



SCIENCE FICTION

NO.3 of 3 DEC
\$2.50/3.50 CAN

CHICHESTER
KOBASIC
MAYERIK
De LA ROSA

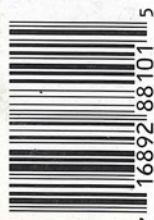
SLIDERS™ DARKEST HOUR

BASED UPON THE HIT TV SERIES!

SOUL SURVIVORS



DIRECT SALES



COUNTLESS EARTHS RUN PARALLEL TO ONE ANOTHER ACROSS INFINITE, ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS.

TRAPPED ON AN INTERDIMENSIONAL JOURNEY, THE SLIDERS HAVE BEEN THE ONE RELATIVE CONSTANT BRIDGING REALITIES...



...UNTIL NOW. UNTIL ZERCVRY MARAUD'S MAD REVENGE.

HIS ALIEN MACHINES TWISTED THE TRAVELERS, TURNING THEM AGAINST THEMSELVES.

QUINN MALLORY'S INTELLECT CAN UNLOCK HIDDEN WORKINGS OF THE UNIVERSE.

HE'S BECOME SMALL MINDED ENOUGH TO STEAL A YOUNG CHILD'S SECRET TREASURE.

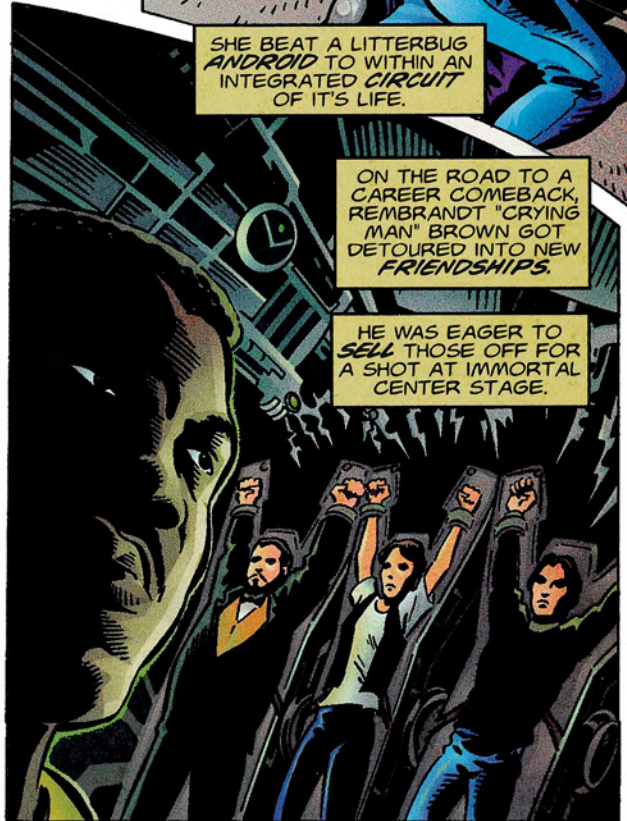


A DEEP-SEATED REVERENCE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS IS AT THE HEART OF WADE KATHLEEN WELLS.

SHE BEAT A LITTERBUG ANDROID TO WITHIN AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT OF IT'S LIFE.

ON THE ROAD TO A CAREER COMEBACK, REMBRANDT "CRYING MAN" BROWN GOT DETOURED INTO NEW FRIENDSHIPS.

HE WAS EAGER TO SELL THOSE OFF FOR A SHOT AT IMMORTAL CENTER STAGE.



TICKING CLOCK

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EACH OF THE SLIDERS FACES
LOSING WHO THEY ARE TO THE
HUNGRY SHADOW-SIDE
GROWING INSIDE THEM.

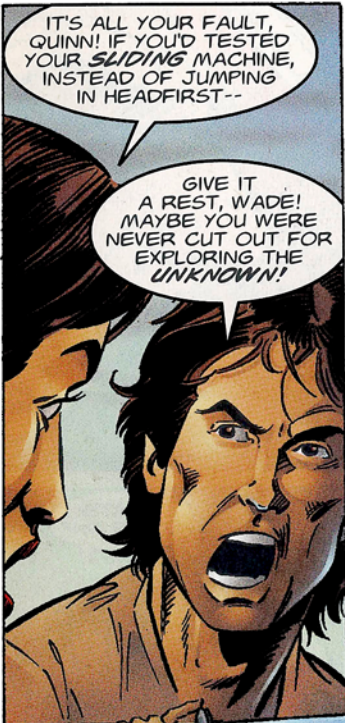
AND THE NIGHT'S
STILL YOUNG.

YOU
SHOULDA
LET US PLAY
WHERE WE
WANTED!

NOW YOU
GONNA PAY,
UH-HUH--
NOW YOU
GONNA GET
YOURS!

FINISH
THEM!



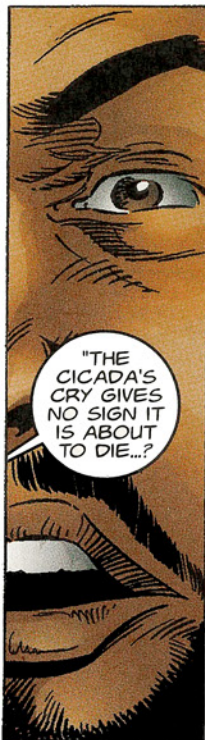




YOU HAVE OFFENDED OUR YOUNG MASTERS!

