



#4

\$3.99

awake



**BENEVILLE
HESS**

Brian
Hess 15'



YOU MUST TAKE ME TO THIS BARON!

NOW! BEFORE HE DESTROYS EVERYTHING!

**STOMP
STOMP
STOMP**



CAN'T YOU SEE SHE IS EXHAUSTED?
LET HER REST.



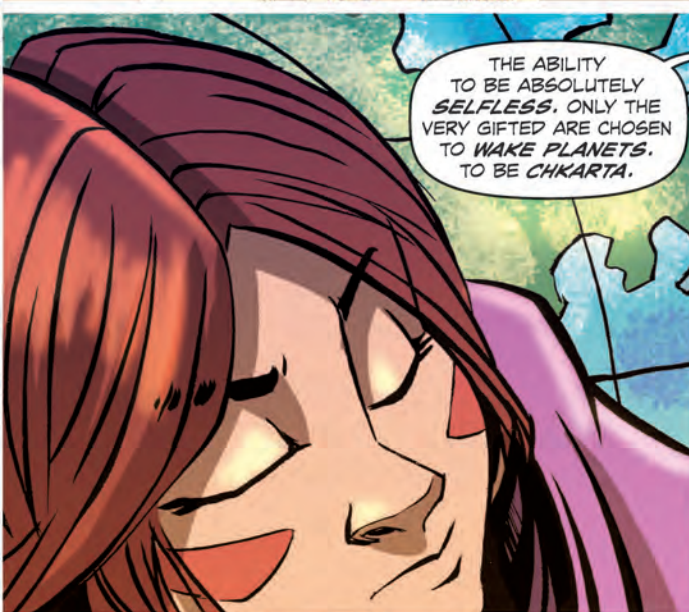
SHE IS IMPRESSIVE.



THE DOLA ARE AN AMAZING PEOPLE. THEY TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE GALAXIES. *EXPLORING. LEARNING. HELPING* PLANETS CHANGE.

THEIR POWER IS A KIND OF PHOTONIC MAGIC. IT IS THE ABILITY TO HARNESS AND USE THE ENERGY CONTAINED IN LIGHT.

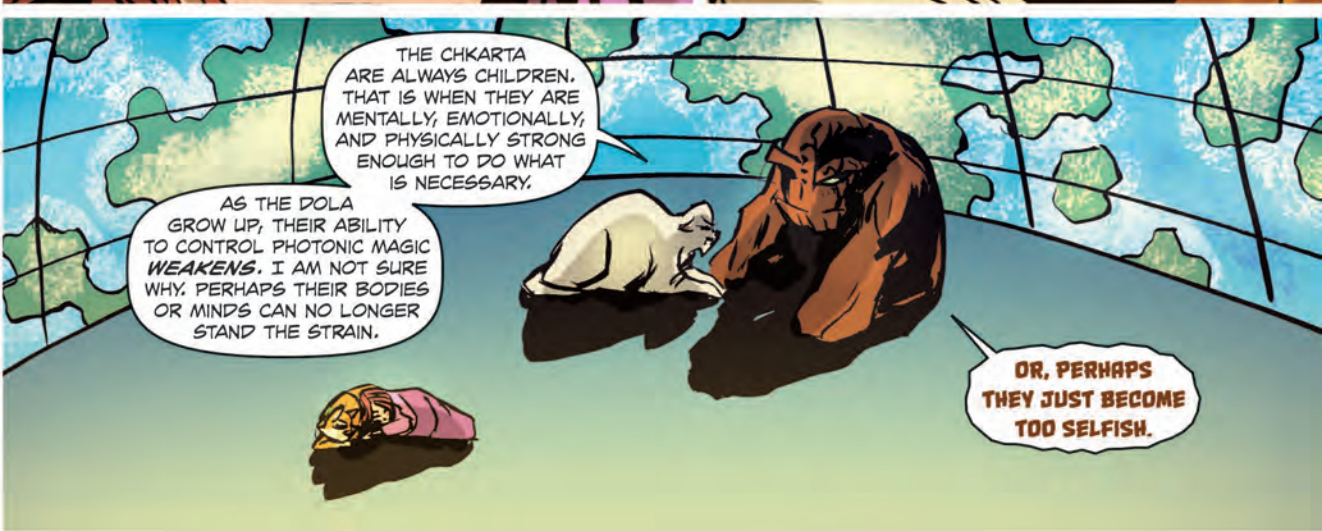
IT IS A DIFFICULT MAGIC TO MASTER. IT REQUIRES SKILL, TREMENDOUS CONCENTRATION, PHYSICAL STAMINA, AND...



THE ABILITY TO BE ABSOLUTELY *SELFLESS*. ONLY THE VERY GIFTED ARE CHOSEN TO WAKE PLANETS. TO BE *CHKARTA*.



BUT SHE IS JUST A CHILD. TO PLACE SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY ON HER SEEMS WRONG.



THE *CHKARTA* ARE ALWAYS CHILDREN. THAT IS WHEN THEY ARE MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND PHYSICALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY.

AS THE DOLA GROW UP, THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL PHOTONIC MAGIC *WEAKENS*. I AM NOT SURE WHY. PERHAPS THEIR BODIES OR MINDS CAN NO LONGER STAND THE STRAIN.

OR, PERHAPS THEY JUST BECOME TOO SELFISH.

