



UNTHANK  
COMICS

1

# GONZO

C O S M I C



GARRY MAC

now,  
today,  
tomorrow  
and  
always

## GONZO COSMIC #1

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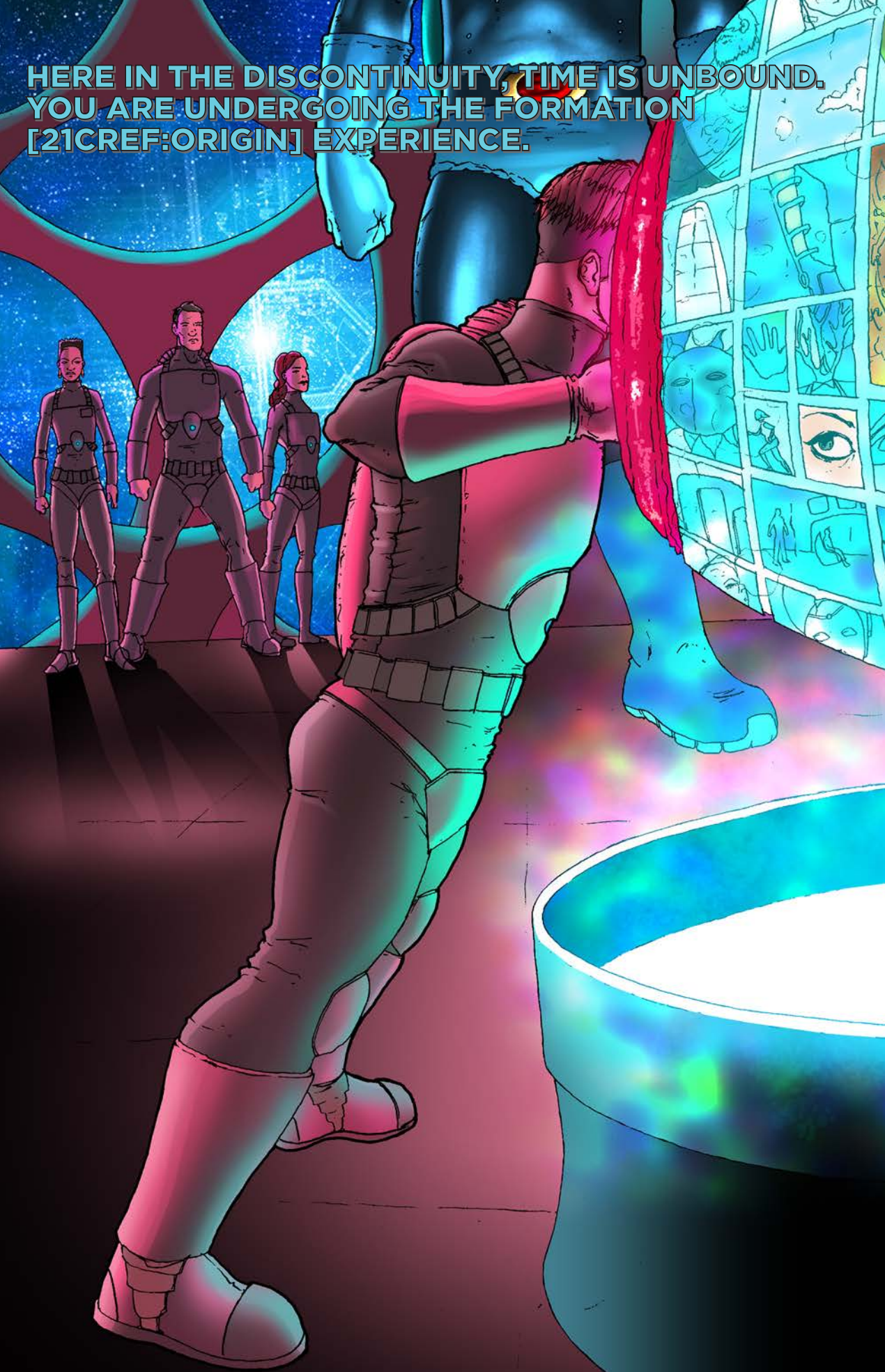
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--AND THE LIGHT CHANGES, AND WE GO.





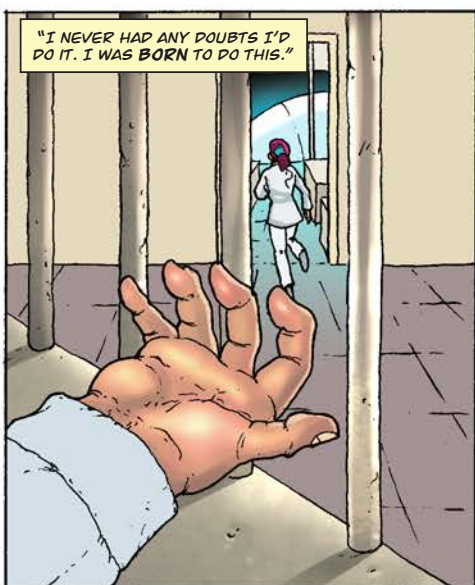
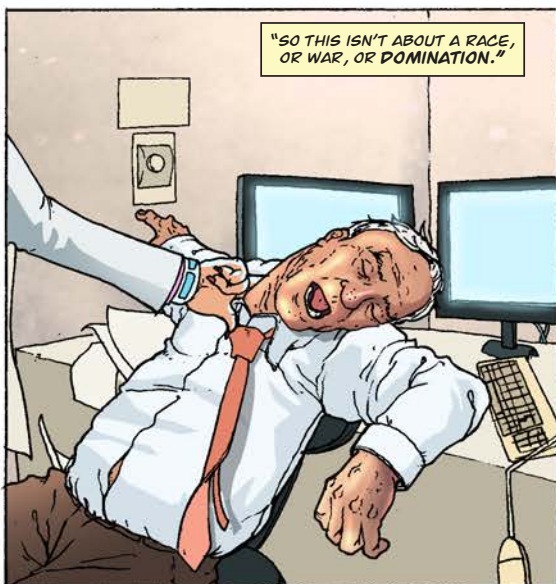
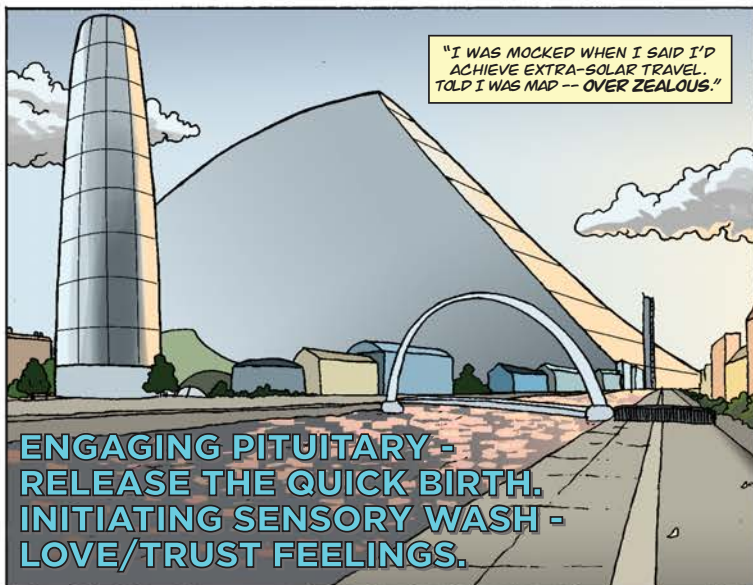
HERE IN THE DISCONTINUITY, TIME IS UNBOUND.  
YOU ARE UNDERGOING THE FORMATION  
[21CREF:ORIGIN] EXPERIENCE.



