

**RAGNAROK ISSUE #1**  
**SCRIPT BY: Katie Marcum**

**Pages 1-3**

Panel 1: Open with a back shot of Fanfaron (early 20's) standing at the top of a hill, looking out over the pastures where his sheep roam. He has what will become his iconic weapon in hand- a modern shepherd's crook. It has the same general shape as a classic crook (a long stick that turns back on itself at the end), but is expandable, sort of like a spring-loaded bo staff, and the actual crook section is a circle on a full rotational axis so the opening can shift location and size on Fanfaron's command. Even though Fanfaron has left most of the cyberpunk world behind, the non-internet technology is still around (kind of like how no matter where you go in the world now, you can find plastic products- no matter where you go in this world you can find tech). He is wearing clothes that have a "cyberpunk but thrifted" aesthetic, as he doesn't get much new these days. He does have a 2-3 inch wide wristband, though, with an LCD screen that wraps all the way around. It's standard tech for most people these days, with functionality similar to that of an Apple Watch.

1. FANFARON (NARRATION): Sometimes I look out over my small piece of the world..
2. FANFARON (NARRATION): Taking in the sunshine and the hills..
3. FANFARON (NARRATION): The animals and the grass..

Panel 2: Fanfaron turns his head, looking behind him and facing us. He's handsome, in a roguishly charming way. Hearing his sister's voice brings a smile to his face.

4. FANFARON (NARRATION): And I wonder who the hell decided it was a good idea to leave me in charge of it all.
5. FREJA (OFF): Fanfaron!

Panel 3: Freja (10-12) is walking up the dust path from the house to where her brother is standing. She has one hand on her backpack strap and the other is raised as she waves to him. She is definitely a cute kid, her hair in a poofy bob and wearing a baggy sweater over her school uniform. Fenrir, Fanfaron's sheepdog, is trotting alongside her with his tongue lolling out.

6. FREJA: School's officially over, and you promised we could rotate the pastures together this year! You promised!

Panel 4: Fanfaron turns with a big smile as she runs up and wraps her arms around his waist. He immediately hugs her back, ducking his head and holding her close.

7. FANFARON: And I'm not going to break a promise, Freja!

8. FANFARON (NARRATION): I shouldn't be left in charge of anything.

Panel 5: The pair pull apart, but Freja holds onto Fanfaron's arm as they move back towards the edge of the hill. Fenrir is hugging close to their legs.

9. FREJA: Yes! Where should we take them first? The eastern hills are dry, but the grass is yellowing much faster than the northern pass.

10. FANFARON: Well, you've been studying! That's a tricky choice to make. Do you send them somewhere safe but simple or somewhere dangerous but prosperous?

Panel 6: Freja is smiling up at her brother as she speaks.

11. FREJA: I think they'd rather be a little hungry than risk catching a parasite from the water.

12. FANFARON: A good choice. As the shepherd, you're in charge of keeping the flock safe.

Panel 7: Her face immediately falls as the voices of the boys echo around her.

13. FANFARON: Even if it means upsetting-

14. BOY 1 (OFF): Hey there, sheep-kisser!

Panel 8: Fanfaron moves Freja behind him as he faces the bullies. He has an expression of fear on his face as he tries to sound stern with them, but his body language doesn't give him any air of authority. Fenrir has turned, his hackles raised and teeth bared.

15. FANFARON: Go home, boys. Y-you shouldn't be out here.

16. FENRIR: Grrr...

17. BOY 2 (OFF): Your brother's so lame! No wonder he can't keep anything but sheep. No wonder you don't have a mom!

Panel 9: The boys (slightly bigger than Freja) taunt Fanfaron. They're typical rascal characters, with scraped knees and undone

ties, but they also have thick goggles over their eyes. This is an important image, as it's the first time we're seeing an important bit of tech! These are the current models of the VR goggles Fanfaron's company designed. They allow the wearer to really lose themselves in the 'net world and warp their perception of the reality of what's around them. They're blackout angular shades that stick out from the wearer's face in almost a beak-like formation over their nose. There are also small sections that form around the ears to cover audio output. They are completely boxed in so no light can enter and mess with the screens. They should look lightweight and natural- something humans could believably wear all day every day.