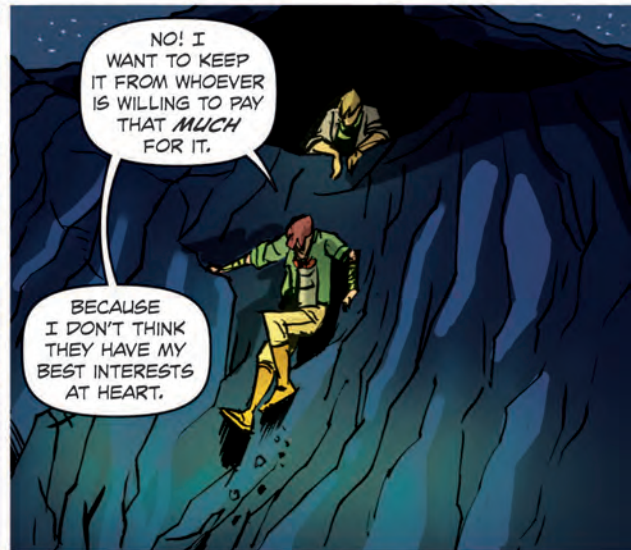
BETRAYAL

Story
Susan Beneville

Art
Brian Hess

Letters
Jaymes Reed

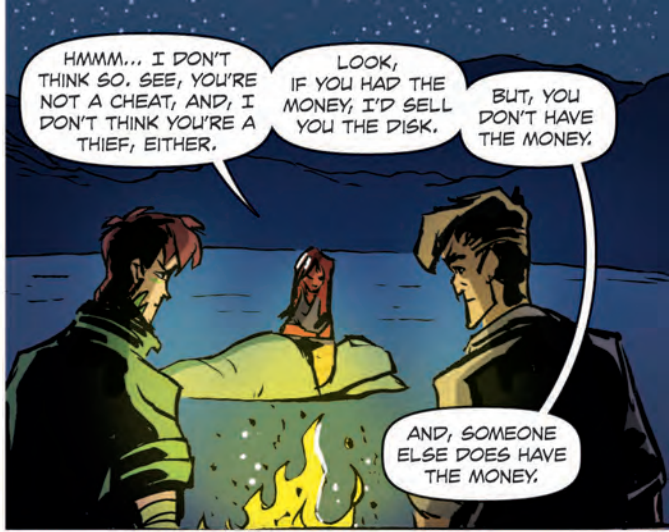
Flattening
Darné Lang





WE
COULD JUST
TAKE IT.

PIC...



HMMM... I DON'T
THINK SO. SEE, YOU'RE
NOT A CHEAT, AND, I
DON'T THINK YOU'RE A
THIEF, EITHER.

LOOK,
IF YOU HAD THE
MONEY, I'D SELL
YOU THE DISK.

BUT, YOU
DON'T HAVE
THE MONEY.

AND, SOMEONE
ELSE DOES HAVE
THE MONEY.



SO,
YOU SEE MY
PROBLEM.

GO GET YOUR
STUFF. YOU CAN
CAMP OUT HERE TONIGHT.
THEN, TOMORROW,
YOU CAN RIDE
WITH ME.

WHERE?

YOU'LL
HAVE TO WAIT
AND SEE.



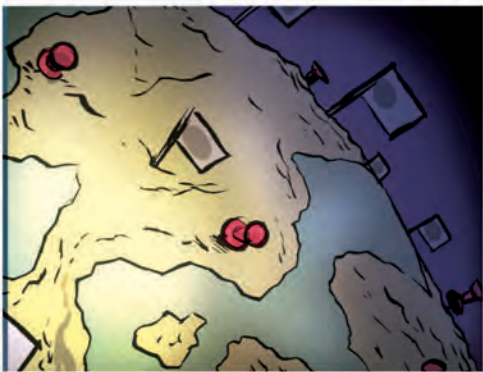
WHY
SHOULD
WE?

WHO
KNOWS? YOU
MIGHT CHANGE
MY MIND.



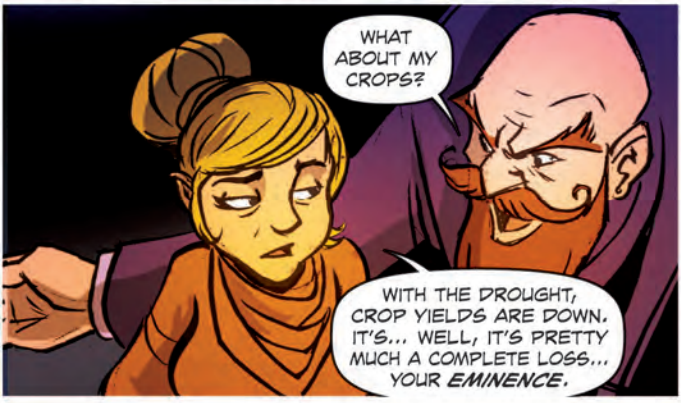
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT EACH OF THESE LITTLE FLAGS MARKS A PLACE WHERE THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER DISASTER THIS WEEK?

YES, YOUR EMINENCE. BLUE FOR FLOODS, ORANGE FOR EARTHQUAKES, BROWN FOR DROUGHTS, AND PINK FOR-



ENOUGH!

WHUNCK



WHAT ABOUT MY CROPS?

WITH THE DROUGHT, CROP YIELDS ARE DOWN. IT'S... WELL, IT'S PRETTY MUCH A COMPLETE LOSS... YOUR EMINENCE.



MY FACTORIES?

PRODUCTION IS DOWN. ABOUT 26% OF THE WORKERS ARE SUFFERING FROM THE BLACK COUGH.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING!

OF COURSE NOT, YOUR EMINENCE.



WELL, LET'S SEE IF MY SUBJECTS HAVE DONE BETTER THAN MY MINISTERS.



THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

WHERE IS THIS MIRACLE YOU HAVE PROMISED ME?

SOON, YOUR EMINENCE. VERY SOON.

I'LL HAVE THAT MIRACLE OR I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD!