

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA

TURTLES

25



John Eastman

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

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PENCILS • INKS

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PENCILS (PAGES 6, 26, 46, COVER)

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PENCILS • INKS (PAGES 48-49)

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SPECIAL THANKS

TALES OF THE TMNT

"CHRISTMAS PAST"

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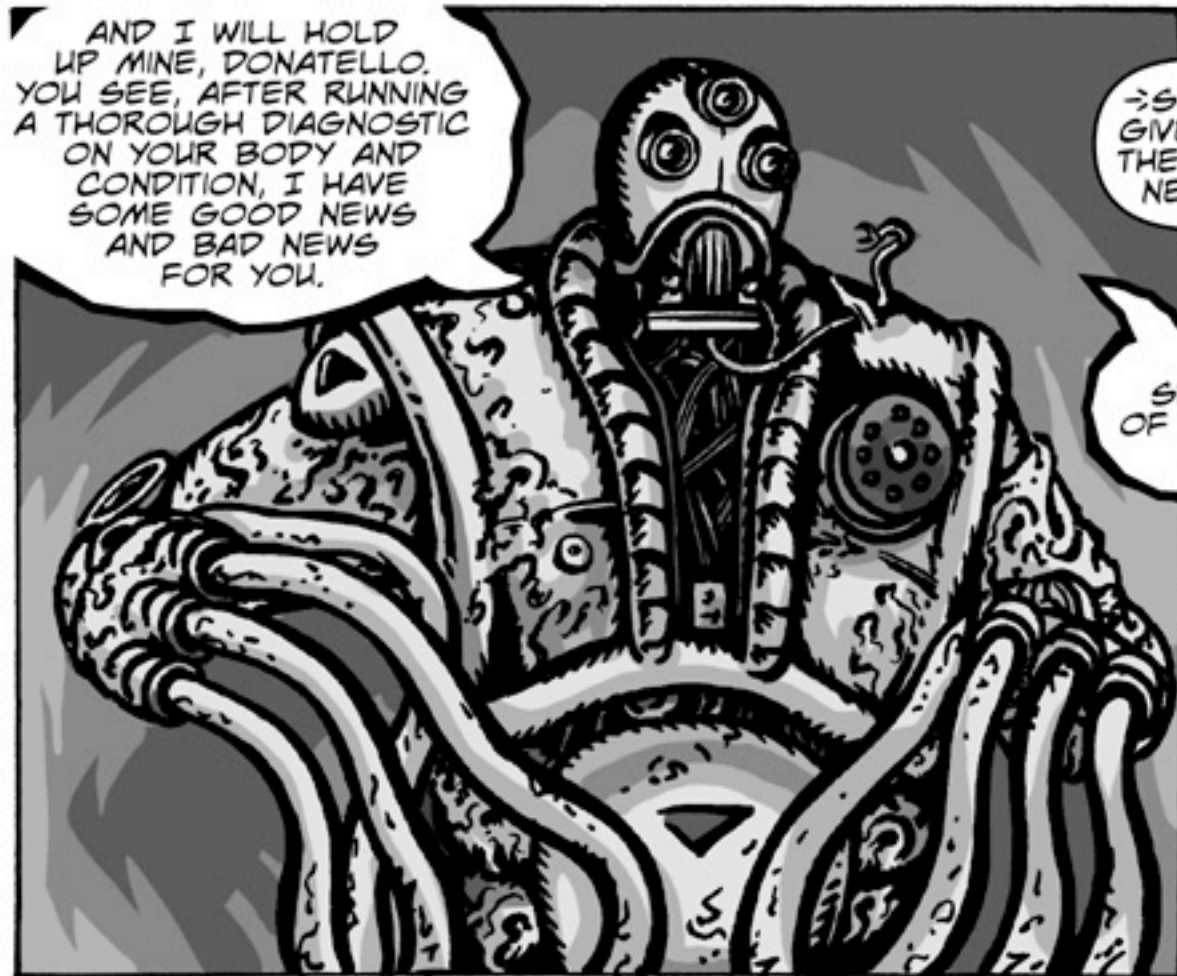
PENCILS • INKS

PIN-UPS

JIM LAWSON

FRANK FOSCO





AND I WILL HOLD UP MINE, DONATELLO. YOU SEE, AFTER RUNNING A THOROUGH DIAGNOSTIC ON YOUR BODY AND CONDITION, I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR YOU.

>SIGH<
GIVE ME THE BAD NEWS.

HOW SPORTING OF YOU! VERY WELL.



THE BAD NEWS IS THAT YOUR BODY'S NATURAL IMMUNE SYSTEM HAS BEGUN TO COMPLETELY REJECT YOUR METAL SKIN. IT MUST BE EXORCISED FROM YOUR BODY ENTIRELY BEFORE THIS KILLS YOU... AND IT *WILL* KILL YOU.

I CAN ONLY HOLD IT AT BAY-- CONSIDER ME YOUR OWN PERSONAL TEMPORARY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.



I THINK I'M READY FOR SOME GOOD NEWS NOW, STOCKMAN.

I SHOULD THINK SO. WELL...

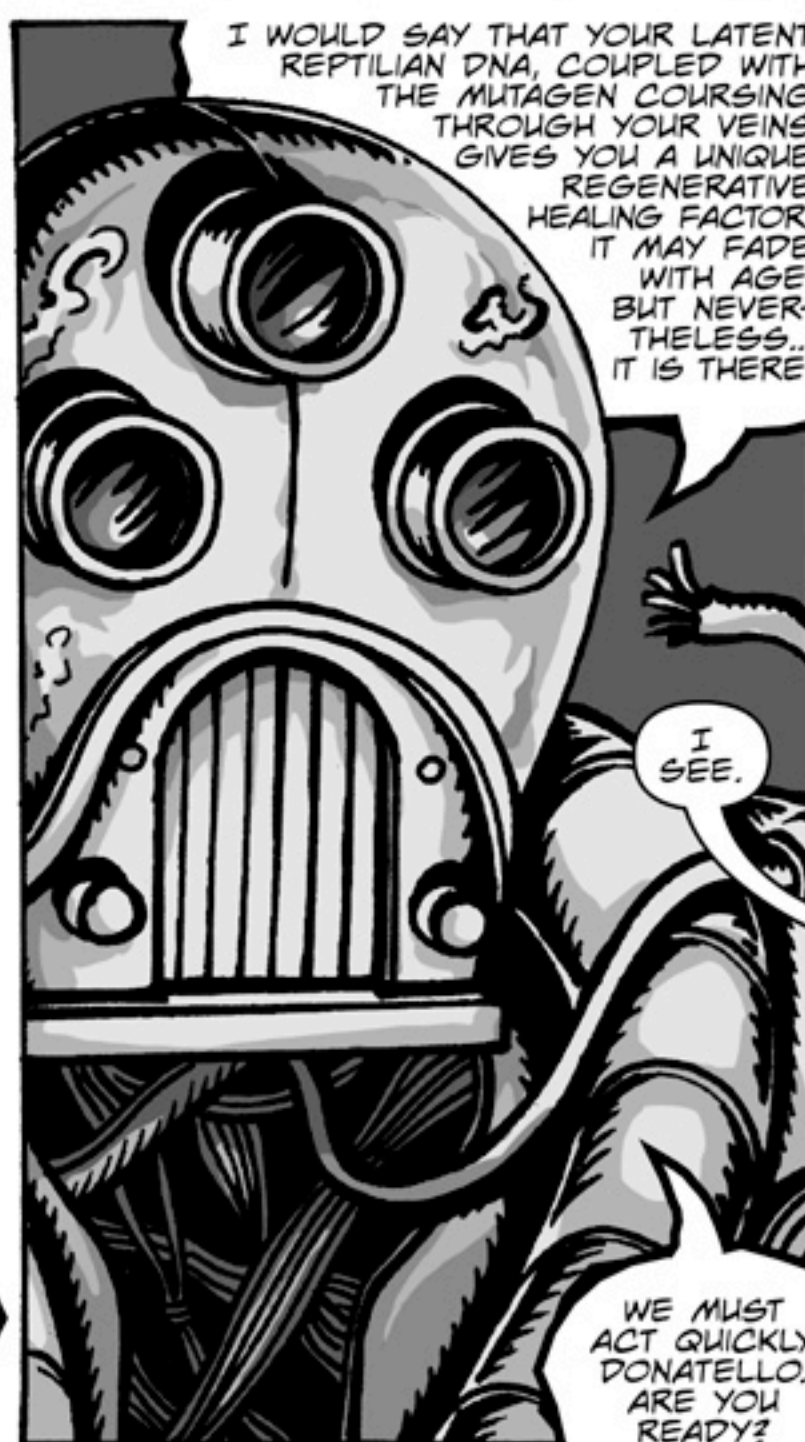


THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOUR SHELL HAS REGENERATED ON ITS OWN. I SUSPECT IT'S TAKEN THE LAST YEAR TO DO SO-- THE NANITES WITHIN YOUR METAL SKIN HAVE BEEN RETARDING THE HEALING PROCESS'S COMING TO FRUITION SINCE THE BEGINNING.

TH-- THAT'S GREAT... BUT HOW? I THOUGHT THE METALS I HAVE MUTATED TO MATCH MY DNA?

OH, THEY *DID* THEY ARE JUST NO LONGER FOOLING YOUR *REAL* DNA.

LOOK, IF I HAD TO SPECULATE...



I WOULD SAY THAT YOUR LATENT REPTILIAN DNA, COUPLED WITH THE MUTAGEN COURSEING THROUGH YOUR VEINS GIVES YOU A UNIQUE REGENERATIVE HEALING FACTOR. IT MAY FADE WITH AGE, BUT NEVERTHELESS... IT IS THERE.

I SEE.

WE MUST ACT QUICKLY, DONATELLO. ARE YOU READY?



«AUTHORITIES
WILL BE HERE
SHORTLY. SHALL
WE DEPART?»

MY LADY
SHREDDER, I
CAN STILL SENSE
THE RAT. HE IS HERE--
OUR ATTACK WAS
INEFFECTIVE!

OH?



STICK
WITH ME,
C'MON. KEEP
THE NOISE
DOWN.

YEAH,
YEAH.

GOD BLESS
THE WESTWOOD
DRAINAGE SEWER...
KEEPING YOU
CONNECTED
24/7!



NO
RESPECT
FOR THE
DEAD, THESE
FOOT.

WAIT... YOU
MEAN THERE
ACTUALLY **WERE**
DEAD BODIES IN
THERE WITH US
THE WHOLE
TIME?

CAN'T SLIP
ONE PAST MR.
PUBLISHED WRITER,
CAN WE? NO, IT WAS
A **VAULT**, REMEMBER?
CASKETS IN THE WINTER
ONLY... AND THAT WAS
DECADES
BACK.

