



VALIANT

The noble Visigoth warrior Aric of Dacia was kidnapped by the alien race known as the Vine and thrust into slavery. He rebelled and captured the sentient power suit Shanbara, a being worshipped as a deity by the Vine, and returned to Earth - only to discover centuries had passed and the world he knew was gone. Bonded to Shanbara, Aric had lost his home but found a new purpose as the protector of Earth...

X-O MANOWAR

Peter Cuneo
Chairman

Dinesh Shamdasani
CEO & Chief Creative Officer

Gavin Cuneo
Chief Operating Officer & CFO

Fred Pierce
Publisher

Warren Simons
Editor-in-Chief

Walter Black
VP Operations

Hunter Gorinson
Director of Marketing,
Communications & Digital Media

Atom! Freeman
Director of Sales

Josh Johns
Associate Director of
Digital Media & Development

Matthew Klein
Andy Liegl
John Petrie
Sales Managers

Travis Escarfullery
Jeff Walker
Production & Design Managers

Tom Brennan
Editor

Kyle Andrukiewicz
Editor & Creative Executive

Robert Meyers
Managing Editor

Peter Stern
Publishing & Operations Manager

Andrew Steinbeiser
Marketing & Communications
Manager

Danny Khazem
Lauren Hitzhusen
Assistant Editors

Russ Brown
President, Consumer Products,
Promotions & Ad Sales

X-O MANOWAR® #50
SEPTEMBER 2016
VALIANT ENTERTAINMENT LLC.
Office of publication: 350 7th Avenue,
New York, NY 10001 Copyright © 2016
Valiant Entertainment LLC. All rights
reserved. All characters, their distinctive
likenesses and related indicia featured in
this publication are trademarks of Valiant
Entertainment LLC. The stories, characters,
and incidents featured in this publication
are entirely fictional. Printed in the USA.
For more information, please visit
ValiantUniverse.com.
First Printing.

LONG LIVE THE KING finale

ROBERT VENDITTI - writer

JOE BENNETT - pencils

MARCIO LOERZER & BELLARDINO BRABO - inks

ULISES ARREOLA - colors

CARY NORD, DOUG BRAITHWAITE, DIEGO BERNARD, RAFA SANDOVAL,

ROBERT GILL, BRIAN REBER, ULISES ARREOLA & DAVID BARON - flashback art

JOE BENNETT, TOM PALMER, ROBERT DE LA TORRE & DEAN WHITE - torment sequence

DAVE SHARPE - letterer

THE TWO DEATHS OF GAIUS MAELUS

FRED VAN LENTE - writer

CLAYTON HENRY - artist

BRIAN REBER - colors

DAVE SHARPE - letterer

HIS GREATEST FAILURE

JODY HOUSER - writer

JAVIER PULIDO - artist

MUNTA VICENTE - colors

DAVE SHARPE - letterer

THE FUTURE

MATT KINDT - writer

TOMAS GIORELLO - artist

DIEGO RODRIGUEZ - colors

DAVE SHARPE - letterer

DANNY KHAZEM & LAUREN HITZHUSEN - ASSISTANT EDITORS

TOM BRENNAN - EDITOR

WARREN SIMONS - EDITOR IN CHIEF

MANHATTAN.

ABOARD THE LOVE BOAT,
MOBILE HEADQUARTERS
OF THE GLOBAL AGENCY
FOR THREAT EXCISION.

NOW.



ARIC!

<I AM
FILLED WITH
GRIEF, SAANA.
THE WORTHY
ONE...>

<THE
TORMENT
HAVE KILLED
ARIC...>



<THE HUMAN
WAS A FOOL, PRIEST.
HIS EFFORTS BRING
HIM NO GLORY. ONLY
A DEATH.>



X-O WAS
A GREAT MAN.
MY BEST. HE
SAVED YOUR ASS
FROM THESE
CREATURES,
TRILL, WHICH IS
MORE THAN
I WOULD'VE
DONE.

