

Drowtales: Space Age

STORY BY KERN
ART BY BLACKMYST
WWW.DROWTALES.COM



EXCAVATION SITE NUMBER 219...



Rrrrrrrrr

IS THAT THE THING?

YES SIR, WE FOUND IT 2 HOURS AGO.



WE DID TESTS, AND THE RESULTS ARE ASTOUNDING. THIS SITE DATES BACK MORE THAN 10 MILLENNIA, PERHAPS EVEN 12.



THE BONE RESULTS SHOW THAT THIS IS A SPECIES OF A PRIMITIVE UNDERGROUND DRAGON, THE REAL STUFF!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS? WE JUST MIGHT HAVE THE PROOF THAT OUR ANCESTORS ONCE LIVED UNDERGROUND!

SPECULATION, SPECULATION.

THIS IS NO PROOF YET. DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING THOSE RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS SAY.



STORE EVERYTHING YOU FIND INTO CONTAINERS AND SECURE THEM.

KEEP WORKING. THE HIGHER-UPS WILL CHOOSE WHAT TO DO WITH THIS SITE.



YES SIR!

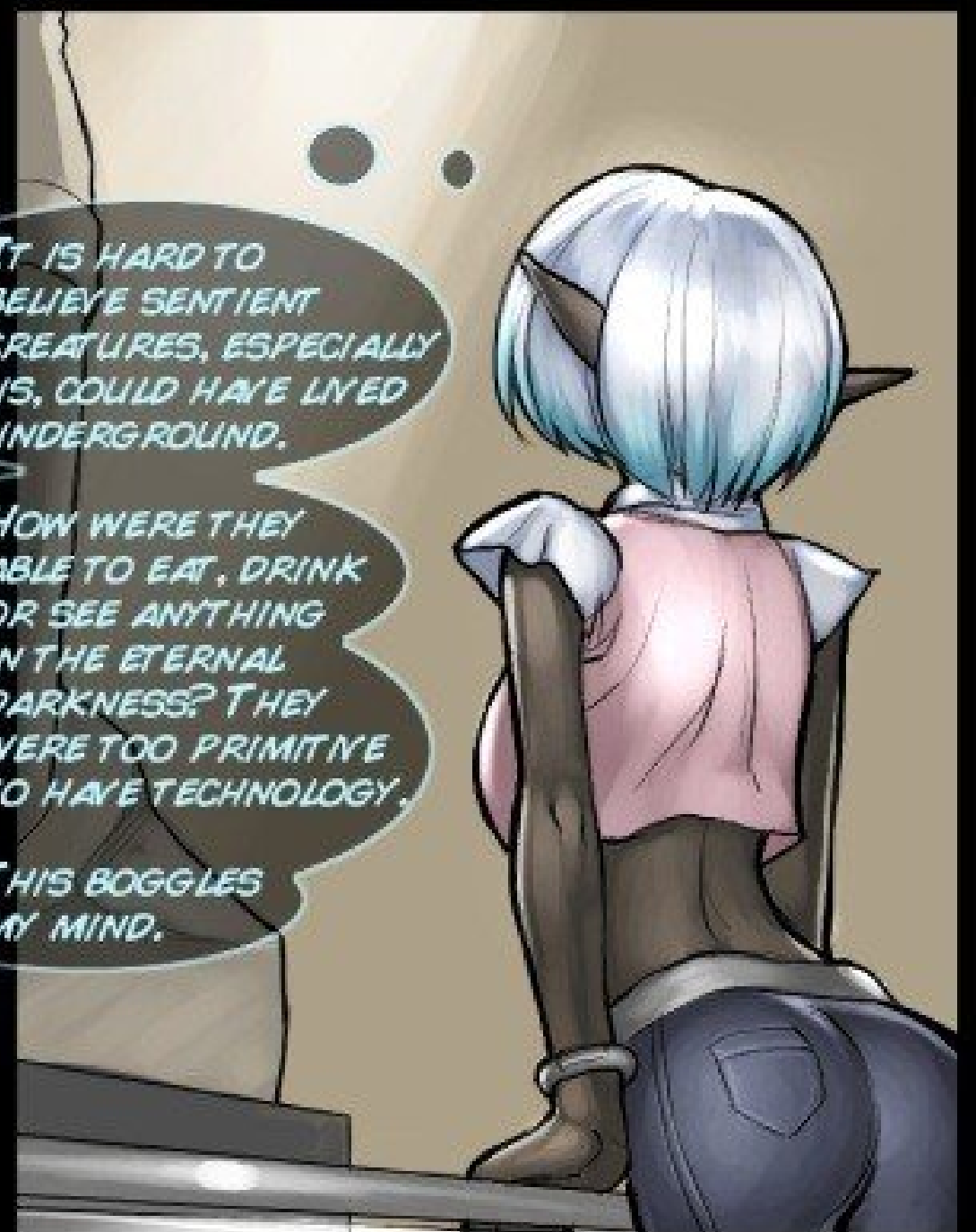
DROWUNDERTICILLUS -
FOUND ON SEPTA-2.
ANCIENT DROW OF 12
MILLENNIA AGO.
BELIEVED TO BE LIVING
UNDER THE SURFACE
OF THE PLANET. THE
SPECIES FOCUSED
MOST OF IT EXISTENCE
INTO ALCOHOL
CONSUMPTION. AS
THE MUG HELD BY THIS
RARE SPECIMEN SHOWS.
THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS
PROBABLY A QUEEN
AMONG ITS KIND.



IT IS HARD TO
BELIEVE SENTIENT
CREATURES, ESPECIALLY
US, COULD HAVE LIVED
UNDERGROUND.

HOW WERE THEY
ABLE TO EAT, DRINK
OR SEE ANYTHING
IN THE ETERNAL
DARKNESS? THEY
WERE TOO PRIMITIVE
TO HAVE TECHNOLOGY.

THIS BOGGLES
MY MIND.

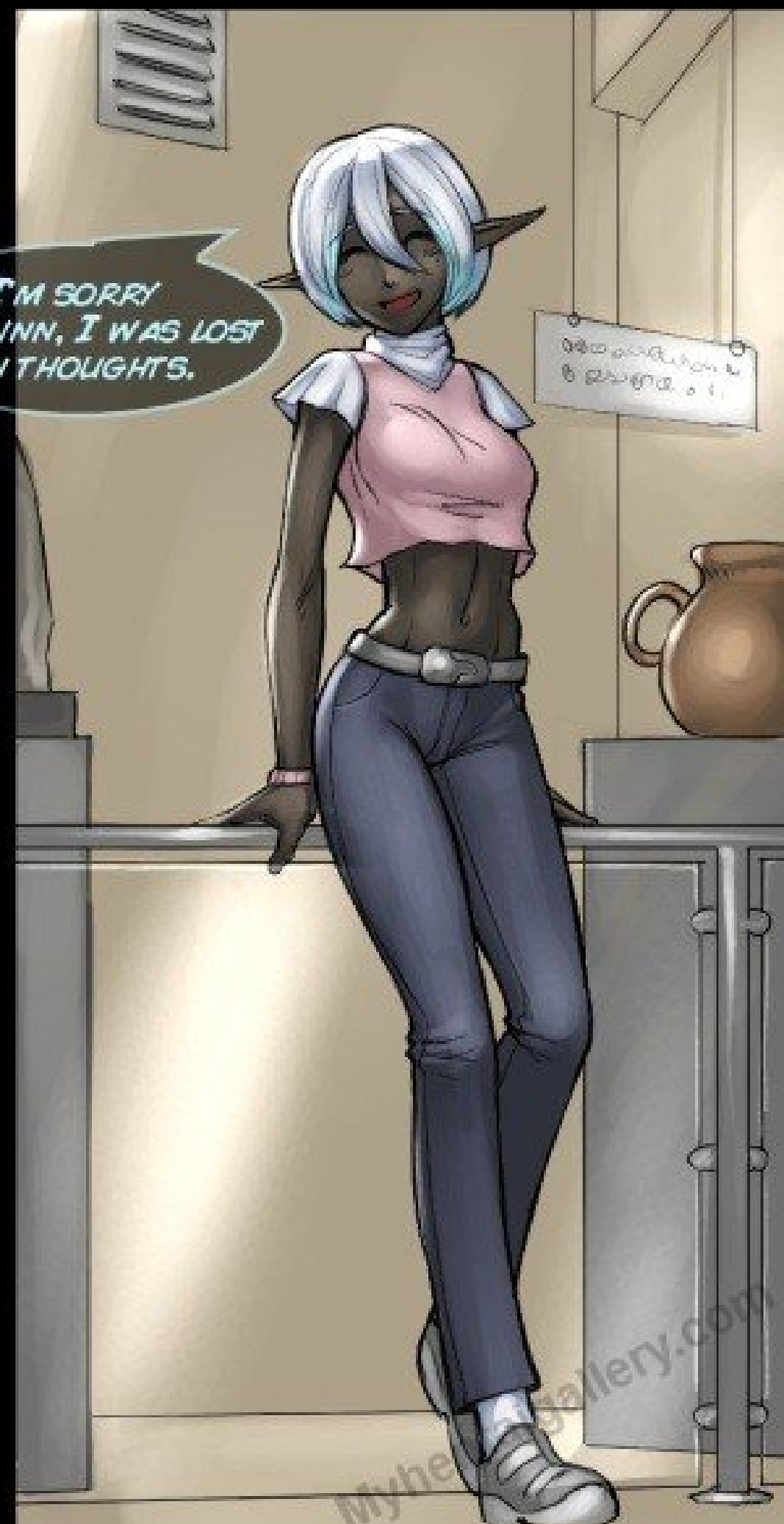


I WONDER...

COME ON
LILITH!



I'M SORRY
MELINN, I WAS LOST
IN THOUGHTS.



THERE ARE
MORE DISPLAYS
AHEAD.

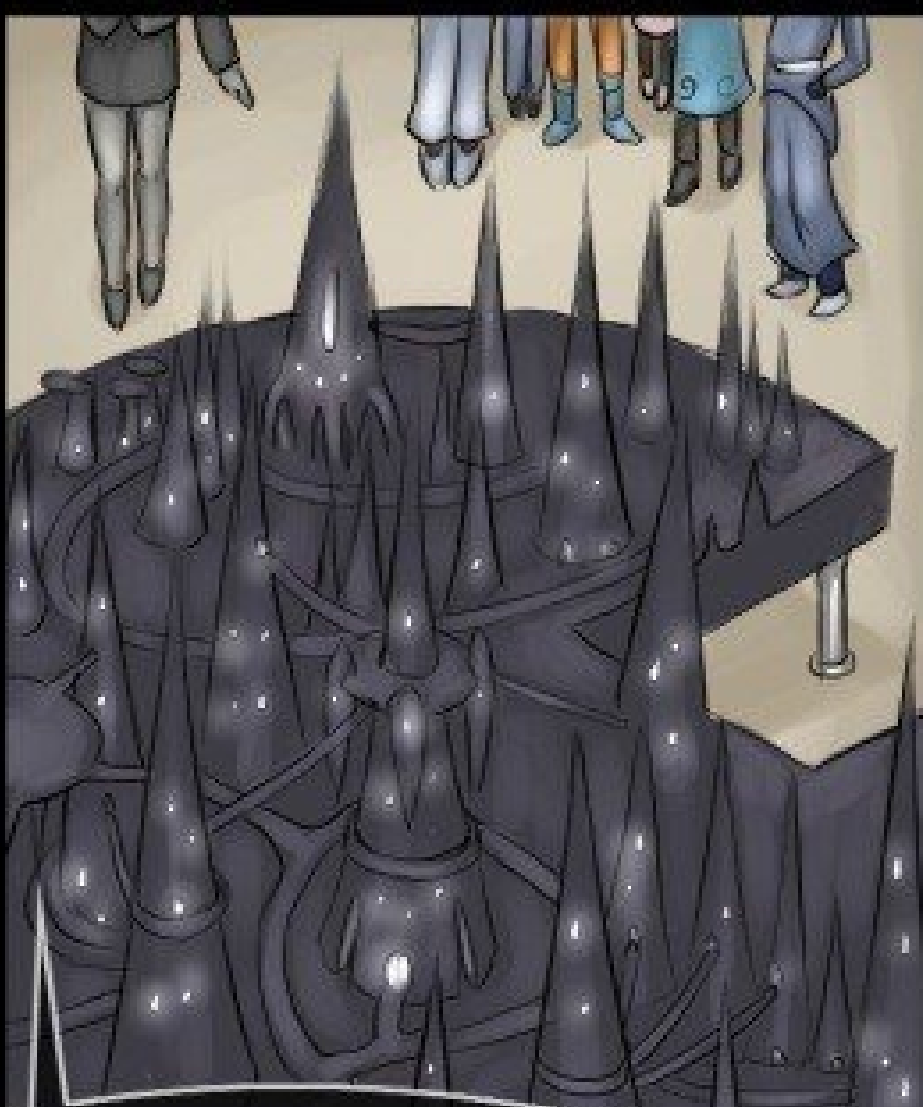
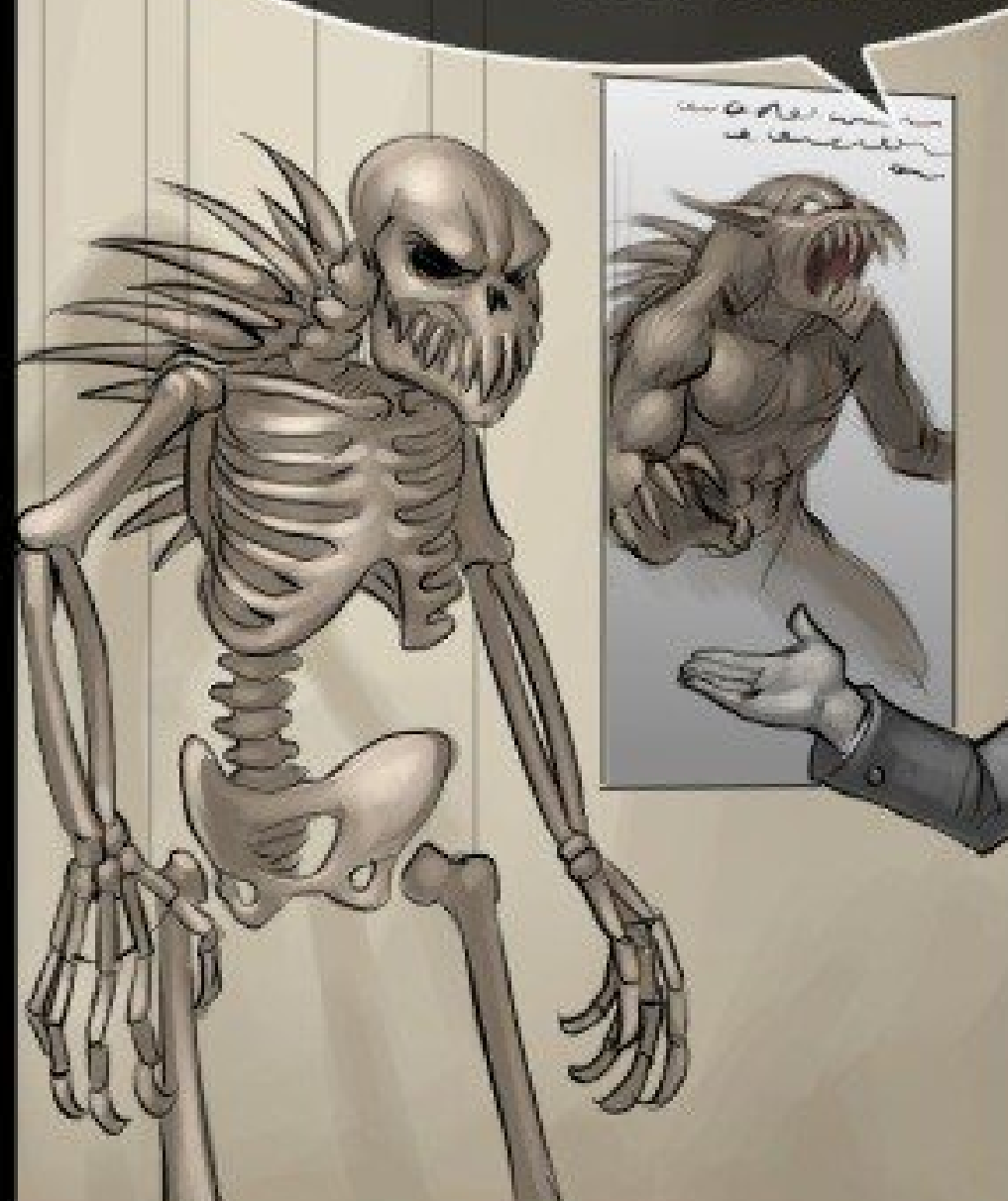




THIS STATUE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE RUIN OF A CITY UNDER THE GROUND OF OUR HOMEWORLD. IT IS BELIEVED TO BE A REPRESENTATION OF AN ANCIENT GODDESS WORSHIPED BY OUR ANCESTORS. IT APPEARS THAT THE GODDESS WAS CLOSELY RELATED TO DRAGONS. THE DRAGONS BEING CREATURES OF GREAT MYTHICAL POWER, THIS IS NO SURPRISE. BUT AS THIS RELIGION CRUMBLLED, IT APPEARS THE DRAGON RACE WENT EXTINCT WITH IT.



IT ALSO APPEARS THAT GENETIC MANIPULATION EXISTED EVEN BACK THEN. MAYBE AN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY THAT GOT LOST WITH THIS CIVILISATION. A NEW SPECIES WAS CREATED, WITH QUITE FEARSOME BEASTIAL FEATURES. WE'VE DUBBED THIS SPECIMEN "DEMON". QUITE A FITTING NAME FROM WHAT YOU CAN SEE IN THIS CG RECONSTRUCTION. THIS SPECIES ALSO WENT EXTINCT.



WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR RELIGION AND EXTINCTION OF THE NEW RACES, THE INEVITABLE CAME TO BE. THE ENTIRE CIVILISATION FELL APART. ENTIRE CITIES WERE EVENTUALLY BURIED UNDER COUNTLESS TONS OF ROCKS. ONLY TO BE DISCOVERED RECENTLY. BUT... THERE IS MUCH MORE YET TO BE DISCOVERED. WHO KNOWS WHAT WONDERS WE SHALL FIND?



THE SURVIVORS OF THIS DARK AGE CIVILISATION MOVED TO THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET AND BEGAN THE RECORDED HISTORY THAT WE KNOW OF. UNITED IN THEIR WORSHIP AND WONDER FOR THE MOONS, THEY ADVANCED IN THEIR TECHNOLOGY, IN HOPES OF SOMEDAY REACHING THEM.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THEY EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDED.

SPEAKING OF MOONS...

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THAT SECRET JOB YOU'RE WORKING ON, AT THE SEPTA MOON BASE?



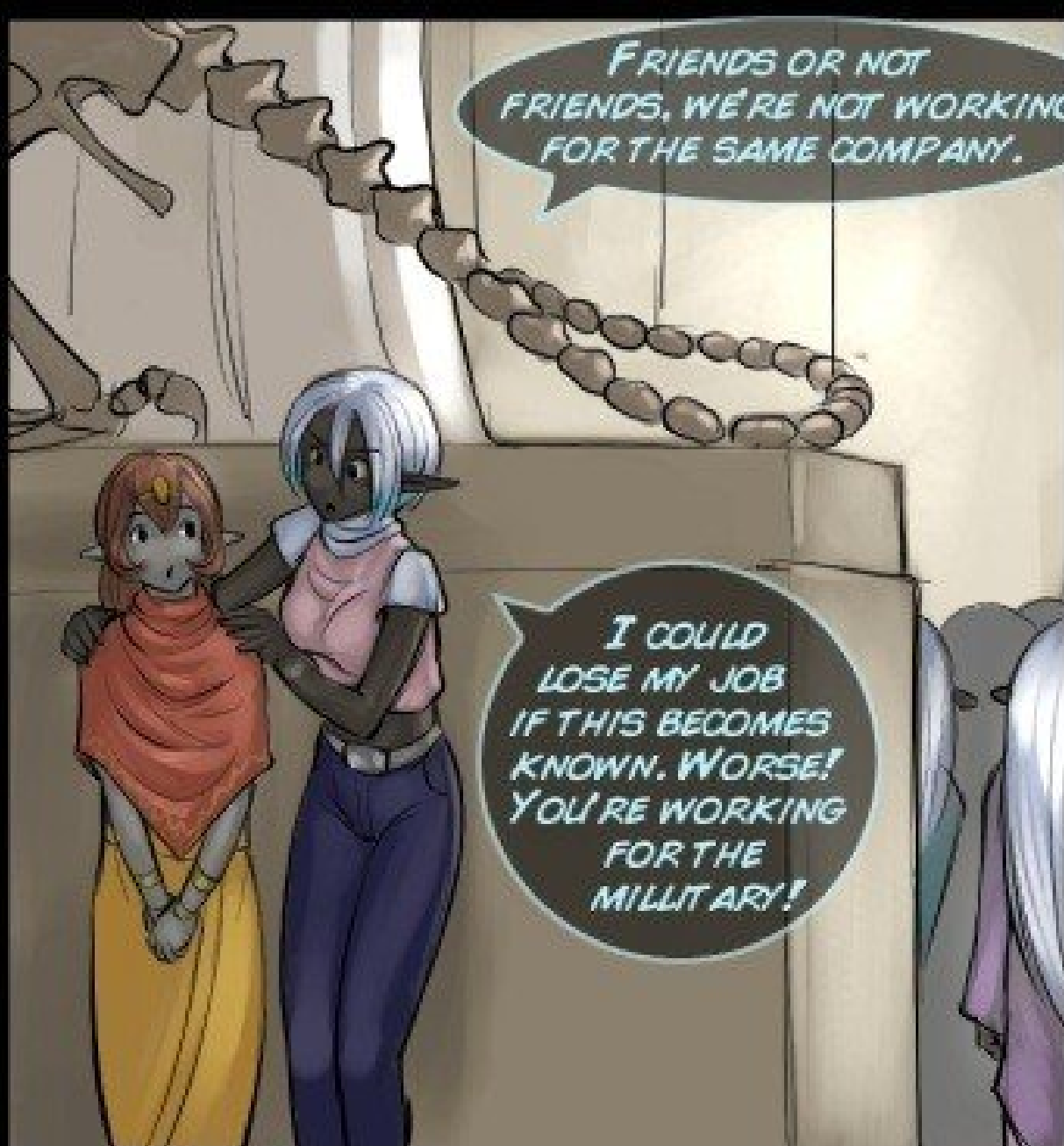
'SECRET' SPEAKS FOR ITSELF
MELINN. THAT MEANS IT IS
CLASSIFIED.

OH? WHAT'S A
LITTLE SECRET BETWEEN
FRIENDS?



FRIENDS OR NOT
FRIENDS, WE'RE NOT WORKING
FOR THE SAME COMPANY.

I COULD
LOSE MY JOB
IF THIS BECOMES
KNOWN. WORSE!
YOU'RE WORKING
FOR THE
MILITARY!



KEEP THE
SPACE SAFE, PURGE
THE MUTANTS. AT THE
ROOT OF IT, WE'RE IN
THE SAME BUSINESS,
LILTH.



OR PERHAP A NEW SPACE SUIT
FOR OUR SOLDIERS?

IT IS A NEW
KIND OF ENGINE?



OR...A PROTOTYPE
OF A BATTLESHIP?



I KNOW WHERE
YOUR FUNDS COME FROM,
IT'S BOUND TO BE ONE OF
THESE THINGS!





OH? SO YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME NOW?



MORE THAN YOU'D ADMIT.



PROUD YOUNG LILITH, ENROLLING INTO THE ARMY AS SOON AS SHE GOT OUT OF COLLEGE. TOP OF HER CLASS IN EVERYTHING, LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE.



BUT SHE HATED THE MILITARY, LEAVING IT AFTER MERELY A YEAR. HOWEVER, THE GRUDGE AGAINST THEM WAS NOT GOING TO FADE AWAY SO QUICKLY.



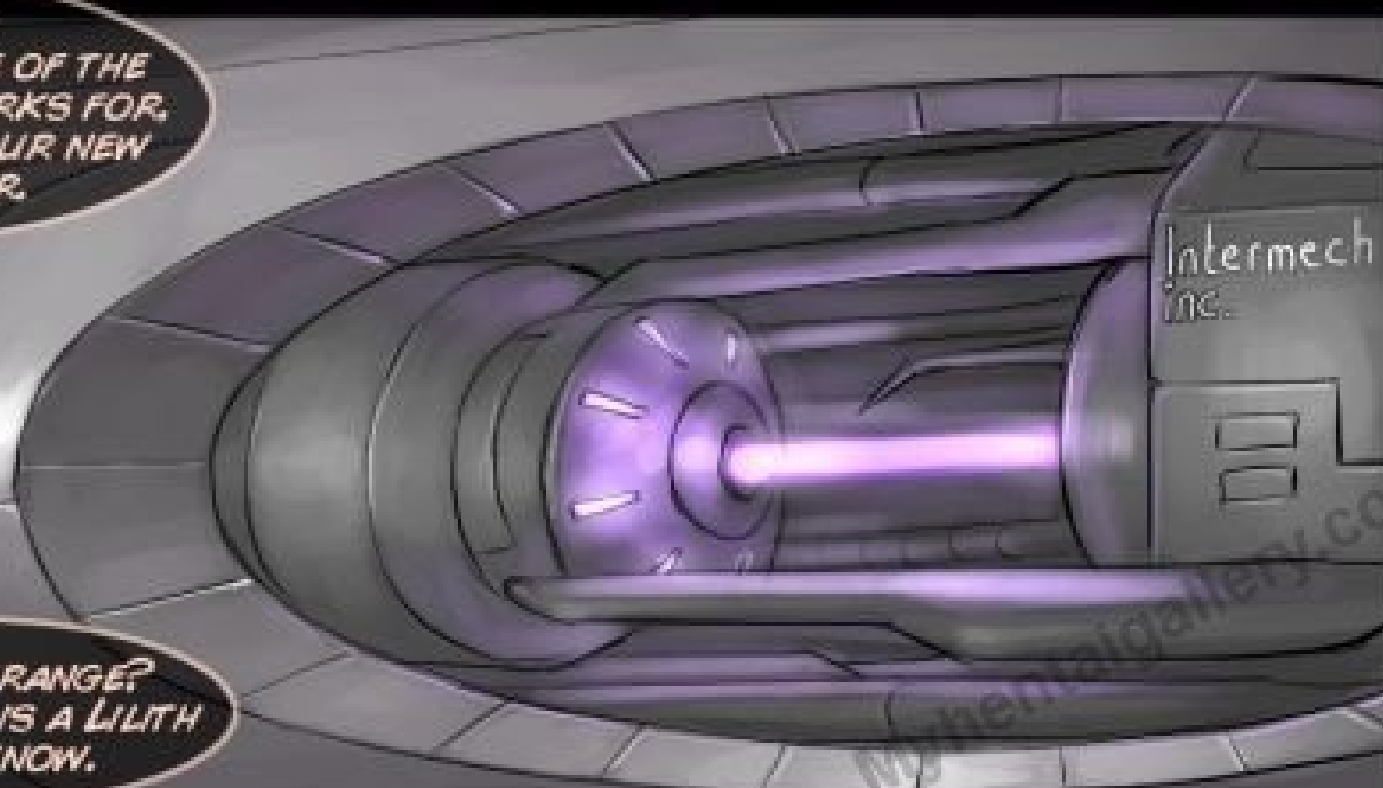
SHE THEN WENT TO A UNIVERSITY TO STUDY METAPHYSICS AND MECHANICS. FINDING THERE THE PASSION SHE WAS LOOKING FOR.

SHE WAS THEN RECRUITED BY A STATE-OWNED CORPORATION WORKING ON PROTOTYPES OF TECHNOLOGIES THAT CANNOT BE DISCLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. WHAT COULD SHE BE WORKING ON IN THE DEPTH OF HER LABORATORY? NOTHING CLOSE TO A WEAPON OF COURSE. PROUD LILITH WOULD NEVER DWELL INTO SUCH A THING AFTER HER MISADVENTURES WITH THE MILITARY, WOULD SHE?



BUT STRANGELY, I'VE FOUND THE NAME OF THE CORPORATION SHE WORKS FOR, WITHIN MY SHIP, ON OUR NEW MANA CONDENSER.

ISN'T IT STRANGE? PERHAPS IT IS A LILITH WE BOTH KNOW.





THAT'S JUST
GENERAL
PURPOSE
TECHNOLOGY.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.



HMM, OK.

SINCE YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO TELL
ME ANYTHING APPARENTLY,
MIGHT AS WELL
CONTINUE DOWN
MEMORY LANE
FOR A BIT...

WHERE
WERE WE...
UNIVERSITY?



YEAH,
UNIVERSITY WAS
FUN...

YOU USUALLY
DIDN'T DRINK
ALCOHOL.

SO
THAT ONE
TIME YOU DID
GET DRUNK,
IT WAS PRETTY
BAD.

YOU HAD
A GO AT THE
KARAOKE MACHINE, AND
YOUR SINGING WAS SO AWFUL
YOU MADE THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER.



THEY PROBABLY
STILL HAVE THE ARTICLE
ARCHIVED AT THEIR
WEBSITE

I THINK
THEY HAVE VIDEO,
TOO.

LET'S
CHECK!



OK, OK!
FINE!

I'LL TELL
YOU ABOUT THE
PROJECT!

JUST
PLEASE
NEVER BRING
THAT UP
ANYMORE,
EVER!

ALL THOSE THINGS YOU GUESSED WERE WRONG.

I COULDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET PROJECT.

NOT JUST WHAT I'M WORKING ON, BUT THE REASON FOR IT AS WELL.

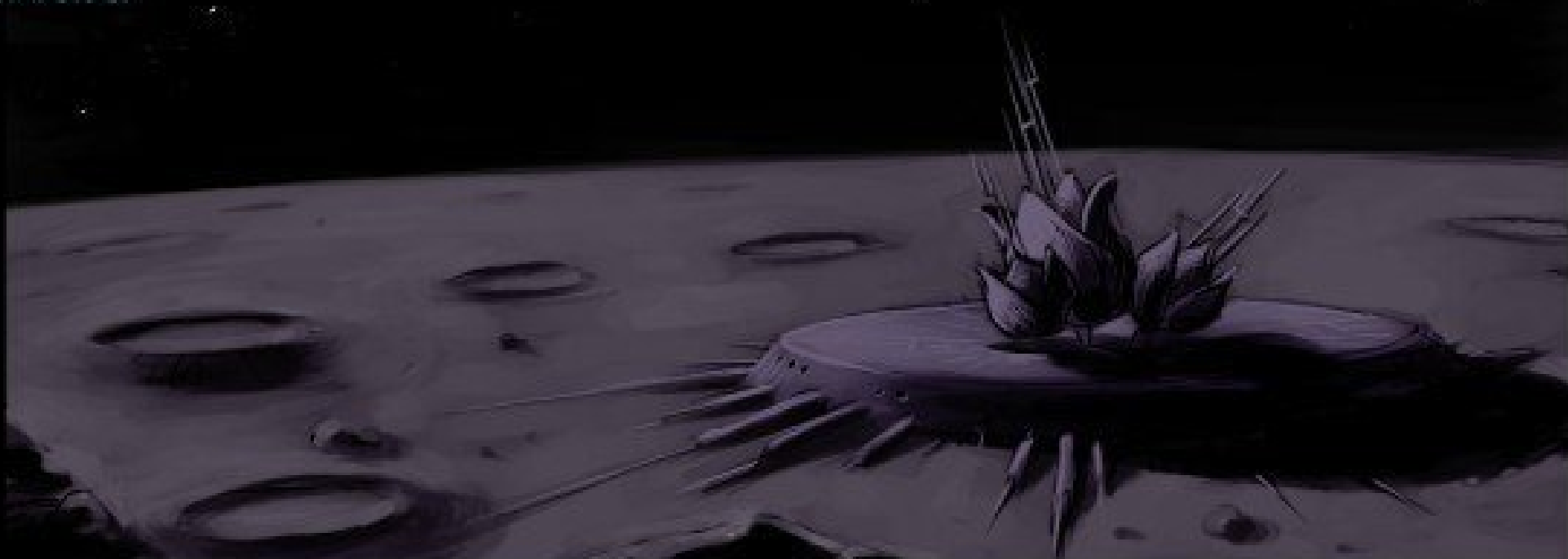
YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO ME UPON YOUR FAITH AND DUTY

THAT YOU WILL NEVER TELL ANYBODY ELSE ABOUT WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL. AT LEAST UNTIL IT IS PUBLICLY KNOWN.

