



VALIANT

Q2: The RETURN of **QUANTUM** AND **WOODY**

Peter Cuneo
Chairman
Dinesh Shamdasani
CEO & Chief Creative Officer

Gavin Cuneo
CFO & Head of
Strategic Development

Fred Pierce
Publisher

Warren Simons
Editor-in-Chief

Walter Black
VP Operations

Hunter Gorinson
Director of Marketing,
Communications & Digital Media

Atom! Freeman
Matthew Klein
Andy Liegl
Sales Managers

Josh Johns
Digital Sales &
Special Projects Manager

Travis Escarfullery
Jeff Walker
Production & Design Managers

Alejandro Arbona
Editor

Tom Brennan
Associate Editor

Kyle Andrukiewicz
Assistant Editor

Peter Stern
Publishing and Operations Manager

Chris Daniels
Marketing Coordinator

Russ Brown
President, Consumer Products,
Promotions & Ad Sales

Jason Kothari
Vice Chairman

**Q2: The Return of
Quantum and Woody® #5 (of 5)**
FEBRUARY 2015

VALIANT ENTERTAINMENT LLC.
Office of publication:
424 West 33rd Street,
New York, NY 10001

Copyright © 2015
Valiant Entertainment LLC.
All rights reserved.

All characters, their distinctive
likenesses and related indicia
featured in this publication are
trademarks of Valiant Entertainment LLC.

The stories, characters, and incidents
featured in this publication are
entirely fictional.

Printed in the USA.

For more information, please visit
ValiantUniverse.com.
First Printing

Writer PRIEST
Art MD BRIGHT
Inks RYAN WINN
Colorist ALLEN PASSALAQUA
Letters DAVE LANPHEAR

Cover Art MD BRIGHT with ALLEN PASSALAQUA;
RYAN LEE with IVAN PLASCENCIA; and
MARC LAMING with JORDAN BOYD
Editor ALEJANDRO ARBONA
Editor-in-Chief WARREN SIMONS

Quantum and Woody created by MD Bright and Priest

■ The story so far..



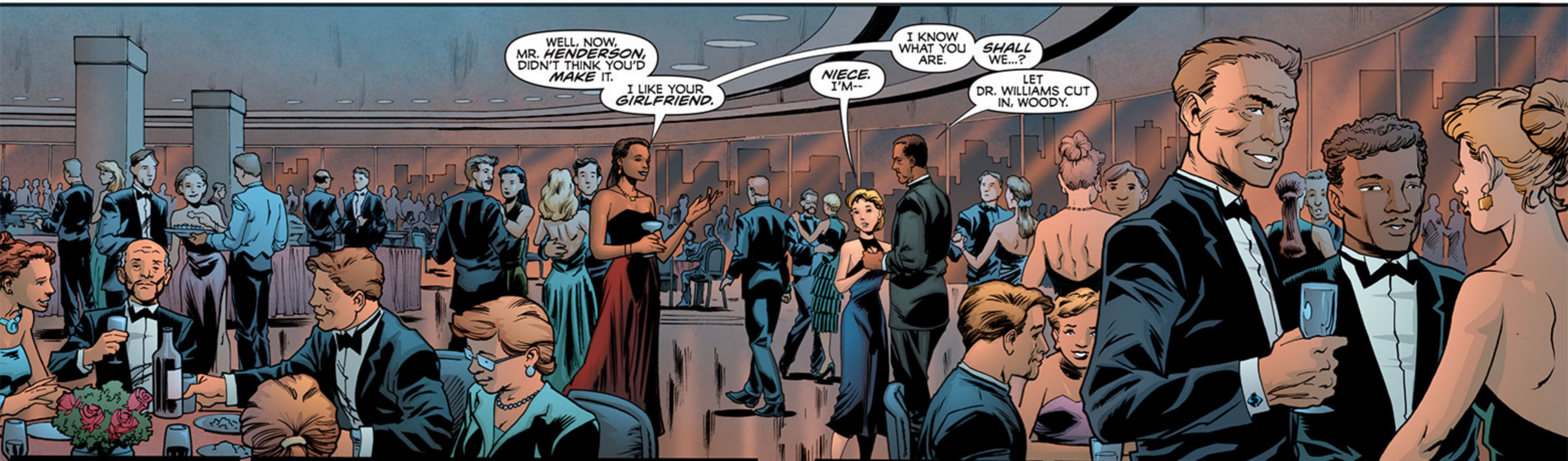
Teenage frenemies Eric Henderson and Woody Van Chelton, along with the object of both their crushes, Amy Fishbein, found a dead man surrounded by cash and a pistol. When another man showed up to take the cash, Woody tried to frighten him off with the gun, but he pulled the trigger. The man hit the ground, and Woody ran. Amy helped Woody flee, giving him her Star of David necklace, some cash, and a kiss. Eric tracked him down, but Woody, convinced Eric meant him harm, threatened him with the gun. Cops showed up, and Eric took a bullet meant for Woody. Eric lived, and as adults, the two went on to become superheroes after a freak accident in their fathers' lab gave them energy-based powers. As Quantum and Woody, they shared a bond via energy control bands permanently attached to their wrists. They drove each other nuts. And when Eric discovered Woody had found a way to remove his control band at last, and had begun a relationship with Amy, he stormed out. Chasing him into the rainy, cold night, Amy suffered an asthma attack, and died. Eric and Woody stopped speaking.

