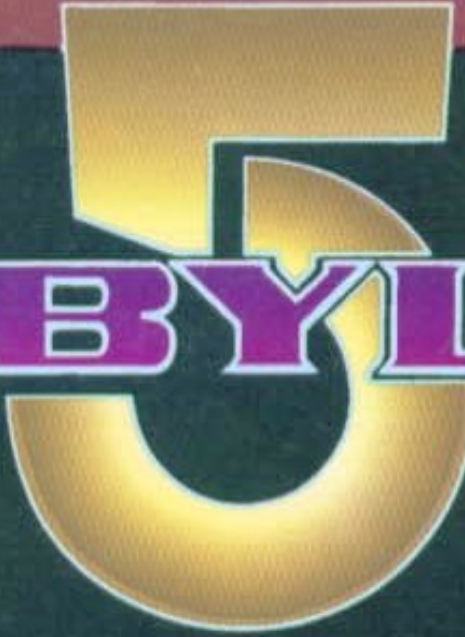




BABYLON



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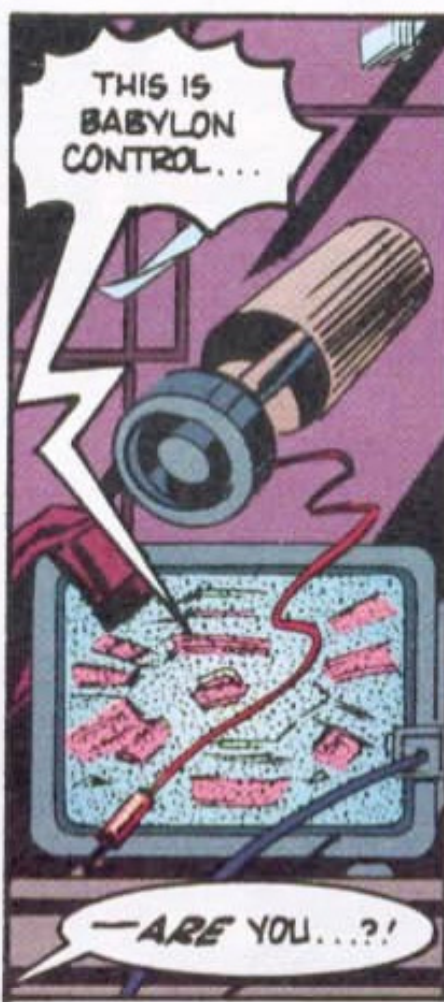
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SHUTTLE
VORTEX TO
BABYLON 5.

WHERE —



THIS IS
BABYLON
CONTROL...

—ARE YOU...?!



...YOUR ARRIVAL
IS UNSCHEDULED
AT THIS TIME.

THERE
YOU ARE...



PLEASE
HOLD YOUR
POSITION...

—THANK GOD!

BABYLON 5 — DOWNBELOW.
THE QUARTERS OF JASON COLBY.



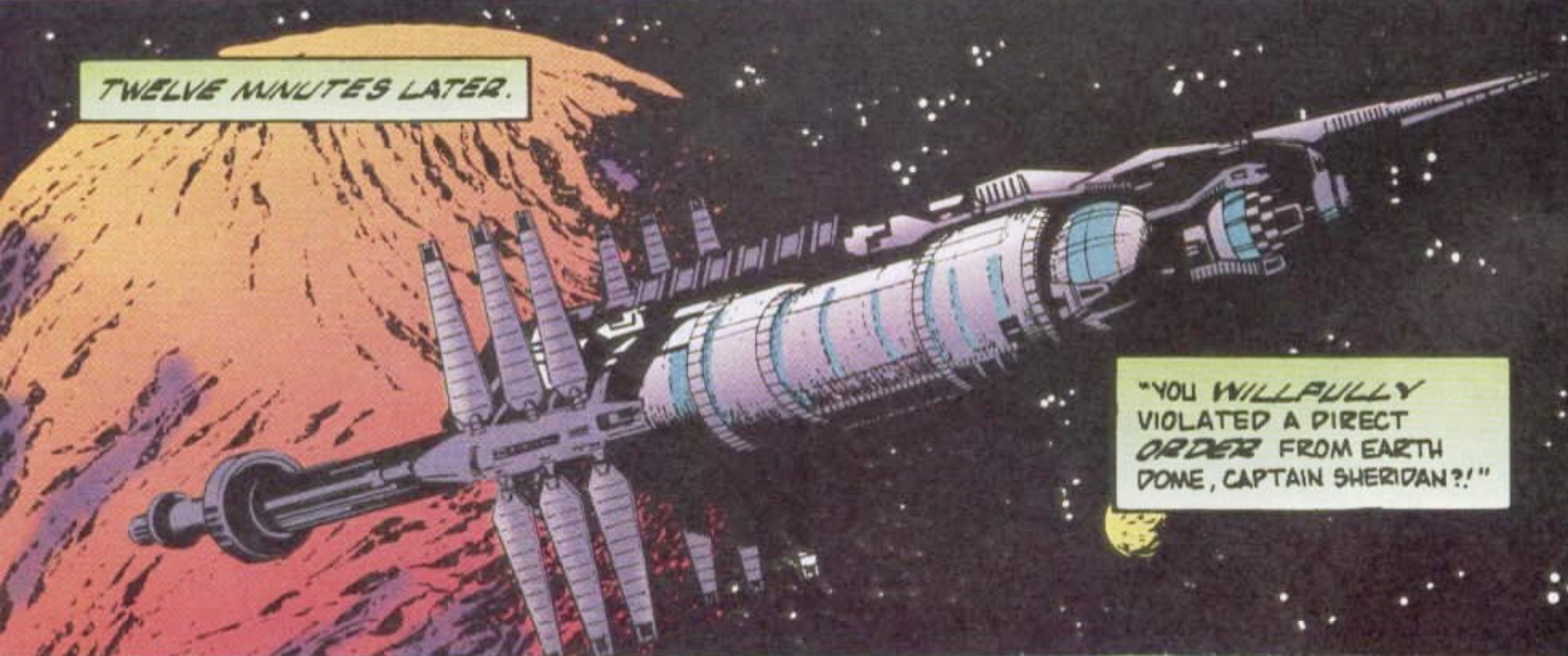
THOUGHT
I'D LOST YOU
IN ALL THIS MESS,
SHANNON.

I HAVE TO
GET OFF BABYLON 5
FAST, BABY. BUT I
COULDN'T LEAVE
WITHOUT YOU.

I'M
GOING BACK
TO EARTH TO
STRAIGHTEN OUT MY
LIFE. TO TRY AND
MAKE IT THE WAY
WE WANTED
IT...



TWELVE MINUTES LATER.



"YOU WILLFULLY VIOLATED A DIRECT ORDER FROM EARTH DOME, CAPTAIN SHERIDAN?!"

THE MAN UNDER THAT SHEET, THE ONE YOU CALL *DEXTER HALL*, WAS IN FACT THE ROGUE PSI-COP "*CYPHER*"—THE MOST WANTED CRIMINAL IN THIS SECTOR!

