

THE VILTRUMITE WAR

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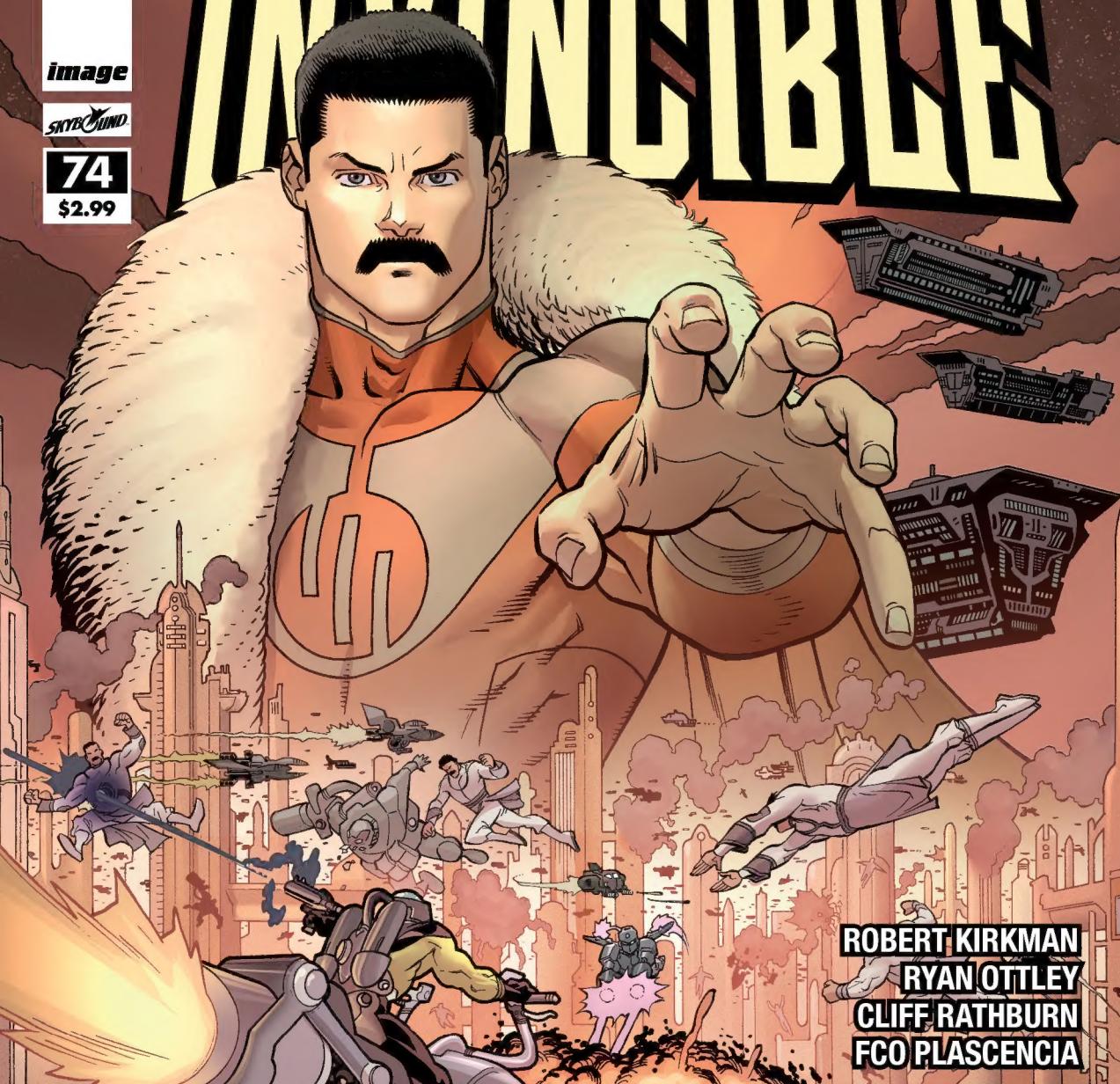
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SKYBORN

