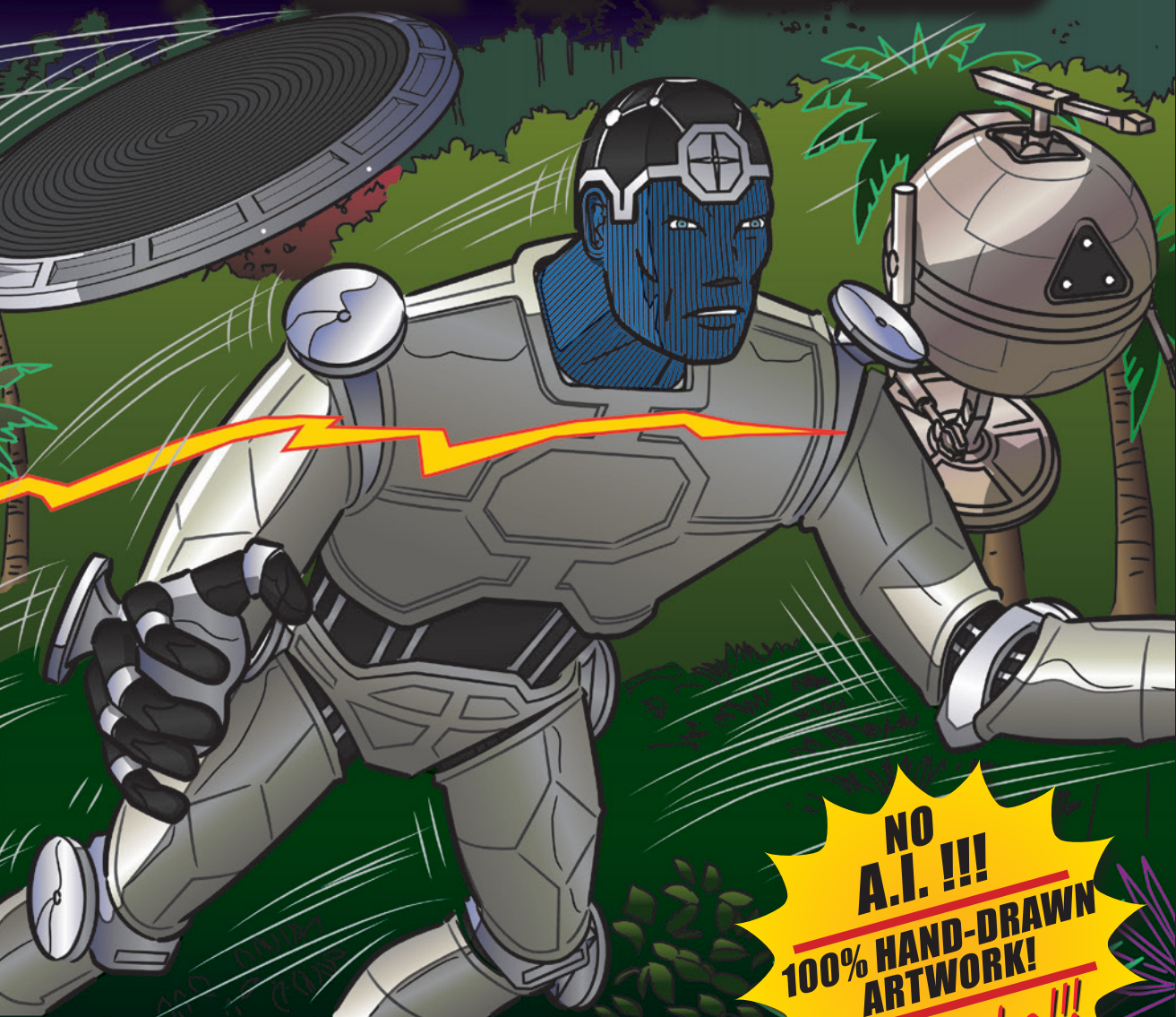


ISSUE
#2
AUG
2024

THE ADVENTURES OF

\$10

MALCOLM FERRROID



**NO
A.I. !!!**
**100% HAND-DRAWN
ARTWORK!**
it's Retro!!!

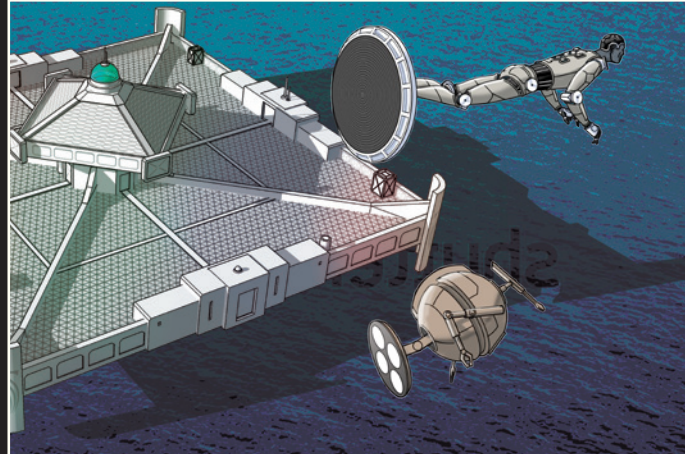
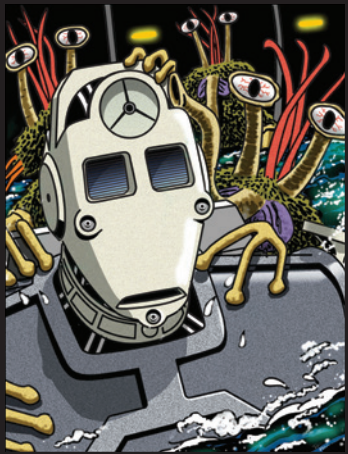
EPISODE 2
ISLE OF CONFUSION

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY TONY BOSLEY

Welcome back to the ongoing saga of *Cyad-M of Ziastra*, (A.K.A. Malcolm Ferroid)...

Quick Recap....

In the first episode, *Cyad-M* destroyed an alien underwater base and was subsequently attacked by a squadron of *Scorbee* drones, thus losing his trusty *AG-disk* and a brand new *Morph Pod* in the process. Stranded on the ocean floor, he then wound up riding a shark up to the surface where he was intercepted by his crew on the *Zektoplanar Operations Platform*.



After reviewing the details of upcoming missions, *Cyad-M* and *Exo* then set out from the *Zektoplanar* to test a replacement *AG-disk* over an expanse of ocean. While in the process of running the disk through a series of rigorous performance exercises, they suddenly received a major distress signal from a small island in the vicinity. *Cyad-M* decided to investigate, and this of course led to a whole series of unexpected events, which you are soon to find out about in the pages ahead. **Read on!**

RETRO KID



Hi folks! Retro Kid here!

Just a reminder... *Cyad-M* and his cohorts are actually speaking in their native tongue *Ziashian*, but it's been translated to English for your convenience!

*Any humans appearing in this story are speaking Earthly languages of course!

What does *Ziashian* sound like?

It's like a cross between Bulgarian & Portuguese, with a hint of Swahili. Then run that thru your dishwasher a couple of times and you've got it!

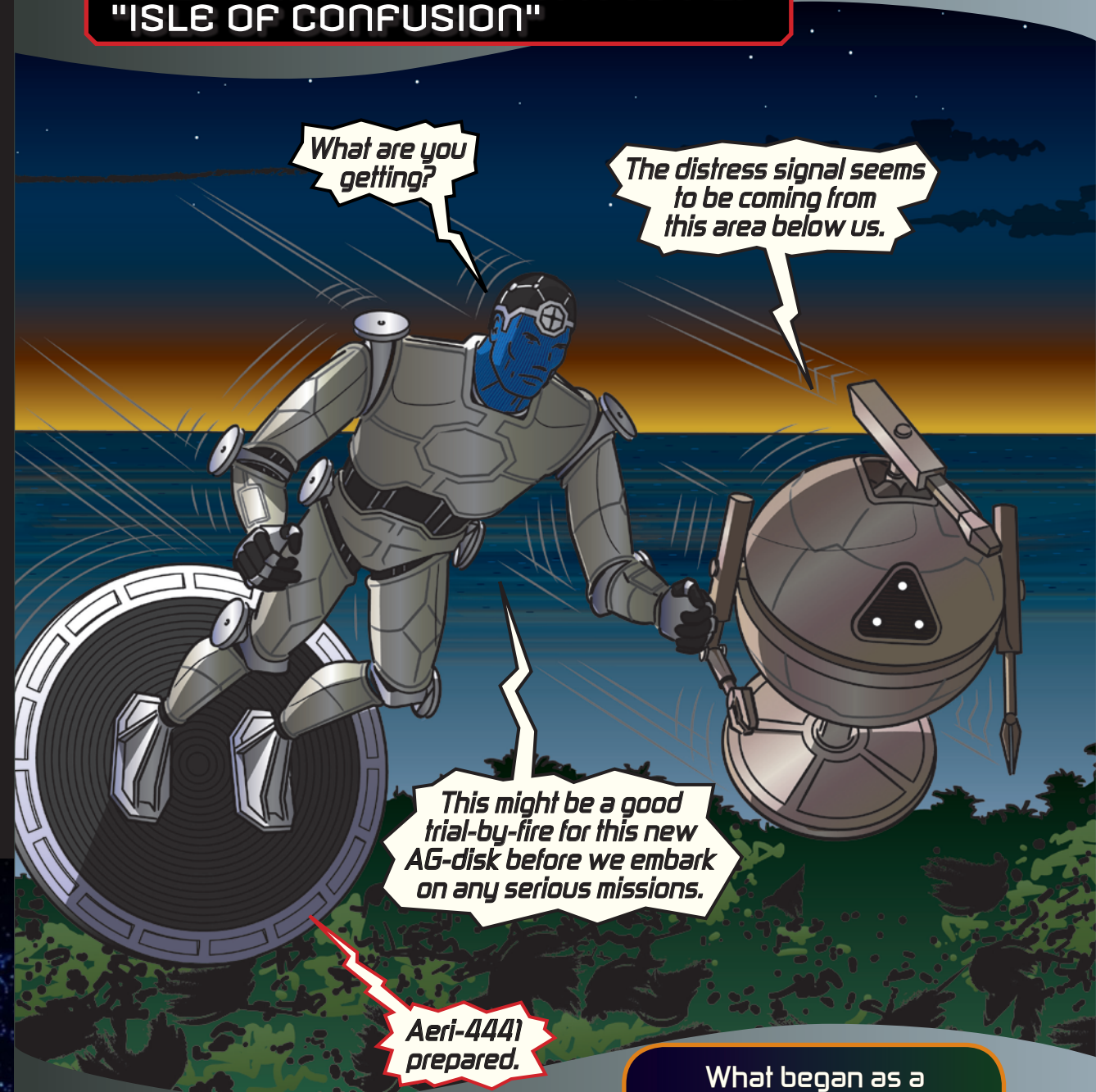
Hope you enjoy the story!

It's SWELL!

Written & Illustrated by Tony Bosley

And so, our story continues...

MALCOLM FERROID - EPISODE 2: "ISLE OF CONFUSION"



What are you getting?

The distress signal seems to be coming from this area below us.

This might be a good trial-by-fire for this new AG-disk before we embark on any serious missions.

Aeri-4441 prepared.

Cyad-M and *Exo* alter their trajectory to begin flying over a small tropical island where their readings of a distress signal are strongest.

What began as a routine performance test of the new *AG-disk* turned into an impromptu 'rescue mission' for some yet-to-be-identified victims.

Let's see where this leads...

Descending into the dense jungles of a secluded tropical island, Cyad-M and PL-exo embark upon this mission with no idea whatsoever of what they may be getting into...

Since this is outside of our mission mandate, how would you like to classify this one?

"Incidental surveillance of potential infiltrators".

How's that?

Why do you feel it's necessary to conduct these unscheduled side-missions... just to 'rescue' some inconsequential being?

You know it makes absolutely no difference in the grand scheme of things.



Well, it makes a difference to that individual.



And it makes a difference to me.

Ok, I've got a lock.

0.8675° S, 89.4364° W

Cyad-M and Exo continue to scan the area in a zig-zag pattern as this helps them to pinpoint the exact source of the distress signal.

Suddenly, a massive burst in intensity of the distress signal allows Exo to get a reading on a precise location. The pair spring into action, heading for the source at breakneck speed...



Let's go!

Meanwhile, a sordid scene is unfolding in a secret underground lair ...



Is that you I hear screaming your fool head off down here?

I told you, it's not gonna do any good. Nobody can hear you!

So now I have to remove some more of your hair.

...as punishment.

AIEEE!!!!

FWIT!!

"Bonjour"

Je suis Henriqué, your personal hair stylist.

Don't worry. You're not going to end up like the others.

I have a buyer for you, so I need to keep you in one piece... unfortunately.

Got bills to pay.

A young woman is in great peril in the basement of a hideout where she is being held captive and tormented by a psychopath who is threatening to sell her to the highest bidder...

But who knows what they might decide to do with you. MWAHAHAHA



I just like to keep a little memento... Something to remember you by.

Now I'm going back upstairs, to finish my game of Angry Birds... which you so rudely interrupted!

After that, I'll freshen up with a bit of aftershave, and then you and I are going to have a romantic evening... Nyuk nyuk nyuk.

As Cyad-M and Exo approach the area, they immediately employ a **Frequency Jammer** to cancel out any motion detectors which may trigger an alarm...

The distress signal is emanating from this dwelling.

No visible fortifications...

Proceed with caution.

Now we've alerted these guard creatures.

Those are canines.

So much for our stealthy approach.

10m ascent. We'll figure this out.

Upon hearing the commotion from the guard dogs above, Mueller is instantly on alert...

Grrr...
ROUFF!!

Huh?

I've detected a small metaphysical entity in the vicinity.

I can apply a luminance modifier to it. Perhaps it'll act as a decoy.

Go for it.

Exo proceeds to engulf the metaphysical being with a **Luminescence Activator Beam** which causes the entity to begin reflecting light in the visible spectrum...



That's a nice one.



And they're off.

The results are instantaneous as the dogs immediately begin barking after what they perceive to be an actual living cat...

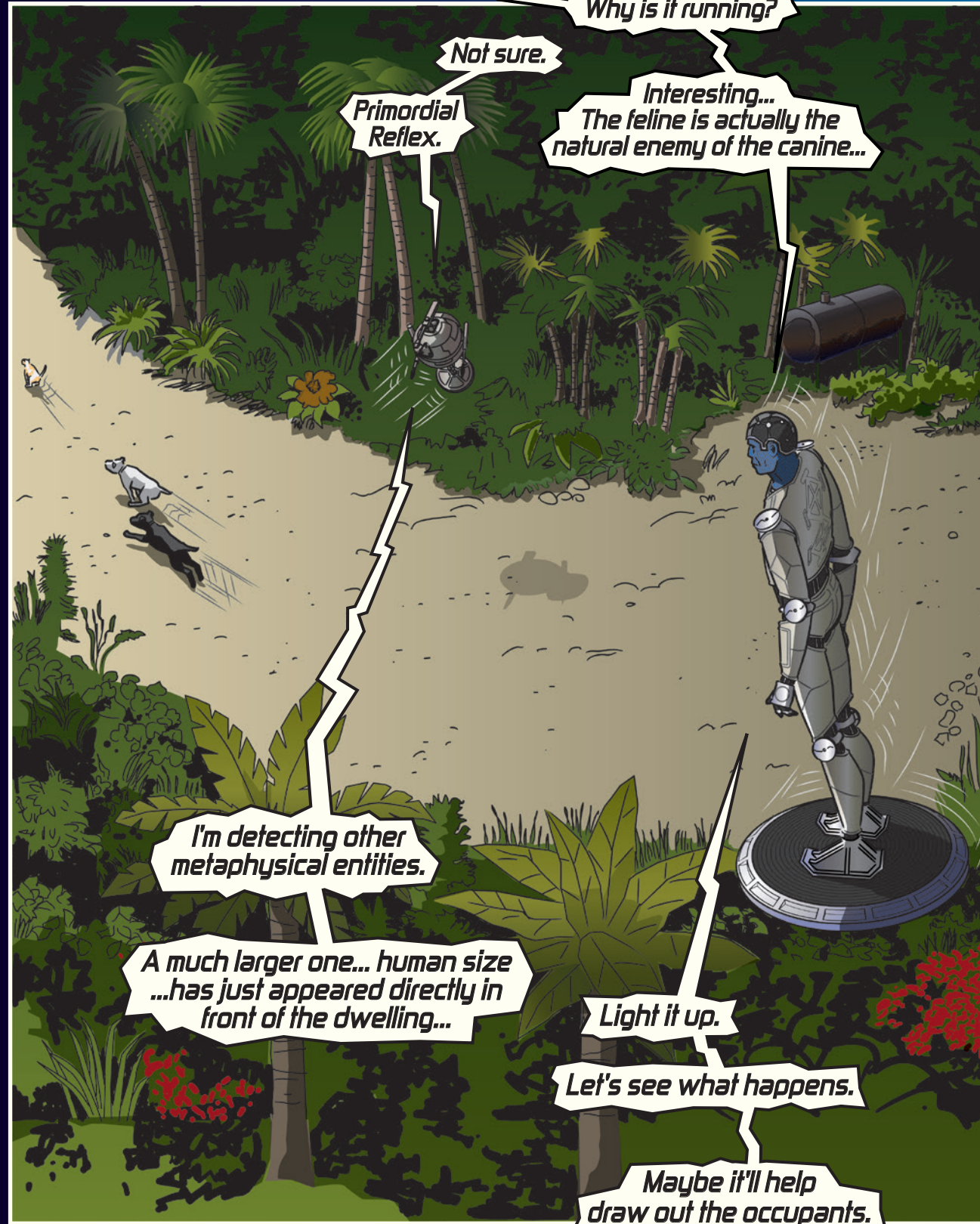
Well that worked out.

Why is it running?

Not sure.

Primordial Reflex.

Interesting...
The feline is actually the natural enemy of the canine...



I'm detecting other metaphysical entities.

A much larger one... human size
...has just appeared directly in front of the dwelling...

Light it up.

Let's see what happens.

Maybe it'll help draw out the occupants.

Hearing the continued commotion coming from the front of the house, an alarmed Mueller quickly makes his way up the stairs as he ponders how best to deal with it.

Girl...
ROUFF!!
Yip!