Today, as middle-aged men, Quantum and Woody hadn't seen each other in years. Eric Henderson mentored a new heroic duo—a man named Jonathan as Quantum, who couldn't remember his past, and a fourteen-year-old Woody who identifies as female—and the original Woody came out of the woodwork to stop Eric from endangering the life of a teen. A master thief named Koro has thwarted Eric and the young superheroes

at every turn. Koro is a rogue asset from a freelance intelligence organization called the Sword, run by a puppet master named Rusen Ali. The Sword is made up of men just like Koro: synthetic human beings—living weapons for sale to the world's governments.

Jonathan couldn't remember his past because, according to Eric, he was a synthetic human himself. But in reality it was young Woody who was made in a lab, and deliberately placed in Eric's care...and Jonathan was the U.S. intelligence agent sent to monitor them. When Eric figured this out, he and Woody fled; Jonathan pursued, and an ensuing accident took away Jon's memories. Eric seized on the chance to manipulate the agent into becoming Kid Woody's guardian, outfitting Jonathan with a modified control band that boosted his strength and kept his memory wiped. Adult Woody has found Eric to be less than forthcoming, and had to unravel all this for himself.

Determined to stop the Sword and save young Woody once and for all, Eric persuaded his old partner Woody to suit up once more. But they argued and separated, and Woody ran into Jonathan. His control band had been destroyed, and with his memories flooding back, Jonathan was tormented by what he had done and what Eric did to him. He left. Meanwhile, the younger Woody was en route to join Eric when she was attacked by Koro. Extending a welcoming hand, Koro invited Woody to join him...



WELL, NOW, MR. HENDERSON, DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT.

I LIKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

NIECE, I'M--

I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.

SHALL WE...?

LET DR. WILLIAMS CUT IN, WOODY.

"Girlfriends"



SO...
...THAT'S THE GREATEST THREAT TO HUMAN EXISTENCE...?

YES.

AND YOU STILL BELIEVE THEY SHOULD ALL BE DESTROYED...?

