

A

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A BAD SITUATION.

TRAPPED IN A MINE WITH A COUPLE HUNDRED TONS OF RUBBLE BETWEEN US AND THE NIGHT SKY.

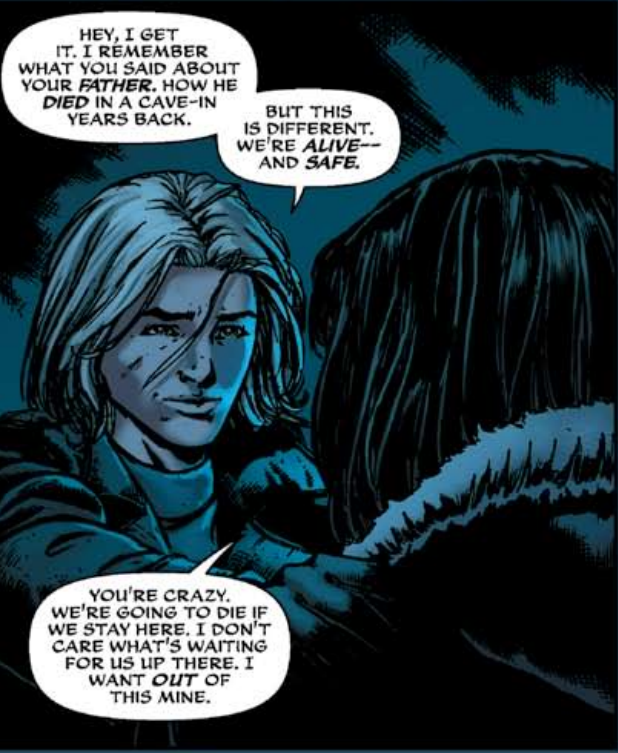
BUT IT'S BETTER THAN BEING UP THERE-- WITH **RAHTUMI** **AMAZONS** AND STRANGE **FACELESS CREATURES** BOTH HUNTING AFTER ME.

IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF **PEACEFUL** DOWN HERE.

IT'S OKAY, **PAULA**.



RIGHT. WE'RE BURIED ALIVE AND YOU THINK IT'S JUST **PEACHY**.



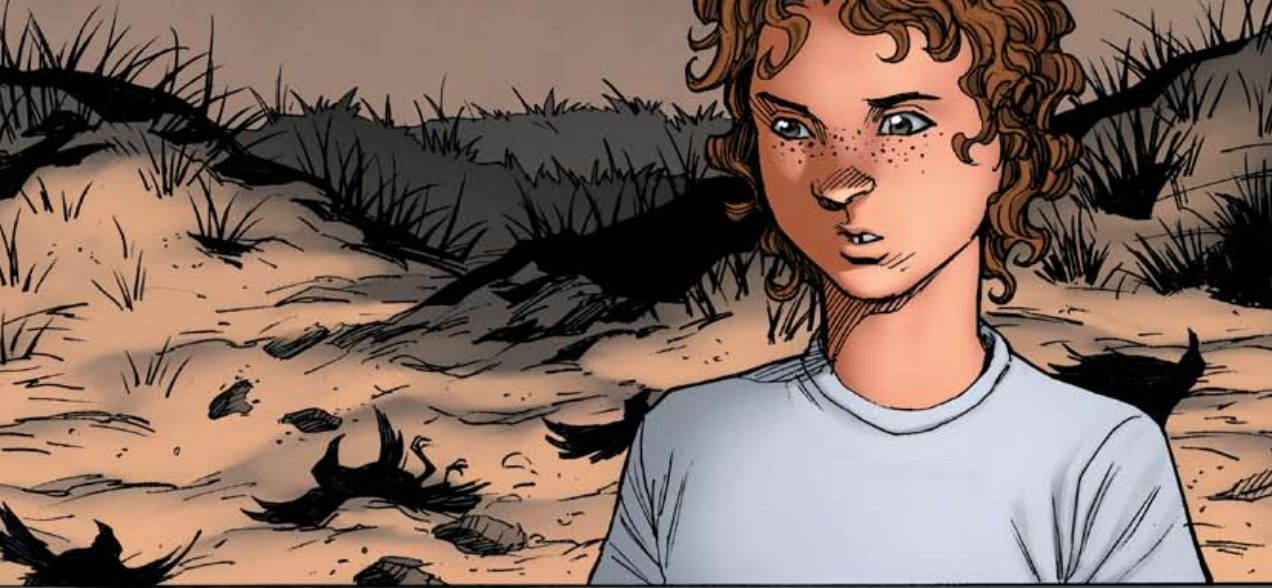
HEY, I GET IT. I REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT YOUR **FATHER**. HOW HE **DIED** IN A CAVE-IN YEARS BACK.

