

MARVEL

A SPIDER-MAN GRAPHIC NOVEL

MILES MORALES STRANGER TIDES



WRITTEN BY
JUSTIN A. REYNOLDS

ILLUSTRATED BY
PABLO LEON

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ILLUSTRATED BY

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Art by Pablo Leon, Bruno Oliveira, and Arianna Florean
Letters by Ariana Maher



CHAPTER
ONE

Wow, what a difference a month makes.

Four weeks ago, everyone treated me like Peter Parker's little brother, but now...

You sure this outfit isn't doing too much, Ganke?

Bro, you wear black T-shirts and jeans ninety percent of the time.

Now I'm basically a legit super hero, all on my own.

I mean, this jacket *does* complement my eyes.

And *you* swing around Brooklyn rocking a gymnastics leotard, so...

Dude, one of us knows fashion, and the other person is you.

Um, you're wearing your Spidey suit, you can't even see your eyes. Just say, "Ganke, you were right, and I was wrong."

I'd love to, except I'm on my way to the launch party for the biggest game of the decade. What are you doing tonight?

I hate you. I should be your plus-one.

I know, but *I'm* Aaliyah Cole's plus-one. You know, award-winning actress and Album of the Year Grammy winner Aaliyah Cole. Maybe you've heard of her?

Bruh, imagine being randomly bitten by a radioactive spider but acting like you gave yourself super-powers...



HAHAHA!

And no, it's not all fun and games. Being Spider-Man comes with a lot of responsibility...

Okay, you got me.

I always do.

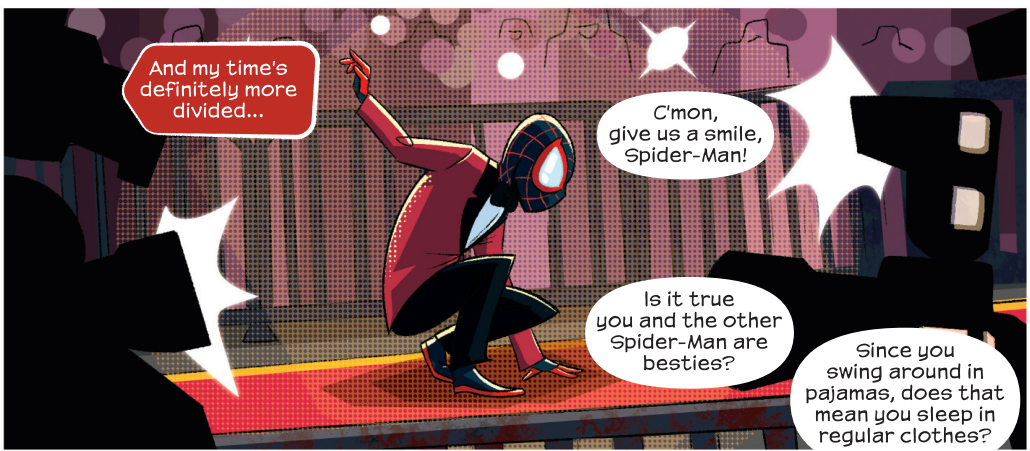


But for real, if it were up to me, you'd be there too.

It's okay. Always the bridesmaid, never the bride.

Ganke, c'mon, now...

I'm just the Man in the Chair, I get it. Why be at the party watching your actual back when I can pretend to be at the party via earbud?



And my time's definitely more divided...

C'mon, give us a smile, Spider-Man!

Is it true you and the other Spider-Man are besties?

Since you swing around in pajamas, does that mean you sleep in regular clothes?



I mean, it's not all crime-fighting and world-saving. I still have school, family, friends, and my art to focus on too...



And finally, our guests of honor! Say hello to actress and two-time Grammy winner Aaliyah Cole and our new favorite crime-fighting hero, Spider-Man.

But, uh, I think I'm starting to get the hang of things.