74

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INVINCIBLE



ROBERT KIRKMAN
RYAN OTTLEY
CLIFF RATHBURN
FCO PLASCENCIA



image COMICS PRESENTS

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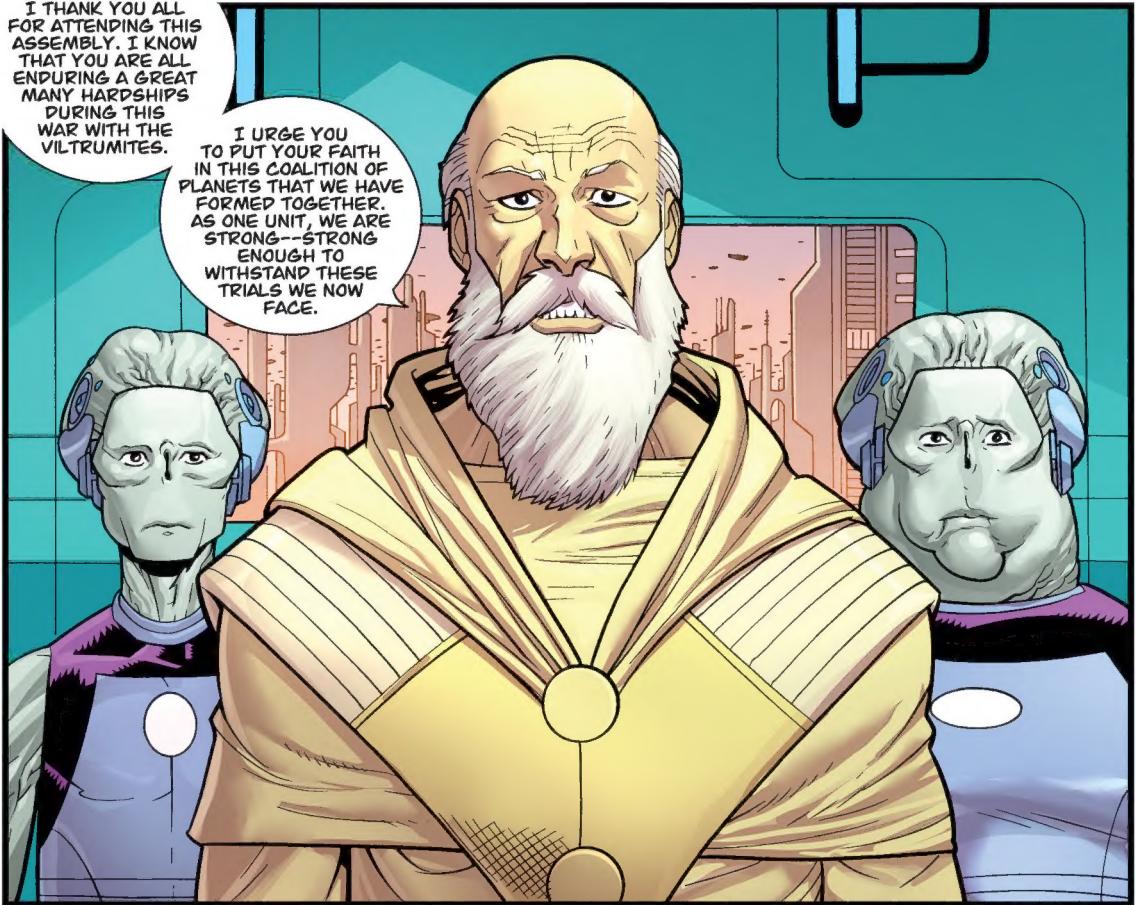
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TALESCRIA.



I THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING THIS ASSEMBLY. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALL ENDURING A GREAT MANY HARDSHIPS DURING THIS WAR WITH THE VILTRUMITES.