SURE!

IT HAPPENED EARLIER THIS YEAR ON NONA*. AT A REMOTE BASE MEANT FOR SPACE SCANNING, TO CATCH SMUGGLERS AND DETECT SPACE ANOMALIES.

AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS WITHOUT A SINGLE TRANSMISSION AND NO RESPONSE GIVEN TO PASSING BY SHUTTLES, A SQUAD WAS SENT TO INVESTIGATE.



THEY FORCED THEIR WAY IN. THE POWER WAS OUT AND EVERYBODY HAD BEEN DEAD FOR A WHILE ALREADY. BUT THE STRANGEST THING WAS THAT NO MANA COULD BE DETECTED.

WHAT? COME ON. IF THERE WAS A BATTLE, THERE IS BOUND TO BE RESIDUAL MANA LEFT BEHIND EVEN AFTER MONTHS.



EXACTLY. BUT THERE WAS TRULY NOTHING. NOT THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF MANA AND WE BOTH KNOW GUN SHELLS LEAVE A LOT OF MANA.

BUT THE SHELLS USED HAD NONE.



THEY WERE A COMPLETELY NEW TECHNOLOGY. VERY PRIMITIVE YET UNDETECTABLE.

WHATEVER HAPPENED, SOMEONE HAS FOUND A TRICK TO CONCEAL THEIR MANA SIGNATURE. PASS UNDER OUR RADARS, GET WITHIN THE BASE AND SLAY EVERYBODY WITH WEAPONS THAT WOULD LEAVE NO TRACEABLE MANA SIGNATURE.

SO I WAS ASSIGNED ON BUILDING A BIO SIGNATURE DETECTOR. THE HIGHER UPS HOPE THIS WILL COUNTER THAT NEW TECHNOLOGY.





ELSEWHERE, IN A REMOTE SPACE STATION...



NINE BLOODY CURSES, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO WATCH THE SENSOR SCREEN?!



HUHHH? SHEESH, OF COURSE I DO!

THERE'S NOTHING BUT SPACE DUST OUT THERE.



YOUR CURSED SENSOR ISN'T WORKING!



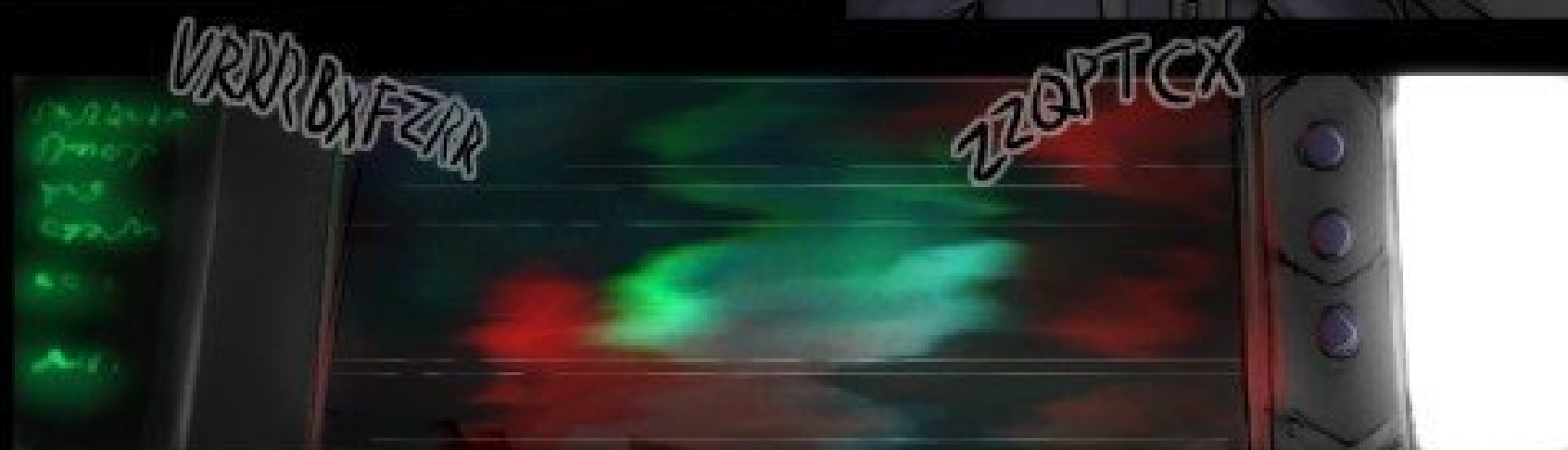
HAVEN'T YOU LOOKED OUTSIDE?



SHIT.



THAT'S BIGGER THAN SPACE DUST...





BACK ON THE PLANET, LILLITH AND MELINN HAD JUST LEFT THE MUSEUM.





MIGHT AS WELL NOT WASTE THE ENTIRE NIGHT. WHAT ABOUT A DRINK, MELINN?

IF YOU PAY!



LATER ON, AT THE NEAREST BAR...



AHH...SWEET...

YOU'RE ABUSING IT, LILITH.

YOU KNOW YOU LOSE CONTROL IF YOU DRINK TOO MUCH.



SSSHUT UP! YOU MISS PERFECT LIL DROWUSSU SOLDIER. YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ALCOHOL BETTER?

OH YES.

AND IT ISN'T THE ONLY THING I CAN DO BETTER.



LIKE WHAT?

LILITH IS BOUND TO FALL FOR ANYTHING. WHAT SHALL WE DO TO HER?

- WE COULD CHALLENGE HER TO SING. IT IS BOUND TO GO SO VERY WRONG.

- COULD CHALLENGE HER INTO GETTING A GUY. SHE'D SO REGRET IN THE MORNING

- OR TO A DRINKING CONTEST, I BET SHE WOULDN'T NOTICE SHE'D BE DRINKING ALONE.

BUT IF YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA, TELL ME.





SOME TIME LATER...





YEAH.

HIC

I COMPLETELY AGREE,
WHO WOULD COME UP WIZZ
ZOMETHING SILLY
LIKE THAT?

SHAME ON YOO
LILLITH. PUT YOUR
CLOTHES BACK ON.



4/20

IN THE
MEAN TIME, I'LL
HAVE A LOOK AT
MY NEW BLACKMAIL
MATERIAL



5/20

OH THIS
IZ A CLASSIC.

GIGGLE



6/20

PRETTY...



7/20

OOPS!

DIDNT MEAN
TO SAVE THIS!



HURRY UP,
I'VE GOT WORK
TO DO!

YESH OFFICER...I MEAN BARKEEP...
WE'RE GOING HOME ANYWAY...

IT'S WAY
PAST BEDTIME.

HIC
EHEHE....

LILLITH, PANTS GO ON YOUR ASS.

MEIIIIIN *HIC* ...
I CAN'T FIND THE HOLE
FOR MY HEAD..





RINNA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



DONT CALL ME THAT. YOU KNOW MY HANDLE IS "CRAZY".
MEILINN, YOU SHOULD SECURE YOUR BRACER'S NETWORK, EVEN A CHILD COULD GET IN.



I WAS ABLE TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING YOU SAID TODAY. EVERYTHING.
YOU KNOW IT ISNT NICE TO GET INTO PEOPLE'S PRIVATE LIVES? YOU COULD GET IN TROUBLE...



TO GET YOUR FRIEND DRUNK AND TAKE PHOTOS OF HER
TO BLACKMAIL HER LATER. IS NICE?



OH?
AH THAT... NEVERMIND THAT. CRAZY. IT'S ADULT STUFF.
WHY HAVE YOU COME?



LILITH, WHAT YOU REVEALED TO MEILINN... AND ME AT THE MUSEUM. I SAW SOMETHING INTERESTING RELATED TO IT ON THE NETWORK.
WANT TO SEE? IT'S WORTH THE TIME.



AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT...

SECRET IN BETWEEN US HUH?

WE'LL FOLLOW YOU.



HEY CRRRAAAZY, BLEW UP ANOTHER SCHOOL?

IT WAS ONLY ONCE. I DIDN'T BLOW UP THE OTHERS.

ONLY DISABLED THEIR SYSTEMS.



IT'S A SHAME YOU DON'T WANT TO FINISH YOUR STUDIES. YOU COULD HAVE A GREAT CAREER IN THE FORCES. YOU'RE A GENIUS IN YOUR FIELD. YOUR SKILL WOULD BE INVALUABLE.

HERETIC AND MUTANT HUNTS AREN'T MY KIND OF THING. NEITHER ARE SCHOOLS.

Written by Kern, drawn by Blackmyst
www.drowtales.com



CLEANING UP ISN'T YOUR THING EITHER, LOOKS LIKE.



BUT IF YOU KEEP ALL THAT TRASH AROUND YOU, IT COULD AFFECT YOU AND YOU'D TURN INTO A MUTANT! MELINN WOULD HAVE TO HUNT YOU DOWN. HEH HEH.

HEY!

BAD PERSONAL HYGIENE DOESN'T CAUSE MUTATION OF GENES.

IF THERE IS A FIRST CASE, IT WILL BE YOU!

CLEANING UP IS A WASTE OF TIME.



WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SHOW US?







THE FOLLOWING MORNING ...

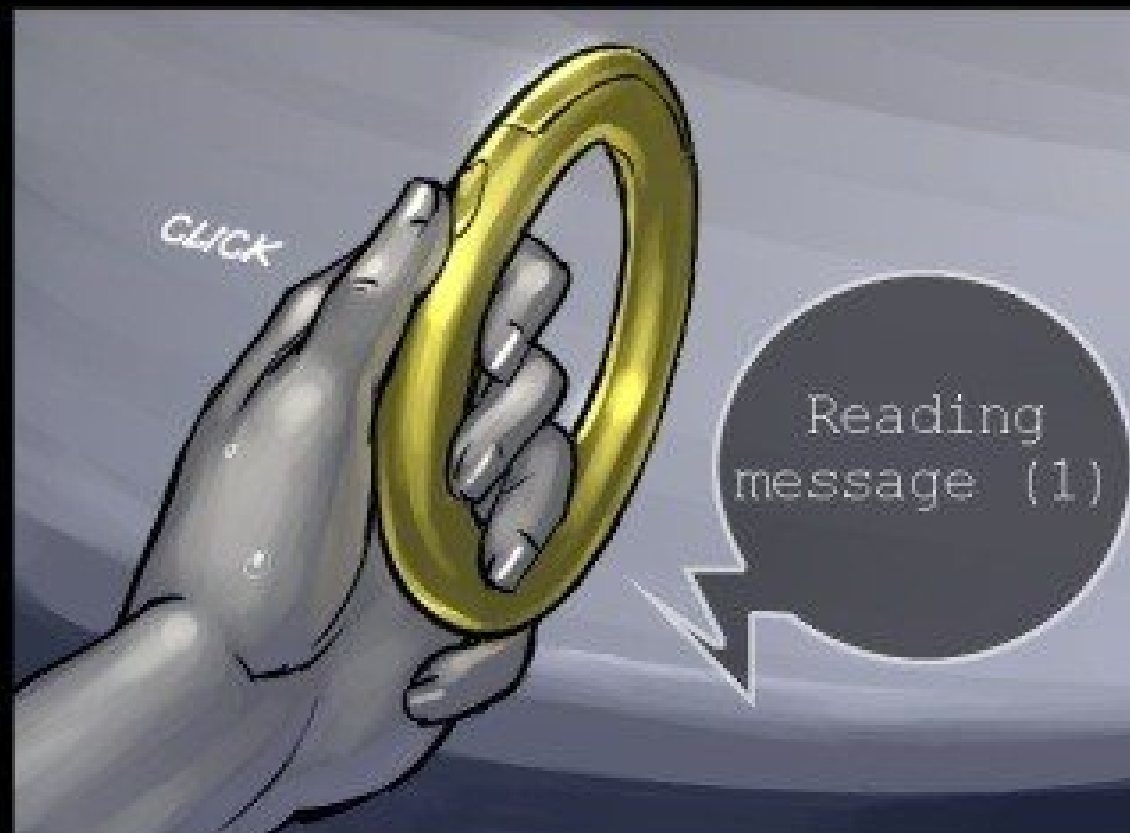


UNEXPLAINED
ATTACKS?
INVISIBILITY
TECH? I SURE
HOPE THIS
DOESN'T TURN
OUT TO BE
ANYTHING TOO
SERIOUS...

AND...UGH...
I'M NEVER DRINKING
THAT MUCH AGAIN...

BRRRING
BRRRING







A MOMENT OF EXPLANATION LATER...



A PICTURE LATER...



A MOMENT OF
THREATS—
CONVINCING LATER,
IN A SHUTTLE
OFF ORBIT...



IS THAT THE SHIP?

YUP!



THE PHOENIX.
OUR BEST HOPE
TO CATCH THOSE
ALIENS.



LATER ON, WITHIN THE PHOENIX...



Y-YES CAPTAIN
DARTYADAR.



ADVISOR
LILITH, YOU
ARE TO REPORT
TO THE DEVICE
MONITORING
ROOM
IMMEDIATELY.



I WANT THE
SHIP TO BE FULLY
OPERATIONAL WITHIN
12 HOURS.







THIS IS THE
LODGING AREA
FOR MOST OF
US.



HERE ARE
YOUR QUARTERS.

SSSHHH



ONLY ONE
ROOM FOR ALL
OF US?

WHERE DID IT SAY THAT A BATTLESHIP
IS A HOTEL? WE'RE ON A NAVY
SHIP, NOT A PLEASURE
CRUISER.



AND YET YOU
GET TO WATCH PORN IN
THE REC-ROOM?

YOU'RE
CONTRADICTIONG
YOURSELF.

YES, ISN'T THAT AGAINST REGULATIONS,
ATTENDANT KATERIIN?

PERSONNEL
AREN'T SUPPOSED
TO WATCH SUCH THINGS
WHILE ONBOARD,
CORRECT?



WELL...
YOU SEE...

Y-YES
CORRECT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...



THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO
DESTROY THE RECORDS OF IT.

INDEED,
WE DON'T WANT THE
CAPTAIN TO HEAR
OF IT, DO WE?



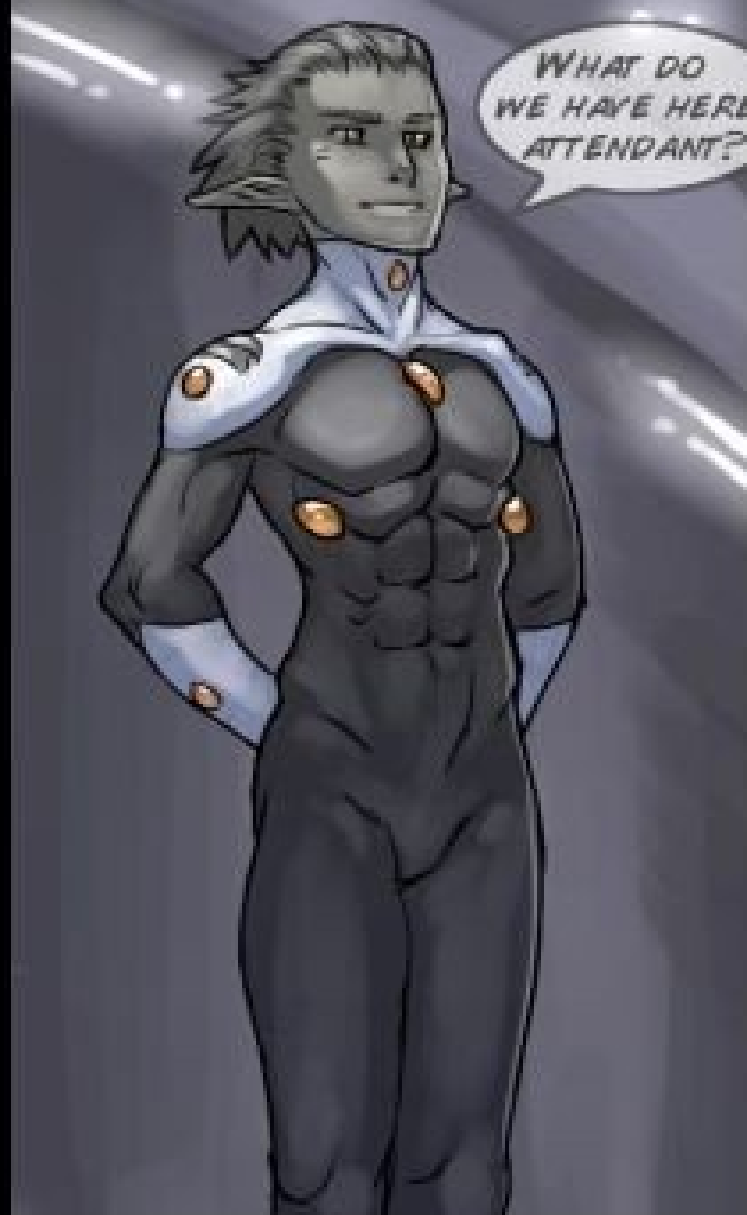
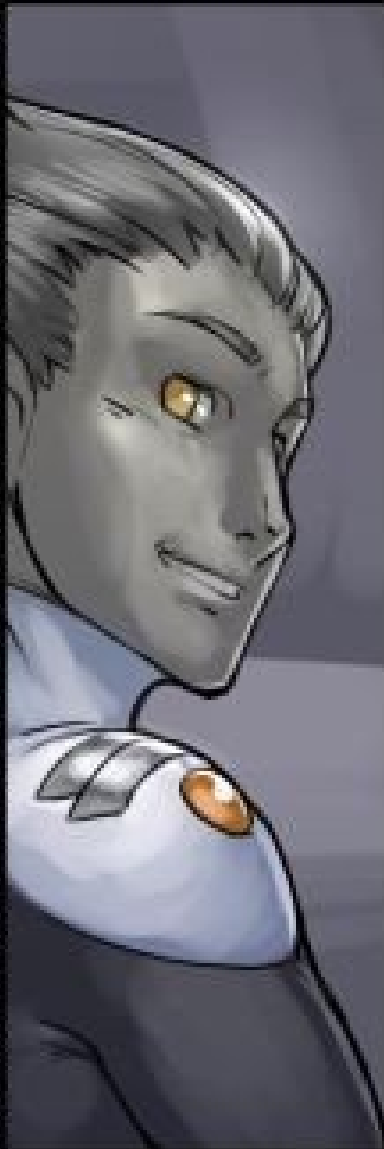
SORRY...



WRITTEN BY KERN
EDITED BY SUNTIGER
DRAWN BY BLACKMYST

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WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE, ATTENDANT?



CAPTAIN, THE LAST MEMBERS OF THE CREW HAVE ARRIVED.



STATE YOUR NAME AND RANK SOLDIER.

SPECIALIST KY'SURAN, MEILIN; 19TH MAINLAND INQUISITOR BATTALION, CAPTAIN!



MEILIN, I KNEW YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR. DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

I DON'T BELIEVE SO, CAPTAIN VADAR.



THREE YEARS AGO, THE BARRACKS OF TWARTA.



A SHAME WE COULDN'T GET ALONG.

ATTENDANT, LEAD THEM TO THEIR POSTS.

YES CAPTAIN.

MEILIN?



LATER ON, IN THE ROOM HOLDING THE DETECTION DEVICE...





WHY DOES HE HATE US ANYWAY?

I DO NOT KNOW. HE IS CONVINCED YOUR RACE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT. MAYBE HE HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE ONCE AND NOW HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST ALL DROWOLATH.

WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "PUSH AWAY"?

HE WAS USING ANY METHODS, LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, TO GET THOSE OPPOSING HIM OUT OF THE WAY. FRIENDLY FIRE DURING TRAINING, HARASSMENT IN THE BASE... THEY LOVED TO ACCUSE PEOPLE OF BEING HERETICS. ULTIMATELY, A LOT OF HIS TARGETS ENDED UP LEAVING THE BASE BECAUSE LIFE THERE BECAME TOO HARD FOR THEM.



HE NEVER ACTS DIRECTLY BUT THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN LILITH.



I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT.



CRAZY. TAP INTO THE COM-NET AND HACK THE COMMAND LEVEL ACCESS. PAY ATTENTION TO THE COMMUNICATION TO AND FROM THE BRIDGE. WE MIGHT NEED IT



SHOULD BE EASY.

HentaiGallery.com



Input your user information now or log-out from the system.



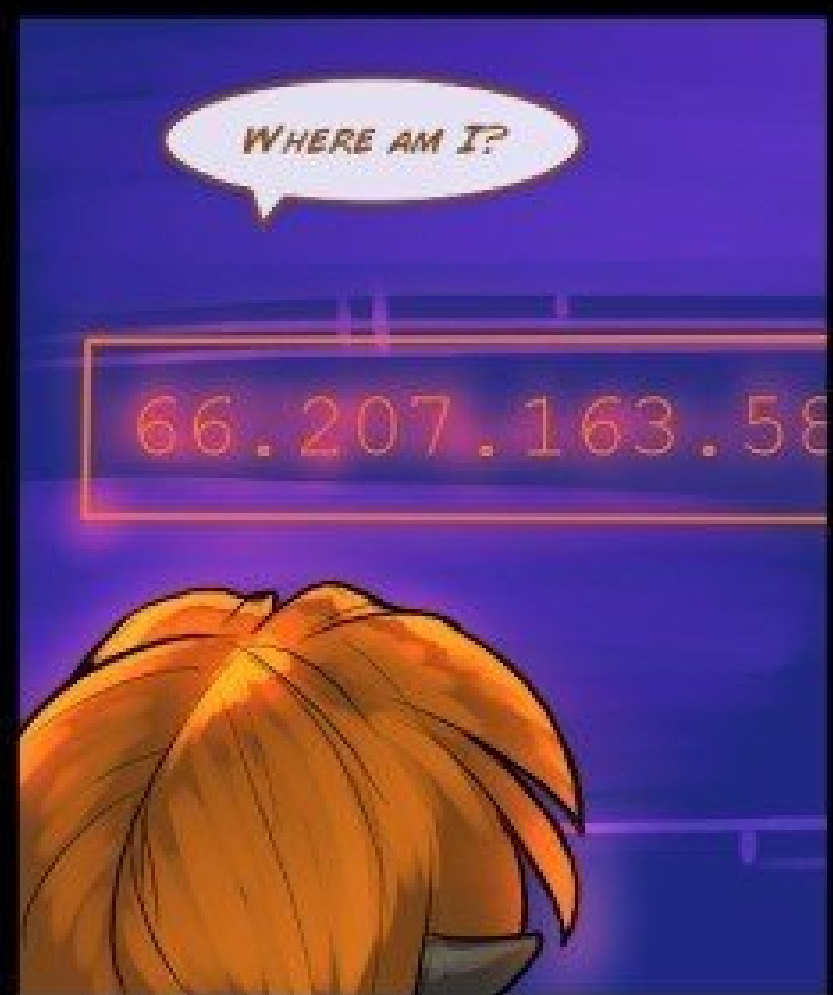
NOW THIS WILL BE FUN!



CRAZY SUCCESSFULLY HACKS IN. OTHER TWO GO TO THE DEVICE: 113 VOTES



Written by Kern
Edited by Suntiger
Drawn by blackmyst



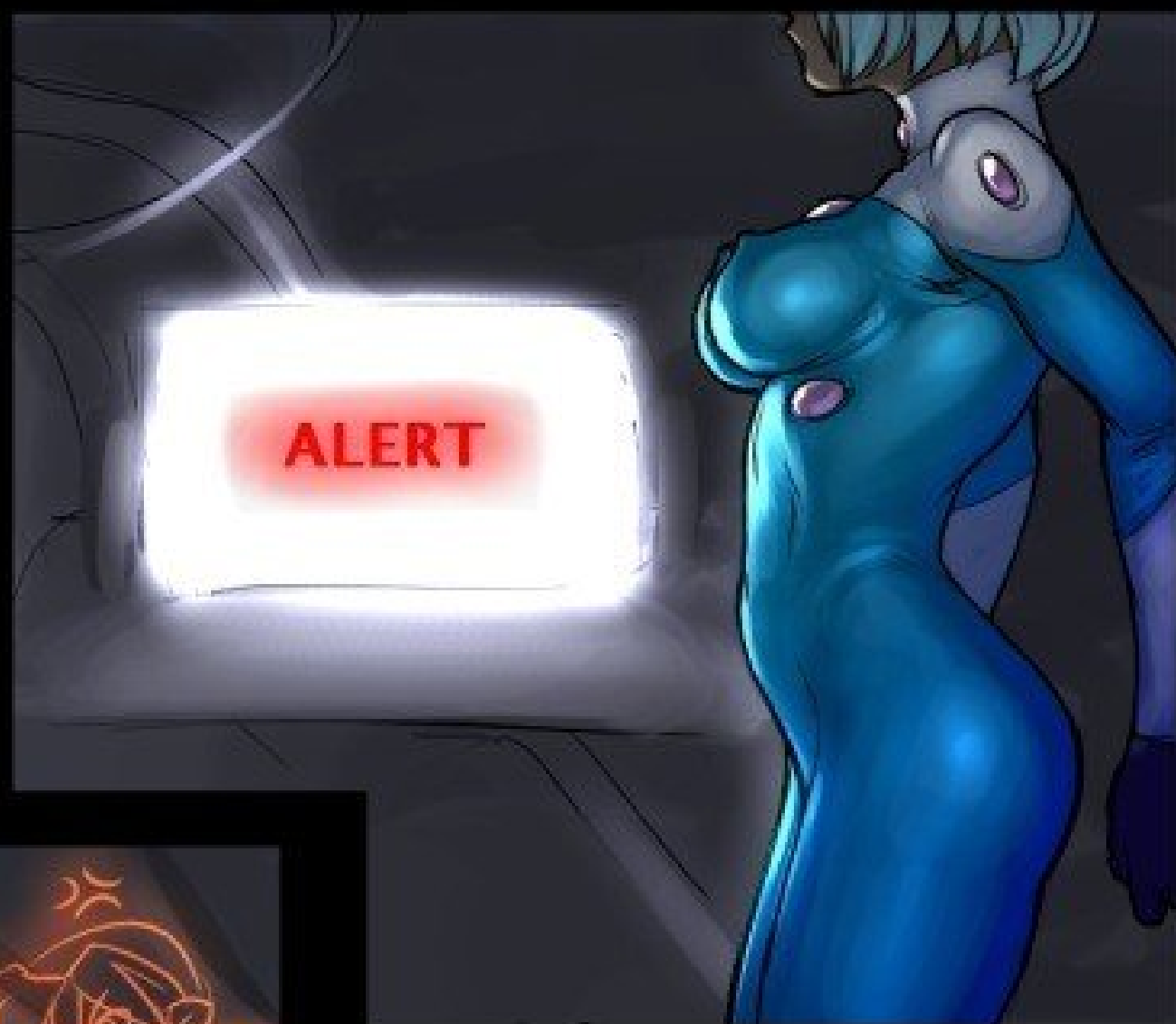
WINNING OPTION 2:

LILITH AND MEILIN FIX THE DEVICE N
ACTIVATE IT. CRAZY PLANTS A BUG
IN NET. : 114 VOTES





THE BUG IS IN.
NOW I CAN TAP
THE OFFICERS' NET
AT WILL.



WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE CRAZY!?

I HAVEN'T
DONE
ANYTHING!



NO.
IT ISN'T HER.
THE DEVICE DETECTED
SOMETHING, SOME
KIND OF WAVE
PATTERN. THE
EMISSIONS ARE
FAR AWAY
THOUGH.



CAPTAIN.
TRACES OF
ALIEN WAVES
DETECTED.

IT
MIGHT BE
RESIDUAL
ENERGY OR
A MEANS OF
COMMUNICATION.



SEND THE
COORDINATES TO
THE BRIDGE,
SPECIALIST.

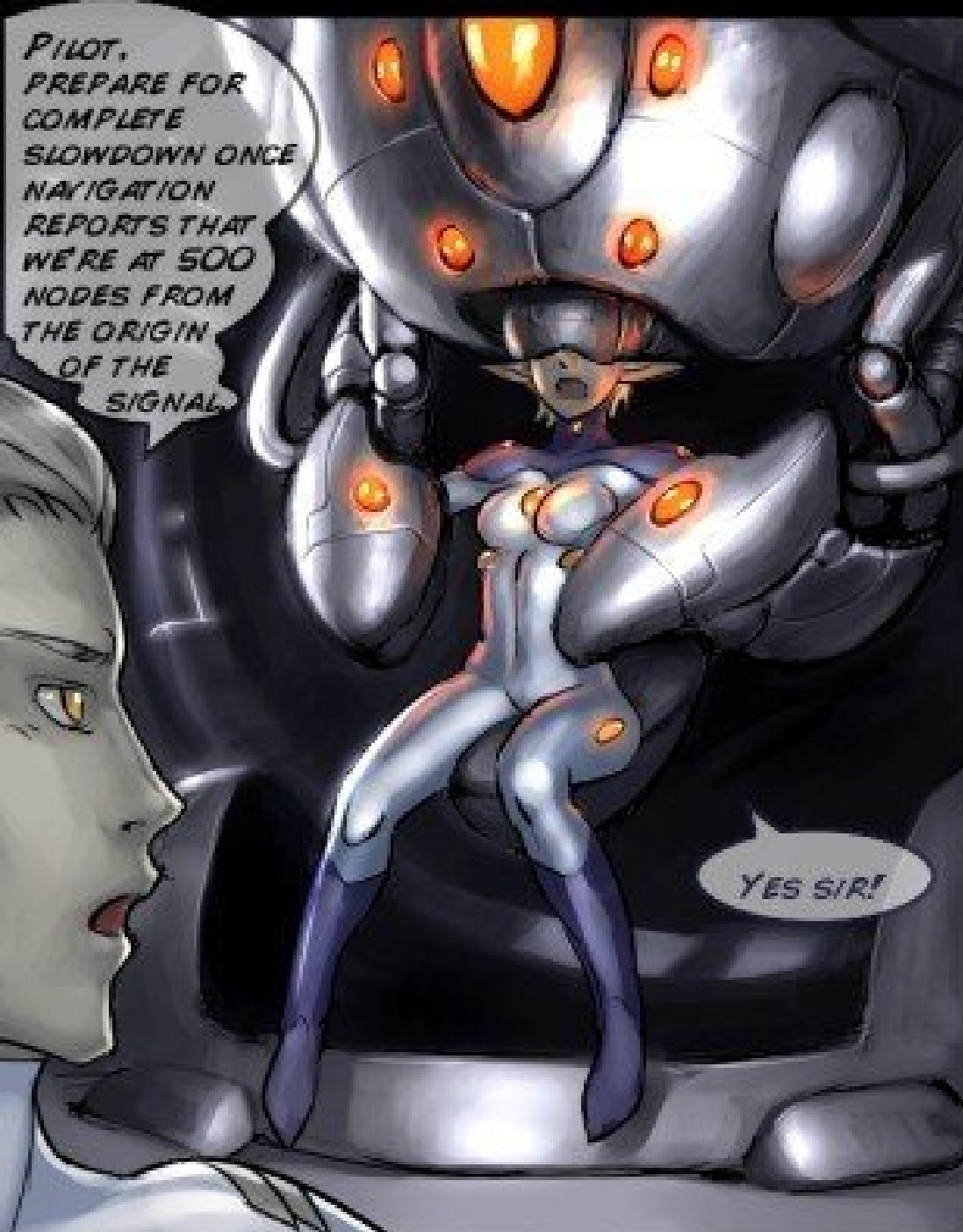
NAVIGATOR,
I WANT YOU TO
TRACK DOWN THE
ORIGIN OF THESE
WAVES.

YES CAPTAIN.



APPROACHING THE SECTOR WHERE THE SIGNAL ORIGINATED, CAPTAIN.

REDUCE SPEED TO SUB-LIGHT.



PILOT, PREPARE FOR COMPLETE SLOWDOWN ONCE NAVIGATION REPORTS THAT WE'RE AT 500 NODES FROM THE ORIGIN OF THE SIGNAL.