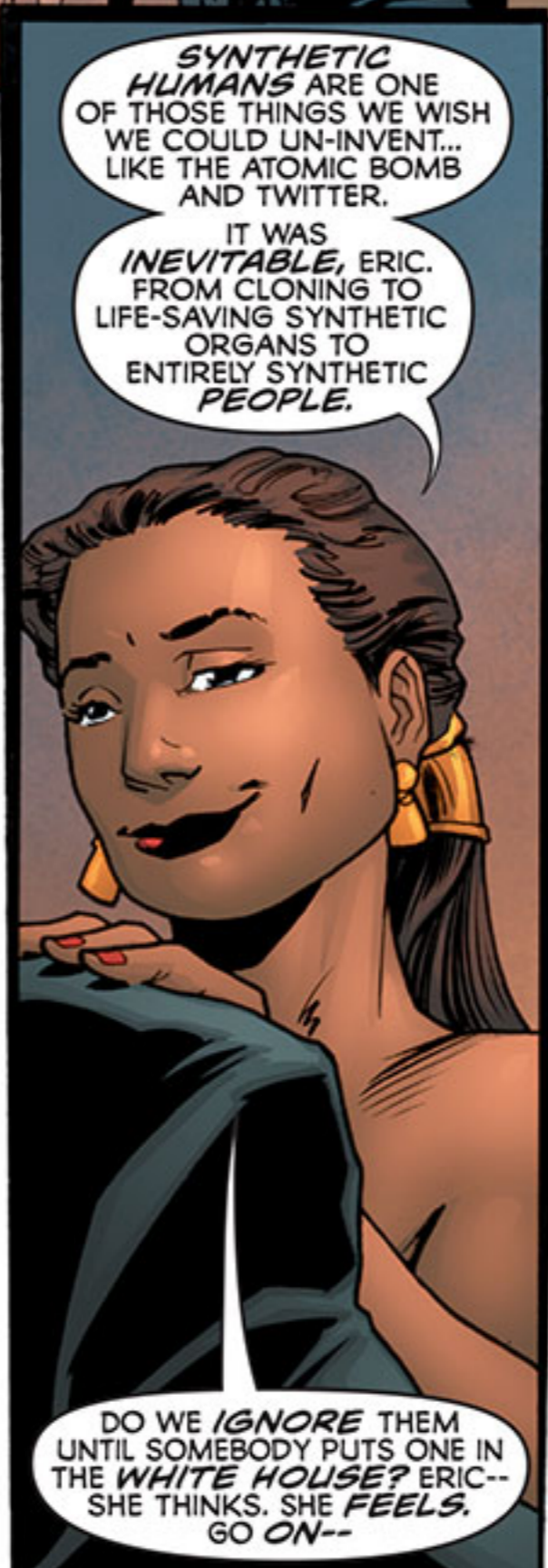
YES.



ALL EXCEPT THAT ONE.

WE'VE LEFT YOU ALONE, ERIC. JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.

YOU'VE STUDIED US LIKE LAB RATS.



SYNTHETIC HUMANS ARE ONE OF THOSE THINGS WE WISH WE COULD UN-INVENT... LIKE THE ATOMIC BOMB AND TWITTER.

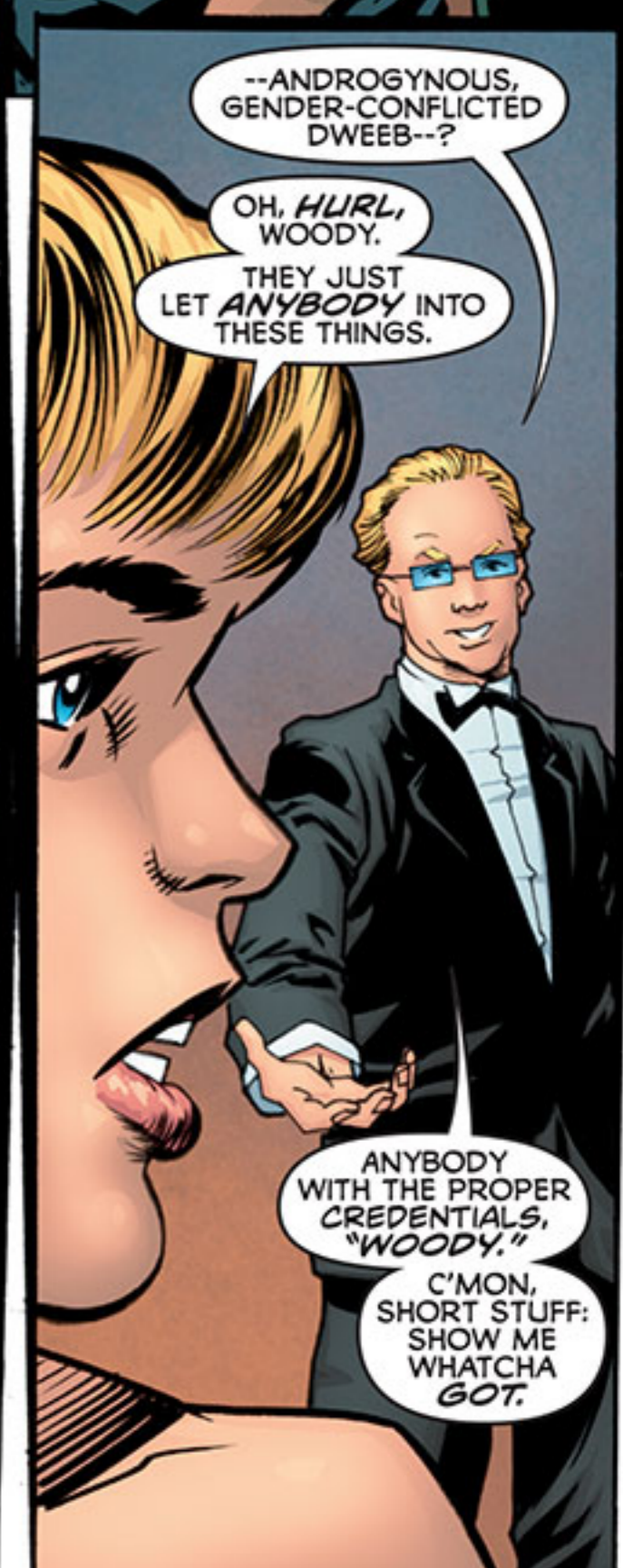
IT WAS INEVITABLE, ERIC. FROM CLONING TO LIFE-SAVING SYNTHETIC ORGANS TO ENTIRELY SYNTHETIC PEOPLE.