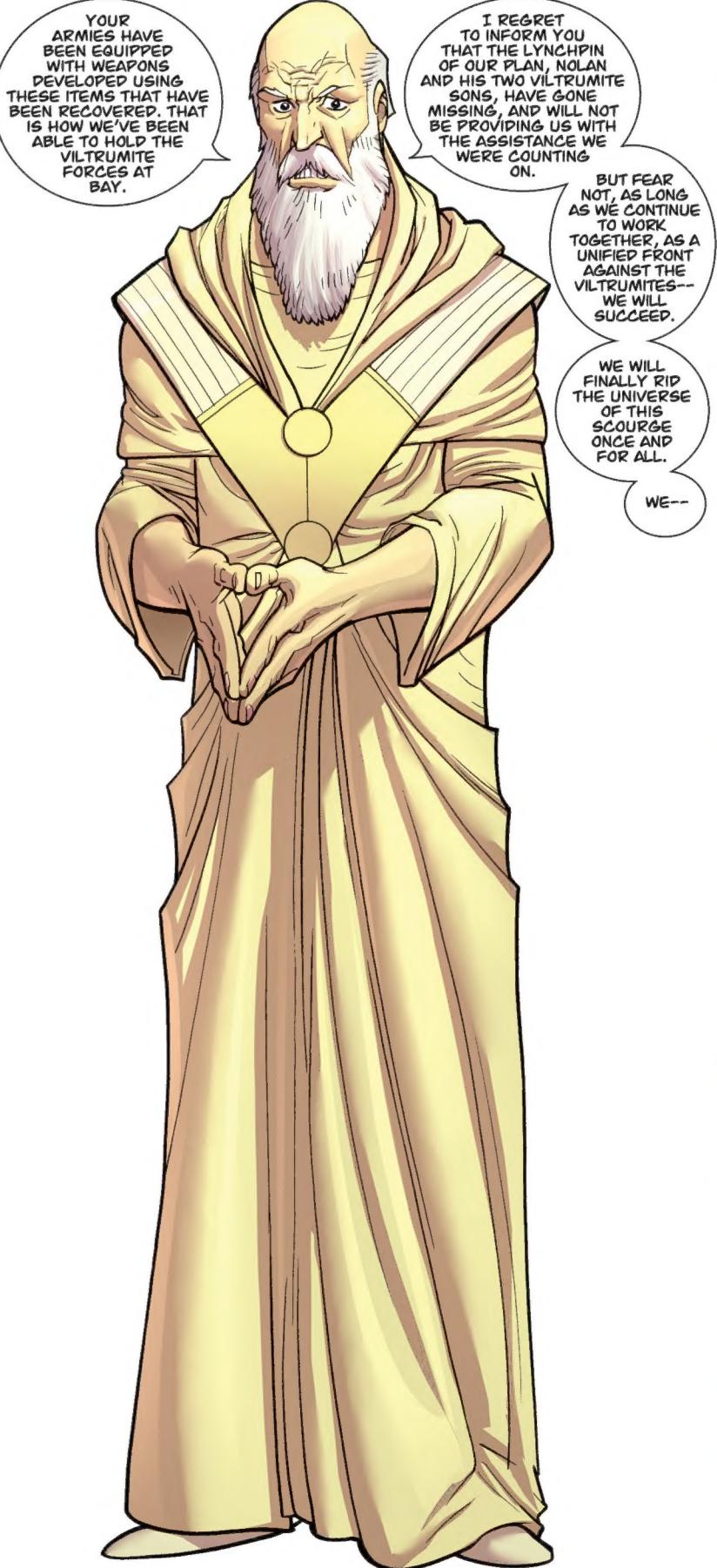
I URGE YOU TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN THIS COALITION OF PLANETS THAT WE HAVE FORMED TOGETHER. AS ONE UNIT, WE ARE STRONG--STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THESE TRIALS WE NOW FACE.



I KNOW SOME OF YOU HAVE QUESTIONED MY JUDGMENT IN STARTING THIS VILTRUMITE WAR... I ASSURE YOU OUR TIME TO STRIKE WAS UPON US.

I CAN NOW REVEAL TO YOU THAT THE VILTRUM AGENT KNOWN AS NOLAN HAS DEFECTED AND WAS WORKING WITH US, GATHERING ITEMS KNOWN TO BE CAPABLE OF INJURING VILTRUMITES.

