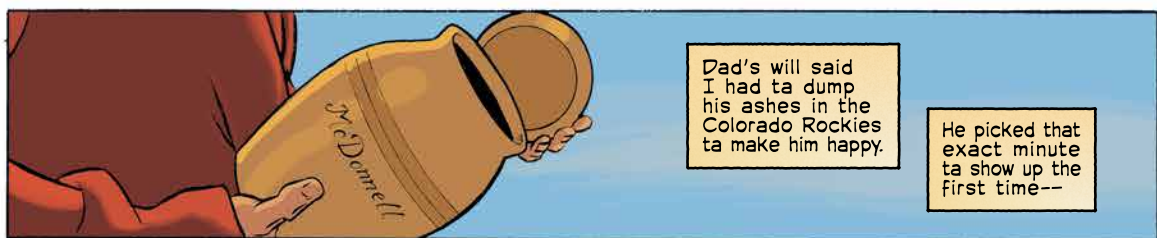


IMPERIAL

CGE

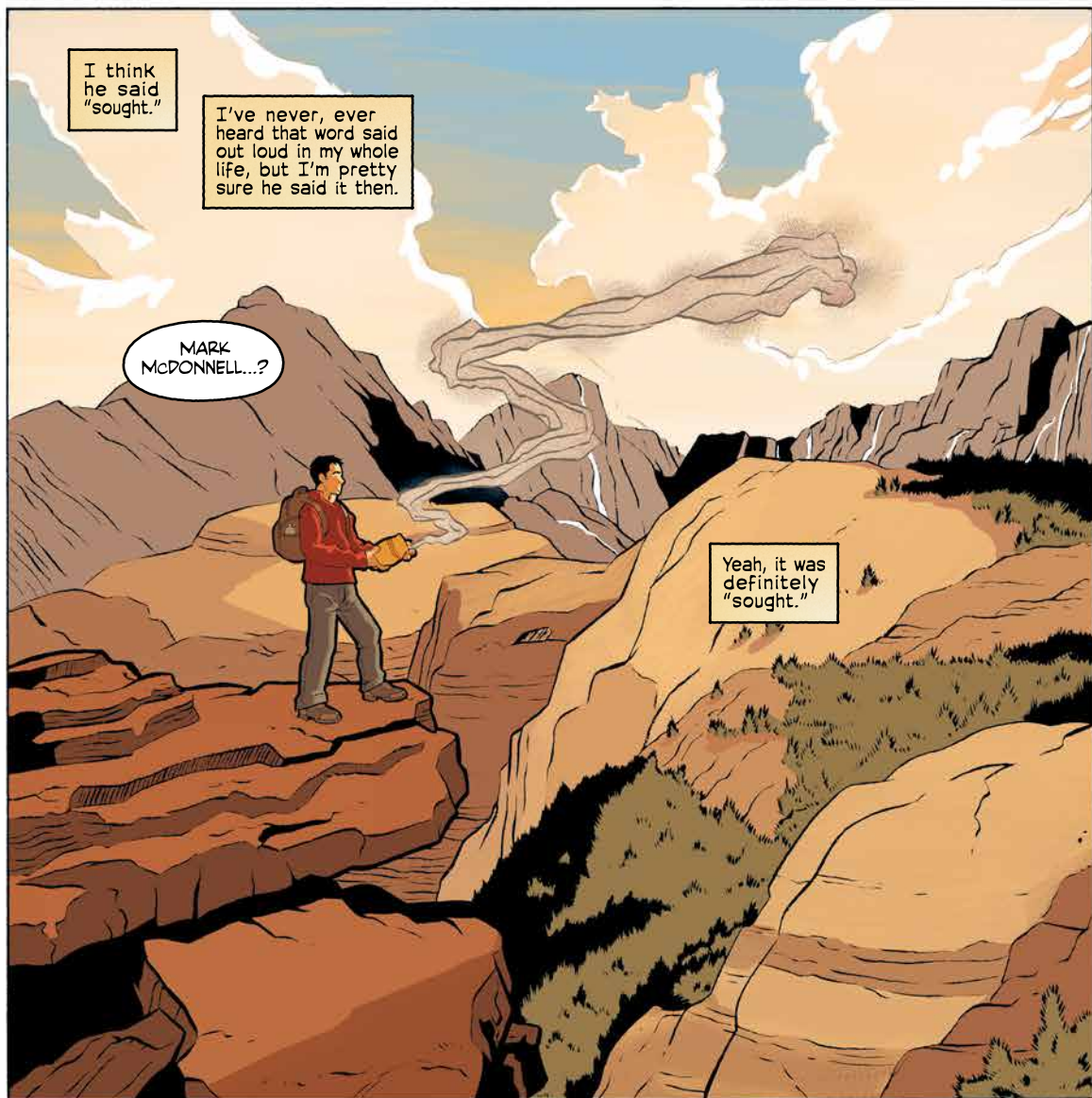


Dad's will said  
I had ta dump  
his ashes in the  
Colorado Rockies  
ta make him happy.

He picked that  
exact minute  
ta show up the  
first time--



LONG  
HAVE I  
SOUGHT  
YOU.



I think  
he said  
"sought."

I've never, ever  
heard that word said  
out loud in my whole  
life, but I'm pretty  
sure he said it then.

MARK  
McDONNELL...?

Yeah, it was  
definitely  
"sought."





I wasn't, y'know, expectin' someone ta drop in from above like that...

