

"GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN?"

ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN HOW IT IS THAT YOU'RE ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH THE BARON OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE?

I WAS WAITING FOR A GOOD MOMENT.

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

NOW SEEMS LIKE A "GOOD MOMENT" TO ME!



I USED TO... WORK FOR HIM, ALL RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

I DON'T REALLY SEE THE MINISTRY NEEDING SOMEONE WITH YOUR SKILL SET.

I WASN'T ALWAYS A SMUGGLER.



WELL... WHATEVER YOU DID...

...IT'S NICE TO SEE THAT IT DIDN'T EARN YOU ANY KIND OF SPECIAL TREATMENT.



ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

WHAT? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?



ORDNANCE?

NOW HOLD ON
A SECOND!



THAT
MICROTRON
UNIT IS MY
FIRST MATE.

MORE THAN
THAT, HE'S
A *FRIEND*.

THANK YOU,
CAPTAIN.



YOU'RE NOT
JUST GOING TO
SHOVE HIM INTO
SOME STORAGE
LOCKER.

HE STAYS
WITH US...

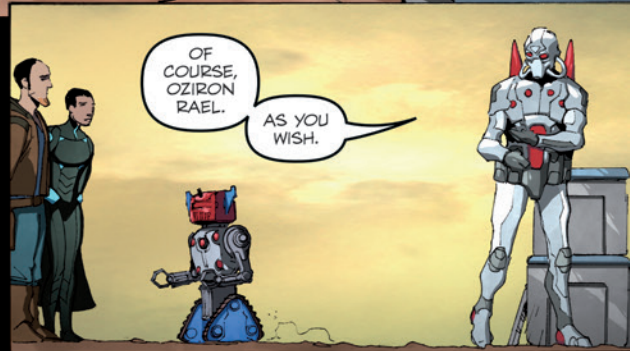
...IN WHATEVER
FILTHY, STINKING,
LOBROS-INFESTED
PRISON CELL
YOU'RE THROWING
US INTO.



YOU'RE BEING STORED WITH THE REST OF THE ORDNANCE.



UH...
... THANK YOU, CAPTAIN?



OF COURSE, OZIRON RAE.
AS YOU WISH.



HEH.
SEE? SPECIAL TREATMENT.



AND WHAT ABOUT THIS...
...THING?
BRINGING AN ACROYEAR— ESPECIALLY AN UNSTABLE MODEL— ALONG IS AN UNNECESSARY RISK.



SAME DEAL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FROM ME, BARON DAIGON, BUT I KNOW YOU WANT SOMETHING.
YOU KILL ONE OF MY FRIENDS... YOU KILL ANY CHANCE OF MY COOPERATION.



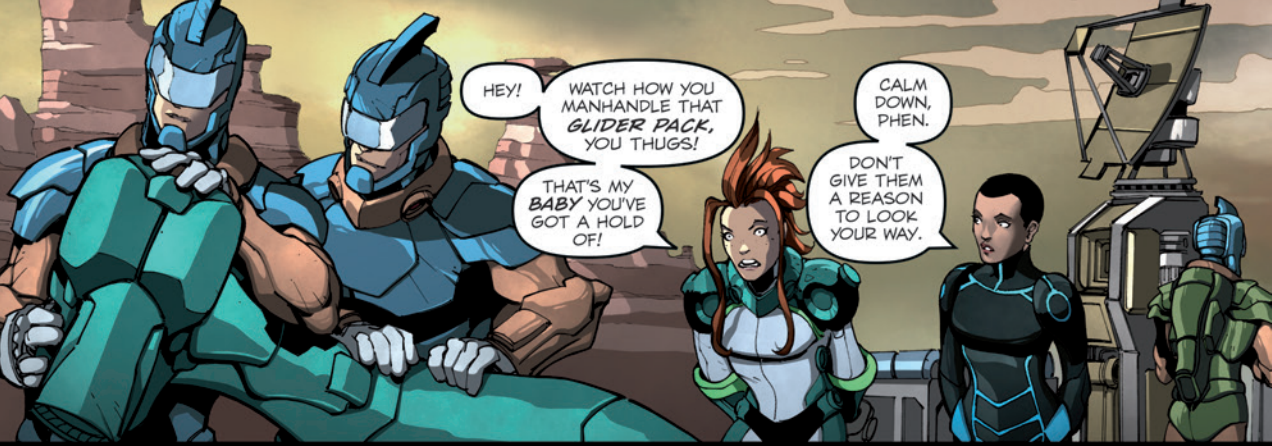
VERY WELL.
LET THE ACROYEAR LIVE.
BUT HE REMAINS SHACKLED AT ALL TIMES.
I'LL NOT HAVE HIM SUMMONING THAT BLADE OF HIS FROM SUB-SPACE.



