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#2 • CVR A

**CRILLEY
STANISCI
DOWNER**

THE X FILES[™] CONSPIRACY

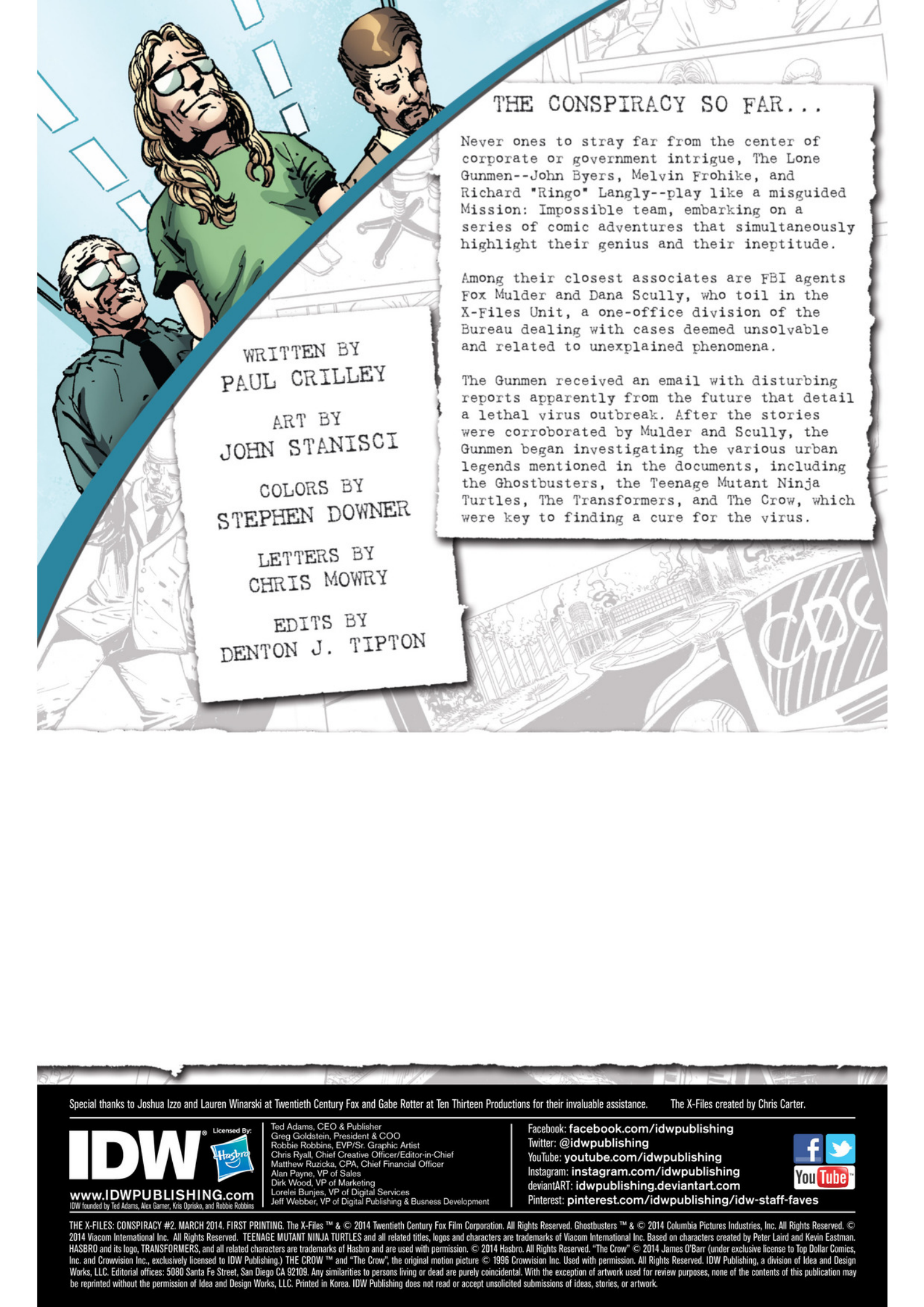
CONSPIRACY
PART 8 of 8

CDC

"Bomb at
Center for
Disease
Control
kills 483."

TOP SECRET





THE CONSPIRACY SO FAR...

Never ones to stray far from the center of corporate or government intrigue, The Lone Gunmen--John Byers, Melvin Frohike, and Richard "Ringo" Langly--play like a misguided Mission: Impossible team, embarking on a series of comic adventures that simultaneously highlight their genius and their ineptitude.

Among their closest associates are FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, who toil in the X-Files Unit, a one-office division of the Bureau dealing with cases deemed unsolvable and related to unexplained phenomena.

The Gunmen received an email with disturbing reports apparently from the future that detail a lethal virus outbreak. After the stories were corroborated by Mulder and Scully, the Gunmen began investigating the various urban legends mentioned in the documents, including the Ghostbusters, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, The Transformers, and The Crow, which were key to finding a cure for the virus.

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THE CENTER FOR
DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
11:35 A.M.



YOU GUYS
JUST MADE IT.
THEY'RE GOING TO
QUARANTINE THE
CITY AT NOON.
NO ONE IN, NO
ONE OUT.

SO SOON?
I THOUGHT
WE STILL HAD
SOME TIME.

WE DON'T.
WE COUNTED
ANOTHER 900
VICTIMS IN THE
PAST TWO DAYS
ALONE.

YOU'D BETTER TAKE THESE
THEN. TWO BLOOD SAMPLES,
AS PER YOUR ORDER. ONE
HALF-HUMAN, HALF-REPTILE,
AND ONE ALIEN.

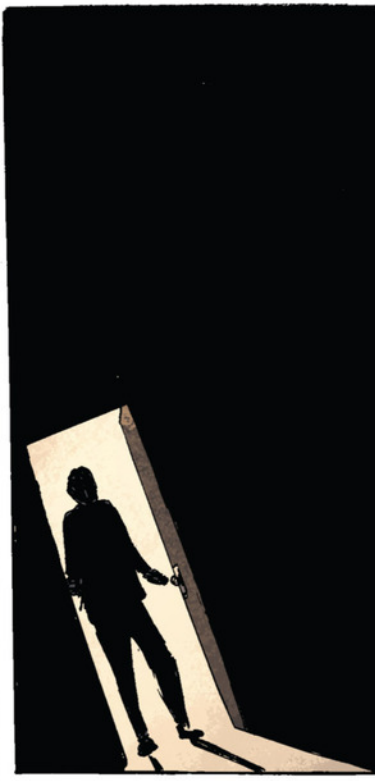
WE HELD THE
ANCHOVIES.

DID YOU
HAVE MUCH
TROUBLE
GETTING
THEM?

