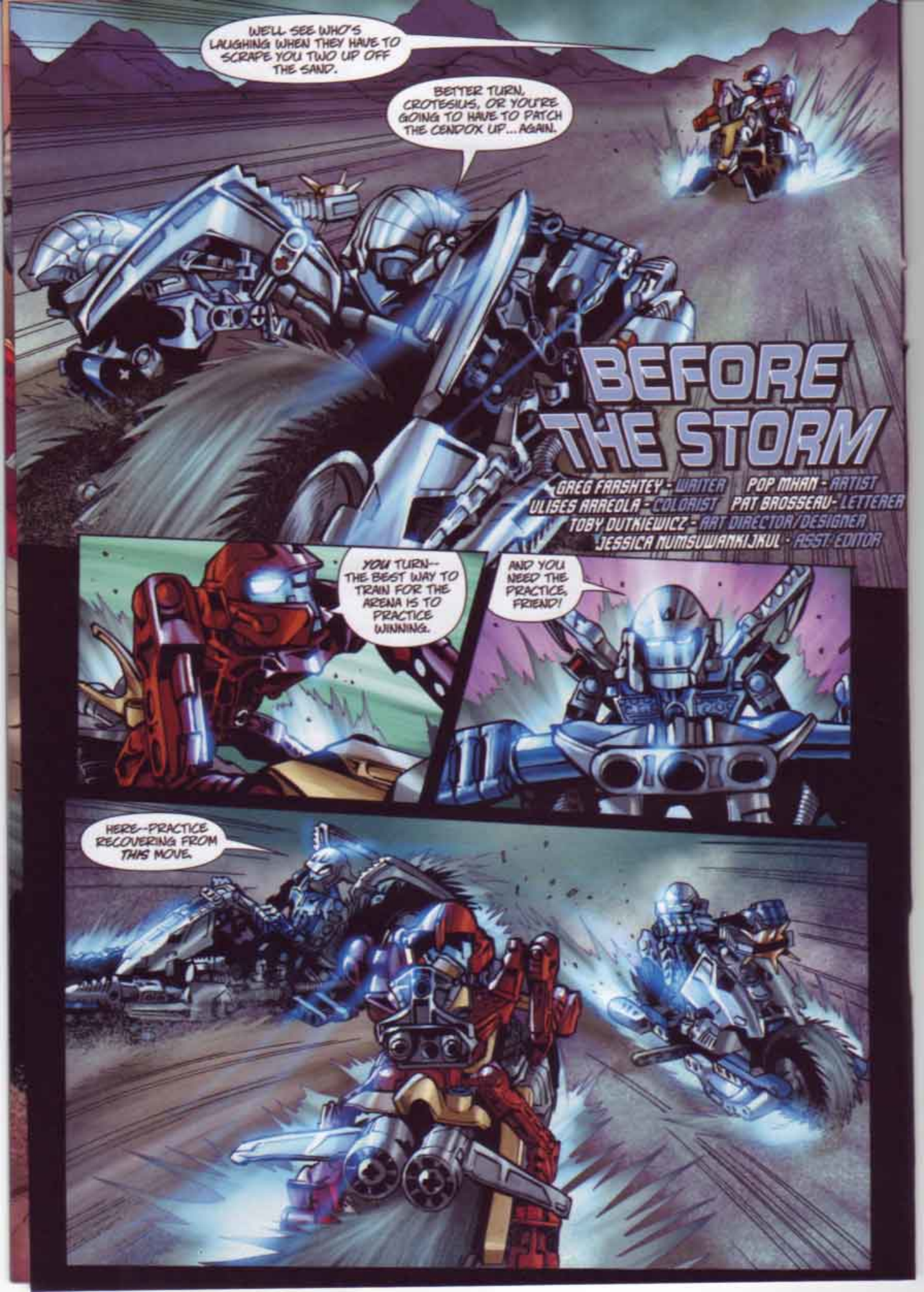
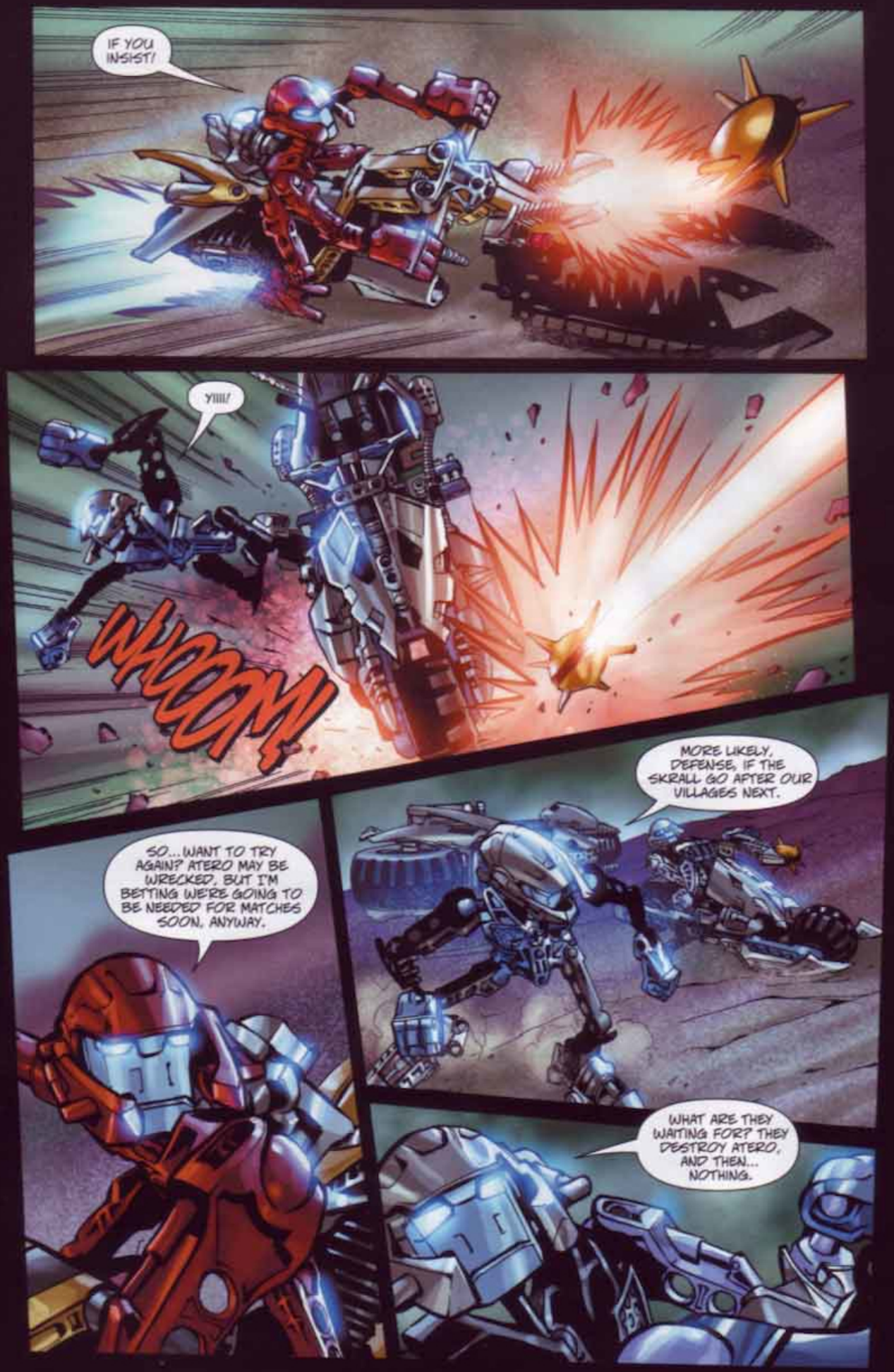
