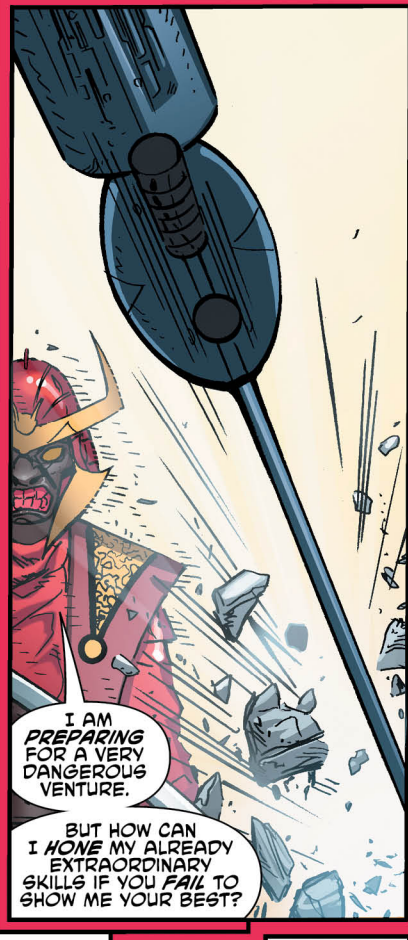


BUNTA, I BROUGHT YOU INTO MY HOME BECAUSE YOU ARE CONSIDERED, BY THOSE WHO MATTER, TO BE THE VERY BEST.

SADLY, YOUR PERFORMANCE TODAY HAS BEEN... INADEQUATE.

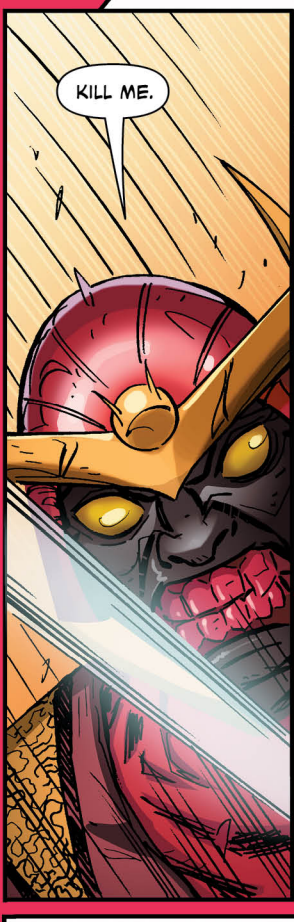


I AM PREPARING FOR A VERY DANGEROUS VENTURE.

