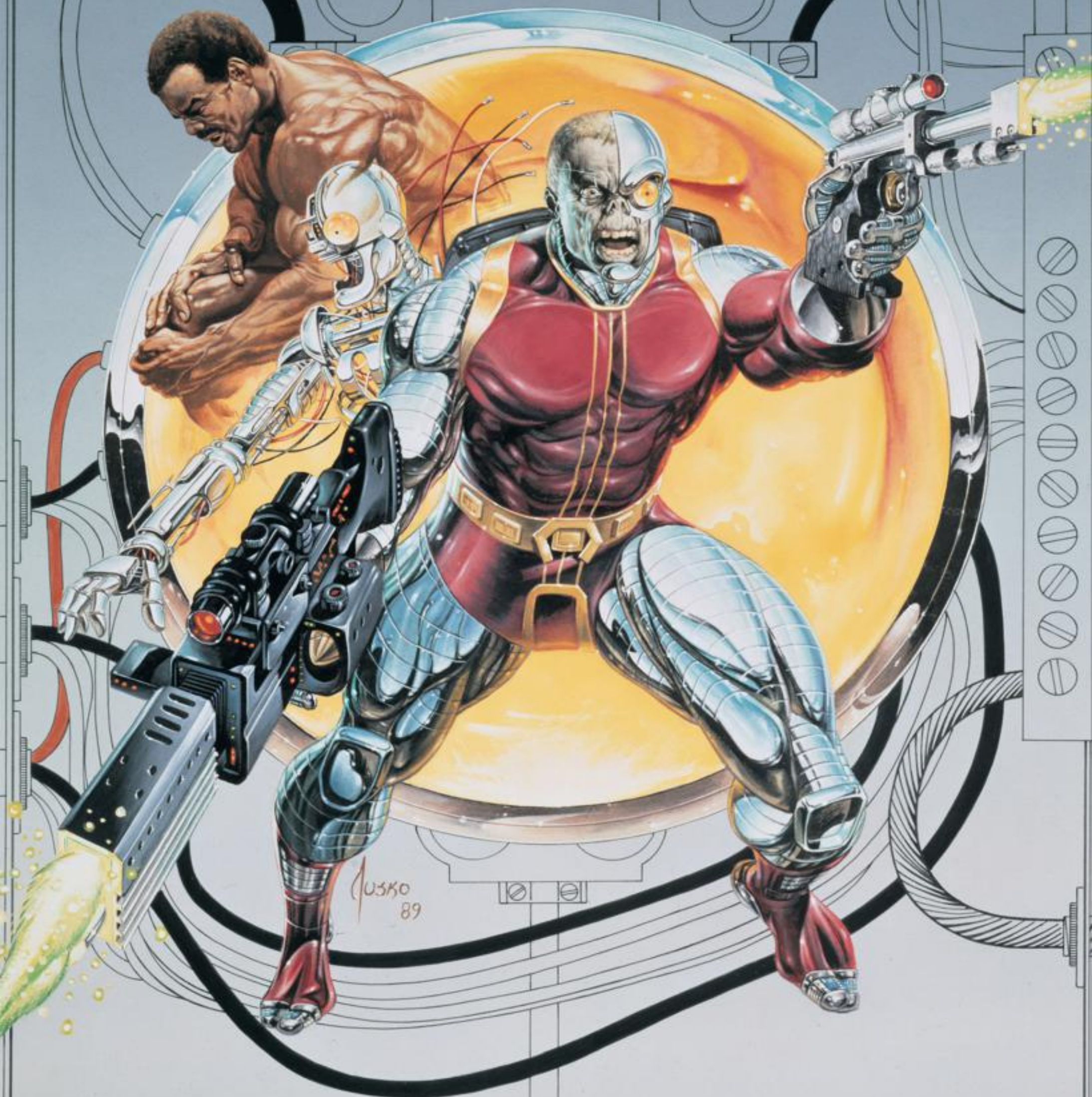


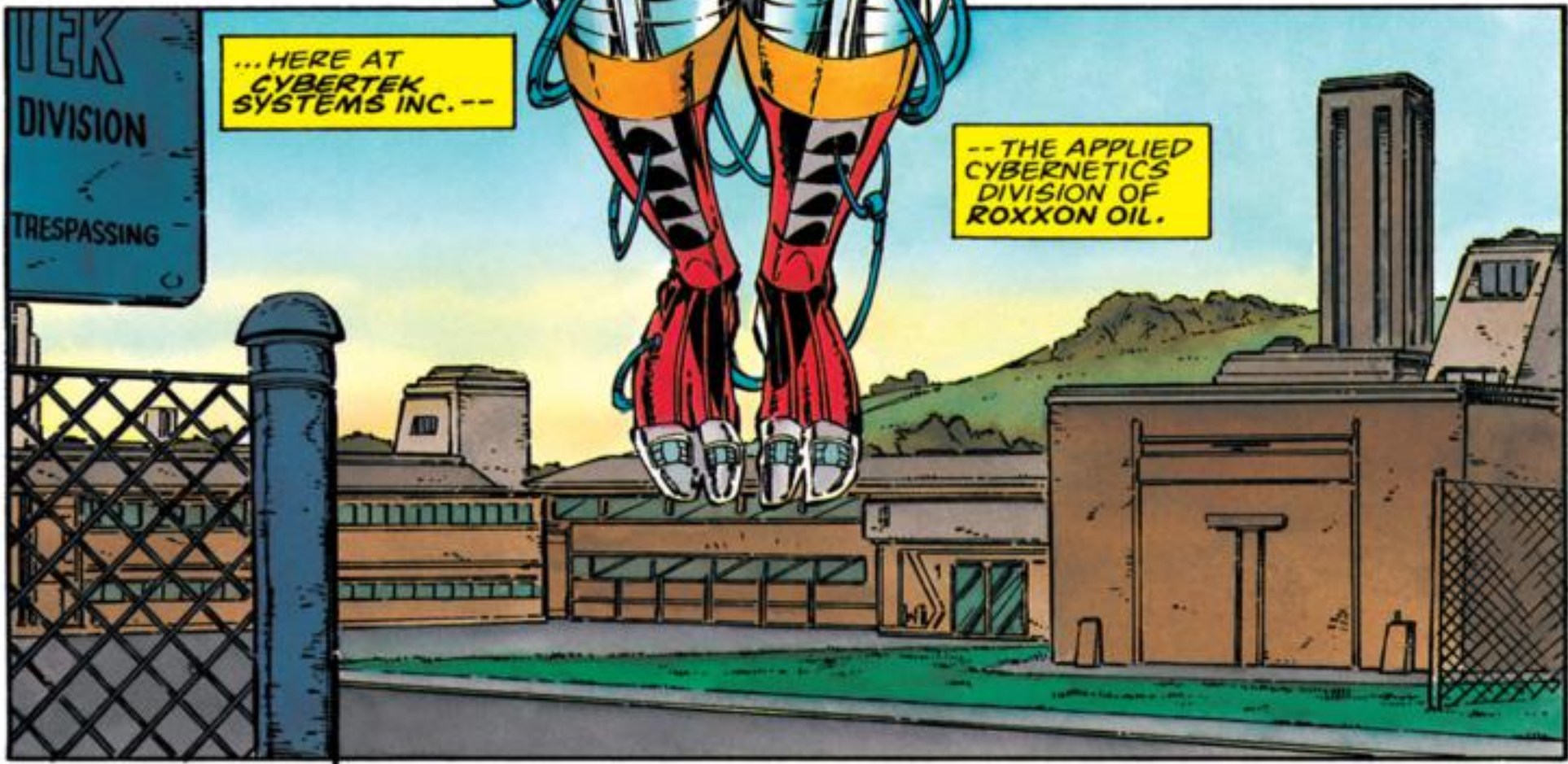
MARVEL
COMICS

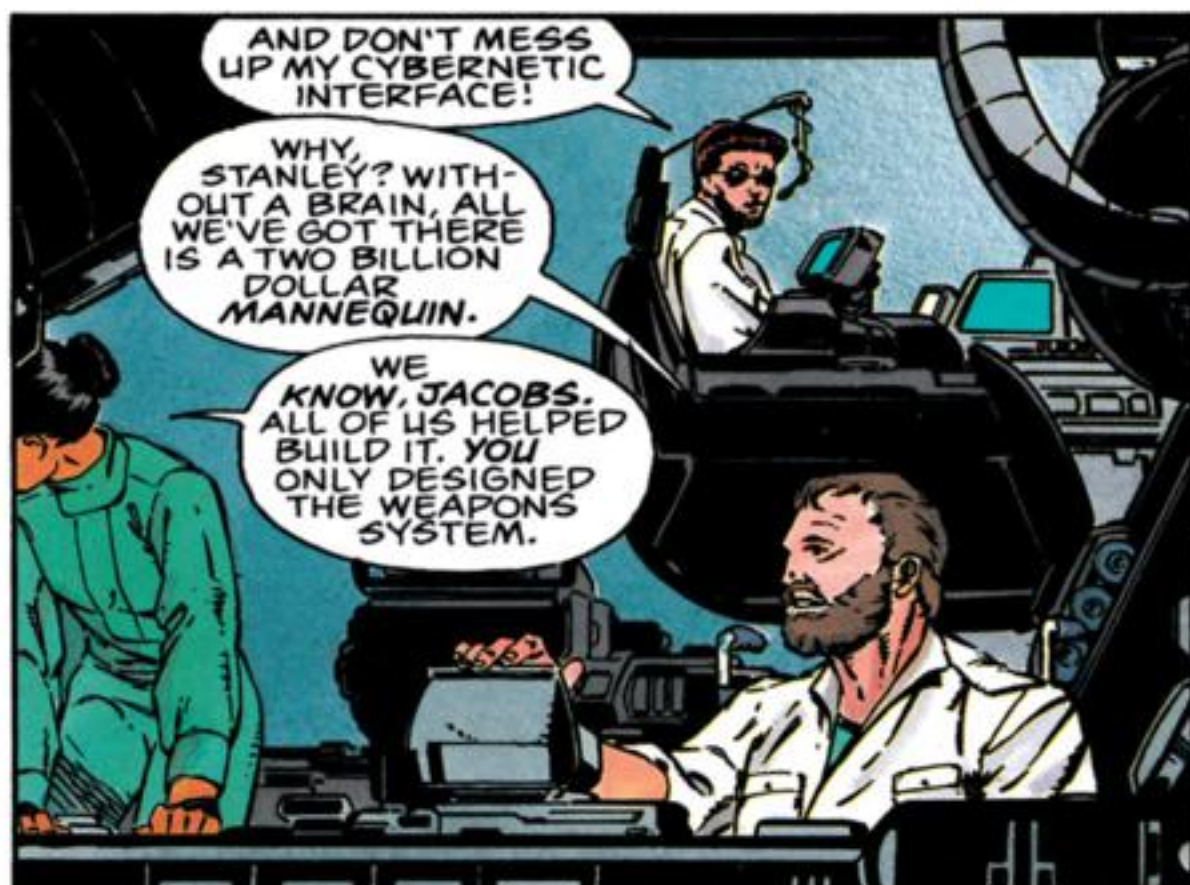
DEATHLOK™

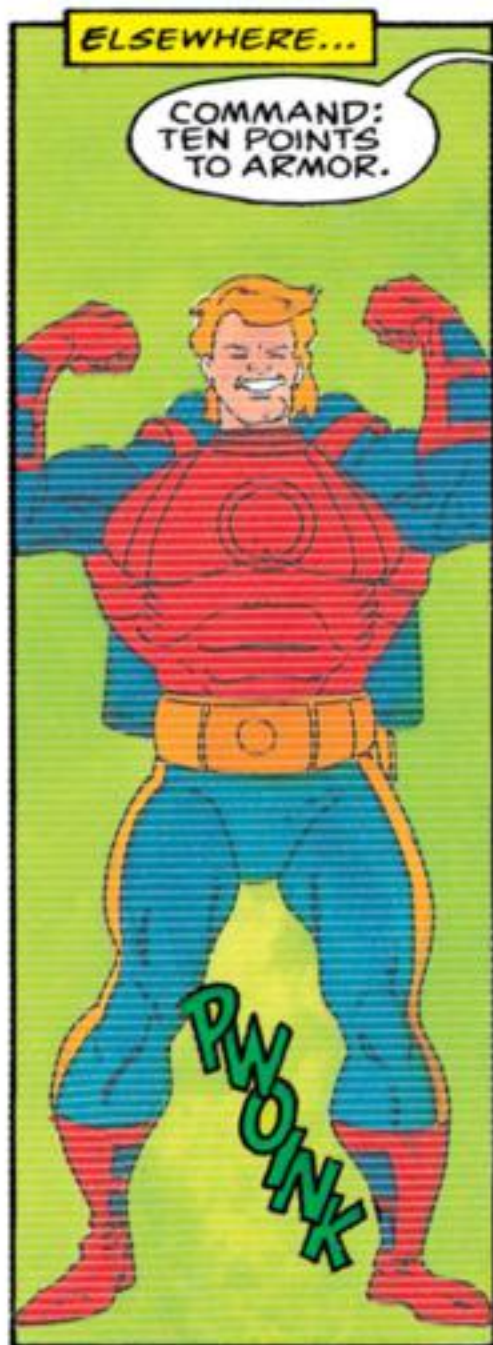
BOOK ONE OF FOUR













YOU KNOW, TRACY, I'M AFRAID I'M NOT SPENDING ENOUGH TIME WITH NICK.

I SPEND ALL DAY WRITING SOFTWARE FOR HIGH-TECH ARTIFICIAL LIMBS --



--AND SOMEWHERE NICK HAS PICKED UP THE IDEA THAT A HERO IS ANY MUSCLEHEAD WITH A BIG GUN.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT NICK'S VALUES. HE KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL LIFE AND A GAME.

AND BESIDES, YOU HELP DEFINE HIS VALUES IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY --



-- BY EXAMPLE.



"... WHICH IS WHY I EXPECT ROXXON'S NEXT DAM PROJECT TO GO AS SMOOTHLY AS THE OTHERS."



LATER THAT MORNING...

THE CYBERNETICS LAB AT CYBERTEK.

THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

