

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

ROTHENBERG BADOWER KWOK

IPSO FACTO

ISSUE ONE

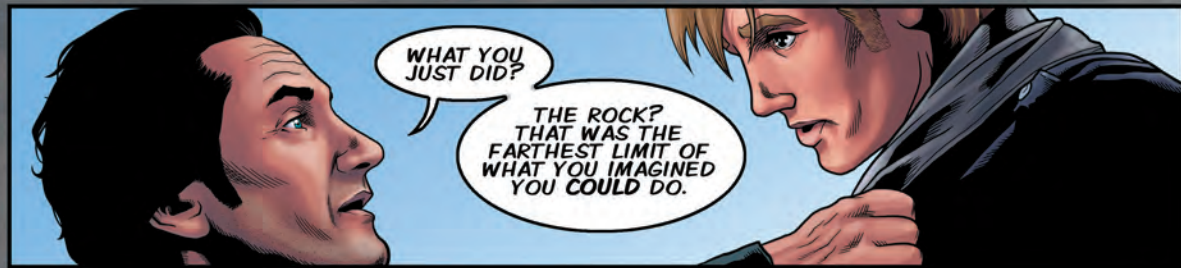


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BADOWER 2015



WHAT YOU JUST DID?

THE ROCK? THAT WAS THE FARTHEST LIMIT OF WHAT YOU IMAGINED YOU COULD DO.



BUT MOSEL, YOU HAVE NO LIMITS! YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.



THIS WORLD NEEDS YOU TO REMEMBER THAT NOW.

THIS WORLD NEEDS YOU TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

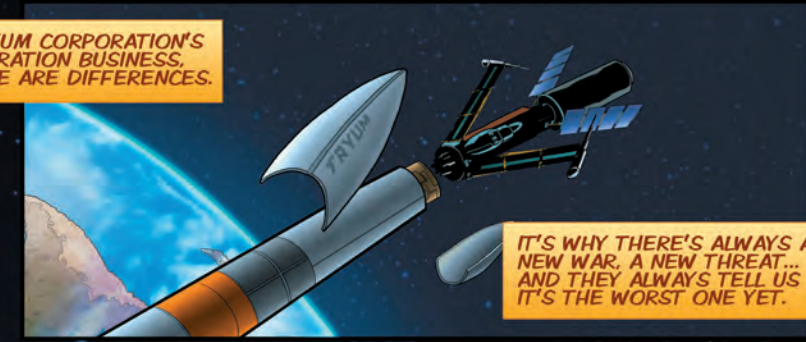
TOMORROW



SOON AS THE SATELLITE WENT UP THEY STARTED LEAVING FOR THEIR OWN PLANET.

THEY, WE, YOU, ME... I DON'T SEE THE DIFFERENCE ANYMORE -- THE SEPARATION.

BUT THE TRYUM CORPORATION'S IN THE SEPARATION BUSINESS. ALL THEY SEE ARE DIFFERENCES.



IT'S WHY THERE'S ALWAYS A NEW WAR, A NEW THREAT... AND THEY ALWAYS TELL US IT'S THE WORST ONE YET.

WELL, AFTER THE SATELLITE WENT UP TRYUM WAS FINALLY TELLING THE TRUTH.



NOT THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY TELLING IT.

THAT'S WHY I'M DOING SO NOW...

MY NAME'S MOSEL
PEARLMAN RAMIREZ.

I WOKE UP ONE DAY
JUST A REGULAR KID...

ASPEN, COLORADO
CATHEDRAL LAKE TRAIL



'LEAST THAT'S WHAT I
ALWAYS TOLD MYSELF.



WAS A PRETTY
CONVINCING
LIAR, TOO.



