

**WIZARD**



**WIZARD FAN AWARD WINNER!  
FAVORITE BREAKOUT TALENT 2004: ROBERT KIRKMAN**



**PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!**

# INVINCIBLE™

**26**

**\$2.99**  
\$3.65 CAN



**KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE**



**image**® COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE™

**ROBERT KIRKMAN**  
**WRITER**

**RYAN OTTLEY**  
**PENCILER & INKER**

**BILL CRABTREE**  
**COLORIST**

**RUS WOOTON**  
**LETTERER**

**CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER**



**IMAGE COMICS, INC.**

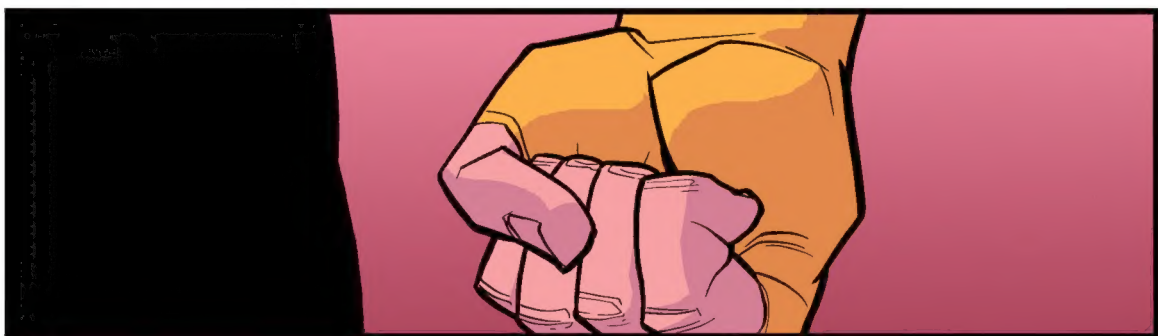
**Erik Larsen** - Publisher  
**Todd McFarlane** - President  
**Marc Silvestri** - CEO  
**Jim Valentino** - Vice-President  
**Eric Stephenson** - Executive Director  
**Missie Miranda** - Controller  
**Brett Evans** - Production Manager  
**Jim Demonakos** - PR & Marketing Coordinator  
**Allen Hui** - Production Artist  
**Joe Keatinge** - Traffic Manager  
**Mia MacHatton** - Administrative Assistant  
**Jonathan Chan** - Production Assistant  
[www.imagecomics.com](http://www.imagecomics.com)

INVINCIBLE #26, September 2005. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2005 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured in this issue), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark 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. PRINTED IN CANADA

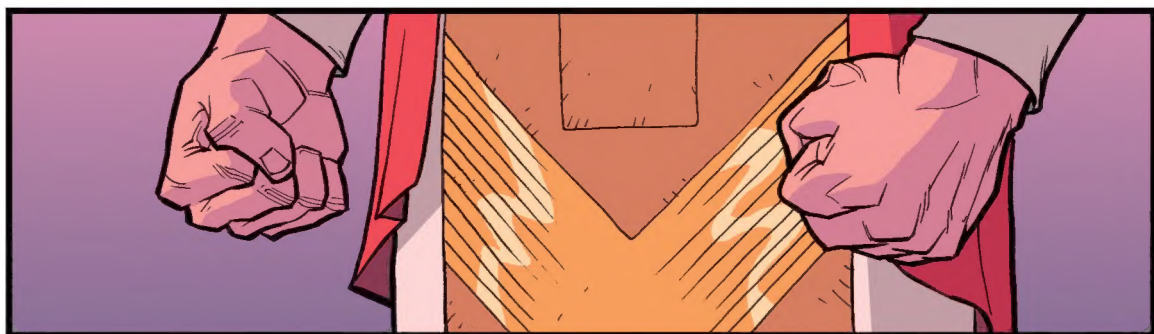
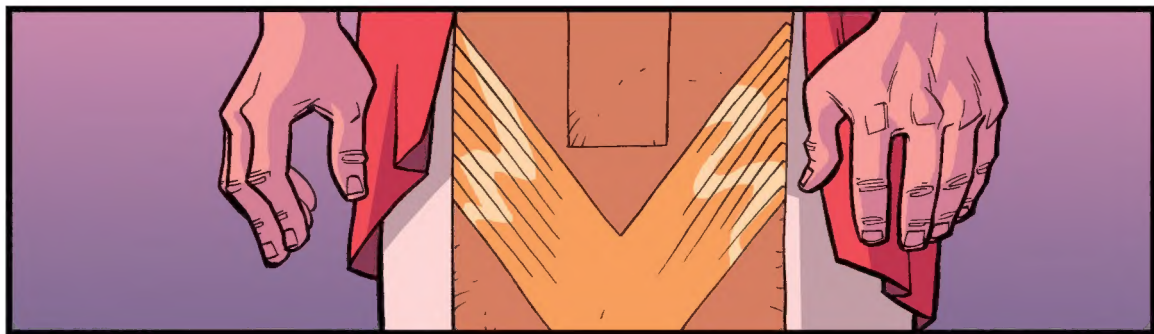




DAD?