YOU WILL LOCATE AND NEUTRALIZE THE FAULT IN THE CYBORG AND HAVE IT READY FOR A BRAIN TRANSPLANT TOMORROW.

C'MON, MR. RYKER, WE'LL NEVER BE READY THAT FAST.

OF COURSE WE WILL, JACOBS. THAT IS, IF DR. HU CAN HAVE IT PREPPED FOR SURGERY IN TIME.

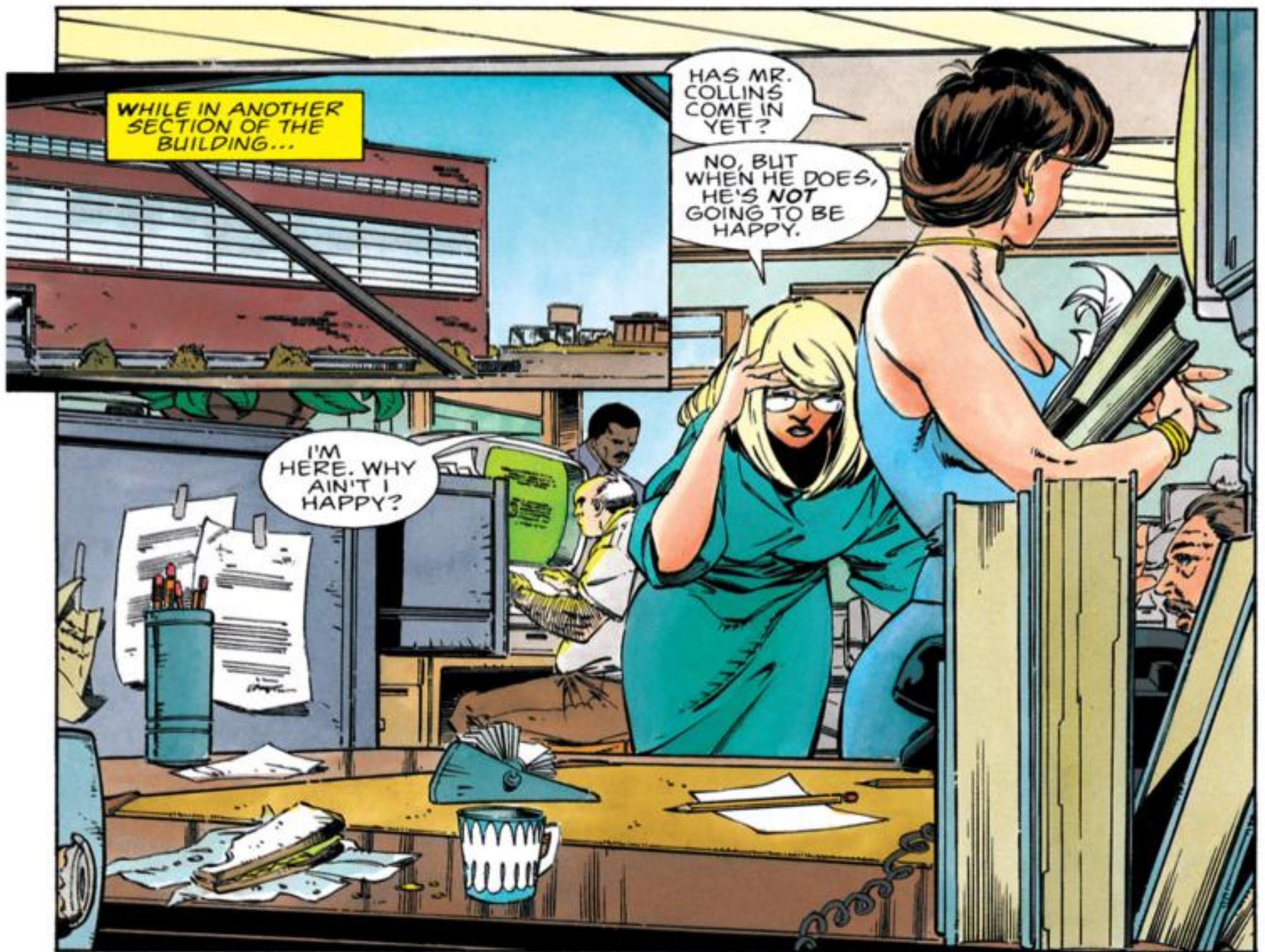
I'LL MANAGE.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE FOUND SOMEONE STUPID ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER THE FIRST TIME.

I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE A PROBLEM, STANLEY. NOT IF ONE ASKS IN THE PROPER MANNER...

SEE THAT THE WORK IS COMPLETED...

... OR I MAY BE FORCED TO ASK ONE OF YOU.



AND UPSTAIRS...

HI, LAURIE,
COULD YOU TELL
HARLAN WE'RE
HERE TO SEE
HIM?

MR. RYKER
IS TIED UP IN
WEAPONS TESTING
WITH BEN JACOBS.
HE DOESN'T
WISH TO BE DIS-
TURBED.

C'MON,
JIM. LET'S
LOOK INTO THIS
OURSELVES.

NOW
WHY ARE THEY
LIGHTING A FIRE UNDER
OUR BUTTS ALL OF
A SUDDEN?

THIS
REALLY
ISN'T WORTH
THE FUSS,
MICHAEL.

