

BLUE KING



STUDIOS

December 7

\$2.95

CITY OF HEROES™



GET 'EM!!!

I'LL RESCUE
EDDIE!
THE REST OF
YOU...

TARGETS ACQUIRED

HELP...

DEADLY FORCE
AUTHORIZED

X-109





BOOOOF!

HOLY@#&!

WAAAA!

DEPLOY
MISSILES





HANG ON BUDDY. I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A SEC...

IT'S A TRAP... THEY RE-ROUTE THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TELEPORTERS... DOWNSTAIRS.

DON'T WORRY, WE FOUND YOU DIDN'T WE? WE CAN HANDLE THESE TIN CANS.



NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY WANTED YOU TO COME - ALL OF YOU! IT'S A TRAP.

WHAT?!

THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET UP... THEY KNEW YOU'D COME.



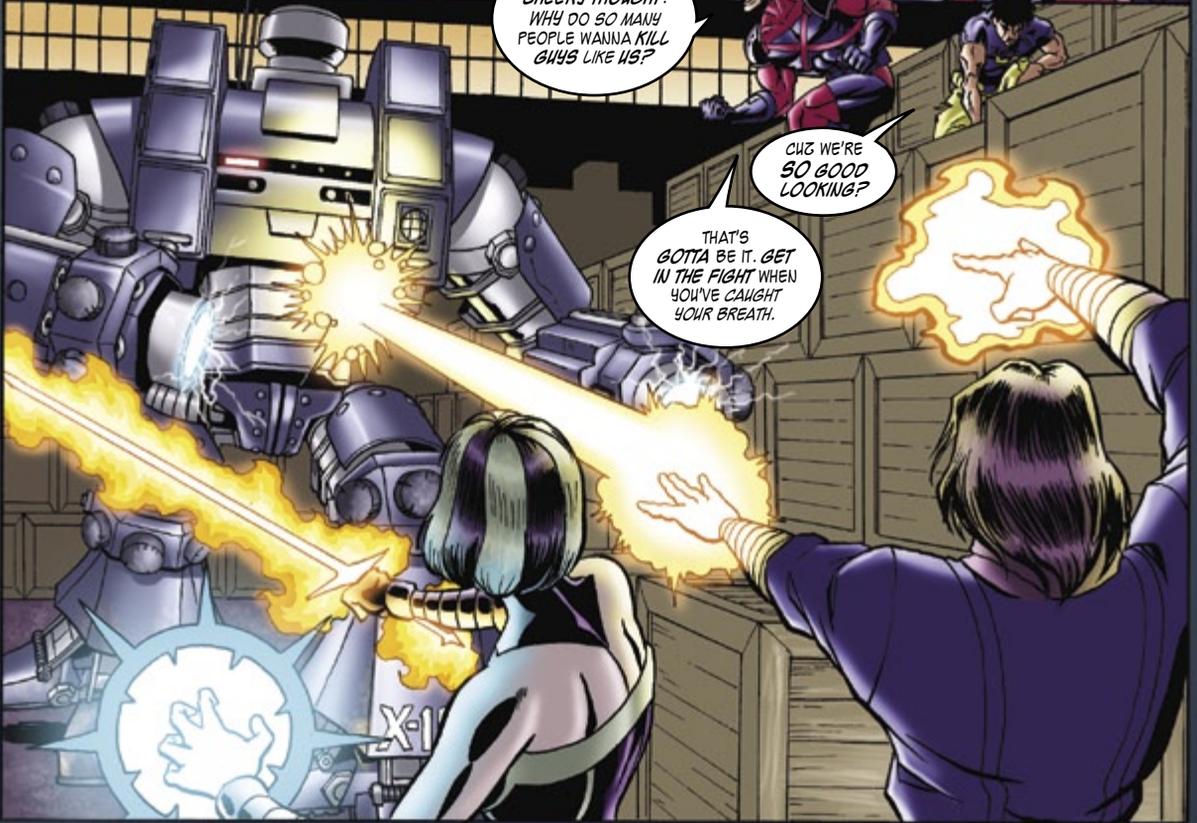
IS HE OK?

YEAH!

THEN STOP GABBING AND GET YOUR BUTTS INTO THE FIGHT!

