

Legends of the Open Road

Cover Letter
Pitch
Outline
Test Script

By

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Major Publications:

The Bartender:

Darkness on the Edge of Town

Pulp Action Adventure Novel

November 2012

The Bartender:

Appetite for Destruction

Pulp Action Adventure Sequel. November 2013

Lazlo: The Hunter

Illustrated Pulp Action Adventure March 2015

Axel Matfin creates smart accessible fiction. He has been writing, editing and producing his own novels since 2012. He writes stories that contain the popular motifs of comic books and pulp stories reinvented for the 21st century. It is his goal to work with with the best artists and editors to create comics and graphic novels that are accessible, inventive and inclusive.

Axel created his pitch **Legends of the Open Road** for Oni because of your commitment to publishing diverse and accessible entertainment. Oni's excellent tradition of producing works that are culturally and artistically progressive make them one of the best places to foster new ideas within the comic book industry. Axel wants to create comic book stories for people of all ages and backgrounds and he see's Oni as a place to do that with style and integrity.

A lifelong comic book fan, Axel understands the principles and theory

behind comic book art. He is well versed in the development of the medium, the continuity that runs through the history of the stories and characters, as well as that of the creators and the industry itself. Axel wants to be a part of a team that creates fresh stories that are loaded with action and adventure while still being rich with intelligent subject matter. He believes in creating characters and mythologies that speak to the modern times, giving new readers a place to start their comic experience.

Axel works efficiently with other artists. His communication is clear and concise. He takes constructive criticism with ease and can easily accommodate story constraints and editorial changes. Axel works hard to meet deadlines and expectations, while raising standards. He is available for writing/editorial work.

Legends Of The Open Road

12 Issue Outline

Issue #1

The story opens in the Garage/Shop of the Kirby Family home. Two characters are conversing beneath a truck. We see their feet sticking out and them discussing what is wrong with the truck. One of the characters seems to know a lot more about the vehicle than the other. It's revealed over the course of the conversation that the expert is the 16 year old Jackie Kirby who schools her Pa Kirby on just what's wrong with the vehicle. This issue introduces us to the world of LOTOR where all of North American society has eroded from greatness. Jackie and her family are literal dirt farmers who farm the radiation out of the soil and sell it across the state of Nebraska. The equipment of this world is futuristic technology based on Elon Musk's Tesla tech combined with the combustion engine machinery of the 20th century. This chapter also introduces Ma Kirby and Jackie's younger discontent brother Stanley. We see Jackie practicing shooting with her brother and her skill at working with machines of all types. The major radiation removing silo is in need of repair on the eve of Jackie's 17th birthday. Ma & Pa are needed to bring in the the remains of the current harvest and decide that it's time for Jackie to be given a chance at independence, both of them agreeing that she's ready. For her birthday Pa gives her a socket set with a very particular symbol made of wings & tires with a 20th century glyph. The socket set has a

holster and a bandolier to carry it all. Ma & Pa tell her that they need her to go to town to retrieve the parts they need, while they bring in the harvest. Jackie is elated and begins to outfit her motorcycle, a solar electric-turbo bike that she herself has been bringing back to life since her and Pa recovered it from the wastes. Before she heads off into Norfolk, Ma gives her a parting gift of one of the family's guns, a ARCUS 95R double action revolver, and a box of ammo. The disgruntled brother Stanley doesn't come to say goodbye to his sister, instead remaining in the garage working on his own pet project, a dune buggy that he can't make work. The issue ends with Jackie speeding away on her Custom motorcycle towards town.

Issue #2

Jackie rides into town. She finds what she thinks is a suitable inn for the evening and parks her bike. A random scumbag on the street whistles at her and comments on her bike. She tells rebukes him, makes him look quite the fool in public and heads into the inn. She books a room. Once inside she's looking at it and taking it in, her first real time away on her own. The scumbag from outside knocks on her door, saying it's management. He muscles his way in, and then she straight up kicks his ass. Without hesitation. She has grown up wrestling robo-steer and doing fight training learned from old hard drive chaches since she was 6. They scrap on the balcony and she tosses the jerk over the edge of the railing and into a passing human waste truck. She unpacks her touch holographic projector and does a few minutes of research through access to the town's digital directory before settling on **Rocky's** a cheap but considerably less organized scrap yard. She leaves her gun in the room safe, washes her face, leaves her bike helmet, pockets her gloves and heads back onto the

streets of town. She gets gaped at coming out onto the street, some people clearly having seen what happens when you mess with her. She goes to Rocky's where she meets Rocky himself an aging pot-bellied, cigar chomping, mechanic. He tries to play a fast one on her, selling her the individual parts, but she says she wants to pick through his salvage and find what she needs to herself. This impresses him and he sends her into the back. Here she meets Rocky Jr. Or just **Jr.** There is romantic chemistry as he watches her pick out parts, he's not overly forward he's just friendly and curious. Cut to the Scumbag from earlier, still stinking and covered in sewage. He's not just any scumbag he's **Conrad Wagg** leader of the Golden Eagles motorcycle gang. The Golden Eagles are a group of lawless bikers made up of lost young men. Right now, Wagg wants revenge.

Issue #3

This issue opens on Jackie's brother Stanley. He just hasn't found what he's good at, he doesn't have what it takes to be a good farmer, his family loves him but he hates not being good at things like his sister. We see him on the verge of losing his shit as he tries to fix his dune buggy. The small workshop droid tries to help but after a series of failures Stanley goes nuts and smashes the droid to smithereens. Back in Norfolk Jackie and Jr are tallying up the giant pile of salvage that has fulfilled all of Jackie's requirements. Using a hover sled Jackie and Jr take the parts back to Jackie's inn where they pack them into the collapsing hover sled attached to her bike. The Golden Eagles show and confront Jackie. She rebukes Conrad Wagg again telling him that next time he trifles with her she wont be so polite. Jr nearly craps his pants, he's terrified of the Golden Eagle's notoriety for violence and illegal activities. Jackie makes the fatal error of giving

them her name before she dismisses them. The Golden Eagles go to the Registry, a digital archive of the area. It's a reference only device, but they find Jackie's family name a land titles. Meanwhile Jackie & Jr are eating some cool future BBQ. Now that her task is mostly complete she can relax and begins to enjoy the company of her new friend. They talk about why she stood up to the Eagles and why it doesn't pay to let people intimidate you. How standing up for yourself doesn't mean you always have to fight. They explore the town and it is revealed that Jr is a race car driver. At dusk Jr asks if she'd like to see his car. She says yes. Meanwhile, as night sets in the Golden Eagles prepare to leave town for the Kirby farm.