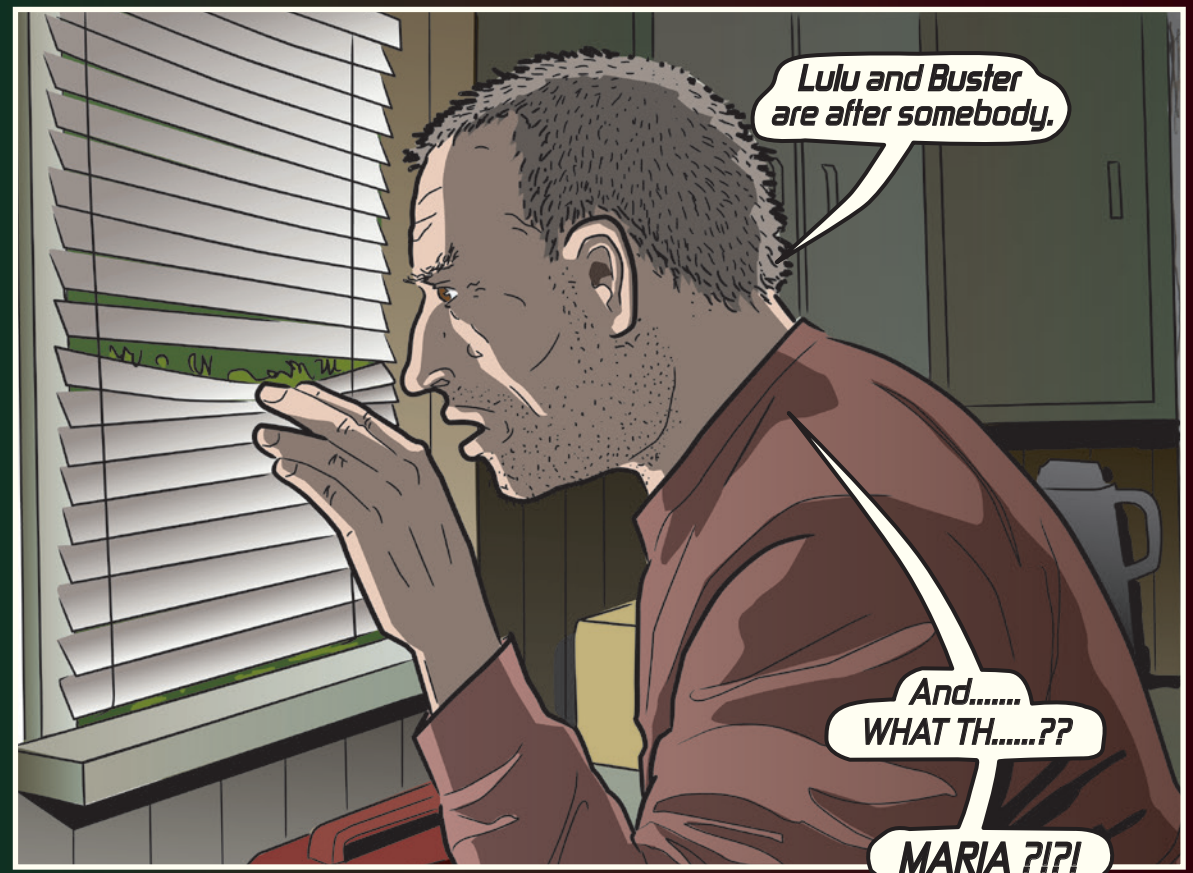
What in tarnation...??

Who is pokin' around out there??

And how did they get past the perimeter without triggering the alarm??



Mueller is then shocked to see the specter of a recently deceased girl standing right outside his front door!

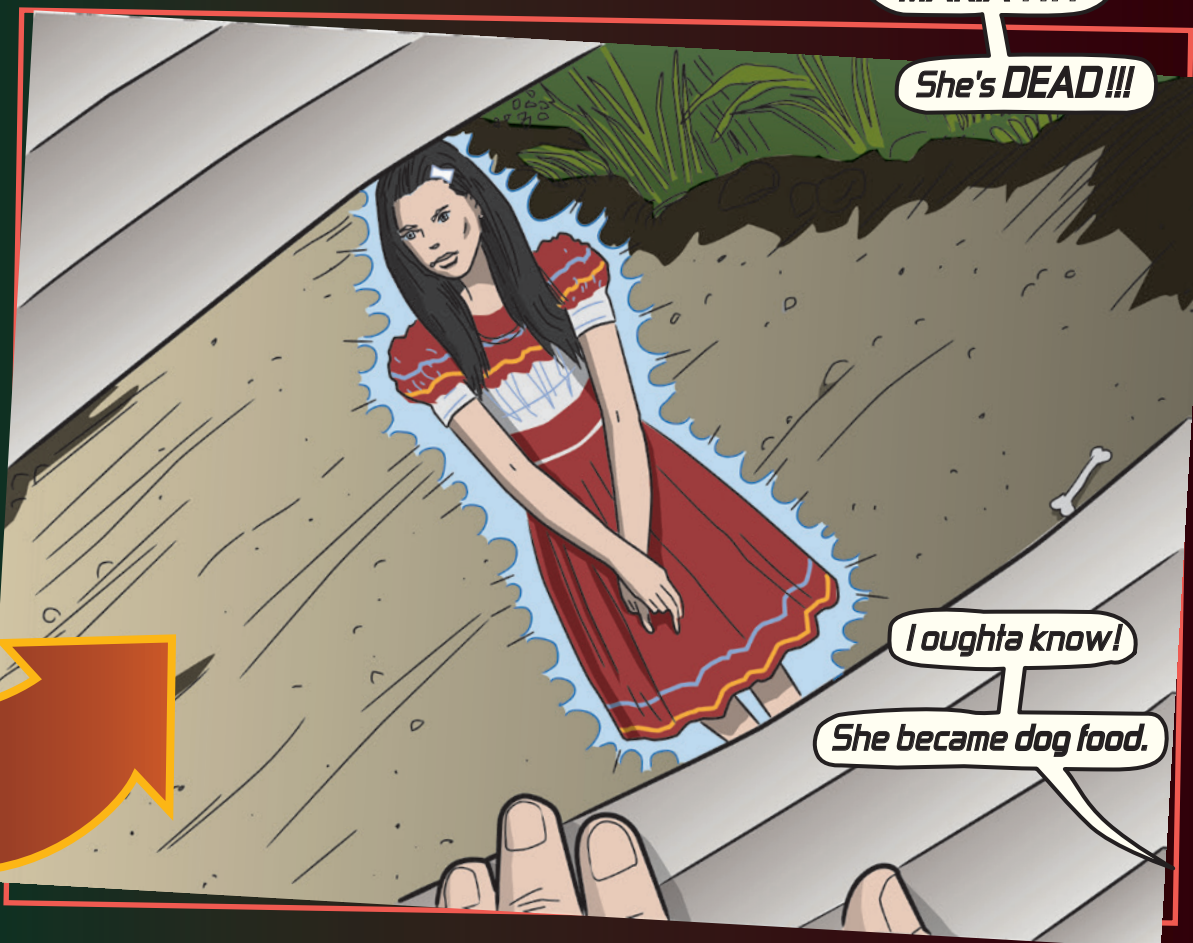


Lulu and Buster are after somebody.

And.....
WHAT TH.....??

MARIA ?!?!

She's DEAD!!!



I oughta know!

She became dog food.



Somebody's tryna pull a fast one.

Trying to lure me out.

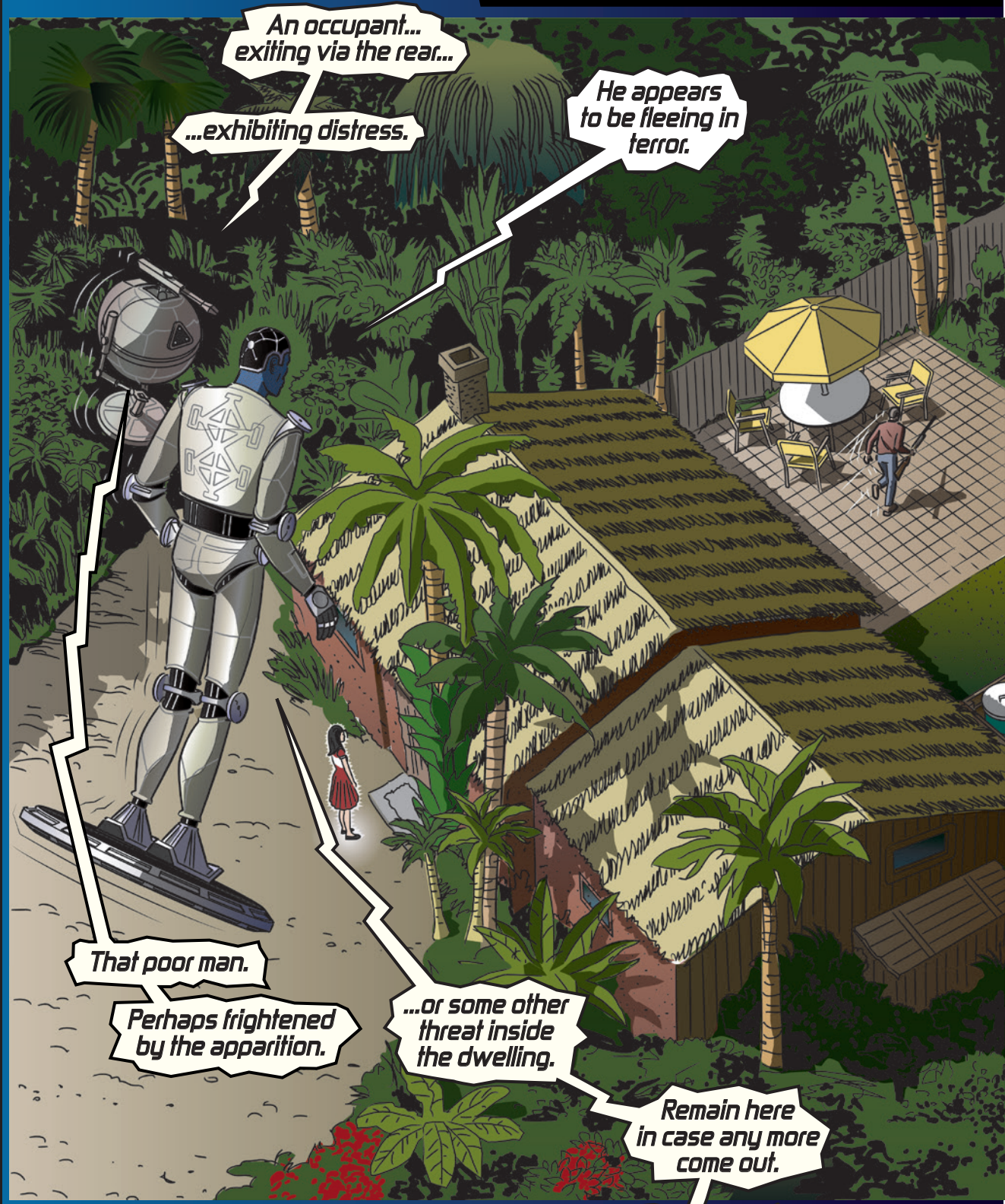
Some kind of hologram...

Expecting me to just waltz right out the front door. La-de-dah...

Ain't gonna happen.

I didn't just fall off the turnip truck.

Out the back door...



An occupant... exiting via the rear...

...exhibiting distress.

He appears to be fleeing in terror.

That poor man.

Perhaps frightened by the apparition.

...or some other threat inside the dwelling.

Remain here in case any more come out.

I'll follow him to see where he's headed.



Who in hell could this be?

The Feds?

Cyad-M tails Mueller out to the rear of the extensive property while Exo remains at the dwelling to continue surveillance....



Gonzo guaranteed me that my land would be off-limits.

That was the deal man!!

I delivered him the 'pizzas' he wanted.

As Mueller slams the door to his bunker, he takes a quick glance out the window, and sees some strange apparition floating in the night sky...

What's this?

Some kind of drone?

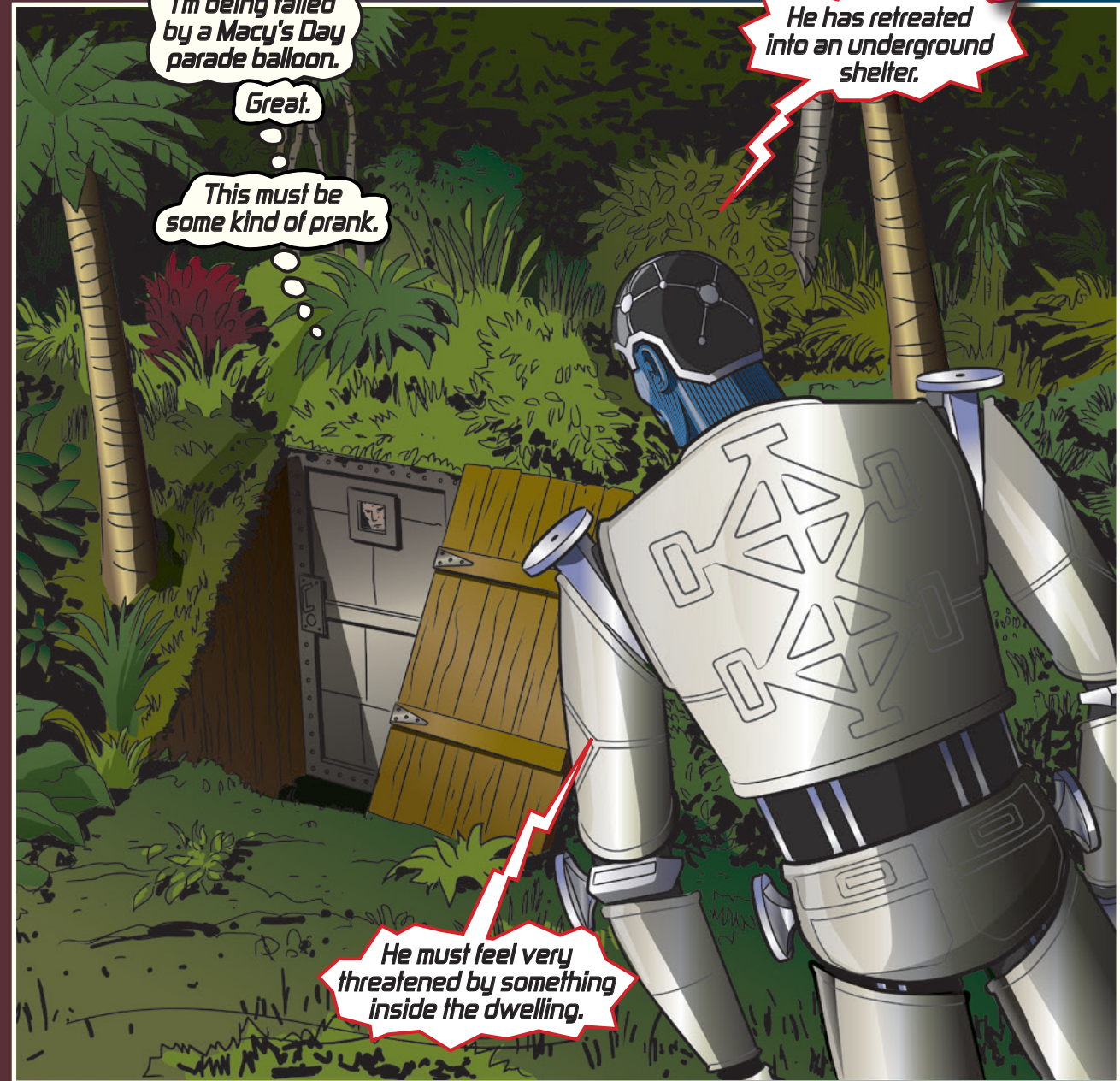
I'm being tailed by a Macy's Day parade balloon.

Great.

This must be some kind of prank.

Communication with Exo 

He has retreated into an underground shelter.



He must feel very threatened by something inside the dwelling.

Assuming that this human is desperately trying to escape from some as-yet-unknown menace in the house, Cyad-M observes him entering what appears to be a fortified shelter or bunker...

but then...

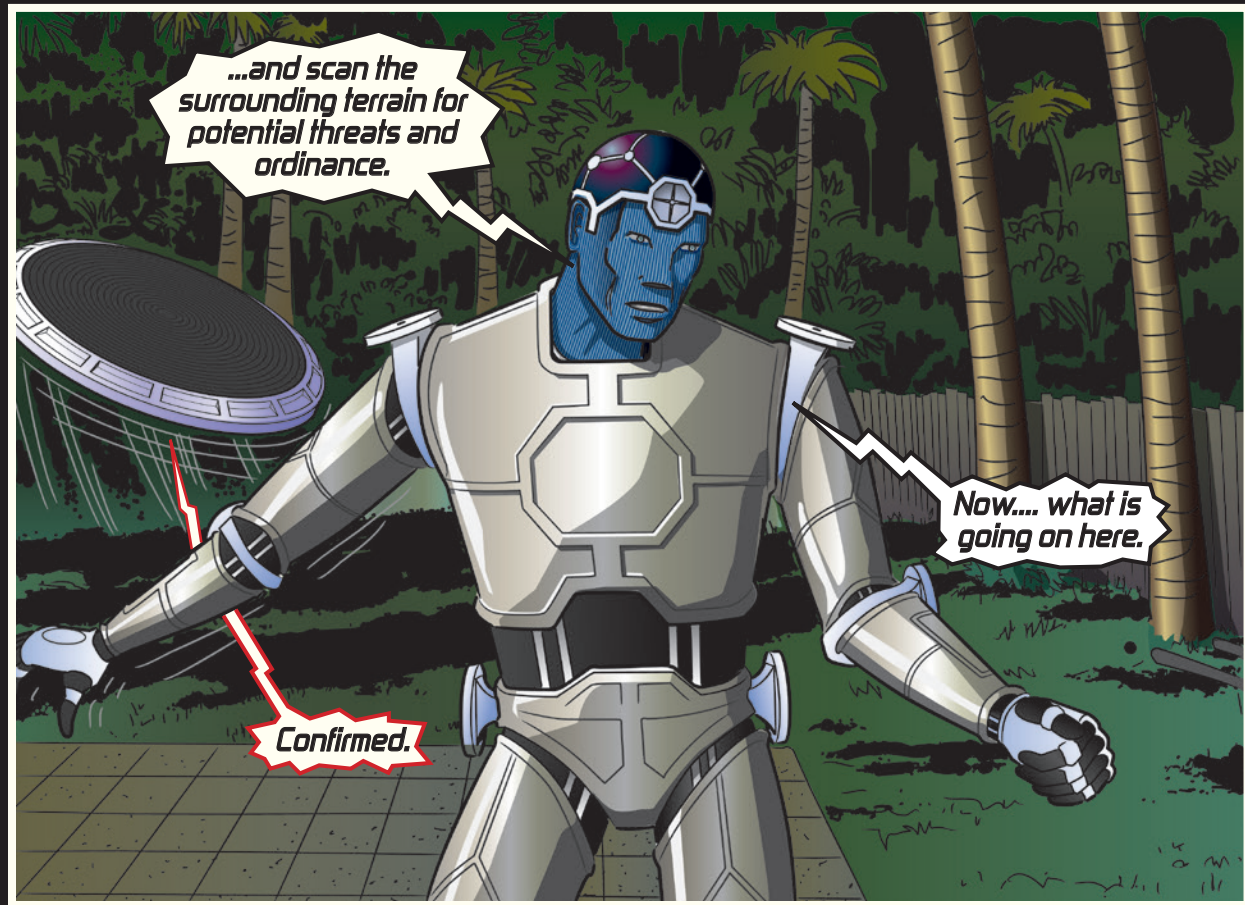


A disturbing development

You need to see this.

