

BUT THAT WON'T WORK. IT COULD TAKE YEARS OF CONSTANT FIGHTING TO EXHAUST THE CREATURE WITH HOW MUCH ENERGY IT HAS ALREADY GATHERED...

THEN WHY EVEN BRING IT UP?

I WAS THINKING ALOUD. THE CREATURE WAS ORIGINALLY SEALED AT GREAT PERSONAL COST TO THE EMPRESS.

EMPIRE! EMPRESS! COLONIES! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

I'M FROM YOUR FUTURE.

THE PRECURSOR EMPIRE WAS ESTABLISHED AFTER THE 7 COLONIES WERE FOUNDED. AFTER 1000 YEARS OF LIVING ON A SATELLITE COLONY THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND A SUITABLE SOLAR SYSTEM TO INHABIT.

YES.

ARE YOU TELLING ME MY PEOPLE NO LONGER NEED TO RETURN TO EARTH! THAT MY LIFE'S MISSION IS INCONSEQUENTIAL!?!?

YOU'RE LYING.

ACCORDING TO HISTORY YOU SPENT 700 YEARS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION ON THE SCOUT SHIP SINCE THE EMPIRE HAD NOT YET FIGURED OUT FASTER THAN LIGHT TRAVEL. A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN 700 YEARS.

TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME!

IN THIS SUPPOSED
FUTURE YOU ARE
FROM, WHAT
HAPPENS TO ME?

ARE YOU SURE YOU
WANT TO KNOW?

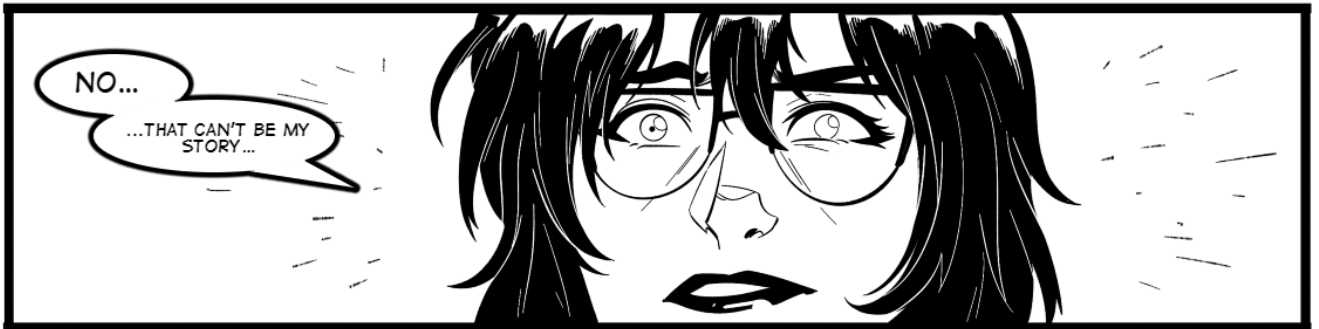
YES! IF NOTHING I DO IS
OF CONSEQUENCE, WHAT
DOES IT MATTER IF I
KNOW?!?

ACCORDING TO THE ARCHIVES
YOU GAIN A PRECURSOR
BODY. THEN YOU GATHER
ALLIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO KILL
THE EMPRESS. AGAINST ALL
ODDS THE EMPRESS DEFEATS
YOU. AND YOU ARE KILLED IN
THE BATTLE.

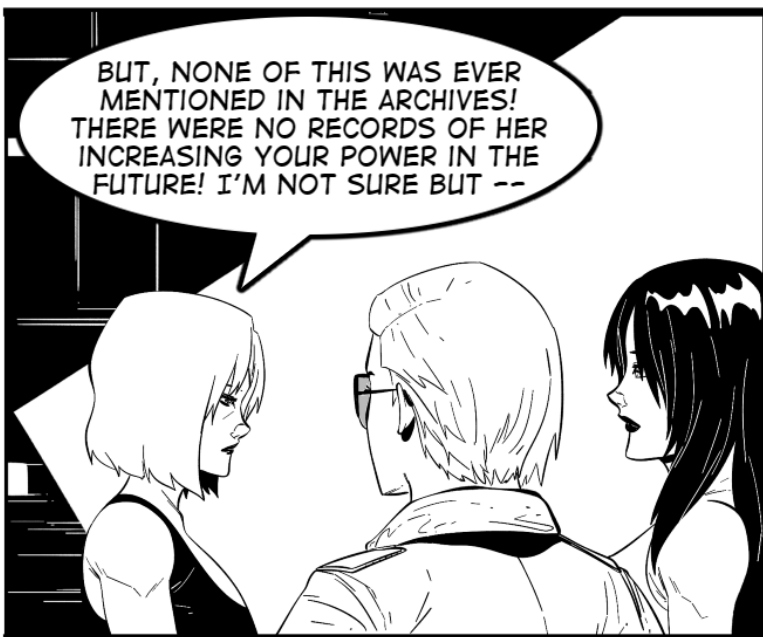


NO...

