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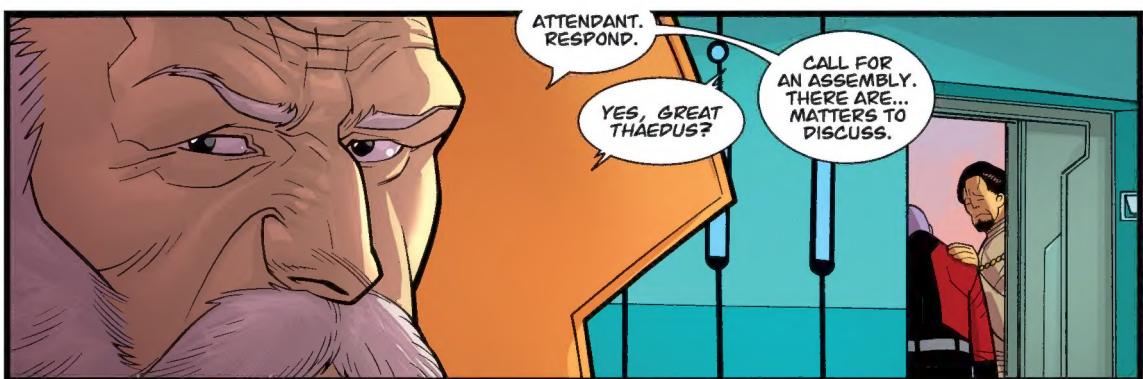
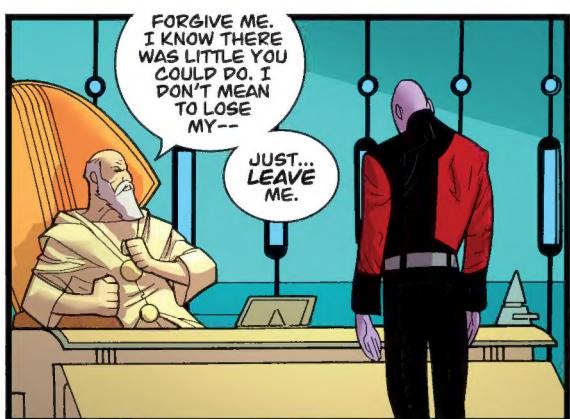
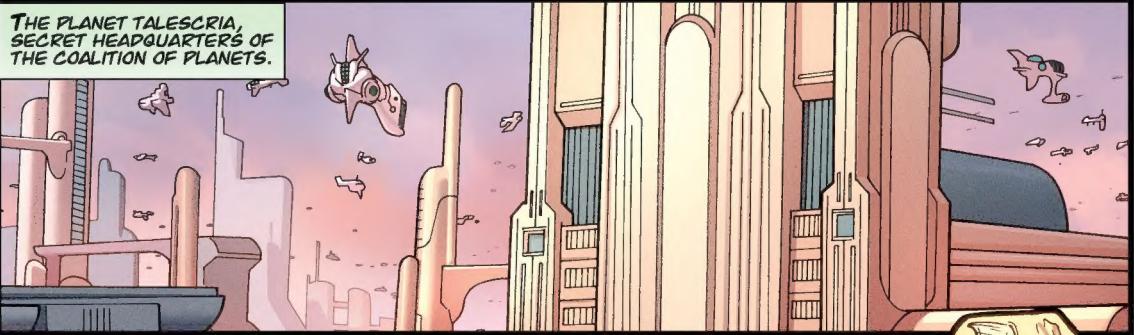
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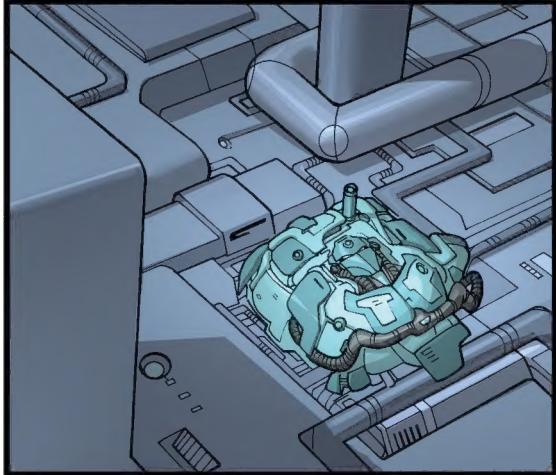
