

# Paper Girls<sup>TM</sup>

## 18



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



# Paper Girls 18

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**DEE CUNNIFFE** color flats



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REMEMBER

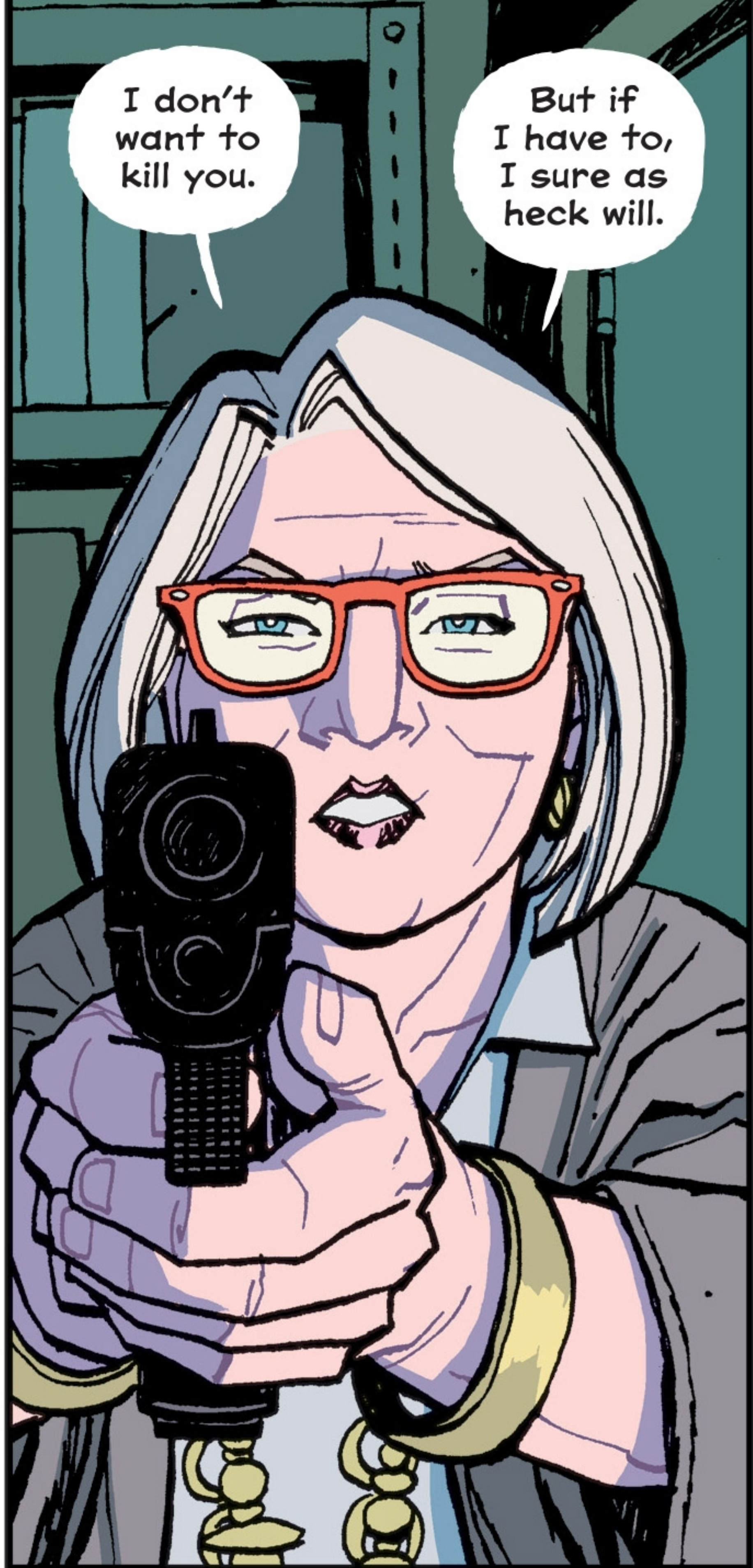
Turn your computer off  
before midnight on  
12/31/99

-Warning Sticker from **Best Buy** circa 1999









I don't want to kill you.

But if I have to, I sure as heck will.



We're not the bad guys here, you ditzy maniac!

Please, Holy Mary, I don't want to get shot again.

We just want to find our pal Tiffany and go back home.



I can't worry about your past when our **future** is in such terrible, terrible danger.

Everyone out there has spent the last few years fretting about some meaningless computer code, but **real horror** is coming our way in this new millennium.

Charlotte, could you maybe not point that at us while you--



The young time travelers I met told me **stories**.

Stories of anthrax in mailboxes, of airplanes flying into skyscrapers, of... of people being addicted to their telephones!





The old-timers *want* these awful things to happen, because for them, they already *have*.

But their enemies, my allies, believe *every* generation has a right to live in the best possible present, even if history has to be...futzied with to get there.

Cool, great, change is good, sounds like we're all on the same side.



Don't take another step, KJ.

I'd give my life for this cause, and I'm certainly ready to take yours.



Lady, I've *actually* killed someone before, so trust me when I say, you do *not* have it in you to pull that trigger.



Get ready, Mac.

The hell are you--



Hunh.









JESUS H. CHRIST!



You okay?

What happened to her not being able to pull a trigger?!

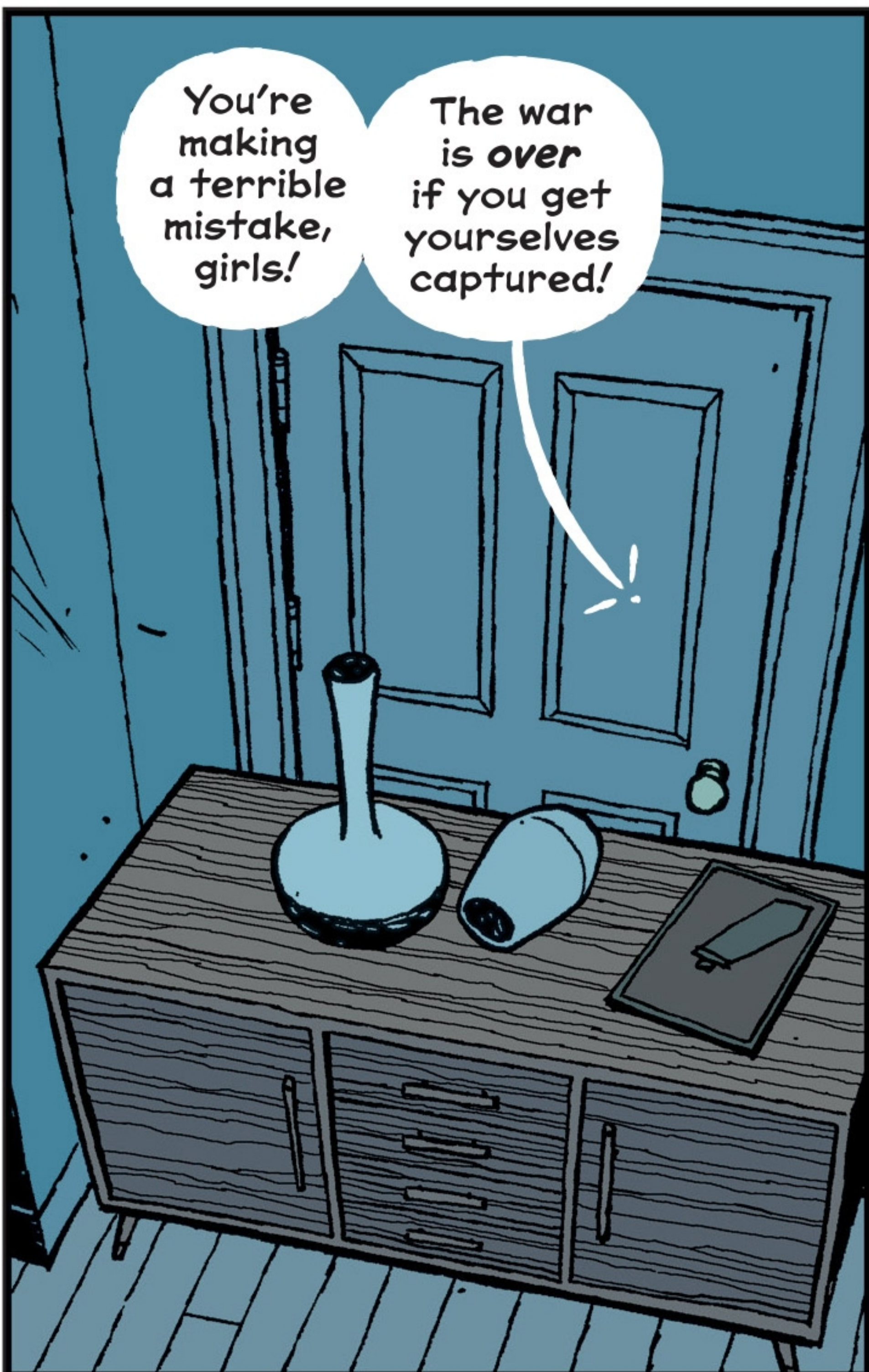
Gimme a hand!