I'LL MISS HIM.
HIS FIREPOWER,
TOO. BUT THE TIME
FOR EULOGIES
IS LATER.



"WE'VE GOT A WAR FOR EARTH'S SURVIVAL ON OUR HANDS."

GIN-GR!
WE NEED YOU ON YOUR FEET!

RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS
:KZZZ:

RESTARTING SYSTEMS,
LIVEWIRE...



THAT BIG, BLUE
SONUVABITCH SHOVED
OUR MAN ARIC INTO ITS
CHEST AND TURNED HIM
INTO A STAR ON
ITS SKIN.

DON'T WANT
TO SPEAK FOR THE
REST OF YOU, BUT
IT SURE AS DAMN
PISSSES ME OFF.

QUESTION
IS--

--AM I THE
ONLY ONE WHO
WANTS TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT?

GUNNERY
SERGEANT LEWIS,
YOU ARE MOST
CERTAINLY NOT.

THIS IS COLONEL
CAPSHAW TO ALL FORCES:
IF YOUR SHIP IS STILL IN
ONE PIECE, FLY IT. IF YOUR
GUN IS LOADED, FIRE IT.
IF YOU HAVE A FREE HAND,
PICK UP A BRICK AND
THROW IT.

GET VIOLENT.
I DON'T CARE HOW.
WE'RE GOING
LAST-DITCH.

"FOR X-O
MANOWAR!"

BRRRAKOOOM

FOR X-O
MANOWAR!

KOOOM
KOOOM

KOOOM



A DISTANT RUMBLE...

I BEGIN TO WONDER IF IT IS THUNDER.

BEFORE I CAN WONDER FURTHER, THE MEANING OF "THUNDER" IS FORGOTTEN.

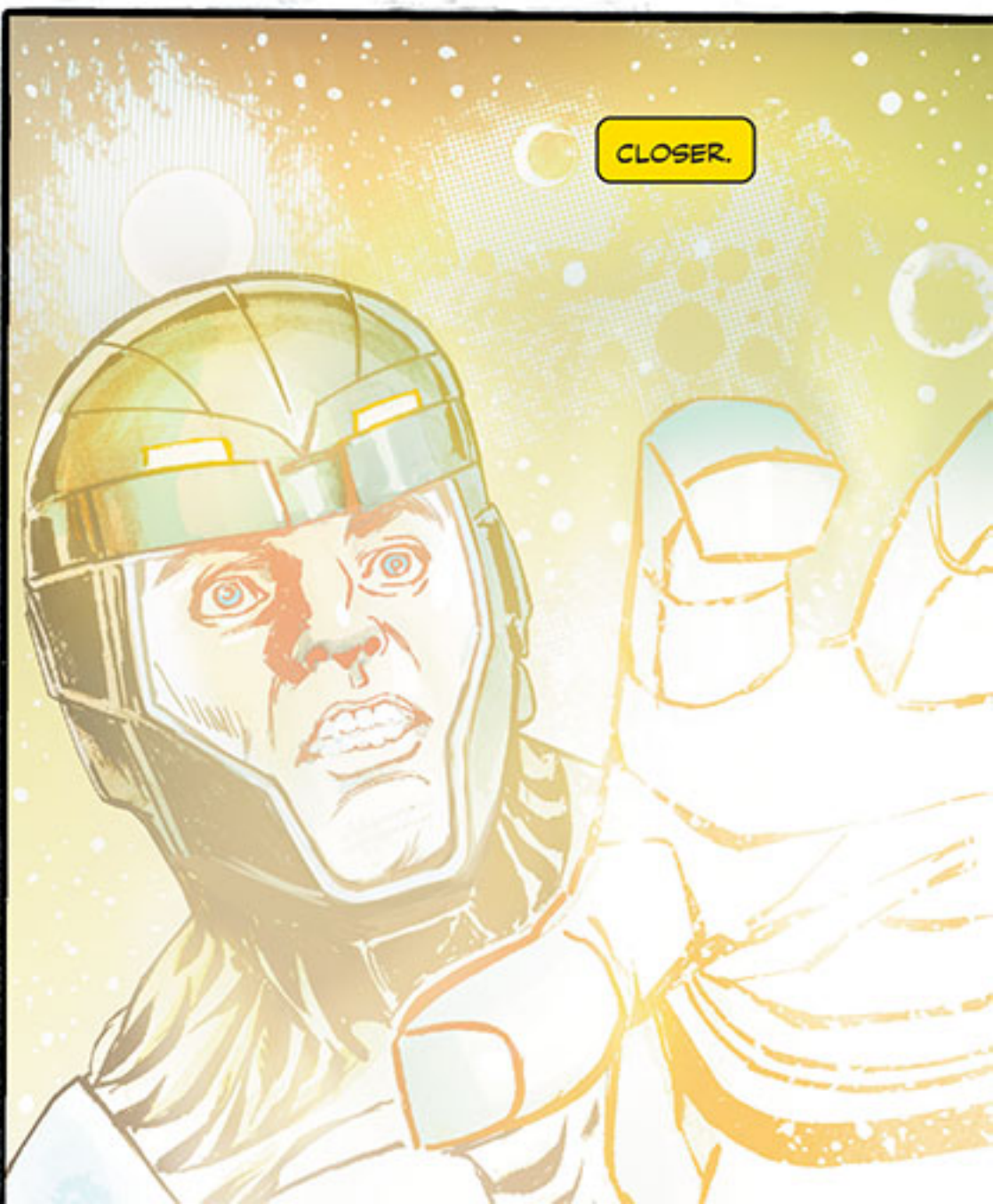
ALL IS FORGOTTEN.



