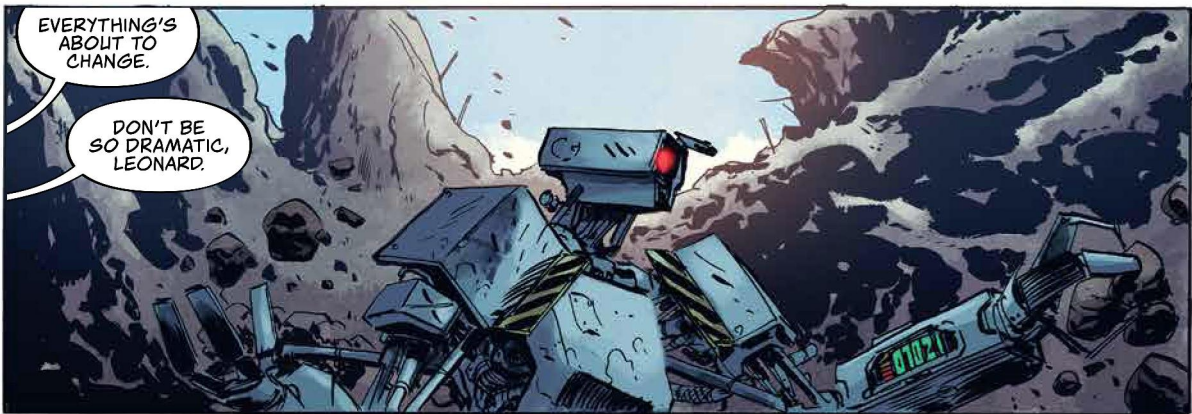


# Chapter One

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?

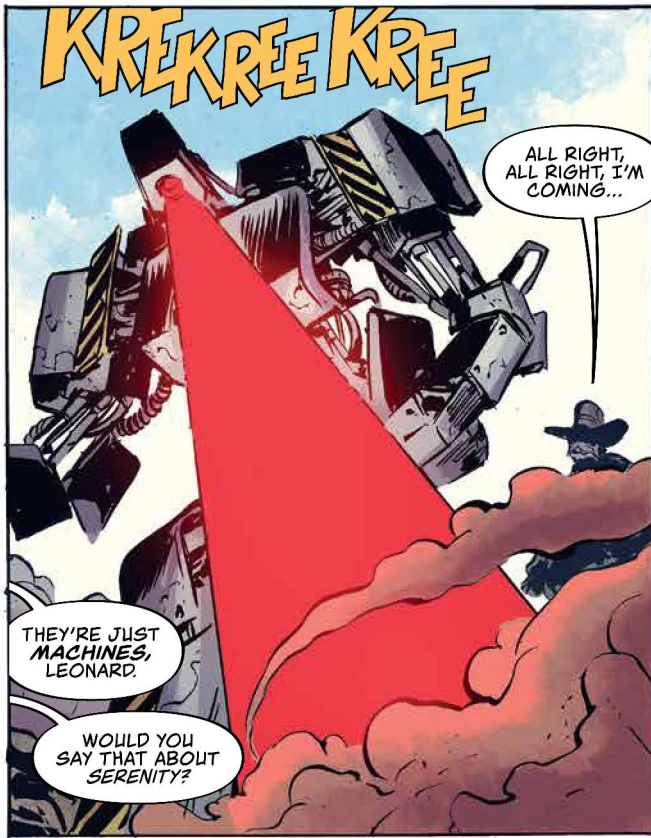
OF COURSE I AM, KAYLEE...



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

ZZT

ZZZZT



**KREKREE KREE**

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'M COMING...

THEY'RE JUST MACHINES, LEONARD.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT ABOUT SERENITY?



AW, SERENITY'S SOMETHING SPECIAL.

MADE FOR FLYING.

MADE TO CARRY US.

SHE'S OUR FRIEND, OUR MOMMA BIRD.



WHO'S THE ROET NOW?

UGGGHHH.



BUT THOSE THINGS DOWN THERE?

LOOK HOW CLUNKY THEY ARE. THEY CAN'T FLY. THEY CAN BARELY WALK.

THEY AIN'T GONNA REPLACE US ANY TIME SOON.

ALL RIGHT, BUT STILL...



...THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF HERE THE BETTER.



OOH. SHINY.







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...