18. BOY 1: Her mom's a sheep, I bet! That's why she won't show her face!

19. BOY 2: Sheep girl, sheep girl!

Panel 10: Shot of Fanfaron looking angry, but it's tempered by his anxiousness and hesitation.

20. FANFARON: I told you to leave, and I-I won't tell you twice.

Panel 11: Close shot of his hands behind his back as he slides his finger along the LCD band.

21. FANFARON: This isn't some playground for you to use as you wish.

Panel 12: The boys both grab at their faces, pulling their goggles up off their heads as Fanfaron drags Freja by them, Freja still holding Fanfaron's hand. Fenrir is trotting ahead, circling back towards them and baring his teeth at the boys.

22. FANFARON: It's our home!

**Pages 4-9**

Panel 1: Freja and Fanfaron walk into the house, Fanfaron pulling the door shut behind them. There is a large lock on the door that he is already reaching up to pull into place. He looks tired, and Freja has retreated into herself.

1. FANFARON: Want anything for dinner? I started some stew earlier today. It should be rea-
2. FREJA: I'm not hungry.
3. FANFARON (NARRATION): Something's wrong...

Panel 2: He walks through the front room to the kitchen. The house has a rather small footprint, really only spanning four rooms- the kitchen and the entryway are essentially one room at the front, then there are two doors against one wall (Freja's room and the bathroom) and another door against a second wall (Fanfaron's room). There's a small trapdoor in the floor just to the side of the entryway that leads down to the basement where Fanfaron has his equipment stored. Freja is almost to her room already as Fanfaron starts moving through.

4. FANFARON: Do you want to talk about... that?

Panel 3: Freja pauses at her door, and Fenrir moves around her legs. Her hand absentmindedly drops to scratch at his head. She looks to be on the verge of tears.

5. FREJA: It's nothing. At least nothing I haven't heard before.
6. FREJA: It just hurts because...

Panel 4: She looks down, sniffing as the tears start to come.

7. FREJA: ...Sometimes I do really wish I had a mom.

Panel 5: Fanfaron walks forward, wanting to comfort her, but she pushes into her room before he can make it.

8. FANFARON: Freja...
9. FANFARON (NARRATION): I wish I could tell you how much I want that, too.

Panel 6: He brings his hand up through his hair, letting out a small, disappointed sigh.

Panel 7: He places a hand against her door, lingering for a moment. Fenrir lays down in front of her door protectively.

10. FANFARON: Keep an eye on her, Fenrir.

Panel 8: Fanfaron steps away, heading to the trapdoor in the entryway. He speaks over his shoulder to his dog.

11. FANFARON: I'm heading downstairs.

Panel 9: One of the sheep has made its way inside and is sleeping on the trapdoor. It's a very cute, endearing creature, and Fanfaron is gentle with it as he rolls it aside with his foot.

Panel 10: As Fanfaron lifts the trapdoor, the sheep is laying on its back asleep- again, very cute. There is light coming from the basement.

12. FANFARON (OFF): Sorry, pal, need to get through.

Panel 11: Fanfaron climbs down into the trap door staircase, pulling the trap door shut behind him.

13. FANFARON (NARRATION): Those boys have been giving her problems all year.

Panel 12: Fanfaron gets to the bottom of the stairs, showing off his tech lab. This is where he has been developing more advanced prototypes of the android technology, though none of that is on display- it'll be a big reveal later. There is a huge wall of screens, most of which are offline. In front of them is a long desk with multiple keyboards and a few different hardware repair stations. There is one office chair set up in front of it and one small rolling stool. The desk is also littered with old plates and half-drunk soda cans.

