

THE MIDAS FLESH™

NORTH / PAROLINE / LAMB

#EIGHT
OF EIGHT



BOOM! BOX™

THE MIDAS FLESH™

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WE CAN
FIX THIS!

WE CAN
FIX THIS!!

JOEY ARE YOU
CRAZY? ARE YOU
LEGITIMATELY
CRAZY RIGHT
NOW?!





OH MY GOD. HE'S GONE.

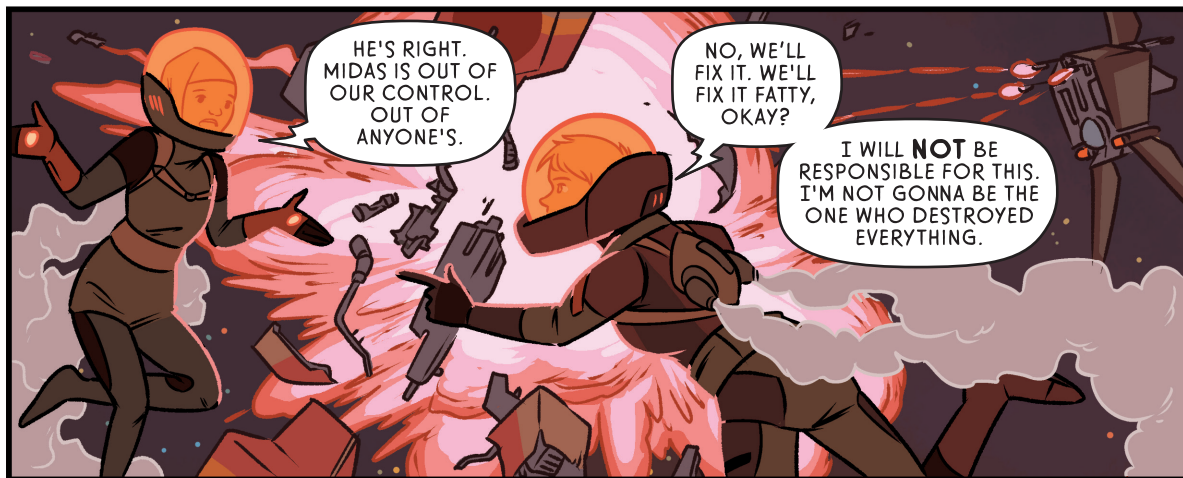
HE'S REALLY GONE.



NO. NO, WE CAN GET HIM BACK. THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY. IF WE CAN TRACK THEM, **FIND** THEM--



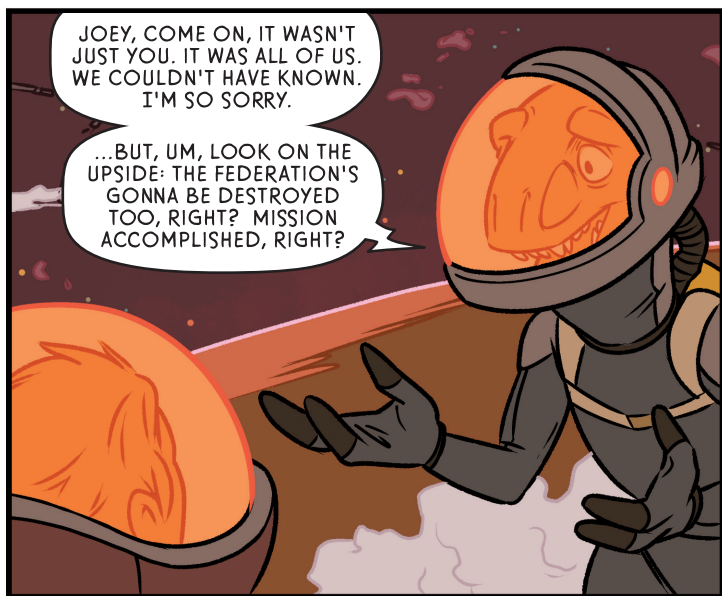
JOEY, **LISTEN TO ME**. BY THE TIME WE GET BACK IN THE PROSPECT, FINDING THOSE SHIPS IS GONNA BE A NIGHTMARE. AND UNLESS WE FIND THEM AND DESTROY THEM WHILE **ALSO** DESTROYING EVERY ONE OF THESE SHIPS HERE **AND** ALL THOSE THAT COME AFTERWARD, MORE FLESH IS GOING TO GET OUT THERE.



HE'S RIGHT. MIDAS IS OUT OF OUR CONTROL. OUT OF ANYONE'S.

NO, WE'LL FIX IT. WE'LL FIX IT FATTY, OKAY?

I WILL **NOT** BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. I'M NOT GONNA BE THE ONE WHO DESTROYED EVERYTHING.

