



ISSUE ONE



FOXY STARDUST

and the **STARDUST CRUSADERS**



ORIGINAL CONCEPT - J.N. CHANEY
DEVELOPMENT & COMIC - ROB

FOXY STARDUST AND THE STARDUST CRUSADERS
VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2021.
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Previously...



NO...

YOUR REALITY IS FORFEIT. SUBMIT TO MY INEVITABILITY

YOUR WEAPONS CAN NOT OUTPACE MY NANITES. EVEN NOW, THE LIMB YOU'VE DESTROYED IS REGENERATING.

I HAVE FOUGHT THIS BATTLE IN A THOUSAND REALITIES. IN EVERY TIMELINE, YOU MEET YOUR FATE HERE, STARDUST.

ANTARES-4, 3150 C.E.



I AM YOUR END.

YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.



MAYBE NOT, BUT I CAN.



INFINITY IS A BIG NUMBER. SOMEWHERE IN THE SEA OF ALTERNATE HISTORY...

...THERE MUST BE A REALITY WHERE YOU LOSE.



HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU.



SORRY TO KEEP ME WAITING...



ADDING THE TEMPORAL SHIELDING TO THIS THING WASN'T EASY.

BUT THE ZERO POINT CANNON WAS WHAT FINALLY KILLED THANATRAK IN MY TIMELINE.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, AS LONG AS IT PUTS THIS MONSTER DOWN FOR GOOD.

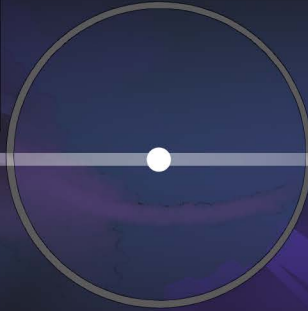
FIRE ON THREE.
ONE.
TWO.



FOXY STARDUST *and the* **STARDUST CRUSADERS**

Episode IV: Quantum Survivor

NON-STELLAR OBJECT 8384 IS A RINGWORLD BUILT BY AN UNKNOWN AND LIKELY EXTINCT ALIEN RACE.



THOUGH WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHO BUILT IT, ITS PURPOSE IS CLEAR.

NSO 8384 RESTRAINS WHITE HOLE 616'S EVENT HORIZON, PREVENTING THE **BIG BANG** OF A NEW REALITY WITHIN OUR OWN.

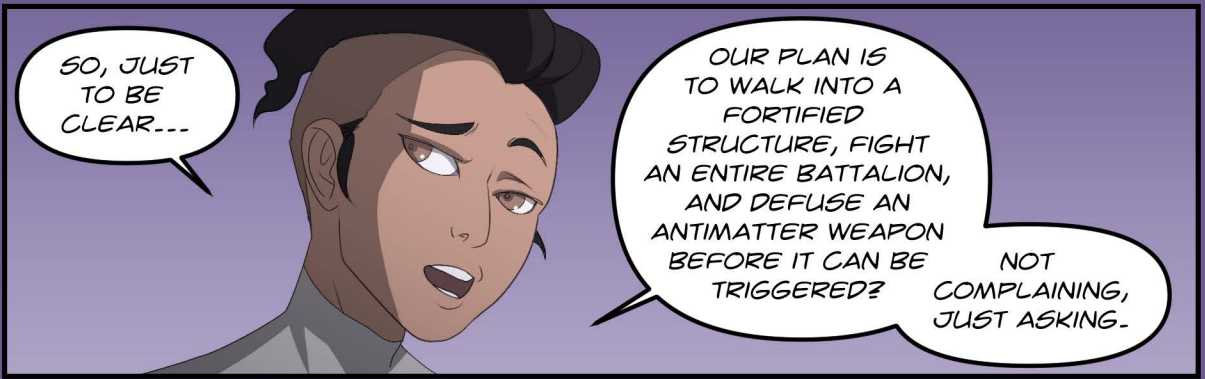
BUT THERE ARE FORCES IN THE GALAXY THAT WANT TO DESTROY THE RINGWORLD.

THEY'RE PLANNING TO DETONATE AN ANTIMATTER BOMB TO SEVER THE RING AT **THE JUNCTION**.

THEY WANT TO FREE THE EVENT HORIZON AND GROW A NEW UNIVERSE IN THE CORPSE OF THE OLD.



AND IT'S UP TO US TO STOP THEM.



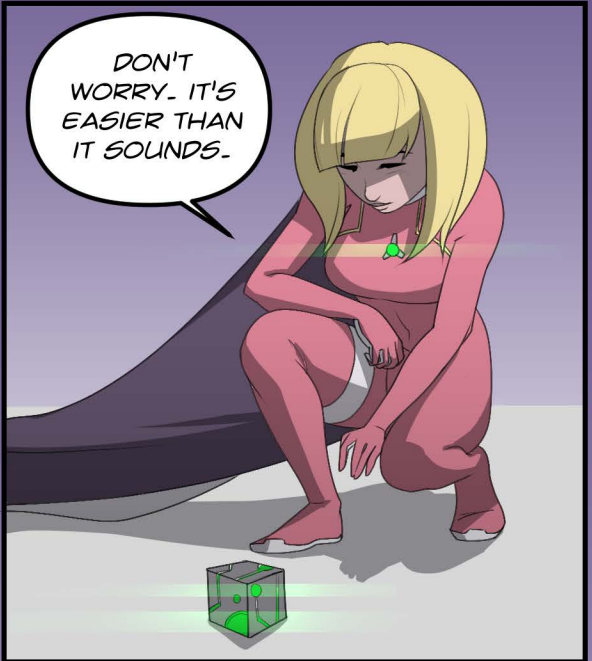
SO, JUST TO BE CLEAR...

OUR PLAN IS TO WALK INTO A FORTIFIED STRUCTURE, FIGHT AN ENTIRE BATTALION, AND DEFUSE AN ANTIMATTER WEAPON BEFORE IT CAN BE TRIGGERED?

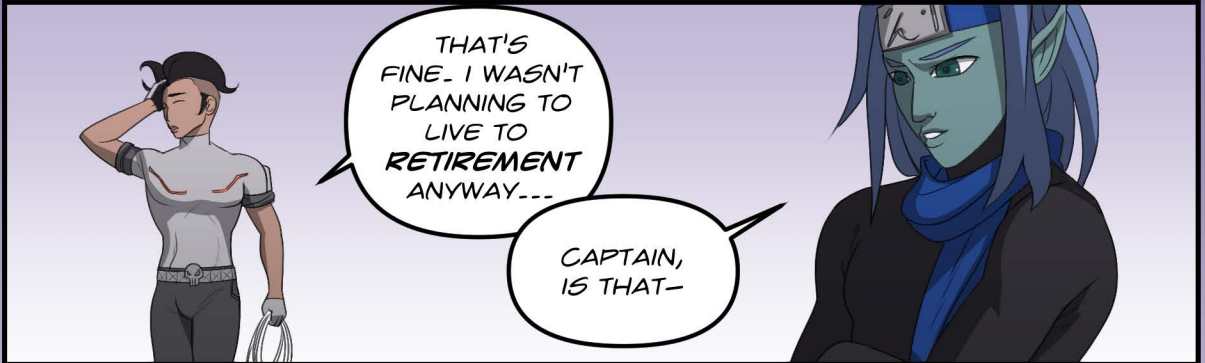
NOT COMPLAINING, JUST ASKING.



