

#143 / THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC IN THE UNIVERSE

INVINCIBLE



THE FUTURE OF
25
image
EST. 1992

THE END OF ALL THINGS

PART ELEVEN OF TWELVE

ROTTLEY
SKYBOUND

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT
KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN
OTTLEY
PENCILER

MARK
MORALES
INKER

NATHAN
FAIRBAIRN
COLORIST

RUS
WOOTON
LETTERER

SEAN
MACKIEWICZ
EDITOR

COVER BY
RYAN **OTTLEY** & NATHAN **FAIRBAIRN**

CREATED BY
ROBERT **KIRKMAN** & CORY **WALKER**

Skybound **ROBERT KIRKMAN** Chairman **DAVID ALPERT** CEO **SEAN MACKIEWICZ** SVP, Editor-in-Chief **SHAWN KIRKHAM** SVP, Business Development **BRIAN HUNTINGTON** Online Editorial Director **JUNE ALIAN** Publicity Director **ANDRES JUAREZ** Art Director **JON MOISAN** Editor **ARIELLE BASICH** Assistant Editor **CARINA TAYLOR** Production Artist **PAUL SHIN** Business Development Assistant **JOHNNY O'DELL** Social Media Manager **SALLY JACKA** Online Editorial Assistant **DAN PETERSEN** Director of Operations & Events **NICK PALMER** Operations Coordinator

IMAGE COMICS, INC. **ROBERT KIRKMAN** Chief Operating Officer **ERIK LARSEN** Chief Financial Officer **TODD MCFARLANE** President **MARC SILVESTRI** Chief Executive Officer **JIM VALENTINO** Vice President **ERIC STEPHENSON** Publisher **COREY MURPHY** Director of Sales **JEFF BOISON** Director of Publishing Planning & Book Trade Sales **CHRIS ROSS** Director of Digital Sales **JEFF STANG** Director of Specialty Sales **KAT SALAZAR** Director of PR & Marketing **DREW GILL** Art Director **HEATHER DOORNINK** Production Director **BRANWYN BIGGLESTONE** Controller

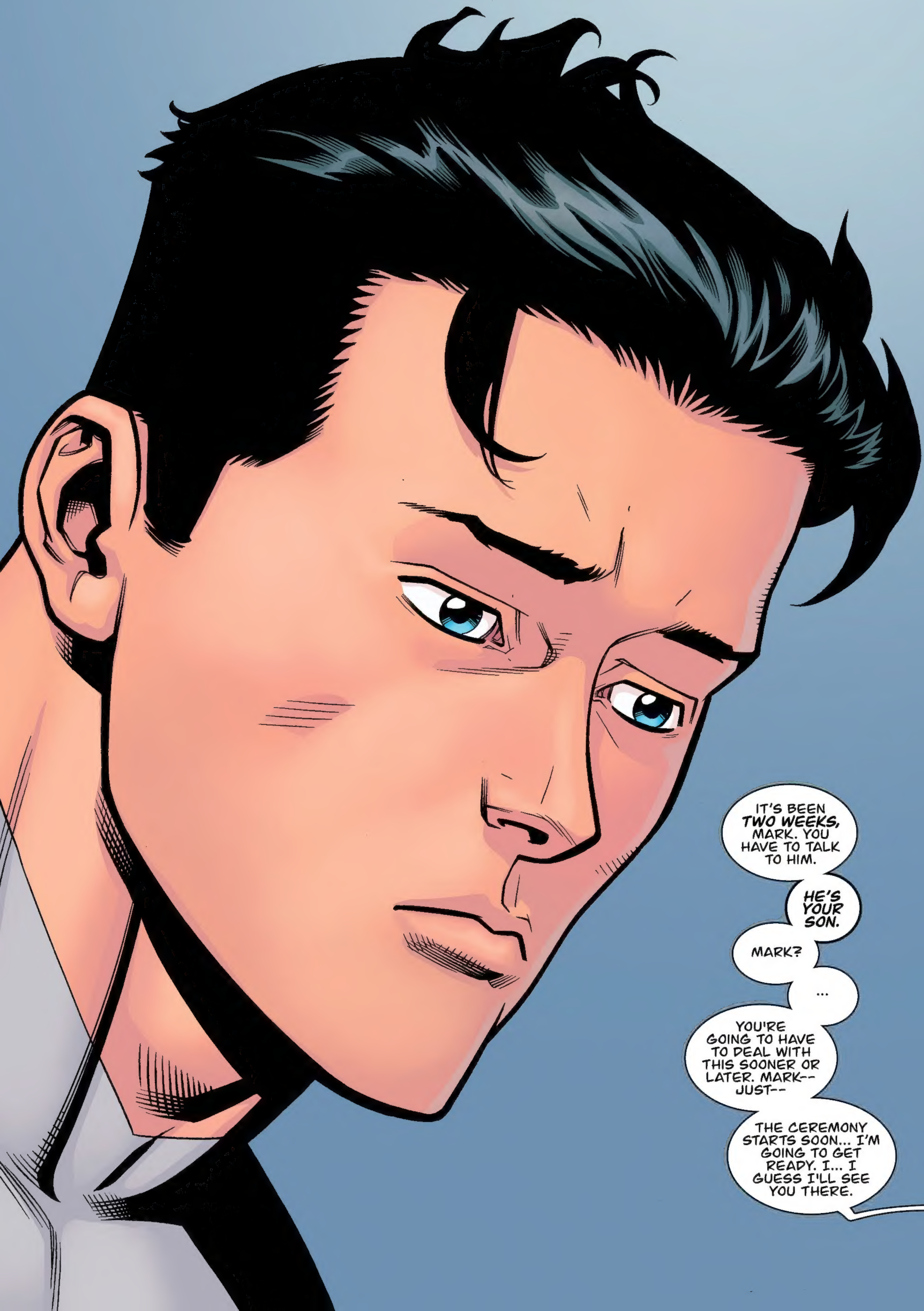
INVINCIBLE #143. December 2017. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2701 NW Vaughn St., Ste. 780, Portland, OR 97210. Copyright © 2017 Robert Kirkman, LLC and Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE and all character likenesses are ™ and © 2017 Robert Kirkman, LLC and Cory Walker. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. For international inquiries, contact: ag@sequentialrights.com. For licensing inquiries, contact: contact@skybound.com. DIGITAL EDITION.



www.imagecomics.com



www.skybound.com



IT'S BEEN
TWO WEEKS,
MARK. YOU
HAVE TO TALK
TO HIM.

HE'S
YOUR
SON.

MARK?

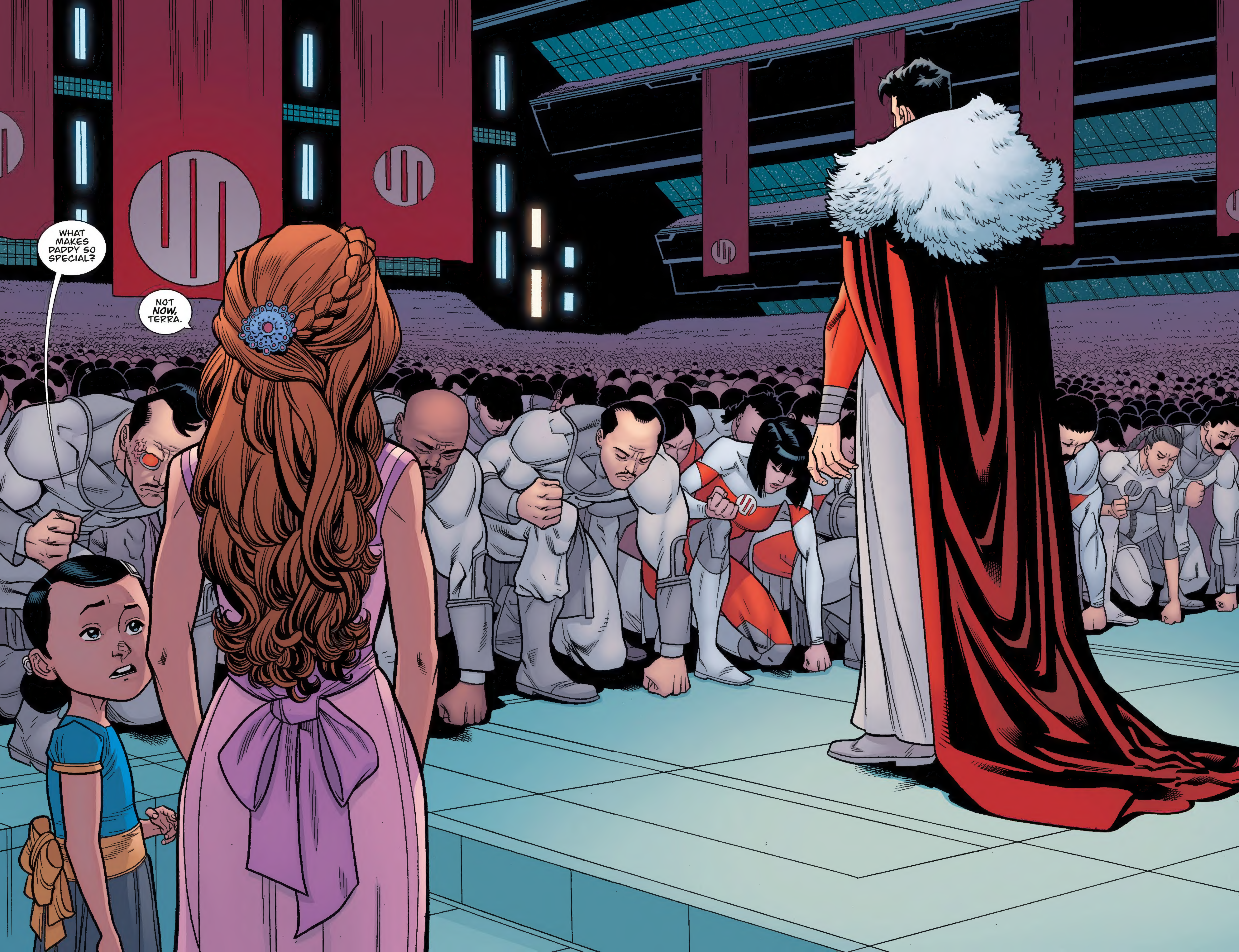
...