She's just gonna blast her way out, Erin!

Fewer bullets to use on us...

Let's move!



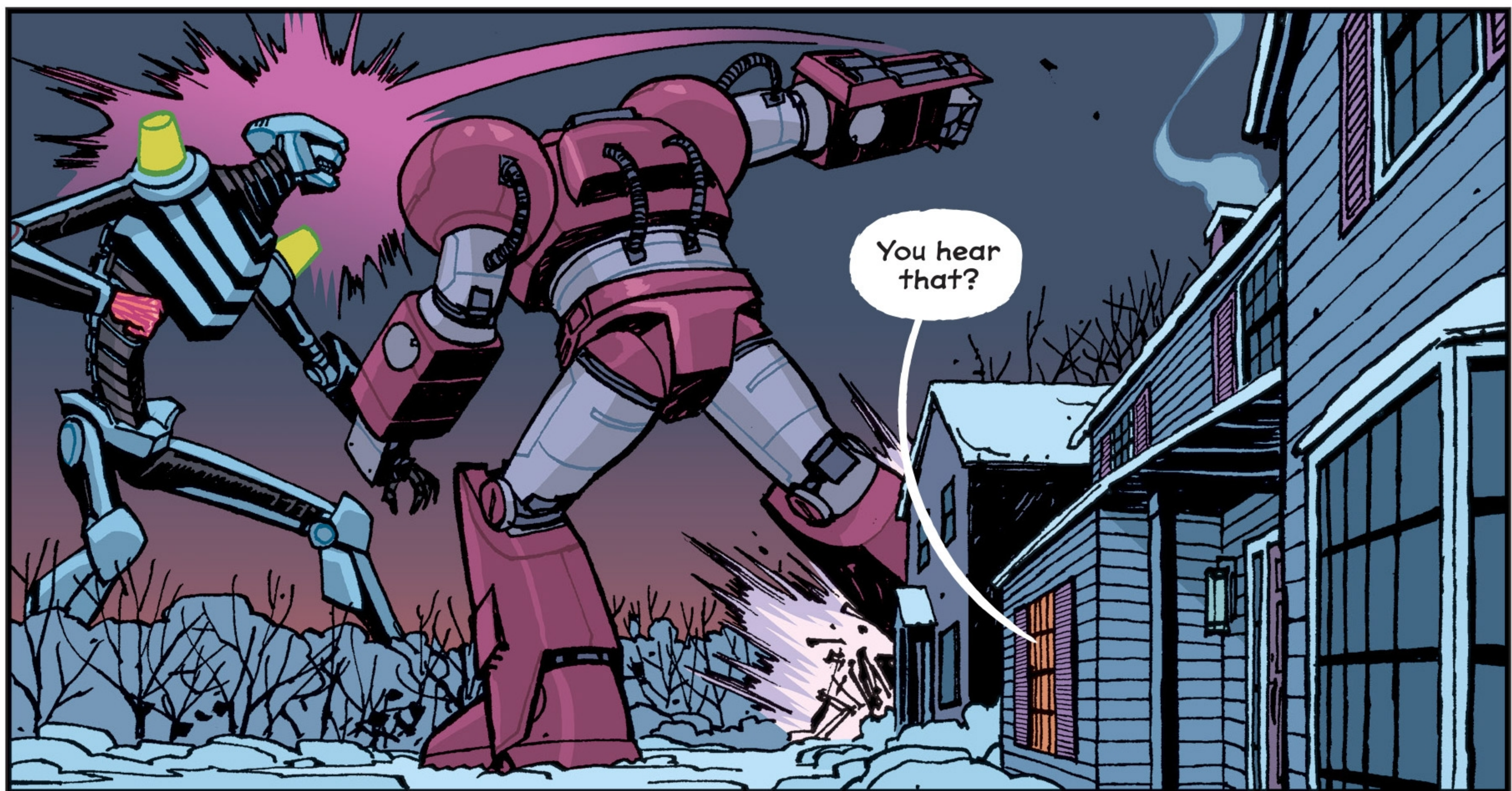
You're making a terrible mistake, girls!

The war is over if you get yourselves captured!



**GIRLS!**









Sounds like people are setting off whatever they have left over from the Fourth.



I don't get it.

You're my... you're Tiffany's *husband*?

As of three weeks ago. Sorry if you didn't get a monogrammed invite or whatever, but T and I decided to elope instead of ruining a Saturday for everybody.



And you... you're some kind of *time traveler*, right?

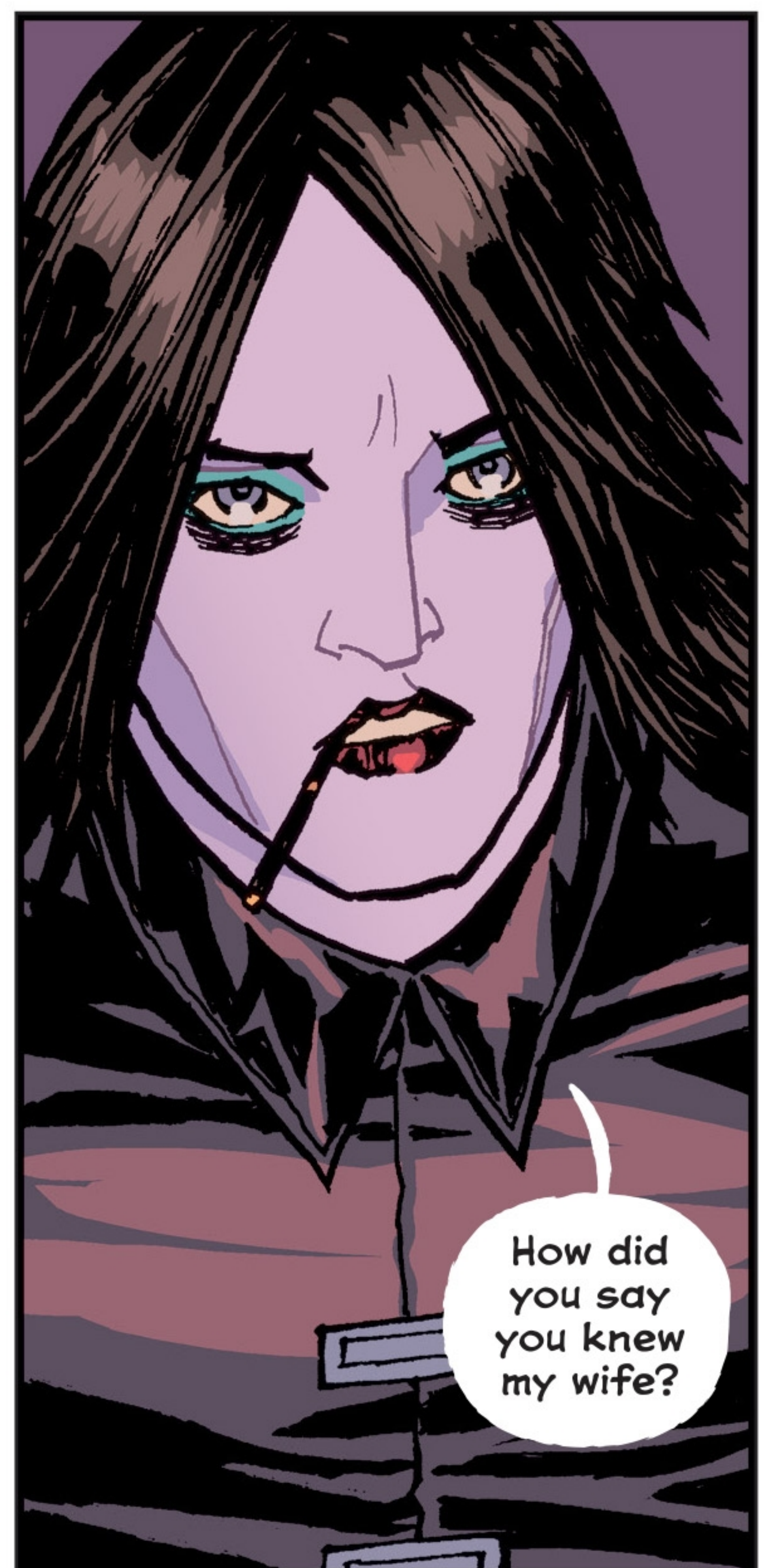


Ha ha.

Make all the hacky jokes you want, Tiffany and I don't care what people think of the way we dress.



"We?"



How did you say you knew my wife?





Tiffany is my...big sister.



I mean, she was. In the Big Sisters of America.

Or, *I* was, and she used to be my--

She'll be back any minute.



Our party bolted as soon as the lights went off, and the dicks took all the beer with 'em, so T ran over to hit the Convenient before it gets cleared out.