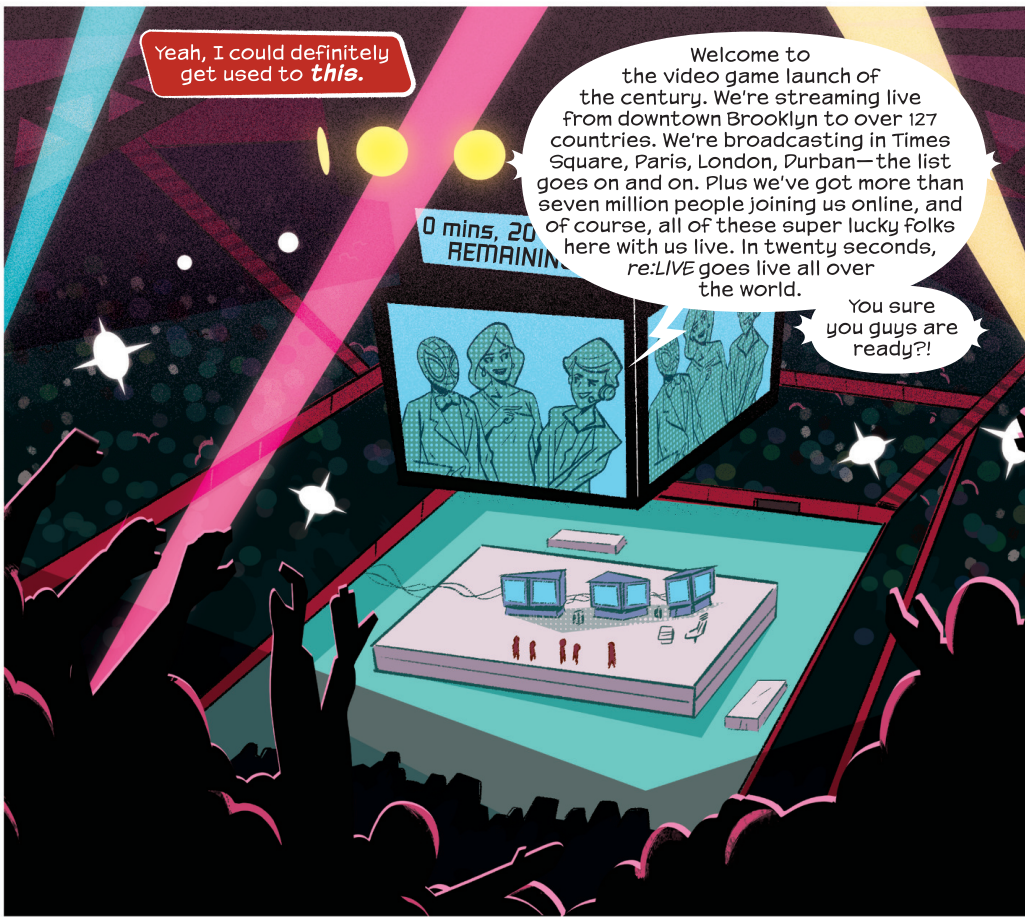


So the question everyone needs to know is... which one of you is the better gamer?

C'mon, now, you already know...

Haha, yeah, okay. I prefer to let my game do my talking.

Haha, we'll see what's up inside, then...



Yeah, I could definitely get used to *this*.

Welcome to the video game launch of the century. We're streaming live from downtown Brooklyn to over 127 countries. We're broadcasting in Times Square, Paris, London, Durban—the list goes on and on. Plus we've got more than seven million people joining us online, and of course, all of these super lucky folks here with us live. In twenty seconds, re:LIVE goes live all over the world.

0 mins, 20 REMAINING

You sure you guys are ready?!