Issue #4

We open on Ma & Pa Kirby having coffee late at night, smoking home grown tobacco drinking some sort of spirit and listening to vinyl records in the kitchen of their house. They're talking about the harvest at first and then how they're going to be able to afford the moisture capturing systems soon. They talk about Jackie briefly and then shrug it off, having full confidence in their daughter. Then the perimeter alarms go off and both parents spring into action. Pa gathers his rifle and Ma checks the farms monitoring systems. It ends up being a false alarm. It had been Stanley who had set off the alarms by accident. Pa isn't happy, Ma is meaner but they both tell him he can't be skulking around at night, because that's when the radiation evolved creatures come out, and they're deadly. In the distance the Golden Eagles look in on the farm, now knowing how the security works. Back in Norfolk Jackie & Jr are making out in the back of Jr's car listening to music from the radio. He presses, she stops him, they just keep making out. Then after a while they stop and just smile at each other, have a nice

youthful romantic moment, before she says she'd better get back to the inn, she's going to have to be up and out early tomorrow. He asks if he can give her a ride with his Dad's Skiff Hauler, it can hover 6ft in the air and can cover the ground twice as fast as on her bike, hell it can even carry her bike. She says yes, sure she'd like a ride. He asks her if she can stay any longer, and she says well maybe a little longer. Back at the farm the Golden Eagles are trashing the workshop, Pa hears it and wakes up. Wondering why the alarms didn't go off, he wakes up Ma and they both arm themselves and activate a droid to secure the perimeter. Something is wrong, their droids aren't working. They catch the Eagles at gunpoint, Pa even shoots one when he goes for his piece. They're on the verge of being able to connect with the sheriff when the line goes dead. They're horrified to see that it's Stanley who's pulled the plug, and now has his parents at gunpoint. The Eagles have their chance in the ensuing scuffle Ma & Pa Kirby are shot and killed, although we don't know by who. Wagg asks Stanley why he did it, betrayed his parents, he says because he wants them to take him with them, far far far far away from Nebraska.

Issue #5

Jackie & Jr are in the Skiff Hauler a big platform/dump truck transport vehicle. They're singing together while they rip across the plains. Then they see the smoke. The Farm burns and they pull in, Jackie diving off the skiff and running for the workshop where the bodies of her parents are slumped over while the house is on fire. Jr approaches her while she looks on at the horror that has happened in her absence. Jackie approaches him, wraps her arms around him cries briefly and then wipes the tears away to once more look at her home in ruin. In the workshop only one of the robots still works, a heavy

lifter arm that's damaged beyond repair, although it's brain is still functioning. Jackie reboots the system, and manually transfers it's identity, the family's AI-named **Roy**, onto her personal hard drive, then she questions it. It tells her what happened and shows her some very brief patchy footage. Jackie asks if they killed Stanley too, **Roy** tells her that he's alive that he went with the Golden Eagles. Jackie has to clarify, he "left" or they "took" him. Roy robotically tells her that Stanley chose to leave with the Eagles. Jackie has a hard time with this. Jr watches on, amazed, as Jackie clinically dissects the remaining information and gathers any worthwhile belongings in the workshop. She accesses her parents financial holdings and transfers access of the holdings to a cashclip® for herself. She uses their perimeter footage and sensor history to discern the direction that the Eagles have come from. Then she unloads her bike from the Skiff and loads it up with all her remaining worldly belongings. Then she gets ready to leave. Jr tells her she can't just leave, those guys are dangerous. She takes out her gun and straps its holster to her waist, making sure it's loaded. She kisses him, and tells him she's going. He grabs her arm to try and stop her and she socks him one, knocking him on his ass before she starts her bike and rides off.

Issue #6

It's a week later and Jackie has been tracking the Golden Eagles. First South and then West. Her bike is too slow to be able to gain any ground on them and everywhere she goes she's always one step at a time. She's now in the town of Lexington trying to figure on where they'll move next. Apparently they've been touring through towns just stopping to whoop it up before burning out of town. Jackie isn't fuelled by rage, she's driven by a focus determination for justice. She's

in a diner when she begins to hear people talking about how they'd heard word that the BikerTrucker was in the area. They talk about the BikerTrucker for a while, and whether he's real or not. One man advocates he's as real as the sky, the other says he's just a myth. Jackie asks who he is and they tell her the Legend of the BikerTrucker, an unstoppable force who roams the open roads in search of justice for the victimized. He drives an 18 wheeler, filled with motorcycles and guns. When he sets out on a mission of stopping bandits or criminals, they end up six feet under. The BikerTrucker is unstoppable. The two men once again descend into debate over his validity. The waitress tells her not to listen to those two blowhards. Mean while Stanley & the Golden Eagles continue their voyage of excess. The 15 year old Stanley overwhelmed but enjoying the world of lawlessness he's been introduced to. This is where brainwashing and initiation comes into place. A very "The world is ours" argument is presented by Wagg, and Stanley relishes in what he thinks is rebellion as they continue to perpetrate new acts of scum-baggery. The end of the issue shows a tease of the BikerTrucker, his immense Black 18 Wheeler roaming the highway at night. A enchanting mystery to behold.

