

NEW CYPRESS
ARTEMIS IX
CAPITAL CITY

THE PEACE WILL NEVER BE
REAINED NOW...AND FOR WHAT?
IS THIS SOME SICK NEW GAME?

HADES CREATED LIVING CLONES
OUT OF HER IX REPLACEMENT
BODIES AND SENT ONE OF THEM IN
AS A SUICIDE BOMBER TO KILL US.

I HAD HOPED THIS NEW ADVERSARY THE
DARKNESS WOULD UNITE US IXS TO FACE
THIS COMMON FOE, BUT HADES SEEMS
TO HAVE SOME OTHER AGENDA.

SHE MAY BE IN LEAGUE
WITH THIS ENTITY.

WE'LL ALL BE REBORN IN OUR
RESURRECTION CHAMBERS WITH
OUR CONSCIOUSNESS'S
DOWNLOADED INTO ONE OF OUR
NEW BODIES WITHIN MINUTES.

WHAT GAMBIT SHE'S PLAYING IS BEYOND ME,
BUT SHE MAY HAVE JUST SACRIFICED THE FEW
FRIENDS SHE HAD LEFT...AND FOR WHAT?

WE'LL ALL WAKE UP IN
OUR RESURRECTION
CHAMBERS IN MINUTES.

THEY'RE
NOT SO TOUGH
AFTER ALL, ARE
THEY?

SHUT UP,
HE MIGHT
HEAR YOU.

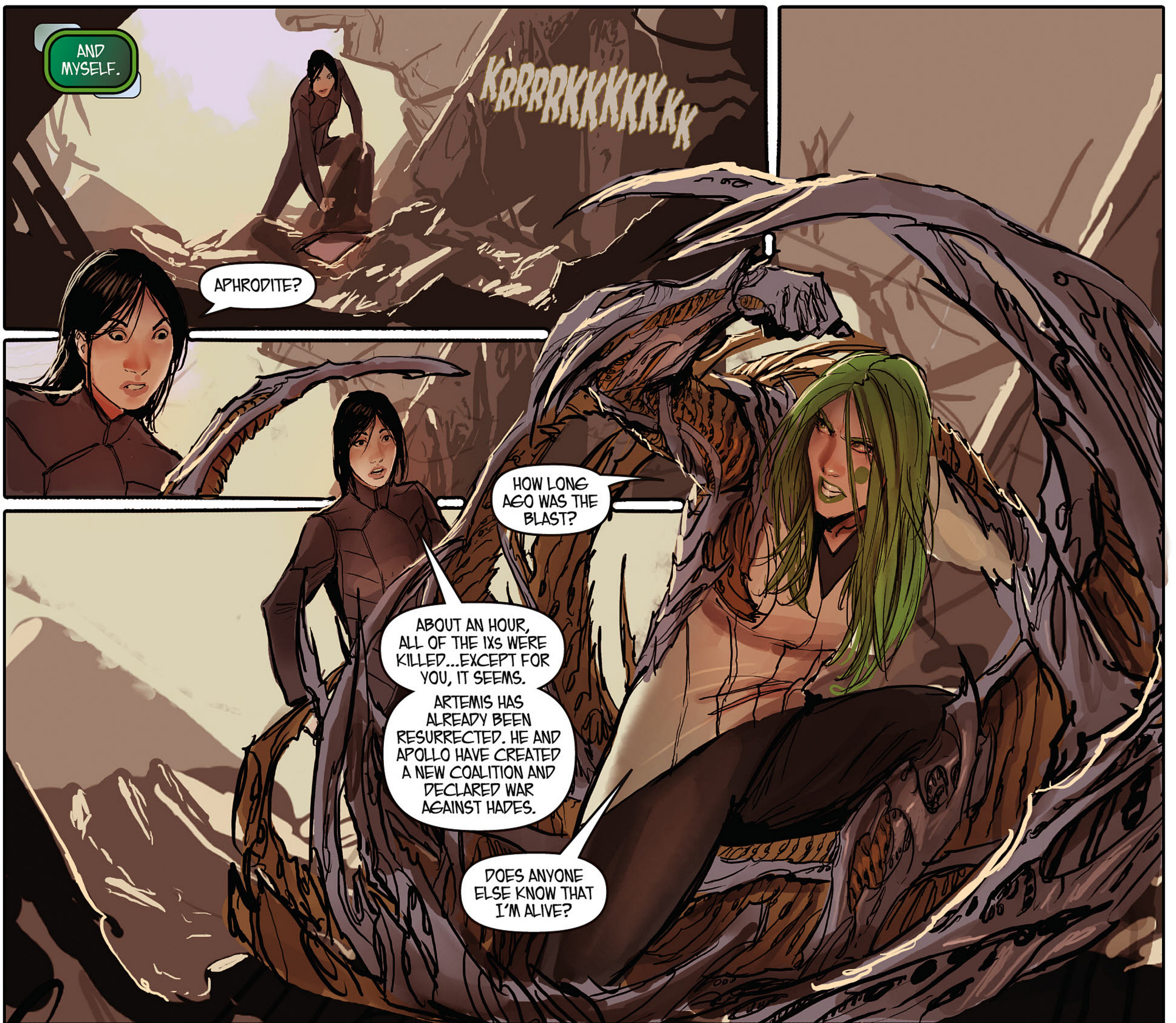
I HATE THE
RESURRECTION
PROCESS.



