



BABYLON

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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FEB 95

BASED ON THE GROUND-BREAKING WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES



**MORETTI
NETZER
LEIGH**

DIRECT SALES

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**CAUGHT
IN THE
CROSSFIRE!**

BABYLON 5—
DOCKING BAY 94.

0422 HOURS.

HUH?
WHAT WAS
THAT?

WHO'S
THERE?

CALM
DOWN, COLBY,
THERE'S NO
ONE...

...THIS IS
NO TIME TO BE
NERVOUS.

YOU'RE
JUST DOING
YOUR JOB, JUST
HELPING
OUT.

LIKE
THE BOSS
SAID...

"...SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS A SIMPLE
ACT, TO REWRITE HUMAN HISTORY."

0714 HOURS.

"BABYLON
CONTROL, THIS
IS MINBARI FLYER
ZHALAN REQUESTING
CLEARANCE FOR
TAKEOFF."

"YOU ARE
CLEAR TO
PROCEED,
ZHALAN."

"HAVE
A SAFE
FLIGHT."

2151 HOURS—
THREE DAYS LATER.



ZETA SQUAD,
YOU ARE CLEAR TO
LAUNCH.

CONFIRMED,
BABYLON CONTROL.
WHERE TO?

IT'S A
DISTRESS CALL
IN GRID EPSILON.
I'M TRANSMITTING
LOCATION
NOW.

GOT IT. TARGET
IS CROSS-LOCKED AT LAST
REPORTED POSITION.

PROCEED
DIRECTLY TO
JUMP GATE. GOOD
LUCK, KEFFER.

KEEP THE
COFFEE HOT,
CONTROL...

MARK
MORETTI
WRITER

MICHAEL
NETZER
PENCILLER

ROB
LEIGH
INKER

ROBBIE
BUSCH
COLORIST

TRACY HAMPTON
MUNSEY
LETTERER

TREASON



...WE'LL BE
BACK BEFORE
BREAKFAST.

JAMES
McCANN
ASSISTS

LAURA
HITCHCOCK
EDITOR

BASED ON THE
WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES
BABYLON 5
CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



"LIEUTENANT, I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU'VE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE. MY FIRST NIGHT OFF IN A WEEK— BUT YOU MANAGED TO GET ME OUT OF BED."



SORRY, LT. COMMANDER IVANOVA— BUT IT'S A WEIRD ONE. AN INTERMITTENT MAYDAY, BUT THEY WON'T GIVE THEIR POSITION OR I.D. CODE.

WE TRIANGULATED THE SIGNAL AND ZETA SQUAD WAS DISPATCHED TO—



EXCUSE ME, GIRS, BUT HERE IT COMES AGAIN.



ON SCREEN.

—SKRKK— REPEAT, ALL SHIPS IN GRID EPSILON— SKRKK—



—THIS IS STARLINER CHIYODA-KU TO ALL SHIPS IN— SKRKK—

"NO!— PLEASE, DON'T!"



"AAK!"





WOW.

THE RAIDERS AGAIN, LT. COMMANDER.

I DON'T THINK SO.



THE PILOT NEVER MENTIONED AN ATTACK, AND THERE WAS NO HULL DAMAGE OR INTERSHIP TRANSMISSIONS... BUT I SWEAR I HEARD PPG FIRE.

SEEMS MORE LIKE A HIJACK GONE BAD. HMMM...

WHAT'S ZETA WING'S E.T.A.?

SEVENTY-TWO MINUTES.



SHOULD WE NOTIFY THE CAPTAIN?

NO... NO, LET HIM SLEEP, LIEUTENANT.

HE'S BEEN WORKING DOUBLE SHIFTS TRYING TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT BABYLON 5 SINCE HE ARRIVED.



THIS ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE, RIGHT?

RIGHT, SIR.



I *KNEW* IT WAS TOO QUIET AROUND HERE.

OKAY. LET'S PULL UP THE REGISTRATION AND MANIFEST OF THIS "CHIYODA-KU" AND HAVE A LOOK-SEE.

THESE ARE THE TIMES I WISH GARIBALDI WAS BACK ON DUTY, BUT...

"YOU MUST BE KIDDING!"



NOTHING'S THE SAME ANYMORE.

PRESIDENT SANTIAGO'S BLOWN AWAY, JEFF GETS TRANSFERRED TO MINBAR. THING'S'RE GOING TO HELL AND I'M STUCK IN MEDLAB...!

SO, I'M GLAD TO GET VISITORS. BUT THE LAST GUEST WHO INDULGED ME IN MY FAV—, UH, MY *SECOND* FAVORITE THING IN THE UNIVERSE— JUST DIDN'T GET IT.



BY THE WAY, HOW IS PELENN? I HEARD ABOUT HER "CONDITION."



BACK ON MINBAR. AMBASSADORIAL DUTIES, I THINK.

I'M JUST GLAD YOUR OFFER WAS STILL OPEN.

HEY, IF I *KNEW* THAT GETTING SHOT WAS ALL IT TOOK TO GET YOU TO STOP *BY*...



...I'D HAVE CONSIDERED IT *LONG* AGO.

—THERE. IT'S *READY*.



YOU *KNOW* WHAT THEY *SAV*, MR. GARIBALDI...



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU *WISH* FOR... OH, NO—!

DUCK DODGERS — ? YOU *MUST* BE KIDDING.

Duck Dod
in the
24th & 1/2 Ce

3.8 PARSECS AWAY...



FINALLY,
THANK VALEN.

MINBARI FLYER
ZHALAN TO CRUISER
SOLARIS REQUEST
PERMISSION TO
DOCK.

PERMISSION
GRANTED, FLYER
ZHALAN. WE ARE HONORED
TO TRANSPORT THE SATAI
TO HOMEWORLD.
WELCOME.

"RACINE, WE'VE LEFT THE
JUMP GATE TWO DAYS EARLY.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?"

"NO, AMBASSADOR
SINCLAIR. WE MUST STOP TO
TAKE ON A TRANSFER."



SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CEREMONY?

YOU KNOW OF THE SHI-KI?

A LITTLE.

