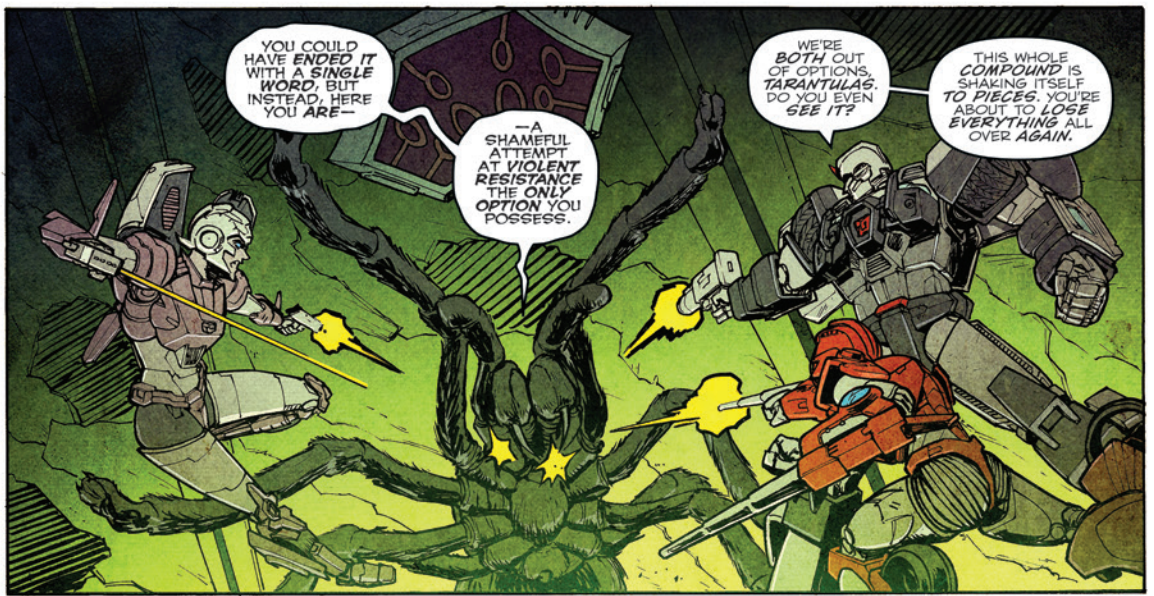


"THIS..."

"...ALL OF THIS..."

"...IS YOUR
FAULT, PROWL."





YOU COULD HAVE ENDED IT WITH A SINGLE WORD, BUT INSTEAD, HERE YOU ARE—

—A SHAMEFUL ATTEMPT AT VIOLENT RESISTANCE THE ONLY OPTION YOU POSSESS.

WE'RE BOTH OUT OF OPTIONS, TARANTULAS. DO YOU EVEN SEE IT?

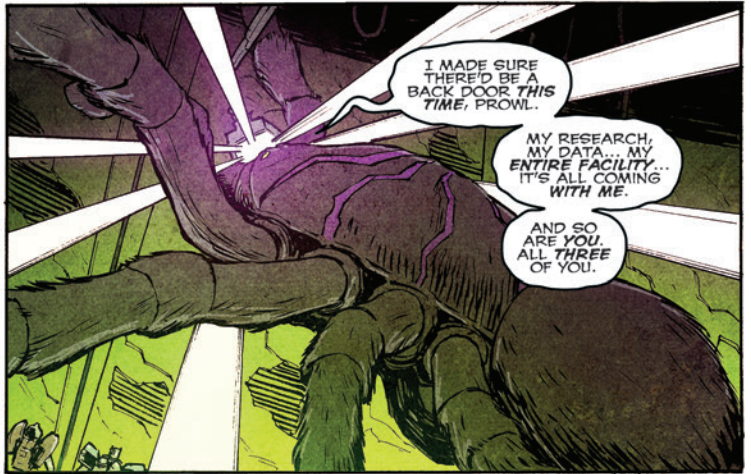
THIS WHOLE COMPOUND IS SHAKING ITSELF TO PIECES. YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE EVERYTHING ALL OVER AGAIN.



I DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING THIS WRONG THIS OFTEN, PROWL.

Y'KNOW, YOU CAN HAVE TOO MANY PARTY TRICKS...

