

SUPERHERO MANDROID



THE PIGEON IN THE BACKROOMS

Hydrohero opened the wrong door.

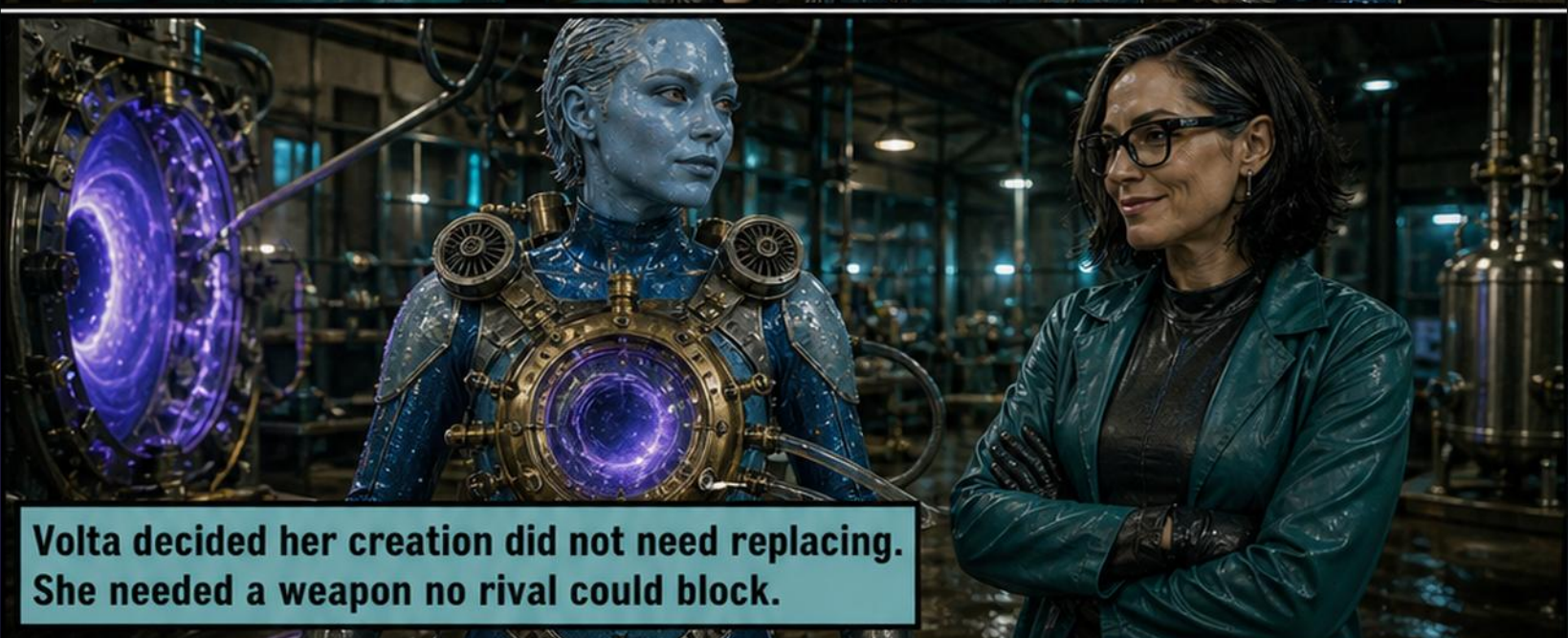
Dr. Vera Volta had wanted portal metal for a better android.



Then Hydrohero almost beat Superhero Mandroid with a little help from sponge goblins.



**Editor's Note:
See Issue 9.**



**Volta decided her creation did not need replacing.
She needed a weapon no rival could block.**

Hydrohero found
Mandroid on patrol
before the portal
alarms did.



He heard water jets
and moved on instinct.



The beam missed
the hero.



It did not miss
the pigeon.



What did you do to it?
Mandroid demanded.



Stay still, Hydrohero said, and you can find out.



She fired again.



Mandroid did not answer with a rocket fist.



He answered with a shield.



Hydrohero landed
where the walls all
looked the same.



The carpet was wet
enough to feed her tank,
so panic came slowly.



A mirror might let her
shoot herself home.