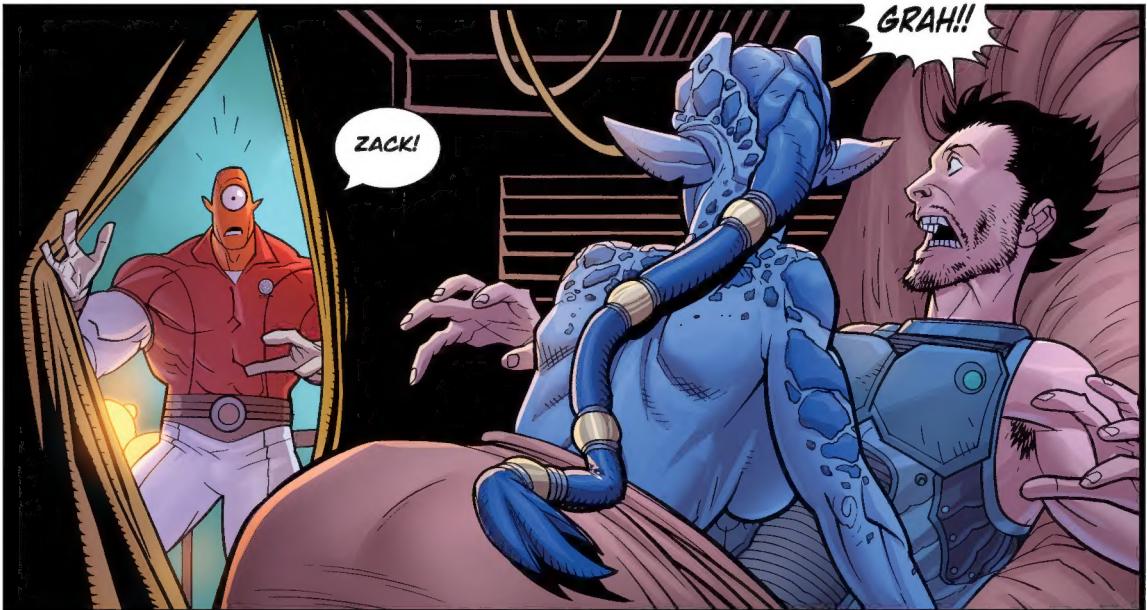




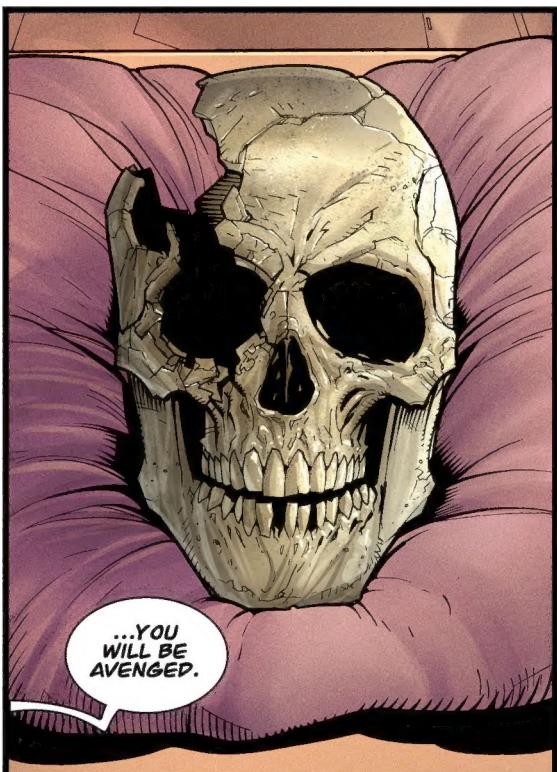
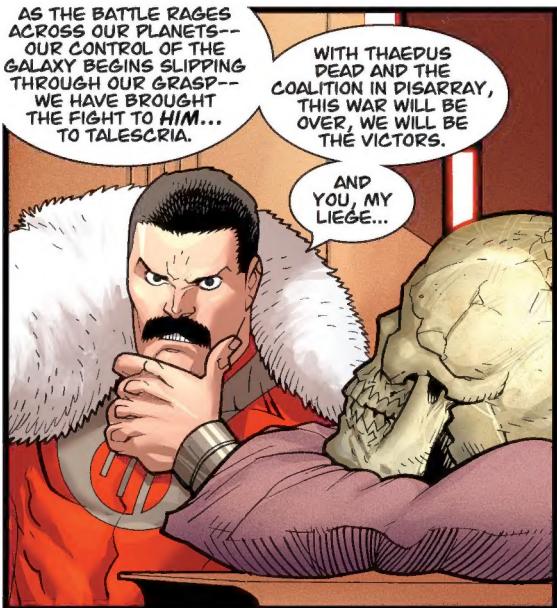
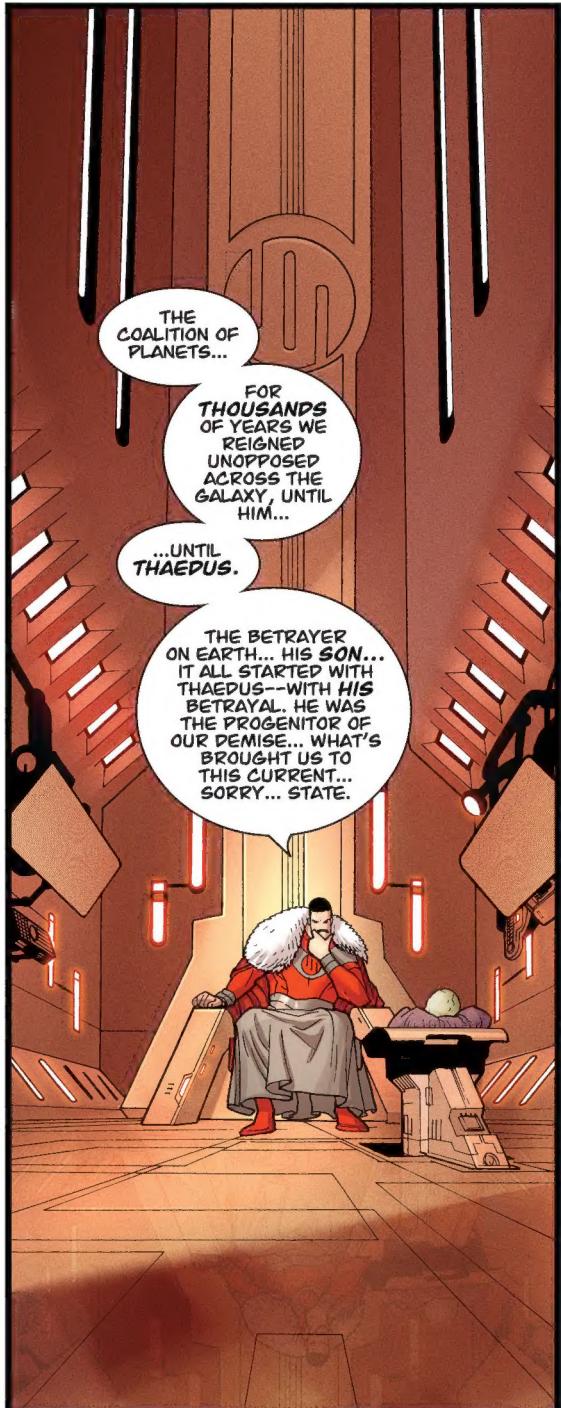








