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May
2019



THE NEWEST STAR IN A GALAXY OF HEROES!

STARTUP™

ALL-NEW STORY! ALL-NEW THRILLS!

I'M ALREADY
GONNA ROT IN
PRISON FOR
ONE MURDER,
STARTUP--

--WHY NOT MAKE IT
TWO??!



**DEADLY IS
THE DISRUPTOR!**

OUR HEROES MEAN BUSINESS!



SITCOMICS™ PROUDLY PRESENTS:

STARTUP™

EPISODE 3: "JUST CAUSE!"

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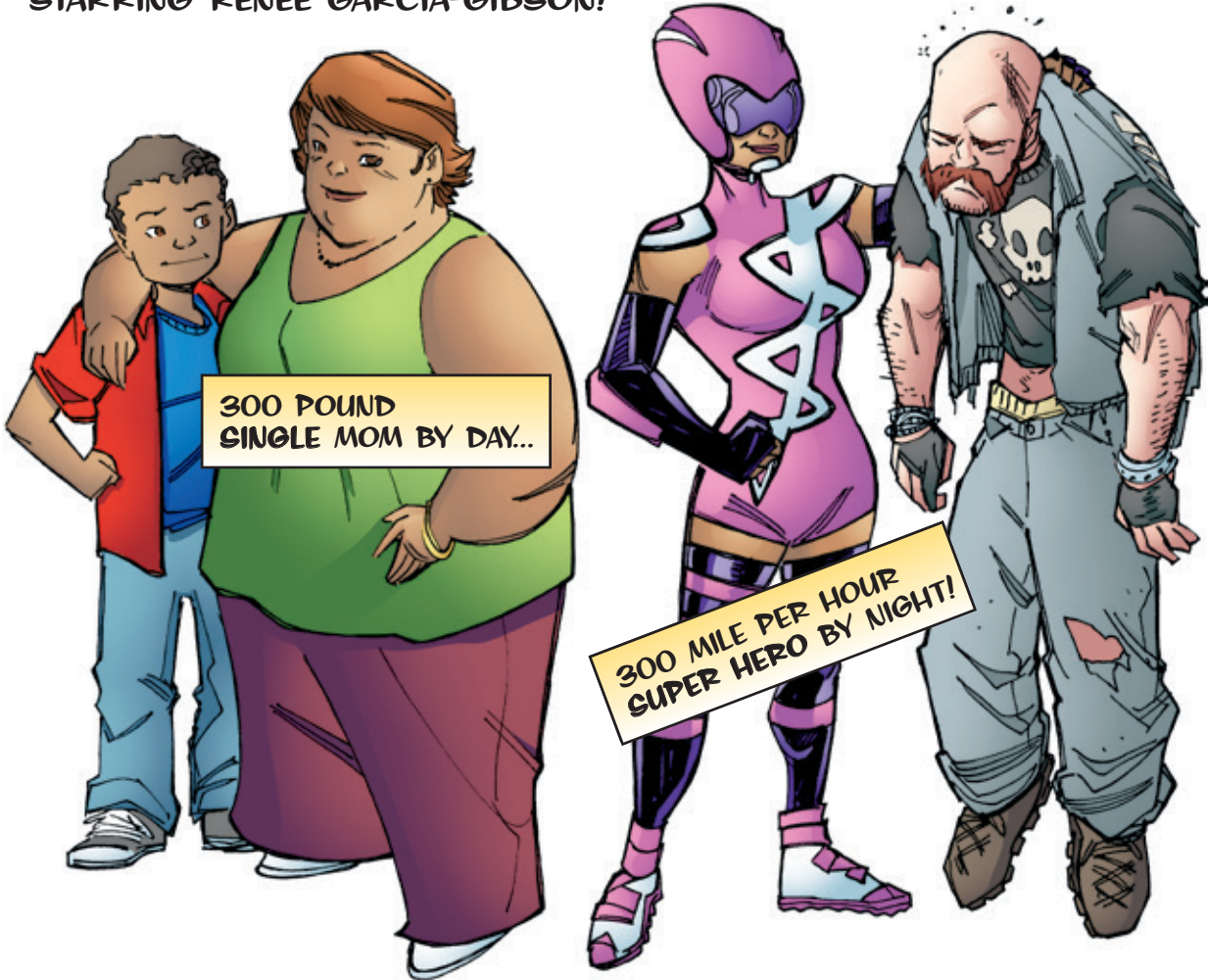
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CO-PLOTTER/BOOKRUNNER - DARIN HENRY CHARACTER DESIGN BY DARIN HENRY & RON FRENZ

STARRING RENEE GARCIA-GIBSON!



300 POUND COURT STENOGRAPHER RENEE GARCIA-GIBSON WAS APPROACHED TO TAKE AN EXPERIMENTAL DIET DRUG THAT INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED INTO THE FASTEST WOMAN ON EARTH -- STARTUP: THE NEWEST STAR IN A GALAXY OF HEROES!

SPECIAL NOTE: IF YOU DOWNLOADED THIS COMIC BOOK OFF AN ILLEGAL TORRENT WEBSITE, IT MAY HAVE BEEN FREE FOR YOU TO READ, BUT IT SURE WASN'T FREE FOR US TO MAKE. IF YOU WANT TO ENJOY MORE GREAT SITCOMICS STORIES IN THE FUTURE, THEN PLEASE SUPPORT THE SITCOMICS PATREON PAGE TODAY!

STARTUP™ IS
RATED



ALL CONTENT SUITABLE FOR
ANYONE ALLOWED TO WATCH
BROADCAST TV AFTER 9PM.

You know, even when you're a superhero--a super-SPEEDSTER, mind you--a card-carrying member of the world renowned HEROES UNION and Philadelphia's current It-Girl--

--you can have a bad day.

I'm about to have that day.

