

TOM SAVAGE PRESENTS





*“For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing.”*  
–Simon Wiesenthal

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*HAVE YOU HEARD THE TALE OF THE KING  
THAT FEARED DEATH ABOVE ALL ELSE?*

*OF COURSE YOU HAVE. AMUSE ME  
WHILE I RETELL IT.*

*AS THE STORY GOES, THERE WAS ONCE A KING, WHOM  
LIKE ALL THINGS, IT WAS DEATH THAT HE FEARED THE MOST.  
HE FEARED DEATH SO MUCH THAT HE WOULD DO OR GIVE  
ANYTHING HE COULD IN HIS OR ANY GOD'S POWER TO  
ESCAPE FROM IT.*

*ONE DAY, A MOST EVIL WIZARD APPROACHED  
THIS KING AND PROMISED TO GIVE HIM THE  
SECRET OF IMMORTALITY IN EXCHANGE FOR  
HIS CHILDREN.*

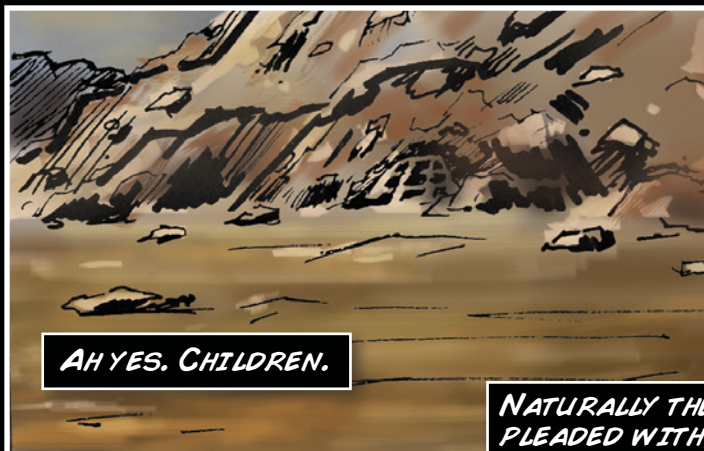
*A WISH THE KING INSTANTLY GRANTED TO ALMOST NO REGARD AT ALL. THE  
KING ORDERED HIS GUARDS TO BRING FORTH HIS HEIRS, OF THEM HE HAD  
SEVEN DAUGHTERS AND TWO SONS.*

*"MY CHILDREN, FOR THE GOOD OF THE REALM, I DECLARE THAT YOU ARE ALL  
FROM THIS DAY FORTH THE PROPERTY OF THIS SORCERER."*

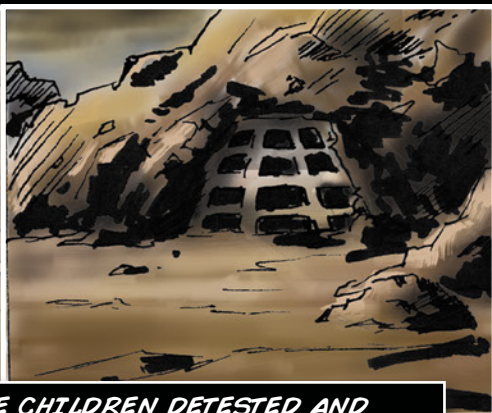
*MUCH TO THE HORROR OF HIS YOUNG...*

*PLEASE DON'T HURT HER.*

*I WOULD STRONGLY URGE YOU NOT TO  
INTERRUPT ME AGAIN...NOW, WHERE WAS I?*



*AH YES. CHILDREN.*



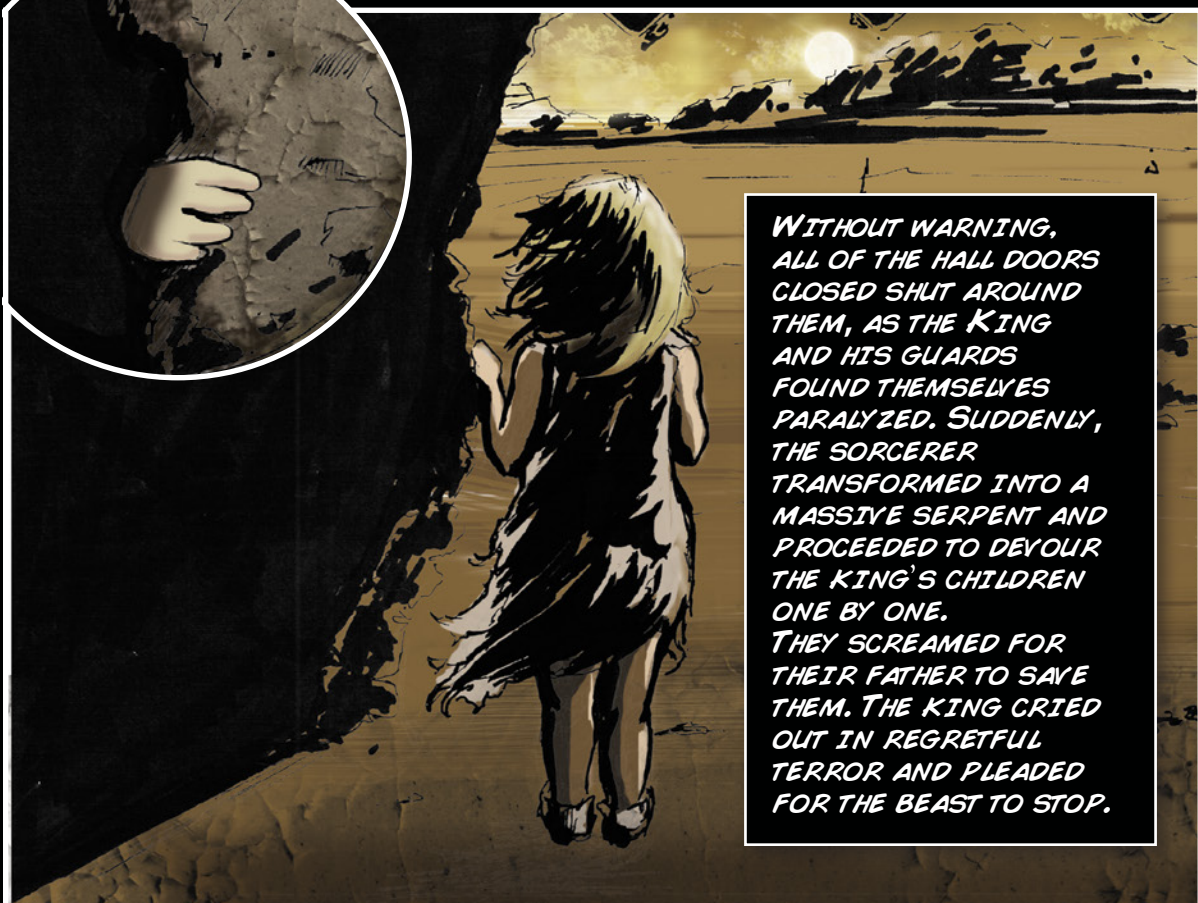
*NATURALLY THE CHILDREN DETESTED AND PLEADED WITH THEIR FATHER. OH, HOW THEY BEGGED HIM NOT TO TURN THEM AWAY TO THIS WICKED CONJURER.*



*BUT THE KING IGNORED THEIR PLEAS.*



*"THE DEAL IS DONE, CONJURER. NOW TELL ME YOUR SECRETS!"*



*WITHOUT WARNING, ALL OF THE HALL DOORS CLOSED SHUT AROUND THEM, AS THE KING AND HIS GUARDS FOUND THEMSELVES PARALYZED. SUDDENLY, THE SORCERER TRANSFORMED INTO A MASSIVE SERPENT AND PROCEEDED TO DEVOUR THE KING'S CHILDREN ONE BY ONE. THEY SCREAMED FOR THEIR FATHER TO SAVE THEM. THE KING CRIED OUT IN REGRETFUL TERROR AND PLEADED FOR THE BEAST TO STOP.*



*THE SERPENT CEASED AS HE HELD THE LAST REMAINING CHILD IN HIS COILS. THE KING'S YOUNGEST SON. "YOU NO LONGER DESIRE IMMORTALITY, MY LORD?", HISSED THE SERPENT.*



*"I DO NOT! PLEASE END THIS SLAUGHTER AND RELEASE MY SON! SPARE HIM!" SAID THE KING.*

*THE SERPENT TURNED TO THE KING. "YOU ARE CERTAIN? YOU WISH TO LIVE FORTH AS A KING WHO DOES NOT HONOR HIS VOWS? I ASK YOU AGAIN. DO YOU NO LONGER WISH TO LEARN THE SECRETS OF IMMORTALITY?"*

*"I DO NOT!" SAID THE KING.*



*THE SERPENT WHISPERED INTO THE CHILD'S EAR AND RELEASED HIM FROM HIS COIL, AS DID HIS PHANTOM GRIP ON THE KING AND HIS GUARDS.*



THE KING RAN TO HIS SON AND HELP HIM.  
WEEPING FOR HIS OTHER CHILDREN WHOM  
HAD BEEN DEVOURED.

THE KING LOOKED INTO HIS SON'S  
EYES TO BEG FOR FORGIVENESS.  
ONLY TO FIND THAT HIS SONS EYES  
BORE THE BLACKEST IRIS, WITH NO  
TRACE OF HIS SOUL.

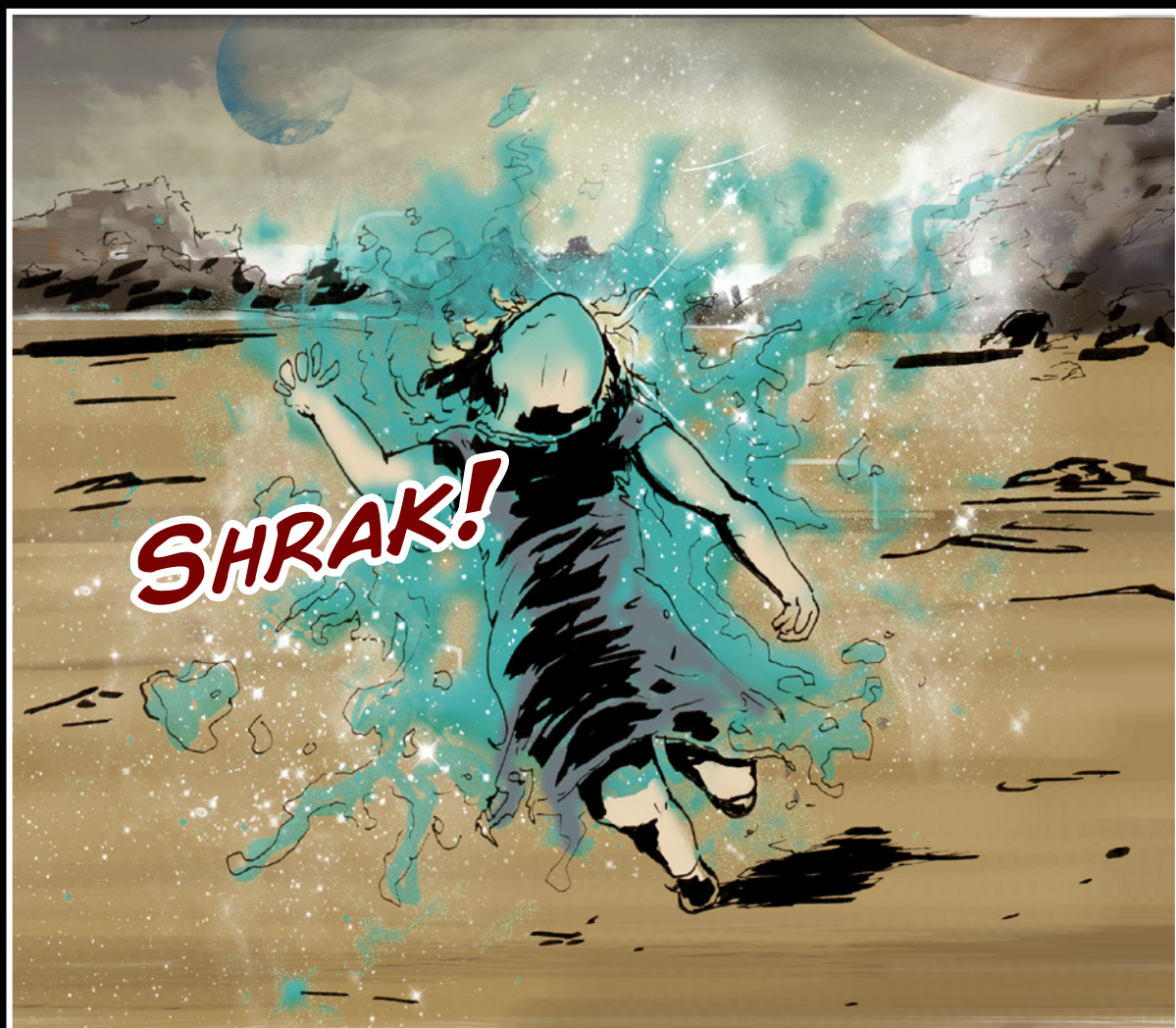
"A KING WHO DOES NOT  
HONOR HIS WORDS IS NO  
KING," SAID THE SON. AND  
WITH A VIOLENT TWIST,  
HE BROKE HIS FATHERS  
NECK WITH HIS HANDS,  
AND GRASPED THE KING'S  
CROWN AS HE FELL DEAD TO  
THE GROUND.