I'M
SURE THEY'LL
EXPLAIN IT ALL
TOMORROW.

TAP TAP TAP

CYBERTEK SYSTEMS
MAIN MENU
User: Michael Collins, Director: Computer
Software Systems Unit

TASK?
Access: "Operating System/Ryker File"
ACCESS DENIED. IMPROPER PASSWORD.
INSUFFICIENT CLEARANCE.

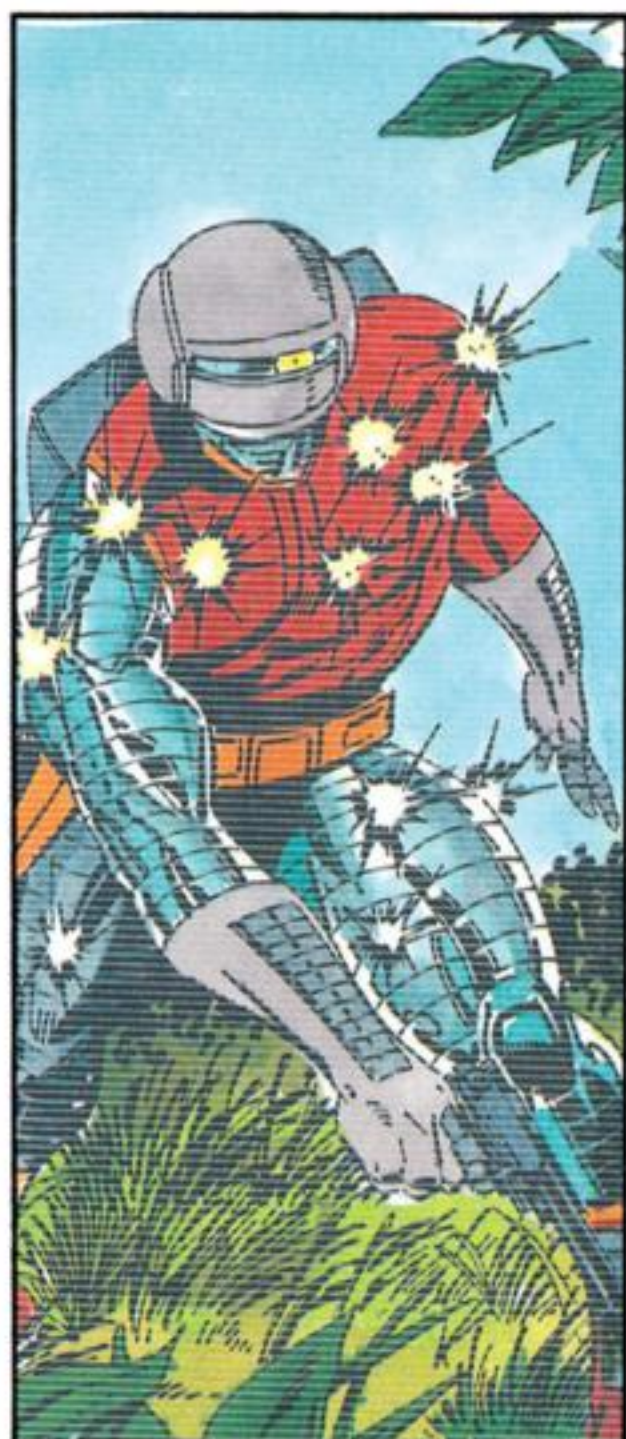


OPEN: OP SYSTEM BACKDOOR.

PASSWORD?

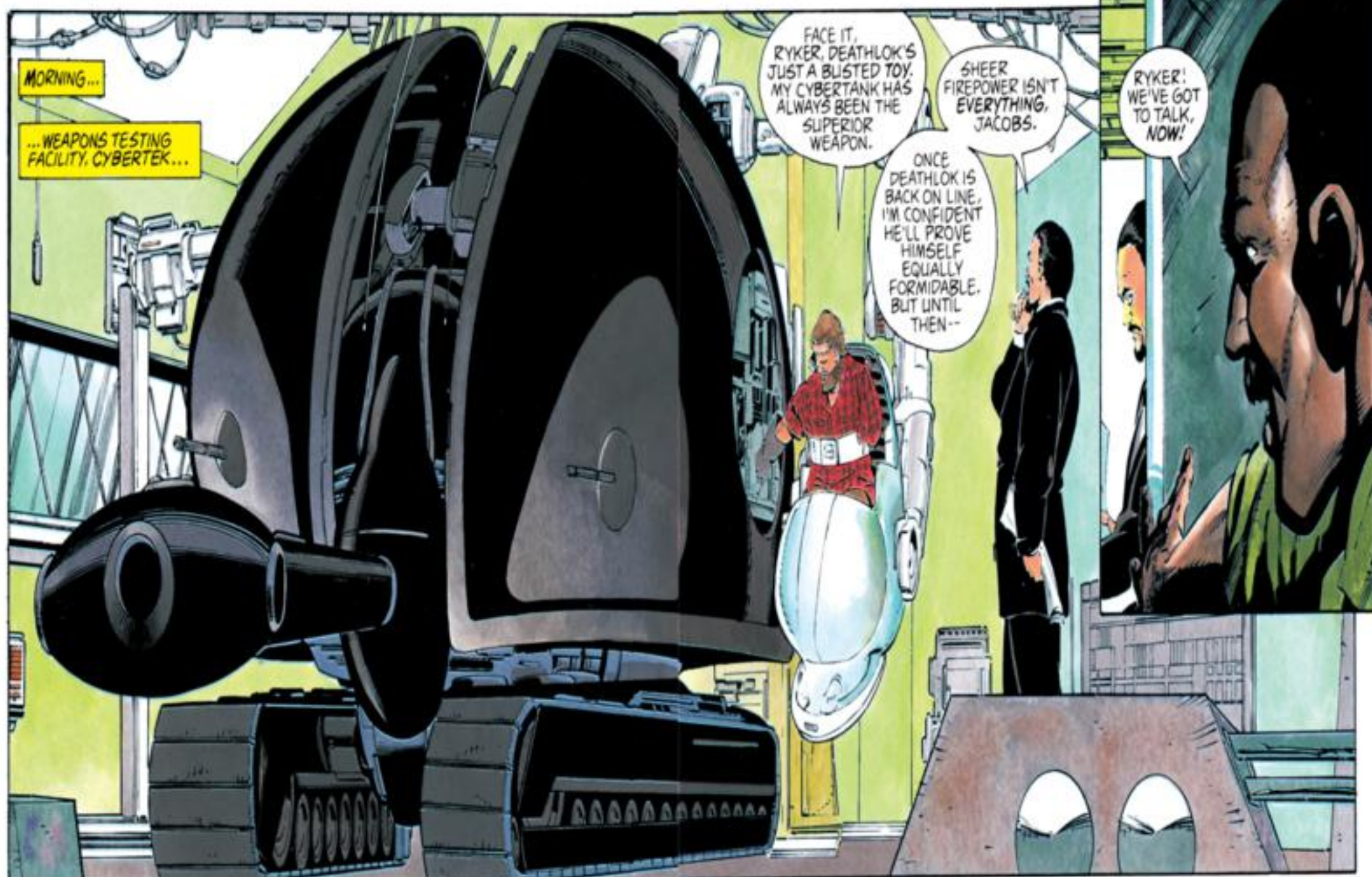
"Hi, honey. I'm Home!"

ENTRY GRANTED. ALL FILES AVAILABLE.
Access: "Project: Deathlok/Ryker File"
LASER DISK VIDEO FOOTAGE AVAILABLE.









MORNING...

...WEAPONS TESTING FACILITY, CYBERTEK...

FACE IT, RYKER. DEATHLOK'S JUST A BUSTED TOY. MY CYBERTANK HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE SUPERIOR WEAPON.

SHEER FIREPOWER ISN'T EVERYTHING, JACOBS.

RYKER! WE'VE GOT TO TALK, NOW!

ONCE DEATHLOK IS BACK ON LINE, I'M CONFIDENT HE'LL PROVE HIMSELF EQUALLY FORMIDABLE. BUT UNTIL THEN--



THIS PROJECT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON, IT ISN'T JUST ARTIFICIAL LIMBS. IT'S SOME KIND OF SOLDIER ROBOT! I FOUND VIDEO IN YOUR COMPUTER FILE, HARLAN. YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT THIS. COULD YOU?



OF COURSE NOT, MICHAEL. WE'LL GO TO MY OFFICE, AND YOU CAN SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE FOUND.



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GUYS IN THE WEAPONS DIVISION LIVE WITH YOURSELVES.



RYKER'S OFFICE, MOMENTS LATER...

LET'S GATHER UP ALL OF THE EVIDENCE AND GO TO THE NEWSPAPERS. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.



MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY.



LAURIE? GET DOCTORS HUI AND KIMBLE TO THE LAB AND GET A MED TEAM TO ME IMMEDIATELY.

THEN GET TRACY COLLINS ON THE PHONE.



HELLO?
OH HI, HARLAN.
NICE TO HEAR
FROM YOU.



I'M AFRAID
I HAVE SOME...
TERRIBLE NEWS
FOR YOU,
TRACY--



--IT'S
ABOUT
MICHAEL...



DAYS LATER. THE
FEDERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF
ESTRELLA.

ALTHOUGH POISED
ON THE BRINK OF
INDUSTRIALIZATION,
IT IS STILL A COUNTRY
THAT IS MOSTLY
COVERED BY LUSH
RAIN FOREST.

FFFFFS

OVER A THIRD OF ESTRELLA'S
LAND DRAINS INTO THE
AMAZON RIVER, WHICH
WATERS THE RAIN FOREST.



SHOOO

DRY LAND
TO BUILD
ON IS HARD
TO COME
BY IN
THESE
PARTS.



