

# RD-INK



**BOOK TWO**

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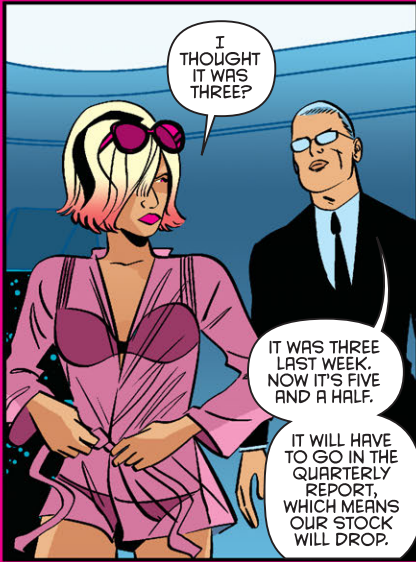
The background is a detailed, black and white line drawing of a futuristic city. The architecture is highly complex, featuring numerous curved, layered structures and walkways that create a sense of depth and verticality. A person is shown from behind, walking along a narrow ledge or path in the lower-middle section of the frame. The overall style is reminiscent of a technical or architectural drawing, with clean lines and a lack of shading, emphasizing the geometric forms of the city.

# BRINK

**BOOK TWO**

BRINK CREATED BY DAN ABNETT & I.N.J. CULBARD





I THOUGHT IT WAS THREE?

IT WAS THREE LAST WEEK. NOW IT'S FIVE AND A HALF.

IT WILL HAVE TO GO IN THE QUARTERLY REPORT, WHICH MEANS OUR STOCK WILL DROP.



PAPA WILL SORT IT OUT AS SOON AS HE'S BACK.

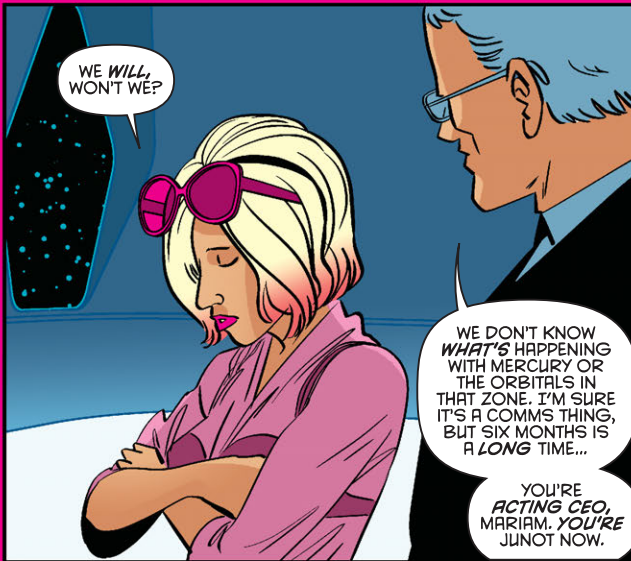
CHRIST, HE'S NOT COMING BACK, MARIAM.



IT'S A COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM, ASHER! THIS WHOLE MERCURY EVENT THING, IT'S A COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM!

ANOTHER WEEK, WE'LL HEAR FROM HIM!

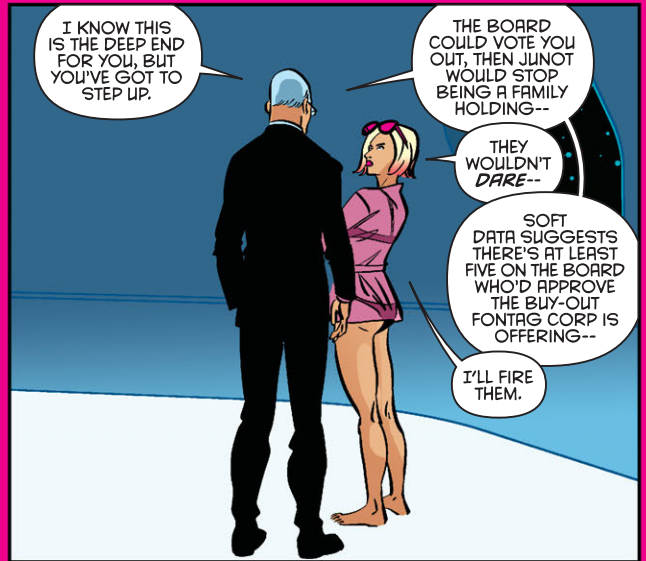
RIGHT. YES. OF COURSE.



WE WILL, WON'T WE?

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MERCURY OR THE ORBITALS IN THAT ZONE. I'M SURE IT'S A COMMS THING, BUT SIX MONTHS IS A LONG TIME...

YOU'RE ACTING CEO, MARIAM. YOU'RE JUNOT NOW.



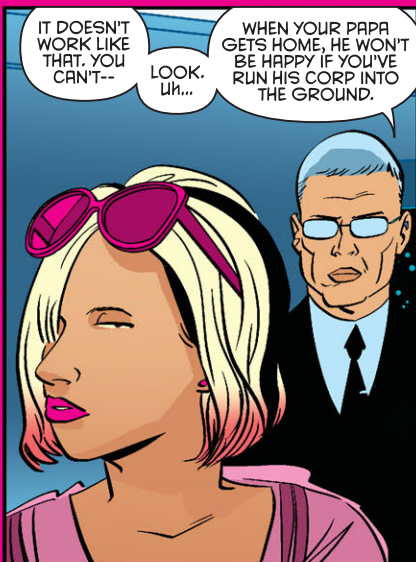
I KNOW THIS IS THE DEEP END FOR YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO STEP UP.

THE BOARD COULD VOTE YOU OUT, THEN JUNOT WOULD STOP BEING A FAMILY HOLDING--

THEY WOULDN'T DARE--

SOFT DATA SUGGESTS THERE'S AT LEAST FIVE ON THE BOARD WHO'D APPROVE THE BUY-OUT. FONTAG CORP IS OFFERING--

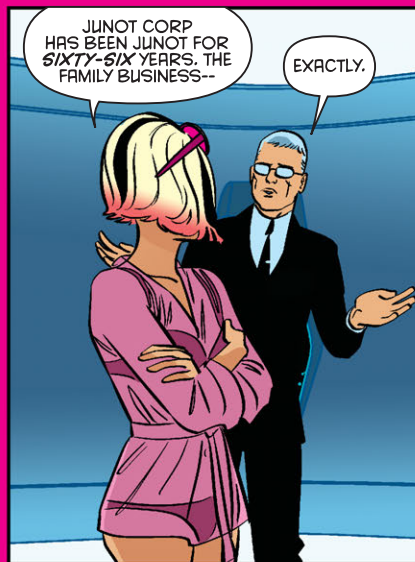
I'LL FIRE THEM.



IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT. YOU CAN'T--

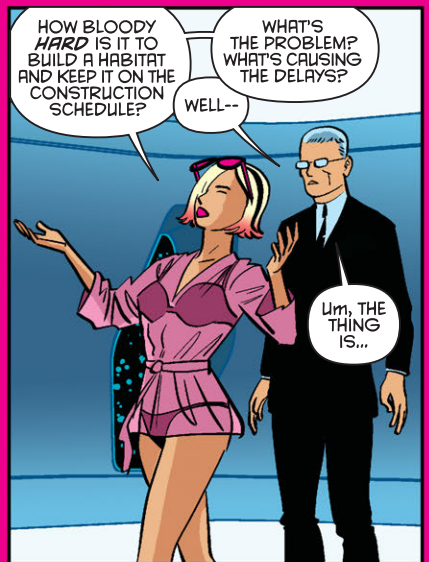
LOOK. UH...

WHEN YOUR PAPA GETS HOME, HE WON'T BE HAPPY IF YOU'VE RUN HIS CORP INTO THE GROUND.



JUNOT CORP HAS BEEN JUNOT FOR SIXTY-SIX YEARS. THE FAMILY BUSINESS--

EXACTLY.

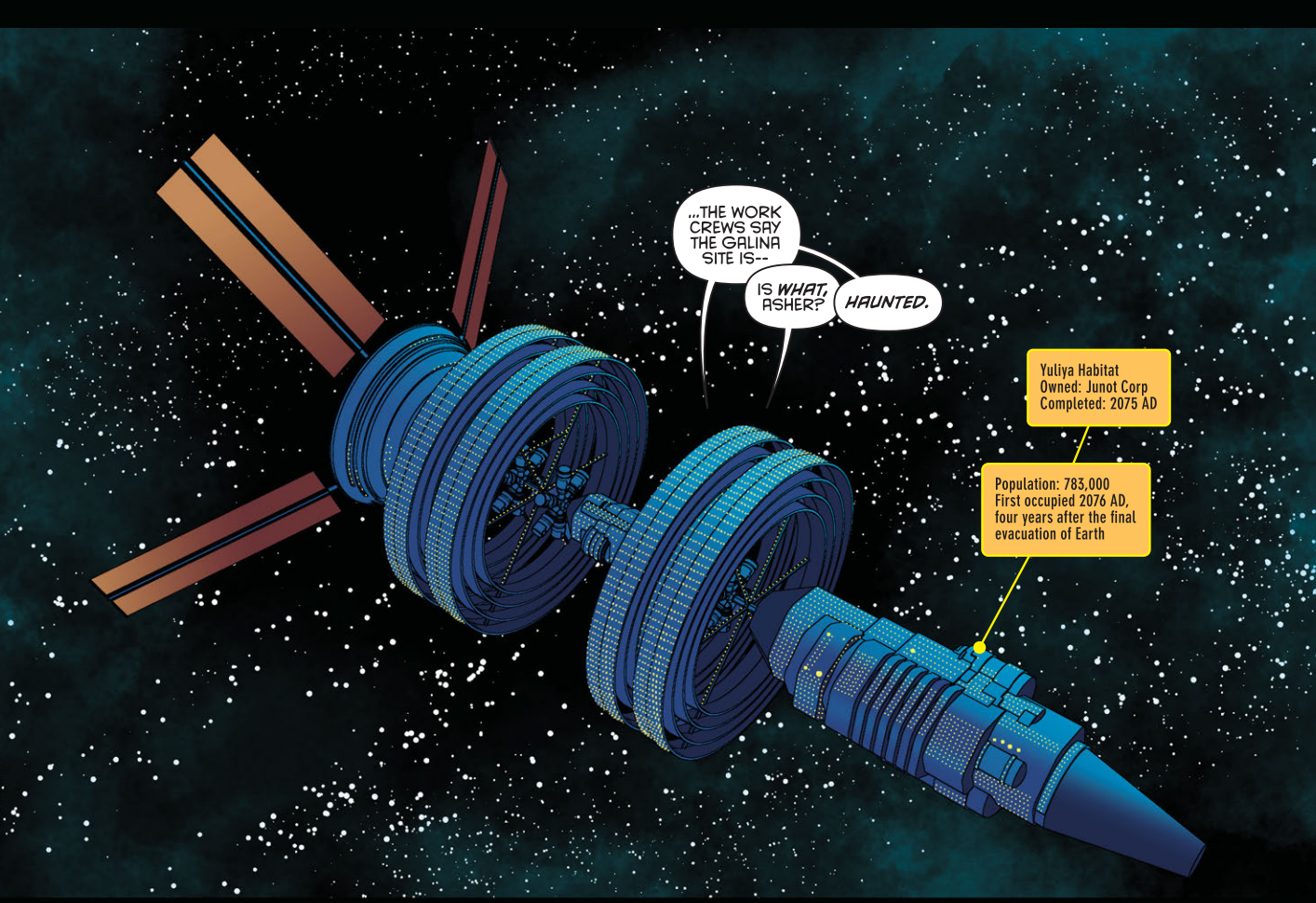


HOW BLOODY HARD IS IT TO BUILD A HABITAT AND KEEP IT ON THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? WHAT'S CAUSING THE DELAYS?

WELL--

Um, THE THING IS...



„THE WORK CREWS SAY THE GALINA SITE IS--

IS *WHAT*, ASHER?

*HAUNTED.*

Yuliya Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: 2075 AD

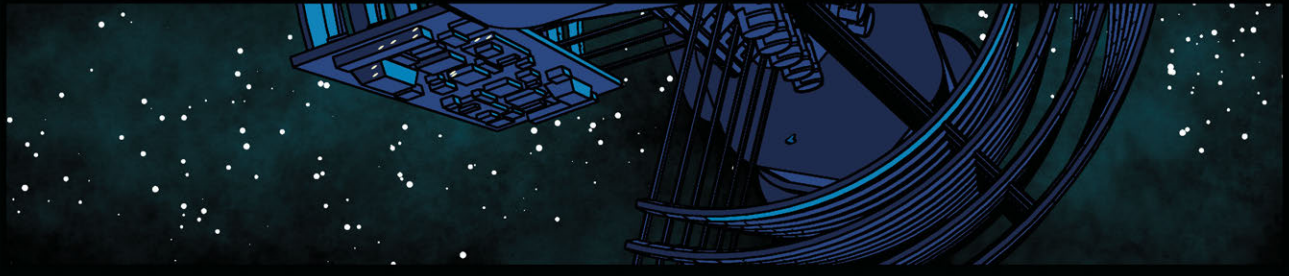
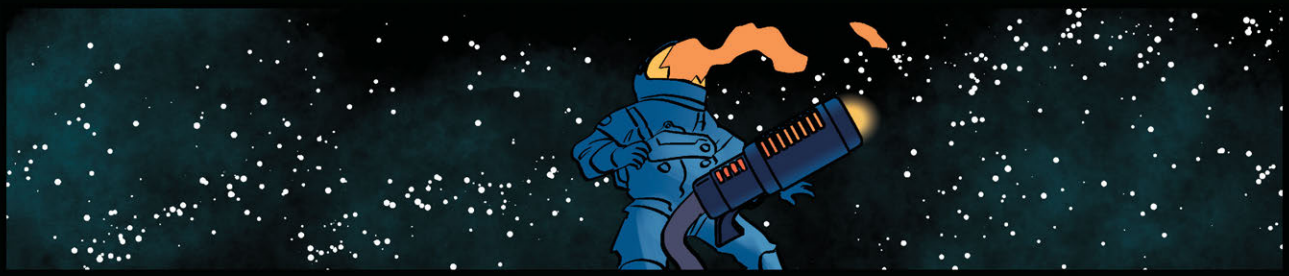
Population: 783,000  
First occupied 2076 AD,  
four years after the final  
evacuation of Earth



Galina Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: under  
construction

Population: 1904 (skeleton  
life--build-crew, managers,  
security, ancillary)  
Not yet formally occupied







BUCKLE UP.

Yuliya Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: 2075 AD

Population: 783,000  
First occupied 2076 AD,  
four years after the final  
evacuation of Earth

CLAMPS  
TO UNLOCK.  
BURNING.



L.T.V. ("Load Transfer Vehicle")  
Type: 690 Ditto model freight transport  
Year of manufacture: 2053 AD  
Route: between Yuliya Habitat and  
Galina Construction Zone (as required)

Load (this run): machine  
parts and tools; food services  
payload; one passenger

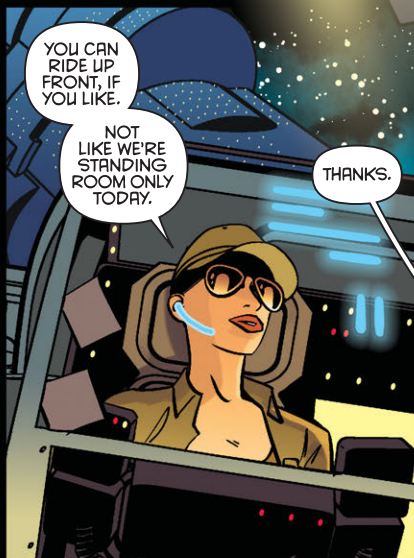
YULIYA  
TRAFFIC, COME  
BACK. MOVING  
CLEAR. PATH  
LOCKED.



COPY  
THAT, L.T.V.

CROSSING  
TAKES ABOUT  
FORTY-FIVE  
MINUTES. THIRTY-  
FIVE, IF I SHAVE  
THE BURN.

Philomena "Fil" Epps  
L.T.V. driver  
Born: Yuliya Habitat  
2069 AD



YOU CAN  
RIDE UP  
FRONT, IF  
YOU LIKE.

NOT  
LIKE WE'RE  
STANDING  
ROOM ONLY  
TODAY.

THANKS.



I'M FIL.



KURTIS.



YOU CREW TRANSFER, KURTIS?

YEAH, THEY'VE HIRED ME TO HELP SET UP THE NEW SECURITY DIVISION.



OH, SO YOU'RE H.S.D.?

NO, PRIVATE CONSULTANT.

BUT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN H.S.D.?

SECURITY CONSULTANTS ARE ALL EX-JOB.



I WORKED ODETTA H.S.D. FOR A WHILE.

TOOK A COMP PACKAGE. WENT LOOKING FOR A CORPORATE JOB.

QUIT OR PUSHED?



WHOOOPS. THAT WAS A JOKE.

...I QUIT. DIDN'T LIKE THE HOURS.



BESIDES, THE CORPS PAY A SHITLOAD MORE.

I HEAR THAT.



SO...YOU GOT EXPERIENCE WITH GHOSTS, THEN?



OH YEAH. I'M A REGULAR EXORCIST. I GOT ALL THAT VOODOO DOWN TIGHT.

HA HA!

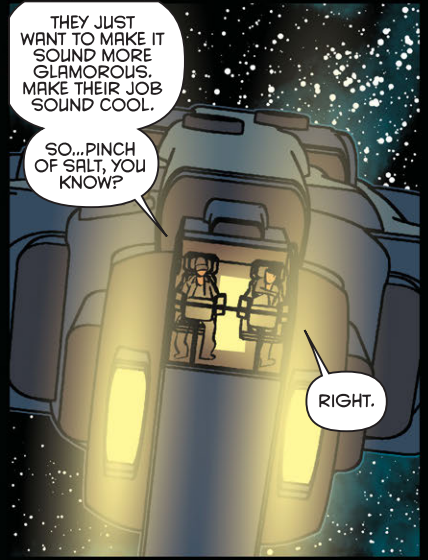
I'VE HEARD THE CHATTER. IT'S JUST THE REGULAR SCUT.



FOR SURE.

I DO THIS RUN THREE, FOUR TIMES A WEEK. WORK CREWS ON ROTATION.

THOSE GUYS ARE FULL OF CRAP. I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S HIGH-HAZ WORK, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, IT'S JUST HEAT-LOCKING RIVETS, RIGHT?



THEY JUST WANT TO MAKE IT SOUND MORE GLAMOROUS. MAKE THEIR JOB SOUND COOL.

SO...PINCH OF SALT, YOU KNOW?

RIGHT.



PLUS, A PLACE LIKE THAT GOTTA PLAY TRICKS ON THE MIND, RIGHT?

THERE'S BARELY ANYONE THERE YET. A PLACE THAT SIZE, PRETTY MUCH EMPTY.

LONG SHIFTS, WORKING ALONE, POWER NOT YET UP IN SOME SECTIONS.

IT'S GOTTA BE SPOOKY AS HELL SOMETIMES.



WE'RE NOT USED TO BEING ALONE.

CROWDS EVERYWHERE, PACKED TIGHT...

THEN YOU CREW A BUILD LIKE GALINA AND SUDDENLY YOU'VE GOT ROOM AROUND YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE.

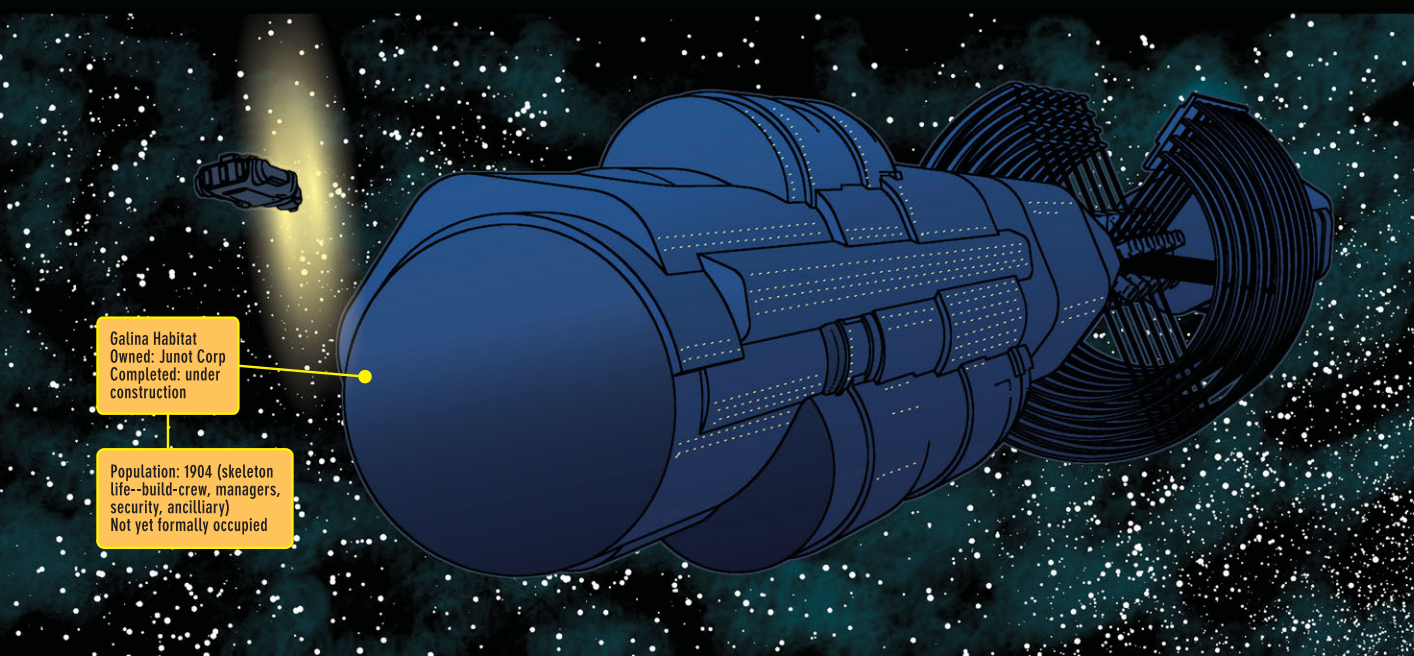
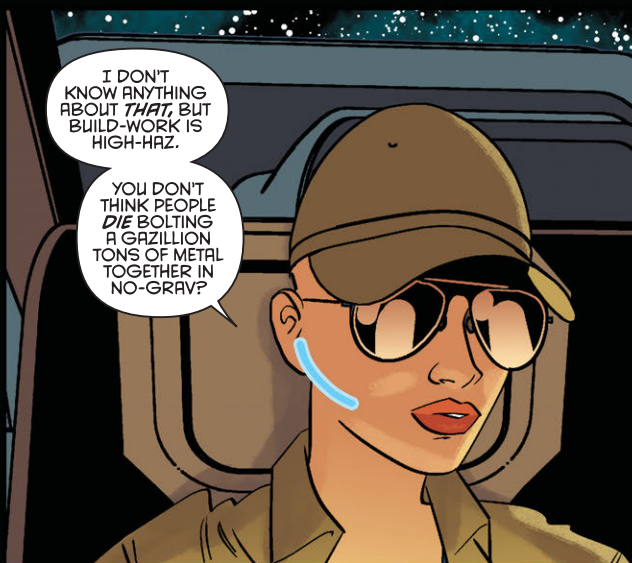
JUNOT SHOULD HAVE PSYCHO-THERAPISTS ON THE PAYROLL.

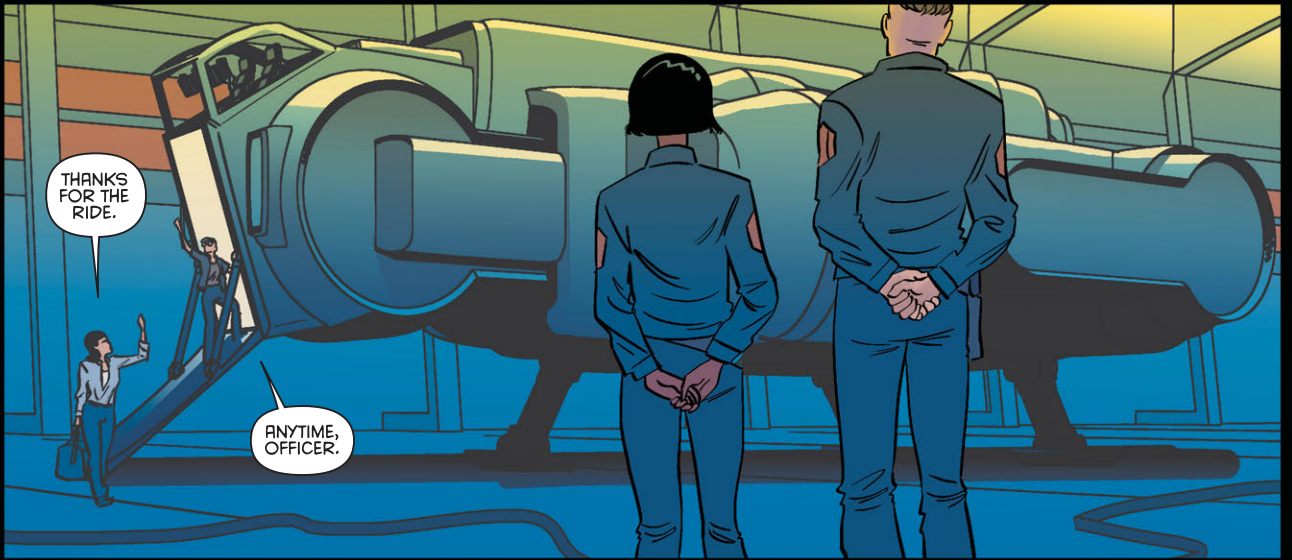


I LIKE BEING ALONE. I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME IN THIS RIG.

BUT I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. YOUR MIND GOES TO PLACES.

I HEAR STUFF.





THANKS FOR THE RIDE.

ANYTIME, OFFICER.



Timothy Styles  
Coordinator, Habitat  
Security Division (Galina)  
Born: Yuliya Habitat  
2061AD

BRIDGET  
KURTIS?

HI.

I'M TIM  
STYLES. WE  
SPOKE.

SURE.



THIS IS  
GIBRANI.

Gita Gibrani  
Investigator, Habitat  
Security Division  
Born: Yuliya Habitat  
2072 AD

GITA  
GIBRANI.  
HI.

GOOD  
TO HAVE  
YOU HERE.



WHERE  
DO I  
START?

GITA WILL GET  
YOU SET UP WITH  
ACCOMMODATION.  
THEN A BASIC  
WALK-AROUND, I  
THINK.

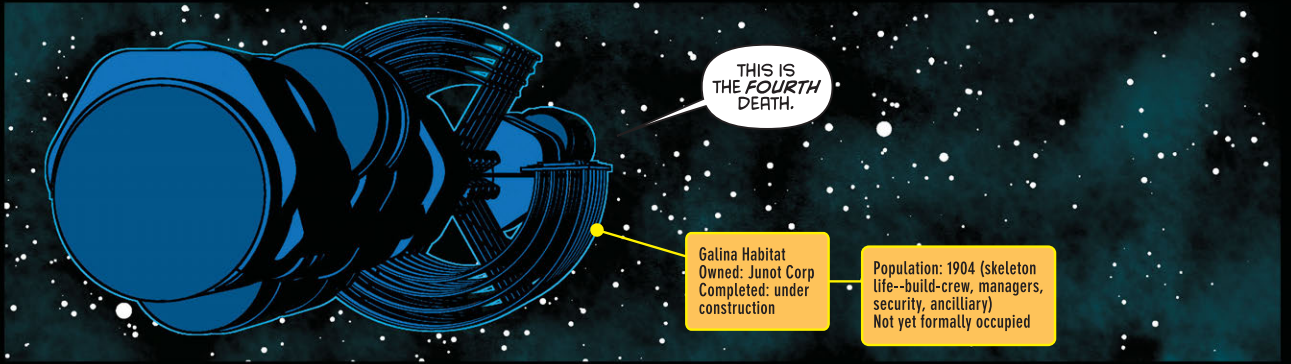


BUT I'D  
LIKE TO GET  
YOU UP TO  
SPEED FAST.

