

Warped Edge

Created by Klint Finley and Ben Armstrong

Script by Klint Finley

Page 1

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.

Page 2

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.

Page 3

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.

Page 4

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?

Page 5

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.

Page 6

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!

Page 7

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.

Page 8

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.

Page 9

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.

Page 12

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.

Page 14

Panel 1: Edge walking down the street in the Deco District, in front a badly damaged building (a causuality of a recent battle between supers).

CAPTION:

Can't believe they wouldn't give me a single pill to tide me over. Gotta find Riley and..

Panel 2: Head-shot of Edge, alarmed.

CAPTION:

Shit. Riley!

Panel 3: Outside Riley's apartment. Edge pounds on the door.

Panel 4: Riley peers out from the door, the chain still fastened.

RILEY:

Edge, what the hell, you can't just turn-up here in the middle of the night when you need a fix..

Panel 5: Headshot of Edge pushing hair away from his face.

EDGE:

It's not about that... well, I could use a fix, but...

Page 15

Panel 1: Riley's apartment. Edge sits on a couch, Riley paces back and forth in front of him.

CAPTION:

I laid it all out for her.

RILEY:

Dammit Edge, the fact that you saved my parents only buys you so much... I guess I've got to get out of the business, fuck.

Panel 2: Edge brandishes a stack of cash.

EDGE:

If it helps, I can give you a thousand dollars for whatever you've got left on hand.

Panel 3: Close-up of Riley, with a surprised and skeptical look on her face.

Panel 4: Medium-shot of Edge on the couch, smirking and shrugging and he hands over the bills.

EDGE:

They gave me a charge card for expenses, I went to Whole Foods and bought a pack of gum and got \$1,000 cash back.

Panel 5: Riley hands Edge a gallon sized zip-lock baggy, roughly ¼ full of pills.

Edge:

Who's your supplier, Riley?

Riley:

I ain't a rat...

Edge:

Fair enough. I'll talk to Richardson, they cut him loose...

Riley:

I was Brian's supplier.

Panel 6: Edge buries his face in his hands.

Edge:

Well, fuck...

Riley:

Good luck Edge.

Panel 7: Edge walking down the stairs of Riley's apartment.

Caption:

She does't owe me anything. Smart of her to cut me loose,
even if it does leave me with nothing to go on.

Page 16

Panel 1: Edge walking down the street towards a particularly run down building (his apartment).

Panel 2: Edge walking up the apartment stairs.

CAPTION:

Feels like I haven't slept in a year.

Panel 3: Inside Edge's small studio apartment. There's a twin-sized bed, a chair, a small kitchenette with cupboards, a counter, and a window (we don't need to see all these details now, but each will appear later). Edge lies in bed, shirtless, contemplating the bag of Warp he bought from Riley. To-go containers and gin bottles litter floor and night stand.

CAPTION:

I should get some sleep.

Panel 4: Edge still in bed, holding one pill he's just pulled out of the bag.

CAPTION:

Just one dose. Clear my head. Make a plan.

Panel 5: Edge in bed, curled up on his side in pain and bliss.

CAPTION:

Besides, if I get powers it could help with the investigation. Or at least help me get out of the country.

Panel 6: Close-up of Edge's face, wild and manic.

CAPTION:

One more couldn't hurt. I've got plenty.

Panel 7: Edge pulls on a shirt.

CAPTION:

Meh. I'm not going to figure out anything sitting around here.

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Panel 1: Old Clipper. Riley yelling and Edge and pointing towards the door.

Panel 2: Edge walking down an alley, smiling as he's about to put another pill in his mouth.

Panel 3: Edge sitting in a chair at a strip club, watching the stage. The club is done up like a 20s cabaret.

Panel 4: In the strip club bathroom toilet stall, Edge and a cabaret dancer drop pills into each other's mouths.

Panel 5: The dancer has grown huge, Edge is falling backwards out of the toilet stall that is collapsing away from the gigantic dancer.

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Panel 1: Edge staggering down an ally, we can see someone skulking behind him.

