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SURVIVAL THE HARD WAY



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SURVIVAL THE HARD WAY

SHADOWS PAST AND PRESENT: PART III

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



SO, KEFFER, ANY SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT BEING ON AN UNAUTHORIZED MISSION WITH A SOON-TO-BE EX-HEAD OF SECURITY?

I JUST WANT TO KNOW ONE THING, GARIBALDI...



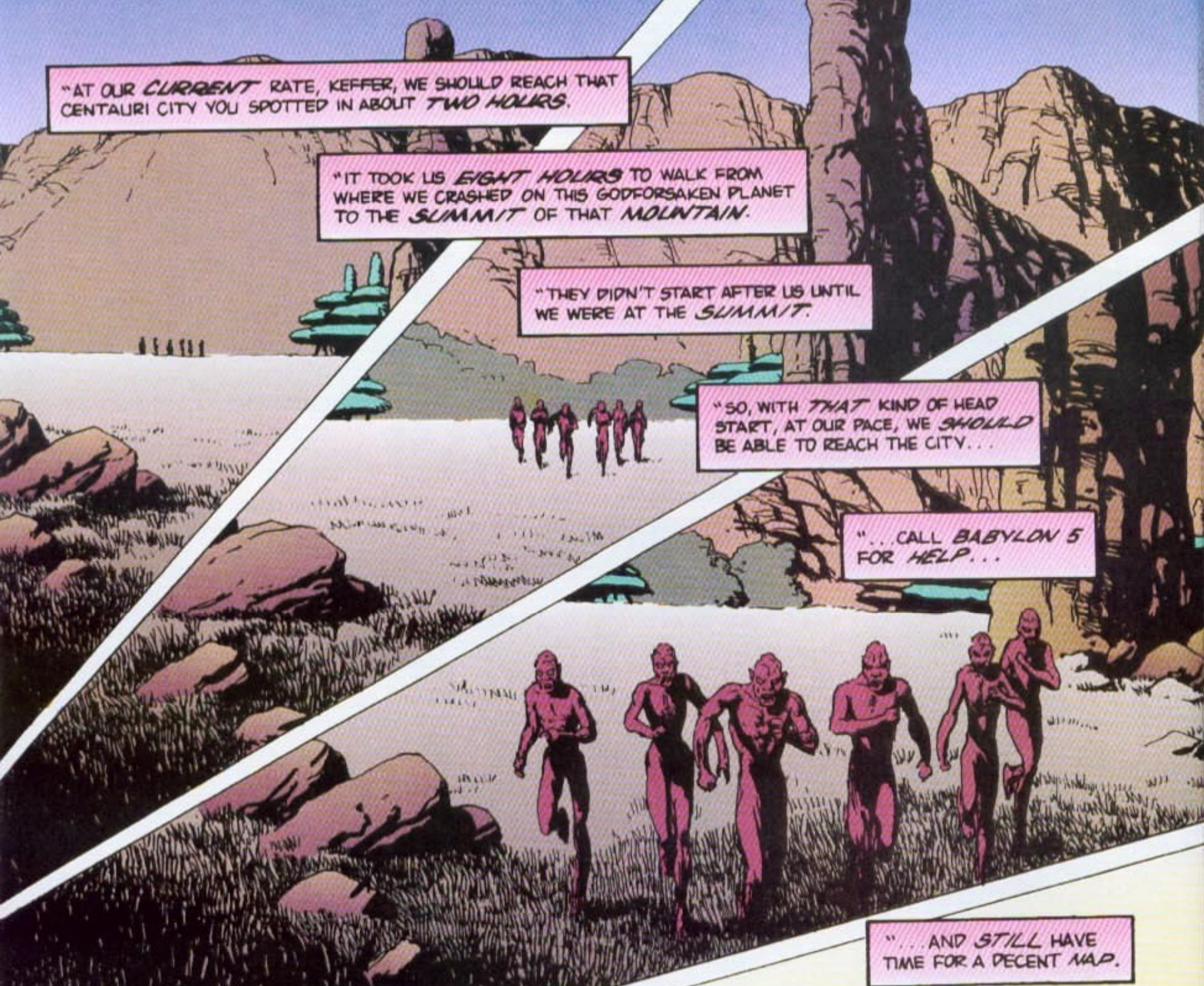
NOBODY KNEW I FLEW YOU TO THIS SECTOR OF SPACE, YET SOME UNKNOWN SHIP COMES OUT OF NOWHERE AND SHOOT'S US DOWN.

WHAT'S THE SECRET OF YOUR POPULARITY?

SIMPLE. CHARM AND A GREAT PERSONALITY.

YEAH? LET'S SEE YOU TRY YOUR CHARM ON THE GUYS THAT ARE FOLLOWING US.

IF THEY CAN CATCH UP.



"AT OUR *CURRENT* RATE, KEFFER, WE SHOULD REACH THAT CENTAURI CITY YOU SPOTTED IN ABOUT *TWO HOURS*.


"IT TOOK US *EIGHT HOURS* TO WALK FROM WHERE WE CRASHED ON THIS GODFORSAKEN PLANET TO THE *SUMMIT* OF THAT *MOUNTAIN*.

"THEY DIDN'T START AFTER US UNTIL WE WERE AT THE *SUMMIT*.

"SO, WITH *THAT* KIND OF HEAD START, AT OUR PACE, WE *SHOULD* BE ABLE TO REACH THE CITY...

"...CALL *BABYLON 5* FOR *HELP*...


"...AND *STILL* HAVE TIME FOR A *DECENT* *MAP*.



"THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL EVER CATCH UP TO US."



REMEMBER HOW I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT MY FIRST MEETING WITH *SINCLAIR*?



HOW WE CRASH-LANDED ON *MARS*? OUR SITUATION *HERE* IS A LOT LIKE WHAT HAPPENED ON *MARS*.

I REMEMBER YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT A *DUST STORM*...

"RIGHT. SINCLAIR AND I TOOK SHELTER
IN A CAVE AND HAD TO WAIT THE STORM
OUT BEFORE GOING FOR HELP.

"WITH OUR SHUTTLE *CRASHED* IN THE
MIDDLE OF *NOWHERE* ON MARS...

"... AND CONSIDERING WE ONLY
HAD *FIVE DAYS* OF AIR AND
FOOD FOR EACH OF US, IT
WASN'T EASY TO JUST WAIT.

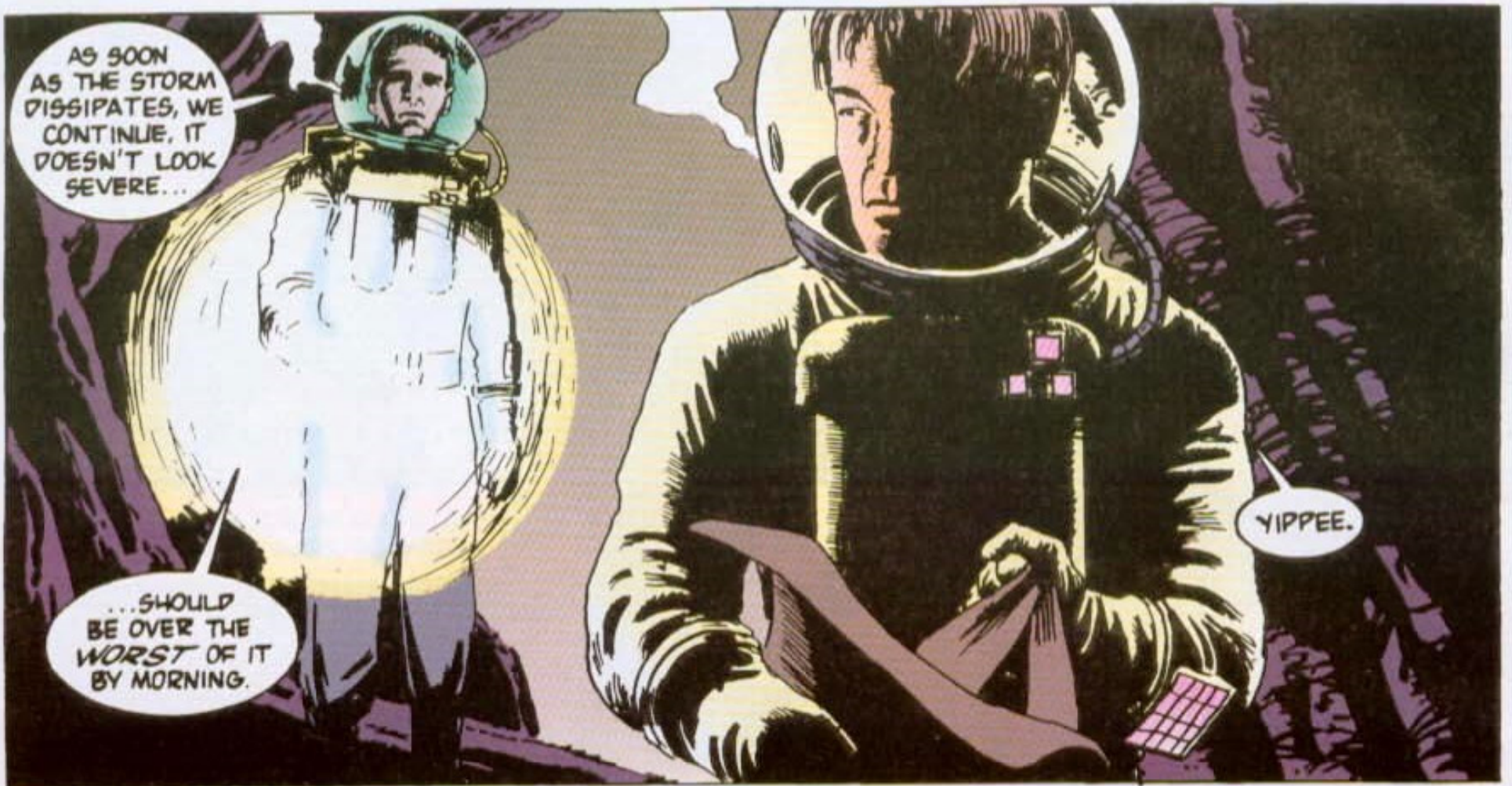


"WE MAINTAINED RADIO CONTACT
WITH LT. SANCHEZ, WHO'D STAYED
BEHIND IN THE SHUTTLE."

RADIO CONTACT. HAH.

WHO DOES *SINCLAIR* THINK HE'S
KIDDING? WE'RE SO FAR OUT IN
THE MIDDLE OF *NOWHERE*, WE'LL BE
DEAD BEFORE WE CAN REACH HELP.