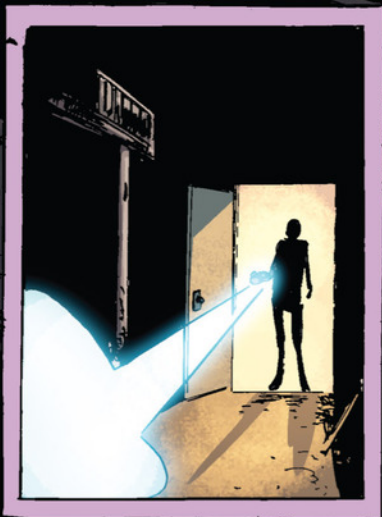
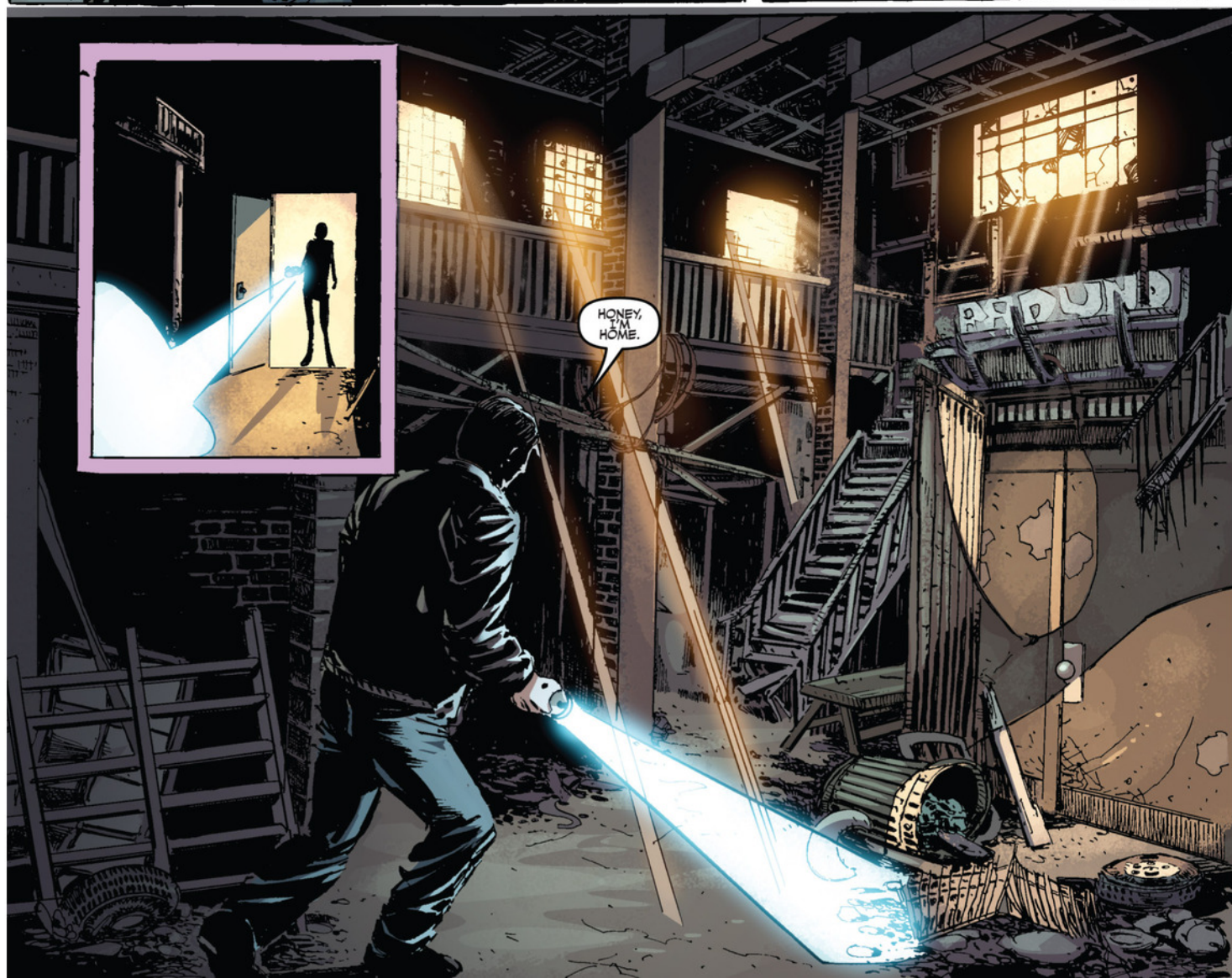
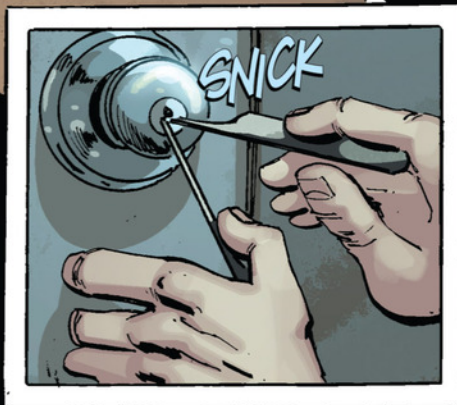
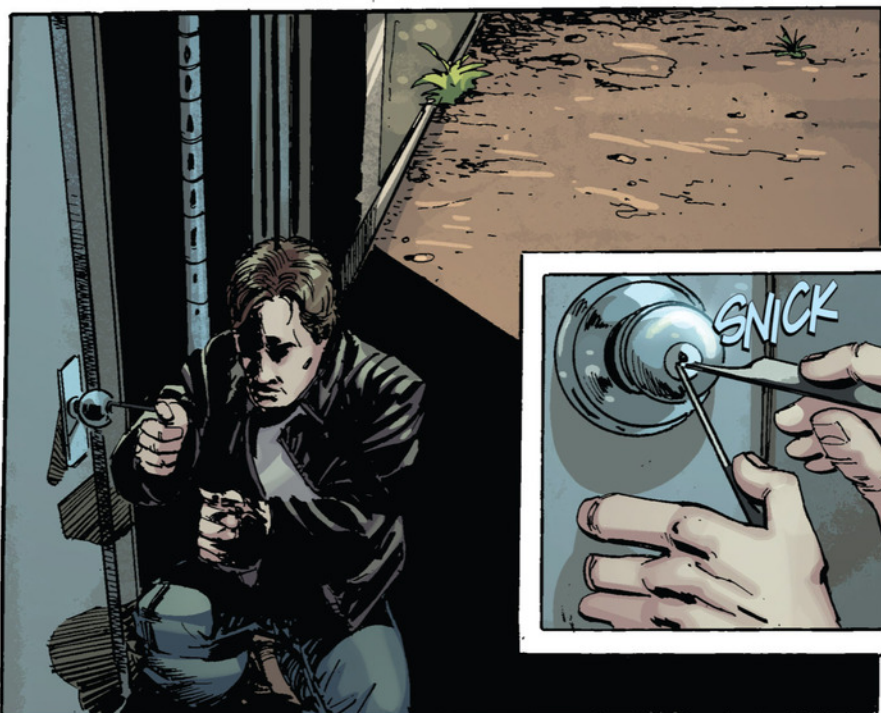
NAH.
PIECE OF
CAKE.

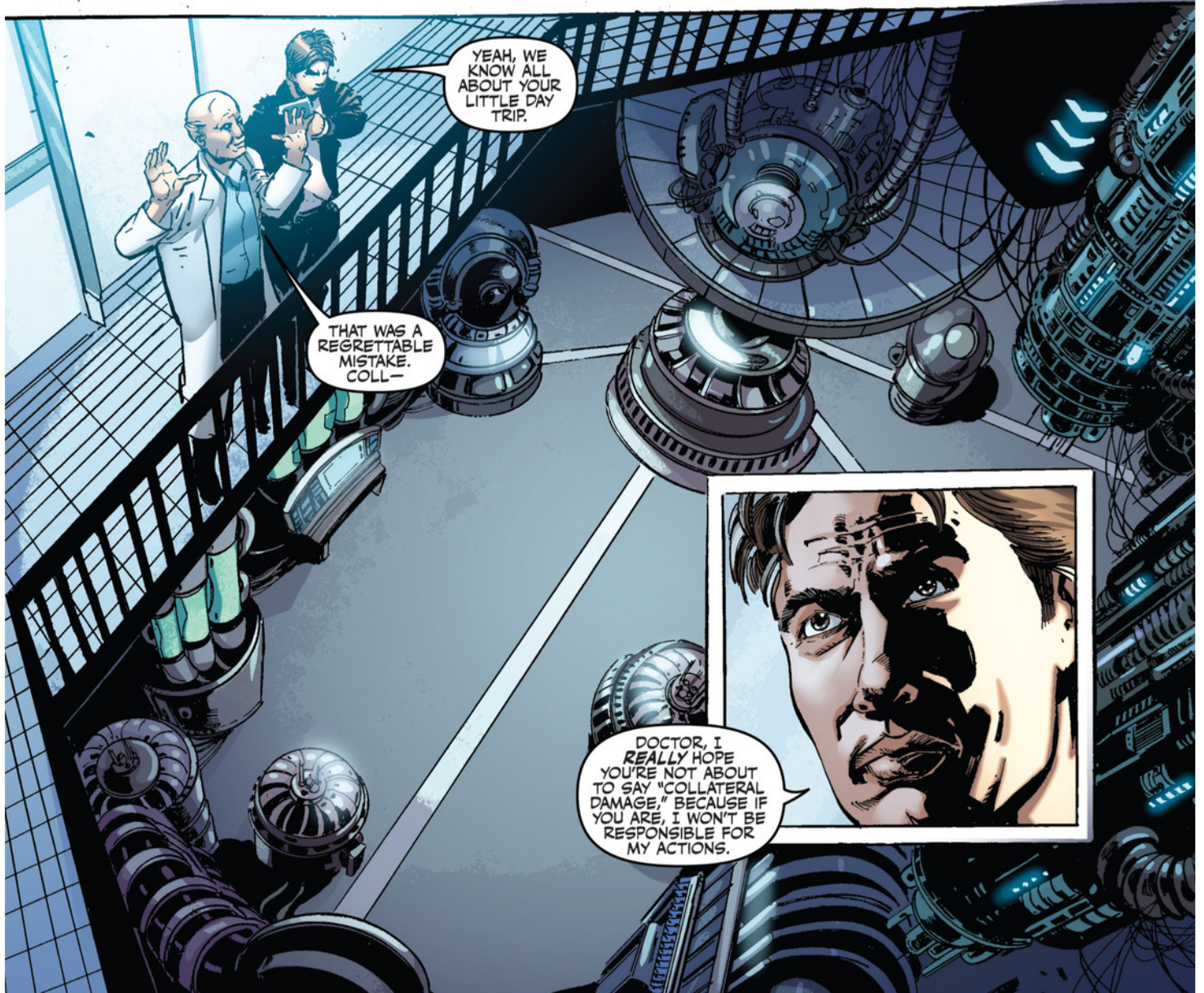
HAVE YOU
HEARD FROM
MULDER?