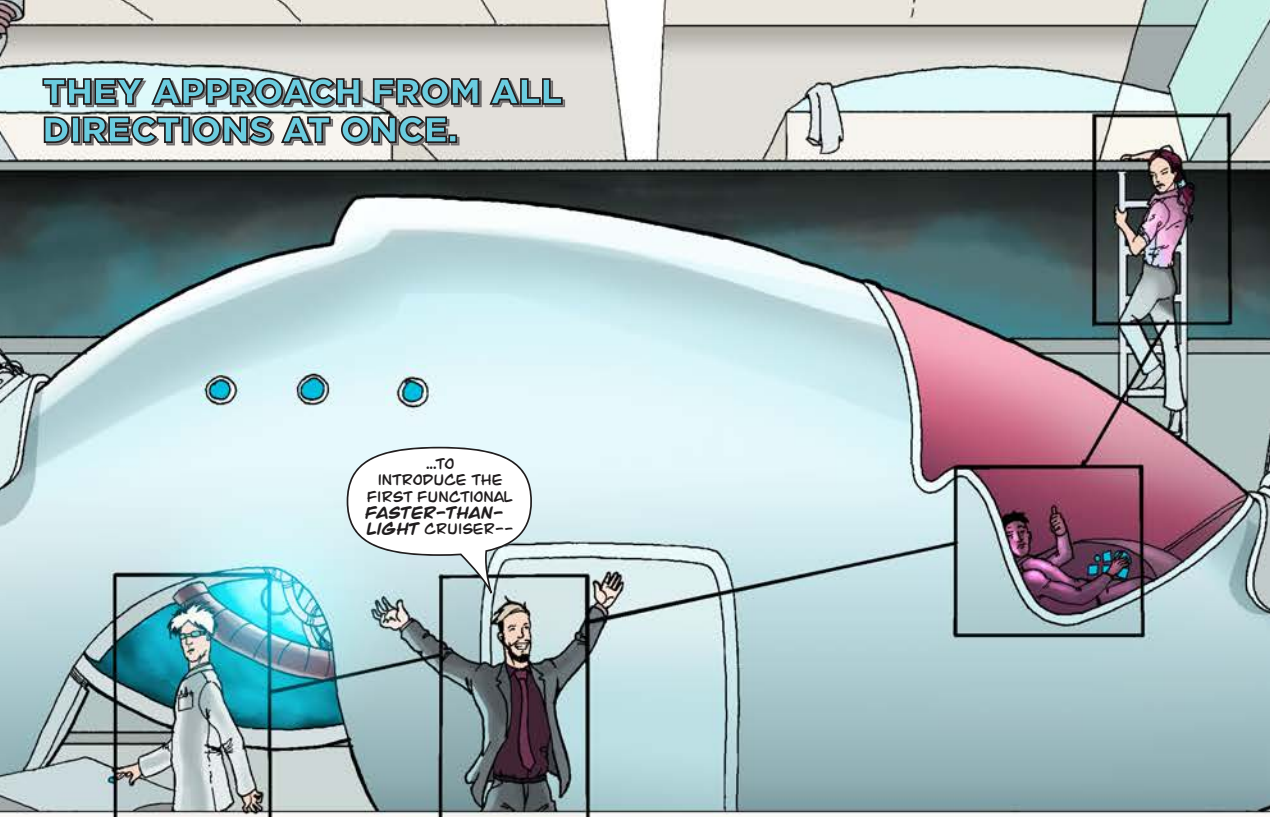








THEY APPROACH FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE.



...TO  
INTRODUCE THE  
FIRST FUNCTIONAL  
FASTER-THAN-  
LIGHT CRUISER--



THE  
**FORMIDABLE!**

ROLAND, WOULD  
YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN  
WHY YOU'RE CURRENTLY  
SITTING IN THE PILOT SEAT  
OF AN FTL JUMP SHIP?  
YOU'RE IN SO MUCH  
TROUBLE--