...THAT CAN'T BE MY
STORY...



BUT, NONE OF THIS WAS EVER
MENTIONED IN THE ARCHIVES!
THERE WERE NO RECORDS OF HER
INCREASING YOUR POWER IN THE
FUTURE! I'M NOT SURE BUT --



WE GOTTA GO! THE
CREATURE WAS
JUST SPOTTED!



ONE HOUR LATER...

SLOW DOWN, EMPRE--
TURBULENCE! WE CAN'T KEEP
UP!

YEAH, THIS FLIGHT
BELT THE BOYS IN
RED COOKED UP ISN'T
NEARLY AS FAST AS
YOU!

SORRY! DIDN'T REALIZE HOW FAST I WAS
GOING. I WONDER HOW FAST I AM
NOW...

HOW FAR UNTIL THE
DESTINATION?

AT OUR CURRENT
RATE WE SHOULD
BE THERE IN 3
MINUTES.

THE CREATURE WAS
LAST SPOTTED IN THIS
EXACT GPS LOCATION.

I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING....

WHAT THE --

WHOOSH

LIGH!





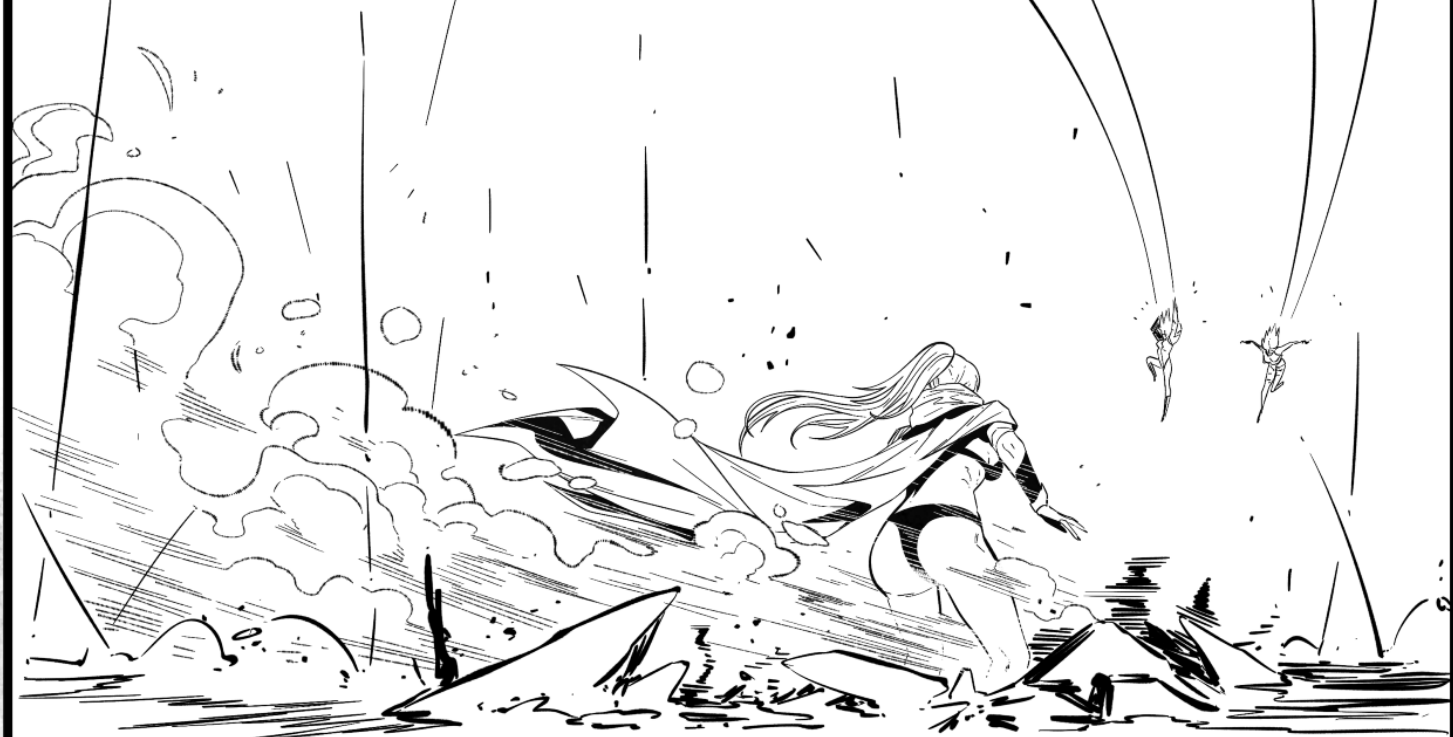
GOT YA!