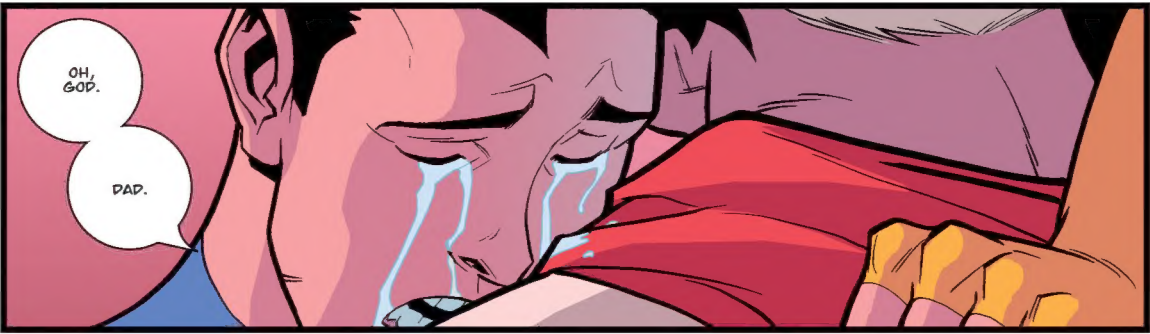








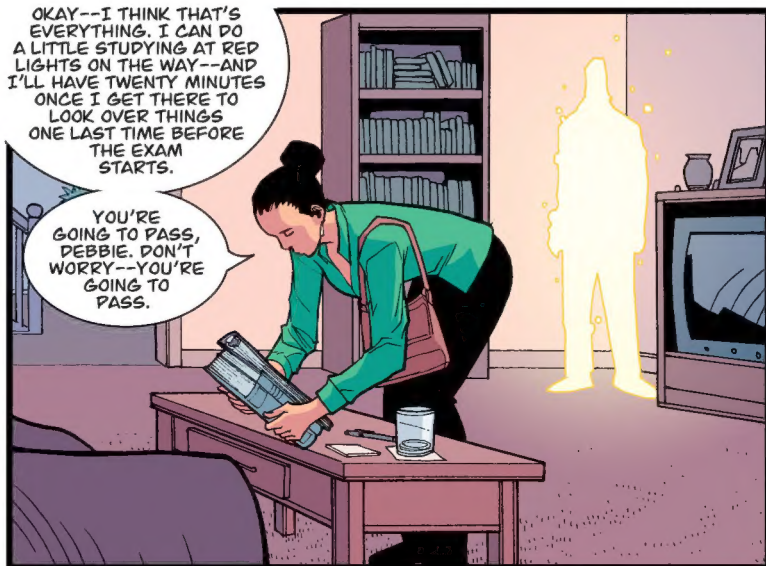






OKAY--I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING. I CAN DO A LITTLE STUDYING AT RED LIGHTS ON THE WAY--AND I'LL HAVE TWENTY MINUTES ONCE I GET THERE TO LOOK OVER THINGS ONE LAST TIME BEFORE THE EXAM STARTS.

YOU'RE GOING TO PASS, DEBBIE. DON'T WORRY--YOU'RE GOING TO PASS.



GREETINGS FROM THE US GOVERNMENT.



MISTER STEPMAN! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELEPORT DIRECTLY INTO THE HOUSE?



YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE SOMEONE A HEART ATTACK.

MISS GRAYSON. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME CECIL? BESIDES, IF I START TELEPORTING INTO THE FRONT LAWN, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOUR SON'S SECRET IDENTITY WILL LAST?



I WOULD STILL PREFER YOU USED THE BACK YARD OR GARAGE OR SOMETHING.



WHAT IS IT YOU'RE HERE FOR? MARK IS STILL IN SPACE, ISN'T HE?

SO YOU DID GET MY MESSAGE. I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY THIS PAST WEEK AND I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT CONTACTING YOU IN PERSON BEFORE.



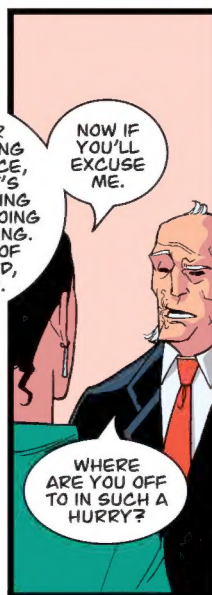
AND TO APOLOGIZE FOR ALLOWING MARK TO VENTURE OUT INTO THE UNKNOWN LIKE HE HAS. I TRIED TO STOP HIM, I ASSURE YOU.