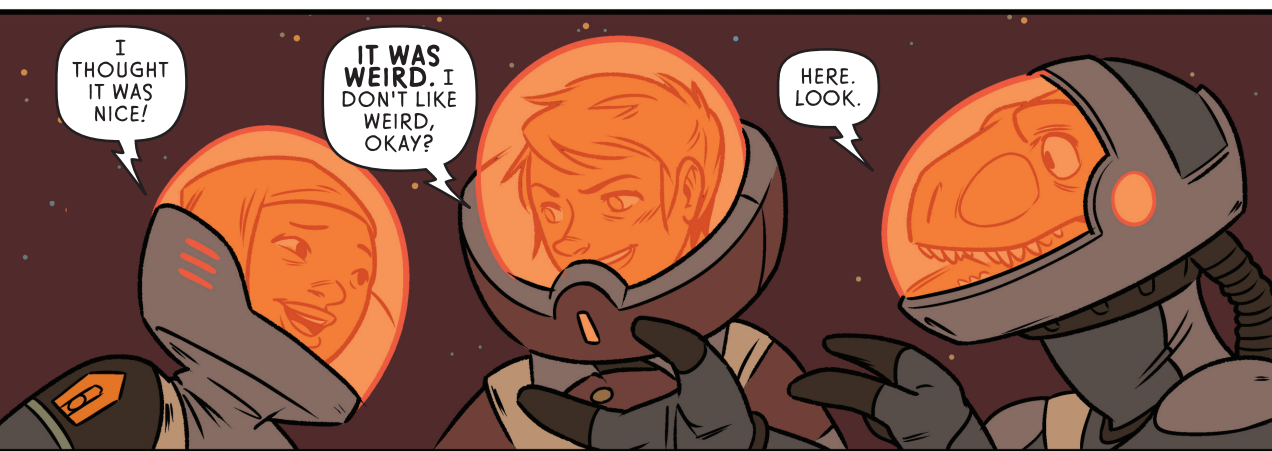
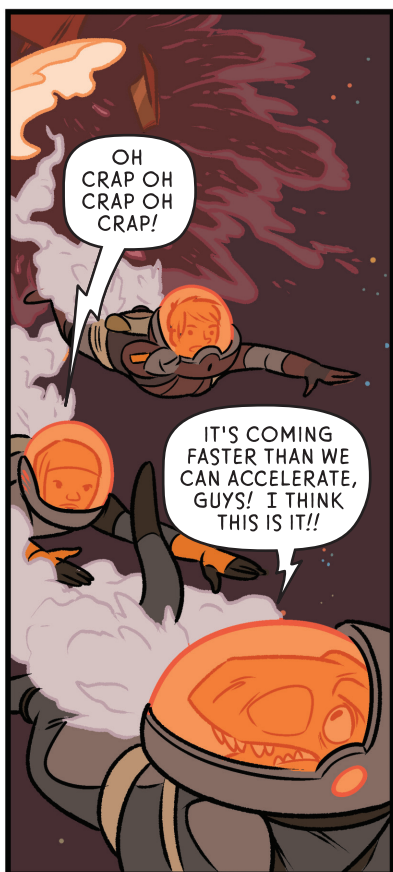
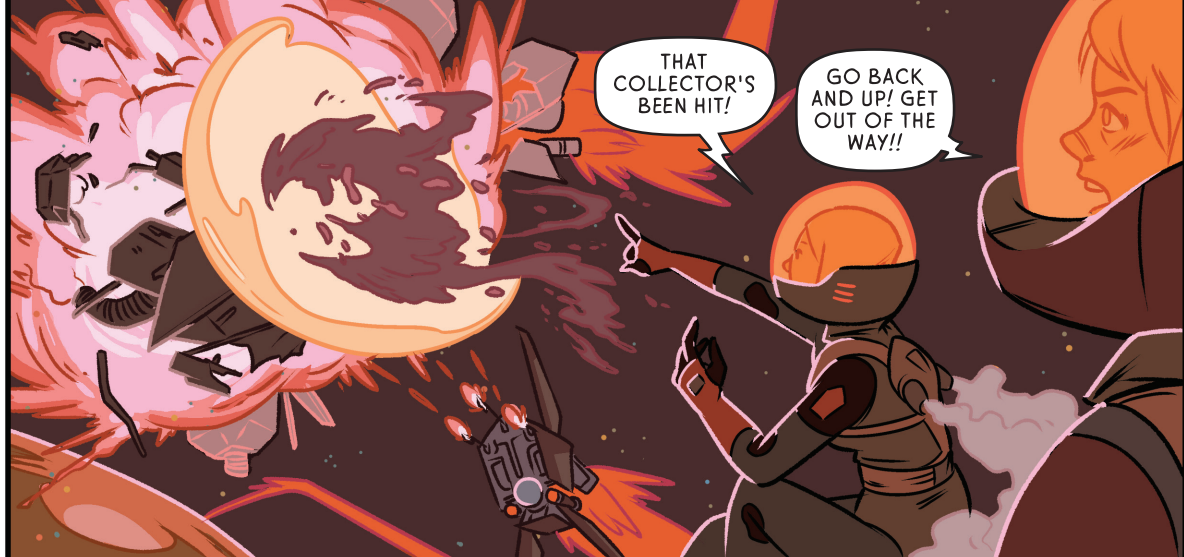


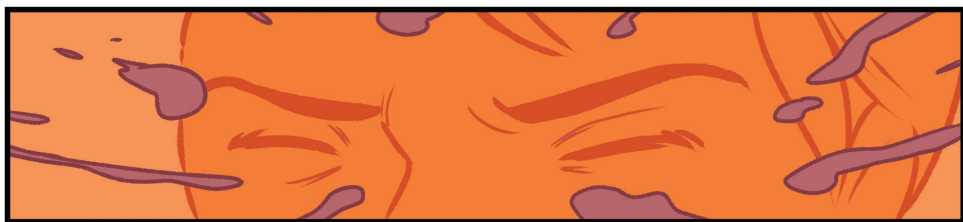
JOEY, COME ON, IT WASN'T JUST YOU. IT WAS ALL OF US. WE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN. I'M SO SORRY.

...BUT, UM, LOOK ON THE UPSIDE: THE FEDERATION'S GONNA BE DESTROYED TOO, RIGHT? MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, RIGHT?



COOPER THAT IS NOT HELPING.

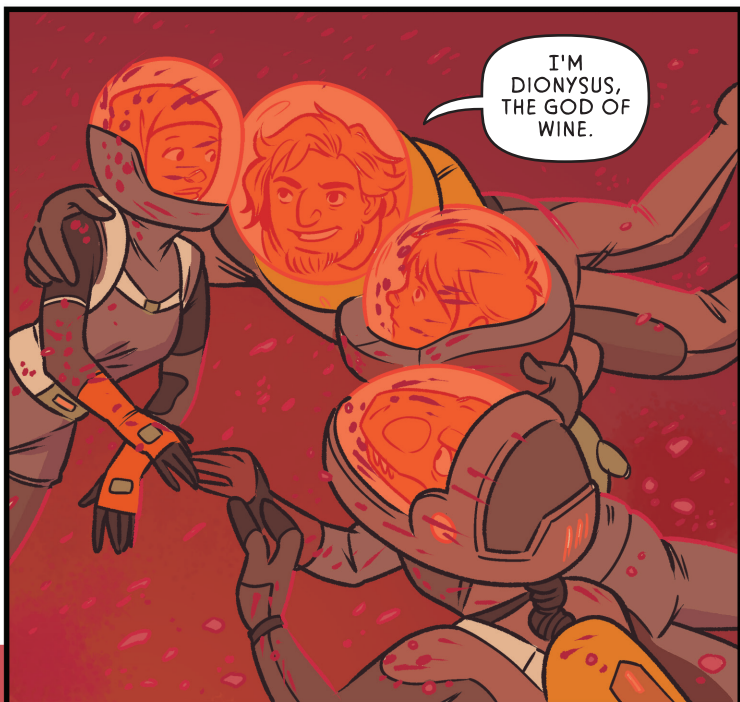






...WHAT?

HEY THERE.



I'M
DIONYSUS,
THE GOD OF
WINE.



MAN! LOOK
AT THAT BATTLE,
ALL FROZEN IN
PLACE!

YOU GUYS HAVE
BEEN UP TO SOME
SHENANIGANS,
HUH?



SO WHO WANTS
A DRINK?



IT'S ALL THE WAY FROM EARTH.
IT'S A SHAME THIS WON'T BE
ABLE TO BREATHE PROPERLY,
BUT, WELL--

--AT LEAST
IT'S AGED
NICELY.