YES SIR!



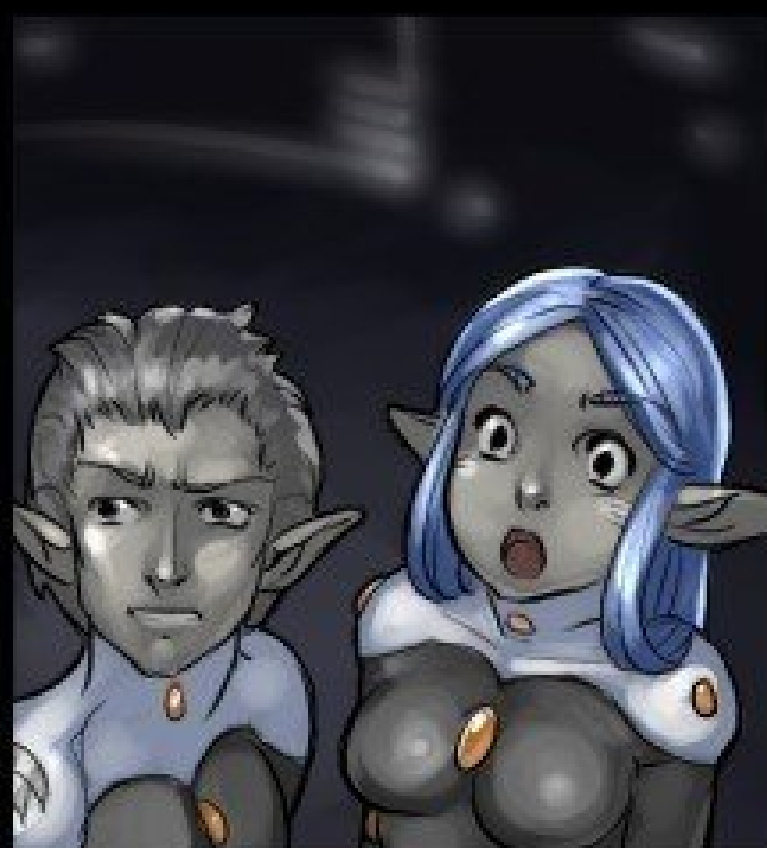
CAPTAIN, DO YOU THINK THERE REALLY ARE ALIENS?

SOON WE WILL KNOW.



THE ORIGIN OF THE SIGNAL SHOULD BE IN VISION.

ON SCREEN, NOW!



IT'S A SPACESHIP!

NO DOUBT. NOT ONE OF OURS EITHER.

IT'S HUGE! APPROXIMATELY 10 TIMES OUR SIZE.



CAPTAIN, THE SHIP'S WEAPONS ARE UNKNOWN! NO SHIELD DETECTED! NOTHING APPEAR ON OUR SCANNERS, AS IF IT WAS AN EMPTY, DERELICT HULK.

COME ON MEN! SUIT UP!



WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY HERE!
THE CAPTAIN IS SENDING US TO INVESTIGATE
THAT ALIEN DERELICT ASAP.
CHECK YOUR GEAR, SEALS
AND MOVE IT, PEOPLE!



YOU TWO, YOU BETTER
NOT SLOW US DOWN!

WE WILL TRY OUR
BEST LIEUTENANT!

Written by Kern
Edited by Suntiger
Drawn by Blackmyst - www.drowtales.com

HOW DID
I GET MYSELF
INTO THIS
MESS?

I HATE
THE
MILITARY!

IN THAT
CASE, TRY NOT
TO BUILD CRAZY
STUFF FOR
THEM IN THE
FUTURE.



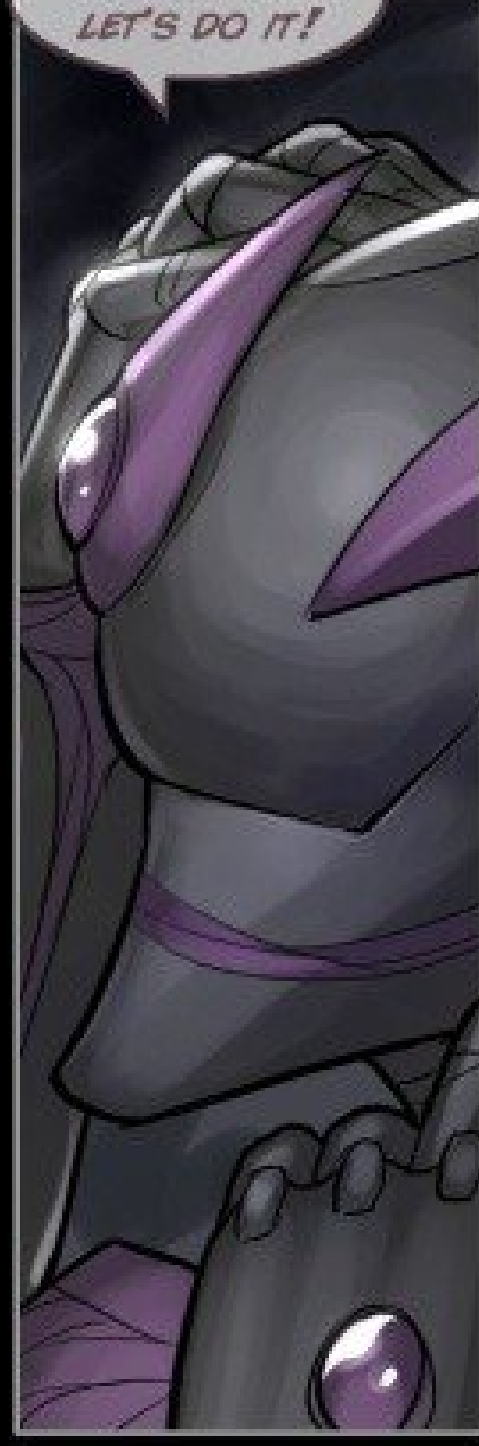
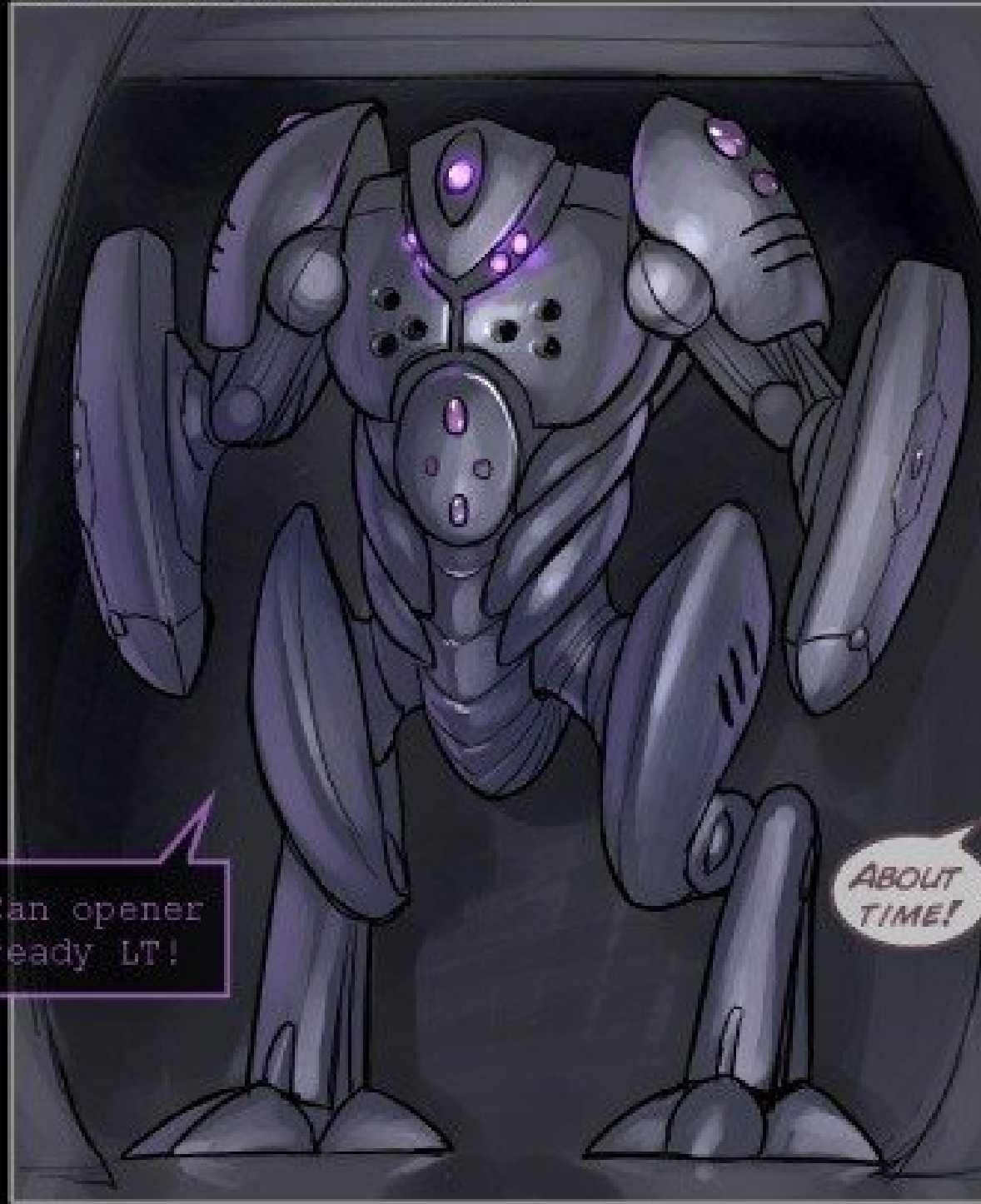
LISTEN UP!
OUR JOB IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE.
WE HAVE TO BRING BACK ALL
THE INFORMATION WE CAN FIND ABOUT
THE DERELICT WEAPONRY, DEFENSE AND
COMPUTERS. IF POSSIBLE, WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO BRING BACK A SAMPLE OF AN ALIEN IF
ANY IS FOUND. CLEAR?

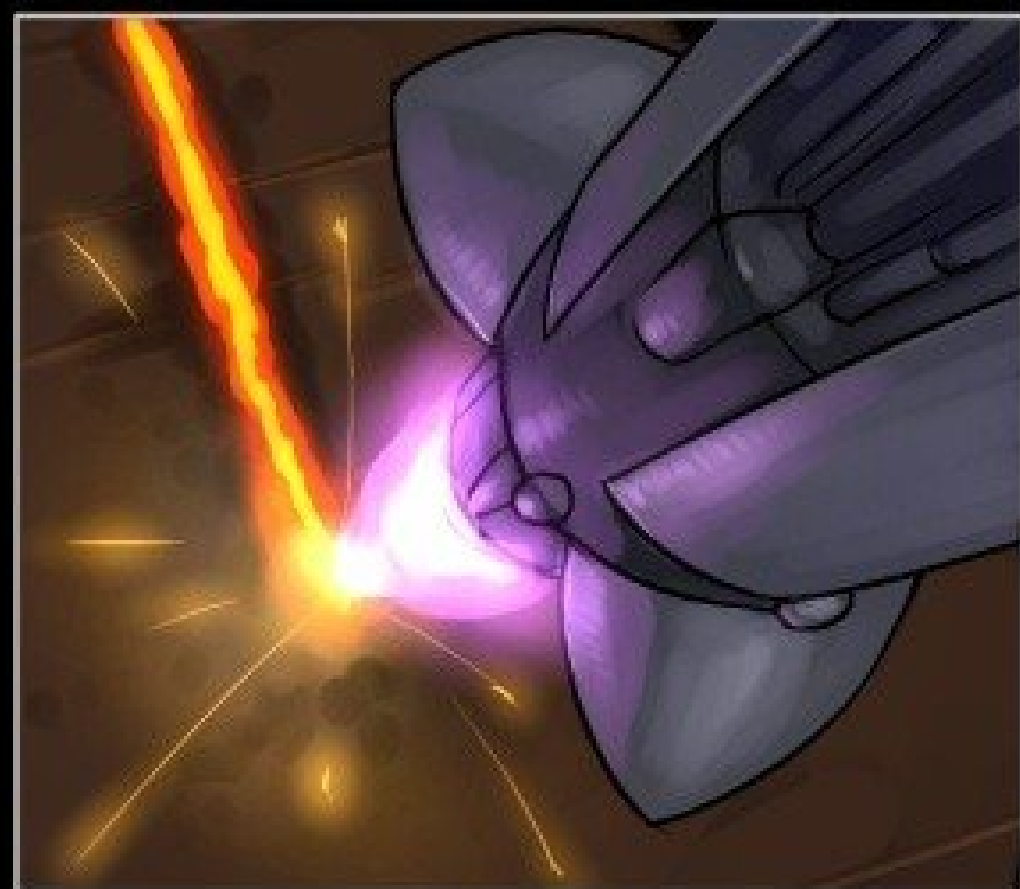
CLEAR IT!

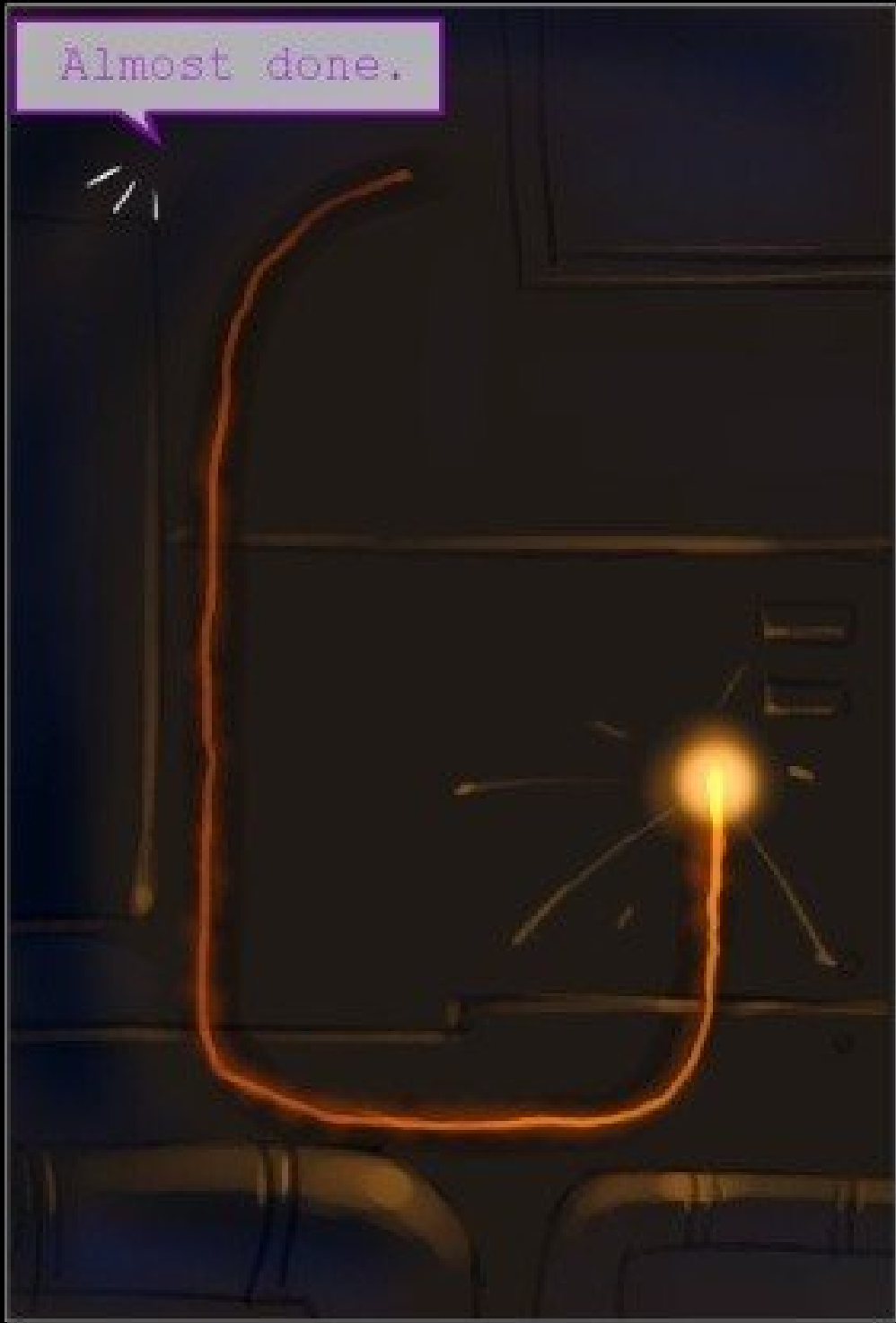


BY SQUADS;
INSERTION FORMATION
ALPHA, STRAIGHT OVER
AND BLOW UP A HOLE.
I WANT THAT PIECE
OF JUNK OPENED UP
YESTERDAY!
MOVE OUT!









Almost done.



GET A DEEP SCAN AND REPORT!

YE-YES



THIS IS ONLY A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF MY DETECTOR, BUT I PICK UP TRACES OF THE CHEMICAL ELEMENT THE ALIENS USE IN THEIR WEAPONS... STRAIGHT AHEAD!

MARINE, STICK ONE UP ON THE CUT PIECE OF HULL

YES LT!



KICK IT IN, NOW!

CLUNK



FF100%



CLEAR LT!



ALRIGHT
MEN, FOLLOW!
YOU TOO,
ANALYST.

EMPTY, NOT
EVEN A BODY.

ANALYST, GIVE THIS
PLACE A SCAN. I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT YOU PICKED UP.



IT APPEARS TO BE THIS.
PERHAPS IT IS SOME KIND OF WEAPONRY,
BUT IT IS TOO DAMAGED TO TELL.



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SCATTER IN
TEAMS OF TWO AND
KEEP CONTACT. I WANT
EVERY ROOM
CLEARED!

YES LT!



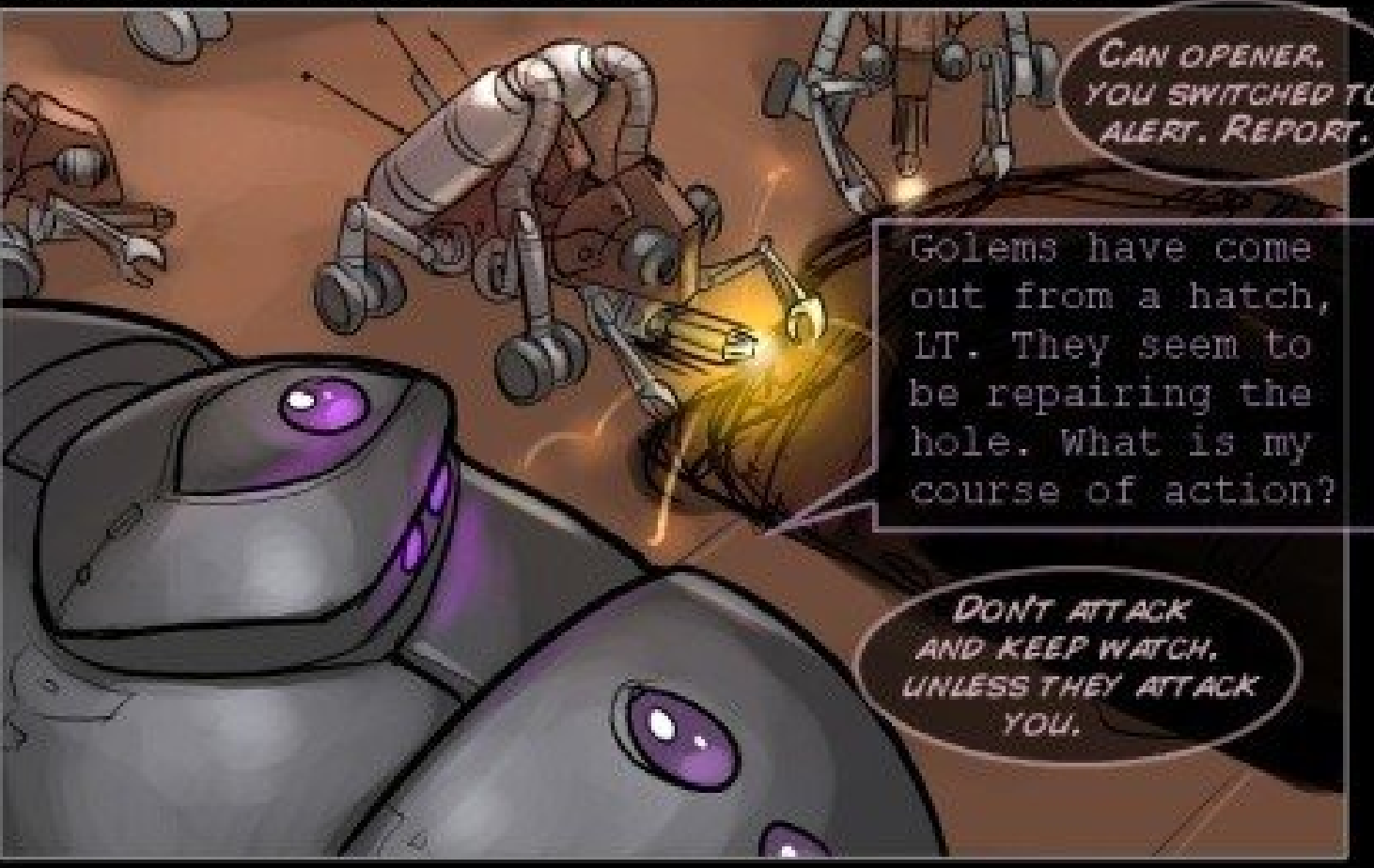
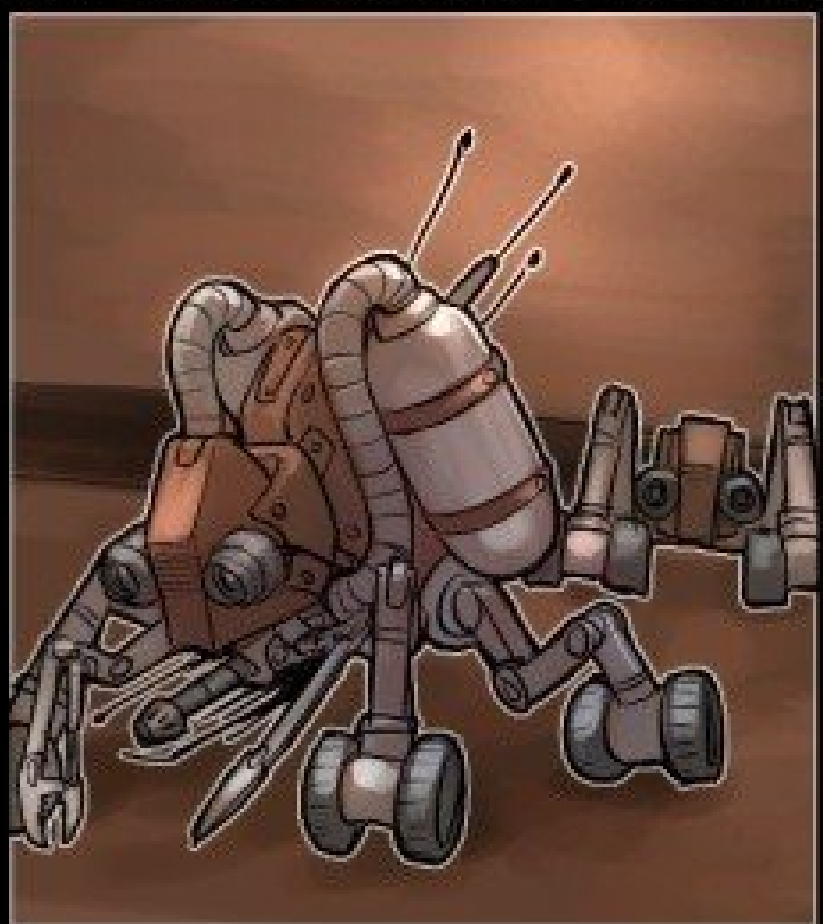
TIN CAN, YOU KEEP
WATCH OUTSIDE.

Yes LT!

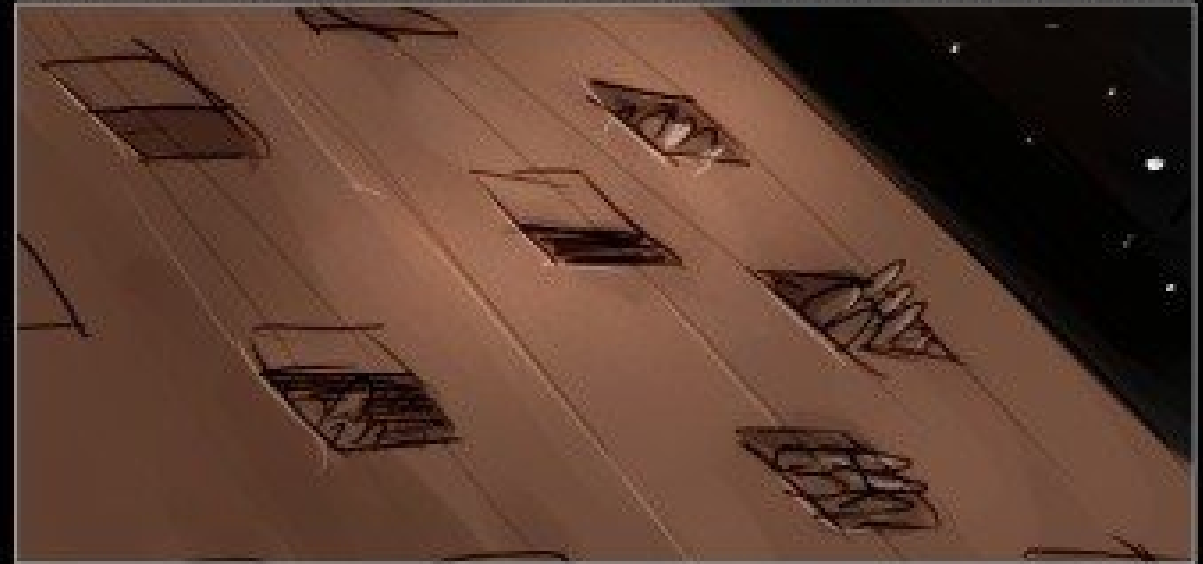


bzzt?

FSSH



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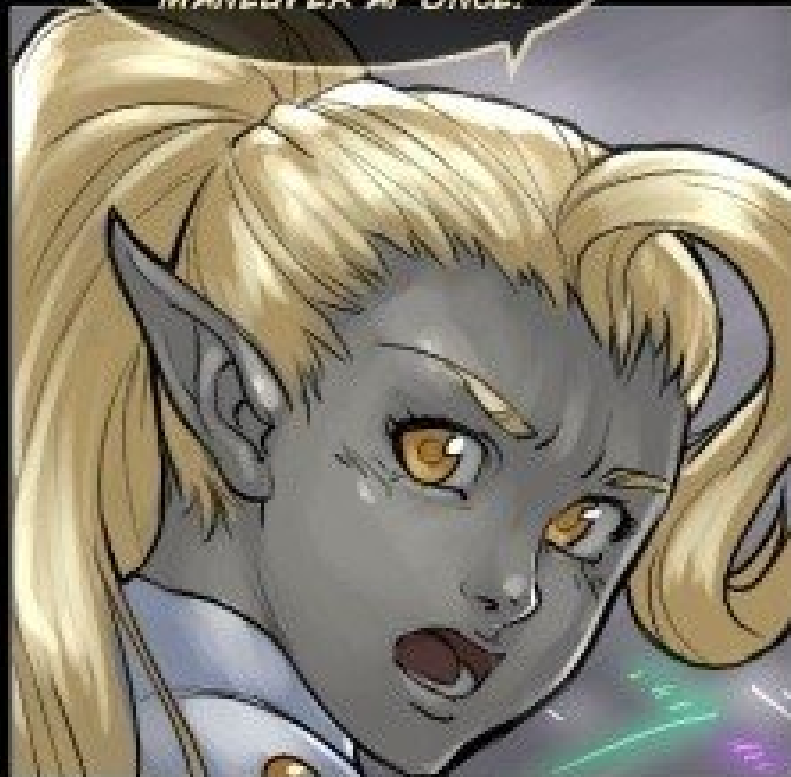


Winning option: Shields up, standby (for) evasive maneuver, alert boarding team-try disable weapons : 105 votes

SHIELD UP.
STAND BY FOR EVASIVE
MANEUVERS! LAY DOWN
DEFENSIVE FIRE ON THE
INCOMING MISSILES!
ALERT THE BOARDING
TEAM!



CAPTAIN! WE
CAN'T DIVERT ENERGY
TO THE SHIELDS, WEAPONRY
AND DO A 'COLD' START
MANEUVER AT ONCE!



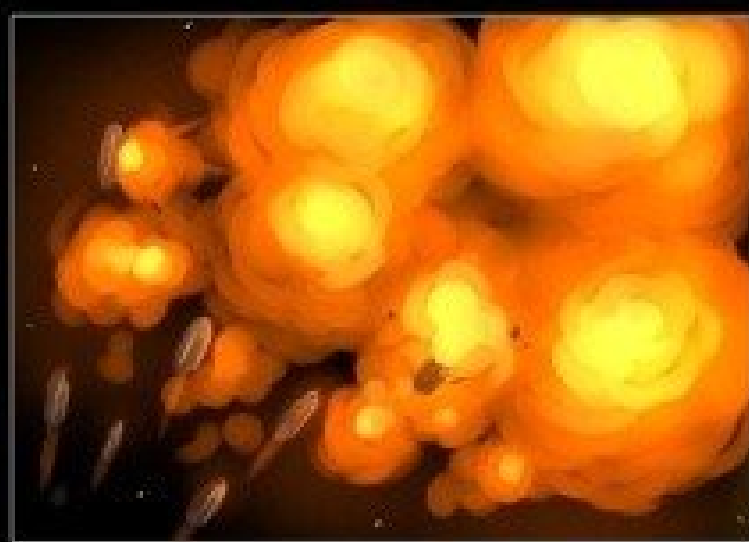
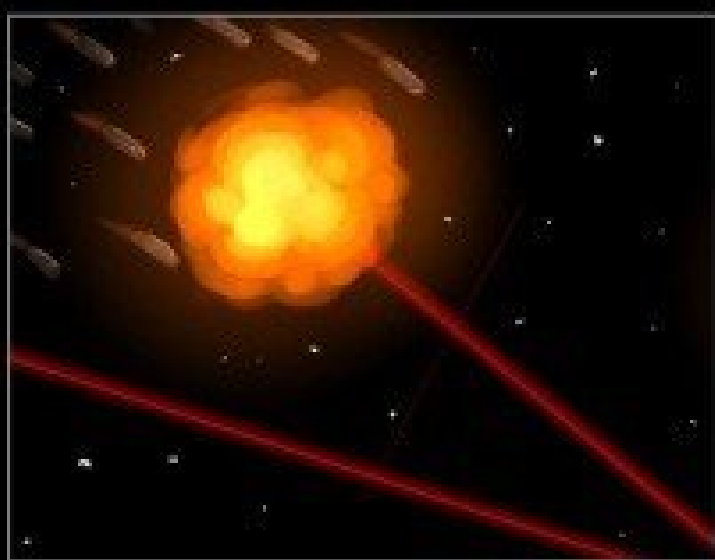
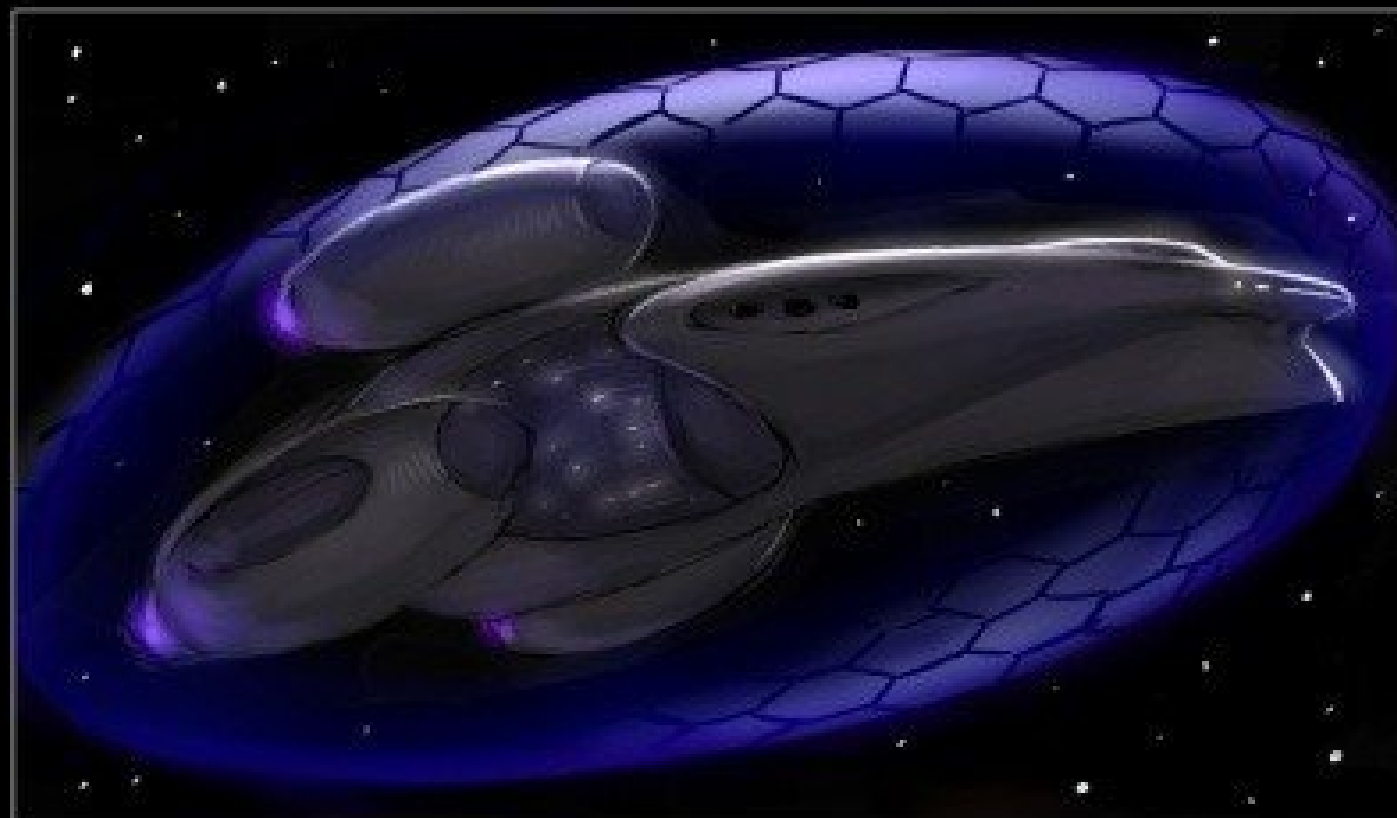
Written by Kern
Edited by Suntiger
Drawn by blackmyst

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KEEP
YOUR COOL!