THE MAN WHO DELIVERED THE MESSAGE, DONALD--I THINK, WAS VERY KIND.



AND AS FAR AS MARK GOING OUT INTO SPACE, HE THINKS IT'S THE RIGHT THING AND SO HE'S DOING THE RIGHT THING. I'M PROUD OF HIM. WORRIED, BUT PROUD.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.



WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?

I'VE GOT THE FINAL EXAM FOR MY REAL ESTATE CLASS TODAY. I THOUGHT YOU GOVERNMENT TYPES KNEW EVERYTHING.



REAL ESTATE--AREN'T WE PAYING YOU ENOUGH?

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL. I JUST NEED SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY TIME. SOMETHING TO KEEP ME BUSY.



WHY, MISS GRAYSON--IF YOU WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO EARN THAT MONEY--ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS SAY SO.



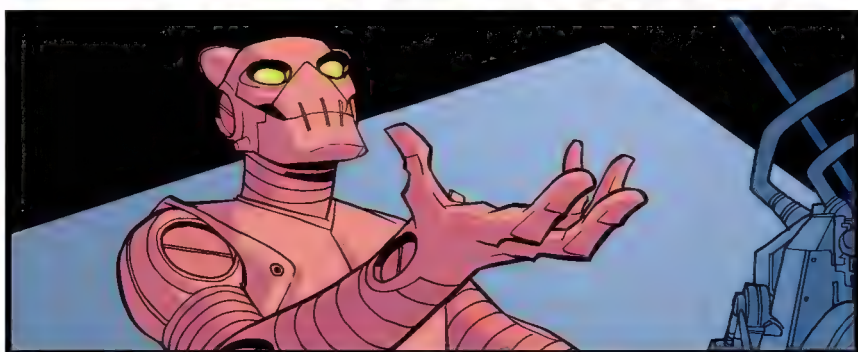
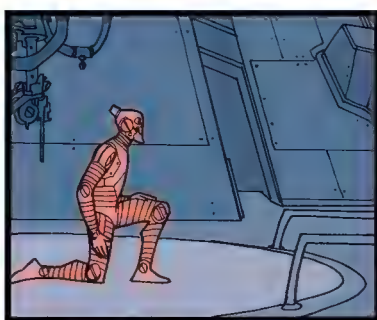
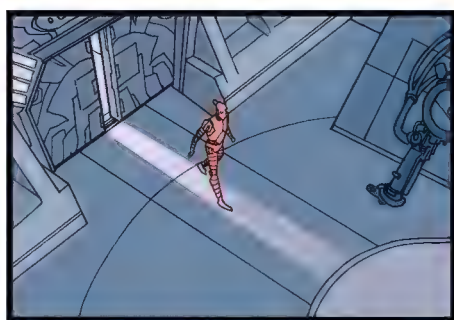
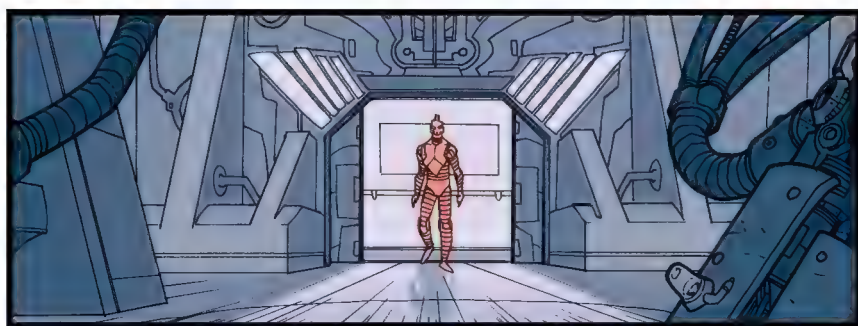
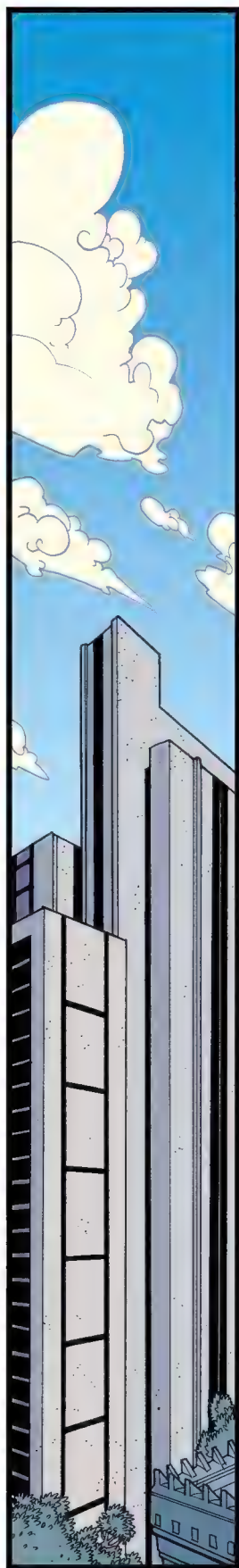