EMPTY.



A GLOW.



CLOSER.



I SEE...
CREATION.

COUNTLESS
WORLDS.

AN OCEAN OF STARS
FAR BEYOND MY REACH.

VAST,
WHIRLING
GALAXIES.

NO. I DO NOT
JUST *SEE* THIS.

THERE ARE
TASTES. SCENTS.
SOUNDS.

EVERY SENSATION
IMAGINABLE.

SOME BEYOND
IMAGINATION.

I VISIT. EXPERIENCE EACH LOCATION SEPARATELY. ALL OF THEM TOGETHER.

I AM AN ALIEN INSECT DRINKING THE SWEET NECTAR OF A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER THAT WOULD POISON ALL BUT ME.

I AM A SIX-LEGGED BEAST OF PREY, HEART POUNDING IN A CHASE I KNOW WILL END IN MY OWN CONSUMPTION.

I AM FISH.

I AM FOWL.

I AM CREATURES THERE ARE NO WORDS FOR, ADORNED IN COLORS I CANNOT DESCRIBE.



THE TWO DEATHS OF GAIUS MAELIUS

FRED VAN LENTE WRITER
CLAYTON HENRY ARTIST
BRIAN REBER COLOR ART
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER
LAUREN HITZHUSEN ASSISTANT EDITOR
TOM BRENNAN EDITOR

ROME. AUGUST 24, 410 CE.



<GAIUS MAELIUS...>

<...YOUR COIN PURSE...>

<...PLEASE TELL ME IT'S NOT WHAT I THINK IT IS.>

<AH BUT IT IS, QUINTUS. IT IS. MY LEGION RAIDED THE CAMP OF ALARIC, THE VISIGOTH LEADER.>

<I SLEW THIS PUP--WHO I GATHER WAS SOME COUSIN OF HIS-->



<UGH. FOR JOVE'S SAKE, MAELIUS...>

<--AND CUT OUT HIS HEART TO SHOW TO THE KING OF THE SAVAGES.>

<...THE EMPIRE IS FIGHTING THE DIS-DAMNED GOTH'S TO PROMOTE CIVILIZATION, NOT TO BE DRAGGED DOWN INTO SAVAGERY WITH THEM.>