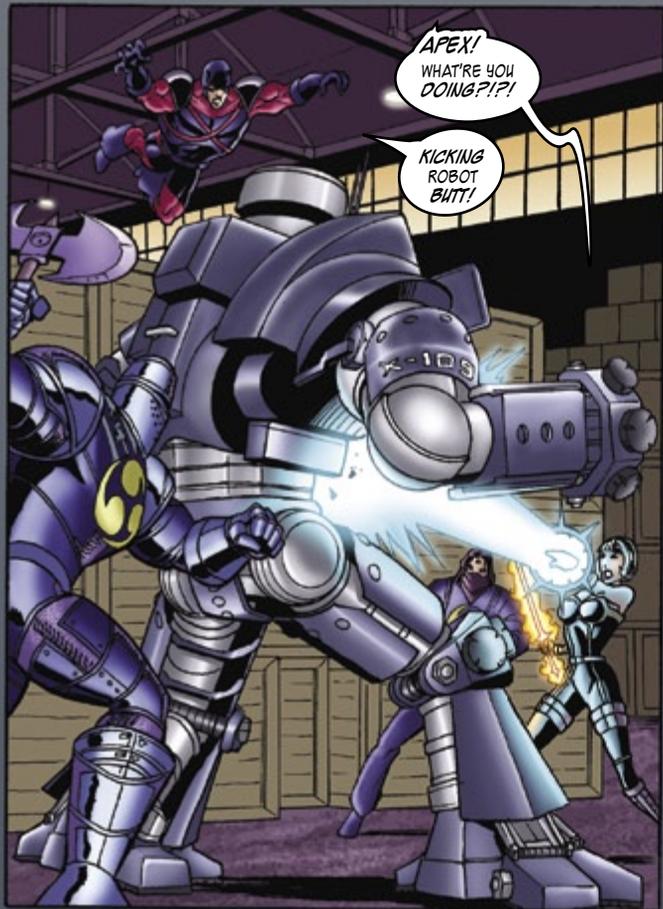
BE CAREFUL, MAN, THEY'RE DESIGNED TO KILL GUYS LIKE US.

THERE'S A CHEERY THOUGHT. WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE WANNA KILL GUYS LIKE US?



CUZ WE'RE SO GOOD LOOKING?

THAT'S GOTTA BE IT. GET IN THE FIGHT WHEN YOU'VE CAUGHT YOUR BREATH.

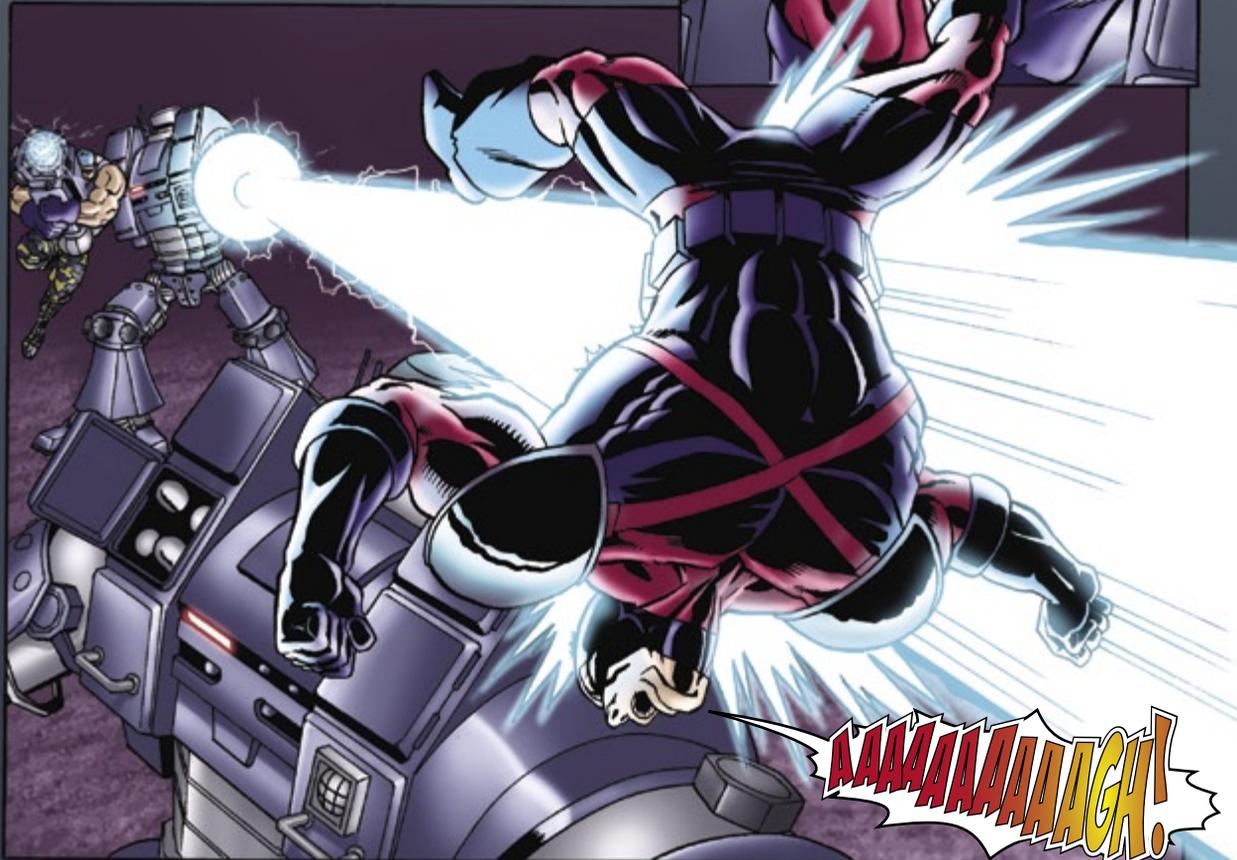


APEX!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?!?!

KICKING
ROBOT
BUTT!



THIS
MIGHT'VE
BEEN A BAD
IDEA...



AAAAAAGH!



SYSTEM INTEGRITY
COMPROMISED.

DON'T...

LET THEM...

TELEPORT
OUT...

IT'S A TRAP.