WHUMP

BUT THE SUCCESS-
FUL ENTREPRENEUR
MAKES HIS OWN
OPPORTUNITIES.



<LUCKY FOR US IT WAS A DUD. A MISSILE SO LARGE COULD HAVE DESTROYED THE ENTIRE RESISTANCE.>
*

*TRANSLATED FROM THE PORTUGUESE.

IT'S NOT A DUD.

ZZRAK

KERAATCH

HEAVY INDUSTRY HAS ARRIVED IN ESTRELLA.

Landfall 1.36 Miles from
primary objective. All Systems
Optimal.



Tactical Scan: No
heavy artillery, or
major military force
within scanning
range.
Helmet/Satellite/Base
Camp uplink
complete.



Inquiry: Proceed
with program?

A MILITARY BUNKER
SOMEWHERE IN
ESTRELLA...



DEATHLOK,
THIS IS RYKER. YOU
MAY PROCEED.

THE GUERRILLAS
HAVE MY PEOPLE
AFRAID TO WORK
ON YOUR DAM, MR.
BURR. THAT
COSTS MONEY.

SO
DOES
LEASING
DEATH-
LOK--



BUT YOU'LL FIND
THAT IT'S MONEY
WELL SPENT.

DON'T WORRY,
GENERAL. WHEN
DEATHLOK IS
FINISHED, THERE
WON'T **BE** ANY
GUERRILLAS...



"BELIEVE ME, YOU'VE
JUST RENTED THE
ULTIMATE WAR
MACHINE."

Unit proceeding
at 62.3 MPH
ETA 58.9 seconds

Long Range Scan
detects 40-50 man
military force
amassing at periphery
of objective.

