

BOOK FOUR



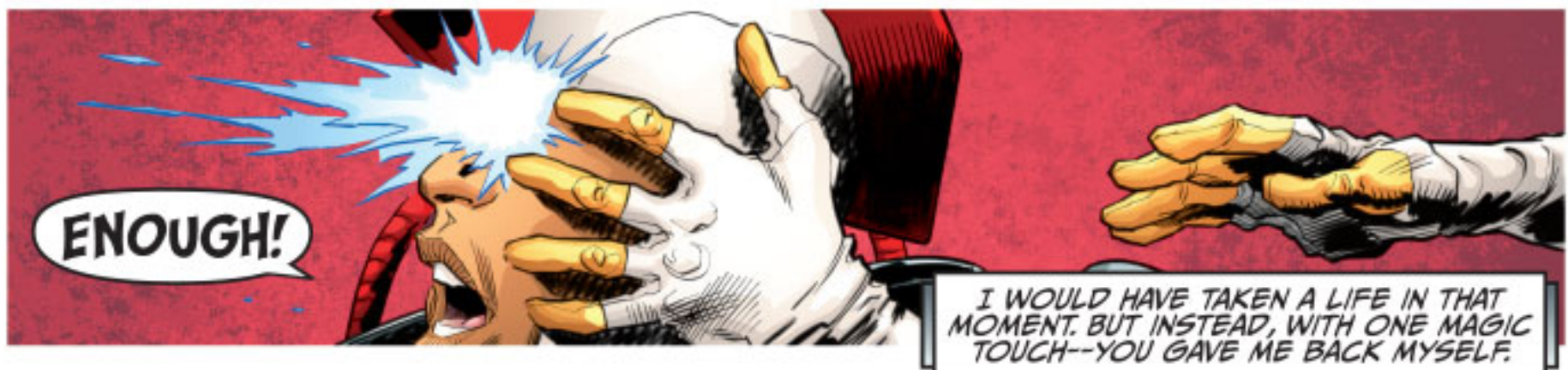
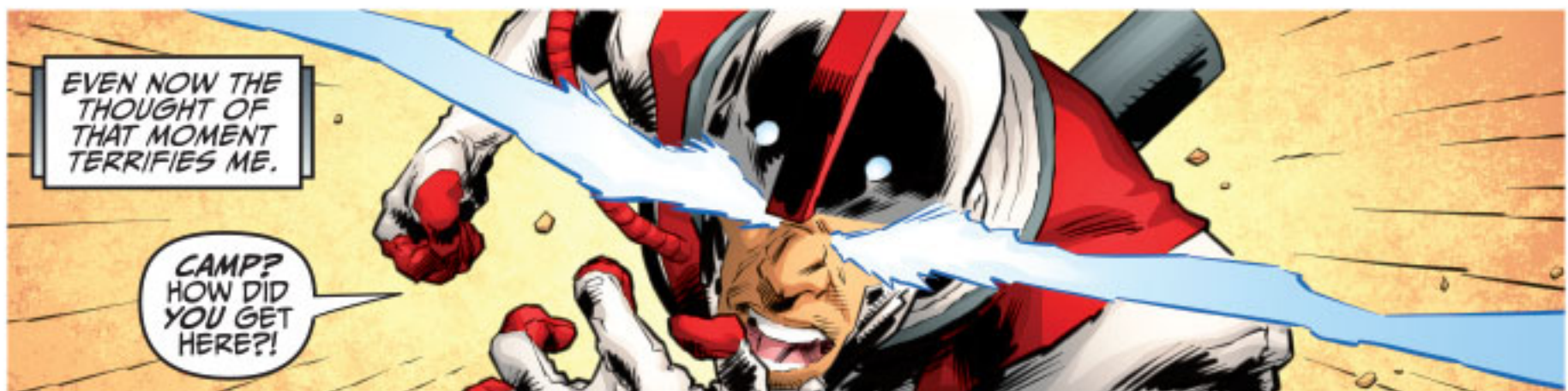
AT THE HEIGHT OF THE COLD WAR, THE SOVIET UNION -- DETERMINED TO WIN THE SPACE RACE AT ANY COST -- GREEN LIT A DANGEROUSLY ADVANCED MISSION, SENDING SEVERAL COSMONAUTS TO THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY. DEEP IN SPACE, THEY ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING UNKNOWN AND WERE IMBUED WITH GOD-LIKE POWERS OVER TIME AND SPACE. THEY RETURNED TO EARTH TO FIND THAT DECADES HAD PASSED, AND THE SOVIET UNION HAD COLLAPSED.