Issue #7

This issue opens with Jackie at a machine shop in Lexington. A star struck mechanic looks on as she uses his equipment and a bunch of spare parts to turbo-charge her bike and refit it's batteries to give her extra speed and range. She thanks him and comments on her incredible work. In exchange for using his equipment she repaired his heavy fabricator and power arm device. Next she goes down to a gun shop where she equips herself with a short-barrel Winchester Model

94 lever action rifle and personal defence field (a shock field device with limited uses). Then she heads back out onto the open road to attempt to track down the Eagles. She rides until she comes across a stranded woman in the desert and offers her a lift. The woman tells Jackie that she's a local school teacher and that a group of local toughs had used a emp cannon to disable and then steal her buggy. They steal people's rides and make them walk into town where their vehicle is usually destroyed. They do it out of boredom. Jackie gives her a ride to North Platte, where indeed the woman's vehicle is, and busted. Jackie tells the woman she can fix her vehicle but the busted part isn't cheap, the woman protests and then realizes that the toughs are coming up the block, laughing sinisterly. Jackie tells the Teacher she'll deal with them. Jackie confronts the young men and tell them that they best pony up either the dough for the part or produce the part itself. They laugh her off and try and shrug by her. She calls them cowards that since they're afraid of her maybe people won't be so inclined to be afraid of them in the future. They take the bait and the leader of the group starts to get in her face. Jackie says that they're gonna pay up, and it's going to come one way or another. The leader scoffs, turns away and then goes to suddenly attack Jackie but she's ready. She breaks his arm, her personal defence field takes out one of the other men and then she's drawing her pistol. The other toughs back up as she takes the wallet off've the guy with the busted arm, pulling out the credits for the part she'll need, tossing his wallet back to him saying much obliged and then hands the cash off to the school teacher. Then the crooked sheriff appears and claps Jackie in irons, as it turns out the man who's arm she just busted was the sheriff's son. From a ways off and from an upstairs window The BikerTrucker looks on, sunglasses on, beer in hand, watching this plucky young woman be taken away to the jail house by the crooked cops.

Issue #8

The issue begins with Stanley and the Golden Eagles riding the open highway before making a stop at a roadhouse. The Eagles play it cool and don't draw attention to themselves. Then Wagg & Stanley overhear the waitresses/customers talking about what they had heard happened back in North Platte, about how Sheriff Doberly's son had finally run afoul of the wrong pilgrim and that they'd busted his arm and yanked his wallet to pay for the damages he'd done to that schoolteacher Ms. Abrhams vehicle. What idiot had the balls to stand up of Chet Doberly? Someone without balls at all, apparently it'd been a young woman with more grit than common sense. Apparently, and this is just what the rabble of people had heard, she was on a crusade against some gang that had torched her family home. Someone laughs this off as just another tall tale in the making. Wagg & Stanley aren't so sure, and they both interpret the event differently. Wagg is angry that Jackie is still on his tail. Stanley looks like he's having second thoughts about his choices. He asks Wagg when they're going to leave Nebraska. Wagg lies and tells him that they left Nebraska two weeks ago. Back in the jailhouse in North Platte Jackie's personal effects have been taken away (Gun, tools, satchel) and are sitting on the desk of the guard. Her bike has been impounded. The guard of the prison cell is a comical fat man, not a hardened and crooked cop but the one that would rather stay by the cells napping. He's treating Jackie like she's a child that's out of her element, asking her when her parents are coming for her or if they even know she's running around like this. Outside the jail we see the silhouette and shape of the BikerTrucker as puts on night vision goggles and then breaks into the police impound and retrieves

Jackie's bike. The BikerTrucker takes a moment and puts a package into the saddlebags of Jackie's bike. We, the audience don't know what it is. Back in the jail cell Jackie is asking the guard what he knows about the Golden Eagles. He tells her that they just roam the roads causing problems and riling folks up over their own issues before they rip out of town. Sheriff Doberly is one of the few men that they're afraid of. Doberly's a right mean sort. There's some sounds outside of the wall to Jackie's jail cell and looking out the window her eyes go wide and she dives to the floor as a giant harpoon blasts through the concrete and then folds open like a grappling hook. The Guard falls off his chair and scrambles to the radio. Then the prison wall explodes open and the floodlights of a truck pour through. Jackie looks to the guard who looks at her and then she's out the impromptu door and into the night. The guard squawks into the radio and then is running for the door to the prison. As he steps out, Jackie's foot is there to trip him and in an instant she's dived onto his back and grabbed his handcuffs, and hog-tied him by ankle and wrist with the bracelets. She takes his jail cell keys. She calmly goes back into the jail where she returns to her cell room and retrieves her personal equipment, opens the cell door and then steps back out through the giant hole in the wall. There, seemingly magically her motorcycle awaits. In the distance she see's the headlights of an 18 Wheeler flash at her before they go out and the giant caravan disappears into the night. As the sirens and police lights begin to appear, Jackie starts her bike up and disappears herself into the desert night. The next morning, atop a ridge we see her on her stomach watching with binoculars from the top of a bluff as the North Platte police and posse give up their chase. Jackie gets up and finds the package in her bikes saddle bag. There are two documents, one is Map marked with the routes and checkpoints of the Golden Eagles state touring path. The

other is written in a complex looking symbolic language that Jackie can't identify. There is also a ring, a big thick silver signet ring with a coat of arms in the middle made up of tires & wings. There with a distinct glyph in the middle. All of this is same as Jackie's socket set.

Issue #9

This issue is about Jackie being out in the wilds of the wasteland. She's cutting through the middle of Nebraska to try and cut off the Golden Eagles before they can reach the end of their ride. This issue is about surviving in the wilderness and being on your own. Essentially it's a issue narrated by Jackie's thoughts as she realizes she's being hunted by radiated beasties of all types. It explains how great her survival skills are and we have flashback to Ma & Pa teaching her lessons that apply to the scenarios she ends up in. Her bike is solar and battery powered, she it doesn't run out of energy but there are places she can't take her bike, and circumstances where all she can do is flee. Mad cap evolved creature situations like being chased by a pack of irradiated raccoons, hiding from pterodactyl sized vultures or buzzards and even miraculous sites like lake trout that have become the size of small whales. Somewhere in her journey while she's being pushed to her physical & mental extremes she comes across a Shaman who offers her food & refuge from the elements. He gives her some tea and she has a very deep psychedelic soul searching journey into her past and future. She see's her brother, The Golden Eagles, strange symbols with wings and wheels, The BikerTrucker, Rocky Jr. Before inevitably seeing the Oasis in her dreams. The Oasis is where society starts over. She wakes from the dream to find the shaman gone. She can hear vehicles ahead and she moves forward until she can see an encampment in the distance. The Golden Eagle's base and place of

hiding. From here we cut to Stanley and Wagg arriving at the Eagle's stronghold, Wagg introducing him to his new kingdom.

