

FEATURING THE GRAPHIC NOVELS **SINKHA: HYLEYN & GENETIC GRUNGE**

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Virtual Views



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Cover  
by Lee Jones

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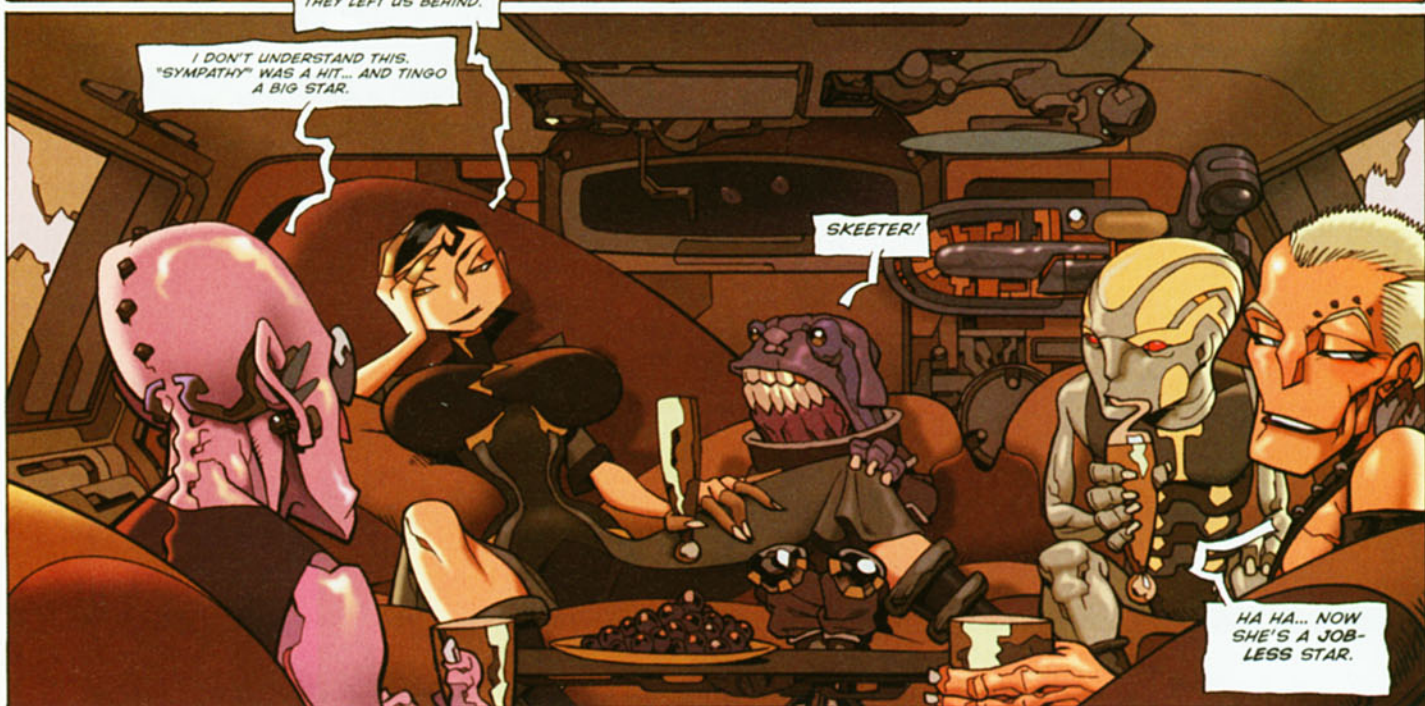
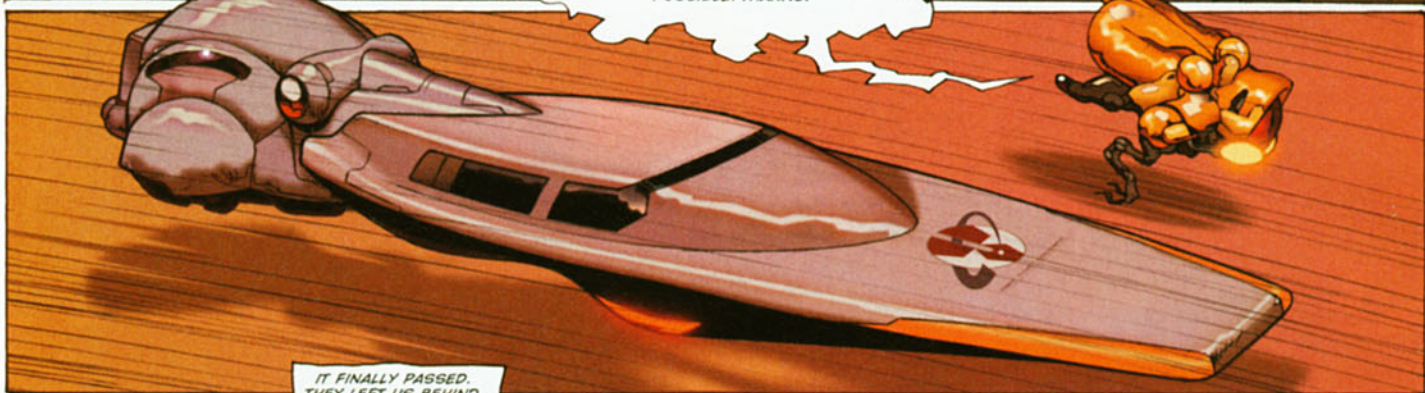
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## GENETIC GRUNGE: REVELATIONS







AT LEAST I WAS THE LAST ONE WHO WAS FIRED, YA LITTLE FRUITCAKE!



I WAS SACKED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, YOU UGLY FREAK!!

LORDY, COULD YOU CALL GORKI PEREZ FOR ME?

O.K.



GORKI'S NOT HOME. I'LL HAVE TO TRACK HIM DOWN. YOU HAVE A CALL FROM TIMOTHY K. STARK, FROM THE VENUS RESTAURANT- WILL YOU TAKE IT?

PUT HIM THROUGH.



ONLY OUR TRIPLE-X DIVISION IS PERFORMING...

I'LL BE IN DEEP SHIT SOON.



HI, UMMMA, BAD NEWS. THE COURT REJECTED YOUR REQUEST TO SIBA.



... THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TIMMY? THAT I HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER JOB?

SIBA IS VERY POWERFUL, UMMMA. THIS YEAR THE "M.Y.P." KIT WILL LAND MORE THAN 50 QUINTILIONS...

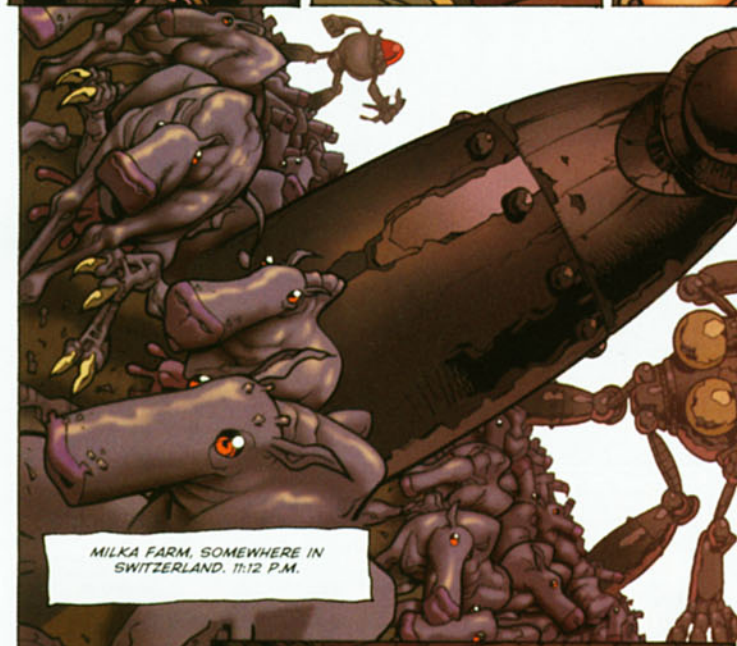
UMMA KURTHA

X-MODE

EVEN I BOUGHT A FEW SHARES!

STARK & STARK RESTAURANT, COLONY OF KIMBO, VENUS, TIME: ZIM.





MILKA FARM, SOMEWHERE IN SWITZERLAND. 11:12 P.M.





YEAH, I KNEW IT! OKAY... I'LL  
SEND YOU A LIST FROM SIBA'S  
OWN ARCHIVES...

I COULD GO BACK TO JAIL  
FOR THIS, UMMA!...

... I WANNA TALK TO  
LORDY NOW!

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND,  
GORKI.

HELLO, GORKI...

GIVEN A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE BY THE FAITHFUL,  
THE DISSIDENT VATICAN HAS FINALLY MADE AN  
ABOUT-FACE REGARDING ITS DECISION TO EXCOMMUNICATE  
THOSE WHO BOUGHT SIBA'S "MAKE YOUR PET"  
KIT...

HOTEL GOYA, BARCELONA.  
11:30 P.M.

NEVERTHELESS, THE BLUE CHURCH  
HAS DECIDED TO GIVE A MAJOR  
REWARD TO ANYONE WHO CAN PROVE  
THAT THE "M.Y.P." KIT CAN BE APPLIED  
TO HUMAN GENETIC MATERIAL.

MR. MONTENEGRO, WHAT DO YOU THINK  
ABOUT THIS "CRUSADE" AGAINST SIBA?

NO COMMENT. I'LL JUST SAY  
THAT SIBA HAS FOR TWENTY  
YEARS WORKED FOR THE BENEFIT  
OF MANKIND...