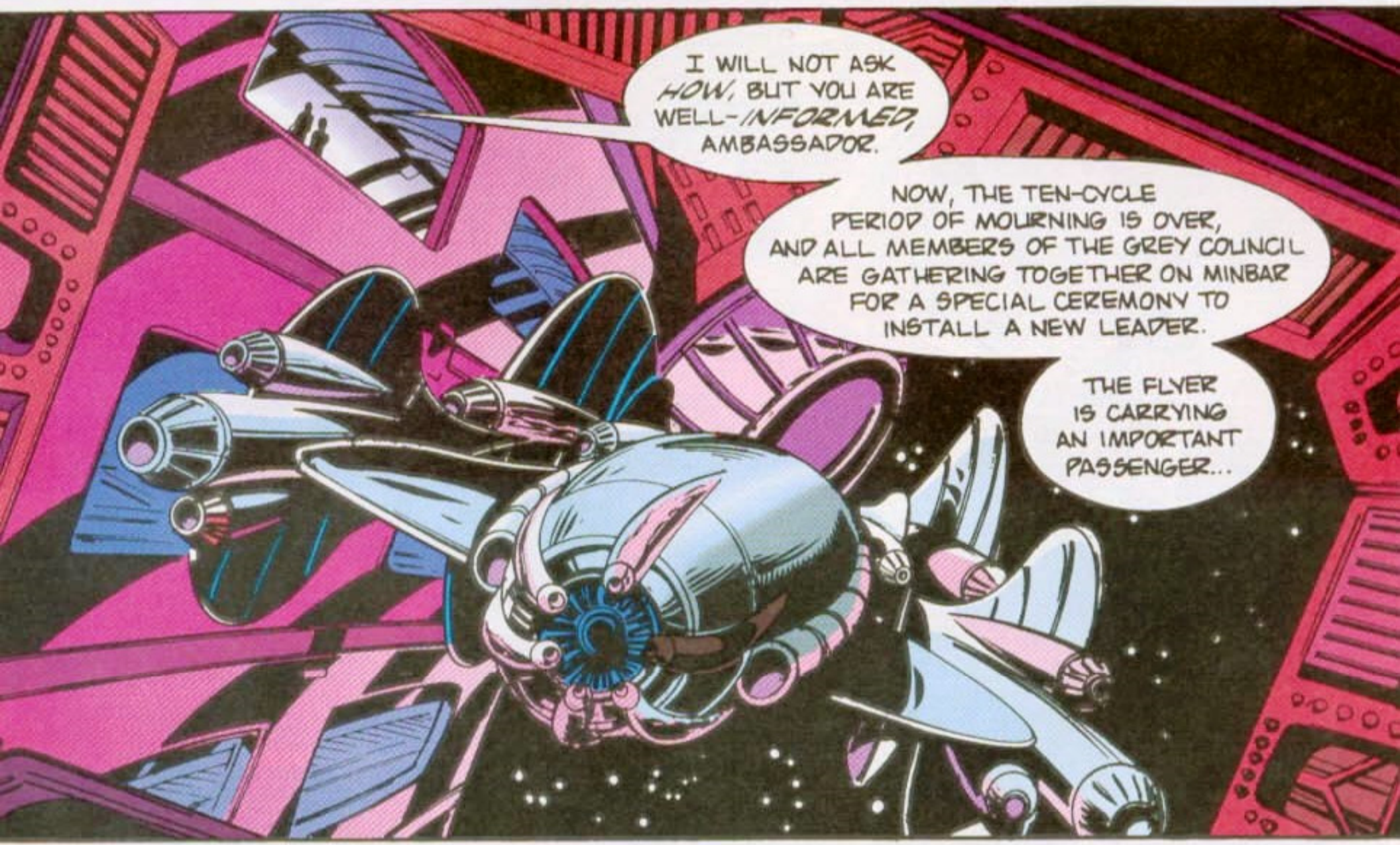


I, MYSELF, AM NOT AN ADVOCATE BY BIRTH, BUT I WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN.

SINCE THE DEATH OF DUKHAT, MINBAR HAS BEEN GOVERNED BY THE GREY COUNCIL...



BUT THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE.



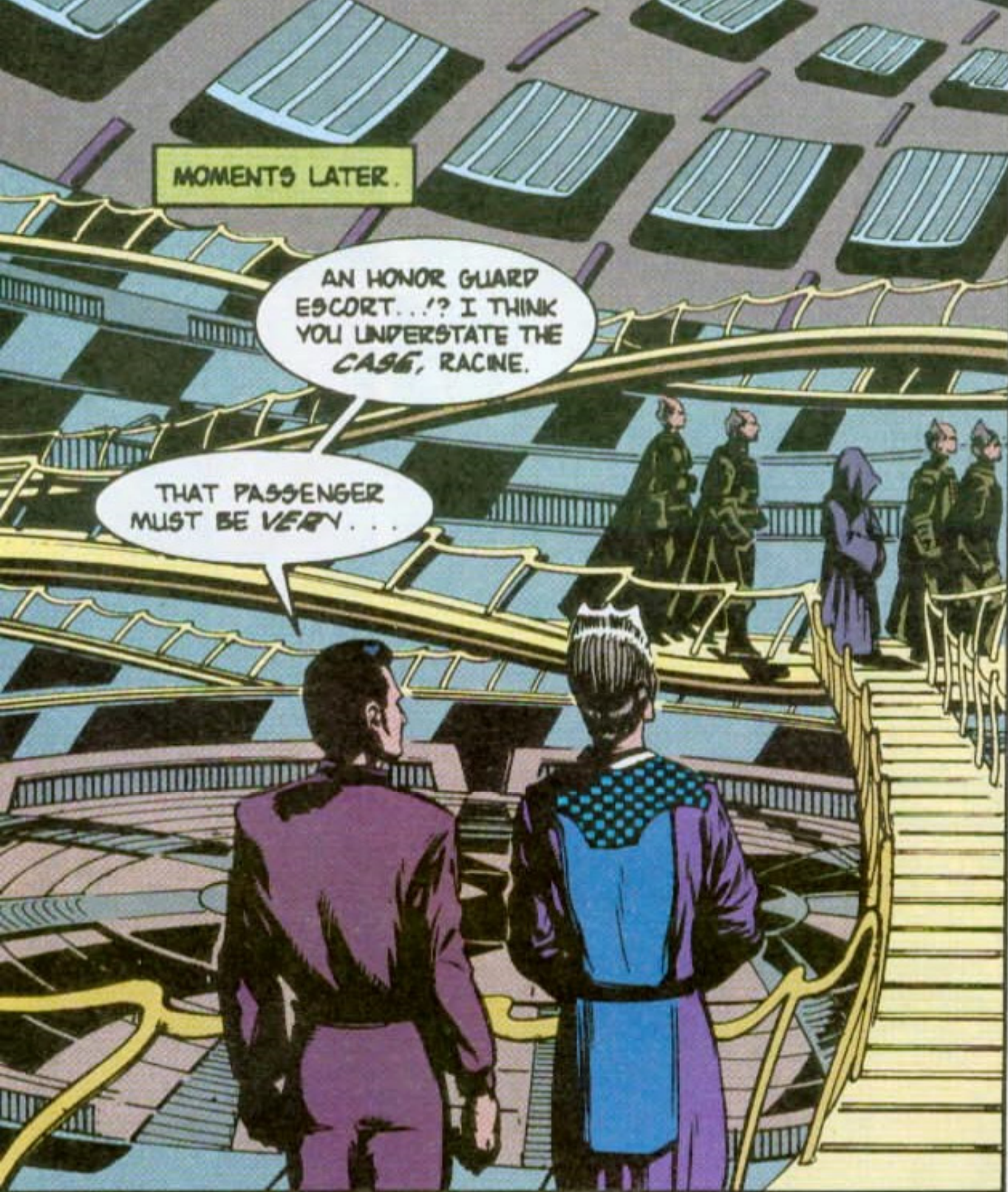
I WILL NOT ASK HOW, BUT YOU ARE WELL-INFORMED, AMBASSADOR.

NOW, THE TEN-CYCLE PERIOD OF MOURNING IS OVER, AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE GREY COUNCIL ARE GATHERING TOGETHER ON MINBAR FOR A SPECIAL CEREMONY TO INSTALL A NEW LEADER.

THE FLYER IS CARRYING AN IMPORTANT PASSENGER...



... A MEMBER OF THE GREY COUNCIL WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FOR SOME TIME, BUT WAS ABLE TO ATTEND AT THE LAST MOMENT.



MOMENTS LATER.

AN HONOR GUARD ESCORT...? I THINK YOU UNDERSTATE THE CASE, RACINE.

THAT PASSENGER MUST BE VERY...



IMPORTANT...



A—EXCUSE ME.

AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR—NO! YOU MUST NOT—



EXCUSE ME, BUT I—

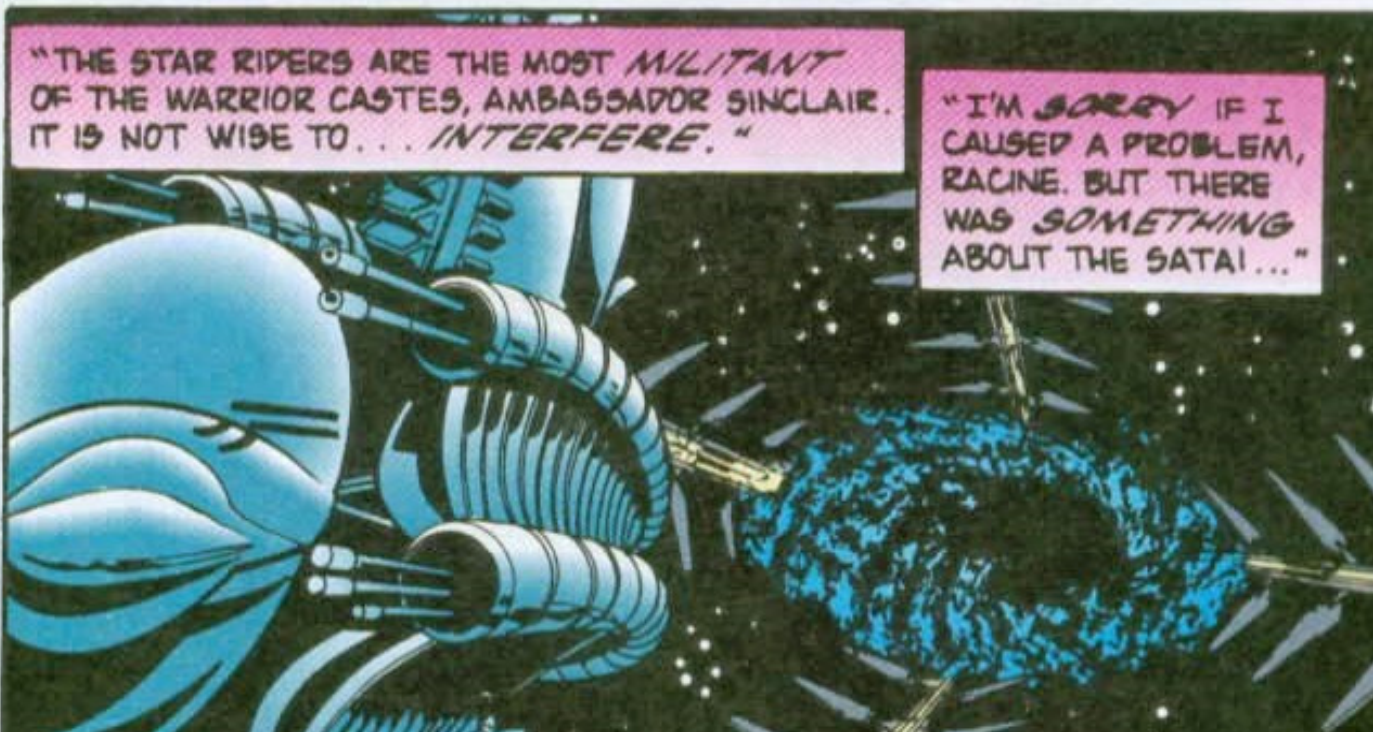
STOP, HUMAN!



DO NOT APPROACH THE SATAI. IT IS FORBIDDEN.



APOLOGIES, WARRIOR. THE EARTH AMBASSADOR... DOES NOT KNOW. PLEASE—EXCUSE US.



"THE STAR RIDERS ARE THE MOST MILITANT OF THE WARRIOR CASTES, AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR. IT IS NOT WISE TO... INTERFERE."

"I'M SORRY IF I CAUSED A PROBLEM, RACINE. BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE SATAI..."



"... AND BROTHER, WHEN IT DITHINTIGRATES... IT DITHINTIGRATES!"

"WADDA' YA KNOW? IT DITHINTIGRATED!"

HA-HA-HA! GREAT! THAT'S MY FAVORITE LI-

INCOMING CALL FOR MICHAEL GARIBALDI.



WHO THE HELL—? ORIGINATION OF CALL, COMPUTER?

CODED GOLD CHANNEL TRANSMISSION. SECURITY OFFICER GARIBALDI—EYES ONLY.

TALIA, I...



THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MICHAEL.



WE'LL DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME. 'NIGHT.



OKAY, COMPUTER, PUT IT—*LINNY*— PUT THE CALL THROUGH.

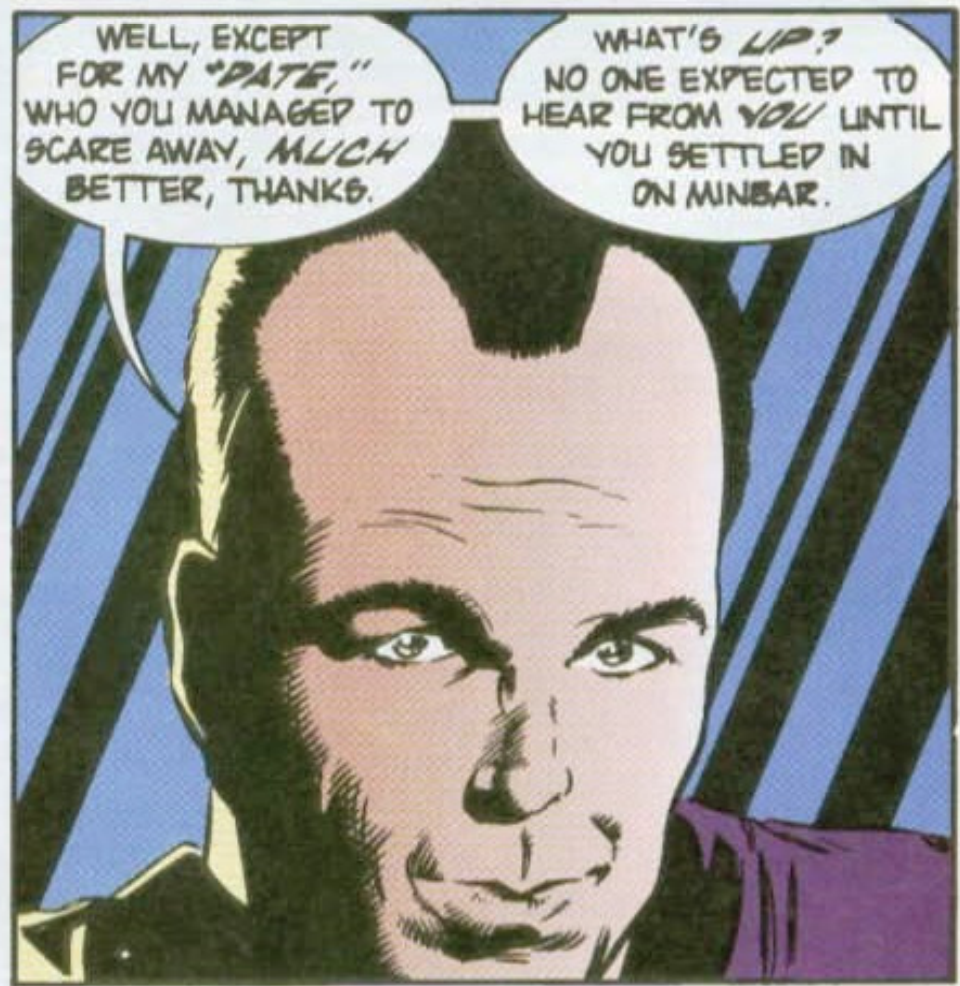
THIS BETTER BE GOOD, WHOEVER Y—

MICHAEL. HOPE I DIDN'T WAKE YOU.



—JEFF!

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, YOU OLD WARHORSE?



WELL, EXCEPT FOR MY "DATE," WHO YOU MANAGED TO SCARE AWAY, MUCH BETTER, THANKS.

WHAT'S UP? NO ONE EXPECTED TO HEAR FROM YOU UNTIL YOU SETTLED IN ON MINBAR.



WE'RE STILL EN ROUTE, BUT I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE—

—TO YOU OR ANYONE ELSE.



HEY, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER. BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANYTHING.

BESIDES, I HEAR THEY DIDN'T GIVE YOU MUCH TIME—OR A CHOICE.



