

SO WHY AM I, A MIDDLE CLASS SUBURBAN KID, TRYING TO CONTACT GEN ZERO? WELL, I LIVE IN ROOK.

ROOK

MAYBE YOU HEARD OF IT?

THE "MICHIGAN MIRACLE?" I SAW ANDERSON COOPER CALL IT THAT ONE NIGHT.

I GUESS THERE USED TO BE A LOT OF FACTORIES HERE? AND JOBS? BEFORE THERE WEREN'T, I MEAN?

BUT THE STATE STEPPED IN, APPOINTED, A WHAT DO YOU CALL IT, "EMERGENCY MANAGER," WHATEVER...



...AND HE TURNED IT AROUND. ROOK GOT ANOTHER NAME THEN:

"REDNECK DUBAI."

OUR TOWN GETS THE BEST OF EVERYTHING. ALL THE BEST BANDS... THE HOLOGRAM ARCADE... (OH AND TOWNWIDE FREE WIFI...)

...BECAUSE NOW WE CAN AFFORD IT.



OUR SCHOOL HAS THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE CUTTING EDGE IN "LEARNING-IS-NOT-BORING-NO-REALLY-IT-ISN'T" TECH...

EVERYBODY LOVES IT.

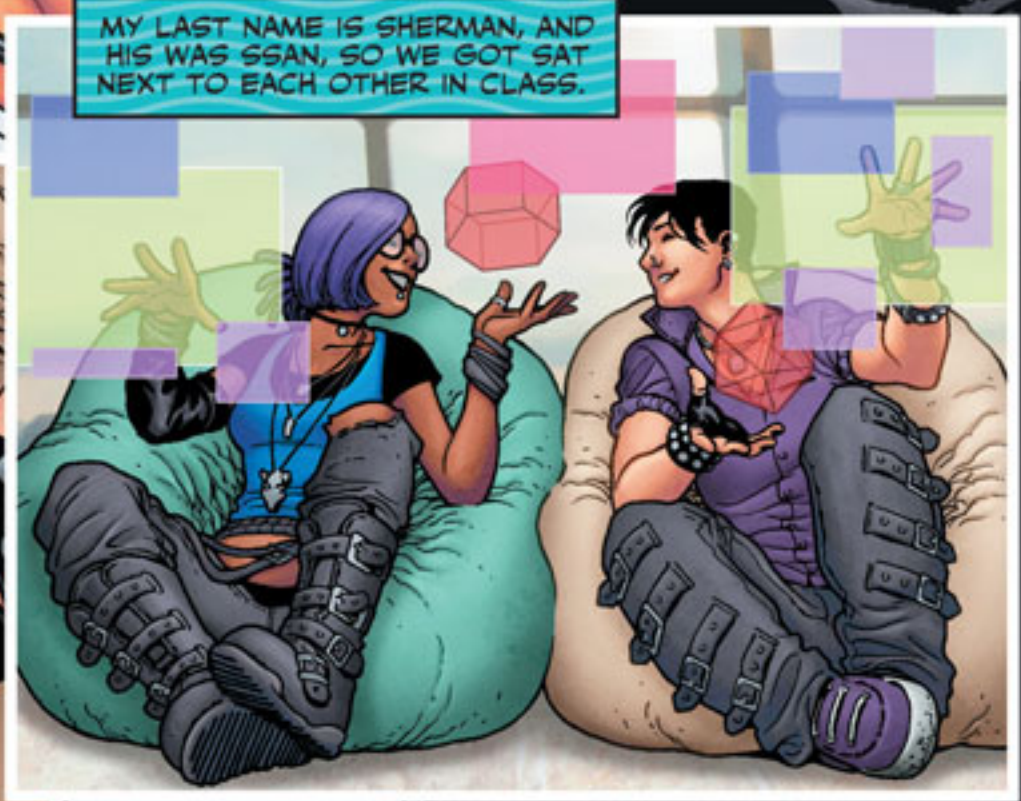
EVERYBODY GETS WITH THE PROGRAM.





EXCEPT ME, AND MY FRIENDS.

EVERYBODY... EXCEPT STEPHEN.



MY LAST NAME IS SHERMAN, AND HIS WAS SSAN, SO WE GOT SAT NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN CLASS.



THE NOTES STARTED.

THEN THE TEXTS.



THEN THE REALITY.