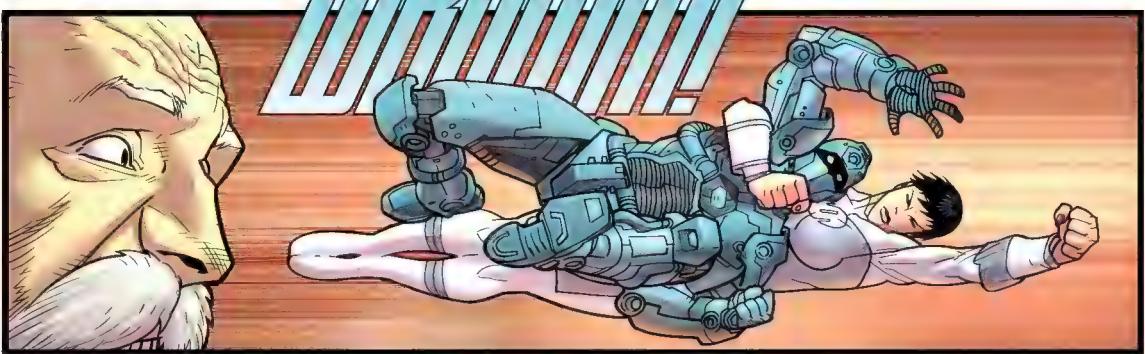












I'LL SEE YOUR
WEAK BODY
SPILL THROUGH
THE SEAMS
OF YOUR
TECHNOLOGY,
GELDARIAN!

EXTERIOR PRESSURE
AT 90% CAPACITY,
BREACH IMMINENT.



FOOLISH UNOPAN,
YOU DEFY US EVEN
AS YOUR BELOVED
COALITION CRUMPLES
AROUND YOU!

DUDE, YOU'RE
CLUELESS--WE'VE
GOT YOUR CRAPPY
EMPIRE ON
THE ROPES!



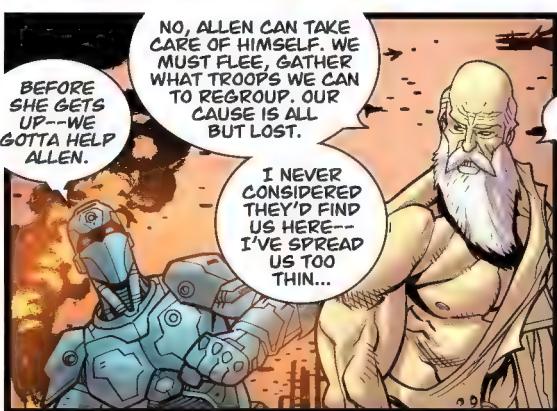
BEFORE
SHE GETS
UP--WE
GOTTA HELP
ALLEN.

NO, ALLEN CAN TAKE
CARE OF HIMSELF. WE
MUST FLEE, GATHER
WHAT TROOPS WE CAN
TO REGROUP, OUR
CAUSE IS ALL
BUT LOST.

I NEVER
CONSIDERED
THEY'D FIND
US HERE--
I'VE SPREAD
US TOO
THIN...

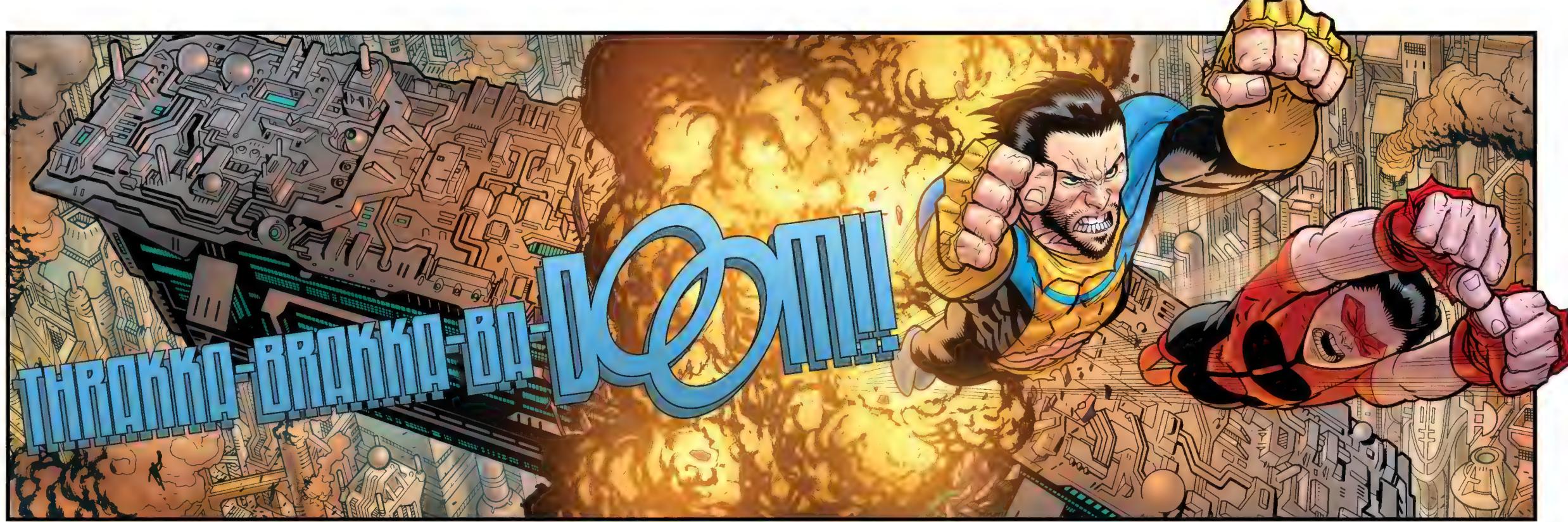
IT'S OVER...