OK
APEX, IT'S
OK. I'M HERE
TO HELP
YOU.

WE GOT IT!

IT'S GOING DOWN!



DON'T LET IT GET BACK UP!

1.01.1 01 001!!!



IS HE OK?

HE'LL BE FINE. JUST A SECOND.

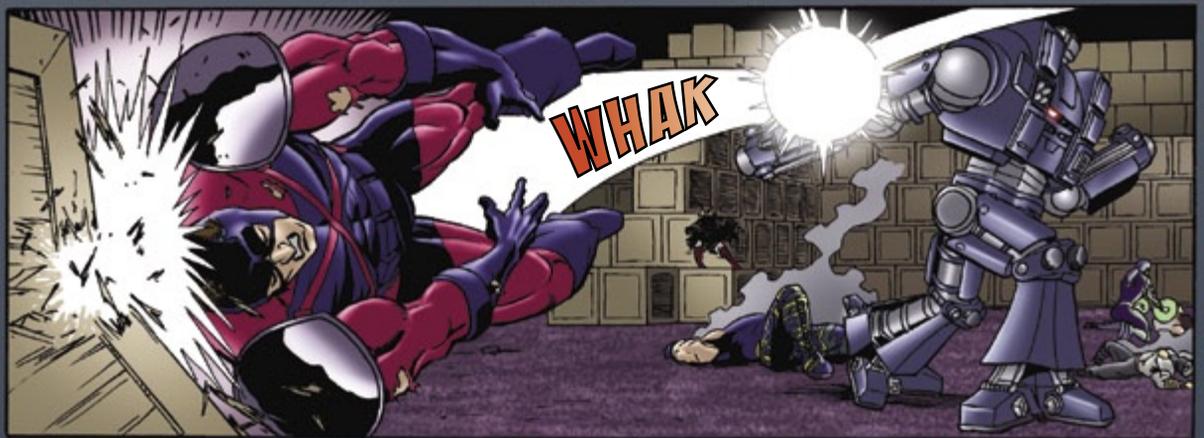


C'MON, TOUGH GUY, TIME TO GET BACK IN THE FIGHT. WE NEED YOU OUT THERE.



THANKS...I OWE YOU ONE.

NO PROBLEM. NOW COME HELP ME WITH THIS OTHER METAL BEASTIE.

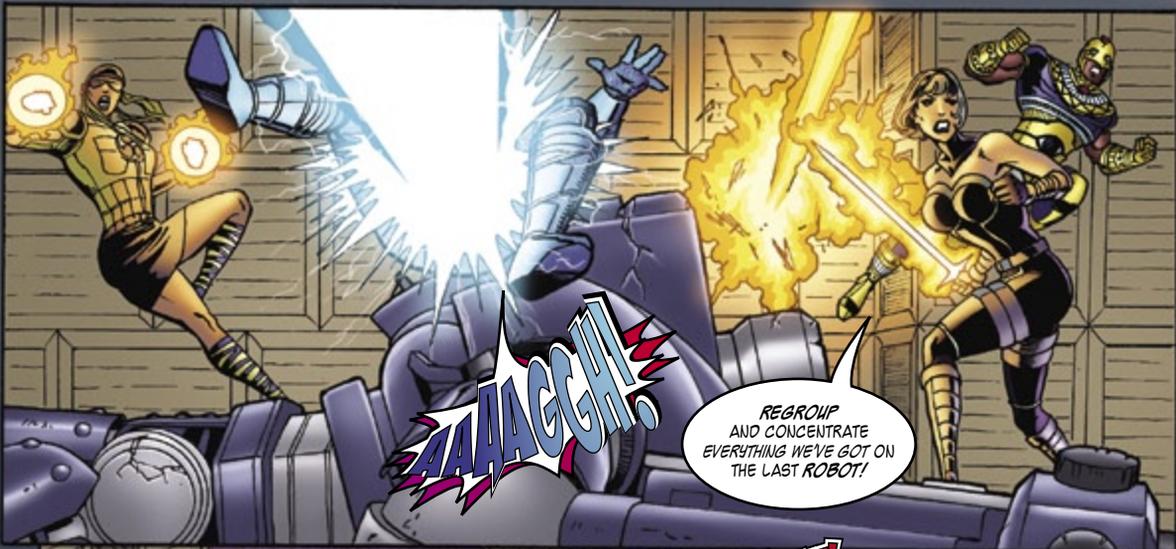




I'M GETTING DRAINED HERE - I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP HEALING PEOPLE.