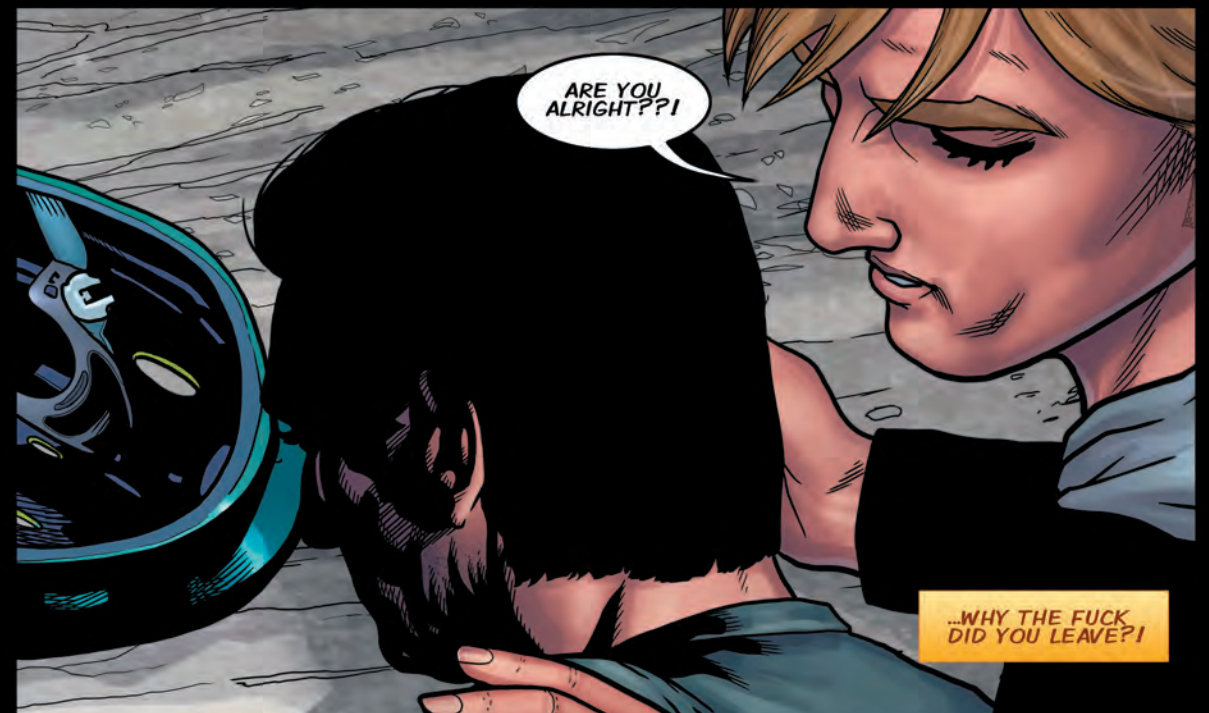
JUST ANOTHER SECOND-
SEMESTER-SENIOR
PSYCHED TO GET THE
HELL OUT.

TO DO WHAT, WHO KNOWS:
RUN AWAY WITH MY GIRL,
SEE THE WORLD...

WHATEVER. JUST OUT.



THEN HE SHOWED UP.





'COURSE IF YOU ASKED HIM SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

OH, SHIT...

WHAT...