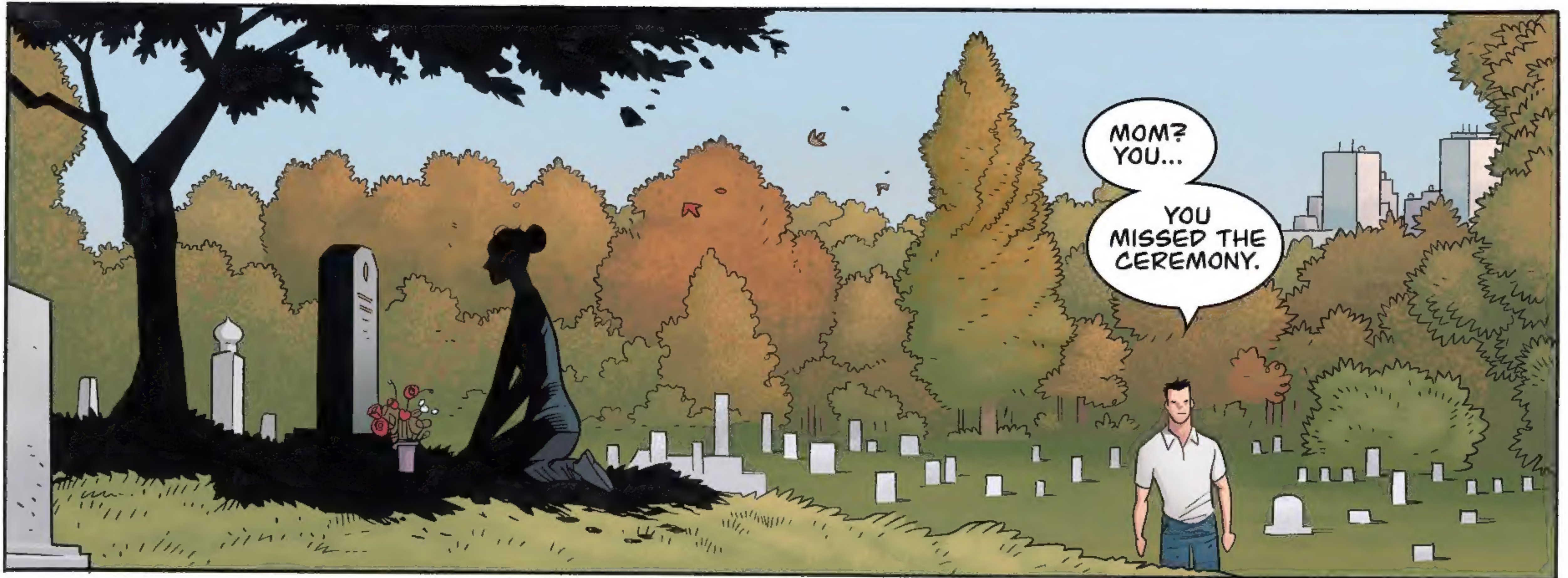
YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO DEAL WITH
THIS SOONER OR
LATER. MARK--
JUST--

THE CEREMONY
STARTS SOON... I'M
GOING TO GET
READY. I... I
GUESS I'LL SEE
YOU THERE.

WHAT
MAKES
DADDY SO
SPECIAL?

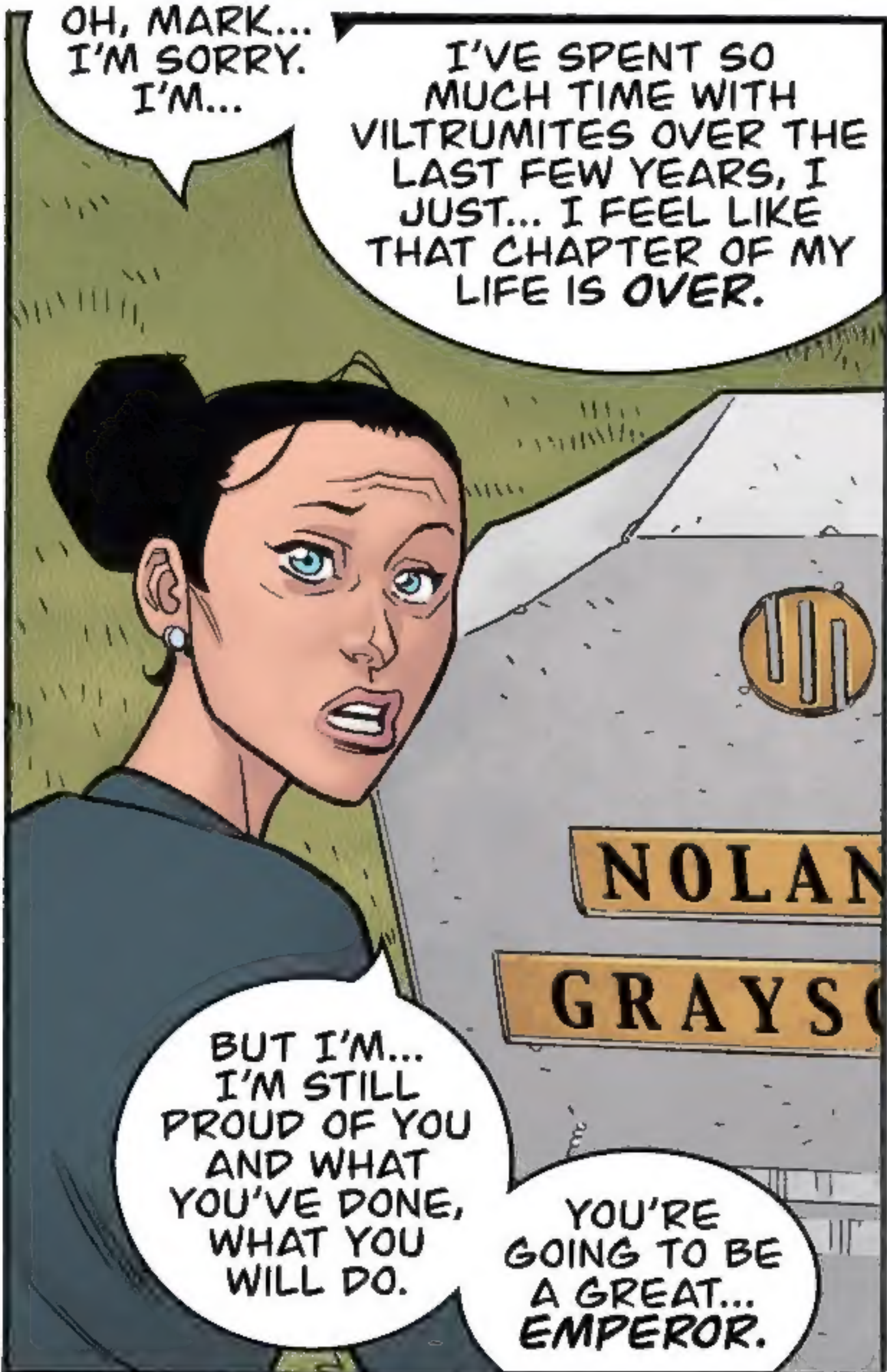
NOT
NOW,
TERRA.





MOM?
YOU...

YOU
MISSED THE
CEREMONY.



OH, MARK...
I'M SORRY.
I'M...

I'VE SPENT SO
MUCH TIME WITH
VILTRUMITES OVER THE
LAST FEW YEARS, I
JUST... I FEEL LIKE
THAT CHAPTER OF MY
LIFE IS OVER.

BUT I'M...
I'M STILL
PROUD OF YOU
AND WHAT
YOU'VE DONE,
WHAT YOU
WILL DO.

YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
A GREAT...
EMPEROR.



IT'S
HARD TO
THINK ABOUT
IT WITHOUT
CHUCKLING,
RIGHT?

IT FEELS
LIKE JUST
YESTERDAY YOU
WERE YELLING AT
ME FOR READING
COMICS IN THE
BATHROOM.



OUR LIVES HAVE
CERTAINLY TAKEN
A FEW TURNS I
NEVER COULD
HAVE EXPECTED.
THAT IS FOR
SURE.

SOME
GOOD...
SOME...

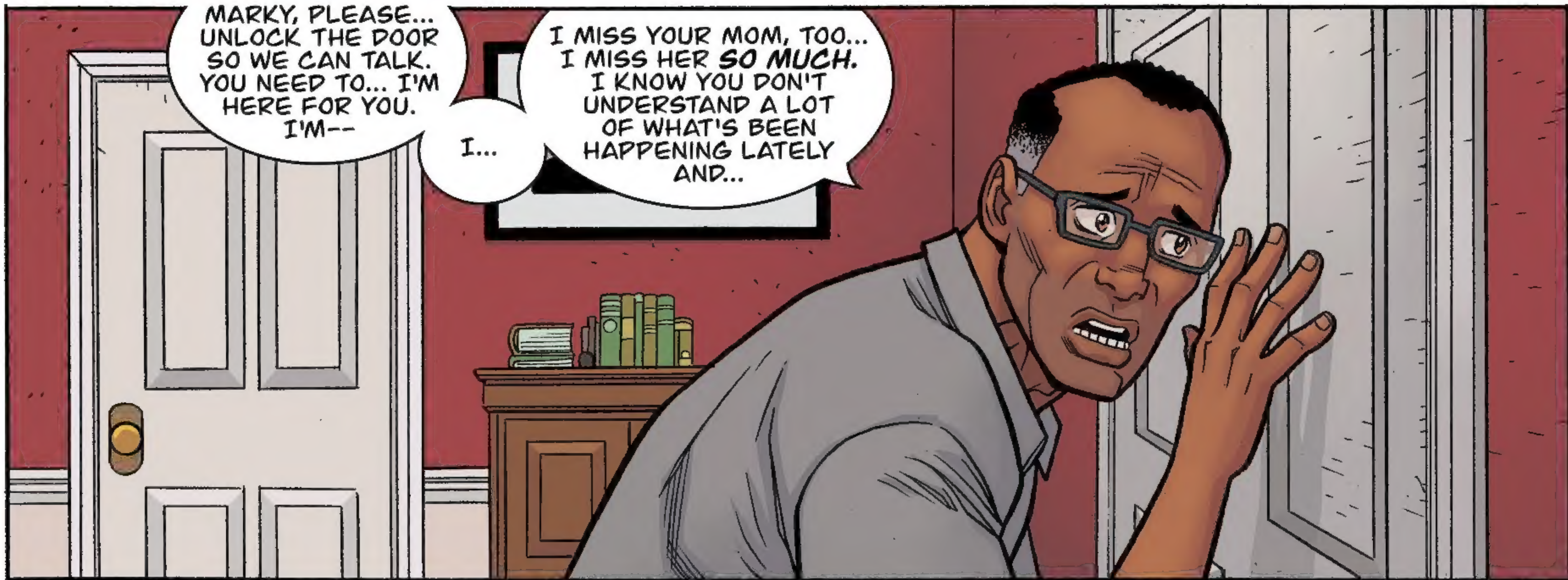
NOT
SO
GOOD.



YOUR
FATHER... HE
WOULD BE
SO PROUD OF
YOU, SON.

...

I KNOW.







I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW. I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM TALESRIA FOR FAR TOO LONG. IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO A NEW ERA... ONE FREE OF THE THREAT OF THRAGG.

