

GEEK STUDENT FRIEND HERO



# HOTSHOT

#001

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VERSE 1



DANDRIDGE  
WATSON

CREATED BY MICHAEL J. WATSON

# HOTSHOT

IN THE WAKE OF THE CATAclySMIC ZERO EVENT, A YOUNG HERO HAS RISEN IN THE SUPERHERO COMMUNITY. INSPIRED BY THE LATE JUSTICE, HE HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS WHILE TRYING TO JUGGLE HIS HECTIC LIFE AS AN ART STUDENT.

"A HERO'S WELCOME"

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# HERO'S WELCOME

PART ONE

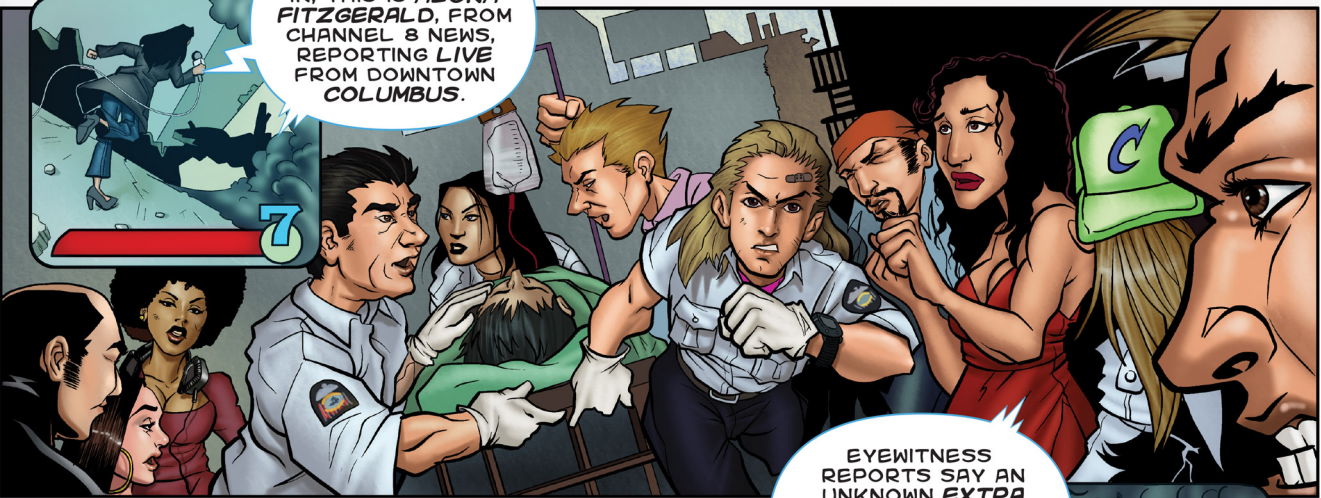


**MY GOD!**

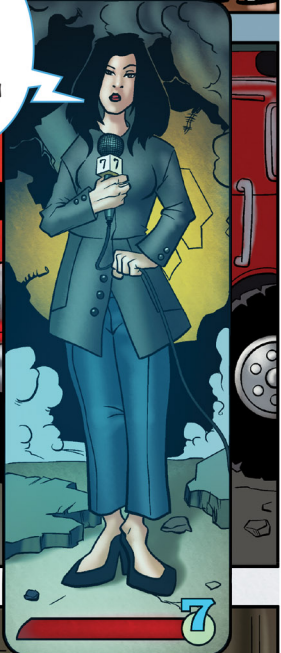
THIS IS INSANE!

IF YOU'RE JUST NOW TUNING IN, THIS IS ALONA FITZGERALD, FROM CHANNEL 8 NEWS, REPORTING LIVE FROM DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS.

7



EYEWITNESS REPORTS SAY AN UNKNOWN EXTRA-HUMAN IS THE CATALYST OF ALL THIS DESTRUCTION, TURNING DOWNTOWN INTO A LITERAL WARZONE!



7



DESPITE THE INTERVENTION FROM VIGILANCE, OF HEROES INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL HERO, HOTSHOT, CASUALTY ESTIMATES ARE IN THE HUNDREDS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE TWO HEROES.

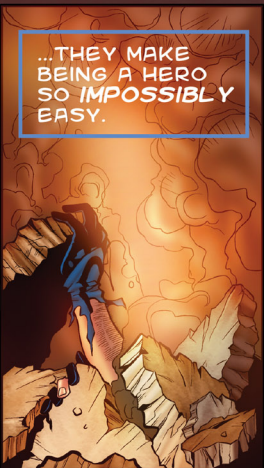
BOTH OF WHOM GAINED NOTORIETY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ZERO EVENT TRAGEDY, ONLY FOUR YEARS AGO.

7



THEY MAKE IT SEEM SO EASY...

...THE MOVIES, THE CARTOONS, AND THE COMICS...