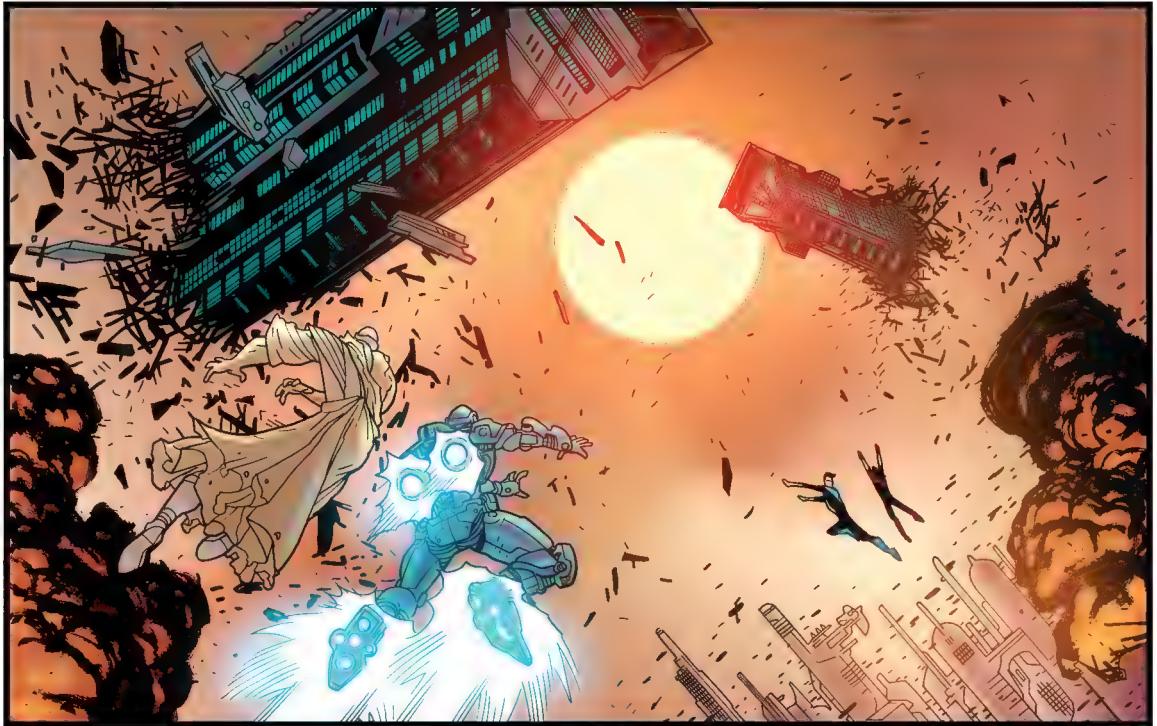
WAIT--
LOOK!











VITRUMITE





LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO! YOU THINK I WANTED THIS? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE WORKING FOR THEM!

ENOUGH.

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE-- YOU BROUGHT THEM HERE, YOU CAUSED THIS DESTRUCTION--YOU'VE BETRAYED US ALL.

YOU WILL PAY FOR THESE CRIMES--BUT FIRST, TELL US WHERE THE VILTRUMITES ARE GOING--RIGHT NOW.



DOESN'T MATTER NOW--DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL.

IT'S TOO LATE, YOU'VE GOT NO HOPE OF WINNING THIS WAR. THEY SAID-- THEY--

IF THIS BATTLE WAS LOST, THEY WERE TO RECONVENE ON THE PLANET VILTRUM TO STAGE A COUNTER-ATTACK.

YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE. THEY'RE ALL GOING THERE--

ALL OF THEM.

IT'S OVER.



