

BOOM!
STUDIOS

2

WE ONLY FIND THEM
WHEN THEY'RE
DEAD

AL EWING • SIMONE DI MEIO

**WE ONLY
FIND THEM
WHEN
THEY'RE**

DEAD

WE ONLY FIND THEM WHEN THEY'RE DEAD™

*Written by Al Ewing
Illustrated by Simone Di Meo
with Color Assists by Mariasara Miotti
Lettered by AndWorld Design*

*Cover by
Simone Di Meo*

*Dead God Variant Cover by
Toni Infante*

*Variant Cover by
Rafael Albuquerque*

*Sanctum Sanctorum Comics & Oddities Exclusive Variant Cover by
Peach Momoko*

*Logo Designer
Scott Newman*

*Designer
Grace Park*

*Assistant Editor
Gwen Waller*

*Editor
Eric Harburn*

We Only Find Them When They're Dead created by Al Ewing + Simone Di Meo

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The year was 2366.
The ship was the *Vibaan II*.
An autopsy ship
with a crew of four.

GALACTIC TIME
CODE IS **ELEVEN-
EIGHT-SEVEN
HOURS**, CAPTAIN
MALIK. LOOKS LIKE
FIRST SHIFT IS ALL
PRESENT AND
CORRECT.

WHAT'S
OUR **STRAT**
TODAY, CAP'N?
DO WE PUSH FOR
ANYWHERE THIS
TIME, OR HANG
BACK FOR THE
UNCLAIMED
AREAS?

...

SHE'S NOT
HERE...

SIR?

JUST TWO
LISTED,
CAPTAIN.

KENYATTA'S
SWAPPED WITH
FINLAY, NO REASON
GIVEN--AND
GUTIERREZ IS
SUBBING FOR
RICHTER--

--REASON GIVEN
IS **MEDICAL
EMERGENCY**.

CHECK
THE **DUTY
ROSTER**. ANY
SUBSTITUTIONS ON
THE ESCORT TEAM
IN THE PAST **SIX
HOURS**.

YES.
YES, IT'D
HAVE TO
BE.

BUT...
SHE'S NOT
HERE...



...SHE'S NOT LISTENING.

MR. HAUER-- STOP RECORDING AND *DELETE* THE LAST TWO MINUTES.



CLOSE THE EARS. DEAFEN THE SHIP.

THAT'S AN ORDER.



CAPTAIN-- GEORGES, I--

I CAN'T DO THAT--

WHAT THE HELL, MALIK?



THAT'S AN *ILLEGAL ORDER!* TAMPERING WITH SHIPS' LOGS IS A *TEN THOUSAND BAR FINE--* FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE CREW!

DO YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY? BECAUSE WE DON'T--



HE DOES. FROM THE *INSURANCE.*

BUT THIS WOULD BE A *POOR* THING TO FINALLY *SPEND* IT ON, GEORGES.

INSURANCE? WHAT...?



I'LL PAY
WHATEVER
PRICE THERE
IS TO PAY.
MYSELF.

PLEASE,
JASON. I AM
ASKING YOU
AS...AS A
FRIEND.



PLEASE.



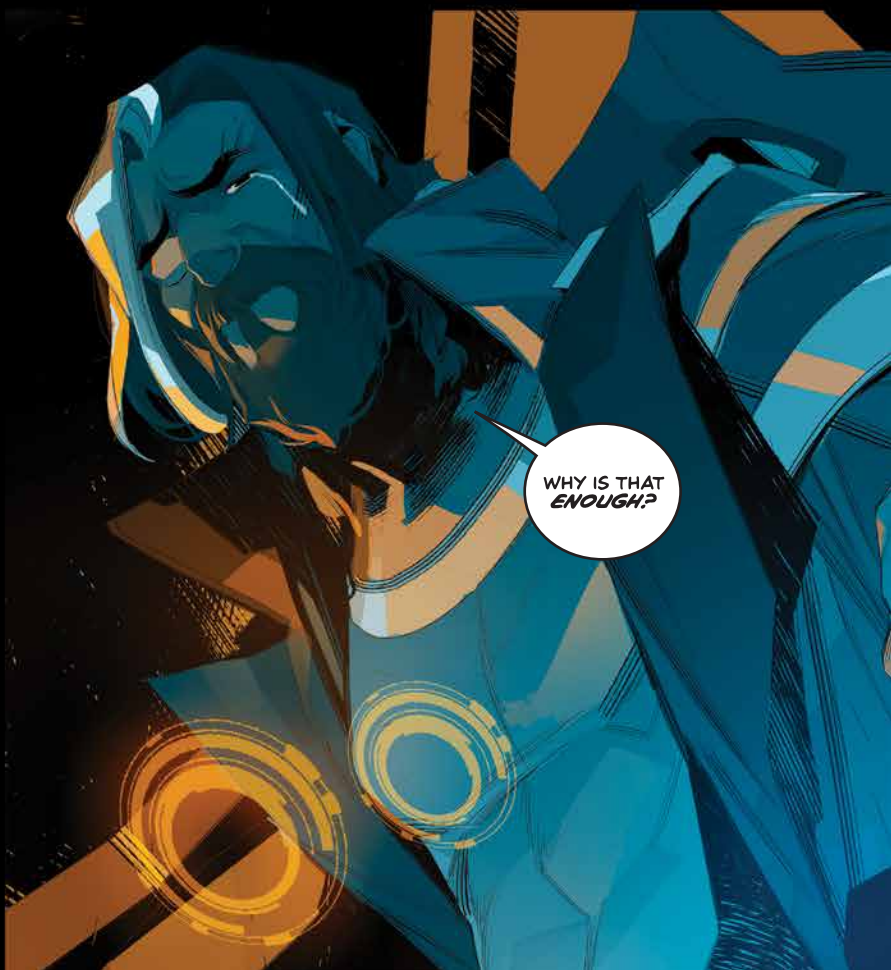
...
ALL RIGHT,
CAPTAIN. THE
SHIP HAS *NO*
EARS.

NOW TELL
ME WHAT'S SO
IMPORTANT--



THEY
ARE ALWAYS
DEAD,
JASON.

WE
ONLY *FIND*
THEM WHEN
THEY'RE
DEAD.



WHY IS THAT
ENOUGH?

WE ONLY F
WHEN T
DE

Book One: The Seeker

FIND THEM
THEY'RE

ROD

— *Issue Two: What's So Important* —

The year is 2367.

TUNG
TUNG

TUNG
TUNG

TUNG
TUNG

TUNG
TUNG



FIRST
SHIFT, YOU
ARE *GOOD*
TO GO--

YES.
EIGHT
BELLS.

JASON...
IS ALL
WELL?



HERE'S
AN OMEN FOR
YOU--RICHTER'S
OFF-DUTY
AGAIN.

TOMASI'S
LEADING IN
ESCORT TWO,
WITH LI AS SECOND-
IN-COMMAND
IN *ESCORT*
THREE.



...SHE'S
OFF-DUTY
AGAIN? THAT
DOES FEEL
LIKE AN
OMEN...

HOW DO THE
REST OF YOU
FEEL? ARE YOU
READY?



SURE, SURE.
EIGHT BELLS,
KNIFE'S
SHARP.

WHATEVER.



...

WELL, *I'M*
READY.



ALL RIGHT.
TAKING US
FORWARD...

...STEADY
AS SHE
GOES.

WE'LL TAKE AN *EASY CLAIM* TODAY. SOMEWHERE ON THE *FOREHEAD*-- HARVEST THE PROTEINS THERE.

AND WE MIGHT NEED SOMETHING TO *EAT*--RIGHT, CAPTAIN?

I CAN'T SEE THERE BEING ANY *COMPETITION* FOR THAT...

CAREFUL, MR. HAUER.

REMEMBER-- EVEN IF NOT EVERYONE'S *LISTENING* TODAY, THE SHIP STILL HAS *EARS*.

YES *SIR, CAPTAIN SIR.*

...
IT'S NOT THE *TIME, JASON.*

THE SHIP HAS *EARS.*

"SO...I'VE BEEN *THINKING.*"




THIS *PLAN*
OF YOURS.
FINDING A LIVE
GOD...

LET'S
NOT TALK
ABOUT IT
NOW--

NO, I'M
IN. COUNT
ME IN.

I VOTE
YES.