YEAH?



THERE'S  
BEEN  
ANOTHER  
DEATH.



THIS IS THE **FOURTH** DEATH.

Galina Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: under construction

Population: 1904 (skeleton life--build-crew, managers, security, ancillary)  
Not yet formally occupied



WELL, WE **THINK** IT'S A DEATH.

THINK?

Habitat Security Division Operations suite, Loop 3



NO BODY YET.

ONE OF THE WORK-CREW, BELK. HE WAS DOING EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION YESTERDAY AND HE BROKE CONTACT.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM.

DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MEAN HE'S DEAD.

Bridget Kurtis  
Freelance security consultant  
Born: Salma Habitat 2067 AD

THE BIO-MONITORS ON HIS SUIT AND TRACELET BOTH WENT COLD.

Timothy Styles  
Coordinator, Habitat Security Division (Galina)  
Born: Yuliya Habitat 2061AD

Gita Gibrani  
Investigator, Habitat Security Division  
Born: Yuliya Habitat 2072 AD



OKAY, SO TRACK HIS BIO-MONITOR.

NO DICE. SIGNAL LAPSED.

DID ANYONE GO LOOK FOR HIM?



SHIT. DIDN'T EVEN **THINK** OF THAT.

NO **WONDER** THEY HIRED YOU AS AN EXPERT ADVISOR.

COOL DOWN, GIBRANI.

YES, WE **DID** LOOK, KURTIS.



HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW **FEW** PEOPLE THERE ARE HERE? AND HOW **BIG** THIS PLACE IS?

OKAY. **FOUR** DEATHS?



IF WE COUNT BELK.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. ALL WORK-CREW. THIS IS A HIGH-HAZ--

SO I KEEP HEARING.

FOUR SEEMS HIGH. THREE SEEMS HIGH.

IT'S STATISTICALLY AVERAGE FOR A BUILD LIKE THIS.



WELL, SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE CURVE.

SLIGHTLY. BUT WE REVIEWED THE FIRST THREE. MISADVENTURE. TWO CRUSH INJURES, ONE DECOMPRESSION.

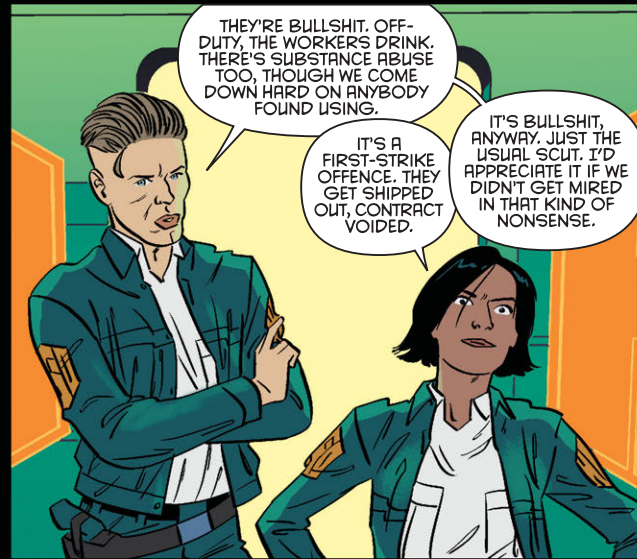
NO FOUL PLAY.

NO GHOSTS?



I SEE YOU'VE SUCCEMDED TO THE RUMOUR MILL BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN STARTED.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, STYLES. BUT RUMOURS START SOMEWHERE.



THEY'RE BULLSHIT. OFF-DUTY, THE WORKERS DRINK. THERE'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE TOO, THOUGH WE COME DOWN HARD ON ANYBODY FOUND USING.

IT'S A FIRST-STRIKE OFFENCE. THEY GET SHIPPED OUT, CONTRACT VOIDED.

IT'S BULLSHIT, ANYWAY. JUST THE USUAL SCUT. I'D APPRECIATE IT IF WE DIDN'T GET MIRED IN THAT KIND OF NONSENSE.



OF COURSE.

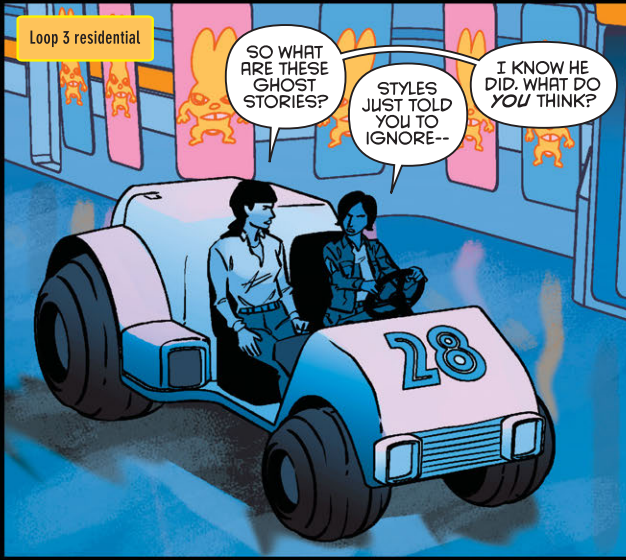
YOU SAY SUBSTANCE ABUSE. PHARMS? NUDGE?

NO, I'M TALKING ABOUT CLASS-A AND PROHIBITED.

GOD, EVERYONE TAKES NUDGE.



I'M SURE THEY DO.



Loop 3 residential

SO WHAT ARE THESE GHOST STORIES?

STYLES JUST TOLD YOU TO IGNORE--

I KNOW HE DID. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I THINK EXACTLY WHAT HE DOES. THIS PLACE IS CREEPY. EMPTY. TOO MUCH SPACE.

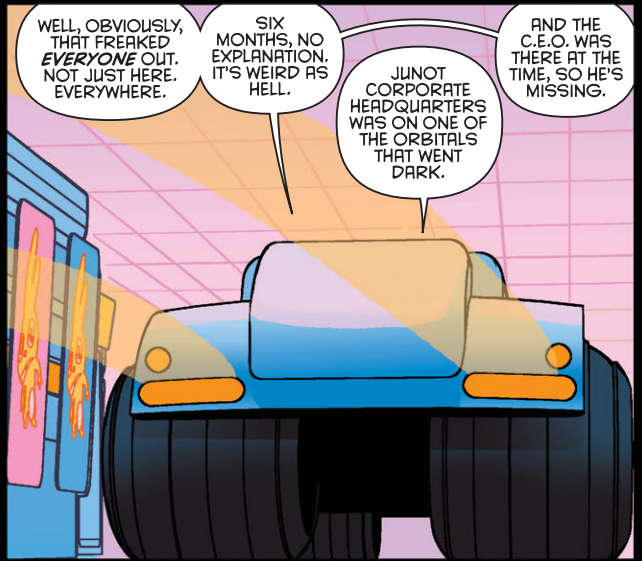
IT MESSES WITH YOUR HEAD.



WHAT'S THE MOOD BEEN LIKE SINCE THE MERCURY EVENT?

HOW IS THAT RELEVANT?

I'M JUST ASKING.



WELL, OBVIOUSLY, THAT FREAKED EVERYONE OUT. NOT JUST HERE. EVERYWHERE.

SIX MONTHS, NO EXPLANATION. IT'S WEIRD AS HELL.

JUNOT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS WAS ON ONE OF THE ORBITALS THAT WENT DARK.

AND THE C.E.O. WAS THERE AT THE TIME, SO HE'S MISSING.



THAT MEANS THE BOARD IS IN CRISIS. THERE'S A LOT OF PANIC. MARKET INSTABILITY.

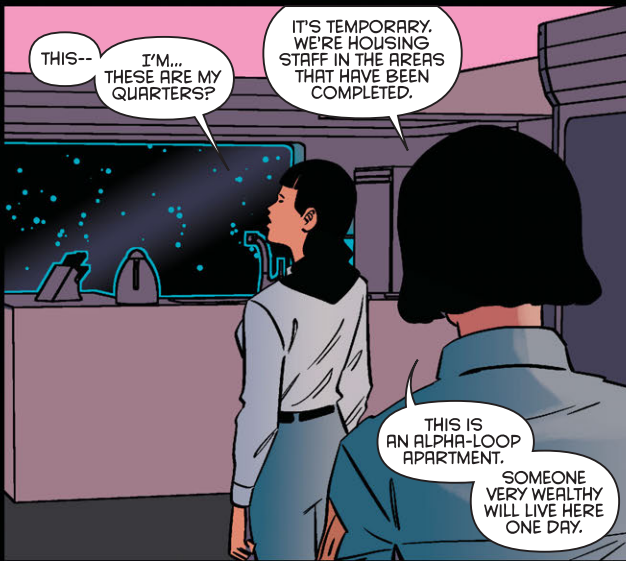
AND THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE MOOD OF THE WORKFORCE, MIGHTN'T IT? IF THE CONTRACT'S AT RISK? JUNOT MIGHT DECIDE THIS BUILD IS TOO BIG AN INVESTMENT TO PURSUE IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE.

THEY JUST HIRED YOU, DIDN'T THEY?



POINT.

YOU'RE IN HERE.





YOU OKAY?

YEAH.

I... I'VE BEEN GIVEN A ROOM THIS SIZE TOO. SPOOKED ME A BIT AT FIRST.



THAT'S WHAT I MEAN ABOUT THE SIZE OF THIS PLACE. THE EMPTINESS.

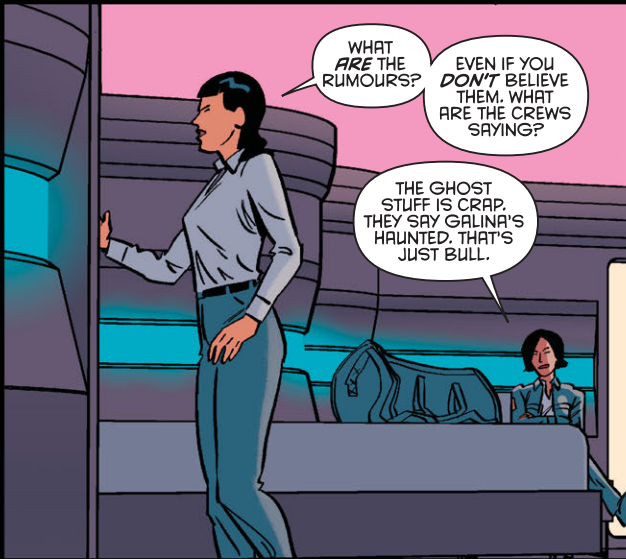
IT DOES YOUR HEAD IN.



I THINK THE RUMOURS HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS.

THE SOLITUDE?

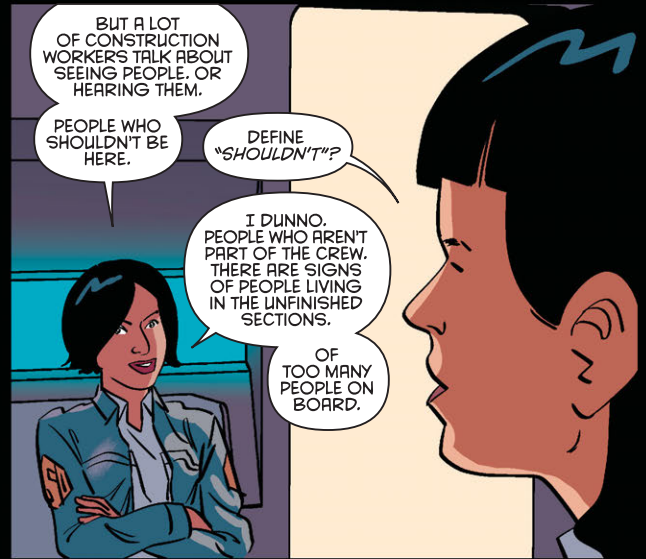
THAT AND AGORAPHOBIA. AND KENOPHOBIA.



WHAT ARE THE RUMOURS?

EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THEM. WHAT ARE THE CREWS SAYING?

THE GHOST STUFF IS CRAP. THEY SAY GALINA'S HAUNTED. THAT'S JUST BULL.



BUT A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TALK ABOUT SEEING PEOPLE, OR HEARING THEM.

PEOPLE WHO SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

DEFINE "SHOULDN'T"?

I DUNNO. PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PART OF THE CREW. THERE ARE SIGNS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE UNFINISHED SECTIONS.

OF TOO MANY PEOPLE ON BOARD.



"TOO MANY PEOPLE ON BOARD"?

YEAH. BASICALLY.



THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN THERE SHOULD BE.

Galina Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: under construction

Population: 1904 (skeleton  
life--build-crew, managers,  
security, ancillary)  
Not yet formally occupied

PULL UP  
WORK-CREW  
PROFILES.

Habitat Security  
Division Operations  
suite, Loop 3

SORT  
BY LAST  
LOCATION.

SPECIFY

LOCATION  
OF PREVIOUS  
WORK  
CONTRACTS,  
ALL CREW.

YULIYA HABITAT:  
FOUR HUNDRED  
AND THIRTEEN

SALMA HABITAT:  
EIGHTY-FOUR

KIROS HABITAT:  
SEVENTEEN

XIANG  
HABITAT: SIX

PHOROS  
HABITAT: FOUR

PAUSE  
REARBACK.

ANY PRIOR  
WORK PLACEMENTS  
FROM ODETTE HAB  
OR LUDMILLA HAB?

NO RESULTS

SOPHIA  
HAB?

EIGHT

PULL UP  
REPORTS OF  
HAUNTING.

QUERY?

REPORTS OF...OF  
GHOSTS.  
OF STRANGE  
PHENOMENA.

NO RESULTS

TRY...

REPORTS OF UNKNOWN  
PERSONNEL.

SPECIFY

PEOPLE  
WHO  
SHOULDN'T  
BE HERE.



I WONDER IF YOU SHOULD BE HERE.

WHO ARE YOU?



YOU FIRST.

BRIDGET KURTIS.

OH, THE SECURITY CONSULTANT.

I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU HAD CLEARANCE TO ACCESS STATION DATA.



HAPPY NOW?

I SUPPOSE.

YOUR TURN.



I'M LUDO GENTRY, HEAD OF STATION SECURITY.

OKAY, THAT'S JUNOT CORP SECURITY?

IT IS.



NOT H.S.D., THEN?

GALINA H.S.D. DOES NOT EXIST YET.

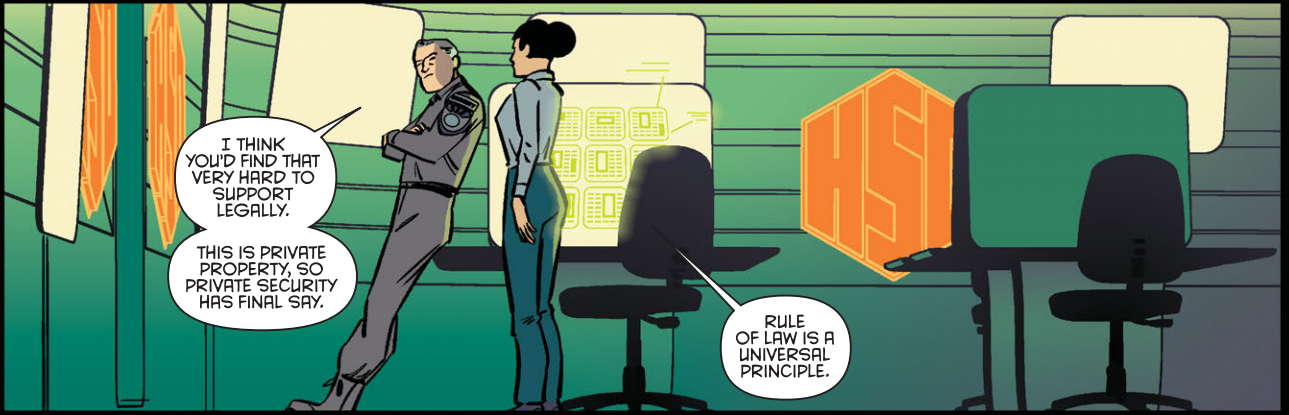
IT'S STILL IN SET-UP MODE. IT IS NOT YET COMMISSIONED WITH AUTHORITY.



GALINA IS CURRENTLY PRIVATE PROPERTY, SO OVERSIGHT OF SECURITY IS THE PRESERVE OF JUNOT CORP.

I GUESS, UNTIL THE HAND-OVER.

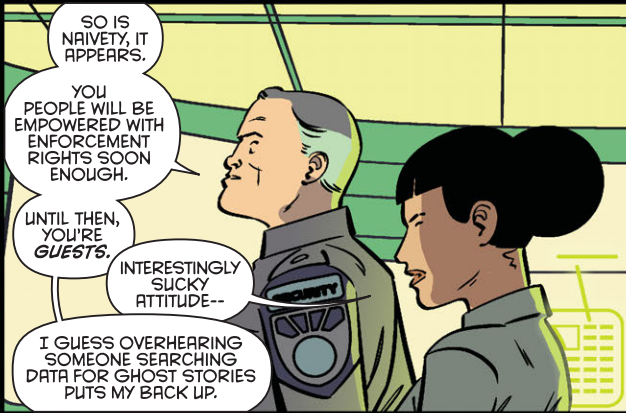
STILL, HABITAT SECURITY DIVISION HAS JURISDICTION OVER CRIMES WHEREVER THEY HAPPEN.



I THINK YOU'D FIND THAT VERY HARD TO SUPPORT LEGALLY.

THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, SO PRIVATE SECURITY HAS FINAL SAY.

RULE OF LAW IS A UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE.



SO IS NAIVETY, IT APPEARS.

YOU PEOPLE WILL BE EMPOWERED WITH ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS SOON ENOUGH.

UNTIL THEN, YOU'RE *GUESTS*.

INTERESTINGLY SUCKY ATTITUDE--

I GUESS OVERHEARING SOMEONE SEARCHING DATA FOR GHOST STORIES PUTS MY BACK UP.



NOT A BELIEVER, THEN?

THIS JOB'S HARD ENOUGH WITHOUT SHIT-STIRRING.

NO DOUBT. BUT FOUR DEATHS?

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.



STILL...SOME SPOOKY STORIES ARE FLOATING AROUND.

MERCURY IS ON THE OFFICIAL RECORD. *THAT'S* PRETTY SPOOKY.

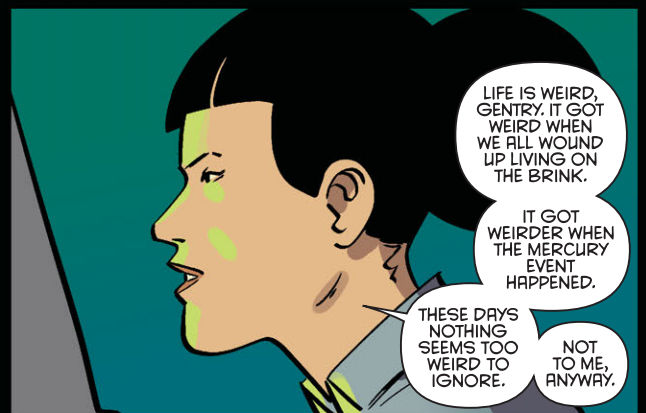
NOT ON THE OFFICIAL RECORD.



HOW ARE YOU DRAWING A LINE BETWEEN THE MERCURY EVENT AND THIS--

--THIS? THIS *WHAT?*

THIS *CRAP*. THE RUMOURS YOU SEEM SO FASCINATED BY?

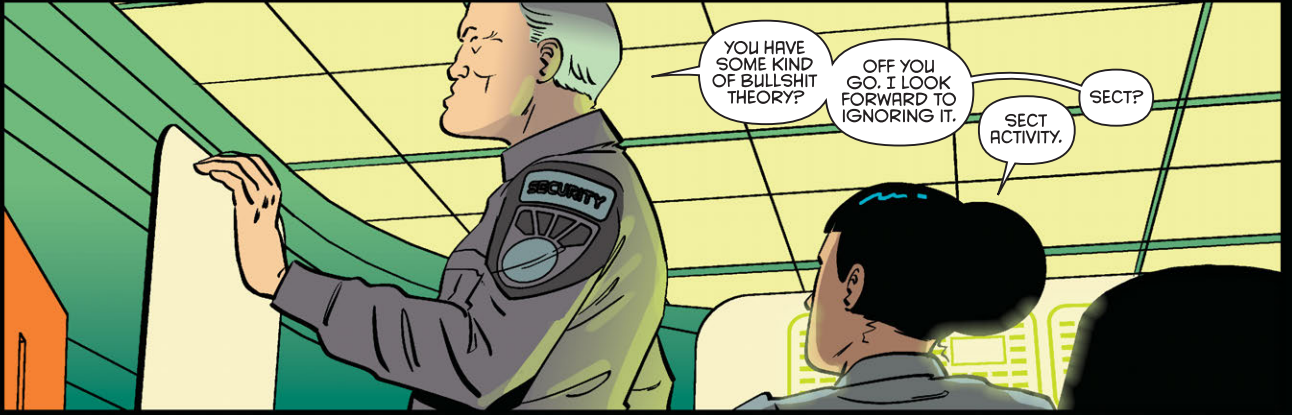


LIFE IS WEIRD, GENTRY. IT GOT WEIRD WHEN WE ALL WOUND UP LIVING ON THE BRINK.

IT GOT WEIRDER WHEN THE MERCURY EVENT HAPPENED.

THESE DAYS NOTHING SEEMS TOO WEIRD TO IGNORE.

NOT TO ME, ANYWAY.



YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF BULLSHIT THEORY?

OFF YOU GO. I LOOK FORWARD TO IGNORING IT.

SECT ACTIVITY.

SECT?

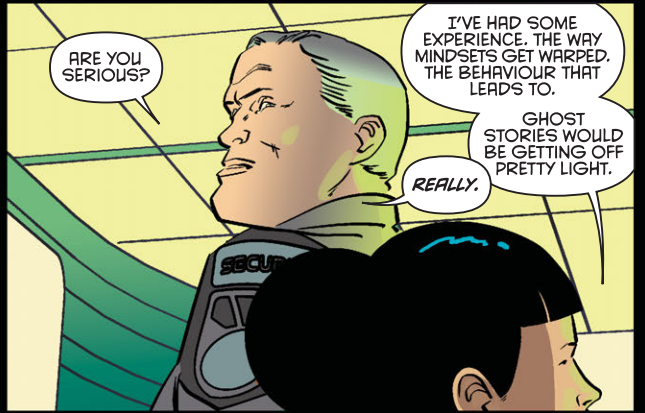


THAT'S THE KIND OF BULLSHIT I'M INTERESTED IN. IT CAN MESS PEOPLE UP.

YOU GOT EIGHT CREW HERE WHOSE LAST PLACEMENTS WERE SOPHIA.

AND SOPHIA HAS A BAD REP FOR CULT ACTIVITY?

THEY MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT SOME UNUSUAL BELIEFS WITH THEM.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE. THE WAY MINDSETS GET WARPED. THE BEHAVIOUR THAT LEADS TO.

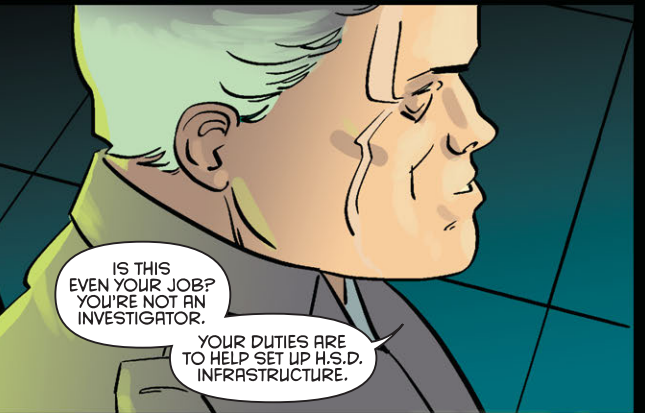
GHOST STORIES WOULD BE GETTING OFF PRETTY LIGHT.

REALLY.



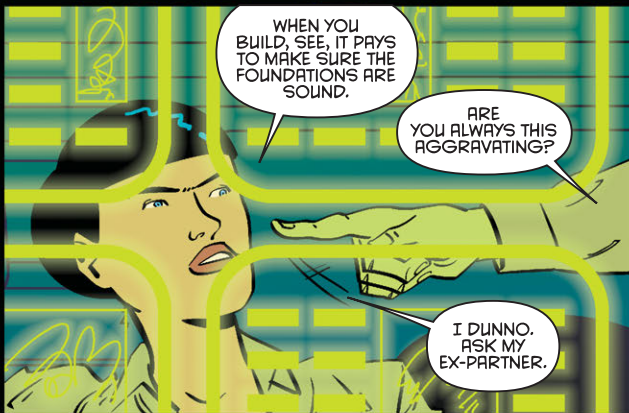
IT'D BE WORTH RUNNING SOME INTERVIEWS, WOULDN'T IT?

IT'S ONLY EIGHT MEMBERS OF STAFF.



IS THIS EVEN YOUR JOB? YOU'RE NOT AN INVESTIGATOR.

YOUR DUTIES ARE TO HELP SET UP H.S.D. INFRASTRUCTURE.



WHEN YOU BUILD, SEE, IT PAYS TO MAKE SURE THE FOUNDATIONS ARE SOUND.

ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS AGGRAVATING?

I DUNNO. ASK MY EX-PARTNER.



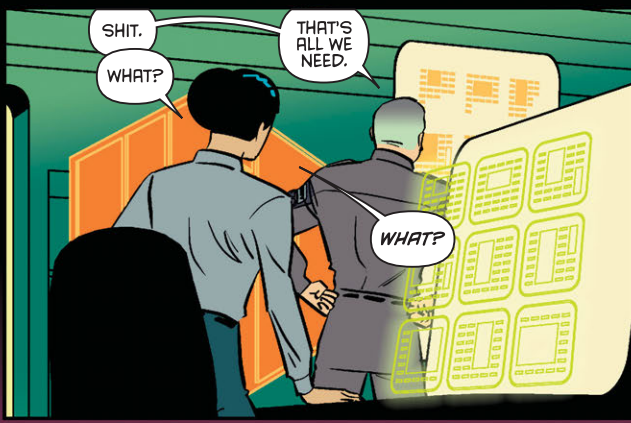
LET ME BE CLEAR.

DO YOUR JOB. *JUST* YOUR JOB. CAN THE ATTITUDE AND THE BULLSHIT THEORIES.

OKAY?



ATTENTION.  
UNSCHEDULED VEHICLE  
APPROACHING STATION.

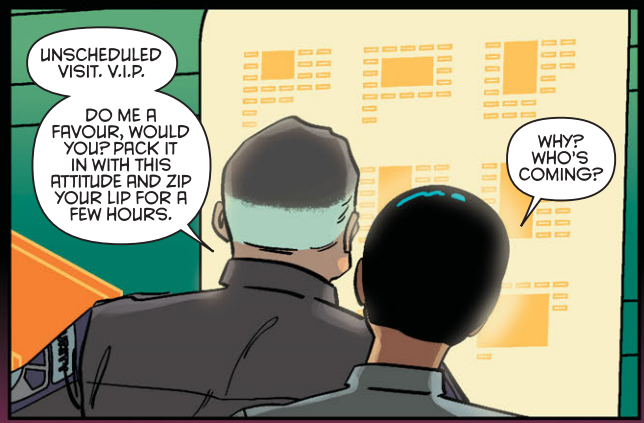


SHIT.

WHAT?

THAT'S ALL WE NEED.

WHAT?



UNSCHEDULED VISIT. V.I.P.