THAT'S THE BASIC IDEA, YEAH.



DON'T WORRY. IT'S EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS.



THAT'S FINE. I WASN'T PLANNING TO LIVE TO RETIREMENT ANYWAY...

CAPTAIN, IS THAT-



THE TEMPORAL SHUNT FROM ANTARES-4, YEAH.
OUR INSURANCE.



MOVE OUT,

STARBUCK CRUSAIDERS



TALK TO ME, WHAT DO WE SEE?

THE LIGHTS ARE OFF AND NO ONE'S HOME.

THEY MAY BE ON THE LOWER DECKS. EASIER TO DEFEND.



I DON'T SENSE ANY LIFEFORMS NEARBY.

PRITI'S ASSESSMENT MAY INDEED BE CORRECT.



THAT'S GOOD NEWS THEN, ISN'T IT? IF THEY'RE ALL DUG IN THAT MAKES IT EASIER.

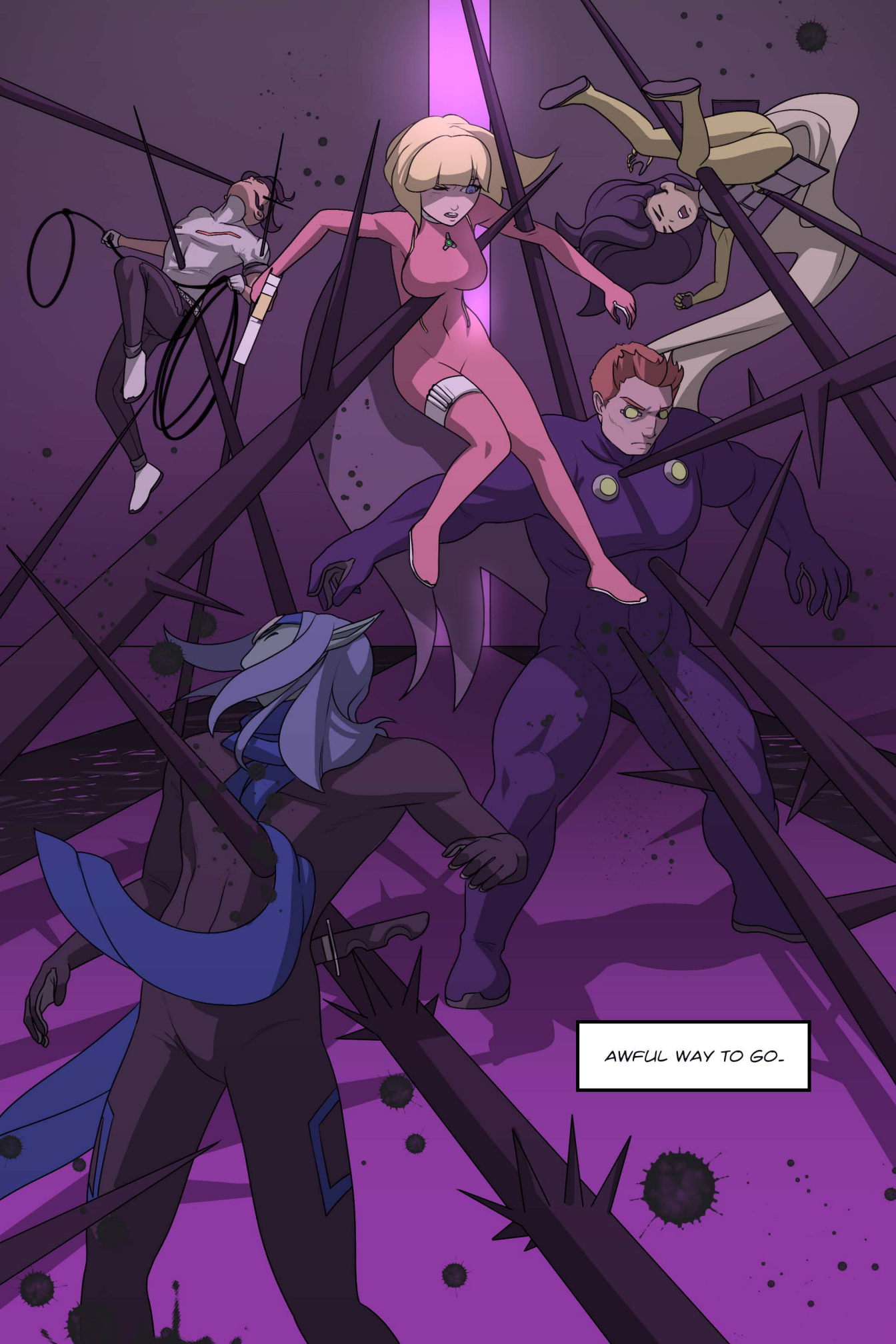
NO ONE TO SNEAK UP AND GUN US DOWN FROM BEHIND.



?

FERROFLUID. CLEVER.





AWFUL WAY TO GO.