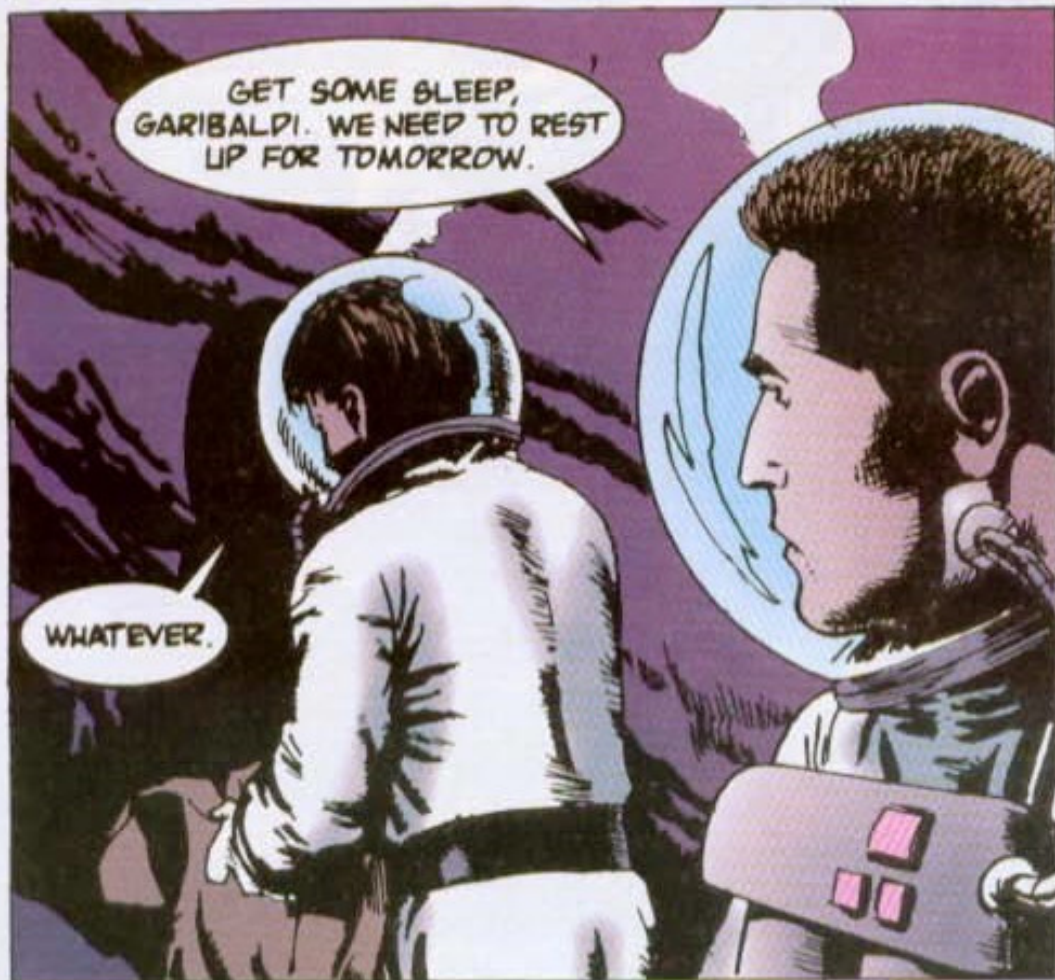




AS SOON AS THE STORM DISSIPATES, WE CONTINUE. IT DOESN'T LOOK SEVERE...

YIPPEE.

...SHOULD BE OVER THE WORST OF IT BY MORNING.



GET SOME SLEEP, GARIBALDI. WE NEED TO REST UP FOR TOMORROW.

WHATEVER.



STILL WITH US, LIEUTENANT SANCHEZ?

YES, SIR. STILL TRYING TO FIX THE TRANSMITTER.

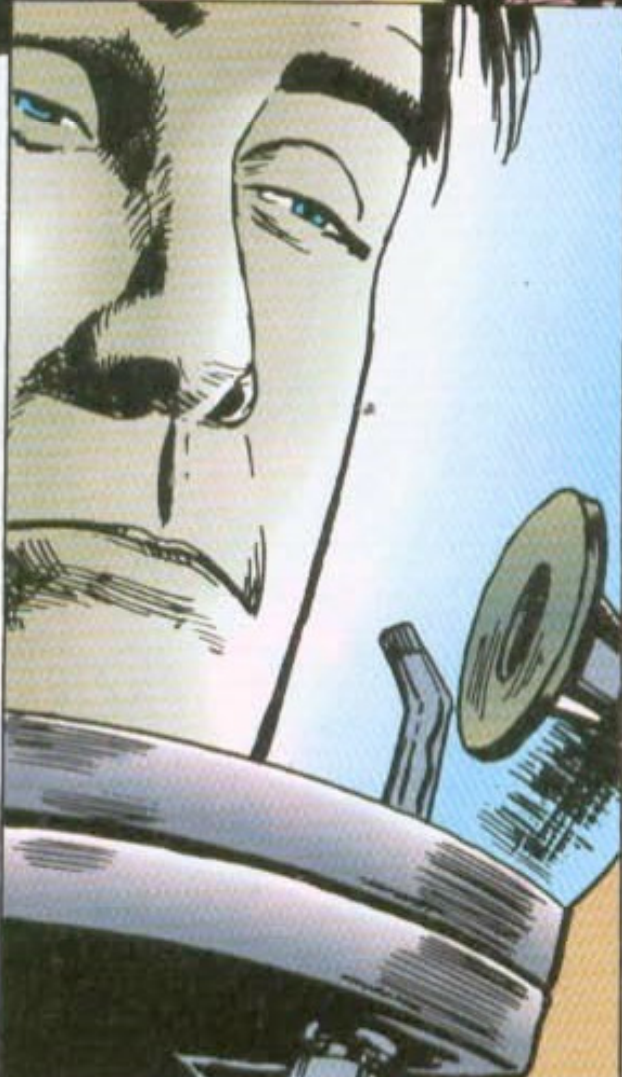
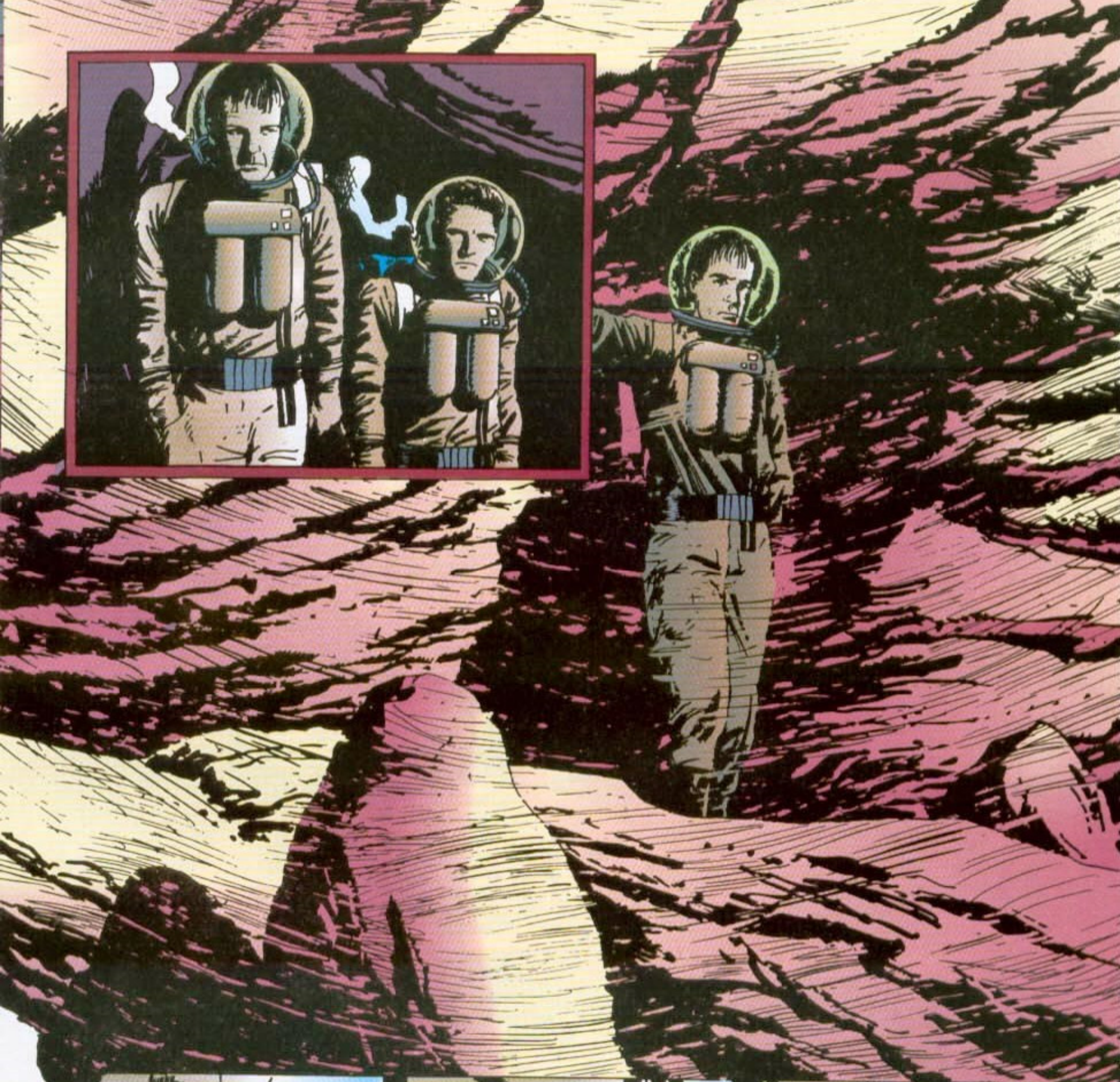


ANY LUCK?

IT DOESN'T--

I DON'T NEED TO HEAR THIS CONVERSATION.

CLICK





YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT IS HEAD OF SECURITY ON THE ICE-MINING OPERATION ON IO. GOOD LUCK, GARIBALDI.



SO, YOU'RE THE NEW SECURITY CHIEF. I GOT SOME ADVICE FOR YOU, GARIBALDI...

OPERATIONS ARE RUNNING SMOOTHLY HERE. DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THINGS, AND YOUR TIME HERE CAN GO BY REAL QUICK, GOT IT?

NAME'S KEMMER. FRANK KEMMER. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A FRIEND, GARIBALDI.



WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME AND MY FAMILY FOR DINNER TONIGHT? I'LL PICK YOU UP AFTER I FINISH MY SHUTTLE RUN.



YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME IN OUR HOME, MICHAEL.

CAN I READ YOU MY ESSAY, UNCLE MIKE?

YOU'RE A MARKED MAN, GARIBALDI. THEY DIDN'T APPRECIATE YOU GOING AFTER THEIR DRUG COURIER. WORD IS THEY'RE COMING AFTER YOU TONIGHT.