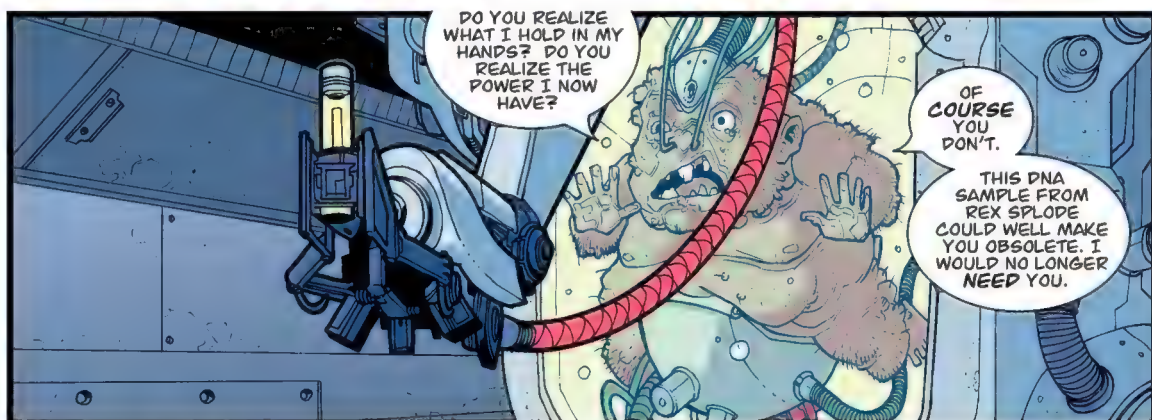
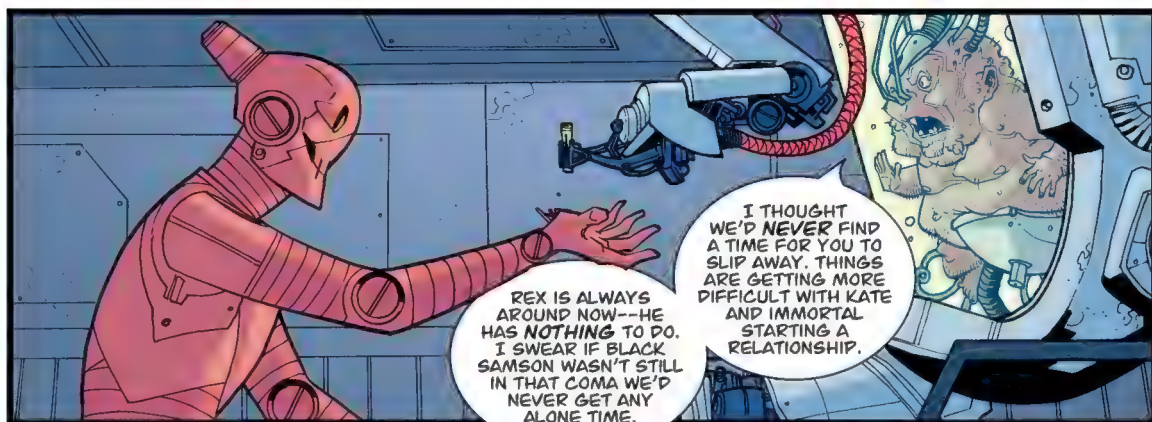




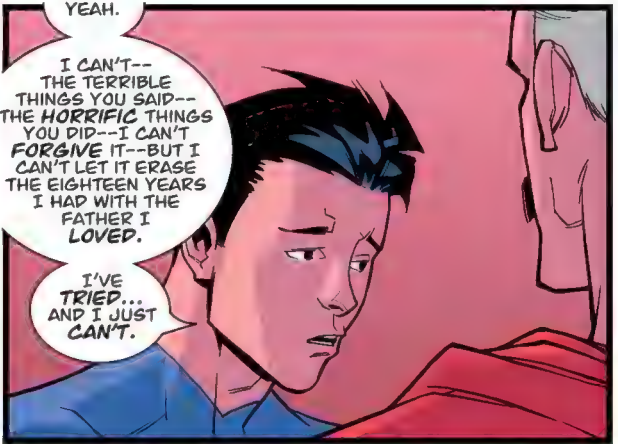














I LIVED AS A VILTRUMITE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE I CAME TO EARTH--BUT WHAT LITTLE TIME I SPENT THERE--CHANGED ME.