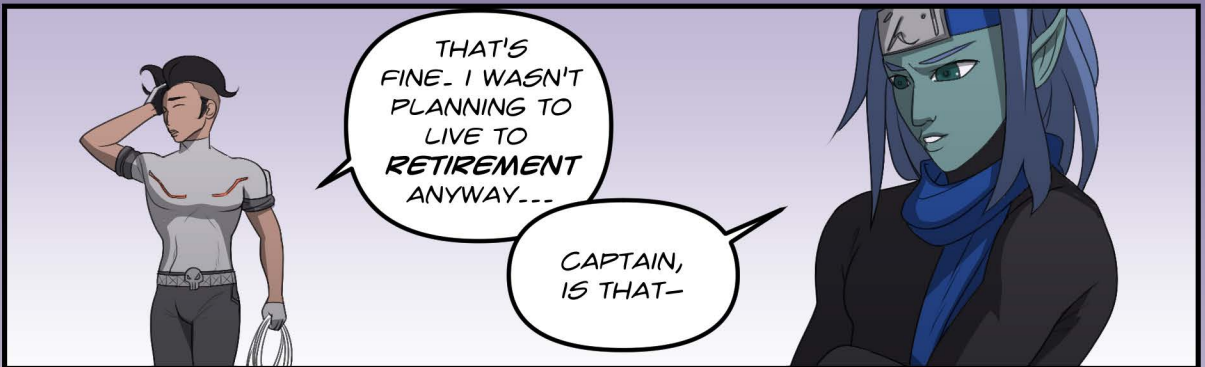
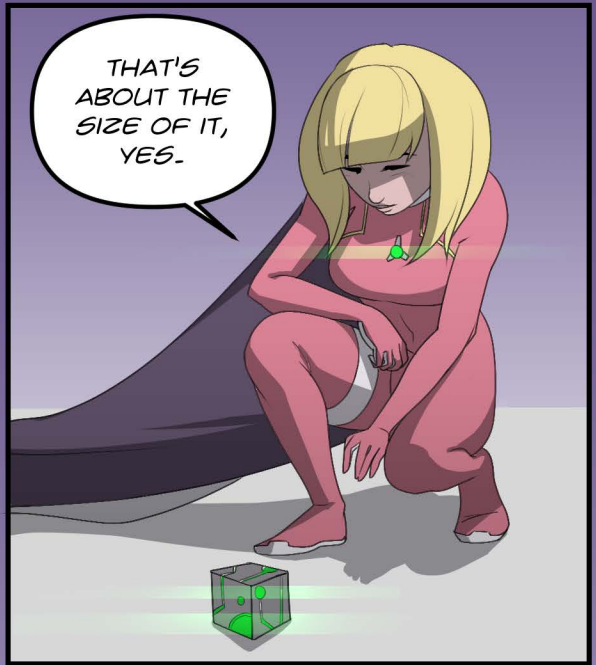
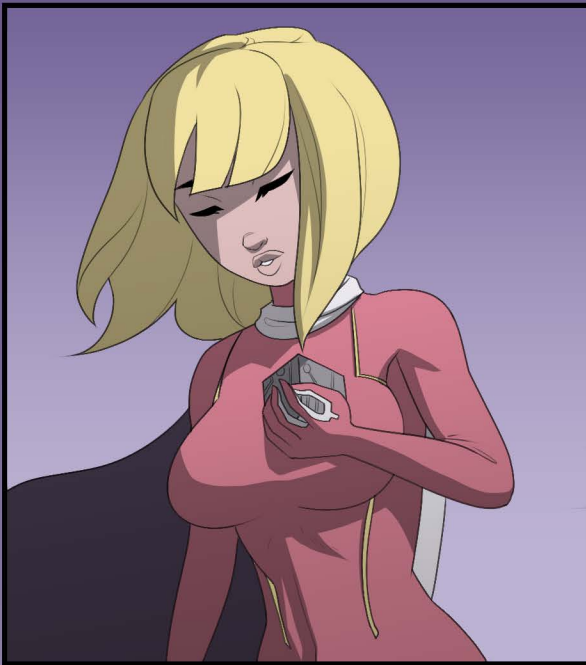
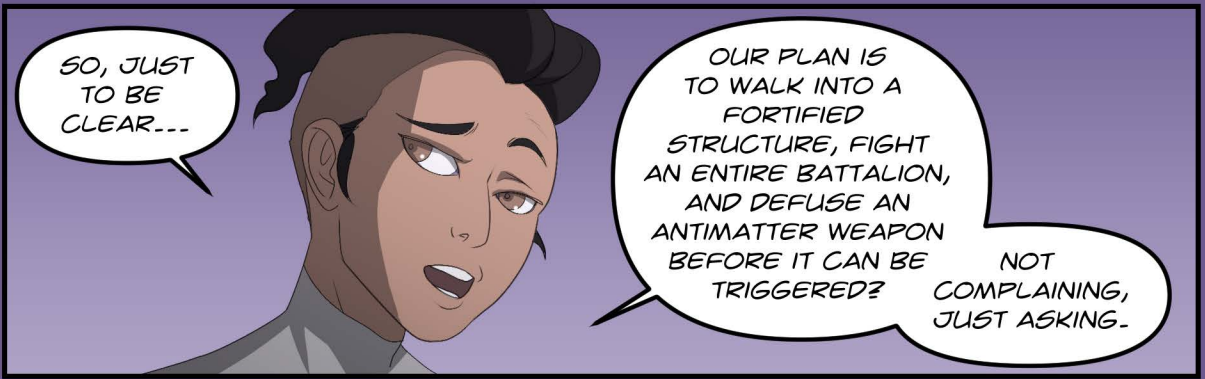
⇒COUGH⇐
---OK---



LET'S
TRY THAT
AGAIN.

BANG







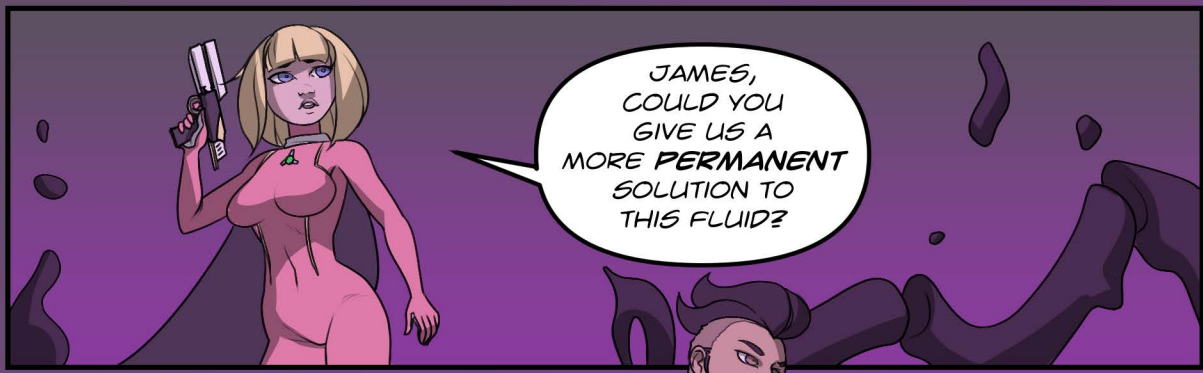
HOLD POSITION. GEOFF, SHIELD US UP, THREAT FRONT.

PRITI, WE'LL NEED A SUSTAINED EMP, 15 SECONDS SHOULD DO THE JOB.



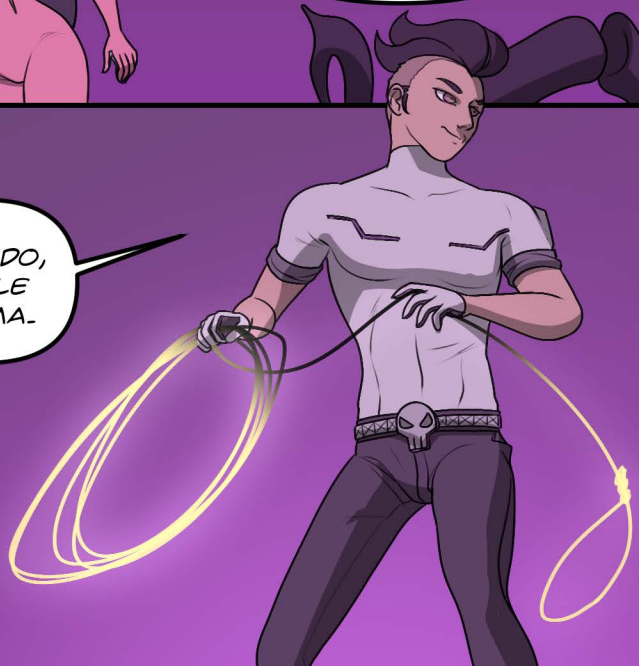
THEY HAD A TRAP WAITING FOR US?

