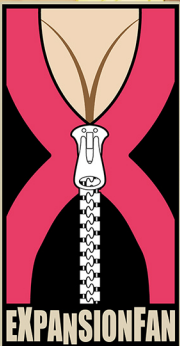


SNAKE OIL



WRITER: DRAGON6860

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Editor:

VALEYARD VINCE

Snake Oil 2

Arriving in the town of Lost Springs, Baxter gets pulled into a big problem the Sheriff has, and it looks like it's only getting bigger.

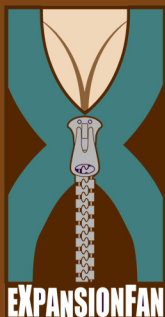
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LOST SPRINGS, 1886. TWO WEEKS AFTER LEAVING THE CRIMSON DOVE...

ON THE TRAAAIIILL... HOPEFULLY THE RIGHT TRAIL THIS TIME...



GET SOME FOOD, A DRINK AND THEN SET UP SHOP IN THE MORNING...

HAVE TO GET A SHIPMENT OF MORE RAW MATERIALS AS WELL... THOSE GIRLS BURNED THROUGH MOST OF MY STOCK...



YES, HOW CAN I HELP YOU...?



UM... MA'AM?

SHERIFF RUTH COOPER. IS THAT YOUR CART OUT FRONT?

YES SHERIFF, DR. BAXTER, AT YOUR SERVICE. SALES START TOMORROW THOUGH...



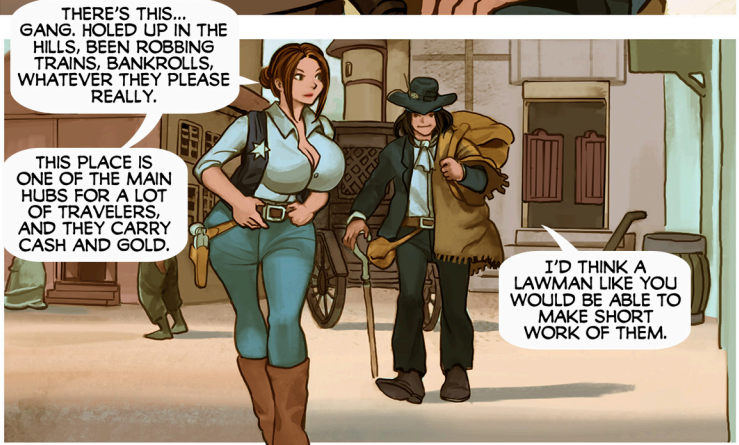
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR MEDICINE. I'VE ONE QUESTION THOUGH. ARE YOU LEGIT, OR ONE OF THE FAKES TRYING TO SCAM TRUSTING TOWNSFOLK?

I ASSURE YOU, I'M AS REAL AS THE DAY IS LONG. BUT AS I SAID, THE STORE OPENS UP TOMORROW.



THEN I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME. THERE'S AN... EMERGENCY.

AH, AS YOU SAY SHERIFF.



THERE'S THIS... GANG, HOLED UP IN THE HILLS, BEEN ROBBING TRAINS, BANKROLLS, WHATEVER THEY PLEASE REALLY.

THIS PLACE IS ONE OF THE MAIN HUBS FOR A LOT OF TRAVELERS, AND THEY CARRY CASH AND GOLD.

I'D THINK A LAWMAN LIKE YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE SHORT WORK OF THEM.



I THOUGHT SO TOO... BUT THEY'VE GOT AN EDGE. A CHEMIST OF SOME SORT. ABLE TO DO VERY STRANGE THINGS.

I TAKE IT THOSE ARE NEW THEN?



I WAS LUCKY, ONLY GRAZED ME. MY DEPUTY SHOVED ME OUT OF THE WAY...

THEN... OH MY.



DR. BAXTER, MEET MY DEPUTY, VI ROSE.

NICE TO MEET YA! FORGIVE ME FOR NOT SHAKING HANDS.