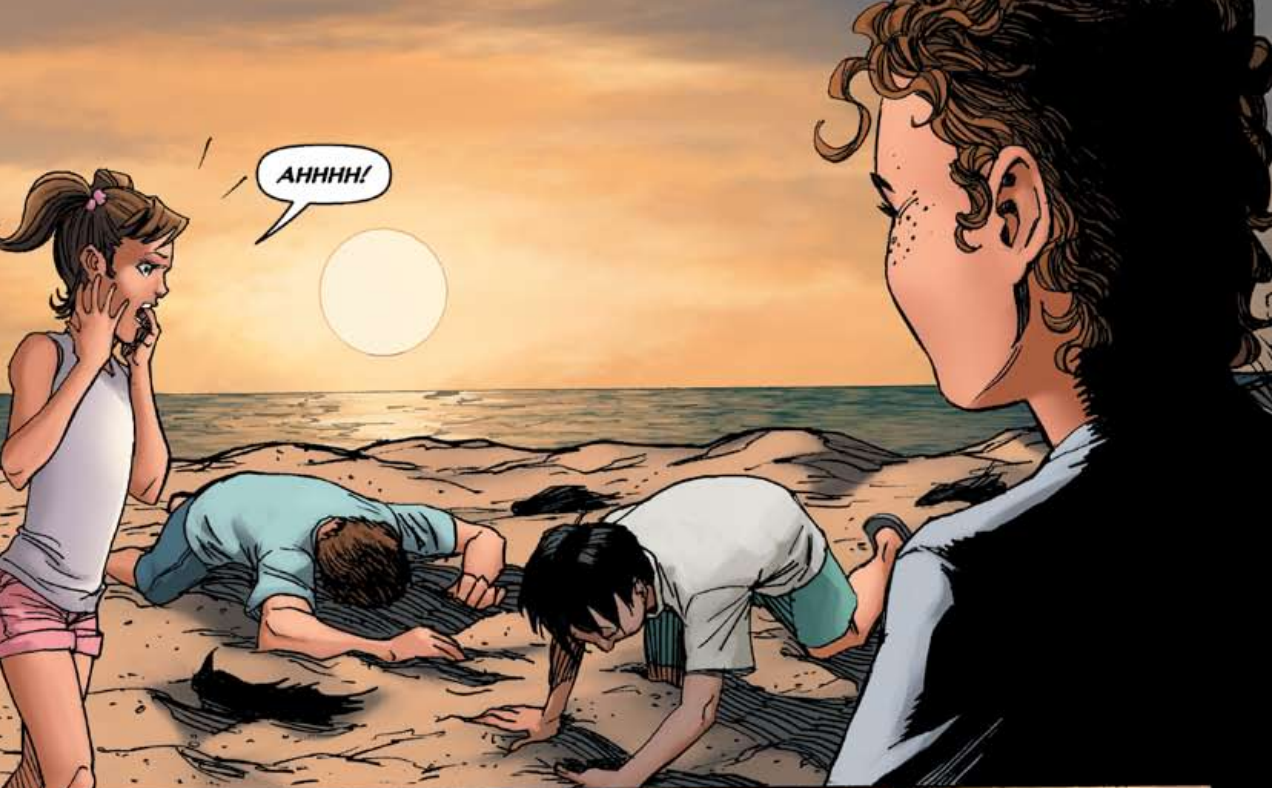
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. WE'RE **ALIVE--** AND **SAFE**.

YOU'RE CRAZY. WE'RE GOING TO DIE IF WE STAY HERE. I DON'T CARE WHAT'S WAITING FOR US UP THERE. I WANT **OUT** OF THIS MINE.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE **AFRAID**.





AHHHH!



NOOO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER???