... AND THAT PEOPLE KNOW US AND  
TRUST US. THE "M.Y.P." PROCESSOR  
REJECTS HUMAN DNA AND THUS COMPLETELY  
DISABLES ITS MANIPULATION...

I ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT THAT  
I'M A PRACTICING BLUE CATHOLIC.

THANK YOU,  
MR. MONTE-  
NEGRO.

AND NOW, THE LATEST  
STATEMENT FROM PIO  
NONNO III.

... 8 YEAR OLD CHILDREN ARE  
CREATING MONSTERS IN THEIR  
GARAGES! THESE ARE UNSPEAK-  
ABLE ABERRATIONS THAT WERE  
NOT FORMED IN THE MIND OF GOD  
AND THEREFORE SHOULD NEVER  
WALK THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

ZAP!





SIBA SAYS THAT THE "M.Y.P." KIT CANNOT BE APPLIED TO HUMAN MATERIAL, BUT WE KNOW THAT IT IS DONE NONETHELESS... AND THIS IS WHY WE NEED YOU...



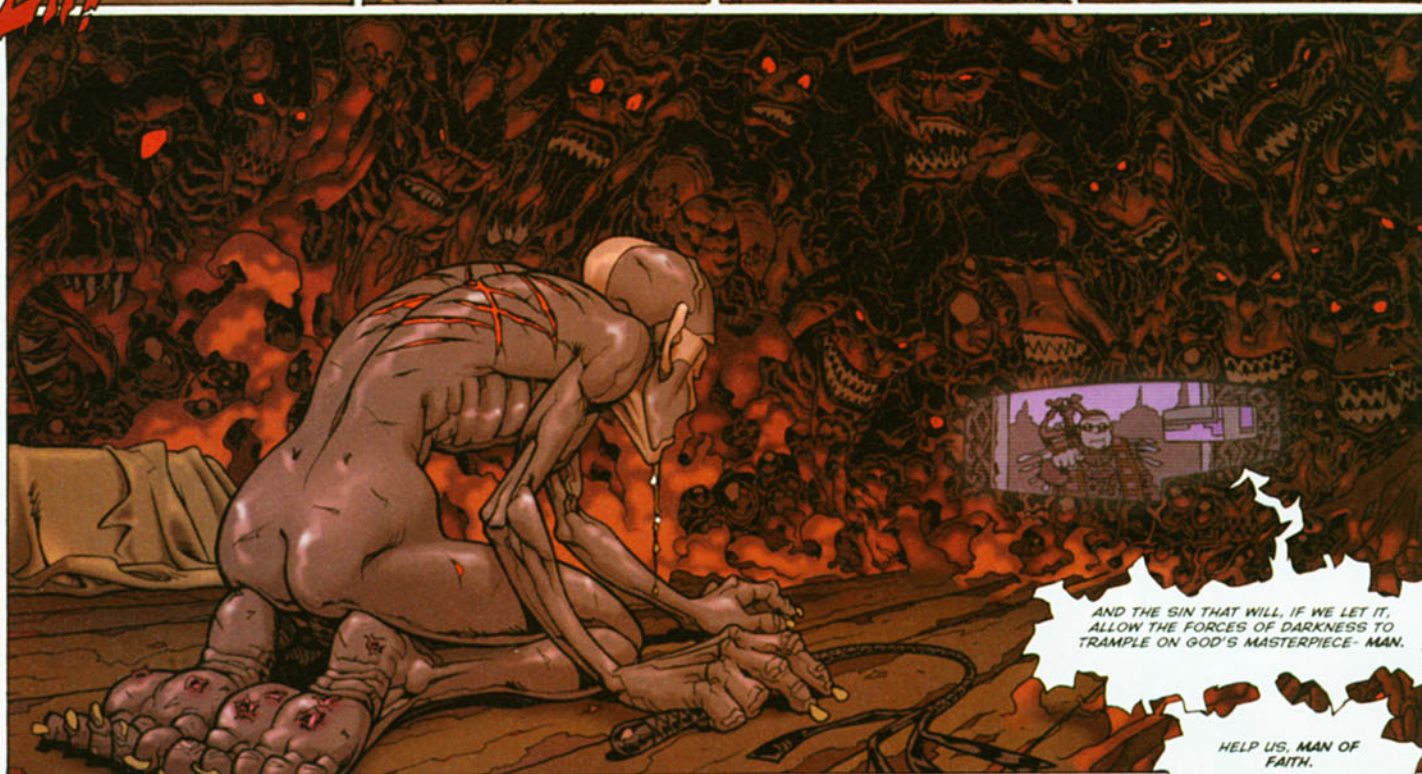
... MAN OF FAITH.



HELP US END THIS WORST OF ALL SINS...

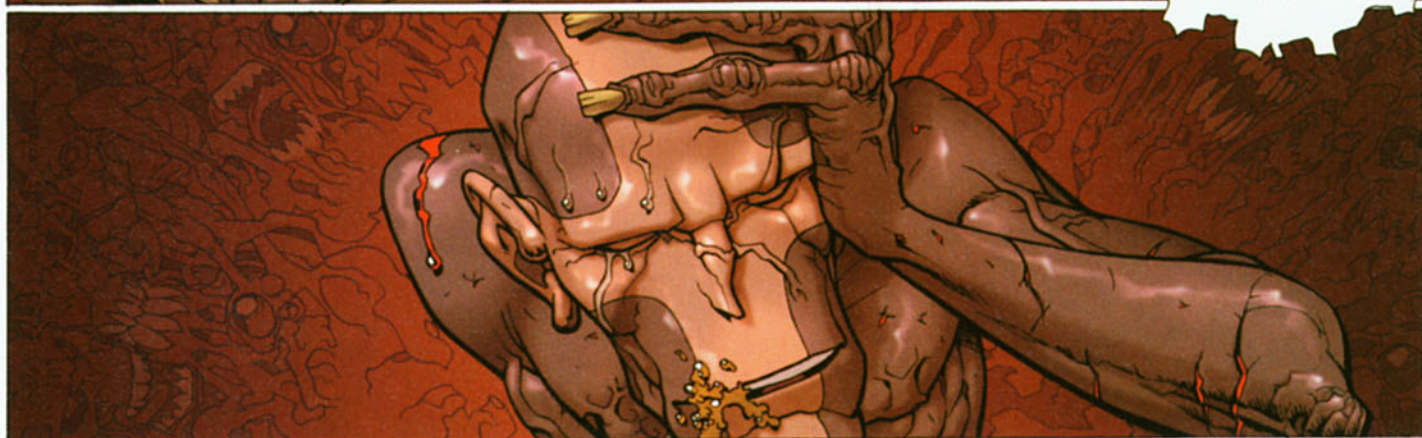


THE SIN THAT MAKES THE BEAST SMILE...



AND THE SIN THAT WILL, IF WE LET IT, ALLOW THE FORCES OF DARKNESS TO TRAMPLE ON GOD'S MASTERPIECE- MAN.

HELP US, MAN OF FAITH.





UMMA! I NEED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM, BUT THE CONCESSION TO THOSE CABINS WAS SOLD TO BIG BROTHER!

WOULD YOU CARE FOR A NITRO-TURBULENT COMBO, MR. LIMO?

Big Brother

WILL THAT TAKE MUCH LONGER, GORKI?



... THAT WERE NOT FORMED IN THE MIND OF GOD AND THEREFORE SHOULD NEVER WALK THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

ARE YOU LOSING YOUR "TOUCH"?

JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES...

IT'S MORE DIFFICULT THAN USUAL-- THEY INCREASED THE LEVEL OF SECURITY... DO THEY EXPECT TO BE ATTACKED?

... JUST ONE MORE MINUTE...

HEY, UMMA, LISTEN TO THIS.

SIBA SAYS...

... THAT THE "M.Y.P." KIT CANNOT BE APPLIED TO HUMAN MATERIAL, BUT WE KNOW THAT IT IS DONE NONETHELESS... AND THIS IS WHY WE NEED YOU...





... MAN OF FAITH.

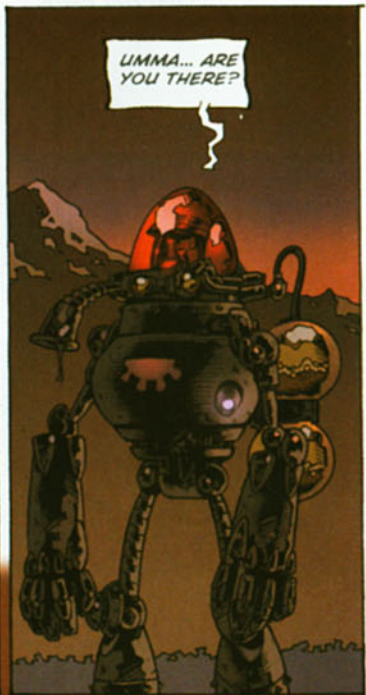
HELP US END THIS WORST  
OF ALL SINS.



I GOT IT!!



I'LL TRANSFER IT RIGHT  
AWAY... UMMMA?



UMMA... ARE  
YOU THERE?



UMMA!! UMMMA!!  
DAMN BITCH...

WHAT THE HELL?



DAMN BITCH! YOU DID  
IT AGAIN!

STOP HIM,  
BOYS!

COME HERE, ALL  
OF YOU! GORKI'S  
GONE NUTS!

STUMP!







NAME AND OCCUPATION?

EDDIE NASH, DRUG  
DEALER AND CHOIRBOY.

HOLY CUSTOMS &  
HOLY SHOWERS

AFTER, YOU GIVE YOUR THINGS TO  
THE ALTAR BOYS, PROCEED  
TOWARDS THE BLESSED SHOWERS  
ON YOUR RIGHT.