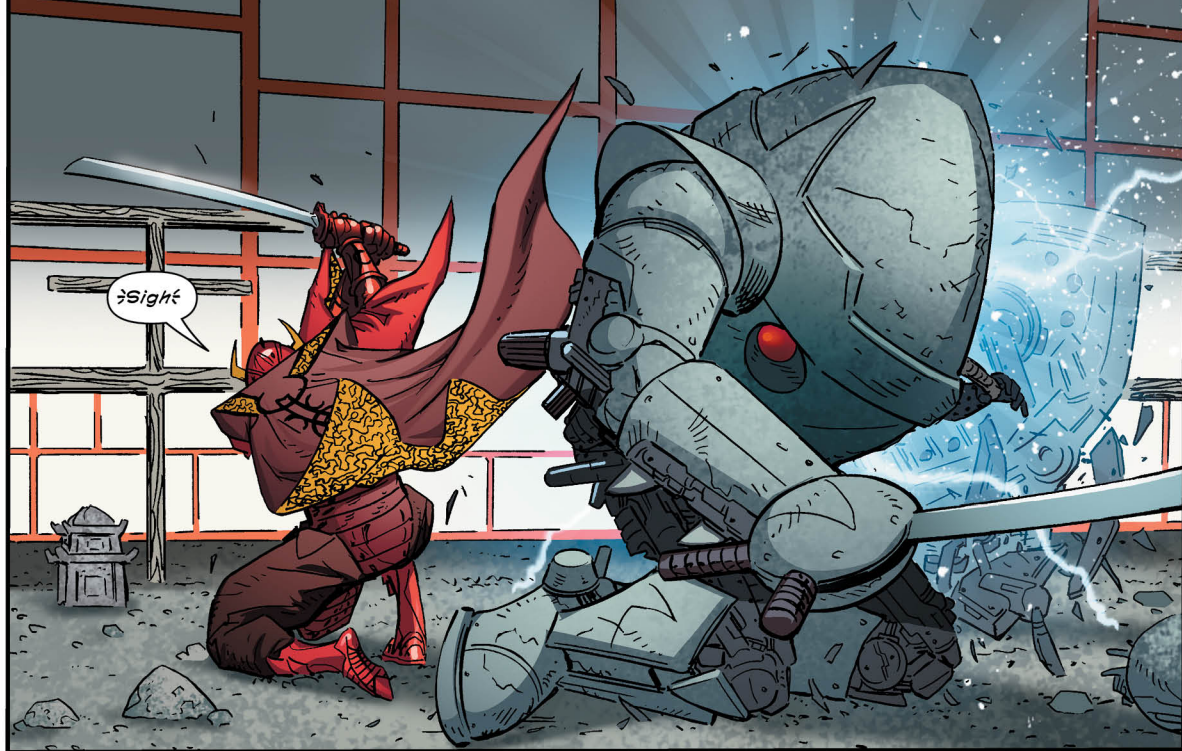
BUT HOW CAN I HONE MY ALREADY EXTRAORDINARY SKILLS IF YOU FAIL TO SHOW ME YOUR BEST?



YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT. DO IT NOW.

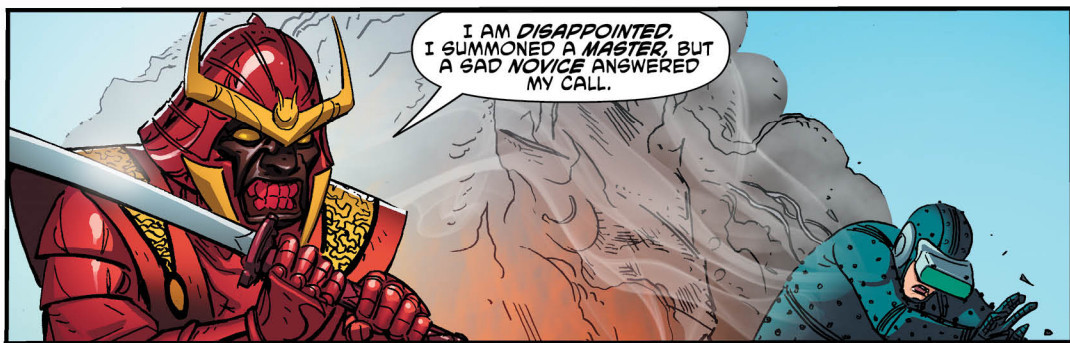


KILL ME.



Sight

I AM DISAPPOINTED. I SUMMONED A MASTER, BUT A SAD NOVICE ANSWERED MY CALL.



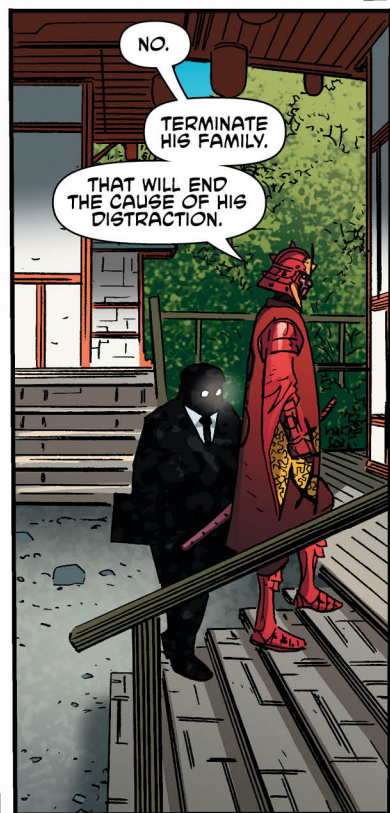
I... I FAILED YOU, MASTER.