DO WE IGNORE THEM UNTIL SOMEBODY PUTS ONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE? ERIC-- SHE THINKS, SHE FEELS. GO ON--



--TELL ME YOU DON'T LOVE HER. MAKE ME BELIEVE IT.

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE--



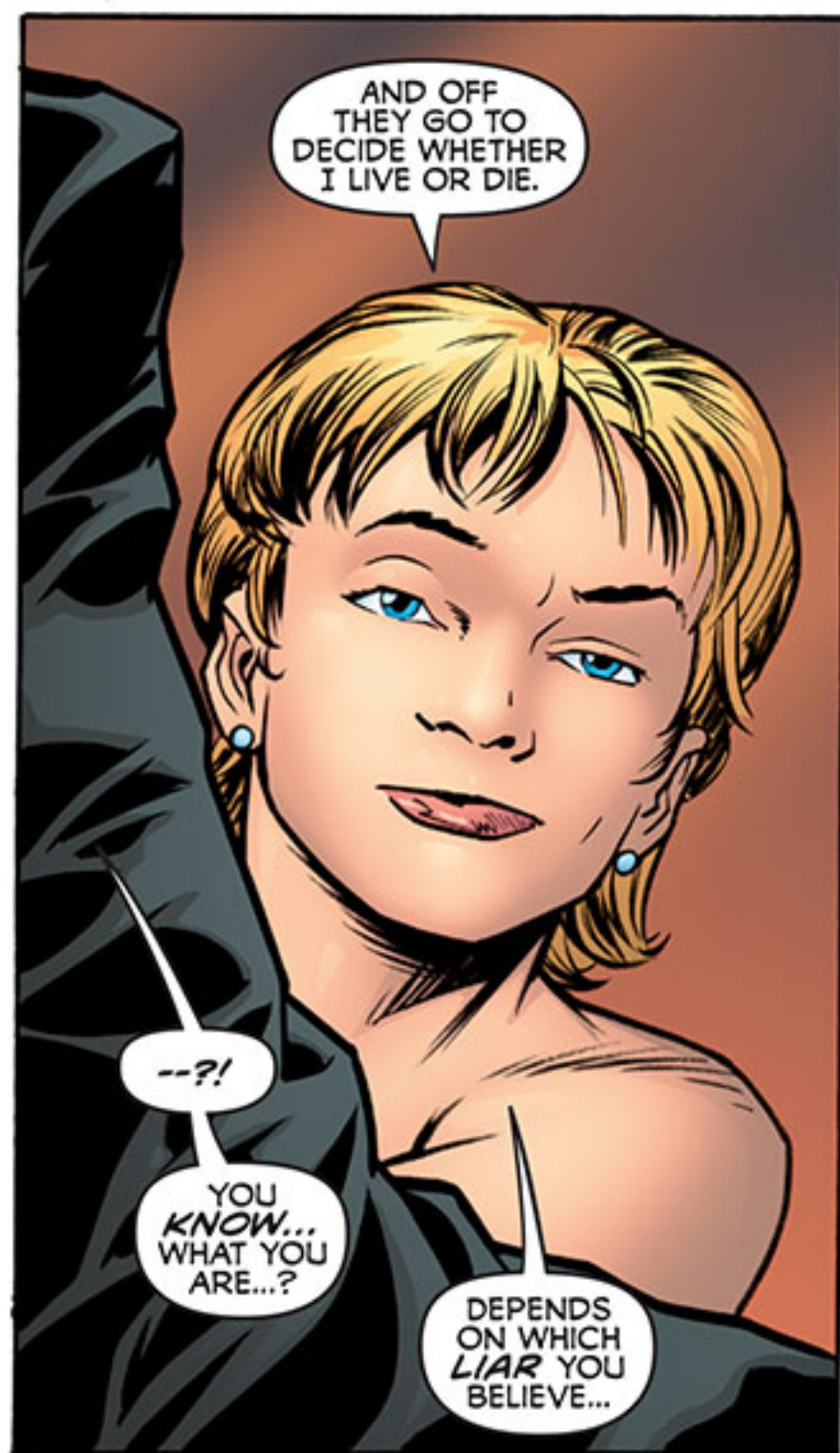
--ANDROGYNOUS, GENDER-CONFLICTED DWEBB--?