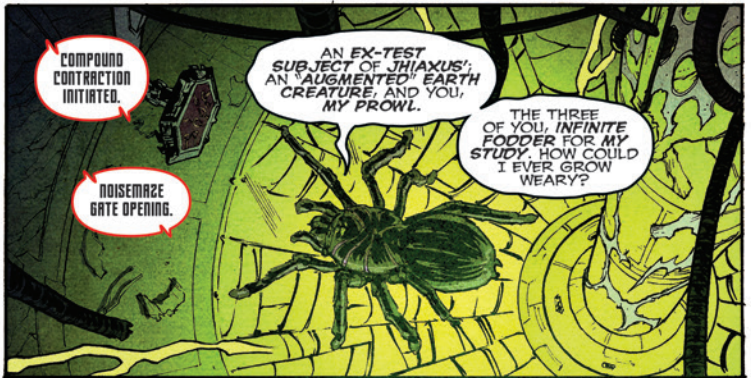
WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER SHOE...



I MADE SURE THERE'D BE A BACK DOOR THIS TIME, PROWL.

MY RESEARCH, MY DATA... MY ENTIRE FACILITY... IT'S ALL COMING WITH ME.

AND SO ARE YOU. ALL THREE OF YOU.

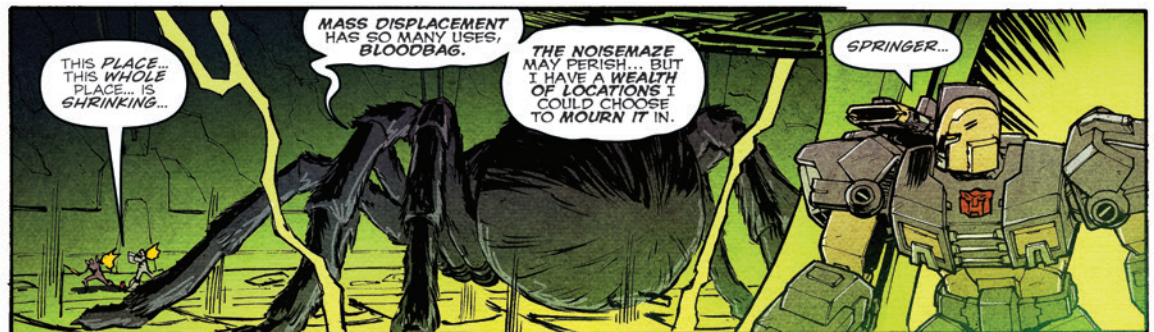


COMPOUND CONTRACTION INITIATED.

NOISEMAZE GATE OPENING.

AN EX-TEST SUBJECT OF JHIAXUS'; AN 'AUGMENTED' EARTH CREATURE, AND YOU, MY PROWL.

THE THREE OF YOU, INFINITE FODDER FOR MY STUDY. HOW COULD I EVER GROW WEARY?

