

F O L K T A L E S



COMIC REPUBLIC

VOL.  
1

# IRETI

BIDEMI



**BALOGUN  
ADELEYE  
IKECHUKWU**



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**LET'S GO**

F O L K T A L E S

# IRETI

BIDEMI

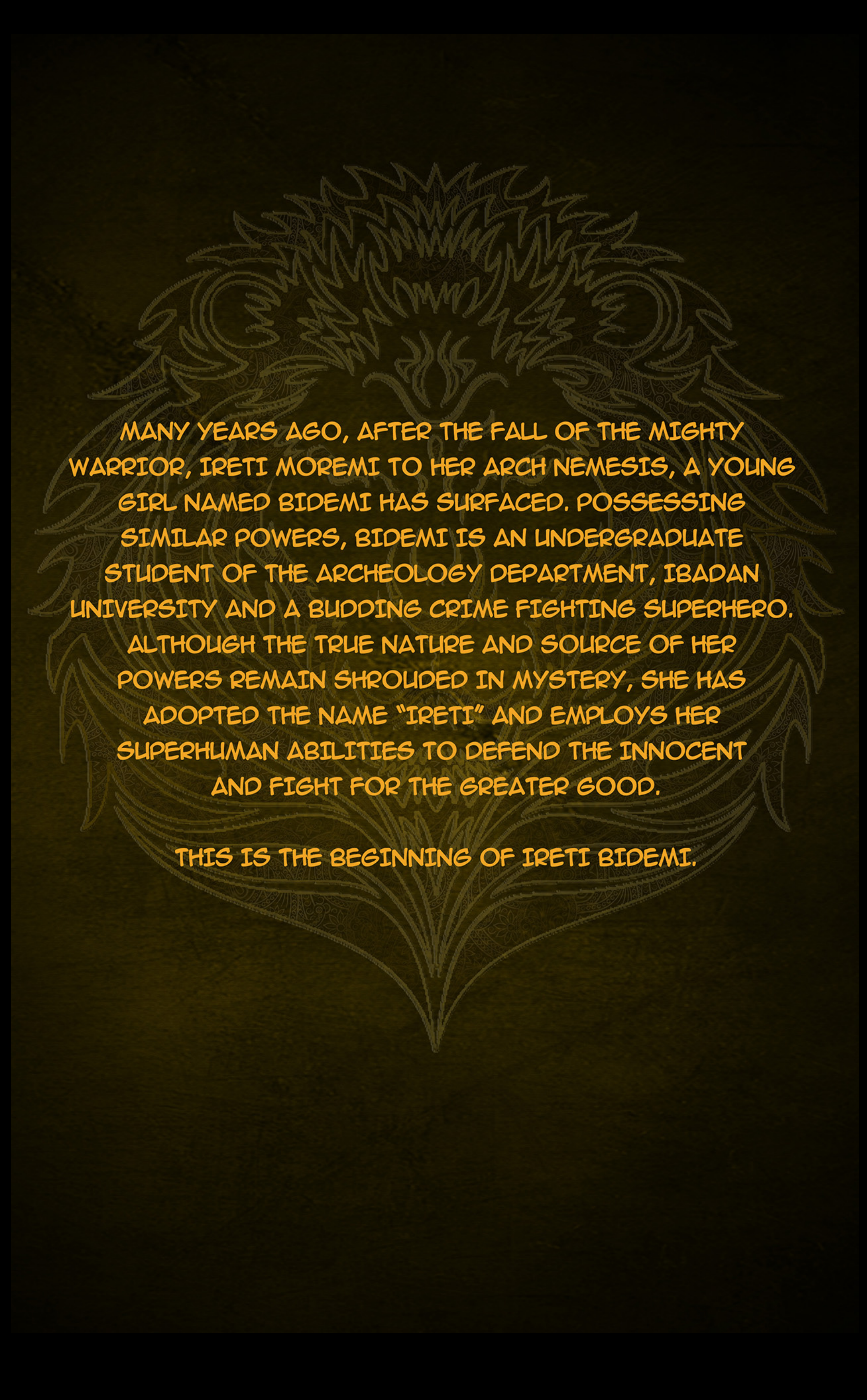
COMIC REPUBLIC

VOL.  
1

**BALOGUN  
ADELEYE  
IKECHUKWU**







MANY YEARS AGO, AFTER THE FALL OF THE MIGHTY WARRIOR, IRETI MOREMI TO HER ARCH NEMESIS, A YOUNG GIRL NAMED BIDE MI HAS SURFACED. POSSESSING SIMILAR POWERS, BIDE MI IS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OF THE ARCHEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, IBADAN UNIVERSITY AND A BUDDING CRIME FIGHTING SUPERHERO. ALTHOUGH THE TRUE NATURE AND SOURCE OF HER POWERS REMAIN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY, SHE HAS ADOPTED THE NAME "IRETI" AND EMPLOYS HER SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES TO DEFEND THE INNOCENT AND FIGHT FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF IRETI BIDE MI.

# IRETI

BIDEMI

CREATED BY MICHAEL BALOGUN

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COMIC  
REPUBLIC™



CHAPTER 2:  
A HERO'S BIRTH

"DEEP IN THOUGHTS..."  
- BIDE MI

LAGOS, NIGERIA.

"ONE YEAR AGO"

MARCH 25, 12:30PM

COME ON!  
COME ON...

ARRHHH! COME ON,  
COME ON...

...YESS! TWENTY POINTS  
IN THE BAG... I'M STILL A  
BOSS AT THIS PARKOUR  
GAME. HE-HE!

LEVENTIS!  
UNDER BRIDGE!  
ONIKAN!  
TBS--

\*ONIKAN O  
WA O!

FINALLY, THE MUSEUM...



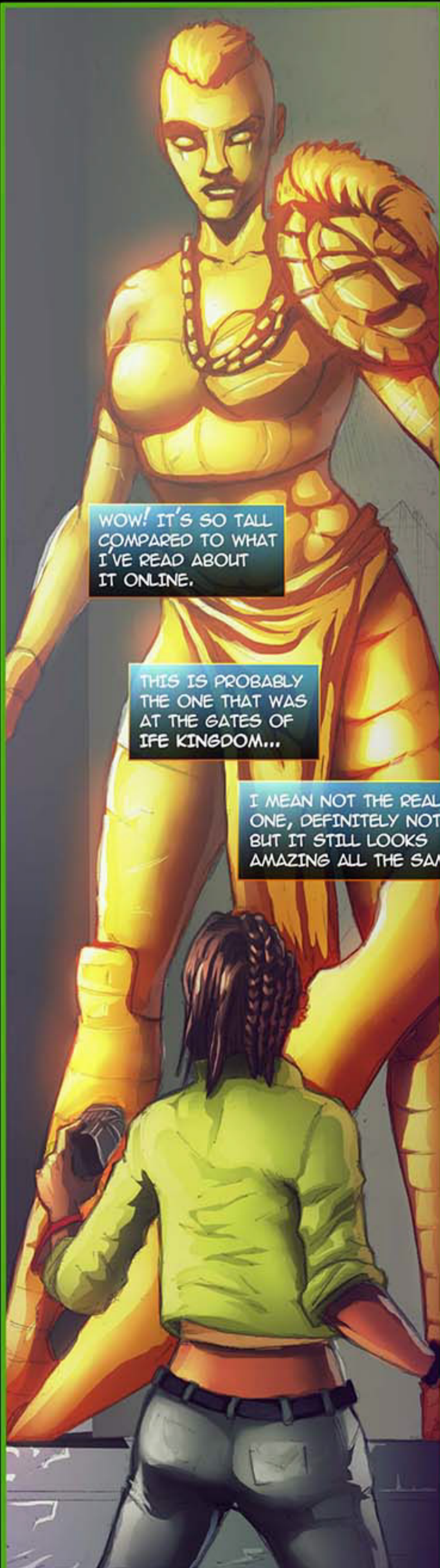
NATIONAL MUSEUM, LAGOS.

...I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO COME HERE.

GOOD THING I BROUGHT OUT MY CAMERA TODAY...

I'LL GET TO TAKE PHOTOS OF THE STATUE OF THE LEGENDARY IRETI...

THIS SHOULD BE FUN.



WOW! IT'S SO TALL COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE READ ABOUT IT ONLINE.

THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONE THAT WAS AT THE GATES OF IFE KINGDOM...

I MEAN NOT THE REAL ONE, DEFINITELY NOT. BUT IT STILL LOOKS AMAZING ALL THE SAME.



EXCUSE ME YOUNG LADY! TAKING PHOTOS OF ITEMS IN THIS MUSEUM IS PROHIBITED.



OH MY... I DIDN'T KNOW--

DID YOU NOT READ THE SIGN THAT SAYS "NO PICTURES"?

I'M SO SORRY SIR, I JUST REALLY WANTED A PICTURE OF THIS STATUE FOR MY COLLECTION...



...BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANY GOOD ONES ONLINE...



...SO I CAME TO GET ONE FOR MYSELF. I'M REALLY SOR--



HA-HA! RELAX I'M JUST KIDDING. YOU NEED TO HAVE SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE, PRICELESS.

PLEASE BY ALL MEANS, TAKE ALL THE PICTURES YOU WANT... JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T BREAK ANYTHING.