...THEY MAKE BEING A HERO SO IMPOSSIBLY EASY.



THEY NEVER TALK ABOUT THE TRUTH. THEY NEVER SHOW THE PAIN OR THE LIES YOU MUST TELL. THEY ONLY FOCUS ON THE GLORY, 'CAUSE THAT'S ALL WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT. BUT NEVER THE TRUTH...



'CAUSE IF WE KNEW THE TRUTH, WE MAY NOT WANT TO BE HEROES.

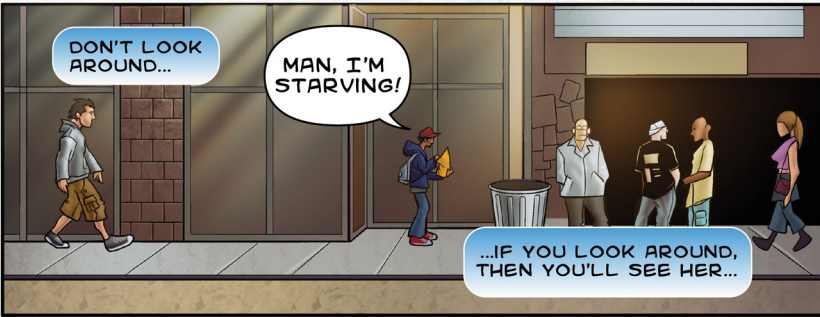


IT'S HARD. IT HURTS. A THANKLESS JOB THAT EXPECTS MORE WHEN MOST WOULD ONLY GIVE LESS...



...I USED TO WANT THAT LIFE. I CRAVED IT. I LIVED FOR IT. WASN'T PERFECT, BUT IT WAS MINE.

AND THEN HE CAME AND TOOK IT ALL AWAY FROM ME.



DON'T LOOK AROUND...

MAN, I'M STARVING!

...IF YOU LOOK AROUND, THEN YOU'LL SEE HER...



...AND YOU KNOW YOU DON'T WANT THAT.

I ALMOST FORGOT HOW GOOD THESE BAD BOYS ARE!



MAN!

THIS IS SOME GOOD EATIN' RIGHT HERE!

SHE SAID IT WAS OVER. DON'T GO LOOKING FOR HER.



I LOVE MESQUITE BURRITOS!

THEY ARE THE BEST!

IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON. SHE HAS. WHY CAN'T YOU?



I CAN'T DO THIS. I MISS HER TOO MUCH.



WHY'D SHE HAVE TO LEAVE ME?

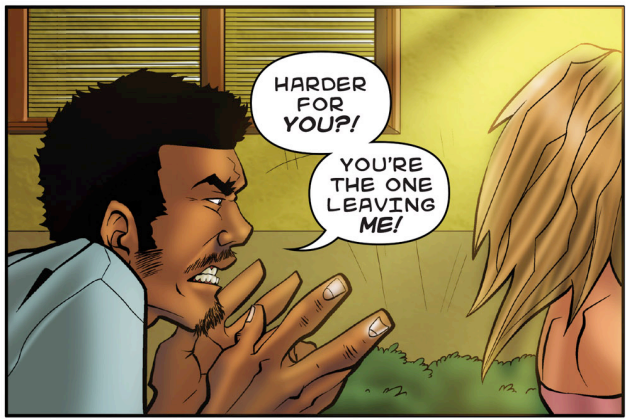


...SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE?

PLEASE, MICHAEL.

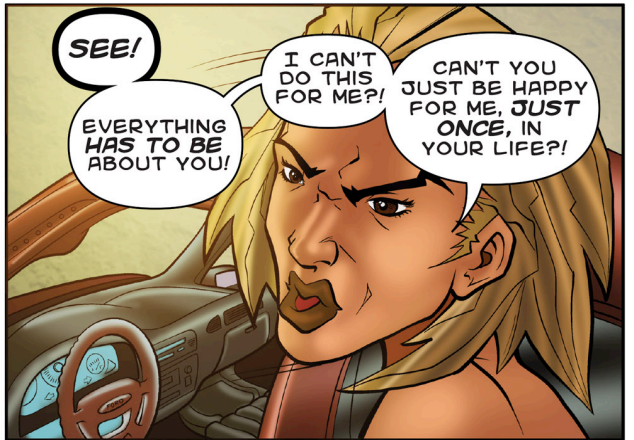
JUST LIKE THAT?!

DON'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER FOR ME THAN IT ALREADY IS.



HARDER FOR YOU?!

YOU'RE THE ONE LEAVING ME!



SEE!

EVERYTHING HAS TO BE ABOUT YOU!

I CAN'T DO THIS FOR ME?!

CAN'T YOU JUST BE HAPPY FOR ME, JUST ONCE, IN YOUR LIFE?!



BE HAPPY FOR YOU?!

YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME AND YOU WANT ME TO BE HAPPY FOR YOU?!