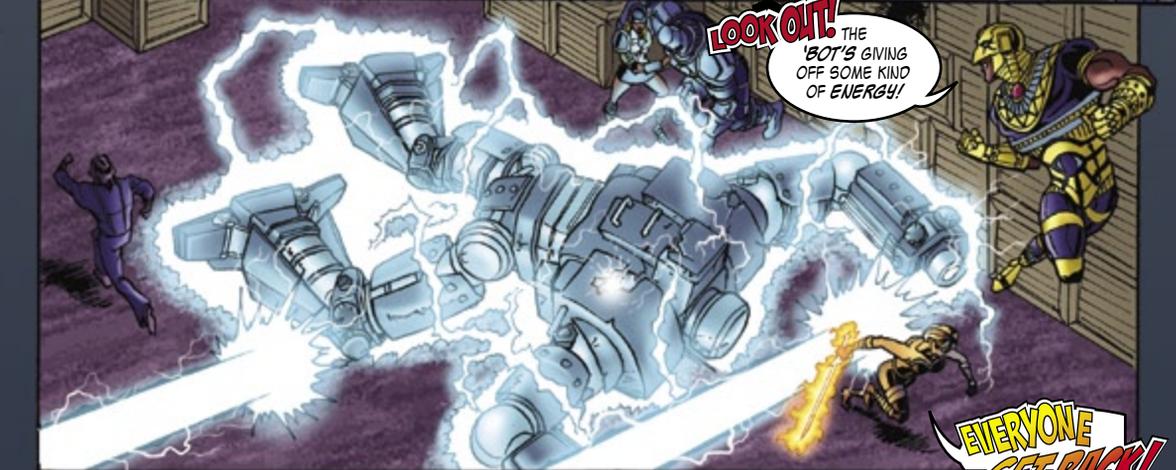
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP FIGHTING - THEY'VE GOT AT LEAST A DOZEN OTHER HEROES IMPRISONED BELOW.

WHAT?!?!



ZAAAGGH!

REGROUP AND CONCENTRATE EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT ON THE LAST ROBOT!



LOOK OUT! THE 'BOT'S GIVING OFF SOME KIND OF ENERGY!

EVERYONE GET BACK!



UP HERE,
GUYS!



WHERE'S
APEX?!?

I'M
NOT SURE...



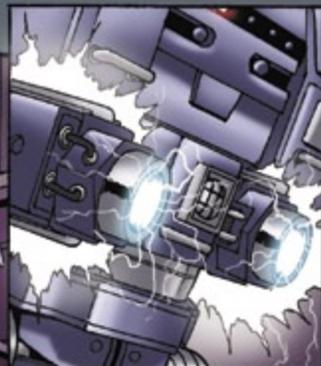
DID
ANYONE GET THE
LICENSE PLATE ON
THAT TRUCK?

HOLY HELL
THAT HURT.

