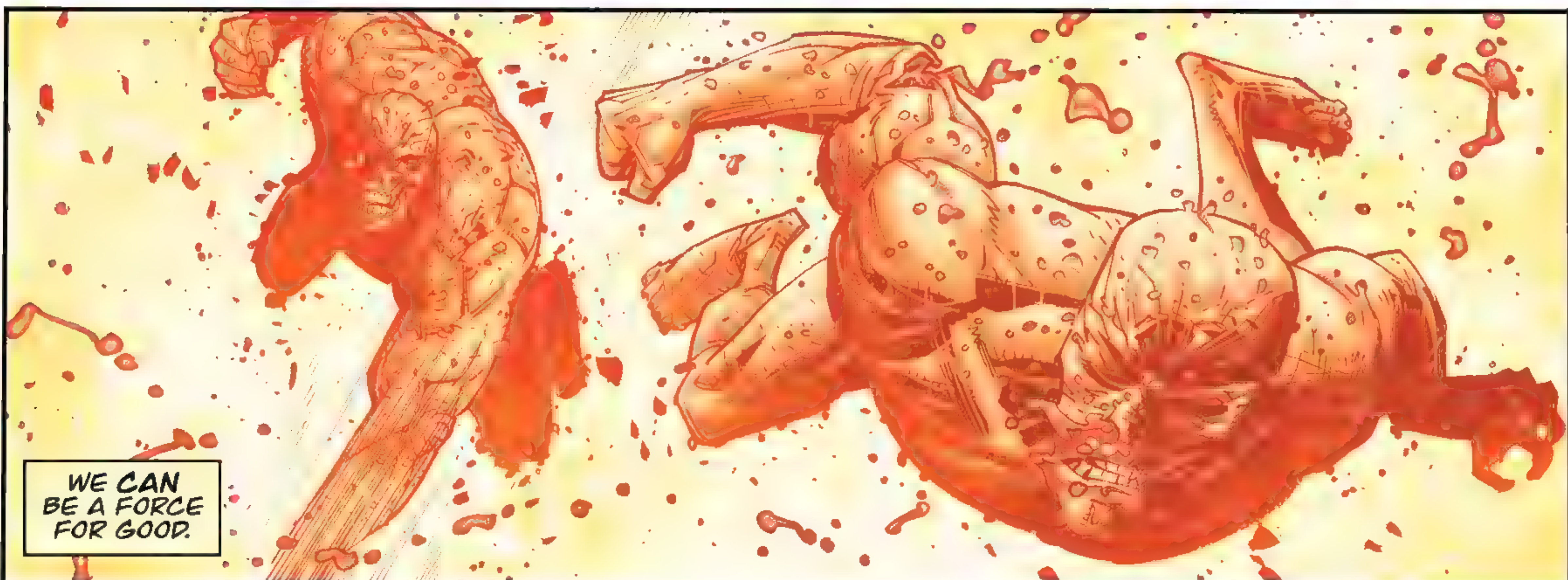
IT ISN'T A HUGE SHIFT, BUT
IT'S THERE. IT SHOWS THE
POTENTIAL OF WHAT THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE CAN BE.



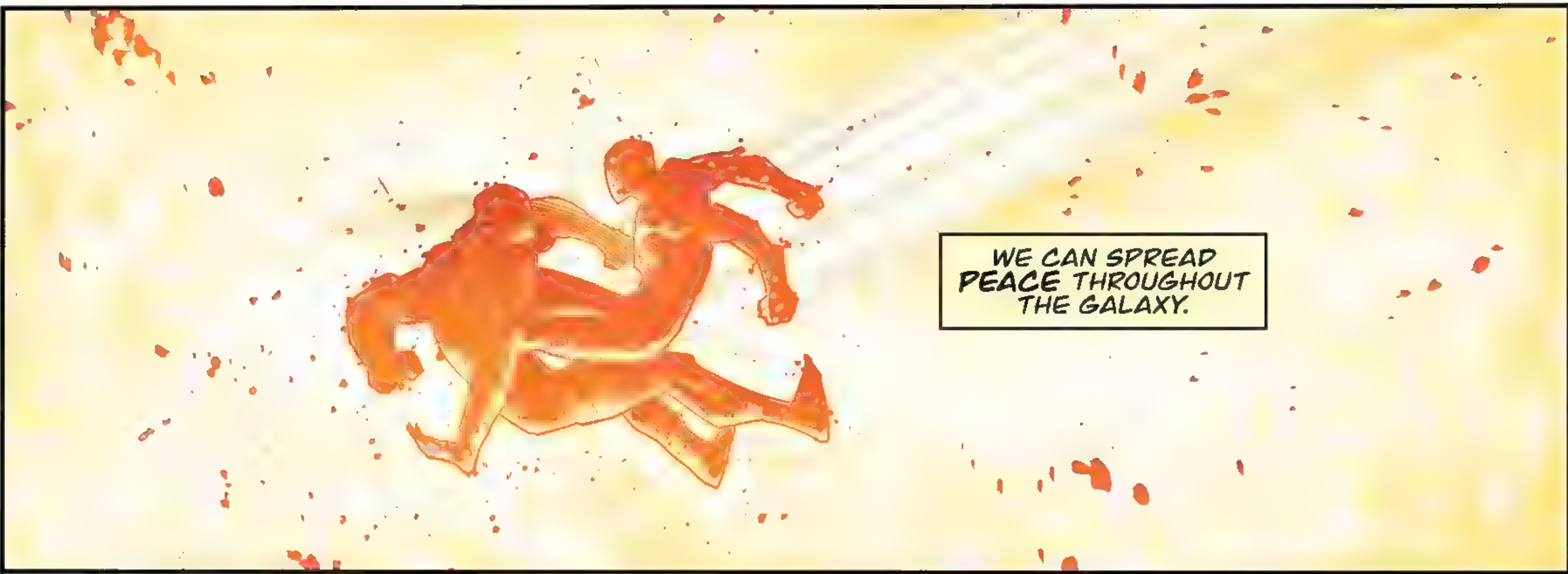
IT PROVES THERE WAS A
COMPASSION IN OUR PEOPLE...
ALWAYS THERE BENEATH THE
SURFACE, BURIED UNDER ALL
THAT STRENGTH AND FURY.



