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#1

# IONYX







#### Earth in the year 2083:

The planet's population exceeds 10 billion people. The planet's ability to provide food and shelter for such numbers dwindles daily.

Cities have grown **outward** and **upward** to accommodate the ever-growing masses, at the expense of nature—the world over, the natural world has given way to the cities of man, and cities have become city-states—bloated, overcrowded things whose monolithic structures extend far below the surface and high into the sky.

Shrinking nature preserves remain as protected areas for vegetation and animal life to thrive, but those shrink annually.

To face this ever-present and dire situation, the United Nations formed the International Global Defense Corp, a multinational military presence whose *raison d'être* is to provide workable solutions for the ever-more-crowded world. Global survival, not regional conflicts, is now the order of the day.

Space colonization never became a viable option. As a result, the world's leaders stopped looking up as the folly of exploration gave way to the dire situation facing the planet and its people.

But someone should have kept watching the skies...

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Special Thanks to Cathy Gaines-Mifsud, Dorothy Ruth Crouch, Jack Davis, Bill Mantlo, and Sal Buscema.

<http://gregpak.com/love-rocket-raccoon-please-consider-donating-to-writer-bill-mantlos-ongoing-care/>

Logo design by Gabriel Rodriguez

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IDW founded by Ted Adams, Alex Garner, Kris Oprisko, and Robbie Robbins

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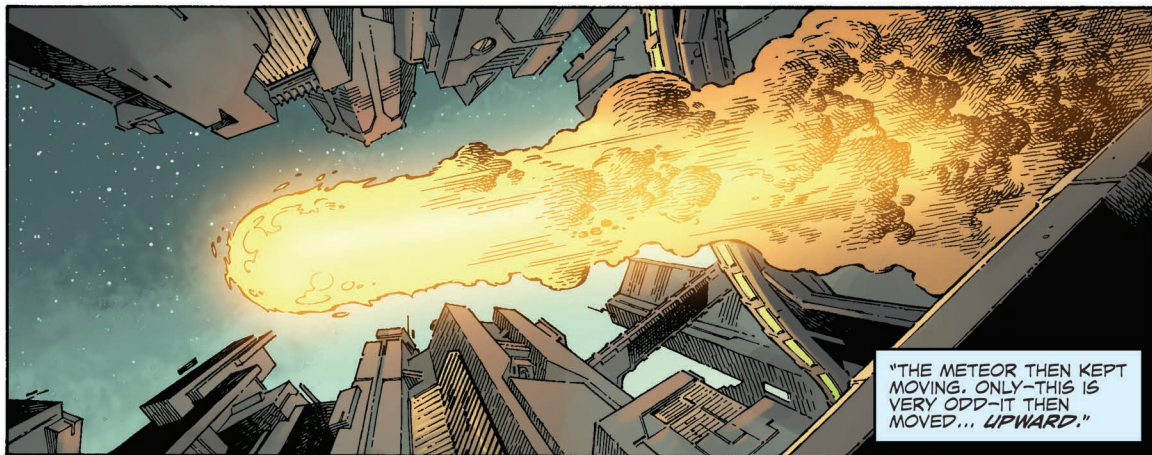
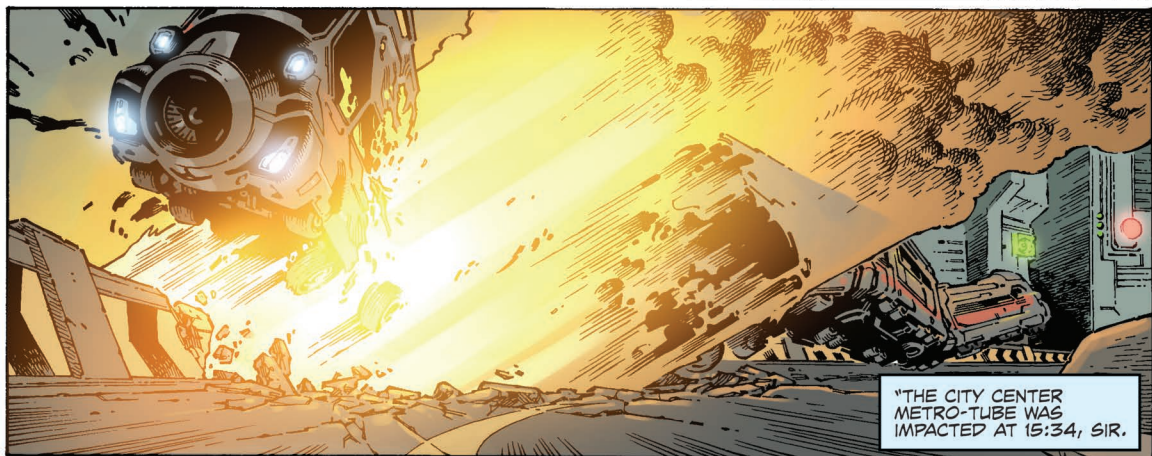
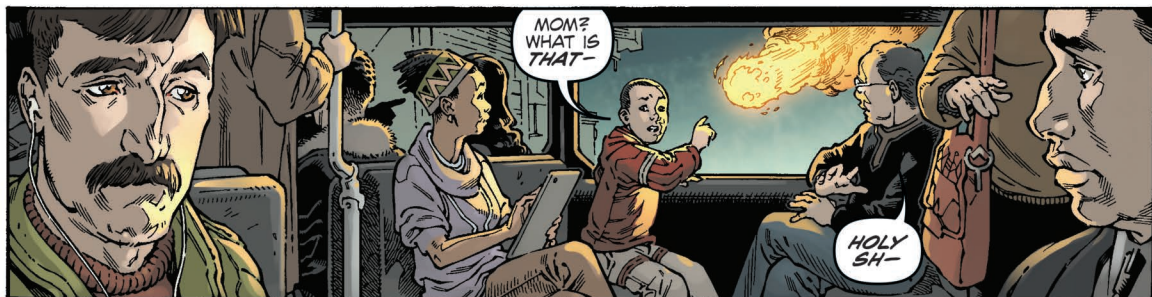