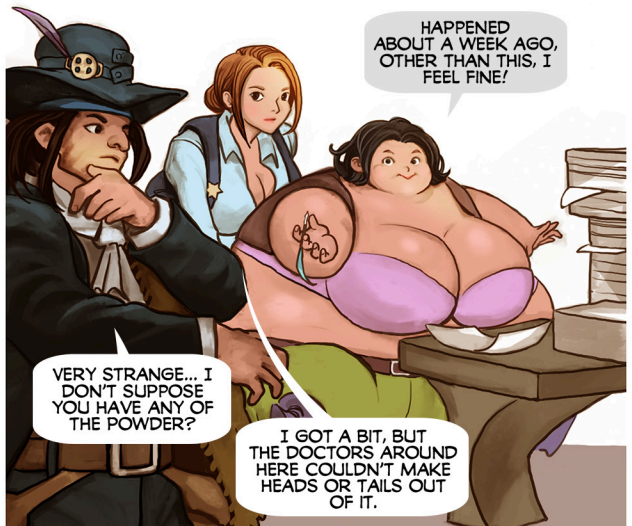
UM... YES, NICE TO... MEET YOU.



SO YOU WERE ATTACKED BY THESE BANDITS?

YUP, SHOVED THE SHERIFF OUT OF THE WAY, AND BAM, CAUGHT A LUNGFUL OF POWDER. SHE ONLY GOT A BIT. AFTER THAT, I STARTED SWELLING UP.

WE RAN OUT OF THE CAVES, LUCKY FOR US I WAS ABLE TO WADDLE MY WAY OUT, I WAS CLOSE TO GETTING STUCK IN THERE!



HAPPENED ABOUT A WEEK AGO. OTHER THAN THIS, I FEEL FINE!

VERY STRANGE... I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE ANY OF THE POWDER?

I GOT A BIT, BUT THE DOCTORS AROUND HERE COULDN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OUT OF IT.



I'D BET NOT...

WELL LADIES, IF YOU WILL GIVE ME THAT SAMPLE, I WILL GET TO WORK AT ONCE. BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU REALLY MAY HAVE A PROBLEM HERE...



I THINK WE DO DR. BAXTER. I REALLY THINK WE DO...



OUTLAW HIDEOUT HIDDEN WITHIN THE MINES OUTSIDE OF TOWN.

I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED.



FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO KNOW. SOME DOCTOR CAME INTO TOWN; APPARENTLY HE'S MAKING UP A CURE FOR YOUR LITTLE TRICK.

A DOCTOR, EH?



"MEN OF SCIENCE" ALWAYS WILL FALL TO...



...HEH, "WOMEN OF MAGIC."

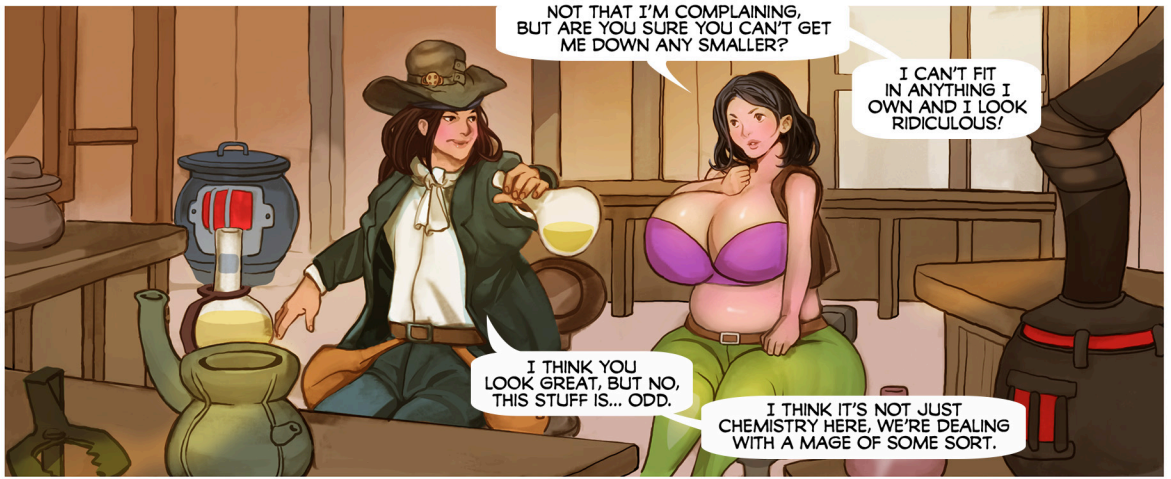
YAH... I SUPPOSE... WE'RE STILL ON FOR THE TRAIN JOB TOMORROW?



