

U.S.S. CURTIS LEMAY

NEAR MARS



IN JOHN IT SAYS, 'THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.' NOT SOMEDAY. NOW. EVEN OUT HERE.

JUDGMENT WILL COME TO THE WICKED ONES. BUT JUDGMENT IS NOT OURS TO WIELD, AND NOT OURS TO RUSH. UNTIL THEN, WE DO NOT LET THE SERVANTS OF DARKNESS TELL US WHO OR WHAT WE ARE.



SOME OF US.. INDEED,
ALL OF US CARRY SINS WE BELIEVE
WOULD CONDEMN US IF THEY WERE
KNOWN. BUT THE TRUTH IS THEY ARE
ALREADY KNOWN. THEY ARE KNOWN
TO GOD.

AS SUCH,
JUDGMENT BELONGS TO GOD
ALONE. AND THROUGH FAITH IN HIM AND
JESUS CHRIST, WE SEE THAT GODS
JUDGMENT IS NOT ONLY JUST... IT
IS MERCIFUL.



ONLY WITH FAITH IN GOD, AND
IN EACH OTHER. WILL WE TRULY
PREVAIL.



DISSENT

WATCHER STRONGHOLD

RHEA

2ND LARGEST MOON OF

SATURN




MY BROTHERS. THE
RETURN OF THE OTHERS
DRAWS NEAR..

..AND AS THEY
GO, THE HUMANS
CONTINUE TO ADVANCE AT
AN UNPREDICATED
RATE.




WE ARE BEING SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES.

SAMYAZA "THE GREAT SEER"



THE PSYCHOPUMP IS AMASSING STRENGTH AS WE SPEAK, BUT WITH OUT EVERY PSYCHOTYPE IN THE BUFFER, IT WILL FAIL AND WE WILL BE DEFEATED--- MANKIND TOO, WILL FALL..

ADMIRAL KOK'ABIEL




SEER, WE HAVE MOST OF THE REQUIRED PATTERNS. IT WILL BE ENOUGH. EVEN WITH THE GREAT PRINCE ON THEIR SIDE. WE WILL PREVAIL OVER THE OTHERS.

ET'HOR IS NOT MY CONCERN, ADMIRAL.

WITHOUT HIS LEGIONS, HE WILL BE MANAGEABLE

MANKIND IS WHAT CONCERNS ME NOW..



WE KNOW NOW THAT THEY'VE ACQUIRED THE FIRST SLAB OF BINDING, AND WITH IT THE WEAPON IT CONTAINED.. IT'S ONLY MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY REPICTER IT'S FUNCTION, AND IT'S POTENTIAL...

... THE IRONY IS, I ALMOST UNDERSTAND THE OTHERS PERSPECTIVE NOW BETTER THAN EVER..

..ONE IN A TRILLION BEINGS BORN CARRIES SUCH A SPIRIT..

THE CHANCES THAT THE ONE WE FOUND IN ALL THIS TIME WAS THE SON OF THE ONLY HUMAN WITH THE ABILITY TO REINTEGRATE THAT SPIRIT BACK INTO A PHYSICAL FORM..

..I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT TO BE CHANCE. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN OUTSIDE INFLUENCE..

THE MESSENGER. HE MOCKS US... AND YOU..

..YOUR VERY EXISTENCE IS A MOCKERY!

WE HAD IT! RIGHT THERE, IN OUR GRASP AND IT WAS TORN AWAY!





SEER, YOU SUMMONED ME?

IF THE OTHERS
WANT TO STEP OUTSIDE
OF THE TERMS THEY LAID
FORTH, THEN SO SHALL
WE.



I DID.

DESPITE OUR BEST
EFFORTS, WE HAVE
FAILED TO RETAIN THE
FINAL PSYCHOTYPE.

WE NOW CALL ON
YOU TO RETRIEVE IT, SO
THAT WE CAN BE FREE OF
THIS EXILE, AND THE
OVERBEARING TYRANNY OF
THE OTHERS ONCE AND
FOR ALL!



HE WAS MEANT TO
DIE. WE SAW TO THAT.


HE CAN DIE AGAIN, SEER.

IT WILL NOT
BE AS EASY AS
HACKING ONE OF THEIR
DELIVERY VEHICLES
THIS TIME.



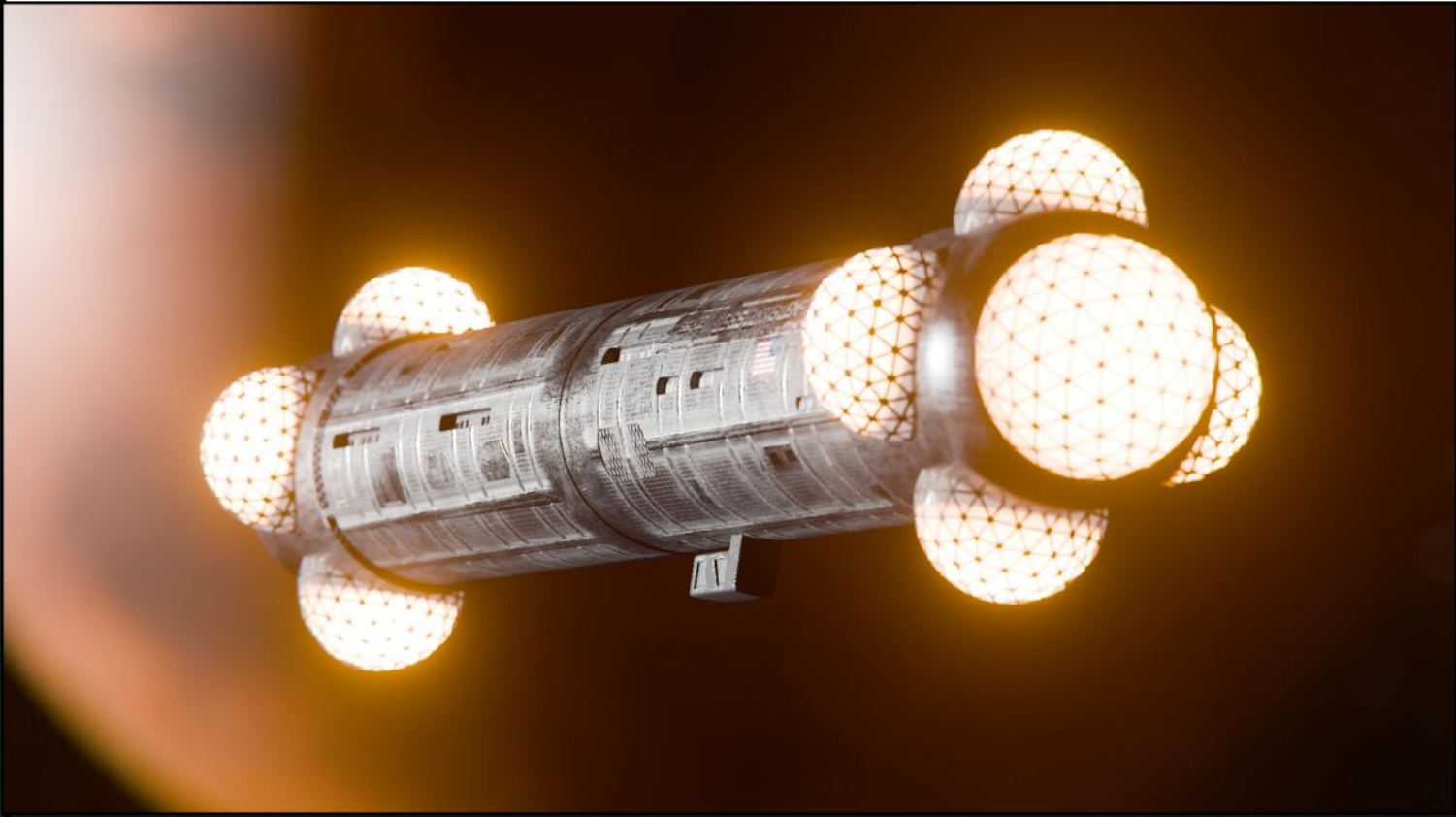
I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY
FOR YEARS, SEER.

IF I AM PERMITTED TO
WORK AS I SEE FIT. I ASSURE
YOU, HE WILL BURN.



DO WHAT YOU
MUST. GO FORTH, DO IT
WITH HASTE. OUR TIME
RUNS OUT.

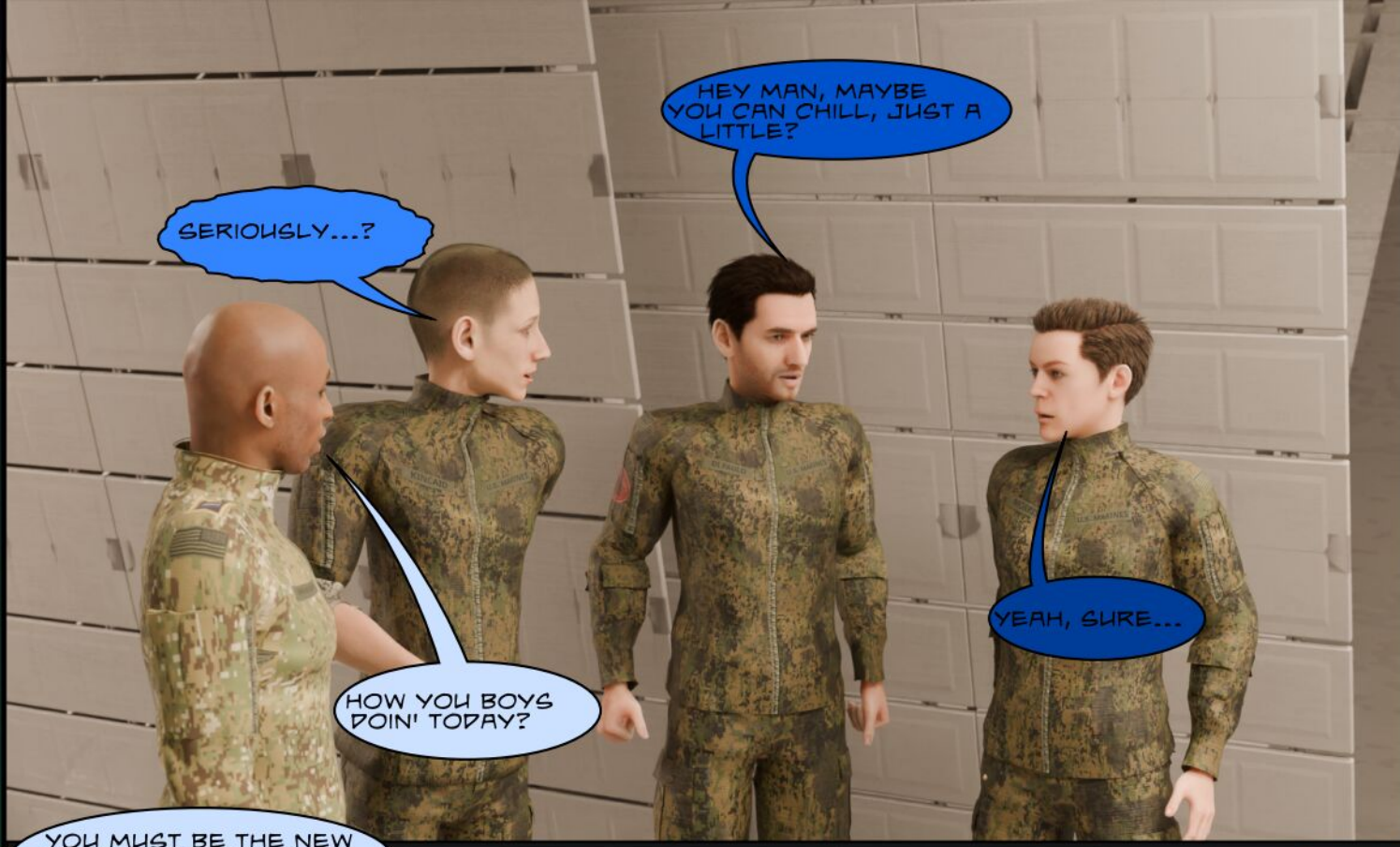
IT WILL BE DONE, SEER.



SO JIMMY, I DIDN'T BURST INTO FLAMES!

I KEPT MY WORD, AND.. WELL.. ARE WE GOOD?

YOU DID, AND HONESTLY.. THAT SCARES ME EVEN MORE..



SERIOUSLY...?

HEY MAN, MAYBE YOU CAN CHILL, JUST A LITTLE?

YEAH, SURE...

HOW YOU BOYS GOIN' TODAY?

YOU MUST BE THE NEW ROBO-MARINE WE GOT! C.J. RIGHT?
GOTTA BE HONEST. I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE, BUT IT WAS A WELCOME SURPRISE!



YEAH, THAT'S ME!

..WHY WERE YOU SURPRISED?



WELL, I MADE A JUDGMENT.. CONSIDER MY SERMON TODAY MY APOLOGY. I'M ONLY HUMAN AFTER ALL.



JIMMY..

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, CHAP. MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRUST YOUR GUT ON THIS ONE?

THAT'S NOT A PERSON. THAT'S A MACHINE. IF THAT'S NOT THE DEFINITION OF AN ABOMINATION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!

MAYBE, BUT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EVERYTHING, JIM. THAT INCLUDES THE LANCE CORPORAL HERE.

WOULD GOD'S PLAN INCLUDING SPACING THAT THING NEAR THE SUN?



TURN THE OTHER CHEEK, SON. AIN'T WORTH IT.

SPACE ME!? I'LL FOLD YOU IN HALF, BITCH!

JIMMY, WALK AWAY. RIGHT NOW.



DON'T EVEN ENGAGE.

FUCKING GLORIFIED CALCULATOR.. SHOULD HAVE BEEN MELTED DOWN FOR SCRAP..



YEAH, IT'LL PASS

I DON'T MUCH LIKE GOSSIP, BUT I'VE HEARD WHISPERS OF THIS BEING AN ISSUE.

YOU KNOW, AFTER THAT CRAB THING KICKED MY ASS ON MARS THE OTHER DAY..YESTERDAY. HE WAS AT MY BEDSIDE WHEN I WOKE UP..

I DON'T GET IT.. DID HE DO THAT TO FUCK WITH ME?

I DON'T KNOW, MAN. THAT WAS WEIRD, NO ONE ASKED HIM TO DO THAT.

IT WAS LIKE HE GENUINELY CARED THEN, I FELT LIKE WE'D BUILT A SMALL UNDERSTANDING.. I GOT OUT OF THERE, MET HIM HERE AND NOW WE'RE BACK TO.. THIS.

I KNOW THIS IS THE KIND OF THING YOU GUNFIGHTER-TYPES LIKE TO PRETEND AIN'T A FACTOR..

BUT THE MAN WATCHED HIS BEST FRIEND DIE, THEN GET REPLACED WITH SOMEONE, OR "SOMETHING" HE CONSIDERS AN AFFRONT TO HIS FAITH. I'D BE UPSET TOO!

HE'S HURT, AND SCARED. THAT'S ALL IT REALLY IS.

WELL, YEAH. NO SHIT, CHAP.. BUT WE..

NO "BUT'S", STAFF SARGENT. I WONT HEAR IT. YOU'RE AS HUMAN AS ANYONE ELSE.. EXCEPT C.J. MAYBE..

NO INSULT INTENDED, SON! YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY "HUMAN", RIGHT?

I'D JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE, AND DON'T INSTIGATE HIM. I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN.

I'VE BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW YOU GUYS ARE.. TRY TO PUT YOURSELF IN HIS SHOES. MAYBE JUST SHUT UP. THAT HELPS TOO, SOMETIMES!

OHH, THANKS!

YEAH.. FAIR ENOUGH.

YEAH, I'LL DO THAT. THANKS, CHAP.

OHH! RIGHT! THE LAST TWO DAYS HAVE BEEN INSANE. I COMPLETELY FORGOT.

IS IT COOL IF I GO LIE DOWN? I'M PRETTY TIRED.

HEY, BEFORE I FORGET. THE COLONEL WANTED ME TO REMIND YOU TO STOP BY THE LAB AND WATCH THAT TRAINING VIDEO. PALE WILL PROBABLY JUST GIVE YOU A TABLET.

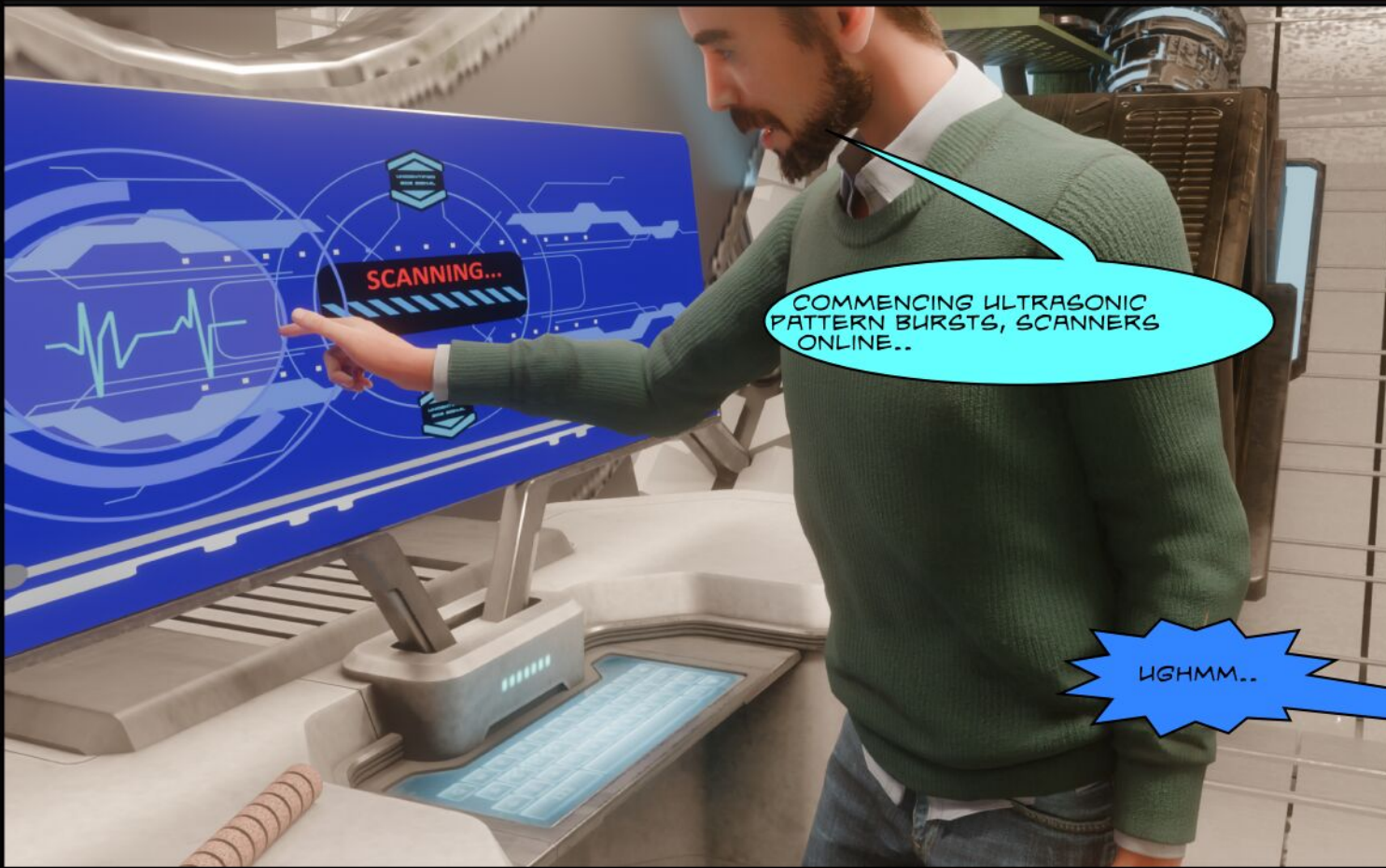
YOU DON'T NEED MY PERMISSION TO SLEEP! WE'RE NOT REALLY ON A SCHEDULE HERE. WE SORTA' JUST GET CALLED WHEN WE'RE NEEDED.. WHICH IS A LOT TO BE FAIR. SO SLEEP WHEN YOU CAN!

..JUST MAKE SURE TO STOP BY AND GET A TABLET FROM OL' PALE THERE. HE'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP!