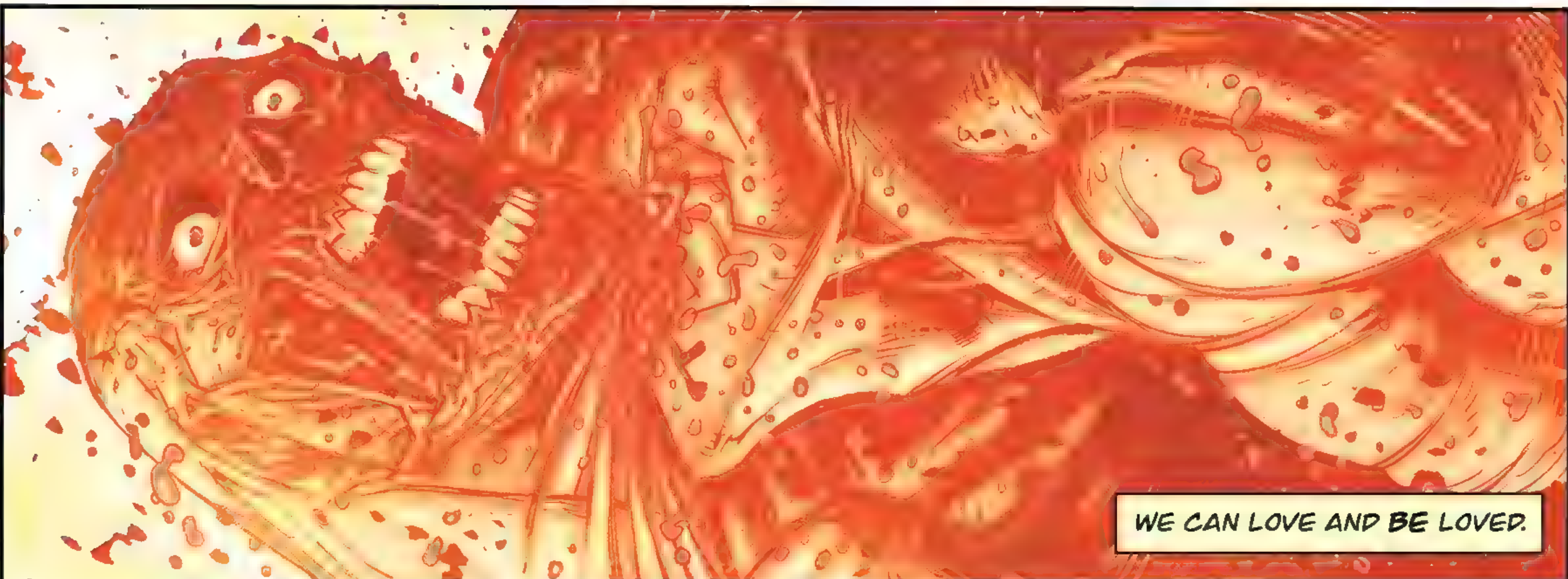
IT'S THERE,
WAITING TO BE
NURTURED SO
IT CAN GROW.



WE CAN
BE A FORCE
FOR GOOD.



WE CAN SPREAD
PEACE THROUGHOUT
THE GALAXY.



WE CAN LOVE AND BE LOVED.