Panel 2: GANG LEADER stands in front of Edge in the alley.

GANG LEADER: Hey ugly, heard you're walking around with a big stash of Warp.

Panel 3: Bird's eye view showing that Edge is surrounded by gang members.

GANG LEADER: Maybe you should let us hang onto it for you. Not safe to walk around with that much gear, know what I'm saying?

Panel 4: Side view of gang leader and Edge facing each other.

EDGE: I'll give you and your guys one chance to back-off.

Panel 5: Edge punching the gang leader square in the nose.

CAPTION: Weresharks are one thing. But these guys are just wannabe supervillains.

Panel 6: Edge karate chops one guy in the neck while dodging a chain swung by another.

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Panel 1: A gang member kicking Edge in the stomach.

Panel 2: Another grabbing him from behind.

Panel 3: Edge flipping the guy who grabbed him over his head into the guy who kicked him.

Panel 4: The gang leader, on his knees pointing a gun at Edge.

Panel 5: Edge kicks the gun out of the gang leader's hand.

Panel 6: The other gang members run away as Edge sits with his knees on the leader's shoulders, his hand pulled back ready to punch him.

Page 20

Panel 1: ZENARCHER, in civilian garb, walking down the street in the deco district.

Panel 2: Zenarcher standing above Edge, who is asleep under a bush in front of an apartment building (not his own).

Zenarcher: I'd know that musk anywhere, even over the smell of garbage and vomit. Hello Edge.

Edge: It's not my vomit.

Panel 3: Headshot of Zenarcher.

Zenarcher: I'll buy you breakfast. Looks like you could use it.

Panel 4: Edge pulling himself to a standing position, checking his coat pocket for his pills.

Edge: Save your pension old timer. I've got plenty of bread. Ruby's?

Panel 5: The two men walking towards a diner called Ruby's. It's similar to the one in the painting Nighthawks. Cultists of the Temple for a Megasapien Tomorrow stand outside with placards reading "HE DIED" "HE WILL RETURN" "HE WILL SHARE HIS POWER."

Caption: Ah, the Temple for a Megasapien Tomorrow are out today.

Zenarcher: So how's a guy sleeping on a sidewalk got money to buy an old man breakfast?

Edge: Got a gig. Private investigation.

Zenarcher: Ah, investigating the insides of dumpsters. Must be lucrative.

Page 21

Panel 1: Int. of the diner. Edge and Zenarcher sitting in the booth facing each other while a waitress takes their order. Temple cultists entering the diner in the background.

Edge: Coffee. Eggs over hard.

Zenarcher: I'll have a green tea with a Florentine omelet, please.

Panel 2: Edge waving at one of the cultists.

Edge: Hey! Sell me one of those papers, will you?

Edge: I've always wondered how they fill these things.

Panel 3: A tabloid-sized (11x17) newspaper titled *The Megalith* sitting on the diner table. It's the same format as *The Stranger*, in that it has a cover image with headlines instead of articles printed directly on the front-page like daily broadsheet newspaper. The cover image is Giganteus getting impaled with a huge ice-spike by a Frost Giant. Headline: "Giganteus was a god among men." Subhead: "Why did he die?"

Edge (off panel): Why is it they're obsessed with images of their god getting murdered?

Panel 4: Edge and Zenarcher sitting across from each other as the waitress brings the coffee and tea. In the background, the diner owner is chasing the cult out.

Zenarcher: Christians do it too. Christ on the cross, crucifixes everywhere.

Edge: True. Tough luck going up against a frost giant when your one weakness is extreme cold.

Panel 5: Edge sipping coffee as he flips through the paper.

Edge: You knew him, didn't you? Giganteius?

Zenarcher: Sort of. He was mostly before even my time.

Edge: Ever feel like you were living in his shadow?

Panel 6: Medium shot of Zenarcher holding his tea cup and lifting the tea bag out of the cup.

Zenarcher: At first. But people forget that he was controversial in the 60s. Staying neutral in Vietnam pissed off basically everyone.

