

HOW DID I--

















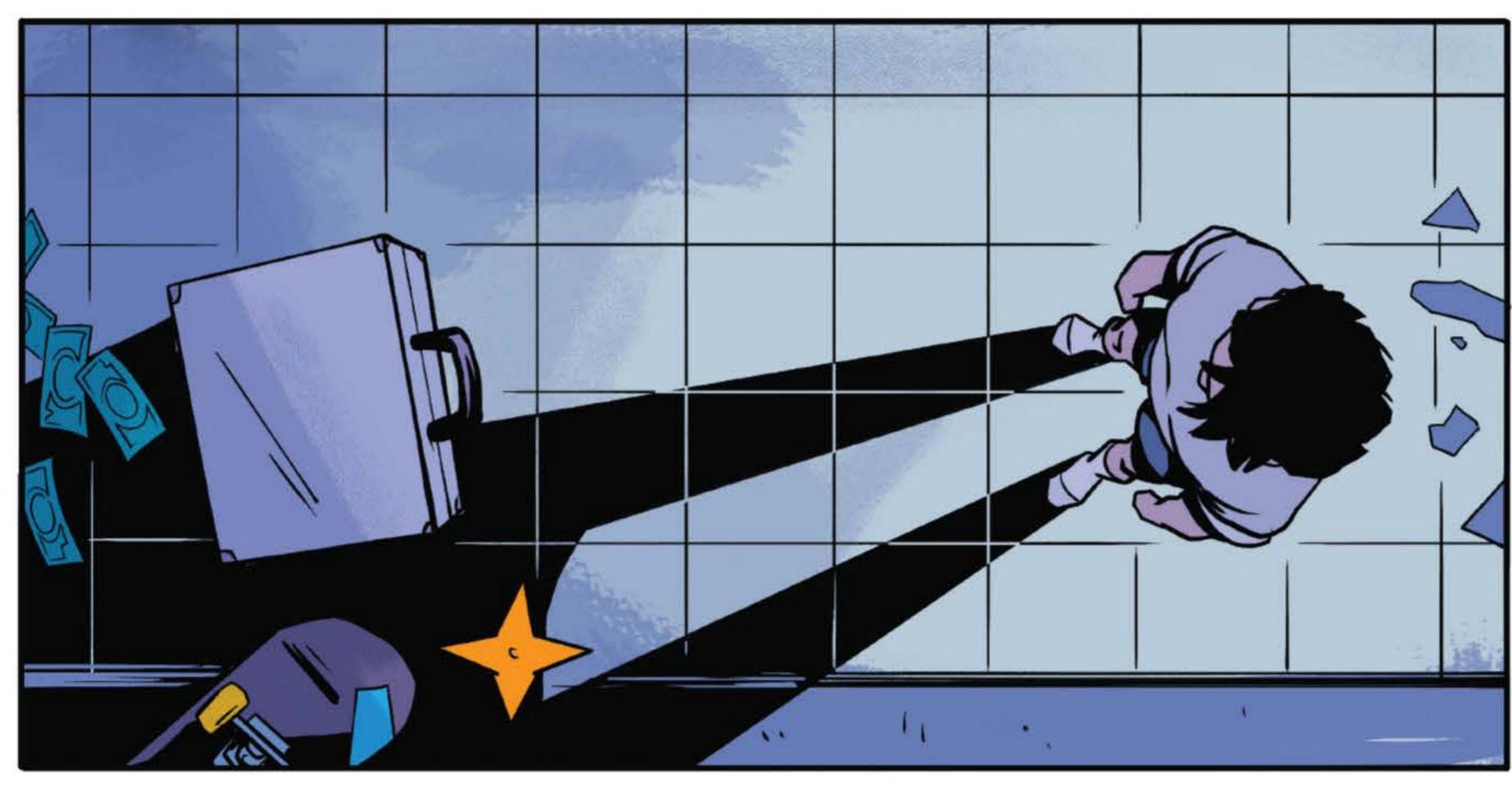
























