WATCH YOUR BACK, MICHAEL. NO ONE ELSE CAN. YOU'RE ALONE ON THIS ONE.

SHUTTLE PAD'S QUIET, CHIEF.

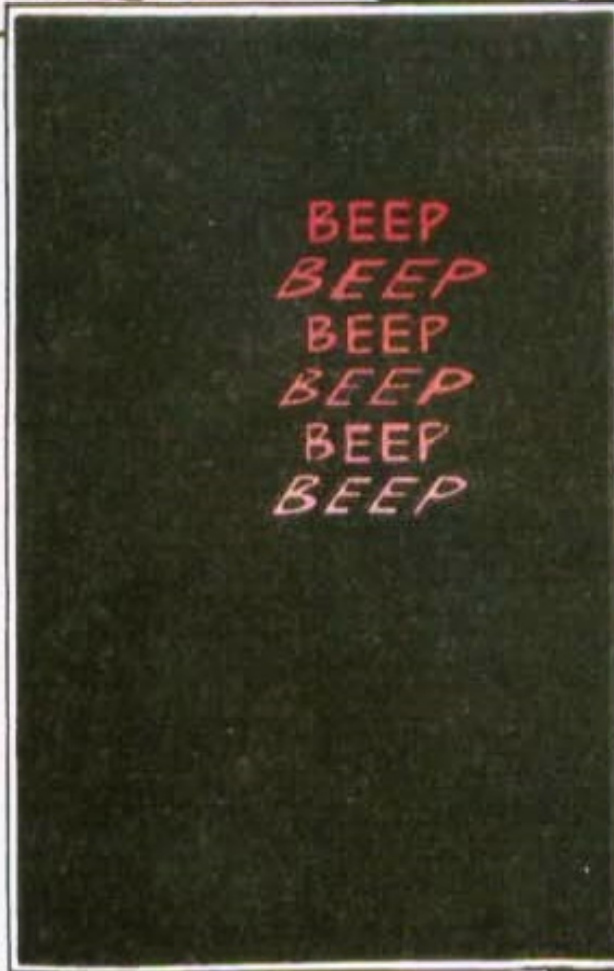
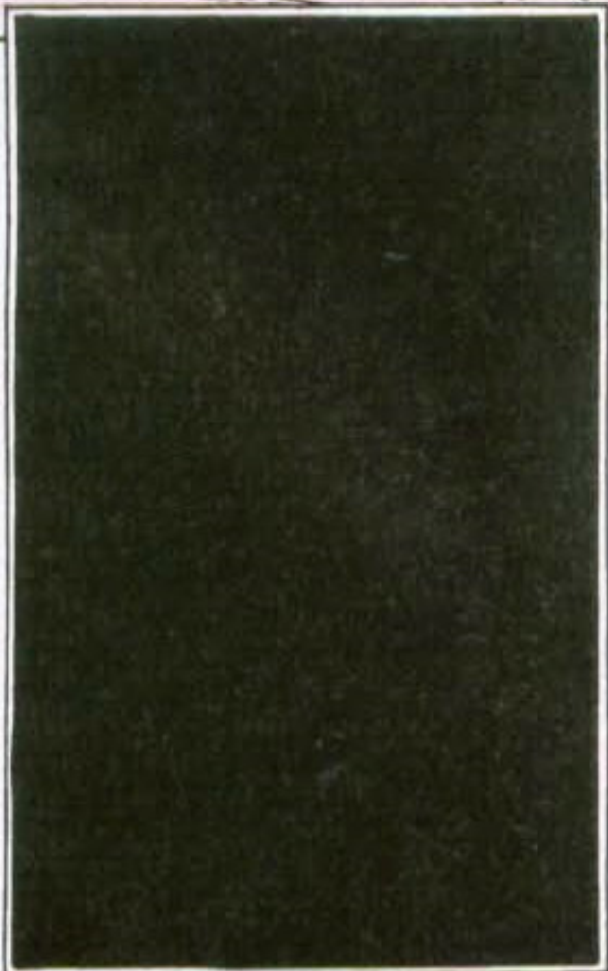
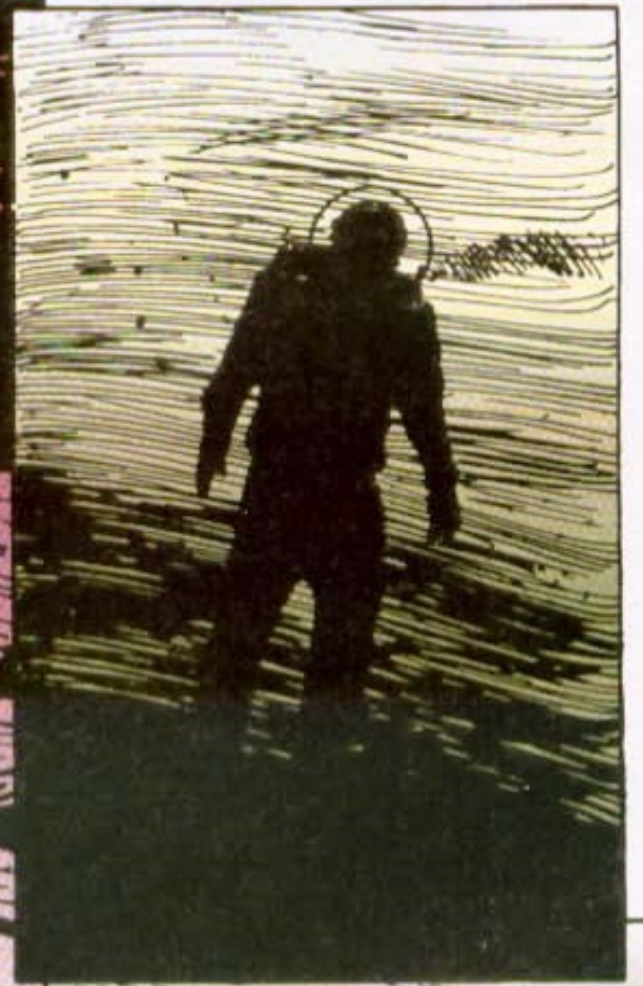


KEMMER'S SHUTTLE'S THE LAST ONE DUE IN TODAY.



FRANK... NO...







BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

OH. AIR'S LOW.
GOT TO REPLACE
THE CYLINDERS.



THERE.
THAT OUGHT
TO TAKE CARE
OF IT.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

STILL
BEEPING? WHAT
THE— OH, CRUD!
I SHUT OFF THE
COM.



GARIBALDI
HERE—

GARIBALDI!
WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN?

CLICK

HEY, NOT
SO LOUD!
I CAN HEAR YOU
JUST FINE,
SANCHEZ.



YOU
IDIOT!
LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER
SINCLAIR WENT
LOOKING FOR
YOU AFTER YOU
WANDERED
OFF.

THERE WAS A
ROCKSLIDE AND
HE CAN'T GET
BACK
INTO THE CAVE! HE'S
OUT OF AIR AND
SUFFOCATING.



I CAN'T
RAISE HIM.
I THINK HE
BLACKED
OUT!



OH, MY GOD...

HOW LONG AGO?

FIVE
MINUTES.

THAT'S IT. CALL THE MORTUARY, PICK OUT THE COFFINS.



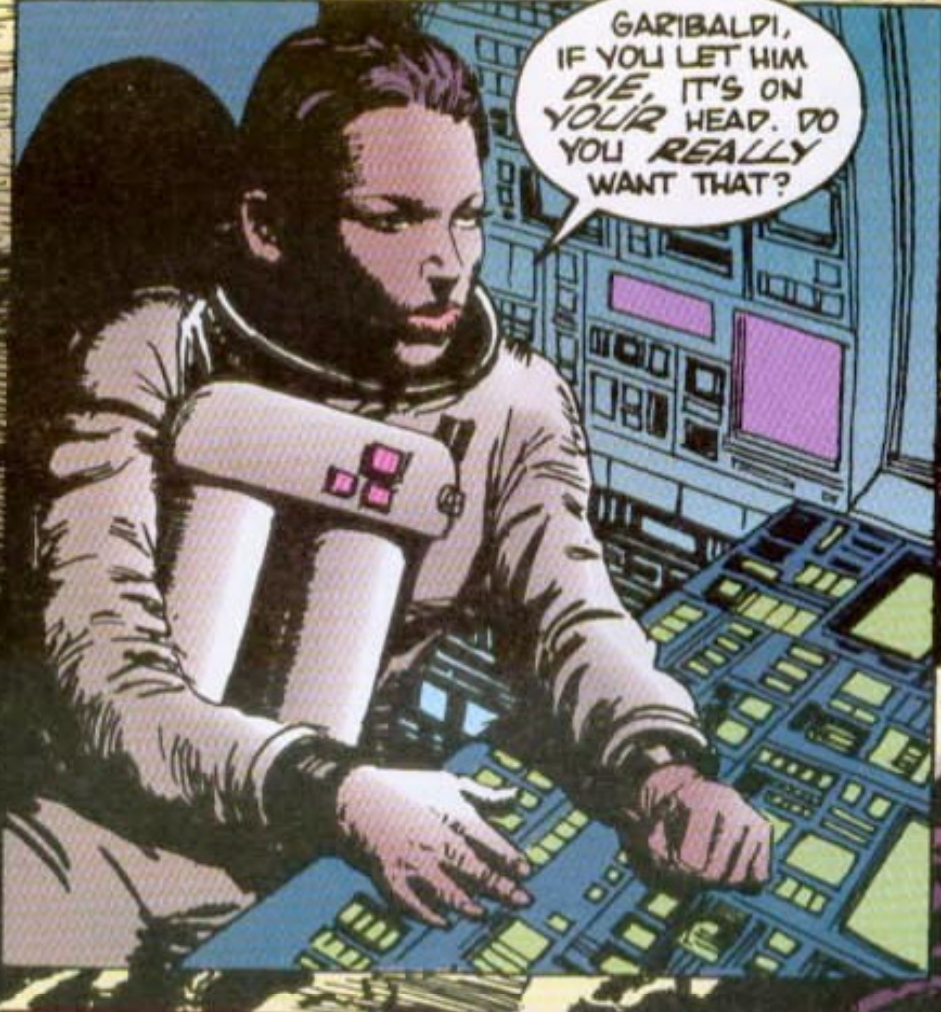
SO HELP ME, GARIBALDI, IF HE'S DEAD...

IT'S TOO LATE, SANCHEZ.



THERE'S NO MAGNETIC FIELD ON MARS SO COMPASSES ARE USELESS. I'LL NEVER FIND HIM IN THIS STORM.

GARIBALDI, IF YOU LET HIM DIE, IT'S ON YOUR HEAD. DO YOU REALLY WANT THAT?



