

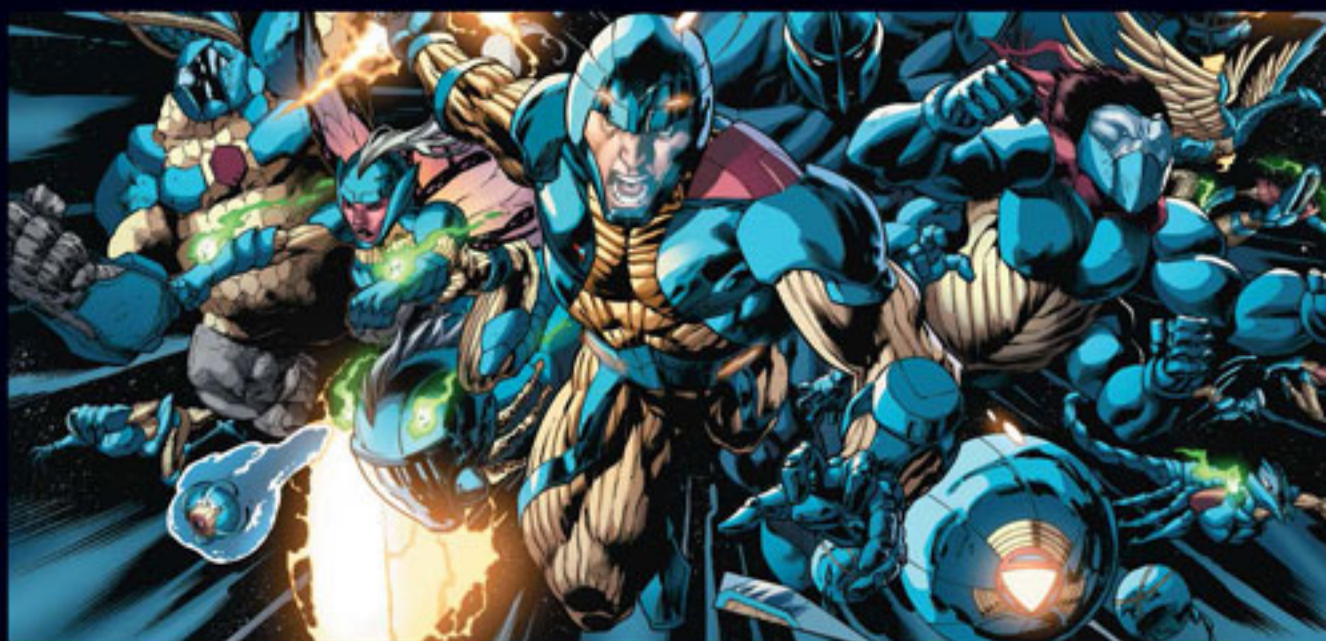


VALIANT

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 Shanhara, 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 Shanhara, Aric had lost his home but found a new purpose as the protector of Earth...

X-O MANOWAR

The story so far..



Aric of Dacia recently returned to Earth after leading an army of Armor Wearers against DEAD HAND, a relentless robotic army that threatened life on Earth - and countless more worlds.



Back on Earth, his fellow time-displaced Visigoths have managed to create their own homeland in western Nebraska under the supervision of Colonel Jamie Capshaw of the United States Army and G.A.T.E.



Since his return to Earth, he has been romantically linked to the Lady Saana. Their relationship has been full of love and tension as Aric's duties as X-O Manowar put his life at risk and as both struggle to find identity in this world. Before they move forward to the future, they must put the past behind them...

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VALIANT ENTERTAINMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Wedding of...

X-O MANGOWAR



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MY LIFE IS SORT OF A WORK IN PROGRESS.

I WAS TOLD YOU COULD HELP ME, LADY MIRAGE.

CALL ME "SHAN." OR "DOCTOR." WHICHEVER MAKES YOU COMFORTABLE.

AND I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU. AT LEAST I HOPE SO.

BUT FIRST YOU'LL NEED TO, YOU KNOW, LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

OF COURSE.

SO...THEY ARE HERE NOW? AND YOU SEE THEM?

SOME OF THEM. THE ONES WHO CAN'T PASS ON. OR WON'T.

EXCUSE MY SAYING SO, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TOO OFF-PUT BY THAT.

I AM A VISIGOTH. THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD NEVER FRIGHTEN US. NOR DO WE DOUBT THEIR EXISTENCE. IT IS HOW WE KEEP OUR ANCESTORS NEAR.

