

THE MISSION WAS SIMPLE: GATHER THE TEAM, BOARD THE LAMPREY, FLY TO THE PLANET WE NOW KNOW AS PASTICCIO, AND FIND THE MISSING RESEARCHERS.

NOW, NOTHING IS SIMPLE.

WE WERE AMBUSHED AND NEARLY KILLED BY CREATURES CALLED THE BORLOTH.

NATURALLY, WE FOUGHT BACK. HOW WERE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT THESE CREATURES USED TO BE THE VERY RESEARCHERS WE WERE SENT HERE TO FIND?

THEY WERE TRANSFORMED BY A NEW KIND OF RADIATION WE HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, THEY WERE TRANSFORMED BY HIM.

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GENERATING ENTIRE PLANETS FROM SCRATCH TENDS TO GENERATE UNIQUE PROBLEMS ALONG THE WAY. WHEN THE SITUATION BECOMES TOO DANGEROUS OR COMPLEX, KAIM AND HIS TEAM ARE SENT IN TO HELP.

GET READY, HUMANS. THE PAIN WILL BE BRIEF, BUT SOON YOU WILL BE A PART OF OUR MIGHTY RACE.

KAIM

MAURO

ANUEL

PYX

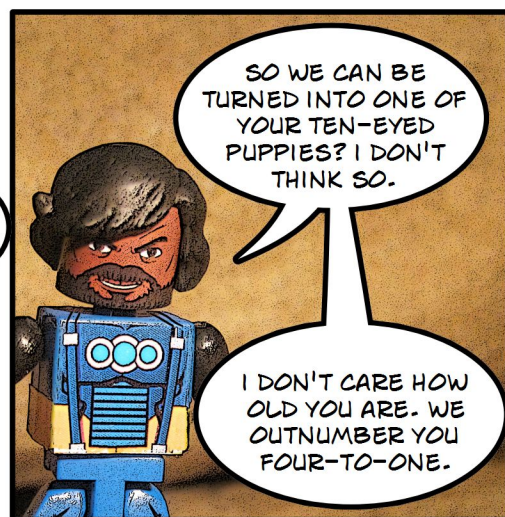
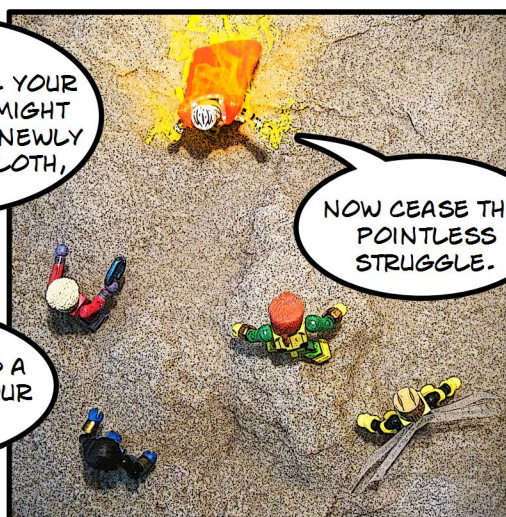
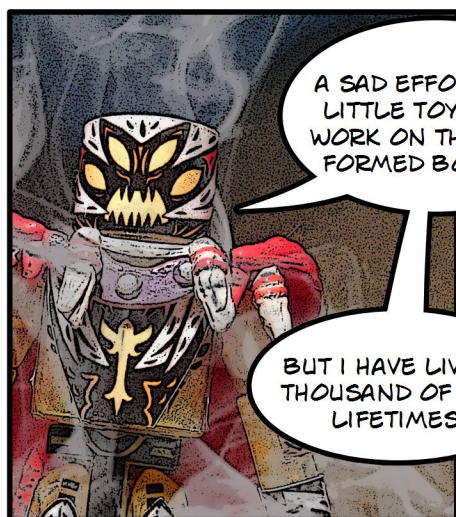
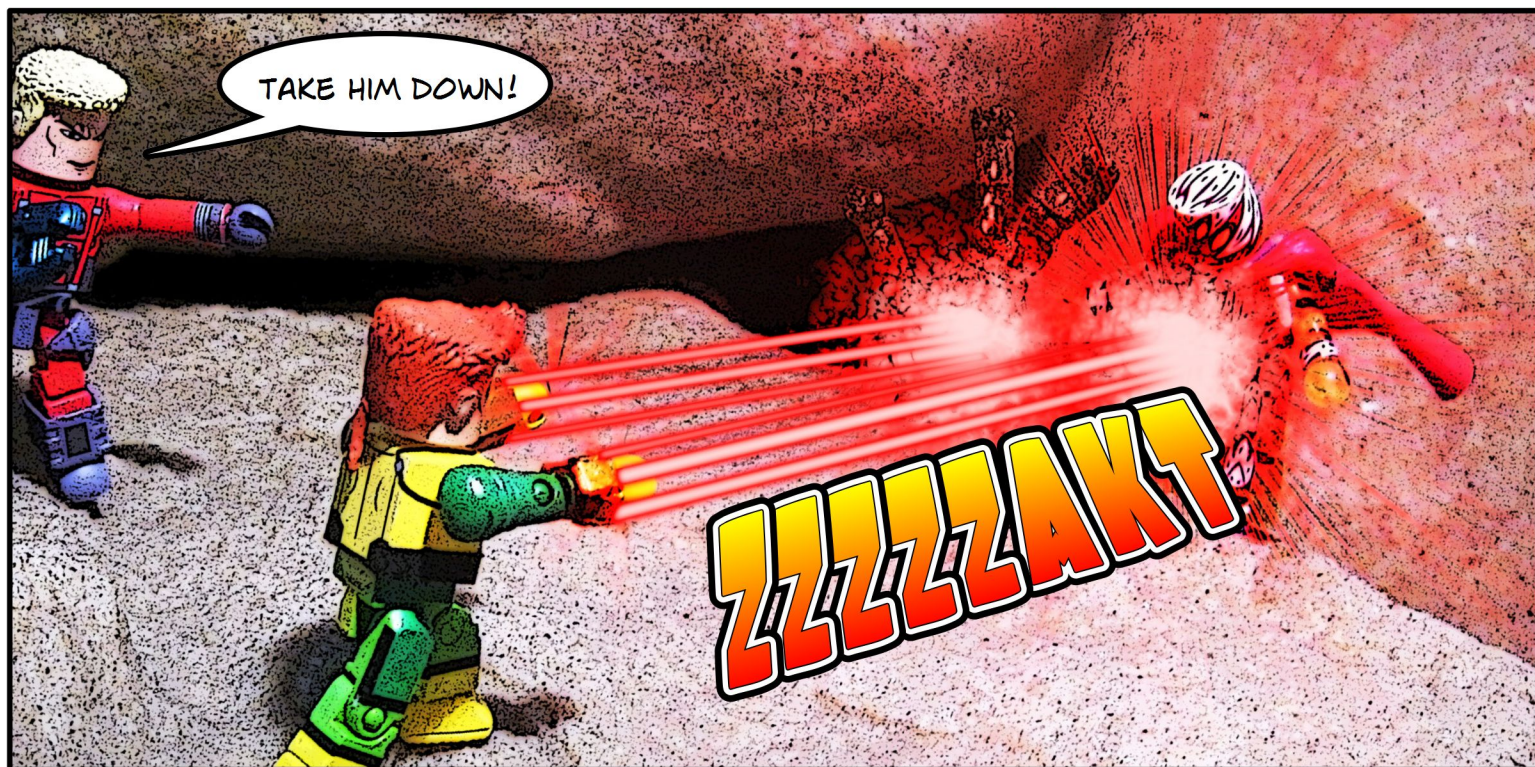
MY NAME IS KAIM RADAMON AND I AM THE CAPTAIN OF THE P.S.S. LAMPREY. I DEMAND THAT YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND STAND DOWN.

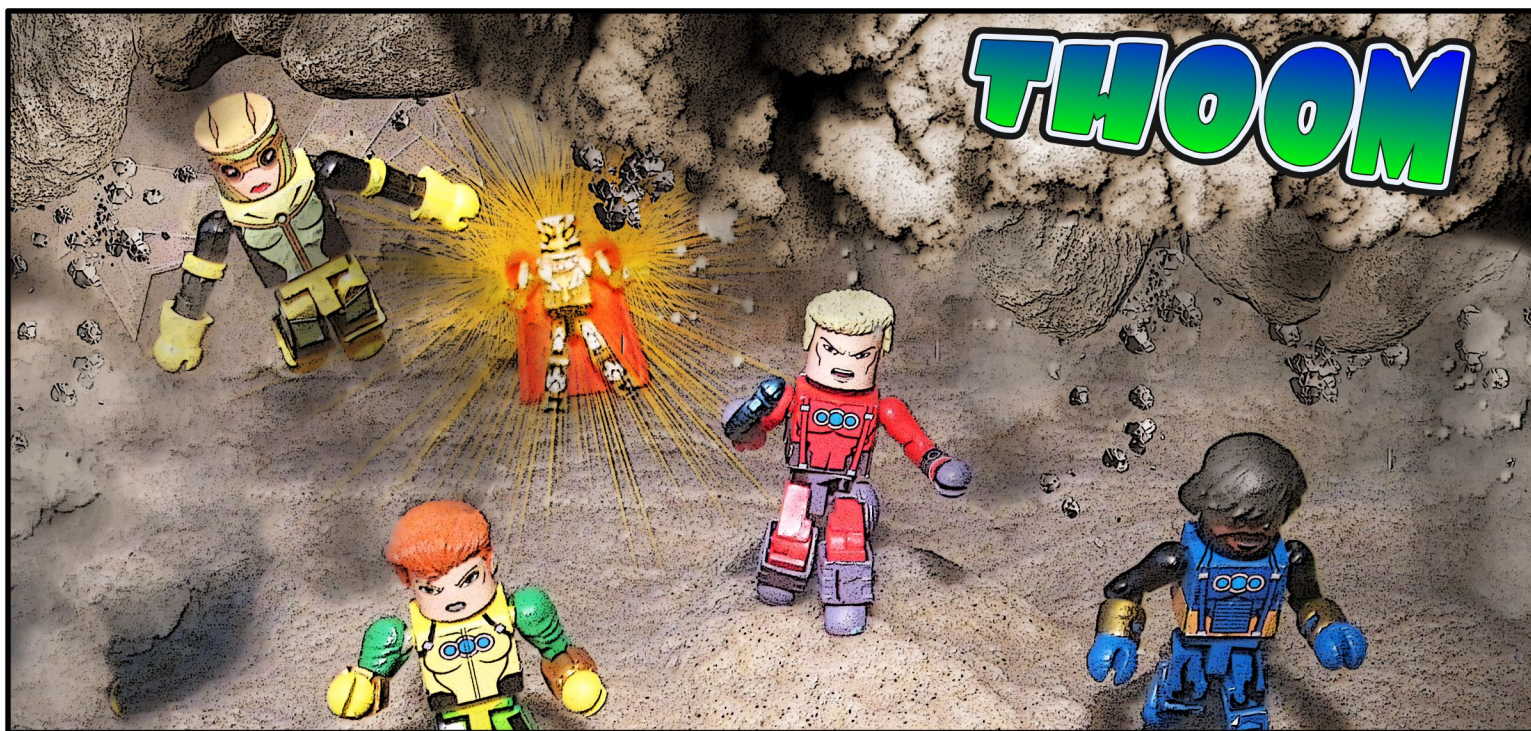
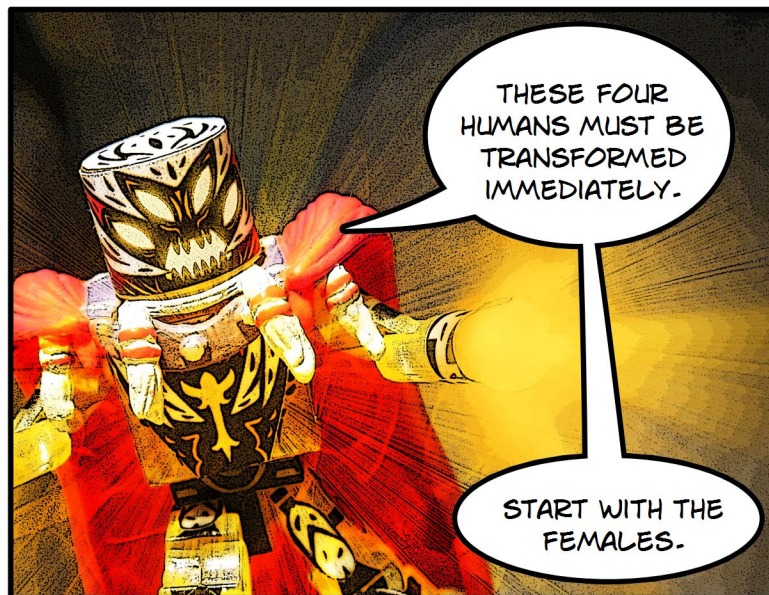
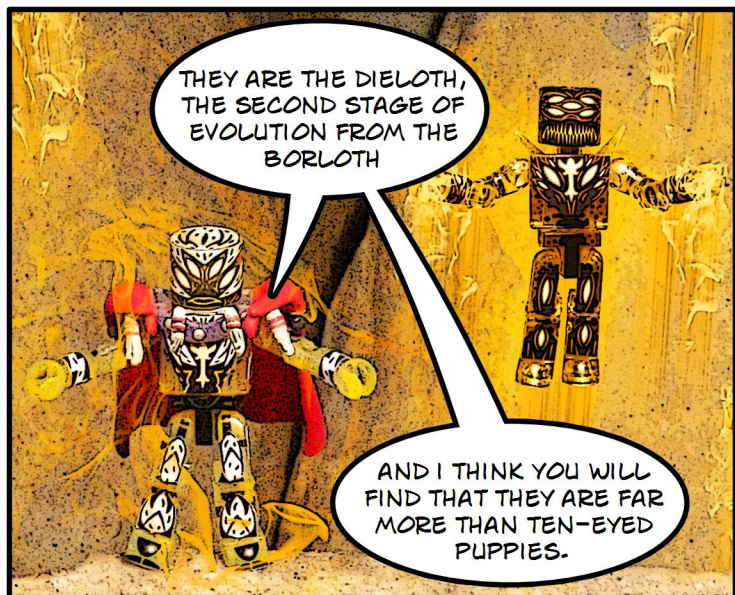
IN YOUR CRUDE TONGUE I AM CALLED NOLISTIS, AND I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM TALKING BAGS OF MEAT.