"IF YOU LET HIM DIE, IT'S ON YOUR HANDS."

"SHUTTLE PAD'S QUIET, CHIEF. KEMMER'S SHUTTLE'S THE LAST ONE DUE IN TODAY."



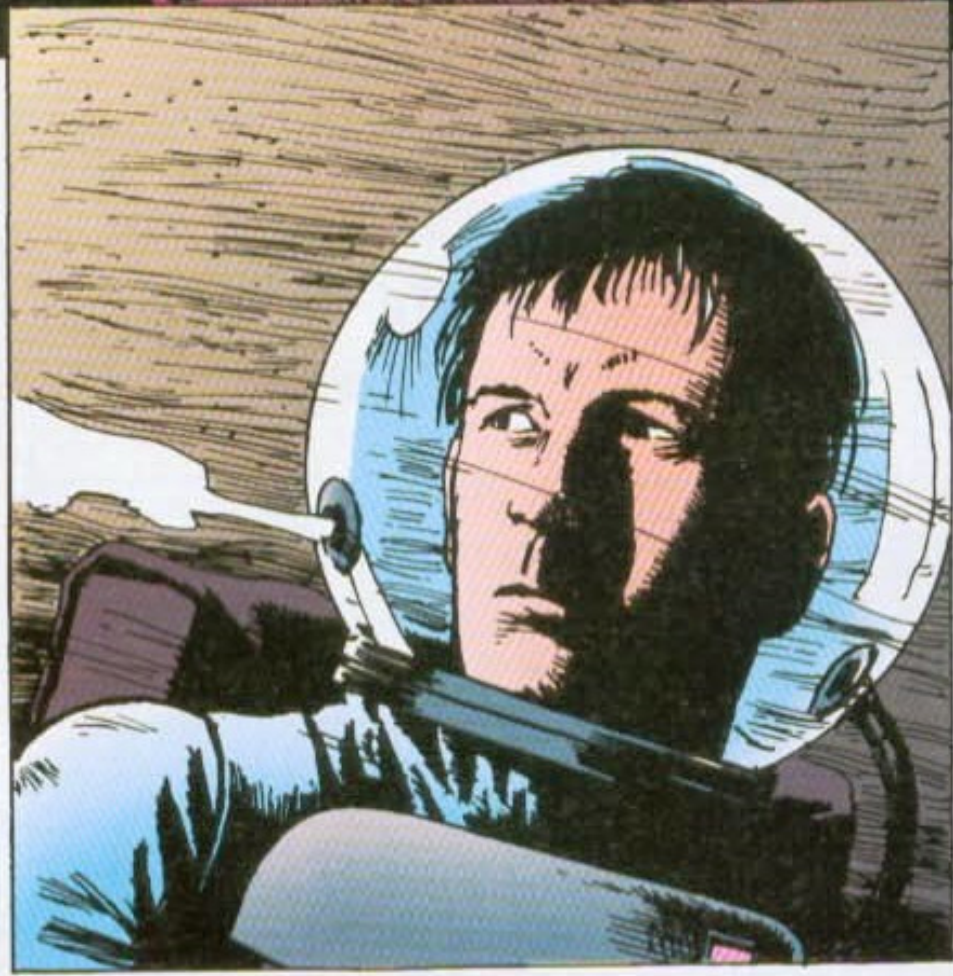
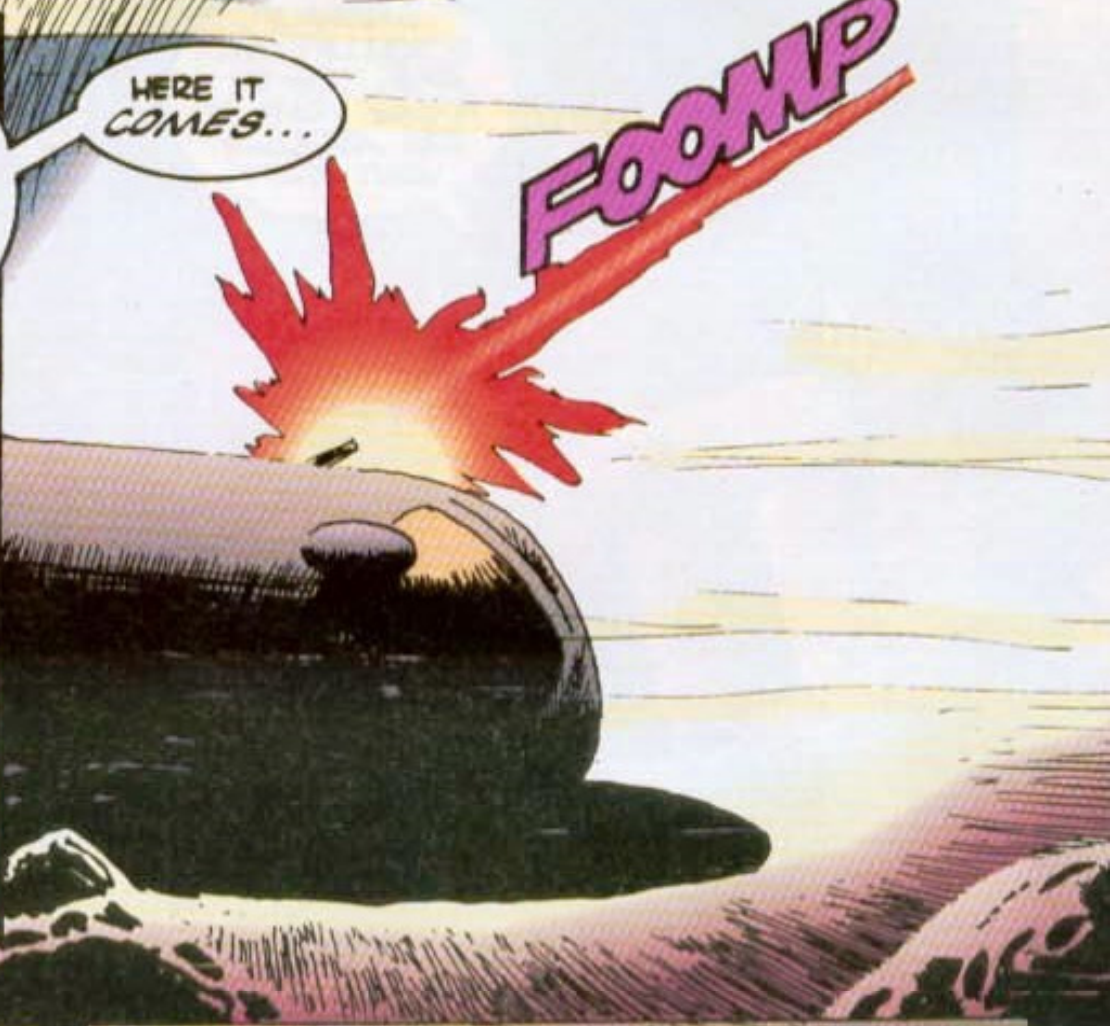
MY FAULT... SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE...



SHOULD'VE SAVED HIM.

I'M COMIN' TO GET YOU... SINCLAIR.







"IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER... I'D ALMOST GIVEN UP WHEN..."



I SEE IT! AND IT LOOKS CLOSE!

I'M ON IT.



KEEP FIRING, SANCHEZ. ONE PER MINUTE SHOULD DO IT. KEEP ME ON COURSE.

YOU GOT IT. NICE OF YOU TO HAVE AN UNAUTHORIZED GUN ON YOUR SHUTTLE, GARIBALDI.

KEEPS THE BAD GUYS AT A SAFE DISTANCE.

TEN MINUTES LATER...

I'M AT THE SIDE ON THE CLIFF FACE, SANCHEZ. HOLD YOUR FIRE.





FOUND HIM!



HE'S BARELY BREATHING...



THE AIR CYLINDERS SHOULD BE KICKING IN BY NOW.

COME ON...
COME ON...



HE'S COMING TO!

YESSSS!



I'M GONNA BREAK YOUR NECK, GARIBALDI...



WHAT THE—



WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING?



DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT AGAIN, AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR DEATH WISH.



YOU WANT MY SCALP, SINCLAIR? COME AND GET IT.




WELL, WELL, SO YOU'VE GOT SOME FIGHT IN YOU AFTER ALL.

I CAN FEEL MY CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL IMPROVING ALREADY.



BUT IF SINCLAIR HAD BEEN *INSIDE* THE CAVE WHEN IT COLLAPSED, HE WOULD HAVE HAD *ZERO* CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.

YEAH. I SAVED HIS LIFE *TWICE*.