My name is Renee Garcia-Gibson, but you can call me--

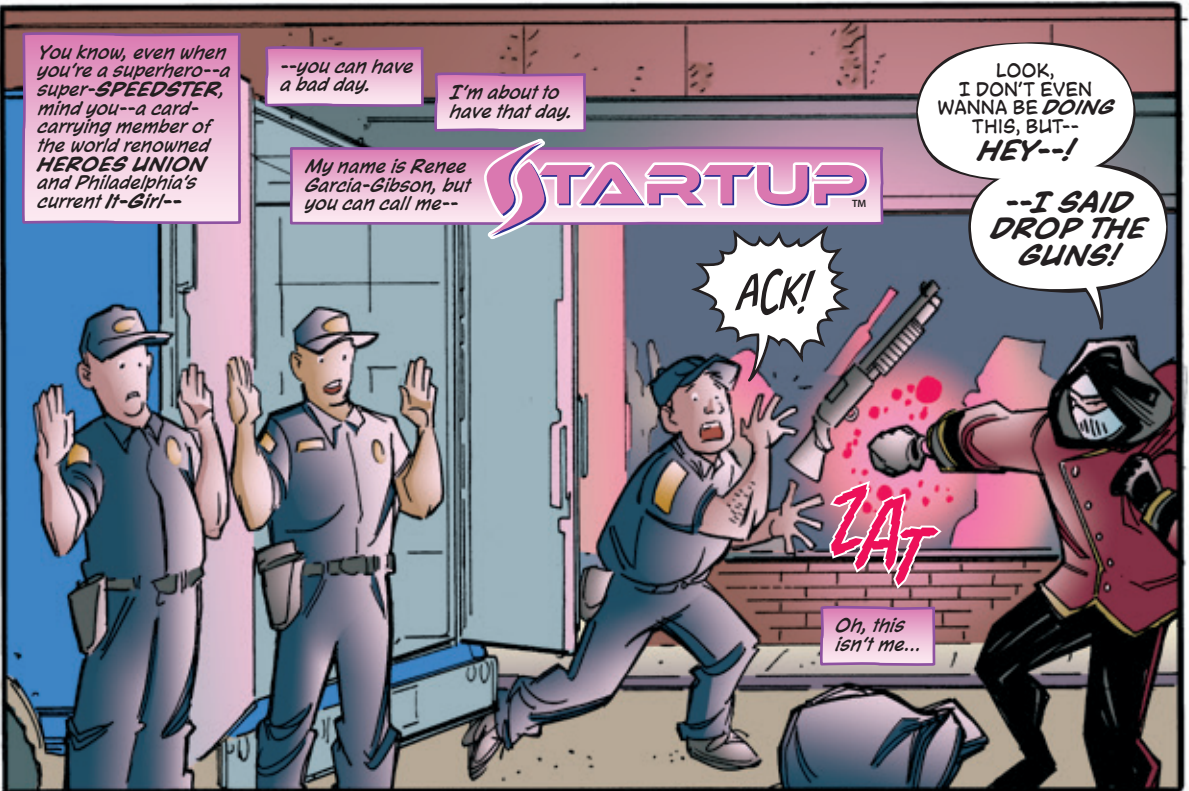
STARTUP™

LOOK, I DON'T EVEN WANNA BE DOING THIS, BUT-- HEY--!

--I SAID DROP THE GUNS!

ACK!

Oh, this isn't me...



This is a kid called **DISRUPTOR**.

He has these gauntlets that...disrupt things...?

NOW DON'T BE STUPID! STAY BACK AND LET'S NOT MAKE THIS ANY HARDER THAN IT ALREADY IS! YOU DON'T WANNA BE HERE...

...I DON'T WANNA BE HERE...



YOW!

I JUST WANNA GET THESE BAGS OF LOOT BACK TO--

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, JERK-FACE!

FWASSH





LUCKY YOU!
YOU GET TO BE
TAKEN DOWN BY THE
ONE AND ONLY--THE
SCINTILLATING
SIZZLE!

Yeah, that's
not me either.

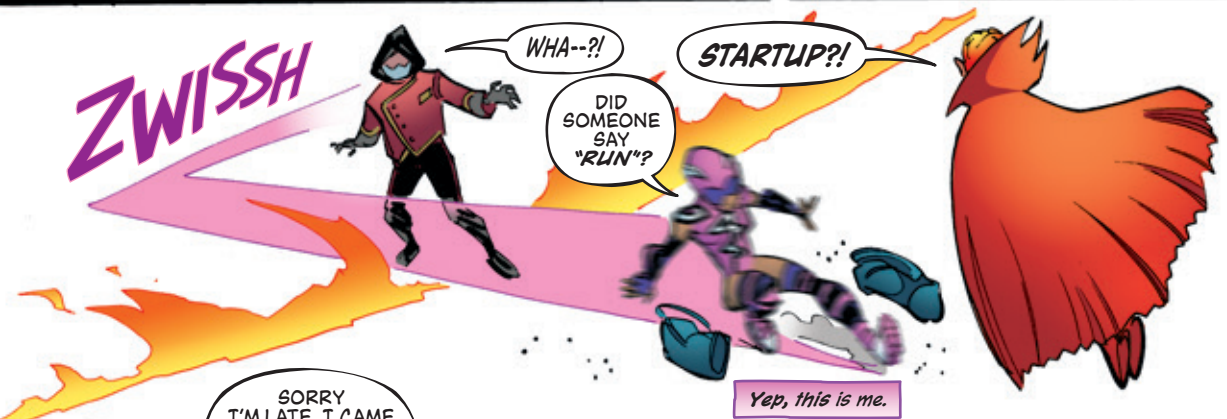
But like me, Sizzle is relatively
new on the superhero scene.
She's eager to make it into the
big leagues.

I heard she even
hired a publicist.



GIVE IT UP.
THERE'S
NOWHERE
TO HIDE AND
NOWHERE
TO RUN.

Pressman's
JUNKYARD
SINCE



ZWISSH

WHA--?!

STARTUP?!

DID
SOMEONE
SAY
"RUN"?

Yep, this is me.



SORRY
I'M LATE. I CAME
AS SOON AS I
HEARD "ARMORED
CAR HOLDUP" AND
THOUGHT I MIGHT
GIVE YOU A LITTLE
BACK UP.



RIGHT!

THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I
WANT
YOU TO
DO--

BACK
UP--



--AND
BACK OFF!
THIS IS MY BUST,
HERO--MY MOMENT,
MY SHOT! YOU'RE
NOT NEEDED--OR
WANTED HERE,
STARTUP.

OKAY.
EASY. I WAS
JUST--



JUST TRYING TO STEAL ALL MY GLORY?! JUST MAKING SURE THAT NO ONE GETS THE SPOTLIGHT EXCEPT YOU AND YOUR HEROES UNION PALS?!?

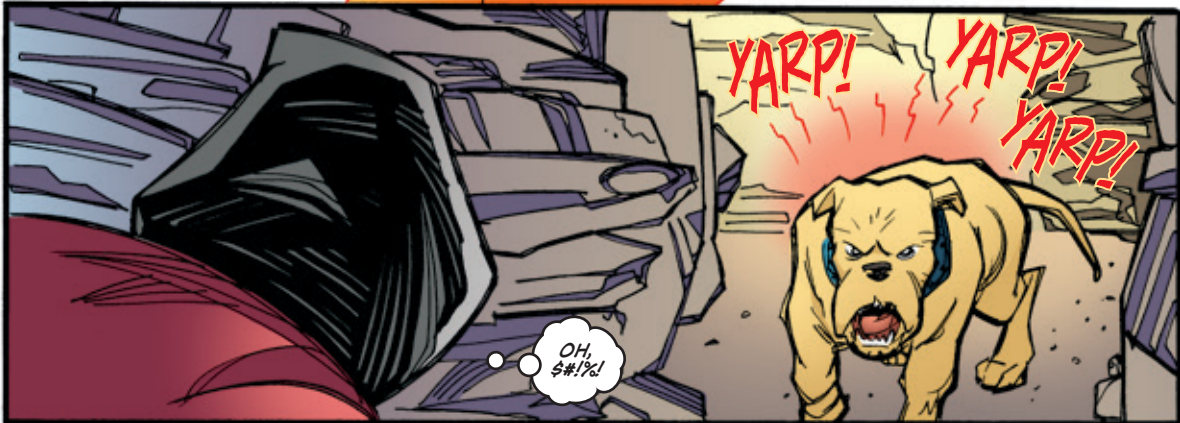
I KNOW HOW IT IS--IT'S JUST LIKE THE ENTERTAINMENT BIZ!

YOU MAKE SURE TO KEEP THE NEW KIDS-- THE UP-AND-COMERS-- DOWN!

WELL, NOT *THIS* TIME! THIS IS *MY* TIME! THIS IS *SIZZLE'S* CHANCE TO MAKE SOME HEADLINES!