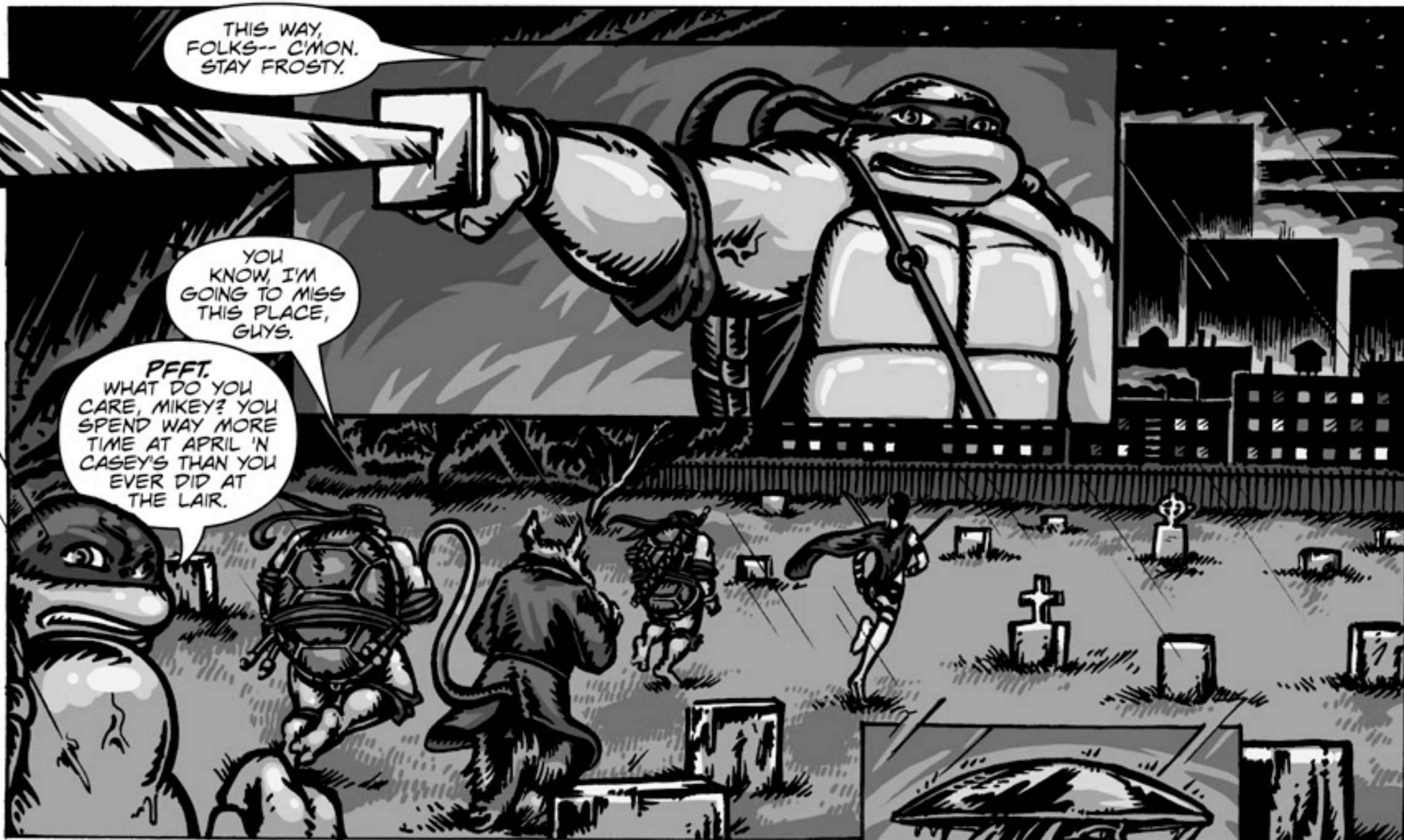
YOU
SCREWIN'
WITH ME?

COME,
MY SONS.
WE MUST TAKE
OUR LEAVE.

THIS WAY, FOLKS-- C'MON. STAY FROSTY.

YOU KNOW, I'M GOING TO MISS THIS PLACE, GUYS.

PFFT. WHAT DO YOU CARE, MIKEY? YOU SPEND WAY MORE TIME AT APRIL 'N CASEY'S THAN YOU EVER DID AT THE LAIR.



YEAH, WELL... SHADOW CAN'T BABYSIT HERSELF, CAN SHE?

MAKING OUT WITH THE SPIKEY BROAD... THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF BABYSITTIN'?

"SPIKEY BROAD"?

WHAT IS THE PLAN? WE DO HAVE A PLAN, YES?

ASK THE FEARLESS LEADER, YO, LEO! HEY!

KEEP IT DOWN, RAPHAEL!



KLADY SHREDDER-- THEY ARE ESCAPING!!!

CURSE THEM... FOOT, FOLLOW THE TURTLES! FOLLOW THEM!







THIS
ENDS HERE
TONIGHT!

@#!%IN'
A.