PRIORITY TO
SHIELDS AND WEAPONS.
CYCLE THE ENGINE FOR
EMERGENCY WARMUP
AND ACTIVATION AND
GET READY FOR
ANOTHER ATTACK.



IT'S PASSING
THROUGH THE
SHIELD!!!



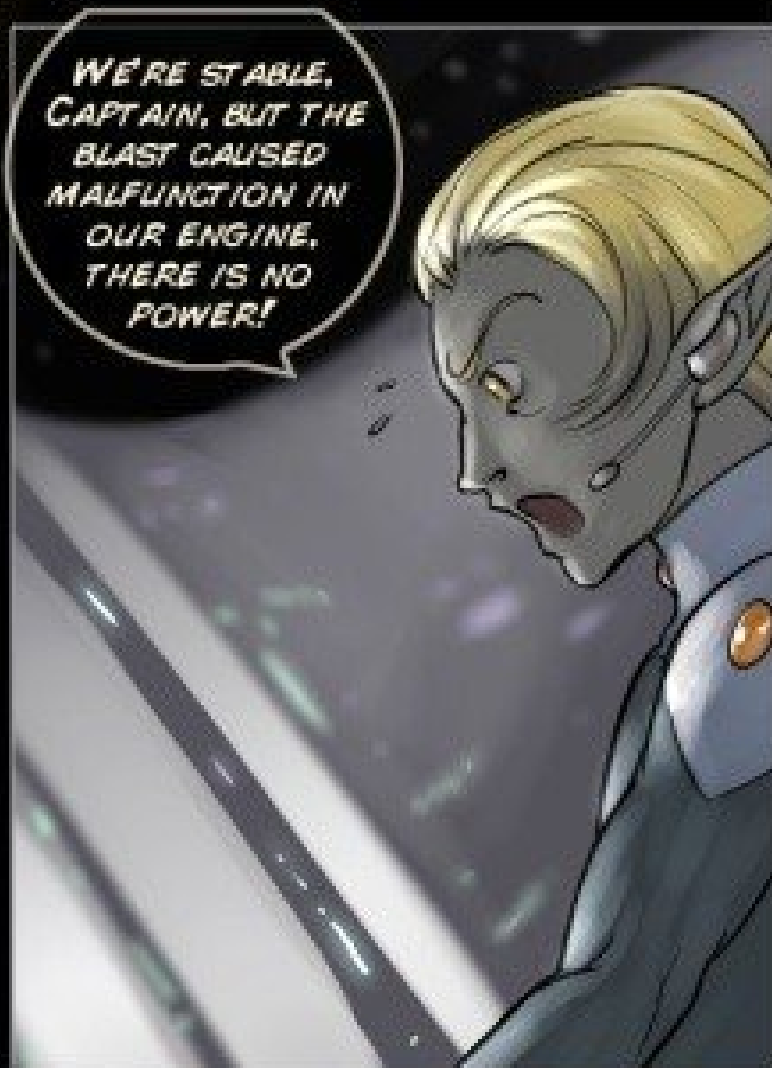
BOARDING TEAM
TO COMMAND, REPEAT
AND CONFIRM ORDERS.
I SAY AGAIN, REPEAT
AND CONFIRM
ORDERS!



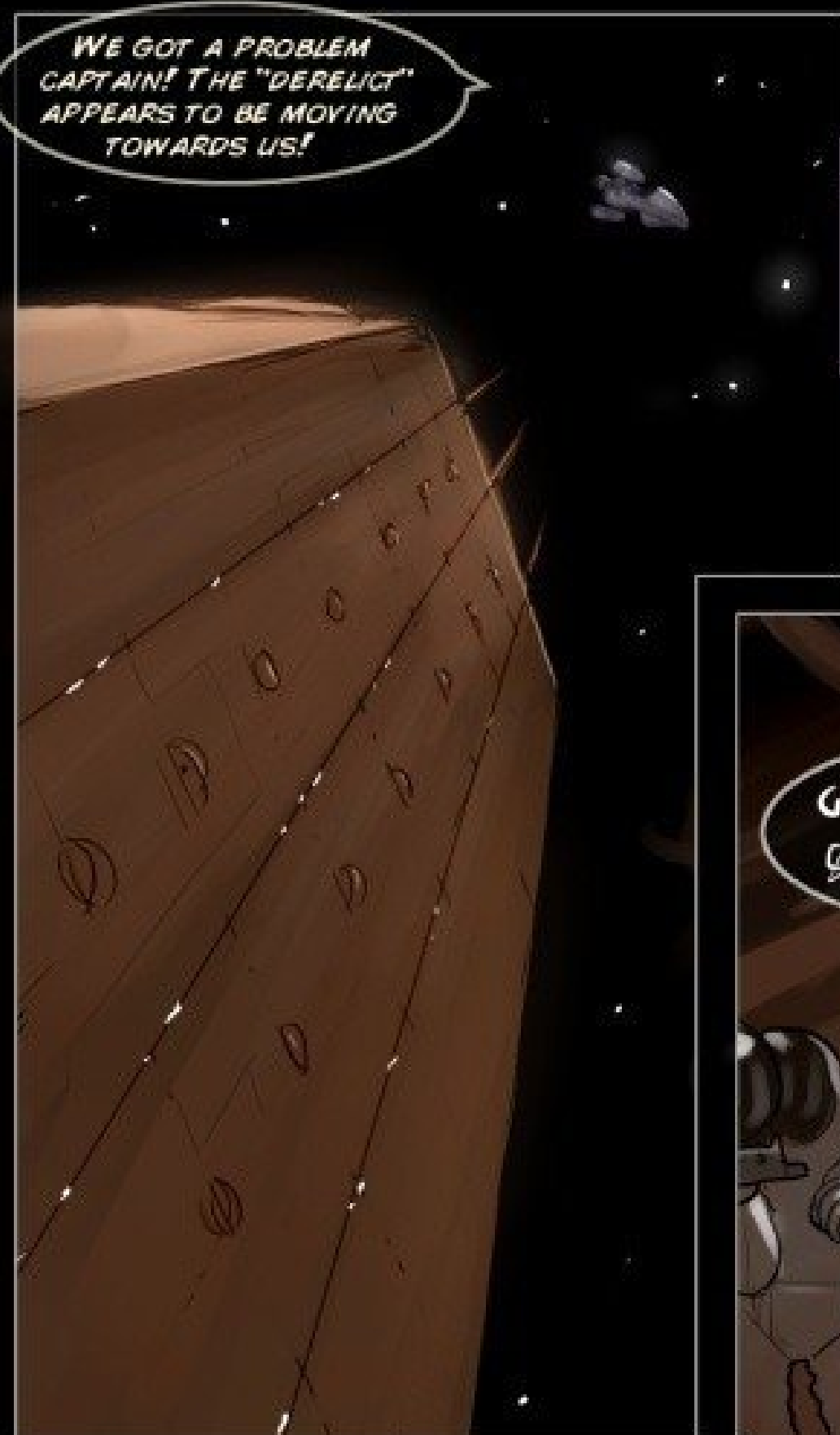


THAT WAS UNEXPECTED.

MONITORING,
GIVE ME STATUS!



WE'RE STABLE,
CAPTAIN, BUT THE
BLAST CAUSED
MALFUNCTION IN
OUR ENGINE,
THERE IS NO
POWER!



WE GOT A PROBLEM
CAPTAIN! THE "DERELICT"
APPEARS TO BE MOVING
TOWARDS US!

BACK INSIDE...



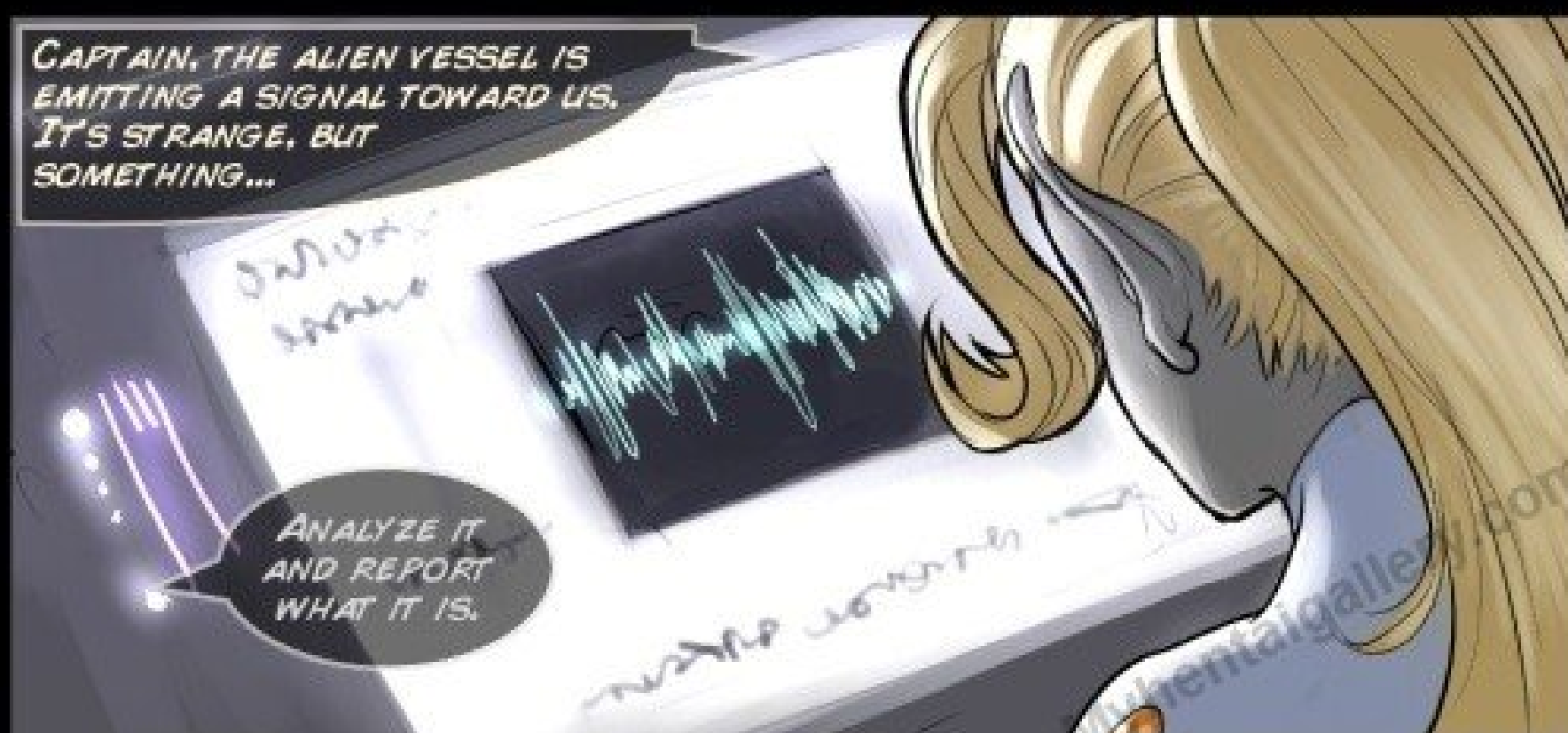
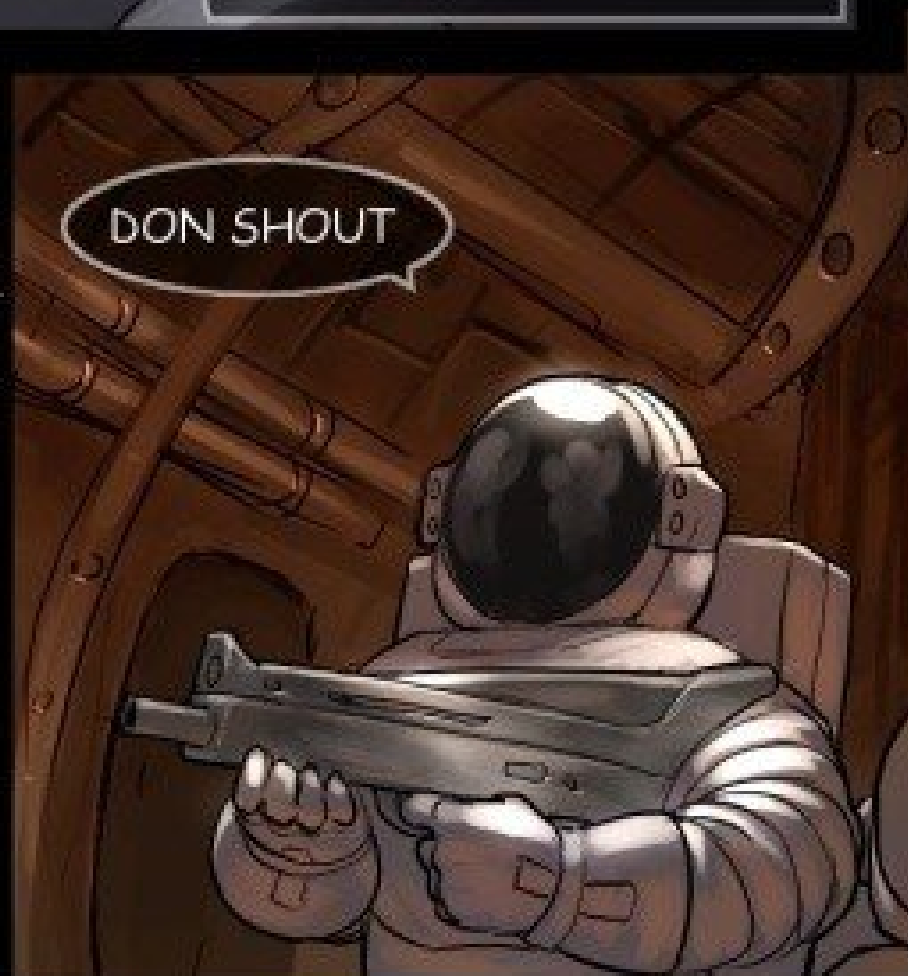
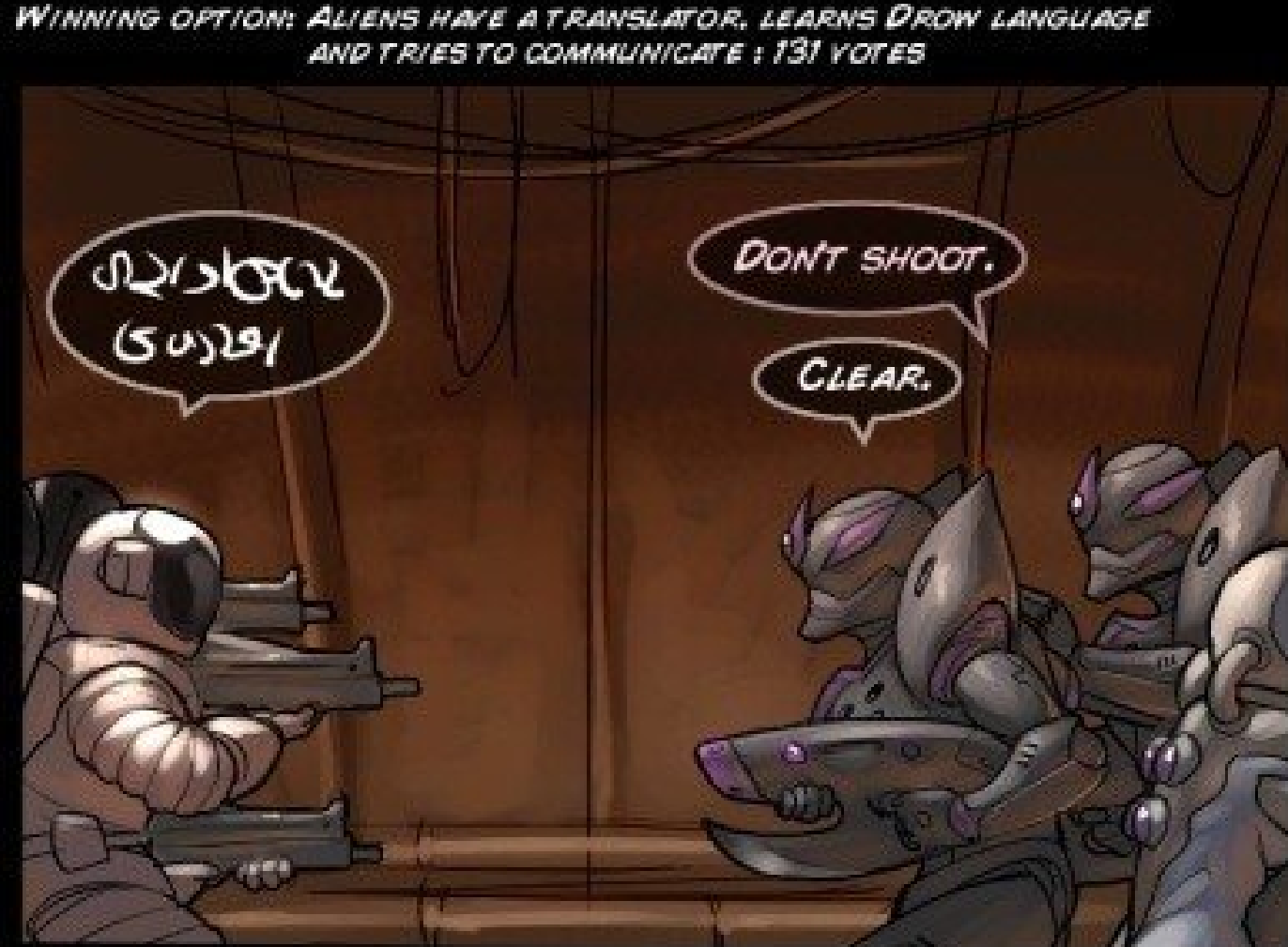
Lieutenant,
the ship
appears to
be moving.
Orders?

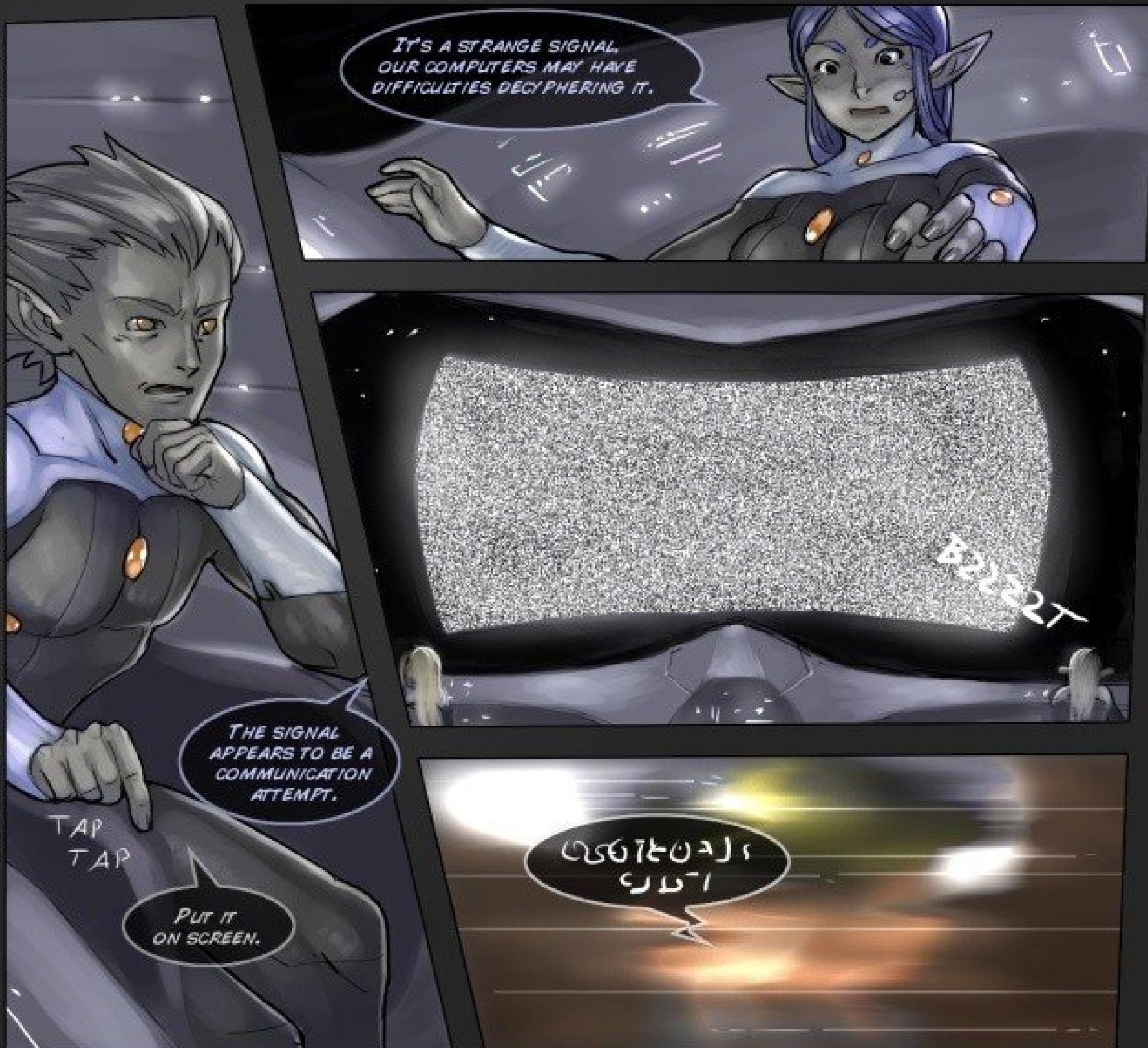
GET TO
OUR SIGNAL
ASAP, WE
NEED
SUPPORT!



GET THE DOOR OPEN!

GET THE DOOR OPEN!!!





SURRENDER IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. NO DROW HAVE EVER SURRENDERED TO A MERE HUMAN!



HOWEVER, I'M WILLING TO TALK. I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU TRESPASS AND COMMIT ACTS OF AGGRESSION IN OUR SPACE.



<Talk is of no interest, alien. Your surrender is.>

<Deactivate your engines and weapons at once, or we will destroy your ship.>



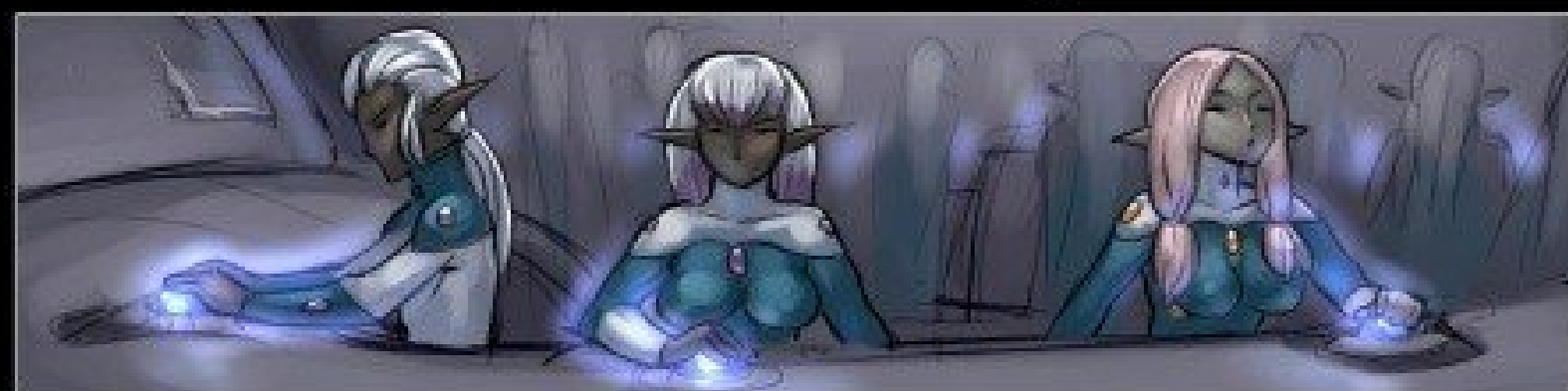
<You're outmatched. Don't get you and your crew killed by being foolish. Make the wise decision.>

السيرة السيرة surrender
lower weapons
السيرة السيرة السيرة



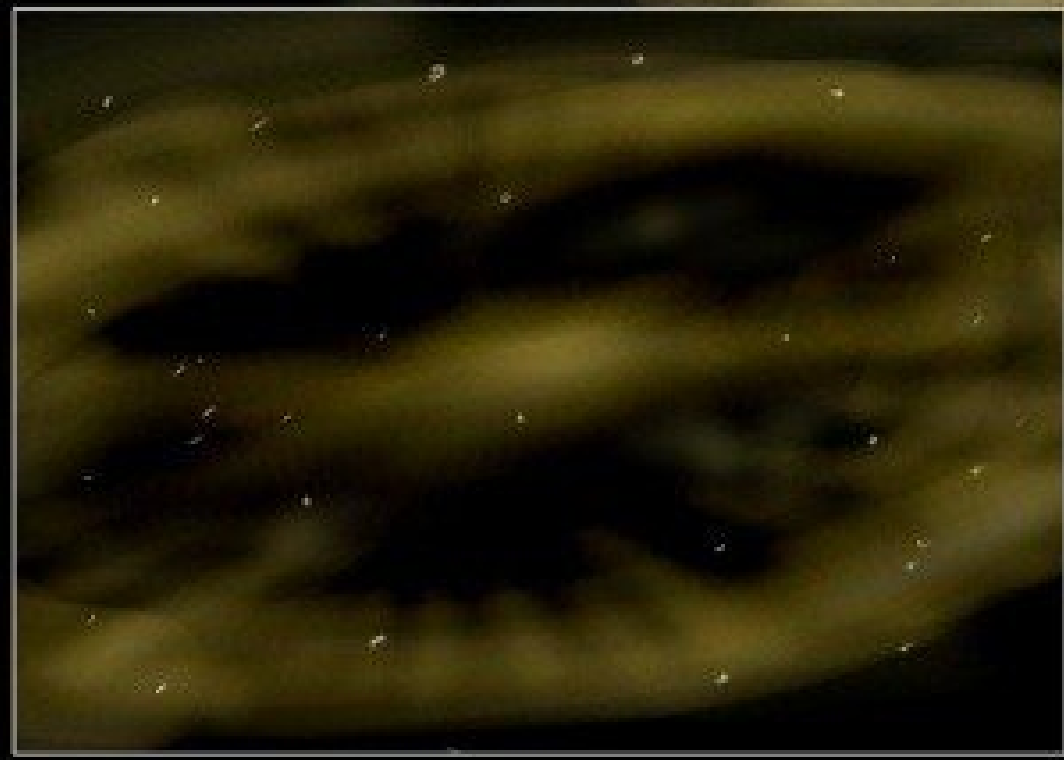
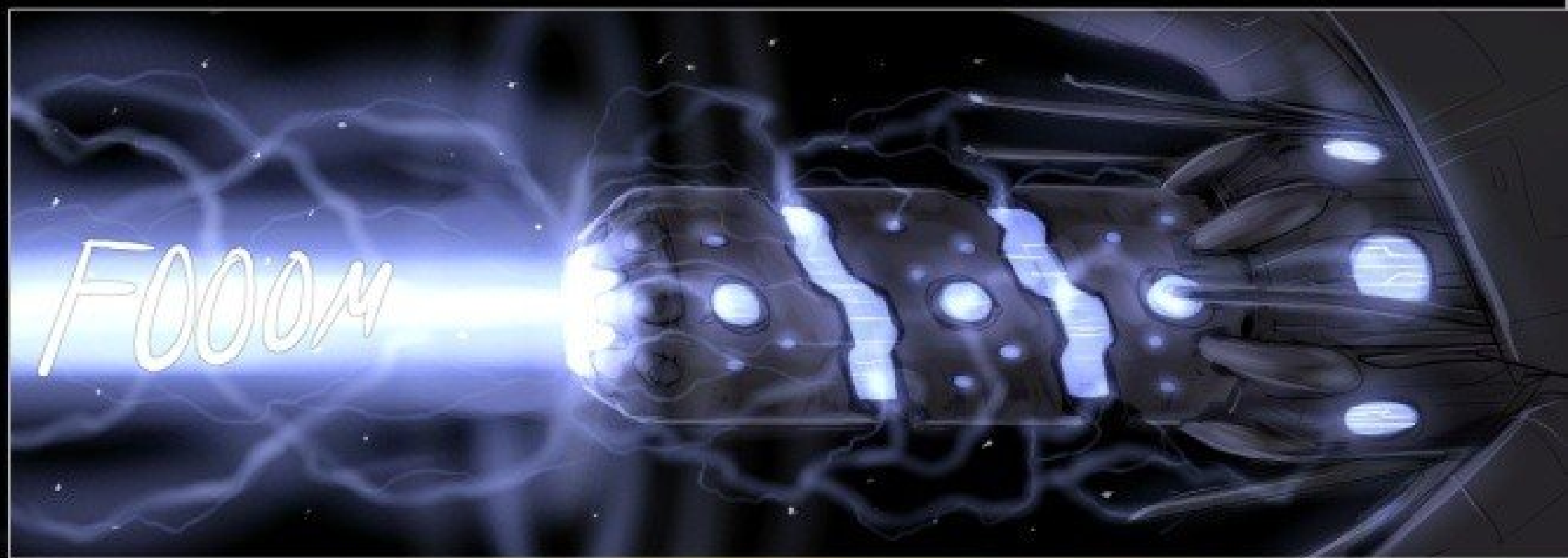
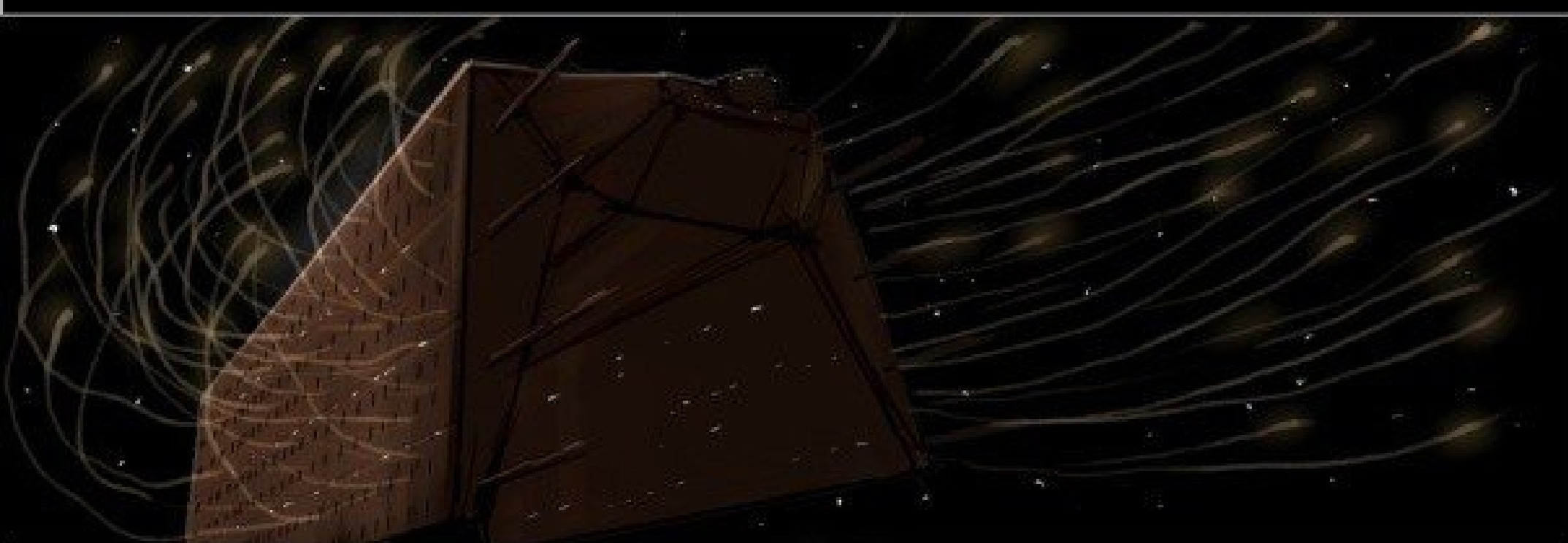
WE'RE BEING TARGETED BY MORE OF THOSE EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS, CAPTAIN! WE WON'T SURVIVE ANOTHER BLAST.