TRYING TO
GET
AWAY?



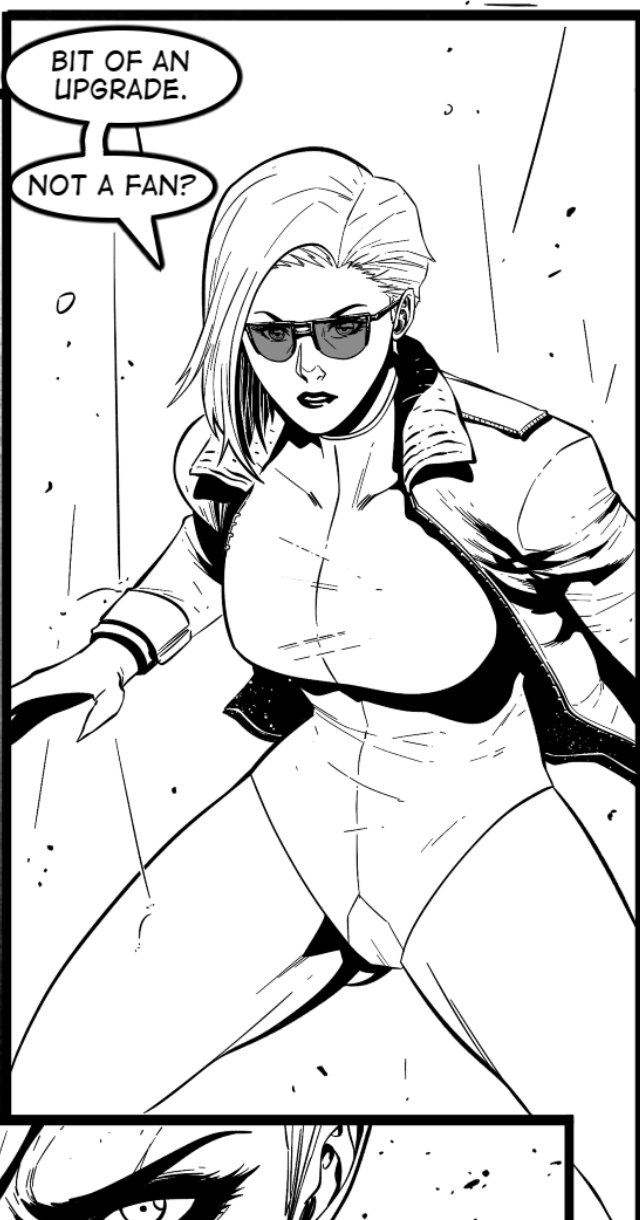
TAKE A
SEAT!

BOOM!



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!?

YOUR ENERGY IS DIFFERENT NOW. IT'S HOT, LIKE A FIRE.

