



F5 BABYLON

3 MAR 95 \$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN £1.25 UK



BASED ON THE GROUND-BREAKING WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES

INSIDE A KILLER'S MIND?



DIRECT SALES

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MORETTI GARZON

THE PLANET MINBAR.

SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE ARREST OF EARTH AMBASSADOR JEFFREY SINCLAIR.

"WELL, DELENN? IS THE CEREMONY OVER?"

"YES, AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR. THE CHOSEN ONE HAS TAKEN HIS PLACE IN THE PALATIUM."

"PLEASE FORWARD MY REGARDS AND APOLOGIZE FOR MY ABSENCE AT THE FESTIVITIES. I TRUST HIS HOLINESS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND MY TRIAL—AND EXECUTION—FOR ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE HIM?"

"THIS IS NO TIME FOR EARTH HUMOR, JEFFREY. YOUR ARREST HAS BEEN KEPT FROM THE MINBARI PEOPLE, BUT IT WILL LEAK OUT. I DO NOT WANT TO IMAGINE THEIR REACTION."



WHO COULD HAVE PLOTTED THIS? WHO ARE YOUR ENEMIES?

YOU'RE ASKING FOR A LOONG LIST, DELENN. I RUFFLED A LOT OF FEATHERS WHILE I COMMANDED BABYLON'S.

BESIDES, I KNOW THIS GAME. I'M AN ENEMY OF YOUR PEOPLE FROM THE WAR, REMEMBER?

THEY'LL SAY I BECAME AN AMBASSADOR SO I COULD GO AFTER YOUR NEW LEADER FOR REVENGE.

WELL, A MAP SHOWING YOUR LEADER'S CORONATION ROUTE AND A GUN WERE FOUND IN MY LUGGAGE.

IT'S A PERFECT FRAME, DELENN.



YOU GIVE UP
TOO EASILY.
THERE *MUST* BE
AN ANSWER.



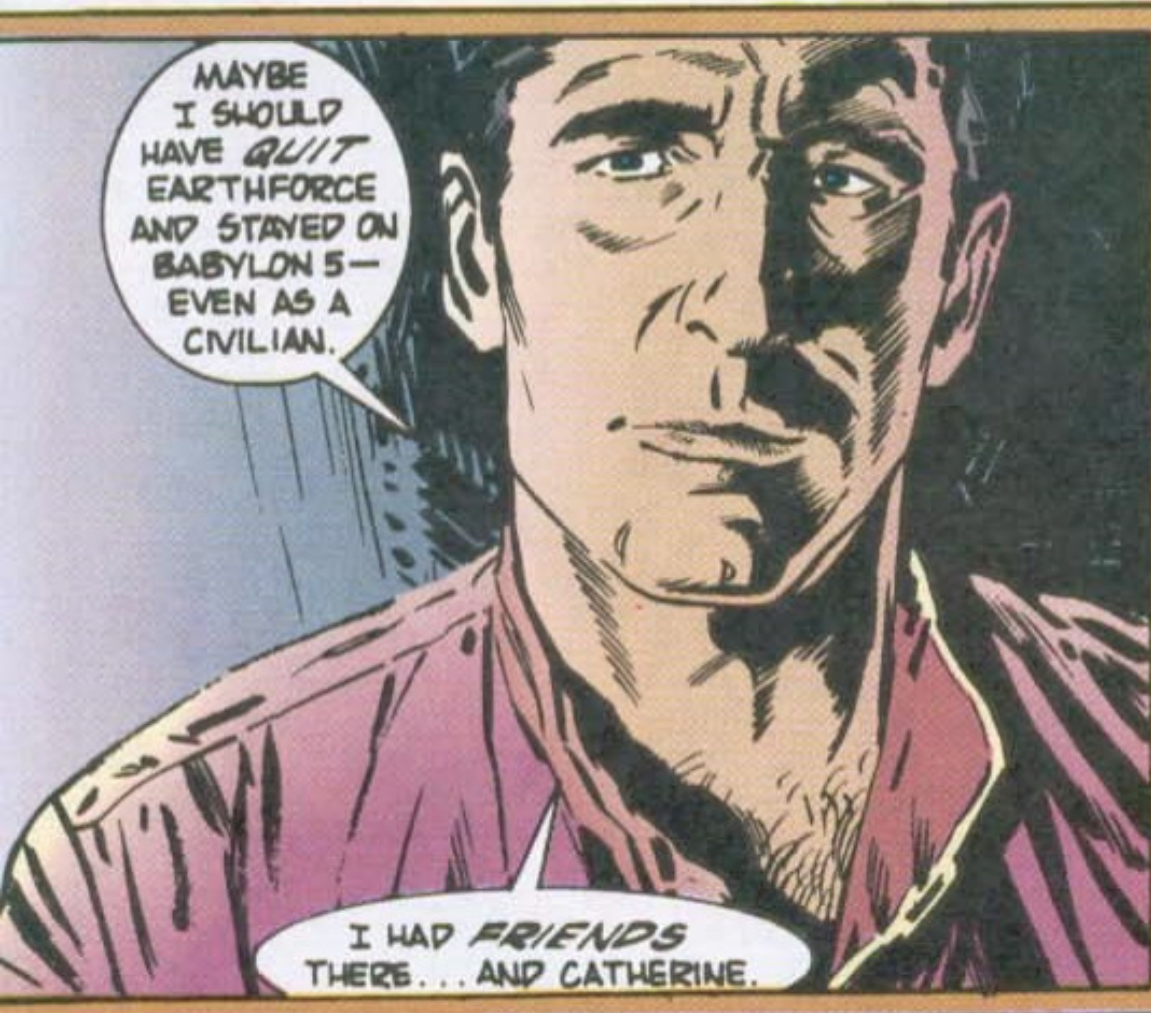
LOOK INTO MY EYES,
DELENN. CAN YOU *SWEAR* I'M NOT
GUILTY... AND THEN CONVINCE ALL
YOUR FELLOW MINBARI?

I-I-



YOU
SEE?

I... *FEEL* YOUR
TRUTHFULNESS. BUT
YOUR ARREST *WILL* FUEL
DISSENT BETWEEN OUR
MILITARY AND RELIGIOUS
CASTES. AND IT *MAY*
PUSH THEM TO WAR...
WITH *EARTH.*



MAYBE
I SHOULD
HAVE *QUIT*
EARTHFORCE
AND STAYED ON
BABYLON 5—
EVEN AS A
CIVILIAN.

I HAD *FRIENDS*
THERE... AND CATHERINE.



FRIENDS...?

BUT
IT WAS A
MESSAGE FROM
BABYLON 5
THAT TOLD US
AN *ASSASSIN*
WAS HERE ON
MINBAR!

WHAT—?!

IN HARM'S WAY

BABYLON 5.
SEVERAL PARSECS AWAY.

"THAT'S LITTERLY...
RIDICULOUS,
SENATOR HIDOSHI!"

"DON'T JUDGE
TOO QUICKLY, CAPTAIN
SHERIDAN. YOU DIDN'T
KNOW SINCLAIR. HE
WAS SOMETIMES...
DIFFICULT."

"BUT WHY WOULD HE DO IT,
SENATOR? WHAT'S THE POINT?"

"AH, CAPTAIN. I FORGET HOW MUCH TIME
YOU SPENT OUT ON THE RIM. PERHAPS A BIT OF
HISTORY IS IN ORDER—OFF THE RECORD."

WHILE STILL IN COMMAND
OF BABYLON 5, SINCLAIR CLAIMED
THAT EARTH PRESIDENT SANTIAGO'S
TRAGIC DEATH WAS ACTUALLY
AN ASSASSINATION.

SOON AFTER, THE MINBARI
GOVERNMENT REQUESTED JEFFREY
SINCLAIR AS EARTH'S FIRST AMBASSADOR
ON MINBAR. HE WAS TRANSFERRED...

... AND YOU WERE
APPOINTED BABYLON 5'S
NEW COMMANDER.

IT'S POSSIBLE SINCLAIR THOUGHT
THE MINBARI WERE RESPONSIBLE
FOR SANTIAGO'S "ASSASSINATION" AND
WERE BUYING HIS SILENCE. THAT'S
SPECULATION, OF COURSE.

OF
COURSE.

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU
FEEL, CAPTAIN. PRESIDENT
CLARK WANTED TO RELAY THIS
MESSAGE HIMSELF BUT HE'S
DEEP IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE MINBARI, TRYING TO
DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

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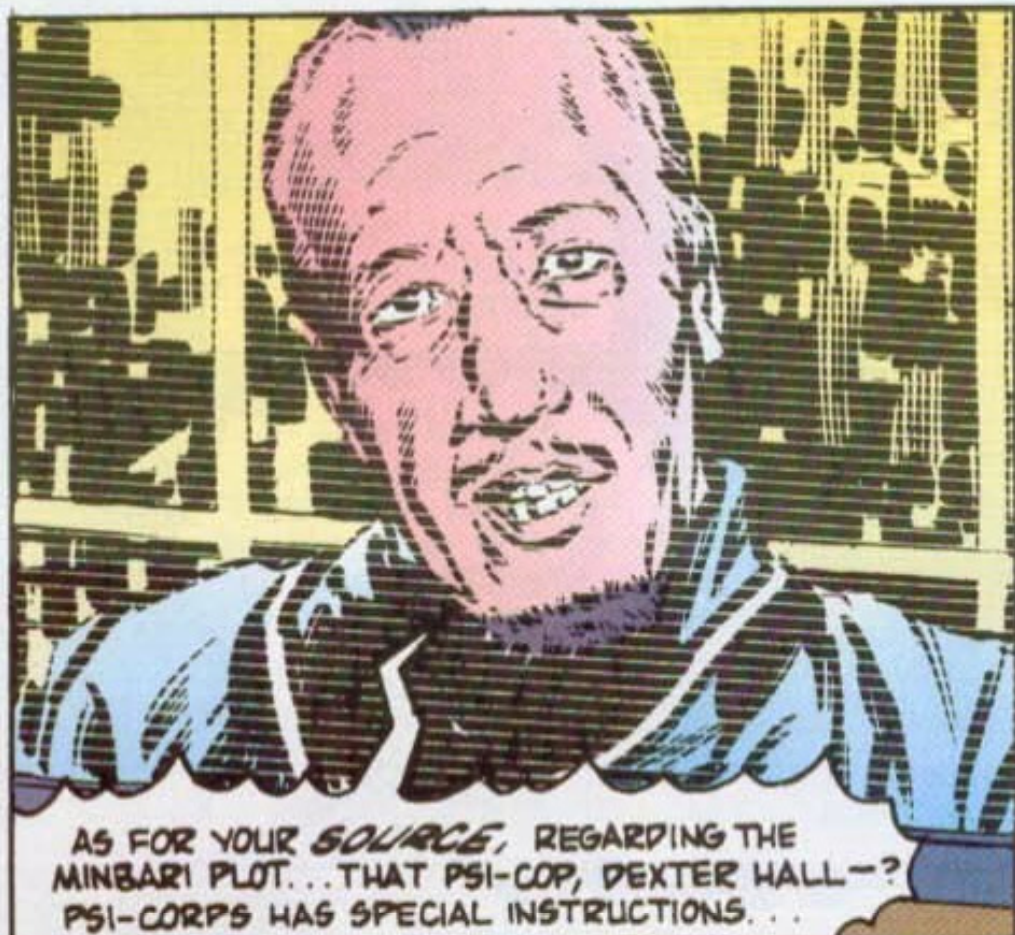
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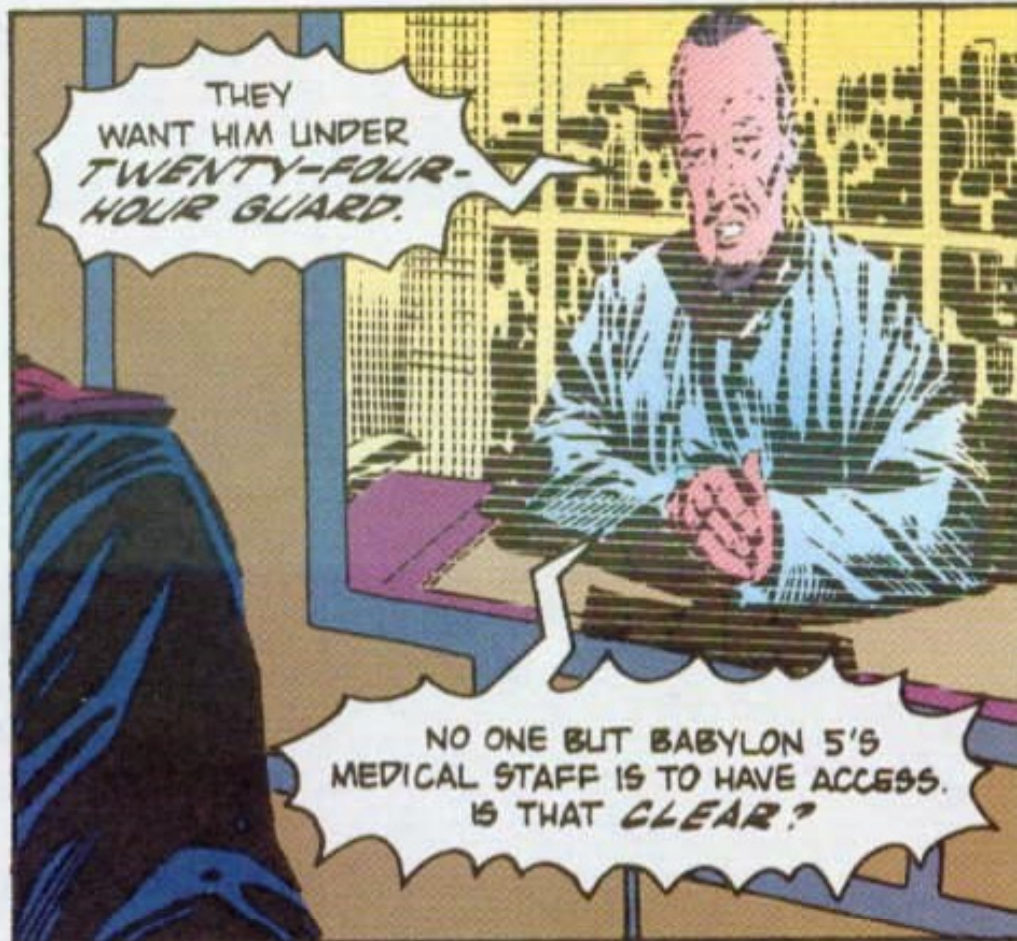
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BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON 5**
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AS FOR YOUR *SOURCE*, REGARDING THE MINBARI PLOT... THAT PSI-COP, DEXTER HALL—? PSI-CORPS HAS SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS...