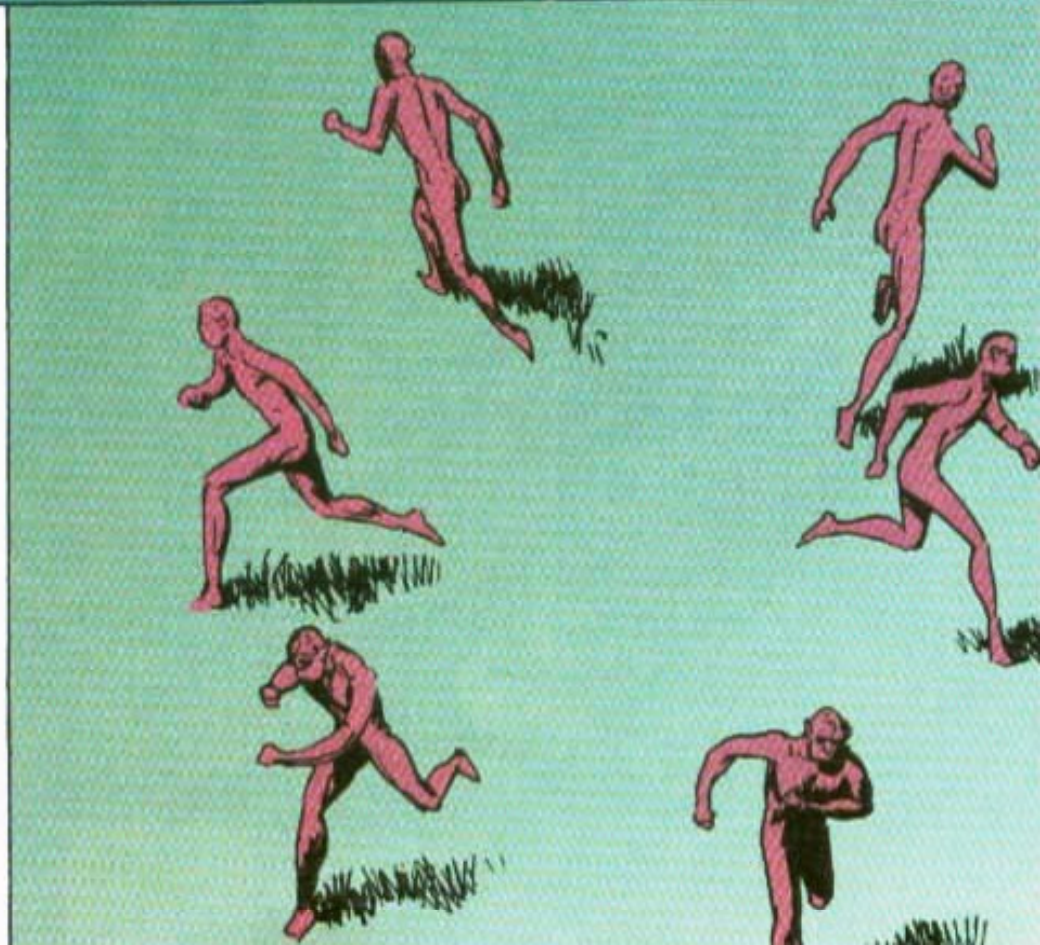
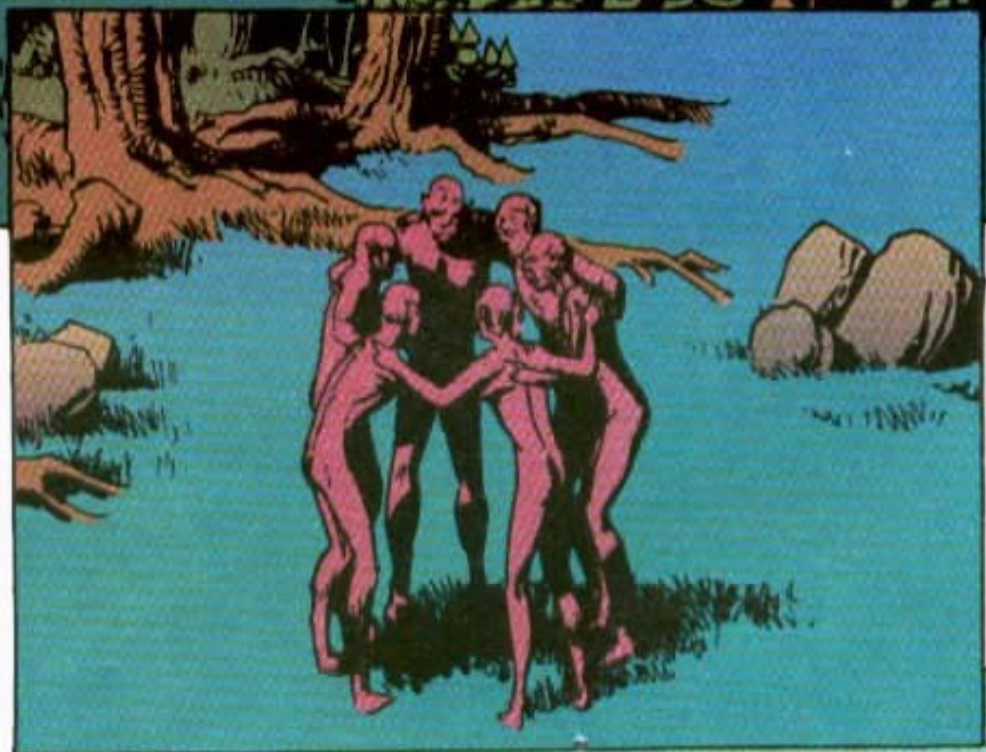


SURE, BUT THEN YOU ONLY HAD THE SUPPLIES IN YOUR KNAPSACK. THE ROCKSLIDE TOOK CARE OF THE REST.

MOST OF IT. WE WERE DOWN TO TWO DAYS' WORTH OF AIR AND FOOD.

"SINCLAIR AND I DECIDED THE ONLY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WAS TO GO ON.

"THE STORM LASTED ANOTHER HOUR. THEN WE SET OFF."





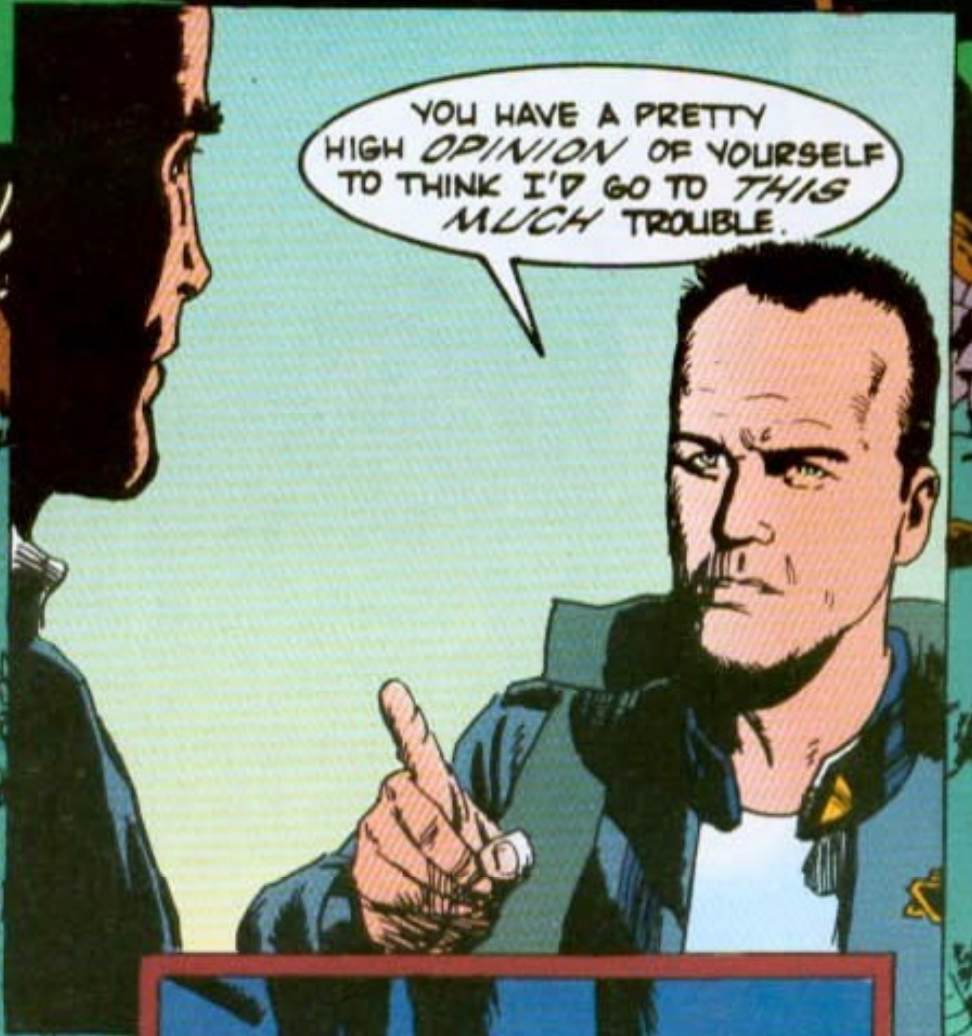
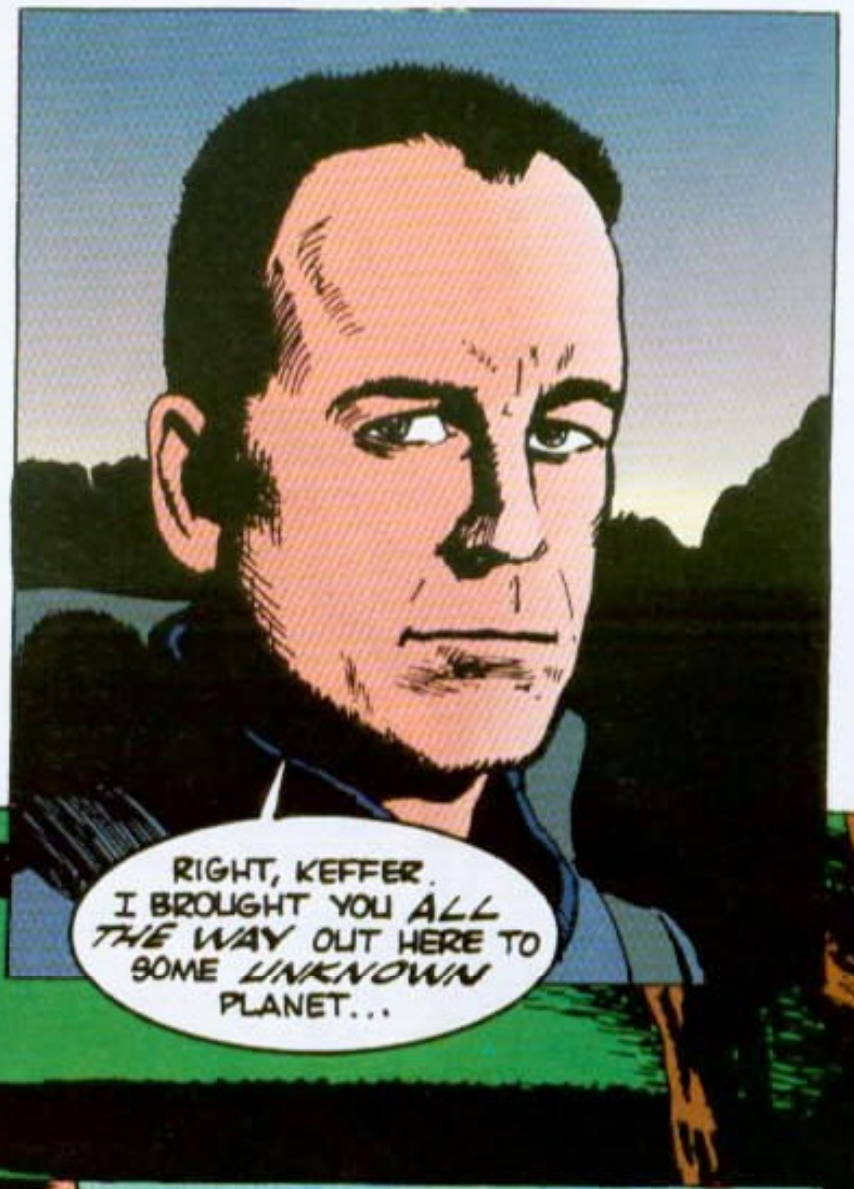
STILL NO SIGN OF UNFRIENDLIES.

AND THERE WON'T BE. I TELL YOU, KEFFER...



... WE GOT TOO BIG A HEAD START ON THEM.





TAKE YOUR WEAPON OUT NICE AND SLOW, GARIBALDI. NOW.

LIKE SOMETHING'S CONTROLLING HIS MIND.

KEFFER, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S—

IT'S TRYING TO GET ME, TOO...