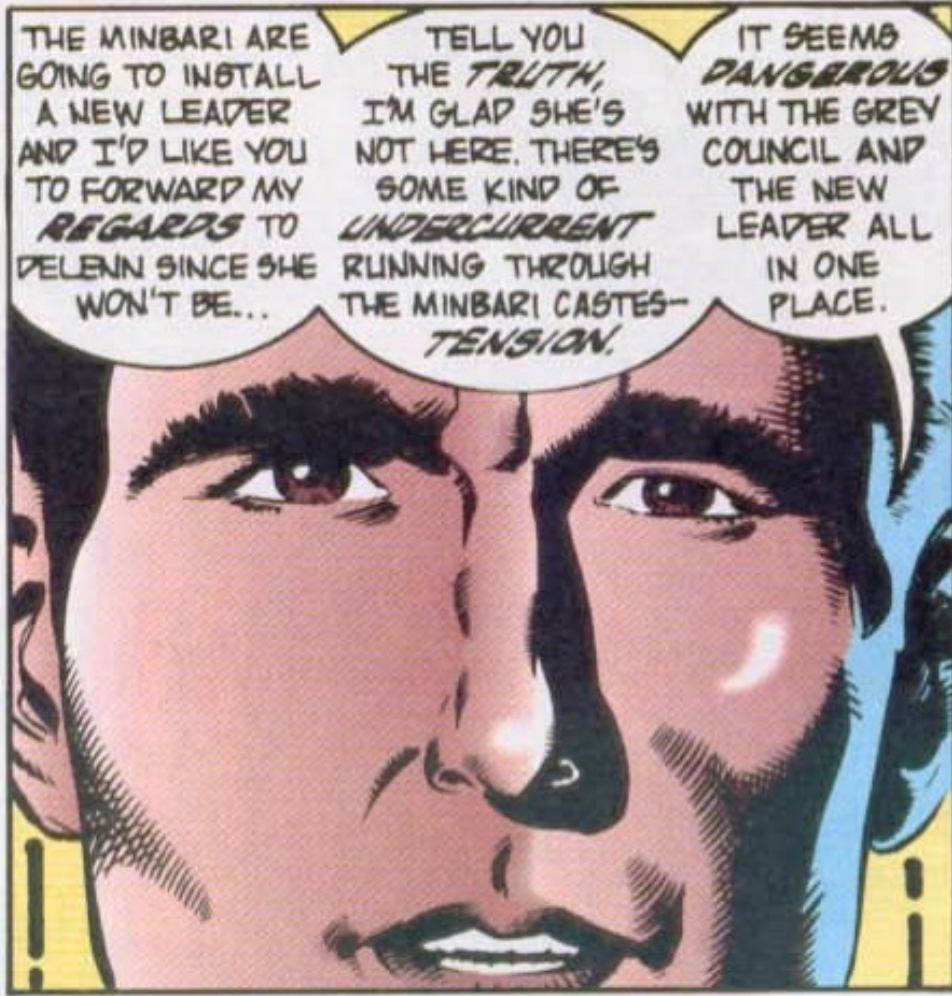
THANKS, MICHAEL. WE JUST PICKED UP A PASSENGER... AND IT REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING. I NEED A FAVOR.



NAME IT. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, PAL?

I PROMISED TO MEET AMBASSADOR DELENN THE NIGHT YOU WERE SHOT.

BUT BY THE TIME I REACHED HER... SHE'D COCOONED HERSELF.



THE MINBARI ARE GOING TO INSTALL A NEW LEADER AND I'D LIKE YOU TO FORWARD MY REGARDS TO DELENN SINCE SHE WON'T BE...

TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M GLAD SHE'S NOT HERE. THERE'S SOME KIND OF UNDERCURRENT RUNNING THROUGH THE MINBARI CASTES—TENSION.

IT SEEMS DANGEROUS WITH THE GREY COUNCIL AND THE NEW LEADER ALL IN ONE PLACE.



SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT A COUP D' ETAT. IS THIS A SECURE LINK, JEFF?



I HOPE SO. I AM A DIPLOMAT NOW. WHY?



DELENN CAME OUT OF HER CHRYSALIS, AND I JUST HEARD SHE'S ON HER WAY THERE... NOW.

I GOTTA TELL YOU, JEFF—SHE'S... DIFFERENT."

GRID EPSILON.

THERE SHE IS...
MAN, WHAT A BEAUTY OF A SHIP!

BABYLON CONTROL—
THIS IS ZETA WING.

WE ALMOST MISSED HER.
SHE'S READING VERY LOW POWER
LEVELS. NO COMMUNICATIONS, NO
LIFE SUPPORT SIGNS, AND...

...OH MY GOD!

I CAN SEE
INSIDE...

...THEY'RE ALL
DEAD!

IT'S A MESS,
CONTROL. WHAT DO
YOU ADVISE?

THIS IS LT. COMMANDER
IVANOVA, ZETA WING. ATTACH
GRAPPLING HOOKS AND TOW
HER BACK THROUGH THE
JUMP GATE.



ROGER, BABYLON 5—WE'RE PULLING HER HOME. NOW APPROACHING JUMP GATE.



SEE YOU SHORTLY.

"AH, *HERE* IT IS... REGISTRATION CODE FOR AN EARTH LUXURY STARLINER, THE CHYOPA-KU..."



...WHAT? COMPUTER SAYS IT'S ALPHA-SIX... CLASSIFIED EYES ONLY?



TAKE OVER, LIEUTENANT CORONA. AND WAKE DR. FRANKLIN.



TELL HIM TO MEET ME IN THE BAYS.

I'LL ROUND UP AN EMERGENCY CREW.



BUT KEEP IT *QUIET*. THIS SOUNDS UGLY, AND I DON'T WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION UNTIL WE KNOW MORE.

DARK STAR DANCE CLUB. BROWN SECTION — DOWNBELOW.

YEAH, SHE'S A BEAUTY — FOR A HUMAN.

THINK SHE HAS A PRICE?

DON'T THEY ALL?

HA! HA!
HA!

IDIOT ALIENS. KEEP LAUGHING — I WANT TO REMEMBER THE LOOK ON YOUR UGLY FACES WHEN —

HUH — ? SECURITY LEVEL TRANSMISSIONS COMING THROUGH, AT THIS HOUR?

JUST AS WELL. I'M SICK OF ALL THOSE STUPID, DISGUSTING CREATURES. DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. ONE BY ONE, RACE BY RACE...

... THEY'LL ALL BE DRIVEN BACK TO THEIR HOME WORLDS...

... IF JABON COLBY HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.

WITH PROPER TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT...

... AND A QUICK MIND, I'LL ALWAYS STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF EVERYONE...

... ROGER, BABYLON 5 — WE'RE PULLING HER HOME. NOW APPROACHING JUMP GATE.

DAMN!

THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM.

LET'S SEE... MEDICAL TECHNICIAN... DOCK WORKER... MAINTENANCE. AHH...

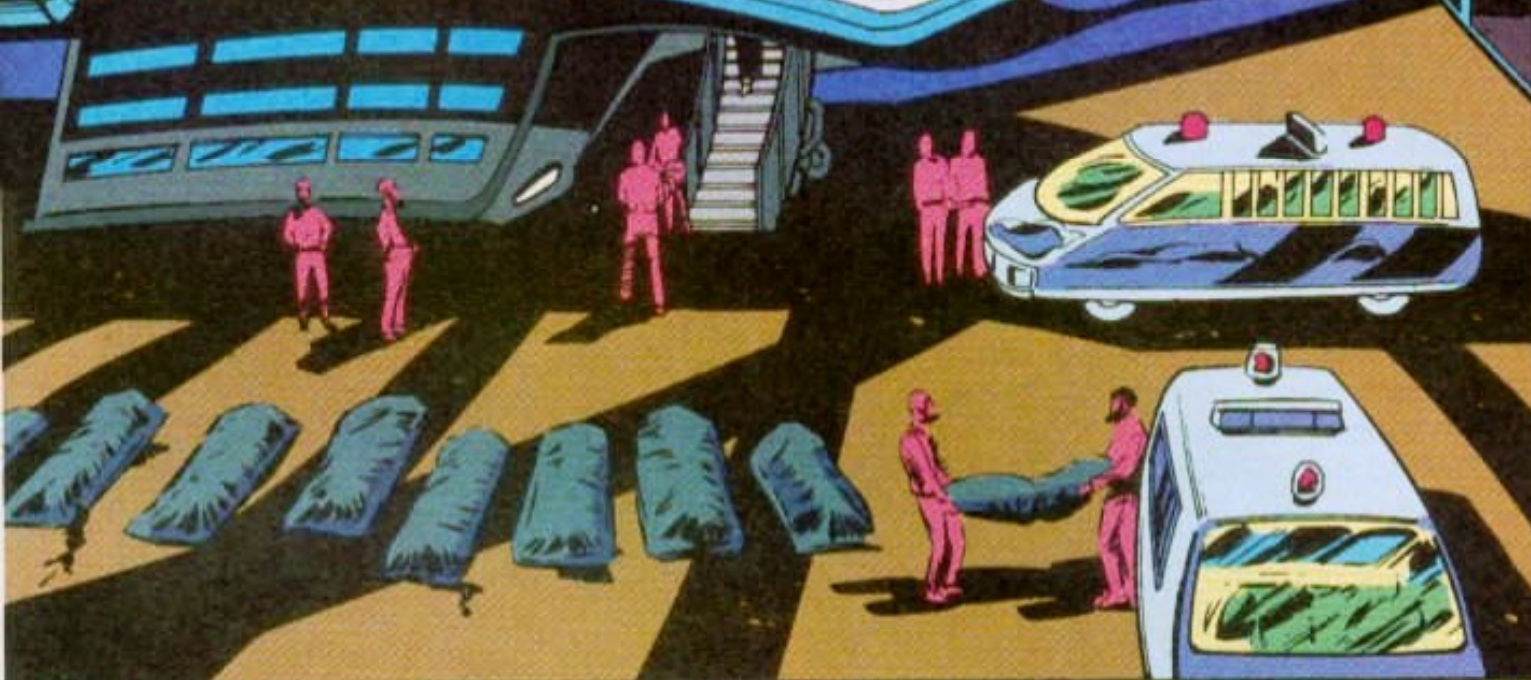
... BABYLON 5 SECURITY. THIS SHOULD DO NICELY.

