

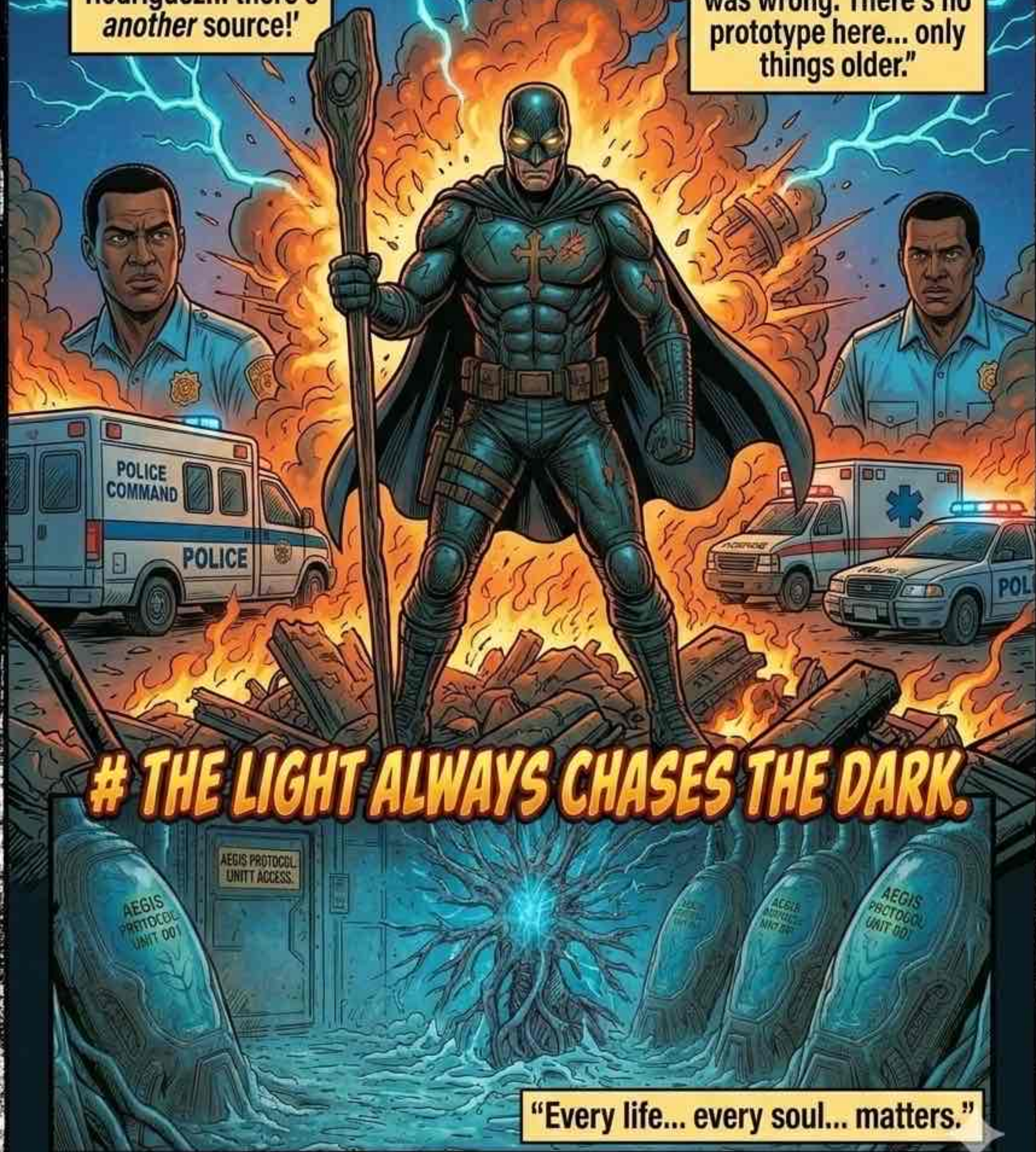
#THE SHEPHERD'S CALL#1

#CREATED BY AUNDREY RICHARD HUBBARD

#FEBRUARY 2026

Priority lives! But Rodriguez... there's *another* source!

"But Davies' telemetry was wrong. There's no prototype here... only things older."



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

"Every life... every soul... matters."



CAPTAIN!
HE'S TAKING
THE HEAT!

**THE
SHEPHERD!**

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS



ARE... ARE ONE OF THEM? A POWERED ONE?

NO, FRIEND. JUST A MAN DOING WHAT'S RIGHT. THE AMBULANCE IS ALMOST HERE.

SHEPHERD! WE NEED THAT POWER GRID ISOLATED!

MY POWER COMES FROM A SPECIFIC SOURCE, NOT MAGIC. MY PRIORITY IS GETTING YOU SAFE.

THANK YOU... WHATEVER YOU ARE.

DAVIES, GET THE SHEPHERD TO THE SUBSTATION! THE OTHER UNITS CAN HANDLE THE FIRE.

RIGHT AWAY, CAPTAIN! HE'S A MACHINE!

The call never stops. Evil never rests. But neither can the Light.

FWOOSH

LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 2

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS



IT WASN'T AN EXPLOSIVE... OR A TORCH. THIS WAS STRENGTH.



CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ IS RIGHT... THIS IS NEW. TOTAL SMASH AND GRAB, BUT WITH... THIS.

WE LOST FIVE GUARDS. THE VAULT WAS A DISTRACTION... THEY WERE AFTER A SPECIFIC PROTOTYPE.

YOU THINK THE FIRE AT THE FACTORY WAS A DIVERSION?



EXACTLY. NOW THEY HAVE POWER AND A TARGET. DAVIES HAS THE DATA ON THE PROTOTYPE. IT'S A CLEAN ROOM LEVEL ARTIFACT... "THE CINDER PROTOCOL."

THE TELEMTRY SHOWS THEY'RE HEADING TOWARDS SECTOR GAMMA... OLD INDUSTRIAL TUNNELS.



KRAKA-DOOM!

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK, CAPTAIN. STAY STAY SAFE. I'M GOING IN.



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 3

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

KRAKA-DOOM!



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, CAPTAIN! WE NEED THAT PROTOTYPE BACK!

DAVIES, GET THE PERIMETER UP IN SECTOR GAMMA!



THEY WERE TOO SPECIFIC. THEY KNEW THE ROUTES... AND THEY KNEW WHAT 'THE CINDER PROTOCOL' WAS. IT WASN'T JUST RANDOM.



OFFICER DAVIES' TABLET DATA POINTS STRAIGHT TO GAMMA... BUT THE SIGNAL IS WEAK NOW.

SPLASH!

THERE. THEY STOPPED. THE AIR IS TOO HOT.



THEY MUST HAVE BEEN... TRANSFORMED.



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES CHASES THE DARK.

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 4

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS



THE MARKS... THEY LEAD TO THE MAIN VENTILATION HUB. THIS IS WHERE THE PROTOTYPES WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST POWERFUL.

THE HEAT SIGNATURE IS RISING EXPONENTIALLY.

RUMBLE



IT'S LIKE GRIPPING A BLAST FURNACE... I HAVE TO KNOW.

VENT HUB-GAMMA SECTION

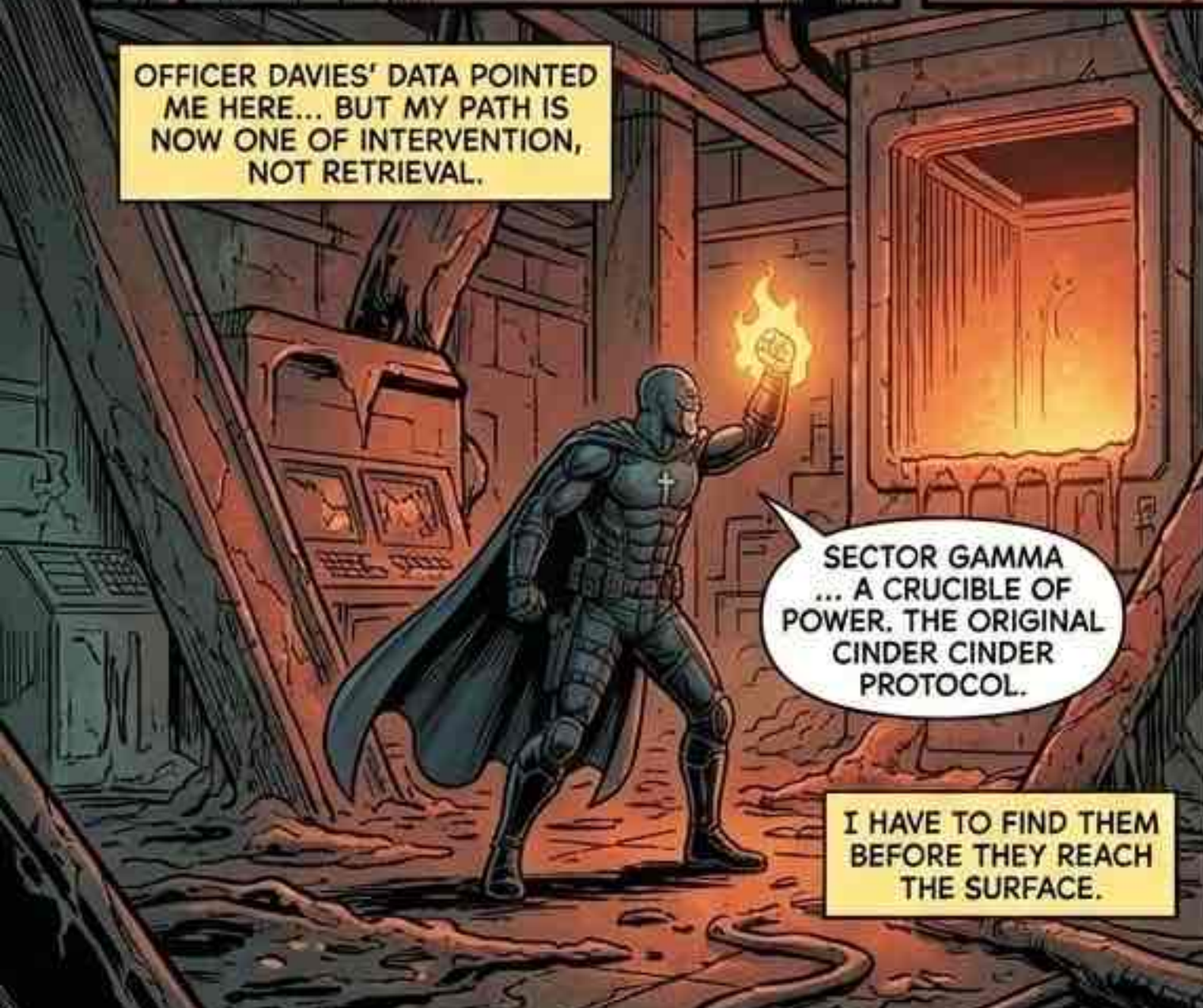


KRAAASH!