AS PER MY LAST.. I DON'T KNOW? FIFTEEN RECORDINGS? I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ACTIVATE THE DEVICE DESIGNATED ARTIFACT P-7-7 BRAVO-6-2

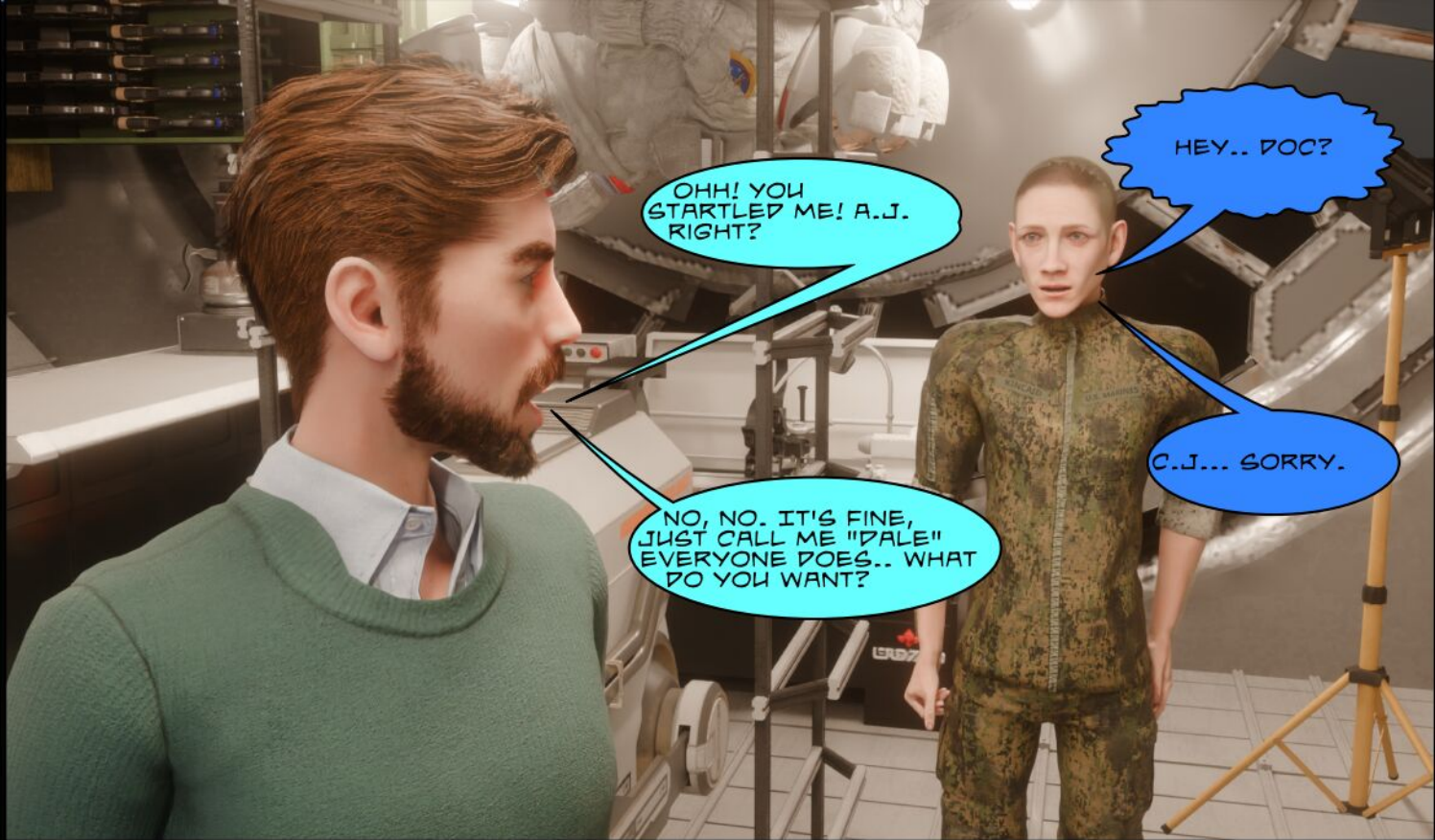
I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF THIS MAY BE A FAKE, A REPLICAS OF THE ORIGINAL... OR MAYBE IT HAS SOME KIND OF LOCK ON IT TO PREVENT HUMANS FROM ACTIVATING IT..

THIS IS TEST FORTY THREE.. OR FORTY-FOUR? I NEED MORE COFFEE.. ANYWAY, THIS IS ANOTHER UMM .. ULTRASONIC RESONANCE TEST..? I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I CHANGED FROM THE LAST ONE.. I'M RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS HERE..



COMMENCING ULTRASONIC PATTERN BURSTS, SCANNERS ONLINE..

UGHMM..



OHH! YOU STARTLED ME! A.J. RIGHT?

HEY.. DOC?

C.J... SORRY.

NO, NO. IT'S FINE, JUST CALL ME "DALE" EVERYONE DOES.. WHAT DO YOU WANT?



OK, COOL. THE COLONEL WANTS ME TO WATCH SOME TRAINING VIDEO, APPARENTLY YOU HAVE IT?

NO, I MADE IT BUT I DON'T HAVE IT. DID YOU NOT GET ISSUED A TABLET? IT'S PRE-INSTALLED ON THEM ALL.

I DON'T THINK SO, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON.

DID PAUL TELL YOU TO DO THIS?

YEAH? HE SAID YOU HAD IT?

FUCKING ASSHOLE, GREASY ITALIAN PRICK.. YELL AT ME FOR NOT GETTING THINGS DONE FAST ENOUGH, THEN CONSTANTLY INTERRUPT ME!

NO, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. HANG ON... FRANK!! YOU HERE!?

JEEZ, SORRY.. I'LL JUST GO.




HEY, WHAT'S THIS THING?

HEY DON'T TOUCH THAT!

DIGITAL HEART



OHH MY GOD..



WHOA!!!

AS SOON AS HE PICKED UP THE DEVICE, C.J. FELT AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF PRESENCE, LIKE HE HAD JUST CONNECTED TO THE MINDS OF EVERYONE ON BOARD THE CURTIS LEMAY.

HE COULD FEEL WHAT THEY FELT, HEAR WHAT THEY HEARD, SEE WHAT THEY SAW, ALL AT ONCE.

HE ALSO FELT AN INCREDIBLY STRONG CONNECTION TO THE SHIP ITSELF. ONE THAT WENT BEYOND SIMPLE CONTROL. HE COULD ACTUALLY FEEL THE TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS IN THE HULL, THE COSMIC RADIATION BOUNCING OFF THE SHIP'S MAGNETIC SHIELDS.



WITH A SUDDEN FLASH ACCOMPANIED BY A LOW, HARMONIC HUM. THE CRYSTAL ATTACHED TO THE END OF THE DEVICE BEGAN TO FLOW MORE BRILLIANTLY.

AS IT DID, THE LIGHTS FLASHED OUT AND THE CONSTANT, LOW HUM OF THE SHIP'S EQUIPMENT CEASED. LEAVING ONLY THE GLOW OF THE CRYSTAL AND THE HUM OF THE DEVICE TO FILL THE ROOM.

C.J..
PUT THAT
BACK DOWN,
PLEASE..

C.J. COULD HEAR DALES WORDS, BUT HE HEARD THEM BEFORE THEY WERE SPOKEN. HE COULD ALSO FEEL THE FEAR BUILDING WITHIN HIM.

IT WAS THEN C.J. BEGAN TO REALIZE THE SCALE OF POWER HE WAS WIELDING.

IT WAS ULTIMATE. NEARLY UNLIMITED IN HIS HANDS. HE COULD KILL EVERYONE ON BOARD WITH A SINGLE THOUGHT WHILE HOLDING THIS DEVICE, AND HE KNEW IT.

IF HE WANTED TO. HE COULD TAKE OVER THE SHIP, END THE CONFLICT, AND BECOME THE IMMORTAL, GOD-RULER OF EARTH.

AS THE POWER OF THE ALIEN DEVICE ENVELOPED HIM, AND HIS CONTROL OVER HIS SURROUNDINGS GREW EXPONENTIALLY. HE FELT TRULY UNSTOPPABLE, AND RIGHTEOUSLY SO.

THE DEVICE SPOKE TO HIM. NOT DIRECTLY WITH WORDS, BUT WITH FEELING. IT WAS, IN SOME WAY TRYING TO TEMPT HIM, TO CONVINCED TO ACT ON THESE DESIRES.

C.J.. PLEASE STOP..

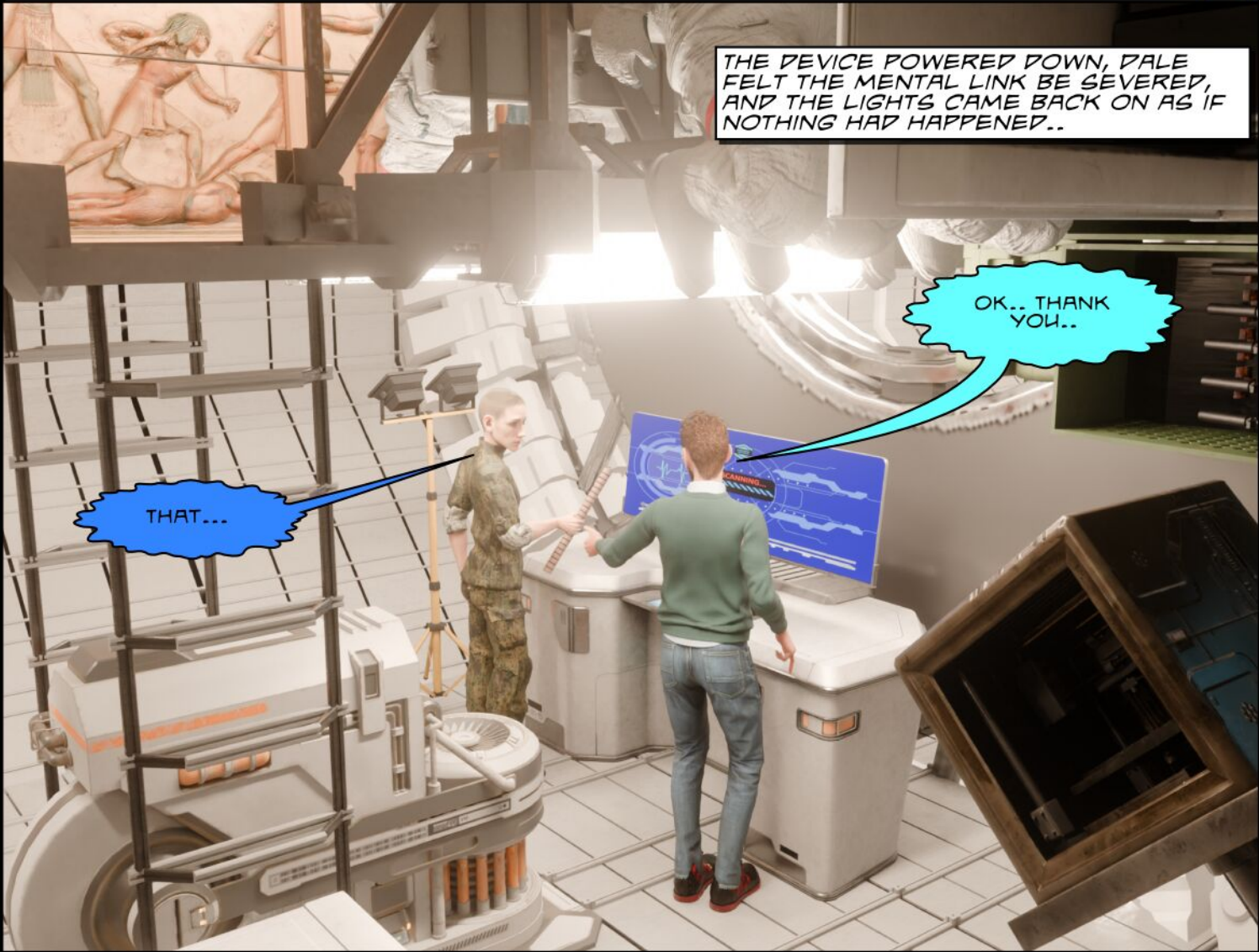
AS PALE REACHED OUT TO TAKE THE DEVICE, C.J. PULLED IT AWAY AND STARED BACK, HIS EYES STILL GLOWING A BRILLIANT BLUE..

DALE FROZE UPON THE REALIZATION THAT C.J. WAS SHARING HIS MIND WITH HIM IN THAT MOMENT..

IN FACT, FOR A MOMENT IT FELT TO DALE AS THOUGH HE WAS SHARING EVERYONE'S MIND ON BOARD. THOUGH HE HAD NO SENSE THEY WERE AWARE OF IT.

EXCEPT C.J. WHO'S PRESENCE HE COULD SENSE. IT WAS TERRIFYING, AND INVASIVE, YET, EVEN SO. EVEN WITH THE FEAR AND INTENSE APPREHENSION HE WAS FEELING, HE FELT TO MALICE, NO ANGER, OR ILL INTENT FROM C.J.

FOR AN INTENSE FEW SECONDS, C.J. STARED INTO DALES SOUL. AN EVIL SMIRK ON HIS FACE.



THE DEVICE POWERED DOWN, DALE FELT THE MENTAL LINK BE SEVERED, AND THE LIGHTS CAME BACK ON AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED..

THAT...

OK.. THANK YOU..

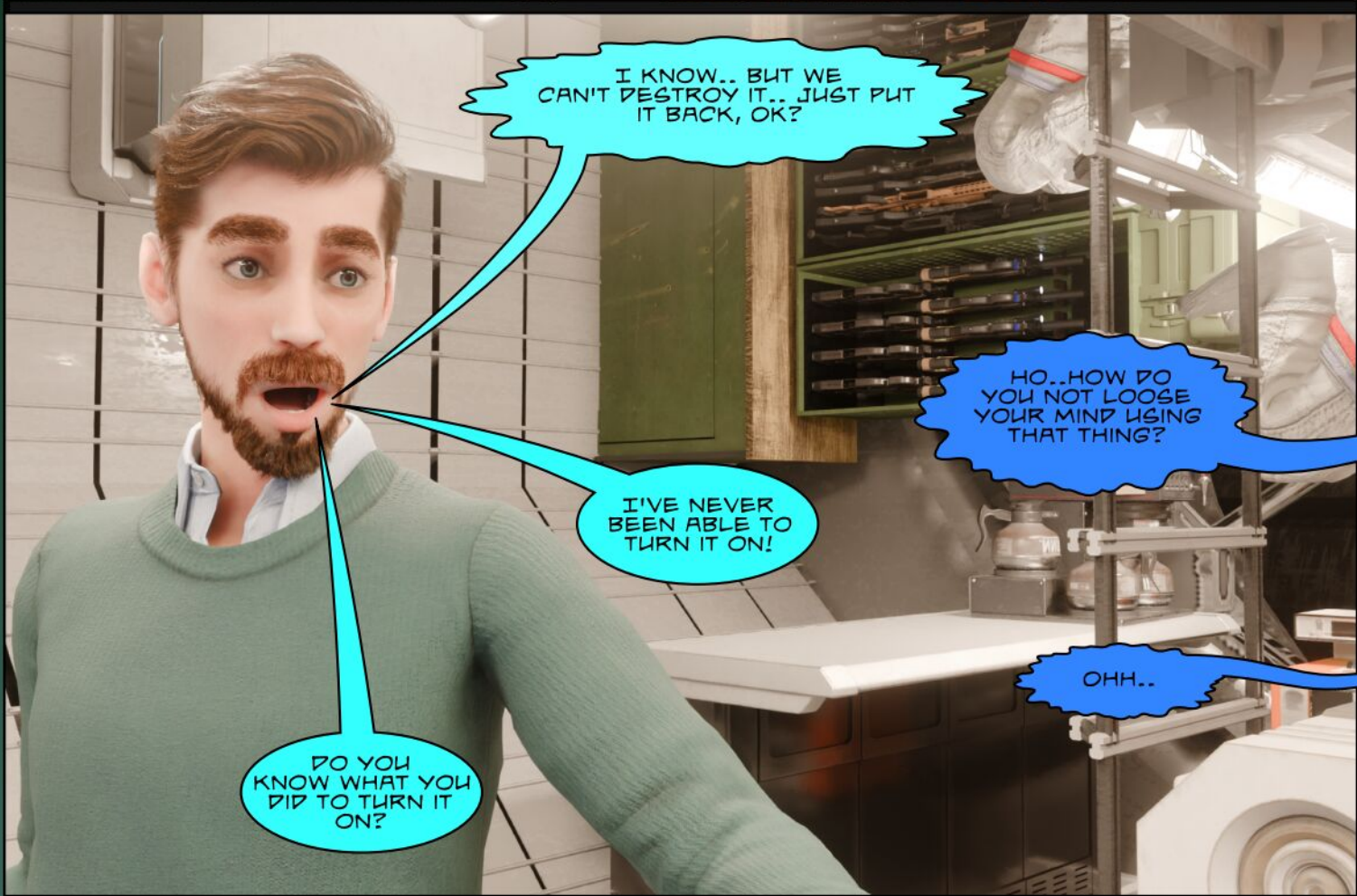


THAT... THIS SHOULD BE DESTROYED...

..RIGHT NOW.

DO.. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA..?

WHAT THIS THING IS? WHY DOES THIS EVEN EXIST!?



I KNOW.. BUT WE CAN'T DESTROY IT.. JUST PUT IT BACK, OK?

HO..HOW DO YOU NOT LOOSE YOUR MIND USING THAT THING?

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TURN IT ON!

OHH..

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO TURN IT ON?



EITHER WAY, LOOK AT THIS! THIS IS THE DATA I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! FOR YEARS!

NO...? I'M FAIRLY SURE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. IT DID...
I DIDN'T LIKE THAT...

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

IF THE ALIENS ARE WALKING AROUND WITH THOSE.. THEY MUST HAVE GONE CRAZY A LONG TIME AGO.

UMMM... YOU EVER TRY COCAINE?

NO...?

YEAH, NO.. ME NEITHER.. OBVIOUSLY. THAT'D BE VERY IRRESPONSIBLE.. NOT ONCE..

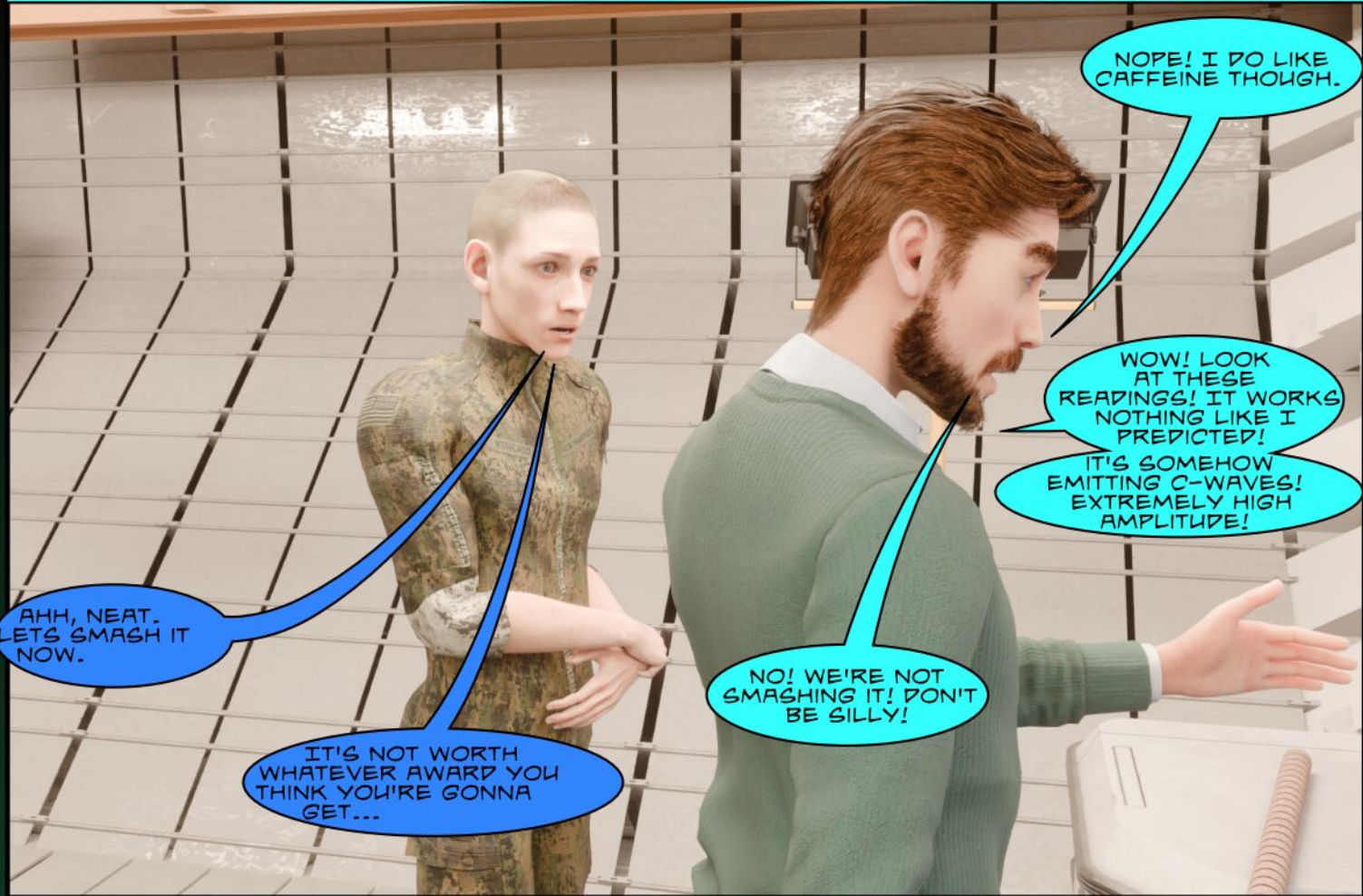
UMMM...
WELL, IT'S LIKE A DRUG.. BUT WORSE.

WHY?

AHH, I SMOKED A JOINT ONCE IN HIGH SCHOOL.. THAT'S MY EXPERIENCE WITH DRUGS.

AHH.. SO YOU'VE NEVER DONE DRUGS. THAT'S SURPRISING.

I DON'T KNOW. YOU JUST SEEM LIKE THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D BE INTO PSYCHEDELICS OR SOMETHING.



NOPE! I DO LIKE
CAFFEINE THOUGH.

