

## Vat 4: King! Part II

### INTRO (V04\_P01\_INTRO)

PANEL 1 : Andrew talking to Beth

Andrew: So, did the ending last issue leave you wondering about Sophie?

PANEL 2: Andrew and Beth talking

Beth: Well, Sophie did do some INTERESTING things ... I'm not sure it was really necessary, Andrew.

Andrew: Oh come now. At least Sophie wasn't naked the entire series, as I originally wanted.

Beth: (softly) Thank goodness for Wintress, Stephanie ... and Nate.

### **Vat 4, Scene 1 (V04\_P02\_YourRetirement, V04\_P02XP\_YourRetirement)**

#### **Panel 1:**

**Art:** We see Sophie ("real," sci-fi Sophie, wearing the same futuristic gear we saw her in at the end of #3). She's sitting in a dim room (it's an office, but you can't make out much detail) -- the only light in the room is the light from the three floating in mid-air computer screens (they are pure LCD panels that are transparent and have no frames or physical parts -- they are projected screens that somehow float in space like magic and Sophie is tapping on one (they also function as keyboards) Art note: reminder that all future scenes are done in "cartoony" style

**Sophie:** (sighs)

#### **Panel 2:**

**Art:** Close up of Sophie. She looks tired. She's typing on one of the screens -- this screen has a future keyboard on it. Note the keyboard has a key layout that is weird -- about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a normal keyboard and each key has a symbol on it. The idea is that the computer is also tapped into her brain and this mini-keyboard is used when thinking out text just as an "aid" (like a bunch of "SHIFT" or "ALT" keys to her mental typing).

**Narration:** "This case continues to be of a mystery to me. I've found nothing like it in our archives or other subjects. It seems that Eric --"

#### **Panel 3:**

**Art:** Sophie's brow is furrowed.

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** CU of Sophie's finger on the "Backspace" key (it just has a big symbol like <-[x] ) on it

Sound: 1 strong taps

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Sophie is typing.

Sounds: taps are once every 2 words – this is not normal typing

**Narration:** ". . . that **SUBJECT 4089** has developed a rather unique set of coping mechanisms, even while his physical condition deteriorates. The most alarming – and newest -- of these mechanisms is his ability to forcibly shut me out."

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** Close up of Sophie's eye; a tear forming in the corner.

**Narration:** "I fear that we may be running out of time and need to change our current course of action... the subject is far too important.

**Vat 4, Scene 2 (V04\_P04\_FuckingJake)**

**Panel 1 (full page panel):**

**Art:** Braen puts his hood down; he's speaking to the guards at the castle gates at dawn.

**Braen:** I've a message here for a woman called Jessica. She's a servant here. Her sister's taken ill.

**Panel 2 (panels overlay on top of panel 1):**

**Art:** Guard 1 is looking in the direction of the road.

**(Off panel):** indistinct shouting

**Guard 1:** What the --??

**Scene 3**

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** the two guards and Braen are all looking at something off-panel.

**Voice off-panel (prison guard):** GET HIM!!!

**Jake off-panel:** (triumphant laughter)

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Jake is running up the road; the two prison guards are running after him.

**Jake:** I told ye! No cell can hold ME!! Ahhhahahaha!

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Braen's face; he's obviously furious and horrified that Jake is screwing up his plan.

**Braen (to himself):** *Damn it, Jake . . .*

#### **Vat 4, Scene 3 (V04\_P05\_Scuffle)**

##### **Panel 1:**

**Art:** Braen is sliding the letter back into his pocket; in the background, one of the prison guards has tackled Jake and they are on the ground.