<AH, THERE YOU'RE WRONG, FRIEND QUINTUS.>

<THE ONLY WAY THE EMPIRE WILL BEAT THE BARBARIANS IS IF WE OUT-BARBARIAN THEM.>



"<THE LOOK ON ONE OF ALARIC'S MEN--HIS NEPHEW, ARIC OF DACIA, HE'S KNOWN AS.>

"<WHEN HE SAW WHAT I HAD DONE TO THE GOTH WOMEN AND CHILDREN, THAT LOOK OF PURE HATRED... SENT ICE DOWN MY SPINE, I TELL YOU.>

"<HE IS WHAT WE NEED TO BE TO WIN THIS WAR.>"



⟨I HAD HOPED TO FACE ARIC IN BATTLE ONCE MORE TO PROVE I WAS THE SUPERIOR SAVAGE--BUT I HEARD TELL HE VANISHED FROM HIS UNCLE'S CAMP NOT LONG AGO.⟩

⟨KNOWING HE WAS A COWARD MADE ME LOSE ALL INTEREST IN THE SPORT.⟩

⟨BAR WENCH! MORE WINE FOR MY FRIEND AND ME! WE GO TO MAN THE WALLS SHORT--⟩



⟨RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! RUN!⟩

⟨THE GOTHS ARE INSIDE THE CITY!⟩



⟨IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID ALARIC GET THROUGH THE GATES?⟩