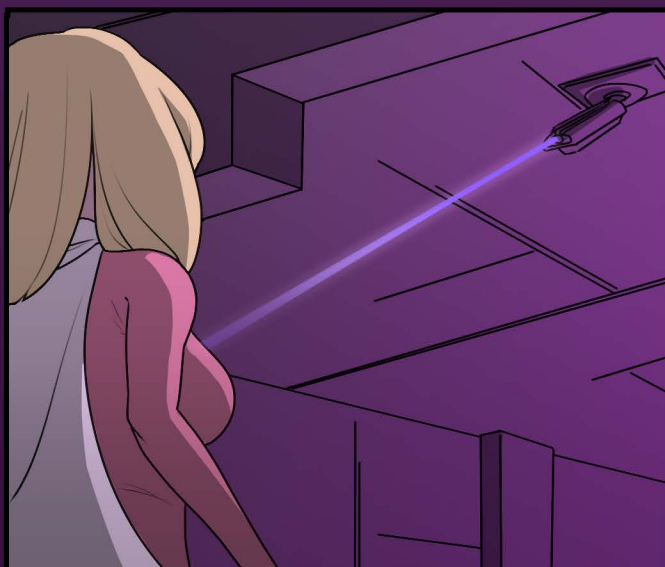
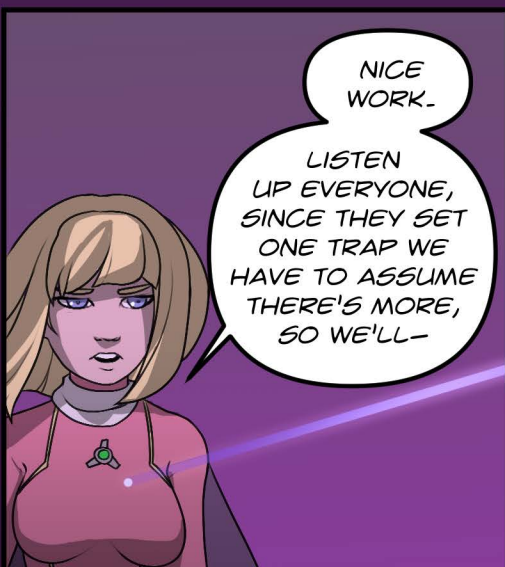
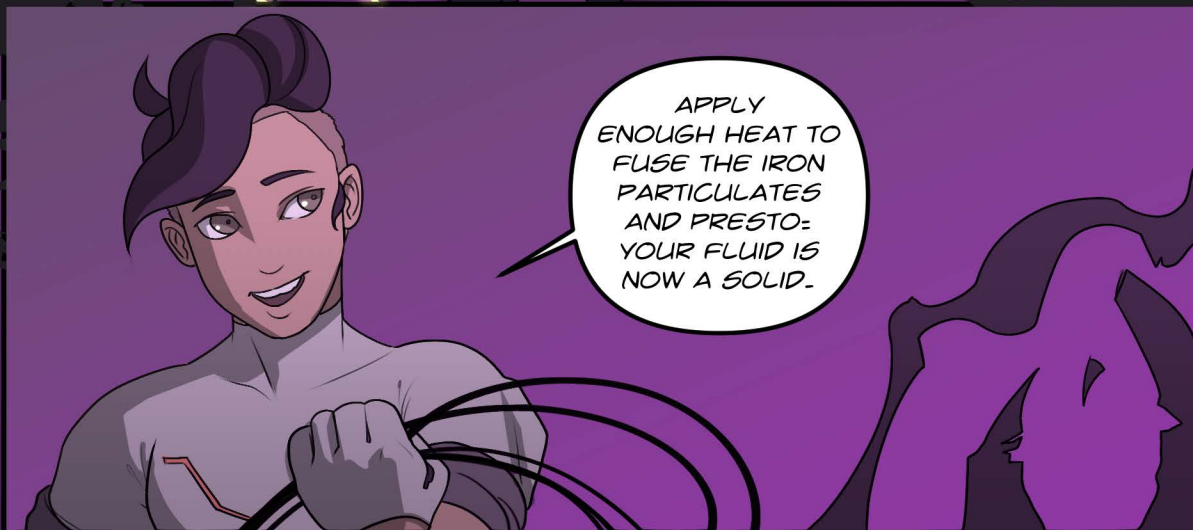
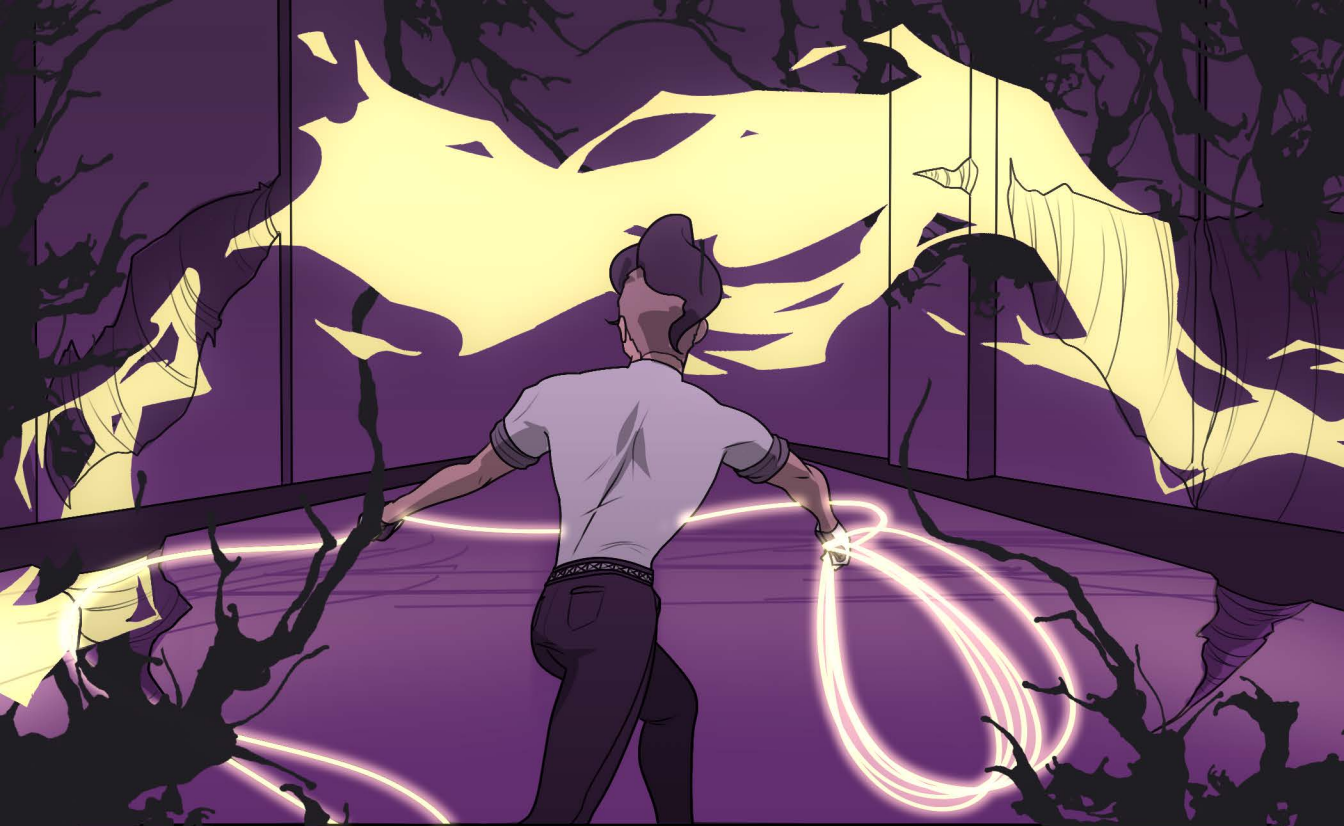
NOT A GOOD ONE. FERROFLUID IS VERY SUCEPTIBLE TO INTER-FERENCE.



