

THE
D ● M A I N



NEAL BAILEY

#1

DEXTER WEE

THE DOMAIN

ORPHAN OF CHEROXE PART ONE

WRITTEN AND LETTERED BY:

NEAL BAILEY

ART BY:

DEXTER WEE

NEAR EXTINCTION, HUMANITY WAS DRIVEN FROM THE EARTH IN ARKS.
THEY WERE SAVED IN THEIR MOST DESPERATE HOUR BY GRAVITY WELL TECHNOLOGY.
THIS BOON SPREAD THE SURVIVORS ACROSS THE STARS CREATING A HUMAN DOMAIN.
UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND ENERGY BIRTHED A LASTING PEACE.

ALLIED PLANETS FORMED THE LDEC, FORSAKING THE FLAWED GOVERNMENTS OF THE PAST.
THIS LAW AND DICTUM ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL SERVES AS A JUDICIAL MILITARY FORCE,
OPERATING FROM THE FIVE REMAINING RETROFITTED ARKS.
FOR THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS THEIR ROLE HAS LARGELY BEEN SYMBOLIC.

THE LAST TWO DECADES HAVE SEEN SUDDEN VIOLENT FIRST CONTACT EVENTS.
THE IDYLIC DOMAIN HAS BEEN THROWN INTO PARANOIA BY THIS UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION.
COUNTLESS CITIZEN SOLDIERS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO RIGHT THIS WRONG.

ONE OF THESE SOLDIERS, AUSTRALIA IRELAND,
HAS BEEN PUSHED TO THE FOREFRONT BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HER LIFE.

TODAY SHE FACES HER FUTURE TO PUT HER PAST TO REST.

