

SANCTUARY II  
2802 AD

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER OR WORSE THAN FAMILY. THE NINE OF US IX'S WERE A FAMILY OF SORTS.

BEING THE YOUNGEST OF THE FOUR GIRLS, THE REST ALL HATED ME, OF COURSE. WE WERE ALL DAUGHTERS OF THE CHAIRWOMAN FRANCESCA TAYLOR, CREATED IN A LAB MIXED WITH HER DNA AND WHAT ELSE WE WERE NEVER TOLD.

THE FIVE BOYS WERE CREATED IN THE SAME LAB, BUT NOT FROM HER DNA.

THE CHAIRWOMAN INTENDED TO OVERWRITE HER MIND INTO MY BODY, WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECTIVELY KILLED ME.

NICE TO KNOW I WAS LOVED.

HEPHAESTUS WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THE BOYS SO I ALWAYS FELT A SPECIAL KINSHIP WITH HIM.

IT HIT ME HARD TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY AN AMORPHOUS ENTITY OF LIVING DARK ENERGY CALLING ITSELF THE DARKNESS.

WE DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT BACK THEN, OTHER THAN THE WARNING CHAIRWOMAN FRANCESCA GAVE US, EXPLAINING HOW SHE'D SUBVERTED ITS POWER TO ENGINEER THIS FUTURE FULL OF SCIENTIFIC MIRACLES.

MIRACLES LIKE RESURRECTION. DOWNLOADING A DIGITALLY STORED CONSCIOUSNESS INTO A GENETIC COPY OF YOURSELF SO YOU CAN CHEAT DEATH.

I SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE OF US QUESTIONING WHETHER THE RESURRECTED IS THE ORIGINAL PERSON OR SOME NEW FACSIMILE.

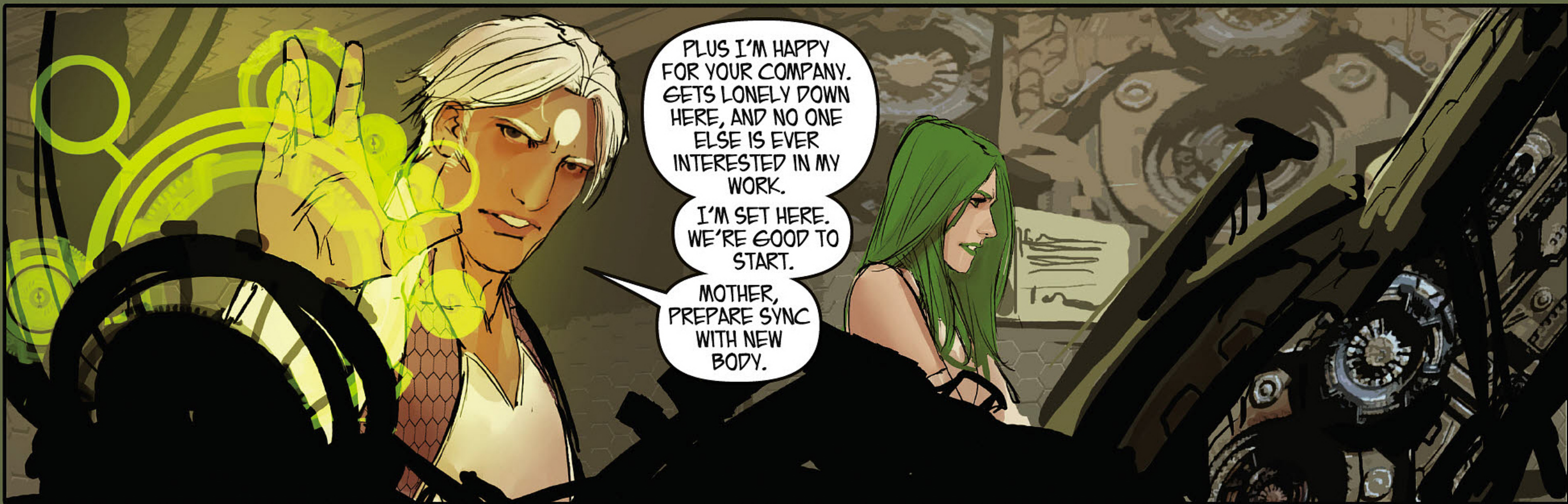
WHY AM I THE ONLY SKEPTIC?





