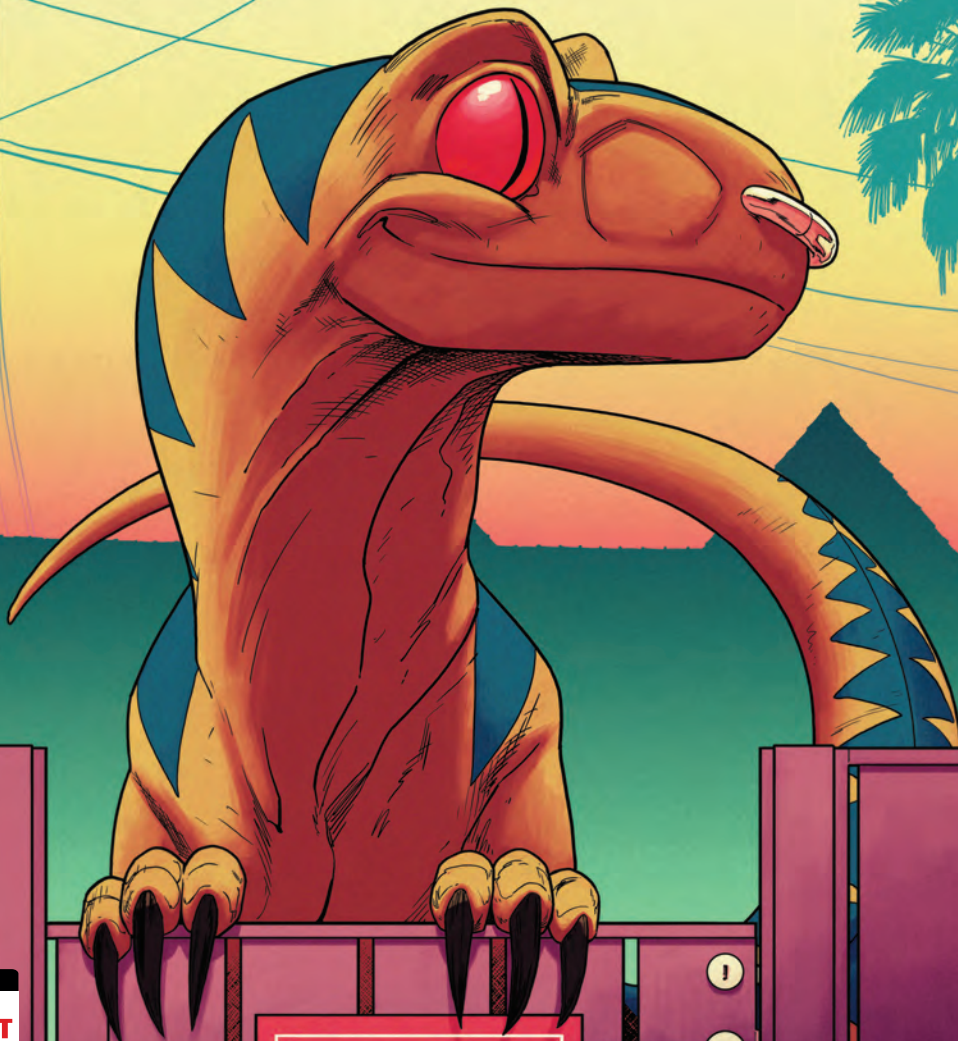


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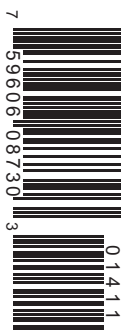
RAINBOW ROWELL • DAVID LAFUENTE • TAKESHI MIYAZAWA

# ← RUNAWAYS →



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**of DOG**

*anka*

# Runaways

When they were younger, Nico Minoru, Chase Stein, Gertrude Yorkes, Karolina Dean, Molly Hayes and Alex Wilder became friends through circumstance: hanging out once a year while their parents had what they claimed was a dinner party. After discovering their parents were actually the super villain team known as the Pride, the kids ran. The Runaways learned to use powers and resources inherited from their parents, and returned to defeat them. The experience made them a family, but that wasn't enough to keep them safe.



The six original Runaways' parents, the Pride, made a deal with ancient deities called the Gibborim to trade all human life on Earth for 25 years of prosperity, followed by eternal life for six people in their organization. It was Alex Wilder who led the Runaways' escape from their parents and kept them safe, but in the end he was willing to trade all of humanity, including his friends, to make his (and Nico's) family immortal. Now, Alex has returned--trailed by this history, and by the children of the Gibborim, who believe the descendants of the Pride owe them...

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# RUNAWAYS

that was Yesterday

pt II

Remember when the Runaways ran away to keep their parents from sacrificing humanity to a bunch of genocidal elder gods called the Gibborim?