I WAS READY TO KILL YOU WHEN YOU DEFIED ME. I WOULD HAVE. THOSE ARE THE WAYS OF THE VILTRUMITE.

YOU WERE WEAK. YOU DESERVED TO DIE.

BUT WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT I WOULD HAVE TO KILL YOU--THAT YOU WOULD NOT JOIN ME--WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT I WOULD HAVE NO OTHER OPTION...

...I COULDN'T DO IT.

I HAD TWO CHOICES. I COULD KILL YOU AND ENSLAVE EARTH AS I WAS MEANT TO. OR I COULD LEAVE EARTH--AND LEAVE YOU.

I CHOSE TO LEAVE.





IT WAS NOT A DECISION  
MADE LIGHTLY. I DECIDED  
TO TURN MY BACK ON MY  
VILTRUMITE HERITAGE.

MY OFFENSE WOULD  
HAVE BEEN NO GREATER  
HAD I LISTENED TO YOU  
AND CEASED OUR FIGHT  
INSTANTLY.

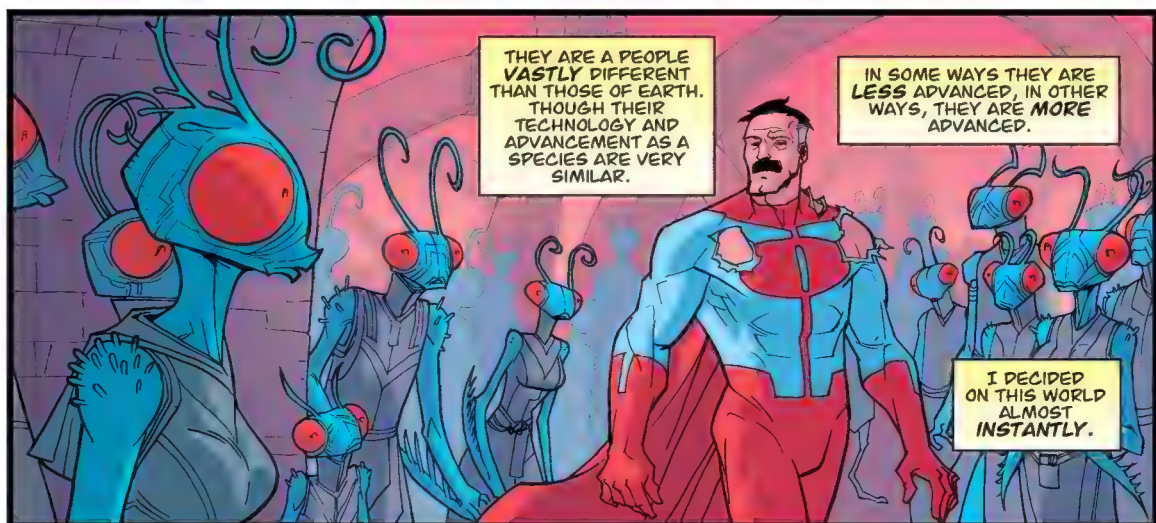
I WAS A FUGITIVE FROM  
MY OWN PEOPLE. IT WOULD  
ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME  
BEFORE THEY LEARNED OF  
MY TREACHERY.

I CHOSE TO HIDE RATHER  
THAN TURN MYSELF IN. IF I  
COULD CONQUER A SIMILAR  
WORLD MAYBE THEY WOULD  
LESSEN MY PUNISHMENT.

SO I SET OUT  
TO FIND SUCH  
A WORLD.

WHETHER THROUGH SOME KIND  
OF COSMIC DESTINY OR MERE  
LUCK I'LL NEVER KNOW, BUT I  
FOUND THIS WORLD WITHIN A  
WEEK OF LEAVING EARTH.