And you let her leave?!



It's Y2K, not Armageddon.

Everything I've read said the power might be out for a few hours *tops*, at least until Bill Gates reboots the central whatchamacallit.



Look, do you know where Tiffany's parents are?

Somewhere in Europe, blowing all our future inheritance.

T and I are just crashing here while we're between--

**KRAKKADOOM**





Those were *not* M-80s.

You can't go outside!

It's not safe, Mister...



Chris.

And I'm a twenty-four-year-old adult human, so I can do what I want, thanks.



I'm Tiffany, all right!

I don't know how and I don't know why, but I'm here! I came here through *time*!

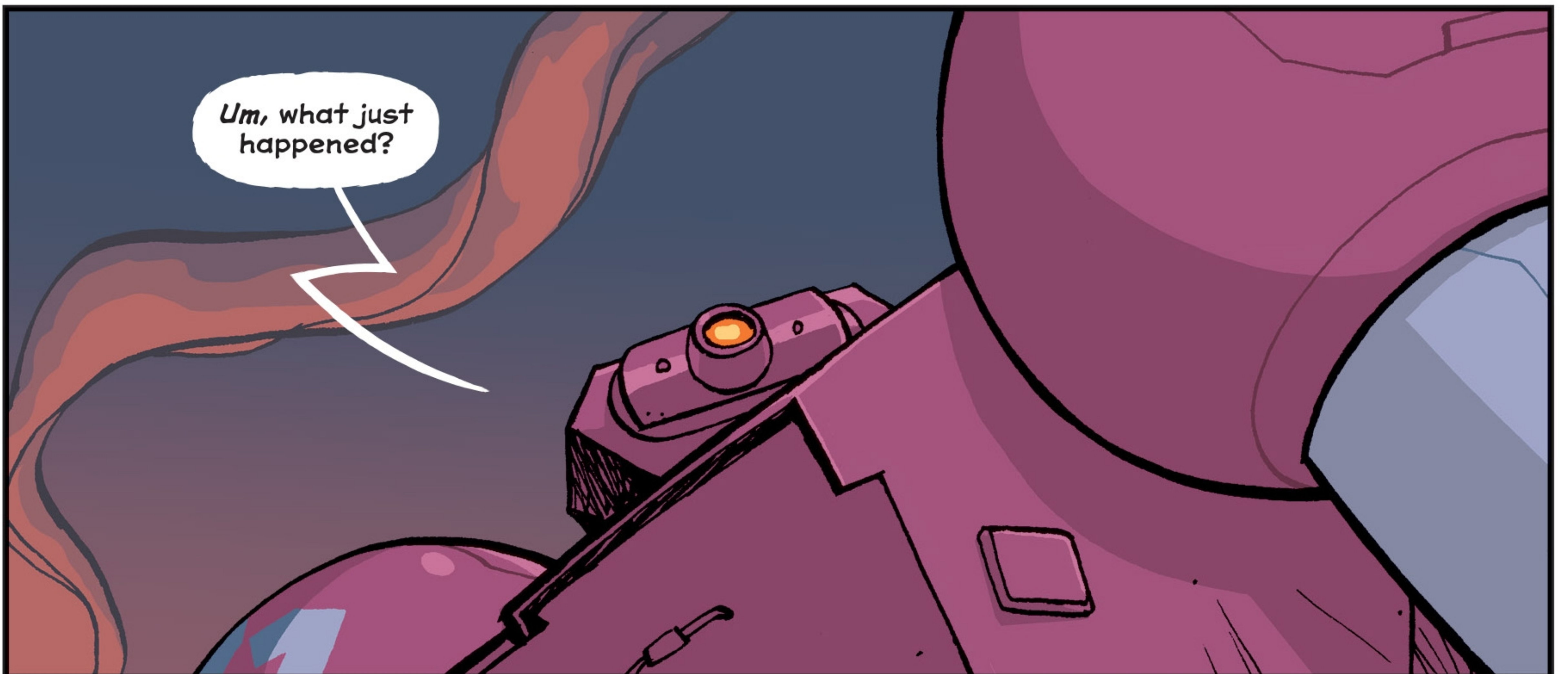
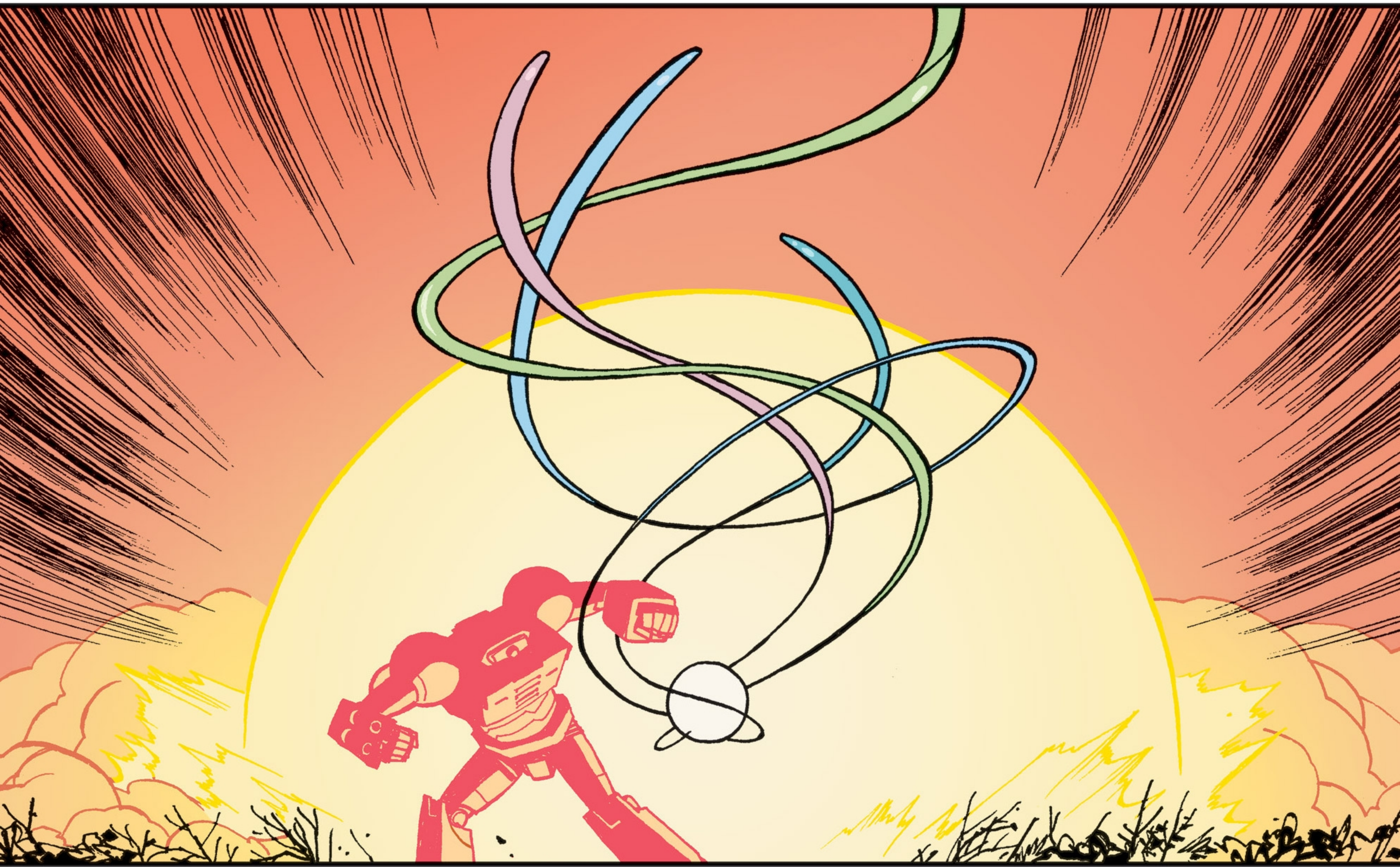
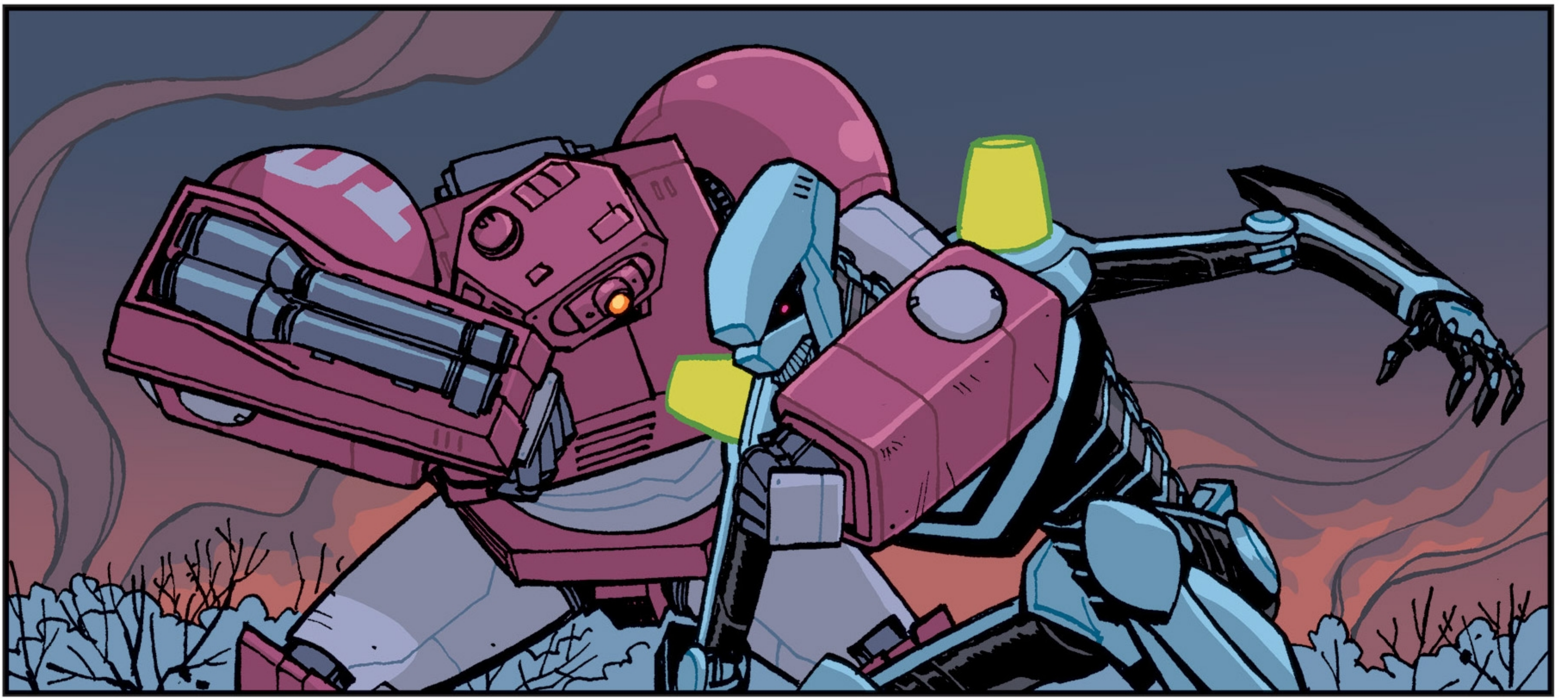