A RONIN HAS NO MASTER!

YAGATE SHINU
KESHIKI WA MIEZU
SEMI NO KOE.



"THE CICADA'S CRY GIVES NO SIGN IT IS ABOUT TO DIE...?"



WHY DO YOU SAY THIS?

IT'S WHAT YOU ARE! BLISTERING, BLUSTERING IDIOTS! IGNORANT OF YOUR OWN DEMISE.

NOISY SWORDPLAY CAN'T MASK THE FACT YOU'VE SET YOURSELVES UP TO BE A DYING BREED.



YOU'VE SOLD YOUR SAMURAI HERITAGE OF HONOR AND LOYALTY FOR MERCENARY COMFORT!

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK SUCH A PROUD TRADITION CAN SURVIVE SUCH COMPROMISE?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS FEELS LIKE THE LATEST INSTALLMENT OF "ZATOICHI!"



QUIT YAKKING!



SILENCE!



WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

PROFESSOR MAXIMILLIAN ARTURO!

THE MAN'S GOT AN AUDIENCE. CAN SOUVENIR T-SHIRTS BE FAR BEHIND?



YOU ARE A MAN OF CHARACTER AND FORCE OF WILL.

WE WILL SERVE YOU, DAIMYO ARTURO. NOT AS RONIN... BUT AS SAMURAI!

FORGET THAT!
YOU GUYS WORK--



AND IF THESE OFFEND YOUR SENSES...

--FOR US?



J-J-JUST TALK, MAN... Y'KNOW.

"CHUNKY HAIRBALL"?

WE HOPE.



CHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!

OR BETTER YET...NEITHER! NOW RUN!

THERE WILL BE MANY EAGER TO FOLLOW YOUR LEADERSHIP!



NATURALLY.

REALITY CHECK, PROFESSOR!



NAMELY, WE DON'T BELONG IN THIS ONE!



YOU WILL NOT TAKE DAIMYO ARTURO FROM US!

CHILL, CHOP-SOCKEY! THE PROF IS NO ANCIENT JAPANESE SHOW-OFF!

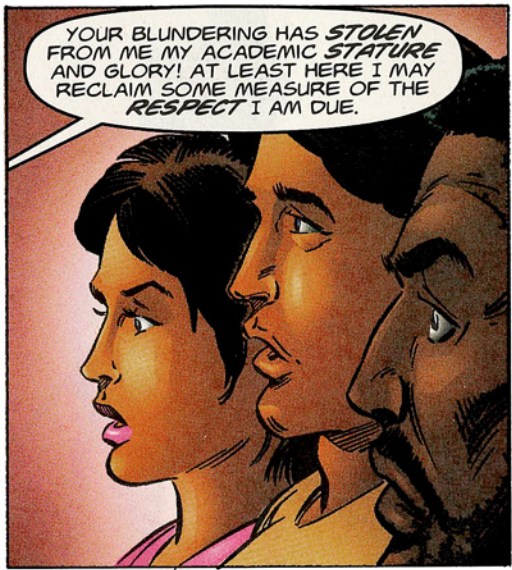
REMBRANDT... I THINK YOU MEAN "SHOGUN!"

WITH THE PROFESSOR, IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE SAME!