INCOMING: STEPHEN

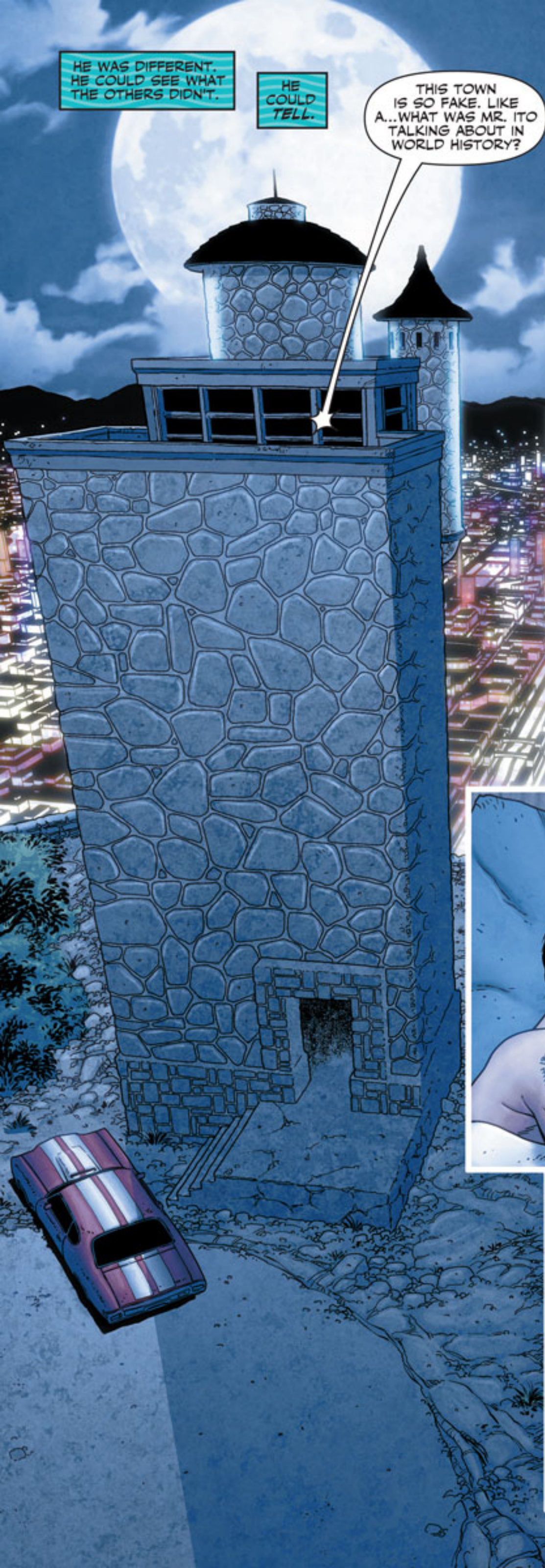
- CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU
- THAT'S WEIRD RIGHT
- BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO STOP
- AND THAT'S WEIRDER



HE WAS DIFFERENT. HE COULD SEE WHAT THE OTHERS DIDN'T.

HE COULD TELL.

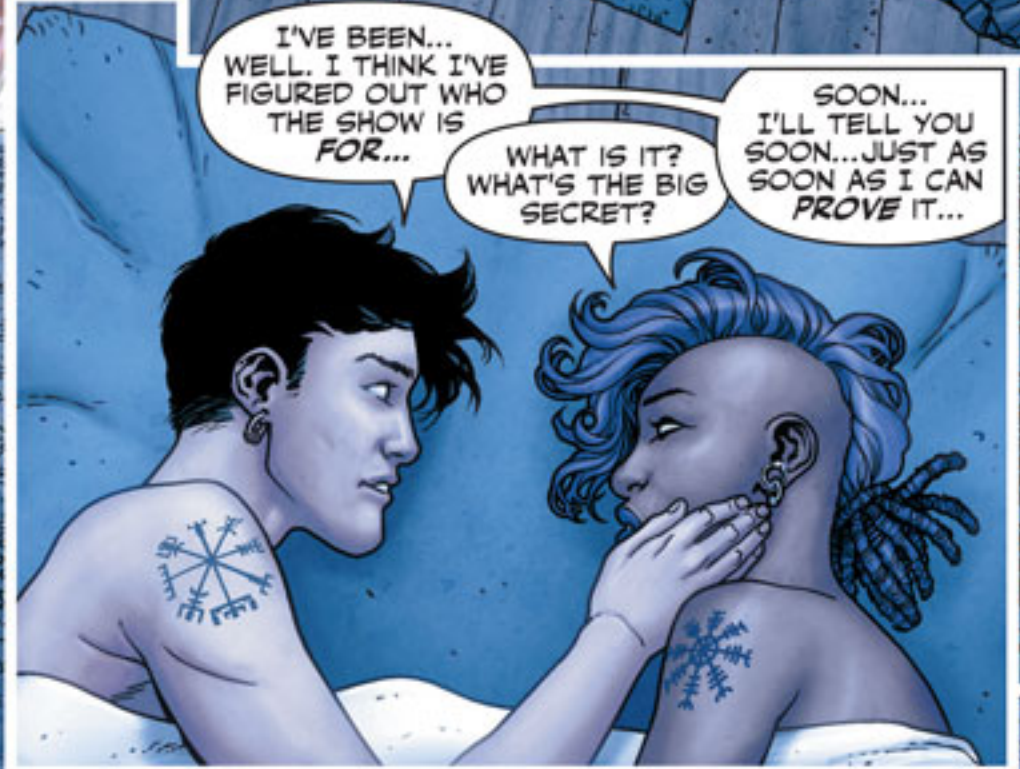
THIS TOWN IS SO FAKE. LIKE A...WHAT WAS MR. ITO TALKING ABOUT IN WORLD HISTORY?



