

CARNIVAL TIME ON TORTUGA!

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE?

STONER
WENT FOR DRINKS,
LIKE, A HALF HOUR
AGO.

WHERE
IS HE?

I SAW HIM WALK OFF -
WITH A YOUNG WOMAN!

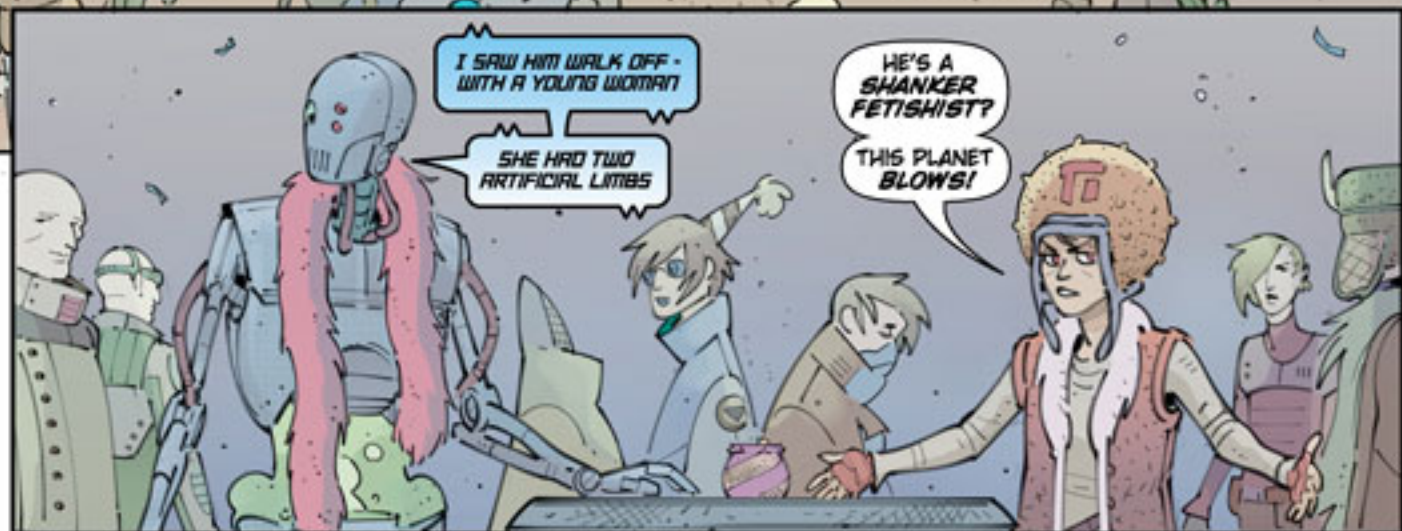
SHE HAD TWO
ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

HE'S A
SHANKER
FETISHIST?

THIS PLANET
BLOWS!

EXCUSE ME.
I DON'T MEAN
TO INTRUDE.

BUT THE
RUMOR IS YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
INFORMATION?



SIX MILES EAST, HALF A MILE DOWN:

HE'S GROWN UP A LOT. REALLY.

DELICE? SURE.

OH, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT! STOP ASKING.

I DIDN'T.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

GOT A HUNCH. I THINK YOU GAVE UP ON PRISONER SEVEN TOO SOON.

GAVE UP ON HIM? HE WANDERED AWAY AND STARTED A BRAWL!

I WOULDN'T TAKE HIM TO THE PROM EITHER. BUT MY INTEL SUGGESTS HE CAN HELP YOU.

HE DID SEEM TO KNOW SOME THINGS. IN BETWEEN THE MASSIVE FITS OF CRAZY.

HEY, DO WE NEED TO BE DRESSED UP FOR CARNIVAL?

NOT HERE WE DON'T.