RRRR, DAMN IT... WARN ME WHEN YOU DO THAT...



WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT? NOW GO DO YOUR JOB. OR... WELL, LETS JUST SAY YOU WANT TO KEEP ME HAPPY, RIGHT?



NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T GET ME DOWN ANY SMALLER?

I CAN'T FIT IN ANYTHING I OWN AND I LOOK RIDICULOUS!

I THINK YOU LOOK GREAT, BUT NO, THIS STUFF IS... ODD.

I THINK IT'S NOT JUST CHEMISTRY HERE, WE'RE DEALING WITH A MAGE OF SOME SORT.



HATE DEALING WITH MAGIC... BUT I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING.

TRAIN SHIPMENT DETAILS, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING JUST LISTED AS 'N/A', ALMOST TWO CARS FULL OF WHATEVER IT IS.

COULD BE THEIR TARGET... WORTH A LOOK?

BEST LEAD WE'VE HAD IN A WHILE. LEAVES FROM SALT LAKE IN TWO DAYS.

CARE TO COME ALONG DOCTOR? PAY ISN'T GREAT, BUT YOU GET A BADGE.



A BADGE YOU SAY? CONSIDER ME AT YOUR DISPOSAL. WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?



WELL... WE NEED TO GET TO SALT LAKE. NEXT TRAIN OUT LEAVES IN 15 MINUTES. WE CAN JUST MAKE IT IF WE LEAVE NOW.

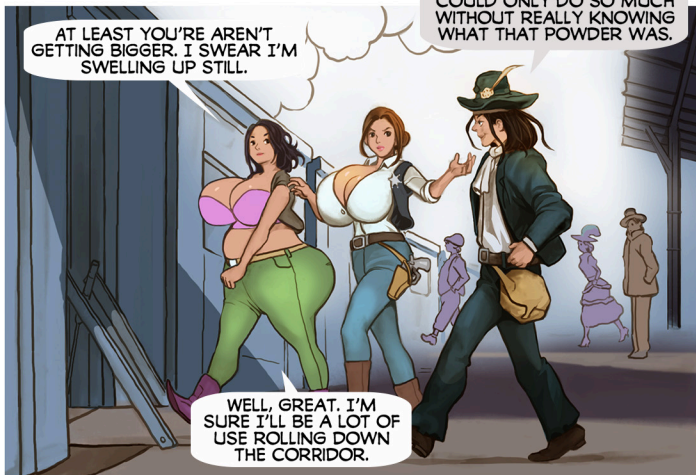
I THINK WE'LL NEED TO GET A COMPARTMENT. MY BUTT ISN'T GONNA FIT IN A NORMAL SEAT.



I FEEL RIDICULOUS. EVERYONE IS STARING AT ME. WHY EXACTLY COULD YOU NOT FIX ME LIKE VI?

TOLD YOU, TRYING TO FIX SOMETHING SMALL LIKE THAT IS RISKY. YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP ALL SHRIVELED OR SOMETHING.

YOU CALL THESE SMALL?



AT LEAST YOU'RE AREN'T GETTING BIGGER. I SWEAR I'M SWELLING UP STILL.

THAT... MAY BE. I COULD ONLY DO SO MUCH WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHAT THAT POWDER WAS.

WELL, GREAT. I'M SURE I'LL BE A LOT OF USE ROLLING DOWN THE CORRIDOR.



YOU WOULDN'T ROLL DOWN THIS. ANOTHER INCH BIGGER AND I'D BE STUCK.

AND THANK YOU FOR THAT IMAGE, SHERIFF.



BUGGER... DON'T MIND ME. SO, SHALL WE GO OVER THE PLAN AGAIN?

RIGHT. WE KNOW THIS IS GONNA BE THEIR TARGET. THEY'RE ALSO GONNA WANT TO ROB THE GENERAL TRAIN.

SO ONCE THEY HIT IT, AND BELIEVE ME, THEY WILL, WE MOVE TO THE BACK.

AND THEN WE TAKE THEM DOWN, RIGHT?

THAT WE DO. SO LETS SIT BACK AND RELAX FOR A WHILE. WE'VE GOT A FEW HOURS BEFORE WE HIT THE RISK ZONE.

THERE IT IS.
RIGHT ON TIME.
LETS GET A
MOVE ON.