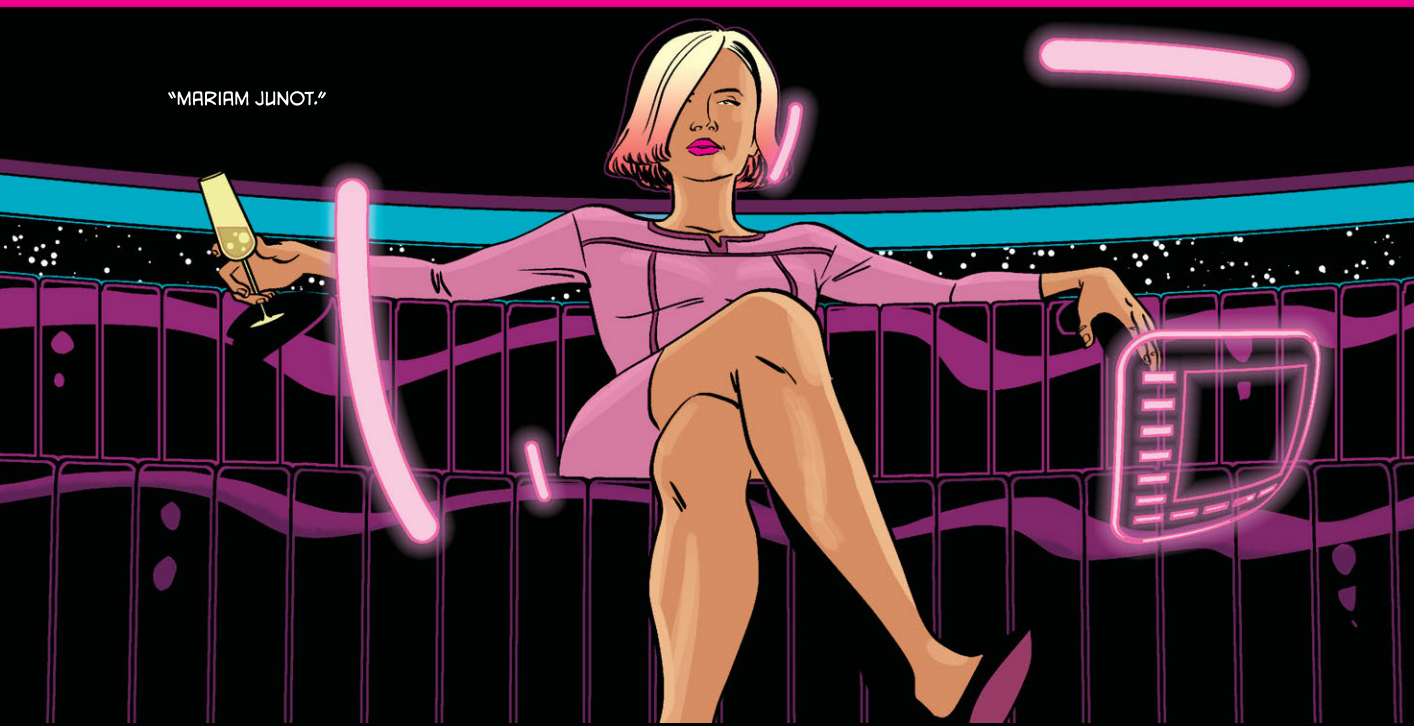
DO ME A FAVOUR, WOULD YOU? PACK IT IN WITH THIS ATTITUDE AND ZIP YOUR LIP FOR A FEW HOURS.

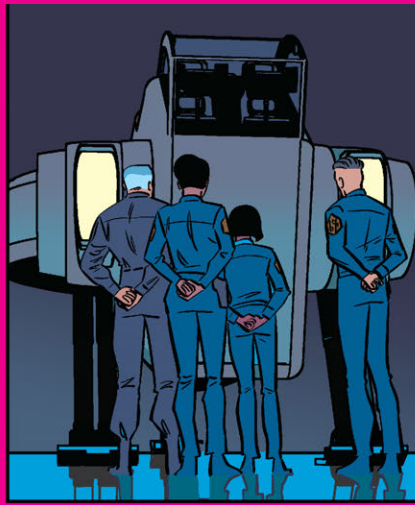
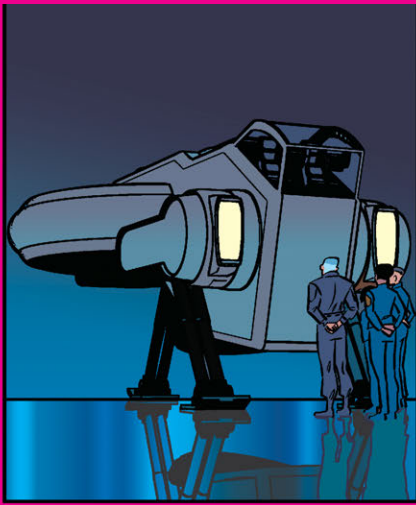
WHY? WHO'S COMING?



THE BOSS. THE ACTING C.E.O.

"MARIAM JUNOT."





Mariam Willen Junot  
Acting CEO, Junot Corp  
Born: Yuliya Habitat  
2072 AD

HELLO.

SORRY TO ARRIVE WITHOUT WARNING. I THOUGHT IT WAS HIGH TIME I SAW THE BUILD FOR MYSELF.

Byron Asher  
Executive Assistant  
(CEO), Junot Corp  
Born: Selma Habitat  
2061 AD

IT IS COSTING MY FAMILY AN *AWFUL* LOT OF MONEY, AFTER ALL.

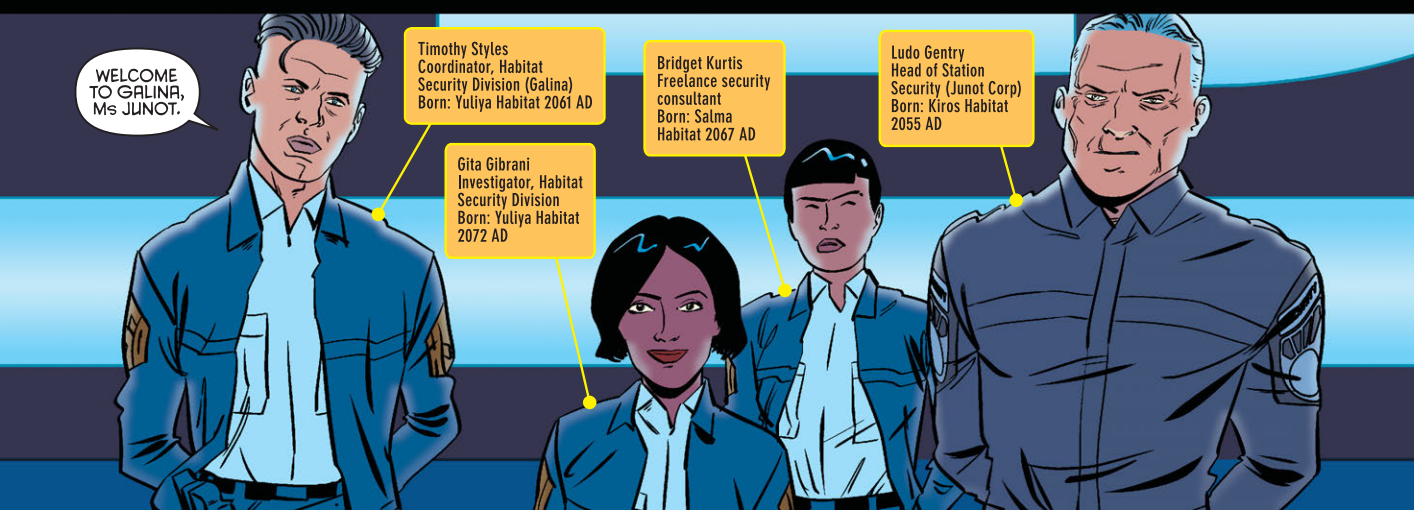
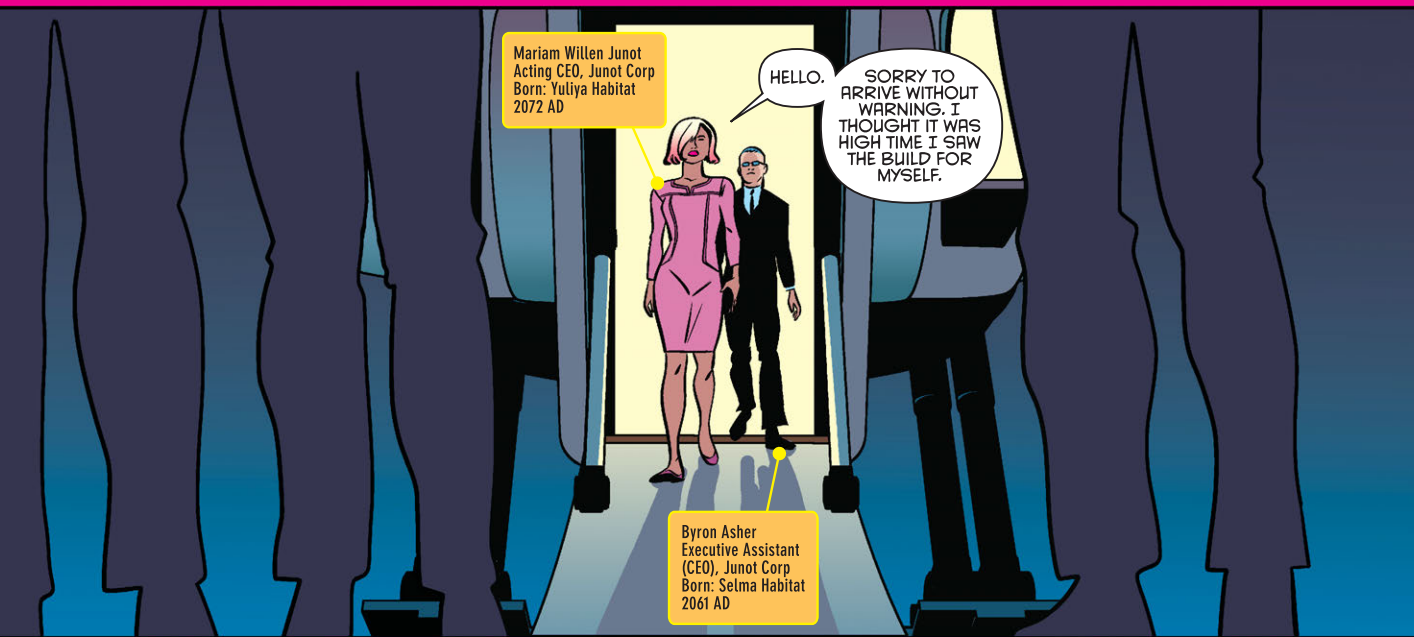
WELCOME TO GALINA, MS JUNOT.

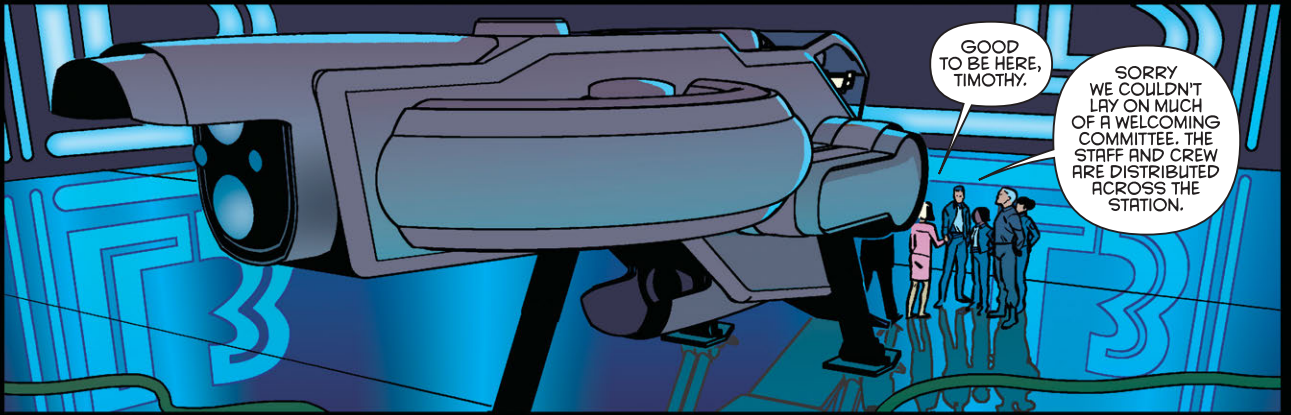
Timothy Styles  
Coordinator, Habitat Security Division (Galina)  
Born: Yuliya Habitat 2061 AD

Gita Gibrani  
Investigator, Habitat Security Division  
Born: Yuliya Habitat 2072 AD

Bridget Kurtis  
Freelance security consultant  
Born: Salma Habitat 2067 AD

Ludo Gentry  
Head of Station Security (Junot Corp)  
Born: Kiros Habitat 2055 AD





GOOD TO BE HERE, TIMOTHY.

SORRY WE COULDN'T LAY ON MUCH OF A WELCOMING COMMITTEE. THE STAFF AND CREW ARE DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE STATION.



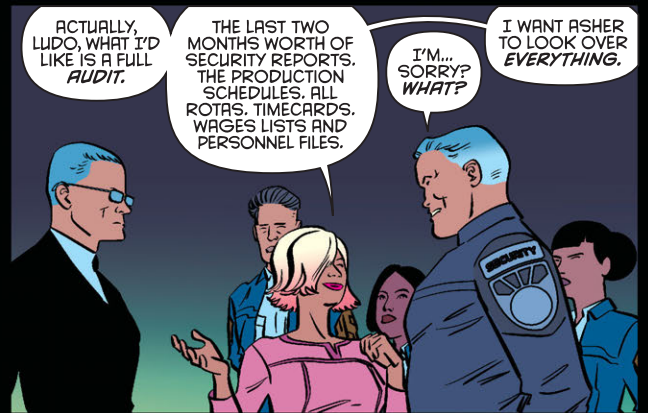
A FEW FRIENDLY FACES IS FINE, TIM.

I DON'T KNOW YOU, THOUGH, DO I?

BRIDGET KURTIS--

KURTIS IS A SECURITY CONSULTANT.

I'M ASSUMING YOU'LL WANT THE FULL TOUR, MS JUNOT.

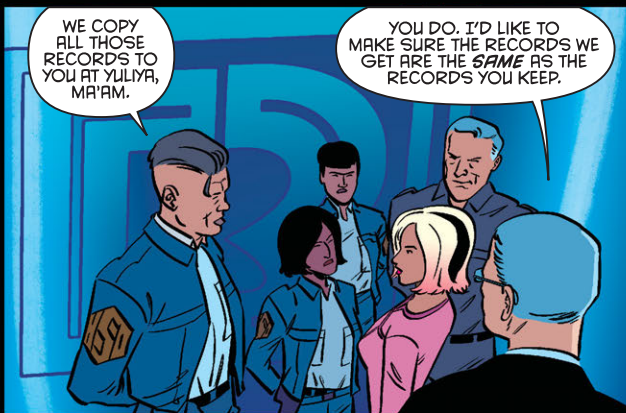


ACTUALLY, LUDO, WHAT I'D LIKE IS A FULL AUDIT.

THE LAST TWO MONTHS WORTH OF SECURITY REPORTS. THE PRODUCTION SCHEDULES. ALL ROTAS. TIMECARDS. WAGES LISTS AND PERSONNEL FILES.

I'M... SORRY? WHAT?

I WANT ASHER TO LOOK OVER EVERYTHING.



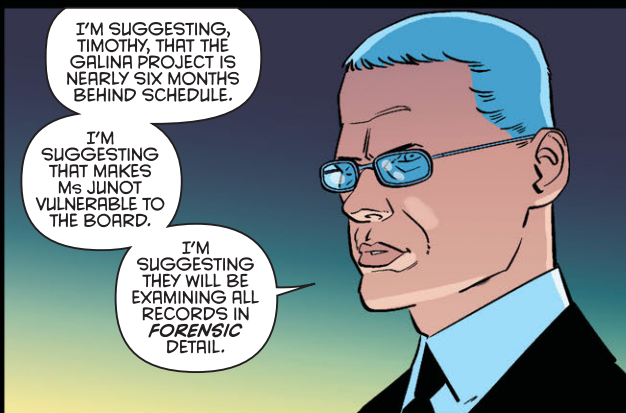
WE COPY ALL THOSE RECORDS TO YOU AT YULIYA, MA'AM.

YOU DO. I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE THE RECORDS WE GET ARE THE SAME AS THE RECORDS YOU KEEP.



WAIT A MINUTE, MR ASHER.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING--



I'M SUGGESTING, TIMOTHY, THAT THE GALINA PROJECT IS NEARLY SIX MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE.

I'M SUGGESTING THAT MAKES MS JUNOT VULNERABLE TO THE BOARD.

I'M SUGGESTING THEY WILL BE EXAMINING ALL RECORDS IN FORENSIC DETAIL.

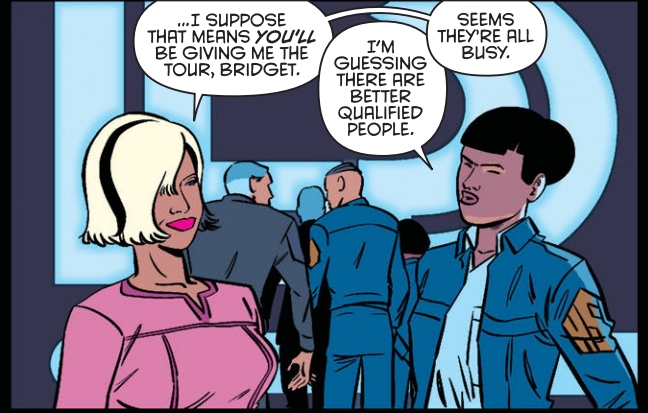


I'M SUGGESTING IT'S IMPERATIVE WE MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL SINGING OFF THE SAME HYMN SHEET.

SHALL WE GET INTO IT?



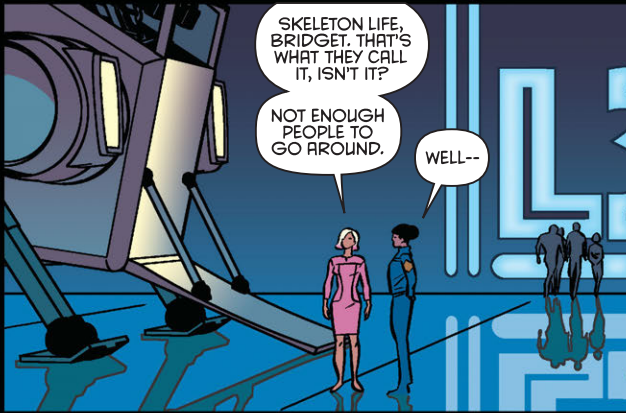
WELL...



...I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE GIVING ME THE TOUR, BRIDGET.

I'M GUESSING THERE ARE BETTER QUALIFIED PEOPLE.

SEEMS THEY'RE ALL BUSY.



SKELETON LIFE, BRIDGET. THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT, ISN'T IT?

NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE TO GO AROUND.

WELL--



OKAY, I'LL CONFESS.

I'VE DONE MY DUE DILIGENCE. YOU'RE FROM ODETTE, A RECENT TRANSFER. YOU ARE LITTERLY DISCONNECTED FROM JUNOT CORP AND LOCAL H.S.D.

I FEAR CONTAMINATION.



CONTAMINATION?

THE BOARD IS TRYING TO OUST ME. A BUY-OUT FROM FONTAG CORP, PERHAPS.

I DON'T TRUST GENTRY AND THE OTHER SENIORS. I DON'T TRUST ANYONE WITH LINKS TO THE BOARD.



YOU TRUST ME BECAUSE I'M AN UNKNOWN?

INTERESTING PSYCHOLOGY.



THIS IS ME GIVING YOU FULL--AND PRIVATE--SECURITY CLEARANCE.

TO INVESTIGATE.

INVESTIGATE WHAT?



THE HAUNTING, BRIDGET, THE HAUNTING.



YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

NOT AT ALL.

BUT I BELIEVE SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE THAT IS CATASTROPHICALLY DELAYING DELIVERY.

THAT COULD BRING PAPA'S COMPANY DOWN. I COULD BRING MY FAMILY DOWN.



I INTEND TO ERADICATE THE PROBLEM.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

I... NO.

BUT YOU HAVE A THEORY.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ONE.



I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO THE PROJECT ARCHITECT, PETER LINTON.

CAN YOU FIND HIM FOR ME?



TRACELET SAYS LINTON IS CURRENTLY IN LOOP EIGHT.



CAN YOU FIND THAT?

SHOULDN'T BE HARD.



WHAT IS YOUR THEORY, BRIDGET?

I'VE WORKED ODETTA AND LUDMILLA. I'VE SEEN SECT ACTIVITY FIRST HAND.

YOU THINK THIS IS SECT?



I THINK WE'VE LIVED OUT IN THE DARK FOR TOO LONG, AND THAT DOES STUFF TO PEOPLE'S MINDS.

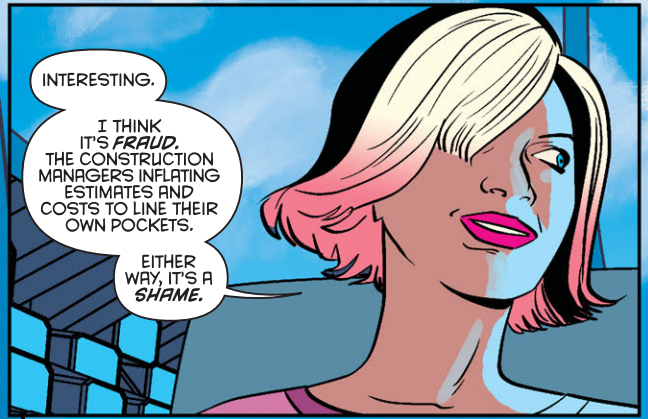
I THINK THIS HAS THE HALLMARKS.



A FEW WORKERS ON HIGH-HAZ ROTATION, SCREWING THEMSELVES UP ON DRINK AND MAX-DOSE NUDGE...

...ENTERTAINING A FEW SKETCHY IDEAS...FREAKING THEMSELVES OUT UNTIL THEY JUMP AT SHADOWS...

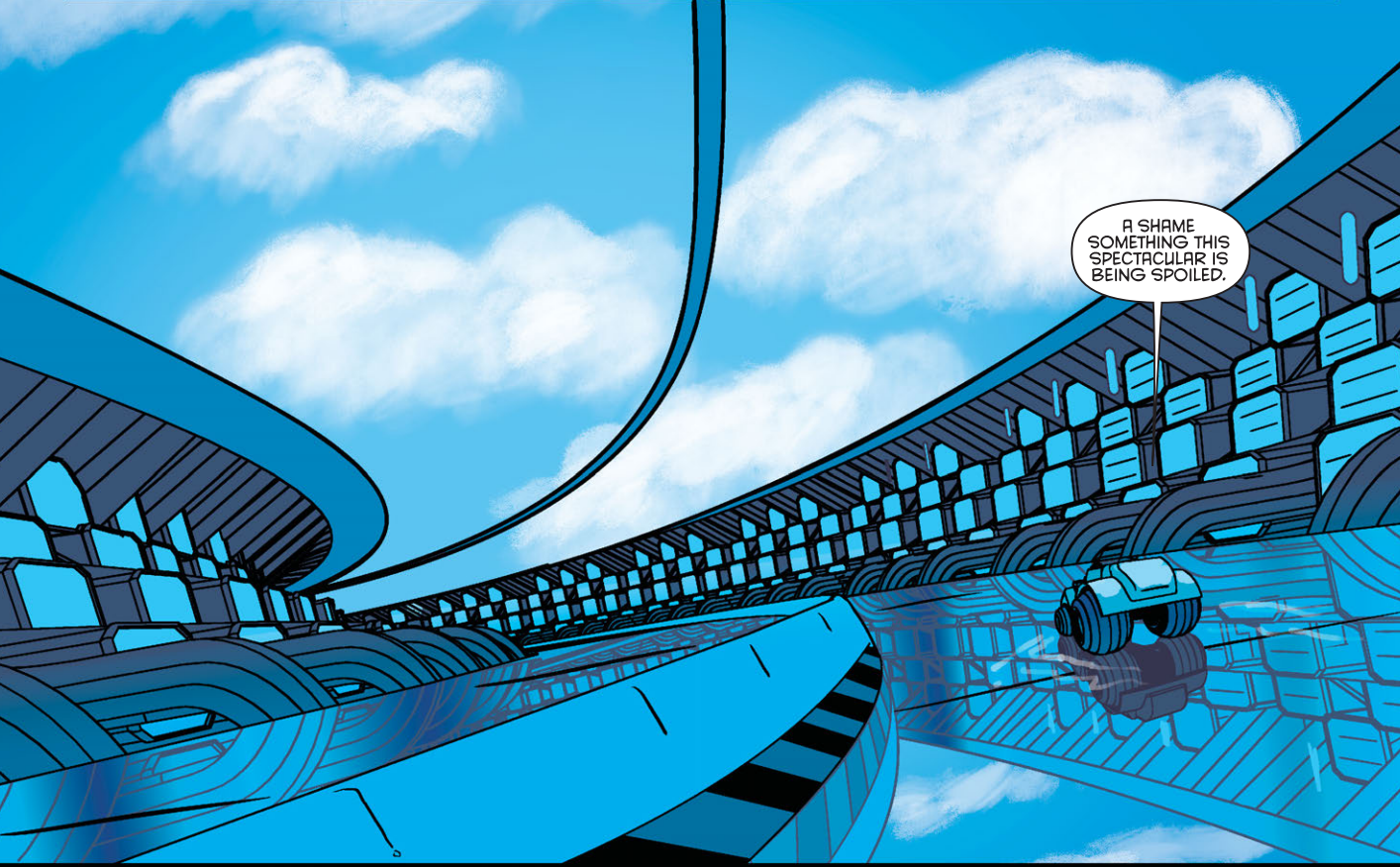
THAT COULD BE ENOUGH TO DISRUPT THE WORK SCHEDULE.



INTERESTING.

I THINK IT'S *FRAUD*. THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS INFLATING ESTIMATES AND COSTS TO LINE THEIR OWN POCKETS.

EITHER WAY, IT'S A *SHAME*.



A SHAME SOMETHING THIS SPECTACULAR IS BEING SPOILED.

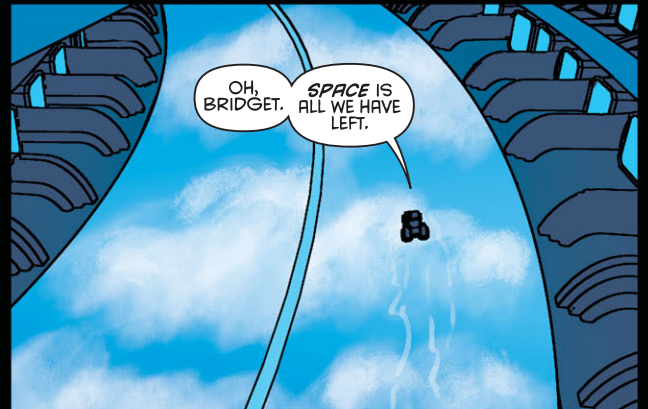


YOU'RE NOT ENJOYING THE VIEW.

YOU DON'T APPRECIATE THE GRANDEUR?

FRANKLY, IT MAKES ME FEEL ILL.

TOO BIG. TOO MUCH SPACE.



OH, BRIDGET.

*SPACE* IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT.

Loop Eight

Galina Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: under construction

Population: 1904 (skeleton  
life--build-crew, managers,  
security, ancillary)  
Not yet formally occupied



GOD  
HELP ME.