COME ON,
DON'T BE SHY.
EVERYONE HELP
THEMSELVES.

CHEERS,
YOU
GUYS!



GO ON, YOU CAN DRINK IT! OH, AND
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HELMET
THING. I TOOK CARE OF IT.

I'M GOOD
FOR WINE,
THANKS.

WHO ARE
YOU?

HOW ARE
YOU DOING
THIS?



SAME ANSWER TO
BOTH, GUYS: I'M DIONYSUS.
I'M THE GOD OF WINE.

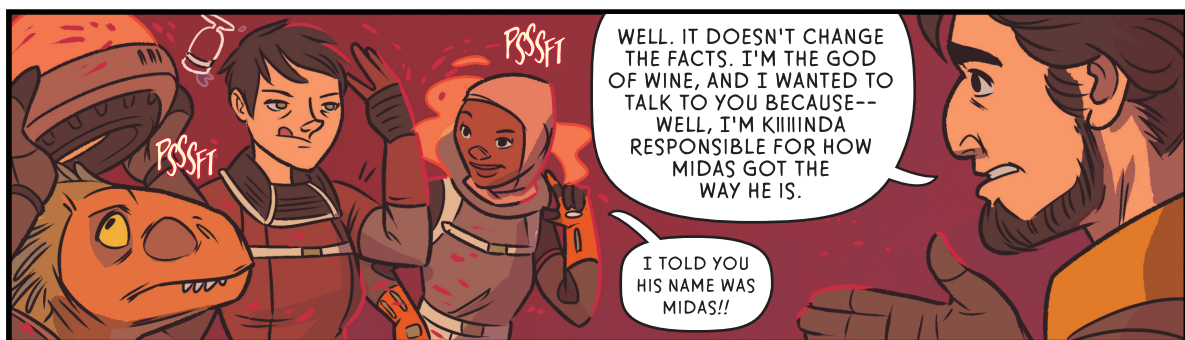


BULL.

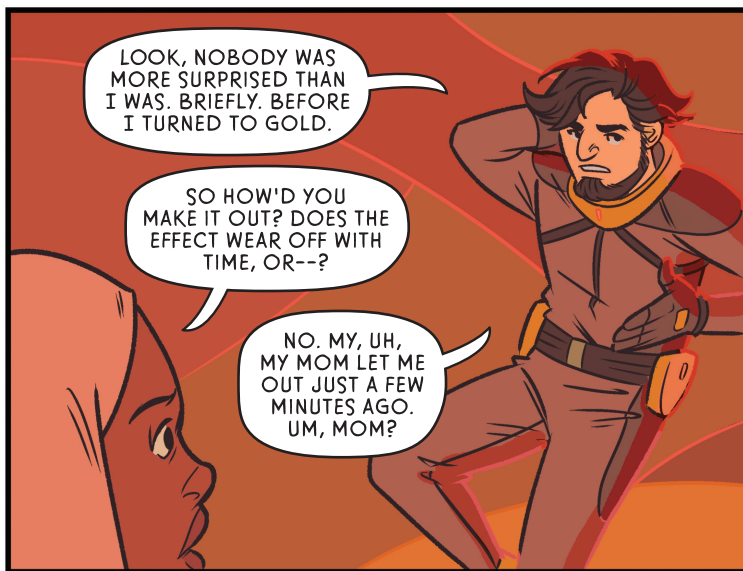
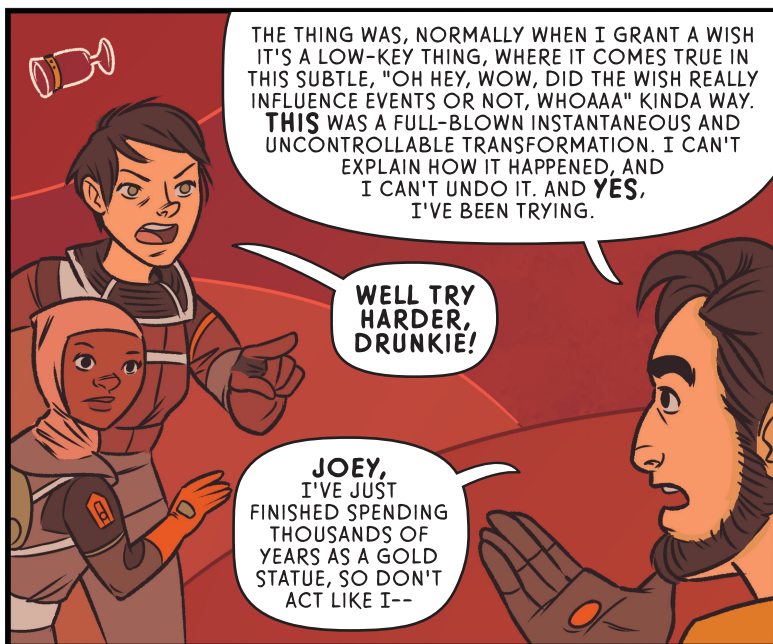
JOEY!

HELLO?! APPEARING OUT OF
NOWHERE? BREATHING AND
TALKING IN SPACE? **FREEZING
TIME?** GETTING WINE TO POUR
OUT PERFECTLY INTO A GLASS
WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A
PLANETARY GRAVITATIONAL
FIELD FOUR TIMES
IN A ROW??

THAT LAST
ONE WAS
ACTUALLY THE
HARDEST, JUST
SO YOU
KNOW!!









HELLO,
DIONYSUS. HELLO,
OTHER LIFE.

COOPER, FATIMA, JOEY, MAY I
INTRODUCE MY MOM, **ANANKE**:
CO-CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE
AND GOD OF NATURAL LAW.

OH MY GOD, I'M
GONNA PUNCH HER
TOO.

JOEY!!

SO RARELY DOES MORTAL LIFE
UNDERSTAND THE LARGER PICTURE OF
THEIR ACTIONS: HOW THEY GOT HERE,
HOW THEY'VE ALTERED THE COURSE OF
THE LIVES THAT CAME AFTER THEM. YOU
THREE WERE CRITICAL TO THE STORY OF
THIS UNIVERSE, AND I WANTED YOU TO
KNOW. I WANTED YOU TO SEE.

BUT--SEE WHAT?
THAT MIDAS WAS A
STUPID ACCIDENT AND
WE LET HIM OUT?

NO.


I WANTED
YOU TO SEE
HOW THE
UNIVERSE
ENDS.

WHOA, WHOA! LET'S NOT GO CRAZY HERE! SURE, MIDAS IS LOOSE
NOW AND MAYBE THAT MEANS WORST CASE EVENTUALLY MOST OF OUR
GALAXY ENDS UP GOLD, BUT THE UNIVERSE IS **HUGE**.