**Prison Guard:** Stop him! He's getting away!!!

**Jake:** Braeeennn!!!

**Braen:** . . . didn't want to have to do this . . .

**Jake and prison guards:** <random scuffling noises/shouting>

##### **Panel 2:**

**Art:** Braen reaches out and grabs both castle guards; knocks them out (perhaps he clunks their heads together?) – he looks reluctant

**Panel 3 (big panel – or 3 to show action or to show a close up of the fallen letter, whatever you prefer Ernie):**

One big shot to cover the following idea – just have V's letter falling during an big fight shot

Jake has gained the upper hand over one of the prison guards; now he's got a guard pinned to the ground. But the other guard is behind Jake; he has a dagger raised – Jake doesn't see him. Braen intervenes just in time. They all fight. Braen knocks one of the guards down; Jake kills the other guard in the struggle.

**NOTE:** at some point during the fight, V's letter needs to fall out of Braen's pocket.

**Vat 4, Scene 4 (V04\_P06\_TriPiece)**

**Panel 1**

**Art:** Jake is hunched over the dead guard, pulling a sci-fi tri-piece off the guard and putting it to his temple – same thing that Sophie in the real world is using-

**Braen:** We need to move. There's not much time, thanks to you –

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Jake has the floating screen show up in front of him and he is looking at it and almost tapping on it – it is showing a family picture with a woman and children – the screen is large and breaks out of the panel He's making a face.

[This tri-fold metal electronic gadget is the main element in our future world – it contains all the electronics a person needs (so they can otherwise be in any garb they want) and has the power of many super computers as well as connected into the future version of the Internet – I think having it used inside the Vat could be pretty useful later on too – Eric and Sophie clearly know a lot about them. Let me know if you think this is too far, but we have established sci-fi pretty strong by now and this would be an indication that the world in here knows about that world on some level?]

**Braen:** Jake?

**Jake:** Gah! That's 'is wife?! She's gotta face like a –

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Braen smacks the device off Jake's head – it falls and the screen falls with it;

**Braen:** Stop being an idiot, we've got a plan. The Cap'n and all the rest are waitin'.

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Braen is already running to the unguarded castle gate. He's shouting to Jake over his shoulder.

**Jake:** A plan? What are ye –

**Braen:** Let's GO!!

**Vat 4, Scene 5 (V04\_P07\_Approach, V04\_P07XP\_Approach)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Eric, Ariana, and Velouria are crouched in the woods. In the distance, we can see the back of the castle. It's the servants' entrance, so it's pretty utilitarian. A door, some barrels stacked up, maybe a wagon. There's a large hook by the door (that's important for later, as it's necessary for Jessica's signal).

**Ariana:** This doesn't feel right, Brainstorm . . .

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Closer view of the group. Ariana is eyeing Velouria; she still thinks V. is setting them up. V is watching the castle door, Ariana is still talking.

**Ariana:** Where's the signal? Where's this . . . this SERVANT woman?

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Eric has a hand on Ariana's shoulder. She's still looking skeptical. V looks angry; she knows what Ariana is implying.

Eric: Patience, love.

**Velouria:** Jessica will be here. She'd never betray me.

**Panel 4**

**Art:** CU of Ariana; narrowed eyes; evil expression.

**Ariana:** It's not HER I'm worried about.

**Vat 4, Scene 6 (V04\_P09\_TiedUp)**

Panel 1 (need props to tone this down for Prude version)

Art: Halford is screwing a woman in his bed, she is bound up and helpless; she is a little nervous looking but acts like she is enjoying it. This is a big full page shot – a “poster” looking quality shot. This (and the next scene) are our only sex scenes, so we need to really prop them up.

**Vat 4, Scene 6(B) (V04\_P09XP\_TiedUp)** – these panels should not cover only 80% of the whole page, they will be layered on top of Scene 6 to provide a different feeling and we want some of scene 6 to peek through when we present Scene 6(B). These panels will also be slightly overlapped on each other (by me) so you can assume a little more of Scene 6 will show as well

Panel 1-3 (props to tone it down for Prude)

Art: Halford banging the woman (do a close up of her chest in one shot, a mid distance shot, a side shot?)

