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J-just -- skaffe heads up, null...

...I'm still alive, y'know. More or less.

I'm well aware.

I've been doing this for a long time. Long enough to know when the end is inevitable.

I -- skakkris

Throom!

Quiet down. I don't have time for resistance.

You see -- this? Right now?

This is the end of you.
Kanda! Can you read me?
It's Ed! Zack's dad! It's an emergency!

How fast can you guys book it to Kansas?
Zack's in a whole lotta trouble!

We'll make due haste, but it'll take some time.
Our armor doesn't have the speed Zack's does -- or our ships for that matter.

What about the princess? Is she in danger?

No, she -- Lin! Lin's got a ship!
COME ON, COME ON, PICK UP, PICK UP....!

HELLO...?

LIN! IT'S ZACK'S DAD!

IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU'RE STILL ON EARTH?! YOU GOT ONE OF THOSE SUPER-FAST GELADRAN SHIPS, RIGHT?

UM... HI, MR. THOMPSON.

YEAH, I AM -- AND YEAH, I DO.

WHAT'S UP?

IT'S ZACK! HE -- OH, MAN, I REALLY MESSED UP AND SET HIM ON SOMETHING REAL BAD GOING ON IN KANSAS AND I DON'T THINK HE WAS READY AND --

IS HE OKAY?

IT'S, UH -- IT'S NOT LOOKING LIKE IT.

SEND ME THE COORDINATES.

I'M ON MY WAY.
KRAMM!!!

I will grant you one sole reprieve.

UNH!

I promise to make haste.

DOOM!!!
I’ll bring your death swiftly.

Really?! You still believe you have fight left in you?!

Fine. I’ll show you true pain.

KROK!

AAARRRGGGHH!!!
SKRKK! KZORRRAA!!!

L-LIN...?

GET THE $60# AWAY FROM MY BOYFRIEND.
Zack! C’mon! I’m getting you out of here!

Zack!

What hope do you think you have here?

Move!

I destroyed an entire town on a whim.

Skaff!

I tore the strongest Gelandian armor from out the inside out.

But--

This is just another day on the job for me.

So, all this is your job?

Kicking someone’s ass is my living?

I’m Gelandian!

Kicking someone’s ass is my lineage!

Thrakkathoom!
QUAINT, AND SO HEARTFELT.

YET ULTIMATELY SO FUTILE.

NOTHING ON THIS EARTH CAN STOP ME.

YOU SHOULD KNOW I DO TAKE JOY IN THIS.

KILLING HIM'S JUST A JOB.

SLAUGHTERING YOU'S A PERK.

GIVE IT A SHOT!

LIN!
'Nothing on this Earth.'
Oh, man.

Suit, run a diagnostic.

What am I working with?

Total power level is at 20%:
- Electrical... 5%
- Communications... 5%
- Defenses... 5%
- Weaponry... 5%

Any way I can reroute all power to propulsion?

Possible, but not advisable.

Suit instability is guaranteed, damage estimated to be catastrophic.

Make it happen.

Leave just enough for a burst transmission to the satellite.
I gotta warn Dad.

Rerouting...
YOU WANT ME TO WHAT?

GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE, DAD!

NOW!

BUT WHY?

JUST GO!

ZACK!

KRAKKA BADA BADA BADA BADA

LIN, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I -- THE JACKET!

I KNOW.

ZACK!!! NO!!!

BANG BANG BANG!!!
TECH JACKET CORE UNSTABLE.

SHUTDOWN COMMENCING TO ENSURE --

BYPASS.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE LONG, BOY.

YOU LOOK EVEN WORSE.

I'VE SEEN THIS ALL PLAY OUT BEFORE, MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

SHUTDOWN BYPASSED.
TECH JACKET COMPROMISED.

AND I'LL SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.

I GET IT.

YOU THINK YOU'RE A HERO.
YOU THINK THIS GIVES YOU HOPE.

BUT THIS ISN'T GOOD VERSUS EVIL.

COMPLETE SYSTEM COLLAPSE INEVITABLE.

THIS IS ALL JUST BUSINESS.
JUST A JOB.
YOU AND ME BOTH.
I ARRANGE! SATELLITE POWER CORE COMPROMISED!

I DO ADMIRE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE.
SUCH RESILIENCE IS RARE.

KATHROOM!

TOTAL STRUCTURE MELTDOWN IMMINENT! EVACUATION STRONGLY ADVISED!