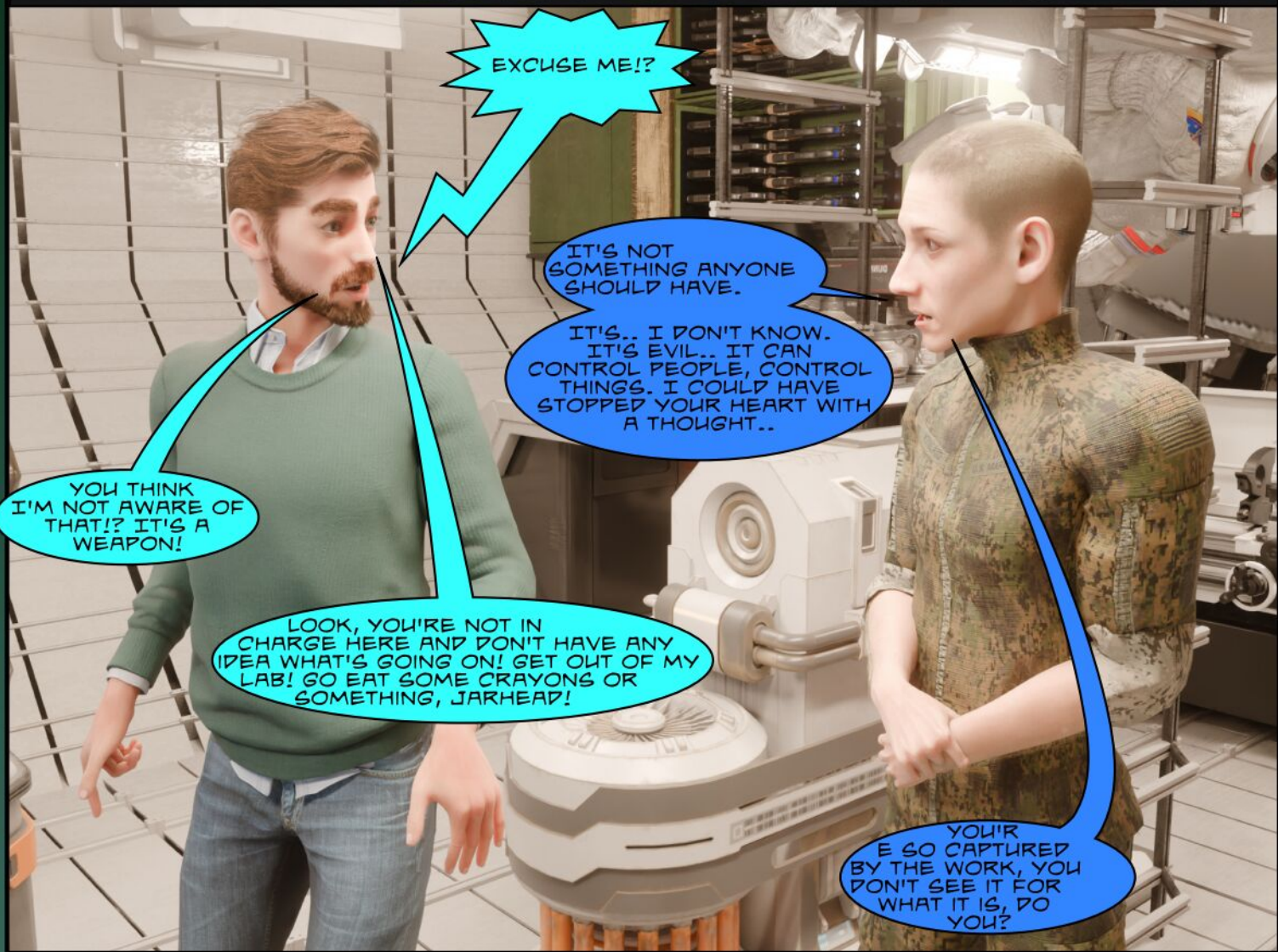
WOW! LOOK
AT THESE
READINGS! IT WORKS
NOTHING LIKE I
PREDICTED!

IT'S SOMEHOW
EMITTING C-WAVES!
EXTREMELY HIGH
AMPLITUDE!

NO! WE'RE NOT
SMASHING IT! DON'T
BE SILLY!

IT'S NOT WORTH
WHATEVER AWARD YOU
THINK YOU'RE GONNA
GET...

AHH, NEAT.
LETS SMASH IT
NOW.



EXCUSE ME!?

IT'S NOT
SOMETHING ANYONE
SHOULD HAVE.

IT'S.. I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S EVIL.. IT CAN
CONTROL PEOPLE, CONTROL
THINGS. I COULD HAVE
STOPPED YOUR HEART WITH
A THOUGHT..

YOU THINK
I'M NOT AWARE OF
THAT!? IT'S A
WEAPON!

LOOK, YOU'RE NOT IN
CHARGE HERE AND DON'T HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON! GET OUT OF MY
LAB! GO EAT SOME CRAYONS OR
SOMETHING, JARHEAD!

YOU'IR
E SO CAPTURED
BY THE WORK, YOU
DON'T SEE IT FOR
WHAT IT IS, DO
YOU?



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?

YOU'RE NOT SMASHING ANYTHING AND THERE'S NO THREAT HERE!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE PICTURE, OK!?

GET OUT OF MY LAB! YOU ARROGANT PRICK!

HOW DARE YOU! YOU DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!

MY WORK IS IMPORTANT AND I'M ACTUALLY VERY, VERY GOOD AT IT!

THIS IS MY LAB, BUDDY! WHY DON'T YOU MAKE ME?!
NG...

OK.

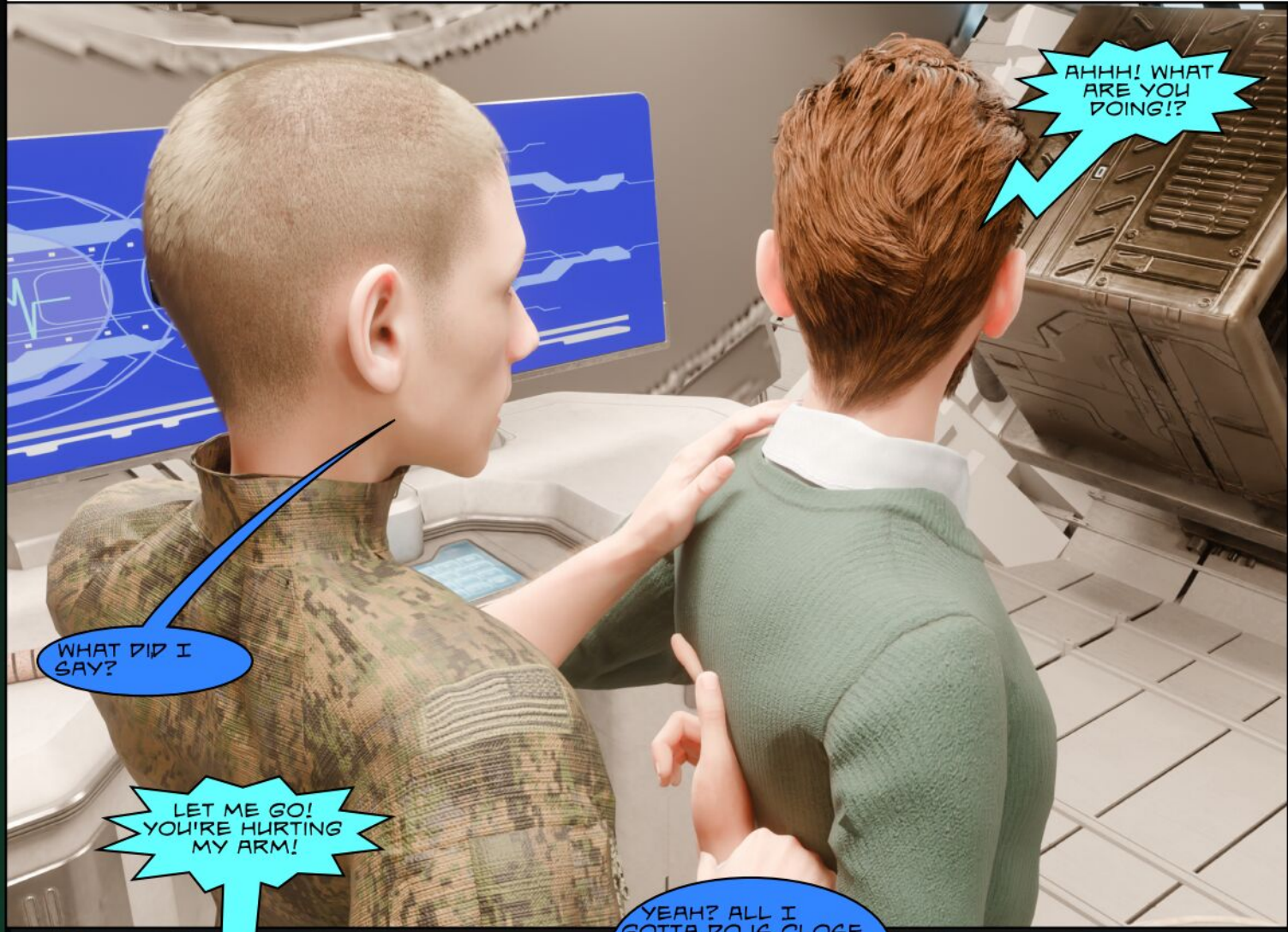
WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT, THEN?

I THINK YOU'RE JUST AN OBSESSED WEIRDO WHO THINKS HE'S A LOT SMARTER THAN HE IS..

.. FINE, I WON'T SMASH IT.. JUST LET THAT FLOAT AROUND.. BRILLIANT.. CAN I JUST HAVE THAT TABLET SO I CAN GO, PLEASE?

YOU'RE AN IDIOT AND YOU MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE..

GET YOUR HAND OUT OF MY FACE.. RIGHT NOW.

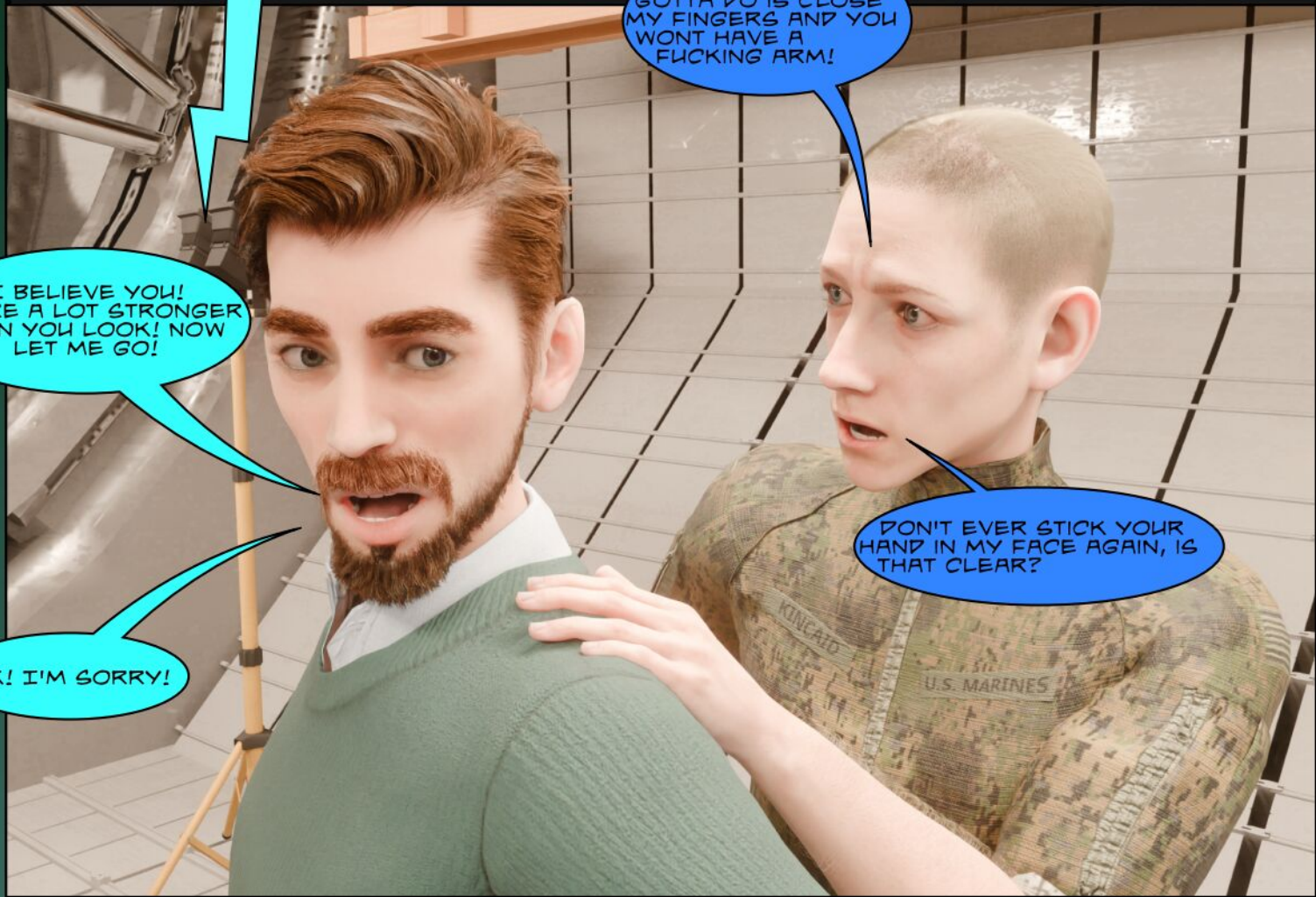


AAAAH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

WHAT DID I SAY?

LET ME GO! YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!

YEAH? ALL I GOTTA DO IS CLOSE MY FINGERS AND YOU WONT HAVE A FUCKING ARM!



I BELIEVE YOU! YOU'RE A LOT STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK! NOW LET ME GO!

OK! I'M SORRY!

DON'T EVER STICK YOUR HAND IN MY FACE AGAIN, IS THAT CLEAR?



HEY... ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD..

IT'S A WEAPON OF SORTS. ACTUALLY IT CAN DO A LOT! IT'S WHAT THEY USE TO KEEP US FROM JUST DROPPING A FEW HUNDRED NUKES ON DISSENT.

I DON'T KNOW! I FEEL LIKE I'M... COMING BACK TO NORMAL.. I ALSO HAVEN'T SLEPT IN LIKE 3 DAYS... ..WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT THING!?

"NUKES ON DISSENT"?



YOU HAVN'T SEEN THE VIDEO.. THAT'S WHY YOU CAME DOWN HERE.. RIGHT..

DECENT.. IT'S THEIR STRONGHOLD. IT'S JUST A BIG MOON BASE, BASICALLY. ON RHEA, ONE OF SATURN'S MOONS.

THE 2ND LARGEST, ACTUALLY. OHH! A REALLY INTERESTING FACT ABOUT THE GEOLOGY OF RHEA! DID YOU KNOW...

OK! I'M SURE IT'S FASCINATING.. I DON'T CARE.. "DECENT"?

RIGHT!

THAT'S ABOUT IT. IT'S A MOON BASE. IT'S WHERE THEY LIVE.. WE'D LIKE TO DROP A FEW THOUSAND MEGATONS ON IT, BUT WE CAN'T GET CLOSE.

AND... TO GET CLOSE YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW THIS THING WORKS..

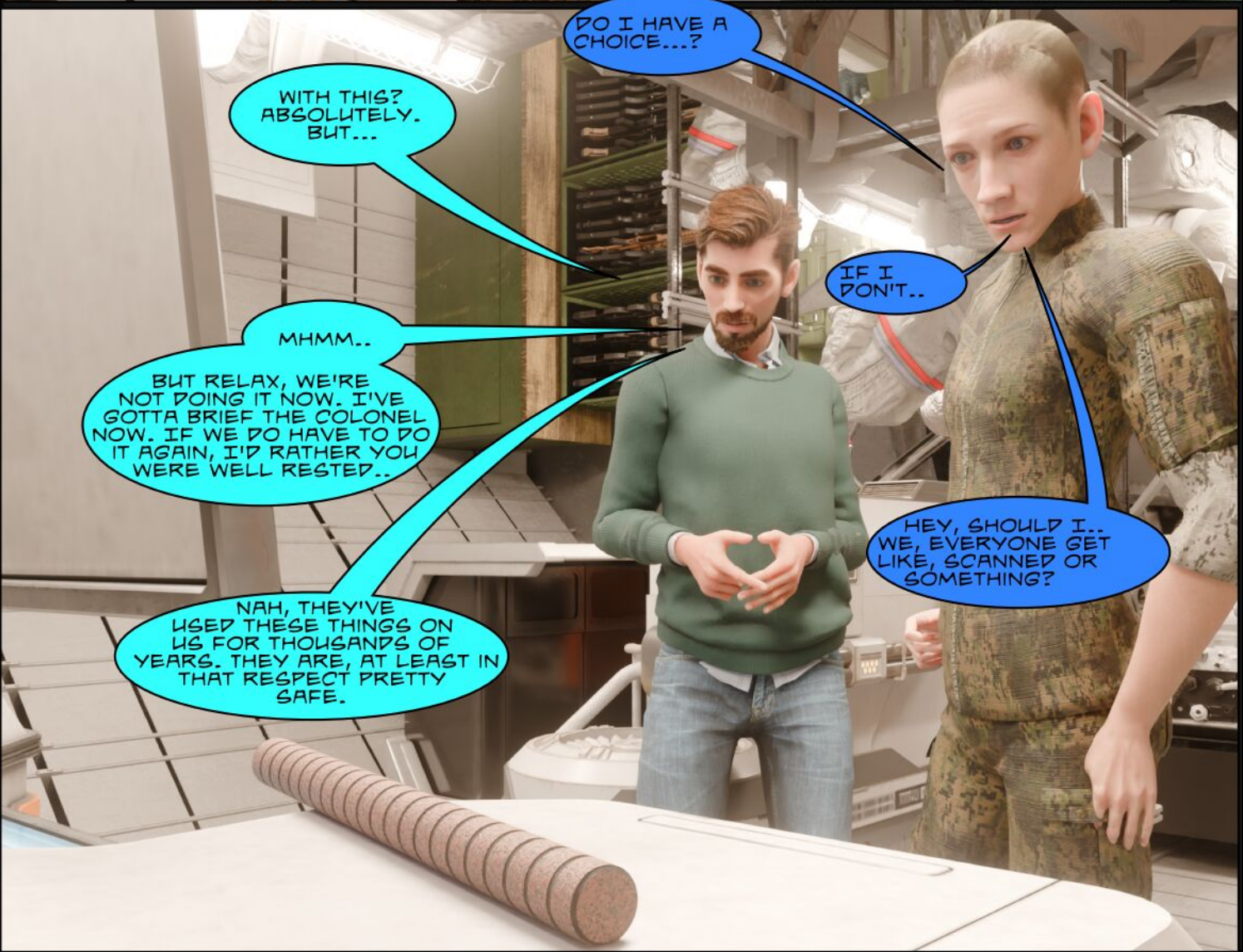
..AND I'M WILLING TO BET IT HAS TO BE ON TO BE STUDIED..



I GOTTA DO IT AGAIN..?

MORE OR LESS, YES. WHICH MEANS...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?



DO I HAVE A CHOICE...?

WITH THIS? ABSOLUTELY. BUT...

IF I DON'T..

MHMM..

BUT RELAX, WE'RE NOT DOING IT NOW. I'VE GOTTA BRIEF THE COLONEL NOW. IF WE DO HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN, I'D RATHER YOU WERE WELL RESTED..

NAH, THEY'VE USED THESE THINGS ON US FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THEY ARE, AT LEAST IN THAT RESPECT PRETTY SAFE.

HEY, SHOULD I.. WE, EVERYONE GET LIKE, SCANNED OR SOMETHING?



EHH, PROBABLY NOT. IT HAPPENS NOW AND THEN... SHIPS PRETTY OLD. BUT IT'LL ALL BE IN MY REPORT.

ALRIGHT.. PEOPLE ARE GONNA ASK WHY THE LIGHTS ALL JUST WENT OUT FOR A SECOND, RIGHT?

THAT... SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. THIS SHOULD ONLY WORK ON CONSCIOUS BEINGS. IT SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OR EFFECT ON A MACHINE..

IT WASN'T JUST THE LIGHTS, THOUGH! IT WAS THE WHOLE SHIP! I COULD FEEL IT! I COULD FEEL THE HULL, THE STRUTS, EVERYTHING! IT WAS LIKE I **WAS** THE SHIP!

WELL, FUCK.. EXCUSE ME! BUT IT JUST HIT ME. WHAT I SAID, AND WHO I SAID IT TO..

HEY.. YOU THINK YOUR DAD COULD BE TRUSTED TO KEEP THIS ALL SECRET?

FUCK NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY TRUSTED ME, HONESTLY. WHY DO YOU WANT HIM HERE?

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK YOUR DAD IS THE SMARTEST MAN ALIVE. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT I WISH I WAS HALF AS SMART AS HE IS, HONESTLY!

SMARTEST MAN ALIVE..? I ONCE SAW HIM SLICE UP A WHOLE WATERMELON AND TRY TO GRILL IT OVER AN OPEN FLAME..

WHHHYYYY?

HE WAS DRUNK AND GOT FOOLED BY SOME AT VIDEO HIS BUDDY SENT HIM AS A PRANK. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD "GIVE IT A CRUST" AND TASTE GOOD.

IT JUST SHRIVELED UP AND TURNED TO GOO.

HE WAS PISSED.

THAT'S HILARIOUS! MAYBE ONE DAY YOU CAN INTRODUCE ME TO HIM. I'D LOVE TO MEET HIM! HE'S A BIT OF A HERO OF MINE, ACTUALLY..

..OR NOT.. EITHER WAY... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE SHOULD ALREADY BE A TABLET IN YOUR BUNK.. POD, THING... THEY'RE ON THE SIDE.

OHH, MAYBE.. I ACTUALLY HAVEN'T BEEN IN THERE YET..

UHM.. MAYBE WE CAN NOT MENTION THAT WHOLE THING WITH THE ARM IN YOUR REPORT?

OHH, WELL HEY. WE'RE BOTH PRETTY TIRED. I'M GOING ON 24 HOURS MYSELF, PLUS THE WHOLE "ALIEN DEVICE" ASPECT.. NO HARD FEELINGS.