Panel 4 (Prude version as XP)

Art: Halford is admiring his work and the woman is totally naked on the bed, he is releasing one of the woman's hands from the bondage

Woman: ...thank you for honoring me, m'lord...

Halford: grunts dismissively

Panel 5 (Prude version as XP)

Art: Show guard with letter in his hand entering the room, we see the girl sitting up, still naked, releasing her other hand

Guard: Sir, I have something important... an odd letter.



**Vat 4, Scene 7 (V04\_P11\_Directions)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Braen is speaking to the suspicious-looking servant.

**Braen:** I'm looking for Jessica. I was told I'd find her here. It's urgent –

**Jake:** Braen! There's bound to be more of 'em comin'!

**Panel 2**

**Art:** Braen looks behind him; the servant is looking at him; he's skeptical.

**Servant:** Who are you? What do you want with—

**Jake (off-panel):** Braen!!! We've gotta go!!

**Panel 3**

**Art:** Braen holds a knife to the man's neck.

**Servant:** OH!

**Braen:** I won't ask you again! Jessica – where is she?!

**Servant:** She's – she's in the larder, last I saw. Down that corridor. P -- Please . . . don't –

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** The servant is watching Braen and Jake run away; he's got a hand to his throat.

**Vat 4, Scene 8 (V04\_P12\_Kitchen)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Braen and Jake are standing in the kitchen. Braen is holding a couple of chickens and Jake is holding a loaf of bread or something. Jessica and a young servant girl are looking up from whatever they're doing (baking bread, stirring pots, chopping, etc.)

**Braen:** Delivery here! We're looking for Jessica.

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Jessica comes forward. She's peering at Braen.

**Jessica:** I'm Jessica. But I don't recall placing an order . . . ?

**Panel 3: (might need 2 panels for this)**

**Art:** . Zoom in on the ring Braen's wearing around his neck. Jessica is wide-eyed; in shock.

**Braen:** This is a . . . special delivery, m'lady.

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Jessica is staring at the ring. Braen puts the chickens on a nearby table; Jake sets down the bread.

**Jessica (whispering):** *It can't be . . .*

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Braen is reaching into his pocket. Jessica is still staring at him. Jake is watching the door.

**Braen:** Velouria's alive. She's here, now. I've come to – oh NO! The letter! Jake!! Have you seen the letter?

**Jake:** What letter? You know I can't read! What would I want with a letter?

**Braen:** Ahh, you're USELESS!

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** Braen is holding Jessica's hands in his, she's listening intently. Jake is making some sort of lewd gesture in the background, yelling at Braen.

**Braen:** We've come to make things right.

**Jake:** Useless, am I? 'S not my fault you lost your stupid letter!!

**Vat 4, Scene 9 (V04\_P13\_Snitch)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Jessica and Braen are talking, their heads bent together.

**Jake (off-panel):** Braen! I think we've gotta go . . .

(outside, a very distant sound of guards approaching)

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Braen is speaking to Jessica quietly; Jake is waving his arms, trying to get Braen's attention.

**Jake:** Did ye' not hear me, ye' big oaf? They're coming!

**Braen:** Meet us at the servants' entrance – we need to get in without being seen. Hang a lantern outside when it's safe to enter. We'll be waiting . . .

**Jake:** Braen!!

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Braen and Jake run away. Jessica is standing in the kitchen watching them go.

**Jessica (whispering):** Velouria . . . alive . . .

(in the background, we hear the soldiers, louder now)

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Jessica looks startled; a servant girl taps her on the shoulder. She's holding the chickens in one hand.

**Servant girl:** You want me to start pluckin' these chickens, Jessica?

**Jessica:** Oh, the chickens. Right. Yes. Start plucking them . . . I have to go out for a while, Lenore.

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Jessica walks out the door.

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** CU of Jessica's face; she's frightened.

**Jessica:** (gasp)

**Panel 7:**

**Art:** The group of guards/soldiers is standing outside the kitchen. Halford is holding a knife to Jessica's throat. He's grinning sadistically.