IT'S NOT LIKE MIDAS CAN
TOUCH SOMETHING THREE GALAXIES
OVER! THERE'S **WAY** TOO MUCH
SPACE IN THE WAY.

DUDE.

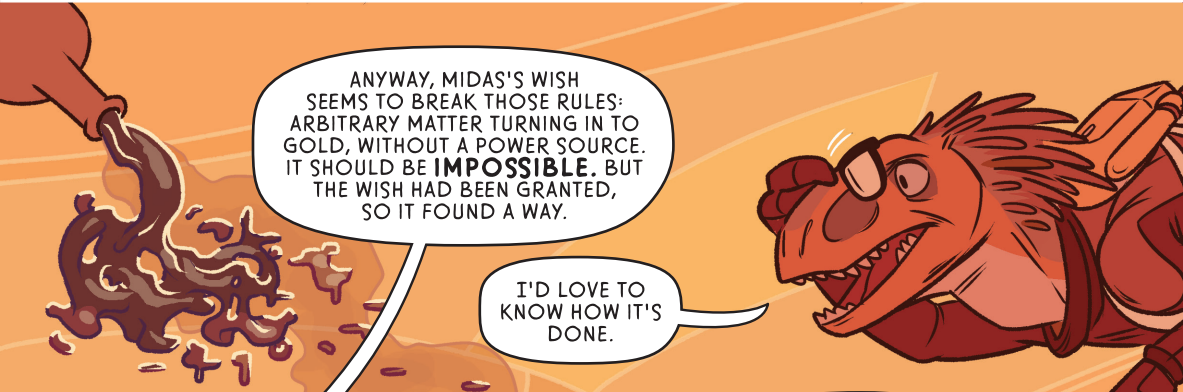
PROPS FOR
LECTURING A
GOD ON
ASTROPHYSICS.



YOU ARE CORRECT
IN SAYING THAT MIDAS
WON'T REACH ANOTHER
GALAXY. BUT THE
OTHER GALAXIES WILL
COME TO HIM.

...OKAY. I THINK
I'M GONNA NEED
MORE DETAILS
ON THAT.

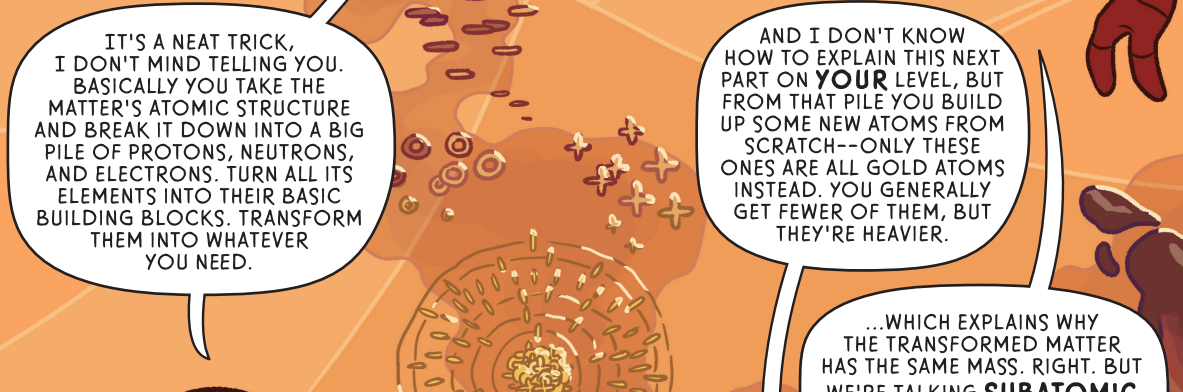
AND MAYBE SOME--I
DUNNO, SCIENCE? YOU
UH...YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT IS, RIGHT??



ANYWAY, MIDAS'S WISH
SEEMS TO BREAK THOSE RULES:
ARBITRARY MATTER TURNING IN TO
GOLD, WITHOUT A POWER SOURCE.
IT SHOULD BE **IMPOSSIBLE**. BUT
THE WISH HAD BEEN GRANTED,
SO IT FOUND A WAY.

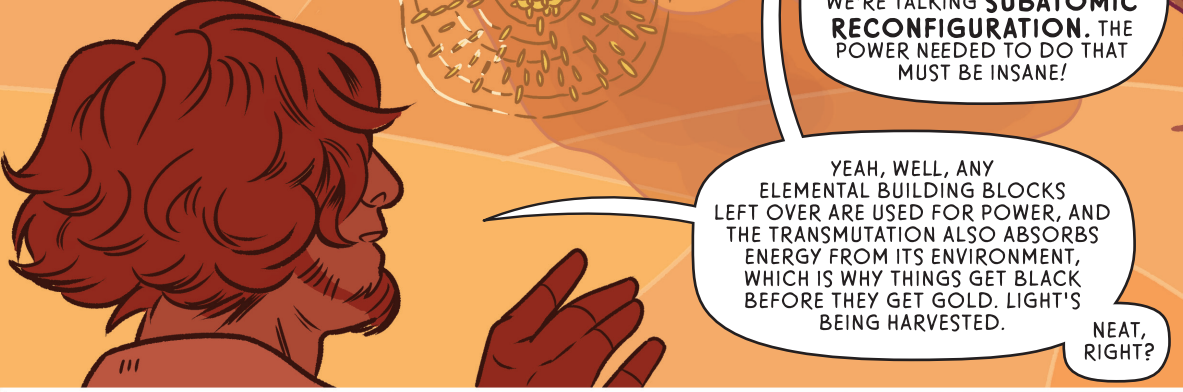
I'D LOVE TO
KNOW HOW IT'S
DONE.

IT'S A NEAT TRICK,
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU.
BASICALLY YOU TAKE THE
MATTER'S ATOMIC STRUCTURE
AND BREAK IT DOWN INTO A BIG
PILE OF PROTONS, NEUTRONS,
AND ELECTRONS. TURN ALL ITS
ELEMENTS INTO THEIR BASIC
BUILDING BLOCKS. TRANSFORM
THEM INTO WHATEVER
YOU NEED.



AND I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS NEXT
PART ON **YOUR** LEVEL, BUT
FROM THAT PILE YOU BUILD
UP SOME NEW ATOMS FROM
SCRATCH-- ONLY THESE
ONES ARE ALL GOLD ATOMS
INSTEAD. YOU GENERALLY
GET FEWER OF THEM, BUT
THEY'RE HEAVIER.

...WHICH EXPLAINS WHY
THE TRANSFORMED MATTER
HAS THE SAME MASS. RIGHT. BUT
WE'RE TALKING **SUBATOMIC
RECONFIGURATION**. THE
POWER NEEDED TO DO THAT
MUST BE INSANE!