I'VE JUST DETECTED AN  
EXTRATERRESTRIAL CYST IN  
YOUR BODY. WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO HAVE IT REMOVED?

PLEASE DON'T LOOK  
AT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S  
BUTTOCKS.

YOU HAVE A GRENADE IN  
YOUR RECTUM-- PLEASE  
REPORT TO THE PORTER'S  
OFFICE!

DEAR BROTHERS, NOW YOU CAN CON-  
SIDER YOURSELVES KNIGHTS OF THIS  
NEW "CRUSADE." YOU WILL TAKE PART IN  
IT FOR THE MERCY OF GOD... AND A  
CONSIDERABLE MONETARY REWARD.  
WHEN YOU FINISH SHOWERING...

... PICK UP YOUR  
NEW UNIFORM AND  
GO TO SUNDAY  
SCHOOL 1.

PLEASE  
DON'T LOOK  
AT YOUR  
NEIGHBOR'S  
BUTTOCKS.





AND NOW, GET OUT OF THE SHOWERS! YOUR UNIFORMS ARE HERE!

WELCOME, DEAR BROTHERS. I'M FATHER KARRAS...

IS THIS SUNDAY SCHOOL?

I AM ENTRUSTED WITH SUPERVISING YOUR GROUP. THIS WEEK YOU'LL GET AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ON HOW TO DETECT EVIL.

THIS IS IT... I HAVE TO BE READY TO REJECT ANY INTENTION OF MENTAL INFILTRATION...

... AND FIGHT IT WITH ALL POSSIBLE MEANS... INCLUDING THE LEAST "ORTHODOX".

YOUR PREPARATIONS WILL BEGIN NOW. TAKE A STICK FROM THE TABLE ON YOUR RIGHT...

WHAT?!

... NO MATTER HOW SOPHISTICATED IT MAY BE.

WE'LL START WITH THE BASIC TECHNIQUES FOR ATTACKING VAMPIRES.

THE EARTH IS ROUND!!

THIS IS ALL VERY TRIVIAL.

ALSO, IN THESE TWO WEEKS YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO HUMBLIFY YOURSELVES TO THE LORD...

... HOW TO PLEASE HIM WITH YOUR TALENTS AND HOW TO DEFEND YOUR CAUSE FROM THE EVIL ONE. YOU WILL BE TRAINED TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPIOUS AND IMPOSE FAITH TO THOSE LOST IN DARKNESS.



AND THEN JOSHUA SAID TO MELZABE THAT MELKISEBEC, JONAS AND SOLOMON, MELKIAD AND DAVID HAD ESCAPED FROM SCHOOL AND LEFT A BAG WITH CAMEL EXCREMENT IN FRONT OF AARON'S HOUSE. BECAUSE OF ALL THAT, METHUSELAH WAS VERY GRIEVED...

SECOND WEEK,  
LAST DAY OF  
TRAINING.

ZZZZ  
ZZZZ  
ZZZZ  
ZZZZ

UMMA. I WAS WAITING FOR YOU. LOOK AROUND YOU... THESE ARE THE ANIMALS CREATED BY GOD AND DESTROYED BY THE SATANIC CREATURES FROM THE GARAGE. THE LION, FOR EXAMPLE-- THE SYMBOL OF STRENGTH AND MAJESTY, EXTINGUISHED BY THAT CATLIKE VILE THING WITH A STING. WE HAVE TO STOP THIS MADNESS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

I FEEL SICK... WHAT ARE ALL THOSE DAMN ANIMALS DOING HERE?

BUT LET'S DRINK A DELICIOUS PEPSI NUKE FIRST!

PEPSI NUKE IS THE KING OF SOFT DRINKS!!

DRINKING PEPSI NUKE IS LIKE DRINKING THE TEARS OF THE LORD!!!!

HELLO. I THINK THIS IS YOURS.

CLING!



ROASTED SAINTS' BRIDGE, CHICAGO,  
5:10 P.M.

BLESS YOU ALL, SONS AND  
DAUGHTERS. LET'S DO WHAT OUR  
LORD ASK US TO AND REJOICE IN  
HIS ETERNAL GRATITUDE...

HEY, LIMMA! OVER  
HERE!

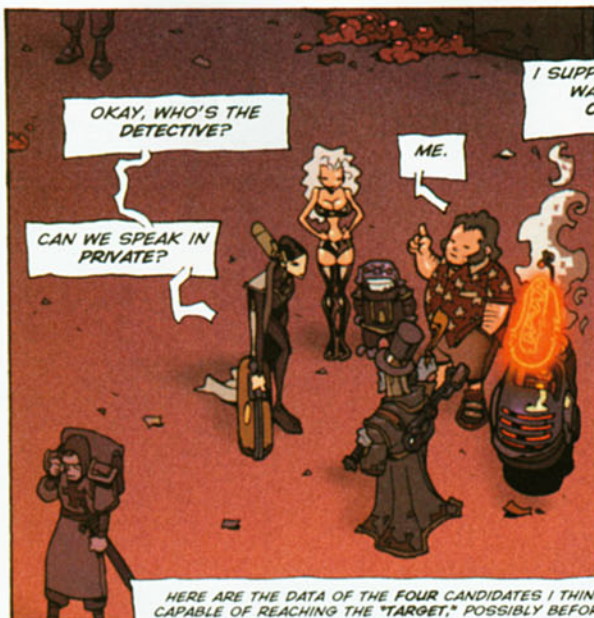
UFF, BAPTIZED IN BULLSHIT.

HOW WAS IT?

DON'T ASK,  
LORDY.

OKAY. I CAME WITH DETECTIVE  
DON CHONSON AND JAIME V.  
DANIKEN. HE HAS A DEGREE IN  
METAPHYSICS AND DEPROGRAM-  
MING.





OKAY, WHO'S THE DETECTIVE?

CAN WE SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

ME.

I SUPPOSE THIS HOT DOG WAGON IS JUST A COVER, RIGHT?

HEH HEH...

HERE ARE THE DATA OF THE FOUR CANDIDATES I THINK ARE CAPABLE OF REACHING THE "TARGET," POSSIBLY BEFORE ME. I NEED 24-HOUR PERSONALIZED SURVEILLANCE...



OOOPS!

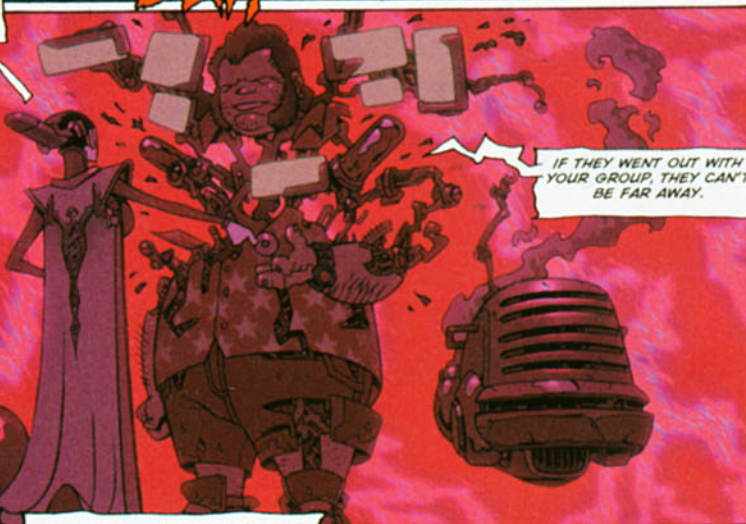
BE CAREFUL, IDIOTS!!

ZAP!



WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN A PRIVATE EYE OF THAT SIZE... MUST BE EXPENSIVE, RIGHT?

VERY EXPENSIVE. IT'S NOKIA'S SECRET PROTOTYPE.



IF THEY WENT OUT WITH YOUR GROUP, THEY CAN'T BE FAR AWAY.



MY BLOODHOUNDS WILL INTERCEPT THEM RIGHT AWAY... THEY'RE MY LITTLE JEWELS, SOPHISTICATED INSTRUMENTS SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED FOR ESPIONAGE AND INTRIGUE.



VERY... IMPRESSIVE.



PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THIS ONE: THEY CALL HIM THE PENITENT, AND I THINK HE BELONGS TO SOME KIND OF SECT.

YES, I READ YOUR REMARKS ABOUT HIM. "INTELLIGENT, EDUCATED AND CHARMING..." HA HA... NICE. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO CHECK IF HE'S MARRIED?



THAT WILL DO, DETECTIVE. GET OUT AND GET TO WORK.



LORDY, DID YOU MAKE THE RESERVATIONS FOR RIO?

YES, UMMMA. YOU LEAVE IN TWENTY MINUTES. I COULD ONLY FIND SEATS ON ONE OF THOSE OLD ROTARY ROCKETS.

VERY WELL. MR. DANIKEN, YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES.

COULD YOU UNCOVER A BIT OF YOUR... TORSO?

YOUR OWN DESIGN?

YES, I HAVE A PATENT.

AND?

NOTHING CONCLUSIVE. I GUESS I SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU BEFORE GIVING YOU A FINAL DIAGNOSIS.

ONE PILL IN HER NUKE. AND WE'LL BE SHARING A NIGHT OF PASSION.

IMPOSSIBLE. I'M LEAVING FOR RIO RIGHT AWAY.

THEN, I'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL WITH YOU.

MMMM... ALL RIGHT. LORDY, I'LL TRAVEL WITH THIS GUY-- COULD YOU MAKE US RESERVATIONS FOR TOMORROW?

I THINK SO.

WELL, THEN I'LL SEE YOU, YOU KNOW WHERE. ECONOMY CLASS, OKAY?

OKAY, BYE. I'LL MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY.

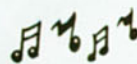
30 MINUTES LATER...



