

The Ballad of

HALO JONES

Volume 2



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The Ballad of

HALO JONES

Volume 2



6427 A.D.—THE INSTITUTE FOR PARA-HISTORICAL STUDIES—

ALL RIGHT. CAN WE HAVE A LITTLE SILENCE PLEASE? MR. SOTGORE?

THANK YOU.

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INSTITUTE OF PARA-HISTORICAL STUDIES
FOUNDED
LUX 102TH CHOP

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THE MARXMAS VACATION THAT THIS TERM WE'D BE STUDYING A SUBJECT VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART.

OF ALL THE LEGENDS WE'VE DISCUSSED, THIS ONE— TO ME— IS MOST IMPORTANT. KNOW WHY?

MR. SOTGORE?

BECAUSE YOU'VE JUST PUBLISHED A PROGRAM ON THE SUBJECT, AND YOU WANT EVERYONE TO BUY IT SO YOU CAN QUIT LECTURING AND LIVE ON PERELANDRA.

SOTGORE, SHUT UP!

HA HA.

VERY GOOD, MR. SOTGORE. YES, YOU'RE RIGHT... I HAVE JUST HAD A PROGRAM PUBLISHED— MY LIFE'S WORK, IN FACT. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY THIS LEGEND IS IMPORTANT.

IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT'S TRUE.

LET'S START OUR HOLOGRAM LECTURE.

BY COMPLETE COINCIDENCE, IT HAS THE SAME TITLE AS MY RECENTLY PUBLISHED PROGRAM...

KUK!

The Ballad of HAL JONES

BOOK TWO. PROLOGUE.



OVER THE CENTURIES, A LOT OF NONSENSE AND DISTORTION HAS BUILT UP AROUND THE NAME HALO JONES.

IT'S SAID THAT SHE WAS A WAR CRIMINAL WHO AIDED IN THE SLAUGHTER OF MILLIONS...

SUPPOSEDLY, SHE MET MANY FAMOUS HISTORICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING LUX ROTH CHOP, LUZ CANNIBAL AND SALLY QUIASA.

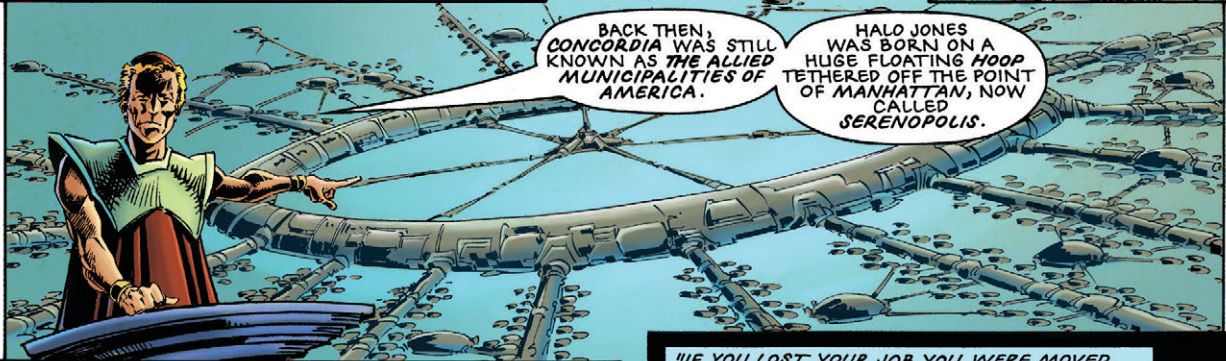
DURING THE TRI-MALE EMPIRE OF THE 52ND CENTURY, IT WAS EVEN CLAIMED THAT SHE WAS A MAN, NAMED HAL JONES.



SO... WHO WAS HALO JONES?

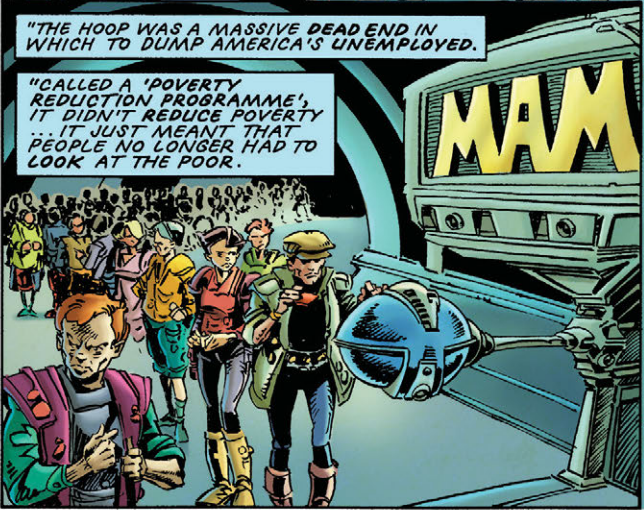


TO FIND THAT OUT, WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE TIME OF HER BIRTH — BACK TO THE 50TH CENTURY A.D., ACCORDING TO THE OLD CALENDAR.



BACK THEN, CONCORDIA WAS STILL KNOWN AS THE ALLIED MUNICIPALITIES OF AMERICA.

HALO JONES WAS BORN ON A HUGE FLOATING HOOP TETHERED OFF THE POINT OF MANHATTAN, NOW CALLED SERENOPOLIS.



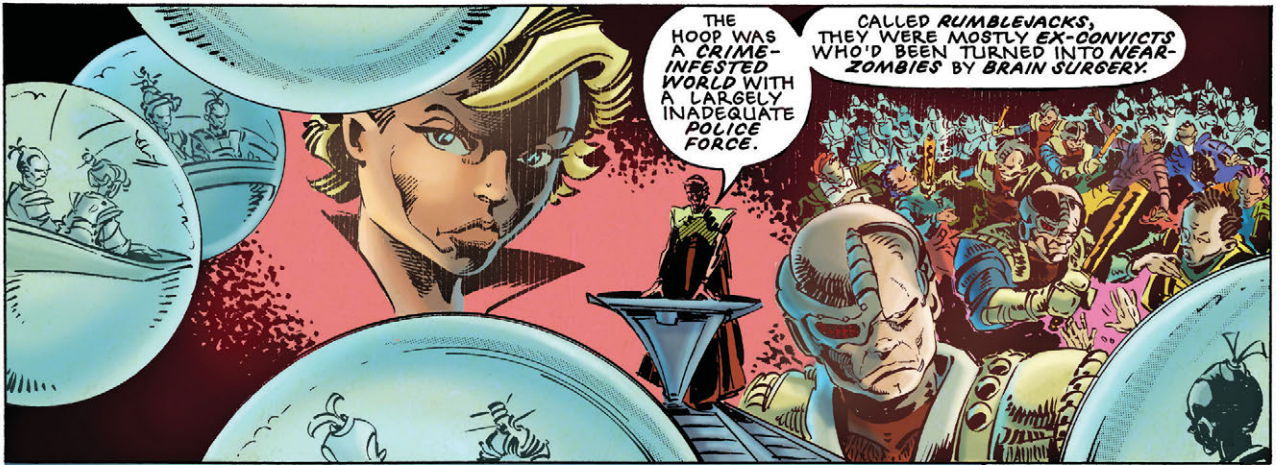
"THE HOOP WAS A MASSIVE DEAD END IN WHICH TO DUMP AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYED.

"CALLED A 'POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMME', IT DIDN'T REDUCE POVERTY ... IT JUST MEANT THAT PEOPLE NO LONGER HAD TO LOOK AT THE POOR.



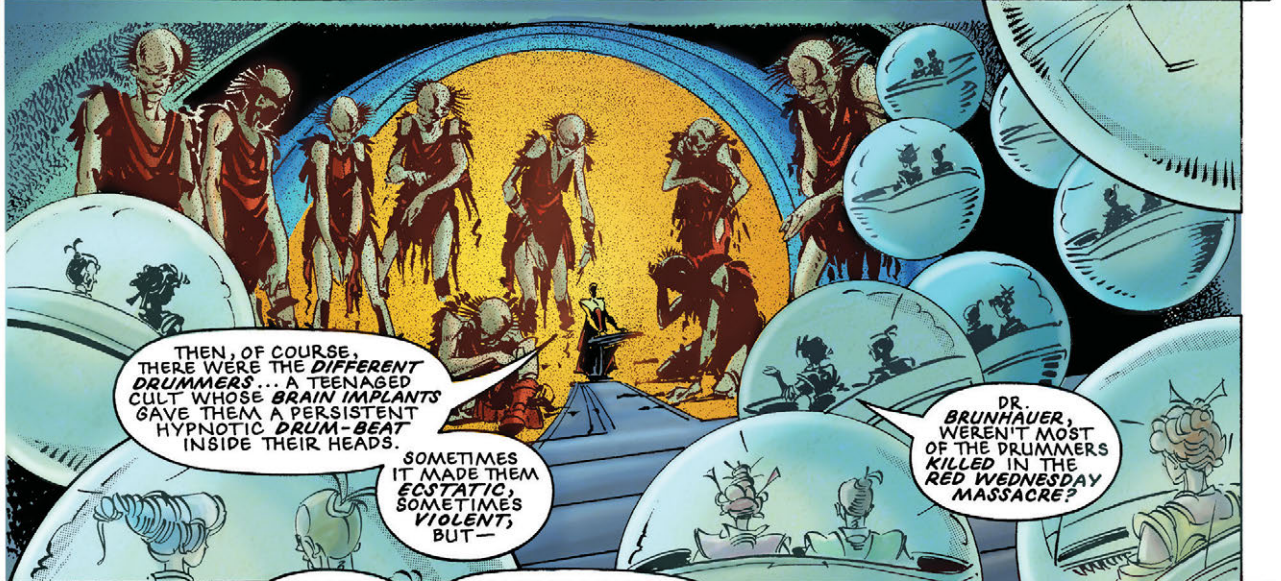
"IF YOU LOST YOUR JOB YOU WERE MOVED TO THE HOOP, WHERE YOU LIVED ON A STATE-PROVIDED CREDIT-CARD SYSTEM CALLED MAM UNTIL YOU FOUND EMPLOYMENT.

"EXCEPT THAT THERE WASN'T ANY EMPLOYMENT."



THE HOOP WAS A CRIME-INFESTED WORLD WITH A LARGELY INADEQUATE POLICE FORCE.

CALLED RUMBLEJACKS, THEY WERE MOSTLY EX-CONVICTS WHO'D BEEN TURNED INTO NEAR-ZOMBIES BY BRAIN SURGERY.



THEN, OF COURSE, THERE WERE THE DIFFERENT DRUMMERS... A TEENAGED CULT WHOSE BRAIN IMPLANTS GAVE THEM A PERSISTENT HYPNOTIC DRUM-BEAT INSIDE THEIR HEADS.

SOMETIMES IT MADE THEM ECSTATIC, SOMETIMES VIOLENT, BUT—

DR. BRUNHAUER, WEREN'T MOST OF THE DRUMMERS KILLED IN THE RED WEDNESDAY MASSACRE?



HM. YES. VERY GOOD... BUT THAT WAS IN 4952, THREE YEARS AFTER HALO JONES LEFT EARTH.

BACK IN 4949, LIFE WAS VERY DIFFERENT. TODAY, THERE ARE FEW ALIENS RESIDENT UPON EARTH.

IN 4949, HOWEVER, THERE WERE MANY IMMIGRANTS FROM PROXIMA AND ALPHA CENTAURI. MOST ENDED UP ON THE HOOP, CREATING RACIAL TENSIONS.

IF THE POVERTY AND RIOTS GOT TOO DEPRESSING, YOU COULD VISIT ONE OF THE HOOP'S EXIT GARDENS... SNIFF THE FLOWERS... LISTEN TO THE MUSIC...

...AND BE PUT QUIETLY TO SLEEP WITH A LETHAL INJECTION!



HALO JONES WAS BORN INTO THIS MISERABLE, SEALED WORLD IN 4037. NONE OF THE LEGENDS MENTION HER PARENTS. PRESUMABLY THEY DIED WHILE SHE WAS YOUNG.

IN 4040, SHE LEFT EARTH... WHY?



SO SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO BORING LECTURES LIKE THIS—

SOTGORE! SHUT YOUR FAT MOUTH!

MS. KOPEK? DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWER?



UH... UH, WELL, I READ THAT SHE LEFT EARTH BECAUSE OF A FAILED LOVE AFFAIR WITH HER BOYFRIEND, RODRICE.

HA HA HA! NO, I'M AFRAID THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE MORE ROMANTIC LEGENDS THAT'S SPRUNG UP.



IN REALITY, "RODRICE" WASN'T HALO'S BOYFRIEND—OR EVEN A BOY! HER NAME WAS RODICE.

HOWEVER, HALO DID LEAVE HER BEHIND ON EARTH, AND THEY DID ARRANGE TO MEET A YEAR LATER ON THE PLANET CHARLEMAGNE.



HALO JONES SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT EARTH WHILE SHE WAS UPSET AFTER THE BRUTAL MURDER OF ONE OF HER FRIENDS...

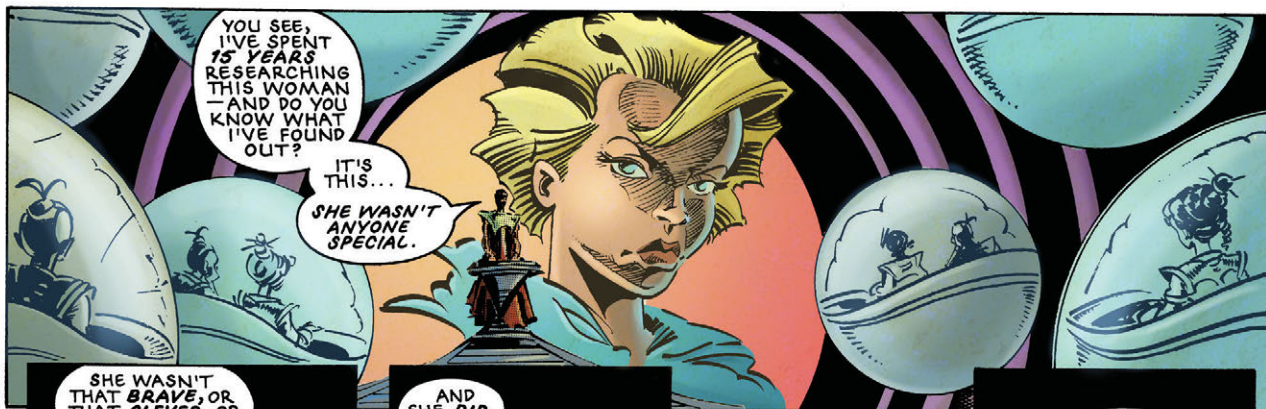
...AND THE RECRUITMENT OF ANOTHER INTO THE PSYCHOPATHIC DIFFERENT DRUMMERS.



ABOARD AN ANCIENT LUXURY LINER, NAMED 'THE CLARA PANDY' AFTER A FAMOUS GALACTIC FRONTIERSWOMAN, HALO JONES LEFT EARTH WITH A ROBOT DOG FOR COMPANY...

...AND NEVER CAME BACK.

THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY.



YOU SEE, I'VE SPENT 15 YEARS RESEARCHING THIS WOMAN — AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT?

IT'S THIS...
SHE WASN'T ANYONE SPECIAL.



SHE WASN'T THAT BRAVE, OR THAT CLEVER, OR THAT STRONG.

SHE WAS JUST SOMEBODY WHO FELT CRAMPED BY THE CONFINES OF HER LIFE.

SHE WAS JUST SOMEBODY WHO HAD TO GET OUT.



AND SHE DID IT!

SHE WENT OUT PAST VEGA, OUT PAST MOULQUET AND LAMBARD! SHE SAW PLACES THAT AREN'T EVEN THERE ANY MORE!

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE SAID? HER MOST FAMOUS QUOTATION?



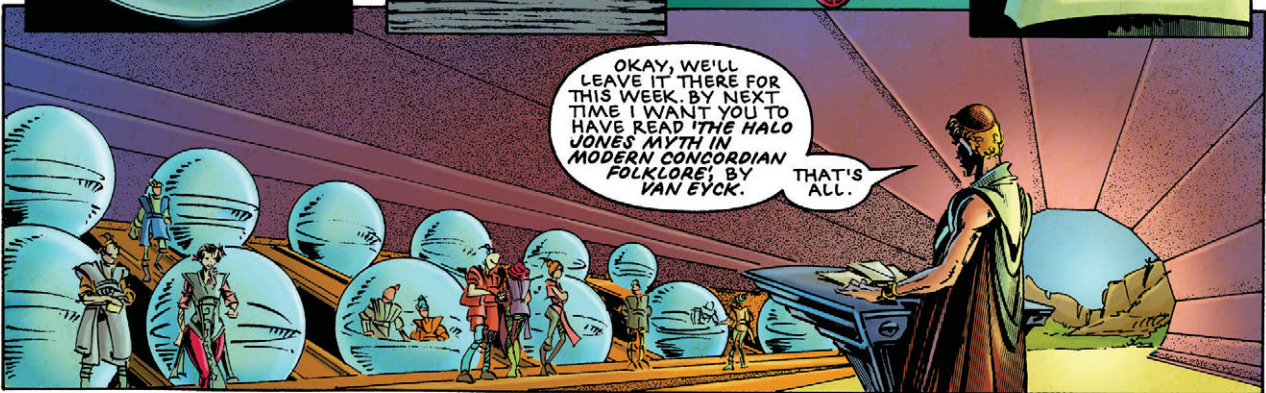
"ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT."