On my way.

M receives a troubling message from **Exo**. He immediately races back to the house and quickly disembarks from the **AG-Disk**.

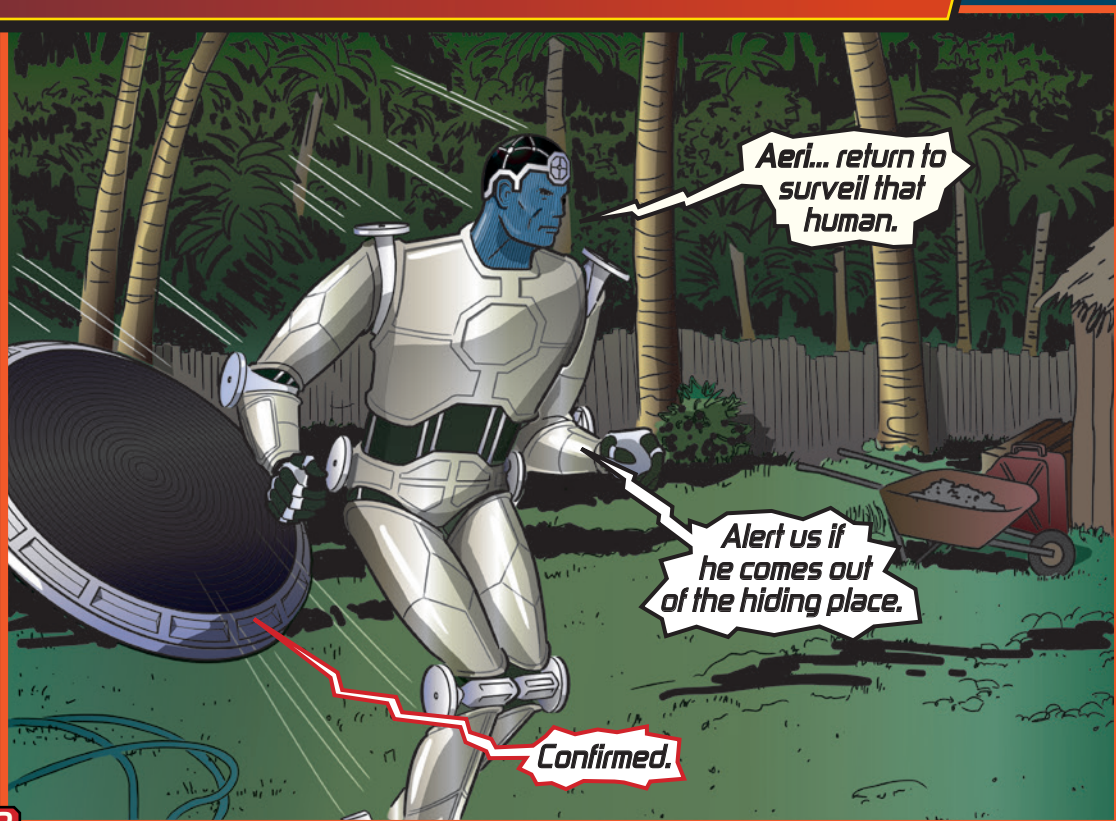


...and scan the surrounding terrain for potential threats and ordinance.

Confirmed.

Now... what is going on here.

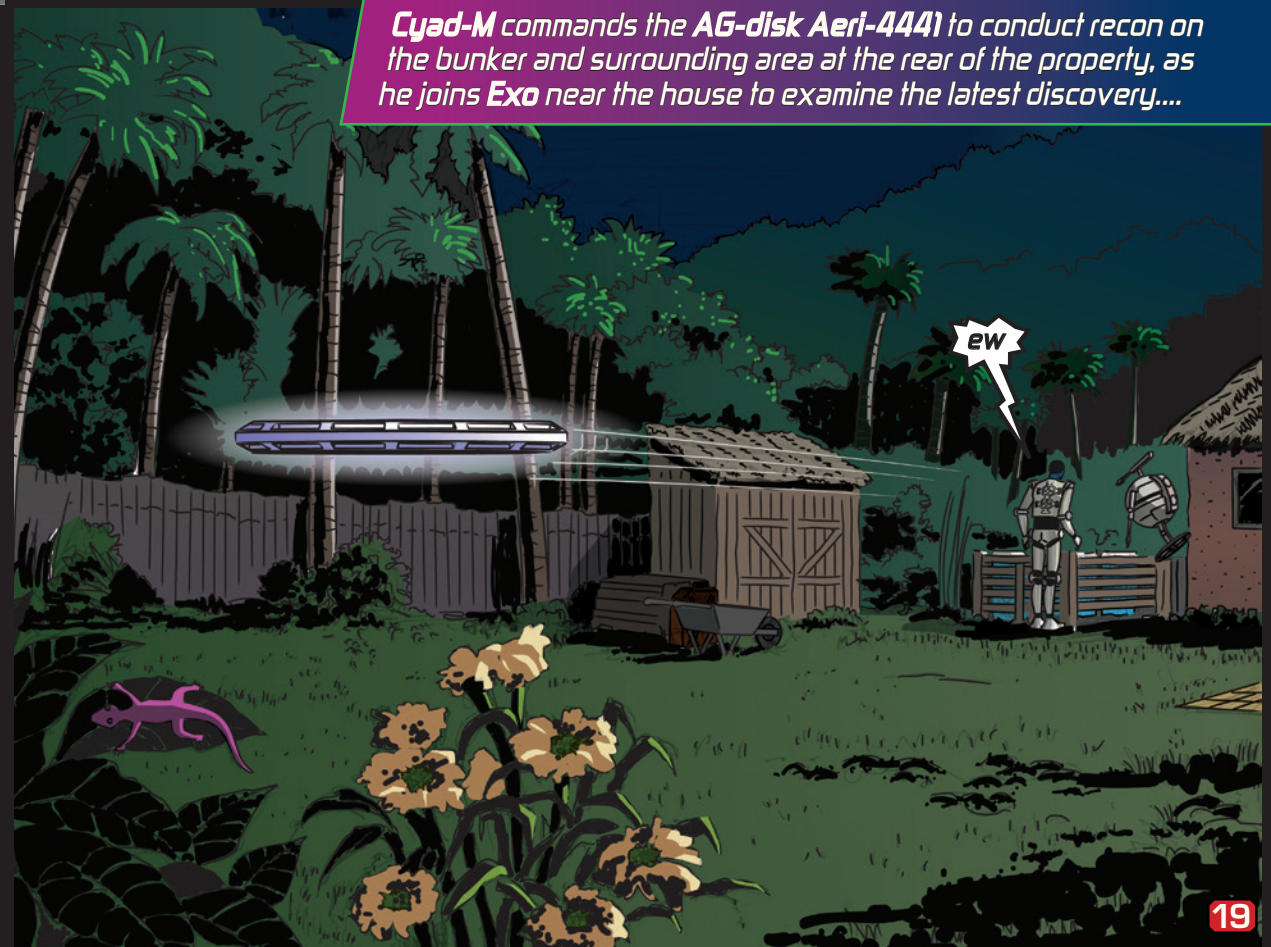
Cyad-M commands the **AG-disk Aeri-444** to conduct recon on the bunker and surrounding area at the rear of the property, as he joins **Exo** near the house to examine the latest discovery...



Aeri... return to surveil that human.

Alert us if he comes out of the hiding place.

Confirmed.



ew

Cyad-M and Exo, both shocked to discover that something very diabolical is taking place instantly realize that their impromptu charity mission has suddenly morphed into a mass homicide investigation... something much more serious than originally anticipated...

Exo releases a squadron of Veelok Probes to search the dwelling...

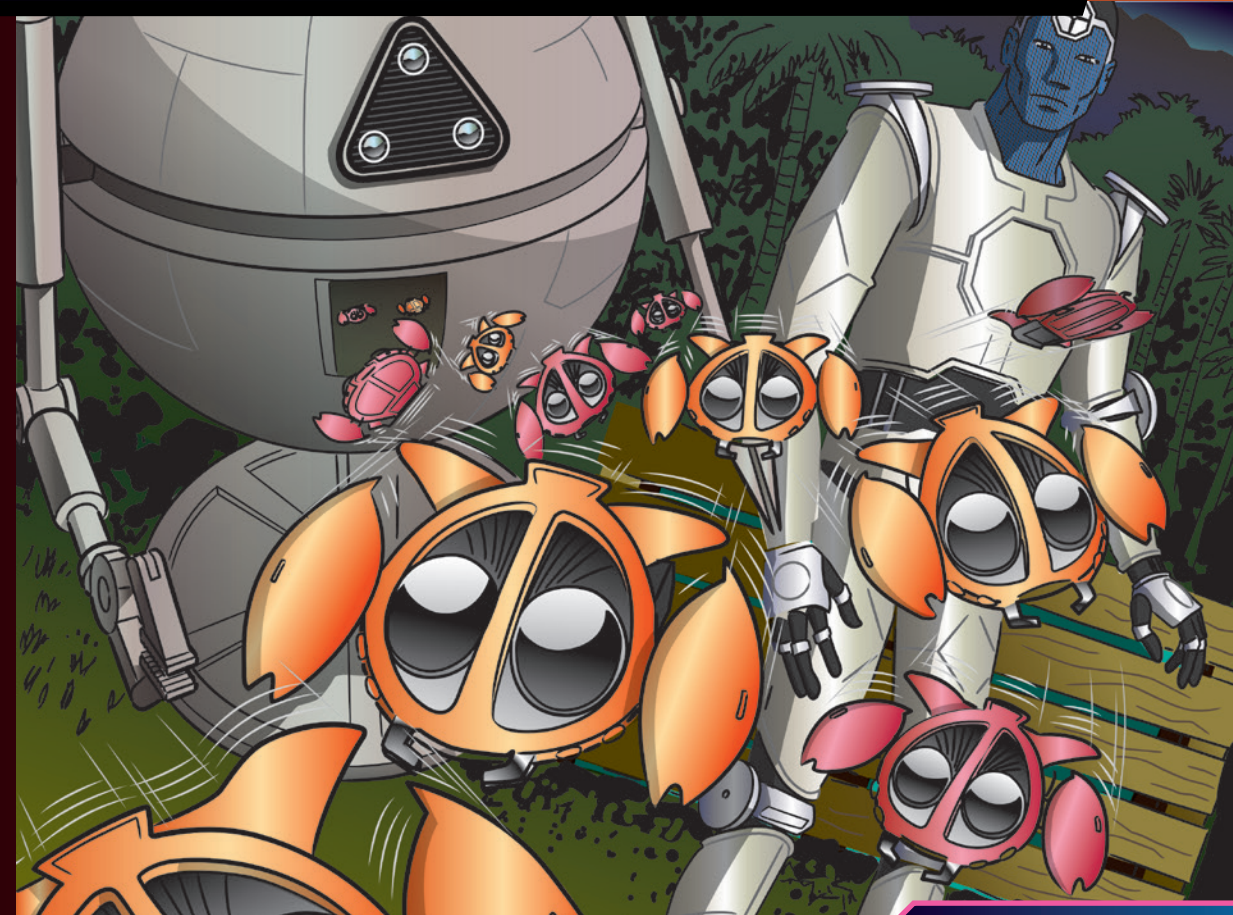
This is not good.

Something... or someone... is killing humans at a rapid pace. And they seem to be having trouble disposing of the remains.

Or they don't care to. for whatever reason.



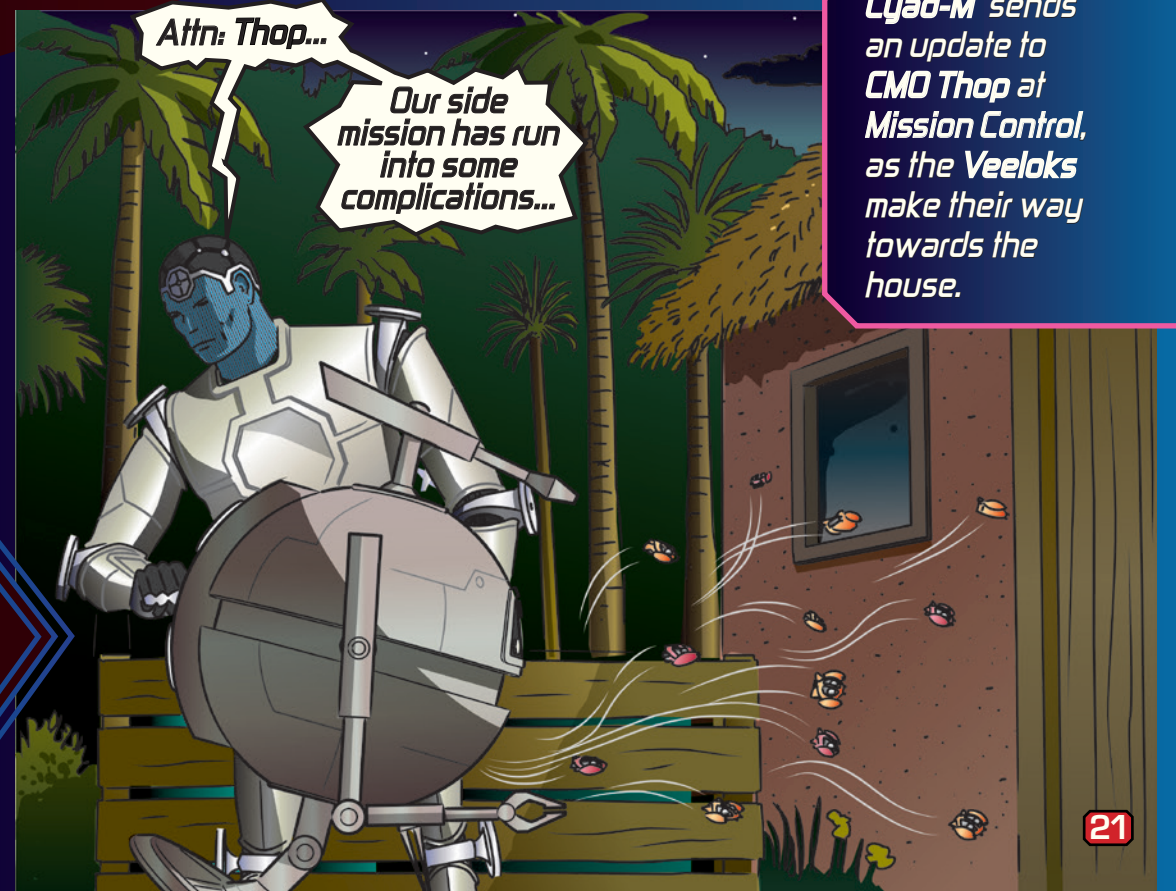
Time to send in the Probes...



Attn: Thop...

Our side mission has run into some complications...

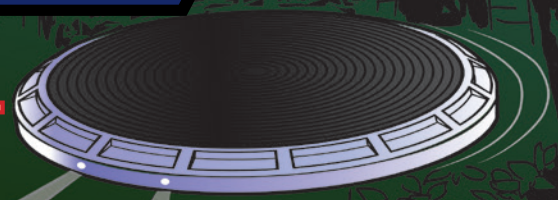
Cyad-M sends an update to CMO Thop at Mission Control, as the Veeloks make their way towards the house.



At this point, the mission goes into high gear as they prepare to scour the premises thoroughly and find out exactly what kind of danger lurks within....

Meanwhile, at the back of the compound...

Perimeter under control.
.....scanning for
potential threats.....



That stupid drone is
still poking around...

But the blow-up doll
is gone...

???

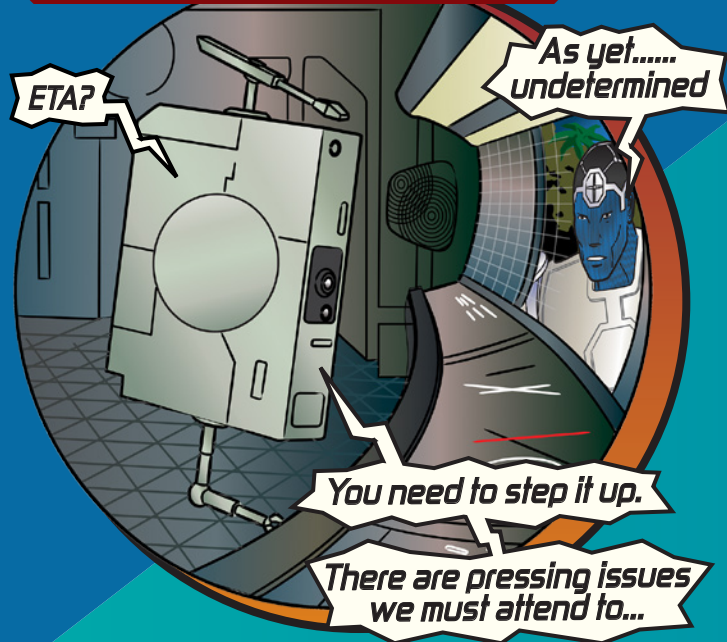
While still trying to assess the exact nature of this adversary, **Mueller** realizes that he may well be in for a major confrontation; however with a **huge arsenal** at his fingertips in his bunker he is well prepared for battle...

Now these a-holes are
really starting to piss me off.

They have no idea
who they're dealing with.

The AG-Disk continues cataloging items found in the area, such as ammunition cases, ventilation ducts, piping, electrical wiring, communication systems, etc., as it streams this data to Cyad-M and PL-Exo for review.

At the Command Center, **CMD Thop** continues to monitor the events as they transpire...



As yet.....
undetermined

ETA?

You need to step it up.

There are pressing issues
we must attend to...



I didn't spend twelve years in the
special forces playin' tiddlywinks.