YOU MAY FIRE  
NOW, SERGEANT.

NO!  
PLEASE!!

...SO, THE SON THEN PLACED THE CROWN  
UPON HIS OWN HEAD AND TOOK HIS SEAT  
IN HIS FATHERS THRONE. WHERE HE RULED,  
WITH THE SORCERER AS HIS ADVISOR FOR  
AN ETERNITY.

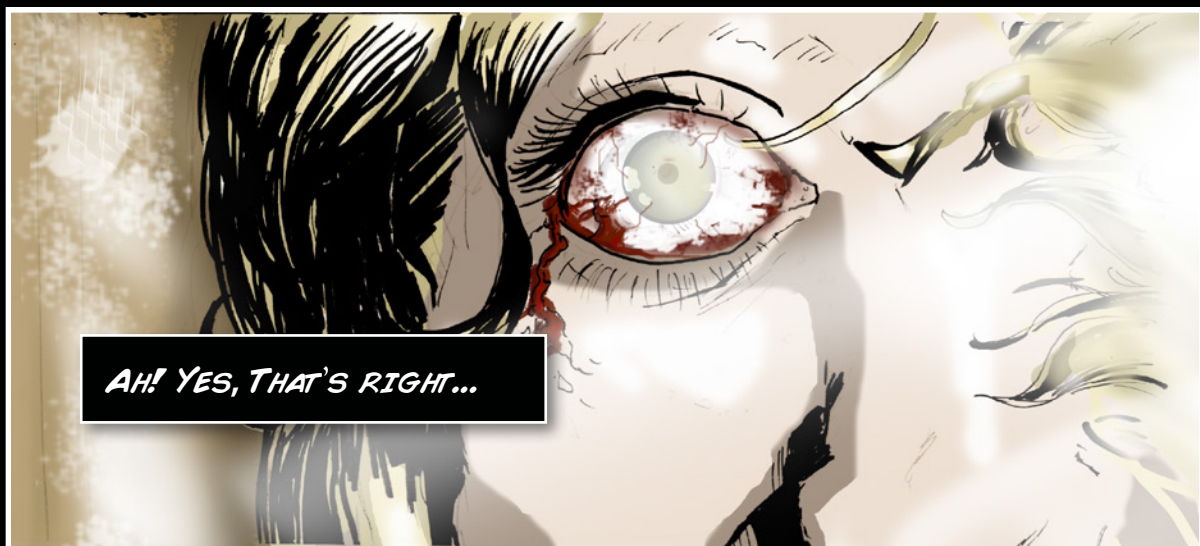








DEAR ME...WHY WAS I TELLING  
YOU THIS STORY AGAIN?



AH! YES, THAT'S RIGHT...





*CHILDREN CAN BE SUCH MONSTERS.*

*HISS..  
AAAUUGGGGGHH!*

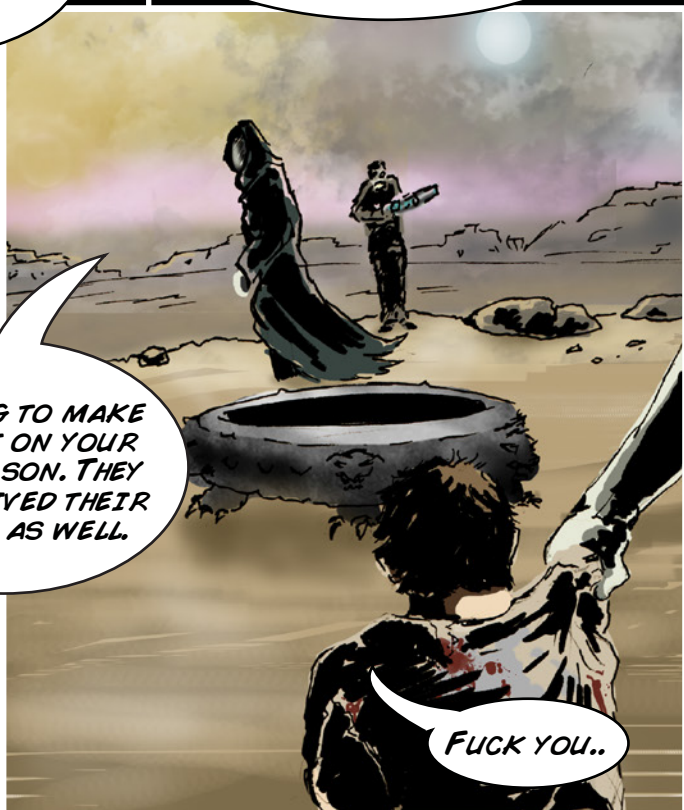


*DON'T YOU AGREE?*



*YOU'RE THE  
MONSTER, GOD  
DAMN YOU!*

*I AM SORRY THAT  
YOU DIDN'T ENJOY MY STORY.  
I THOUGHT YOU LIKED STORIES?  
YOU ENJOYED TELLING THEM TO YOUR  
DAUGHTER DOWN THERE. LIKE THE ONE  
SHE TRIED TO TAKE WITH HER TO HARM  
OUR DEAREST LORD BALAM.  
TSK TSK TSK. PERHAPS YOU WILL  
LIKE THIS STORY...*



*I'M GOING TO MAKE  
HER FEAST ON YOUR  
WIFE AND SON. THEY  
HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR  
PURPOSE AS WELL.*

*FUCK YOU..*





*RUDE. IT'S OF  
NO MATTER. YOU  
HOWEVER...*



*ONE DAY,  
SOMEONE JUST  
LIKE ME, IS  
GOING TO KILL  
Y-*

*...STILL SERVE  
ANOTHER PURPOSE...*

*SLITT!*

*BIEK DE  
MOR  
ONOE DIEM  
ASARU.  
ASARU.  
ASARU.*



*MY LORD, THE WEAPON  
TEST WAS A SUCCESS. AND,  
WE HAVE DISCOVERED  
WHERE THE RESISTANCE  
HAS HIDDEN THE ANATHEMA.  
YOUR FULL RETURN IS  
IMMINENT...*



*...LORD BALAM*



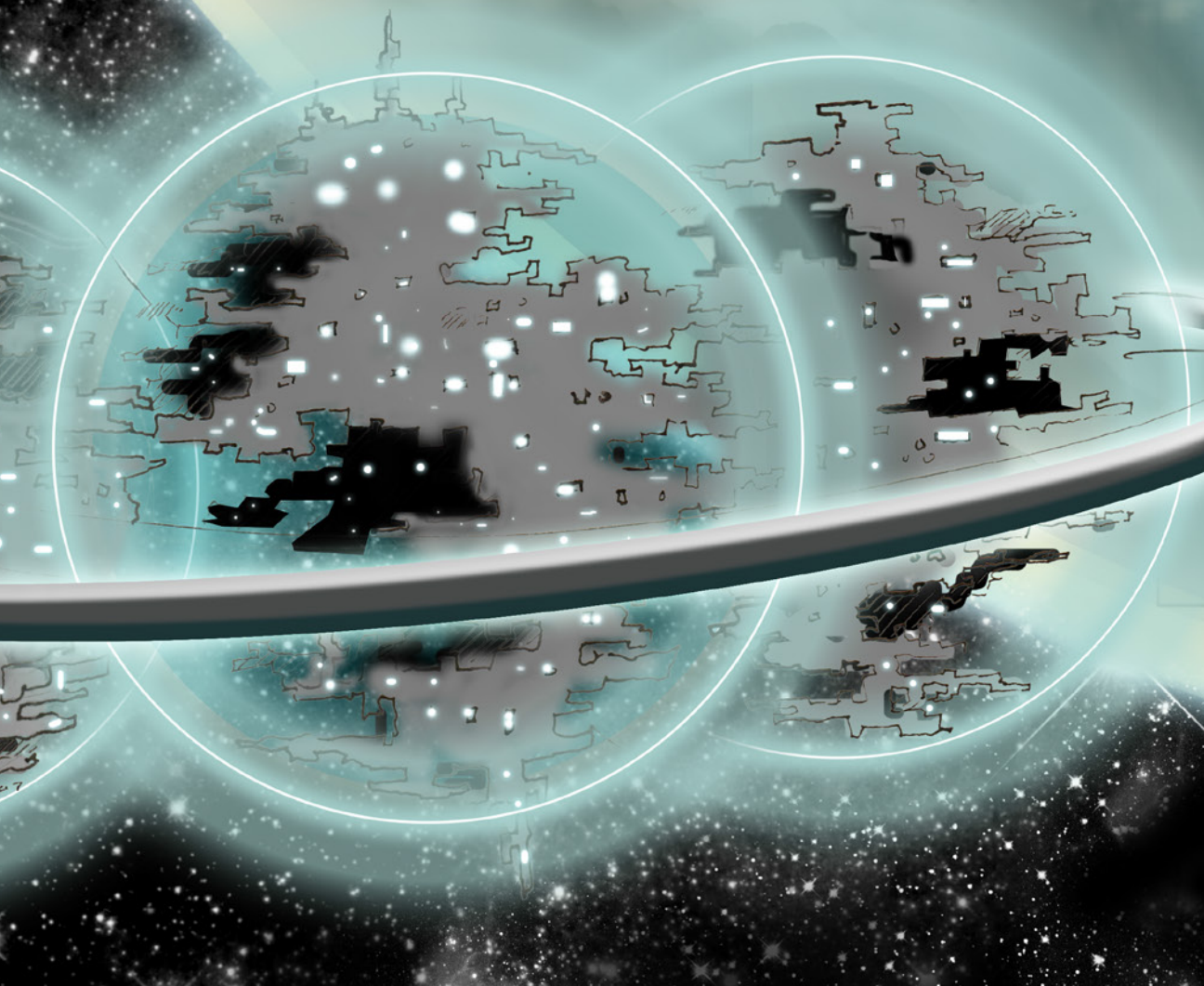
TOM SAVAGE PRESENTS...