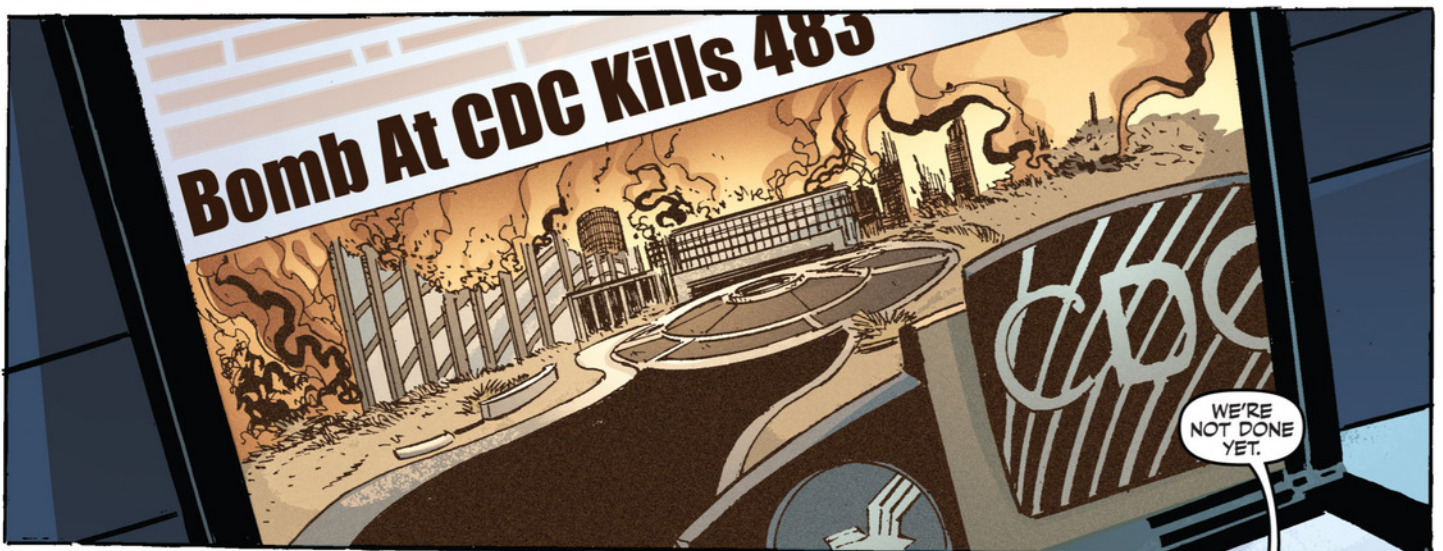
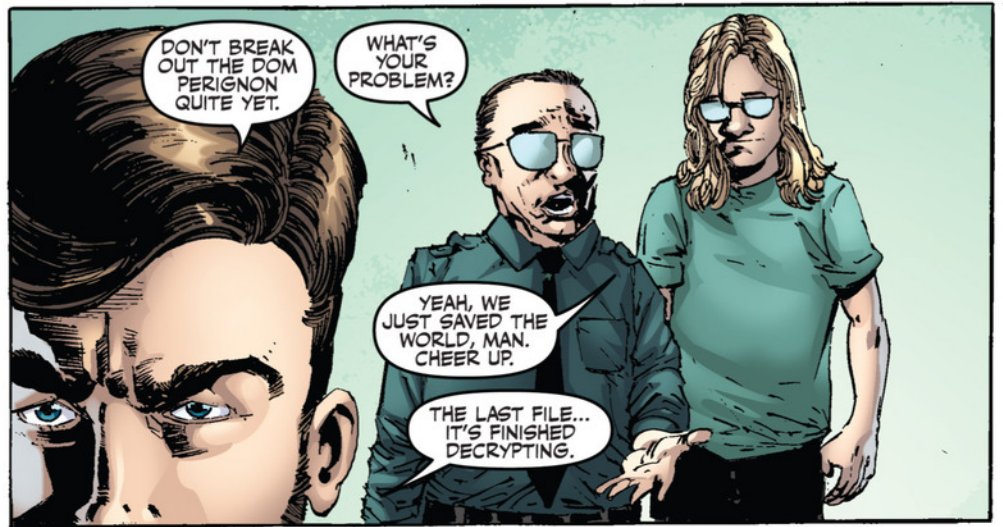
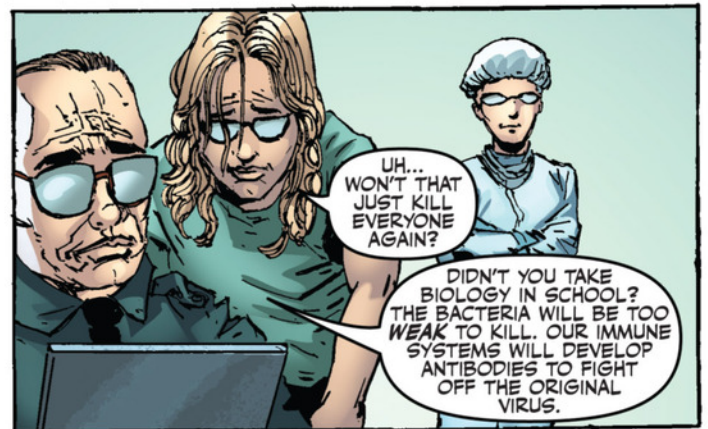
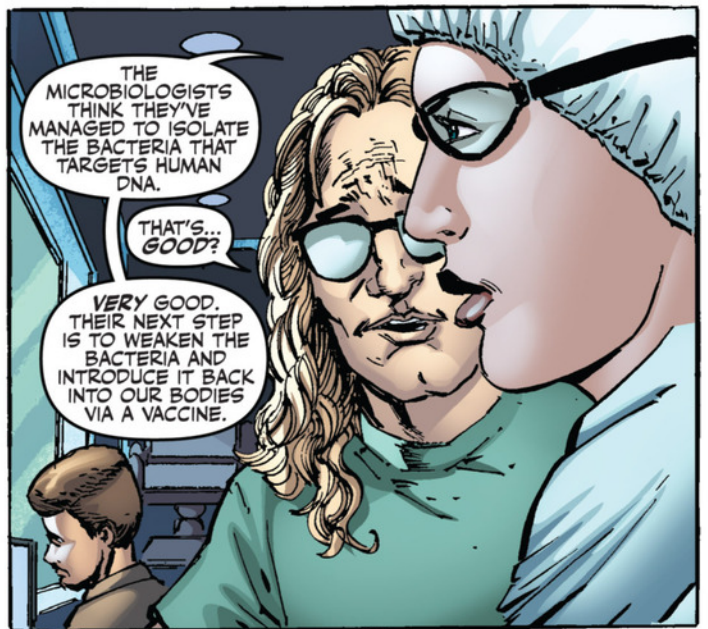
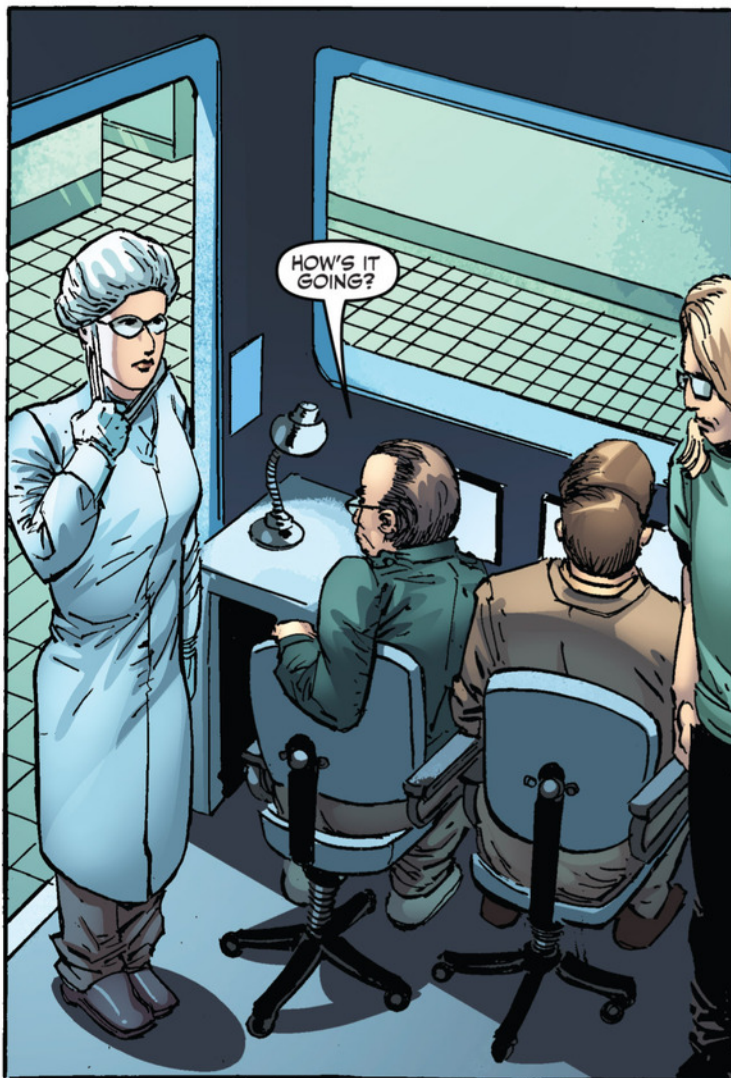
NOT SINCE HE
GOT IN TOUCH
YESTERDAY TO SAY
YOU WERE COMING.
TRUTH IS, I'M A BIT
WORRIED. HE'S
GONE DARK.



