

billboard

May 27, 2017

18K Print Circulation



The Issue One cover (left) and two pages of Lights' upcoming *Skin & Earth* comic series, which connects to her album of the same name.



FIRST LOOK

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG IDEA

Concept albums are nothing new, but it's the lengths to which **Lights** takes her fourth album *Skin & Earth* that sets it apart. After introducing herself as the comic book alter-ego Captain Lights in 2008, the electro-pop artist (real name: **Valerie Poxleitner**) further colors outside the lines by pairing her next LP, due this fall, with a comic book series from Dynamite Entertainment that brings the music's narrative to life. "I've always found a way to connect comics and music, but never so directly," she says.

Three years in the making and inspired

by female heroines like Wonder Woman, the project — written pre-President **Donald Trump** but "definitely with some commentary on this part of the world,"

she says — tells the story of a girl named En in search of hope in a post-apocalyptic world. In the leadup to the album, Lights will release monthly comic book issues starting in July alongside corresponding



Lights

songs. "As of now there are only six issues, and that completes the record," she says. "But I don't think it'll end there. I'm not just letting it go."

—ILANA KAPLAN