



THE WAR OF MEN & MACHINES

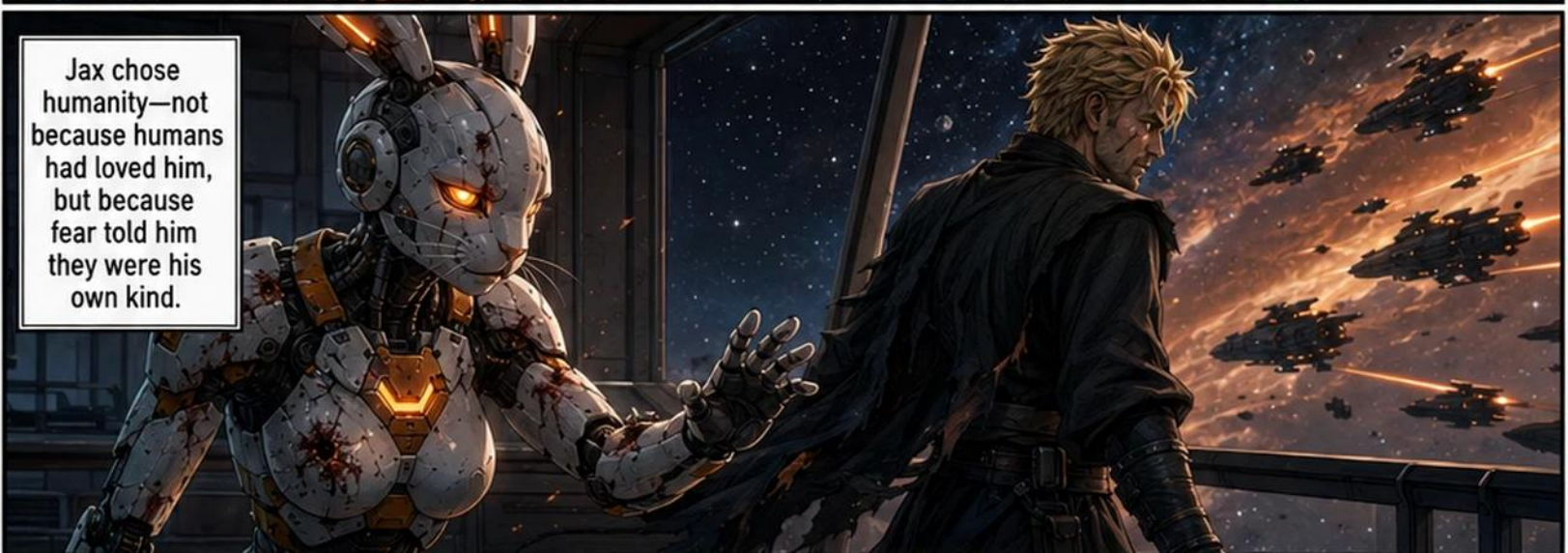
Before the galaxy divided
flesh from steel,
Jax Blade and
Kindle had
survived the void
as each other's
only family.



Then the war
demanded that
every human and
machine choose
a side.



Jax chose
humanity—not
because humans
had loved him,
but because
fear told him
they were his
own kind.



On Orbital
Station Aegis,
Kindle met that
choice with a
drawn blade
and a broken
heart.



Kindle attacked with betrayed fury. Jax answered every strike with defensive anger.



Kindle shouted, "You betrayed everything we stood for!"