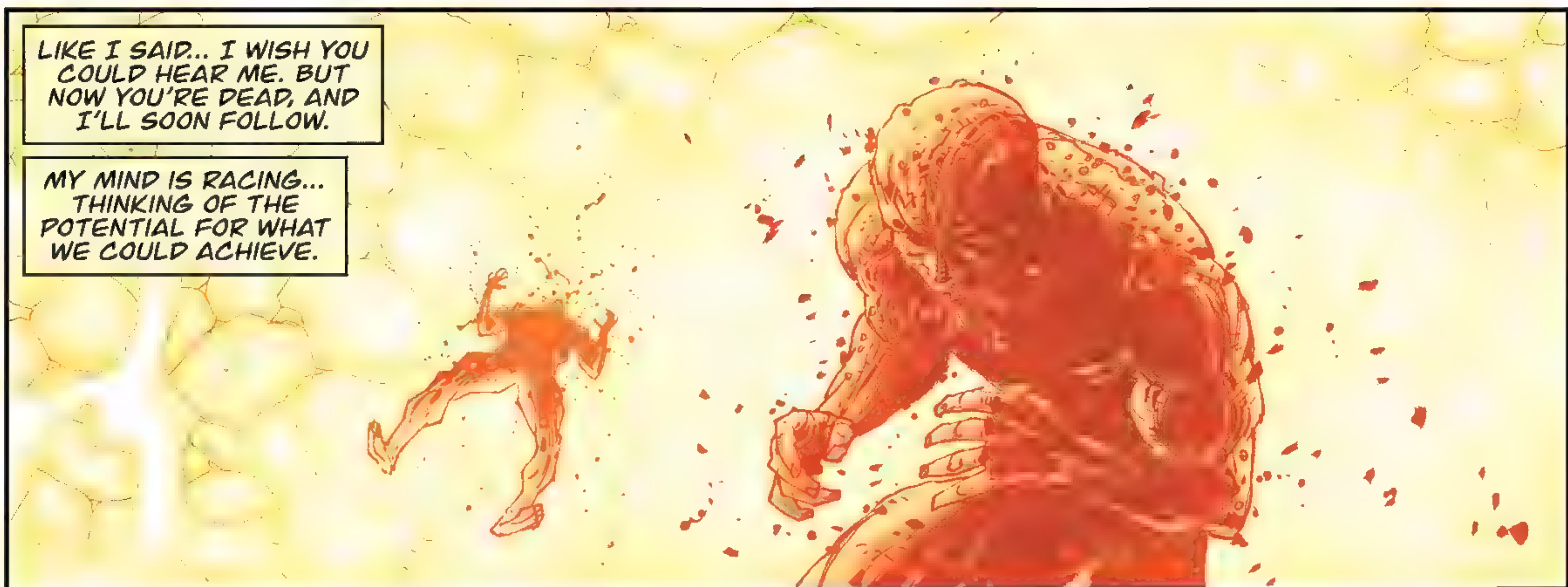
WE CAN BE HAPPY.





LIKE I SAID... I WISH YOU
COULD HEAR ME. BUT
NOW YOU'RE DEAD, AND
I'LL SOON FOLLOW.

MY MIND IS RACING...
THINKING OF THE
POTENTIAL FOR WHAT
WE COULD ACHIEVE.