MANCHETE 7 RUNWAY,  
SAMBADROME, RIO DE  
JANIERO, 20 MINUTES  
LATER.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHETHER I USE  
GLASSES OR NOT. I LIKE TO DRINK NUKE  
FROM THE BOTTLE...! WHAT ABOUT THAT DIAG-  
NOSIS? WASN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE AN  
INSTANT ONE?

... I CAN ALREADY FEEL ITS EFFECT. I FEEL  
STRONGER, PRETTIER, MORE EXECUTIVE...! I  
WANT, I WANT... MORE! MORE! MORE!



THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX SCI-  
ENCE, MISS UMMA.

MMMM... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.  
I'LL GET MYSELF ANOTHER  
NUKE.

IDIOT!

FAVELA "XUXA'S  
CHILDREN", PLEASE.

THEN IT'S TRUE THAT THE  
"M.Y.P." KIT RUINED YOUR  
AGENCY FOR PHENOMENA?

UMMA KURTHA?? I CAN'T  
BELIEVE MY EYES!

HELLO, GAROTO.

I'M NOT  
RUINED,  
GAROTO.

I'VE NEVER SEEN  
YOU MAKING A  
THIRD-CLASS  
ENTRANCE...

STRANGE, ISN'T  
IT?

BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE. THEY GOT A  
COUPLE OF OLD MEN FROM TUNGUSKA ON  
GUARD.



IF YOUR RUSSIAN ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH, WE'D BETTER ANSWER THEM IN SPANISH BECAUSE IF THEY MISUNDERSTAND YOU...

IT'S SO DARK IN HERE!

THE STAIRS END HERE... AND WHAT'S THAT CREAKING UNDER MY FEET?

CRASH!  
SPARK!  
KICK!

ZPOT!

UMMA KURTHA, I SIGNED THE REGISTER.

ZDRASTVUI, KAK TEBYA ZOYUT?

PLACE HAND ON SCANNER, PLEASE.

I CAN SEE WHY THEY CALL THIS "ENTRANCE OF THE PEOPLE."

UMMA KURTHA?

YES, THAT'S ME. OPEN UP, QUICKLY.

IS TIME OF CROPS. YOU SHOULD PUT ON H-GLASSES.

SPASIVO.





"NEVERLAND-6": THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT CLANDESTINE GENETIC MATERIAL MARKET, CONTROLLED BY IVAN RYABKO, THE BOSS OF THE RUSSIAN MAFIA.





I'LL BE STAYING AT THE WONDERLAND HOTEL, PINK ROOM 4. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DO THAT?



OF COURSE, UIMMA. I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE. BESIDES, THE DIGITAL RECONSTRUCTION WAS PERFECT, WASN'T IT?



YES, WE'RE LUCKY THAT THESE APES DON'T USE GENETIC IDENTIFICATION METHODS... ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

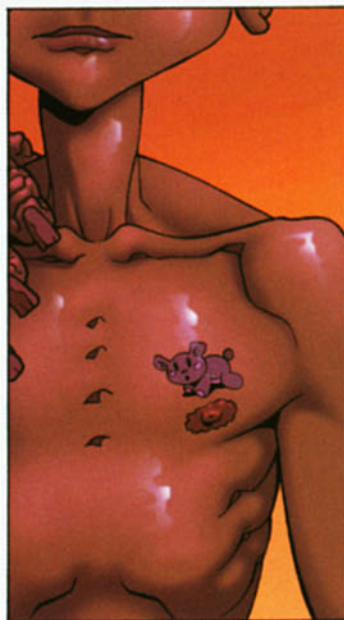
MISS KURTHA?



YOUR ROOM IS READY. I READ IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM YOU DON'T LIKE CHILDREN, BUT MAYBE...



... YOU'D LIKE TO CONSIDER THIS NEW GENERATION WITH IMPROVEMENTS.



WOULD YOU LIKE... A SAMPLE OF HIS CONDITIONS?



NO THANKS... I PREFER ADULTS.



DAMN IT, I'D KILL ALL THOSE BASTARDS!

UIMMA... I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME... I...

DON'T BE SILLY, LORDY. SEE YOU TOMORROW AND TAKE CARE.

BYE, UIMMA...



... AND THANKS AGAIN.











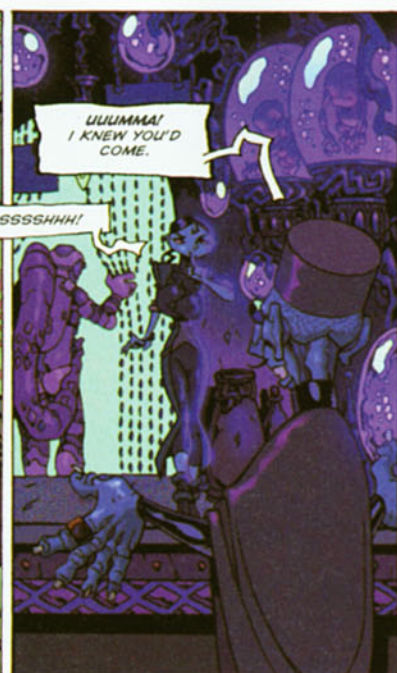


... TRUST ME, I GIVE YOU 100% GUARANTEE FOR THIS.

FOLKWEAR PIZZA

EVENT FOR THE PERSON WITH A TALENT FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING

AMEHD VIKAT  
BY ERIN 1997



UULIMMA! I KNEW YOU'D COME.

SSSSHHH!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY I'M HERE?



OF COURSE... I KNOW MY BEST CLIENTS.



THANKS AMEHD, I'LL CALL YOU LATER.

SUCH A HURRY! ANY PROBLEMS?



HELLO, UUMMA.



DAMN SWINDLER!  
I WANT MY MONEY!

LEVEL 42  
STREET AND 10th

PIZZERIA

WELCOME TO THE  
PERSONAL  
WITH A FOCUS  
ON GASTRO  
ENGINEERING!

ZAP!  
CRASH!

NO  
COMPLAINTS!

THE ONLY "ABOMINATION"  
FROM THE FILTHY LABS  
ON LEVEL 42 IS A FLYING  
MONKEY THAT YELLS LIKE  
A PROSTITUTE FROM  
MARS!!

WELL, IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE SIGN OUTSIDE  
THAT SAYS "NO RETURNS" MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO  
READ THIS ONE.

YOU'RE IN  
IVAN'S LAND  
& HERE  
THE FLESH IS  
CHEAP!

SON OF A BITCH...

UMMA, YOU DON'T THINK THAT  
I GAVE YOU THE SAME INFORMATION  
THAT I GAVE THOSE IDIOTS,  
DO YOU?

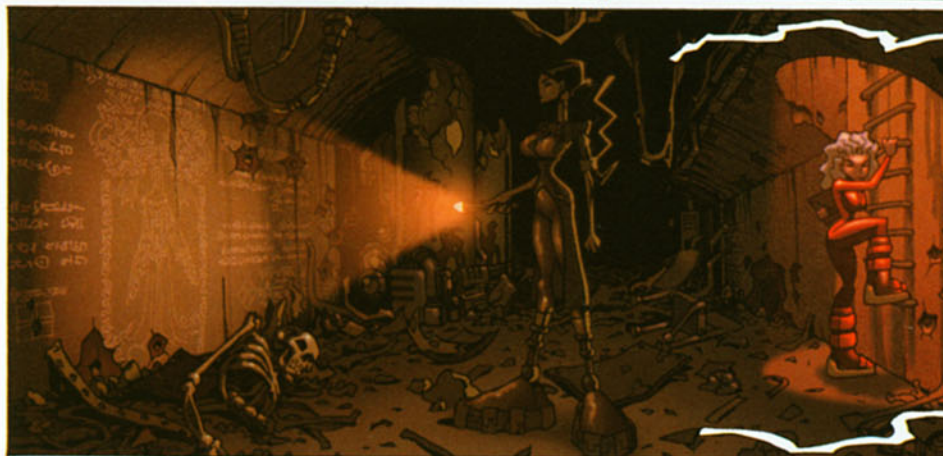
LEVEL 42,  
LAB 7,  
PASSWORD:  
"BINGOCAT"





TAKE WHAT YOU CAN, LORDY, AND LET'S MOVE!

THE SITUATION IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. EVEN AMEND SOLD ME TRASH BECAUSE HE THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK AND COMPLAIN.



THE RAT...

AT LEAST I GOT THE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS TUNNEL SO WE CAN ESCAPE.



YOU THINK HE WON'T GIVE YOU UP?

NOT FOR AWHILE...



I TOOK PRECAUTIONS.

SHE DISAPPEARED, YOU SURE SHE GOT IN HERE?



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THE PLACE IS FULL OF RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS AND CORPSES.

I HOPE THEY BEAT IVAN'S MEN UP.



BY THE WAY, WHERE WILL THIS SEWER TAKE US?

RAAGG!





TO THE MOST DISCREET WAY OF  
GETTING INTO RUSSIA... GREEN-  
PEACE'S SECRET CRUISER.

WE'RE GOING  
TO RUSSIA!?

THAT'S OUR ONLY OPTION. I  
HAVE A FRIEND WHO MAYBE  
CAN TALK TO IVAN AND  
CONVINCE HIM THAT I'M  
CLEAN. OTHERWISE...

... WE CAN CONSIDER  
OURSELVES DEAD.

100,000  
DOLLARS!

2000!