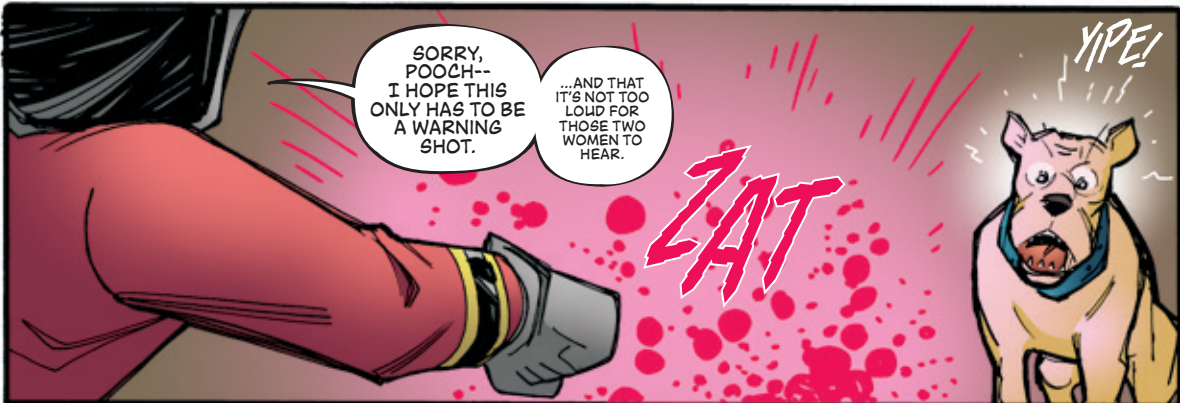
WHOA, UH... SIZZLE...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL...

YOU'RE RUINING IT! YOU'RE RUINING MY *BUST!*



YARP! YARP! YARP!

OH, \$#!%!

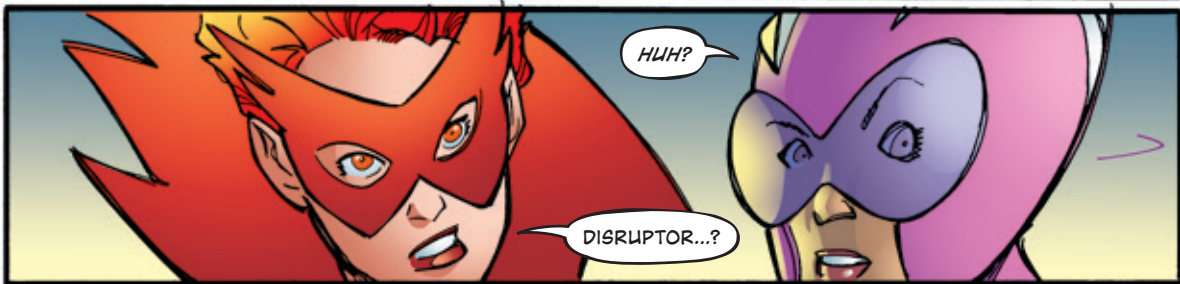


SORRY, POOCH-- I HOPE THIS ONLY HAS TO BE A WARNING SHOT.

...AND THAT IT'S NOT TOO LOUD FOR THOSE TWO WOMEN TO HEAR.

ZAT

YIPE!



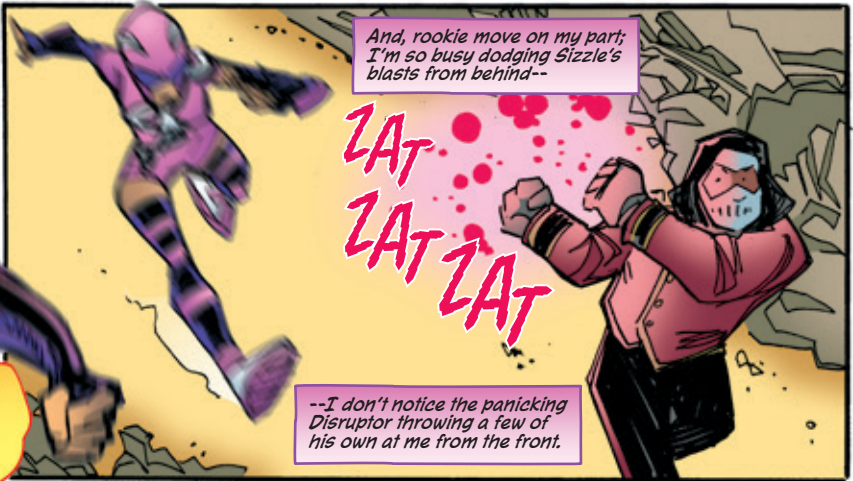
HUH?

DISRUPTOR...?



I GOT THIS.

NO!



And, rookie move on my part; I'm so busy dodging Sizzle's blasts from behind--

ZAT
ZAT
ZAT

--I don't notice the panicking Disruptor throwing a few of his own at me from the front.



Until one clips me...

LUNGH!

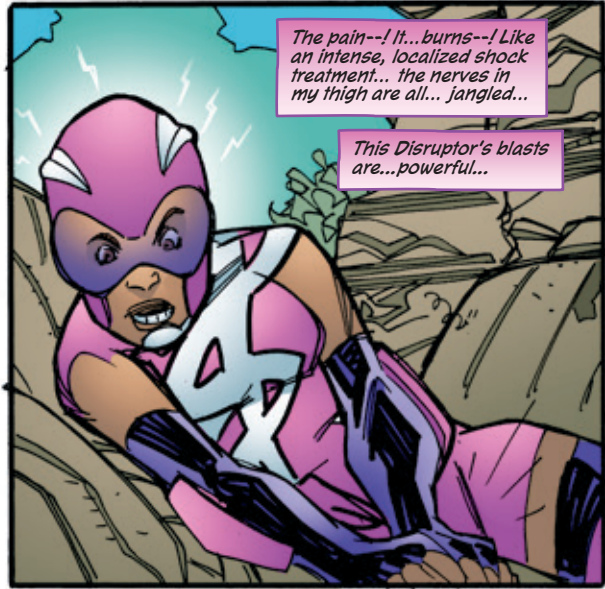
And at this speed...



...that's nothing short of catastrophic!

WHISSSSSSSSSH

CRASH



The pain--! It...burns--! Like an intense, localized shock treatment... the nerves in my thigh are all... jangled...

This Disruptor's blasts are...powerful...



WRRRR
KLK
KLK
KLK

I gotta get back out there--before he does some real damage.



BEFORE I TAKE YOU IN, DISRUPTOR--I WANT TO **THANK YOU**; YOU'RE GONNA PUT ME ON THE **MAP!**

NOW LOSE THE FANCY **BLAST-GLOVES**, LOSER--WHERE YOU'RE GOING, THEY DON'T LET YOU KEEP YOUR TOYS.



This is not going well. Sizzle really needs to work on her people skills.

I gotta stop him--before he does some real damage! But my leg still feels like it was yanked off and put back on backwards.



OR... WE COULD... AND HEAR ME OUT ON THIS... MAYBE WE COULD DROP THIS WHOLE THING--

AFTER ALL, THERE IS THE MONEY...?



THE **MONEY!?! ARE YOU KIDDING?!?**

THIS IS BETTER THAN MONEY, DIRTBAG--

UINH!