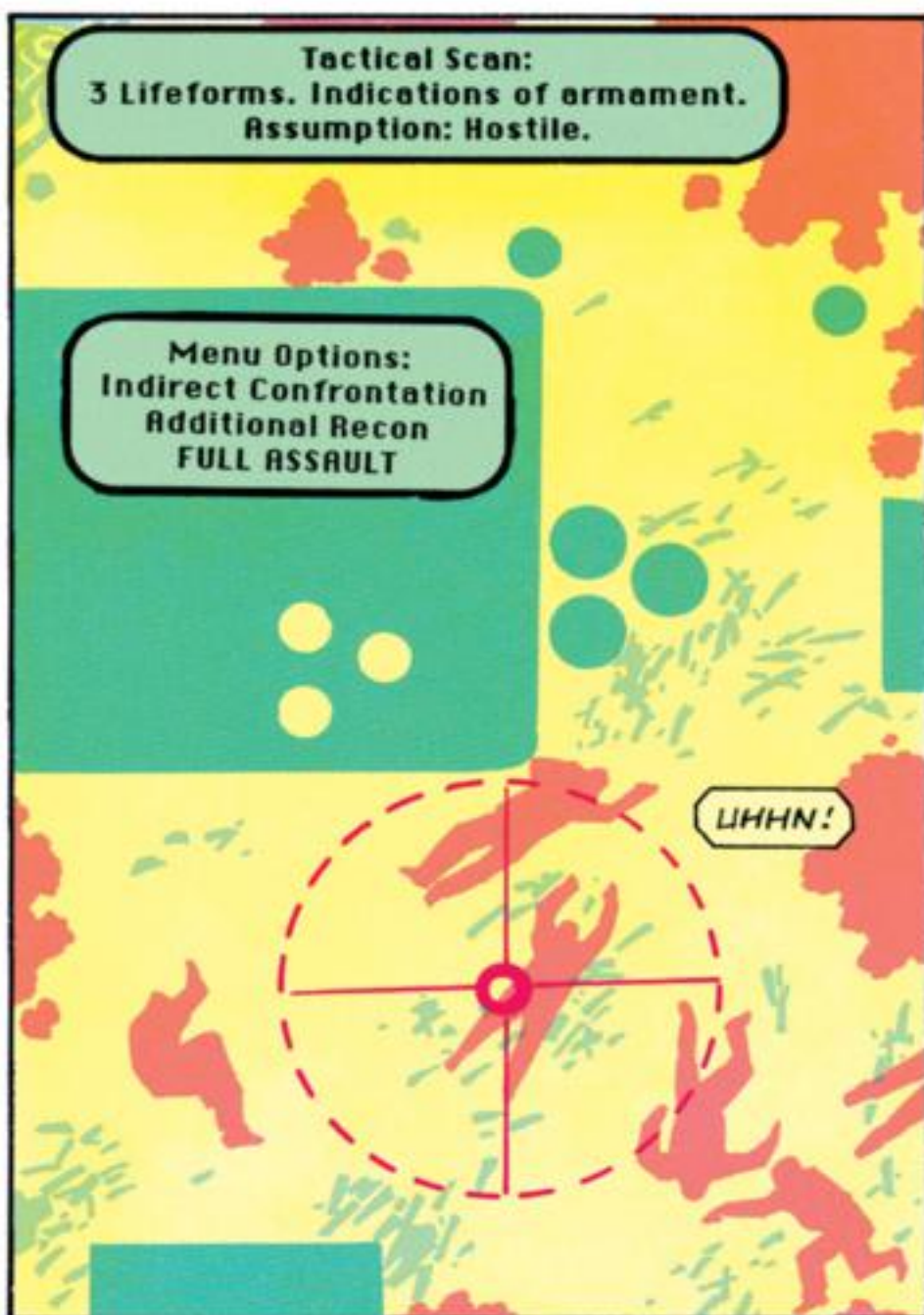
Supposition: Hostile counter-force

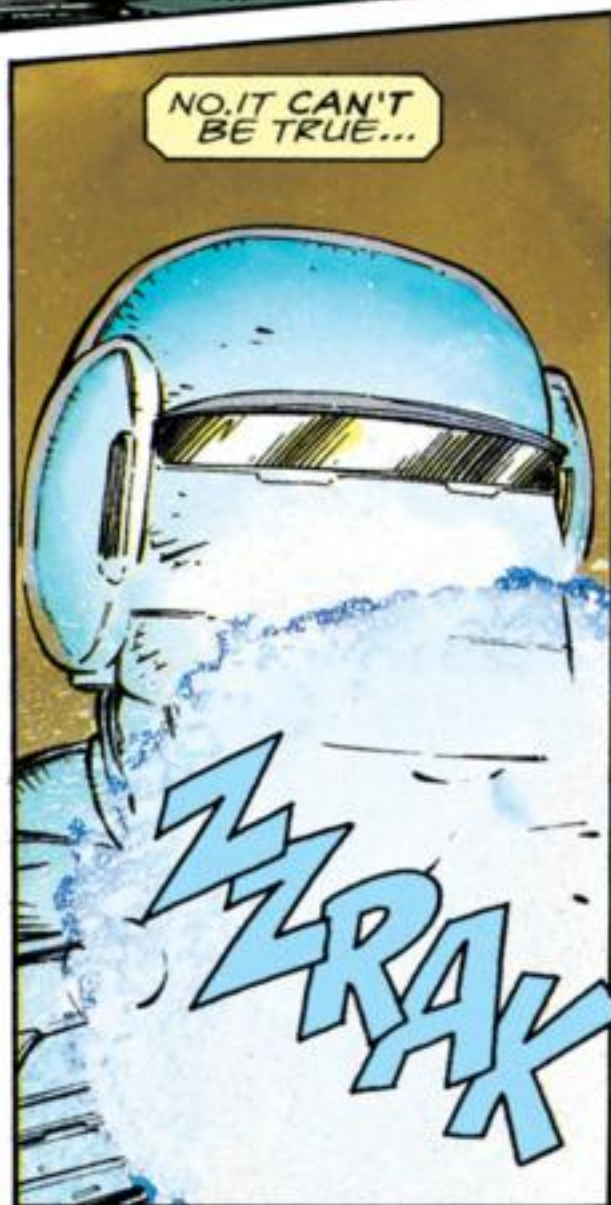
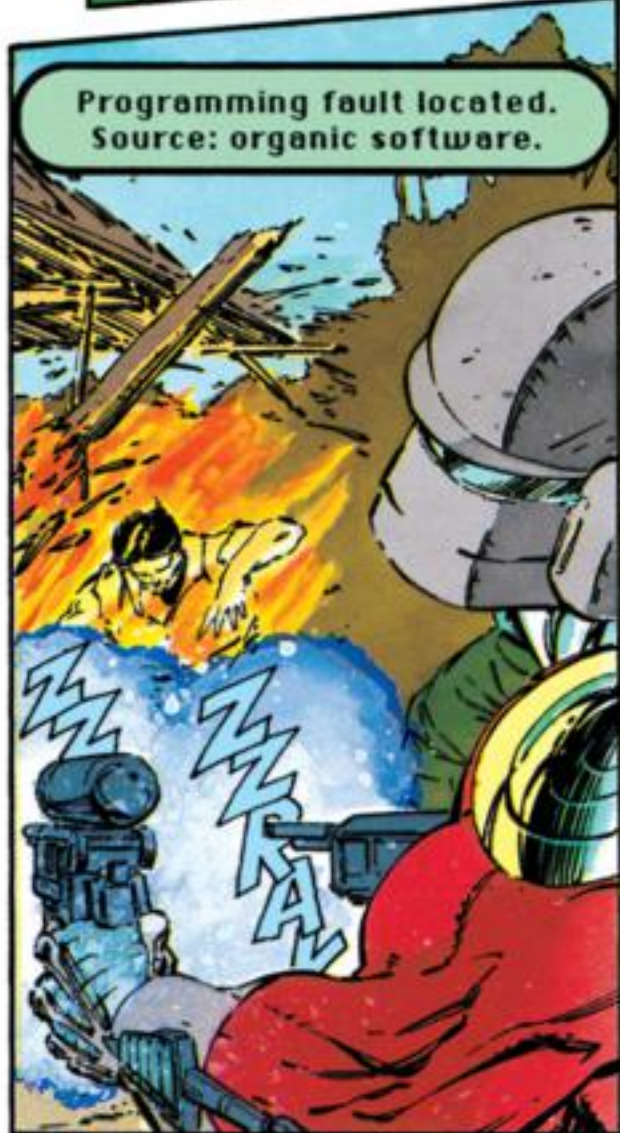
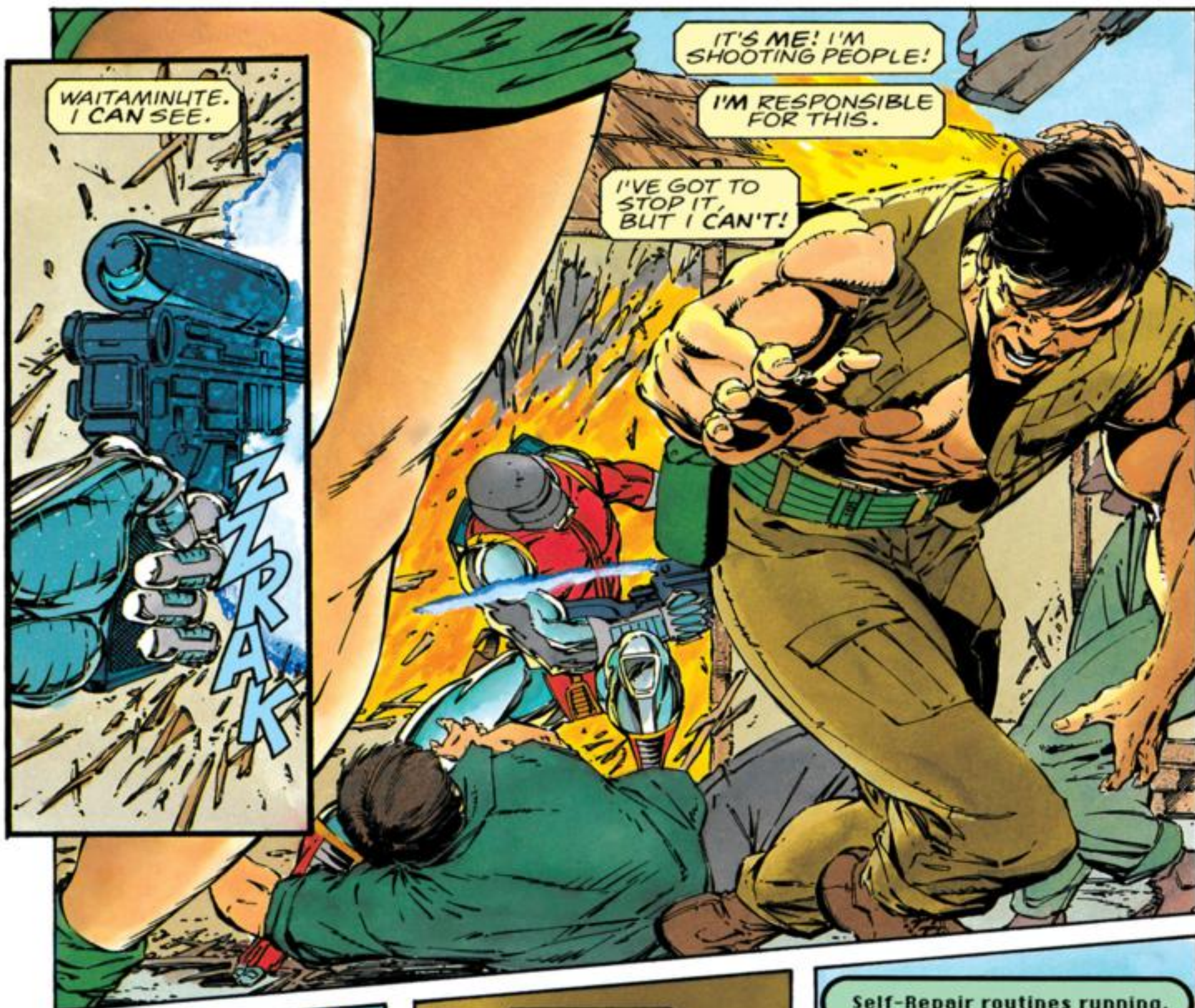
Menu options:
Additional Recon
Indirect Confrontation
FULL ASSAULT

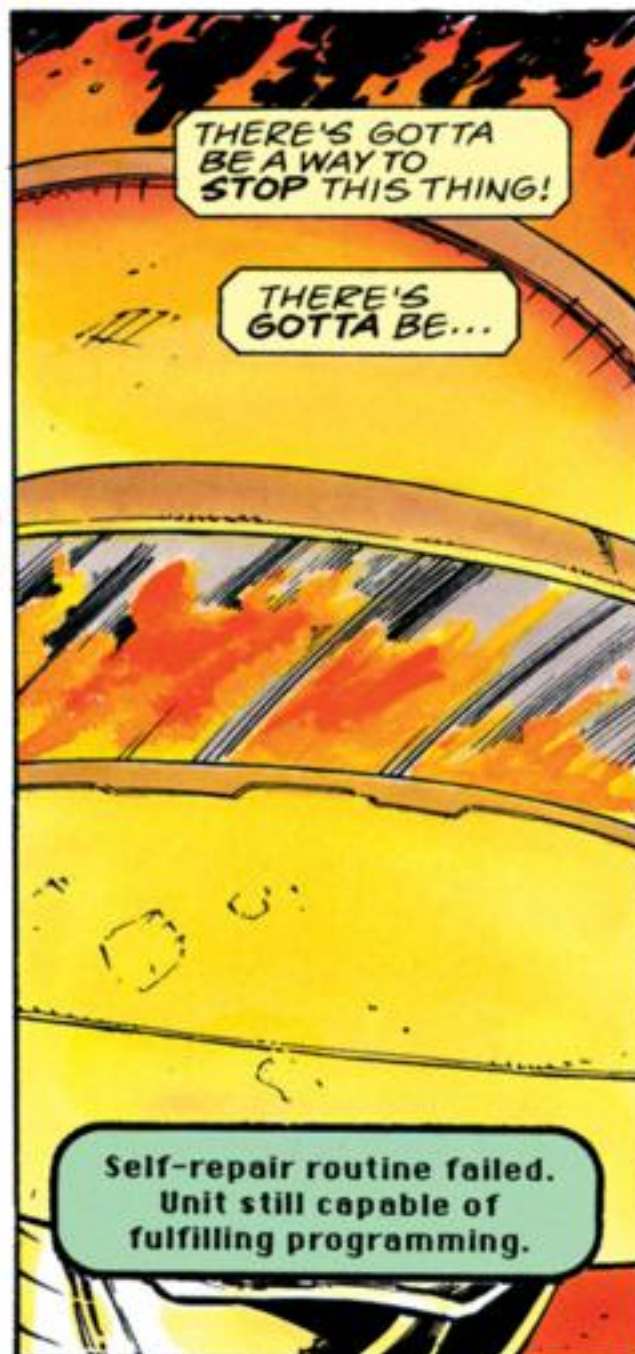
ZZRAK
ZZRAK

Running...





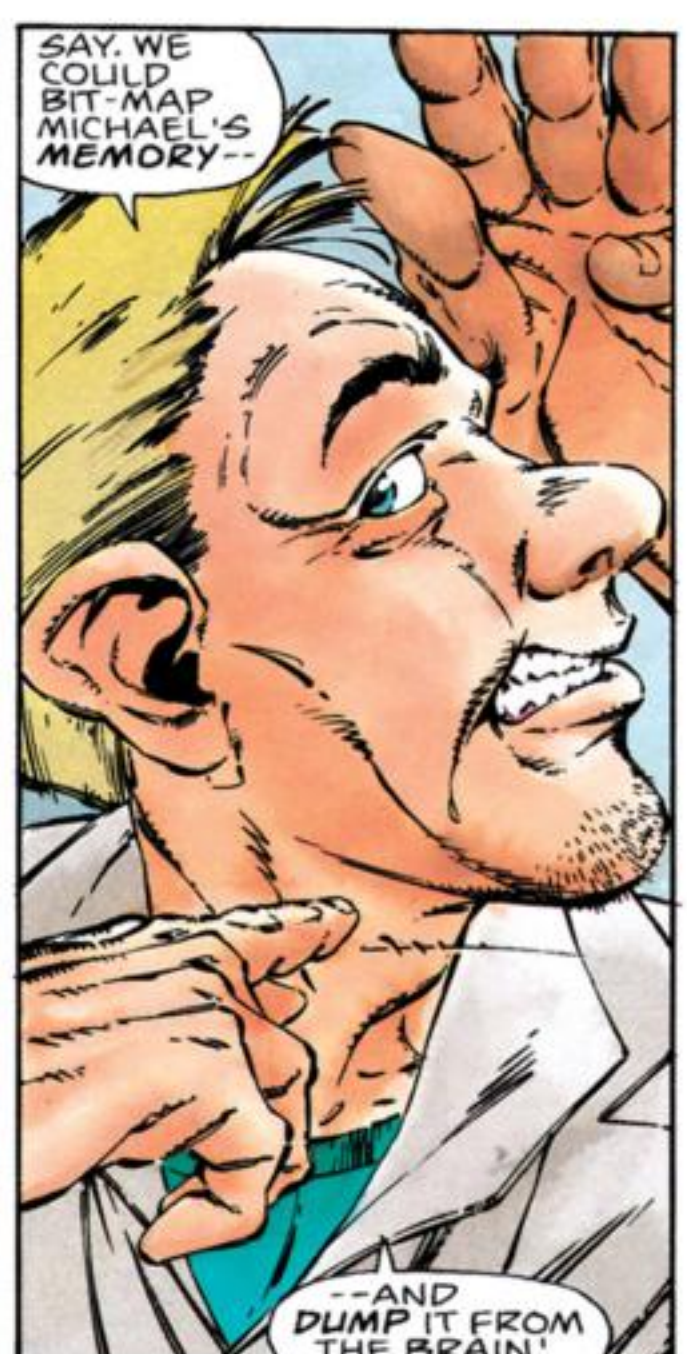












New operating system complete.