BAY SIX. NINETY MINUTES LATER.

"HERE'S WHAT WE'VE GOT, LT. COMMANDER IVANOVA: TWENTY-FIVE ABOARD—ALL BUT ONE DEAD. I'M NOT A FORENSICS EXPERT, BUT MOST APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ASPHYXIATED—AND SOME WERE SHOT, AS WELL."

"THERE'S NO PENETRATION OR LOSS OF HULL INTEGRITY. JUST SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE FROM SMALL ARMS FIRE. AND NO SIGN OF BIO-CONTAMINATION—BUT WE'LL WEAR BREATHERS TILL DECONTAMINATION IS COMPLETE, TO BE SAFE."

"THE SHIP'S DATA RECORDER IS MISSING ITS CRYSTAL, BUT THE LIFE SUPPORTS DIDN'T MALFUNCTION—THEY WERE MANUALLY SWITCHED OFF!"



IT ALMOST ADDS UP, LT. LEEDS. THE LONE SURVIVOR WAS SHOT, TOO—BUT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WEARING A BREATHER UNIT.



YOU KNOW, I SWEAR I'VE SEEN THIS SHIP BEFORE...

WORK ON IT, RICHARDS?



THERE'S NO IDENTIFICATION ON ANY OF THE BODIES, COMMANDER.

GREAT.

GET ON THE NET, RICHARDS. TRY EARTH CENTRAL. MUST BE A FLIGHT RECORD *SOMEWHERE*. NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN AFFORD A SHIP LIKE *THIS*.



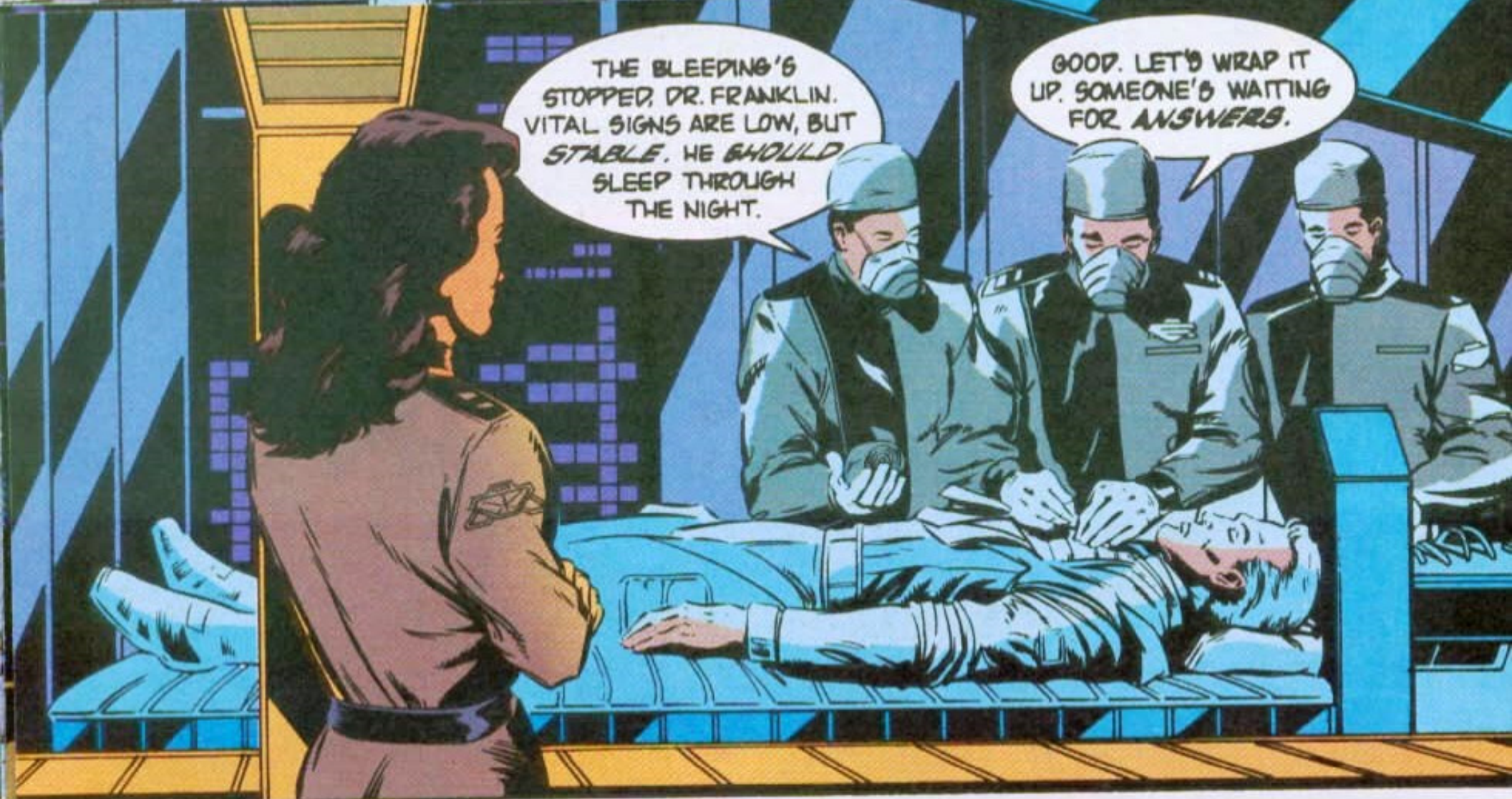
THE REST OF YOU KEEP GOING OVER THE SHIP. IT *MUST* HOLD AN ANSWER. I'LL BE IN MED-LAB IF YOU NEED ME.



LET'S HOPE THAT SURVIVOR LIVES *LONG* ENOUGH TO GET US TO THE *BOTTOM* OF THIS.



DON'T *COUNT* ON IT, LT. COMMANDER. *HE'S* THE LOOSE END I NEED TO *TIE UP*.



THE BLEEDING'S STOPPED, DR. FRANKLIN. VITAL SIGNS ARE LOW, BUT STABLE. HE SHOULD SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT.

GOOD. LET'S WRAP IT UP. SOMEONE'S WAITING FOR ANSWERS.

MOMENTS LATER.



...AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF CONTAGION OR DRUGS IN HIS SYSTEM, DR. FRANKLIN?

NONE. BUT HE'S STILL IN DANGER. HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, AND WAS DELIRIOUS. I HAD TO GIVE HIM A STRONG PAINKILLER.



HE HAS TWO MAJOR PPG WOUNDS — ONE CLEAN THROUGH THE SHOULDER, AND A MESSY ONE ON THE NECK THAT'LL KEEP HIM FROM TALKING FOR A LONG TIME.



I CAN EXPLAIN HIS CONDITION, COMMANDER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.



THANKS, DOCTOR. GET SOME SLEEP. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I'M POSTING A GUARD OUTSIDE. I NEED TO BE HERE THE MINUTE HE'S COHERENT.

SUIT YOURSELF. BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WAITING...

0236 HOURS.

P666T.
HEY.

MMMM...

HMMM. ALIVE AND
TOO WELL. I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU *SURVIVED* THAT
MESS ON THE SHIP...

DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER, NOW.



SO,
YOU'RE
AWAKE!
LOOKS LIKE
I WAS
RIGHT
TO COME
AND—



—ARRGH!!



...UNNH.



—!



SON
OF A —!
FOR A PATIENT,
THAT GUY'S
QUICK. WHERE
THE HELL
DID HE
GO?