WHY, YES. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.

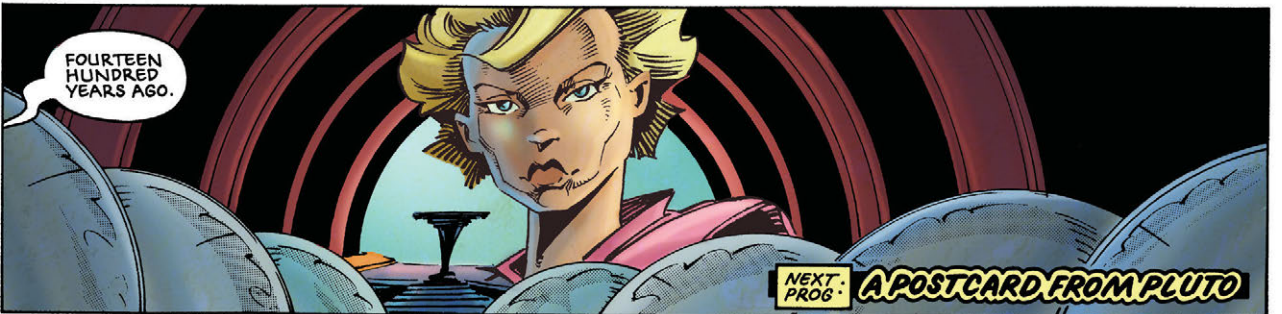
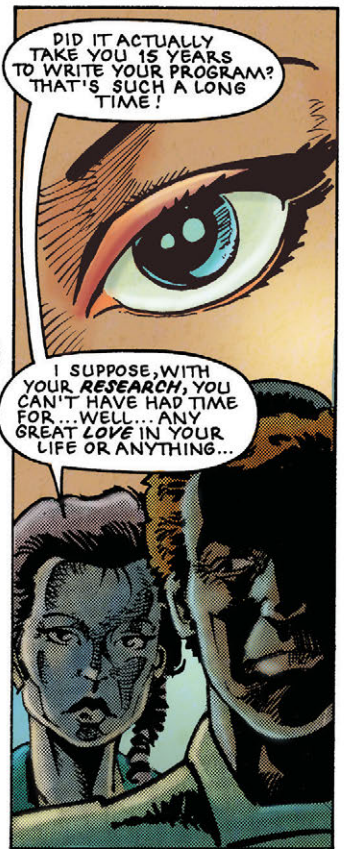
THAT'S VERY GOOD, MS. KOPEK.

SHE SAID... "ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT."



OKAY, WE'LL LEAVE IT THERE FOR THIS WEEK. BY NEXT TIME I WANT YOU TO HAVE READ 'THE HALO JONES MYTH IN MODERN CONCORDIAN FOLKLORE', BY VAN EYCK.

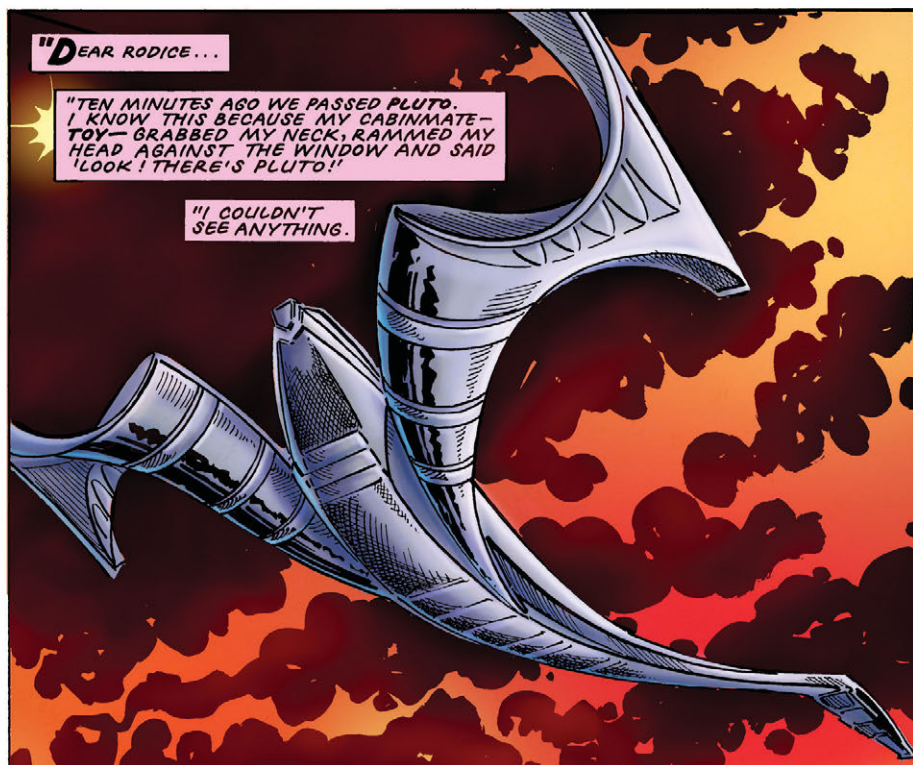
THAT'S ALL.



"DEAR RODICE...

"TEN MINUTES AGO WE PASSED PLUTO. I KNOW THIS BECAUSE MY CABINMATE-TOY- GRABBED MY NECK, RAMMED MY HEAD AGAINST THE WINDOW AND SAID 'LOOK! THERE'S PLUTO!'"

"I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING."



The Ballad Of HALO JONES

1: A POSTCARD FROM PLUTO

"TOY'S FULL NAME IS TOY MOLTO. SHE'S REALLY NICE. SHE'S SEVEN FEET TALL AND YESTERDAY, WHEN ONE OF THE SLABS SMARTMOUTHED ME, SHE BROKE HIS WRIST."

"SHE'S THE TOUGHEST WOMAN I EVER MET. YOU'D HATE HER."



"THERE'S ALSO A SORT OF STOWAWAY IN OUR CABIN - A REALLY DULL TYPE. I CAN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING ABOUT HER..."

"IN FACT, IT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A HER. IT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY."

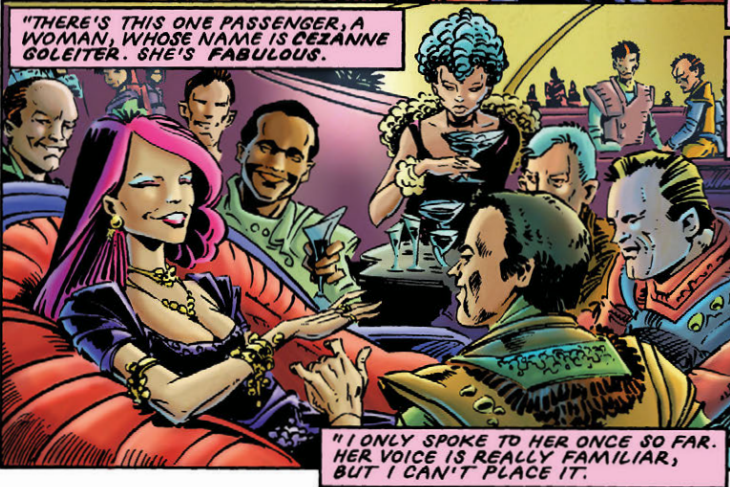
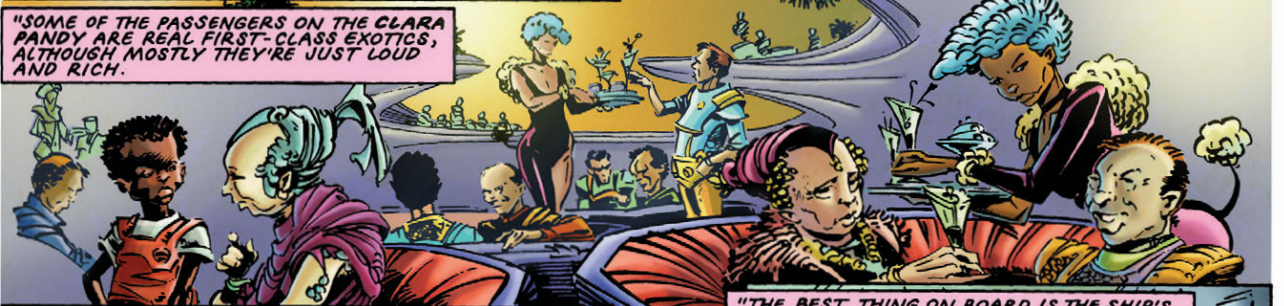
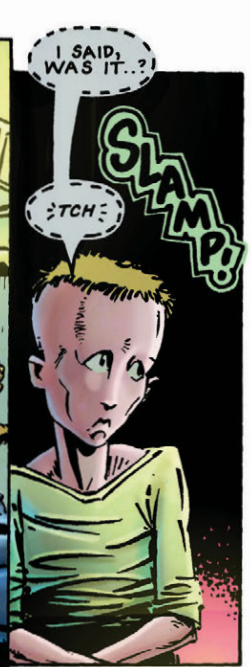


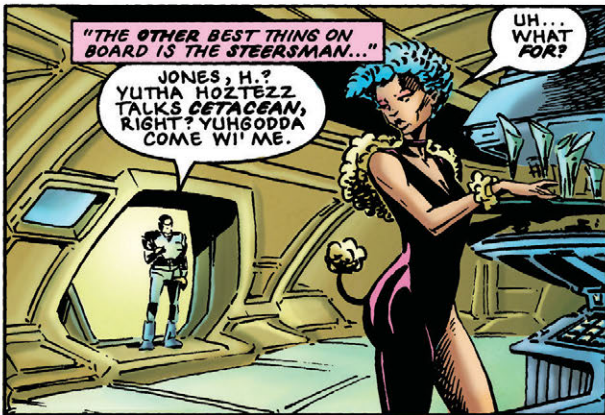
"BEING A HOSTESS IS REALLY SLAPPY, BUT AT FIRST I HAD ONE OR TWO DOUBTS ABOUT THE UNIFORM..."

"DON'T LOOK AT ME! I'M AN ATROCITY!"



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"THE OTHER BEST THING ON BOARD IS THE STEERSMAN..."

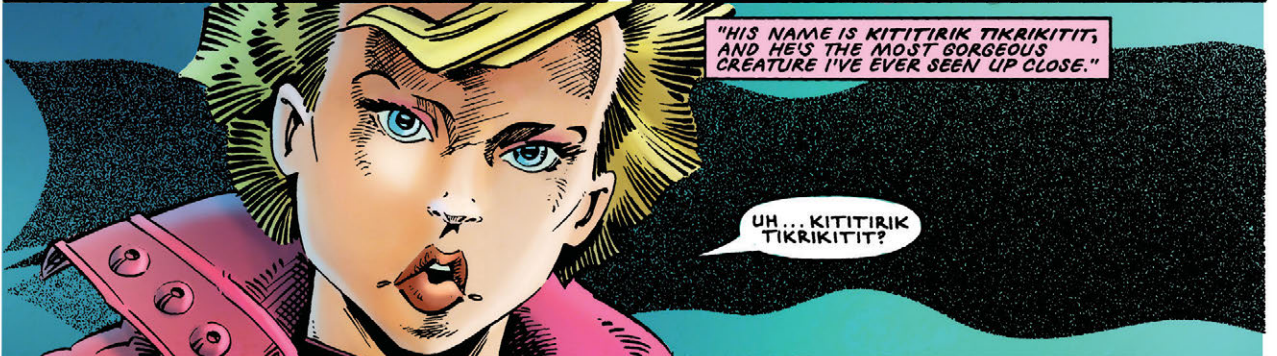
JONES, H.? YUTHA HOZTEZZ TALKS CETACEAN, RIGHT? YUHGODDA COME WI' ME.

UH... WHAT FOR?



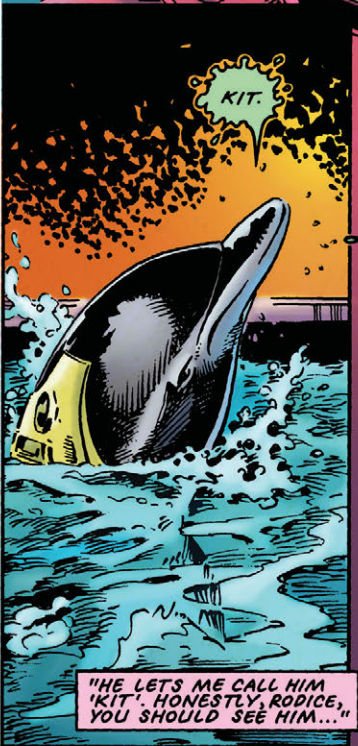
TH' STEERZMAN WANTSUM COMPANY.

HE'S THROUGH INNA FORWUD NAVIGASHUN CHAMBUIH. Y'KIN PICKUPPA NAGUAJACKET ONNA WAY IN...



"HIS NAME IS KITITIRIK TIKRIKITIT, AND HE'S THE MOST GORGEOUS CREATURE I'VE EVER SEEN UP CLOSE."

UH... KITITIRIK TIKRIKITIT?



KIT.

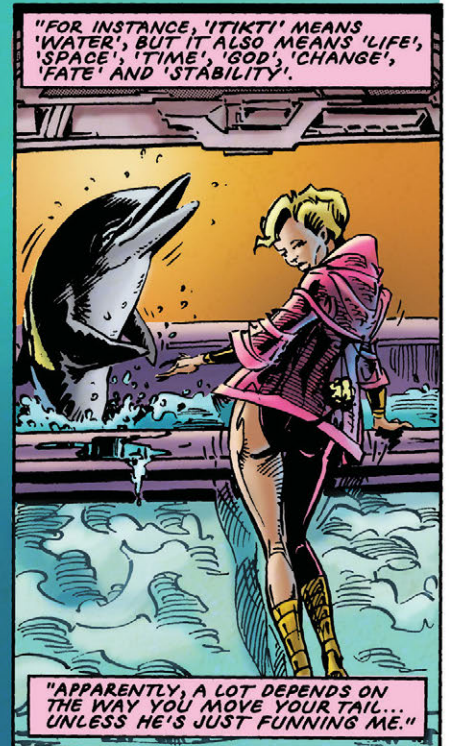
"HE LETS ME CALL HIM 'KIT'. HONESTLY, RODICE, YOU SHOULD SEE HIM..."



TIKRIKITIK TIKITIT IKTIKITIK?

RIKIKIKITITIK RITITIK... KI RITITITIK.

"A LOT OF NIGHTS I JUST CALL TO SIT AND TALK WITH HIM. MY CETACEAN IS BETTING BETTER, BUT IT'S SUCH A COMPLICATED LANGUAGE."



"FOR INSTANCE, 'ITIKTI' MEANS 'WATER', BUT IT ALSO MEANS 'LIFE', 'SPACE', 'TIME', 'GOD', 'CHANGE', 'FATE' AND 'STABILITY'."

"APPARENTLY, A LOT DEPENDS ON THE WAY YOU MOVE YOUR TAIL... UNLESS HE'S JUST FUNNING ME."

"I'D SAY THAT TOBY SENDS HIS LOVE, BUT WHAT HE REALLY SAID TO TELL YOU WASN'T VERY PRACTICAL, SO I WON'T PASS IT ON."

"HE SEEMS HAPPY, DESPITE LOSING BRINNA."

"THERE. I'VE WRITTEN HER NAME."

"IT MUST BE NICE, MUSTN'T IT, TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ALL YOUR OLD MEMORIES AND THROW THEM AWAY, AND START AGAIN WITH A NICE CLEAN SPOOL...?"

"I THINK ABOUT HER A LOT, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU DO TOO, SO WE NEEDN'T GET INTO THAT."

"TOBY NEEDS HIS OLD MEMORY SPOOLS REPLACING SOON. HIS CURRENT ONES ARE 6 MONTHS OLD."

"WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO TELL YOU? OH... THERE'S A MYSTERY PASSENGER IN CABIN 215. THAT'S THE PRESIDENTIAL CABIN."

