

SWORD AND
LABRYS
PRODUCTIONS

#1 SEPT 2010

FULL COLOR *

24 PAGES \$3.99 USD

PAM HARRISON'S

DEVIAINT



RECOMMENDED:

TEEN+

READERS



<http://houseofthemuses.com>

CHAPTER ONE: EXODUS

ABOUT THE SERIES:

A DEVIANT MIND

IN THE WAKE OF THE GREAT SUCCESS OF MY *HOUSE OF THE MUSES* SERIES, A GOOD MANY PEOPLE HAVE ASKED WHAT I'D BE DOING WHEN *HOUSE OF THE MUSES* WRAPS UP IN 2012. I'VE ALWAYS ANSWERED THAT I'M NOT SURE--I'D INVESTED A LOT OF EMOTION AND TIME INTO THIS CURRENT SERIES AND FOUND IT INCONCEIVABLE TO CONSIDER SWITCHING GEARS AT THIS TIME. BUT I SURE DID.

IN EARLY 2010, FROM OUT OF MY STORYPILE CAME A CONCEPT FOR A SERIES I'D BEGUN EXACTLY 30 YEARS BEFORE WHILE I WAS STILL A BRASH TEEN IN HIGH SCHOOL. MUCH OF THE MATERIAL I'D WRITTEN BACK THEN AND IN THE PASSING YEARS STILL MADE A LOT OF SENSE. FROM THERE CAME THE IDEA TO TAKE AN OLD STORY AND GIVE IT A REBIRTH, AND THAT IS WHY YOU NOW HOLD IN YOUR HANDS A SERIES THAT WAS 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING.



THE SERIES DEBUTED AT DRUNKDUCK.COM AND MY OWN WEBSITE ON 7-14-2010, WHERE IT CLIMBED THE CHARTS AT A STEADY RATE. BUT WHY? IT'S THE INTRIGUE, I THINK, THAT DREW NEW, EXCITED READERS OUT OF THE WOODWORK, CURIOUS TO FIND OUT WHAT A "WIREHEAD" IS, HOW SHE CAME TO BE THAT WAY, AND WHY SHE'S BEING PURSUED BY PEOPLE WHO WANT HER DEAD. I THINK THE ANSWERS WILL SURPRISE EVERYONE. SO...DOES TARA EVER FIND OUT WHO SHE IS AND WHERE SHE COMES FROM? FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE HERE, AND LEARN WHAT HAUNTING, DARK SECRETS LIE DEEP WITHIN...

A DEVIANT MIND

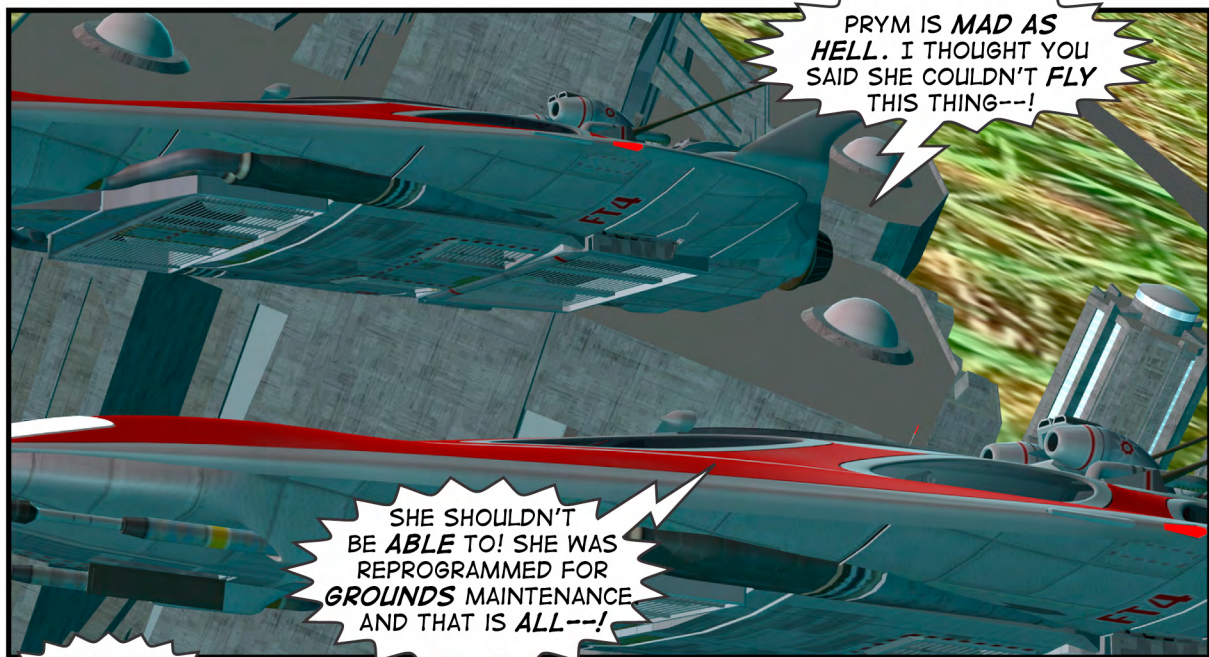
CREATED, WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY PAM HARRISON

A *DEVIANT MIND* #1, PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 1, 2010. ISBN PENDING
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[HTTP://HOUSEOFTHEMUSES.COM/ADEVIANTMIND/ABOUT/](http://HOUSEOFTHEMUSES.COM/ADEVIANTMIND/ABOUT/)







PRYM IS **MAD AS HELL**. I THOUGHT YOU SAID SHE COULDN'T **FLY** THIS THING--!

SHE SHOULDN'T BE **ABLE** TO! SHE WAS REPROGRAMMED FOR **GROUND** MAINTENANCE AND THAT IS **ALL**--!

WE WON'T LET HER GET TOO FAR.



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WRITE THIS ONE OFF!

BOOM

I'M **HIT**--!!





