

SUPERHERO MANDROID



**THE
SPONGE
GATE**

Dr. Vera Volta studied Hydrohero's live battle scans frame by frame.



The spectrograph named the truth she hated: Mandroid was built from cosmic metals.



Earthly elements had failed against alien engineering.



If Volta wanted to break him, she needed alien material of her own.



Portals were appearing more often, but Volta refused to step through one she could not control.



Hydrohero hesitated when Volta ordered her to collect the readings.



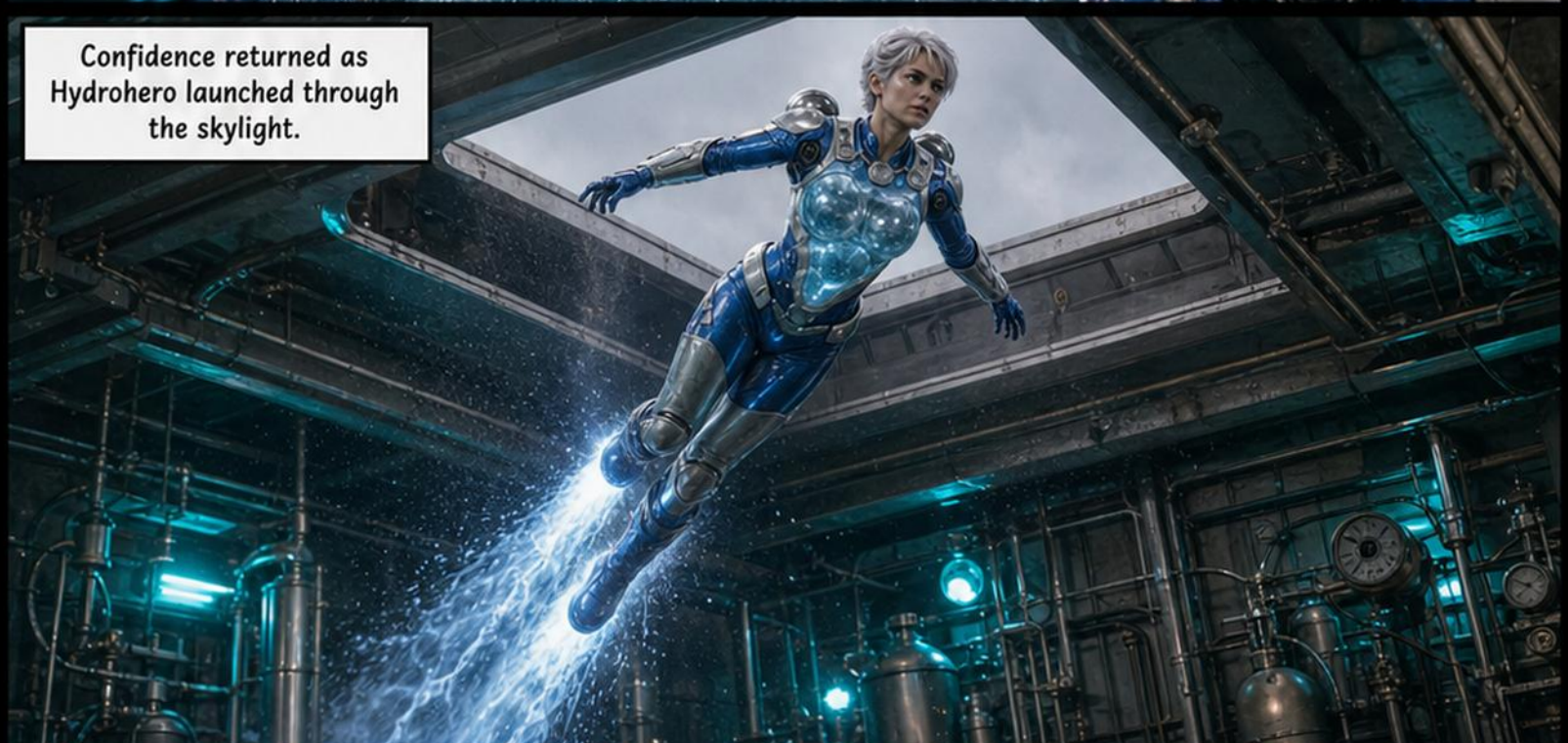
Last time, an empty tank had nearly ended her.



Volta showed the upgrade: ambient water drawn slowly from the air.



Confidence returned as Hydrohero launched through the skylight.



Hydrohero found the portal above a quiet rooftop.



She scanned from a distance, just as Volta demanded.