YEAH, WELL, ANY
ELEMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS
LEFT OVER ARE USED FOR POWER, AND
THE TRANSMUTATION ALSO ABSORBS
ENERGY FROM ITS ENVIRONMENT,
WHICH IS WHY THINGS GET BLACK
BEFORE THEY GET GOLD. LIGHT'S
BEING HARVESTED.

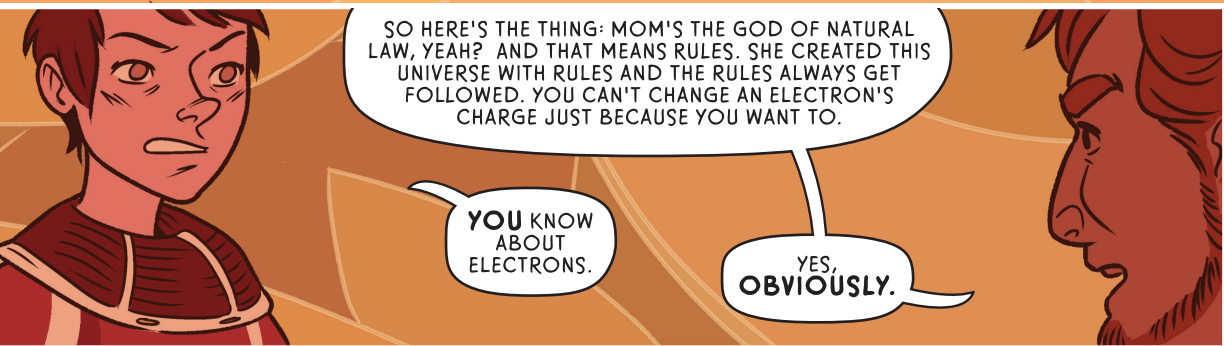
NEAT,
RIGHT?

NO. THIS IS HOW
THE UNIVERSE ENDS.
NOW IT CANNOT BE
CHANGED.

I COULDN'T
STOP IT IF I
WANTED TO.

LOOK, DON'T BLAME
YOURSELVES--THERE'S A LOT OF
BLAME TO GO AROUND. YOU GUYS
FOR LETTING MIDAS OUT, ME FOR
GRANTING THE WISH, **MOM** FOR
CREATING THE UNIVERSE IN THE
FIRST PLACE...

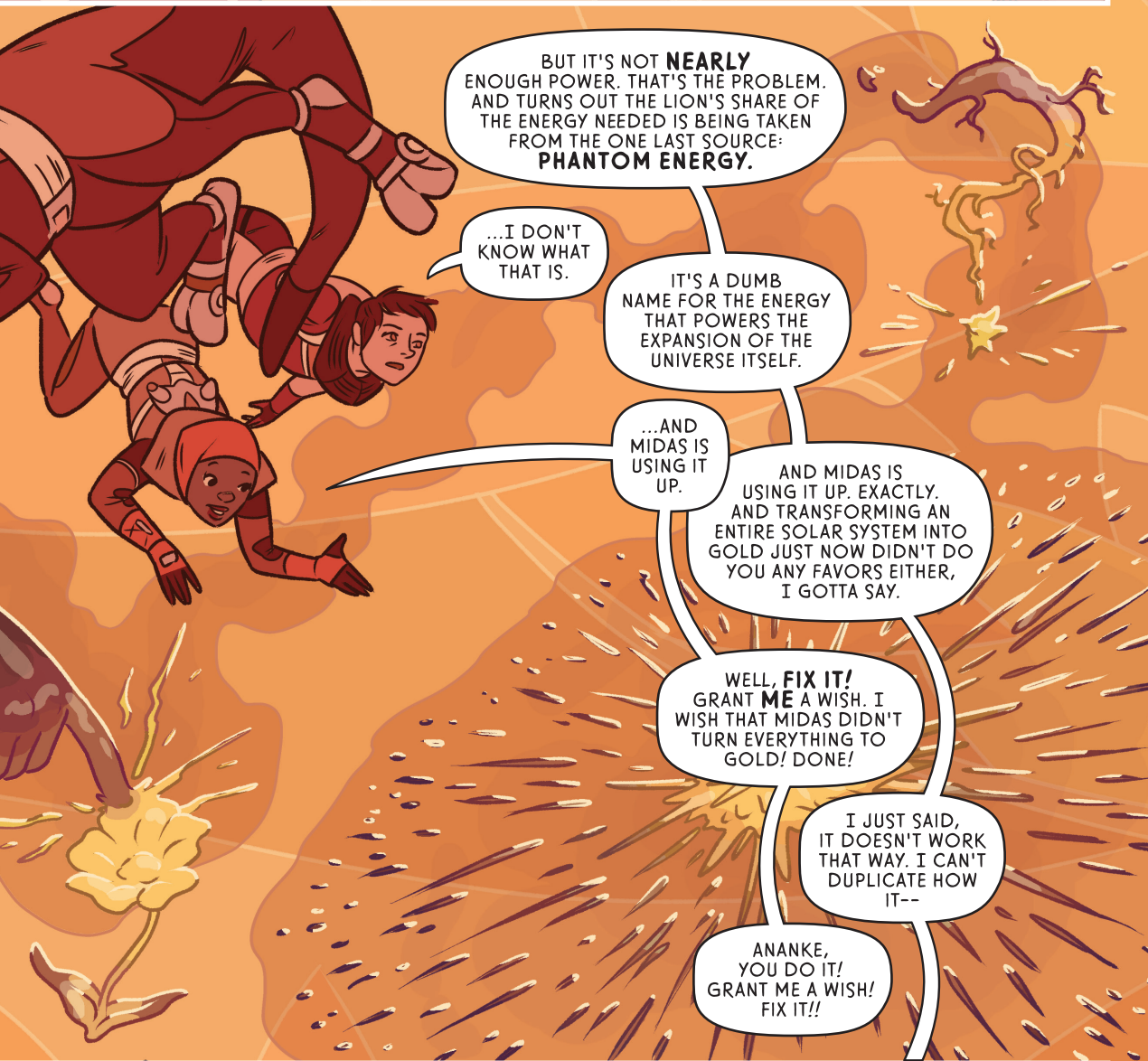
DIONYSUS.



SO HERE'S THE THING: MOM'S THE GOD OF NATURAL LAW, YEAH? AND THAT MEANS RULES. SHE CREATED THIS UNIVERSE WITH RULES AND THE RULES ALWAYS GET FOLLOWED. YOU CAN'T CHANGE AN ELECTRON'S CHARGE JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO.

YOU KNOW ABOUT ELECTRONS.

YES, OBVIOUSLY.