# THE ANATHEMA

GENESIS WARS

Part 1

*NAVAR SYSTEM; HARVEST PLANT 3381XH  
ORBITING THE ICE PLANET TAGAR.*



IT IS A CRUCIAL TIME FOR THE **RESISTANCE**. THE GALAXY HAS BEEN LEFT IN A DESOLATE STATE AFTER THE **GENESIS WAR** BEGAN. THE EVIL DEMIGOD OF THE UNDERWORLD, KNOWN AS **LORD BALAM** - THE ENSLAVER OF THE DEAD, NEARLY DESTROYED THE UNIVERSE IN HIS MAD QUEST TO HUNT DOWN THE **FIVE SPIRIT GODS**. THESE DEITIES OF FIRE, EARTH, AIR, MYSTICS, AND WATER, FLED TO THE EDGES OF THE GALAXY, AND ENTRUSTED THEIR ESSENCE INTO NOBLE AND GIFTED CREATURES. A LAST RESORT TO HIDE THEIR POWERS FROM BALAM, TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE AND ALL OF IT'S PRECIOUS LIFEFORMS FROM HIS TYRANNY.

DURING HIS INVASION OF THE PLANET **MARUKKA**, BALAM, AND HIS ARMY OF RESURRECTED SLAVES, KNOWN AS **NECRODIANS**, WERE NEARLY VICTORIOUS IN RECOVERING THE **GOD OF EARTH**. UNTIL A POWERFUL ENCHANTRESS BY THE NAME OF **LYNANNA** - THE LAST OF THE **PHONEXILE** TRIBE - GAVE HER LIFE IN ORDER TO DESTROY BALAM'S PHYSICAL FORM, AND BOUND HIS SOUL IN A RARE AND DANGEROUS RELIC KNOWN NOW ONLY AS - **THE ANATHEMA**.

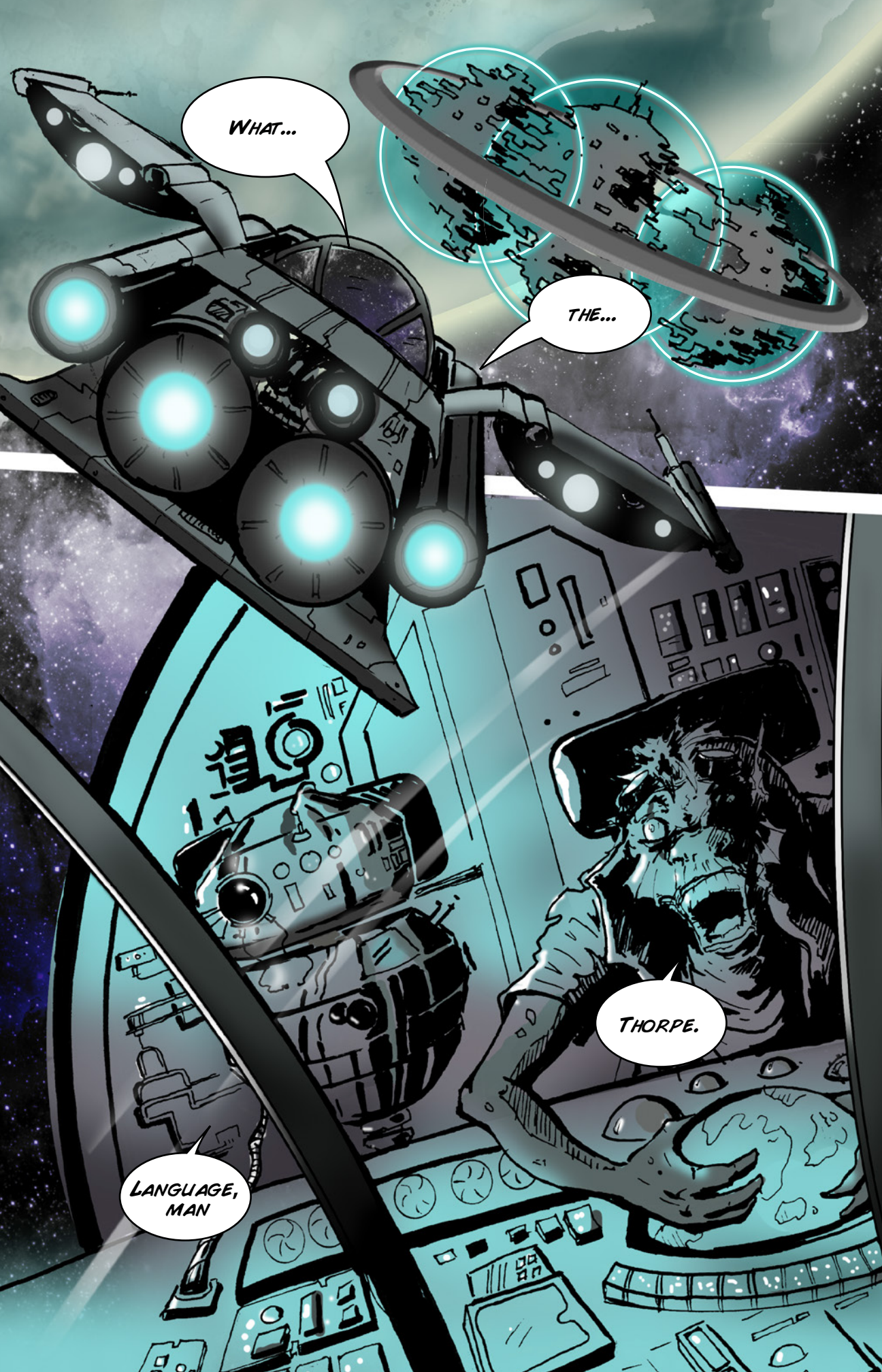
TRAPPED BUT NOT GONE, HIS INFLUENCE OVER HIS ARMY OF THE DEAD REMAINS STRONG AND VIGILANT, AS HIS CURSED SLAVES WORK ENDLESSLY TO COMPLETE THE RITUAL TO FREE THEIR MASTER.

WITH BALAM WEAKENED, AND THE ANATHEMA SAFELY HIDDEN AWAY, **GENERAL KADLITZ** - ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE **RESISTANCE** - HAS ENLISTED A GROUP OF MERCENARIES AND BOUNTY HUNTERS TO SCOUT THE GALAXY, AND HUNT DOWN THE REMAINING NECRODIANS AS WELL AS DESTROY BALAM'S **MAGIPLASMIC HARVESTING PLANTS**. MANY POOR SOULS SAW A TERRIBLE END INSIDE THESE MECHANIC HELLS. IT IS HERE THE NECRODIANS EXPERIMENTED IN WEAPON MANUFACTURING OF MAGIPLASMA HARVESTING. BY EXTRACTING CONCENTRATED MAGI ESSENCE FROM UNIQUE AND GIFTED RACES FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY, THEY HAVE BEGUN TO CREATE A DEVASTATING ARSENAL OF ENCHANTED WEAPONRY.

AN ABRASIVE **AZARILIAN**, KNOWN AS **EUGENE (GENE) DOYLE**, AND HIS "CYBERNETICLY REFORMED NECRODIAN" PARTNER, **MAC-A485 (MAC)**. ARE ON A MISSION TO SWEEP THE HARVEST PLANT 3381XH AND RECOVER A "SPECIAL" SAMPLE AT THE REQUEST OF GENERAL KADLITZ HIMSELF.







WHAT...

THE...

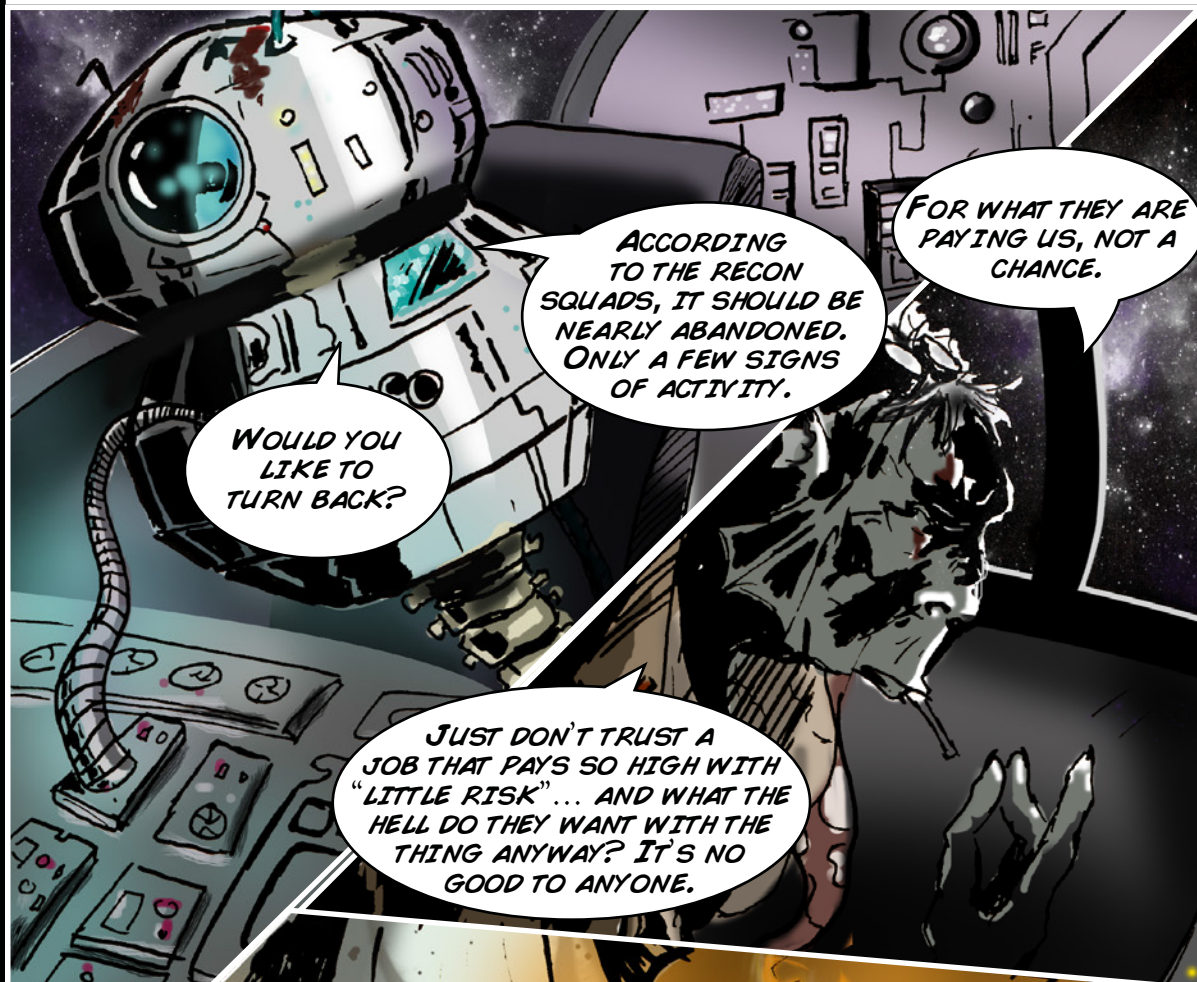
THORPE.

LANGUAGE,  
MAN





MAC, THAT'S ONE  
SERIOUS LOOKING  
HARVEST STATION TO  
ONLY BE SENDING  
TWO INSIDE TO  
CLEAR.



ACCORDING  
TO THE RECON  
SQUADS, IT SHOULD BE  
NEARLY ABANDONED.  
ONLY A FEW SIGNS  
OF ACTIVITY.

FOR WHAT THEY ARE  
PAYING US, NOT A  
CHANCE.

WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO  
TURN BACK?