THE MAN WAS INJURED, AND YET YOU LET MS. WINTERS PERFORM A *TELEPATHIC PROBE*. STRESS FROM THAT PROBE MAY HAVE KILLED HIM, CAPTAIN!

I CONSULTED WITH DOCTOR FRANKLIN, COLONEL RABOCK. YOUR "*PRISONER*" WASN'T GOING TO SURVIVE, NO MATTER WHAT WE DID.

MY ACTIONS WERE WITHIN MY DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION!

THE PRICE OF PEACE

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BENDING THE RULES ONLY ALIGNS YOU WITH YOUR PREDECESSOR, *SINCLAIR*, WHO I'M TOLD IS STANDING TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY ON *MINBAR*.

I *DON'T* BELIEVE HALL WAS "CYpher," YOUR DANGEROUS ROGUE PSI-COP. TALIA'S PROBE REVEALED A *NEW* LEAD TO THE ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST THE MINBARI LEADER—A LEAD THAT MAY *CLEAR* SINCLAIR.

I'VE INITIATED A SEARCH FOR THE MAN WHO ATTACKED TALIA AND HALL. OUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WHEN WE FIND *HIM*.

REALLY. DO YOU THINK THE *MINBARI* WILL TAKE THE WORD OF ONE *TELEPATH* OVER THE *EVIDENCE* AGAINST SINCLAIR?

LISTEN, YOU SANCTIMONIOUS—

MICHAEL!

WHAT IS YOUR *SECURITY CHIEF* DOING OUT OF *UNIFORM*, CAPTAIN?

MR. GARIBALDI IS RECOVERING FROM A WOUND AND IS ON *RESTRICTED* DUTY.

THE ENTIRE SITUATION IS A *MESS*. YOU ALL CAN EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOUR SUPERIORS.

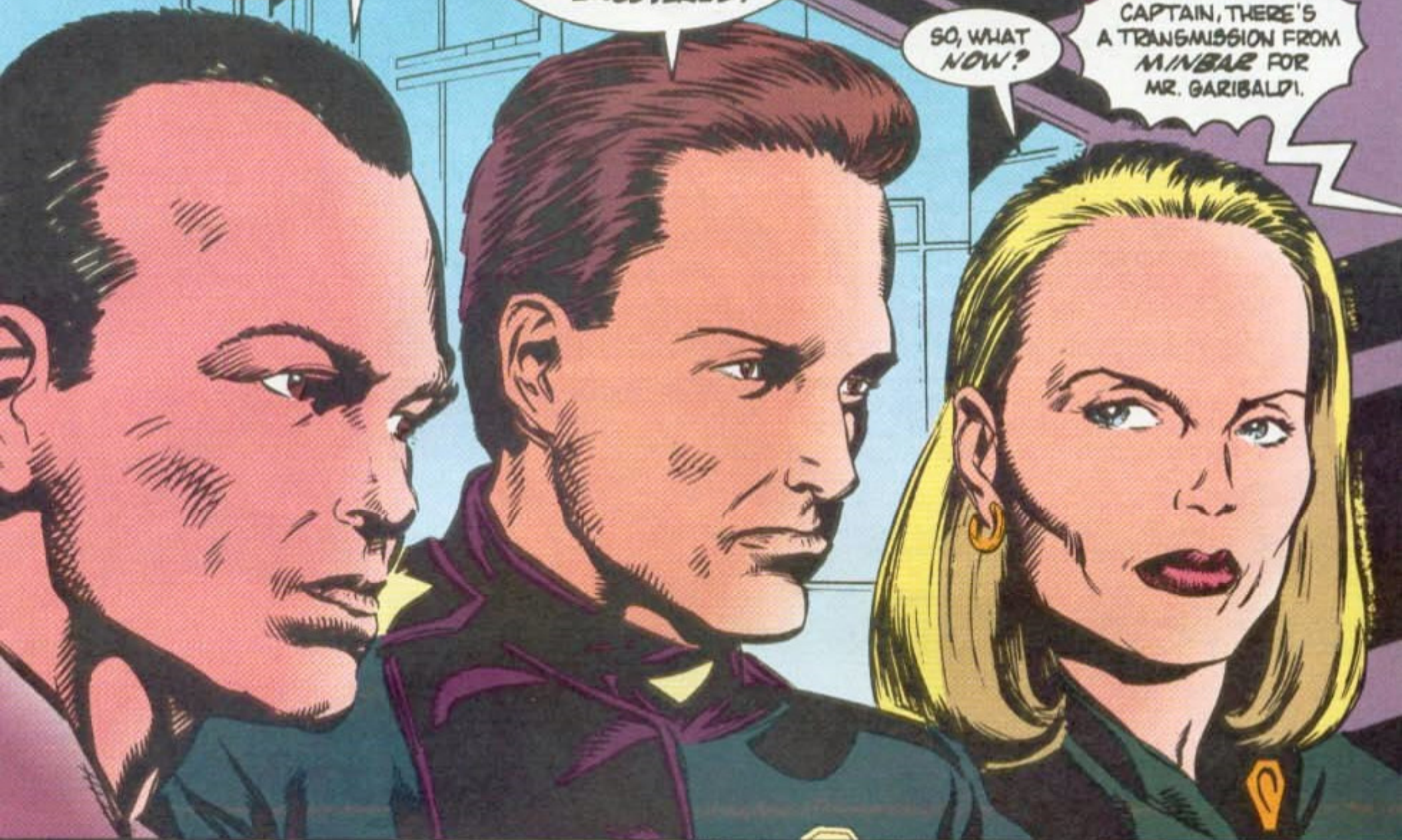
TALK ABOUT BIZARRE BEHAVIOR— AM I SEEING THINGS, OR DID HE JUST WALK OUT OF HERE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?

I WOULD'VE THOUGHT AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATOR WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION WE UNCOVERED.

SO, WHAT NOW?

BREEP!

CAPTAIN, THERE'S A TRANSMISSION FROM MINBAE FOR MR. GARIBALDI.



ROUTE IT TO THE SECURITY OFFICE.

MY OFFICE?

YOUR VACATION'S OVER, MICHAEL.

I NEED YOU THERE TO SUPERVISE THE SEARCH FOR THE MAN WE'RE AFTER.