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. THIS COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

I REMEMBER HOW YOU GOT ME INVOLVED...

...

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE THINGS AWKWARD. I SEE THE GOOD IN IT, WHAT YOU DID. I TRULY BELIEVE OLIVER WOULD UNDERSTAND.

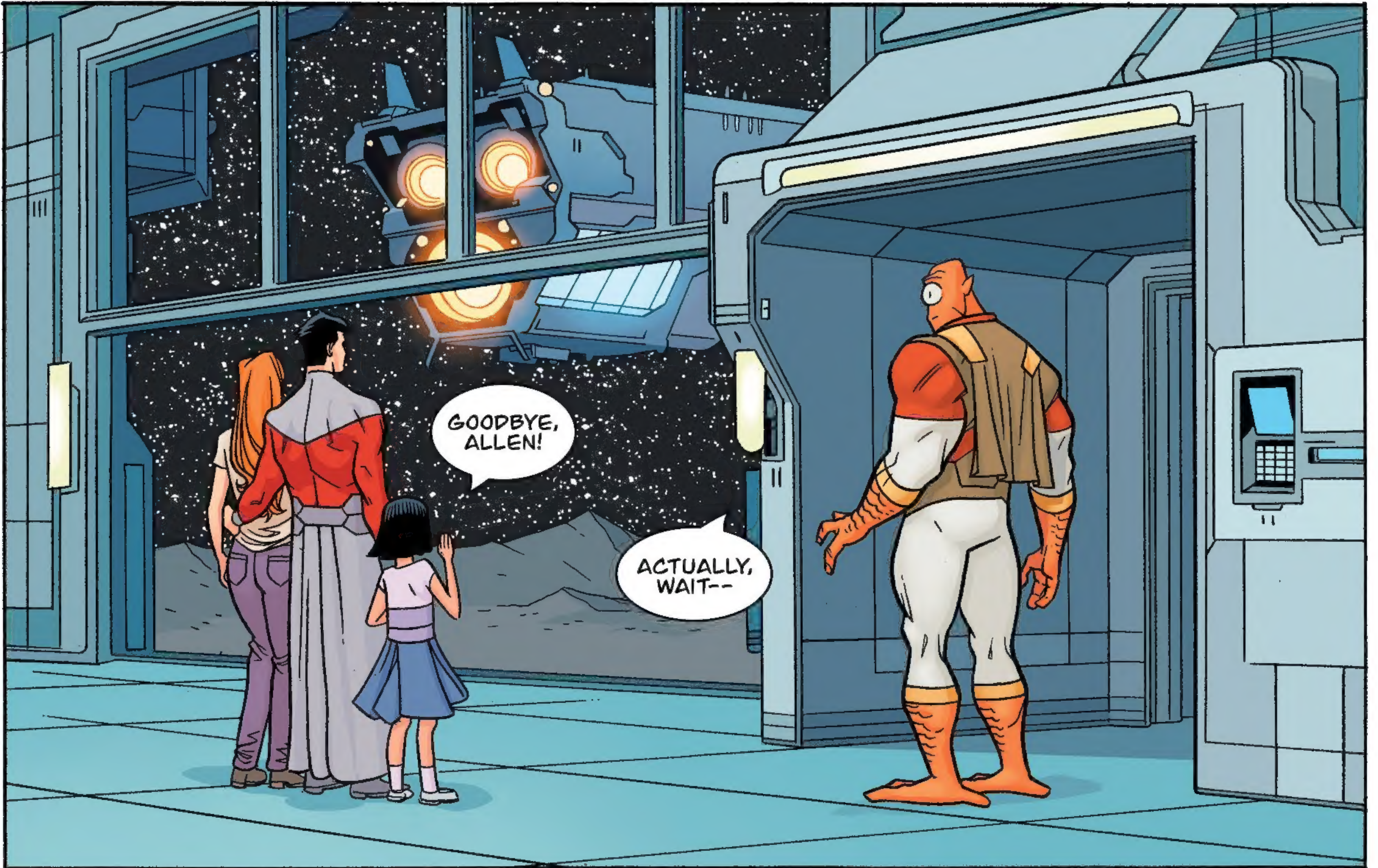
BUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS NEVER GOING TO BE LIKE IT WAS. I JUST... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO BACK TO THAT.

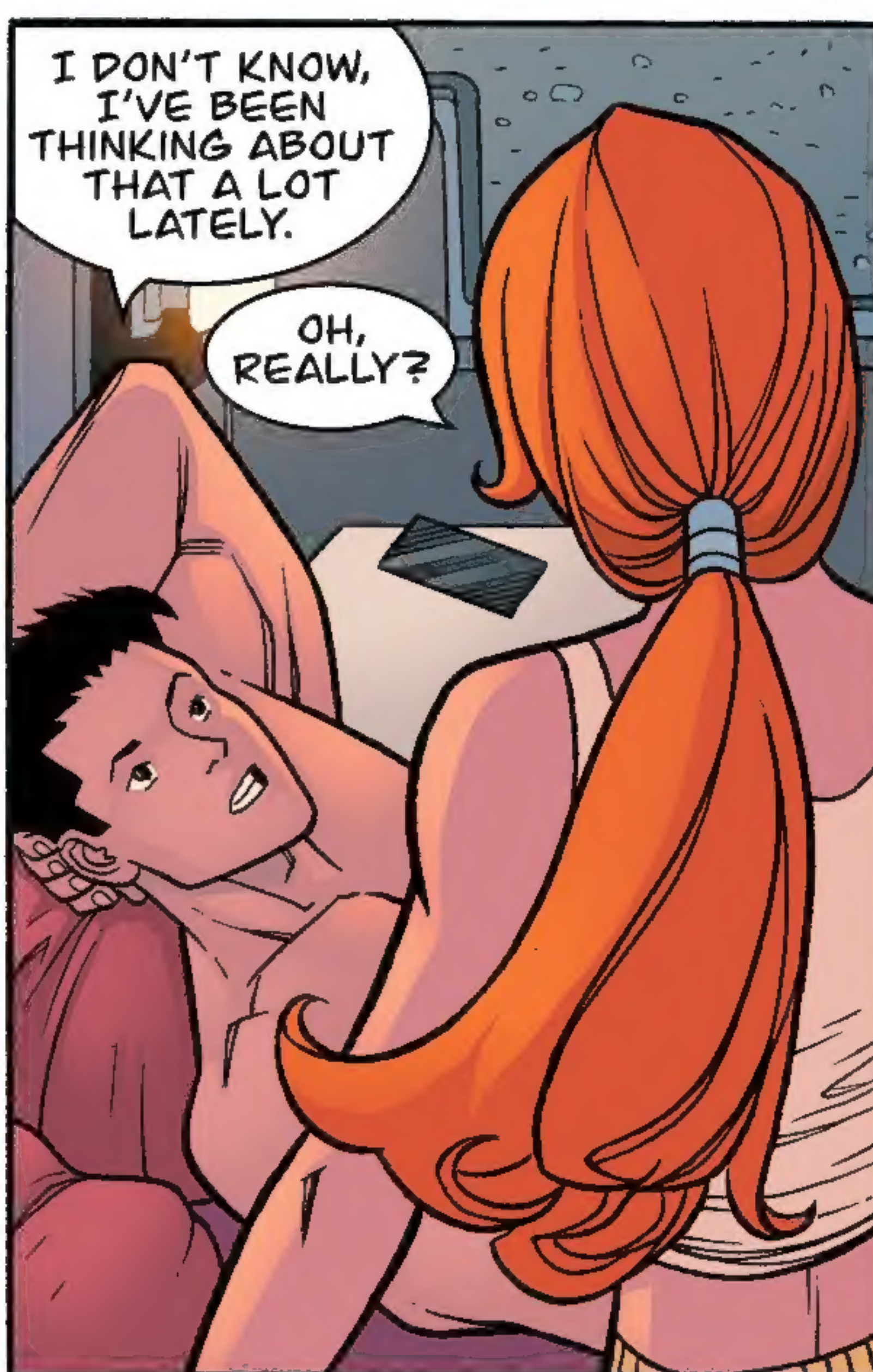
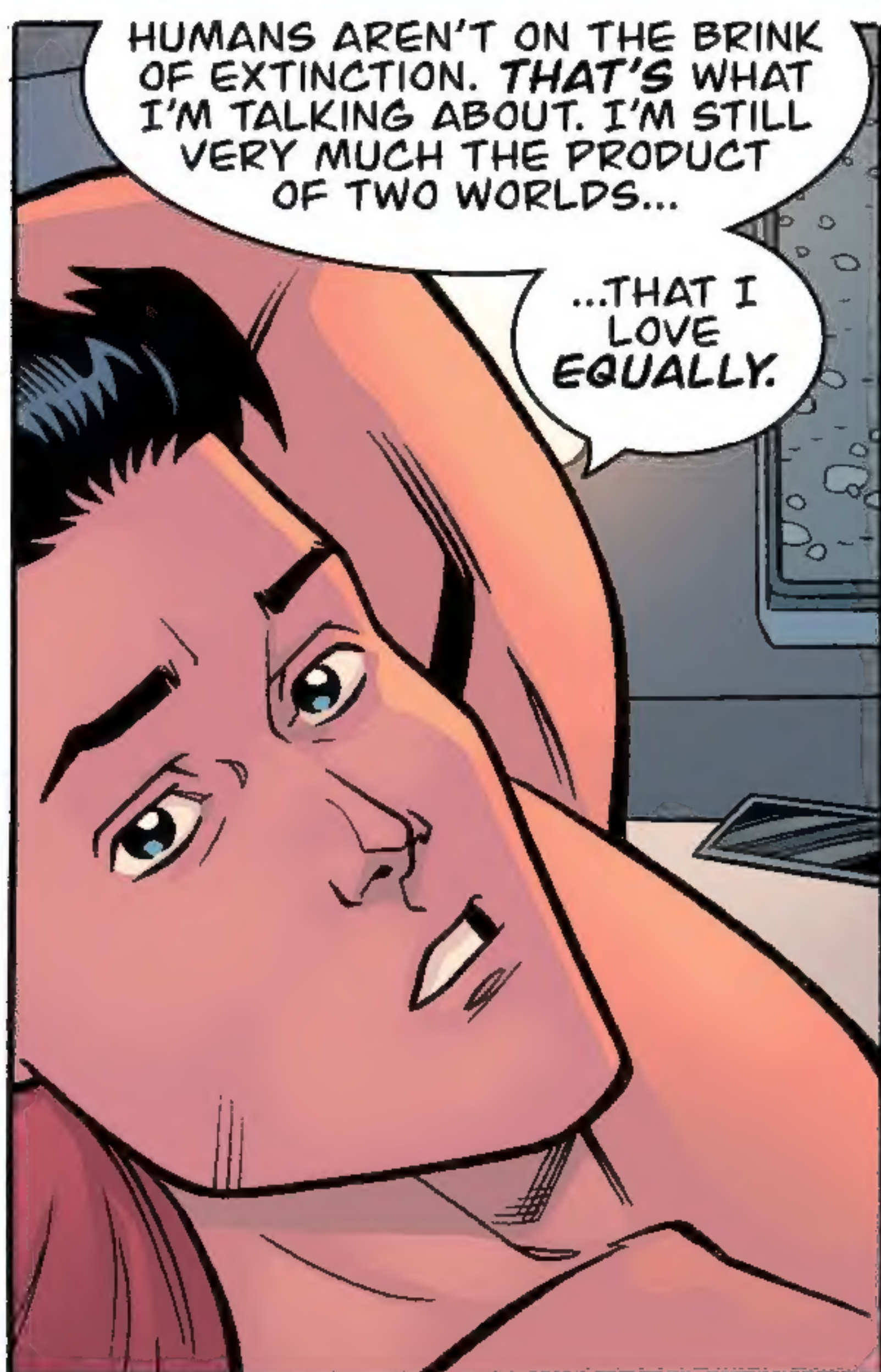
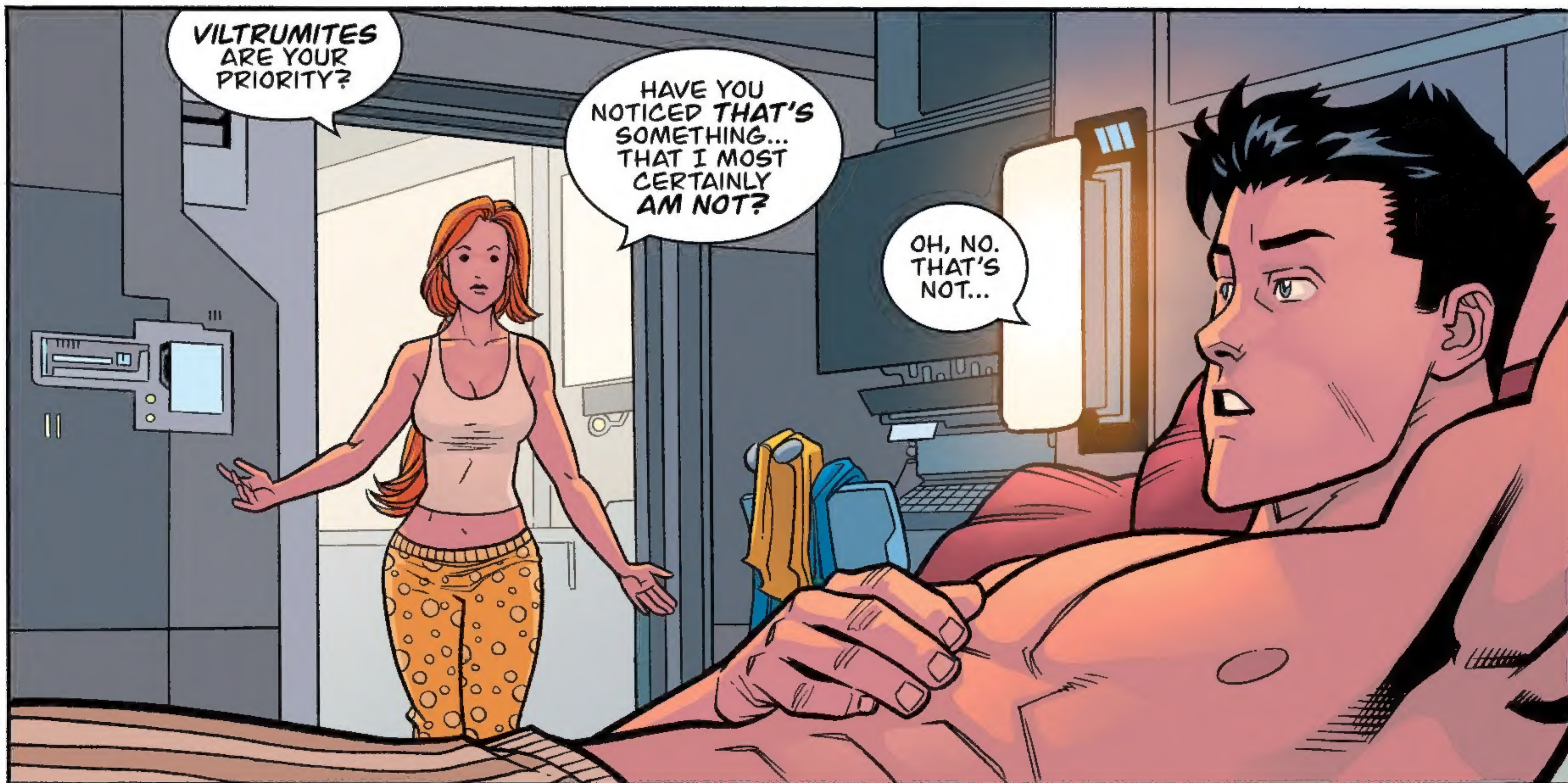
I UNDERSTAND.