Issue #10

In this issue we explore the cabal and cronyism of the golden eagles. Stanley experiences full initiation into the gang at a tremendous banquet filled with booze and indulgence. Any hesitations Stanley had about committing to life as a gang member are leaving him now. Wagg begins to preach to the gang about how they've taken Nebraska for all it's worth and they'll be moving out, but not before they burn the state to the ground and take every last piece with them! Stanley realizes he's been lied to and that they'd never left Nebraska. Jackie is watching, and creeping through the shadows, listening to the presentation and the crowing of Wagg. She's setting up traps and bombs, and sabotaging the gang members equipment while they feast and get drunk. Then she comes across a warehouse where she discovers a large robo-exo-skeleton that transforms into a pilot pod plains rover vehicle. It's meant for farm work, it's a piece of machinery she's studied (this can be included in earlier issues) Jackie then keeps to the shadows and observes what just what a gang really is. This issue is meant to expose the complex and dark world of cronyism and corruption of organizations that form in a world without general decency. The gang members are to be portrayed as sheep and lesser men who have succumbed to the easy vice and the cult of personality cultivated by Wagg, who hangs around preaching their simple and shitty beliefs. By the end of the issue Jackie has begun to spring her trap, a Thug appearing to inform Wagg that there's something wrong with their generators. As Wagg investigates the problem, half his camp goes up in overloaded explosions. While this distraction occurs Jackie

begins to make her way to Stanley.

Issue #11

This issue starts with Wagg & Stanley driving and talking to each other. Throughout the story we've seen their relationship develop. He has become a mentor to Stanley, even if to only manipulate him. Wagg is a lost boy in the body of a man, and in Stanley he see's himself in a way but is determined to form him into a more effective version of himself, even if he himself doesn't realize it. They're discussing where they go from here. The generators are blown and Wagg suspects a general raid from Doberly and the State's Police. He crows at this believing himself so notorious that the law has finally come for him. He tells Stanley that he needs him to escape with the half of the gang that has the bulk of their loot. Stanley confronts Wagg about never leaving Nebraska, but Wagg weasels back into Stanley's heart. Wagg tells Stanley that he's good at keeping an eye on things, then he gives him some personal effect which only endears Stanley to him more. Wagg drops Stanley off join with some of the other more Sr gang members while Wagg drives a jeep-like vehicle over to the fried and still overloading generators and battery storage. Jackie is waiting. She's wearing the robot-exo suit. When Wagg and a few other vehicles are close enough she brings the suit alive, it's lights and reflectors glowing in the lights of the electric fires. She takes out all of the Golden Eagle's vehicles. Boot kicking one, flipping anther and then smashing Wagg's vehicle into a cube, inside of which he's trapped for the moment. Before this goes any farther the other Eagles managed to radio to the rest of the gang for help. The rest of the Golden Eagles begin to change their course, their lights in the night turning on jackie. Using the digital zoom in the robo-exo-suit jackie

can see the men brandishing their weapons. She transforms into rover mode and leads them on a crazy chase, until she finds herself running out land before a hidden Canyon on the edge of the plains. The canyon isn't wide, but Jackie'd never make it across. She realizes she's trapped as the Golden Eagles bear down on her. Then in the pitch black of the night, yet another set of lights come up. It's the BikerTrucker, he's on the other side and he's wielding a futuristic chain gun from the top of his trailer, two flood lights extend out of the top of his big rig and there's a spotlight mounted on top of the mini-gun. The Golden Eagles bathed in light are cut down by the terrifying firepower of the BikerTrucker. At the end of this issue Jackie is bathed in light and from across the Canyon we hear a loudspeaker bellow from the BikerTrucker. "He's getting away." Or something to that effect.

Issue #12

Jackie is racing back towards Wagg who's been hauled from his smashed vehicle by Stanley. Wagg is wounded and concussed. The remaining gang members are fleeing as they see the flaming wreckage of their counterparts vehicles in the distance. The BikerTrucker's lights have disappeared. Jackie approaches the pair, unaware that it is her brother helping Wagg. She transforms to the exo-suit again and then de-activates the unit, stepping out of it and running at full tilt and drawing her pistol. She boot kicks her brother in the stomach, sending him sprawling and then grabs the disoriented Wagg pistol whipping and kicking him senseless. Then she hears her brother call stop. She turns to him and then she knows. She knows that Roy was telling the truth and that Stanley really had left of his own will, to be with the people that murdered their parents. This is a very loud angry

emotional moment between siblings where they both lay it all on the table. Stanley's jealousy, boredom, anger and now weeping regret. Jackie is overwhelmed by grief at not just having lost her parents but now her brother as well. He tires to appeal to her that now they can go on a great adventure, but Jackie can only comment that she's past it all now. That she will never forget her family, but that's broken now and now she has to build a new life. Wagg begins to muster a taunt but Jackie unceremoniously executes him. Stanley pleads for her to stay. She was going to leave but she stops, returns to her brother hugging him, looking at him and forgiving him. Then she tells him there are still functioning vehicles and equipment by the supply warehouse before leaving him. He pleads with her to stay. She basically says that it's time for them to go their separate ways. They're adults now whether they want to be or not. He got what he wanted. Then she's gone. The next day Jackie is out in the middle of the plains examining the document and the signet ring that had appeared in her saddlebags after her jailbreak. She has her socket set out as well, comparing the wings & wheels insignia. At this point there is a scrawling caption narrative that reads like folklore being told by a grandmother, it weaves through images of the cast of this first major Arc. The caption is to sum it all up and describe/define how Jackie is now a Legend of the Open Road. Stanley sits in the pub, where two old men argue about what happened to the Golden Eagles. The dead body of Wagg rots. The Kirby family farm sits vacant. The Biker Trucker appears in his big rig, seemingly out of nowhere, and Jackie looks up at him. Unafraid. She looks up at him and holds up the document asking "Do you know what this is?" The BikerTrucker shakes his head and responds "Do you?" She shakes her head no. He says "Do you want to find out?" Jackie looks from the empty horizon to the giant of a man before nodding her head, looking determined. He

thumbs for her to load her bike into the back of the 18 Wheeler and she and the BikerTrucker ride off into the Nebraska sunset, their greatest adventures ahead.