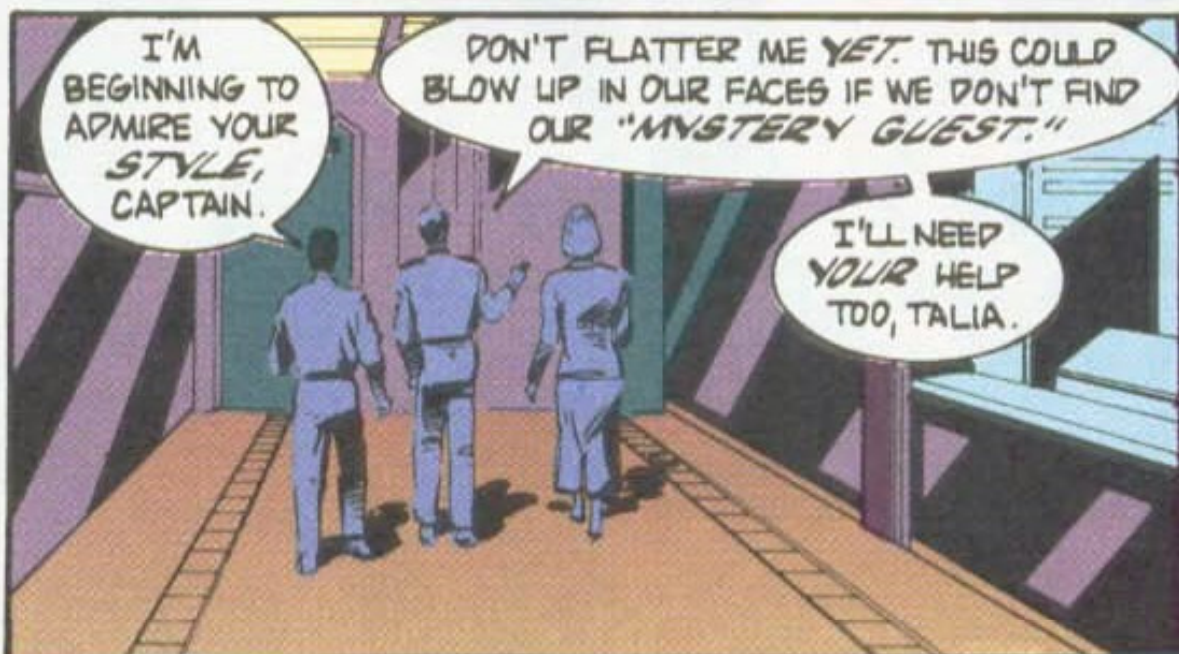
WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND SINCLAIR.



I'M BEGINNING TO ADMIRE YOUR STYLE, CAPTAIN.

DON'T FLATTER ME YET. THIS COULD BLOW UP IN OUR FACES IF WE DON'T FIND OUR "MYSTERY GUEST."

I'LL NEED YOUR HELP TOO, TALIA.



MINBAR, THE JUDICIAL COURT BUILDING.

"... AS A WARRIOR CHARGED WITH DEFENDING MINBARI LAW, I SUBMIT TO THE COURT: NOT ONLY WAS THE ACCUSED — JEFFREY SINCLAIR — AN ENEMY OF OUR PEOPLE DURING THE HOLY WAR..."

...BUT AN EARTH-MADE WEAPON PLUS DETAILED PLANS TO ASSASSINATE OUR LEADER WERE FOUND AMONG HIS POSSESSIONS.

YET HE OFFERS NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE NOR A SINGLE WITNESS IN HIS DEFENSE.

HOW SAY YOU, SINCLAIR?

I AM ENTIRELY INNOCENT, YOUR HONORS.

IF IT PLEASE THE COURT —

— I MUST ADDRESS THE TRIBUNAL.

— ?

I PROTEST.

AS A KNOWN FRIEND OF SINCLAIR, DELENN HAS BEEN BARRED FROM THESE PROCEEDINGS. EVEN HER APPEARANCE INDICATES A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.

I AM HERE IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT COULD EXONERATE THE HUMAN.





PREPOSTEROUS!
OBVIOUSLY A FABRICATION
CONCOCTED BY SINCLAIR'S
FRIENDS TO
SAVE HIM!

WHAT IS THE
PROSECUTION AFRAID
OF? LIES—OR *JUSTICE*?
IF THE *EVIDENCE* IS
FALSE, IT WILL SHOW
ITSELF FOR THE
DECEPTION
THAT IT IS.

BUT WE *MUST*
GIVE IT THE WEIGHT
OF BEING HEARD...OR
WE WILL BE NO BETTER
THAN THE BARBAROUS
KILLER THAT WE
ACCUSE *SINCLAIR*
OF BEING.



WE WILL DISCUSS THE
MATTER IN *CHAMBERS*,
BUT BE *WARNED*, DELENN. THIS
COULD *FURTHER* UNDERMINE
SINCLAIR'S CASE.



I HOPE
TO GOD YOU
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING.

I CONTACTED
GARIBALDI. TALIA
HAD TELEPATHIC CONTACT
WITH A MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL
BOTH *HER* AND THE *PSI-COP*
WHO UNCOVERED THE
ASSASSINATION PLOT.

TRUST
ME, JEFFREY.

ZOCALO.

SCRAMBLER
LINK
ACTIVATED.

... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE
SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION,
WEBSTER. OUR INTENTION WASN'T TO
KILL THE NEW MINBARI LEADER.

THAT WOULD START ANOTHER
WAR AND RUIN OUR LONG-RANGE
PLANS. SINCLAIR'S APPOINTMENT
SIMPLY PROVIDED THE *OPPORTUNITY*
TO MAKE A *THREAT* APPARENT.

WE INTENDED TO INFORM
MINBAR OF THE PLOT *OURSELVES*,
FORCING THEM TO *SEVER* THEIR GROWING
DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH EARTH.

WE'RE *INSULATED*, SIR. COLBY WILL
TAKE THE FALL FOR SMUGGLING THE WEAPON
INTO SINCLAIR'S *BELONGINGS*. WE'LL
RETAIN *PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY*
IF I DISAPPEAR.

IT'S TOO LATE
TO *RUN*, WEBSTER. IF
COLBY'S APPREHENDED
FOR PROVIDING THE WEAPON,
IT WILL UNDO OUR
DISINFORMATION THAT
HALL WAS "CYpher" AND
RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE PLOT.

BUT I
THOUGHT—

DOWNBELOW.

IT'S NOT YOUR JOB TO *THINK*, WEBSTER. IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT* THAT PSI-COP DEXTER HALL INFILTRATED THE SAME HOME GUARD GROUP THAT GAVE COLBY HIS *WEAPON*.

WE CAN'T LET EARTH DOME DISCOVER COLBY'S CONNECTION TO OUR HOME GUARD ACTIVITY AND ANTI-ALIEN *AGGRESSION*.

IF COLBY IDENTIFIES *YOU*, THEY'LL TRACE YOU BACK TO *US* AND RUIN THE "CYPHER" RUSE. IT'LL RUIN OUR ABILITY TO SHIFT THE *BLAME* OF OUR SECRET OPERATIONS.

COLBY'S THE *KEY*, AND HE'S *YOUR* RESPONSIBILITY.

YOU KILLED COLBY'S WIFE AND BLAMED IT ON *ALIENS*, THEN RECRUITED HIM INTO HOME GUARD WHEN HE WANTED REVENGE.

WHAT IF HE *COOPERATES* WITH EARTH DOME AND SPILLS HIS GUTS? THERE'S ONLY *ONE* SOLUTION. KILL COLBY. *NOW*.

PRIVATE JUDICIAL CHAMBERS ON MINBAR.



... AND THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THIS TRAITOR ON BABYLON 5 AS WE SPEAK.

BAH! THIS IS A DELAYING TACTIC. THE HUMANS ARE DESPERATE, FABRICATING EVIDENCE TO SAVE SINCLAIR.