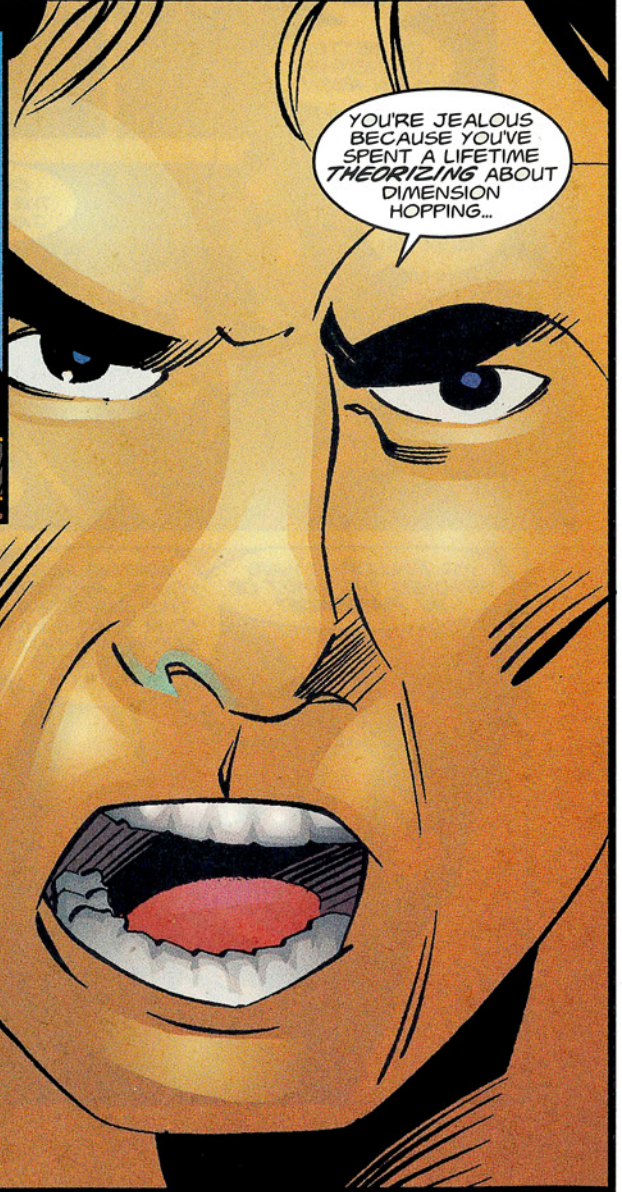
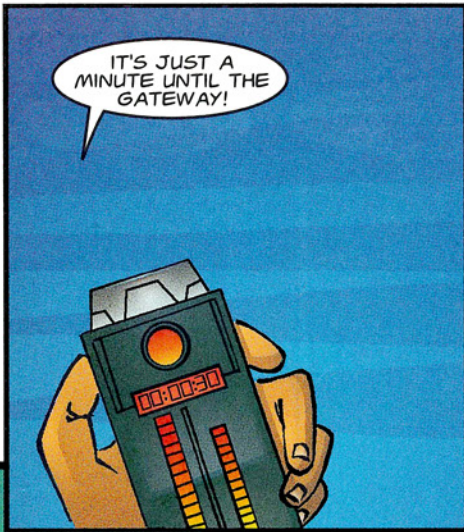


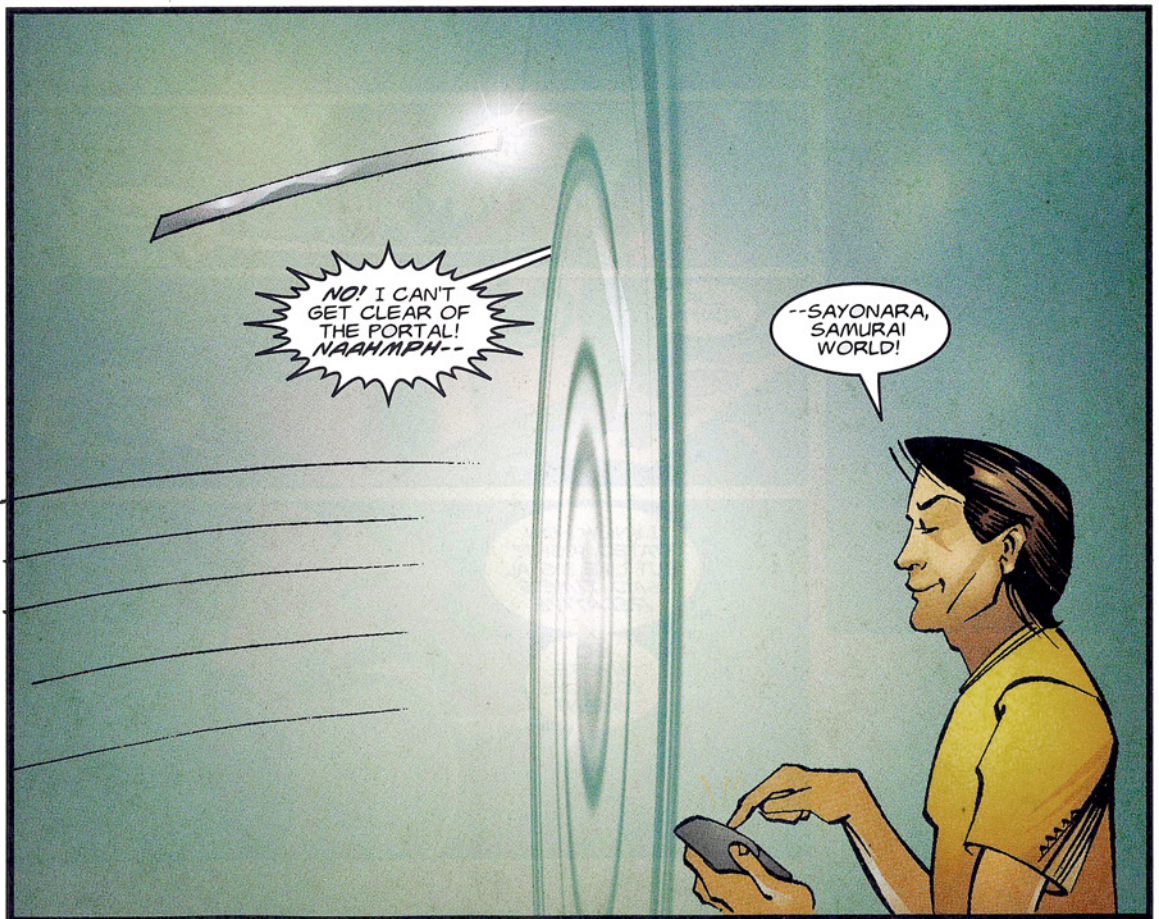
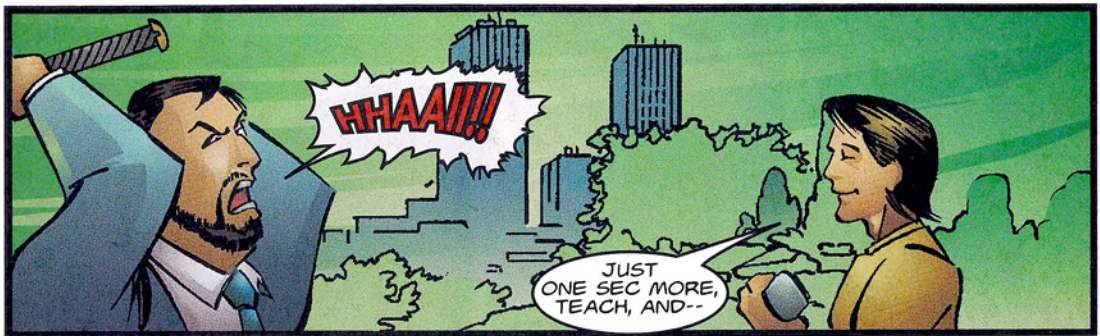
MR. MALLORY, I HAVE REACHED THE LIMIT OF MY PATIENCE!