SHIP
INTEGRITY
IS IRRE-
VOKABLY
BREACHED.

I CAN'T
GO
BACK.



I WON'T
GO BACK--!



HOLY
!@#\$.!



YOUR HUMANOID FORM IS
NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE
THIS KIND OF VELOCITY.

D-D-D-D-D-
DON'T CARE.

--R-RATHER
DIE--!!

EMERGENCY
OVERRIDE.
AUTOPILOT
ENGAGED.

PRELIMINARY
BIOFEEDBACK
MONITOR
INDICATES
PILOT HAS
LOST CON-
SCIOUSNESS.

CAPTAIN,
PLEASE
REPORT.

CURRENTLY MAIN-
TAINING MAIN-
TAINING STATION-
ARY ORBIT ABOVE
THE PLANET.

NOT GOOD!
SHIP! WARP US
OUT OF HERE!

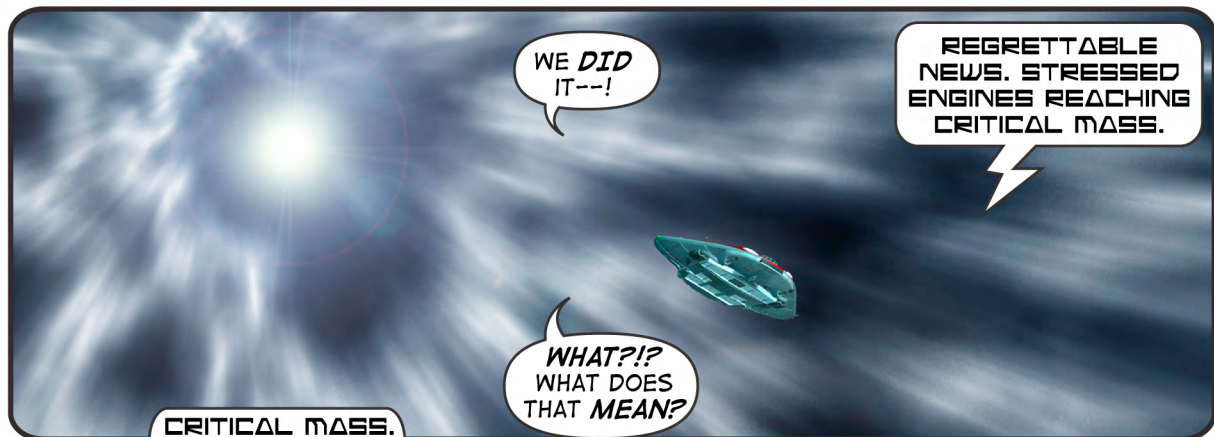
DESTINATION?

W-WHERE
ARE WE?

PURSUERS HAVE FIXED
ON OUR LOCATION AND
WILL INTERCEPT IN T-
MINUS FIVE MINUTES.

RANDOM! I
DON'T CARE!
JUST WARP US
OUT OF HERE
--NOW!!

WARP DRIVE
ENGAGED.



WE *DID*
IT---!

REGRETTABLE
NEWS. STRESSED
ENGINES REACHING
CRITICAL MASS.

WHAT?!?
WHAT DOES
THAT *MEAN*?

CRITICAL MASS.
-NOUN. 1. THE
SMALLEST
MASS OF A
FISSIONABLE
MATERIAL--

...THAT WILL
SUSTAIN A
NUCLEAR CHAIN
REACTION AT A
CONSTANT
LEVEL--

REACHING CRITICAL
MASS IN T-MINUS
EIGHT MINUTES
AND COUNTING.

ΔPOLOGIES.
AGAIN, REGRET-
TABLE CIRCUM-
STANCES.

ARE YOU
TELLING ME THE
ENGINES ARE
ABOUT TO
EXPLODE?

ΔFFIRMATIVE.

YOU MEAN WE
WENT THROUGH *ALL*
THAT JUST TO *BLOW*
UP THE MINUTE WE
GET TO SAFETY?

SOB!!!



PLEASE EXIT
TO THE ESCAPE
POD LOCATED
AT THE REAR
OF THE SHIP.



IS THIS
IT?

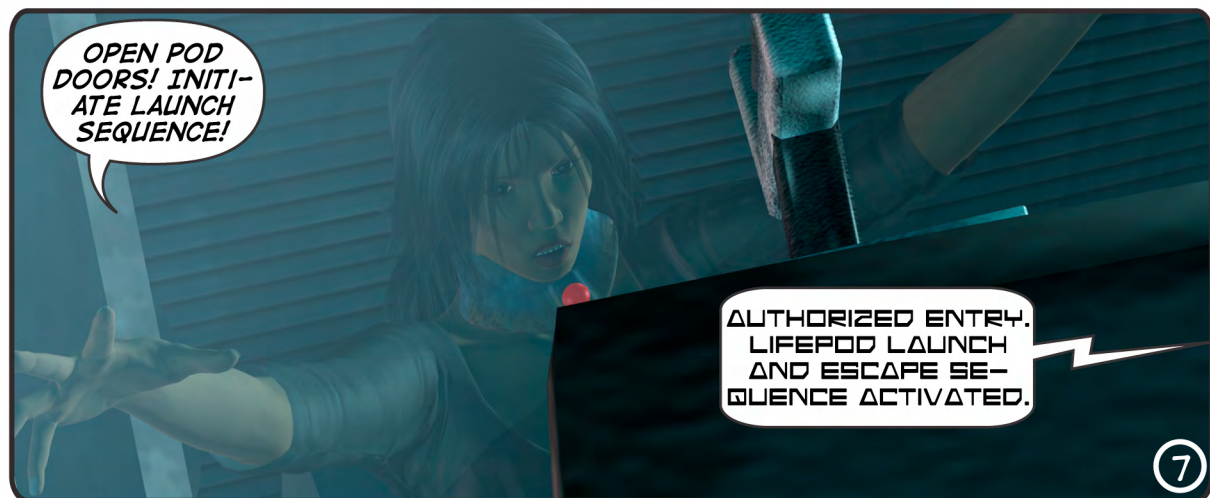
AFFIRMATIVE.
ENTER ESCAPE
POD AND INITI-
ATE LAUNCH
SEQUENCE.