THANKS FOR LETTING ME OBSERVE, APOLLO. I LOADED ALL THE NEW TECH MANUALS INTO MY NEURAL NET, BUT THIS RESURRECTION STILL WEIRDS ME OUT A BIT.

NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT, SHOULD WORK LIKE A CHARM. I BUILT THIS MACHINE AFTER ALL.



PLUS I'M HAPPY FOR YOUR COMPANY. GETS LONELY DOWN HERE, AND NO ONE ELSE IS EVER INTERESTED IN MY WORK.

I'M SET HERE. WE'RE GOOD TO START.

MOTHER, PREPARE SYNC WITH NEW BODY.

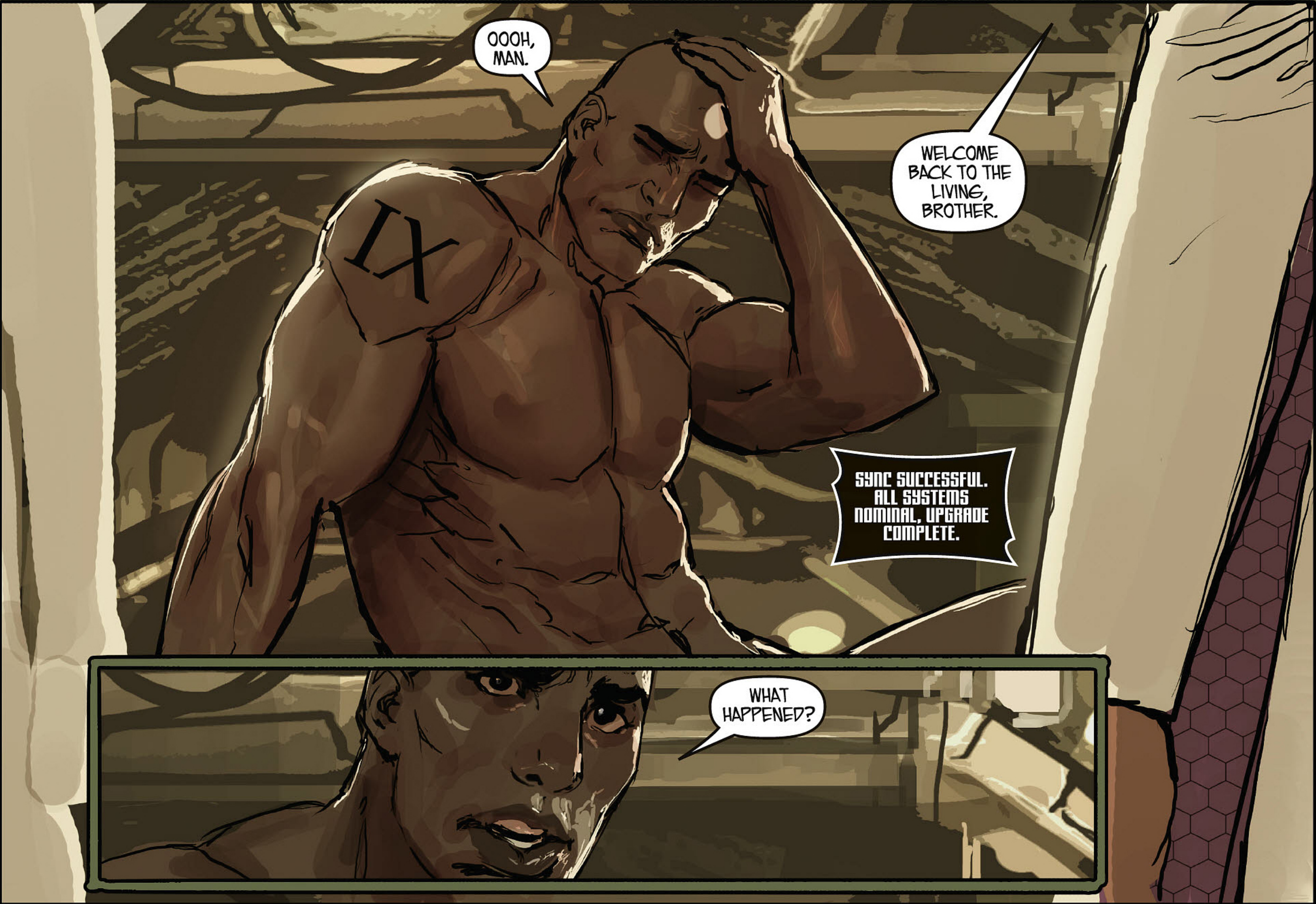


ALL SYSTEMS NOMINAL. REJECTION RISK .02%.