**Halford:** Ahh, Jessica. I was hoping to catch you. You're a very popular woman today.

**Jessica:** I was just – just on my way to the market –

**Halford:** You'll need to come with us. We have a few . . . questions for you.

#### Vat 4, Scene 10 (V04\_P14\_FiestyBitch)

##### Panel 1:

**Art:** Back to the clearing where Eric, Ariana, and V. are waiting. Ariana is leaning against a tree, cleaning her fingernails with a dagger; Velouria is still watching the back door intently. Eric has a hand to his nose.

**Ariana:** IF you ask me, this whole thing is a mistake. She's not coming.

**Velouria:** Oh, god – if something happened to Braen –

**Ariana:** If something happened to Braen, it'd be on YOUR head!

##### Panels 2 & 3:

**Art:** Velouria lunges forward and, in one swift movement, she twists Ariana's arm behind her back and takes her dagger away. She's furious; Ariana is taken completely by surprise.

##### Panel 4:

**Art:** Velouria has Ariana pinned against the tree, dagger to her throat. Ariana and V. are staring each other down. Eric is yelling at them.

**Eric:** Enough! Velouria, stand down!

##### Panel 5:

**Art:** Velouria has pulled away from Ariana, she still has the dagger in her hand. Ariana is gloating, and Eric is talking angrily.

**Ariana:** Pull a knife on me again and it'll be the last thing ye' do!

**Eric:** Shut it, Ariana! You'd be doin' us all a favor if you stopped running your mouth for once.

##### Panel 6:

**Art:** CU of Ariana, she's pissed.

**Ariana:** As you wish, *Captain*.

##### Panel 7:

**Art:** Ariana is standing up, arms crossed. Velouria is smirking, and Eric looks frustrated.

**Ariana:** That's the last time my mouth does you any FAVORS.

**Eric:** Ariana –

##### Panel 8:

**Art:** Ariana is walking away, head down. She looks defeated.

**Ariana:** Fuck you, Eric. I'm not playing your games anymore. I'll see you on the ship.

**(ALT) Ariana:** Screw you, Eric. I'm not playing your games anymore. I'll see you on the ship.

**Eric:** Ariana –

**Vat 4, Scene 11 (V04\_P15\_NewFriends)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Ariana is walking in the woods, alone.

Ariana (muttering angrily): . . . unappreciative asshole. Let him get along without me for a while. See how that feels . . .

(Off Camera) Genie: Please, someone, ANYONE...

**Panel 2**

**Art:** Ariana is startled

Ariana: Wha? Is that you, succubus?

Panel 2 XP (replaces 2)

**Art:** Genie appears in front of Ariana, Ariana has her arms crossed, no longer impressed with this trick

Genie: Ariana! You can hear me? You can see me?

Ariana: UNFORTUNATELY!

**Panel 3**

**Art:** Close up of Genie, so very relieved

Genie: Thank goodness! Eric is not totally closed to me then...

Ariana: What makes you think that, witch?

**Panel 4**

**Art:** Genie is touching Ariana, pleading with her, Ariana is a little surprised by the contact

[NOTE: I think this should be part of the issue logo]

**Genie:** I'm not a witch, Ariana. I care about Eric . . . just like you.

**Ariana:** But – you're . . .

**Genie:** I'm Sophie. I've been watching over Eric for a long time, now. And I've been trying to warn him. He's in danger, Ariana. He won't listen to me.

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Ariana is eyeing Genie skeptically.

**Ariana:** Why should Eric listen to you?

**Genie:** This quest – this stupid revenge plot he's gotten himself into . . .

**Ariana:** Well, I'll agree with you there. It IS stupid.

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** Ariana is smiling a little, Genie looks desperate.