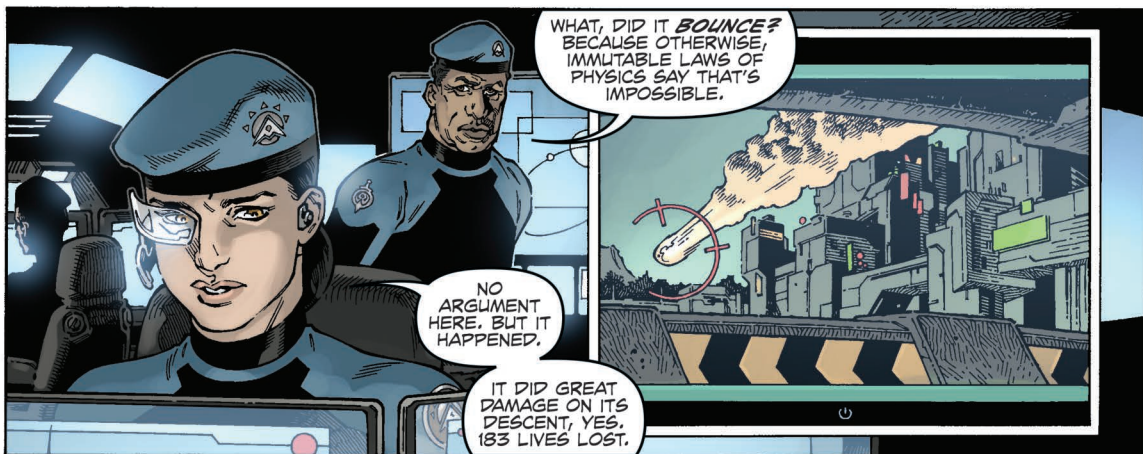
LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
URBAN AREA POPULATION:  
24 MILLION.