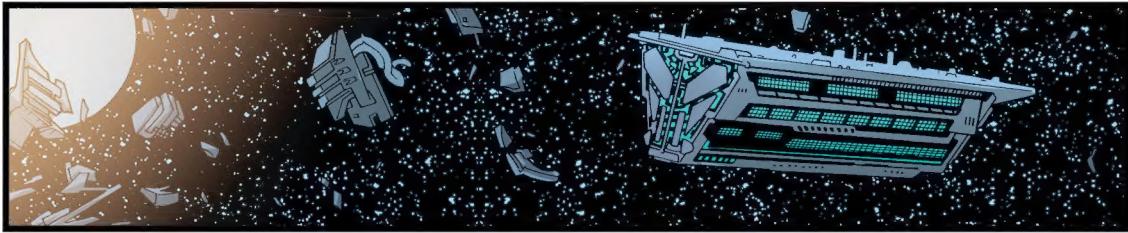
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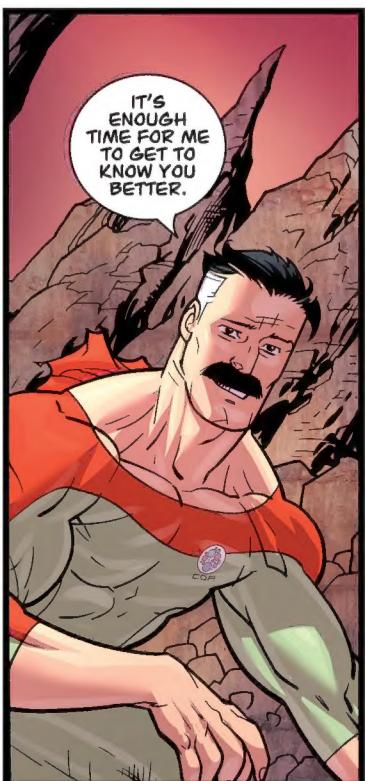
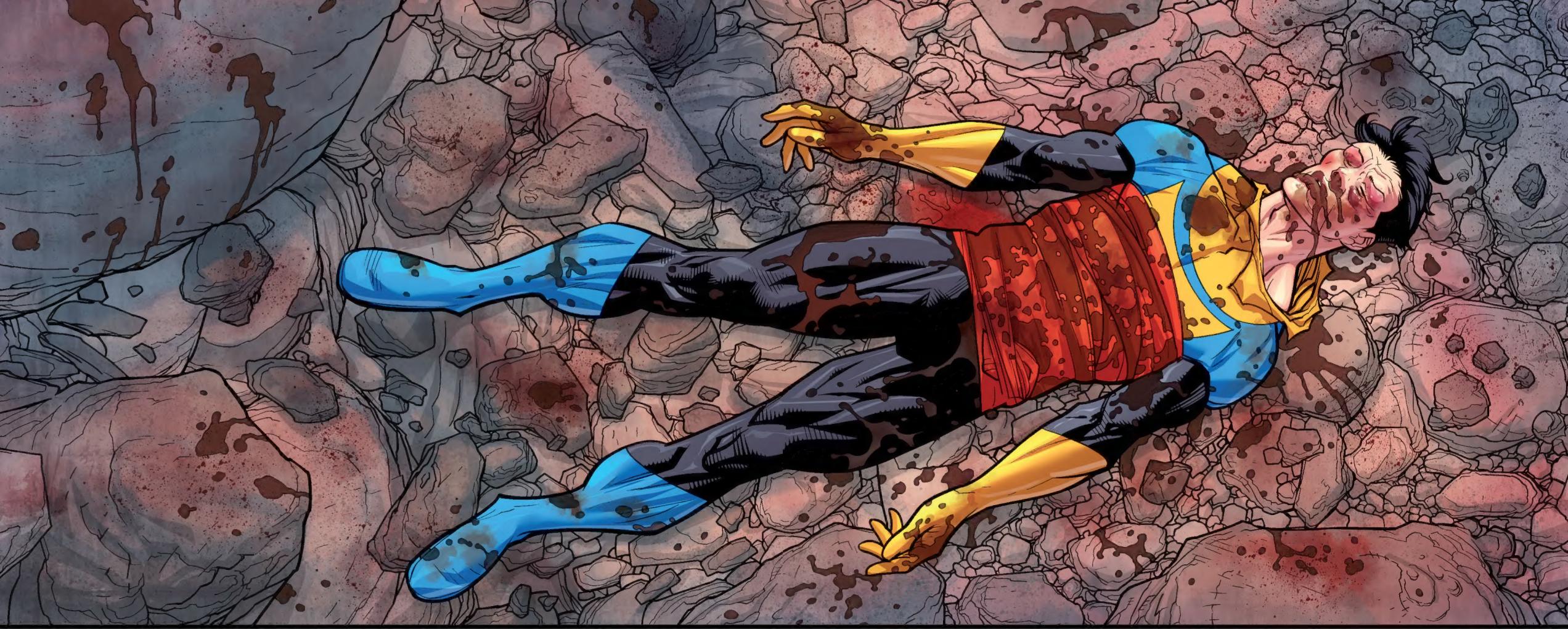
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TALES CRIA.

