

-FORWARD-

"**Autism at Face Value**" studies facial expressions as one way to improve (nonverbal) communication. We help children with autism to spot emotional expressions using art. Identifying emotions helps people manage some troubling feelings. Readers learn to recognize small changes in face features and body language. Our license agreement makes **Face Value Comics** the World's 1st Comics to FEATURE an Autistic Hero, reminiscent of the Golden Age of Comics. **Autism at Face Value** practices "comic awareness ©," meaning our use of comic books and educational toys to publicly demystify **Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**. Children need and want comic book heroes like themselves.

Dave Kot thanks his family, friends, and teachers, with additional gratitude to: **Mom & Dad, Glen, Matthew, Michael, and Michelle; Ian, Jim & Robert; Audra and Heather; Project Lifesaver International; The US National Hot Air Balloon Team; Comix Connection; Comic Store West; Mollie Durkin & the York Dispatch; Nicole D'Andria & Entertainment Fuse; Joan Ramos & the Art Institute of York; Luke Anderson & the Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Dr. (Jon) Darling Moebius & the University of Pittsburgh; Hope Syndreamz, Genero Accooe, Larry Schlekeyw & Zack Gardner;** and especially for **J.E. Robinson's** personal encouragement: "I think facial recognition training can benefit people on the spectrum."

I am just a man, humbled by the love and support from my creative partners: **Angela, Renard, Preston and Monica**. It's about time...

-Dave-

There were many muses that made this book possible. I must thank my friends and family for their unyielding support of this project. **Frank and Brandi** for lending talents into the wee hours of the morning. **Mom, Dad,** and **Denise** for sound feedback and assistance. **Dave** for his tenacity, boundless enthusiasm and devotion to keeping the purpose clear while entertaining and tolerating my ideas to conclusion. Sky for his consistent passion and creative energy. Last but not least by any stretch of the imagination, I am compelled to send my gratitude to **Monica Silvera**. From beyond the veil you cast your cosmic net and drew three dreamers together to bring this story to life and I am forever in your debt.

- Angela-

My art journey has been about meeting new people who would like to share their ideas. and I often get the honor of illustrating their stories and dreams. Many of them left positive influences.

My mother, **Shirley Owens** was my major influence, inspiring me at the age of 3 to pick up a crayon. My late friend, **Martin Dwight Mandoza King Jr.**, indoctrinated me into the world of comics. In Philly, I met a remarkable woman, **Monica Silvera**, and through her, I was graced by meeting **David and Angela Kot**, who invited me along with their dream of this book. They think I helped them, but they helped me more than they'll ever know. And for that, I thank them for being gracious and humble and giving me something to believe in. I believe in **Face Value Comics**.

- SKY-



WE DIDN'T ALWAYS
LIVE *THIS* WAY.

WHY
ARE YOU
READING A
COMIC BOOK?
WE'RE...AT...
WAR!

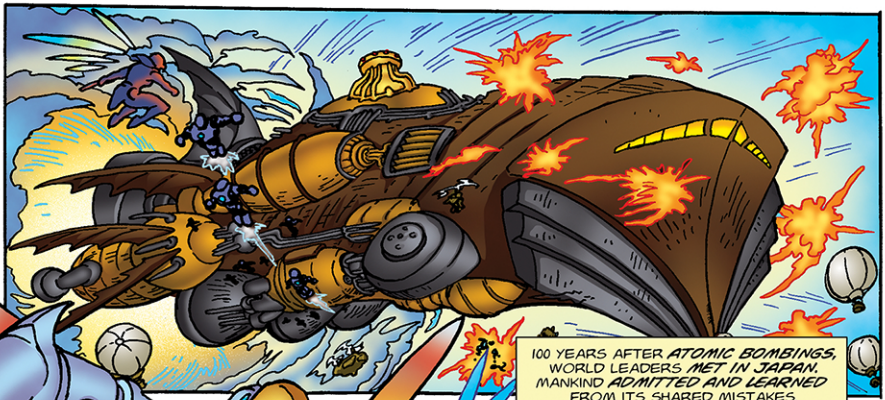
MMUH-TZAP!

Sample file

SPACE BIRDS
THE SHIMMER,
DIDN'T ALWAYS
LIVE AMONGST
THE CLOUDS.

MANKIND DIDN'T ALWAYS FLY IN
STEAM-POWERED
GYROCOPTERS, EITHER.