OK, COOL.. THANKS. ANOTHER ASSAULT CHARGE IS THE LAST THING I NEED.. I MIGHT HAVE OVER-REACTED.



HMM.. YEAH, YOU KINDA DID..

"ANOTHER"?... UHH, YEAH, A LITTLE.. BUT IT'S OK. I PROBABLY DESERVED IT..


WELL, GO GET SOME REST. I'VE GOT A LOT OF DATA TO GO OVER. IF I NEED IT TURNED ON AGAIN, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

ALRIGHT, TRY AND NOT TO NEED THAT, YEAH? I REALLY DON'T CARE TO DO THAT AGAIN.





OUR MENTAL ABILITIES WILL BE
INEFFECTIVE, IF THE ABOMINATION
RESISTS, USE PLASMA?
YES.



OUR PREY IS WEAK, YOUNG,
INEXPERIENCED, HE WILL FALL WITH
EASE
YES, MASTER.

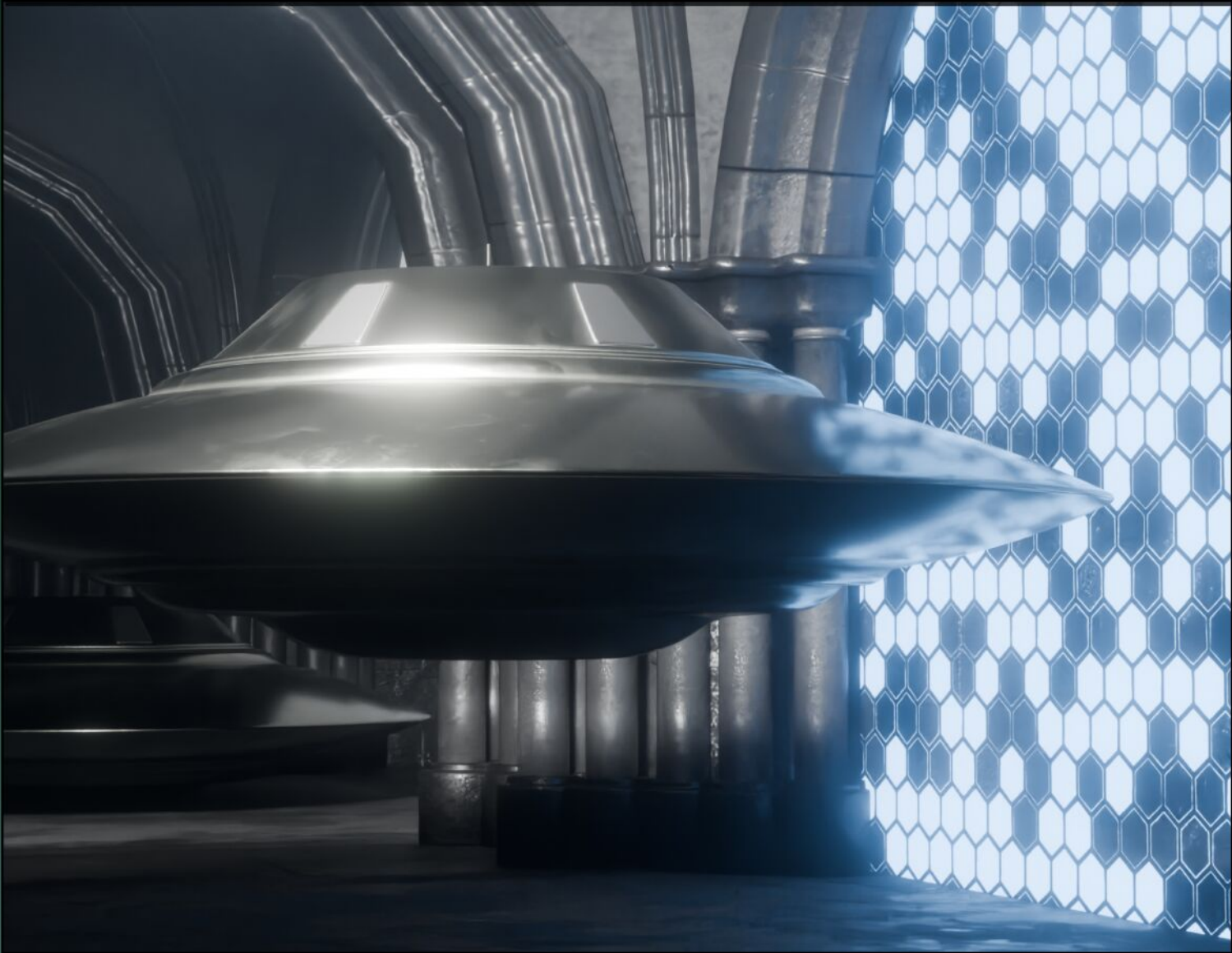


MAY WE
TAKE SPOILS?
YES,
NO LIMITS?
NONE!

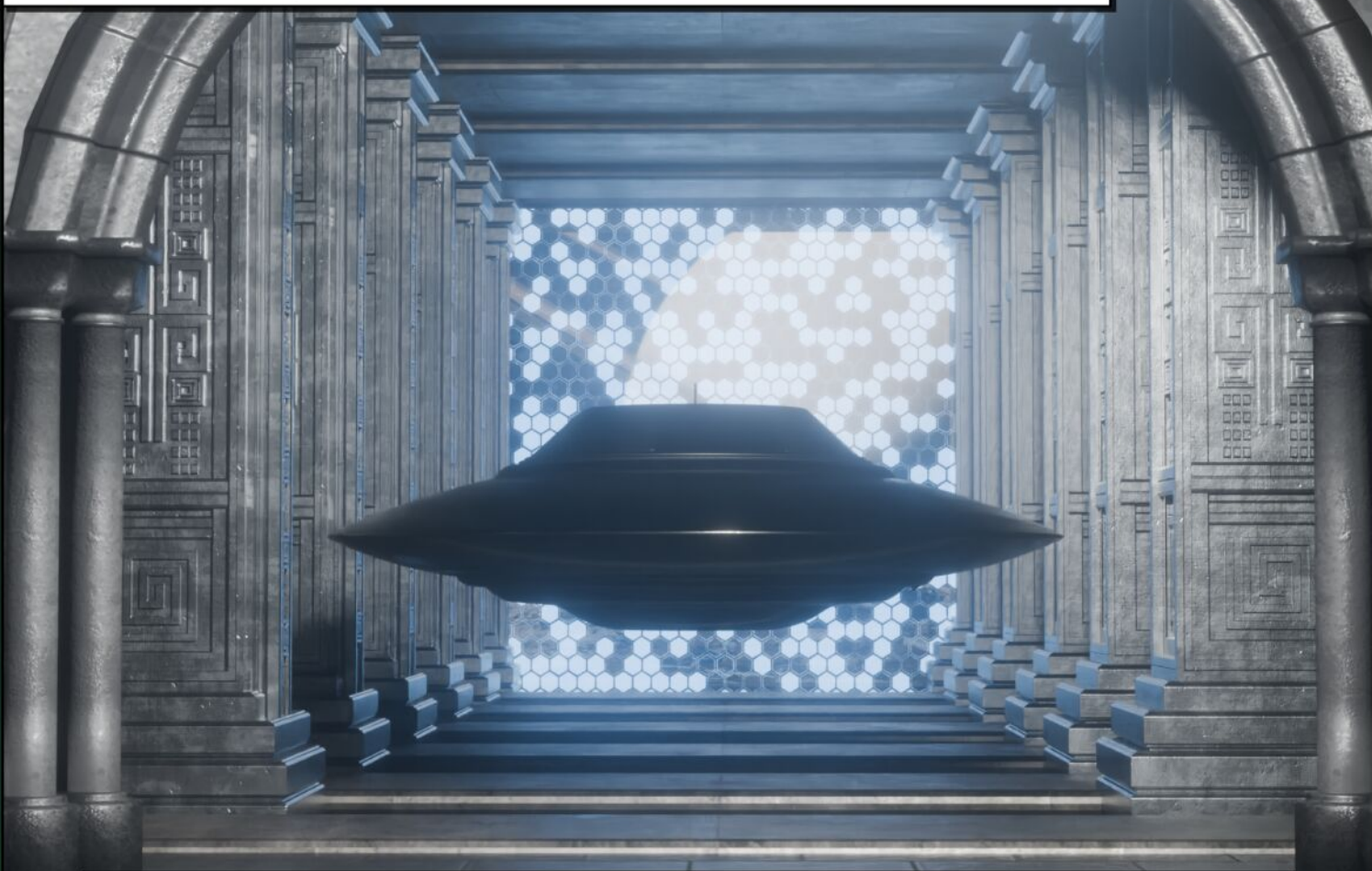


THE THREE ALIENS PILED INTO THEIR SHIP AND
SAT DOWN IN UNISON.

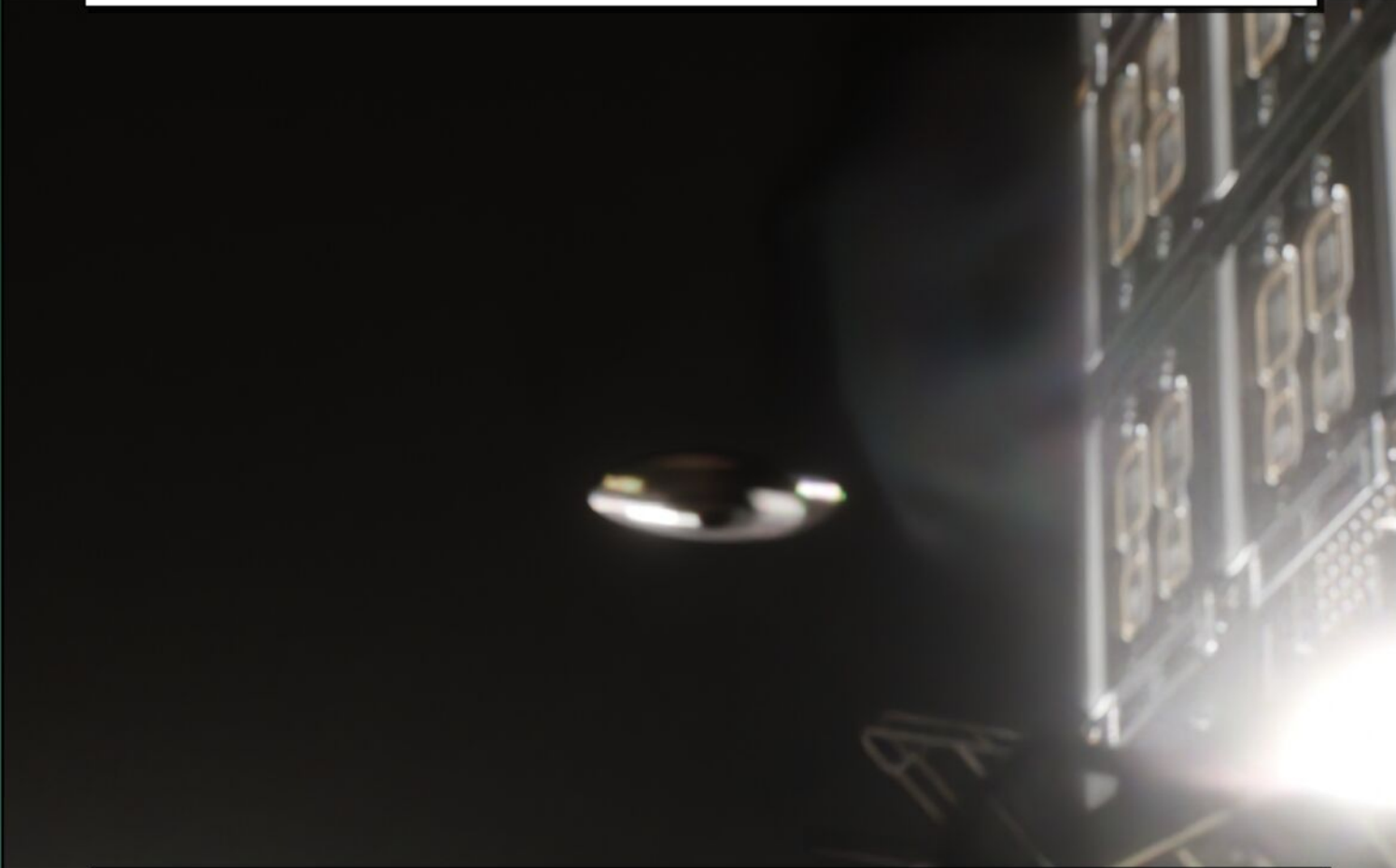
TAKING FLIGHT UNDER MENTAL COMMAND, THE FLYING SAUCER QUICKLY MOVE TOWARDS THE
SHIELDED EXIT TO DECENTS' MASSIVE HANGAR.



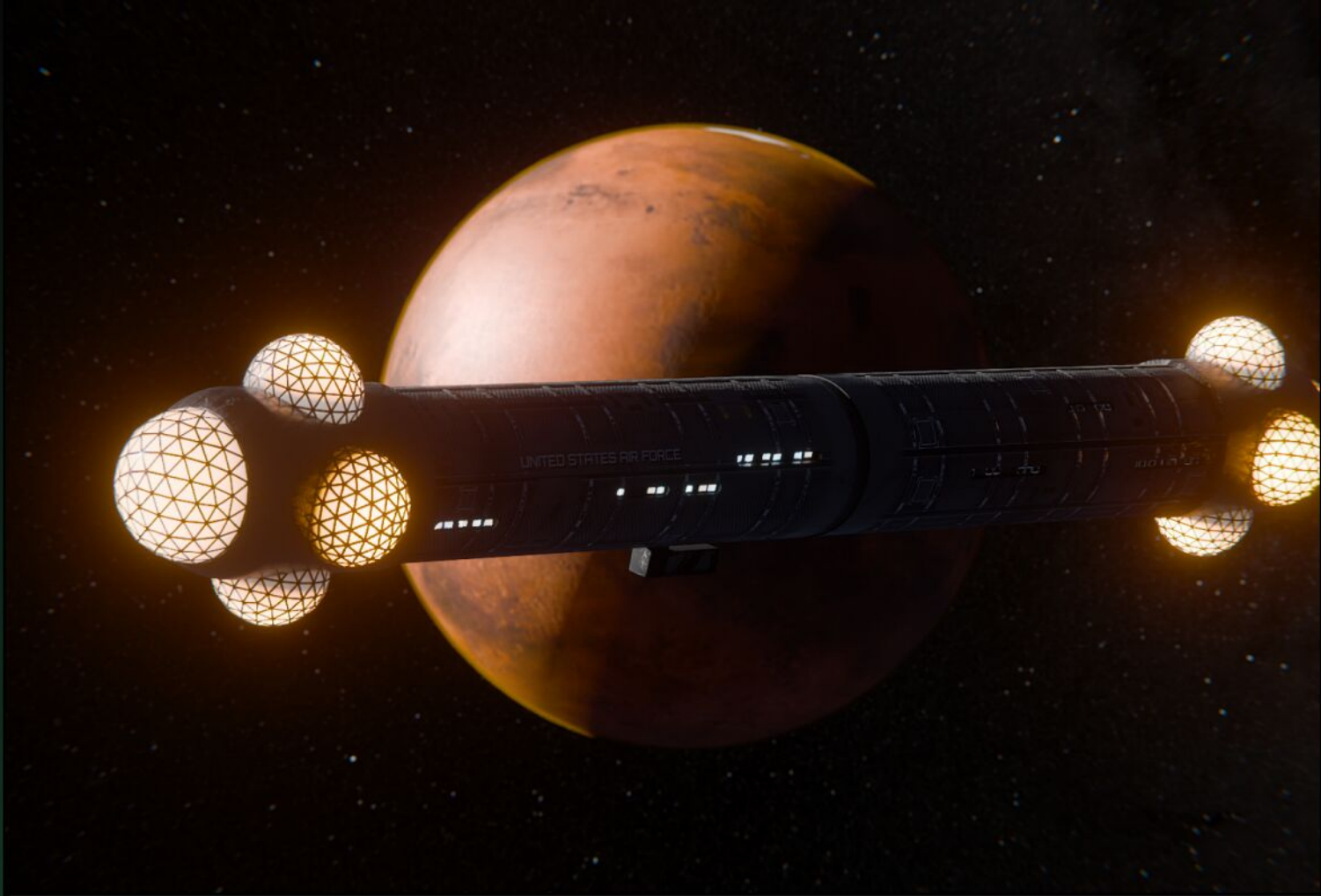
THE FIRST SHIELD DROPPED, AND THE CRAFT MOVED INTO THE AIRLOCK.

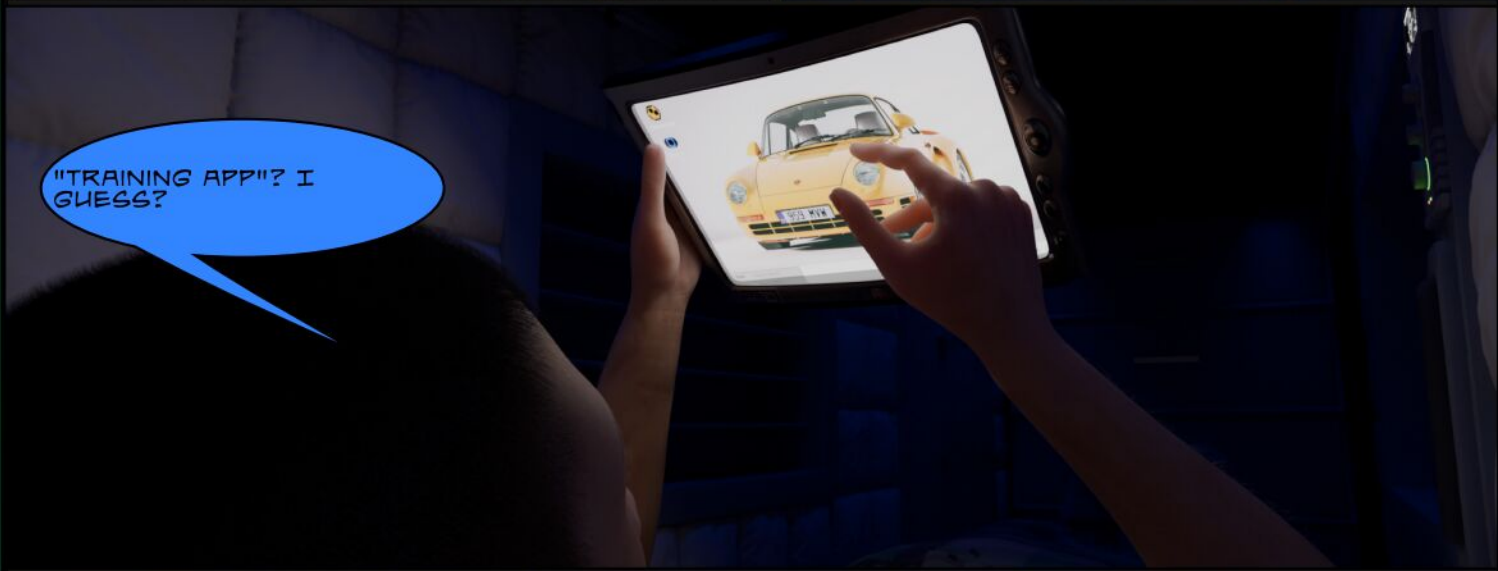


ONCE CLEAR, THE FIRST SHIELD WAS REESTABLISHED AND THE SECOND, OUTER



ONCE DOWN, THE CRAFT SHOT FROM THE HANGAR AT INCREDIBLE SPEED, RACING TOWARDS THE DIRECTION OF MARS.







PART ONE IS SEVENTEEN HOURS LONG!? THERE'S NINE PARTS?!

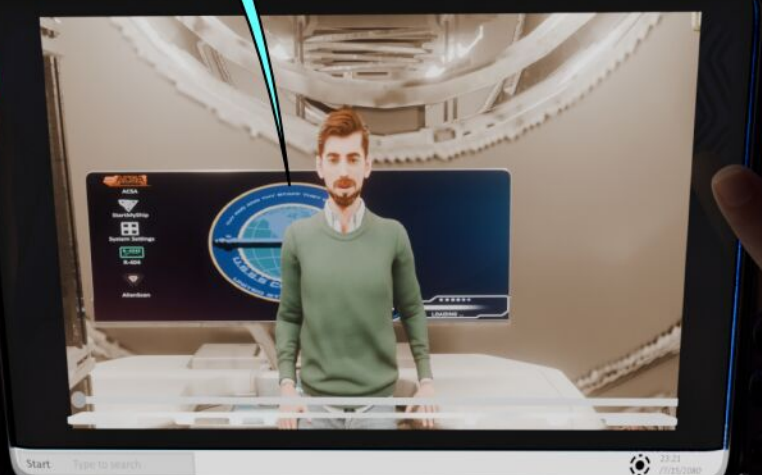
FUUUUUUCK...

HELLO! I'M DOCTOR WAYNE LAPOINTE ABOARD THE FLAGSHIP OF THE EARTH DEFENSE FORCE U.S.S.S CURTIS LEMAY.

IF YOU ARE WATCHING THIS VIDEO, THAT MEANS YOU'VE BEEN RECRUITED INTO THE E.D.F. AND PROBABLY HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS... OR IT'S MANY YEARS IN THE FUTURE AND THIS IS JUST FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET..

... EITHER WAY, I AM WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPERT IN ANCIENT ALIEN TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORY.

AND I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE TODAY AS WE UNWRAP THE SECRETS OF OUR STOLEN HISTORY!



OHH FOR THE LOVE OF.. HE WROTE, RECORDED, AND EDITED THIS HIMSELF, DIDN'T HE?

I BELIEVE IT'S BEST WE START AT THE BEGINNING.

MUCH OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED HERE IS OUR BEST ASSESSMENT, AND MUCH IS KNOWN.