WE SHOULDN'T
TALK ABOUT IT
NOW. *THIS* SHOULD
BE SEPARATE
FROM *THAT*.

I...DON'T
WANT YOU TO
SAY "YES"
BECAUSE...



PLEASE.

I'M NOT
THAT HARD
UP.



IF WE COME **BACK**...WE'LL PAY MORE THAN A **FINE**, I THINK. AND WE MAY **NOT** COME BACK.


IT MAY BE **SUICIDE**. WE COULD **DIE** OUT THERE--ALL OF US.

THIS...IS A THING THAT NEEDS A **REASON**.



...
MY SISTER ALL BUT **RAISED** ME. AND SHE'S LOOKING OUT FOR ME. SHE'S DOING **GOOD**.

WE'VE GOT WORK, WE'RE ON A SHIP...WE'RE **SURVIVING**.



BUT I NEED **MORE** THAN TO SURVIVE.

I NEED MORE THAN TO...TO CUT UP **BODIES** FOREVER. I NEED SOMETHING THAT'S MORE THAN JUST **LIVING**.

DOES THAT MAKE ME **UNGRATEFUL**? IS THAT **WRONG**?

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH DEAD THINGS.



AND NOW, I FIND OUT...NEITHER DO YOU.

AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT **LATER**...BUT I'LL STILL BE **ME**. AND I'M **IN**.

I VOTE **YES**.



**SUN DOG!
DEMOCRITUS
THREE!**

**YOU ARE IN
VIOLATION!**

**REDUCE
SPEED AND--
DAMMIT--**

**THIS IS
ESCORT
TWO, CONTROL,
WE GOT
RUNNERS--**

**ESCORT
FOUR--WE'RE
TRYING TO BOX
THEM IN BUT
WE NEED
BACKUP--**

**REPEAT,
WE NEED
BACKUP--
OVER--**



SO...

NOW?

**NOT
YET...**

**"NOT
EVER."**

The year was 2366.

I *MEAN* IT, JASON. I'M PUTTING MY FOOT DOWN.

YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU *LITERALLY* WANT TO--TO *THROW YOURSELF INTO THE VOID?* BECAUSE SOME *GUY* WANTS YOU TO?

HE WAS TRYING TO PUT ME *OFF...*

OH, SO EVEN *HE* THINKS IT'S CRAZY? THE GUY WHO CAME *UP* WITH IT THINKS IT'S A BAD IDEA?

THE GUY WHO-- I'LL REMIND YOU--IS YOUR *BOSS?*

DON'T HATE ME FOR MY *WORK-LIFE BALANCE, SIS.*

YOU'RE AN IDIOT. AND I AM *SHUTTING THIS DOWN.*

YEAH? *HOW?* ARE YOU GOING TO RAT US OUT TO THE *ESCORT SERVICE?*

AFTER *SITTING ON* IT FOR A WEEK? WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'LL *SAY, SIS?*

...

THEY'LL FINE *ME* AS WELL. FOR THEIR *QUOTA.* AND WE WORK IT OFF THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

DAMN YOU, JAY.

DAMN YOU AND DAMN *HIM.*

HOW COULD YOU *DO THIS* TO ME?



I'M NOT DOING IT TO YOU. I'M DOING IT FOR ME.

I...LOOK, IF YOU WANT OUT, THERE ARE OTHER CORONERS WHO'LL WANT IN--

WHY DO YOU WANT IN?

CAN YOU EVEN TELL ME?