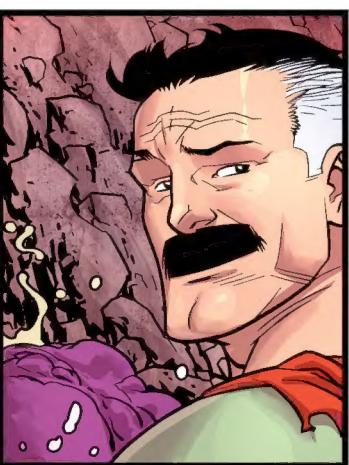


WE'VE BEEN BUSY WHILE NOLAN AND ALLEN WERE ON THEIR MISSION TO EARTH. THE KLAXUS EXTRACT WE HARVESTED FROM THE SINLAK BEETLES HAS BEEN PROVEN EFFECTIVE AGAINST VILTRUMITE TISSUE, AND ALL COALITION TROOPS ARE BEING ARMED WITH KLAXUS EXTRACT-LACED ARMAMENTS.

WE STARTED ON THE DRIDELL OUTPOST, WHICH THE COUNCIL AGREED WOULD BE THE BEST STAGING GROUND FOR A FIRST STRIKE AGAINST VILTRUMITE HELD CIVILIZATIONS.



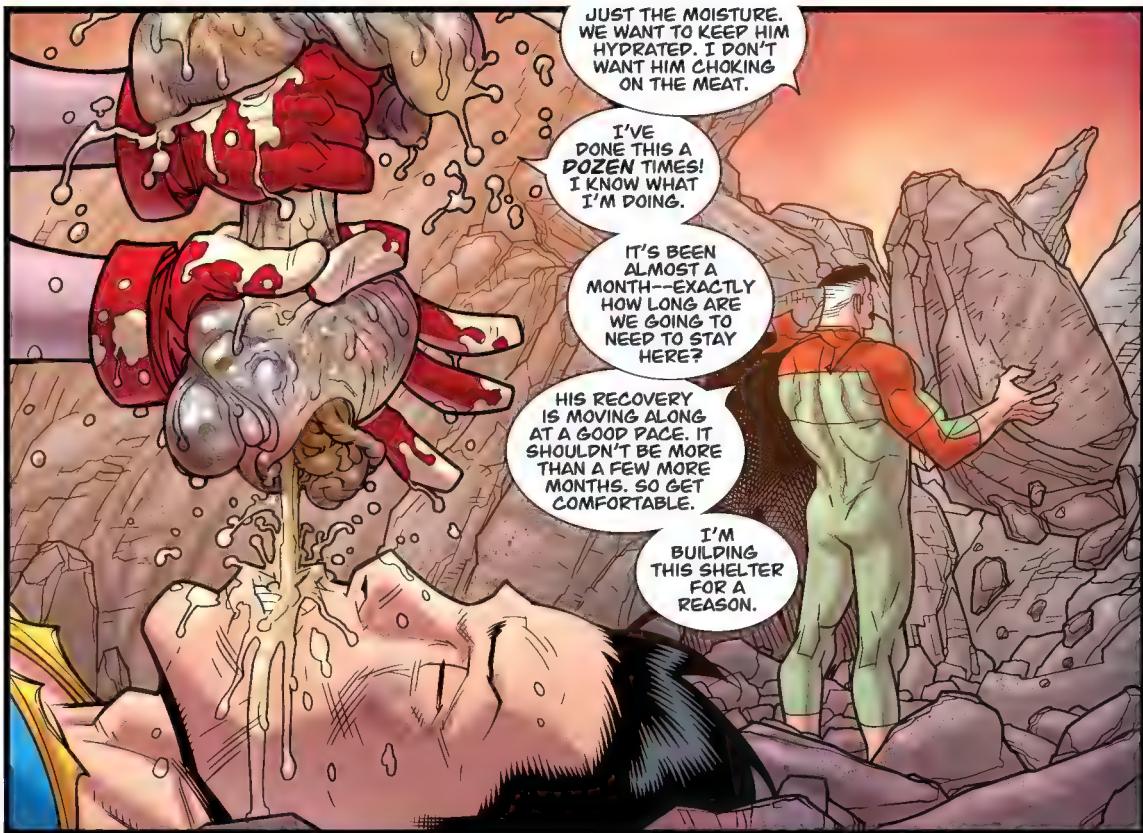


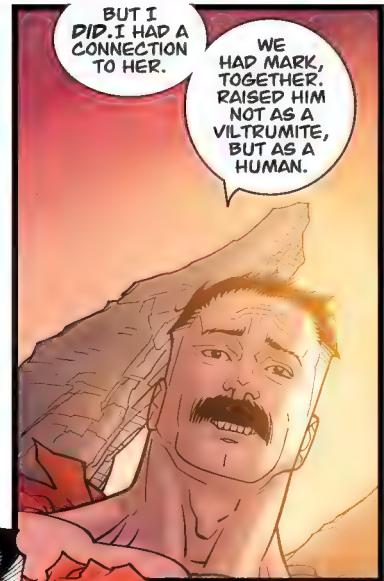




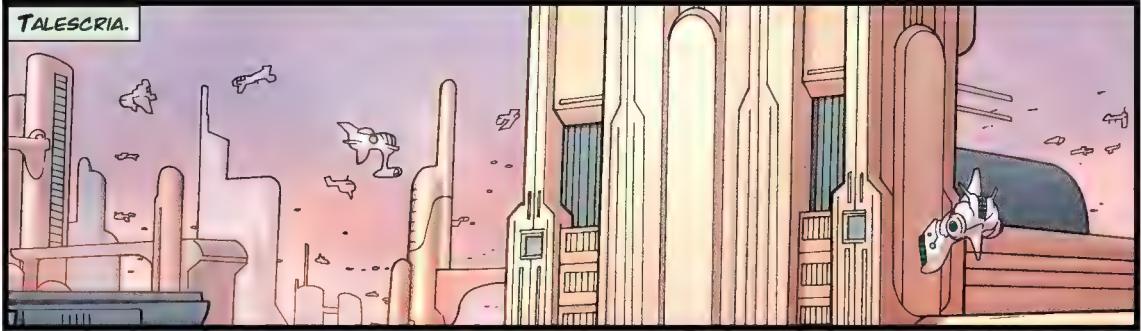








TALES CRIA.



ALLEN, IT IS GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK. TECH JACKET, IT IS GOOD TO MEET YOU. THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE VERY VALUABLE.

ESPECIALLY WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NOLAN AND HIS SONS... SOMETHING THAT HAS ME VERY TROUBLED.