HOW DO
I GET
INSIDE!

SHIP! I DON'T
REMEMBER
WHAT TO DO!

ESCAPE SEQUENCE
IS ACTIVATED AND
INITIATED BY VOICE
COMMANDS.



OPEN POD
DOORS! INITI-
ATE LAUNCH
SEQUENCE!

AUTHORIZED ENTRY.
LIFEPOD LAUNCH
AND ESCAPE SE-
QUENCE ACTIVATED.



CAUTION!
ELECTRICAL
SYSTEMS
FAILING.
BEWARE
LIVE WIRES.

OBSERVE
SAFETY RULES
AND CLEAR
POD BAY.

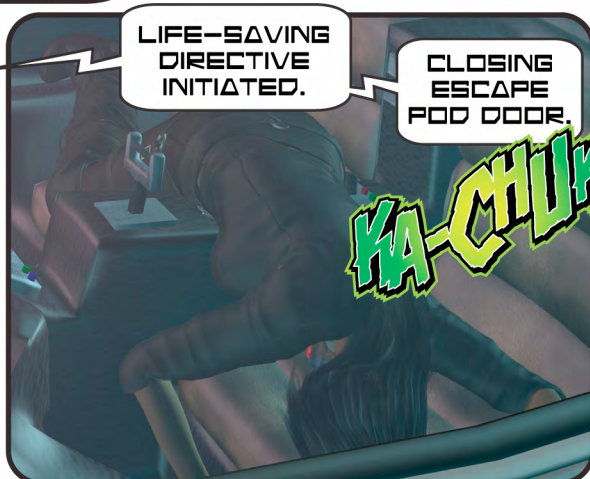
ENTER LIFEPOD
AND AWAIT LAUNCH
SEQUENCE.



REPEAT:
BEWARE
LIVE
WIRES.



AHHHHHHH!!



LIFE-SAVING
DIRECTIVE
INITIATED.

CLOSING
ESCAPE
POD DOOR.