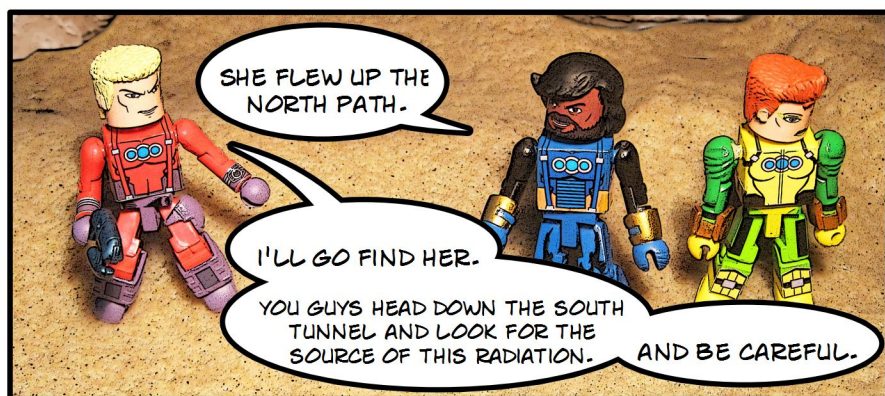
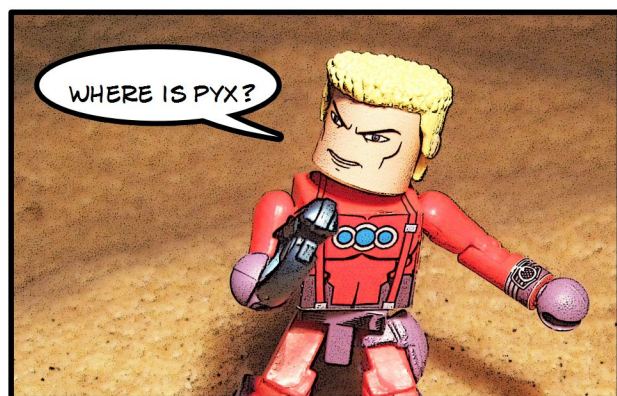
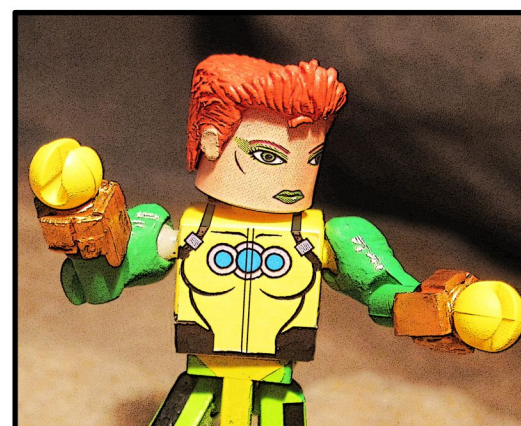
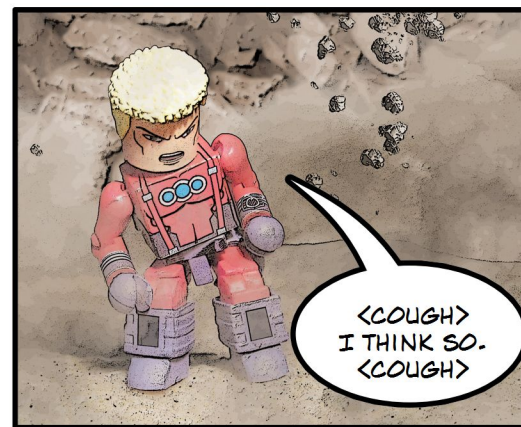
THIS PROTOPLANET IS OWNED BY THE PROTOSTAR CORPORATION AND YOU ARE COMMITTING AN ACT OF WAR. THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER.

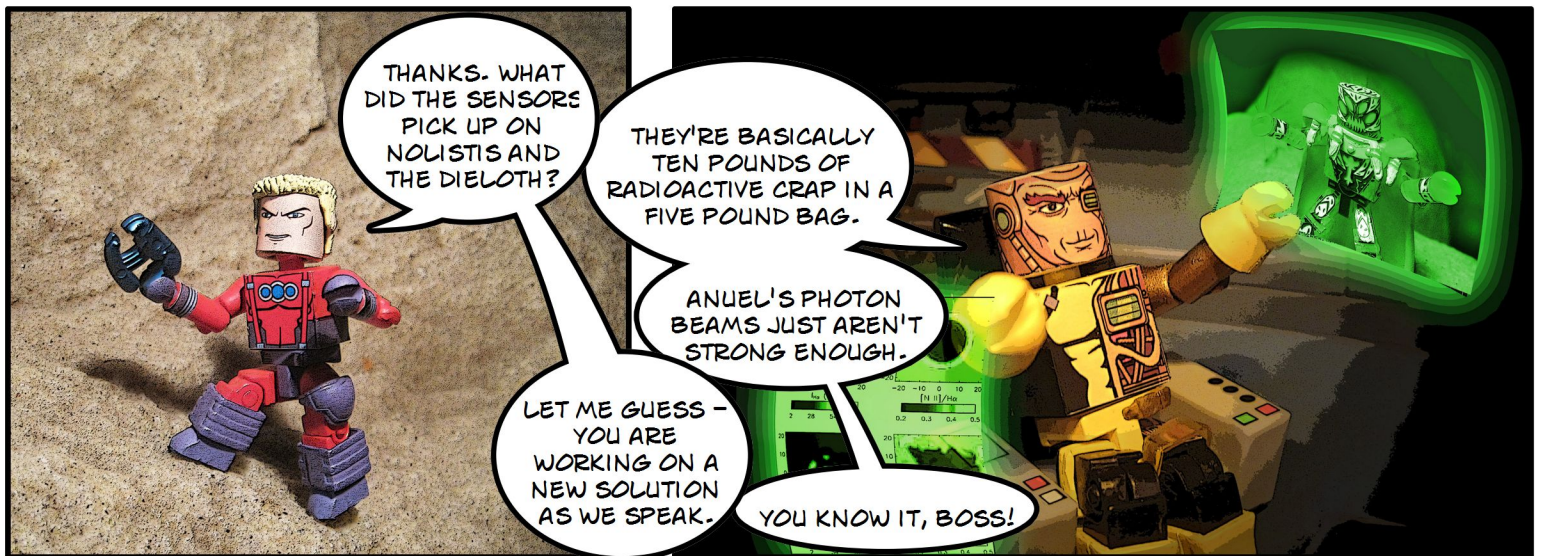
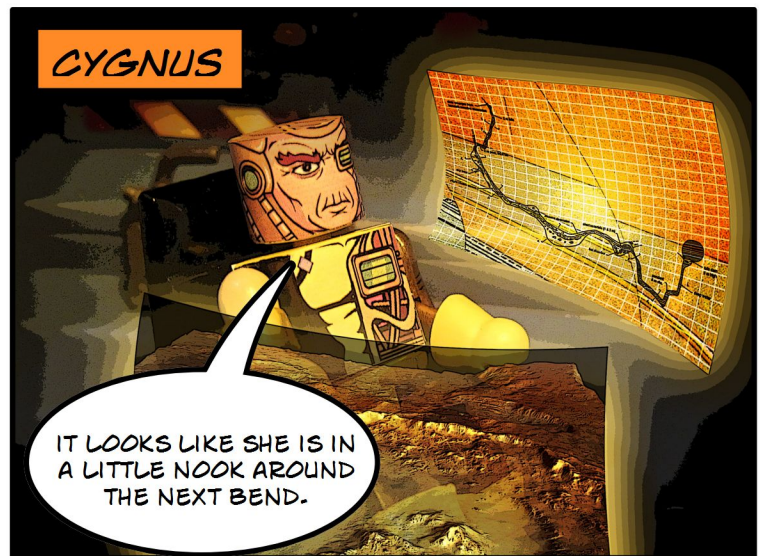
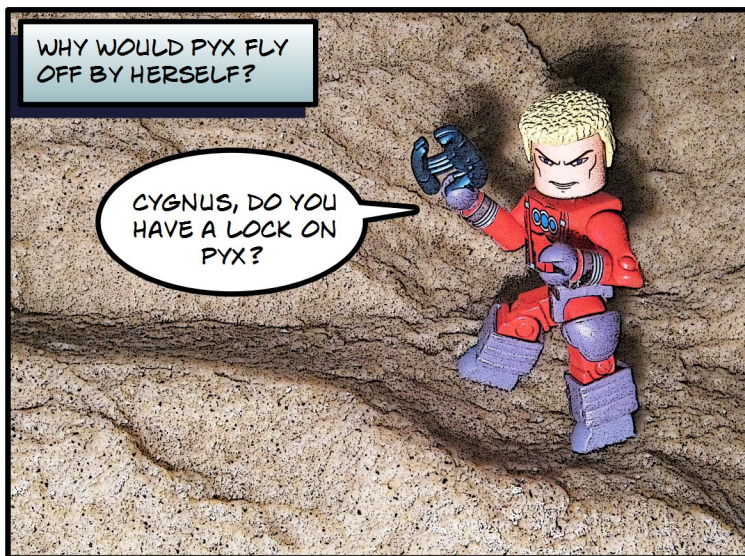
ANUEL IS READY TO POUNCE. SHE KNOWS WHAT COMES NEXT.

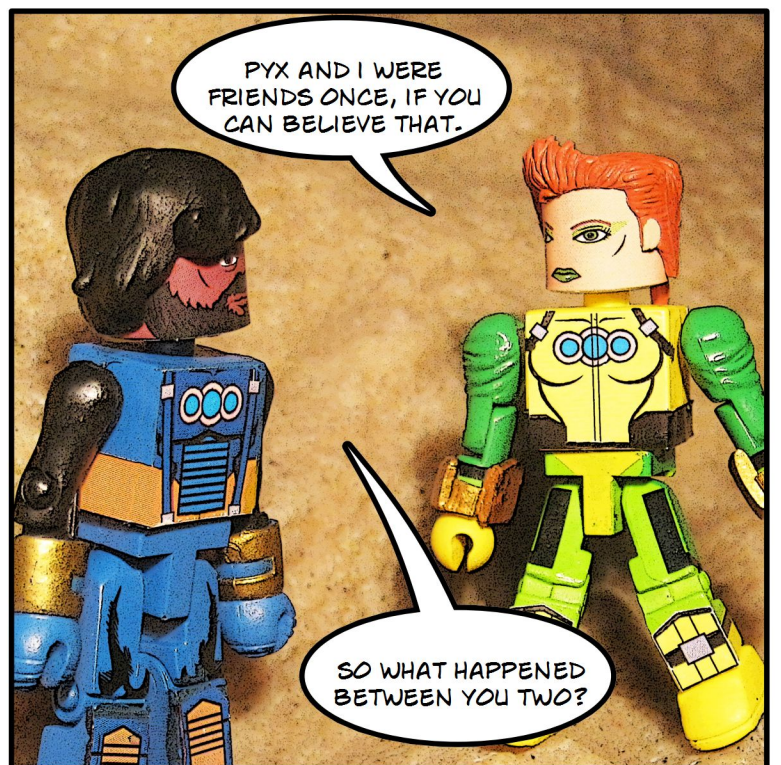
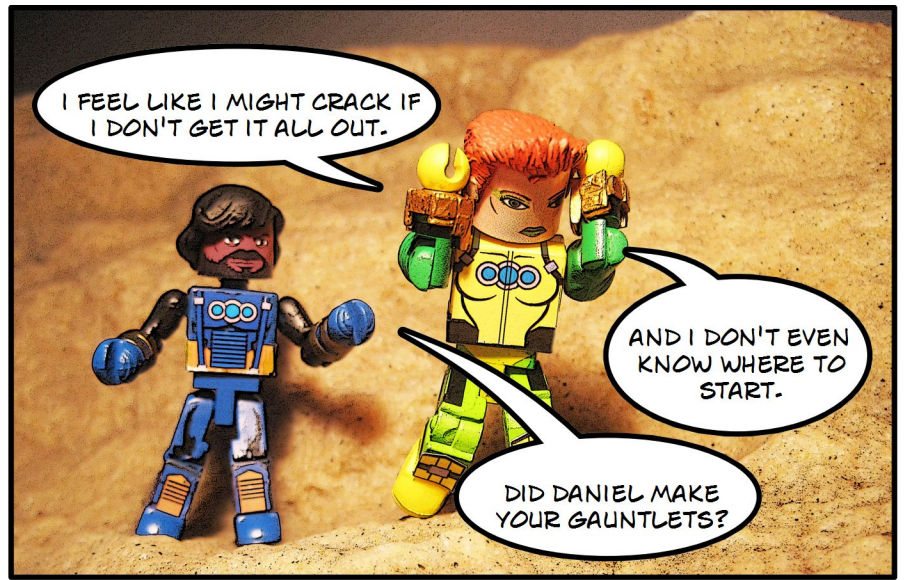
AND THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO STAND AND SPEAK AS A HUMAN BEING!











IT WAS THE DAY PYX GOT HER WINGS.

BETWEEN MY GAUNTLETS, HER WINGS, AND OTHER AMAZING TECH, DANIEL WAS GOING TO BE AN INTERGALACTIC STAR.

I FELT HONORED TO BE WORKING WITH HIM,

ESPECIALLY WHEN I WATCHED PYX LAUNCH INTO THE AIR FOR THE FIRST TIME.

DANIEL HAD GIVEN PYX DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS AND A LIST OF STRICT WARNINGS.