LEGENDS OF THE OPEN ROAD-PITCH SCRIPT

PAGE 1

PANEL 1

-Establishing Shot, wide angle.

The Kirby family dirt farm has a big old house on it. It's a composite of pressed recycled wood and corn materials and structurally reinforced with solar panels and metals. There's a large battery/power generator beside and away from the house. Behind the house there are large dirt irradiating silos with hoses and complex machine systems hooked up to them. In the foreground there is a shop that looks like a barn, it's very big. There's a platform out front with a giant robotic arm that's used for loading and unloading large cube like shipping canisters made of corn plastics. We barely see inside the shop, it's darker from our current view. There are several vehicles from tractor-like machines, to a couple of motorcycles and two trucks. All of the technology is futuristic but beaten and worn. The last great fabrication plants finishing only 5 years of production before the gears of society ground to a halt. Things work, and there are still mechanics engineers and makers, but this is new frontier of mankind.

VOICE1-INSIDE SHOP

This is where you went wrong, see you can't use 20th century wiring when you're connecting to a battery plate heat exchange. It won't handle the current or the heat.

PANEL 2

Inside the shop, looking down on a futuristic truck.

Two people's feet hang out of the bottom, work-boots, jumpsuit overalls marred and scarred. There are other robotic arms around, each with specific machining and mechanics jobs. In the back of the shop there is a dune-buggy with a robot arm suspending an engine block of an old 20th century vehicle. There are tools, and computer touch screens. Everything is dusty and dirty but it things look like they've been built to cope with the abuse.

VOICE2-BENEATH TRUCK

But we've got eight hundred feet of
that copper-

VOICE1-BENEATH TRUCK

Well you can keep on to using it here
but it'd need to be replaced every
other month and we'd also need to swap
the current coupler with one of those
old Tesla S series adaptors.

VOICE2-BENEATH TRUCK

Do we have one of those?

PANEL 3

Closer in on the truck than the last shot, same angle.

Having slid out from under the truck on a hover dolly is our
Heroine, Voicel, Jackie Kirby. She's wearing a red backwards
baseball cap and a blue shop jumpsuit with a name patch on it,
she's got grease on her face and hands, there are gloves tucked
into a tool belt filled with all manner of tools, hand solderer,
crescent wrench, hammer, and tablet screen with magnet attachers
and light. She is grinning.

JACKIE

I'll check. I might have used the last
one on Mr. Edmon's G2-Buggy, but that's
only 'cause he didn't know what FiVi
cabling was or how to find it.

PANEL 4

Same shot.

Jackie has stood and exited frame, meanwhile Pa Kirby is sliding
out from under the truck, and is propping himself up on his
elbows. He's a handsome enough man, who's nose has been clearly
broken a number of times. His fingers are worn and dirty and
there is a permanent weathering of his skin. Pa Kirby was in his
twenties when the collapse came about, he's now getting closer
to his mid fifties. He too is wearing a backwards baseball cap
and a similar worn jumpsuit.

PA KIRBY

Well not all of us grew up reading the schematics to *Future-tech™* roadsters instead of bedtime stories.

PAGE 2

PANEL 1

POV is just immediately beside and behind Jackie.

Jackie's face is lit by a broad holographic touch projector display that illuminates the dust and debris in the air. There are three screens. On the left there's a list of serial numbers and parts, in the middle there is a diagnostic display off all the truck's systems with a control panel dos like programming screen at the bottom. On the right there is a 3d touchable diagram that has hand written notes and animated motions showing how Jackie's repair and part replacement will work.

JACKIE

Nope, don't have it. Add that to the list of parts we'll need from Norfolk. When's the next town trip pa?

PANEL 2

Reverse the shot so we're looking through the holographic projector from the other side.

We see both Jackie & Pa illuminated by the screen. Jackie is dragging the part icon into a folder/list.

PA KIRBY

Well, how many parts do we need?

JACKIE

Well including the S Series coupler, we'll need at least a hundred feet of FiVi cabling, two different sized solar alternators. Roy's hard drives will need replacing soon and his big arm is-

PA KIRBY

Already with the hard drives?

PANEL 3

Same shot.

Jackie is rolling her eyes, Pa is looking up, with his hands on hips.

PA KIRBY

Roy?

ROY(OFF PANEL)

Yes, Mr. Kirby?

PA KIRBY

Run harddrive diagnostic.

PANEL 4

From above and beside Jackie & Pa.

The lighting slightly increased to show off more of the room. Jackie continues to look at the hologram while Pa has turned to face Roy the family's operating system personality as he descends from the ceiling of the shop. Roy is a mind that connects through all the equipment on the Kirby farm and is represented here by a robotic arm descending from the ceiling. It's a simple pliers-mouth style arm. The pivot screw in the middle giving the impression of an eye.

ROY

Ms. Jackie has already run a hard drive diagnostic today. It is reporting that I have less than 25% capacity and will run out of operating memory before the full moon. This would greatly compromise the integrity of security given the nature of *wherecoons* and *battlestags* activities during this phase of the lunar cycle.

PA KIRBY

Battlestags? In Nebraska? Jackie, have you been using bandwidth to download nature documentaries again?

PANEL 5

Drop to complete side shot, shoulder height POV.

Jackie almost ignores her father, still categorizing and compiling her work on the hologram. Pa Kirby is looking at her, while Roy has descended farther and is hanging beside Pa at eye level.

JACKIE

...Of course not. I was running out of books so Ma and I hit the library caravan and downloaded a yottabyte or two. I put it on Roy's portable drive but he started thinkin' slow, so I had to offload it somewhere.

PANEL 6

Same Shot.

Jackie is still caught up in her own little world, but raises a finger in the air. Pa Kirby is between frustrated and admiring.

JACKIE

You're right Pa there aren't any battlestags around here, we'd have to go to Colorado to see that. But there are plenty of wherecoons during the full moon.

PA KIRBY

So, new hard-drive got it.