DON'T SWEAT IT, ACROYEAR.
WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT, ALL RIGHT?
I DO NOT NEED MY SWORD TO LIBERATE MYSELF...
...BUT I PREDICT THAT MOST OF YOU WOULD DIE DURING MY ESCAPE.



SUCH A LOSS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE...
THANKS, BUDDY.
WE CARE ABOUT YOU, TOO.
...AT THIS TIME.



HEY!

WATCH HOW YOU MANHANDLE THAT GLIDER PACK, YOU THUGS!

CALM DOWN, PHEN.

THAT'S MY BABY YOU'VE GOT A HOLD OF!

DON'T GIVE THEM A REASON TO LOOK YOUR WAY.

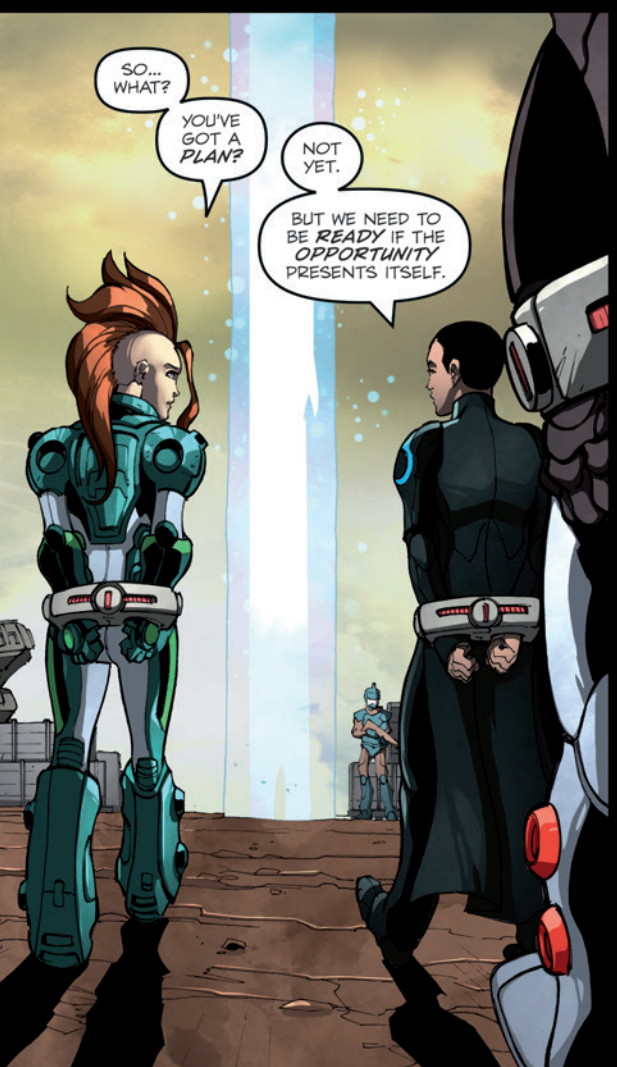


YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND—

WOULDN'T I?

THEY TOOK THE POWER CELLS FOR MY SHIELD GENERATOR, TOO.

BUT IF THEY'RE WATCHING US TOO CLOSELY, IT'S GOING TO BE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO GET OUR GEAR BACK.



SO... WHAT?

YOU'VE GOT A PLAN?

NOT YET.

BUT WE NEED TO BE **READY** IF THE **OPPORTUNITY** PRESENTS ITSELF.



IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, MAYBE YOU COULD TELL US **WHERE** YOU'RE TAKING US?

I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, OZIRON.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE OF USE TO ME...

...IF YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME **SAVE** OUR UNIVERSE...

...THERE IS BUT ONE PLACE FOR US TO GO.