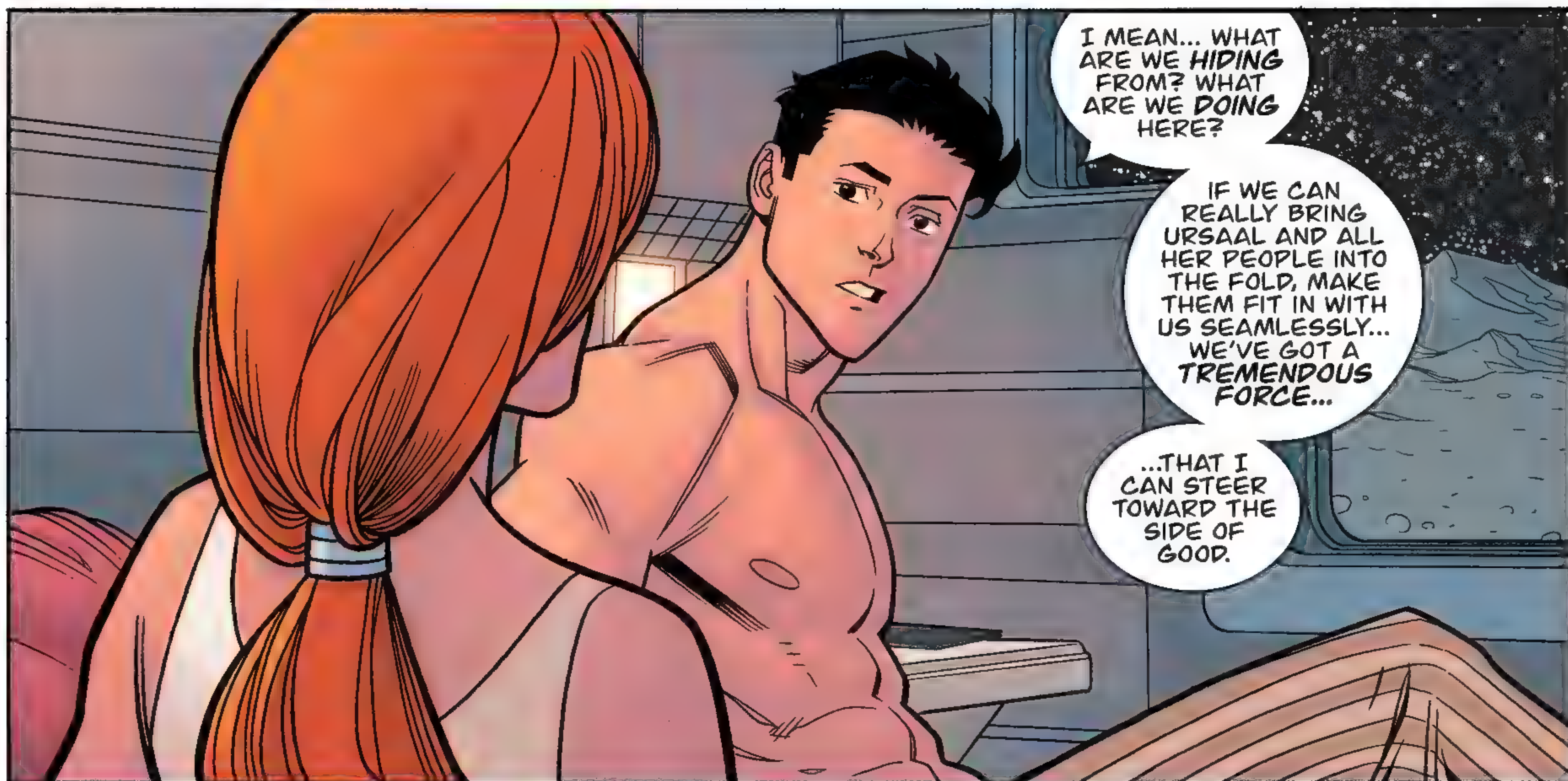
AS LEADER OF THE COALITION... I CAN LIVE WITH THAT SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF MY PEOPLE.

YOU'RE A BETTER LEADER THAN A FRIEND...

...AND THAT'S OKAY. WE'VE HIT THAT AGE WHERE RESPONSIBILITY... IT GETS IN THE WAY.







I MEAN... WHAT ARE WE **HIDING** FROM? WHAT ARE WE **DOING** HERE?

IF WE CAN REALLY BRING **URSAAL** AND ALL HER PEOPLE INTO THE FOLD, MAKE THEM FIT IN WITH US SEAMLESSLY... WE'VE GOT A **TREMENDOUS FORCE**...