BUT IT'S NOT **NEARLY** ENOUGH POWER. THAT'S THE PROBLEM. AND TURNS OUT THE LION'S SHARE OF THE ENERGY NEEDED IS BEING TAKEN FROM THE ONE LAST SOURCE: **PHANTOM ENERGY**.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

IT'S A DUMB NAME FOR THE ENERGY THAT POWERS THE EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF.

...AND MIDAS IS USING IT UP.

AND MIDAS IS USING IT UP. EXACTLY. AND TRANSFORMING AN ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM INTO GOLD JUST NOW DIDN'T DO YOU ANY FAVORS EITHER, I GOTTA SAY.

WELL, **FIX IT!** GRANT **ME** A WISH. I WISH THAT MIDAS DIDN'T TURN EVERYTHING TO GOLD! DONE!

I JUST SAID, IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. I CAN'T DUPLICATE HOW IT--

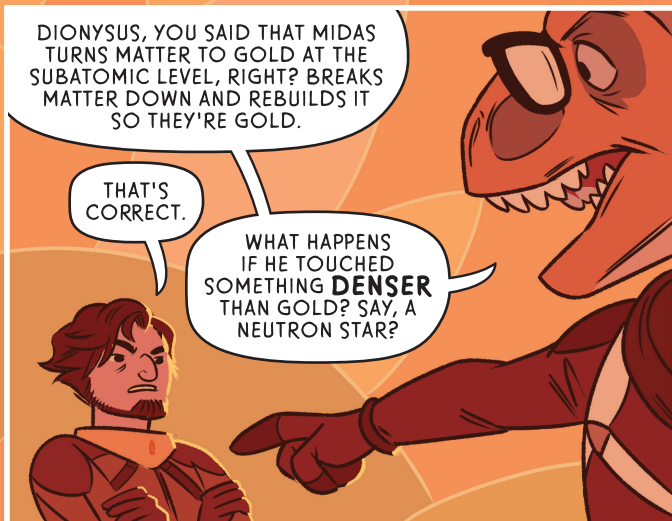
ANANKE, YOU DO IT! GRANT ME A WISH! FIX IT!!



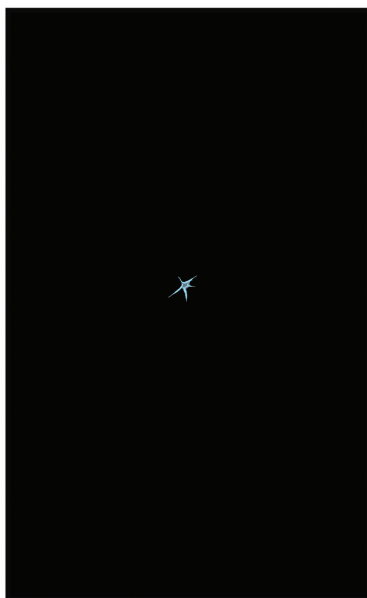
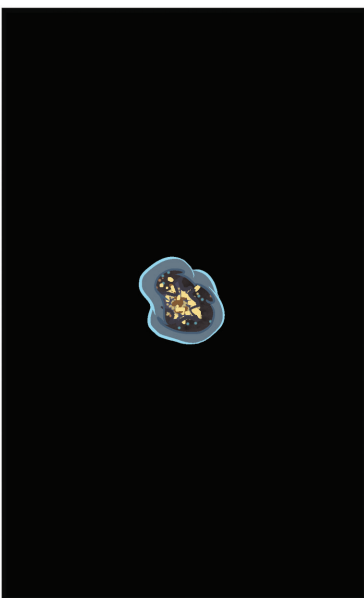
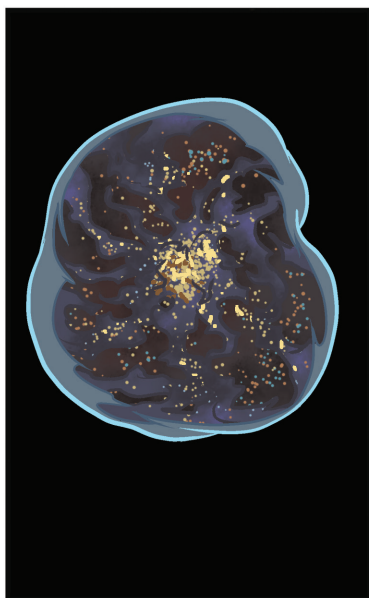
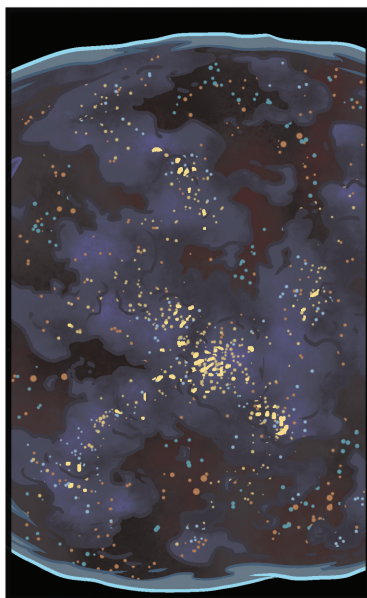
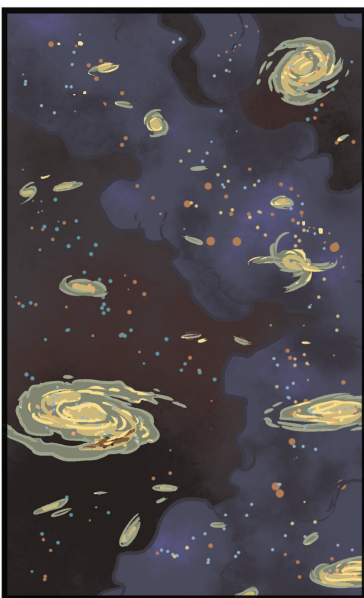
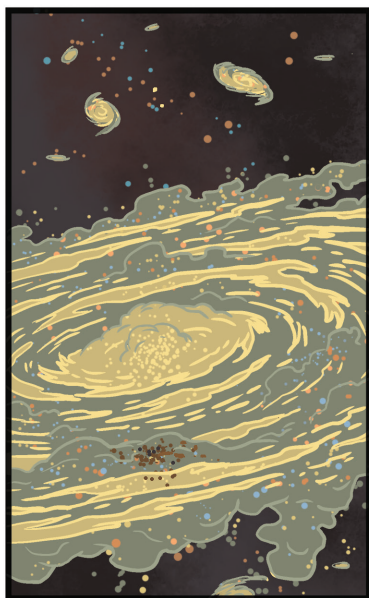
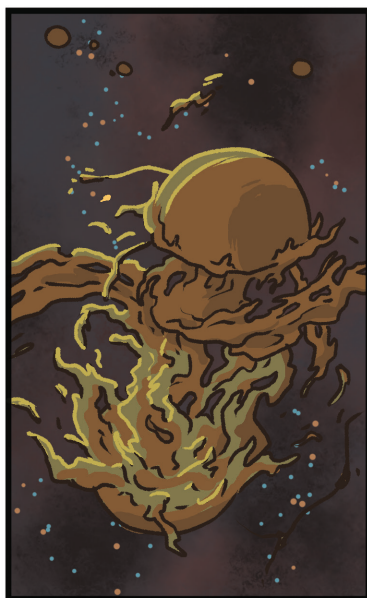
FIRST MOVER: BUCK STOPS WITH YOU, MOM!!