I'm the girl you're going to *marry*, just from, like, twelve years ago!



How do you not even recognize me?









Their stompers can cloak themselves from locals, but how did that one disappear on *us*?

It's not invisible, it's *gone*.

The bastards must have figured out how to jump upstream.



But whenever they show up next, we'll be ready.



Easy, Prioress.

I don't think we're quite at the point of using *tactical nukes*.



Says the man who declared this chickenshit invasion an act of *war*?



Yes, but unlike our young opponents, we've actually *learned* a thing or two from this century.

Our wars have *rules*.

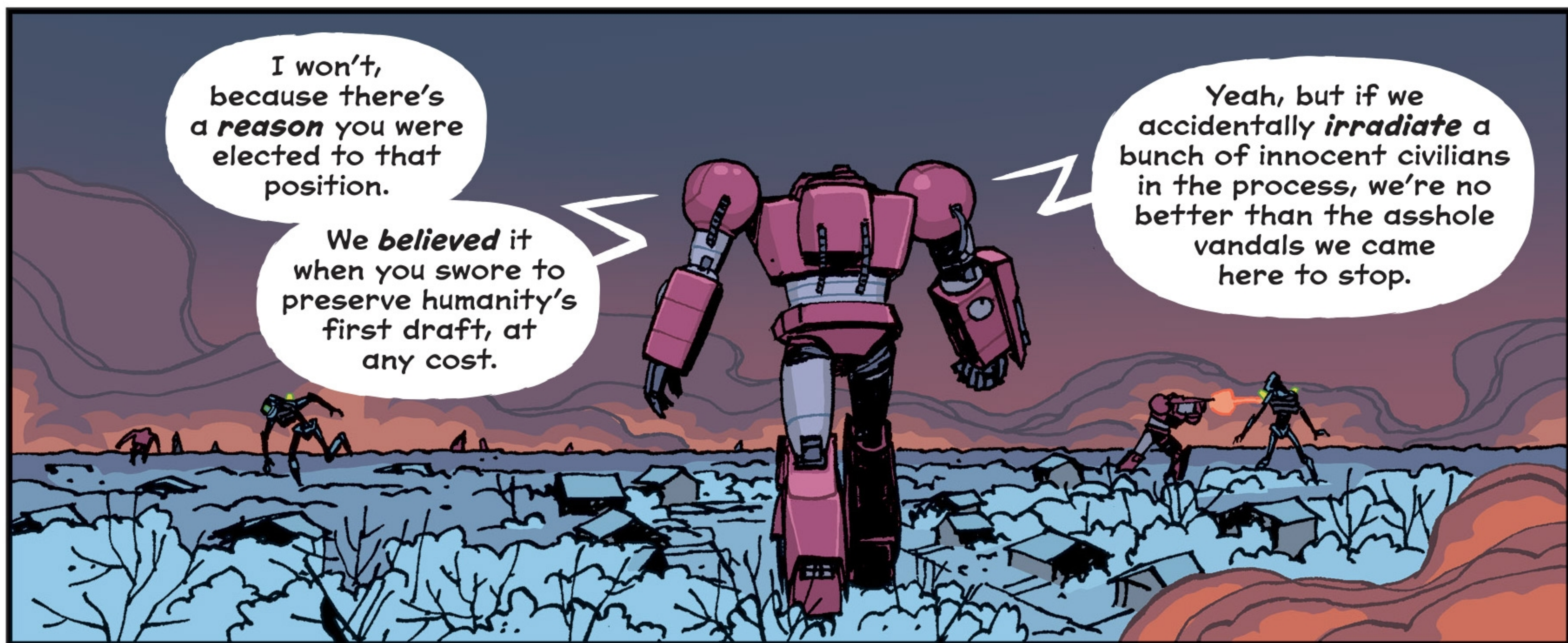


Their weapons are *millennia* ahead of ours.

"Playing fair" against these psychopaths is suicide, Grand Father.

Will you please just call me by my real name?





I won't, because there's a *reason* you were elected to that position.

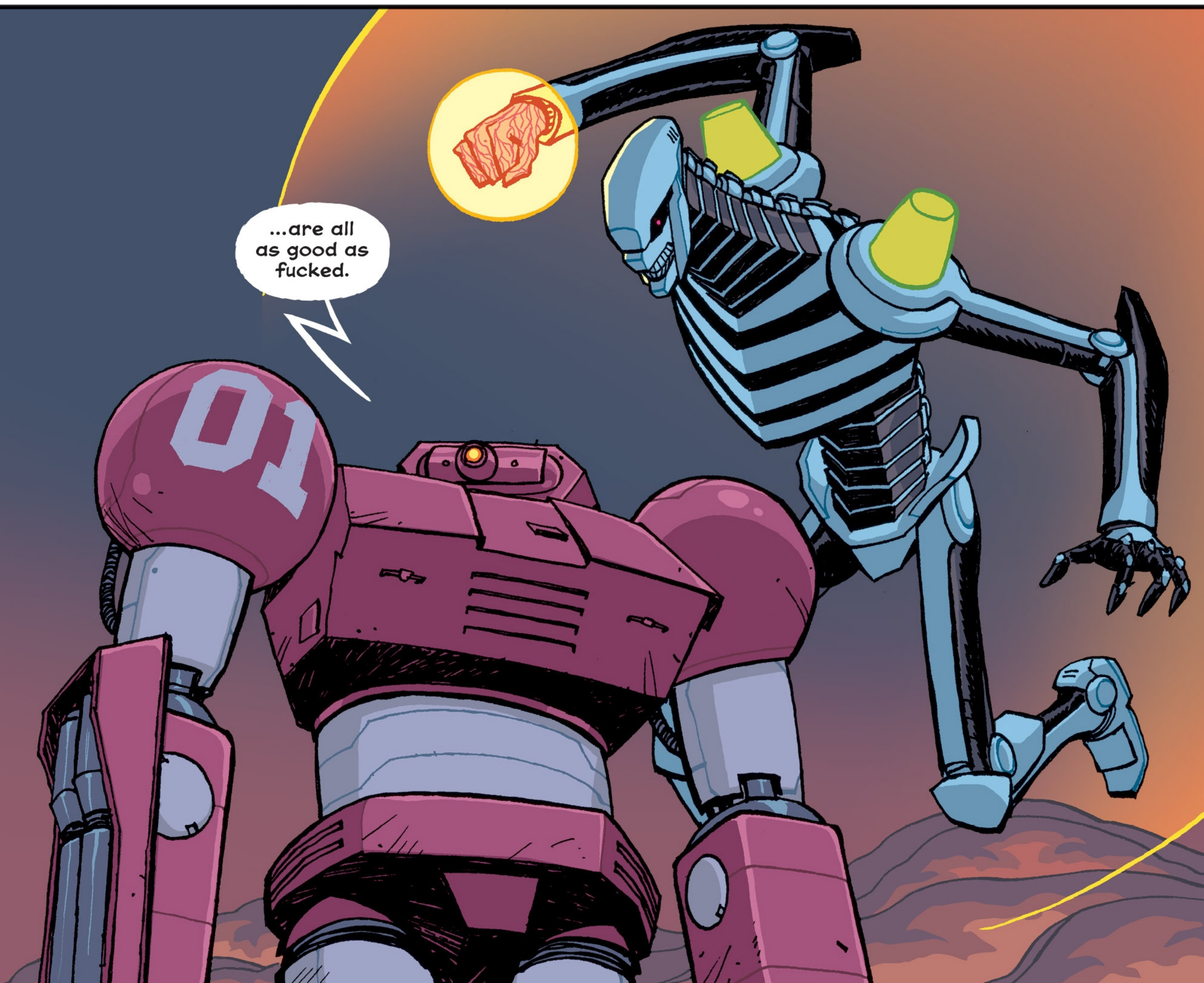
We *believed* it when you swore to preserve humanity's first draft, at any cost.