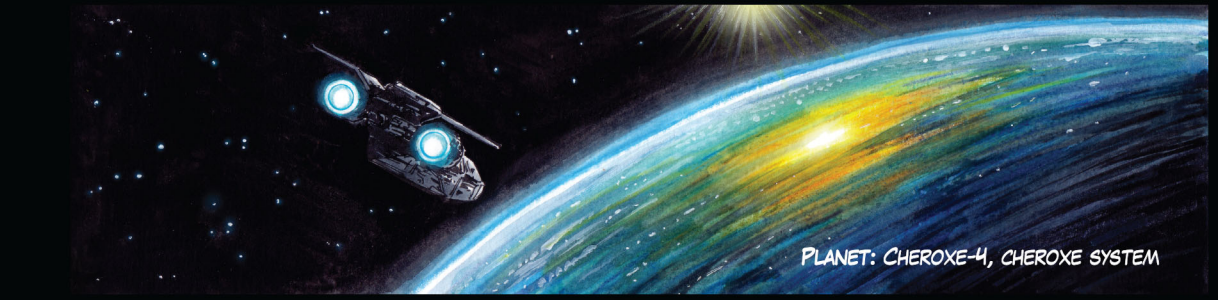
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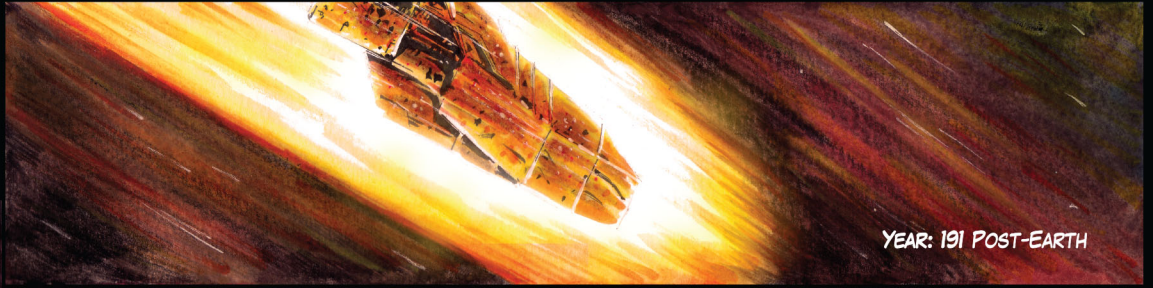
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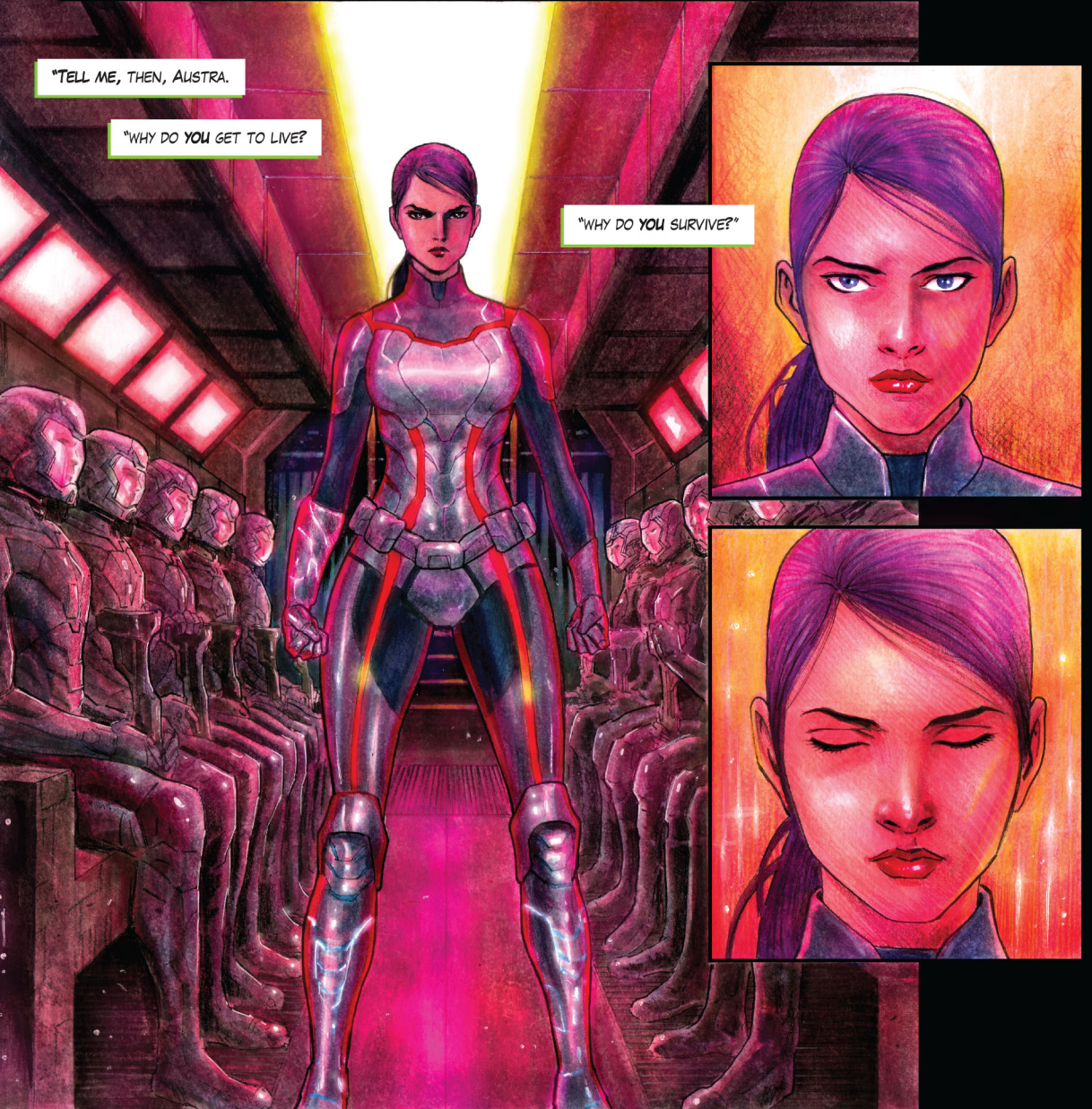
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PLANET: CHEROXE-4, CHEROXE SYSTEM



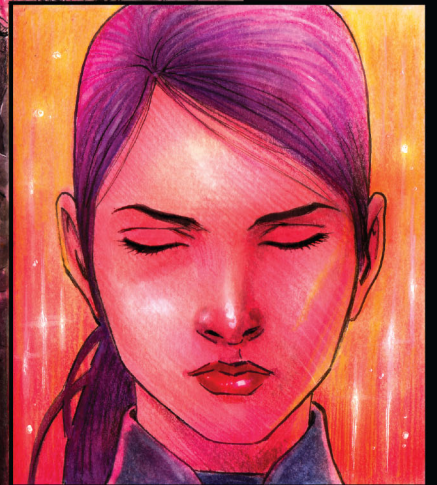
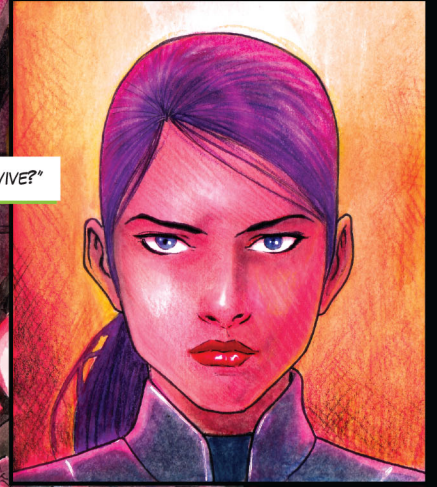
YEAR: 191 POST-EARTH



"TELL ME, THEN, AUSTRALIA."