I WILL BEGIN EACH SECTION WITH A SHORT SUMMERY, THEN GO INTO GREATER DETAIL FOR THE REST OF THE VIDEO.

IF YOU WISH TO SKIP TO THE NEXT SUMMERY, AT ANY POINT YOU CAN DOUBLE-TAP THE PLAY BUTTON.

AND WITH THAT, LETS BEGIN WITH AN OVERALL SUMMERY OF EVERYTHING.

THE STORY OF THE HUMAN RACE THAT IS TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL IS MOSTLY CORRECT.

ANATOMICAL HUMANS AS WE EXIST TODAY FIRST WALKED ON EARTH BETWEEN THREE AND A HALF, TO FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO.

WE EVOLVED FROM A LESSER SPECIES, WHICH ITSELF EVOLVED FROM A LESSER SPECIES. THIS IS ALL TRUE AND SOLID SCIENTIFICALLY.

OHH, GOOD.

HOWEVER THERE IS ONE MAJOR PIECE THAT IS LEFT OUT.

THAT IS THE FACT THAT OUR EVOLUTION, AT LEAST OVER THE LAST TWO MILLION YEARS WAS ANYTHING BUT NATURAL.

A RACE OF HYPER-ADVANCED ALIEN BEINGS, WHOM WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE ORIGINATE FROM A DISTANT GALAXY FOUND EARTH POPULATED BY EARLY PROTO-HUMANS.

FOR REASONS THAT AREN'T FULLY UNDERSTOOD, POSSIBLY SOMETHING TO DO WITH ENZYMATIC COMPATIBILITY, THEY DECIDED TO INFUSE PART OF THEIR DNA WITH THE EARLY PROTO-HUMANS.

IN DOING SO, MODERN HUMANS AS WE NOW EXIST WERE MADE TO MORE RESEMBLE THEM.

WE LOST OUR FUR, AND ALL NATURAL DEFENSES BESIDES OUR MINDS.

WE WERE NOT LEFT TO FEND FOR OURSELVES, HOWEVER.

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE ALIENS TREATED THE EARLY HUMANS AS IF THEY WERE THEIR CHILDREN, WITH COMPASSION AND LOVE.

AT SOME POINT, SOME SORT OF CATAclySM TOOK PLACE IN THEIR GALAXY, POSSIBLY ACROSS MANY GALAXIES. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT, ALL WE DO KNOW IS IT SCATTERED THEIR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION.

EARTH, BEING SO FAR AWAY FROM THE DEVASTATION BECAME A SORT OF REPOSITORY OF THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE. MUCH OF IT, UNFORTUNATELY HAS BEEN LOST TO TIME.

Part 1. The History



The Watchers and the Book of Enoch.

WHAT HASN'T BEEN LOST HOWEVER IS THE IDEA THAT THE ALIENS, OR GODS IF YOU PREFER, ENTRUSTED HUMANITY TO GUARD THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOVE ALL OTHER RACES, AND FROM WHAT WE'VE GATHERED. THERE ARE IN FACT, MANY OTHERS..

WELL THAT WAS PROBABLY STUPID.

IF YOU'RE THINKING "WELL, THAT'S STUPID"

DON'T WORRY, SO DID WE. THE TRUTH IS. WE DON'T KNOW WHY THEY MADE THAT CHOICE.

BUT WE DO KNOW THERE ARE IS MORE THAN ONE FACTION WITHIN THE MAIN RACE WE'RE SPEAKING OF.

THE MAIN BODY, WE CALL THEM "THE GOOD ONES" OR "THE OTHERS" EVEN THOUGH, THEIR INTENTIONS ARE LARGELY UNKNOWN.

AND THE ONES KNOWN AS "THE WATCHERS"

THEIR TASK WAS SIMPLY TO WATCH AND OBSERVE HUMANITY. INTERVENE ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED.

AND FOR EONS, THEY DID JUST THAT FAITHFULLY. WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE AND KEPT EARTH SAFE. HOWEVER THE CALLS FROM HOME STOPPED COMING.

THEY WERE STRANDED, SO THEY DECIDED TO REVEAL THEMSELVES AND LIVE ON EARTH AMONG HUMANITY.

MANY OF THEM EVENTUALLY TOOK HUMAN WIVES, AS THEY BELIEVED HUMAN WOMEN TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AMONG ALL THE STARS.. THEIR WORDS, NOT MINE.



..BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, I'LL ANSWER THE MOST COMMON QUESTION I GET.

YES, THEY ARE MAMMALIAN, JUST LIKE US. SAME PARTS.

ANYWAY, OVER TIME, SOME OF THESE COUPLINGS BORE CHILDREN.

THE ALIENS THEMSELVES APPEAR TO BE SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN A HUMAN ON AVERAGE WITH GRAYISH-BLUE SKIN AND BIG EYES; BUT NOTHING LIKE THE FRAIL, HELPLESSLY GAUNT CREATURES YOU SEE IN MEDIA.

HOWEVER, WHEN COMBINED WITH A HUMAN EMBRYO. IT SEEMS TO PRODUCE EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE HYBRID-BEINGS KNOWN TO US AS "NEPHILIM"

ALTHOUGH THESE BEINGS POSSESSED THE SAME IF NOT GREATER MENTAL CAPACITY AS IT'S PARENTS.

THEY OFTEN SUFFERED HORRIBLE GENETIC CONDITIONS FROM THE TWO SPECIES ONLY BEING PARTIALLY COMPATIBLE.

THIS MADE THEM VIOLENT AND UNPREDICTABLE, AND THE ACT WAS OUTLAWED. HOWEVER, IT DIDN'T STOP..



IT WOULD GO ON THIS WAY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, UNTIL THE OTHERS DID RETURN, ALBEIT IN SMALL NUMBERS.

AT FIRST, HUMANITY WAS BLAMED FOR THE TRANSGRESSIONS, BUT AT THE FIRST COUNCIL OF NINEVEH, REPRESENTATIVES OF HUMANITY PLEAD THEIR CASE

WE WERE ULTIMATELY GRANTED IMMUNITY ON THE CONDITION THAT WE NOT INVOLVE OURSELVES IN COSMIC AFFAIRS. THIS WOULD BE COME KNOWN AS THE NINEVEH ACCORDS.

SHORTLY AFTER, THE OTHERS BEGAN TO SYSTEMICALLY EXTERMINATE THE WATCHERS AND THEIR NEPHILIM CHILDREN.

THIS ANGERED MANY HUMANS WHO HAD LIVED AMONG THE ALIENS FOR GENERATIONS, AND CONSIDERED THEM FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

USING ALIEN TECHNOLOGY, HUMANITY BEGAN TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE ALIENS.



THIS ACTION VIOLATED THE ORIGINAL TERMS OF THE NINEVEH ACCORDS, AND MADE HUMANITY A VALID MILITARY TARGET.

HOWEVER, THE OTHERS DID NOT WANT TO ELIMINATE HUMANITY ENTIRELY. SO THEY GAVE AMPLE WARNING BEFORE THEY STRUCK.

MANY HUMANS AND ALIENS ALIKE SURVIVED. HOWEVER THE CIVILIZATION THEY'D BUILT DID NOT.

IN 2024, EVIDENCE WAS DISCOVERED DEEP UNDER THE HUDSON BAY OF ARTIFICIAL HEAVY ELEMENTS INCLUDING DEPLETED URANIUM AND AN ABNORMAL AMOUNT OF LEAD, ALL NEARLY 3 MILES UNDER THE SEA FLOOR.

WE'VE SINCE CONCLUDED THAT A VERY DENSE OBJECT STRUCK IN NORTHERN CANADA AT NEAR RELATIVISTIC SPEEDS, LIKELY FORMING THE BAY ITSELF AND SENDING MASSIVE TIDAL WAVES ACROSS THE ENTIRE PLANET.

TODAY, WE'D CALL THIS AN "RKKV" OR "RELATIVISTIC KINETIC KILL VEHICLE."

THE SINGLE IMPACTOR CAUSED AN APOCALYPTIC AMOUNT OF DAMAGE.

EJECTA RAINED DOWN OVER HALF THE GLOBE, AND SEA LEVELS ROSE HUNDREDS OF FEET.



ALL OF NORTH AFRICA WAS WASHED INTO THE SEA ON THE WEST COAST, SOMETHING WE CAN STILL SEE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF IN SATELLITE PHOTOS.

THE IMMENSE ENERGY OF THE IMPACT ALSO CAUSED NUMEROUS VOLCANOES TO ERUPT AT SEVERAL POINTS AS WELL, ALL COMBINING TOGETHER, TRIGGERING THE PERIOD WE KNOW AS THE LAST ICE AGE.

IN THE PRECEDING YEARS, AS THE ICE RECEDED. THE CITY OF NINEVEH WAS REBUILT, AND THE SURVIVING HUMANS AGREED TO THE 2ND ITERATION OF THE NINEVEH ACCORDS.

THESE ACCORDS LAID OUT A FEW SEPARATE RULES. MAINLY BEING THAT THERE WAS TO BE NO INTERACTION BETWEEN THE WATCHERS AND HUMANITY.

IN FACT, HUMANITY WAS TO HAVE NO TECHNOLOGY BEYOND A VERY SPECIFIC POINT. IN SIMPLE TERMS, WE WERE ONLY SUPPOSE TO HAVE WHAT COULD BE MADE AND SOURCED BY HAND.

NOW, OF COURSE. THAT'S CLEARLY NOT THE CASE. IF YOU'RE NOT ONBOARD A SPACE SHIP WATCHING THIS VIDEO, YOU'RE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THEM.

I DEFINITELY WASN'T BUILT OR SOURCED BY HAND.. NEITHER WAS THIS SHIP.

SHORTLY AFTER THE ACCORDS WERE SIGNED, ALL BUT A FEW OF THE OTHERS VANISHED AGAIN. NEITHER WE, NOR THE WATCHERS KNOW WHY.

REGARDLESS OF WHY, WITHIN A FEW GENERATIONS, BEGAN TO INTERFERE AND INTERACT WITH HUMAN AFFAIRS AGAIN.

THE SMALL CONTINGENT OF THE OTHERS THAT STAYED BEHIND INTERVENE WHEN THEY CAN. BUT THEIR NUMBERS ARE FEW.

OVER THE EONS IN EXILE, THE WATCHERS HAVE GROWN DESPERATE AND DERANGED.

FROM THEIR BASE ON RHEA. WHICH IS KNOWN AS "DECENT"

THEY'RE CONSTRUCTING A DEVICE THAT, IF COMPLETED WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE MINDS AND BODIES OF EVERY CONSCIOUS BEING, EVERYWHERE.

THIS WILL INCLUDE THE OTHERS, AS EVEN THEY WILL NOT BE IMMUNE TO A C-FIELD GENERATOR OF THIS SIZE AND POWER.

IF THEY'RE ALLOWED TO COMPLETE THIS WEAPON. THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WILL BE BATHED IN ETERNAL CORRUPTION AND DEBAUCHERY.

NOW, I WILL EMPHASIZE THAT BY SAYING, WE DON'T FULLY KNOW THE INTENTIONS OF THE OTHERS EITHER.

BUT WE DO KNOW THEY'RE COMING. IN FACT, WE'VE SEEN AND HAVE BEEN TRACKING THEIR VESSEL FOR AROUND 30 YEARS.



THIS IMAGE WAS TAKEN RECENTLY, IN JUNE OF 2075 BY THE OSIRIS PROBE SWARM. A TOP SECRET, DEEP SPACE SWARM OF 15 SMALL CAMERA PROBES WITH ONE MISSION. TO DIRECTLY IMAGE THE ALIEN MOTHERSHIP.

THE OSIRIS PROBES WERE SMALL, ONLY ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BASEBALL, AND THEY SHOT PAST THE MOTHERSHIP VERY FAST. HOWEVER ONE OF THE PROBES MANAGED TO TAKE THIS IMAGE.

IT'S HARD TO TELL MUCH, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF ROTATING CRAFT, SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO THE "O'NEILL CYLINDER" CONCEPT.. THE SIZE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST 30 MILES LONG.

THIS FAR, ANY ATTEMPT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SHIP DIRECTLY HAS FAILED.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE AT TIMES MADE CONTACT WITH THEIR... REPRESENTATIVES. OR AT LEAST THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE.



AS I STATED BEFORE, EARTH HAD BECOME A SORT OF REPOSITORY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ALIENS, MUCH OF IT WAS DESTROYED DUE TO TIME, OR WAR, BUT MUCH SURVIVES EVEN TO THIS DAY.

DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR TWO, MOST OF THE PHYSICS OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES WAS DISCOVERED AND HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC.

EVEN SO, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY DIDN'T REACH A POINT IN WHICH THIS GRAVITIC PROPULSION COULD BE CONTROLLED SAFELY UNTIL THE LATE 1980S.

AND IT WOULDN'T BE UNTIL THE LATE 1990S WHEN DISCOVERED HOW TO REPRODUCE THE FUEL KNOWN AS MOSCOVIUM 295.

AFTER DECADES OF REVERSE-ENGINEERING ALIEN TECHNOLOGY, A BREAKTHROUGH WAS DISCOVERED AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT ALLOWED US TO REPLICATE THESE PROPULSION SYSTEMS.

WHICH WE'VE DUBBED "ELECTROMAGNETIC-GRAVITIC PROPULSION."



EIGHT "ROSCOE H HILLENKOETTER" CLASS VESSELS WERE BUILT USING THIS GRAVITIC PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY STARTING IN THE LATE 1990S, WITH PRODUCTION CEASING IN 2008.

THE CREWS WHO BUILT AND MAINTAINED THEM WERE TOLD THEY'D BE MADE PUBLIC IN A FEW YEARS AND IT'D CHANGE THE WORLD.

OBVIOUSLY, THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

INSTEAD, THE OTHERS CAME AND ESSENTIALLY TOLD US TO BUILD NO MORE, BUT WE COULD KEEP THE ONES WE HAD.

JUST LIKE MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE OTHERS LEFT AND THE WATCHERS BEGAN TO INTERFERE AGAIN.

THEY CONVINCED THE GOVERNMENTS OF EARTH AT THE TIME TO USE THESE SHIPS TO TRANSPORT CERTAIN TYPES OF HUMANS TO THEM IN EXCHANGE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND POWER.

AND FOR THE NEXT 30 OR 40 YEARS, THESE SHIPS WERE NOTHING BUT SLAVE SHIPS, TRANSPORTING PEOPLE TO BE.. THE TRUTH IS, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT BECAME OF THEM.

- U.S.S.S Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter
- U.S.S.S Curtis Lemay
- U.S.S.S James Forrestal
- U.S.S.S Jerome Clarke Hunsaker
- U.S.S.S Donald Menzel
- U.S.S.S Hoyt Vandenberg
- U.S.S.S Gordon Gray
- U.S.S.S Nathan Twining

Earth's eight vessels.



THE THIRD WORLD WAR CAUSED A RIFT WITHIN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT PRECEDED THE E.D.F KNOWN AS "MAJESTIC" TO FORM, AND THAT RIFT QUICKLY LEAD TO ARMED CONFLICT.

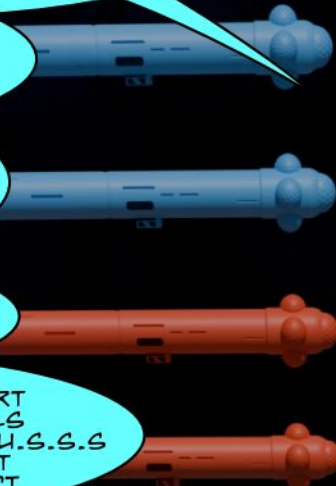
IN THE FIGHTING, HALF OF THE HILLENKOETTER-CLASS VESSELS WERE DESTROYED IN THEIR HANGAR.

THE E.D.F. FORMED AFTER THAT FIRE FIGHT, SOME SAY DURING IT. DURING THE CHAOS, THEY MANAGED TO CAPTURE AND ESCAPE WITH TWO OF THE VESSELS.

THESE SHIPS WERE THE U.S.S.S CURTIS LEMAY, OUR FLAGSHIP, AND THE U.S.S.S JAMES FORRESTAL.

THE OTHER GROUP, MAJESTIC, OR "M12" FOR SHORT MANAGED TO RETAIN THE VESSELS U.S.S.S HOYT VANDENBERG, AND U.S.S.S GORDON GRAY WHICH WERE NOT DESTROYED IN THE CONFLICT.

THEY ARE, BY ALL ACCOUNTS ALIGNED WITH THE WATCHERS AND ARE, AS OF RIGHT NOW ONE OF OUR MAIN ADVERSARIES.



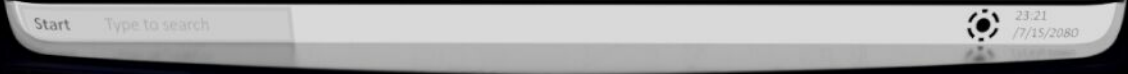
U.S.S.S Curtis Lemay

U.S.S.S James Forrestal



U.S.S.S Hoyt Vandenberg

U.S.S.S Gordon Gray



NOW, THIS NEXT PART MAY DISAPPOINT YOU, IF YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW.

THESE VESSELS ARE NOT ARMED. THERE IS NO PHOTON TORPEDO OR RAIL GUNS.

NOT EVEN SO MUCH AS A SLINGSHOT WITH A ROCK. THIS IS DUE TO THE TREATY. WHICH, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALL PARTIES HAVE ADHERED TO THUS FAR.. MOSTLY.

NOW, THIS ONLY APPLIES TO CRAFT USING WHAT THEY DEEM AS "THEIR TECHNOLOGY". WE CAN HAVE AS MANY ARMED ROCKETSHIPS AS WE WANT. THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.

SO THAT MAKES OUR JOB BOTH SAFER IN SOME RESPECTS, BUT ALSO A LOT MORE FRUSTRATING...

AND THAT CONCLUDES MY OVERALL SUMMERY.

FROM HERE, WE WILL GO INTO PAINSTAKING DETAIL INTO EVERY ASPECT OF WHAT WE'VE JUST DISCUSSED.



NOW, TO REALLY GET THE FULL PICTURE. WE NEED TO START DURING THE EPOCH KNOWN AS THE PLIOCENE.

BUT FIRST, LETS QUICKLY COVER THE DIFFERENT EPOCHS AND HOW AND WHY THESE GEOLOGICAL AGES ARE DETERMINED.

OHH, GOD! NO!

THIS GUY OOZES "AUTISM"..
HOLY SHIT.
THAT WAS ENOUGH..



..WONDER IF THIS THING CAN GET NORMAL INTERNET..



DOC! CALM DOWN, WHAT IS IT?

COLONEL! MY GOD! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS! IT'S INCREDIBLE!



THAT NEW MARINE... A.J... I THINK? THE ROBOT ONE! HE STOPPED BY MY LAB TODAY, HE WAS DELIBERATELY MISINFORMED ABOUT ME HANDING OUT COPIES OF THE TRAINING VIDEO.. DOESN'T MATTER!

THE ARTIFACT! THE ALIEN MIND-WEAPON!

HE TURNED IT ON! HE WASN'T EVEN TRYING!

HE TOOK OVER THE ENTIRE SHIP FOR A SECOND!

HE DID WHAT!? IS THAT WHY THE LIGHTS ALL WENT OUT!?

THAT DOESN'T MATTER! I DON'T THINK HE MEANT TO, IT WAS MORE OF A SIDE EFFECT!

ERIC! THIS GOES WAY BEYOND THAT



DALE... HOW MUCH COFFEE DID YOU DRINK TODAY?

I DON'T KNOW! A LOT! I HAVEN'T SLEPT SINCE YESTERDAY! I HAD TO STAY AWAKE! HAD TO KEEP WORKING!

I'M REVOKING YOUR WAIVER TO HAVE THAT COFFEE MACHINE IN THE LAB...



THEN I'LL RESIGN! BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER! LOOK!

WHEN HE DID IT, EVERY SCANNER IN MY LAB WAS ON! I WAS RUNNING TESTS! THESE RESULTS ARE ASTONISHING!



ALRIGHT. SLOW DOWN.. TAKE A DEEP BREATH.. WHAT'D YOU FIND?

THE DEVICE IS INCREDIBLE! IT BOTH EMITS AND FOCUSES HIGH AMPLITUDE C-FIELD EMISSIONS!

IT SEEMS TO USE SOME SORT OF RESONANCE WITHIN EXTREMELY SMALL MICRO-STRUCTURES "ETCHED" INTO THE CRYSTAL AND THE HANDLE! IT'S ALL ONE UNIT!

AND I GOT A FULL 30 SECONDS OF EXTREMELY HIGH-RES DATA WHILE IT RAN! I'M NOT EVEN FIVE PERCENT THROUGH THE FIRST BATCH!



DID YOU FIND A DEFENSE!?

A DEFENSE? BETTER! I ACTUALLY THINK I FIGURED OUT HOW IT WORKS!

SEE, OUR BRAINS ARE ALL UNIQUE, BUT JUST LIKE WE HAVE GENETIC PHENOTYPES, WE ALSO SEEM TO HAVE SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENING IN OUR BRAINS.

I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS YET, BUT MY EARLY DATA SUGGEST THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF THESE "BRAIN PHENOTYPES"

THESE DEVICES WORK OFF THAT PREMISE!

SEE, IN ORDER TO CONTROL PEOPLE, THE DEVICE WORKS LIKE A WIRELESS HUB... THINK, THE BLUE TOOTH IN YOUR CAR.

THEY WORK BY LOOKING WITHIN A SET RANGE OF FREQUENCIES AND AMPLITUDES. ANYTHING OUTSIDE THAT, THEY DON'T CONNECT TO.