WAITING FOR YOU TO REMEDY THIS DISASTER YOUR SLIDING HAS SET IN MOTION IS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY!



YOUR BLUNDERING HAS *STOLEN* FROM ME MY ACADEMIC STATURE AND GLORY! AT LEAST HERE I MAY RECLAIM SOME MEASURE OF THE *RESPECT* I AM DUE.









"BEEN?"

SURE, Y'KNOW--
WEEKS, MONTHS,
WHATEVER!



LIKE I SAID,
TIME'S A SLIPPERY
THING.

DOIN' A LITTLE
TIMOTHY LEARY
DROP OUT HOMAGE,
HUH? THAT'S
GROOVY.

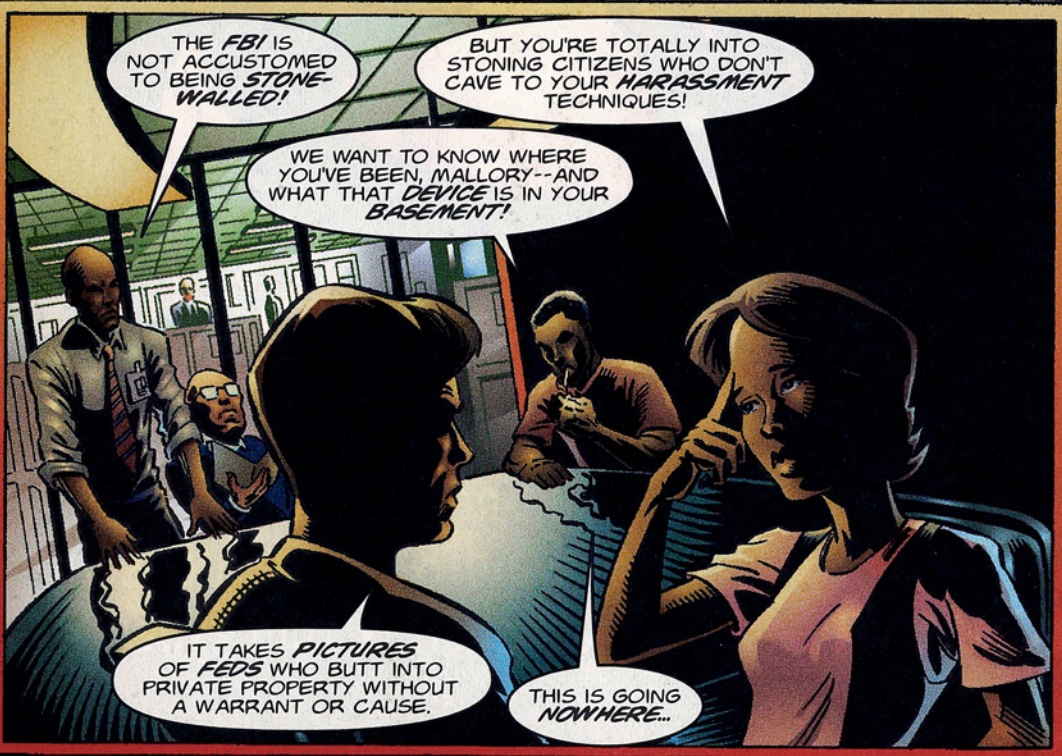
IF WE'VE
BEEN
MISSING...

"...THIS COULD
BE HOME!"

BACK FROM THE
"WHERE HAVE THEY
BEEN?" FILE, THE
CRYING MAN HAS
EMERGED--



--FROM
WHAT MANY
BELIEVED TO BE
AN ELVIS-INSPIRED
SECLUSION...



THE FBI IS
NOT ACCUSTOMED
TO BEING STONE-
WALLED!