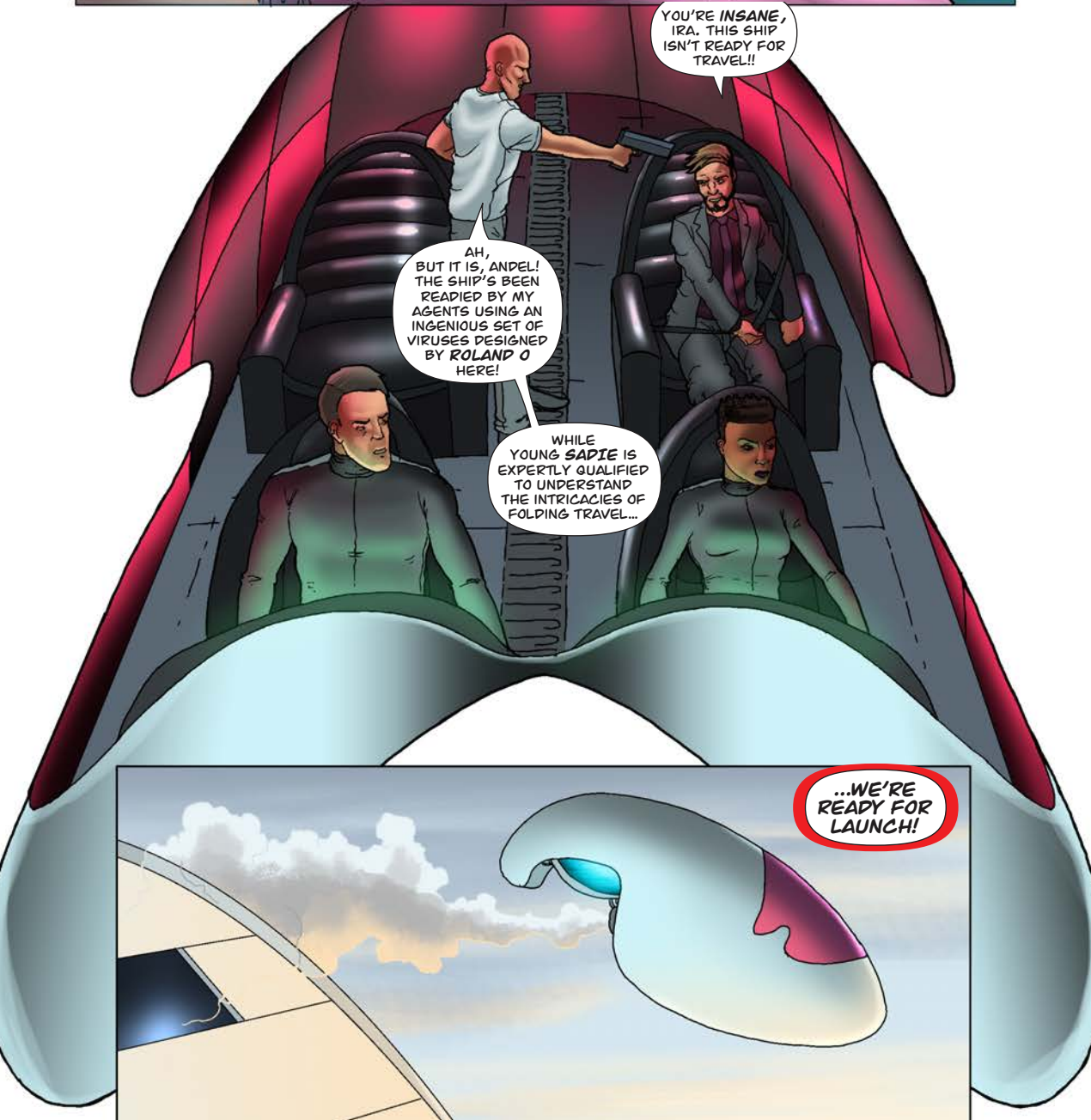






BE CAREFUL  
AMANDA. THE ENERGY  
BEING RELEASED FROM  
THE PULL DRIVE COULD  
KILL YOU! THERE'S NO  
SHIELDING YET!

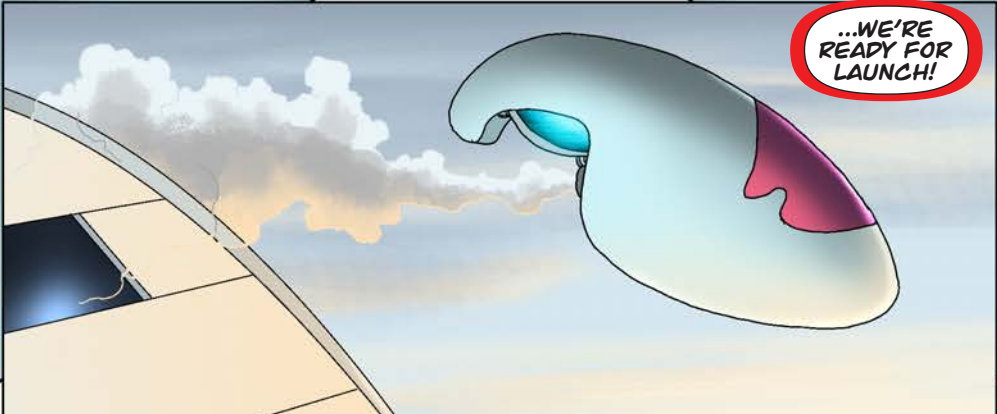
I'LL TAKE  
THAT UNDER  
ADVISEMENT,  
JONES.  
SIGNING  
OFF.