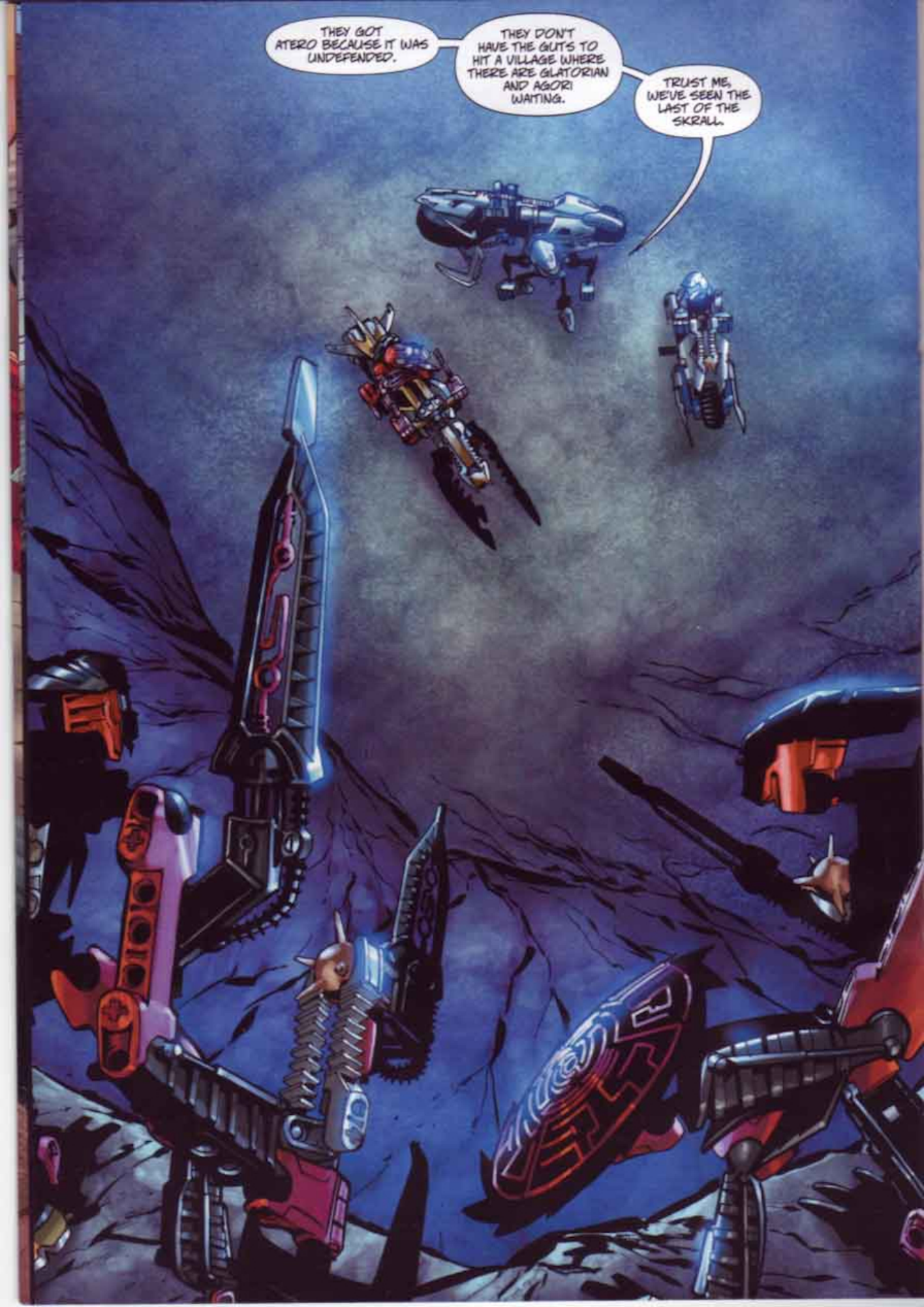
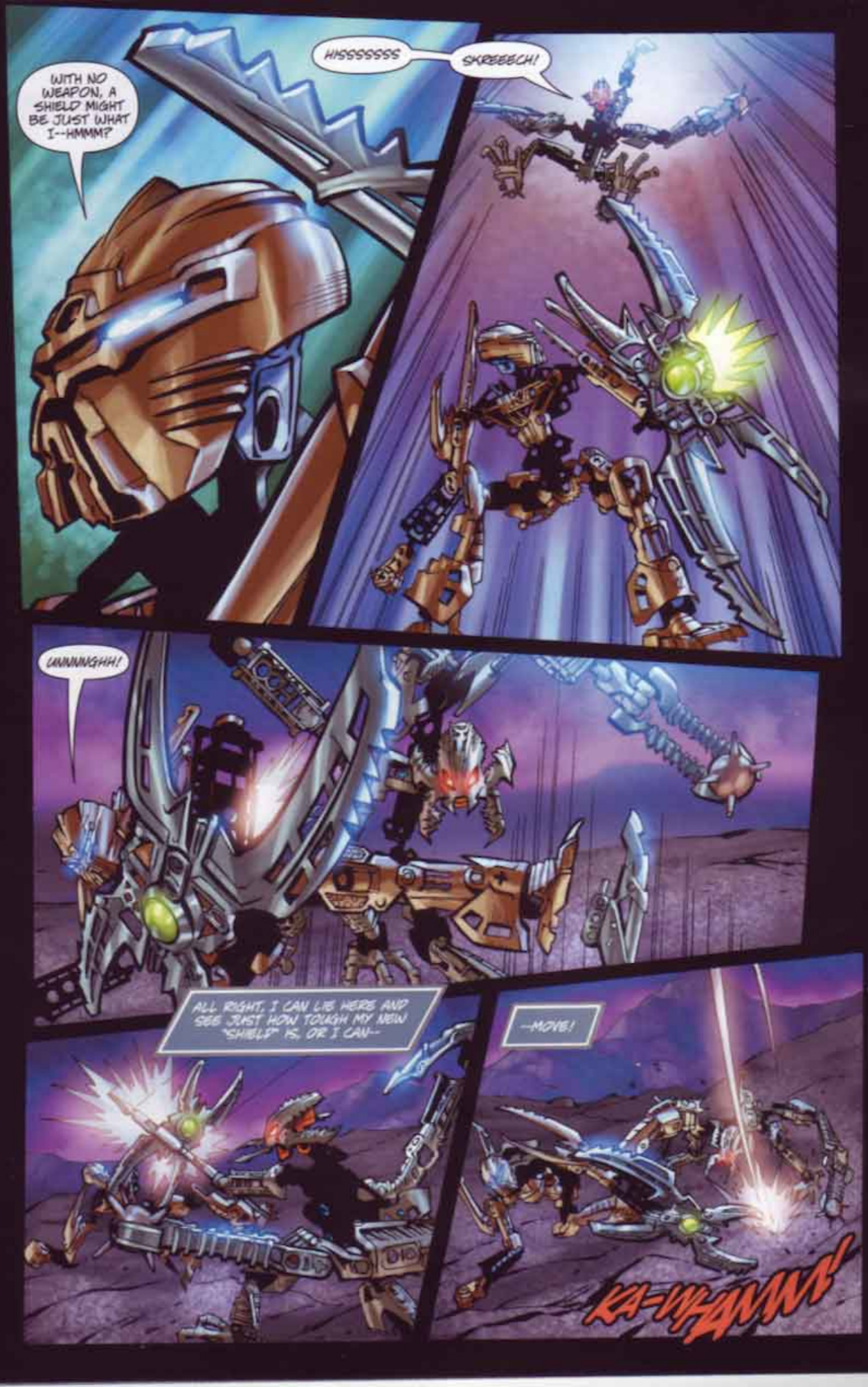