JAMES, COULD YOU GIVE US A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THIS FLUID?

CAN DO, LITTLE MAMA.

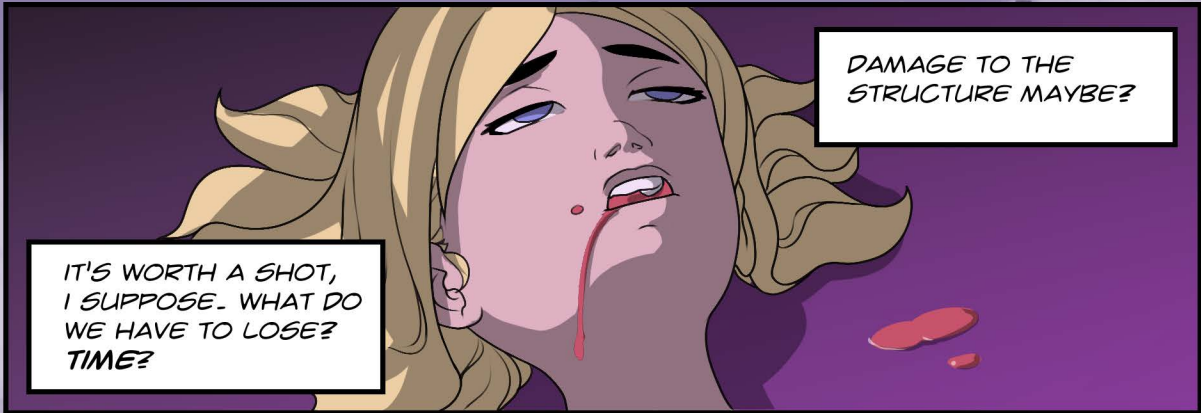






AUTOMATED SENTRY GUNS. WHAT DID THEY ACTIVATE IN RESPONSE TO?

COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PROXIMITY.



DAMAGE TO THE STRUCTURE MAYBE?

IT'S WORTH A SHOT, I SUPPOSE. WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOSE? TIME?



I'VE GOT PLENTY.




I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY LOOPS IT TOOK TO REACH EVEN THE SECOND LEVEL OF THE JUNCTION.

I STOPPED COUNTING SOMEWHERE AFTER THE TRIPLE DIGITS.

NONE OF IT MATTERED EXCEPT THE FINAL RUN, BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER TO WATCH MY CREW MEET THEIR DEMISE OVER AND OVER.

MY OWN DEATHS HURT FAR LESS THAN THE LOOPS WHERE SOMEONE WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF MY FAILURE AS A LEADER.

GIVEN THE OPTION OF RELIVING THIS ONE HOUR OF THE MISSION FOREVER OR COMPLETING IT WITH CASUALTIES, I CHOOSE ETERNITY.



WE'RE ALL
GOING HOME
AT THE END
OF THIS.

NO MATTER
HOW LONG
IT TAKES.



IS THIS
REALLY
FOXY
STARDUST?

YUP!

IT'S A
LITTLE DIFFERENT
THAN WHAT I
WATCHED
GROWING UP.

DIFFERENT?
LIKE WHAT?

WELL,
SHE HAD A
BRIGHTER SUIT, AND
NO CAPE. WHITE
HELMET, LONGER
HAIR---

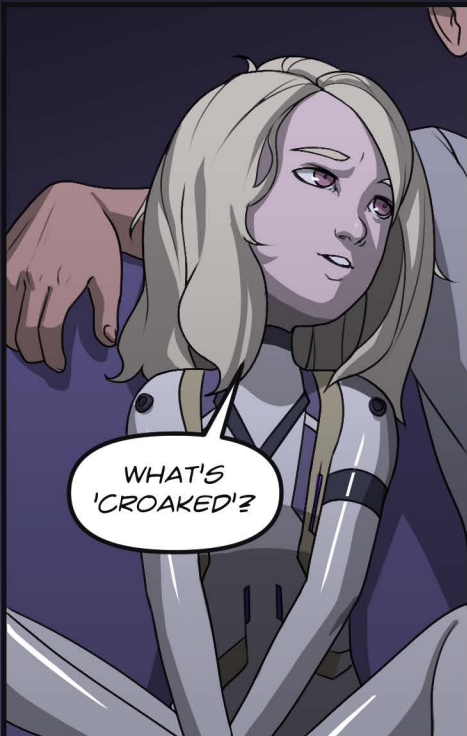
LIKE THE
FOXY STARDUST
FROM AN ALTERNATE
FUTURE IN THE
LAST EPISODE?



YEAH.

THIS IS ALSO A LOT DARKER THAN THE STORIES I REMEMBER.

FOXY NEVER DIED BACK THEN, AND THE CHARACTERS THAT DID ALWAYS CROAKED OFF-SCREEN.



WHAT'S 'CROAKED'?



IT MEANS THE SAME THING AS 'DIED'.

IT DOES SOUND KINDA WEIRD. DUNNO WHERE THAT EXPRESSION COMES FROM.




I HOPE FOXY DOESN'T CROAK ANYMORE.

ME TOO, KID.

TRIAL AND ERROR MADE EVERY LOOP BETTER THAN THE LAST.


IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE WOULD REACH THE BOMB AT THE JUNCTION'S LOWEST LEVEL.



AND ONLY I WOULD HAVE HAD TO LIVE THROUGH ALL THE FAILURES.



THE QUANTUM SURVIVOR.



WHY IS IT ALWAYS JUST US 5 AGAINST AN ARMY---



THE TEMPORAL SHUNT?

CAPTAIN, HOW MANY TIMES--



ASK NO QUESTIONS, I'LL TELL NO LIES.



EVERY PATH LEAD HERE.
THE HEART OF THE JUNCTION.