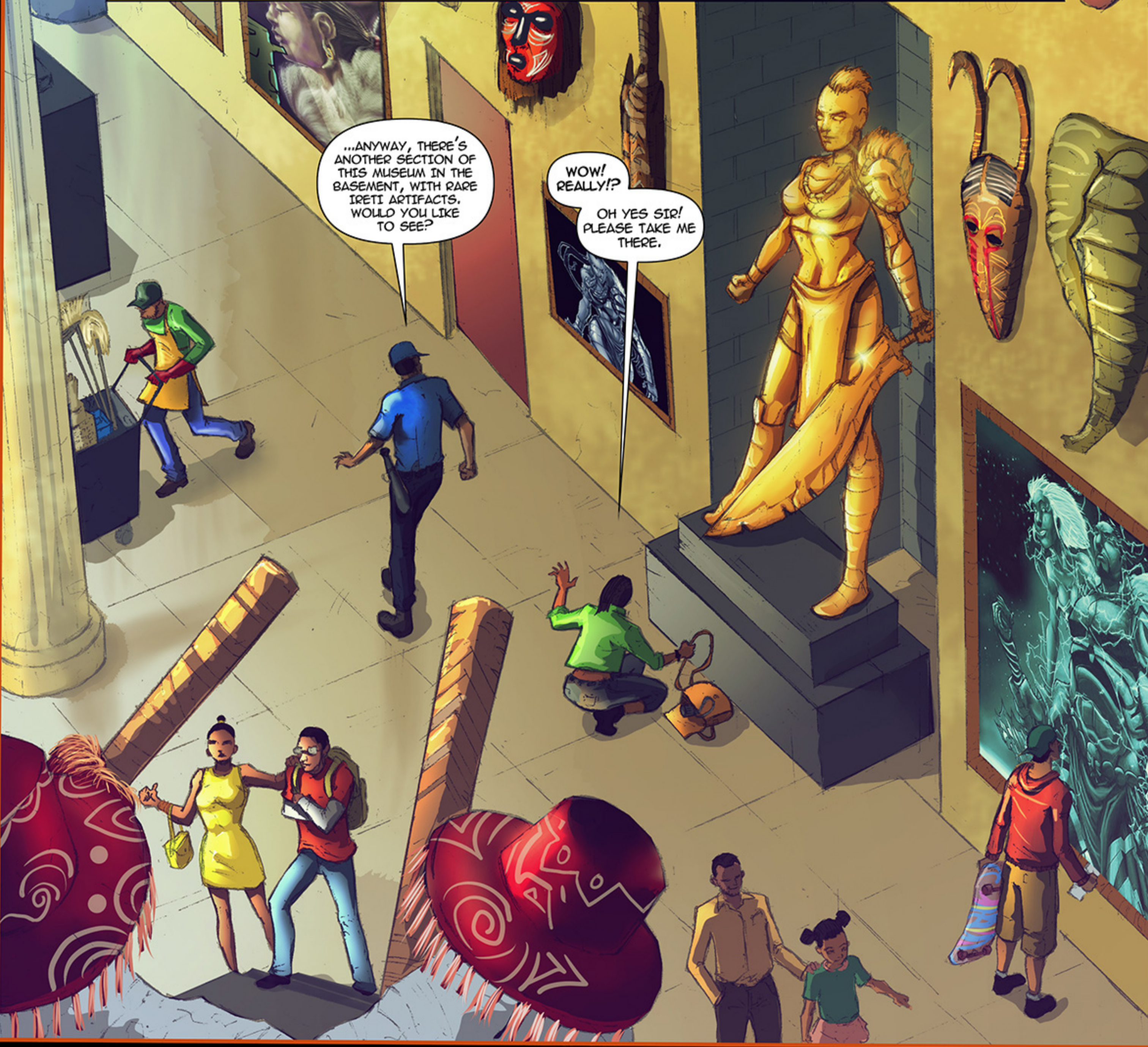
SPEW! OK SIR, I WON'T BREAK ANYTHING.

...YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT IT EVER SINCE YOU GOT HERE.

GOOD. SO WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS STATUE ANYWAY?

HMMM! I SEE...

WELL, I'M JUST REALLY DRAWN TO HER, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY EXACTLY.



...ANYWAY, THERE'S ANOTHER SECTION OF THIS MUSEUM IN THE BASEMENT, WITH RARE IRETI ARTIFACTS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

WOW! REALLY!?

OH YES SIR! PLEASE TAKE ME THERE.



RIGHT THIS WAY, MISS...?

BIDEMI, MY NAME IS BIDEMI.

OKAY THEN, BIDEMI... RIGHT THIS WAY.

NATIONAL MUSEUM



WHOA! ARE WE GOING DOWN ALL THOSE STAIRS?

YES WE ARE. REMEMBER I SAID THE OTHER SECTION WAS LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT.

OH! I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE BASEMENT...

I WAS JUST HOPING THAT THERE'LL BE LIKE AN EXPRESS ELEVATOR TO TAKE US ALL THE WAY DOWN.

HMM! FUNNY YOU.

NO, REALLY, I'M SERIOUS.

SURE YOU ARE.

YOU KNOW... LIKE HOW THEY USUALLY ARE IN MOVIES?

MMHMM!

SIGH WHERE IS YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE?

TRY TO KEEP UP, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

I'M SADIQ BY THE WAY.

YEA I KNOW, I READ YOUR NAME TAG ALREADY.

# MIGHT OF GUARDIAN PRIME

COMIC REPUBLIC

#1



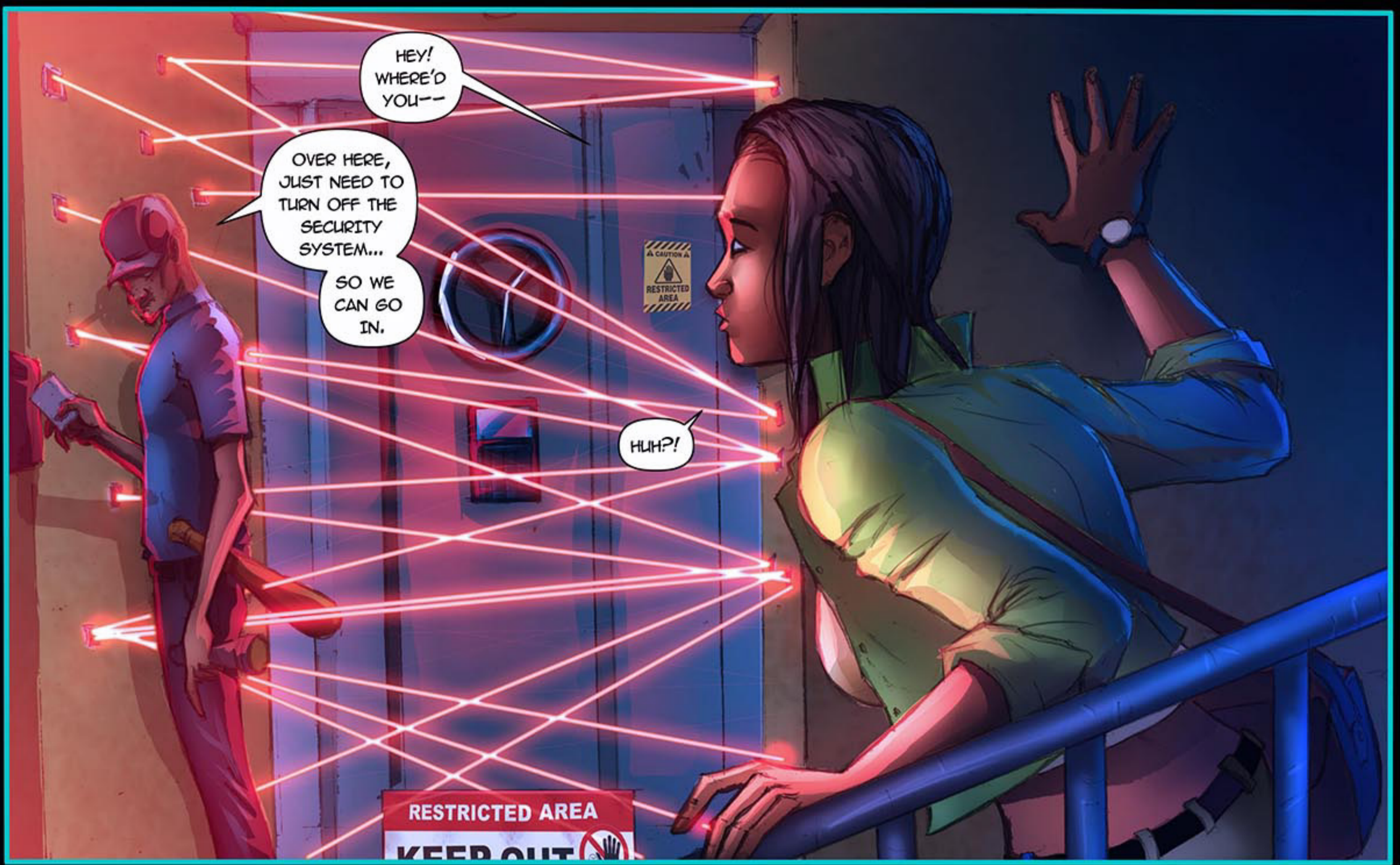
MAX!

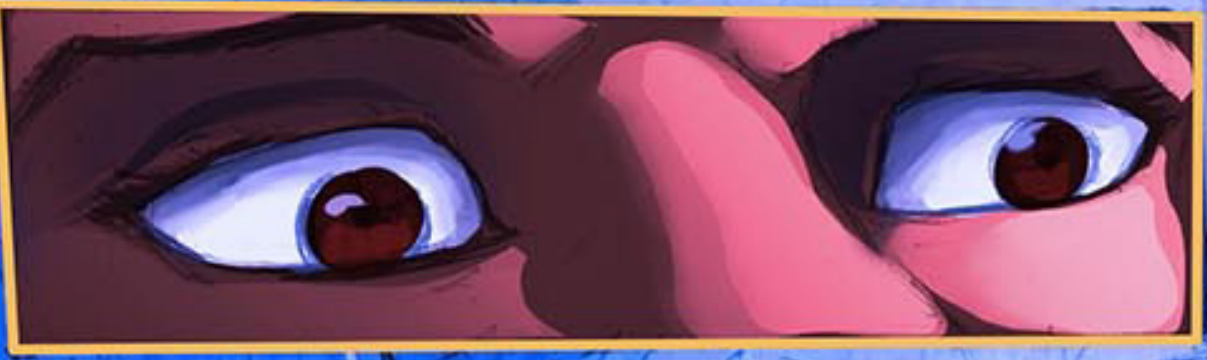


WALE  
STANLEY  
MAX



October  
6





...FOOTSTONE WITH A PLACK ON IT...