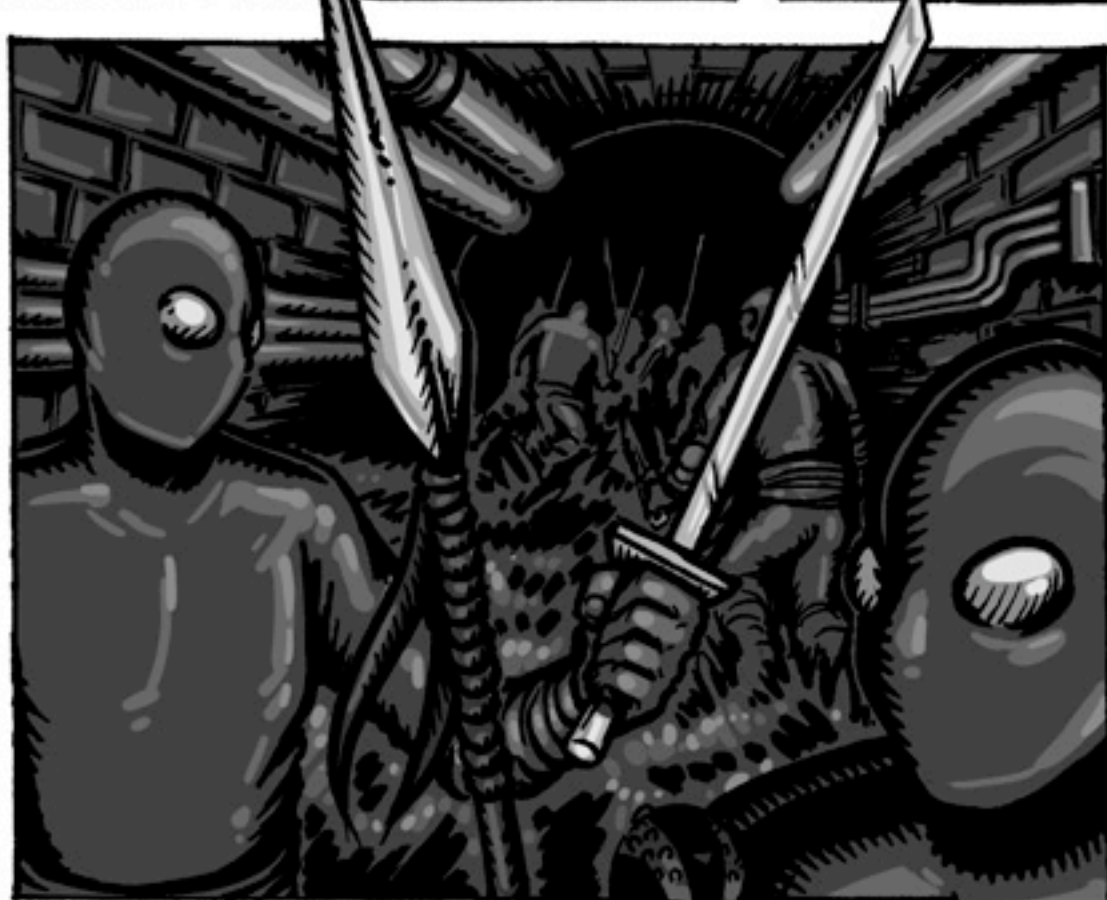


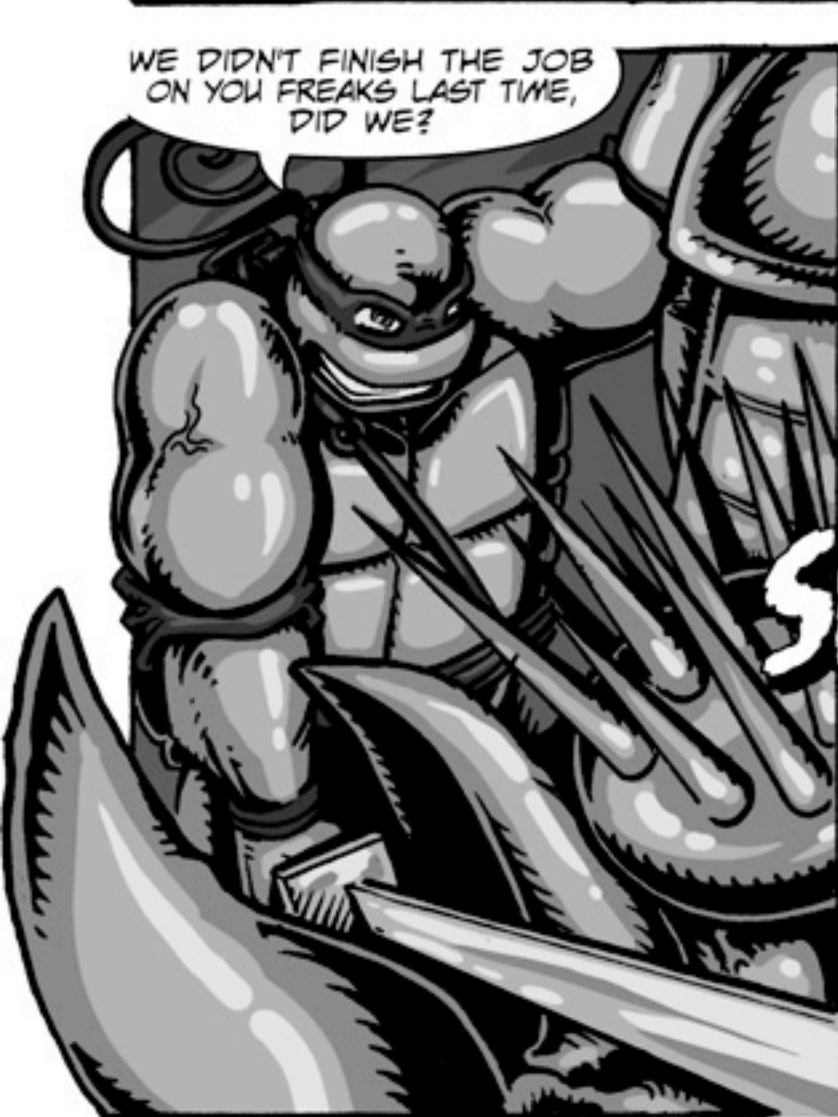


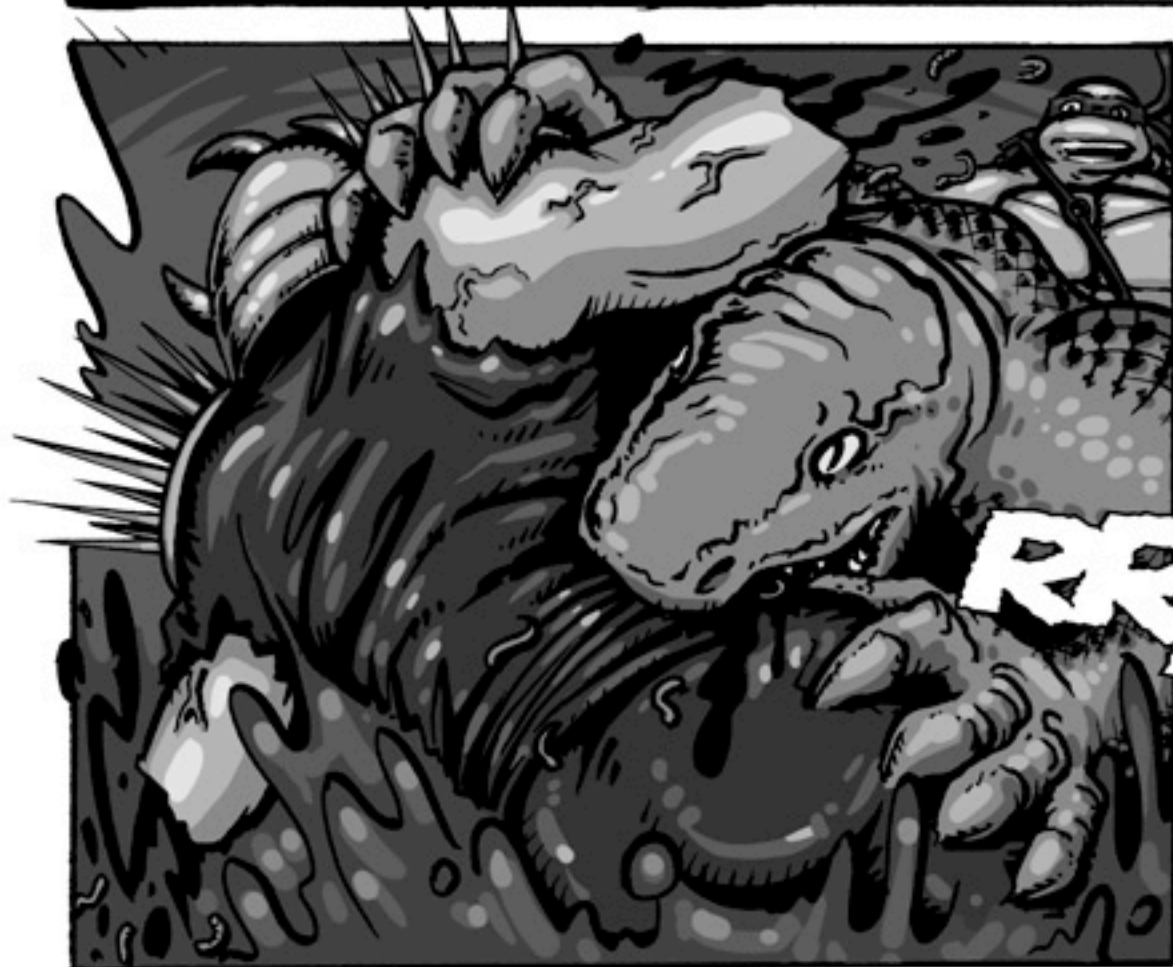




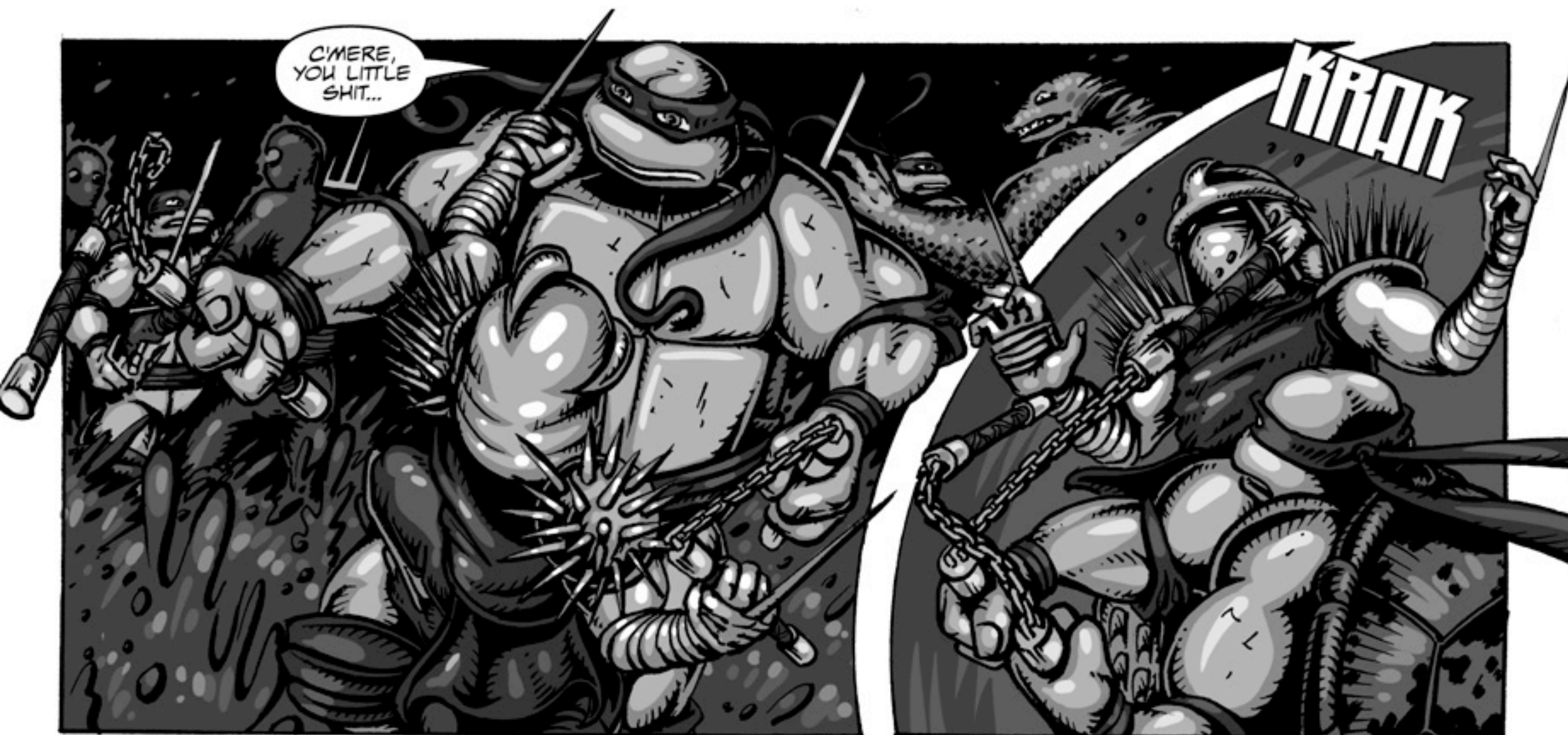


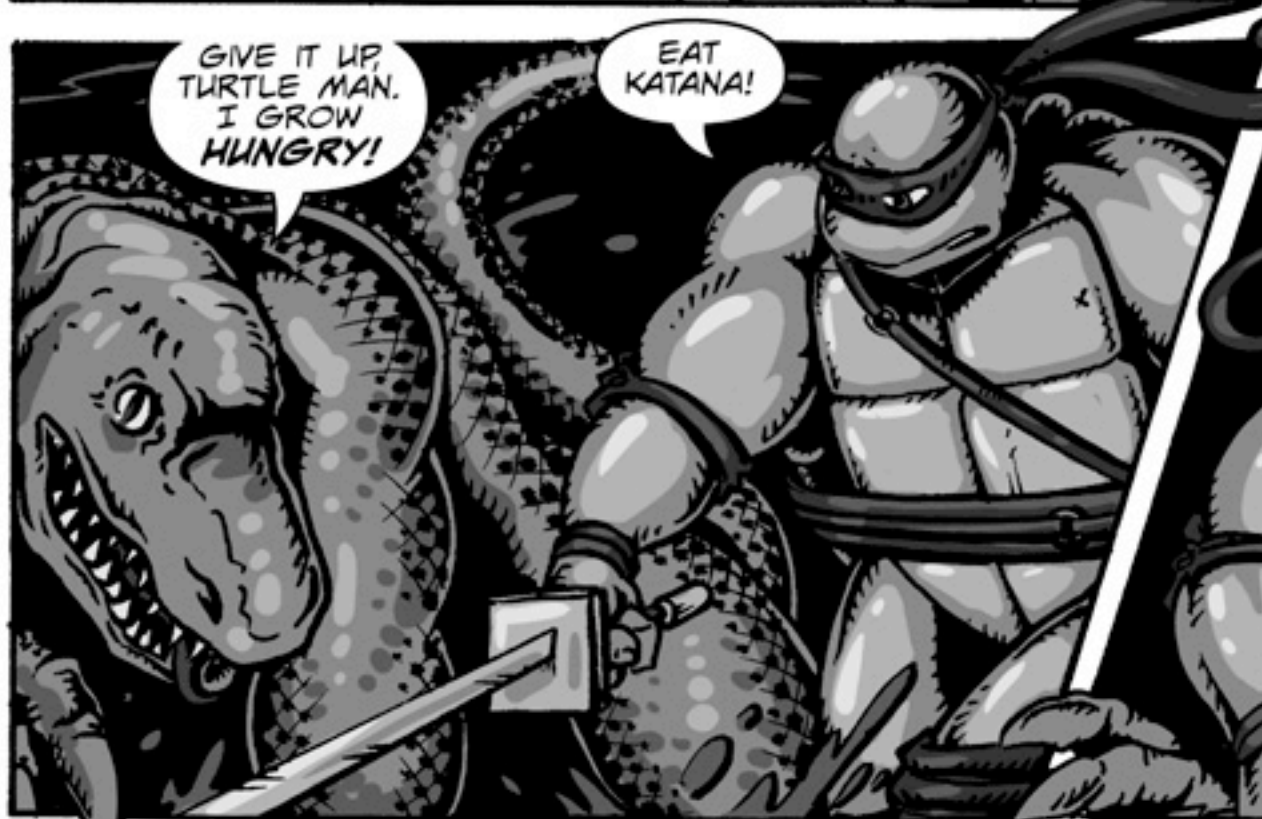












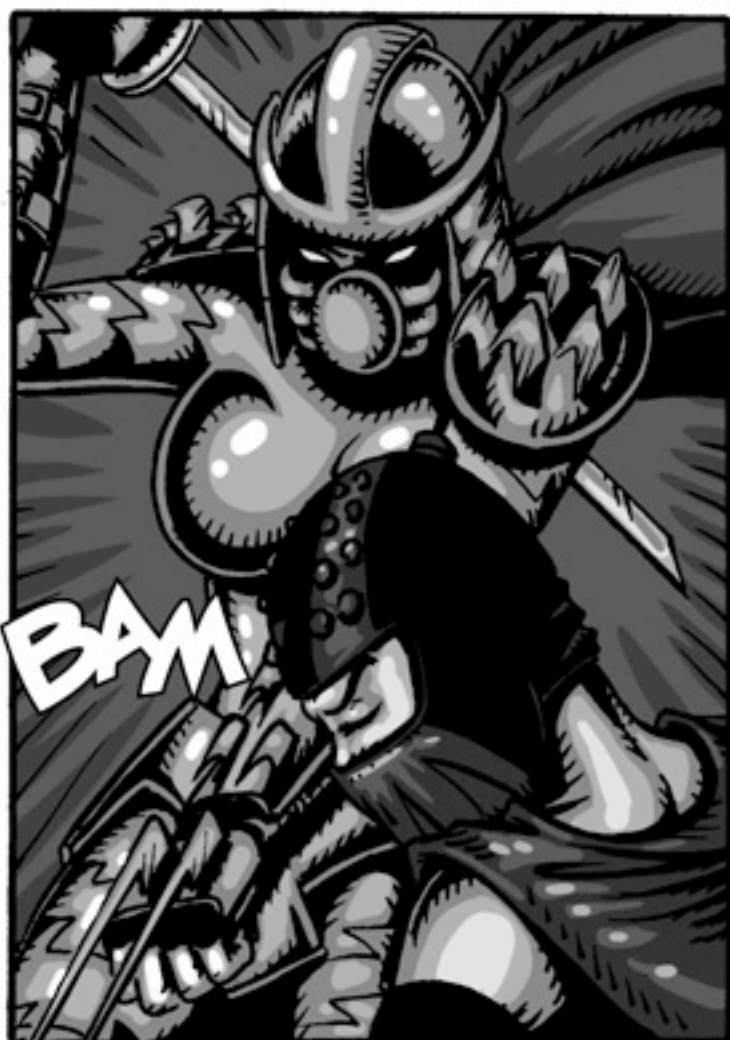




NEED I REMIND YOU, RAPHAEL, THAT I CONTAIN NEARLY THE FULL POWER OF YOUR SENSEI?

THE ASTRAL PLANE IS A WONDERFUL THING... IF ONE KNOWS HOW TO USE IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

A DEAD MAN, YOU'RE A DEAD MAN TALKING!



BAM!



PIMIKO-- NO!



PIMIKO?