JUST DON'T TRUST A  
JOB THAT PAYS SO HIGH WITH  
"LITTLE RISK" ... AND WHAT THE  
HELL DO THEY WANT WITH THE  
THING ANYWAY? IT'S NO  
GOOD TO ANYONE.

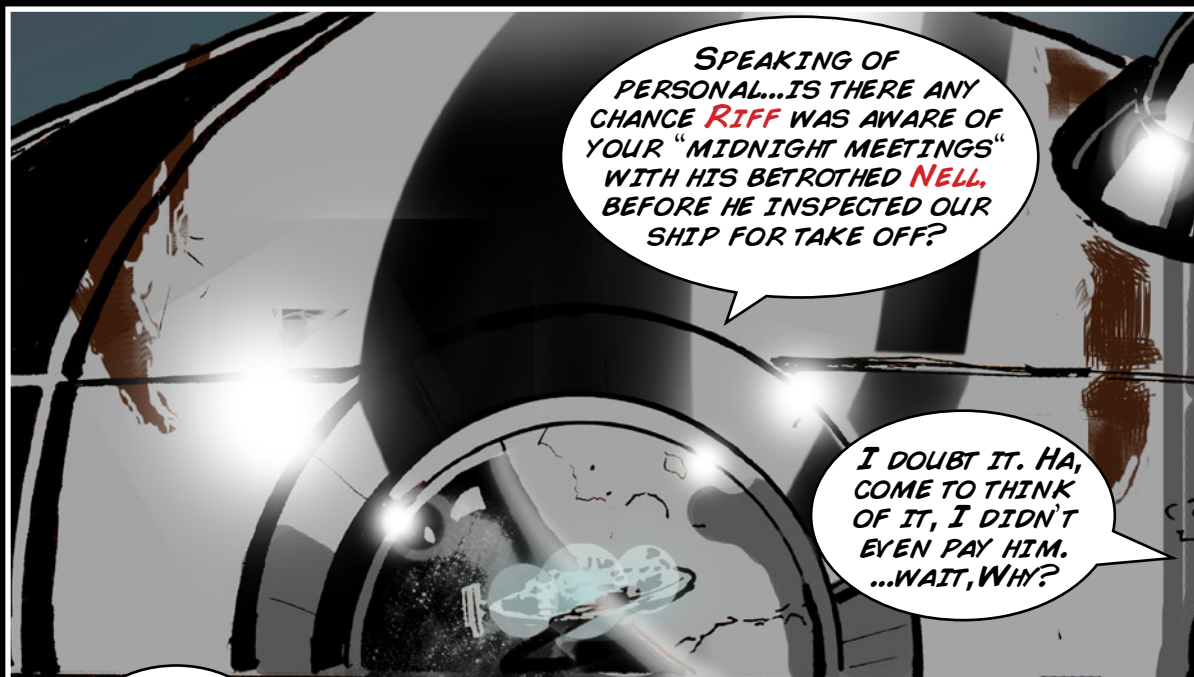


SNAP

THIS SHIT HAS  
"PERSONAL"  
WRITTEN ALL  
OVER IT.

SIR?





SPEAKING OF PERSONAL...IS THERE ANY CHANCE **RIFF** WAS AWARE OF YOUR "MIDNIGHT MEETINGS" WITH HIS BETROTHED **NELL**, BEFORE HE INSPECTED OUR SHIP FOR TAKE OFF?

I DOUBT IT. HA, COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T EVEN PAY HIM. ...WAIT, WHY?



BECAUSE WE'RE NOT STOPPING

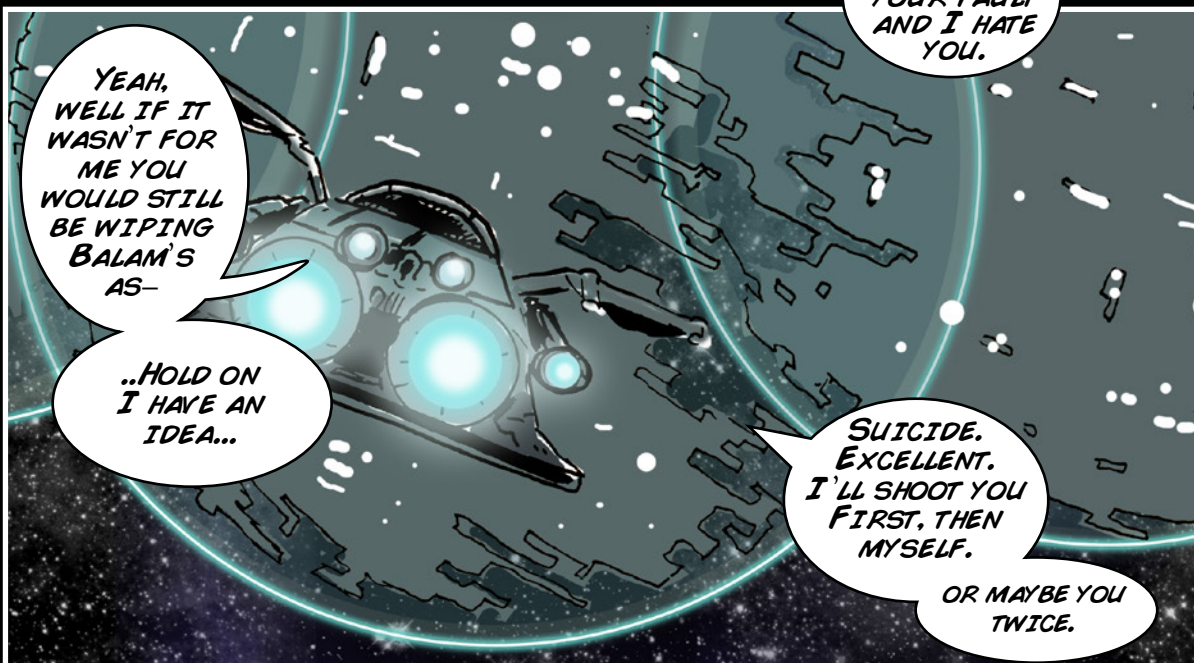


HEH... UM...WELL ...

SIR, IF I MAY...



THIS IS ENTIRELY YOUR FAULT AND I HATE YOU.



YEAH, WELL IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU WOULD STILL BE WIPING BALAM'S AS-

..HOLD ON I HAVE AN IDEA...

SUICIDE. EXCELLENT. I'LL SHOOT YOU FIRST, THEN MYSELF.

OR MAYBE YOU TWICE.





SHUT UP  
MAC.



CLICK



PRAKOW!!  
PRAKOW!!





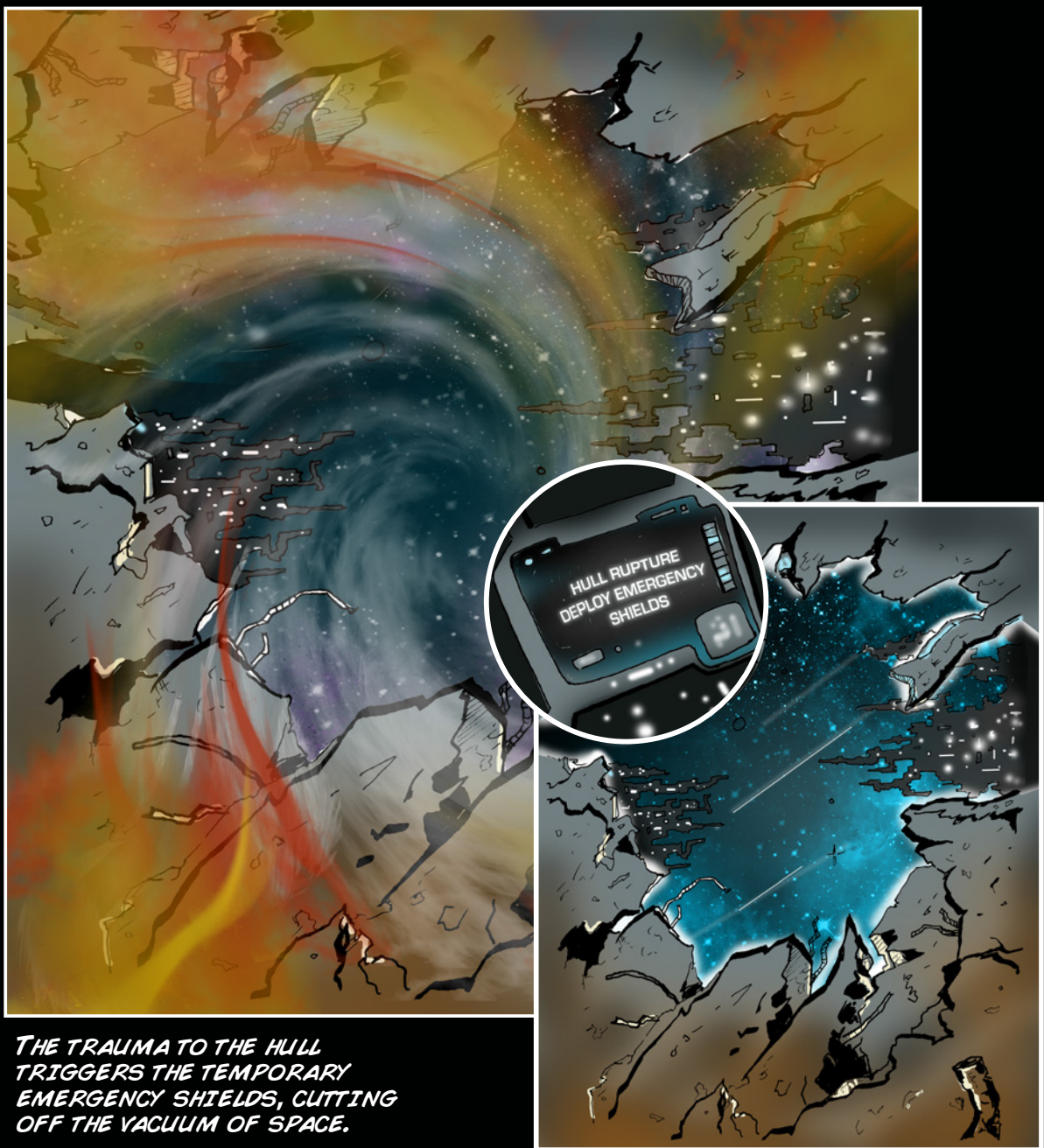
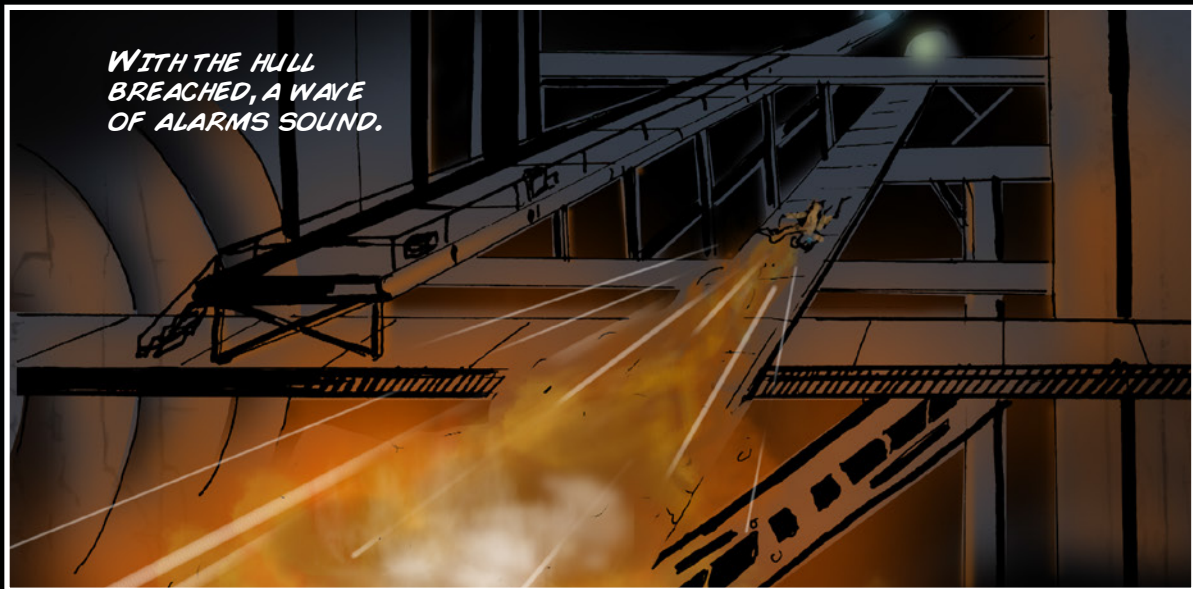