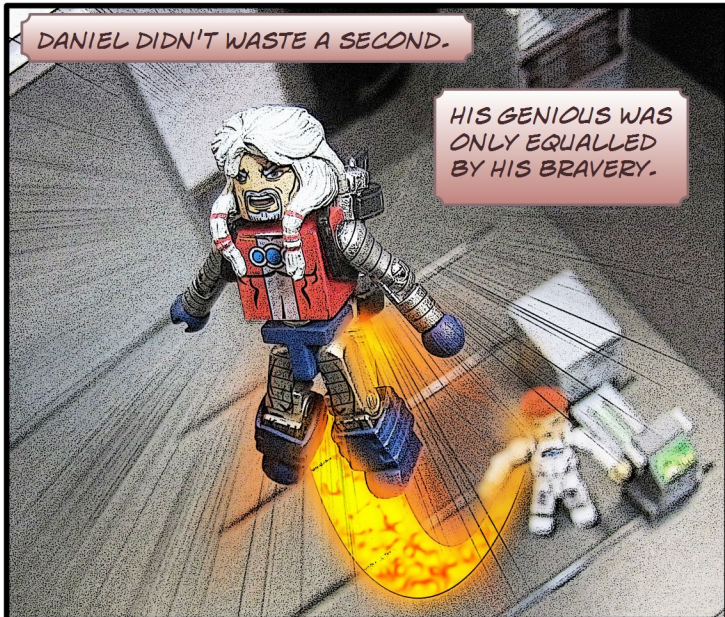
HE TOLD HER WHERE TO FLY AND HOW HIGH TO GO.

SHE IGNORED IT ALL.

AND FLEW STRAIGHT INTO AN INVISIBLE MAGNETIC FIELD ON THE BASE'S POWER GRID.

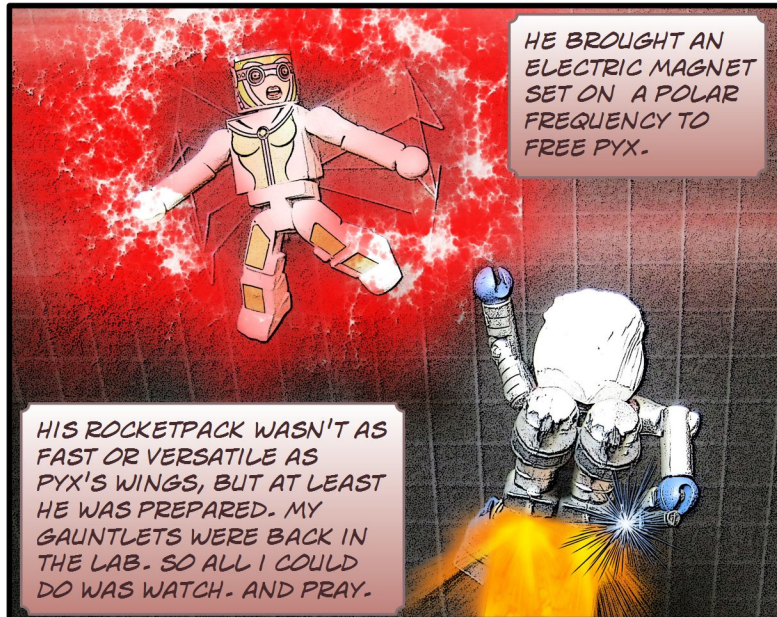
DANIEL DIDN'T WASTE A SECOND.

HIS GENIUS WAS ONLY EQUALLED BY HIS BRAVERY.

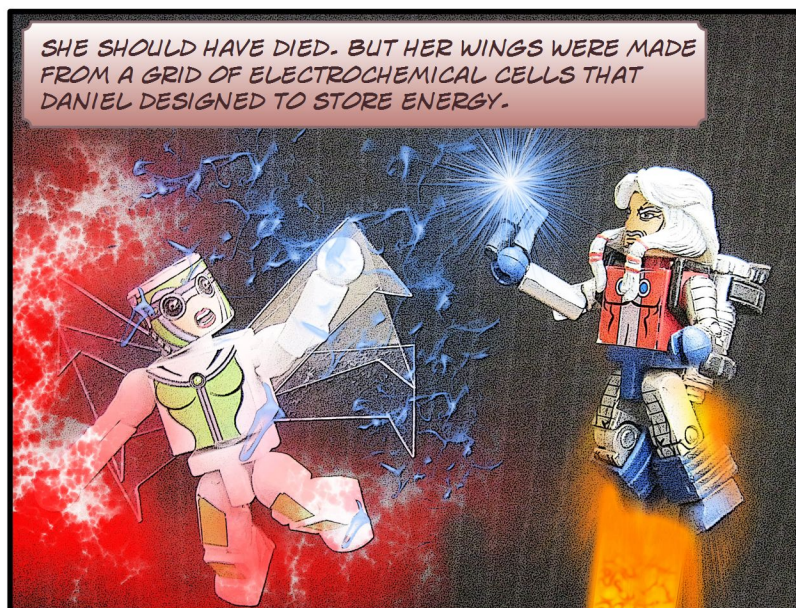


HE BROUGHT AN ELECTRIC MAGNET SET ON A POLAR FREQUENCY TO FREE PYX.

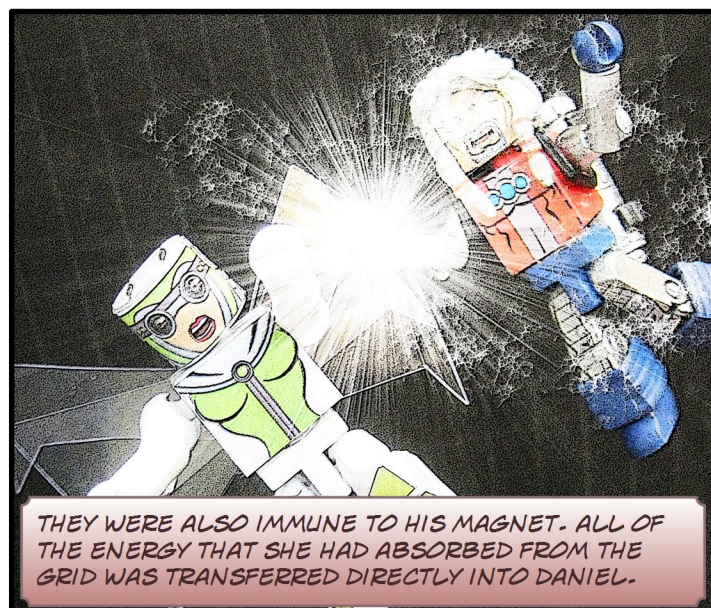
HIS ROCKETPACK WASN'T AS FAST OR VERSATILE AS PYX'S WINGS, BUT AT LEAST HE WAS PREPARED. MY GAUNTLETS WERE BACK IN THE LAB. SO ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH. AND PRAY.



SHE SHOULD HAVE DIED. BUT HER WINGS WERE MADE FROM A GRID OF ELECTROCHEMICAL CELLS THAT DANIEL DESIGNED TO STORE ENERGY.



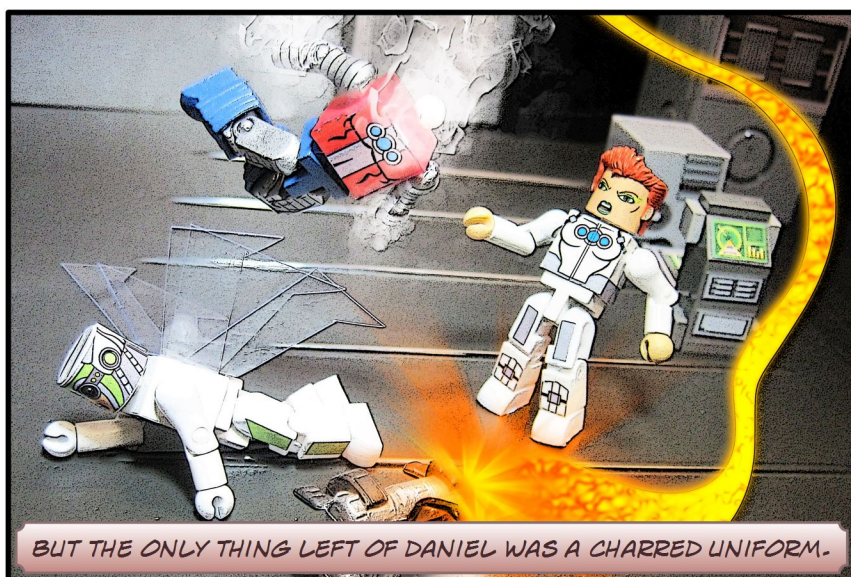
THEY WERE ALSO IMMUNE TO HIS MAGNET. ALL OF THE ENERGY THAT SHE HAD ABSORBED FROM THE GRID WAS TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY INTO DANIEL.



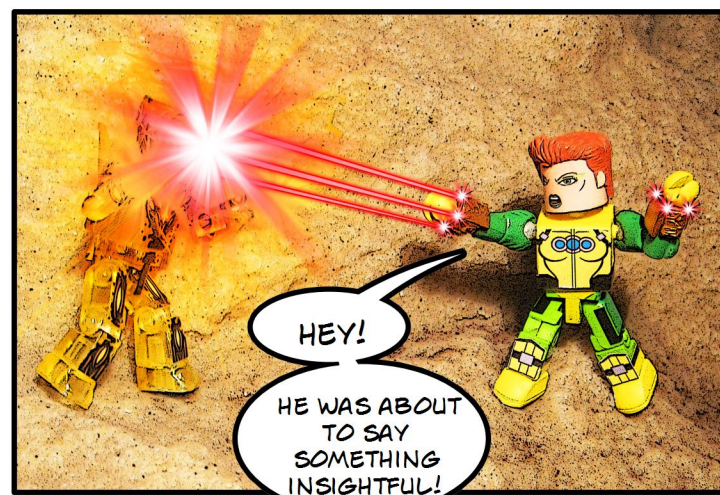
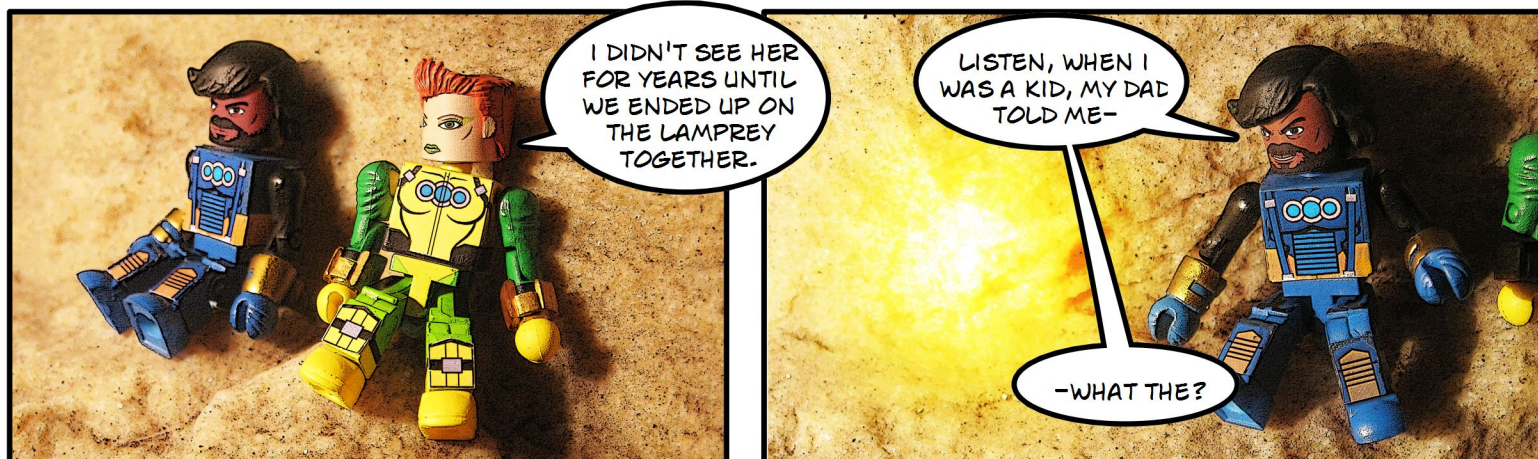
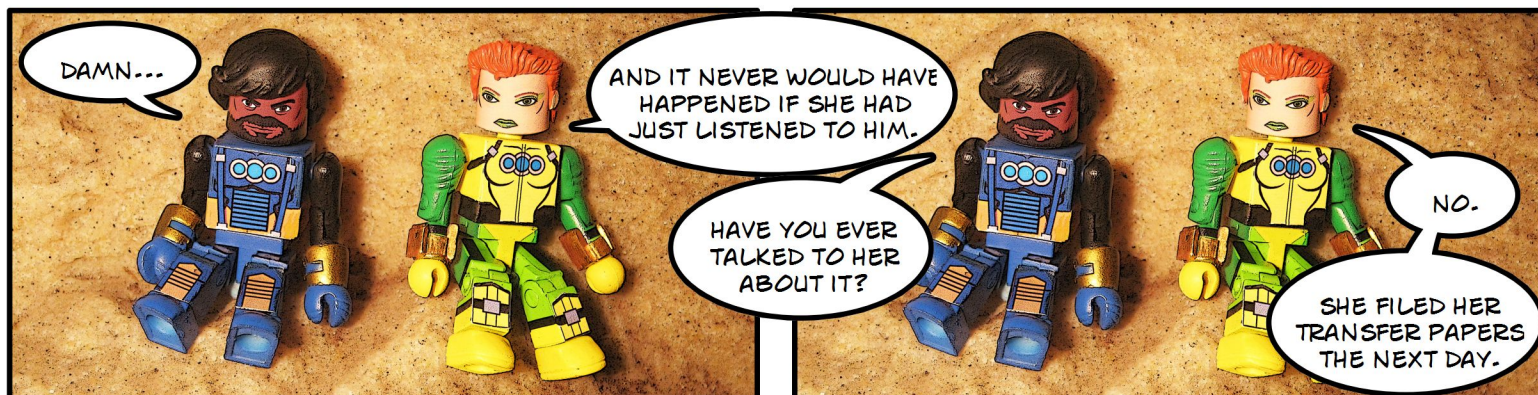
PYX WAS MOSTLY FINE.