2009
ISSUE FOUR
MOVIE EDITION
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SPECIAL
GLATORIAN
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WE'LL SEE WHO'S LAUGHING WHEN THEY HAVE TO SCRAPE YOU TWO UP OFF THE SAND.
BETTER TURN, CROTESIUS, OR YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PATCH THE CENDOX UP... AGAIN.
BEFORE THE STORM
GREG FARSHTEY - WRITER
POP MHAN - ARTIST
ULISES ARREOLA - COLORIST
PAT BROSSEAU - LETTERER
TOBY DUTKIEWICZ - ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER
JESSICA NUMSUWANKIJKUL - ASST. EDITOR
YOU TURN-- THE BEST WAY TO TRAIN FOR THE ARENA IS TO PRACTICE WINNING.
AND YOU NEED THE PRACTICE, FRIEND!
HERE--PRACTICE RECOVERING FROM THIS MOVE.


IF YOU INSIST!
YIIII!
WHOOM!
MORE LIKELY, DEFENSE, IF THE SKRALL GO AFTER OUR VILLAGES NEXT.
SO... WANT TO TRY AGAIN? ATERO MAY BE WRECKED, BUT I'M BETTING WE'RE GOING TO BE NEEDED FOR MATCHES SOON, ANYWAY.
WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR? THEY DESTROY ATERO, AND THEN... NOTHING.


THEY GOT ATERO BECAUSE IT WAS UNDEFENDED.
THEY DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO HIT A VILLAGE WHERE THERE ARE GLATORIAN AND AGORI WAITING.
TRUST ME, WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THE SKRALL.