BUT YOU'RE TOTALLY INTO
STONING CITIZENS WHO DON'T
CAVE TO YOUR HARASSMENT
TECHNIQUES!

WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE
YOU'VE BEEN, MALLORY--AND
WHAT THAT DEVICE IS IN YOUR
BASEMENT!

IT TAKES PICTURES
OF FEDS WHO BUTT INTO
PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT
A WARRANT OR CAUSE.

THIS IS GOING
NOWHERE...

CASE CLOSED



THE STUDENT BODY HAS BEEN POORER FOR YOUR ABSENCE, MAX!

EDUCATION NEEDS A MAN OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND INTEGRITY!

THAT'S VERY KIND, DEAN. IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK...

...AND IT'S TIME TO REESTABLISH THIS UNIVERSITY'S SCIENTIFIC PREEMINENCE.



AS WELL AS MY OWN...

SLIDING ACROSS THE EINSTEIN-ROSEN BRIDGE: PRINCIPLES & APPLICATIONS OF INTERDIMENSIONAL AND ALTERNATE REALITIES BY MAXIMILLIAN ARTURO & QUINN MALLORY

THE SCREEN APPEARS SOMEWHAT ...CROWDED.



KLIK



THAT'S BETTER!

I KNOW IT'S NOT RIGHT...

...BUT IT CERTAINLY FEELS THE THING TO DO!



I'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF CAREER IDEAS, JIMMY...

YOU'RE LUCKY TO STILL HAVE A CAREER, REMBRANDT! AFTER YOU BLEW THAT BALLPARK GIG...

...TEMPERAMENTAL WORKS FOR PEARL JAM, *NOT* FOR THE CRYING MAN!



THAT VANISHING ACT, THOUGH--SAVVY MOVE!



PROMPTED MUCHO INTEREST IN YOUR BACKLIST!

RECORD COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MOVING SIGNIFICANT UNITS...

...AND I'VE GOT PLENTY OF NOSTALGIA BOOKINGS FOR YOU TO PLAY!



NOSTALGIA? I'M LOOKING TO MOVE FORWARD, MAN!

LISTEN...YOUR AGE, PLUS THE STAGE, *EQUALS* YOU TAKE WHAT COMES YOUR WAY.



YOU LISTEN, WEASEL--I'LL TAKE ALL I CAN GET!

ULLGFK!



DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW THE SCAMS YOU RUN!

EVERY NEW ACT THAT COMES THROUGH HERE, YOU CUT YOURSELF IN FOR AN EXTRA PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TAKE!



I THINK I CAN RIDE THAT EASY STREET, TOO!



YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

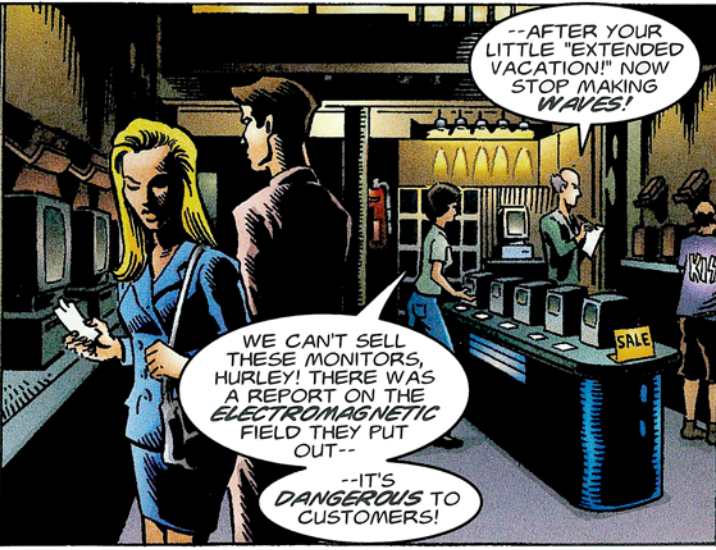
THIS IS A NEW IMAGE FOR YOU, CRYING MAN...



...BUT YOU'RE IN! IT'S COOL!



"YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO EVEN HAVE A JOB, WADE--"



--AFTER YOUR LITTLE "EXTENDED VACATION!" NOW STOP MAKING WAVES!

WE CAN'T SELL THESE MONITORS, HURLEY! THERE WAS A REPORT ON THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD THEY PUT OUT--

--IT'S DANGEROUS TO CUSTOMERS!





THIS "SLIDING",
QUINN...OTHER
DIMENSIONS...IT'S
FANTASTIC



IT'S
THE TRUTH,
MOM.



I DON'T DOUBT THAT!
YOU ARE SUCH YOUR
FATHER'S SON.

I BELIEVE YOUR
STORIES...BUT IT'S MORE
IMPORTANT TO ME THAT
YOU'RE BACK!



I EXPECTED
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS,
THOUGH.

LIKE YOUR
DAD...*WILD*
IDEAS LEADING
TO *WILD*
PREDICA-
MENTS!



ABOUT
DAD...



BLAME
DAD. IT'S
HIS WORK
THAT GOT ME
STARTED...



YOU KNOW
I'VE BEEN
MEANING
TO TELL YOU
FOR A LONG
TIME....