SYNC WILL HAVE NEURAL NET UPGRADED TO NEW STANDARD.

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN?







SANCTUARY XIII  
25 YEARS LATER

I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE EVER TOLD YOU THIS, BUT THE REASON I SPENT SO MUCH TIME DEVELOPING HARD LIGHT TECH WAS BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO TERRIFIED OF THE DARK.

THE CHAIRWOMAN USED TO LOCK ME IN A DARK ROOM FOR DAYS TO TRY AND BEAT IT OUT OF ME.

SHE WAS CRUEL.

TO EVERYONE BUT YOU...YOU WERE ALWAYS MOMMA'S SPECIAL GIRL.

BECAUSE SHE INTENDED TO BE ME, TO SYNC HER CONSCIOUSNESS WITH THIS BODY.

SHE WANTED TO DELETE ME AND TAKE MY PLACE. HOW DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES ME FEEL?

NEVER THOUGHT OF IT QUITE LIKE THAT. I SEE YOUR POINT.

RAWRR

THIS THING DOESN'T GIVE UP.

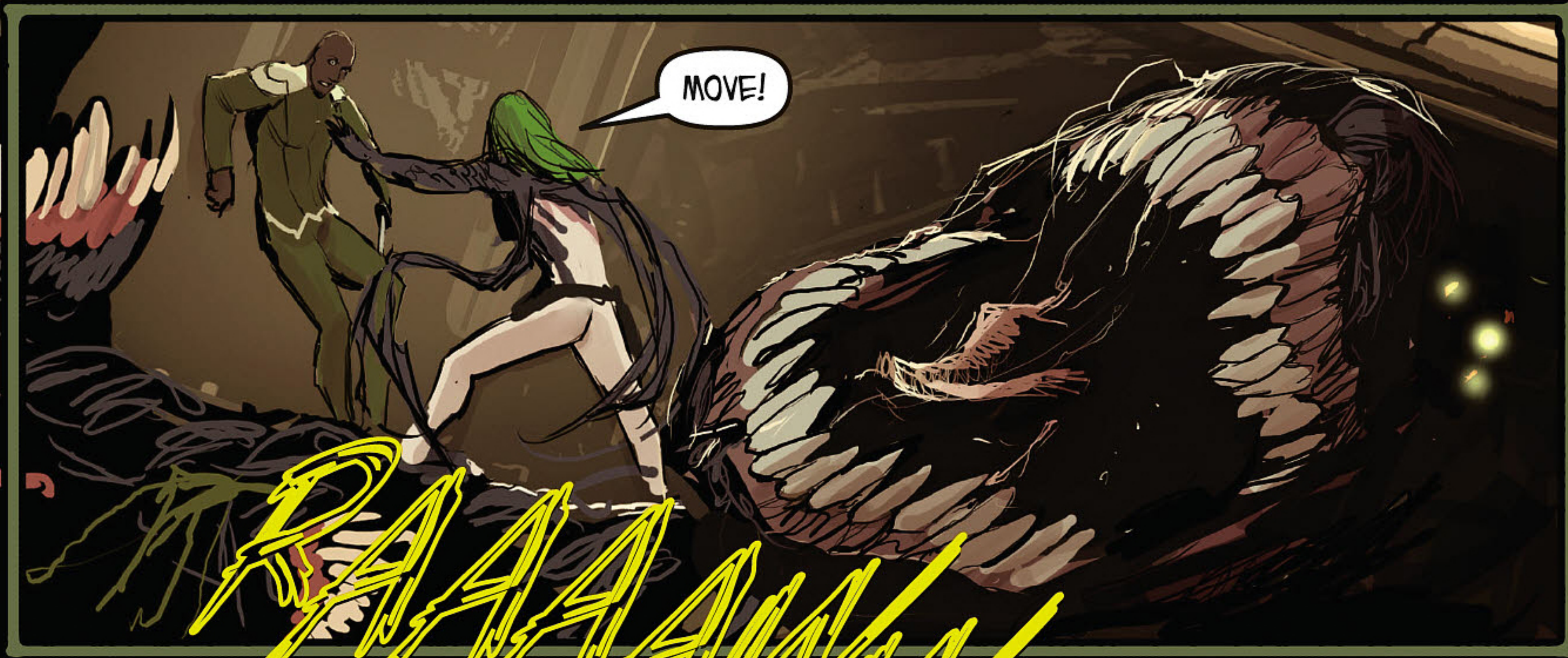
THE WITCHBLADE...IT'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. WARN THE OTHERS.