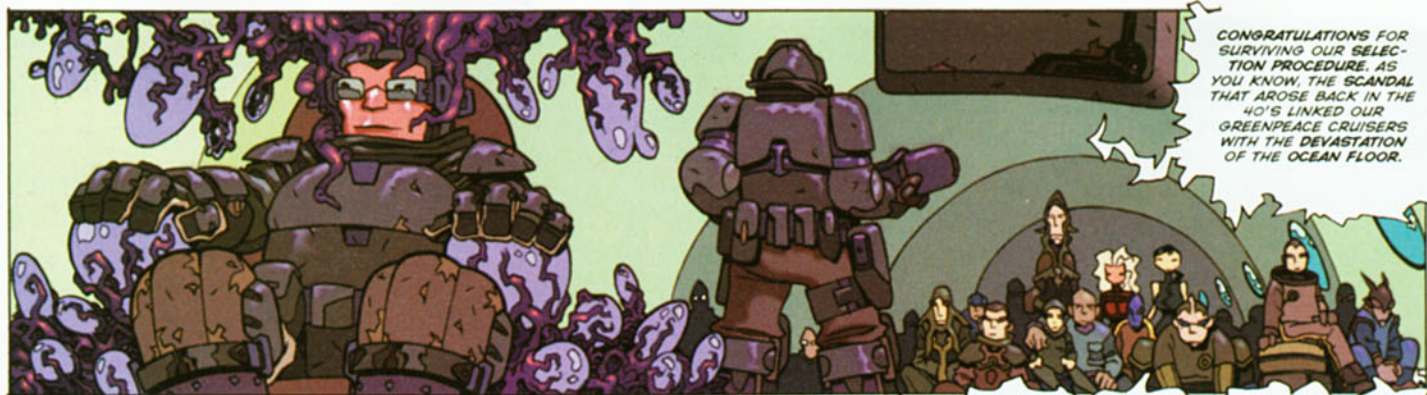
2500!

3000!



THAT'S IT, NOW  
WE'RE OFFICIALLY  
BROKE.





CONGRATULATIONS FOR SURVIVING OUR SELECTION PROCEDURE. AS YOU KNOW, THE SCANDAL THAT AROSE BACK IN THE '40'S LINKED OUR GREENPEACE CRUISERS WITH THE DEVASTATION OF THE OCEAN FLOOR.



THAT FORCED US TO NAVIGATE ONLY IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND TO DEVELOP SMALL CLANDESTINE TRANSPORTATION VESSELS LIKE THIS ONE, WHICH WILL TAKE YOU TO THE "GREAT CTHULHU" IN ONLY A COUPLE OF MINUTES. BY THE WAY, PREPARE TO COME ABOARD.



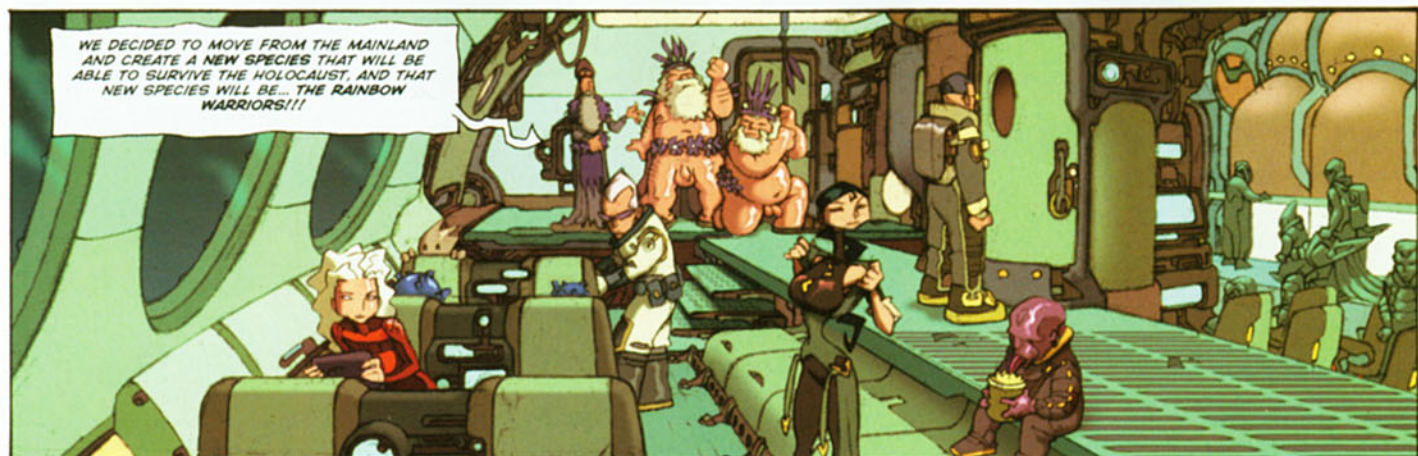
KRANK!

KRASK!



AS YOU CAN READ IN THIS HANDOUT, WE'RE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT FROM THE CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS OF THE SURFACE. OUR CRUISERS ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND ALSO HAVE A CULTIVABLE NUCLEUS WHERE THE CREW AND THEIR FAMILIES LIVE!





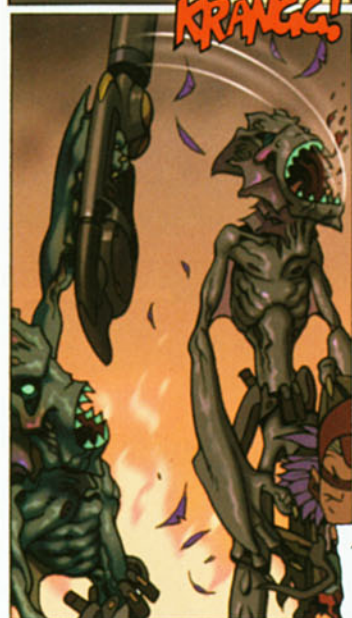




THESE KOREAN  
CANS ARE EASIER  
TO CRACK EVERY  
TIME.

FIND THAT  
BITCH!

KILL THE  
MAMMALS!!



KRANGG!

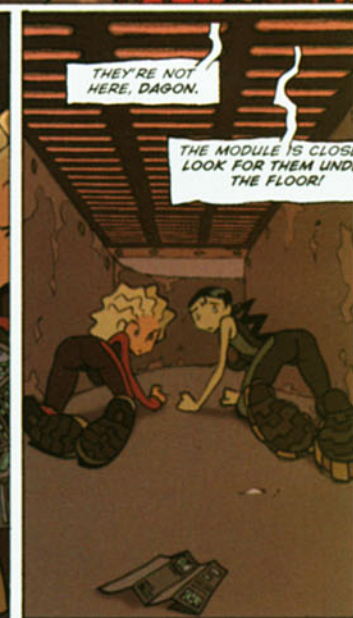


ARE YOU NUTS? IF WE LIQ-  
UIDATE THOSE GREEN-  
PEACE IDIOTS, THE BOSS  
WILL GIVE US DEMERITS...  
IF WE HAVE TO DO IT, IT  
BETTER BE WORTH IT.



WE'RE LOST!

THE HANDOUT SHOWS THE  
CENTRAL NUCLEUS WHERE  
THE CREW LIVES... WE HAVE  
TO GET THERE.



THEY'RE NOT  
HERE, DAGON.

THE MODULE IS CLOSED.  
LOOK FOR THEM UNDER  
THE FLOOR!



BADOW  
BADOW

I SEE THEM! THEY'RE  
ESCAPING THROUGH THE  
PIPES!!





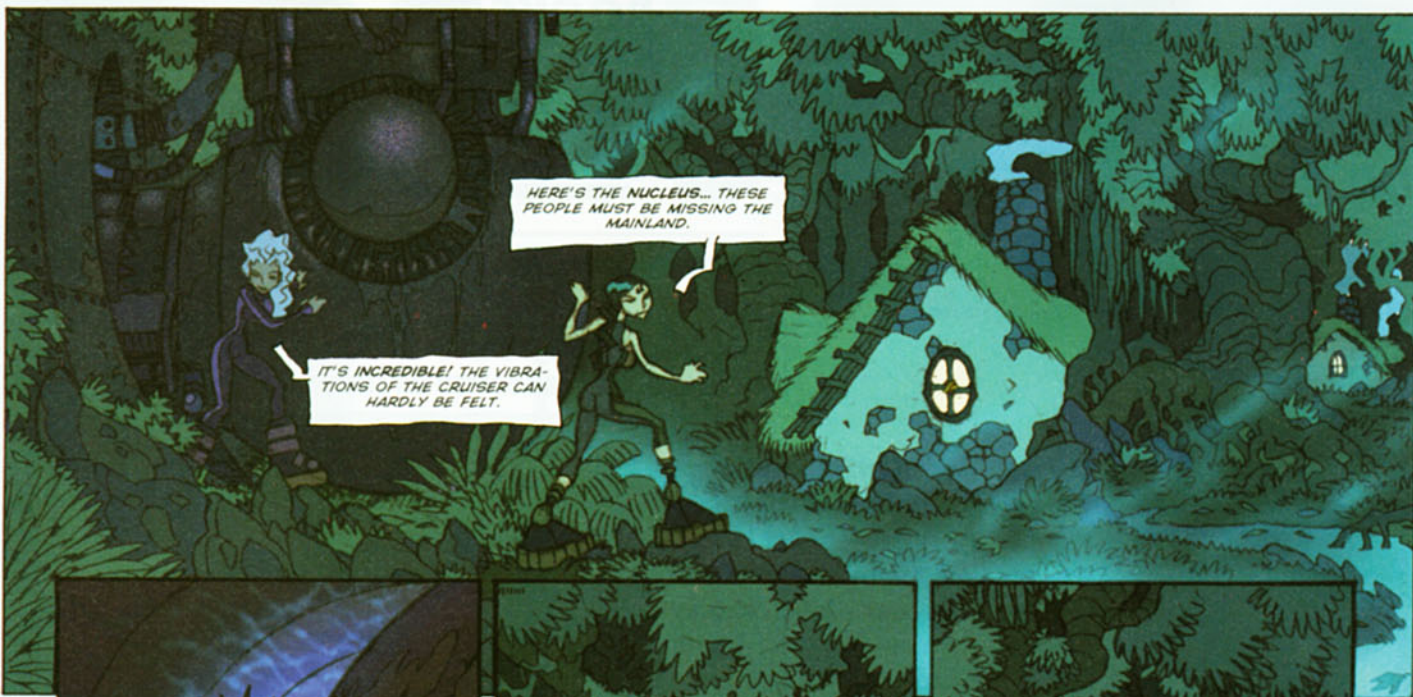




DAGON ALWAYS TRIES TO HUMILIATE US BY SHOWING HOW TOUGH HE IS... WE'LL SHOW HIM...