14. FANFARON (NARRATION): The teachers say there isn't anyone other than Freja reporting the incidents, and without other students to be witnesses they can't take any action.

Panel 13: Fanfaron pulls his chair out of the way but stays standing, growing angry as he thinks about how upset the boys made his sister. And about how he didn't take any real action against them.

15. FANFARON (NARRATION): They're full of excuses. Bad ones, at that.

Panel 14: He types on one of the keyboards, the lower half of his face visible as his lip trembles in an angry, frustrated frown.

16. FANFARON (NARRATION): It's easy enough to get into the archived footage in their Reality Goggles. Especially with them still building on the original source code.

Panel 15: He uses two fingers to swipe data from his LCD band to the computer in front of him.

17. FANFARON (NARRATION): And from there it's just a matter of hitting play and watching them act out.

Panel 16: The footage from the boys' VR goggles pops up on the screens, showing them walking up towards Fanfaron and Freja from behind.

18. BOY (SCREEN): Hey there, sheep-kisser!

Panel 18: Fanfaron hits a key, rewinding the footage. Could have some cool lettering of scrambled or even backwards dialogue to show the rewind!

19. FANFARON (NARRATION): She hates her school so much already, and these bullies aren't making it any easier for her to adapt.

Panel 19: He starts consolidating the dishes in front of him and is reaching for a can. He pauses as he hears Freja's name.

20. FANFARON (NARRATION): We can't move again so soon. I put the last of my savings into this farm and the sheep.

21. BOY (SCREEN, OFF): Walking home again, Freja? Your brother couldn't come along in his horse and buggy to pick you up?

22. FREJA (SCREEN, OFF): He doesn't have a horse and buggy. We raise sheep.

Panel 20: He pulls his chair back in, reaching out to hit another key to start the footage again.

23. FREJA (SCREEN, OFF): I did see a horse in a buggy pull up, though- she was in your dad's car with him.

24. BOY (SCREEN, OFF): Hey!

25. SFX (SCREEN, OFF): Thump!

Panel 21: He has his head slightly bowed as he watches the footage of his sister being bullied.

26. FANFARON (NARRATION): But I can't just leave her in that school.

27. BOY (SCREEN, OFF): Enjoy the mud bath, farmgirl!

Panel 22: His knuckles grow white as Freja grows more upset.

28. BOY (SCREEN, OFF): Maybe if your brother wasn't such an unplugged wimp, you'd actually have friends.

Panel 23: He slams his fist down on the desk, knocking over one of the cans he hadn't cleaned up yet.

29. SFX: Slam!

30. FREJA (UPSTAIRS, OFF): Fan? Are you down there?

Panel 24: He reaches to turn the monitor off as he calls up to Freja.

31. FANFARON: Uh, yeah. You doing alright, squirt?

**Pages 10-11**

Panel 1: Fanfaron stumbles up the stairs, coming out of the hatch as Freja starts to peer down. He offers her a wide, kind smile as he dodges her question.

1. FREJA: What were you doing down there?
2. FANFARON: Change your mind about dinner?

Panel 2: Fanfaron lets the door slam shut behind him as he drapes an arm around his sister.

3. FANFARON: That stew only gets better with time!
4. FANFARON (NARRATION): Maybe we can have a nice summer break together. No thoughts about school or those bullies.

Panel 3: In the background, the sheep moves back onto the trap door. Maybe it's warm from all the tech! Good for napping. Fanfaron leads his sister toward the stove.

5. FANFARON: Are you excited to move pastures? I know the sheep are.
6. FREJA: Spending my whole summer surrounded by sheep. Right.

Panel 4: Freja looks a little less sad as her brother serves her a bowl of the stew. His face is bright and happy as he speaks, wanting nothing more than to take his sister's mind off of the bullies.

7. FANFARON: Hey, you get to be out in nature with our herd, facing off against nasty weather, broken wheels-

Panel 5: Freja is coming around to the idea now, and excitedly shouts out her answer.