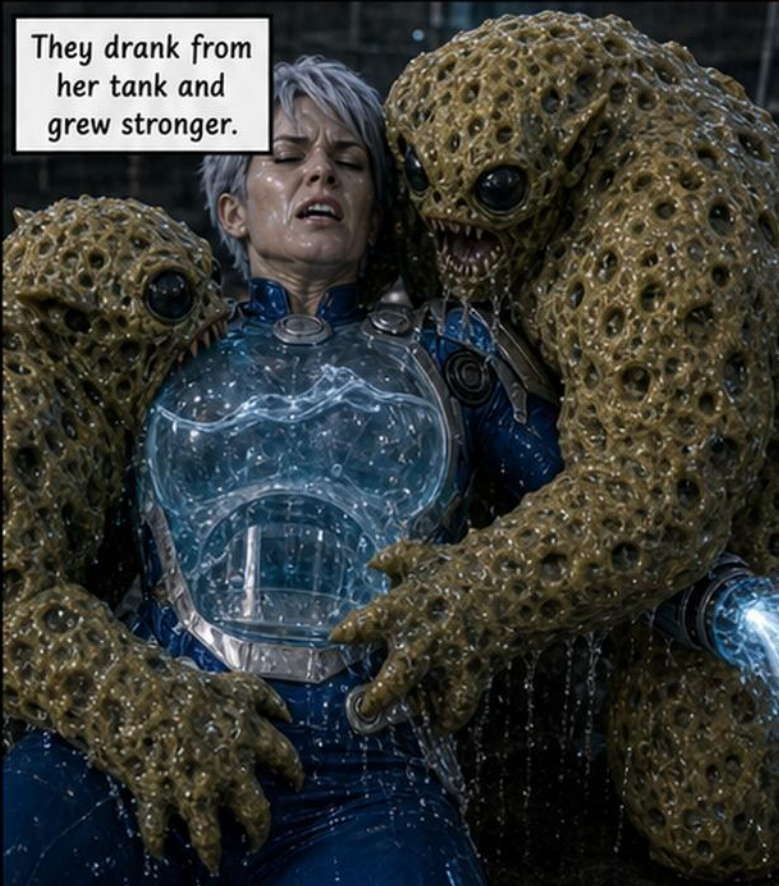
The portal noticed her back.



Two sponge goblins hit like wet bricks.



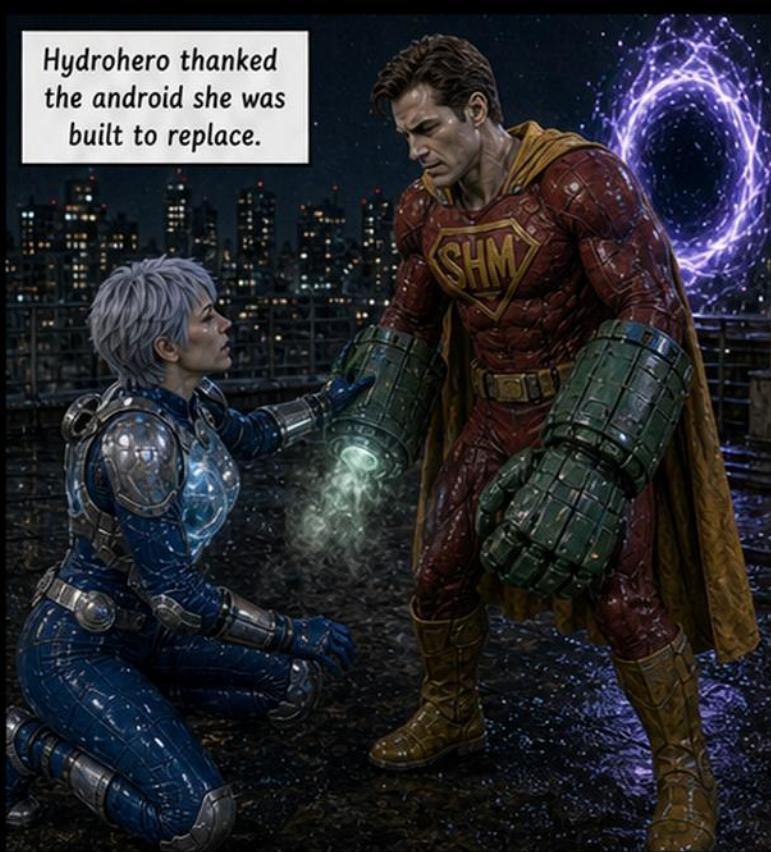
They drank from her tank and grew stronger.



Then Mandroid's rocket fists knocked them away.



Hydrohero thanked
the android she was
built to replace.



Volta's holo-message
cut through the steam.