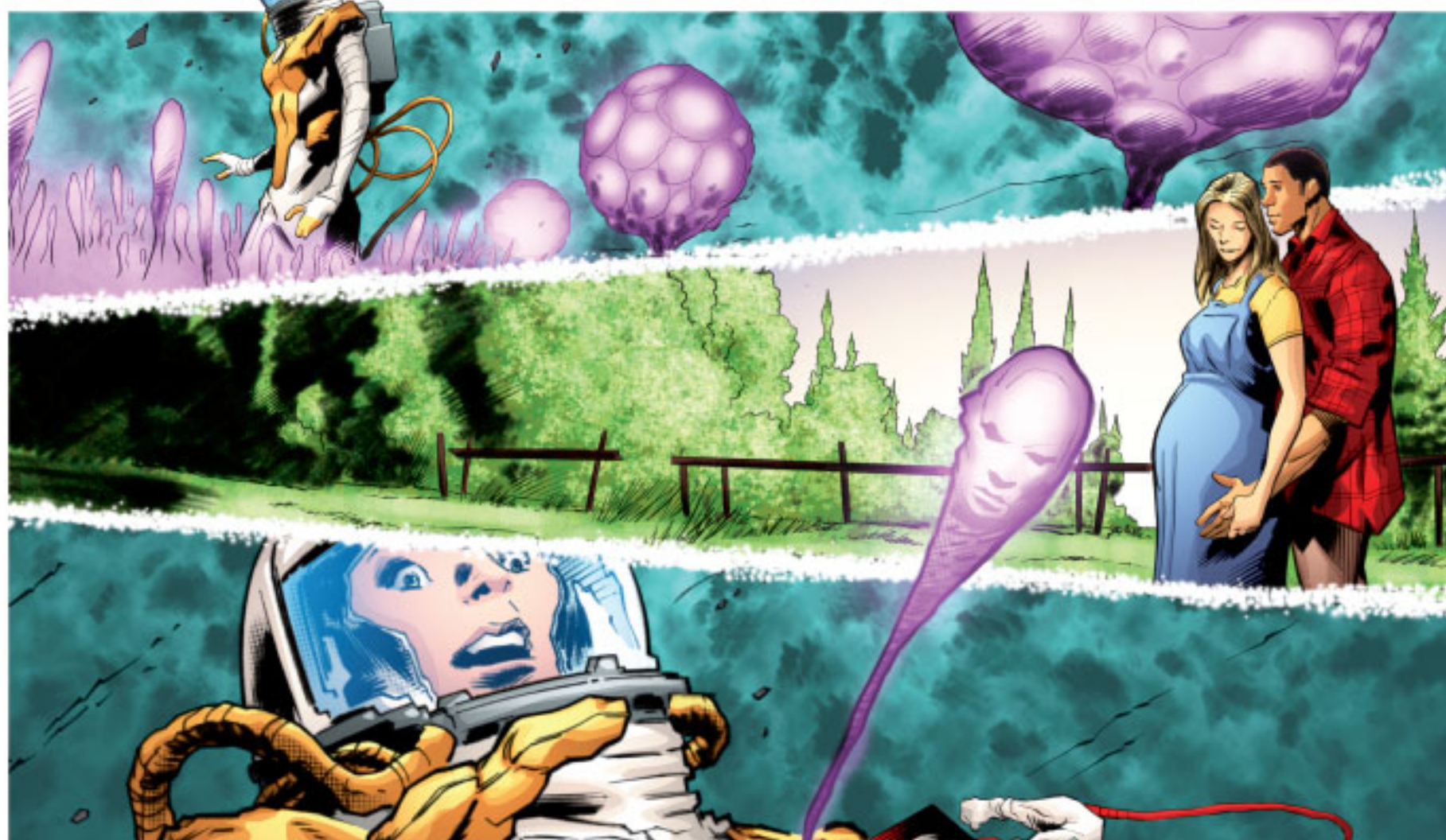
YEARS LATER, TWO OF THE COSMONAUTS — ABRAM AND MYSHKA — LIVE A QUIET LIFE WITH THEIR NEWBORN SON IN A REMOTE REGION OF RUSSIA. BUT WHEN STRANGE BEINGS FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY KIDNAP THEIR CHILD, THE COUPLE MUST TRAVEL TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE TO SAVE HIM. WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN THE UNKNOWN, THEY DISCOVER THE CHILD IS PART OF AN ANCIENT PROPHECY, AND THE VERY BALANCE OF THE ALIEN WORLD IS AT STAKE...

