

THE SUN RISES
AND SETS...

THE TIDE GOES IN,
THE TIDE GOES OUT.

AND UNLESS IT WERE TO
COLLAPSE DURING MORNING
RUSH HOUR, WE PROBABLY
WOULDN'T GIVE THIS BRIDGE
A SECOND THOUGHT...

WE TAKE ITS EXISTENCE
FOR GRANTED, IT'S JUST
PART OF THE LANDSCAPE
OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES...

BUT HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO
THE IDEA OF RIVETS, STEEL
AND WIRE SUSPENDING A
ROAD THROUGH THE AIR
WOULD HAVE SEEMED LIKE
MAGIC OR EVEN WITCHCRAFT.

BUT THEN AGAIN, THE
LIST OF THINGS WE'D
BEEN TAKING FOR
GRANTED WAS GETTING
LONGER AND LONGER
BY THE DAY.

EVACUATION
ROAD
PARTIAL LAW
PAST THIS
POINT

SO NOW WE WERE
BUILDING A NEW
KIND OF HIGHWAY.
ONE TO ANOTHER
DIMENSION...

FOR MONTHS
BLACKWOOD'S TEAM
HAD BEEN BLASTING
UNMANNED CARGO
PODS INTO INTER-
DIMENSIONAL SPACE.

AND NOW THE PODS
SAT WAITING, WHILE A
TEAM OF SCIENTISTS AND
ENGINEERS WORKED
AROUND THE CLOCK TO
COMPLETE WHAT WAS TO
BE THE LINCHPIN AND
CORNERSTONE OF THE
ENTIRE PROJECT...

ROSA'S NEW,
IMPROVED AND
GREATLY ENLARGED
PORTAL MODULE...

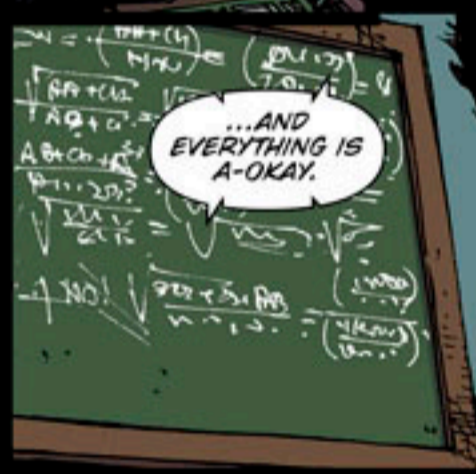


3.2.1... WE HAVE IGNITION...



AND FINAL POD LAUNCH IS A GO...

BUT DESPITE EVERYTHING BEING SO PEACHY, OR MAYBE EVEN BECAUSE OF IT, SOMETHING HAD BEEN GNAWING AWAY AT CICERO...



...AND EVERYTHING IS A-OKAY.



OH [REDACTED] WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT...?

SURE CICERO HAD SAID SOMETHING ABOUT LOOKING FOR "SAFETY IN NUMBERS."



BUT HE WAS ALWAYS TALKING LIKE THAT, SO I DIDN'T PAY HIM MUCH MIND...

AND ANYWAY I HAD MY OWN ISSUES...



PROBED AND PRODDED... THEY'D STOPPED JUST SHY OF A SWIMSUIT ROUND, BUT I'D PASSED THE BEAUTY PAGEANT, AND FOR BETTER OR WORSE WAS NOW A CARD-CARRYING D-NAUT.

...BLACKWOOD'S DARK ENERGY BRIDGE THROUGH THE MEMBRANE OF TIME AND SPACE WASN'T GOING TO BUILD ITSELF...



HEY HARDY, YOU MADE THE FIRST TEAM, CONGRATS...

AND THE FIRST MANNED FLIGHT WAS ABOUT TO FOLLOW THE PODS INTO INTERDIMENSIONAL SPACE..