A *POTEMKIN VILLAGE*? JUST A BUNCH OF FLATS OR WHATEVER...

...YEAH, ALL FOR *SHOW*.

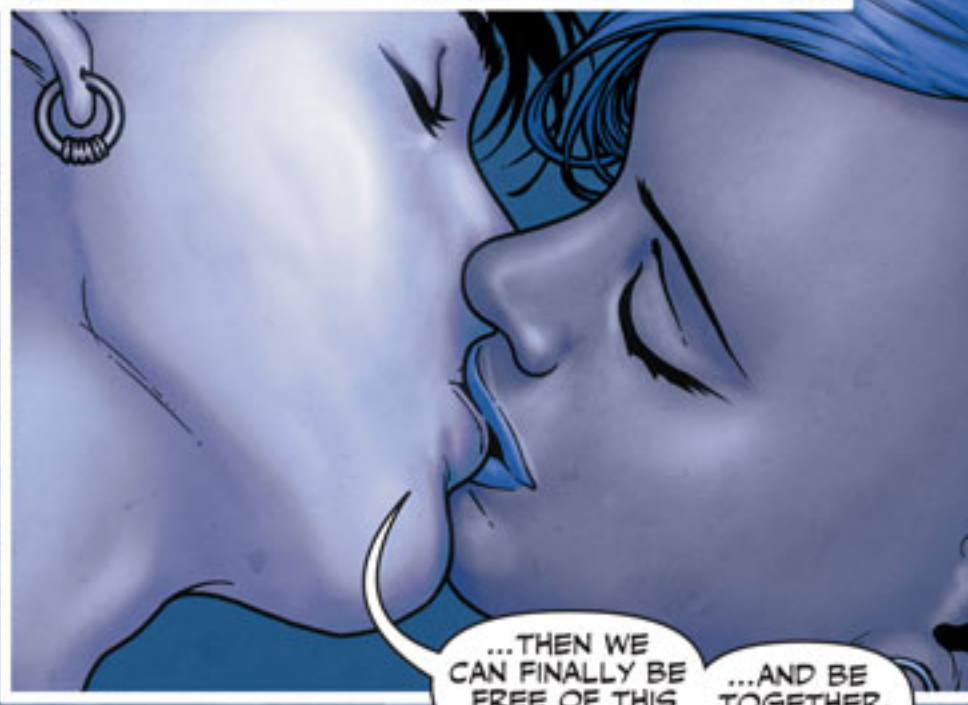
A PHONY TOWN FOR PHONY PEOPLE.



I'VE BEEN... WELL, I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT WHO THE SHOW IS FOR...

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE BIG SECRET?

SOON... I'LL TELL YOU SOON...JUST AS SOON AS I CAN PROVE IT...



...THEN WE CAN FINALLY BE FREE OF THIS DUMP...

...AND BE TOGETHER, FOREVER...

HE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE.



IT'S CALLED "CASING"--KIDS TRYING TO DRINK THROUGH A CASE OF BEER OR BOOZE OR WHATEVER AS FAST AS THEY CAN.