I'VE GOT
APOLLO IX HERE.
MIGHT BE SOME
SALVAGEABLE
BIO-MATTER.

OUR CONSCIOUSNESS,
UPDATED IN REAL TIME
TO THE POINT OF
DEATH, DOWNLOADED
INTO A PERFECT
GENETIC CLONE.

SEVEN IXS REBORN.
ALL BUT HADES.



AND MYSELF.

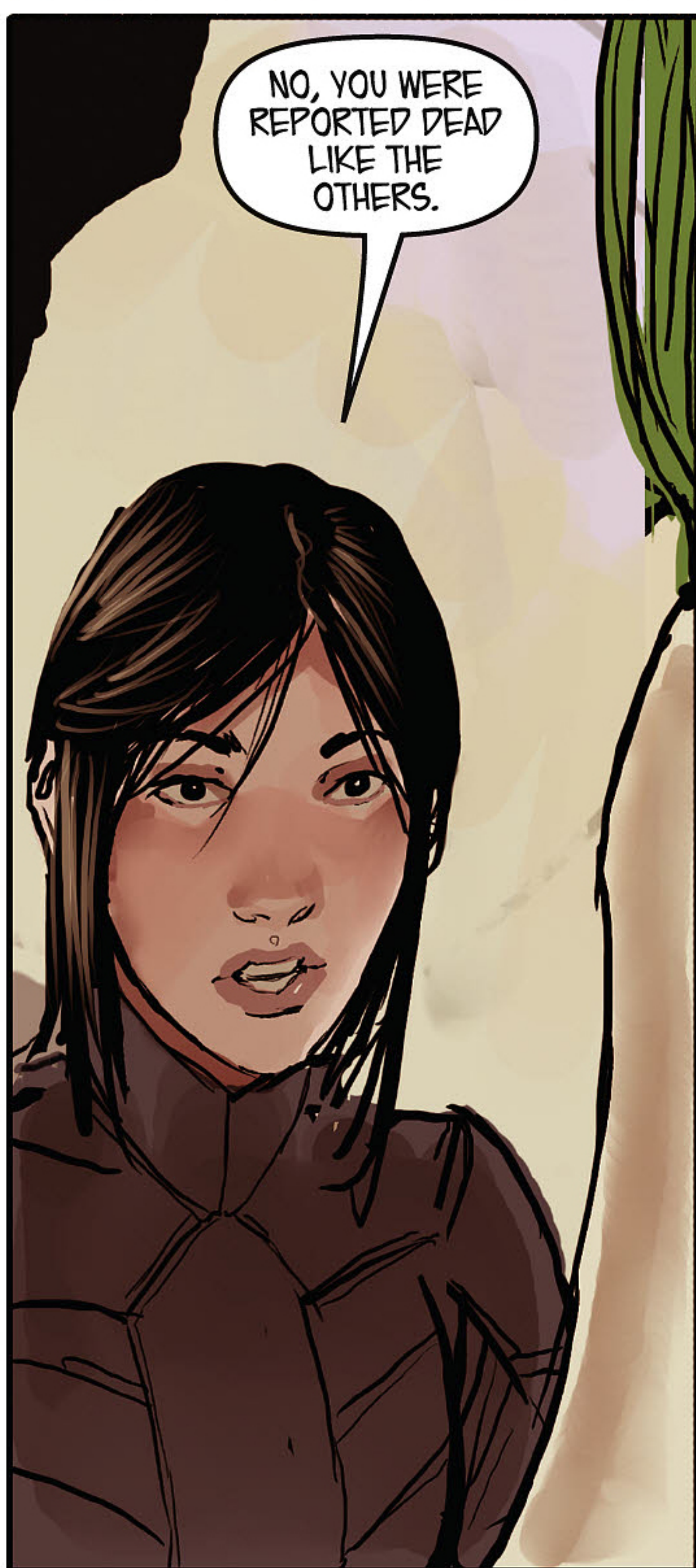
KRRRRKKKKKKK

APHRODITE?