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

Reverse POV.

Jackie powers down the hologram and turns back to Pa Kirby. Who is standing with his arms crossed Roy hanging beside him.

JACKIE

All told I could probably dig most of this out of the salvage shops for less than a thousand credits.

PA KIRBY

Anything crucial besides the hard drives?

PANEL 2

POV outside the shop, about 12 feet in the air looking down.

Pa Kirby has put his arm around Jackie as they stroll towards the exit to the shop. Jackie is talking and Pa Kirby is smiling.

JACKIE

The hard-drives could wait. I can archive everything I've already read and save some space, but the cesium separator is on the verge and we'll need another for pre-silo treatment before finishing the next yield.

PA KIRBY

Well, Ma and I'll look at the list and figure what else we need.

JAKIE

Hey Pa?

PANEL 3

Zoom in from last panel, more detail, especially in the faces.

He takes his arm off her shoulder and looks at her. They're fully outside the shop standing in the middle of the yard.

JACKIE

You think you could, well could you maybe talk to Ma bout letting me go into town by myself, you know seeing as how tomorrow's-

PA KIRBY

I'll talk to her, but you know what she's going to say to that.

JACKIE

I know, but maybe this time she'll say different.

MA KIRBY(OFF PANEL)

STANLEY!

PANEL 4

Smaller inset of the the Kirby family house. This is where Ma Kirby's voice bubble would be coming from.

PANEL 5

-Interior, Kirby family home.

Cut to interior of the Kirby family home, shot from the height of a child's point of view looking into a family kitchen area.

This is a ranch house so there are large windows with storm shutters, a big range stove with two ovens. POV is from behind Ma Kirby who is wearing jeans and a button down shirt, her hair is tied back in a ponytail and her hands, stuffed into work gloves, are on her hips. Stanley is sitting at the kitchen table with a battered old comic book, his troubled young face on high alert.

MA KIRBY

What are you doing inside!? And why are you wearing your shoes in the house??

STANLEY

Shit ma it's not even the wet season.

MA KIRBY

Don't you shit me young man, and since it's not the wet season it's all the more reason to be outside picking rocks instead of laying around in here!

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

Shot from the side, still at that ten year old height.

We see Ma Kirby has come over to the table and is now leaning over it looking at Stanley. Stanley in clear 14 year old boy angst and annoyance with his mother. Ma Kirby isn't trying to be diplomatic, she's kicking his butt outside. He just wants to be left alone.

MA KIRBY

What about your dune-buggy? You've got Roy or your sister to help you. It was

your birthday present, you should at least try to fix it.

STANLEY

I don't want to fix the dune-buggy!
That thing is a piece of shit!

MA KIRBY

Why don't you just get your sister to help you?

PANEL 2

Same shot.

Stanley stands up from the table and stares at his mother hurt and confused. His mother doesn't seem to get it. He just doesn't want someone telling him what to do or how to do anything. Ma Kirby is still leaning over the table.

PANEL 3

Same shot, but revealing the room behind Ma rather than the table in front of her.

Stanley is gone, and Ma Kirby has stood up and is exhaling out a breath. The shot shows a kitchen window in front of the sink, light pooling into the kitchen revealing a massive hood vent above the stove with frying pans and huge weaves of garlic and dried peppers and chillies hanging.

PANEL 4

POV above and behind Ma Kirby. About 140 degrees.

Ma Kirby stands at the sink filling a glass of water. Outside the window in the yard we can see Stanley.

PA KIRBY (OFF PANEL)

What's all the heck about Sharon?

MA KIRBY

Just Mr. Winning personality, having another great day as a teenager.

PANEL 5

Same shot.

Now Pa Kent is standing beside Ma at the sink he is farther down. They're both looking out the window, Stanley farther off in the yard, but essentially just kicking at the dirt. Ma is taking a drink of water.

PA KIRBY

He'll grow out of it Sharon. He can't be this ornery forever. Maybe he just needs some space.

PANEL 6

Same shot.

Ma Kirby has handed Pa the glass of water and is putting her work gloves back on.

MA KIRBY

He's got 100 acres of the finest farming soil in Nebraska, what more could a red blooded young man want?

PA KIRBY

I wonder.

PANEL 7

Same Shot.

Ma Kirby looks at Pa with an expression that says "screw you smartass". Pa is doing a spit take with the water at what Ma has to say to him.

MA KIRBY

Danny did you take your boots off?

PA KIRBY

Thbbbthhpt!(spitting)

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

-Exterior. The Yard.

From the POV of that kitchen window, move forward twenty five feet outside, same angle, farther out in the yard.

Stanley is standing there kicking at the dirt, looking off into the distance. There's nothing but dirt and rock for a 50 miles in any direction. Just the Kirby's and their dirt farm and the animals.

PANEL 2

Same angle, but closer again.

Jackie walks up beside Stanley he's squinting in the brightness of the day. She's still wearing her overalls and baseball cap and now has sunglasses on. She's carrying a small toolbox and a futuristic socket wrench the size of an axe that hangs over her shoulder.

JACKIE

Didn't anyone ever tell you not to stare into the sun?

STANLEY

Real funny sis. Did Ma tell you to come help me with my dunebuggy?

PANEL 3

Reverse the shot from the opposite direction.

Jackie is making a scoffing expression and gesturing over her shoulder with a thumb. What she is saying is producing a half-laughing smile on Stanley's face.

JACKIE

No way, that thing is a piece of shit.

STANLEY

Ha!

JACKIE

I'm going to check out the cesium separator. Want to give me a hand?

PANEL 4

POV chest height, Jackie directly on the right side of the Panel Stanley in the foreground.

Stanley is shaking his head while Jackie offers over the toolbox, rolling her eyes at her brother. We get a good look at

Jackie's overalls. There are custom pockets and more tools than we'd have seen at first. There's a wrench holster in the leg, a stylus and heavy duty mini-tablet computer in her front pocket, a multi-driver up on her hip and her gloves still tucked into a side pocket. Her name patch clearly reads Jackie. Stanley by comparison is just some schlepy kid in jeans and a t-shirt with messy hair in his eyes.

STANLEY

I'll come, but I'm not going to be your robot.