...THAT I CAN STEER TOWARD THE SIDE OF GOOD.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

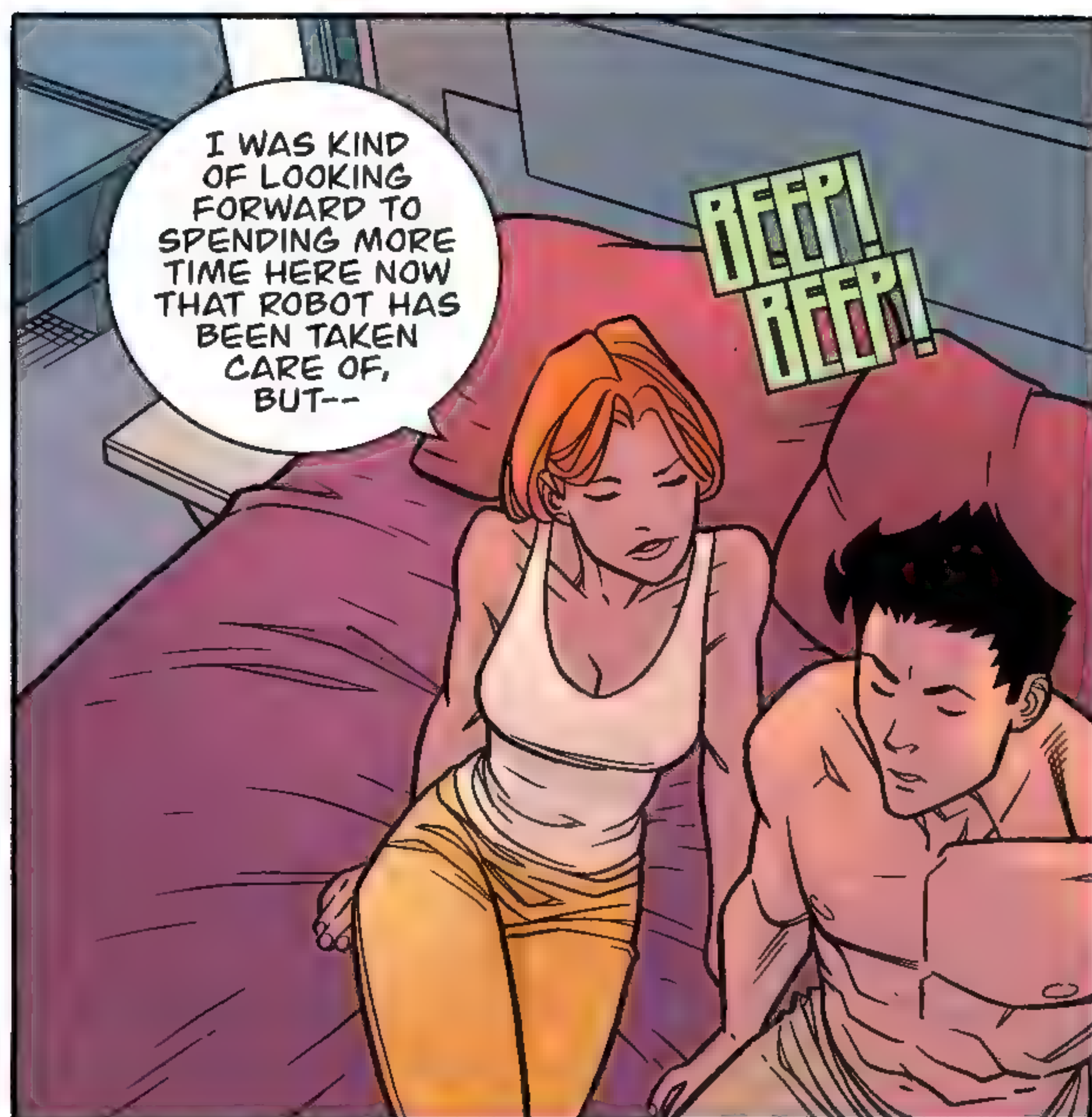


I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING YET. I'M JUST THINKING...

I'M THINKING WE MIGHT BE **WASTED** HERE... WHEN WE'RE NEEDED...



...OUT THERE.



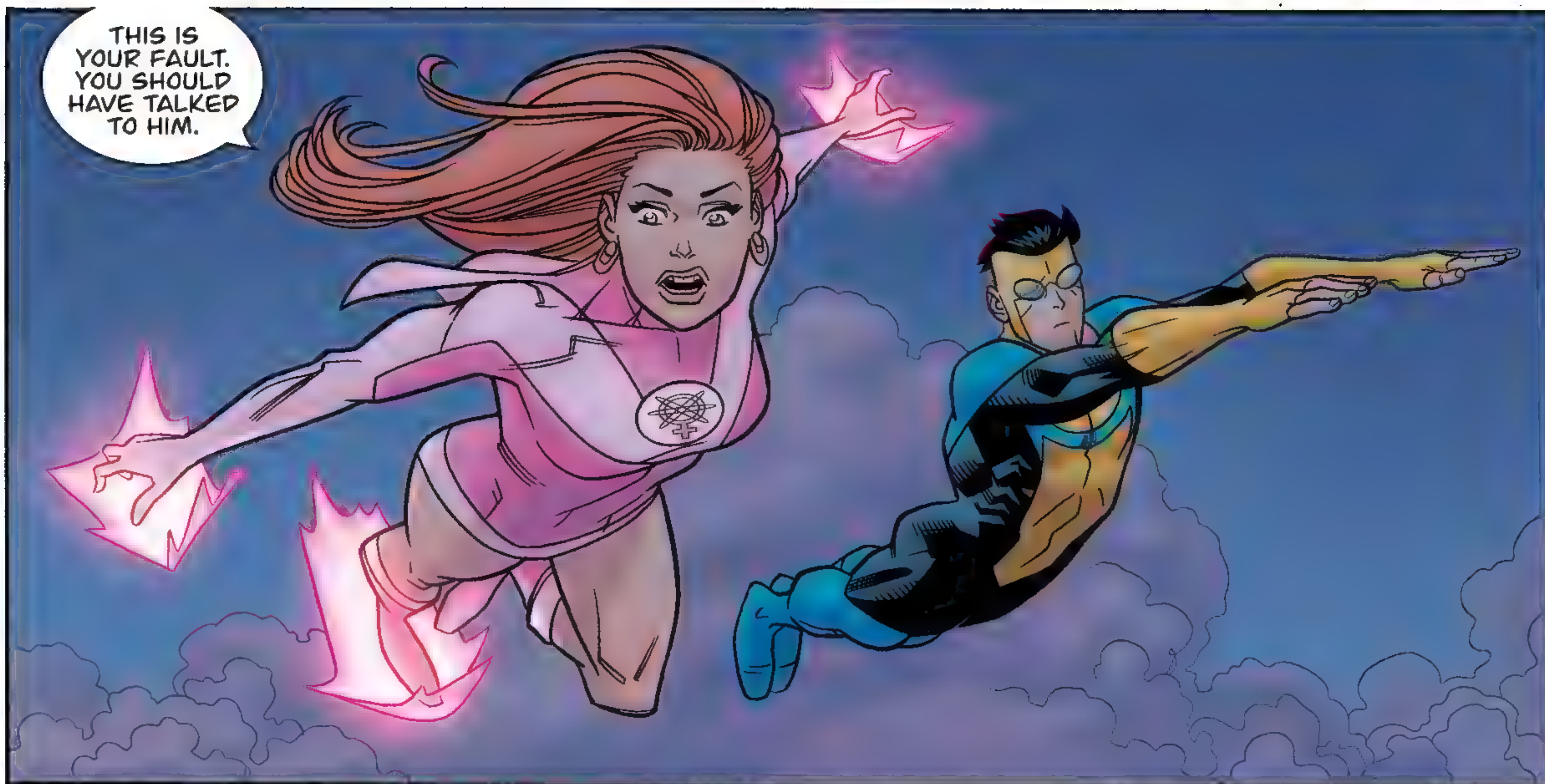
I WAS KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING MORE TIME HERE NOW THAT ROBOT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, BUT--

BEEP! BEEP!



IMMORTAL? WHAT IS IT?

THERE'S A SITUATION THAT I THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO HANDLE PERSONALLY.



THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO HIM.



IT'S COMPLICATED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY. HOW DO I LOOK HIM IN THE EYE AND TELL HIM WHY I WASN'T AROUND? WHY HE DOESN'T KNOW ME... HOW HE WAS CONCEIVED.



WE'VE NEVER TOLD TERRA HOW SHE WAS CONCEIVED.



...



IT'S COMPLICATED. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE'S A VILTRUMITE.

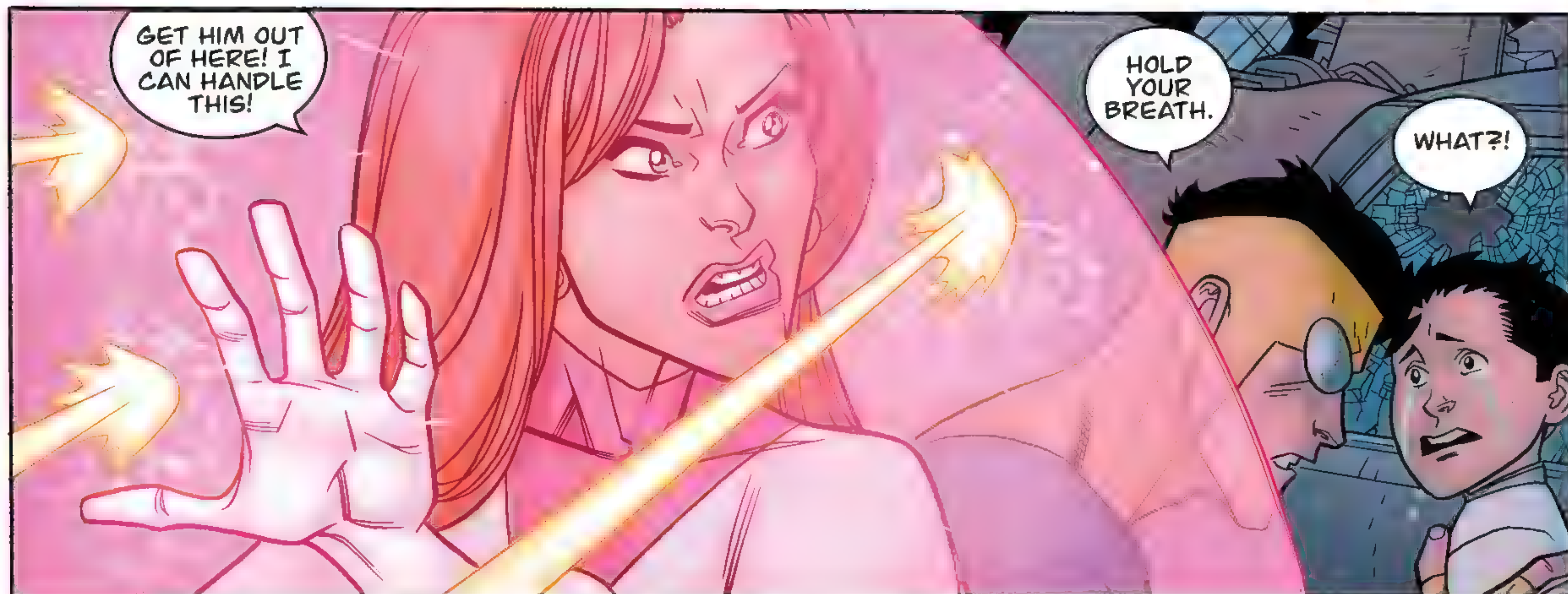
HE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING...