Panel 7: Edge and Zenarcher face each other as the waitress brings plates of food.

Edge: I hated him. He was so busy fighting aliens and supervillains that he let the city get overrun by crack. We fought the Chromoids *and* cleaned up the city.

Panel 8: Medium shot of Edge staring off at the television mounted above the counter in the diner. Gravitoni and the Novas are giving a press conference in front of an art deco building (city hall).

Edge: Pfft, and I thought your generation was soft. I can't stand all this made-for-Instagram super-influencer shit.

Panel 9: Edge sticks a fork in his eggs.

Edge: The whole world's going to hell.

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Panel 2: Edge holds two pills of warp in the palm of his hand.

Panel 3: Edge sits at a greasy spoon diner with a cup of coffee and a Bloody Mary.

Panel 4: Edge walking down a busy street in the deco district, looking awake and alert.

Panel 5: Edge sitting at a dive bar with a glass of beer.

Panel 6: Edge, still at the bar, pops another pill.

Panel 7: A CABARET GIRL and a GUY approach Edge at the bar.

CAPTION:

Do something long enough, people start to notice.

Panel 8: Alley behind the dive bar. Guy from the previous panel hands edge some bills.

Panel 9: Edge dropping pills in the guy's hand.

Page 23

Panel 1: Edge sitting at the bar as the GUY from the previous page approaches, but with a DIFFERENT GIRL this time. The guy is wearing different clothes to indicate the passage of time.

Panel 2: The guy setting down a gift box on the bar.

Panel 3: Edge peaking inside the box.

Panel 4: Edge placing a small jewelry box on the bar, the sort you'd keep a wedding ring in.

Panel 5: Girl from the first panel of this page, now in different clothes, along with a different girl approaching Edge at the bar. Edge looks more tired, haggard. Time has passed.

Panel 6: Gift boxes on the table.

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Panel 1: Edge stands in front of the dive bar, which we can now see is called The 308. Two of the Sunset Gun's cyborg cowgirl HENCHWOMEN approach him from each side.

Panel 2: A closer shot of the above, the henchwomen are now right up on Edge.

Henchwoman 1:

Let's go for a ride Edge.

Panel 3: Bird's eye view of the three of them facing the street, standing in front of an old Cadillac with bull horns as a hood ornament.

HENCHWOMAN 2:

The Sunset Gun wants to talk to you.

CAPTION:

The name sends a chill down my spine. I wanted to attract attention, but not his attention. I didn't even know he was still alive.

Panel 4: Edge in the back seat of the caddie, wedged between the two women.

HENCHWOMAN 1:

We were supposed to rough you up first, but it looks like someone beat us to it.

CAPTION:

And why the muscle? I never knew him to work any way but alone.

Panel 5: The women look at Edge disapprovingly.

EDGE:

Looks like you two have had it rougher than me, but think I'd qualify for bionic enhancement surgery? What's all that hardware cost?

Page 25

Panel 1: Establishing shot of the bar that Sunset Gun uses as a headquarters, the Cadillac parked in front.

Panel 2: Basement of the bar. Edge walks down the stairs, Sunset leans back in a swivel chair in front of a desk. POV is from behind Sunset Gun, who is partially obscuring the guns, cash, and bags of pills on his desk.

Sunset Gun:

Heard you been dealing on my turf, Edge.

Panel 3: Headshot of Sunset Gun.

Sunset Gun:

What's a cape doing selling Warp?

Panel 4: Edge holds up his hands in protest.

Edge:

Hey, look, I'll admit I've got a habit. But I'm no dealer...

Panel 5: One of the henchwomen pulls Edge's bag from his pocket.

Sunset Gun:

That's a lot pills for "just a habit."

Panel 6: Headshot of Edge, sweating, looking panicky.

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Panel 1: Headshot of Sunset Gun, laughing.

Sunset Gun:

Wait a minute... you don't know about my career change do you?

Panel 2: Shot of Sunset Gun's table, the scales, money, etc.