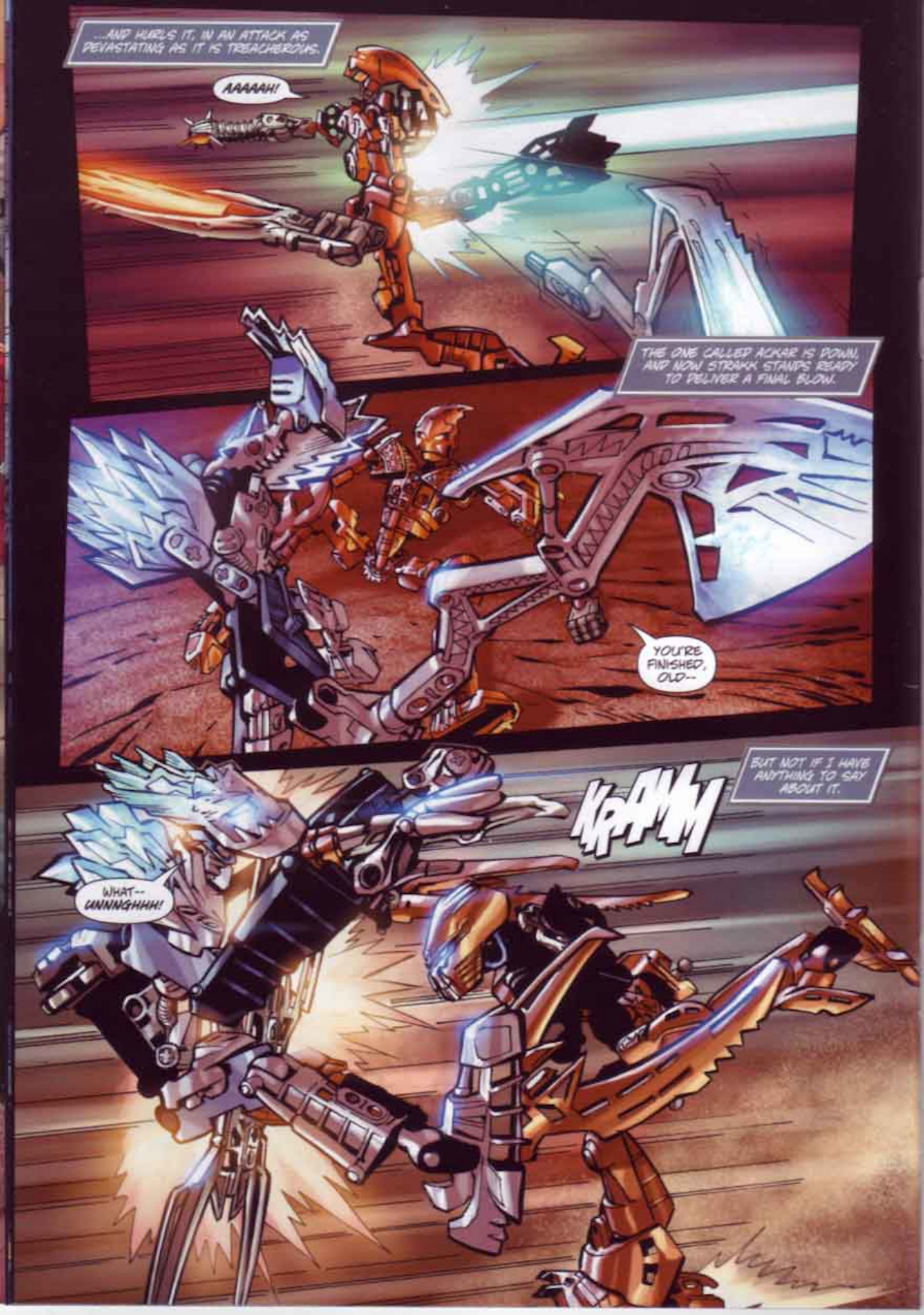

MY NAME IS MATA NUI. A FEW MOMENTS AGO, THE MASK OF LIFE WHICH CONTAINS MY SPIRIT CRASHED ON THIS STRANGE WORLD.
ITS POWER CREATED A NEW BODY FOR ME. ONE I MUST LEARN TO USE IF I AM TO SURVIVE HERE. BUT THE FIRST THING I ENCOUNTER DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A THREAT...
I HAVE THE FEELING YOU ARE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
CLICK CLICK
WELL, LITTLE ONE, HAVE YOU COME TO WELCOME ME TO YOUR WORLD?
CLICK CLICK
AH, IT'S THE MASK YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, IS IT?
FZZAK
"WHAT--?"
MAGNIFICENT...

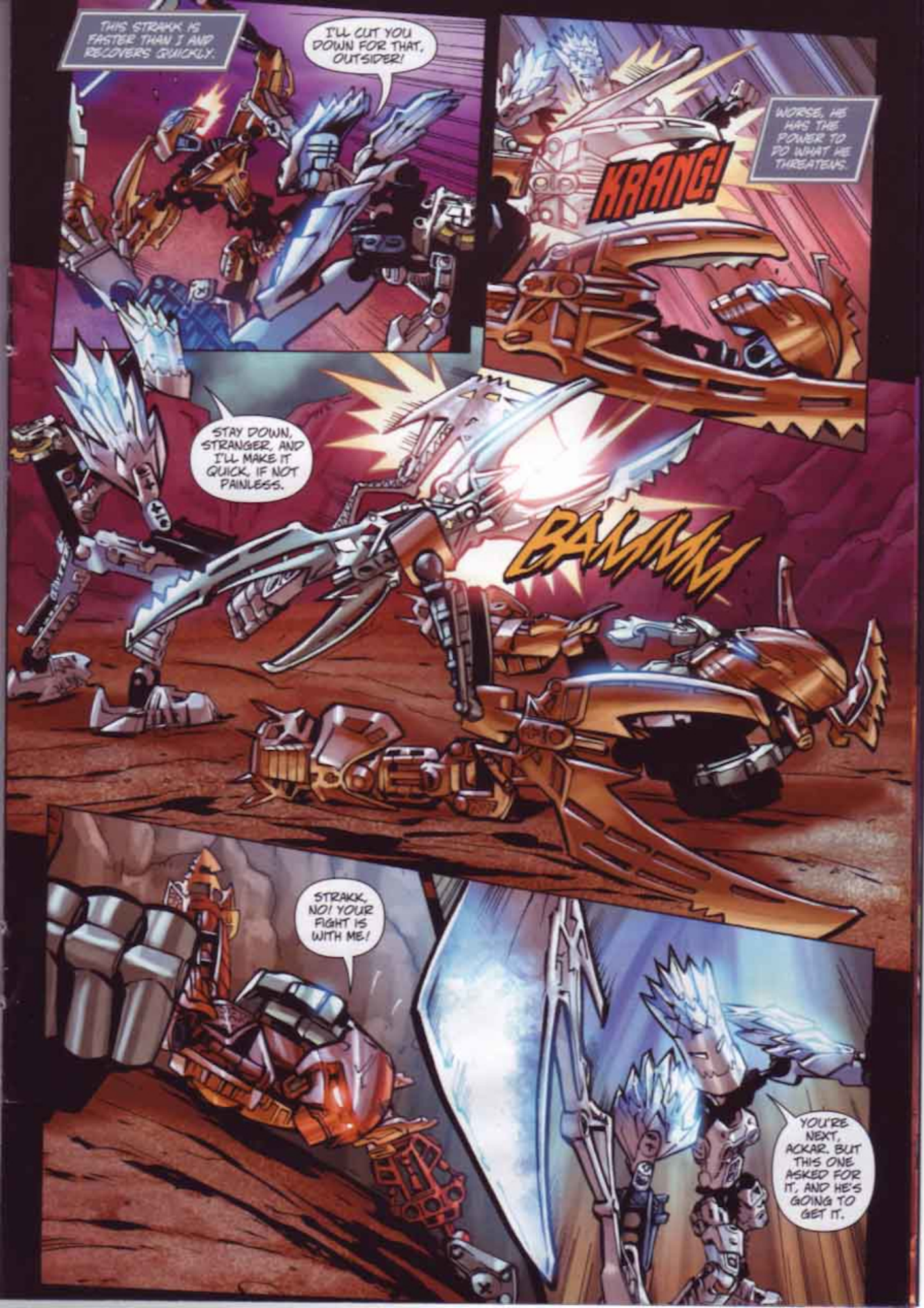

WITH NO WEAPON, A SHIELD MIGHT BE JUST WHAT I--HMMM?
HISSSSSSS
SKREEECH!
UNNNNGHH!
ALL RIGHT. I CAN LIE HERE AND SEE JUST HOW TOUGH MY NEW "SHIELD" IS, OR I CAN--
--MOVE!
KA-WHAMM!

