




IT WAS 1964 AND TWO RIVAL THEORIES WERE COMPETING TO EXPLAIN THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.

THE "STEADY STATE" THEORY--THAT THE UNIVERSE HAS AND WILL ALWAYS EXIST WITHOUT CHANGE...

...AND THE "BIG BANG"--A BASTARD STEPCHILD OF A HYPOTHESIS--THAT A MASSIVE EXPLOSION OCCURRED SOME 13.72 BILLION YEARS AGO AND STARTED THE INFINITE AND NEVER ENDING EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE.



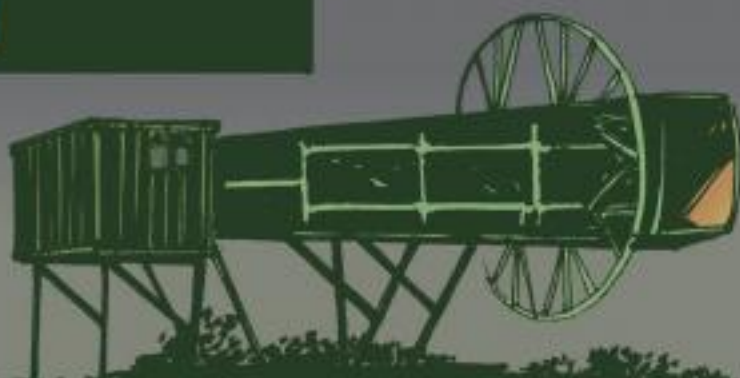
AS THE DEBATE FIERCELY RAGED, IN A QUIET CORNER OF NEW JERSEY, TWO UNKNOWN RESEARCH SCIENTISTS ARNO PENZIAS AND ROBERT WILSON, WERE BUSY STUDYING RADIO WAVES FROM OUTER SPACE TO PAY MUCH MIND...

BUT THEY RAN INTO A PROBLEM, AND IN ORDER TO MEASURE THE FAINTEST OF SIGNALS, THE RESEARCHERS NEEDED TO ELIMINATE ALL INTERFERENCE...

...THERE WAS A LOW, STEADY MYSTERIOUS "HUM" THAT DESPITE EVERYTHING THEY TRIED, SIMPLY REFUSED TO GO AWAY...

AND TO ADD TO THE MYSTERY, THIS "HUM" DIDN'T SEEM TO EMANATE FROM THE EARTH, THE SUN OR EVEN OUR GALAXY, BUT FROM SOMEWHERE BEYOND...

AND BY SHEER SCIENTIFIC ACCIDENT THESE TWO PHYSICISTS HAD UNCOVERED A SNAPSHOT OF THE UNIVERSE MADE ONLY MOMENTS AFTER THE "BIG BANG."







WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS COSMIC  
MICROWAVE BACKGROUND  
RADIATION WON PENZIAS AND WILSON  
THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS...



...WITH IT THE  
REVELATION THAT RELICS  
AND FRAGMENTS OF THE  
"BIG BANG" EXIST ALL  
AROUND US.

RIGHT NOW, WHEREVER  
YOU ARE, EVERY FRAGMENT  
OF SPACE AROUND YOU IS  
CURRENTLY BEING  
TRAVERSED BY  
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS  
OF PHOTONS FROM  
THE BIG BANG.



...THE "SNOW" ON  
TV, A DISTANT ECHO  
OF A DISTANT PAST,  
BUT TO ME, AS  
A CHILD, IT CAUGHT  
MY IMAGINATION.

TO ME IT  
BECAME A  
WINDOW TO WHAT  
MIGHT LIE  
BEYOND OUR  
WORLD...