NO STALLING, GARIBALDI. THE WEAPON. THROW IT TO ME.

OKAY, OKAY. I'M GETTING IT. SEE?

SHOOT HIM. KILL HIM. HE IS THE ENEMY.

NO! GOT TO FIGHT THIS!

NO! GET OUT OF MY HEAD!

KILL!

KILL!

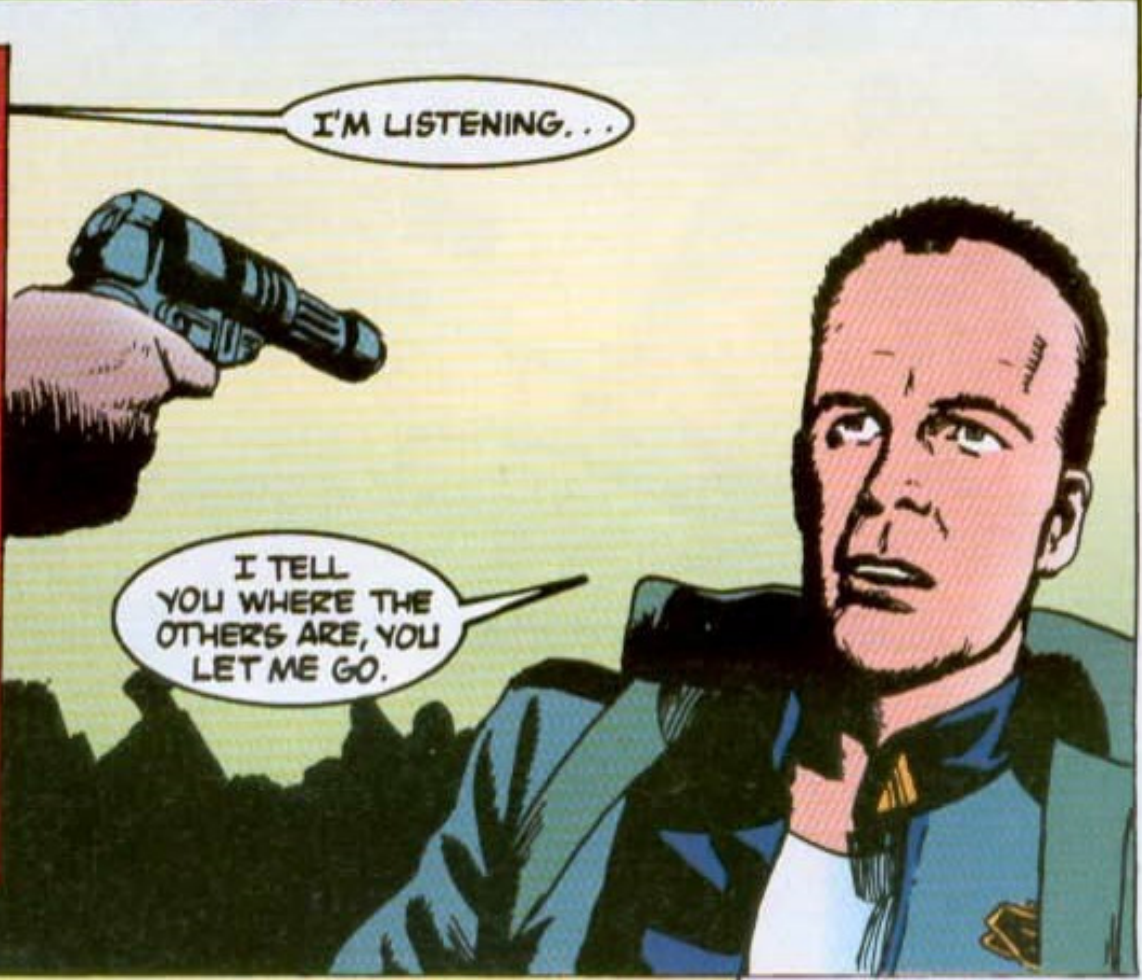
KILL!

YOU CAN KILL ME, KEFFER, BUT THE OTHERS WILL GET YOU BEFORE YOUR PPG RECHARGES.

SO, THERE ARE OTHERS. HOW MANY, GARIBALDI?

GOTTA GET HIM TO BELIEVE THIS.

FIRST, WE DEAL.



I'M LISTENING...

I TELL YOU WHERE THE OTHERS ARE, YOU LET ME GO.

HE LIES...

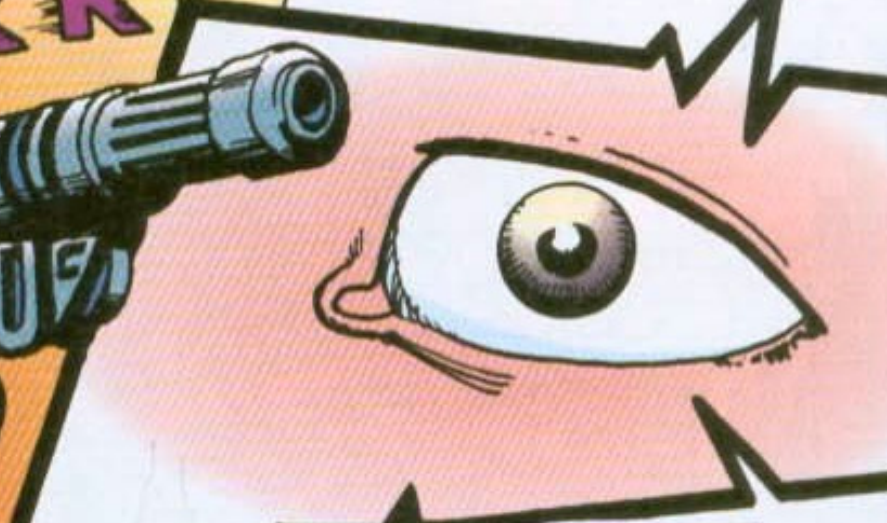
KILL...

KILL...

TIME'S UP, GARIBALDI...

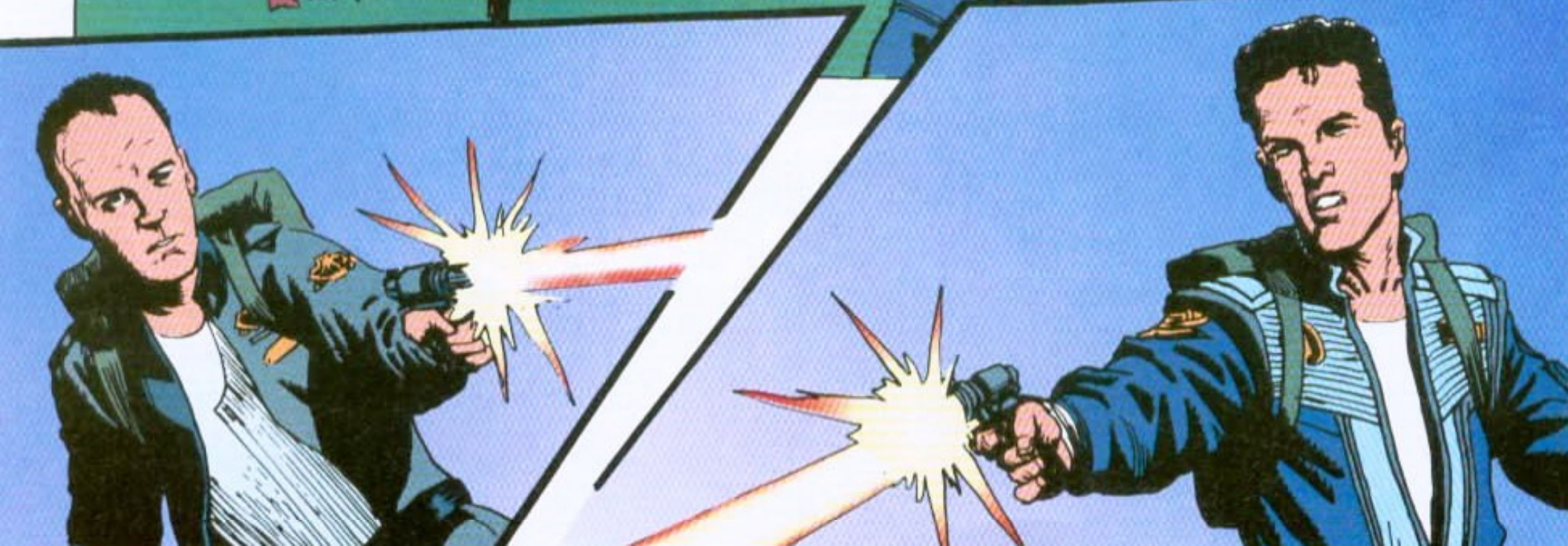
KILL...