IT'D NEVER WORK IF IT HAD TO KNOW EACH, INDIVIDUAL DEVICES UNIQUE FREQUENCY AND PURPOSE!

YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION. DOC.

```
<ul><a
<sys><b
<exit>= 0xFF & (val_>>0x00)
<sys><#rgb ['Y']= 0xFF & (to_aktivirovat Central zone ) >>0x10
<Gravity> $Hex2rgb = 0xFF #there is a probability of collision>> 0x001

01452.1112 0000x1
45151.124 0000x1
77241551.0 0000x3

<ul><a
<sys><b
<exit>= 0xFF & (val_>>0x00)
<sys><#rgb ['Y']= 0xFF &
<Gravity> $Hex2rgb =

.1112 0000x1
.124 0000x1
551.0 0000x3
```

I THINK IT WORKS LIKE THAT!

IT USES THESE "BRAIN-PHENOTYPES.." WHICH I'LL NEED TO THINK OF A NEW NAME FOR AS BASIC FORMATS FOR EACH HUMAN MIND, THEN LETS THE OTHERS USE THEIR MINDS TO SORT OF "FILL IN THE GAPS"

IT'S A DIGITAL TRANSCIVER OF SORTS! THAT'S REALLY ALL!

UH-HUH..

THERE'S MORE!

WHAT'S THIS?

I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO EVEN SAY! BUT HERE, LOOK!





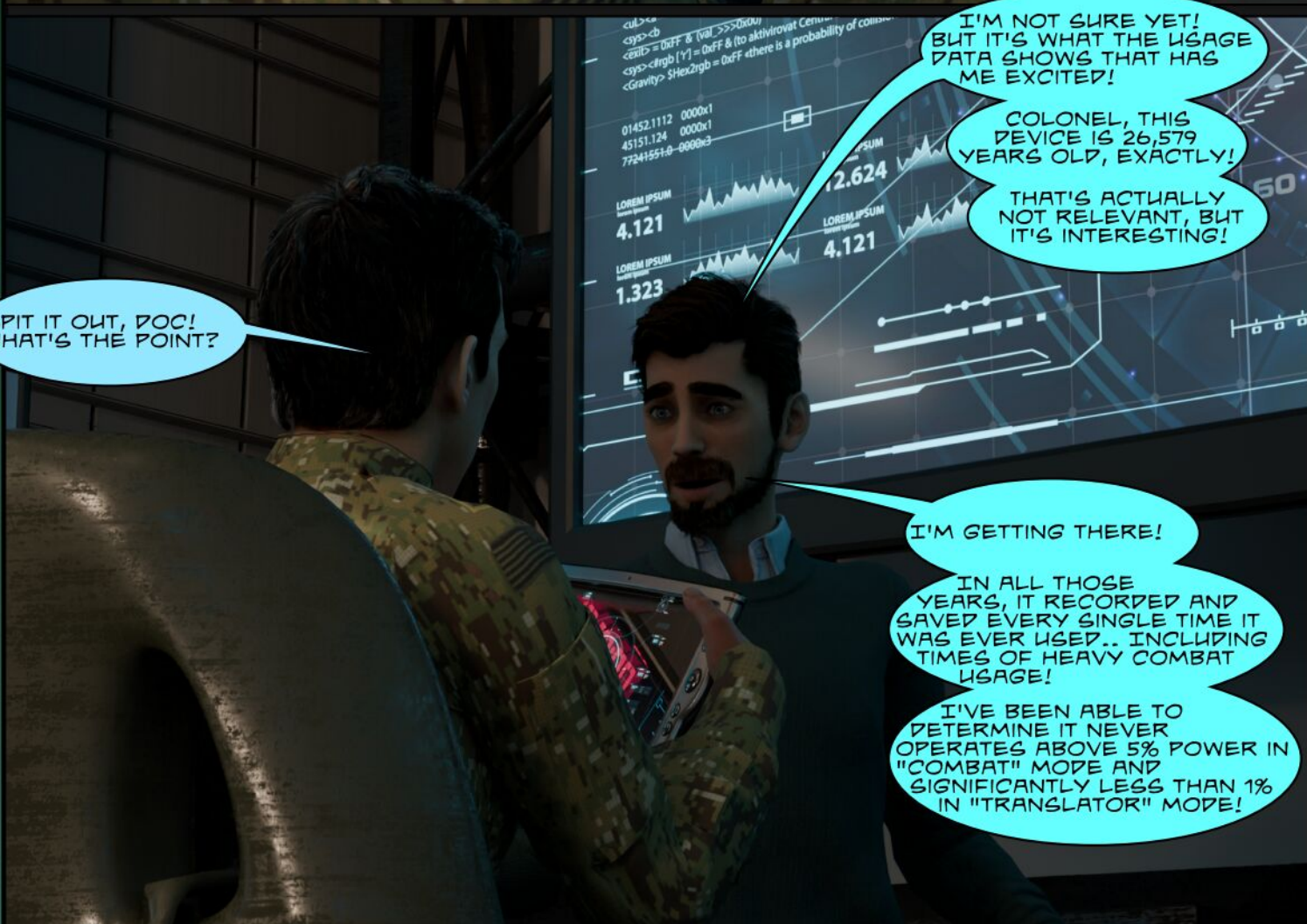
AHH... YES, OF COURSE... WHAT AM I LOOKING AT HERE?

THIS IS THE USER-INTERFACE FOR THE ARTIFACT!

I KNEW IT HAD TO HAVE ONE, AND I WAS ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO ACCESS IT AFTER A.J. OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS TURNED IT ON!

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT MOST OF IT MEANS YET, BUT I DO KNOW IT HAS EXTREMELY DETAILED USAGE DATA LOGS!

IMPRESSIVE.. CAN IT BE USED AGAINST THEM?



SPIT IT OUT, DOC! WHAT'S THE POINT?

I'M NOT SURE YET! BUT IT'S WHAT THE USAGE DATA SHOWS THAT HAS ME EXCITED!


COLONEL, THIS DEVICE IS 26,579 YEARS OLD, EXACTLY!

THAT'S ACTUALLY NOT RELEVANT, BUT IT'S INTERESTING!

I'M GETTING THERE!

IN ALL THOSE YEARS, IT RECORDED AND SAVED EVERY SINGLE TIME IT WAS EVER USED.. INCLUDING TIMES OF HEAVY COMBAT USAGE!

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE IT NEVER OPERATES ABOVE 5% POWER IN "COMBAT" MODE AND SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN 1% IN "TRANSLATOR" MODE!



WELL... I HAVE NO IDEA...

BUT HERE'S THE THING. I READ SOME OF ALEX KINCAID'S NOTES. C.J.. NOT "A.J." IS, MORE OR LESS A HUMAN MIND NEAR-PERFECTLY REPLICATED.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHICH I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT. THEN THERE'S SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT HIM.

WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

NOT SURE. WHAT'S WEIRD IS, THE DEVICE SEEMS TO HAVE SPIT OUT SOME SORT OF ERROR WHEN HE USED IT.



WELL YEAH, IT'S NOT MADE FOR ROBOTS.

I THOUGHT THAT AT FIRST TOO! BUT THE ERROR SEEMED TO SUGGEST SOME PART OF IT NOT RECOGNIZING THE "BRAIN TYPE". NOT THE "BEING-TYPE"

WHICH IT SUCCESSFULLY IDENTIFIED HIM AS "MECHA" AND ALL OF US AS "HUMAN" SO I ASSUME.. ACTUALLY I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.

THAT'S WHY IT WONT WORK WITH US. WE'RE LOCKED OUT.. LITERALLY AS "LESSER BEINGS". BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE WASN'T.

LET'S NOT LET HIM KNOW THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, HE SEEMS FULL OF HIMSELF ENOUGH AS IT IS..

HEY, WHAT'D IT CALL THEM?

HA! UNDERSTOOD!

IT JUST SAID "US" OR "OURS"

SAMSUNG

BUT IT GETS BETTER!

THE LEVEL OF CONTROL HE SHOWED, OVER US, OVER THE SHIP..

HE TOLD ME HE COULD FEEL THE HULL OF THE SHIP!

I DIDN'T THINK IT WORKED LIKE THAT WITH INANIMATE OBJECTS?

IT DOESN'T!

OR AT LEAST WE THOUGHT IT DIDN'T! WE HAVN'T SEEN IT OPERATING AT THIS POWER LEVEL BEFORE..

LOOK.. WE'VE BOTH HAD OUR MINDS CAPTURED BY THOSE THINGS.. YOU KNOW HOW, YOU AT LEAST FEEL LIKE IF YOU WERE A LITTLE STRONGER, YOU COULD RESIST?

MORE OR LESS..

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, DOC?





C.J. DID THE SAME THING TO ME.. HE WAS IN MY MIND.


LIKE WITH THE WHOLE TAKING OVER THE SHIP THING.. I DON'T THINK HE WAS EVEN TRYING.

THAT'S WHAT'S SO SCARY... IT ACTUALLY SEEMED TO SHAKE HIM UP TOO.

BUT WITH HIM, THERE WAS NO RESISTING..

HE JUST, MOVED AS HE PLEASED. IT WAS LIKE ANOTHER LEVEL OF POWER AND CONTROL. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

BUT IT WASN'T BAD.. IT WAS SCARY, BUT IN RETROSPECT. I FELT NO MALICE FROM HIM AT ALL.



THAT'S ACTUALLY CONCERNING.. BUT, CAN HE DO IT AGAIN? USE THEIR WEAPON AGAINST THEM?

POSSIBLY, THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S THE RIGHT MOVE OR NOT. I HAVE TO LEARN A LOT MORE ABOUT THIS THING FIRST.

ALSO I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF WE COULD KEEP HIM HERE FOR THE TIME BEING. I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT'LL BE A PROBLEM?

I CAN KEEP HIM HERE IF YOU CAN FIND ANOTHER MARSOC SNIPER WHO FITS ALL THE CRITERIA AND IS HALF AS QUALIFIED AS HE IS TO TAKE HIS PLACE..

MARSOC SNIPER...? WAIT.. HE'S NOT PART OF THE MARINES TECH TEAM UNDER WINTERS!?

NO, YOU ABSOLUTE TOOL!

BOY, YOU REALLY ARE JUST SOCIALLY RETARDED, AREN'T YOU?

DOC, HE REPLACED RANDY.. THE GUY WHO DIED RETRIEVING THAT ARTIFACT FOR YOU?

DID YOU SERIOUSLY NOT KNOW THAT?

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS! YOU SPOKE AT THE SERVICE FOR GOD'S SAKE!

WOW.. DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY DOC, I HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU, YOU ARE BRILLIANT IN YOUR OWN WAY, AND I CONSIDER YOU A FRIEND.. BUT HOW HAS NO ONE ON BOARD EVER PUNCHED YOU IN THE FACE?

NO.. I MEAN, YES. I GUESS I DID KNOW THAT, BUT I.. I WASN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION. BUT IT MAKES SENSE NOW..

HE JUST SEEMED TOO SMART AND NICE TO BE A DOOR-KICKER, I THOUGHT HE WAS I.T. SUPPORT.. I DON'T KNOW...



THAT'S HILARIOUS, ERIC. YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY..

I WASN'T JOKING...

LOOK, THESE DEVICES MUST GET OVER-THE-AIR UPDATES IN SOME WAY. SEND IT A BAD UPDATE, WE COULD TURN ALL THESE THINGS OFF, EVERYWHERE!

IT COULD BE AS SIMPLE AS DELETING THE BRAIN-TYPES ON THE MAINFRAME! THE DEVICES WOULD BE WORTHLESS!

WELL.. FOR A FEW WHILE ANYWAY. UNTIL WE CAN FIND A WAY TO PREVENT.. YOU KNOW.

INCREDIBLE WORK, DOCTOR. GET TO WORK ON THAT UPDATE!

WELL, HERE'S THE CATCH. THAT UPDATE WOULD NEED TO BE SENT FROM THE MAINFRAME. WHICH WE'D HAVE TO FIND FIRST, FIGURE OUT HOW TO INTERFACE WITH, IT'S CERTAINLY OUT NEAR DECENT..

WELL, THEN THAT'S NOT OF MUCH HELP.

RIGHT NOW? NO. BUT AS YOU SUGGESTED. WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE A JAMMER.

POSSIBLY USING THE ARTIFACT.

IF I CAN ISOLATE THE BRAIN-TYPES OF OUR MARINES. MAYBE THEY COULD SOMEHOW SNEAK A NUKE OR SIX IN!

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT! NOW DOC, GO GET SOME REST..



**CREW RESTRAINED..
CONTROL ESTABLISHED..
THEY BELONG TO US!**



OPEN THE DOOR...
LET US IN...



A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue and black digital camouflage uniform with "U.S. AIR FORCE" visible on the chest, is shown from the chest up. He has a serious, slightly distressed expression. The background is a dark, industrial interior with metallic structures and some blurred lights.

OPEN THE DOOR.. LET THEM IN..

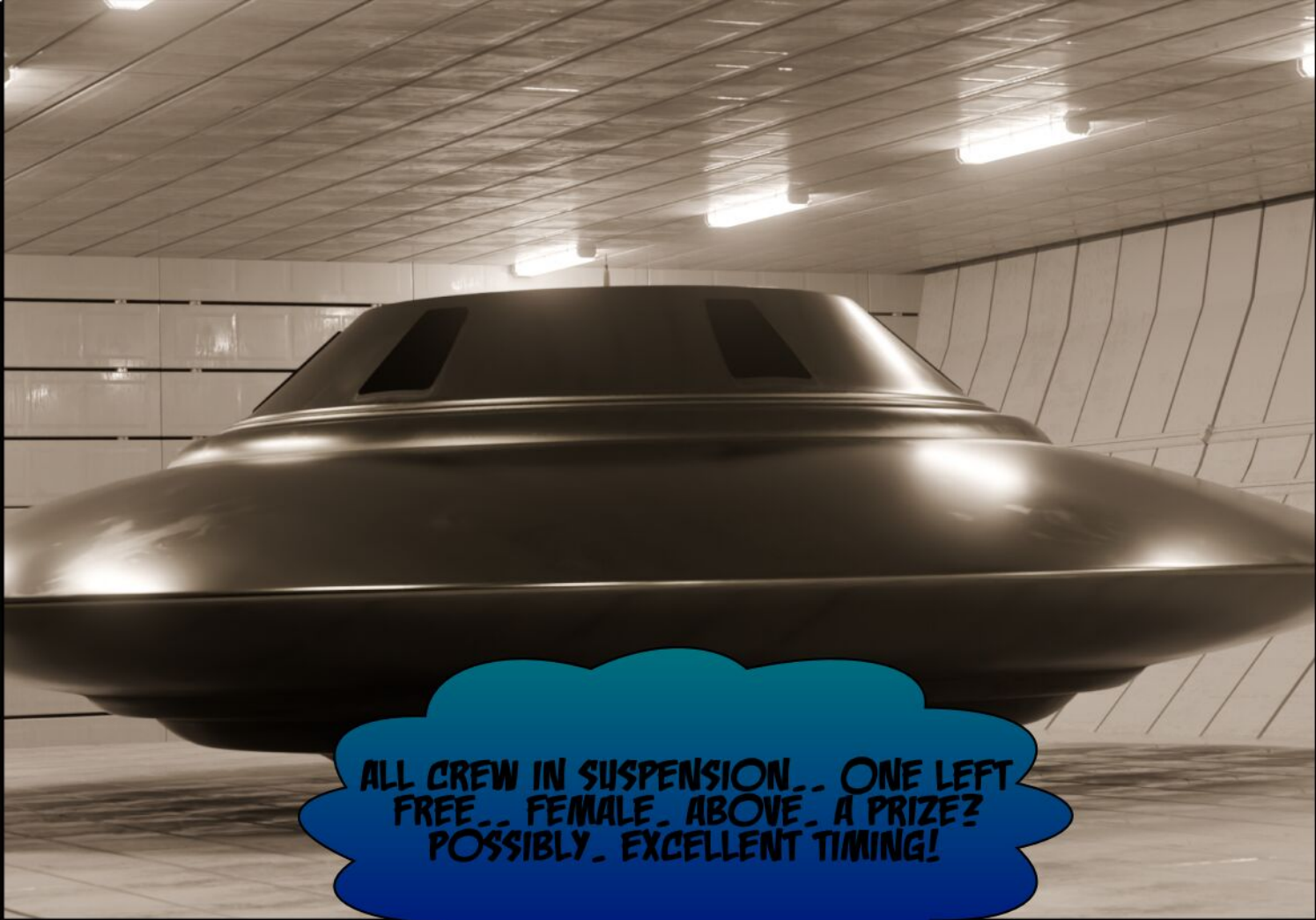
UNABLE TO RESIST THE INFLUENCE OF THE ALIENS, THE COLONEL ORDERED THE DOORS OPEN TO A CREW WHO WAS ALSO FULLY UNDER THE SAME ALIEN INFLUENCE.





THE HANGAR DOOR OF THE CURTIS LEMAY GROUND OPEN, AND AS IT DID THE ALIEN SHIP QUICKLY MADE IT'S WAY IN.





ALL CREW IN SUSPENSION. - ONE LEFT
FREE. - FEMALE. ABOVE. A PRIZE?
POSSIBLY. EXCELLENT TIMING!



THE MIND OF THE PROTECTOR ELIDES US... AS IS EXPECTED... THE FEMALE MAY KNOW MORE... PERHAPS.



MOVE TO CENTRAL HUB... YES, MOVEING... INTERRUPT CONNECTIONS AND INTERNAL ILLUMINATION? YES.





OHH, WHAT THE HELL.
CONNECTION JUST
DROPPED AGAIN! THAT'S
THE THIRD TIME TODAY!

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS WENT OUT AND
THE HUB FELL TOTALLY SILENT, AS EVEN
THE AIR-CIRCULATION SYSTEM SHUT
DOWN.



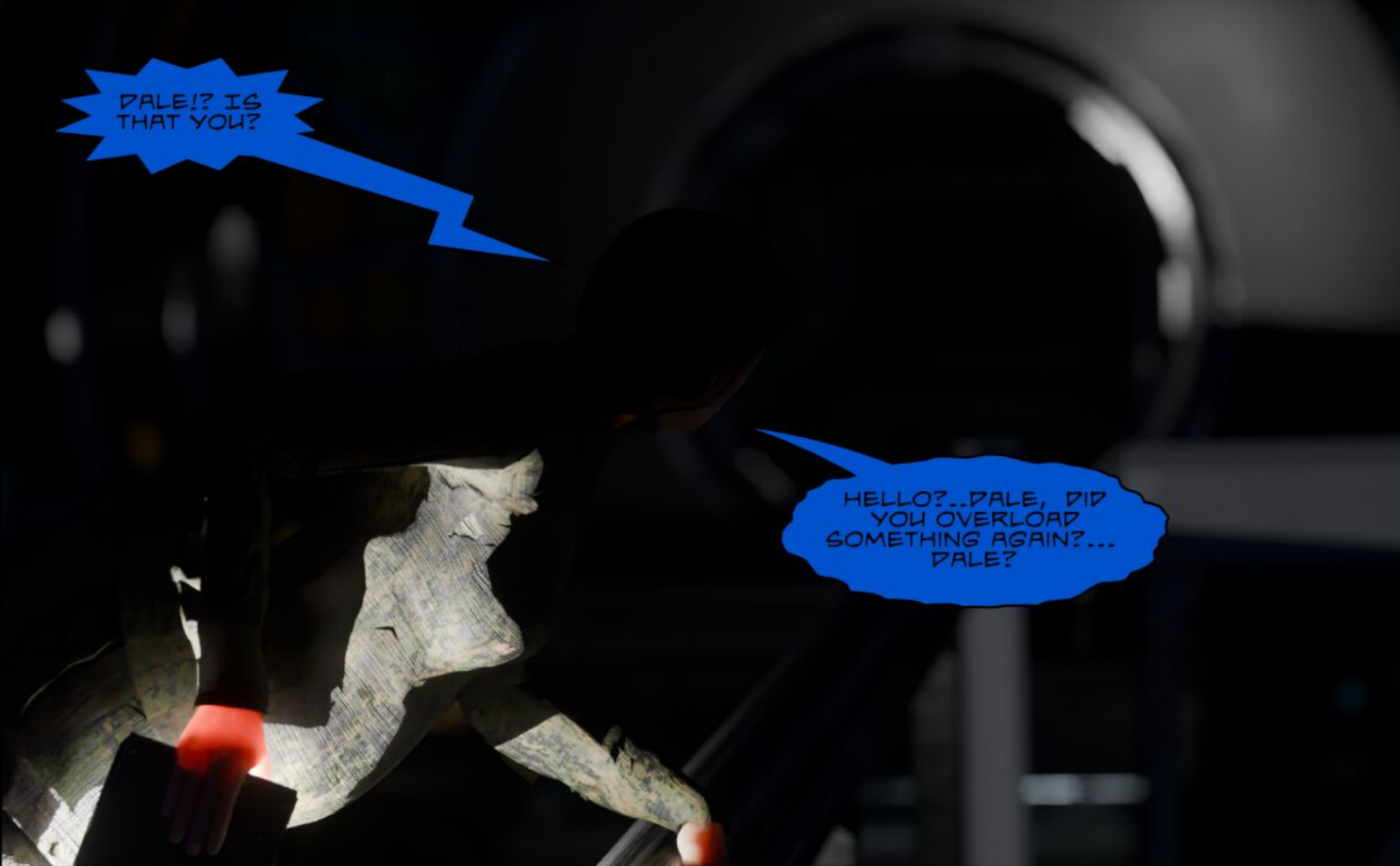
UGHH! NOT
AGAIN!

HELLO!?
GUYS!? THE
LIGHTS ARE
OUT.. AGAIN..
WHAT IS
WRONG WITH
THIS PIECE OF
CRAP SHIP!?

