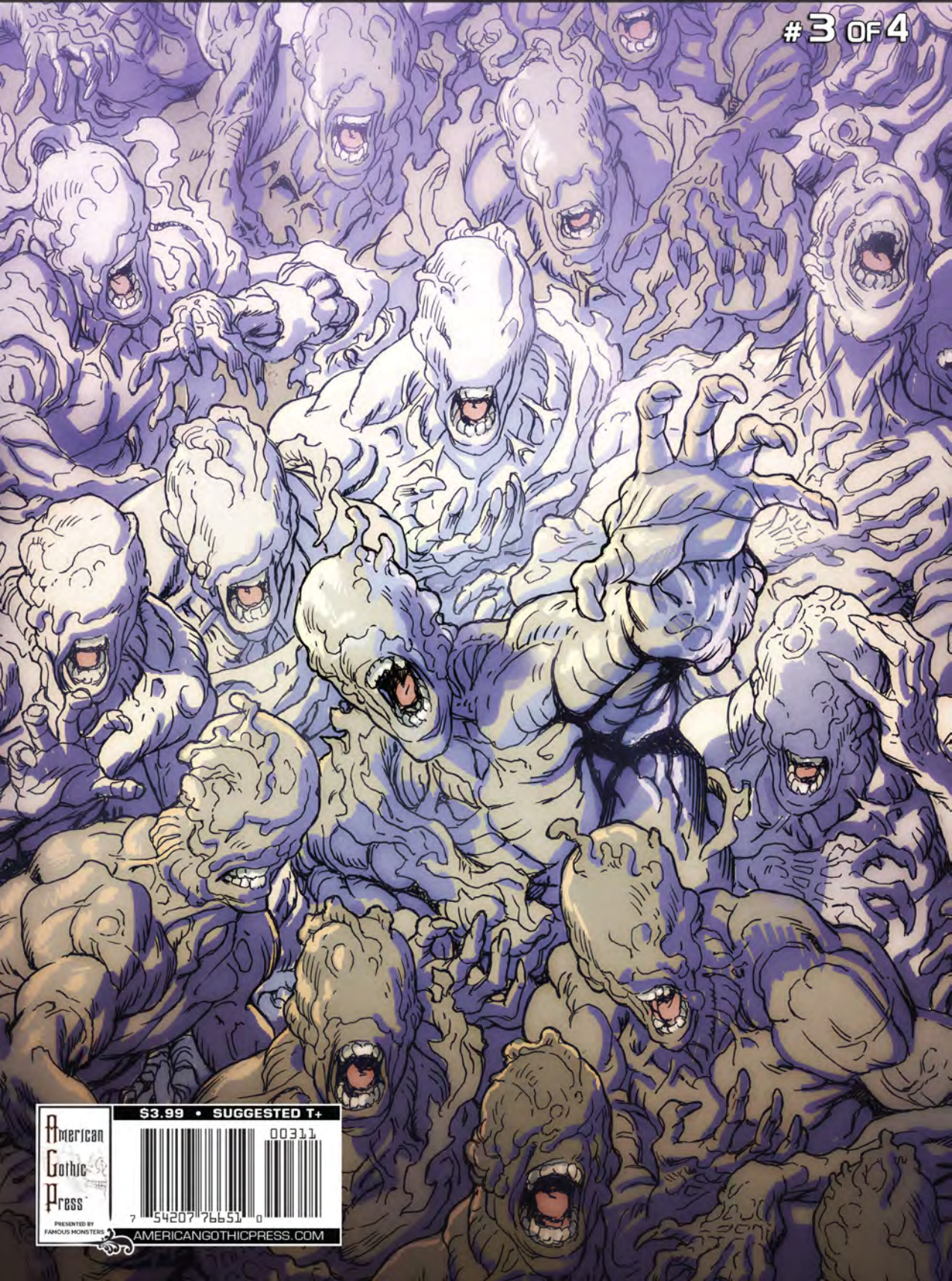


PAUL TOBIN • JEFF JOHNSON • ANTHONY DIECIDUE

BORNHOME

3 OF 4



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YOU KILL LANGER AND... BELIEVE ME... YOU'LL PRAY TO BE GIVEN TO THE KIND SOULS AFTER WHAT I DO WITH YOU.



STOP ME? HA. TRY STOPPING THIS.



Twelve hours previously.

SO... WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT THE GRAY MAN? AND ABOUT... YOU?

I WAS ABOUT TO SAY I'M... DIFFERENT.

WELL OF COURSE YOU'RE DIFFERENT.

UMM. WHAT?

MY INTERNAL ORGANS. I HAVE THREE LUNGS, TO BETTER PROCESS THE THIN AIR HERE ON BORNHOME.

NO. I MEAN MY ORGANS ARE DIFFERENT.

OKAY. YOU. WHAT?

AND HERE, FEEL THIS.

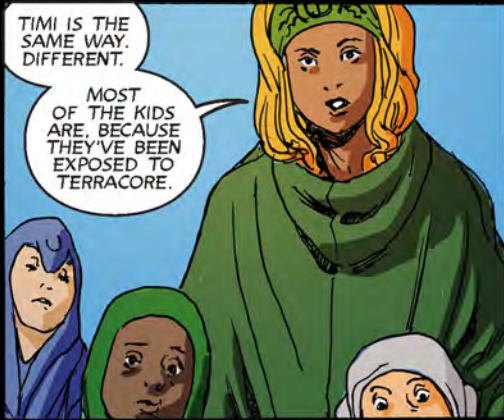
WHAT AM I...?

THAT BEATING YOU FEEL IS MY SECOND HEART. I HAVE TWO. MY BLOOD CIRCULATES QUICKER. IT HELPS ME SURVIVE HERE, WHERE THERE'S LESS OXYGEN.