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT ALREADY--



I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT BECAUSE IT'S NOT ACTUALLY A THING! IT'S JUST SOME NEW BUZZWORD THE LOCAL NEWS MADE UP--

STEPHEN WAS 100% STRAIGHTEDGE. NO DRUGS, NO BOOZE, NO CIGARETTES.

SO YOU'RE SAYING HE SUDDENLY TOOK UP DRINKING? BY HIMSELF? WITHOUT TELLING ME? THEN HE GOT IN HIS CAR AND--

HEY. HEY. KEISHA. LISTEN.

I KNOW YOU CARED A LOT ABOUT STEPHEN. I GET IT. BUT YOU'LL LEARN, AS YOU GET OLDER--

--SOMETIMES, YOU JUST DON'T REALLY...KNOW PEOPLE LIKE YOU THINK YOU DO...

...UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE BLAH BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

IT'S ALL LIES. ALL OF IT. STEPHEN WOULDN'T DO THIS.

HE WAS MURDERED. AND NO ONE IN THIS TOWN WANTS TO HELP ME PROVE IT.

THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO YOU.





KEISHA SHERMAN.

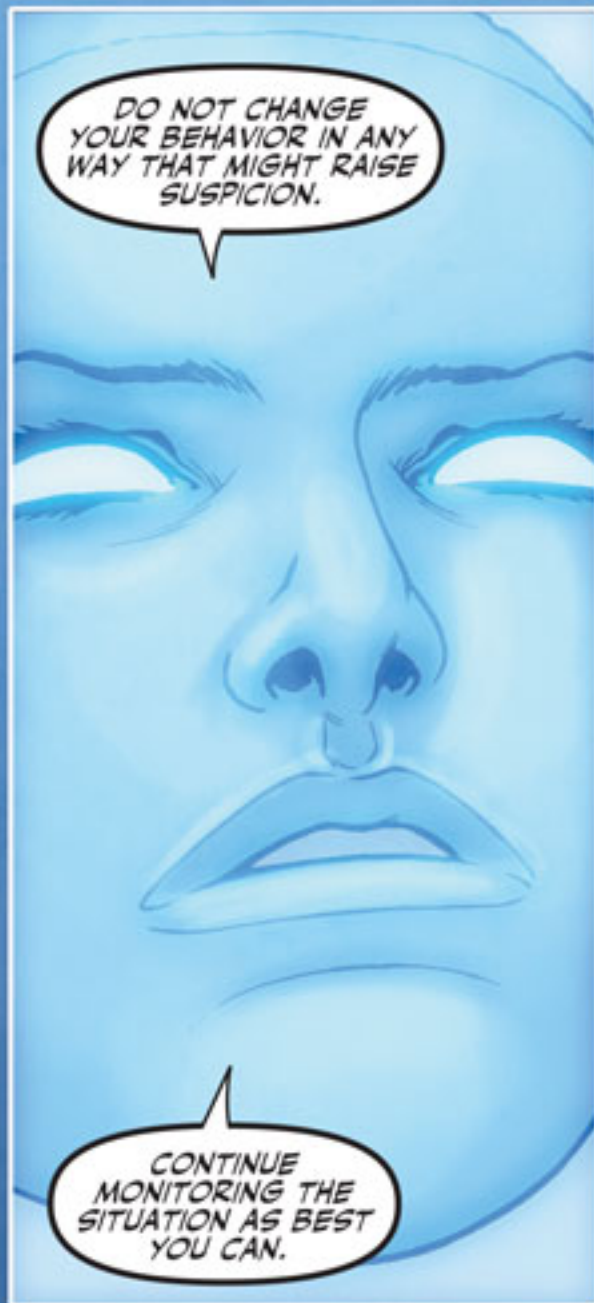
CRAP!



YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MADE CONTACT WITH GENERATION ZERO.

DO NOT TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS COMMUNICATION.

DESTROY WHATEVER DEVICE IS RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION IMMEDIATELY.



DO NOT CHANGE YOUR BEHAVIOR IN ANY WAY THAT MIGHT RAISE SUSPICION.

CONTINUE MONITORING THE SITUATION AS BEST YOU CAN.



YOUR REQUEST HAS BEEN PLACED INTO THE QUEUE FOR PROPER HANDLING.

WE WILL RESPOND TO IT AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.

WELL THAT'S... HELPFUL?

**TO BE CONTINUED IN
GENERATION ZERO #1
ON SALE AUGUST 24TH!**