"WHY DO YOU GET TO LIVE?"

"WHY DO YOU SURVIVE?"



YEAR: 170 POST-EARTH

C'MON,
CYGNUS!



PLANET: JULIUS, RUBICON SYSTEM

AUSTRA,
NOT SO
FAST!

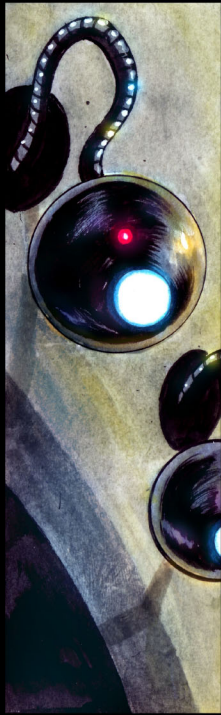


ARE
YOU EVEN
LIST-

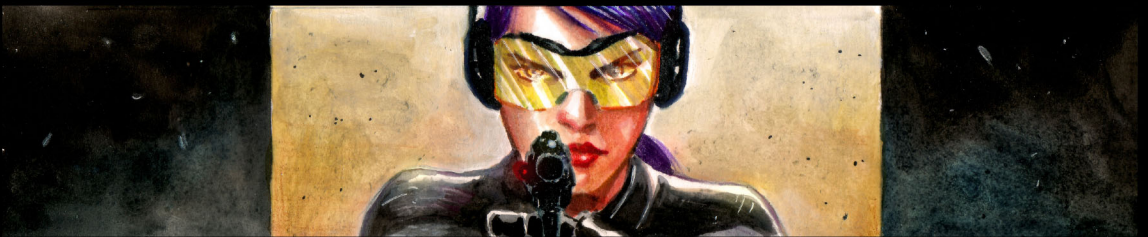
FASTER!

CITY: ZEOTIA, CAPITAL OF THE HUMAN DOMAIN

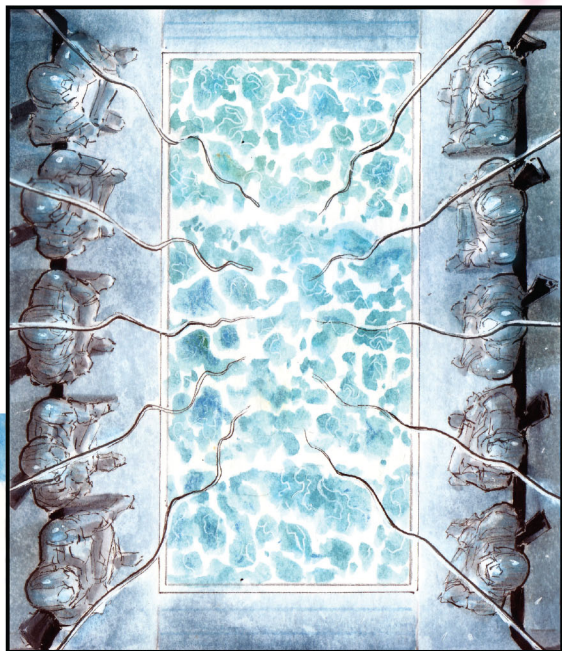
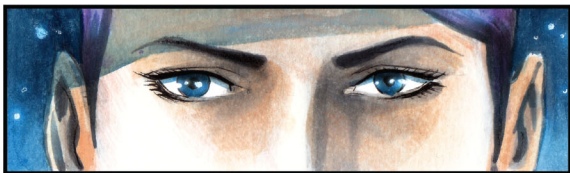
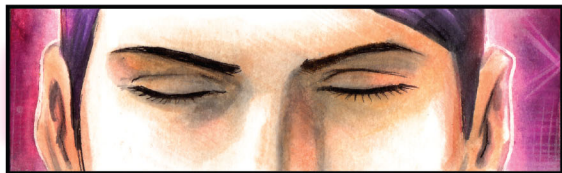


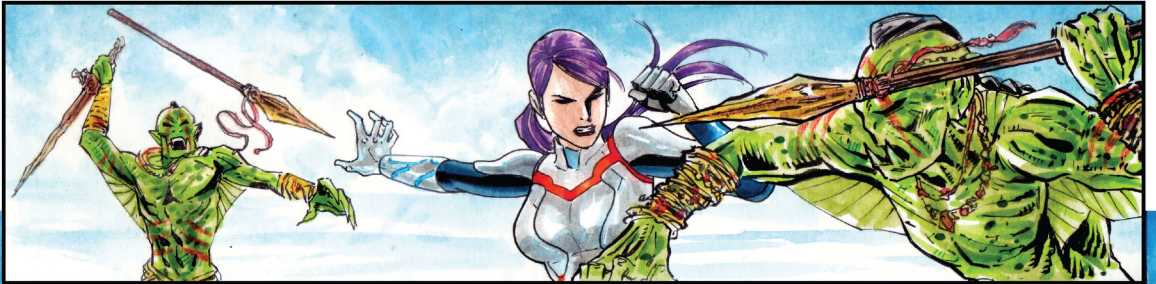


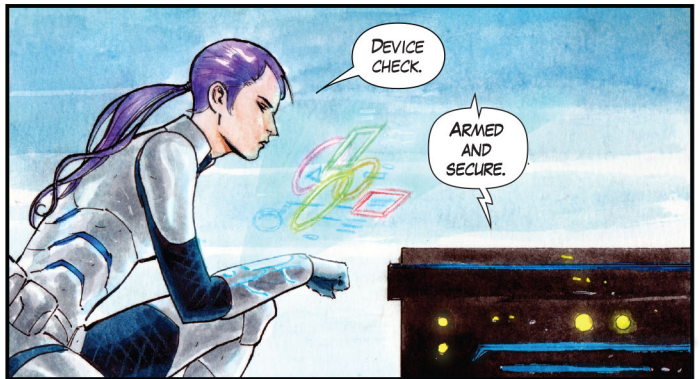
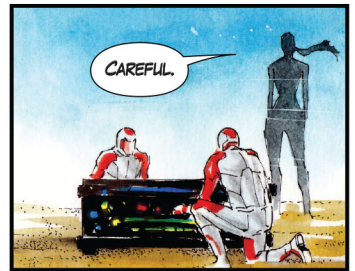
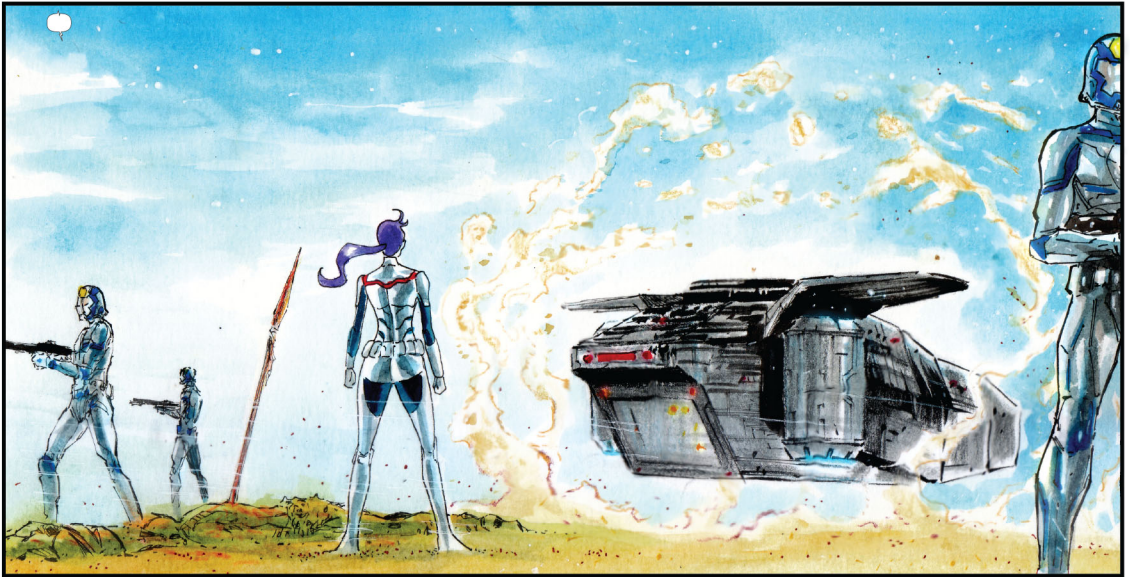


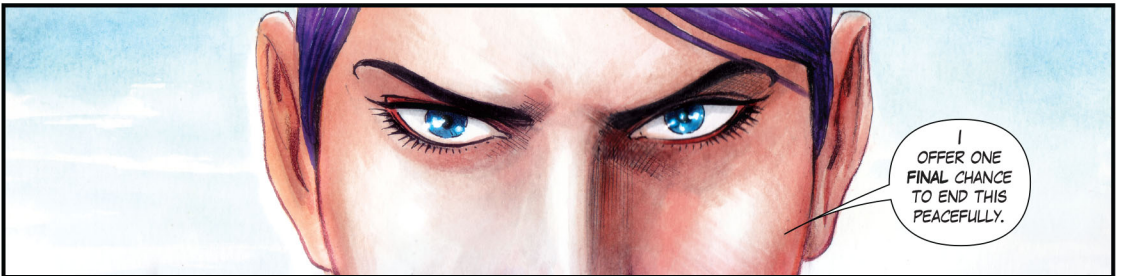
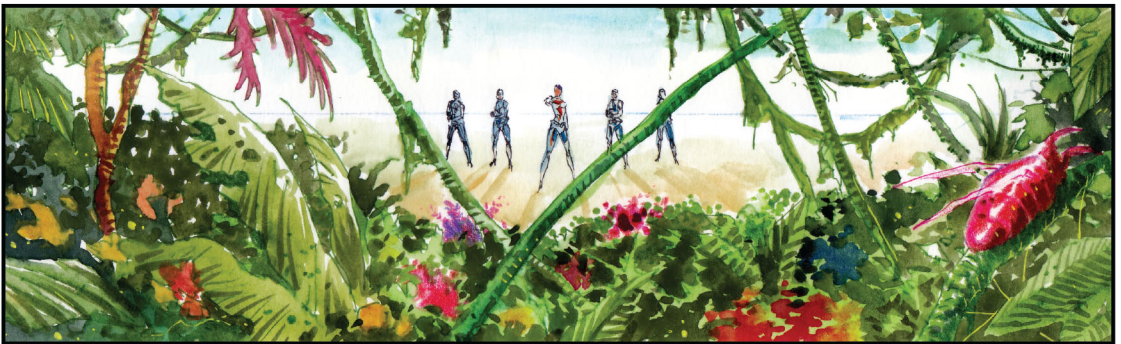


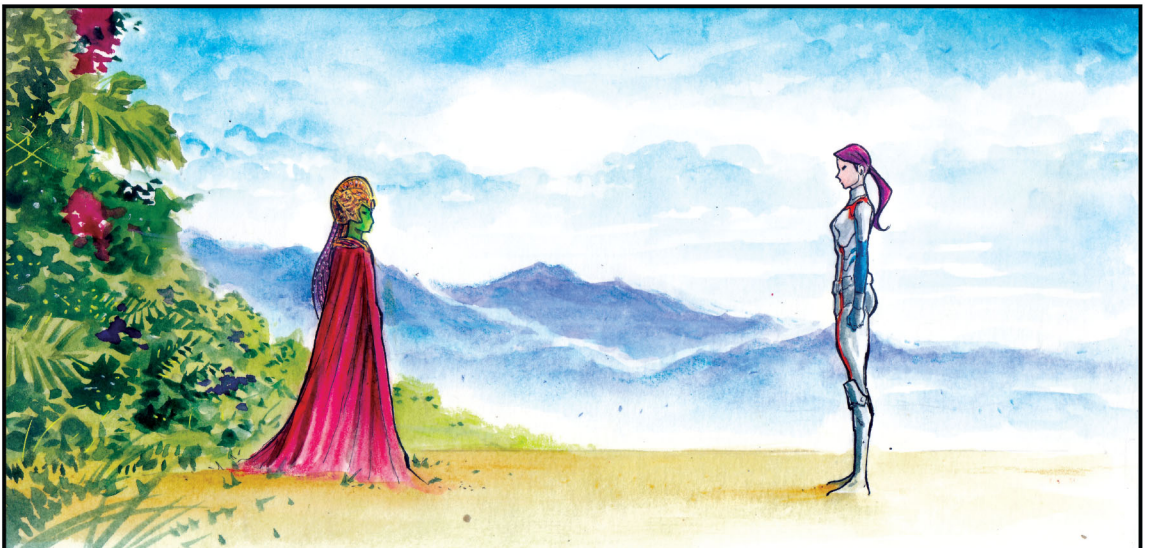


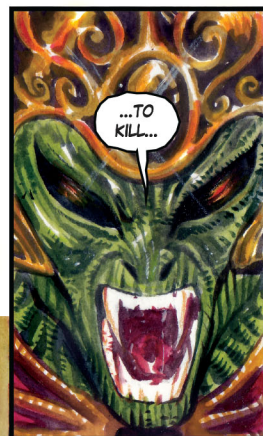
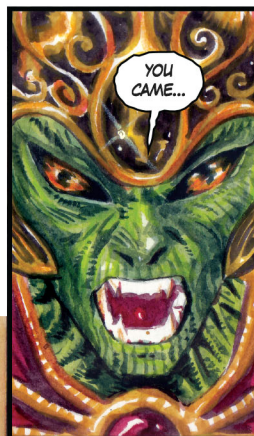
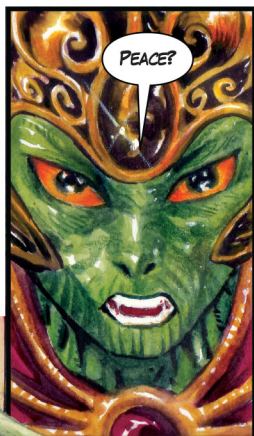