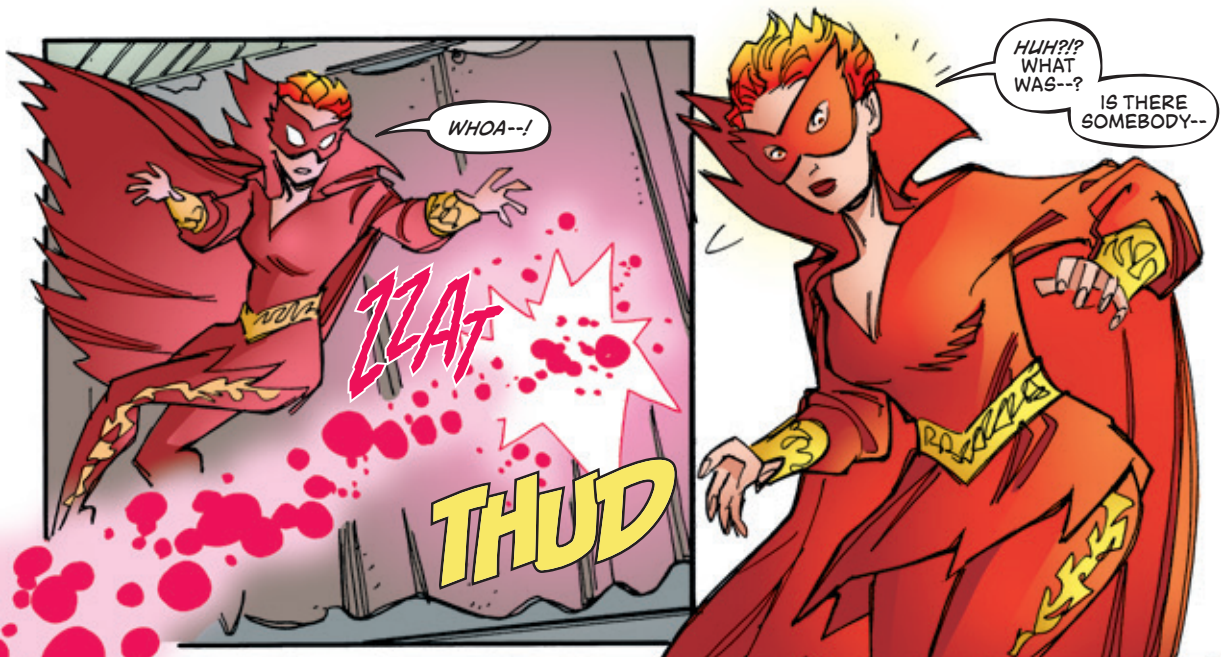
SSS
SSS



--THIS IS **PUBLICITY!**

ALRIGHT THEN... IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GOTTA BE...

YOU'RE **MAKING ME DO THIS!**

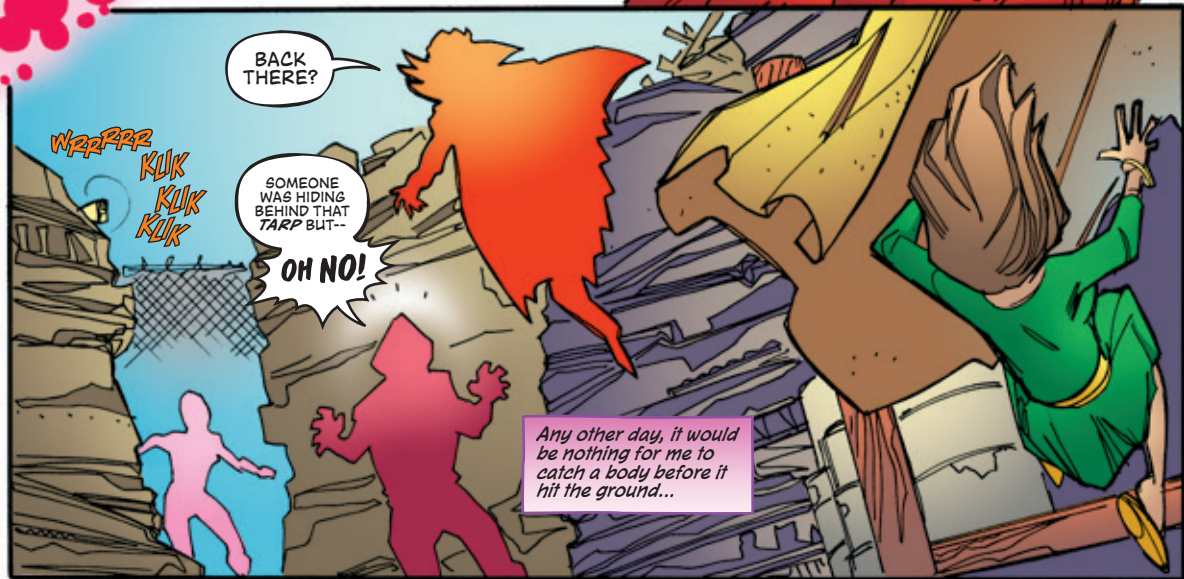


WHOA--!

ZLAT

THUD

HUH??
WHAT WAS--?
IS THERE SOMEBODY--



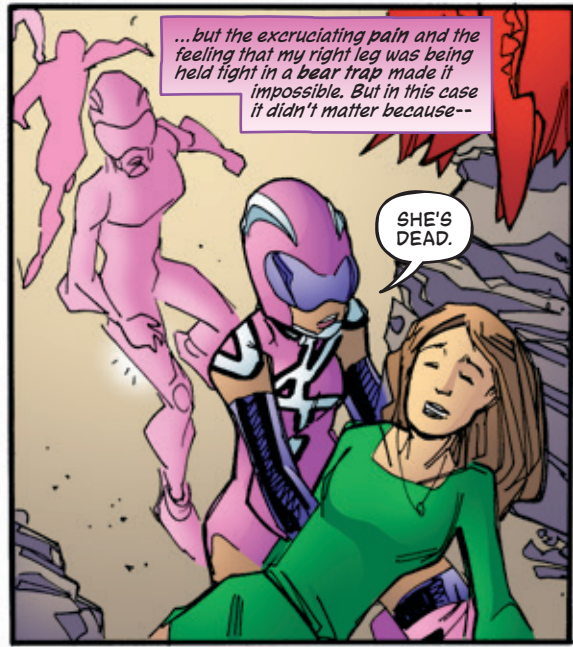
BACK THERE?

WRRRRR
KUK
KUK
KUK

SOMEONE WAS HIDING BEHIND THAT TARP BUT--

OH NO!

Any other day, it would be nothing for me to catch a body before it hit the ground...



...but the excruciating pain and the feeling that my right leg was being held tight in a bear trap made it impossible. But in this case it didn't matter because--

SHE'S DEAD.



NO!



OH MY GOD, IT'S--
YOU MURDERED HER.



NO. LISTEN. DISRUPTOR--I SAW THIS. THIS WAS AN ACCIDENT. I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING, BUT IF YOU LET ME TAKE YOU IN WITHOUT A FIGHT, WE--



OH, HECK NO! YOU'RE NOT TAKING HIM ANYWHERE, SPEEDY! THIS IS MY BUST! HE'S MINE!

WHAT?!



SSKRAK

SSSSSSSS

SEE THAT SECURITY CAMERA? YOU MESS WITH ME AGAIN, STARTUP--

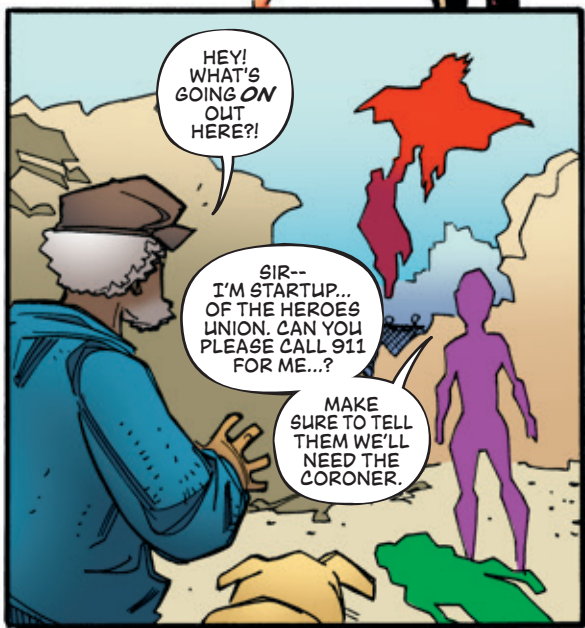
NEXT TIME, IT'LL BE YOU!