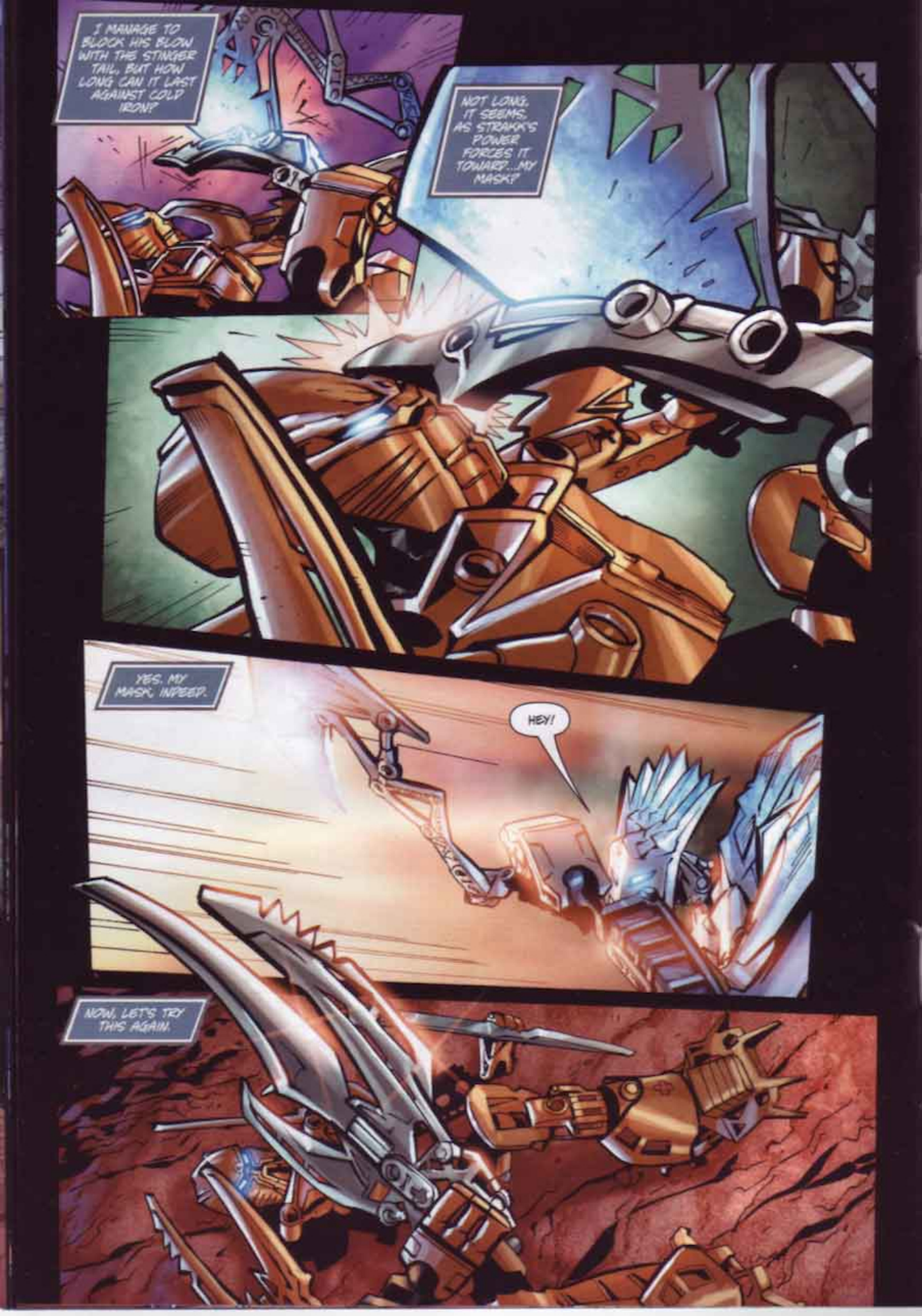

I KNOW ENOUGH TO KNOW TO BACK AWAY FROM THE SLASH OF A STINGER...
BUT NOT HOW TO MAKE THIS NEW BODY MOVE THE WAY I NEED IT TO.
OHH!
KRAKKK
SVAP
SAVED BY ACCIDENT—THE ROCK TOOK THE BLOW MEANT FOR ME, AND BROKE THE BEAST'S STINGER. IT FLEES INTO THE DESERT, HOWLING IN PAIN, AS MY SHIELD TRANSFORMS AGAIN.
ANOTHER REMINDER THAT I AM A LONG WAY FROM HOME...AND A LONG WAY FROM BEING WHAT I ONCE WAS.