Access to all functions open to programmer:

"Michael Collins"

IF I'M IN CONTROL, HOW COME I CAN'T MOVE?

Motor functions have been shut down externally.

Modem to external control unit?

YES. CONNECT ME TO THE UNIT NOW!

Plugging in.

WARNING: External unit bit-mapping memory in preparation for mass data dump.

Override?

YEAH, YEAH! OVERRIDE! DON'T LET THEM ERASE OUR-- MY BRAIN!

Running.

UH OH! SYSTEM'S DOWN.

THIS IS INCREDIBLE. I'M THINKING IN PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE.

THESE MACHINES WILL DO WHATEVER I WANT.

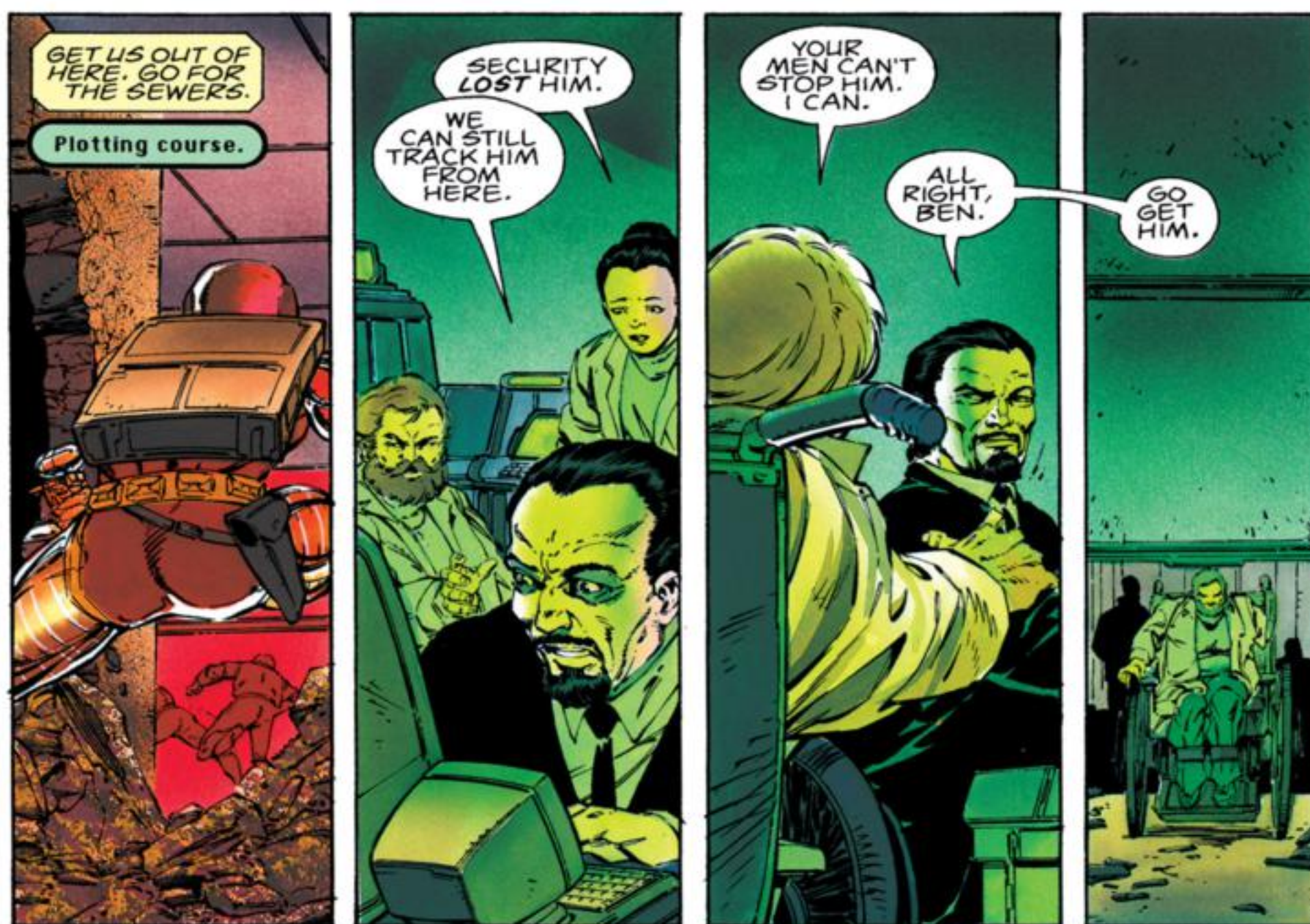
COMPUTER, HOW LONG BEFORE I CAN MOVE?

Full moter functions restored.

I GOT NEWS FOR YA. THEY'RE ALL DOWN.

THEN LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!







LET'S
SEE IF WE
CAN SLOW
HIM
DOWN.



WARNING:
Electromagnetic
anomaly intercepts
present course.

WHAT'S AN--



--ANOMALY?



EM Anomaly identified
as pulsed magnetic
force field.

WE CAN FIX
THAT!

WARNING



Plasma weapon
ineffective against
sited target.

YOU DON'T
SAY?



I'M ALMOST
BEGINNING TO
ENJOY
THIS.







Unit undamaged. All systems functional.

ATAU severely damaged.



YEAH. THAT SUCKER'S DEAD IN THE WATER.



LET'S JUST MAKE SURE.



AND SPEAKING OF DEAD...

NO! STAY BACK! PLEASE!



SAY GOODNIGHT, BEN!

G'NIGHT BEN?





Entering
municipal
sewer system.
No evidence of
pursuit within
sensor range.

SO WE LOST
'EM. NOW
WHAT?

Collating options.

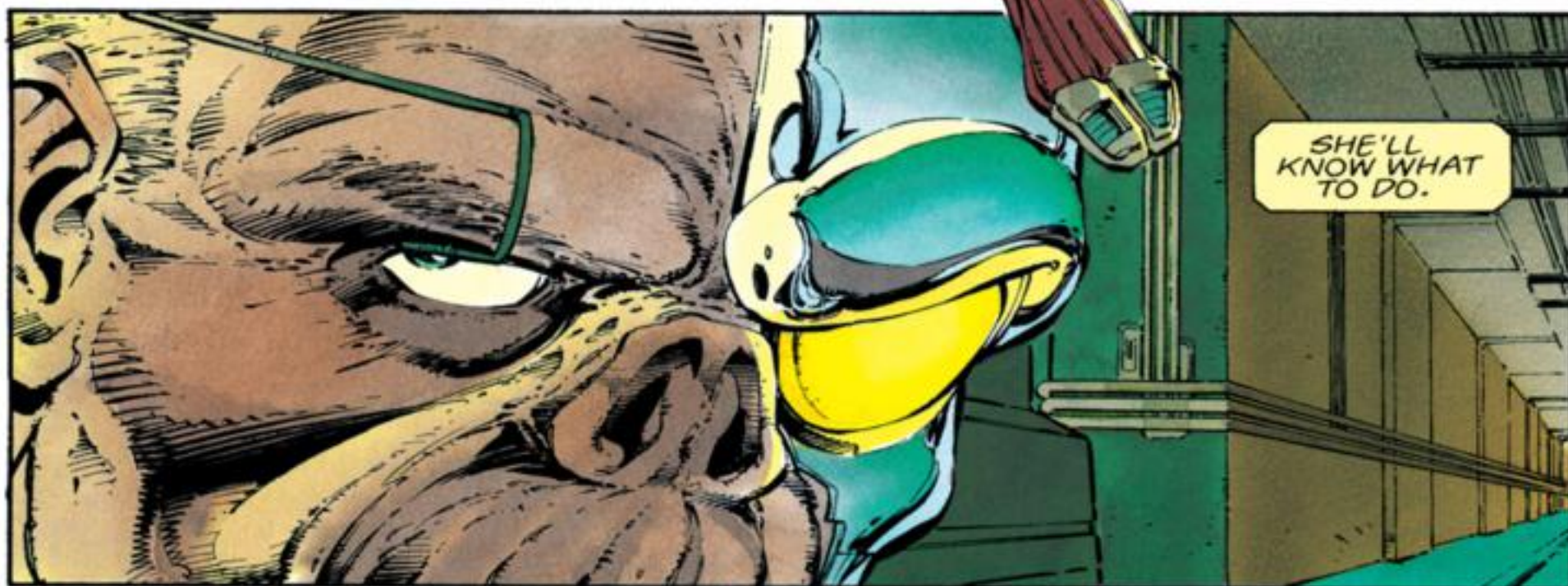


WHO
ASKED
YOU?

You did.