WRITER
PENCILLER
INKER
COLORIST
LETTERER
ASSISTANT EDITOR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
EDITOR
COVERS

MATT KINDT
TREVOR HAIRSINE
RYAN WINN
DAVID BARON
A LARGER WORLD STUDIOS
BENJAMIN PETERSON
DANNY KHAZEM
WARREN SIMONS
JELENA KEVIC-DJURDJEVIC
TOM MULLER
MATT KINDT
JEFFERY VEREGGE
TREVOR HAIRSINE WITH DAVID BARON







WHERE ARE WE?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



WE ARE TALKING, DAVID. WORDS. THIS IS WHAT WE BUILD OUR REALITY WITH. IDEAS. ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU JOURNEYED FROM EARTH FOR?

I'M TRYING TO SHOW YOU THAT WE HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF OUR LIVES IF WE WANT IT. LACK OF IMAGINATION IS ALL THAT LIMITS US.



MY EYES ARE OPENED! YOU WANT TO KEEP THIS ALL TO YOURSELF! ALL OF THIS POWER! THESE "IDEAS!"

MY SNIPER FIRED THE SHOT THAT OPENED A GATEWAY FOR ME. THE OBSERVER WAS AN UNFORTUNATE CASUALTY.



BUT I OPENED THE DOOR SO WE COULD ALL COME IN. YOU CAN'T STOP US. INFINITE KNOWLEDGE! POWER!

LISTEN TO ME, DAVID. THIS WAS ALWAYS HERE. ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

BUT TELL ME HOW DID YOU GET HERE? YOU GOT HERE WITH VIOLENCE.



YOU TOOK A LIFE. THAT IS NOT WHAT THIS PLACE IS ABOUT. THE UNKNOWN IS ABOUT BALANCE. IDEAS. IMAGINATION.

WHEN YOU TOOK THAT LIFE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THIS PLACE... YOU ENDED A LIFE THAT COULD HAVE IMAGINED COUNTLESS WORLDS. MANUFACTURE MILLIONS OF IDEAS.



ONE LIFE. EVERY LIFE ECHOES FOR GENERATIONS.

I KNOW THIS. YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW? I SEE THE PATTERNS! WHEN YOU CAME BACK TO EARTH YOU TOUCHED US ALL. WE ALL HAVE SOME OF WHAT YOU BROUGHT BACK.



WHERE I USED TO SEE PATTERNS IN ROCKS... TO CLIMB? I NOW SEE THOSE PATTERNS IN THE UNIVERSE.



AND MY PURPOSE? IT IS TO CLIMB! I AM SUPPOSED TO BE HERE. AND I AM SUPPOSED TO GO FURTHER.

THE OBSERVER? HIS LIFE? IT WAS A STEPPING STONE FOR ME. ONE IN A SERIES.



I SEE THE ENTIRE PATTERN LAID OUT. THE CHILD, MYSHKA... ALL OF YOU ARE ARRANGED WITH PURPOSE AND I SEE IT ALL! YOU ARE ALL ROCKS... STEPS FOR ME TO--

THE CHILD IS NOT A STEP FOR YOU. NONE OF US ARE. IT IS NOT MY PLACE. BUT I WILL LET MYSHKA GIVE YOU A GIFT. I AM SURE SHE WANTS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR ULTIMATE PURPOSE.



WHO ARE YOU TO DECIDE MY ULTIMATE PURPOSE?!



ME...?

