



**BLACK
CROWN**

euthanauts
#3 cover A

sept2018

**HOWARD
ROBLES
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Euthanauts

IDW



PREVIOUSLY...



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I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF RUNNING OUT OF THE FIRST UNIVERSITY GRANT FOR RESEARCH INTO LIFE AFTER DEATH IN MORE THAN **FOUR DECADES**, AND I HAD **NOTHING** TO SHOW FOR IT.

I REFUSED TO SUBMIT HALF-COCKED "GUESSTIMATES" IN THE HOPE OF ACQUIRING MORE GRANT MONEY.

I'M A **SCIENTIST**, NOT A **MEDIUM**.

IT WAS '92, AND MY GIRLS WERE **WILD** THAT I TAKE THEM TO THE CIRCUS.

MOM!



YOU WENT TO THE CIRCUS LAST YEAR WITH KAREN'S GIRL SCOUT TROOP AND YOU **HATED** IT.

KAREN, YOU SAID IT WAS **ANIMAL ABUSE**.

THEY INSISTED IT WAS **DIFFERENT**, IT WAS SOME FROU-FROU ARTISTS' CIRCUS.



BUT THIS WAS A TIME BEFORE THE INTERNET, AND I WAS JUST HAPPY THEY FOUND SOMETHING THEY WERE **INTERESTED** IN LONG ENOUGH TO STOP COMPLAINING THEY WERE **BORED**.

THERE WAS AN ELEMENT THAT NEEDED TO BE MAINTAINED DURING THE POST-DEATH ENERGY TRANSFER TO KEEP THE CONSCIOUSNESS TOGETHER. **EGO**. I HAD THAT FIGURED OUT.

BUT WHAT ELSE?



IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT I REALIZED.


THESE BODIES WEREN'T **BORN** DOING THESE THINGS.



THEY TRAINED.



MY MISSING INGREDIENT WAS THAT CROWLEY-ESQUE CUDGEL—THE **WILL**.



ADDITIONALLY, THIS REALIZATION
WAS EMBOLDENED BY THE LAB-GRADE
DMT AND AYAHUASCA CONCOCTION I'D
INGESTED AT THE OFFICE EARLIER THAT
DAY (AND CONSIDERED A "DUD")
DECIDING TO KICK IN.

Euthanauts

Part 3
LIFTOFF

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WRAITH
LILY --!?

DID
WE LOSE
HER?

I DON'T
KNOW.

DID
WE LOSE
MERCY?!

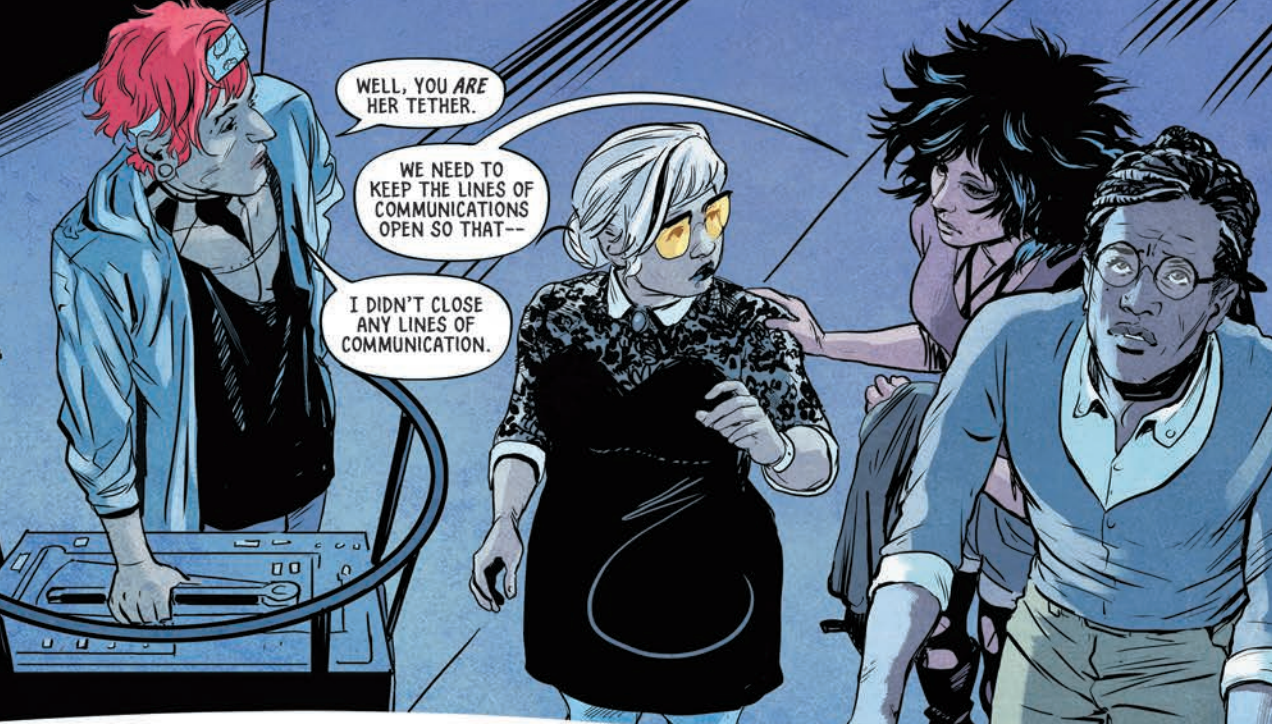
IS SHE
OUT THERE
ALONE?!



SHE'S
GONE?

MAYBE.
BECAUSE
SHE'S DEAD,
REMEMBER?

SHE'S NOT
ALIVE EITHER,
BUT I FEEL HER
OUT THERE.



WELL, YOU *ARE* HER TETHER.

WE NEED TO KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS OPEN SO THAT--

I DIDN'T CLOSE ANY LINES OF COMMUNICATION.



I JUST TURNED OFF THIS CREEPY AND FRANKLY *DANGEROUS* PROJECTOR MACHINE.

FANTASTIC. NOW IT WON'T EVEN TURN ON.



THIS WILL TAKE *HOURS* TO FIX.



THE RESTLESS DEAD ARE *ALWAYS* WELCOME TO CONTACT US, IF WE OPEN OURSELVES TO THEM.

YOUR *CRYSTALS* WORK BECAUSE YOU *BELIEVE* IN THEM, INDIGO.

I CAN RECOGNIZE THAT DR. WOLFE'S LABORATORY IS THE SAME, WHILE ALSO ACCEPTING THAT IT IS WHAT *WE* BELIEVE IN TO MAKE THIS WORK.

I KNOW I SAW DR. WOLFE IN THAT PROJECTOR.

AND I *INTEND* TO SEE HER AGAIN!

UH, HEY...? I'M NOT FEELING GREAT.

I'D LIKE TO GO HOME NOW, IF THAT'S OKAY.

ONE MINUTE I WAS STARING AT PROOF OF THE COEXISTENCE OF TWO CREATURES IN A WORLD BEYOND OUR OWN LIFE SPAN, SPARKING A MOTH-FRAGILE FLOAT OF HOPE IN MY ACHING BLACK HEART.