...ONE HAND ON HER SIDE LIKE AS IF SHE'S HOLDING A STAB WOUND...  
HMM!

...AND THAT INSCRIPTION ENGRAVED ON THE PLACK...

...IT LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES IN ALL THE BOOKS I'VE READ...  
HMM!

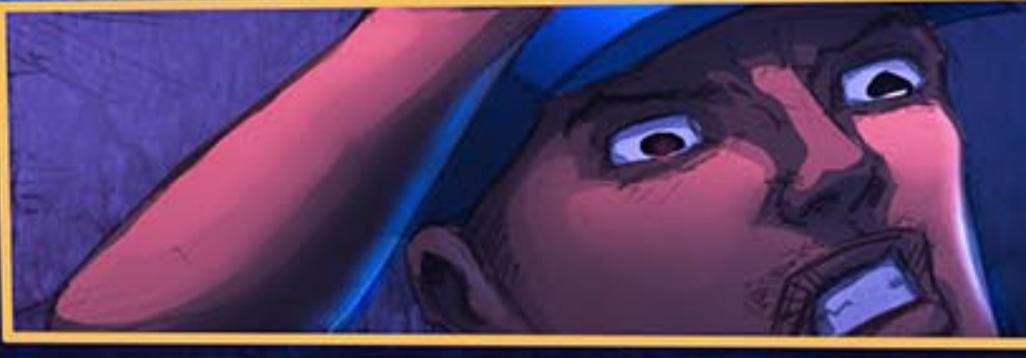
ACCORDING TO THE BOOKS, THE INSCRIPTION IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME SORT OF INCANTATION, WRITTEN IN AN UNKNOWN LANGUAGE.

COULD THIS BE IT? COULD THIS BE THE ORIGINAL STONE CORPSE OF IRETI MOREMI?  
HMM!

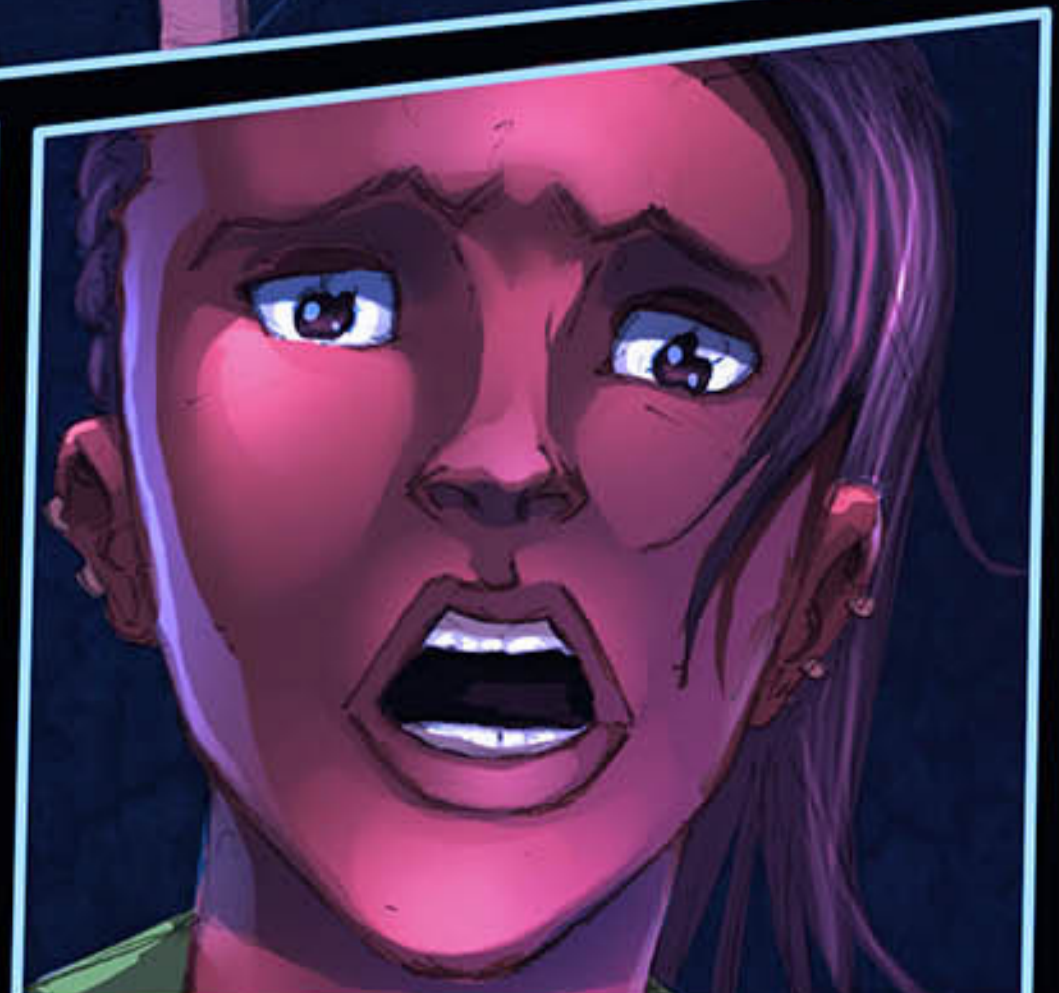
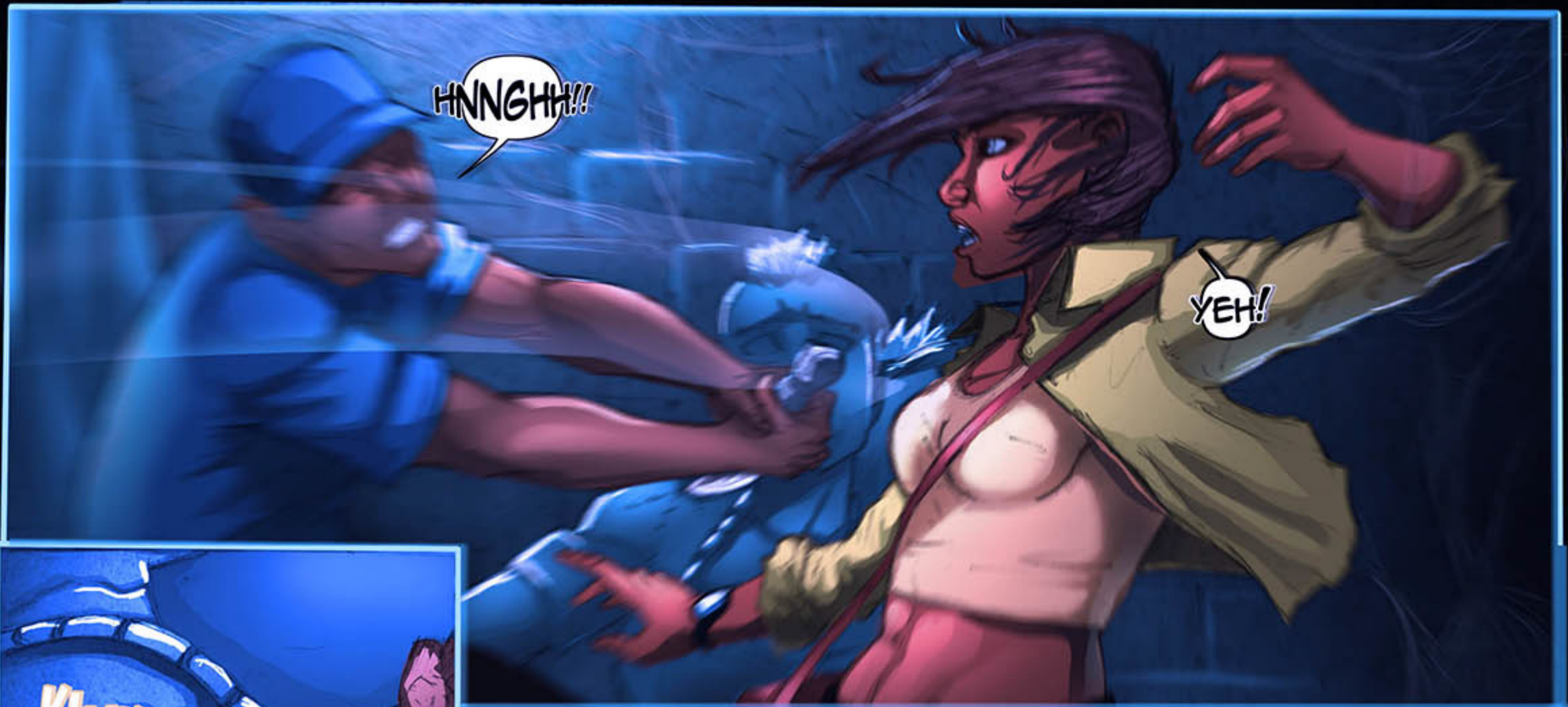


YOU KNOW, BIDEMI, EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID SO FAR IS VERY CORRECT...

...AND YES, THIS IS IRETI MOREMI'S ORIGINAL STONE CORPSE...



WHAT?!





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- Aneesh Nair  
(GM of Aviva Industries Nigeria).





GRAHHH!

GR-AAH!

SNICTH!  
SNICTH!

...AND NOW YOU MUST DIE!

OH GOD!