PENN QUARTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
12:05 P.M.









WHERE'S THE SECOND BATCH? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DEPLOY?

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



SURE YOU DO. THE SECOND BATCH OF THE VIRUS. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO RELEASE IT?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.



TELL ME! THE ONLY THING YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH BY RELEASING IT IS KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE. WE'RE ALREADY WORKING ON A CURE.



THERE WILL BE NO CURE.

DROP IT. NOW.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THERE WILL BE NO CURE. THERE WILL, HOWEVER, BE A BOMB. A RATHER LARGE ONE.



A BOMB?

AT THE C.D.C., WHERE, I THINK, YOUR COLLEAGUE IS CURRENTLY WORKING?



DR. TEMPLE?
WHAT'S GOING
ON?

YEAH, I'D
KINDA LIKE TO
KNOW THAT,
TOO.



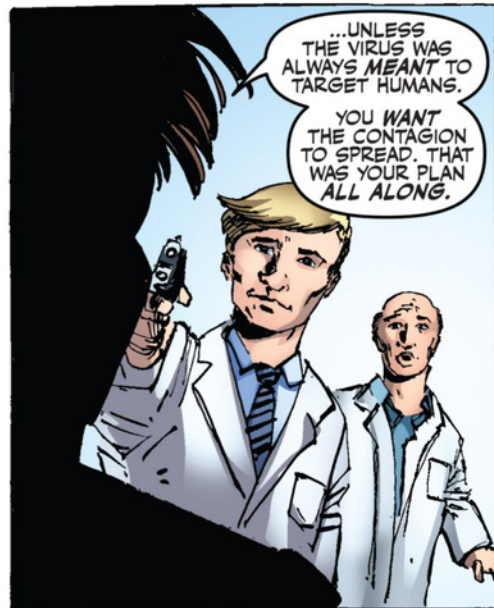
WHICH PART IS
GIVING YOU BOTH SO
MUCH TROUBLE? THERE
IS A **BOMB**. IT WILL
DETONATE. IT REALLY
IS RATHER EASY TO
UNDERSTAND.



BUT **WHY**?
THEY'RE WORKING
ON A **VACCINE**! IT
DOESN'T MAKE ANY
SENSE TO KILL
THEM.



UNLESS...



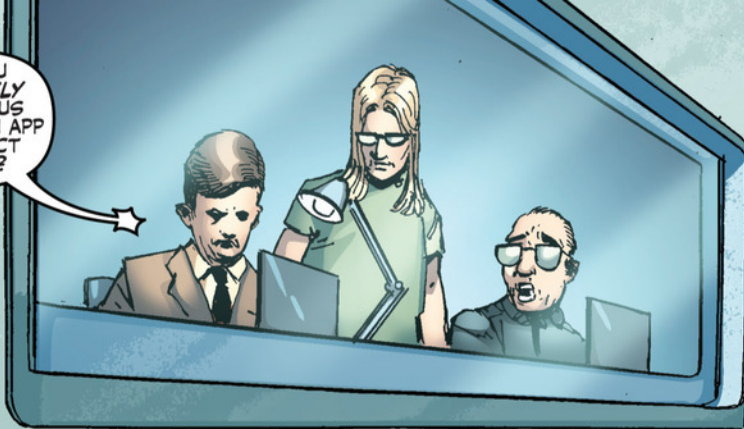
...UNLESS
THE VIRUS WAS
ALWAYS **MEANT** TO
TARGET HUMANS.

YOU WANT
THE CONTAGION
TO SPREAD. THAT
WAS YOUR PLAN
ALL ALONG.

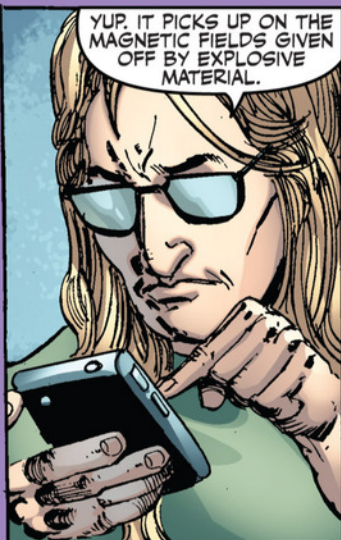


CLEVER
BOY.

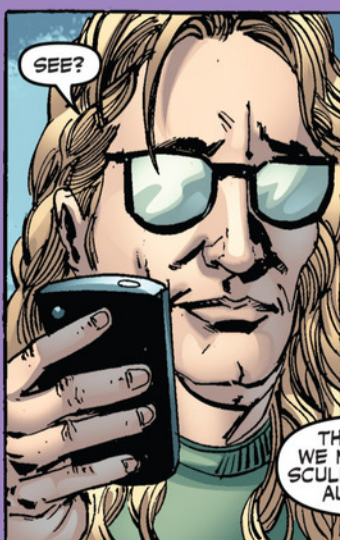
ARE YOU
SERIOUSLY
TELLING US
THERE'S AN APP
TO DETECT
BOMBS?



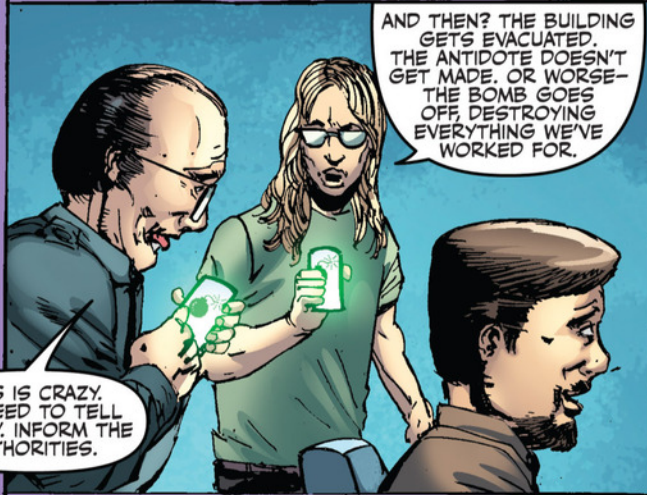
YUP. IT PICKS UP ON THE
MAGNETIC FIELDS GIVEN
OFF BY EXPLOSIVE
MATERIAL.



SEE?



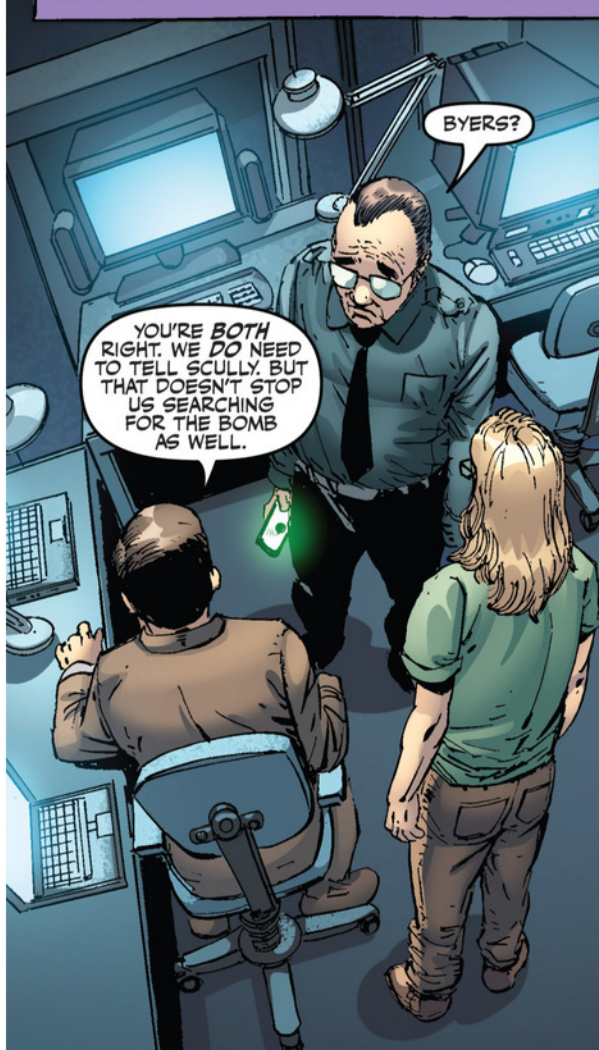
THIS IS CRAZY.
WE NEED TO TELL
SCULLY. INFORM THE
AUTHORITIES.