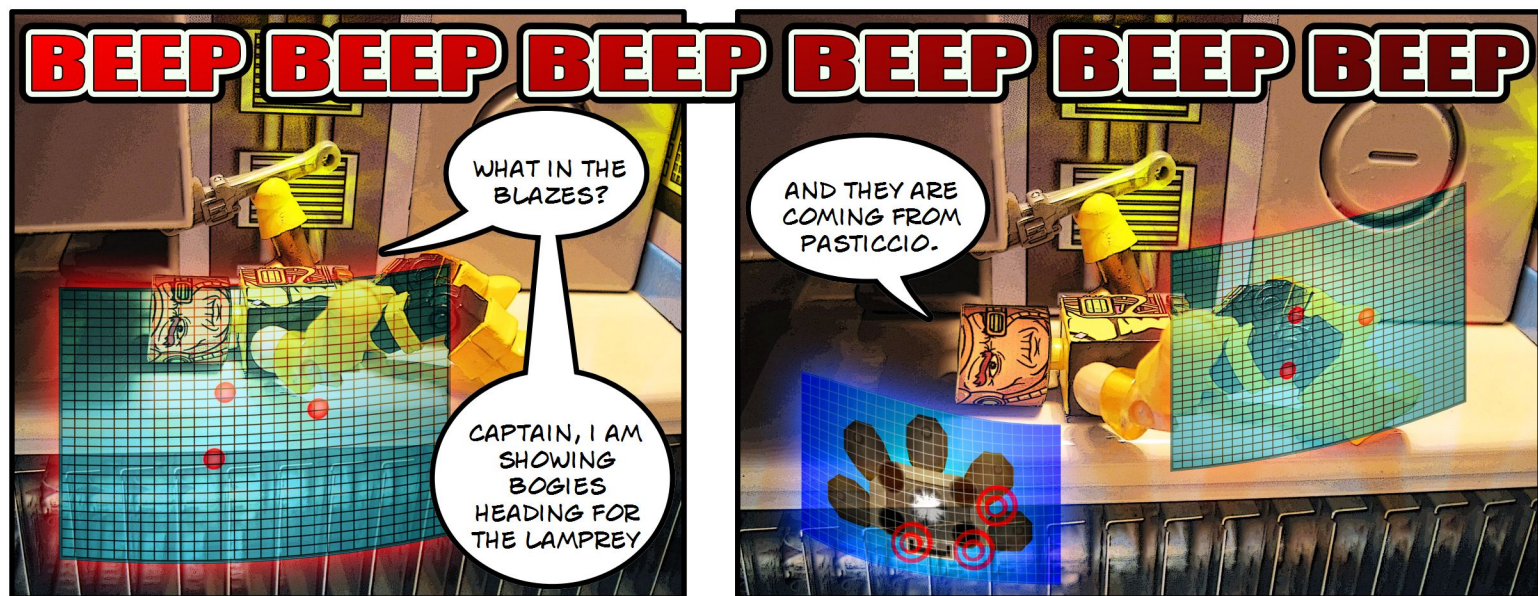
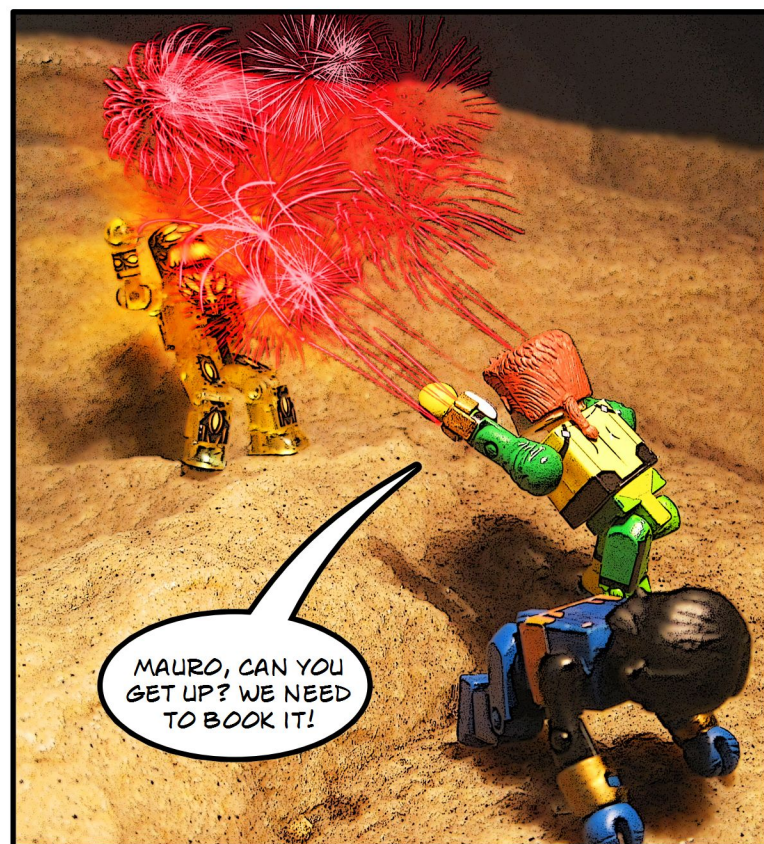
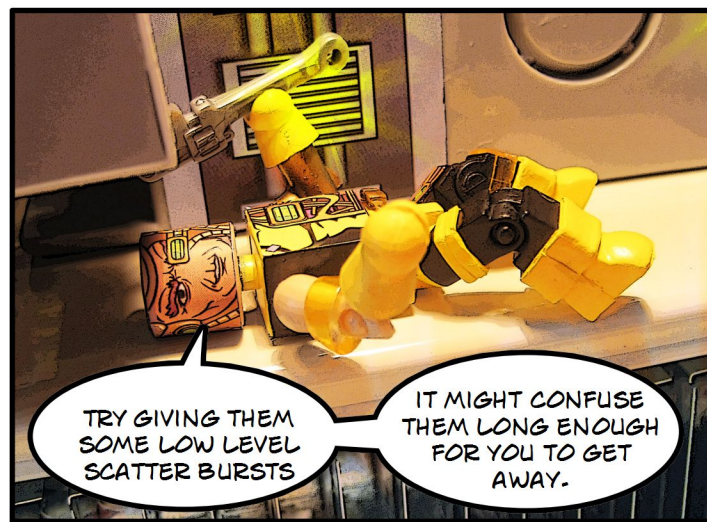
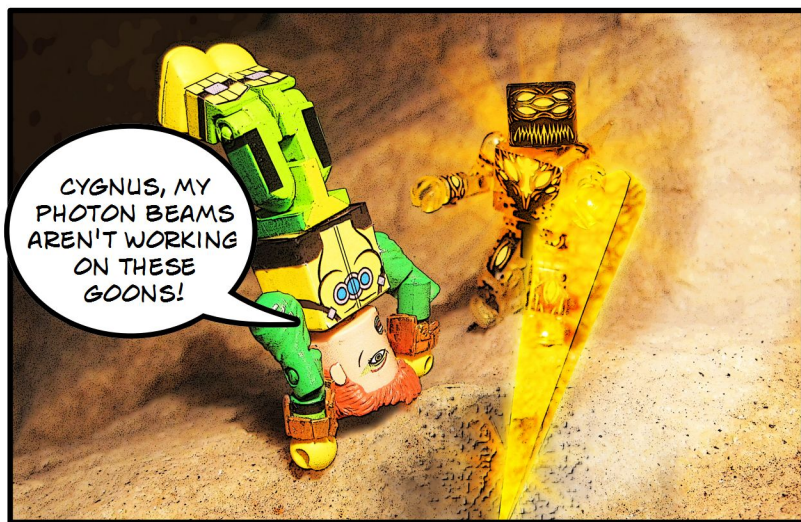


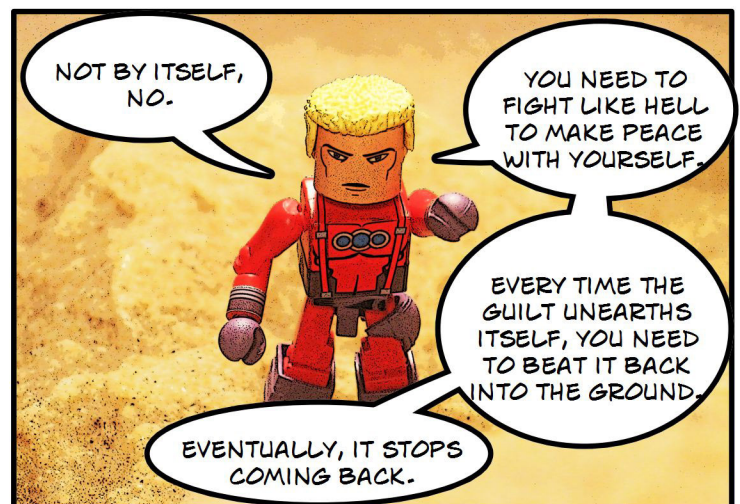
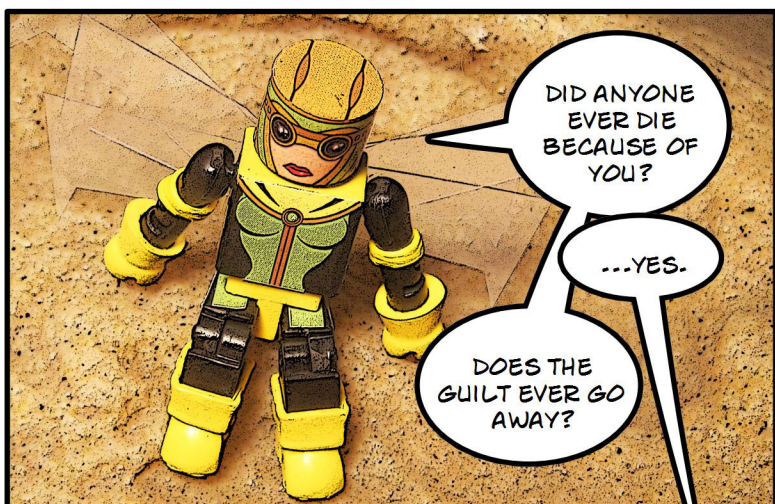
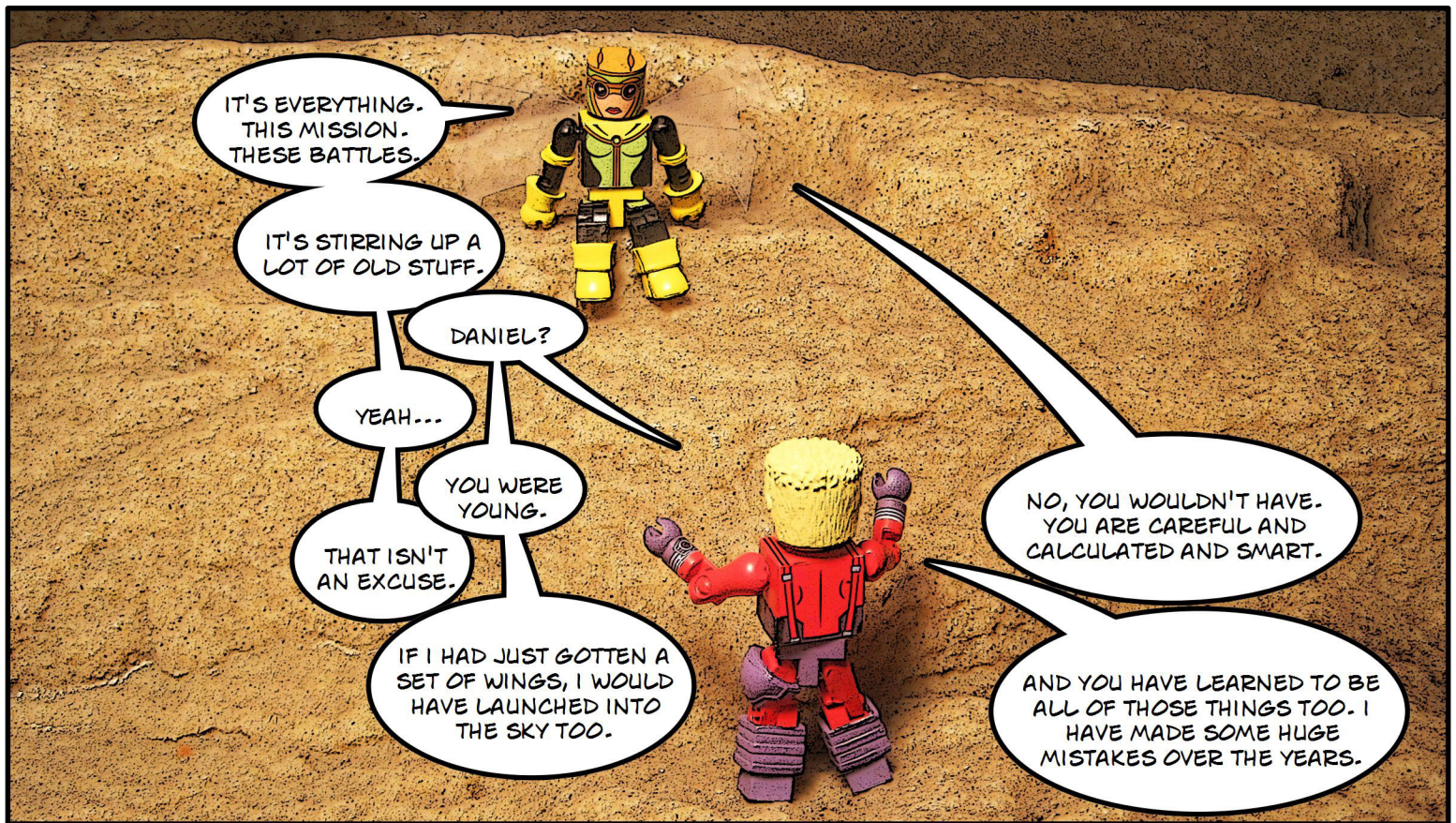
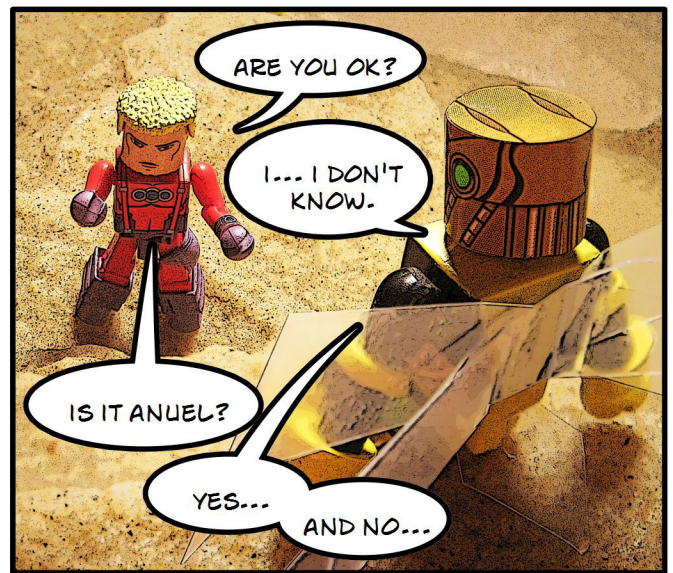
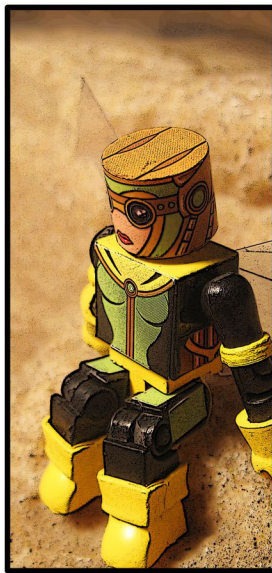
BUT THE ONLY THING LEFT OF DANIEL WAS A CHARRED UNIFORM.