CONVEYANCE OF SO MANY  
PEOPLE IN THE OVER-  
CROWDED CITY IS MOST  
EFFICIENTLY HANDLED BY  
PUBLIC MONOTUBE, A VERY  
SAFE MEANS OF TRAVEL.

NORMALLY.



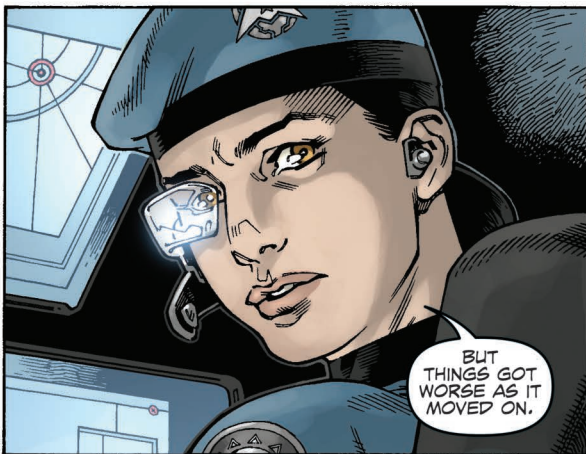




WHAT, DID IT *BOUNCE*? BECAUSE OTHERWISE, IMMUTABLE LAWS OF PHYSICS SAY THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

NO ARGUMENT HERE. BUT IT HAPPENED.

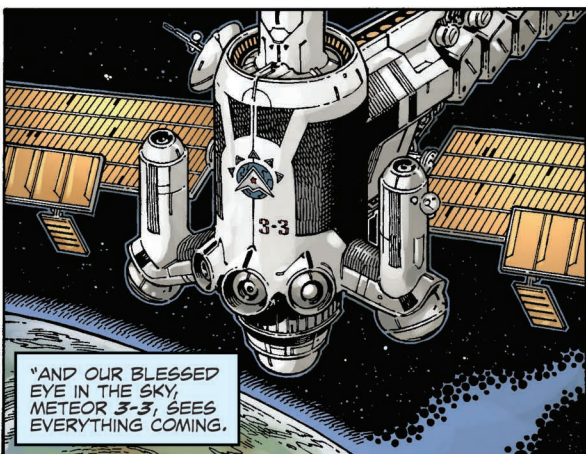
IT DID GREAT DAMAGE ON ITS DESCENT, YES. 183 LIVES LOST.



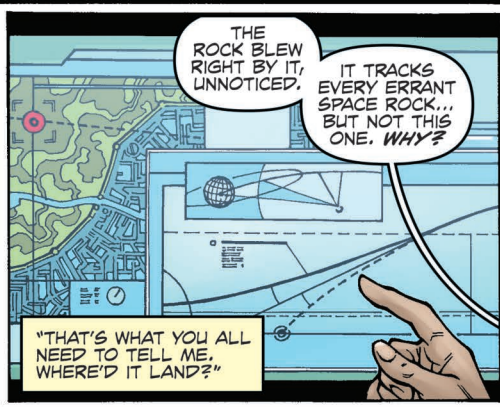
BUT THINGS GOT WORSE AS IT MOVED ON.



"MOST WORRISOME, SOMEHOW THE *EYE* NEVER SAW IT COMING."



"AND OUR BLESSED *EYE* IN THE SKY, METEOR 3-3, SEES EVERYTHING COMING."



THE ROCK BLEW RIGHT BY IT, UNNOTICED.

IT TRACKS EVERY ERRANT SPACE ROCK... BUT NOT THIS ONE. *WHY?*

"THAT'S WHAT YOU ALL NEED TO TELL ME, WHERE'D IT LAND?"