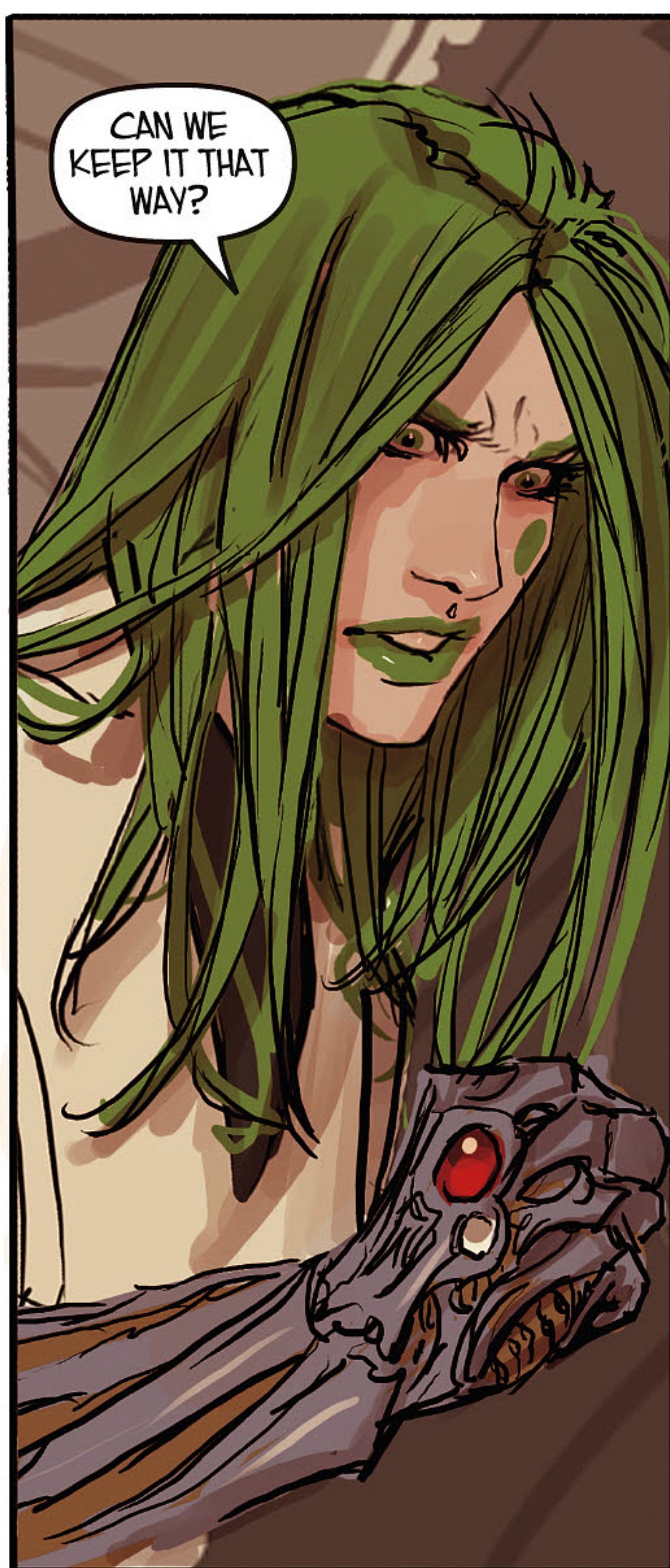
HOW LONG AGO WAS THE BLAST?

ABOUT AN HOUR, ALL OF THE IXS WERE KILLED...EXCEPT FOR YOU, IT SEEMS. ARTEMIS HAS ALREADY BEEN RESURRECTED. HE AND APOLLO HAVE CREATED A NEW COALITION AND DECLARED WAR AGAINST HADES.

DOES ANYONE ELSE KNOW THAT I'M ALIVE?