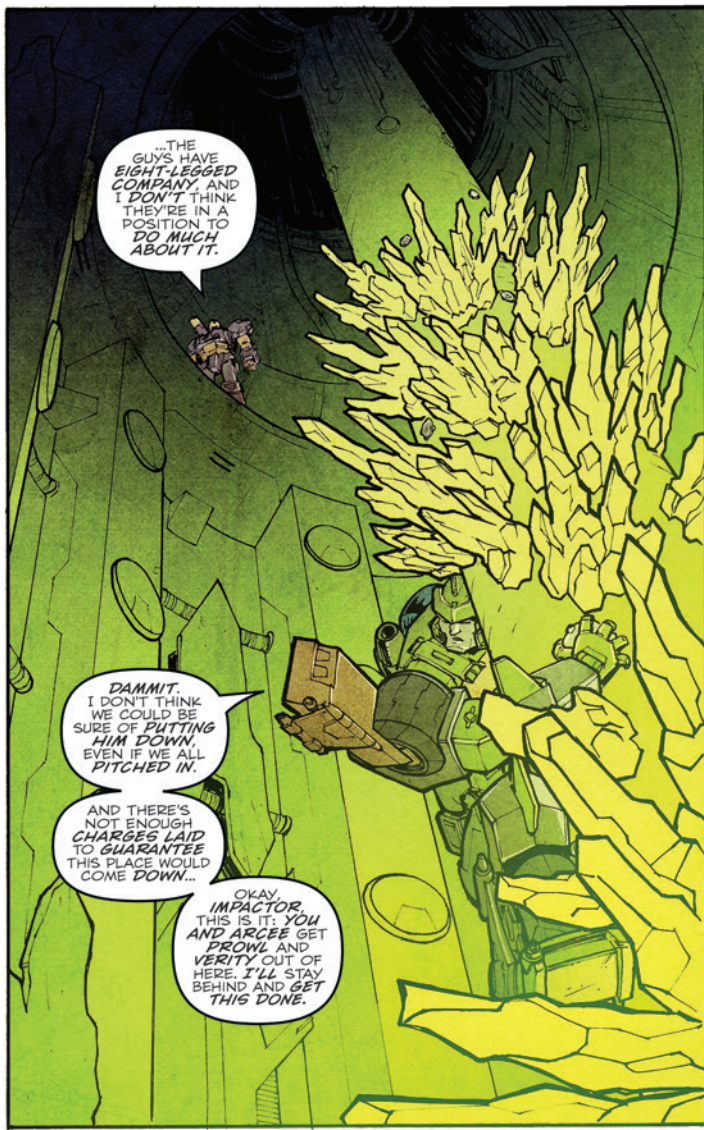


THIS PLACE. THIS WHOLE PLACE... IS SHRINKING...

MASS DISPLACEMENT HAS SO MANY USES, BLOODBAG.

THE NOISEMAZE MAY PERISH... BUT I HAVE A WEALTH OF LOCATIONS I COULD CHOOSE TO MOURN IT IN.

SPRINGER...



...THE GUYS HAVE EIGHT-LEGGED COMPANY, AND I DON'T THINK THEY'RE IN A POSITION TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT.

DAMMIT. I DON'T THINK WE COULD BE SURE OF PUTTING HIM DOWN, EVEN IF WE ALL PITCHED IN.

AND THERE'S NOT ENOUGH CHARGES LAID TO GUARANTEE THIS PLACE WOULD COME DOWN...

OKAY, IMPACTOR. THIS IS IT: YOU AND ARCEE GET PROWL AND VERITY OUT OF HERE. I'LL STAY BEHIND AND GET THIS DONE.

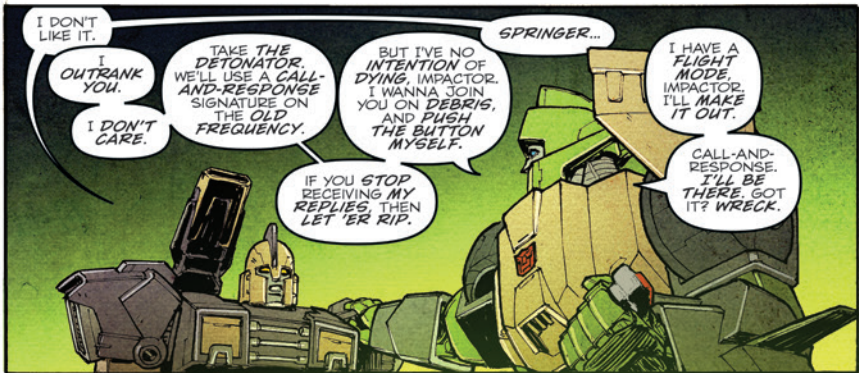


YOU'RE BEING AN IDIOT. THIS ISN'T A SCENARIO THAT'S CALLING FOR A BLOOD SACRIFICE.

IMPACTOR, LISTEN...

I'M DONE. I'VE BEEN DONE SINCE GARRUS-9. I WAS NEEDED FOR THIS JOB, I ANSWERED THE CALL—

—BUT ALL ALONG I KNEW THAT, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THIS WOULD BE IT. I NEED PEACE.



I DON'T LIKE IT.

I OUTRANK YOU.

I DON'T CARE.

TAKE THE DETONATOR. WE'LL USE A CALL-AND-RESPONSE SIGNATURE ON THE OLD FREQUENCY.

BUT I'VE NO INTENTION OF DYING, IMPACTOR. I WANNA JOIN YOU ON DEBRIS, AND PUSH THE BUTTON MYSELF.

IF YOU STOP RECEIVING MY REPLIES, THEN LET 'ER RIP.

SPRINGER...