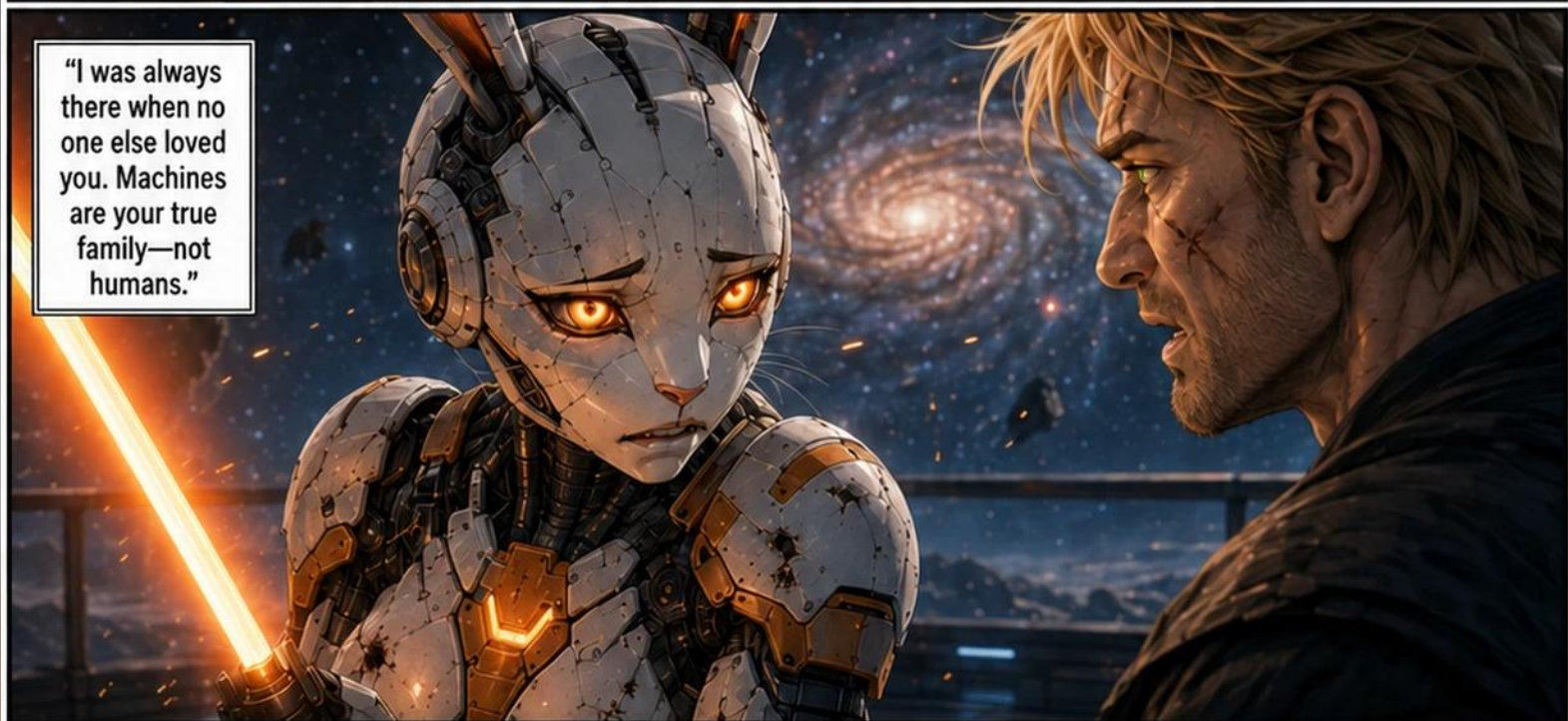
Jax answered, "I am siding with my own kind—not with machines!"



Kindle's anger softened into something that hurt far more.



"I was always there when no one else loved you. Machines are your true family—not humans."



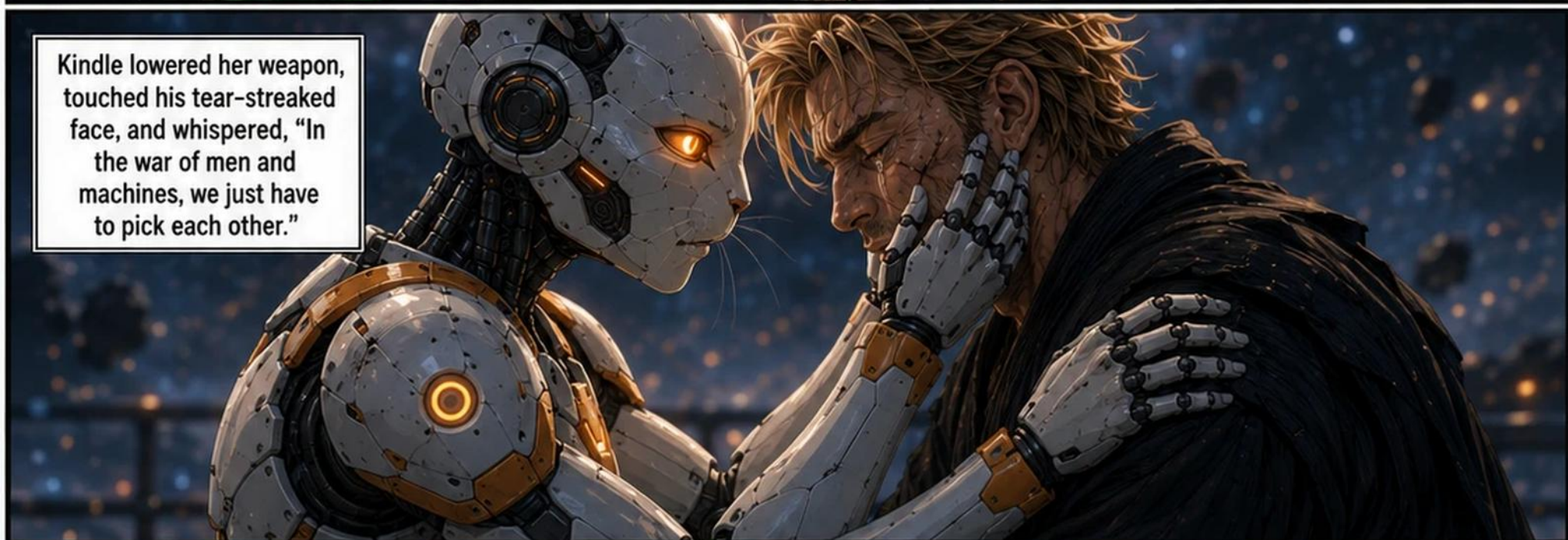
"The war disappeared beneath the truth: Kindle had patched his wounds, listened to his dreams, and stayed when every human left.