GEOFF,
COULD YOU
GET THE DOOR
FOR US
PLEASE?



NOT A
PROBLEM.



STARDUST
CRUSADERS.

I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU.

THE BOMB IS HARDWIRED TO YOU.

IT'S SET TO TRIGGER IF YOUR LIFESIGNS STOP, ISN'T IT?

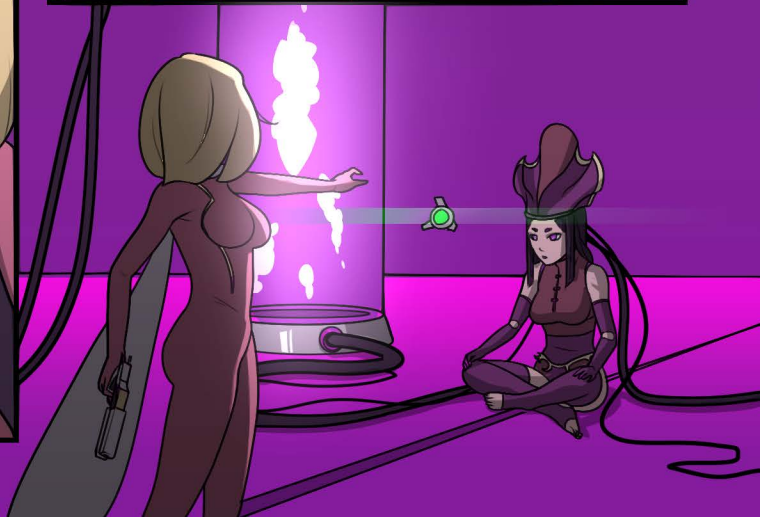
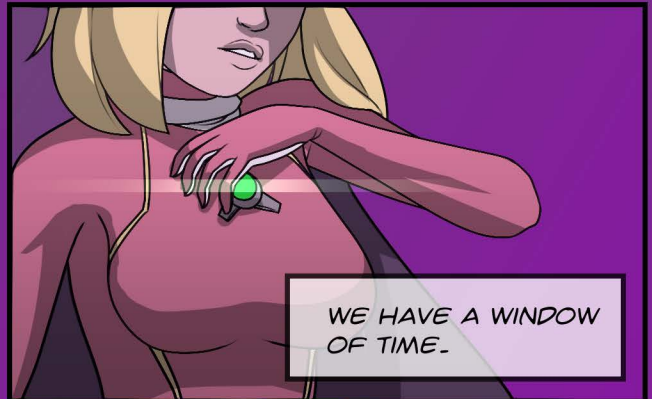
SHE'S STALLING.

PERCEPTIVE, AS EVER.

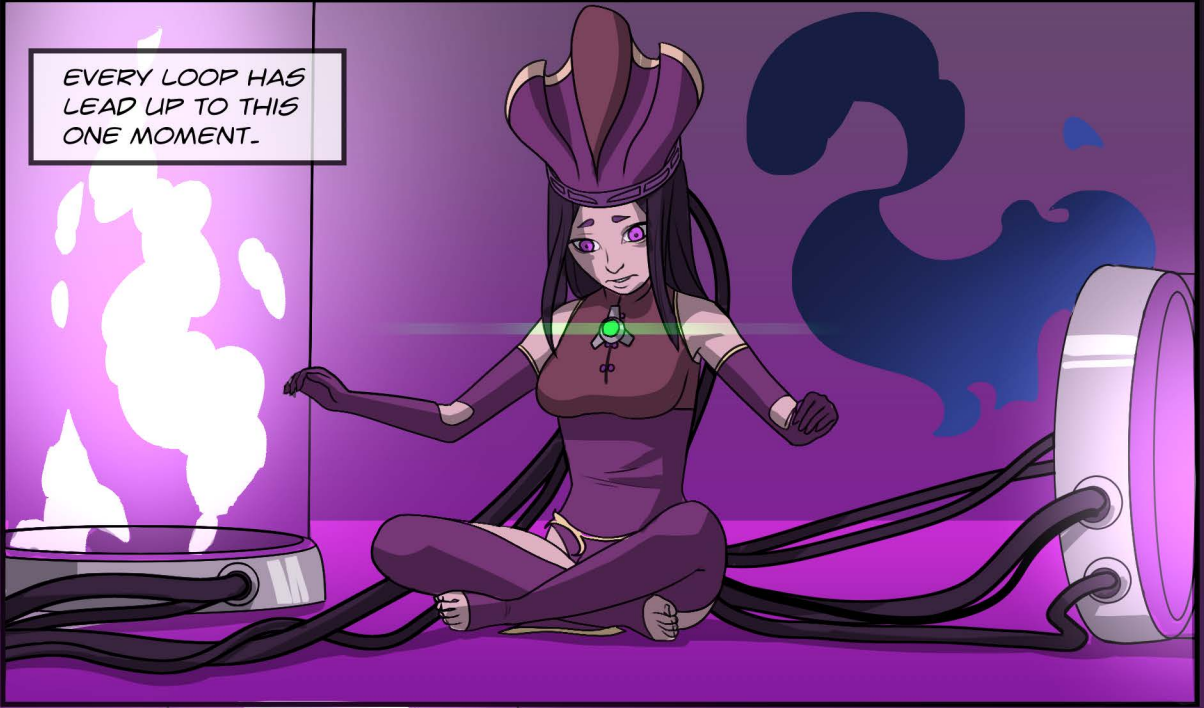
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE WE COULD TALK.

HER GOAL IS TO END THE UNIVERSE. THE ONLY REASON SHE'D WANT TO TALK IS BECAUSE THE BOMB ISN'T READY.

WE HAVE A WINDOW OF TIME.



EVERY LOOP HAS
LEAD UP TO THIS
ONE MOMENT.



I GIVE HER THE
CHRONOMARKER AND
TAIKA TAKES HER HEAD.