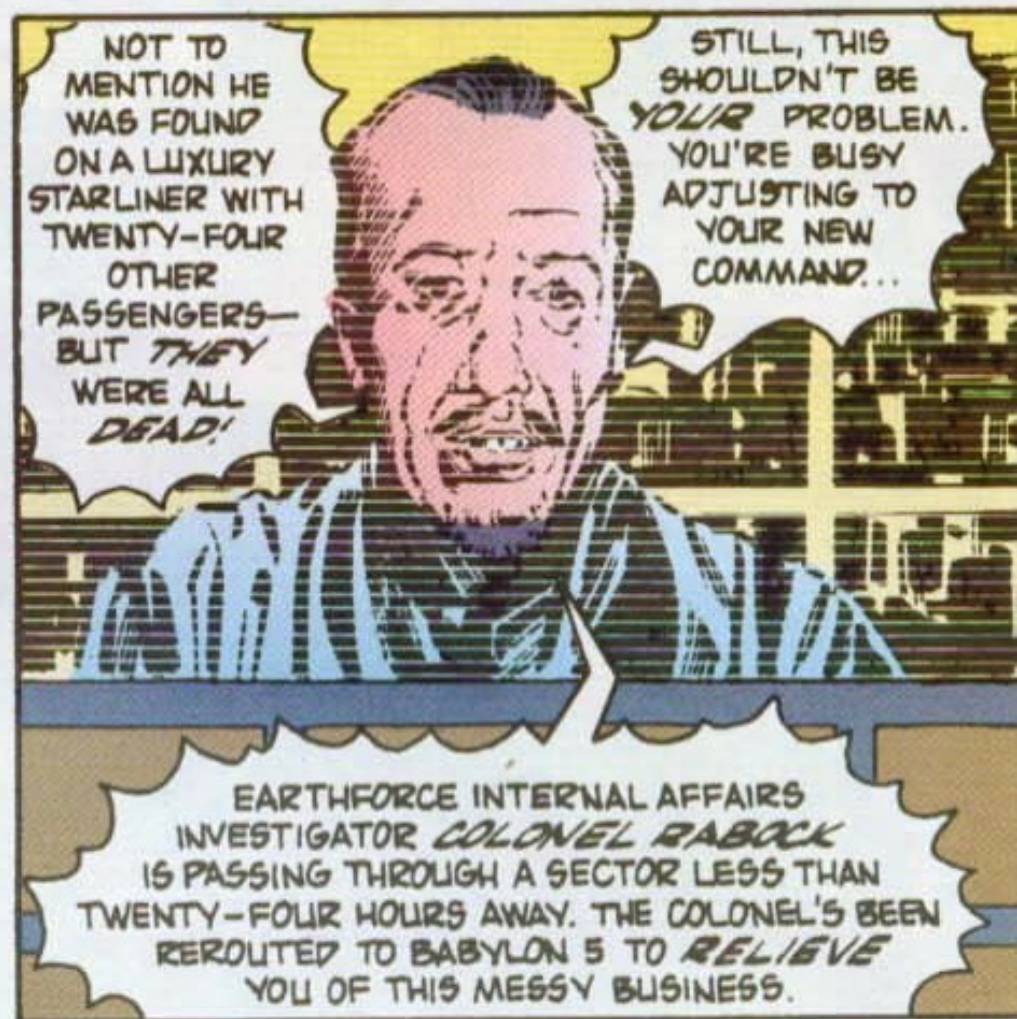
THEY WANT HIM UNDER *TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR GUARD*.

NO ONE BUT BABYLON 5'S MEDICAL STAFF IS TO HAVE ACCESS. IS THAT *CLEAR*?



IF YOU'RE WORRYING HE'LL TRY TO *RUN* AGAIN, SENATOR, *DON'T*. HE'S *COMATOSE*.

CAPTAIN, THIS IS *SERIOUS*. THE MAN HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AN INTERGALACTIC ASSASSINATION PLOT.



NOT TO MENTION HE WAS FOUND ON A LUXURY STARLINER WITH TWENTY-FOUR OTHER PASSENGERS—BUT *THEY* WERE ALL *DEAD!*

STILL, THIS SHOULDN'T BE *YOUR* PROBLEM. YOU'RE BUSY ADJUSTING TO YOUR NEW COMMAND...

EARTHFORCE INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATOR *COLONEL RABOCK* IS PASSING THROUGH A SECTOR LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AWAY. THE COLONEL'S BEEN REROUTED TO BABYLON 5 TO *RELIEVE* YOU OF THIS MESSY BUSINESS.



DOWNBELOW. THE QUARTERS OF JASON COLBY.

PLEASE PREPARE TO TURN OVER HALL AND ALL ACCUMULATED EVIDENCE WHEN THE COLONEL ARRIVES.

EXCUSE ME, SENATOR, BUT WE HAVE OUR *OWN* INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY. HALL'S OUR ONLY LINK TO THE *MURDER* OF A BABYLON 5 SECURITY GUARD LAST NIGHT.