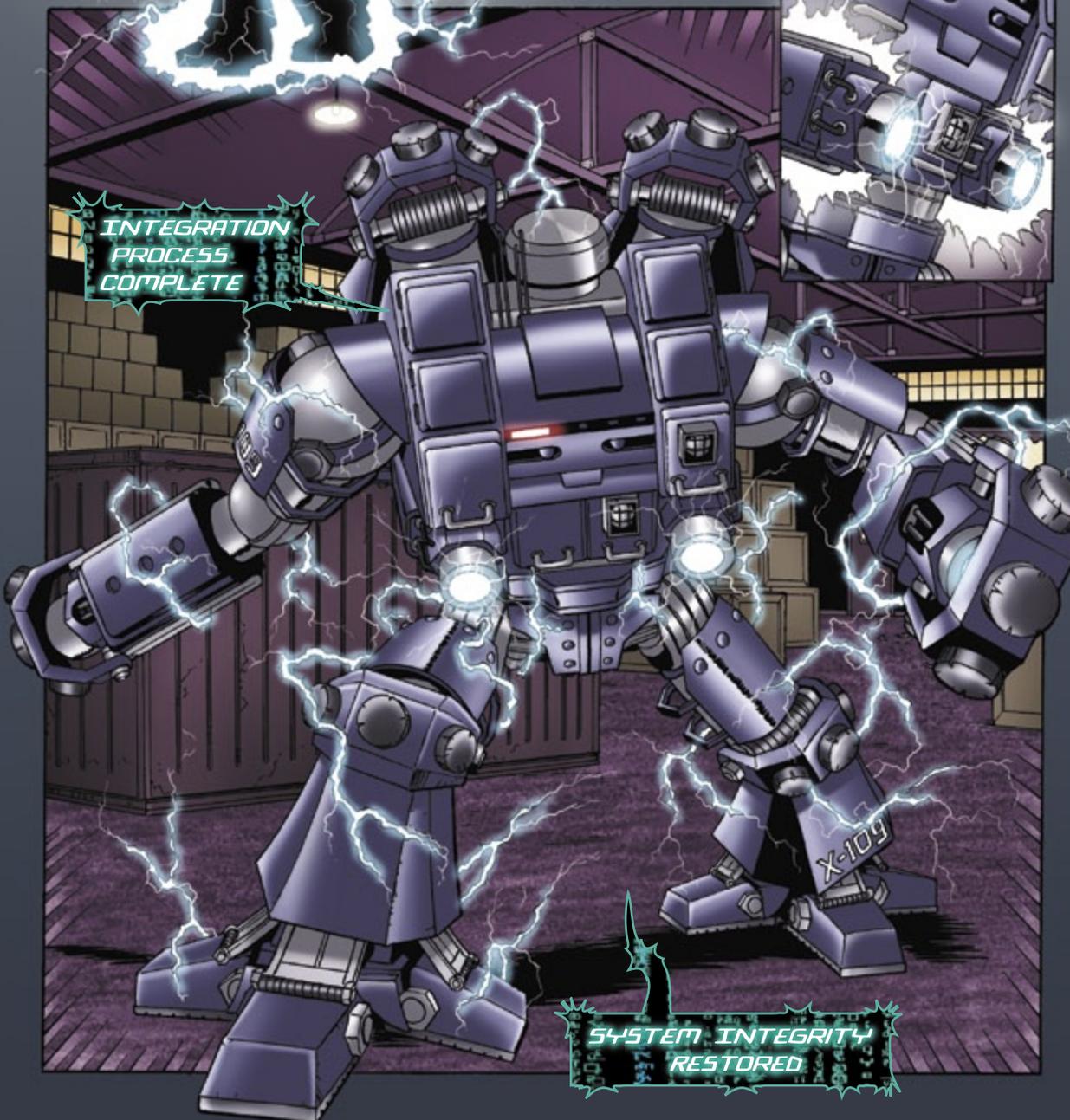


WHAT THE
HECK ARE THEY
DOING NOW?

INITIATE TITAN
CONFIGURATION



INTEGRATION
PROCESS
COMPLETE



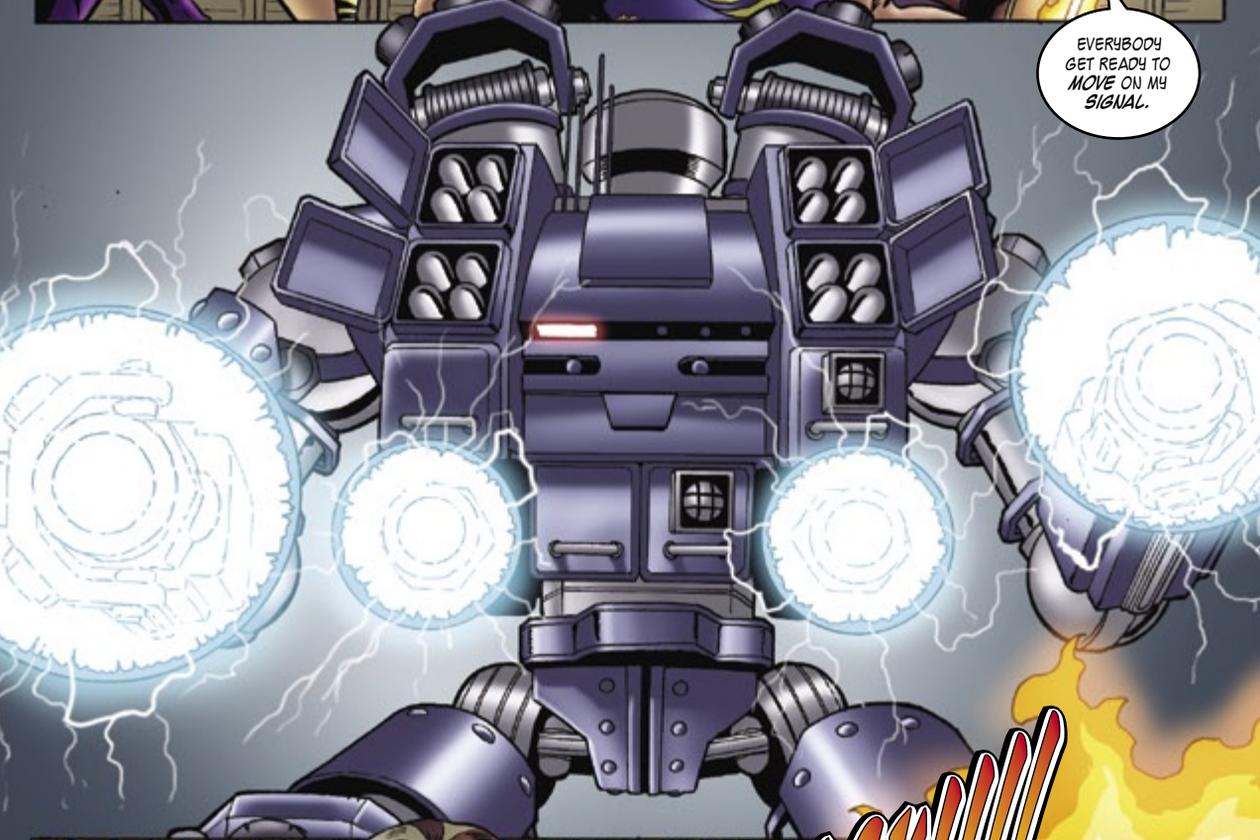
SYSTEM INTEGRITY
RESTORED

DID YOU KNOW THEY COULD DO THAT?



NO... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. BUT MY KID IS SURE GOING TO WANT ONE FOR CHRISTMAS!

EVERYBODY GET READY TO MOVE ON MY SIGNAL.



ATTACK!!!!





ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH!