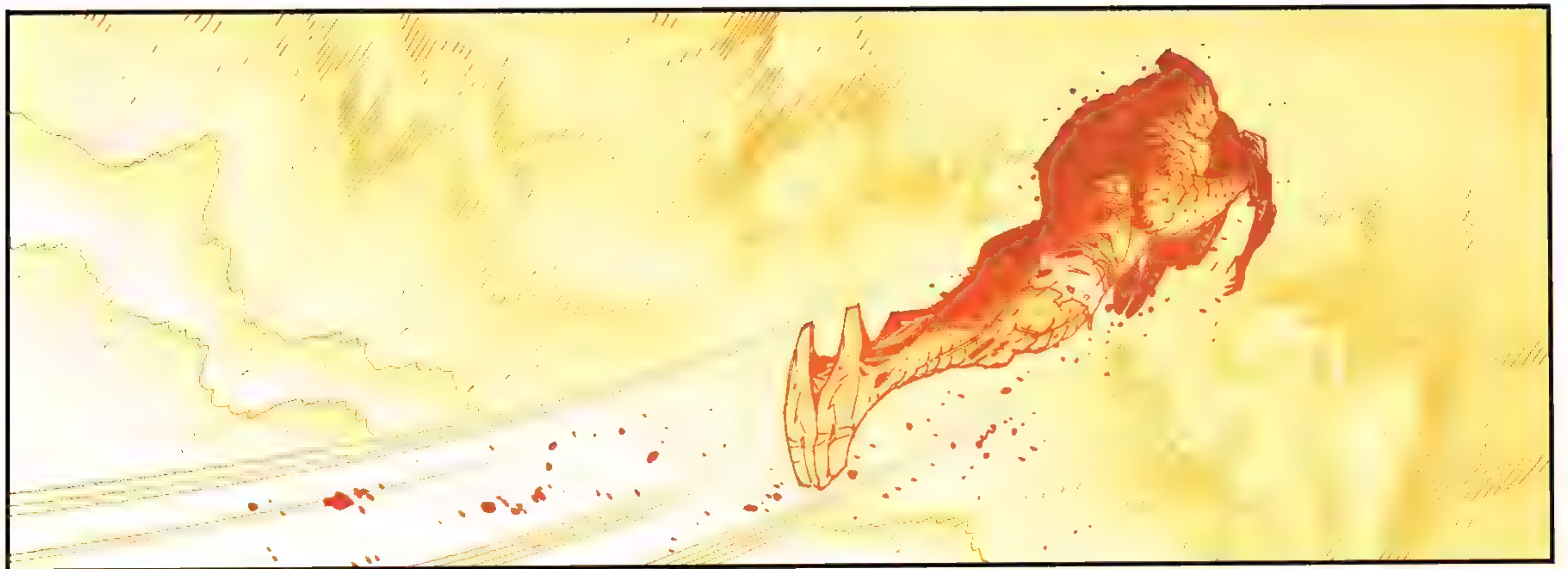


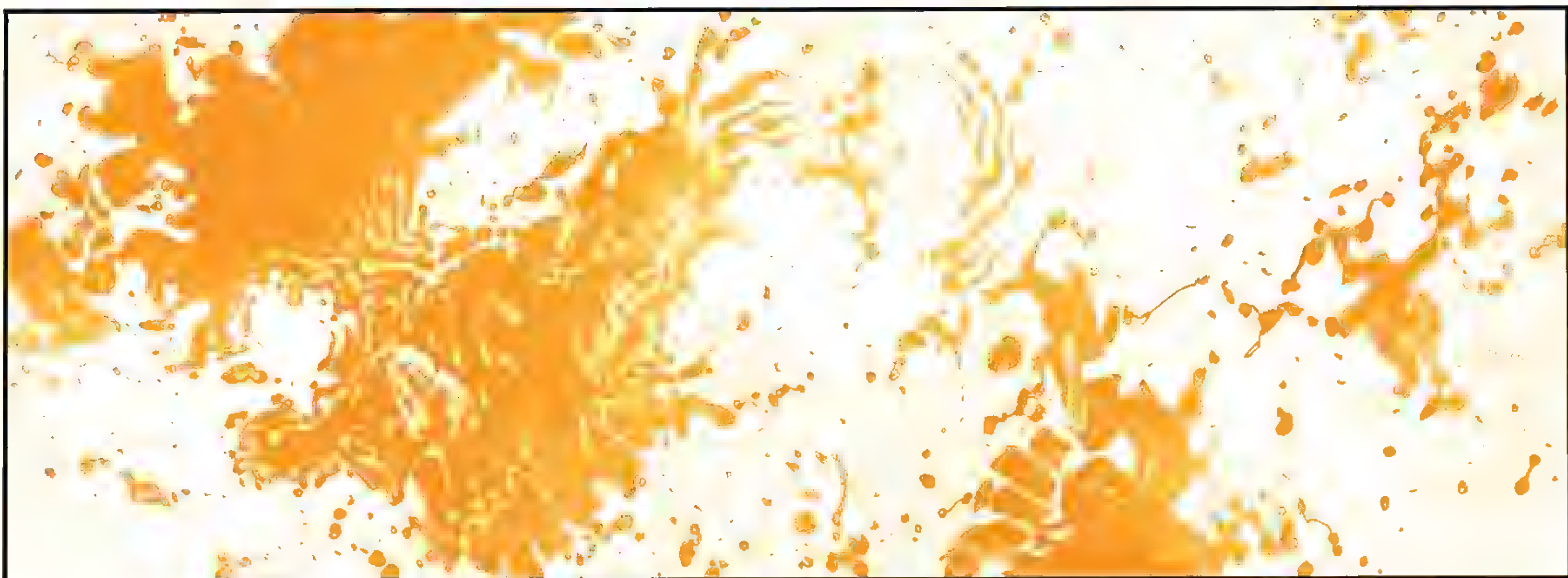
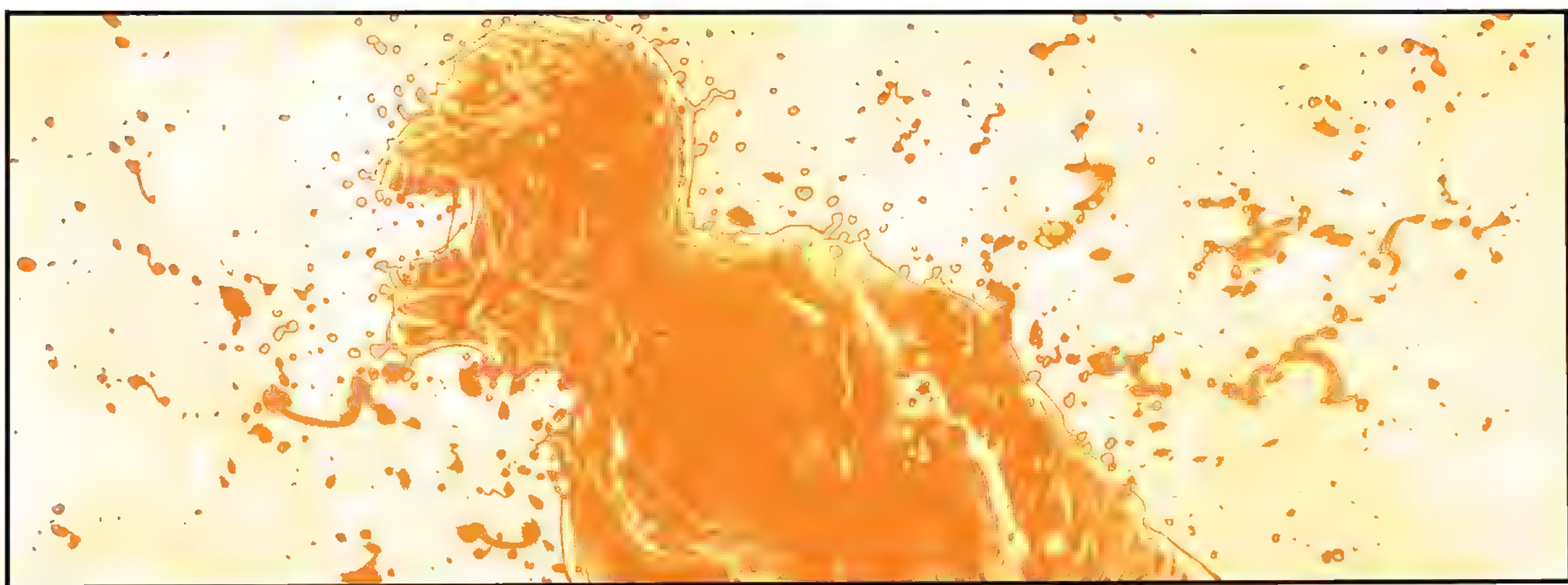