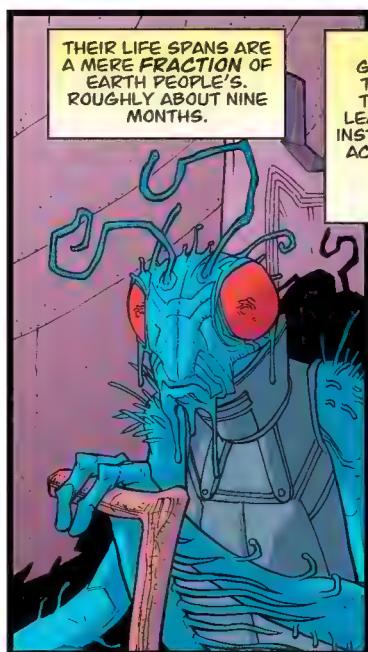




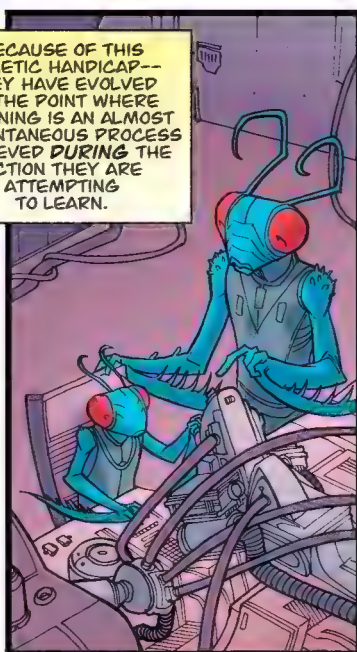
THEY ARE A PEOPLE VASTLY DIFFERENT THAN THOSE OF EARTH. THOUGH THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCEMENT AS A SPECIES ARE VERY SIMILAR.

IN SOME WAYS THEY ARE LESS ADVANCED. IN OTHER WAYS, THEY ARE MORE ADVANCED.

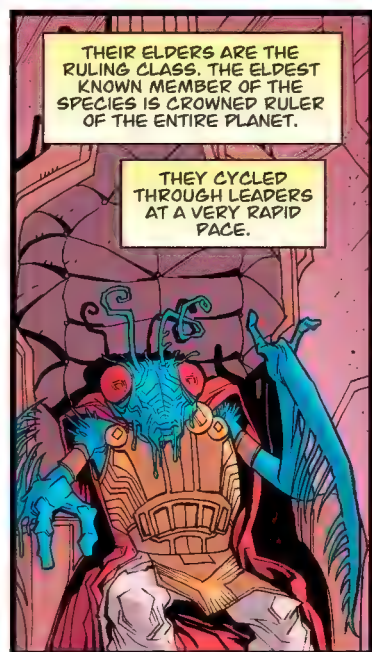
I DECIDED ON THIS WORLD ALMOST INSTANTLY.



THEIR LIFE SPANS ARE A MERE FRACTION OF EARTH PEOPLE'S. ROUGHLY ABOUT NINE MONTHS.



BECAUSE OF THIS GENETIC HANDICAP-- THEY HAVE EVOLVED TO THE POINT WHERE LEARNING IS AN ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS PROCESS ACHIEVED DURING THE ACTION THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEARN.



THEIR ELDERS ARE THE RULING CLASS. THE ELDEST KNOWN MEMBER OF THE SPECIES IS CROWNED RULER OF THE ENTIRE PLANET.

THEY CYCLED THROUGH LEADERS AT A VERY RAPID PACE.



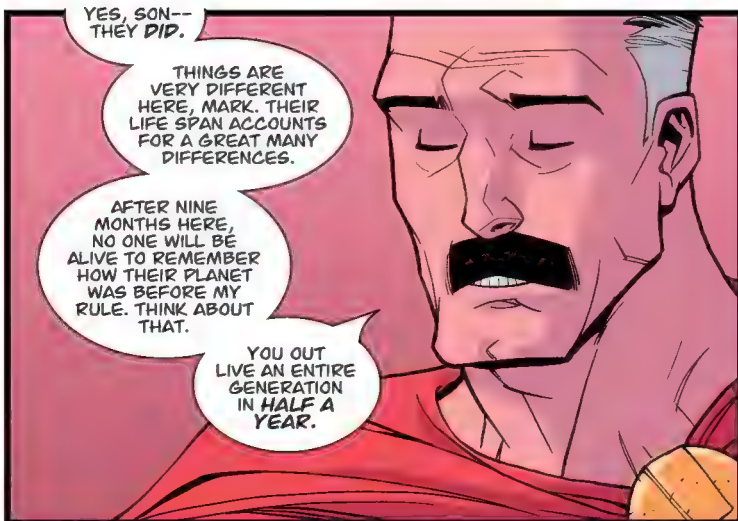
NEEDLESS TO SAY IT WAS INCREDIBLY EASY TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THIS PLANET. ONCE THEY LEARNED HOW OLD I WAS--I WAS ELECTED RULER ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

THINGS MOVE VERY FAST HERE.





THEY JUST HANDED  
THE WHOLE PLANET  
OVER TO YOU? NO  
QUESTIONS  
ASKED?



YES, SON--  
THEY DID.

THINGS ARE  
VERY DIFFERENT  
HERE, MARK. THEIR  
LIFE SPAN ACCOUNTS  
FOR A GREAT MANY  
DIFFERENCES.

AFTER NINE  
MONTHS HERE,  
NO ONE WILL BE  
ALIVE TO REMEMBER  
HOW THEIR PLANET  
WAS BEFORE MY  
RULE. THINK ABOUT  
THAT.

YOU OUT  
LIVE AN ENTIRE  
GENERATION  
IN HALF A  
YEAR.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE  
RIGHT. I CAN SEE  
HOW THAT WOULD  
MAKE A TAKEOVER  
EASIER TO  
ACCEPT.