SUBFLAGSHIP: MONITOR

LOCATION: GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, CHEROXE-4



IRELAND IS THE ONLY TRANSMITTING RIFLE ON THE GROUND.

LOOKING AT THE DATA, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE IS A CAPTIVE.



WHO IS TO SAY THEY ARE NEGOTIATING?

THESE ARE SCARABS.



SHE ISN'T PRESENTLY CONSCIOUS.



I'M SORRY, ADMIRAL ALASKA. THESE RESULTS SEEM CLEAR.



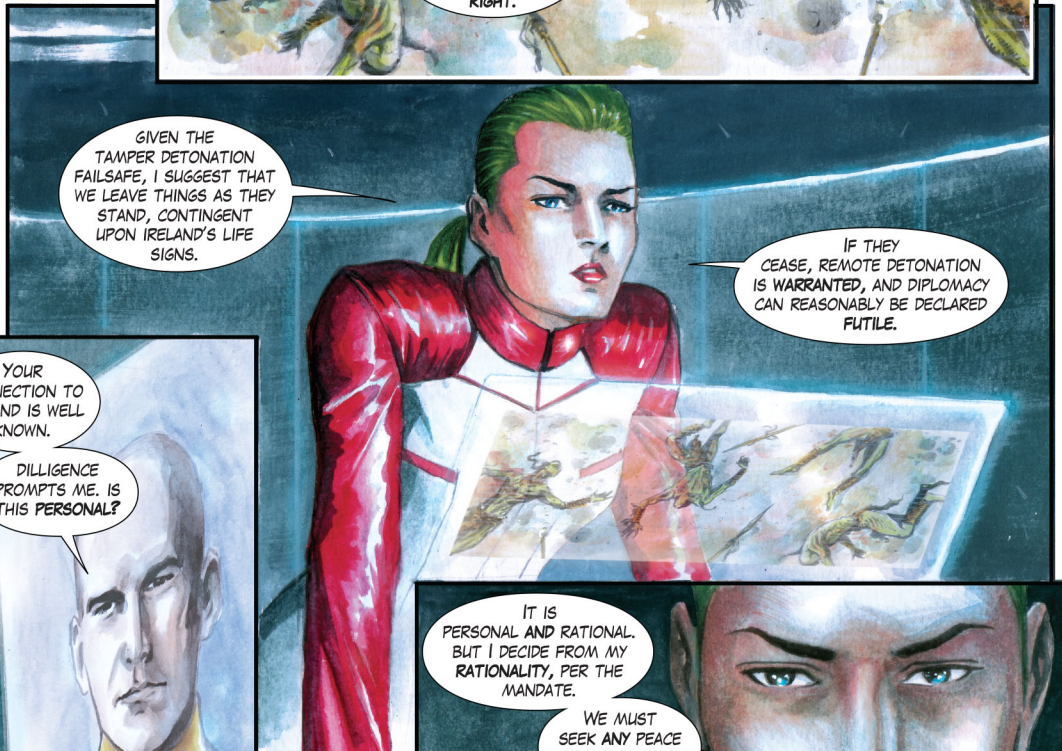
I RESPECTFULLY
SUBMIT SEVERAL
CONSIDERATIONS.

PROCEED.

THE DEVICE
IS SECURE, THOUGH
SCARBABS ARE IN AND
OUT OF THE AREA.



EVEN IF
ADMIRAL MOSCOW'S
LOGIC PROVES FLAWED,
WE HAVE MUCH TO
GAIN IF HE IS
RIGHT.



GIVEN THE
TAMPER DETONATION
FAILSAFE, I SUGGEST THAT
WE LEAVE THINGS AS THEY
STAND, CONTINGENT
UPON IRELAND'S LIFE
SIGNS.

IF THEY
CEASE, REMOTE DETONATION
IS WARRANTED, AND DIPLOMACY
CAN REASONABLY BE DECLARED
FUTILE.