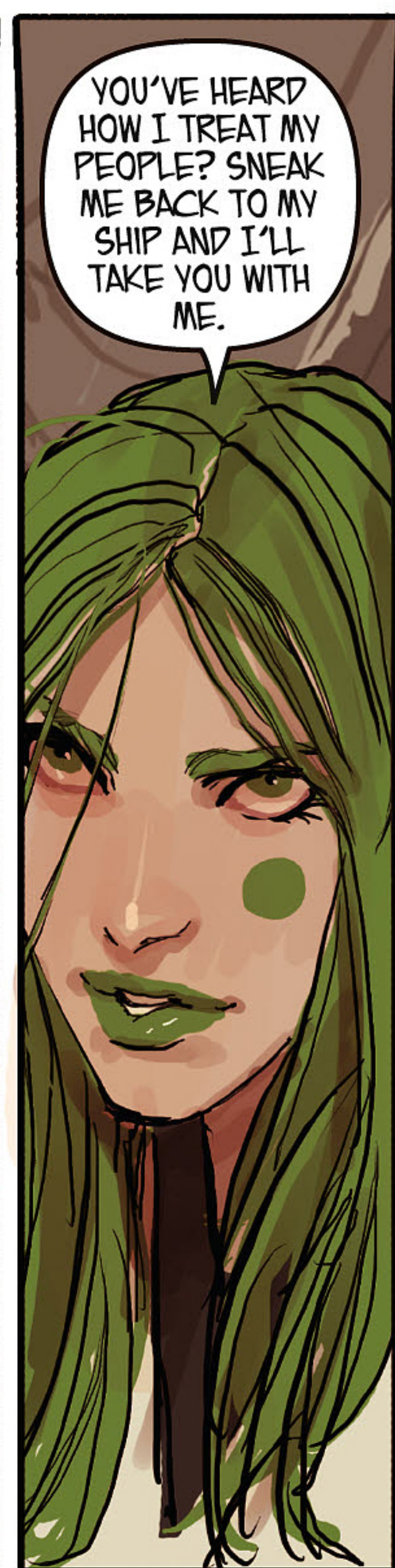
NO, YOU WERE REPORTED DEAD LIKE THE OTHERS.



CAN WE KEEP IT THAT WAY?



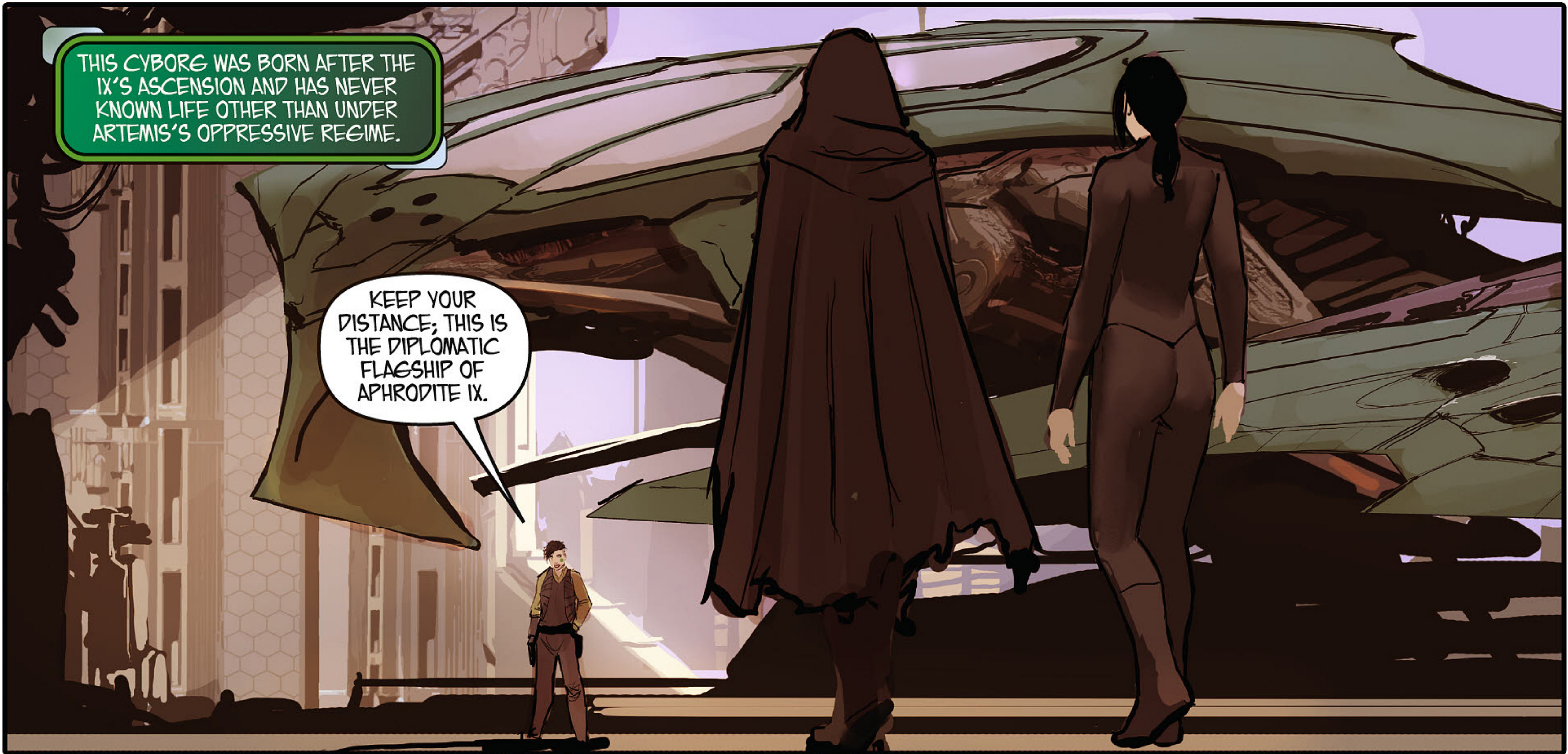
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT IF THEY SWEEP MY NEURAL NET THEY'LL PICK UP THE MEMORY.



