



THE REVIVAL

CHAPTER 6
PAY DIRT

THE REVIVAL

Ego has gone mad.

The blue pygmy, leader of the industrial complex known as The Engine, has laid waste to the world in pursuit of power. But he won't rest at complete control of the lands. In his metal tower, something else drives him. Something sinister.

The only ones left to oppose him are a handful of survivors from the war, led by a stalwart woman they call Red. No longer content with merely scraping by, they now aim to put a stop to Ego's madness before it chokes out their very breath.

They are The Revival, and they're in for one *berry* rough day.

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"THEN I BEHELD AS A GREAT SERPENT EGG SHOOK AND THEN OPENED, AND SPIT FORTH LIES AND EVILS TO THE PEOPLE. IT SPOKE IN A DEAD LANGUAGE, FALSE AND DISCORDANT, FEEDING THE MADNESS OF CORRUPTED SOULS.

BUT THERE WERE OTHER THINGS IN THE DUST. THINGS I COULD NOT SEE, BUT SHONE AS GLIMMERS OF HOPE AMID THE NOTHINGNESS OF DECAY."

-Spellbook of The Patriarch

CHAPTER SIX
PAY DIRT

After their excursion to the Forbidden Lands, everybody's earned a day off. . . which around here means training all day.



HEY, CHIEF! HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS? NOTHING'S MORE CLICHÉ THAN A TRAINING SCENE.

WE NEED TO STAY SHARP, RAINBOW. WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.



IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID YOU BLOCK MY STRIKE? IT HAD THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND SUNS!



HMM... MUSTA BEEN M'SPECIAL INVISIBLE ARMOR...



RIGHT. ANYTHING. BUT THE ENGINE'S GONNA USE, LIKE... GUNS, RIGHT?



KEEP TALKING AND YOU'LL SPAR WITH ME NEXT.



IN THAT CASE, I RESERVE MY GRIEVANCES FOR THE SUGGESTION BOX.



PESSIMIST.



THE LAST OF THE HOLOS ARE IN THE GROUND. A SHALLOW, MASS GRAVE... STILL MORE THAN THEY DESERVED.

AT LEAST BURYING THEM IS EASIER THAN FIGHTING THEM.



SO, WHERE'S OUR ALMIGHTY WIZARD? HAS HE SAVED THE WORLD YET?

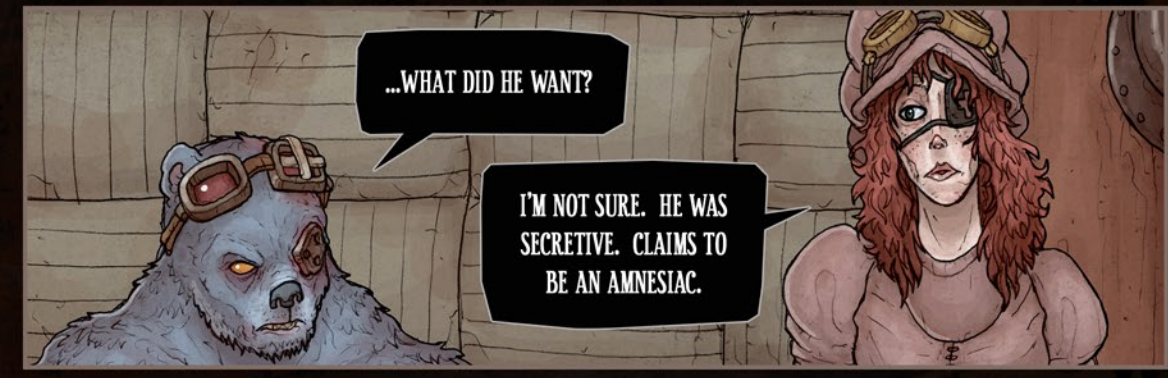
STOW IT, LIEUTENANT. HE'S STILL GETTING SETTLED. WE'LL WORK OUT A PLAN OF ACTION ONCE HE'S READY.



DOES YOUR *PLAN OF ACTION* INCLUDE HALFWITS PLAYING WITH STICKS?



ENOUGH SARCASM... WE HAVE BIGGER ISSUES TO DISCUSS. LAST NIGHT, ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP, RENAISSANCE RETURNED.



...WHAT DID HE WANT?

I'M NOT SURE. HE WAS SECRETIVE. CLAIMS TO BE AN AMNESIAC.