AND THEN? THE BUILDING
GETS EVACUATED.
THE ANTIDOTE DOESN'T
GET MADE. OR WORSE—
THE BOMB GOES
OFF, DESTROYING
EVERYTHING WE'VE
WORKED FOR.

BYERS?

YOU'RE BOTH
RIGHT. WE DO NEED
TO TELL SCULLY. BUT
THAT DOESN'T STOP
US SEARCHING
FOR THE BOMB
AS WELL.

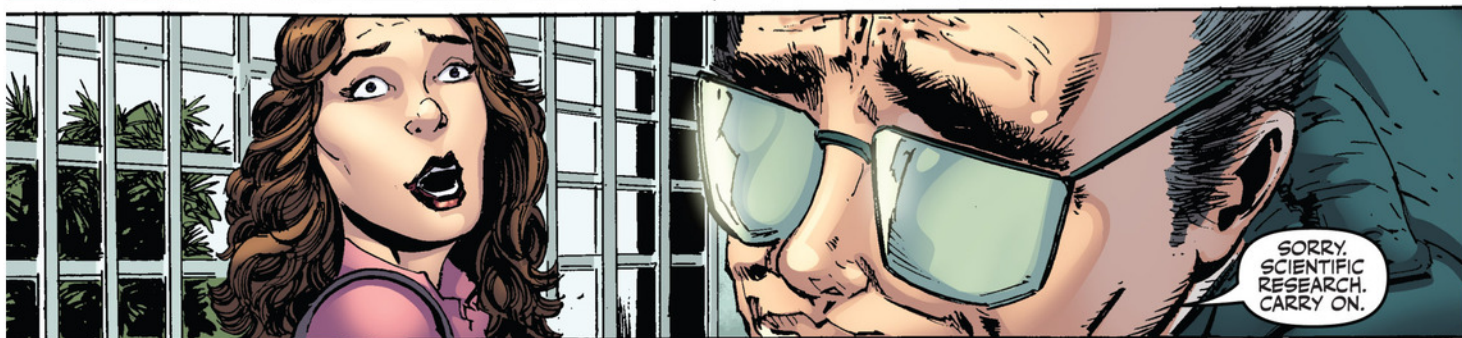
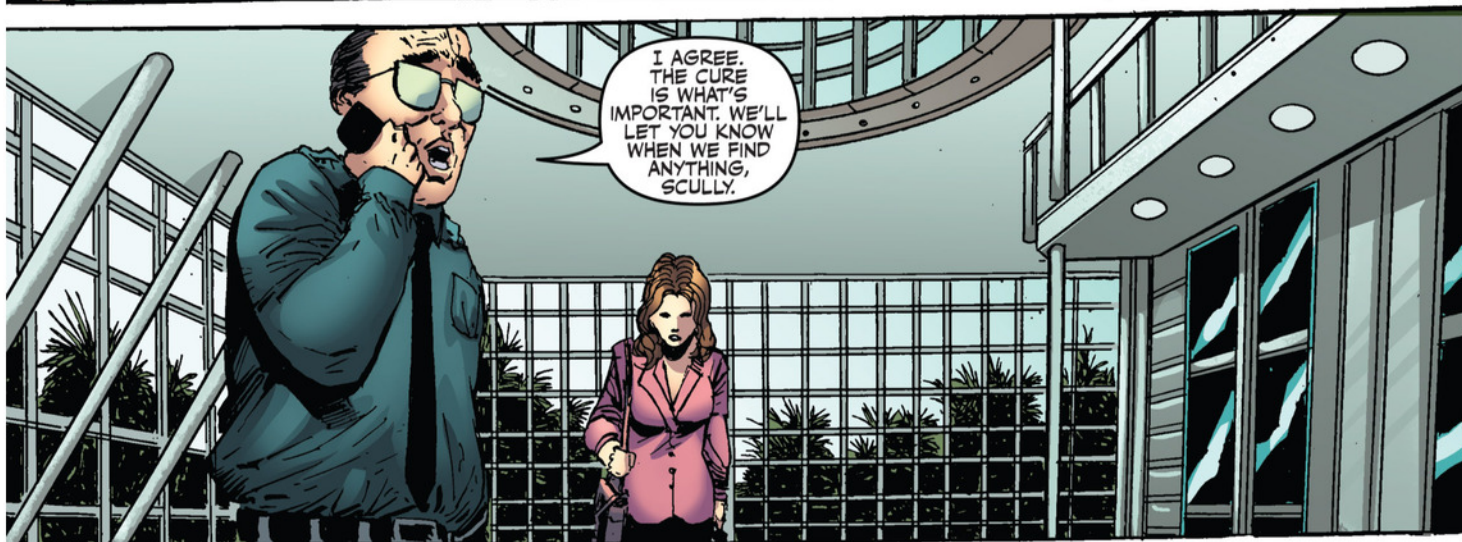
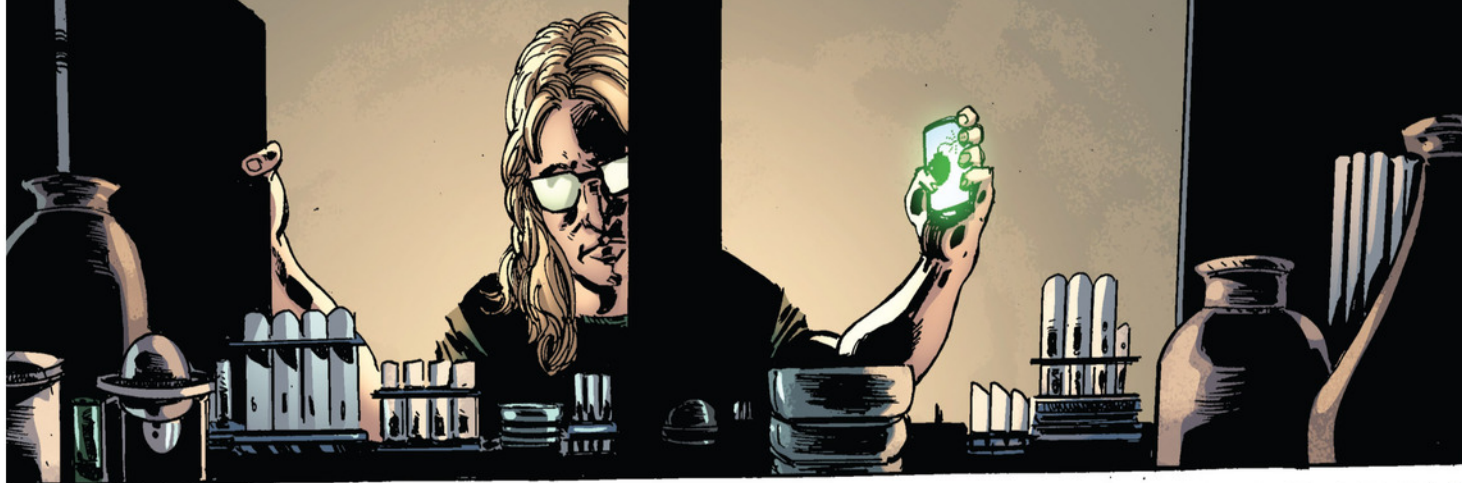