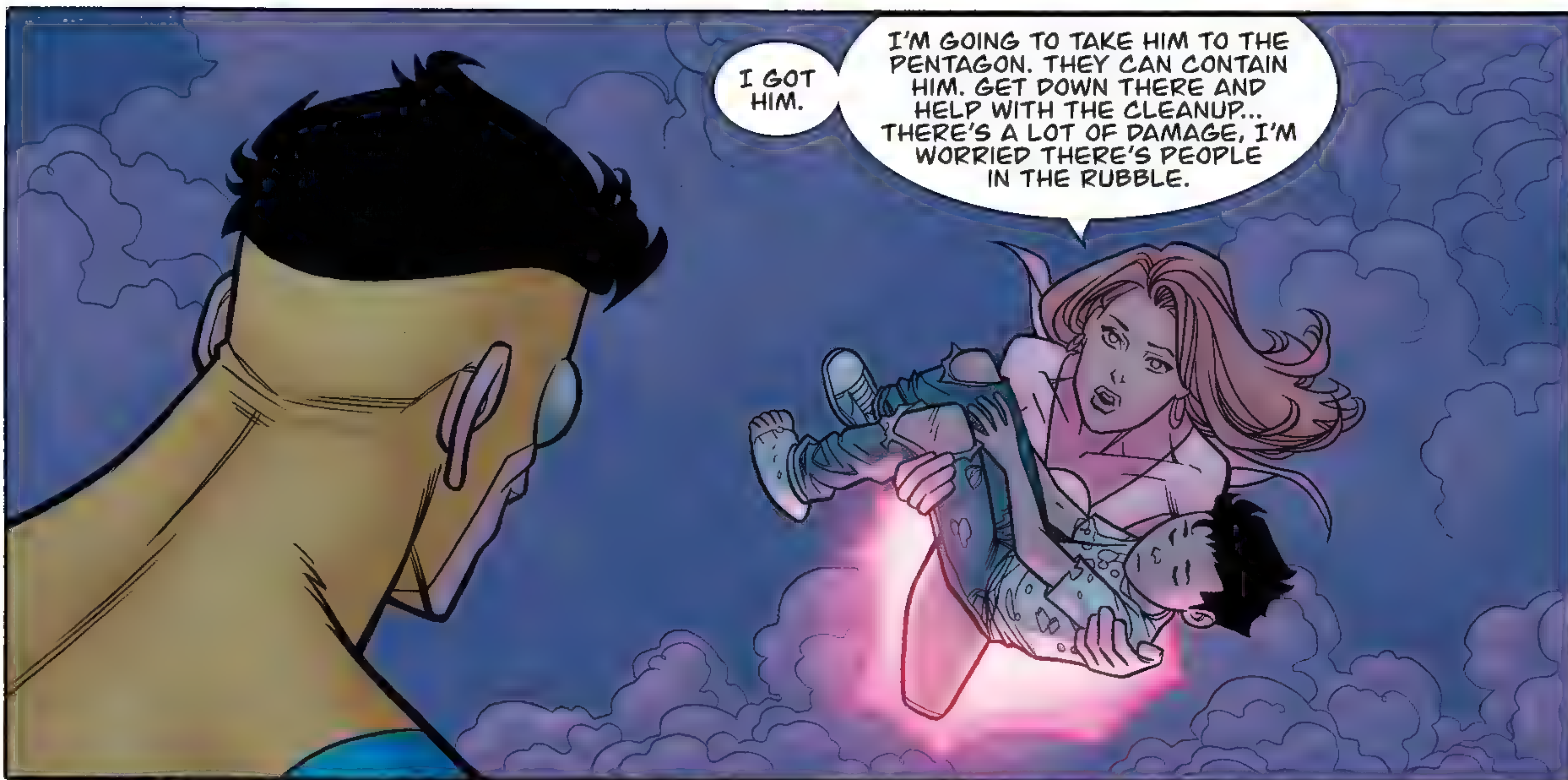
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?!!

ONLY

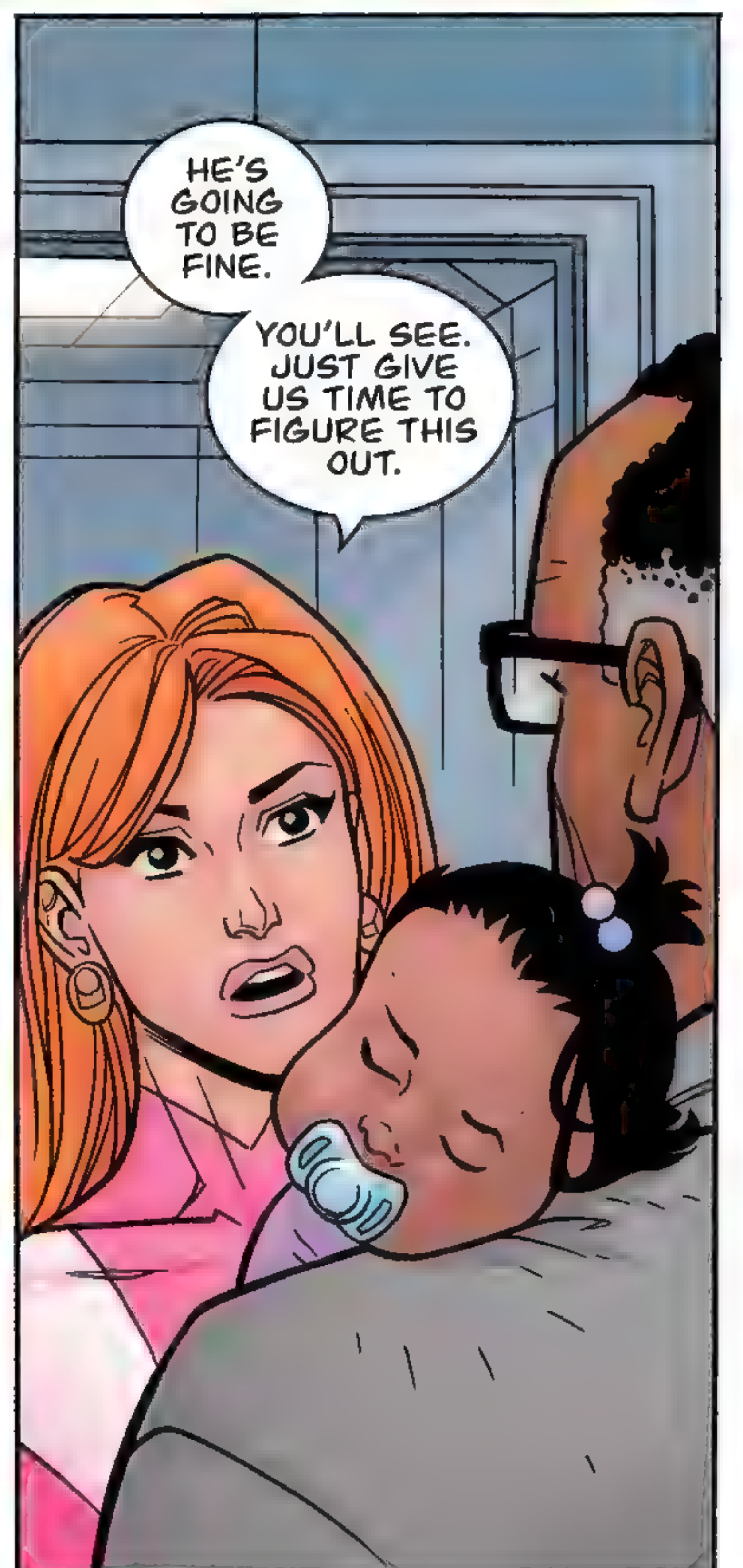
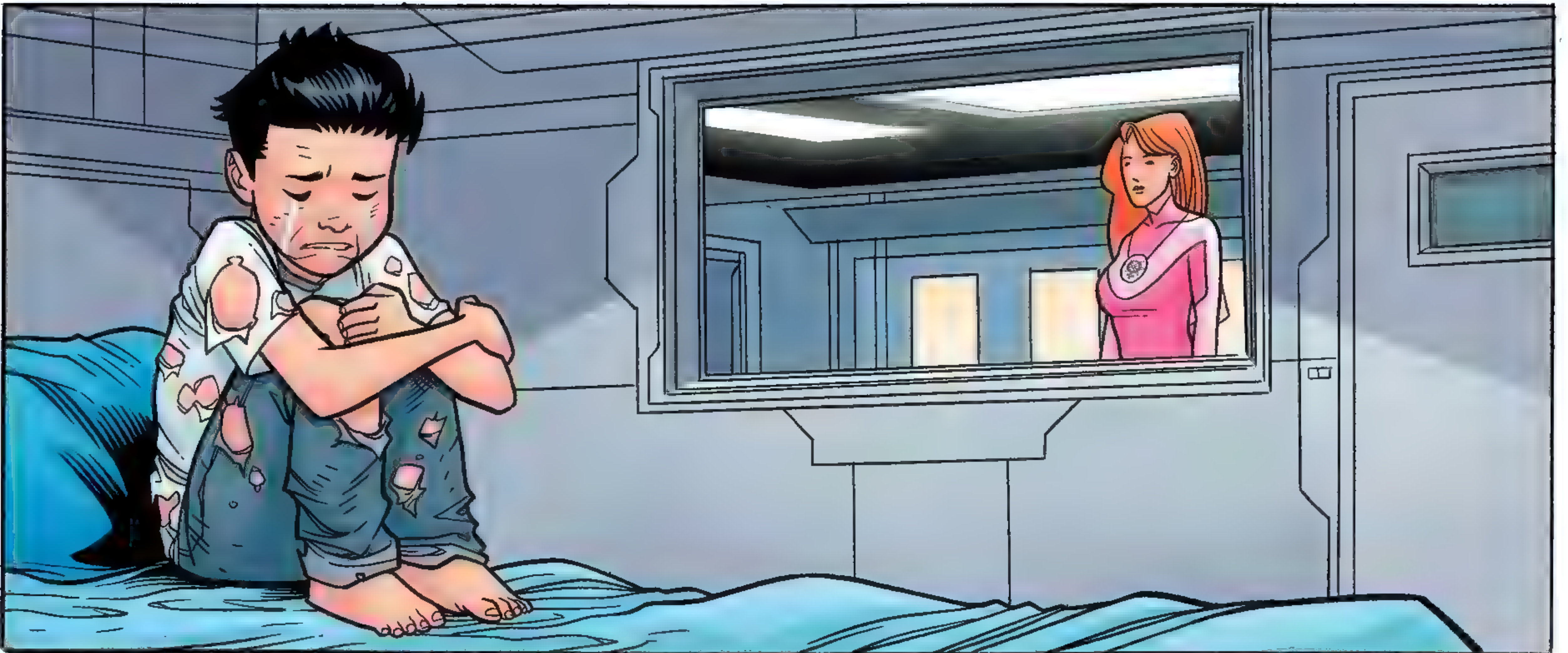
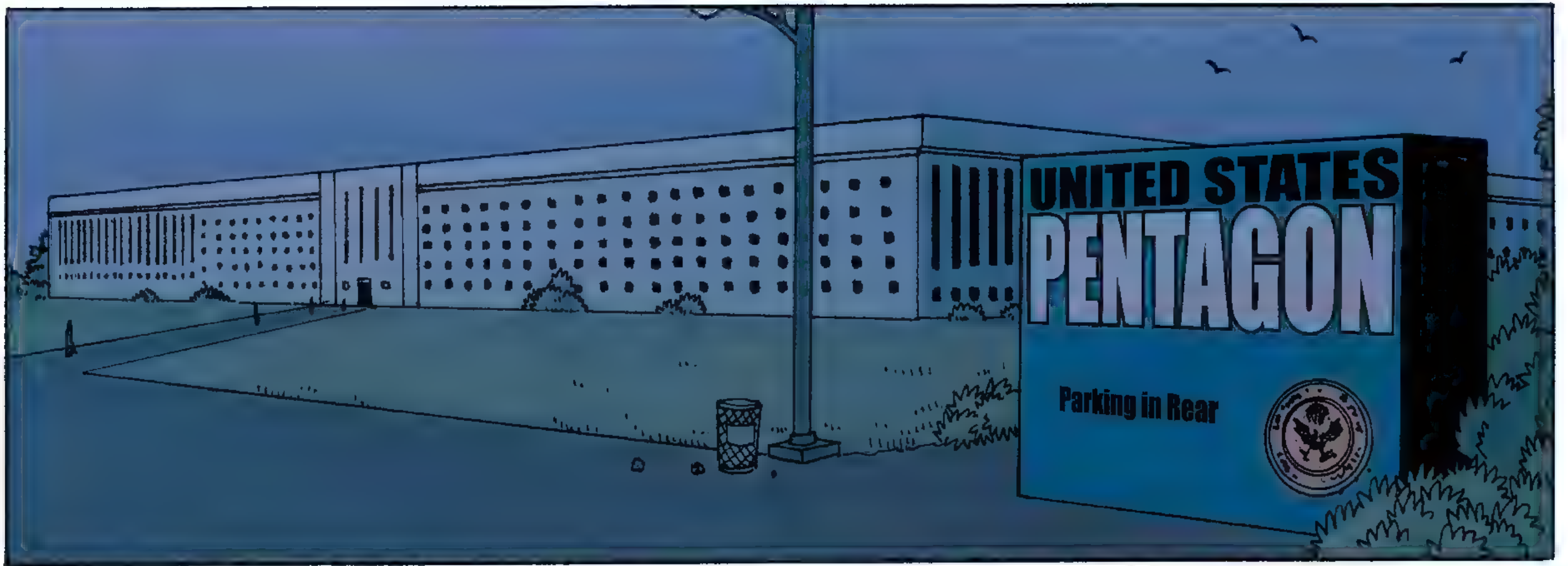
NO
TURN
ON RED