OK.. THIS IS
REALLY
SPOOKY..



CLANG!



DALE!? IS THAT YOU?

HELLO?..DALE, DID YOU OVERLOAD SOMETHING AGAIN?... DALE?



FRANK? ANYONE...?

IN THE DEAD SILENCE, AND DARKNESS. A SLIGHT PINK GLOW ILLUMINATED THE HANDRAILS, THE SOUNDS OF BREATHING, AND A STRANGE, FOREIGN SMELL AMMONIA OVERWHELMED WINTERS SENSES.



SHE COULD HEAR, SMELL, AND FEEL THAT SOMETHING WAS APPROACHING FROM BEHIND HER..

HMMM...

SLOWLY, SHE TURNED...



GREETINGS, LOVELY!

АААААА!



HELP!!!





zzzzz...



HMMM?

WHAT THE...?

WINTERS FOUND HERSELF COMPLETELY UNABLE TO MOVE, BUT FULLY AWARE AS HER ENTIRE BODY AND MIND FELL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE ALIENS. YET EVEN IN THE MICRO-GRAVITY ENVIRONMENT OF THE SHIP'S CENTRAL HUB, SHE WASN'T CARRIED AWAY BY THE MOMENTUM OF HER MOVEMENTS PRIOR, NOR HER FRANTIC BREATHING AS SOME UNKNOWN FORCE HELD HER IN PLACE.

NO ONE IS COMING,
DEAR.. MY NAME IS
GAPREEL. I SEEK THE
PROTECTOR.

HIS MIND ELUPES
HS..

P-P-PROTECTOR?..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THAT IS! PLEASE DON'T
HURT ME!

I SEE YOUR THOUGHTS..
YOU TELL THE TRUTH.. AS
YOU KNOW IT..

NO MATTER... YOU CAN
STILL SERVE YOUR GODS!

YOU WILL MAKE A
WONDERFUL GIFT FOR OUR
GREAT SEER.. HE HAS ALWAYS
FOUND HUMAN FEMALES TO
BE..

..EXCEPTIONAL..

AS DO I.

IN ALL OUR
TRAVELS, I CANNOT
RECALL ANOTHER MORE..
ENTICING..

FUCK YOU!

YES, MY DEAR. YOU WILL. MANY TIMES.

PLACE THE WHORE ON THE SHIP.
REMOVE THIS BLASPHEMOUS "UNIFORM" FIRST?
INDEED!

WHERE IS THE SAPIENT MECHA?

THE WHAT!?

PLEASE! NO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!

NO!! STOP!!

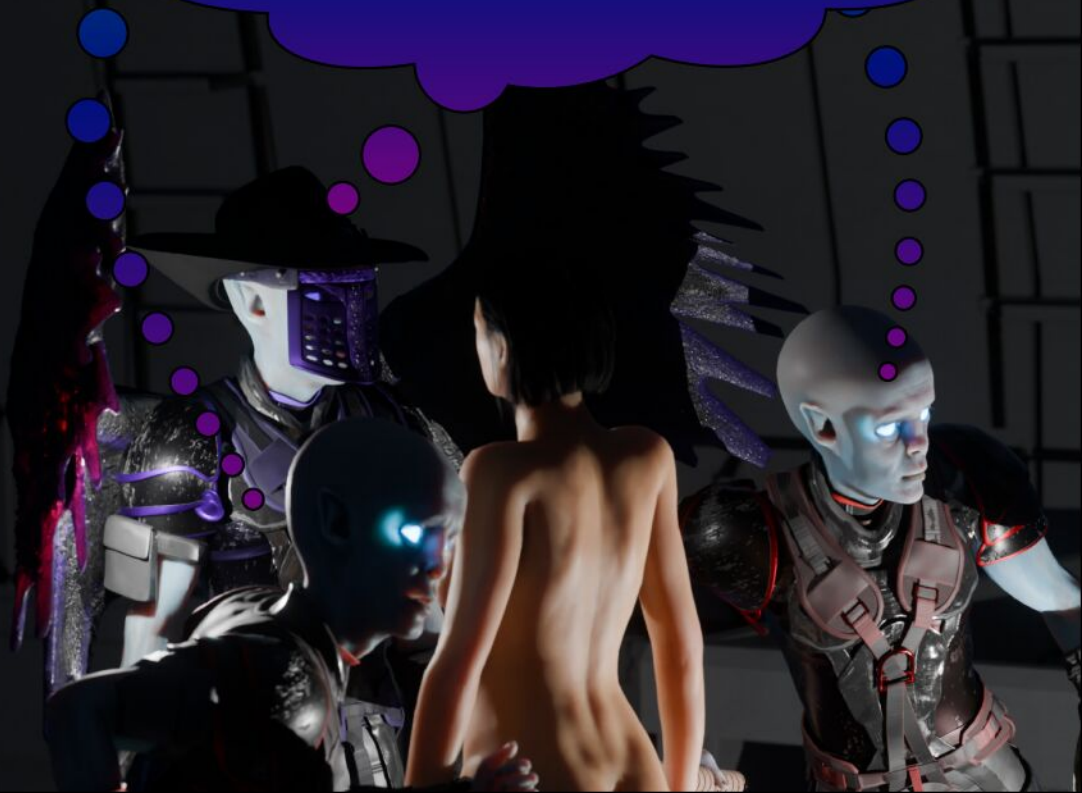
THE MECHA YOU
CALL "C.J."! WHERE
IS IT!?

I DON'T
KNOW A "C.J."!
FUCK YOU!

LIAR!

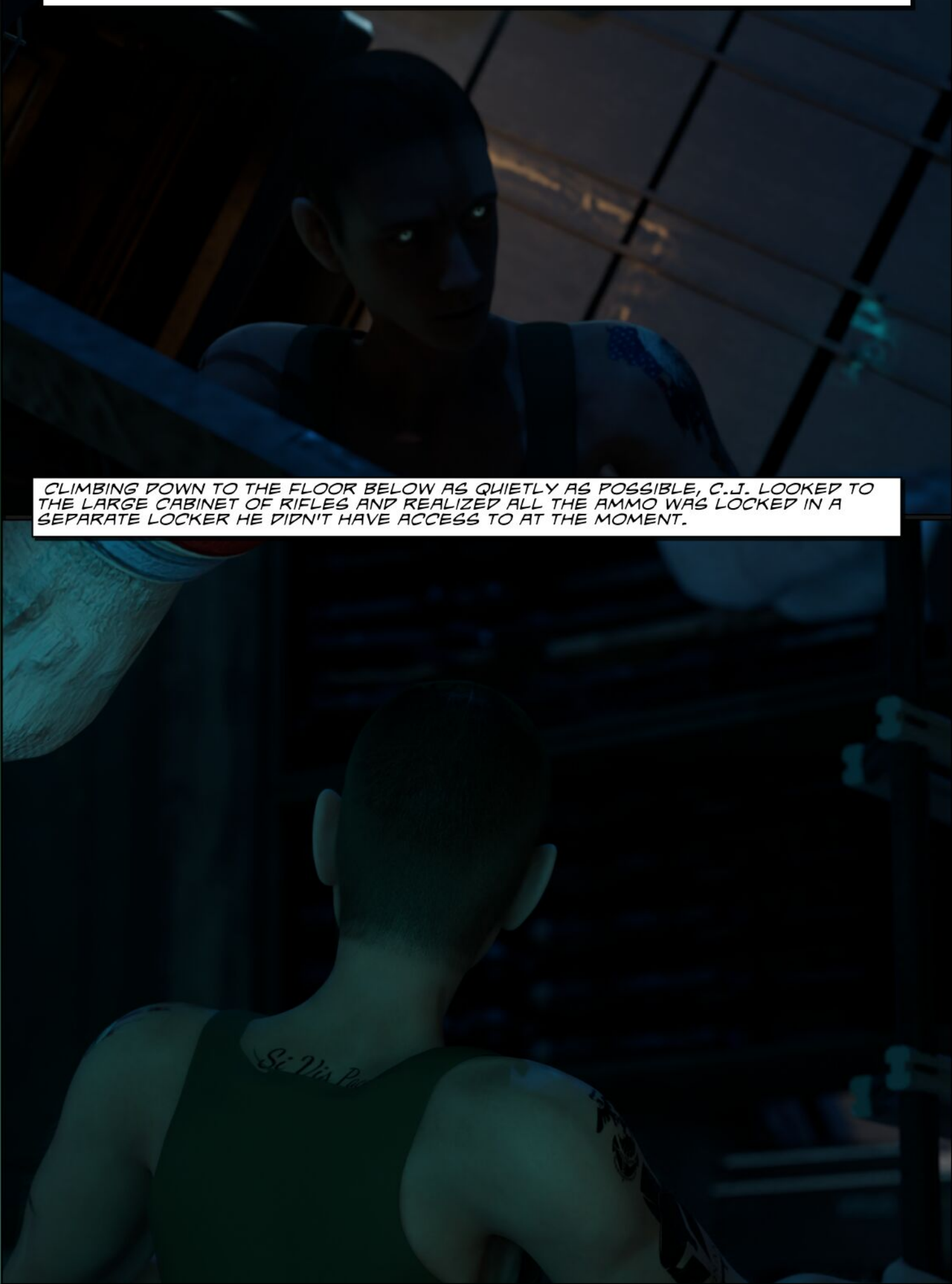


MOVEMENT. OUR PREY? YES.
GOOD. ENGAGE.



AS THE ALIENS LOOKED IN HIS DIRECTION, C.J. QUICKLY THREW HIMSELF OUT OF THE CENTRAL AXIS AND HUNG FROM THE LADDER LEADING TO THE ARMORY AND LAB FOR A MOMENT.

CLIMBING DOWN TO THE FLOOR BELOW AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE, C.J. LOOKED TO THE LARGE CABINET OF RIFLES AND REALIZED ALL THE AMMO WAS LOCKED IN A SEPARATE LOCKER HE DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO AT THE MOMENT.



HOWEVER, THE PREVIOUS DAY WHEN HE WAS WAITING TO FILL OUT THE PAPERWORK FOR HIS RIFLE, HE HAD LOOKED IN ONE OF THE DRAWERS AND NOTICED A HANDFUL OF LOOSE SHOTGUN SHELLS THAT WEREN'T SUPPOSE TO BE THERE.

HE SAID NOTHING AT THE TIME, BELIEVING THERE MIGHT BE A FUTURE NEED FOR THEM "BEING THERE"

C.J. GRABBED A .12 GAUGE SHOTGUN FROM THE RACK AND FLUNG THE DRAWER OPEN.

OH, PLEASE
STILL BE
HERE..

TO HIS RELIEF, INSIDE THE DRAWER THERE WAS A WOODEN BOX, AND WITHIN THAT WERE SEVEN LOOSE SHOTGUN SHELLS AMONG A FEW RANDOM GUN PARTS..

A woman is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, form-fitting mecha suit with prominent purple and red spiky protrusions along the shoulders and back. She is looking towards the right. The background is a dark, industrial environment with blue lighting and circular patterns.

MECHA! YOUR SOUL WAS MEANT FOR US! AND WITH US IT WILL RETURN!

Two mecha suits are shown from the waist up, facing each other. They have glowing blue visors and are holding a long, dark cylindrical object. In the background, a woman in a dark, spiky mecha suit is standing on a platform. The setting is a dark, industrial environment with blue lighting and circular patterns.

YOU WISH TO SLITHER AROUND AND HIDE IN THE DARK, MECHA!?



**YOU
MOVE QUICKLY!
LIKE A GHOST! LIKE
ONE OF US! WE'RE NOT
UNIMPRESSED!**

**WHAT YOU'RE
DON'T REALIZE,
WHAT YOU DO NOT
KNOW..**

**DEMONS DO NOT
FEAR GHOSTS!**



BOO..

A character with short dark hair and a black t-shirt is shown from the chest up, holding a large, futuristic black rifle. The character is looking through the sights of the rifle. The background is dark and industrial, with some blue light reflecting off surfaces. A bright orange and yellow explosion is visible to the right of the character.

BOOM!

CLACK-CLACK!

A character is shown falling through a complex, dark metal structure. The character is in a crouched position, and their body is partially obscured by the beams of the structure. The lighting is dim, with some blue and white highlights from the environment.

THWACK!

A red starburst shape containing the text "YATZAKEL! NO!!". The starburst is jagged and has a white outline. The background is dark and industrial, with some blue light reflecting off surfaces.

**YATZAKEL!
NO!!**

AS SOON AS HE FIRED, C.J. MOVED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SECTION AS QUIETLY AS HE COULD.

HOLY SHIT! I FUCKING GOT HIM!
HIS FUCKING BRAIN CAME OUT! FUCK!
THEY'RE NOT INVINCIBLE. GOOD TO KNOW!

WHAT DID THEY MEAN WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM!? THESE GUYS ARE STUPID! WHERE IS EVERYONE!?

NO!

OHH MY GOD! I HEARD YOUR THOUGHTS!
YOU UNDERESTIMATED HIM... "GREATLY"...

YOU'RE.. AFRAID!

AHH H! WE WILL KILL YOU ALL FOR





YOU TOOK MY CLOTHES, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FEELS NAKED!

C.J.! THEY'RE SCARED OF YOU! DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING THEY SAY!!



SILENCE, WHORE!

IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD BE AFRAID!

I AM AFRAID! BUT YOU'RE **TERRIFIED** RIGHT NOW! YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN!

YOU'RE **PATHETIC!** YOU SMELL TOO!



AZAMITEL, CEASE, WE MUST
RETREAT!

NO! IF ONE OF US FALLS, WE ALL
FALL!

YOU
MURDERED MY
BROTHER!

IF YOU COME
OUT NOW, I WILL
GRANT YOU A QUICK
DEATH!

IF YOU DO
NOT, EVERYONE
ON THIS SHIP WILL
BURN!



COUNTER-OFFER. GO FUCK
YOURSELF.. AND FUCK YOUR
BROTHER TOO!

ALSO, TELL YOUR MOTHER
I'M NOT PAYING FOR OUR
LAST SESSION!

GAHH!

DIE!!!!

BWAADDDDD!!!!

HOLY
FUCK!

HMMFFF

BOOM!

THWACK!

CLACK-CLACK!



HUH...?
WHA?

AHHHHH!



FOOL!

GADREEL BROUGHT BOTH DEVICES HE HELD TO BARE, AND USING THE SAME FORCE HE USED TO KEEP STAFF SARGENT WINTERS IN PLACE QUICKLY DRAGGED THE SEVERELY WOUNDED AZAMITEL BACK AWAY FROM THE KILL-ZONE.

USING THIS ABILITY, HE PUSHED HIS WOUNDED AND NOW UNCONSCIOUS COMPATRIOT DOWN INTO THE HANGAR BELOW AS BLOOD POURED FROM HIS SEVERED ARM.

AS THE WOUNDED ALIEN VANISHED FROM SIGHT, GADREEL TOOK WINTERS HOSTAGE AND USED HER AS A HUMAN SHIELD AS HE SLOWLY BACKED AWAY TOWARDS THE HANGAR OPENING.



COME HERE,
WHORE!

NO MATTER
WHAT, YOU STILL
BELONG TO US!

C.J! DON'T
LET HIM TAKE
ME!

FOWL,
MECHANIZED
WASTE!

ALL OF HUMANITY WILL
SUFFER FOR THIS
TRANSGRESSION!



LET HER
GO, TAKE YOUR
WOUNDED MAN AND
GET OFF THIS
SHIP!

FINAL OFFER!

THE FEMALE IS
MINE!

SHE IS NOW MY
COMPENSATION FOR
THE TROUBLE!

HE'S
TAKING ME!
HELP!

THAT'S FAR
ENOUGH..

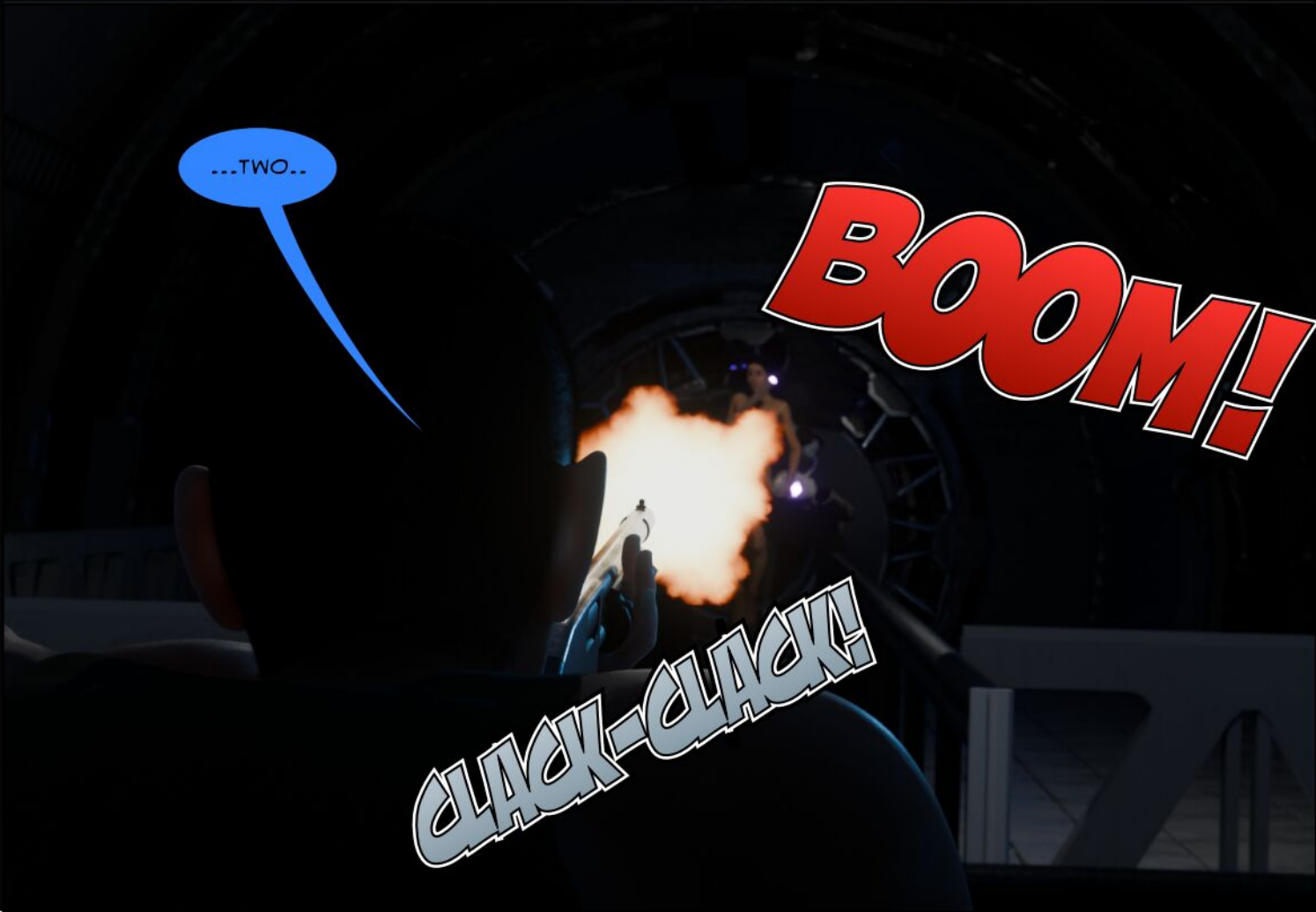
COME NO CLOSER!
I..I WILL STOP HER
HEART!



IT'LL BE THE
LAST THING YOU
EVER DO..

I'M GONNA COUNT TO
THREE..

ONE..



...TWO..

BOOM!!

CLACK-CLACK!

DING!

ACK!

**AHH! OH
GOD!!!**

THE INSTANT THE SLUG HIT, WINTERS
FOUND HERSELF FREE OF GADREELS'
INFLUENCE.

TOTALLY UNCONSCIOUS, GADREEL LET
GO OF HIS DEVICES AND BEGAN TO SPIN
HEAD-OVER-HEAD AS A RESULT OF THE
RIFLED SLUG IMPACT.

CLANG!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE LIGHTS CAME BACK ON WITH A CLANG, AND THE SHIP'S AIR-CIRCULATION SYSTEMS BEGAN TO FUNCTION AGAIN RETURNED THE FAMILIAR, LOW HUM.

OHH..

OHH! HEY!

I GOT HIS WEAPON!



GOOD! YOU OK?



NO, NOT REALLY!
HEY! COULD YOU NOT LOOK?

HA! A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT, AIN'T IT?

STILL...



IN YOUR DREAMS!

IF IT'D MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER, I COULD TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF...

WORTH A SHOT.. GET ON THE COMMS AND GET EVERYONE UP HERE. I'LL RESTRAIN THIS GUY.

I'LL GET ON IT.. RIGHT AFTER I PUT MY PANTS BACK ON...
COULD YOU AT LEAST PRETEND NOT TO STARE!?



UHHHH...



WHAT...? I
CAN'T SEE...

AS HE WOKE UP, GADREEL MADE THE SPLIT-SECOND
DECISION TO MAKE A BREAK FOR THE HANGAR



SHIT!

WHOA!

GET EVERYONE UP HERE! TELL THE COLONEL TO LOCK DOWN THE HANGAR, NOW!

BEFORE C.J. COULD GET HIS WEAPON ON TARGET, GADREEL MADE IT DOWN THROUGH THE HATCH.

OK, LET ME GET MY CLOTHES..

LOCK DOWN THAT HANGAR FIRST! GO!

OK! GO GET HIM!



TABLET... WHERE'D IT GO?
THERE!