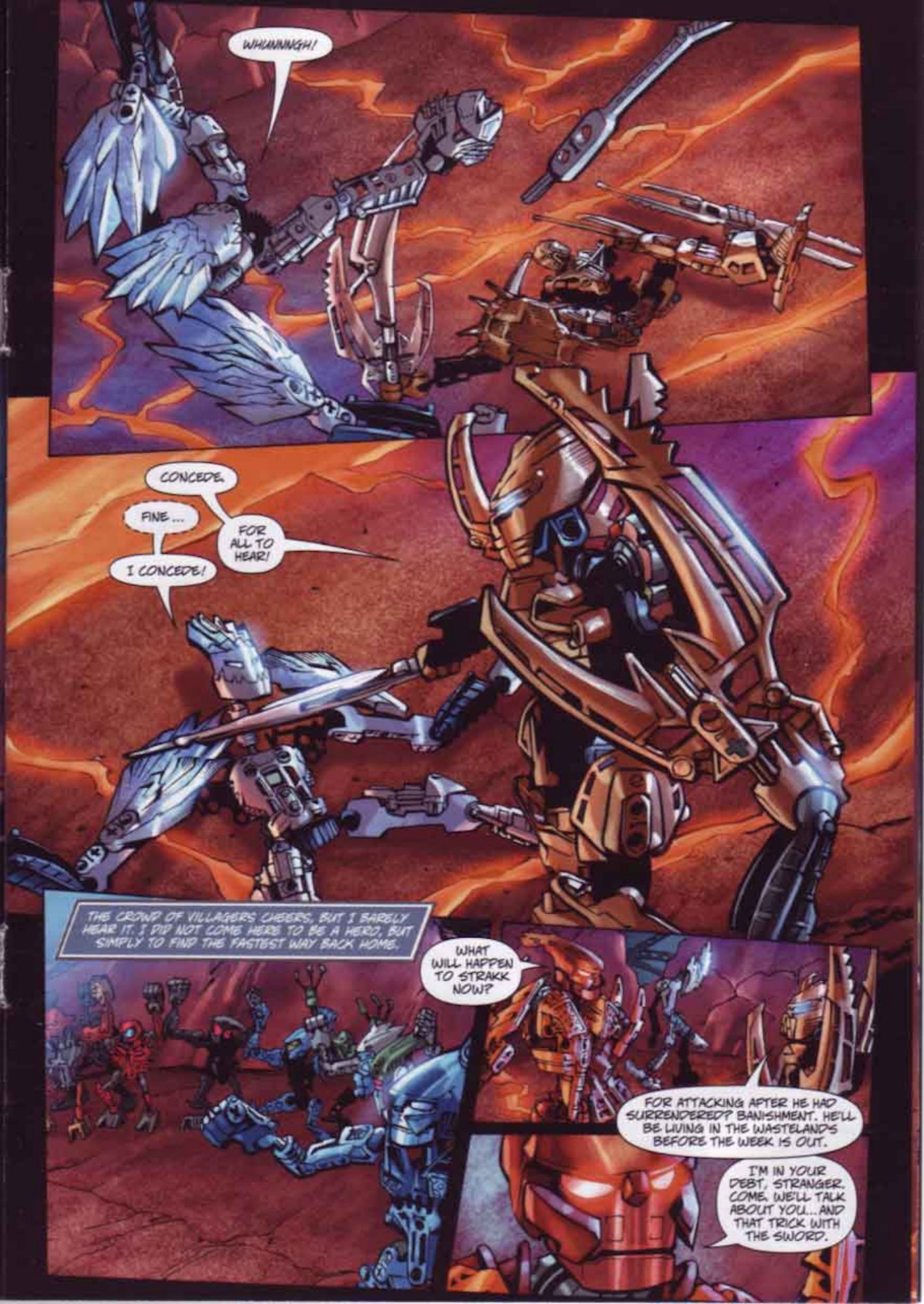

I HEAR THE VEHICLE COMING BEFORE I SEE IT. WHEN I DO, I FIND A BEING AS STARTLED TO SEE ME AS I AM HIM.
STATE YOUR BUSINESS, STRANGER.
JUST A TRAVELER LOOKING FOR THE NEAREST CITY.
MIGHT AS WELL START DIGGING THEN. YOU'RE BOUND TO FIND THE RUINS OF ONE OR ANOTHER.
HEH. THAT'S A JOKE. GUESS YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A LAUGHER, HUH? WELL, NEAREST VILLAGE IS VULCANUS. I'M HEADED THAT WAY MYSELF, IF YOU WANT A RIDE. UNLESS YOU'D RATHER WIND UP RUNNING INTO A PACK OF BONE HUNTERS AND SKRALL.
WHAT ARE BONE HUNTERS AND SKRALL?
NO ONE YOU'D WANT TO MEET.


WE ARRIVE IN THE VILLAGE "JUST IN TIME," ACCORDING TO MY DRIVER, METUS, TO SEE SOMETHING DISTURBING—TWO WARRIORS BATTLING IN AN ARENA, WHILE VILLAGERS LOOK ON CHEERING.
KLANG
METUS EXPLAINS THAT THIS IS HOW DISPUTES ARE SETTLED HERE—
UNNNNFF!
—BETWEEN FIGHTERS CALLED GLATORIAN, RATHER THAN IN WARS.
THIS SYSTEM MAY BE EASIER ON THE VILLAGES, BUT IT SEEMS PRETTY HARD ON THE GLATORIAN.
CONCEDE, STRAKK. YIELD, AND THIS GOES NO FARTHER.
ALL RIGHT, ACKAR... YOU WIN.
SOMETHING IN THE FALLEN ONE'S TONE DOES NOT SOUND RIGHT TO ME. AND SURE ENOUGH, AS HIS OPPONENT TURNS AWAY, HE REACHES FOR HIS WEAPON...