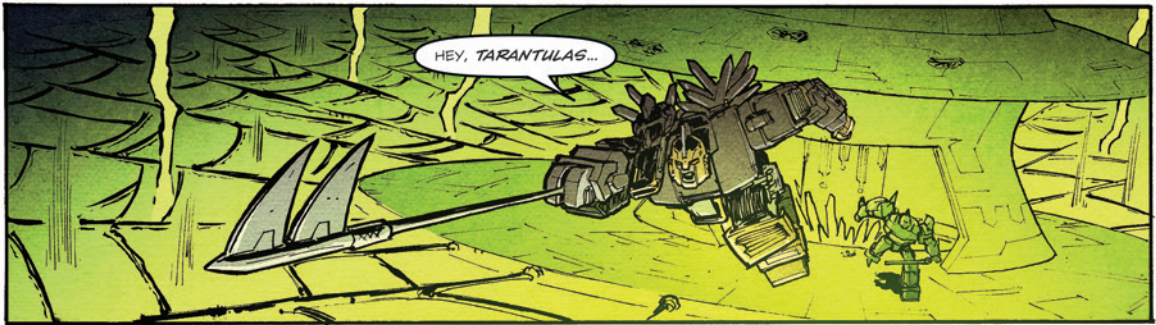
I HAVE A FLIGHT MODE, IMPACTOR. I'LL MAKE IT OUT.

CALL-AND-RESPONSE. I'LL BE THERE, GOT IT? WRECK.

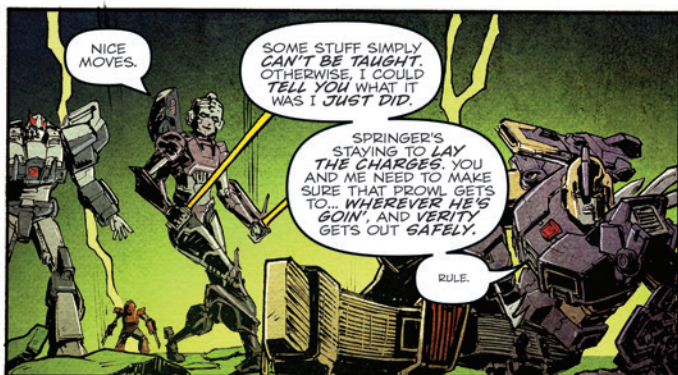
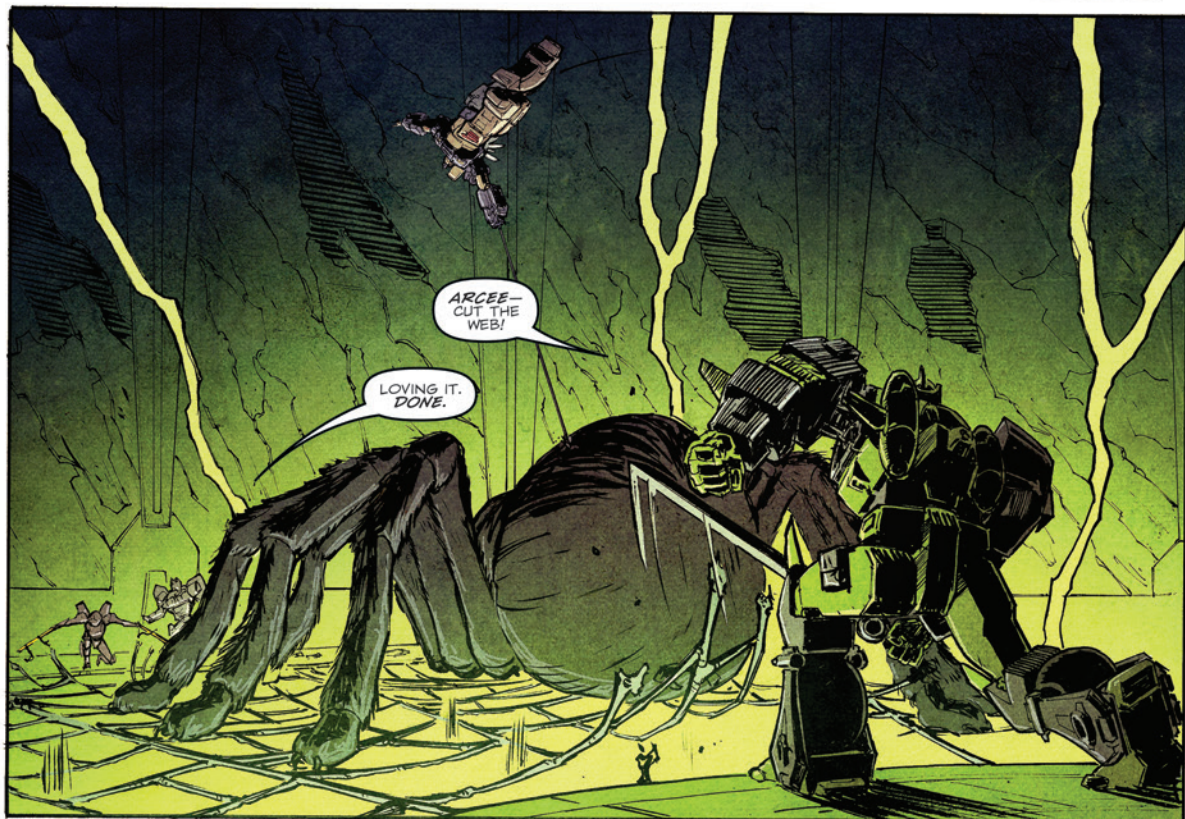


