

ONYX

CHAPTER FOUR:

CONFLAGRATION

Creators and Storytellers

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"OF ALL MY
BATTLES..."

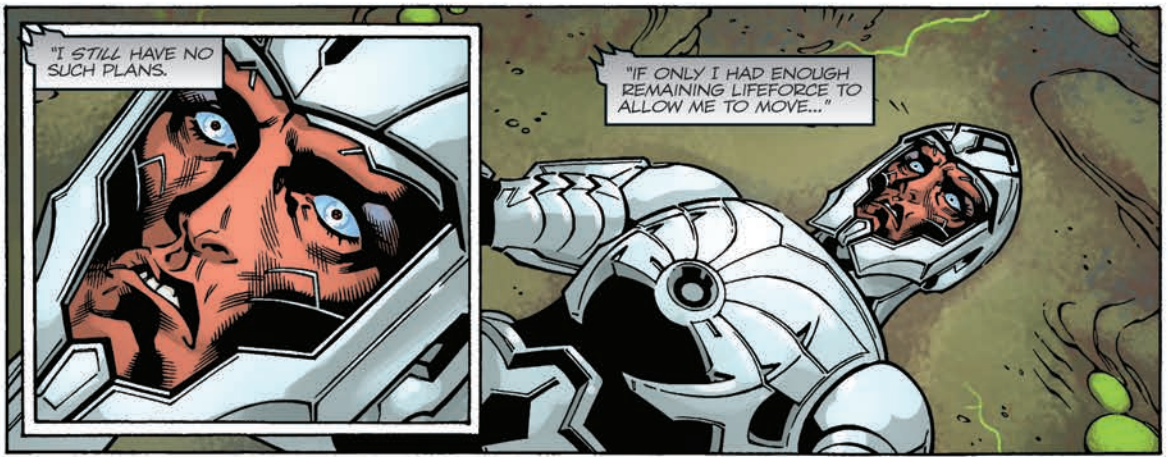
"...IN THESE
LONG DECADES
AT WAR, FAR
FROM HOME..."

"...I HAVE NEVER
EXPERIENCED
SUCH HORRORS."

"NEVER SEEN SUCH
PERVERSIONS."

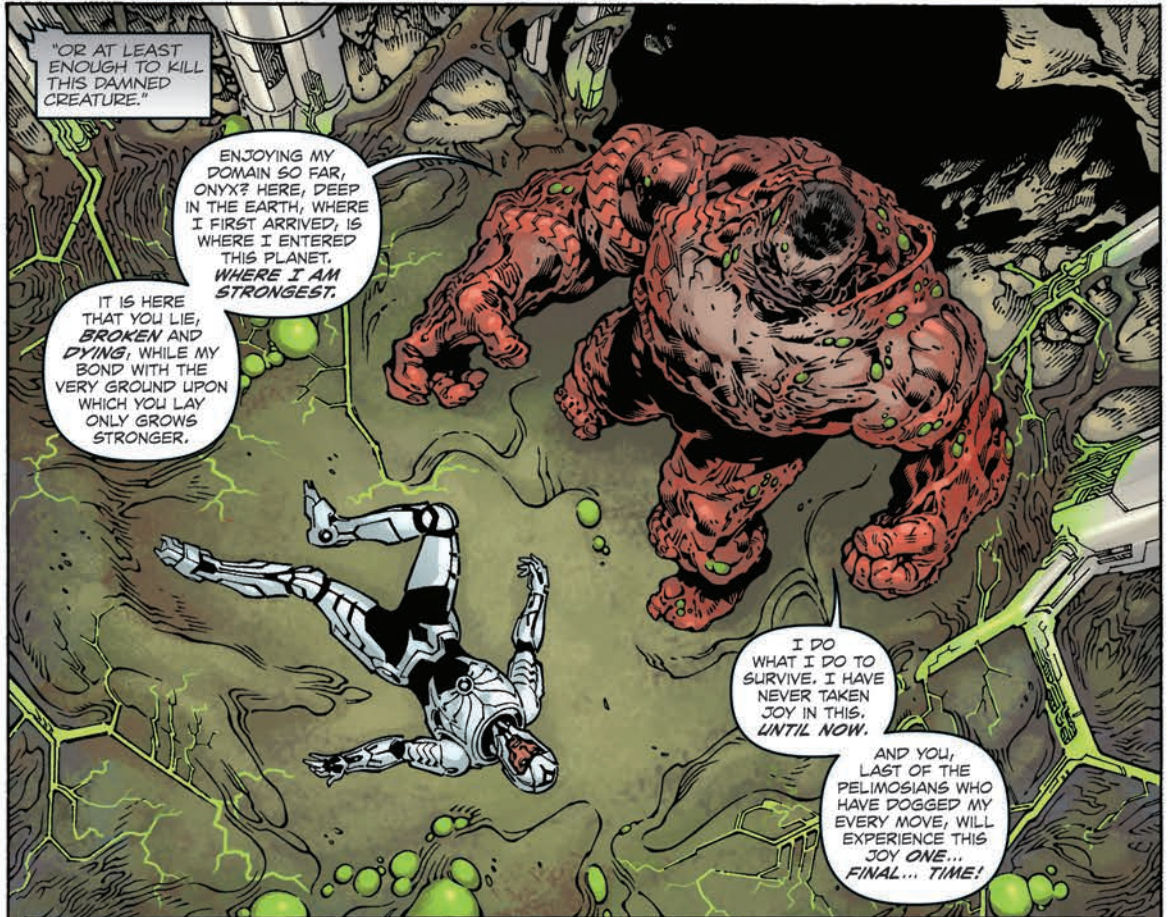
"AND I NEVER EXPECTED TO
MEET MY END IN THIS WAY."