8. FREJA: Maybe even coyotes!

Panel 6: Fanfaron's eyes go wide, but he keeps his jovial attitude.

9. FANFARON: Well, hopefully none of those. Let's aim for as uneventful a trip as possible.
10. FREJA: Bor-ing.

Panel 7: The two sit at the table, and Freja picks up a TV remote and looks to her brother with big, doe eyes.

11. FREJA: Can we watch TV while we eat? I had a hard day.



12. FANFARON: You little scammer. Fine. But soak it in now-  
we'll be off the grid for three months!

Panel 8: Freja points the remote to the wall, and hits the button  
with a smile.

**Pages 12-15**

Panel 1: Fanfaron is sitting at the table, his face leaned against his hand as he dozes off. Freja's head is down on the table already on her crossed arms. It's dark in the room, save for the faint glow of the TV.

Panel 2: Freja twitches.

1. FREJA (weak): No...

Panel 3: Freja twitches again.

2. FREJA: No...

Panel 4: Freja shoots up in her seat, looking like she was just electrocuted from behind. She is scared, and Fanfaron is up in an instant as well.

3. FREJA (shouting): No!

4. FANFARON: Freja!?

Panel 5: Fanfaron swings around the table to squat in front of his sister, moving her hair away from her face.

5. FANFARON: You're alright, squirt. You're here with me.

6. FANFARON (NARRATION): It's been so long since her last one.

Panel 6: She tries to stutter out words, but her sobs are cutting her off as she does.

7. FREJA: N- no-

8. FANFARON: It's okay.

9. FANFARON (NARRATION): I thought maybe they were gone for good.

Panel 7: Fanfaron tries to get her to talk, but she really can't speak through her sobs.

10. FREJA: I do- I don't- I don-

11. FANFARON: Shhh... shhh...

12. FANFARON (NARRATION): I should've known better.

Panel 8: Fanfaron pulls her into a tight hug, muttering into her hair.

13. FANFARON: It was just a bad dream.

Panel 9: Freja pulls back and wipes her arm across her face to push the tears away.

Panel 10: She looks down as she speaks.

14. FREJA: Can I... Can I sleep in your room tonight?

Panel 11: Fanfaron presses a kiss to her forehead as he stands.

15. FANFARON (NARRATION): They'll never be gone.

16. FANFARON: Of course, Freja. Whatever you need.

Panel 12: Fanfaron picks her up in his arms and she clings to him, childlike and scared.

17. FANFARON (NARRATION): I will protect her.

Panel 13 (Splash!): Fanfaron, Freja, and Fenrir are all sprawled out in Fanfaron's bed, sleeping soundly.

18. FANFARON (NARRATION): No matter what.

## Pages 16-19

Panel 1: Fanfaron and Freja are out in the pasture. They both have large backpacks, and Fanfaron is using his crook as a walking stick. They're tanned, hair longer and more wild. They've been nomadic for two months. The herd is ahead of them, and Freja is running through them, happily being chased by Fenrir. They are farther up a small hill than Fanfaron is as he brings up the back.

1. FANFARON (NARRATION): Two months...

Panel 2: Freja gets caught by Fenrir, who immediately moves under her arm to demand attention and affection.

2. FANFARON (NARRATION): How can so much change while so much stays the same?

Panel 3: Freja and Fenrir scramble up to the crest of the hill.

3. FANFARON (NARRATION): She's so happy now.

Panel 4: Freja waves her arms at her brother with a huge smile on her face.

4. FREJA: Fan, we made it! Come and look!

5. FANFARON: Okay, I'm coming!

6. FANFARON (NARRATION): What I wouldn't give to help her stay that way.

Panel 5: Fanfaron joins them at the top of the hill, looking down at a large fenced in pasture. There's an open gate at the bottom next to a large farmhouse.