"WE HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR FOOD OUTSIDE. TOY SAYS IT'S LUX ROTH CHOP HIMSELF, BUT I DON'T KNOW."

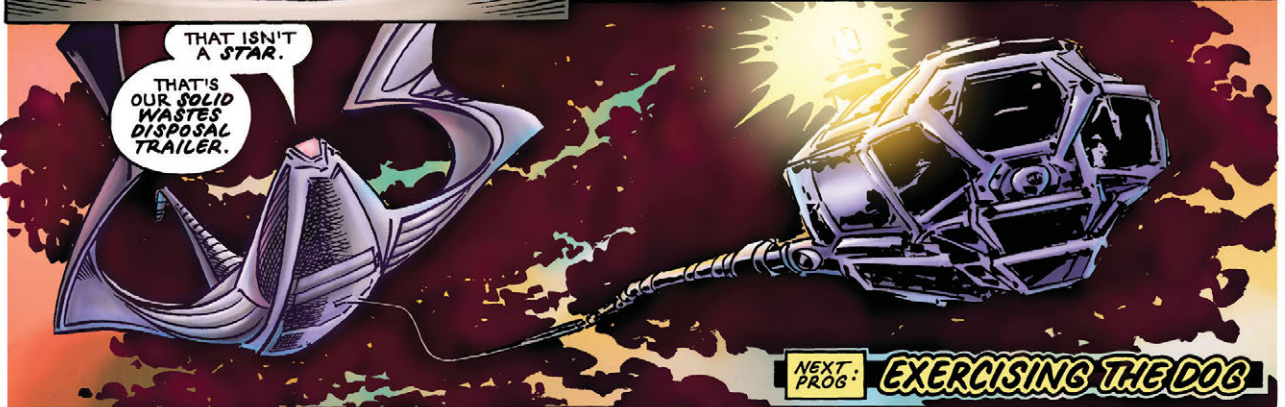
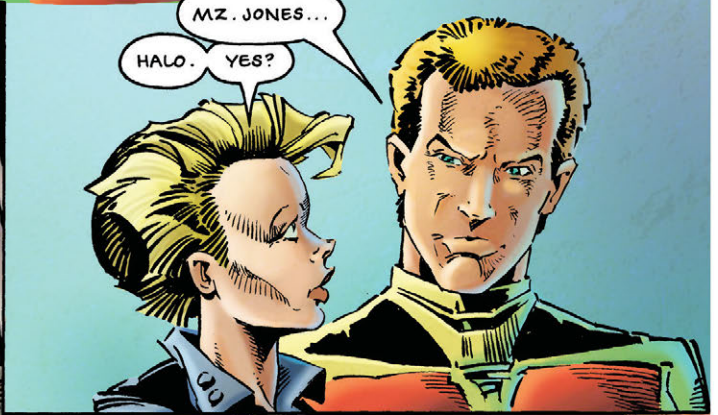
DO NOT DISTURB
3-12
3-12
3-12
3-12
3-12

"I BETTER CLOSE NOW. I HOPE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AND THAT THIS REACHES YOU OKAY."

"HAVE YOU GOT SHIP-WORK YET? IF NOT, I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU TO CHARLEMAGNE— AND THEN THE DRINKS ARE ON YOU!"

I miss you!
see you in a year

Jones



ONE MONTH OUT:

HELLO, TOBY. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I FINALLY GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE CYBERNETICIST. GONNA REPLACE MY OLD AUDIAL MEMORY SPOOLS. HOW ABOUT YOU?

I'M GOING DOWN TO TALK TO KIT FOR A WHILE IN THE NAVIGATION CHAMBER. Y'KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY LUCKY. CYBERNETICIST NINEGOLD CAN REPLACE MY MEMORY SPOOLS ANY TIME HE LIKES.

LUCKY?

YEAH, WELL, IT'S GOOD BEING OUT HERE WITH YOU... BUT I AIN'T GETTIN' MUCH EXERCISE DOIN' THIS SECURITY WORK...

DON'T COMPLAIN. ANYTHING FOR A PULL LIFE. I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.

NAVIGATION AREA
RESTRICTED ACCESS

KIT?
TRITITIK
KITRITITIKIK-
TIRIK?
HEY, KIT?
WHERE...?

COME IN AND SHUT DOOR, PLEASE, OR I BLOW YOUR SKULL TO PIECES.

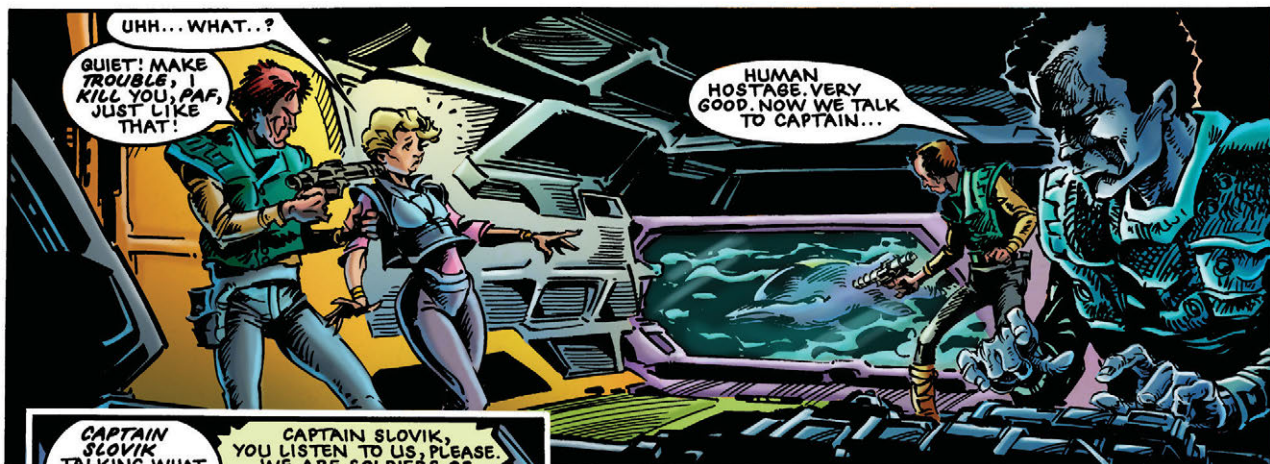
CLIK

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The Ballad Of

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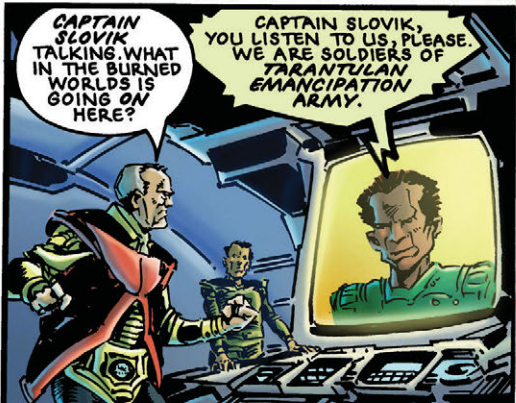
2: EXERCISING THE DOG



UHH... WHAT...?

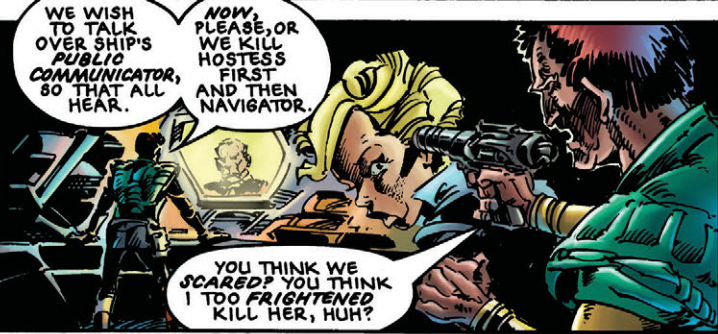
QUIET: MAKE TROUBLE, I KILL YOU, PAF, JUST LIKE THAT!

HUMAN HOSTAGE. VERY GOOD. NOW WE TALK TO CAPTAIN...



CAPTAIN SLOVIK TALKING. WHAT IN THE BURNED WORLDS IS GOING ON HERE?

CAPTAIN SLOVIK, YOU LISTEN TO US, PLEASE. WE ARE SOLDIERS OF TARANTULAN EMANCIPATION ARMY.



WE WISH TO TALK OVER SHIP'S PUBLIC COMMUNICATOR, SO THAT ALL HEAR.

NOW, PLEASE, OR WE KILL HOSTESS FIRST AND THEN NAVIGATOR.

YOU THINK WE SCARED? YOU THINK I TOO FRIGHTENED KILL HER, HUH?



OH, PLEASE, DON'T SHOOT. PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME...

UH... OKAY. I'M PUTTING YOU OUT OVER THE PUBLIC COMMUNICATOR. LISTEN, DON'T HARM THE NAVIGATOR...

...OR THE GIRL, OF COURSE.



PRIVILEGED PEOPLE OF EARTH, LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF REVOLUTION.

UNDER COMMAND OF THE HATED TORTURER LUIZ CANNIBAL, YOUR PLANET WAGES UNDECLARED WAR ON FREE COLONY WORLDS OF TARANTULA NEBULA.



THIS SHIP, THE CLARA PANDY, IS OWNED BY BILLIONAIRE LUX ROTH CHOP, WHOSE MONEY SUPPORTS YOUR WAR EFFORT.

LISTEN NOW TO OUR DEMANDS, OR FIRST THE WOMAN IS DEAD, THEN YOUR STEERSMAN.

GRRRRR



ONE: WE DEMAND THAT THE TRUTH OF OUR STRUGGLE BE BROADCAST BY LYING EARTHSIDE MEDIA, DIRECT FROM THIS SHIP...

NOW, THIS IS THE SPOOL... WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



TWO: WE DEMAND THAT THE GUILD OF CETACEAN STEERSMEN RE-OPEN WATER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EARTH'S ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS. PLEASE, I...

YOU SHUT UP NOW! EARTH-CONCUBINE OF THE RICH, I SPIT ON YOU!



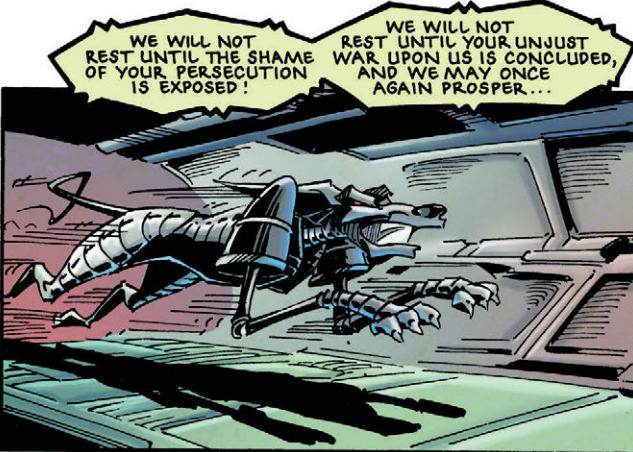
THREE: THERE WILL BE SAFE PASSAGE FROM THIS SHIP, WITH STEERSMAN AS HOSTAGE, FOR MYSELF AND FELLOW SOLDIERS AGAINST OPPRESSION. NO-ONE WILL BE HARMED...



... UNLESS YOU FAIL TO MEET OUR DEMANDS. THEN, WE KILL STEERSMAN, AND LUX ROTH CHOP WILL ANSWER TO STEERSMAN'S GUILD. I DO NOT THINK YOU WANT THIS.

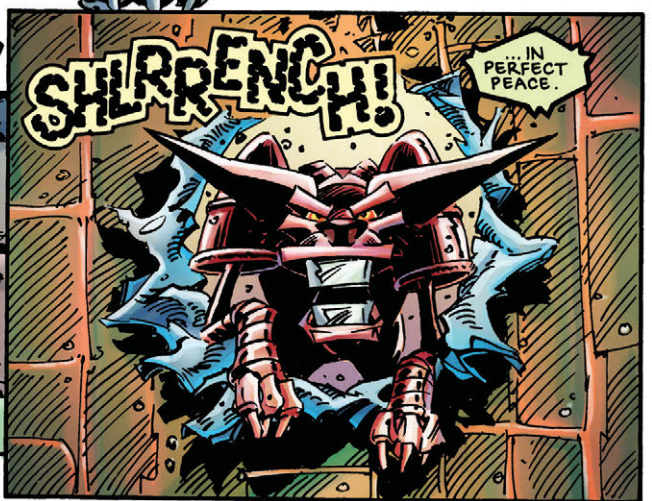
YOU TOO! YOU SHUT UP!

RIRRI-TITIKKIT-RIKIT-RIKIT?



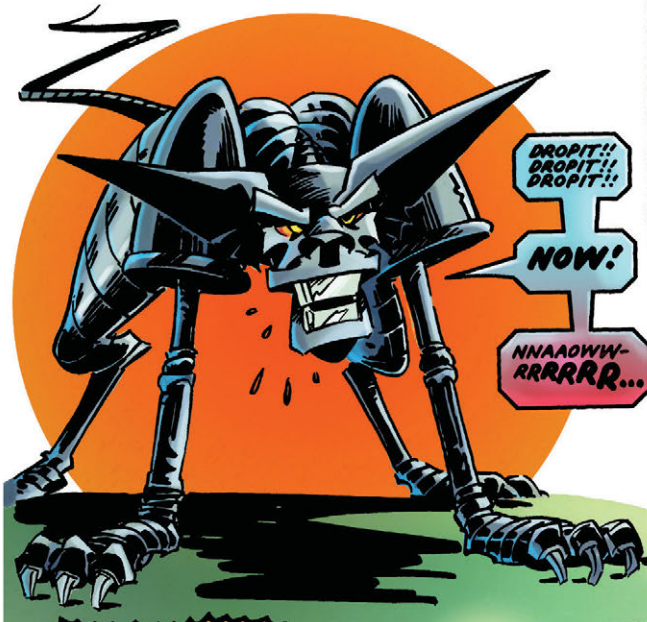
WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE SHAME OF YOUR PERSECUTION IS EXPOSED!

WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL YOUR UNJUST WAR UPON US IS CONCLUDED, AND WE MAY ONCE AGAIN PROSPER...

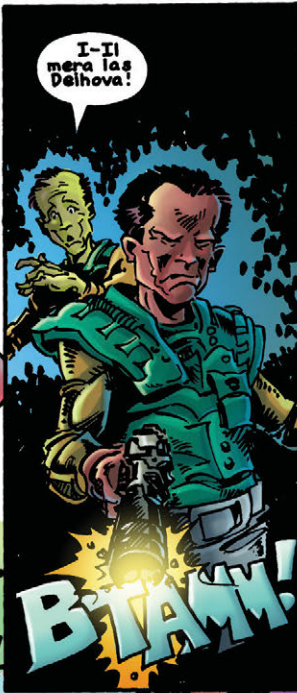


SHLRRENCH!

... IN PERFECT PEACE.



DROPIT!!
DROPIT!!
DROPIT!!
NOW!
NNAADWW-
RRRRR...



I-I
mera las
Deihova!

BIAM!

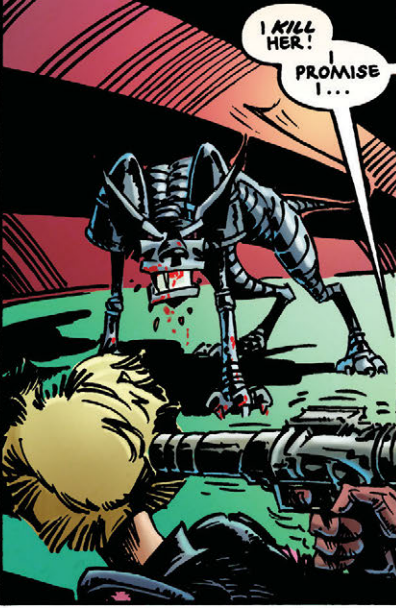


RRRRRRRRR-
RAARRR-
RGGHH!



AAAAAAA! YAAAAASH!

BIAM!



I KILL
HER!
I PROMISE
I...



...KILL...



... HERRAAAAIIIEEEEE!

BIAM!