ZZAT



VACUUM



NANN



THANKS! WE WERE WONDERING WHERE YOU WENT. GLAD YOU'RE BACK, BUT WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

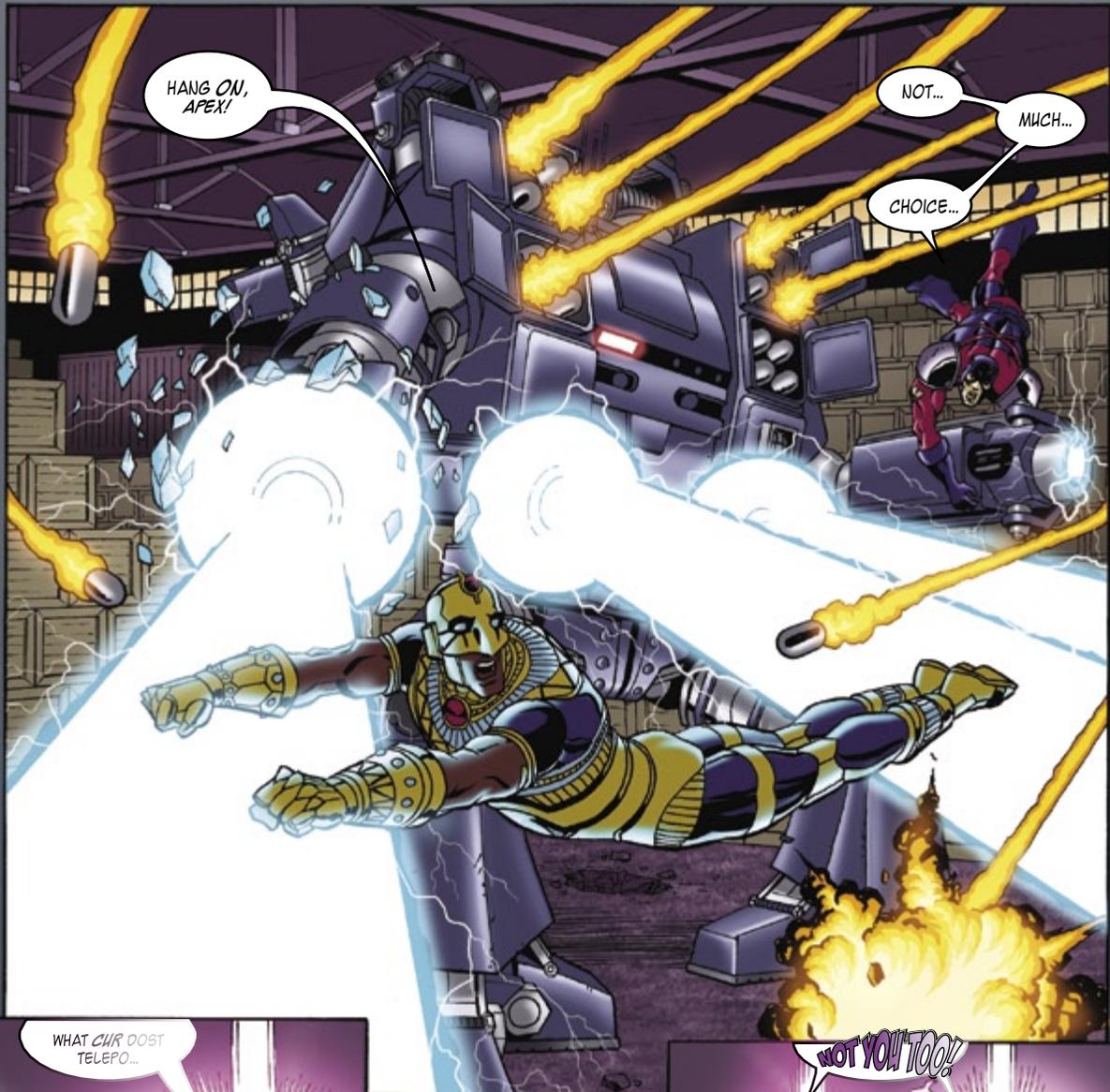
CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN. BUT WE NEED A PLAN.



OF COURSE!

I SHOULD'A THOUGHT OF THIS EARLIER.





HANG ON,
APEX!

NOT...

MUCH...

CHOICE...



WHAT OUR DOST
TELEPO...

HOLY SMOKES!

SIR ARCTIC!



WHAT'S THE BIG...

HEY! COME
BACK!



NOT YOU TOO!



EVERYONE KEEPS
DISAPPEARING!
THEY'RE BEING
TELEPORTED AWAY!

I'LL

DO

THEN WE
BETTER BEAT
THIS THING
QUICK!

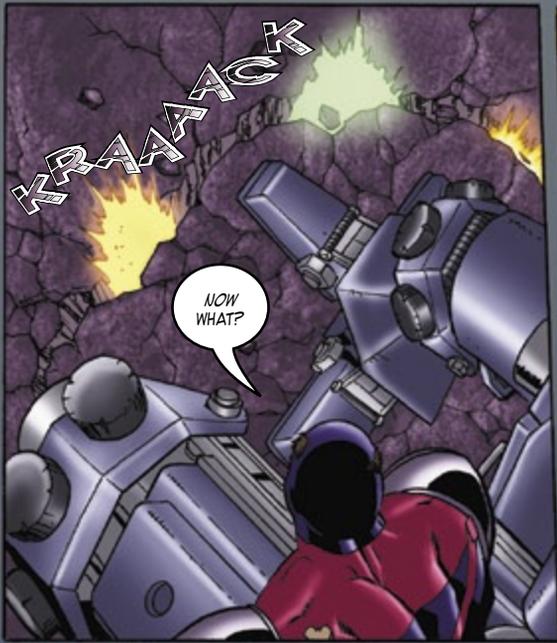
MY

BEST!