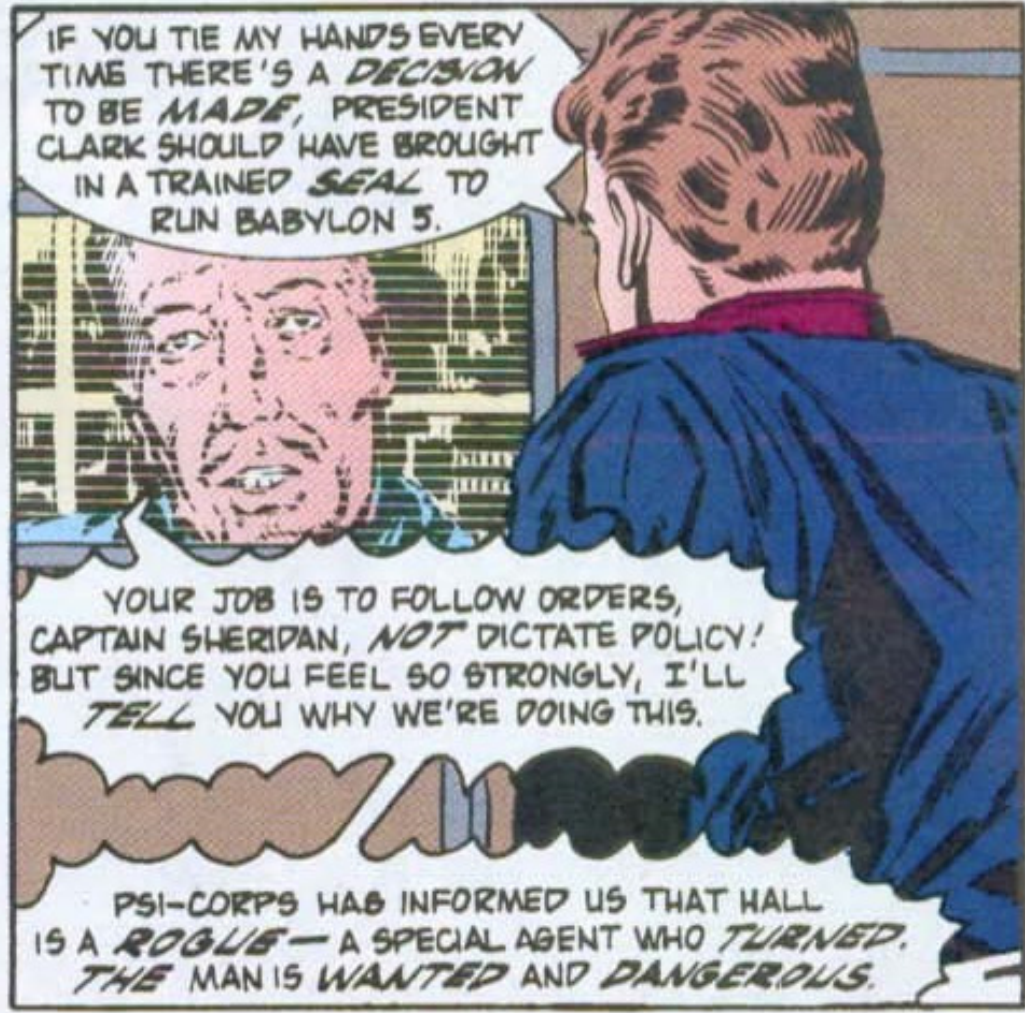
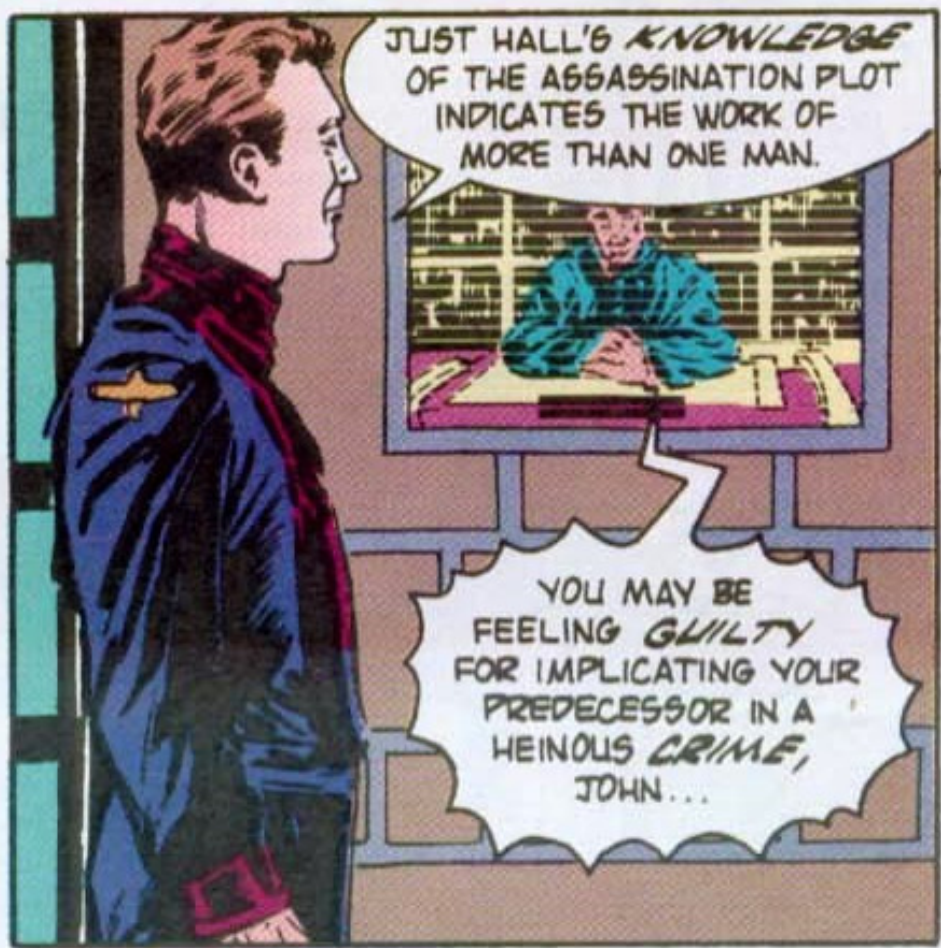
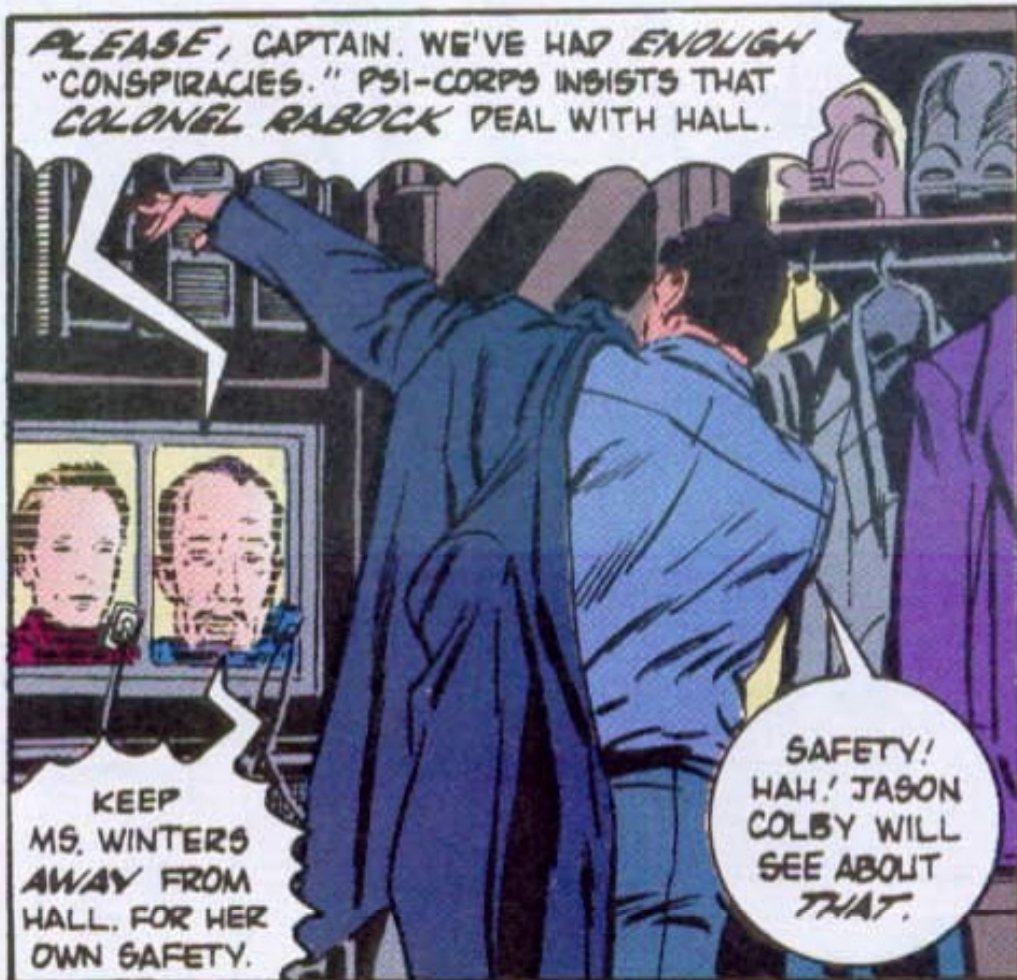
SORRY, BUT THIS IS A MATTER OF *EARTH SECURITY*. COLONEL RABOCK HAS COMPLETE AUTHORITY.



SIR? *TALIA WINTERS*, BABYLON 5'S TELEPATH, CLAIMS HALL DISCOVERED THE ASSASSINATION PLOT WHILE WORKING *UNDERCOVER*—SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL HIM TO KEEP HIM FROM *TALKING*.

THUMP!

DAMNIT—!



ZOCALO.

—SO THEN I HAD TO GIVE UP MY SEAT ON THE COMMITTEE TO A SLUG WITH SIX EYES.

HMF! ALIEN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. THE A.A.A. STRIKES AGAIN.

DON'T FRET, LADIES.

JUDGMENT DAY'S A-COMIN'...

... FOR EVERYONE WHO HELPS ALIENS, LIKE MS. WINTERS HERE —



DAMNIT! NOT NOW!

HUH...?

FELT LIKE POWERFUL... ANGRY THOUGHTS. BUT...



GET A GRIP, TALIA, NO ONE'S THERE.

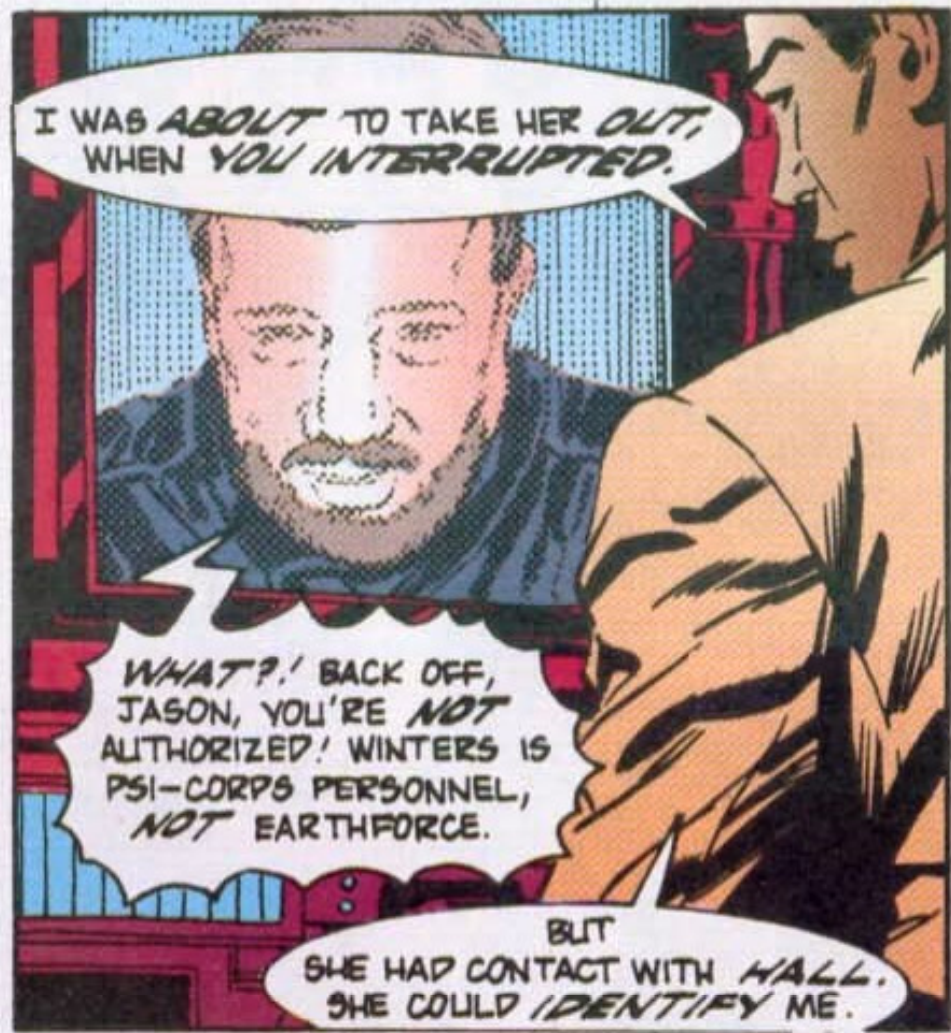


SCRAMBLER LINK ACTIVATED.

COLBY! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? I JUST HEARD THAT TRAITOR HALL IS STILL ALIVE. IF HE GIVES UP DAMAGING INFORMATION, HE'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!

HALL SURPRISED ME LAST NIGHT, MR. WEBSTER. YOU NEVER SAID HE WAS A TELEPATH!

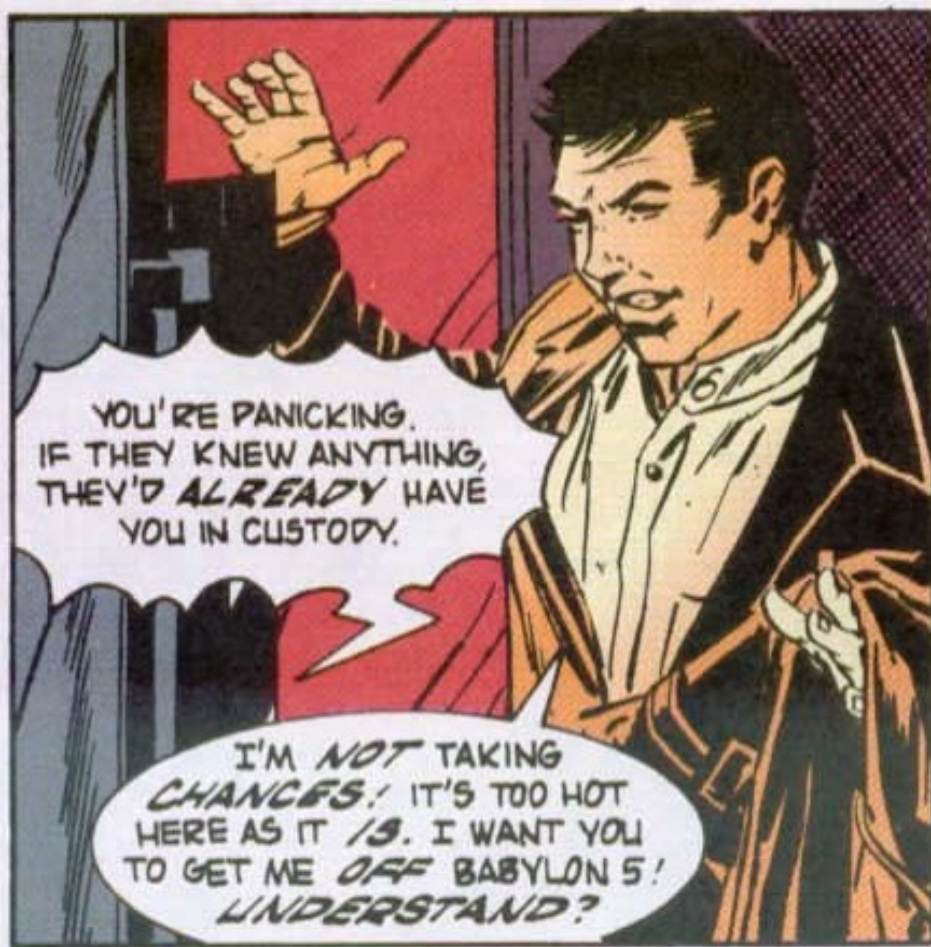
ANYHOW, THE MEDICAL REPORTS LIST HIS COMA AS IRREVERSIBLE. BUT WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS NOW. HALL REACHED THE STATION'S TELEPATH BEFORE COLLAPSING...