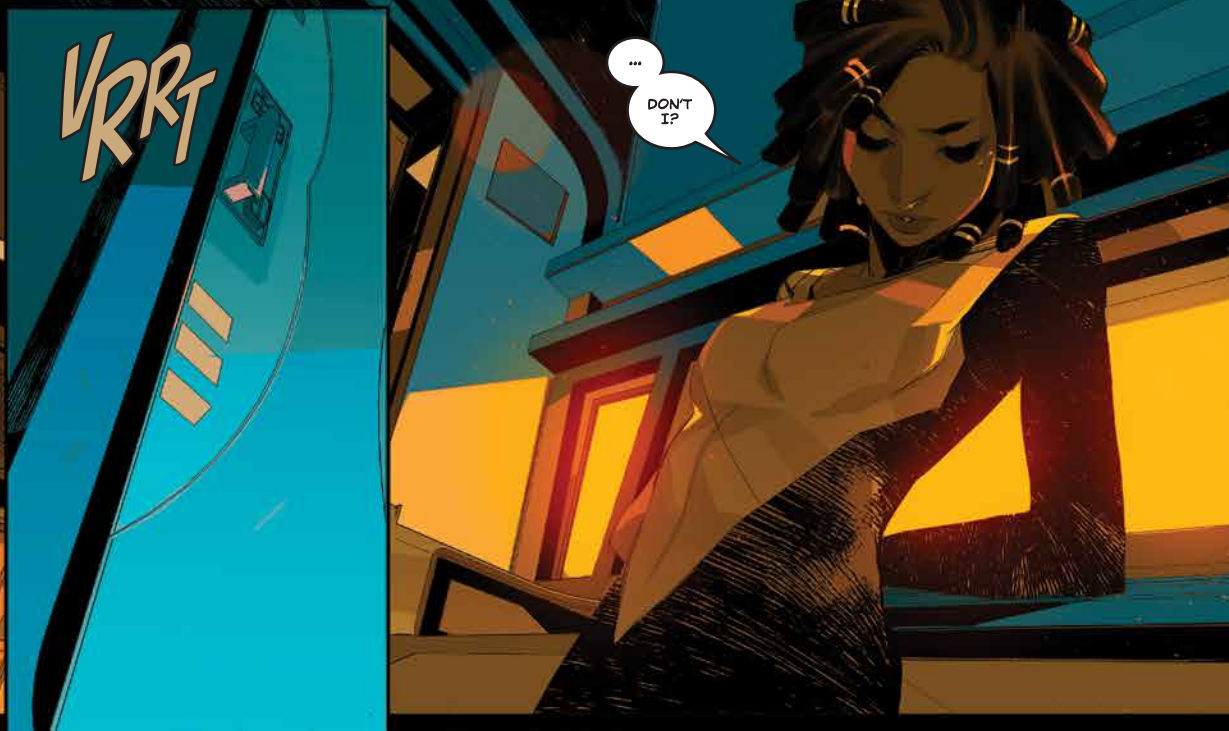
...IT'S NOTHING YOU DID. I SWEAR.

IT'S JUST...THIS IS MY CHOICE, EL. IT'S SOMETHING I CAN CHOOSE. SOMETHING THAT'S MINE.

YOU LETTING ME HAVE THIS ISN'T YOU LETTING ME DOWN.



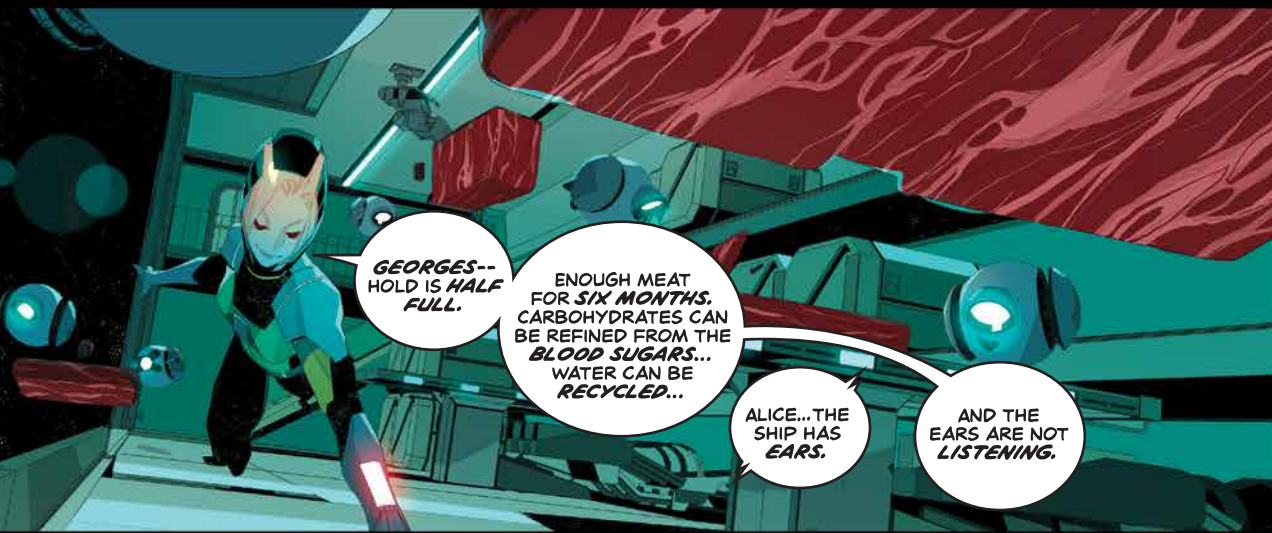
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP PROTECTING ME FROM WHAT I WANT.