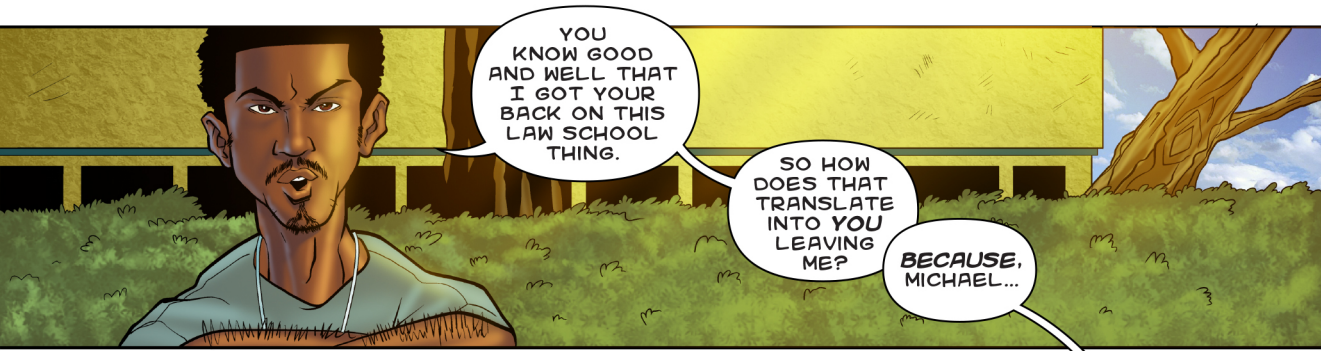
NO!



AND ONCE AGAIN, IT ALL COMES BACK TO YOU! "I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU!"

NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO DO SOMETHING FOR MYSELF FOR A CHANGE.

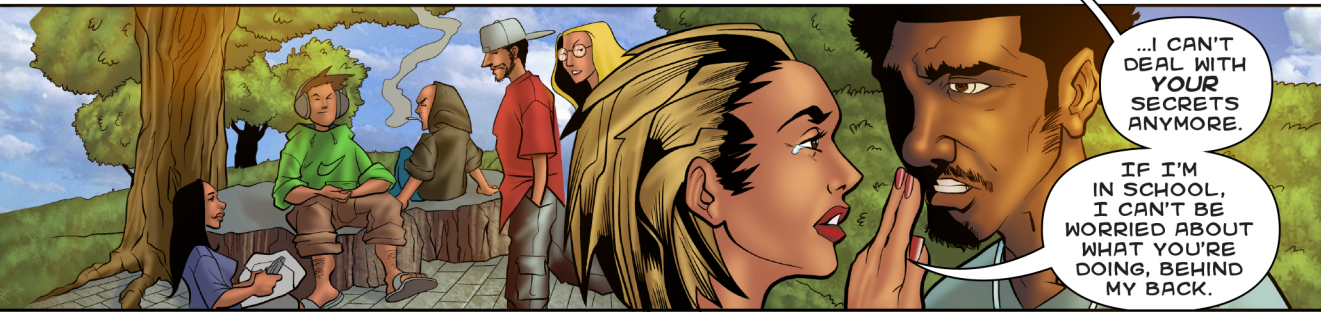
I'M JUST OUT TO HURT YOU!



YOU KNOW GOOD AND WELL THAT I GOT YOUR BACK ON THIS LAW SCHOOL THING.

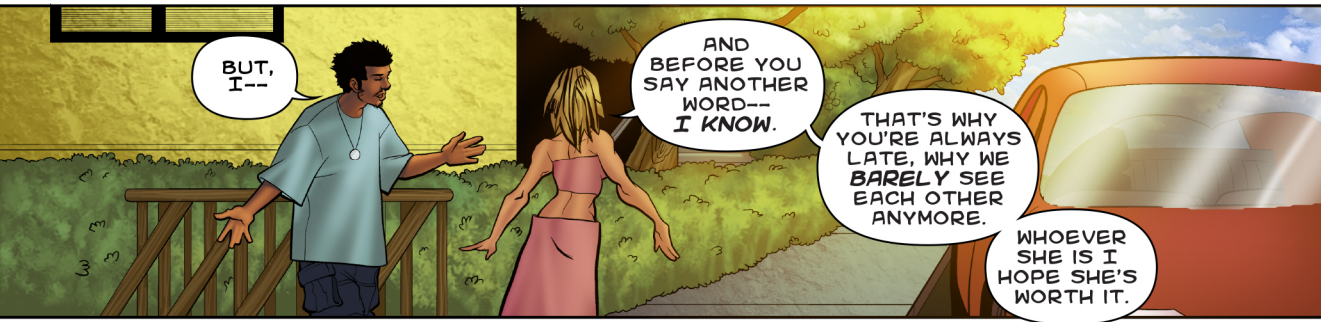
SO HOW DOES THAT TRANSLATE INTO YOU LEAVING ME?