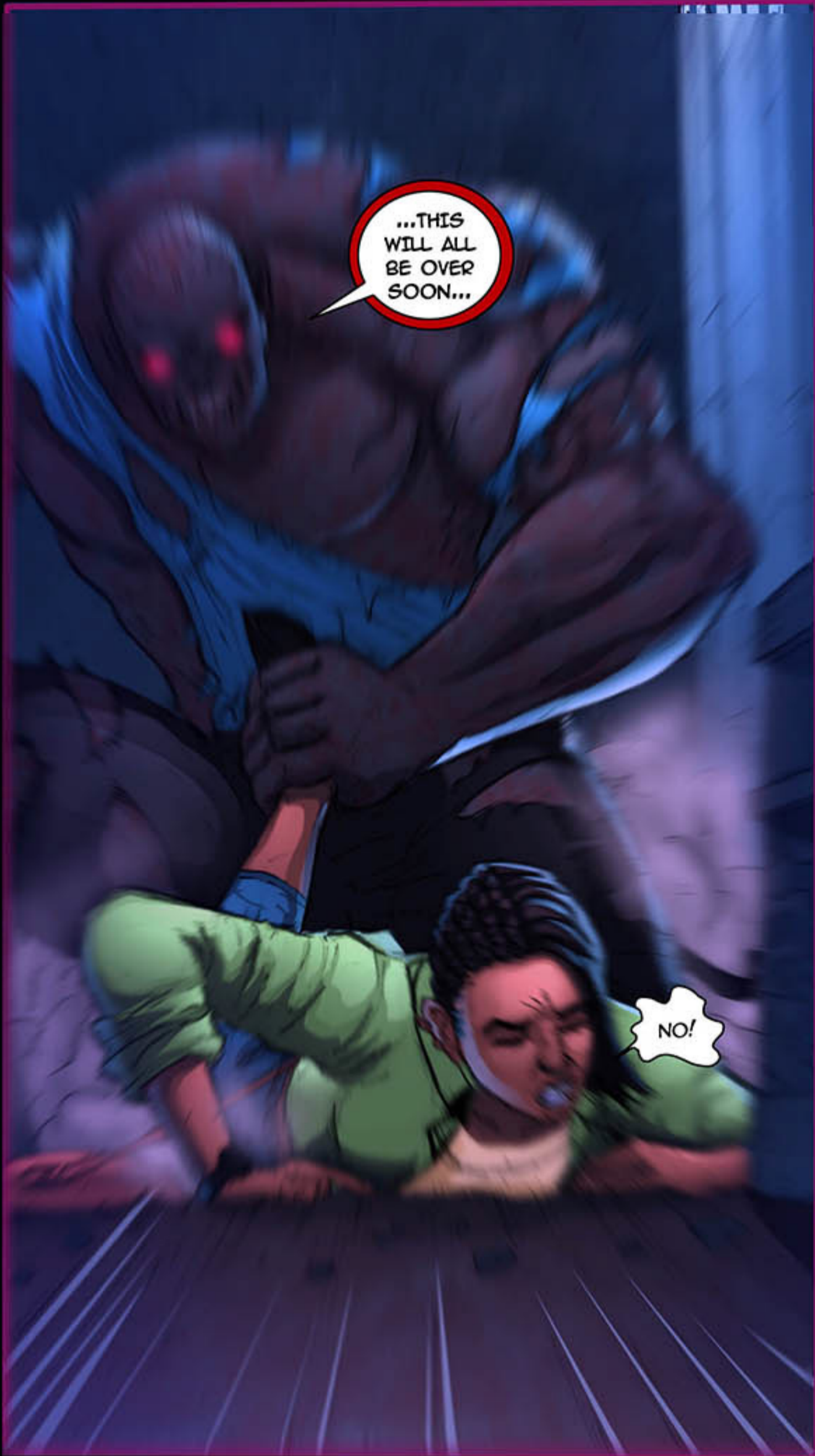


CAN'T-- CAN'T MOVE. I THINK MY BACK IS-- IS BROKEN...

OH, NO NEED TO STRUGGLE...

HNNN...

...IT-- IT HURTS SO BAD...



...THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON...

NO!



...AND YOU'LL BE RELINQUISHED WITH YOUR ANCESTORS...

...DAD, HE WARNED ME ABOUT COMING-- COMING TO LAGOS... "WEIRD THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN IN LAGOS", HE SAID...

BUT I-- I DIDN'T LISTEN... I NEVER LISTEN TO HIS-- HIS WARNINGS...

NO!  
NO!  
NO!

I WISH YOU-- YOU WERE HERE RIGHT NOW, DAD.



I WISH--



<--EHS SI PHOE,EHS SI TELIH...>



<...VERWOHSVEO SI LBEA OT DREA HTIS CNAINTAOINT, SI EDEMED YTRWHO NDA LILW EB DTGANRE ERH TEMIH...>

NETI MOREMI 1800-1851

\*INCANTATION



< I AEHV DREA HTIS CNAINAOINT... I MA YTRWHO, I MA TORS6N... >

< I MA A TANCENSED FO HTE TEARE NOA T6YMIH RRROIWA... >



< I MA HTE ENW GREINRB OF PEHO... >

RESTRICTED AREA  
KEEP OUT



< I MA... >  
**TIREI**

\* < INCANTATION >

DO NOT BE AFRAID, ABIDEMI.

WHO-- WHO'S THERE? WHERE AM I?

I AM THE LIGHT OF HOPE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW AM I HERE? HOW ARE YOU--

--OH NO, AM I DEAD? DID THAT MONSTER KILL ME?

NO! BIDEMI, YOU ARE NOT DEAD...

EVIL IS RISING AND ONLY YOU CAN STOP IT...

WHAT?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU INVOKED THE RITE OF VIVICATION, BECAUSE YOU ARE WORTHY...

WORTHY? HOW? WORTHY OF WHAT?

YOU INVOKED THE POWERS OF YOUR BLOODLINE BECAUSE YOU ARE HER DESCENDANT...

DESCENDANT? WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

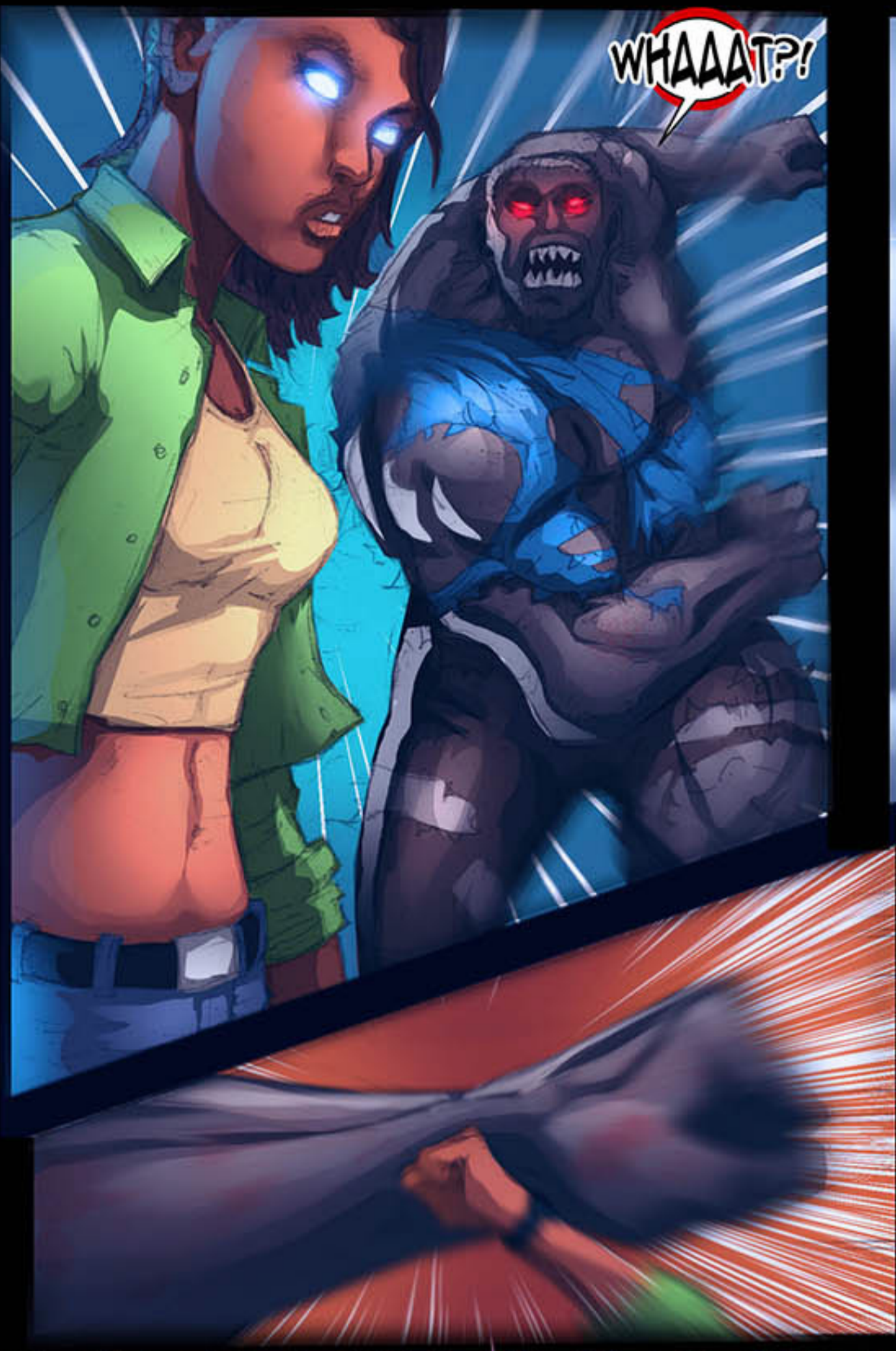
FIND THE <BABA RUGBO> IN THE ANCIENT IFE KINGDOM...

...FIND THE ONE WHO LIVES ON OLLIMO ROCK...

...TOGETHER, THEY WILL TEACH YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR POWERS...

POWERS? WHAT POWERS?

