



BRIAN K. VAUGHAN
CLIFF CHIANG
MATT WILSON
JARED K. FLETCHER



Paper GirlsTM

17

Paper Girls

17

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CLIFF CHIANG artist

MATT WILSON colors

JARED K. FLETCHER letters + design

DEE CUNNIFFE color flats



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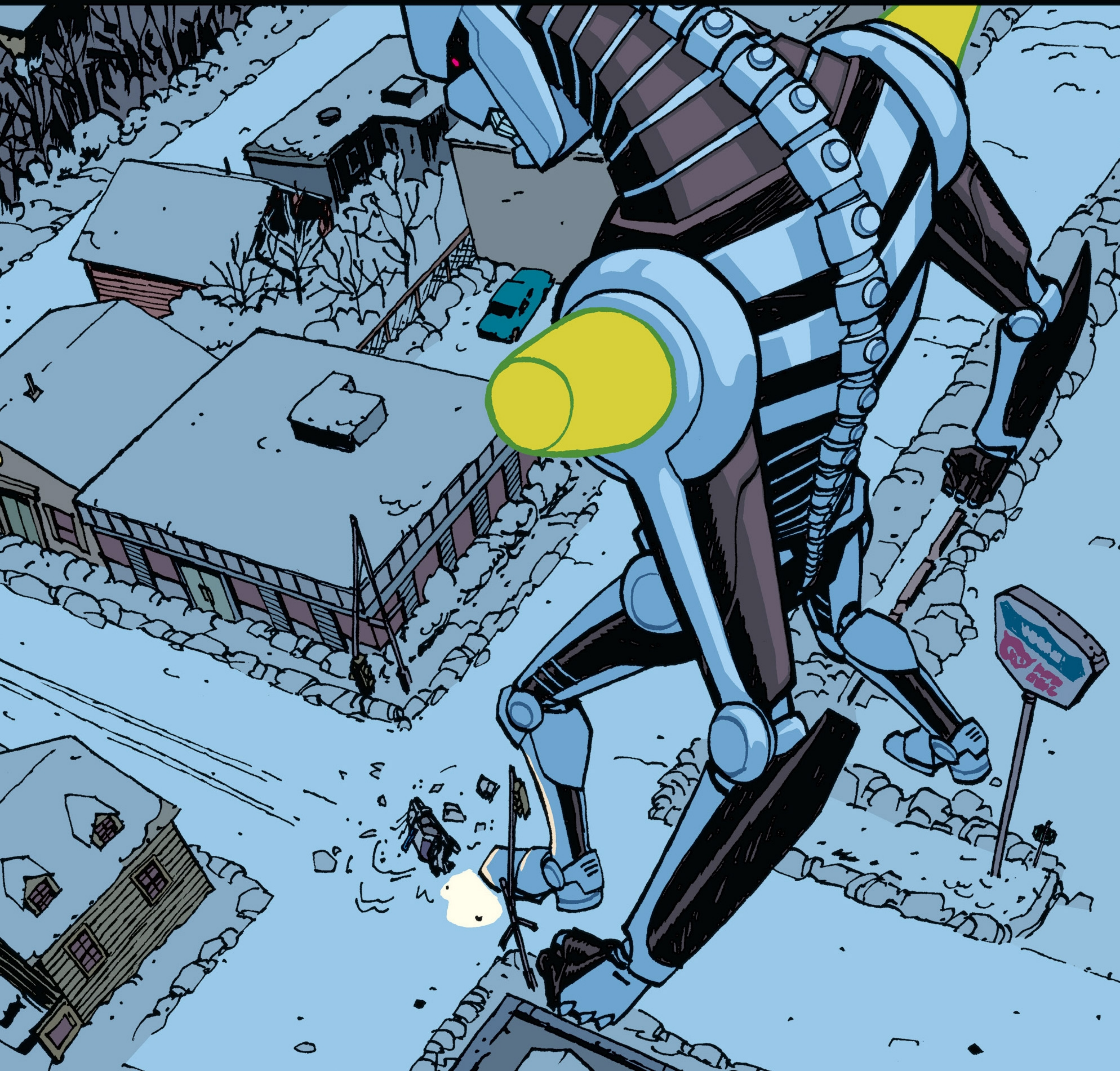
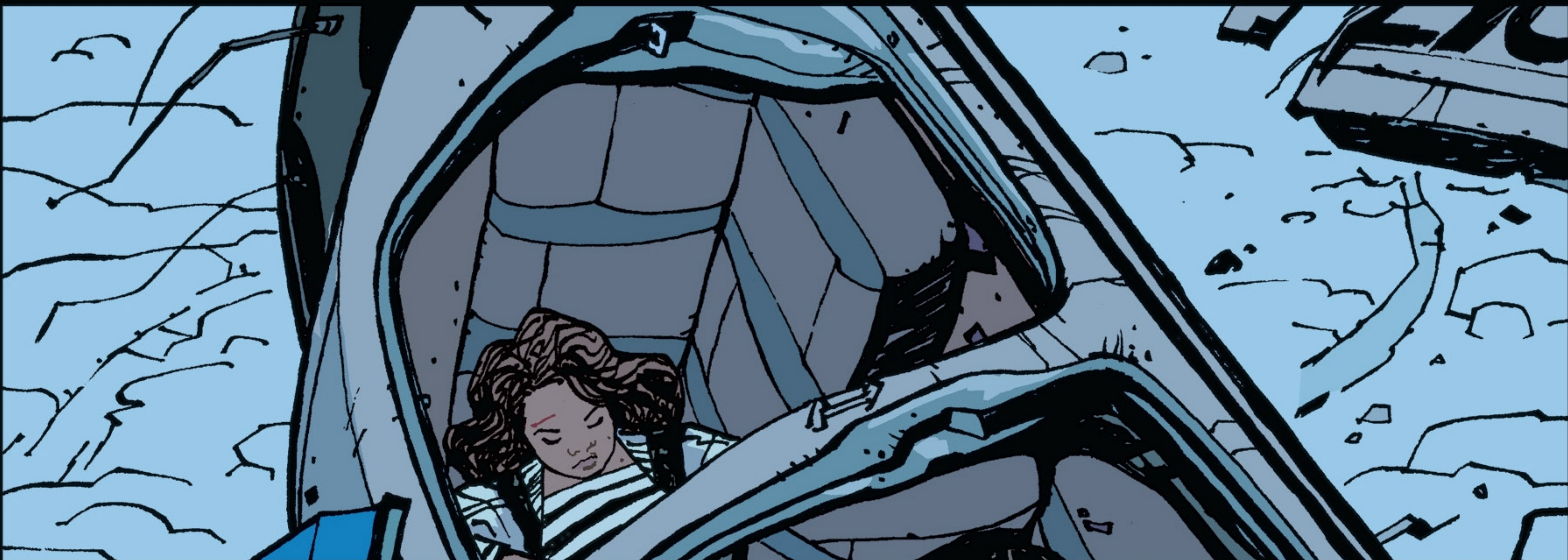


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“THE END OF THE WORLD?!?
Y2K Insanity!
Will computers melt down?
Will society?”

-**Time Magazine** cover,
January 18, 1999







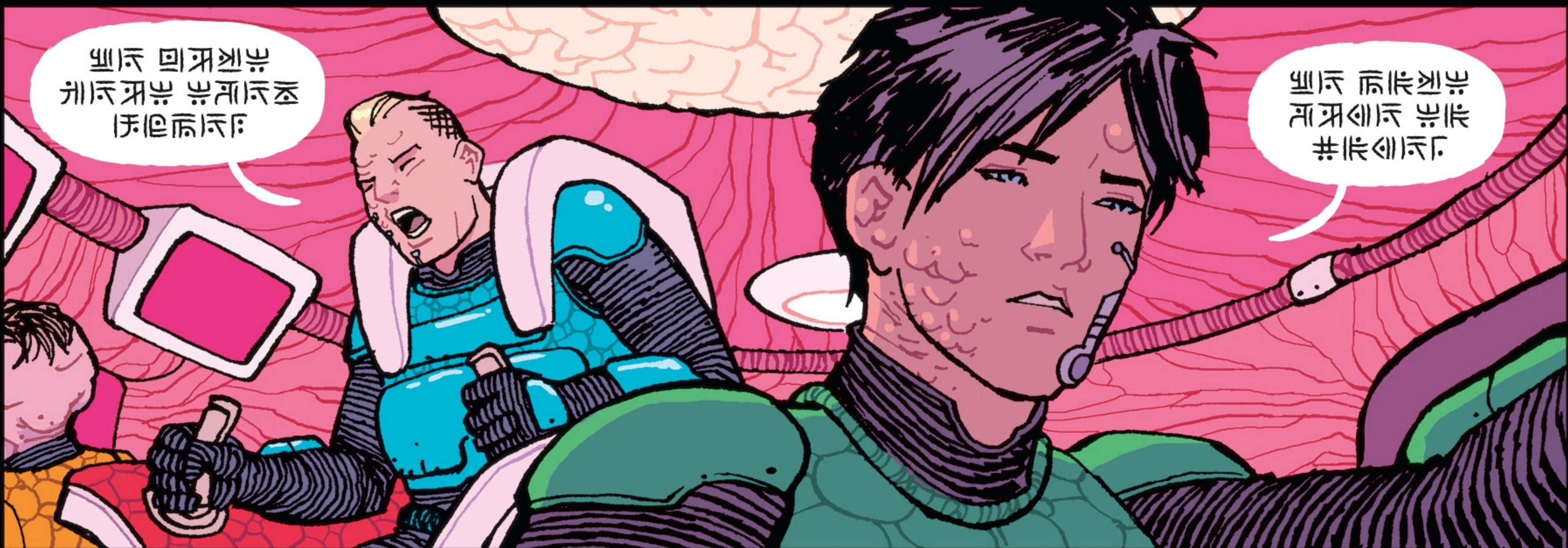
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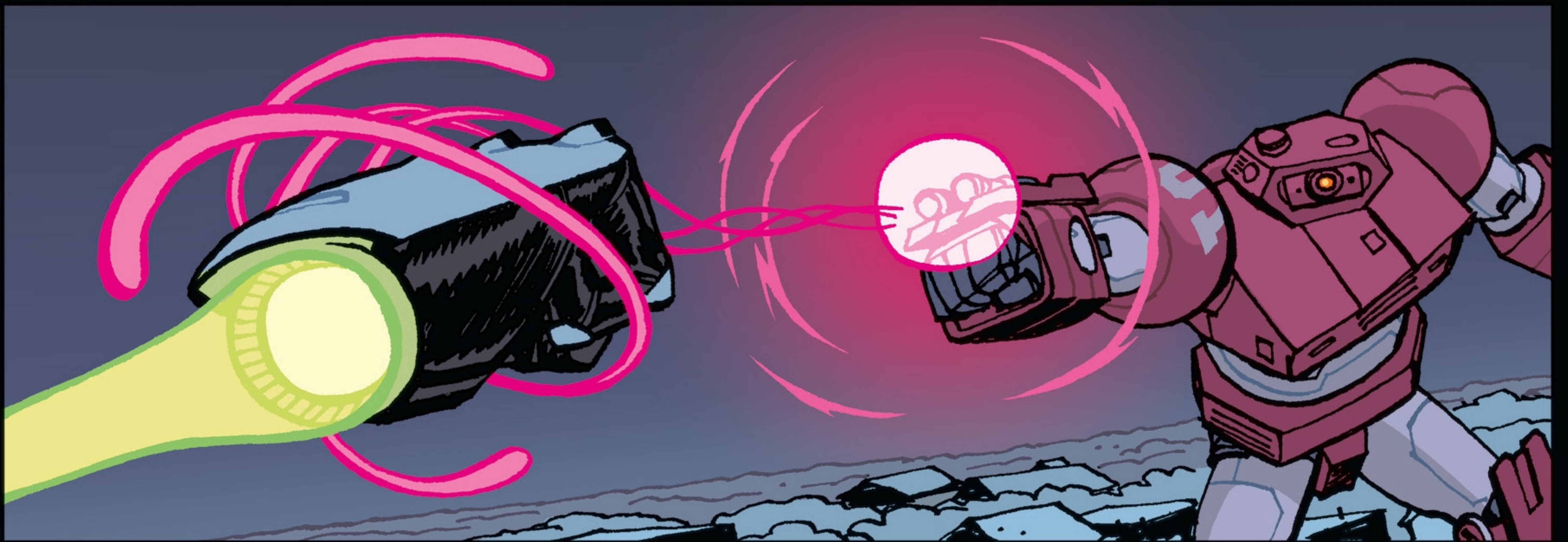
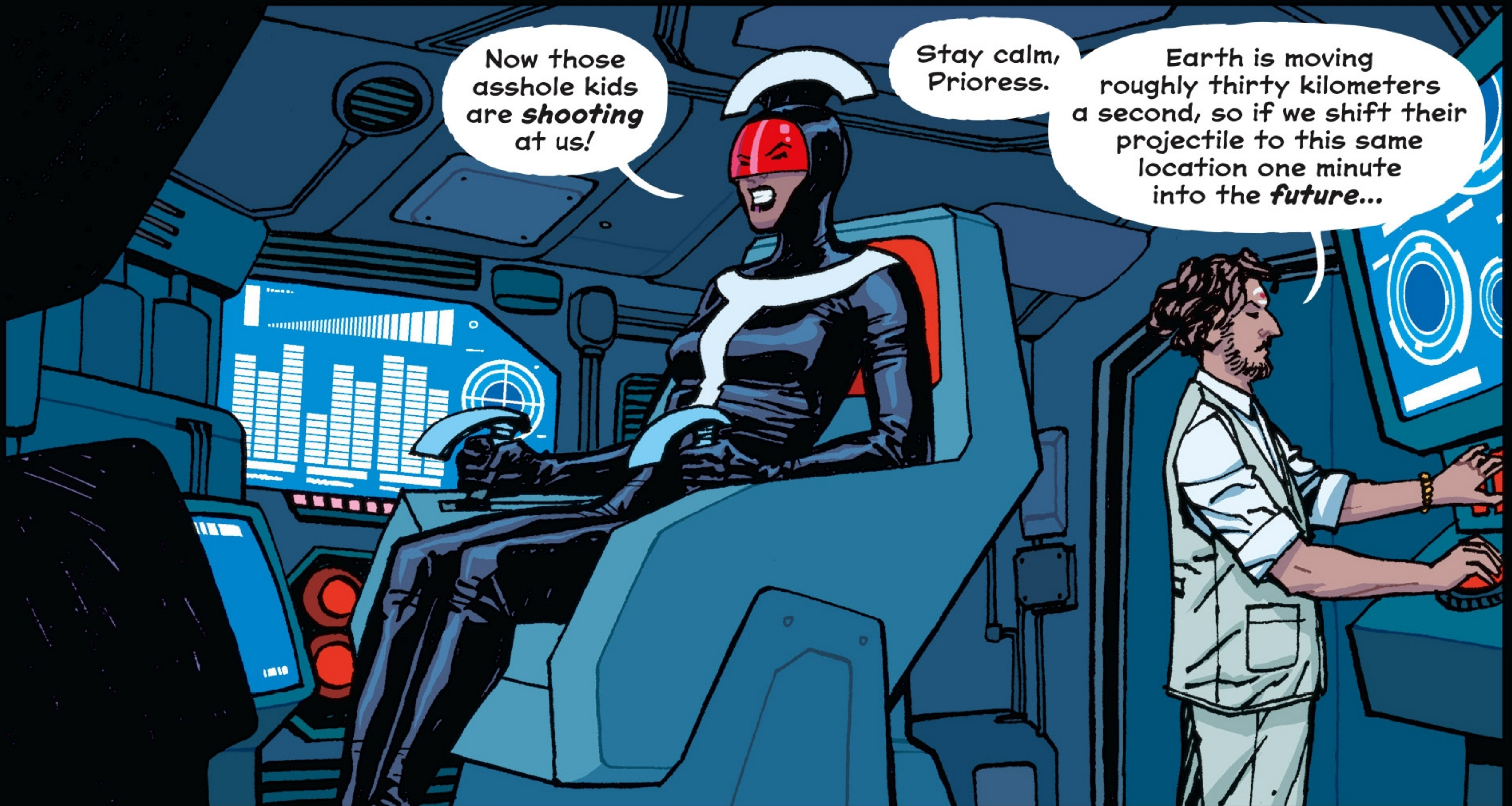
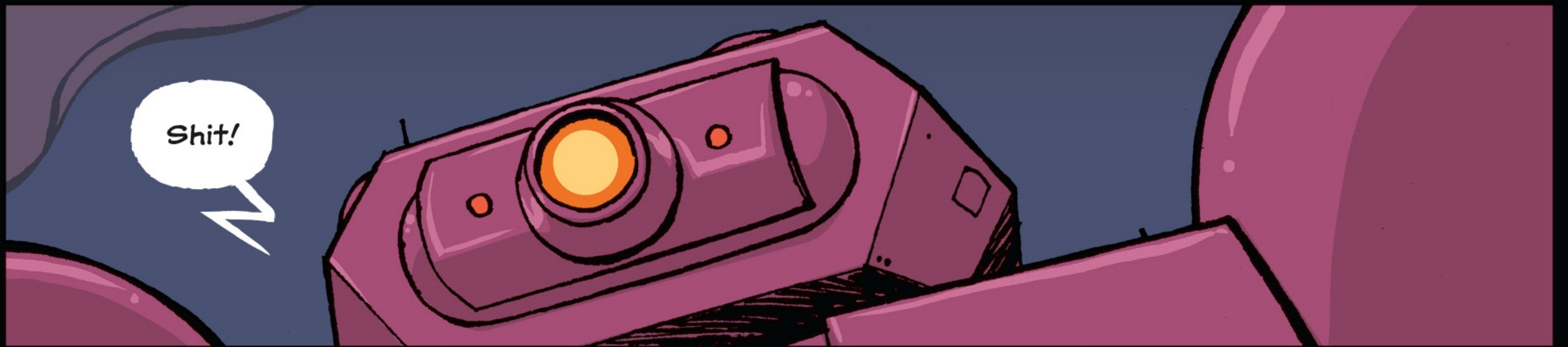


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I love math.