BUT M-MY FAMILY. PERSONAL PROBLEMS DISTRACTED ME. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.



SEE TO IT THAT IT DOESN'T.

MASTER, HIS INCOMPETENCE WARRANTS EXECUTION. SHALL I--



NO.

TERMINATE HIS FAMILY.

THAT WILL END THE CAUSE OF HIS DISTRACTION.

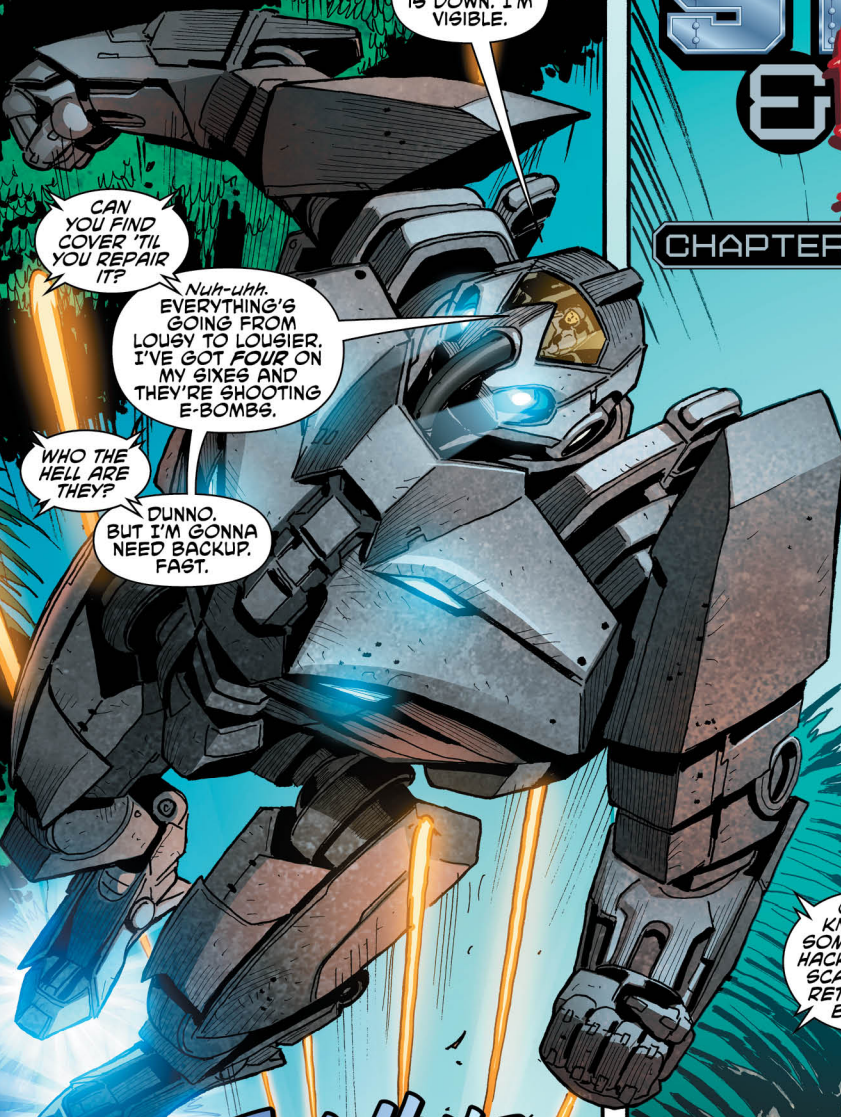
GABE,
MY CLOAKING
IS DOWN. I'M
VISIBLE.