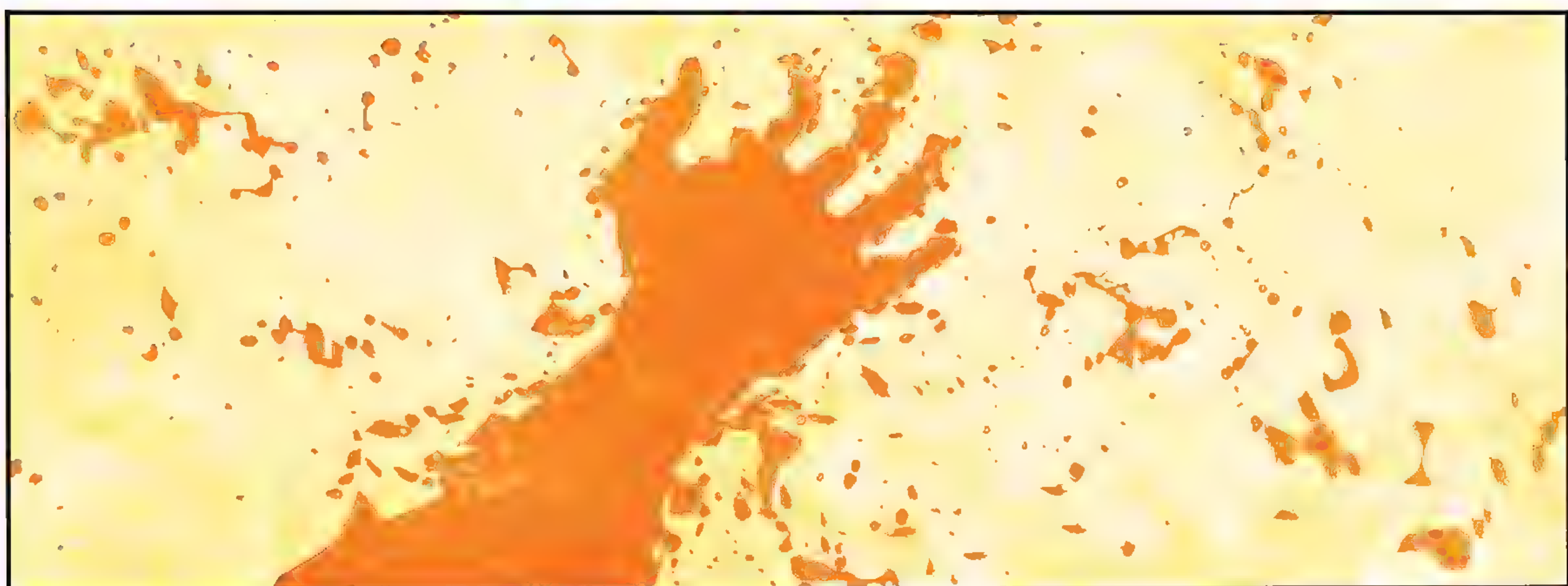
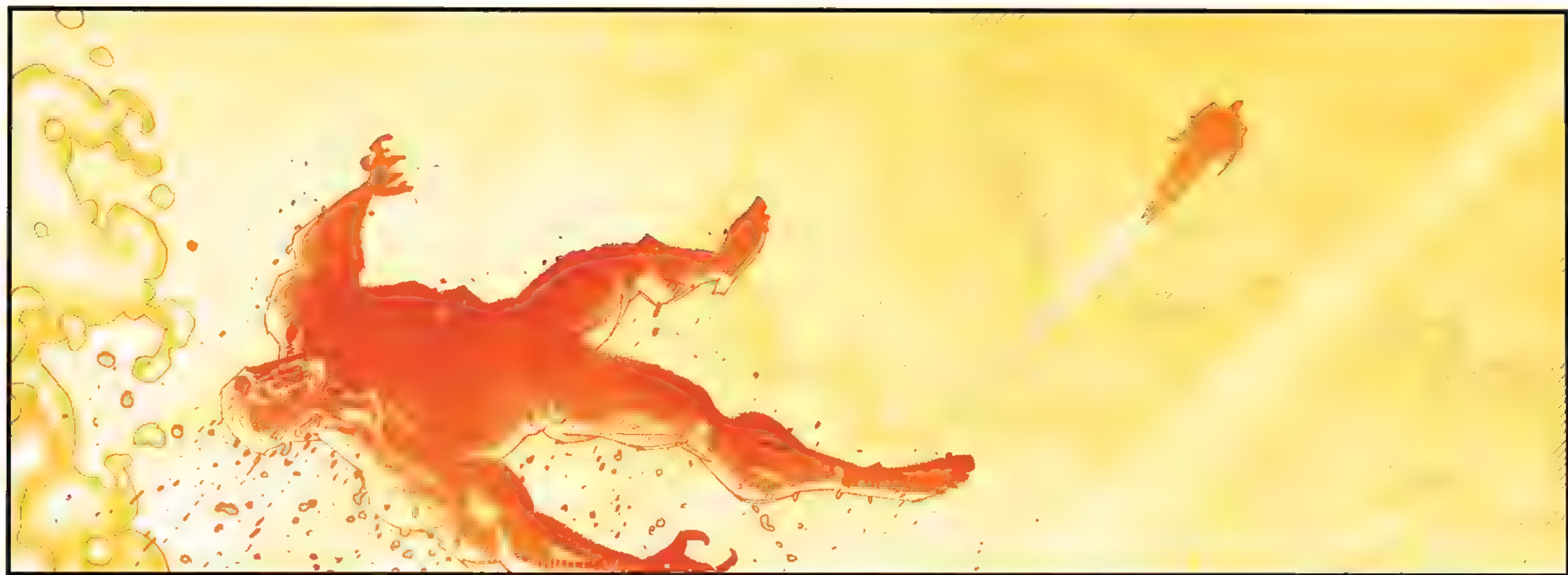
IF ONLY...