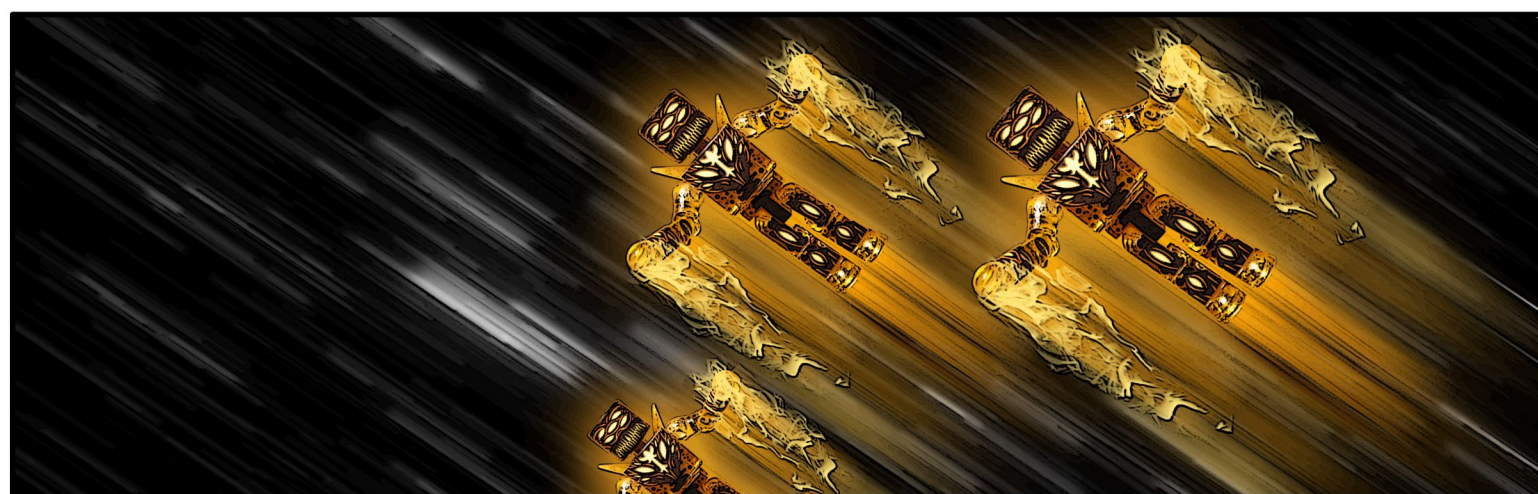
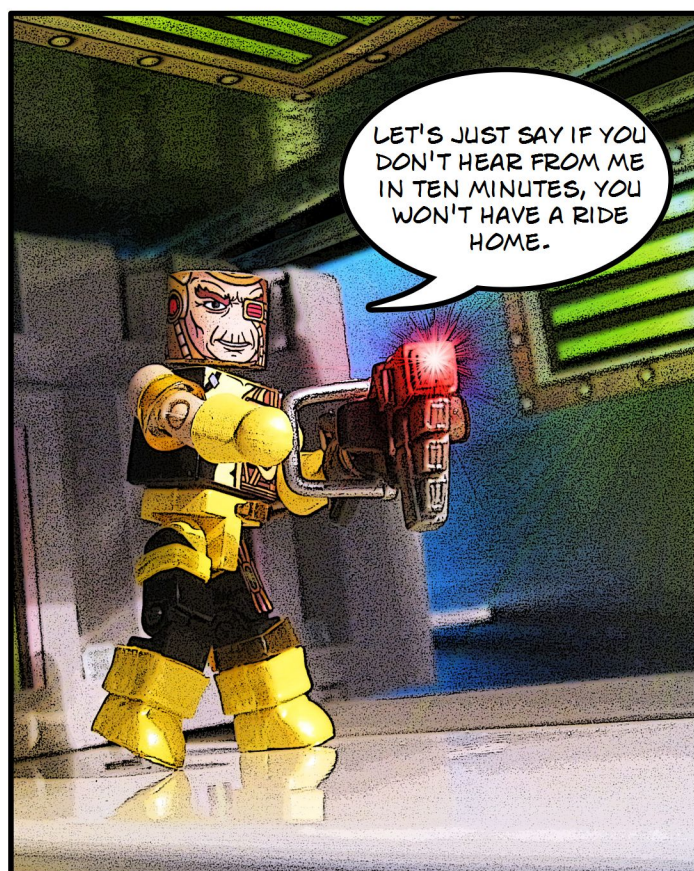


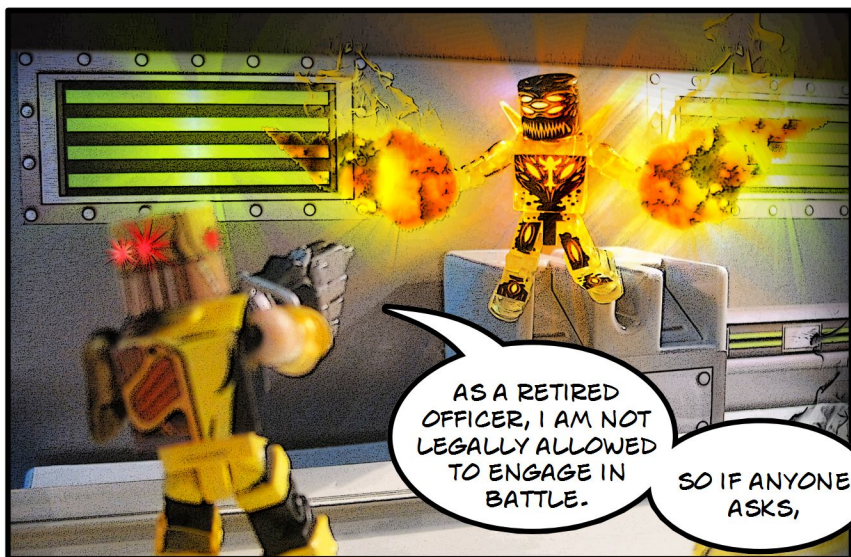
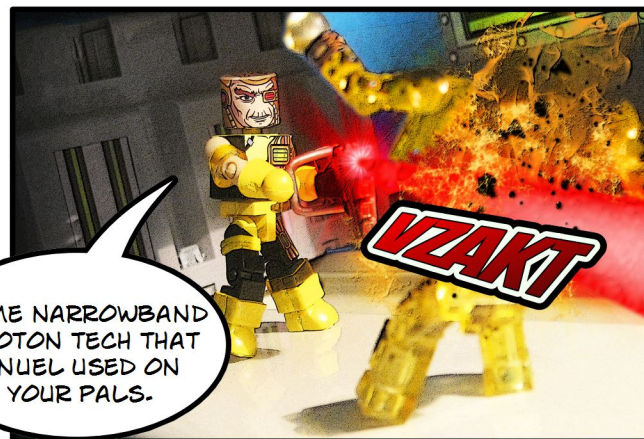
SO WHEN YOU HEAR ME CALLING OUT HIS NAME IN THE NIGHT, THAT IS ME RELIVING THIS NIGHTMARE, AND SEEING HIS SMOLDERING CLOTHES FALLING FROM THE SKY OVER AND OVER AGAIN. AND PEOPLE WONDER WHY I HAVE ISSUES.

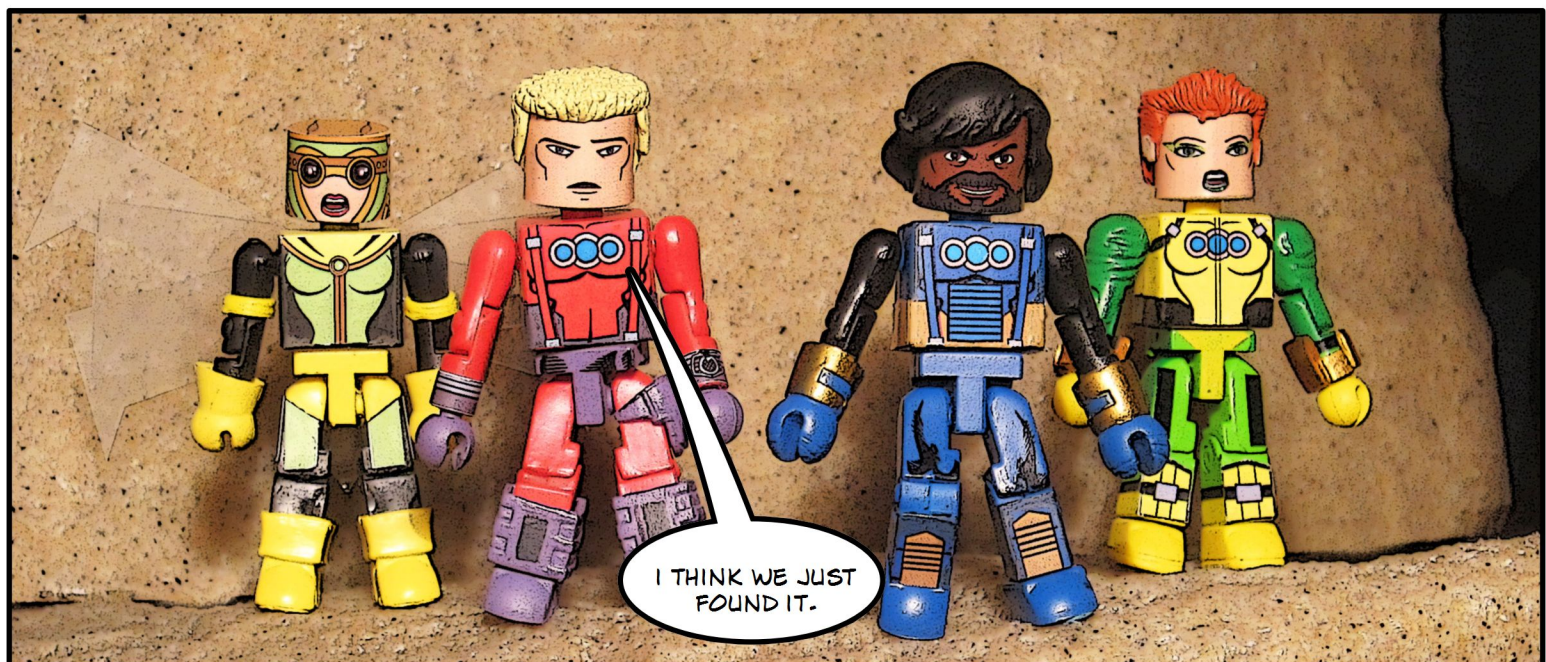
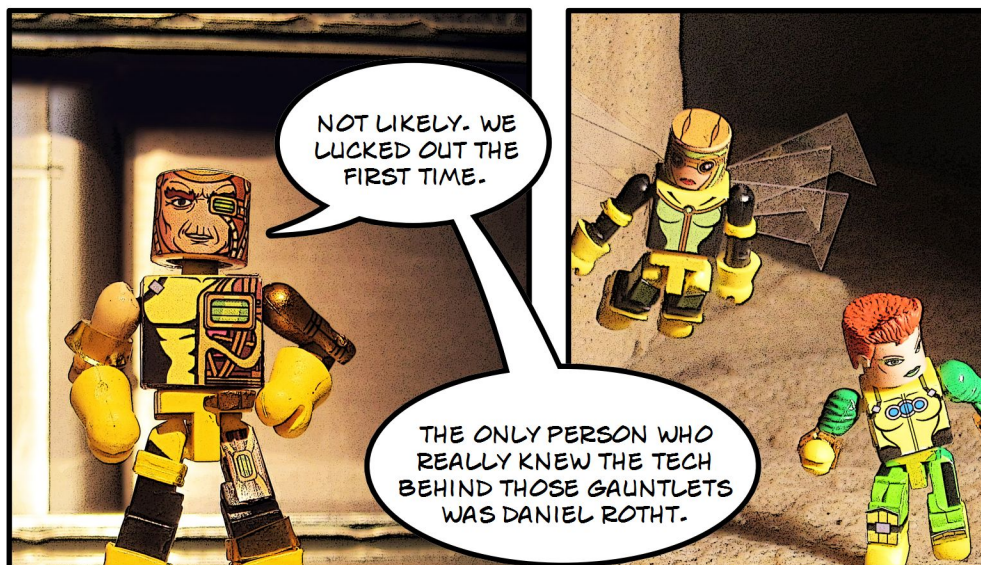
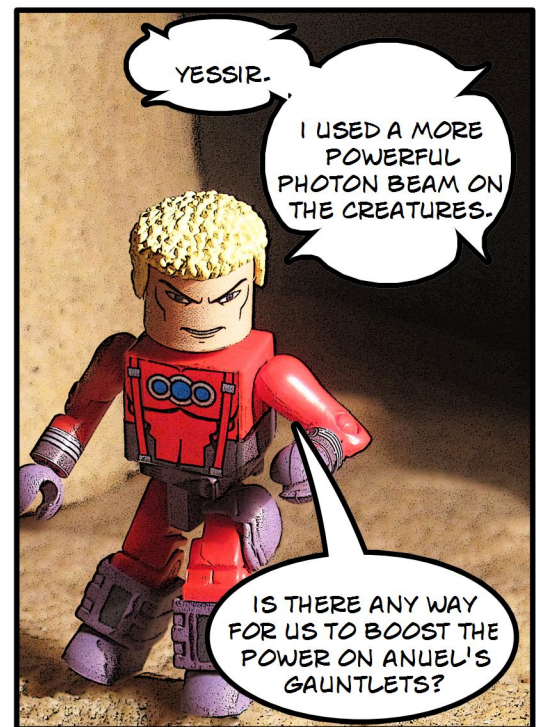
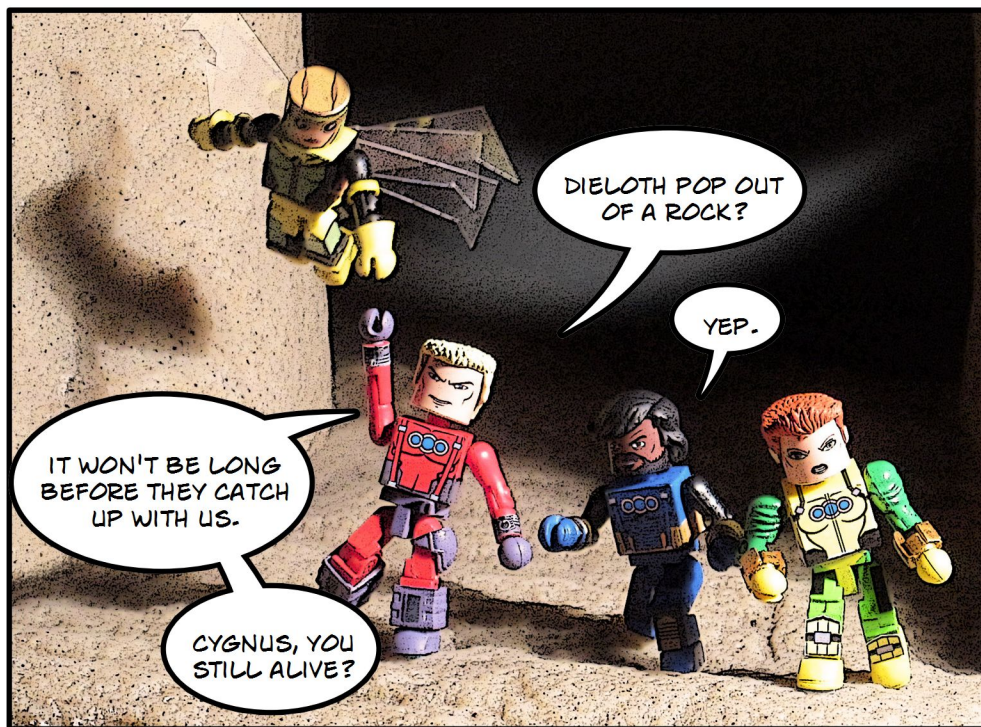