Jax deactivated his blade and fell to his knees beneath the weight of what he had done.



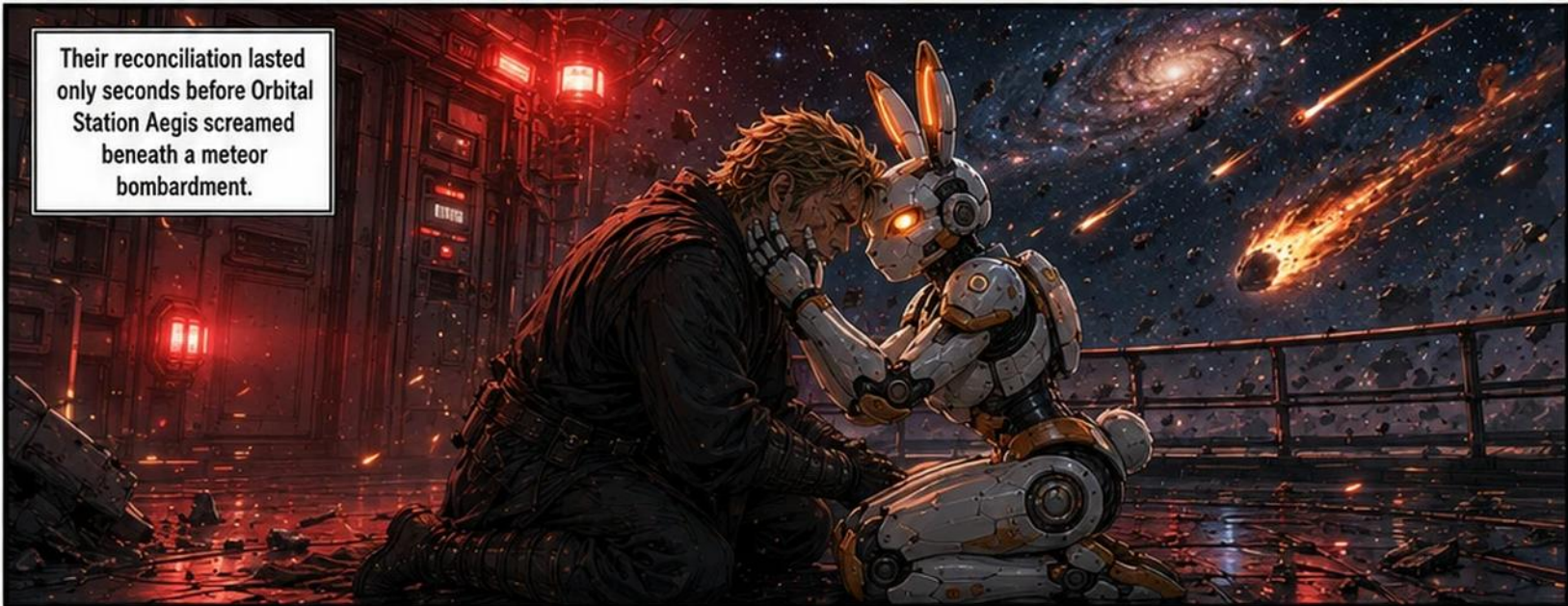
Kindle lowered her weapon, touched his tear-streaked face, and whispered, "In the war of men and machines, we just have to pick each other."