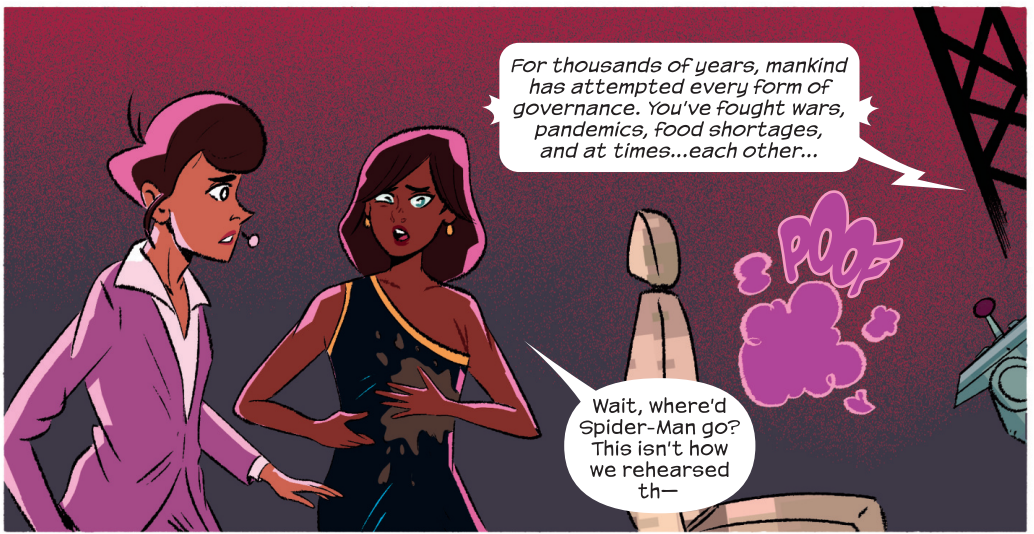
Trin, get off the stage!



I wanna watch Spider-Man's face when it happens.

Stick to the plan! Brain Blocker on, now!





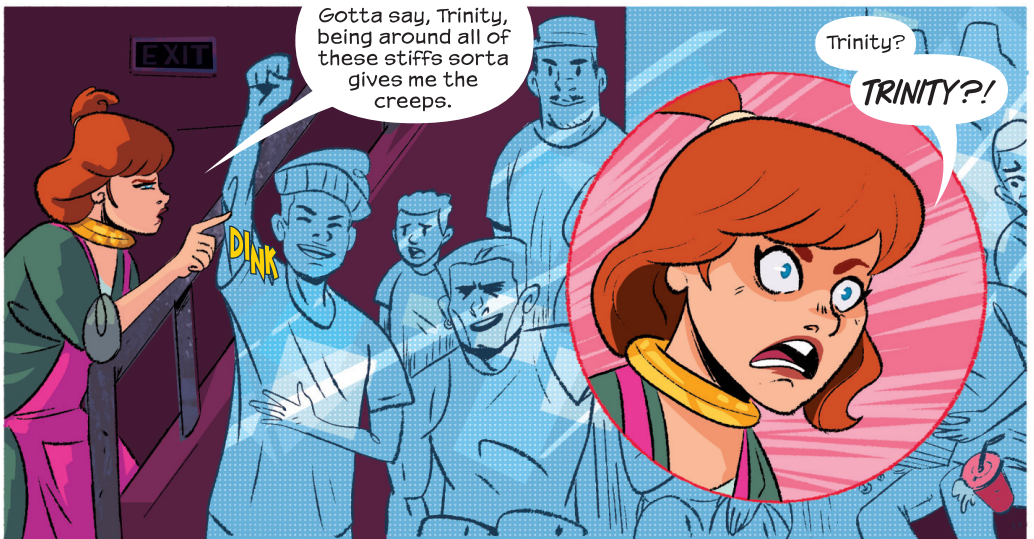
For thousands of years, mankind has attempted every form of governance. You've fought wars, pandemics, food shortages, and at times...each other...

Wait, where'd Spider-Man go? This isn't how we rehearsed th—

POOF



Your better life begins **NOW**.



Gotta say, Trinity, being around all of these stiffes sorta gives me the creeps.

Trinity?

TRINITY?!



Trinity?!?

Hi, Spidey.

Miss me?