WAIT, SIZZLE! YOU CAN'T JUST--

--AHHH! MY LEG!

OH, IT'S NO USE!

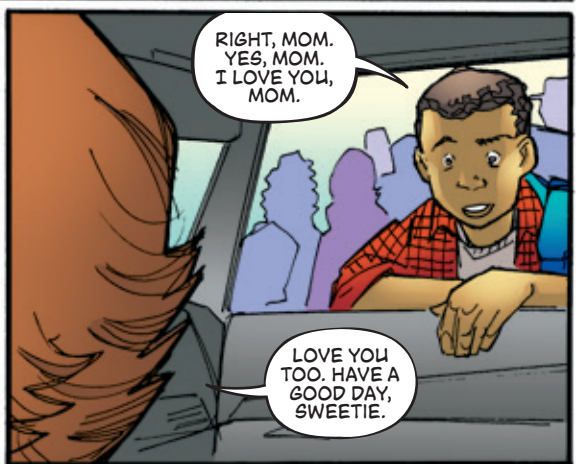
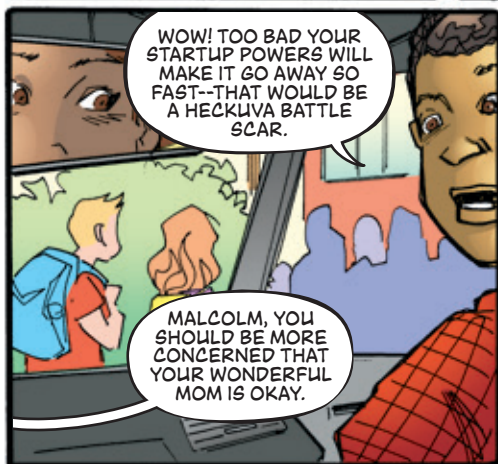
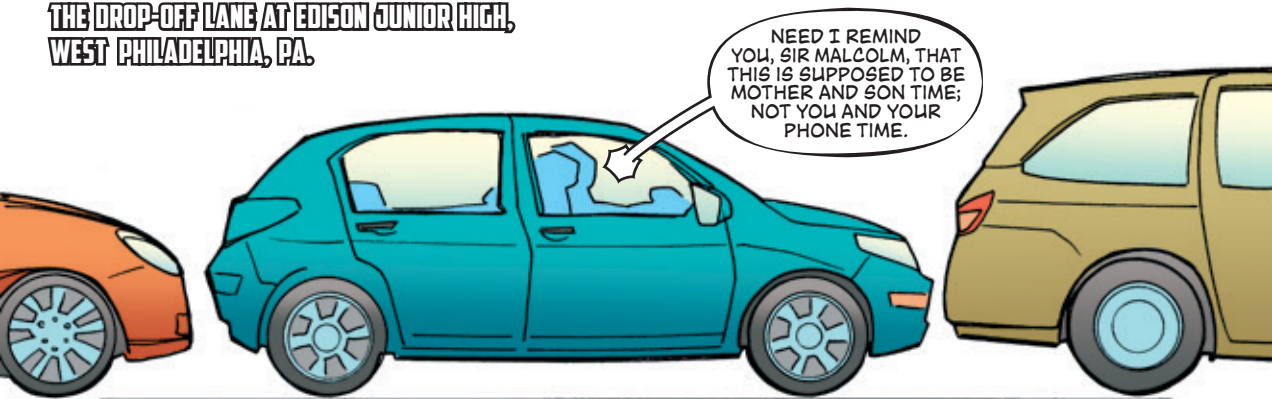


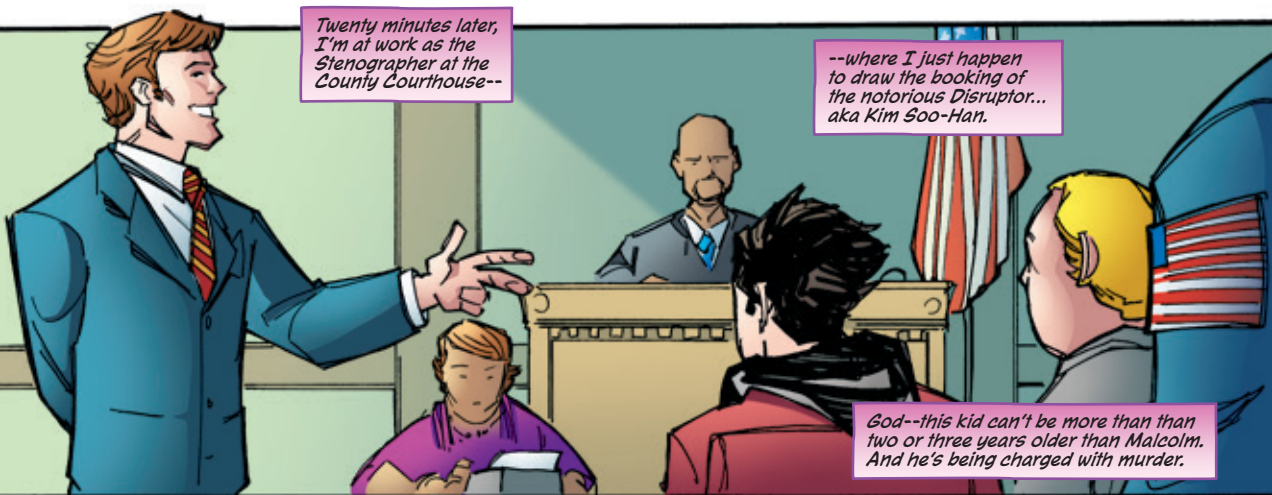
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?!

SIR-- I'M STARTUP... OF THE HEROES UNION. CAN YOU PLEASE CALL 911 FOR ME...?

MAKE SURE TO TELL THEM WE'LL NEED THE CORONER.

THE DROP-OFF LANE AT EDISON JUNIOR HIGH,
WEST PHILADELPHIA, PA.





Twenty minutes later, I'm at work as the Stenographer at the County Courthouse--

--where I just happen to draw the booking of the notorious Disruptor... aka Kim Soo-Han.

God--this kid can't be more than than two or three years older than Malcolm. And he's being charged with murder.



I SUGGEST YOU TAKE THE PLEA BARGAIN ON THIS, KID.

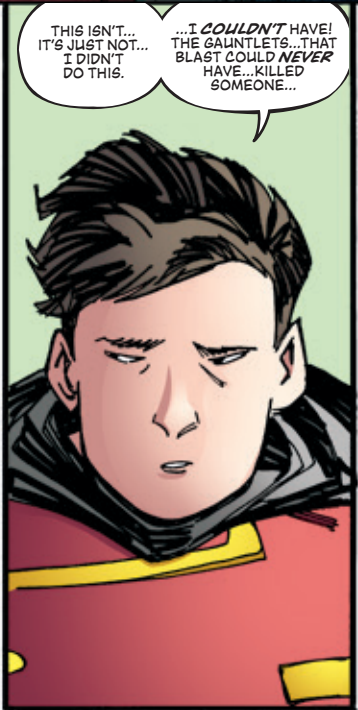
YOU GOT TWO SUPER HEROES BEING CALLED AS WITNESSES HERE AND--

NO, MR. ZWICK! I... I DIDN'T KILL THAT WOMAN. I--



COME ON, KID. LET'S NOT DRAG THIS OUT. I'M ALREADY LATE FOR MY COLLEGE BUDDY'S BRIS...

...WELL, NOT HIS BRIS. HIS KID'S BRIS. BUT... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...



THIS ISN'T... IT'S JUST NOT... I DIDN'T DO THIS.

