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3

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ALMARA

VENOM

FIRST HOST



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BONUS DIGITAL EDITION – DETAILS INSIDE!

YEARS AGO, A CHANCE ENCOUNTER LED TO DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK BONDING WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM KNOWN AS A SYMBIOTE. UNITED BY THEIR SIMILAR NEED FOR JUSTICE IN THE FORM OF VENGEANCE, AND GIFTED WITH POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN (ALONG WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES), THE TWO FIGHT CRIME AS THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER VENOM. BUT BEFORE THERE WAS VENOM, THERE WAS...

VENOM

FIRST HOST



THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RECENTLY SPAWNED, AND, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF LIZ ALLAN, ALCHEMAX HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE PROTECTION OF ITS ALIEN OFFSPRING UNTIL VENOM FEELS IT IS READY FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

AMBUSHED BY A SKRULL WARBRIDE CALLED M'LANZ, VENOM WAS ABLE TO FEND HER OFF WITH THE HELP OF A KREE WARRIOR, TEL-KAR, WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE SYMBIOTE'S FIRST HOST!

THEIR REUNION WAS CUT SHORT WHEN, ANGERED BY THE SYMBIOTE'S REFUSAL TO RETURN TO HIM, TEL-KAR KIDNAPPED THE SYMBIOTE OFFSPRING! WITH NO OTHER CHOICE, THE SYMBIOTE LEFT WITH TEL-KAR, ABANDONING EDDIE AND THEIR SCARED PROGENY IN THE PROCESS.

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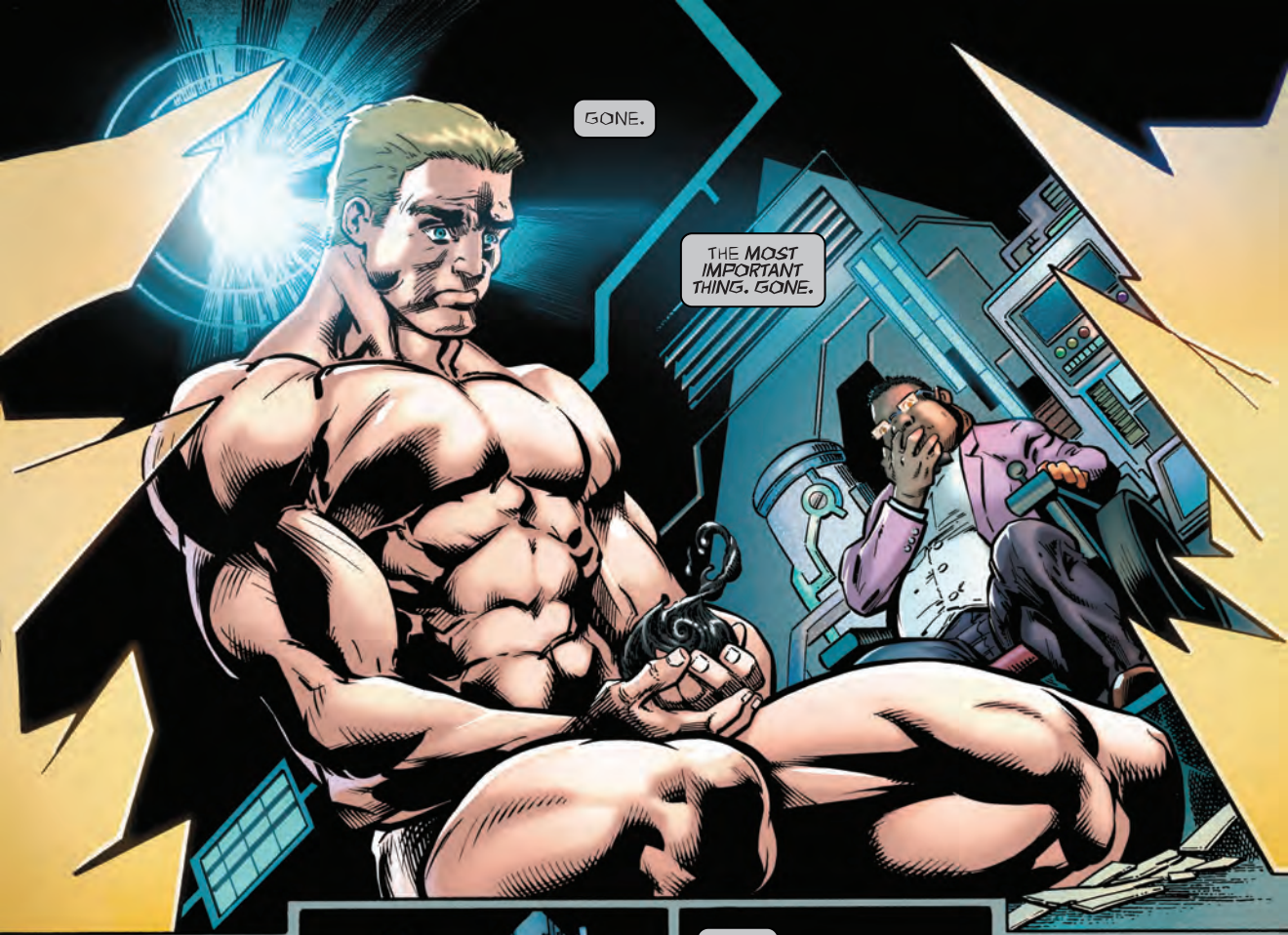
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GONE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. GONE.