YOU'VE HEARD HOW I TREAT MY PEOPLE? SNEAK ME BACK TO MY SHIP AND I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME.



REALLY?



THIS CYBORG WAS BORN AFTER THE IX'S ASCENSION AND HAS NEVER KNOWN LIFE OTHER THAN UNDER ARTEMIS'S OPPRESSIVE REGIME.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE; THIS IS THE DIPLOMATIC FLAGSHIP OF APHRODITE IX.



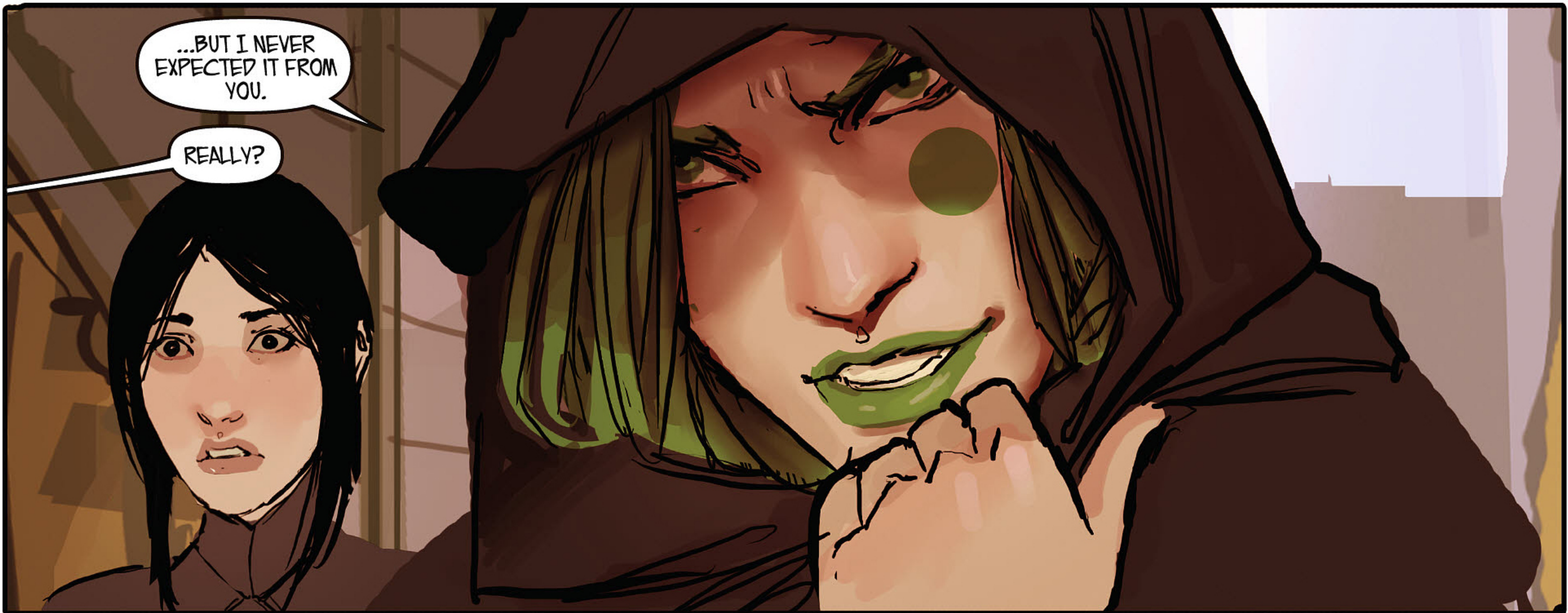
HEY!
I SAID BACK
THE F\$&%
OFF.



I HEAR
REGICIDE
IS GOING
AROUND...



LAST
CHANCE.



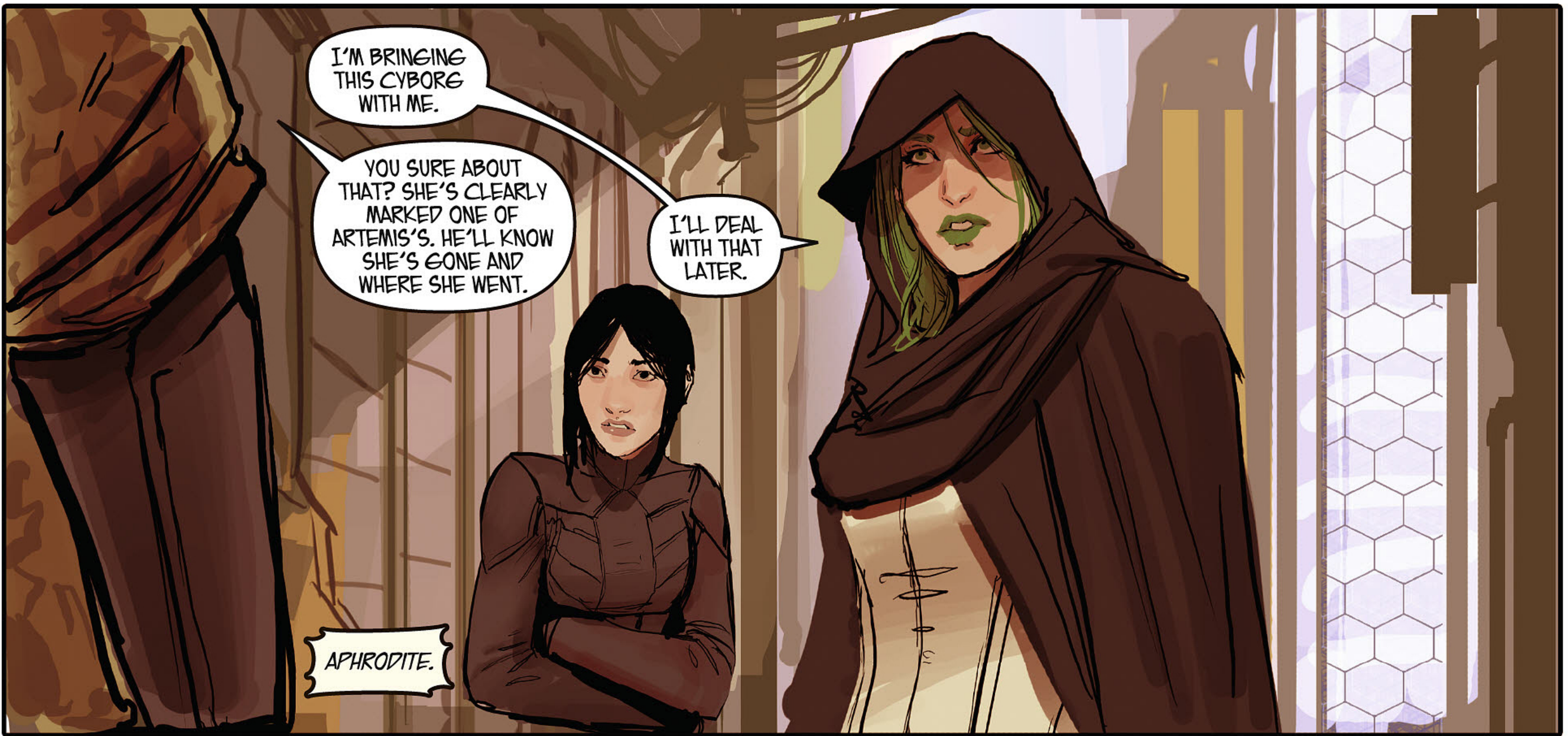
...BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED IT FROM
YOU.