NEXT PROG: I'LL NEVER FORGET WHATSIZNAME

4949AD

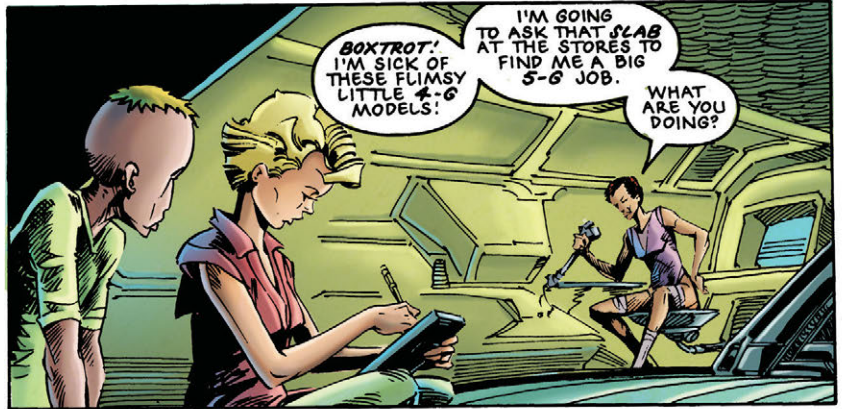
THREE MONTHS OUT:



I WAS TELLING RODICE ABOUT THE TARANTULAN EMANCIPATION ARMY, AND ABOUT TOBY AND EVERYTHING...

In fact, I was a girl several times.

AND, I, UH...



BOXTROT! I'M SICK OF THESE FLIMSY LITTLE 4-6 MODELS!

I'M GOING TO ASK THAT SLAB AT THE STORES TO FIND ME A BIG 5-6 JOB.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



OH, I'M JUST WRITING TO A GIRL I KNOW BACK ON THE HOOP. SHE'LL HAVE LEFT EARTH BY NOW, BUT MAYBE THERE'LL BE A FORWARDING ADDRESS.

I was a girl once.



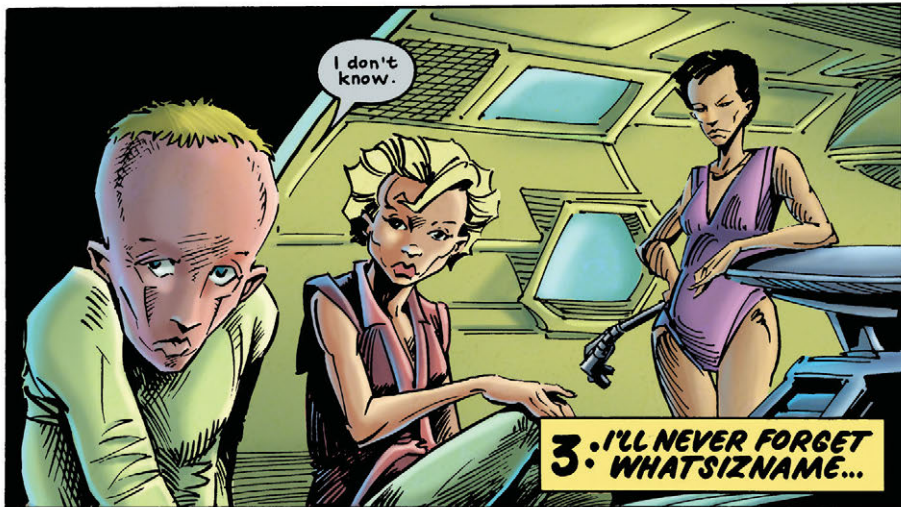
LOOK, I KEEP NOTICING YOU AROUND HERE. WHO ARE YOU?

YEAH! I KEEP NOTICIN' IT TOO. WHAT'S IT DOING IN OUR CABIN?

You're interested in me?

You... you want to know who I am?

YEAH. WHO ARE YOU?



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"I REMEMBER I STARTED OFF AS A GIRL. THAT MUCH I'M CERTAIN OF..."



"...OR MAYBE I STARTED OUT AS A BOY. NEVER MIND - IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER."



"THE THING IS, I WASN'T HAPPY AS A GIRL... UH... OR MAYBE I WASN'T HAPPY AS A BOY..."

"SO I HAD A TOTAL BODY REMOULD THAT TURNED ME INTO A BOY... OR POSSIBLY A GIRL."



"THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE, EXCEPT THAT 6 MONTHS AFTER THE TREATMENT I STARTED REGRETTING MY DECISION."

"SO I HAD ANOTHER REMOULD TO TURN ME BACK TO WHATEVER I STARTED OUT AS."

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Over the next five years, I changed my mind about whether I wanted to be a boy or a girl forty-seven times.

I suppose all those remoulds finally did something to my mind and my body...

"EVENTUALLY, I WASN'T A BOY OR A GIRL. I WASN'T ANYTHING. I COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I'D BEEN ORIGINALLY. THE DOCTORS WERE EQUALLY CONFUSED."

"ALSO, MY PERSONALITY HAD BEEN COMPLETELY ERASED. THAT'S WHY I'M SO BORING."

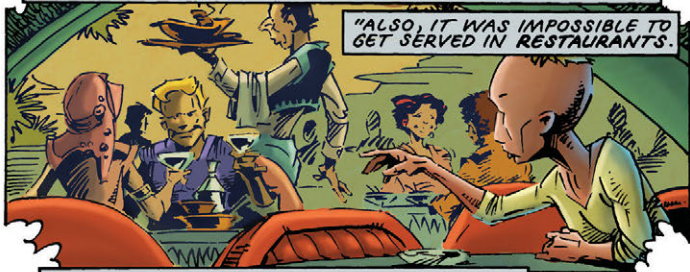


"PEOPLE STOPPED LISTENING TO WHAT I WAS SAYING, AND DIDN'T SEEM TO NOTICE I WAS THERE."

"LIFE'S VERY DIFFICULT WHEN NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE THERE. I COULDN'T GET A JOB BECAUSE TEN SECONDS AFTER THE INTERVIEW THEY FORGOT ABOUT ME."

"EVERYBODY FORGOT ABOUT ME. I WASN'T A BOY, I WASN'T A GIRL..."

"I WAS JUST A CYPHER, A SORT OF GLYPH."



"ALSO, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET SERVED IN RESTAURANTS."

"FINALLY, MY LANDLADY FORGOT I WAS LIVING IN MY APARTMENT AND LEASED IT TO ANOTHER FAMILY."

"I WALKED THROUGH THE CROWDED STREETS AND NOBODY EVEN LOOKED AT ME... THEY JUST STARED STRAIGHT THROUGH ME."

"I PROTESTED, BUT THEY DIDN'T NOTICE. EVENTUALLY, I MOVED OUT."

"IT WAS AS IF I'D SOMEHOW SLIPPED BENEATH THE THRESHOLD OF HUMAN AWARENESS."

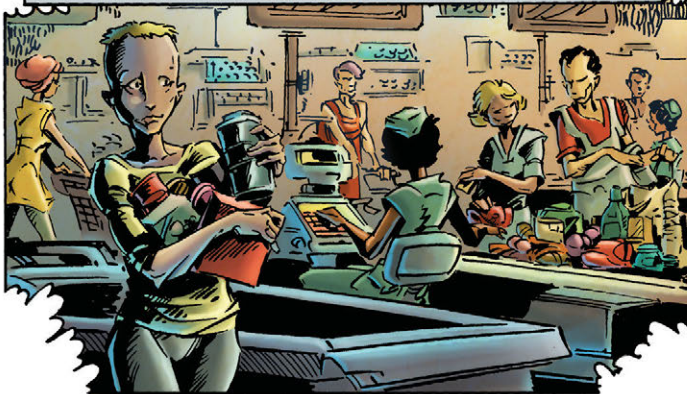


I had no home, no money, no friends, no job... all I had to look forward to was starvation.

But, as it turned out, I didn't starve.



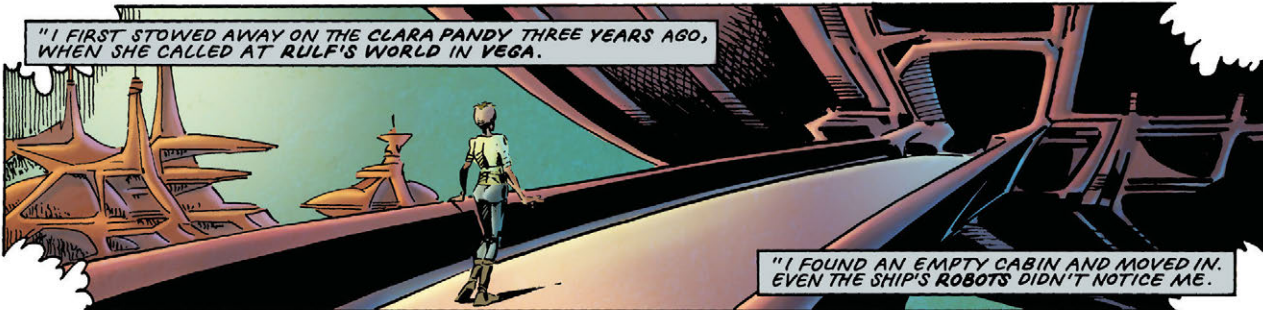
"YOU SEE, BEING A NON-ENTITY HAS GOT SOME ADVANTAGES. I SOON DISCOVERED THAT I COULD HELP MYSELF TO WHATEVER I WANTED, AND NO-ONE WOULD NOTICE ME DOING IT."



"I'D WALK INTO PEOPLE'S HOMES AND SIT DOWN WITH THEM AT THEIR BREAKFAST TABLE... AND NOBODY WOULD THINK TO ASK WHAT I WAS DOING THERE."



"I FIRST STOWED AWAY ON THE CLARA PANDY THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE CALLED AT RULF'S WORLD IN VEGA."



"I FOUND AN EMPTY CABIN AND MOVED IN. EVEN THE SHIP'S ROBOTS DIDN'T NOTICE ME."

"I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE. IT'S A LONELY LIFE REALLY. THE MINUTE I LEAVE A ROOM IT'S LIKE I WAS NEVER THERE."



"IT'S AS IF I'M IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION TO EVERYONE ELSE."

"STILL, I'M NOT COMPLAINING. I LIKE BEING NEAR PEOPLE..."

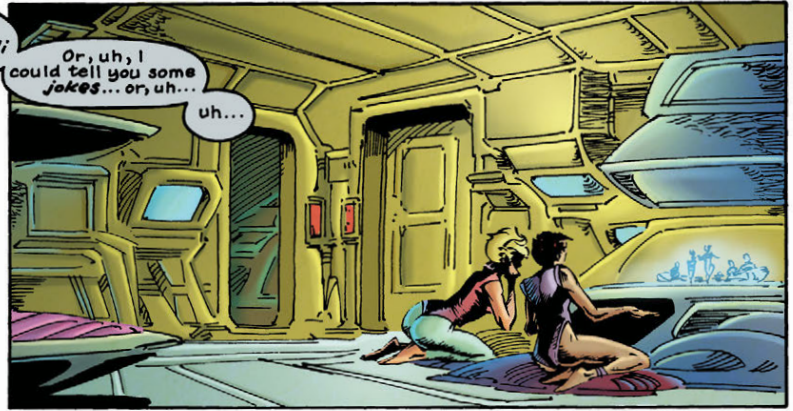
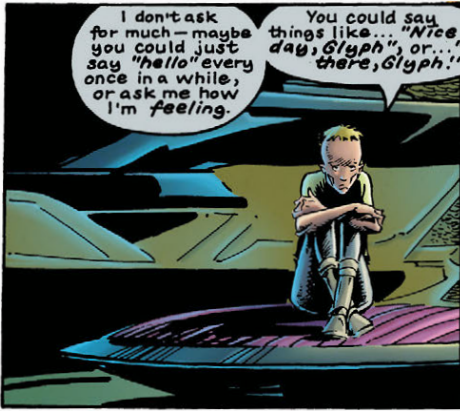
"I CAN LISTEN TO WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, AND PRETEND TO JOIN IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS. IT'S A LOT OF FUN, REALLY..."



... but there I go again, talking about myself and burdening everybody with my problems.

I don't want you to feel sorry for me. I'm just grateful to you for taking a moment to listen...



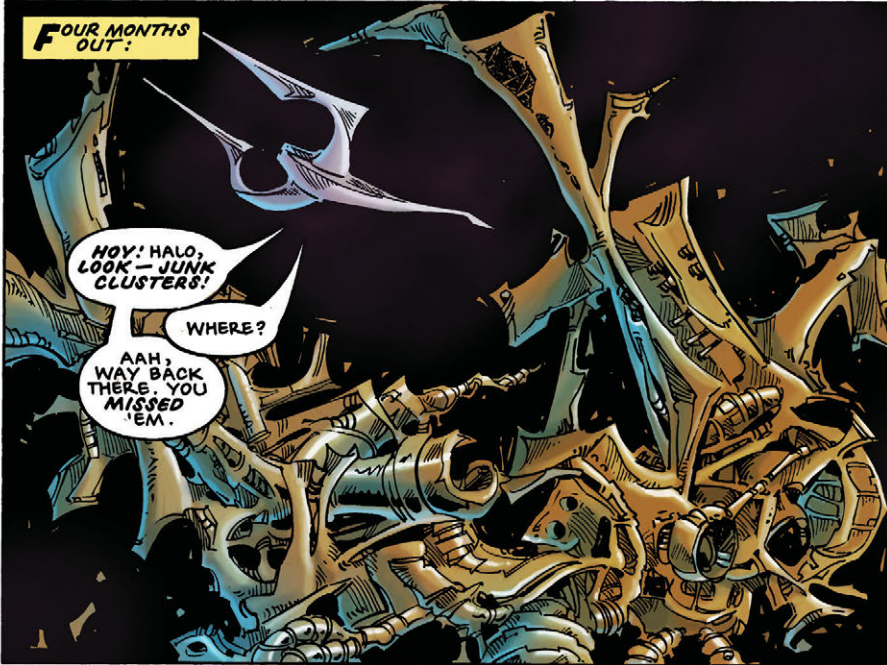


**FOUR MONTHS
OUT:**

The Ballad Of

HALO JONES

4: BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT



HOY! HALO,
LOOK — JUNK
CLUSTERS!

WHERE?

AAH,
WAY BACK
THERE, YOU
MISSED
'EM.



Y'KNOW, I
HAVEN'T SEEN
ONE OF THE
NATURAL WONDERS
OF SPACE YET!
THIS SHIP
TRAVELS SO
FAST.

YOU THINK
SO? I NEVER
FEEL LIKE I'M
REALLY
MOVING WHEN
I'M SPACE-
SIDE.

HEY, YOU —
KID! STAFF ONLY!
OUTSCRAM!



IT'S ALMOST
5.75. I HAVE TO
TAKE LUNCH TO THE
PRESIDENTIAL
CABIN.

LUCKY YOU.

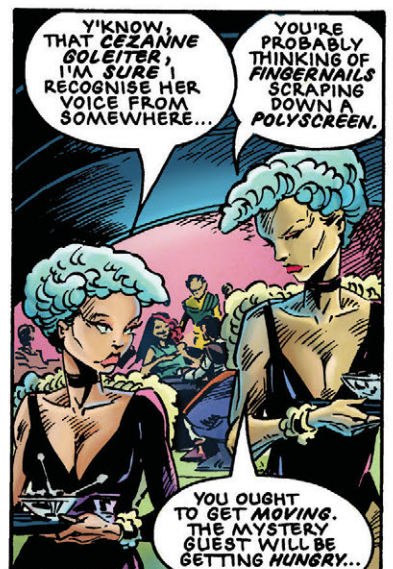
OKAY, JUST
DELIVER THOSE
DRINKS AND THEN
I'LL COVER FOR YOU.
IT'S PRETTY
QUIET.

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73e



UH... MZ. GOLEITER?
WAS YOURS THE
'RED SHIFT', OR THE
'SCHRÖDINGER'S
CAT'?

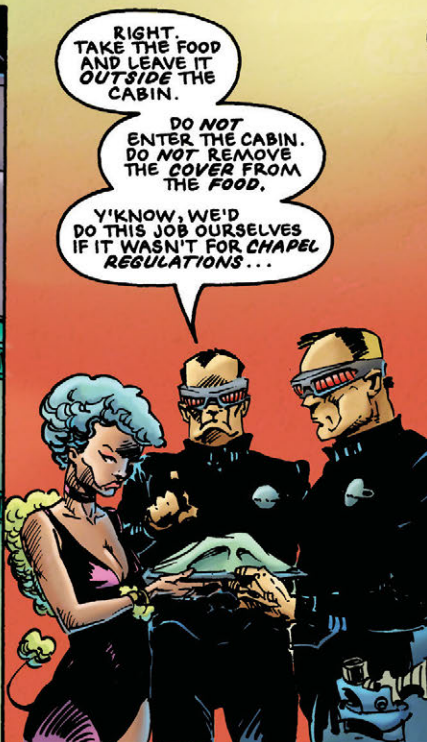
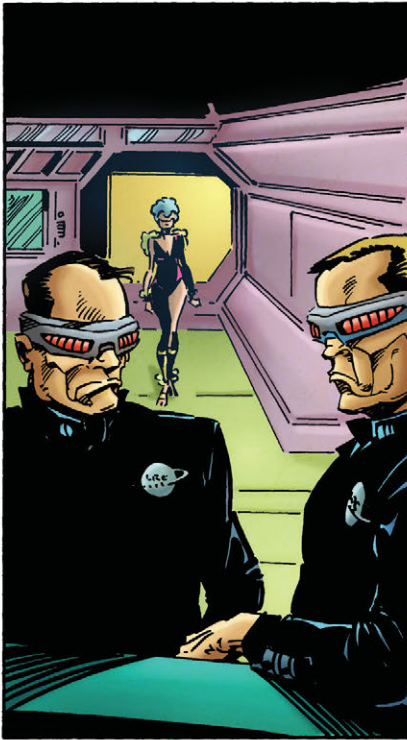
RED SHIFT,
WITH ICE, NO
PINEAPPLE,
THANK YOU, \$0
KIND, HERE'S
TWO
CREDITS.