I'LL NEED THE TWO OF YOU BATTLE-READY IN A FEW HOURS. WE'RE SENDING YOU TO THE PLANET OOLA, WHERE THE VILTRUMITE FORCES HAVE FORTIFIED AN OOLIAN BASE AND ARE EFFECTIVELY DEFENDING AGAINST OUR FORCES.

THE PLANET OOLA WILL MAKE A PERFECT STAGING GROUND TO MOVE OUR FORCES DEEPER INTO VILTRUMITE TERRITORY. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE WAR EFFORT.

I HOPE YOUR TIME HIDING ON THAT VILTRUMITE SHIP WASN'T TOO TAXING.

I'M GROWING A BEARD.

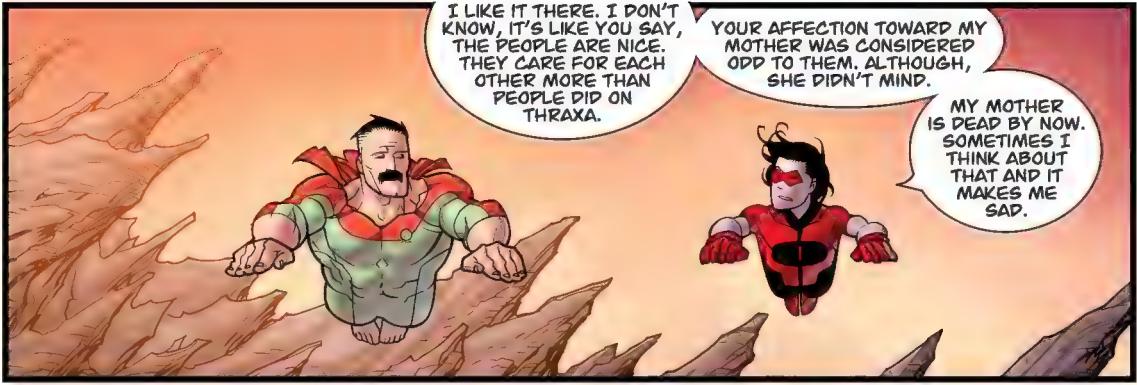
BUT THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT SOMETHING I'D FEEL THE NEED TO RANDOMLY BRING UP. I, UH... I'M KIND OF NERVOUS.

I'LL BE TOTALLY READY TO GO TO THAT PLANET WHEN YOU NEED ME, SIR.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN... I...

I'LL SHUT UP NOW.







IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE RAGNARR CAN EXIST IN SPACE UNHARMED--SO A TETHER SYSTEM IS BEING DEVELOPED. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE SCIENTISTS GET A WORKING PROTOTYPE.

IN OTHER NEWS, THE BEACON LEFT IN THE OCEANS OF LASNEMA HAS DETECTED A FLAUN... LOOKS TO BE A BIG ONE, TOO. NOLAN'S BOOKS SAY THEIR TEETH CAN CUT A VILTRUMITE. I'LL SEND A TEAM OUT TO HARVEST THEM WITHOUT DAMAGING THE ANIMAL.

STILL NO LUCK ON THE SPACE SHARKS, THOUGH.

SPACE WHAT?

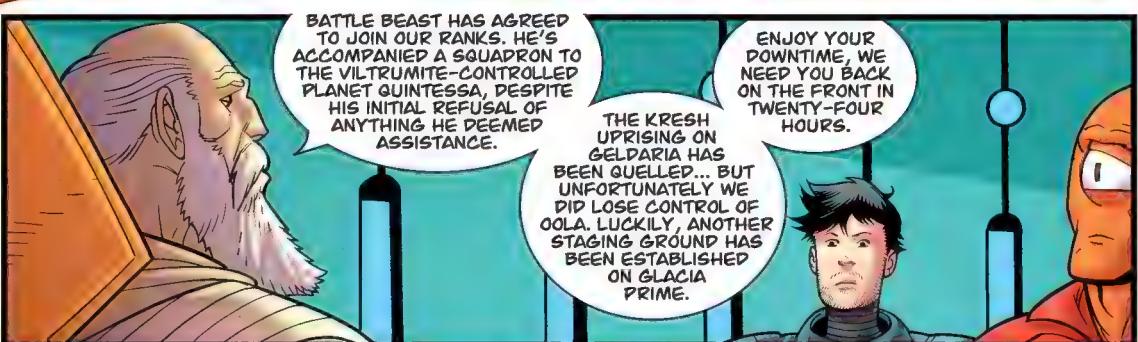
DON'T HOLD BACK, JUST--



BATTLE BEAST HAS AGREED TO JOIN OUR RANKS. HE'S ACCOMPANIED A SQUADRON TO THE VILTRUMITE-CONTROLLED PLANET QUINTESSA, DESPITE HIS INITIAL REFUSAL OF ANYTHING HE DEEMED ASSISTANCE.

ENJOY YOUR DOWNTIME, WE NEED YOU BACK ON THE FRONT IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

THE KRESH UPRISING ON GELDARIA HAS BEEN QUELLED... BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE DID LOSE CONTROL OF OOLA. LUCKILY, ANOTHER STAGING GROUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED ON GLACIA PRIME.



CAN'T--

DON'T TELL ME THAT--LOOK AT YOU--LOOK AT HOW MUCH STRONGER YOU'VE GOTTEN OVER THE LAST MONTH! YOU'VE GOT THIS!

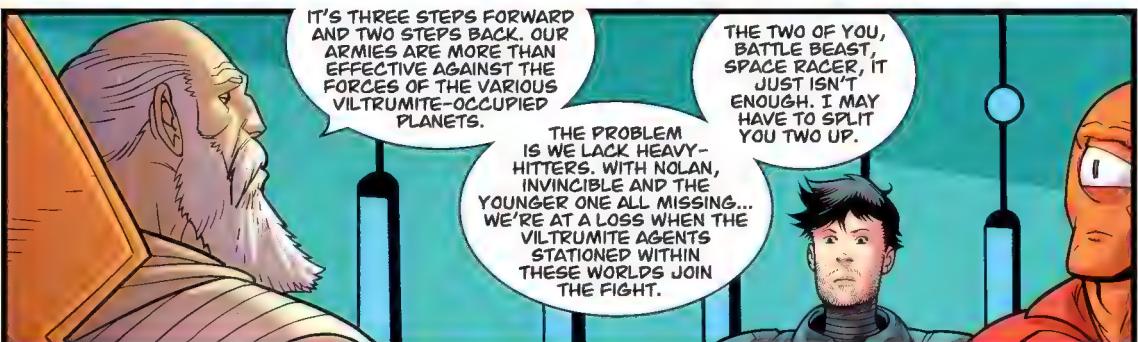
KEEP GOING, OLIVER! YOU CAN DO IT!



IT'S THREE STEPS FORWARD AND TWO STEPS BACK. OUR ARMIES ARE MORE THAN EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE VARIOUS VILTRUMITE-OCCUPIED PLANETS.

THE TWO OF YOU, BATTLE BEAST, SPACE RACER, IT JUST ISN'T ENOUGH. I MAY HAVE TO SPLIT YOU TWO UP.