0334 HOURS.
COMMAND
AND CONTROL.

LIGHT. IF IT WAS A *SNAKE*
IT WOULD'VE *BITTEN* ME!
LEEDS WAS *RIGHT*. THE CHUYODA-KU
WAS CONFISCATED BY EARTH FORCE
IN AN *ARMS-SMUGGLING*
BUST...TWO YEARS AGO!

LT. COMMANDER
IVANOVA — THERE'S
AN EMERGENCY IN
MEDLAB!

GET DR. FRANKLIN
DOWN THERE —

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT
HE'S ALREADY *THERE*. HE
WENT TO CHECK ON THE PATIENT,
WHO WAS *GONE!* THE
GUARD WAS *DEAD!*

AND,
COMMANDER — ?

THE GUARD'S *GUN*
IS MISSING, TOO.

DAMN! IT'S
STARTING TO *FIT*,
VERY NEATLY!

SIR?

SOUND A SILENT ALARM TO
ALL POSTS. DON'T LET ANY
SHIPS LEAVE THE STATION!
AND WAKE EVERY AVAILABLE
SECURITY OFFICER.

YES,
SIR.

PUT *EVERYONE* ON THE
LOOKOUT. I WANT THE PATIENT
ALIVE IF *POSSIBLE*, BUT USE
EXTREME CAUTION — CONSIDER HIM
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



EARTH ALLIANCE EMBASSY IN
YEDOR, CAPITAL OF MINBAR.

NO MATTER HOW I *FEEL*
ABOUT THIS PLACE, IT *IS*
BEAUTIFUL. EVEN V.R. HOLD-
REPLICAS DON'T DO THE
PLANET *JUSTICE*.

IN A FEW HOURS, THE
NEW MINBARI LEADER
WILL PARADE THROUGH
THAT PLAZA... *HISTORY*
IN THE *MAKING*.

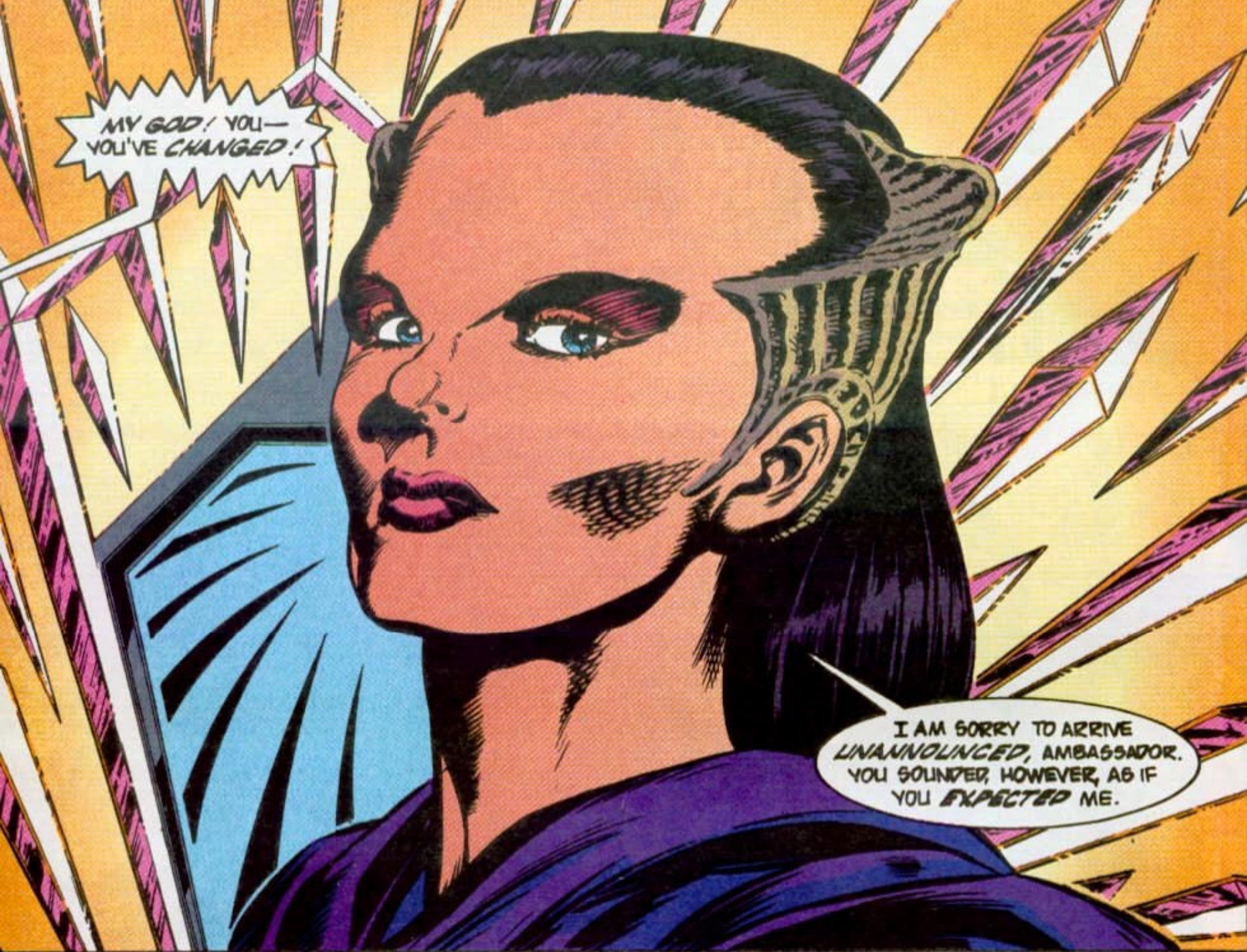
I SHOULD FEEL *HONORED*. I'M
THE FIRST HUMAN AMBASSADOR
EVER INVITED TO MINBAR...

... AND YET, I'D *NEVER* HAVE *CHOSEN* THIS
ASSIGNMENT. STILL, I SUPPOSE I CAN GET *USED* TO
IT, AS LONG AS I HAVE AN OCCASIONAL... *VISITOR*.

COME IN...?

AH, AMBASSADOR DELENN!

I *THOUGHT* IT MIGHT
BE YOU WE PICKED UP ON THE
WAR CRUISER, BUT—



0456 HOURS.

... THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO SWEEP EACH SECTION AGAIN, OFFICER WELCH. HE COULDN'T JUST EVAPORATE INTO—

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP

THERE'S ANOTHER CALL. I'LL GET BACK TO YOU. IN THE MEANTIME, START OVER. DR. FRANKLIN SAYS HE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR IN HIS CONDITION.

IVANOVA HERE.

TALIA...? I HAVE AN EMERGENCY SITUATION NOW. WHATEVER IT IS WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

SUSAN, THE MAN YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR IS NAMED PEXTER HALL.

HOW DO YOU — ?

BECAUSE HE'S IN MY QUARTERS. DON'T ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS. JUST GET HERE RIGHT AWAY. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

FREDRICKS, COBURN, LET'S GO. ALERT ALL SEARCH TEAMS — CONVERGE ON LEVEL RED-FIVE, AT...

DOWNBELOW.

... THE QUARTERS OF TALIA WINTERS.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP, LT. COMMANDER. I DON'T MISS TWICE.



STEP ASIDE, TALIA. THAT MAN KILLED A SECURITY OFFICER. HE'S DANGEROUS.

NO, STOP! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. DEXTER HALL'S A PSI-COP AND HE CAN'T HURT ANYONE.

AFFIRMATIVE, LT. COMMANDER. HE'S ALIVE, BUT OUT COLD.