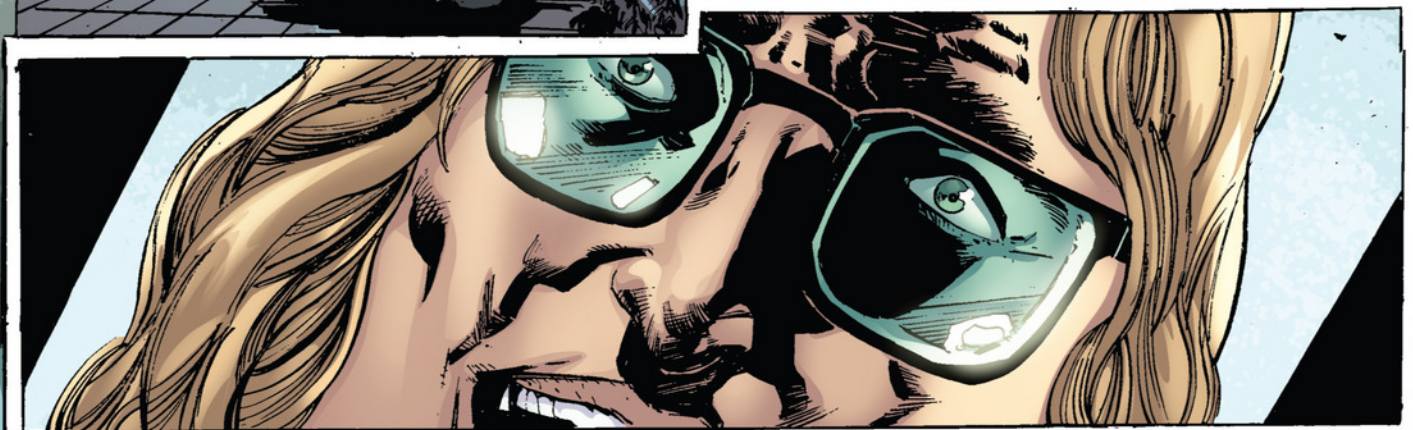
WELL,
WHEN YOU
PUT IT LIKE
THAT...

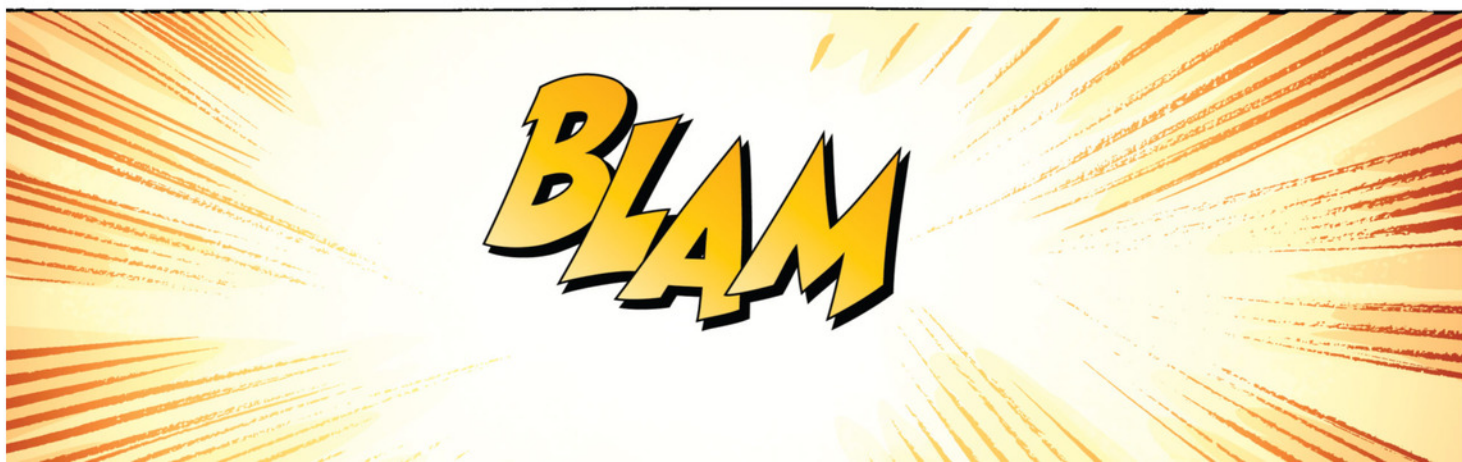
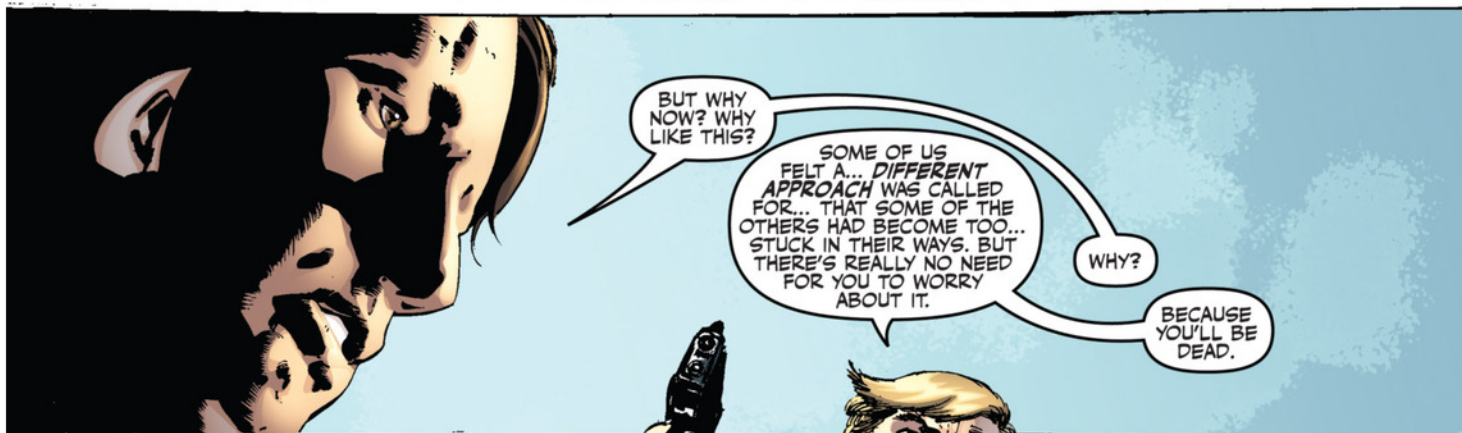


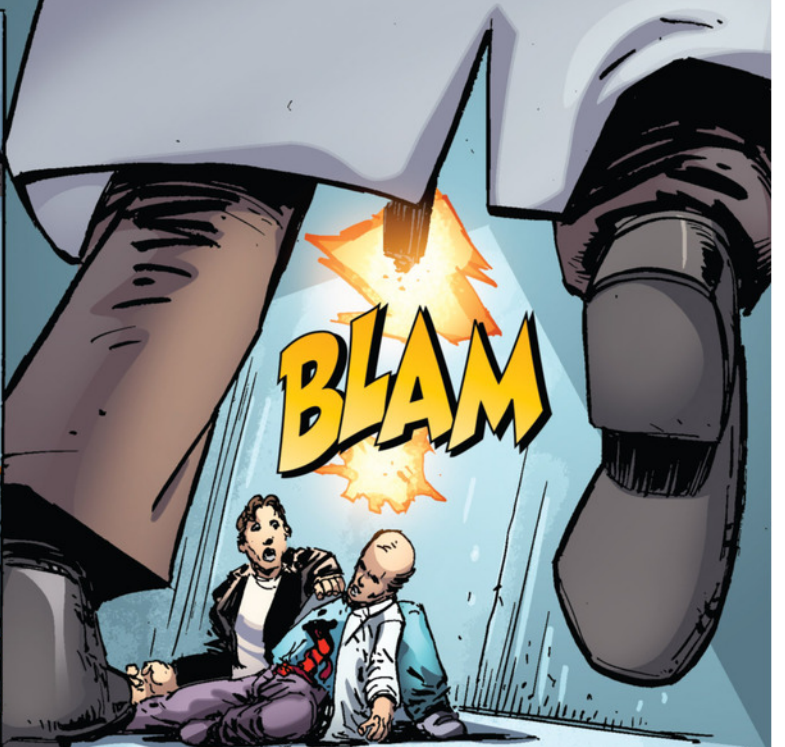
...IT IS
KINDA
COOL.