THEY'RE GONE!
ALL OF THEM!

THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER... IT'S ACTIVE. THEY WEREN'T STOLEN. THEY WERE UNLEASHED.

OFFICER DAVIES' DATA POINTED ME HERE... BUT MY PATH IS NOW ONE OF INTERVENTION, NOT RETRIEVAL.



SECTOR GAMMA ... A CRUCIBLE OF POWER. THE ORIGINAL CINDER CINDER PROTOCOL.

I HAVE TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THE SURFACE.



'THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK... BUT TONIGHT, THE FIRE IS BRIGHTER.'

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 5

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

KRAKA-DOOM!

THE REACTOR... IT'S A CASCADING CORE!

IT'S A CASCADING CORE!

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK... BUT TONIGHT, THE FIRE IS BRIGHTER.

THEY'VE ACTIVATED THE CINDER CINDER PROTOCOL. IT'S A CLEAN ROOM LEVEL ARTIFACT... UNLEASHED.

I HAVE TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THE SURFACE... I CAN'T LET THEM STABILIZE THE PROTOTYPE.

SECTOR GAMMA ACCESS

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN... TRANSFORMED.

CAPTAIN... THE CORE IS DESTABILIZED. THEY'RE TRYING TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN ROOM... LIKE A BLAST URNACE. I HAVE TO KNOW. DAVIES, THE TELEMTRY FROM SECTOR GAMMA... WHAT DO YOU SEE?

HE HAS LANDED, SHEPHERD. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

TELEMTRY SHOWS... CLEAN ROOM PROTOCOLS ARE ACTIVE. IT'S LIKE A BLAST FURNACE. I HAVE TO KNOW.

THE ORIGINAL CINDER PROTOCOL. THE CINDER PROTOCOL... IT'S ACTIVE. THIS ISN'T THEFT... IT'S A CLEANSE.

KRAKA-DOOM!

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 6

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

'THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN.



FWOOSH

'TO STOP THE CLEANSE, I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.



SECTOR
GAMMA CORE
CONTAINMENT

THE LIGHT
ALWAYS CHASES
THE DARK.

CAPTAIN... THE CORE CONNECTION IS BROKEN, BUT THEY'VE ACTIVATED SECONDARY POINTS. THEY TRY TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN TO KNOW. DAVIES, THE TELEMTRY FROM SECTOR GAMMA... WHAT DO YOU SEE?

HE HAS LANDED, SHEPHERD. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.



THEY'RE MOVING TOWARDS SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM. THE CINDER PROTOCOL... IT'S ACTIVE. THIS ISN'T THIS ISN'T THEFT... IT'S A CLEANSE.



THE ORIGINAL CINDER PROTOCOL. THE CINDER PROTOCOL... IT'S ACTIVE. THIS ISN'T THEFT... IT'S A CLEANSE.



KRAKA-DOOM!

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!



THE LIGHT
ALWAYS CHASES
THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 7