YAH, LETS GET
THIS DONE SO I CAN
FINALLY GIVE THAT
DAMN CHEMIST WHAT
SHE DESERVES.

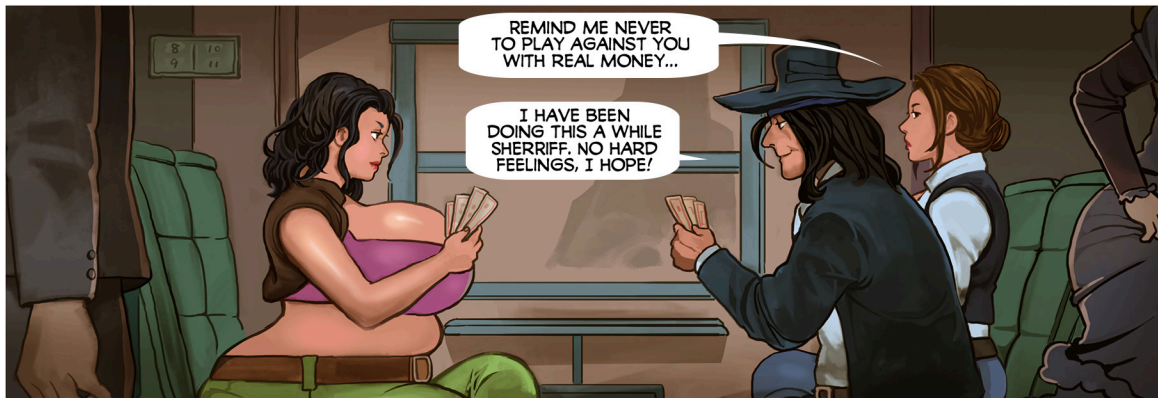
WAIT TILL
AFTER WE GET
PAID, THEN DO
WHATEVER. DON'T
KNOW WHY
YOU'RE SO UPSET
THOUGH.

CAUSE SHE
DIDN'T ASK! AND I
DON'T LIKE THIS, I CAN
BARELY WALK, AND IT
FEELS... WEIRD.

I BET LIZZIE
HERE WOULD'VE
VOLUNTEERED; I'VE
SEEN HER ON THE
POTIONS BEFORE...

BOOM!
NOW LETS
MOVE!





REMIND ME NEVER TO PLAY AGAINST YOU WITH REAL MONEY...

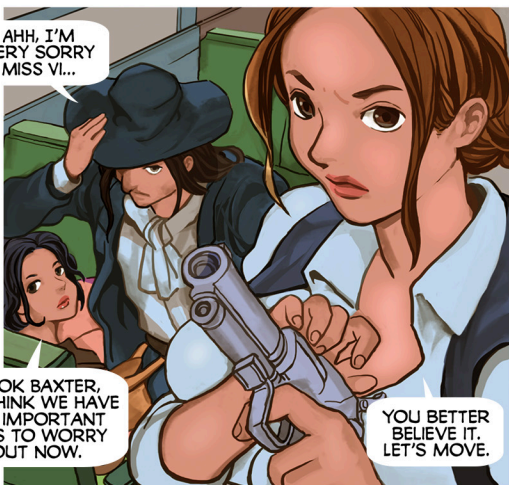
I HAVE BEEN DOING THIS A WHILE SHERRIFF, NO HARD FEELINGS, I HOPE!



FWA-BOOM!!!

OW!

OOOFF!



AHH, I'M VERY SORRY MISS VI...

THAT OK BAXTER, BUT I THINK WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT NOW.

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT. LET'S MOVE.



THAT'S RIGHT, KEEP ON HANDING IT OVER AND NO ONE HAS TO WORRY ABOUT GOING UP A DRESS SIZE!



FREEZE! DON'T MOVE OUTLAWS!

CLICHÉ SHERRIFF! THINK FAST!



OOOF! HELP US BEFORE WE'RE TOO BIG TO MOVE!



OW, WATCH IT! I'M STILL GETTING BIGGER!

SHUT UP! OOOO, I FEEL FUNNY...



EVERYONE JUST CALM DOWN! WE NEED TO GET PAST YOU!

I THINK THAT MAY BE A PROBLEM SHERRIFF...

YOU FEEL FUNNY! I'M BREAKING THE TRAIN WITH MY HIPS!