Then the hallway answered
with one distorted, furious coo.



The pigeon had arrived first.



The Backrooms had made it bigger, angrier, and harder to ignore.



Hydrohero charged one last portal beam.



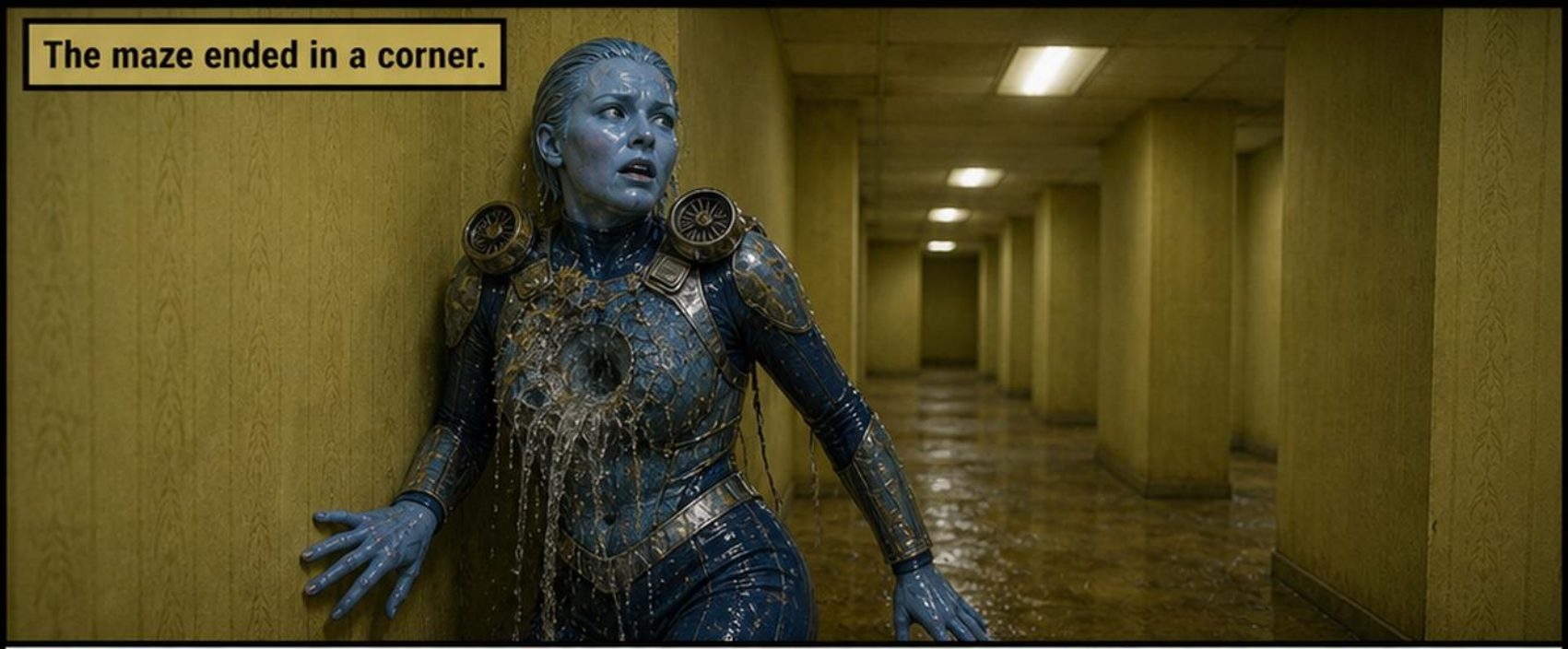
The beak hit first.



Water began to leak from the crack Mandroid had left behind.



The maze ended in a corner.



The pigeon did not.



Then a silver web yanked the beast backward.



I've seen worlds where you make a difference, Webwidow said. Try becoming that version before portals eat you alive.



The web closed before
the Backrooms could follow.



Webwidow patched the
cracked tank with silk
stronger than Volta's pride.



Stop opening doors
you do not understand.
Start being a better hero.



I saved you once.
Next time, I may leave
you to the maze.



Hydrohero thanked him,
and for once she had
no boast ready.