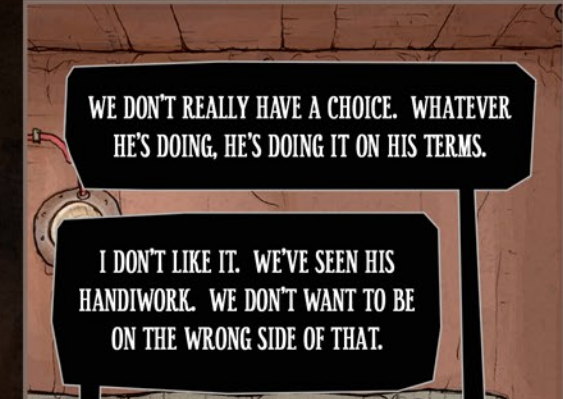


DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?



I HAVE NO REASON NOT TO. HE SAVED TATER AND KITTY. WE'RE IN HIS DEBT.

JUST BECAUSE HE HELPED US ONCE DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN BE TRUSTED. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE IS.



WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE. WHATEVER HE'S DOING, HE'S DOING IT ON HIS TERMS.

I DON'T LIKE IT. WE'VE SEEN HIS HANDIWORK. WE DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THAT.

I KNOW. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SEEMS ODD, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT FOR NOW. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW IT PLAYS OUT.



AT ANY RATE, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE HOLOS ANYMORE. HE'S GIVEN US AN ADVANTAGE, RIGHT WHEN WE NEEDED IT.



WELL, I DON'T CARE WHAT HE DID. IF HE CROSSES US, HE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH *ME*, AND YOU CAN BET I'LL PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT THAN THOSE GLOWING JUNKIES.



...OR THESE TWO, FOR THAT MATTER.



HEY, WOODS--
DINNER'S COMING UP
SOON. MAYBE I'LL
SERVE VENISON.



Y' TALK BETTER
THAN Y' FIGHT.



AT LEAST READERS
CAN UNDERSTAND
WHAT I SAY.

KRACK!



HUH..?



DIVERSIONARY
TACTICS!!!

OW!!!



'ZAT ALL
YA GOT?



BANZAI!

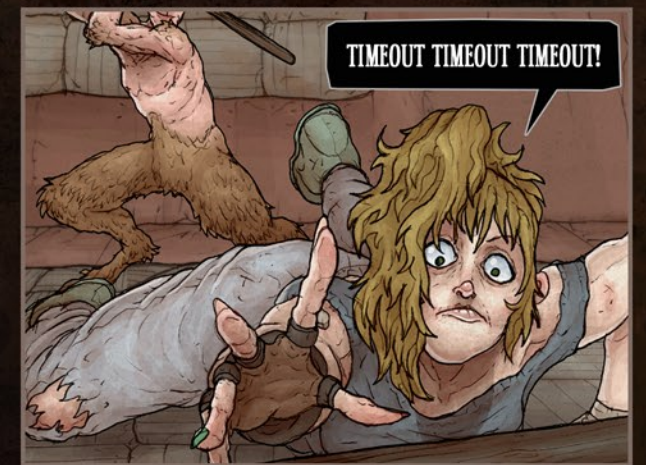
KLAK!



HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU..?



OOOF!!!

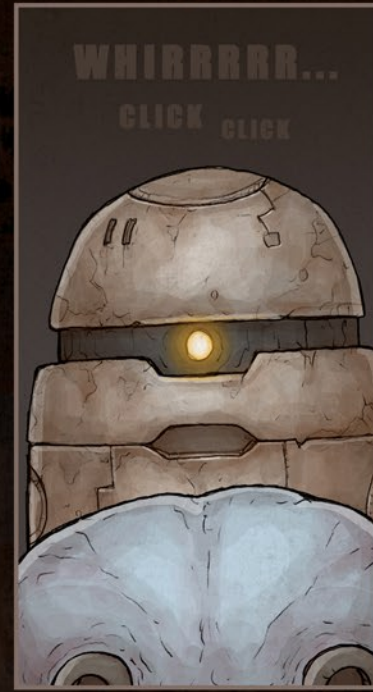
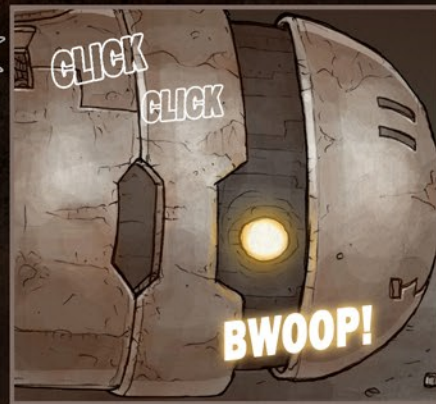


TIMEOUT TIMEOUT TIMEOUT!