YOU KNOW ALL
THE GRIEF YOU ALWAYS
GIVE ME ABOUT MY
EXPERIMENTS?

*BLOWING FUSES...
LATE HOURS...TOO
MUCH TIME IN THE
BASEMENT?*



*DID YOU EVER
THINK ABOUT WHAT
KIND OF GRIEF YOUR
HARPING DID TO DAD
ON HIS WORK?*

QUINN! IT
WAS ALWAYS
GOOD
NATURED! I
NEVER--



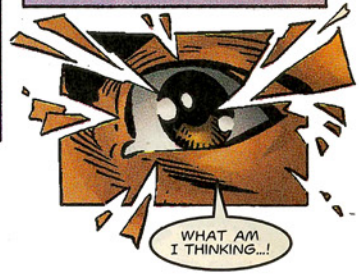
YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT, MOM--BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU DID.

WHILE DAD SLAVED TO MAKE HIS IDEAS REAL... YOUR "GOOD NATURED" STRESS DROVE HIM TO THE GRAVE!

QUINN, I...



KRTASSH



WHAT AM I THINKING...!



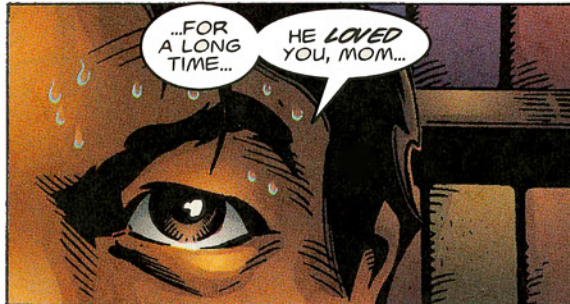
LOOK HOW CLUMSY...



I GET SO EMOTIONAL JUST THINKING ABOUT YOUR FATHER!

WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY, HONEY?

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU...



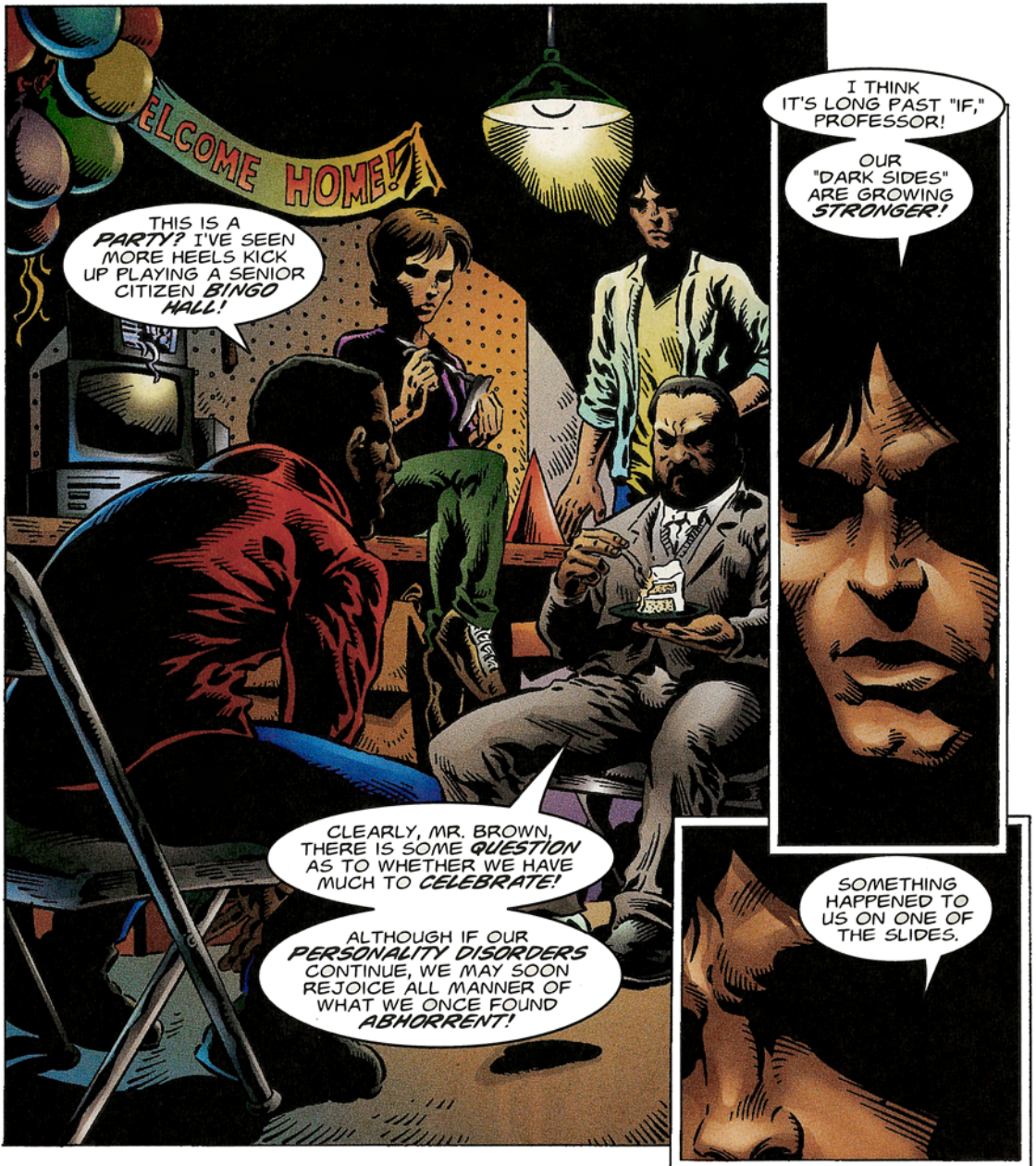
...FOR A LONG TIME...