Out in the middle a nowhere an' all...

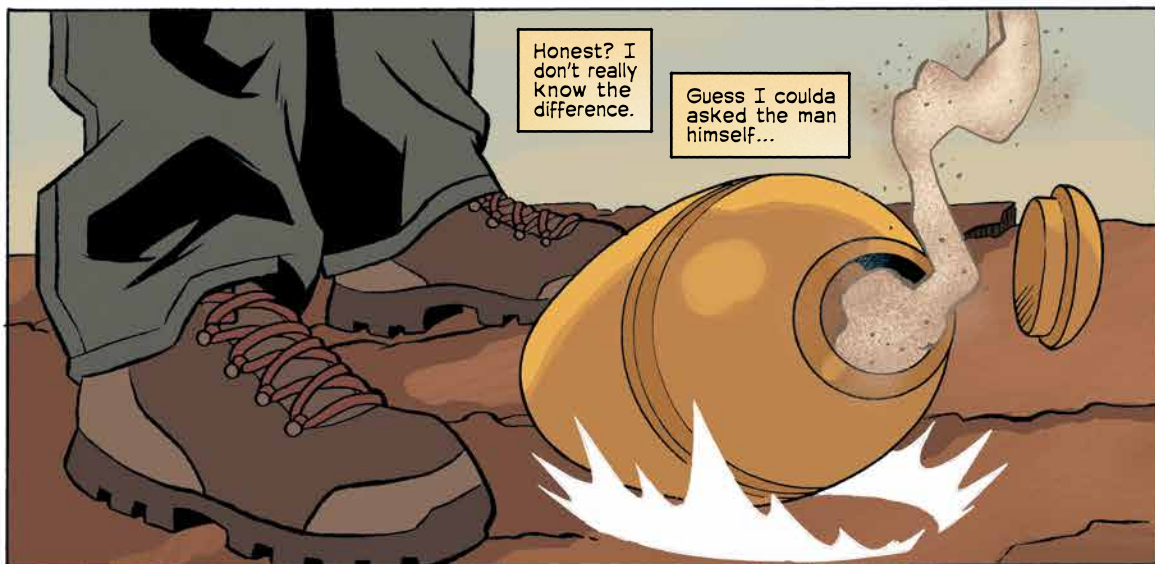
So I kinda freaked a little.



GAAAAH!

Slung about an arm and two legs worth of dad dust all over that white uniform thing he wears.

Is it a uniform or is it a costume?



Honest? I don't really know the difference.

Guess I coulda asked the man himself...

Imperial.







HM.

That's all  
he said  
right then.

Most powerful  
guy on the whole  
planet and that  
was it. Just, "Hm."



He was  
definitely  
peevied.