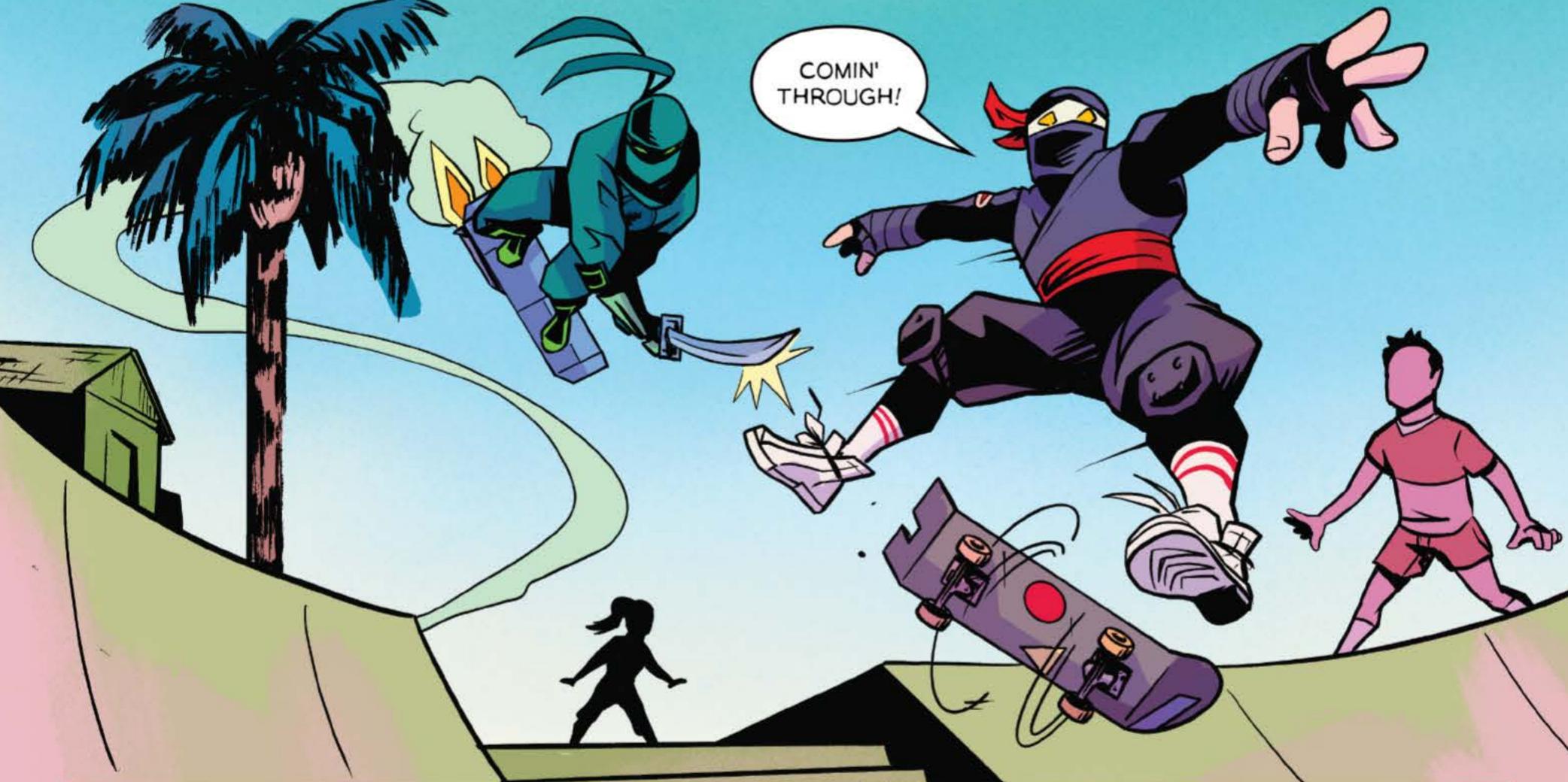




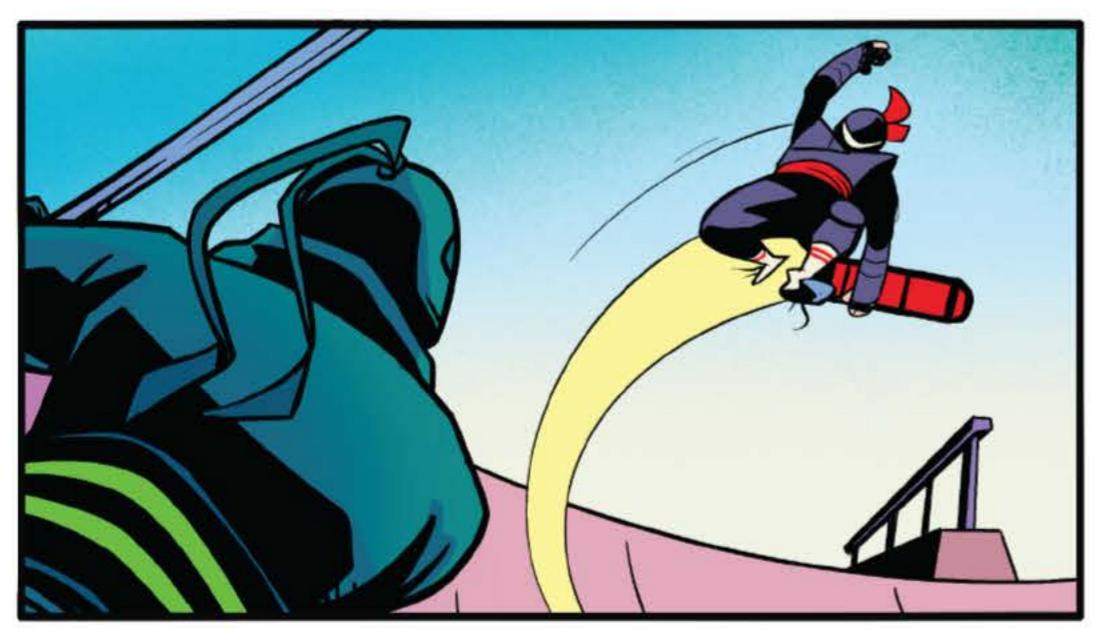




