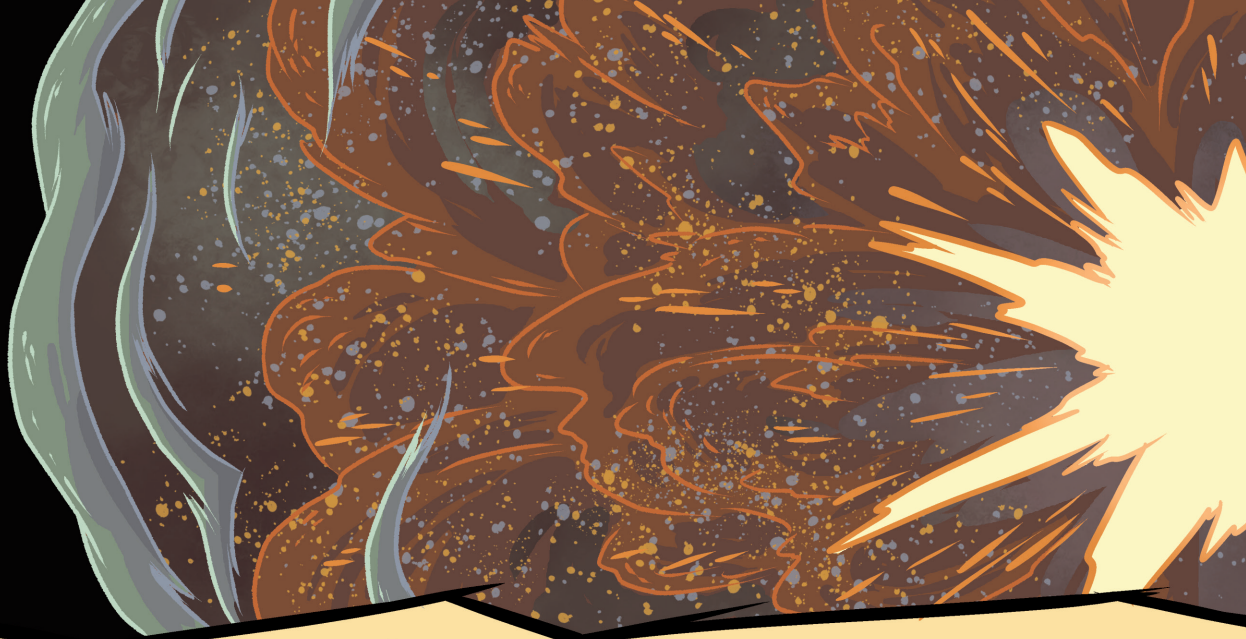
YOU KNEW THE RISKS.











CRAAAAK

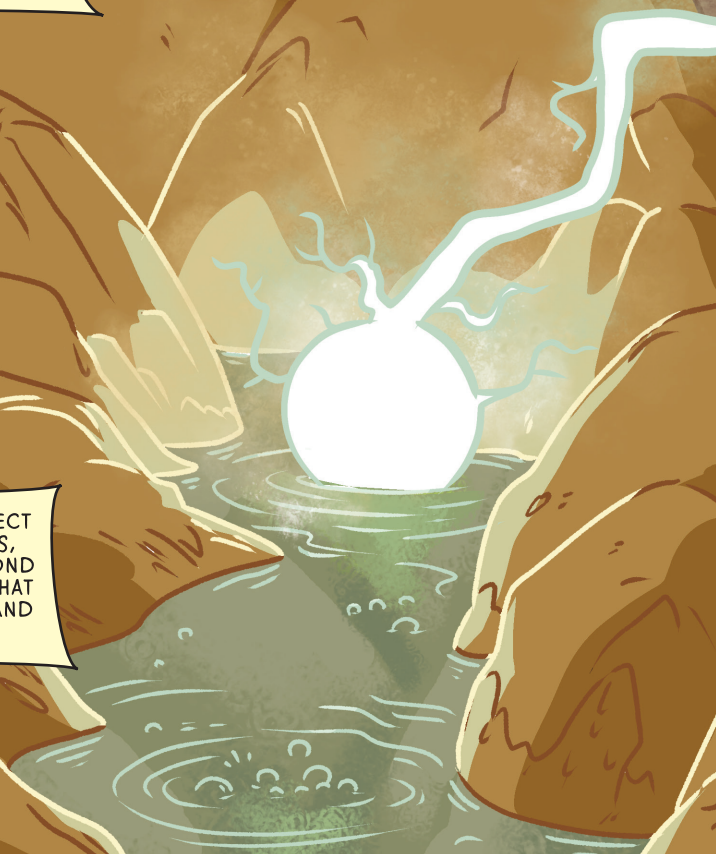
MIRACLES: EVENTS SO RARE, SO UNLIKELY, THAT THE FACT THEY EVEN HAPPENED SEEMS INCREDIBLE. EARTH'S FIRST MIRACLES HAPPENED ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE, BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO. ITS THIRD ONE IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW.

...LIFE.

LIFE EVOLVES IN BABY STEPS, PIECE BY PIECE... BUT THIS PROCESS NEEDS TO START SOMEWHERE.

SOMEHOW, AMINO ACIDS MUST MAKE THAT ONE GIANT LEAP FROM LIFELESS CHEMICALS AND GOLD PARTICULATES INTO ORGANIC PROTEINS.

PROTEINS THAT CAN COLLECT AND SUSTAIN THEMSELVES, PROTEINS THAT CAN RESPOND TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT, THAT CAN GROW AND CHANGE AND REPRODUCE.





KKKOW!

WE DON'T KNOW HOW
THIS LEAP--THIS MIRACLE--
HAPPENS. WE CAN'T MAKE IT
HAPPEN AGAIN, EVEN WHEN
WE WANT IT TO.

AT LEAST, NOT
DIRECTLY.

BUT WE CAN AT LEAST
SET UP CIRCUMSTANCES
WHERE THEY **COULD**
HAPPEN.