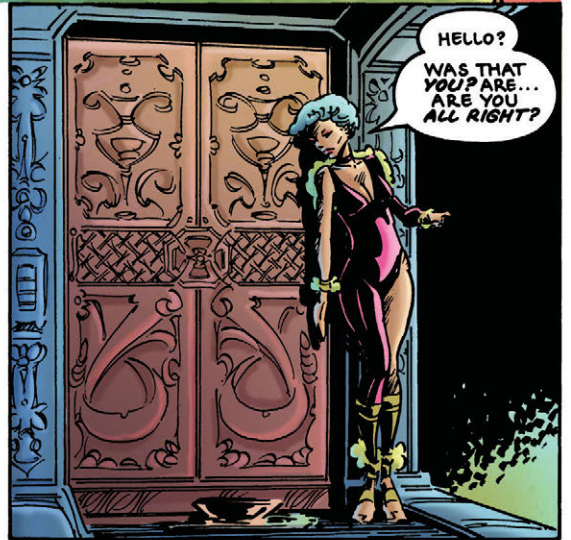
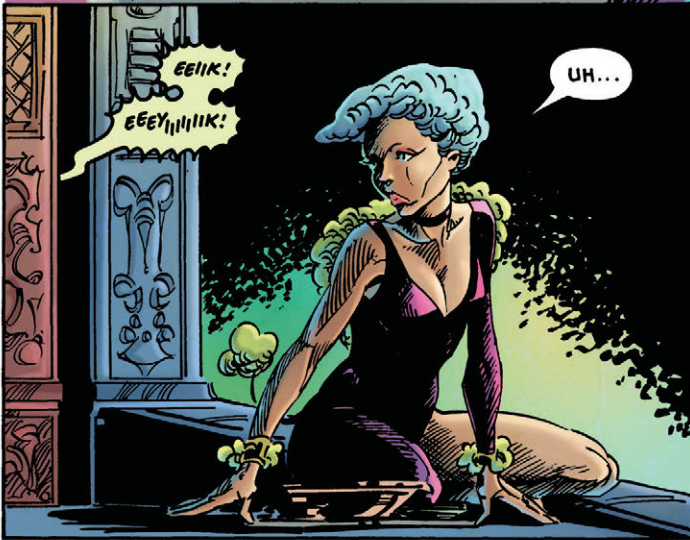
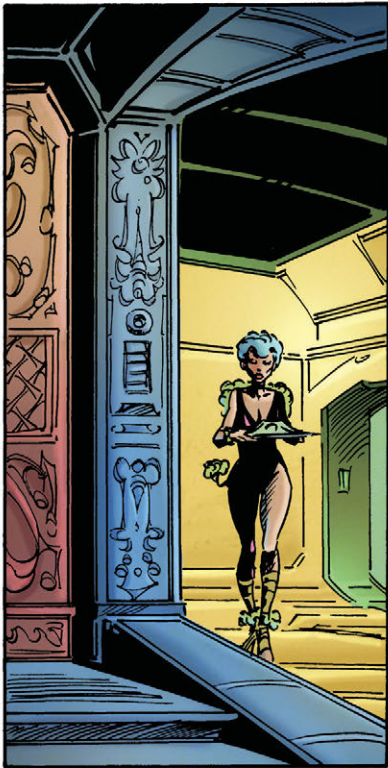


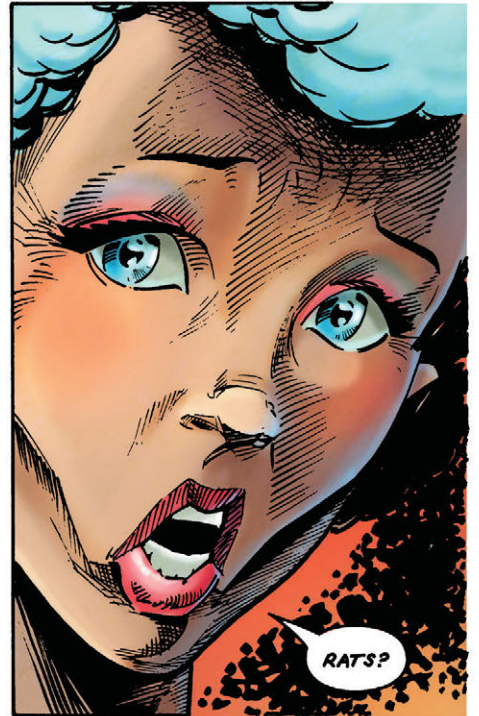
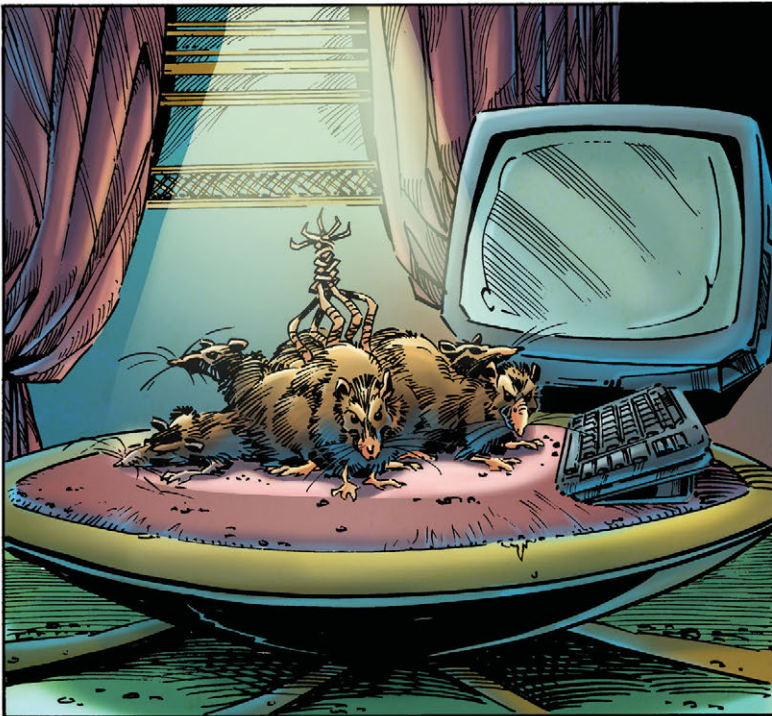
Y'KNOW,
THAT CEZANNE
GOLEITER,
I'M SURE I
RECOGNISE HER
VOICE FROM
SOMEWHERE...

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
THINKING OF
FINGERNAILS
SCRAPING
DOWN A
POLYSCREEN.

YOU OUGHT
TO GET MOVING.
THE MYSTERY
GUEST WILL BE
GETTING HUNGRY...







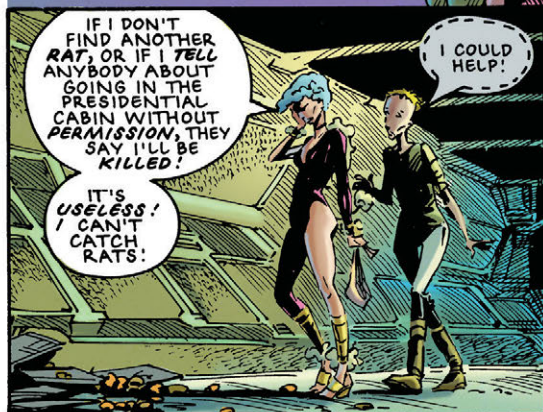
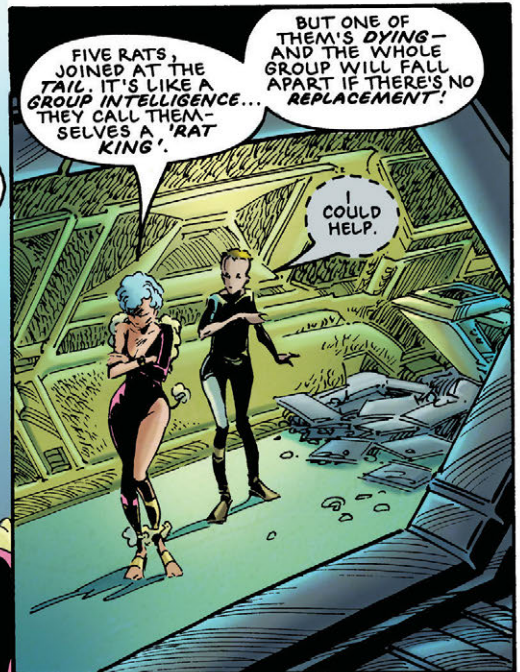
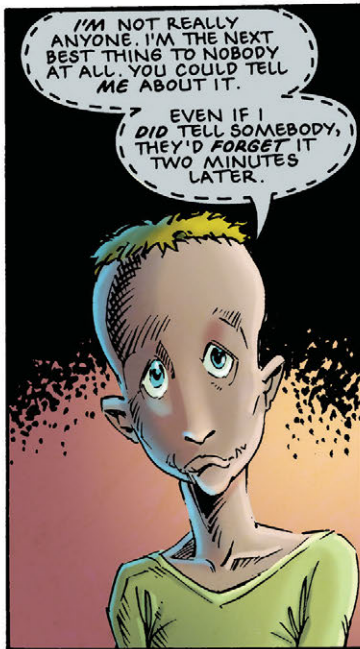


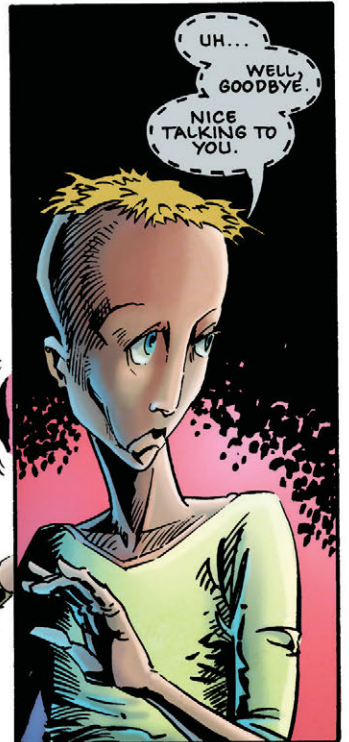
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STEVE POTTER
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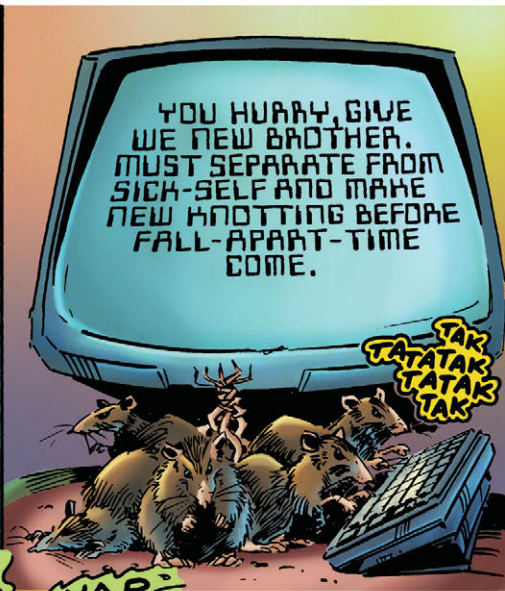
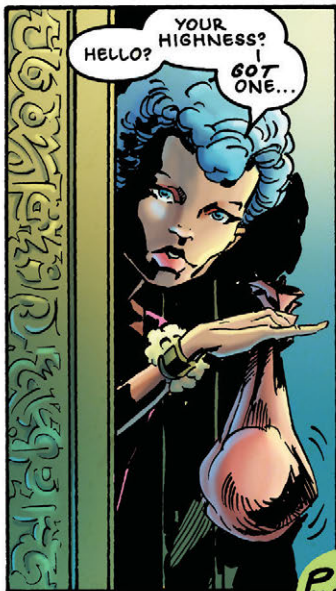


The Ballad Of
HALO JONES
5: CAT AND MOUSE











"TAKE DEAD BROTHER AND LEAVE WE. IF ANY LEARN YOU HAVE BEEN HERE, YOU WILL BE KILLED TO MAKE SILENCE."

TAK TATAK TATAK TATAK



BUT HOW DO I KNOW YOU WON'T TELL ANYBODY?



TRUST WE



EYUGH!



LATER:

... AND IF YOU EVER WALK OFF AND LEAVE ME IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUSY LUNCHTIME AGAIN, HALO, YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, THAT'S ALL!

MUDPLUG! THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!

HOY! I JUST REALISED...



I HAVE TO TRUST A BUNCH OF RATS!

HUH?

YOU BEEN A WOMAN FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND YOU ONLY JUST REALISED THAT?

NEXT PROG: MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS...

EIGHT MONTHS OUT...

HELLO?
MIX?

THE SLAB
AT THE STORES
SENT ME OVER
WITH THOSE
PARTS YOU
NEEDED.

I GUESS
YOU WANT TO
FINISH EARLY
AND GET READY
FOR THE
EQUATOR PARTY
TONIGHT...

THAT'S RIGHT.
WILL YOU BE GOING,
M.Z. JONES?

UH, WELL, I DON'T
KNOW. I Y'KNOW, DON'T
REALLY HAVE ANYBODY
TO GO WITH...

MY NAME'S
HALO.

HMM. NICE
NAME. I WOULDN'T
HAVE THOUGHT
YOU'D BE SHORT
OF COMPANY,
M.Z. JONES!

WELL, NORMALLY
I'M NOT, Y'KNOW, SHORT
OF COMPANY...

BACK ON THE
HOOP, I HAD LOTS
OF FRIENDS. I REALLY
MISS THEM.

I JUST DON'T
REALLY KNOW MANY
PEOPLE OUT HERE.
I'LL PROBABLY STAY
HOME TONIGHT.

HMM. WE
CAN'T HAVE YOU
STAYING HOME AND
MISSING YOUR
FRIENDS, CAN
WE?

WE...
WE CAN'T?

I HAD
YOUR ROBOT
DOE IN A MONTH
OR SO BACK, TO
REPLACE HIS AUDIO-
MEMORY
TAPES.

THE
OLD TAPES
ARE AROUND
HERE SOME-
WHERE THEY'LL
HAVE YOUR
FRIENDS' VOICES
ON THEM.



AHH! HERE THEY ARE! THEY'LL PLAY ON ANY ORDINARY MACHINE. HAVE FUN!

LOOK ON IT AS THANKS FOR BRINGING THOSE PARTS ACROSS.

Any time.

The Ballad Of HALO JONES

6: MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS...



LATER:

HOY! HALO! GUESS WHAT?

I GOT A DATE FOR THE EQUATOR PARTY!

That's really mammoth, Toy.



Y'KNOW THE BIG GUY WITH THE MOUSTACHE? THE ONE WHO WORKS IN RECREATION MAINTENANCE?

WELL, I WAS TAKIN' MY 156 EXERCISER THAT I BUSTED BACK TO COMPLAIN, AND HE JUST ASKED ME, STRAIGHT OUT!



MAYBE I'LL WEAR MY SPATTER-SMOCK. YOU CAN HELP ME SPRAY IT.

WHO ARE YOU GOING WITH?

HUH! HE MOOCHES AROUND AFTER YOU TOO MUCH AS IT IS! NOT NATURAL IN A HEALTHY ROBOT.

ANYWAY, TOBY'S ON PATROL DUTY TONIGHT. I HEARD THEM SAY SO.

SLAPPY! STOOD UP BY A DOG!