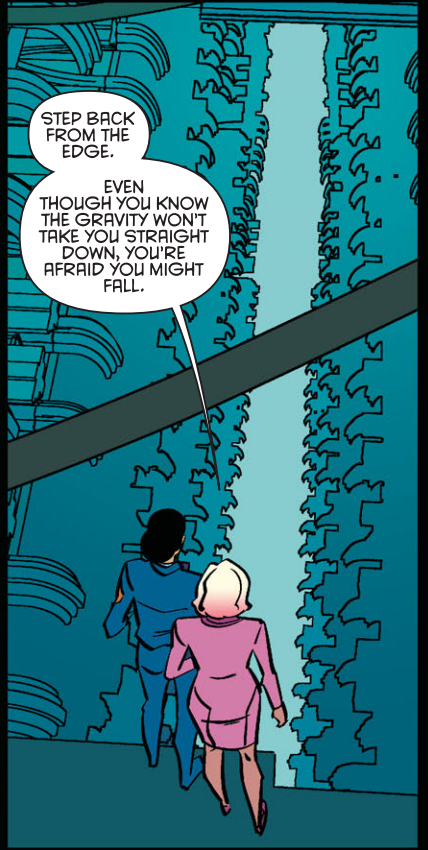
VERTIGO, BRIDGET?

AND THEN SOME.



WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO BIG?

SO THAT EVERYBODY HAS ROOM.



STEP BACK FROM THE EDGE.

EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW THE GRAVITY WON'T TAKE YOU STRAIGHT DOWN, YOU'RE AFRAID YOU MIGHT FALL.



THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

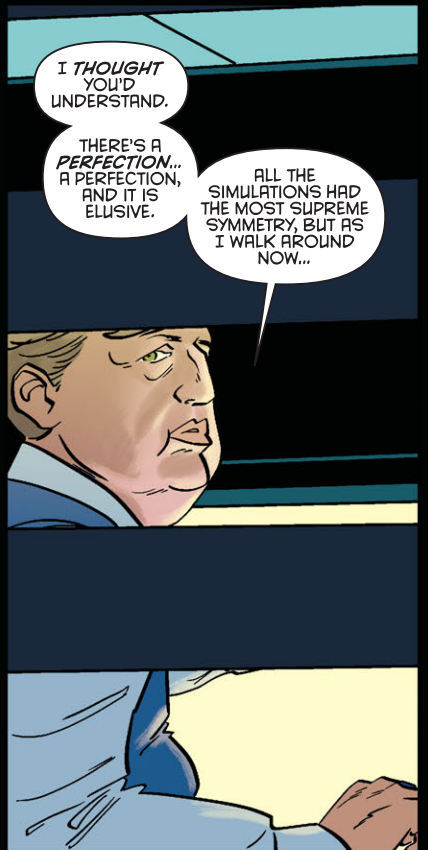
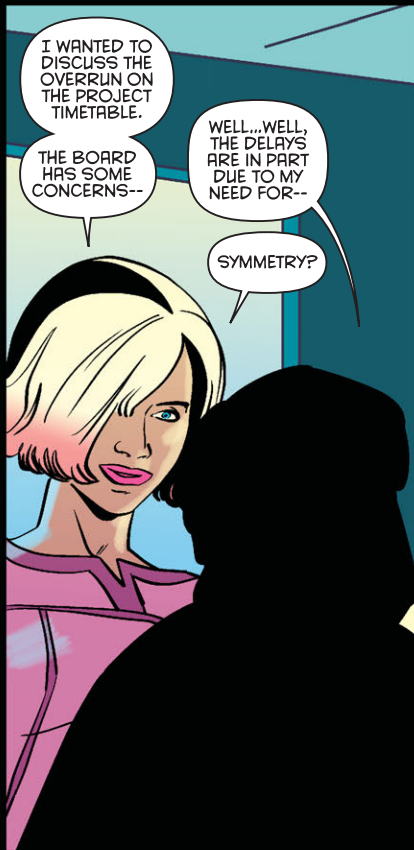
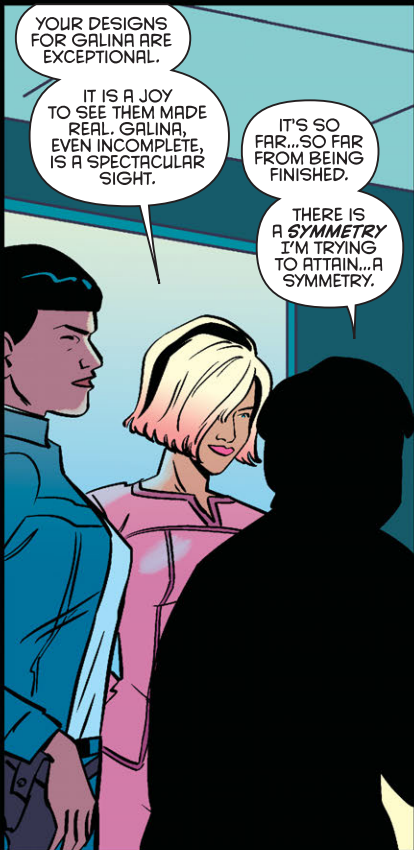
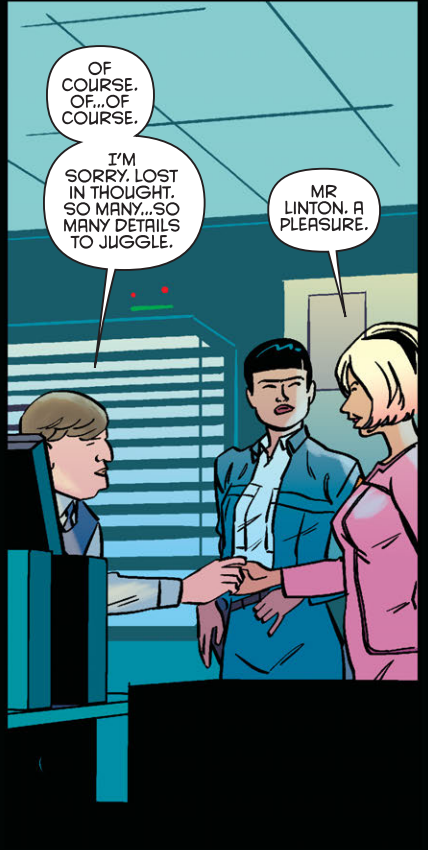
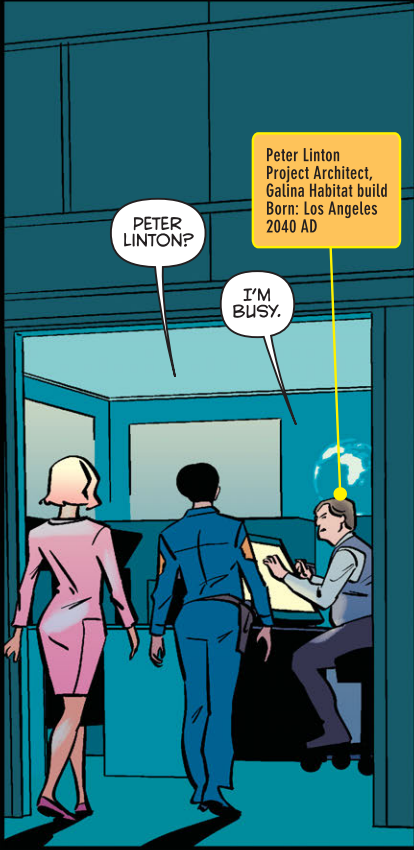


I'M AFRAID I MIGHT JUMP.



YOU EVER GET THAT?

YES. ALL THE TIME.





...AS IT RISES AROUND ME IN SOLID FORM, THE SYMMETRY IS OFF.

IS IT A CONSTRUCTION ERROR?



NOT *THAT* KIND OF SYMMETRY! ARE YOU STUPID?

HEY, TAKE A BREATH.



SORRY... SORRY, TOO MANY LATE NIGHTS.

A LITTLE... A LITTLE OVERWHELMED.

I NEED... I NEED A GLASS OF WATER.



HE NEEDS A HOLIDAY.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM? HE'S BEING VERY ODD.

MY GUESS, NOT ENOUGH SLEEP AND TOO MUCH HIGH-DOSE NUDGE.



THIS IS A HIGH-PROFILE PROJECT AND A HIGH-PRESSURE JOB.

SHOULD I HAVE HIM REMOVED?

YOU'LL FALL FURTHER BEHIND. HAVE YOU GOT A TOP-FLIGHT EXPERT WHO CAN COVER FOR HIM?

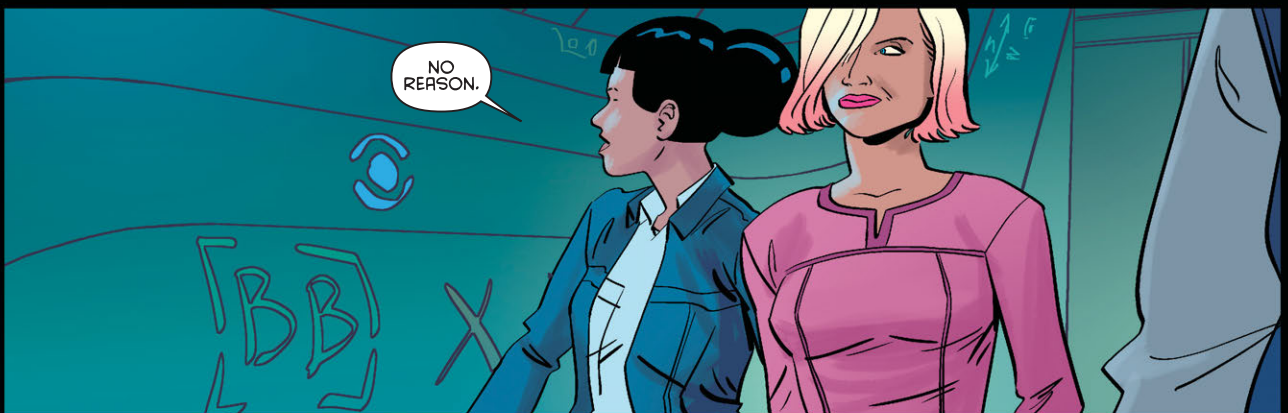
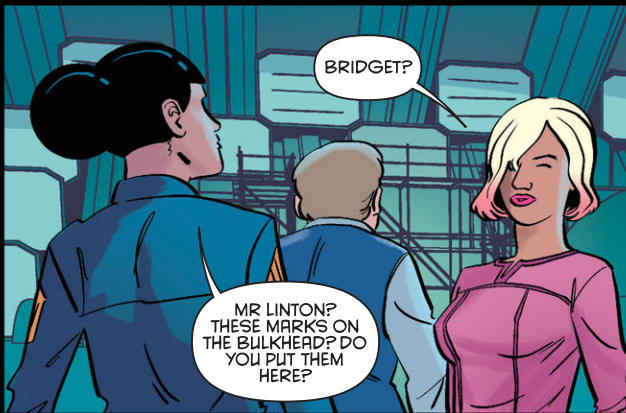
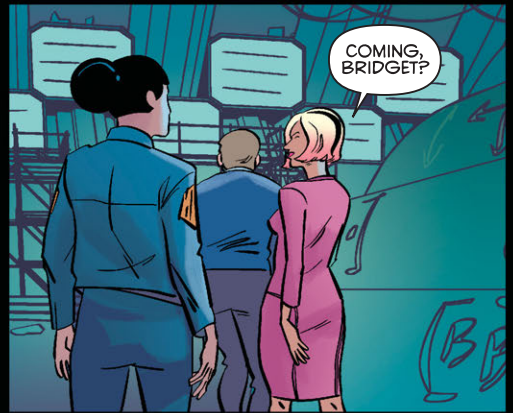


WITH HIS PEDIGREE? NO. LINTON IS ONE OF THE VERY BEST HABITAT DESIGNERS. A TRUE ARTIST.

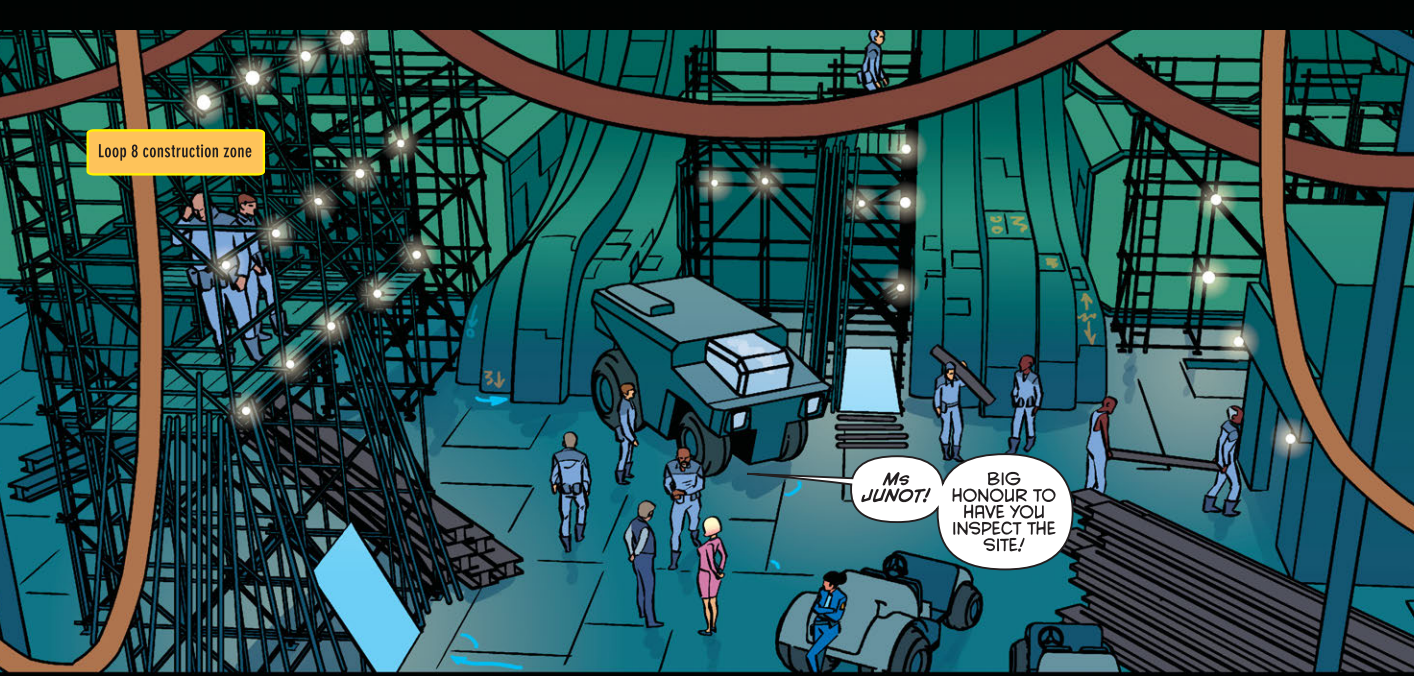
HESPERIDES, NEW STAR, MACROWHEEL... THEY'RE ALL HIS.

WE WERE LUCKY TO SECURE HIS SERVICES. LOSING HIM FROM THE PROJECT WOULD BE A BODY-BLOW. IT WOULD CAUSE A LOT OF BAD PRESS FOR JUNOT.

THEN CUT HIM A LITTLE SLACK.



Loop 8 construction zone



Ms JUNOT!

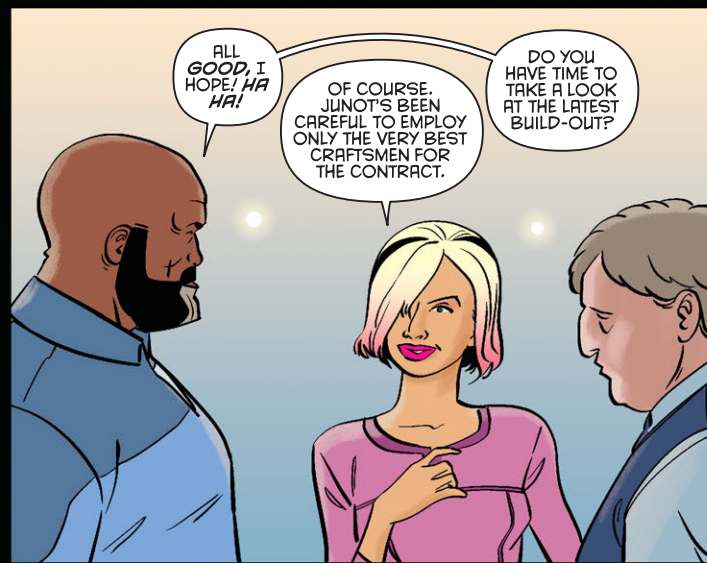
BIG HONOUR TO HAVE YOU INSPECT THE SITE!



MS JUNOT, THIS IS BEN OTIS, HE'S THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR GALINA.

HE TURNS MY DREAMS INTO REALITY.

MR OTIS, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU.



ALL GOOD, I HOPE! HA HA!

OF COURSE, JUNOT'S BEEN CAREFUL TO EMPLOY ONLY THE VERY BEST CRAFTSMEN FOR THE CONTRACT.

DO YOU HAVE TIME TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST BUILD-OUT?



HEY, KURTIS. YOU LANDED THE UNBRIDLED FUN OF GIVING MS BIG-SHOT THE GRAND TOUR?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE, GIBRANI?



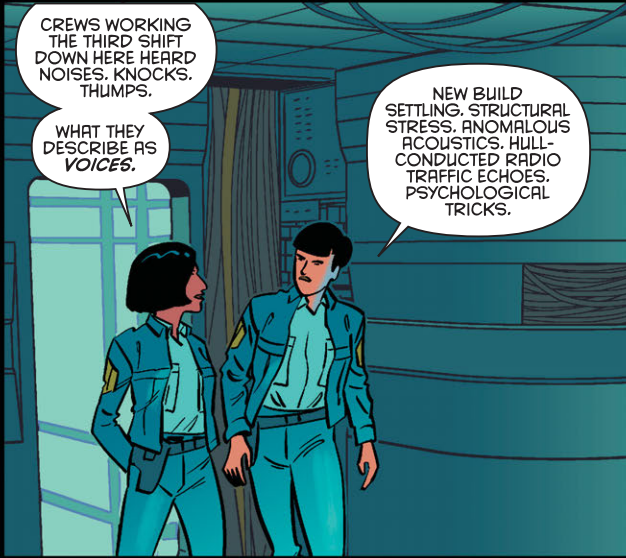
GOT SOME NEW REPORTS THIS MORNING. CAME DOWN TO INSPECT.

REPORTS?

DON'T MAKE ME SAY THE WORD.



MS JUNOT? I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



CREWS WORKING THE THIRD SHIFT DOWN HERE HEARD NOISES, KNOCKS, THUMPS.

WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS VOICES.

NEW BUILD SETTLING, STRUCTURAL STRESS, ANOMALOUS ACOUSTICS, HULL-CONDUCTED RADIO TRAFFIC ECHOES, PSYCHOLOGICAL TRICKS.



YOU'RE MAKING UP THE EXCUSES NOW?

NO, I'M JUST LISTING THE REGULAR EXPLANATIONS.

WHAT'S MS JUNOT LIKE?



SHE'S A SPECIALLY SPECIAL PERSON.

THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE.

THE MEN WHO MADE THE REPORTS WERE WORKING THIS SECTION.



WHAT'S DOWN THERE?

Um... LOOP 8 HEAT SINK, UNDER THAT, THE VENT RELAY.

NEITHER AREA IS COMPLETE. WORK ON THEM'S DUE TO COMMENCE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.



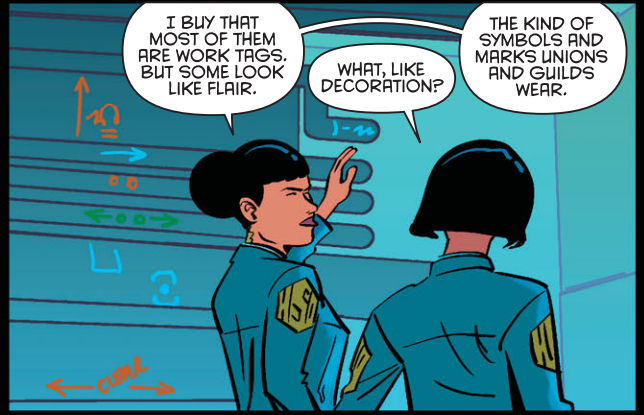
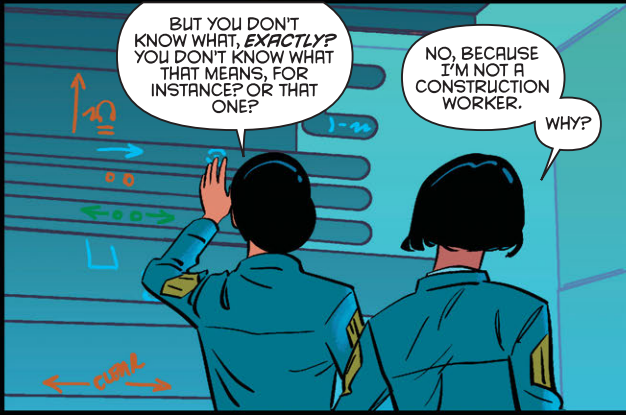
YOU EVER SEEN THESE BEFORE?

SURE, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.

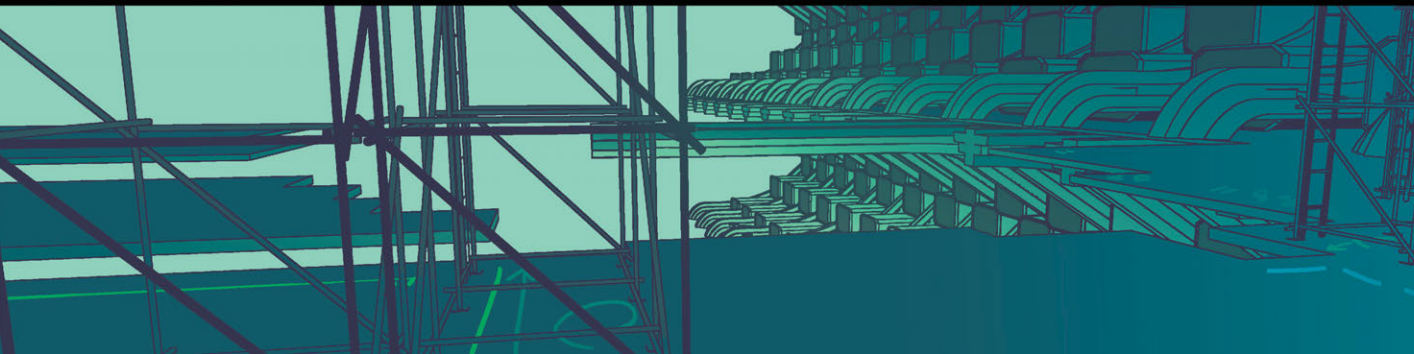
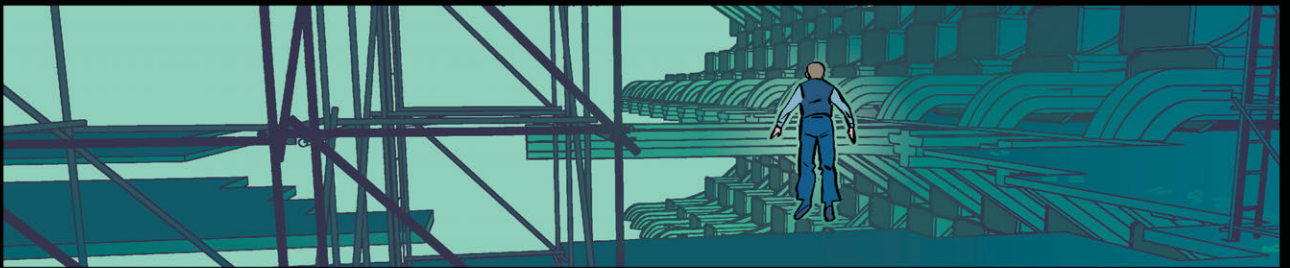
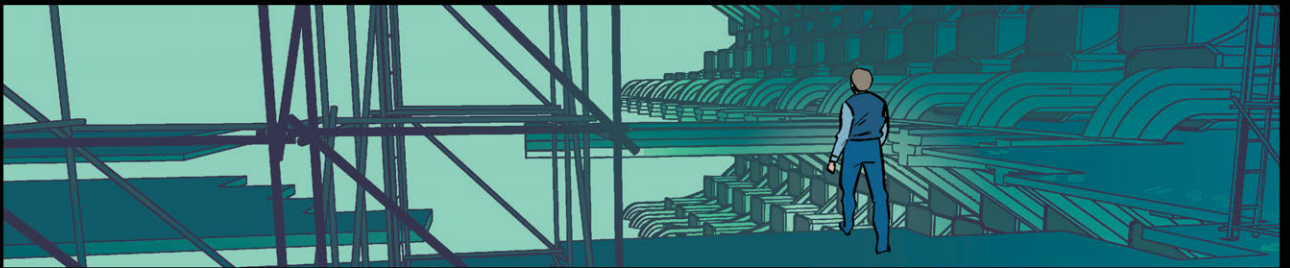
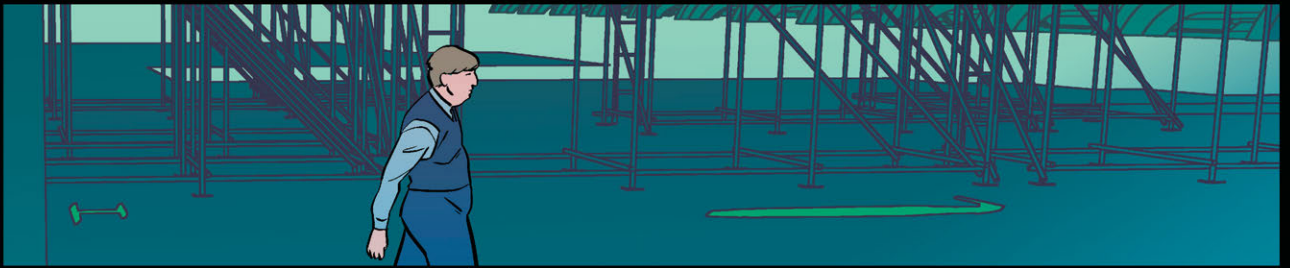


LINTON CALLED THEM CONSTRUCTION TAGS.

RIGHT. DRILL MARKERS, WELDING GUIDES.



Loop 8 construction office, 23.52 Hrs.





Kurtis's accommodation,  
Loop 3 residential, 00.45 Hrs.



JESUS,  
I CAN'T  
SLEEP IN  
HERE.