ONCE WE EXPOSE THIS NEW TREACHERY, THE WARRIOR CASTE WILL DEMAND THE RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES AGAINST EARTH.



WE SHALL AWAIT COMPLETION OF THE HUMANS' SEARCH, BUT WE MUST CONCUR WITH NEROON'S DEMAND, IF IT IS DETERMINED THE HUMANS ATTEMPTED TO DECEIVE US, DELENN.



I REMIND YOU THAT WE CEASED JIHAD AGAINST EARTH WHEN MISSING MINBARI SOULS WERE DISCOVERED REBORN IN HUMANS, FIRST THROUGH THE ACCUSED SINCLAIR.



THE WARRIOR CASTE DOES NOT BELIEVE SUCH A SUPERSTITIOUS CONVICTION, ONE WHICH AWARDED US DEFEAT RATHER THAN GLORIOUS VICTORY.



WE AGREE, WARRIOR, BUT THERE IS WISDOM IN PATIENCE.

THE LAW STATES THAT NO MINBARI MAY KILL ANOTHER. YOU ARE CONDEMNING RELIGIOUS AND WARRIOR CASTES TO WAR WITH EACH OTHER, AS WELL AS HUMANS WITH MINBARI SOULS.



YOU DO NOT SPEAK OF GENOCIDE BUT SUICIDE OF THE ENTIRE MINBAR RACE.



WE FOLLOWED THE DICTUM OF THE RELIGIOUS CASTE ONCE, DELENN. SEE WHAT IT HAS WROUGHT ON US.

BABYLON 5 SECURITY OFFICE.

... AND WE'RE MOVING TO THE NEXT LEVEL, CHIEF.

GREAT. KEEP ME POSTED, LOU.

HOW IS YOUR HUNT PROCEEDING, MR. GARIBALDI?

TALIA'S MONITORING ALL DEPARTURES AT THE CUSTOMS CHECKPOINT, AND WE'RE MAKING LEVEL-TO-LEVEL SWEEPS WITH SEARCH TEAMS, COLONEL.

YOU MAY AS WELL BE LOOKING FOR A DATA CRYSTAL IN A MINBARI DIAMOND MINE.

IT'S ALL WE CAN DO FOR NOW, COLONEL... BUT I HAVE ONE OTHER LEAD.

AMBASSADOR DELENN ON MINBAR SUGGESTED WE SCAN THE VISUAL LOGS OF SHIPS DEPARTING FOR THE MINBARI SYSTEM, AND—

—WELL, WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

COMMAND AND CONTROL.

BREEP!

CAPTAIN SHERIDAN, GARIBALDI HERE. I'VE BEEN CHECKING THE DOCKING BAY VISUAL LOGS.



DELENN'S WAS THE LAST MINBARI SHIP TO LEAVE BABYLON 5. WATCH YOUR MONITOR.

THAT'S SOMEONE FROM MAINTENANCE LOADING A CONTAINER ON DELENN'S SHIP.



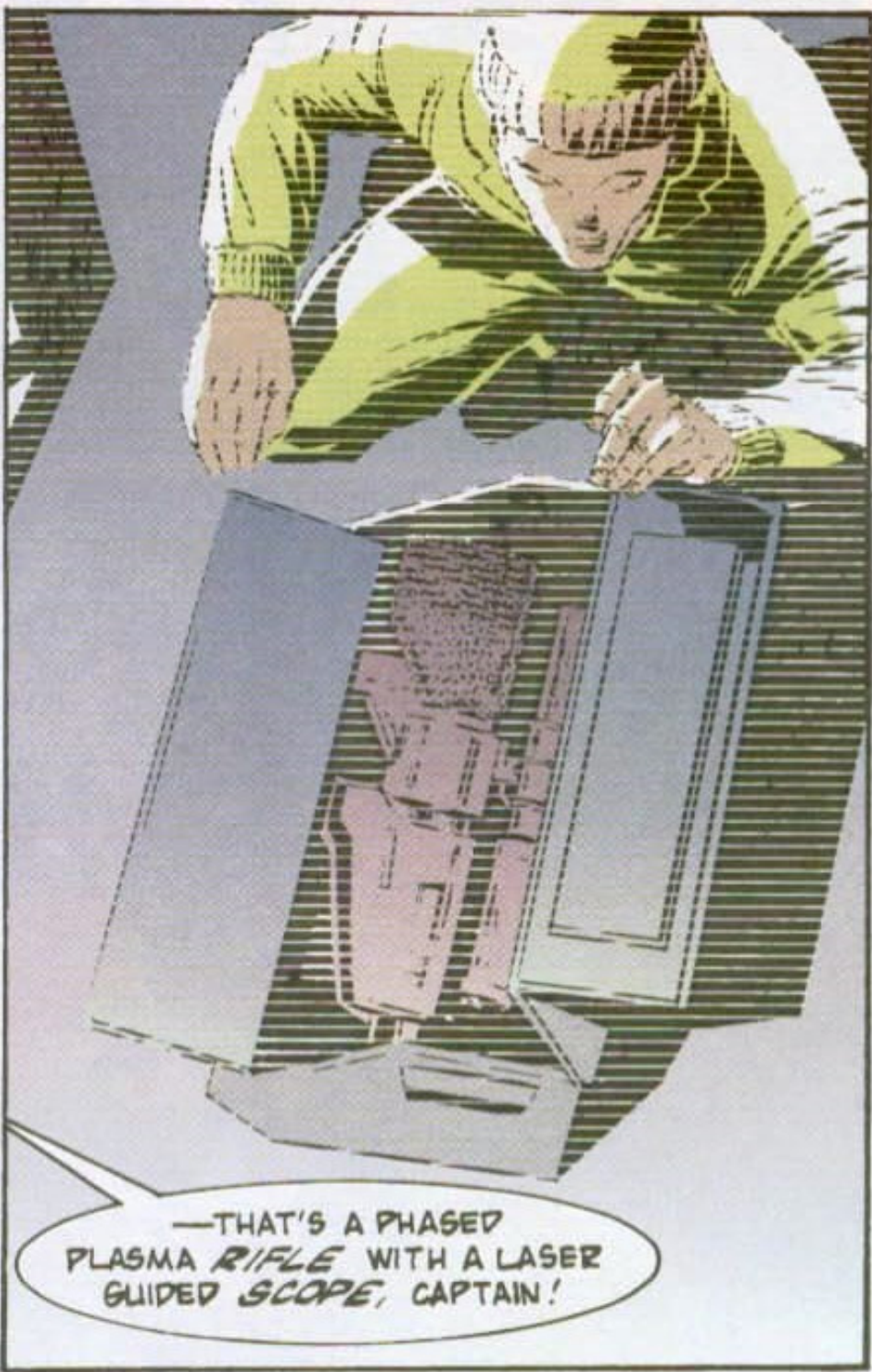
GET TO THE POINT, MICHAEL.

...AFTER THE FLYER HAD CLEARED CUSTOMS. I'M ENHANCING THE IMAGE NOW.

YOU MAY HAVE TO PINCH ME, IVANOVA.