**Genie:** Eric isn't as strong as he thinks he is. This quest is too dangerous. It won't end well, I'm sure of it.

**Ariana:** What do you mean? How do you know that?

**Genie:** I just know. We're running out of time. You have to go back. Please, talk to him.

**Panel 7**

**Art:** Genie is half faded away, Ariana is still looking skeptical

**Genie:** Please. He'll listen to you, Ariana. . .

**Vat 4, Scene 12 (V04\_P16\_HereWeGo)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Eric, and Velouria are still in their hiding place, watching the door.

**Braen (off-panel):** *Cap'n? Are you here?*

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Braen and Jake are peering out from behind some trees. Velouria is grinning, she's elated. Eric is waving.

**Velouria:** Braen!

**Eric:** Over here! Quickly!

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Velouria and Braen are kissing passionately; Jake is talking to Eric.

**Eric:** Jake!? I thought you were –

**Jake:** I, ah . . . I paid my debt to society, Cap'n. Got out fer good behavior.

**Eric:** Right. So, Braen, did you find Jessica?

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Braen and V. have stopped kissing. Eric and V. are listening to Jake and Braen.

**Jake:** Aye. Not bad lookin' for an older woman, I might add.

**Braen:** Jake! Shut yer' hole. Everything's in order, Cap'n. Soon as the way's clear, Jessica'll come out and give the signal.

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Eric looks worried, Braen and Jake are shrugging/shaking their heads.

**Eric:** Did you happen to see Ariana on your way here?

**Braen:** Haven't seen her.

**Ariana (off panel):** Here I am, Cap'n!

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** Everyone is turned toward Ariana. She's approaching the group.

**Eric:** Come to your senses, did ye? I knew you would.

**Ariana:** Something like that.



**Panel 7:**

**Art:** Ariana is looking down at Jake w/surprise. Braen and Velouria are watching the servants' door.

**Ariana:** I see somebody let the rat out of his cage.

**Jake:** Ach! Can we send 'er away again, Cap'n

**Panel 8:**

**Art:** Braen is motioning to the group; in the background, we can see the door opening. Ariana and Jake are about to fight. Eric is smiling.

**Braen:** Shut up, all of ye! The door's opening – look!

**Vat 4, Scene 13: (V04\_P17\_Jessica)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Eric and crew are all watching as the door to the servants' entrance opens.

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** They are still watching; Jessica steps out of the door, she's holding a lantern.

**Velouria:** *Jessica!*

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Behind Jessica; General Halford and two guards have swords/guns to Jessica's back.

**Halford:** The signal, woman! Give the signal or I cut you in half!

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Back to Eric/crew's view. Jessica is hanging the lantern on the large hook.

**Braen:** That's it. That's the signal.

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Eric is talking to the crew. He's holding a knife.

**Eric:** Let's move.

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** Braen, Jake, and Velouria all go running toward Jessica. Ariana is reaching out to Eric, she looks worried.

**Ariana:** Eric, wait . . .

**READER CHOICE:**

A: Decide Sophie is right. Beg Eric to call off the mission.

B: Sophie doesn't know what she's talking about. Don't say anything.

**Commented [SH1]:** This choice could have lots of consequences in later issues – since Ariana is “real”, she may feel guilty if she didn't warn him at all; or she may be angry at herself for not convincing him.

**Vat 4, Scene 14A (Beg Eric to call off the mission) (V04\_P18A\_CallItOff)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Ariana is touching Eric's arm. She looks worried.

**Eric:** What is it?

**Ariana :** Let's forget this. Just forget this whole thing and leave.

**Panel 2**

**Art:** Ariana is holding on to Eric's arms, she's pleading with him. He looks irritated.

**Braen (off-panel):** Cap'n! Come on!

**Sophie:** Please, Eric. Let's just go. I've got a bad feeling about this.

**Eric:** Come on, Ariana. There's nothing to worry about.

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Ariana is standing in front of him. She's crying now. Eric looks concerned; he's touching her face gently. In the background, Braen, Jake, and V are almost to the door.