VRRT

...

DON'T I?



GEORGES--
HOLD IS HALF
FULL.

ENOUGH MEAT
FOR SIX MONTHS.
CARBOHYDRATES CAN
BE REFINED FROM THE
BLOOD SUGARS...
WATER CAN BE
RECYCLED...

ALICE...THE
SHIP HAS
EARS.

AND THE
EARS ARE NOT
LISTENING.



CONTROL!
WE HAVE ANOTHER
RUNNER--EIGHT-CREW
EAGLE LINE SHIP,
BREAKING FROM
THE FLEET--NEED
SOME MORE
FIREPOWER--

THEY'VE
GOT THE
HEART! THEY'RE
STEALING THE
HEART--

ESCORT
THREE, WE
NEED YOU
HERE--



SO.
NOW?

"GEORGES?"

I... I HEARD ABOUT YOUR PARENTS... YOUR UNCLE, YOUR BROTHER...

I AM SO SORRY, GEORGES.

...

THIERRY TOOK MY PLACE, DID YOU KNOW THAT?

I WAS ILL. FOOD POISONING. WE ALL ATE FROM THE SAME VENDOR, BUT ONLY I GOT SICK.

SO I'M HERE AND THEY ARE GONE. RANDOM CHANCE.

RANDOM.

IS IT RANDOM?

WHO CAN I ASK?

WE... WE ONLY FIND THEM... WHEN...

WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD... MY MOTHER...

MY MOTHER, MY MOTHER...

OH, GEORGES...

...I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

ALWAYS. WHATEVER YOU NEED.

YOU JUST SAY THE WORD.



NOW.



CONTROL!
ANOTHER
RUNNER--

WHAT IS
THIS, FIVE?
SIX?

VIHAAN II,
REDUCE SPEED AND
FORM ON MY WING
IMMEDIATELY--

IT'S HEADING
GULFWARDS!
THEY'LL HAVE TO
TURN AROUND TO
GET PAST--

ESCORT
THREE! PLEASE
RESPOND TO
HAILS--ENSIGN LI,
RESPOND--

LI!
RESPOND!



I
KNEW
IT.

CONTROL--
THIS IS RICHTER
IN ESCORT
THREE.

TAKING
NECESSARY
ACTION.



WAIT,
RICHTER?
THAT'S *L1'S*
CALL SIGN--I
THOUGHT--

THEY'RE
ESCAPING,
CONTROL.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHERE
TO--

NEVER *MIND*
THAT! THEY'RE
WARPING!

THERE'S
NOTHING THAT
WAY TO WARP TO!
IT'S THE *GULF*
BETWEEN
GALAXIES--

--WE *DON'T*
LET THAT
HAPPEN!

THAT'S
ESCORT ONE.
RICHTER MUST HAVE
*KNOWN--*SWAPPED
NUMBERS WITH
L1, KEPT IT OFF
RECORDS TO DRAW
US *OUT--*

IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

WE'RE
OUT OF
TARGETING
RANGE, SHE
WON'T HIT
US.

SHE WON'T
STOP US.
NOTHING
WILL.

FULL
WARP.



THEY'RE
WARPING
OUT--

DOESN'T
MATTER. EITHER
THEY'LL BE *BACK*
THIS WAY, OR THEY'LL
DIE OUT THERE. NOT
OUR PROBLEM
EITHER WAY.

RICHTER--
FORM UP AND
HELP US WITH THE
OTHERS--

RICHTER?!

RICHTER, YOU'RE
ACCELERATING.
WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO...