I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE HER OUT, WHEN YOU INTERRUPTED.

WHAT?! BACK OFF, JASON, YOU'RE NOT AUTHORIZED! WINTERS IS PSI-CORPS PERSONNEL, NOT EARTHFORCE.

BUT SHE HAD CONTACT WITH HALL. SHE COULD IDENTIFY ME.



YOU'RE PANICKING. IF THEY KNEW ANYTHING, THEY'D ALREADY HAVE YOU IN CUSTODY.

I'M NOT TAKING CHANCES! IT'S TOO HOT HERE AS IT IS. I WANT YOU TO GET ME OFF BABYLON 5! UNDERSTAND?



JASON, WHAT'S GOING ON?

I-I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS. I WANT TO GO HOME AGAIN... START OVER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU'RE GETTING COLD FEET—TURNING YELLOW.



STICK IT, WEBSTER, OR I'LL BAIL OUT NOW. I'LL MAKE SURE EARTHDOME FINDS OUT ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES! WE'LL END UP IN A PENAL MINING COLONY... IF WE'RE LUCKY.

JASON... I'M ON MY WAY THERE NOW. WE CAN STILL TAKE CARE OF THE ALIENS AND ALIEN-LOVING HUMANS—FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOUR WIFE.



DON'T MENTION HER, WEBSTER. I DID MY PART. YOU JUST FULFILL YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN. GET ME OFF BABYLON 5 WHEN YOU GET HERE—OR ELSE.

STAY CALM. I'LL USE THAT BONE-HEADED NARN AMBASSADOR TO RUN INTERFERENCE. I'LL BE THERE SOON TO GET YOU OFF THAT STATION. OUT.

BABYLON 5—CORE SHUTTLE.

CYPHER? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.

SORRY, CAPTAIN SHERIDAN. I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE TRYING TO REVIVE THAT OLD MYTH.

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOUR OBJECTIVE OPINION, MR. GARIBALDI.

HIDOSHI SAID "DEXTER HALL" IS AN ALIAS. PSI-CORPS PROVIDED A BRAIN-WAVE SCAN THAT MATCHES THE ONE DR. FRANKLIN TOOK LAST NIGHT.

YEAH. YEAH. AND HIS P-12 RATED PSI-ABILITY MAKES HIM THE MOST DANGEROUS TERRORIST IN THE UNIVERSE. TRIED, CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO TERMINATION IN ABSENTIA ON A DOZEN WORLDS. EVERYONE READS THAT FILE.

LOOK, CAPTAIN, I HATE THOSE PSI-CORPS BRAIN-MULCHERS, AND I'D LOVE TO NAB A BAD ONE. BUT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HALL'S A "SUPER-CRIMINAL" LIKE CYPHER.

LET'S KEEP THIS QUIET, MICHAEL. IF OTHER PLANETS WHERE CYPHER'S WANTED HEAR WE MIGHT BE IN MED-LAB, WE'LL HAVE A BIGGER INCIDENT THAN "DEATHWALKER."

NEWS ABOUT SINCLAIR MAY BREAK SOON. WE MUST PREPARE FOR ANY POSSIBILITY. I KNOW YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING FROM GETTING SHOT, BUT I NEED YOU BACK FULL-TIME.


I'D LIKE TO HELP, COMMANDER...

...BUT YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT SINCLAIR? MICHAEL, ARE YOU SURE SINCLAIR WASN'T INVOLVED?

PERMISSION TO SPEAK CANDIDLY, CAPTAIN.

OF COURSE.


IN THE WAR AGAINST THE MINBARI, ELEVEN YEARS AGO, YOU ENGINEERED EARTH'S ONLY VICTORY. I RESPECT YOUR ABILITY.




SINCE THE WAR, HE AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. I SAW HIM RISK HIS NECK AND CAREER MANY TIMES FOR EVERYONE ON BABYLON 5.

JEFF WOULD NOT GET INVOLVED IN ANY ASSASSINATION! WHEN IT CAME TO TREATING ALL LIFE FORMS EQUALLY, JEFF BROKE THE MOLD.

NOW, NO ONE'S LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP HIM. BUT I WANT TO. WHILE I'M STILL ON RESTRICTED DUTY, I CAN NOSE AROUND. FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.




BUT I'VE ONLY KNOWN YOU BRIEFLY. I SPENT YEARS WITH JEFF. HE MAY HAVE HATED THE MINBARI ONCE, BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.



RABOCK WILL BE HERE IN LESS THAN A DAY, MICHAEL. WE COULD BE AT WAR BY THEN IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

I HAVE TO TRY. LOOK, TALIA SAW SOMEONE DRESSED AS SECURITY TRY TO KILL HALL WHEN SHE PROBED HIM.

HIDOSHI INSISTS CYPHER'S SUPERIOR PSI-ABILITY COULD HAVE MISLED HER.



YEAH, AND IF MY GRANNY HAD WHEELS SHE'D BE A WAGON. SO WHY ISN'T EARTHDOME PRESSING TO FIND HALL'S CONNECTION TO THE ASSASSINATION PLOT?

IF THEY TAKE HIM BACK BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WE'LL LOSE THE ONLY CONNECTION THAT MIGHT CLEAR JEFF.

SO WHY ISOLATE HALL FROM TALIA? SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD QUESTION HIM. ARE THEY AFRAID WE'LL FIND SOMETHING INCRIMINATING?

YOU TELL ME. OBVIOUSLY, THEY'RE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THIS THAN CLEARING JEFF. SO THEY SAY HALL IS "CYPHER," AND WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH.

THIS WHOLE THING SMELLS OF COVER-UP, CAPTAIN.

ARE YOU SAYING THEY'RE TRYING TO SILENCE HIM FOR FEAR OF WHAT HE MIGHT TELL US?

I HEAR CYPHER DOESN'T REALLY EXIST. HE'S JUST PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY FOR DEEP COVER OPS. MEANWHILE, JEFF'S LEFT TWISTING IN A SOLAR WIND—A BYSTANDER CAUGHT IN HARM'S WAY.

BREEP!

CAPTAIN SHERIDAN? THIS IS COMMAND-AND-CONTROL. AMBASSADOR G'KAR DEMANDS A MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

HOPE YOUR PLANS TO KEEP THIS QUIET HAVEN'T BLOWN UP IN YOUR FACE, CAPTAIN.

YEAH, WELL... I KNOW WHERE TO START. I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON MINBAR.

...SHOCKING NEWS FROM MINBAR, WHERE FORMER BABYLON 5 COMMANDER JEFFREY SINCLAIR IS ACCUSED...

LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.

KEEP WORKING ON THIS "CYPHER" BUSINESS. BUT IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND, YOU BETTER COME UP WITH SOMETHING FAST.



THE JUDICIAL COURT
BUILDING ON MINBAR.

... I'VE USED
EVERY CONTACT,
TRACED EVERY
POSSIBILITY, BUT
I CAN FIND NO LINK
BETWEEN THE
SMUGGLED WEAPON
AND ANYONE ON
MINBAR.

UNLESS I'M COMPLETELY
WRONG, YOU WON'T. STILL THINK
I'M INNOCENT, DELENN?

YOUR HUMOR IS
EXASPERATING,
JEFFREY.

LOOK, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO
HELP, START AT THE BACK END.

THE GUN SMUGGLED IN MY
LUGGAGE ABOARD YOUR SHIP WAS
PACKED ON *BABYLON 5*. CALL
GARIBALDI AND TELL HIM TO TRACK IT
DOWN—TELL HIM... HE OWES ME.

HMMM. LOOKS LIKE THE NATIVES
ARE GETTING RESTLESS.

—AMBASSADOR DELENN...?

ALIT
NEROON.

I HEARD
ABOUT YOUR...
METAMORPHOSIS.
I HOPE YOU DID NOT DO
IT FOR *SINCLAIR*. YOU
CAN'T SAVE HIM AS YOU
DID THE LAST TIME
WE MET.

IS THAT WHY I WAS
KEPT OFF HIS TRIBUNAL?

YES. I
REQUESTED
IT... WHEN I WAS
CHOSEN TO HEAD THE
PROSECUTION.

...!

BABYLON 5.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

WE ALL HAVE SOURCES, CAPTAIN. I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR EVERYONE PRESENT WHEN I SAY IT WAS UNCONSCIONABLE NOT TO NOTIFY US OF THIS ASSASSINATION PLOT!

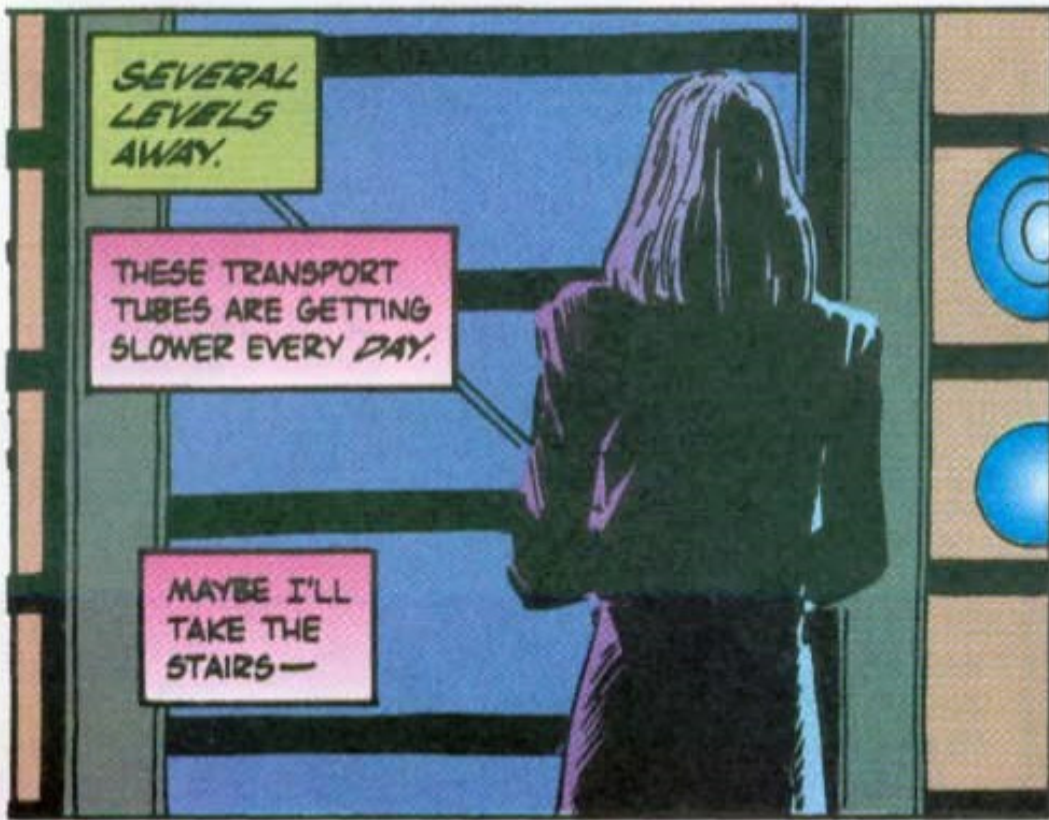
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU FAILED TO NOTIFY US OF?

ARE OUR LEADERS IN DANGER, ALSO?

PLEASE, G'KAR. STOP SHOUTING. YOU'RE MAKING MY HANGO—ER, MY HEADACHE, WORSE!