IF IT'S A MIRAGE, I'M SEEING THE SAME ONE—



—THAT'S A PHASED PLASMA RIFLE WITH A LASER GUIDED SCOPE, CAPTAIN!



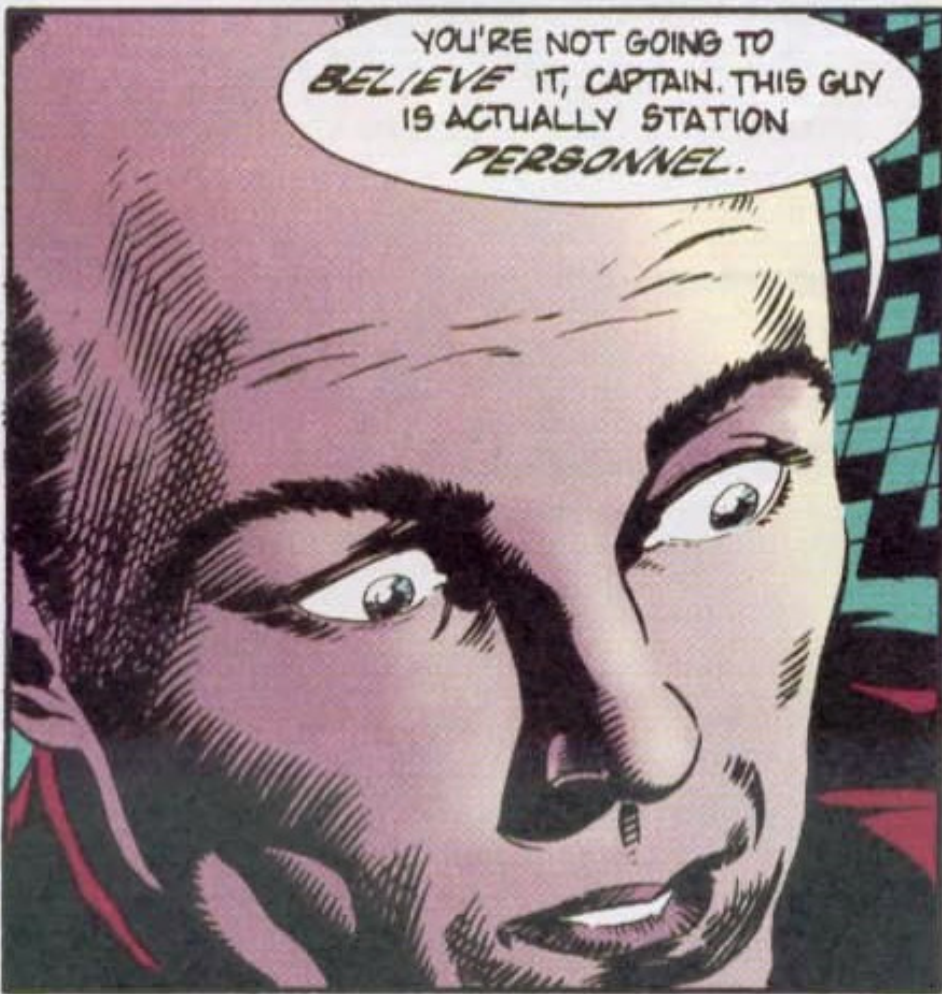
YEP—THE *SAME* WEAPON THAT WAS FOUND IN SINCLAIR'S BELONGINGS.

YOU JUST EARNED ALL YOUR SICK PAY, MR. BARIBALDI. CAN YOU I.D. THE MAN FROM THIS *IMAGE*.

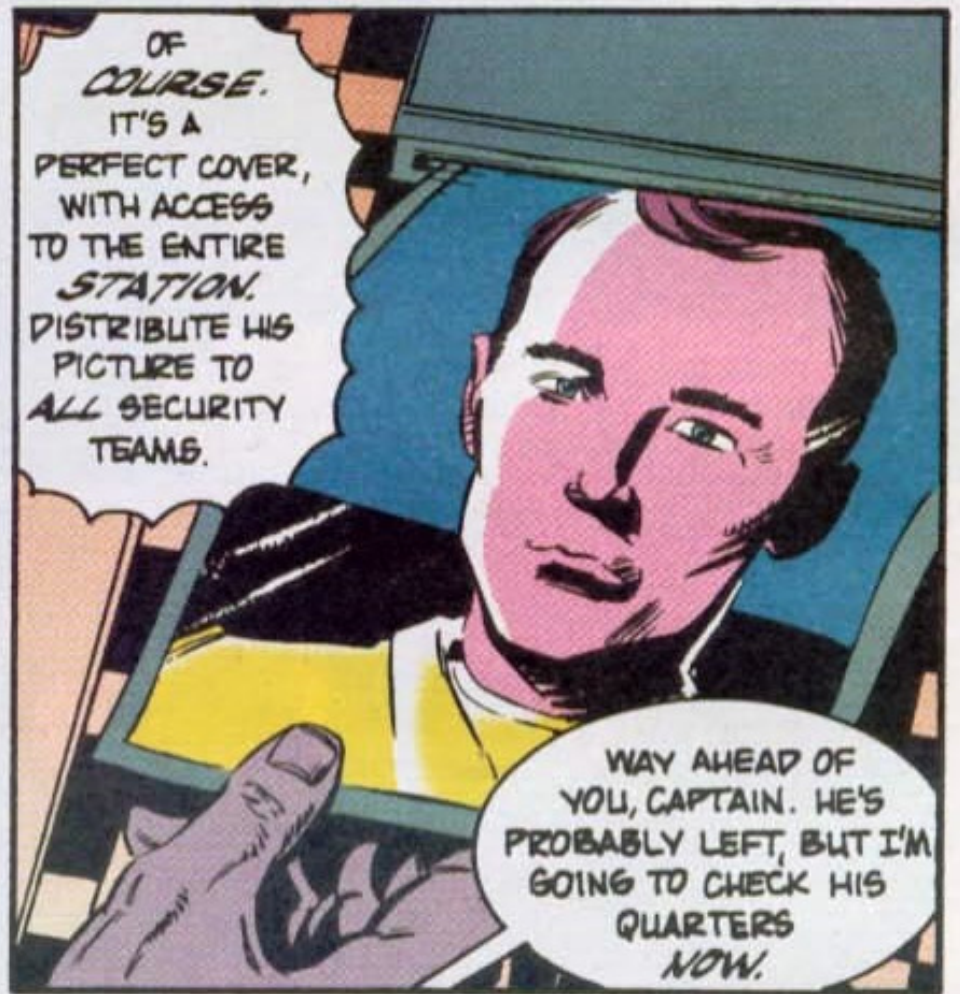


IT'S A *LONG SHOT*, BUT I'VE GOT THE COMPUTER CHEWING ON IT NOW—*PAYDIRT!* I'VE GOT IT!

5 BYLON
TIFICATION PROFILE
JASON COLBY



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO *BELIEVE* IT, CAPTAIN. THIS GUY IS ACTUALLY STATION *PERSONNEL*.



OF *COURSE*. IT'S A PERFECT COVER, WITH ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE *STATION*. DISTRIBUTE HIS PICTURE TO ALL SECURITY TEAMS.