BECAUSE, MICHAEL...



...I CAN'T DEAL WITH YOUR SECRETS ANYMORE.

IF I'M IN SCHOOL, I CAN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BEHIND MY BACK.

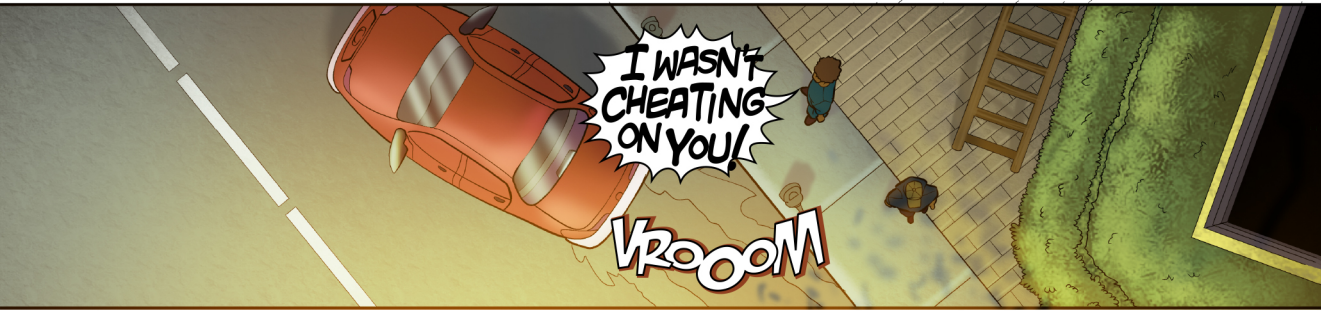


BUT, I--

AND BEFORE YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD-- I KNOW.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE, WHY WE BARELY SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE.

WHOEVER SHE IS I HOPE SHE'S WORTH IT.



I WASN'T CHEATING ON YOU!

VROOOM











URK...!



MAKE WAY FOR THE DARKNESS.  
KAK EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT.



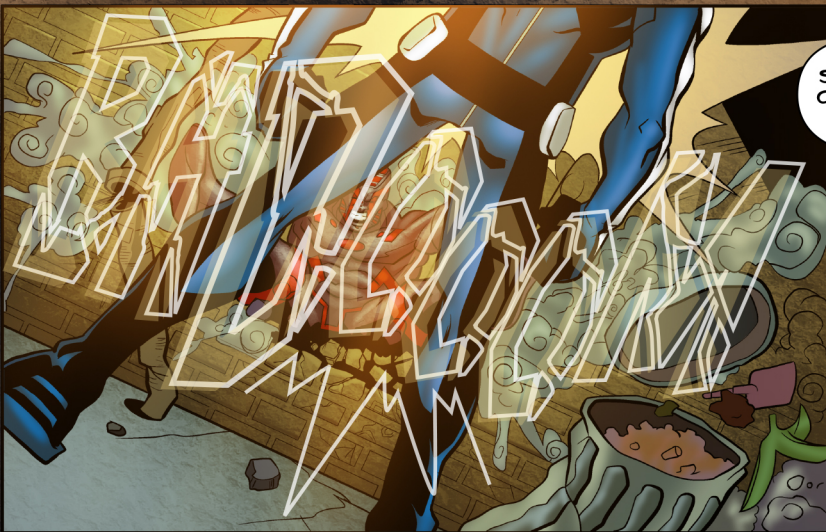
I KNOW I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT HARD!

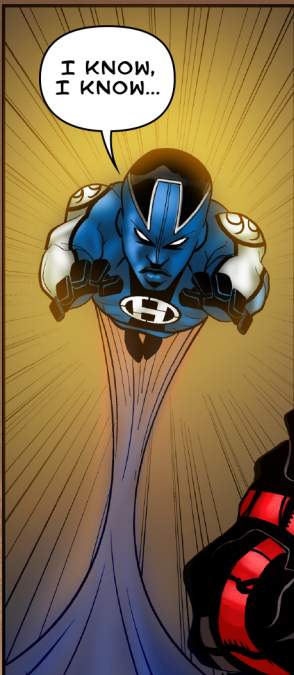
BLUGH MAKE WAY FOR...-

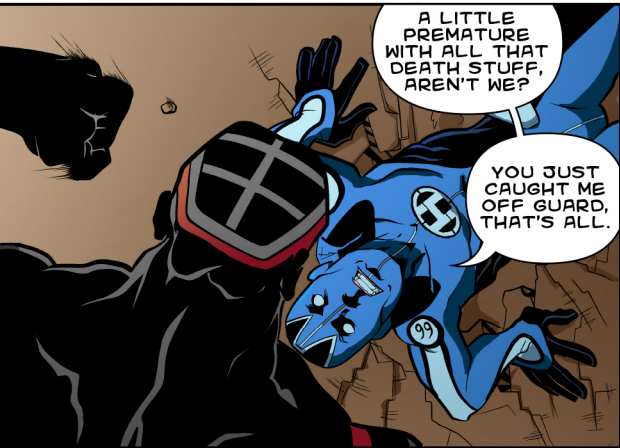


BOOM!