⟨MARS ONLY KNOWS! LET'S SPLIT HIS LITTLE RAIDING PARTY FROM GROIN TO--⟩

⟨...GIZZARD...⟩

RRRRRRRRRAAAAAGGGHHHH

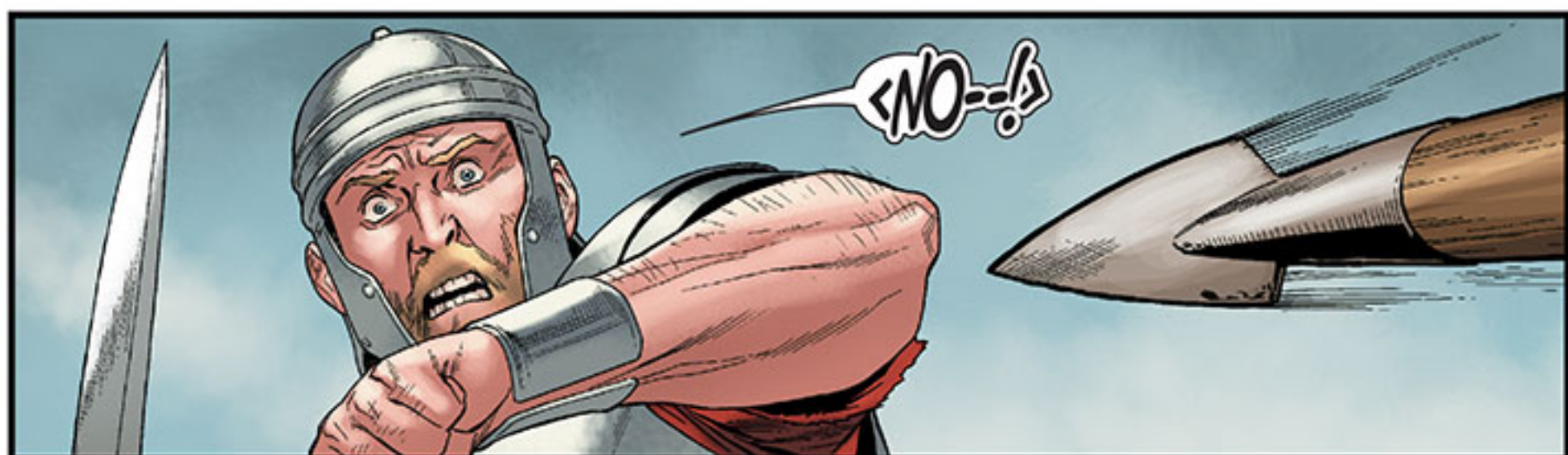


<THEY'RE
EVERWHERE!
FALL BACK!
FALL-->

RRRRRAAAAAGGGHHH



<NO--!>

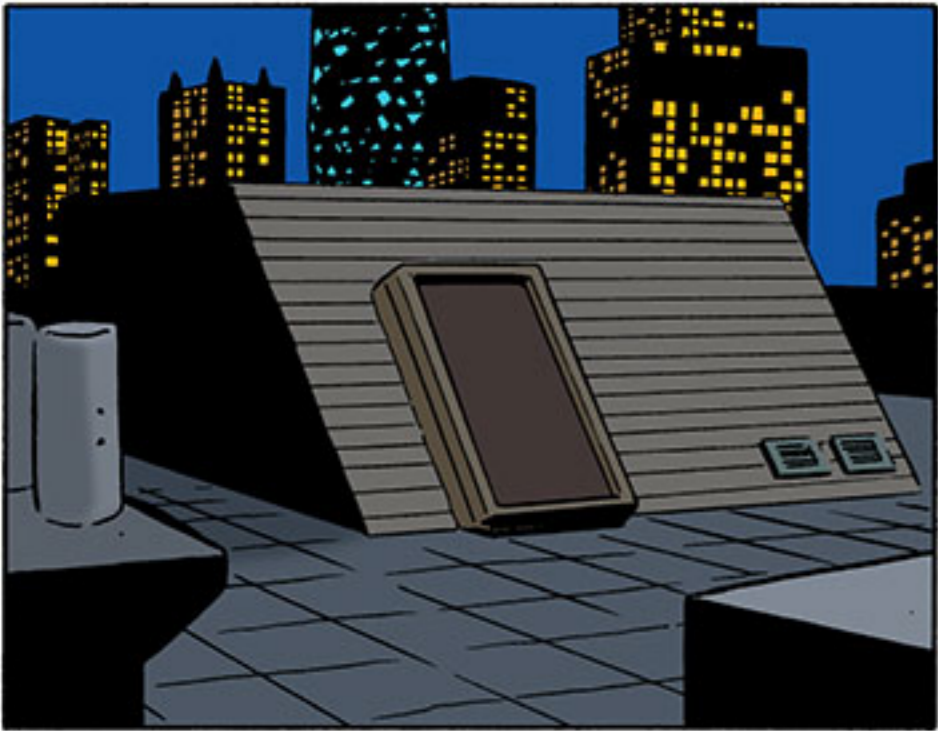


ONCE UPON A TIME,
I WAS HIRED
TO KILL A MAN.



ALTHOUGH, IF WE'RE
BEING HONEST,
THAT'S HOW MOST OF
MY STORIES START.