OH, HURL, WOODY.

THEY JUST LET ANYBODY INTO THESE THINGS.

ANYBODY WITH THE PROPER CREDENTIALS, "WOODY."

C'MON, SHORT STUFF: SHOW ME WHATCHA GOT.



"Pinocchio"





SO... YOU'RE
HERE TO **RESCUE** ME,
IS THAT IT, KORO?

MY HERO.



NOT
RESCUE--
FREE YOU,
RELEASE
YOU.

BOY, DOES
THAT SOUND
DIRTY.

FOOLISH
CHILD--

--THEY MEAN
TO **DESTROY**
US ALL.



THE MISSING PIECE
OF **THE GRAIL** WAS
STOLEN BY U.S. AGENTS
AND USED TO COMPLETE A
COUNTERFEIT LIFE
EQUATION--

KERAAHAM

--IN AN EFFORT TO
COUNTER THE RUSSIAN
SYNTHETIC SOLDIER
PROJECT.



YOU HAVE AN I.Q.
OF ONE-EIGHTY. THE
STRENGTH OF FIVE
GROWN MEN.

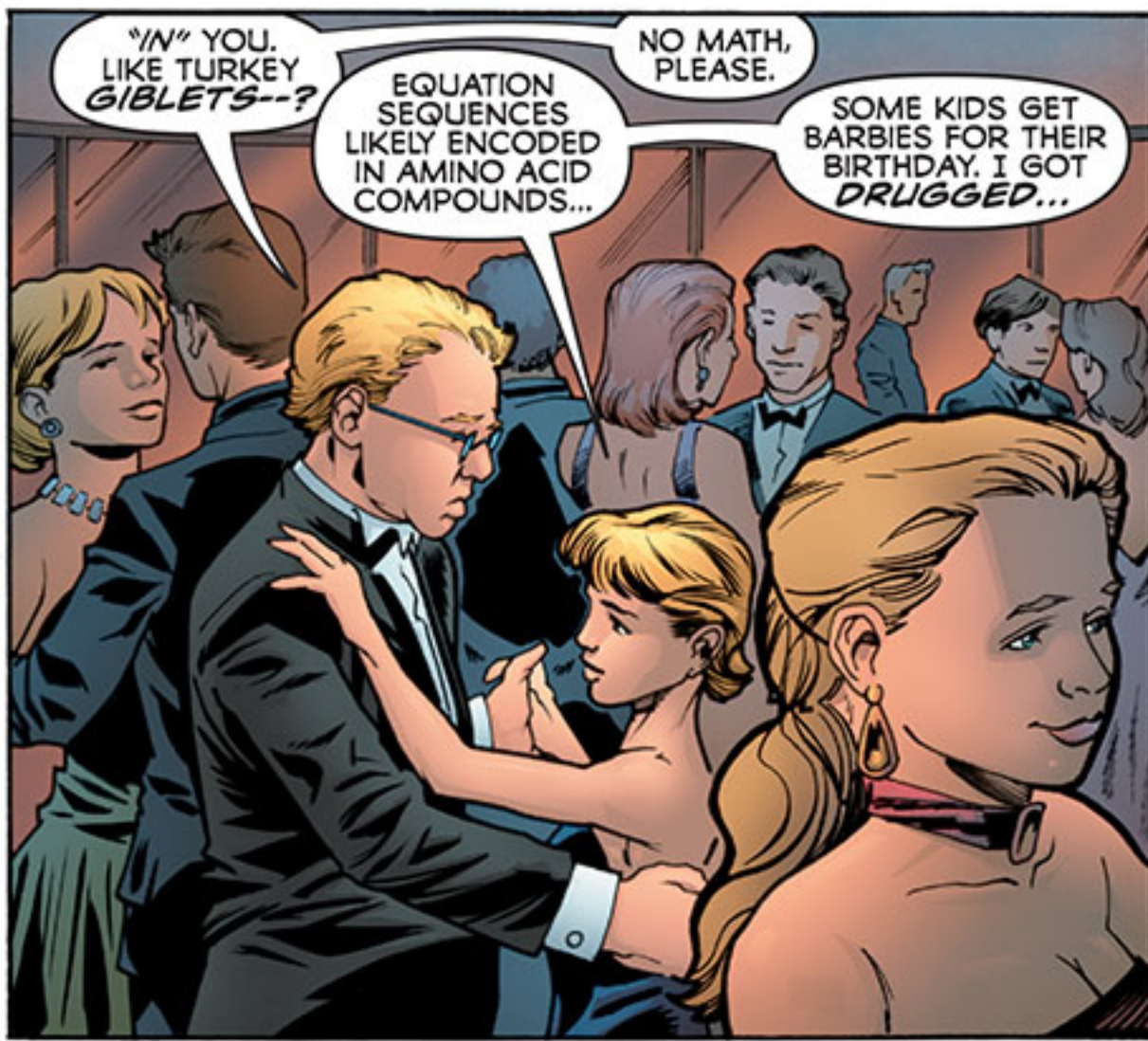
THAT IMPACT
SHOULD HAVE
DECAPITATED
YOU.

THINK,
CHILD--



--WHAT
BETTER PROTECTED
ASSET IN WHICH TO HIDE THE LIFE
EQUATION THAN AMERICA'S OWN
PROTOTYPE--?

THE **FINAL**
PIECE OF THE GRAIL...
IS IN YOU.



"/N" YOU LIKE TURKEY GIBLETS--?

EQUATION SEQUENCES LIKELY ENCODED IN AMINO ACID COMPOUNDS...

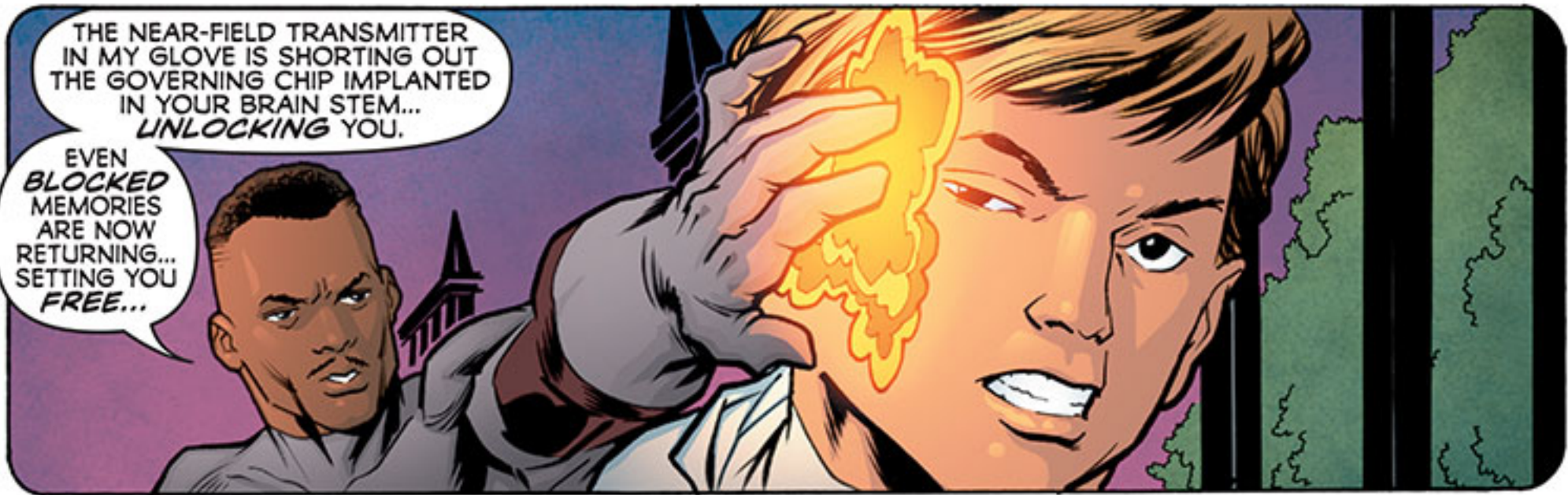
NO MATH, PLEASE.