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

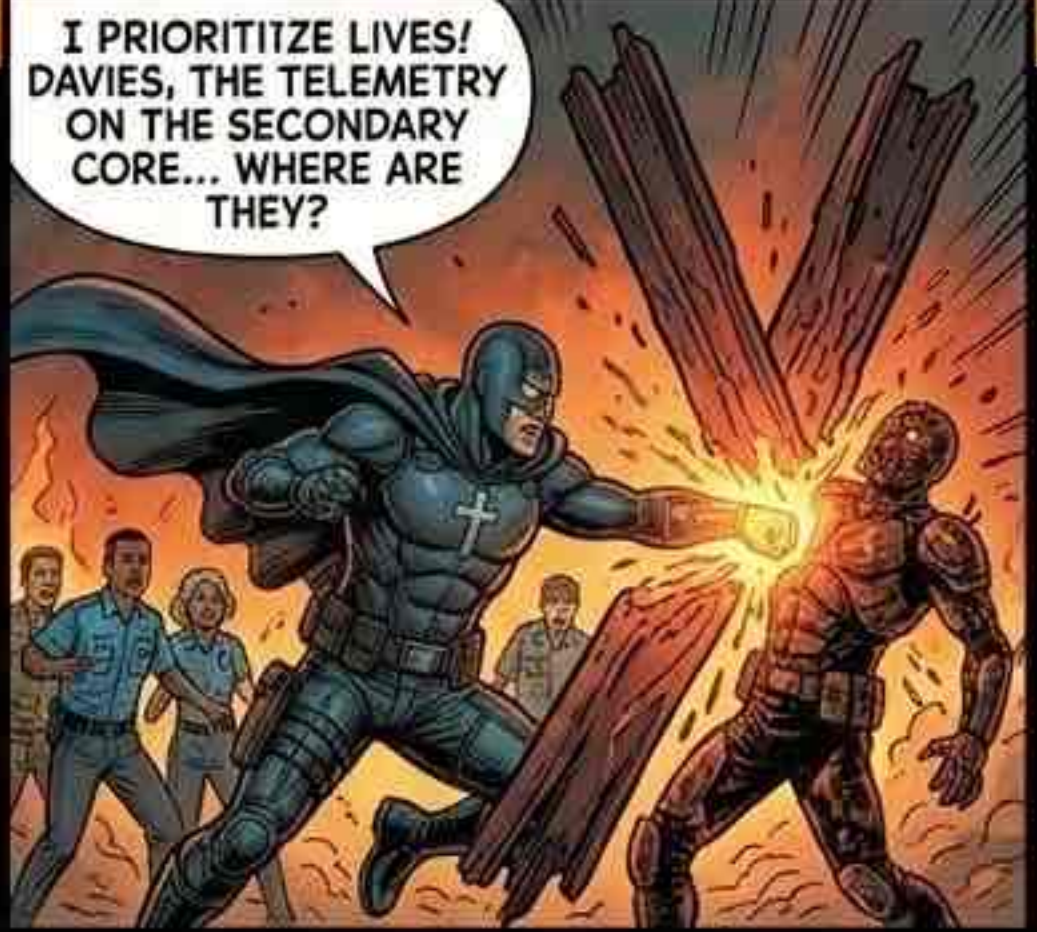


HOLD ON!
THIS SHIELD
WON'T LAST
LONG!

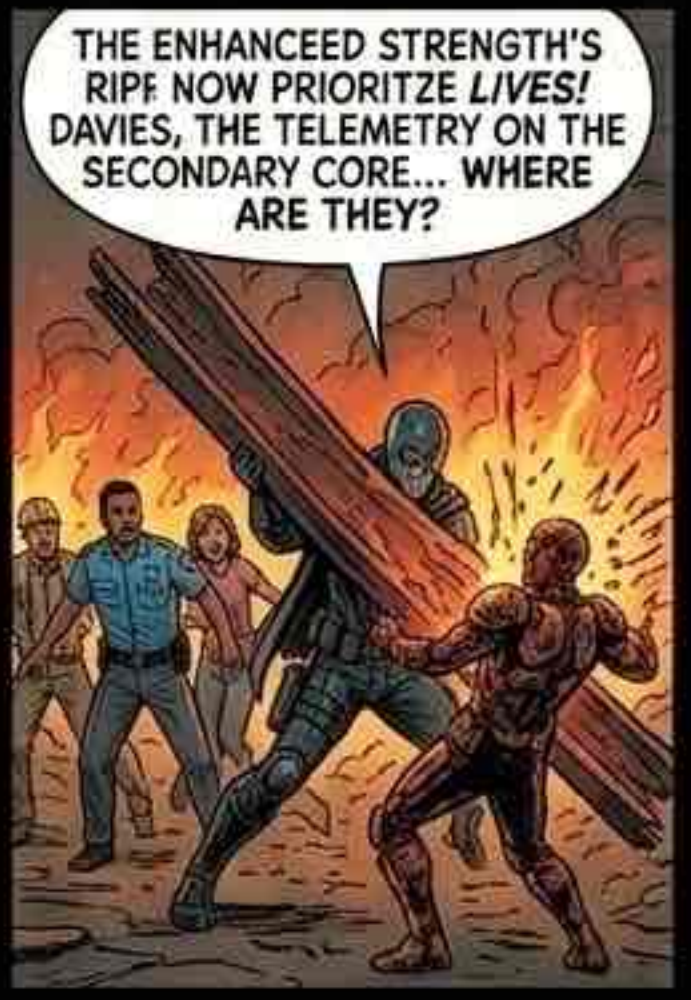


CAPTAIN! THE CINDER
PROTOCOL IS ESCALATING
SECTOR GAMMA! WE HAVE
CIVILIANS TRAPPED IN THE
SECONDARY CORE
CLEAN ROOM!