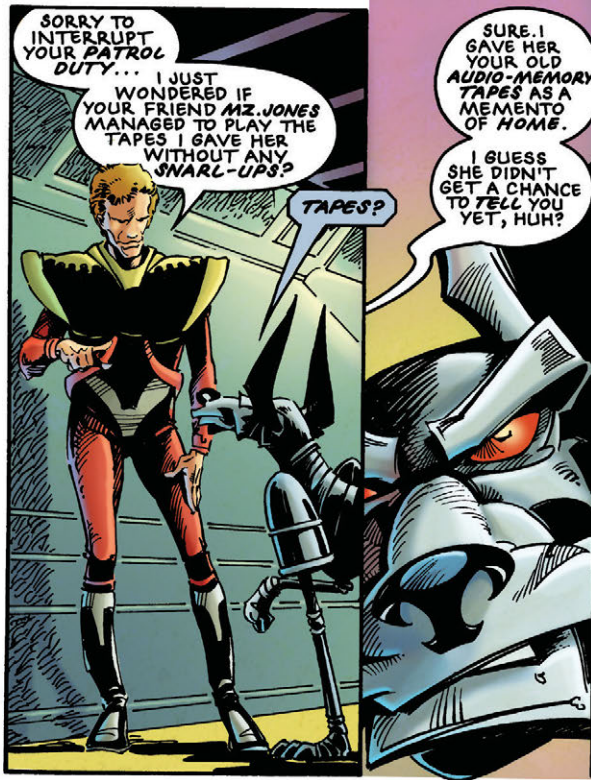
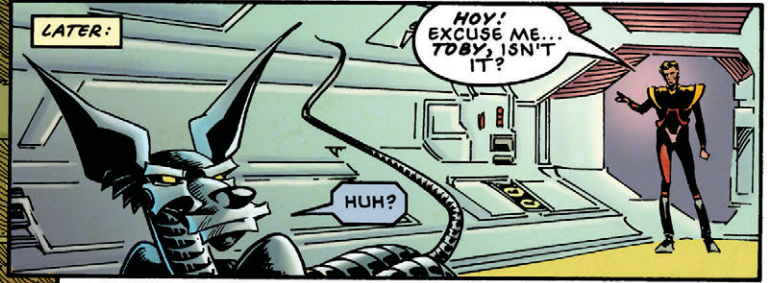
OH, IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO DECIDE FROM THE ZILLIONS WHO'VE ASKED ME... I'LL PROBABLY JUST STAY HOME WITH TOBY.

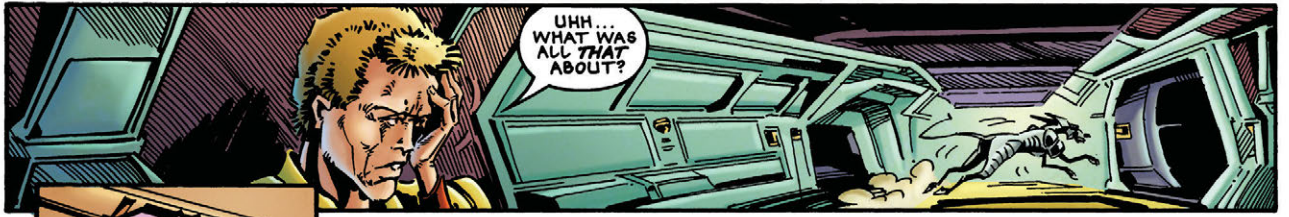


WELL, I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO SPEND ALL NIGHT SLUBBING OVER A BUNCH OF OLD TAPES - AND THAT'S DEFINITE! I'VE STILL GOT SOME DIGNITY!

...LA DADA DUM, LA DADÉE...

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Credit Card:
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ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73E





UHH... WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?



RODICE? ARE YOU OKAY?

AM I OKAY? I FEEL WONDERFUL!

HAHAHA!



SHE FEELS WONDERFUL.

I'M HAPPY FOR HER. NOW GET HER OUTSIDE AND ABOARD THE HOOPTOP MAGNETRAX BEFORE SHE CHANGES HER MIND... WHATEVER'S LEFT OF IT.

I REMEMBER! RODICE DROPPED HER ZENADE!



YOU COMING WITH US, TOBY?

FORGET IT. MY GUARANTEE DOESN'T COVER SALT-AIR EXPOSURE. I CAN MAKE BETTER TIME THROUGH THE HOOP ON MY OWN AND MEET YOU ON MALL LATER... SEE YOU AROUND, GIRLIES.

OH... TOBY LEFT US HERE AND TOOK A SHORT-CUT.
I'LL JUST FAST FORWARD A LITTLE...
THERE! THAT OUGHTA DO IT.

ZZZNNNNN



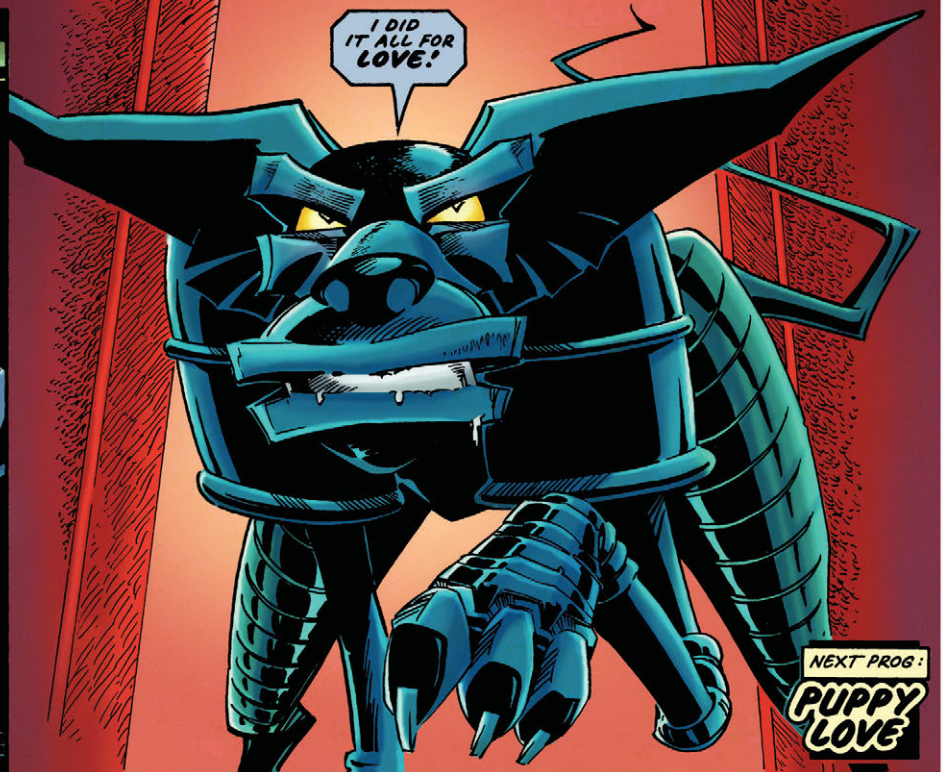
TOBY? IS THAT YOU? I THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH HALO AND RODICE?

I CAME HOME, MA. THERE WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO DO.

TOBY, I TOLD YOU TO STAY WITH THEM!

HUH? BRINNA?





4949 AD.

PARTY NOISES:

...SO, LIKE, I THINK WHAT EARTH IS DOING IN THE TARANTULA NEBULA IS REALLY TERRIBLE!

WHO SAYS THEY'RE DOING ANYTHING?

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IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
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OH, COME ON! EVERYBODY KNOWS EARTH IS TRYING TO REPOSSSESS THE TARANTULAN COLONIES - AND EVERYBODY KNOWS WHY. THEY HAVE MINERAL RESOURCES, EARTH DOESN'T ANYMORE. ALL EARTH HAS TO SELL IS WATER, EXCEPT THE CETACEANS WON'T LET THEM...

OH, I SEE: WE CAN'T AFFORD TO OFFEND THE DOLPHINS, SO WE INVAD E A BUNCH OF DEFENCELESS COLONIES!

CETACEANS ARE THE ONLY SPECIES WHO CAN NAVIGATE THROUGH HYPERSPACE... OFFEND THEM, AND SHIPPING COLLAPSES!

THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR LETTING LUIZ CANNIBAL LOOSE ON THE TARANTULAN COLONIES!

HE'S A PSYCHOPATH! HE'D USE ANYTHING - MELANOMA BOMBS, RATWAR...

BESIDES, FOR RATWAR YOU NEED A... WHAT ARE THEY CALLED? A RAT EMPEROR OR SOMETHING. I LEARNED THAT IN HISTORY...

HOW ABOUT YOU, JOY? YOU LOOK THOUGHTFUL. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THIS?

WHAAT? RATWAR WAS OUTLAWED CENTURIES AGO!

WELL, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHETHER MARALYNTHA ON 'SPACE HOTEL' WAS GOING TO MARRY DERVID...

...OR IF HER MOTHER WOULD COME OUT OF THE COMA IN TIME TO REVEAL THAT NOOSHI WAS EXPECTING DERVID'S BABY.

oh.



ANIMAL NOISES:

HALO... HALO... TRY TO SEE THINGS HOW I SEE THEM...

UH... YEAH. Y-YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GREAT, TOBY!

HALO... DON'T LIE TO ME. I CAN HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT ACCELERATING.

YOU'RE FRIGHTENED OF ME, AND YOU'RE TRYING TO BUY TIME UNTIL YOU CAN BETRAY ME.

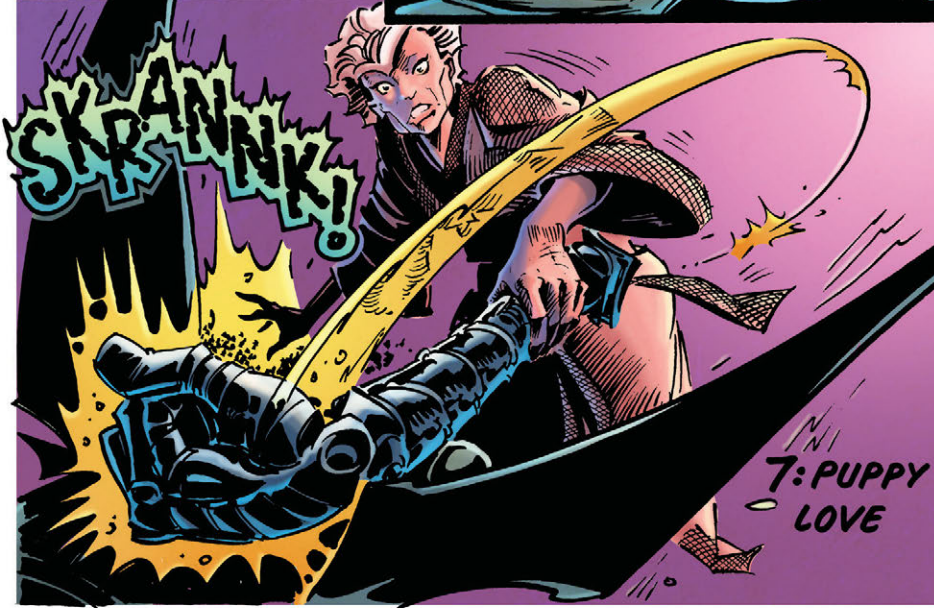
FORGET HER. SHE'S DEAD NOW, AND SHE LEFT ME TO YOU. WE CAN GO TO KAPEK'S WORLD AND FIT ME WITH A NEW HUMANOID BODY. I'D BE JUST LIKE A REGULAR BOYFRIEND. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO BRINNA— BUT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TOO GOOD TO MISS.

SHE WAS IN THE WAY, HALO.

IN THE WAY OF YOU AND ME.

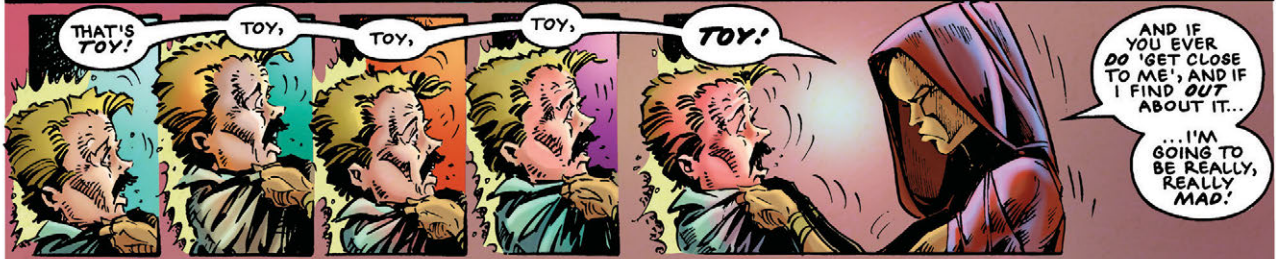
THAT MEANS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, TOO. I'M SORRY, GIRLY. WE COULD HAVE MADE SOME SWEET SOUNDS TOGETHER...



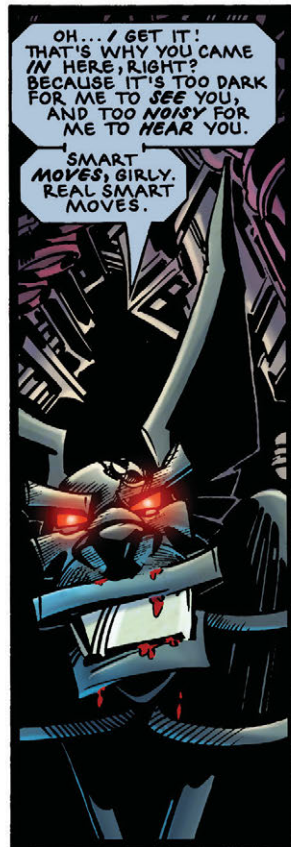
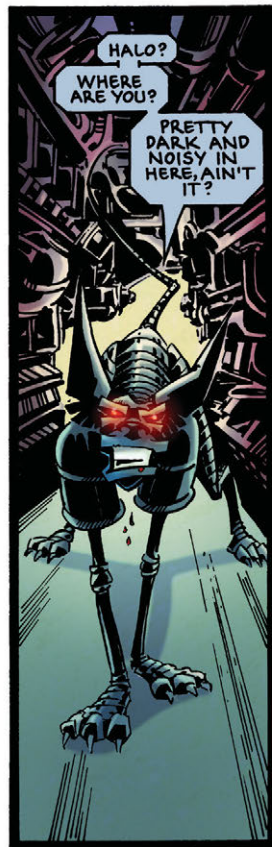
T: PUPPY LOVE

The Ballad Of

HALO JONES







HALO?
IT'S NO
USE HIDING,
GIRLY...

INFRA-RED VISION...
IT'S A STANDARD FEATURE
ON MY KIND OF MODEL. I
CAN SEE YOUR HEAT-
PATTERN, THROUGH THE
SHADOWS, THROUGH
THE WALLS...

IT'S VERY
PRETTY.

I'D LIKE
TO SEE IT
CLOSE UP.

Thudrrun Thudrrun THUDRRUN THUDRRUN
THUDRRUN



TOBY?

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AAA!

SHKRRANG!

8-HOUNDED.

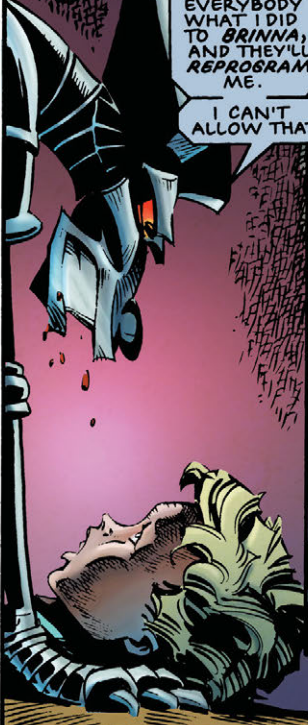
The Ballad Of
**HALO
JONES**



TOO BAD IT HAD TO END UP LIKE THIS. I REALLY DID LOVE YOU, HALO...

... BUT IF YOU LIVE, YOU'LL TELL EVERYBODY WHAT I DID TO BRINNA, AND THEY'LL REPROGRAM ME.

I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.



DON'T WORRY. THESE TEETH ARE LIKE RAZORS.



YOU WON'T FEEL A THING.



Halo?



SHE'S IN THERE! THE DOG CHASED HER INTO THE MAINTENANCE CORRIDOR!



I... UH...



HALO!



MNF!
GRAARRR!



AAACH!
CAN'T HOLD HIM...

OPEN THE FURNACE DOOR. IT'S BEHIND YOU!

HURRY!