CAN
YOU FIND
COVER 'TIL
YOU REPAIR
IT?

Nuh-uhh.
EVERYTHING'S
GOING FROM
LOUZY TO LOUZIER.
I'VE GOT FOUR ON
MY SIXES AND
THEY'RE SHOOTING
E-BOMBS.

WHO THE
HELL ARE
THEY?

DUNNO,
BUT I'M GONNA
NEED BACKUP.
FAST.



ZWIIIP



ZWIIIP

ZWIIIP

STEEL & BLOOD

CHAPTER ONE: MECHS

THREE-PLUS MILES EAST...

CYBORG,
CAN YOU
LOCATE THE
PULSE?

I'M GETTING
NOTHING BUT BOGIES,
KATE. HUNDREDS OF
'EM. WHICH ONE'S
REAL?

GOD
KNOWS,
SOMEONE'S
HACKED OUR
SCANNERS.
RETURN TO
BASE.



NOT YET.
I WANT TO CHECK
OUT THEIR LAST
KNOWN. MAYBE YOUR
SWEEPERS MISSED
SOMETHING.

OKAY,
BUT BE
CAREFUL OUT
THERE.



MARCIA,
OUR SCREENS
ARE CROWDED
WITH HUNDREDS OF
BOGIES. WE'VE GOT
NO IDEA WHICH
IS YOURS.

THEY'RE
COMING IN ON
ALL SIDES.



ENGINES ARE
OUT. I'VE LOST
CONTROL...

MARCIA!
FOR GOD'S
SAKE--
EJECT!



KATE,
MY AUDIO SENSORS
JUST PICKED UP A
LOUD **BAM!** GONNA
CHECK IT OUT.

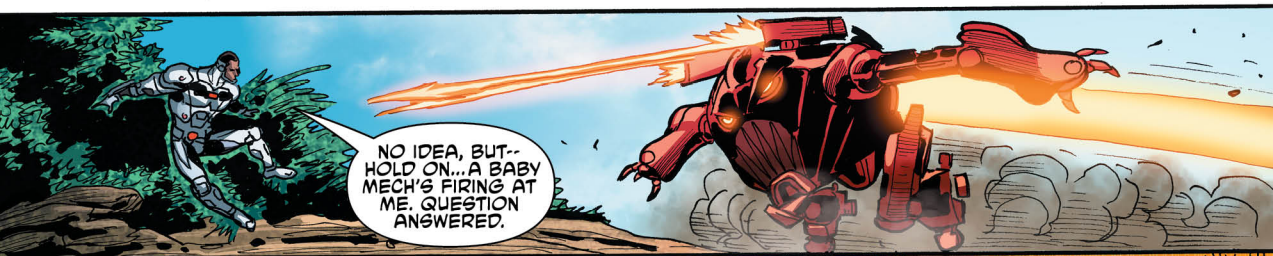
YOU
SHOULD REALLY
WAIT FOR
BACKUP.

WAIT? ME?
YOU DON'T KNOW
ME VERY WELL,
DO YOU?