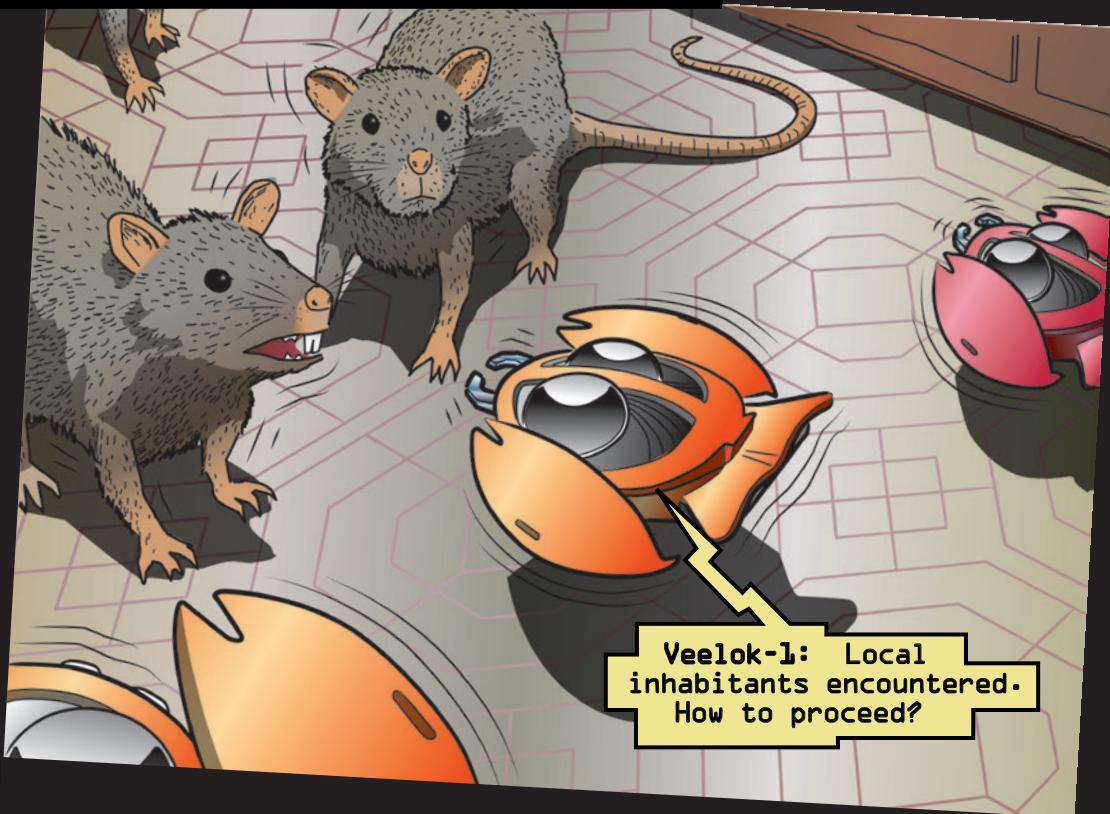
You want trouble?
Say hello to my
little friend....

...my trusty
SW-10 sniper rifle.

Back at the house, the Veeloks, able to distort themselves to paper-thin proportions, enter the house by slipping through tiny cracks and crevices.



Almost immediately, they wind up in a tense standoff with an army of small aggressive creatures which appear to be the dominant species within the dwelling...



Veelok-1: Local inhabitants encountered. How to proceed?

Cyad-M and Exo, observing the house interior through the lenses of the Veeloks via several floating plasma monitors, begin to draw some tentative conclusions...

I believe we have found the problem.

This must be the threat that the human is attempting to escape from.

The Veeloks are trying to negotiate with them.



If they don't respond favorably, or if they exhibit any signs of aggression, you have authorization to terminate them immediately.

The Veelok probes attempt to communicate with the rodents through a variety of means, sending a universal message of peace, love and cooperation...

After trying several wavelengths and various forms of telepathic communication in order to establish some type of entente with these creatures, the **Veeloks** begin to realize that they are unable to reason with them in any way. Then suddenly...

RATAMATTACK!!!

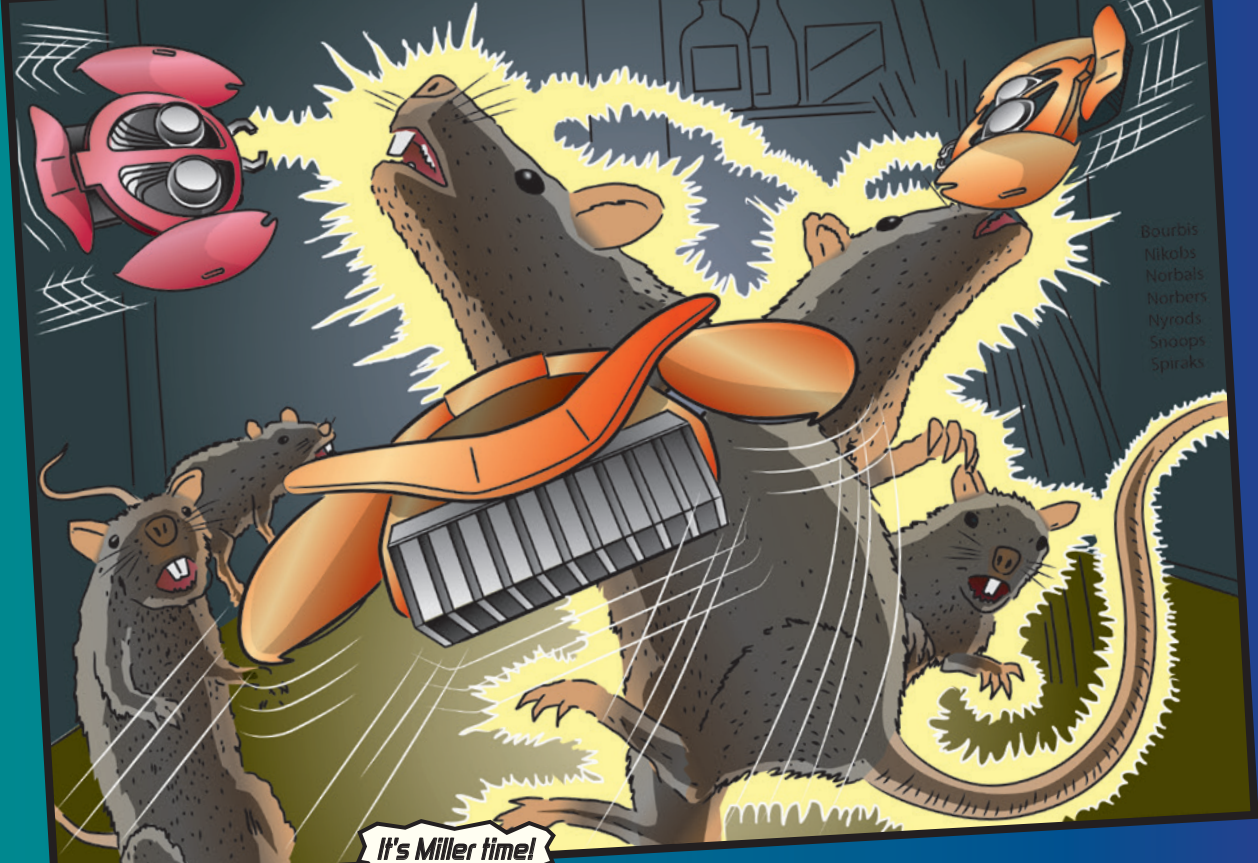


Unexpectedly, the rats decide to launch an assault, violently lunging at the lead Veelok!

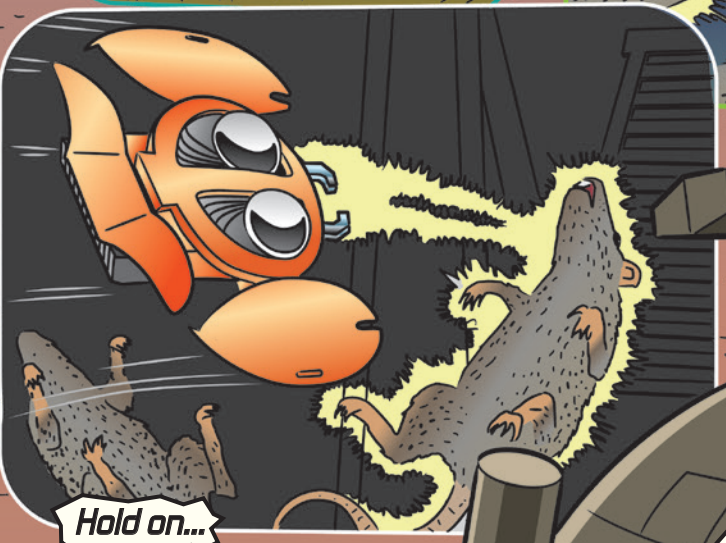
Well that settles that.

We'll eliminate this vermin and be on our way.

This attack of course initiates an immediate reaction from the **Veeloks** who instantly begin electrocuting the rats methodically...



It's Miller time!



Hold on...

I'm getting another distress signal...

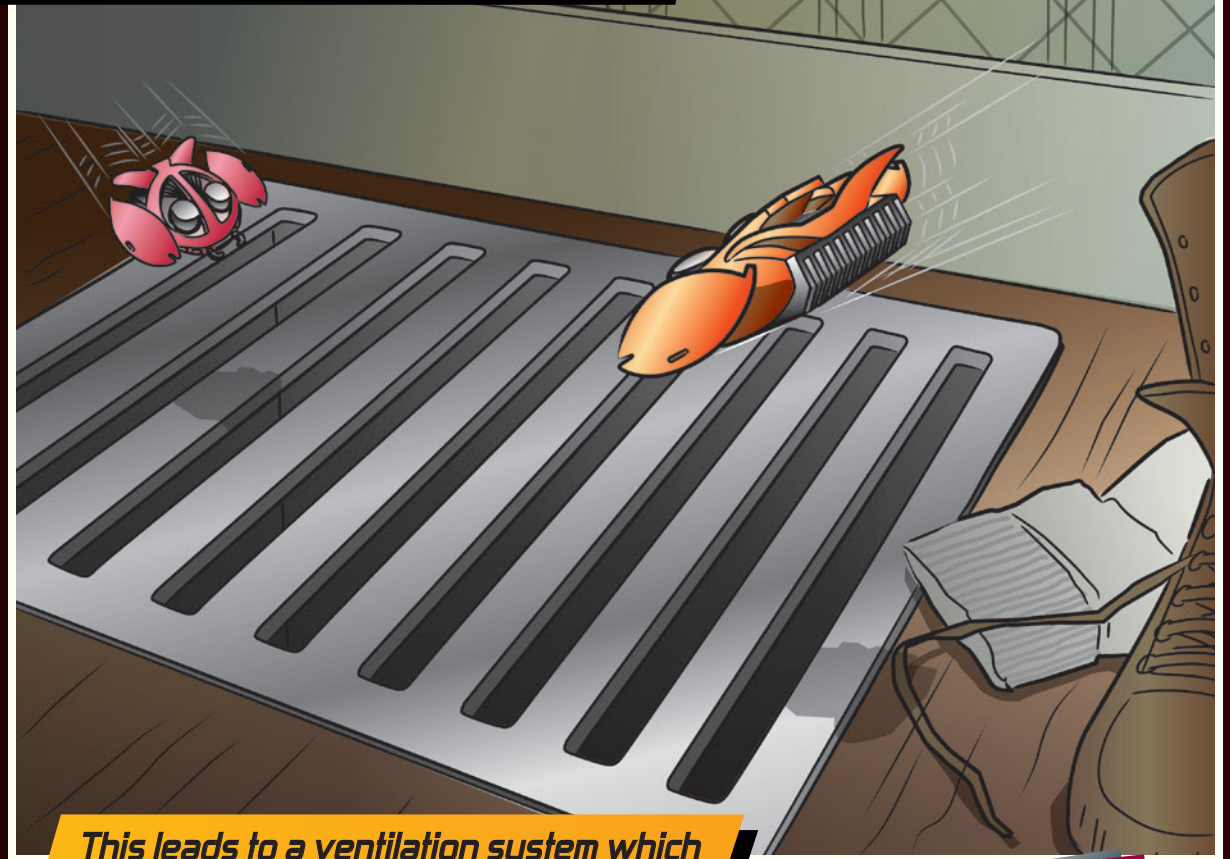
from inside the house...

All the rats in the immediate vicinity are eliminated; however it seems that a **major distress signal** is still emanating from somewhere within the dwelling. The **Veeloks** continue to scour the premises, going methodically from room to room, searching for any places where some entity in distress (possibly human) might be located...

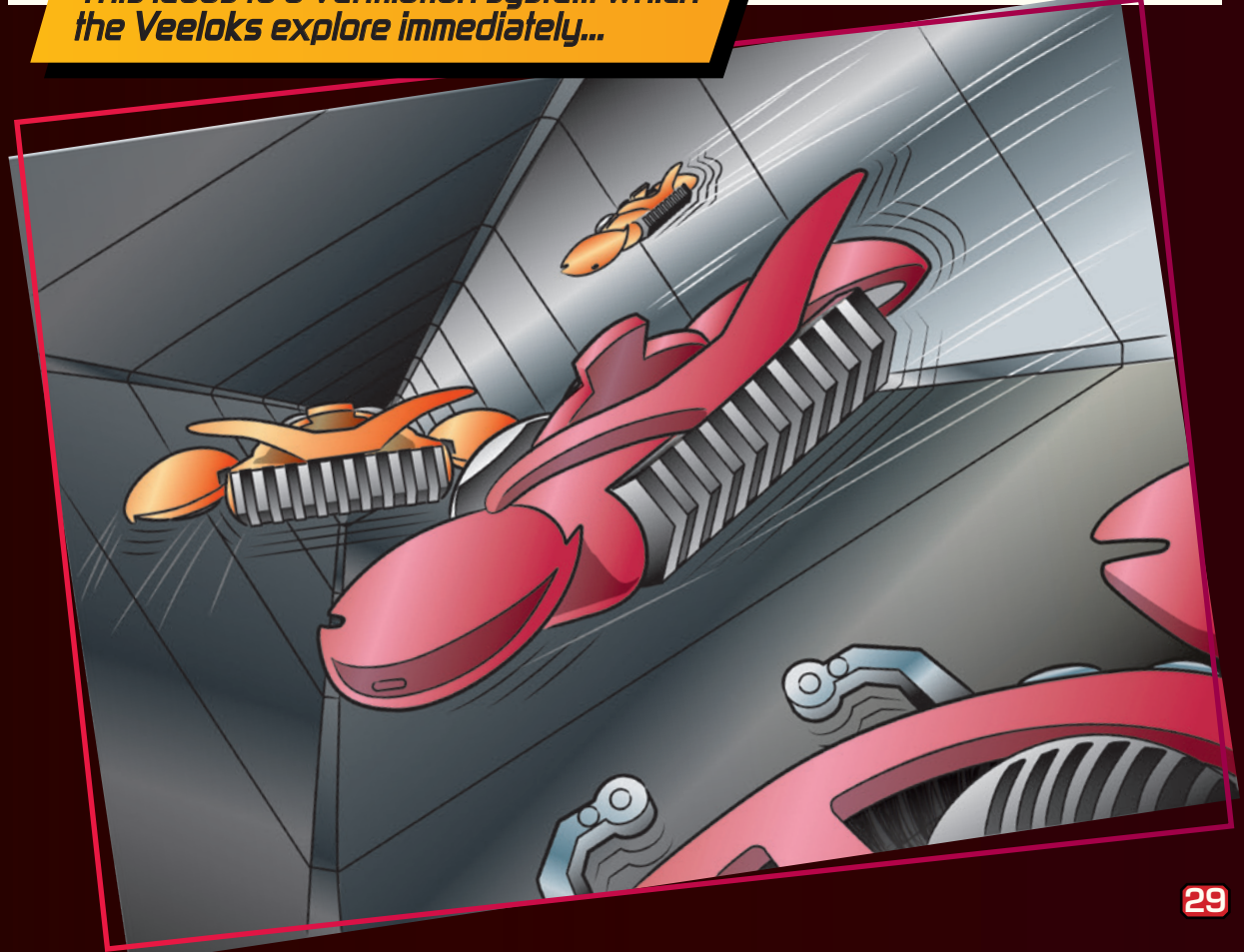


As **Cyad-M** and **Exo** continue to watch on the monitors from outside the dwelling, the **Veelok Probes** discover a floor grate which appears to lead to a chamber beneath the dwelling. They enter forthwith...

Into the grate...



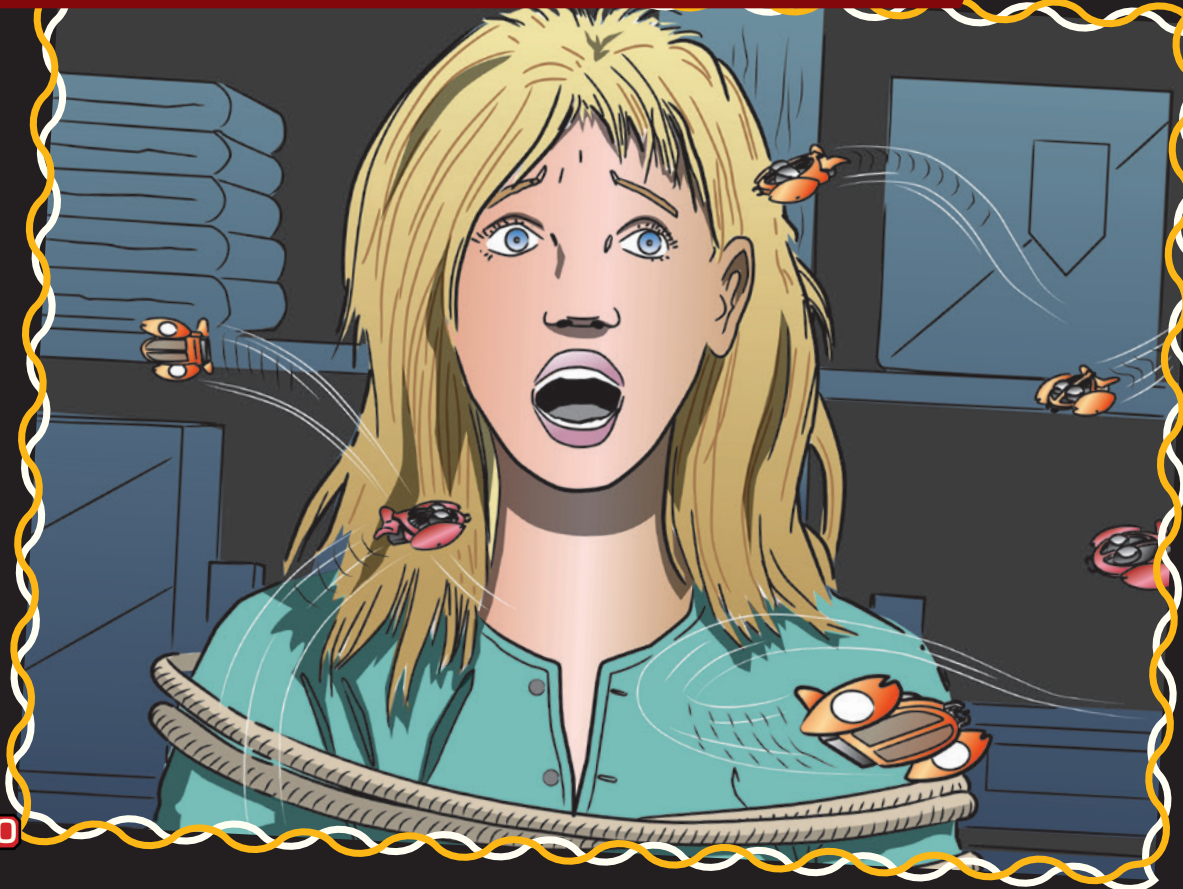
This leads to a ventilation system which the **Veeloks** explore immediately...