VOID!









...THERE'S THIS GUY IN MY CIVIL PHYSICS CLASS; HE IS TOO FINE!

I THINK I SHOULD HOOK YOU TWO UP.

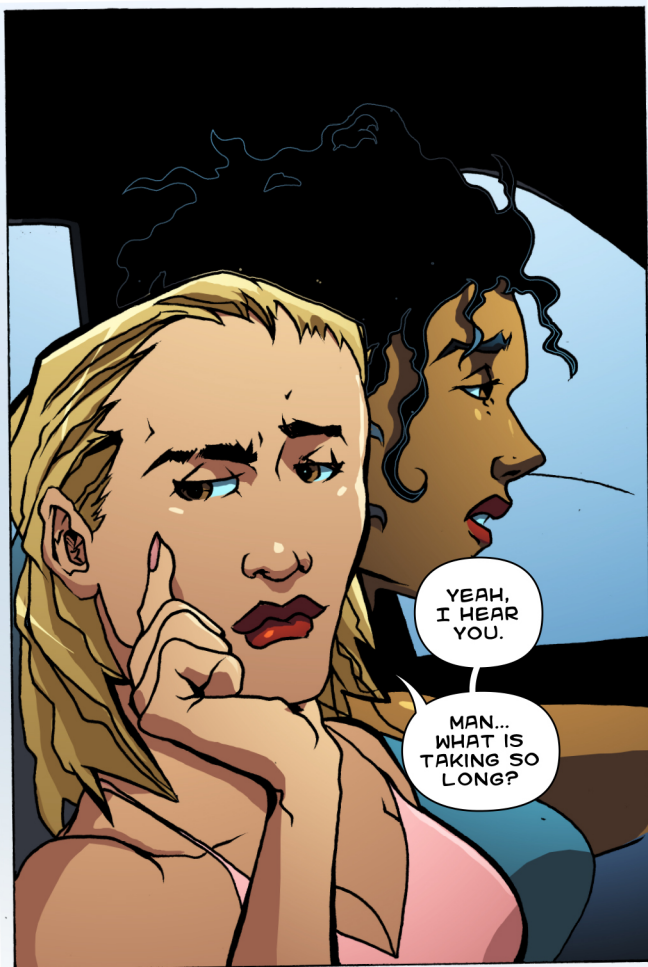


JAY, PLEASE.

YOU KNOW I AM NOT TRYING TO BE HOOKED UP RIGHT NOW.

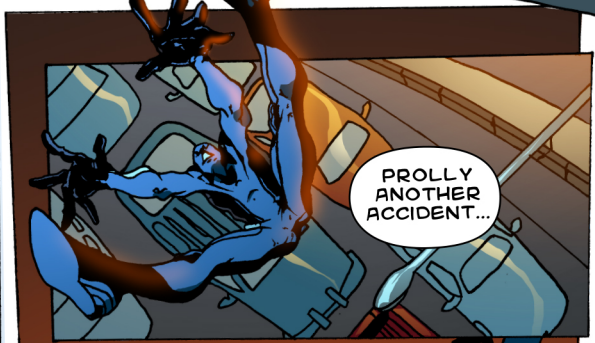
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL TRIPPING OVER MICHAEL'S SORRY BEHIND.

GIRL, YOU KNOW HE WAS CHEATIN' ON YOU!

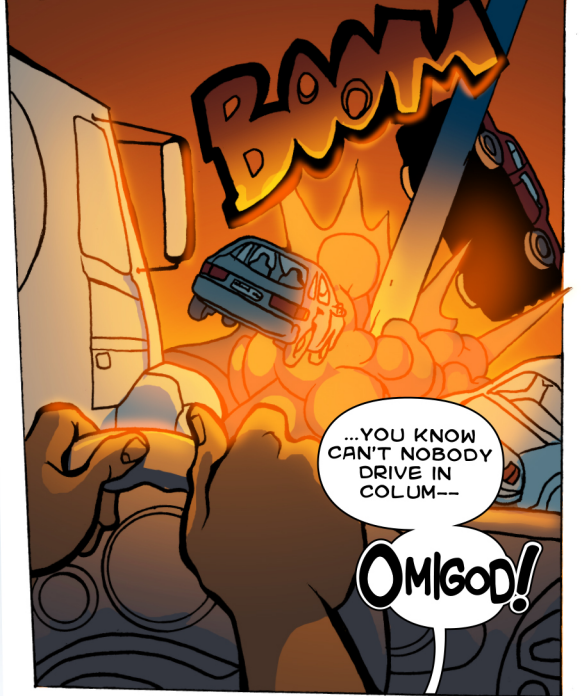


YEAH, I HEAR YOU.