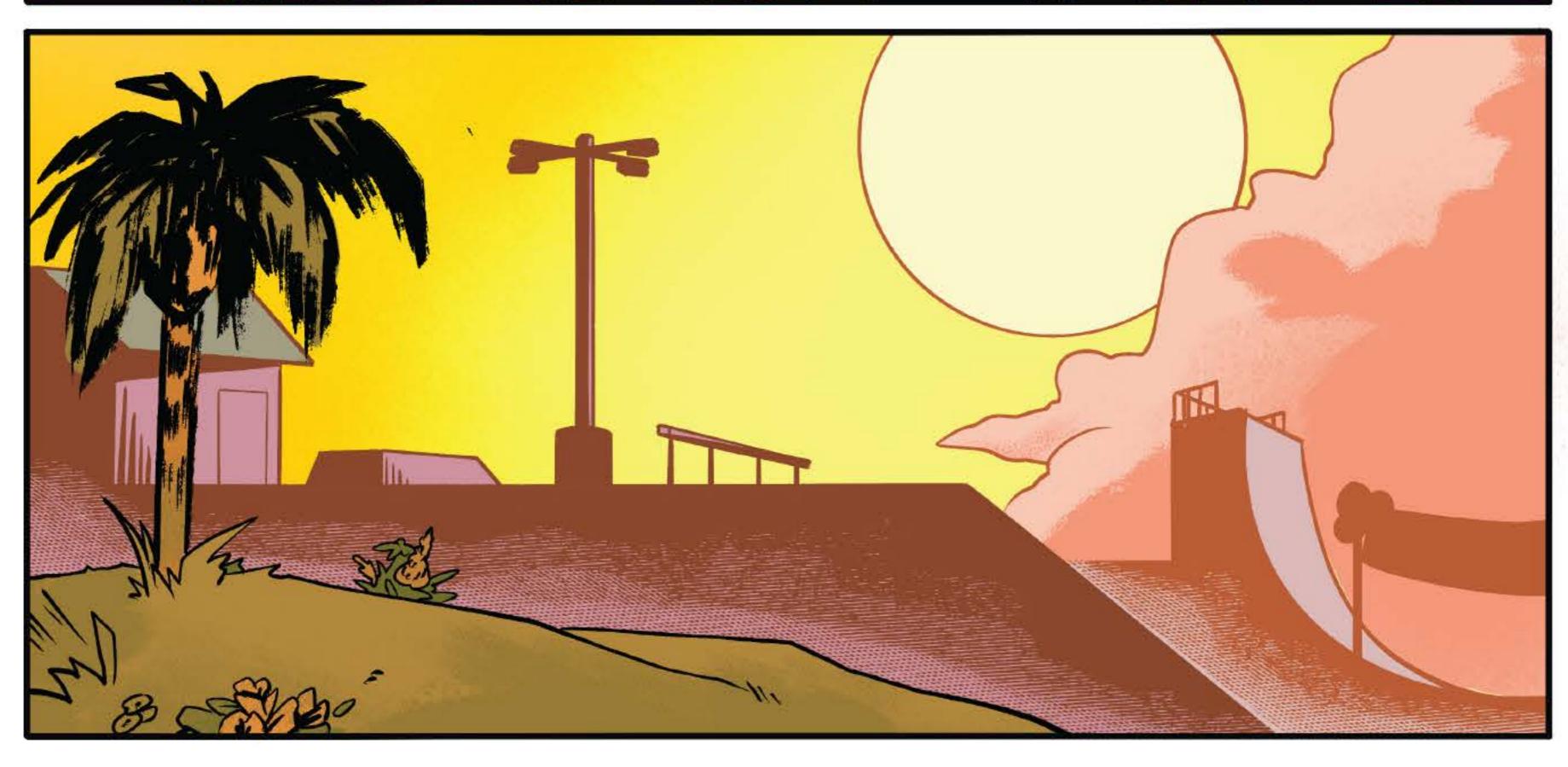






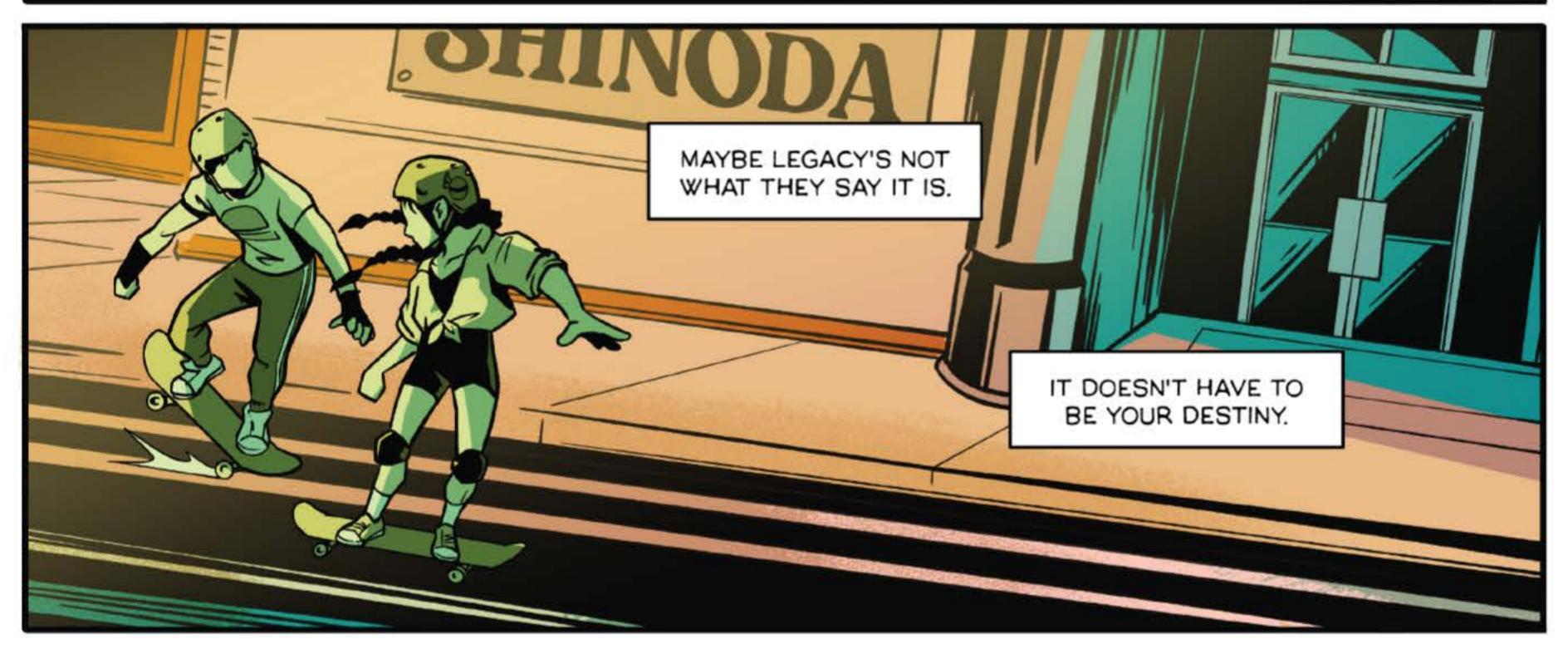


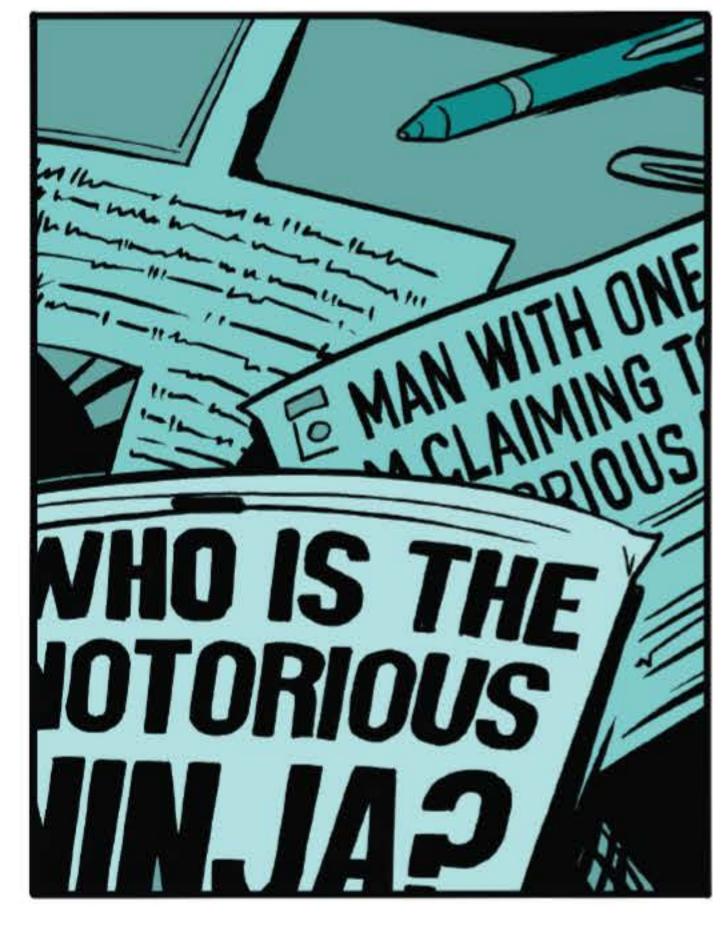




























BULDING CHARACTER

NOTORIOUS NINJA



Original Drawing by Gary Vaynerchuk (Series 1)



Series 2 Design from the Collectible Trading Card Game



Manga Style from Superstickers 2025

L'OU INIEULEIR SEEL L'ILLA COMUNE...