LARRY...?









YOU SURPRISE ME. I THOUGHT YOU GOT KILLED IN THE BATTLE WITH THOSE FREAKS. OR THAT YOU ENDED UP IN A SHELTER FOR SUICIDES. YOU WERE ALWAYS THE WEAKEST IN THE GROUP. WHAT DID YOU BRING WITH YOU THIS TIME?



MORE ANGELS FROM THE GARAGE?



WHO IS HE TALKING TO?



SHOW YOUR FACE AND GIVE ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER... WHY ARE YOU HERE?



GREAT NOSE, DAGON... I WAS NEVER ABLE TO HIDE FROM YOU.







ONE MORE THING, STORMOVIK. BEFORE YOU FIRE, MAKE SURE THAT THE GOLD IS DEPOSITED IN OUR ACCOUNT. I'LL NEED A VACATION IN THE SUN TO RECOVER FROM THIS TRAGEDY.



CAPTAIN... WE LOST THE SIGNAL FROM THE LAST "AGENT"... SHALL WE PROCEED?



PROCEED. LAUNCH TWO TORPEDOES AT THE CENTRAL CONSTRUCTION. THIS ISN'T RIGHT, BUT WE DID ALL WE COULD TO SAVE INNOCENT LIVES.



FLUSH  
FLUSH



WHERE SHALL WE GO NOW, UMMMA? THOSE WEIRDOS COULD BE ANYWHERE.

I DON'T GET IT... IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS.



KROOM!



THE NUCLEUS IS BURNING!

I THINK SOMETHING HIT US!

WRAMM



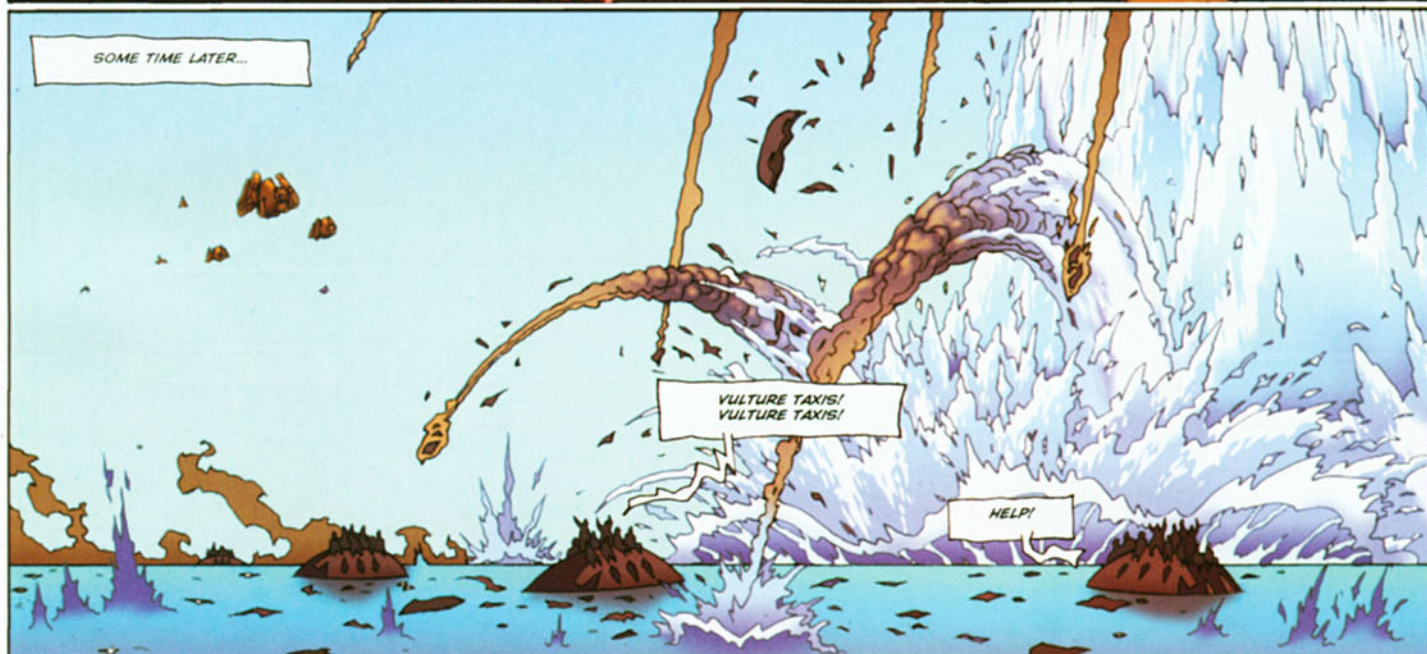
WHAT HAPPENED?

WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED! MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WHAT MATTERS NOW IS TO STAY ALIVE. RUN TO THE BOATS! THE SHIELD WILL COLLAPSE IN A FEW MINUTES!





SOME TIME LATER...



VULTURE TAXIS!  
VULTURE TAXIS!

HELP!



HEY, UMMA, I'M  
HERE!

SHE'S THE LAST!



YOU WERE GOING TO RUSSIA,  
WEREN'T YOU?... BECAUSE  
THIS ISN'T A FREE RIDE.  
EVERYBODY HAS TO PAY.





ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK. THIS  
TERRITORY IS CONTROLLED BY THE  
MAFIA.

THUNDER SQUARE (EX RED SQUARE), MOSCOW.

WE'RE IN THE LION'S MOUTH, AND THE  
LION KNOWS IT.

NOW WE HAVE TO FIND  
SERIOSHA SO THAT HE  
CAN INTERCEDE WITH  
IVAN ON OUR BEHALF.  
WE HAVE ENOUGH  
RUBLES TO TRAVEL  
FOR A COUPLE OF  
DAYS.

TOO BAD THE NOKIA'S  
OUT.

... AND THEN GORGEOUS  
VERONIKA ASKED: WHICH ONE  
OF YOUR HUGE TITS WAS  
FONDLED MORE TONIGHT?  
MORE THAN 2000 SEXY  
POINTS ARE AT STAKE!

YEAH, I REALLY LIKED THAT  
TOY.

WAIT, GET OUT OF THAT SHIT-  
HOLE NOW! ARE YOU WITH A  
WOMAN?









WE'RE HERE. CALL HIM... BUT BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TELL HIM.

MR. SERIOSHA, IF YOU COME TO THE ENTRANCE YOU'LL FIND A GIFT FROM ST. BASIL'S PINK GARDENS...



UMMA! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE? IVAN IS FURIOUS!



HELLO, SERIOSHA.



WE CANNOT STAY IN RUSSIAN TERRITORY.



DIMITRI, GET THE PLANE READY, HURRY!



THIS IS AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY-- THE MOST VIABLE THEORY IS THAT SOMEHOW THEY FOLLOWED YOU TO "NEVERLAND-6".



THANKS FOR COMING, UMMA. I THOUGHT THE SUCCESS OF YOUR AGENCY HAD MADE YOU FORGET ME.

OF COURSE NOT.

IVAN WENT TO NEW YORK ON BUSINESS. I'LL GO THERE TO TALK TO HIM. HE ALWAYS LISTENS TO ME. I'M HIS BEST GENETICIST.

NO.

IS IT DANGEROUS?

ONLY IF IVAN THINKS THAT I'M LYING. WILL I BE LYING TO HIM IF I TELL HIM THAT IT WASN'T YOU?

THEN DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL GET READY.

I HOPE SO.



I CHECKED OUT WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT THE SECRET SECTOR WITHIN THE GENOMARKET. NOW LISTEN TO THIS-- I'M SURE YOU'LL BE SURPRISED.

COME WITH ME, LORDY. YOU'LL LOVE THIS.

LISTEN, A FRIEND OF MINE WILL GO ON A MILITARY MISSION AND GET YOU OUT OF RUSSIA. THEN YOU'LL GO TO AFRICA AND WAIT IN A HOTEL IN CAIRO UNTIL I CALL YOU, OKAY?

YOUR PLAN IS INCREDIBLE, SERIOSHA!

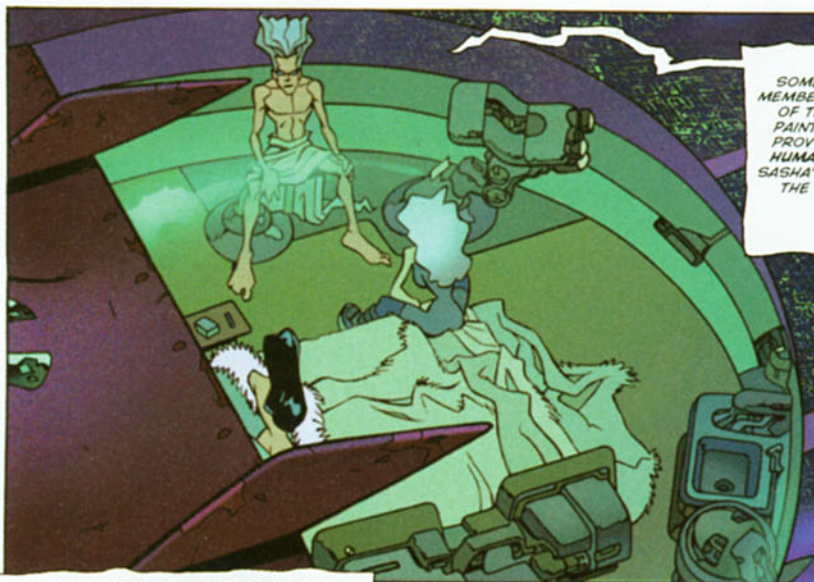
TY MNYE OCHEN POMOG, DO SVI-DANIYA!