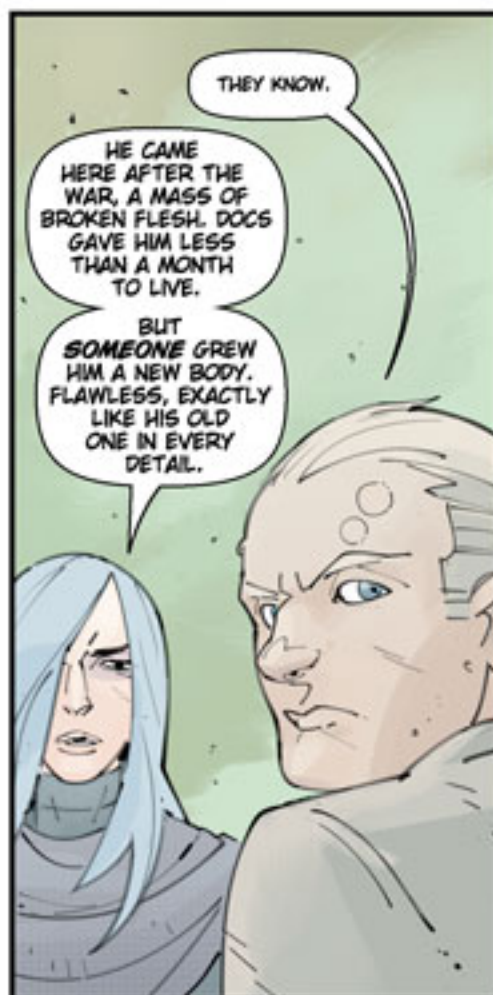




THE SIGNALS.
IS THERE SOMETHING
IN YOUR HEAD?

DID THEY
PUT IT THERE? WHEN
THEY REGREW YOUR
BODY?

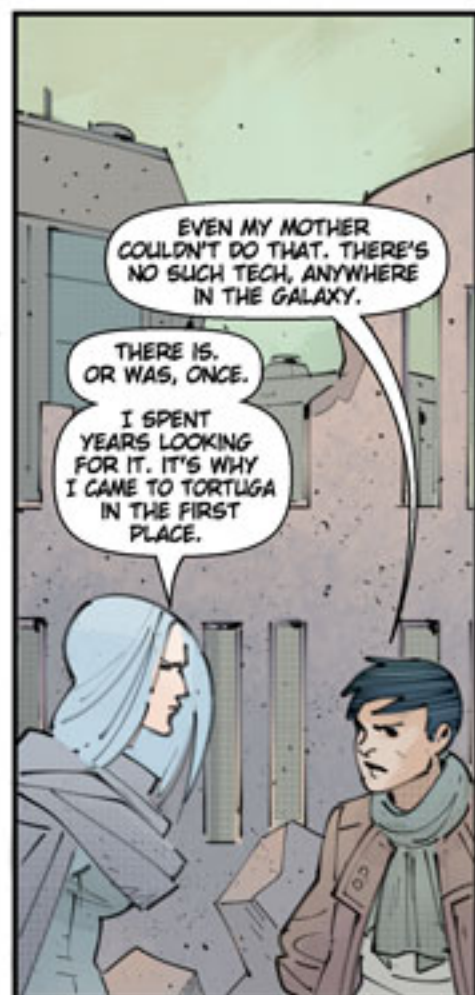
WHAT?



THEY KNOW.

HE CAME
HERE AFTER THE
WAR, A MASS OF
BROKEN FLESH. DOCS
GAVE HIM LESS
THAN A MONTH
TO LIVE.

BUT
SOMEONE GREW
HIM A NEW BODY.
FLAWLESS, EXACTLY
LIKE HIS OLD
ONE IN EVERY
DETAIL.



EVEN MY MOTHER
COULDN'T DO THAT. THERE'S
NO SUCH TECH, ANYWHERE
IN THE GALAXY.

THERE IS.
OR WAS, ONCE.

I SPENT
YEARS LOOKING
FOR IT. IT'S WHY
I CAME TO TORTUGA
IN THE FIRST
PLACE.