**MY IDEA  
WAS BETTER!  
MUCH, MUCH,  
BETTER!!!**



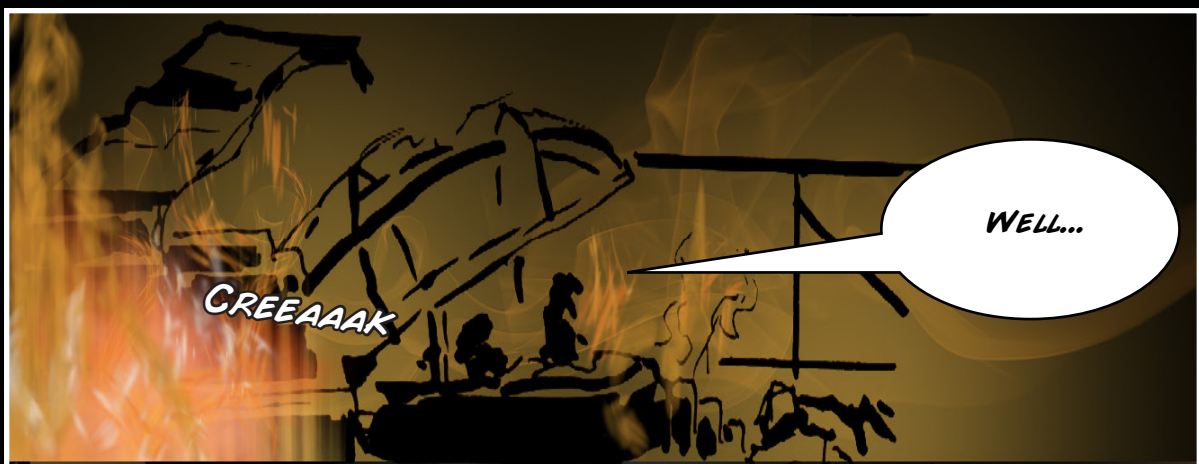
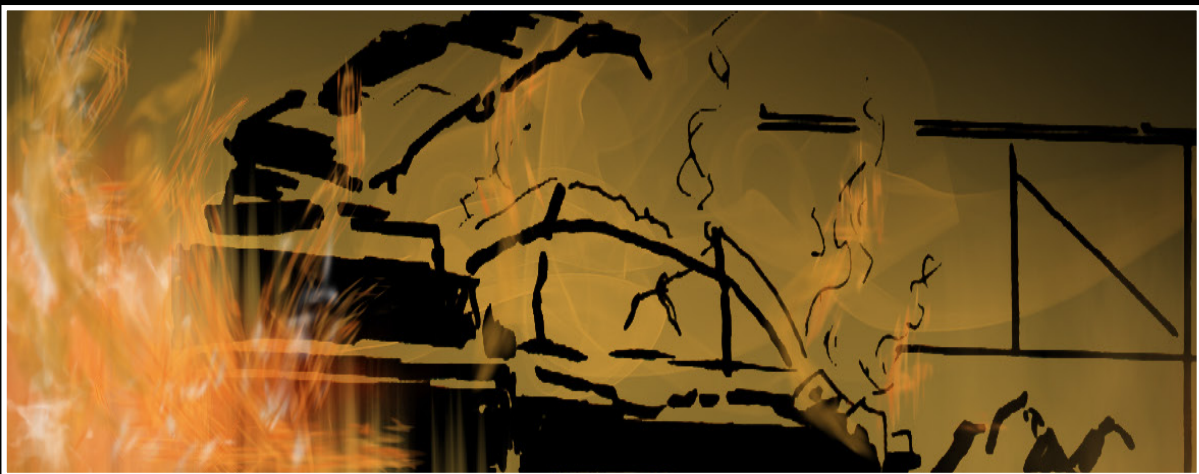
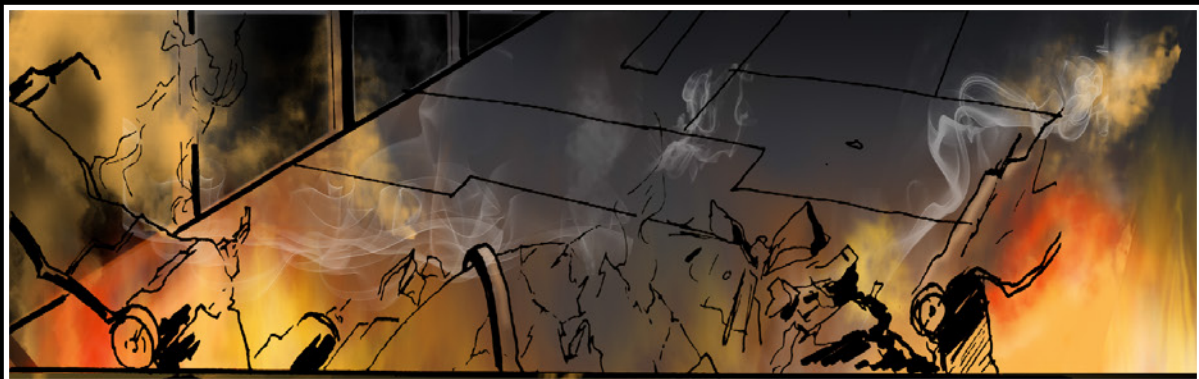


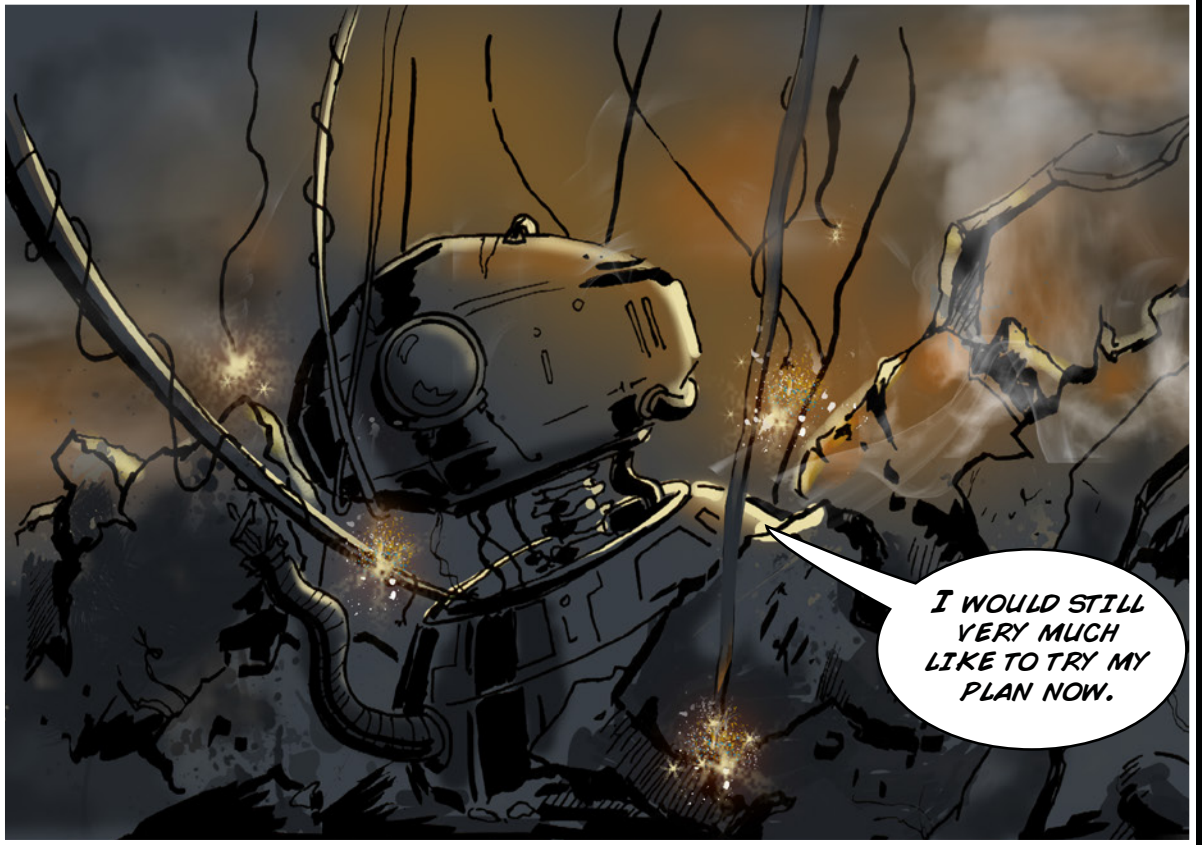
*WITH THE HULL  
BREACHED, A WAVE  
OF ALARMS SOUND.*



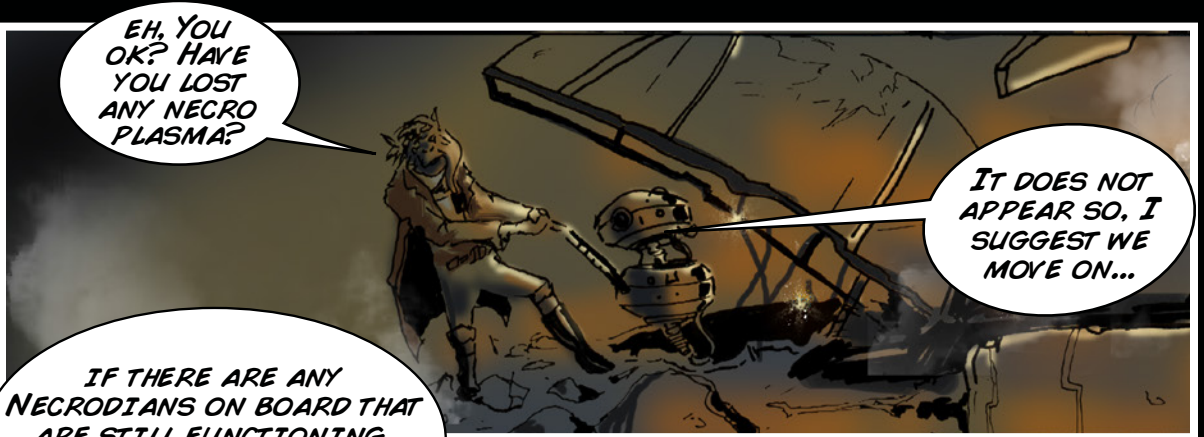
*THE TRAUMA TO THE HULL  
TRIGGERS THE TEMPORARY  
EMERGENCY SHIELDS, CUTTING  
OFF THE VACUUM OF SPACE.*