MAN... WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG?



PROLLY ANOTHER ACCIDENT...



...YOU KNOW CAN'T NOBODY DRIVE IN COLUM--

OMIGOD!

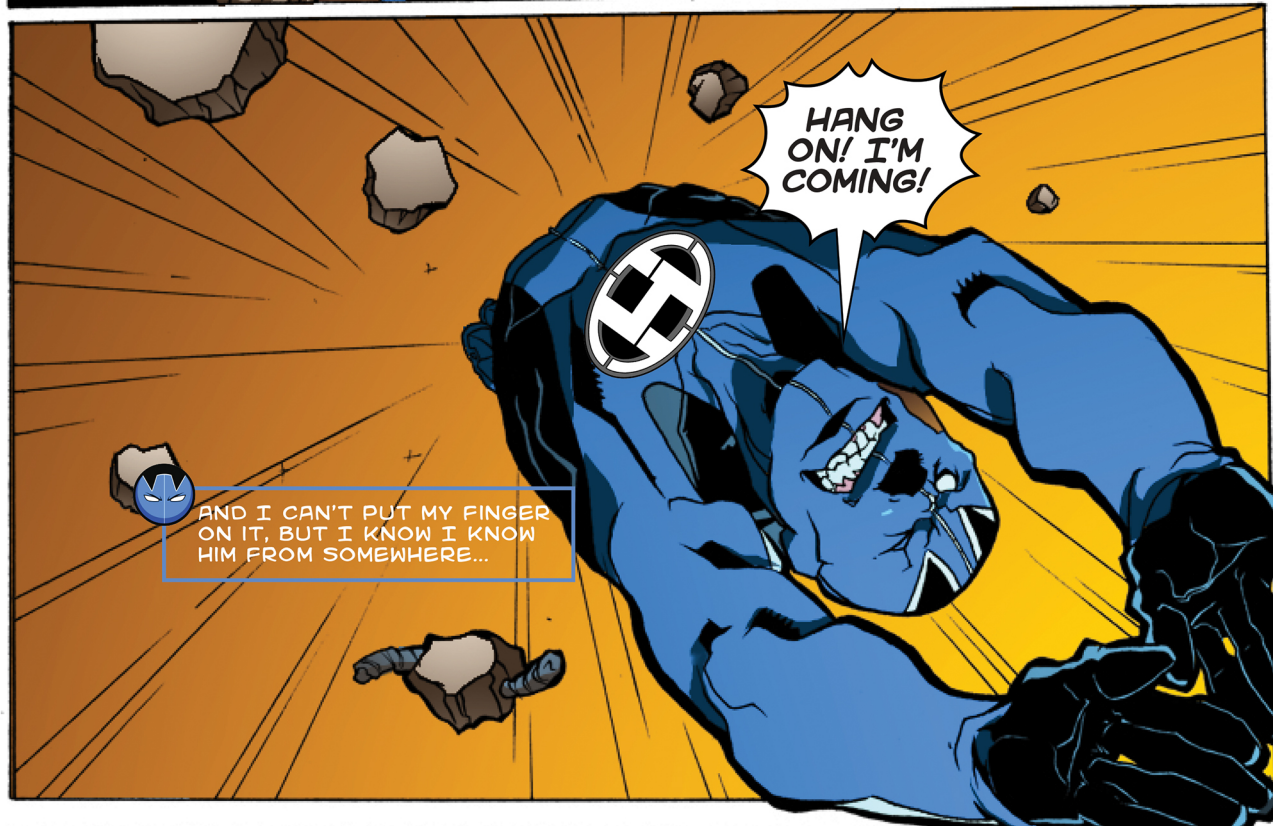


OKAY...THIS IS GETTING A LITTLE OUTTA HAND.



OH NO!

THIS GUY IS TURNING INTO A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM THAN I FIRST THOUGHT.



HANG ON! I'M COMING!

AND I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT I KNOW I KNOW HIM FROM SOMEWHERE...

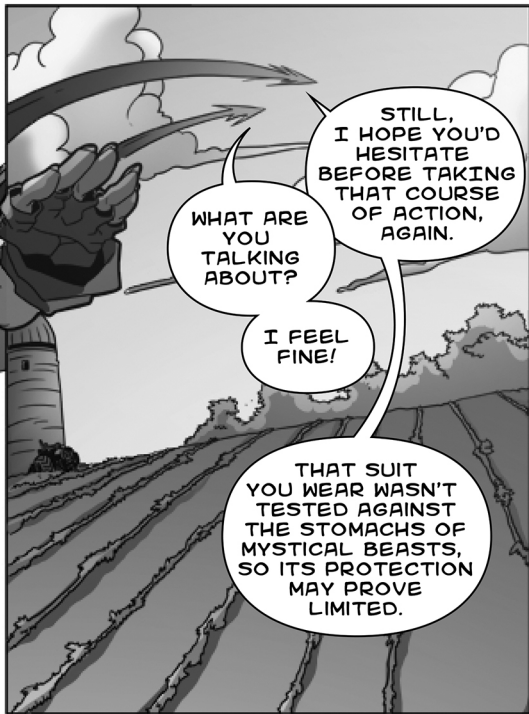




APPLAUDING YOUR QUICK THINKING ASIDE, I DON'T THINK THAT GETTING SWALLOWED WHOLE WAS THE WISEST COURSE OF ACTION.