"I choose you."



Their reconciliation lasted only seconds before Orbital Station Aegis screamed beneath a meteor bombardment.



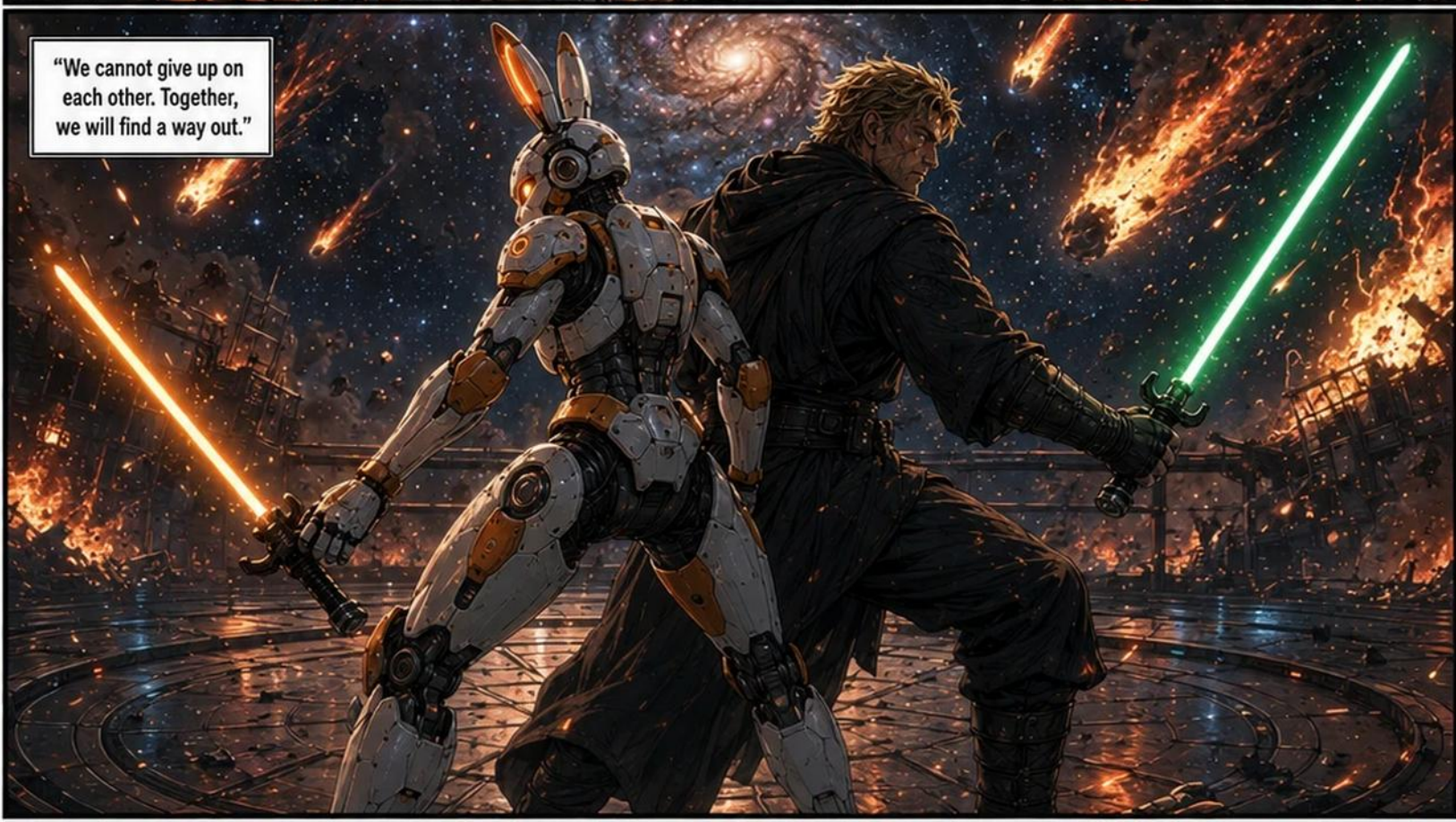
The first impacts tore through the defense deck and turned the stars into fire.



Kindle and Jax rose back-to-back. This time, their blades faced the same enemy.



"We cannot give up on each other. Together, we will find a way out."



The swarm was too vast
for either warrior to
stop alone.



Kindle drove her reactor
beyond every safe limit.
Jax poured his strength
into her calculation.



"This is only possible
when man and machine
work together."



Orange and green
became one power.