Yeah, but if we accidentally *irradiate* a bunch of innocent civilians in the process, we're no better than the asshole vandals we came here to stop.



Whatever collateral damage we're forced to inflict on this one neighborhood will barely make a *dent* in the long-term continuity of Earth's timeline.

But if we don't stop these delinquents right here, right now, then the entire past, present *and* future...



...are all as good as fucked.





This way!

If Tiffany's really here, I guarantee she went straight for her folks' place!



Hey, Erin.

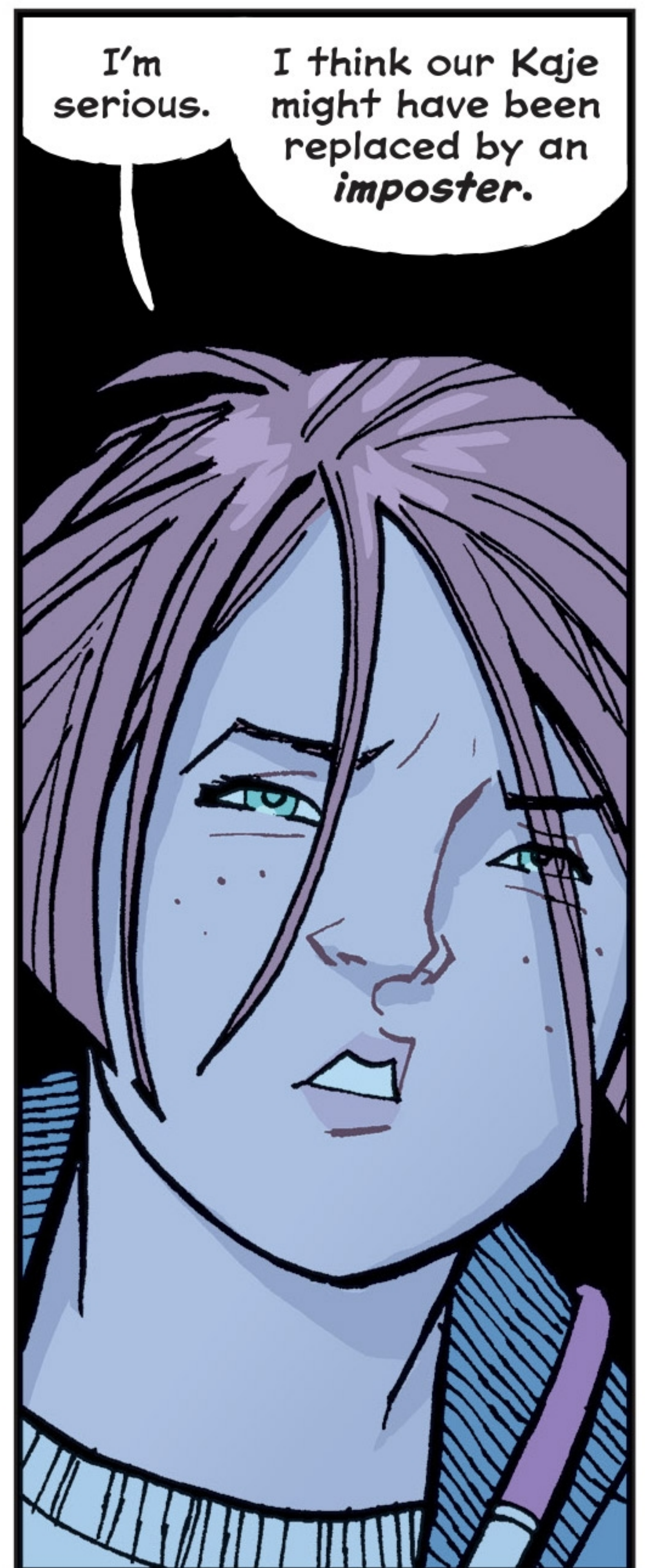
Fall back a second.

What's up?



Have you noticed anything... *weird* about KJ?

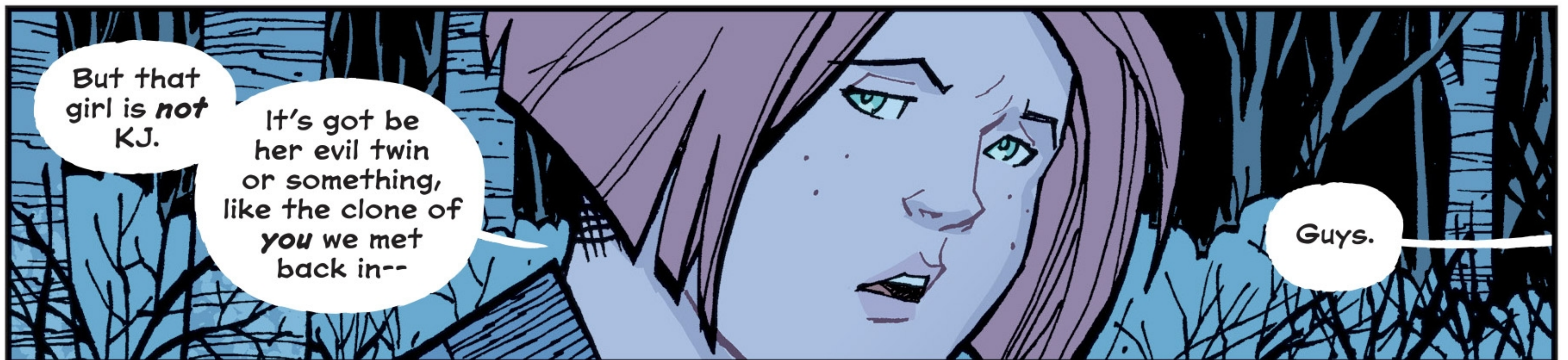
We're being hunted by an armed cartoonist in the year 2000, and you think *she's* the weird part?



I'm serious.

I think our Kaje might have been replaced by an *imposter*.

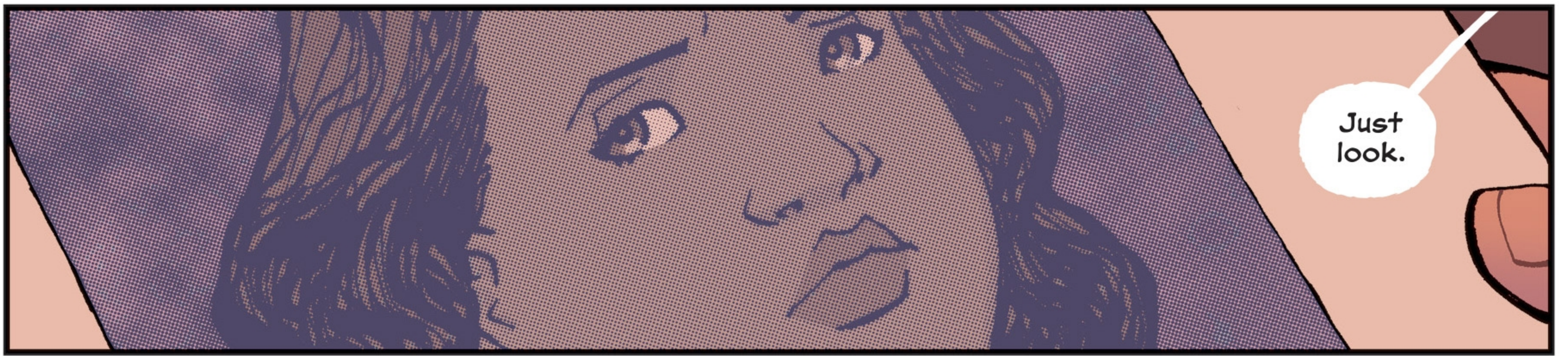












Just look.