JACKIE

Yes. Sure. Whatever, you want Stan.

PANEL 5

POV from that same ground spot but turned to follow them.

Jackie is walking over to her motorcycle with Stanley in tow, which is a LIT Mark-9, a fully electric motorcycle that runs on a battery pack. The bike has an optional cabin enclosure for travelling in storms and bad weather. It has a full battery charge range of 500 miles and has a solar adaptor for emergency charging as well as a collapsing hover sled that also drains the vehicle's battery. It also has an anti-tipping mechanism based off've gyroscope technology. We can see the silos in the distance, a good kilometre away from the rest of the farm.

STANLEY

Think Ma & Pa are going to let you go to town by yourself?

JACKIE

I don't know. Don't jinx it.

PANEL 6

POV from side and above. Jackie is on her bike holding her helmet, looking over her shoulder at her brother who is climbing onto the hover sled.

STANLEY

I mean they gotta tomorrow's your-

JACKIE

I said don't jinx it!

PANEL 7-SMALL SQUARE

Close up on the instrument panel of the bike as it lights up. It shows battery, and a mini-map, and a system monitor as well as controls for the level of containment field required for the hover sled.

PANEL 8-SMALL SQUARE

Close up of Jackie with her helmet on.

PANEL 9-SMALL SQUARE

Close up of Jackie's hand on the throttle.

PANEL 10-SMALL SQUARE

Close up on Jackie's face looking directly at her, a heads up display is illuminated on the inside of her helmet. Her eyes are grinning.

PAGE 5

PANEL 1-1/4 PAGE ACROSS

Above and to the right of Jackie, roughly 100 degrees.

Jackie accelerates and her bike takes off like a shot, Stanley falling over inside the hover-sled as a dust and dirt erupts from around the vehicle. The silos in the distance and the horizon of sun and endless flatness ahead of the siblings.

PANEL 2-INTERIOR OF KIRBY HOUSE

Back up to inside the house, back to the POV from behind Ma & Pa as they watch the kids ride off to the silos.

MA KIRBY

Where are they going?

PA KIRBY

Jackie is checking on the cesium separator in silo 2. She says we need to make a town trip before the next full moon.

MA KIRBY

Well it'll have to wait for a day or

two, there's too much that needs to be taken care of before-

PA KIRBY

Sharon...

PANEL 3

Shot from the kitchen table, looking at both Ma & Pa.

Ma Kirby leaning against the kitchen countertop, still wearing her work gloves and looking indignantly at Pa who's holding the glass of water and lifting his cap up.

MA KIRBY

Don't Sharon me Danny.

PA KIRBY

But tomorrows her birthday, and you know that the only thing she really wants is a little true independence.

MA KIRBY

There's too much to do, I've already said my piece, she'll have to wait, and we already got her that birthday present.

PANEL 4

Same Shot.

Pa Kirby is giving his wife a calm smile. He understands his wife's apprehension and fear but he's not letting it stand for this scenario.

PA KIRBY

Sharon, if you think I'm restin' easy on this you're wrong. But we can't keep her here forever, and if we try to, she's going to leave and never come back. I know it's dangerous out there, but she can handle herself. It's hard to acknowledge it, but we've done pretty good by the kids. That's why we brought them out here to the middle of nowhere in the first place. So they'd

have a chance at becoming who they wanted. Now we've got to give her the shot.

PANEL 5

Same Shot.

Ma Kirby's face has a disgruntled sign of consent. She's not a woman who goes back on what she says very often, but she knows her husband is right.

MA KIRBY

Well, I suppose if I'd never been given the opportunity to do anything foolish, you and I never would have met. She can go but she's to have the strictest schedule.

PA KIRBY

Whatever you say dear. When do you want to tell her?

PANEL 6

Move POV closer so we look past them out the window again.

Both of them looking out the window again towards the trail of dust and dirt behind Jackie's bike.

MA KIRBY

Tomorrow. If we tell her tonight she'll never get to sleep.

PANEL 7

Close profile view of Jackie & Stanley ripping across the plain towards the silo.

She has a **big** grin on her face inside her helmet, Stanley is trying to stay steady, bouncing around inside of the hover sled, along with Jackie's tools.

PA KIRBY(OFF PANEL-CAPTION)

Oh, something tells me she's already got an idea.

PAGE 6

-Exterior, next to a dirt silo, the sun getting nearer to dipping behind the horizon. Sand whistles around everything.

PANEL 1

Profile shot.

Jackie and Stanley are silhouettes against the sunlight and we see the brother kneeling and handing the sister a very large futuristic looking socket wrench.

PANEL 2

A straight centered shot.

A hexagonal mechanism on the side of the dirt silo. It's a complex, almost keyhole-like mechanism.

PANEL 3

POV behind Jackie's left shoulder.

Jackie slam her huge socket into place with her gloved right fist.

SFX-CHUNK!

PANEL 4

Shot from behind Jackie. There is a readout display on the back of the socket, like a small LCD screen with levels and display charts. Jackie is clearly examining this screen, with the socket jammed into the silo. Stanley trying to look around her at the screen.

JACKIE

Hrm

PANEL 5

Shot from in front of and to the left of Jackie.

Jackie cranks back and forth on the device and uses what looks like a throttle on the grip. It's like there's sockets inside this socket working on the key-hole like mechanism. Dirt and dust is shooting out an exhaust on the side of the ratchet. Jackie isn't looking at the display anymore, instead her ear is near the device and she's listening.

SFX
VRrrr!

SFX
Grrrrrrrrlllll!

SFX
Tixcatacixtac.

PANEL 6

POV looking at Jackie as if camera were on her socket.

Jackie is pleased. The device has worked it's magic and she has a grin on her face like she never doubted that she knew what she was doing.

SFX
Ding!

PANEL 7

POV is front of and to the right of Jackie.

Jackie we see as Jackie pulls this whole piece out of the silo. It's like the lock comes with the key, a fairly big piece. So it looks heavy. There's bits of dust and dirt that's falling off've the sides, this machine has seen the weather.

PANEL 8

Profile shot.

The big piece of key/socket is handed off to Stanley who clearly grunts and flexes hard in order to be able to carry the big piece of equipment.