...I COULDN'T HAVE! THE GAUNTLETS... THAT BLAST COULD NEVER HAVE... KILLED SOMEONE...



≡SIGH≡ JEEZ, ALRIGHT...

THE DEFENDANT WISHES TO ENTER A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY, YOUR HONOR.



VERY WELL, MR. ZWICK. YOU AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY MILLER WILL BE NOTIFIED OF A TRIAL DATE BY THIS COURT LATER ON TODAY.

This just doesn't feel right. Yeah, he's an idiot for robbing an armored car, but I was there... this kid is not guilty of murder.



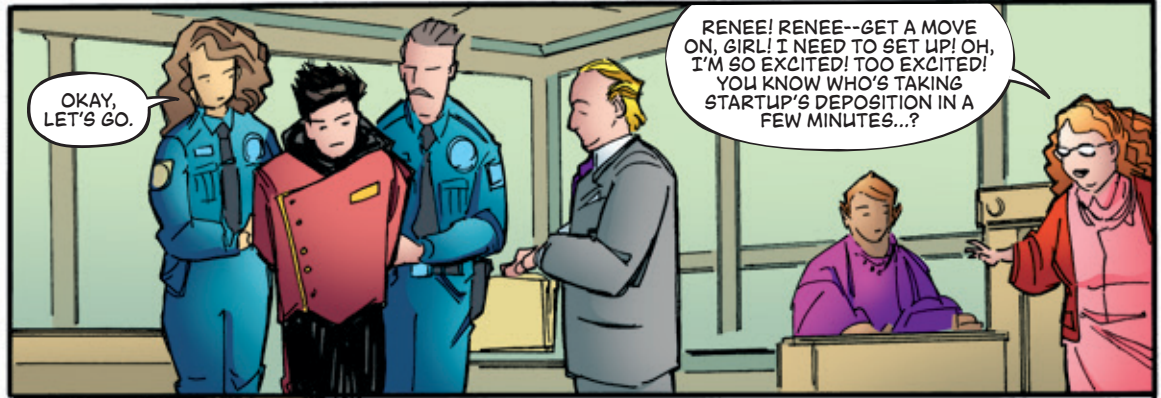
WHAT I DON'T GET IS, WHY DID YA THINK YA COULD GET AWAY RUNNING INTO THAT JUNKYARD...?



I... I WAS TOLD IT WOULD BE SAFE.

TOLD...?! TOLD BY WHO...?!

I... I CAN'T SAY.



OKAY, LET'S GO.

RENEE! RENEE--GET A MOVE ON, GIRL! I NEED TO SET UP! OH, I'M SO EXCITED! TOO EXCITED! YOU KNOW WHO'S TAKING STARTUP'S DEPOSITION IN A FEW MINUTES...?

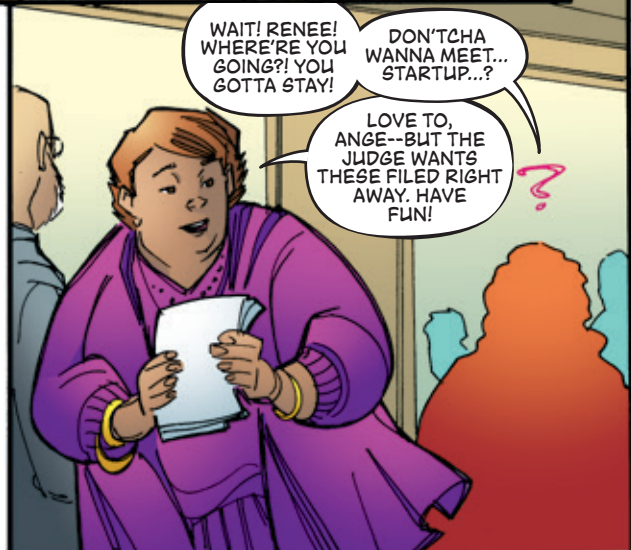


ME! ANGIE MACKENZIE! THAT'S WHO!

I'M GOING TO GET TO LISTEN TO HER AND MAYBE EVEN--

I hate to let Ange down, but, fast as I am, with this leg, it'd be hard to be in two places at the same time.

SORRY I'M LATE, YOUR HONOR. I'M HERE FOR MY DEPOSITION.



WAIT! RENEE! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?! YOU GOTTA STAY!

DON'TCHA WANNA MEET... STARTUP...?

LOVE TO, ANGE--BUT THE JUDGE WANTS THESE FILED RIGHT AWAY. HAVE FUN!



All goes smoothly. I've taken enough depositions myself so that I know to be clear and concise, just the facts, ma'am.

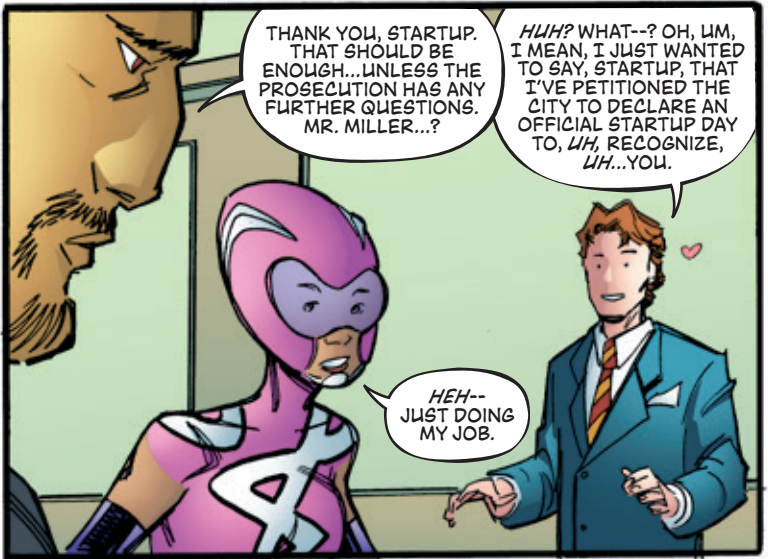
...SIZZLE BROUGHT THE... SUSPECT IN WHILE I REMAINED TO LOOK AFTER THE BODY.



THANK YOU, STARTUP. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH... UNLESS THE PROSECUTION HAS ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS. MR. MILLER...?

HUH? WHAT--? OH, UM, I MEAN, I JUST WANTED TO SAY, STARTUP, THAT I'VE PETITIONED THE CITY TO DECLARE AN OFFICIAL STARTUP DAY TO, UH, RECOGNIZE, UH... YOU.

HEH-- JUST DOING MY JOB.



AND WE WANT TO HELP YOU DO THAT JOB. I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE THAT DISRUPTOR PAY FOR INJURING YOU!

...OH, AND FOR KILLING THAT POOR WOMAN, OF COURSE.



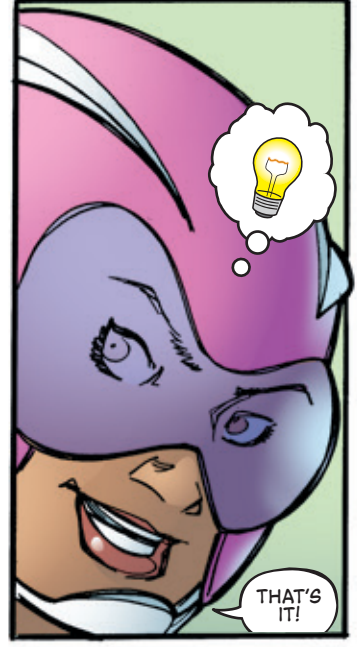
~HMMF~

WELL, MR. MILLER, I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED DISRUPTOR IS THE KILLER... I PLAN TO **OUCH!**

YIKES-- MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE TAKE A LOOK AT THAT INJURY.