THE PROBLEM IS WE LACK HEAVY-HITTERS. WITH NOLAN, INVINCIBLE AND THE YOUNGER ONE ALL MISSING... WE'RE AT A LOSS WHEN THE VILTRUMITE AGENTS STATIONED WITHIN THESE WORLDS JOIN THE FIGHT.







THE FIGHTING ON DRAKUS MINOR HAS HALTED FOR THE MOMENT. COMMUNICATION COMING IN FROM GELDARIA INDICATES THINGS ARE QUIET IN THAT QUADRANT.

BATTLE BEAST IS REFUSING A LEAVE PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS VICTORY OVER THE VILTRUMITES ON QUINTESSA. THAT ONE IS VERY DEDICATED.

HELLO?

HOW ARE THINGS ON YOUR END?



YOU'VE BEEN FEEDING US INFORMATION FOR YEARS-- BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. WE ARE STILL LOSING PLANETS TO THE COALITION.

THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

WE WILL STRIKE THE COALITION HEADQUARTERS ON TALESCRIA. YOU WILL SHUT DOWN THEIR DEFENSES AT THE TIME BEING TRANSMITTED TO YOU.

RESPOND.



IT WILL BE DONE.

WHAT? WHAT WILL BE DONE?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?



WRITE US @

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INVINCIBLE

Hey folks,

Correction:

The cover to Invincible #72 was inked by Dexter Vines, and pages 1-9 were inked by Ryan Ottley. We apologize to these gents for not properly crediting their hard work.

Now, how did you all like this issue? After the intensity of the battle with Conquest, it's a welcome change to have a little humor. Plus: this issue is a great chance for you to become fond of Oliver, as he will be taking the role of Invincible after Mark's inevitable death in issue 75.

Less chatter! I am eager for you all to read the letter below...

So Mark and Eve weren't using protection? Was it a "Screw it, we're superheroes. We don't have to worry about that" situation? Are we alluding to super-sperm here?

Robert, care to explain what happens between the panels of this all-ages book?

No, I don't. Let's just say that condoms aren't always 100% effective and can break and whatever. So let's just say "something happened" and leave it at that.

These are the things I think about when I'm not reading your awesome book(s).

Tyler Slayton
Downers Grove, IL

It's okay. Like me, you grew up watching Mallrats too often.

Man, I LOVE Mallrats. -Robert

Kirkman and Co.,

I have to say, getting to read both Invincible and The Walking Dead 71 in the same sitting today was pretty sweet indeed, so thanks for that right off the bat... It's crazy that they are in sync now (I think it's kind of cool).

Don't expect that to be a regular occurrence. Right now we're trying to get the books out as quick as they're done. Once we're on track, you should expect to see one Kirkbook for almost every week in the month.

I loved the reunion between Mark's parents, as I had been anticipating it for quite some time. No Earth for a while, eh? Nice... I expect plenty of sick space visuals then, which always look tasty in this book. Try not to beat yourself up over the delays with the books, by the way. Invincible Returns and Invincible 71 were top notch, through and through. I'm looking forward to The Viltrumite War, its possible connection to Image United, and all the shakeups you have set up for the next few months. Bring it.

Oh, it's already been broughten.

On a related note, I managed to clandestinely find a stash of Tech Jacket recently, so it was pretty cool seeing him in Invincible this

month (with his own short no less). I dug that book a lot (very fun) and I sincerely look forward to the new backups. I hope to see more of him.

Thanks to everyone out there (at the end of this FCBD 2010) at Team Invincible for making this Saturday that much sweeter.

Cam Stylez

Tech Jacket's a cool character. You will see a lot more of him, and with any luck, we will have some exciting news for the character, to boot (he's getting his own cereal. Sorry Kirkman, I couldn't keep my mouth shut).

Hi Robert, Ryan,

Lately, Ryan's been drawing Invincible flying with his left hand extended outwards. So I was wondering if Mark was a lefty? I noticed it because I'm a righty myself and when I was pretending to be Invincible it was a little awkward for me.

Oh man, Robert... I am too foul-minded to answer this...

How do you think I feel?! -Robert

Sorry if this has already been discussed or if there are a million drawings of Invincible with his right hand extended as I am a new reader. Both of you got me via Haunt, in case you were interested. Keep up the brilliant work.

Paul

Well, now that we have you hooked on Invincible, Paul, we can't wait for you to fall in love with Tech Jacket! Speaking of which, Andrew J. Shaw has something to say about T.J.