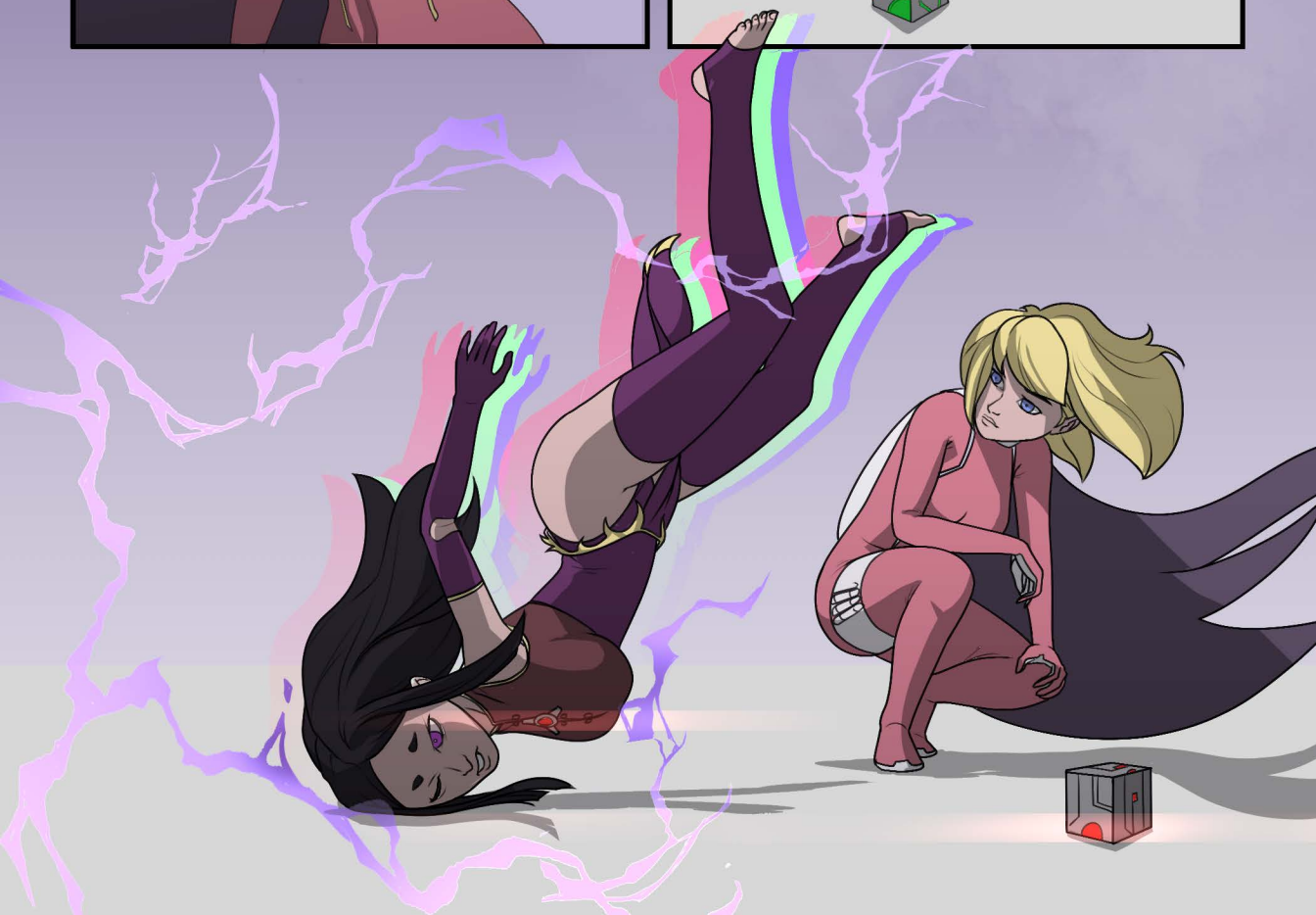
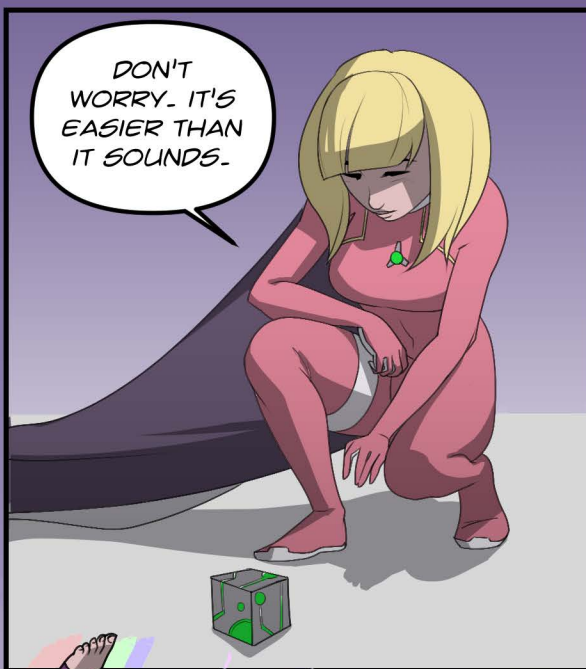
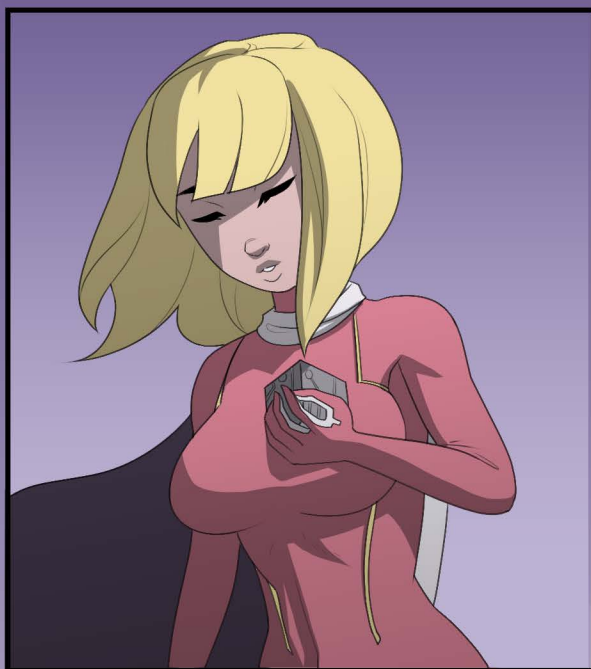
IN THE SPLIT SECOND
BEFORE DETONATION,