HE LOVED YOU, MOM...



...SO VERY MUCH.





THIS IS A PARTY? I'VE SEEN MORE HEELS KICK UP PLAYING A SENIOR CITIZEN BINGO HALL!

I THINK IT'S LONG PAST "IF," PROFESSOR!

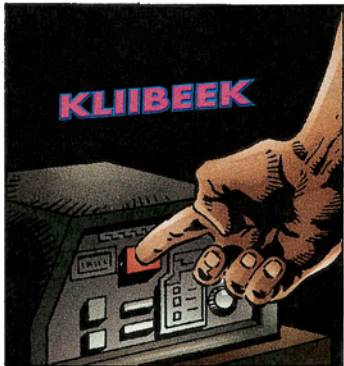
OUR "DARK SIDES" ARE GROWING STRONGER!

CLEARLY, MR. BROWN, THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE MUCH TO CELEBRATE!

ALTHOUGH IF OUR PERSONALITY DISORDERS CONTINUE, WE MAY SOON REJOICE ALL MANNER OF WHAT WE ONCE FOUND ABHORRENT!



SOMETHING HAPPENED TO US ON ONE OF THE SLIDES.

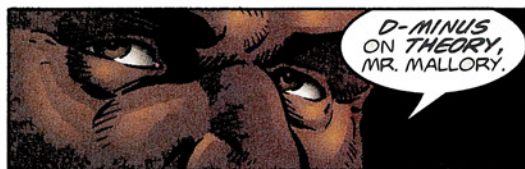
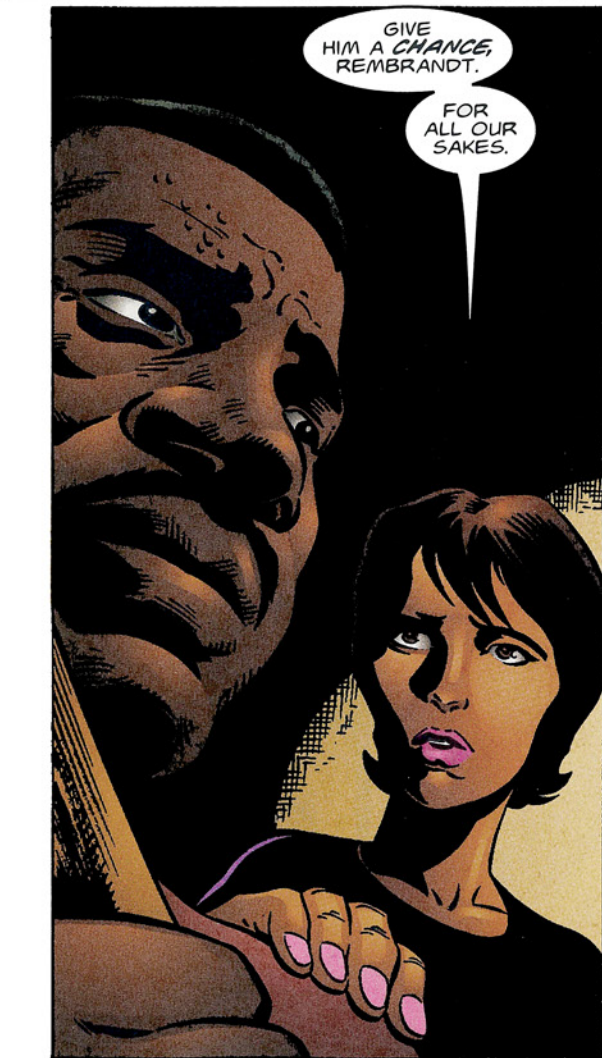


KLIIBEEK



AND THE ONLY WAY TO SET THINGS RIGHT AGAIN IS TO GO BACK THROUGH!

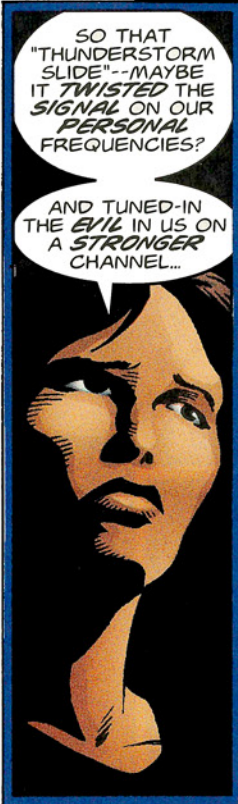
FWOOOSH





AH-HA! I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

WHEN WE SLIDE, WE'D BE SHIFTING "PHYSICAL FREQUENCIES," ALLOWING US TO SUDDENLY PERCEIVE A NEW DIMENSION!