THAT'S IT!



WHAT A FANTASTIC IDEA! OH, I COULD HUG YOU. IN FACT, I **WILL HUG YOU!**

THANK YOU!



WHAT DID I SAY? AND CAN I PLEASE SAY IT TO HER AGAIN?





AN HOUR LATER, AT THE...

CITY MORGUE

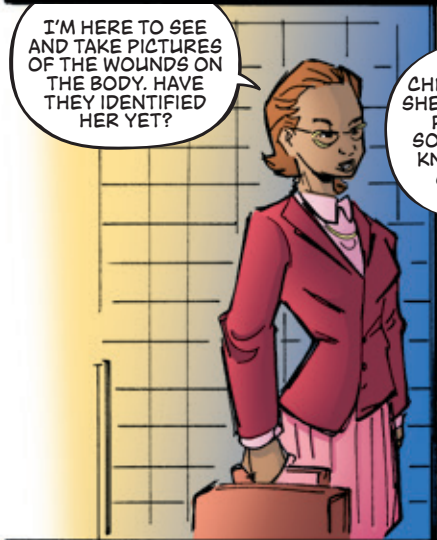
EXCUSE ME-- HELLO?

I'M MS. BANKS. I BELIEVE YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL THAT I'D BE COMING OVER ON BEHALF OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY DAWSON MILLER...?

OH, RIGHT, YEAH. I GOT A CALL FROM THE COURT STENOGRAPHER OR SOMETHING...

Yep. This is me too. Sometimes a situation calls for the kind of discretion that a costumed superhero or a 300 pound single mom can't guarantee. Ms. Banks is totally discreet because Ms. Banks doesn't even exist.

Plus, I've been dying for an excuse to rock these non-prescription glasses. Aren't they adorable?

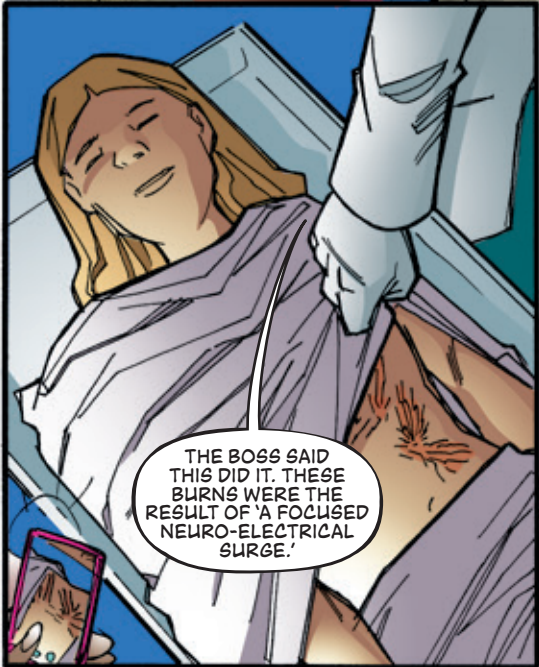


I'M HERE TO SEE AND TAKE PICTURES OF THE WOUNDS ON THE BODY. HAVE THEY IDENTIFIED HER YET?

HM--YEAH. CHERYL CORREAL. SHE WAS A BIG TIME PUBLICIST OR SOMETHING...YOU KNOW, FOR, LIKE CELEBRITIES AND STUFF.

I GUESS SOME SUPERVILLAIN SHOT HER OR SOMETHING.

AND HAVE THEY DETERMINED THE CAUSE OF DEATH?



THE BOSS SAID THIS DID IT. THESE BURNS WERE THE RESULT OF 'A FOCUSED NEURO-ELECTRICAL SURGE.'



UH, IS THAT IT? THAT'S ALL YOU NEED?

FOR NOW. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

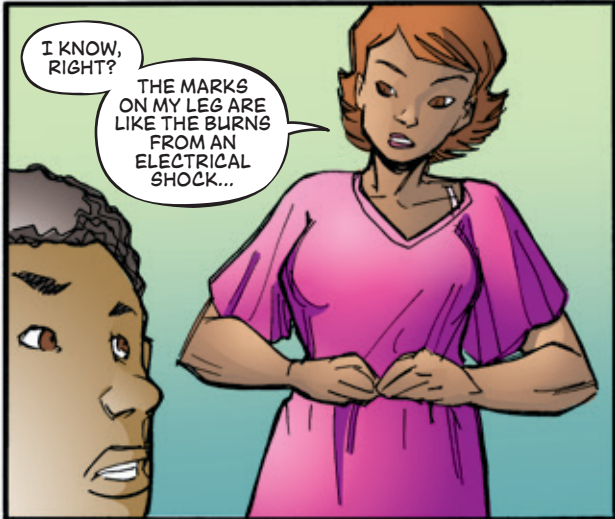
LATER--

NO, MOM--YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME KIND OF BURN.



I KNOW, RIGHT?

THE MARKS ON MY LEG ARE LIKE THE BURNS FROM AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK...



...WHEREAS THE ONES ON THE VICTIM LOOK MORE LIKE... LIKE...



LIKE SOMETHING THAT MADE DIRECT CONTACT...

LIKE A CATTLE-PROD OR SOMETHING.

WELL, MY STARTUP METABOLISM IS HEALING IT FASTER THAN A NORMAL BURN--BUT IT STILL STINGS.

DOES IT HURT A LOT?

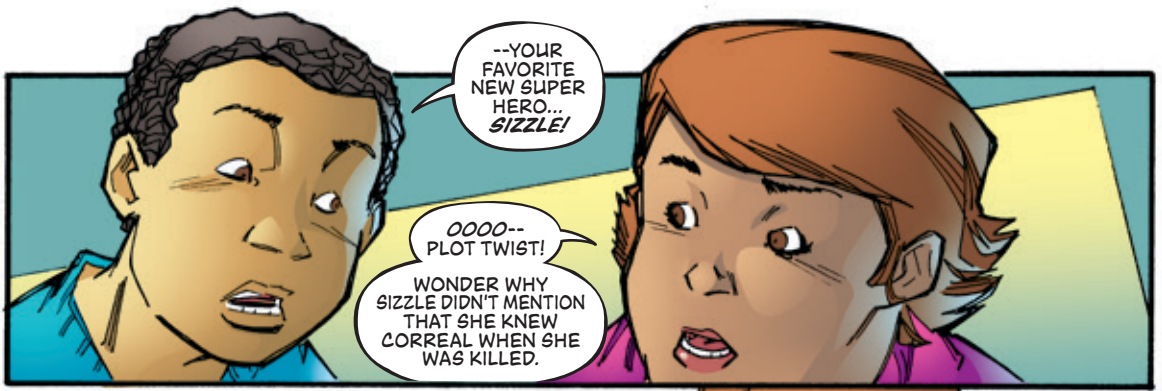
NOW-- SHOW ME WHAT YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR VICTIM?