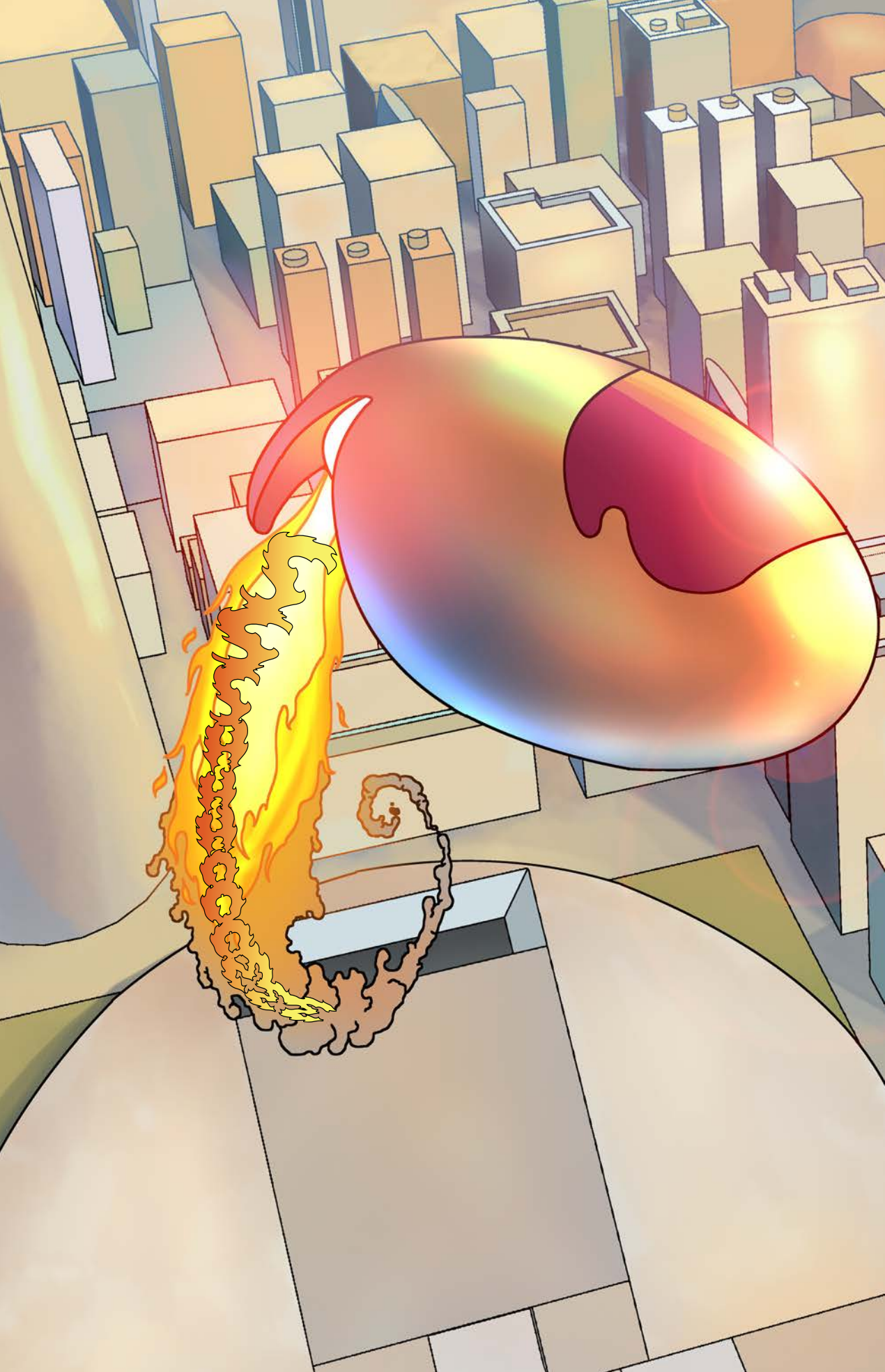
YOU'RE *INSANE*,  
IRA. THIS SHIP  
ISN'T READY FOR  
TRAVEL!!

AH,  
BUT IT IS, ANDEL!  
THE SHIP'S BEEN  
READYED BY MY  
AGENTS USING AN  
INGENIOUS SET OF  
VIRUSES DESIGNED  
BY ROLAND O  
HERE!

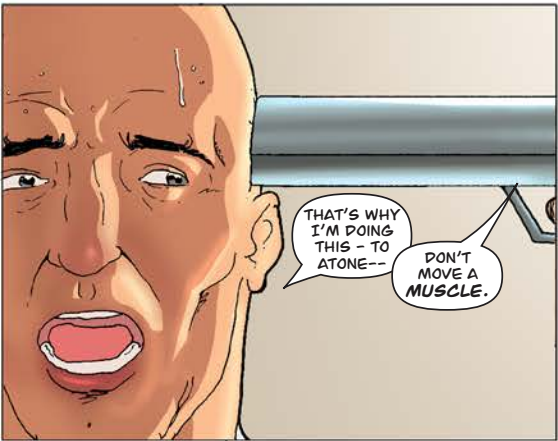
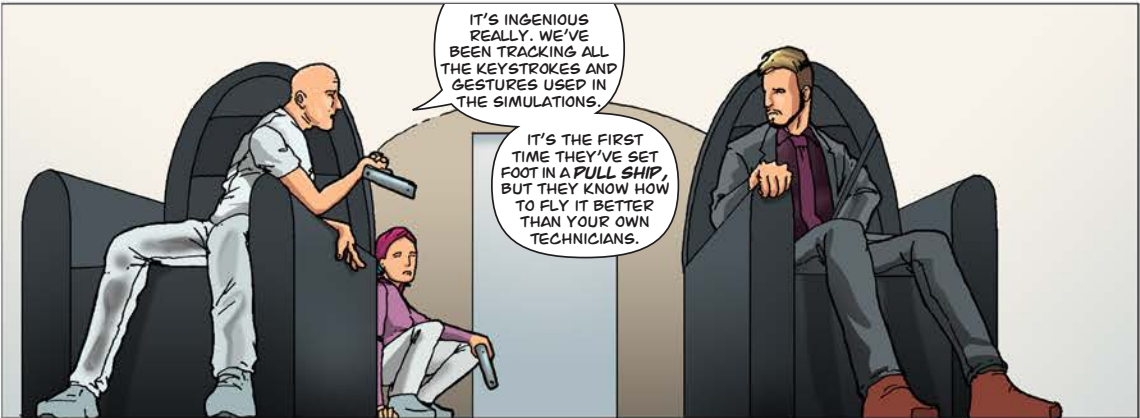
WHILE  
YOUNG *SADIE* IS  
EXPERTLY QUALIFIED  
TO UNDERSTAND  
THE INTRICACIES OF  
FOLDING TRAVEL...

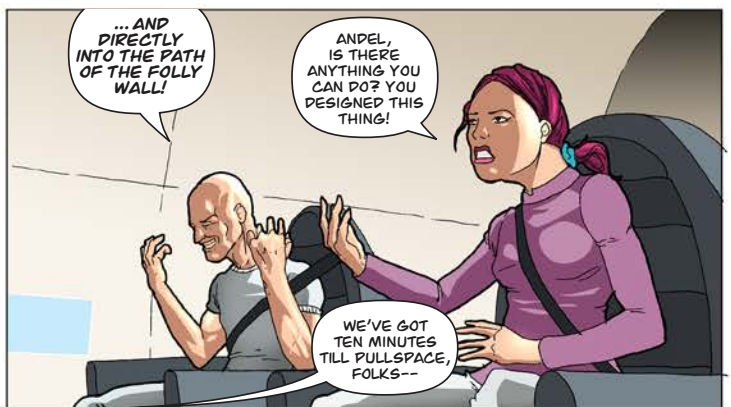


...WE'RE  
READY FOR  
LAUNCH!