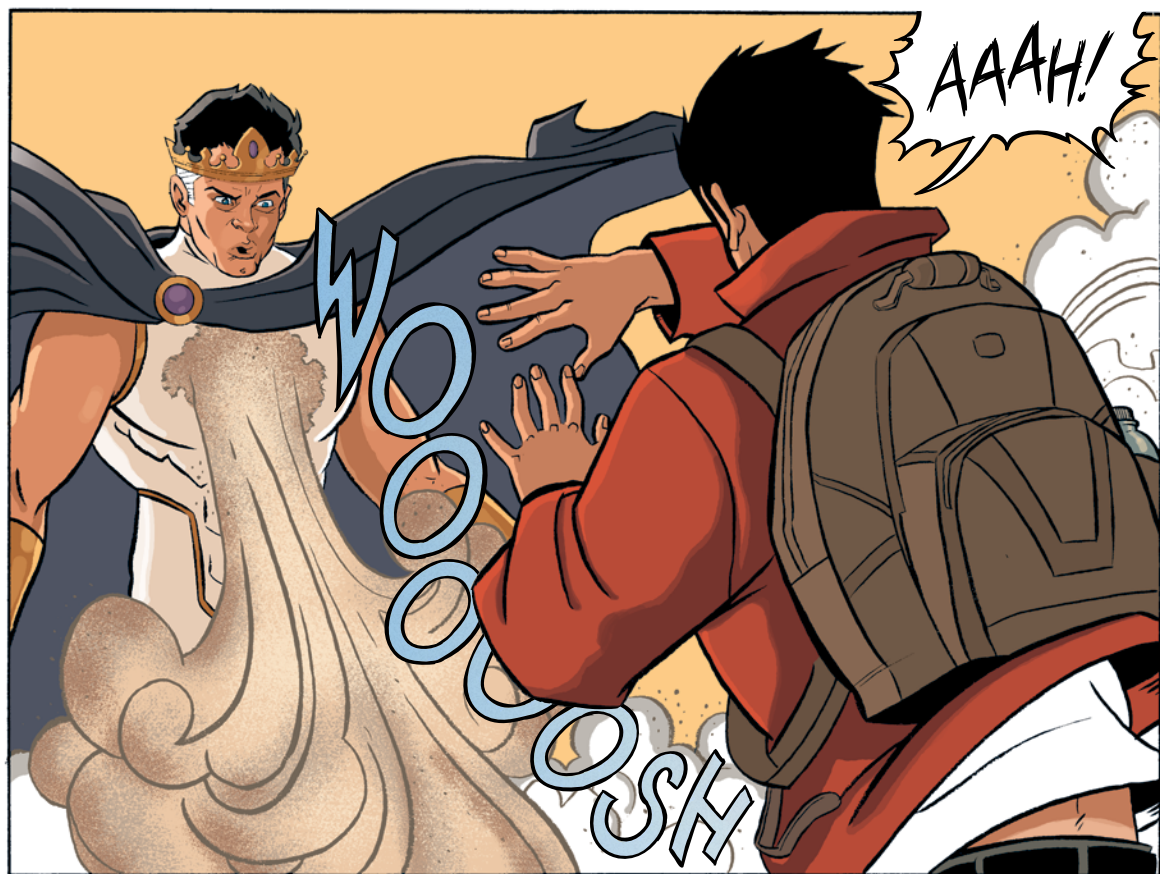
I mean, he'd just flown  
ta Estes Park and didn't  
have a hair outta place or  
nothin'--he cared about  
his look, y'know?

Buncha bone chips  
all over white tights  
don't sit good with  
a guy like him.



I pissed myself,  
'cause I thought  
he was gonna  
kill me.

But he just  
put his lips  
together and--







He saved me...

WE MUST CONVERSE, MARK McDONNELL.

At first I thought he said "conserve," and I thought about how much water I use an' stuff.

But yeah, "converse."

'Nother weird word.

He'd saved my life, though.

He'd saved everybody's lives--hundreds of times --thousands even.



Figured the least I could do was hear him out, y'know?

UH...OKAY, I COULD DO THAT...I GUESS. YEAH.