

I LISTENED TO THE SIRENS, GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER. CAN'T SAY I WAS SURPRISED. THE COPS CAME FAST, UP PAST PATTERSON HEIGHTS.

WE'RE TALKIN' REAL MONEY HERE.

I KNEW I SHOULD GET UP. GO OUT TO MEET THEM, AT LEAST.

BUT STANDING, EVEN MOVING, FELT LIKE TOO MUCH WORK RIGHT THEN. SO I JUST WAITED...

...AND SURE ENOUGH, THEY CAME TO ME. THE COPS ARE NICE LIKE THAT.

HEY!  
HEY, WE GOT SOMEONE!  
I'LL...

...ah...

...uh...

WE, uh,  
WE MAY NOT HAVE THE  
HARDWARE FOR THIS...



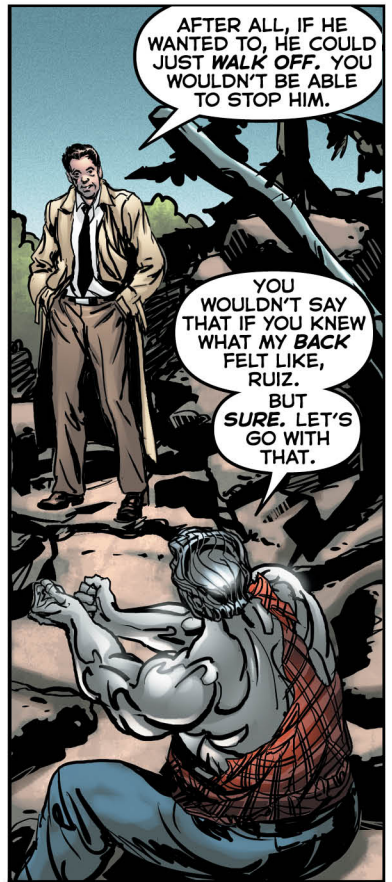
DON'T WORRY, KID. I'M NOT RESISTING.

I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE.



I DON'T, AH...I SHOULD REALLY CALL SPECIAL WEAPONS...

YOU CAN TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD, JENSEN.



AFTER ALL, IF HE WANTED TO, HE COULD JUST WALK OFF. YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STOP HIM.

YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT IF YOU KNEW WHAT MY BACK FELT LIKE, RUIZ.

BUT SURE. LET'S GO WITH THAT.

ANYONE DEAD BACK THERE?

I DON'T... YEAH. MAYBE. PROBABLY.

GEEZ, STEELJACK. I THOUGHT YOU WENT STRAIGHT.

I COULDA SWORN I DID.

IT'S A LONG STORY.

IT ALWAYS IS.



MAYBE NOT THAT LONG, AFTER ALL. IT WAS ONLY, WHAT, A WEEK OR SO AGO?

I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS GOING GREAT. OR AT LEAST AS GREAT AS USUAL...



# THINGS PAST



I WAS WORKING FOR THE CITY,  
DOING A LITTLE SALVAGE RUN ON  
THE BOTTOM OF THE GAINES RIVER.

TIME WAS, THEY HAD TO USE DIVERS  
AND HEAVY WINCHES AND ALL KINDS  
OF EXPENSIVE CRAP. THESE DAYS  
THEY MOSTLY JUST USE ME.

I SINK REAL GOOD, AND  
CAN HOLD MY BREATH FOR A  
LONG TIME. RUIZ SET IT UP.

I SEE  
SOMETHING  
AHEAD. I THINK  
IT'S A BIG  
PIECE OF YOUR  
DINGUS.

THEY WERE PRETTY NERVOUS ABOUT ME,  
THE FIRST FEW TIMES WE DID IT, BUT  
THE LONGER I WENT WITHOUT TRYING  
TO CRIME ANYBODY WITH THIS STUFF...

...THE MORE  
THEY RELAXED.



ROGER  
THAT, UNIT ONE.  
APPROACH WITH  
CAUTION.

UNIT ONE, LIKE THERE WAS  
A UNIT TWO AND THREE  
DOWN HERE WITH ME.