Good news! These aren't those dudes!

Uh, the bad news is...these are their kids.

And they're really, really entitled.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO INHERIT THE EARTH!

OUR PARENTS SAID IT WAS OURS--THEY PROMISED!







And then they let you down. That's what parents do. Too bad, so sad, put it in your memoir.

NO, YOUR PARENTS LET US DOWN. THEY'RE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T COMPLETE THE RITUAL!

How do you know? You weren't there!



BECAUSE IF THEY HAD, WE WOULD HAVE WOKEN FROM OUR CHRYSALISES ENGORGED WITH POWER, FORTIFIED BY MILLIONS OF SOULS--

AND SIGNIFICANTLY TALLER!



INSTEAD WE WOKE UP WEAK AND HUNGRY... AND ALONE.





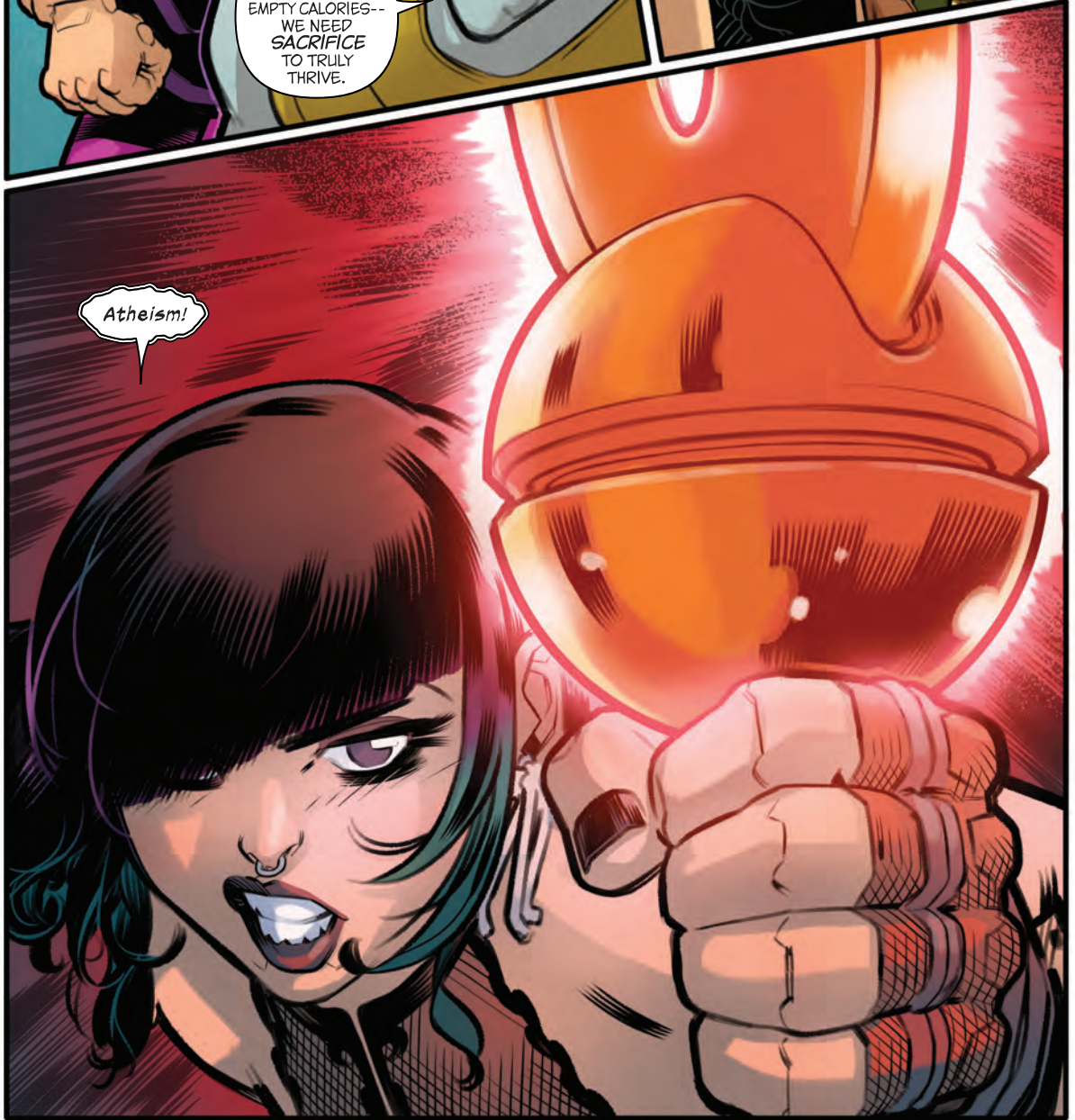
How weak?