COME.  
THERE  
IS STILL  
MUCH TO  
DISCUSS.

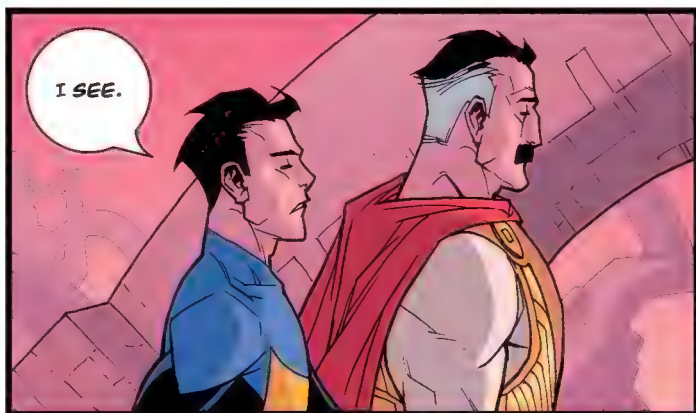
WAIT A MINUTE,  
THOUGH--YOU  
THOUGHT SENDING  
ONE OF THEM  
DISGUISED AS  
**SCIENCE DOG**  
WOULD MAKE ME  
WANT TO HELP  
THEM?

HOW DID YOU  
EXPECT THAT  
TO FOOL  
ME?



I WANTED  
TO CHOOSE A  
FORM YOU WOULDN'T  
FIND IMMEDIATELY  
**THREATENING**. SOME-  
THING COMFORTING TO  
YOU. I KNOW HOW MUCH  
YOU ALWAYS LOVED  
THAT **CARTOON**  
**DOG**.

THEY WERE  
NEVER SUPPOSED  
TO TRY TO CONVINCE  
YOU THEY ACTUALLY  
**WERE SCIENCE DOG**.  
THAT'S JUST THEM  
MISUNDERSTANDING  
MY DIRECTIONS.



I SEE.