THE VILTRUMITES HAVE TO LEAVE THE PLANET.

THIS INCIDENT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. MARKY IS ONE OF THE FIRST VILTRUMITE CHILDREN TO DEVELOP HIS POWERS.

THE REST ARE TICKING TIME BOMBS WAITING TO GO OFF. WE CAN'T AFFORD THE DISRUPTION THIS COULD CAUSE.

THAT'S ABSURD. NOT EVERY CHILD IS GOING TO REACT THE WAY MARKY DID. WE CAN TRAIN THEM. WE CAN PREPARE THEM. MARKY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE IS A VILTRUMITE.

WE CAN DEVELOP A SYSTEM. WE CAN MAKE IT WORK.

NO. I AGREE WITH REX.

WHAT?!

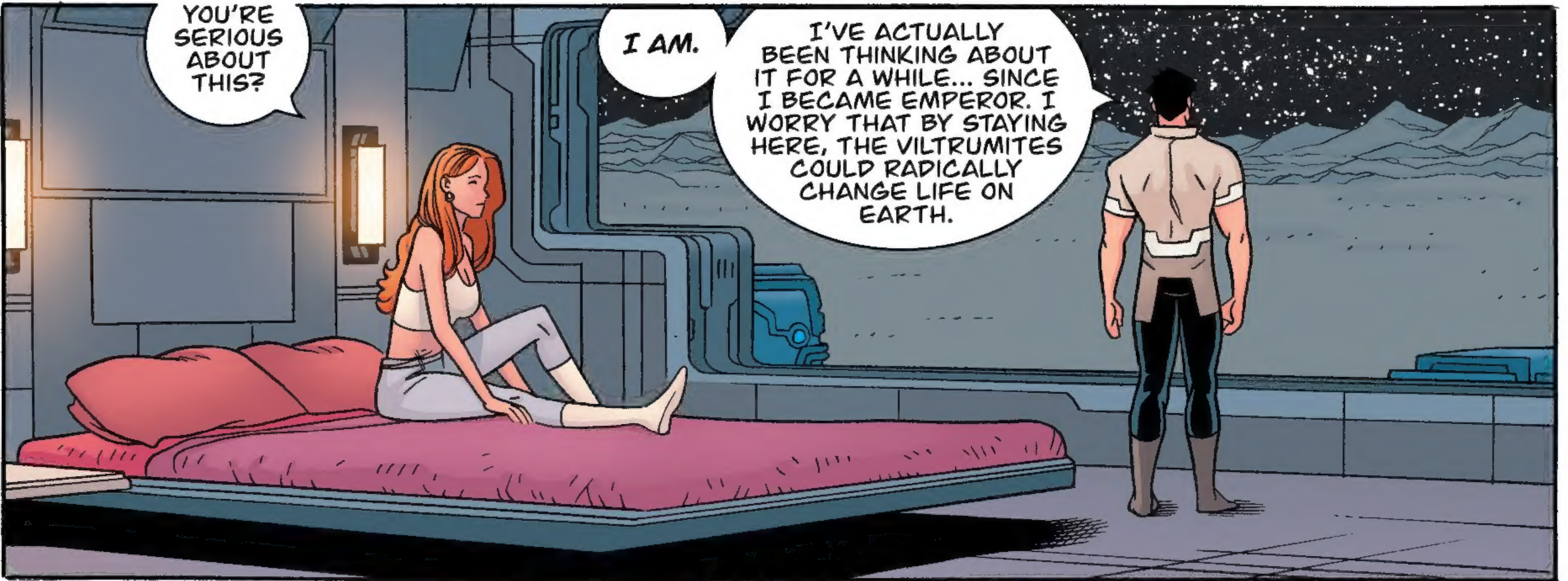
REX HAS ESTABLISHED PEACE HERE. THE IMMORTAL IS GOING TO MAINTAIN THAT, EVEN IMPROVE ON IT.

WITH THRAGG'S OFFSPRING, THERE ARE SO MANY OF US... KEEPING US HERE... IT'S ONLY GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

IT'S AN UNMANAGEABLE SITUATION.

THE TRUTH IS... WE DON'T BELONG HERE.

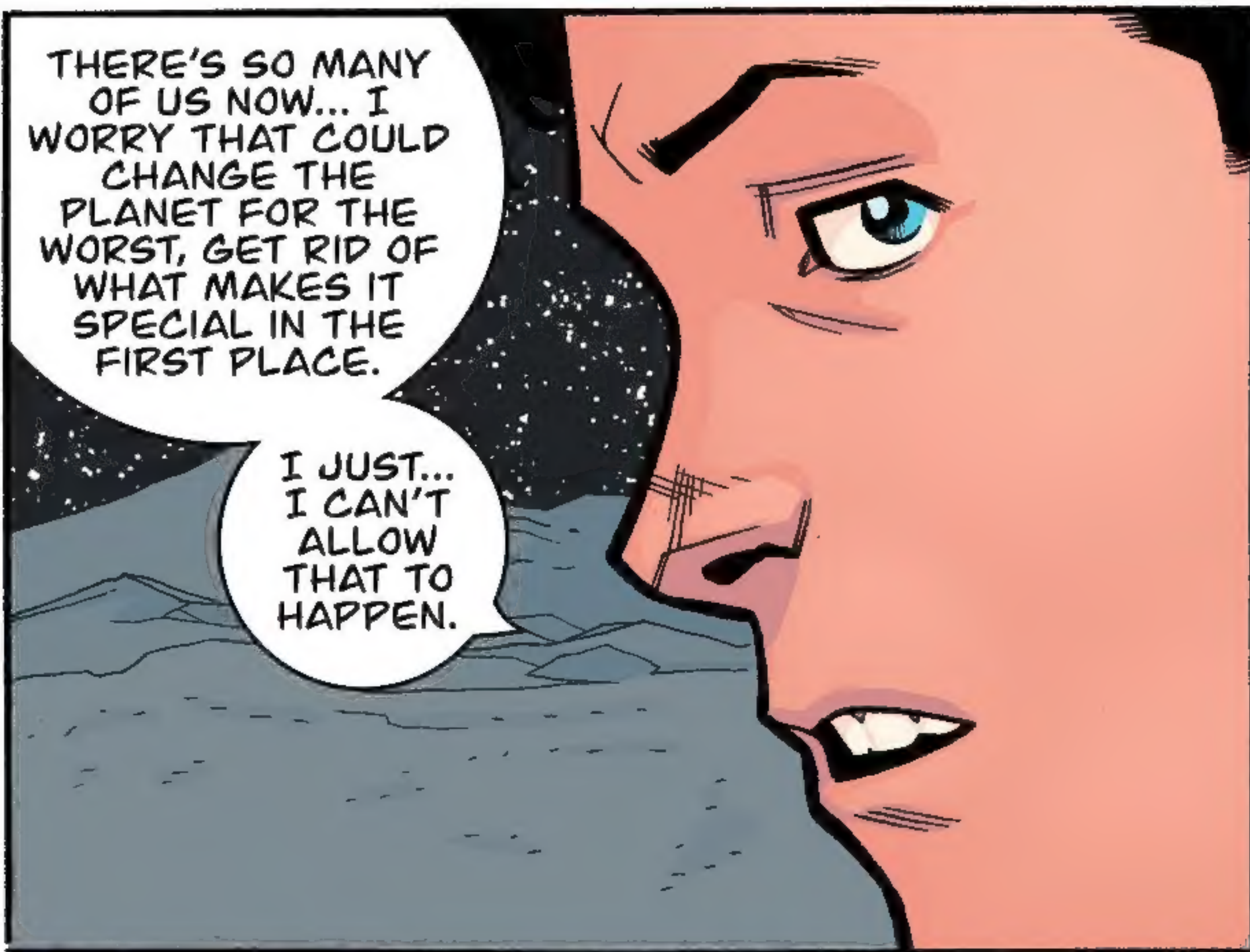
NONE OF US DO.



YOU'RE
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS?