WRITE US @

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PENVINCIPALS

Yes! So many beautiful Ryan Ottley pages! And Robert called dibs on all of them! Grr...

(*Not All of them... feel free to contact Ryan Ottley or visit www.splashpageart.com to buy the originals. -Robert*)

We're all recovered from a mighty exciting San Diego Comic-Con, and as you heard at Robert's panel, everyone's putting their best work into this here Viltrumite War, so bear with Robert & co. as they deliver the best superhero battle ever.

Now, onto letters from the best fans ever...

(*Suck up...*)

Dear Penvincipals:

Being a horror films fan myself, I try to see as many films involving as much blood and guts as possible - and most of the time during the harshest scenes I stay immutable on my seat. What you pulled with Invincible #72 was new to me. You actually managed to shock me to the core, to make me get squeamish - something that tons of gory films failed to do; you did with just four amazingly written/drawn/inked/painted pages. The details! Pieces of ribs flying with the impaling punch! The painful face expressions! Mark going pale! Conquest tongue in the final panel! Utter brilliance.

I think there's something wrong with the entire Invincible team, because during the whole process, no one once said "this is too much," or "this is disgusting."

In fact, I remember Ryan and Robert telling FCO to make things more disgusting (that last page took a few drafts to get to its gore-ific version you know and cringe at today).

So kudos to you guys, not only for yet another brilliant Invincible issue, and for making me go all "Crap! that hurts!" every time I re-read those panels - but for having the... erm... guts to pull something like this, without actually caring what people who complained about a little nose bleeding in previous issues would think about it!

Can't wait to see how all that gets pushed back in! And please, do continue surprising us with your shocking twists.

Gon Fernández

PS: Vamos Argentina, carajo!

¡Qué hondas? We've got some great twists coming up. Not quite as gruesome, but equally impactful! Just you wait and see.

(*Yeah, I gotta say, when I'm writing these issues, I'm just writing what happens, sometimes, I too am shocked to see what Ryan is able to pull off in pencil and after Cliff and FCO work their magic... sheesh. Again, I gotta say, this book isn't about the gore--it's a super violent super-hero book--but only when it's necessary. I like to think it's actually been a little funny these last two issues. This book is all over the map--and that's why it's so much fun for all involved. I'm glad you like what we're doing. We'll keep it up.*)

Just finished reading Issue 72 and holy crap! Amazing!

I have always been a superhero nerd but only started collecting comics in the last few years and I have to say that Kirkman books are at the top. Invincible is easily my favorite comic. So needless to say, Kirkman you are a genius and with Ottley's amazing art you can't get any better than that.

Most people seem not to like Nolan not having any shoes, though I like it, it makes sense. Really how much more comfortable is it not to wear shoes?

Omni-Man's a total hippie.

Anyway just thought I would write in to show how much I enjoy Invincible. Cannot wait to see how Mark gets out of that predicament.

Nick Fury (pronounced Fury.... yeah that's right I am my own superhero, though I don't have an eye patch)

I'm calling you Nick Fury (pronounced Furry... yeah that's right, you are a sexual deviant, just like Robert).

(*Hey, now! Don't call me a deviant!*)

Hey Guys!

I started reading Invincible this month!!! I was so hooked I went out and bought all the trades and the single issues I needed to make up the difference! I friggin love this book! And issue 72? Hot dogs that was intense! (I've substituted all of my normal curse words with PG phrases) Any-who, I've been waiting for this war forever! I just didn't think it would come with such a big cliffhanger. You see I'm a big sissy and i really do care about all the romance and blee blah blee blah and I wanted to know WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THE FRIGGIN BABY!!!!????? What a huge deal to leave on and say we're not coming back to until 8 issues have passed! I'm freaking out hardcore! I can't wait 8 months!!! And please don't make this war stretch for 9 months so the poor guy comes back to find out he's got a kid!

Sincerely,
Jared

Glad you like the series, Jared. Robert's a big sissy, too, and loves chick flicks and the like. Don't even get him started on that new Drew Barrymore flick with Justin Long--he thinks they make such a good couple!

(*Hey--wait a minute... Mark could be in space for about 9 months... hmmmm.*)

I quit reading comics because of Invincible! No other superhero comic comes close to the amount of badassness that this former tree turned into 22 pages of comic gold gives me every frikkin month (nice job on the no late shipping thing). Every character (oh yea you can bend over now, because I'm going to kiss your ass) is pitch perfect, every plot is trump-tight, every curve on Eve's sexy bo- oh wait that's not your doing (thanks Ryan!). Mark Grayson is the perfect male character in the funny pages today, with all his powers he is still a human being we can all relate to every flaw in him is in us, every strength and compassion is

in us as well. I love his growth(I've been reading since issue 1) (btw I don't have a issue 1, so maybe you can fling me a copy you got lying around). He's maturing in front of us and he's not being raised by parents, yea he has his mom but more than anything he's growing up like most in this generation (I'm 30) by learning from his mistakes and embracing his flaws to overcome them, he's doing it on his own. So it's nice that he has Eve now to balance and keep him grounded.