Keep patting yourself on the back, but you just cost us the rest of our *shot clock*.

We won't be able to pull that stunt again.



Meanwhile, their stomper *totaled* one of the locals' SunCars.



Solar was still rare in the year 2000, Prioress.

That thing probably runs on *petrol*.

How are you being so *calm* about this?!



Because I'm confident the *Restorers* will be able to clean up whatever mess these children make.

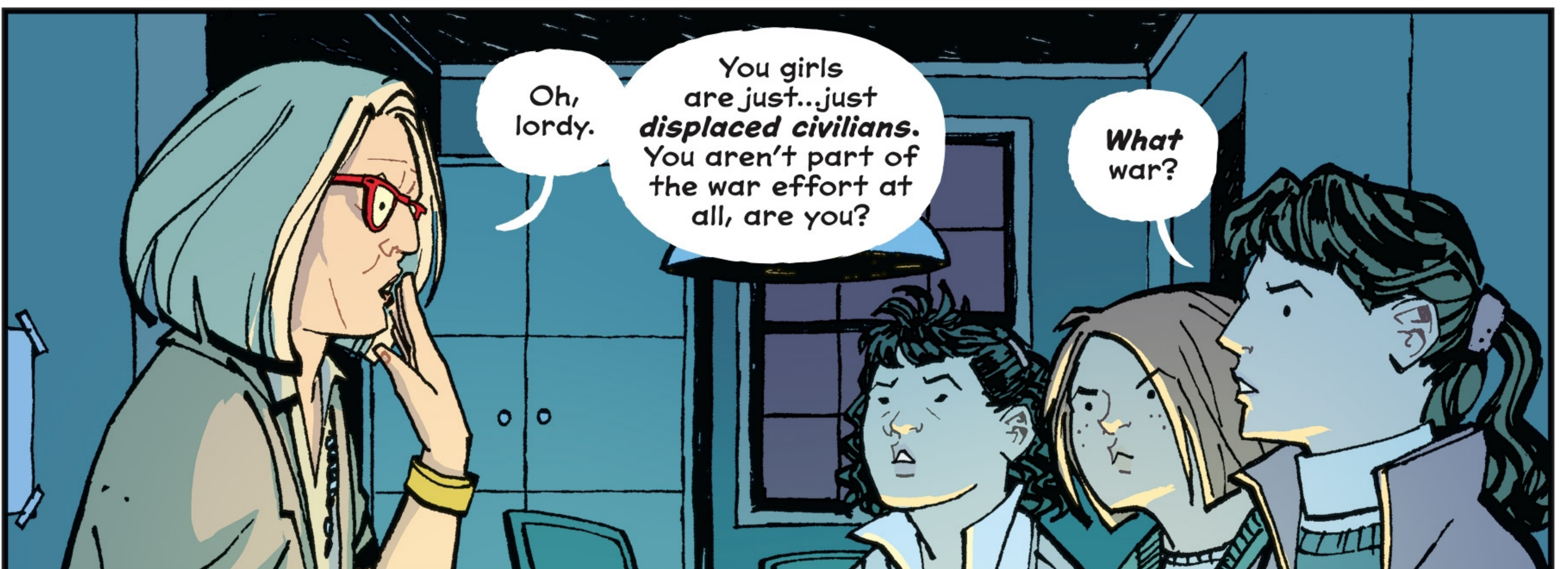
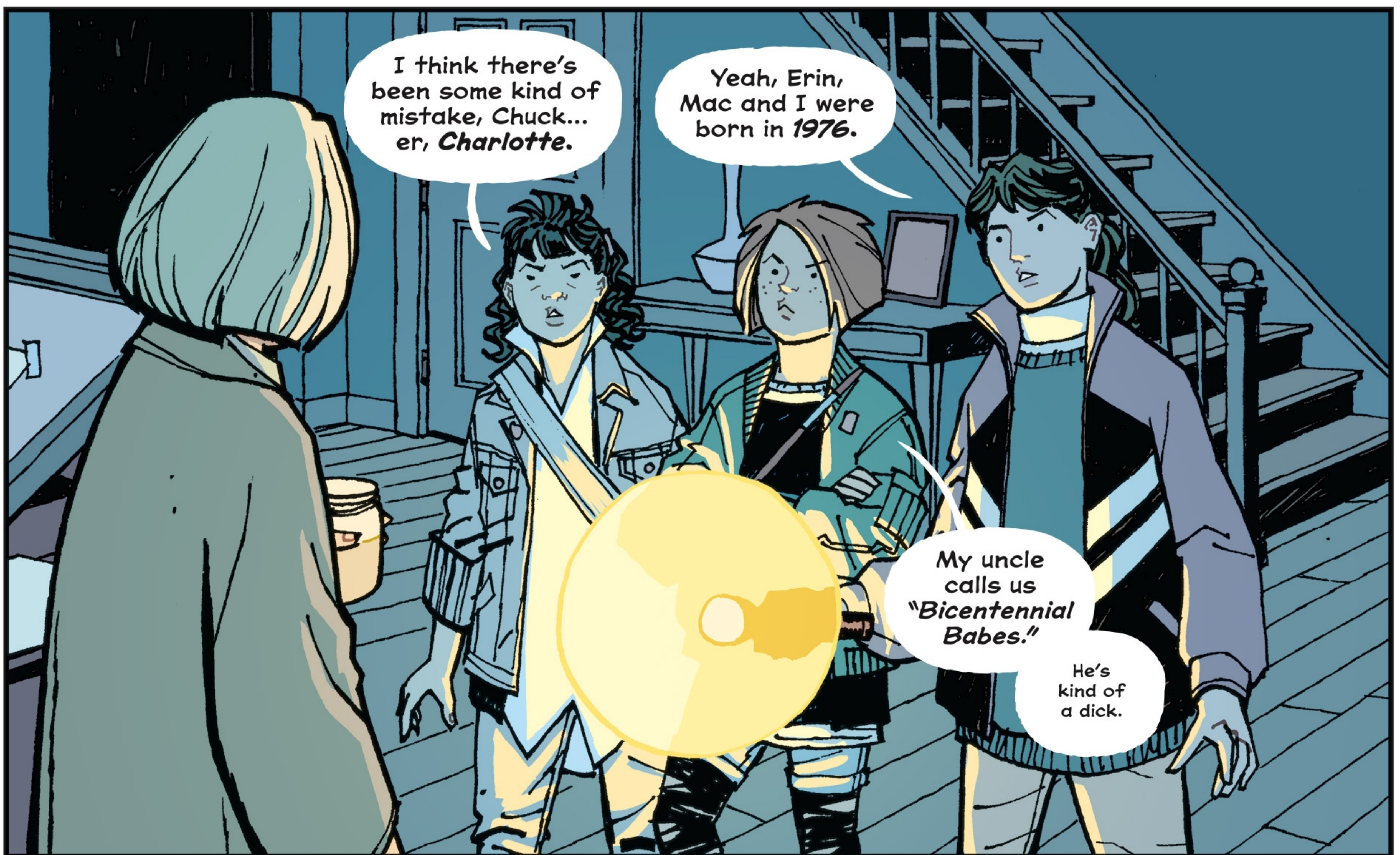


Those machines just repair infrastructure, Grand Father!

They can't resurrect *people*!



Then let's try our best not to die.





The *Battle of the Ages*, of course. It's been raging for most of my life, though the first shots are only now being...

Forgive me, you must be terribly confused.

That's, like, a huge understatement. Whatever's happening here, could you maybe give us the *Cliff's Notes*?



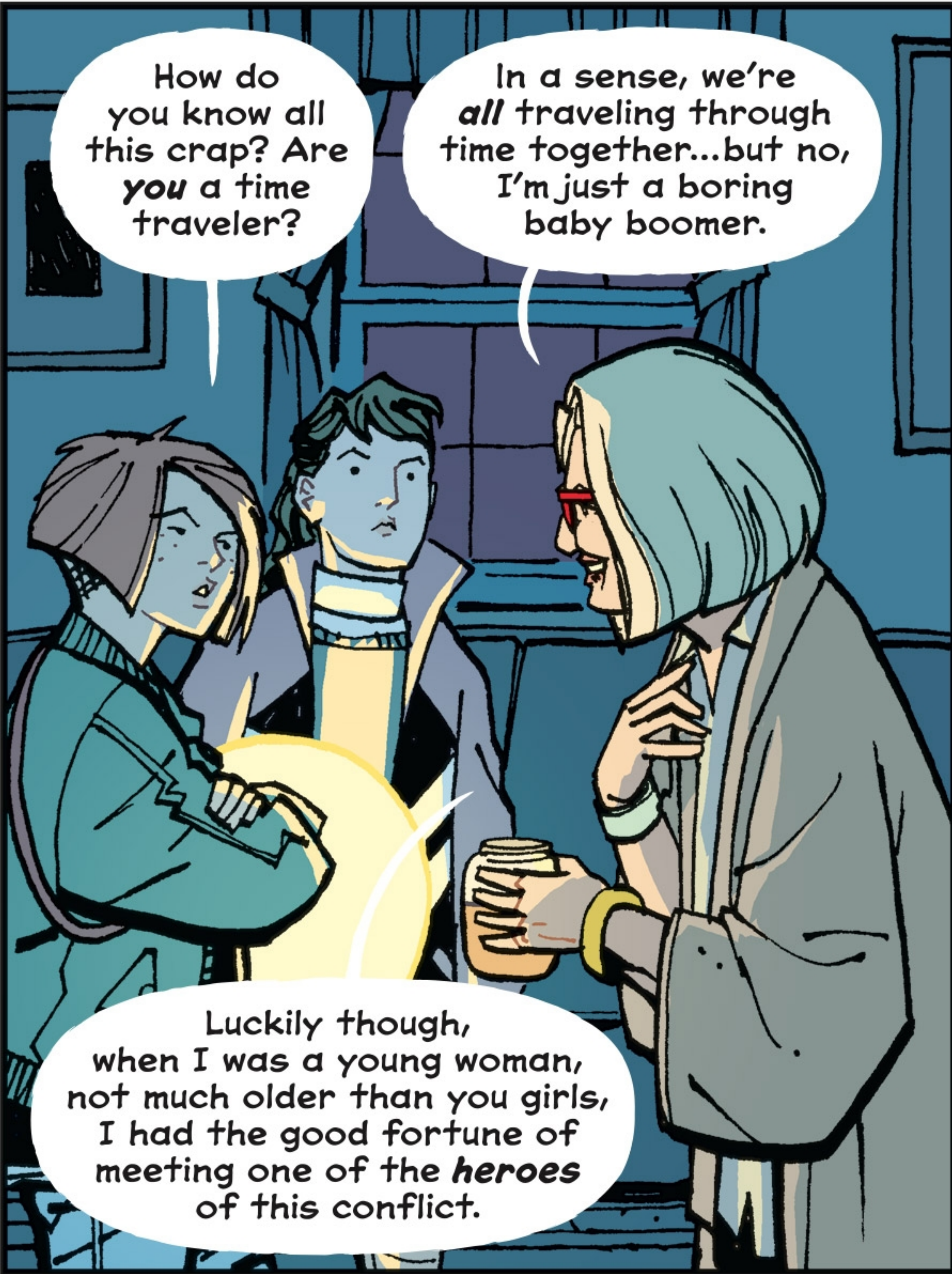
Well, if you've somehow ended up here from another era, I assume you've already encountered the men and women we call the old-timers?



Hey, we saw a creep who looked exactly like that back in '88!

He's an enemy fighter, part of the first generations born *after* the invention of time travel.

These people decided that any attempts to interfere with the past were *immoral*, and vowed to prevent the timeline from being even peacefully explored.