I CAN BARELY MOVE, I CAN'T GO HOME LIKE THIS!

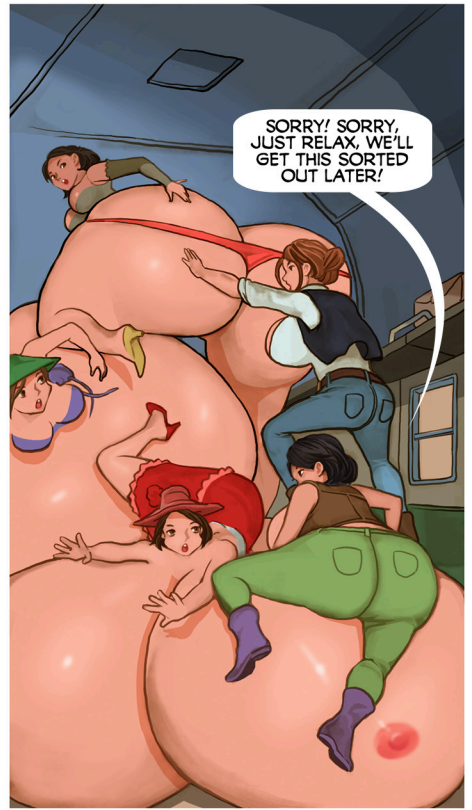
JUST HELP US! DO SOMETHING!

REMAIN CALM, WE'LL HELP YOU IN A BIT!

I THINK WE MAY BE PAST THAT POINT...



AAAH!
PLEASE, DON'T...
OOH GOD, THAT...
FEELS GOOD...



SORRY! SORRY,
JUST RELAX, WE'LL
GET THIS SORTED
OUT LATER!

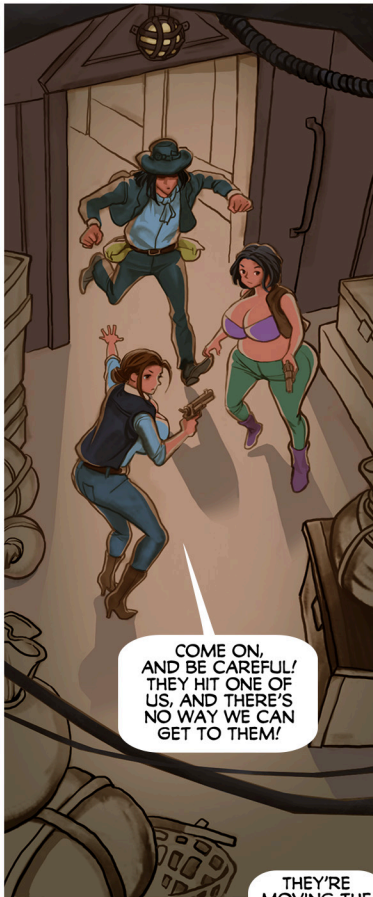


HURRY UP,
BAXTER! FEEL UP
THE GIRL LATER!

I'M NOT! WELL,
A LITTLE, BUT NOT
ENTHUSIASTICALLY!



SORRY MA'AM!
WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO
NORMAL SOON!



COME ON, AND BE CAREFUL! THEY HIT ONE OF US, AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET TO THEM!



SHINY STUFF...
MMM, AND WORTH MORE THAN FIVE CARS FULL OF GOLD.

STOP GAWKING. MOVE IT OUT, THEY'LL BE HERE SOON!



THEY'RE MOVING THE STUFF NOW... READY? WE GO IN GUNS BLAZING.

READY.