I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

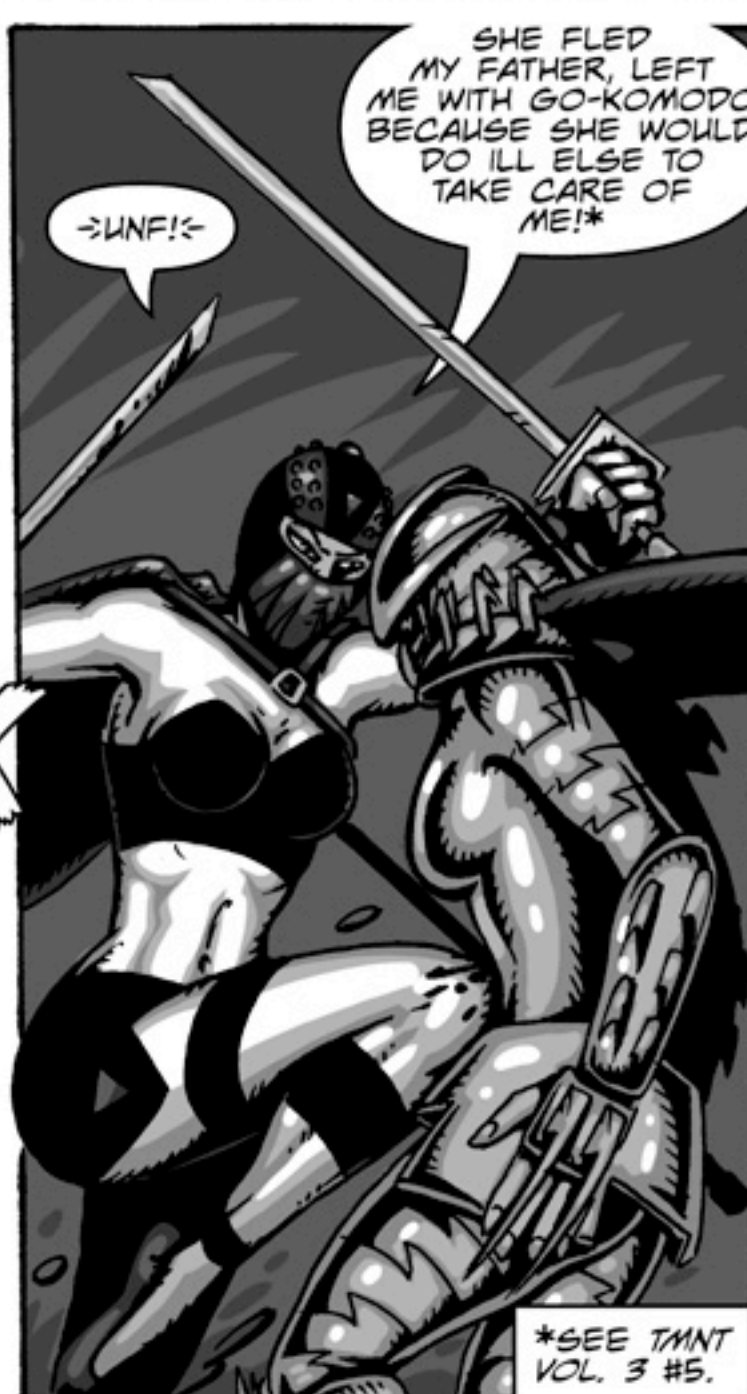
YET YOU ASK WHO YOU FIGHT. YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES!

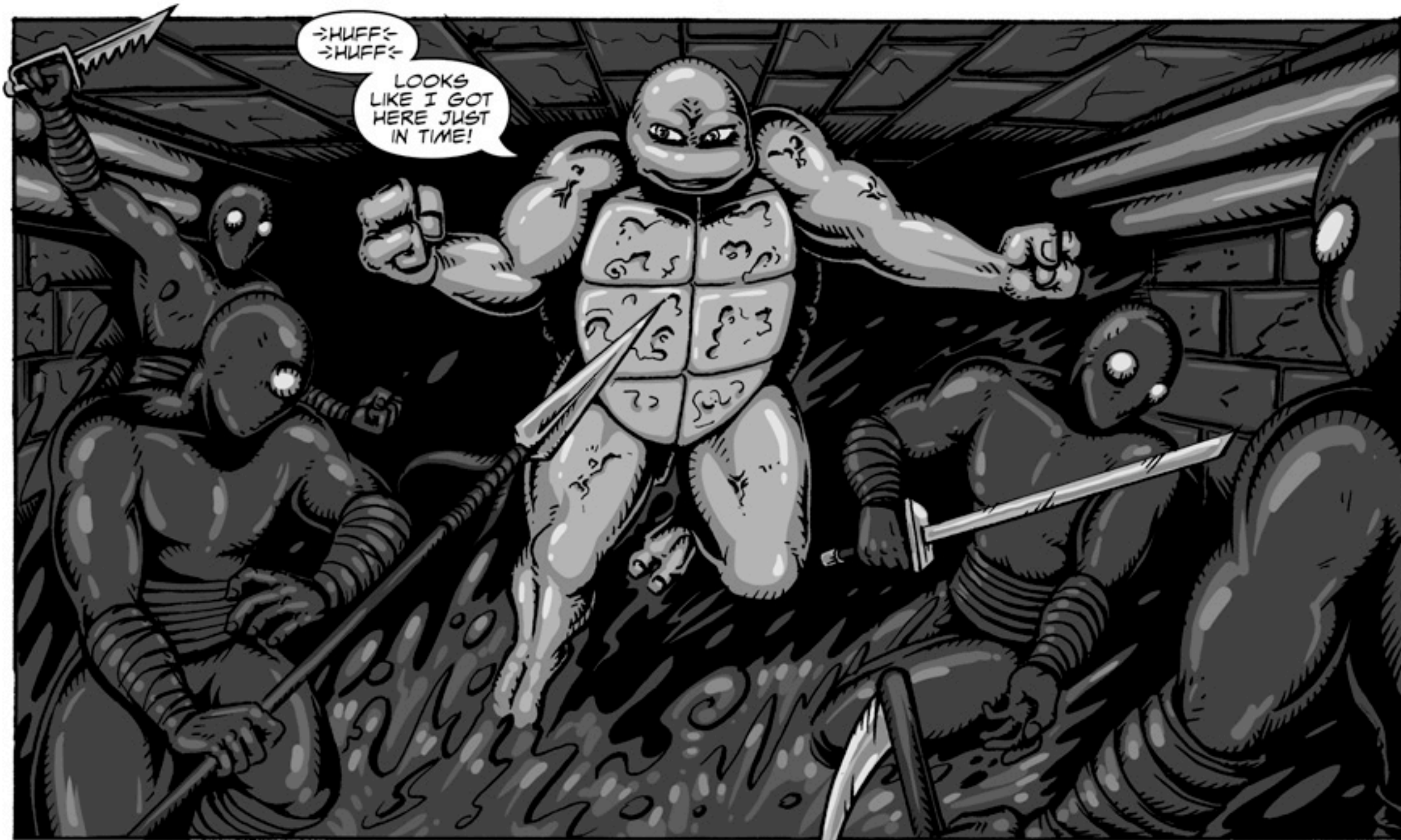
I KNOW YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF OROKU SAKI.

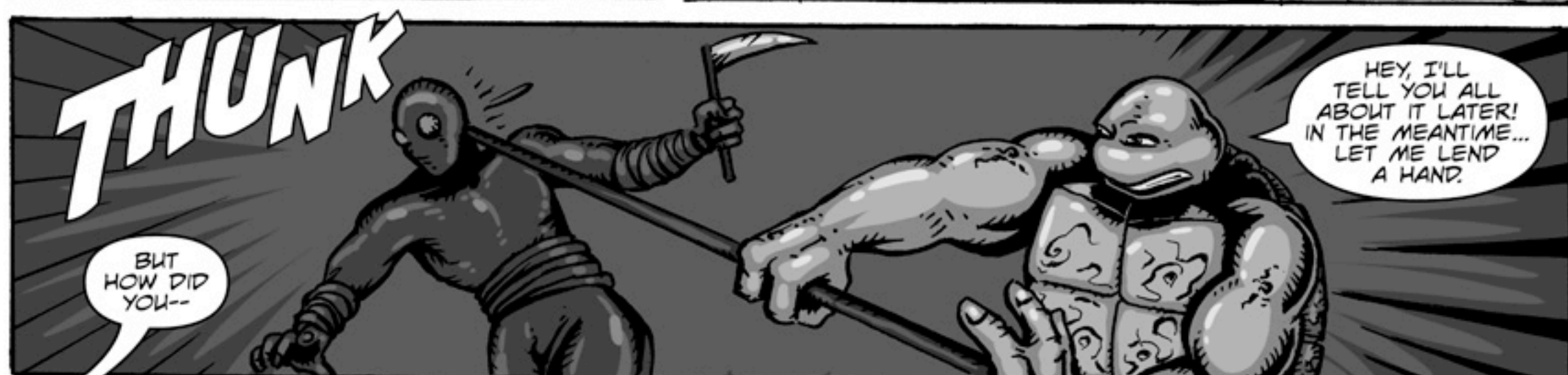


ANYONE COULD UNCOV--

I KNOW YOU WERE RAISED BY THE WARLORD GO-KOMODO.

