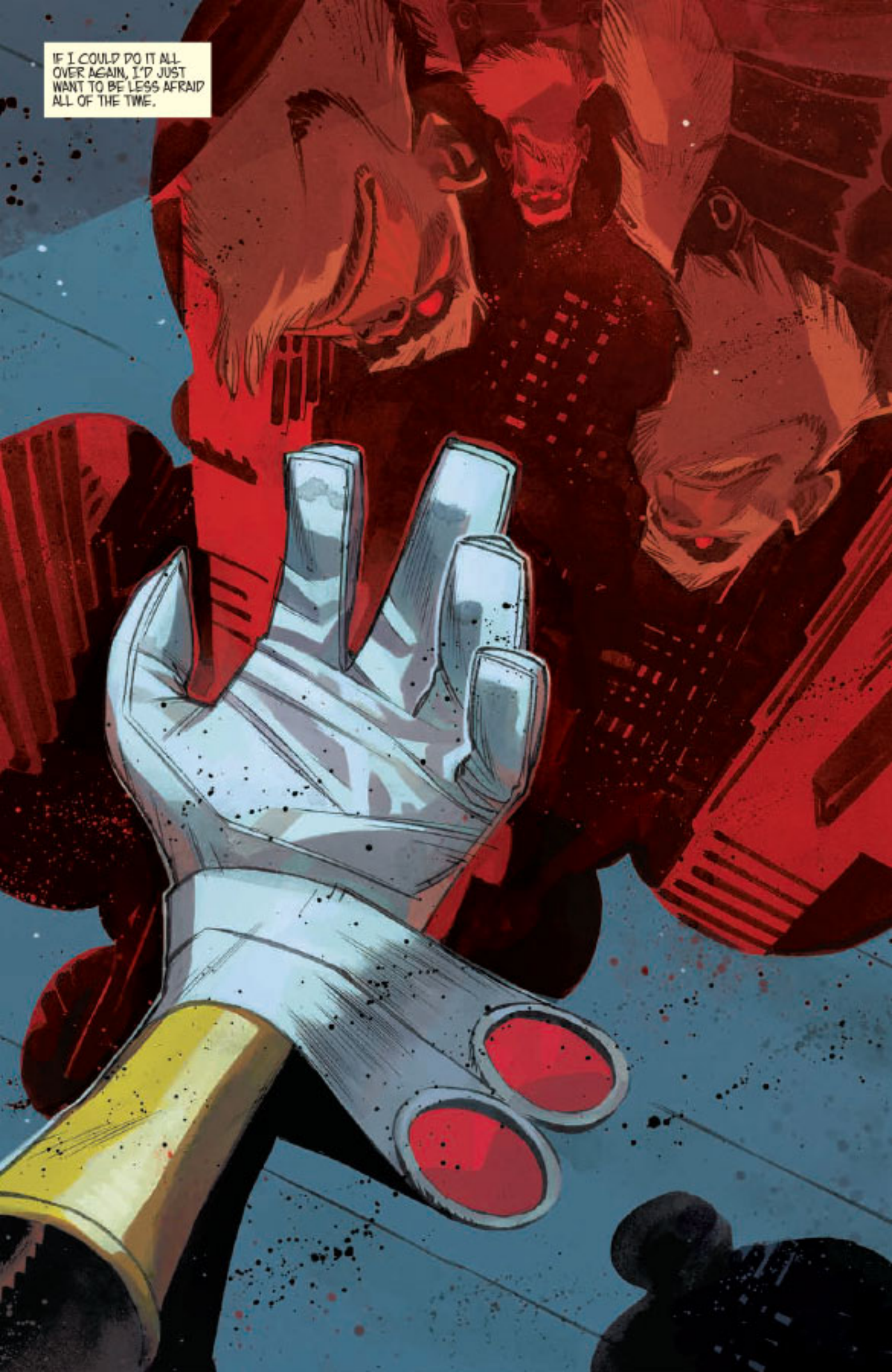


IF I COULD DO IT ALL  
OVER AGAIN, I'D JUST  
WANT TO BE LESS AFRAID  
ALL OF THE TIME.







MY LAST THOUGHT  
REVERBERATED.

I REMEMBER  
ALMOST LAUGHING.

THE ANSWER HAD  
BEEN IN FRONT OF  
ME THE WHOLE TIME.


BUT IT WAS ONLY CLEAR  
NOW THAT NOTHING COULD  
BE DONE ABOUT IT.



I AWOKE IN A  
STRANGE ROOM FULL  
OF IRIDESCENT LIGHT.

THE PAIN  
HAD ENDED.

THERE WAS MUSIC,  
UNDULATING, A  
MILLION CHOIRS—




I WAS HOME.

RELIEF ON A  
CELLULAR  
LEVEL.

TRUE PEACE.

BUT IT WAS  
NOT TO LAST.




THEY WEREN'T  
DONE WITH ME.

ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY,  
GUILT, AND PAIN CAME  
FLOODING BACK.

THE SENTIENT GAS  
CREATURES COMMUNICATED  
TO ME TELEPATHICALLY.

MADE IT CLEAR WHY  
I'D BEEN SAVED.




THEIR APE HOSTS  
WERE DYING OFF—  
THEIR PLANET  
FROZEN OVER.

THEY WERE DESPERATE  
TO FIND A NEW GARDEN  
OF LIFE THAT THEY  
COULD INHABIT.

THEY KNEW  
I COULD  
FIX THEIR  
PILLAR.






I PRETENDED  
TO WORK ON IT.

ENOUGH TO AVOID  
THE TORTURE THEY  
THREATENED.

THEY ALLOWED ME  
ACCESS TO MY  
UTILITY POUCHES,  
UNAWARE OF ONE  
IMPORTANT FACT:




HOURS EARLIER WE HAD  
RUN INTO AN ALTERNATE  
VERSION OF SARA AND ME.

THEY ATTEMPTED  
TO KIDNAP THE  
CHILDREN.


I HEARD PIA'S  
SCREAM.



A DEVICE CAME  
CRASHING DOWN.



I DIDN'T WANT  
ANYONE'S HOPES TO  
BE UNREALISTICALLY  
HIGH, SO I KEPT  
IT SECRET.




THE MONKEYS HAD  
GIVEN ME THE TOOLS  
I NEEDED.

TOOLS TO FIX THE  
HANDHELD PILLAR.

TO TRACK DOWN THE  
KIDS AND MY TEAM--






—TOOLS TO GET  
THEM ALL HOME.

THERE WASN'T  
TIME TO TEST IT.


I PRAYED THAT IT  
WOULDN'T BLOW  
ME TO SHIT.

I THOUGHT OF SARA.




I JUMPED FOR WEEKS.

THROUGH HUNDRED  
OF WORLDS.



BUT IT NEVER BROUGHT  
ME BACK TO THEM.




I WAS DISORIENTATED  
AND SICK FROM  
NUMEROUS EARTHS  
WITH STRANGE  
ATMOSPHERES.

I HADN'T EATEN IN DAYS.

MY SPIRIT WAS BROKEN.






I COULDN'T  
CONTINUE TO  
JUMP.


I WAS LOSING WHAT  
WAS LEFT OF MY MIND.

HAD TO TAKE THE TIME  
TO FIGURE OUT HOW  
HE'D ZEROED IN ON US.



AND THEN I FINALLY  
REALIZED THAT IT WASN'T  
SOME PROGRAMMING  
INSIDE THE PILLAR  
THAT HE'D USED.

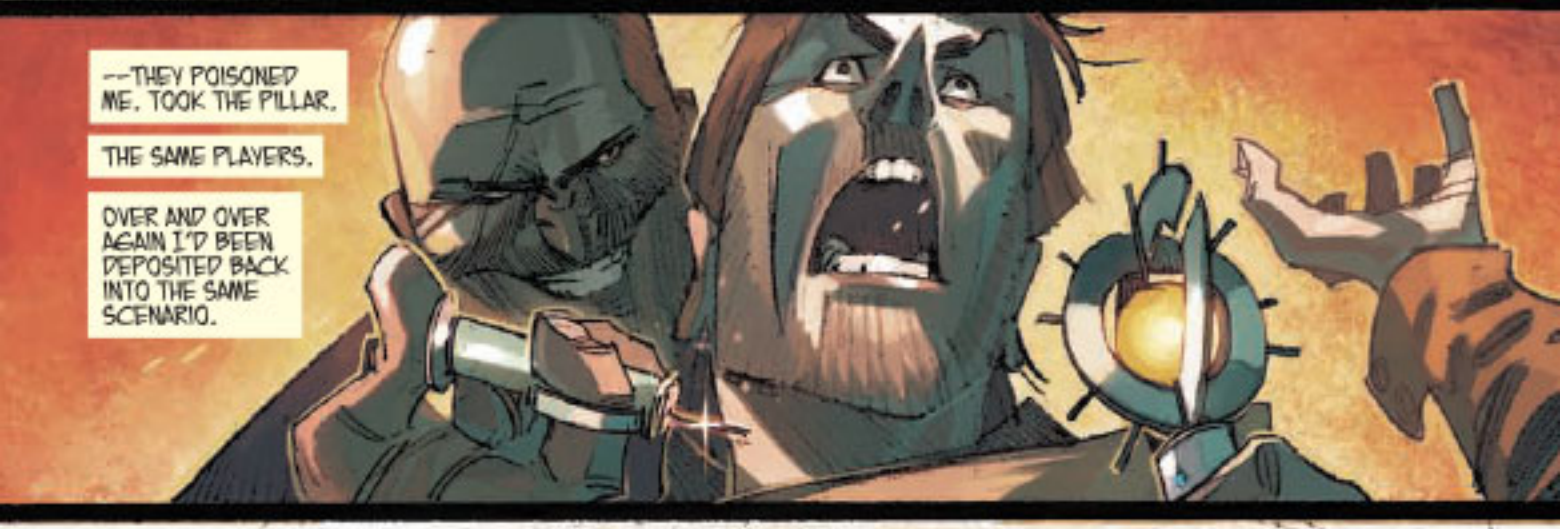
HE WAS AN IDIOT  
WITH A BAD MEMORY...



...JUST LIKE ME.

HE'D ENGRAVED  
A NOTCH JUST ABOVE  
THE FREQUENCY  
COORDINATES THAT  
WOULD TAKE ME  
TO MY KIDS.

BUT BEFORE  
I COULD  
ACTIVATE IT--



--THEY POISONED  
ME. TOOK THE PILLAR.

THE SAME PLAYERS.

OVER AND OVER  
AGAIN I'D BEEN  
DEPOSITED BACK  
INTO THE SAME  
SCENARIO.

MR. BLOCK SOUGHT CONTROL.

KADIR SOUGHT SARA.

GRANT AND SARA ONLY  
WANTED TO FIND THEIR VERY  
LIKELY DEAD CHILDREN.

THE SAME PATTERNS PLAYING OUT,  
REPEATING THROUGH THE ONION.

BUT I DIDN'T STOP FIGHTING.  
I GOT THE PILLAR--

--AND JUMPED.