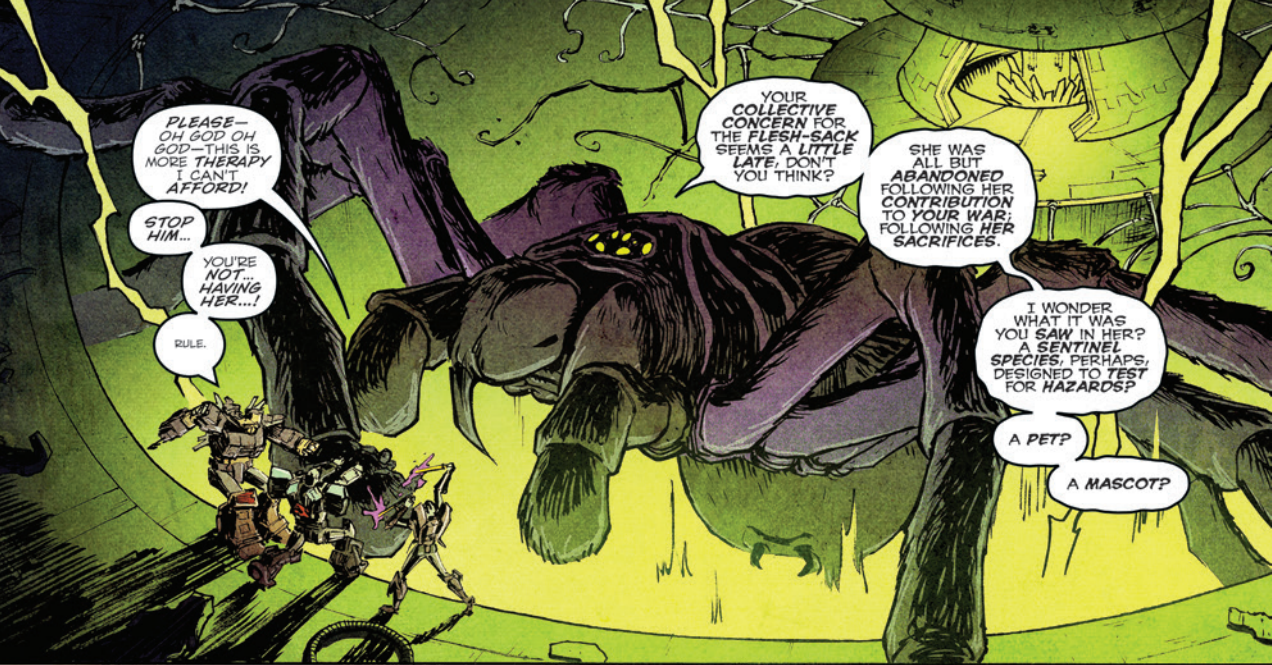
...
RULE. GOT IT.

THAT'S IT. NOW HERE'S THE PLAY...



HEY, TARANTULAS...





PLEASE— OH GOD OH GOD—THIS IS MORE THERAPY I CAN'T AFFORD!

STOP HIM...

YOU'RE NOT HAVING HER...!

RULE.

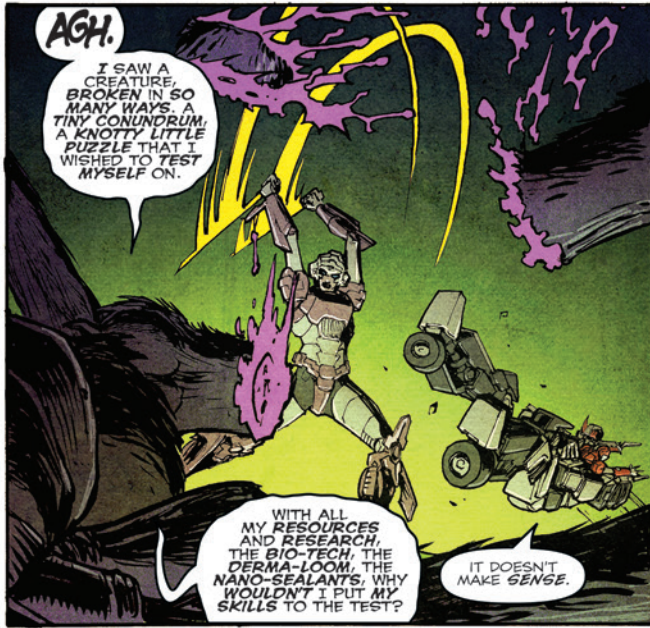
YOUR COLLECTIVE CONCERN FOR THE FLESH-SACK SEEMS A LITTLE LATE, DON'T YOU THINK?