Sunset Gun:

I assure you Edge, my concern is not with your occupation. It's you selling on my turf. A lack of cooperation on your part, though, will be no less consequential. So let's cut the bull crap.

Panel 3: Edge sits on a chair in front of Sunset Gun.

Edge:

So when did you change sides?

Panel 4: Sunset Gun leans forward on the desk.

Sunset Gun:

A couple years ago a journalist in Chicago tallied my body count. I've taken the lives of nearly 50,000 men.

And what do I have to show for it? Drug use is at an all time high. Chicago is still a crime infested shithole.

Panel 5: Sunset Gun crosses arms, looks away.

Sunset Gun:

And I'm looking to retire, put my nieces and nephews through college, all that kind of crap you do when you get older.

Panel 6: Edge and The Sunset Gun face each other, Edge gestures around the room.

Edge:

So, uh, you make Warp now, Gun?

Sunset Gun:

I'm asking the questions here. But, no, I don't. I handle the business side.

Now, what I really want to know is if you really switched sides, Edge. Are you still working for your Big State pals like Gravitoni and the Novas?

Panel 7: Side shot, Sunset Gun leans towards Edge, spirals in his eyes.

Sunset Gun:

I can still peer into men's souls, Edge.

Page 27:

Panel 1: Sunset Gun slumped back into his seat, still facing Edge.

Sunset Gun:

And yours is as pitch as black. So why'd you switch sides?

Edge:

I'm not making excuses for myself. Like I said, I got a habit. It gets expensive.

Panel 2: Sunset Gun signaling to one of the henchwomen.

Sunset Gun:

Yeah, and that makes you dangerous.

Give me his stash.

Panel 3: The henchwoman tossing the bag of Warp pills from Edge's coat onto Sunset's desk.

Panel 4: Edge leans forward towards the desk as Sunset Gun puts the bag into a desk drawer.

EDGE:

C'mon, at least leave me some...

Panel 5: Sunset Gun aims a pistol at Edge.

Sunset Gun:

This is what you get for dealing on my grounds without my permission. If you want to purchase warp for your personal consumption, you can do so at Coralcola. Ask the bartender for a Tequila Sunset with lightening.

But I don't trust you to deal, nor to walk around with such a large supply.

Page 28

Panel 1: Edge asleep in bed. Gravitoni standing over him.

Panel 2: Edge bolting upright as Gravitoni splashes him with water.

EDGE:

FUUU

Panel 3: Gravitoni pulling the studio's single chair over to the bed as Edge stands up, wearing only tighty whities.

Edge:

Come on, was that necessary?

Gravitoni:

I tried rousing you without it.

Panel 4: Edge patting his face down with a dirty t-shirt.

Edge:

What day is it?

Gravitoni:

Thursday. You've been racking up quite the credit card bill.

Panel 5: Edge pulling a can of Folgers from a cabinet above his sink. Gravitoni watches him from the chair.

Edge:

Yeah, well, it's been worth it. I'm getting good stuff. Did you know the Sunset Gun is selling Warp?

Gravitoni:

What? No, we didn't even know he was in town. That doesn't even make any sense. Sunset would never...

Panel 6: Edge holding up the coffee scoop, a despaired look on his face. There's maybe a quarter of a scoop.

Edge:

I saw it with my own eyes. His goons took me to his hideout at El Dorado.

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Panel 1: Edge flops down on the bed, face first.

Edge:

I thought he was going to kill me Toni. He was just mad that I was selling on his turf.

Panel 2: Edge lying on the bed, looking up at Gravitoni.

Edge:

He's sick of drug war bullshit, I guess. He said he killed like a million people and it didn't make any difference. Now he's just looking to make some money.

Panel 3: Edge sits up, facing Gravitoni.

Edge:

Which seems like a fair point. All that time we spent getting crack off the streets, and now it's opioids and warp instead. What's the point?

Panel 2: Edge and Gravitoni face each other, both looking self-righteous, stand-offish.

Gravitoni:

Warp isn't just some run of the mill street drug. It's dangerous. Just imagine how many genocides could happen if the wrong person got powers from it...

