

**Warped Edge**

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**Panel 1:** Establishing shot of Destiny City's Deco District. A movie theater showing Fritz Lang's *You Only Live Once* is the center of attention. EDGE and a YOUNG YUPPIE COUPLE walking towards each other. The couple has not yet spotted Edge.

**Caption 1:**

The Deco District. This used to be my kind of neighborhood.

**Male Yuppie:**

No no no, I heard Flux got his powers from a magical artifact...

**Female Yuppie:**

You're wrong, it's definitely Warp. Listen to how he runs his sentences together...

**Male Yuppie:**

Well yeah, but he's a speedster...

**Panel 2:** Edge walking with his back to us, the young yuppies walking towards him with some trepidation. Their eyes face down.

**Caption:**

Run down, seedy, and best of all, cheap.

**Panel 3:** Almost the exact same as the previous panel: the yuppies and Edge are not much closer now. But now the couple is glancing up at Edge.

**Panel 4:** Again, only a short moment of time has passed, the characters having moved only slightly, if at all, but the yuppies are looking down again.

**Panel 5:** Edge facing the reader. He has now passed the two, who are glancing nervously over their shoulders at him.

**Panel 6:** We can now see the couple laughing, the man pointing behind them towards Edge, who is now turning down a narrow side street.

**Caption:**

Now it's the sort of place where yuppies pretend to slum.

**Panel 7:** Now on the side street, Edge pushes open the door of a dive bar, The Old Clipper.

**Caption:**

But it ain't all bad.

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**Panel 1:** Establishing shot of the inside of the Old Clipper. It's not busy. The bartender is RILEY SEONG. There's also a MIDDLE-AGED MAN at the far end of the bar and a maybe COUPLE OTHER PEOPLE in a booth. A big old timey, deco-style radio sits behind the bar.

**RILEY:**

I'm not giving you anything on credit.

**Radio:**

... bridge is closed after sustaining damage during a battle in a battle between Snap Judgement and Wastetilator.

**Panel 2:** Edge setting a pair of mangled \$20 bills on the bar while the Riley cleans a glass. The headline of a tabloid on the bar reads "... Hypermatter on Warp?"

**Edge:**

Relax, I have cash. I'm just looking for a single serving. I'm cold, Riley. Shivering and shaking.

**RILEY:**

That's not even worth my time, Edge.

**Panel 3:** Close-up, Edge's face, on the edge of panic.

**Edge:**

Come on, I'll be back for a heavier jacket later. I get paid tonight. Just need something to get me through my shift.

**Panel 4:** A shot of bourbon on a coaster, a single pill with a lightening bolt next to it.

**RILEY (off panel):**

Huhn, alright. Just take it outside, will ya? Never know what this stuff is gonna do.

**Panel 5:** Edge standing, looking hungrily, at the pill in his hand, sweating.

**Caption:**

I can already taste it in the back of my throat.

**MIDDLE-AGED MAN (off panel):**

Hey, aren't you Edge?

**Caption:**

My adoring public.

**Panel 6:** Middle-aged man at the bar gawking at Edge as he walks away.

**MIDDLE-AGED MAN:**

Yeah, it's you! You saved the world from those Chromium things in the '90s! "Hit 'em hard and fast!"

Whatever happened to you guys? You and what's his name... Liberator?

**Edge:**

I lost my edge.

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**Panel 1:** Ext. back alley outside behind the Clipper. Edge stands next to a dumpster, holding the pill in his palm.

**Caption:**

I'm not a drug addict. Well, I am. But there's a reason for all of this.

**Panel 2:** Close up of Edge's mouth as the warp pill, grasped between his two fingers, enters it.

**Caption:**

It starts with an acidic taste.

**Panel 3:** Edge with his mouth and eyes closed as he swallows the pill.

**Caption:**

Then it goes to my neck. That's where I always feel it first, like a sun burn.

**Panel 4:** Edge hunching over, steadying himself on the dumpster.

**Caption:**

It spreads, burning like hot peppers, simmering my skin, my guts. My stomach tightens like I'm going to hurl. But I don't.