Oh... Eve! My absolute favorite female character ever, how do you write her so well?, is there a secret young woman living inside of you, I mean what is your history with women that you're able to write them so perfect? I myself grew up in a family of women and have had my share of relationships with every kind of dame so I know the perfect written woman when I read it. She is a person, although young has lived a varied and full life and has a lot to offer Mark. I've laughed and cried with her, I've smiled and smirked at things she's done, I've cringed and gasped at some other things she's done but I've never judged her. There's no Invincible without her, kill her and you will get a letter full of upside down smiley faces. I could go on about every other character but I won't waste anymore of your time, you know what a gem you have with this comic already so I'll spare you. Aw, my lips are getting as sore as your ass. Sorry bout the rough language at the beginning, I didn't mean to call you Mr. Btw never let Ryan go!!!

Invincible fan forever,
Jawkknee_NardcoreOxnard, CA

So much joy in this e-mail... so many jokes to make. I'm trying to take the higher ground and not comment on kissing Robert's butt, and try not to make gold out of the woman inside him line...

I will say this: Robert has seen every episode of Sex and the City, and both movies. He also reads Seventeen and Marie Claire. He is also paired with a real-life Atom Eve who keeps him in touch with his feminine side.

(My favorite part of this letter was when he thanked us for being on time. HAH!)

As they say: long time reader, first time writer.

Though I imagine that you tire of the gratuitous/obligatory pre-letter Robert-and Ryan-are-gods disclaimer, I would nevertheless like to state that Invincible is the sole reason that my interest in comics is rekindled, and that both Robert Kirkman and Ryan Ottley are very much my heroes (and also Mr. Walker and Mr. Crabtree!). Keep up the incredible work; reading the new issue of Invincible is the highlight of my month!

Don't ever call Cory a Mister, he hates that. It's far too snooty for his liking.

Reading this latest (and dare I say greatest?) story arc, I've found myself pondering something: what's with the masks? Everyone knows that on Earth one must protect their secret, civilian identity, but in space? I wonder how much Oliver's domino mask or Invincible's...hoody goggle thing...impairs the senses. I know Robert's made the argument that Nolan's shoes are unnecessary, so I'd like to hear his reasoning for keeping the masks. Just curious.

Crap... Robert? My answer would be: to keep the value of original art up?

(Because it looks cool? It's mostly for visual appeal.)

Once again, keep up the outstanding work! Invincible #72 was incredibly powerful -- I can barely gaze upon Mark being eviscerated without turning away in horror. Speaking as someone who is largely desensitized to depictions of graphic violence- that to me, is a testament to how beloved the characters have become.

You sayin' this is some kind of torture porn you get off on?

Regards,
Kyle Saunders

PS: Bring back the fingerless gloves!!!

We kind of did bring them back this issue.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I have to say I am impressed by how little gore you place in The Walking Dead, a book that almost demands it, and have yet placed it in the comic you would least expect, Invincible. Invincible started out fun and easy-going, boy, have you turned some heads. Keep it up, seeing mark's guts outside his body was far more scary than seeing one of the Walking Dead cast's innards spilling across the page. You continue to be a creator hard to pin down. Please, don't stop. This is good stuff. I'm drunk, so I apologize for the grammar and misspellings.

It's okay, I'm drunk too. I still took the time to capitalize all of your ls. Actually, just to reprimand you, I'm not fixing the next paragraph.

Just please keep bringing us these books. I look forward to them more than any other. and I wait for the hardcovers of invincible because of one shots and cross-overs. again, thanks for not doing that with walking dead. although, I still give in and purchase invincible when it hits the racks monthly, you bastard. thanks for the fun, matt cashel

Thanks for the drunken letter, Matt.

(Dude... I'm totally going to start using the word mrethan instead of "more than." That's awesome. Sometimes when I'm writing late at night--my tired brain will merge two words into one word... it's awesome. Like instead of typing "two words" it would type "twords" which has all the right letters it just shares them between two words. It's awesome. I'm always tempted to leave it. "Whathe" is another example.)

Them's all the letters we have the space for this month. Next issue will be the epic 75th issue, with a new Science Dog backup by Robert and Cory Walker (pretty please Cory, sell me one of the originals pages!). More important than that: Robert will be helming the letters column.

(What? Really?!)

Now, enjoy the next chapter of the Tech Jacket backup. I can't live without E.J. Su's artwork.

-Sina Grace

(-Robert)

CHAPTER 4 of 8

WRITTEN BY: ROBERT KIRKMAN &
AUBREY SITTERSON
PENCILS & INKS BY: E.J. SU
COLORS BY: RON RILEY
LETTERING BY: RUS WOOTON

TECH JACKET

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