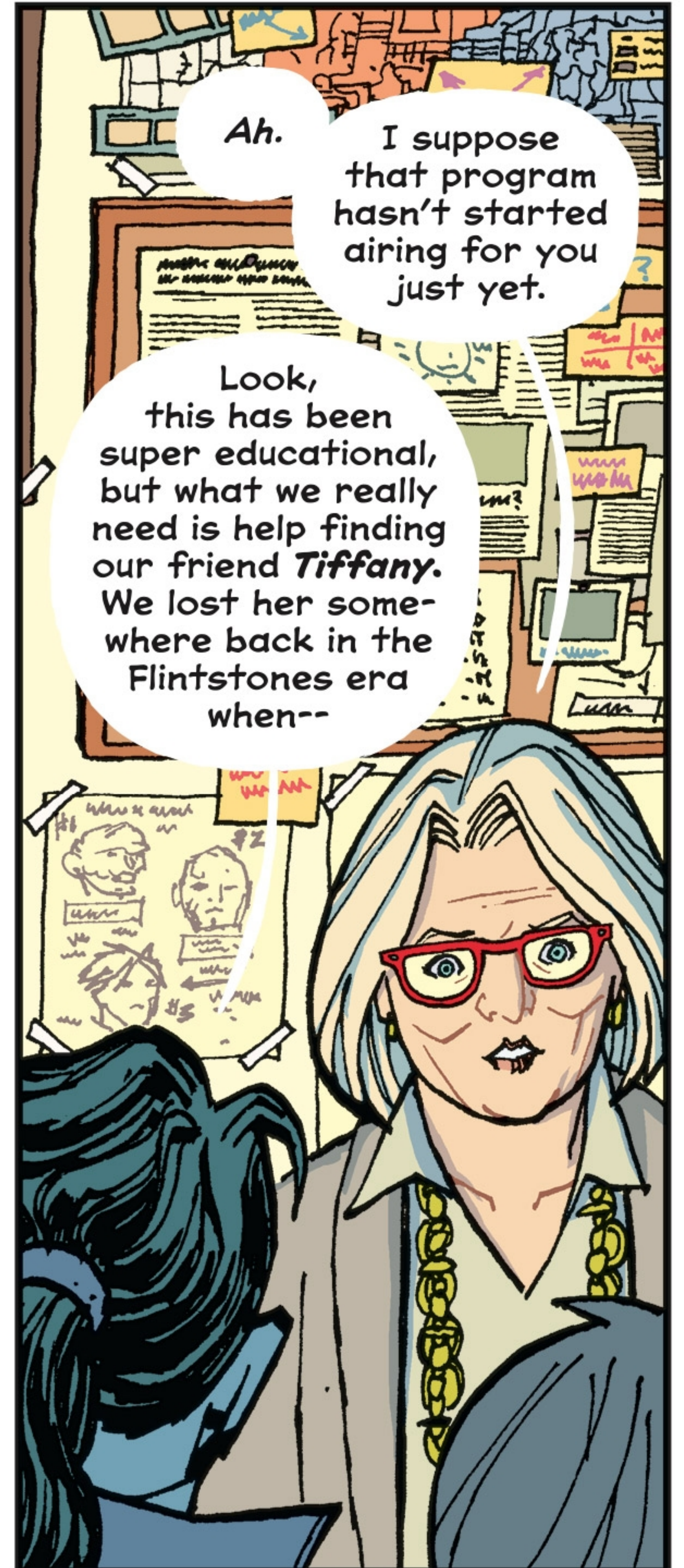
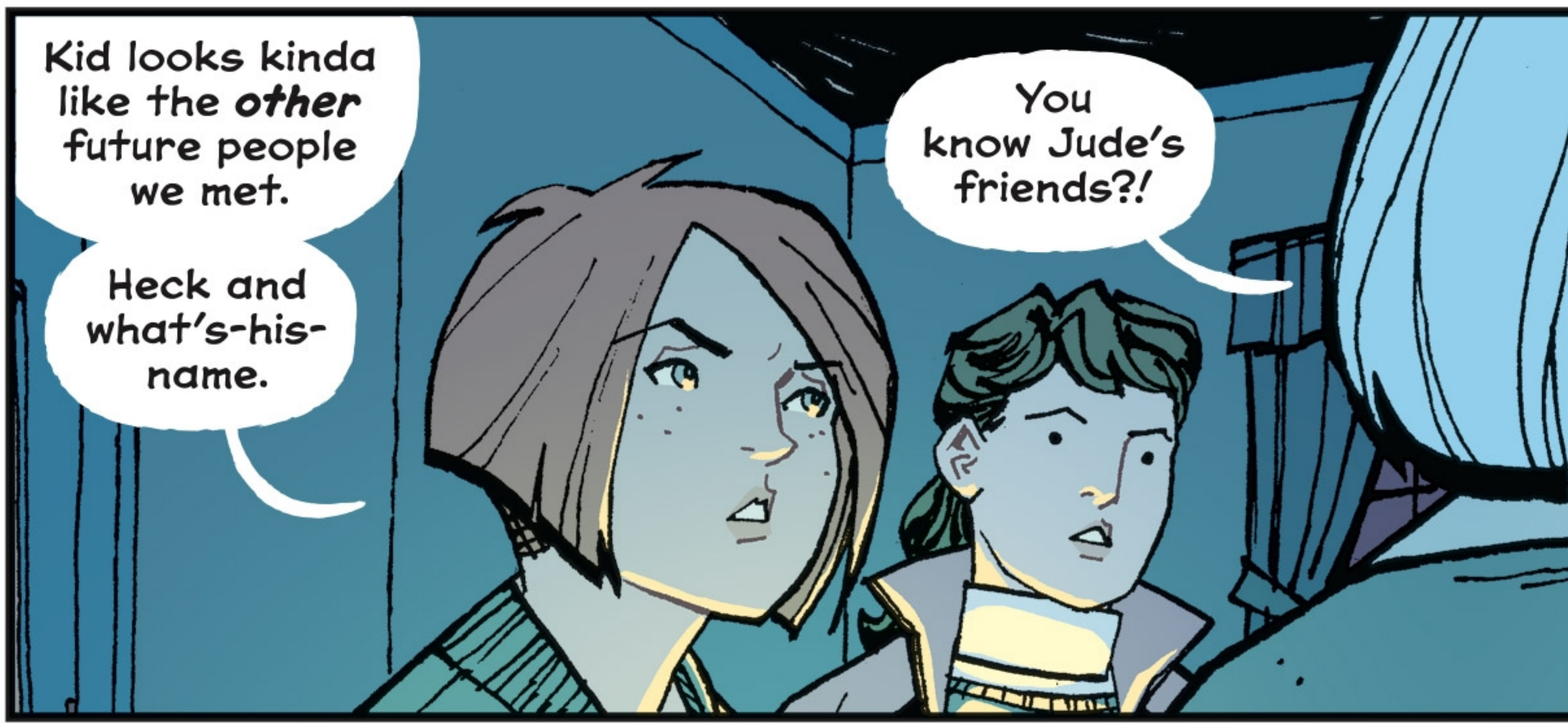
How do you know all this crap? Are *you* a time traveler?

In a sense, we're *all* traveling through time together...but no, I'm just a boring baby boomer.

Luckily though, when I was a young woman, not much older than you girls, I had the good fortune of meeting one of the *heroes* of this conflict.



His name is *Jude*, and he's a visitor from 70,000 A.D.





...OW...

Is everyone okay?

What?!



The fighting draws nearer.

It won't be long before the old-timers start sweeping every last limbic system in the area with their *amnesia rays*.



Did you say...?

Don't be frightened, dear.

Jude taught me how to protect myself from their effects.



You'll be safe in my cellar.



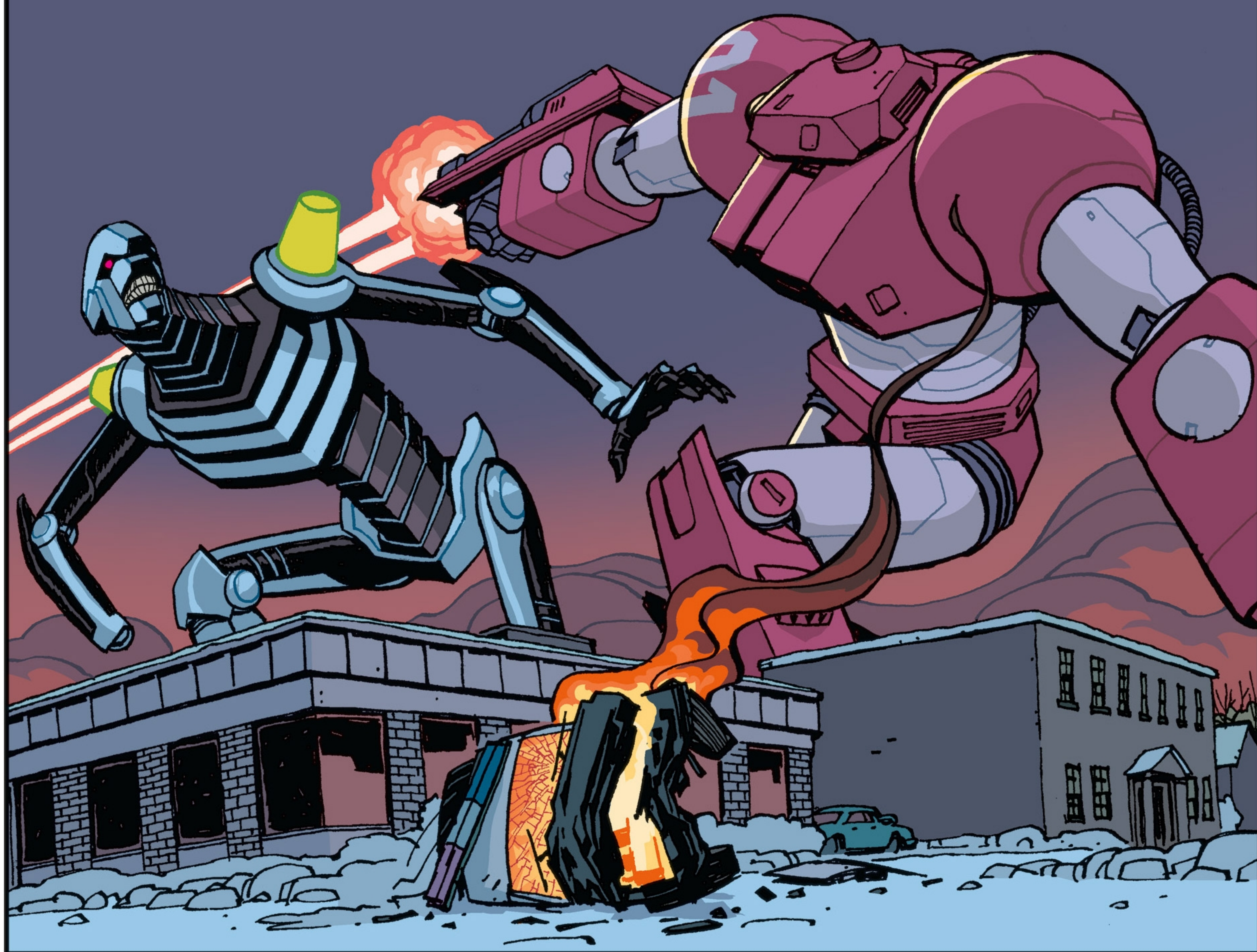
Oh, screw that!

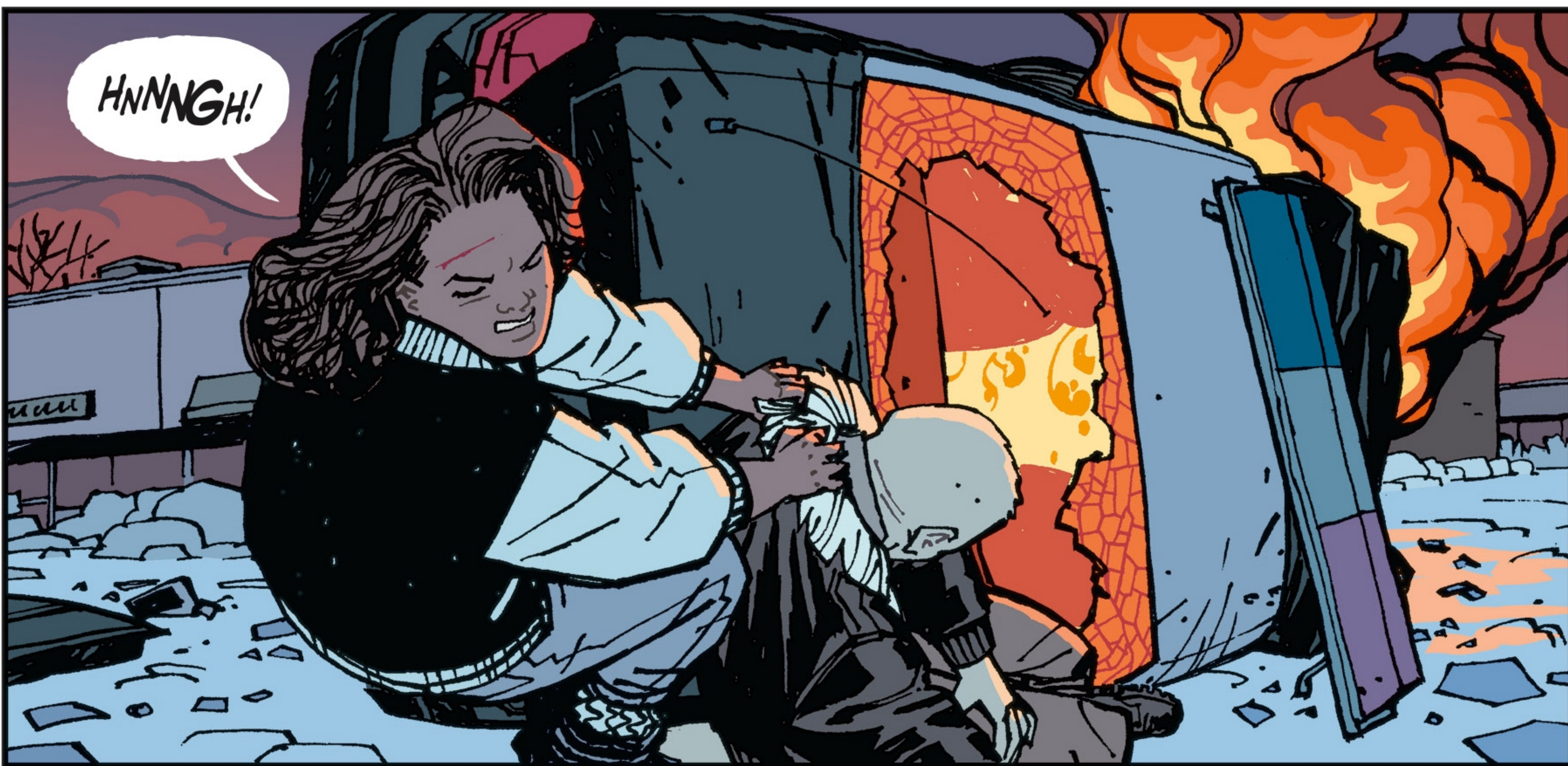
Going into creepy basements is what got us into this mess!

Please, I have equipment down here that may help you locate your missing companion. As a wise man once said...