100 YEARS AFTER ATOMIC BOMBINGS,
WORLD LEADERS MET IN JAPAN.
MANKIND ADMITTED AND LEARNED
FROM ITS SHARED MISTAKES.



GOVERNMENTS MADE
ECONOMIC TREATIES.
SCIENTISTS UNCOVERED
NEW FUEL SOURCES
AND MEDICINE.

HUMANITY SAW
AN END TO
MUCH SUFFERING.

WHOOOON!



**THE SCALD UNION ENSURED
STEAM-POWER TECHNOLOGIES
BECAME AVAILABLE TO THE MASSES.
(STEAM-POWER, COMMERCE
AND LABOR DIVISION)*

*HYDROPONIC VEGETARIAN
DIETS HELPED REDUCE
WORLD HUNGER.*

*OVER THE NEXT GENERATION, EARTH WELCOMED
EXTRA-TERRRESTRIAL VISITORS, TOO.
SEVERAL PEACE-LOVING ALIENS SOUGHT
SAFETY IN OUR UTOPIAN SOCIETY.*

CHILLAXINS ARE A FUN-LOVING PLANT SPECIES.

ONCE, THEY LIVED ON EARTH BUT LEFT AFTER OUR DINOSAURS DIED.

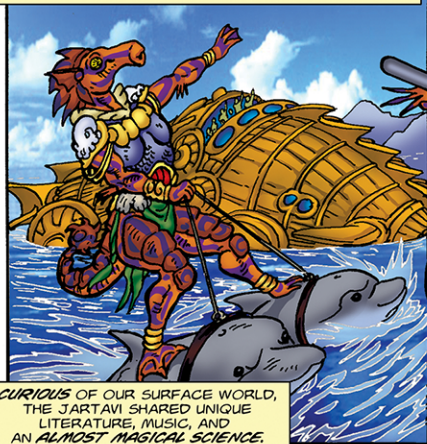
BIO-LUMINESCENT CHILLAXIN USE SUNLIGHT FOR PHOTOSYNTHESIS. LICHEN AND MOSS COATS THEIR BODIES AS THEY AGE.

THEIR HELPFUL BIO-DROIDS HAVE THIN, FIBER-OPTIC VINES AND COLLECT A FORM OF SOLAR POWER, TOO.



...BUT NOT ALL NEW ROBOTS ON EARTH ARE GOOD!

JARTAVI ALWAYS LIVED FAR BENEATH OUR OCEANS. THEY CAN SLOWLY BREATHE OXYGEN, BUT ALSO HAVE WET GILLS, WEBBED FEET, AND A GRACEFULLY STRONG TAIL.



CURIOUS OF OUR SURFACE WORLD, THE JARTAVI SHARED UNIQUE LITERATURE, MUSIC, AND AN ALMOST MAGICAL SCIENCE.

THEY INTRODUCED SPECIAL CORPUSCLES THAT EAT WATER POLLUTANTS, AND IDENTIFIED THREE MILLION NEW AQUATIC LIFE FORMS.



...BUT NONE LIKE THIS CREATURE!

RECENTLY,
A SILENT COLLECTIVE OF
HONORABLE WINGED FEMALES PIERCED
THE SKIES. WE'VE NICKNAMED THEM
"THE SHIMMER," AND THEY FIGHT
ALONGSIDE US NOW. NOBODY EVER
HEARD THEM TALK, THOUGH.

SIX WEEKS AGO, TELECOM-COGS
MALFUNCTIONED WORLDWIDE.
EXPERTS DEBATE THE CAUSES:

DEPENDENCY
ON TECHNOLOGY
NEVER MATCHED
OUR TRANSITION TO
STEAM-POWER?
SCALD HASN'T MADE
AN OFFICIAL COMMENT.

SOLAR FLARES INTERFERE WITH
COMMUNICATIONS? SOME
BLAME **THE SHIMMER.**

INTENTIONAL ELECTROMAGNETIC BURSTS
JAMMED OUR DEFENSES BEFORE AN INVASION?

NEWSPRINT AND TELEGRAPH
DOWNPLAY **CONSPIRACY THEORIES.**
HOWEVER, INDEPENDENT RESISTANCE FIGHTERS
RAIL AGAINST GUERRILLA ATTACKS BY
NEW VISITORS. WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT
THESE **SURPRISING ENEMY WARSHIPS...**