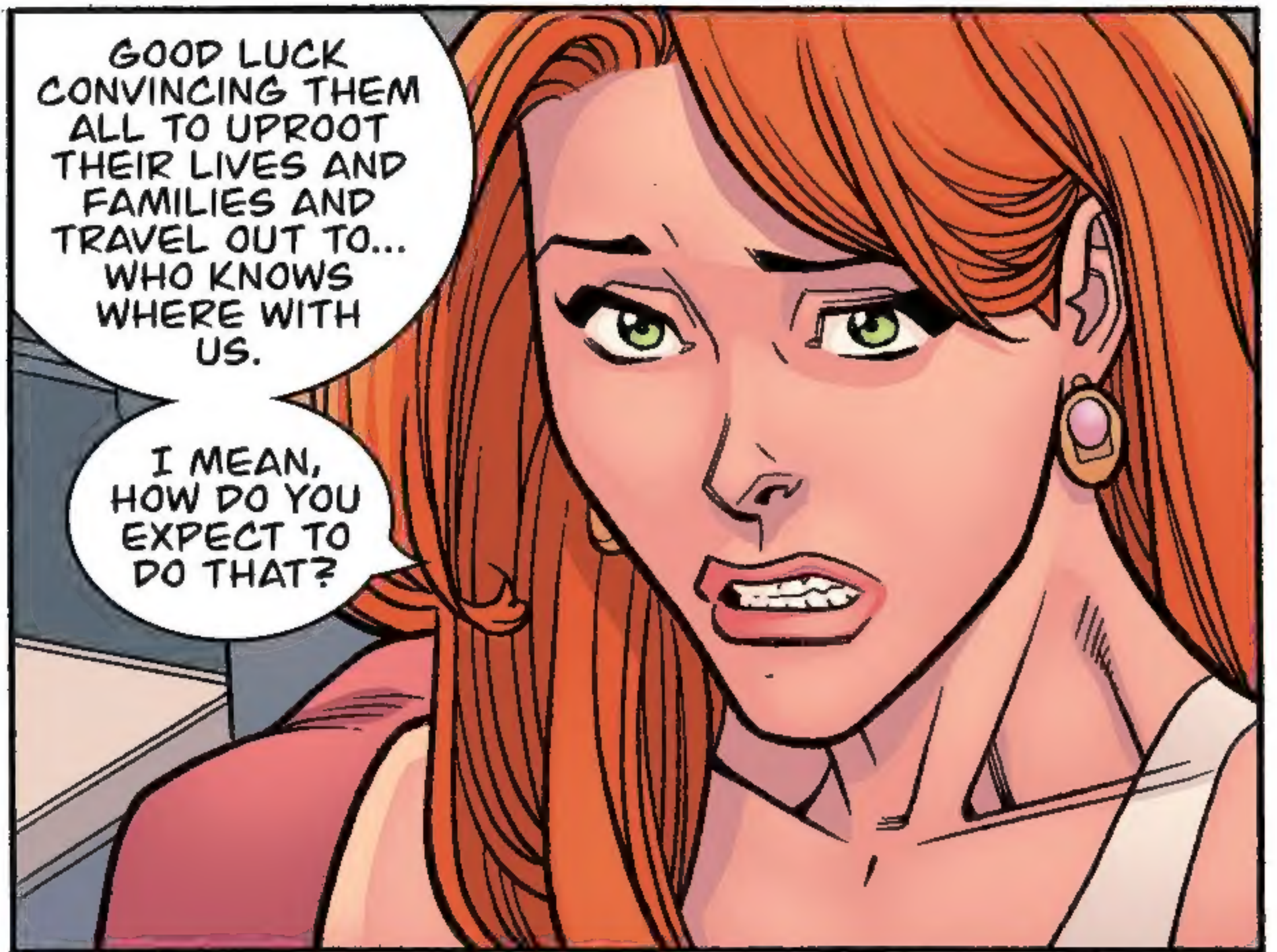
I AM.

I'VE ACTUALLY
BEEN THINKING ABOUT
IT FOR A WHILE... SINCE
I BECAME EMPEROR. I
WORRY THAT BY STAYING
HERE, THE VILTRUMITES
COULD RADICALLY
CHANGE LIFE ON
EARTH.



THERE'S SO MANY
OF US NOW... I
WORRY THAT COULD
CHANGE THE
PLANET FOR THE
WORST, GET RID OF
WHAT MAKES IT
SPECIAL IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

I JUST...
I CAN'T
ALLOW
THAT TO
HAPPEN.



GOOD LUCK
CONVINCING THEM
ALL TO UPROOT
THEIR LIVES AND
FAMILIES AND
TRAVEL OUT TO...
WHO KNOWS
WHERE WITH
US.

I MEAN,
HOW DO YOU
EXPECT TO
DO THAT?



I'M THEIR
EMPEROR.

I'LL
JUST
EMP...

...ER...

...OR...
THEM.

I WAS
TRYING A
THING
THERE. IT
DIDN'T
WORK.



UM...
MARK?

SCOTT,
RIGHT?
WHAT CAN
I DO FOR
YOU?

I'M
SORRY, I
DON'T WANT
TO CAUSE
ANY
TROUBLE...

...BUT
MARKY,
MOLLY AND
ME... WE'RE
NOT GOING
WITH YOU.



WRITE US AT INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

One issue left. That’s all we got. It’s more than double-sized (at 48 incredible pages!), with half being done by Ryan and half by Cory. I think you’ll love it; it’s a beautiful send-off to Mark Grayson and company. Maybe if the guys never finish this issue, we’ll never have to say goodbye?

With the end in sight, we’ve been getting more and more letters from passionate and devoted fans, many of whose lives have changed as much as Mark’s over that same period of time. I think we’ll have more space to do a Penvincipals grand finale, where we squeeze in as many as we can. So cherish these, folks.

I’m too upset to make a funny/interesting lead-in comment before we get to the letters. Look past me, look past me and go straight to the letters.

I just read issue 141. While Nolan’s final scene with Mark was strong, the recent deaths have been watered down for me on account of the series ending. The deaths of lesser characters throughout the book (Battle Beast, Dinosaurus, Stedman, etc.) had more heft because I knew as I continued escaping to this world that those characters would be gone forever. However, the housecleaning of major characters recently (Oliver, Thragg, and Nolan) has had less of an impact since what I’m really mourning is the death of the series. There will not be time to miss the newly departed nor feel the weight of their deaths because the story is over.

If you’d indulge a peek under the hood, I’m curious how many of the recent deaths were preordained and how many are write-offs used as a clean way to end a character arc? I feel like Anissa would be alive if the series were to continue; there seems to be a lot of compelling story around her that could be mined.

In any case, thanks for creating my favorite superhero book. When I picked up issue one 15-ish years ago, I didn’t expect the series to last long. Then, when the book soared past issue 100, I never imagined it ending. Please launch volume two in the future.

Cheers,
Adam

I do agree with you, Adam, that when you know a series is ending... the character deaths have less impact. When watching Breaking Bad’s final season (spoilers), I expected Hank to die... so his death had no impact for me. That’s just a byproduct of a series ending. Were this storyline, “The End of All Things”, just another storyline and nothing was changed other than the fact that #144 wouldn’t be the final issue... I think people would be losing their minds over Oliver, Thragg. Nolan and Anissa all dying around the same time. Because of that, I’m hoping it’s more interesting who DOESN’T die.

To answer your question... I wrote these stories knowing they were the end, and I’ve had this end planned for YEARS. Planning these events and where they lead are part of the reason this series IS ending. So yes, Anissa was ALWAYS meant to die this way. Same with Nolan, same with Thragg. I’ve known Mark kills Thragg in a fight on the sun almost since Thragg existed as a character. So this isn’t a case of me having plans for Anissa and changing them when I “found out” the series was ending. This has been planned for a long, long time.

I hope the story is still enjoyable despite the lessened impacts of the deaths.

Dear Robert and Co.

I’ve never written in to you guys or anyone before, but then again I’ve never been brought to tears because of a comic book before either. I was reading issue 141 and I started to think about how long I have been reading this book and The Walking Dead (I started reading both around 10 years ago, so that puts me right at 15). While I was reading and thinking back I realized I have never committed to any comic as much as I have Invincible. I would wait every month for each new issue and I connected so well with mark, and now it’s ending. To

top it all off I turn the page and the one and only Omni-Man meets his end. So for the first time ever I am not ashamed to say I cried a little reading the t of this issue. Robert you are an amazing writer and although I am sad it’s ending, I have loved reading and admiring everything about your book, both the writing and the amazing art.

Thanks for everything,
Justin Mata
Houston, TX

P.S. I don’t think you can top Invincible or TWD but I sure hope you prove me wrong.

Challenge accepted! We’ll be talking about it a lot more in the coming months, but Robert has created a new series with Lorenzo De Felici: OBLIVION SONG. It comes out March 2018. While TWD and INVINCIBLE will always be the measuring sticks for new series, OBLIVION SONG is shaping up to be pretty damn special in its own right. You may have already seen Lorenzo’s INVINCIBLE #140 variant, and he blows me away the more I work with him.

Thanks for writing in, Justin. It’s odd for me to think about how someone could start this book at 15 years old and be 25 years old when the book ends. I mean, I guess that’s what happens when you do a project for 15 years (oh, dear), but it still amazes me. My life has changed in insane, dramatic ways since I started working on this series, and yet it doesn’t seem like FIFTEEN years have passed. So it always takes me by surprise when people say these things to me, but it’s flattering to hear that the book is such a huge part of people’s lives. Makes me regret ending the series a little... there, I said it.

BUT YOU’RE ALL GOING TO LOVE OBLIVION SONG!

(Which, to be 100% clear, I’ve been working on with Lorenzo for nearly two years. Its release in March, so close to this series ending, is a coincidence more than anything. I was always going to be doing OBLIVION SONG because I will always be doing new projects. It’s not an either/or thing! I didn’t watch Adventure Time at first because I’d heard a bunch of people left The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack to do that show. It made me despise Adventure Time at first... and that was stupid and apparently not even a remotely true story. Don’t be an idiot like me.)

We will see you in January for the FINAL ISSUE of INVINCIBLE. What happens in the last issue of the greatest superhero comic book in the universe? Don’t you just want to be surprised?!

-Sean Mackiewicz

I think you’re all going to be surprised, hopefully... pleasantly. But ending a series is hard! I’ll take my lumps! At the very least, Ryan, Cory, Nathan and Rus have all done amazing work, so those parts will be top notch. I’m really, REALLY excited for you all to see what we’ve put together to wrap this whole thing up.

But also sad. And excited! But also sad.

(This is weird for me--BUT EXCITING!)

-Robert Kirkman

NEXT ISSUE



“THE END OF ALL THINGS,” Conclusion

Final issue. Everything since issue one has been building to this. Nothing can prepare you.