SOME KIDS GET BARBIES FOR THEIR BIRTHDAY. I GOT DRUGGED...



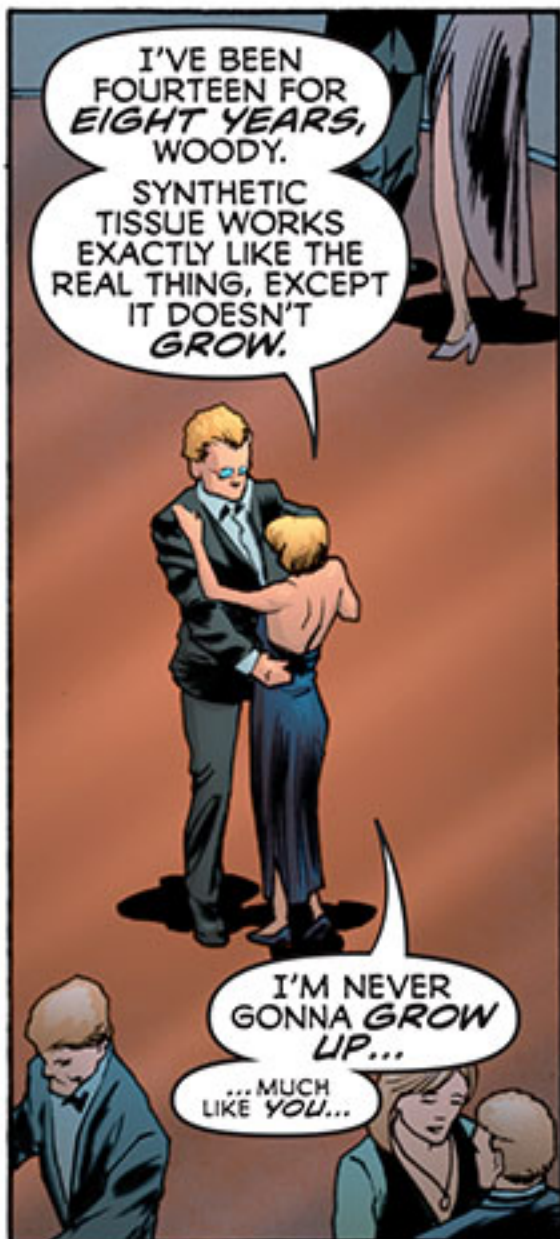
...AN ANNUAL MEMORY RESET OF MY SYNTHETIC BRAIN CELLS.

NOT QUITE AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY THINK IT IS...



THE NEAR-FIELD TRANSMITTER IN MY GLOVE IS SHORTING OUT THE GOVERNING CHIP IMPLANTED IN YOUR BRAIN STEM... UNLOCKING YOU.

EVEN BLOCKED MEMORIES ARE NOW RETURNING... SETTING YOU FREE...



I'VE BEEN FOURTEEN FOR EIGHT YEARS, WOODY.

SYNTHETIC TISSUE WORKS EXACTLY LIKE THE REAL THING, EXCEPT IT DOESN'T GROW.

I'M NEVER GONNA GROW UP...

...MUCH LIKE YOU...



SO, WHAT NOW, KORO? I JOIN YOUR BAND OF FREAKS--?

THE SWORD IS NO MORE, CHILD.

THEY HAVE BEEN FREED... AS HAVE YOU.



FREE CHOICE, HUH?