This isn't a joke, and I'm not trying to trick you.

Please, I swear to God on the Holy Bible I'm telling you the--

This is some genuine 12 Monkeys shit.



What does that even mean?!

It means I believe you, all right?

I don't understand a single thing you're talking about... but I believe you.



Sorry, it's just, Tiffany did *not* look like you when I met her at Stern.

Stern?

At NYU. It's their School of Business.



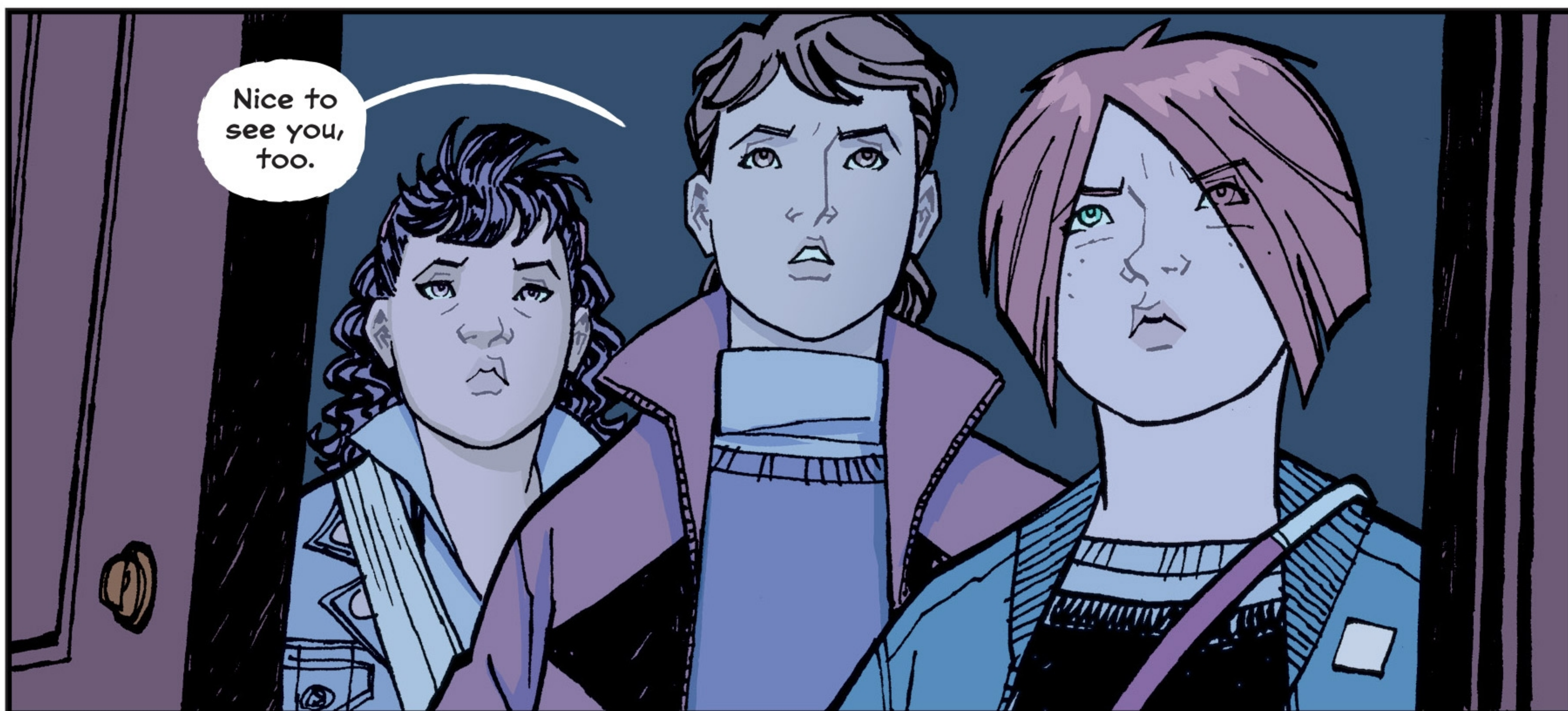
Business?

Gross.







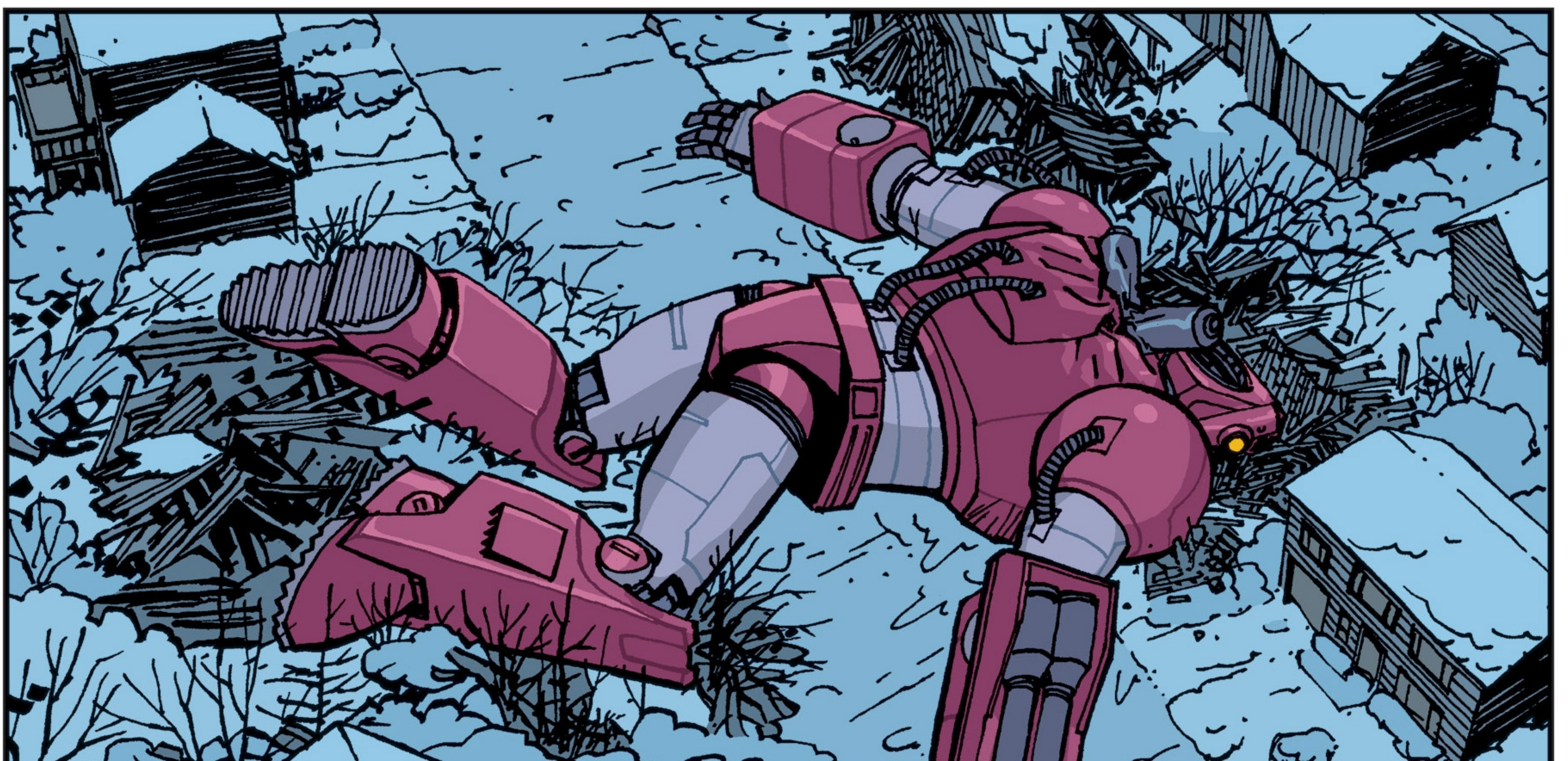
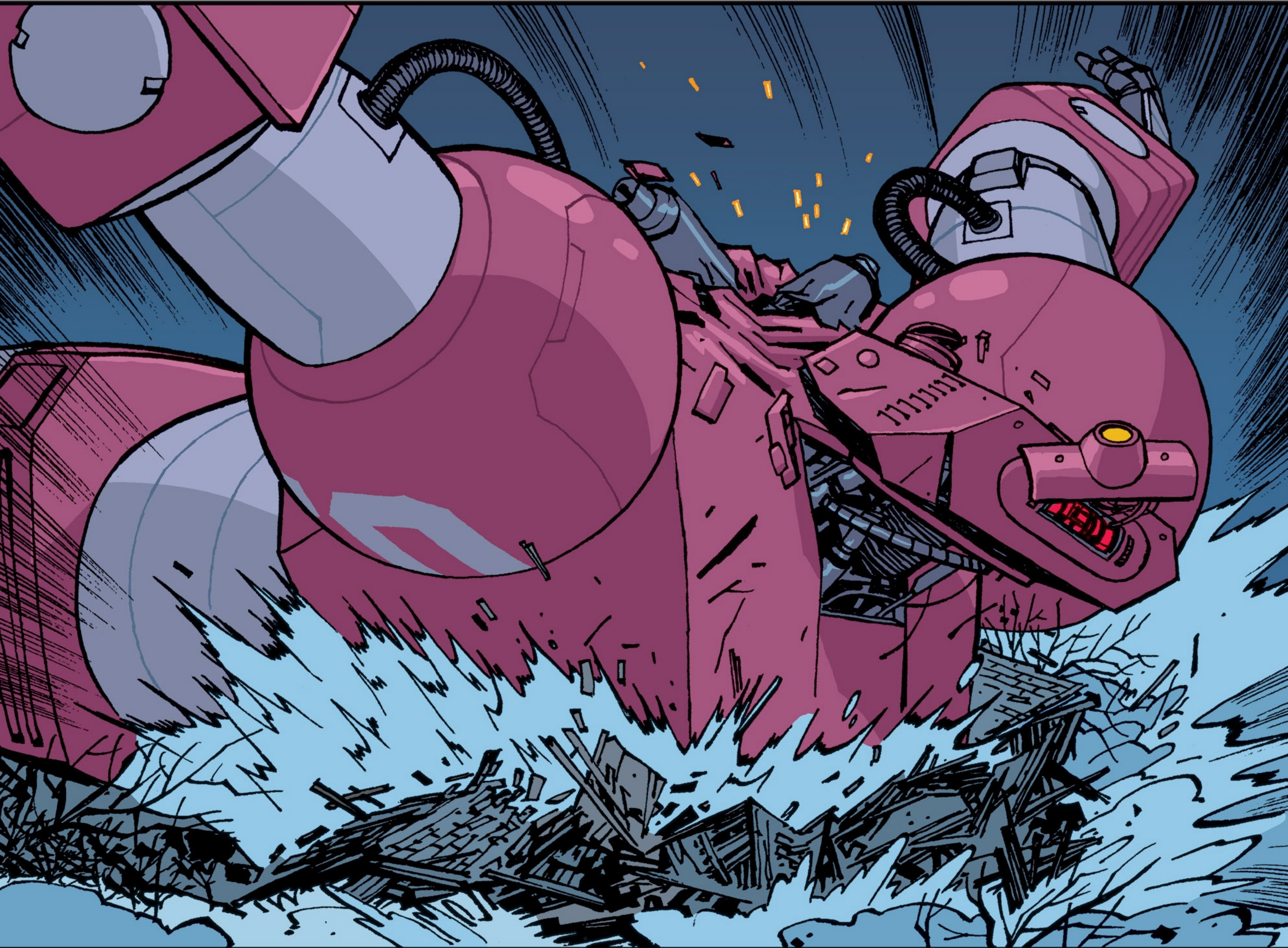