GREAT! THEN WE CAN VISIT THAT SPHINX BEHEADED BY THE TREKKIES!







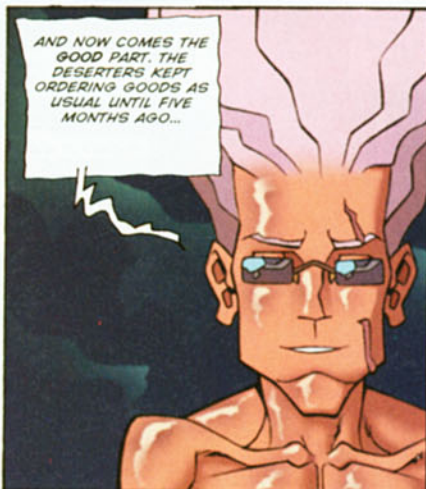
SOME TEN YEARS AGO THERE WAS A SORT OF MUTINY AMONG THE MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES OF SASHA, IVAN'S FATHER. THE CAUSE OF THE MUTINY STILL REMAINS UNCLEAR, BUT JUDGING FROM THE PAINTINGS FOUND IN THE MUTINEERS' HQ, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WAS PROVOKED BY SOME RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS AND A ROBBERY OF THE HUMAN DNA PROCESSORS. THEN, AFTER THEIR GREAT VICTORY OVER SASHA'S FORCES-- THAT ENDED UP WITH HIS HEAD NAILED ON A PIKE-- THE DESERTERS MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND TEMPORARILY VANISH.

IVAN DIDN'T SEEM TOO SHOCKED WHEN HE FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS FATHER'S DEATH. I SUPPOSE THAT INHERITING THE MOST IMPORTANT GENOMARKET ON THE PLANET MUST HAVE HELPED HIM RELIEVE HIS...

...PAIN. HE EVEN DIDN'T TURN PALE AT ALL WHEN HE FOUND OUT THAT AMONG HIS MOST IMPORTANT BUYERS OF GENETIC TECHNOLOGY WERE THE DESERTERS WHO KILLED HIS FATHER! THEY WERE OPERATING IN NEW YORK, JUST LIKE HIM.



AND NOW COMES THE GOOD PART. THE DESERTERS KEPT ORDERING GOODS AS USUAL UNTIL FIVE MONTHS AGO...



... WHEN THE M.Y.P. KIT WAS LAUNCHED ON THE MARKET!



UMMA! YOU CAN'T GO TO NEW YORK WITH ME. IT'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS! PLEASE, WAIT FOR ME IN AFRICA UNTIL I SETTLE THIS!



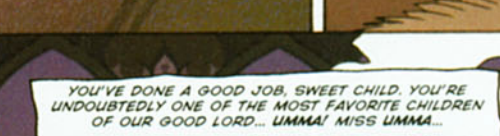
OKAY, YOU CAN COME TO NEW YORK, BUT FOLLOW YOUR OWN LEADS! I ONLY ASK YOU TO GIVE ME A 3-HOUR HEAD START SO I CAN TALK TO IVAN... I'LL LAND ON ONE OF MY MOST SECRET PLATFORMS OF THE KIRIN TOWER. YOU'LL WAIT IN THE SHIP UNTIL EVERYTHING'S SETTLED, OKAY?



OKAY.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M RUINED! IF I DON'T GET THE REWARD FROM THE VATICAN, I CAN KISS MY LIFE GOOD-BYE.







THE KIRIN TOWER RUN-  
WAYS, NEW YORK,  
12:04 P.M.



WHAT DID  
SERIOSHA DO  
TO YOU?





HELLO, UMMMA.  
REMEMBER ME?...  
PLEASE, COME  
WITH ME. THIS IS A  
DANGEROUS  
PLACE...



UMMMA? COME ON  
IT'S ME. I WANNA  
HELP YOU.



YOU CAN'T HELP  
ME, NOBODY CAN...  
I'M HISTORY.

DON'T SAY THAT.

HEY, LADY! ARE YOU  
UMMMA KURTHA?



WHO WANTS TO KNOW?

HEY, TAKE IT EASY, PAL! IT'S  
A DETECTIVE WHO WANTS TO  
TALK WITH YOUR GIRL-  
FRIEND...



YOU WON'T  
ANSWER THAT?  
COME ON, HAVE  
FAITH. IT COULD BE  
GOOD NEWS.



HELLO?

MISS UMMMA! I HAVE SOME  
VERY IMPORTANT INFOR-  
MATION FOR YOU, AND I'VE  
BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU  
SINCE YESTERDAY. I SEE  
YOU'RE IN FINE COMPANY,  
HA HA.



WHAT DO YOU  
WANT, DETECTIVE?  
I'M IN NO MOOD  
FOR PUZZLES.

SWITCH ON THE MONITOR.  
I'LL TRANSMIT A VIDEO  
RECORDING.



I MANAGED TO FIND YOU BECAUSE  
YOU ENTERED THE VISUAL FIELD OF  
THE SPY FLY, WHICH IS FOLLOWING  
THE PENITENT. WHAT I'M ABOUT TO  
SHOW YOU ARE FRAGMENTS OF THE  
RECORDINGS THAT WERE TAKEN BY  
THE FLY'S CAMERA ONLY A COUPLE  
OF HOURS AGO... READY?

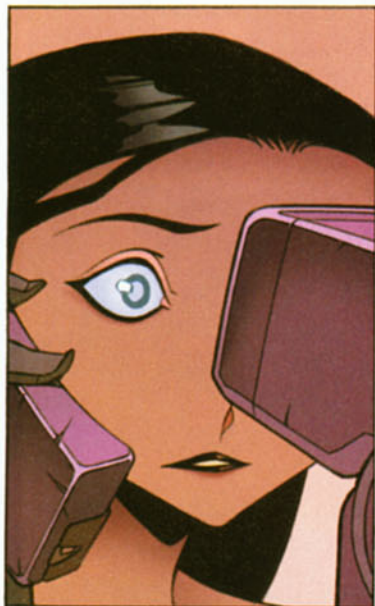


SUBJECT: "EL PENITENTE"

10.12.56- FWJ. 5482







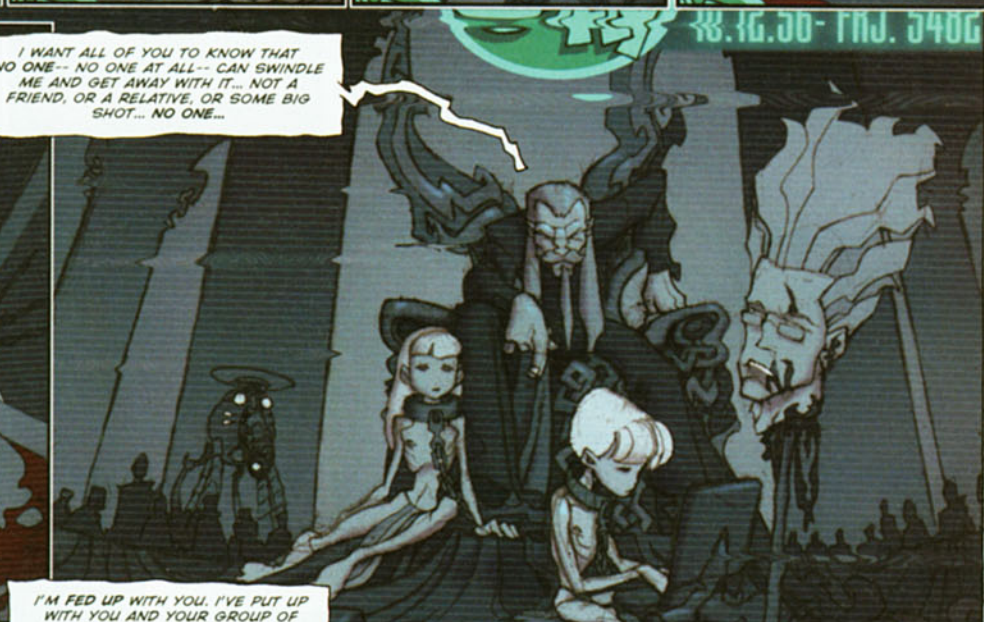
THE  
SCREAMING  
ENDED...



I BET HE THOUGHT HE  
WAS UNTOUCHABLE... HA  
HA, JERK.



I WANT ALL OF YOU TO KNOW THAT  
NO ONE-- NO ONE AT ALL-- CAN SWINDLE  
ME AND GET AWAY WITH IT... NOT A  
FRIEND, OR A RELATIVE, OR SOME BIG  
SHOT... NO ONE...



I'M FED UP WITH YOU. I'VE PUT UP  
WITH YOU AND YOUR GROUP OF  
LUNATICS FOR A LONG TIME. BUT  
TODAY, I'VE HAD IT. GUARDS, KILL  
HIM!