ALL HANDS TO THE CRASH POSITIONS! PREPARE TO EXECUTE MANA SURGE! ENGINEERING, REDIRECT THE EMERGENCY POWER-UP SURGE TO THE MAIN CANNON! NOW!



I REPEAT. SURRENDERING IS NOT AN OPTION! FIRE AGAIN, HUMAN, AND WE WILL SHOW YOU THE MIGHT OF OUR RACE!





Move in
and launch
the assault
shuttles for
boarding!



GO GO GO!
Let's capture those
pointy-ears' ship!



Do you think they're like Spock?

You know, Vulcan, Star Trek!

It's an old sci-fi tv series. One of those
with real people wearing silly masks.

Spock?

Oh.



THERE'S...
NO EXIT!
GAME OVER,
GIRL! GAME
OVER!



Command, all
shuttles have launched.
Goshawk One out.

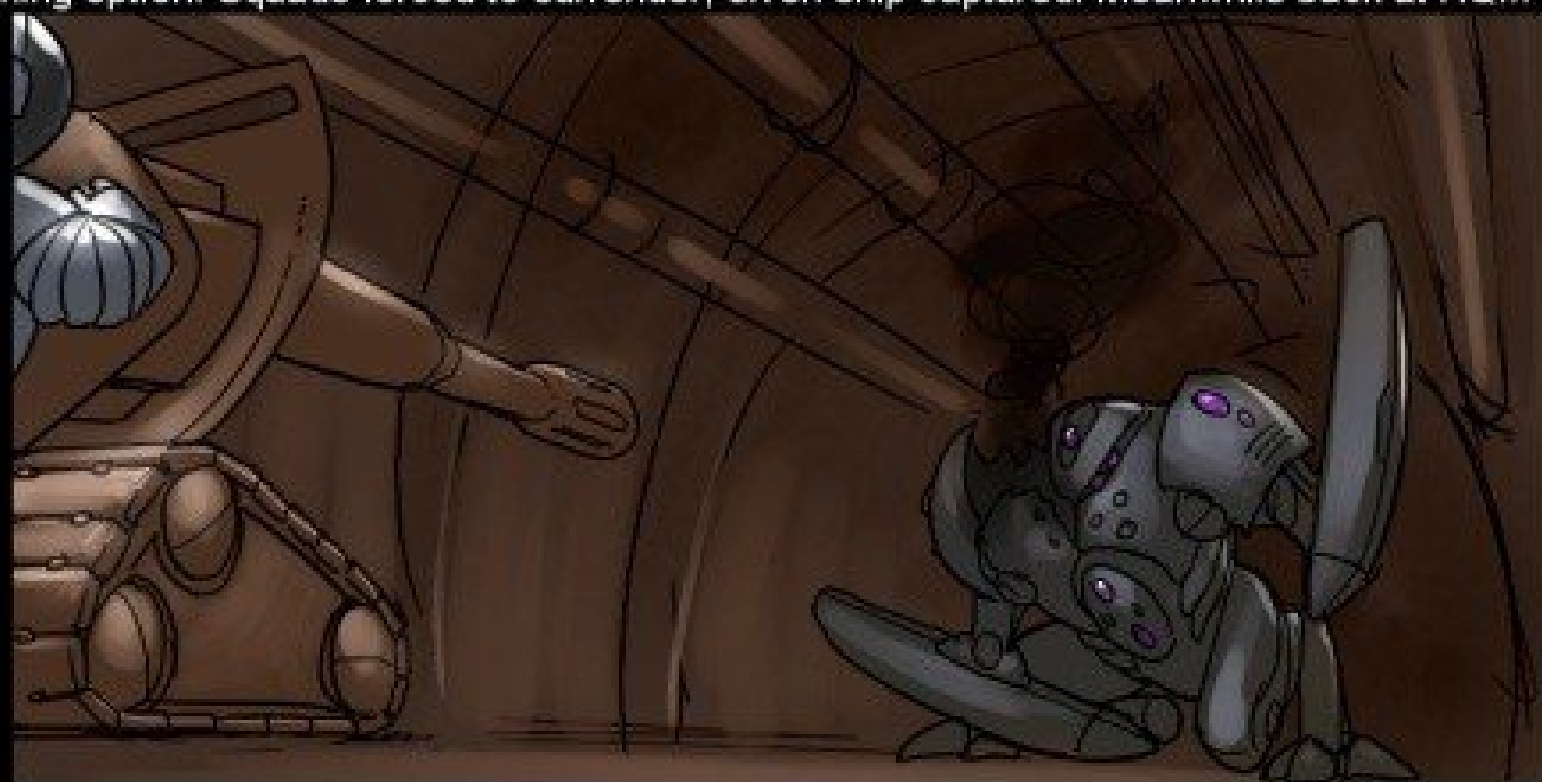


MEANWHILE INSIDE THE HUMAN SHIP, ONE OF THE FOUR DROW SQUADS...

WE'RE PINNED
DOWN!



KEEP YOUR COOL!
OUR CAN OPENER IS
ON ITS WAY.



THE CAN OPENER NEVER
ARRIVED TO SAVE THEM.

THE DROW MARINES
WERE FORCED TO
SURRENDER
ONE BY ONE.



THOUGH FOR SOME OF THEM, BRAVE IN THE FACE OF INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS...



Surrender
or die!



THEY HAVE TAKEN
OVER OUR SHIP. ANYONE WHO
RESISTED WAS KILLED. THAT MEANT
PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE WHO
WAS NOT ESSENTIAL.

I RAN AND HID.
WATCHING, WAITING.
KNOWING THEY PROBABLY
HAD KILLED MEILIN AND
LILITH BY NOW.

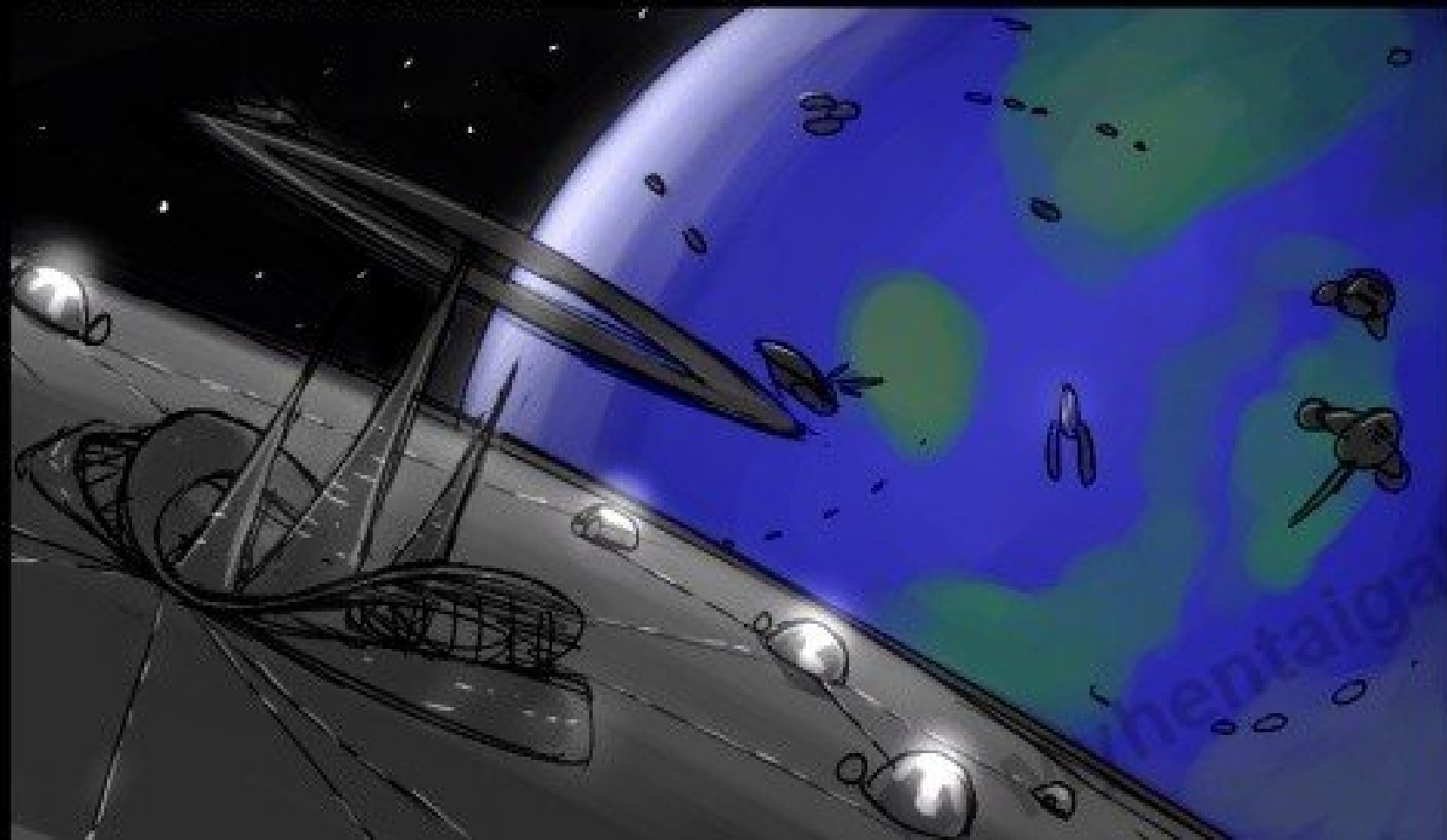


I'M ALL THAT'S LEFT.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I
CAN DO, BUT I
WILL MAKE THOSE
BASTARDS REGRET
WHAT THEY DID.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT SENA HQ.





THE EVER-WATCHING
EYE... A CHALLENGE!



BRUTE
FORCE
ATTACK!



FIGHTING FIRE
WITH FIRE.
MILITARY SHIP
COMPUTER VERSUS
THE COMPUTERS
AT HQ.

FROM THE LOOKS
OF IT, I'D SAY THEY
HAVEN'T UPGRADED
IN A WHILE.

WE WON'T LET
THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.



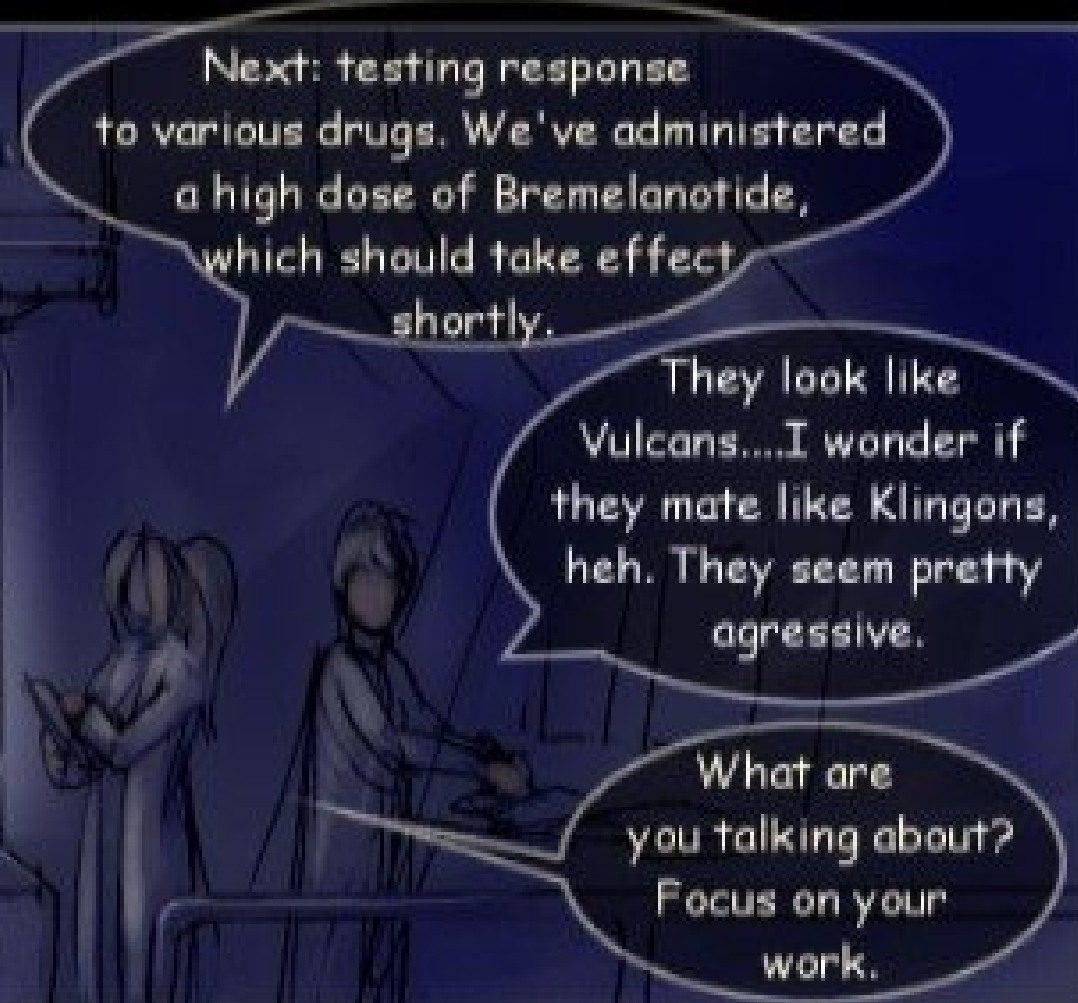
ATTENTION
EVERYBODY!



THE PHOENIX
WAS TAKEN BY AN
ALIEN SHIP!
THEY'RE COMING!
HUMANS, THE ALIENS
ARE HUMANS!



CAUTION: THERE IS A LOT OF HENTAI IN THIS PAGE. :P STILL GONNA LOOK? DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.





Winning option: Commander interrogates the prisoners. Time to talk : 92 votes



HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN IN HERE?

I DON'T KNOW, I'VE LOST THE TIME.

I'M STARVING...

I'M WORRYING MORE ABOUT OXYGEN. OUR SUITS WILL RUN OUT PRETTY SOON AND WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF ATMOSPHERE THEY HAVE IN THIS SHIP.



Inhabitants of quadrant NGC 6720, we have traveled 2300 lightyears to reach your sector of space. We have discovered many things but most of your home world remains a mystery to us. As chief scientist of this expedition, I ask for your willing cooperation in helping us learn more.



Written by Kern
(and a little bit
by Suntiger),
Edited by Suntiger,
Drawn by Blackmyst

www.drowtales.com

THEY LEARNED OUR LANGUAGE FAST.

PROBABLY BY LISTENING TO US TALKING. OR, THEIR MACHINES LEARNED.

WHY SHOULD WE COOPERATE WITH YOUR RACE?

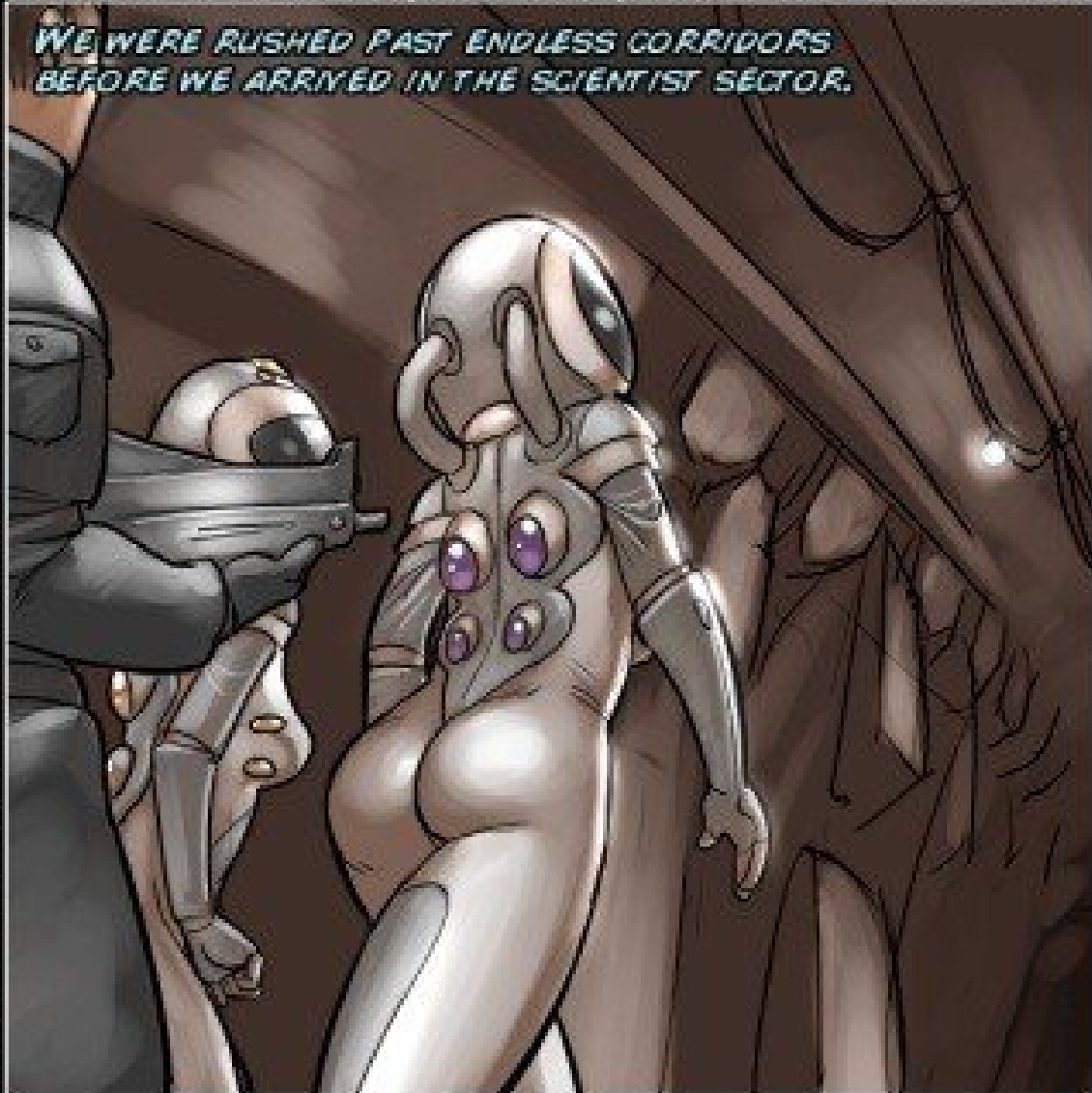
Because if you do not, the military's claim to you will take priority. The commander has different, less pleasant, methods of making people talk...





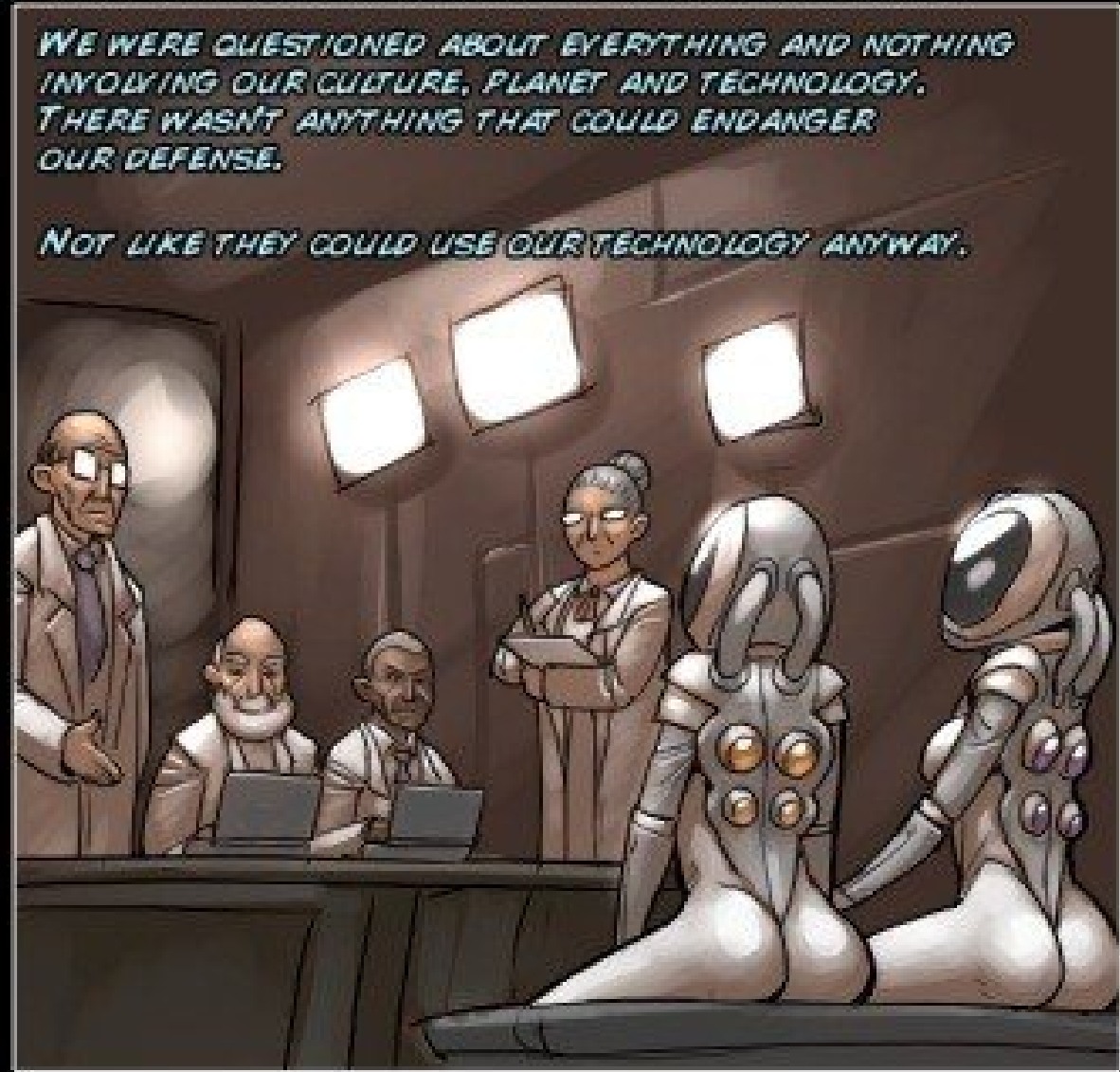
WINNING OPTION: Q&A SESSION. BOTH SIDES LEARN SURPRISING THINGS ABOUT EACH OTHER'S CULTURE : 249 VOTES

WE WERE RUSHED PAST ENDLESS CORRIDORS BEFORE WE ARRIVED IN THE SCIENTIST SECTOR.



WE WERE QUESTIONED ABOUT EVERYTHING AND NOTHING INVOLVING OUR CULTURE, PLANET AND TECHNOLOGY. THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THAT COULD ENDANGER OUR DEFENSE.

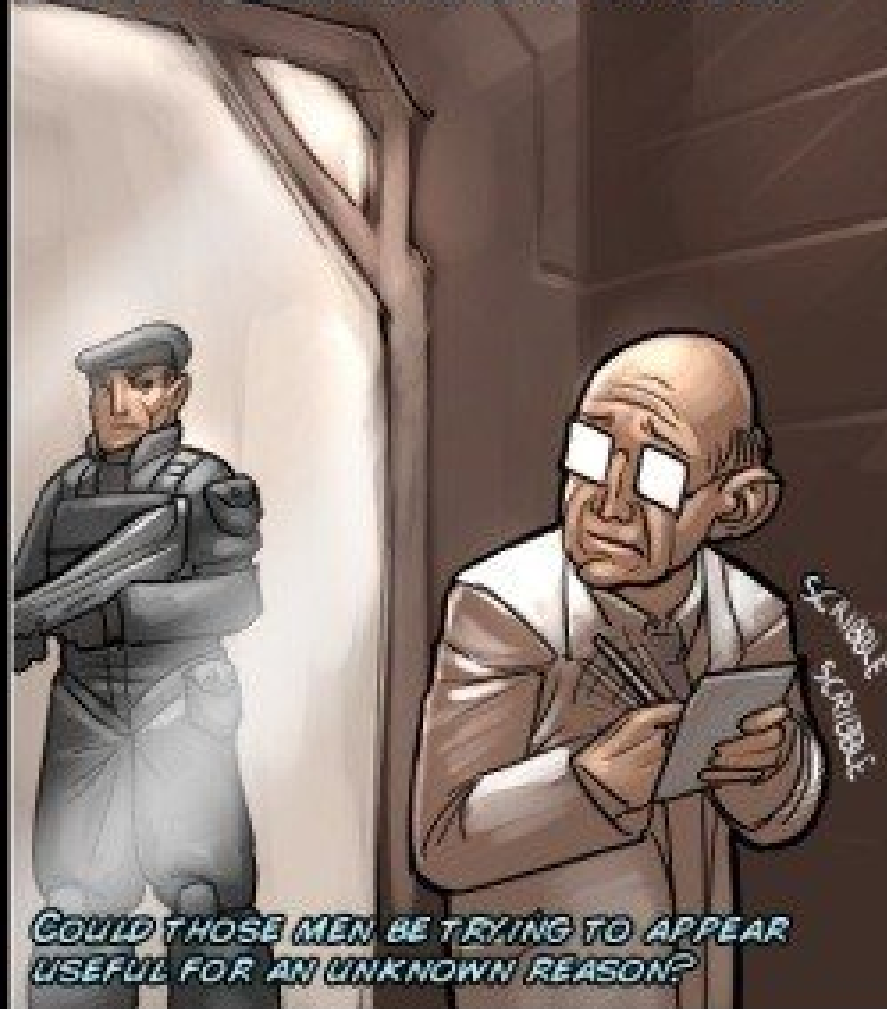
NOT LIKE THEY COULD USE OUR TECHNOLOGY ANYWAY.



HOURS PASSED. WE BECAME EXHAUSTED AND YET THE QUESTIONS TO WHICH THE ANSWERS ARE SO OBVIOUS TO US STILL CAME.



THERE IS A DEFINITE TENSION IN THE AIR. I COULD FEEL IT. BETWEEN THOSE SCIENTISTS AND THE SOLDIERS POSTED AS WATCHERS.



COULD THOSE MEN BE TRYING TO APPEAR USEFUL FOR AN UNKNOWN REASON?

WE ASKED QUESTIONS AS WELL BUT MOST ANSWERS WERE RESTRICTED AND THUS COULDN'T BE GIVEN. WE DID LEARN THAT THEIR CIVILISATION AND THESE HUMANS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM "OUR" HUMANS AND THAT THEY CAME FROM A DISTANT PLANET CALLED EARTH.



WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD CALL THEIR HOMEWORLD THE SAME WORD AS "DIRT" ANYWAY!?

THEN WE FINALLY CAME TO THE IMPORTANT QUESTION.

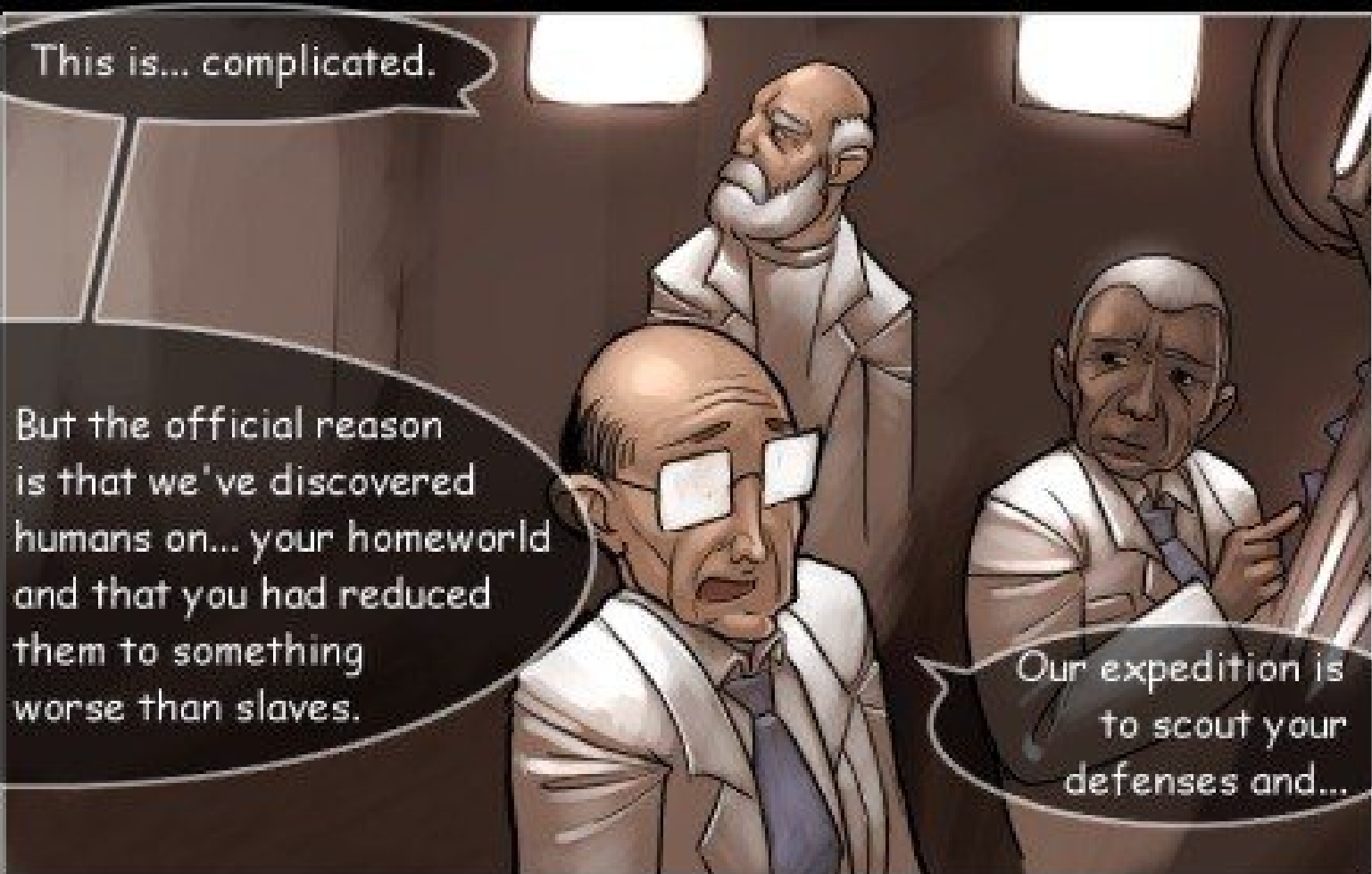
WHY ARE YOU COMING TO OUR SECTOR OF SPACE AND ATTACKING US?