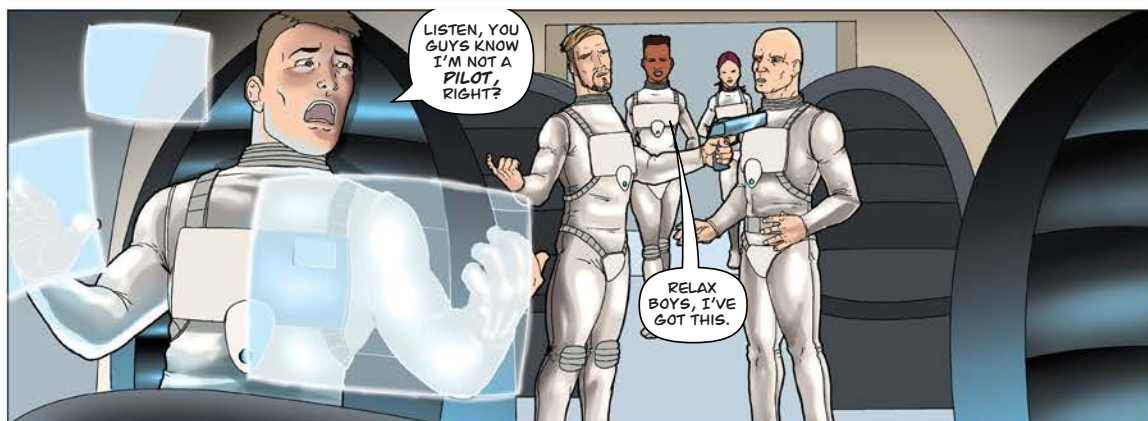
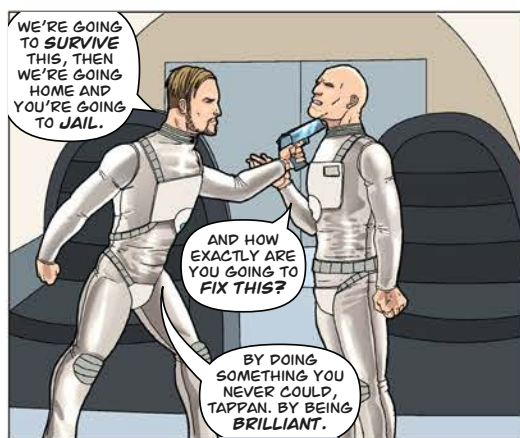
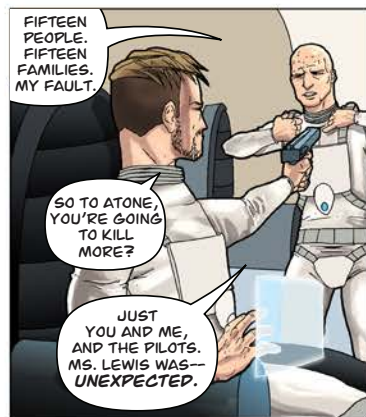