BDIP  
BDIP

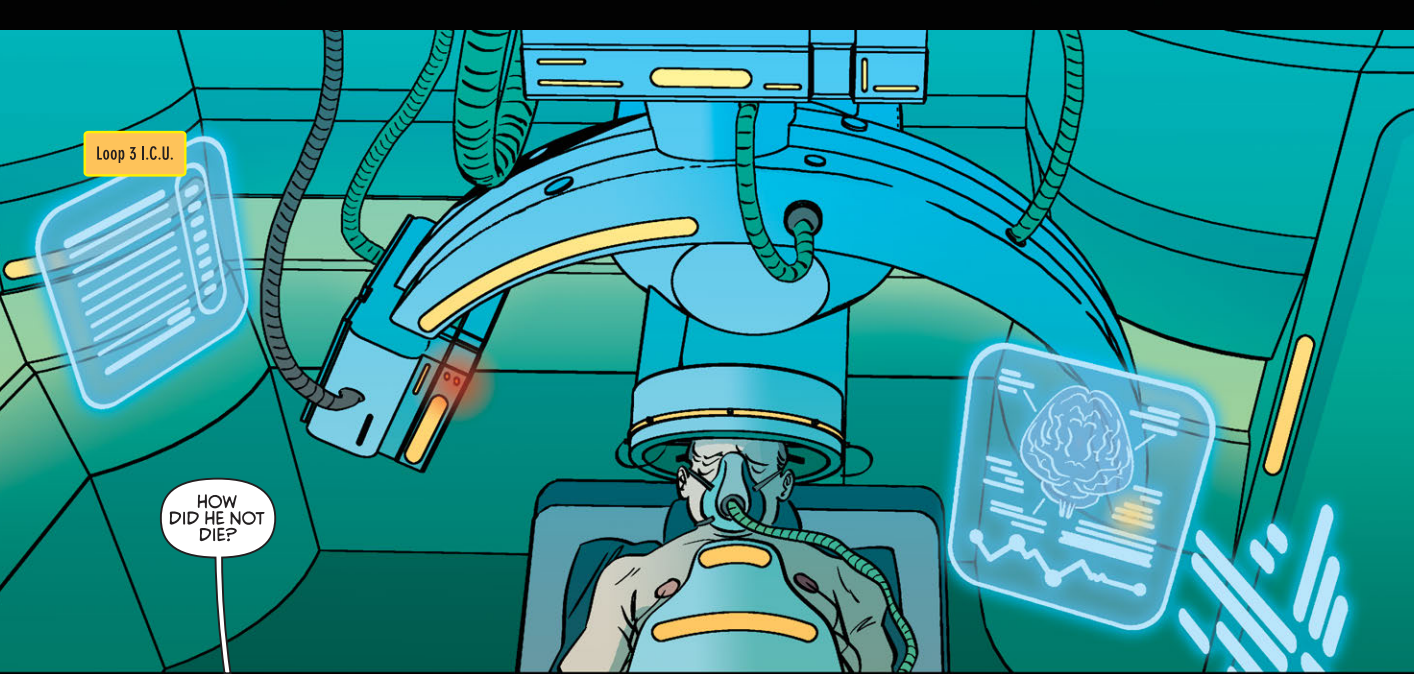


KURTIS.

IT'S GITA,  
CAN YOU  
COME DOWN  
HERE?

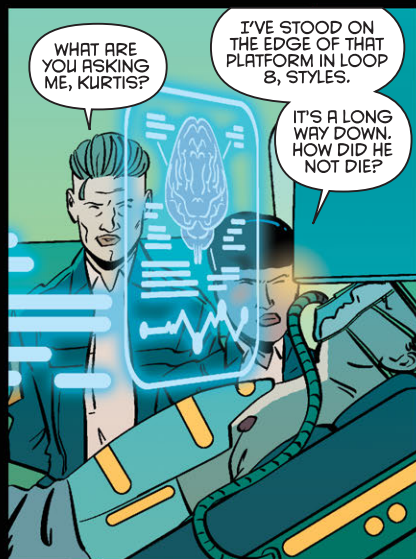
PETER LINTON  
JUST JUMPED  
OFF A PLATFORM  
IN LOOP 8.





Loop 3 I.C.U.

HOW DID HE NOT DIE?



WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME, KURTIS?

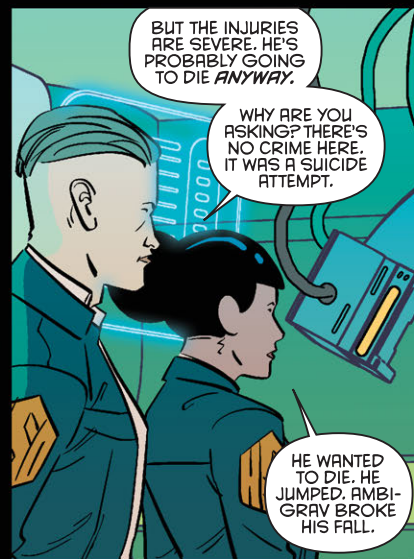
I'VE STOOD ON THE EDGE OF THAT PLATFORM IN LOOP 8, STYLES.

IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN. HOW DID HE NOT DIE?



APPARENTLY HE DIDN'T FALL ALL THE WAY. THE AMBI-GRAV SYSTEM FOLLOWS THE CURVE OF THE LOOP.

IT ARRESTED HIS FALL, AND HE GOT SUCKED INTO A VENT ABOUT TWENTY METRES DOWN.



BUT THE INJURIES ARE SEVERE. HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO DIE *ANYWAY*.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING? THERE'S NO CRIME HERE. IT WAS A SUICIDE ATTEMPT.

HE WANTED TO DIE. HE JUMPED. AMBI-GRAV BROKE HIS FALL.



YOU'D THINK HE'D KNOW THAT.



I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOUR LINE OF THOUGHT IS GOING.

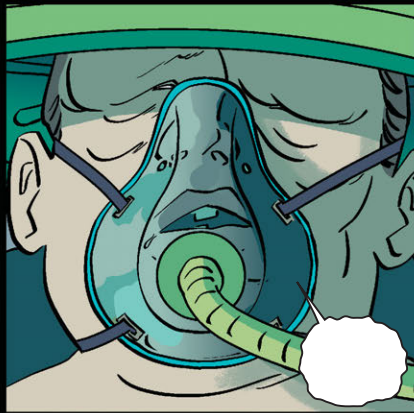
THIS IS A SUICIDE ATTEMPT. GOD, THE LAST THING WE NEED. THE CHIEF BLOODY ARCHITECT.

I'VE GOT TO FIND Ms JUNOT AND TRIAGE THIS DISASTER.





WHY, LINTON? WHY DID YOU DO IT?



P-PLANS  
IN DISARRAY.  
S-STRANGE--

--STRANGE  
SYMMETRY...



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?



WHERE  
ARE WE GOING?  
DID LINTON SAY  
SOMETHING?

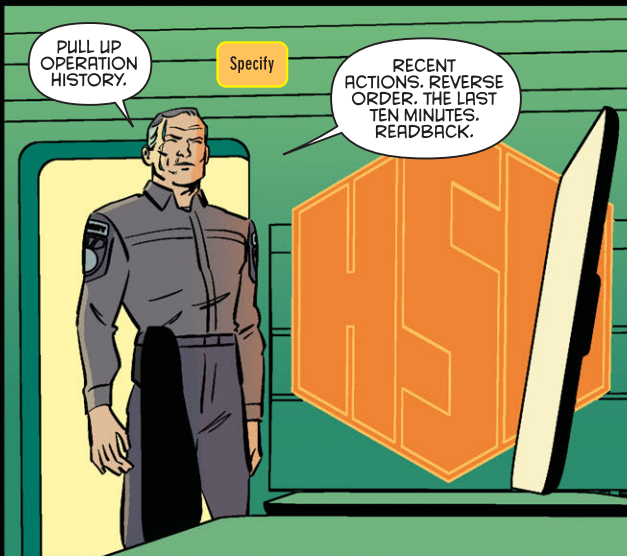
ENOUGH  
WITH THE  
QUESTIONS.



Habitat Security  
Division Operations  
suite, Loop 3

I WANT  
TO TAKE A LOOK AT  
THE CONSTRUCTION  
BLUEPRINTS.

NO CHANCE.  
YOU'D NEED  
FULL CLEARANCE  
FOR THAT.



Loop 8 construction zone

YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE BUILD?

I DON'T KNOW.



BUT YOU THINK--

LINTON WAS HAVING SOME SORT OF STRESS BREAKDOWN. HE SAID HIS PLANS WERE IN DISARRAY.



LOOK, THE FLOORPLANS... AND THE ORIGINAL BLUEPRINTS.

DO THEY LOOK LIKE THEY MATCH?

I...

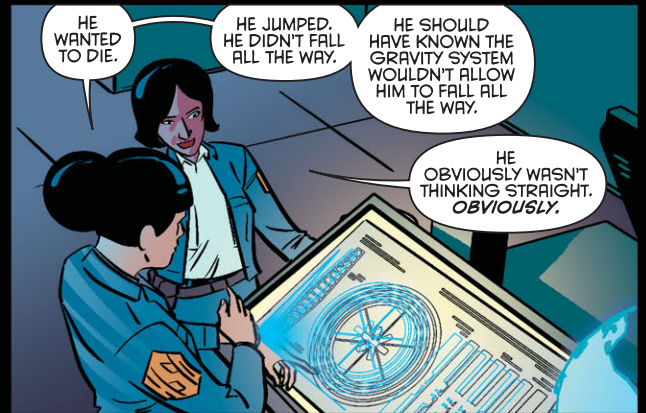
I HAVE NO IDEA. NEITHER HAVE YOU.



ARE YOU A HABITAT ARCHITECT? ARE YOU TRAINED TO READ THAT KIND OF DETAIL?

NO.

BUT LINTON WAS.



HE WANTED TO DIE.

HE JUMPED, HE DIDN'T FALL ALL THE WAY.

HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE GRAVITY SYSTEM WOULDN'T ALLOW HIM TO FALL ALL THE WAY.

HE OBVIOUSLY WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT. OBVIOUSLY.



THAT, OR THE AMBI-GRAV ISN'T SET THE WAY HE DESIGNED IT.

WHICH MEANS THE BUILD ISN'T THE WAY HE DESIGNED IT.

WHICH IS PROBABLY WHAT WAS STRESSING THE CRAP OUT OF HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.



YOU'RE WEIRD, KURTIS. ALL DAY LONG.

I'M GOING TO LOOK AT THE SUBLEVELS. COMING?



Loop 8 sublevel

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND?

YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ THIS KIND OF TECHNICAL DATA.



I WAS HOPING...

HOPING THE COMPARISON BETWEEN FLOORPLANS AND BLUEPRINTS MIGHT MAKE MORE SENSE IN THE FLESH.

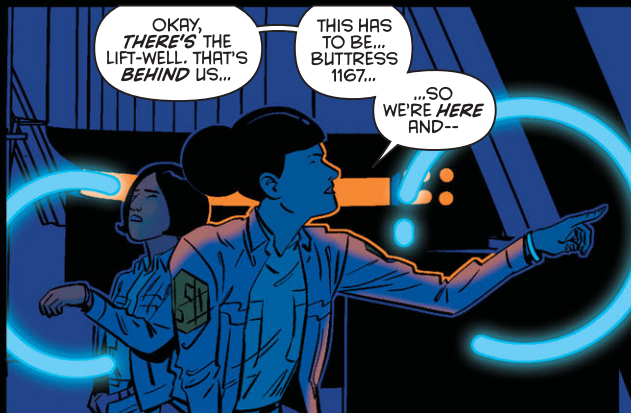
Y-HUH. DOES IT?



I DON'T KNOW.

IS THIS THAT?

NO IDEA.



OKAY, THERE'S THE LIFT-WELL. THAT'S BEHIND US...

THIS HAS TO BE... BUTTRISS 1167...

...SO WE'RE HERE AND--



SWEAR TO GOD, GIBRANI. I SWEAR TO GOD THIS WALL CURVES THE WRONG WAY.

KURTIS? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?



LOW THETA



OH SHIT.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

NOTHING.

BUT YOU'RE FREAKING OUT.



THERE'S ANOTHER ONE HERE.

KURTIS, WILL YOU STOP FOR ONE DAMN MINUTE AND EXPLAIN?

WHAT DOES "LOW THETA" MEAN?



I MEANS NOTHING. IT'S NONSENSE.

BUT--

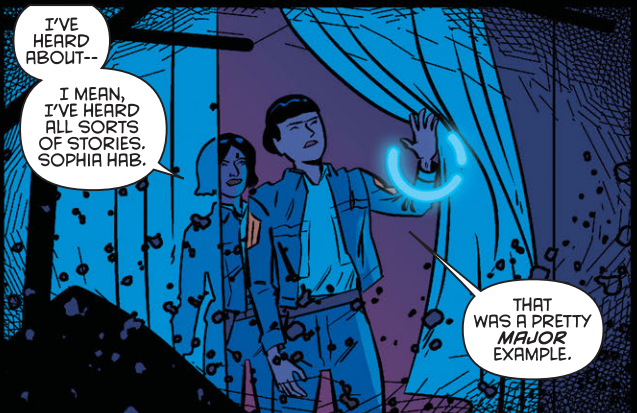
LOOK, IT BROUGHT UP SOME MEMORIES, OKAY? MY LAST MURDER CASE ON LUDMILLA. SUSPECTED SECT ACTIVITY.



YOUR FILE SAID IT WAS SOLVED.

WHAT? YES.

BUT GETTING THAT RESULT PUT ME IN FRONT OF A LOT OF SECT SHIT.



I'VE HEARD ABOUT--

I MEAN, I'VE HEARD ALL SORTS OF STORIES. SOPHIA HAB.

THAT WAS A PRETTY MAJOR EXAMPLE.



YOU BRIEFED ON SECT CRIME, GIBRANI?

WE DON'T--

NOT SO MUCH. WE HAVEN'T HAD THAT KIND OF PROBLEM ON YULIYA.

YOU PROBABLY HAVE.

IT'S WIDESPREAD.



IT'S LIKE CULT CRAP, RIGHT? CRAZY CULT CRAP. IDIOTS BELIEVING IN GIANT SPACE DEMONS--

YEAH, IT'S UTTER BULLSHIT.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, IT'S GENERATED BY THE SHIT LIVING CONDITIONS HERE ON THE BRINK. OVERCROWDING. ISOLATION. TOO MUCH HIGH-DOSE NUDGE...



...BUT THOSE THINGS, THEY SOMEHOW...

...SOMEHOW TAP INTO SOME SORT OF SHARED PSYCHOSIS. SOME KIND OF BURIED LIZARD BRAIN RESPONSE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SHARED"?



THERE'S A KIND OF LANGUAGE THAT RECURS. BULLSHIT WORDS AND PHRASES. LIKE THE CULTS HAVE A VOCABULARY OF THEIR OWN.

HOW COULD THEY--

I DON'T KNOW. BUT "LOW THETA" IS ONE OF THE PHRASES.



YOU... YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE OF--

LUDMILLA, YES. IT'S A SIGNIFIER. I THINK I'VE SEEN THE EYE OF VOVEK HERE TOO.

WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?

A SYMBOL. I WASN'T SURE.



WAIT WAIT WAIT--

THERE'S NO ONE *ON* THIS FRIGGING STATION. BARELY TWO THOUSAND.

SKELETON LIFE, KURTIS.

HOW DOES A FRIGGING SECT HIDE IN A POPULATION THAT *SMALL*?

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED.



OH, GO SCREW YOURSELF! YOU'RE TRYING TO MESS WITH ME!

PEOPLE SAY THEY SEE PEOPLE WHO SHOULDN'T BE HERE.



LOOK, NO WAY AM I BELIEVING THAT THERE'S SOME SATANIC CULT HIDING IN--



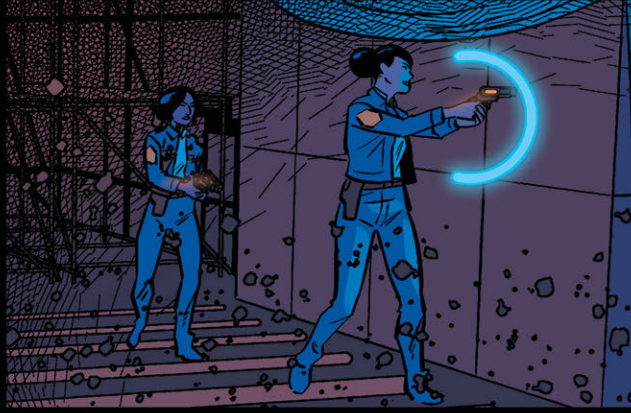
YOU HEAR THAT?



.40 SIGlock automatic, flatnose rounds

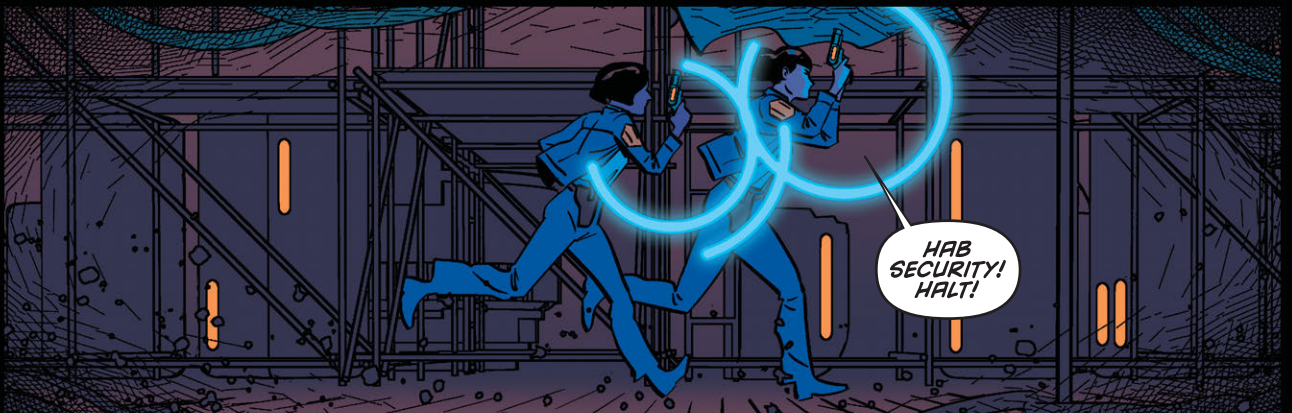
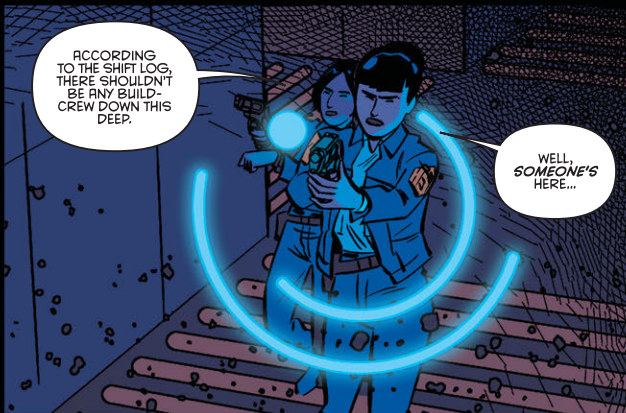


SCREW THIS, KURTIS. SCREW YOU.



THERE'S NOTHING DOWN HERE.

SHHHH!







DON'T MOVE.  
DO. NOT. MOVE.



PLEASE. NOT HURT.



DROP THE FRIGGING WRENCH AND WE'LL NOT HURT.



KLANG



YOU GOT A NAME?

NAME IS KYRIL.



NO IDENT ON THE CREW MANIFEST.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE TO WORK. TO BE BUILD.



OH SHIT.

SERIOUSLY?



YOU'RE HERE TO BUILD? TO WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION?

YES, TO CONSTRUCTION.



HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

COME IN SHIPMENT BOX. EVERY MONTH, EVERY MONTH...

YOU GET SHIPPED IN INSIDE CONTAINERS?

YES, VERY QUIET.



SIR, WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?

MEN WITH NO FACE.

NO FACE?



LIKE COVERED WITH...uh...uh...

MASKED?

YES, IS MASKED.



THEY GIVE US THE MONEY AND FOOD. FOR WE WORK.

BUT VERY QUIET, ALL THE TIME.

SIR, HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE?



ALL OF MANY.

JESUS.



OH, THIS IS GREAT. UNREGISTERED WORKERS.

NONE OF THEM HAVE TRACELET I.D., KURTIS.

CHEAP LABOUR. THESE PEOPLE ARE SO DESPERATE THEY'LL WORK FOR CRAP.



LOOK AT THIS. EMERGENCY RATION PACKS. "USE BY" WAS TWO YEARS AGO.

THEY'RE BASICALLY PAYING THEM IN FOOD.

THIS IS HUGE, KURTIS. YOU REALISE?

THE REPORT WILL SCREW JUNOT AND--



WAIT AND THINK.

THIS IS COST-CUTTING. DESPERATE COST-CUTTING TO SHAVE THE BUDGET.

SOMEONE HIGHER UP IS RUNNING THIS BECAUSE GALINA IS SINKING INTO OVERSPEND.

IT'S SLAVE LABOUR. MAKING THEM LIVE IN THE *BILGES* LIKE--



SOMEONE HIGHER UP, I SAID.

YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD SIT ON THIS?

KURTIS, THIS SHAFTS ABOUT A GAZILLION LABOUR LABOUR STATUTES, NOT TO MENTION--

WE FILE THIS, THEY'LL KNOW WE'RE ON TO THEM.

YEAH. HUMAN RIGHTS, TRAFFICKING, SAFETY LAWS... I GOT IT.

I'M JUST SAYING A FEW HOURS, ANOTHER DAY OR TWO TOPS.

ENOUGH TIME FOR US TO FOLLOW THE CRUMBS AND IDENTIFY THE BASTARDS AT THE TOP.

WE FILE THIS NOW, WE EVEN *HINT*, THEY'LL COVER THEIR ASSES.



WHERE... WHERE WOULD WE START?

WE TRACK HOW THEY'RE SHIPPING THEM IN. CONTAINERS. PROBABLY MARKED UP AS BUILD MATERIALS.

OKAY.

THIS IS THE BEST WAY.

OKAY.

I MEAN IT. THE BEST WAY FOR US *AND* FOR THESE PEOPLE.



IF I WAS ENOUGH OF A BASTARD TO RUN A SCAM LIKE THIS, AND I THOUGHT I WAS ABOUT TO GET CAUGHT...

...I'D BE THE KIND OF BASTARD TO BLOW THE LOCKS ON THE LOWER LOOP AND VOID THE EVIDENCE.



SIR? WE'RE GOING TO GET HELP FOR YOU. FOR EVERYONE HERE.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES.

IT MAY TAKE A FEW HOURS.



CARRY ON LIKE YOU WERE DOING. DON'T TELL ANYONE YOU'VE SPOKEN TO US.

DON'T TELL THE MEN, RIGHT?

YES.

AND WE'LL COME BACK HERE TO HELP YOU.



PLEASE.

WHAT?

WHERE HERE IS?



THIS-- THIS IS GALINA HABITAT.

WHERE GALINA HABITAT IS?



WE'LL BE BACK. A FEW HOURS. OKAY?



I WANT TO PUNCH SOMEONE IN THE NECK.

LET'S MAKE A LIST OF NAMES AND I'LL HOLD THEM FOR YOU.

Galina Habitat  
Owned: Junot Corp  
Completed: Under construction

Dock sixty-eight

L.T.V. ("Load Transfer Vehicle")  
Type: 690 Ditto model freight transport  
Year of manufacture: 2055 AD  
Route: Between Yuliya Habitat and Galina Construction Zone (as required)

YOU FOUND WHAT?

MIGRANT WORKERS. UNDOCUMENTED. LIVING LIKE RATS IN THE BILGE DECKS.

HOLY CRAP. HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

Philomena "Fil" Epps  
L.T.V. driver  
Born: Yuliya Habitat  
2069 AD

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T THINK IT WAS BY MAGIC.

WAIT. YOU DON'T THINK I--



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK. BUT THEY GOT HERE SOMEHOW.



ARE YOU ACCUSING ME?



NO. I'M ASKING YOU HOW IT COULD BE DONE.

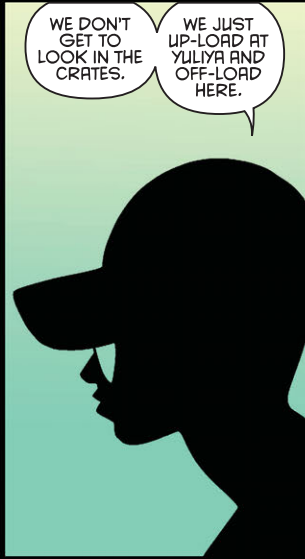
WELL...



THEY CAME ABOARD IN FREIGHT BOXES. ON THE MONTHLY RUN.



FREIGHT IS SEALED, KURTIS. L.T.V. DRIVERS LIKE ME JUST GET A MANIFEST.



WE DON'T GET TO LOOK IN THE CRATES.

WE JUST UP-LOAD AT YULIYA AND OFF-LOAD HERE.



SO YOU'D NEVER KNOW IF YOU WERE CARRYING...LIVE CARGO?



NO. THEY COULD LOAD THEM UP ON YULIYA, SEAL THEM IN, AND WE'D NEVER KNOW.



BUT AT THE OTHER END? HERE?

SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO OPEN THE CRATES. SOMEONE WOULD KNOW.

RIGHT. YOU KNOW...



...FROM TIME TO TIME, WE GET ROUTED TO THE BUILD AREAS TO DROP OFF.



YOU DON'T ALWAYS DELIVER TO THE MAIN BAYS?



NO. SOMETIMES THE DELIVERY SITES ARE AWAY FROM THE MAIN DOCK FACILITIES.





YOU THINK... YOU THINK THAT WAS PEOPLE IN MY CARGO?



YES.

GOD.



LOOK, HERE.

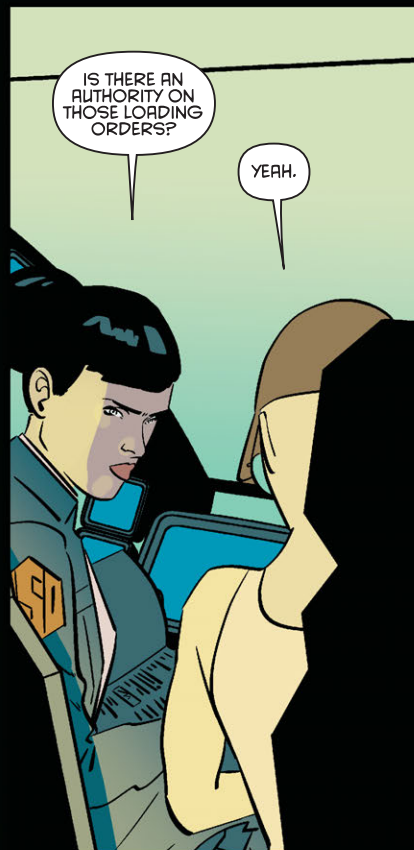
THE RECENT DROP-OFF SCHEDULE.

THESE ARE THE UNUSUAL DELIVERY SITES?



YEP. LOOP EIGHT INDUSTRIAL. LOOP NINE SERVICEWAY.

AND SEE HERE? LOOP TWELVE CONSTRUCTION. NONE OF THEM MAIN DOCKS.



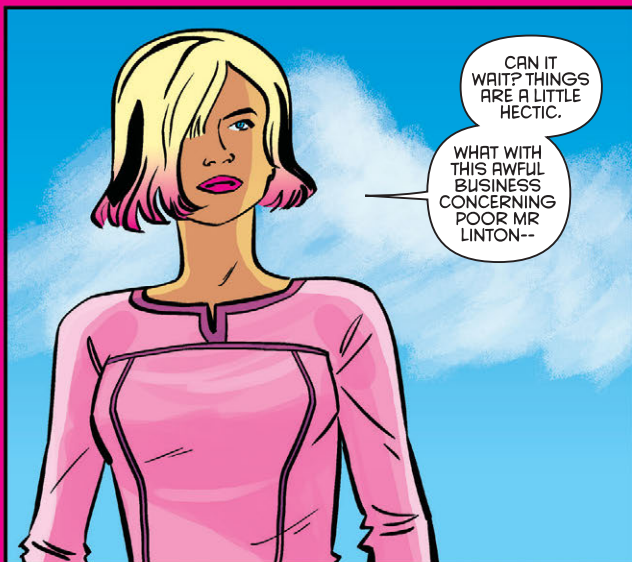
IS THERE AN AUTHORITY ON THOSE LOADING ORDERS?