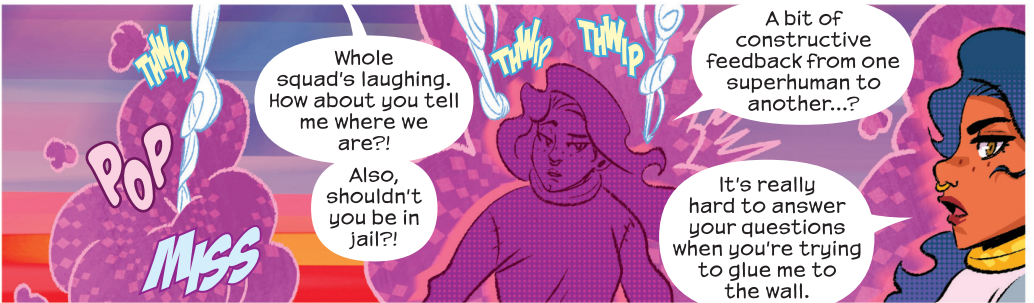
THUMP

Guess that's a no.



So is this the "villain kidnaps the super hero so they can enact their evil plan to take over the world" trope, or did you just want some interior decorating advice, because for starters, I'd definitely suggest better lighting.

You're the person who tries to guess how the movie ends during the *whole* movie, aren't you?



Whole squad's laughing. How about you tell me where we are?!

Also, shouldn't you be in jail?!

A bit of constructive feedback from one superhuman to another...?

It's really hard to answer your questions when you're trying to glue me to the wall.



MISS

Seriously?! Why can't you villains ever stay still?

Well, I gave you a chance to do this the easy way. I guess that leaves...



...the hard way.



Um, whatever this gold-glowing thing is that you're doing, yeah, definitely a **TERRIBLE** idea...

I don't tell you how to "villain," so maybe don't tell me how to—



Dude, stop before you kill us both!



Ha, nice try, but if you think I'm gonna fall for the ol' **don't blow us both up** trick, then you've got—

Seriously, look!



This...this can't be. It's a trick, right? An illusion. No way we're actually in... No, this can't be real...

It's **very** real.

But that would mean we're in...outer space?

Some time later.

Okay, wait, so you're saying this spaceship belonged to frog-people who tried to invade Earth, only to be defeated by the Hulk?

The Toad-Men, yes. And it was more Bruce Banner, but same difference.

And now it's your secret lair?

Not so secret anymore.

How do you know how to work all this equipment?

The internets?



And that spinning ball down there? That's *our* Earth?

Yep.



The last time I saw you, you could barely teleport a few blocks, and now you're... zipping to abandoned stations in deep space?

A lot has changed, but we don't have time for *since you've been gone* updates. We're all in danger. That's why I brought you here. It seems outer space is the only place he can't easily penetrate my thoughts.

Okay, you're giving me a lot of info fast. Who's trying to penetrate your thoughts? And who's in danger?



All of us. You, me, the whole world. No one is safe.

See for yourself. It's already happening...





We're coming to you live from Times Square, where the launch for the tremendously hyped video game *re:LIVE* was being simulcast, when suddenly all of these people were frozen in place.

LIVE **BREAKING NEWS**
8:25 PM HIGH 56° LOW 49°



LIVE

Some have speculated a virus is responsible, while far wilder, less plausible theories continue to spiral across social media...