\*KOLD MAN





>GASP<  
WHAT'S THIS  
ON MY---

>GASP<  
OH GOD  
IS THAT  
THE---

DID I  
JUST---

OH GOD!  
OH GOD!  
OH GOD...

UGH!

BIDEMI!

BIDEMI!

BIDEMI!


BIDEMI!

# GIVE & TAKE

# DEALS

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THE FASTEST GROWING VALUE BARGAIN PLATFORM IN NIGERIA



"PRESENT DAY"



HIAN! NAWA O, THIS BABE CAN LIKE TO SLEEP EHN...



IRE-- IRETI...



ABIDEMI OGLUNDE O!!!

WHA-- WHAT!!!



EHN?! YES?!, WHAT?! WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING MY NAME LIKE THAT?

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN STANDING HERE, CALLING YOUR NAME?--

BYE BIDEMI. BYE DOROTHY.

BETTER PERSON, KOLA... BYE O JARE.

MMHMM! WHERE WAS I? YES! YOU CAN SLEEP FOR AFRICA MEHN.



LEAVE ME ALONE JOR, I WASN'T SLEEPING, I WAS DEEP IN THOUGHTS.

HA-HA! DEEP IN THOUGHTS WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED? RIGHT!

MY FRIEND STAND UP AND LET'S GO, WE HAVE HOMEWORK TO DO.

WAIT! WE'RE STILL IN SCHOOL?

AH! NAWA O... YOU KNOW YOU'RE WEIRD RIGHT? WHERE ELSE DID YOU THINK WE WERE?

I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE-- NEVER MIND.

MMM! NA SO... ABEG STAND UP AND LETS GO.



EHN?! WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

OH! SNAP, NOT NOW!

BLEEP!

NOTHING-- IT'S MY PHONE... JUST MY PHONE.

OH! YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR RINGTONE AGAIN?



OH! YES I HAVE...

THAT SO WASN'T MY PHONE...

THAT WAS ONE OF DAD'S SPARE WALKY TALKIES...

ERMM! I HAVE TO RUN NOW... SOMETHING JUST CAME UP... JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE TAEKWONDO PRACTICE THIS EVENING.

THE ONE I USE TO MONITOR CRIME...

DOROTHY IS LIKE A SISTER TO ME, I CAN TELL HER ANYTHING...

...ANYTHING BUT THE PART ABOUT ME BEING A CRIME FIGHTING SUPERHERO WHO BEATS THE CRAP OUT OF BAD GUYS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

I KNOW SOONER OR LATER, I'LL HAVE TO TELL HER... BUT FOR NOW, TAEKWONDO CLASSES WOULD HAVE TO BE MY ALIBI...



REALLY?! HOW ABOUT OUR HOMEWORK? I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DO IT TOGETHER?

WE'LL DO IT WHEN I'M BACK. I WON'T BE LONG, I PROMISE.

I KNOW, I KNOW... I'M SORRY, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

HABA BIDEMI, THIS IS NOT FAIR. YOU SAID YOU WERE NOT GOING FOR PRACTICE TODAY.



...ALTHOUGH IF DAD FINDS OUT I TOOK ONE OF HIS WALKIES, HE'LL SO CUT MY ALLOWANCE... I HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFULL.

'SCUSE ME, SORRY.

HEY! WATCH IT.

COME! NO JAM ME O.

NEED TO GET TO A QUIET PLACE SO I CAN PLAYBACK THAT MESSAGE THAT CAME IN ON THE WALKIE...



I HOPE IT'S THOSE GARRI MARKET THIEVES AGAIN... THOSE GUYS ARE FUN TO PUNCH, AND THEY NEVER LEARN.

THIS SPOT SEEMS QUIET ENOUGH...



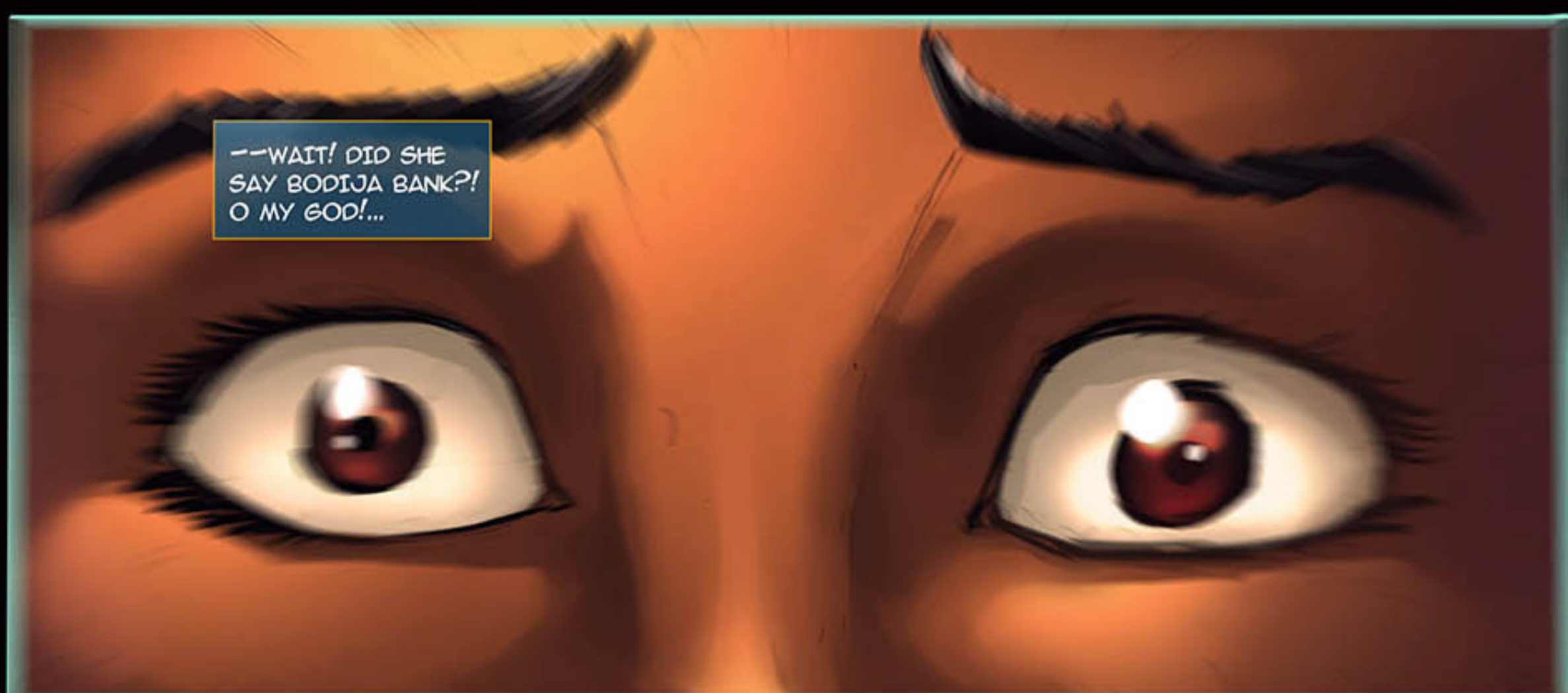
BLEEP!  
BLEEP!

ALL AVAILABLE UNITS, CONVERGE AT THE BODIJA BANK... THERE IS A 789 CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS--



I REPEAT, THERE IS A 789 CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS AT THE BODIJA BANK...

789?! THATS THE POLICE CODE FOR ROBBERY... SINCE WHEN DO WE USE POLICE CODES IN--



--WAIT! DID SHE SAY BODIJA BANK?! O MY GOD!...



...THAT'S WHERE MOM WORKS...



BODIJA BANK IS ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL GATE... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO RUN ALL THE WAY THERE...

MY PROJECT!!

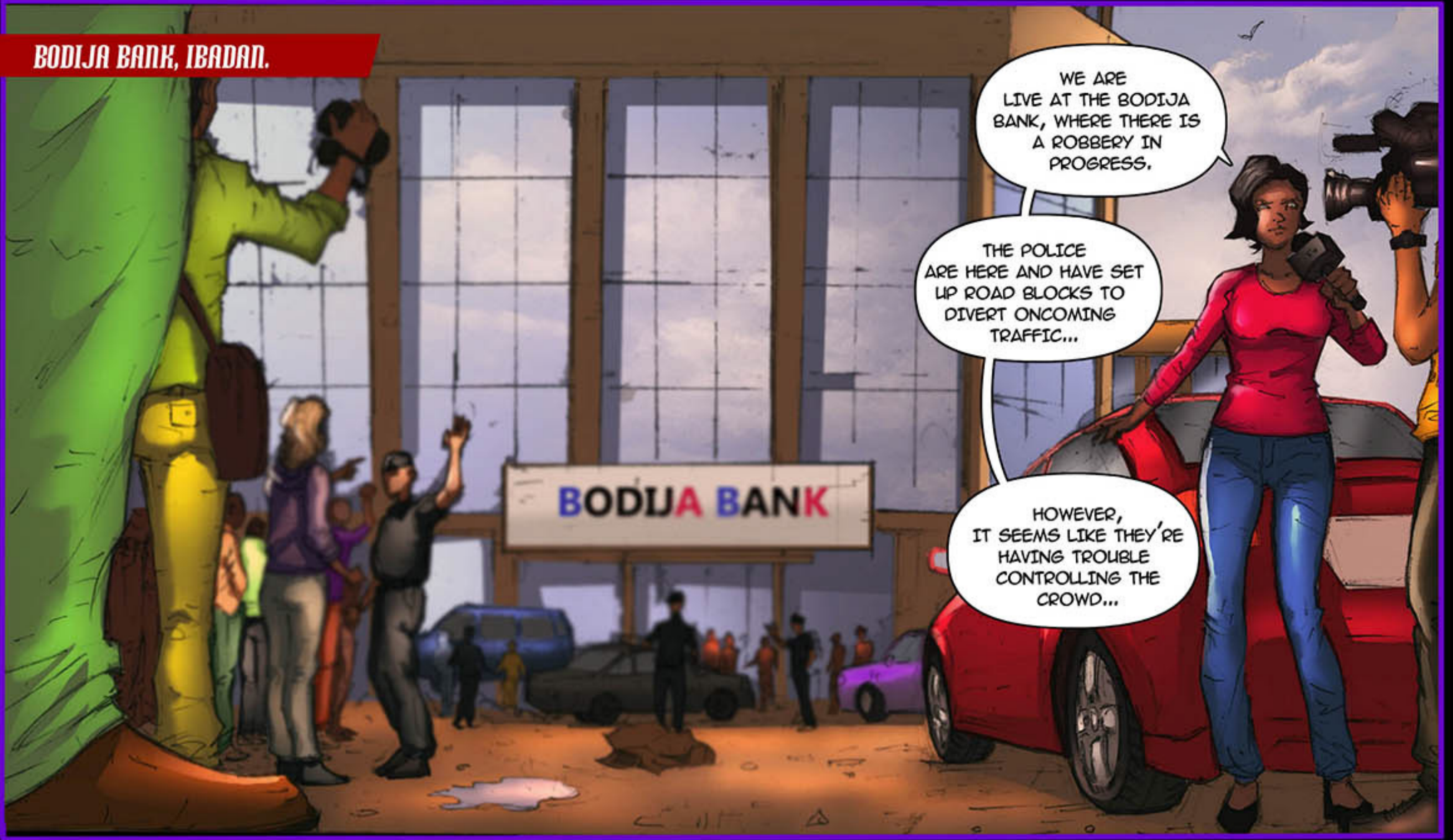
AHN! AHN!  
NA OLYMPICS THIS WAN DEY RUN GO SO?!