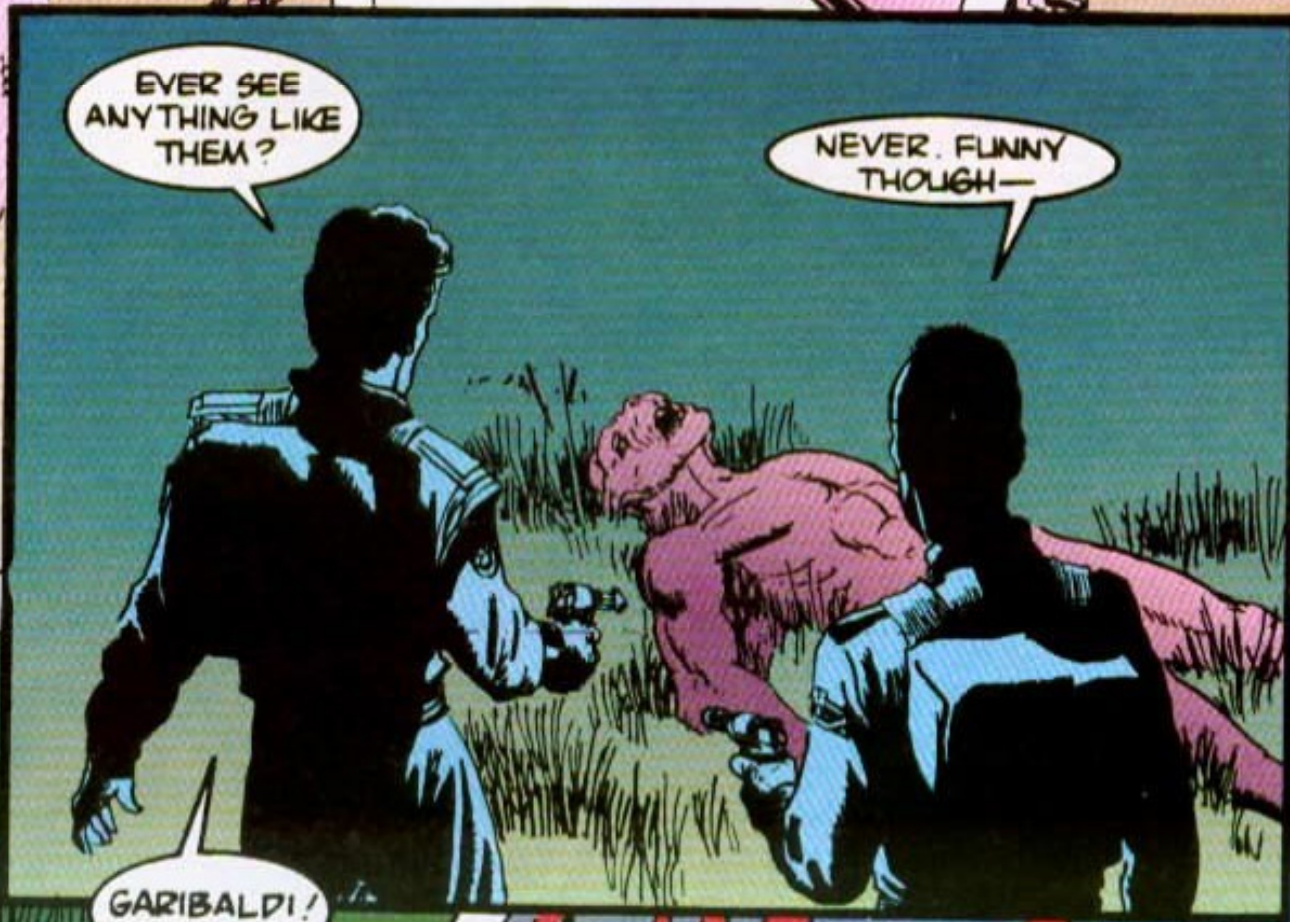
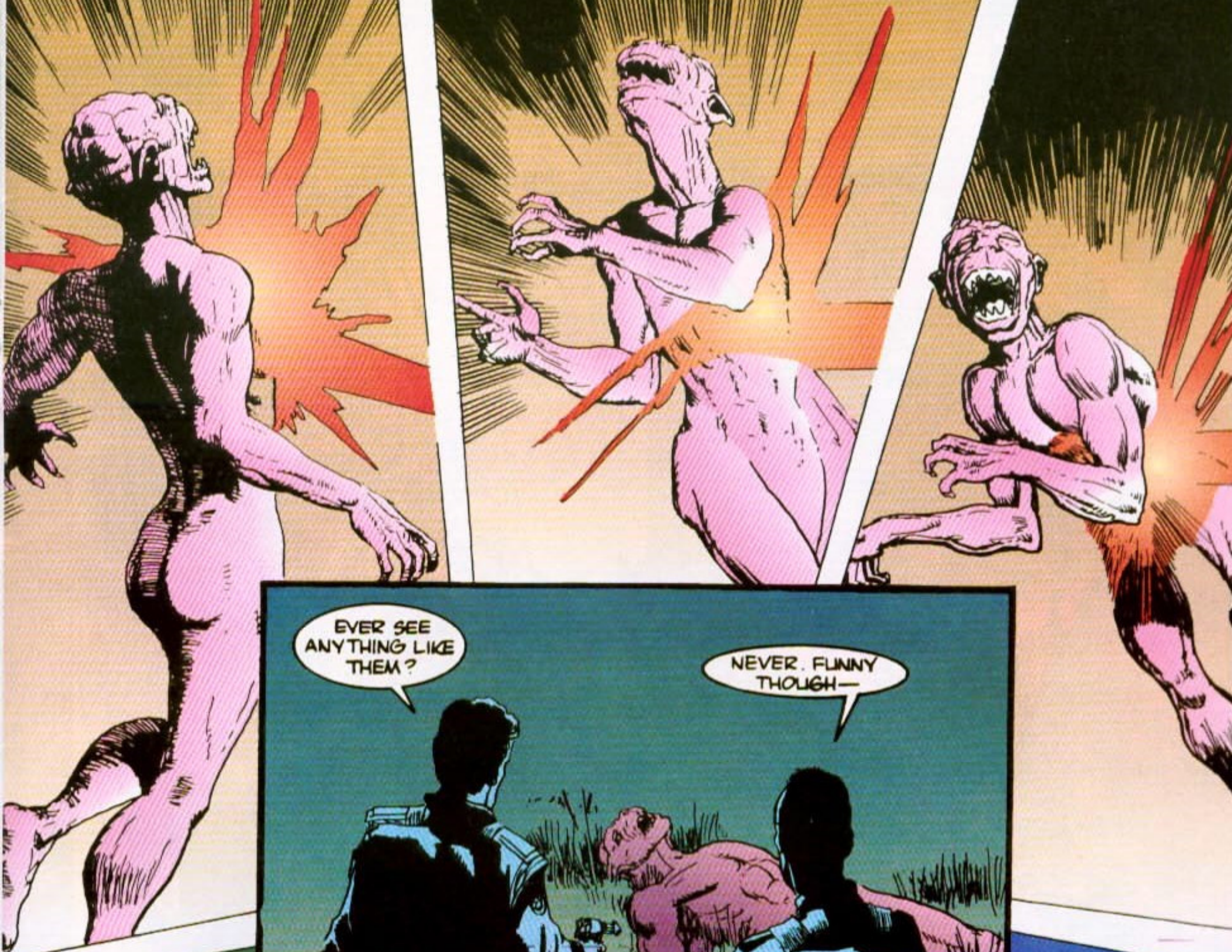
RRRRR



MY GOD, HE'S DOING IT!





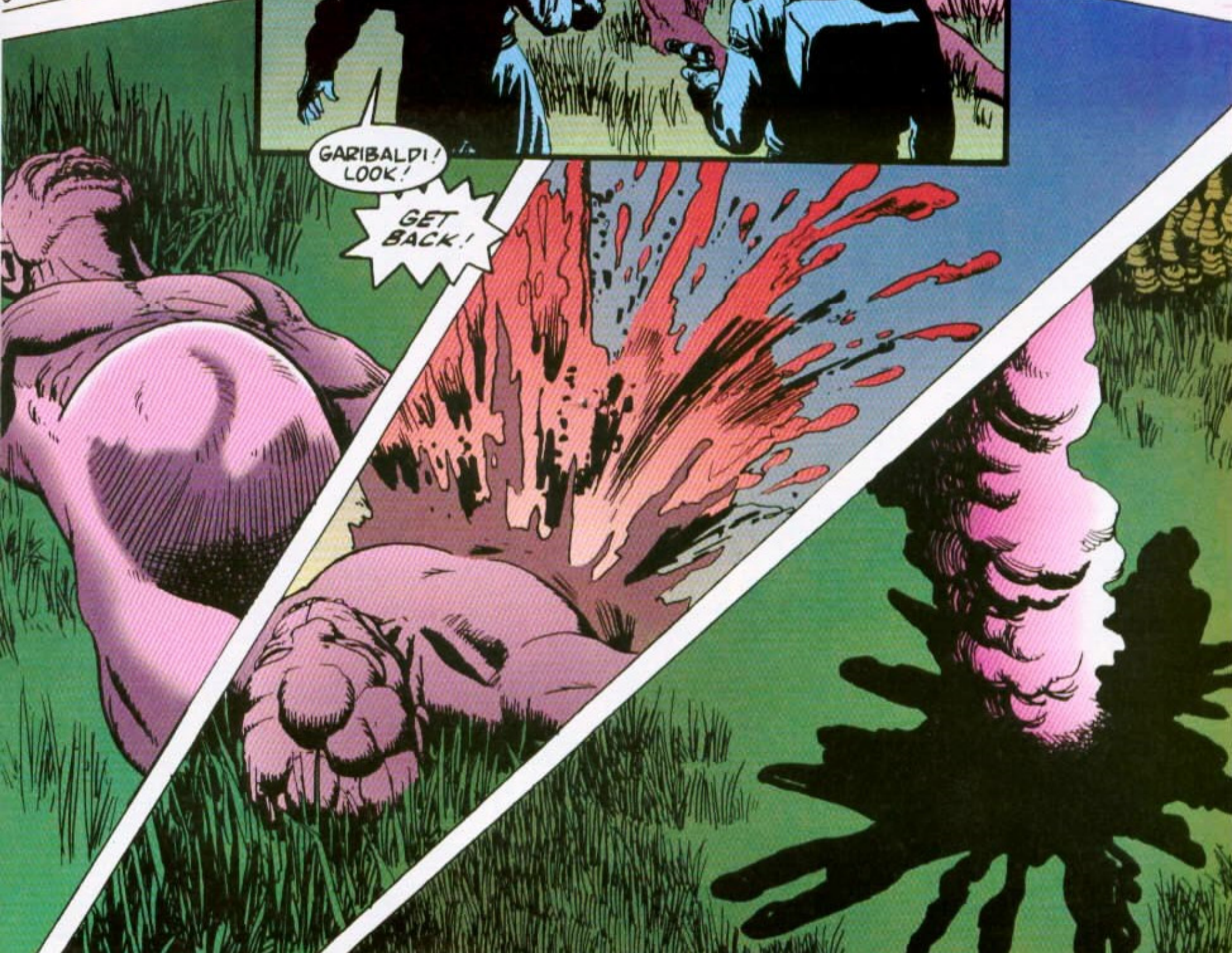


EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE THEM?

NEVER. FUNNY THOUGH—

GARIBALDI! LOOK!

GET BACK!





LIKE A SELF-DESTRUCT DEVICE. NO EVIDENCE TO BE RECOVERED.

THIS IS WEIRD.



DID YOU SEE THOSE THINGS? THEY COULD HAVE TORN US APART...

...BUT THEY TRIED TO MIND-WARP US INTO KILLING EACH OTHER INSTEAD.

YEAH...



ALWAYS WORK FROM BEHIND THE SCENES...

...LEAVE NO TRACES...

...LEAVE NO WITNESSES...

GARIBALDI... WHAT'S THAT TONE IN YOUR VOICE?



WHAT YOU SAW ON MARS...



"...BACK WHEN YOU FIRST MET SINCLAIR..."

"YOU THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS, DON'T YOU?"

"IF IT DOES, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE."

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.**"

March 14, 1995, 10 p.m. EST: J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI, creator and head writer of the Babylon 5 television show, and CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN, who plays Susan Ivanova, appeared as special guests of DC Comics Online, in an event hosted by DC's Michael Leib.

For those who weren't able to attend (and those who want the hard copy), this is an edited version of how the conversation went...

DCOMLeib: We're here with Babylon 5 creator J. Michael Straczynski and Claudia Christian, Commander Susan Ivanova from the show. Welcome!
Jms at B5: Hi, all.

ClaudiaB5: Hi, everyone! What's up?