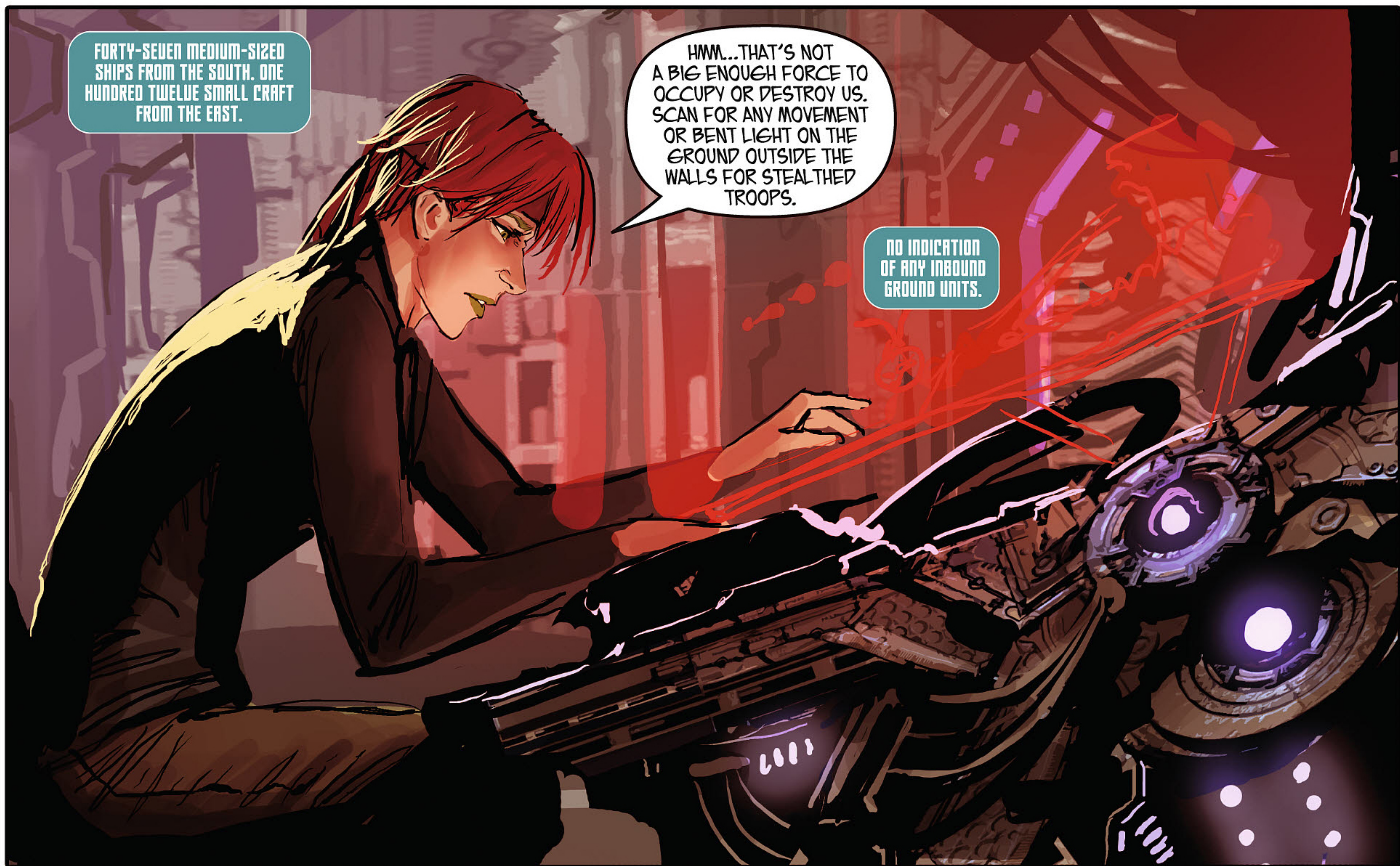
REALLY?



YOU COULDN'T
JUST SAY, "HEY
IT'S ME"?

WE KNEW YOU
WEREN'T DEAD WHEN THE
RESURRECTION PROCESS
DIDN'T START. I'VE BEEN
WAITING TO TAKE YOU
HOME. ■■■ HAS REALLY
HIT THE FAN
EVERYWHERE.