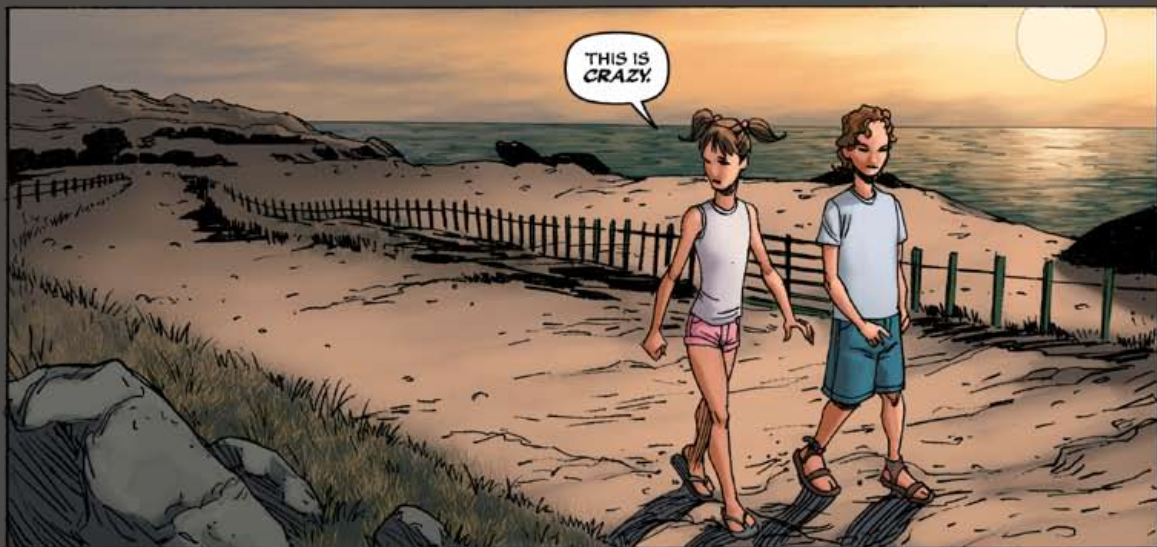
WAKE UP!
PLEASE!
WAKE UP.

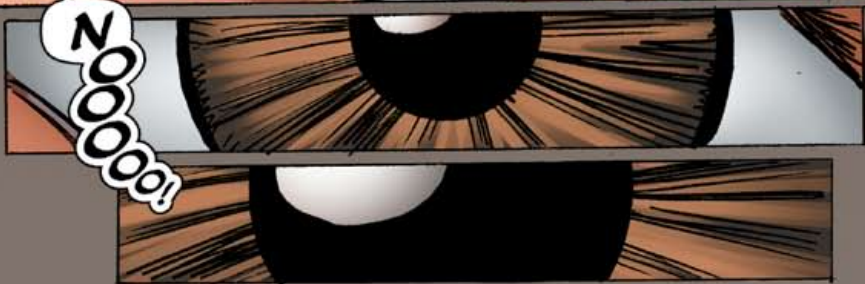
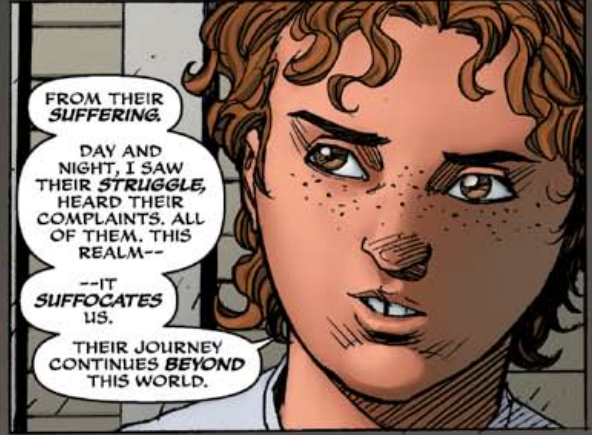
I-IT'S MY BROTHER.

IT'S OKAY.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID.







THE YEAR 2061.

STILL DON'T KNOW HOW WE SCORED THIS CRAP MISSION.



WHEN I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT GOING TO NEW REACHES OF SPACE WOULD BE COOL.

NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE TWO-YEAR TRIP JUST TO GET THIS FAR. WHO KNEW SPACE COULD BE SO LITTERLY BORING.

NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS BORING TO ME.



I'VE WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE TO GET TO THIS POINT.

THE EDGE OF ALL WE KNOW, WE'RE FARTHER OUT THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN—EVER.

GIVE IT A FEW MORE MISSIONS. THE NOVELTY WEARS OFF REAL FAST.