Dear Robert, Invincible reads right! ...film at 11! I mean this has always been a book I've supported, read, even admired; but I never said it was any good--tilt now!! The Viltrumite War? What's not to love?! Tech Jacket? Really my first exposure to the guy, but he's better than I would've thought! But is Tech Jacket more than just a blue Iron Man with stretchy machine-limbs...? Sure, why not. Twists and turns, new costumes, it was just pretty darn good, I guess. In fact: best comic of the night--Thumbs Up! INVINCIMAN! Huh? You like? I'm still wondering how you pronounce FCO...

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Shaw

For starters, Andrew Shaw, I am sorry that I did not give you the respect you deserve (see most recent Fang Mail over at Wolf-Man land). Things will be different, I promise.

You're absolutely right: there's nothing to not love. Wow, I just used the double negative... and I'm the editor!

Tech Jacket's a little more intergalactic than Iron Man. He also hasn't hit the sauce yet, so you won't find him mumbling about peeing in his Tech Jacket anytime soon (although Allen the Alien has).

And while I respect you oodles... I do not like Invinciman.

Here's how you pronounce FCO: Eff, Cee, Oh.

I think it's funny to point out that when Tech Jacket launched all we heard were comparisons to GUYVER, but now Iron Man is hot so it's gotta be an Iron Man rip-off, right? Next year it'll be Green Lantern. Maybe it's not a rip-off at all? Maybe it's just a kid in a cool robot suit that has awesome powers and does cosmic stuff... like STAR KID. -Robert

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I'm sitting at my computer desk, tasty beverage in hand, having just finished my 7th read-through of this wonderful series. My anticipation for the Viltrumite War has me craving all that it is the Invincible Universe. Kirkmania forums, Image schedules, my LCS boards: I've been frequenting all of these like crazy lately because I'm so excited. (I particularly enjoyed the "lost-plot-development, scavenger hunt" you initiated on the forums last week. Watching a few of the regulars scramble to find the answer to your question was pretty damn entertaining.)

Scavenger hunt? Is that what's been keeping you so busy these days, Robert?

Anyways, I just had a few comments/queries/quandaries from my most recent read-through that I wanted to run by you:

1. FCO's jump on in Issue 51 is just down-right amazing. There really is nothing else to add to that sentence. I'm not sure if you've answered this before in your wonderful mail section, but why did you change the costume? I personally was not a huge fan of the blue/black, and I am really excited about the return of the blue/yellow (Ryan, please slip in the fingerless gloves on one panel. Thanks!) But during this read-through, I found myself asking why. Was there any reason to changing it up? Just curious, that's all.

Fake answer: the costume was symbolic of a darker time in Mark's life. He was trying to adjust to some of the darkness that being half-Viltrumite entails, and the costume change reflects that. Now that he's back to a more grounded superhero, he's in his classic duds again.

Real answer: Robert?

The book had been running long enough that I thought it was time for a costume change stunt. Spider-Man does it all the time, so I figured why not? I knew fans would more than likely hate it, and it was always planned to be temporary... but it got us a sales spike for issue 51 (the Jim Lee cover helped, I'm sure) and sales climbed during the time he was in the blue costume--and then spiked again when he got his old costume back. Now, I don't mean to sound cutthroat, talking about sales and all, but the reality is if we don't stay in the press, keep things lively, and keep people interested and sales high, then we don't last forever and I think that you readers want this book to last forever just as much as I do. So why was the costume switched? Because it's a fun stunt that all long-lasting superhero books do. And I knew that people would hate it at first and then grow to love it. And that's what happened. I'm already getting letters asking when we're going to go back to that costume because people actually MISS it. Already. It's awesome. So expect at least a brief return to that costume eventually... maybe for issue 150. -Robert

2. Favorite moment of the entire series was definitely Oliver's FIRST BLOOD with the Mauler Twins. Shocking, hysterical, and beautiful all at the same time. I'm really looking forward to seeing the little guy in action in the Viltrumite War. Once it's over, when and how many times is he gonna hook up with April?

Dude, Oliver's gay. Can't you tell?

3. Best single panel by far is 'Vince after having destroyed the Martian squadron. In my opinion, that's a paradigm moment for our hero. Especially having just punked the shit out of Immortal in the first fight with the Sequids. Any true fan of the series had been waiting a long time for 'Vince to put that jackass in his place. (Well, since Omni-Man ripped him in half... for a second time...) Ryan was a real beast on that entire arc. My jaw still drops when I see the Martian space-ships. Simply awesome.

This is not a question/ query. Thanks for your COMMENT.

4. Favorite NFL team?

Lakers! J/K LOLZ. Robert doesn't do football.

I enjoy watching it but I follow no teams and usually don't care who's winning. I usually pick whoever's losing when I come in or the favored team of whoever I'm with and root for them. -Robert

5. Have you ever thought about selling the beard for charity?

Ugh, only for a profit! And he won't part with that thing for the finest rubies that India has to offer.