KA-CHUK

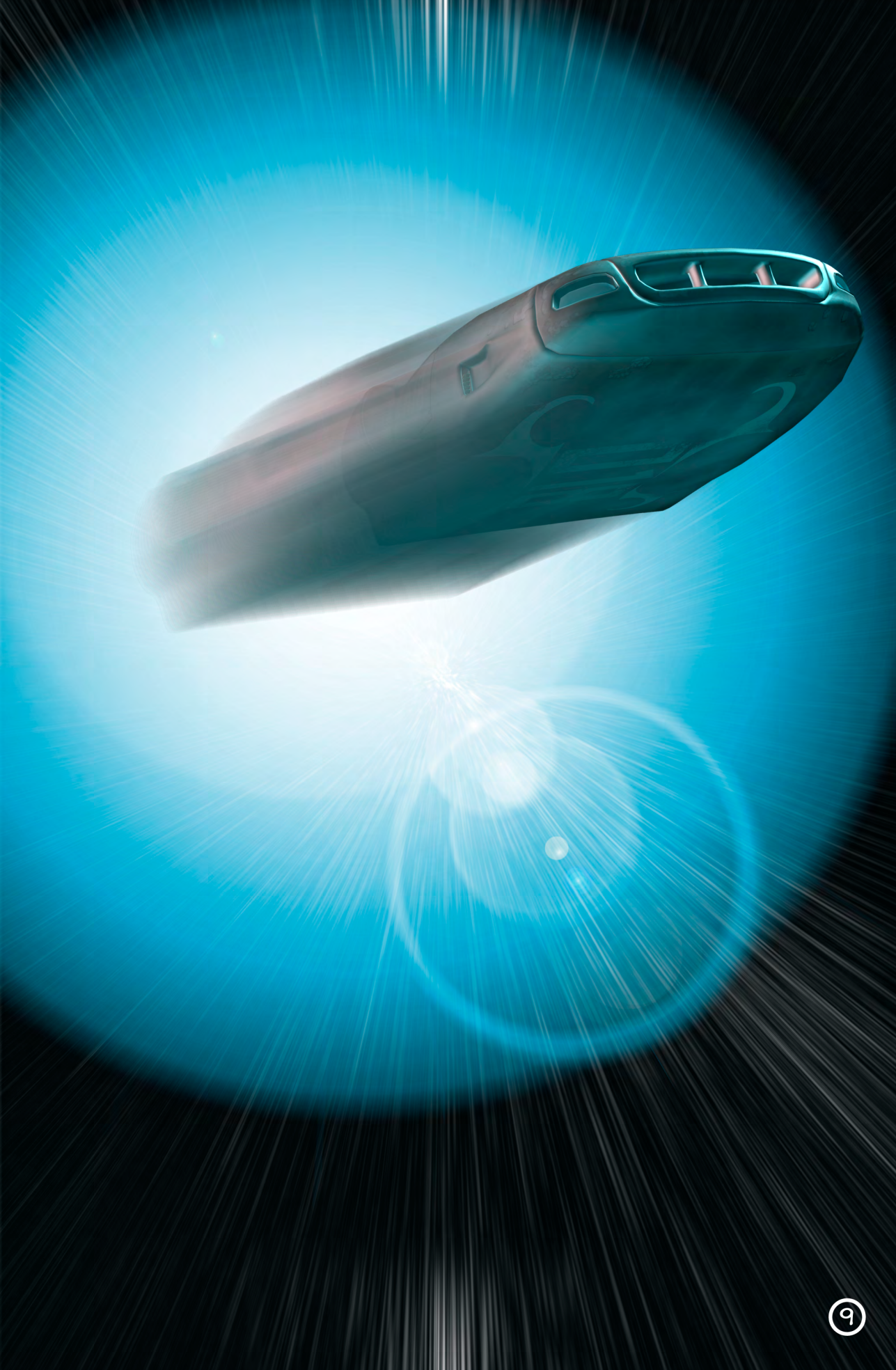


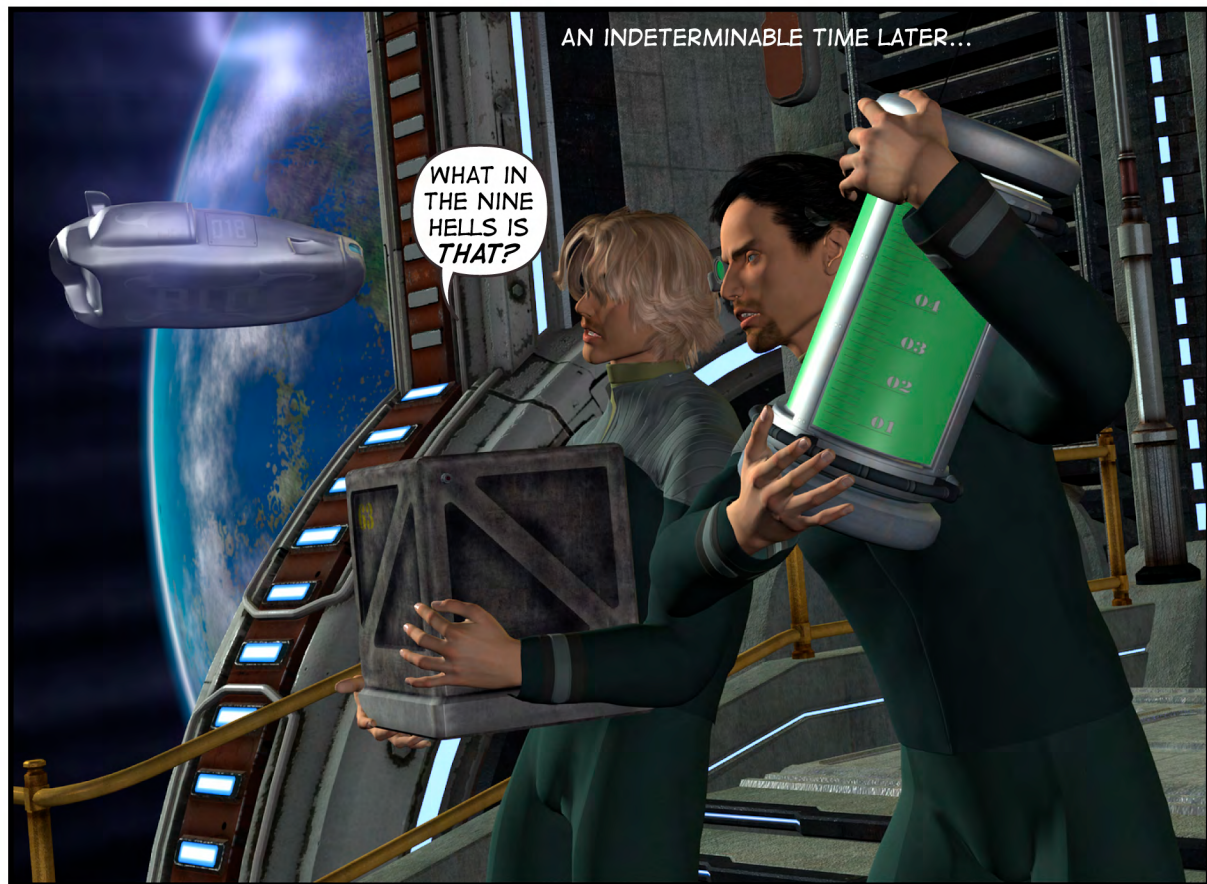
LAUNCH
COMMENCES
IN T-MINUS 1
MINUTE AND
COUNTING.

BIOMETRIC
EVALUATION
OF SUBJECT'S
VITAL SIGNS:

STATUS
REPORT:

...SYNAPSES
DESTROYED.





AN INDETERMINABLE TIME LATER...

WHAT IN THE NINE HELLS IS THAT?



IS THAT A LIFE POD?

LOOKS LIKE IT. LET'S PULL THE TRACTOR BEAM ON IT--

...BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF RANGE.



OH, WOW!!

I THINK IT'S A GIRL!



SHE'S A
**WIRE-
HEAD,**
VILLAM!

SOMEONE
REALLY DID A
NUMBER ON
THIS BABE!



DON'T
GET
ATTACHED,
PETER.

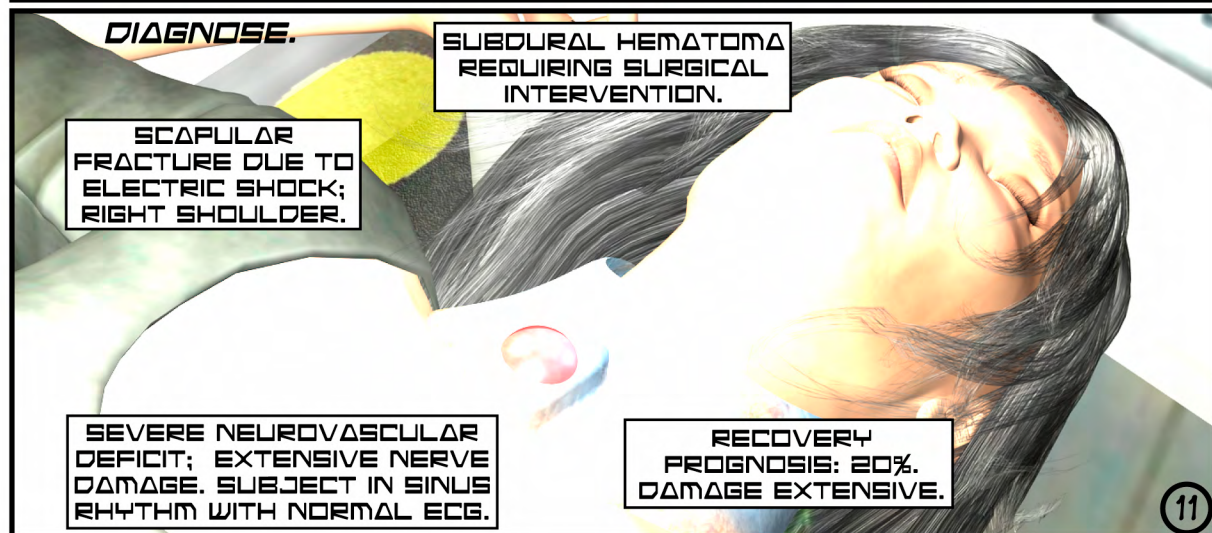
I **KNOW**
HOW YOU
ARE.