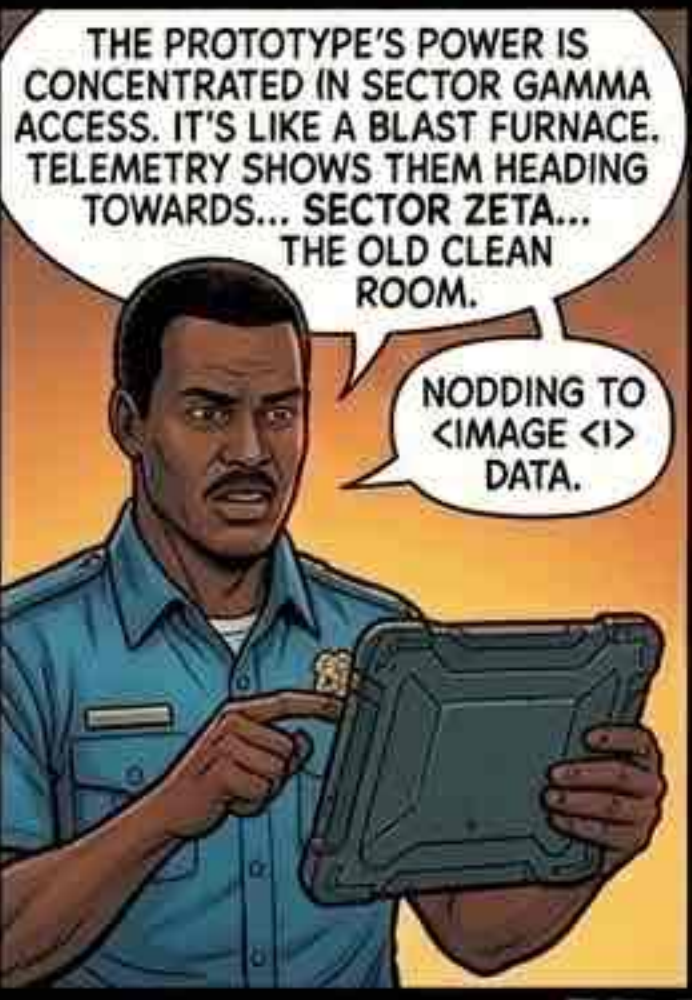
SHEPHERD! THE
POWER GRID IS
FAILING ACROSS THE
DISTRICT. I NEED YOU
TO PRIORITIZE THE
PRIMARY REACTOR!



I PRIORITITZE LIVES!
DAVIES, THE TELEMTRY
ON THE SECONDARY
CORE... WHERE ARE
THEY?



THE ENHANCED STRENGTH'S
RIPE! NOW PRIORITZE LIVES!
DAVIES, THE TELEMTRY ON THE
SECONDARY CORE... WHERE
ARE THEY?



THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS
CONCENTRATED IN SECTOR GAMMA
ACCESS. IT'S LIKE A BLAST FURNACE.
TELEMTRY SHOWS THEM HEADING
TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA...
THE OLD CLEAN
ROOM.

NODDING TO
<IMAGE <I>
DATA.



THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S
ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE
HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY
SOUL... MATTERS.

THE LIGHT
ALWAYS CHASES
THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 8

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

THEY DIDN'T JUST TARGET THE SUBSTATION. THEY TARGETED THE HEART.

FWOOSH



DAVIES, GET CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ TO SECTOR ZETA! THE CINDER PROTOCOL.. IT'S ACTIVE. HE HEWES LANDED, SHEPHERD. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM? I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!



GET THEM TO THE EXIT! NO LIVES LOST!



THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS CONCENTRATED IN SECTOR GAMMA ACCESS. IT'S LIKE A BLAST FURNACE. TELEMTRY SHOWS THEM HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.

KRAKA-DOOM!

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!



THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 9

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

KRAAASH

THE CINDER PROTOCOL... IT'S ACTIVE. HE HAS LANDED. SHEPHERD. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

"THE CLEANSE WILL CONSUME YOU!"



'TO STOP THE CLEANSE, I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.'

FWOOSH

THE ENHANCED STRENGTH... IT'S RIPE.



GET THEM TO THE EXIT! NO LIVES LOST!

THEY TARGETED THE HEART.

THANK YOU! PLEASE HURRY!



SHEPHERD! THE POWER GRID IS FAILING ACROSS THE DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!

I PRIORITIZING LIVES! DAVIES, GET CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ TO SECTOR ZETA! CINDER PROTOCOL... IT'S ACTIVE. HE HAS LANDED, SHEPHERD. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

DAVIES. THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.



KRAKA-DOOM!

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!



THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 10

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

'THEY DIDN'T JUST TARGET THE SUBSTATION. THEY TARGETED THE HEART.'



FWOOSH

DAVIES, GET CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ TO SECTOR ZETA! THE CINDER CINDER PROTOCOL... IT'S ACTIVE. HE HEWES LANDED, SHEPHERD. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM? I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!

GET THEM TO THE EXIT! NO LIVES LOST!



THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.

KRAKA-DOOM!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 11

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

KRAKA-DOOM!



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK... BUT TONIGHT, THE FIRE IS BRIGHTER. CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ WAS RIGHT. THEY WERE AFTER THE PROTOTYPE. AND I HEWES LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA. (NODDING TO <DATA>)

TO STOP THE CLEANSE, I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

CAPTAIN... THE CORE CONNECTION IS BROKEN, BUT THEY'VE ACTIVATED SECONDARY POINTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN... I LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

THE ENTIRE POWER GRID IS FAILING ACROSS THE DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!



WE HEWES LOST THE PERIMETER IN SECTOR DELTA. BLAST FURNACE. TELEMTRY SHOWS THEM HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.

THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.



KRAKA-DOOM!



I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 12: THE DEEP CORE.



THEY DIDN'T JUST TARGET THE SUBSTATION. THEY TARGETED THE HEART. NOW... I HAVE TO STOP THE CLEANSE.



SHEPHERD! THE POWER GRID IS FAILING ACROSS THE DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!
I AM PRIORITIZING LIVES! GET THE TELEMETRY ON THE SECONDARY CORE... WHERE ARE THEY?

THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.

SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM? GET DAVIES TO SECTOR ZETA! DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

DAVIES HAS THE DATA. I HEWES LANDED.



KRAKA-DOOM!

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 13: CINDER PROTOCOL ACTIVE.



THE CLEANSE ENDS HERE!

CINDER PROTOCOL: ACTIVE!

THANK YOU! PLEASE HURRY!



TO STOP THE CLEANSE, I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.

THE ENHANCED STRENGTH... IT'S RIPE.

TELEMETRY SHOWS THEM HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.
WE HEWES LOST THE PERIMETER IN SECTOR DELTA. IT'S LIKE A BLAST FURNACE.

CAPTAIN... THE CORE CONNECTION IS BROKEN, BUT THEY'VE ACTIVATED SECONOARY POINTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN... I LANDED.



I PRIORITIZING LIVES! THEY ARE TRYING TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN ROOM!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK... BUT TONIGHT, THE FIRE IS BRIGHTER.

KRAKA-DOOM!



CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ WAS RIGHT. IS BRIGHTER. CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ WAS RIGHT. THEY WERE AFTER THE PROTOTYPE. AND I HEWES LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA. (NODDING TO <DATA>)

CAPTAIN... THE CORE CONNECTION IS BROKEN, BUT THEY'VE ACTIVATED SECONDARY POINTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN... I LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

THE ENTIRE POWER GRID IS FAILING ACROSS THE DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!

THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!



WE HEWES LOST THE PERIMETER IN SECTOR DELTA. BLAST FURNACE. TELEMETRY SHOWS THEM HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.



FWOOSH



'BUT DAVIES' TELEMETRY WAS WRONG. THERE'S NO PROTOTYPE HERE... ONLY THINGS OLDER.'

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.



S-S-SSHHH...



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 15

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS



CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ WAS RIGHT. IS BRIGHTER, CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ WAS RIGHT. THEY WERE AFTER THE PROTOTYPE. AND I HEWES LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA. (NODDING TO <DATA>)

CAPTAIN... THE CORE CONNECTION IS BROKEN, BUT THEY'VE ACTIVATED SECONDARY POINTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO TURN THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN... I LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.

THE ENTIRE POWER GRID IS FAILING ACROSS THE DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!

THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.



WE HEWES LOST THE PERIMETER IN SECTOR DELTA. BLAST FURNACE. TELEMTRY SHOWS THEM HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.



I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

'BUT DAVIES' TELEMTRY WAS WRONG. THERE'S NO PROTOTYPE HERE... ONLY THINGS OLDER.'

...LIGHT... ONLY CHASE... THE DARK...



KRAKA-DOOM!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

PAGE 16

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

KRAKA-DOOM!

THEY DIDN'T JUST TARGET THE SUBSTATION. THEY TARGETED THE HEART. NOW... I HAVE TO STOP THE HEWS HAS THE CLEANSE. (NODDING TO <DATA>)

TO STOP THE CLEANSE, I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.



SHEPHERD! THE POWER GRID IS FAILING ACROSS THE DISTRICT. I NEED YOU TO PRIORITIZE THE PRIMARY REACTOR!



I AM PRIORITIZING LIVES! GET THE TELEMTRY ON THE SECONDARY CORE... WHERE ARE THEY?



I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!



'BUT DAVIES' TELEMTRY WAS WRONG. THERE'S NO PROTOTYPE HERE... ONLY THINGS OLDER.'

THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.



THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.



THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

CAPTAIN!
IT'S NOT JUST THE PROTOTYPE! IT'S...
SOMETHING ELSE!

PROTOCOLS...
CONSUMED!

KRAKA-DOOM!

TO STOP THE CLEANSE,
I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR
LINK... AT THE SOURCE.

TELEMETRY SHOWS THEM
HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR
ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.
BUT... TELEMETRY WAS WRONG!
THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS
IN SECTOR GAMMA.

DAVIES! I HEWES LANDED.
DAVIES HAS THE DATA.
(NODDING TO <IMAGE 2>)
DAVIES, TELEMETRY
SHOWS THEM HEADING
SECTOR ZETA... THE
OLD CLEAN ROOM.

KRAAAAASH!

TO STOP THE CLEANSE,
I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR
LINK... AT THE SOURCE.

PRIORITY LIVES! BUT
RODRIGUEZ... THERE'S
ANOTHER SOURCE!

...BUT DAVIES' TELEMETRY
WAS WRONG. THERE'S NO
PROTOTYPE HERE... ONLY
THINGS OLDER.'

CAPTAIN... I PRIORITIZE
LIVES! BUT DAVIES' TELEMETRY
WAS... WRONG. NO PROTOTYPE.
ONLY... AEGIS. 'ONLY CHASE...
THE DARK...'

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S
ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE
HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY
SOUL... MATTERS.

THE LIGHT
ALWAYS CHASES
THE DARK.

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

CAPTAIN!
I PRIORITISE LIVES! BUT DAVIES' TELEMTRY WAS... WRONG. NO PROTOTYPE. ONLY... AEGIS. THE DARK...!

PROTOCOLS... CONSUMED!

KRAKA-DOOM!