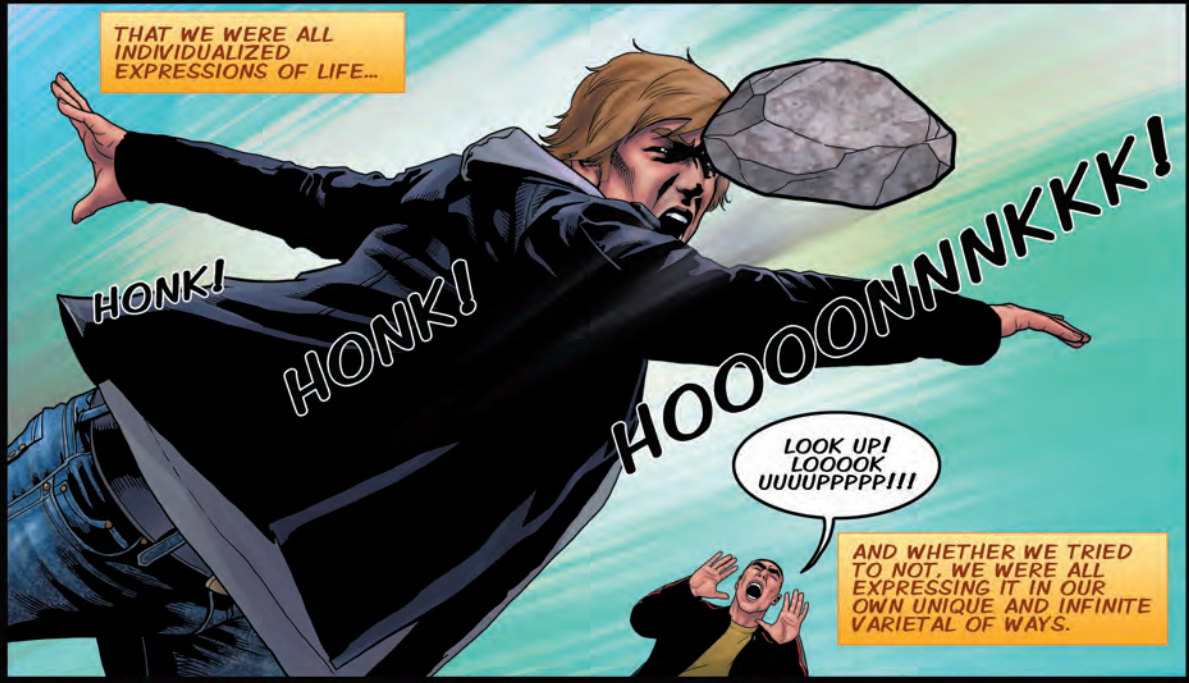
...HE'D JUST START TALKIN' ABOUT HOW SINCE IT WAS SELF-EVIDENT WE WERE ALL ALIVE...



♪♪♪



HEY! ASSHOLE!! LOOK UP!!!



THAT WE WERE ALL INDIVIDUALIZED EXPRESSIONS OF LIFE...

HONK!
HONK!

LOOK UP!
LOOOOK
UUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU!!!

AND WHETHER WE TRIED TO NOT, WE WERE ALL EXPRESSING IT IN OUR OWN UNIQUE AND INFINITE VARIETAL OF WAYS.



THE ONE BECOMES THE MANY, RIGHT, BREZ...



THEN THEY DID.

IT'S EMPTY. HOW COULD IT...

HOLY SHIT -MOM!



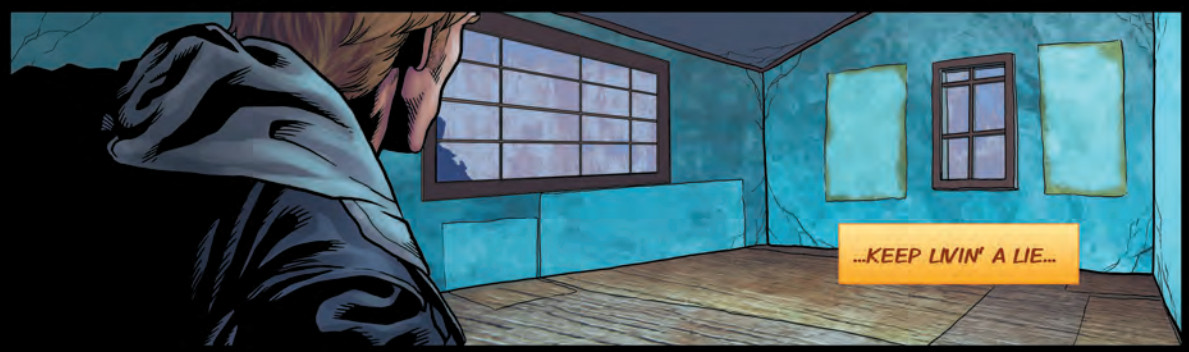
MAP!

MOM ARE YOU HERE?!

MOM...



SO I HAD A CHOICE TO MAKE...



...KEEP LIVIN' A LIE...



WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?



...OR BE WILLING TO DIE FOR THE TRUTH.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WHAT'S GOOD TO YOU ISN'T WHAT'S GOOD TO ME?



THIS IS OFF MY HARD DRIVE. A POST OFFICE IN PRESTON, GEORGIA. U.S. POPULATION FOUR HUNDRED-THIRTY.

IT SAID MY NAME, COLONEL. LIKE IT WAS... LIKE IT WAS INSIDE OF ME-

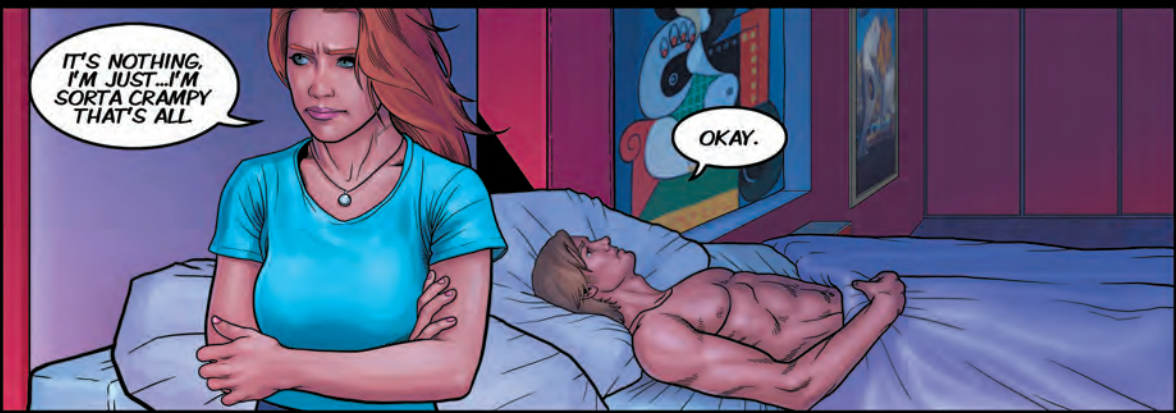
IT ASKED ABOUT MY SISTER'S KNEE SURGERY!??

COLONEL, PLEASE, IF THIS MARKER'S CORRECT, THIS WHOLE FACILITY'S GOING TO MIND SHIELDS.

IF THESE THINGS EVEN WORK...

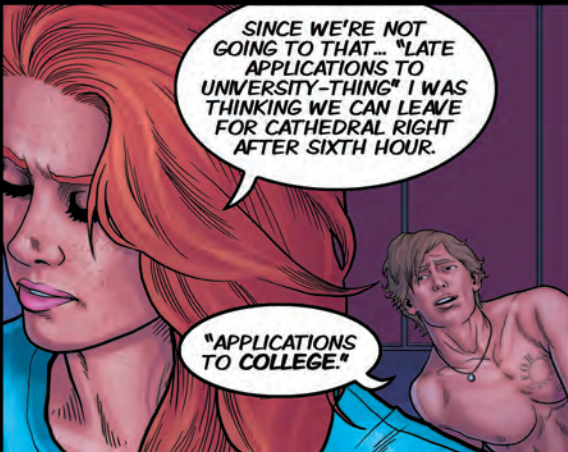
DON'T WORRY, LIEUTENANT, YOUR THOUGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED. YOUR STUPIDITY WILL STILL BE INTACT.

PLAY THE DAMN TAPE!



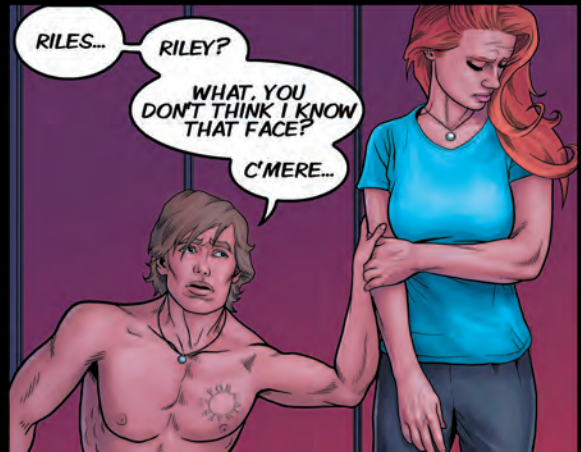
IT'S NOTHING, I'M JUST... I'M SORTA CRAMPY THAT'S ALL.