SHE
OPENED HER
EYES FOR A
SECOND!

WHOEVER YOU
ARE--**HANG IN
THERE!!**

YOU'RE ON A
STRETCHER--
WE'LL GET YOU
HELP AS FAST
AS WE CAN!



DIAGNOSE.

SCAPULAR
FRACTURE DUE TO
ELECTRIC SHOCK;
RIGHT SHOULDER.

SUBDURAL HEMATOMA
REQUIRING SURGICAL
INTERVENTION.

SEVERE NEUROVASCULAR
DEFICIT; EXTENSIVE NERVE
DAMAGE. SUBJECT IN SINUS
RHYTHM WITH NORMAL ECG.

RECOVERY
PROGNOSIS: 20%.
DAMAGE EXTENSIVE.

A comic book page featuring a futuristic, industrial setting with blue and grey tones. In the background, a large, muscular figure in a white and red suit is seen from behind. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit is on the left, and a woman with blonde hair in a dark suit with a gold collar is on the right. They are engaged in a conversation. The scene is lit with dramatic blue and white lights.

SO
HOW'S SHE
DOING?

HARD TO
BELIEVE SHE'S BEEN
IN REGEN FOR TWO
MONTHS, ALREADY.

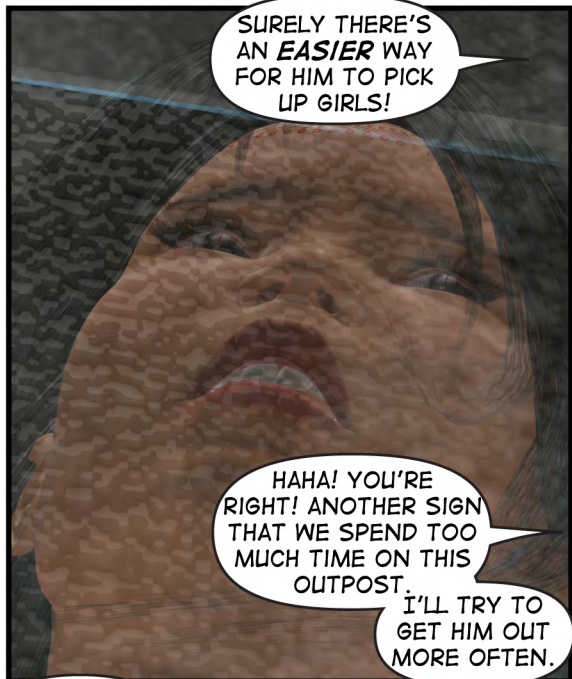
SHE'S MUCH
BETTER, VITAL
SIGNS BACK TO
NORMAL.

IT JUST TELLS
ME, SHE'S TOUGH.
SHE SHOULDN'T
HAVE SURVIVED.

BUT SHE DID,
ANYWAY. SHE'S OFF
THE REGEN FLUID,
FLOATING IN ANTI-
GRAV STASIS.

SO
PETER'S STILL
INQUIRING
ABOUT HER?

YEAH, EVERY
DAY. I THINK
HE'S IN LOVE.



SURELY THERE'S AN *EASIER* WAY FOR HIM TO PICK UP GIRLS!

HAHA! YOU'RE RIGHT! ANOTHER SIGN THAT WE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON THIS OUTPOST.

I'LL TRY TO GET HIM OUT MORE OFTEN.

WAS I THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD THAT--?

SOMETHING *STRANGE* IS HAPPENING HERE!

GET HER *OUT* OF THERE --*NOW!*



HOW DID I GET *HERE?*

WELCOME BACK! YOU WERE FOUND FLOATING IN SPACE.

A COUPLE OF OUR MEN *RES-
CUED* YOU--!

HEY, *WAIT* A MINUTE--!!



RELAX, YOUNG LADY, AND WE'LL HELP YOU TO A SEAT--

WHERE WE CAN ALL TALK AWHILE!

EASY! TAKE IT EASY-- YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A--



--*LEAF!!*



I'M VERY SORRY! DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?

LEGS--
WON'T MOVE!!

ARM
IS NUMB--
HURTS!!

YOU'RE A
TELEPATH!

--WAS A
TELEPATH!



HER READINGS
SPIKE EACH TIME
SHE PROJECTS
HER THOUGHTS.

IF YOU
HAVE A VOICE,
PLEASE **TALK**,
DON'T
PROJECT.

THE ENERGY SURGES
APPEAR TO BE COMING
FROM THIS CIRCUITRY
ON HER FOREHEAD.



MY APOLOGIES,
YOUNG WOMAN, IF
THIS CIRCUITRY IS
CAUSING YOU PAIN.

WE WOULD
HAVE REMOVED IT
DURING SURGERY,
BUT IT WAS
INDICATED--

...THAT IT
MIGHT BE
NECESSARY TO
YOUR SURVIVAL.

IN SUCH CASE
IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE
TO REMOVE IT WITHOUT
ENDANGERING YOU.

IT IS HARD-
WIRED DEEP IN
YOUR CEREBRAL
CORTEX--

...INTERWOVEN
THROUGHOUT YOUR
SPINE AND CENTRAL
NERVOUS SYSTEM.