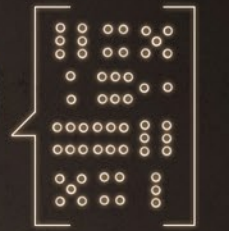


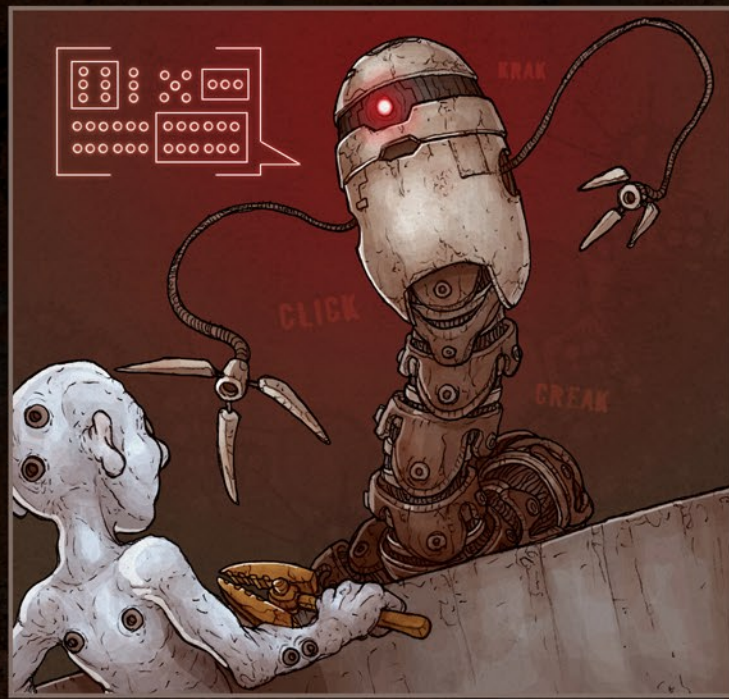
YONCH!!!





I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU WILL ADDRESS ME! YOU BELONG TO ME NOW, AND I DEMAND TO KNOW OF THE RELIC AND THE BEHEMOTH!

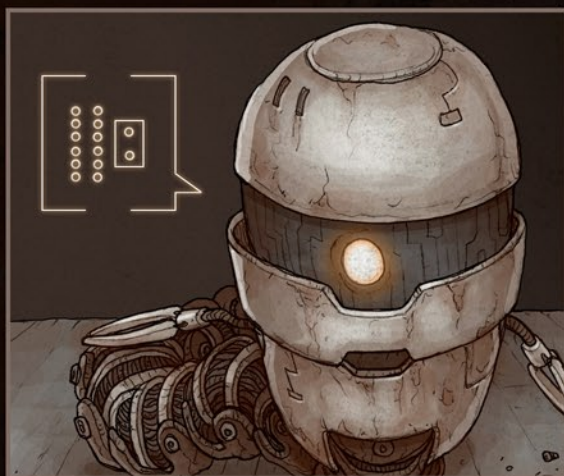




WHOA, WHOA! EASY, MY FRIEND!
MY HAND SLIPPED! ...YOU AND I
ARE ON THE SAME SIDE!



I AM EGO! I AM YOUR FRIEND!
EGO IS YOUR FRIEND.



HMM... THIS MIGHT BE
HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.