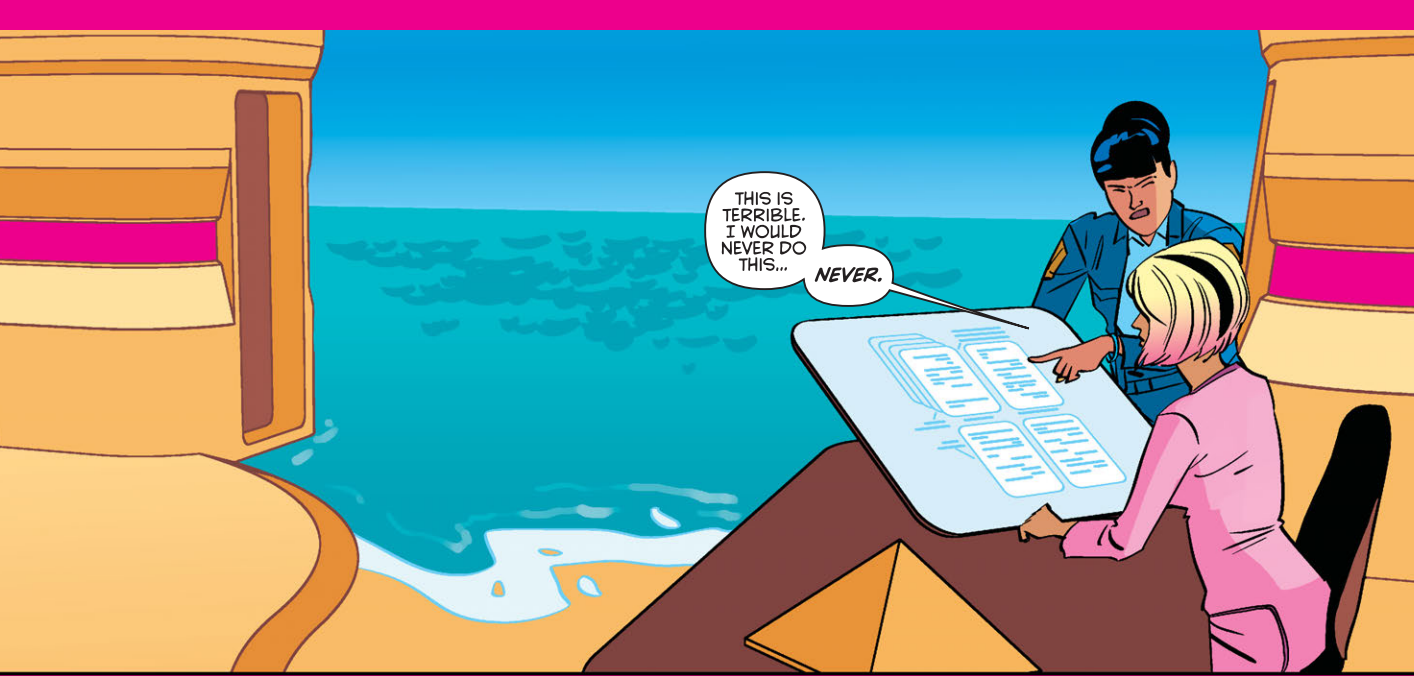
YEAH.



JUNOT CORPS. UPPER-LEVEL CLEARANCE.

THE PRINCESS HERSELF.





THIS IS TERRIBLE. I WOULD NEVER DO THIS... NEVER.

THE GALINA PROJECT IS MASSIVELY BEHIND SCHEDULE. JUNOT CORP IS LOSING MILLIONS EVERY DAY.

YOU'RE IN THE HOT SEAT SINCE YOUR FATHER VANISHED.

YOU'RE FIGHTING THE BOARD. YOU'RE STAVING OFF INVESTORS.

YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS ALIVE.

LIKE SMUGGLE IN SLAVES TO SHAVE BUILD COSTS?

THAT'S *INHUMAN*. I'M SORRY YOU THINK I'M CAPABLE OF IT, KURTIS.

AND IF I *WAS* THAT RUTHLESS, DON'T YOU THINK I'D HAVE AVOIDED USING MY OWN CLEARANCE CODES TO FAST-TRACK THE SHIPPING?

IT'S HAM-FISTED. I GUESS I THOUGHT PEOPLE LIKE YOU--

PLEASE DON'T FINISH THAT.

KURTIS, I'M NOT A VERY GOOD CEO. I'VE BEEN PUSHED INTO THIS AND I'M LEARNING ON THE JOB.

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS--

I'M AWARE MY LIFE IS ONE OF PRIVILEGE. IT'S BEEN EASY.

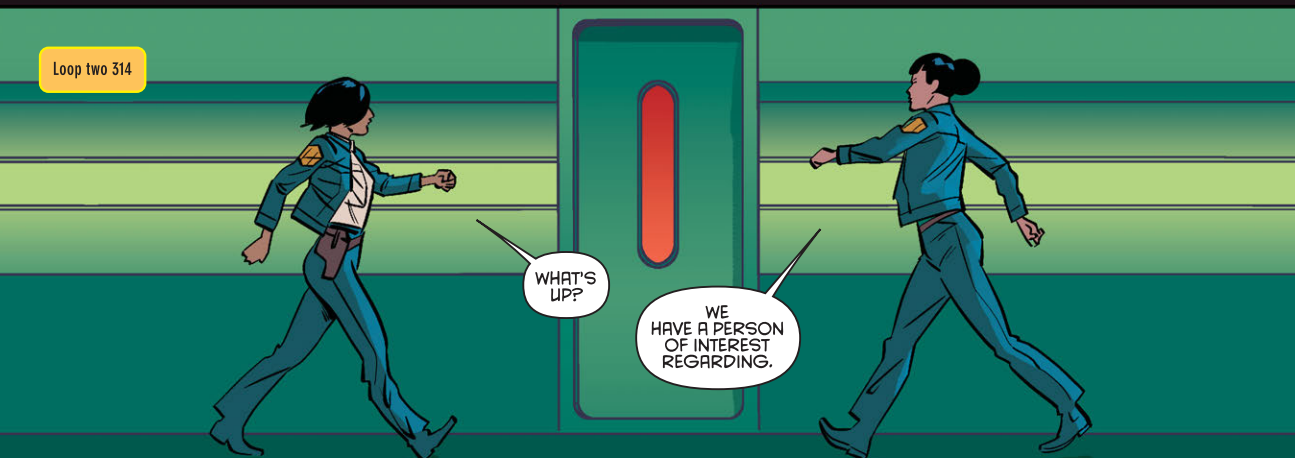
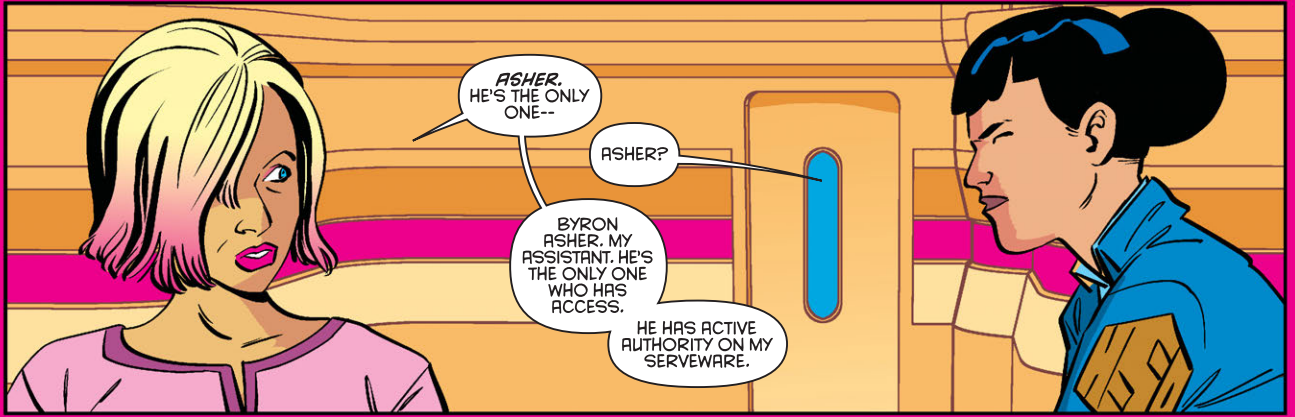
BUT I'M NOT *STUPID*. I DON'T THINK I CAN JUST DO WHATEVER I LIKE.

AND IF I *DID*, I'D DAMN WELL COVER MY TRACKS.

SO WHAT? IT'S SOMEONE ELSE?

SOMEONE ELSE USED YOUR CODES?

WHO?







NGHHH!



OKAY!  
OKAY!



UCHHH!



HE *MAY* HAVE SURRENDERED.

YEAH. MY FIST SLIPPED.

I WAS PROBABLY MISTAKEN.



YOU USED HER CODE. **MARIAM'S** CODE.

-HKKK!  
-HKKK!  
-HKKK!

I-I WAS TOLD--



THAT AN ADMISSION?

Y-YES.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?



NOTHING. EXCEPT MY JOB. MY LIFE.

I WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM THE BOARD.

THE JUNOT BOARD?

WHAT? TO BE AN IDIOT AND RUN THE WORST ILLEGALS SCAM EVER?



I JUST DID WHAT THEY TOLD ME TO DO!

I THINK IT'S A SNOW JOB.

TO DISGRACE MARIAM?



WHY ELSE WOULD THEY HAVE LEFT THE BREADCRUMBS?

THE BOARD WANTS HER PUSHED OUT. CLEAN HOUSE FOR A BUY-OUT.

THEN WHY THE HELL DID YOU GET HER ON BOARD GALINA, ASHER?

I WAS JUST TOLD TO--



KURTIS? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

DISGRACE ISN'T WORKING. THAT PLAN'S NOT DELIVERING FAST ENOUGH.

AGAIN, WHAT?



THEY WANT HER ACTUALLY GONE.

GETTING HER HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY.

TO WHAT?

OH BALLBAGS. THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HER.

Loop three residential.

KURTIS?  
WHAT DID YOU--

--oh.

MR OTIS.  
MR STYLES.  
CAN I HELP YOU?

WHY WERE YOU ASKING ABOUT KURTIS?

NEVER MIND THAT.

Benjamin Otis  
Construction manager, Galina crew.

Timothy Styles  
Coordinator, Habitat Security Division (Galina)

WE NEED YOU TO COME WITH US, MS JUNOT.

WHAT? WHY?

IT'S AN EMERGENCY.

YES, AN EMERGENCY.

WHY DID YOU MENTION KURTIS?

SHE... SHE'S LOOKING INTO SOMETHING FOR ME. SHE--

Um.

STYLES? NOT HERE.

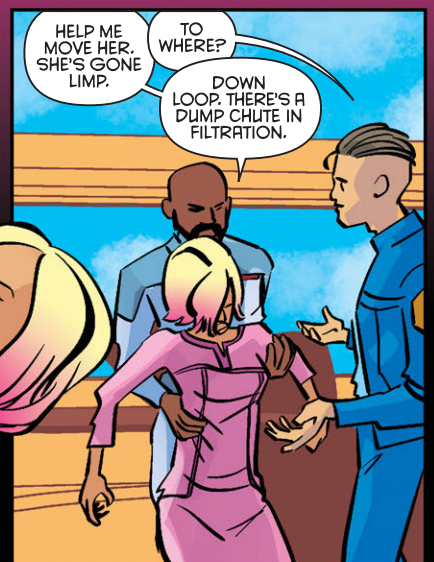
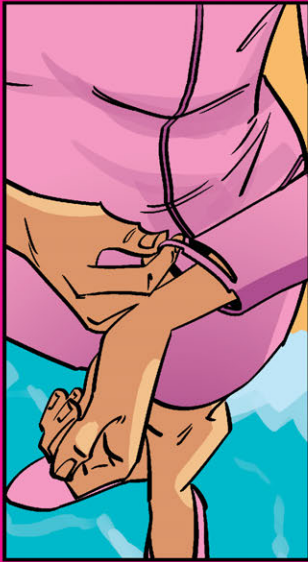
YOU NEED TO GIVE ME YOUR TRACELET, MS JUNOT.

WHY ON EARTH WOULD I DO THAT?

THERE COULD BE A PROBLEM.

WITH KURTIS.

SHE MIGHT BE TRACKING YOU.



THANK YOU.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE NEED YOU TO MOVE LOCATION.

WAIT. NO. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

Ms JUNOT--

NOT UNTIL YOU EXPLAIN WHAT--

SCREW THIS. SHE'S NOT PLAYING BALL.

AAAHH--!

JESUS, OTIS!

MOVE.

YOU'RE HURTING M--

MOVE.

GET OFF ME!

DAMMIT--

YOU BASTARDS! I'LL HAVE YOUR JOBS!

NNFF!

NO CORP WILL TOUCH YOU! YOU'LL BE DOING SCUT WORK IN THE BILGES OF SOME ASSHOLE HAB FOR THE REST OF YOUR L--

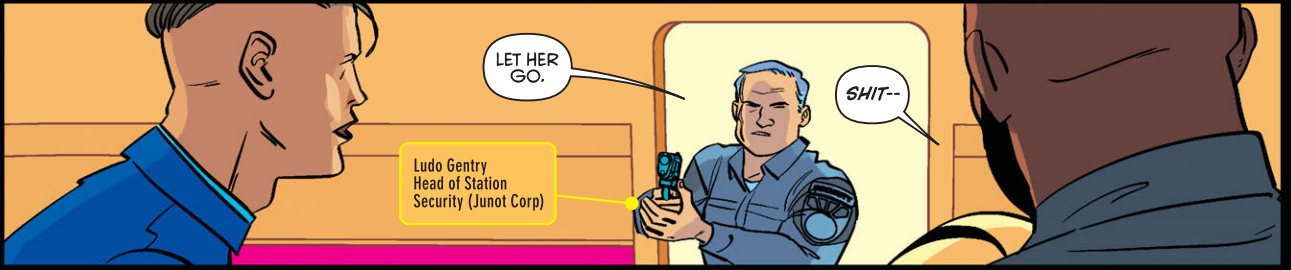
OH SHUT UP.

SMACK

HELP ME MOVE HER. SHE'S GONE LIMP.

TO WHERE?

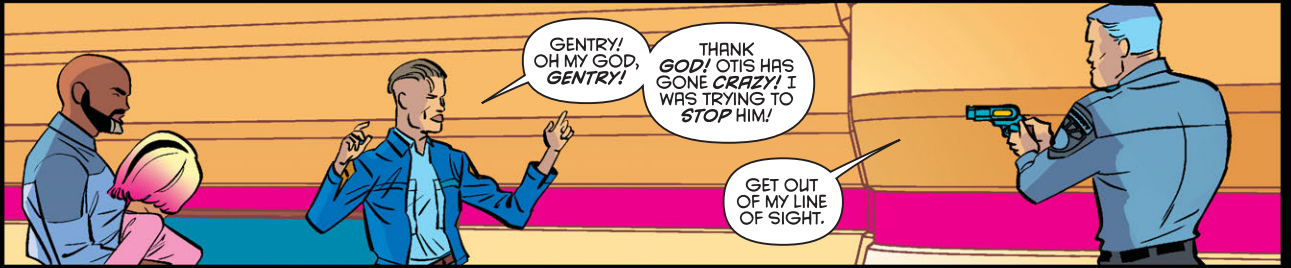
DOWN LOOP. THERE'S A DUMP CHUTE IN FILTRATION.



Ludo Gentry  
Head of Station  
Security (Junot Corp)

LET HER  
GO.

SHIT--



GENTRY!  
OH MY GOD,  
GENTRY!

THANK  
GOD! OTIS HAS  
GONE CRAZY! I  
WAS TRYING TO  
STOP HIM!

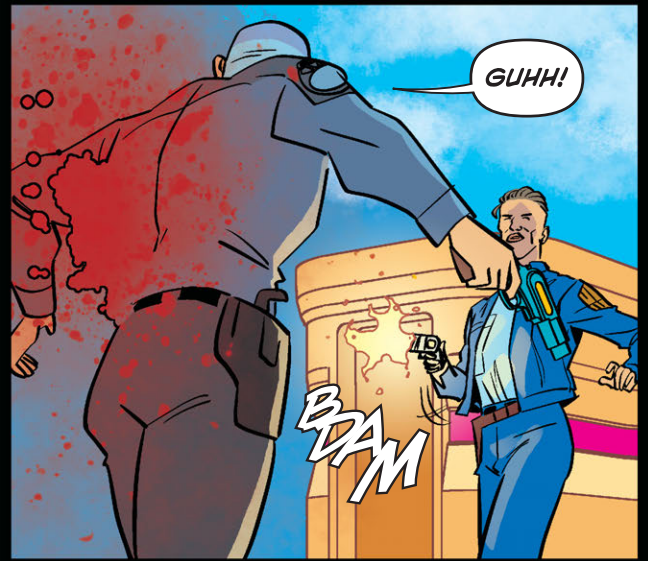
GET OUT  
OF MY LINE  
OF SIGHT.



OTIS--

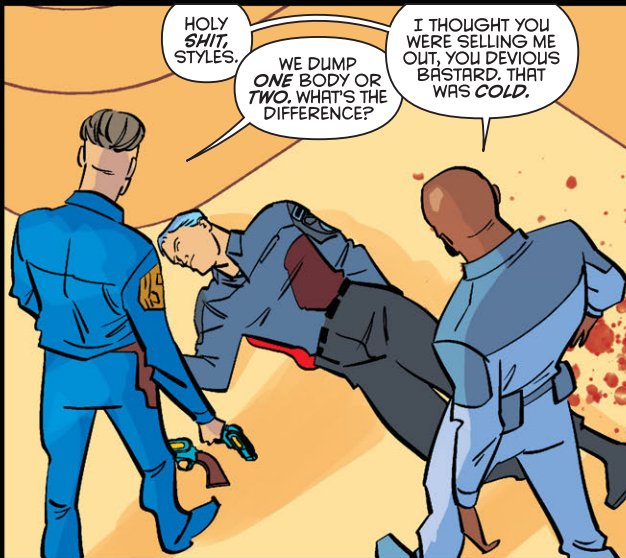
ARREST  
HIM! DO  
IT!

JESUS,  
STYLES,  
YOU SON  
OF A--



GUHH!

BAM



HOLY  
SHIT,  
STYLES.

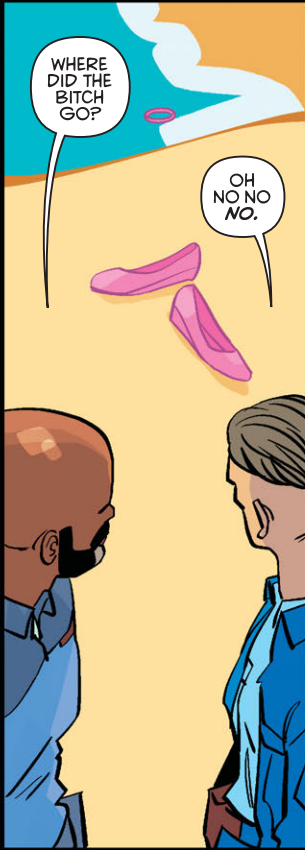
WE DUMP  
ONE BODY OR  
TWO, WHAT'S  
THE  
DIFFERENCE?

I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
SELLING ME  
OUT, YOU  
DEVIUS  
BASTARD.  
THAT  
WAS COLD.



THERE'S A  
GREAT DEAL  
AT STAKE.

I KNOW,  
BUT--  
CRAP.





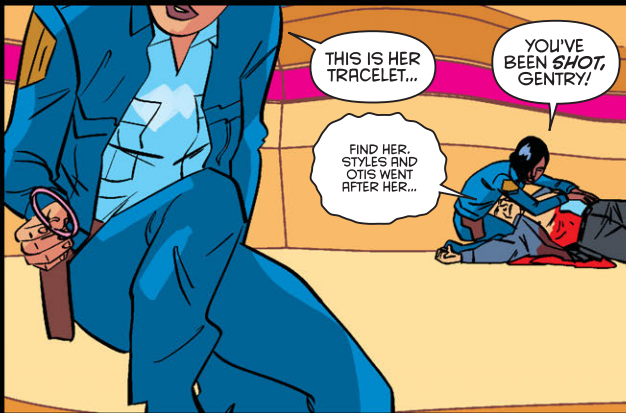
GENTRY?  
GENTRY?

GNW...IT  
WAS STYLES,  
STYLES AND  
OTIS...



WHERE'S  
MARIAM?

SHE TOOK  
OFF. SMART  
OF HER.



THIS IS HER  
TRACELET...

YOU'VE  
BEEN **SHOT**,  
GENTRY!

FIND HER.  
STYLES AND  
OTIS WENT  
AFTER HER...



JUST  
BLOODY FIND  
HER BEFORE  
*THEY* DO.

I CAN'T  
RAISE  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE.



STYLES WILL  
HAVE BLOCKED  
IT. HE HAS  
AUTHORITY.

I CAN'T  
**BELIEVE**  
STYLES  
IS--

JUST  
GIVE ME THE  
DAMN MED-KIT  
AND GO **FIND**  
HER!

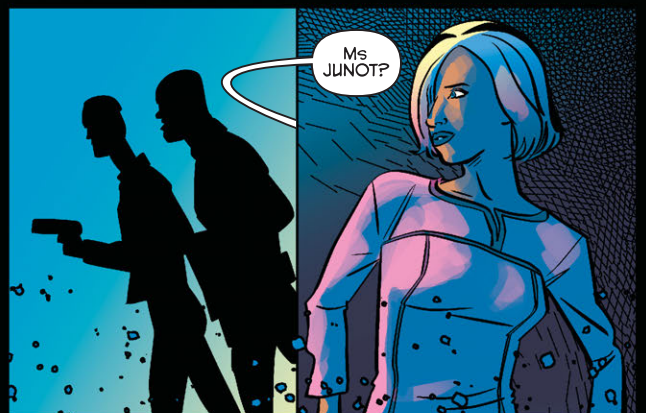


YOU  
HEARD  
HIM.



Ms  
JUNOT?

WE  
KNOW YOU'RE  
HERE. THERE'S  
NO POINT  
HIDING.



Ms  
JUNOT?



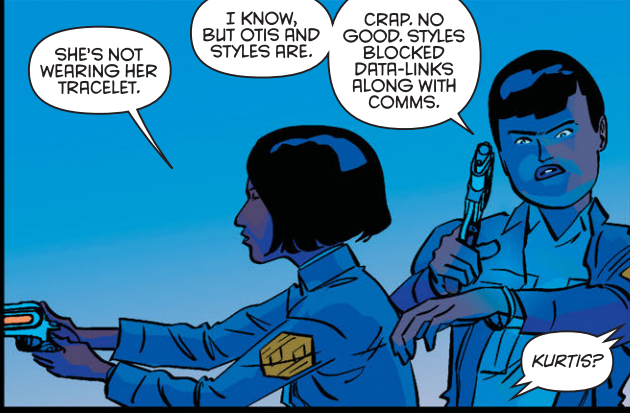
HOW THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO FIND HER, KURTIS?

SHE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR...



YEAH, BUT THIS PLACE IS HUGE. SHE COULD HAVE GONE ANYWHERE.

I WISH WE COULD GET A FIX.



SHE'S NOT WEARING HER TRACELET.

I KNOW, BUT OTIS AND STYLES ARE.

CRAP. NO GOOD. STYLES BLOCKED DATA-LINKS ALONG WITH COMMS.

KURTIS?



GENTRY?

YOU SHOULD BE IN MEDICAL.

YEAH.

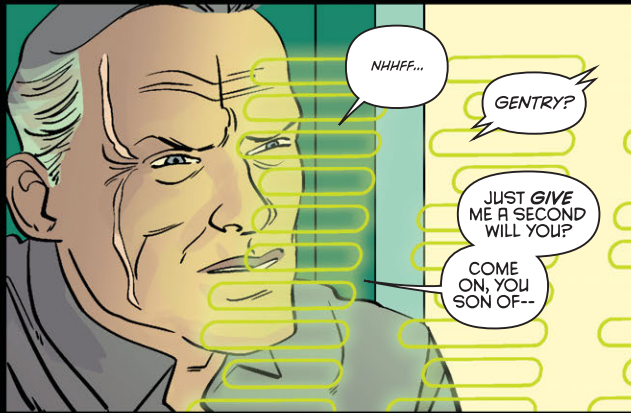


THAT CAN WAIT.

I'M IN THE SECURITY SUITE. I'VE LIFTED THE TEMPORARY BLOCK STYLES PUT ON COMMS.

DO YOU HAVE DATA-LINK? I NEED A LOCATION FOR OTIS AND STYLES.

HANG ON. HE'S RESTRICTED EVERYTHING.



NHFF...

GENTRY?

JUST GIVE ME A SECOND WILL YOU?

COME ON, YOU SON OF--



GENTRY, GET TO MEDICAL--

CAN YOU LINK THAT TO MY TRACELET?

SHUT UP.

NOT YET.

OKAY, DATA'S SHOWING OTIS AND STYLES IN THE LOOP 4 BUILD AREA.

DOESN'T MATTER. I KNOW THE WAY.

Loop 4  
construction  
zone.

Ms  
JUNOT?  
GET  
OUT HERE.  
THIS ISN'T  
FUNNY ANY  
MORE.

Ms JUNOT?  
MARIAM?  
WE CAN  
OFFER YOU  
A WAY *OUT*  
OF THIS.

SMELL THAT?  
ANY OF YOUR  
CREW WEAR  
GIVENCHY?

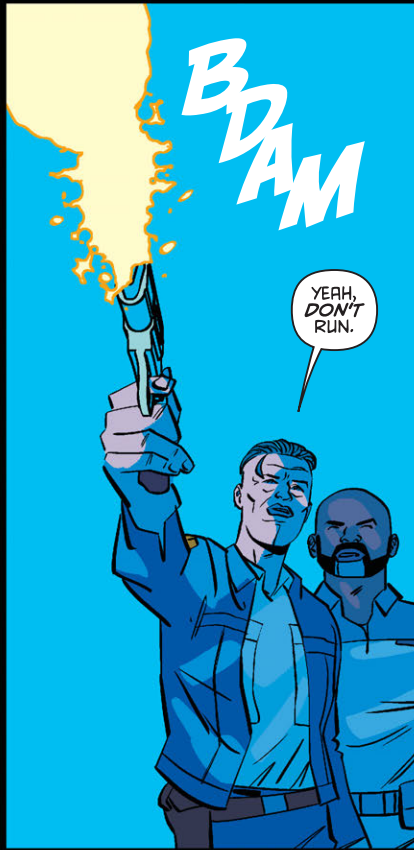
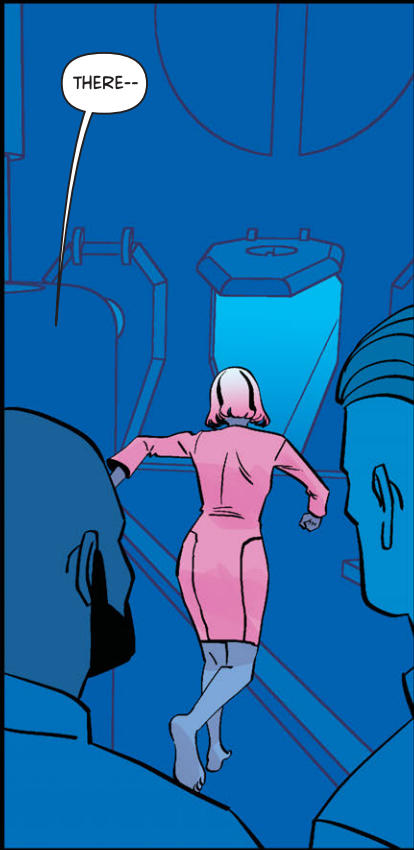
Hah.  
NO.

BACK  
THERE.

OH  
GOD!