"I STILL HAVE NO SUCH PLANS."

"IF ONLY I HAD ENOUGH REMAINING LIFEFORCE TO ALLOW ME TO MOVE..."



"OR AT LEAST ENOUGH TO KILL THIS DAMNED CREATURE."

ENJOYING MY DOMAIN SO FAR, ONYX? HERE, DEEP IN THE EARTH, WHERE I FIRST ARRIVED, IS WHERE I ENTERED THIS PLANET. WHERE I AM STRONGEST.

IT IS HERE THAT YOU LIE, **BROKEN AND DYING**, WHILE MY BOND WITH THE VERY GROUND UPON WHICH YOU LAY ONLY GROWS STRONGER.

I DO WHAT I DO TO SURVIVE. I HAVE NEVER TAKEN JOY IN THIS. UNTIL NOW.

AND YOU, LAST OF THE PELIMOSIANS WHO HAVE DOGGED MY EVERY MOVE, WILL EXPERIENCE THIS JOY ONE... FINAL... TIME!



FIRST-HAND.

WHAM



HOLD IT...



HOLD IT TOGETHER...

ABIGAIL? BUT—



—BUT HOW AM I STILL ALIVE?

WHAT AM I—ARE WE—DOING IN THIS PLACE?



I REACHED INTO YOUR MIND. BEFORE. YOU WERE FALLING. DYING. I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO SAVE ANY PART OF YOU I COULD.

I HAD TO LOSE MY HEADBAND TO DO IT. AND NOW... I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE. KEEP EVERYONE OUT. KEEP THE SPORE FROM CORRUPTING THE OTHERS.



FIGHT ON, LITTLE SISTER. WHEREVER YOU ARE.

NO WAY ANYTHING TOUCHES YOU WHILE I'M STILL STANDING. SO TO SPEAK.



ABBY— THANK YOU.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THE SPORE...

YES. I WAS PULLED HERE BEFORE. IT IS HIS DOMAIN...

...BUT I PLAN TO GIVE IT A PROPER MAKEOVER BEFORE I GO OUT...



WHAT?!



WHAT IS THIS... THIS PHANTASM?!

NEVER MIND.

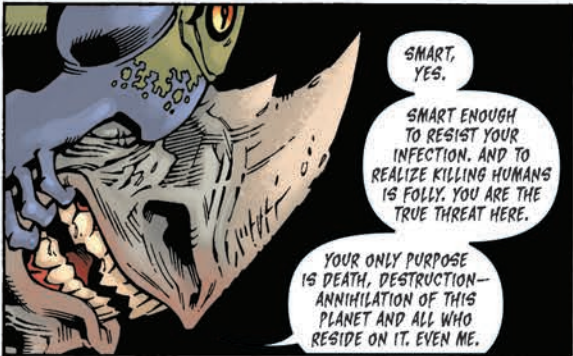


THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS.

WHO?!

OH, IT'S YOU.

SMART TO BOND WITH A BODY STRONGER THAN THAT HUMAN HOST.



SMART, YES.

SMART ENOUGH TO RESIST YOUR INFECTION. AND TO REALIZE KILLING HUMANS IS FOLLY. YOU ARE THE TRUE THREAT HERE.

YOUR ONLY PURPOSE IS DEATH, DESTRUCTION—ANNIHILATION OF THIS PLANET AND ALL WHO RESIDE ON IT. EVEN ME.



OF COURSE. SO WHY WASTE MY TIME TALKING OF THE INEVITABLE?

YOU ARE AS DOOMED AS THE HUMANS, NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW.



PERHAPS. BUT I WOULD HAVE NO VESTIGES OF HUMANITY IF I DIDN'T TRY!

YESSSS...



UFF!
HAHA,
YES!

I REGISTERED MY
ANIMAL INSTINCTS
BEFORE, BUT NO
LONGER!

I WILL
FIGHT FOR MY
PLANET!



AND
YOU WILL
LOSE.

YOU SHOULD
BE UNDER MY
INFLUENCE BY
NOW, BUT IF I
CANNOT TAKE YOU
MENTALLY...



...I WILL
RELISH IN
THIS FORM'S
PHYSICALITY.



I NEED
NO CLUB! AND
IF YOU WANT
MY HEAD SO
BADLY-

-THEN
TAKE IT!

GUH!



IF YOU WON'T
GRANT ME
EASY ACCESS
TO YOUR
HEAD...

I WILL
BURN MY
WAY IN!