\*HEY! ARE YOU RUNNING TO THE OLYMPICS?!



DAD WOULD BE THERE ALREADY. POOR MAN, I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON IN HIS HEAD RIGHT NOW...

BODIJA BANK, IBADAN.



WE ARE LIVE AT THE BODIJA BANK, WHERE THERE IS A ROBBERY IN PROGRESS.

THE POLICE ARE HERE AND HAVE SET UP ROAD BLOCKS TO DIVERT ONCOMING TRAFFIC...

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING TROUBLE CONTROLLING THE CROWD...



BAYO, HOLD UP...

GET THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND THE BARRICADES... WE DON'T WANT ANY BYSTANDERS GETTING INJURED WHEN THIS GOES SOUTH...

AND GET THAT MEDIA CREW OUT OF HERE...

YES, DETECTIVE OGUNDE.



IT'S REALLY BAD ISN'T IT?

YES... AN ANONYMOUS TIP FROM INSIDE THE BANK SAYS THERE ARE FIVE ARMED MEN...

...AND THEY ARE HOLDING THE ENTIRE BANK STAFF HOSTAGE.



HAVE THEY MADE ANY DEMANDS YET?

NONE YET...

THIS IS THE BANK WHERE YOUR WIFE WORKS...

IT MUST BE REALLY HARD FOR YOU...

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BE HERE RIGHT NOW?



YES, BOLU. I NEED TO BE HERE... I NEED TO BE HERE FOR MY WIFE...



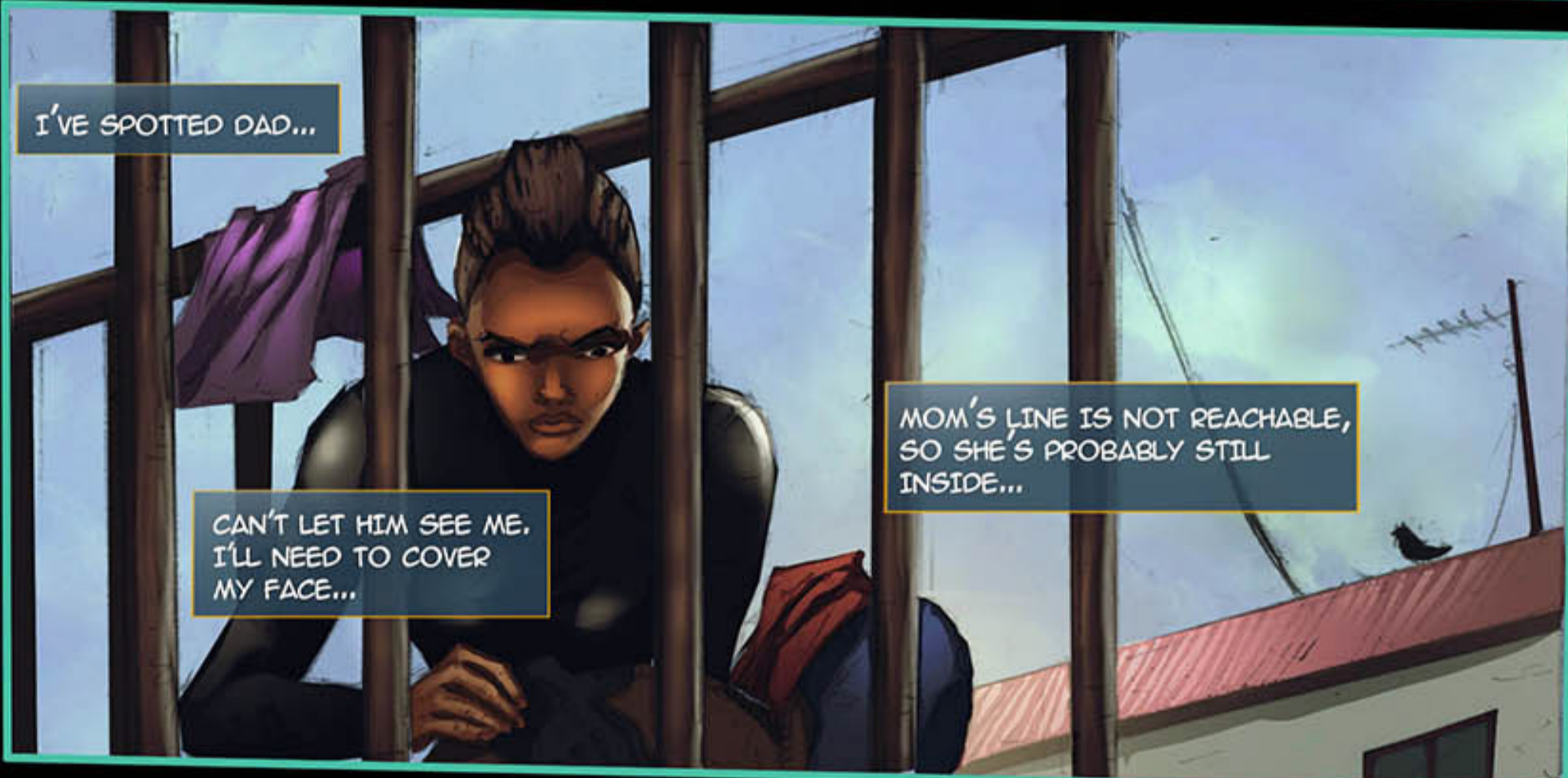
NEED...

TO GET...

A GOOD...

VANTAGE POINT.

?!



I'VE SPOTTED DAD...

CAN'T LET HIM SEE ME. I'LL NEED TO COVER MY FACE...

MOM'S LINE IS NOT REACHABLE, SO SHE'S PROBABLY STILL INSIDE...



I JUST HOPE SHE IS--



THAT CAME FROM INSIDE THE BANK... ALL UNITS CONVERGE AT THE ENTRANCE...

**BOOM**

WE ARE GOING IN!



WHERE ON EARTH IS THE RAPID RESPONSE UNIT?!

OH GOD PLEASE KEEP MY WIFE SAFE.



OH NO... THAT CAME FROM THE BANK... MOM IS IN IN THERE...

I NEED TO MOVE, NOW! THOSE ROBBERS HAD BETTER NOT HARM MY MOM...



HANG IN THERE MOM...

...I'M COMING.





**NATIONAL MUSEUM, LAGOS.**

**"ONE YEAR AGO"**

MARCH 25, 2:55PM

LEGEND HAS IT THAT WHENEVER THE GODS GRANTED A WISH OR A PRAYER REQUEST, THE SKIES WOULD SPLIT OPEN AND A BEAM OF LIGHT WOULD COME DOWN FROM IT...

THAT BEAM OF LIGHT WAS AN EMBODIMENT OF THE GOD OF LIGHT, OBATALA...

THE SAME BEAM OF LIGHT WAS SEEN COMING DOWN FROM THE SKY THE DAY IRETI WAS BORN... THAT WAS OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO...

TODAY, THE SKIES OVER LAGOS SPLIT OPEN, AND THAT BEAM OF LIGHT CAME DOWN ONCE AGAIN.

I'M ALL THE WAY IN IBADAN BUT I CAN STILL SEE IT... WELL, ONLY A CERTAIN, "SPECIAL" GROUP OF PEOPLE CAN SEE IT RIGHT NOW...

I BELONG TO THAT CERTAIN "SPECIAL" GROUP OF PEOPLE...

...AND I AM THE REASON WHY THAT LIGHT CAME DOWN TODAY.

**IFE KINGDOM.**

**"ONE YEAR AGO"**

MARCH 25, 2:58PM



<MOMMY WHAT IS THAT COMING OUT OF THE SKY?>

<AH! WHAT IS THIS?>

<I WISH I KNEW, JUNIOR.>

<RAPTURE!>

<NO! THAT'S THE LIGHT OF HOPE, ALL WILL BE WELL.>

\*TRANSLATED FROM YORUBA

**IBADAN UNIVERSITY, IBADAN.**

**"ONE YEAR AGO"**

MARCH 25, 3:00PM



HMM! GOOD WORK SADIQ, NOW IRETI IS AWOKEN...