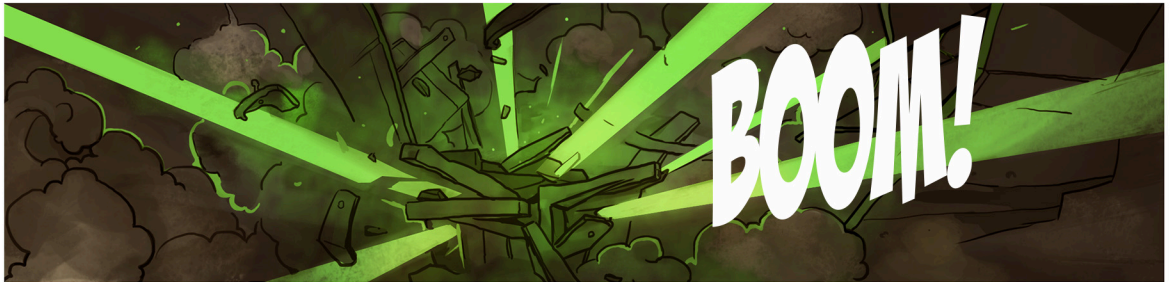


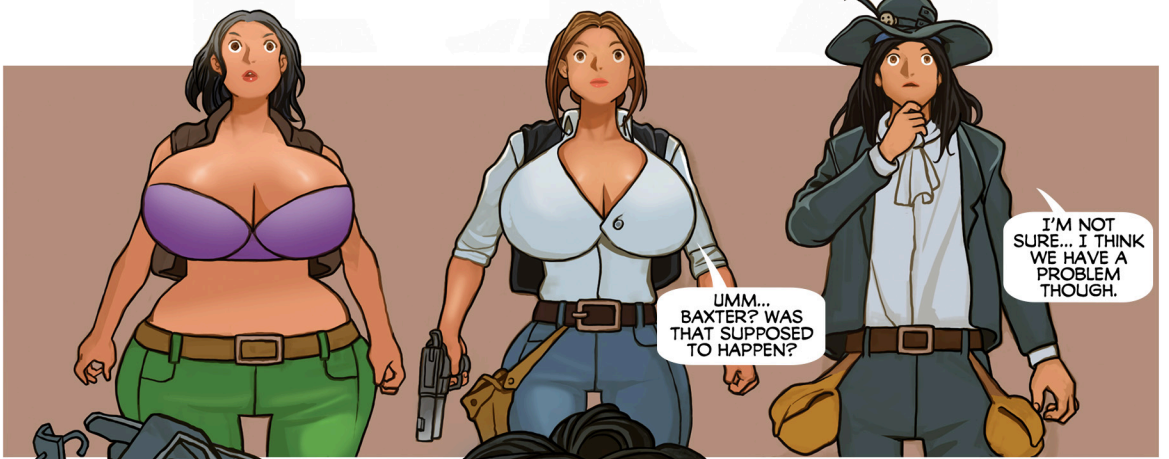
ON YOUR ORDER...



BANG! BANG! BANG!

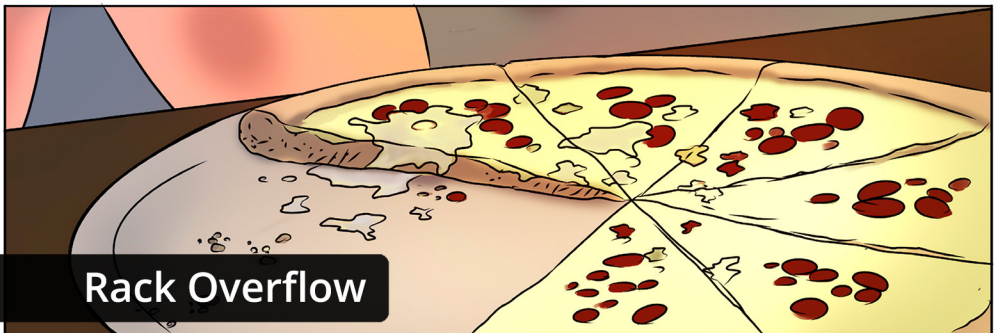






TO BE CONTINUED...

check out some
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upcoming lineup