OKAY.



SINCE WE'RE NOT GOING TO THAT... "LATE APPLICATIONS TO UNIVERSITY-THING" I WAS THINKING WE CAN LEAVE FOR CATHEDRAL RIGHT AFTER SIXTH HOUR.

"APPLICATIONS TO COLLEGE."

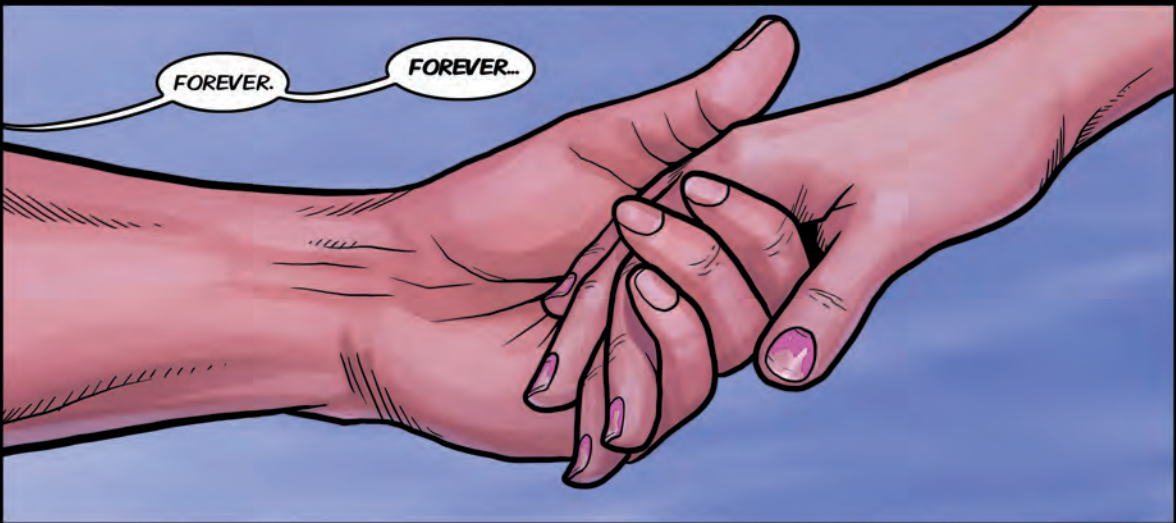


RILES...

RILEY?

WHAT, YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW THAT FACE?