WAY AHEAD OF YOU, CAPTAIN. HE'S PROBABLY LEFT, BUT I'M GOING TO CHECK HIS *QUARTERS NOW*.



I'LL *JOIN* YOU ON THE WAY, CHIEF. OUT.

WELL, COLONEL RABOCK, HOW DO YOU LIKE MY ODDS *NOW*—

—HUH?

GONE...?!

DOWNBELOW.

TOK TOK TOK

JASON.
JASON, IT'S ME.
WEBSTER.

TCSSSSSS

JASON,
WHERE
ARE—?

TRANSPORT TUBE.

ZZZZZZZ

EARTHFORCE
INTELLIGENCE—
SPECIAL FORCES.
TELL ME WHAT A GUY WITH
THAT HISTORY IS DOING IN
MAINTENANCE
ON BABYLON 5?

GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES
OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH, HE'D
BE AN EASY CANDIDATE TO
RECRUIT INTO AN ANTI-ALIEN
FACTION.

IF HE OPERATED
HERE UNDETECTED FOR
OVER A YEAR, HE'LL BE
TOUGH TO LOCATE. THIS
GUY DOESN'T WANT
TO BE FOUND.

"... AND I CHECKED COLBY'S
BACKGROUND. GUESS
WHAT HE DID BEFORE
HIS WIFE WAS KILLED IN
A COLLISION WITH A
MINBAR/ TRANSPORT."

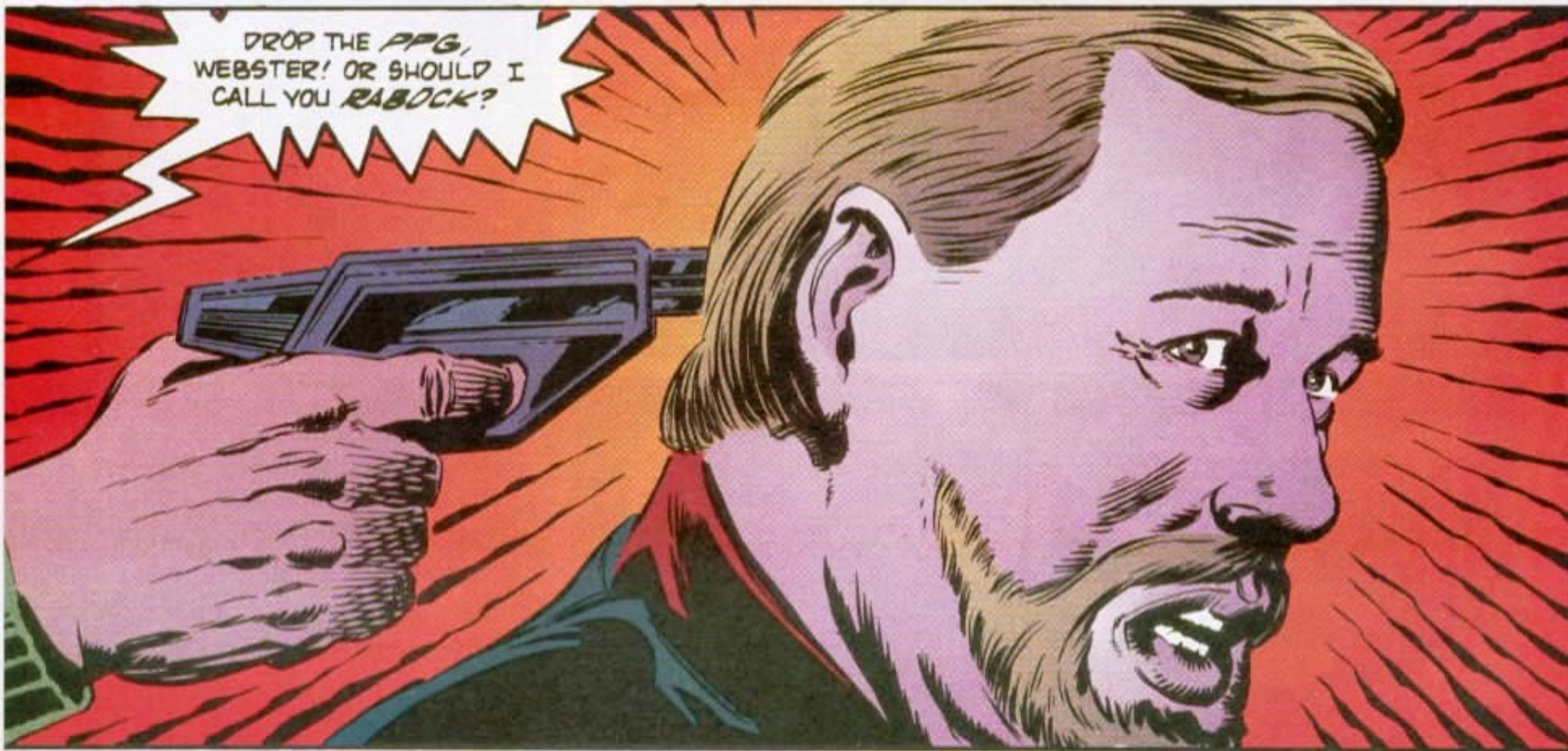




JASON.
ARE YOU *IN*
HERE?



CLIX



DROP THE *PPG*,
WEBSTER! OR SHOULD I
CALL YOU *RABOCK*?

COLBY'S
PROFILE SUGGESTS
HE'S *METICULOUS*.
LET'S HOPE OLD HABITS
DIE HARD AND HE KEPT
RECORDS OF HIS
ASSIGNMENTS.

HE MUST BE
WELL-CONNECTED
TO CARRY OUT THIS
KIND OF *CLANDESTINE*
ACTION. IT'S LIKELY
HIS SUPERIORS ARE
AWARE WHAT'S
DEVELOPED.



THEN
WE'RE IN
TROUBLE,
CAPTAIN.

THE
COMMANDING
OFFICER OF
COLBY'S OLD DIVISION
WAS LISTED AS
COLONEL T.
RABOCK.



I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, JASON. GARIBALDI DISCOVERED IT WAS YOU WHO PLANTED THE WEAPON INSIDE SINCLAIR'S CARGO.

NOW WE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET YOU OUT OF—



LIAR! YOU KILLED MY WIFE!

THOK!

-UNNH!



DO YOU THINK I'M AN IDIOT? I'VE BEEN MONITORING YOUR COMMUNICATIONS, WEBSTER. JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME.

YOUR SUPERIOR ORDERED YOU TO KILL ME.

JASON, YOU NEED ME TO GET OFF THIS STATION!



I KNOW. AS AN EARTHFORCE OFFICER, YOU'LL GET ME TO A SHIP, OR I'LL SPILL EVERYTHING I KNOW, ALONG WITH YOUR BRAINS.

I HAVE DETAILED RECORDS IN MY CASE. IF THEY GET ME, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING DOWN, TOO. LET'S GO, "COLONEL!"



RABOCK!
COLBY! DON'T
MOVE!

IT'S OVER, COLBY. DROP THE GUN!