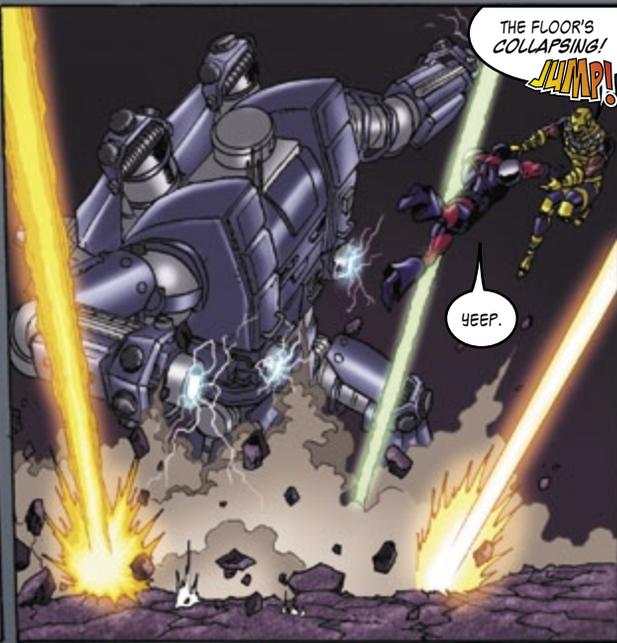


WHICH ISN'T
ENOUGH I
GUESS!

HEY!
WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
THE FLOOR?



NOW WHAT?



THE FLOOR'S COLLAPSING!
JUMP!

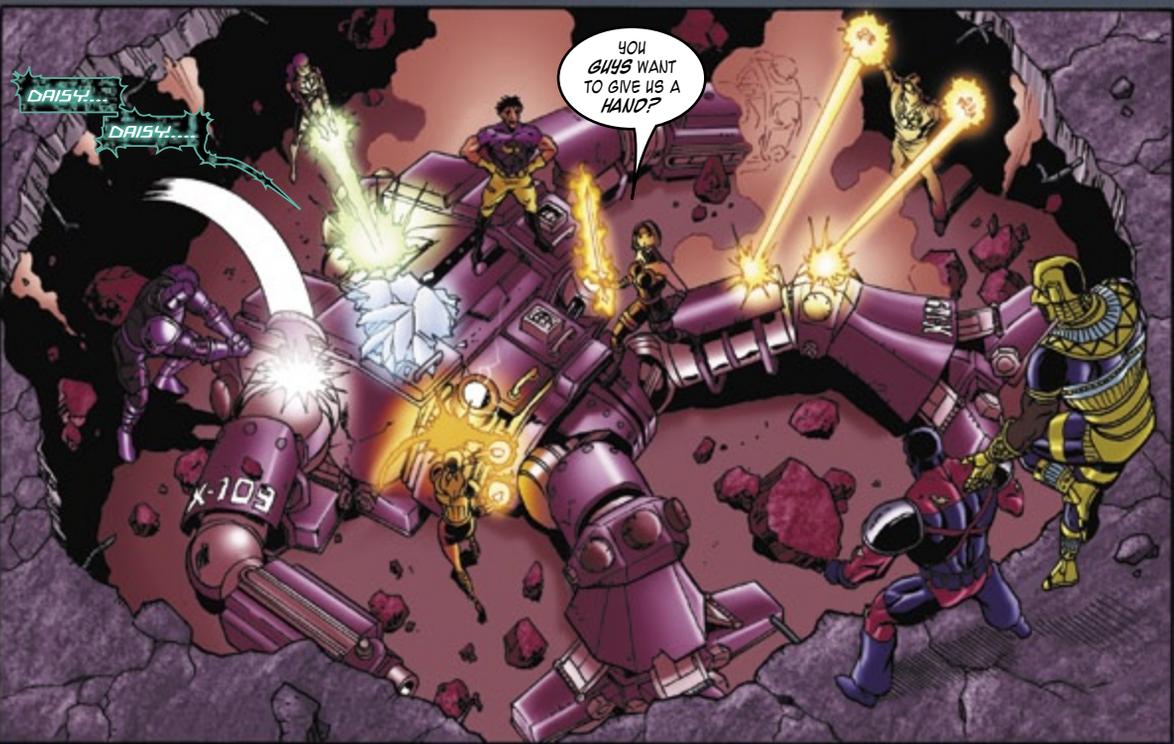
YEEP.



WOW!

DID YOU SAY "YEEP"?

I WAS STARTLED, OK?



DAISY...
DAISY...

YOU GUYS WANT TO GIVE US A HAND?