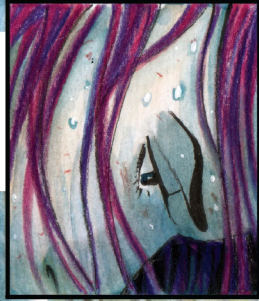
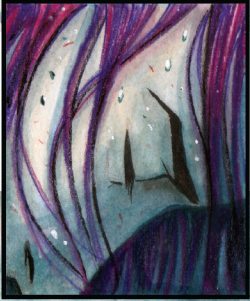
YOUR
CONNECTION TO
IRELAND IS WELL
KNOWN.

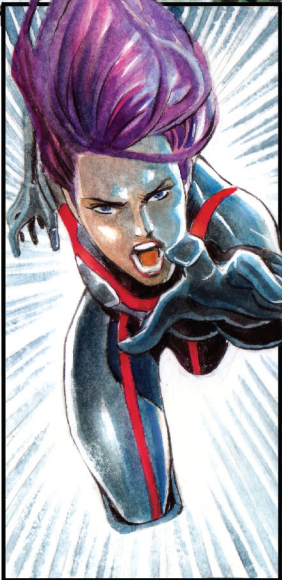
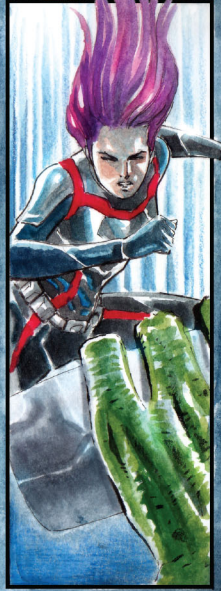
DILLIGENCE
PROMPTS ME. IS
THIS PERSONAL?



IT IS
PERSONAL AND RATIONAL.
BUT I DECIDE FROM MY
RATIONALITY, PER THE
MANDATE.

WE MUST
SEEK ANY PEACE
THAT CHANCE HAS
LEFT.





PLEASE,
I WAS BORN
FOR WAR,
CHILD.



YOUR
PEOPLE
MADE ME
SO.

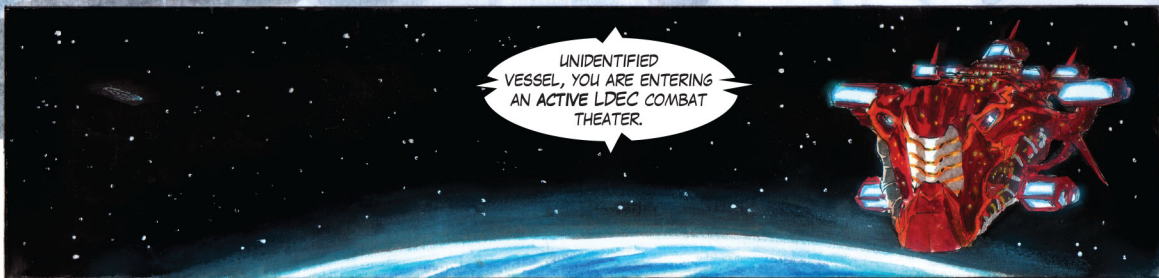


THE DISTORTIONS ARE THERE. I CONCUR.

I SEE THE SHADOW. I DON'T SEE A CRAFT.

EVEN IF IT IS A CRAFT, ITS SIZE WOULD LEAVE IT NO THREAT.

WE BLUFF, THEN. HAIL THEM.



UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL, YOU ARE ENTERING AN ACTIVE LDEC COMBAT THEATER.



RESPOND.



REPEAT,
IDENTIFY, OR WE WILL
BE FORCED TO-

SHIP: ROCKEFELLER

(INFORMAL; LEGALLY UNDESIGNATED).