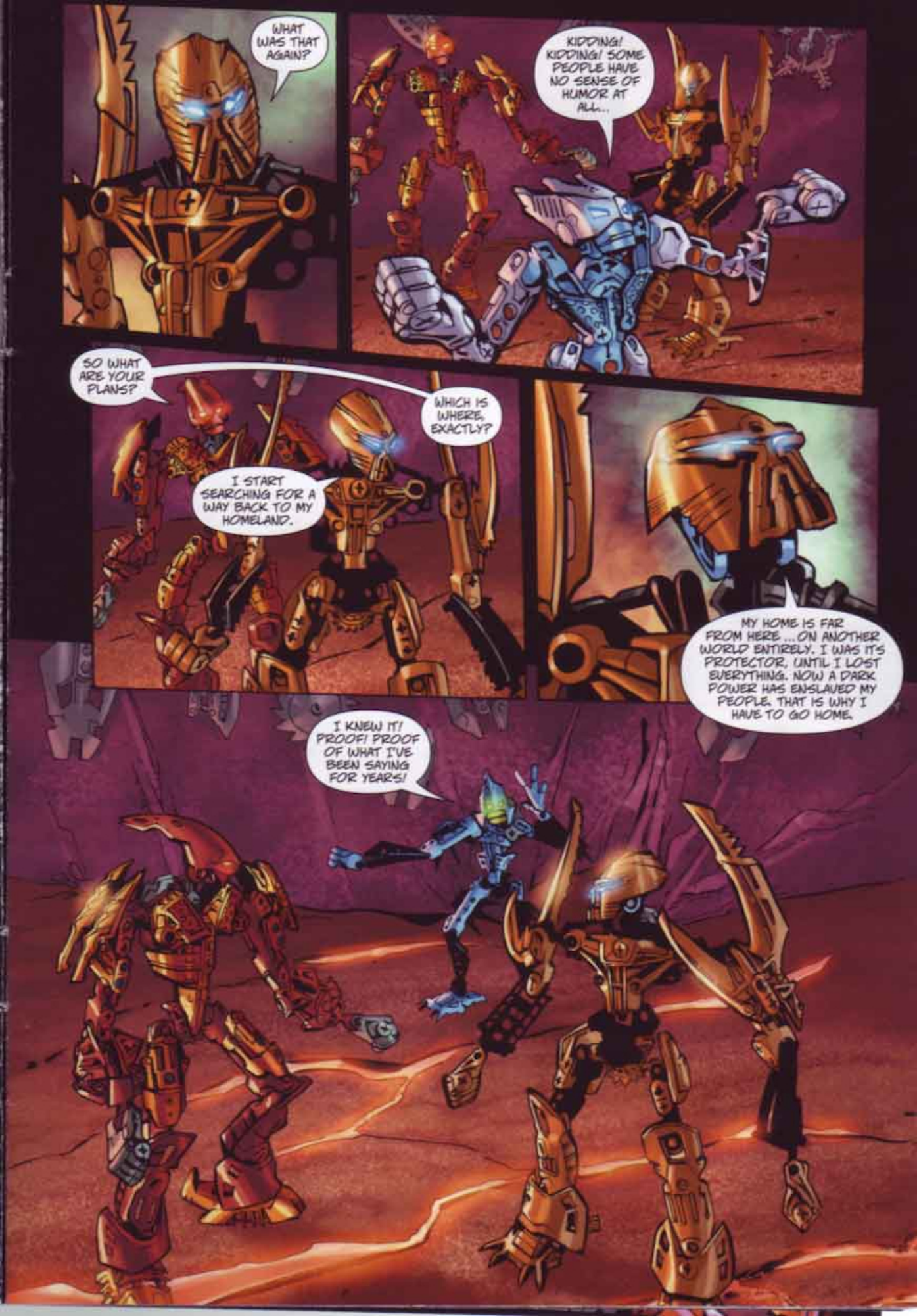

...AND HURLS IT, IN AN ATTACK AS DEVASTATING AS IT IS TREACHEROUS.
AAAAAH!
THE ONE CALLED ACKAR IS DOWN, AND NOW STRAKK STANDS READY TO DELIVER A FINAL BLOW.
YOU'RE FINISHED, OLD--
BUT NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.
KRAKK
WHAT-- UNNNGHHH!

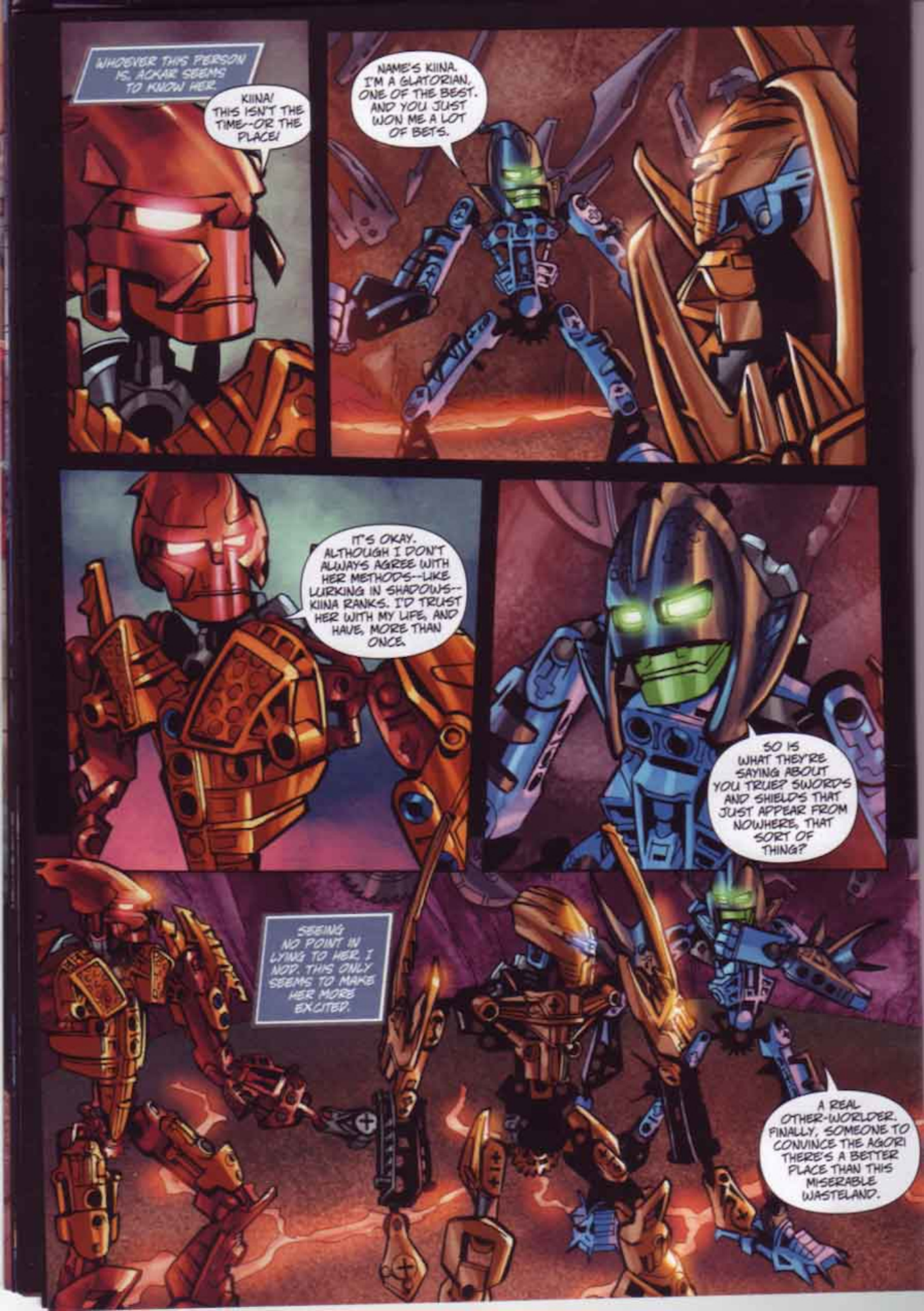

THIS STRAKK IS FASTER THAN I AND RECOVERS QUICKLY.
I'LL CUT YOU DOWN FOR THAT, OUTSIDER!
KRANG!
WORSE, HE HAS THE POWER TO DO WHAT HE THREATENS.
STAY DOWN, STRANGER, AND I'LL MAKE IT QUICK, IF NOT PAINLESS.
BAMM
STRAKK, NO! YOUR FIGHT IS WITH ME!
YOU'RE NEXT, ACKAR. BUT THIS ONE ASKED FOR IT, AND HE'S GOING TO GET IT.