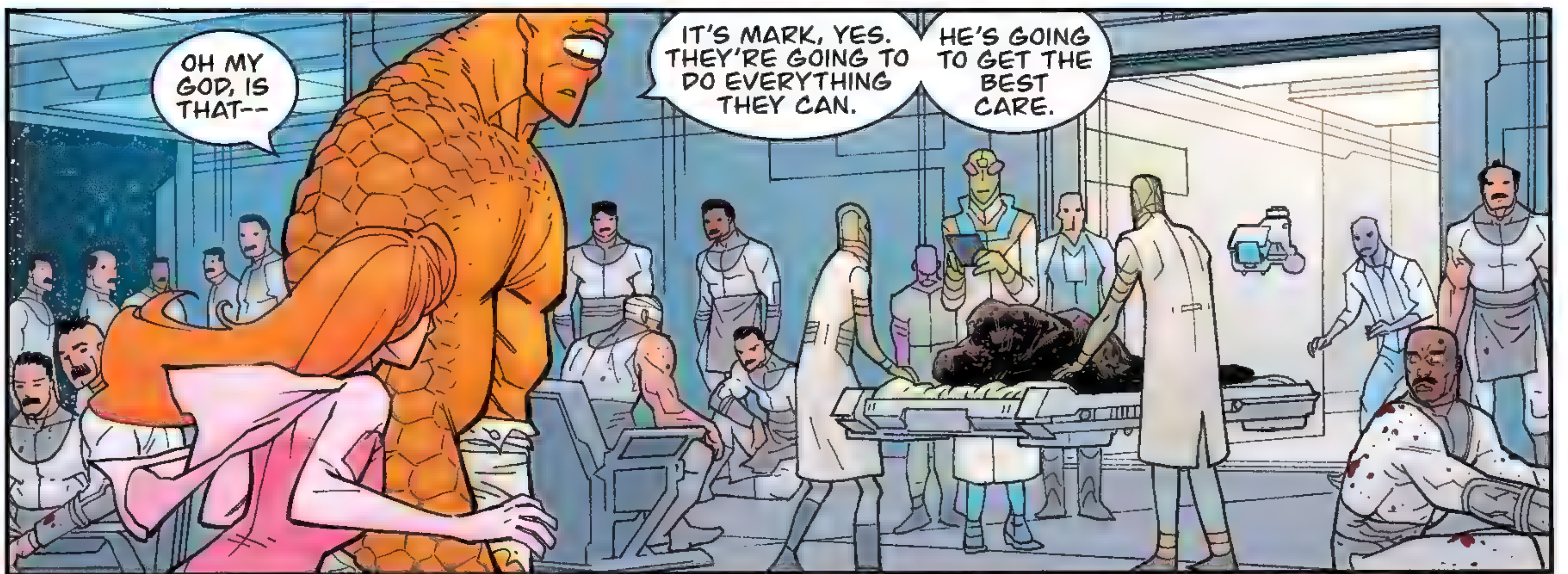


...I COULD LIVE TO SEE IT.