7. FREJA: Do we really have to leave them behind?

8. FANFARON: They're sheep, Freja. Our farm isn't suited for a hard winter. Sometimes you need to do what's best for the herd, even if it makes you sad.

Panel 6: The sheep are flooding past Fanfaron and Freja guided by a barking Fenrir. The two of them are moving down the hill as well.

9. FREJA: But what if this farm isn't good for the winter?

10. FANFARON: This is the farm where I bought them. The owner is a very capable shepherd.

Panel 7: Fanfaron closes the gate behind the last of the sheep and looks down at Freja.

11. FANFARON: Trust me, squirt. They're going to be safer here than they would be with us.

12. FANFARON: Are you ready to head back home?

Panel 8: Her face falls as she looks away from her brother.

13. FREJA: And back to school?

14. FANFARON (NARRATION): And back to school.

Panel 9: Fanfaron drops to a knee next to his sister, bracing himself with his crook. He has a soft, kind smile.

15. FANFARON: I was thinking about that, actually.

Panel 10: Freja's head snaps back up, her eyes wide.

16. FANFARON: I'm not saying for sure, because there's a lot to work out, but there's a school in the next town over. I was thinking we could stop in on our way back to the farm.

Panel 11: Freja dives forward to wrap her brother in a tight embrace.

17. FREJA: Really!? You mean it!?

18. FANFARON: It'll be tough when the herd comes back, but yes, I mean it.

Panel 12: He pulls back to look at her, both of them excited.

19. FANFARON (NARRATION): Things are going to change this year, Freja. I won't let you suffer anymore.

**Pages 20-25**

Panel 1: Fanfaron, Freja, and Fenrir are sitting around a campfire. There is a pot hanging over it, and Fanfaron is dropping some chunks of potato into it.

1. FREJA: How long left on the stew? I'm starving!
2. FANFARON: You know it tastes better the longer you let it sit.

Panel 2: Freja leans her head back, groaning impatiently. Fanfaron dunks his ladle into the pot.

3. FREJA: But I'm hungry now!
4. FANFARON: Alright, alright. Here you go.

Panel 3: Freja takes a long sip of the soup.

5. FANFARON: How is it?

Panel 4: She winces as she replies, clearly trying to cover her bad choice. Fanfaron is smiling.

6. FREJA: Delicious!
7. FANFARON: That's what I thought. Let it sit-
8. FENRIR: Arouf!

Panel 5: Fanfaron stands up, looking to where Fenrir is growling. The grass is thick, and there is a small grove of trees. The dog's hackles are raised as he scrunches in a defensive posture.

9. FANFARON: What is it, Fenrir?
10. FENRIR: Grrr...

Panel 6: Fanfaron pushes Freja backwards a bit as he moves past her, worry across his face.

11. FANFARON: Freja, get behind me.
12. FREJA: What-

Panel 7: Fanfaron picks up his crook carefully, eyes trained on the grove of trees.

13. FANFARON: Now, Freja. No questions.
14. FENRIR: Grrr...

Panel 8: There is a beat of silence as they all stare at this spot, squinting at the faint glow in the darkness.

15. FANFARON (NARRATION): What is...

Panel 9: The pixel dives out of the treeline! It's like a mix between a bear and a computer virus. It has no fur, and its skin is pale white, almost translucent in some places, like it's barely held together. It's massive jaws are open in a terrifying display of teeth.

16. PIXEL: Graaaaaaugh!

Panel 10: Fanfaron stumbles back as the pixel charges him, and he raises his crook to block the creature's massive paw coming down on him.

17. FANFARON: Agh!

18. FANFARON (NARRATION): What!?

Panel 11: Fanfaron blocks the next blow with more certainty, holding his ground. He is looking over his shoulder at Freja and Fenrir. Freja is staring, wide eyed and shocked. Fenrir is standing between her and the action defensively.