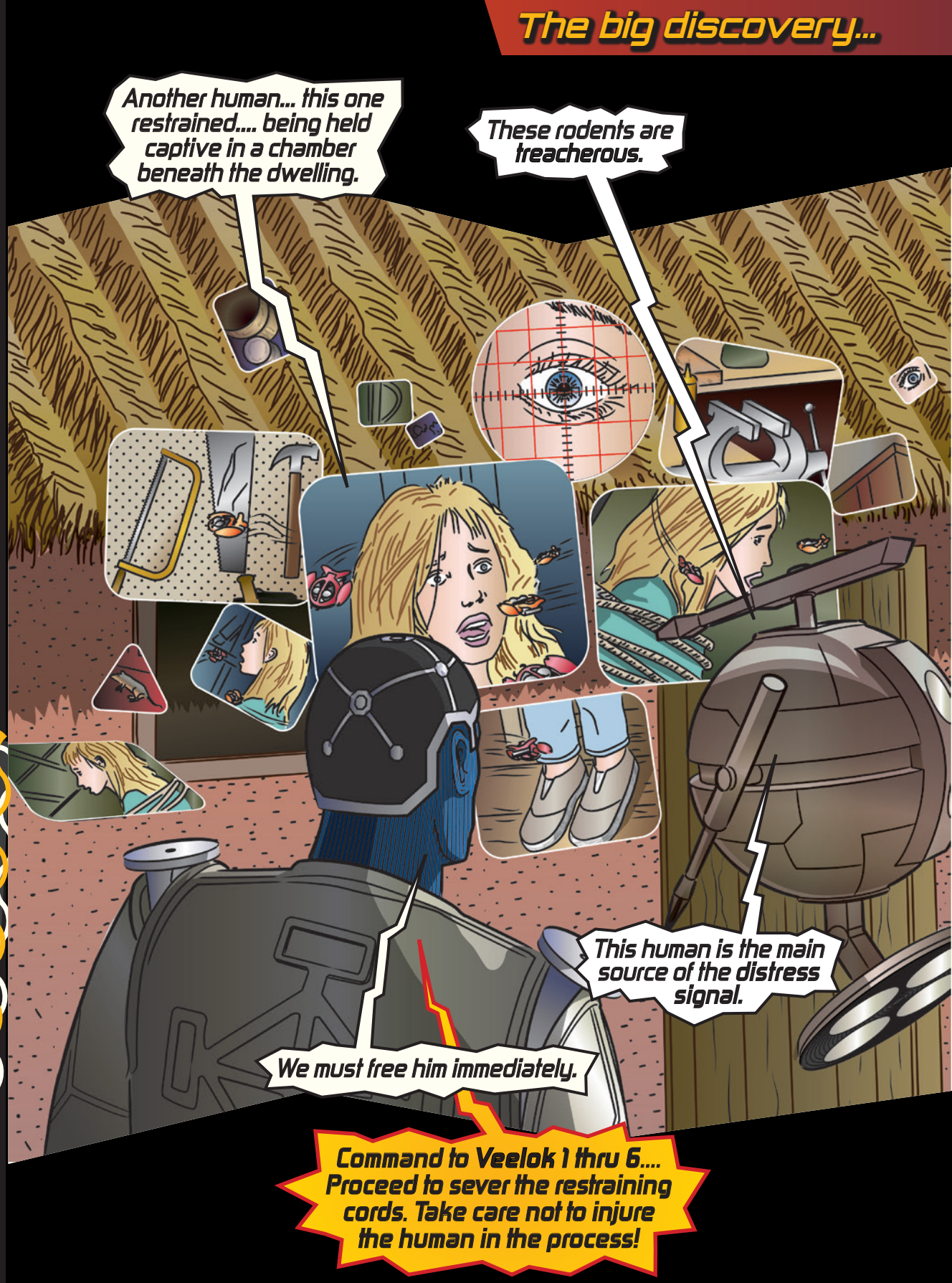
And into the cellar...



Already heavily traumatized, Lisa is startled and utterly bewildered by what she is now seeing while of course fearing for the worst...



The big discovery...



Another human... this one restrained.... being held captive in a chamber beneath the dwelling.

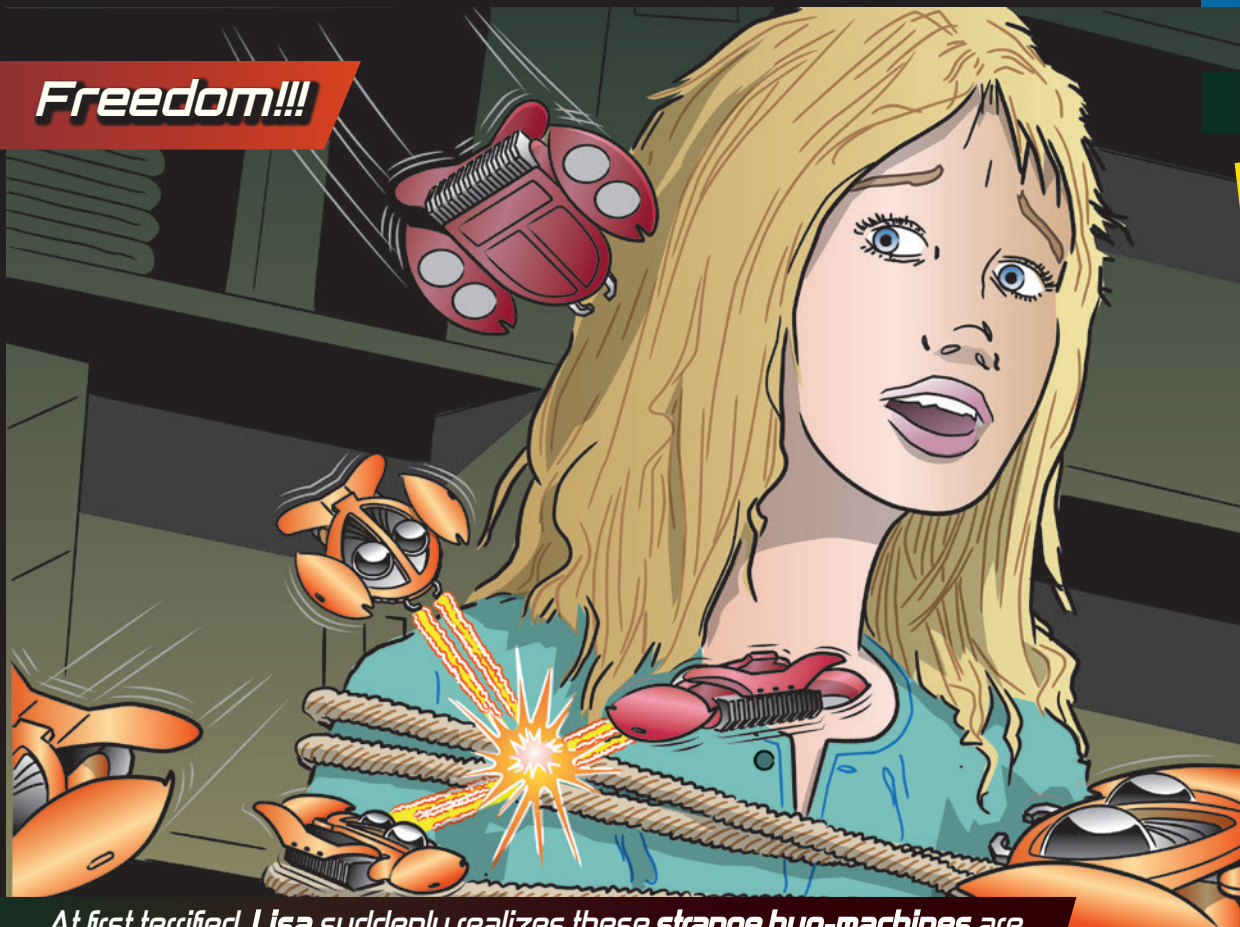
These rodents are treacherous.

This human is the main source of the distress signal.

We must free him immediately.

Command to Veelok 1 thru 6... Proceed to sever the restraining cords. Take care not to injure the human in the process!

Freedom!!!

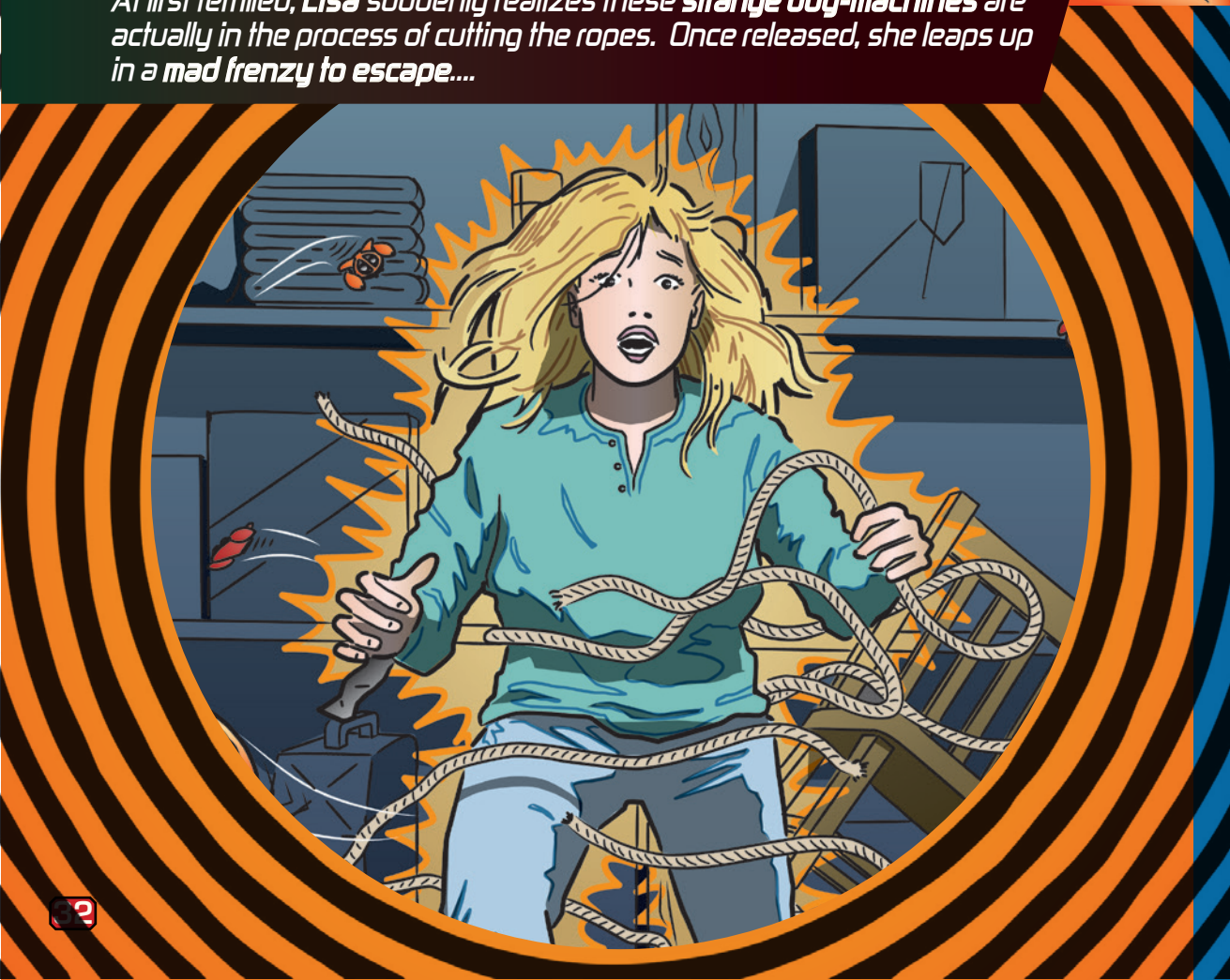


At first terrified, Lisa suddenly realizes these strange bug-machines are actually in the process of cutting the ropes. Once released, she leaps up in a mad frenzy to escape....

...but in her state of panic, snags her foot on one of the ropes...



...and winds up on the floor, and face-to-face with some nasty little basement dwellers....

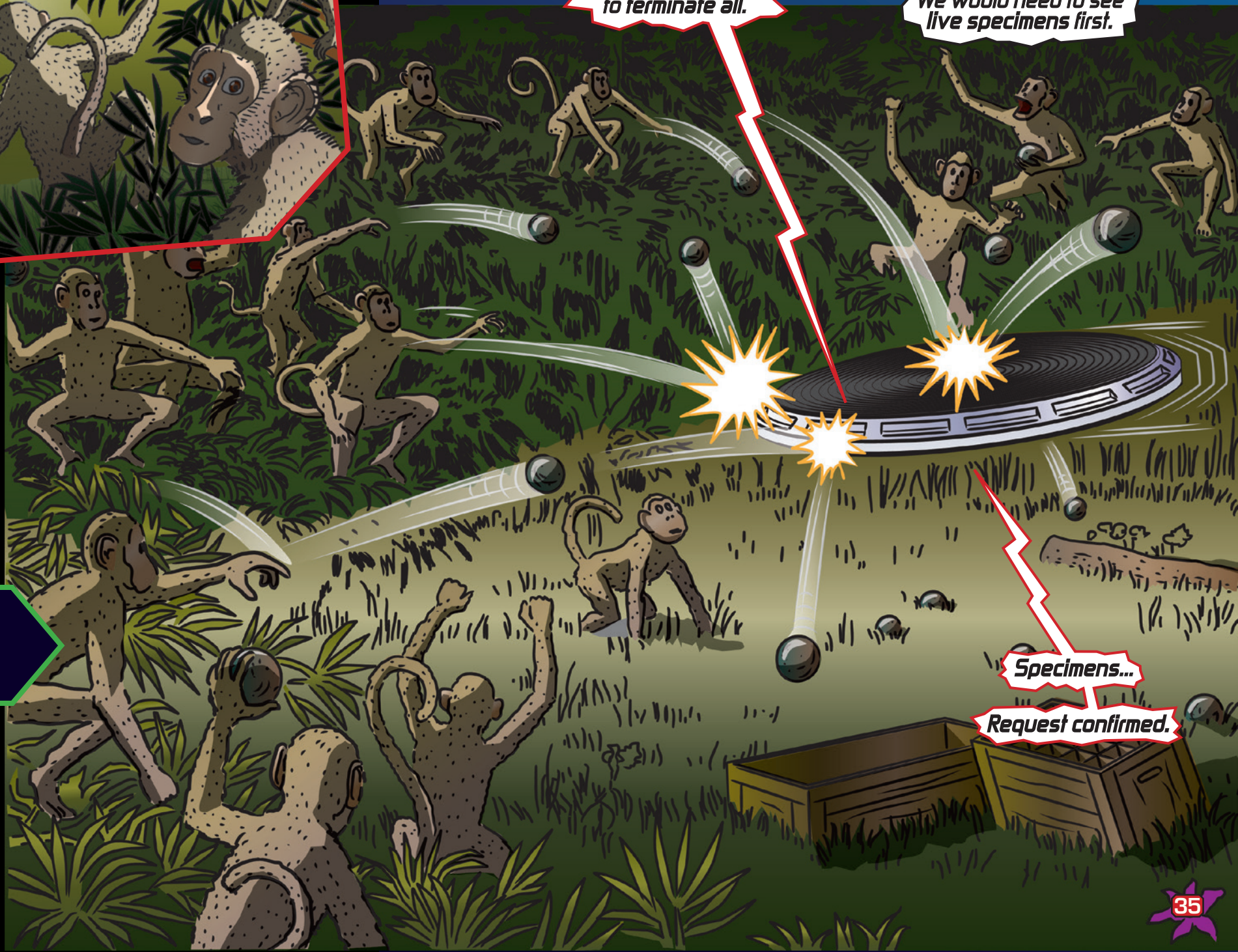


The Bunker Surveillance...



A troop of *Curious George* primates living in the jungle behind Mueller's compound notice some strange contraption hovering in what they consider to be 'their' territory...

... and quickly deciding they don't like what they see, they immediately begin pelting the AG-disk with coconuts...



ALERT!

Under attack by a large group of forest gargoyles!!

Request permission to terminate all.

Denied.

Just keep them occupied until we are able to review their status.

We would need to see live specimens first.

Specimens...

Request confirmed.



Mueller slips away unnoticed...

Well how about that...

May wonders never cease.

For once, the little bastards actually did something right.

They can just keep that spy drone busy....

...while I exit stage left...

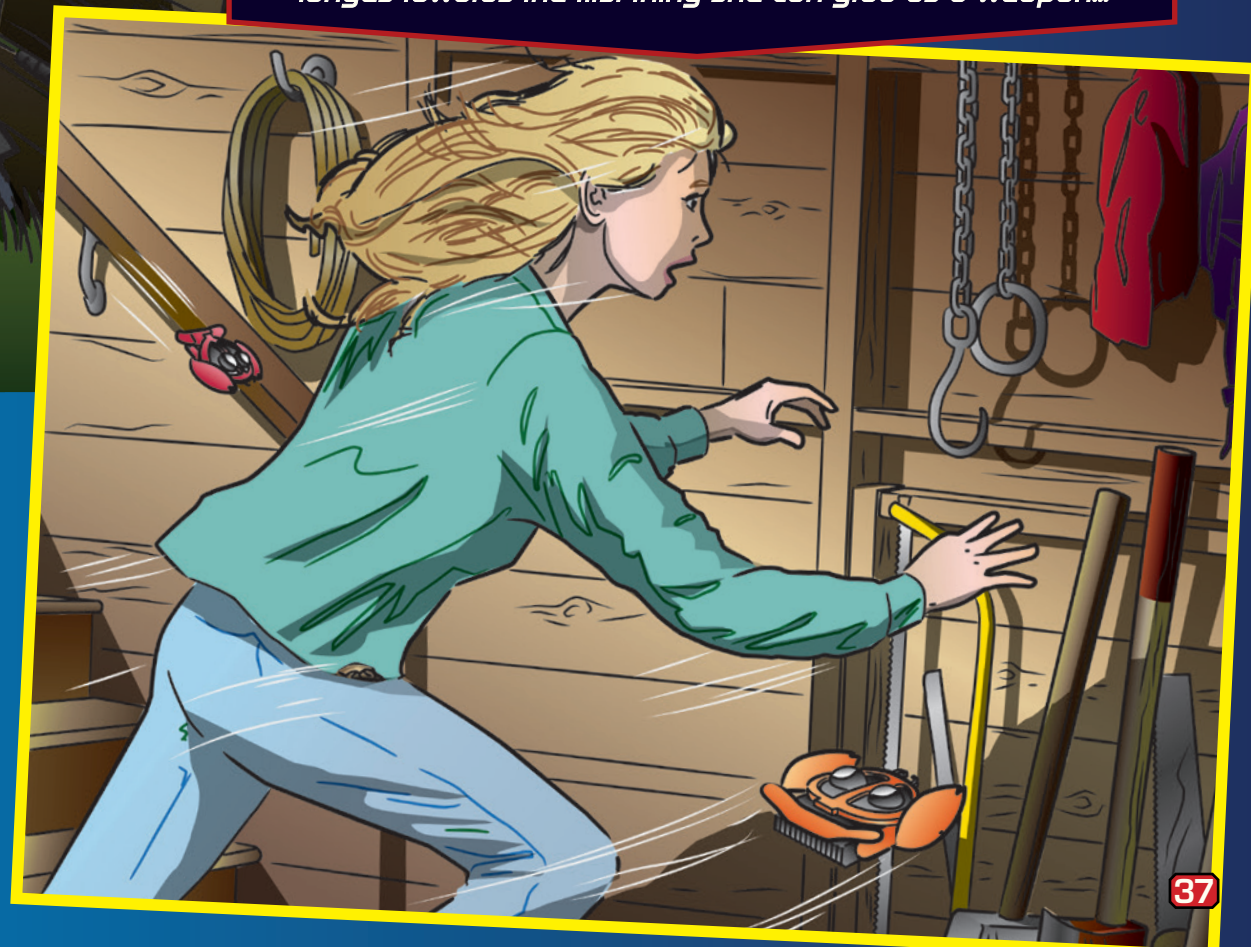
...and make my way to a vantage point where I can surveil the house.