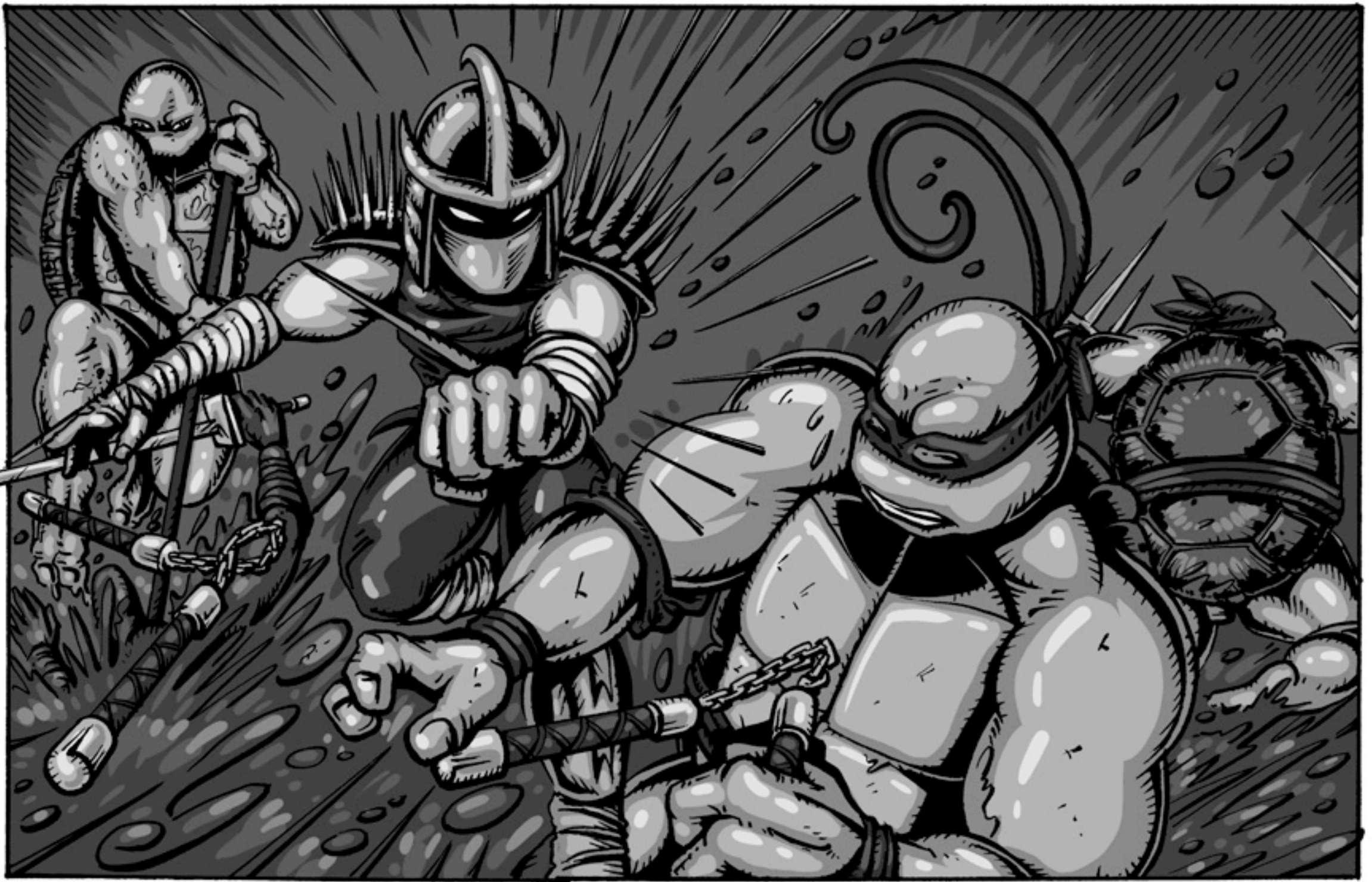




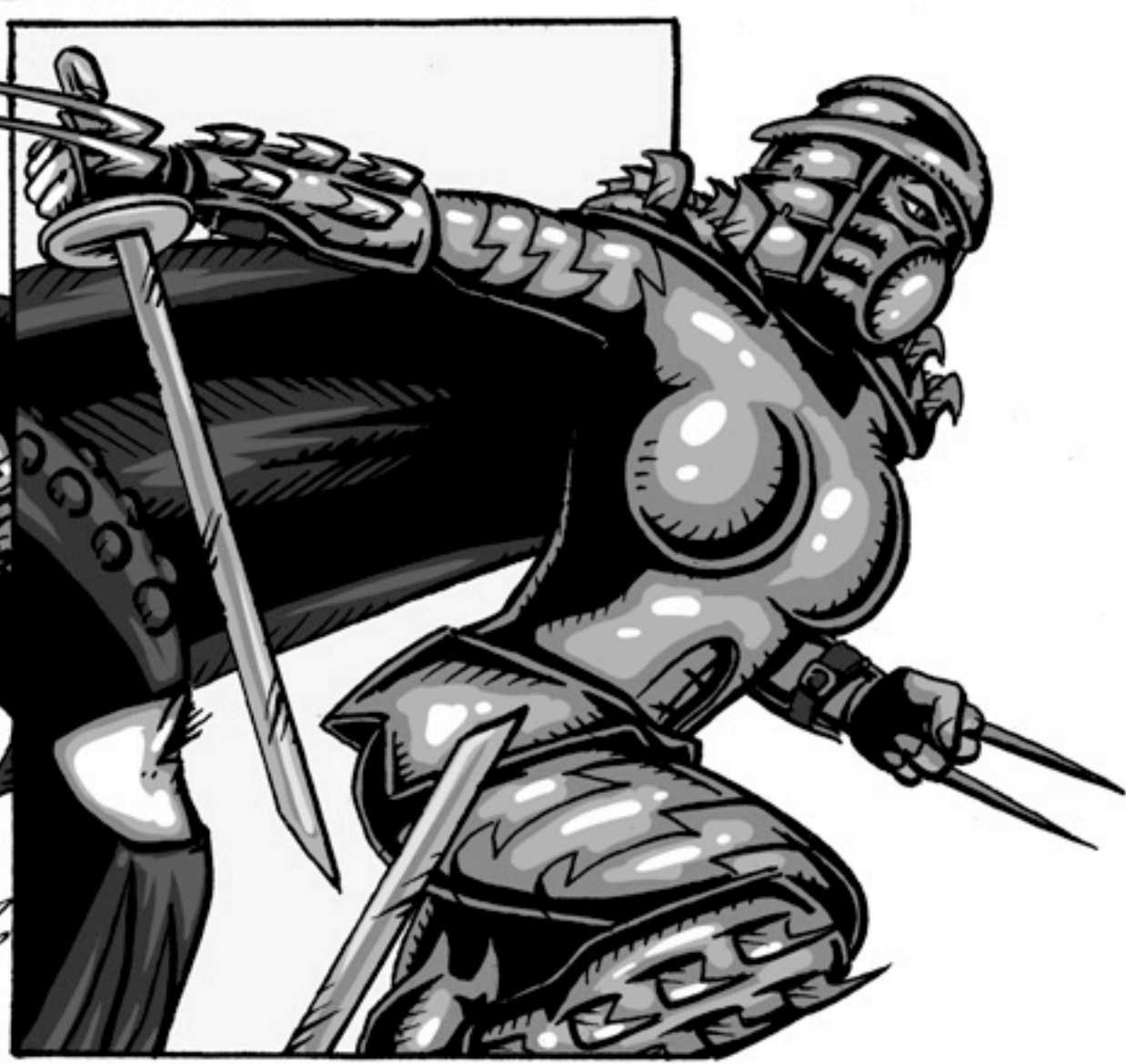
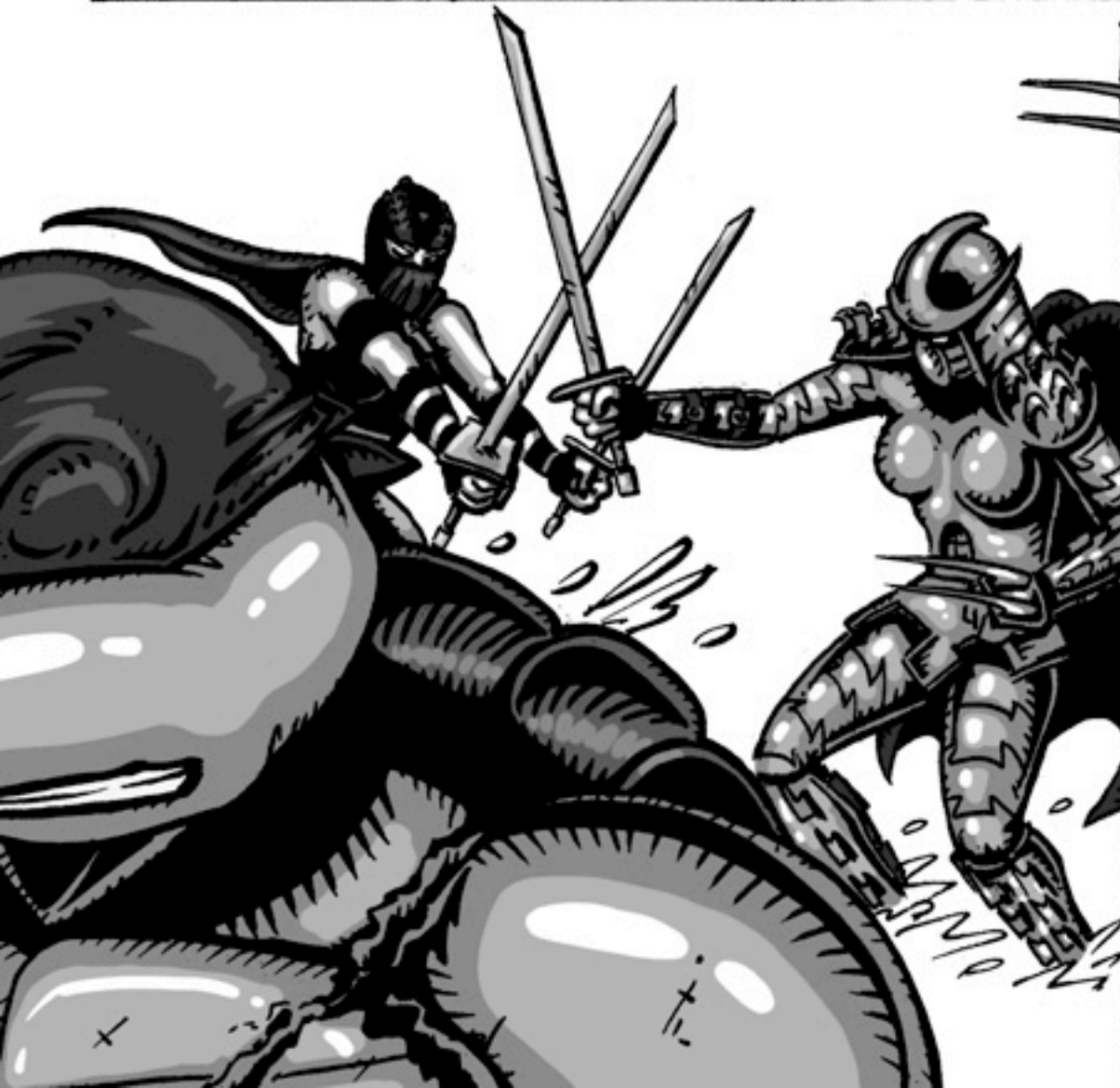


BUSHIDO.















I AM THE
SISTER OF TANG
SHEN. HAMATO'S
STUDENTS SHOULD
KNOW THAT
NAME.

WE DO.

AH, THE
PET RAT. PIMIKO,
LISTEN TO ME. THEIR
MASTER, HAMATO YOSHI,
KIDNAPPED YOUR AUNT,
BROUGHT HER TO AMERICA
AND THEN MURDERED HER
BEFORE I COULD
SAVE HER.



THAT'S
WHY--

THIS
ATTACK, OF
COURSE. AND
WHY I WANTED
THE TURTLES DEAD
SO BADLY AT
THE GOSEICO
BUILDING.*

THAT WAS YOU!
YOU SAID YOU
WERE HURT WHEN WE
DIDN'T RECOGNIZE
YOU BEFORE... **
BUT LADY-- AMAYA--
YOU'VE DONE
THIS ALL FOR
NOTHING!

*SEE TALES OF THE
TMNT VOL. 2 #22.

**SEE TMNT
VOL. 3 #23.



"I FAILED YES. HONOR
IS NOT RESTORED FOR
MY SISTER OR FOR
OROKU SAKI."

"NO, I MEAN YOU
REALLY DID THIS
FOR NOTHING! YOU'VE
GOT THE STORY
ALL WRONG!"



YOU SEE, I
WAS **THERE**, MS.
TANG. I SAW WHAT
TRANSPIRED.

I WAS
IN MY CAGE
IN HAMATO YOSHI'S
APARTMENT. IT WAS
A NIGHT LIKE
ANY OTHER...

"...UNTIL OROKU
SAKI BROKE IN.

"HE WAS QUICK
TO SLAY YOUR
SISTER SHEN.
NOT IN BATTLE,
OR IN A PANIC...
BUT WHILE SHE
WAS COOKING
BOTAMOCHI.

"SHE WAS WAITING FOR
YOSHI TO RETURN WITH
GROCERIES TO COMPLETE
THE EVENING'S MEAL.

"HE LAY IN WAIT.
WHEN YOSHI
RETURNED...

"...HE DISPATCHED
HIM IN SIMILAR
ORDER. IT WAS A
SURPRISE ATTACK.

"THOUGH SUCH A THING
MIGHT BE A MISNOMER
AMONGST NINJA, MY
MASTER'S DEATH WAS...
WITHOUT HONOR.

"I SWEAR ON
MY HONOR
THAT THIS IS
THE TRUTH."



->HUKH->
I SEE. ARE
THESE FLASHES
REVELATIONS
BEFORE MY
DEATH?

->HUKH->
DAUGHTER...

I
WISH THAT
THINGS COULD
HAVE BEEN
DIFFERENT,
AMAYA.
PIMIKO.

M--
MOTHER...
I'M...

DO NOT BE AFRAID,
PIMIKO. THIS CURSE I
HAVE PASSED ON TO YOU,
THIS CIRCLE OF BLOOD
THAT I HAVE DOOMED US
BOTH WITH... I KNOW NOW
WHERE IT BEGAN. I
DAMN THE NAME OROKU
SAKI FOR SETTING
THIS IN MOTION.



I FORGIVE
YOU, MOTHER.
I FORGIVE YOU.
AT LEAST NOW, IN THE
END, WE ARE REUNITED.
WE ARE DONE BEING
NINJA NOW,
MOTHER.

YES,
PIMIKO.

->HUKH->
I LOVE
YOU, MY
DAUGHTER.

RUH--
RAPHAEL!
I AM... I
AM...







CURSE YOU
ALL, GAIJIN.
YOU THINK YOU
HAVE WON?



I'M NOT SHAKIN'
HIS HAND. YOU
WANNA SHAKE
HIS HAND,
MIKEY?

THAT'S TOTALLY A
LEO DEAL THERE.
LEO?



"I DON'T THINK THAT'S
WHAT HE MEANS."



THUKH!



SEPPUKU.



COME,
MY SONS.
GATHER.



THE CIRCLE
OF BLOOD SHARED
BY PIMIKO AND TANG
AMAYA HAS BEEN OUR
OWN, MY SONS. OUR
ENTIRE LIVES-- YOURS
AND MY OWN.

BUT NOW,
MY SONS... AT
LONG LAST,
IT IS TRULY
OVER.



HONOR IS
RESTORED ONCE
MORE.

THE NEXT DAY.