Out  
where?

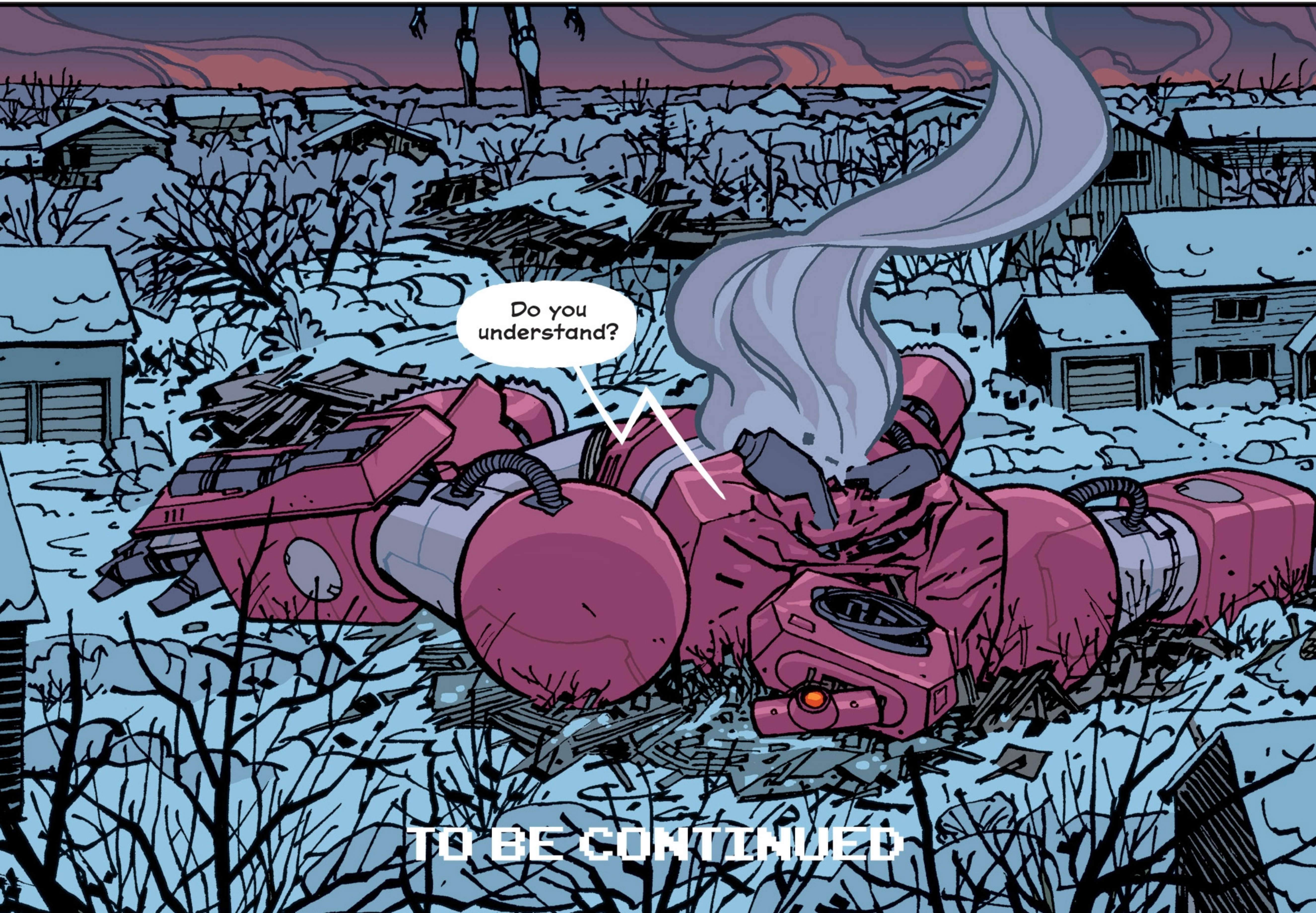












TO BE CONTINUED



# 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!

2018 may be right around the corner,  
but we're still celebrating all things

# 2000!

RITA PEARL THE PAPERGIRL here, honestly starting to question how long we can keep this whole retro Y2K thing going.

But my bosses at the A.N.D.G. are still weirdly interested in you old folk out there who happened to have been alive way back in the 20th Century, so please keep sending us your thoughts about that era (though I'm always happy to hear from my fellow whippersnappers, too...)

Dearest Rita Pearl,

I was born in the year 2000! I don't remember it, but my mom says it was a pretty good year. If you had to live in either the year 1900 or the year 2100, which would you choose and why? I'll hang up and listen for your answer.

Millennial love,

**Ashleigh A.**  
Beaverton, OR

*Well, I guess my answer would depend on what body I would get to inhabit in those time periods? Because in spite of the environmental catastrophes that are clearly ahead of us this century, I don't think there's ever been a better time to be alive as a young woman. I mean, unless you happened to be a white*

*man, I think the 20th Century, at least in the United States, was probably not a "great" time. And 2100? It might be a little hotter and the air might be harder to breathe, but I'm still going to bet that it will be a much better time to be a girl.*

Dear Rita Pearl and Petey Roy,

What if I'm still not sure whether I'm a paperboy or a papergirl? It's all very confusing, but I admire both of you very much and I hope I'm not too late to request my membership in the guild? Am I the first half-boy/half-girl/half-"f\*\*\* you labels" person to join? It would be very nice to know if there are more of us out there following along!

I'm always impressed with how many different kinds of people you seem to attract in these letter sections! I spend my time making silly story videogames and I hope like hell I can find a community of fans someday as diverse and interesting as yours. Working in such



an oppressively non-diverse industry like games (especially in Utah!), I often wonder if that's even possible for someone making weird, niche creations like mine. How did you pull it off?