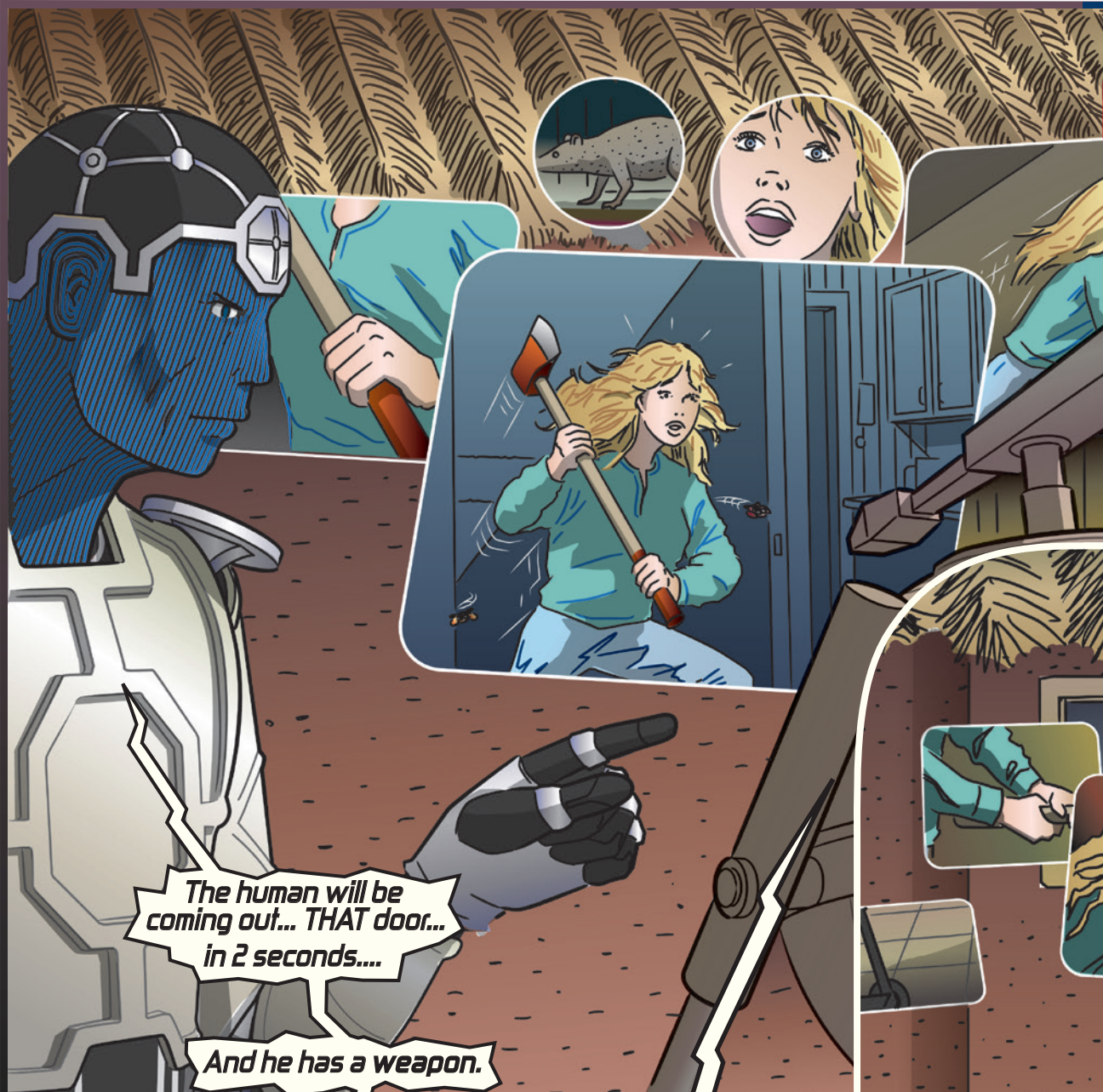
Through his extensive network of tunnels under the compound, Mueller is able to escape the bunker via a secret hatch while the AG-disk is preoccupied with the monkeys....

Back in the cellar...



The Veeloks immediately make short work of these basement rats as Lisa, now on her feet and desperate to escape, lunges towards the first thing she can grab as a weapon...





Exo gives it his best shot...



The human will be coming out... THAT door... in 2 seconds....

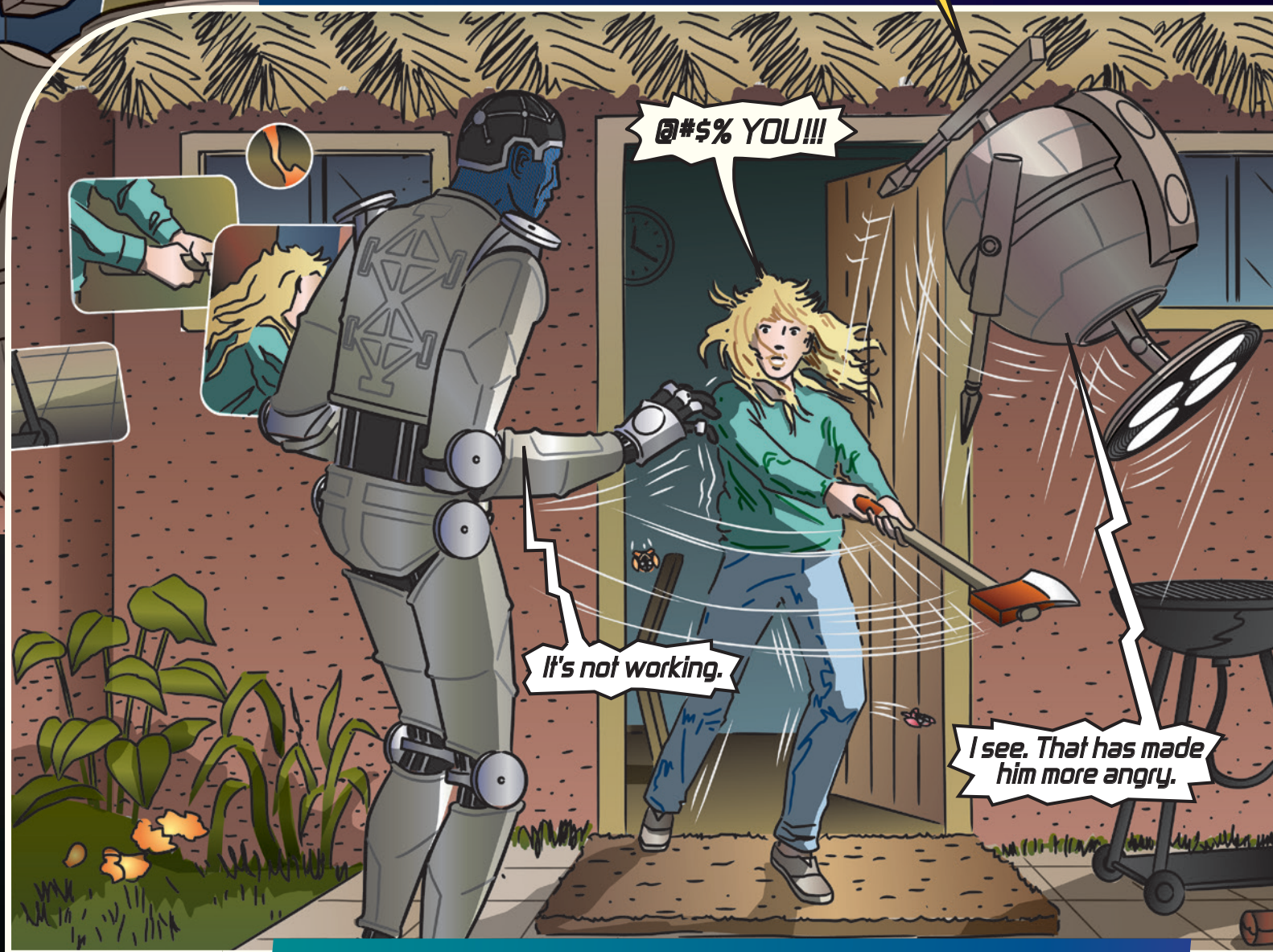
And he has a weapon.

We need to calm him immediately.

Leave that to me.

I have the appropriate response for this type of situation in my database...

...in their language.



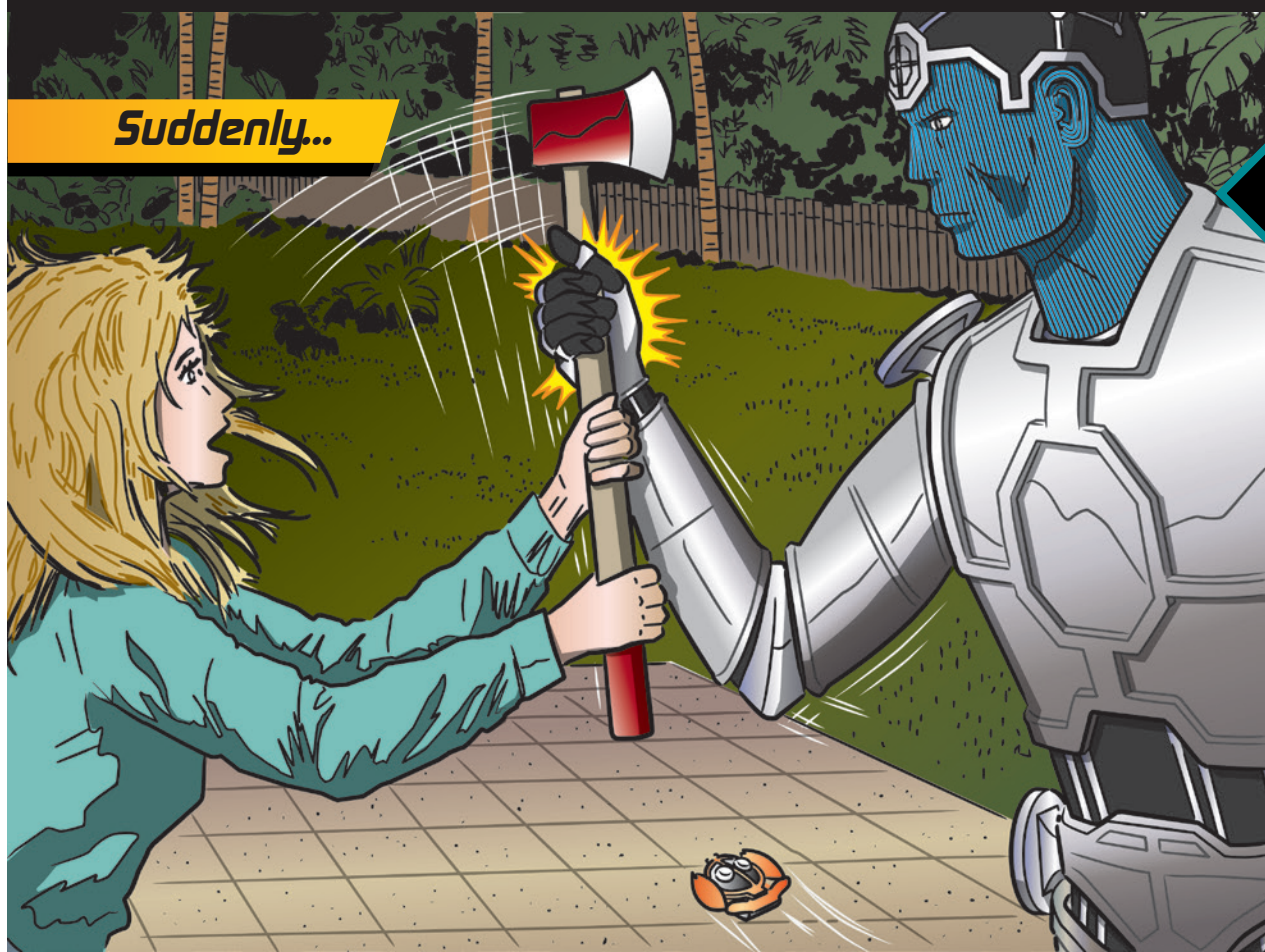
@#\$\$ YOU!!!

It's not working.

I see. That has made him more angry.

Lisa, both startled and infuriated at the sight of these two strange beings at the door, instinctively lunges at them with tremendous ferocity....

Suddenly...

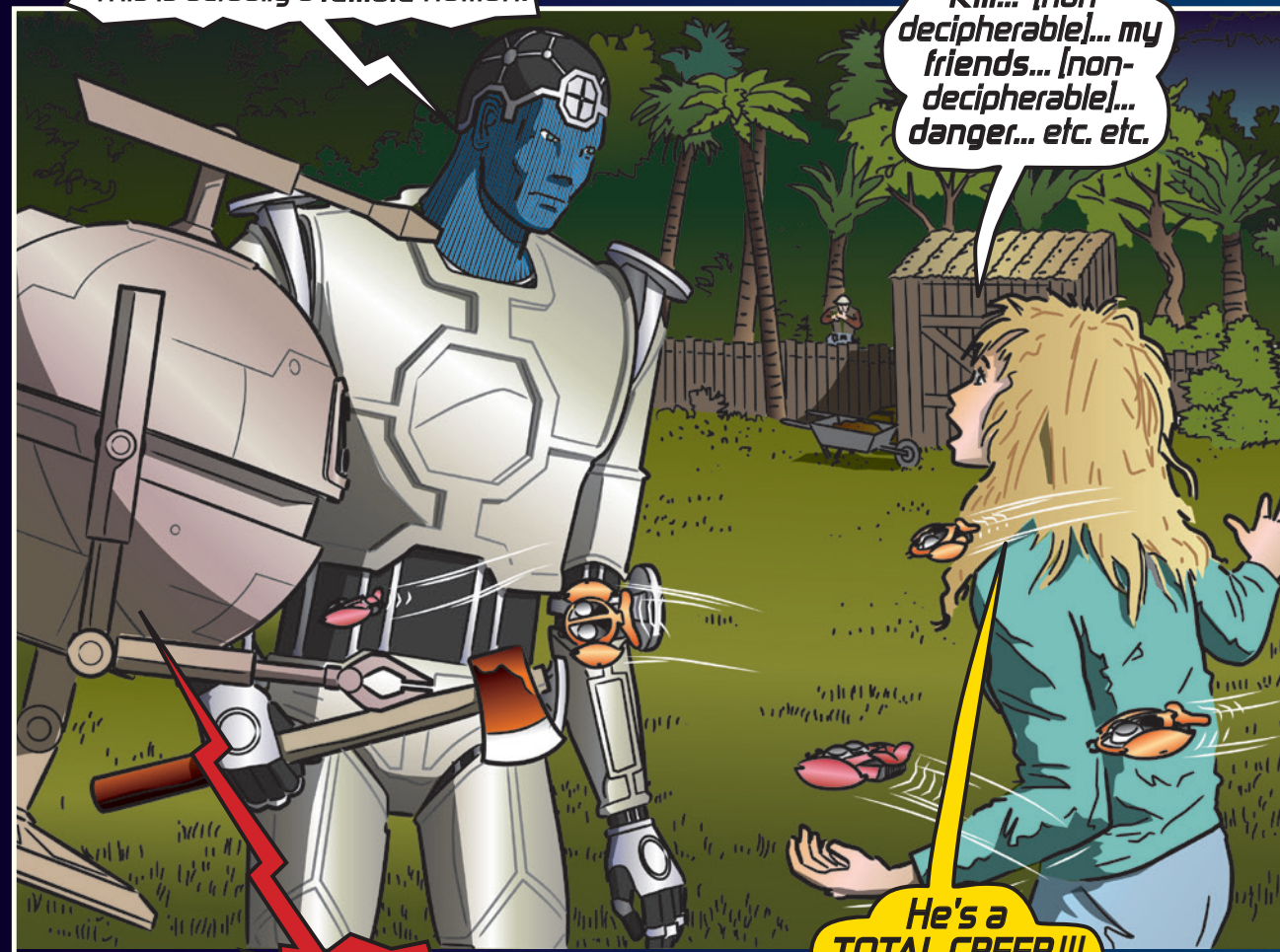


Cyad-M freezes the axe in mid-swing and, staring deeply into Lisa's eyes, is immediately able to establish a connection with her telepathically. In a microsecond, she understands that this strange individual is not here to harm her, but is in fact here to help....

Cyad-M and Exo struggle to decipher Lisa's frantic pleas, as she tries desperately to explain what has been going on in the house...

This is actually a female human.

Kill... [non-decipherable]... my friends... [non-decipherable]... danger... etc. etc.



He's a TOTAL CREEP!!!

You have to DO SOMETHING !!

ALERT!!

Sensors indicate we are being targeted.

ATTACK IMMINENT!

Accelerating TDR (Time Dilation Ratio) by a factor of 1000...

ENGAGE NOW!!!

But behind the shed...