AUDEAMUS

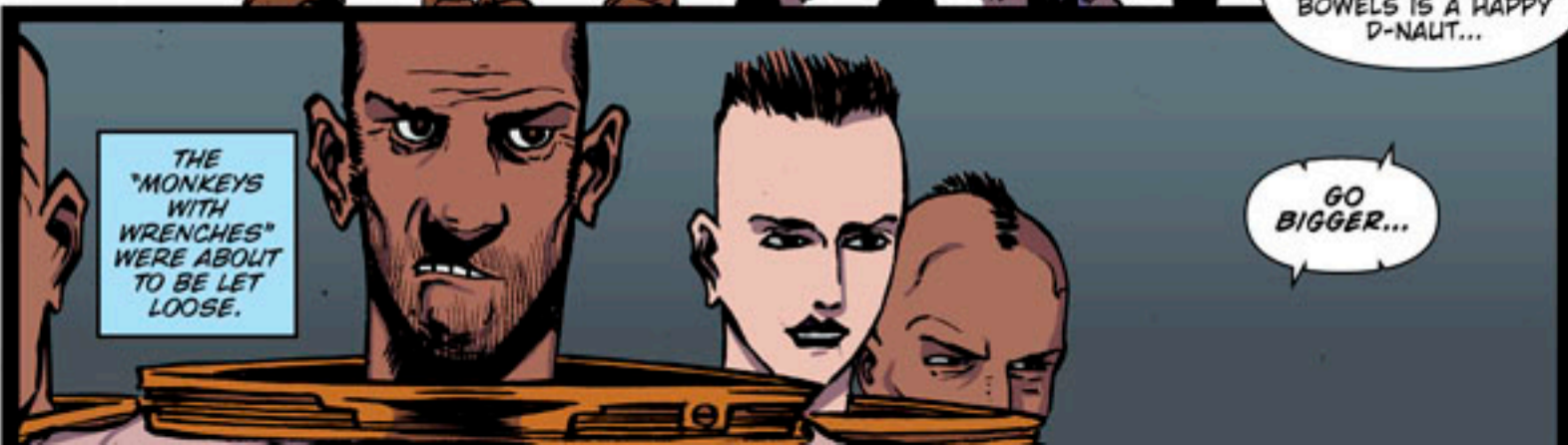
part 4

WRITER SIMON OLIVER ARTIST ALBERTO PONTICELLI
COLORS RICO RENZI & MICHAEL WIGGAM LETTERS STEVE WANDS COVER NATHAN FOX
ASSISTANT EDITOR SARA MILLER EDITOR GREG LOCKARD
F.B.P. CREATED BY OLIVER & RODRIGUEZ



D-NAUTS, REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING...REMEMBER YOUR MISSION AND REMEMBER THAT THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE IS RESTING ON YOUR SHOULDERS...

BUT ABOVE ALL REMEMBER THAT COME LAUNCH TIME, A D-NAUT WITH EMPTY BOWELS IS A HAPPY D-NAUT...



THE "MONKEYS WITH WRENCHES" WERE ABOUT TO BE LET LOOSE.

GO BIGGER...

EVEN ON THE BEST OF DAYS,
BEFORE ALL THIS, SOCIETY WAS
HELD TOGETHER WITH CHEWING
GUM, BALING WIRE, COLLECTIVE
HOPE AND SHARED DELUSION...
BUT NOW IT WAS HANGING BY
A VERY SLENDER THREAD...

...ONE GALLON OF
FRESH DRINKING WATER,
EIGHT OUNCES OF RICE,
AND POWDERED MILK.
THREE SQUARES OF TWO-
PLY TOILET PAPER FOR
THE USE OF....

IS THAT
IT? WHERE ARE
THE MRIs...
WHERE'S THE
BLANKETS?

...WE'RE WAITING
ON BLANKETS, TRY
AGAIN TOMORROW.

...AND THE
MRIs?

BECAUSE
YOU SURE AS HELL
DON'T LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE LIVING ON
POWDERED MILK
AND RICE...

I DON'T
MAKE THE
RULES...

YOU'RE
JUST HERE
TO ENFORCE
THEM...

EVEN
IF IT MEANS
CHILDREN GO
HUNGRY.