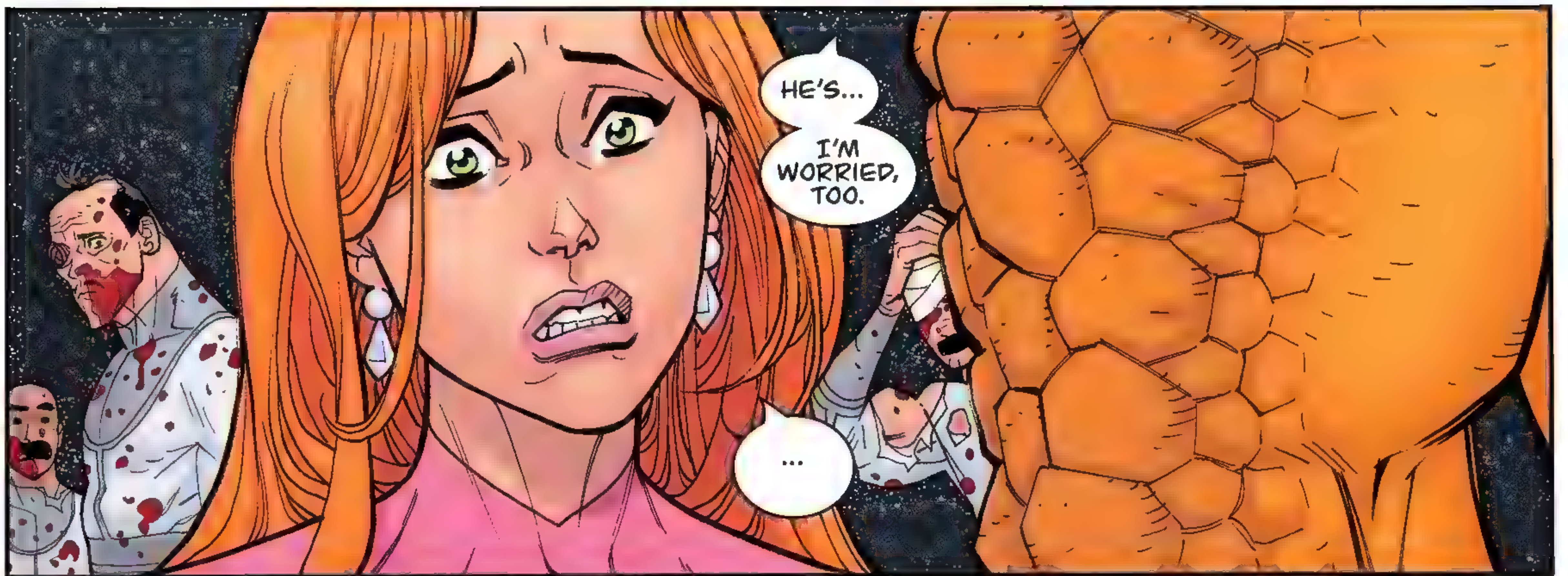




OH MY GOD, IS THAT--

IT'S MARK, YES. THEY'RE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN.

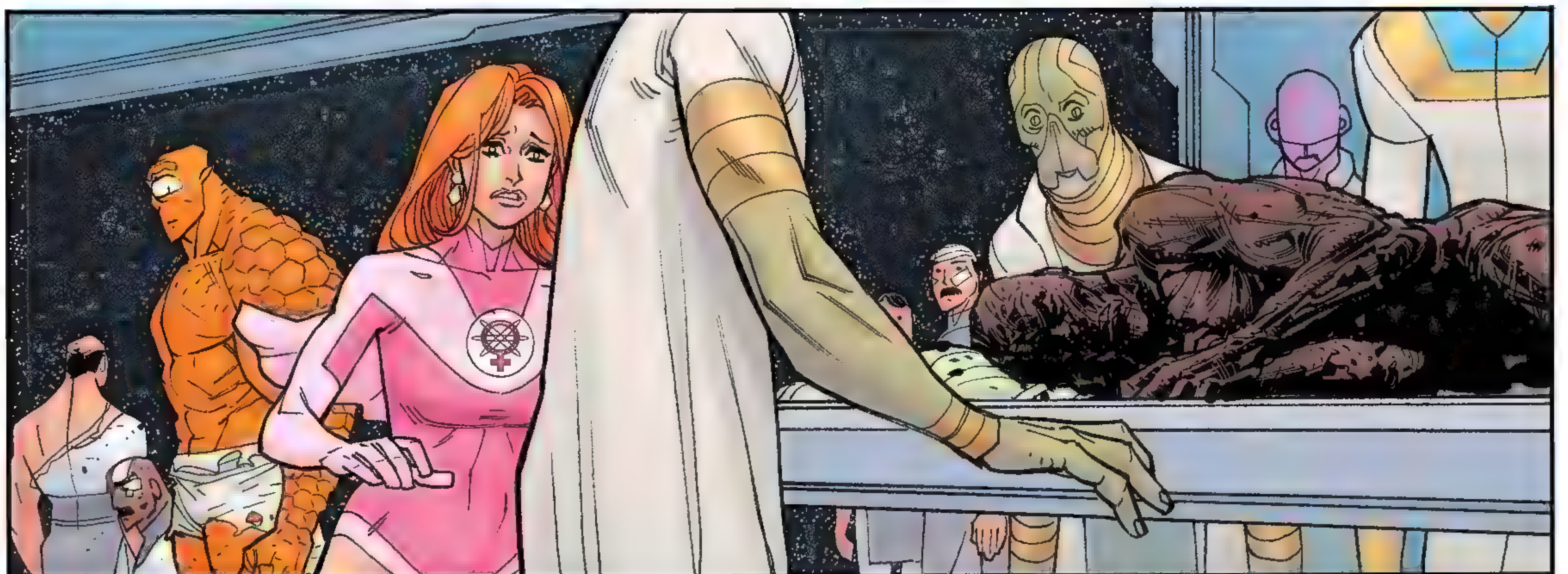
HE'S GOING TO GET THE BEST CARE.



HE'S...

I'M WORRIED, TOO.

...







YOU ENDED THIS CONFLICT. THAT MEANS SOMETHING. THERE WERE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. IF YOU'RE WILLING, I'D LIKE TO BEGIN THE LONG PROCESS OF HEALING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE.

MARK GRAYSON KILLED MY BROTHER... I ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIS MATE, THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILD. I PUT HIS CHILD IN DANGER.

I AM INTRIGUED BY YOUR PEOPLE... HOW THEY TREAT ONE ANOTHER, HOW THEY DEFEND EACH OTHER. I WANT OUR FIGHT TO BE AT AN END.

BUT I DO NOT HOLD OUT HOPE FOR OUR DIVIDE TO EVER TRULY BE HEALED.



URSAAL...

...DID YOUR FATHER EVER TEACH YOUR PEOPLE THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVENESS?