This is... complicated.

But the official reason is that we've discovered humans on... your homeworld and that you had reduced them to something worse than slaves.

Our expedition is to scout your defenses and...

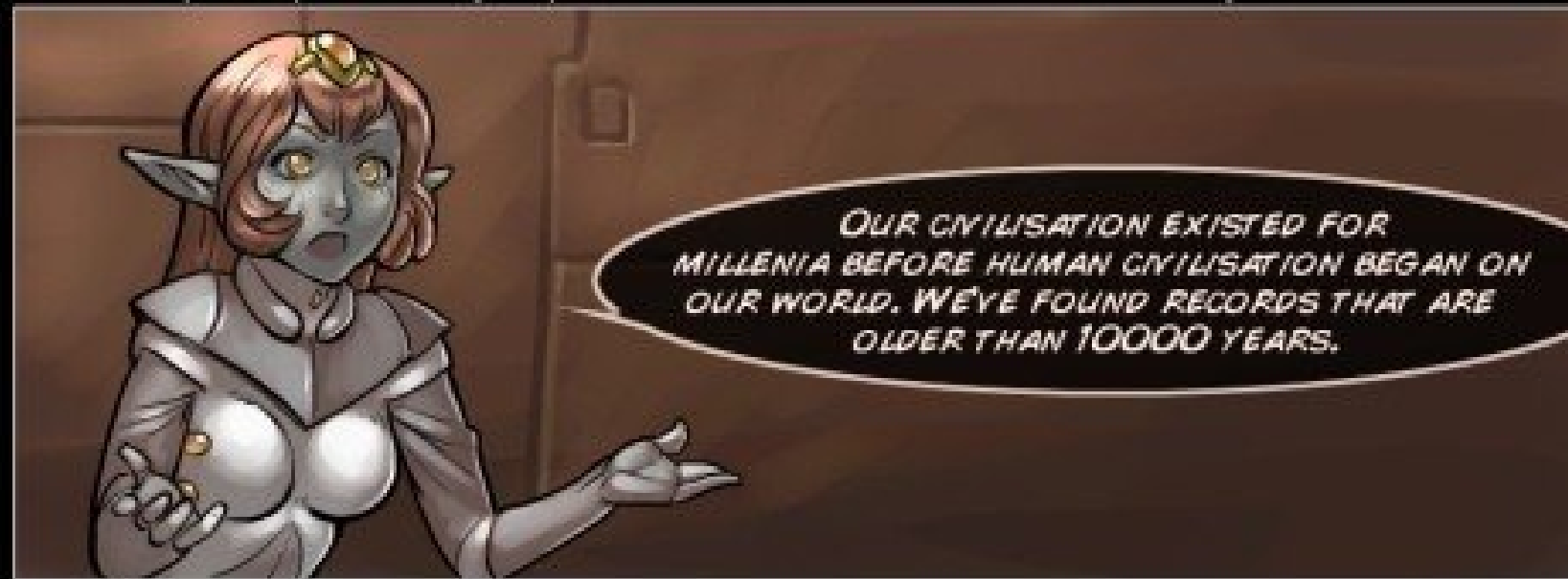


Report to the main forces so we... they... can defeat your race and give back the planet to the humans you stole it from.

WHAT!?!?

BUT WE... THAT IS OUR PLANET! OUR RACE WAS BORN THERE!

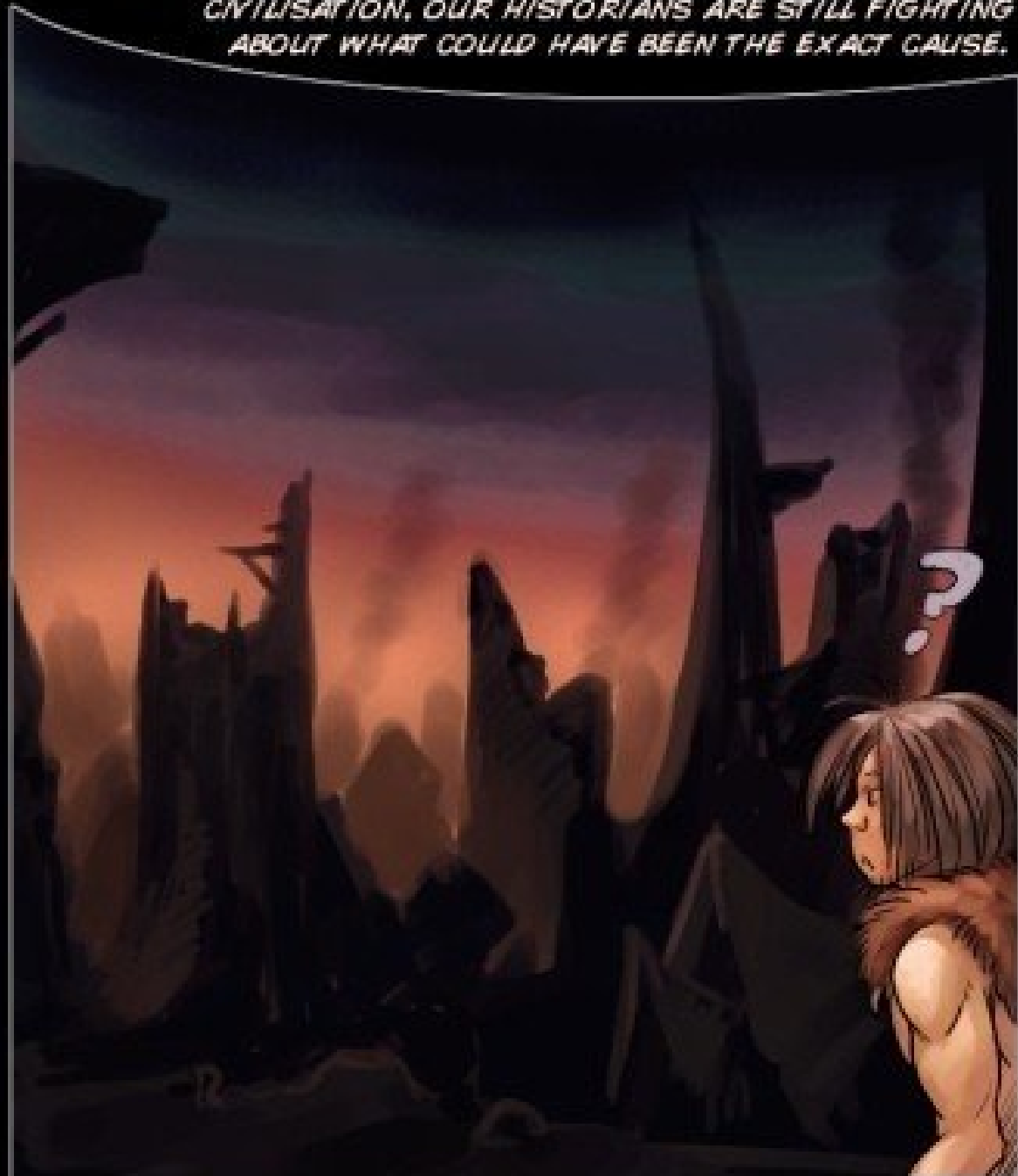




HUMANS WERE UNDEVELOPED TRIBES LIVING IN PLAINS AND FORESTS. AWAY FROM OUR CITIES. THEY WERE EVEN CLASSIFIED AS - BEASTS - FROM THAT TIME'S RECORD.



BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT DESTROYED OUR CIVILISATION. OUR HISTORIANS ARE STILL FIGHTING ABOUT WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE EXACT CAUSE.



HUMANS THEN MOVED AWAY FROM THEIR NATURAL HABITAT AND BUILT THEMSELVES UPON OUR RUINS. PROGRESSING MUCH FASTER, BUILDING THEIR OWN CIVILISATION AT A RAPID PACE.



BUT THEN OUR RACE RECOVERED FROM THE CATACLYSM AND EXPANDED. CONTACTS WERE RESTABLISHED BETWEEN HUMANS AND US.



EVENTUALLY HUMAN CIVILISATION BECAME A PROTECTED CULTURE. THEY MOSTLY LIVE IN ENCLAVE AND BORDER STATES. WE TRY TO MEDDLE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE WITH THEM BUT CONFLICTS STILL OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME.



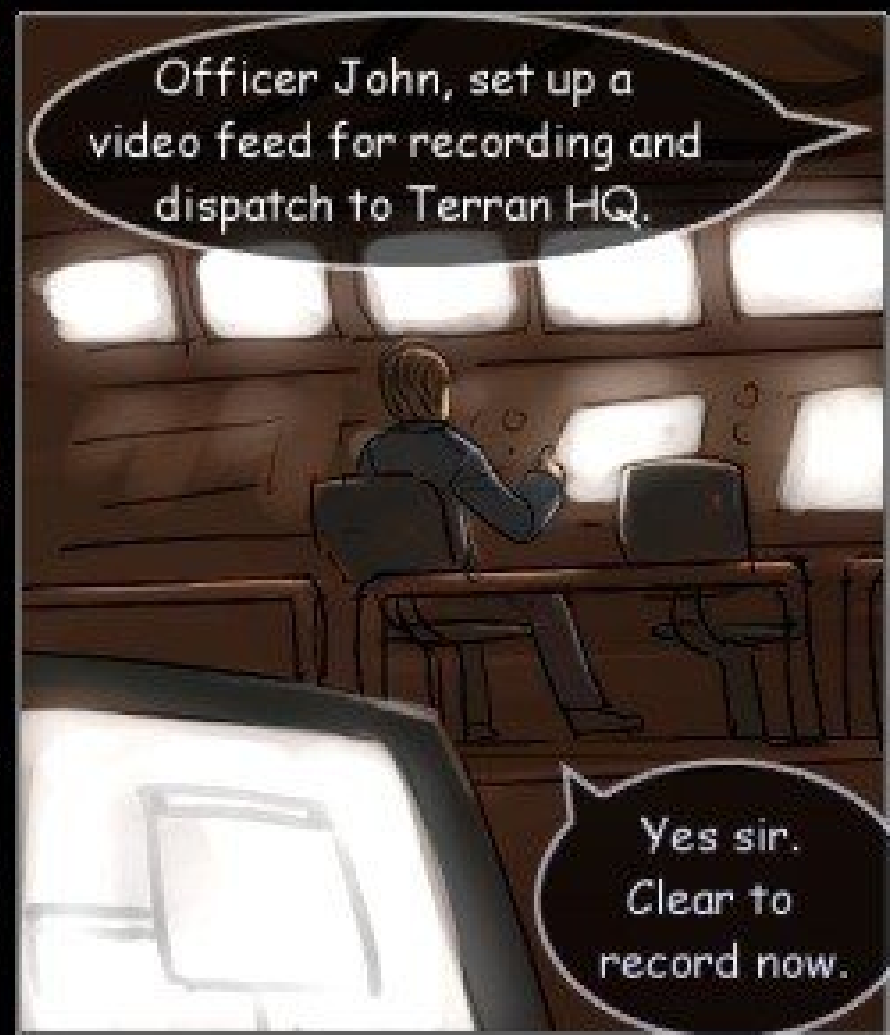
THE POINT IS, THIS IS OUR HOMEWORLD. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HUMANS CAME FROM EXACTLY. IT IS ODD TO FIND THE EXACT SAME RACE COMING FROM ...SO FAR AWAY.



Most intriguing.



Most intriguing indeed.



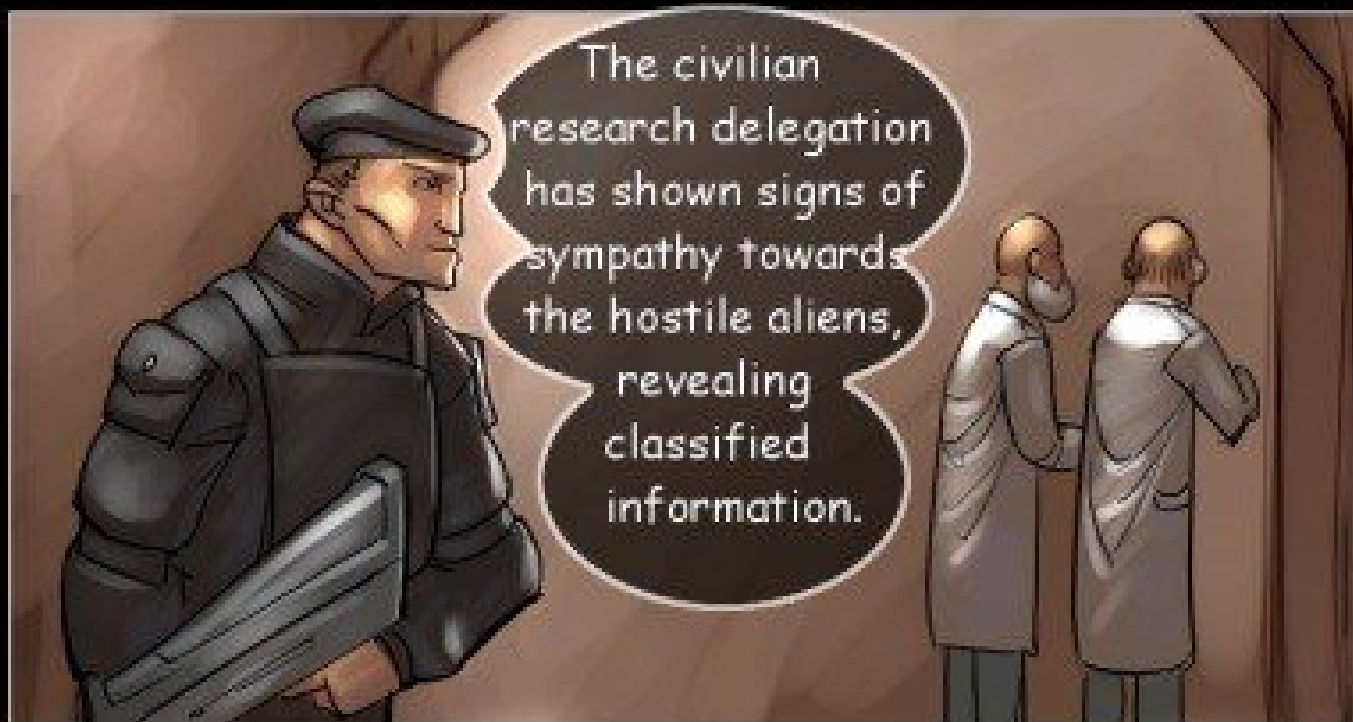
Officer John, set up a video feed for recording and dispatch to Terran HQ.

Yes sir. Clear to record now.

Winning option: Human commander is watching from a video feed, intrigued, reports to HQ: 151 votes

This is Admiral Bergen of the flagship Prometheus. Our scouting and tactical data gathering is proceeding as planned. We have captured live samples of the alien race that will be brought back to Earth for further examination and questioning.

However, an issue is growing more pressing.



The civilian research delegation has shown signs of sympathy towards the hostile aliens, revealing classified information.

I am including a video feed with evidence of this in this message for your review. This adds to my previous negative reports. I again advise that the civilian research department's authority should be stripped and that orders authorizing the military to deal with this matter directly is given.

Officer, send the communication.



Communication en route, Admiral. It will be relayed in 49 hours. Should reach earth in a week.

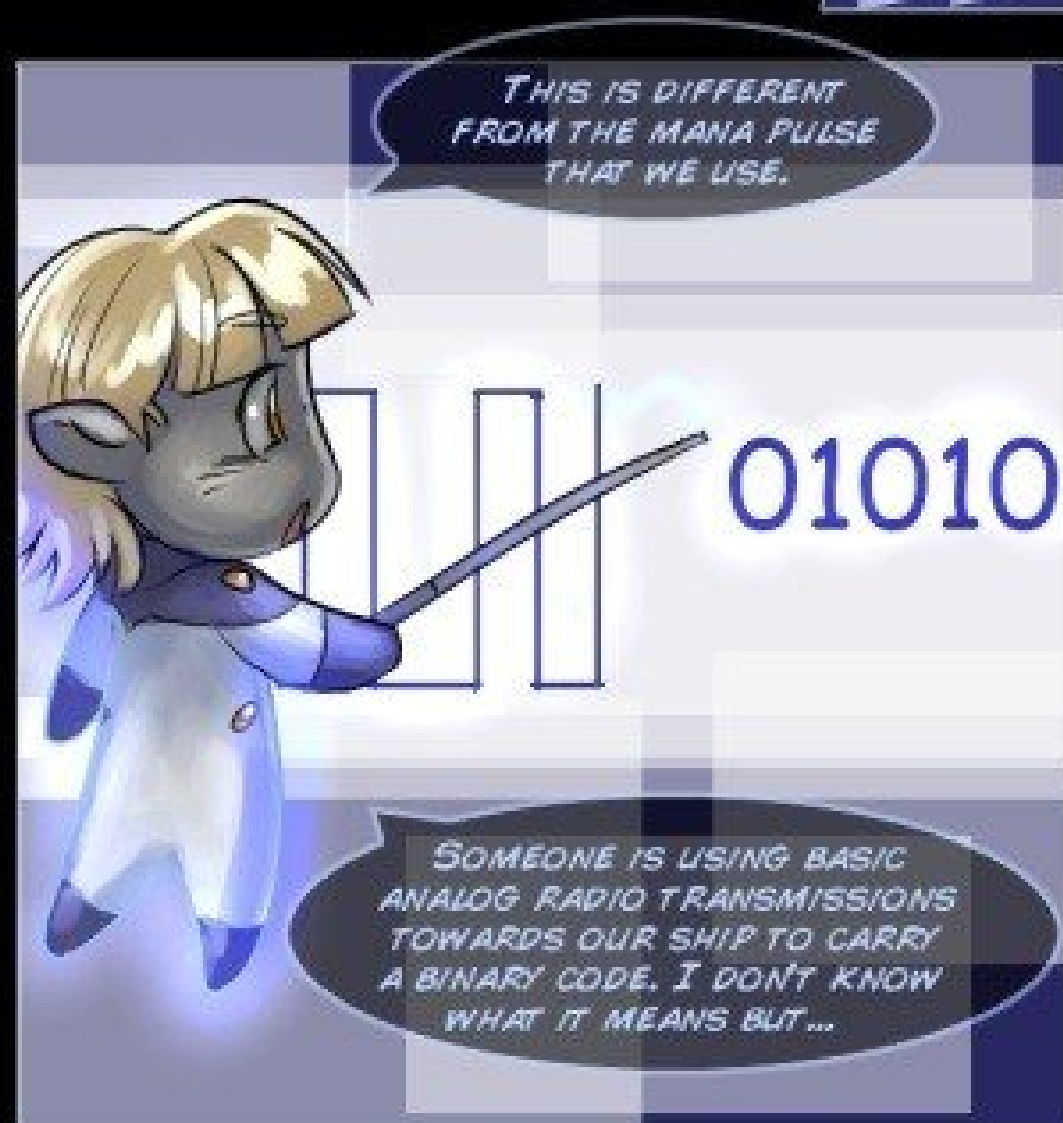
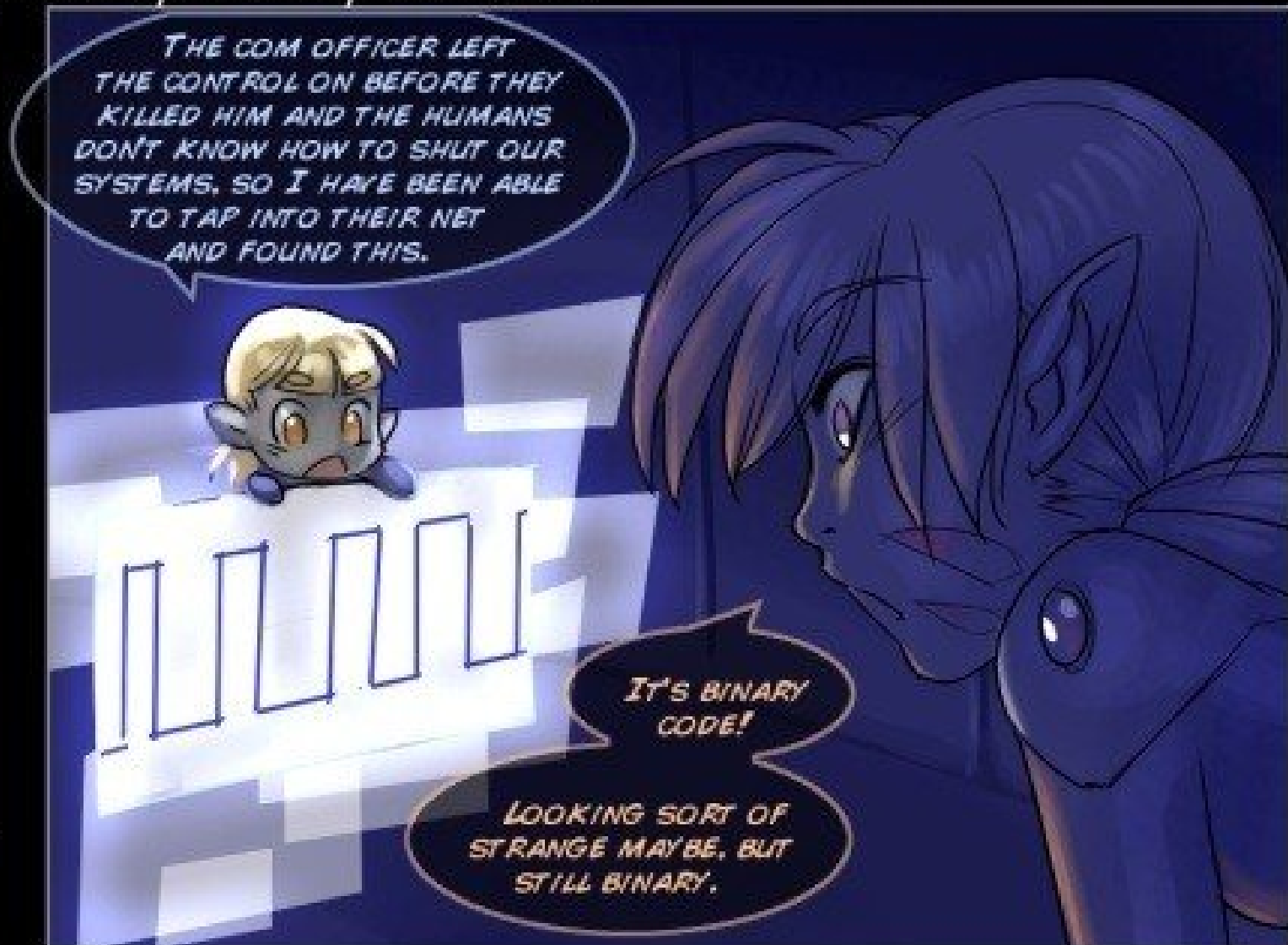
MEANWHILE, IN THE VIRTUAL CONSTRUCT OF SENA HQ'S NETWORK.



ABOARD THE PHOENIX.

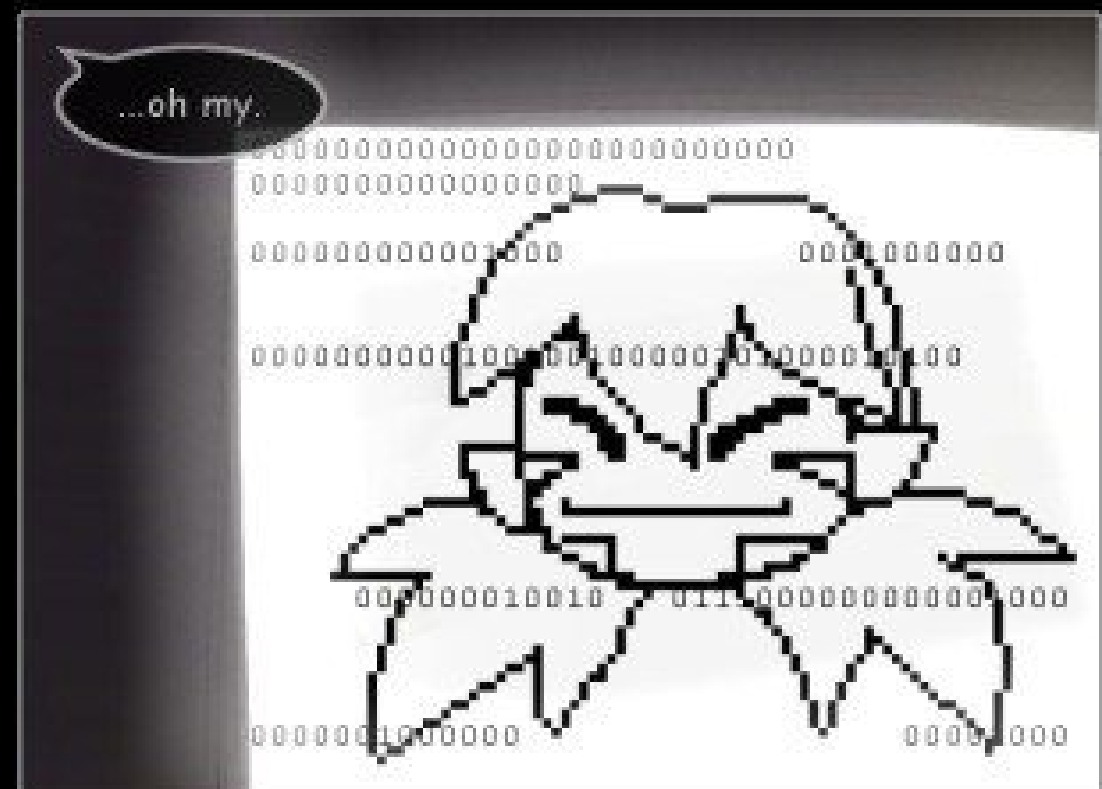


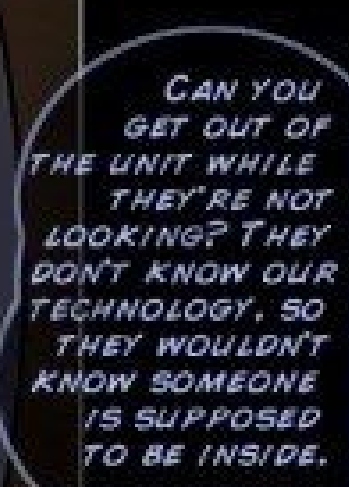
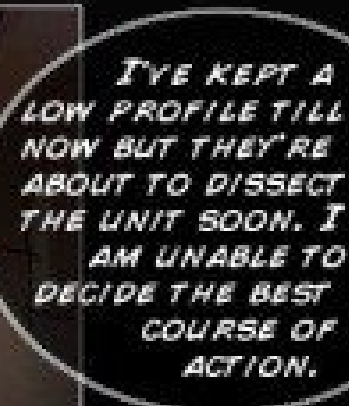
DROW CAN'T HACK HUMAN TECHNOLOGY. WHATEVER DROW USE IS CERTAINLY NOT WINDOWS. THE OPPOSITE IS ALSO TRUE. IT TOOK QUITE A BIT OF EFFORT AND IMPROVISATION BY THE PHOENIX'S CREW TO DECIPHER THE ANALOG VIDEO COMMUNICATION SENT BY THE HUMAN SHIP BEFORE.





WRITTEN BY KERN, DRAWN BY BLACKMYST - WWW.DROWTALES.COM





Fascinating.

Truly a technology beyond our understanding.

Too bad we blew it up.

I'll try.

The mechanics look straightforward, but how does it get power? What are those? Tiny crystals? Perhaps if we take it down into pieces, and re-assemble it we can come up with some theories about how it functions.



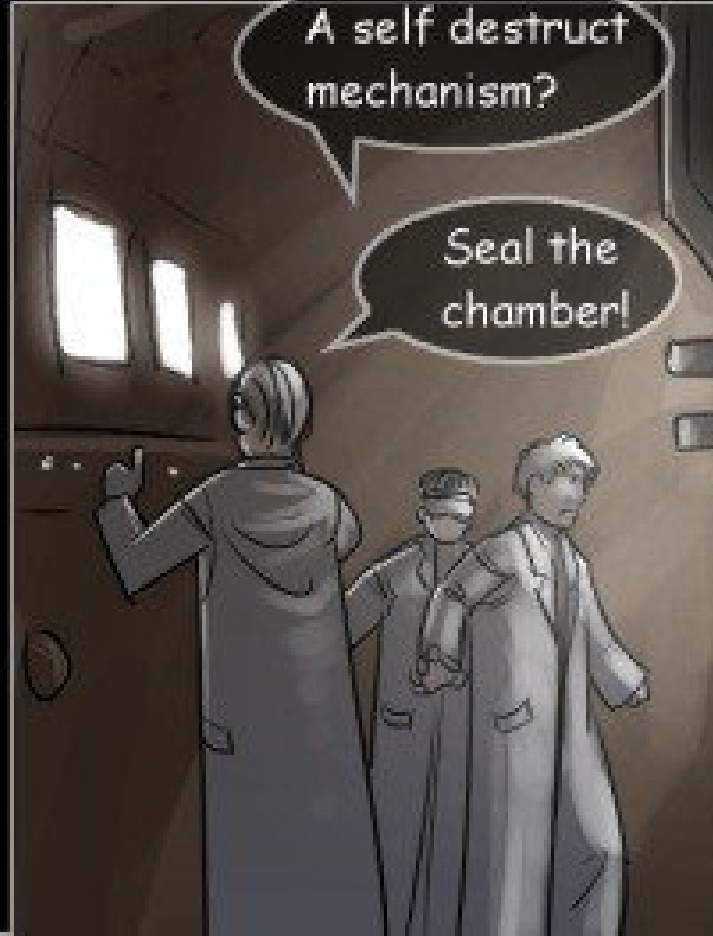
Aaah! It opened itself!