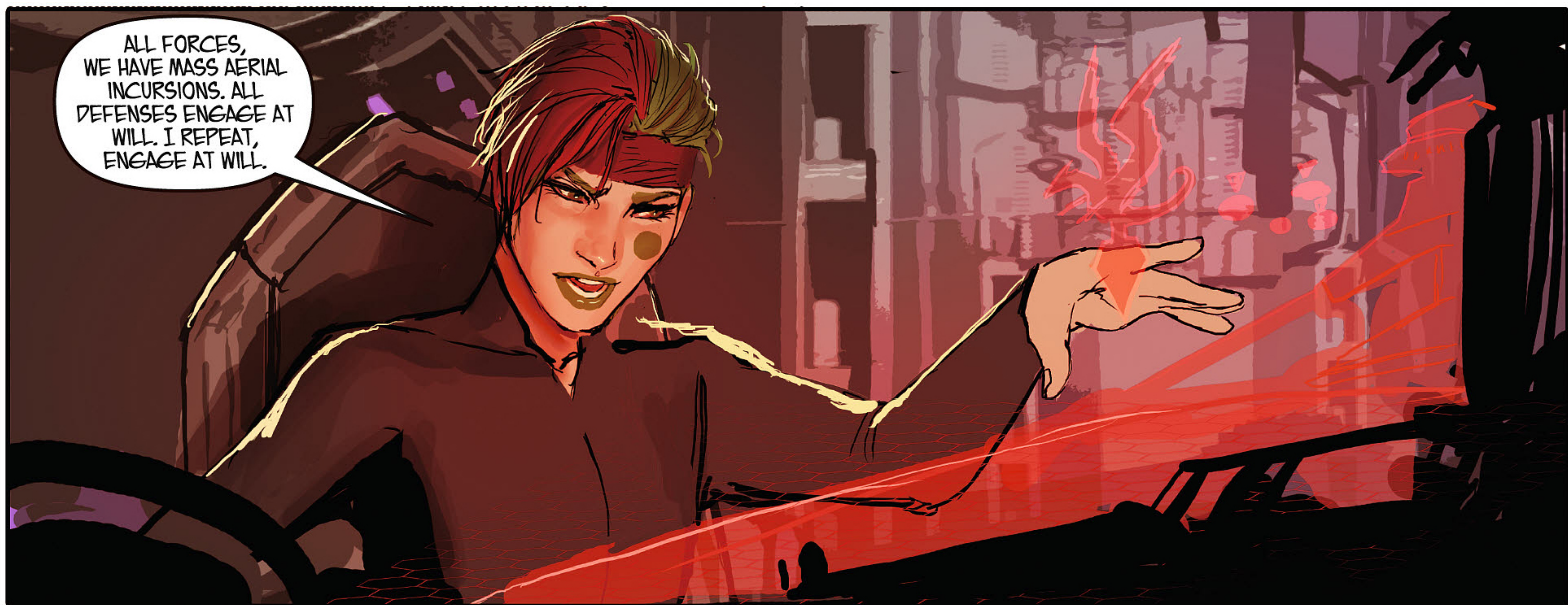




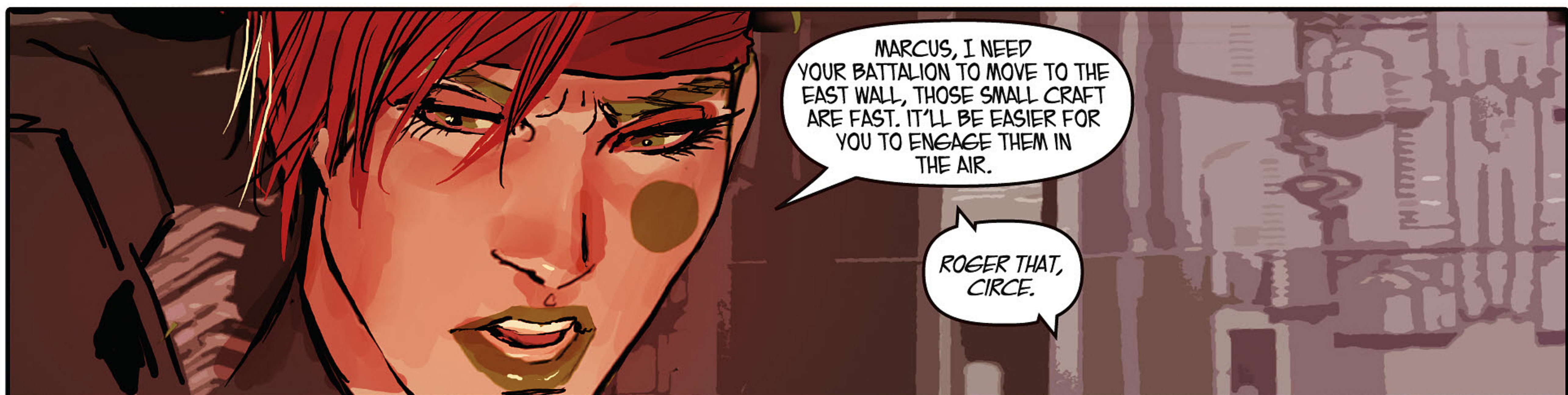
FORTY-SEVEN MEDIUM-SIZED SHIPS FROM THE SOUTH. ONE HUNDRED TWELVE SMALL CRAFT FROM THE EAST.

HMM...THAT'S NOT A BIG ENOUGH FORCE TO OCCUPY OR DESTROY US. SCAN FOR ANY MOVEMENT OR BENT LIGHT ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE WALLS FOR STEALTHED TROOPS.

NO INDICATION OF ANY INBOUND GROUND UNITS.



ALL FORCES, WE HAVE MASS AERIAL INCURSIONS. ALL DEFENSES ENGAGE AT WILL. I REPEAT, ENGAGE AT WILL.



MARCUS, I NEED YOUR BATTALION TO MOVE TO THE EAST WALL, THOSE SMALL CRAFT ARE FAST. IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU TO ENGAGE THEM IN THE AIR.

ROGER THAT, CIRCE.



ALL RIGHT, RIDERS!