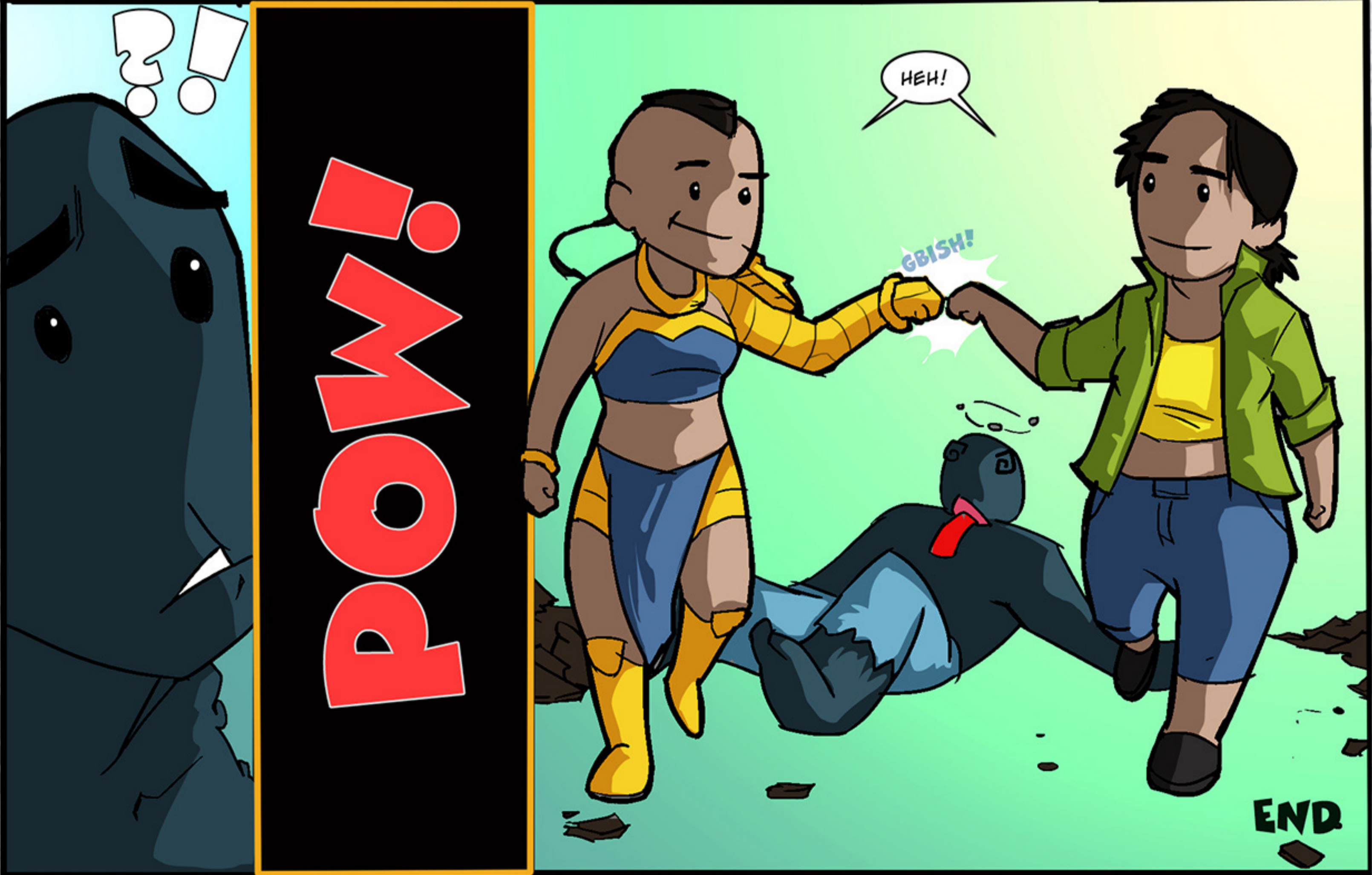
TIME FOR STEP TWO.

...AND I AM THE REASON WHY THAT LIGHT CAME DOWN TODAY.



# Hero Kekere

featuring



Oya Park!  
Wey Ya Art Work?



**FARABALE**  
**art**  
**beat**  
CHALLENGE

**SKETCH + WIN**  
**N100,000**

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VOL 1

# RISING HOPE

♪ FIRST OF ALL, INTRODUCTION,  
NA THEM WEY DO THE ART AND THE  
COLORS...♪

AT COMIC REPUBLIC, WE LOVE TO  
MENTOR YOUNG ARTISTS TO REACH  
THEIR FULL POTENTIALS.  
REACHING THE TOP TAKES ONE  
STEP AT A TIME AND IT IS OUR TOP  
PRIORITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY  
REACH THERE...

JOIN ADELEYE YUSUF (ART) AND  
FRANKLIN IKECHUKWU (COLORS) AS  
THEY TAKE THEIR FIRST SET OF BABY  
STEPS TO REACHING THEIR FULL  
POTENTIALS WITH THIS SECOND CHAPTER  
OF IRETI BIDEMI...

AND ALSO EXPECT MORE FROM THEM AS  
TIME GOES ON.

I HOPE YOU GUYS ENJOYED THIS CHAPTER?  
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT RELEASING IT  
EARLIER ON. WE BELIEVE IN SETTING  
HIGH STANDARDS AT COMIC REPUBLIC  
AND WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE COMIC  
MET ALL OUR CRITERIAS.

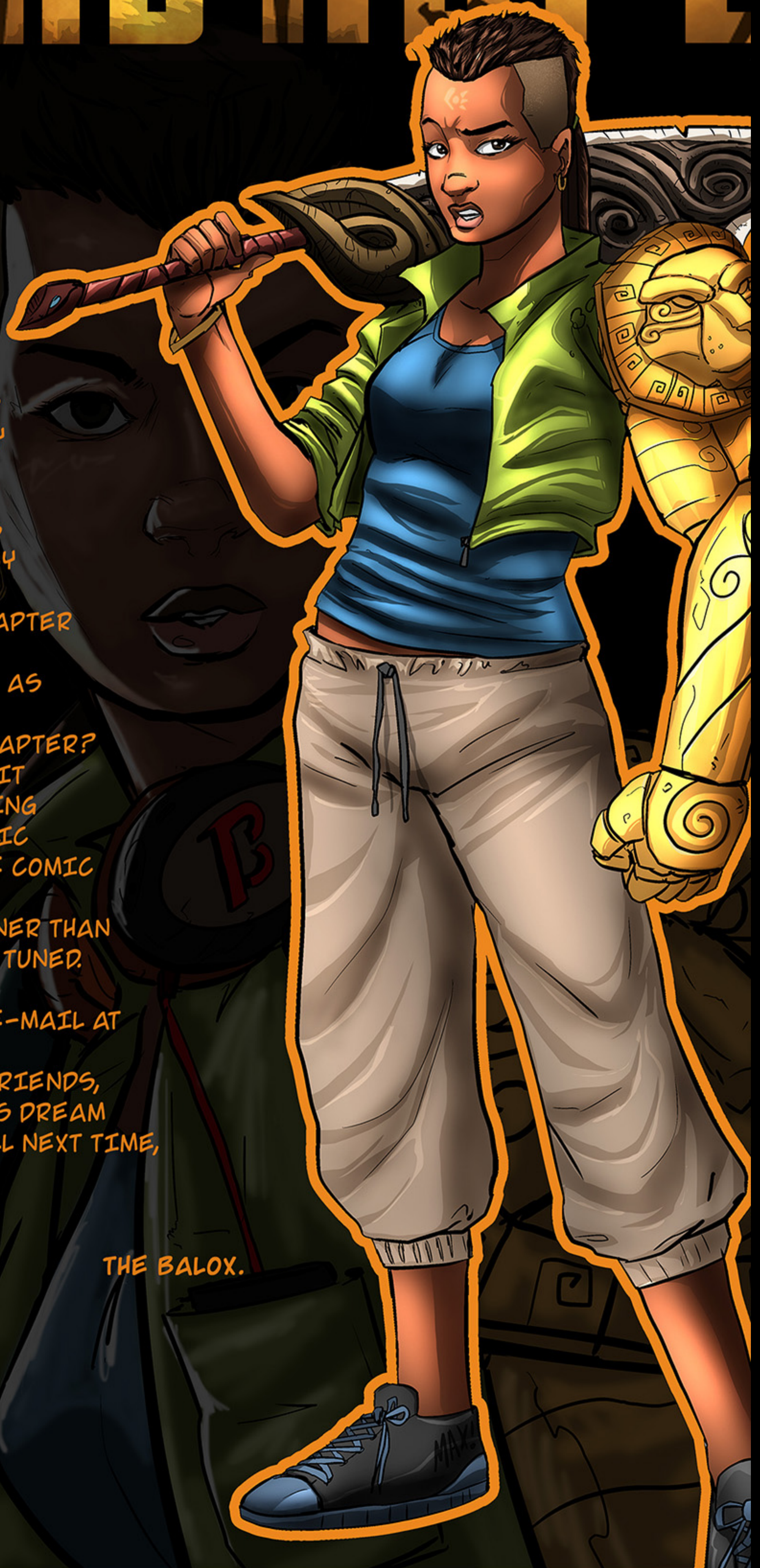
THE NEXT CHAPTER WILL DROP SOONER THAN  
EXPECTED SO MAKE SURE YOU STAY TUNED.