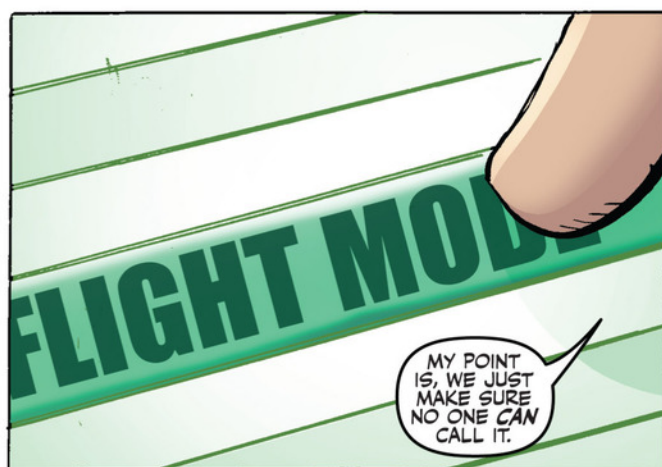
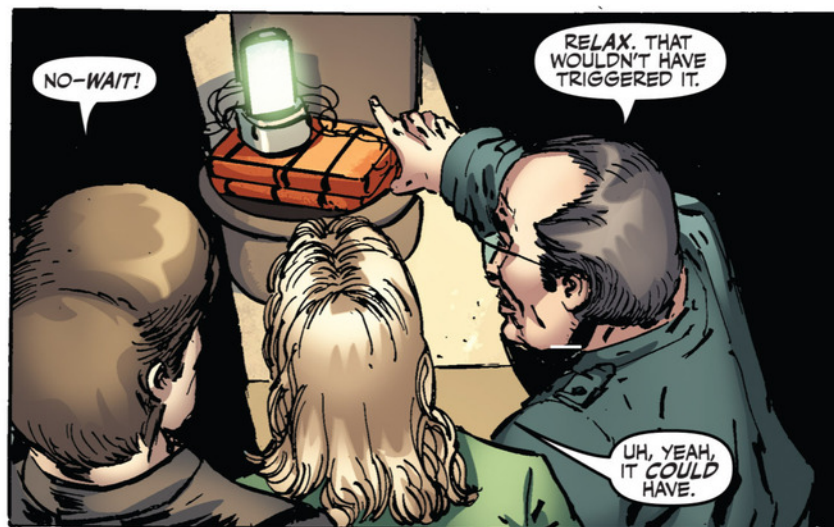


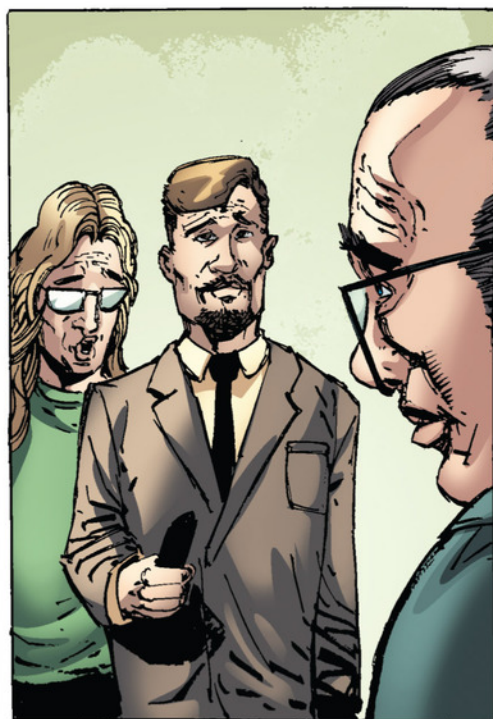
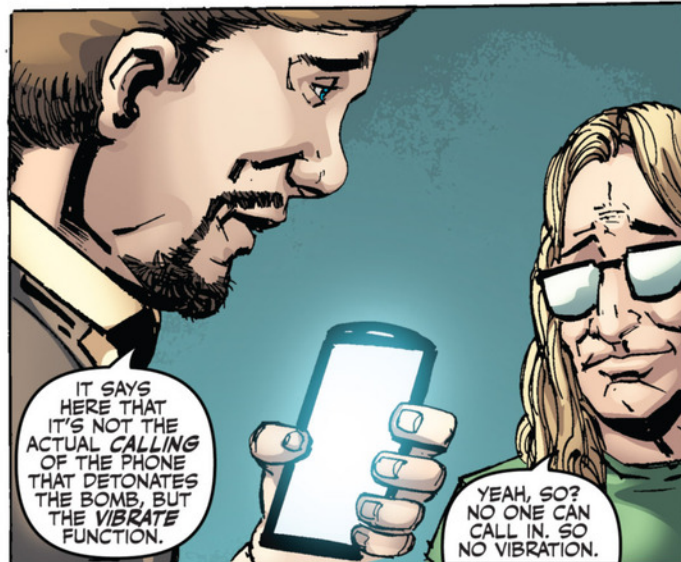






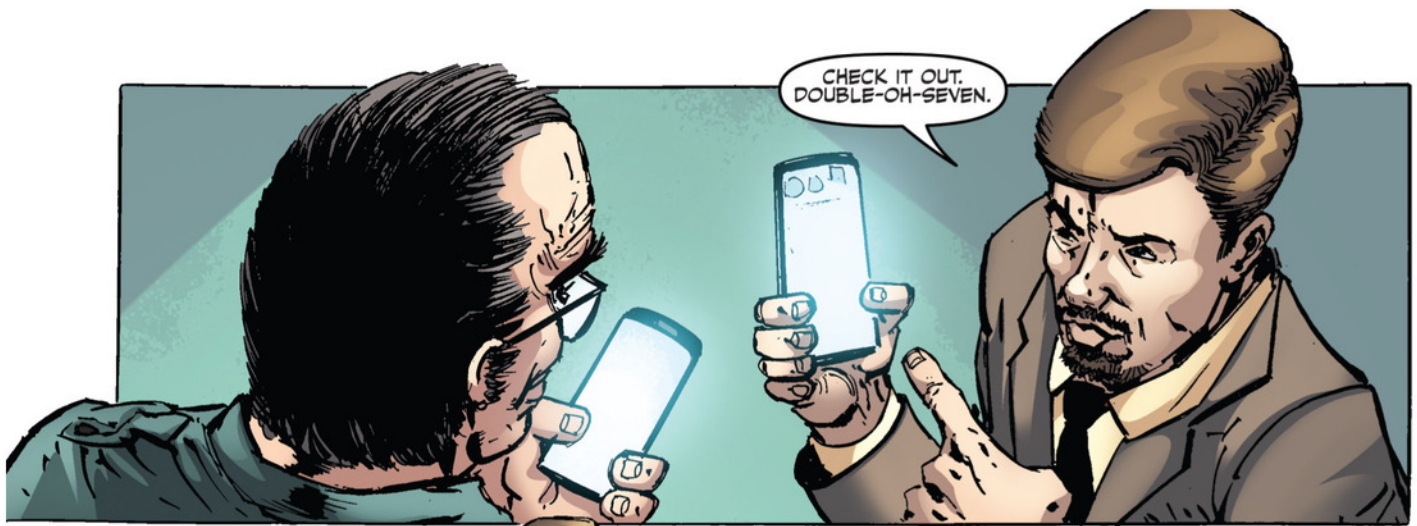












CERN, SWITZERLAND

THE EUROPEAN
ORGANIZATION FOR
NUCLEAR RESEARCH

ANOTHER REALITY. THE
PAST THAT ALMOST WAS.

YOU SURE WE
COULDN'T JUST DO
THIS THE NORMAL
WAY? YOU KNOW, A
FORMAL REQUEST?
IN WRITING?

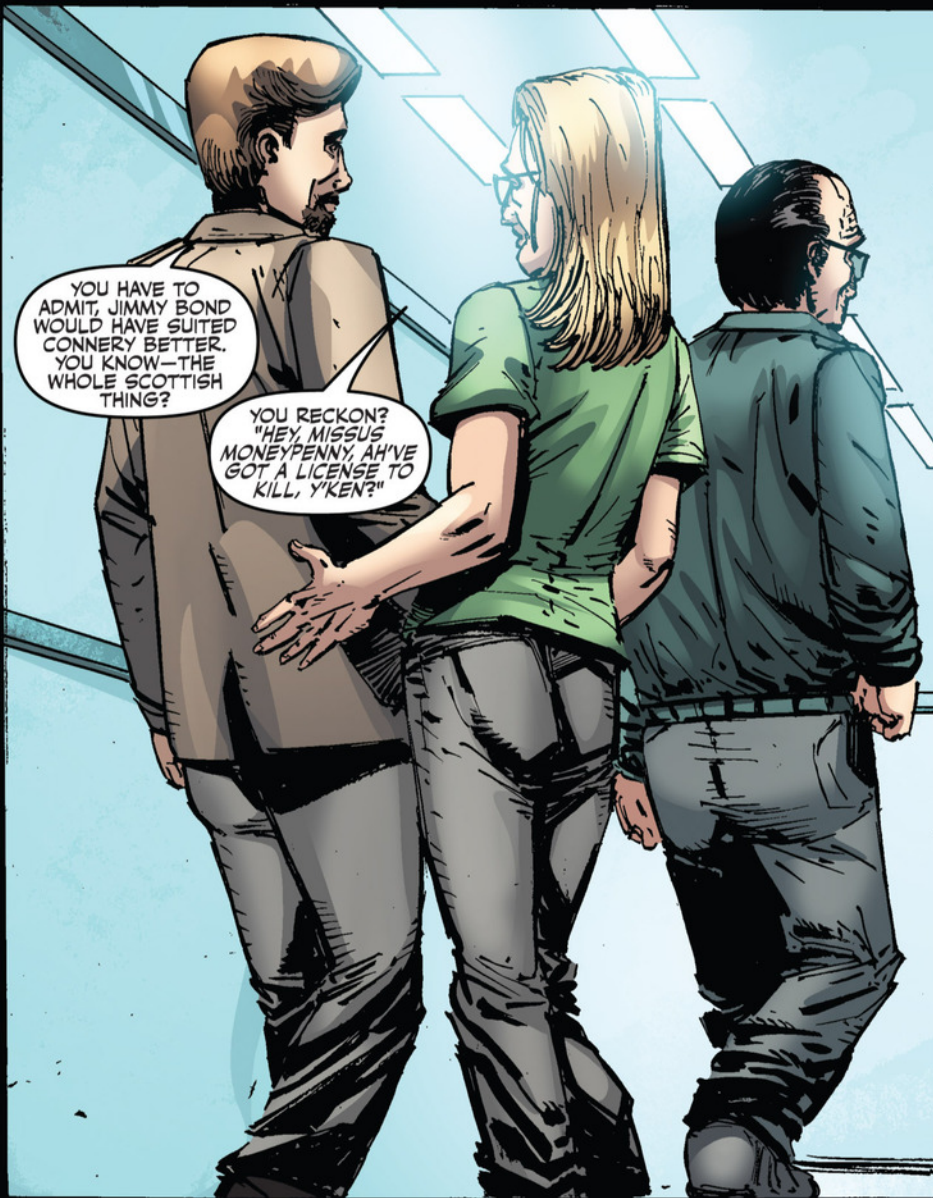
THE TIME TO
BRING THAT UP
WAS *BEFORE* WE
CABLE-TIED THE
GUARDS,
SCULLY.