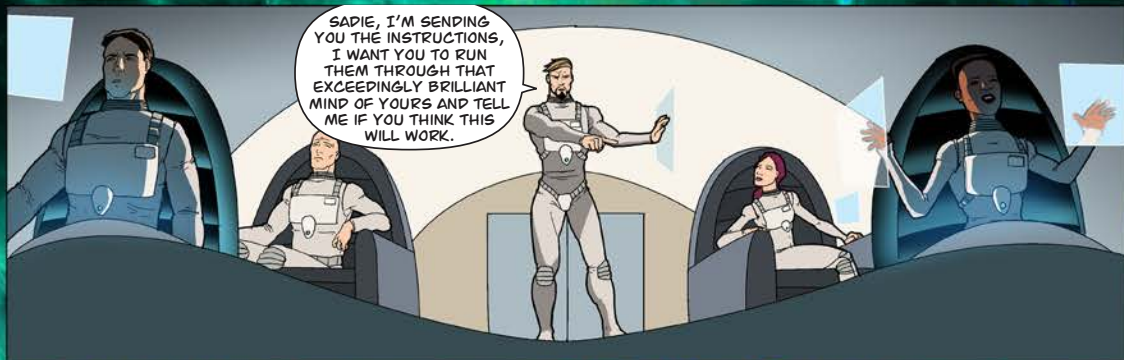




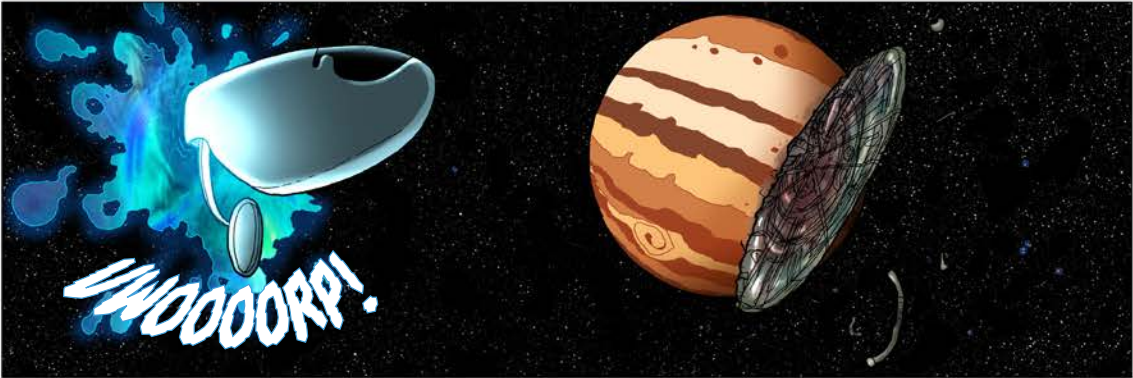
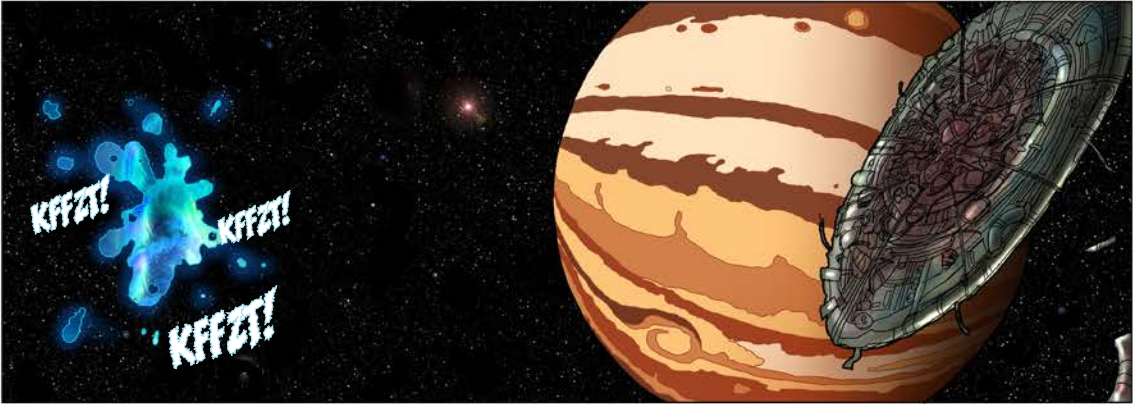
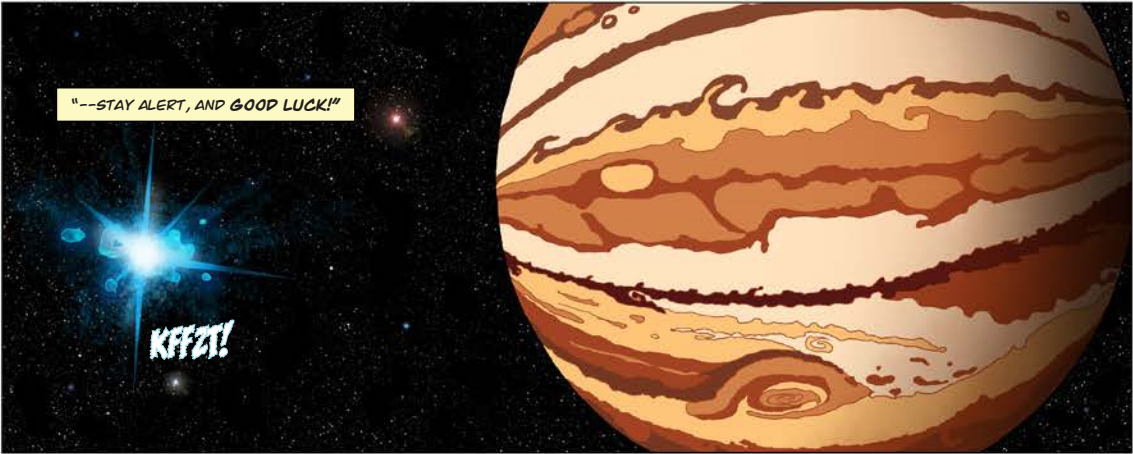




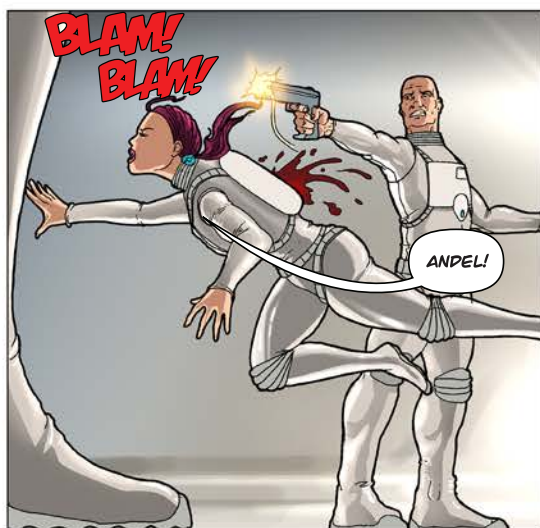
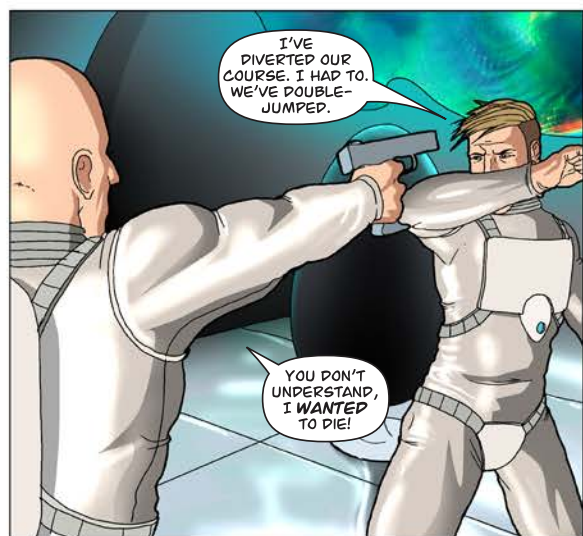