One of the most collected VeeFriends, thanks in part to being the very first VeeFriends Topps Chrome card handed out free at New York City Comicon 2024.

As of writing this (Oct 2025), the coveted 1/1 Superfractor is still out in the wild. Gary jokes a kid pulled it, didn't know what he had, and taped it to a wall.

This character's origin is a fun one. When I started the comics development in January 2024, I was given hours of Gary's meeting recordings about character ideas. I mined them for gold and didn't have to dig far.

In one recording, when Notorious Ninja came up, Gary said, "Skatepark legend. Think Tony Hawk Pro Skater." A ninja on a skateboard? Gold! Somehow, this note slipped through the cracks and was forgotten. Or maybe, like a Ninja, decided to stay hidden.

Not many people heard this, so when I pushed to add a skateboard as an accessory on cards, stickers or pins, I probably sounded crazy.

A big part of of my Character Development job at VeeFriends is pointing back to Gary's original sparks and steering characters to those big ideas. That's where the magic is.

At our first comic story summit in March 2025, I brought this idea up again to the man himself. The brainstorm that followed became the story you see here: Renji as a teen refusing the family mantle, and later as an adult wrestling with whether to carry it forward or let it end with him.

There's a lot more to reveal about our ninja and his family. Stay tuned at VeeFriends.com/comicbooks so you don't miss a beat. Ninjas are sneaky, you never know when they might drop out of nowhere.;)

- D.J. Coffman, Creative Director - October 2025



Our first Topps Chrome card ever was released at NYCC in 2024.

Gary thought it wanted to drop the comic you're reading now at NYCC 2025 and stick with the theme.





VEEFRIENDS.COM

SKETCHINITO SKETCHINITO SKETCHINITO

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FINALIZE
RENJI'S LOOK. HE'S MUCH MORE OF A
SKATER THAN A NINJA SO I WANTED
TO BRING THAT INTO HIS NINJA LOOK.
MAKE HIM LOOK A LITTLE MORE
DISTINCT FROM HIS FATHER'S
NOTORIOUS NINJA. HE'S 16, HE
PROBABLY THOUGHT HIS RATTY
SNEAKERS LOOKED SUPER COOL.



THIS SKETCH WAS THE FINAL DECISION ON RENJI'S LOOK (BESIDES THE HAIR AT LEAST)





IN A SIMILAR VEIN, I FOCUSED MUCH MORE ON THE 90S AESTHETIC THAN THE NINJA AESTHETIC OF THE STORY. WE SPEND MORE TIME WITH RENJI AS A COOL SKATER KID THAN A NINJA ANYWAY. YOU KNOW THOSE TEAL AND PURPLE JAZZ SOLO CUPS? YEAH, I WANTED THE STORY TO LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE. OR AT LEAST LOOK SIMULTANEOUSLY RETRO AND MODERN.