SIX MONTHS BACK, SAMARITAN  
BUSTED UP A ROBOT THAT WAS  
WADING AROUND IN THE RIVER. END  
OF THREAT, EXCEPT THEY WANTED  
TO RECOVER THE PARTS. IT WAS  
FULL OF BLASTERS AND POWER  
UNITS AND EVEN A PHOTONIC  
SWORD DOODAH...

...AND THEY DIDN'T  
WANT TO LEAVE IT  
LYING AROUND THE  
RIVERBED FOR ANYONE  
TO PICK UP.



OF COURSE, IF ANYONE WANTED IT, THEY COULD HAVE  
SWOOPED IN WHILE THE CITY WAS DOING ITS PAPER-  
WORK. BUT THEY DIDN'T, SO HERE WE WERE.

YEAH,  
THIS IS IT.  
BRINGING  
IT UP.

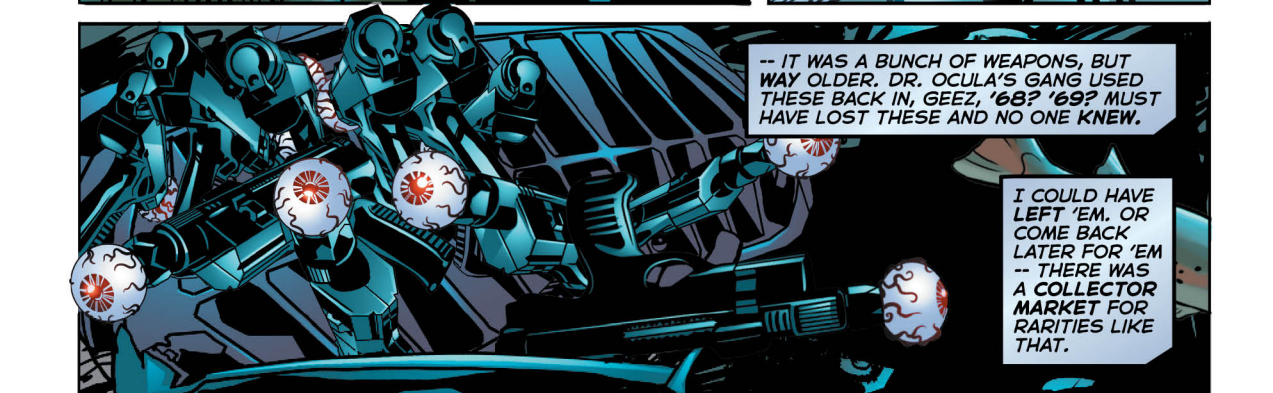
I'D BEEN LUGGING  
PIECES OF IT OUT OF  
THE RIVER THE LAST  
THREE DAYS.



Hhh?

PROBLEM,  
UNIT ONE?

NOT A  
PROBLEM --



-- IT WAS A BUNCH OF WEAPONS, BUT  
WAY OLDER. DR. OCULA'S GANG USED  
THESE BACK IN, GEEZ, '68? '69? MUST  
HAVE LOST THESE AND NO ONE KNEW.

I COULD HAVE  
LEFT 'EM. OR  
COME BACK  
LATER FOR 'EM  
-- THERE WAS  
A COLLECTOR  
MARKET FOR  
RARITIES LIKE  
THAT.

BUT NAH.

NO, NO PROBLEM. GOT SOME PARTY FAVORS FOR YOU.

THEY CATCH ME AT SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AND THERE GOES THE WHOLE GIG. BESIDES, I TURN THESE OVER TO THEM...

...MAYBE THEY HIRE ME TO LOOK AROUND THE RIVER FOR MORE.

PARTY FAVORS? COME BACK, UNIT ONE. I THINK WE MISHEARD YOU.

ON MY WAY, GUYS. EVERYTHING'S COOL.

WORK IS WORK, YOU KNOW?

I THINK THIS IS THE LAST OF IT. SEND IN AN INVOICE, AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW ABOUT THOSE GUNS.

YOU'RE REALLY SAVING US A BUNDLE, HERE.

HAPPY TO HELP, PREBLE.

HEY, YOU THINK ALL THAT MONEY I'M SAVING WOULD EXTEND TO A LITTLE FAVOR? IF YOUR CHOPPER BOYS ARE HEADED HOME...