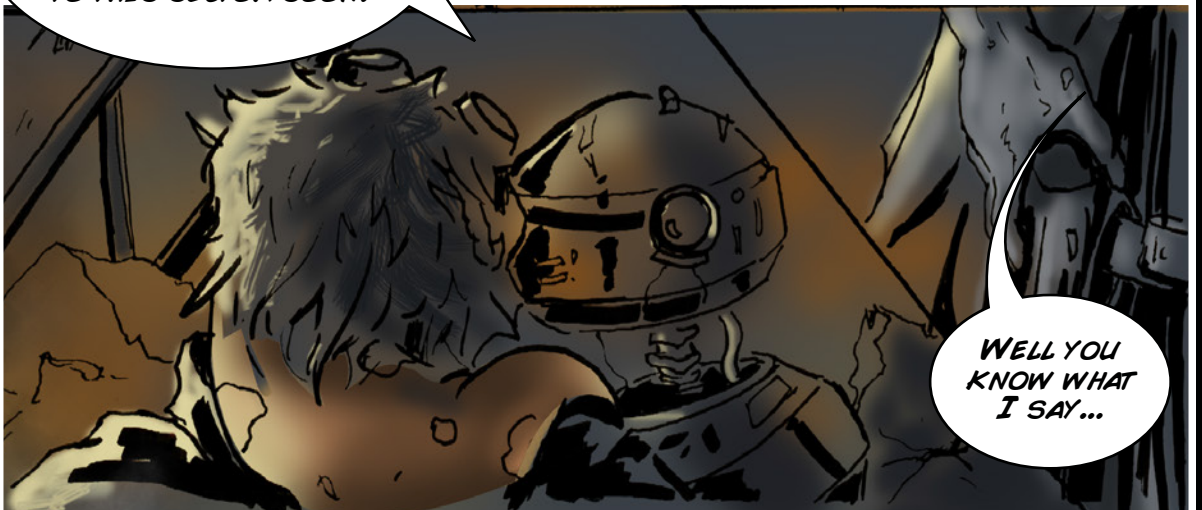
*I WOULD STILL  
VERY MUCH  
LIKE TO TRY MY  
PLAN NOW.*



*EH, YOU  
OK? HAVE  
YOU LOST  
ANY NECRO  
PLASMA?*

*IT DOES NOT  
APPEAR SO, I  
SUGGEST WE  
MOVE ON...*

*IF THERE ARE ANY  
NECRODIANS ON BOARD THAT  
ARE STILL FUNCTIONING,  
THEY WILL BE ON THEIR WAY  
TO THIS SECTOR SOON.*



*WELL YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
I SAY...*





BRING  
'EM ON.



PLEASE  
DON'T DO THAT  
AGAIN.

THAT WAS  
LAME  
WASN'T IT?



WELL WE  
BETTER REPORT  
TO MOTHER.



BEEP  
BEEP



BLIP  
BLIP

CLICK

LIEUTENANT  
STARLA. WE HAVE  
ARRIVED AT THE  
HARVESTING  
PLANT



YOU'RE LOOKING  
LOVELY AS ALWAYS.  
ARE YOU IN A  
GOOD MOOD?

*\*SIGH\** WHAT  
HAS GONE  
WRONG?



LET'S JUST SAY WE HAD  
TO SKIP THE DOCKING STATION,  
AND LET'S ALSO SAY IT WOULD BE  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR PRESENCE TO  
HAVE GONE UNDETECTED RIGHT NOW...  
OH, AND OUR SHIP IS DONE. WE'RE  
NOT LEAVING HERE THE WAY  
WE CAME.



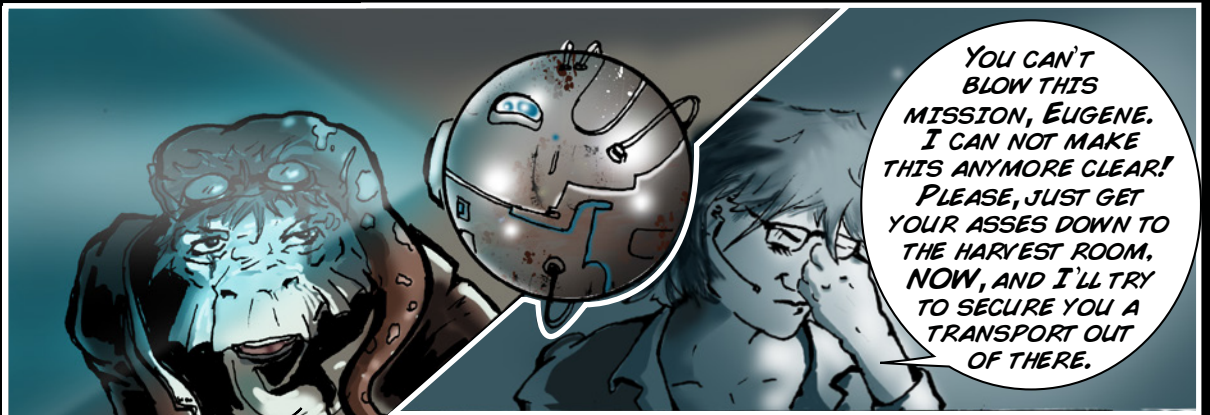
WHAT THE HELL  
HAPPENED TO YOUR  
SHIP?!

BROKEN HEART.



WHATEVER. HAVE  
YOU SECURED THE  
PACKAGE?



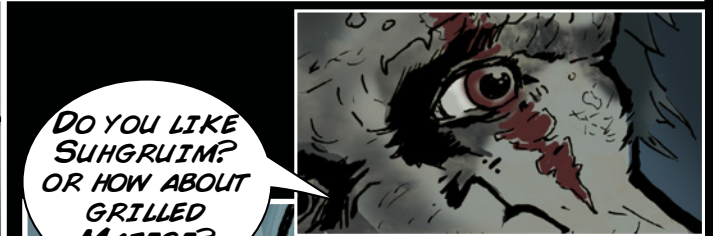


YOU CAN'T BLOW THIS MISSION, EUGENE. I CAN NOT MAKE THIS ANYMORE CLEAR! PLEASE, JUST GET YOUR ASSES DOWN TO THE HARVEST ROOM. NOW, AND I'LL TRY TO SECURE YOU A TRANSPORT OUT OF THERE.

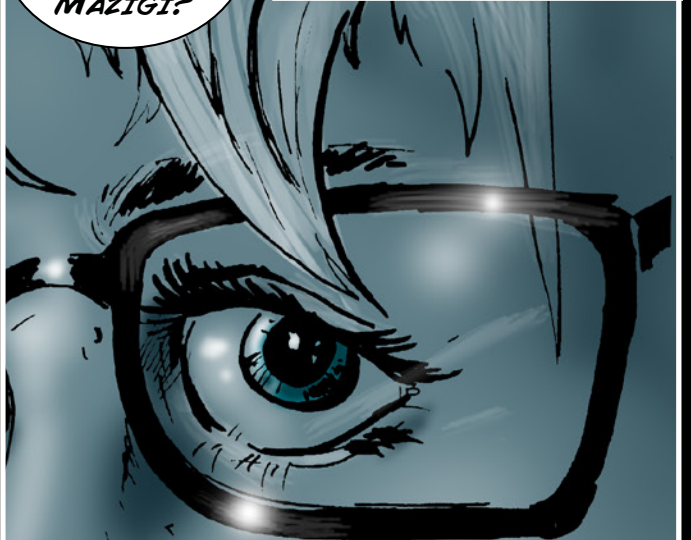
IN PROGRESS, LOVE.

THANKS...

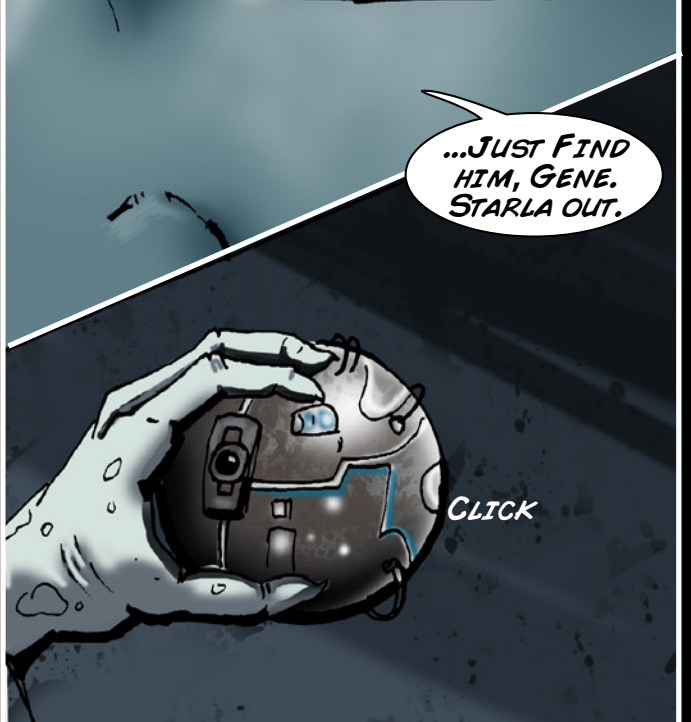
..WE SHOULD GO OUT SOMETIME.



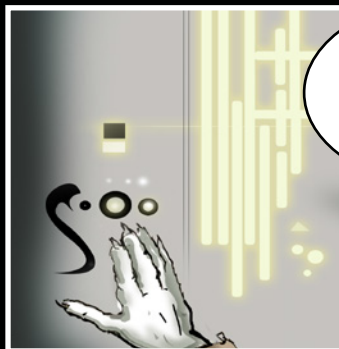
DO YOU LIKE SUHGRUIM? OR HOW ABOUT GRILLED MAZIGI?



...JUST FIND HIM, GENE. STARLA OUT.



CLICK



RISKING  
OUR NECKS  
FOR A BAG  
OF HARVEST  
MEAT.

YEAH, I SUPPOSE  
THAT'S TRUE. BUT THAT  
WAS DIFFERENT...  
SAY, WOULD YOU  
REALLY HAVE SHOT ME  
BACK THERE?



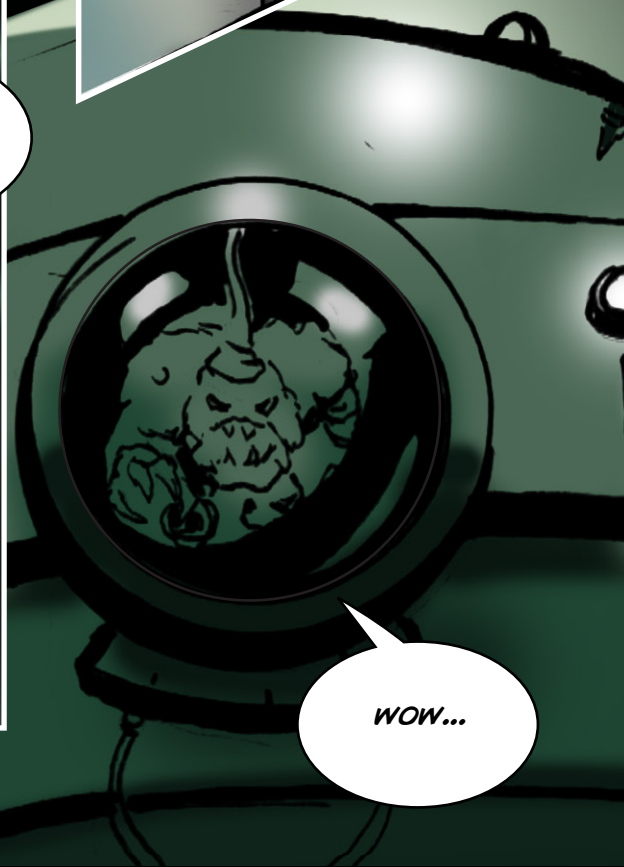




WELL...  
FUCK ME.



ALL YOU, BROTHER.  
I DON'T WANNA GET IN  
THE MIDDLE OF A FAMILY  
REUNION. CALL ME IF YOU  
NEED BACK UP. MMK?



WOW...