I'M SURE CAPTAIN SHERIDAN WOULD HAVE NOTIFIED US IF THERE WERE ANY DANGER, JUST AS HE DID THE MINBARI.

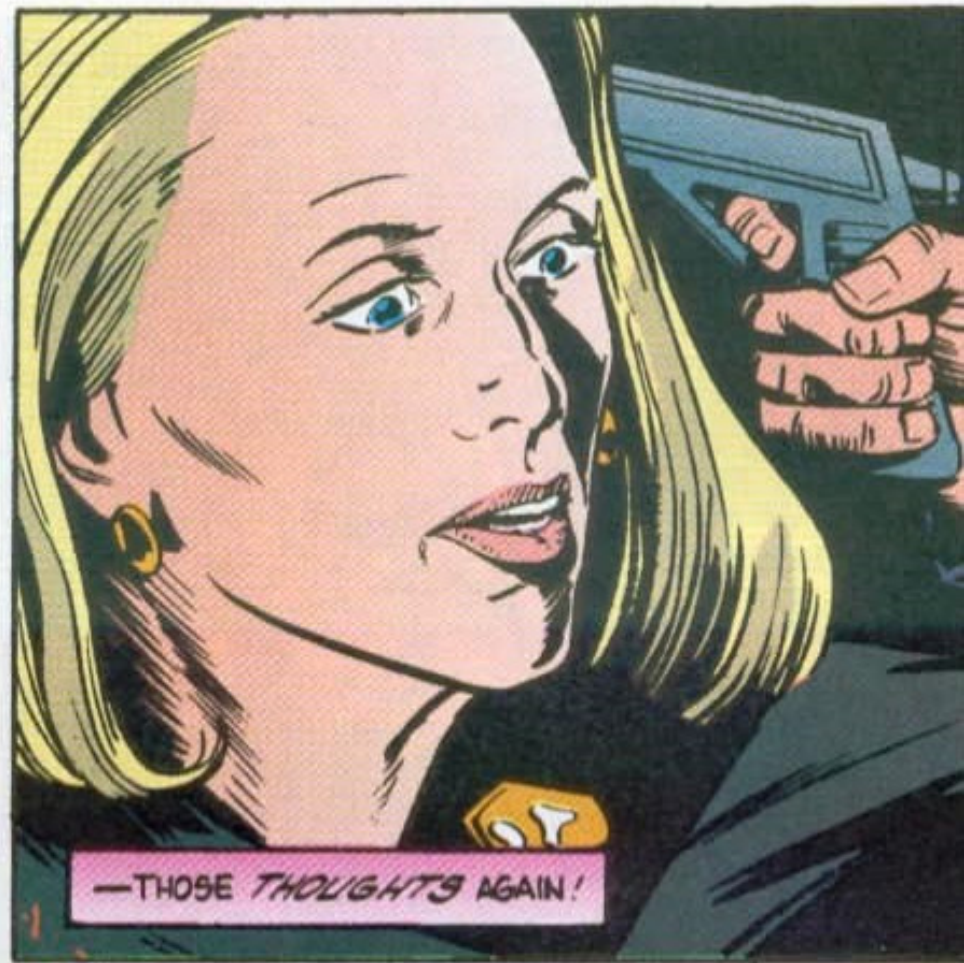




SEVERAL LEVELS AWAY.

THESE TRANSPORT TUBES ARE GETTING SLOWER EVERY DAY.

MAYBE I'LL TAKE THE STAIRS—



—THOSE THOUGHTS AGAIN!



MMMMPHH!

HOLD STILL, YOU LITTLE—!

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!



OH, GOD! IT'S HIM!



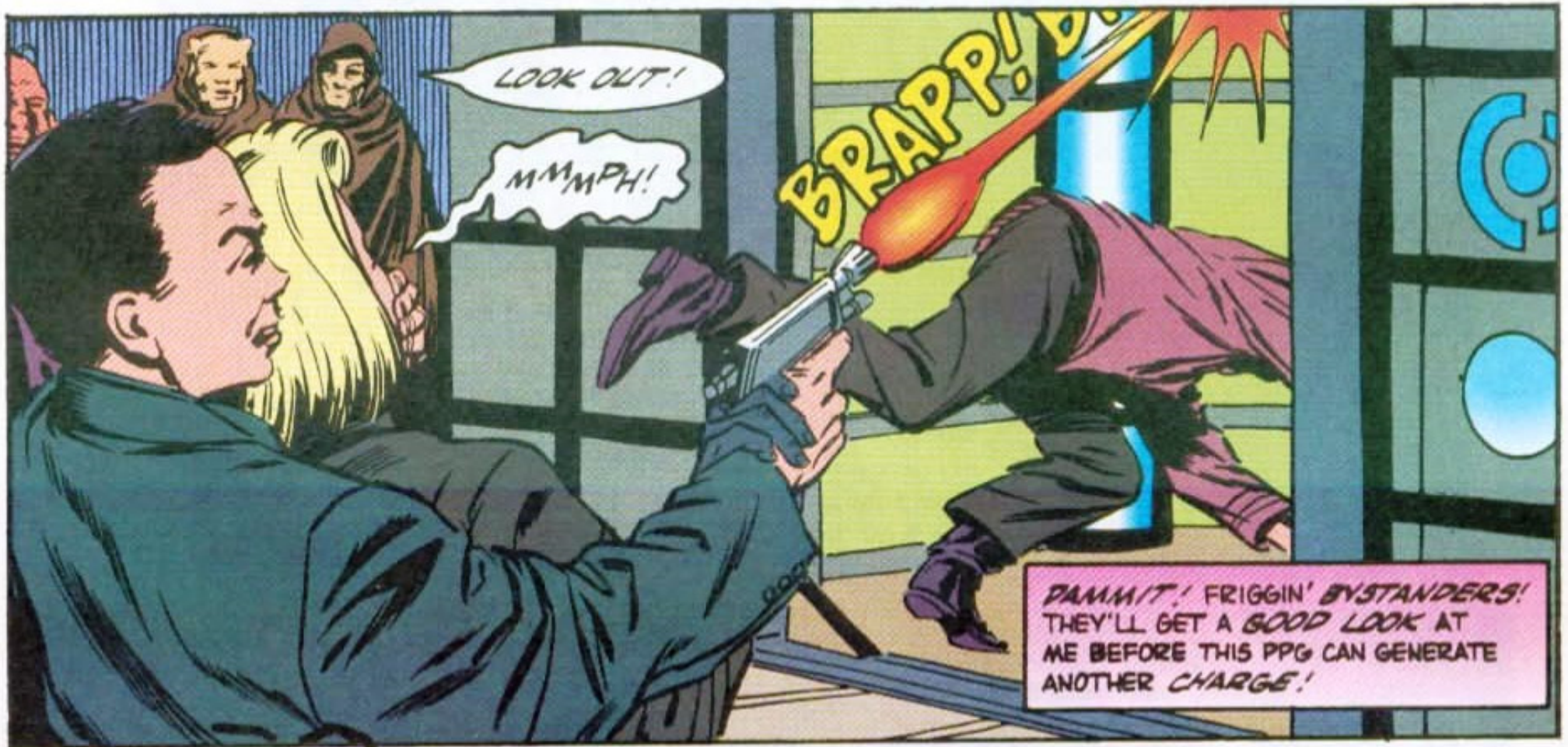
YOU WENT INTO MY HEAD, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYTHING WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH—

DING!



TALIA...?

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON—?



LOOK OUT!

MMMPH!

BRAPP! BOOM!

DAMMIT! FRIGGIN' BYSTANDERS! THEY'LL GET A GOOD LOOK AT ME BEFORE THIS PPG CAN GENERATE ANOTHER CHARGE!



GOTTA MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

STOP! STOP THAT MAN!

OOOF!

HEY!

OUT OF MY WAY!



HE'S GONE! HE'S GONE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TALIA?

UH—
=> HUFF! <=
UH—HUH!—
=> HUFF! HUFF! <=
THEY'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME NOW, MICHAEL. I SAW HIS THOUGHTS. HE'S THE ONE WHO TRIED TO KILL HALL!

YEAH, WELL, I FIGURED HE WASN'T SELLING NARN G'QUAN ETH COOKIES. WE'VE GOTTA TELL SHERIDAN. LET'S GO!

MEDLAB.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, CAPTAIN?

YOU JUST TOLD ME HIS COMA WAS IRREVERSIBLE. ARE YOU SAYING HE MIGHT RECOVER NOW?

YOU NEVER KNOW. I'M SURPRISED HE HELD ON THIS LONG. IT'S JUST THAT HE FINALLY STABILIZED AND—

DR. FRANKLIN— MORE CRANIAL HEMORRHAGING. VITAL SIGNS ARE DROPPING.

DAMN. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO, FIRST.

IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE WE CAN AVOID THIS, CAPTAIN...

THAT MAY NOT BE AN OPTION, TALIA.

IS THERE ANY DANGER— FROM A MEDICAL STANDPOINT— IF TALIA PROBES HIM?

HMMM. HE'S FADING FAST. IT'S YOUR CALL, DOCTOR, BUT SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL TALIA OVER WHAT THAT MAN KNOWS.

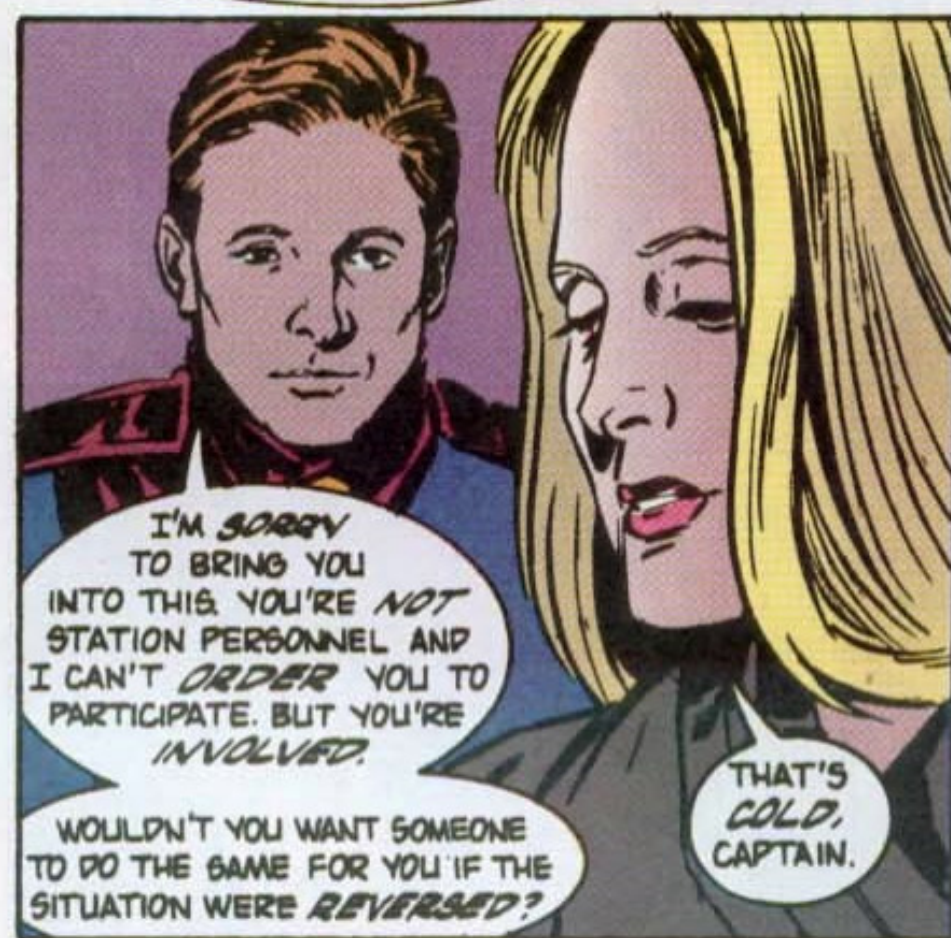
NO. IT'S A QUESTION OF ETHICS. WHAT ARE PSI-CORPS RULES AND REGS ON INVASIVE PROBING?