**Eric:** Ariana, what's gotten into you?

**Ariana:** It's . . . it's that witch. That *Sophie*. She talked to me. She told me –

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Ariana is sobbing, and Eric looks surprised. In the background, V. is about to embrace Jessica (Jessica is standing completely still, making no effort to hug her)

**Eric:** Sophie? That's impossible! How did you –

**(a scream off-panel)**

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Ariana and Eric are shocked; Ariana has stopped crying and Eric has his knife drawn.

**Vat 4, Scene 15: (V04\_P19\_DoubleShot)**

**Panels 1-5:**

**Art:** Again, I think this would be a good place to tell the story in pictures. So, Velouria starts to put her arms around Jessica. Jessica looks horrified for a second, eyes wide and mouth open, and Halford's men start shooting. Jessica slumps to the ground; Velouria is screaming. Braen and Jake have stopped in their tracks.

Velouria looks down and sees she's been shot, too. Halford's men push Jessica's body out of the way and push Velouria aside as they run to fight Eric's crew.

**Then:** Velouria is on the ground; Eric and Ariana are rushing toward her; weapons drawn. Halford and his soldiers are pushing Jessica's body out of the way. Braen is on the ground, holding Velouria.

NOTE: gore levels could change depending on reader preference.

**Vat 4, Scene 16 (fight, cont'd) (V04\_P20\_GotchaHalford)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** A few of Halford's men are lying dead on the ground; Eric and Ariana are still fighting the men. Now there's just Halford and one of the guards. Ariana is fighting with the last guard, and Eric is struggling with Halford. Halford knocks Eric down.

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Halford is looming over Eric. Braen is behind him (Halford doesn't know it)

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Braen stabs Halford in the back.

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Jake is helping Ariana fight the last guard.

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Braen helps Eric to his feet.

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** Jake and Ariana kill the guard.

**Vat 4, Scene 17 (V04\_P21\_GotchaEric)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Eric is holding onto Braen's arm.

**Eric:** Braen, she's –

**Panel 2:**

**Art:** Braen is kneeling and he's holding V. up, stroking her face and hair. She's not moving.

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Velouria's eyes are open now; she's holding Braen's hand.

**Velouria:** Braen . . .

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Eric is barking orders at Ariana and Jake. In the background, Braen is still holding V.

**Eric:** Jake – find a doctor. Kidnap one if you have to! GO!!!

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Eric is standing behind Braen; he's got a hand on Braen's shoulder. Jake is running away. Ariana is hanging back; watching.

**Eric:** Braen, I –

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** CU of Eric's face; eyes are wide

**Eric:** (strangling noise)

**Panel 7:**

**Art:** Halford, half-dead and bloody is standing behind Eric; he has stabbed Eric from behind [the sword sticks completely through him, Eric looks stunned].

**Vat 4, Scene 18 (V04\_P22\_Vat, V04\_P22XP\_Vat, V04\_P22XP2\_Vat)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** CU of Eric's eyes.

**Panel 1 XPs:**

Eric's final "misfire" sequence starts here. This time, the series of images is a mix of both worlds:

- Ariana is above him, screaming (but he can't hear her) [or just very faint as if far, far away]
- CU of Eric's (the pirate)face. It morphs into Braen's face.
- Braen and V. having sex; climaxing
- A nightstand – on it, is a vase of flowers (looking very wilted); and a card – the card is standing up and it has a sexy cartoon genie on it (dressed much like Sophie's genie costume). It says "My three wishes for you?"
- An old black-and-white pirate movie is playing. An Errol Flynn type is swinging a sword.
- A modern-looking doctor is above him. "... just fine ..."
- Sophie (in genie costume) "... aren't toys, you know."
- Inside of the card. Sexy genie is rubbing a lamp. Smoke is coming out of the lamp and in it are the words "Get Well Soon, Get Well Soon, Get Well Soon"
- CU of Eric; there's a humming noise in the background.
- Sophie's face (real sophie w/communication gear,etc.) "... just fine ... I promise ..."
- Image based on a previous reader choice: Genie stripping; Eric raping V., etc.
- A flash of light.