THE FIRST THING I
NOTICED WASN'T THE
GIANT ORANGE DOME,
OR EVEN THE
OVERPOWERING
METALLIC SMELL.

IT WAS THE SOUND.

LIKE A THOUSAND KNIFE BLADES
BEING SHARPENED AT ONCE.

THE SENSORS ARE
GOING CRAZY.

THIS IS DEFINITELY WHERE
THE RESEARCHERS WERE
TRANSFORMED.

THIS IS THE
SOURCE OF THE
BORLOTH
RADIATION.

THIS DIDN'T EVOLVE
HERE NATURALLY.
THIS WAS BROUGHT
HERE.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
AND HORRIBLE AT
THE SAME TIME

WHAT ARE THOSE
BORLOTH DOING?
CONTAINING IT?
PROTECTING IT?

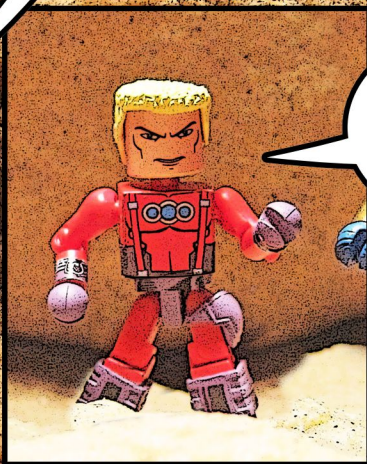
NO, CAPTAIN, THEY
ARE FEEDING IT.

IN YOUR LANGUAGE THAT
DOME WOULD BE CALLED
THE ENERGY HIVE.

THIS IS WHERE YOUR
RESEARCHERS WERE MADE
INTO BORLOTH.

AND THIS IS WHERE YOU
WILL BE TRANSFORMED
AS WELL.

LIKE HELL!



WHY ARE THEY
GROWING THE
HIVE? WHAT
HAPPENS ONCE IT
IS LARGER?

AND HOW LONG CAN WE KEEP YOU TALKING
SO WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT?

WE ABSORBED THE RESEARCHERS'
KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORIES. WE KNOW
ABOUT THE SEVEN PLANETS YOU ARE
GENERATING IN THIS SYSTEM.

WE KNOW THAT IN 79 OF YOUR
EARTH DAYS THIS PROTOPLANET
WILL COLLIDE WITH ANOTHER TO
FORM ONE OF THOSE SEVEN
PLANETS

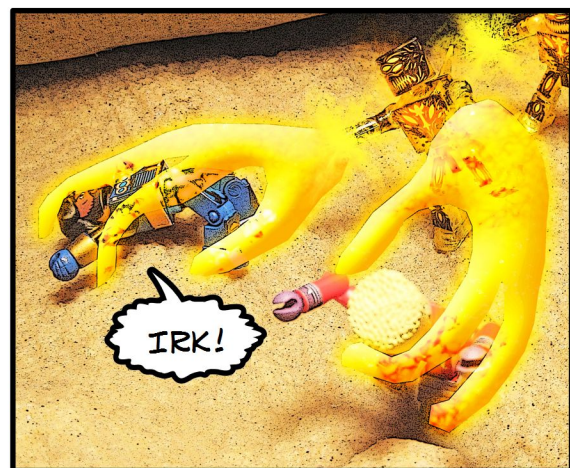
WHEN THAT COLLISION OCCURS, THE
HIVE WILL DETONATE, AND OUR ENERGY
WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THIS SYSTEM.
THE SEVEN PLANETS WILL BECOME
BORLOTH PLANETS.

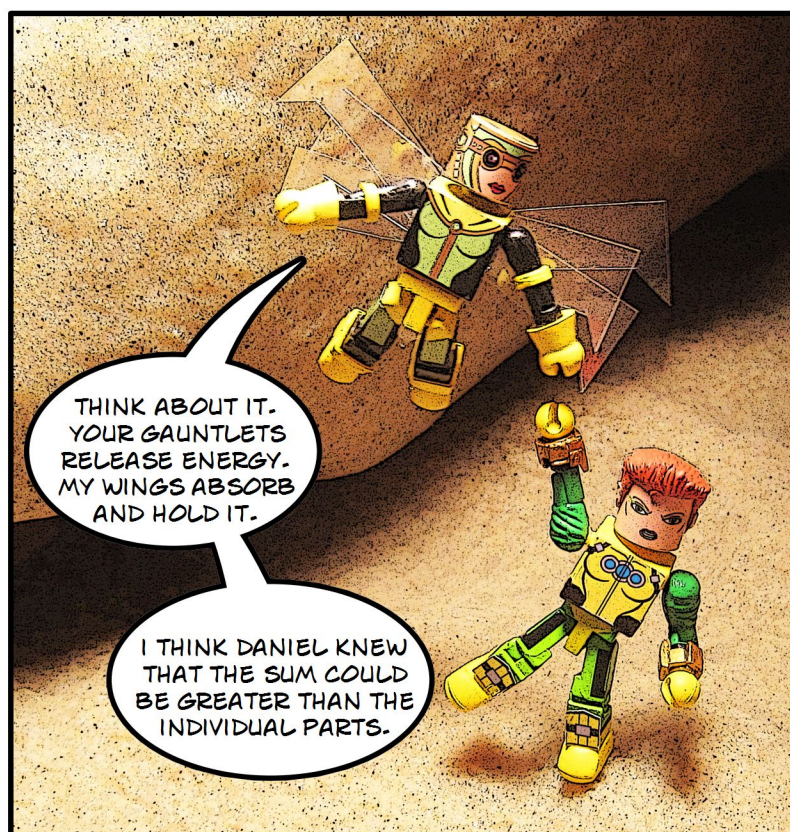
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE
IN THE RESEARCH BASES
IN THIS SYSTEM?

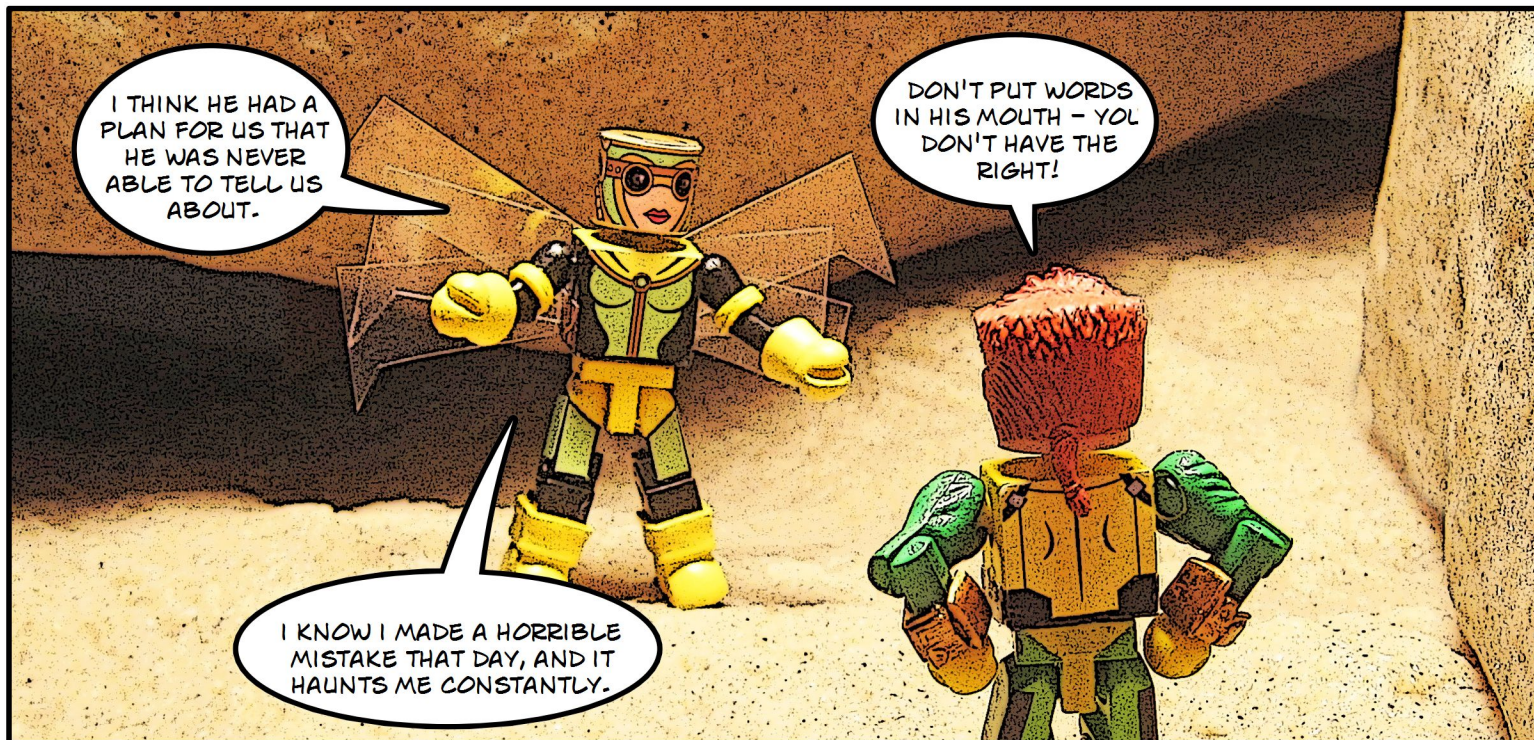
ALL WILL BECOME
BORLOTH. JUST AS
YOU WILL NOW.

NOT LONG ENOUGH.

I GIVE ANUEL THE SIGNAL



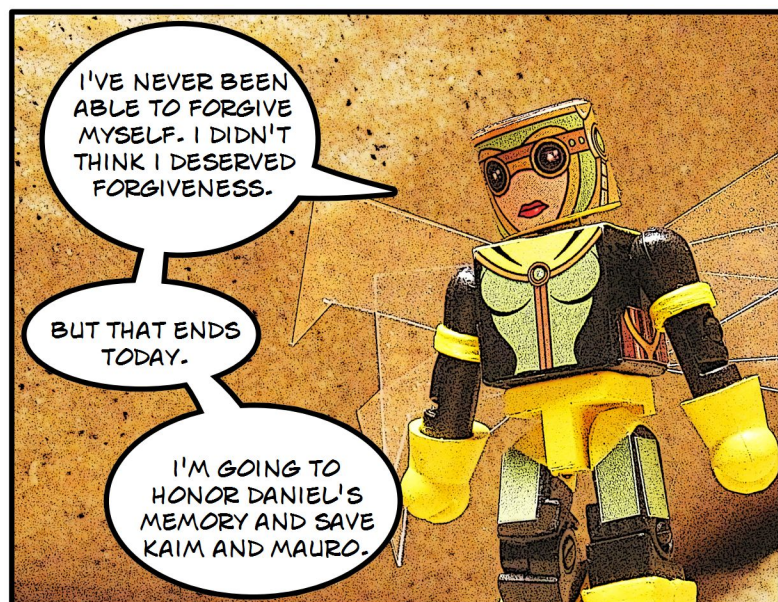




I THINK HE HAD A PLAN FOR US THAT HE WAS NEVER ABLE TO TELL US ABOUT.