ADVERTISING SPACE

★ AVAILABLE ★



WILL ACCEPT
PAYMENT



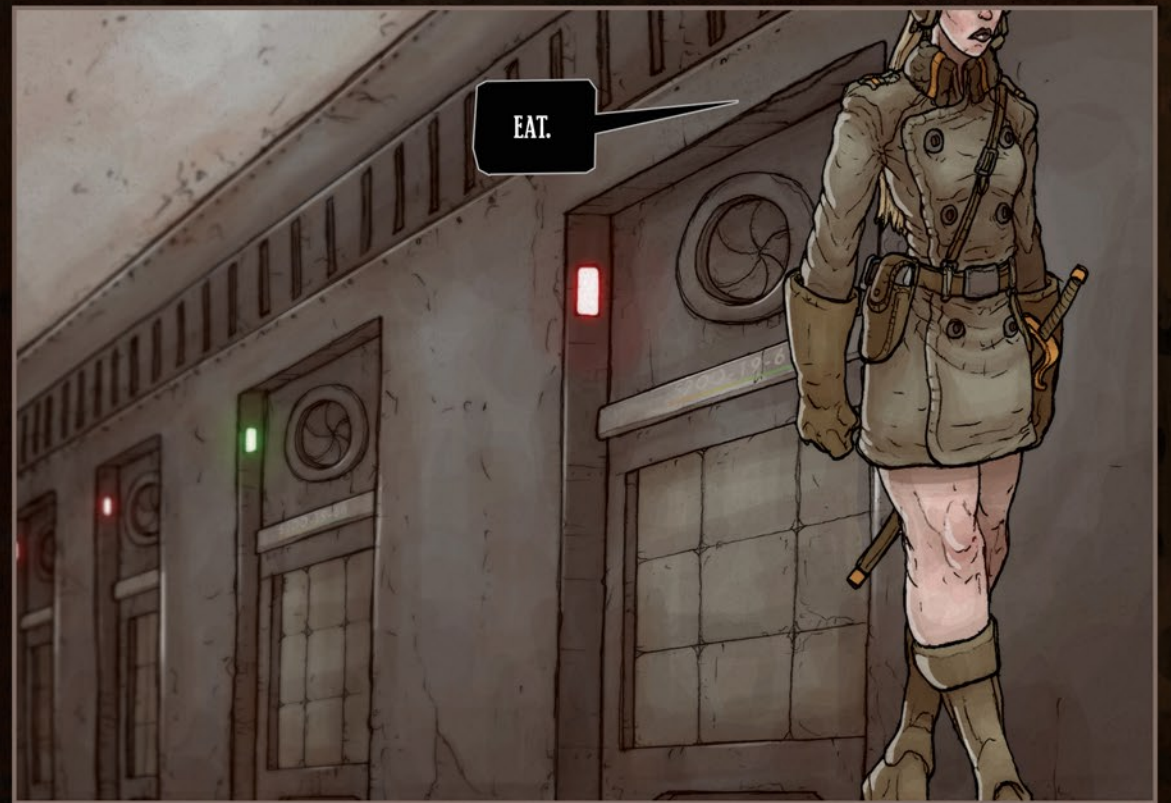
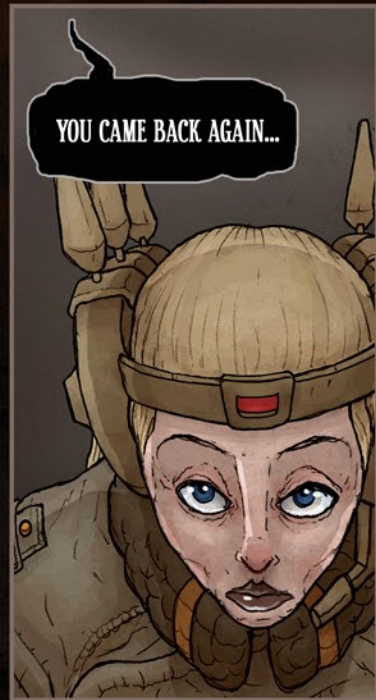
IN
CANDY!

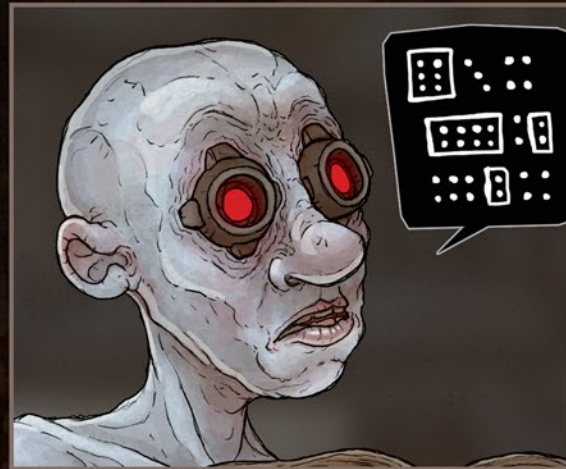
CONTACT
RAINBOW



WORTH A SHOT, RIGHT? MY
RESERVES ARE GETTING LOW.