STILL WITHIN THE MICRO-GRAVITY ENVIRONMENT OF THE SHIP'S HUB, C.J. FLIPPED DOVE FOR THE HANGAR HATCH AND ENTERED HEAD FIRST, FIRING ANOTHER ROUND FROM THE SHOTGUN, STRIKING **GADREEL** A SECOND TIME IN THE CENTER OF THE BACK AS HE LOADED THE WOUNDED **AZAMITEL** INTO THE SHIP. HOWEVER, LIKE BEFORE A METALLIC SOUND FOLLOWED THE IMPACT.

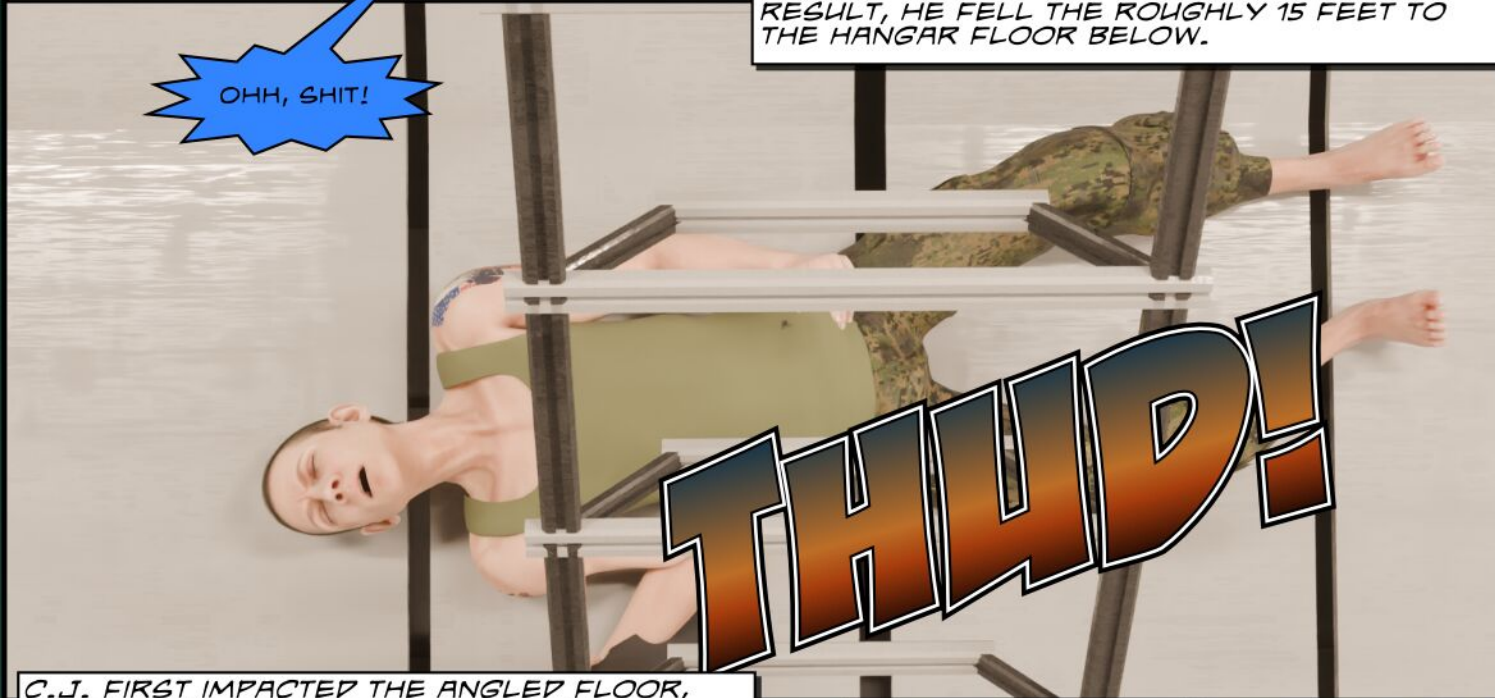


AS HE RACKED THE SHOTGUN, CHAMBERING ANOTHER SHELL TO FIRE AGAIN. C.J. FELT THE SUDDEN ONSET OF THE SHIP'S ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY BEGIN PULLING HIM TOWARDS THE HANGAR FLOOR. IN HIS FERVOR AND DETERMINATION TO WIN, AS WELL AS OTHER "RECENT FACTORS" THAT MAY BE CLOUDING HIS JUDGMENT, C.J. FORGOT PAUL'S INITIAL WARNING REGARDING PEOPLE FALLING OFF THE CENTRAL AXIS..



HE REACHED FOR THE LADDER, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE AND HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY. AS A RESULT, HE FELL THE ROUGHLY 15 FEET TO THE HANGAR FLOOR BELOW.

OHH, SHIT!



THUD!

C.J. FIRST IMPACTED THE ANGLED FLOOR, WHICH HE BOUNCED OFF OF BEFORE SLAMMING INTO THE LADDER.



BANG!

OWWWW...

ALTHOUGH HIS ARMOR HAD STOPPED THE ROUNDS, GADREEL WAS STILL IN GREAT PAIN, AND SERIOUSLY INJURED.

AGHHH!

HE SCREAMED AND WHIMPERED AS HE DRAGGED HIMSELF UP THE SHIPS STAIRS. A SMALL AMOUNT OF BLOOD TRAILING BEHIND HIM.

HMMMMPHHH.....

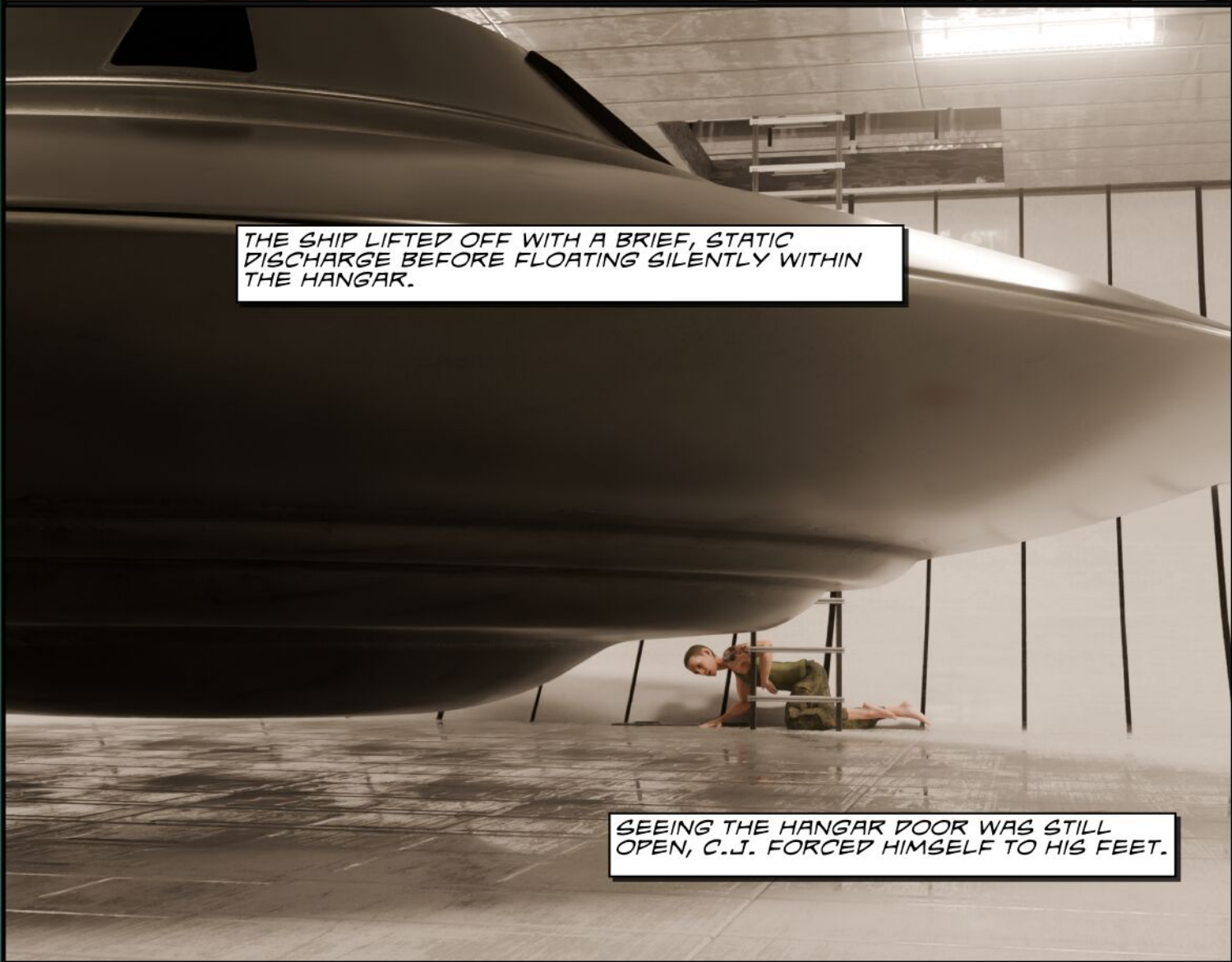
HEY... UGHH!
OWW..

THOUGH C.J. HAD FELT FINE PREVIOUSLY, THE INJURIES HE SUSTAINED ON MARS ONLY HOURS BEFORE HAD BEEN AGITATED BY THE FALL, LEAVING HIM EQUALLY DAZED ON THE FLOOR.





THE SHIP LIFTED OFF WITH A BRIEF, STATIC DISCHARGE BEFORE FLOATING SILENTLY WITHIN THE HANGAR.



SEEING THE HANGAR DOOR WAS STILL OPEN, C.J. FORCED HIMSELF TO HIS FEET.

WHERE YOU GOIN'!? HUH!? WE AIN'T DONE!



BOOM!



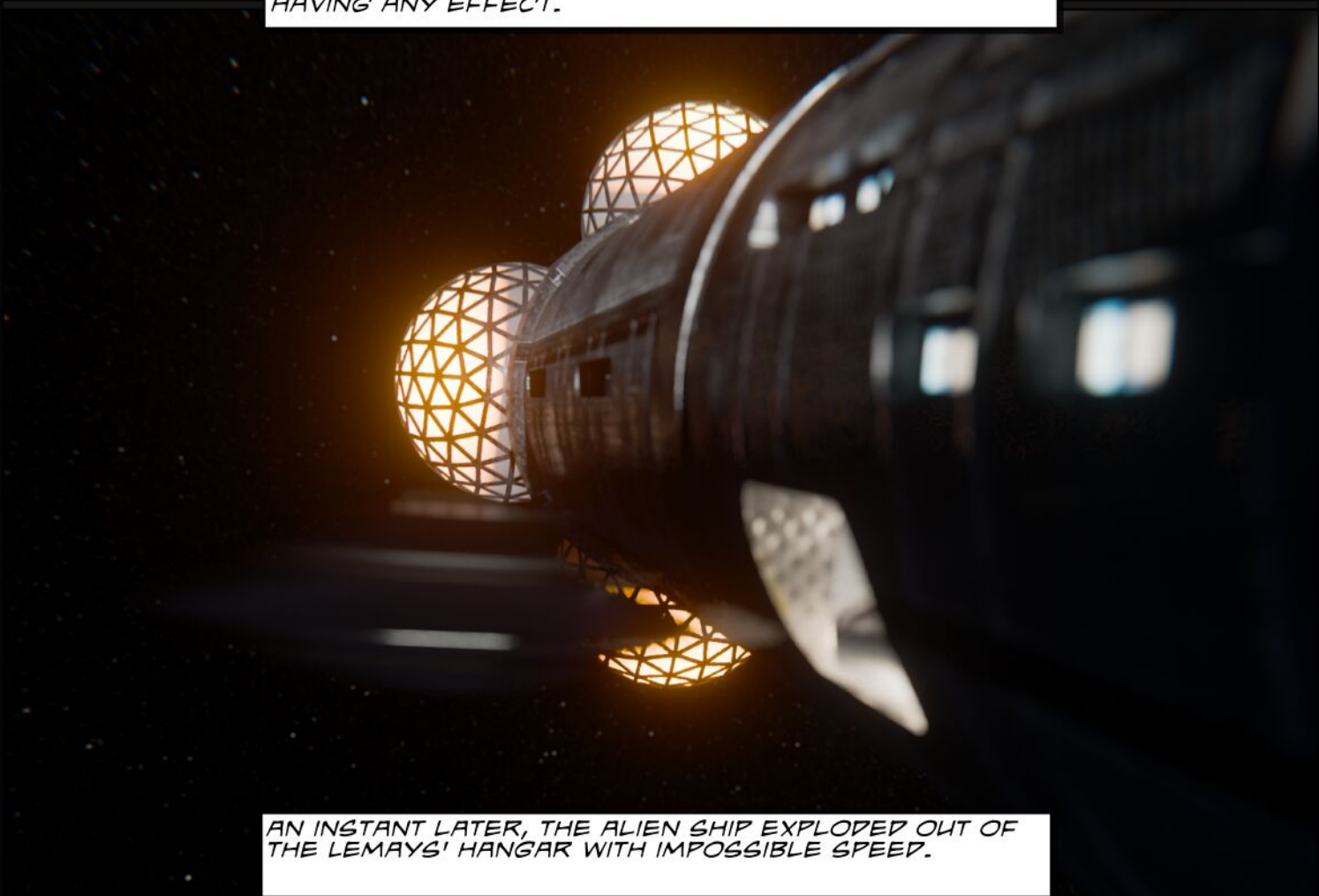




BOOM!

BWANG!

C.J. EMPTIED OFF THE LAST THREE SHOTS HE HAD. EACH SLUG LEFT A LARGE DENT IN THE SIDE OF THE CRAFT, BUT SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF PENETRATING OR HAVING ANY EFFECT.



AN INSTANT LATER, THE ALIEN SHIP EXPLODED OUT OF THE LEMAYS' HANGAR WITH IMPOSSIBLE SPEED.

BEEEEP!

GENERAL QUARTERS!
GENERAL QUARTERS! ALL
HANDS TO BATTLESTATIONS!

BEEEEP!

YEAH! THAT'S
HOW WE DO THINGS
IN TEXAS!




BEEEEP!

INTRUDERS IN
THE HANGAR! WE'VE GOT
SHOTS FIRED ON BOARD!
MEDICAL AND DAMAGE
CONTROL TEAMS ON
STANDBY!

BEEEEP!

THAT'S RIGHT!





BLUE! BLUE!

KEEP RUNNING,
BITCH!

FINALLY!
WHERE THE
FUCK HAVE YOU
GUYS BEEN!?

I WAS IN THE GALLEY
GETTING A DAMN
SANDWICH. I HEARD YOU
START BLASTING!

WHAT!?
DID YOU NOT
HEAR WINTERS
SCREAM? THE LIGHTS
GO OUT!?

NO BUT JUDGING
BY THE ALIEN WITH HALF A
HEAD FLOATING IN THE HUB
NEXT TO A SEPARATE ALIEN ARM..
I HAVE TO IMAGINE BLACKED US
OUT. WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED?

IT
WAS DARK,
BUT I COULD SEE
THREE OF
THEM..

THEY WERE
STRIPPING WINTERS..
THEY HAD HER, FROZEN
SOMEHOW. ONE HAD
WINGS! LIKE BAT
WINGS!

I KNEW
THERE WERE
LOOSE SHELLS IN THE
TOP DRAWER, SO I
GRABBED THEM AND
A SHOTGUN..

I'VE NEVER SHOT
ANYONE BEFORE,
HOLY SHIT!

OK.. HEY, C.J?
CALM DOWN. ARE YOU
HURT AT ALL?

YEAH... UMM. I
MEAN NO. I FEEL OFF
THAT, BUT I'M OK...

FUCKIN
G DEER SLUGS MAN.. HOLY
SHIT.. HIS WHOLE HEAD.. IT
JUST.. STOPPED BEING
THERE!

HIS BRAINS WERE
FLYING AROUND..

YEAH MAN, WAR IS HELL.
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME HANG
ONTO THAT, JUST UNTIL YOU
CALM DOWN A LITTLE..



ALRIGHT! YOU CAN KEEP IT IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.. JUST BREATHE. OK? YOU DID GOOD.

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER, THEN GET CHECKED OUT. A FALL LIKE THAT CAN'T BE HEALTHY, EVEN FOR YOU.

NO!

OK.. YEAH.



DON'T APOLOGIZE. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

HA! YEAH... MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME?

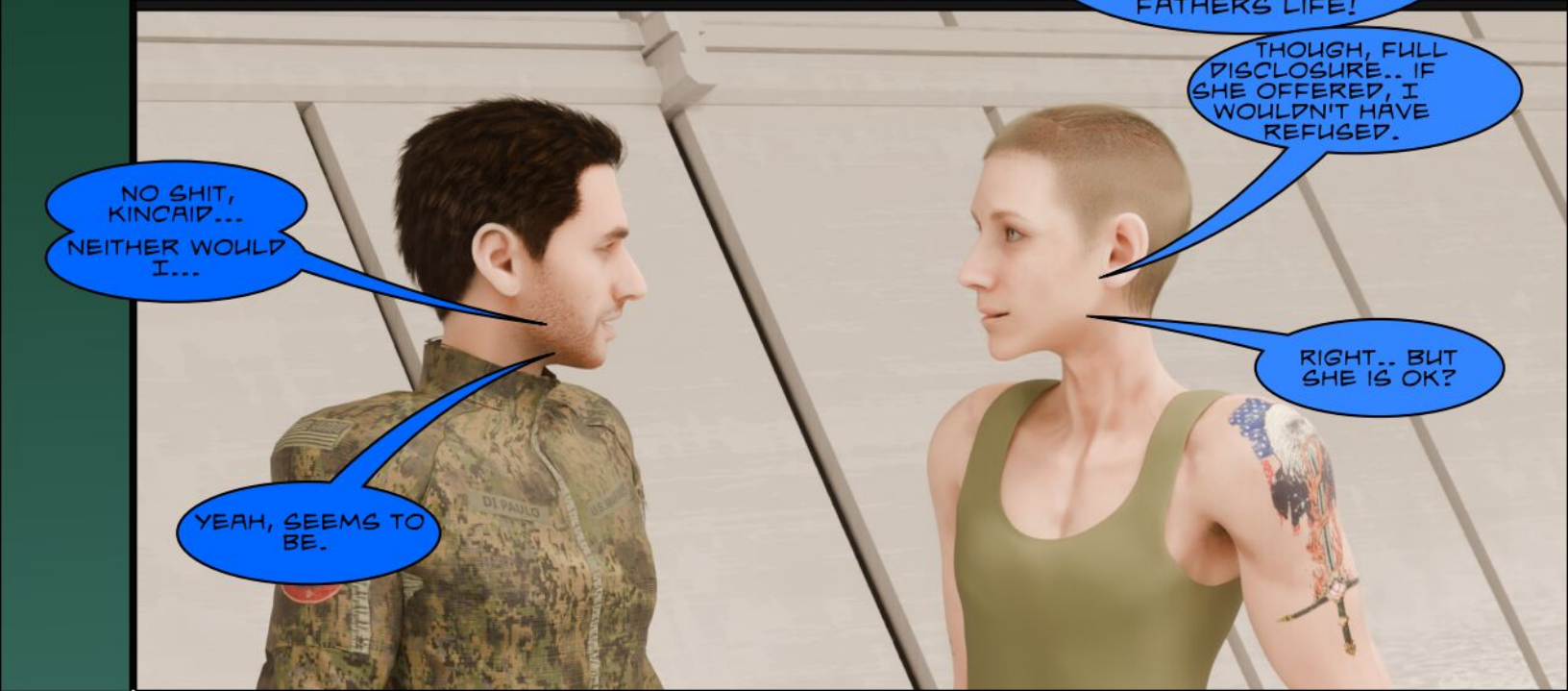
SHE'S UP THERE GETTING DRESSED, YOU'RE DOWN HERE HALF DRESSED.. I'M NOT AN IDIOT...

HERE.. SORRY. YOU CAN TAKE THIS. IT'S EMPTY ANYWAY..

IS WINTERS OK?

HUH?

NO!
I WAS SLEEPING! NOTHING HAPPENED! YOU HAVE MY WORD! ON MY FATHER'S LIFE!



NO SHIT, KINCAID... NEITHER WOULD I...

YEAH, SEEMS TO BE.

THOUGH, FULL DISCLOSURE.. IF SHE OFFERED, I WOULDN'T HAVE REFUSED.

RIGHT.. BUT SHE IS OK?



BOSS! C.J.! THE HELL IS GOING ON!?

FUCKING RIGHT HE DID! FUCKERS' HEAD IS SPREAD OVER 40 SQUARE FEET!

GOOD WORK, MAN! THIS IS HUGE! HOW'D YOU DO IT!?

LOOKS LIKE WE HAD SOME VISITORS, C.J. TOOK CARE OF THEM!



BILL, HAVE THE COLONEL INITIATE FULL LOCK-DOWN AND KIT UP! WE'RE SEARCHING EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THIS BUCKET!

THEY WERE TRYING TO TAKE WINTERS APPARENTLY, WE NEED TO DO A HEADCOUNT AS WELL!

RIFLED DEER SLUGS, ACTUALLY!

I SAW THREE AND I HIT ALL THREE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S MORE! OR.. IF THEY TOOK ANYONE ELSE!

GRAB A BOX OF DEER SLUGS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

YEAH! ON IT!



YEAH, MAN. YOU WERE JUST REALLY AMPED UP THERE.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU SAILING ONE THROUGH THE HULL, OR WORSE.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO GET CHECKED OUT FIRST? YOU'RE ALREADY HURT, AND THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A FALL.

HEY, CAN I HAVE THAT BACK NOW? I'M CALM... "ER"

I T OTALLY UNDERSTAND... I STILL AM BUT I'M OK..

I'M A LITTLE SORE, BUT I'LL LIVE.

THEN LETS GET YOU SOME AMMO AND CLEAR UP THIS SHIP.

FUCK YEAH!