NOW HOW CAN I BE WHOLE?

NO!



WHO WILL UNDERSTAND ME? SPEAK TO ME IN THE QUIET OF MY MIND?

AM I TOO LATE?



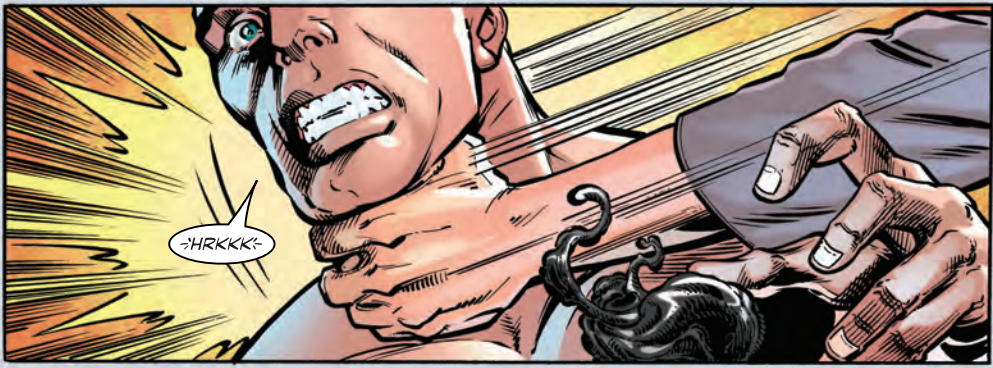
TOO QUIET.

YOU GAVE IT TO HIM.



LIZ, WHAT...?

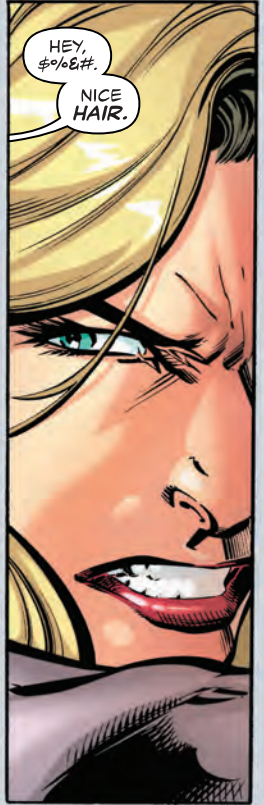
HOW LONG, IN ALL THIS QUIET, UNTIL I GO MAD?



HRKKK!



HOW COULD YOU LET HIM TAKE IT?



HEY, \$%&#. NICE HAIR.



NOW RELEASE HIM AND STEP AWAY.





WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE NOW?

I'VE FAILED.



BY THE THRONE...

BY THE THRONE, I'M SO TIRED.



YOU TRIED TO KILL ME.

TRIED TO KILL MY PARTNER.