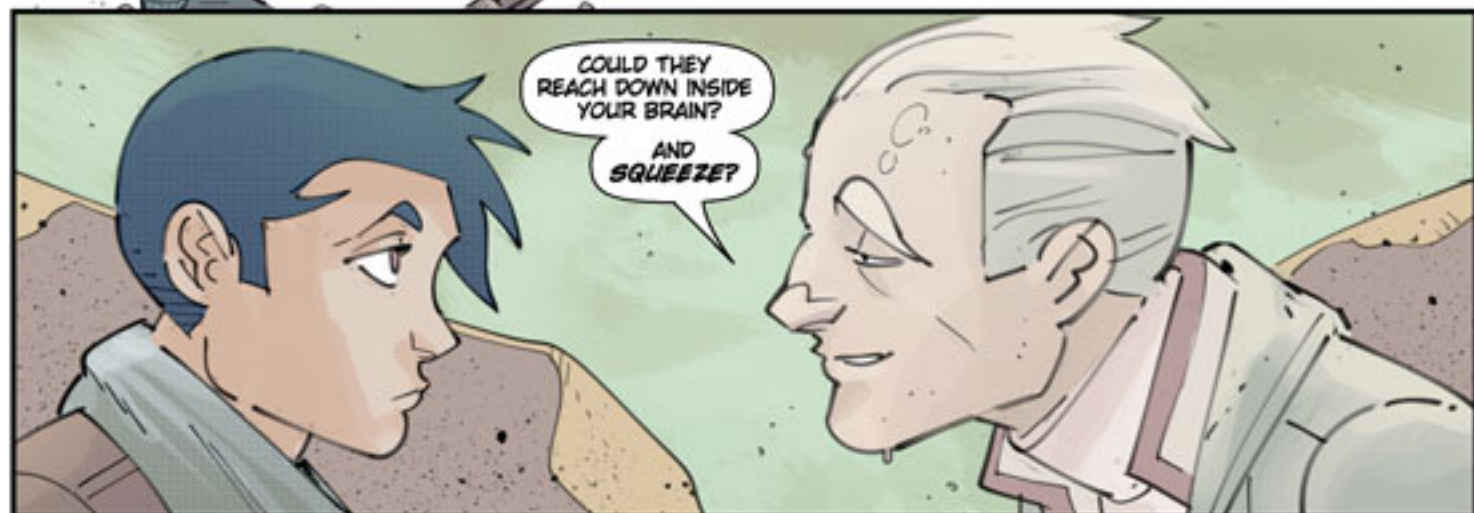
NO LUCK.
OBVIOUSLY.

AH, I'VE HAD THIS
CONVERSATION
WITH HIM A DOZEN
TIMES. HE NEVER
REMEMBERS--



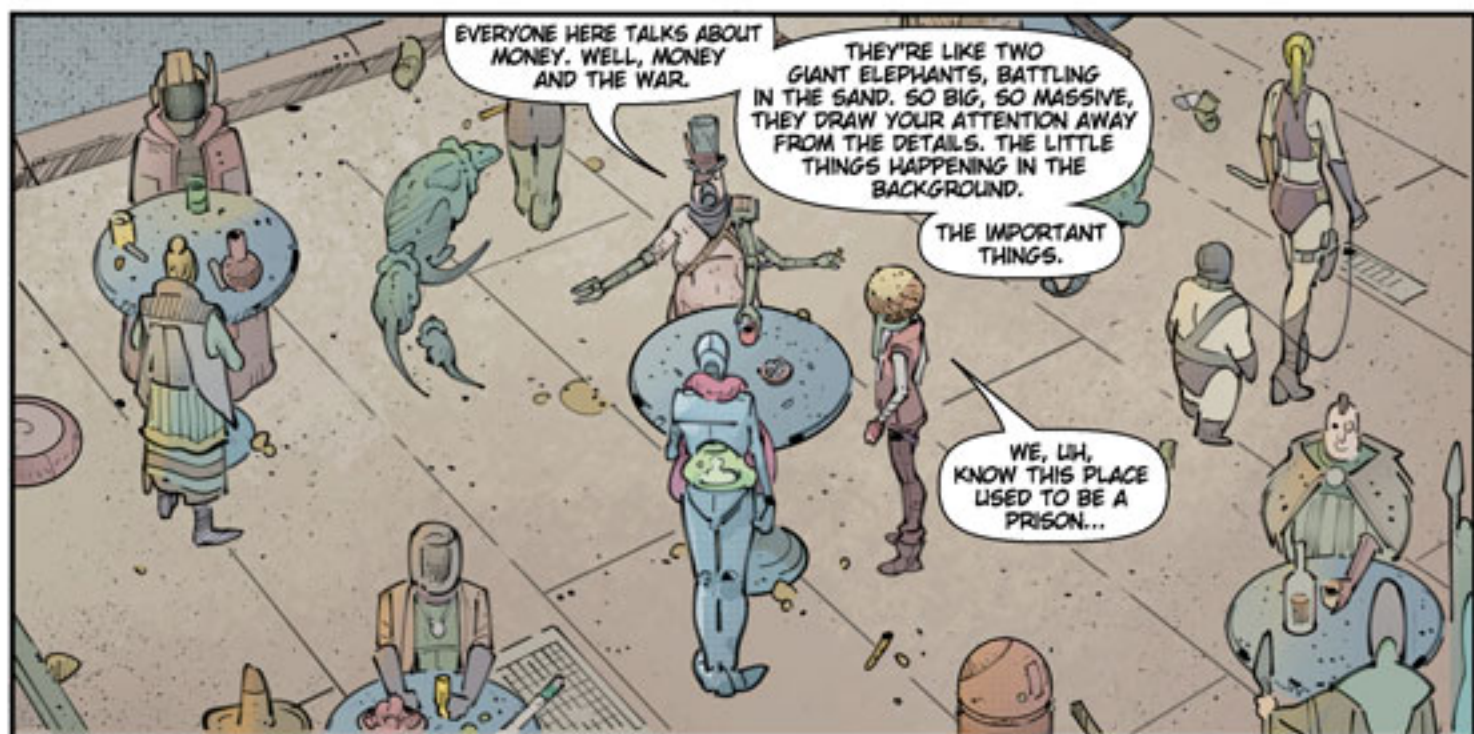
YOUR
MOTHER, SMALL
ONE.