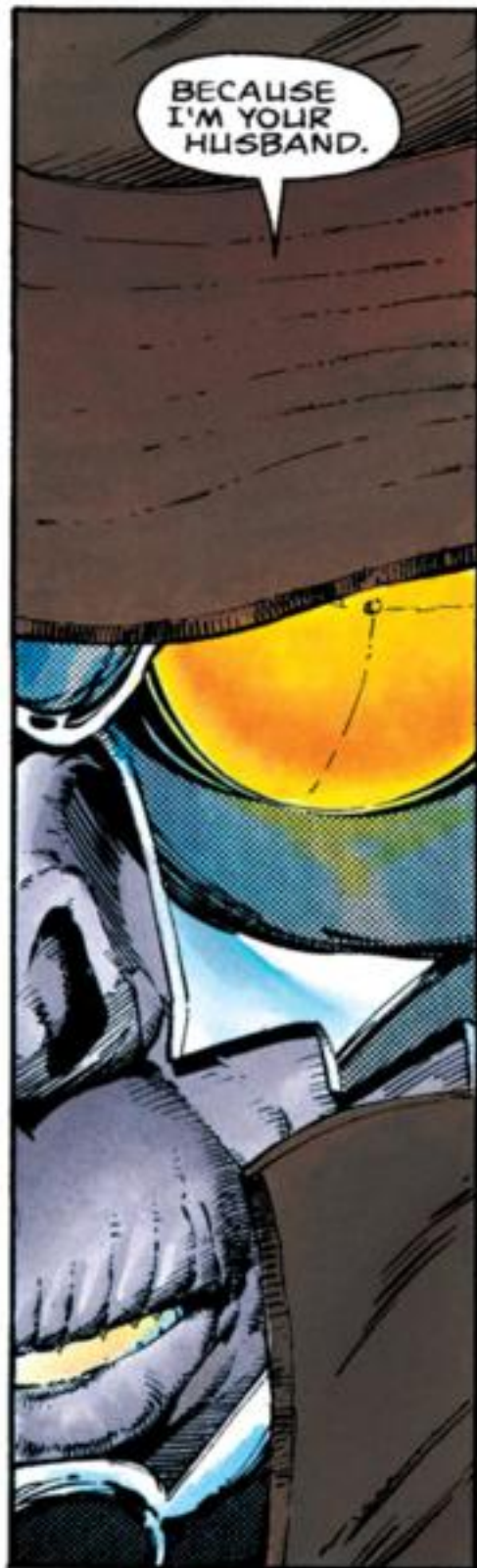
=SIGH=

GOTTA
GO SEE
TRACY.



SHE'LL
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.









I HAVE
TO DIE.

IT'S AS
SIMPLE
AS THAT.

I BEEN THINKIN'
ABOUT IT ALL
NIGHT.

THERE'S JUST
NO OTHER
WAY.



I'M NOT
A MAN.

I'M A
MONSTER.

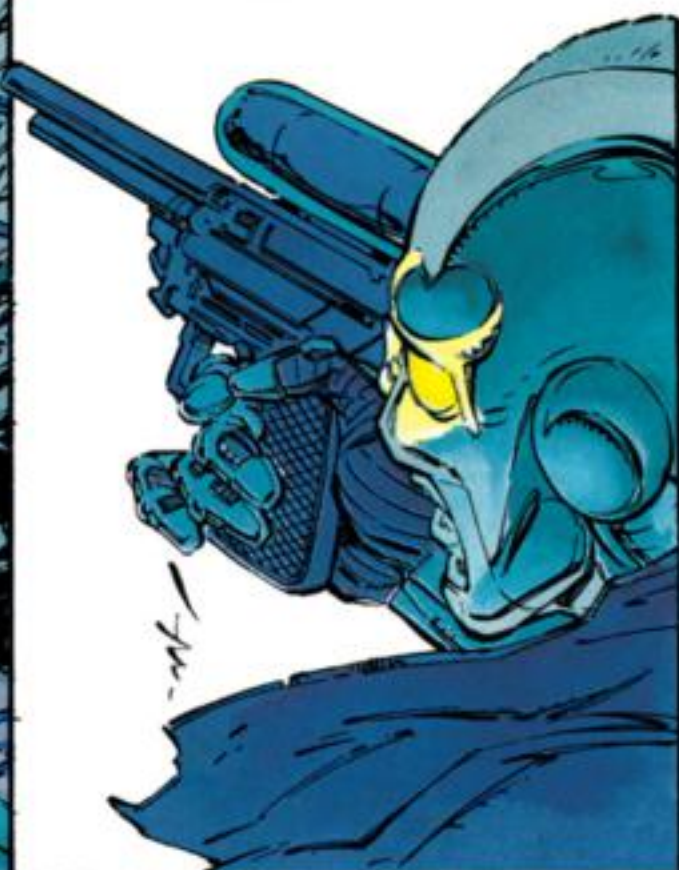
MY OWN
WIFE
THINKS SO.



NO. I'M
WORSE THAN
A MONSTER.

I'M A
WEAPON.

I'M THE WALKING
EMBODIMENT OF EVERY-
THING I DESPISE.





I HAVE TO DIE.

NO.



IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.



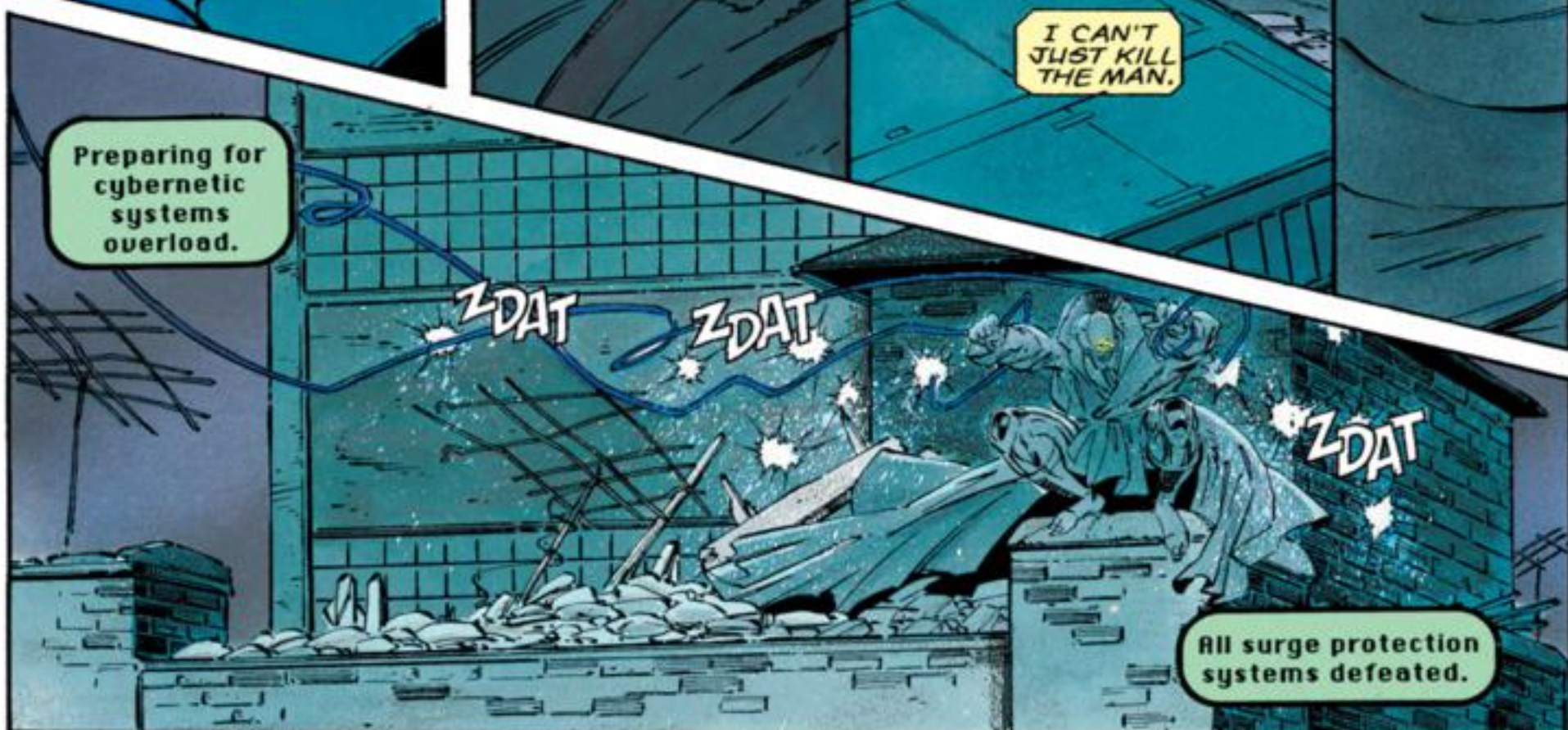
THEY'D JUST FIND THE BODY--

--AND IT WOULD ALL START OVER AGAIN.



I GOTTA DESTROY THE MACHINE.

SH/K



Preparing for cybernetic systems overload.

ZDAT

ZDAT

ZDAT

All surge protection systems defeated.



External powerlines carrying sufficient current to permanently fuse Deathlok systems and destroy organic software.



A cybernetic systems overload is irreversible and will destroy this unit.



Do you wish to continue?

...



Do you wish to continue?

NOT YET. I HAVE TO TALK TO MY BOY FIRST.