IF YOU'RE REALLY FROM THE FIFTH CENTURY LIKE THEY SAY, IT HASN'T KEPT YOU FROM BEING MORE ENLIGHTENED THAN TODAY'S SKEPTICS.

PLEASE. YOUR HANDS.

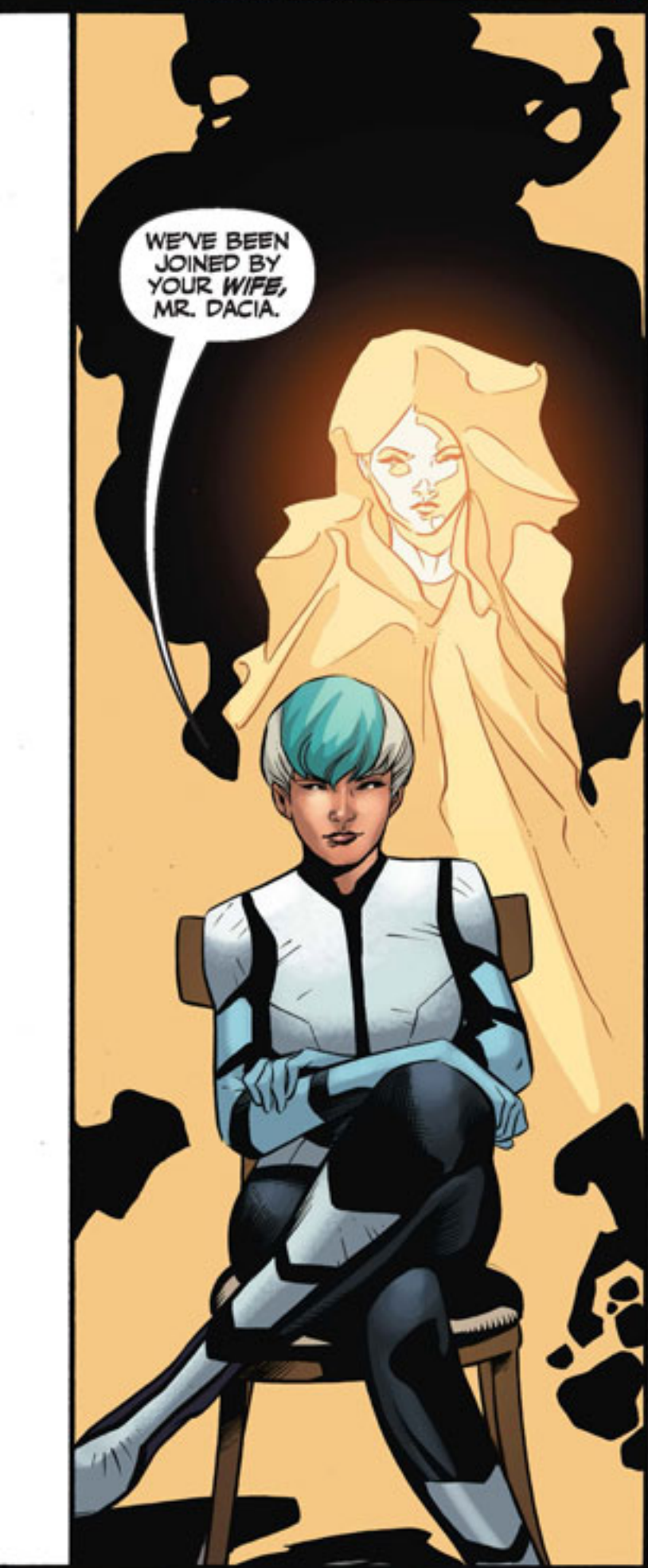
IT'S NOT AS RELIABLE AS ONE OF THE DECEASED'S POSSESSIONS, BUT IF THE EMOTIONAL CONNECTION IS STRONG ENOUGH, IT CAN HELP ME LOCATE HER.

...SHE'S BEEN GONE SO LONG...

...REACHING BACK IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART...