DON'T PUT WORDS IN HIS MOUTH - YOL DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT!

I KNOW I MADE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE THAT DAY, AND IT HAUNTS ME CONSTANTLY.



I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF. I DIDN'T THINK I DESERVED FORGIVENESS.

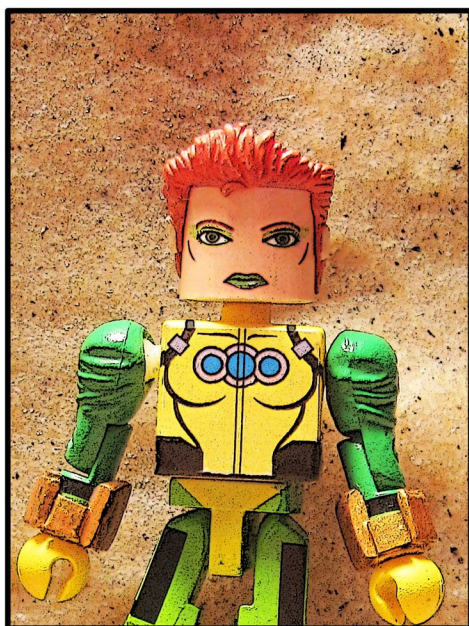
BUT THAT ENDS TODAY.

I'M GOING TO HONOR DANIEL'S MEMORY AND SAVE KAIM AND MAURO.

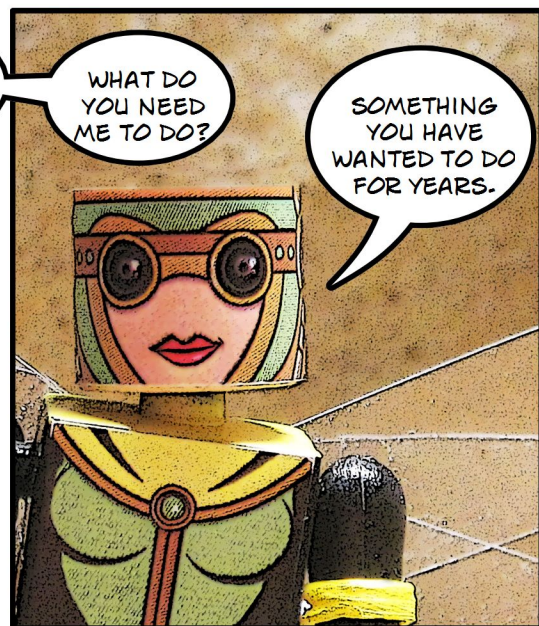


THEN I'M GOING TO SAVE THIS DAMN PROTOPLANET AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME.

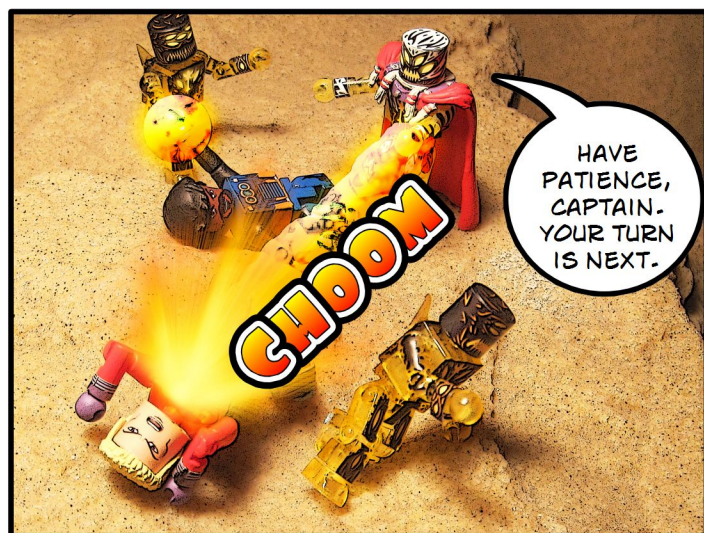


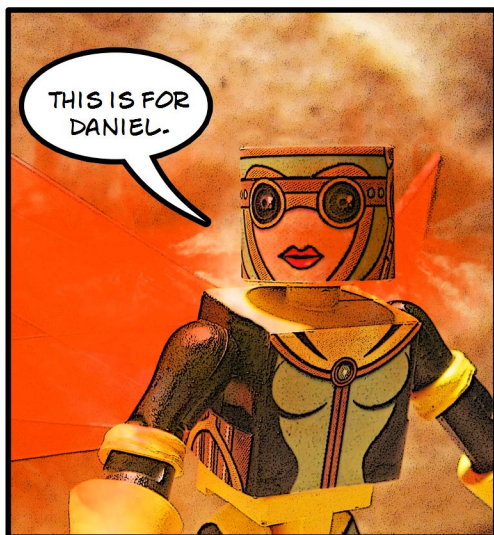
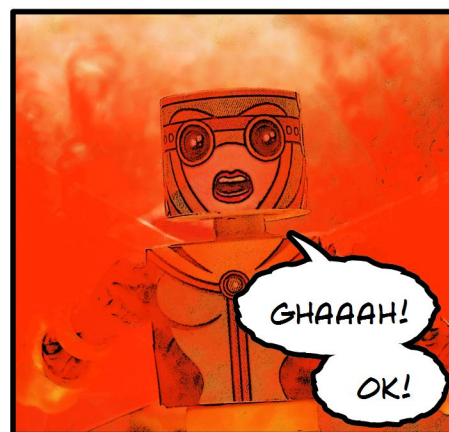
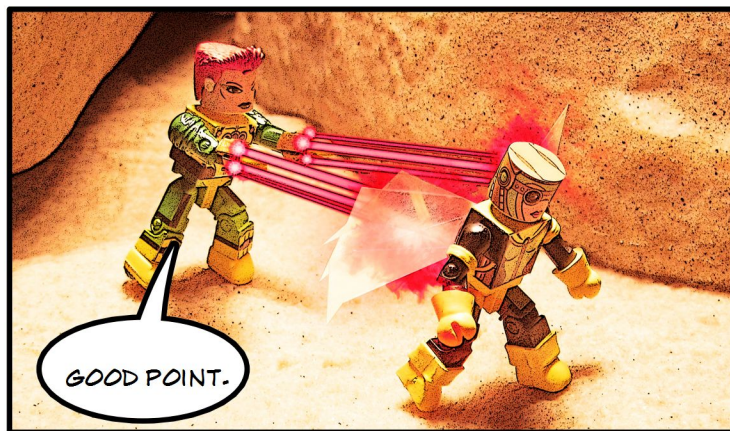
ALRIGHT I'M IN.

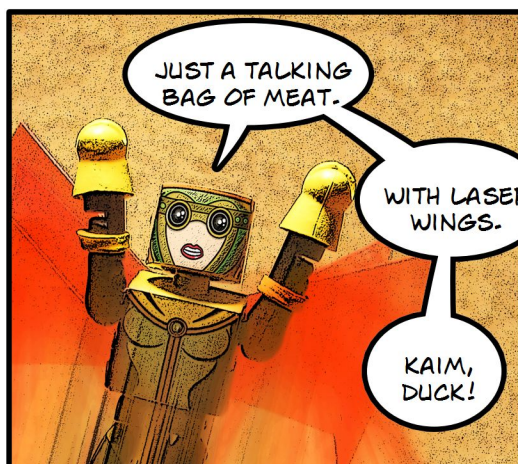


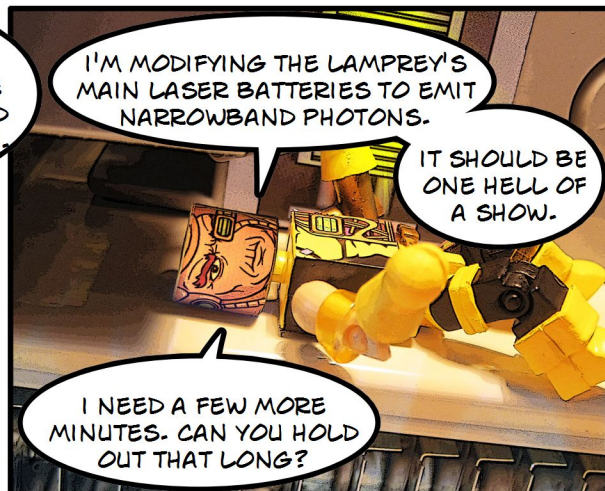
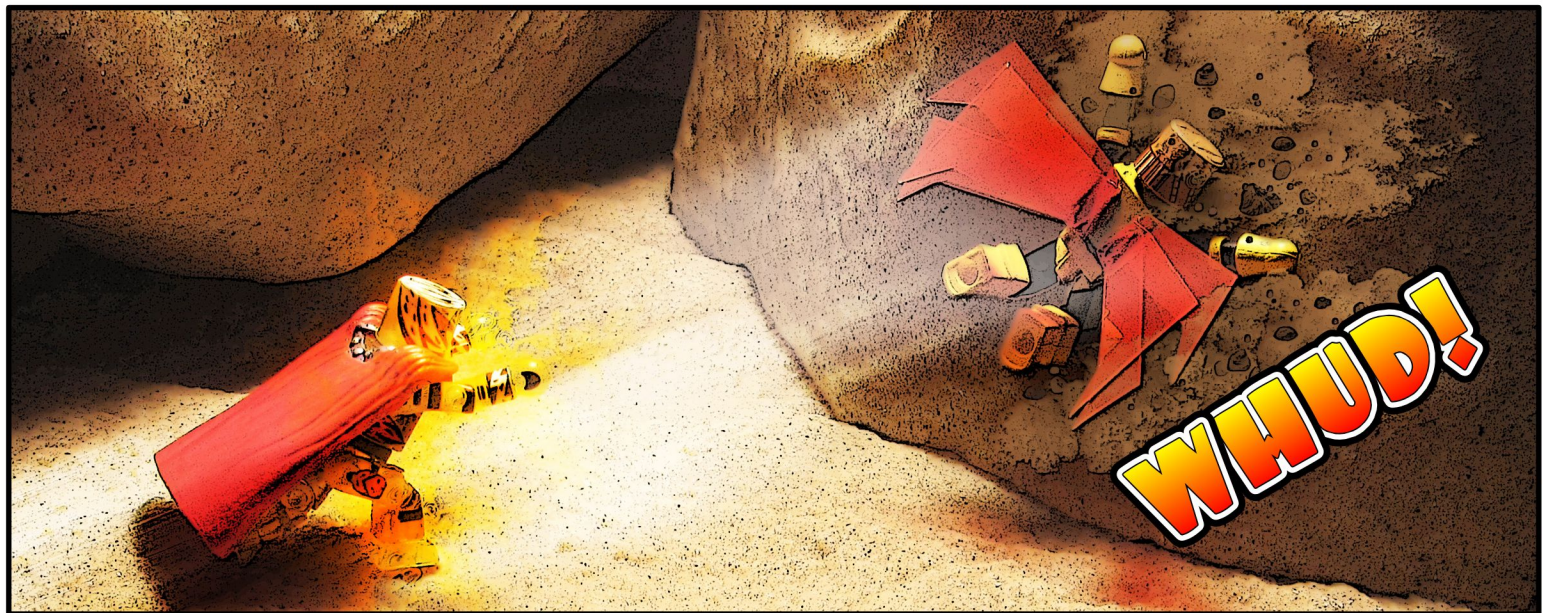
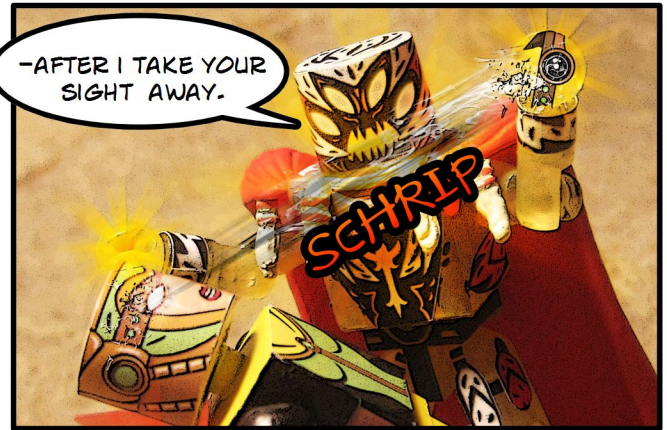
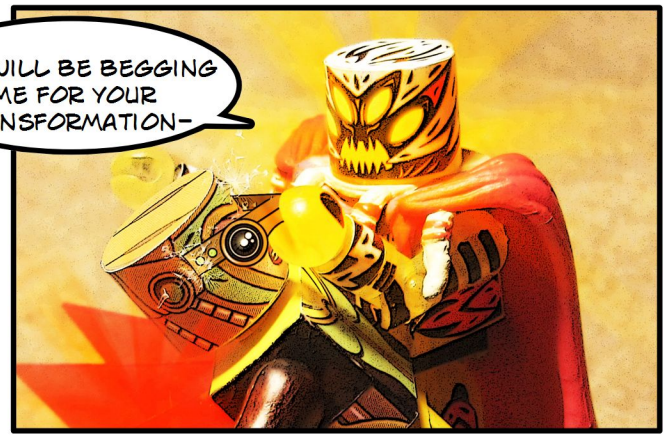
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