Jms at B5: I should mention that Claudia braved terrible freeways to be here... only a few wrecked cars on the side of the road to show for it.

DCOMLeib: Let's get started with our first question from BabG.

Question: I really enjoy watching Babylon 5. I think Ivanova's character is great. How much of yourself goes into it?

ClaudiaB5: As much as they allow on an 8 o'clock show.

DCOMLeib: A question from MSteenber for Claudia...

Question: Claudia, do you feel you broke new ground with your character, Ivanova, being the first female-in-high-command in science fiction? How do you feel about your newest "rival," Kate Mulgrew from Star Trek: Voyager?

ClaudiaB5: Absolutely, to part one of your question... To part two — they must have helium on the Voyager.

Jms at B5 = J. Michael Straczynski

ClaudiaB5 = Claudia Christian

DCOMLeib = Michael Leib, DC host

LOL = Laugh Out Loud

VBG = Very Big Grin

BTW = By the Way

DCOMLeib: The next question comes from Landtrout...

Question: Claudia, why do you wear only one earring on the show?

ClaudiaB5: In memory of my brother, both real and in the series, who died.

DCOMLeib: An often asked question from Asmat...

Question: Will Sinclair return in a starring role?

Jms at B5: There are no plans at this time, though we will see him again at some point.

DCOMLeib: A continuity question from Adewald...

Question: Hi. Love the show. It is very addictive. Can you tell us how closely the comic is following the storyline? And the recent novel as well?

Jms at B5: They tend to parallel the storyline in the series; you can get more information from them, but they're not required reading per se. Some minor elements will be different, but overall, the events that happen in them also happen in the series.

DCOMLeib: Our next question for Claudia comes from Gratefuly...

Question: Claudia, how do you like playing Ivanova?

ClaudiaB5: Beats working at Ralph's. No, seriously. I love my job and the character of Susan.

Jms at B5: I should mention that a writer can write all the great lines he wants, but they're useless...unless you have someone as talented as Claudia and the others to bring them to life.

DCOMLeib: The information we're all here for... a question asked by KrisVC...

Question: Love the show. What is in store for the rest of the season?

Jms at B5: What, you want me to tell you the end of the story? Is this some leftover trace...of the communist system in operation? Who sent you? The Centauri?

DCOMLeib: LOL

Jms at B5: Lots of things blow up. Then it gets quiet. Then somebody isn't who we thought that person was. Then more stuff blows up. Then something mind-bogglingly awful happens. And then we wait for next season.

ClaudiaB5: And those are just the commercials.

DCOMLeib: A behind-the-scenes question from Elissapax...

Question: What is the general mood of the show taping? Is there a lot of joking, etc. or does everyone pretty much take things seriously?

ClaudiaB5: We have a ball making B5. At least I do. Jms at B5: Simple answer: as you walk down the halls of the B5 production office...the one sound you hear most is laughter. And every day, everybody eats lunch together behind the stage — writers, actors, producers, directors, crew, everybody. People have fun, have birthdays, hang out after work...it's a great, fun environment... and a lot of practical jokes.

DCOMLeib: BFlipp has a question about the origin of B5...

Question: How did the concept of B5 come about?

Jms at B5: I grew up on the sagas, and always wondered why no one's ever done anything for TV on the scale of the Lensman books or Lord of the Rings or Dune or Childhood's End... so I figured I'd do it myself. Took us from 1987 to 1991 to get it going on film.

DCOMLeib: MSteenber has a question about the second season...

Question: Claudia, how is the cast reacting to the "new" captain? Is he up to par with the old commander? How do you think the show has evolved with his presence?

ClaudiaB5: Bruce has brought a sense of professionalism and an interesting levity to the show. I thoroughly enjoy working with him.

Jms at B5: Bringing in Sheridan has also allowed us to promote Ivanova into more interesting jobs.

ClaudiaB5: I would have never broken my foot.

DCOMLeib: DRays has a question about the mysterious Kosh...

Question: So, when do we get a peek at the REAL Ambassador Kosh, or at least what's inside the suit?

Jms at B5: Later this season. We unveil him totally.

DCOMLeib: Penguin has a question about Ivanova's future...

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Question: Claudia — Any good stories in the near future that feature Ivanova?

Jms at B5: Prior to this conference, yes.

ClaudiaB5: Yes, the next episode we will be shooting. It's called "Divided Loyalties."

Jms at B5: We really haven't serviced Ivanova as well as we should have in stories. . . One of my jobs for now and the next season is changing that. Claudia is too good to waste, as stated, parking cars.

ClaudiaB5: That and getting me a bigger trailer.

Jms at B5: On the other hand. . .

DCOMLeib: Jim in KC has a compliment for both of you. . .

Question: While not wanting to be gushy about it, I would like to thank you both for what is in my opinion the best SF series I've ever seen and is currently my only must-see show.

ClaudiaB5: Thanks, you have excellent taste. VBG

Jms at B5: Thanks; it's the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of talented, dedicated people in our crew, cast, and production office; I just get to bask in the reflected accomplishments.

DCOMLeib: One from BabG. . .

Question: Will Ivanova's character get a romantic interest this season?

Jms at B5: In a manner of speaking.

ClaudiaB5: If Joe lets me break my curfew.

Jms at B5: Hell, you've broken everything else around here.

DCOMLeib: JMS. . . a question about Londo from GenakHoo. . .

Question: JMS — Do you see Londo as a character who is irredeemable? Where do you see him going?

Jms at B5: Londo's arc is light and funny, to dark and funny, to dark and tragic, to tragic and light, so there's a chance for him toward the end.

DCOMLeib: A question for Claudia from OlexeyT95. . .

Question: If the show runs its entire five years, will you stay with it?

ClaudiaB5: If they'll have me.

Jms at B5: We're happy to have Claudia.

DCOMLeib: A question about Minbari technology from FalcnFire. . .

Question: If the Minbari surrendered to Earth, why do the Minbari still have technology that Earth can only admire? Didn't Earthforce capture any Minbari craft in the war?

Jms at B5: Captured Minbari vessels? No. They usually got fragged. If you gave an aborigine an F14 fighter, he could examine it, but making it work. . . that's a different issue. They're quite a bit more advanced.

DCOMLeib: A question about the shadows from Boehmund. . .

Question: JMS — We just watched "The Long Dark" again, and the Shadow in there looks rather humanoid, while the ones we saw talking to Morden looked insectoid. Is there more than one species?

Jms at B5: The shadows have their servants, which are being recalled to their places of power. That was one of their lower-level types.

DCOMLeib: A question about action from Yorgos. . .

Question: Claudia, is your character going to be more involved in the action scenes this season?

ClaudiaB5: I'd love to kick a little more butt.

Jms at B5: This is one of the things I have to correct, giving her more in this respect.

DCOMLeib: The inevitable "cliffhanger" question from Adamsde. . .

Question: So, can we expect a big cliffhanger at the end of the season?

Jms at B5: Not a cliffhanger per se; definitely we're going to upend some more tables, but. . . not a cliffhanger in quite the same way as "Chrysalis." We plan to end big, though.

DCOMLeib: Claudia, another question for you, from Clyde Dee.

Question: Claudia, do you ever see yourself in a role where you may take over B5 or perhaps another outpost? By the way, you are one of the best actors on the show.

ClaudiaB5: Thank you, thank you. And yes, I plan to be the Captain in the sitcom version of B5.

Jms at B5: <thud>

DCOMLeib: Okay. . . another question about the "Acts of Sacrifice" episode from RonBS. . .

Question: In the episode "Acts of Sacrifice," how many times did you have to do Ivanova's "sex" scene with the visiting ambassador until you got a take where no one cracked up laughing?

ClaudiaB5: To the ambassador's disappointment — it was a one-shot deal.

Jms at B5: I was on set; she nailed it from the starting take.

ClaudiaB5: Nailed. . . nice choice of words, Joe.

Jms at B5: I are a riter. . . i LEarn it GooD

DCOMLeib: Next question comes from Nausea4. . .

Question: I know JMS is experienced with the Internet. How about yourself? Do you keep up with the newsgroup?

ClaudiaB5: I just learned to turn my Powerbook off, thank you.

DCOMLeib: I should mention that in the DC Comics movies and TV section there is an autographed picture of Claudia available for download.

Jms at B5: I may write a 4-issue story arc this summer for the comic book, btw.

DCOMLeib: A question about Ivanova's relationship with Psi Corps. . . from Keith7012.

Question: Ivanova is apparently a latent telepath. One storyline left off with her making friends with the station's resident telepath. Will this storyline be used to further the Babylon 5 mission?

ClaudiaB5: They don't tell me anything around here. I have to wait until the scripts come out.

Jms at B5: Yes, there will be a development of the relationship with Talia in the storyline. What most folks don't know, btw, is that Claudia (not kidding here) has a genius IQ, and reads a massive number of books per week.

ClaudiaB5: Here's your fifty bucks, Joe.

Jms at B5: I live to serve.

DCOMLeib: Bohemund asks an interesting question. . .

Question: Let's say — heaven forbid — something happens that prevents B5 from finishing out its 5-year run. Will you finish the arc in another medium, or just let us poor jamokes hang?

Jms at B5: This story will be told. I can't even allow any other possibility to be considered, or it'd never get done.

ClaudiaB5: Or we'll do it as dinner theatre.

Jms at B5: (sigh. . . we have to work with her, you know.)

DCOMLeib: One last question. . . from ZaZoo. . .

Question: JMS, I know you've been asked this a thousand times, but what was your inspiration for B5?

Jms at B5: Wanting to do a show responsibly; wanting to tell a story that would be equal to the sagas that precede us. . . wanting to see the show as a fan myself. . . wanting to work with. . . Claudia Christian. . . being vastly disappointed. . . and wanting to leave something of value behind. I think this has the chance to be it. And with (all seriousness) a cast as talented and bright and hardworking as this one, as embodied by the quick-witted Claudia, who is honestly a joy to work with, I think we have the chance to accomplish that.

ClaudiaB5: Hear, hear. Long live Babylon 5!

DCOMLeib: Well, that brings another DC Comics Online auditorium session to a close. . . I'd like to thank Claudia and JMS for taking time out to answer all your questions. I'd like to also thank you, the audience, for your participation.

Jms at B5: De nada.

ClaudiaB5: Thank you for the opportunity.

DCOMLeib: A transcript will be available in the DC Comics transcripts area. . .

Jms at B5: Whether you want it or not.

DCOMLeib: Well, that's it, everyone. . . thanks and good night.

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NEXT UP: **SILENT ENEMIES**

Keffer and Garibaldi confront the Centauri. . . and Garibaldi finally reveals the extraordinary conclusion to his adventures with Sinclair on Mars.

COVER ART FOR THIS ISSUE BY JOHN RIDGWAY.