I--I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT ANY OF
THIS MEANS.

CAN YOU
TELL US
YOUR
NAME?

WHERE
ARE YOU
FROM?



I DON'T
KNOW.

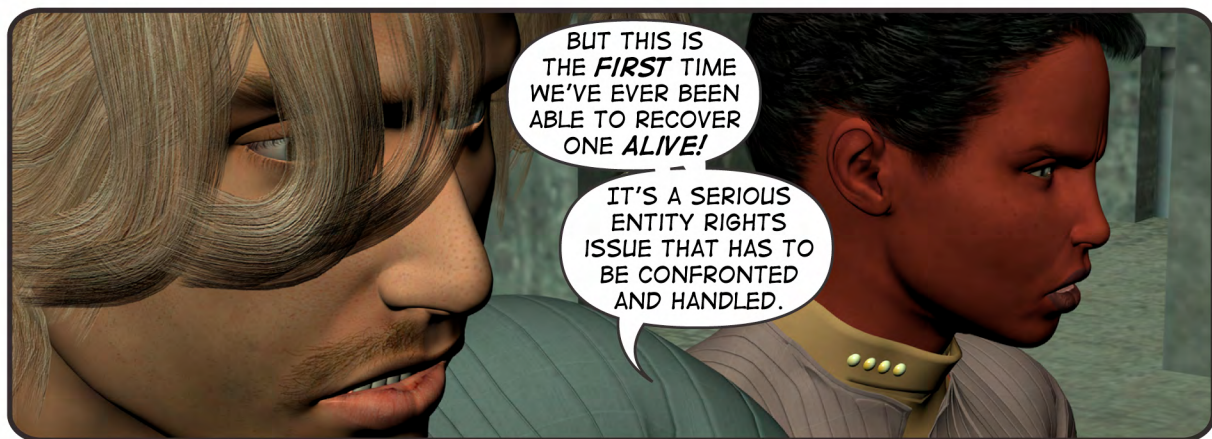


YOU DON'T
SEEM TOO
HAPPY ABOUT
THE NEWS,
DION!

YOU JUST
HAVE **NO**
IDEA.

WIREHEADS
HAVE BEEN
TURNING UP
ACROSS VARIOUS
SECTORS--

...OF THIS
QUADRANT FOR
THE PAST TWO
YEARS, NOW--



BUT THIS IS
THE **FIRST** TIME
WE'VE EVER BEEN
ABLE TO RECOVER
ONE **ALIVE!**

IT'S A SERIOUS
ENTITY RIGHTS
ISSUE THAT HAS TO
BE CONFRONTED
AND HANDLED.



WE STILL HAVE
NO IDEA WHO
IS DOING THIS!

MAYBE NOW--
FINALLY--WE
CAN GET SOME
ANSWERS.



I GOT HERE QUICKLY AS I COULD. HOW'S OUR GUEST?

NOT AS WELL PHYSICALLY AS WE COULD HAVE HOPED, MAJOR--

...BUT WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE HER WITH US NONETHELESS.



SO HOW IS THE HOVER-CHAIR WORKING FOR YOU?

FINE... THANK YOU....



SUPPOSE YOU TELL US WHO DID THIS TO YOU!

MAJOR, I AM AFRAID WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.

NAMES, TIMES, PLACES --WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

OUR YOUNG FRIEND HERE HAS COMPLETE AMNESIA.



DOC, YOU CAN'T BE **SERIOUS---**!

I WISH I **WERE** JOKING. IT WOULD MAKE THIS MUCH EASIER.

WE'LL JUST **SEE** ABOUT THAT.

A WIREHEAD'S BODY, WE'VE FOUND, IS COMPLETELY INFILTRATED BY CIRCUITRY.

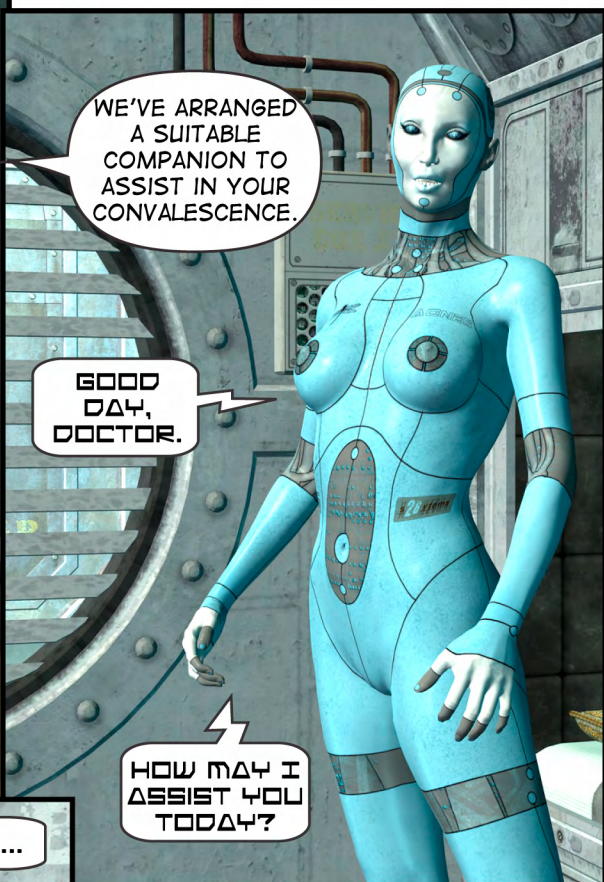
I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU THE X-RAYS --BUT THEY AREN'T PRETTY.



THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM, YOUNG LADY.

AM I A PRISONER HERE?

NOT AT ALL. BUT YOU ARE HARDLY IN ANY POSITION TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY.



WE'VE ARRANGED A SUITABLE COMPANION TO ASSIST IN YOUR CONVALESCENCE.

GOOD DAY, DOCTOR.

HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU TODAY?



PLEASE ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD THE MEDICAL DATA FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL.

ACCESSING...

DOWN-LOADING.

INTRODUCE AND STATE PURPOSE.

I AM PLEASSED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

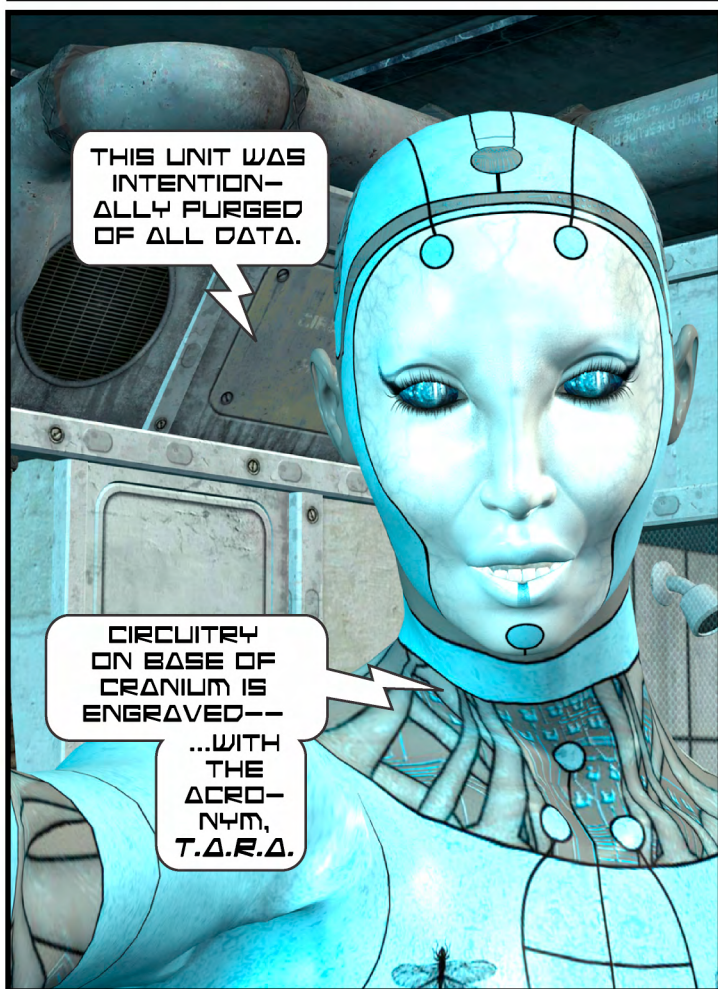
I AM DESIGNATED TO SERVE YOUR RE-HABILITATION NEEDS.

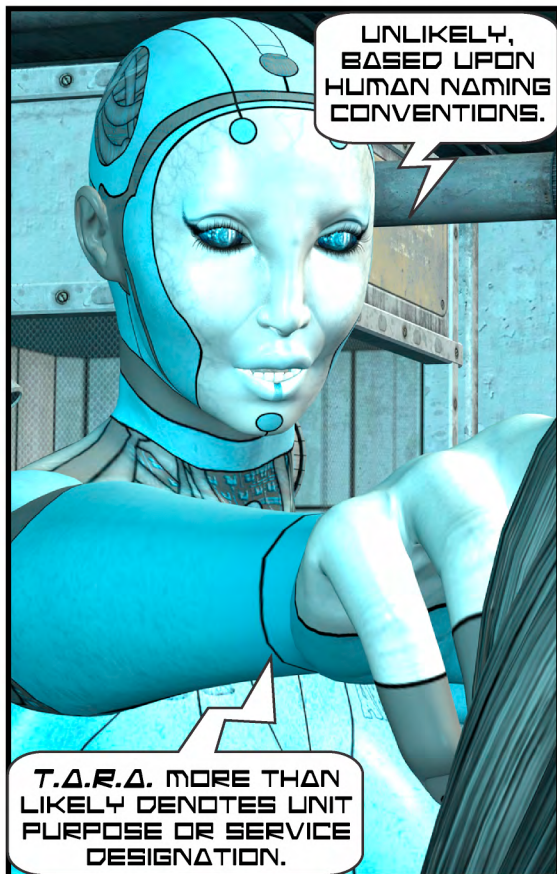


I AM AN ADVANCED GENERATION NEUROPATHIC EVALUATION SYSTEM:

YOU MAY CALL ME A.G.N.E.S.

SO DISTINCTIVE I JUST HAVE TO GIVE A NOD TO THE ARTIST: "ANDROID BLUES" TEXTURES FOR A.G.N.E.S. BY _SAMILDANACH_ AT RENDEROSITY.COM





UNLIKELY,
BASED UPON
HUMAN NAMING
CONVENTIONS.

T.A.R.A. MORE THAN
LIKELY DENOTES UNIT
PURPOSE OR SERVICE
DESIGNATION.



TARA, HUH?
WELL, I'LL
TAKE IT!

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA HOW
THIS FEELS
RIGHT NOW,
...TO REALIZE I
HAVE NO MEMORY
OF WHO I WAS OR
WHERE I'M FROM.



YOU
RETAIN ALL
COGNITIVE
FUNCTION,

--YET HAVE NO
SENSE OF UNIT
COHESION OR
PURPOSE.

THE VERY CONCEPT
OF BEING PURGED OF
UNIT NAME, DESIGNA-
TION, PURPOSE--

...IS INCOMPRE-
HENSIBLE TO
THIS SERVICE
MECHANISM.



TARA-- WE'LL BEGIN
IT'S A GOOD TESTING
NAME FOR TOMORROW.
YOU.

DOING THIS TO YOU
TODAY WOULD ONLY
BE EXHAUSTING AND
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.



WE'LL GET
TO THE BOTTOM OF
THIS. WE'LL FIND
OUT WHO YOU ARE
AND WHERE YOU
NEED TO BE.

DOC,
I DON'T
TRUST THIS.