I ALMOST EXPECTED YOU'D NOTICE WHEN WE WERE, YOU KNOW, TOUCHING.

I WAS DISTRACTED.

THERE'S MORE.



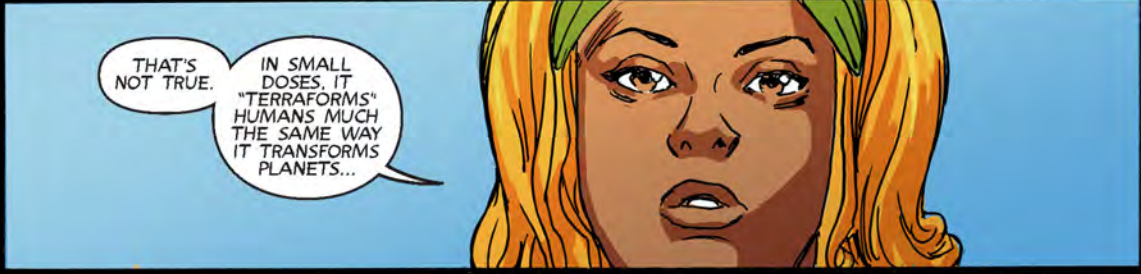
TIMI IS THE SAME WAY. DIFFERENT.

MOST OF THE KIDS ARE, BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO TERRACORE.



ON PURPOSE.

OH HELL NO. IT'S POISON AND YOU'LL--



THAT'S NOT TRUE.

IN SMALL DOSES, IT "TERRAFORMS" HUMANS MUCH THE SAME WAY IT TRANSFORMS PLANETS...



... AND MAKES US MORE FIT FOR SURVIVAL IN HARSH TERRAINS.



"OR, DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ARE, IT CAN CHANGE YOU IN OTHER WAYS. IT'S ALMOST LIKE, IF YOU'RE TWISTED IN WHO YOU ARE, HOW YOU ACT... THEN THE TERRACORE TWISTS YOU MORE. IT CHANGES YOU INTO WHAT WE CALL THE KIND SOULS. BUT, NO MATTER WHAT, IT CHANGES YOU."



IT CHANGES YOU?

BUT THAT MEANS, YOU'RE NOT, I MEAN...

HUMAN?



I WASN'T GOING TO SAY THAT.

WEREN'T YOU?
I THINK YOU WERE.



BUT I HOPE NOT, BECAUSE, WELL... THERE'S MORE. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ENTIRELY HONEST WITH YOU.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



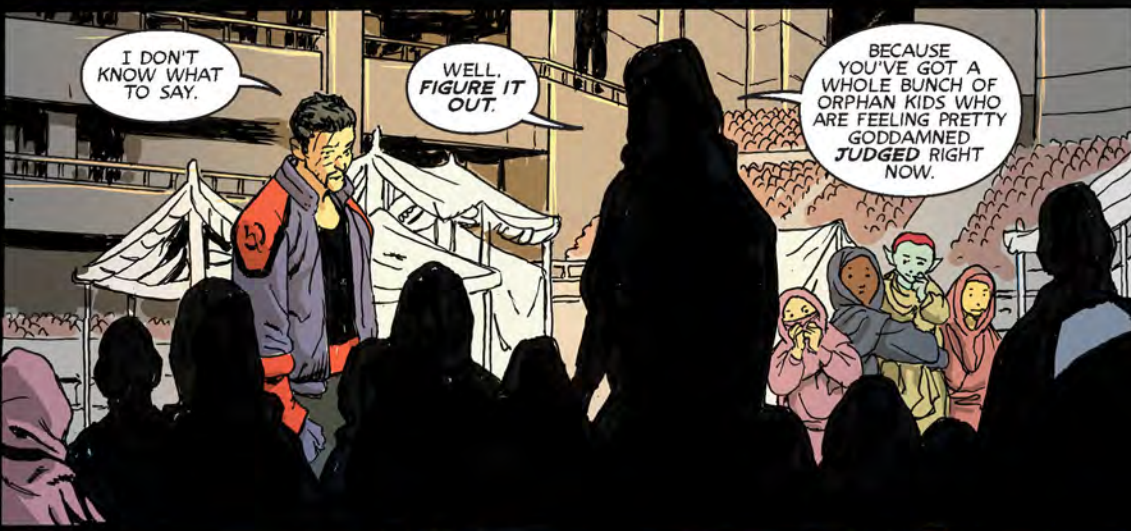
I MEAN THAT SOME OF THE OTHERS THEY'VE BEEN EVEN MORE... ADAPTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT.



I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED OF THE KIND SOULS, AND YOU SHOULD BE. THEY WERE HORRIBLE PEOPLE, AND THEY'RE WORSE, NOW. BUT THERE ARE OTHERS. GOOD PEOPLE, AND THE TERRACORE CHANGED THEM, TOO.



THEY'RE JUST KIDS, LANGER. I'M NOT SURE WHY TERRACORE WORKS DIFFERENT ON OUR WORLD THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. WHY IT CHANGES US, BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THESE ARE JUST KIDS. THEY'RE CHILDREN, LANGER. YOU REMEMBER THAT.





WHAT MAKES A HUMAN, LANGER? IS THAT SO HARD? IS IT THE FLESH? THE SOUL? WHAT EARNS THE CHECKMARK? SOME ARBITRARY "PROPER" NUMBER OF ARMS, LUNGS, OR EYES? WHAT IS IT?



I... HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.



BUT, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

YOU DAMN WELL **BETTER.**



OR MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER. MAYBE NONE OF THIS MATTERS.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, SOON, RIGHT? SO YOU WON'T BE STAYING ANYWAY.

YEAH, RIGHT.