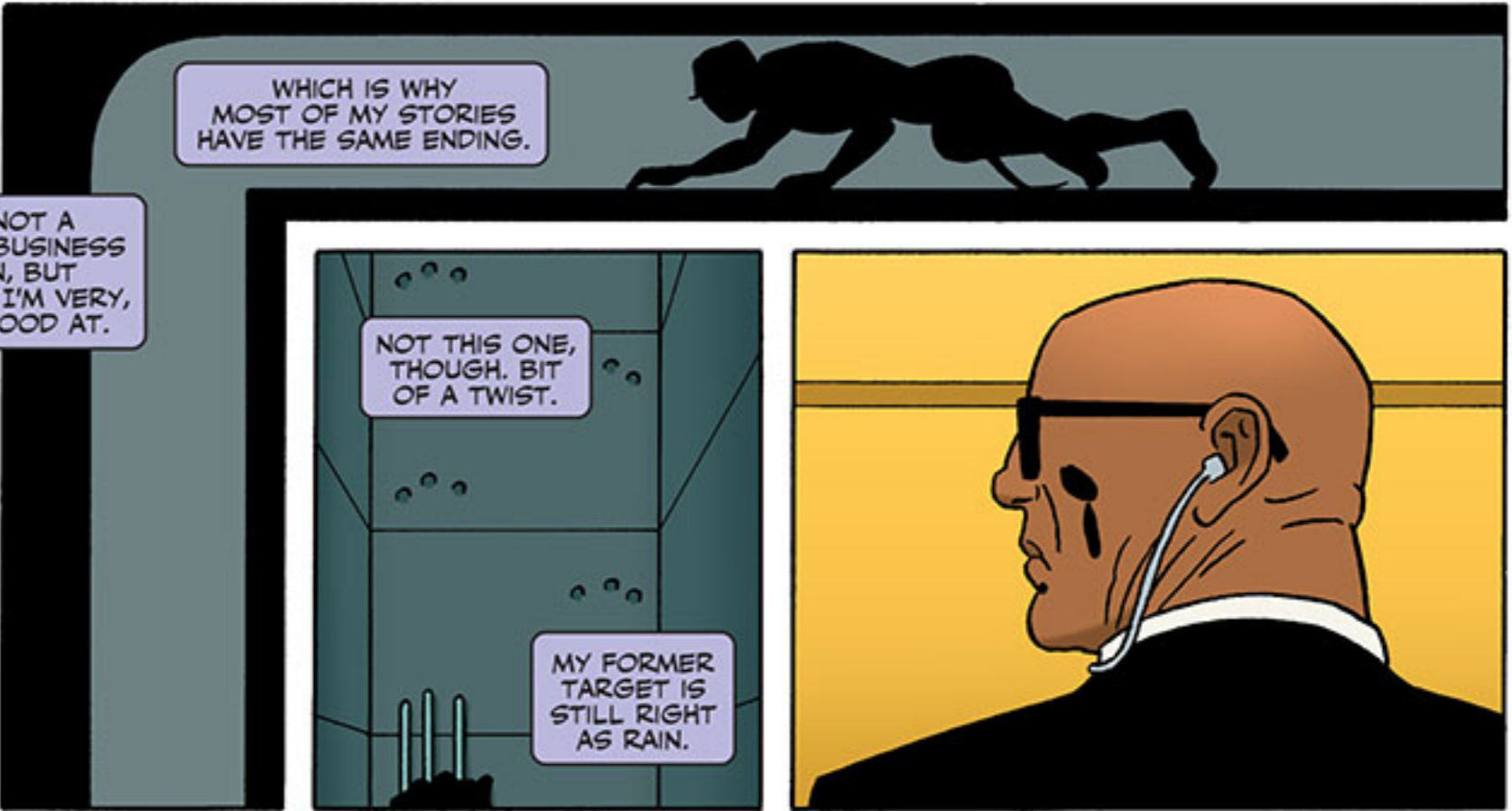
HIS GREATEST FAILURE



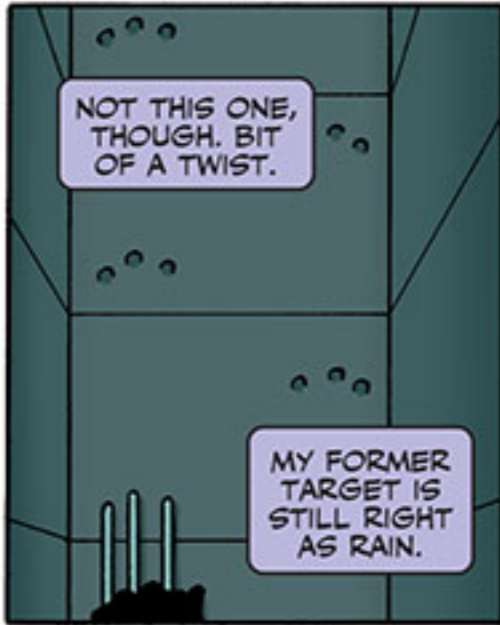
THERE WE
GO.



IT'S NOT A
PRETTY BUSINESS
I'M IN, BUT
IT'S ONE I'M VERY,
VERY GOOD AT.



WHICH IS WHY
MOST OF MY STORIES
HAVE THE SAME ENDING.



NOT THIS ONE,
THOUGH. BIT
OF A TWIST.

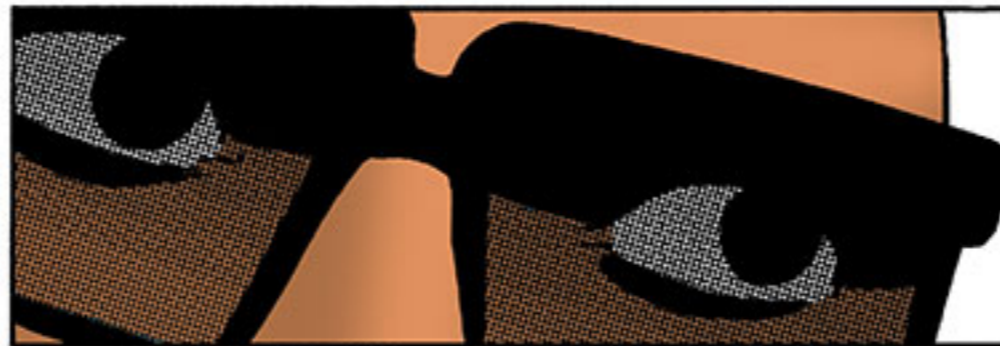
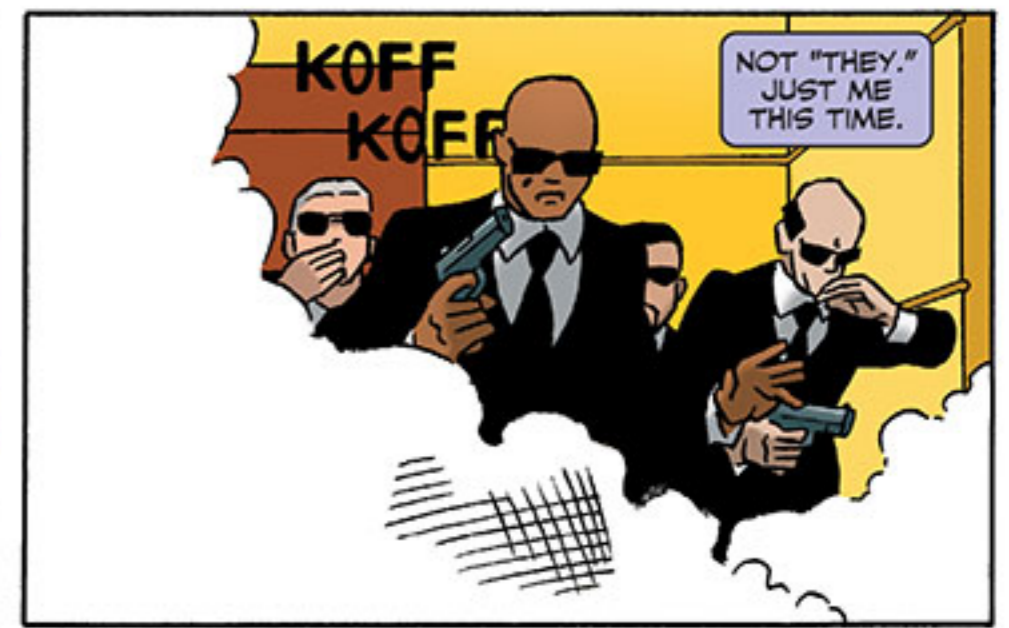
MY FORMER
TARGET IS
STILL RIGHT
AS RAIN.



NO, NOT
THAT WAY.
ALARM.



AND I'M GOING TO HELP
HIM SAVE THE WORLD.



STILL, NOT EXACTLY WHAT I'D CALL A FAIR FIGHT.