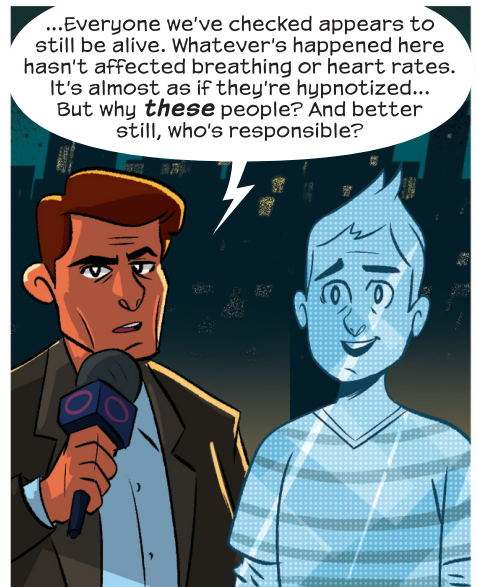
BREAKING NEWS



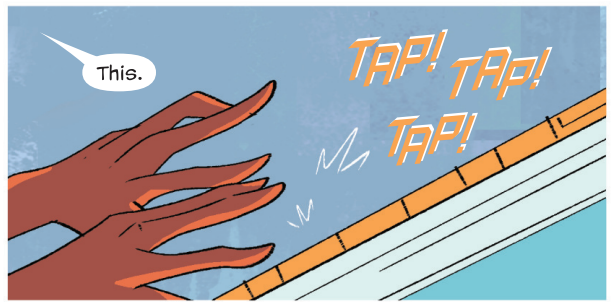
Yo, we're a hundred percent being invaded! But why are y'all panicking? Shoot, I can't wait to meet some aliens!



Then what's the actual cause? So far city officials say it's too early to know.



...Everyone we've checked appears to still be alive. Whatever's happened here hasn't affected breathing or heart rates. It's almost as if they're hypnotized... But why **these** people? And better still, who's responsible?





...the Stranger.

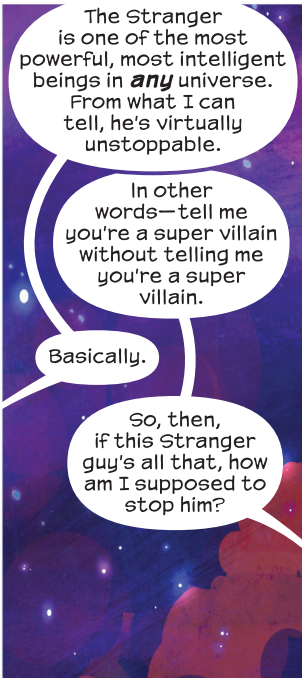
And all of us are in danger. No one is safe.

I wanna hate on him because, you know, he's trying to destroy the planet, but not gonna lie, he looks low-key...impressive.



That's what happens when you're a composite being with the combined intelligence and power of billions of Gigantus humanoids.

Once more, but louder and slower, for the people way in the back...



The Stranger is one of the most powerful, most intelligent beings in *any* universe. From what I can tell, he's virtually unstoppable.

In other words—tell me you're a super villain without telling me you're a super villain.

Basically.

So, then, if this Stranger guy's all that, how am I supposed to stop him?



You can't. He'll destroy you without even lifting a finger.

Gee, thanks for the pep talk, Trinity. Has anyone told you you'd make a great motivational speaker?

What I'm saying is, you can't do this alone. He's far too powerful and way too smart. You heard the part where I said he judges *entire* planets, right?

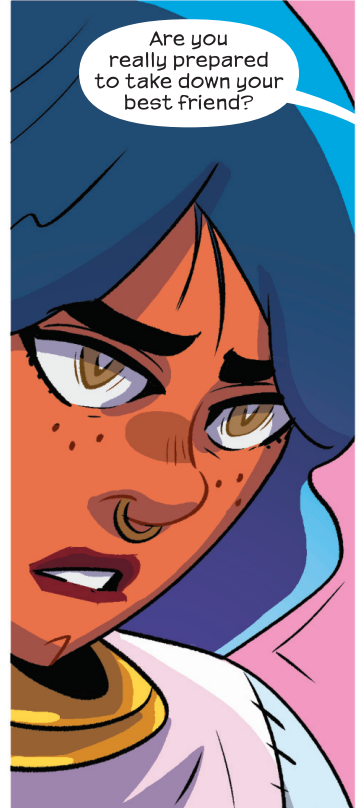
So, then, what are you suggesting? We pack up everything on Earth and find a new place to live? Do they have planetary listings on "the internets" too?