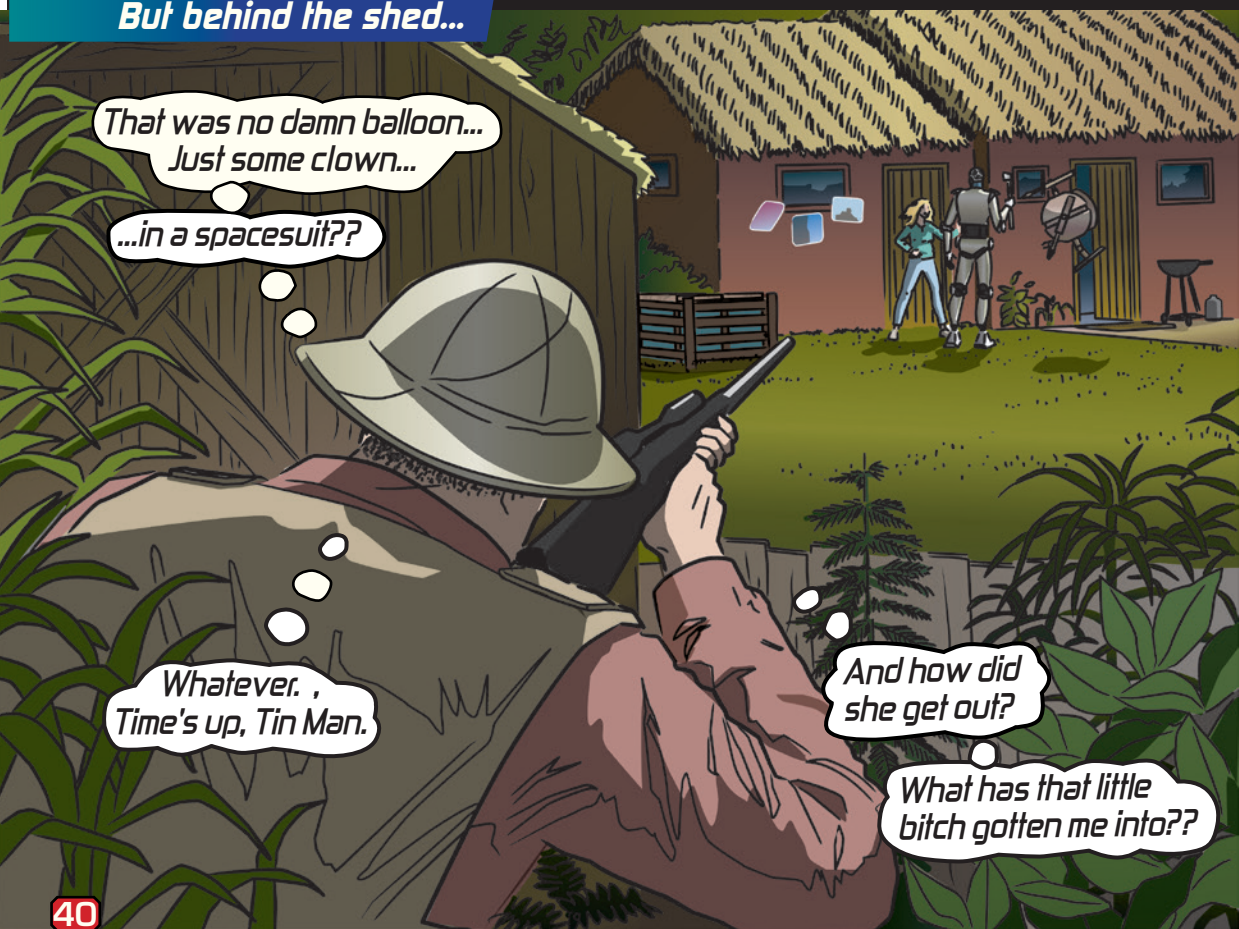
That was no damn balloon... Just some clown...

...in a spacesuit??

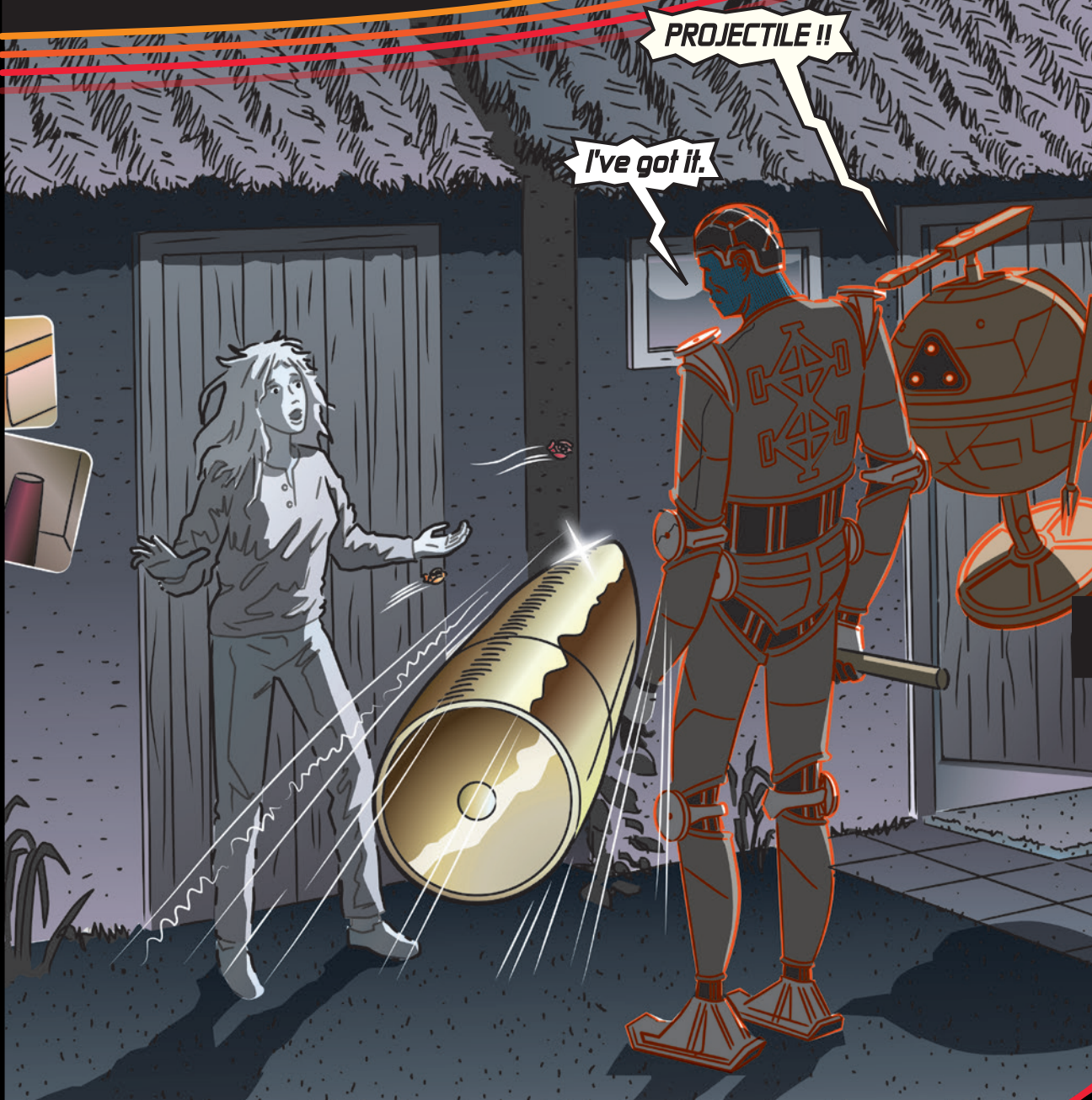
Whatever. , Time's up, Tin Man.

And how did she get out?

What has that little bitch gotten me into??



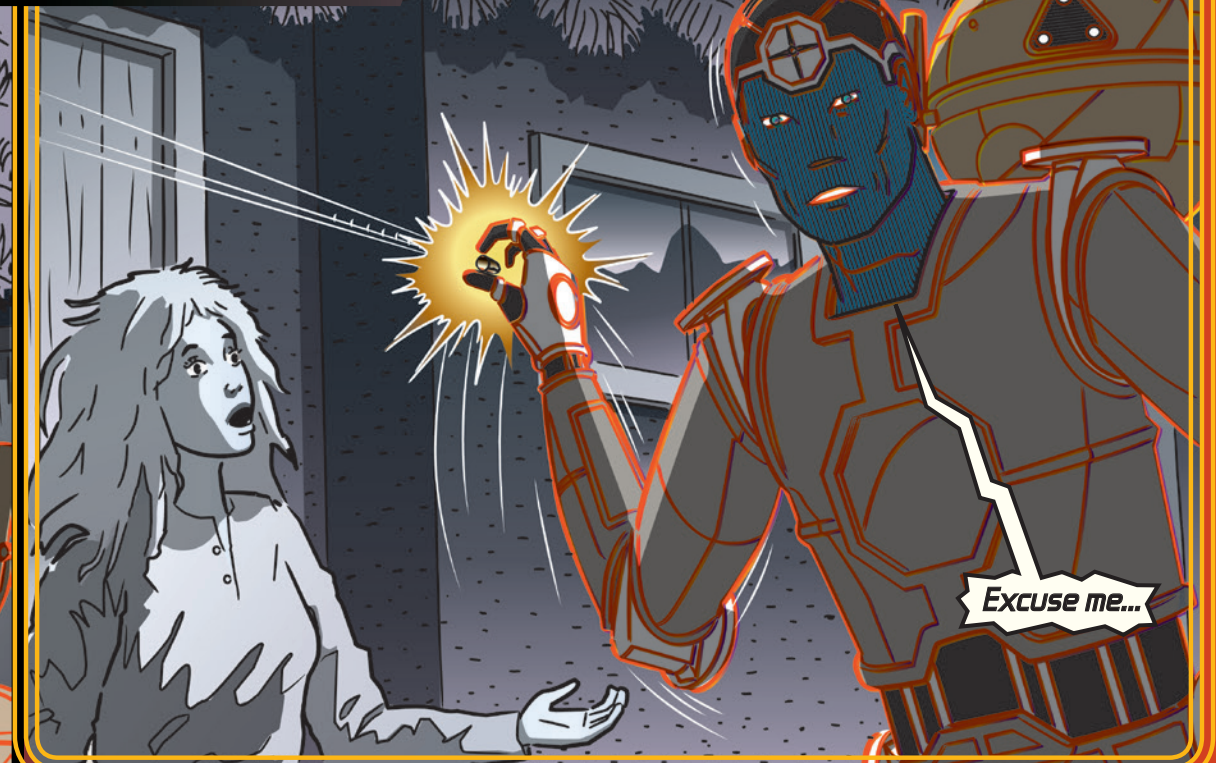
Using highly specialized TDR technology (Time Dilation Ratio), Exo is able to modify their relative timeline so that they are instantly functioning at 1000 times the speed of the surrounding environment....



PROJECTILE!!

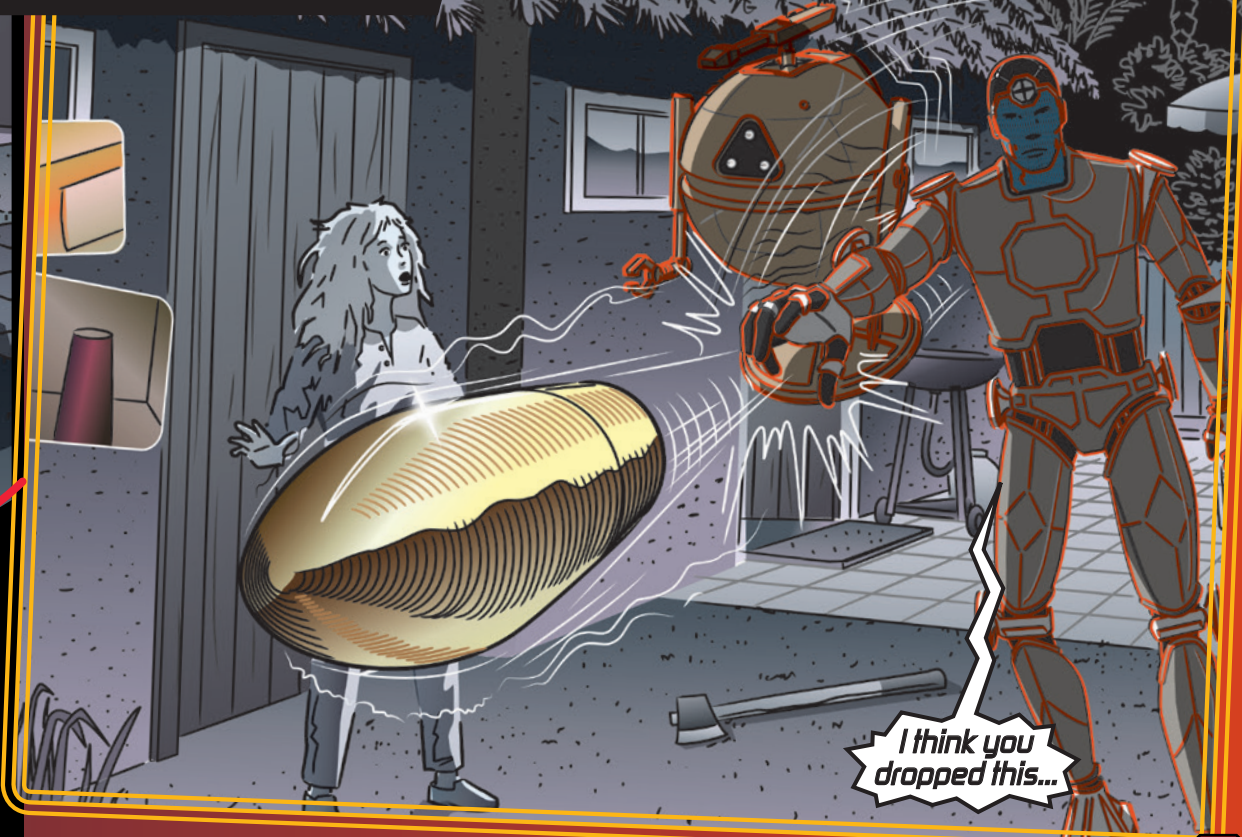
I've got it.

M is now able to grab the bullet out of mid-air....



Excuse me...

... and fire it directly back at the source!



I think you dropped this...

Thus, a bullet moving at approximately 1000 m/s now appears to be moving at only one meter per second for Cyad-M and Exo.

Lisa of course being still on the world timeline now appears to be frozen like a statue and, along with all the surfaces in the environment, now reflects zero light from the color spectrum.



NOTE:

As soon as the assailant was hit, *Exo & Cyad-M* immediately revert back to the 1:1 world timeline synchronization ratio.

- Retro Kid



Holy shit.

I didn't even see what happened.

That round ball drone must have fired on me. It's heavily armed.

...and deadly accurate.

That's the human we were following...

Permission to terminate.

No.

We don't kill him. We'll catch him and bring him to the local authorities.

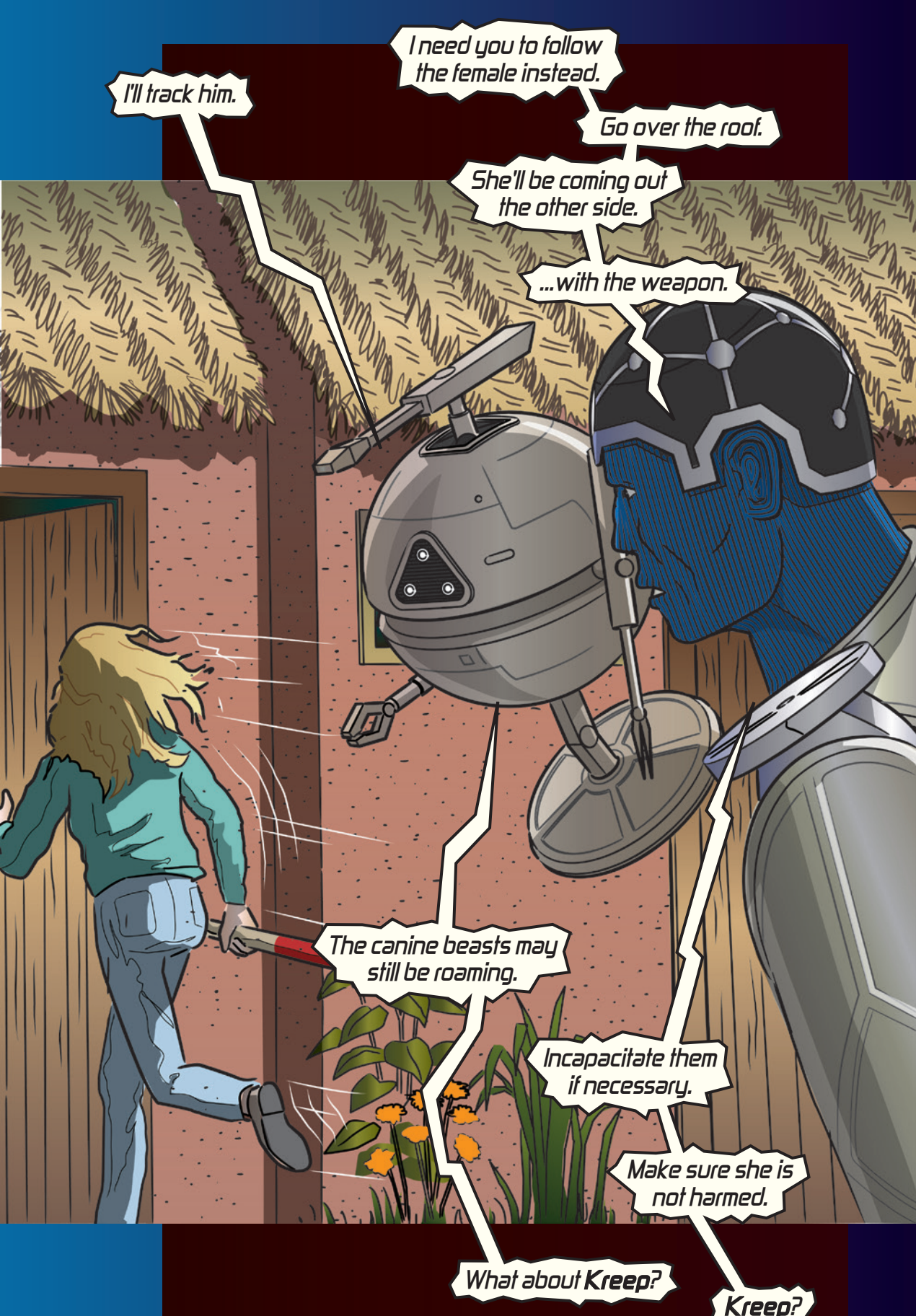
But we'll get more information from him first.

And he can't go far.



Cyad-M's extensive military training involved practicing the interception and return of a projectile directly to its source, while matching its velocity.

This was an exercise he clearly excelled in, as in this instance, he was able to actually destroy the very weapon from which the projectile was fired while only barely injuring the assailant.



I'll track him.

I need you to follow the female instead.

Go over the roof.

She'll be coming out the other side.

...with the weapon.