Phone jack will allow access to all major telecommuni--

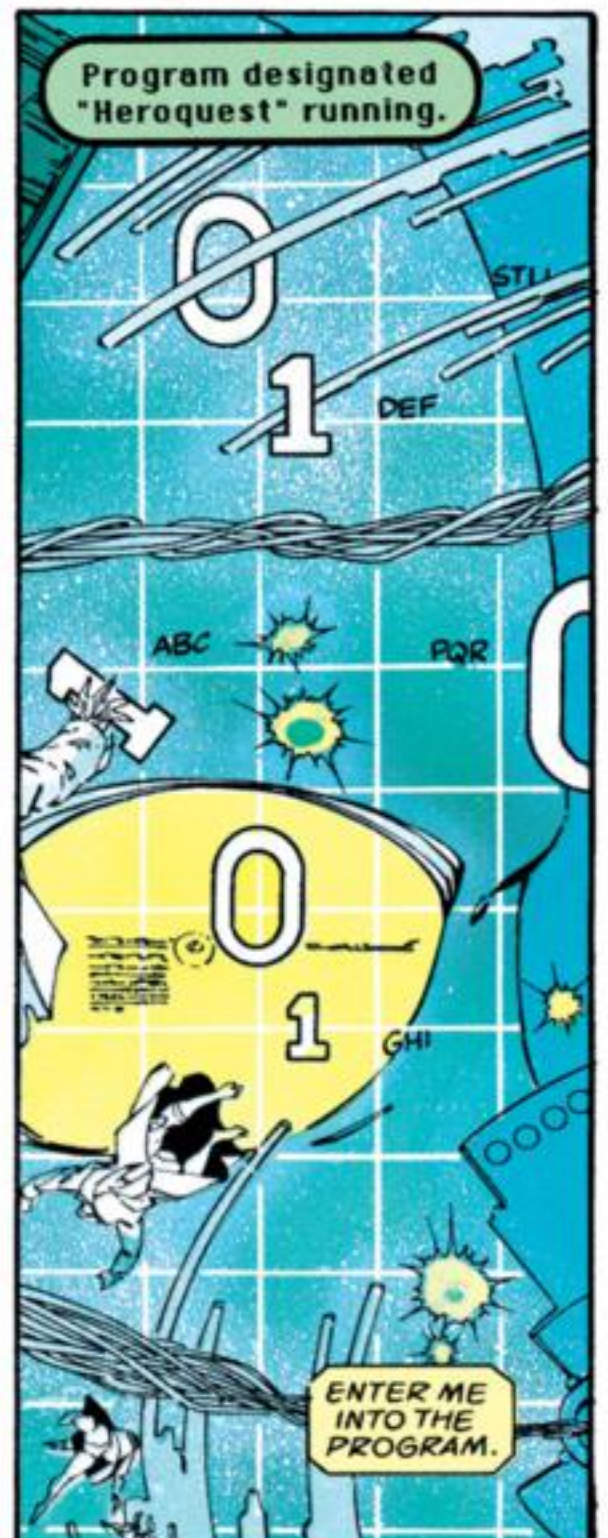
I KNOW THAT. JUST DO IT.

Plugging in.



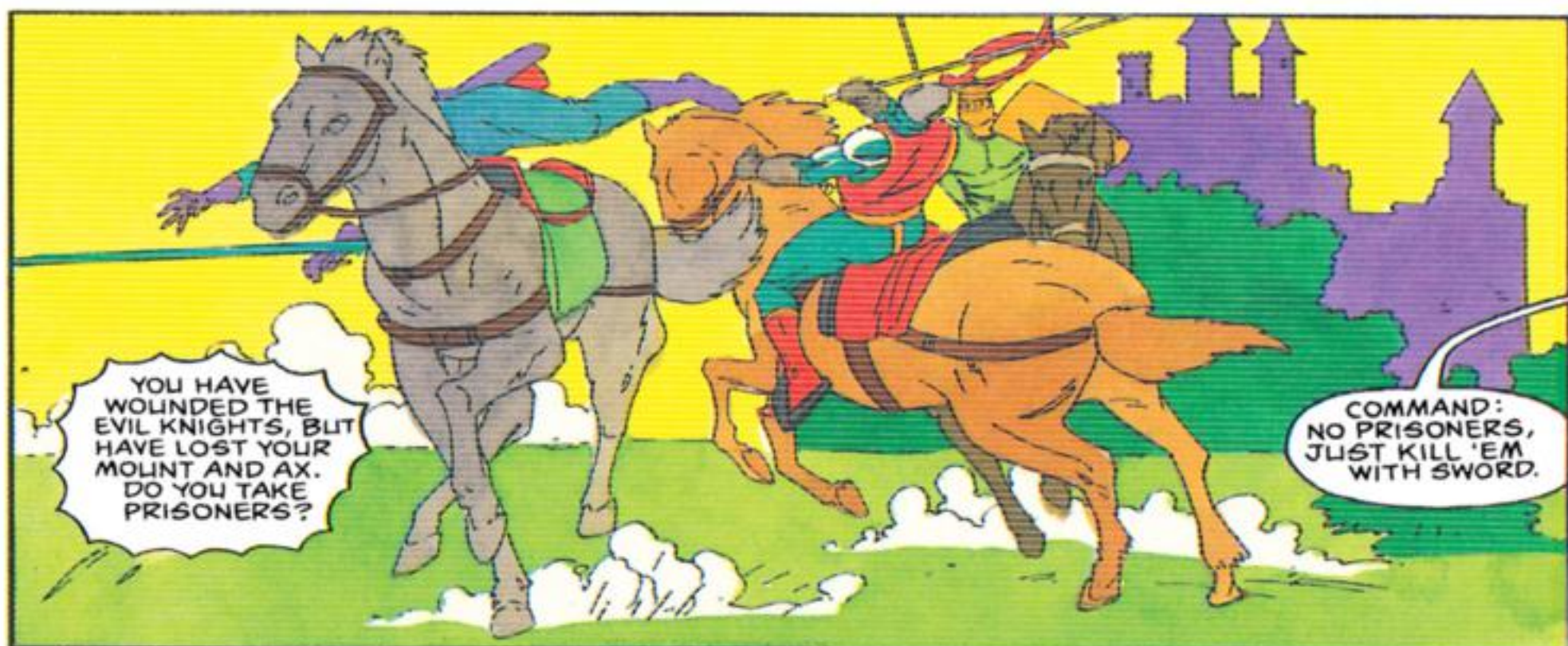
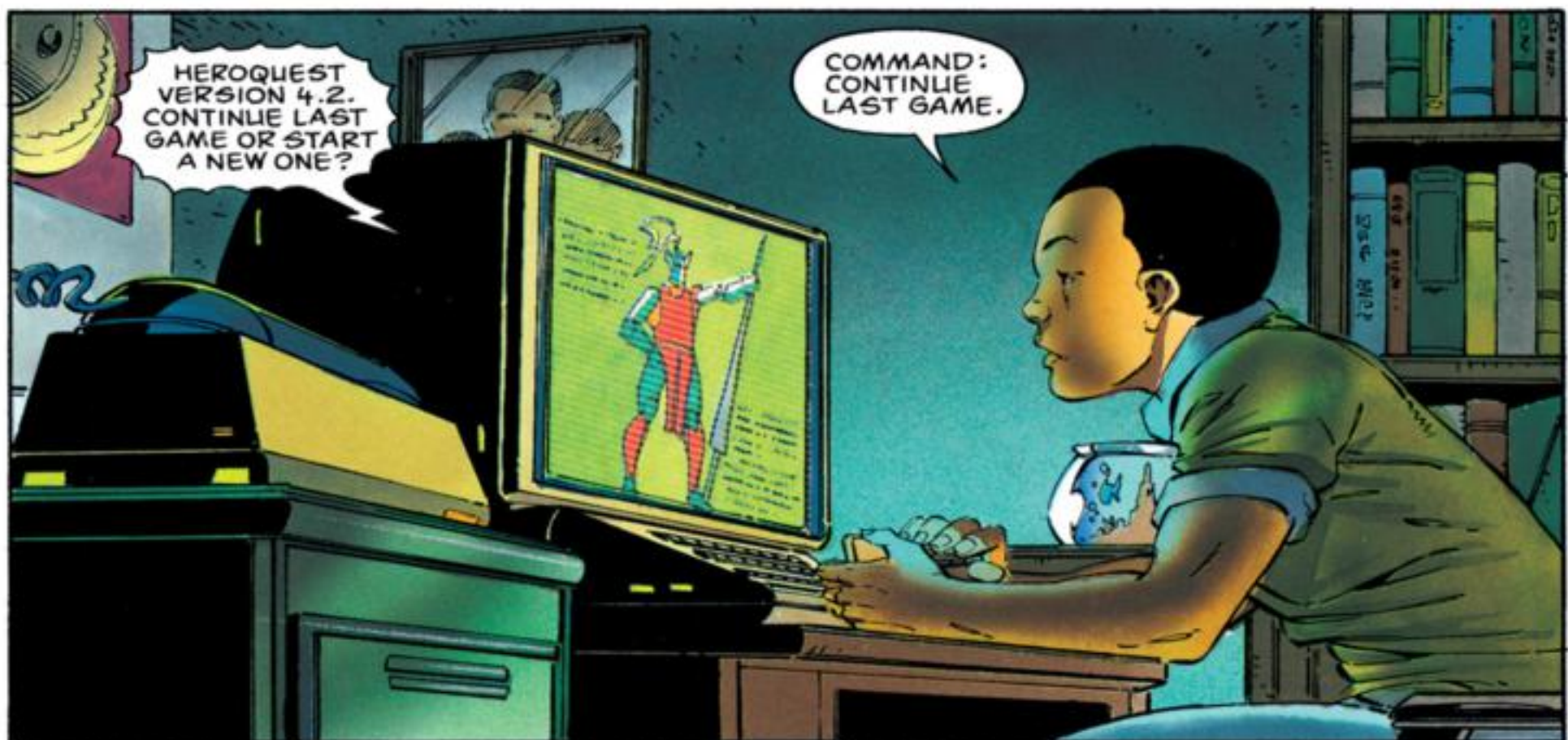
ACCESS AREA CODE 516-555-5811.

Accessing modem link to personal computer at requested number.



Program designated "Heroquest" running.

ENTER ME INTO THE PROGRAM.







Phone link
disconnected.

Continue with
cybernetics
systems
overload?

Continue with
cybernetics
systems
overload?

I DON'T
THINK SO.

"YOU WANT TO
WIN AT THIS
GAME..."

"...YOU'VE GOTTA
LEARN HOW TO
BE A HERO."





**NEXT:
JESUS SAVES**