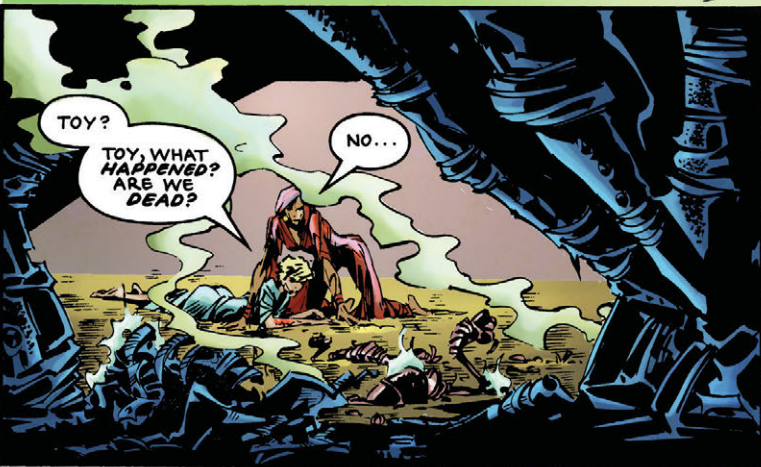
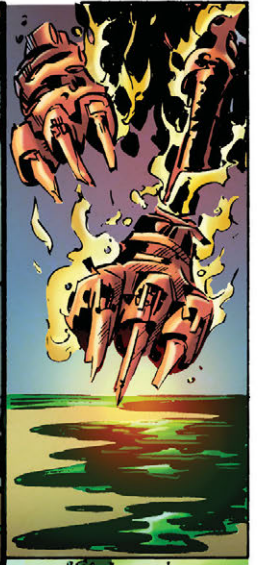
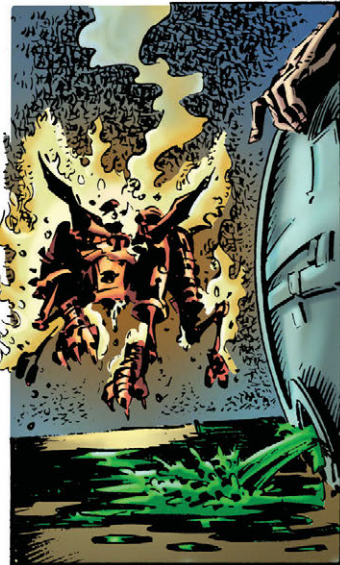
NO! NNRRAAAAAAGHH!

NNGH!



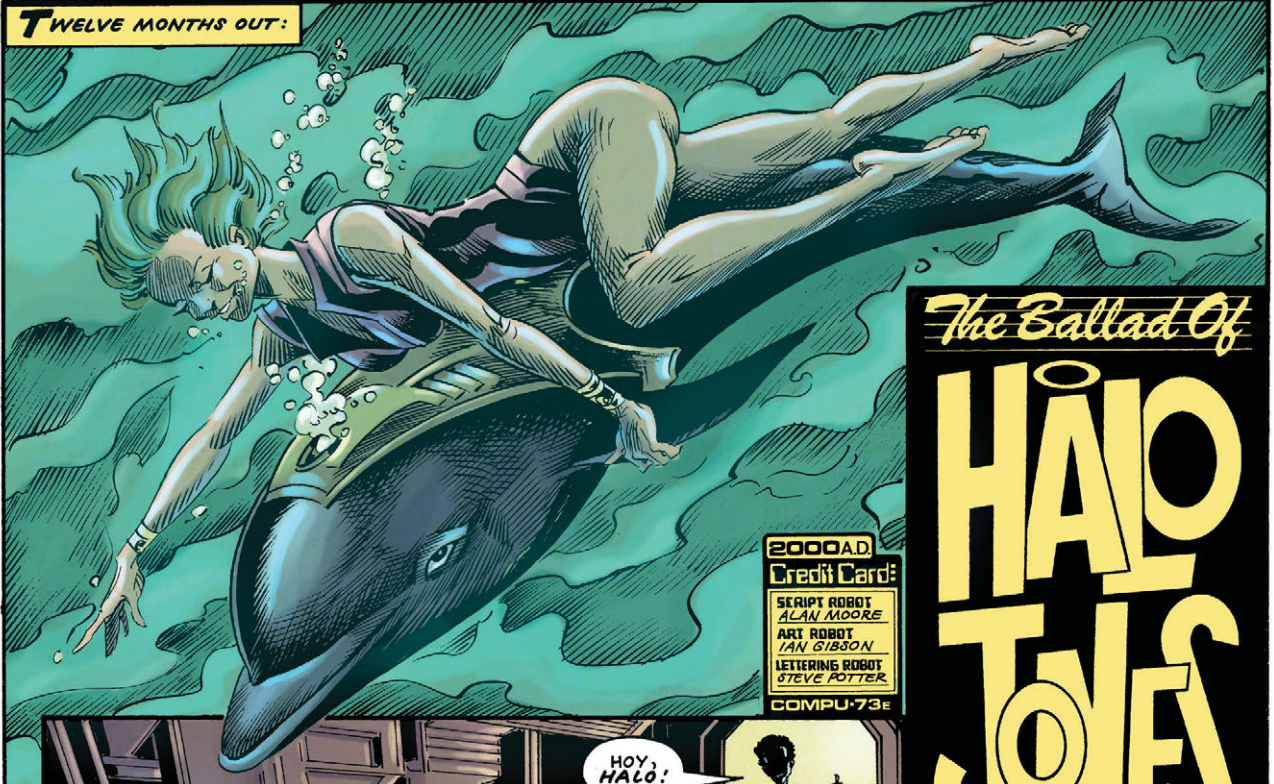
CLUNG

TURN THE HEAT ON FULL. IT'S THE WHITE BUTTON...



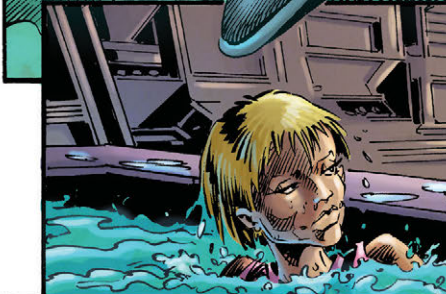
NEXT PROG: THE LAST DANCE...

TWELVE MONTHS OUT:

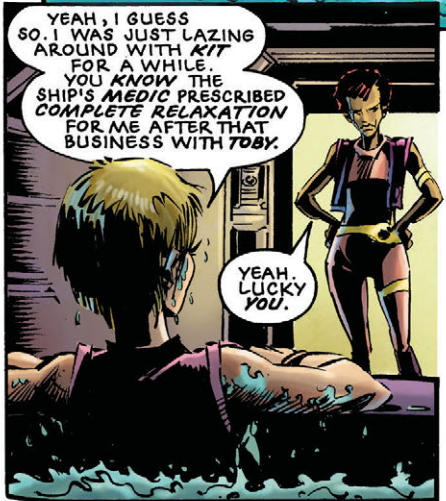


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ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
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The Ballad Of
**HALO
JONES**
9: THE LAST DANCE



HOY,
HALO!
ARE YOU
GOING TO GET
READY FOR
THIS PARTY,
OR WHAT?



YEAH, I GUESS
SO. I WAS JUST LAZING
AROUND WITH KIT
FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNOW THE
SHIP'S MEDIC PRESCRIBED
COMPLETE RELAXATION
FOR ME AFTER THAT
BUSINESS WITH TOSY.

YEAH.
LUCKY
YOU.

YOU'RE
JUST JEALOUS.
ANYWAY, DON'T
THE PEOPLE ON
THIS SHIP EVER
DO ANYTHING
BUT THROW
PARTIES?

THE
BEST.



TWO PARTIES
IN TWELVE MONTHS
IS A LOT? Y'KNOW,
YOU REALLY MUST
HAVE HAD A
SHELTERED
UPBRINGING.

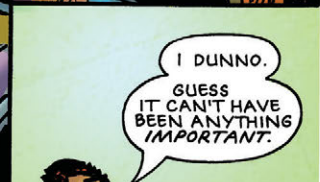


KITITIKTI-
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KITIT.

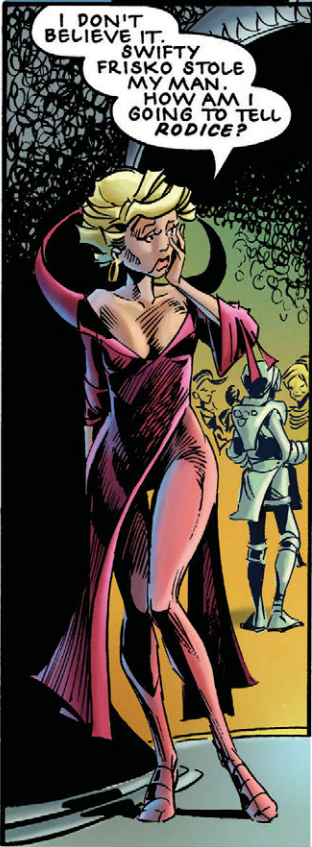
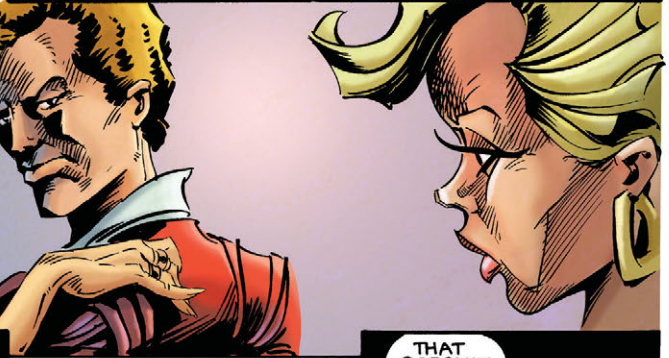
IKIT-
IKTIRIK,
RIKITIT.



HA-LO! WILL
YOU FINISH SAYING
GOODBYE TO THE
FISH AND GET SOME
CLOTHES ON?
WE'RE GOING TO
A CHOP PARTY!









UH... OH WELL, WHY NOT?

NOBODY ELSE IS GOING TO ASK ME AS NICELY AS THAT.



OKAY, HERE GOES... AND LISTEN, IF ANYBODY LAUGHS AT US, JUST IGNORE 'EM!

THEY WON'T LAUGH.



HOY! YOU REALLY DANCE WELL!

HA HA HA! THIS IS TERRIFIC...

THANK YOU.



UH... IS THE FLOOR EMPTYING, OR IS IT MY IMAGINATION? EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE LOOKING AT US...

JUST IGNORE THEM. THE DANCE IS NEARLY OVER. LET'S ENJOY IT.



LISTEN! THEY'RE ALL APPLAUDING!

THAT WAS THE BEST DANCE I EVER HAD IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. Y'KNOW, YOU'RE A PRETTY NEAT LITTLE KID.

THE PLEASURE WAS ALL MINE.



I HAVE TO GO NOW... MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU BEFORE WE DOCK ON CHARLEMAGNE AND BUY YOU A KAROB SUNDAY OR SOMETHING.

MY NAME'S HALO. WHAT'S YOURS...?



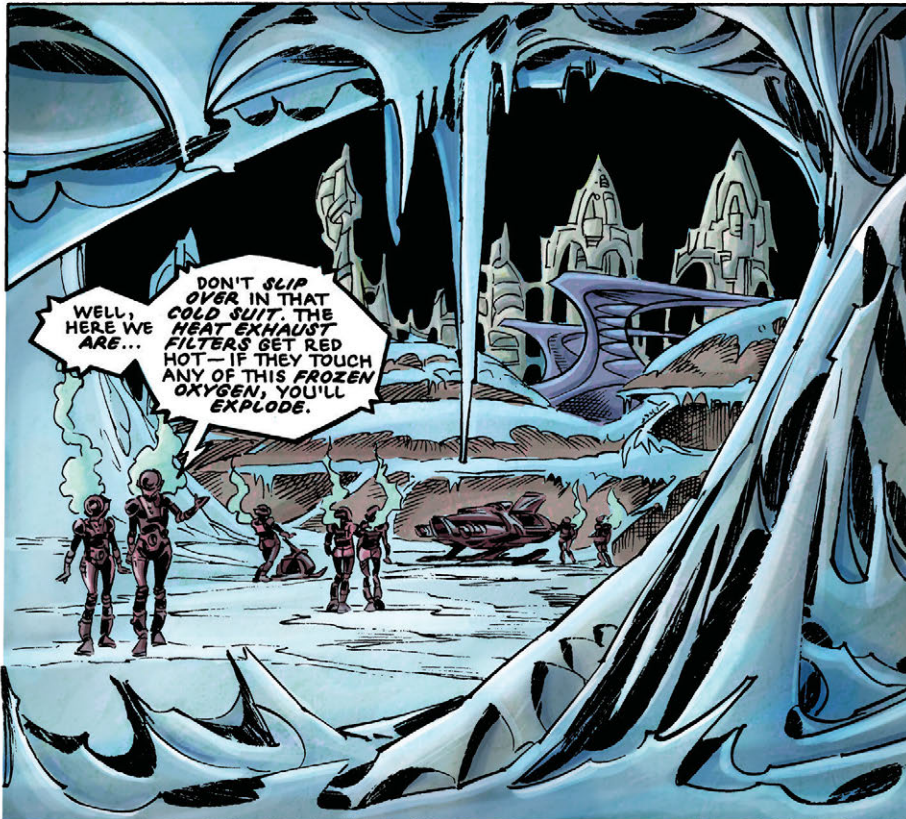
LUX ROTH CHOP. GOODNIGHT.

NEXT PROG: ICE COLD ON CHARLEMAGNE.

The Ballad Of

HALO JONES

10: ICE COLD ON CHARLEMAGNE



WELL, HERE WE ARE...
DON'T SLIP OVER IN THAT COLD SUIT. THE HEAT EXHAUST FILTERS GET RED HOT - IF THEY TOUCH ANY OF THIS FROZEN OXYGEN, YOU'LL EXPLODE.



I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FINALLY REACHED THIS PLACE!
DID YOU SEE ALL THOSE SHIPS DOCKED BACK THERE?

YEAH. SHIPS GO EVERYWHERE FROM CHARLEMAGNE. A LOT OF PASSENGERS WILL BE CHANGING HERE...

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73



HOY! HALO, LOOK OVER THERE! THOSE GUYS WITH THE COVERED TROLLEY...

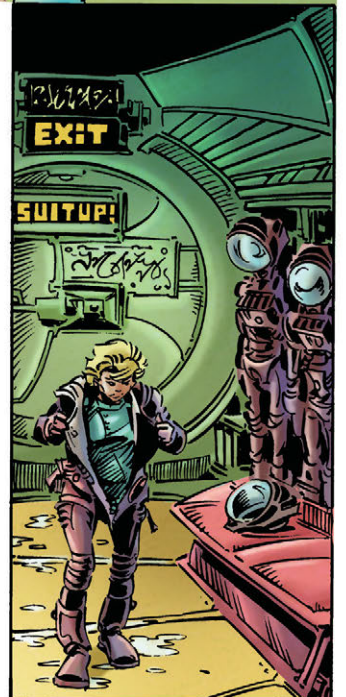
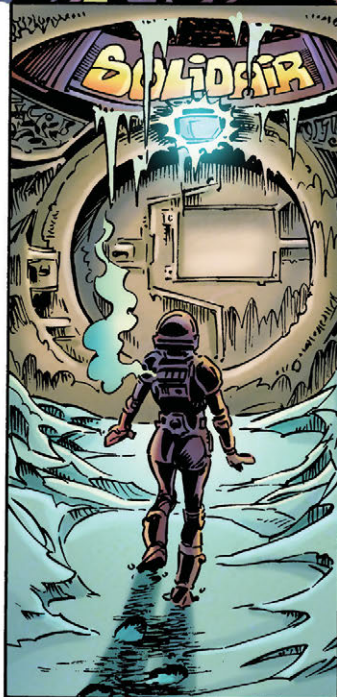
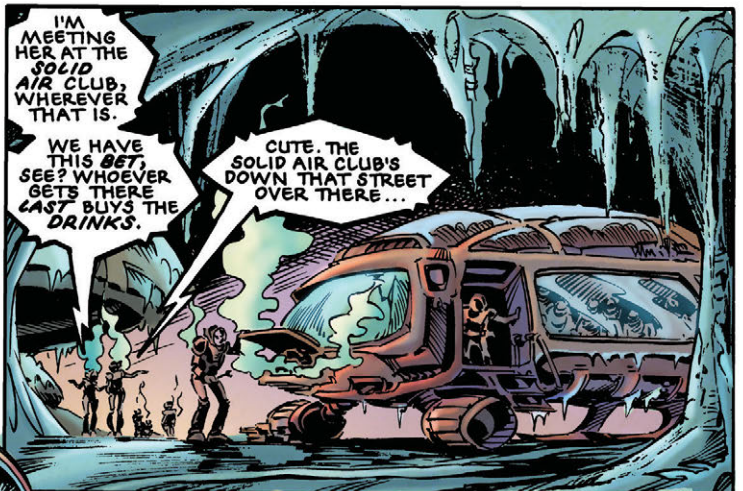
I SAW THEM WHEEL IT OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE THIS MORNING. THEY MUST BE TRANSFERRING IT TO ANOTHER SHIP.