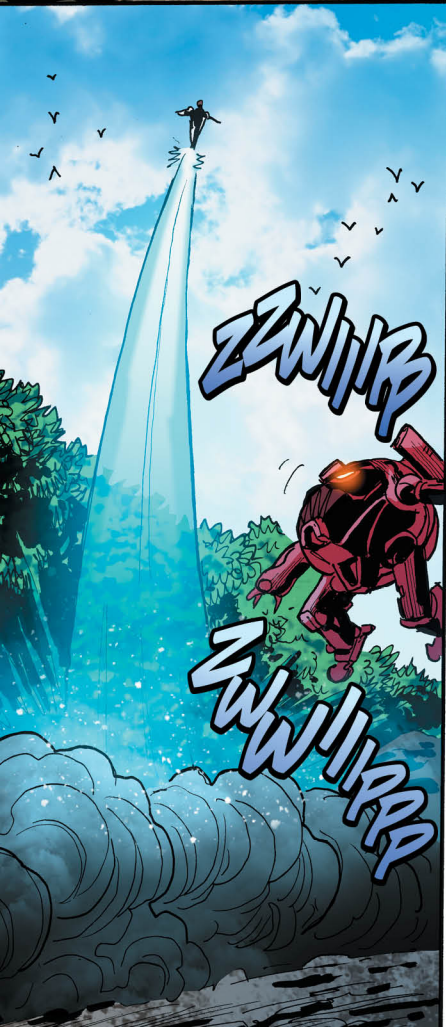


OH MAN, YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING. TWO DIFFERENT MECH TYPES...THE SMALL ONES GROUNDED THE BIG GUY.

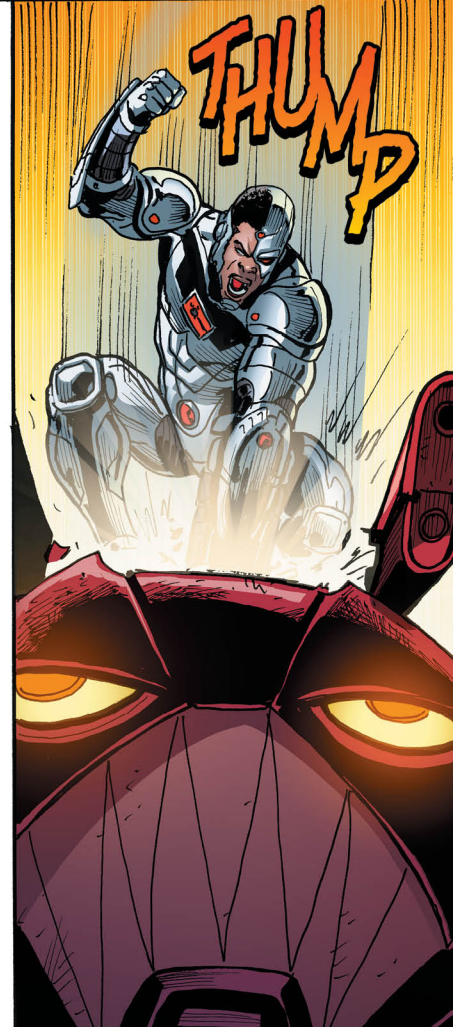
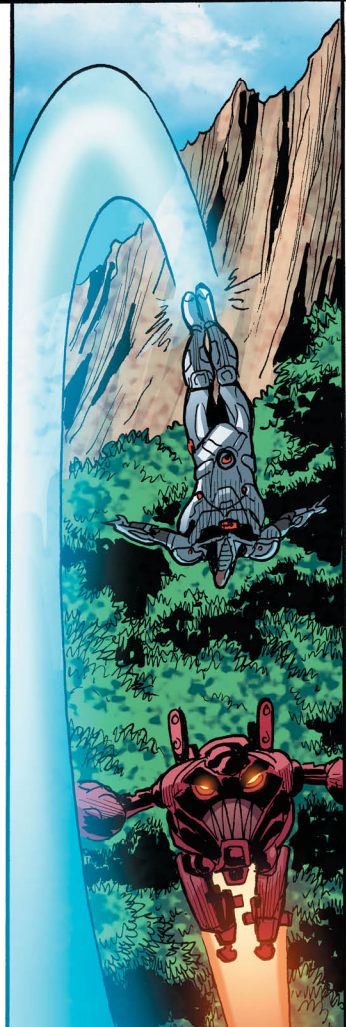
ANY OF THEM ON OUR SIDE?



NO IDEA, BUT-- HOLD ON...A BABY MECH'S FIRING AT ME. QUESTION ANSWERED.



ZZWIIIP
ZZWIIIP



THUMP