...AND DESPITE EVERYTHING THEY  
TOLD ME, EVERYTHING THEY SO  
DESPERATELY WANTED ME TO BELIEVE,

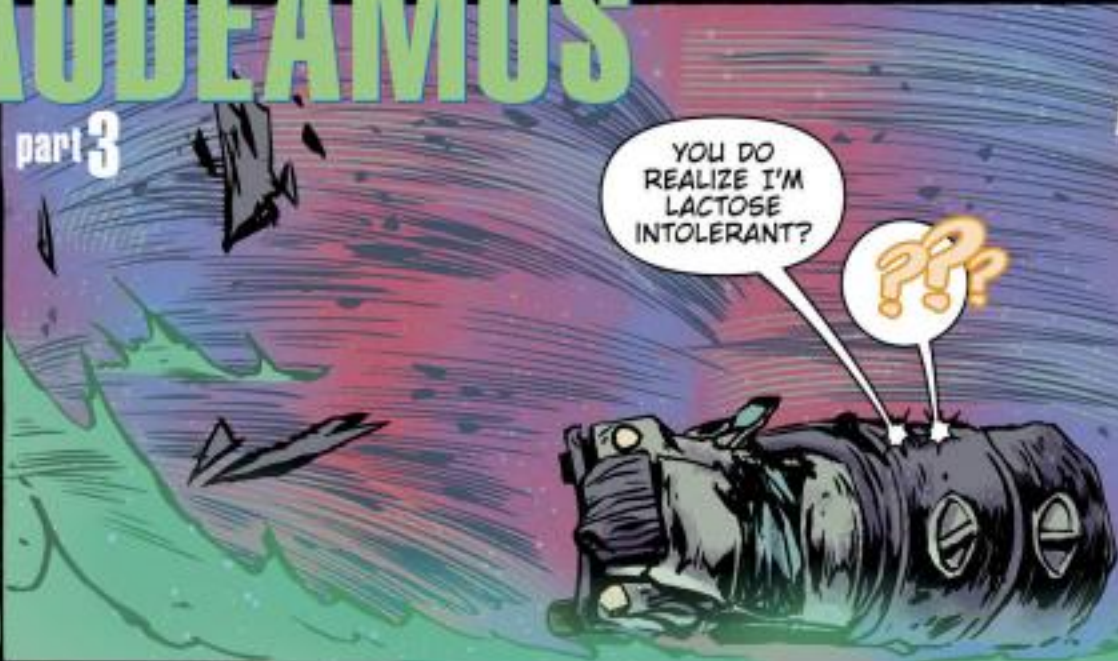
...I KNEW  
SOMEWHERE  
OUT THERE WAS  
THE FATHER I  
NEVER MET...




# AUDEAMUS

part 3

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YOU DO  
REALIZE I'M  
LACTOSE  
INTOLERANT?



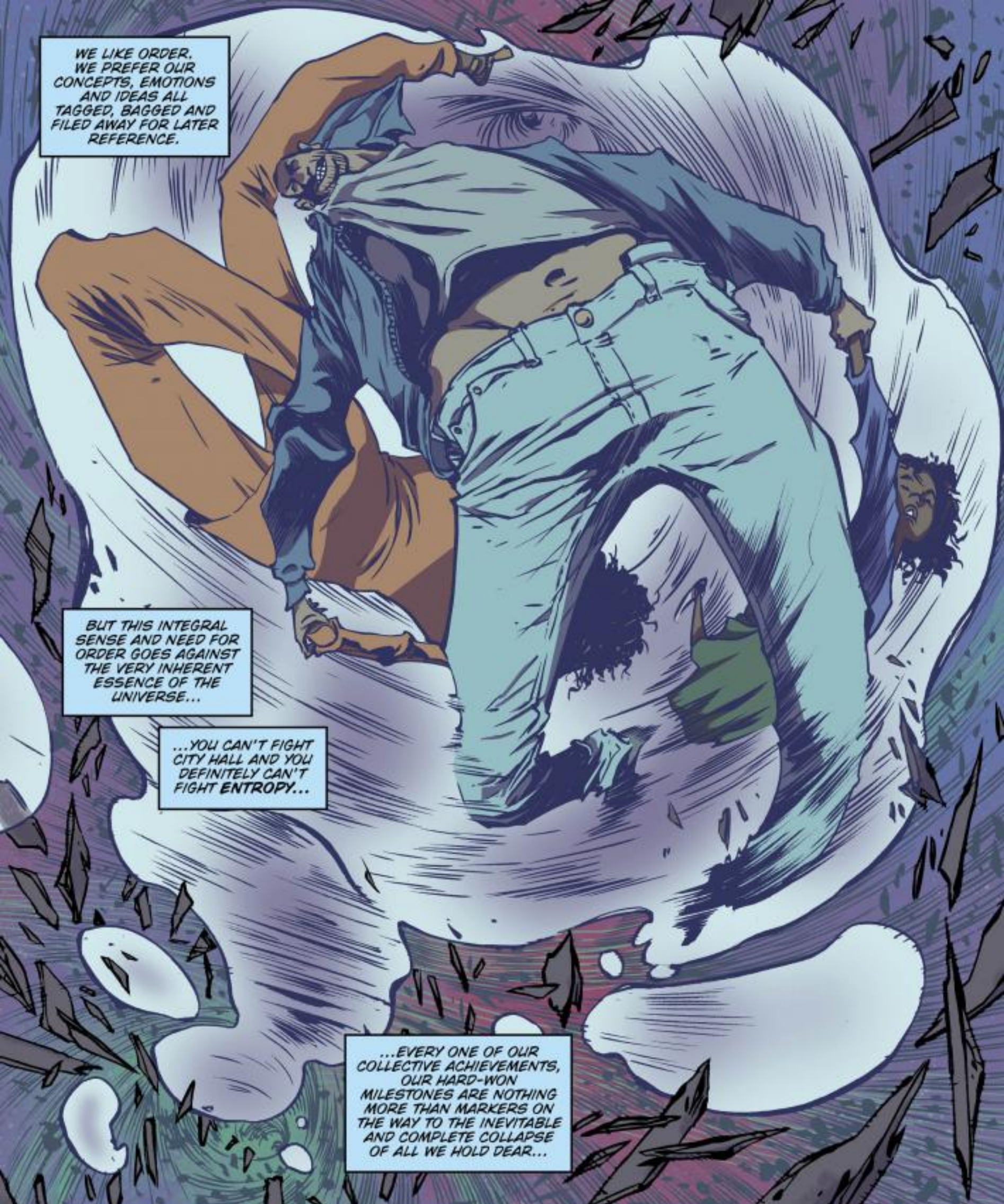
...LUCKILY THE  
ONLY THING INA  
INHERITED FROM  
HER FATHER WAS  
HIS SENSE OF  
HUMOR...