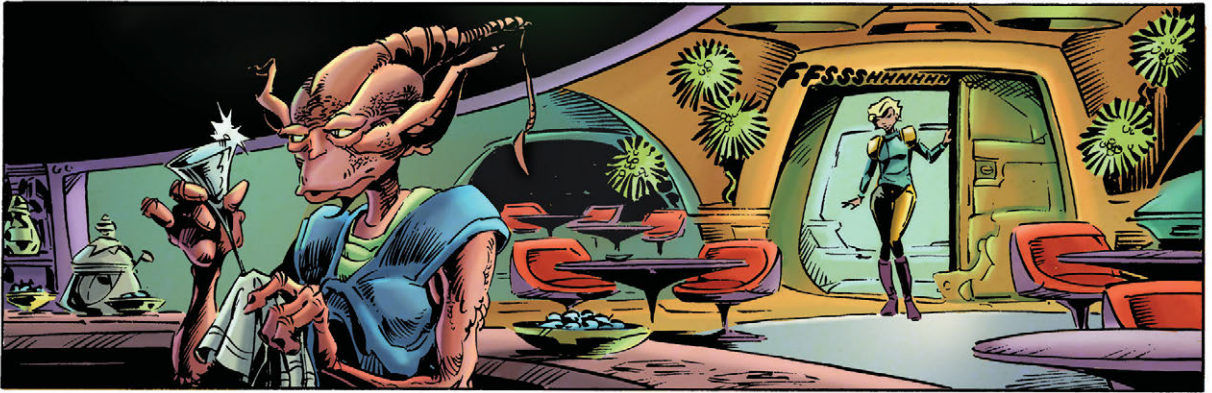


HMMMM... THEY'RE HEADED TOWARDS THE SECTOR WHERE THE SHIPS BOUND FOR THE TARANTULA NEBULA ARE DOCKED...

FUNNY... WE NEVER DID FIND OUT WHO WAS IN THAT CABIN.

UH... NO... NO, WE DIDN'T.





HI. UH... THERE HASN'T BEEN A TALL, SKINNY GIRL IN HERE THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, HAS THERE?

NO, MIZ.

HA HA! GREAT! GET ME TWO FOMALHAUTIAN FOAMERS! DO YOU HAVE ANY ICE?

YES, MIZ.— ON CHARLEMAGNE, WE HAVE PLENTY OF ICE...

YEAH, I GUESS YOU DO.

IT'S KIND OF EMPTY IN HERE, ISN'T IT? I WAS TOLD THAT EVERYBODY CAME TO THIS PLACE.

OH, WE WERE POPULAR ABOUT A YEAR AGO— BUT BY THE TIME PEOPLE GET HERE, ALL THE TRADE'S MOVED SOMEWHERE ELSE...

DEEDLEDEEDLEDEEDLE

EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TO ANSWER THE WARPLINK.

HELLO?

OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN.

I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE— THERE IS NO "HELLO JONES" HERE!

WAIT! DON'T CUT OFF! IT'S FOR ME! I'M HALO JONES...



RODICE!
HA HA! I
BEAT YOU
TO IT!

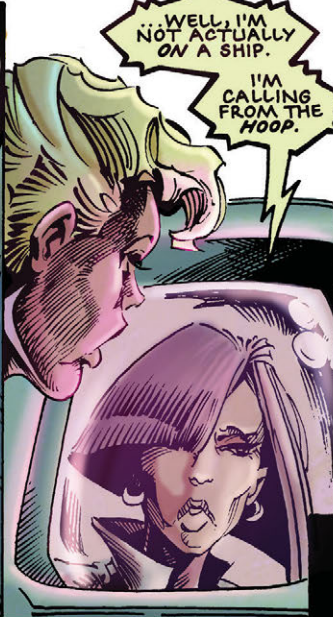
JONES! I DON'T
BELIEVE IT! YOU GOT
ALL THE WAY TO
CHARLEMAGNE WITH-
OUT GETTING
CRUMPED!



AHHH,
THERE WAS
NOTHING
TO IT!

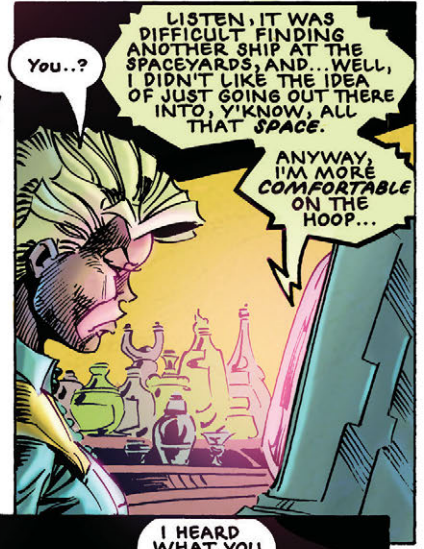
LISTEN, WHICH
SHIP ARE YOU ON,
AND WHEN DOES IT
ARRIVE HERE? I'M
GONNA RUN UP A
MAMMOTH DRINKS
TAB FOR YOU
TO PAY!

UH,
HALO, I'M,
UH...



WELL, I'M
NOT ACTUALLY
ON A SHIP.

I'M
CALLING FROM THE
HOOP.



You..?

LISTEN, IT WAS
DIFFICULT FINDING
ANOTHER SHIP AT THE
SPACEYARDS, AND... WELL,
I DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA
OF JUST GOING OUT THERE
INTO, Y'KNOW, ALL
THAT SPACE.

ANYWAY,
I'M MORE
COMFORTABLE
ON THE HOOP...

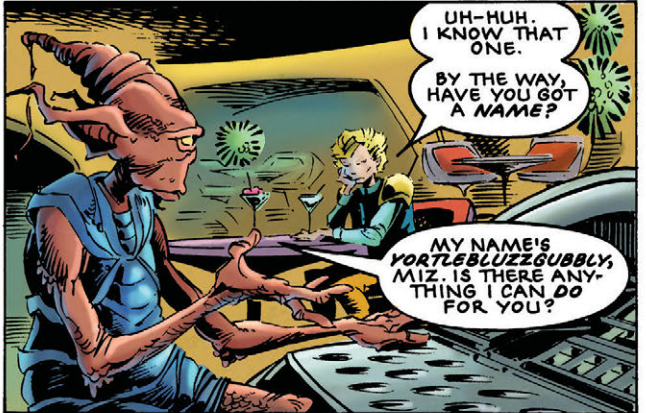
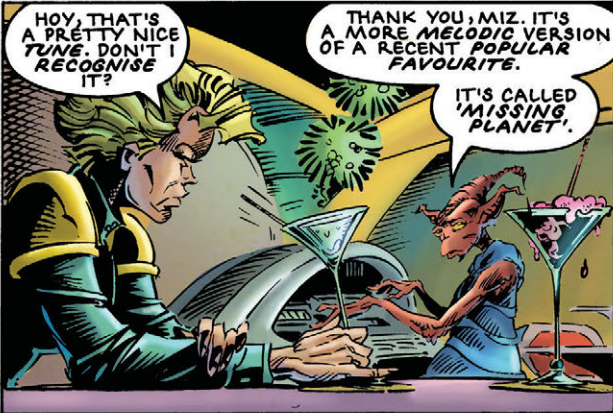


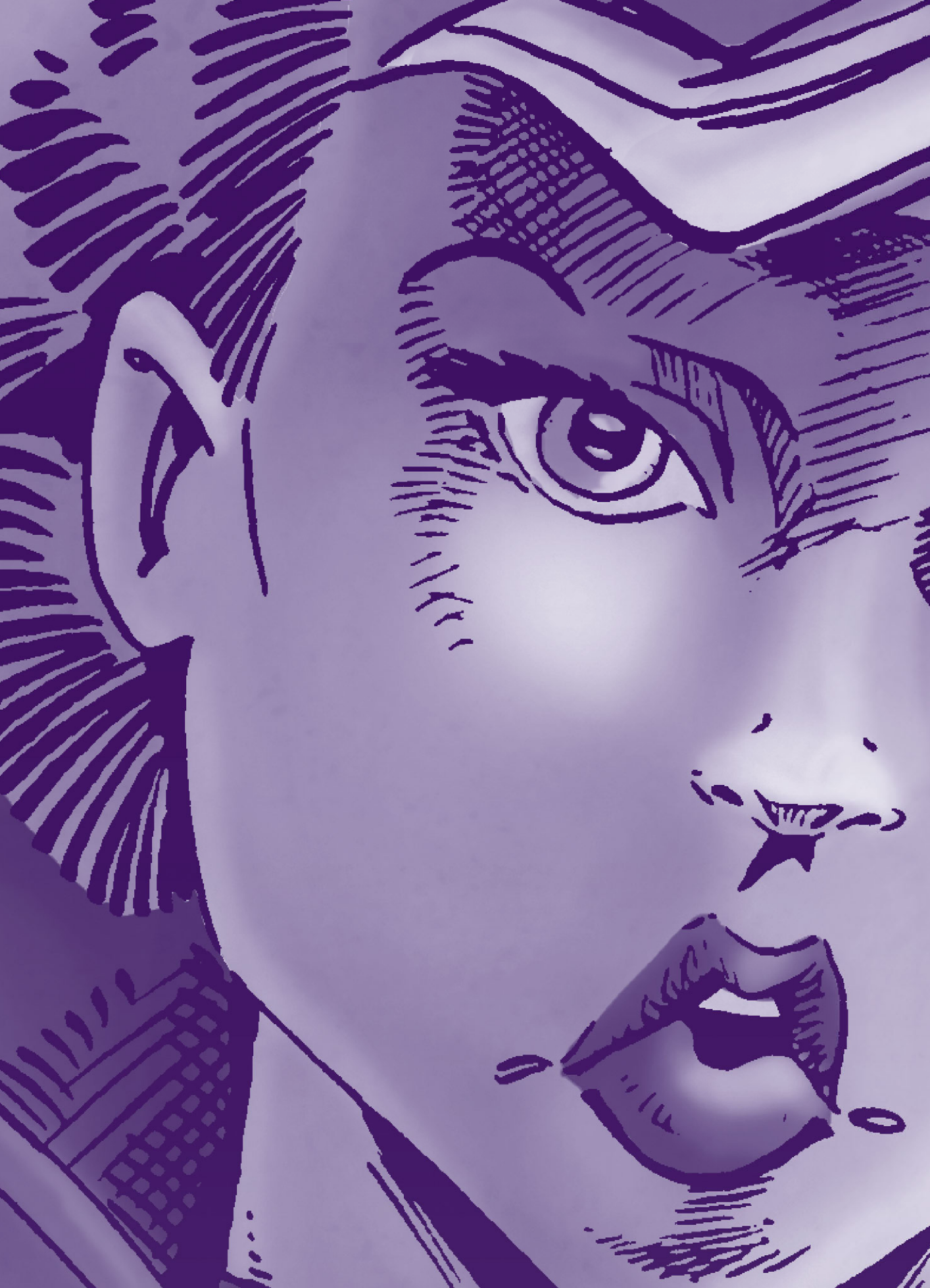
LOOK, I GOT SO
MUCH STUFF TO TELL
YOU ABOUT, BUT THIS
CALL'S ALREADY COSTING
ME ZILLIONS...
I'LL TELL YOU
EVERYTHING
WHEN YOU GET
BACK TO THE
HOOP, OKAY?
HALO? I SAID...



I HEARD
WHAT YOU
SAID.

I'M NOT
COMING BACK
TO THE
HOOP.







EXTRAS

THE HUNT IS ON FOR HALO'S BONES!

PROG 413
13 APR 85

2000 AD

FEATURING **JUDGE DREDD**

\$1.45 Malaysia
65c Australia
65c New Zealand
65c Mercury
210g Venus
66g Mars
10g Asteroid Belt
110g Saturn
10g Neptune
2g Pluto

24p
EARTH
MONEY

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EVERY
MONDAY



HOT DIGITAL DOG!

2000 AD Prog 413: Cover by Ian Gibson

ALAN MOORE

One of the most respected and well-known comic writers of the past few decades, Alan Moore created some of *2000 AD*'s most popular series, including *Abelard Snazz*, *The Ballad of Halo Jones*, *D.R. & Quinch* and *Skizz*. He has also worked on several other strips for *2000 AD*, most notably *Tharg's FutureShocks*.

Outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, Moore is best known for his work on *Watchmen*, which redefined the superhero genre in 1986, but this is simply touching the surface of a career which has included *Batman*, *Captain Britain*, *From Hell*, *Glory*, *Green Lantern Corps*, *Lost Girls*, *Miracleman*, *A Small Killing*, *Swamp Thing*, *Superman*, *V For Vendetta*, *Promethea* and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*.

More recently his latest novel, *Jerusalem*, was published to critical acclaim.

IAN GIBSON

One of *2000 AD*'s best-loved and most honoured artists, Ian Gibson is responsible for the co-creation of *The Ballad of Halo Jones* (with Alan Moore), and created *Bella Bagley*, an unfortunate character in *Judge Dredd*'s world who fell head-over-heels in love with 'Old Stoney Face' himself! His work outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic includes *Chronicles of Genghis Grimtoad*, *Star Wars: Boba Fett*, *X-Men Unlimited*, plus the designs for the TV series *Reboot*.

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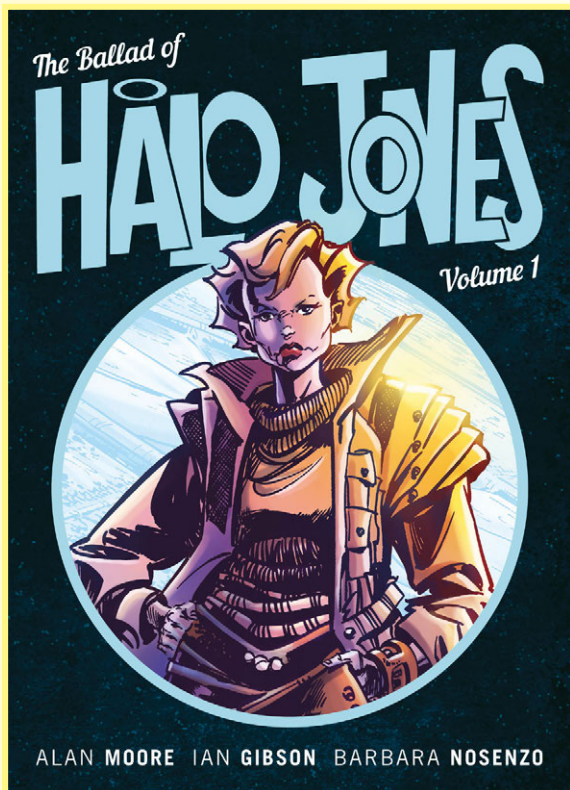


**SCAN
HERE**

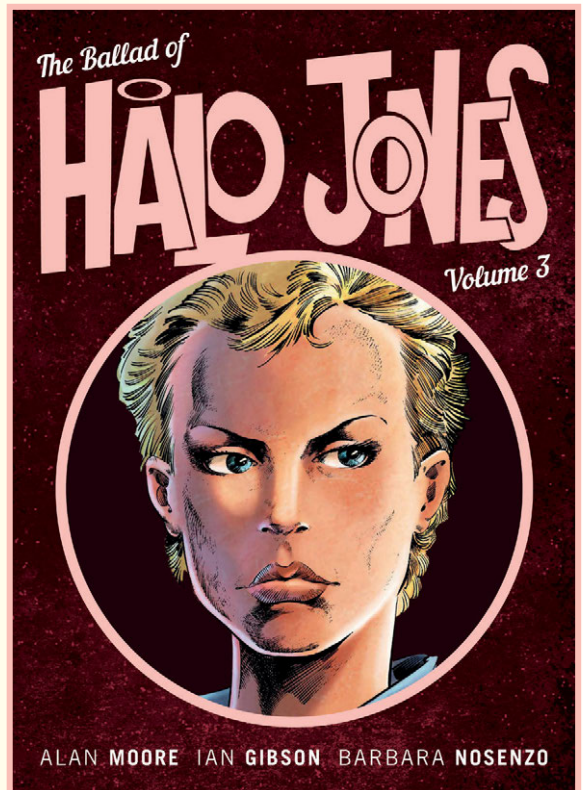


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“still in comics-land very ahead of her time ... a cracking sci-fi adventure story”

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- The Comics Journal



“She wasn’t anyone special”

With a promise to meet up with her friend Rodice on the planet Charlemagne, Halo has left her ordinary life in The Hoop behind her with only her irascible robot dog, Toby, for company. As a hostess on luxury space-liner ‘The Clara Pandy’, she must deal with colourful cabin mates and eccentric celebrities while, unbeknownst to her, death stalks her voyage...

With stunning new painted colour from Barbara Nosenzo, this volume of Alan Moore and Ian Gibson’s comics masterpiece tells the second part of the story of Halo Jones from her humble beginnings to her galaxy-spanning adventures.

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“A masterpiece...Nosenzo’s colours really illuminate Gibson’s art and elevate it to a completely new level” - Comicon.com

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