**BDAMBDAM**

**BDAMBDAMBDAM**

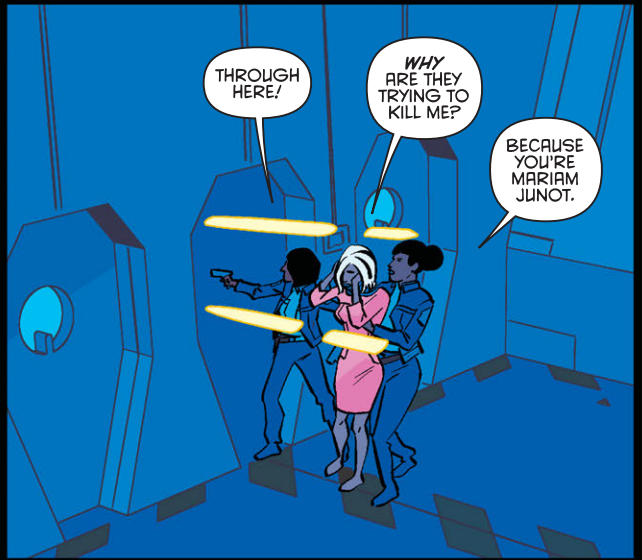




THIS WAY!

THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME!

A-DUH.



THROUGH HERE!

WHY ARE THEY TRYING TO KILL ME?

BECAUSE YOU'RE MARIAM JUNOT.



STAND CLEAR!



DAMMIT!

KTUNNG

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!



THAT LITTLE BITCH GIBRANI! SHE PULLED THE MANUAL RELEASE ON THE SHUTTER!

FORGET IT, STYLES. JUST LOCK DOWN ALL THE OTHER EXITS TO THAT COMPARTMENT, OKAY?

OKAY.



GENTRY? WE'VE GOT HER!

WE'RE IN--

4 SEVEN FORTY-ONE.

--4 SEVEN FORTY-ONE.

AH, JESUS...



STYLES JUST SEALED THAT COMPARTMENT. ALL EXITS. I CAN'T OVERRIDE. I--



KURTIS?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?



CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA. EMERGENCY EJECTION SYSTEM ARMED.

WHAT THE HELL...?



SET?

ARMED AND COUNTING.

THEY'RE LOCKED IN THERE.



CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

THE EXPLOSIVE BOLTS...THE FRIGGING MANIACS HAVE ARMED THE EXPLOSIVE BOLTS!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



FIVE-MINUTE COUNT.

OKAY, JOB DONE.



CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

IT'S ON A FIVE-MINUTE TIMER! I CAN'T TURN IT OFF!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THE COMPARTMENTS ARE MODULAR. IN AN EMERGENCY, YOU CAN BLOW THE BOLTS AND EJECT A WHOLE SECTION INTO SPACE.

THEY'RE BLOWING THE BOLTS.



YES, BUT WHAT--

IT MEANS WE'RE DEAD.

WE'RE STUCK IN HERE AND IT'S GOING TO BLOW AND VOID!



CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

T-THIS IS MURDER. THIS IS JUST MURDER.

OH, THEY'LL CHALK IT UP TO AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT.

4.7.41



BUT--

HIGH-HAZ ENVIRONMENT, YOU SILLY BITCH.

THOSE A-HOLES STYLES AND OTIS HAVE GOT US C--

QUIT IT, BOTH OF YOU. WE CAN'T CANCEL THIS CLOCK.



GENTRY? YOU STILL THERE?



GENTRY?



DAMMIT.

WHAT NOW?

CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

I'M THINKING.

ARE THERE SUITS? EVA SUITS? GO LOOK.



YEAH, THERE'S A RACK--



GRAB THEM.

FIL? THIS IS KURTIS? FIL, ARE YOU STILL ON STATION?



COPY THAT, KURTIS.

HOW'S IT GOING WITH--

I'M SEALED IN 4 SEVEN FORTY-ONE. IT'S ABOUT TO VOID.



IT'S ABOUT TO WHAT?

JESUS, FIL! I NEED EXTRACTION TIMES THREE INSIDE THREE MINUTES! CAN YOU ASSIST?

BURNING HARD.

I'LL BE ON LOCATION IN...NINETY SECONDS.

IT'LL BE TIGHT.

SUIT UP.

CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

HOW DOES THIS EVEN WORK?

STRAP IT THERE! THERE!

I'LL CLOSE YOUR SEALS.

NINETY SECONDS IS GOING TO BE TIGHT, FIL.

AM AWARE. I CAN'T CUT INTO YOU, YOU REALISE? NO HULL TORCHES ON THIS RIG.

WE'LL BE OUTSIDE. I'LL OPEN THE HULL LOCK.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, KURTIS?

MAKING IT UP AS I GO ALONG.

CAN YOU DECOMPRESS?

NO. I DON'T KNOW.

IF YOU CAN'T, HOLD TIGHT FOR THE PRESSURE BANG OR YOU'LL SPIN OFF LIKE LOST FARTS AND I'LL NEVER CATCH YOU.

GOT IT.

TIGHTEN IT HERE. LIKE THIS.

THREE OF YOU?

ME, GIBRANI AND MARIAM JUNOT.

ARE YOU SHITTING ME?

THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US.

WHO ARE?

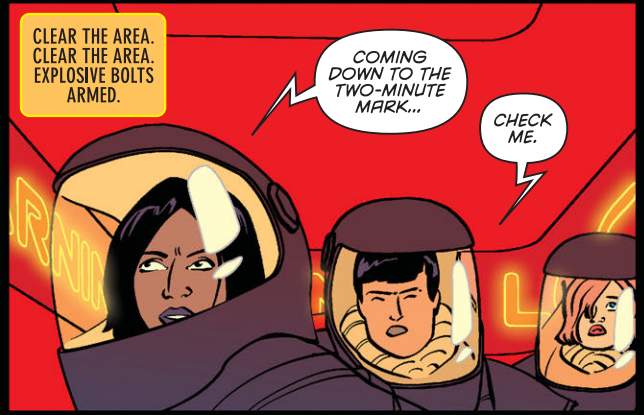
NOT NOW.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP ASKING ME THAT?

NO, I ABSOLUTELY DON'T.



COMING DOWN TO THE TWO-MINUTE MARK...

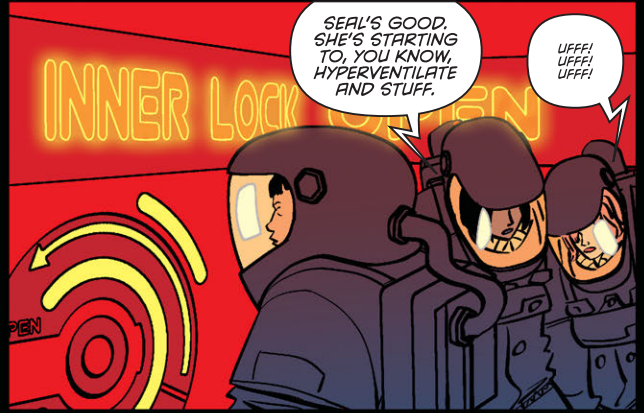
CHECK ME.



DID YOU CHECK HER?

NO, SHE'S FINE.

CHECK HER.



UFFFI! UFFFI! UFFFI!



COME ON, KURTIS.

HOLD TIGHT.





JESUS--

AHHHH!  
THIS IS  
BULLSHIT!

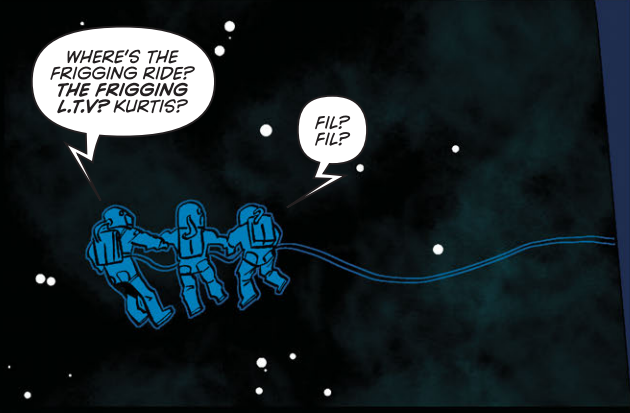
UFFF!  
UFFF! UFFF!



COME  
ON, HELP  
HER!

UFFF!  
UFFF!  
UFFF!

SHIT.  
BASTARD.  
BOLLOCKS.



WHERE'S THE  
FRIGGING RIDE?  
THE FRIGGING  
L.T.V.P KURTIS?

FIL?  
FIL?



OH,  
KEEP YOUR  
KNICKERS  
ON.



ALL  
ABOARD,  
LADIES.



FASTER  
THAN  
THAT.

GITA!  
HELP  
HER!

MOVE  
YOUR ARMS!  
MOVE YOUR  
ARMS!



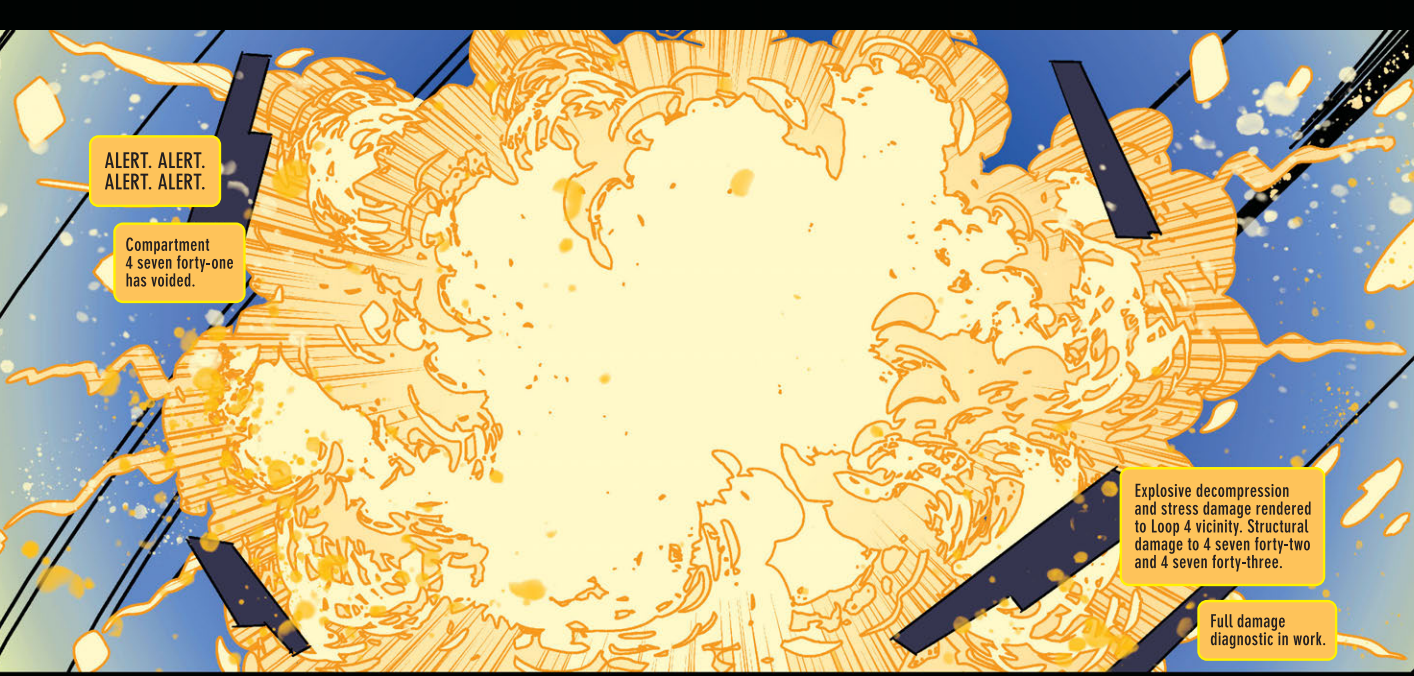
FLOOR  
IT, FIL.

GOTCHA.



LOUD  
PEDAL DOWN  
AND--



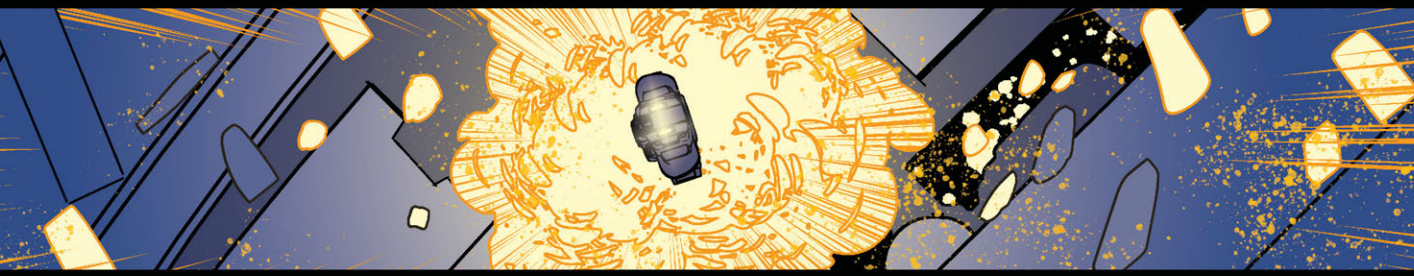


ALERT. ALERT.  
ALERT. ALERT.

Compartment  
4 seven forty-one  
has voided.

Explosive decompression  
and stress damage rendered  
to Loop 4 vicinity. Structural  
damage to 4 seven forty-two  
and 4 seven forty-three.

Full damage  
diagnostic in work.

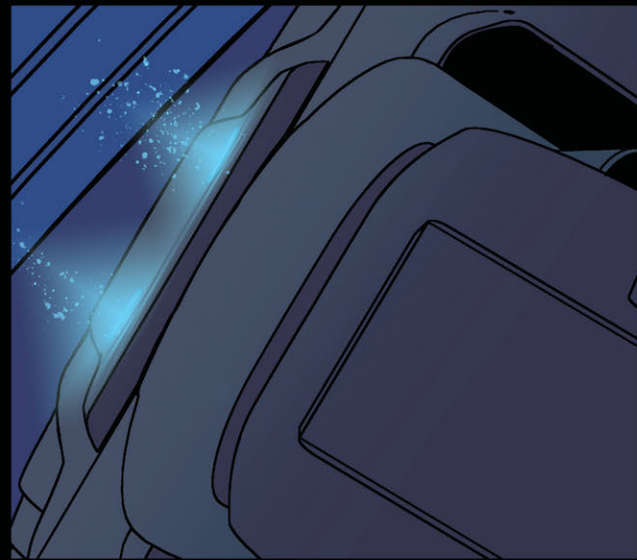


OKAY.  
OKAY.  
I GOT  
HER. *SHIT.*



SO GOTTA  
ARREST THIS  
TUMBLE...

BURNING  
FOR ATTITUDE  
CORRECTION!  
HOLD ON!





ALL RIGHT, THEN.

*SHEEEZ*, THAT WAS CLOSE. EVERYONE OKAY?



SWELL.



FIL, GET US INTO DOCK FAST.

COPY THAT.

*GUUHH!*

THIS IS...THIS IS...

TAKE IT EASY, MA'AM.



I WANT HSD IN ON THIS IMMEDIATELY! KURTIS, *CALL* THEM! THIS IS BEYOND A PRIVATE SECURITY REMIT!

I AM HSD.

THAT WAS A MURDER ATTEMPT! *ASSASSINATION!* I WANT HSD TO--



YOU--

WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KURTIS?



I'M HSD. *STILL.*

BUT YOU SAID--

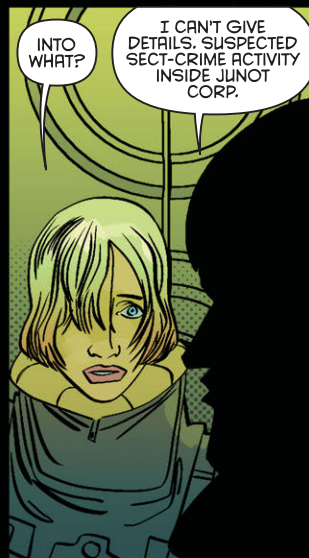
COVER STORY, GIBRANI. SORRY.



I WASN'T RETIRED AFTER THE LUDMILLA CASE. I WAS TRANSFERRED BY REVIEW TO SPECIAL CRIMES.

YOU'RE UNDERCOVER? A COP POSING AS A *COP*? WHY THE F--

I WAS POSTED HERE AS AN INSERT. PART OF A MAJOR ONGOING INVESTIGATION.



INTO WHAT?

I CAN'T GIVE DETAILS. SUSPECTED SECT-CRIME ACTIVITY INSIDE JUNOT CORP.



*MY* BUSINESS?



TRACE LUDO GENTRY. GET FIRST RESPONDERS TO HIM FAST.

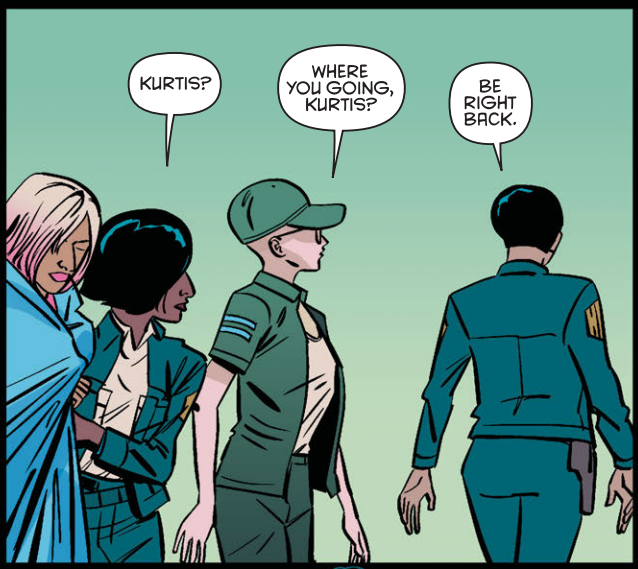
YES, MA'AM.

I MEAN FAST.



GIBRANI? GET Ms JUNOT SECURE. GUARD HER WITH YOUR LIFE.

OKAY, BUT--



KURTIS?

WHERE YOU GOING, KURTIS?

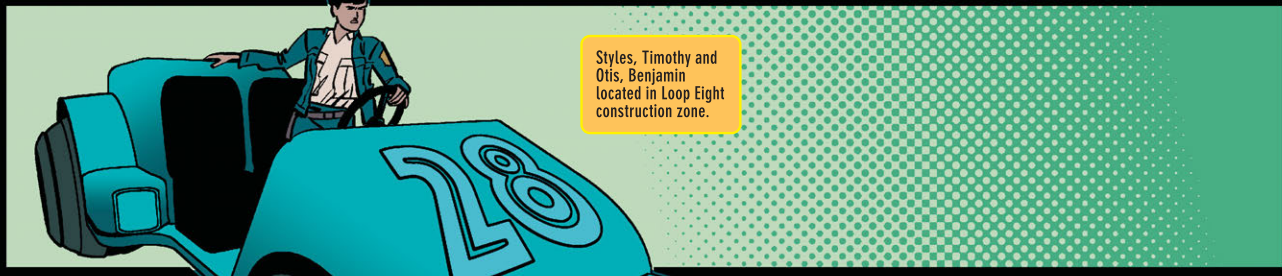
BE RIGHT BACK.



IS THE DATA BLOCK CANCELLED?

Data block rescinded three minutes ago. Authority: Styles, Timothy.

LOCATE TIMOTHY STYLES AND BENJAMIN OTIS.



Styles, Timothy and Otis, Benjamin located in Loop Eight construction zone.



WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS STUFF? DO WE HAVE TO JUNK IT?



NO. HIDE IT SOMEWHERE.

WHERE?

I DON'T KNOW, OTIS. IT'S A **BIG** BLOODY PLACE. FIND A DARK CORNER.



I DUNNO--

WAKE UP, MARIAM JUNOT'S DEAD. WE GOT WHAT WE WANTED. PEOPLE WILL BE PLEASED.

BUT A DEATH **THAT** HIGH PROFILE... HSD IS GOING TO PICK GALINA OVER. THEY'LL WANT TO CONFIRM IT **WAS** JUST AN ACCIDENT.



WHEN THEY COME SNIFFING, ALL WE WANT THEM TO FIND ARE LINTON'S **ORIGINAL** PLANS.

NOT--

EXACTLY. WE JUST COVER OUR ASSES UNTIL THE DUST SETTLES.

SCOOP IT ALL UP. EVERYTHING. I'LL FIND A BOX OR SOMETHING.



BOO.



SHIT. SHIT.

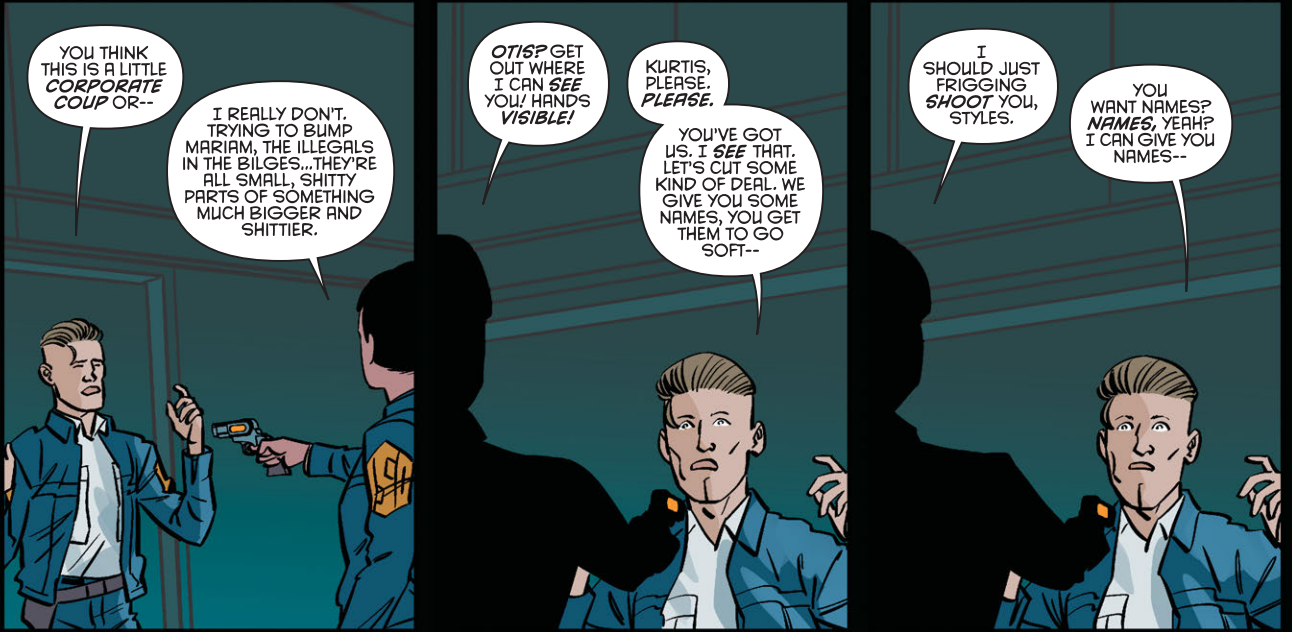
TELL OTIS TO COME OUT WHERE I CAN SEE HIM. HE'S WITH YOU, RIGHT?



KURTIS, YOU DON'T EVEN **BEGIN** TO UNDERSTAND WHO YOU'RE SCREWING W--

I DON'T. SO YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME.

I **TOLD** YOU TO GET OTIS OUT HERE.



YOU THINK THIS IS A LITTLE CORPORATE COUP OR--

I REALLY DON'T TRYING TO BUMP MARIAM, THE ILLEGALS IN THE BILGES...THEY'RE ALL SMALL, SHITTY PARTS OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER AND SHITTIER.

OTIS? GET OUT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU! HANDS VISIBLE!

KURTIS, PLEASE. PLEASE.

YOU'VE GOT US. I SEE THAT. LET'S CUT SOME KIND OF DEAL. WE GIVE YOU SOME NAMES, YOU GET THEM TO GO SOFT--

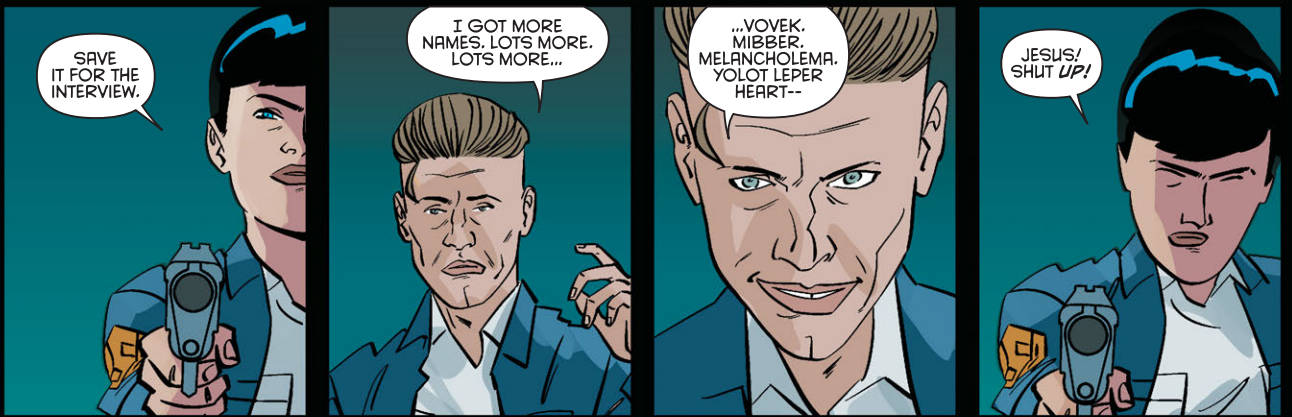
I SHOULD JUST FRIGGING SHOOT YOU, STYLES.

YOU WANT NAMES? NAMES, YEAH? I CAN GIVE YOU NAMES--



OTIS! GET THE HELL OUT HERE NOW!

DENZEL CROZIER, JUNOT H.R. YOU'LL WANT TO TALK TO HIM. SEE? *SEEP* I'M COOPERATING...

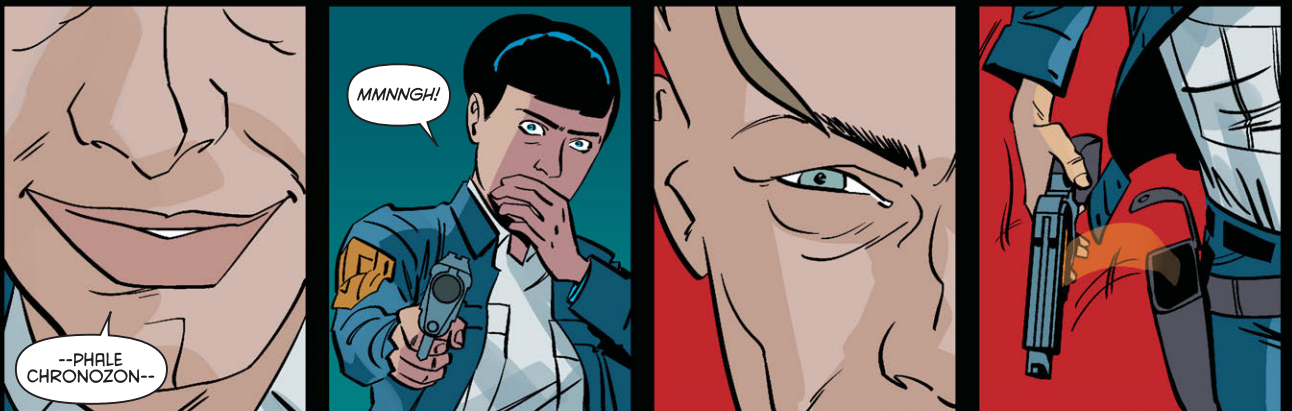


SAVE IT FOR THE INTERVIEW.

I GOT MORE NAMES. LOTS MORE. LOTS MORE...