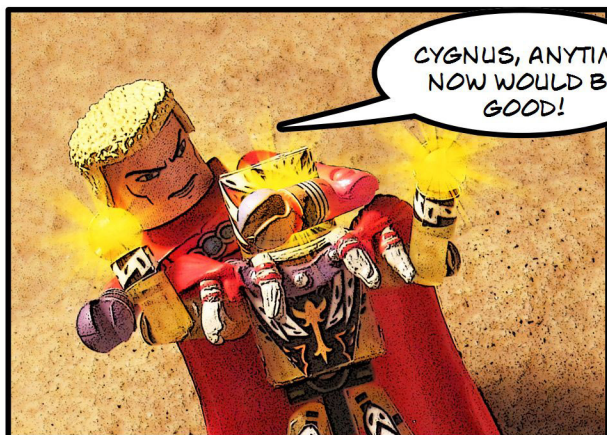
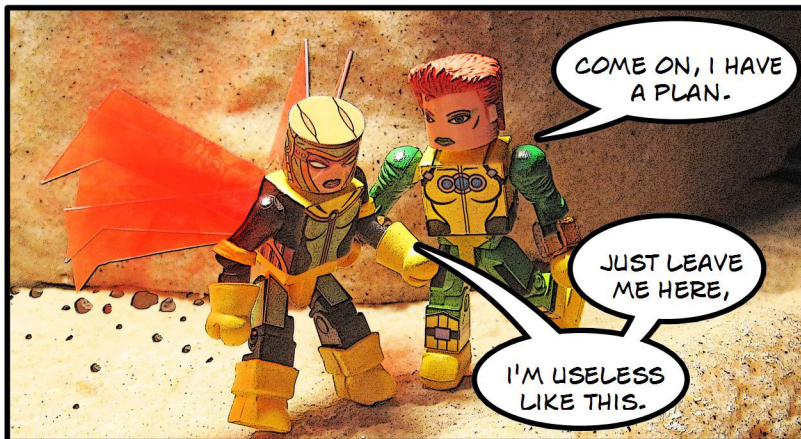
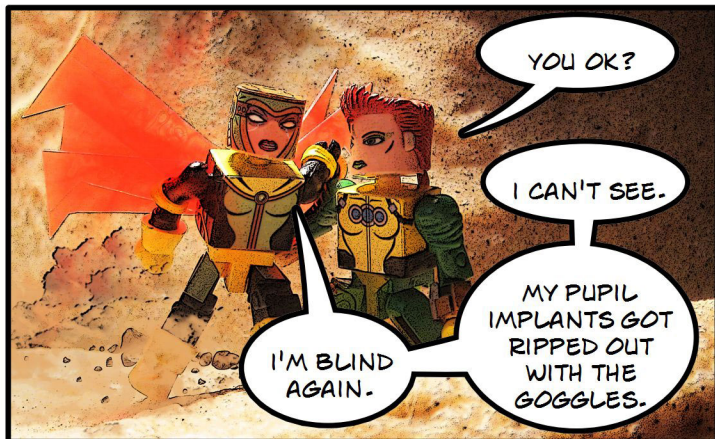
SOMETHING YOU HAVE WANTED TO DO FOR YEARS.



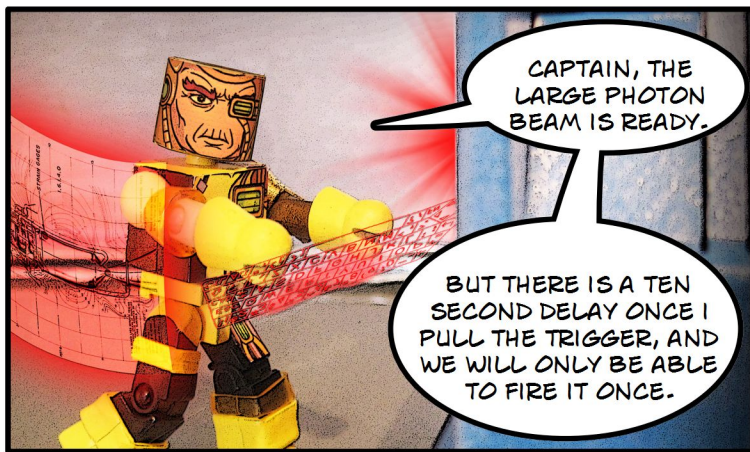




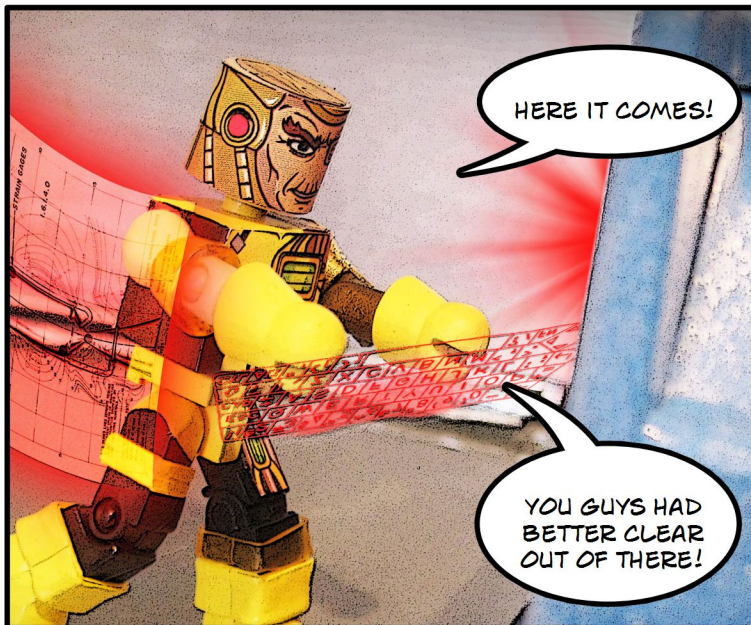


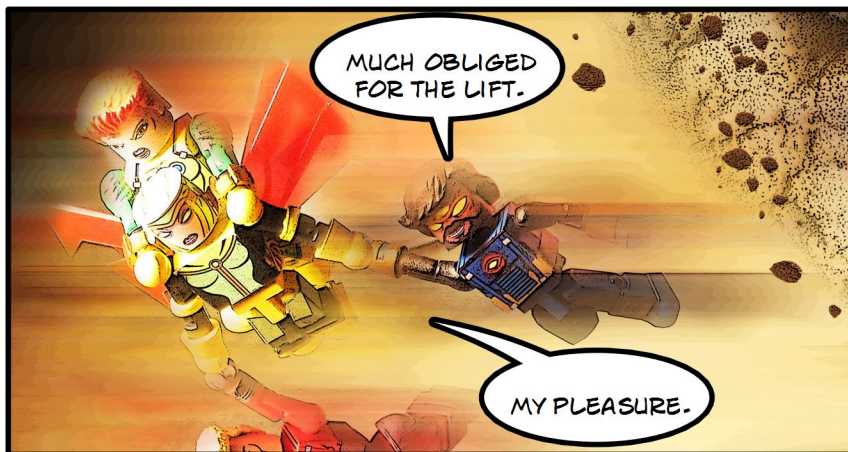










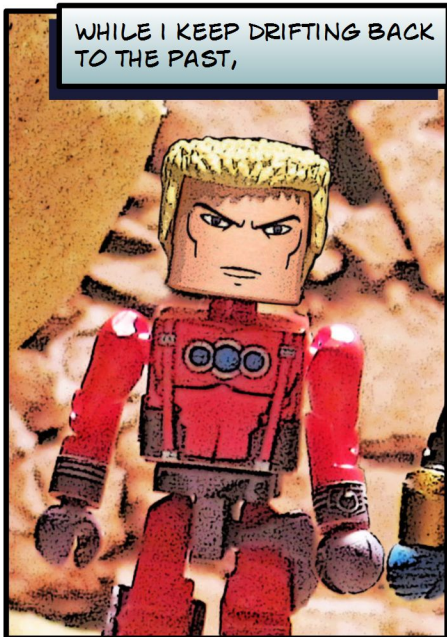


TWENTY MINUTES LATER, WITH THE CAVE COLLAPSED BEHIND US, WE HEAD BACK TO THE CAVE ENTRANCE, WHERE OUR SHUTTLE AWAITS.

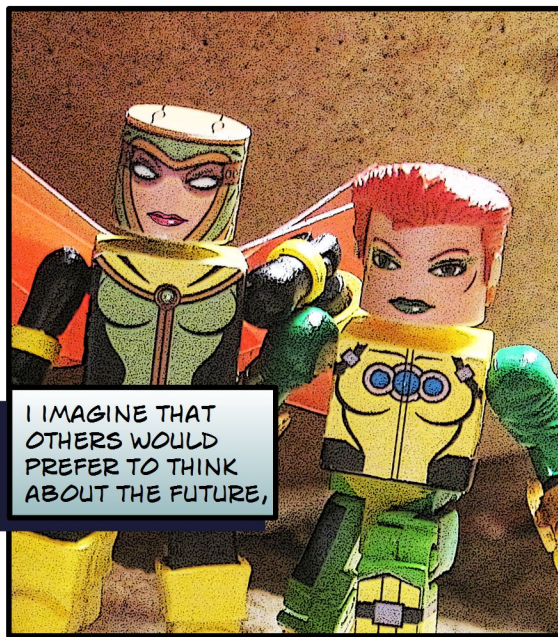


NO ONE SAYS A WORD. WE ARE ALL LOST IN OUR OWN THOUGHTS.

WHILE I KEEP DRIFTING BACK TO THE PAST,



I IMAGINE THAT OTHERS WOULD PREFER TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE,



AND WHAT NEW THINGS THEY WILL DISCOVER ABOUT THEMSELVES.



OR MAYBE THEY ARE STILL FOCUSING ON THE MISSION AT HAND,



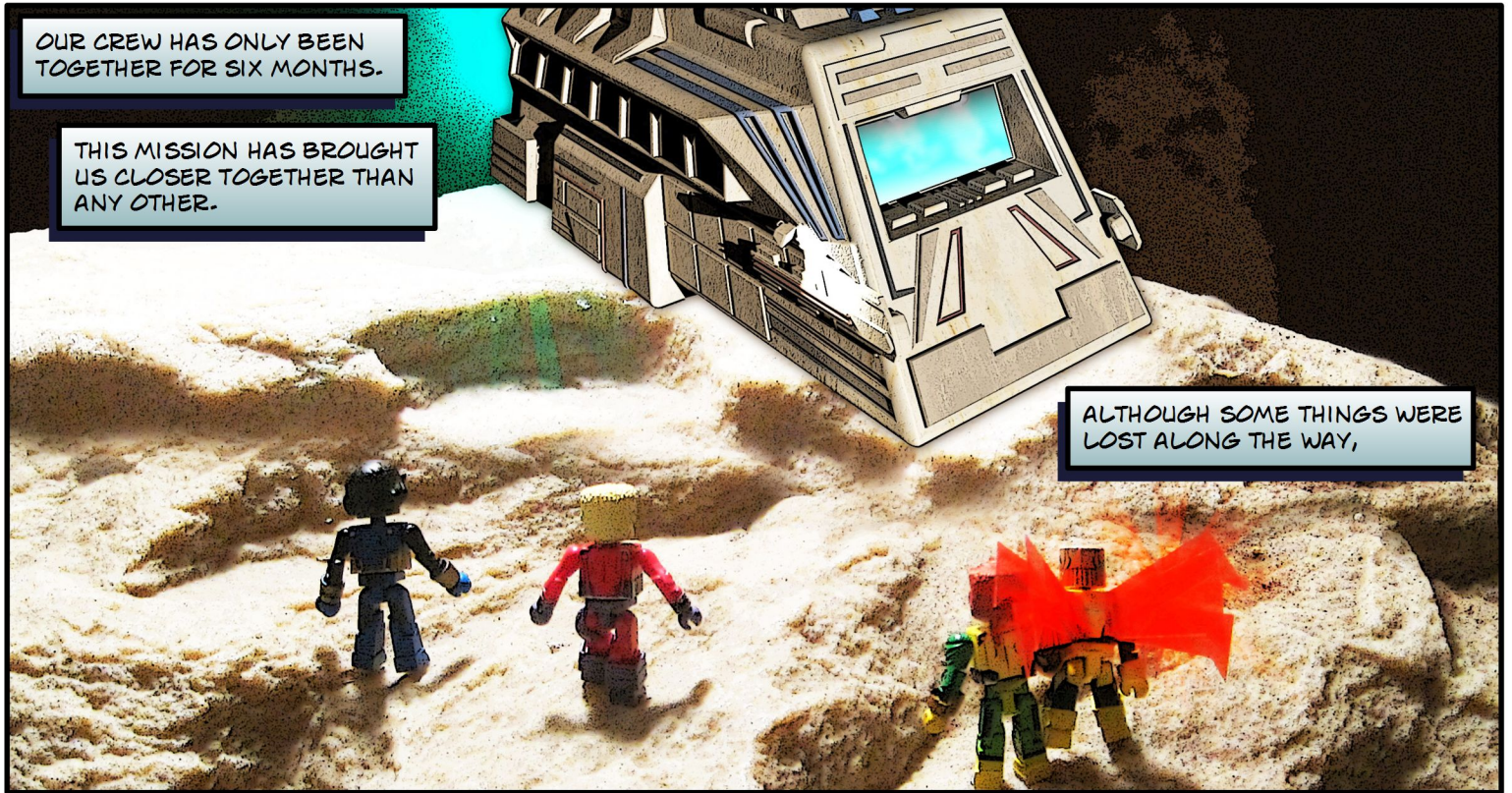
AND MAKING SURE THE JOB IS DONE.



OUR CREW HAS ONLY BEEN
TOGETHER FOR SIX MONTHS.

THIS MISSION HAS BROUGHT
US CLOSER TOGETHER THAN
ANY OTHER.

ALTHOUGH SOME THINGS WERE
LOST ALONG THE WAY,



THE THINGS WE GAINED WERE
FAR MORE IMPORTANT.

AND EVEN THOUGH A NEW MISSION
WILL BE WAITING FOR US TOMORROW,



TONIGHT WE CAN CELEBRATE AS FRIENDS.

THE END, FOR NOW...