**Panel 5:** Close-up of Edge's face in agony and ecstasy.

**Caption:**

I wait for the warp to rearrange my DNA, wondering what powers it might bestow.

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Tryptch of Edge's face, now in a purely ecstatic state, with a warp pill on his tongue, but the panels are jagged, as though the image has been shattered. I'll leave it to you to decide how to split the image up. We can add more powers if you want to split it into more than six.

**Caption 1:**

Super strength?

**Caption 2:**

Pyrokinesis?

**Caption 3:**

Teleportation?

**Caption 4:**

Flight?

**Caption 5:**

Shapeshifting?

**Caption 6:**

My long lost precognitive ability?

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**Panel 1:** Edge stands in the alley, standing more straight, looking more alert, less tired and run down.

**Caption:**

Nothing.

But that's OK. The buzz is still worth it. And tonight, I'm going to get so much warp that it doesn't matter if this dose was a bust.

**Panel 2:** Shot of the exterior of the brand new Imperial Heights condo building. Deco style of course.

**Caption:**

I walk to work with an extra spring in my step.

**Panel 3:** Establishing shot of the inside of the condo building main lobby. A security guard named WALTER looks up from the front desk. There's a bronze statue of GIGANTEUS in the lobby.

**WALTER:**

Hey Edge.

**Panel 4:** Standing beside Walter, behind the desk, Edge shrugs out of his trench coat, revealing a security guard uniform underneath.

**EDGE:**

Hey Walter, how are things looking?

**Panel 5:** Edge is now sitting at the desk, tucking his hair up under his hat. Walter is now standing, putting on his own coat.

**WALTER:**

Oh, you know...

**Panel 6:** Edge sitting at the desk. BRIAN RICHARDSON, trendy middle aged movie producer, and his younger boyfriend, pass the desk.

**Caption:**

Brian Richardson. Big shot movie producer and major Warp user.



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**Panel 1:** Establishing shot of the movie producer's spacious condo as Edge enters. There's a huge fish tank that takes up an entire wall of the space. We can see Bloodgator's eyes lurking just above the floor of the tank. A couch sits in the middle of the room.

**CAPTION:**

Richardson is a heavy warp user with a big stash. And I know where he keeps it.

**Panel 2:** In the foreground, Edge standing in front of a large leather sofa and opens a switch blade. In the background, we see Bloodgator emerging from the bottom of the tank.

**Panel 3:** Foreground: Edge slicing into a couch cushion. Background: Bloodgator beginning to stand.

**Panel 4:** Foreground: Edge pulling a large bag of pills out of the cushion. Background: Bloodgator climbing out of the tank.

**Panel 5:** Bloodgator perching at the top of the tank.

**Bloodgator:**

HEY EDGE!

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**Panel 1:** Bloodgator lunging at Edge as he ducks out of the way.

**CAPTION:**

Bloodgator! Fuck! How did I not know Richardson had private security?

**Panel 2:** Bloodgator now stands on the other side of Edge. Both are poised for attack. Edge has the bag of warp in one hand, the knife in the other.

**Bloodgator:**

You put me behind bars, Edge. Never thought I'd get to return the favor.

**Panel 3:** Edge doing a slide kick.

**EDGE:**

Guarding rich people's shit. How noble.

**Caption:**

Last time I fought her she was easy to beat. But I still had my powers. I could stay one step ahead of her.

**Panel 4:** Edge running for the door.

**Caption:**

But I don't need to beat her. Just get away.

**Panel 5:** Bloodgator tripping Edge with her tail.

**Panel 6:** Edge throws the knife at Bloodgator.

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**Panel 1:** Bloodgator slaps the knife away while Edge struggles to his feet, still clutching the bag of drugs.

**Caption:**

Just... gotta... get to the door.

**Panel 2:** Bloodgator clobbering Edge on the head with clasped hands as he runs towards the door.

**Panel 3:** Edge on the ground, trying to get up, Bloodgator looming over him.

**Caption:**

I can still...