19. FANFARON: Run!

20. FREJA: I ca- I can't!

Panel 12: The pixel brings its massive jaws down in an attempt to bite, and Fanfaron holds his crook in both hands, lifting it above his head to try to block the attack. The pixel bites right through it, sending a shower of sparks all over the place.

Panel 13: With his weapon broken, Fanfaron is defenseless as a massive paw side swipes him, sending him flying to the side.

21. FANFARON: Ooph!

22. FANFARON (NARRATION): Have to get...

Panel 14: Fanfaron slams into the ground hard, the two halves of his crook next to him.

23. FANFARON: Gah...

24. FENRIR (OFF): Arouf!

25. FANFARON (NARRATION): Back up!

Panel 15: Fanfaron's eyes go wide as he struggles to his feet, grabbing for half of the staff. He is looking over at Fenrir and Freja, the loyal dog facing down the massive pixel to protect

Freja. She is still in the same position, frozen and wide eyed as she looks up at the attacker.

26. FANFARON: Freja, run! Get out of there!

Panel 16: Fenrir dodges to the side as the pixel brings a massive paw down.

Panel 17: The dog leaps up, grabbing onto the pixel's neck with his teeth.

27. FENRIR: Grrrr!

Panel 18: The pixel thrashes its head to the side, letting out a wowl and swinging Fenrir. Freja is still in place.

28. PIXEL: Awoo!

Panel 19: The pixel swings back the other way, and Fenrir can't hold on. Or rather, the pixel's flesh can't. Fenrir flies off of the creature, it's flesh still clamped in his jaws.

Panel 20: Fanfaron reaches out with one hand, horrified. His other is firmly grasped around the bottom half of his crook.

29. FANFARON: Fenrir!

Panel 21: Fanfaron sprints forward as the pixel turns over to his sister. Where there should be blood dripping from its neck there are odd pixels.

30. FANFARON (quietly): Freja...

31. PIXEL: Grrr...

Panel 22: Fanfaron's feet leave the ground as he dives like a prehistoric hunter, his short spear above his head and crackling with energy.

32. FANFARON: Freja!

Panel 23: Fanfaron buries the spear in the Noob's neck, electric side first. It slams through the flesh and down into the beast.

33. FANFARON (shouting): Freja!

Panel 24: Fanfaron and the pixel are encapsulated in a huge field of electricity blasting out from the point of contact.

34. FANFARON (NARRATION): I will protect her! No matter what!



**Pages 26 + 27**

Panel 1: Fanfaron is laying on the ground next to the beast, his improvised spear sticking out from the creature. It is slowly dissolving into pixels in the background.

1. FANFARON: Ughhh...

Panel 2: Freja runs forward to her brother, tears streaming down her face. Behind them, the pixel is continuing to dissolve.

2. FREJA: Fan!

3. FANFARON (NARRATION): It's dead...

Panel 3: Fanfaron pulls Freja into a strong hug from his place on the ground, and she all but falls to her knees to return the embrace. The pixel is almost completely gone now.

4. FANFARON: Freja! You're alright!

5. FREJA: Don't move, Fan, you look hurt!

Panel 4: Fanfaron strokes his sister's hair. The pixel is completely gone now.

6. FANFARON (NARRATION): It has to be dead...

7. FANFARON: I'll be alright. Where's Fenrir?

Panel 5: Fenrir is sniffing around in the space the beast had fallen.

8. FANFARON: Good boy, Fenrir. Come here.

Panel 6: Fenrir approaches, a cracked and sparking bit of a motherboard in his mouth.

9. FANFARON: What's that, boy?

Panel 7: Fanfaron takes the device from his dog, moving his head to the side in curiosity.

10. FREJA: What is it?

11. FANFARON: I don't know...

Panel 8: Focus in on the shot of Fanfaron turning the device over in his hand, the logo of Fanfaron's old company proudly and strongly emblazoned on the back of the motherboard.

12. FANFARON (NARRATION): But I might know someone who does.