HEY, I SAW AN OPENING AND I TOOK IT!

THAT DRAGON COULD'VE ROASTED THE **WHOLE** CITY.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I FEEL FINE!

STILL, I HOPE YOU'D HESITATE BEFORE TAKING THAT COURSE OF ACTION, AGAIN.

THAT SUIT YOU WEAR WASN'T TESTED AGAINST THE STOMACHS OF MYSTICAL BEASTS, SO ITS PROTECTION MAY PROVE LIMITED.



...WHICH DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR YOUR **SMELL!**

WHAT?!

STILL, NOT THE ABOMINATION YOUR FIRST COSTUME WA-- WHAT IS THAT?!



VIGILANCE!

**Look out!**



I AM HERE TO EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT FROM--



VIGILANCE!

No... IT'S NOT HER...



IT'S YOU!

YOURS IS THE BLOOD I CRAVE.



MY APOLOGIES!

THIS BRUTE CAUGHT ME COMPLETELY OFF GUARD.



AARGH!!



SHOULD WE JUST LEAVE HIM HERE LIKE THAT?

A RETRIEVAL TEAM IS ALREADY ON THEIR WAY.



DON'T WORRY, I GOT YOU!

IT'S OKAY, NOW. DON'T BE SCARED.

I'LL HAVE YOU BACK ON THE GROUND IN JUST A SECOND.

I'LL BET MY MOM WOULD'VE LIKED THIS ONE.

FIVE CARS IN UNDER THIRTY SECONDS, THAT'S GOTTA BE SOME KINDA RECORD.



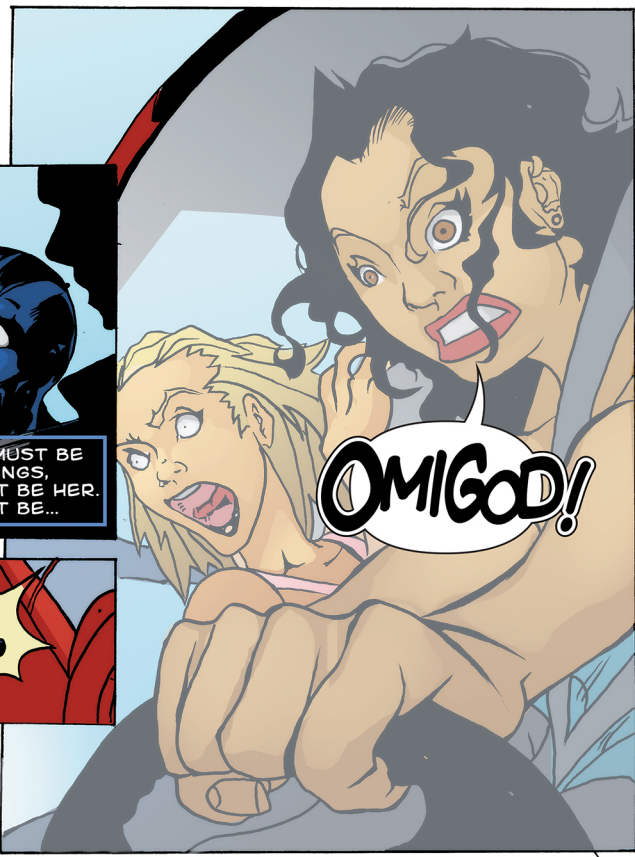
DON'T WORRY, LADIES, I'LL HAVE YOU BACK ON THE GROUND IN A JIFF.



NO! I MUST BE SEEING THINGS, THAT CAN'T BE HER. THAT CAN'T BE...



OOOPS! I MEAN, UH...YEAH.



OMIGOD!



WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO HELP US-- NOT KILL US!