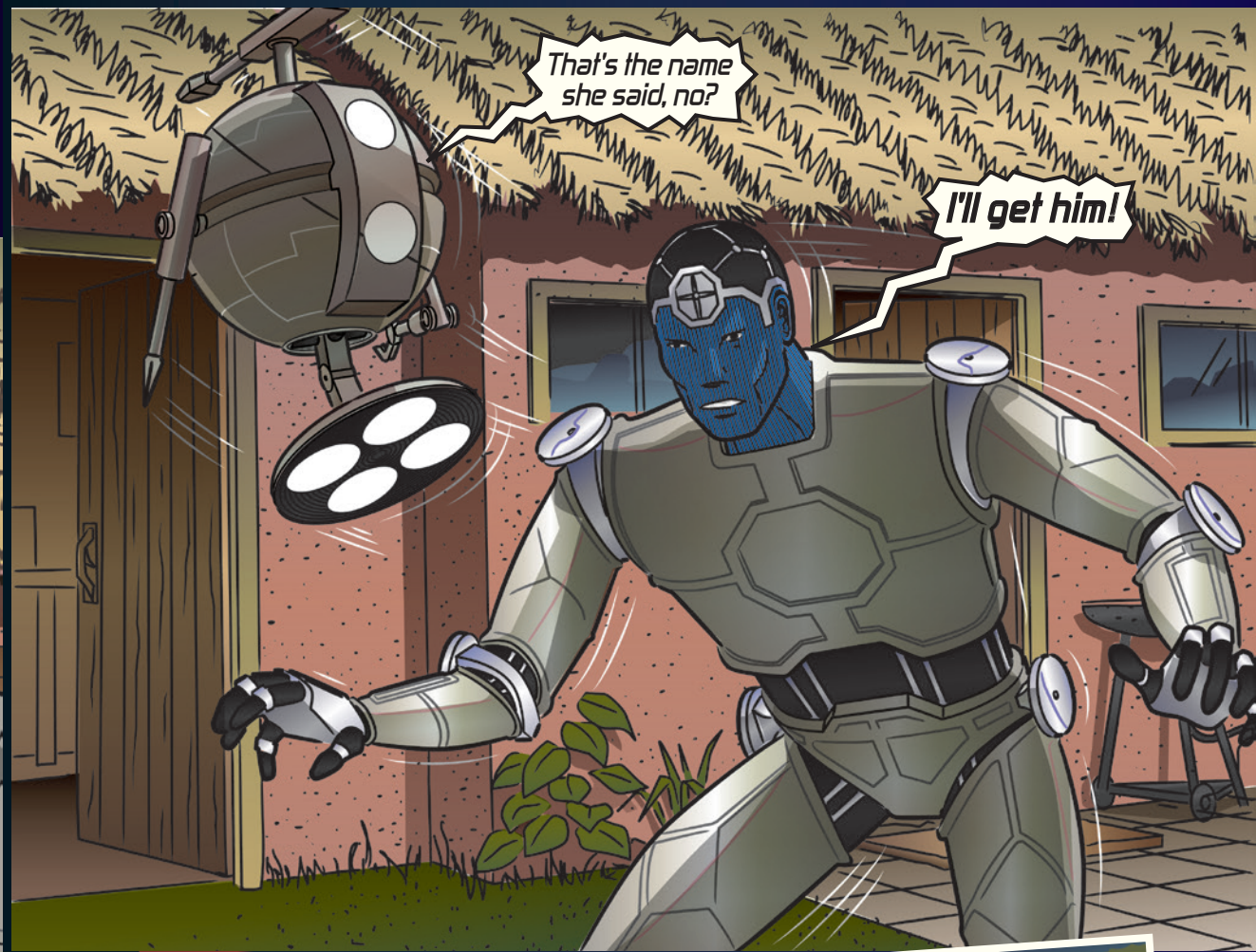
The canine beasts may still be roaming.

Incapacitate them if necessary.

Make sure she is not harmed.

What about Kreep?

Kreep?



That's the name she said, no?

I'll get him!



Ok Kreep.

Here I come

Aeri... I need status report.



This is effin' crazy.

Why are they on to me?

Who ratted me out?

I thought I had this whole island sewn up.

Gotta get down to Rutger's compound.

I need some serious backup.

They've got the personnel and hardware to deal with whoever the hell this is.

Shocked by what just transpired, and realizing that he is now in a much worse situation than he had originally assumed, a panicked Mueller crashes madly through the jungle, desperately trying to figure out his next plan of action...



Aeri continue engaging gargoyles.

The human you were monitoring eluded you.

Nearly took my head off.

Aeri sorry.

Sorry? Oh. Ok.



Whatever... maintain your post. I don't need any distractions from gargoyles right now.

We have to get this situation wrapped up quickly and head back to base.

With the ability to leap great distances, M vaults into the tree tops in order to gain a better vantage point as he tracks his prey...

Surprise Getaway...



Figures the damn battery is dead.

Gotta jumpstart this bitch.

Mueller slowly lets out the clutch and then suddenly the roar of the engine coming to life echos through the forest...

Come on, Nellie!

Come on,

Come on,

Come on,

Come on,

Come on,

VROOOOOM!!!!!!!

Not entirely certain if he is being pursued by the Tin Man or the Round Ball Drone, Mueller nonetheless heads straight for a hidden asset in the jungle not far from his house. Here he keeps a vehicle at the ready.... however, it seems that it might not be so ready!

Fortunately, it's parked on a downward slope. He manages to get it rolling in an attempt to jumpstart the motor.



Alright.

Let's GTF outta here!



Exo status ...

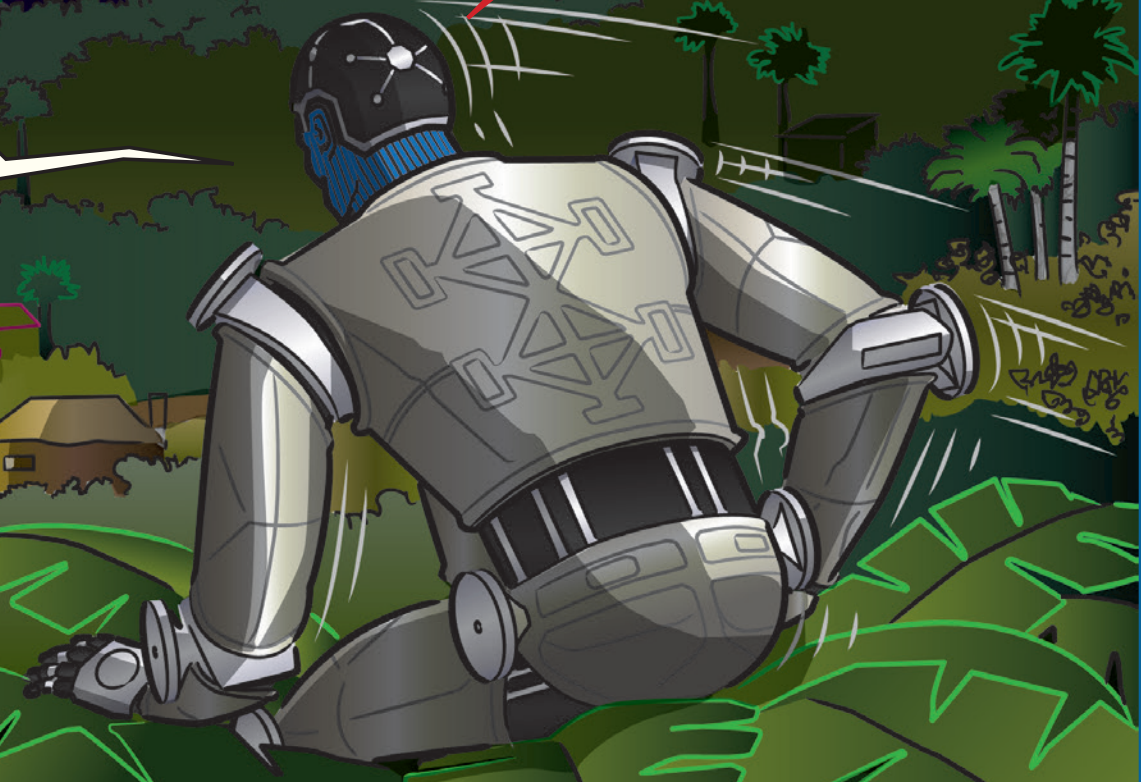
Female has exited via front of dwelling.

Good. Keep tailing her.

Kreep has a vehicle.

He's headed SSE at a high rate of speed.

Aerie... return immediately to primary post.



Realizing that events have suddenly taken an unexpected turn, Cyad-M chooses to call for the AG-disk immediately rather than pursue the perp "on foot" so-to-speak...

Aerie... returning immediately.

Bringing specimens.



Editor's Note: Cyad-M actually has the ability to chase down this vehicle without the aid of the AG-Disk if he wanted to. Just sayin'.
- Retro Kid

Such a beautiful planet, and yet these humans behave like this.

For what?

I don't get it.

Suddenly it hits him....

Specimens?!??

Aeri confirms.

Two gargoyles.

There's no time for specimens!!

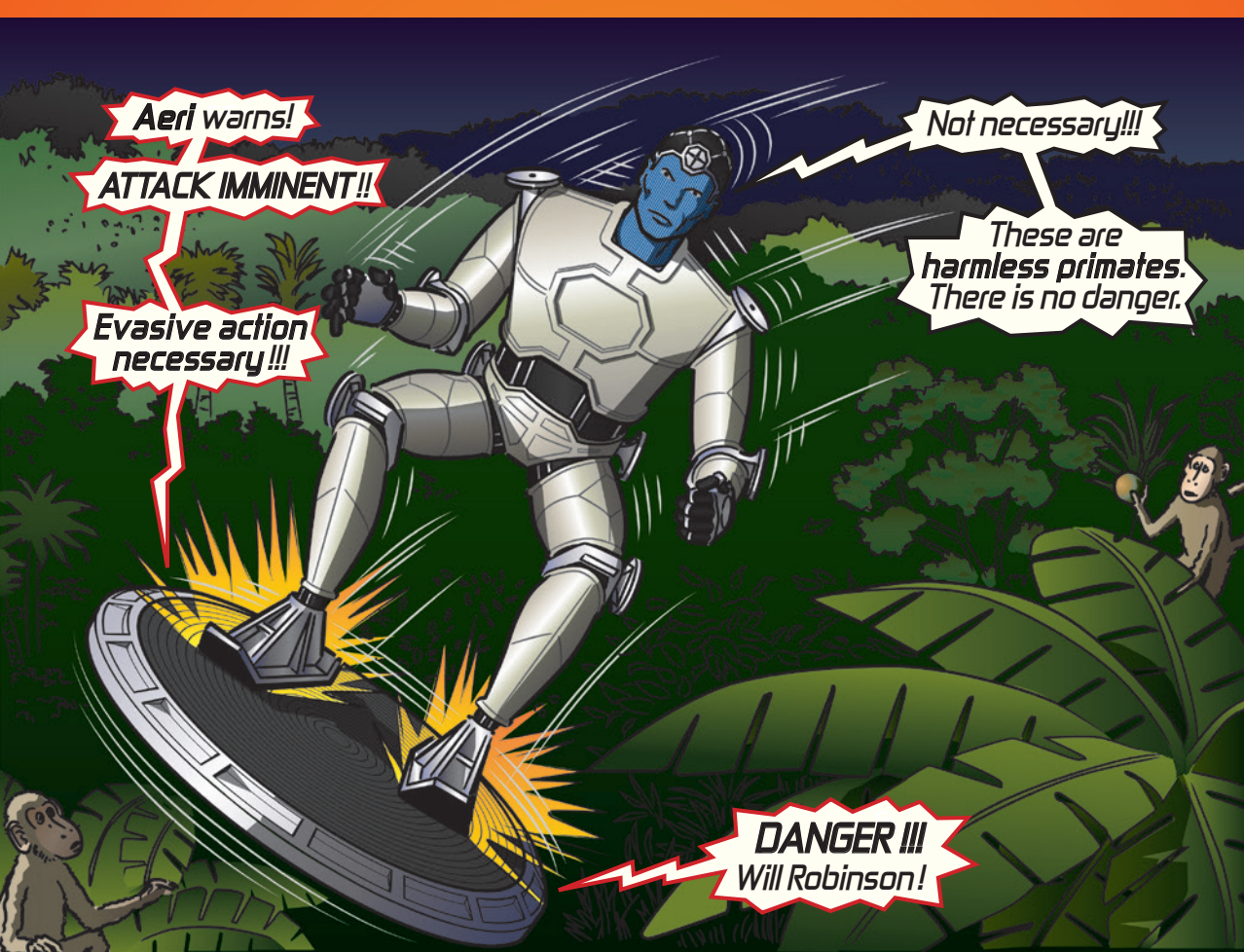
We're pursuing the shooter!!

BEGONE !!

GIT !!

GET OUTTA HEA !!

Slightly annoyed with the questionable tactical decisions of this untested AG-disk and anxious to get after the fleeing perp, Cyad-M abruptly shoos the mischievous monkeys off the AG-disk.



Aeri warns!

ATTACK IMMINENT!!

Evasive action necessary!!!

Not necessary!!!

These are harmless primates. There is no danger.

DANGER!!! Will Robinson!



What th...?

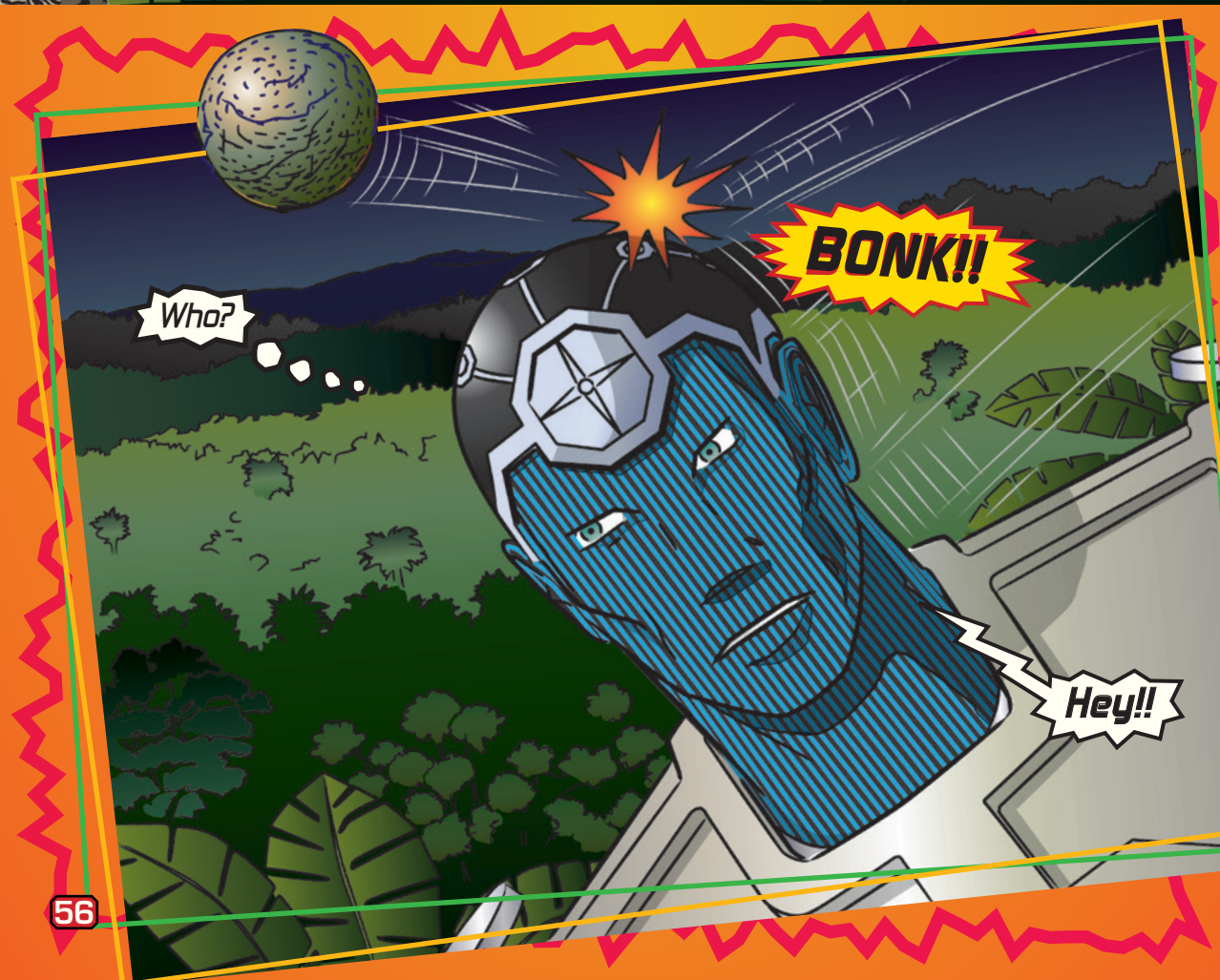
You little....

Why I oughta....

Oo, oo, oo, WAH, oo!!

Oo, oo, WAH!!

Aeri warned!!!



Who?

BONK!!

Hey!!



YOU 'OUGHTA' DO WHAT? with these pesky monkeys MALCOLM !???!?

What about the girl?

What about Kreep!!

FIND OUT!

in the next, even more boring episode of... THE ADVENTURES OF MALCOLM FERROID!!!!

THE ADVENTURES OF MALCOLM FERROID

Superheroes may come, and they may go. They may flash across the screen, or be glimpsed fleetingly on a poster, or grace the pages of a comic book; they may steal the spotlight and capture our imagination for a brief moment. But only a select few will stand the test of time, weather the storm, and rise above the rest to leave their mark on the annals of history; to stand atop the mountain, gazing triumphantly across the vastness of the cosmos... only but a few...

Unfortunately, Malcolm Ferroid isn't one of them!!

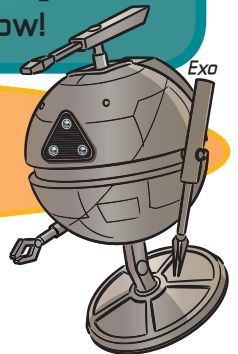
But he's still pretty ok anyway! ...just your basic, non-descript, humanoid space worker, going about his day-to-day routines...

THIS IS THE SECOND EPISODE in the story of a cosmic journeyman from a planet near the center of the galaxy who has been commissioned with the task of monitoring the comings and goings of alien visitors to planet Earth and to eradicate any invasive species if necessary.

In the process of conducting this ongoing mission, he winds up in a lot of wild and unexpected situations, often having to resort to clever and sometimes drastic measures in order to resolve these many conflicts!

Yet beneath his seemingly indifferent and somewhat detached demeanor, lies a passionate soul who is always seeking to analyze the true meaning of life as he strives to attain a higher spiritual connection with the universe, forever searching for that spark of knowledge... that glimmer of hope... that seed of wonderment and joy at the miracle of creation itself... well, that is until you piss him off of course, in which case all that crap goes right out the window!

This is the beginning of an epic saga, as seen through the eyes of one of the most intriguing characters you'll ever encounter in the realm of sci-fi... The indubitable Cyad-M.... a.k.a. **Malcolm Ferroid!**



Written and illustrated by Vancouver artist **Tony Bosley**

Special thanks to my dear friend **Hinda Avery** for imploring me to make this story a reality!

Dedicated to my dear, late mother, **Edna Barbara Thomson**

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