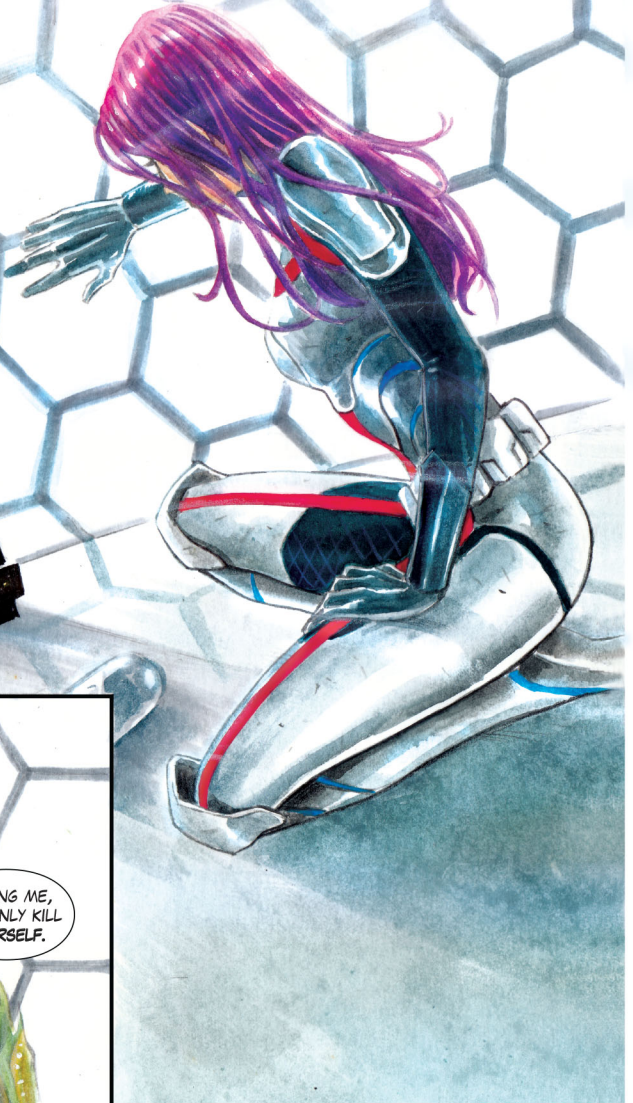
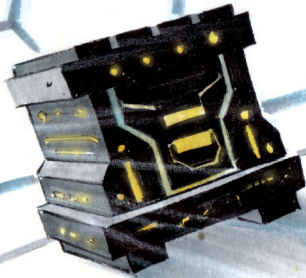
TWO MINUTES
TO ATMOSPHERE. ESCAPING
THE MONITOR'S HORIZON.
POWER UP.

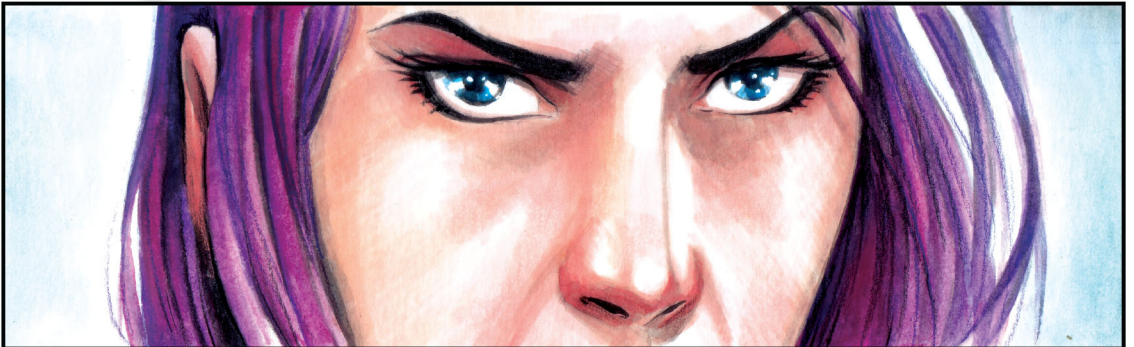
MASKS
DOWN.



BRACE.









MA'AM, WE HAVE A DETONATION CODE FROM THE SURFACE.

IRELAND'S VITALS?

HOLDING STEADY.



GET CONFIRMATION OF THE SPREAD, WITH DOUBLE-



-A MASSIVE POWER LOSS IN ALL-

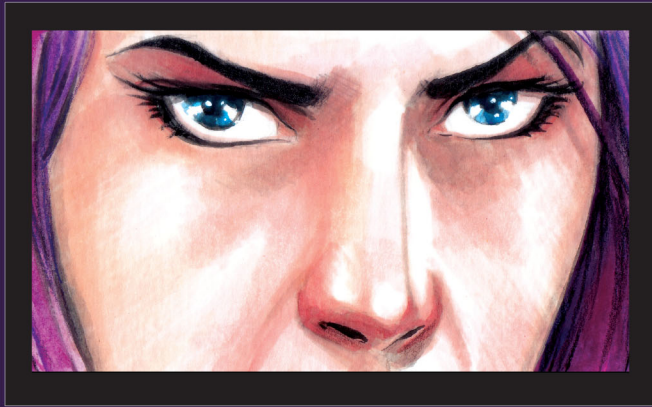
-COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF THE GRAVITY WELL-

GET ME POWER BACK NOW!

IT'S DONE. THEY'RE BLIND.



LET'S FIND SOME PILOTS.



"WHY DO YOU GET TO LIVE?
WHY DO YOU SURVIVE?"