**Panel 4:** Close-up of Edge's face on the floor, eye lids half shut.

**Panel 5:** Solid black.

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**Panel 1:** Inside one of those prison-style multi-story shopping malls. There's a huge hole in the floor in the middle of the ground level and Chromoids are climbing out of the ground into the mall. There are already Chromoids all over the mall, devouring people.

**Panel 2:** Inside a sporting goods store at the mall (or any other typical mall store you'd prefer to draw). A Chromoid looms over a FATHER and his SON.

**FATHER:**

Tommy, close your eyes.

**Panel 3:** The Chromoid eating the Father.

**Panel 4:** Blood drips from the Chromoid's maw as the child watches in horror, his eyes very much not closed.

**Panel 5:** Another Chromoid grows off the side of the Chromoid menacing the child.

**Panel 6:** The newly grown Chromoid grasps the child, about to eat him.

**Panel 7:** Headshot, literally, of the Chromoid's head exploding to the side, into the store.

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Splash page of Edge's old team Doomstrike posing just outside the store: LIBERATOR, EDGE, GRAVITONI, KRAIT, and MASSIVE. Liberator's gun is smoking.

**Liberator**

Hit 'em hard and fast!

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**Panel 1:** Edge leaping towards the remaining Chromoid.

**Panel 2:** From Edge's POV, we see the Chromoid swinging high at Edge.

**Caption:**

I can see every move they make before they make it.

**Panel 3:** Edge ducking under the Chromoid's arm, smashing its legs together with his sticks.

**Panel 4:** Edge knocking the Chromoid's gooey Chromium head clean off.

**Panel 5:** The headless Chromoid against a completely black background.

**Caption:**

And then I can't see anything anymore...

**Panel 6:** Edge, surrounded by total darkness, dropping the sticks.

**EDGE:**

Where did everyone go?

**Panel 7:** The Chromium monster looming over Edge.

**Caption:**

I didn't see it coming, couldn't see...

**Panel 8:** The Chromoid consuming Edge.

**Panel 9:** Blackness, again.

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**Panel 1:** EDGE lying on his bed in a jail cell in his tattered security guard uniform. GRAVITONI stands outside his looking down on him, in her Novas uniform. The two are separated by bars.

**GRAVITONI**

What happened to you Edge?

**EDGE**

Lost a fight with Bloodgator.

**GRAVITONI**

While you were trying to rob one your security job's clients. I'm aware. But you know what I really mean.

**Panel 2:** Headshot of Edge.

**EDGE**

And you know exactly what happened.

**Panel 3:** Headshot of Gravitoni, looking away.

**Panel 4:** Edge and Gravitoni facing each other through the bars, Edge now sitting up in bed.

**Edge:**

Why are you here, Gravitoni?

**Gravitoni:**

I came to make you a deal. Come work for me and I can get you out of this.

**Edge:**

Join The Novas? Yeah right. Even if I was interested I wouldn't be much good to you. I can't even go toe-to-toe with Bloodgator anymore.

**Panel 5:** Edge standing between the bars and the bed, excited.

**Edge:**

Wait, you got some super-soldier serum? Some power armor? Or do I just gotta keep playing super-roulette with Warp?

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**Panel 1:** Headshot of Gravitoni.

**GRAVITONI:**

No. You wouldn't be part of The Novas. You'd be working undercover. We want you to figure out where Warp comes from.

**Panel 2:** Edge leaning on the bars with one hand, face-palming with the other.

**EDGE:**

I don't really have a choice do I?

**Panel 3:** Long shot of Gravitoni through the bars, from Edge's POV.

**Gravitoni:**

You always have a choice, Edge. Your choice is work for us and get clean, or go to prison.

**Panel 4:** Edge and Gravitoni facing each other through the bars.

**Edge:**

Why me?

**Gravitoni:**

I'll level with you. I can't trust my team. You've heard the rumors about Flux, I'm sure.

I know you. And I know you're properly motivated.

**Panel 5:** Gravitoni standing outside the cell, Edge sitting on the bed.

**Edge:**

What do you know so far?

**Gravitoni:**

My contact at Wonder Labs says it could be of exobiological origin.

**Edge:**

From space? Far out. Can you give me a dose or three before you cut me loose?



**Gravitoni:**

Not a chance.