Panel 3: Edge standing up, walking towards the cupboards again, Gravitoni facing him again from the chair.

Edge:

Why are you still doing this superhero stuff at all? You could be a model, an actress.

Gravitoni:

Is that all beautiful women are good for?

Panel 4: Edge stairing into a cupboard, empty apart from a dead rat.

Edge:

Fair enough. But you're smart too. Wasn't the whole point of being in Doomstrike was to pay for college.

Panel 5: Mid-shot, Gravitoni, arms crossed.

Gravitoni:

I guess I thought I could make more of a difference doing "this superhero stuff" than I could doing anything else. Great power and great responsibility, and all that.

Panel 6: Edge tossing the rat out a window above the sink.

Edge:

Do you ever miss it? Doomstrike?

Panel 7: Headshot of Gravitoni.

Gravitoni:

Wearing a thong, getting bossed around by men? Not even a little.

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Panel 1: Establishing shot of the inside of Coralcola, a tiki bar. We're looking over Edge's shoulder as he walks in. There's a BARTENDER, a RANDOM DRUNK, and FREEZE-FRAME is sitting at the bar with their hair tucked into a baseball cap. (They're also wearing large glasses, but depending on the angle, we might not be able to see the glasses in this panel).

CAPTION:

Coralcola. It's probably been 15 years since this place was fashionable.

Hell, what am I talking about, I have no idea what's fashionable anymore. Maybe tiki bars are back in style.

Panel 2: Edge bellying up to the bar.

EDGE:

I'll take a tequila sunset with lightening.

Panel 3: The bartender setting a drink down for Edge as a COWBOY taps his shoulder.

Panel 4: Edge follows the Cowboy away from the bar, his back turned. Nathaniel Price, dressed in office casual clothes, takes his place at the bar. Freeze-Frame, still in disguise, is still at the bar.

RANDOM DRUNK:

Try the Volcano, it esplodes when they put the uh,...

FREEZE-FRAME

... I'll just take a Laphraig, neat.

Panel 5: Edge walking out the front door of the bar, Freeze-Frame, still disguised, standing to follow him out.

Panel 6: Ext., alley way behind Coralcola. Freeze-Frame following Edge, who is about to swallow a pill.

FREEZE-FRAME:

Edge... we need to talk.

Page 31

Panel 1: Edge facing Freeze-Frame, having turned around. Freeze Frame is pulling off the hat and glasses.

Freeze-Frame:

Do you recognize me?

Edge:

Sure. Freeze-Frame. From the Novas.

Panel 2: Freeze-Frame putting the disguise back on.

Freeze-Frame: Gravitoni asked me to keep an eye on you at Coralcola.

Panel 3: Edge turning around, gesturing dismissively at Freeze-Frame.

Edge:

I shouldn't be seen talking to you. Besides, I don't need help.

Panel 4: Headshot of Freeze-Frame.

Freeze-Frame:

Sure seems like you could have used some help when you went up against Blood Gator.

Panel 5: Edge turning around, angry.

Edge:

Yeah? What would you have done tweeted that you felt personally attacked when she refused to use they/them pronouns to address you?

Panel 6: Headshot of Freeze-Frame, rolling their eyes.

Freeze-Frame:

OK, boomer.

Page 32

Panel 1: Edge looking very annoyed.

Edge:

Wait, how hold do you think I... Meh, that's just what you say when you have nothing to actually say.

Panel 2: Medium shot of Freeze-Frame.

Freeze-Frame:

OK, how about this then: For all your macho bullshit, you're just a washed up security guard.

Panel 3: Headshot of Edge, now looking very angry.

Edge:

You Novas think you're saving the world by putting together an 'inclusive' superhero team that just goes around and protests lead in the drinking water, but you haven't done a tenth of what we did.

Panel 4: Freeze-Frame, indignant.

Freeze-Frame:

We're left with the world you left behind after you were done breaking drug dealers jaws while you letting big corporations turn destroy the environment and turn the city into a gentrified yuppie playground.