PANEL 9

Same profile shot

Jackie leans in closer to get a good look at what she's opened up. Stanley dumps the part into the hover sled, while gasping for relief.

PAGE 7

This Page has small panels of Jackie's expression and thoughts

placed so as to guide the eye through the rest of the backing image which is a large piece of futuristic technology. The design for this tech looks like A John Dere product, if a John Dere made interactive touchscreen technology that had been influenced by the design in the Black Mesa or Aperture science. Description of that device follows, then Jackie's dialogue.

PANEL 1

Device- This is a RadCore™ interface. It's used with radiation equipment but is adaptable for use with other heavy duty, and military equipment. Because of this the RadCore does not have a AI capacity. The left hand side 3/4's of the unit is touch screen interface. Each 1/3 is has it's own screen which can be shifted around depending on needs and priority. In the bottom right quadrant there are several slots for hard SparkDrives®, and the coil of power/interface cables.

-Top Left Quad-

Last Inspection:

03/26/2067

Status: Cesium Separator-Compromised.

Status2: Half-life reduction-Compromised

Status3: Target Yield-Compromised

Status4: Meltdown imminent.

Replace in: 7days.

Authorized: Jackie Kirby.

-Top Right Quad-

Processing

Complete: 47%

Rad Removal: 86%

Rad Recycle: 100%

Coolant Levels: 89%

H2O Temperature: 110 C

Solar Dispersal Loss: 10%

Tank 1 Integrity: 89%

Tank 2 Integrity: 76%

Tank 3 Integrity: 90%

-Bottom Left Quad-

This is a menu screen, like a home screen that has apps and programs.

The programs are farm and radiation specific. In this Quad It clearly has Jackie logged into the device.

PANEL 2 TOP LEFT PAGE.

All of these images of Jackie are like stationary portrait shots.

Jackie's face looking down at the screen.

JACKIE-CAPTION

I understand things.

PANEL 3 BOTTOM LEFT

Jackie looking half bored, like she's reading something she doesn't want to.

JACKIE-CAPTION

I think it's 'cause I started reading the second Ma taught me. We didn't have lotsa video, like the other kids I know. Once I was done with kiddie stuff I took what I could find. Novels. Comics. Essays. Poetry. But, I always liked the technical manuals Pa gave me the most.

PANEL 4 CENTER

Jackie is looking straight ahead, like she's looking us right in the eye, but really she's looking at this screen.

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

They taught me how things work. Once I knew how things worked, I could tell when they're broken. Then I started to fix them. I like fixing things. I'm good at it.

PANEL 5 MID RIGHT

Jackie from the same portrait shot, but looking over her shoulder like Stanley is calling to her.

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

I know you can't treat everything like a machine. Somethings aren't broken and don't need to fixin'. Sometimes something is so broken you'll never be able to fix it. No matter how much you understand.

PAGE 8

PANEL 1

Full width horizontal side shot from a distance.

Jackie once more silhouetted by the setting sun, being handed the Socket/lock by Stanley.

STANLEY

Well?

PANEL 2

Same shot.

Jackie locking the plate back in place with the socket. Stanley is standing behind her.

JACKIE

We've got a week before it melts down.

STANLEY

That's bad right?

PANEL 3

Same shot.

Jackie is getting back to her bike. In the hover sled sits Stanley with the tools.

JACKIE

Not if it gets me into town tomorrow.

PANEL 4

Same shot.

but Jackie and Stanley are riding towards us, the sun behind them, and the silo towering.

PANEL 5

From a clothesline above and behind Jackie & Stanley.

Jackie and Stanley pulling up to the house. Ma is standing on the front porch calling them in for dinner. Stanley is already jumping out of the hover sled before it's stopped moving.

PANEL 6

Closer to the house.

Jackie has parked the Bike and is pulling her helmet off while Stanley makes leaps onto the porch. Ma Kirby is speaking to Stanley first and then Jackie.

MA KIRBY

Stanley where's *your* helmet? And take your damn shoes off!

MA KIRBY-TO JACKIE

Well? What does the diagnostic say?

PAGE 9

PANEL 1

Facing Jackie, as if from her mother's POV.

We see Jackie for the first time without a helmet or hat on.

Her face is dirty and her hair is short, a messed up pixie cut, but maybe longer. She's looking up at her mother and seemingly giving a serious report.

JACKIE

The cesium separator will be bust in a week. We'll have to shut it all down before that or the whole thing will melt down. It won't make target yield before that. The tank integrity will be fine for a while, but as long as we need that one part, we might as well make the most of a trip to town.

PANEL 2

Now POV is looking up at Ma Kirby.

Ma is making a weary exasperated face, like she doesn't want to talk about the subject of town. She's gesturing over her shoulder.

MA KIRBY

Well we can talk about it later, why don't you go wash up and we can have dinner?

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

I know that everything eventually breaks down.

PANEL 3

POV from that same child level as before.

Jackie is in the house, looking into the kitchen where her brother once more sits in the same place looking sullen once more.

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

I know it's a lot easier to fix machines than it is people. People don't have technical manuals.

PANEL 4

POV from atop a set of double (back and forth) stairs, looking down.

Jackie walking up the stairs towards where the bathroom and her bedroom are. There are portraits and paintings all over the walls of the Kirby house. Leftover art of a bygone era. It's not even all good, some of it being cheesy landscapes or weary old show posters.

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

I remember when we were young, when Stanley was a baby, we had to run. There were raiders coming to the town we'd tried to live in. I'd asked Pa what was wrong with them, and he told me they were broken.

PANEL 5

Reverse, so that we are looking up.

Jackie at the top of the stairs looking down, watching her father pass through the foyer below her smoking an e-cigarette and looking through a beat up old popular mechanics magazine.

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

After that I'd lay awake at night. Not afraid, no nightmares, I was just trying to figure out how I could fix all those broken people.

PANEL 6

Same shot.

Pa is looking up at Jackie now, noticing she's watching him. He looks half embarrassed half amused.

JACKIE-CAPTIONED

Eventually I asked Pa, 'cause I thought he had the answer to everything. He looked at me real sad for a second before he smiled and told me: One piece at a time Jackie.