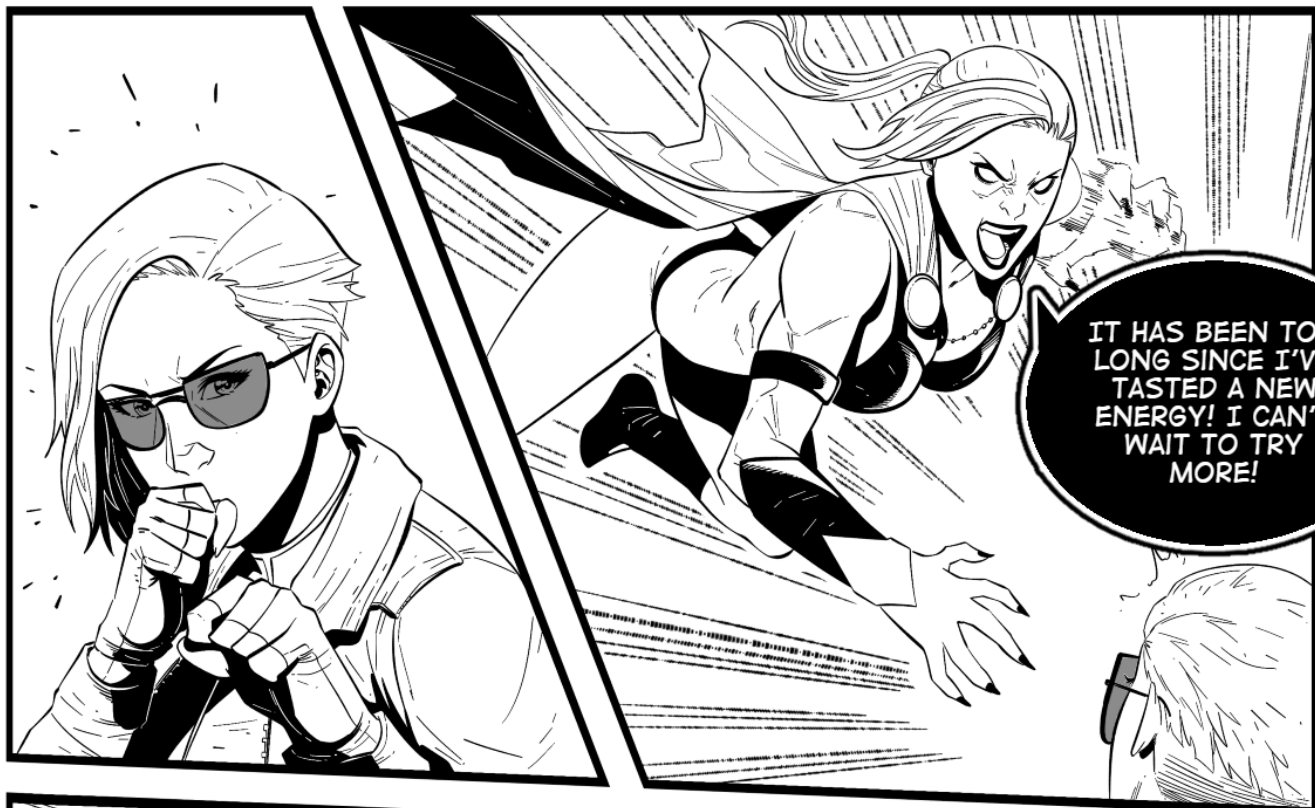


BIT OF AN UPGRADE.

NOT A FAN?



OH NO --



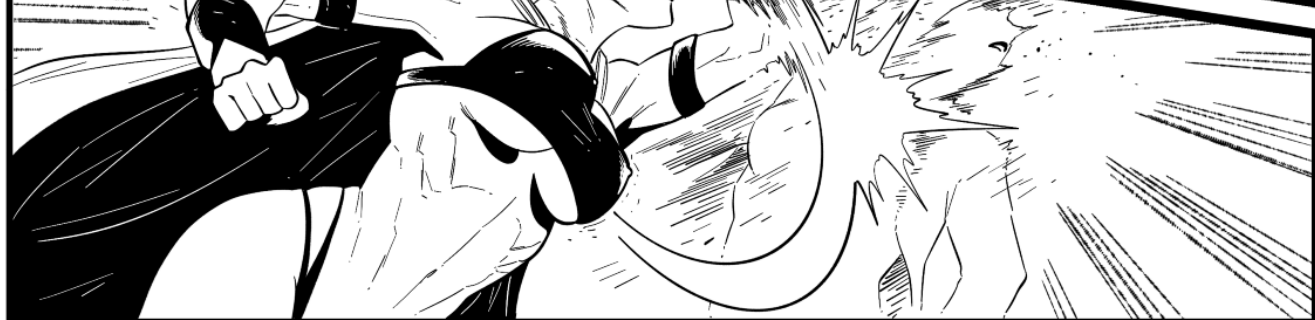
IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I'VE TASTED A NEW ENERGY! I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY MORE!



GREAT, BECAUSE I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW MUCH STRONGER --



AND FASTER, I AM NOW!



NOT FAST ENOUGH!