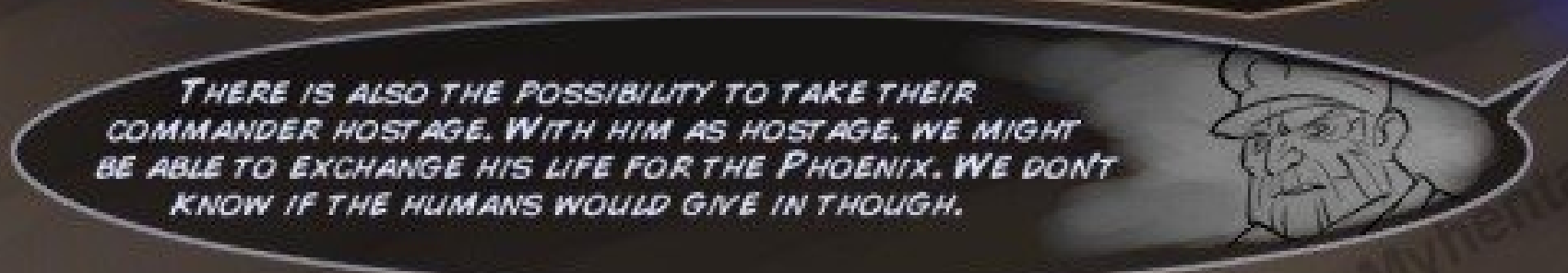
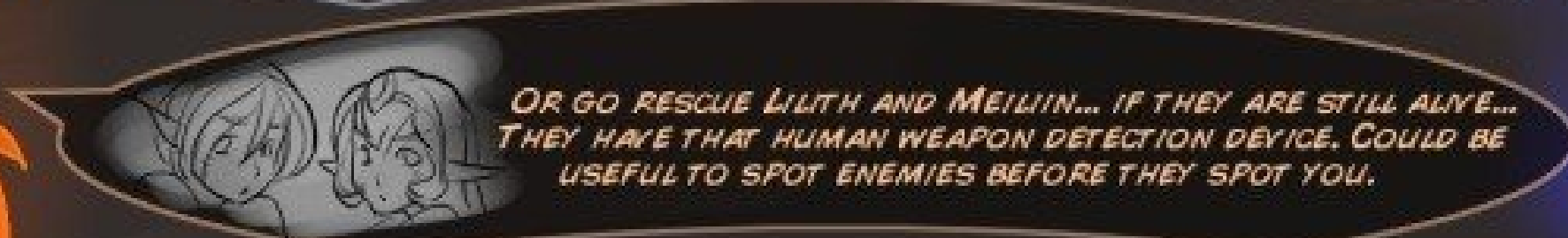
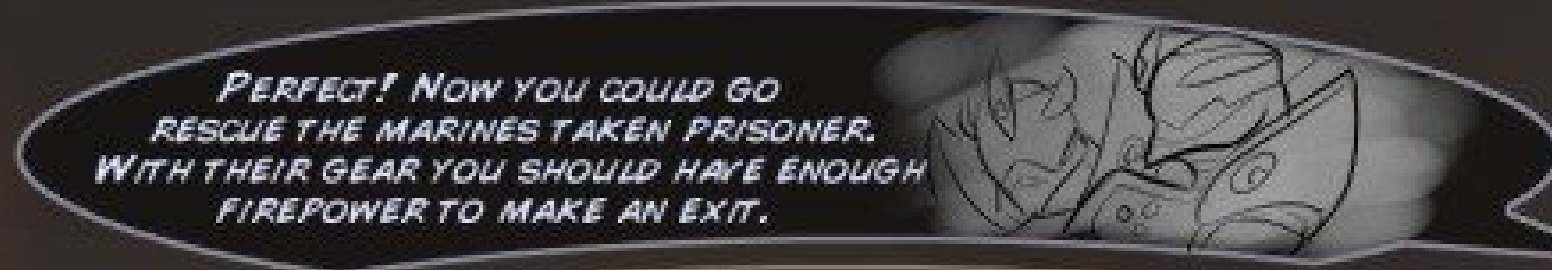
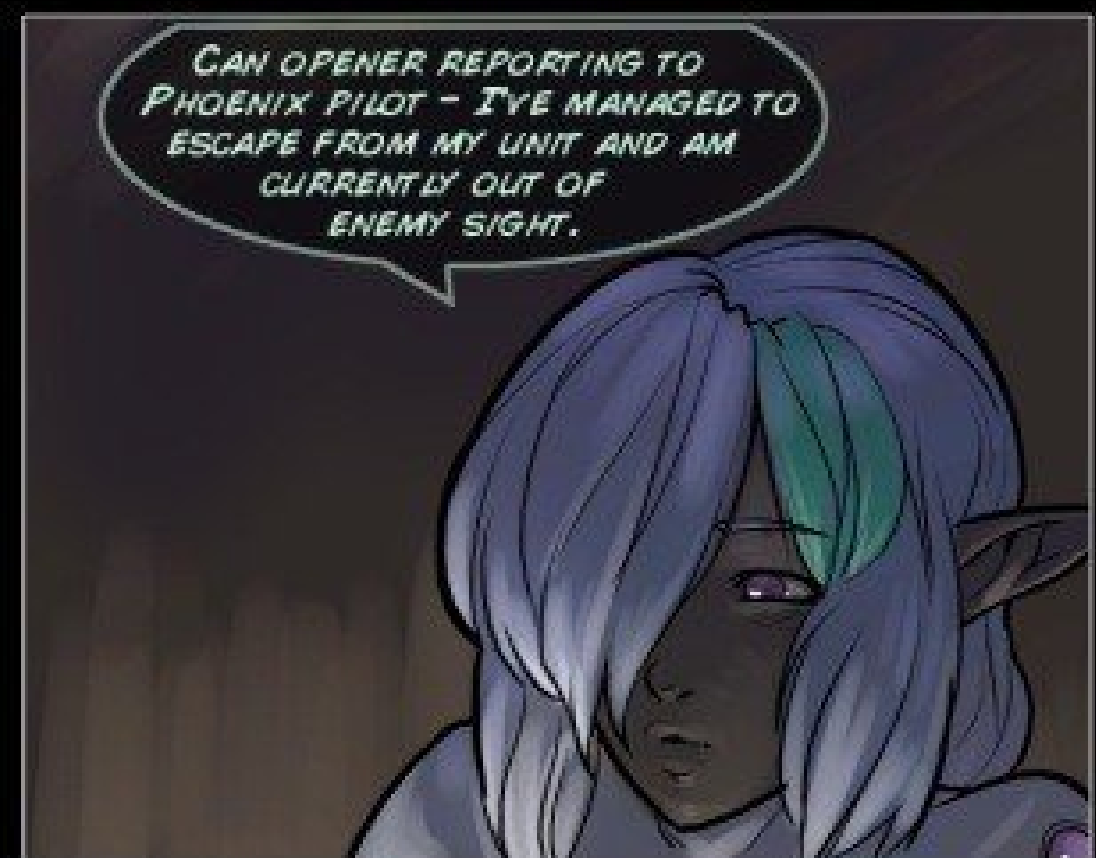
What?!

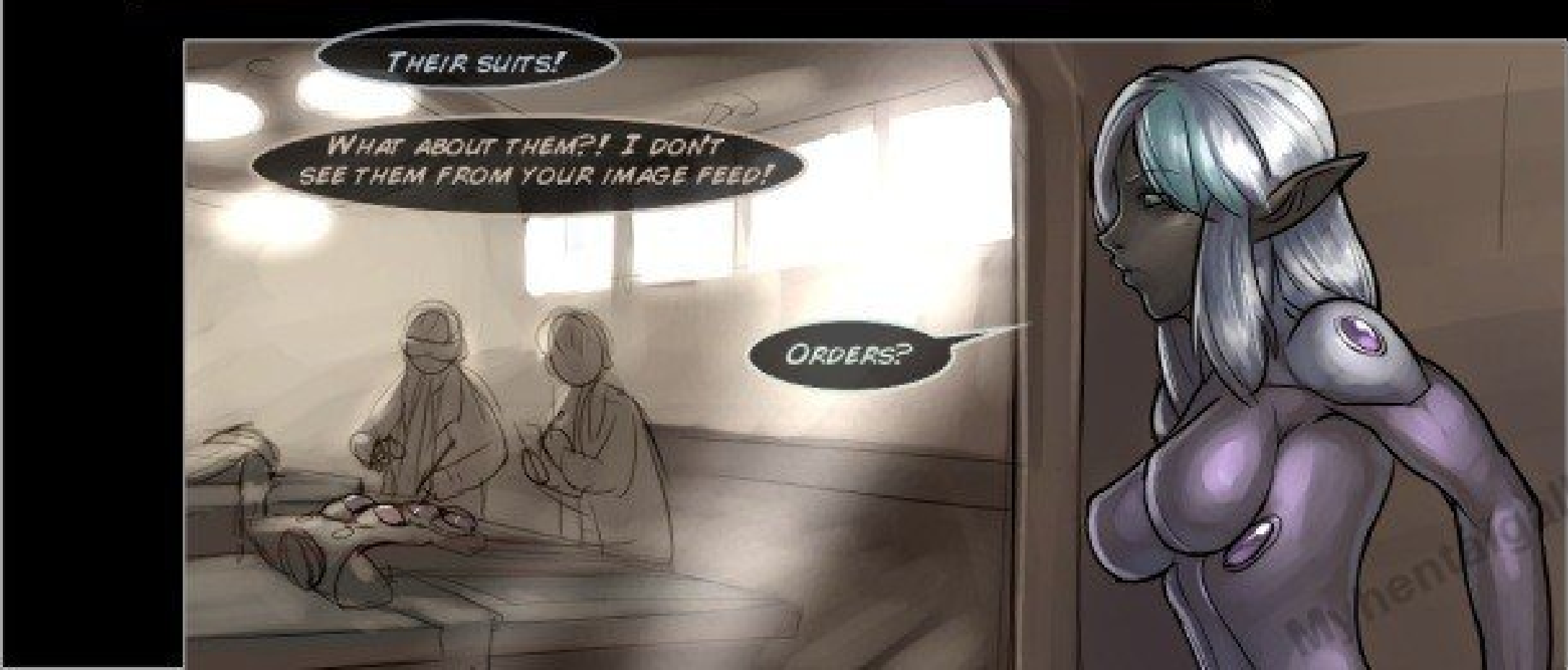
A self destruct mechanism?

Seal the chamber!

Better alert the commander, immediately!









Nearby

LOOK AT THESE TWO ALIENS - LOOKING LIKE SEX BOMBS.





Get this taped! RECORD!!

I'm recording already!

This is so going on the internet when we come back.



WHAT WAS THAT GOLEM SNAKE THINGY?



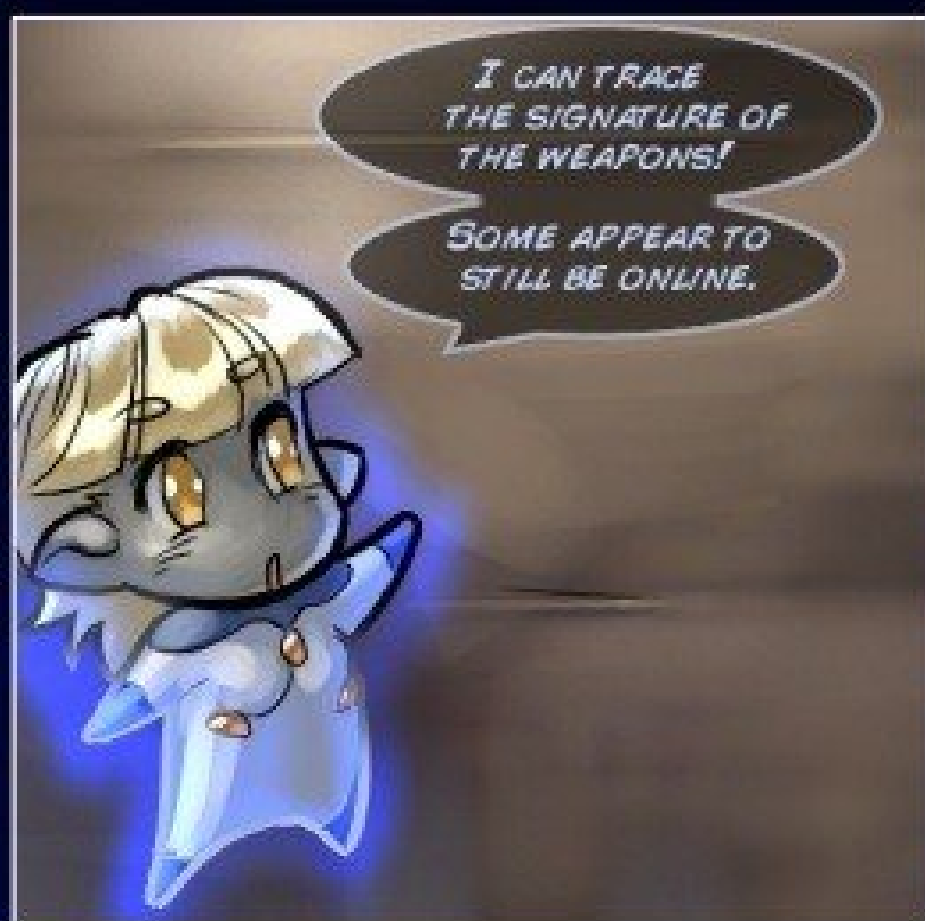
...AND THEN THEY ASKED US TO UNDRESS AND COME OVER HERE SO THEY COULD EXAMINE OUR SUITS BUT IT TURNED OUT SOME SOLDIERS WERE WAITING JUST FOR THIS. THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR US.

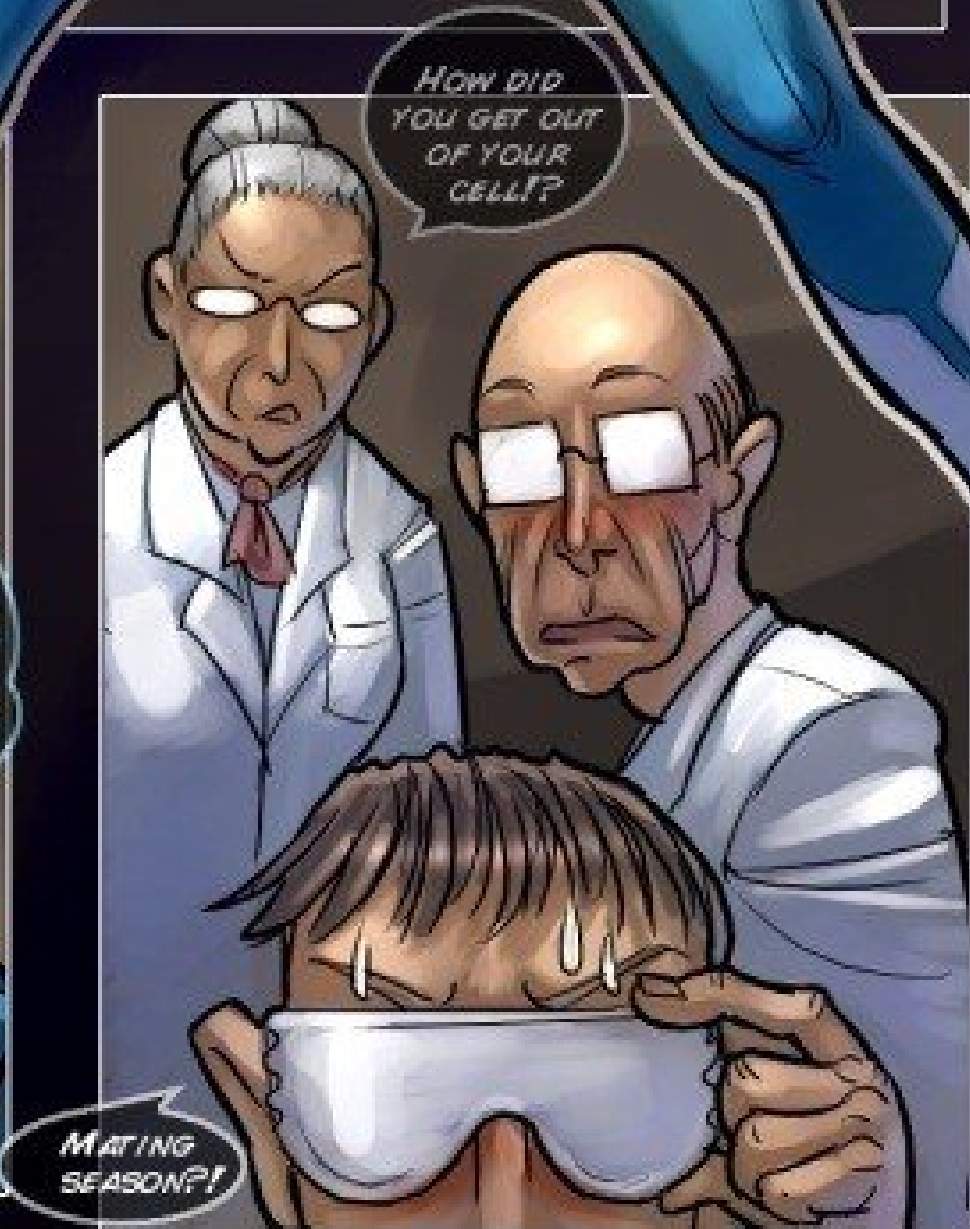
HOW IS EVERYONE ON THE PHOENIX?



MOST OF US DIED DURING THE ATTACK. I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE COMMAND ROOM.

AND THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO. A HUMAN KEEPS HIS GUN POINTED AT ME ALL THE TIME.



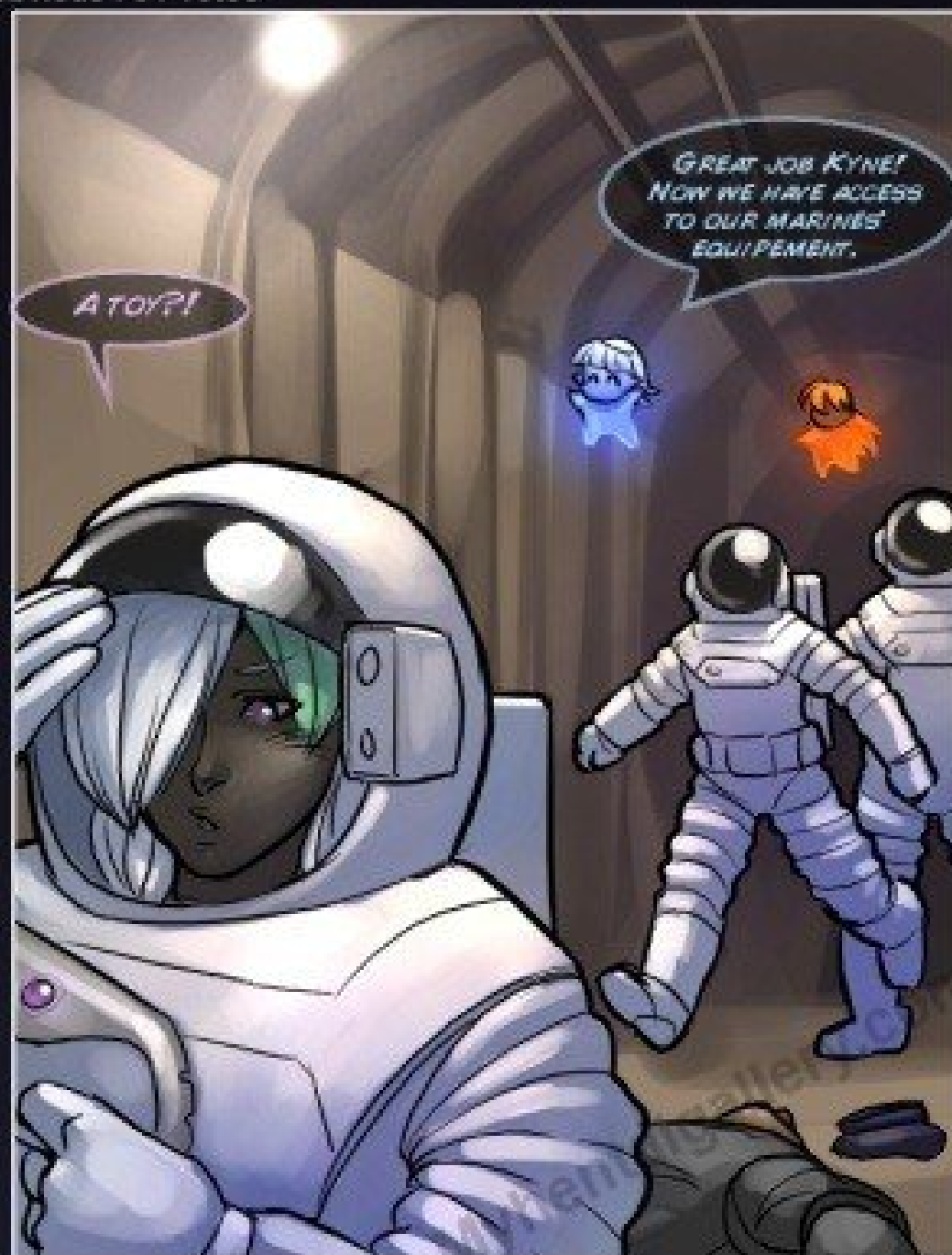


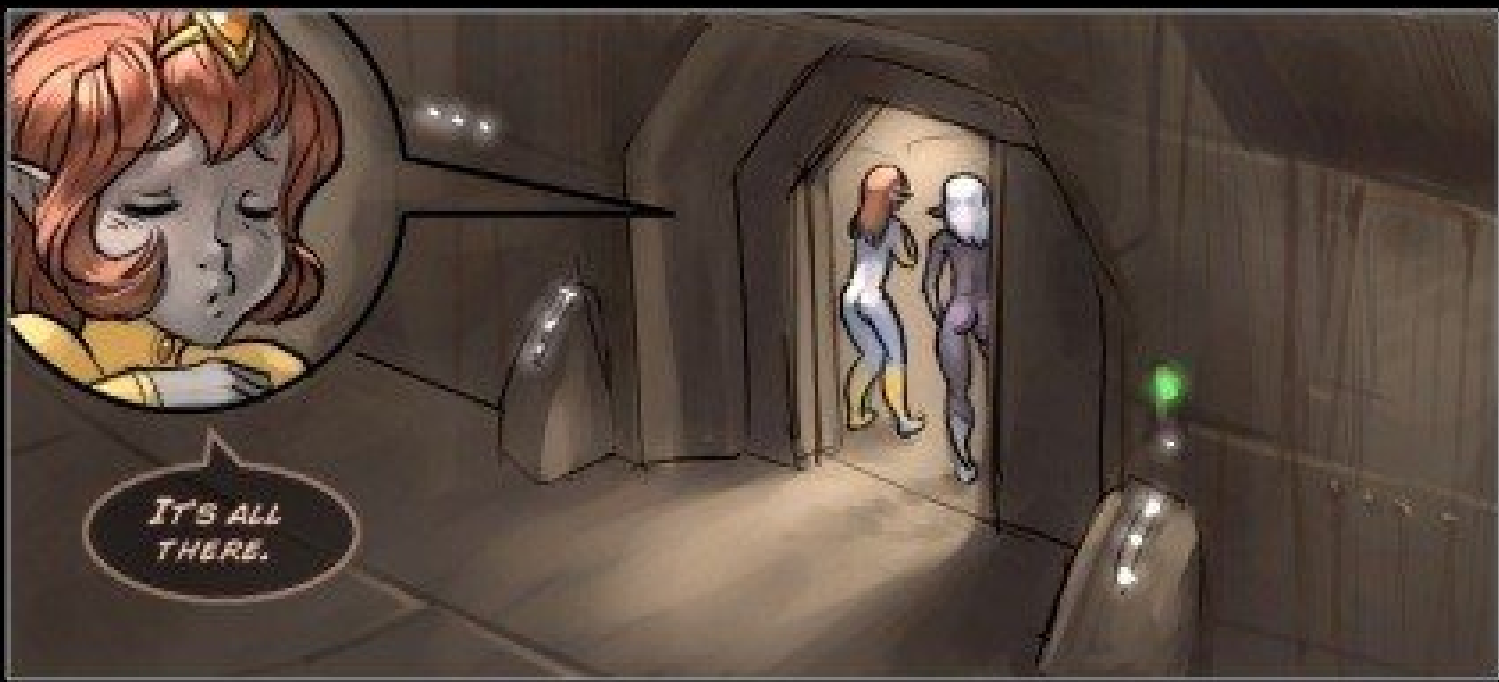


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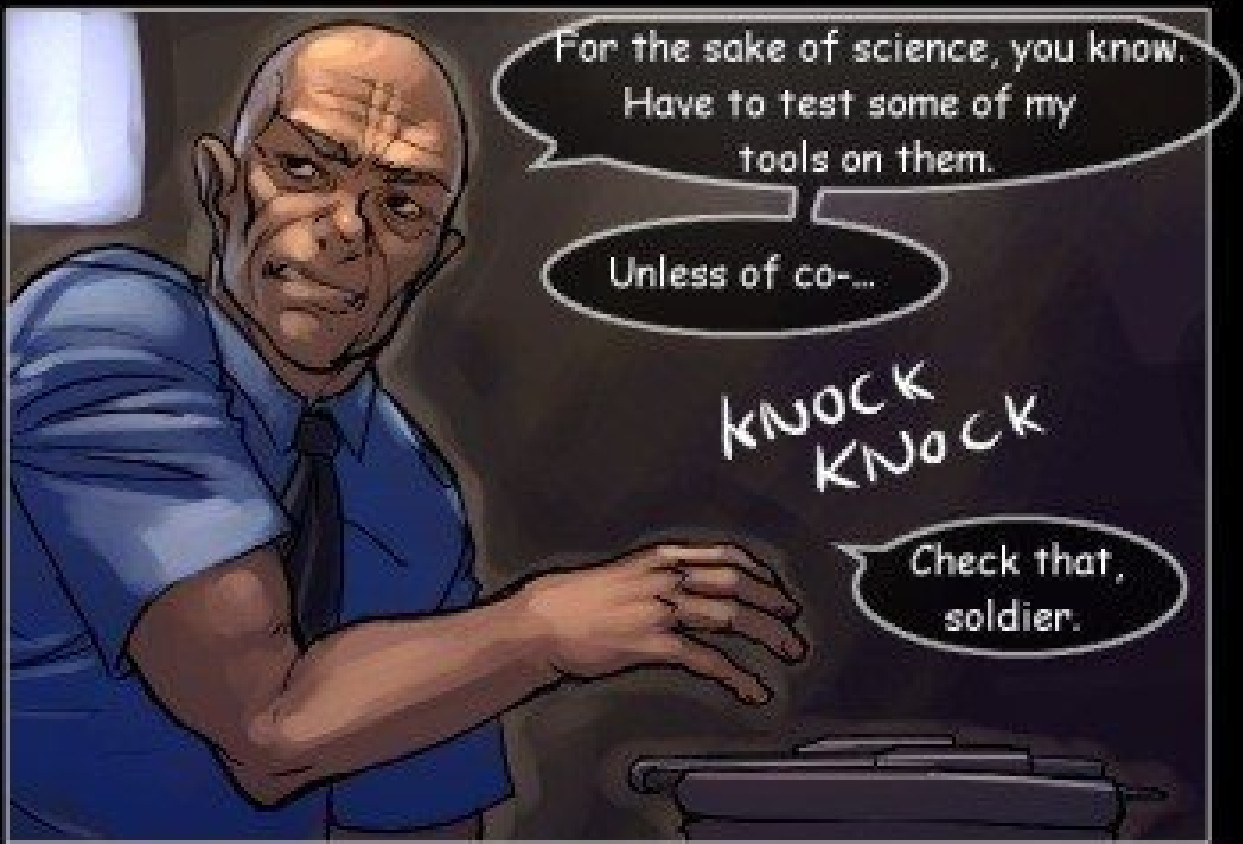
Winning option 2: Find quarters, Kyne has idea to Steal cloths & makeup, be less obvious : 81 votes





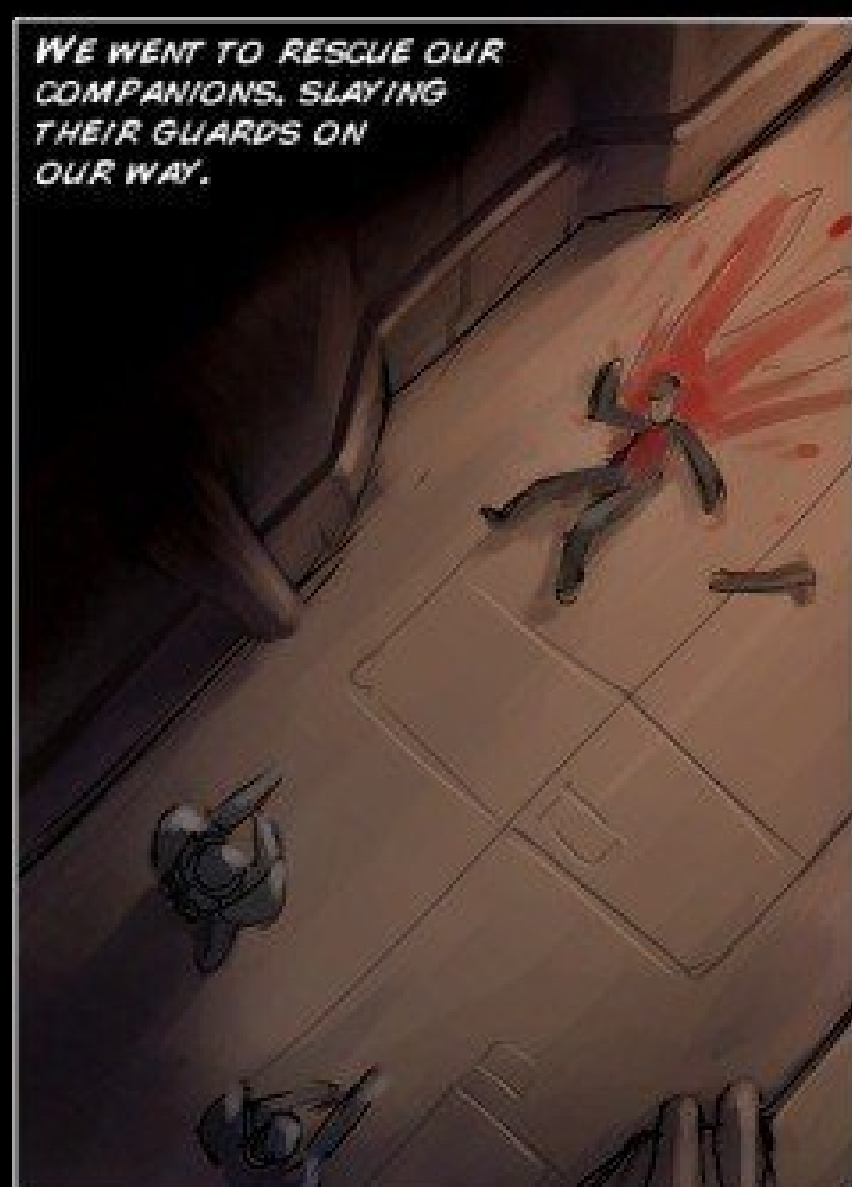
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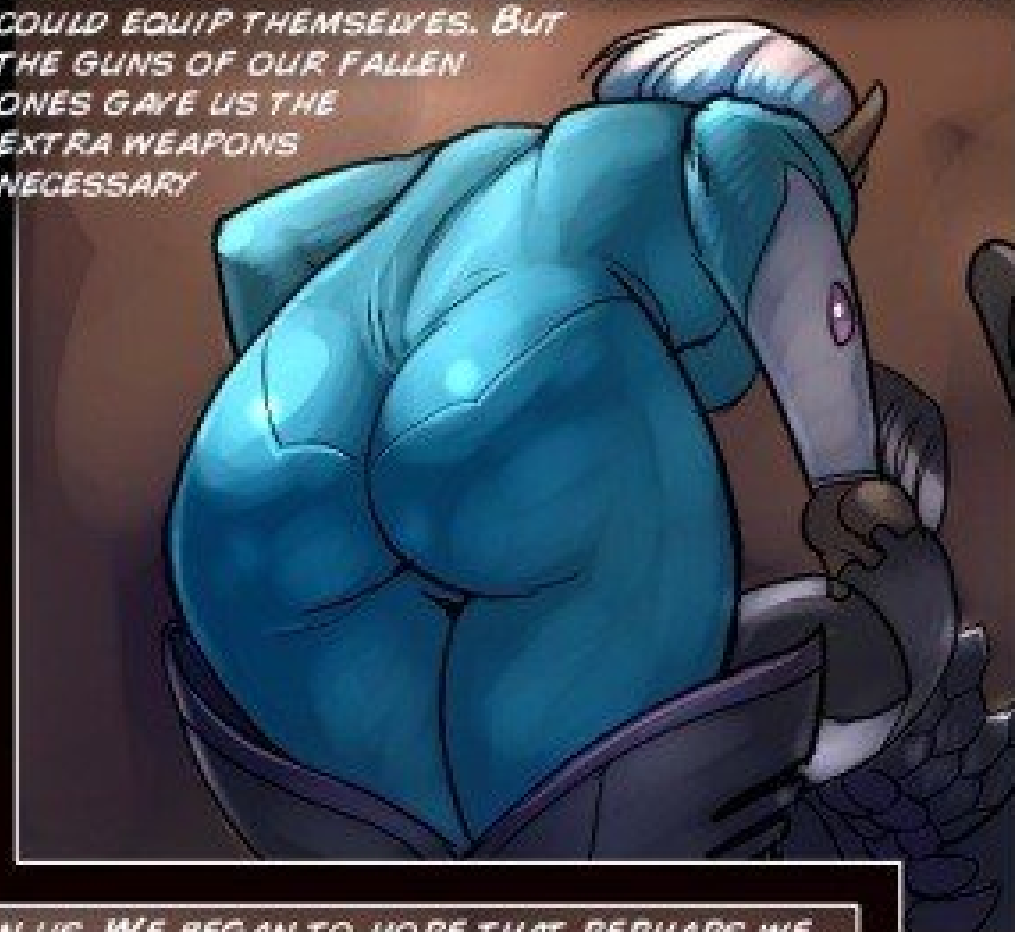


winning option: They're fine. Rescue, arm themselves, ready to kick ass : 94 votes