OH, WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL YOU, PRIDELING. BUT ALL WE'D GET OUT OF IT IS THE JOY OF WATCHING YOU DIE.

SOULS WE TAKE OURSELVES ARE EMPTY CALORIES-- WE NEED SACRIFICE TO TRULY THRIVE.

So, our options are: Murder people to help you get strong-- or *not* murder people and let you stay weak and miserable?

I think I know what I choose.



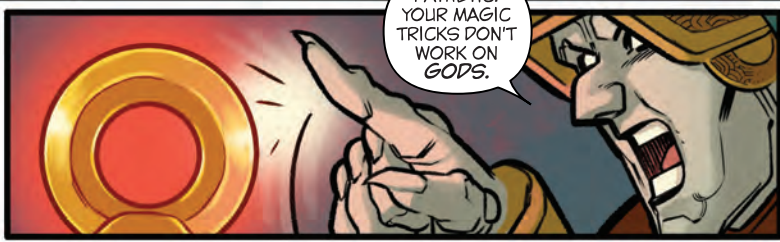
Atheism!





PATHETIC!  
YOUR MAGIC  
TRICKS DON'T  
WORK ON  
GODS.

Pretty  
sure it worked  
on me.



REPEATING  
THE RITES WITH A  
NEW PRIDE WILL BE  
TEDIOUS, BUT NOT AS  
TEDIOUS AS YOUR  
DISRESPECT.

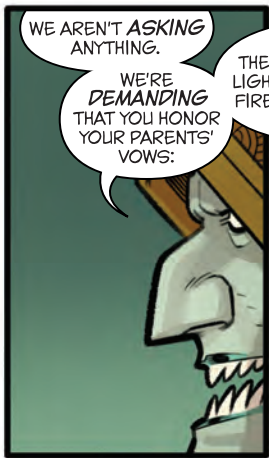
FAILURES,  
PREPARE  
FOR YOUR  
DEATH!



Whoa! Wait!  
Everybody  
just take a  
breath!

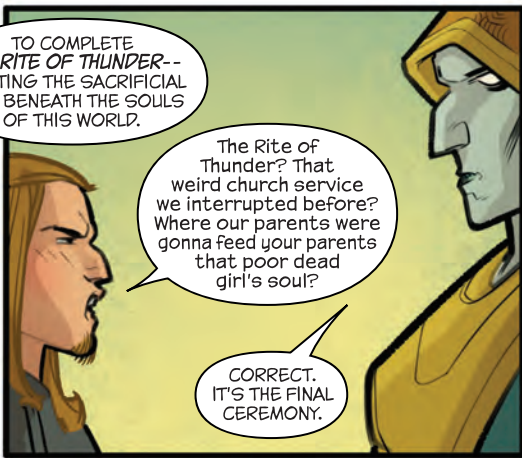
I'm sure  
we can work  
this out... What  
exactly are you  
asking from  
us?





WE AREN'T ASKING ANYTHING.

WE'RE DEMANDING THAT YOU HONOR YOUR PARENTS' VOWS:



TO COMPLETE THE RITE OF THUNDER-- LIGHTING THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE BENEATH THE SOULS OF THIS WORLD.

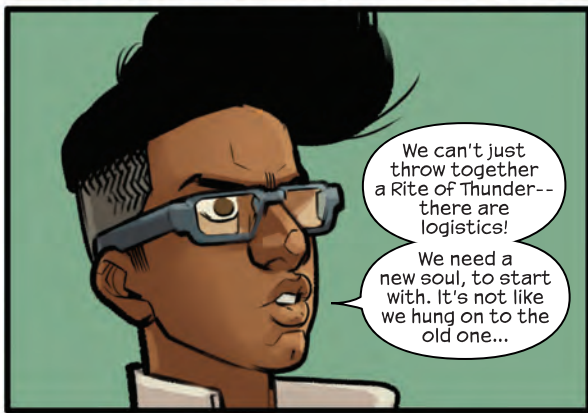
The Rite of Thunder? That weird church service we interrupted before? Where our parents were gonna feed your parents that poor dead girl's soul?

CORRECT. IT'S THE FINAL CEREMONY.



Yeah, you can let the door hit ya where the good lord--

We're just going to need a little time.



We can't just throw together a Rite of Thunder-- there are logistics!

We need a new soul, to start with. It's not like we hung on to the old one...



TIME. THAT'S A REASONABLE REQUEST...

WE'LL GIVE YOU SEVEN ROTATIONS TO ACQUIRE AN INNOCENT SOUL, AND THEN WE'LL RETURN.

IT'S POINTLESS TO RUN FROM US-- OR TRY TO BETRAY US...



I THINK WE'LL LEAVE GIB HERE, TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY ON TASK...



You can't leave your Armageddon dog here. I told Molly no more pets.