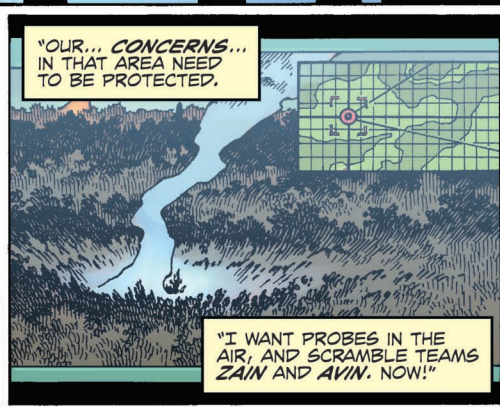


I ASSUME IT *DID* EVENTUALLY LAND?

SIR...! A SECOND BOGIE—SMALLER—JUST IMPACTED NEAR THE FIRST.

CLEAR OF THE CITY, IN THE JUNGLE.

WELL, THAT IS NOT AT ALL GOOD.



"OUR... *CONCERNS*... IN THAT AREA NEED TO BE PROTECTED."

"I WANT PROBES IN THE AIR; AND SCRAMBLE TEAMS *ZAIN* AND *AVIN*. NOW!"



ONYX

CHAPTER ONE:  
**The ARRIVAL**

Creators and Storytellers

CHRIS RYALL & GABRIEL RODRÍGUEZ

Colors JAY FOTOS • Lettering SHAWN LEE • Publisher TED ADAMS

"BEFORE ANYTHING EVEN MORE  
**DANGEROUS** ARRIVES."

SO THIS IS PLANET  
SOL-3- EARTH. ALL  
SEEMS PLACID AT  
FIRST SCAN,, BUT THEN,  
THAT'S NOT USUAL.

THE SPORE TENDS TO  
BE MORE INSIDIOUS  
THAN OBVIOUS, BUT THE  
FACT THAT IT GOT HERE  
AHEAD OF ME MEANS  
THINGS ARE ALREADY  
DIRE, QUIET OR NOT.



AFTER SO MANY  
FAILURES, I HOPE  
AGAINST HOPE I  
HAVE ARRIVED  
HERE IN TIME.

AND IF NOT, I CAN AT  
LEAST GIVE THIS  
PLANET'S INHABITANTS  
THE MERCIFULLY QUICK  
END THAT WAS DENIED  
MY PEOPLE.



THE INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL DEFENSE ARMY TEAM AVIN.  
TEAM ZAIN HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM IN 12 HOURS.



ANY WORD ON ZAIN YET?

NEGATIVE, SIR. ALL COMM REMAINS DEAD.

PERHAPS A BETTER WORD CHOICE NEXT TIME, MY FRIEND.

SILENCE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

I REALLY HOPE IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

**GEN. HAROLD MOUNT**  
CLASSIFIED OPS DIVISION

**KELVIN SAMPSON**  
MARINE CORPS DIVISION

**GALINA "MAPS" VOLKOV**  
AIR FORCE; NAVIGATOR

**TALIA "COSMO" RUDOLPH**  
STRATEGIC SCIENCE DIVISION;  
ASTROPHYSICIST

LONER'S REALLY LIVIN' UP TO HER NAME AGAIN.

OH, LEAVE HER BE. NERVES, MOST LIKELY.

PERHAPS SHE, LIKE ME, IS RELISHING THE THOUGHT OF EXPLORING ACTUAL NATURE.

**VASIEL "CAP" ARBONA**  
MARINE CORPS DIVISION

**CICI "BOOST"**  
MARINE CORPS DIVISION

**JAMES "CASTLE" OSHIRO**  
STRATEGIC SCIENCE DIVISION;  
BIOLOGIST

LABORATORY MUST BE PROTECTED

NEVER SHOT ANYONE

SO ANTISOCIAL

LIVING FLORA

CONCERNS MUST BE PROTECTED

DID I TURN OFF THE STOVE?