AND SO WE SET UP THIS
ONE. A NEW UNIVERSE,
HEAVY WITH GOLD.

A NEW
WORLD.







THE END.

Thanks for reading our comic! This was an amazing experience and I'm glad we got to share it. Guess what: I want to thank some people whose names you don't know yet! First is Ben Tippett, my physics adviser, who when I asked him how it was possible for Midas to turn arbitrary matter into gold, said "It isn't. Now, here's how you could do it...". His knowledge helped make this story about King Midas In Space as realistic as it possibly could be. Thanks Ben! He has a great physics podcast called "The Titanium Physicists"; go listen to it and tell him I said hi.

I also want to thank Emily Horne and Victor North for reading my earlier drafts. Here's something: Victor wanted Fatima to die in the fifth issue and Joey in the sixth and Cooper in the seventh, and I was all NOPE, SORRY VICTOR. But it's okay because his other advice was all pretty good!

Now, for the last batch of letters!

Q: *I see this is not something that would fit well within the story structure, but I'd love to hear a bit of whatever background detail on the Federation you may have. Is its oppression more in the indirect economic exploitation style, or totalitarianism, or something completely different? How does it conceive of itself and justify its own actions? What would Sluggo have said given more time to argue?*

— John

A: I saw it as a totalitarian regime that operated by propaganda and curtailing personal freedoms. The whole "we know what's best, this hurts you more than it hurts me" style of leadership that would, I think, appeal to someone like the General. Oh! Here's a secret about him: his full name is given as "General Russ" at one point, which is SECRETLY short for "General Ica Russ". AND HE DIES BY FLYING TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN. OHHHH DAAAANG.

Q: *To me, the General looks like an endearing character. His face is round, his nose is lumpy, and he has a gap between his front teeth. However, his personality is NOT VERY ENDEARING AT ALL. Was this a conscious choice on the part of the team? How much planning do you do design-wise?*

— Gabriel

A: This was all intentional by Shelli and Braden! I didn't do any physical description at all for him, but the design they came up with was distinctive, memorable, and yeah, BASICALLY ADORABLE. I loved that his personality was playing against his physical stereotype -- this happens a lot in real life so it was nice to see it in comics too!

Q: *Are there any possibilities of THE MIDAS FLESH being made into a feature film? And do you have any favorite actors for the roles?*

— Justin

A: There are none that I know of, PERHAPS due to my insistence that Patrick Stewart be cast in all roles without exception??

Thank you for reading, for telling your friends about this weird little comic, and for being so enthusiastic about our story. We'll see you soon! PROMISE.

Your pal,

Ryan North
@RYANQNORTH



SEE YOU NEXT TIME!
— RYAN, SHELLI AND BRADEN

BOOM! BOX

From your friends at...

BOOM! BOX™



Can you believe it's been 8 months since our little imprint came to be, you guys? It's true! We are here! It seems like just yesterday, you and I were sharing a cup of tea (black, with almond milk) and reading about lady scientists and dinosaurs in space! Unfortunately, this eighth month also means that our intrepid, amazing first series, **The Midas Flesh**, is coming to a close. This breaks my heart clean in two, but you can see Ryan North, Shelli Paroline and Braden Lamb's work in their return to **Adventure Time #31** in August, as well as any wonderful things they do BEYOND EVEN THAT. I rounded them up for a closing word on **The Midas Flesh**.

*Guys! We have reached the end of **The Midas Flesh** together! What has been your favorite part of the **Midas Flesh** experience?*

Braden: It's gotta be working with Shelli and Ryan once again. I like that we're all creative and reasonable people who are primarily interested in making an awesome comic.

Ryan: Yeah, I'd say working with Braden and Shelli; seeing this comic get made after having it rattle around in my head for five years -- and have it get made SO WELL -- has been amazing!

Shelli: I got into comics because of science fiction, and it's been unreal tackling that genre. It was also a good exercise in making designs unique yet practical for a humanoid to use to use in a sci-fi universe. I "might" have thought too much about attachments for gloves on a spacesuit.

*How is writing/drawing **The Midas Flesh** different from your **Adventure Time** work?*

B: It's way more involved to draw, but that's kind of its own reward. We have to invent the look of basically everything you see and then draw that again and again, which takes a lot of time, but it's gratifying to know we invented something new.

R: With **Adventure Time**, you can go into it assuming the audience knows your characters and what kind of stories you want to tell. With something new, all that's up in the air! So it was fun to write knowing that, deciding what got revealed when (and how!).

*What are you going to miss most about working on **Midas**?*

B: Drawing dinosaurs and spaceships on the same page. I don't know why it doesn't happen in every comic book.

S: I liked working on the colors for this specific story, and I'll miss exploring that end of things. Too often, sci-fi looks dark and oppressive and cold, so I wanted to explore lighter color schemes both

to make it look distinctive, and to keep it in the spirit of our heroes. Of course I say this now, but perhaps I was just going through a Mint phase.

R: Fatty. I love Fatty. Also, I'm going to miss thinking very seriously about very ridiculous ideas -- but let's be honest, it's not like I'm going to stop doing that.

LAST WORDS...GO!

B: I'm gonna go dig in my bin of Name-Brand Interlocking Brick Toys and make some facsimiles of Joey, Fatty, Cooper, and the Prospect.

S: The phrase "Dang, King Midas" is now a part of my vocabulary. Thanks Ryan, it's great!

R: Thank you all for reading this crazy comic about King Midas in space, and I can't wait to show you what we've got lined up next!

Thank you guys, I love you and I'm going to miss our space party so much!

A few more items of note this fine July! We have a BRAND SPANKIN' NEW BOOM! Box series launching this August, starring the raddest dude to ever grace a denim vest... **Teen Dog!** I have been totally obsessed with Jake Lawrence's work for years, and his character Teen Dog almost as long (I was definitely Teen Dog for Halloween last year), so getting to do an actual full-length comic book mini-series is basically the best. If you're a fan of wicked cool stories about pals and good times and kindness and lady quarterbacks and also pizza, you are probably going to love **TEEN DOG**. OH WAIT THAT IS ACTUALLY EVERYONE, EVERYONE WILL LOVE **TEEN DOG**. Tell your local comic shop to preorder you a copy today... it's Diamond code JUL140989!

Meanwhile, don't forget to catch us at San Diego Comic-Con at the end of the month! We'll have a TON of brand new **Lumberjanes** merchandise (did someone say...BADGES?!!) plus an exclusive cover by Noelle Stevenson! Save yourself a lifetime of regret and hit the booth early!

Phew! That's it for me this month. As ever...

Stay swell,
SHANNON WATTERS
EDITOR LADY



RAD-TASTIC
DOODLES BY
BECCA
TOBIN



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