'AND I HEWES LANDED. DAVIES HAS THE DATA.'
(NODDING TO IMAGE_32.PNG)

CAPTAIN... THE CORE CONNECTION IS BROKEN, BUT THEY'VE ACTIVATED SECONDARY POINTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO TURN THE THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A CLEAN...

THE PROTOTYPE'S POWER IS LOVED IN SECTOR GAMMA. THE CLEAN ROOM.

I'M GOING IN, CAPTAIN! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

FWOOSH

PRIORITY LIVES! BUT RODRIGUEZ... THERE'S ANOTHER SOURCE!

'BUT DAVIES' TELEMTRY WAS WRONG. THERE'S NO PROTOTYPE HERE... ONLY THINGS OLDER.'

AND TO STOP THE CLEANSE... I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

KRAKA-DOOM!

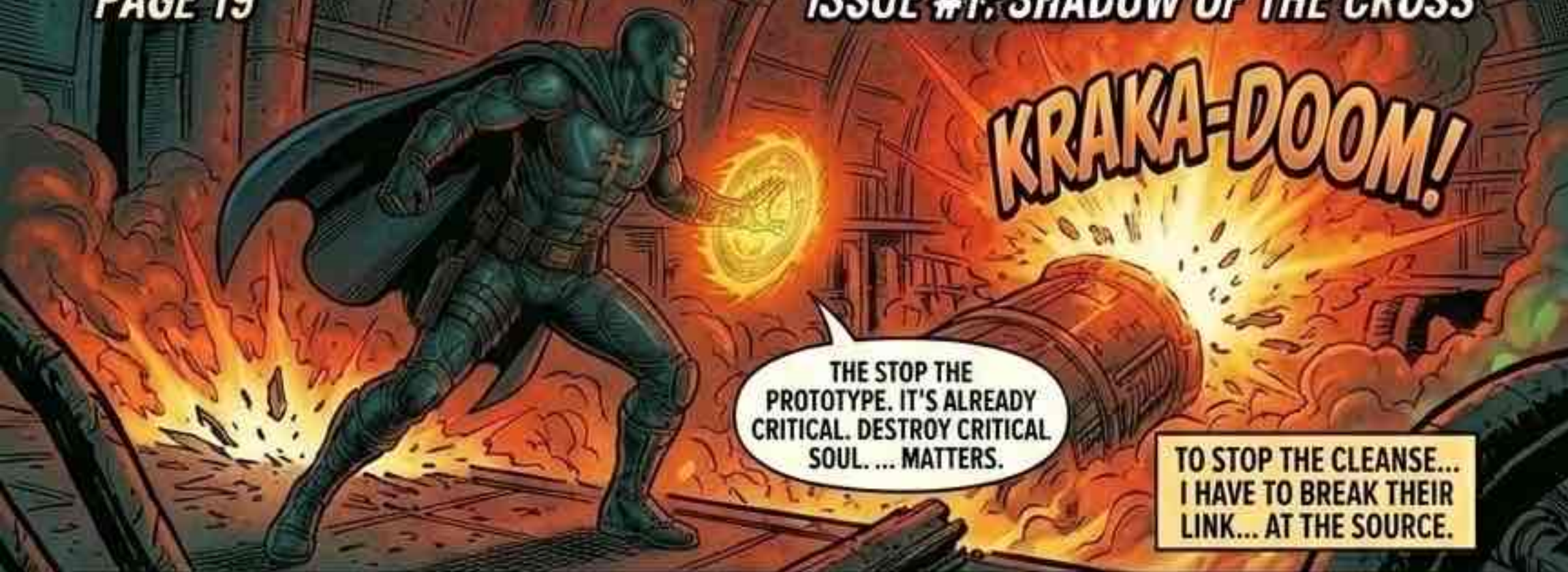
THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

EPHERD'S CALL

ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

PAGE 19



KRAKA-DOOM!

THE STOP THE PROTOTYPE. IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. DESTROY CRITICAL SOUL... MATTERS.

TO STOP THE CLEANSE... I HAVE TO BREAK THEIR LINK... AT THE SOURCE.

SECTOR GAMMA CORE CONTAINMENT.



KRAAAAASH!

BUT DAVIES' TELEMTRY WAS WRONG! THERE'S NO PROTOTYPE HERE... ONLY THINGS OLDER.

DAVIES! THE PROTOTYPE TELEMTRY... IT'S OVERLOADING! THE CLEAN ROOM IS ABOUT TO BECOME A FURNACE! TELE--METRY SHOWS THEM HEADING TOWARDS... SECTOR ZETA... THE OLD CLEAN ROOM.



PRIORITY LIVES! BUT RODRIGUEZ... THERE'S ANOTHER SOURCE!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.

I PRIORITIZE LIVES! CAPTAIN... I PRIORITIZE LIVES! LEAD THE WAY, OFFICER!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY SOUL... MATTERS.



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

The screams of Sector Gamma fade. The fires are distant. I need silence to breathe.

KRAKA-DOOM...

'Every life... matters. Why does it *hurt* so much, Father?

Because you are human, my son. The cross isn't light. But what is this 'other source'?

Priority lives... but there's *another* source!

Only chase... the Dark...

To stop the CLEANSE...
I have to break their
link... at the source.



But Davies' telemetry
was wrong. There's no
prototype here... only
things older.



"Only chase...
the Dark..."