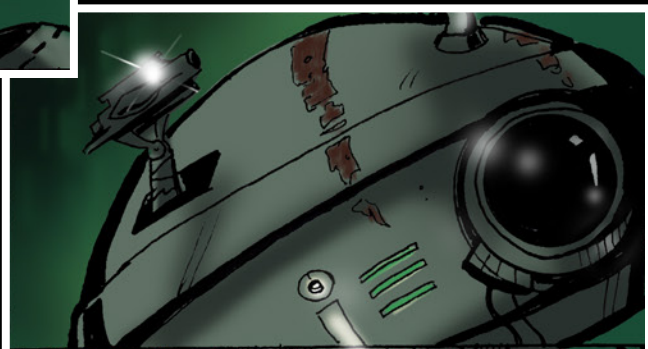
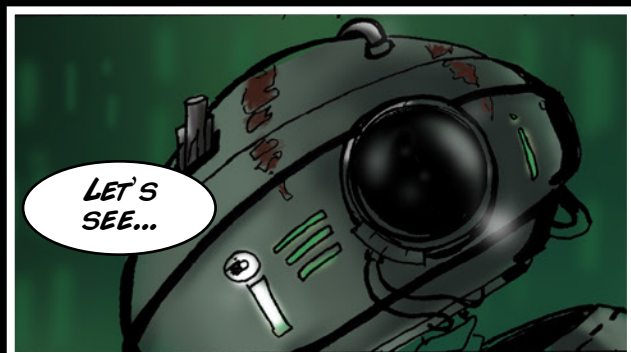
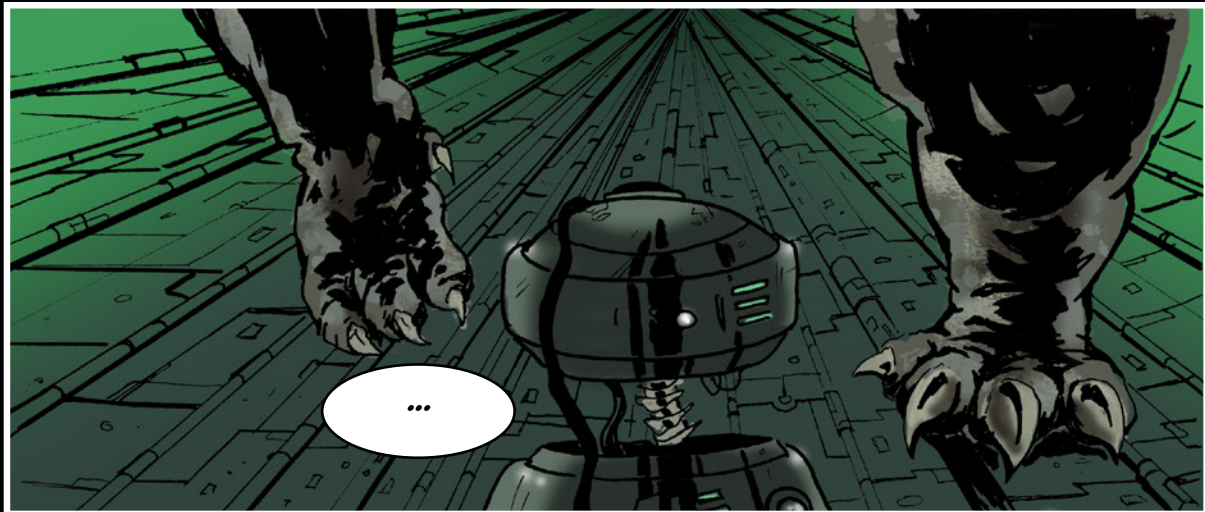




SCREEERROARRRR!

...YOU'RE  
SO  
PRETTY.

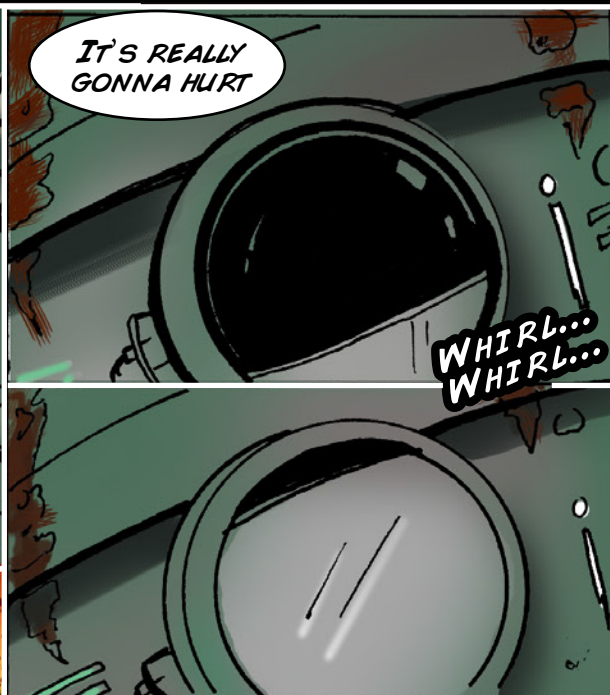








SNIRK...



IT'S REALLY GONNA HURT

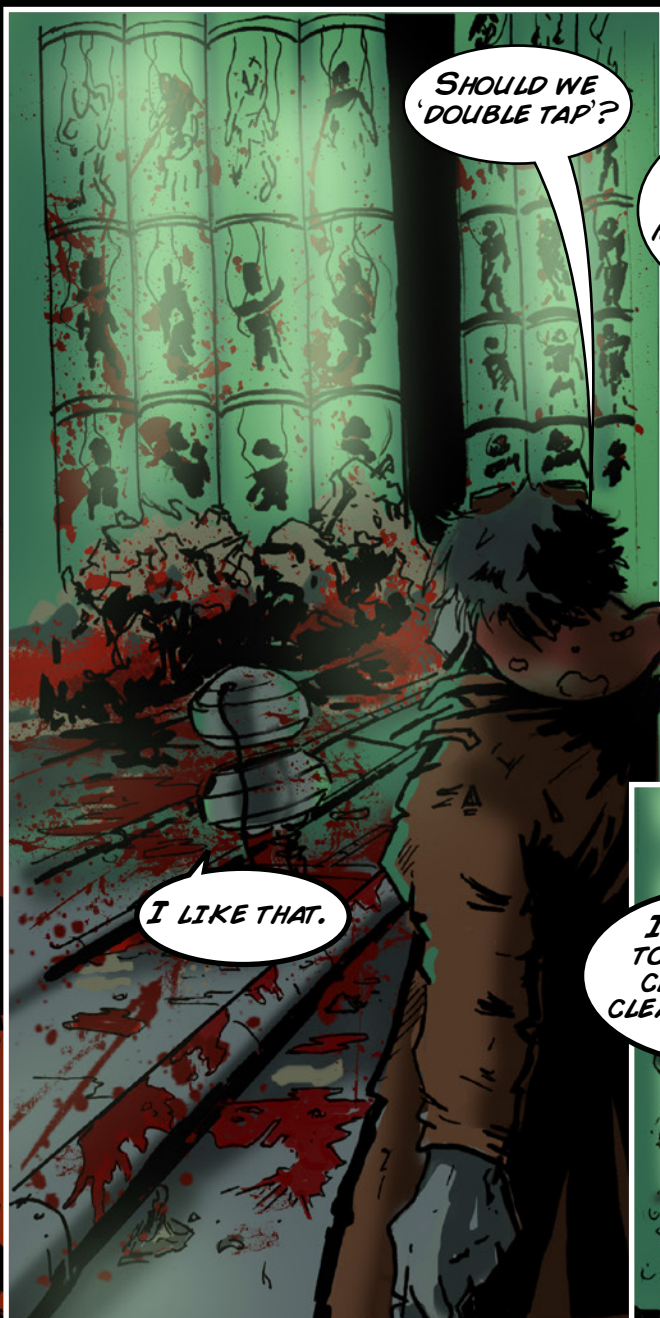
WHIRL...  
WHIRL...



TOLD YA.

Ka-Splooosh



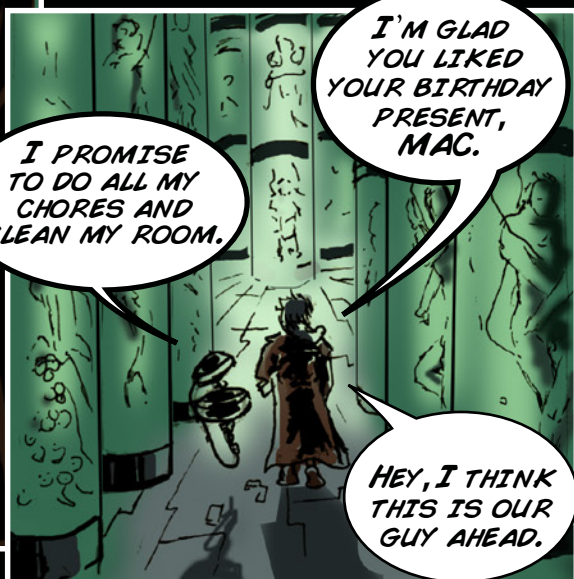


SHOULD WE  
'DOUBLE TAP'?



DO YOU THINK  
WE CAN GET  
MORE OF THOSE?

NOT CHEAP.




I PROMISE  
TO DO ALL MY  
CHORES AND  
CLEAN MY ROOM.

I'M GLAD  
YOU LIKED  
YOUR BIRTHDAY  
PRESENT,  
MAC.

HEY, I THINK  
THIS IS OUR  
GUY AHEAD.



WOW, THAT'S REALLY WELL  
PRESERVED FOR EIGHT  
YEARS OF NECROMAGI  
HARVESTING..



WELL, LET'S  
DRAIN 'EM.

SNAP!

SNAP!