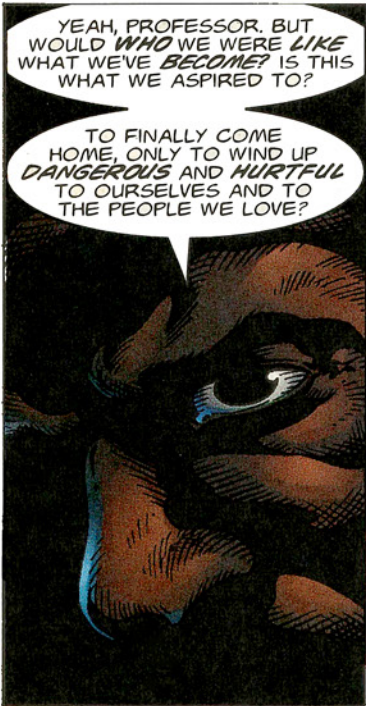
SO THAT "THUNDERSTORM SLIDE"--MAYBE IT TWISTED THE SIGNAL ON OUR PERSONAL FREQUENCIES?

AND TUNED-IN THE EVIL IN US ON A STRONGER CHANNEL...



EVIL IS A MORAL JUDGEMENT, MISS WELLS. IT CAN BE ARGUED WE HAVE SIMPLY BEEN FOCUSING ON THE MORE AGGRESSIVE ASPECTS OF OUR NATURE!

SUCH AN "EDGE" CAN PROVE A VALUABLE TOOL.



YEAH, PROFESSOR. BUT WOULD WHO WE WERE LIKE WHAT WE'VE BECOME? IS THIS WHAT WE ASPIRED TO?

TO FINALLY COME HOME, ONLY TO WIND UP DANGEROUS AND HURTFUL TO OURSELVES AND TO THE PEOPLE WE LOVE?



I'VE MADE ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON THE TIMER READ-OUTS FROM THAT SLIDE WHERE EVERYTHING CHANGED.

IT SHOULD "PHASE BACK" OUR FREQUENCIES AND REBOUND US TO THE BASEMENT!



IT COULD ALSO KILL US, MR. MALLORY! OR DOOM US TO A NEW, ENDLESS SERIES OF SLIDES!



THAT'S THE *CHANCE* WE TAKE PROFESSOR.

AND THE *CHOICE* WE MAKE WHILE WE'VE STILL GOT THE *ETHICAL BACKBONE* TO MAKE IT.

NOW'S THE TIME...BEFORE WE *CHANGE* SO MUCH IT DON'T MATTER TO US ANY MORE!



EVERYTHING OKAY DOWN THERE WITH YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, QUINN?



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START *BLOWING FUSES* AGAIN, ARE YOU?



NOTHING TO...WORRY ABOUT! WE'RE HAVING--A GREAT TIME.

I LOVE YOU, MOM...



...SO VERY MUCH.

ON AN "ORDINARY" JOURNEY,
THE SLIDING EXPERIENCE IS A
PSYCHEDELIC ROLLER COASTER
DOWN A *GUT WRENCHING* TRACK
OF SUPER-CHARGED *PLASMA*.

BAD AS THAT MIGHT BE, IT'S
EASIER TO THINK OF IT AS A *RIDE*.

BUT IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE
TO THROW YOURSELF INTO THE KIND OF
RAW ENERGY THAT WARPS AND TEARS
REALITY ITSELF.

IMAGINE HANDING
YOURSELF OVER TO THAT
PRIMAL FORCE...



...AND HAVING THE HOPE
AND FAITH YOU MIGHT
SURVIVE THE ORDEAL.



WE
MADE IT...
BUT AS
WHO?



I'D SAY
"BARBECUE,"
UNLESS WE
MOVE--
FAST!

MY
EQUIPMENT!

YOU'VE GOT
TO STOP BUYING
THOSE *CHEAP*
FUSES, QUINN!





CAN YOU FEEL IT, GUYS? LIKE A **WEIGHT'S** BEEN **LIFTED!**

OR PUT **BACK** IN IT'S **PLACE!** I THINK WE'RE **FREE!**

MOM! SHE WAS **INSIDE--**



CALM YOURSELF, MY BOY... I'M SURE SHE LEFT BEFORE THE FIRE BEGAN!



GET THAT **PUMPER** AROUND **BACK!**

OR MAYBE... SHE WAS **NEVER HERE.** WHEREVER THIS IS...

SO MUCH FOR OUR **HOME-COMING.**



I'M SORRY, GUYS. I'VE **LED** US ALL **BACK** INTO **WEIRDNESS...** **UNCERTAINTY...** **ANGER...**

ALL TOO TRUE, Q-BALL!

BUT IT'S AS **OUR-SELVES** WE'RE DOING IT!



AND WHO BETTER TO **FACE** THE **ADVENTURES** AHEAD--



--THAN WITH **EACH OTHER?**

THE END... FOR NOW!