TALIA?

I—DON'T *KNOW*. THIS IS PRECEDENT-SETTING. IT *MIGHT* BE BEST IF WE CONSULTED PSI-CORPS OR EARTHDOME.

WE *KNOW* WHAT *THEIR* RESPONSE WOULD BE, TALIA. THEY DIDN'T WANT YOU ANYWHERE *NEAR* HALL. THERE'S SOMETHING NO ONE WANTS US TO *FIND OUT*.



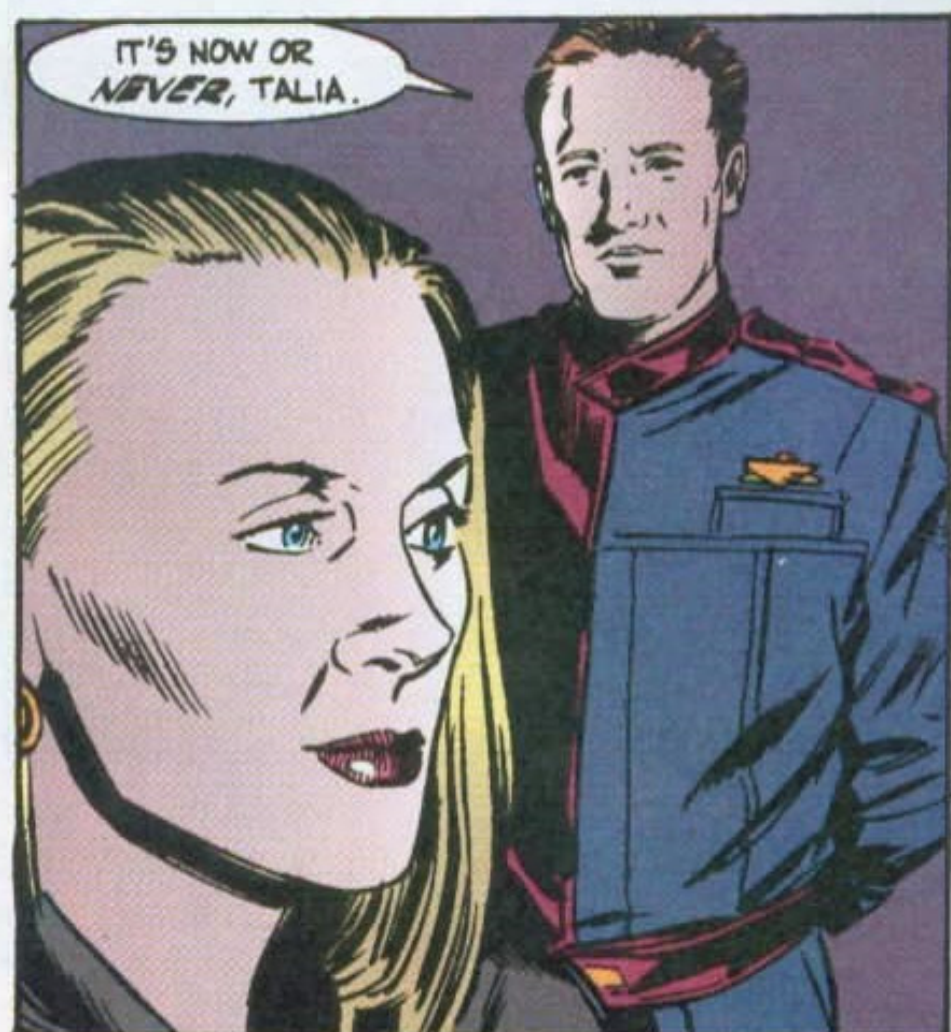
I'M *SORRY* TO BRING YOU INTO THIS. YOU'RE *NOT* STATION PERSONNEL AND I CAN'T *ORDER* YOU TO PARTICIPATE. BUT YOU'RE *INVOLVED*.
WOULDN'T YOU WANT SOMEONE TO DO THE SAME FOR YOU IF THE SITUATION WERE *REVERSED*?

THAT'S *COLD*, CAPTAIN.



BREEP!
CAPTAIN SHERIDAN, THIS IS IVANOVA IN C-AND-C. A COLONEL RABOCK HAS JUST COME THROUGH THE JUMP GATE AND WANTS TO DOCK.

DAMN! HALF A DAY *EARLY!* HE'LL SQUELCH THIS WHOLE THING THE MOMENT HE ARRIVES. *HOLD ON!* IVANOVA.



IT'S NOW OR *NEVER*, TALIA.



ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO IT.

BUT IT WON'T BE ADMISSIBLE IN COURT.

IVANOVA, KEEP THE COLONEL *OCCUPIED* FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. *STALL*.

BABYLON CONTROL...?
WHAT'S THE *DELAY*?

SHUTTLE
VORTEX, THIS IS
LT. COMMANDER IVANOVA.
YOU ARE UNSCHEDULED AT
THIS TIME. PLEASE HOLD
YOUR POSITION WHILE
WE CLEAR A
BAY.



WELL, THIS'LL BE
INTERESTING, IF
NOTHING ELSE.

ARE
YOU READY,
TALIA?


YES.

OKAY.
I'VE STOPPED
THE BLEEDING
TEMPORARILY,
BUT THERE'S
NO TELLING
FOR HOW
LONG.


MOMENTS LATER.

HERE
WE GO.

I SEE—



—A LOT OF MEN... ON A SHIP, THE CHIYODA-KU, A LUXURY STARLINER...



"HALL'S THERE. HE'S AN UNDERCOVER PSI-COP, AND HE'S INFILTRATED A PRO-EARTH SPLINTER GROUP

"THEY CALL THEMSELVES 'HOMERS,' THERE'S A PARTY GOING ON, BUT HE'S CONCERNED. THEY'RE... CELEBRATING —

"—THE DEATH OF THAT 'MINBARI STOUGE' — PRESIDENT SANTIAGO.




"ONE OF THEM SAYS THERE'S AN EVEN BIGGER EVENT COMING UP.

"HE SAYS HE DELIVERED A WEAPON TO SOMEONE ON BABYLON 5.

"IT'S BEEN SENT TO MINBARI. AN ACCOMPLICE THERE WILL USE IT TO ASSASSINATE THE NEW MINBARI LEADER.



"HALL SLIPS AWAY FROM THE CROWD. HE'S GOING TO... THE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM.



"HE TRIES TO CALL FOR HELP... WARN THE MINBARI, BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG. THE EQUIPMENT DOESN'T WORK AND...

"... SOMEONE HAS FOLLOWED HIM."



"HE'S BEEN *DISCOVERED*. THEY RUSH IN.

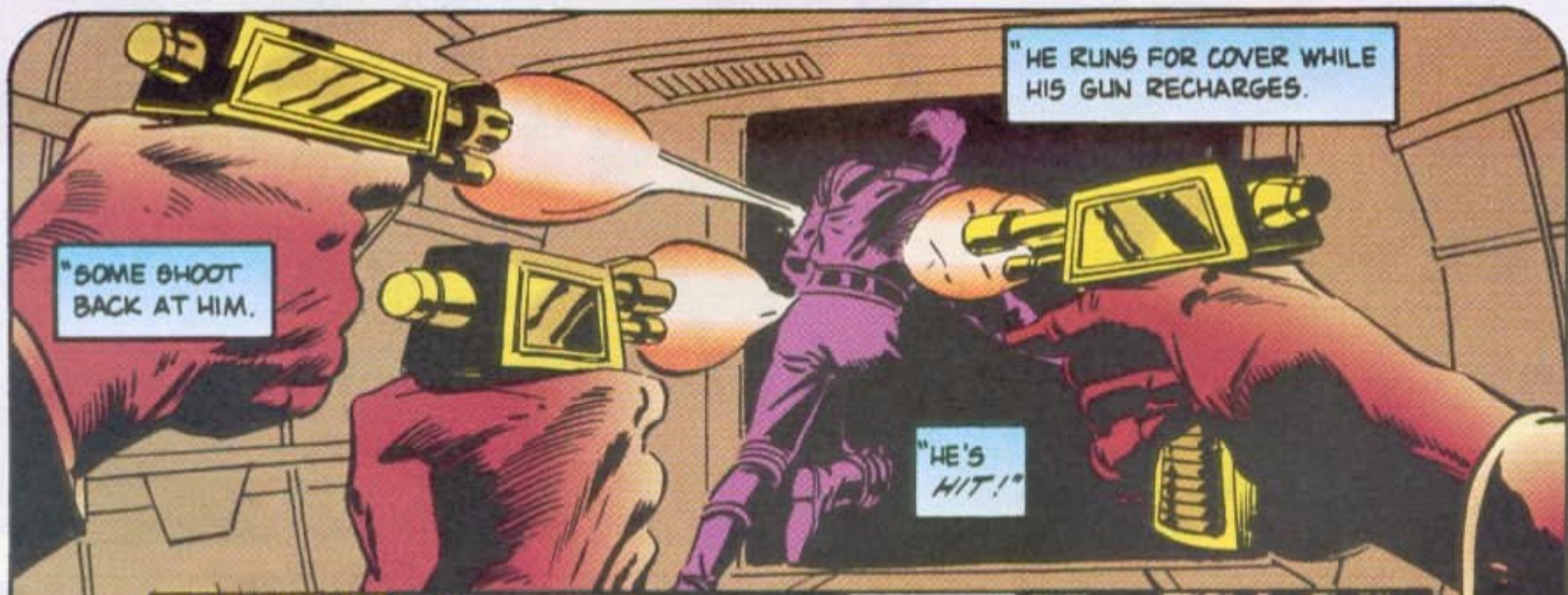
"ONE OF THEM JOKES ABOUT REVIVING AN OLD EARTH CUSTOM FROM PIRATE DAYS.



"THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE HIM *WALK THE PLANK*— INTO THE AIRLOCK— AND JETTISON HIM INTO *SPACE*."



"HALL DRAWS HIS PPG AND FIRES INTO THE CROWD SEVERAL TIMES. THEY *SCATTER*."



"HE RUNS FOR COVER WHILE HIS GUN RECHARGES."

"SOME SHOOT BACK AT HIM."


"HE'S *HIT!*"



"LNNNH!"

"TALIA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?"


IT'S OKAY. HIS BODY IS *MANIFESTING THE MEMORY*. IT'S LIKE HE'S LIVING THROUGH IT—GETTING *SHOT* ALL OVER AGAIN.



"HE REACHES THE COCKPIT AND LOCKS THE DOOR. ORDERS THE PILOT TO CALL FOR *HELP*."

"SUDDENLY, THE OTHERS *BLAST* THROUGH THE DOOR."


"THE PILOT AND THE COMMUNICATIONS CONSOLE ARE *HIT*."



"HALL'S *TRAPPED*. THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE LEFT."

"HE GRABS A *BREATHER*, AS HE FIGHTS THEM HAND TO HAND."

"HE REACHES THE ENVIRONMENT CONTROLS — AND SHUTS DOWN THE *AIR SUPPLY*."



"HE OPENS THE EXHAUST *VENTS*. SCREAMS DROWN IN THE *TREMENDOUS VACUUM* AS ALL THE SHIP'S OXYGEN IS *EXPULLED*."




"IN MINUTES, THEY'RE ALL DEAD."

"HALL'S THE ONLY ONE WEARING A BREATHER—"



"— BUT HE'S BEEN SHOT AND GROWS WEAKER AS HE FLOATS AMONG THE DEAD BODIES... AND GLOBULES OF BLOOD."


"TIME PASSES. HE'S...BLACKING OUT."



"HE LOOKS OUTSIDE, BUT THINKS HE'S HALLUCINATING. HE SEES... A SHIP. IT'S A STARFLURY FROM BABYLON 5."



"THANK GOD!" HE THINKS. HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT!



"HE BLACKS OUT AGAIN. WHEN HE WAKES, HE'S IN A SHIP—NO, A STATION."