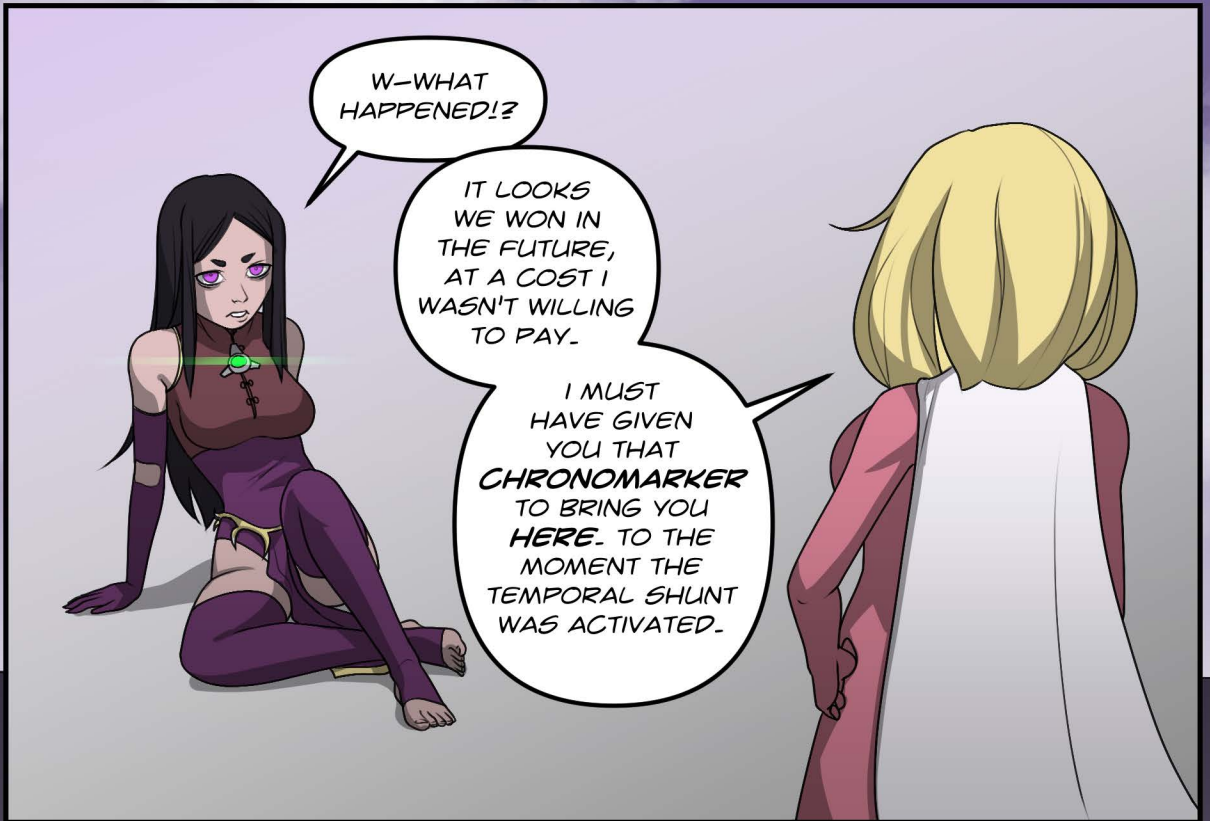


SHE BECOMES THE
QUANTUM SURVIVOR.

THE **ME** OF **NOW** FEELS NOTHING AS THE ANTIMATTER BOMB BLAST CONSUMES US.

MY LAST THOUGHT IS HOW THE **ME** OF **BEFORE** WILL BE SO EXCITED TO SEE THAT HER PLAN WORKED IN THE END.

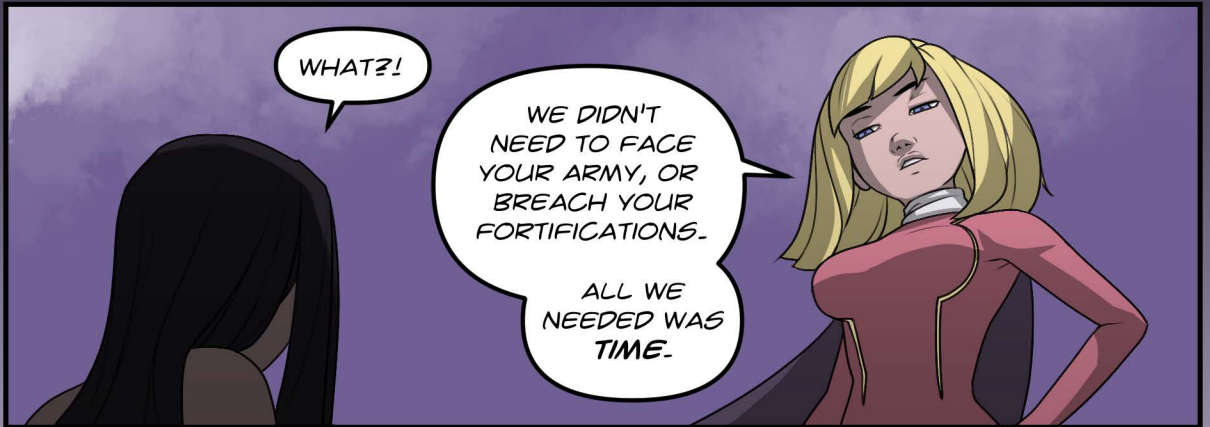




W-WHAT HAPPENED!?

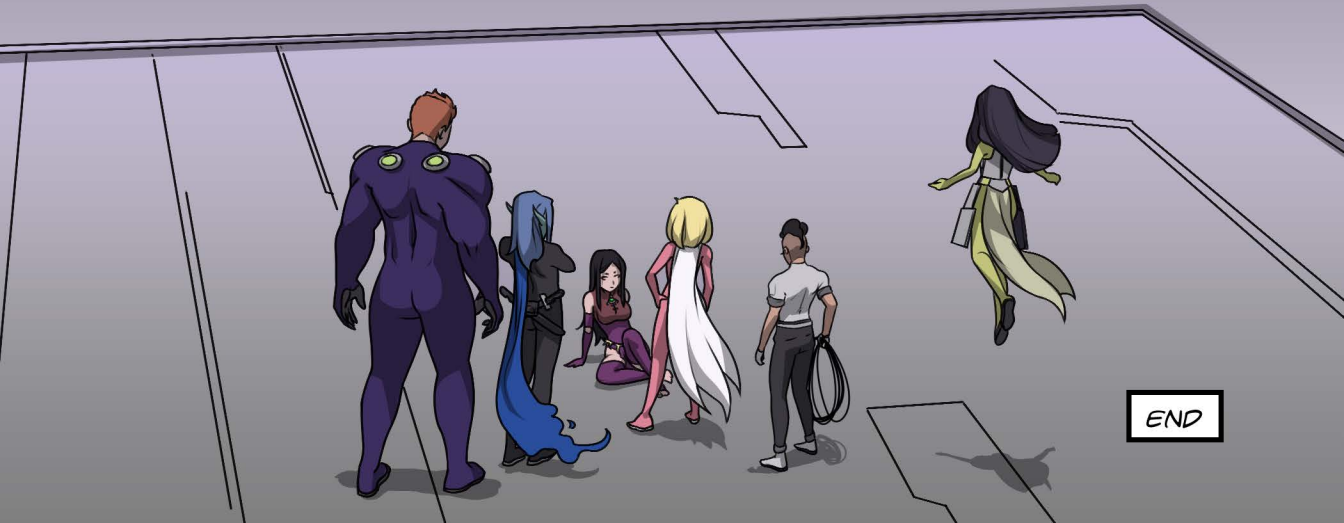
IT LOOKS WE WON IN THE FUTURE, AT A COST I WASN'T WILLING TO PAY.

I MUST HAVE GIVEN YOU THAT **CHRONOMARKER** TO BRING YOU **HERE**. TO THE MOMENT THE TEMPORAL SHUNT WAS ACTIVATED.



WHAT?!

WE DIDN'T NEED TO FACE YOUR ARMY, OR BREACH YOUR FORTIFICATIONS. ALL WE NEEDED WAS **TIME**.



END

THEY ARE THE
GALAXY'S LAST LINE
OF DEFENSE.

ORPHANS OF THE
FALLEN REPUBLIC,
UNITED IN THE
PURSUIT OF JUSTICE
AGAINST THE FORCES
OF EVIL.



THEY ARE...

FOXY STARDUST

and the **STARDUST CRUSADERS**