THIS ISN'T OUR  
TRUE ADVERSARY,  
MERELY A  
CONSTRUCT.

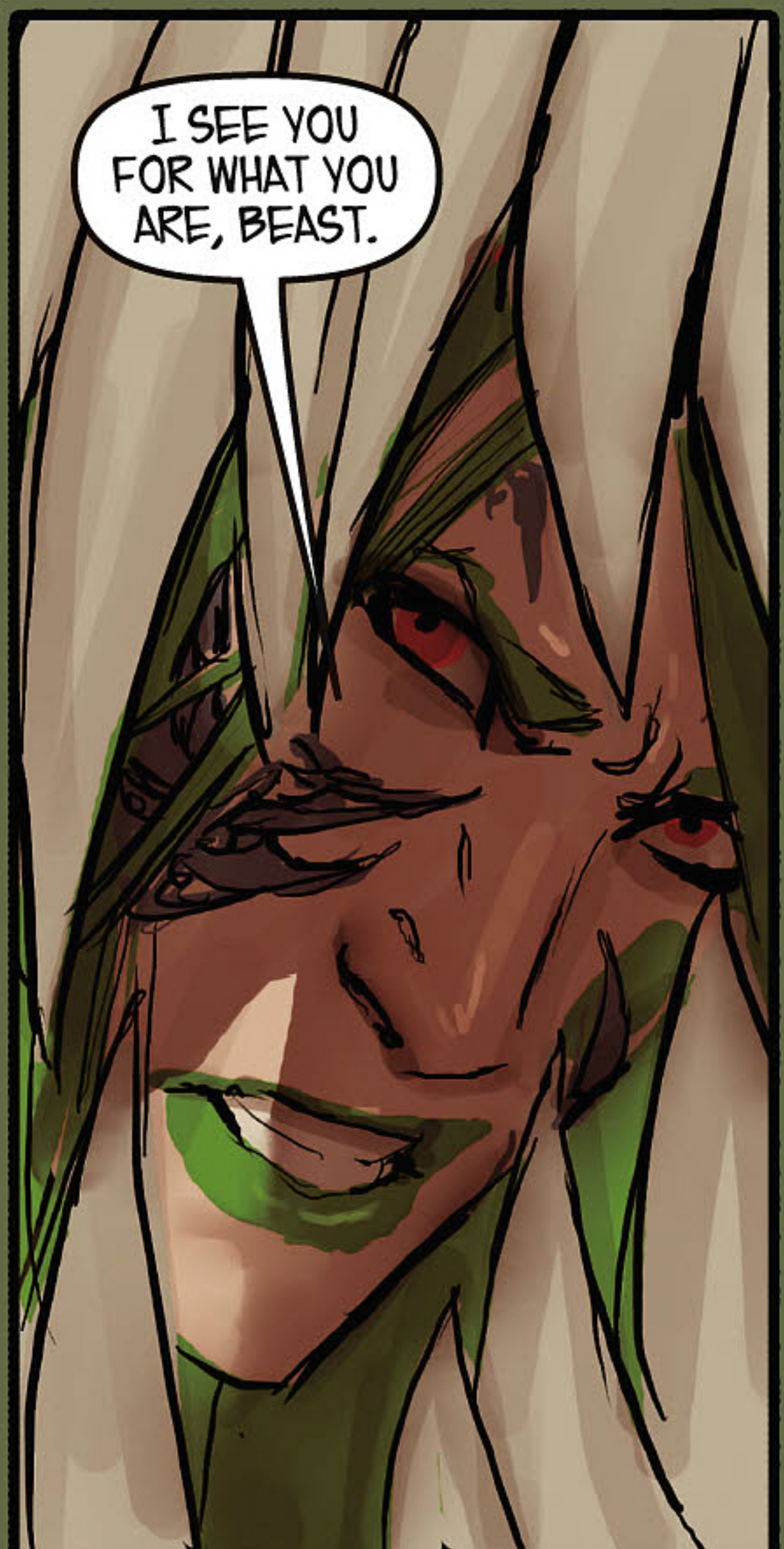


MOVE!

RAAAAWW



APHRODITE!



I SEE YOU  
FOR WHAT YOU  
ARE, BEAST.