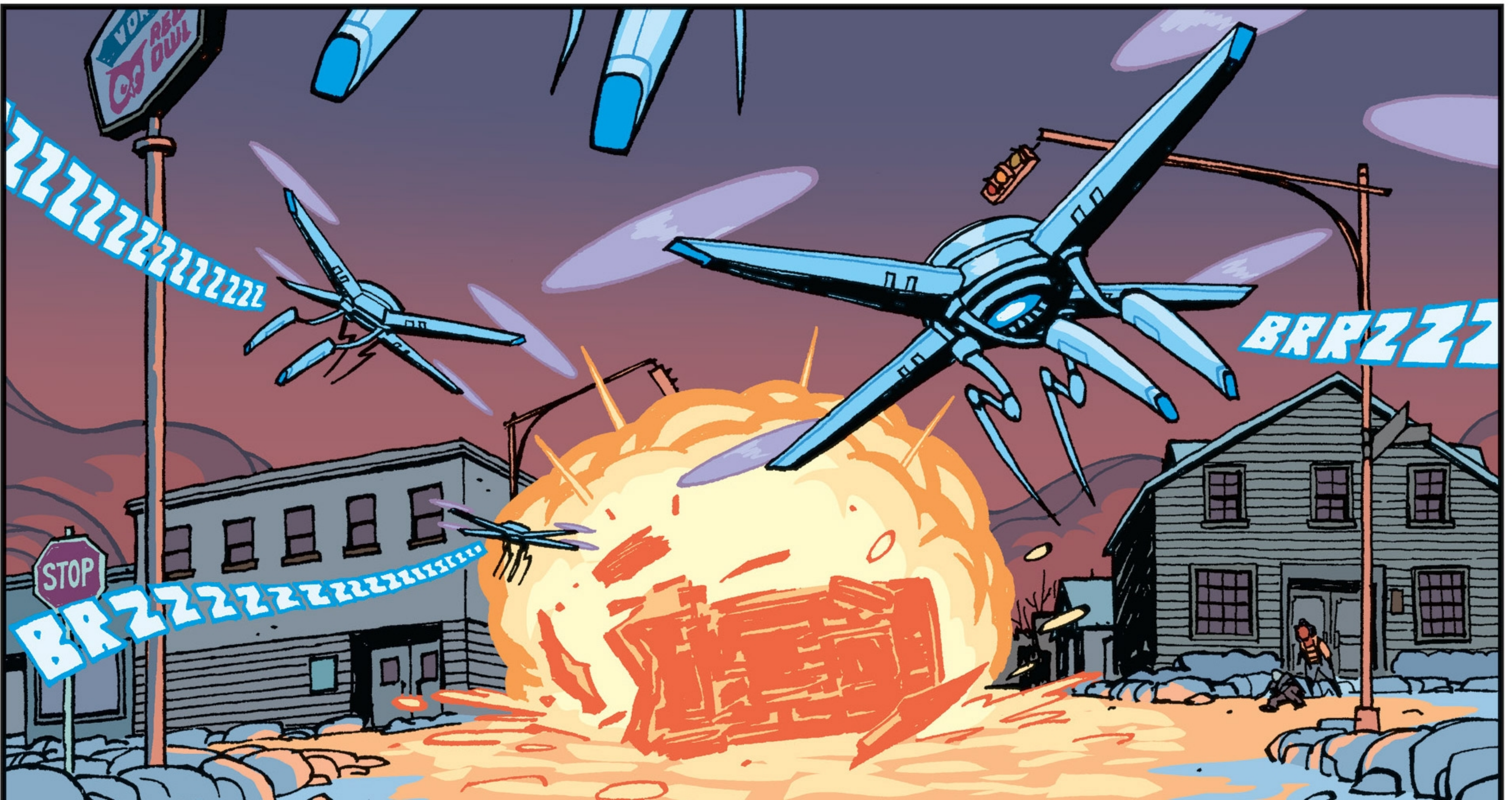


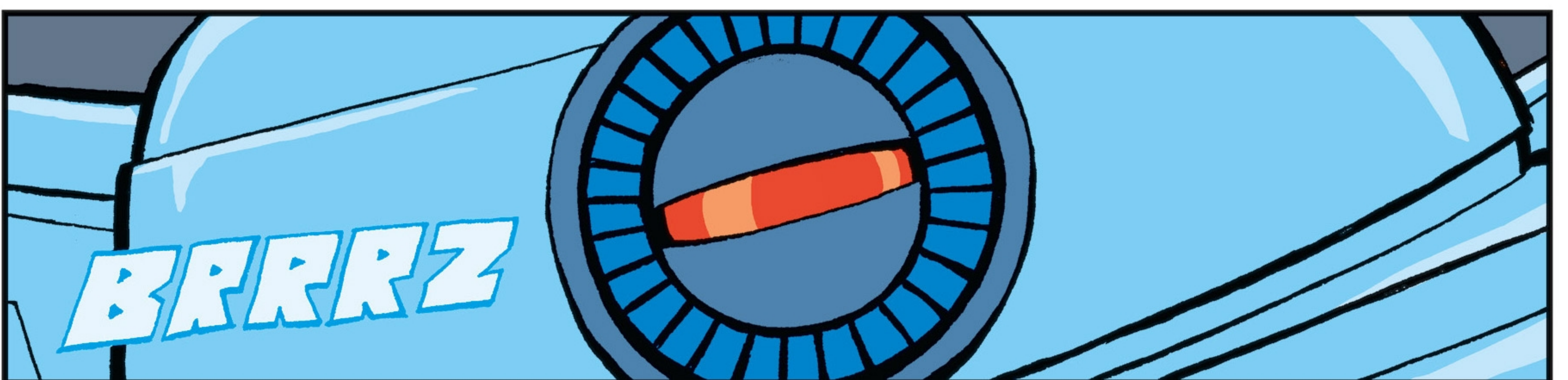
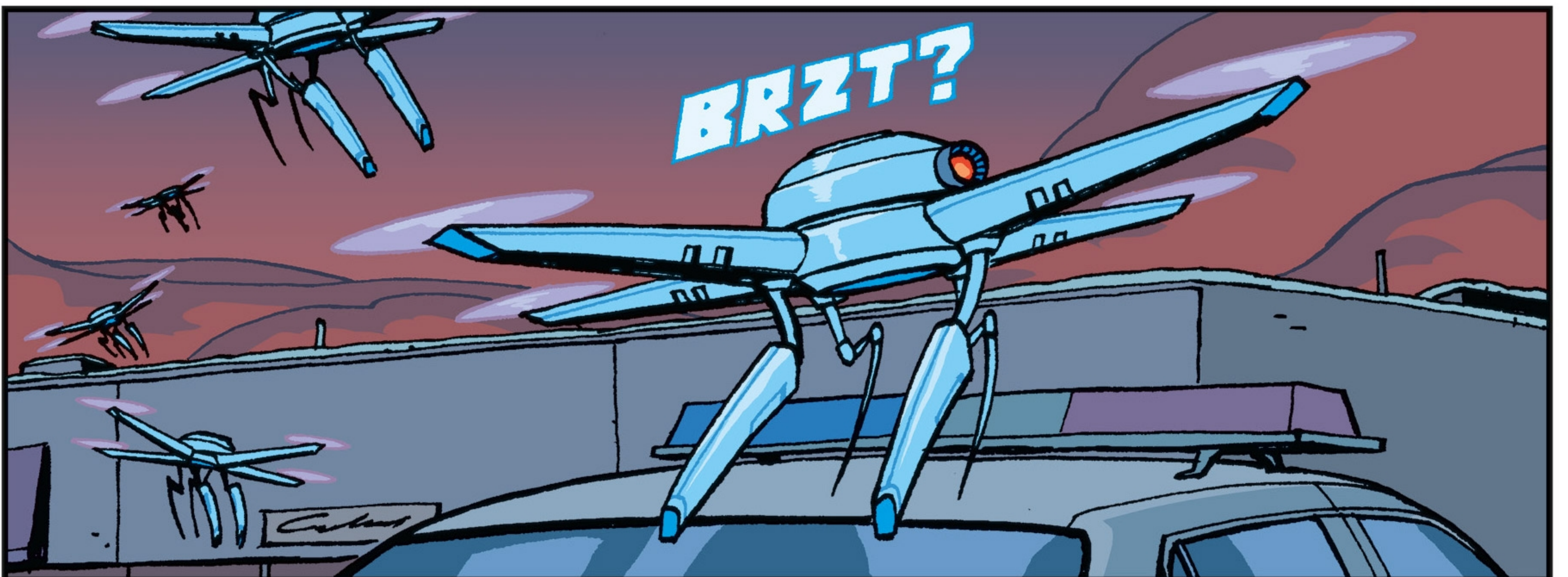
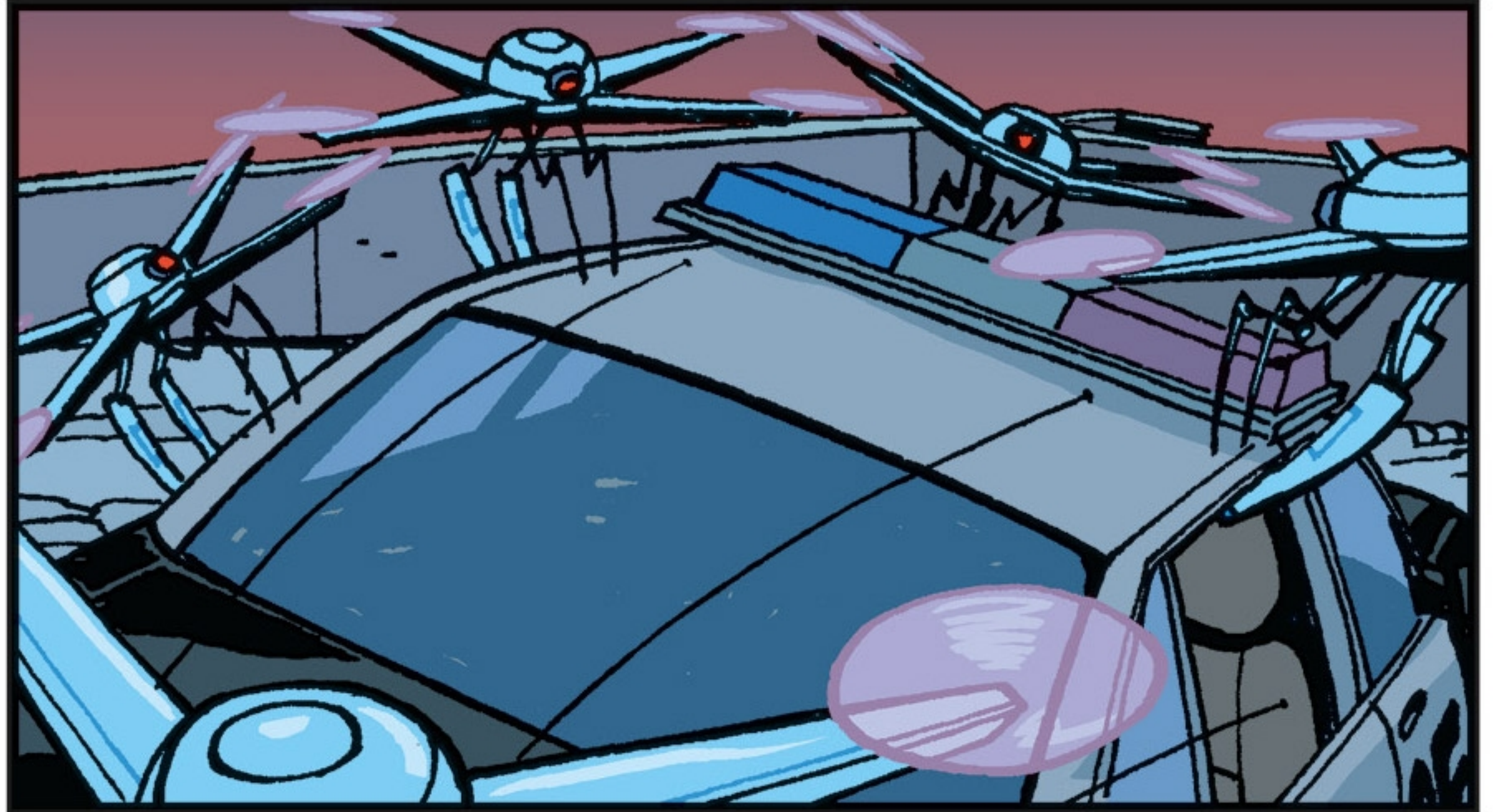
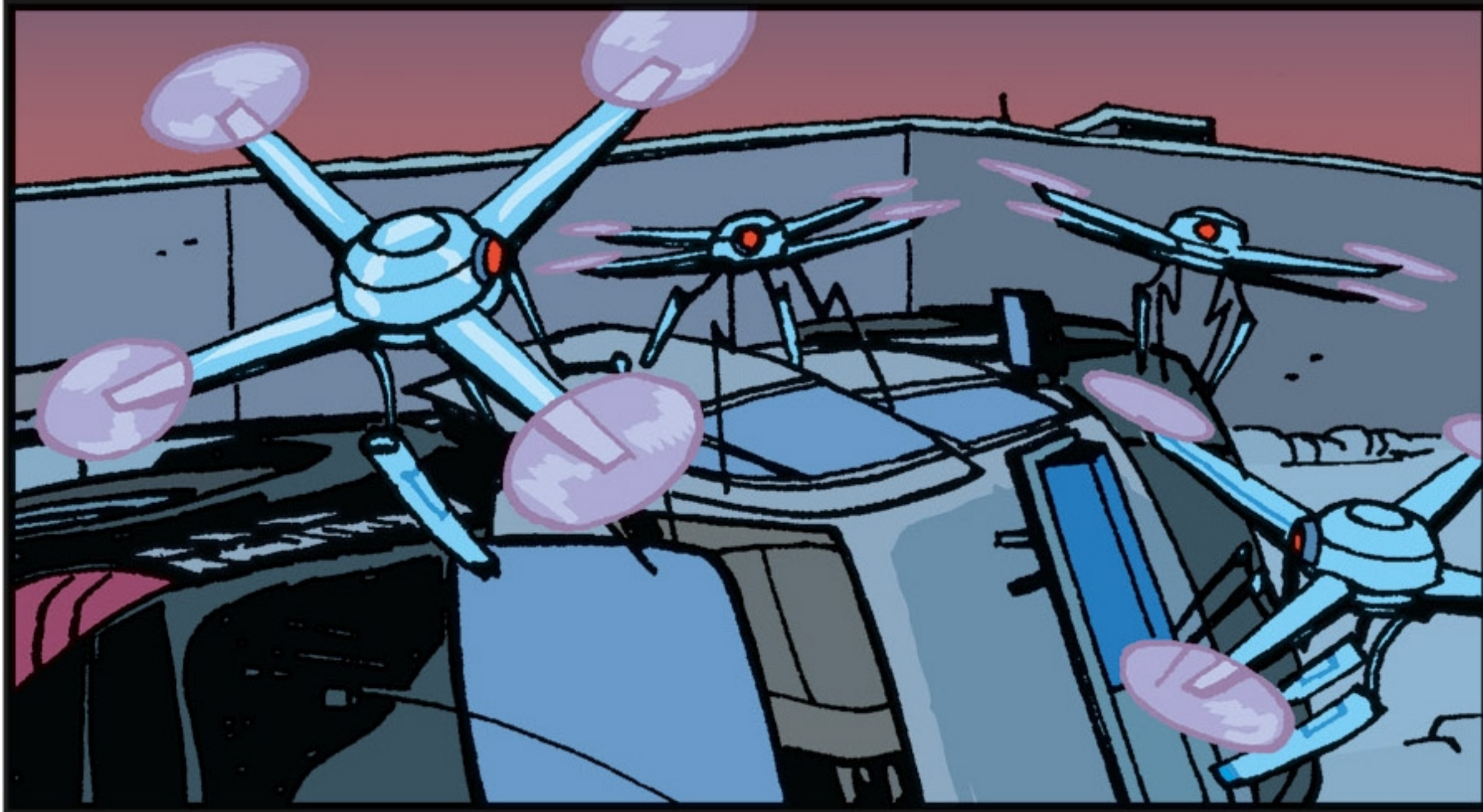
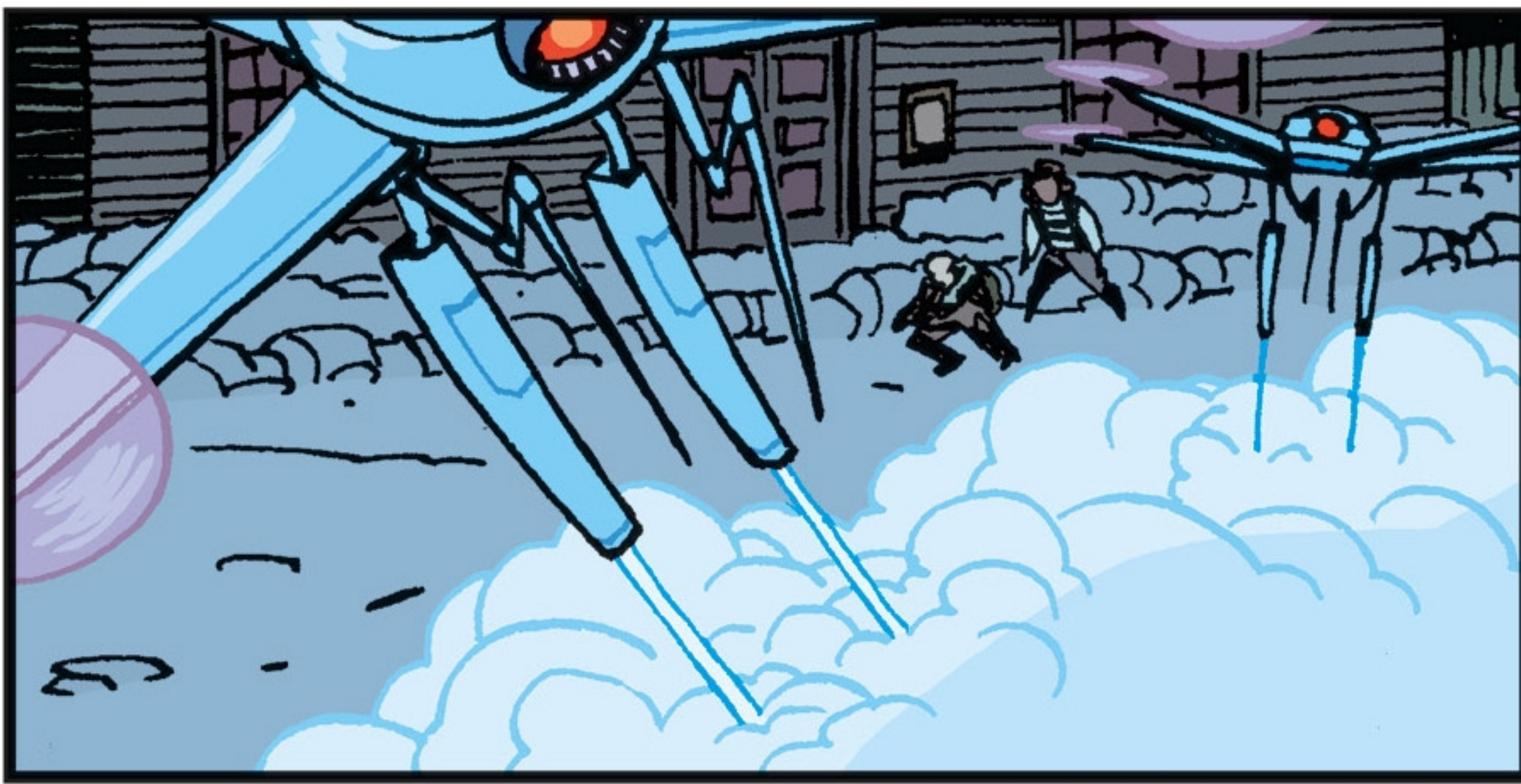
"Come with me if you want to live."