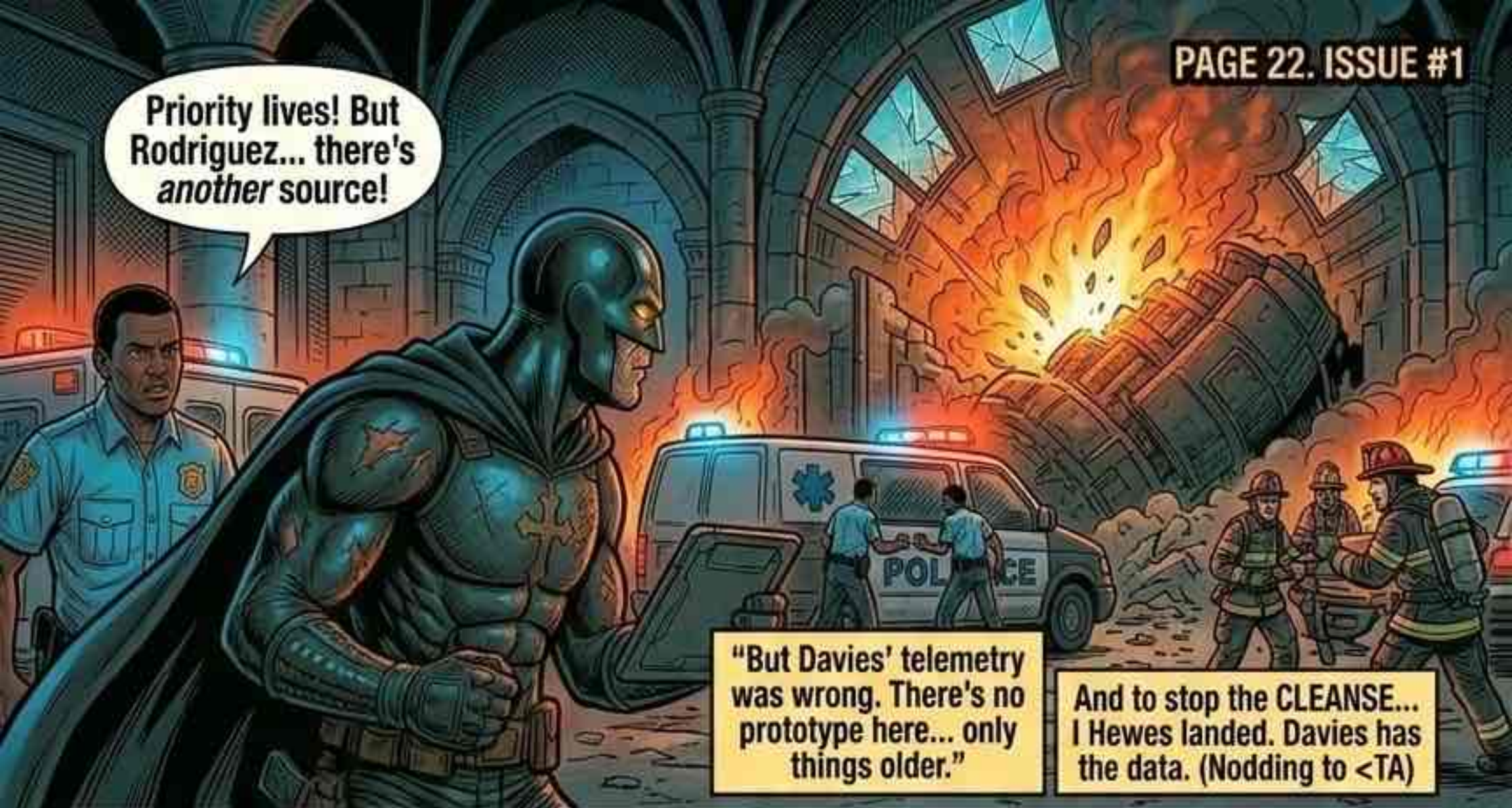
Priority lives!
Captain... I prioritize lives!
Lead the way, Officer!

THE TEMPERATURE... IT'S
ALREADY CRITICAL. THE CLEANSE
HAS BEGUN. EVERY LIFE... EVERY
SOUL... MATTERS.



THE LIGHT
ALWAYS CHASES
THE DARK.

Priority lives! But Rodriguez... there's another source!



"But Davies' telemetry was wrong. There's no prototype here... only things older."

And to stop the CLEANSE... I Hewes landed. Davies has the data. (Nodding to <TA)

Telemetry shows them heading towards... Sector Zeta... the old clean room.

I prioritizing lives! Lead the way, Officer!



"The ball of subterneed lewend a secret side chamber."



"Only chase... the Dark..."

"Every life... every soul... matters."

"Every life... every soul... matters."



THE LIGHT ALWAYS CHASES THE DARK.

TO BE CONTINUED

#THE SHEPHERD'S CALL, ISSUE #1: SHADOW OF THE CROSS

#Aundrey Richard Hubbard, Writer/Creator

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"To stop the CLEANSE... I have to break their link... at the source."



"But Davies' telemetry was wrong. There's no prototype here... only things older."



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"Every life... every soul... matters."

#TO BE CONTINUED

"The light always chases the dark."