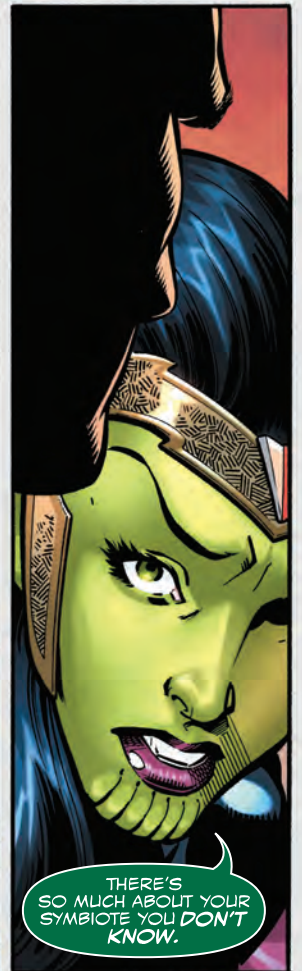
I ONLY WANTED TO KEEP THE SYMBIOTE AWAY FROM TEL-KAR.



BUT YOU FAILED.

YOU TRIED TO KILL US AND YOU FAILED AT THAT, TOO.

AND TEL-KAR WILL FAIL AT WHATEVER HE IS DOING. MY SYMBIOTE WON'T GO ALONG WITH IT. IT'LL TEAR ITSELF AWAY THE FIRST CHANCE IT GETS.



THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR SYMBIOTE YOU DON'T KNOW.

"TEL-KAR WAS ONE OF THE GREAT TERRORS OF THE *GLORIOUS WAR*.

"AMONG HIS MANY CRIMES, ARMED WITH YOUR SYMBIOTE, HE *INFILTRATED* THE SKRULL RANKS FOR MONTHS.



"HE SABOTAGED *MISSIONS*, UNCOVERED *CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE*, PERFORMED *ASSASSINATIONS*.



"WE'LL NEVER KNOW HOW BADLY HE COMPROMISED OUR *WAR EFFORT*.

"HE FINALLY REVEALED HIMSELF IN ORDER TO SAVE SOME *KREE REFUGEES*.



"OBVIOUSLY HE'D INTENDED TO DIE HELPING THEM ESCAPE, BUT MY *WAR SISTERS* AND I TOOK HIM ALIVE BEFORE HE COULD DESTROY THE *SHIP*.

"WE HELD HIM CAPTIVE FOR YEARS, ISOLATION, ENHANCED INTERROGATION--WE THOUGHT WE'D BROKEN HIM."

"...BUT HE WAS ONLY LYING IN WAIT."

"EVENTUALLY, THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS ON HIM WERE LESSENER, AND HE STRUCK, KILLED TWO OF MY SISTERS IN HIS ESCAPE."

"WE LEARNED ALL WE COULD ABOUT HIS INFILTRATION, OF THE EXPERIMENTS TEL-KAR HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO TO MAKE HIM A MORE PERFECT HOST FOR THE SYMBIOTE AND HOW WE MIGHT PREVENT ANOTHER FROM INFILTRATING OUR RANKS WITH SUCH EASE. WE THOUGHT HE'D TOLD US EVERYTHING..."

AND HE CAME LOOKING FOR MY SYMBIOTE.

WHO DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER HIM AND CERTAINLY WON'T HELP HIM, HERO OF THE KREE OR NOT.

"YOUR" SYMBIOTE DOESN'T REMEMBER BECAUSE TEL-KAR DIDN'T WANT IT TO.

WHEN HE SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM IT, HE HID INFORMATION IN IT, SECRETING IT AWAY SO WE COULD NEVER TORTURE IT OUT OF HIM.

BUT THE SECRETS HE KEPT WERE NOT JUST OF THE KREE, BUT MY PEOPLE AS WELL. KNOWLEDGE OF SECRET SKRULL WEAPONS OF LAST RESORT HE'D ACQUIRED DURING HIS TIME AMONG OUR RANKS...

...INCLUDING A PLAGUE THAT THE THRONE, IN ITS GREAT AND COMPASSIONATE WISDOM, SAW FIT NEVER TO RELEASE.

A PLAGUE HE SWORE THAT, WERE HE EVER TO ESCAPE, HE WOULD LOOSE ON US.

SO NOW, BECAUSE I HAVE FAILED, ALL OF MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONSIGNED TO DEATH.