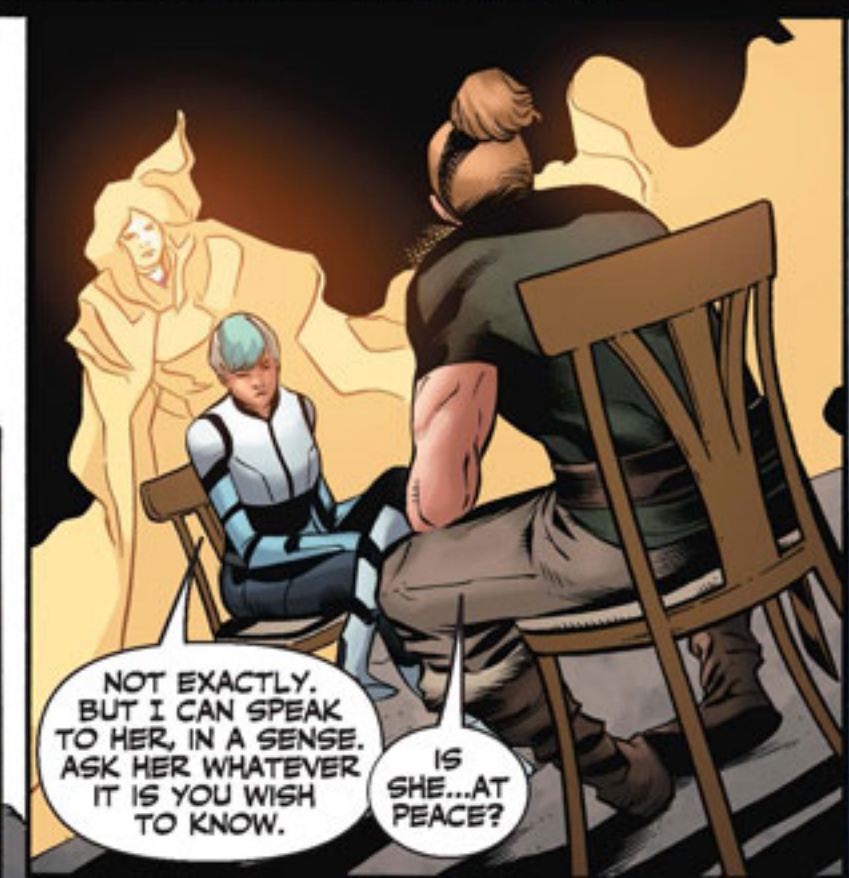
AH.
CONTACT.



WE'VE BEEN
JOINED BY
YOUR WIFE,
MR. DACIA.



SHE...
SHE CAN
HEAR
ME?



NOT EXACTLY.
BUT I CAN SPEAK
TO HER, IN A SENSE.
ASK HER WHATEVER
IT IS YOU WISH
TO KNOW.

IS
SHE...AT
PEACE?