\*WINK\*

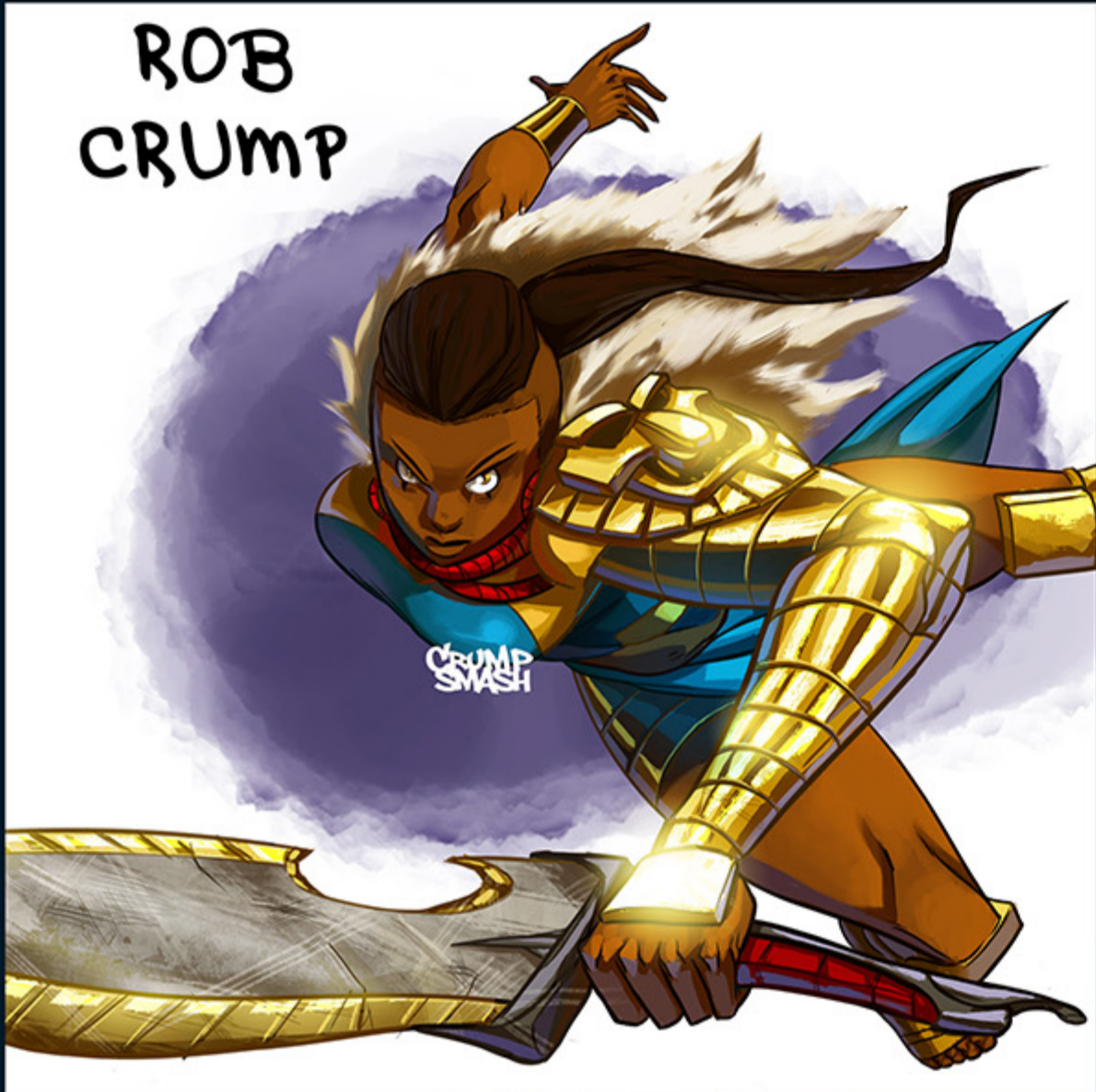
FOR ANY ENQUIRIES, SEND US AN E-MAIL AT  
[HOLLA@THECOMICREPUBLIC.COM](mailto:holla@thecomicropublic.com)

BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE (FANS, FRIENDS,  
FAMILY) WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THIS DREAM  
SO FAR, GOD BLESS YOU ALL. SO TILL NEXT TIME,  
ALWAYS REMAIN HOPEFUL...

THE BALOX.



# FANS OF HOPE



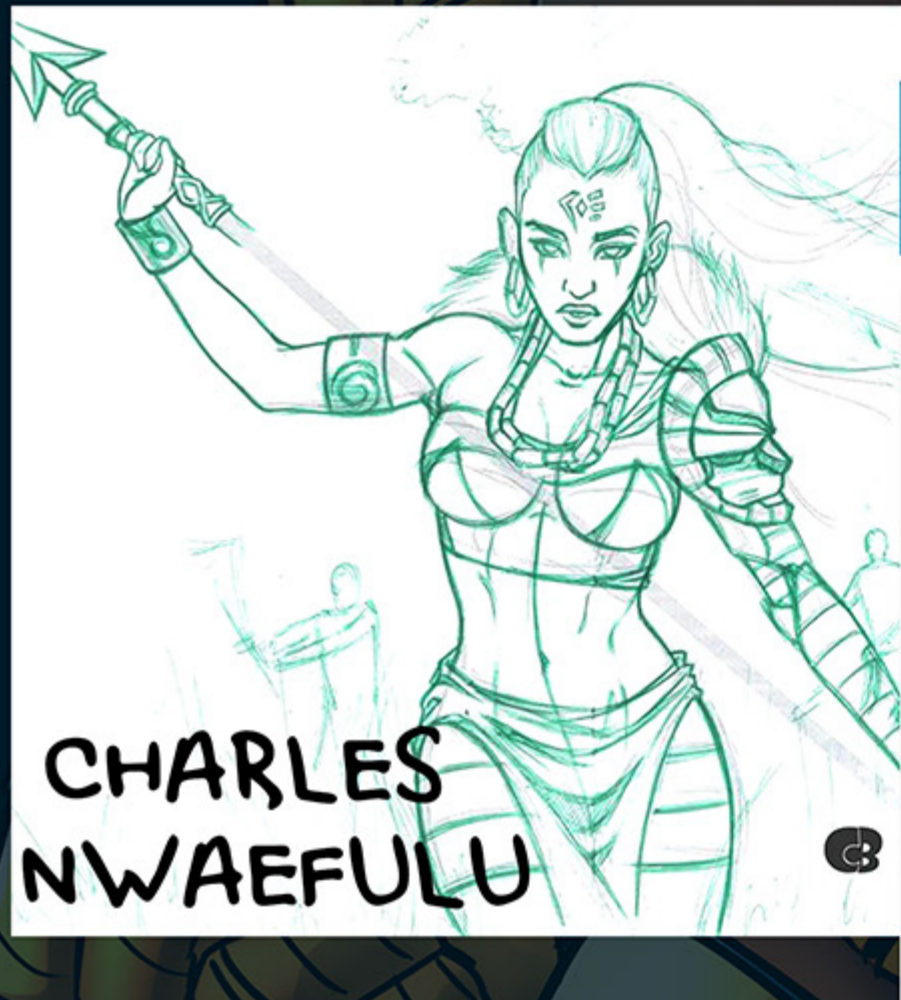
**DOROTHY ODU-THOMAS**

1

**Awww**  
thank you  
we are  
proud of  
you

... IRETI AND ...  
... IRETI WERE ALL USED  
... WELL CAN ...  
... CLASSIC IRETI ...  
... WHERE IRETI BIDEMI WILL  
... ALL ... AND THEN  
... WARD THE ...  
... LY207, WE'LL DROP THE FIRST  
... OF THE CLASSIC IRETI  
... WHICH WILL BE ...  
... REMI, BOTH STORIES WILL BE  
... TER RELATED BUT SET IN TWO  
... PARATE ... (PAST AND  
... SENT) ...  
... DEMI THE SERIES.  
... SO, THE IDEA TO MAKE THIS INTO  
... SERIES WAS ... BY MY LOVE  
... FOR THE HIT TV SERIES ARROW AND  
... FLASH. BIG THANKS TO EVERY ONE  
... WHO IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER  
... MADE THIS POSSIBLE,  
... MAX, OZ, MARTIN, 'E', STANCH,  
... OBA, TERTE, FRANKLIN, DARA,  
... INSOLA, OHITA, SOHIE,  
... TER, PRINCELY, ALICEEN,  
... TI, BOLA, ...  
... YUSUF AND  
... OTHER AWESOME PERSON I  
... DID NOT MENTION HERE. YOU  
... ALL ROCK...

... ING SAID ALL THIS, WHAT DID  
... GAYS THINK ABOUT THE  
... PTER OF ...



Michibliss™  
I am a Testimony

**AMARACHI JOEL**

06:28

- Me dinnoh see o
- I've sha read it
- I like it. The colourfulness, the comic is so easy to relate with
- You did a great job
- But THE COMIC WAS SHORT, WHY??

12:57

- Lool
- E ma binu
- This is just chapter 1
- I promise chapter 2 will be longer

Dapo Vieira Olasiyan · The Comics Meltdown Group  
4 mins ·

I now have a fave Nigerian Superhero, I decree Irete as my no.1 Naija hero.

Kudos Michael Olasubomi Balogun and Stanley Stanch Obende and comic republic.

When is issue 2 out now??

Morah M  
Digimator - BVS...

**MICHAEL MORAH**

18:54

- Hello Balox
- First of all
- I must confess...I tink am in love with Irete 😊
- Lol
- Read the comic
- Really cool to see her again after the ist teaser comic you gave of her
- Was a surprise to see her in modern times...seeing her in the present makes things a lot interesting.
- Love the detailing on her armor on her arm, its very unique
- I sha know u have a warehouse full of creative concepts/storyline in your head 😊 look 4ward 2seeing more of her

**DAPO OLASIYAN**

Dapo Vieira Olasiyan  
Hahahahaha I liked it!!! Really liked it.

I first thought the colours were too bright on the first pages but I got over that very quickly.

I liked the art a lot!!!

But most importantly I just loved the character, I can't even explain but I literally connected with her one time.

The dialogue must have done its job.

I am smiling self.

One come oh, take am easy on the IB speak, I be IB guy, make I no come visit una o.

Loved it.

Fola Agoro Abimbola Redd Okesanya Tunde Awolalu

Guys give it a read.





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**COMIC**  
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