"THERE'S... A DOCTOR, AND THEY'RE WHEELING HIM INTO MEDLAB."

"HE TRIES TO SPEAK, BUT HIS THROAT WON'T WORK. HE REMEMBERS BEING SHOT IN THE NECK."


"THE TRANQUILIZERS THEY'VE ADMINISTERED KEEP HIM FROM COMMUNICATING TELEPATHICALLY."

"HE NEEDS TO CONTACT ANOTHER TELEPATH... SOMEONE WHO CAN PROBE HIM AND WARN THE MINBARI ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION."


"BLACKNESS."



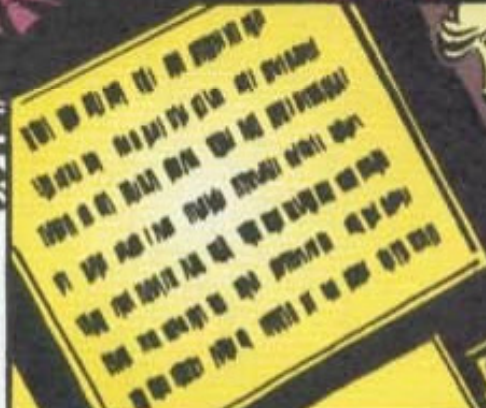
"HE AWAKES TO... A GUN POINTED AT HIS HEAD. FOR A MOMENT HE THINKS IT'S A DREAM, OR THAT HE'S BACK ON THE CHIYODA-KU. BUT HE STILL CAN'T SPEAK."




"HE REACTS DEFENSIVELY—AND HURLS A MENTAL PAIN SPIKE AT THE ATTACKER IN THE BABYLON 5 SECURITY UNIFORM."



"HE STAGGERS OUTSIDE, AND FINDS ANOTHER GUARD—DEAD. HE PICKS UP THE MAN'S WEAPON—TO PROTECT HIMSELF."



THE DIRECTORY TERMINAL SCREEN IS FULL OF ILLEGIBLE TEXT.



"HE REACHED A DIRECTORY TERMINAL. HE SEARCHES FRANTICALLY FOR A NAME. HE HAS TO FIND IT—WARN US!"



HE DOES. IT—IT'S ME.

BIBIP! BIBIP! BEEEEEE!



THAT'S IT. HE'S GONE.

COMMAND AND CONTROL.



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER VANOVA, THIS IS COLONEL RABOCK. I HAVE BEEN WAITING OUT HERE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES!

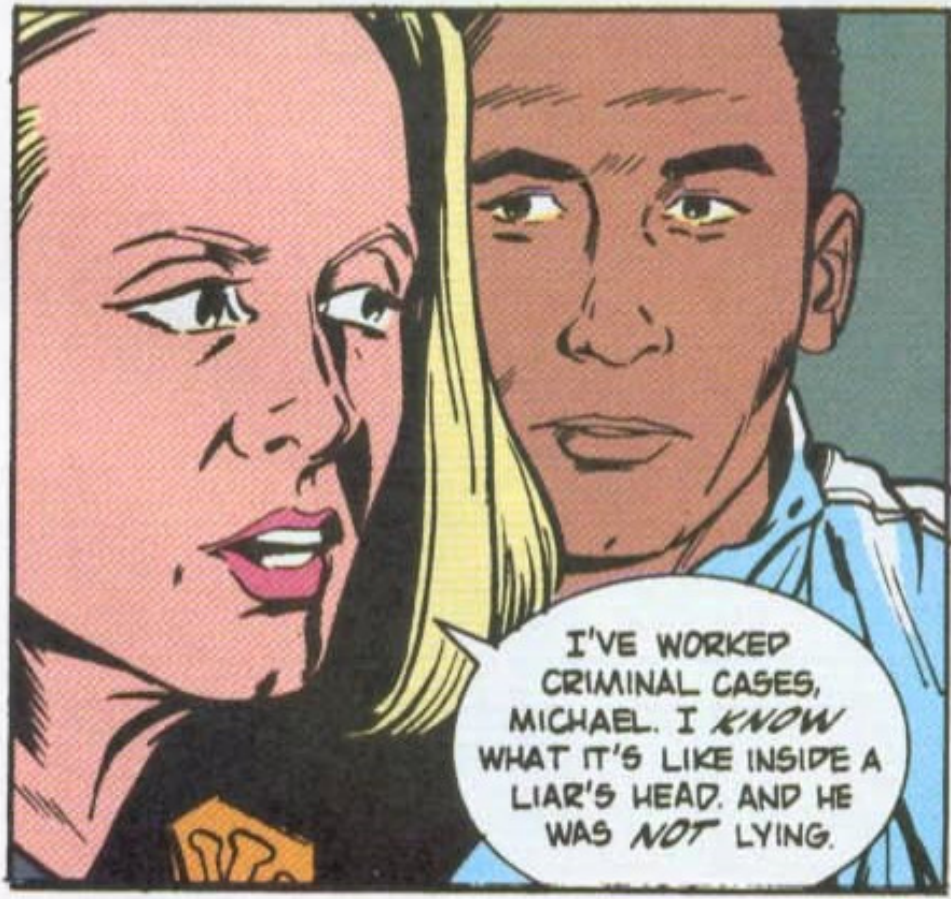
I'M HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND YOU WILL CLEAR A BAY NOW OR I'LL HAVE YOU COURT-MARTIALED!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU, COLONEL. THANK YOU FOR WAITING PATIENTLY. PROCEED DIRECTLY TO BAY 13. OUT.

HOPE THAT BOUGHT YOU ENOUGH TIME, CAPTAIN.

IT'S DOWNRIGHT EERIE. HE HELD ON JUST LONG ENOUGH TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE... AND THEN DIED.

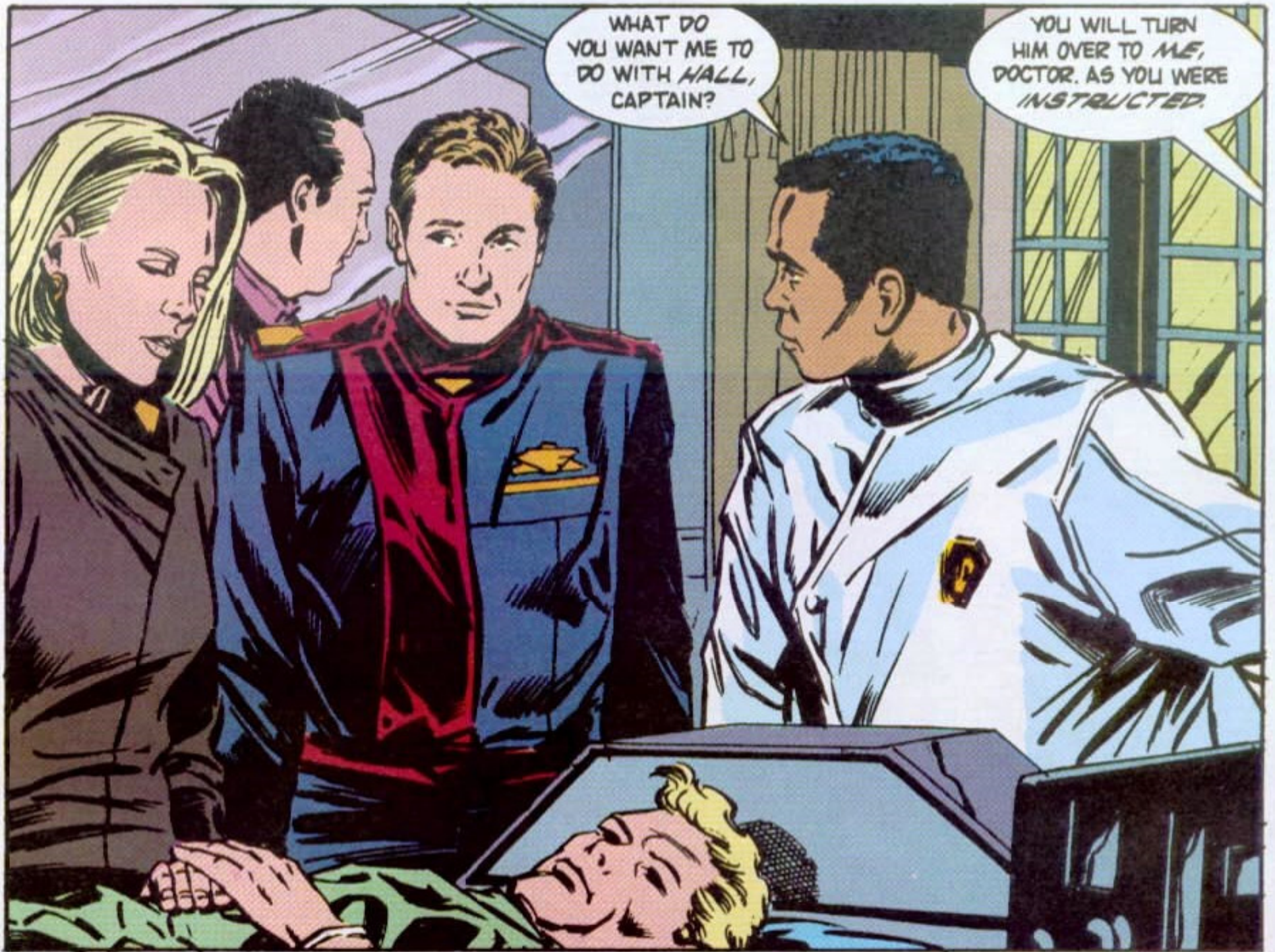
YEAH. BUT WHAT'S WEIRDER IS WE HAVE A KILLER RUNNING AROUND BABYLON 5 WITH A SECURITY UNIFORM. IF HALL'S STORY IS TRUE.



I'VE WORKED CRIMINAL CASES, MICHAEL. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE A LIAR'S HEAD. AND HE WAS NOT LYING.

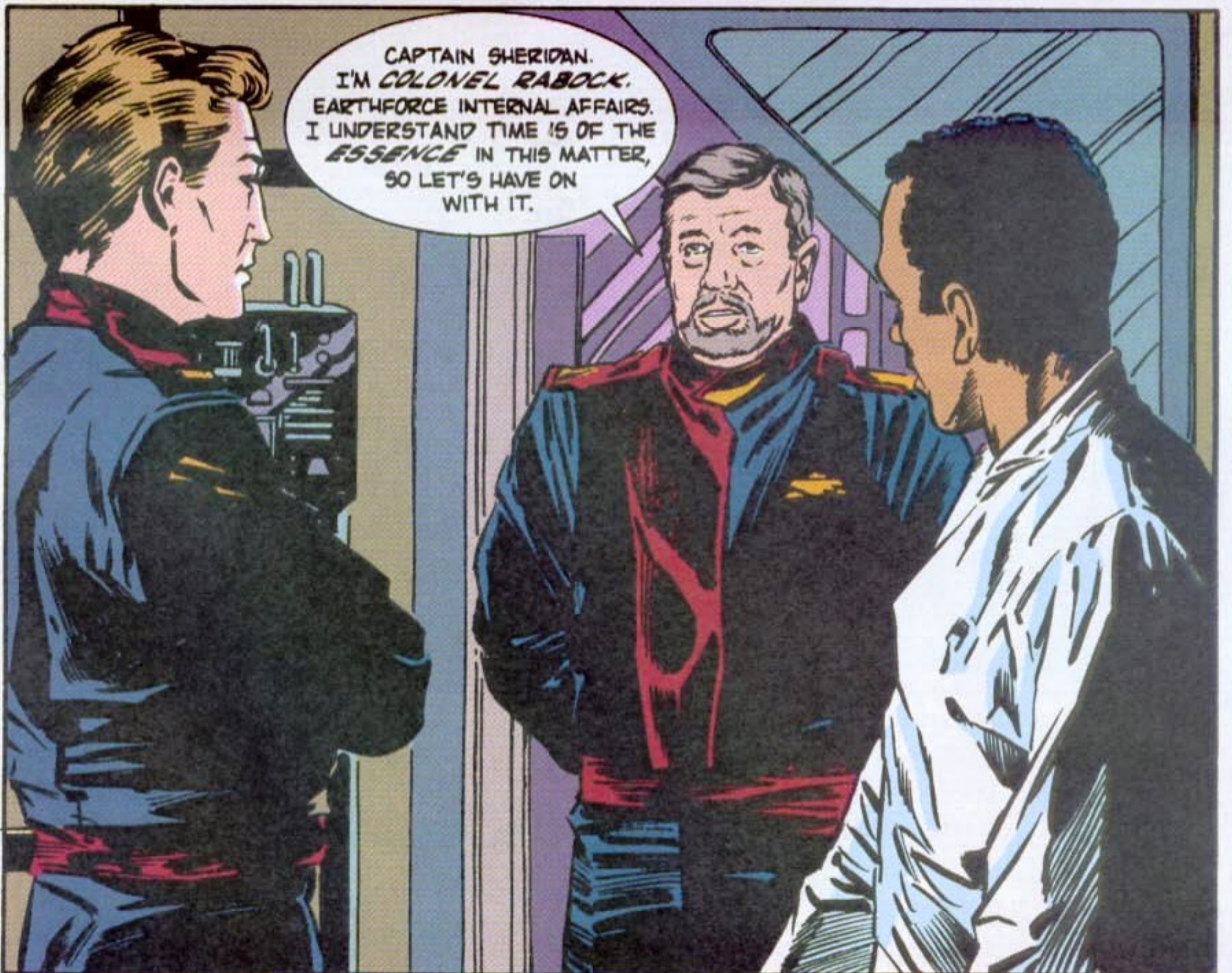


MAYBE NOT. BUT I STILL DON'T SEE A CLEAR CONNECTION TO SINCLAIR.



WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH HALL, CAPTAIN?

YOU WILL TURN HIM OVER TO ME, DOCTOR. AS YOU WERE INSTRUCTED.



CAPTAIN SHERIDAN. I'M COLONEL RABOCK. EARTHFORCE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I UNDERSTAND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN THIS MATTER, SO LET'S HAVE ON WITH IT.

MINBAR.

AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR.
YOU STAND ACCUSED OF
PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE THE
CHOSEN ONE, OUR LEADER.

HOW DO
YOU PLEAD...?

NEXT:
THE CONCLLISION:
"THE PRICE OF PEACE"

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.**"

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS THE DESIGN

BY JOHN IACOVELLI

I am one of five original people who began work on **BABYLON 5** back in 1988. The others were J. Michael Straczynski, who created the show; our producers Douglas Netter and John Copeland; and Ron Thornton, who at the time was one of Hollywood's most well-known model builders and miniaturists.

When we began thinking about **BABYLON 5**, imaging technology for television had barely begun to evolve. But Ron Thornton was a pioneer of video imaging. By the time the series was ready for production, he had become an expert at rendering on computer unbelievably good visions of space and space craft — to the point that we have never used models and never will. In many ways, Ron's abilities were what enabled us to make the show. He was rewarded for his efforts when he won an Emmy Award for Visual Effects for his work on the TV pilot.

In those first meetings, budget drove our thinking as much as creative ideas. Previous space/science fiction failures had made television producers wary of the costs of attempting a truly good show in the genre. But J. Michael Straczynski had created an unusual space station and some fine characters within it, two hundred and fifty years in the future. The scenario was unlike any that had come before; we were interested in the dynamics within our own characters, we were not looking for new worlds. Also, our technology differed from that in the **STAR WARS** or **STAR TREK** universes. Our entire story existed within a single galaxy and we did not benefit from the *deus ex machina* of teleporters and tractor beams.

Since **Babylon 5** is basically round, I designed most of the spaces and rooms based on the components of a circle. Almost every element of the station's architecture starts with either an arc, radius, or circumference as a commanding feature. I also decided that no door should open as conventional doors do today: nothing is hinged, so they either rise like guillotines or slide like jackknives.

Another major decision was to juxtapose texture and bright colors with a grimy, used look. We wanted **Babylon 5** to have a lived-in look. We felt entropy should rule **BABYLON 5**'s world, as it does our own. I remember looking out the window of an airplane one day and noticing the paint on the fuselage was wearing off, and I realized that no matter how hard we try to make the world a perfect place, things get old and break down, just as we do.

There were many more challenges to be tackled in the making of the **BABYLON 5** you see today, not the least of which was the budget (about one third that of **DEEP SPACE NINE**), time (we shoot an episode every seven days!), and space (we have three soundstages with sixteen standing sets that are changed into over sixty current sets).

You might think working in the art department on **BABYLON 5** is a lot of fun. Well, it's hard work — but it is fun, too.

THE NARN FIGHTER COCKPIT

BY ROLAND ROSENKRANZ

The Narn fighter cockpit is one example of how **BABYLON 5** designers must accommodate the special needs of aliens.

The cockpit is a hybrid of present fighter design and Narn physical requirements. The exterior image was developed by Ron Thornton's company, Foundation Imaging, and like a contemporary jet fighter, places the pilot almost horizontal within the craft.

The interior was completed by **BABYLON 5**'s production designers. The seat can, at the touch of a button, adjust a full 90° for use in any situation. The frame of the

cockpit is wide to accommodate the large stature of the Narn, their heavy combat uniforms, plus allow for extended reach and range of motion.



NARN SINGLE-SEAT FIGHTER SPACECRAFT
INTERIOR VIEW, WITH AMBASSADOR G'KAR
(ANDREAS KATSULAS) IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Given the size of Narn hands and fingers, the control panels must be large. For the same reason, all weapon systems are accessed or adjusted through touch-screen technology.

The fighter is designed to be combat-efficient for a Narn — a Minbari or a human it would find it neither comfortable nor efficient in combat.

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NEXT UP: THE PRICE OF PEACE

Colby makes a last desperate break for freedom, as Sinclair's problems reach a climactic finish on Minbar. Mark Moretti, Michael Netzer, and Rob Leigh conclude the final chapter of this story arc.

BEHIND THE SCENES

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

BY MARK-LOUIS WALTERS

Living in space in the 23rd century is not as easy as you might think. Suppose you are a friendly Babylon 5 security officer and you see a heinous act in progress. Do you just shoot the guy?

Well, probably so; but you'd better use your issue PPG, the standard sidearm of all Earthforce personnel.

"PPG" stands for Phase Plasma Gun. It shoots not a solid projectile, but an extremely hot charge of plasma-matter in an energized, molten state. The reason for this odd sort of ammo is that a projectile could puncture the hull of the ship — resulting in an instant vacuum, fatal for both shooter and target. Therefore, in space, it is the plasma gun or nothing, because anything else would be suicidal.

With this in mind, we began designing our PPG for BABYLON 5. Under the supervision of Production Designer John Iacovelli, Propmaker Gene Young finalized the look, then fashioned the fearsome weapon from aluminum. Since the PPG is used by humans, and because the human hand would not have changed in the 23rd century, we figured the PPG should resemble weapons of today, with a familiar grip and trigger. We gave the gun the shape of a police issue .38 revolver, its size and shape making it easy to carry and draw from a holster, just like police weapons of today.

The weapons of other races and beings are designed with similar ergonomics in mind. Crystals are a big part of Minbari technology, so when it came time to make a Minbari knife, I decided to incorporate a crystalline motif into the design. The blade of any knife would be more potent if it also delivered a shock or energy blast, so I decided to make the Minbari blade shocking as well as sharp.

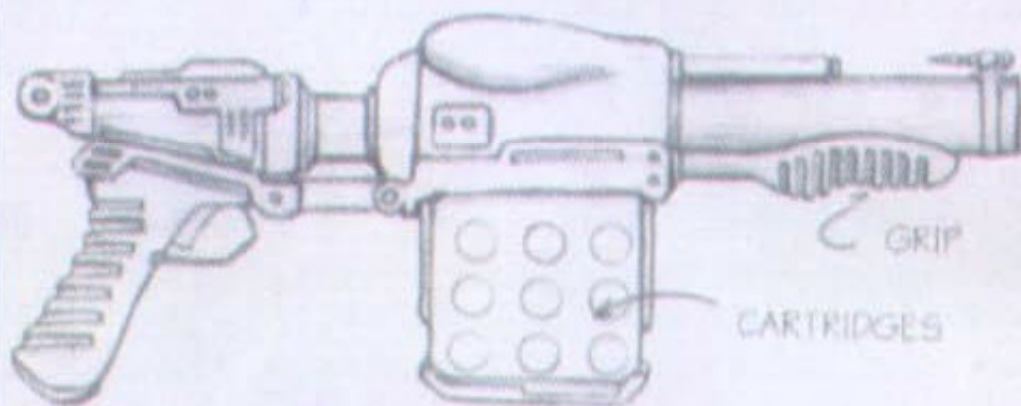
I also felt that multiple blades would be more effective than a single crystal spike. The Minbari are a serious people who believe in study and research, so I knew their weapon design should be intelligent and well-thought out. Therefore, most Minbari small weapons are designed to be worn rather than carried. The knife then became a glove, worn over the hand; a warrior could punch with the blades or make terrible roundhouse slashing blows. When the knife was complete, we all agreed that a trained Minbari warrior with his crystalline glove-knife is not someone to trifle with.

Other weapons were designed with similar considerations. The Narn have a PPG of their own, but it is almost a box with a handle, because the Narns have large hands with large fingers and a pistol grip would be too smooth and complex for their powerful hands.

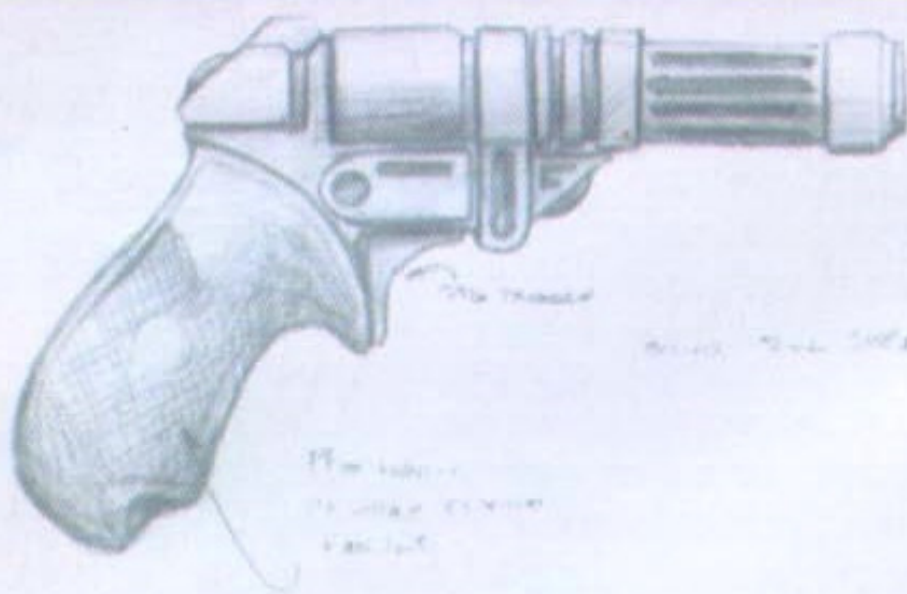
Centauri Royal Guards carry long-barreled pistols that are worn in their sword belts because pomp, ceremony, and appearance are of primary importance to any Centauri. Their weapons are designed to meet aesthetic needs rather than practical considerations.

Drazi use a simple, primitive punch-style knife, because they only fight each other and then only during certain years, as determined by their culture.

Attention to all these details helps bring BABYLON 5 to life as a plausible vision of the future.



EARTHFORCE GRENADE LAUNCHER
FOR SECURITY FORCES AND EARTHFORCE MARINES



LURKER GUN
AN ILLEGAL MAKE OF PPC SMUGGLED ABOARD BABYLON 5

JOHN IACOVELLI is Production Designer for the BABYLON 5 television show.
ROLAND ROSENKRANZ and **MARC-LOUIS WALTERS**
work with him, as Art Director and Propmaster, respectively.