LETTERS

WRITE US AT **INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM**

Let’s give it up for Ryan and Nathan for producing a stunning issue. I’ve never seen a fight look like this. Also, eat it, Thragg. You were a pleasure to despise.

Yes, big high-fives all around. What a stunning looking issue, great job by both Ryan and Nathan! And RIP Thragg... sorry to see that guy go. Oh, well... only FOUR... issues left... is that something in my eye? Yeah, look away... don’t look at me... just read the letters...

Hey guys

I started reading Invincible a couple of years ago, after seeing a badass picture of BattleBeast on the front cover of an issue in my local comic book shop. After starting from issue #1, I was immediately obsessed with the super powered world you had created, and its many amazing characters. The artwork from Ryan Ottley is truly godlike, and the bright colors and fantastical character designs were frequently the highlight of my day. I just wanted to thank you all for what is unquestionably my favorite comic series of all time. I was devastated to hear the news of Invincible coming to an end, but upon further contemplation I realized that this was undoubtedly a perfect Invincible move. Invincible has long bucked the trends of other Superhero series, constantly subverting and improving upon the well worn tropes of the genre. It makes perfect sense that it would have a definitive end, rather than being diluted over the years by other writers and potentially lackluster stories. And of course, we always have the upcoming film adaptation to look forward to.

One last thing, there was a brief aside in a recent issue in which a character hinted that there are rumors of another legendary warrior from BattleBeast’s species. Was that just a throw away line? Did you plan on exploring it further before you decided to end the series? Will there be a spin-off? Dammit, I need to know!

Keep reading—you never know who will turn up in the final four issues! Aside from those of you holding out for Universa. Just give it up.

Damn you, Sean! Now I have to squeeze Universa into the final issue just to mess with you! There are no throwaway lines in INVINCIBLE (don’t check me on that) so you’ll... well, I’m not going to spoil that here.

Anyway, thank you for the hours and hours of enjoyment. Long live BattleBeast, and long live Invincible!

-Paul Bird

Long live two things that are dead or dying! All joking aside... I have a sense that after the INVINCIBLE series ends is when things are going to get really crazy in other mediums... stay tuned!

Dear Penvincipals,
Thank you for that widescreen extravaganza that was issue #138! As you said “In war there are casualties.” and that issue had a lot of clashes, injury, and death. It felt kinda like I walked into the middle of a deep space war thriller! I can’t wait to see how Mark reacts to his father’s death. Will he go all kamikaze, striking at anything in his path or will he somehow find some restraint and realize that his side needs him more alive than dead? On the other hand, as Andrew Hinch mentioned, perhaps in the midst of this 12 issue story there is a subtle lack of full characterization. I thought it was just me as a newbie-from-the-25-cent issue, but if a long-time reader like Andrew notices it maybe it’s there. Still, perhaps just being in the midst of a war IS the characterization or the building of character. If so, I can appreciate that just as I do when I watch action movies versus ones steeped in character moments and details. Anyway, I’m looking forward to more crazy stuff happening in future issues as you promised! Thanks,

Alan Bowman
Saga City, Japan

Are you saying we’re *Game of Thrones*-ing it? (I don’t care what anyone says, I LOVED this season. That’s not up for debate.) If you’re looking for more focus on character, you won’t be disappointed with next issue. (Unless you still are, and then... hey, we’re trying our best!)

There’s a ton of character stuff to come. I will admit it has been sparse in these recent action-heavy issues... but it won’t be that way until the end... and hell, this issue was all action, but I’d say this counts as a big character moment for Mark! Stay tuned, though... there’s all kinds of “feelings talk” ahead.

In the years that have passed since this series started, it’s amazing how much the characters have changed and how it feels natural and flows with the story. While I feel that many other comics focus on change first and story second, Invincible has always felt first and foremost like a story - not something that has a “status quo” that it would inevitably be reverted to months down the line.

I think the greatest example of this was the character of Omni-Man. Somehow, over the course of about 120 issues, you managed to make the character transition from a villain responsible for thousands of deaths to my favorite character in the book. While I was sad to see the character die by Thragg’s hands (literally) in issue 138, I’m glad to say that this felt like a natural progression for the story, rather than just setup for a “Death and Return of Omni-Man” style event.

There is only death in INVINCIBLE, no returns. Unless Atom Eve is around, and then only *maybe*.

Oh, did Omni-Man die in issue #138? That’s weird because he’s totally on the cover of next issue... but that can’t be right... can it?

As sad as it is to see this characters go, I’m glad that this series is ending not because of sales, but because the story is over. Overall, I’m a big fan and I can’t wait to see how everything ends.

-Nick Overby

I’ll let you in on a little secret: the final issue is already being drawn, and it looks glorious. GLORIOUS!

Don’t spoil things, Sean! The gloriousness was supposed to be a surprise!

Next issue, the aftermath of war, where we mourn our dead. Four issues left!

-Sean Mackiewicz

FOUR?! FOUR?!!!! Oh, god... I just... I’m really sad, guys. What if we just- -NO! The story... think of the story! Ending things is important, Robert... things can’t just keep going on forever with no end. You don’t want this book to get lame or stale (or in a select few opinions, more lame and more stale!) Stay the course! STAY THE COURSE!

See you next month, folks.

-Robert Kirkman

NEXT ISSUE



“THE END OF ALL THINGS,” Part 9
Things take a dark turn as we near the end.