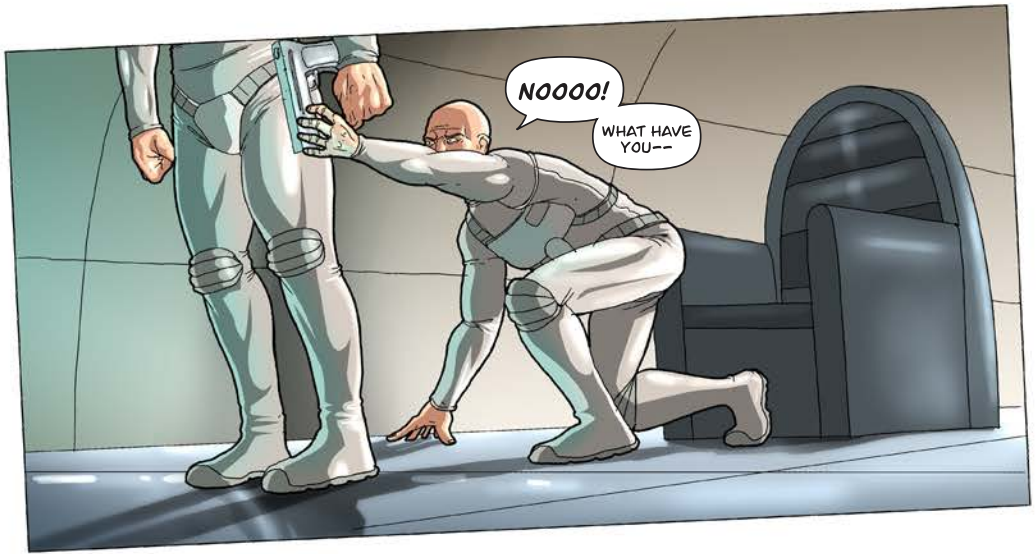






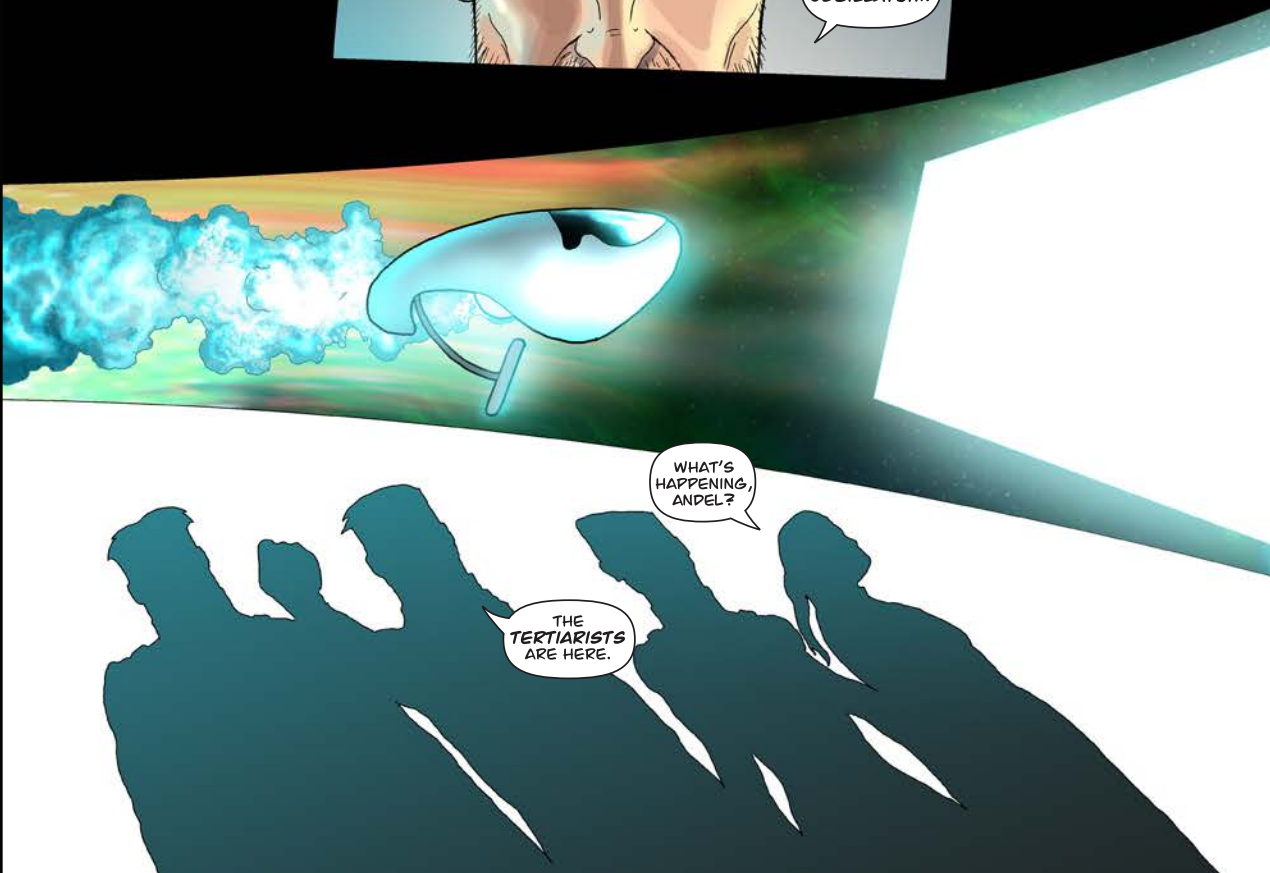














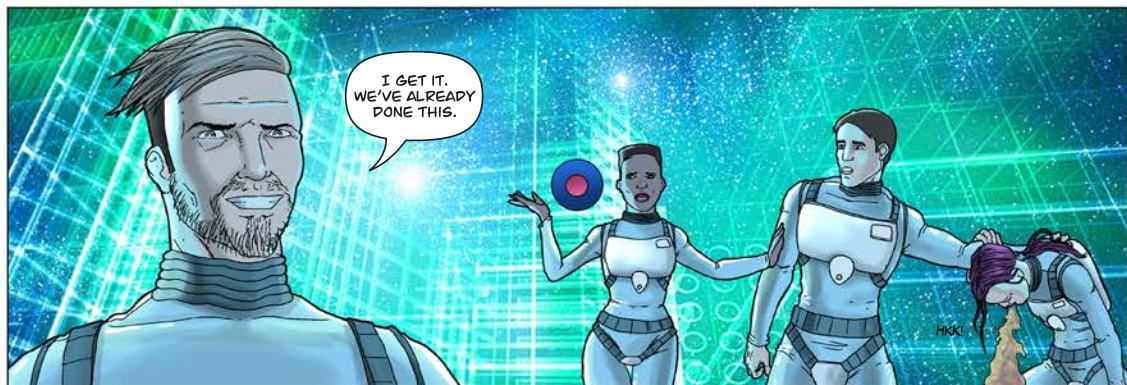


Welcome,  
*Quanta*, to  
the Oscillatum.

YOU  
HAVE BEEN  
ASSESSED AND  
CATALOGUED.