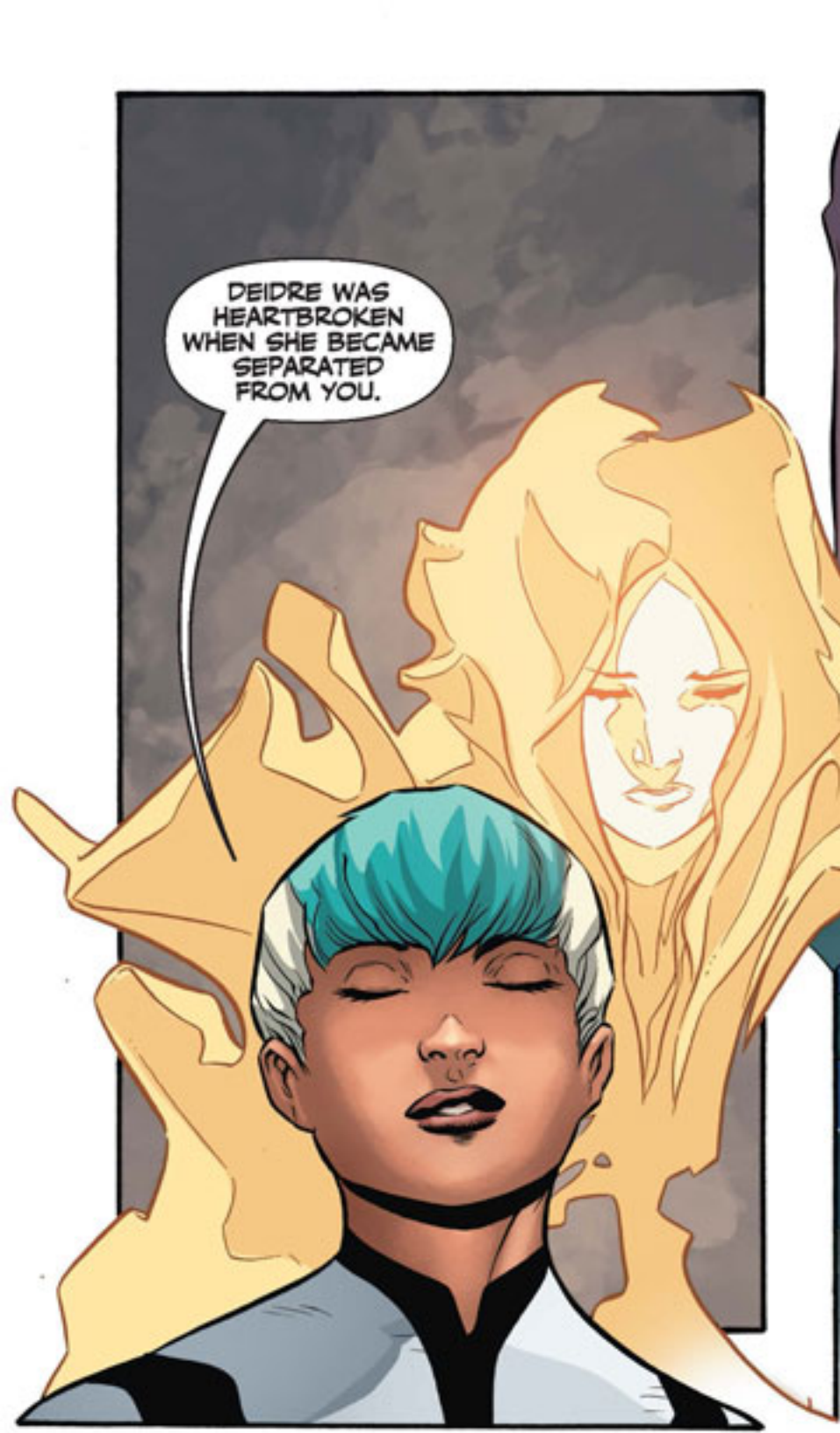
HNN...

DOCTOR?




I...SOMETIMES
THE PROCESS IS
JUST A BIT MORE
JARRING.

TELL ME.
WHAT DO YOU
DIVINE?




DEIDRE WAS
HEARTBROKEN
WHEN SHE BECAME
SEPARATED
FROM YOU.



"SHE WAITED FOR YOU TO
RETURN. PRAYED FOR IT. BUT
SHE NEVER BLAMED YOU.

"IN TIME, SHE LED A FULL LIFE.
SHE NEVER REMARRIED, BUT
SHE WASN'T ALONE, EITHER."



SHE UNDERSTANDS YOU HAD TO GO,
MR. DACIA. YOU WERE CALLED TO
A *HIGHER* PURPOSE. SHE BEARS NO
ANGER OR SADNESS FOR IT.

HER DESIRE
IS FOR YOU TO
HAVE A LIFE, AS
SHE DID.

SHE ALSO
SAYS SHE KNOWS
YOU BETTER THAN
ANY OTHER. SHE
SEES THE LOOK IN
YOUR EYES AND
UNDERSTANDS *WHY*
YOU CAME
TO ME.

YOU HAVE HER
PERMISSION.



I... DO?



DEIDRE...

MY WIFE...MY HEART.



THANK YOU, DOCTOR.



I WILL FOREVER BE IN YOUR DEBT.



...YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT MY ARMOR, YES?

PARDON?
"SENTIENT ALIEN HYBRID ORGANISM." THAT IS HOW THEIR TINKERERS DESCRIBE IT.



I'M AWARE. THE BRIEFING COLONEL CAPSHAW GAVE ME EXPLAINED IT ALL. AT LEAST AS BEST AS THEY COULD.

EVERYWHERE I GO--HERE ON EARTH OR FARAWAY LANDS--OTHERS FIGHT ME TO BE NEAR IT. TO CLAIM IT. IT IS A BURDEN AS MUCH AS A BOON.

IT'S QUITE A... REMARKABLE SPECIMEN.

YOU, I WILL ALLOW TO EXAMINE IT. AS A GESTURE OF... GRATITUDE FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

THE SCIENTIST IN ME HAS TO CONFESS, THE TEMPTATION IS DEFINITELY THERE.



BUT THEN THERE'S THE OTHER BIT. AND I THINK...

...MAYBE ONE HISTORY OF DEAD PEOPLE IS ENOUGH.



BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PAY ME BACK...