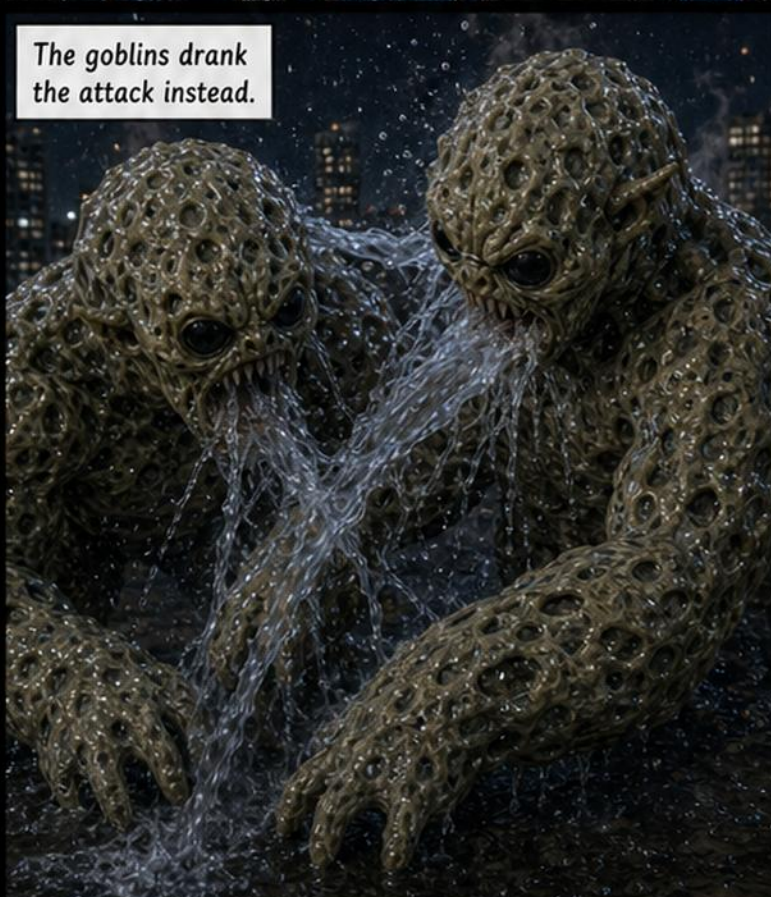
Do not thank the enemy.
Destroy him.



Hydrohero obeyed
with a water burst.



The goblins drank
the attack instead.



Bigger now, they buried
Mandroid under their fists.



Every splash
made them heavier.



Every hit
landed harder.



Mandroid stopped counting
punches and watched the water.



He overclocked his rocket
fists past their safe limit.



The engine flame turned
their stolen strength to steam.



The goblins shrank
as the water boiled away.



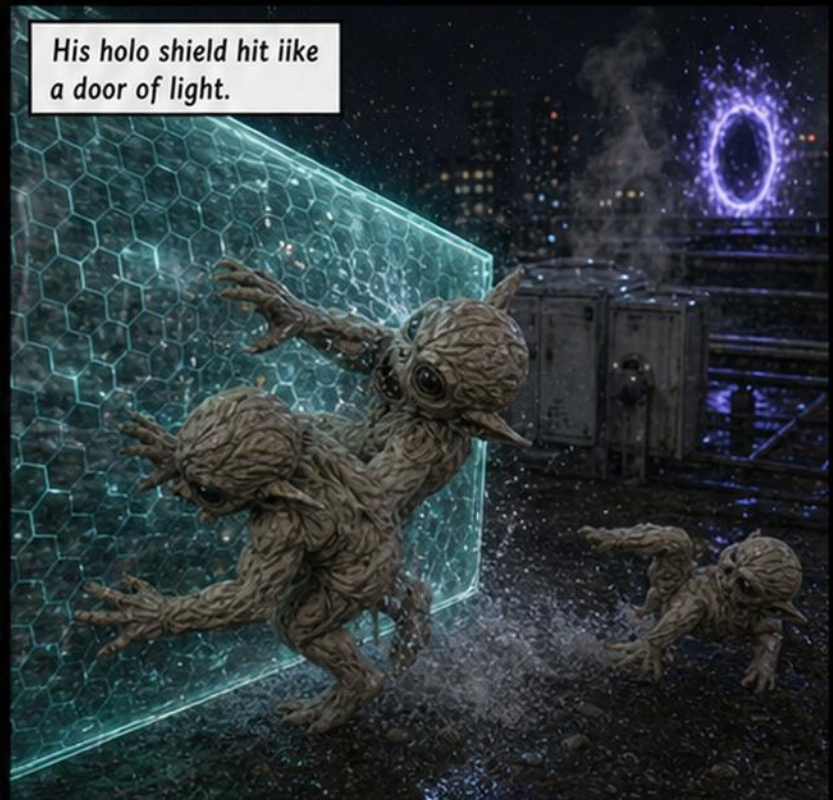
Hydrohero raised
her nozzles to refill them.



Mandroid moved before mercy
became another mistake.



His holo shield hit like
a door of light.



The goblins dropped unconscious
beyond the water stream.



One rocket fist cracked
Hydrohero's tank.



Hydrohero retreated
before the cracked tank
emptied.



Mandroid watched her go,
knowing the fight had
not ended.



Back in the workshop,
Volta ignored the
damage report.



The portal recording
mattered more.



Her first controlled
portal prototype
had begun.