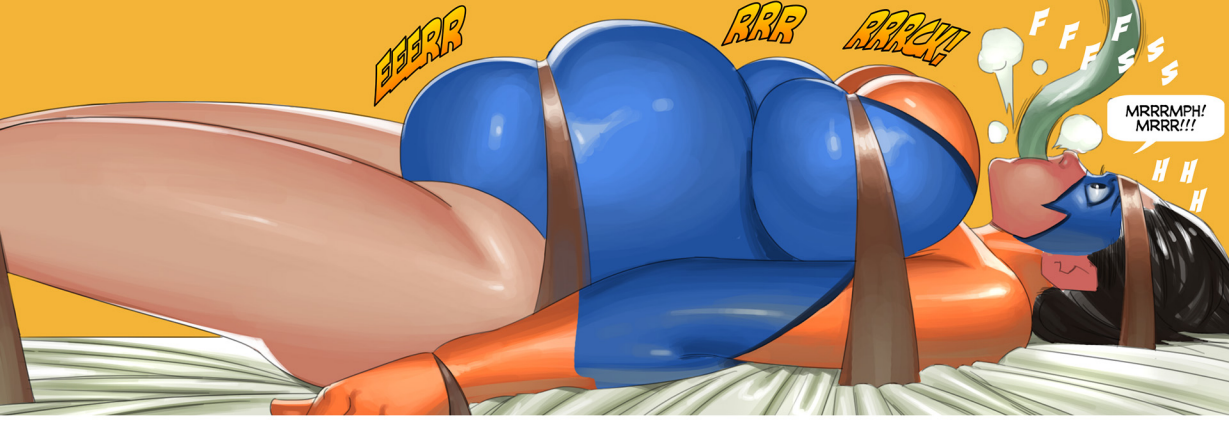


Rack Overflow



DEFENDED?
WITH THIS FORCE?
HARDLY!

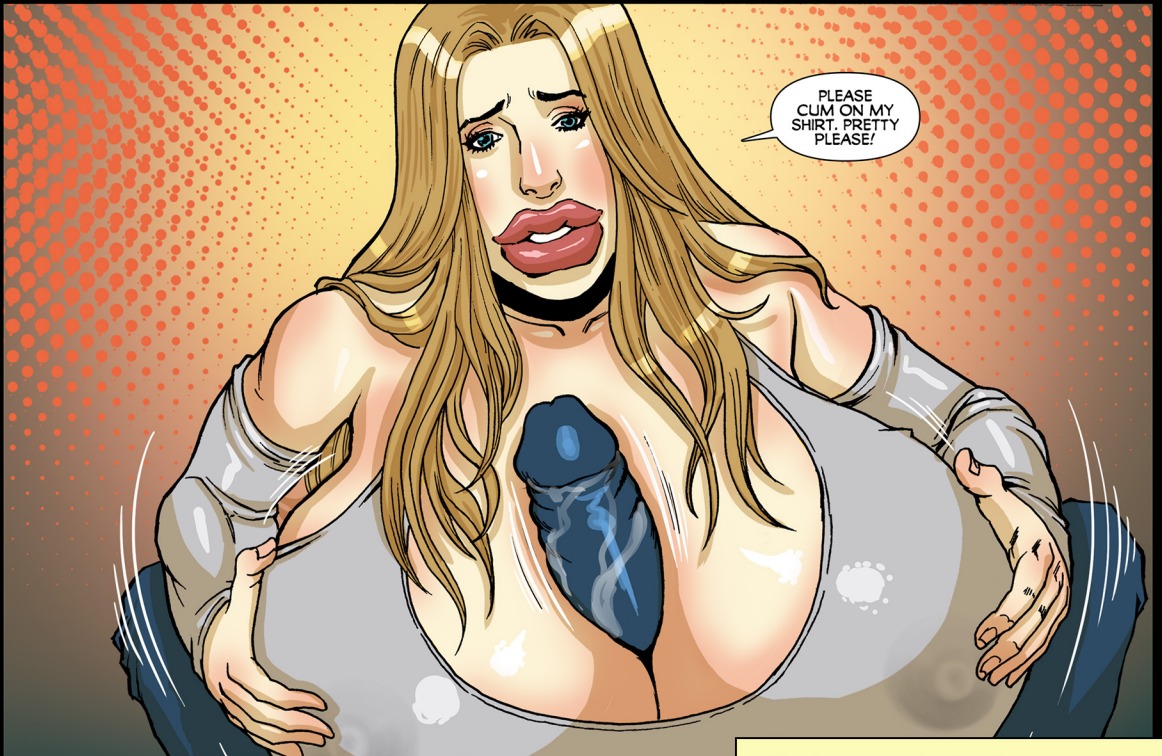




OOH, YOU BLOW UP PRETTY FAST! I CAN TELL THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN ALREADY!

HERE, LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT! I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE GOING ANYWHERE FOR NOW...

THERE WE GO, DOESN'T THAT FEEL SO MUCH BETTER? FREE AS A BIRD, LIGHT AS A FEATHER... BIG AS A BLIMP!



Inflated Ego 7

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