<THEY ARE READY AND WAITING, MISTRESS KARAI.>

<EXCELLENT. IT IS PAST TIME I CAPITALIZED ON MY "DISGRACE.">

<MY LADY?>

<DO YOU THINK ME A FOOL?>

<NO, MY LADY!>

<DID YOU THINK MY "DISGRACE" TO BE BY CHANCE? A STROKE OF BAD LUCK, PERHAPS? I HAVE ALLOWED THE MISCREANTS AND LEFTOVER CANNERS THAT HAVE BEEN FESTERING WITHIN THE NEW YORK FOOT TO ROOT THEMSELVES OUT.>

<YES, MISTRESS KARAI. A WISE AND BOLD GAMBIT.>

<DO NOT PATRONIZE ME, AIDE. LET US DROP THE CURTAIN AND END THE CHARADE RIGHT NOW.>

<HEAR ME, FOOT! THE DAYS OF DISSARRAY ARE BEHIND YOU NOW. THE TIME AND NEED FOR "THE SHREDDER" AS A MONIKER OR OTHERWISE IS FINISHED.>

<MY "DISGRACE," TOO, IS VERY MUCH OVER... AND WITH THE FULL BACKING OF THE COUNCIL OF FIVE, I AM BACK NOW TO SET THINGS RIGHT.>

GODSPEED, PIMIKO.

MAY YOU FIND THE PEACE YOU DID NOT HAVE IN LIFE.

I... I HAD A THING FOR HER, LEO. JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, MAN.



I MEAN, I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO GET SPRUNG ON HUMANS OR ANYTHING-- NO MATTER WHAT YOU GUYS MAY HAVE SAID ABOUT LUCINDRA AND I BEHIND MY BACK-- BUT I FELT A CONNECTION TO PIMIKO. I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT, MAN.

YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN, RAPH. I **KNOW** WHAT YOU MEAN.

WAIT, YOU **DO**?

I DO, BROTHER. YOU KNOW, RADICAL AND I... WELL, WHILE YOU AND I ARE SPEAKING STRICTLY BETWEEN US--



AW, NAW! YOU AND **RADICAL**?! HAZEL MCINTYRE, RIGHT?

SHE PREFERS "RAVEN SHADOWHEART," ACTUALLY.

GET THE HELL **OUTTA** HERE!



WE'VE ENDED UP SPENDING SOME TIME ALONE TOGETHER WHEN WE CAN.

SLAP

YOU **DOG!**



THANKS, LEO. THIS MEANS A LOT.

YOU TELL THE OTHERS AND I'LL HAVE YOUR **FUCKING BALLS**, RAPH.

HAH! YOU AIN'T GOTTA WORRY ABOUT **ME**, MAN...

"I'M NOT THE WRITER
IN THE FAMILY! C'MON,
ISN'T IT MILLER TIME?"



WHOO-
HOO!!!



WHAT'S
GOING ON?
MIKEY?

A ROSE
AMONG THE
THORNS IS
GOING BACK
FOR A THIRD
PRINTING!



IT'S A CERTIFIED
BESTSELLER! OPRAH
WAS JUST THE
BEGINNING...

ALL
THE PRESS
I'VE BEEN DOING
FOR MIKEY HAS
BEEN PAYING
OFF!



KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

I BET I
KNOW WHO
THAAAT
IS.

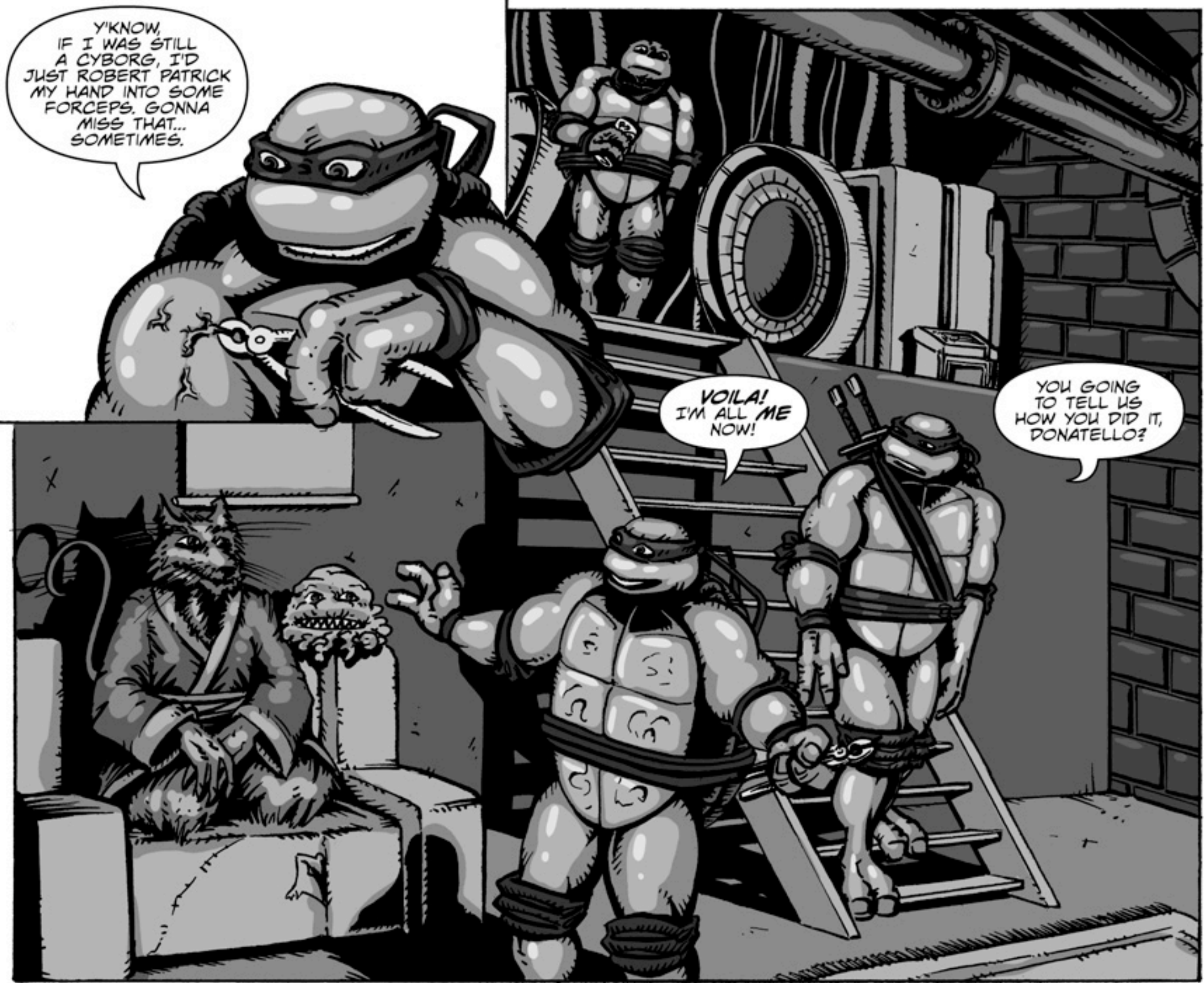
AW,
I'LL GET
IT.



GO GET
'EM, TIGER.
C'MON, APRIL,
LET'S GIVE
THE TWO
LOVEBIRDS
THEIR
SPACE.



Y'KNOW,
IF I WAS STILL
A CYBORG, I'D
JUST ROBERT PATRICK
MY HAND INTO SOME
FORCEPS. GONNA
MISS THAT...
SOMETIMES.



VOILA!
I'M ALL ME
NOW!

YOU GOING
TO TELL US
HOW YOU DID IT,
DONATELLO?



YEAH, JUST...
GIVE ME A
LITTLE TIME,
GUYS.

DONNIE'S GOT HIS
SECRETS. SHIT,
WE ALL DO.
LET IT BE,
LEO.

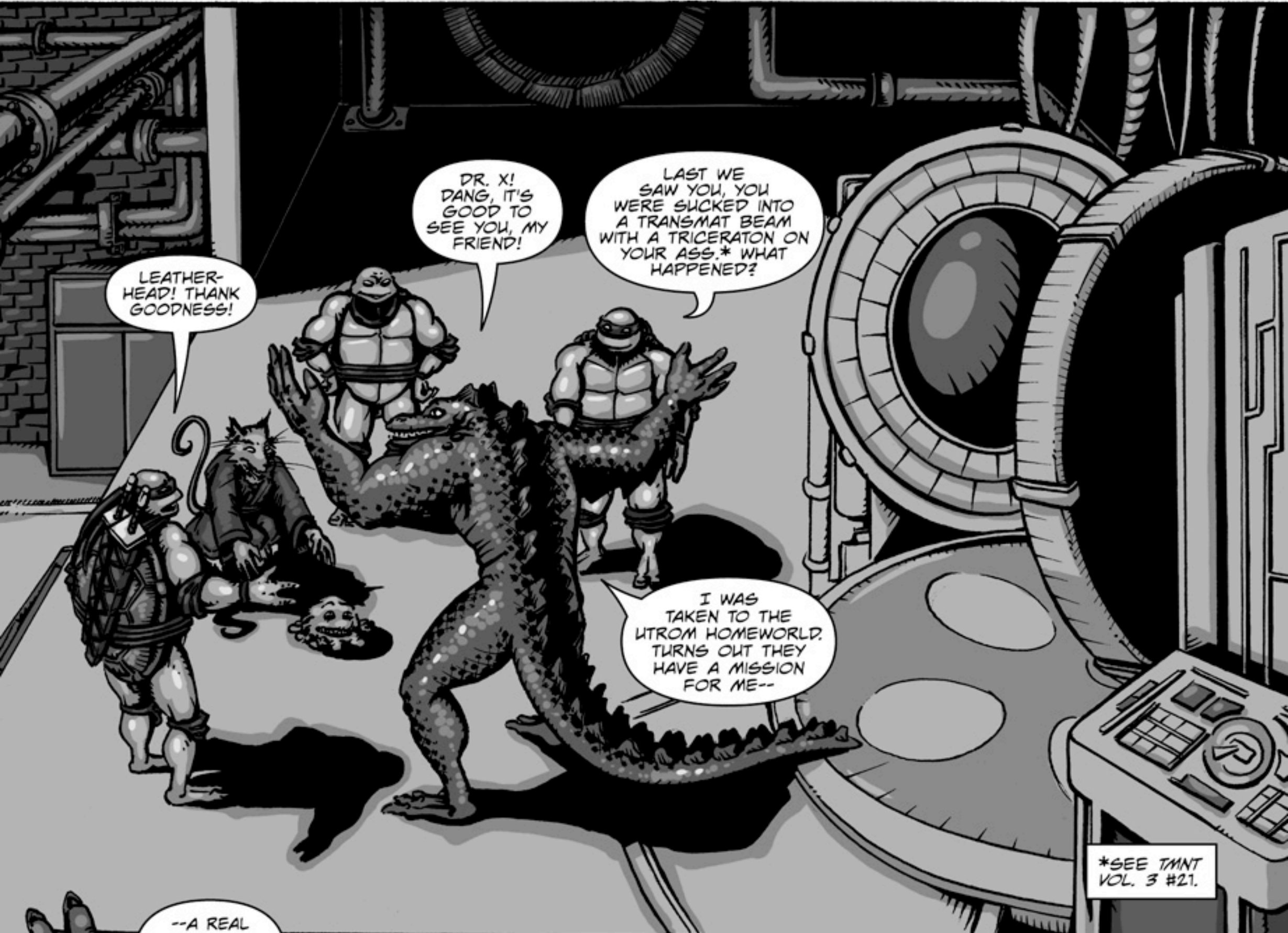


THE
TRANSMAT!

SOMEONE
IS COMING! IT
COULD BE MORE
TRICERATONS.
LOOK ALIVE!

HELLO AGAIN,
TURTLES! IT'S
GOOD TO BE...
HOME.

FRAAAZZZAKK



LEATHER-HEAD! THANK GOODNESS!

DR. X! DANG, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, MY FRIEND!

LAST WE SAW YOU, YOU WERE SUCKED INTO A TRANSMAT BEAM WITH A TRICERATON ON YOUR ASS.* WHAT HAPPENED?

I WAS TAKEN TO THE UTROM HOMEWORLD. TURNS OUT THEY HAVE A MISSION FOR ME--

*SEE TMNT VOL. 3 #21.



--A REAL SIMPLE ONE, ONE EVEN I CAN'T SCREW UP.