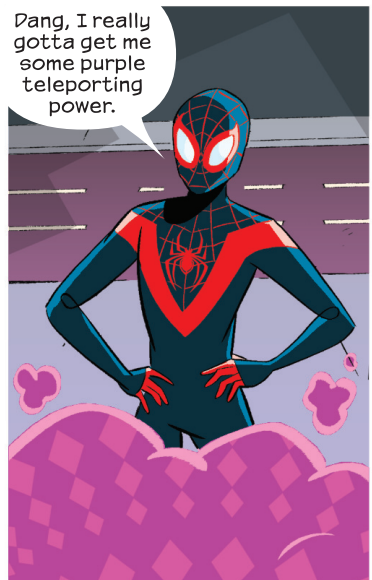


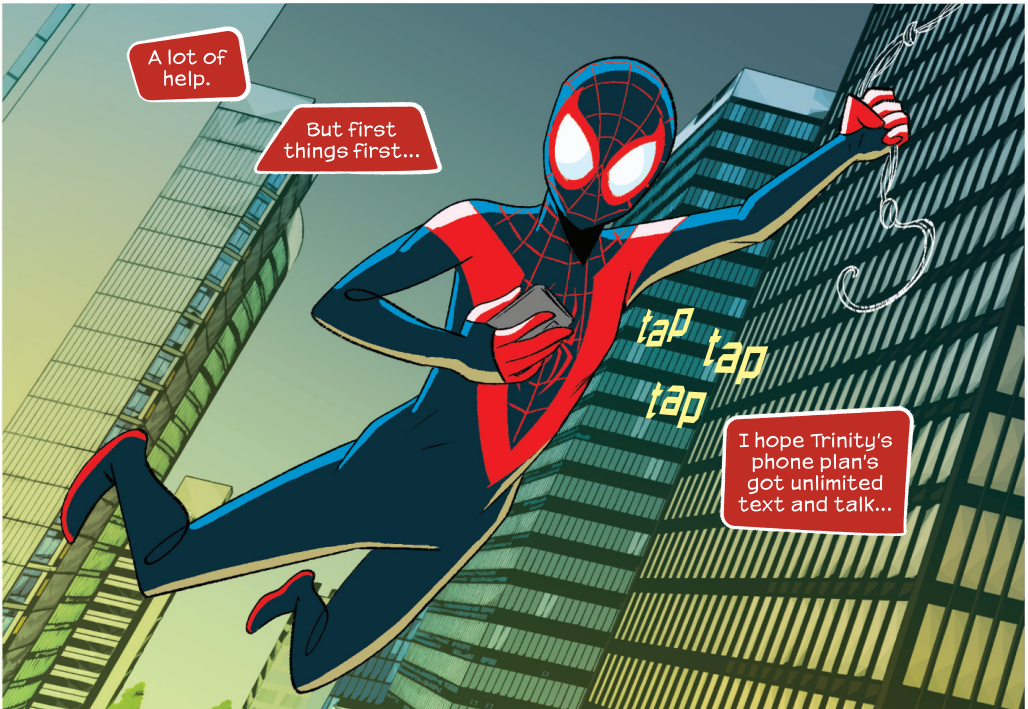
What I'm suggesting is...



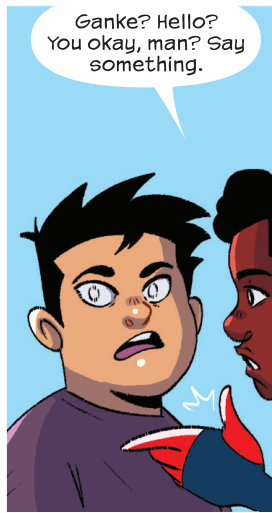
...the only way we're gonna stop this guy is to work together.