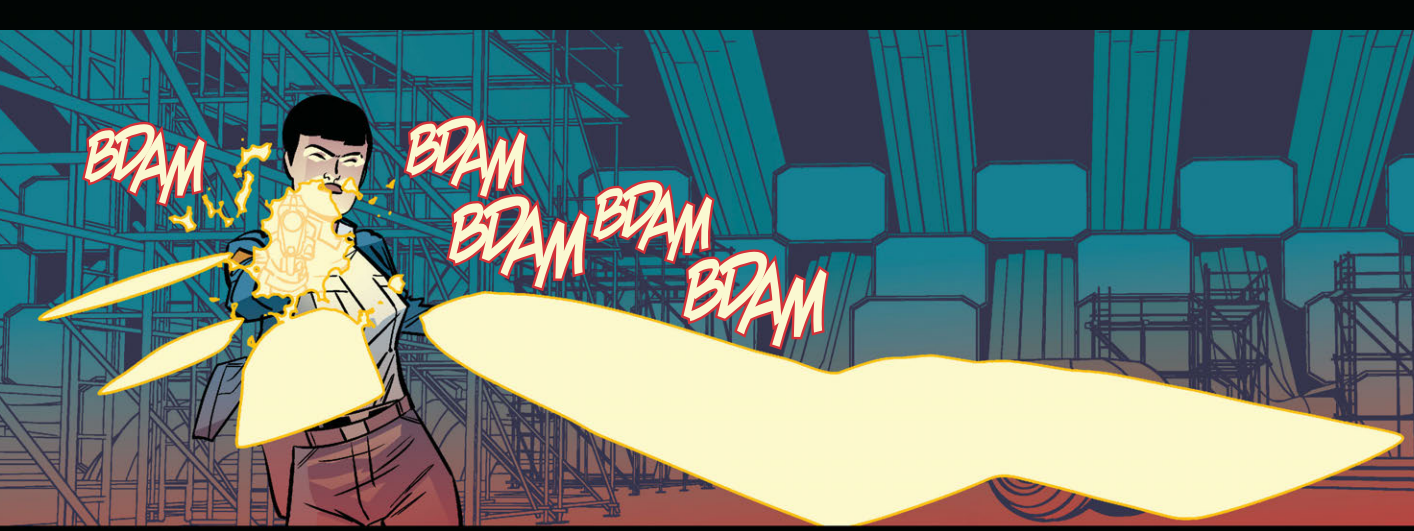
...VOVEK. MIBBER. MELANCHOLEMA. YOLOT LEPER HEART--

JESUS! SHUT UP!



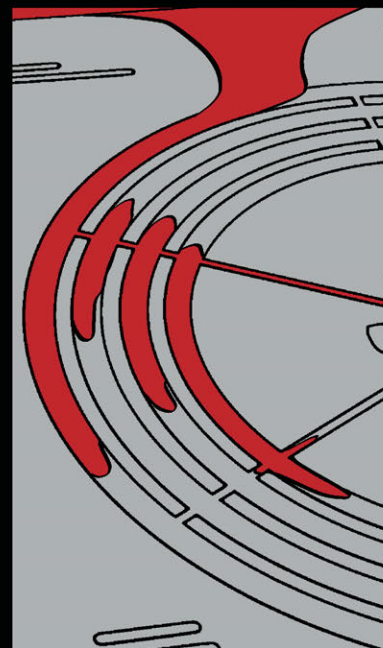
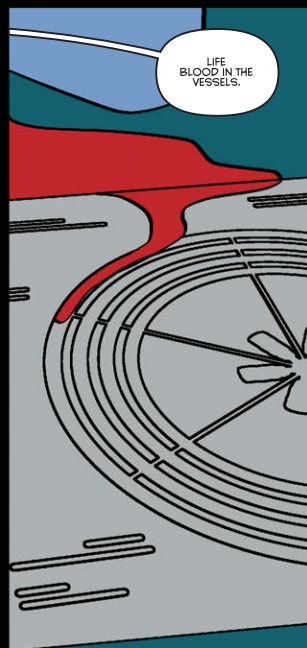
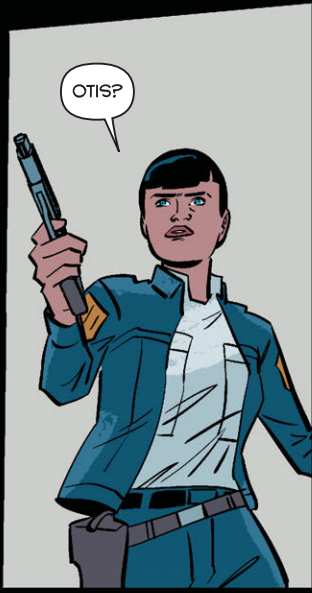
--PHALE CHRONOZON--

MMNNGH!





GO AWAY.



Loop one,  
detention suite.

Interview 010/007/12  
Otis, Benjamin.

YOU, STYLES  
AND ASHER WERE  
RUNNING ILLEGAL  
LABOUR IN THE  
CONSTRUCTION  
ZONE.

WHO  
ELSE?

NO  
COMMENT.

WELL, WE'RE GOING  
TO INTERVIEW EVERYONE.  
EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR  
CREW, EVERYONE IN  
SECURITY, IN SERVICES,  
IN TRANSPORT.

SOMEONE  
*WILL* TALK.

BUT LET'S  
PUT A PIN IN THAT,  
*AND* THE OTHER  
CHARGES, WHICH  
ARE MANY.

THE ILLEGALS  
WEREN'T A  
COST-CUTTING  
MEASURE.

THEY ARE A  
WAY TO SECRETLY  
FACILITATE THE  
ALTERNATE BUILD  
YOU WERE  
RUNNING.

PETER LINTON'S  
DESIGNS DON'T  
MATCH THE ACTUAL  
CONSTRUCTION.  
YOU'D DEVIATED FROM  
HIS PLAN. YOU WERE  
FOLLOWING A PLAN  
OF YOUR OWN.

NO  
COMMENT.

LINTON  
NOTICED. THE  
VARIATIONS  
ARE SUBTLE.  
THEY DROVE  
HIM MAD.

NO  
COMMENT.

WHICH IS  
STRANGE, EVEN  
GIVEN THE LEVELS  
OF NUDGE HE WAS  
POPPING.

I MEAN, *ANGRY*  
I'D GET. *ANGRY*  
THAT YOU WERE  
DEVIATING FROM  
HIS DESIGN.

BUT  
MAD? I MEAN,  
*CLINICALLY?*

THAT'S  
SEEMS  
EXTREME.

SHOULD  
YOU EVEN BE  
STANDING UP,  
GENTRY?

*SHHH.*  
I WANT TO  
HEAR THIS.

THE REVISED  
ARCHITECTURE IS  
DISTURBING.  
OPPRESSIVE.

THE  
DIMENSIONS AND  
PROPORTIONS  
ARE OUT.

VERGING  
ON THE NON-  
EUCLIDIAN.

WE CAN'T WORK  
OUT QUITE HOW IT'S DONE.  
THE VARIATIONS ARE TINY.  
SOMETIMES JUST A MATTER  
OF MILLIMETRES.

BUT WE'RE NOT  
TALKING ABOUT  
REASONABLE  
ERROR MARGINS  
IN THE BUILD.

THIS IS...  
DELIBERATE.  
IT'S KIND OF  
AMAZING.



WHO DESIGNED THIS, OTIS? DID YOU?

WHAT WERE YOU BUILDING?

A HABITAT.

FOR WHOM?



FINISH IT. FILL IT WITH PEOPLE. YOU'LL FIND OUT.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF A SECT, BENJAMIN?



WERE YOU BORN INTO IT? IS IT A CONSTRUCTION-GUILD INITIATION THING?

DID BYRON ASHER RECRUIT YOU? DID STYLES?

NO COMMENT.



WHAT WERE YOU BUILDING A HOME FOR, BENJAMIN?

WHERE'S SHE GOING WITH THIS?

SHHH.



IS IT A HOME?

OR IS IT A... WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT? A TEMPLE? A... I DUNNO, SHRINE?

YOU UNDERSTAND SO LITTLE.



SO HELP ME. WHAT IS YOUR GOD CALLED, BENJAMIN?

DOES IT CALL YOU BENJAMIN, BENJAMIN?



NYAAAAAH!



**BURNED BLACK! BURNED BLACK!**

OH SHIT--!



IT'LL BURN  
OUT YOUR  
DUMB BRAIN!  
BURN IT  
BLACK!

NGHH!



KURTIS!

UHNN!



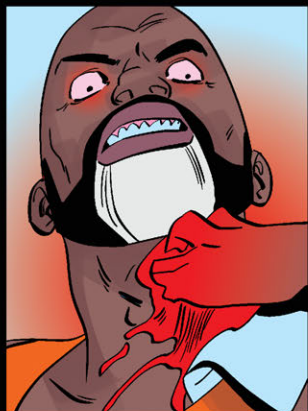
BACK  
OFF! BACK  
OFF! BACK  
OFF!

THE UNREACH!  
THE UNREACH!  
HANGING IN THE  
SUN, WAITING  
TO BE BORN!



COMING  
TO TAKE US  
HOME--  
GLRRKK--

GET  
OFF THE TABLE  
AND BACK UP  
TO THE WALL,  
OTIS!



OH  
SHITTING  
HELL!

JESUS--

GLLAAHHKK!



HE...HE JUST...

WITH HIS OWN FRIGGING FINGERS.



THAT THE ANSWER YOU THOUGHT THOSE QUESTIONS WOULD GET, KURTIS?

KIND OF.



WHAT THE HELL HAS HSD GOT ON THIS? WHAT ARE YOU PURSUING?

SWEAR TO GOD, GENTRY, I'M NOT SURE I EVER WANT TO KNOW.



BUT MAYBE NOW WE HAVE A PLACE TO START. A PLACE TO LOOK.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I NEED TO SEE MS JUNOT. IN PRIVATE. UNMONITORED.



YOU OKAY?

NO ONE'S EVEN REMOTELY OKAY, GITA.

Residential suite,  
Loop two  
[monitoring off]



I WANT TO RETURN TO YULIYA HABITAT. I HAVE TO CLEAN HOUSE. **PURGE** CORPORATE UPPER MANAGEMENT. REASSURE THE BOARD. TAKE **CONTROL** OF THIS CRISIS AND--



I'D LIKE YOU TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THIS MATTER, MARIAM.

I'VE DONE NOTHING--

I'M PRETTY SURE YOU HAVEN'T.

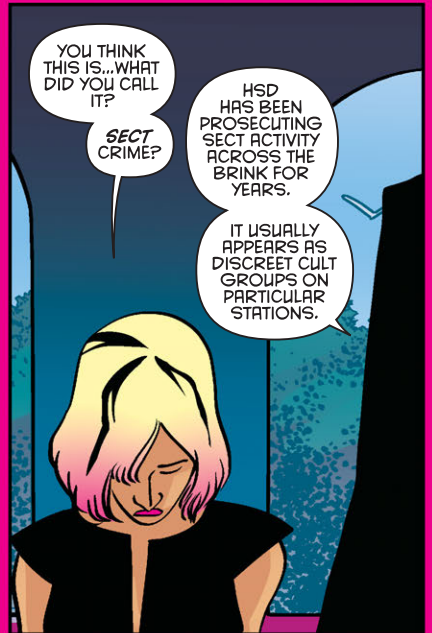
I'M REQUESTING YOUR COOPERATION.



YOU KNOW MY NAME IS BRIDGET KURTIS. I'M HABITAT SECURITY DIVISION, SPECIAL CRIMES DEPARTMENT.

YOU KNOW I WAS POSTED TO GALINA AS AN INSERT. THAT MEANS, **UNDERCOVER**.

THE CASE I WAS INVESTIGATING IS ONGOING.



YOU THINK THIS IS...WHAT DID YOU CALL IT?

**SECT** CRIME?

HSD HAS BEEN PROSECUTING SECT ACTIVITY ACROSS THE BRINK FOR YEARS.

IT USUALLY APPEARS AS DISCREET CULT GROUPS ON PARTICULAR STATIONS.



WE NOW BELIEVE THERE IS A **LARGER** ORGANISATIONAL SYSTEM, A CENTRAL AND POWERFUL SECT FROM WHICH ALL THE OTHERS ARE OFFSHOOTS OR SPLINTER FORMATIONS.

THIS, I GUESS, **MASTER SECT** HAS POWER, INFLUENCE AND REACH.



WE BELIEVE KEY PLAYERS EXIST WITHIN THE UPPER LEVELS OF YULIYA SOCIETY. MAYBE INSIDE JUNOT CORP ITSELF.

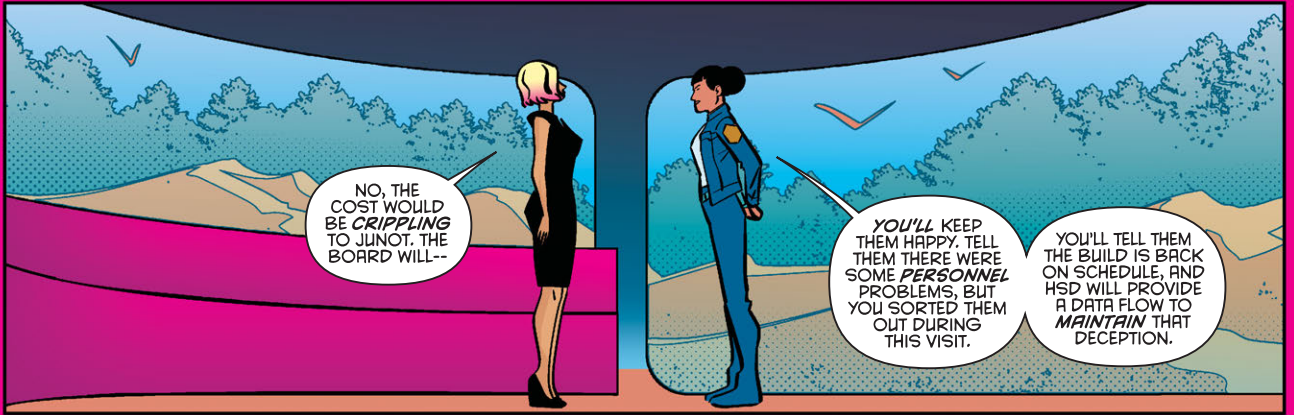
OH GOD, NO...



MY SUPERIORS ARE EN ROUTE, BUT THEY'VE APPROVED MY OPERATION IN PRINCIPLE.

THE GALINA BUILD IS GOING TO BE LOCKED DOWN. DETAILS OF WHAT OCCURRED HERE WILL BE SUPPRESSED.

SPECIAL CRIMES WILL BE EXAMINING THE HABITAT. THAT PROCESS MAY TAKE YEARS.



NO, THE COST WOULD BE **CRIPPLING** TO JUNOT. THE BOARD WILL--

**YOU'LL** KEEP THEM HAPPY. TELL THEM THERE WERE SOME **PERSONNEL** PROBLEMS, BUT YOU SORTED THEM OUT DURING THIS VISIT.

YOU'LL TELL THEM THE BUILD IS BACK ON SCHEDULE, AND HSD WILL PROVIDE A DATA FLOW TO **MAINTAIN** THAT DECEPTION.



ANYONE IN JUNOT CORP OR ON YULIYA WHO IS PART OF THIS CONSPIRACY WILL BELIEVE, FOR THE TIME BEING, THAT THEIR EFFORTS HERE REMAIN **UNDETECTED**.

EFFORTS TO DO **WHAT?**



IF I SAID "BUILD A GIANT TEMPLE TO THE DEMON SPACE-GODS THEY WORSHIP AND FILL IT WITH A HUMAN POPULATION AS A SACRIFICIAL OFFERING", WOULD THAT MAKE THINGS ANY CLEARER?

NO.

I HEAR YOU. SO LET'S SKIP THAT PART.



THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY, MARIAM. YOU CAN GET ME AND OTHER HSD OPERATIVES **INSIDE** JUNOT AS UNDERCOVER INSERTS.

WE CAN INFILTRATE THIS "MASTER SECT", IF IT EXISTS, BEFORE IT BECOMES AWARE THAT IT'S COMPROMISED.

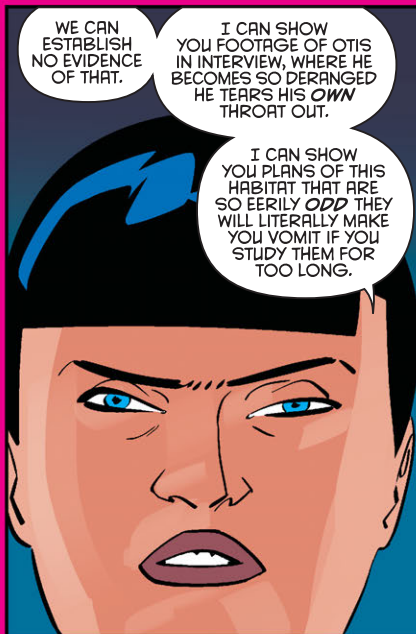


WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING IS BEYOND FANCIFUL, BRIDGET.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT **ISN'T**.

OTIS, STYLES AND ASHER TRYING TO MURDER YOU--

THEY WERE **PAID OFF**, PART OF A HOSTILE TAKE-OVER.



WE CAN ESTABLISH NO EVIDENCE OF THAT.

I CAN SHOW YOU FOOTAGE OF OTIS IN INTERVIEW, WHERE HE BECOMES SO DERANGED HE TEARS HIS **OWN** THROAT OUT.

I CAN SHOW YOU PLANS OF THIS HABITAT THAT ARE SO EERILY **ODD** THEY WILL LITERALLY MAKE YOU VOMIT IF YOU STUDY THEM FOR TOO LONG.





LOOK, I DON'T UNDERSTAND *ANY* OF THIS.

BUT I DO KNOW THAT SUSPENSION OF THE GALINA BUILD WILL *DESTROY* JUNOT CORP FINANCIALLY.



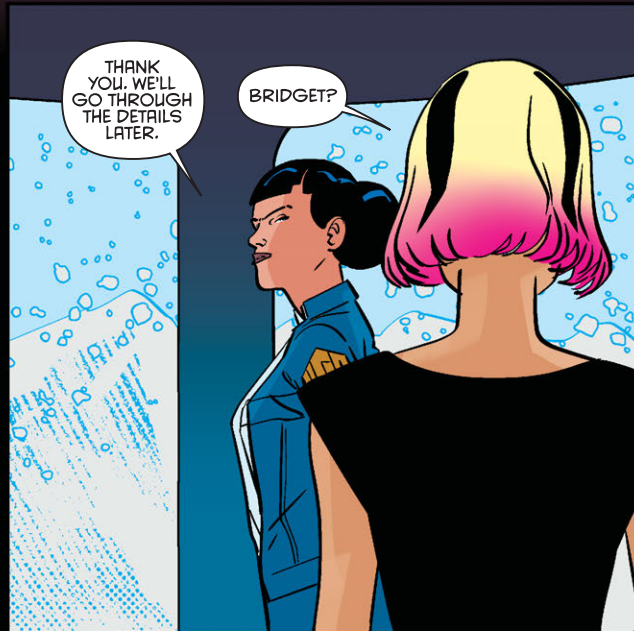
MS JUNOT, IF HSD PURSUES AN OPEN INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS HERE, JUNOT CORP WILL BE FINISHED *ANYWAY*.

YOU CAN WEATHER THE EXPENSE AND HELP US. OR IT ALL ENDS HERE.

CAN THE DIVISION COUNT ON YOUR COOPERATION?

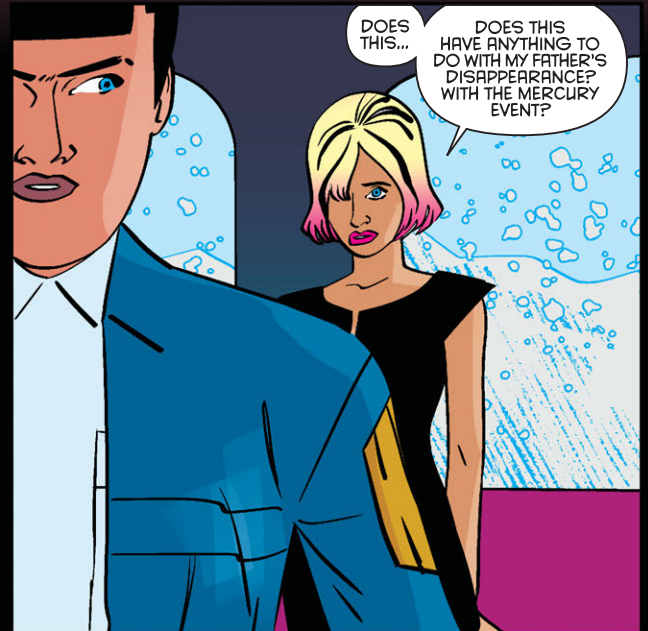


...YES, I SUPPOSE.



THANK YOU. WE'LL GO THROUGH THE DETAILS LATER.

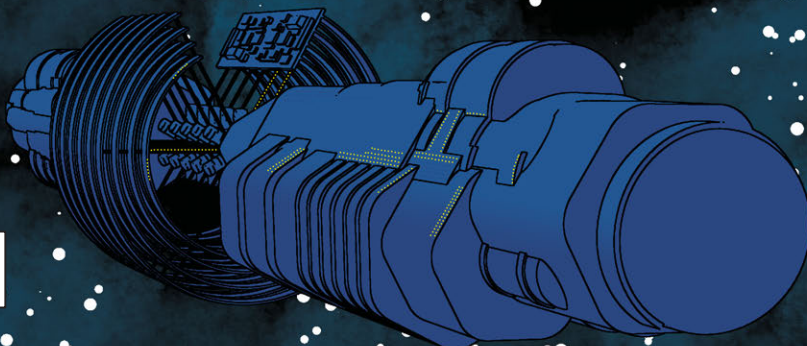
BRIDGET?



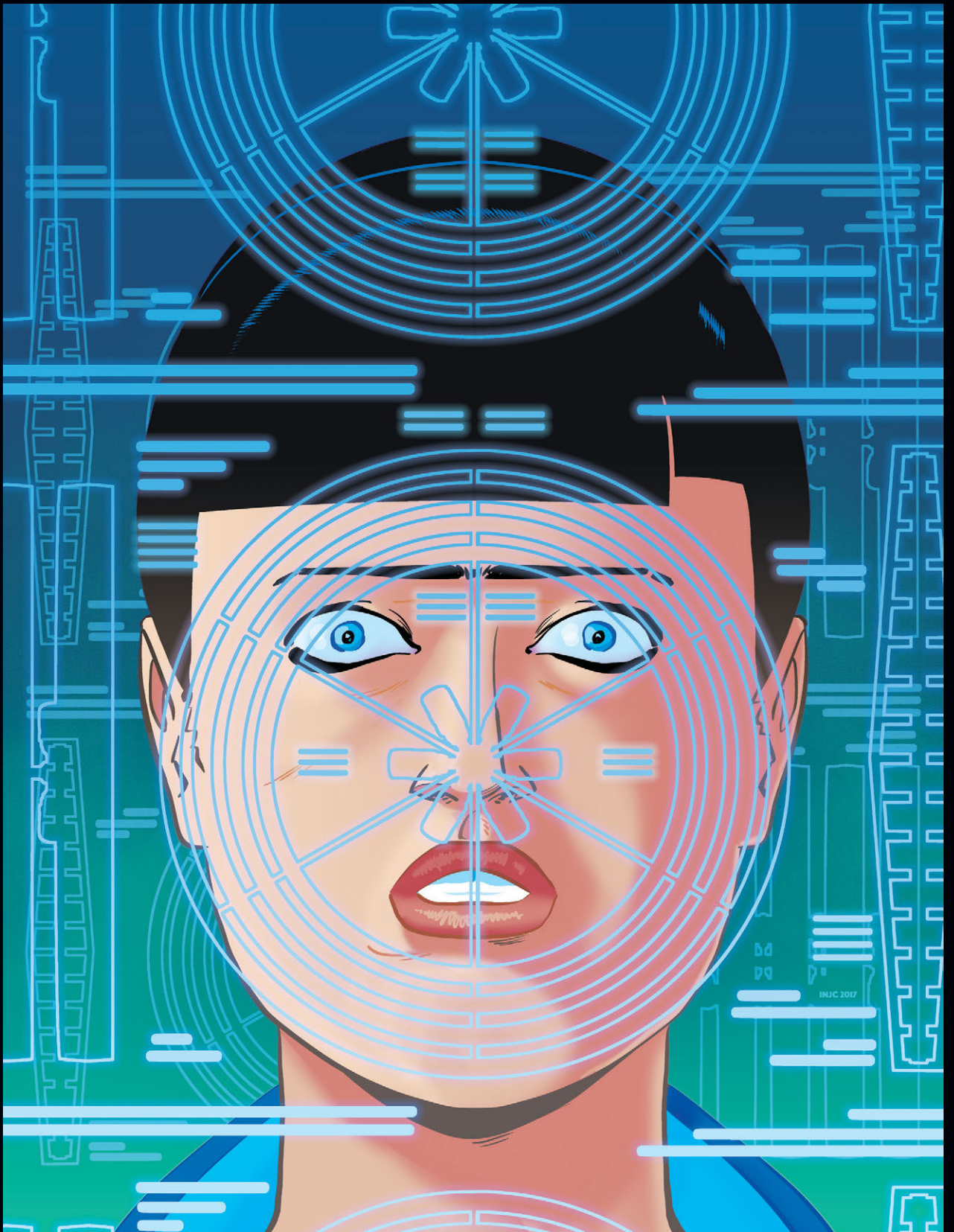
DOES THIS...

DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE? WITH THE MERCURY EVENT?

"I THINK THAT'S AN *EXCELLENT* QUESTION, MARIAM."



# **COVER GALLERY**







# DAN ABNETT

Dan Abnett is a seven-times New York Times bestselling author and an award-winning comic book writer. He has written over fifty novels, including the acclaimed Gaunt's Ghosts series, the Eisenhower and Ravenor trilogies, volumes of the million-selling Horus Heresy series, *The Silent Stars Go By (Doctor Who)*, *Rocket Raccoon and Groot: Steal the Galaxy*, *The Avengers: Everybody Wants To Rule The World*, *The Wield*, *Triumph: Her Majesty's Hero*, and *Embedded*. In comics, he is known for his work on *The Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Aquaman*, *The Titans*, *Nova*, *Wild's End*, and *The New Deadwardians*. His 2008 run on *The Guardians of the Galaxy* for Marvel formed the inspiration for the blockbuster movie. A regular contributor to the UK's long-running 2000 AD, he is the creator of series including *Grey Area*, *Lawless*, *Brink*, *Kingdom* and the classic *Sinister Dexter*. He has also written extensively for the games industry, including *Shadow of Mordor* and *Alien: Isolation*.

Dan lives and works in the UK. Follow him on Twitter @VincentAbnett

# I.N.J. CULBARD

I.N.J. Culbard is an award-winning artist and writer. He has had work published by SelfMadeHero, Dark Horse comics, Vertigo and BOOM! Studios. He first started working with Ian Edginton on adaptations for SelfMadeHero of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of the Four*, and *The Valley of Fear*. He has also worked with Dan Abnett on original series such as *The New Deadwardians* (Vertigo), *Dark Ages* (Dark Horse Comics), and *Wild's End* (BOOM! Studios). And lastly he has worked with Chris Lackey and Chad Fifer on the original graphic novel, *Deadbeats* (SelfMadeHero)

He has produced a number of his own adaptations for SelfMadeHero including *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*, *The Shadow Out of Time*, *The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath*, *At the Mountains of Madness* and his first solo original graphic novel, *Celeste*.



## MERCURY HAS DISAPPEARED. NO ONE KNOWS WHY.

Her past as an Investigator seemingly behind her, Bridget Kurtis is sent to the under-construction Galina Habitat as a security consultant. With a skeleton crew of engineers, architects and security personnel, construction is running behind schedule and Mariam Junot herself (the acting-CEO of Junot Corp) has arrived to find out why.

Amid rumours of haunting and disappearances, Kurtis uncovers a conspiracy that may be more insidious and far-reaching than she ever imagined. Either the claustrophobic life in the space Habitats is driving humanity insane, or there are influences at play beyond any human understanding...

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