STAY BACK! WE'RE GOING TO THE COLONEL'S SHIP. IF ANYONE GETS IN OUR WAY, HE'S A DEAD MAN.



ALL RIGHT, COLBY YOU WIN. WE'RE BACKING OFF.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, CAPTAIN?



LET THEM GO, MICHAEL. WE NEED THEM ALIVE. CALL SECURITY AND CLEAR EVERY CORRIDOR.



WE'LL USE STARFURIERS TO GET THEM OUTSIDE THE STATION, BEFORE THEY REACH THE JUMP GATE.



MINUTES LATER.

"SHUTTLE VORTEX HAS CLEARED THE STATION, CAPTAIN GHERIDAN."

"LAUNCH ZETA WING. TARGET ENGINES ONLY."



YOU CAN DROP THE GUN NOW, JASON, AND GIVE ME YOUR RECORDS.

YOU MUST BE INSANE, WEBSTER.



I LET YOU LIVE THIS LONG TO HELP ME ESCAPE.



IT WASN'T A REQUEST, JASON.



I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU ANY TIME, BUT I NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT YOU HAD ON US. YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHO I REALLY AM.

ARRRGH!



MY HEAD! A TELEPATHIC PAIN BURST—JUST LIKE WHAT HALL DID TO ME...!



MINBAR.

...AND THE HUMANS' VISUAL RECORD IMPLICATES AN ACCOMPLICE WHO SMUGGLED THE WEAPON INTO SINCLAIR'S CONTAINERS.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A CONSPIRACY! THE PROSECUTION DEMANDS THIS ACT OF WAR BE RESPONDED TO IN KIND.

INDEED, THE TRIBUNAL IS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE IN PRONOUNCING SENTENCE.

I HAVE A REQUEST, YOUR HONORS.

NOW HE CHOOSES TO SPEAK?

IN THE ABSENCE OF MINBAR'S ANCIENT "TRIAL BY COMBAT" CUSTOM, I OFFER MY LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR WAR BETWEEN OUR WORLDS.

NO! THIS IS A TRICK. THE HUMAN MOCKS OUR LAWS. THE PROSECUTION DEMANDS WAR!

THE REQUEST IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANCIENT MINBARI LAW... AND IS HEREBY GRANTED.

SILENCE, ALL!

THE HOLY ONE!

IT IS HE!

OUR LEADER!

YOU CANNOT DO THIS, JEFFREY!

AS THE FOCUS OF THE ALLEGED AGGRESSION, I HAVE OBSERVED THE PROGRESS OF THIS TRIAL. THE ACCUSED IS WILLING TO DIE TO PREVENT WAR.

THIS IS THE STEEPEST PRICE TO PAY FOR PEACE. I AM SATISFIED SINCLAIR IS A GOOD AND JUST MAN.

I WITHDRAW ALL CHARGES AGAINST HIM. HE IS HEREBY PARDONED, AS IS MY RIGHT, AND WITHIN MY AUTHORITY AS LEADER OF THE GREY COUNCIL.

MINBARI SPACE PORT. HOURS LATER.

... THE JUDGES WERE IN A NO-WIN SITUATION, WHEN I CITED AN ANCIENT MINBARI LAW THAT REQUIRED *DISMISSAL* OF HOSTILITIES IF I OFFERED MY LIFE IN *EXCHANGE*.

BUT ONLY AFTER THE JUDGES GAVE YOU THE *OPPORTUNITY*... AND COULD NOT *REVERSE* THEMSELVES.

YOU *KNEW* THE GREY COUNCIL WOULD NOT *CONDEMN* YOU, SINCE YOU CARRY A MINBARI *SOLL*. *STILL*, YOU TOOK A *RISK* THAT OUR LEADER WOULD *INTERVENE* ON YOUR BEHALF.

A CALCULATED *RISK*. THEIR FEAR OF REVEALING THAT HUMANS CARRY MINBARI *SOLLS* PREVENTED THEM FROM LETTING ME DIE BY *MINBARI HANDS*.

YOU ARE INDEED *WISE*, JEFFREY SINCLAIR. EVEN IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE *EVERYTHING* YOU SAY.

I PREFER THE TERM *CAGEY*, DELENN. IN TRUTH I READ A LOT OF MINBARI *HISTORY* DURING THE LONG VOYAGE HERE.

AMBASSADOR. IT IS TIME.

I'M GOING TO *MISS* YOU, DELENN. GOODBYE.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN, JEFFREY, I—OH!



BABYLON 5.

... AND SINCLAIR TWISTED MINBAR LAWS AGAINST THEM. AMAZING.

EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL.

I STILL HAVE TO INFORM EARTHDOME WHAT HAPPENED WITH COLBY AND RABOCK...

... AND HALL'S BODY WAS ON RABOCK'S SHIP WHEN IT EXPLODED.

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE HALL WAS "CYPHER." THAT WHOLE ROGUE PSI-COP STUFF—IT'S GOTTA BE A SMOKESCREEN.

BEEP!

EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN SHERIDAN?

I'M COLONEL TIFFANY RABOCK, EARTHFORCE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I'M HERE TO TAKE OVER THE DEXTER HALL CASE.

YOU'RE COLONEL T. RABOCK?

I WAS TOLD YOU WERE EXPECTING ME?

UH-OH!

BUT IF YOU'RE RABOCK, THEN WHO—?

SO, MR. GARIBALDI, YOU WERE SAYING...

"...YOU'RE *SURE* THERE'S NO 'CYPHER'?"

EARTH.

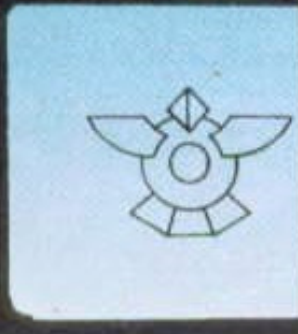
COMPUTER:
DELETE CODED ALPHA
FILES: COLBY, JASON
AND WEBSTER,
THOMAS.

CODED ALPHA FILES: COLBY,
JASON AND WEBSTER, THOMAS—
DELETED.

COMPUTER: INITIATE
SEARCH: PSI-CORPS
RECORDS.

DELETE

DELETE



MATCH POTENTIAL
CANDIDATES TO "CYPHER"
PROGRAM CRITERIA.

INITIATING SEARCH.
COMPILING LIST.

THIS IS JUST A
TEMPORARY SETBACK. MANY
OTHER AGENTS ARE IN PLACE,
AND THERE WILL BE OTHER
OPPORTUNITIES...

THE UNIVERSE MAY BE
AS VAST AS THE MIND OF GOD,
BUT THE DEEDS OF ONE MAN IN THE
RIGHT PLACE CAN TIP THE
BALANCE ENOUGH TO
SEIZE POWER...

...AND SOMEWHERE OUT
THERE A NEW *CYPHER* IS
WAITING TO BE FOUND. . .

FIN.

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.**"

COSTUMES FOR A FOREIGN WORLD

BY ANN BRUCE

There are many different races of aliens and people on Babylon 5. As you might guess, designing and creating clothes for all those characters keeps the Wardrobe Department continually challenged.