Panel 5: Headshot of Freeze-Frame.

Freeze-Frame:

And maybe, just maybe, defying thousands of years of patriarchal norms is a bigger deal than anything your cynical, self-interested generation ever achieved.

Page 33

Panel 1: Edge just standing there.

Panel 2: Headshot of Edge.

Edge:

Shit, you're right. And I'm sorry about that pronouns crack. That was idiotic of me.

Panel 3: Edge and Freeze-Frame facing each other.

Freeze-Frame:

It's not the worst thing anyone ever said to me.

Panel 4: Longshot of Edge, hands in pockets, looking down.

Edge:

That's the problem. If you're not the worst you start thinking you're the good guy.

Panel 5: Edge and Freeze-Frame facing each other.

Edge:

So what was it you wanted to talk about?

Freeze-Frame:

I saw Nathaniel Price at the bar.

Edge:

From Wonder Labs? No shit?

Freeze-Frame:

No shit.

Panel 6: Edge walking away.

Freeze-Frame:

Where are you going?

Edge:

To talk to someone who might know a little something about this. I owe you one!

Page 34

Panel 1: Edge standing outside looking up at temple shaped like a giant snake, wedged between more traditional but rundown art deco buildings.

Panel 2: Edge knocking on the door.

Panel 3: KRAIT, an aged, goth-looking man in a lab coat, clutching a glass flask, with a boa draped around his shoulders answering the door.

Edge:

Hey Krait.

Krait:

Edge, come in, come in, is something the matter?

Panel 4: Edge following Krait into his lab, which consists of snakes either in glass cages or simply dangling from fake trees. He has a large table with syringes, beakers, etc. There's a snake that looks like a cobra coiled up on the table.

Edge:

Why would something be wrong?

Krait:

Forgive me, but it's just been so long, I assumed that there must be some sort of emergency.

Edge:

Ah, sorry man. It's nothing like that. I just came by to ask if you still do any consulting for Wonder Labs.

Panel 5: Krait presses the cobra's mouth against the lip of the flask (see YouTube videos of venom extraction for reference).

Krait:

Not often. Why do you ask?

Panel 6: Edge watching Krait use a syringe to extract venom from the flask.

Edge:

I'm doing some PI work. Looking into Nathaniel Price. Wondering if you'd know any reason he'd be hanging around Coralcola. The wife thinks he might be cheating.

Panel 7: Krait whirls around to stab Edge in the neck with the syringe.

Caption:

Should have seen that coming.

Page 35

Panel 1: Edge strapped to a table, his eyes propped open *Clockwork Orange* style.

Panel 2: Krait stands over Edge, holding a small, strange looking snake.

Krait:

I need to know what you know Edge. I need to see what you see.

Panel 3: The small snake biting Edge's eye.

Panel 4: Krait dangling the snake over his open mouth.

Panel 5: Krait standing with his eyes closed, the snake's tail sticking out of his mouth.

Krait:

Ah, it's a Doomstrike reunion. You and me and Gravitoni makes three. A pity it isn't under happier circumstances. You just had to go snooping around Wonder Labs didn't you?

Panel 6: Krait standing with his eyes closed.

Krait:

You know Edge, if you'd spent as much time looking for Liberator as you did trying to get your powers back, maybe we'd have a fourth guest. Not that it matters now.

Panel 7: Krait places a syringe in a medical bag.

Krait:

This won't hurt. In fact this neurotoxin is quite pleasant. It's the least I can do for an old...

Page 36

Panel 1: Krait is about to press the syringe into Edge arm, but Freeze-Frame stands over his shoulder.

Panel 2: Freeze-Frame touches Krait in the arm.

Panel 3: Edge sitting up, holding his eye while Freeze-Frame undoes the leg shackles and Krait stands frozen.

Edge:

Thanks. I owe you two now.

Freeze-Frame:

You need to get that looked at.

Panel 4: Edge standing and looking a large glass cage, now empty of snakes.

Edge:

Later. He confirmed what I thought: Wonder Labs is behind Warp. The whole "exobiological origin" thing was bullshit.