WHAT
WERE HER HANDS
LIKE?



COULD THEY
REACH INSIDE
YOUR BRAIN?

AND
SQUEEZE?

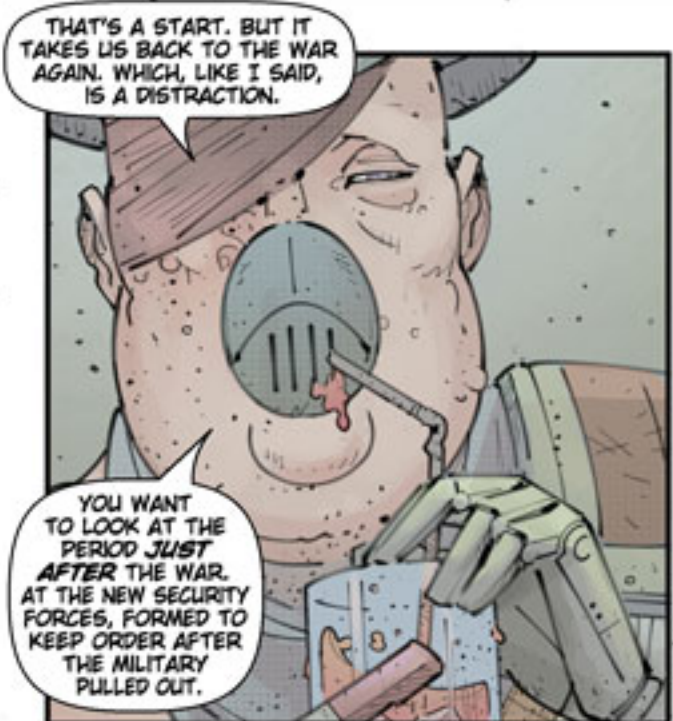


EVERYONE HERE TALKS ABOUT MONEY. WELL, MONEY AND THE WAR.

THEY'RE LIKE TWO GIANT ELEPHANTS, BATTLING IN THE SAND. SO BIG, SO MASSIVE, THEY DRAW YOUR ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE DETAILS. THE LITTLE THINGS HAPPENING IN THE BACKGROUND.

THE IMPORTANT THINGS.

WE, UH, KNOW THIS PLACE USED TO BE A PRISON...



THAT'S A START. BUT IT TAKES US BACK TO THE WAR AGAIN. WHICH, LIKE I SAID, IS A DISTRACTION.

YOU WANT TO LOOK AT THE PERIOD *JUST AFTER* THE WAR. AT THE NEW SECURITY FORCES, FORMED TO KEEP ORDER AFTER THE MILITARY PULLED OUT.



WHAT KIND OF MEN AND WOMEN WERE DRAWN TO THOSE FORCES? WHAT SORT OF POWER VACUUM EXISTED, THAT THEY COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF?

WHERE ARE THE RATHOLES ON TORTUGA, WHERE YOUR CURRENCY BANDITS COULD HIDE?



WE HAVE MET THE CLUBERS

YES, THEY WERE PART OF THAT. BUT THEY LOST OUT, EARLY ON.



YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, NOW. YOU JUST NEED TO LOOK PAST THE DISTRACTIONS.

I GET ANOTHER DRINK, PLEASE?