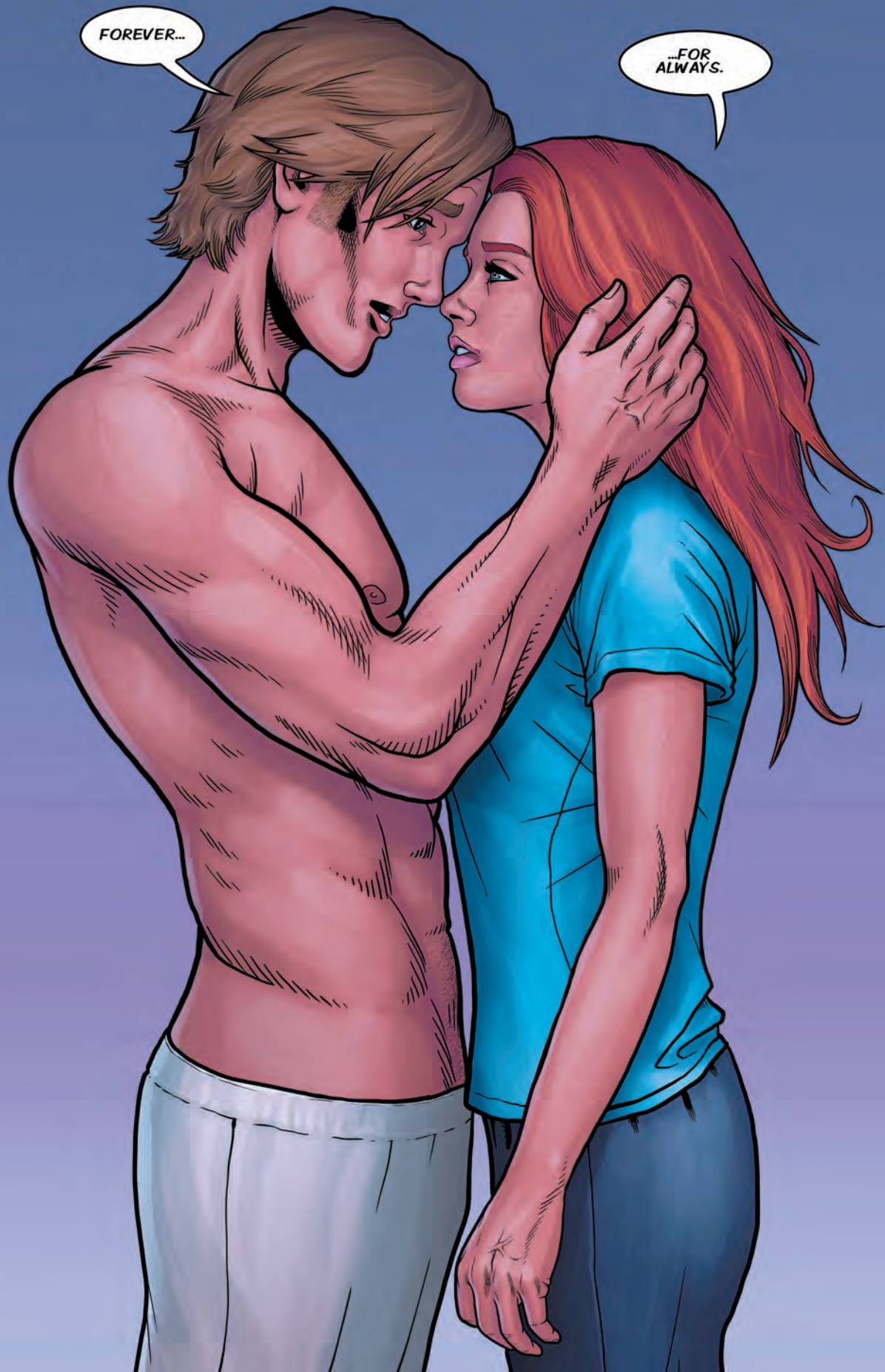
C'MERE...



FOREVER.

FOREVER...





FOREVER...

...FOR ALWAYS.



FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND-AND-ONE HERE AT ALL TIMES. ONE LEAVES, ONE TAKES ITS PLACE.

LIKE GODDAMN CLOCKWORK.

BUT THE 'AND-ONE' PART...

MAYBE THE BREAK IN THEIR DEPARTURE PROTOCOL'S JUST AS RANDOM.

RANDOM'S THE LAST THING THEY ARE.

WHAT I BELIEVE, COLONEL IS THAT THIS... THIS EXODUS, IS THE PRELIMINARY STEP IN A FULL-SCALE INVASION.



IDIOT! PRELIMINARY? HAVE YOU NO IDEA THE POWER THAT WE'RE DEALING WITH?

YES, BUT... SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST INFORM CHAIRMAN VOLMA?

COLONEL? SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SIR.

I, UM, I HAVE A UH, DEPARTURE MESSAGE WHICH MERITS... THAT IS TO SAY, IN ORDER TO SAFELY FINISH VIEWING IT, THAT IS...

SPIT IT OUT, MARKER.



THE THING SPOKE TO ME, COLONEL.

BY NAME.

MIND SHIELDS...