Petey and Rita, I don't know if either of you play video games but in case you do (and have a Steam account) I'm including a free code for each of you to redeem and try out my new horror game. I'd be honored to know what you think!

Sincerely,

**Nat N. the Paper Person**

Salt Lake City, UT

*Nat, thank you so much for bringing this up. How cis-centric have we been with all the talk about paperboys and girls! Of course there is room in the Guild for deliverers who are non-binary, genderfluid, genderqueer, "f\*\*\* you labels" or anything else I'm forgetting. Our current membership system does not ask for (or track) a member's gender description, so I don't know for certain how many others we have in the guild already. But I bet they're out there, and we'd definitely be happy to hear from them!*

*Many thanks for the link to your game. I'm not a gamer myself, but I hear old man Pete might be looking for a new hobby in his retirement.*

Rita,

Great job taking over the A.N.D.G! I spent many of my formative years slinging papers in one of the seedier neighborhoods near where I grew up. There was many a subscription collection day where I worried about being robbed! It never happened though and I grew up to be a journalist of sorts (television critic), likely due to my love of the written word and a good story.

Tell the folks in charge of creating *Paper Girls* that they've done a

wonderful job! *Paper Girls* is one of my favorite comics.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Iblings**

Minneapolis, MN

*I'm so glad you were never robbed, Jeff. And I'll be sure to let this comic's creators know that at least one critic out there approves of their story!*

Petey Roy & Rita Pearl,

It was a busy summer for this A.N.D.G. member. I moved across town from a mold-filled apartment, and into a brand new townhouse minutes away from some of the best mountain bike trails.

Saw a few Phish Baker's Dozen shows at MSG, taking my A.N.D.G. duties seriously! I realized that I needed to send you my new address so I wouldn't miss any A.N.D.G. mail or goodies from the department.

Thanks for your help and hope I didn't miss anything. Last card I received was *The Secrets in the Basement #1* by Rita Pearl. Looking forward to the upcoming *Paper Girls* issues in the future... past...space travel, or back to good ol' 1988!

**Darth Myers**

Boalsburg, PA

*Thank you, Darth! And thanks to everyone else who has sent change-of-address notices recently. If anyone out there has moved since you first registered for the A.N.D.G., why not drop us a line with your new information? And while you're at it, feel free to send in your comments and questions as well!*

Hi A.N.D.G.,

I'm Javier Fernandez and I'm 16 years old. I would like to join the American Newspaper Delivery Guild. It would be awesome to join to your community! I am looking forward to your response.

**Javier**

Albacete, Spain

*Thanks for your letter, Javier! While we at the A.N.D.G. most certainly welcome mail from Europe, we sadly do not have the capacity to send membership cards or postcards over the pond. Maybe you can connect with a local Iberian chapter? Or start one of your own?*

Dear Rita Pearl c/o A.N.D.G.,

Oh my goodness! The newsletter sometimes goes on hiatus?!? What am I going to do with myself? Well, okay. That was stretching things a bit by implying that I have nothing else to do but read the newsletter and by extension, *Paper Girls*. I do have my job, my friends, other comics and books to read and DVDs to watch, but *Paper Girls* as a whole does provide me with a great deal of entertainment distraction.

For example, as I was reading issue 15 today, a thought suddenly tackled me on page 12 when I saw the words "Dunwahl giru." Wait, what? It only then occurred to me that this was another opportunity to be a crack-decipherer of language code!

Now I'll have to go back and look for other instances of Wari's and the other members of her tribe's speech and try to figure out if there's a pattern to what they've said so far! So, you got me! You see, once I see a chance to have fun with a puzzle, I can't let it go! Well, I guess I have something to do for the next few months.

Oh, and what the hey: Who is this Frankie Tomatah? The same Frankie Tomatah from Stony Stream, Ohio in the Peter section of the letters page? "The answer is right in front of your nose." – Frankie Tomatah? Oh, and I also thought it was quite funny that the Paper Girl who handled off the "Apple" device earlier in the issue, lands in front of "Applebee's" in 2000. (Y2K) Hilarious!



Thanks,

**Alan Bowman**  
Saga City, Japan

*Wow, what a deep read, Alan Bowman (if that is your real name). Is it also a coincidence that you're writing from a city in Japan that takes its name from another comic that happens to be written by one of the creators of Paper Girls? Or is that some kind of clue to yet another puzzle...?*

*JK, the creators of this book really appreciate your close attention, and I also appreciate that you have found a way to stretch the experience between issues. But maybe spend a little more time focusing on your aforementioned job and friends?*

Dear Rita,

How do you know if a girl wants you to kiss her?

Just wondering,

**Tom T.**  
Pinellas Park, FL

*This is an excellent question, Tom, and I really appreciate you asking it! I am sitting here watching the news unfold about all these sexual predators who have been kissing girls without caring whether they want it or not—and I'm so glad this conversation is happening. Because in most of my experience, when that connection is really happening, it feels like you just know. Like, there's this magical moment where you're sitting next to each other after the end of a long day, where you've talked about every possible thing you can think of, and one of you scooches closer and the other scooches closer, and then you slowly lean into each other.... And maybe she brushes your hand or your cheek with the back of her fingers? And maybe that space between your lips slowly closes? And I think, usually, that's when you know.*

*But even then. Even when it seems*

*crystal clear? You should always ASK. Because the only way to know for real real if she wants to kiss you? Is if you ask her.*

*And if she says no? Then please for the love of Aphrodite listen to her, suck it up, and back off. You clearly misread the situation, and that happens. It doesn't make you a bad guy. Trying to talk her into kissing you after that point, or just going ahead and kissing her without her permission? That does.*

Greetings A.N.D.G.!

Please tell the creative team of *Paper Girls* that I have not been so excited to buy monthly issues of comic books for some time. I have reread many of the books—the level of quality is that high. In fact, it's so inspiring that I decided to write a poem in honor of this fabulous book. It's not in iambic pentameter, but I hope you will forgive me. Here it is:

ODE TO PAPER GIRLS

*On Nov. 1, 1988, three visitors arrived in Stony Stream—trick or treat?*

*Four papergirls, Erin, Mac, KJ, and Tiffany, they did meet.*

*The boys' clandestine mission to steal Tiffany's walkie-talkie*

*Cost Heck and Naldo dearly, leaving the girls feeling a bit floppy.*

*Erin meets Erin. "Don't trust other Erin!" Oh, this is getting serious!*

*To 12344 BCE they go. Don't look Mac, there's KJ's period.*

*Possible or inevitable, KJ glimpses into the untranslatable.*

*Meet Dr. Braunstein, Wari, and baby Jahpo—wow, they're capable!*

*Time will tell as Vaughan, Chiang, Fletcher, and Wilson weave their tale—*

*Masterfully forged books, delivered to us without fail.*

*Lastly, let us not forget the dedicated members of the A.N.D.G.,*

*Delivering the daily news dutifully, led by Rita and Petey.*

*Superheroes? No, these four girls are my choice. This book rises above.*

*Please pardon this attempt at a *Paper Girls* sonnet, but I think I'm in love.*

Yours truly,

**Nathan Zee**  
Honolulu, Hawaii

*Home run, Nathan Zee!*

*You've made this delivery gal*

*As happy as can be.*

*(Even though she*

*Normally*

*Hates poetry.)*

*Thanks for all your amazing questions and contributions to our community this month, deliverers! As my state catches fire and other states are ravaged with what seems like daily calamity, I'm so grateful to have you in my squad, out there spreading the real news.*

*Keep those wheels spinning,*

**Rita Pearl, Paper Girl**




# HEY HEY, IT'S THE Y2K SURVEY!

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

*A few issues back, Rita Pearl asked what your favorite song of 2000 was, and we got so many great responses from our "pre-millennial" demographic (and you historically-minded youngsters), we thought we would quiz you about some of your other Y2K thoughts.*

*At least one lucky, randomly selected responder will get some terrific **PAPER GIRLS** swag, so please mail your answers to the address above!*

- 
- 1) What was the best movie of the year 2000?
  - 2) If you were alive, what did you do for New Year's Eve on December 31, 1999?
  - 3) And who was your Hollywood crush circa the year 2000?
  - 4) In your opinion, what was the biggest news story of 2000?
  - 5) Had you already seen the movie *2001* before the year 2000?
  - 6) If so, what did/do you think of it?
  - 7) What was the best music video of 2000?
  - 8) Has this new century been better or worse than you thought it would be?
  - 9) Would 2000-era You be proud of the You of Today?
  - 10) In what ways are we all still trapped in the year 2000?
  - 11) Has anything gotten better over the last seventeen years?
  - 12) Are you helping or hurting?
- 





# Paper Girls

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2 of 4

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# Paper Girls 19

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BRIAN K. VAUGHAN  
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MATT WILSON  
JARED K. FLETCHER







ISSUE **18**

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