...OH.

OH,
BOY.



WOOHOOOOO!

WE MADE
IT, MY FRIENDS!
AND WE LIVE
TO TELL THE
TALE!

ON,
ON, THE
GLORIOUS
QUEST!



ON, THE
VIHAAN
II!

YEAH.
GREAT.

WOO
HO.



LET'S NOT
CELEBRATE *TOO*
EARLY, ALICE. EVEN
IN WARP, WE HAVE A
LONG WAY TO TRAVEL
BEFORE WE'RE
OUTSIDE VISUAL
RANGE OF THE
COLONY.

AND
THEN WE
BEGIN THE
HUNT--

OH,
CRAP.



SPEAKING
OF BEING
HUNTED.

IT'S
PATCHY... BUT...
I THINK I'VE GOT
A WORKING *COMM*
SIGNAL FROM
ANOTHER
SHIP.

WHAT? IN
WARP...?



I KNOW, EL.
IT'S...I'VE *NEVER*
SEEN THIS, EVEN IN
SIMULATION...

IT'S GOT
TO BE RIGHT
ON OUR TAIL.
*BUMPER TO
BUMPER...*

PAULA--
IT MUST BE.
SHE JUMPED
WITH US.

LEFT
EVERYTHING
BEHIND, AS
WE DID.

AND AS
WE ARE, SHE
TOO IS ON A
QUEST.

TO
KILL ME
AT LAST.



WONDERFUL.

CAN WE
OUTRUN
HER?

WARP
DRIVES AREN'T
THROTTLES--
THEY'RE ON OR
THEY'RE OFF. THE
ONLY SPEED
IS **LIGHT**.



THE
GOOD NEWS IS,
IF SHE **FIRES**, THE
PLASMA CAN'T EXIT
THE **CANNON**. SHE
CAN'T SHOOT US
DOWN.

SHE WON'T
HAVE TO.



IF WE CAN
DETECT HER, SHE
CAN SEE **US**--SHE
HAS THE BETTER
SYSTEM. THIS IS AN
OLD SHIP, HERS
IS **NEW**.

SHE CAN
SET HER WARP
TO CUT OUT
WHEN **OURS**
DOES.



THEN SHE
SHOOTS US
DOWN.



WE CAN'T KEEP
THIS UP FOREVER,
EITHER. **FUEL** ISN'T A
PROBLEM, BUT WARP
ENGINES RUN **HOT**--
RUN THEM TOO LONG
AND THEY **BURN**
OUT.

MAYBE
HERS WILL,
MAYBE **OURS**.
BUT IT'LL HAPPEN
TO ONE OF US.
AND **THEN...**



...ONE SHIP
BECOMES A
SINGULARITY.

GIVE
ME COMMS,
JASON.



RICHTER, THIS
IS **GEORGES
MALIK**. COME
IN.

COME IN,
RICHTER.

RICHTER--
WE'RE HEADING
INTO THE **BIG
DARK**.



IF YOU'RE
KRRZZTT US--
BY NOW, THE **VIHAAN
II'S** BEEN LOGGED
AS **KRRZZTT** CAN'T
GO HOME.

BUT **YOU**
CAN. SO...
KRRZZTT
HOME.

PLEASE.



PAULA, I'M
TRYING TO
SAVE YOUR
LIFE.



WHAT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
MAY NOT EXIST.
WE COULD DIE
OUT HERE.

WE...WE
PROBABLY
WILL.

I'VE
PROBABLY
KILLED US
ALL.

AND FOR
WHAT? FOR
WHAT?

FOR
NOTHING.

OH,
GEORGES.
DON'T SAY
THAT.

EVEN
AS A LIE.

BUT I HAVEN'T
KILLED *YOU* YET.
YOU CAN TURN
AROUND.

I'M *SORRY* FOR
WHAT HAPPENED...
WHAT HAPPENED TO
US *BOTH*. I LOST
MY LIFE THAT DAY
AS WELL.

BUT I...I
FORGIVE
YOU,
PAULA.

I'M
BEGGING
YOU.
PLEASE...

...PLEASE
JUST TURN
AROUND.



PAULA?

KKRRZZZT

ARE YOU
THERE?

Continued...