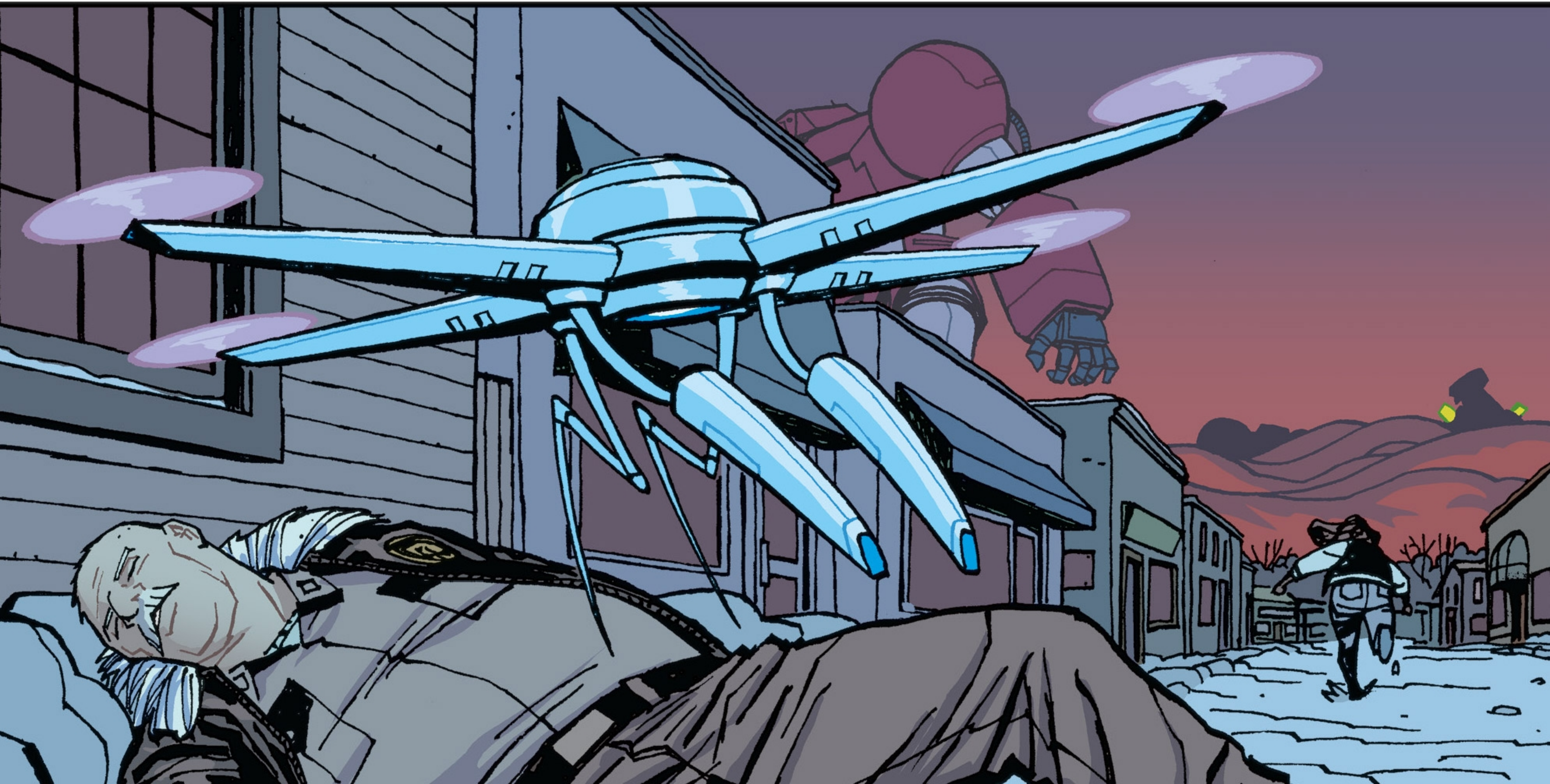


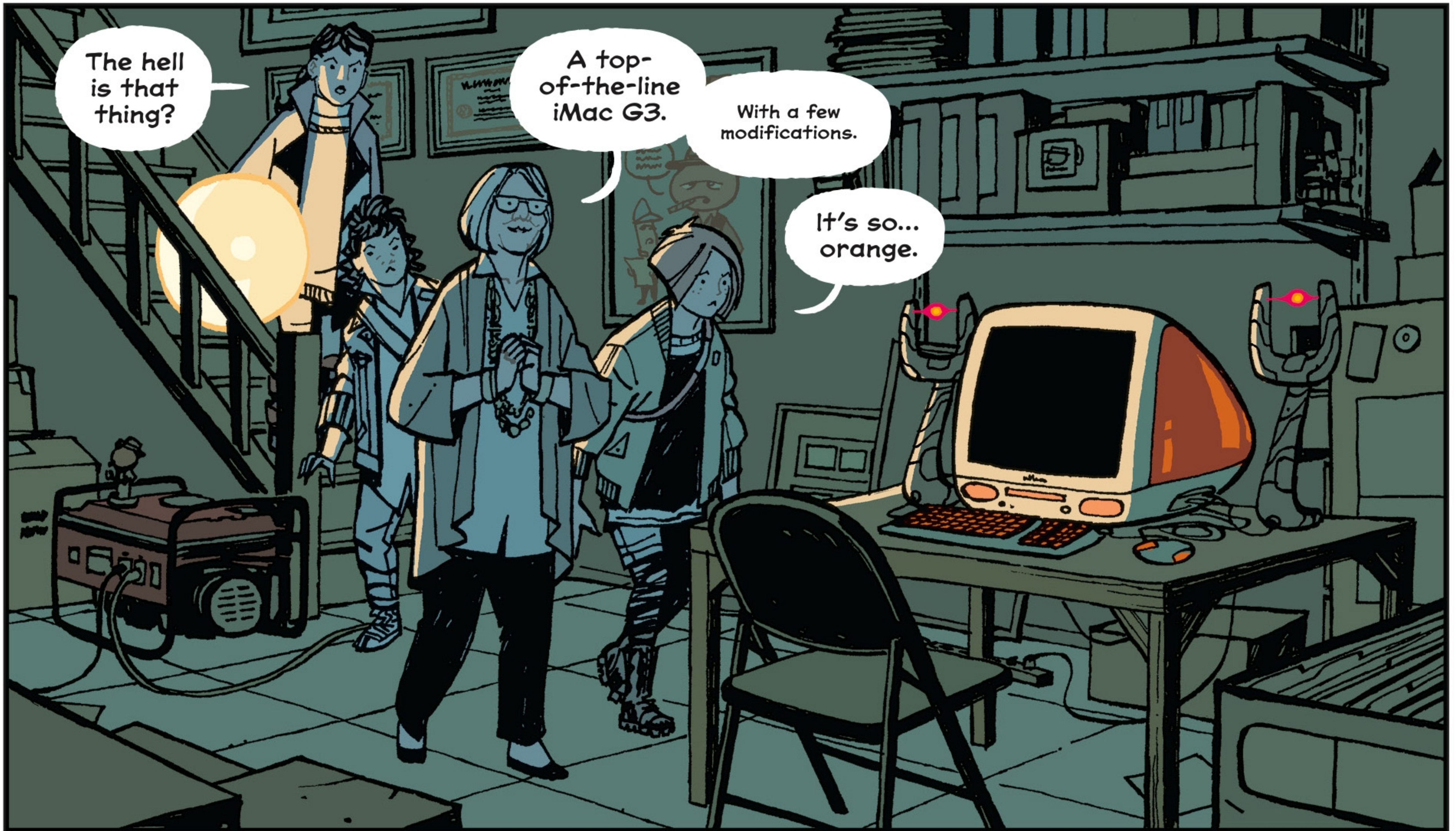
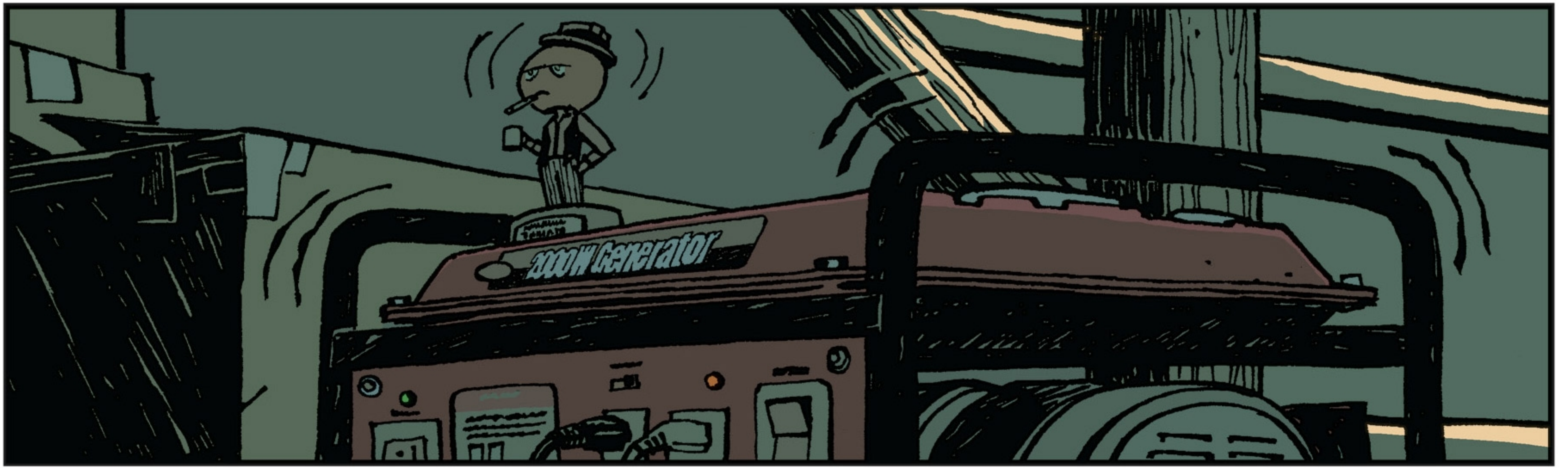












The hell is that thing?

A top-of-the-line iMac G3.

With a few modifications.

It's so... orange.

Tangerine, actually. I call it my *Folding Finder*.

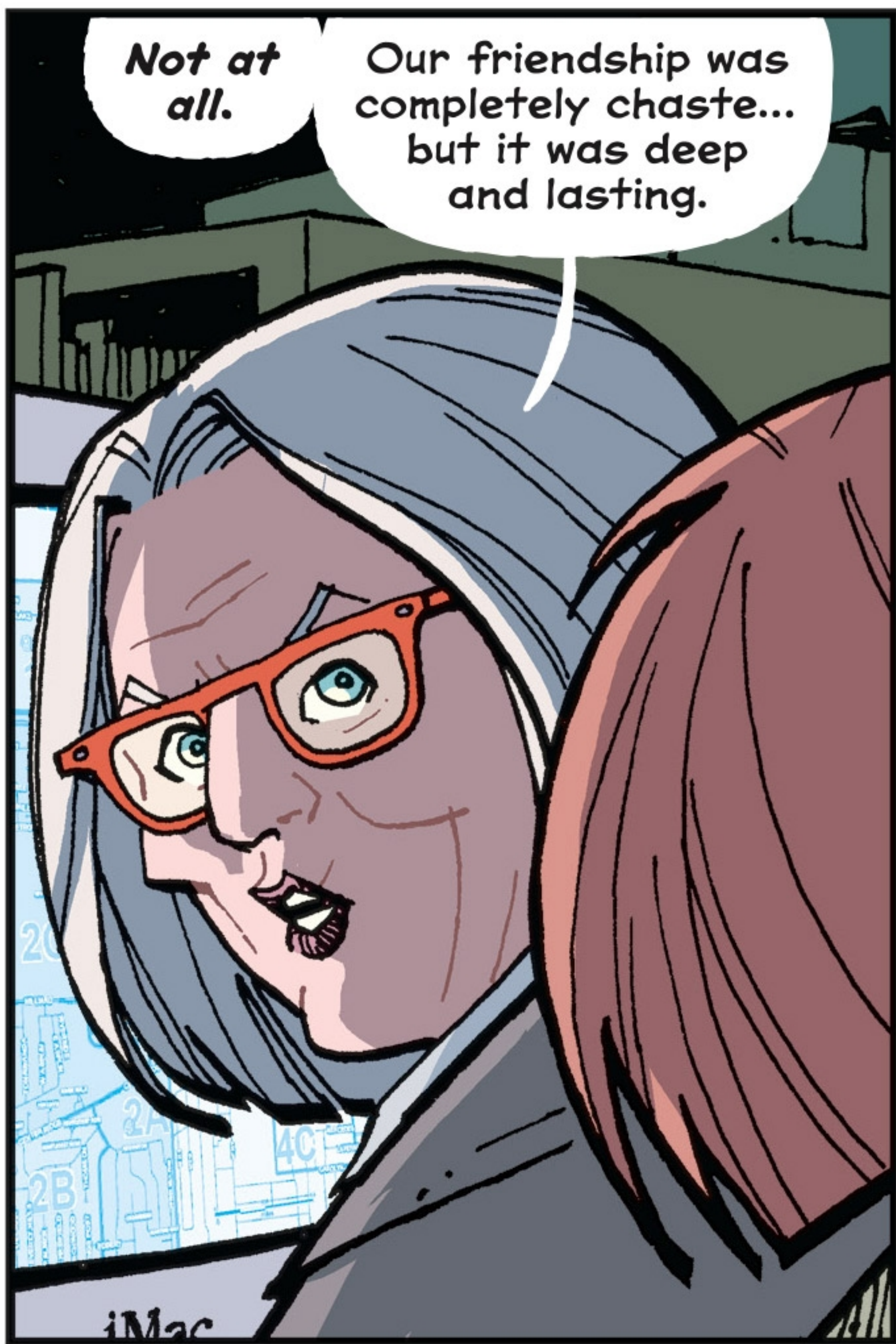
You know about the foldings?!

It's one of the first things Jude revealed to me when I found the young man hiding in my basement one summer morning way back in 1958.

He didn't stay long, but he taught me a great deal in our time together.