As Costume Designer for BABYLON 5, I have been, since the first season, informed and enlightened by series creator J. Michael Straczynski, Production Designer John Iacovelli and Producer John Copeland — though they have given me tremendous freedom to develop my own ideas, as well.

One of J. Michael's clearest desires was to create widely, and sometimes wildly, divergent and detailed characters for B-5. My job: to prepare divergent and detailed costumes for all of them.

HUMANS

Humans on B-5 needed both "uniformed" and "civilian" appearances. Within the uniformed world, there were Earthforce Uniforms — command and non-command, Class A and Formal Dress, plus other personnel outfits, like spacesuits, ground crew jumpsuits, security uniforms, Med Lab attire, and surgical scrubs, to name a few. Each outfit was designed with the idea that it belonged to a specific class of worker, with a specific function, on a thriving, working space station.

But the designs had to satisfy the aesthetic of the year 2259, too. So, we used unusual fabric combinations and texture detail, plus a complex system of medals and patches to distinguish rank, to create job-specific uniforms. The designs were influenced by world military uniforms from the past 150 years. Both J. Michael and John Copeland believed viewers would relate best to Earth history, that is, costumes that tie together our past, present, and future.

Civilian outfits needed to represent a melting pot, so we blended contemporary silhouettes with timeless ethnic fabrics and shapes. This colorful mix gives the world of B-5 a rich and varied texture — especially appropriate since J. Michael has sometimes compared Babylon 5 to Ellis Island.

PSI CORPS

Talia Winters's Psi Corps tailored suits retain a quasi-uniform look, with contrasting earthtones behind strong black asymmetrical shapes. As a member of Psi Corps, Talia wears a special Psi Corps pin, plus black leather gloves in public, to keep her telepathic powers in check.

ALIENS, ALIENS

Our greatest challenge was to create costumes for the vast cast of alien characters. Most of our energy was devoted to our three alien ambassadors, who represent the aligned alien races. Eccentric in their own ways, each comes to B-5 with a unique culture and a particular agenda.

Londo Mollari is the Centauri Ambassador. According to J. Michael, the Centauri Republic was once a formidable, imperialistic power. But the people have been weakened by luxury and leisure — they now define themselves through acquisition and outward appearance. Given this guideline, I derived Londo's costume silhouette from late 18th-century pre-Napoleonic attire. His costume is a tribute to excess, replete with gold



DELENN, as she appeared during BABYLON 5's first season. On the right are swatches of the fabric used to create her outfit.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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NEXT UP: SHADOWS PAST AND PRESENT

A new story begins, in which Garibaldi revisits his first meeting with Jeffrey Sinclair — and unearths some new problems. Written by Tim DeHaas, based on a premise by J. Michael Straczynski, with art by John Ridgway.

BEHIND THE SCENES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

bullion and brass scarabs as trim on his purple coat. As we move into later episodes of the second season, Londo's look will become darker, more threatening; his coat will change from purple to midnight blue, with pewter trim replacing the gold. Peter Jurasik, the actor who plays Londo, has encouraged me to add the extras, feeling the more his outfit is cluttered with ornamentation, the greater the façade his character must fight against.

In contrast to the Centauri Republic, the Narns have evolved into an aggressive society, perched to defend what was once a peaceful agrarian culture. Having been suppressed by the Centauri Republic for centuries, the Narns will fight to the death before succumbing again. Hence, we designed the costume for G'Kar, the Narn Ambassador, based on warriors from antiquity. Pieces of his costume range from Roman to Gothic, and though his silhouette is largely classic, the materials of his costume have an organic quality, unlike Londo's highly refined, faceted look. With a complex layering system, including studded shirt, breeches, codpiece, and boots, everything about G'Kar's costume evokes power.

The Minbari Ambassador, Delenn, holds a highly-respected position. A quiet, contemplative species, the Minbari aspire to personal honor and integrity; visually, they need to evoke a strong, centered image. Delenn's makeup became more feminine for the start of season one (versus the series pilot), so her clothes were changed to more feminine dimensions. The Minbari silhouette is a mix of Asian and Western Gothic, and the layered fabrics of Delenn's costumes are silk brocades with small geometric patterns. For season two, her character made a major transformation, becoming more human, and we altered her attire accordingly, to stress a sleeker, more elegant silhouette. To do this, I removed one layer of garments and streamlined her kimono. We also gave her a heeled shoe, to complete the long, lean look.

Each ambassador has an attaché (Vir, Na'Toth, Lennier), to assist him or her. As such, Lennier, who serves Delenn, was also transformed for the second season. At the start of season one, Lennier (Bill Mummy) had just arrived from Minbar where he led a sheltered monastic life. So, his costume reflected a youthful, servile quality. But for season two, Lennier needed to look more sophisticated, less gullible. Taking his existing silhouette, I designed a more complex costume, utilizing intricate line detail and fabric piecing. The result is a more confident, stately Lennier.

This is just the start of basic B-5 costuming. For example, each ambassador also needs ceremonial attire for special state occasions. I've designed outfits for Narn pilots, Narn civilians, Minbari warriors, Minbari acolytes, Minbari pilots, the Minbari Grey Council, Centauri women, Londo's wives, the Centauri Emperor, Centauri Imperial Guards, Centauri clairvoyants... and many others.

From there, the world of B-5 goes on to encompass many non-aligned alien races (most notably the Drazis), plus all the varied characters (both human and alien) who pass through B-5 for an episode or two. It is not uncommon for the Wardrobe Department to dress up to 100 actors, stunt players, and extras in the course of a day. Behind the scenes at B-5 is a bustling world as exciting as the one we endeavor to create.

JOURNEY TO BABYLON 5

BY ANN BRUICE

Becoming Costume Designer for BABYLON 5 was a step I never anticipated. Luckily, my training and experience over the past decade have served me well.

I came to the west coast world of design after getting an M.A. in Drama from the University of California Santa Barbara and an M.F.A. in Costume Design from California Institute of the Arts. From there, I landed work assisting a number of notable designers, including Robert Blackman (STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, DEEP SPACE NINE), who helped me refine my sense of historical silhouette as well as understand the importance of detail, color, and texture.

From 1986 to 1993, I worked largely in theatre around the Los Angeles area, designing costumes for both period and contemporary plays. Twice, I won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for my work.

For a number of those theatre projects, I collaborated with a Scenic Designer named John Iacovelli. John was already working with the producers of BABYLON 5, and he convinced them to interview

me. Less than a week later, I found myself on board as Costume Designer. Barely two months after that, we were shooting the first episode. During that time, I put together a wardrobe staff, researched and rendered designs, chose all the fabrics for the costumes, and oversaw fittings and tailoring.

Fortunately, my work in theatre, plus a handful of film and television credits, helped prepare me for the depth and speed required to create the costumes for the world of B-5. Even now, well into our second season, I remain grateful for all those years of formal training and experience — it's the only way I was able to survive BABYLON 5!



DELENN, in her second season clothing, with swatches of the fabric used in the costume.

ANN BRUICE is Costume Designer for the television show BABYLON 5.

COVER ART FOR THIS ISSUE BY JERRY BINGHAM.