YOUR SUIT'S GONE QUIET. YOUR SATELLITE HASN'T STOPPED ME.
YOU'RE ALONE NOW. NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT DIE.
TELEPORTATION CHAMBER ACTIVATED! DESTINATION REVISED!

JUST ABOUT.

SHOWING ME THROUGH YOUR TELEPORTER?!

THAT'S YOUR BIG PLAN?

THROOOOOOOOM!

WHEREVER YOU'RE SENDING ME WON'T BE ENOUGH!

I'LL TEAR THIS UNIVERSE APART TO DESTROY YOU!

KRIZZZZZZ...

...KRIZZZZ!

YEAH, WELL.

GOOD LUCK, ASSHOLE.
THROCKA-WTHRAAAM!!!
C’MON, YOU BIG JERK.

WAKE UP ALREADY.

DUDE!

FINALLY.

OH, MAN...

...EVERYTHING HURTS.

I, LIN--

YEAH?

I AM REALLY SICK OF HOSPITALS.

HOLY CRAP, MAN!

THAT WAS TOTALLY BAD ASS! I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU--

KANDA, THE SATELLITE, AND, MAN, THE JACKET -- I’M SO SORRY.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, ZACK. YOU DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

GELDARIANS... WE’RE NOW PERCEIVED AS A WARRIOR RACE.

BUT IT’S NOT TRUE.

WE DEVELOPED THESE SUITS OUT OF NECESSITY. WHEN OUR SOCIETY BECAME TOO HARSH TO EXIST IN AS IS, WHEN OUR WORLDS WERE SCORCHED AND REQUIRED EVOLUTION.

WE’LL DO NOW WHAT WE DID THEN -- WHAT WE’VE ALWAYS DONE.
"WE REBUILD."
You're looking pretty good there, mister.

I'm feeling pretty good.

What a difference a month makes.

So, my dad... he says I gotta go, like, across the galaxy.

Whenever you're back, though... well... you and me?

I'm hoping it's still "you and me."

You sure?

What about... you know?

We'll make it work.

I get it.

You're a space princess. You gotta do space diplomacy.

It sucks. You'll be gone. But it's kinda your job, right?

Listen, if you've ever gotta, um, take care of business -- I get it.

Considering... yeah.

You too, of course, but... look, I just want -- you and me?

You and me.
This isn’t my first time drawing Tech Jacket.

My admiration goes back a whole decade, when I asked Robert Kirkman if I could do a pinup in the back of the original series. I like anime, I like robots, and I like aliens. It was a lock for me. And this image is actually one of my first published works. It’s not very good, but hey, I did what I could. I can’t remember what issue it wound up in, but I was super proud of it at the time.

A little bit of backstory — I grew up on Image Comics books. Comics were always around and in my life, but I wasn’t really in love with them until Image. They were cool, fun distractions up to that point. But then I saw Youngblood. And WildC.A.T.S. And Spawn. And Savage Dragon. And Cyberforce. And every other Image Comic #1 with a shiny cover and 10 variants. You name it, and I bought it. ALL of them. Many times more than once. It was an obsession.

I liked them because they were fearless. They were brimming with this young, exuberant energy that spoke to 13-year-old me about a bold new future, full of possibility. It wasn’t about being high art. It wasn’t about following the rules. It was pure Jack Kirby and Stan Lee style comics. They weren’t perfect. But they were fun. And I swore to myself, one day I would be one of those cool Image guys drawing a cool Image book. I also was sure I’d be a rapper and basketball player. And a marine biologist. But hey, one out of four ain’t bad.

It look longer than I would have liked, but I finally did it. And I am eternally thankful to Robert, Sean, Joe, Dave, Emilio, and everyone else involved for giving me this opportunity to draw an honest-to-God Image comic book. I promise to you guys, and to you the reader, that I’ll do my very best to give you something worthy of your time. And hopefully maybe I can inspire some other 13-year-old to one day do the same.

Khary Randolph
All of the danger! All of the killing! All of the swearing!

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MINIMUM WAGE

#1

Featured on Entertainment Weekly’s Must List!

IN STORES JANUARY

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD
about getting partnered with a foul-mouthed, cynical old homicide cop
TO WORK HERE
inside a five-mile tin can packed with a half million people 22,000 miles in orbit
BUT IT damn sure HELPS, you prick.

22,000 MILES UP, THERE IS NO BACKUP.
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