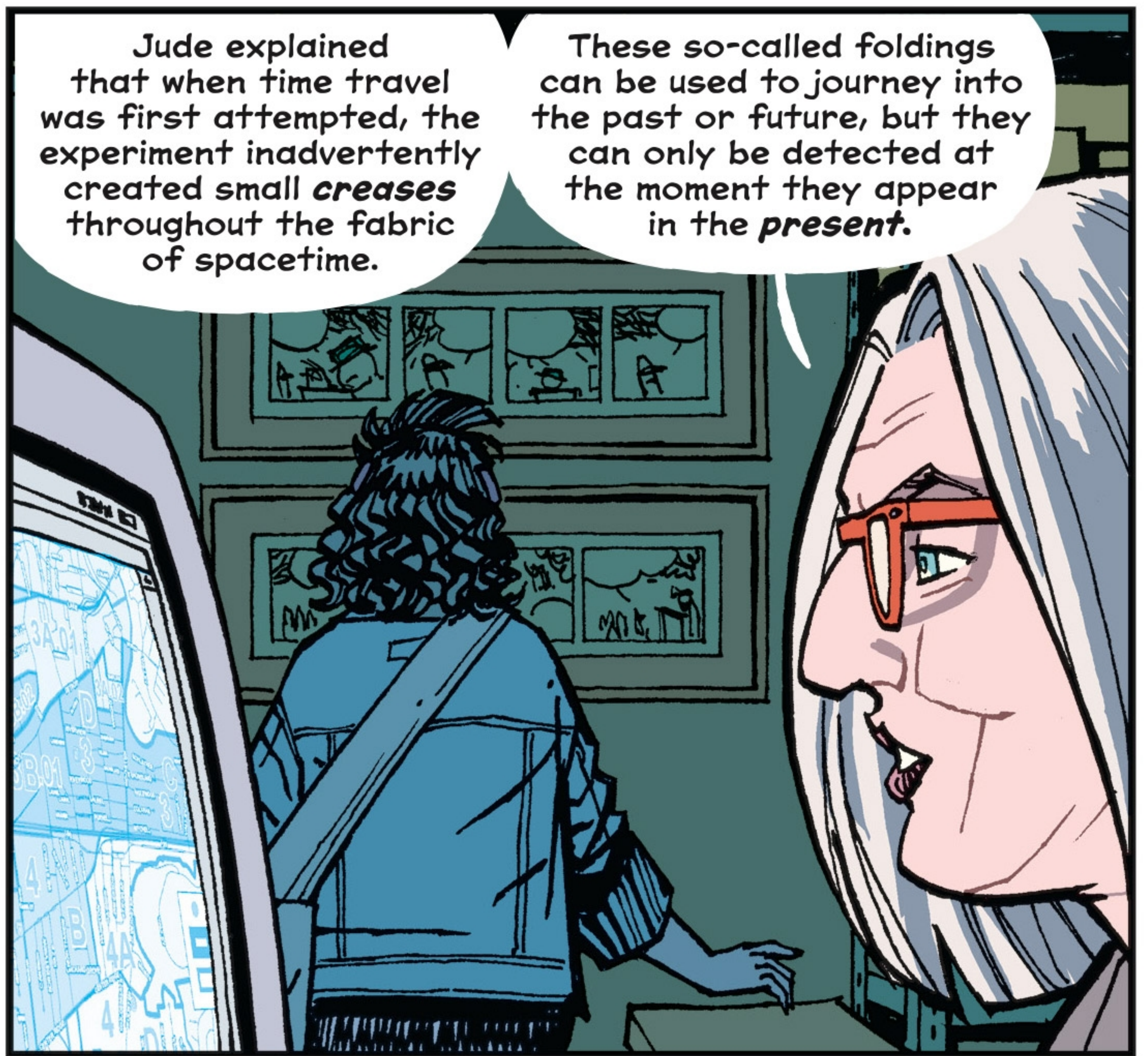
A great deal...

Ewww, did he try to bone you or something?



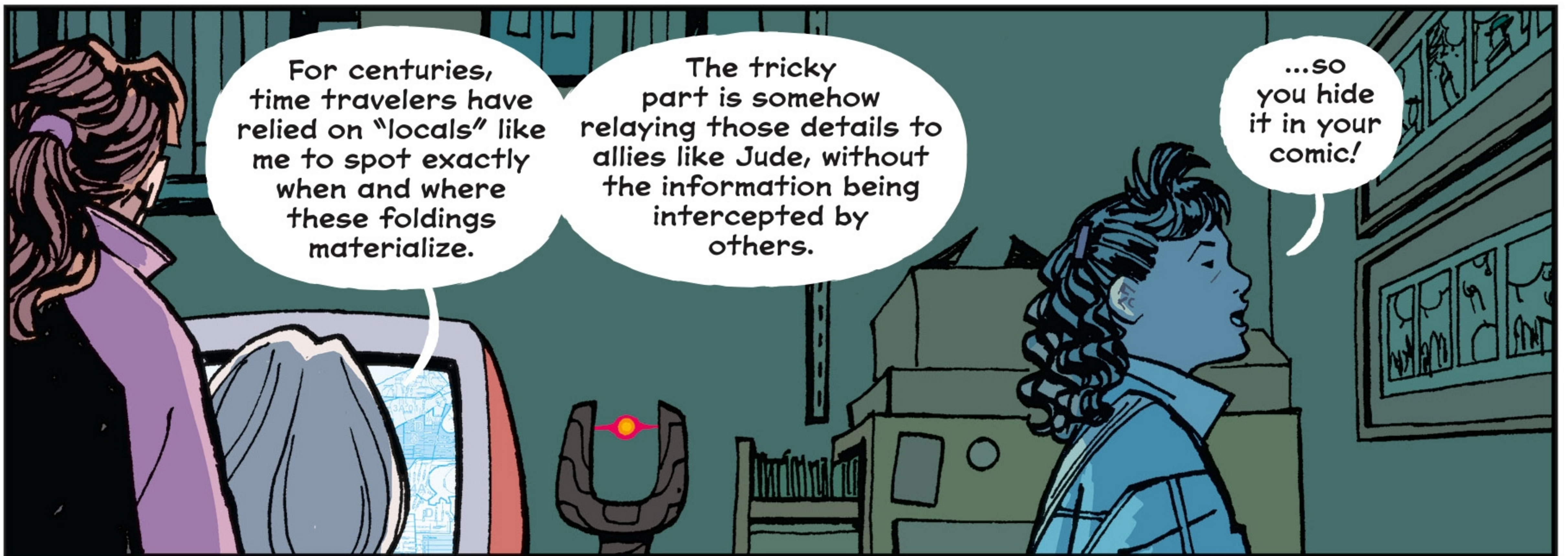
Not at all.

Our friendship was completely chaste... but it was deep and lasting.



Jude explained that when time travel was first attempted, the experiment inadvertently created small *creases* throughout the fabric of spacetime.

These so-called foldings can be used to journey into the past or future, but they can only be detected at the moment they appear in the *present*.



For centuries, time travelers have relied on "locals" like me to spot exactly when and where these foldings materialize.

The tricky part is somehow relaying those details to allies like Jude, without the information being intercepted by others.

...so you hide it in your comic!



Clever girl.

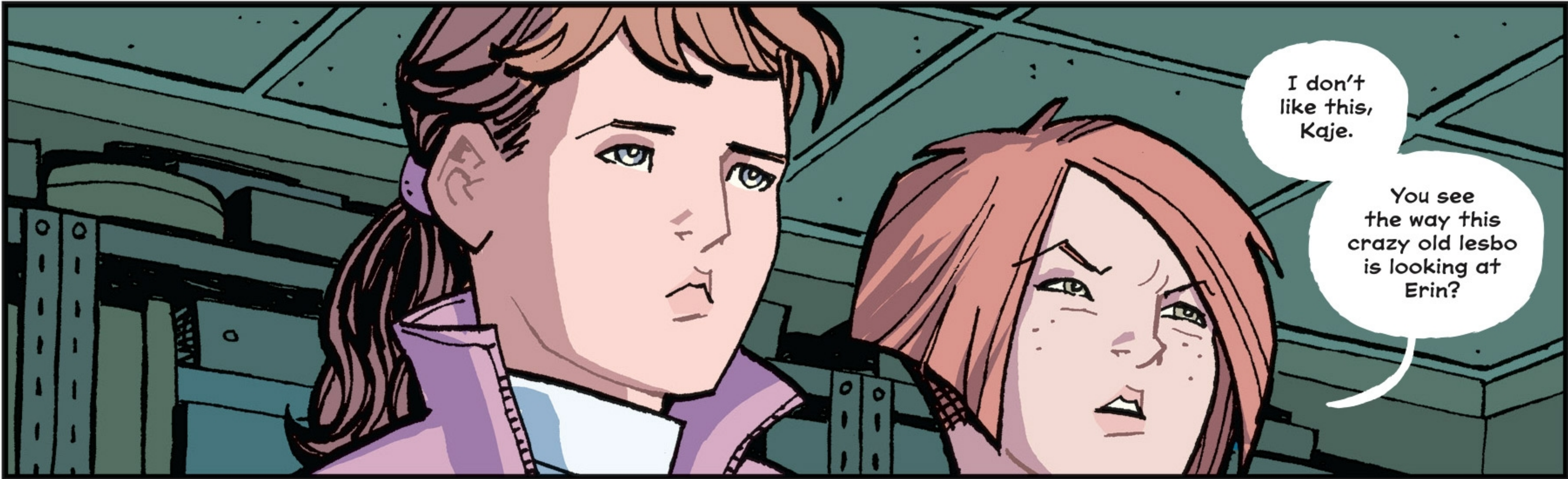
When my father started drawing *Frankie Tomatah* back in the Depression, he'd include "*lucky numbers*" for readers who played *policy*, an illegal lotto.



After Dad passed and I took over the strip, I continued the tradition, but for a very different purpose.

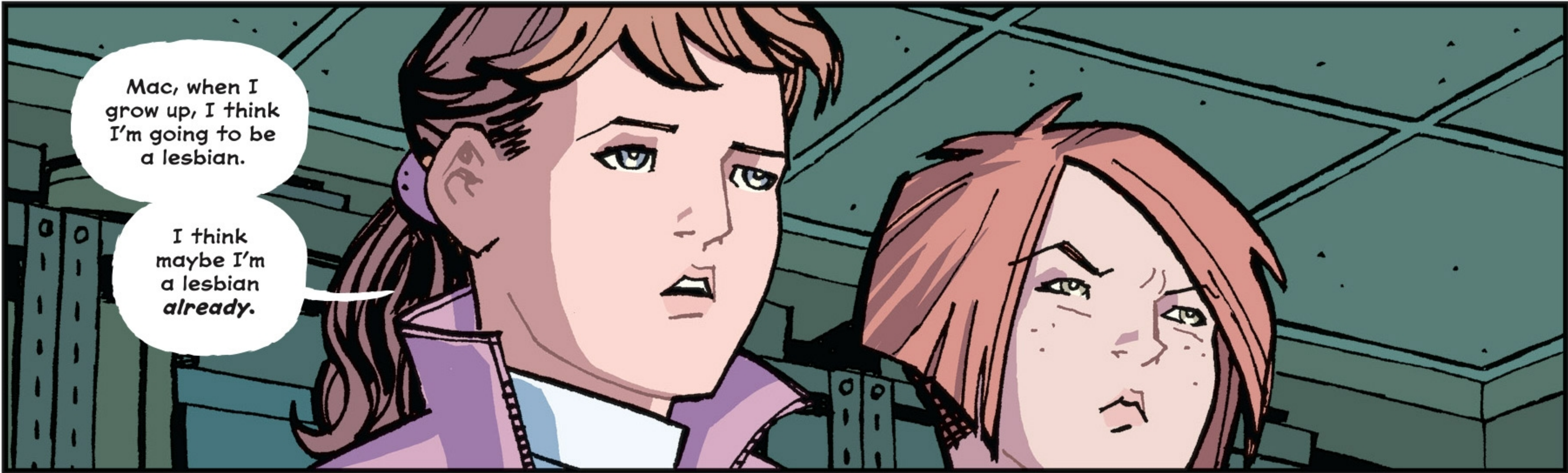
My numbers are actually a cypher, a coded "message in a bottle" that I then toss into the timestream.

That's pretty awesome, Charlotte...but how's it going to help us find Tiffany?



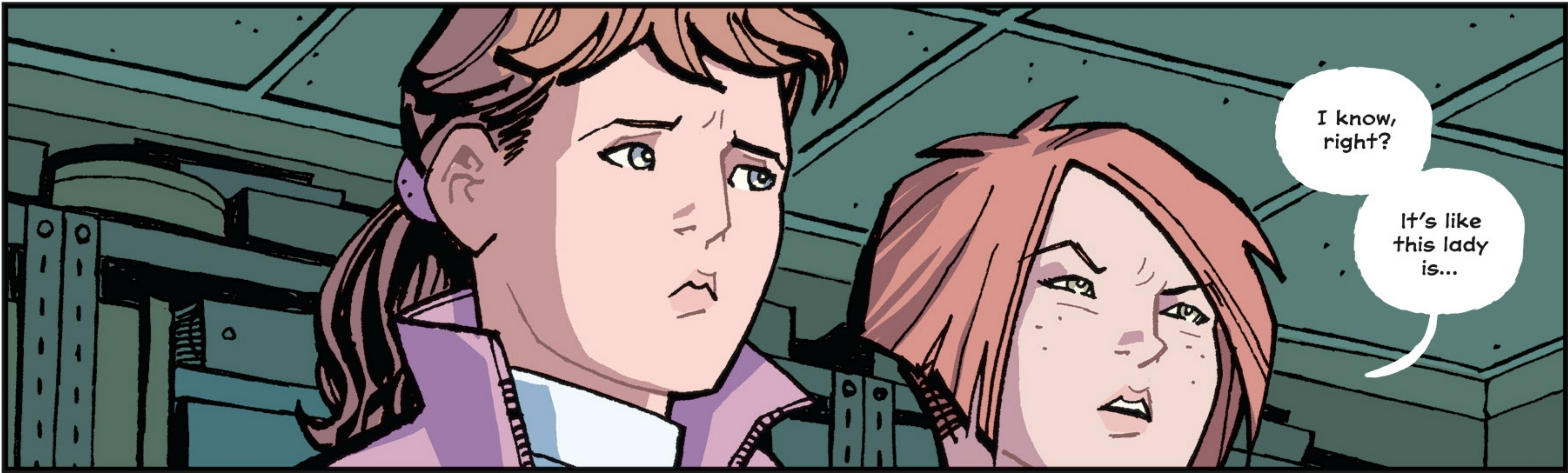
I don't like this, Kaje.

You see the way this crazy old lesbo is looking at Erin?