That pretty much does it for this run-through. I truly enjoy all of your work, sir. When ANY of your books are in my pulls, it really does make my week that much easier. Thank you for that simple joy.

Best of luck and keep kicking ass,

Evan

Thanks, Evan! You keep kicking ass!

Wow, what a letters column!

Thanks again for your darling little letters, pals. Next issue, the boys keep on supplying that Viltrumite War goodness, and epic battles ensue.

Keep your eyes open for the Invincible Presents: Atom Eve trade paperback in July. There's smooth great stuff from Benito Cereno and Nate Bellegarde.

Now, enjoy a stellar Tech Jacket backup (Editor's Note: the previous sentence was written before seeing all the finished pages to said backup).

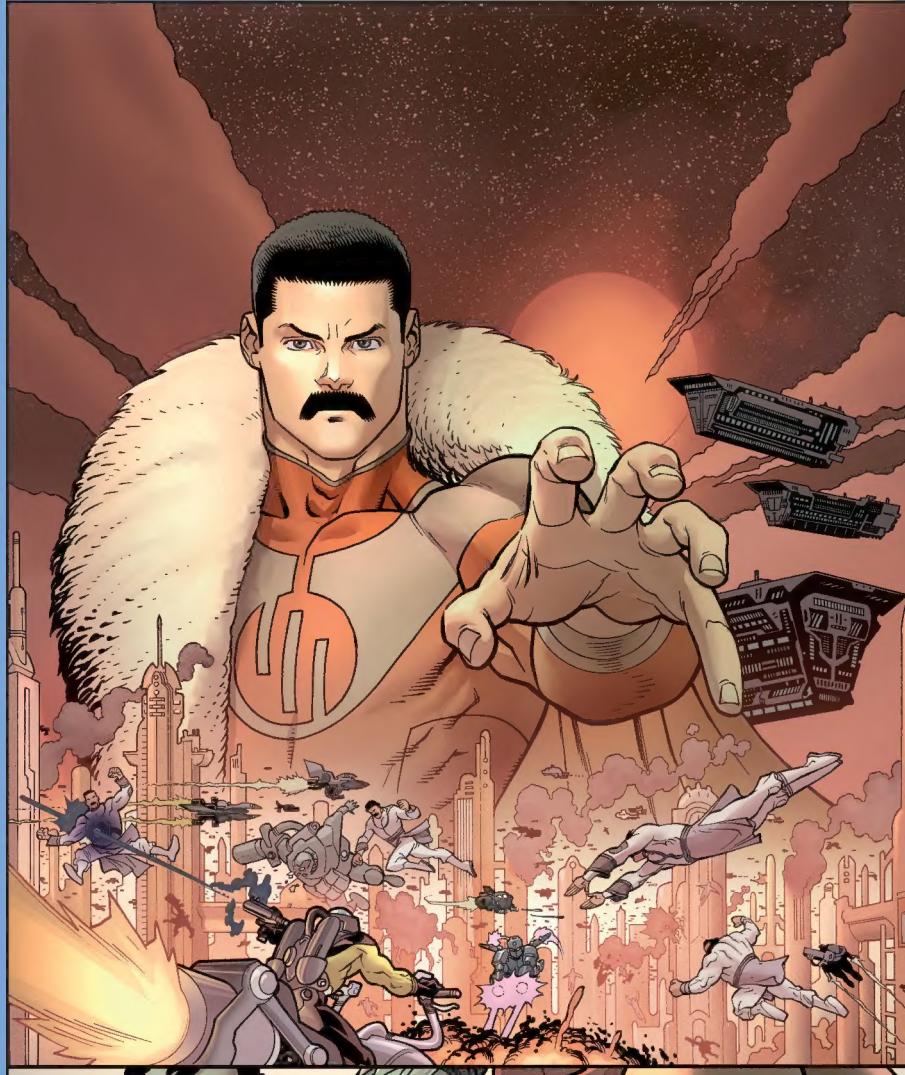
-Sina Grace

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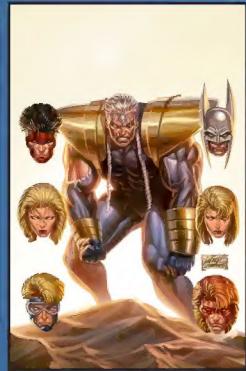
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TECH JACKET

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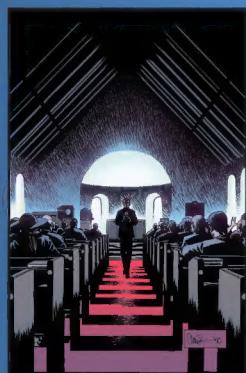
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