**Panel 1 Last XP:**

**Art:** Eric is laying in total blackness. He's still dressed like a pirate.

**Eric:** What the --?? Sophie??

**Panel 2**

**Art:** Genie appears (still looks like Genie, not old Sophie)

**Genie:** Oh, Eric. I was so worried about you. Look at yourself!

**Panel 3**

**Art:** Eric is looking down, he's still bleeding from where Halford stabbed him.

**Eric:** Sophie! I don't ... what's happening?

**Panel 4**

**Art:** Sophie is hugging Eric; he's resting his head on her chest and she's stroking his hair.

**Genie:** Eric, I tried to warn you ...

**Eric:** Just DO something, Sophie! Fix it! I wanna go BACK! I need to see Braen and Ariana and –

**Genie:** Ssshhh. Hush, Eric.

**Eric:** I was supposed to be KING –

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** fade in to CU of older/cartoon Sophie with small “floating screens” in front of her eyes, she is crying

**Sophie:** Ssshhh. Hush, Eric. (Repeat of prior panel voice)

**Panel 6:**

**Art:** CU of Sophie’s hand, it’s gently stroking a vat that contains a human brain suspended in some sort of liquid. Lots of wires and tubes are running from the vat and the monitor that’s keeping it running. Below the vat is a label that says “Subject 4089 Eric Jacobson; current age: 18.”

**Sophie:** I’m here, Eric. It will be ok... Shhh.



**Vat 4, Scene 19 (V04\_P25\_NotAgain)**

**Panel 1:**

Art: Close up of Ariana's face (just as she looked in Eric's vat world, sexy, young), she is in absolute terror. Her face is wet from tears and a horrible rainstorm.

Ariana: No, no, NOOOOOOOO!

**Panel 2:**

Art: Pull back shot, Ariana is totally naked and on a small island - and by small we mean 6 foot by 6 foot with one palm tree on it - in a vast sea with no other land visible. In the ocean a half dozen shark fins can be seen as they circle the island. It is raining horribly with lightning in the sky and dark clouds everywhere.

PRUDE overlay: bikini for Ariana

Ariana: No, not again! ERIC!

**Panel 3:**

Art: Ariana is screaming in fear and pain. We see her tiny island as very tiny now in a HUGE sea of nothingness - but with a ridiculous amount of shark fins, as if the world is covered in water and only sharks exist.

PRUDE overlay: bikini for Ariana

Ariana: Please, PLEASE Eric! I can't ... I can't be here... AGAIN! I can't... can't take this...  
ERRRRRRRRICCCCC !!! (CRIES)

**Scene 14B (Don't stop Eric.) (18B)**

**Panel 1:**

**Art:** Ariana is touching Eric's arm. She looks worried.

**Eric:** What is it?

**Ariana :** I just --

**Panel 2**

**Art:** Ariana is holding on to Eric's arms. She looks like she's thinking. Eric looks excited.

**Braen (off-panel):** Cap'n! Come on!

Eric: C'mon, Ariana! We're going to miss the fun! It's been too long since we've had a good fight!

**Panel 3:**

**Art:** Ariana is standing in front of him. She's looking at him tenderly. Eric looks concerned; he's touching her face gently. In the background, Braen, Jake, and V are almost to the door.

**Eric:** Ariana, are you okay?

**Ariana:** It's . . . nothing. Just a case of the davies, I suppose. How about a kiss for good luck?

**Panel 4:**

**Art:** Eric and Ariana are kissing tenderly; in the background we see Braen, Jake and V. getting closer to the door.

**(screaming off-panel)**

**Panel 5:**

**Art:** Ariana and Eric are shocked; they aren't kissing anymore. Ariana has stopped crying and Eric has his knife drawn.