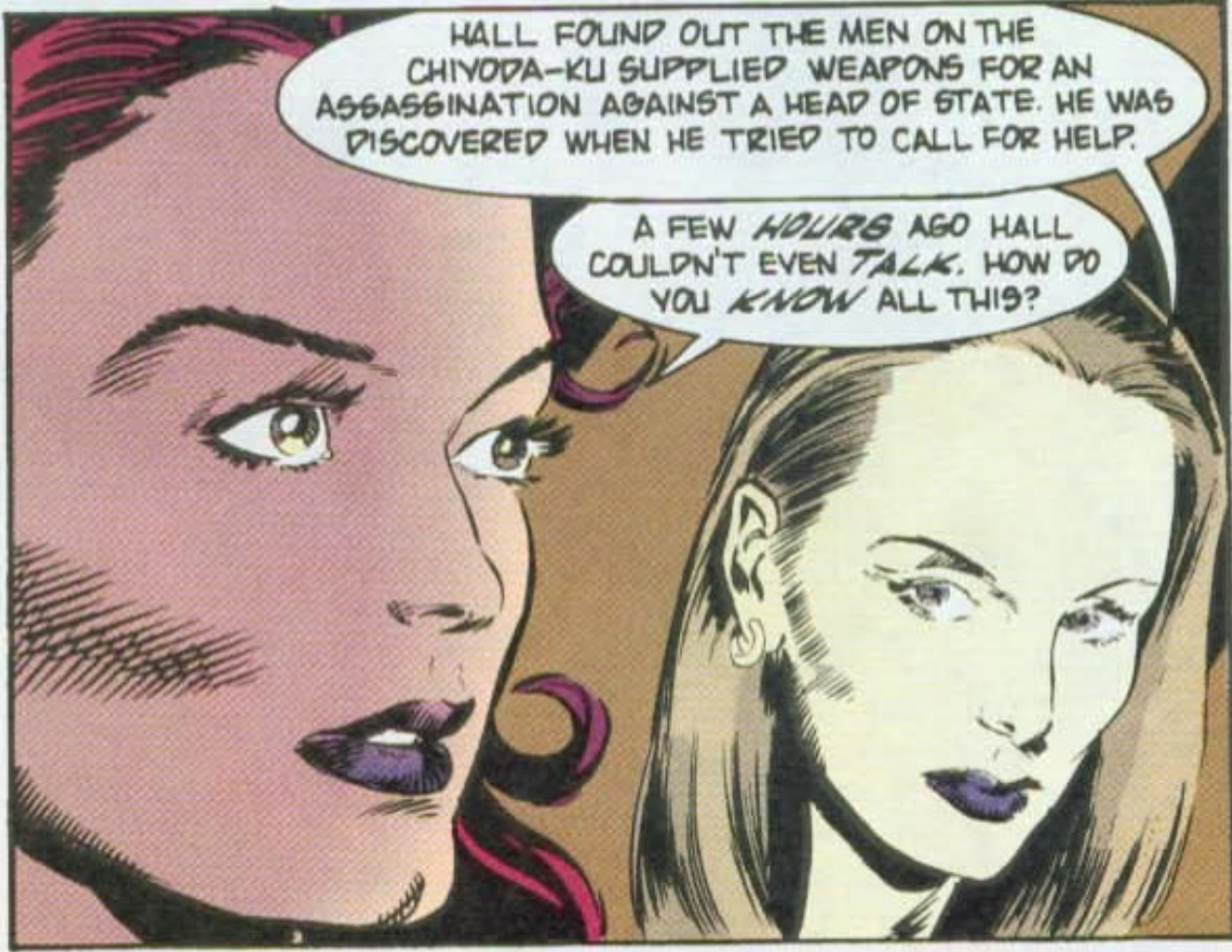
ALL RIGHT, TALIA. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

HE WAS TRYING TO FIND A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE PSI-CORPS. I'M LISTED AS BABYLON 5'S RESIDENT TELEPATH, SO HE CAME HERE. SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL HIM TONIGHT IN MED-LAB!

HALL WAS WORKING UNDERCOVER. HE'D INFILTRATED A HOME GUARD/PRO-EARTH GROUP ON THE CHIYODA-KU WHO BLAMED PRESIDENT SANTIAGO'S DEATH ON ALIEN GROUPS.

WHAT?!

BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN...



HALL FOUND OUT THE MEN ON THE CHIYODA-KU SUPPLIED WEAPONS FOR AN ASSASSINATION AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE. HE WAS DISCOVERED WHEN HE TRIED TO CALL FOR HELP.

A FEW HOURS AGO HALL COULDN'T EVEN TALK. HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?



BECAUSE I *PROBED* HIM. THE PLAN IS ALREADY IN MOTION. SOMEONE IS WORKING WITH THEM ON MINBAR—THE TARGET IS THE NEW MINBARI LEADER.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING—NOW!

MINBAR.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JEFFREY, BUT I MUST ATTEND THE CEREMONY. WILL YOU BE JOINING US?

I'LL WATCH IT FROM HERE, WHERE I WON'T BE A... DISTRACTION.

UNTIL THEN, AMBASSADOR— KUZORR?

EXCUSE THE INTRUSION, SATAI. BUT I PREFER IT IF YOU WOULD REMAIN FOR A MOMENT TO ACT AS WITNESS.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I THINK YOU WILL, AMBASSADOR.

THESE ARE YOUR BELONGINGS, SINCLAIR?

YES, I'VE BEEN EXPECTING THEM. THEY WERE TRANSFERRED FROM BABYLON 5 ONTO DELENN'S SHIP.



WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHY ALL THE FORMALITY?



INSIDE THE FALSE TOP OF THIS SEALED CABE WE FOUND SOMETHING.



A LONG-RANGE EARTH WEAPON...



... ALONG WITH SCHEMATICS OF OUR NEW LEADER'S CORONATION ROUTE, PINPOINTING THE MOMENT IT WILL PASS BY YOUR WINDOW.

NO! THIS HAS TO BE A MISTAKE!

THE EVIDENCE INDICATES OTHERWISE, SATAI.

YOU SEE, SATAI. WE INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EARTH TO LIVE AMONG US IN PEACE—AND THIS IS HOW HE RESPONDS.

AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR, YOU ARE UNDER **ARREST** FOR CONSPIRING TO ASSASSINATE OUR NEW LEADER.

WHEN YOU ARE **CONVICTED**, BE ASSURED WE WILL DECLARE **WAR** AGAINST EARTH FOR YOUR **TREASON**.

TAKE HIM!

TO BE CONTINUED...

B A B Y L O N

"It was the dawn of the third age of mankind... ten years after the Earth-Minbari war. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war, by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home, for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens, wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal... all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2259. The name of the place is... **BABYLON 5.**"

MAKEUP FOR AN ALIEN WORLD

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

With credits ranging from NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD to THE DARK HALF, the makeup team of Everett Burrell and John Vulich is no stranger to... the strange.

And when offered the opportunity to create alien effects for the science-fiction television drama BABYLON 5, Vulich and Burrell, co-founders of Optic Nerve Studios, jumped at the chance to stretch their creativity. Since opening in 1989, Optic Nerve has risen to become one of the best up-and-coming makeup effects houses in the industry, but bringing a top level of quality to the small screen would be the studio's toughest job yet.

One of the most challenging aspects of taking over the BABYLON 5 project from John Criswell (who created the alien effects for BABYLON 5's two-hour movie premiere) involved modifying the design of the Minbari. The androgynous look that Minbari Ambassador Delenn sported in the pilot was deemed too harsh and unattractive, so Vulich and Burrell returned to designer Steve Burg's original concepts for inspiration. They abandoned the previously-used prosthetic chin extension and created a more subtle forehead appliance (a foam latex attachment).

The resulting design better incorporated actress Mira Furlan's natural features and gave the character a more angelic, feminine appearance. Last-minute inspiration provided the now familiar blue patterning seen on the heads of all Minbari, roughly analogous to human freckles.

In addition to refining the Minbari look, Optic Nerve's on-set makeup artists, including Greg Funk and Will Huff, worked to halve the prosthetic application time, from four hours to two. They began prepainting all appliances with the same "Shibui" prosthetic makeup that's also used to blend the appliances into the natural

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THEY WON THE EMMY!

During the intense first season spent creating alien makeup effects for BABYLON 5, John Vulich and Everett Burrell, co-owners of Optic Nerve Studios, often kidded that B5 would be their ticket to the Emmys. But on July 21, they received a fax from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that put all kidding aside. They had been nominated for a 1994 Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Makeup.

Running against well-established competition like SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, Burrell and Vulich knew they were the dark horse to win. As the new kids on the block, just receiving a nomination seemed significant. Nevertheless, on awards night, Vulich and Burrell were summoned to the stage, along with co-nominees Greg Funk, Ron Pipes, and Mary Kay Morse, to receive their own Emmy statuettes.

According to Vulich, "It was horrifying. Exciting, but horrifying."

"It was fun," says Burrell, "but my Emmy broke. I hope that's not a bad foreshadowing of things to come." Not likely, considering the Emmy recognition has already produced a number of interesting new job opportunities.