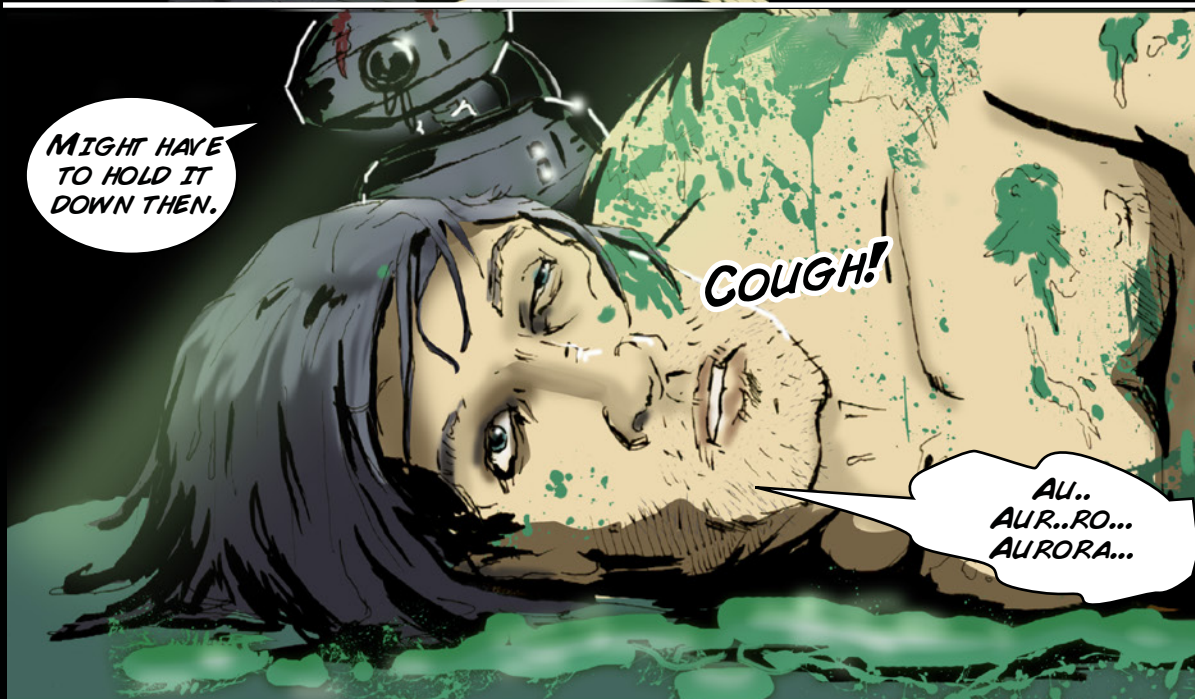
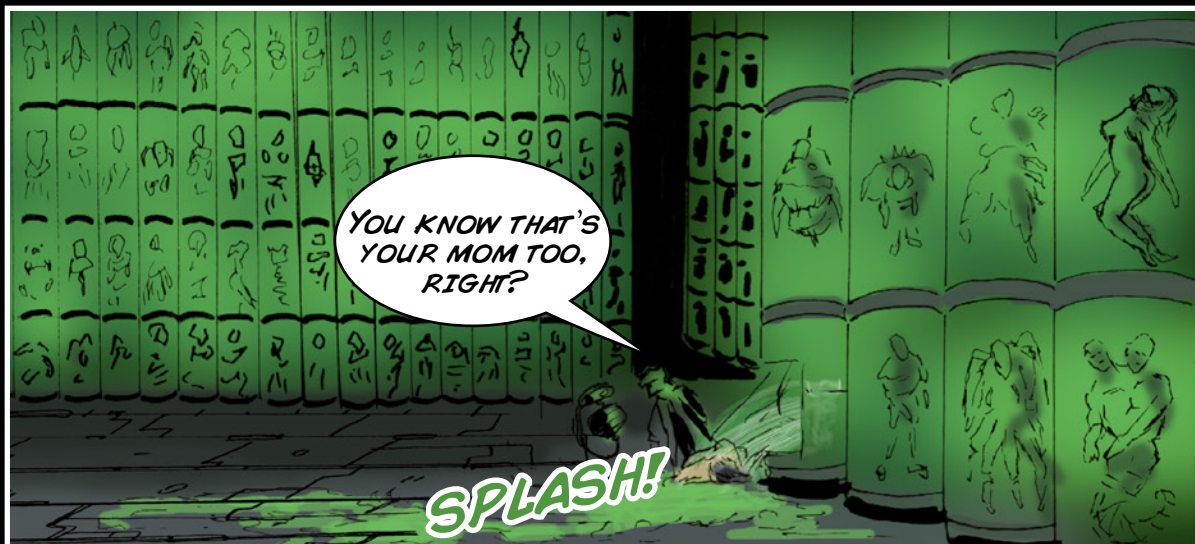
SNAP!

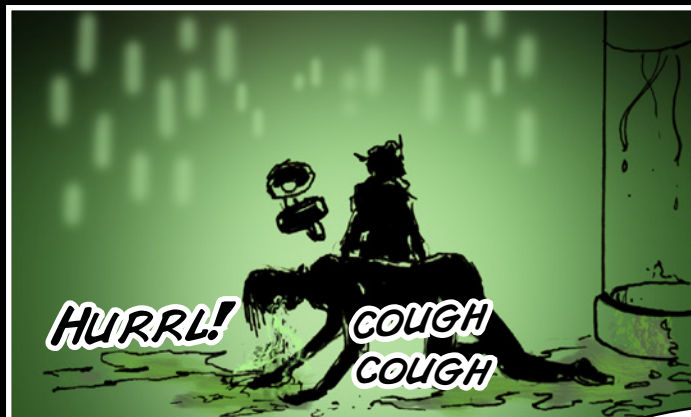
THE ONES ON  
HIS CHEST?

I LIKE HIS  
HAIR.

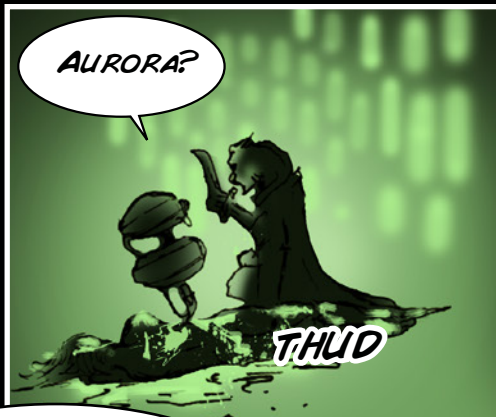
YEAH, THEY  
REMINDS ME OF  
YOUR MOM.







**HURRL!** **COUGH**  
**COUGH**



**AURORA?**

**THUD**



**YOU'VE GOT TO BE SHITTING ME! HE'S ALIVE? HE'S BEEN GETTING THE LIFE SUCKED OUT OF HIM FOR OVER 8 YEARS. HE SHOULD BE A BAG OF BONES AND LEATHER SKIN BY NOW! DO WE HAVE THE WRONG GUY?**

**NOPE. SUBJECT # 712-83TSR: JAKE WEAVER**

**KID, YOU'RE ONE LUCKY S-O-B. WE'RE GONNA GET YOU OUT OF HERE. DON'T YOU EVEN WORRY. YOUR UNCLE GENE HAS GOT YOU NOW.**



**YEAH I CAN'T LIFT HIM.**



**DRAG DRAG**

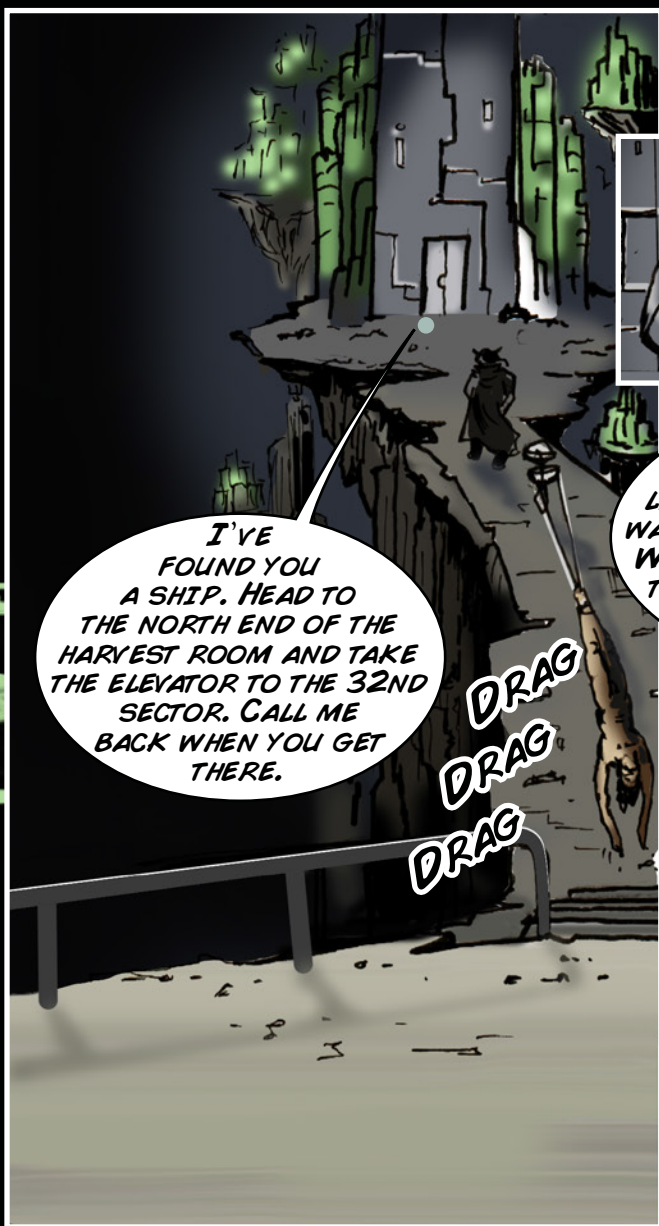


START EXPLAINING  
STARLA. HOW THE HELL  
IS THIS GUY ALIVE?  
WHO IS HE?

HE'S ALIVE?  
THEN BALAM  
DOESN'T KNOW...

I'LL EXPLAIN  
EVERYTHING WHEN  
YOU GET BACK. I  
CAN'T SAY ANYMORE  
OVER THE AIR

BALAM?  
WHAT IN GOD'S  
NAME ARE YOU  
DRAGGING US  
INTO?



I'VE  
FOUND YOU  
A SHIP. HEAD TO  
THE NORTH END OF THE  
HARVEST ROOM AND TAKE  
THE ELEVATOR TO THE 32ND  
SECTOR. CALL ME  
BACK WHEN YOU GET  
THERE.

DRAG  
DRAG  
DRAG

BAD FEELING  
GENE?



I DON'T LIKE SURPRISES,  
MAC. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THIS  
LINE OF WORK. I WANT FACTS. AND, I  
WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M GETTING INTO.  
WE START TAKING ANYMORE JOBS LIKE  
THIS FOR THESE RESISTANCE JOKERS,  
WE'RE GONNA END UP BACK IN  
PRISON OR WORSE.



WORSE?



DEAD.

TO BE CONTINUED...

5/10/2015  
JF





*Dedicated to the memory of my best friend Bradley.*  
*Thanks for getting me into comics, brother.*  
-T.S.

Thank you to all the fans and the support of my friends, family and colleagues for your faith and encouragement while I begin this journey. And, a huge thank you to the entire Kickstarter community, who took a minute to say “Zombies in space? Hell yeah I want to read that.” Your support and interest is everything to me. -Tom Savage

Thank you to all the names below who pledged and funded this issue on Kickstarter.

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Thank you to all the names below who pledged and supported this issue on Kickstarter.

Jeremy Wallace	Katrina Simmonds	Julie Erman
Rob Ryan	Elizabeth Bryk	Jenny Creech
Shawn MacDonnell	R. Wolf Baldassarro	Landon Pero
James Poulette	Brian Utpadel	Sarah Pero
Caitlin	Pakron Jaruspanavasan	Ed Anklam
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Jason Beltram	Erin Hofley	twddeadtalk.com
Jennifer Harmless	Ed Anklym	HorrorSociety.com
Linzy Brock	Diana Tinney	Outhousers.com
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In a post war-torn galaxy, an elite band of survivors known as the Resistance are in a race against time to destroy the evil demigod Balam. His essence is contained in a cursed relic known as The Anathema. Temporarily sealed away by the last of the Phoenixile tribe, until his legion of undead Necrodians can succeed in freeing their master.

Rescued from the Necrodian's harvest camps, a mysterious human named Jake Weaver, joins the Resistance alongside his new allies - Eugene (a conjurer of fire) and his close companion - and cybernetic co-pilot MAC-A485. Together under the orders of the Resistance they will travel to the ends of the universe to discover the secret to destroying Balam once and for all.

Tom Savage welcomes you to a world of magic, adventure, laughter, and horror in this new exciting science fiction series.

Welcome to the world of  
The Anathema.



### About the Creator

Tom Savage was born in Royal Oak, Michigan. He currently works as a full time graphic designer, illustrator, and an adjunct media and creative arts teacher at Macomb Community College. Tom has worked in many artistic fields including fine art, graphic design, music, and some film work. His work includes many licenses properties such as *Night of the Living Dead*, *Doctor Who* and the *Daleks*, and Matt Busch's *Hollywood is Dead* sketch cards from Rocket Ink Studios.

For more about his career, upcoming releases and appearances, please visit [www.tomsavagestudios.com](http://www.tomsavagestudios.com) or [facebook.com/TheArtofTomSavage](https://facebook.com/TheArtofTomSavage).