PREPARE  
TO BE  
TRANSFORMED.  
THE CHAMBER  
AWAILS.









DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE IT WAS EXPLAINED LAST TIME. WE'RE CATCHING UP WITH OURSELVES, SO LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.



THERE IS A FAMILIARITY TO ALL THIS.



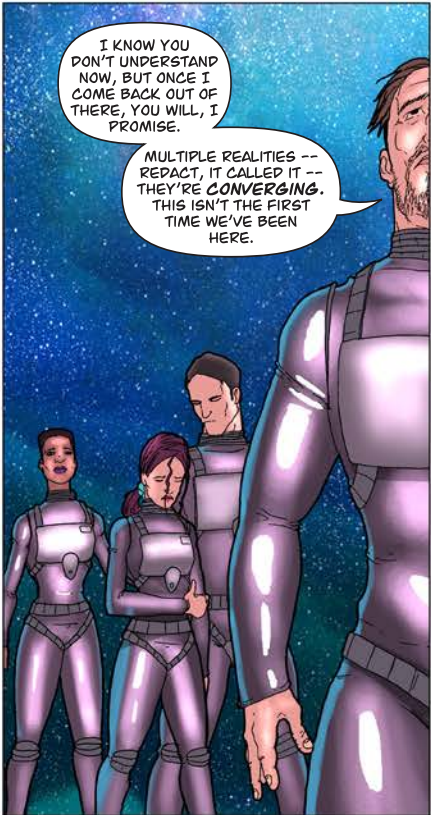
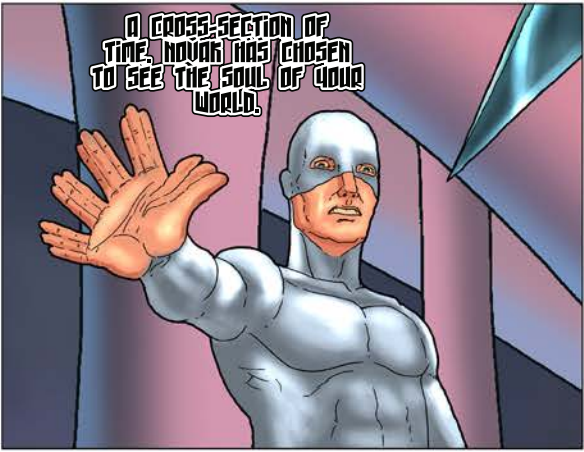
There should - this is **redact**. You're coming into ordinary time in a moment. This is the Cosmic Central Core initiating Novak. Soon, all will be as it **should**.



From here you will define your purpose, Novak, then you will return home. You have already chosen to be the one who does this.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL WORK IT OUT







--AND THE LIGHT CHANGES, AND WE GO.

NEXT: **EXTRA ASTRONOMICAL!**



# Cosmic Confessions

**Keep up. It's about to get a  
whole lot weirder.**

Thanks for buying Gonzo Cosmic #1. You've taken the first step on a journey lasting 12 issues, and taking in superheroes, alien species, post-Capitalist society and the meta-textual nature of the universe itself.

Still with us? Good - we're glad you're here. Gonzo Cosmic is a labour of love, a sonnet to all my favourite fictions, a super-compressed ride through the potential of comics to transport us, thrill us and make us think. The action barely lets up during this first, three-issue arc, and if you'll stay with us for the duration, we promise to deliver a rip-roaring ride that will leave you breathless and gasping for more.

Expect Gonzo to drop on a quarterly basis while we release it through Unthank - and if we succeed in getting the book taken up by a publisher, we'll get it to you even quicker!

We'd like to hear from you too - send us letters, comments, criticisms etc to [engage@unthankcomics.co.uk](mailto:engage@unthankcomics.co.uk) and mark your email 'Cosmic Confessions'.



[www.unthankcomics.co.uk](http://www.unthankcomics.co.uk)

# What the hell is Gonzo Cosmic anyway?

About three years ago, I started fiddling around with ideas for a new comic I was going to write and draw. I knew that I wanted it to be poppy, pulpy and probably pretty political. I wanted compression – large stories told over a short space of time, delivering big ideas in rapid succession and trusting the reader to keep up.

Its first iteration was very different from this – it was a much more prosaic superhero team set-up, although the characters themselves were quirky and off-the-wall. But as I started to develop the context for the book, I realised I was going to have to deal with some big topics that had been the focus of my interest for some time.

Superhero comics often posit the idea that the characters can change the world – but often that manifests itself by post-humans battling on a massive scale, causing carnage, then cleaning up after themselves. Even *The Authority*, which dared to push the superhero envelope, still followed a team that made more permanent changes on alternate Earths than they did back home.

I wanted a superhero book that was ‘complete’ – with an arc during which the main characters caused lasting change across the planet. I wanted the intensity of *The Invisibles* ushering in the supercontext, applied to a world that was recognisably our own, and with cosmic post-humans in place of badass super-spy magicians.

And while I was mulling this over, I was thinking about ‘Zeitgeist’ – a documentary designed to prod at our existing cultural paradigms and propose a future beyond capitalism. Sure, the documentary is not without its flaws, and like anything else designed to conscientise the viewer should be fed into your bullshit filter first. But I loved that it was at least trying to show us an alternative to the status quo.

I decided that my book would focus on a team led by a superhero standard – the billionaire industrialist who is given the power to change his reality – and that I would push him to focus on making actual, fundamental change to the world he lived in.

So while *Gonzo Cosmic* concerns itself with massive sci-fi themes, as the title suggests, at its heart is an attempt to see what a post-scarcity, post-capitalist culture might look like. This is a book designed to bridge the gap between ‘real-world’ superhero books and utopian sci-fi. The bridge between Earth and Krypton, if you like. Or a way to get from here to Iain M. Banks’ *Culture*.

It’s not a polemic. The path to Novak’s dream of a world without money is not easy, and he’s going to have to make some tough decisions to get there. The world might not be ready to be changed so easily. And we’ll explore the nature of power, and whether one man with the power to change things ever really should. But that’s the drama of the book. The context is one of looking forward, of seeing what that culture might look like.

With some big space battles and alien races thrown in for good measure.

–Garry Mac, December 2013.





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