SHE WAS ALL BUT ABANDONED FOLLOWING HER CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR WAR; FOLLOWING HER SACRIFICES.

I WONDER WHAT IT WAS YOU SAW IN HER? A SENTINEL SPECIES, PERHAPS, DESIGNED TO TEST FOR HAZARDS?

A PET?

A MASCOT?



AGH.

I SAW A CREATURE, BROKEN IN SO MANY WAYS. A TINY CONUNDRUM, A KNOTTY LITTLE PUZZLE THAT I WISHED TO TEST MYSELF ON.

WITH ALL MY RESOURCES AND RESEARCH, THE BIO-TECH, THE DERMA-LOOM, THE NANO-SEALANTS, WHY WOULDN'T I PUT MY SKILLS TO THE TEST?

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

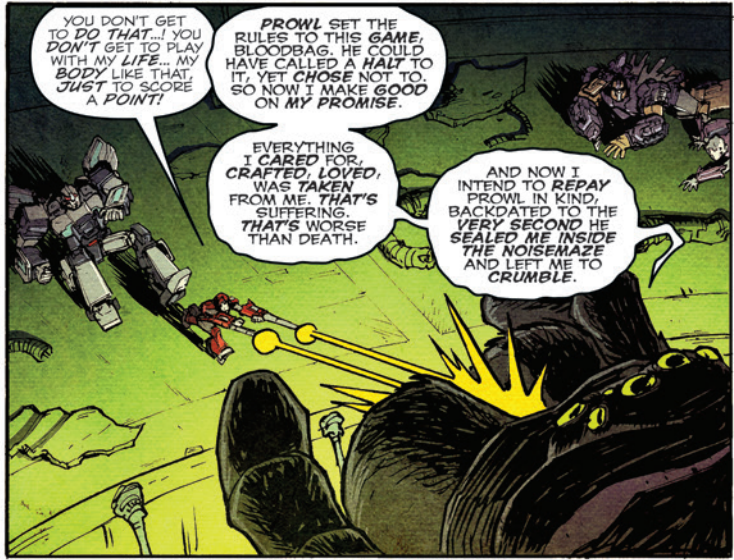


I DON'T EXPECT IT WOULD TO YOU, PROWL. A HELPLESS LIFE, CUT SHORT, IN NEED OF NURTURE AND CARE.

DO YOU NOT SEE? THIS IS WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF TOO, PROWL. GIVING LIFE, INSTEAD OF TAKING IT.

WHAT WOULD THAT MEAN TO YOU ANYWAY?

THE HUMAN IS WHOLE AGAIN; REPAIRED. YOU COULD NEVER GIVE THAT GIFT, IN THIS WAY—A WAY THAT COUNTS—I WILL ALWAYS BE BETTER THAN YOU.



YOU DON'T GET TO DO THAT...! YOU DON'T GET TO PLAY WITH MY LIFE... MY BODY LIKE THAT JUST TO SCORE A POINT!

PROWL SET THE RULES TO THIS GAME, BLOODBAG. HE COULD HAVE CALLED A HALT TO IT, YET CHOSE NOT TO, SO NOW I MAKE GOOD ON MY PROMISE.

EVERYTHING I CARED FOR, CRAFTED, LOVED, WAS TAKEN FROM ME. THAT'S SUFFERING. THAT'S WORSE THAN DEATH.

AND NOW I INTEND TO REPAY PROWL IN KIND, BACKDATED TO THE VERY SECOND HE SEALED ME INSIDE THE NOISEMAZE AND LEFT ME TO CRUMBLE.



RULE.

YOU SEEM SO SMART. INSANE, YEAH. CREEPLY DEPENDENT AND FIXATED, DEFINITELY.

BUT YOU COME ACROSS AS KNOWING ABOUT A LOT OF STUFF...