Panel 5: Edge looks at one of the small snakes, like the one that bit his eye.

Edge:

How fast can you get Flux here?

Page 37

Panel 1: Interior of Krait's lab. FLUX and Krait frozen in two separate large glass cages, each with trees for snakes to sleep on inside.

Caption:

The kid is fast, but dumb. Trapping him was easy.

Panel 2: Headshot of Flux

Caption:

Once we had him, he started spilling faster than we could listen. Which is good because I don't think I could stomach one of Krait's mind-reading snake thingies.

Flux:

I never took Warp off the street I swear!

Panel 3: Longshot of Flux in the snake cage.

Flux:

It was all part of a test. It was all sanctioned. It worked for me, but not for the other subjects. As far I knew, the program was shut down.

Panel 4: Sideview of Freeze-Frame facing Flux.

Freeze-Frame:

Why didn't you tell us any of this?

Flux:

Once Warp started appearing on the street, Price called me and told me if I talked about what I knew, Wonder Labs would sue me for violating my NDA.

Panel 5: Sideview of Edge and Flux facing each other, Edge with his hands in his trenchcoat pockets.

Edge:

So is this some MK-Ultra type thing? Put it on the street as an experiment?

Flux:

I don't know anything else, I promise!

Edge:

Where was all this happening?

Flux:

A secret lab outside of town. Where all those big box stores were supposed to be.

Panel 6: Edge with his back to us, walking towards the door of the laboratory.

Edge:

Well Freeze-Frame, sounds like the case is closed. I'm gonna go to the hospital, get my eye looked at. Why don't you call Toni and let her know what's going on.

Page 38

Panel 1: Exterior, in front of Krait's building. Edge hailing a cab.

Caption:

Hopefully Krait and Flux will be enough to keep Toni and Freeze-Frame busy for awhile.

Panel 2: Edge in the backseat of the cab.

Caption:

If they're putting the kibash on Warp production, this is my last chance to stock up. I gotta get there first.

Panel 3: Outside of the city, in an empty field, Edge using his phone as a flashlight, shining it on a hatch.

Caption:

I worked security on the shopping development while it was under construction.

Caption:

There was supposed to be an underground tunnel connecting the stores with a condo building that never got built.

Panel 4: Interior of the tunnel. It's big enough for Edge to stand-up in. Edge is facing a big concrete wall at the end of the tunnel, shining his cellphone light on it.

Caption:

Dammit, I shoulda known they'd cover this up.

Panel 5: Edge shining the light on the ceiling of the tunnel, revealing a vent.

Caption:

Hmmm...

Panel 6: Edge inside a ventilation duct, looking towards a bend that forks upwards.

Caption:

So cold in here...

Panel 7: Edge inside the duct, climbing upwards.

Caption:

What am I doing, I'm going to end up right back in jail...

Panel 8: Edge crawls towards a vent on the bottom of the duct, light shines through the vent.

Caption:

WHAT THE FUCK!?

Page 39

Splash page of the interior of the big box store Wonder Labs is using as a Warp production facility, from Edge's point of view in the ventilation shaft. We see GIGANTEUS's huge corpse in the center of the huge space's floor. People are driving fork lifts around. Giganteus's foot is taller than about three people.

Page 40

Panel 1: Edge falling through the vent towards the floor.

Panel 2: Edge running past Wonder Labs workers who stand and gawk at him.

Panel 3: Edge holding his arms up, surrounded by armed guards.

Panel 4: Interior of Nathaniel Price's office. It overlooks the shop floor. It's the sort of office a manager can sit in and watch what's going on the shop floor below. Edge is tied to a chair in an office. PRICE is walking in.

Edge:

I don't suppose I could get a lawyer?

Panel 5: Price dude points a gun at Edge's head.

Price:

This answer your question?

Edge:

OK, OK.

Price:

How did you find this location?

Panel 6: Headshot from Price's perspective, looking down the barrel of the gun at Edge.

Edge:

I'm old pals with Krait. He let it slip on poker night.