HUMANS ARE NOT  
COMFORTABLE IN CHAOS.

WE'RE A SPECIES  
THAT DOESN'T DEAL IN  
AMBIGUITIES, DOUBLE  
MEANINGS OR  
GRAY ZONES...






WE LIKE ORDER.  
WE PREFER OUR  
CONCEPTS, EMOTIONS  
AND IDEAS ALL  
TAGGED, BAGGED AND  
FILED AWAY FOR LATER  
REFERENCE.

BUT THIS INTEGRAL  
SENSE AND NEED FOR  
ORDER GOES AGAINST  
THE VERY INHERENT  
ESSENCE OF THE  
UNIVERSE...

...YOU CAN'T FIGHT  
CITY HALL AND YOU  
DEFINITELY CAN'T  
FIGHT ENTROPY...

...EVERY ONE OF OUR  
COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS,  
OUR HARD-WON  
MILESTONES ARE NOTHING  
MORE THAN MARKERS ON  
THE WAY TO THE INEVITABLE  
AND COMPLETE COLLAPSE  
OF ALL WE HOLD DEAR...



*"The general doctrines of  
science, however firmly fixed at  
present, should never be conceived  
as final and absolute, because  
at any moment in time they  
may be rendered obsolete."  
-Aristotle*





...WITH REPORTS OF MASSIVE DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES STILL COMING IN FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE...

...NO CONTINENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LEFT UNTOUCHED...

...AND OUR OWN PACIFIC NORTHWEST HAS BORNE THE BRUNT OF THE UNPRECEDENTED ONSLAUGHT OF QUANTUM TORNADOES DEVASTATION.



ADAM, YOU'RE ALIVE???

BAILEY?

'CAUSE I GOTTA ADMIT I WOULD HAVE TAKEN SOME DECENT ODDS AGAINST IT...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?



ADAM, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND YOU.

ROSA AND I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT THE SITUATION'S CHANGED...

...IT'S TIME TO REEVALUATE OUR POSITION.



NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, HARDY.

YOU THREE FIGURE OUT IF YOU'RE COMING.

FIVE MINUTES ON THE DOT, WE LEAVE...



"...WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?"

"YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ADVICE ABOUT YOUR LOVE LIFE FROM A SIX-YEAR-OLD?"

BY THE WAY, NEITHER OF THEM IS MY GIRLFRIEND.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, LAST TIME I CHECKED, YOU'RE THE ADULT.

COME ON, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WELL, WAY I SEE IT, THE WORLD'S GONE TO HELL IN A HAND BASKET...

...AND IF WAS OLD ENOUGH, I KNOW WHAT I'D DO...

"...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?"

"WELL, LIKE I SAY, I'M ONLY A KID, BUT I'D PROBABLY DO WHAT THEY TOLD US IN KINDERGARTEN..."

"...MAKE NICE, PLAY FAIR, ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS..."

"...AND DO WHATEVER I HAD TO DO TO SAVE THE WORLD."