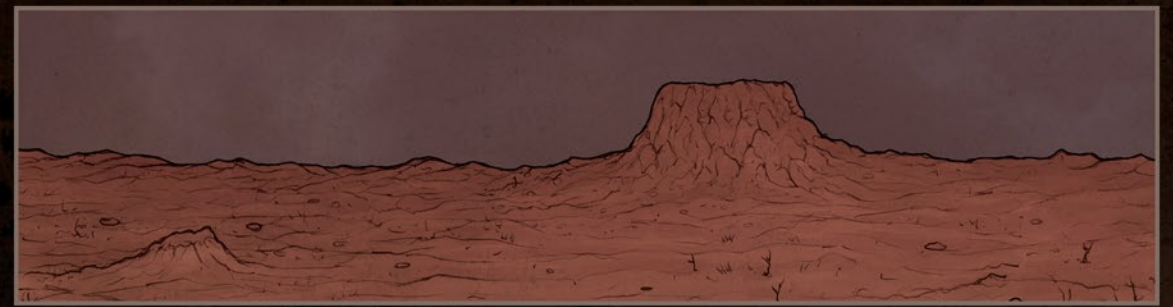
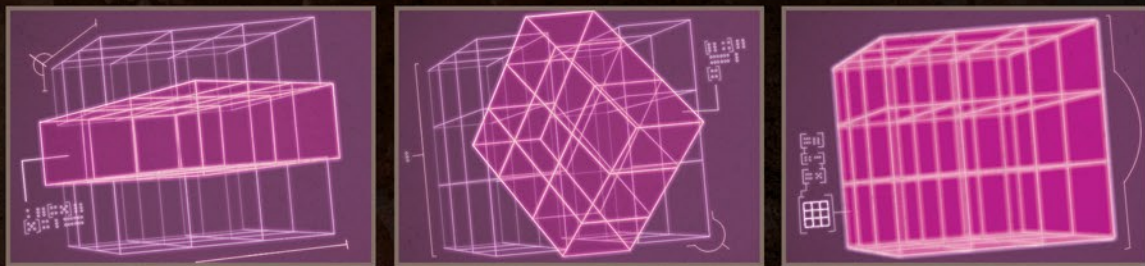






...EASY, EGO... THIS CONFOUNDED CONTRAPTION MAY BE YOUR ONE HOPE OF SOLVING THE PUZZLE. PATRIARCH ALWAYS SAID PATIENCE WAS A VIRTUE, AND PATRIARCH WAS THE MOST PATIENT OF US ALL, AND...







INDEED! VERY GOOD! I USED TO ASSIST THE ROYAL COOKS IN THE KINGDOM MYSELF. IF WE HAD A FRESH SNORK FISH HERE, I WOULD TREAT YOU ALL TO A MEAL YOU WOULD NOT SOON FORGET!



THE KING USED TO HOST THE MOST DECADENT FEASTS! SUMPTUOUS DELICACIES, EXOTIC SPICES FROM DISTANT LANDS... IT WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD!



HMPH. SOUNDS NICE, BUT THIS IS HOW WE LIVE NOW. IF YOU WANT BETTER FOOD, YOU'RE WELCOME TO GO OUTSIDE AND LOOK FOR IT.



THAT'S NOT WHAT HE MEANT AND YOU KNOW IT. DROP IT.



NO, I CERTAINLY MEANT NO OFFENSE... I...
...WELL, THANK YOU ALL. I MUST GET BACK TO MY WORK.



WHAT EXACTLY IS IT YOU'RE DOING IN THERE? SAME THING YOU WERE DOING IN THAT DESERT? YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF SECRETS.

ENOUGH. LET HIM LEAVE.



IT IS NOTHING YOU NEED CONCERN YOURSELF WITH, I AM SIMPLY UNPACKING AND SETTING UP. REST EASY TONIGHT, PLEASE.



NO MORE OF THIS, PESSIMIST. HE'S ONE OF US NOW. DEAL WITH IT.



NOW, WE SHOULD GET TO SLEEP OURSELVES. WE HAVE MORE TRAINING TO DO TOMORROW.



DANG. I NEVER GET TO STAY UP LATE.



NEXT CHAPTER: CARTOGRAPHY

