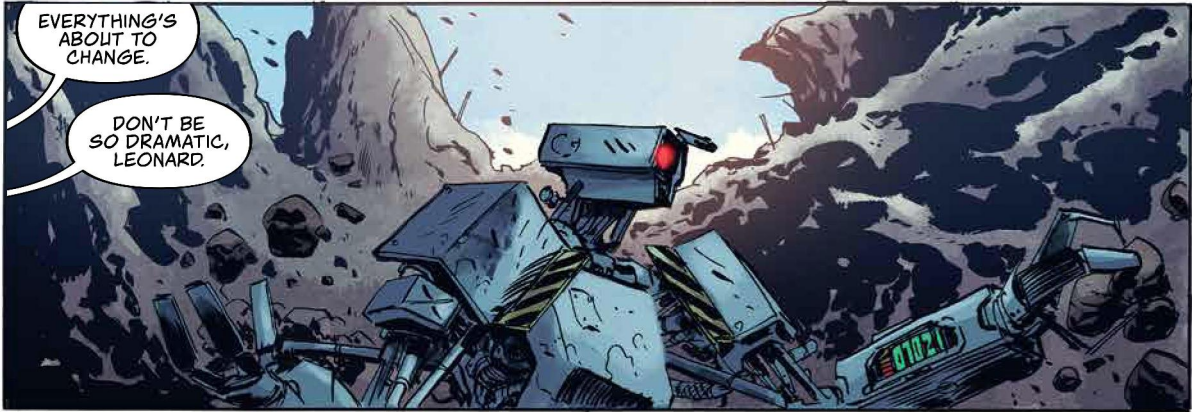


Chapter One

The 'Verse in Flux



EVERYTHING'S ABOUT TO CHANGE.

DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC, LEONARD.



I'M SERIOUS, JAYNE. LOOK AT THOSE THINGS.

EVERYTHING YOU LOVE?

SPACE, FREEDOM, INFINITE POSSIBILITY?

THEY'RE TYING IT UP, SMOOTHING IT OVER.



THE PIRATE'S A POET?

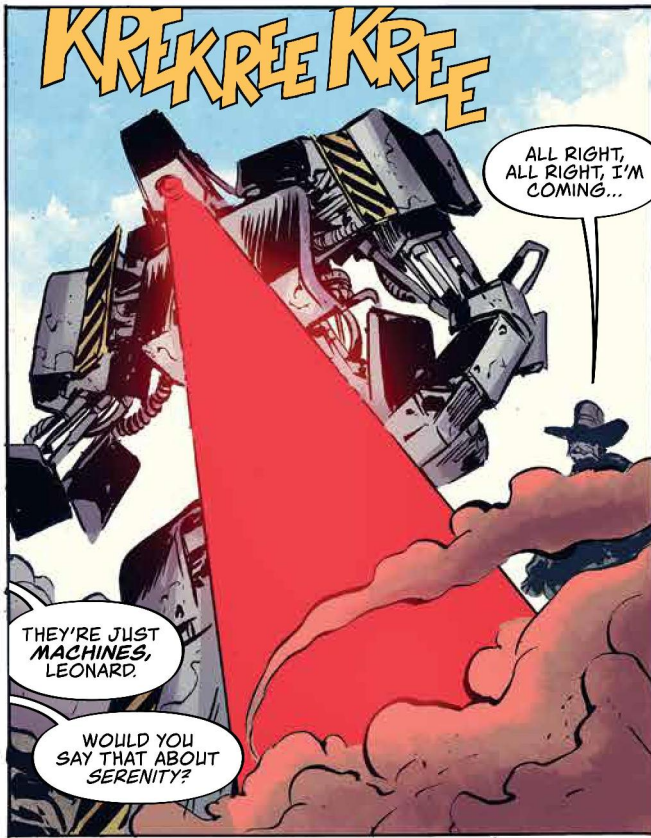
ISN'T HE ADORABLE?

OF COURSE I AM, KAYLEE...



...BUT DON'T THEY SCARE YOU JUST A BIT?

ZZZT
ZZZT







ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, WE'LL CHECK IT OUT.

THE IMPORTANT THING...





YEAH, WELL,
NO THANKS TO
THE DANG
BOTS.

THEY'RE
SUPPOSED
TO DOUBLE AS
SECURITY,
RIGHT?

THOSE
PIRATES JUST
SHORTED
'EM OUT IN
SECONDS!



WELL, WE
ALL KNOW THE
LIMITATIONS OF
THE CURRENT
GENERATION.



BUT THAT'S
EXACTLY WHY
YOUR WORK IS SO
APPRECIATED.



I ASSURE
YOU, SUPERVISOR
LEANDRI...