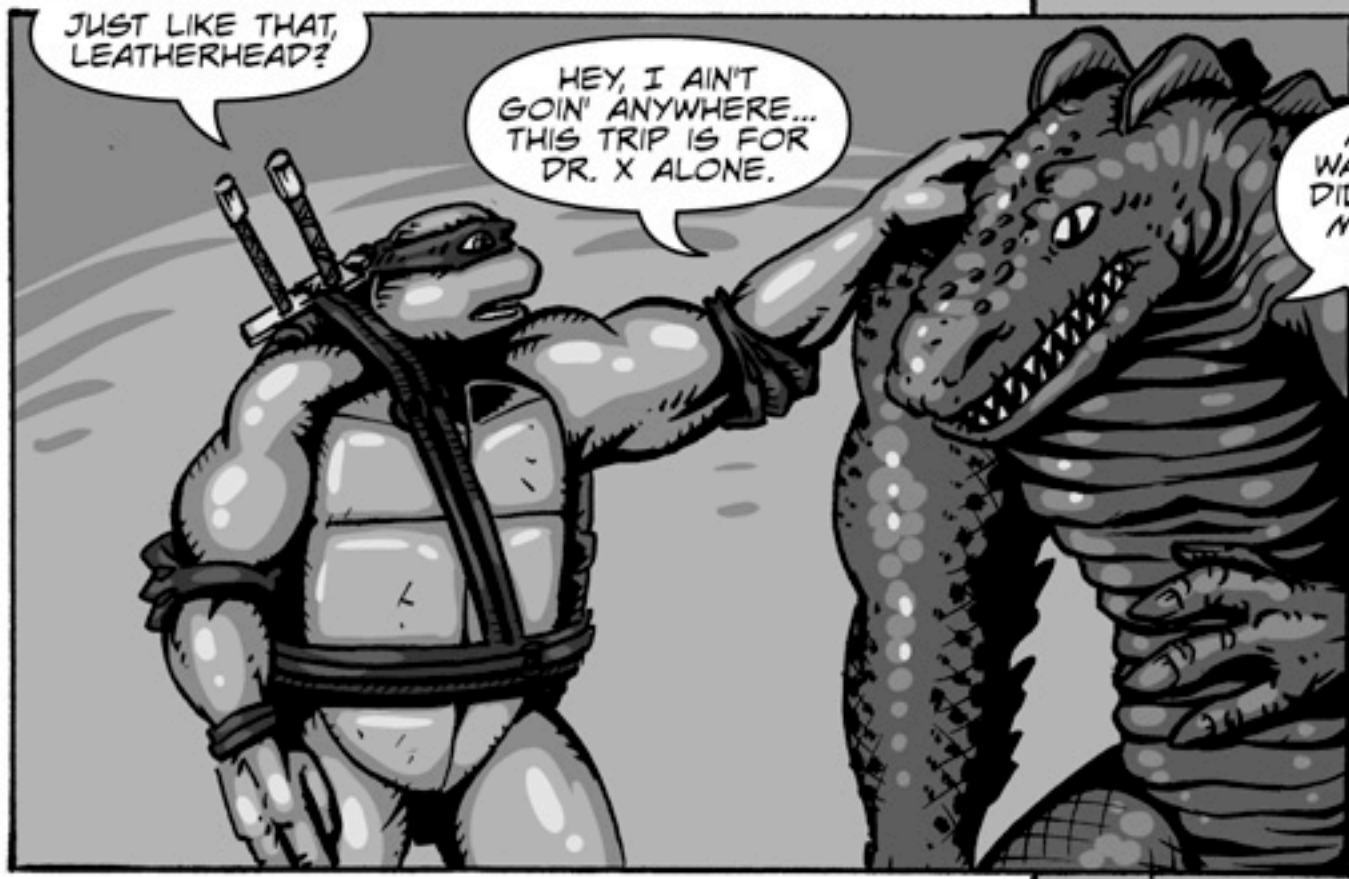
WHAT'S THE MISSION?



LIKE I SAID, REAL SIMPLE. THE UTROMS WANT DR. X. SOMETHING ABOUT... A DEBRIEFING.

I THINK I HAVE SOME IDEA WHAT THEY WISH OF ME. I CAN HAPPILY OBLIGE.

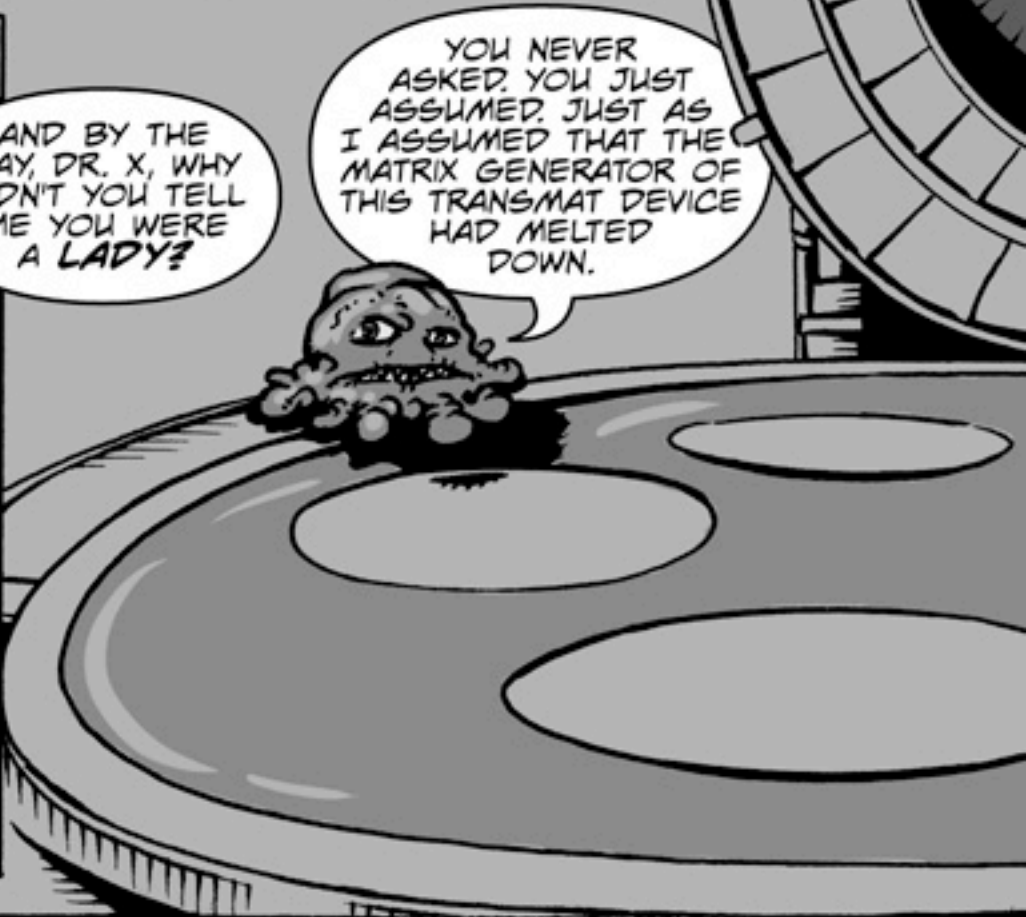
GREAT! IF YOU JUST C'MON OVER HERE ON THE PAD, THEN--



JUST LIKE THAT, LEATHERHEAD?

HEY, I AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE... THIS TRIP IS FOR DR. X ALONE.

AND BY THE WAY, DR. X, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE A LADY?



YOU NEVER ASKED. YOU JUST ASSUMED. JUST AS I ASSUMED THAT THE MATRIX GENERATOR OF THIS TRANSMAT DEVICE HAD MELTED DOWN.



HAH!
WILL I
EVER SEE
YOU AGAIN,
DR. X?

OF
THAT, I AM
SURE.

"YOU JUST NEVER
KNOW WHEN THE PAST
MIGHT RETURN!"



MR. PUZORELLI! GOD,
I HOPE YOU GET THIS
QUICK. DOZENS OF OUR
GUYS, THEY'VE BEEN
MASSACRED BY
THIS... THIS NEW FOOT
RESURGENCE.

WORD IS, KARAI IS BACK
IN TOWN AN' TAKIN'
NUMBERS. WORSE 'N THAT,
I HEAR "RAZORBACK"
IS BACK, TOO!

WE GOTTA GIVE
UP ON THIS HUNT FOR
YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER.
WE'RE ALMOST OUTTA MEN
HERE AND... OH, CHRIST...
GOTTA GO, BOSS!
GOTTA--

BEEP!



JOEY!
AW, NOT YOU,
JOEY.

YOU
WERE ALWAYS
MY BEST. THOSE
MOTHERLESS
\$%#@&!

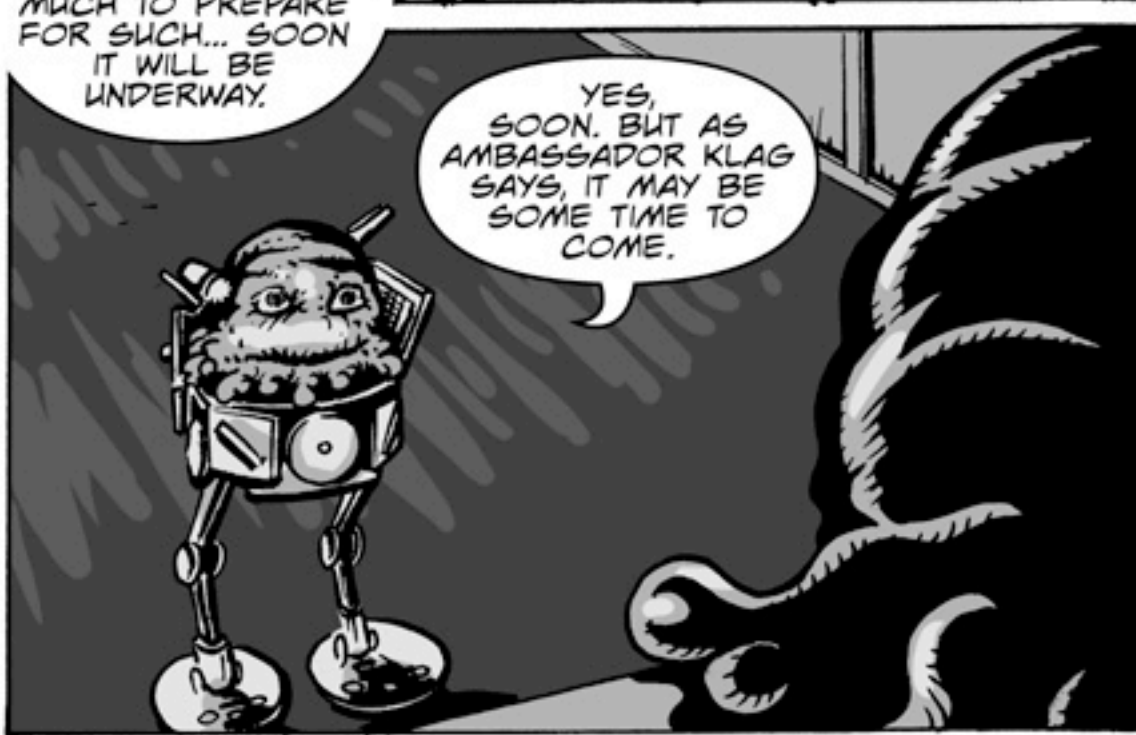
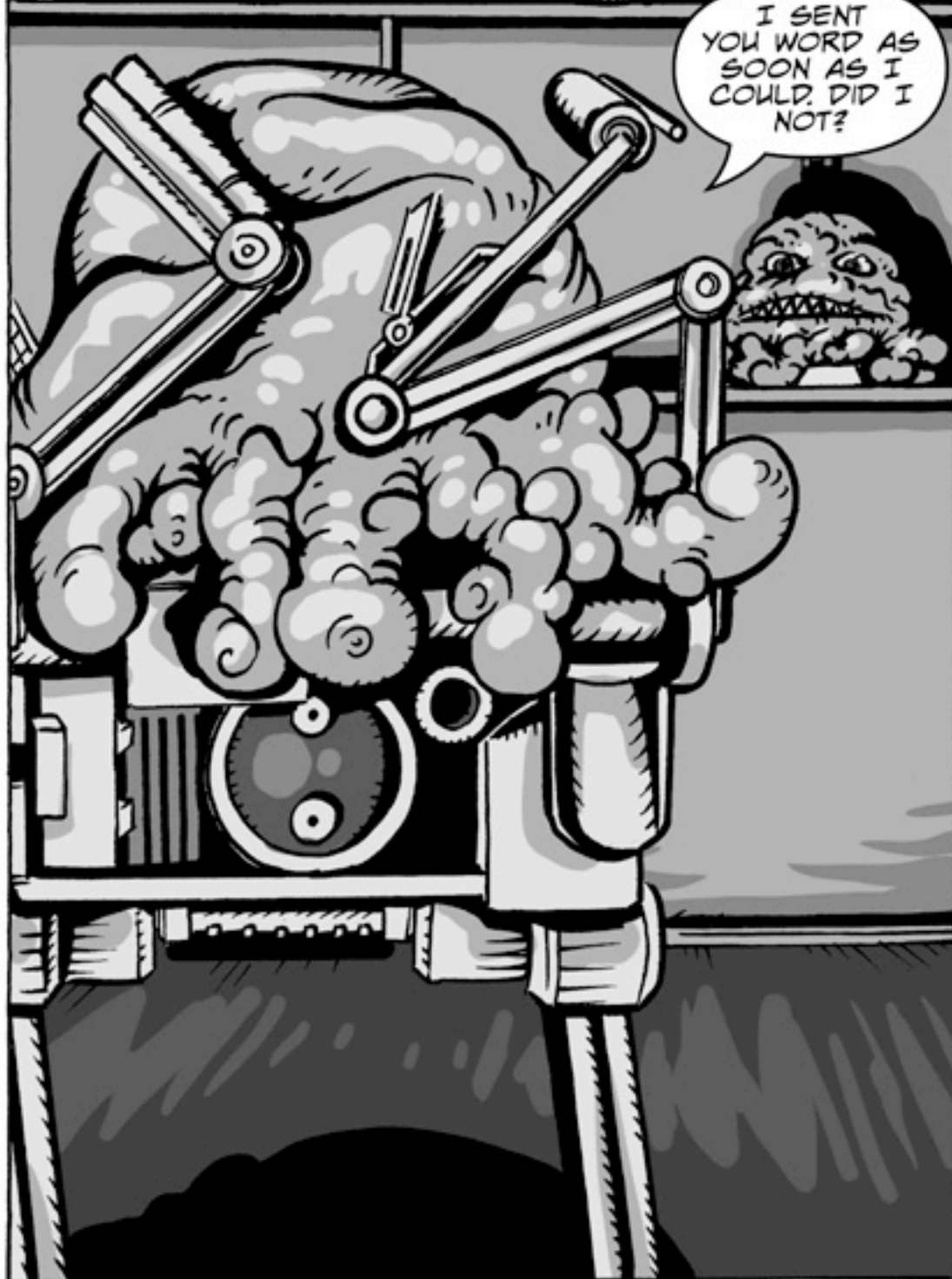