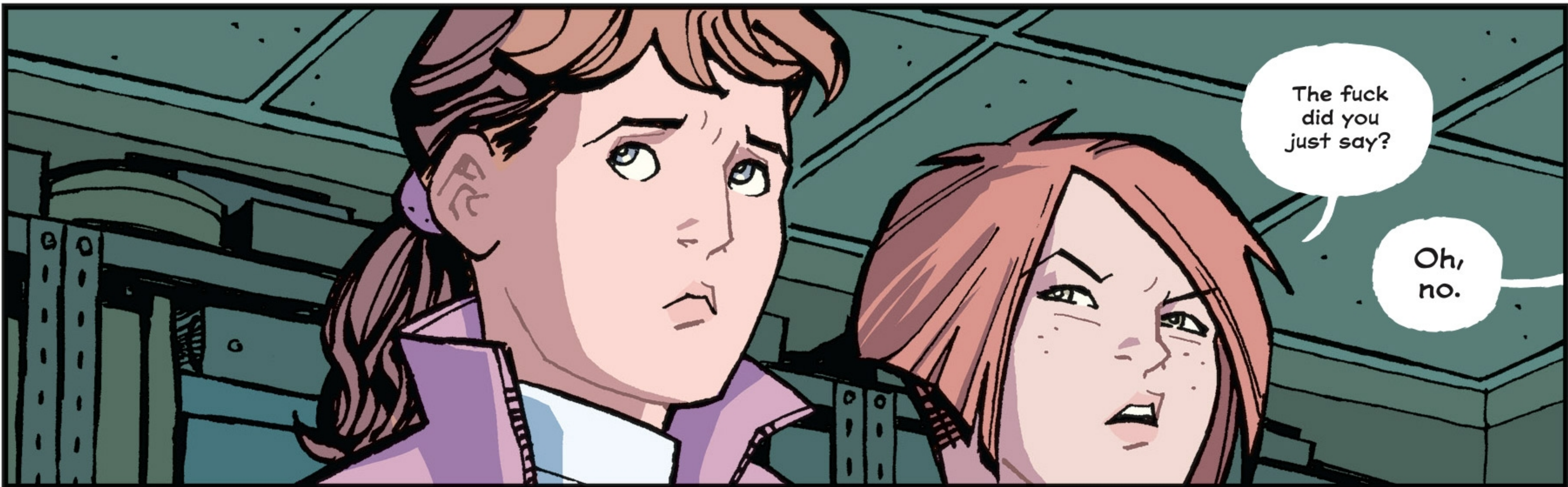
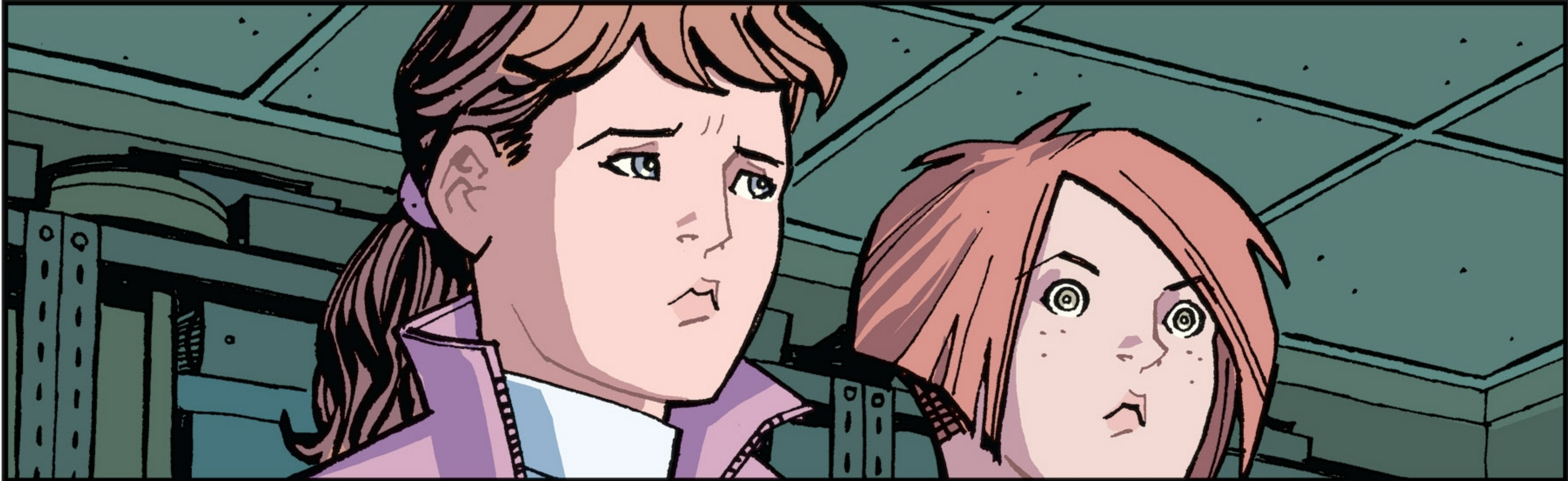
Mac, when I grow up, I think I'm going to be a lesbian.

I think maybe I'm a lesbian *already*.



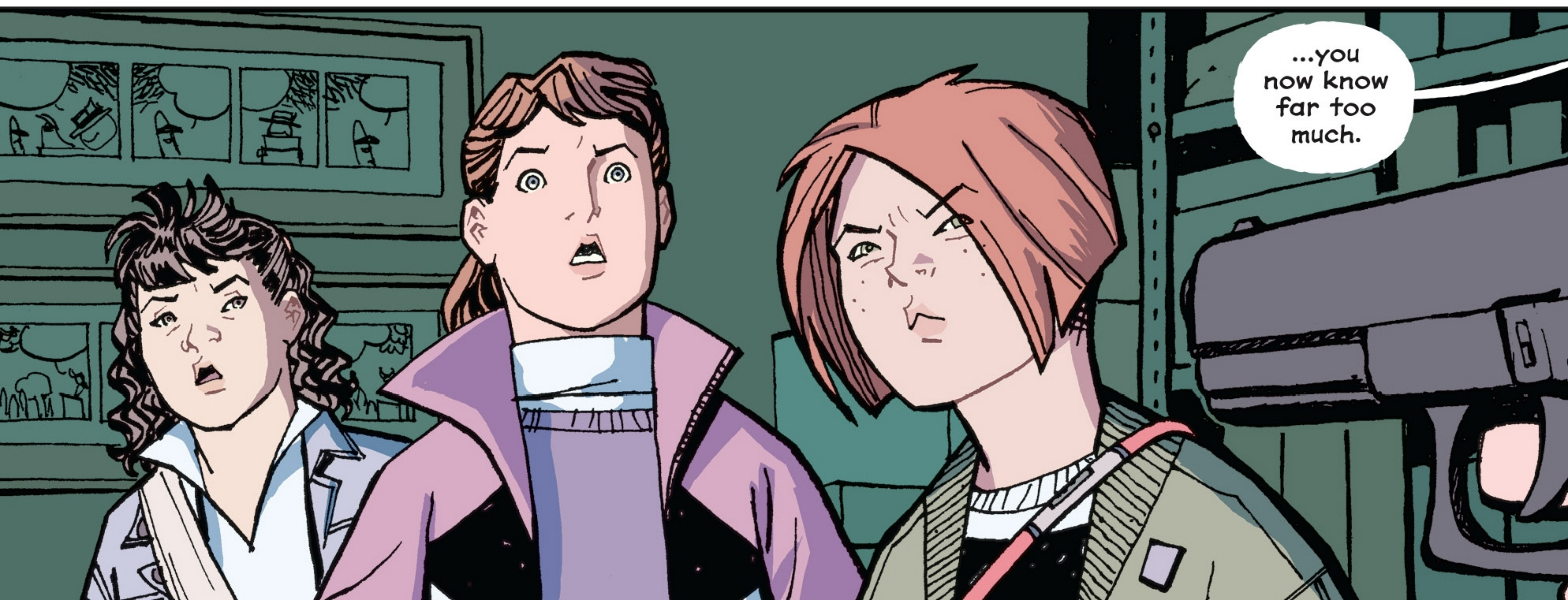
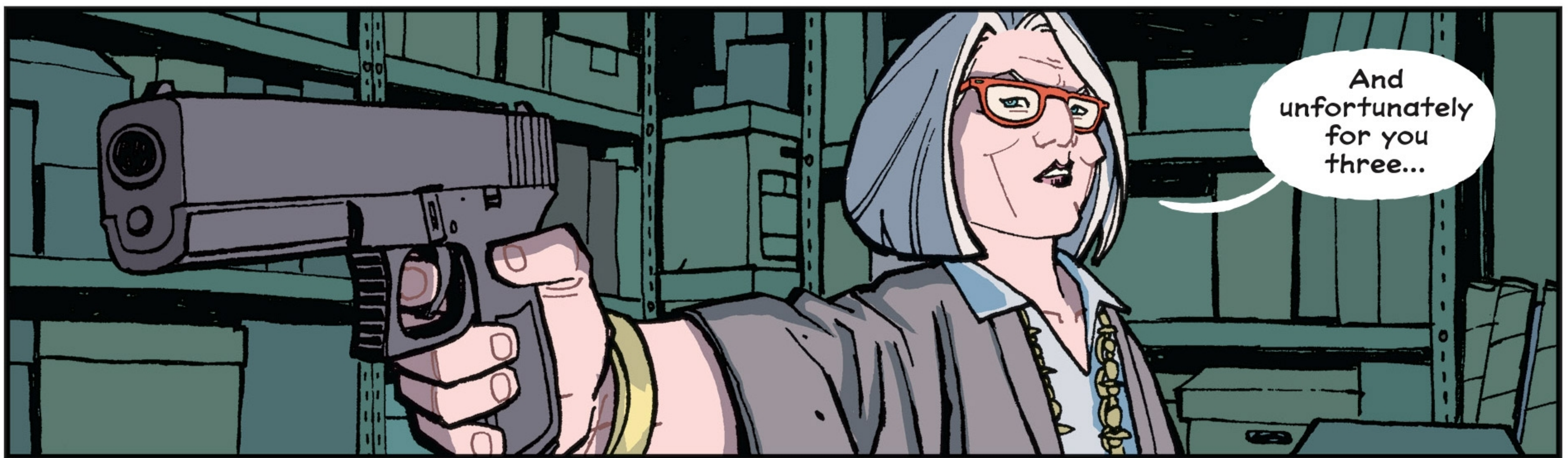
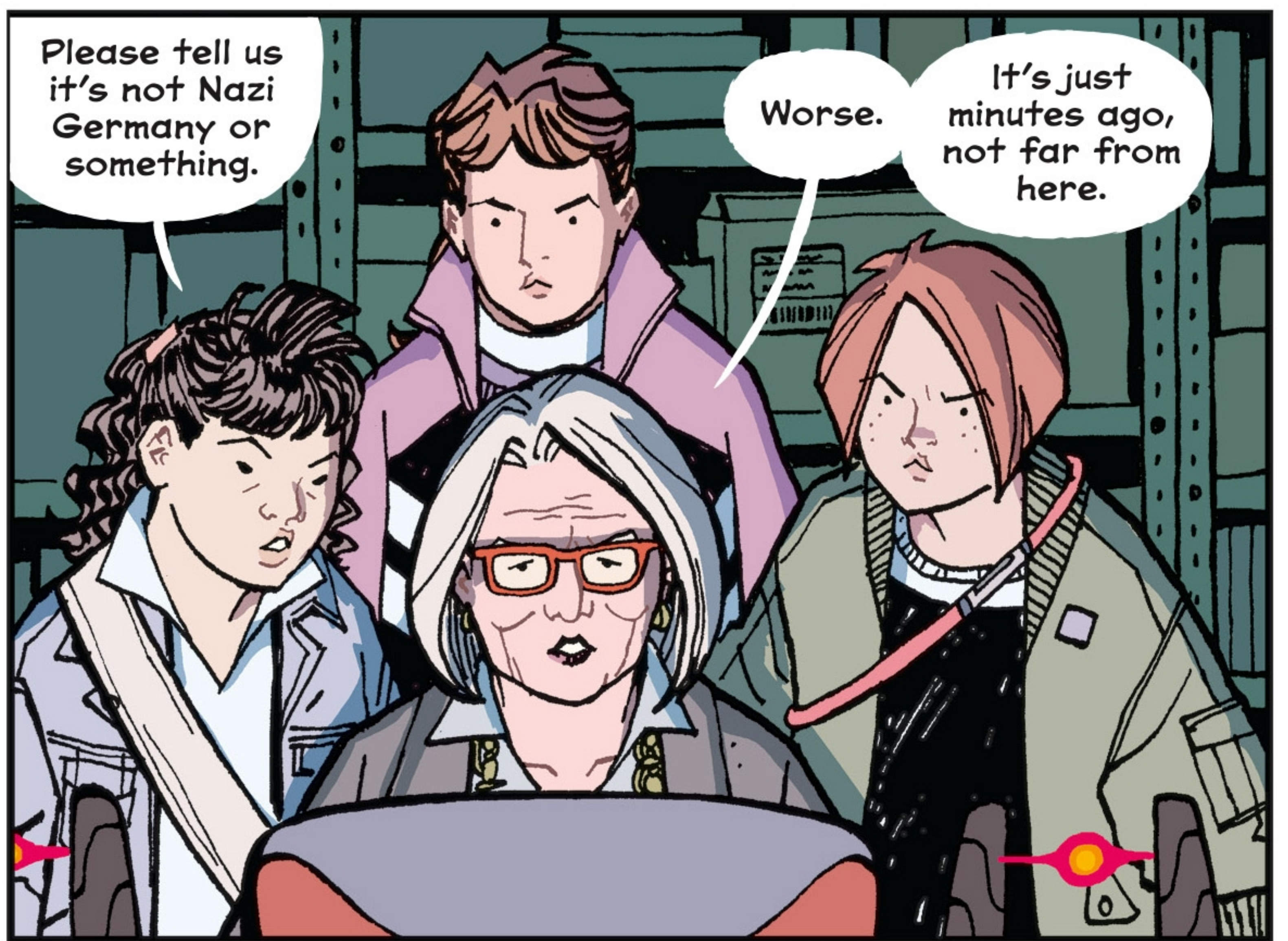
I know, right?

It's like this lady is...



The fuck did you just say?

Oh, no.









Can I help you?



Who?!

Who the heck are you?!

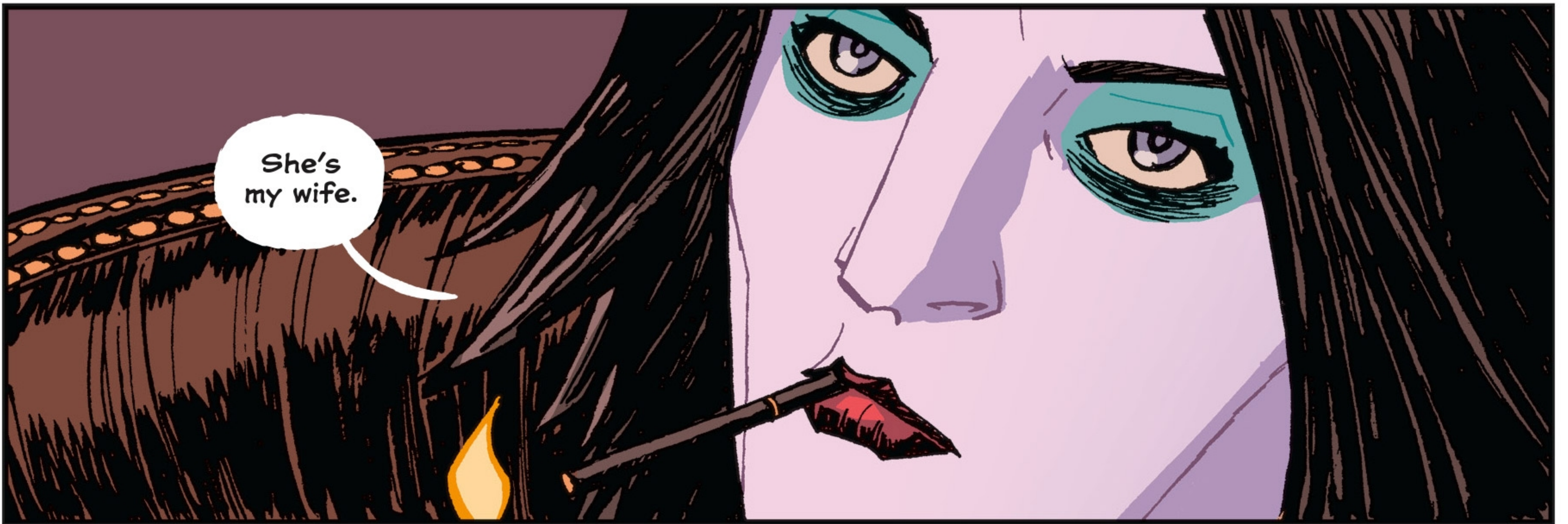
Was about to ask you the same thing.



I'm...I'm a friend of the family that lives here.

Do you know Tiffany Quilkin?

Uh-huh.



She's my wife.