Greg Funk, one of Optic Nerve's key on-set makeup people, still seems a bit overwhelmed by the whole experience: "It's the most Hollywood thing I've ever done!"



Mira Furlan as Ambassador Delenn, Babylon 5's Minbari liaison.

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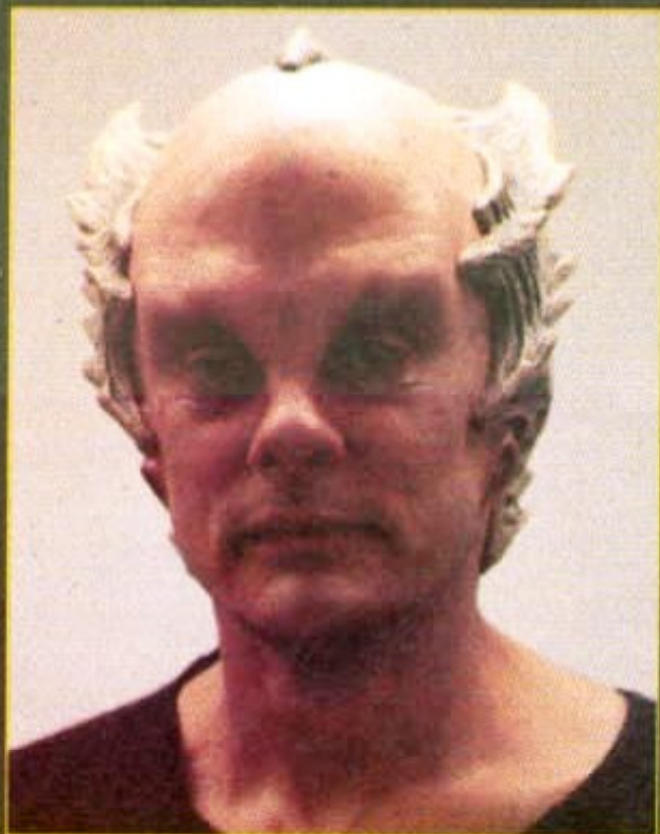
NEXT UP: IN HARM'S WAY

The crisis continues as Earth Alliance and the Minbari inch their way toward all-out war! Mark Moretti continues the story, and Carlos Garzon guests on art.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



John Vickery as Alit Neroon, a Minbari warrior from the episode "Legacies."

lines of the actor's face. Vacuformed plastic templates were created to help the makeup artists air-brush correct blue patterns onto the heads of recurring Minbari players — thus saving time and insuring consistency from show to show.

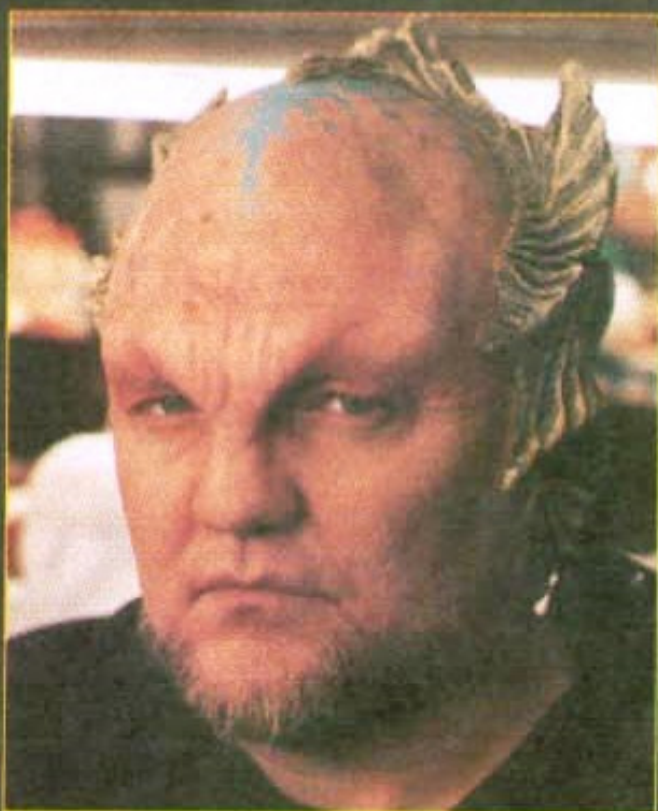
Without a doubt, the Minbari have proven to be one of the most intriguing alien races to grace the small screen in some time. Not unlike ancient Japanese culture, the societal structure of the Minbari includes warrior castes (such as the Wind Swords), philosophical orders, and clandestine political organizations. Since they represent one of the "superpowers" of the B5 universe, Optic Nerve designers, such as John Wheaton, pay special attention to the development of all featured Minbari players.

In particular, much thought went into the trademark bone protrusion encircling the heads of the Minbari people. Originally envisioned as a kind of ceremonial headdress, it evolved into an actual part of Minbari physiology. It was further decided that female Minbari ritually carved their crowns to

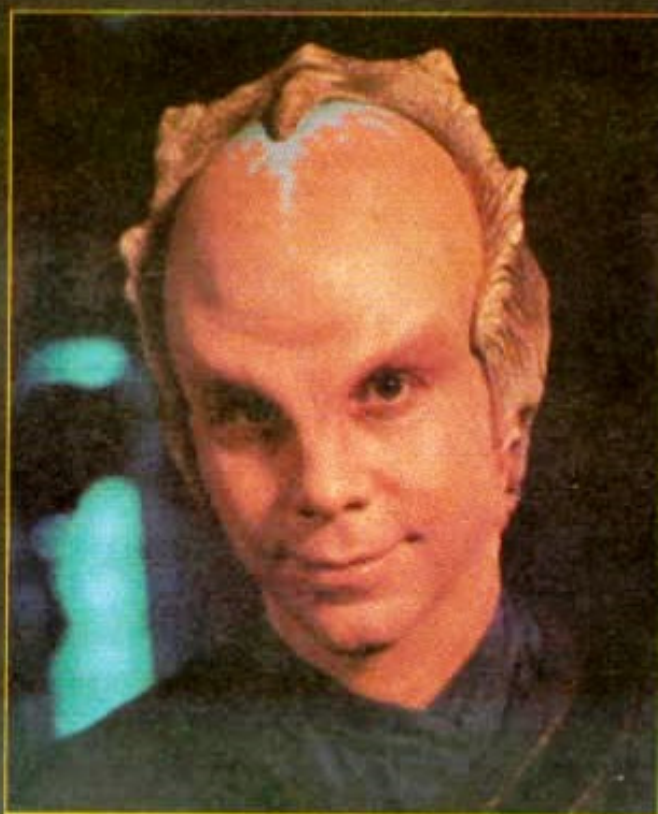
achieve a more decorative effect (like getting their hair done), while males allowed their crowns to retain a more organic look.

Vulich and Burrell took advantage of this physical feature when developing new Minbari characters, too. For example, characters pledged to a warrior caste, such as General Neroon (seen in the episode "Legacies"), were given bones with a rough, jagged look. On the other hand, the crown of Ambassador Delenn's assistant Lennier, played by *LOST IN SPACE* alumnus Bill Mummy, has a softer, more rounded design — evoking the image of fawn antlers, to emphasize the character's youth and innocence.

In the early episodes of B5, Minbari men apparently never had to deal with the tedious ritual of shaving. That changed, however, with the introduction of Draal, played by Louis Turenne, in the episode "A Voice in the Wilderness." Turenne was very "attached" to his facial hair, so it was agreed that the bearded look would be incorporated into his makeup.



Kalain, a rebel Minbari portrayed by Richard Grove in the second season episode "Points of Departure."



Veteran SF actor Bill Mummy in the role of Lennier, Ambassador Delenn's impressionable aide.

Vulich and Burrell rationalized this anomaly as a reflection of the character's mystic, almost wizardlike qualities. They also decided that facial hair might appear in the future on characters representing the radical fringe of Minbar society.

A mysterious race, second only to the enigmatic Vorlons in terms of secrets, the Minbari have many exciting surprises — and revelations — in their future. Commitment to detail and quality by the Optic Nerve crew will help make those surprises some of the most fascinating in television science fiction.

RUSSELL JOHNSON
works at Optic Nerve as a project coordinator, puppeteer, and sometimes bartender.