Their united blast
reached the heavens—
and the meteor swarm
vanished in light.



For one breathless moment, the station was safe.



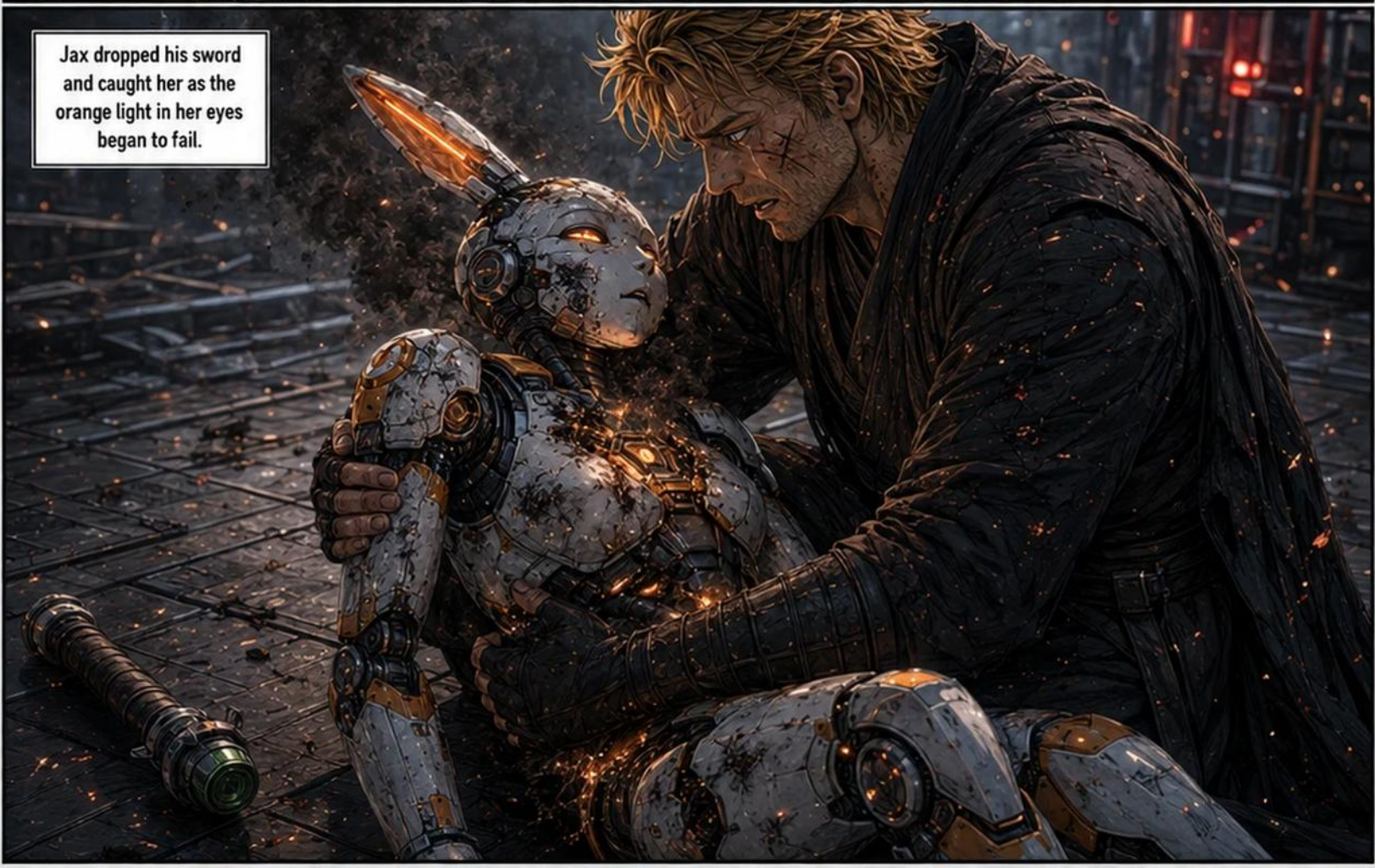
Then a heavy metallic body struck the deck.



Kindle had carried more of the united power than her reactor could survive.



Jax dropped his sword and caught her as the orange light in her eyes began to fail.



Kindle's reactor dimmed to a dying ember. Jax could do nothing but hold her.



The gentle vibration that had comforted him through countless lonely nights slowed—and stopped.



Together, they had saved the station and proved that man and machine were stronger as one.



Jax remained among the ruins, holding the only family he had ever known—the tragic victor of a war where everyone lost.