SHE'S COTAL COTAL





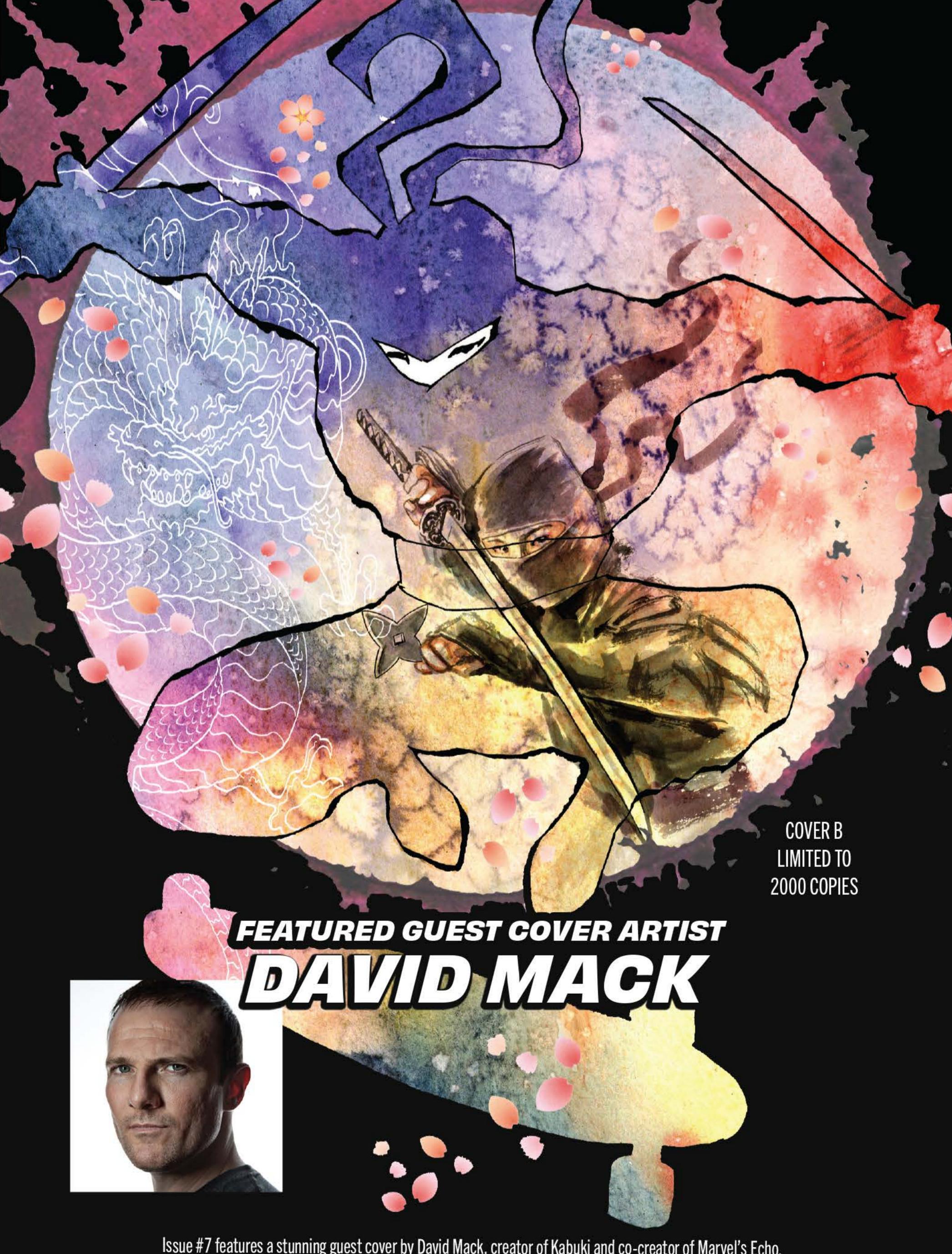
SO, I GET RATHER... INVOLVED, LET'S SAY, WITH MAKING MY COMICS. I TAKE A LOT OF MY OWN REFERENCE PHOTOS. MAYBE IT'S THE KID IN ME OR MAYBE IT'S THE ANATOMY TEACHER IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD, I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S JUST SOMETHING SO FUN ABOUT BEING YOUR OWN DRAWING MODEL. STUCK ON A PAGE? GO POSE IT OUT. NEED A DRAWING BREAK? GO BE AN IDIOT IN FRONT OF A CAMERA AND COME BACK.

THIS
IS A FUN JOB.
I LIKE HAVING
FUN DOING IT.









Issue #7 features a stunning guest cover by David Mack, creator of Kabuki and co-creator of Marvel's Echo. His signature watercolor and mixed-media style brings texture and emotion to VeeFriends in a big way.

We aim to work with the best: J. Scott Campbell launched our series with Cover #1, Jae Lee guested on #5, and David Mack was at the top of our wish list. We couldn't be more thrilled and honored to have him on this issue. Stay up to date with David's new projects online at davidmackarts.com