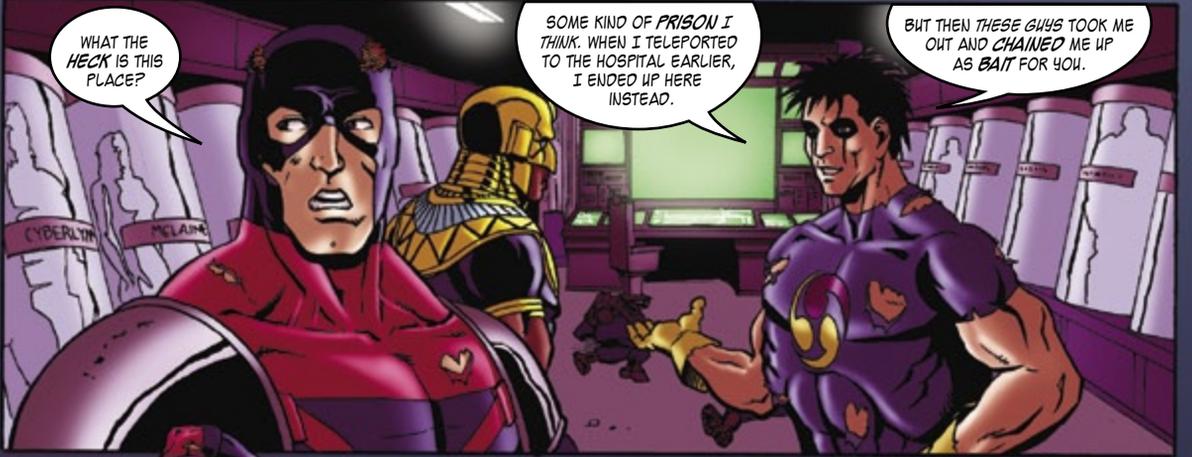


SO THIS WAS YOUR **BIG PLAN** HUH?

YEP!

I JUST **TELEPORTED** EVERYONE DOWN HERE AND WE **BLEW THE FLOOR** OUT FROM UNDER IT.

A **REMARKABLE STRATEGY.**



WHAT THE **HECK** IS THIS PLACE?

SOME KIND OF **PRISON** I THINK. WHEN I TELEPORTED TO THE HOSPITAL EARLIER, I ENDED UP HERE INSTEAD.

BUT THEN THESE **GUYS** TOOK ME OUT AND **CHAINED** ME UP AS **BAIT** FOR YOU.



WOW! HERO-IN-A-TUBE!

WEVE GOT TO GET THEM **OUT** OF THOSE THINGS!

WE WERE JUST GETTING TO THAT. **FIRST** WE HAD TO TAKE OUT THE **GUARDS**. THEN THE **FLOOR** UNDERNEATH OUR **GIANT ROBO-FRIEND** THERE.



HOLY COW... I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

THIS ONE HAS MY NAME ON IT ALREADY. WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



WE'RE LUCKY - EDDIE AND THE OTHERS BEAT THESE GUARDS DOWN BEFORE THEY COULD LOG OFF - THEIR SYSTEM'S WIDE OPEN.

THESE GUYS CALL THEMSELVES THE MALTA GROUP. THEY'VE GOT FILES ON EVERY HERO I'VE EVER HEARD OF.

INCLUDING ME.



YOU'LL BE OK. JUST BREATHE DEEP.

WHAT'S IN THE FILES? WHAT DO THESE GUYS WANT?

URRMRR



EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING'S IN THESE FILES. LOTS OF PERSONAL STUFF, SECRET IDENTITIES, AND MORE. STUFF NO ONE COULD KNOW WITHOUT A FIRST CLASS SPY ORGANIZATION AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

HEY GUYS, YOU NEED TO GET OVER HERE.

THERE'S SOMEONE YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO MEET.



APEX, MEET THE RED RAZOR.

YOU'RE NOT DEAD!

NOT YET ANYWAY. NO, BUT THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE.



"THESE MALTA GROUP BASTARDS KIDNAPPED ME RIGHT OUT OF THE TELEPORTATION STREAM AND BROUGHT ME HERE."

"THEY'VE BEEN INTERROGATING ME EVER SINCE."



"THEY PLANTED THE BODY AND MY DNA IN ORDER TO FRAME THE ARCANIST FOR MY MURDER."

"AND ONCE HE GOT CONVICTED, THEY WERE GOING TO SNATCH HIM TOO, MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE'D ESCAPED FROM PRISON."



BUT WHY? WHY FRAME THE ARCANIST? WHY LURE US HERE?

IT'S WHAT THE MALTA GROUP DOES. THEY REPROGRAM HEROES FOR THEIR OWN SINISTER PURPOSES. DURING THE COLD WAR THEY USED OUR KIND AS SPIES AND UNWILLING SOLDIERS.



THEY BLACKMAIL, KIDNAP, OR TRICK US INTO DOING WHAT THEY WANT. THEY EVEN MANAGED TO MAKE YOU GUYS BREAK THE LAW AND GOT YOU TO COME HERE WHERE THEY COULD TRAP YOU.

EVERYONE WOULD'VE ASSUMED YOU'D GONE WRONG.



THEY PLAYED US ALL FROM THE BEGINNING.

YEP, THEY'RE BASTARDS THAT WAY. BUT WE BEAT 'EM THIS TIME, AND THAT'S ALL WE CAN ASK ANY GIVEN DAY.

I GUESS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST PART IS?



NOW WE HAVE TO TURN OURSELVES INTO THE POLICE FOR BREAKING OUT OF JURY DUTY.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU.

I'M ALIVE RIGHT? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ON JURY DUTY IN THE FIRST PLACE!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG!

NEXT MONTH: "TRAINING DAY"