NORTHAMPTON,
MASSACHUSETTS.



THE UTROM
HOMEWORLD.



THE HALLS OF LOST LEGENDS.

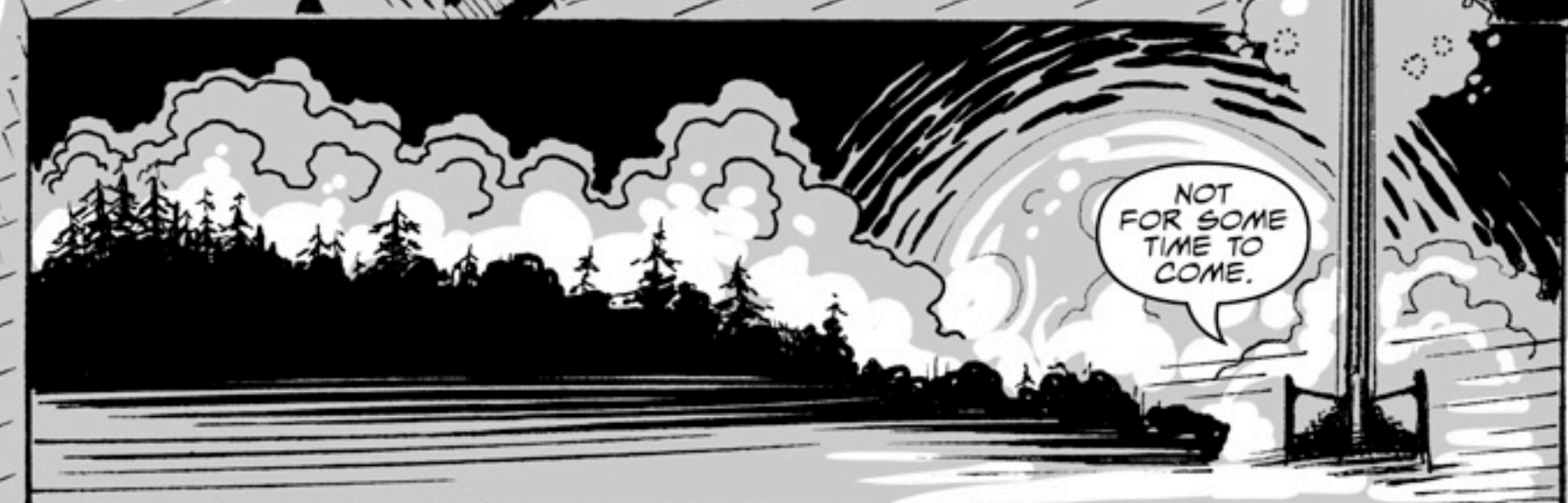


HAH! DO NOT
BE RIDICULOUS,
ARCHIMEDES.



WHAT IS
THAT, YOU SAY?
THE NINJA TURTLES?
THE BOYS WE MET
ONCE BEFORE?
THE ONES THAT
HELPED US?

OH NO
ARCHIMEDES.
NOT DUE
YET.



NOT
FOR SOME
TIME TO
COME.

AC. FARLEY 12.11

STORY BY ANDREW MOPEEN - ART BY DAN BERGER - LETTERS BY ADAM O. PRUETT

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE SHORTLY AFTER TMNT VOL. 3 #19.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS.

I WAS ONCE TOLD THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER WHO DESERTED ME WAS ONE ALBERT PUZORELLI... I'M NOT SURE I EVER BELIEVED IT. IN FACT, I KNOW I DIDN'T.

WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE I KNEW WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM ME I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH ELSE TO TURN TO BUT OLD DEBTS... **FAMILY** DEBTS... AND AVENGING HIS DEATH SEEMED AS GOOD OF A DEBT AS ANY.

MY THOUGHTS COULDN'T HELP BUT DRIFT TO **ANOTHER** CHRISTMAS... THE YEAR I WAS RESCUED FROM MY "GRANDFATHER" WHEN I LEARNED WHO THEY TOLD ME MY FATHER REALLY WAS.



THAT CHRISTMAS IN WESTWOOD CEMETERY.

YOU CAN PACE AROUND ALL YOU WANT, RAPH... IT'S NOT GONNA CONJURE US UP A TREE ANY FASTER.

HOW CAN DONNIE MESS THIS UP? IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE!



C'MON, RAPH. YOU DON'T NEED TO WEAR THAT IN HERE. NOT TODAY, MAN.

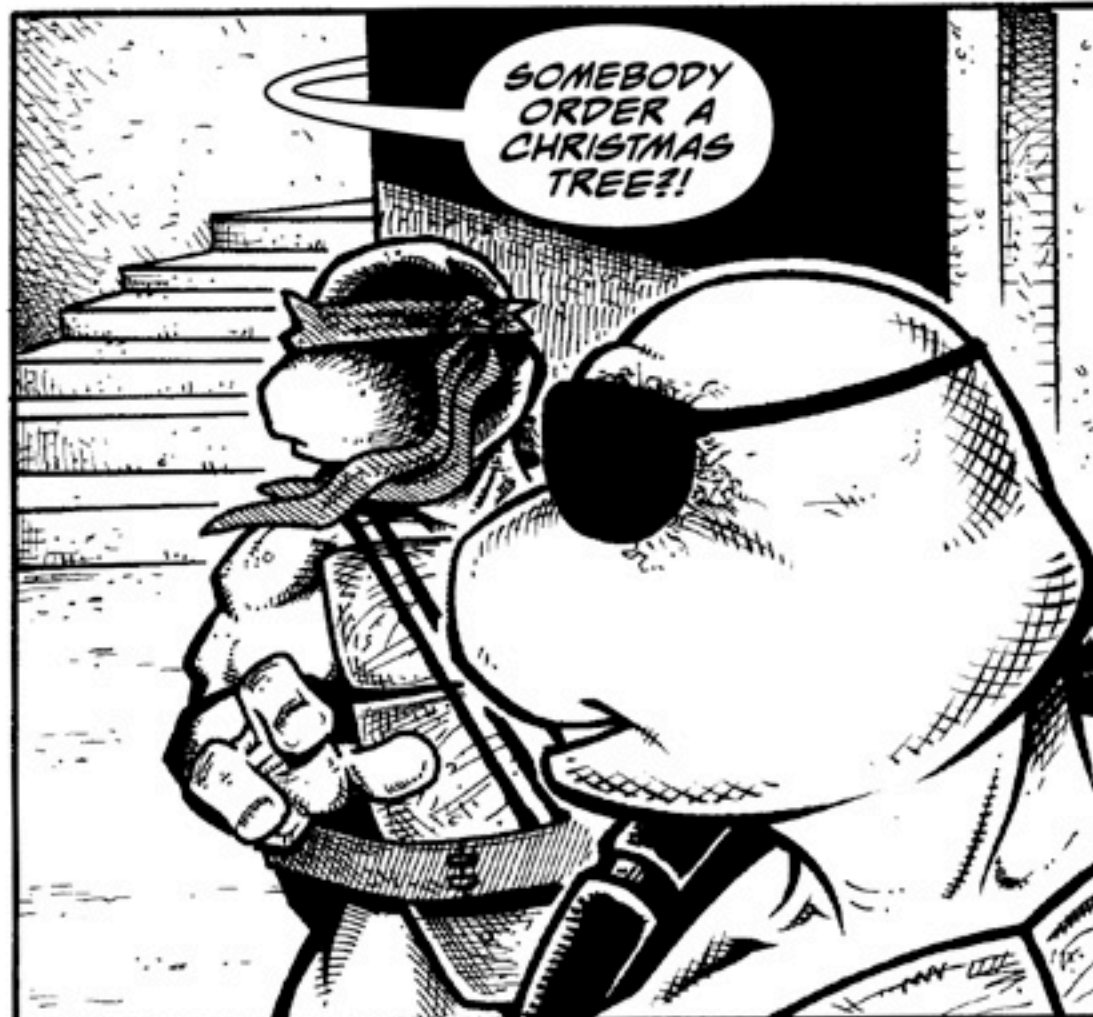
LEO, I--



YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY. I-- I DON'T KNOW WHY I--



SOMEBODY ORDER A CHRISTMAS TREE?!





THAT'S OUR CHRISTMAS TREE? WHERE'D YOU GET THAT THING, MAN... SLEEPY HOLLOW?

COMING THROUGH!

I HATE TO AGREE WITH RAPH, BUT--



RELAX! YOU GUYS FORGET WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO. YOU SEE, IT'S THE NEW AND IMPROVED DONATELLO!

I'D LEND A HAND, BUT... YOU SEE, I KINDA HAVE ONLY THE ONE RIGHT NOW.



I REMIND YOU, IT'S DONATELLO 2.0. HE SLICES, HE DICES--



--HE BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO THE MASSES!



BOO-YAH!

PRETTY TREE, UNCAH DONNIE!

WAY TO GO, BRO! LOOKS GREAT!

PFFT, GIMME SOME BUTTERFLY KNIVES, I'LL DO 'EM ONE BETTER...

I'VE LEARNED THAT SOMETIMES IT'S NOT THE JOURNEY ITSELF... OR EVEN WHAT IT TAKES FROM YOU.

SOMETIMES IT'S WHAT YOU TAKE FROM THE JOURNEY.

I WON'T LET MYSELF FORGET.

LADY SHREDDER VS. PIMIKO

BY JIM LAWSON