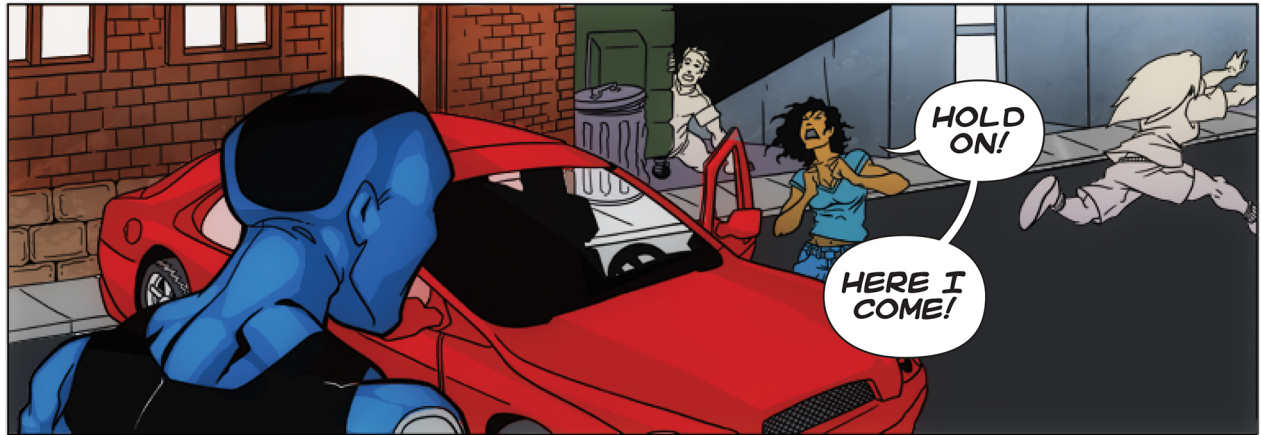
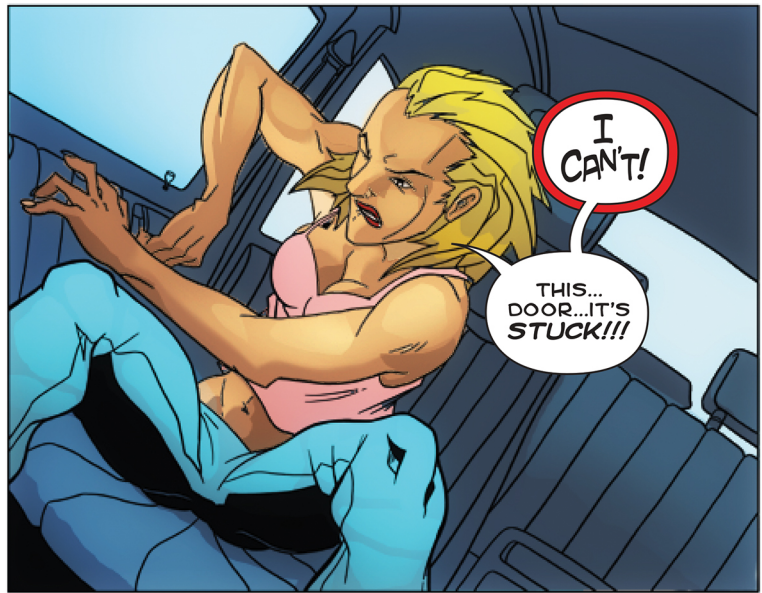
IT'S HER. IT'S CARLA.

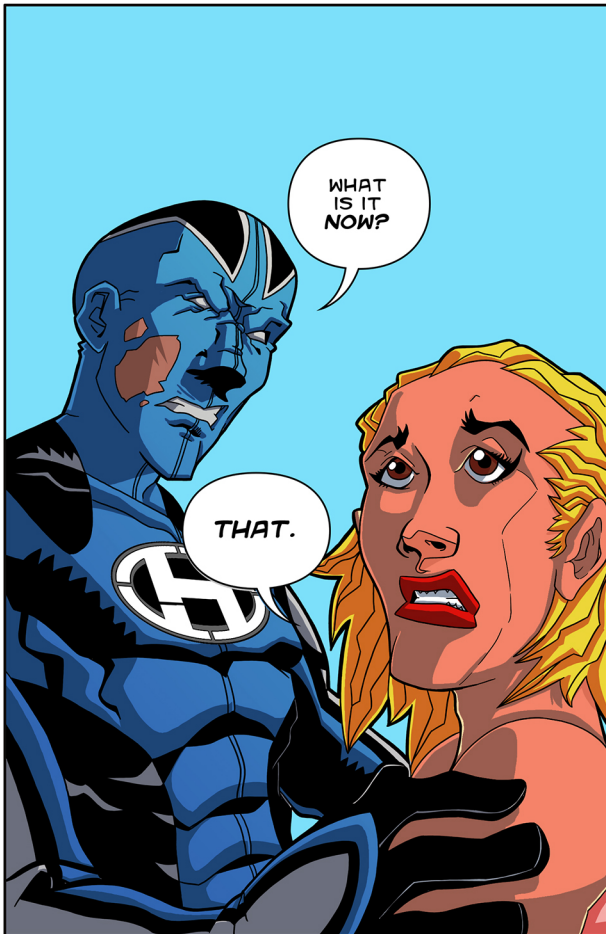


SORRY BOUT THAT.

OF ALL THE PLACES IN THE CITY, SHE JUST HAD TO BE HERE.









**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# NOVEMBER



HOME OF YOUR FAVORITE NEW COMIC



# NEW HEROES



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