TO BE CONTINUED

THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

4335 Van Nuys Boulevard - Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 U.S.A.

SINCE 1899!



Rita Pearl, **Papergirl**



Hey, Gang!

Our retro Y2K party is still raging!

Your good friend RITA PEARL THE PAPERGIRL here, and to help celebrate our nostalgic look back at the year 2000, my bosses at the A.N.D.G. sent me a Creative Nomad MP3 Jukebox (how did you people ever lug this giant thing around?!) loaded with some of the biggest musical hits of the era.

But after listening to Creed, Sisqo, and about a billion "Santana featuring..." songs, I have to admit that I'm not quite grooving to the dawn of the aughts yet. What am I missing, those of you who were alive back then? Did you have a favorite song from 2000, maybe one that didn't hit the charts but still captured your heart? If so, please write in and share!

While I eagerly await your responses, here are a few missives from more modern times...

Dear A.N.D.G. dudes,

Thanks for making such an awesome comic that is as beautiful to look at as it is enjoyable to read. I was never a papergirl myself, but my mom worked nights as a photo/color correctionist at my local paper when I was a kid. She used to take me to work with her sometimes and no one minded since most people had gone home. I remember marveling at the giant printing press machines and peeking my nose into the floor where all the writers and artists worked. Seeing all the work it took to put a paper to bed was both exciting and inspiring. I'm sure making your comic is no less demanding—keep up the good work!

Meg
Los Angeles, CA

What a cool childhood memory, Meg. Thanks for sharing it! I love the image of the little girl staring down the giant printing press. Out of curiosity—what field did your mother's nighttime gig inspire you to pursue?

We at the A.N.D.G. always love to hear stories about your early experiences with print media—both in the newsroom and out on the street.

Dear Rita,

I would love to join the A.N.D.G. I have not yet been able to secure my own route, but I do bring the paper from the bottom of the driveway to my elderly neighbor's door every morning. I hope that counts in some small way.

Thank you,

Jayne Dimmick
Norristown, PA

Sure, that counts! What also counts is that you got your letter in on time during our membership window this spring. Welcome to the A.N.D.G.! For others hoping to join, our window is still closed, but your epistles are always welcome, regardless of membership status! Please keep them coming.

Dear Rad Masters,

Kindly send my A.N.D.G. membership with the enclosed S.A.S.E. The centerfold of #14 is what comics are all about. Can't tell you what I did in '88, but on October 17th 1989 I was a library page at Sausalito Public Library. Those books rocked!

Best,

Angelo Sphere
Mill Valley, CA

I must admit, your letter made me look up what a "library page" was exactly. For any curious readers, it looks like a library page is an entry-level employee who does the sorting, re-shelving, unpacking, etc. of library books. It definitely feels like we can count that as credit towards A.N.D.G. membership—even though you never had to face any of the inclement weather that our other members have to deal with. Maybe you can spend some time biking around in the rain to make up for it? Just to be fair.

Dear Rita & Petey,

Reading your columns has brought life to this community of paper boys/girls/children I never knew existed, so thank you for connecting us in a trailblazing social network.

To Brian, Cliff, and the Paper Girls team, thank you for creating such an immersive and stylized world. I look forward to seeing when it's *Paper Girls* Wednesday! This is my first time writing to a comic (it was between this and the wonderful *Saga*), and this is

my first comic I got to experience with my girlfriend! We like to read it together, and I'm glad to have gotten another comic book fan into the community!

I couldn't stop smiling at the end of issue 13 and this issue when KJ says, "Why would I kiss a... Oh. That's why." So relatable! I mean, the whole getting chased by "a gang of rapey cavemen" and then jumping from cliff to cliff with spaceboots, of course.

I'm so close to the 5/15 deadline and so I realized how I need to show everyone my A.N.D.G. membership or else I will be eternally regretful for what I have lost! Please accept my membership—I will try my best to enrich the community with knowledge such as: that lake house by Talcom St. that gets papers but no one delivers to actually houses these two sweet women who will give you trinkets if you deliver! Just last week I got a watch that I still can't get off my wrist! How generous!

Attached is my S.A.S.E.

Your pal,

Celene C.
Hingham, MA

Thanks for sharing us with your loved one, Celene! Amazingly enough, the very next letter I opened happened to be from none other than your girlfriend...

Dear Rita & Petey,

I am writing in hopes to get a membership to A.N.D.G. and I very much hope I am not too late. My girlfriend and I have been reading *Paper Girls* together since the start and never miss an issue. Having a membership together would be a dream come true. We can't wait to find out what happens next!

Thank you,

Jess O.
Bedford, NH

PS. Celene is my girlfriend and we would love to get our memberships together.

Jess and Celene, we are so proud to welcome you both to the A.N.D.G.! I'm glad you get to connect through this publication, and hope that you also help each other out on your delivery routes!

Dear Rita,

I am a former newspaper woman (twelve years at *The Washington Post*), and I hope my twin daughters can start their own journalism careers as papergirls! To that end, I would love them to be members of the A.N.D.G., even though they are just one year old. One is named Helen Hazel (her middle name is an homage to a comic you may be familiar with). Her sister's name is Gemma Agatha. I hope you can send two membership cards for my badass babies.

Thank you, Rita!

Holly
Buford, GA

You and your badass babies are so welcome here, Holly. I hope to keep you all in our ranks for years to come!

A.N.D.G.,

The glitch you're experiencing with your publication is a lot like how it feels to be in D.C. these days—like we're going backwards instead of progressing. I hope all of these glitches get worked out soon before any permanent damage is done.

I'm enclosing my self-addressed stamped envelope in the hopes of joining the A.N.D.G. and helping to get things back on track.

Best,

Ali P.
Washington, DC

Welcome to the A.N.D.G., Ali! I can't even imagine what it's like

to be in D.C. these days. Crazy times for sure. Fingers crossed that your new membership helps in some small way.

Dear A.N.D.G.,

Along with my self-addressed envelope, I hope you also find all of my gratitude. Thanks for all of your efforts in delivering an excellent subscription I look forward to every month. It must be challenging at times, but I hope you know your work has had profound influences on many across the globe. Your passion and dedication create a one-of-a-kind news reporting that consistently brings me wonder and joy. Indeed, we live in uneasy and uncertain times, but the idea of people like you, me and all my fellow readers coming together and standing firm in our beliefs makes me feel a bit better.

Warmest wishes,

Jacob

Atlanta, GA

PS - I read the paper today outside in the serene warm weather. And it brought my normally indoor cat outside with me. Boy, I could tell he was loving it! So along with my great experience, you shared one with my feline companion, too! Cue the warm fuzzies!

Wow, your letter gave me the warm fuzzies, too, Jacob! And for your efforts, you have been named Deliverer of the Month! We'll be sending some sweet Paper Girls merch your way soon.

I feel like you guys have said it all this month. Thanks so much to all who wrote in to share your responses to the comic book, as well as your personal stories. Please remember that whatever obstacles you face as you go about your route, the A.N.D.G. is here to guide you!

Stay safe, compadres,

Rita Pearl, Papergirl

THE A.N.D.G. Art Corner!

4335 Van Nuys Boulevard
Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA
91403 U.S.A.



Whoa, what spectacular submissions, gang! As thanks for letting us share your hard work with our readers, we'll be sending each of you some of our highly coveted PETEY ROY & RITA PEARL PINS! ▲

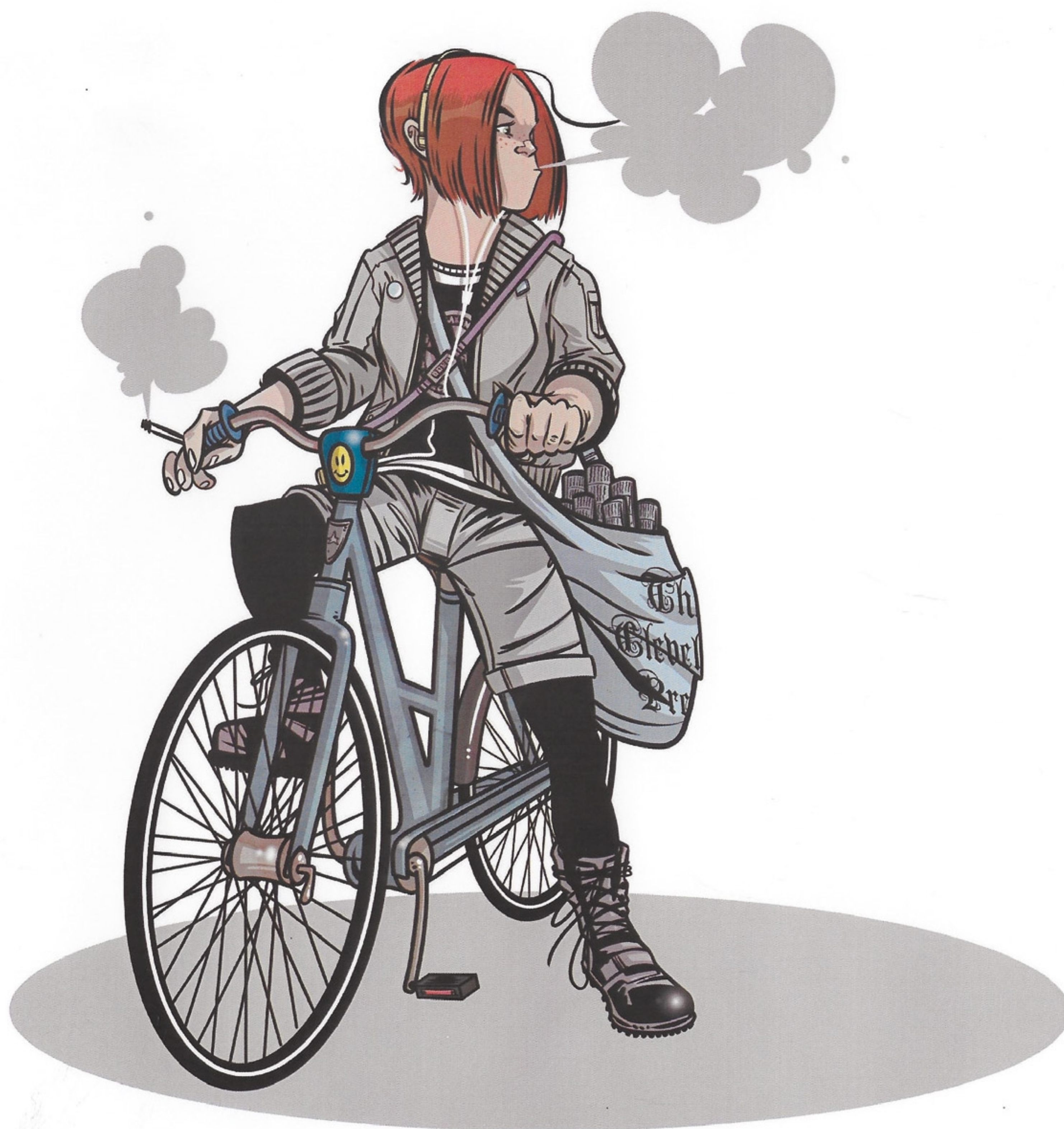
As always, if any of you other deliverers out there would like to share a drawing with us (it can be a character or characters from Paper Girls, or anything at all to do with our line of work), just send your masterpiece to the address above!

Dear Rita & Co.,

I have enclosed my fanart rendition of MacKenzie Coyle. I hope somebody enjoys it, even though Mac had to "borrow" a girl's bike after someone "borrowed" her BMX.

Mark Hughes

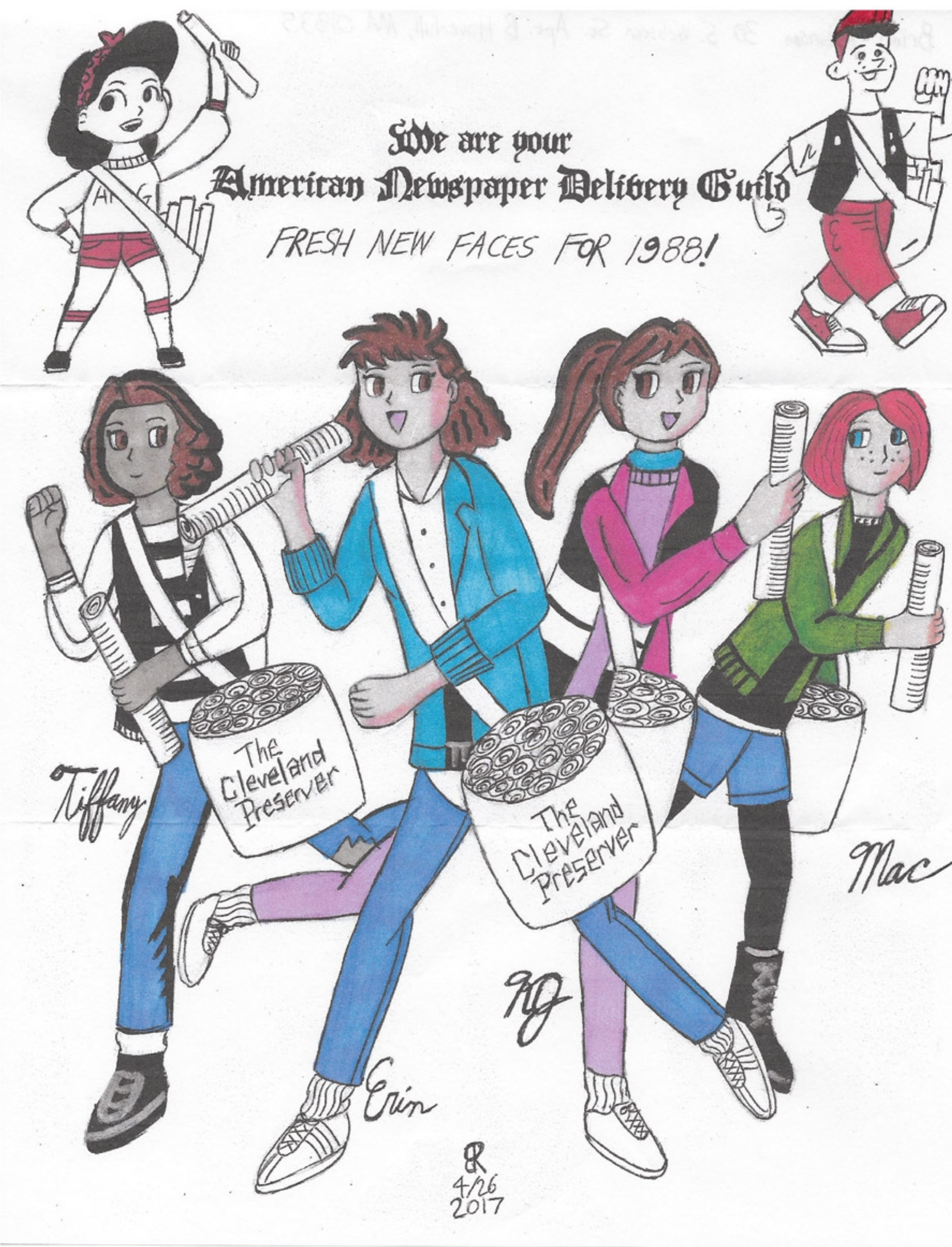
Swansea, Wales



Dear Rita,

Here's a drawing I made for the A.N.D.G.

Brian Robinson
Haverhill, MA



Brian, Cliff, and Co.,

I've been enjoying just about everything about the series so far, but I've been particularly drawn to the somewhat David Lynch-esque dream sequences, which inspired the enclosed art featuring Reagan in the pumpkin patch.

Simon A. Thalmann
Kalamazoo, MI



Dear Creators,

Enclosed is a drawing of my personal favorite papergirl, KJ! I couldn't decide what to draw her doing, so that's why I ended up drawing a whole bunch of KJs. Hope y'all enjoy it!

Gabrielle Custodid
Pacifica, CA





Paper Girls

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Paper Girls

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