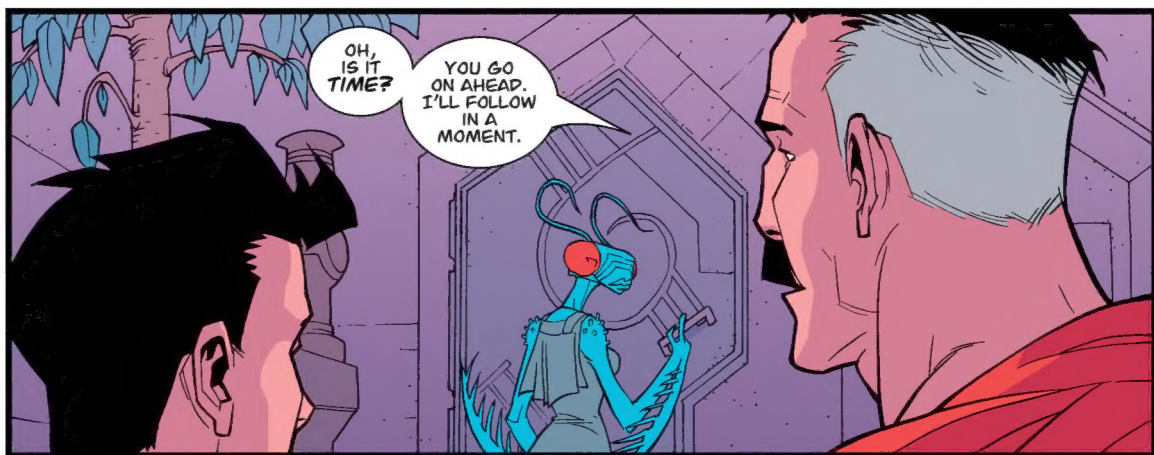




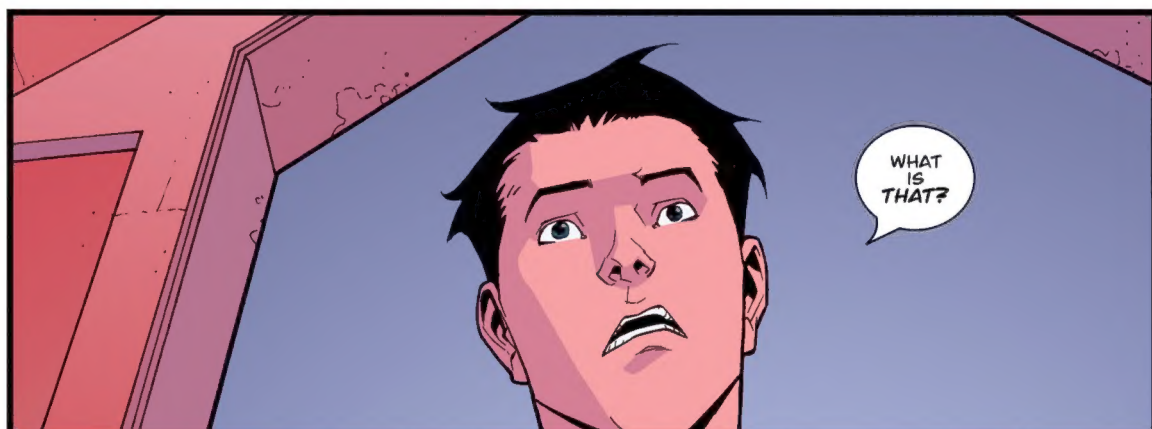




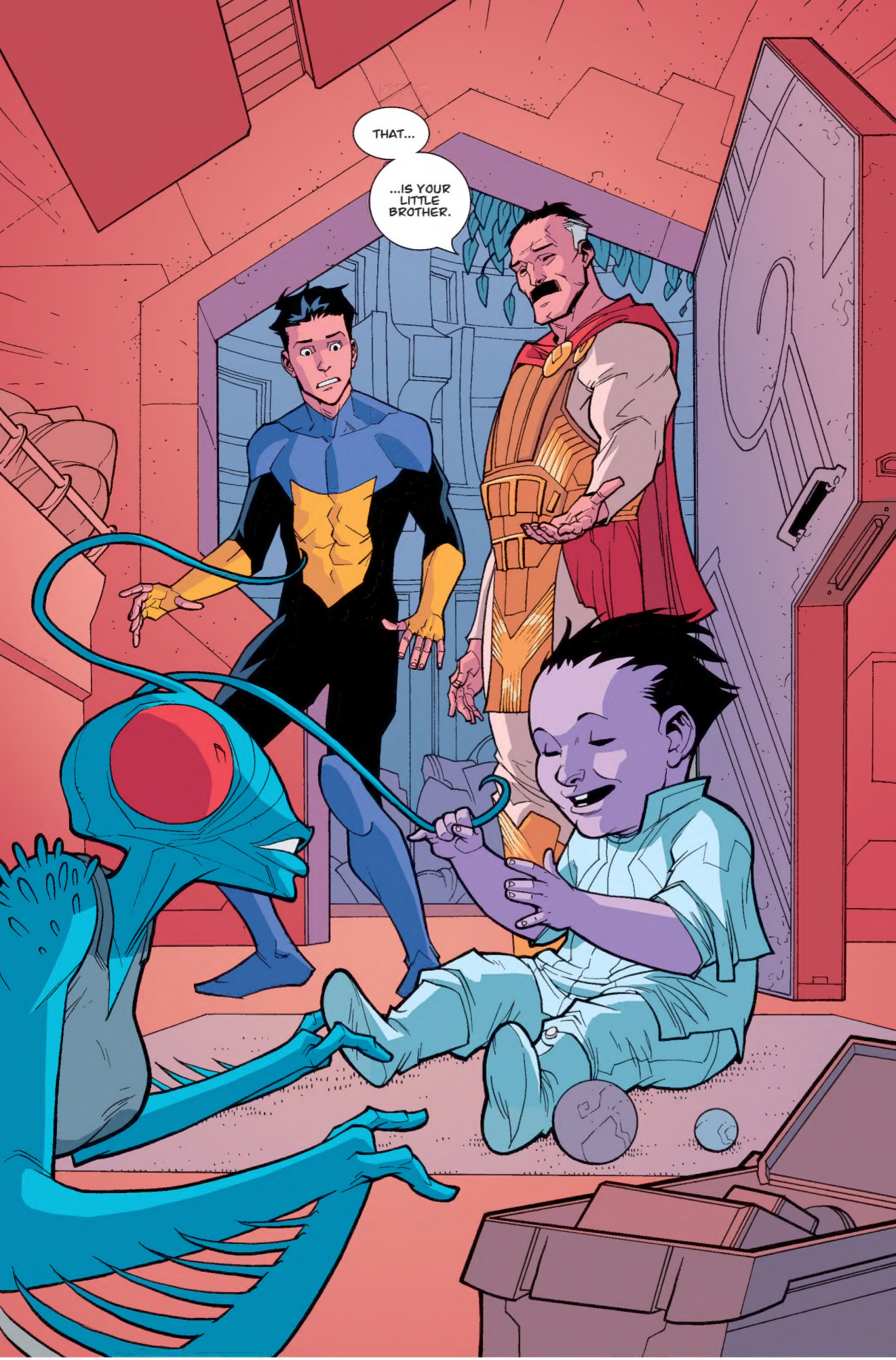












THAT...

...IS YOUR  
LITTLE  
BROTHER.