BEEN HOURS SINCE TEAM ZAIN

WEAPONS AREN'T FOR SHOW

SHOULD'VE CALLED HIM

NOT HARDLY, JAMES.

ALWAYS KEEPS TO HERSELF

KEEP IT TOGETHER, ABIGAIL. HOLD IT TOGETHER.

WIS GO, PICK THE TEAM

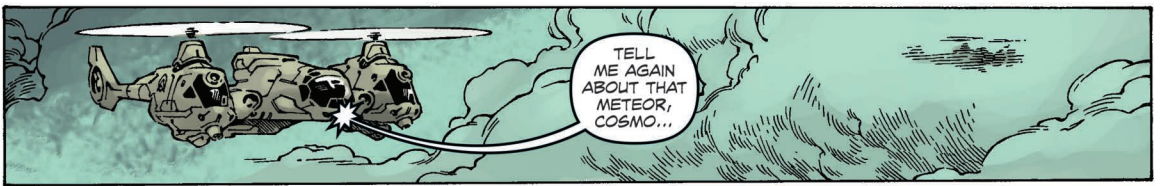
NOT PART OF THE TEAM

NOT SURE WHO SHE THINKS SHE IS

WHO NEEDS HER

**ABIGAIL "LONER" AQUINO**  
PSI OPS DIVISION





TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT THAT METEOR, COSMO...



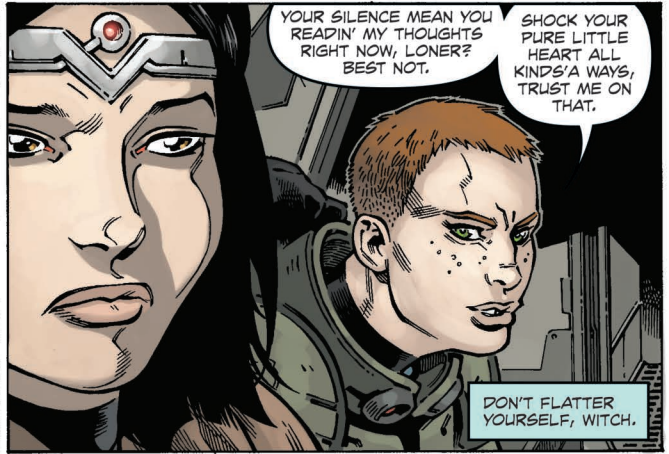
...YOU OR YOUR TEAM EVER SEEN ITS LIKE BEFORE?

NEVER. INANIMATE ROCKS JUST CAN'T MOVE LIKE THAT.



COME ON, STARGAZER. A BAD OL' SPACE ROCK SLIPPED THROUGH AND SMASHED THINGS UP, YES.

BUT IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.



YOUR SILENCE MEAN YOU READIN' MY THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW, LONER? BEST NOT.

SHOCK YOUR PURE LITTLE HEART ALL KINDS'A WAYS, TRUST ME ON THAT.

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, WITCH.



IF I HAD MY WAY, I'D NEVER READ ONE OF YOUR EMPTY THOUGHTS.

THIS LOUSY TECH HEADBAND USED TO BLOCK IT ALL OUT. BUT STATIC FINDS A WAY.

STUCK-UP PSI-FREAK

KNOWS HOW I FEEL

COAL INTO DIAMONDS

SCREW HER

WHY'D WE GET STUCK

HUNGRY

TURN OFF THE STOVE?

ALL THOSE PEOPLE

KINDA HOT, TROUGH

SO MUCH NOISE...

WHAT



IT OCCURS TO ME, IN SUCH FERTILE LAND AS BELOW...

...FLORA AND FAUNA WILL BE THRIVING IN WAYS SOME OF YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN. MY, YES.

A TRUE CHANCE TO COMMUNE WITH THE BEAUTY OF NATURE AND ITS MYRIAD LIFEFORMS...

CHUNK

AHH-HH!