IT FEELS
IMPROBABLE,
IT DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT.

ARE YOU
TELLING
ME--

...YOU
DON'T
TRUST
HER?

THIS
COULD BE
A TRAP.

IN ANY CASE
I'M TAKING
HER INTO
CUSTODY--

...TO PUT
HER THROUGH
SOME QUES-
TIONING.

NOT TODAY
YOU WON'T.
MY MEDICAL
DATA ON HER
CONDITION IS
PRECISE.

SHE REALLY
DOES NOT HAVE
ANY RECOLLECTION
OF WHO SHE IS.

SHE HAS BEEN
THROUGH EXTEN-
SIVE TRAUMA AND
NERVE DAMAGE--

...AND I DON'T
THINK SHE HAS
THE STRENGTH--



**YOU CAN'T
INTERFERE
WITH THIS
INVESTIGATION!**

**YES, I CAN!
NEVER
FORGET I
OUTRANK
YOU HERE.**



"VERY WELL, LT.
COLONEL. BUT
KNOW THAT I
WILL GO THROUGH
THE **PROPER
CHANNELS--**"



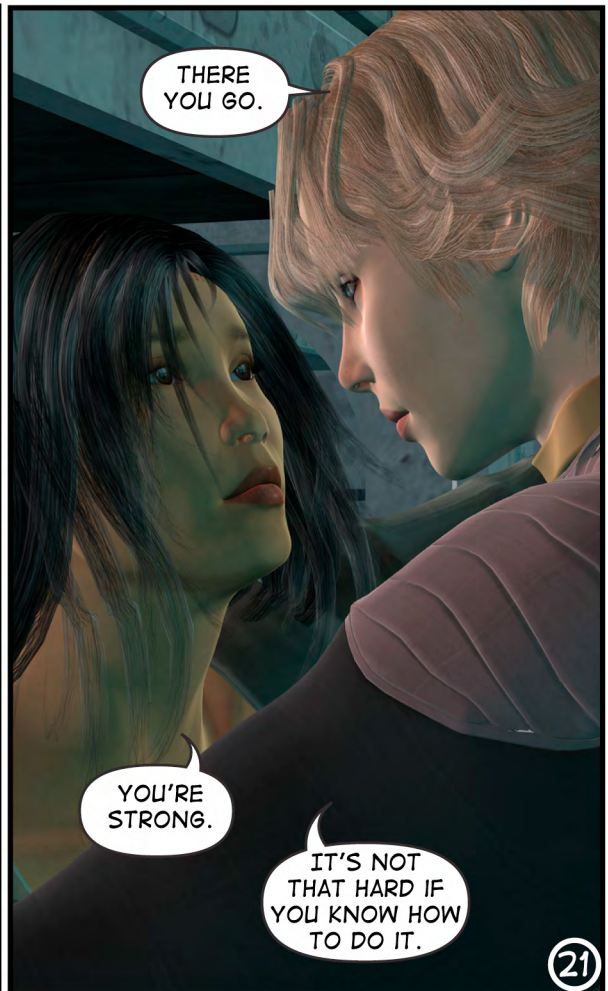
...TO DO **ALL
I CAN TO
COMPLETE** THIS
INVESTIGATION.

I HAVE NO
DOUBT OF IT.
DISMISSED.



SIR.

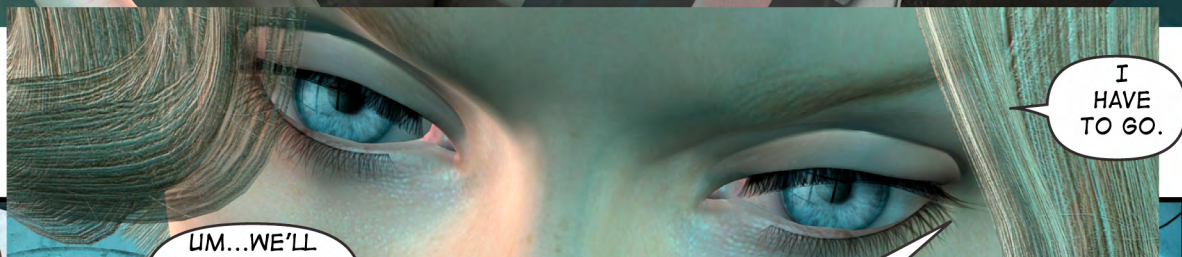
...TO PUT UP
WITH YOUR
INTERROGATION.







WOW.



I
HAVE
TO GO.



UM...WE'LL
TALK ABOUT THIS
TOMORROW,
TARA, OKAY?

I--I'M
SORRY. I
DIDN'T
MEAN--

DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
IT. IN THE
MEANTIME, GET
SOME REST.



YOUR ATTEMPT TO BOND WITH
DOCTOR RAUSCH DID NOT
PROCEED AS ANTICIPATED?

NOOO...AND
NOW I FEEL
STUPID.

ACTUALLY,
I'M TERRIFIED.
I DON'T KNOW
WHY I DID
THAT.



BEING
CRIPPLED IS
HORRIFYING.
I *WANT* TO
REMEMBER---

...HOW IT
FELT TO MOVE
ABOUT LIKE
EVERYONE ELSE,
BUT I *CAN'T*.



YOU ARE
TENSE.

I FEEL LIKE
I COULD
JUST CRY.

--BUT NO,
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT THAT,
WOULD YOU?



COMFORT AND
CONSOLATION
ARE WELL--

...WITHIN THE
PARAMETERS OF
MY PROGRAMMING.

THEN
...*HOLD*
ME.



TARA--
WHAT IS
THE
SOURCE
OF YOUR
DISTRESS?

OH,
A.G.N.E.S.!!
SOB!
I DON'T KNOW
WHO I AM--

--OR WHERE
I *COME* FROM.
YET ALL I CAN
THINK ABOUT....

--IS
FINDING
MY WAY
HOME!

NEXT:
REVELATIONS!

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