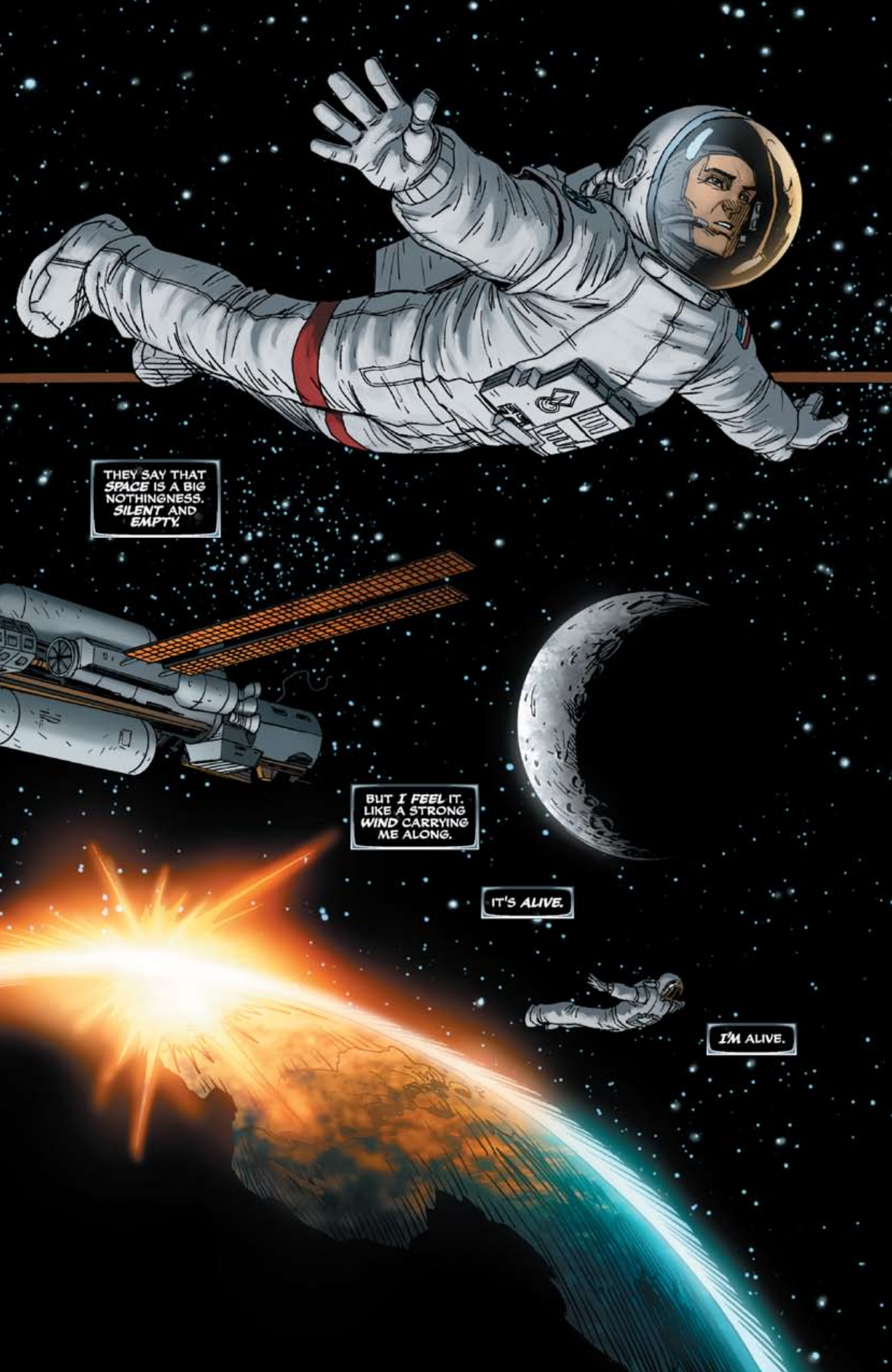
THIS IS MY ONLY MISSION.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?? ARE YOU CRAZY???

YOU SEE THIS AS THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY.

FOR ME, IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.






THEY SAY THAT
SPACE IS A BIG
NOTHINGNESS.
*SILENT AND
EMPTY.*

BUT *I FEEL* IT.
LIKE A STRONG
WIND CARRYING
ME ALONG.

IT'S *ALIVE.*

I'M ALIVE.



WHAT FIRE
BURNS WITHIN
MY SOUL?




WHY DO
MOST FEAR THE
UNKNOWN?

ASSUMING THE
WORST, THEIR
MINDS GO TO
DARK PLACES.





NEVER REALIZING THAT
THE MYSTERIOUS IS
TRULY MAGICAL.



INSTEAD, IT
CRIPPLES THEM
LIKE A DISEASE.



SPREADING
AND GROWING.
ALL-CONSUMING.



WHATEVER
MONSTROUS EVIL
THEY
CREATE IN THEIR MINDS
IS ALWAYS WORSE THAN
ANY REALITY.



OR IS IT?