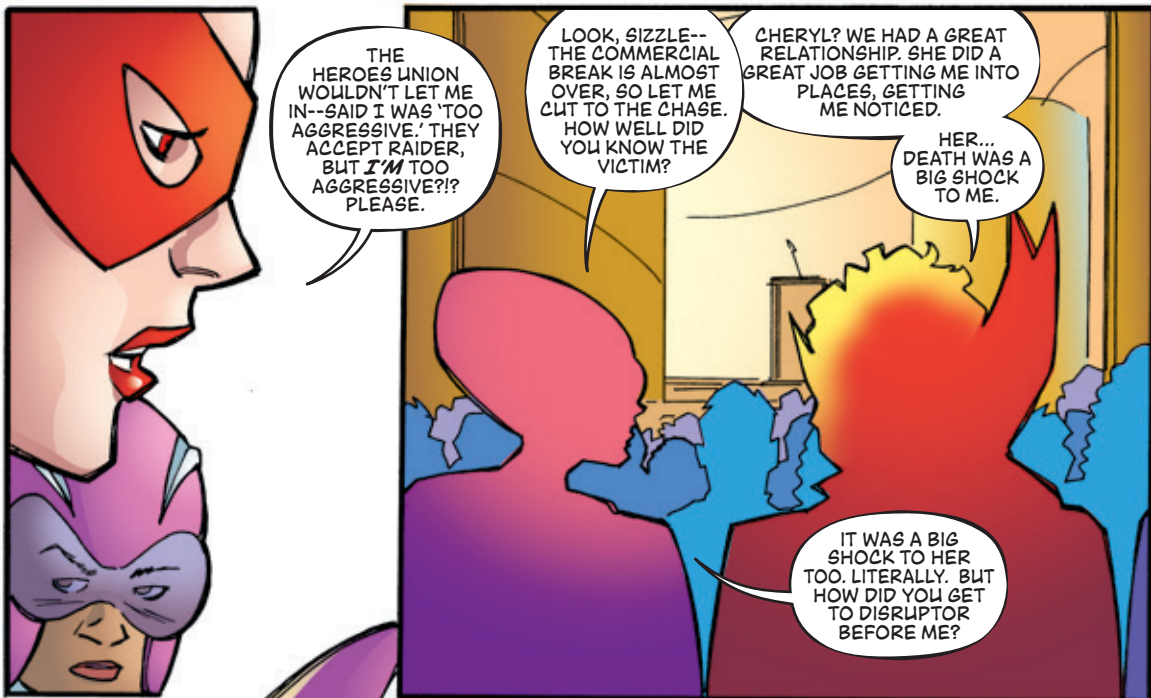
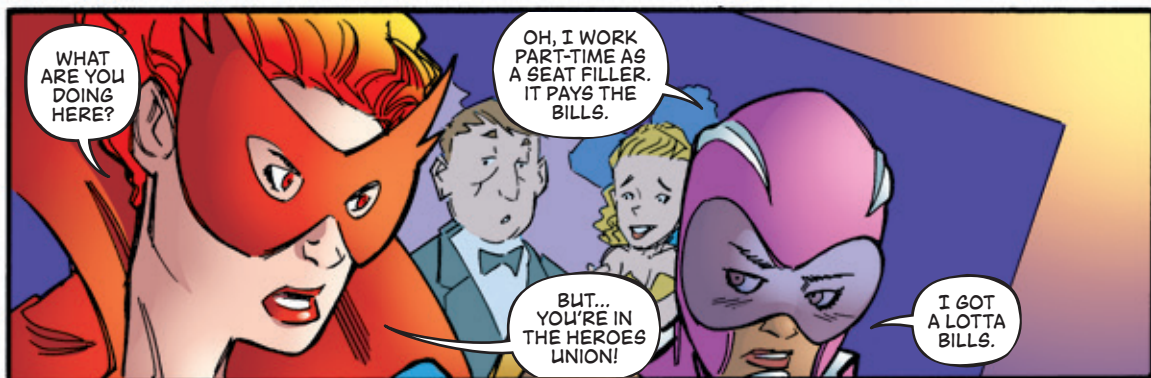
HERE YA GO--CHERYL CORREAL, PUBLICIST TO THE STARS!

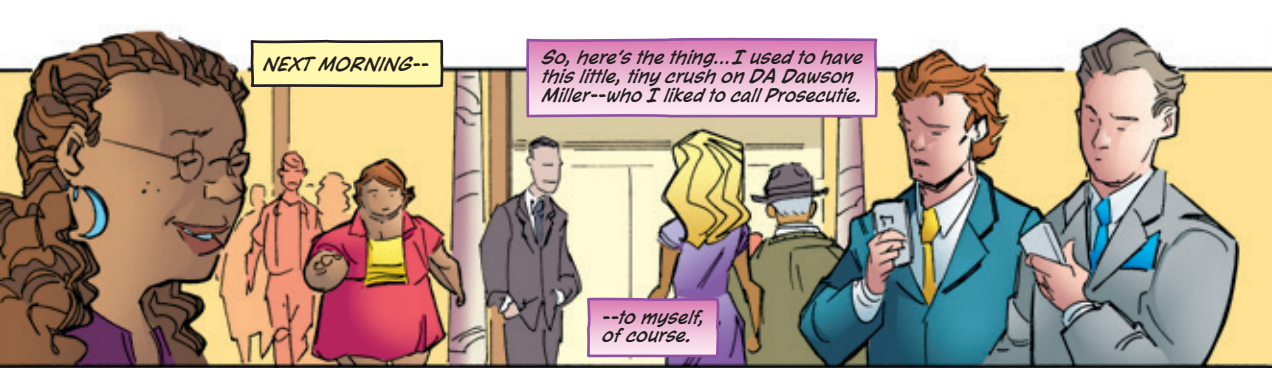
SHE HANDLES ALL OF PHILLY'S BIGGEST STARS-- AND SOME THAT HAVE EVEN MADE IT TO HOLLYWOOD!

AND HERE IT SAYS THAT ONE OF HER NEWEST CLIENTS IS--









NEXT MORNING--

So, here's the thing...I used to have this little, tiny crush on DA Dawson Miller--who I liked to call Prosecutie.

--to myself, of course.



And now Prosecutie has a not-so-secret crush on my alter-ego Startup.

You can see where things get weird.

GOOD MORNING, DAWSON. HEY--HOW ARE PLANS COMING ALONG FOR YOUR CITY-WIDE STARTUP DAY? I THINK THAT'S A REALLY GREAT IDEA.



HMMM? OH, RENEE. I'M SORRY. WERE YOU TALKING?

I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.



OH. UH...

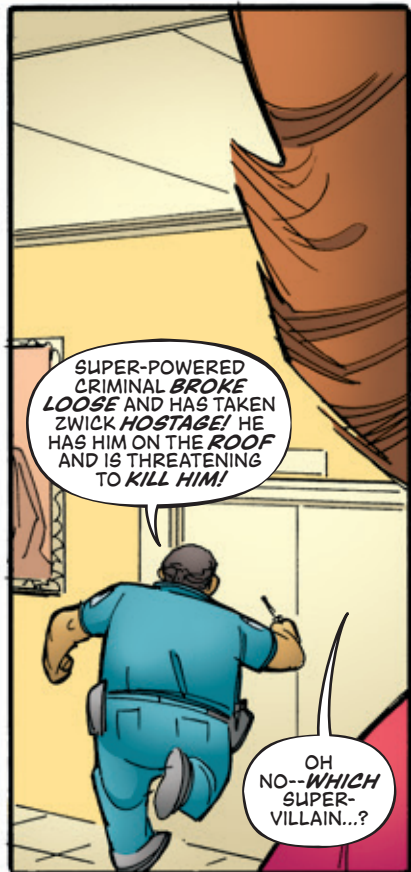
HA. I BET NO ONE'S EVER SAID THAT TO HER BEFORE...



Well, he's probably very busy. And it looks like I'm about to be even busier.

--KRK-- PERSONNEL TO THE ROOF-- KRKL--

SAM! WHAT'S GOING ON?!



SUPER-POWERED CRIMINAL **BROKE LOOSE** AND HAS TAKEN ZWICK **HOSTAGE!** HE HAS HIM ON THE ROOF AND IS THREATENING TO KILL HIM!

OH NO--WHICH SUPER-VILLAIN...?