NO... TIME.
SCULLY, WE NEED
TO... TO GET THIS
DONE AS... AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

FROHIKE!

I'M... FINE.
JUST... HELP
ME UP.

STAY BACK.
PLEASE.



YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, JIMMY BOND WOULD HAVE SUITED CONNERY BETTER. YOU KNOW—THE WHOLE SCOTTISH THING?

YOU RECKON? "HEY, MISSUS MONEYPENNY, AH'VE GOT A LICENSE TO KILL, Y'KEN?"



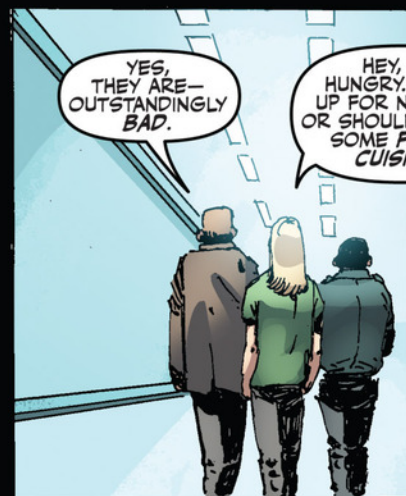
"AH'M JIMMY BOND. NAEBOODY MESSES WI' JIMMY BOND!"



THAT WAS **TERRIBLE**.

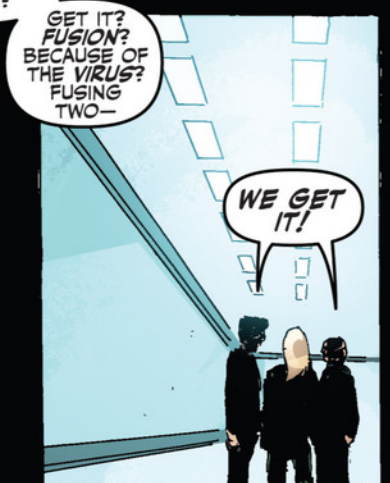
YOU SOUNDED LIKE A RUSSIAN BOXER WITH A SPEECH IMPEDIMENT.

HOW DARE YOU! MY IMPRESSIONS ARE OUTSTANDING!



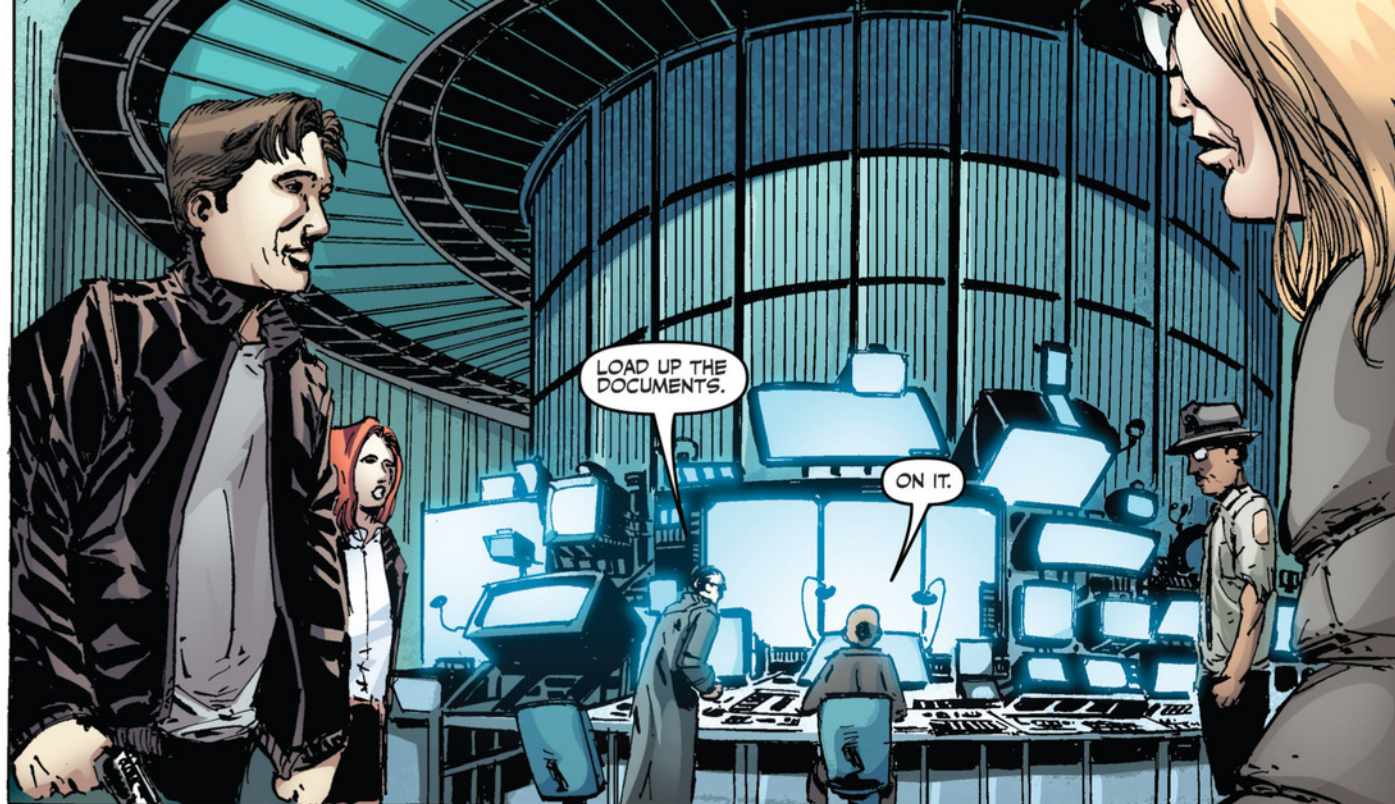
YES, THEY ARE—OUTSTANDINGLY **BAD**.

HEY, I'M HUNGRY. WHO'S UP FOR NACHOS? OR SHOULD WE TRY SOME **FUSION** CUISINE?



GET IT? **FUSION**? BECAUSE OF THE **VIRUS**? FUSING TWO—

WE GET IT!





WHAT NOW? HOW WILL WE KNOW IF IT WORKED?



IT'S TRICKY. IF IT WORKED, THEN OUR REALITY—*THIS* REALITY—WOULDN'T EXIST. THE PLAGUE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.



BUT THAT MAKES NO SENSE. IF THE PLAGUE DIDN'T HAPPEN, WE WOULDN'T NEED TO SEND THE FILE BACK IN TIME.



EXACTLY. IT CREATES A CLOSED LOOP. *OUR* REALITY BECOMES... REDUNDANT. SO MIGHT THEIRS FOR ALL WE KNOW. THEY SAY THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF REALITIES, AFTER ALL. IN SOME, THE PLAGUE WILL NEVER HAVE HAPPENED. IN SOME, IT WILL WIPE OUT MANKIND.



BUT THEN... IF OUR REALITY BECOMES REDUNDANT, WHAT HAPPENS TO US?



THE END.