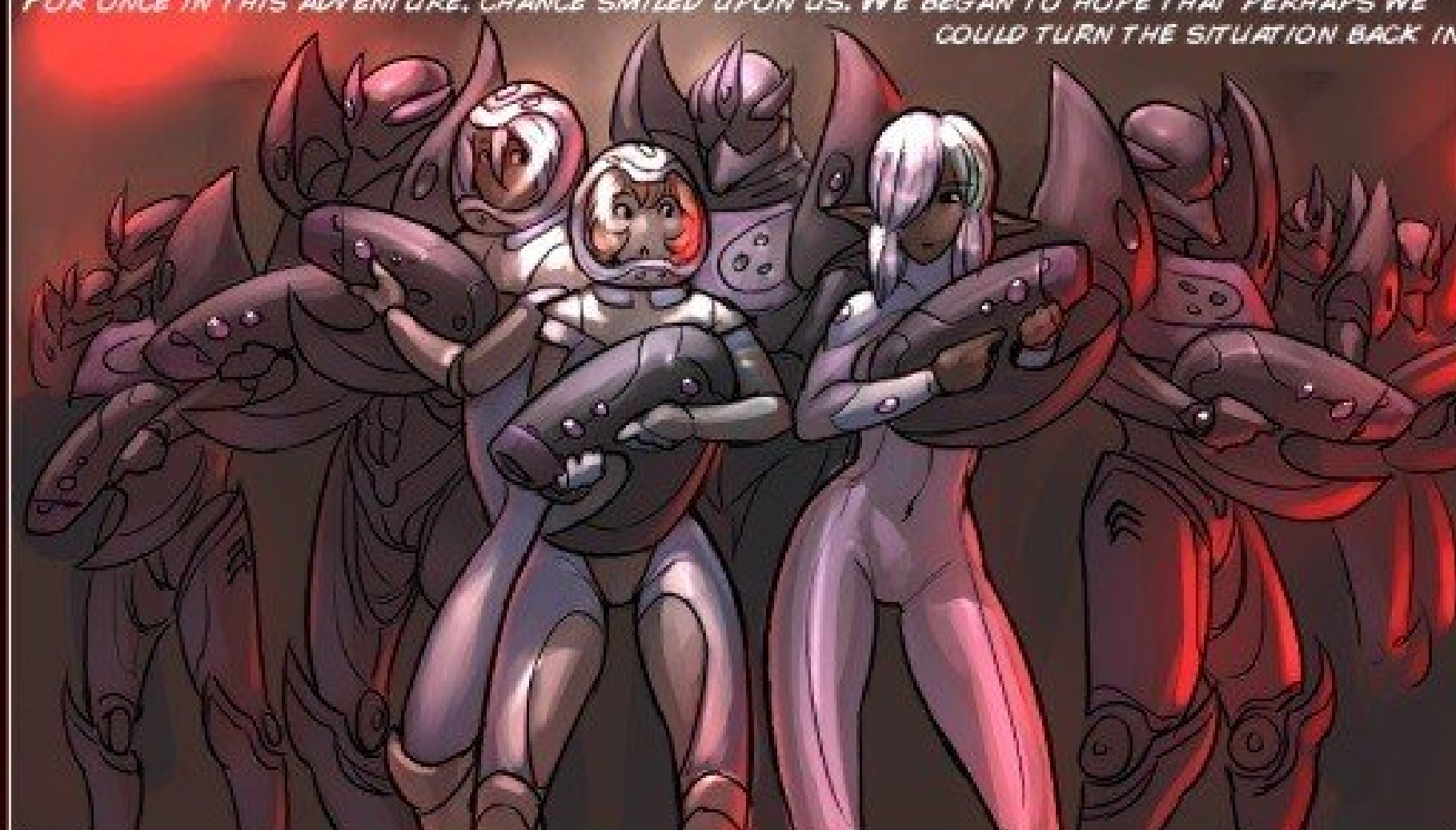
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WE HAD TO LET GO OF OUR ARMORS SO THAT OUR MARINES COULD EQUIP THEMSELVES. BUT THE GUNS OF OUR FALLEN ONES GAVE US THE EXTRA WEAPONS NECESSARY



FOR ONCE IN THIS ADVENTURE, CHANCE SMILED UPON US. WE BEGAN TO HOPE THAT PERHAPS WE COULD TURN THE SITUATION BACK IN OUR FAVOR...



...WHEN AN ALARM BEGAN RINGING. DID SOMEONE FIND THE CORPSES, SIGNS OF OUR ESCAPE OR HAS SOMEONE ELSE DONE SOMETHING TO BRING THE ALERT ON?



Back to the story! Winning option: Alarm reason: Humans have detected incoming ship, readying for battle : 135 votes



No answer to our
ID request, sir. Possible alien
signature detected!



Get me
a visual.



COMMANDER!
A STRANGE SHIP HAS
DOCKED WITH THE
PHOENIX!



COULD IT
REALLY BE
TRUE THEN?

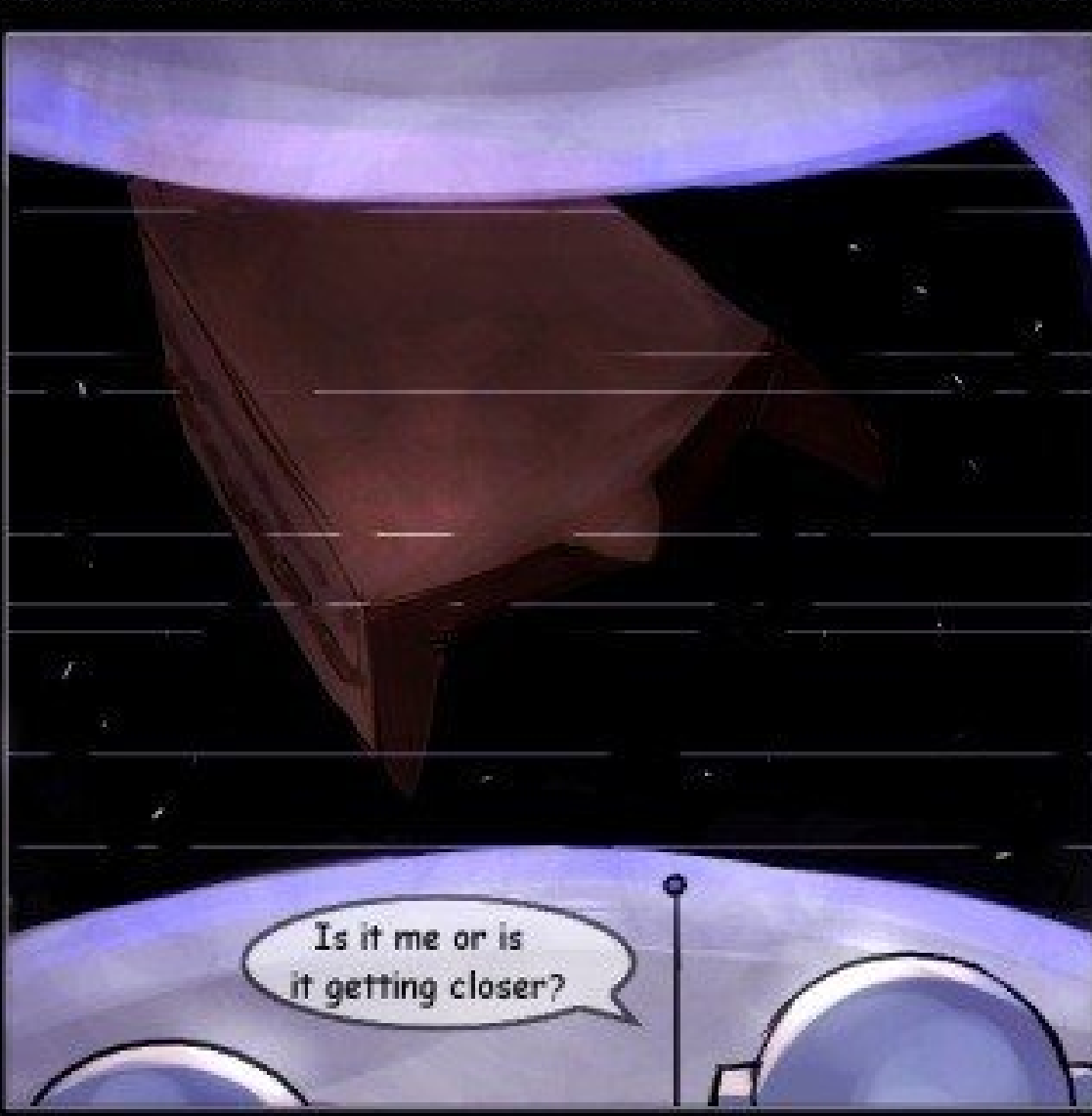


THE HACKER SIGNAL
DID COME FROM THIS SECTOR OF
SPACE, MY LADY.





Huh?



Is it me or is it getting closer?



It is!

Squad leader 26 to command! Mothership approaching alien ship quickly on a collision course! Take evasive action! Command, do you copy?



She activated the ship! Do I shoot her?

I'm not getting any response from command... Don't shoot until we are clear!



THERE IS SO LITTLE ENERGY LEFT IN THE PHOENIX... THIS IS GOING TO BE A CLOSE CALL.



Winning option 2: MECH BATTLES! : 106 votes



MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE "QUAINTANA", THE CREW GET THEIR GOLEMS READY FOR BATTLE.



THE QUAINTANA?

WHAT? I RAN OUT OF IDEAS FOR NAMES!

HA HA
HA HA

ANYWAY... YES, WAR GOLEMS. THE DROW ARE ABOUT TO FACE THE HUMANS IN A REAL WAR.

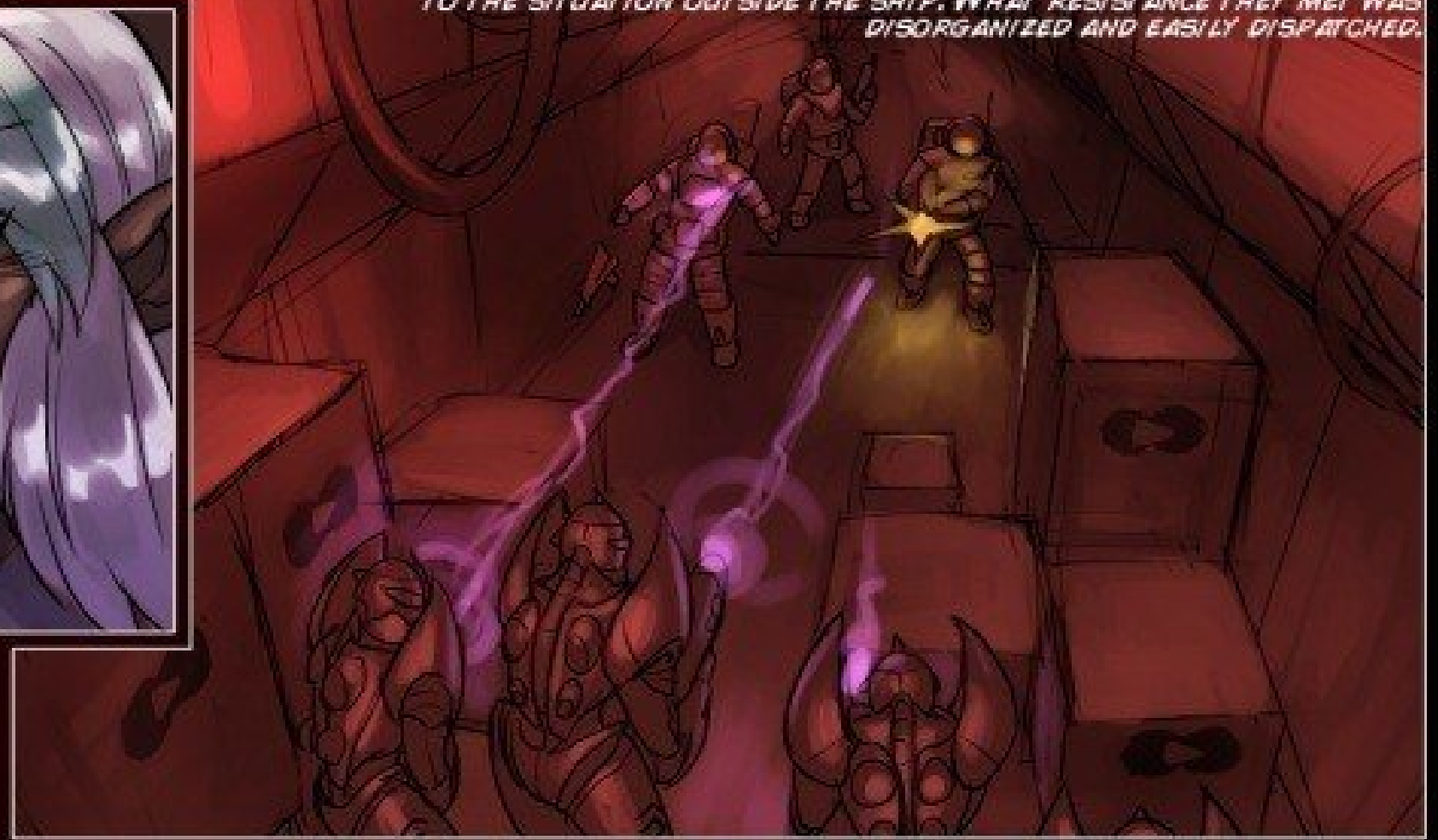
MEANWHILE WITHIN THE HUMAN SHIP.



AND SO THEY BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE HUMAN COMMAND BRIDGE, OBLIVIOUS TO THE SITUATION OUTSIDE THE SHIP. WHAT RESISTANCE THEY MET WAS DISORGANIZED AND EASILY DISPATCHED.



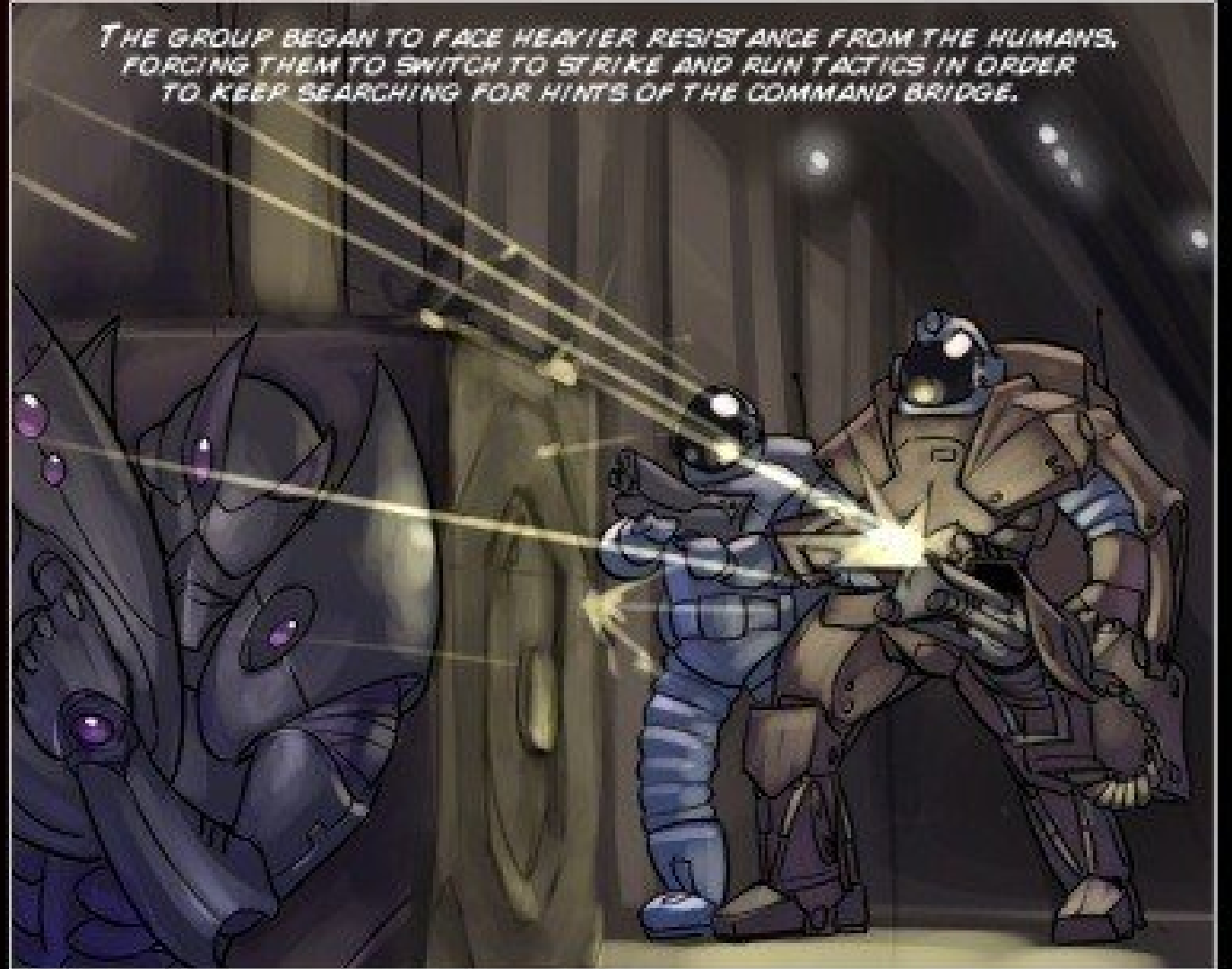
WE MUST FIND THE BRIDGE AND TAKE OUT THEIR COMMAND!



EVENTUALLY, POWER RETURNED.



THE GROUP BEGAN TO FACE HEAVIER RESISTANCE FROM THE HUMANS, FORCING THEM TO SWITCH TO STRIKE AND RUN TACTICS IN ORDER TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR HINTS OF THE COMMAND BRIDGE.



AFTER HOURS OF FIGHTING AND RUNNING, THEY FOUND AN ELEVATOR TO WHAT THEY BELIEVE MIGHT BE THEIR TARGET.



BUT IS IT?

AND IF SO, WHAT SHALL THEY FIND?





TIE! : Crazy contacts Drow fleet, Kyne and a few cross the hull, towards the bridge : 128 votes
and Ask Crazy to guide them to the bridge. : 128 votes





**The squad places explosives on the door
blasting their way into the Bridge : 132 votes**





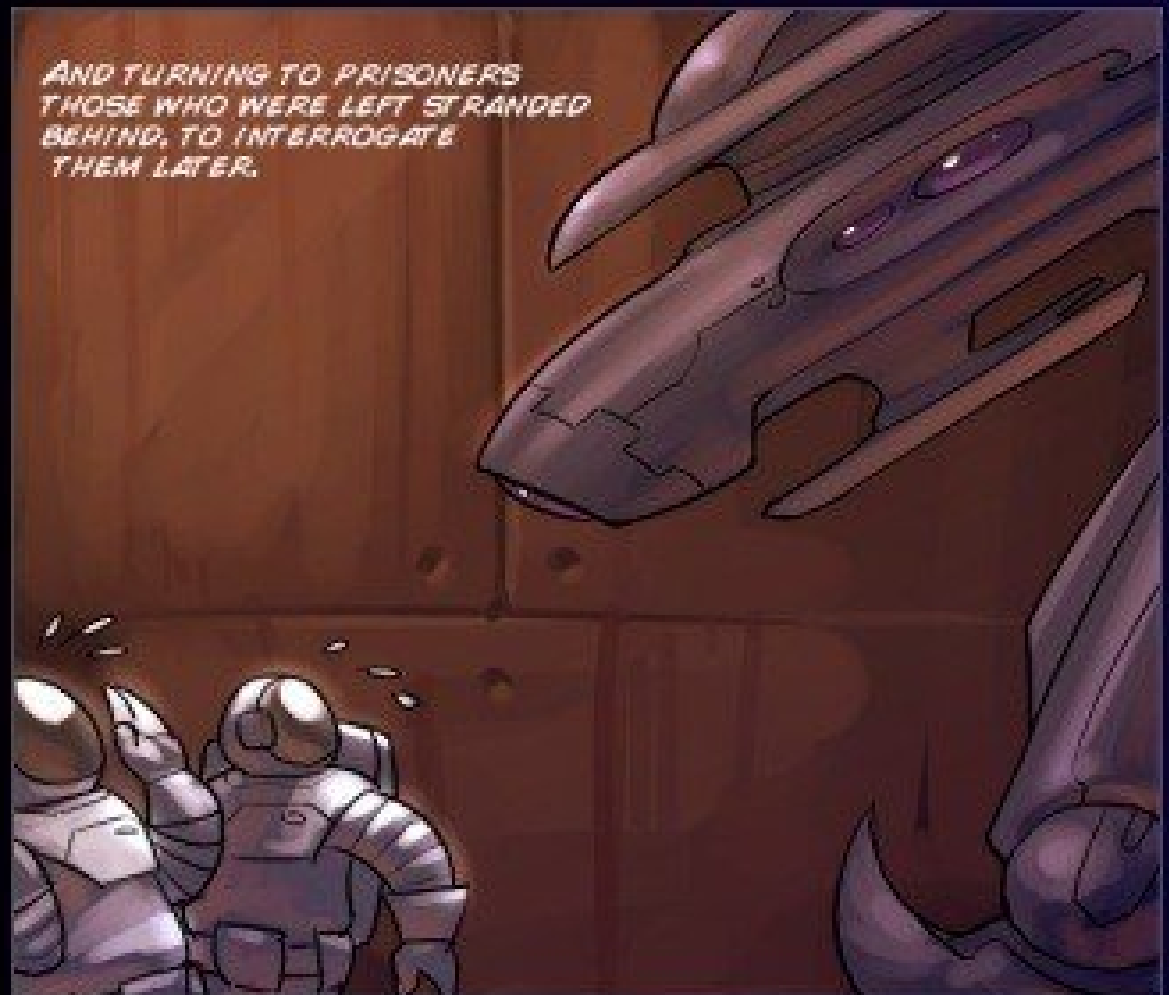
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF...



...IN REVERSE.



*THE CREW OF THE QUAINANA
CHARGED TO VICTORY, DESTROYING
THOSE TOO SLOW TO ESCAPE.*



*AND TURNING TO PRISONERS
THOSE WHO WERE LEFT STRANDED
BEHIND, TO INTERROGATE
THEM LATER.*

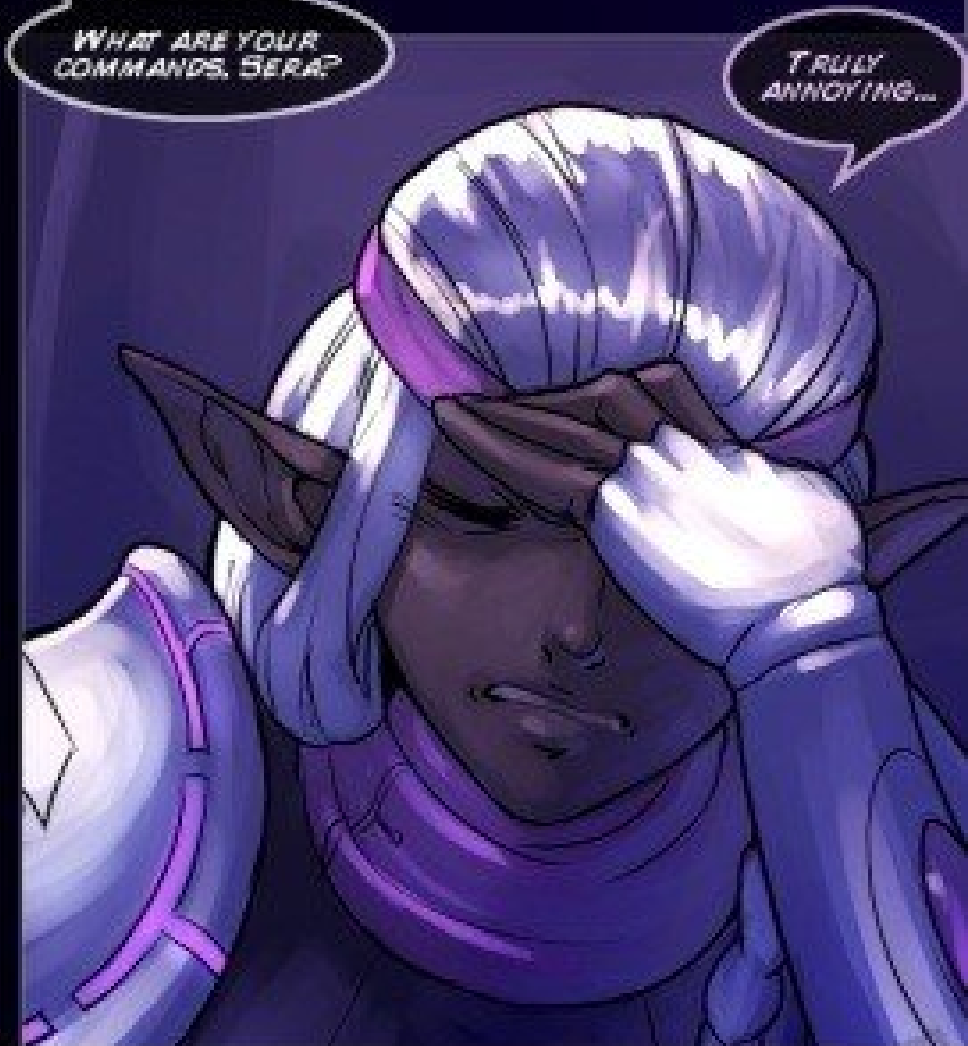
*WHILE ALL SEEMED TO BE VICTORY FOR THE
DROWS, ONE THING WENT UNEXPECTEDLY.*

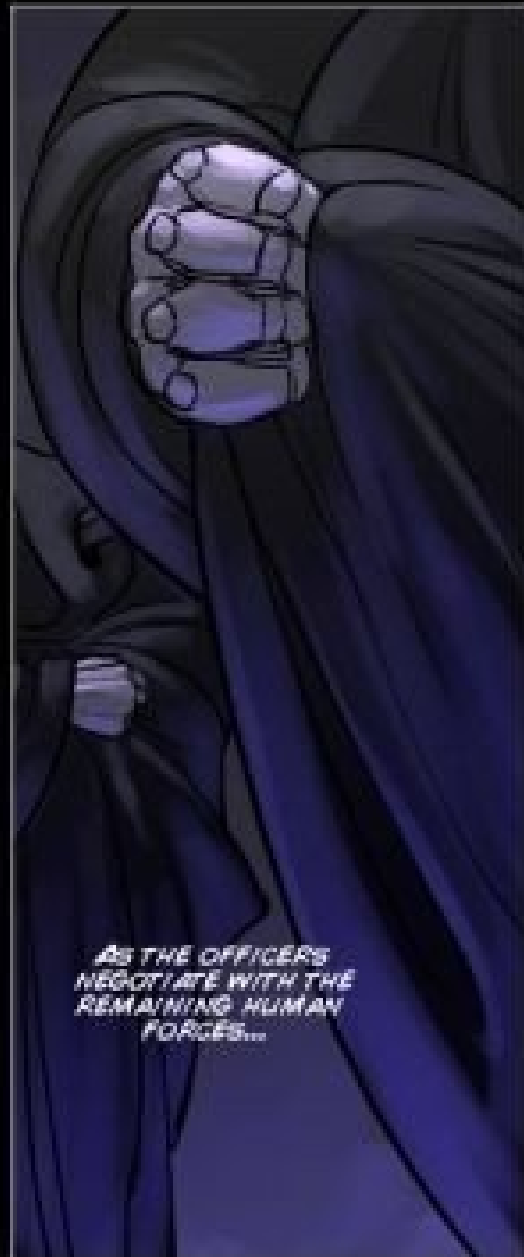


We hold your ship hostage!
Release our comrades at once or
we kill your people one by one! If you
dare turn your troops toward us, we'll
blow this junk apart!!

WHAT ARE YOUR
COMMANDS, SERA?

TRULY
ANNOYING...









LATER ON, THE SURVIVING DROW MARINES FROM THE PHOENIX RETURN TO THE QUAINATANA FOR A WELL DESERVED REST.



THE INTERROGATION OF THE PRISONERS SHOULD GIVE US THE ANSWER.

ABOARD THE QUAINANA, THE INTERROGATION BEGAN.



WHY DID YOUR RACE
INVADE OUR SPACE AND
OPEN UP HOSTILITIES
WITH US?

...

WHILE SOME RESISTED GIVING ANSWERS, THE DROW WAYS OF TORTURE WERE UNKNOWN AND IT TOOK MANY OF THE HUMANS BY SURPRISE. FINALLY, THEY RELENTED AND STARTED TALKING.



THE... THE LIBERATION.
OUR COLONISTS... YOUR RACE
CONQUERED OUR FIRST COLONY'S
WORLD. YOU ENSLAVED THEM. WE
CAME TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED
TO THEM AND TEST YOUR DEFENSE
SO OUR NATIONS COULD THEN
MOVE TO LIBERATE THE
COLONY.



HOWEVER, THE STORY GIVEN
BY THE SOLDIERS CONFLICTED
WHEN A FEW OF THE SCIENTISTS
WERE INTERROGATED AS WELL.

THE REASON?
WELL IT'S RATHER
COMPLICATED,
YOU SEE.

PERHAPS IF I HAD
ACCESS TO THE DATA ON
MY PDA, I COULD MAKE
YOU A PRESENTATION AND
SOME SPREADSHEETS AND -

No.

OH WELL...

IT'S DUE TO THE PROBLEMS ON EARTH
I BELIEVE. OVERPOPULATION HAS HAD
TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES. IT IS IN
HUMAN NATURE TO SEEK NEW LAND
AND EXPAND TO AVOID THIS BUT
I FEAR HUMANITY COVERED AS
MUCH OF THE EARTH AS IT
POSSIBLY COULD. OUR LEADERS
THEN CHOSE TO SEEK NEW
LANDS IN SPACE.

WE HAVEN'T HAD
MUCH LUCK. THERE'S ONLY
ABOUT ONE PLANET IN A
MILLION THAT COULD BE
SETTLED AND EVEN AMONG
THEM THERE ARE MANY THAT
ARE TOO DANGEROUS. YOUR
PLANET IS THE FIRST LIFE
BEARING ONE WE HAVE FOUND.
BUT IT IS ALREADY SETTLED BY
ANOTHER SENTIENT
SPECIES... YOU.

WELL PUT!

SO THIS IS
CONQUEST?

NOD

NOD



IN A WAY, WE WERE
HOPING TO FIND MORE
ABOUT THE HUMANS ON YOUR
PLANET AND YOUR SPECIES TO
ADVISE OUR THE POLITICIANS
BETTER. TO POSTPONE ANY ...
UNWISE ACTIONS.



FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK THEY WILL NEED OUR ADVICE ANYMORE. WITH WHAT
HAPPENED, I FEAR ANYTHING WE PUT FORWARD WILL BE DISCARDED UNDER THE EXCUSE
OF "LIBERATION" AND THEY'LL CONSIDER THIS AN ACT OF WAR. OR AT LEAST A FREE HAND TO
DO AS THEY PLEASE. IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS WITH POLITICIANS; THEY'RE ALL OPPORTUNISTS.

The first story arc of space age is complete. If you liked Space age so far, do not worry, you will have the chance in the next page to choose the next story set in that universe and time line.



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LITTLE TOO MUCH EGGNOGG? :P

MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL YOU GUYS



happy New year