I MANAGE TO BLOCK HIS BLOW WITH THE STINGER TAIL, BUT HOW LONG CAN IT LAST AGAINST COLD IRON?
NOT LONG, IT SEEMS, AS STRAKA'S POWER FORCES IT TOWARD...MY MASK?
YES. MY MASK, INDEED.
HEY!
NOW, LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.


WHUNNNGH!
CONCEDE.
FINE...
FOR ALL TO HEAR!
I CONCEDE!
THE CROWD OF VILLAGERS CHEERS, BUT I BARELY HEAR IT. I DID NOT COME HERE TO BE A HERO, BUT SIMPLY TO FIND THE FASTEST WAY BACK HOME.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO STRAKK NOW?
FOR ATTACKING AFTER HE HAD SURRENDERED? BANISHMENT. HE'LL BE LIVING IN THE WASTELANDS BEFORE THE WEEK IS OUT.
I'M IN YOUR DEBT, STRANGER. COME. WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOU... AND THAT TRICK WITH THE SWORD.


ACKAR TAKES ME BACK TO HIS SHELTER. HE HAS ANOTHER MATCH IN TESARA, HE SAYS. BUT HE DOES NOT SEEM HAPPY ABOUT IT.
WHY DO YOU BATTLE IN THE ARENA, IF YOU HAVE TIRED OF IT?
DUTY. PRIDE. BUT A GLATORIAN PAST HIS PRIME IS NO GOOD TO ANYONE.
TO BE DEFEATED WITHOUT A FIGHT WOULD BE DISHONOR. I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD ALLOW THAT... YOU ARE A TRUE TOA.
A TOA? WHAT'S A TOA?
WHERE I COME FROM... IT IS A NAME GIVEN TO A SELECT FEW WARRIORS, WORTHY OF--
MATA NUI! YOU WERE BRILLIANT! VULCANUS WILL PAY ANYTHING YOU ASK! AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS VILLAGE, NO PROBLEM-- I'LL GET THE OTHERS TO BID ON YOU!
THAT IS VERY... KIND. BUT THE ANSWER IS NO.
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY? THINK WHAT YOU'RE GIVING UP-- THE LIFE OF A PRIME GLATORIAN! ALL RIGHT, BUT ONE DAY YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME, BEGGING FOR THIS CHANCE.


WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?
KIDDING! KIDDING! SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR AT ALL...
SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
WHICH IS WHERE, EXACTLY?
I START SEARCHING FOR A WAY BACK TO MY HOMELAND.
MY HOME IS FAR FROM HERE ... ON ANOTHER WORLD ENTIRELY. I WAS IT'S PROTECTOR, UNTIL I LOST EVERYTHING. NOW A DARK POWER HAS ENSLAVED MY PEOPLE. THAT IS WHY I HAVE TO GO HOME.
I KNEW IT! PROOF! PROOF OF WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS!


WHOEVER THIS PERSON IS, ACKAR SEEMS TO KNOW HER.
KIINA! THIS ISN'T THE TIME--OR THE PLACE!
NAME'S KIINA. I'M A GLATORIAN, ONE OF THE BEST. AND YOU JUST WON ME A LOT OF BETS.
IT'S OKAY. ALTHOUGH I DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH HER METHODS--LIKE LURKING IN SHADOWS--KIINA RANKS. I'D TRUST HER WITH MY LIFE, AND HAVE, MORE THAN ONCE.
SO IS WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT YOU TRUE? SWORDS AND SHIELDS THAT JUST APPEAR FROM NOWHERE, THAT SORT OF THING?
SEEING NO POINT IN LYING TO HER, I NOD. THIS ONLY SEEMS TO MAKE HER MORE EXCITED.
A REAL OTHER-WORLDER. FINALLY, SOMEONE TO CONVINCE THE AGORI THERE'S A BETTER PLACE THAN THIS MISERABLE WASTELAND.


KIINA SAYS SHE MAY KNOW OF A WAY I CAN FIND MY WAY HOME. SHE HAS FOUND A CAVE NEAR HER VILLAGE FILLED WITH ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY AND STRANGE INSCRIPTIONS, AND SHE AGREES TO TAKE ME THERE.
IN RETURN, SHE ASKS ONE FAVOUR--THAT WHEN I LEAVE BARA MAGNA, I TAKE HER WITH ME. SEEING NO OTHER CHOICE, I AGREE. THE NEXT MORNING, WE DEPART FROM THE VILLAGE OF TAJUN.
WE HAD BEEN RIDING FOR SOME TIME WHEN WE REACHED A CANYON. ACKAR GREW TENSE AS SOON AS WE ENTERED.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. IT'S A PERFECT SPOT FOR AN AMBUSH.
PLEASE. EVEN BONE HUNTERS WOULDN'T BE STUPID ENOUGH TO TAKE ON ALL THREE OF US.
OH, NO? BETTER TELL THEM THAT, THEN.
ON DVD S


I LOOK BEHIND. WE ARE BEING PURSUED-- WHY AND BY WHOM, I DON'T KNOW. BUT I DOUBT THEY ARE HERE TO INVITE US TO DINNER, UNLESS WE ARE SLATED TO BE THE MEAL.
MY VILLAGE-- THERE ARE OTHER GLATORIAN THERE! HANG ON, WE'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT!
I HAVE YET TO SEE KIINA FIGHT, BUT I QUICKLY LEARN SHE CAN DRIVE. LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE GAIN GROUND ON THE BONE HUNTERS.


OUR PURSUERS AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT.
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, MATA NUI, OR ONE OF THOSE THORNAX WILL TAKE IT OFF!
WHAT DO THESE BONE HUNTERS WANT?
"WHAT THEY ALWAYS WANT," ACKAR REPLIES. "WHATEVER THEY CAN GET."
DO YOU FEEL THAT? A TREMOR IN THE GROUND?
UM, GUYS...
I THINK WE MAY HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN BONE HUNTERS...
RUMMBLE
...MUCH BIGGER.


SKOPIO!!
MATA NUI'S VISIT TO BARA MAGNA LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE A SHORT ONE! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? FIND OUT IN "BIONICLE®: THE LEGEND REBORN," THE NEW MOVIE AVAILABLE ON DVD THIS MONTH!