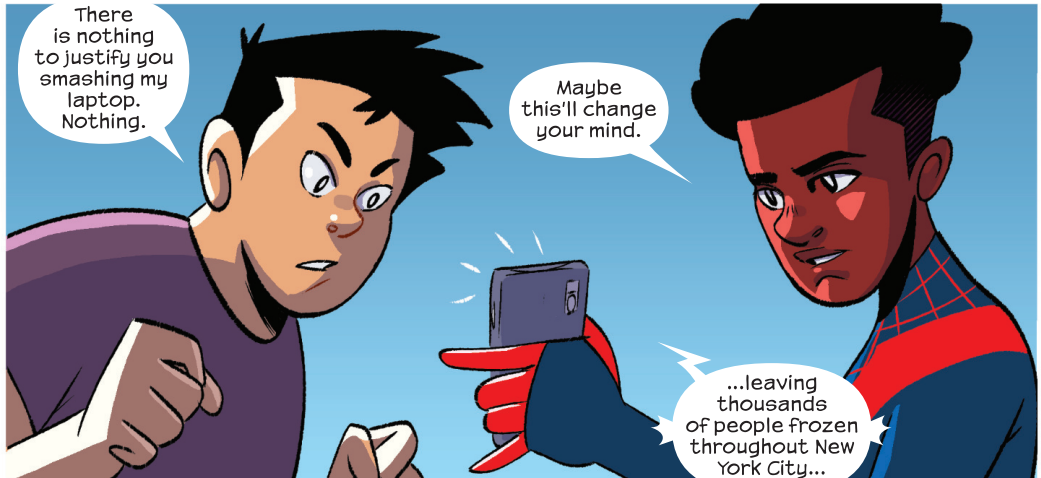


Ganke? Hello? You okay, man? Say something.



OMG, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?! NEXT TIME JUST TELL ME YOU DON'T WANNA BE TEASED ABOUT YOUR DANCING.

Maybe I'm a little sensitive about my dance moves, but that's not it.



There is nothing to justify you smashing my laptop. Nothing.

Maybe this'll change your mind.

...leaving thousands of people frozen throughout New York City...



A few minutes later.

Fine, you win. But wait, this is real? People are really frozen?

Saw it with my own eyes.

Crap. But what's re:LIVE got to do with it?

Apparently, this Stranger dude is using it to transmit his "freeze people" signal.

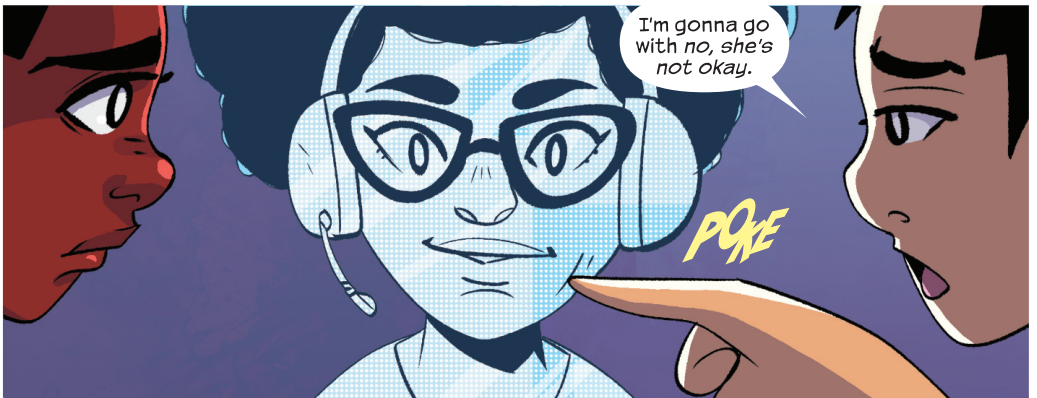


Okay, but you could've just said that and not turned my laptop into the plastic puzzle I never wanted.

It's possible I overreacted.

BZZZZ BZZZZ BZZZZ





JUSTIN A. REYNOLDS has always wanted to be a writer. *Opposite of Always*, his debut YA novel, was an Indies Introduce Top Ten Debut, a *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2019, was translated into nineteen languages, and is being developed for film by Paramount Players. His second YA novel, *Early Departures*, published to critical acclaim and was a *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020. His debut middle grade graphic novel, *Miles Morales: Shock Waves* was an Indie bestseller. Justin is also the cofounder of the CLE Reads Book Festival, a Cleveland book festival for middle-grade and young adult writers.

PABLO LEON is an author and artist from Guatemala based in Los Angeles, California, and jumps between working in the TV animation industry and the comics world. His original comic “The Journey,” an account of an unaccompanied child coming from Central America to the U.S., was a 2019 Eisner Award nominee. His other clients include Disney TVA, Warner Brothers Animation, OddBot Inc, DreamWorks Animation, and Bento Box Entertainment.

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