Page 41

Panel 1: Side view of Price and Edge, with the gun still to Edge's head. Our view is from behind them, out the window out onto the warehouse floor where we can glimpse Giganteus's body.

Price:

Mmmhmm.

Edge:

He didn't mention that you have Giganteus's clone in here though.

Panel 2: POV view from Edge looking up at Price.

Price:

Clone? That's the real thing. Giganteus had an... agreement with Wonder Labs. His body is our property.

Panel 3: Side view of Price still holding a gun to Edge's head.

Edge:

So he signed his body over to science? And you used it to make drugs?

Price:

Not exactly. You should check your Doomstrike contract. We might own you as well. But yes, his unstable molecules mutate human DNA.

Caption:

Huh. So it's exobiological after all.

Panel 4: Close-up of the gun against Edge's head.

Caption:

I can hear the gun's mechanism as he starts to squeeze the trigger and some old instinct kicks in.

Page 42

Panel 1: Edge tipping the chair backwards as the shot goes off, missing him.

Panel 2: A GUARD bursting through the door.

Guard:

Sir! It's the Novas! They're raiding the facility!

Panel 3: Price runs out.

Panel 4: Edge, hunched over with the chair still strapped to his back.

Panel 5: Edge breaks the window with the chair strapped to his back.

Panel 6: Edge cuts the ropes on the broken glass.

Panel 43

Panel 1: Edge running down a hallway as two men burst out of a door.

Caption:

This is all wrong. They can arrest Price, but Wonder Labs will still own Giganteus's body.

Panel 2: Edge rushes through the door before it closes.

Panel 3: Establishing shot of a control room, full of futuristic equipment.

Panel 4: Close-up of temperature control dials.

Caption:

Giganteus's one weakness is extreme cold.

Panel 5: Close-up of Edge's face.

Caption:

This means no more Warp for me or anyone else...

Panel 6: Edge cranks the dial to Absolute Zero.

Caption:

Fuck it.

Page 44

Panel 1: Freeze-Frame, GRAVITONI, and other NOVAS (except Flux) fighting guards on the warehouse floor in front of Giganteus's body. Things are frosting over with ice.

Gravitoni:

We better get out of here, it's too cold!

Panel 2: Giganteus's body is covered with ice.

Panel 3: It shatters into tiny pieces.

Page 45

Panel 1: Outside the big box store Wonder Labs was using. Edge and Gravitoni sit sipping hot coffee on the bumper of an ambulance, his eye is now bandaged up.

Gravitoni:

Turns out Price was running a rogue operation. After the initial Warp trials failed, his budget was slashed. He used Krait and Sunset Gun to sell on the streets to fund his own experiments.

Panel 2: Close-up of Edge taking a sip of coffee.

Edge:

That's one loose end. Sunset.

Panel 3: Gravitoni standing facing Edge.

Gravitoni:

We're heading to El Dorado next. Come along.

Edge:

I don't think I'll be much help.

Panel 4: Gravitoni walking away from the ambulance, pulling Edge behind her.

Gravitoni:

I want to keep an eye on you after this last stunt you pulled.

Page 46

Panel 1: Interior of Sunset Gun's office in the basement of El Dorado. The NOVAS, Edge behind them, burst through the door.

Panel 2: Foreground: Gravitoni holding a hand up towards Sunset's HENCHWOMEN, who are floating above the ground. Background: Edge reaches into the filing cabinet.

Panel 3: Foreground: Freeze-Frame cuffing SUNSET. Background: Edge puts the large bag of pills into his coat. No one is looking at Edge while he does this.

Panel 4: Sunset standing, looking at Edge.

Sunset:

Don't fool yourself into thinking this makes you a good guy guy Edge. I've looked into your soul.

Panel 5: Edge standing, hands in trenchcoat pockets, next to Gravitoni, watching Freeze-Frame perp-march Sunset up the stairs.

Gravitoni:

Go home Edge, get some sleep.

Panel 6: Edge walking down the street of the Deco District, contemplating a warp pill.

Caption: END