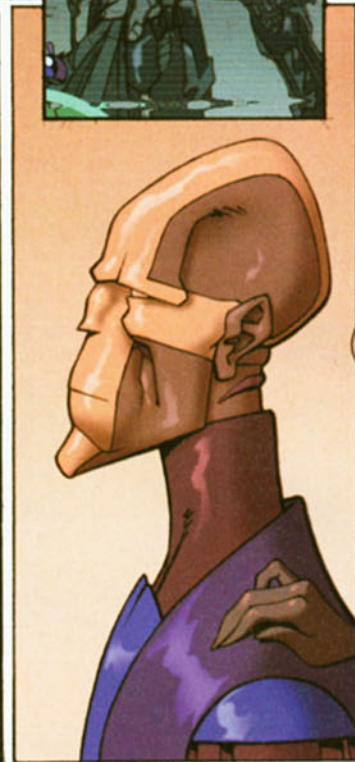
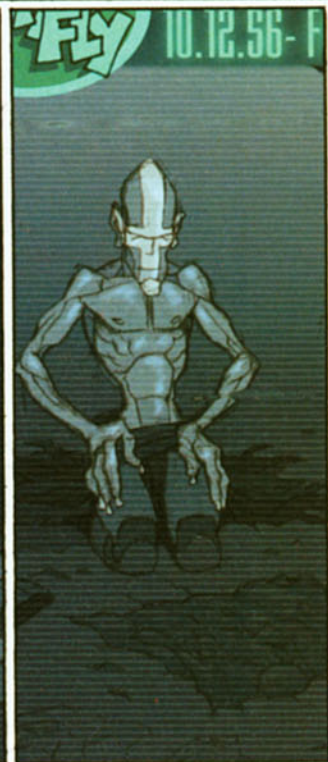
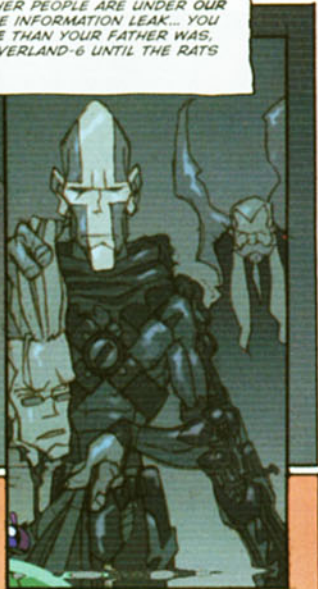
BUT WHAT...?





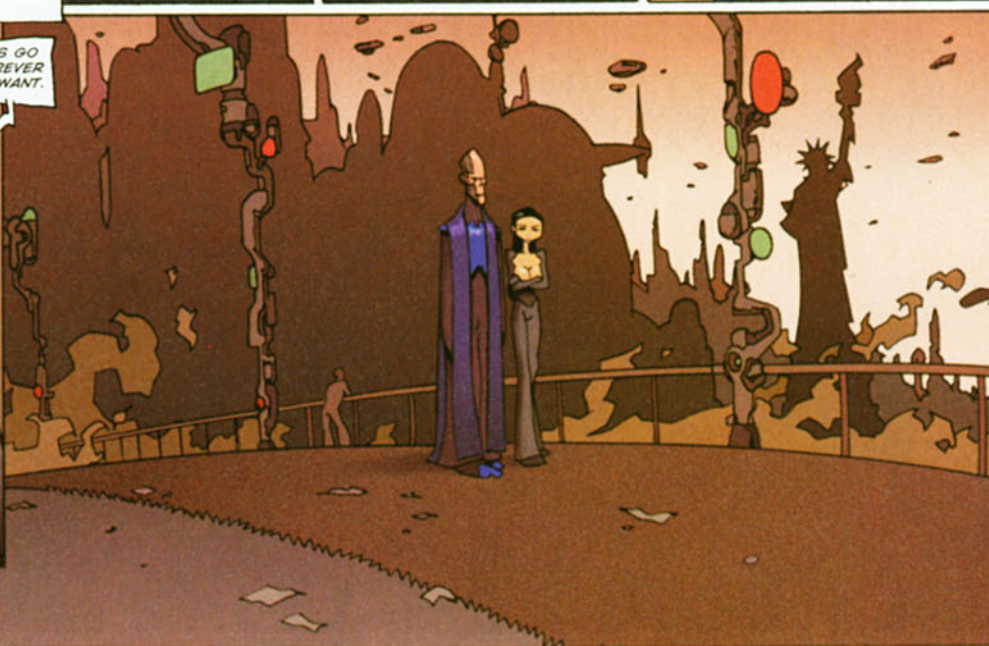


I'LL SAY THIS ONLY ONCE. UMMA KURTHA AND HER PEOPLE ARE UNDER OUR PROTECTION. SHE'S NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION LEAK... YOU GOT THAT? I HOPE YOU'RE MORE REASONABLE THAN YOUR FATHER WAS, WHOSE HEAD DECORATED THE TUNNELS OF NEVERLAND-6 UNTIL THE RATS STOLE IT.

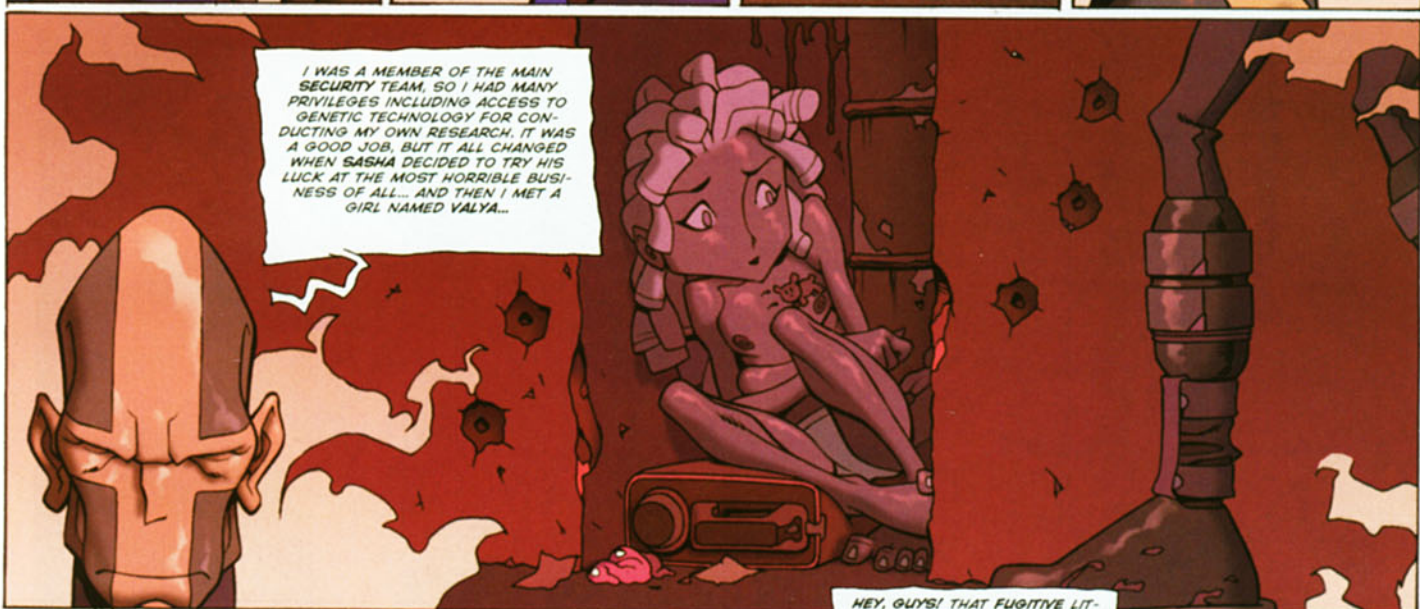
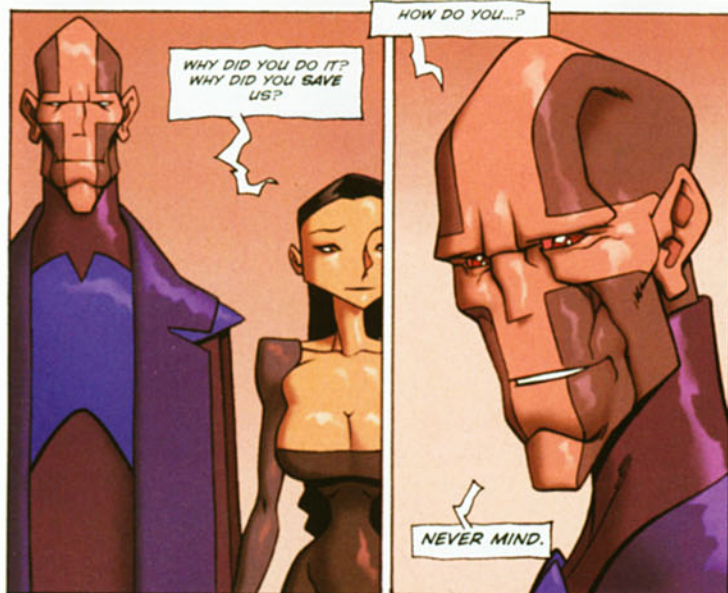


I SEE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER ALREADY. THAT'S GOOD.

LET'S GO WHEREVER YOU WANT.











HELP! HELP ME,  
PLEASE! I DON'T  
WANNA GO!



I NEVER SAW THAT GIRL AGAIN...  
UNTIL A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO WHEN  
I SAW HER ON THE VATICAN PLAT-  
FORM, STANDING NEXT TO YOU. AT  
FIRST I JUST SUSPECTED, BECAUSE  
OVER THE YEARS SHE DEVELOPED  
INTO A REAL WOMAN, BUT WHEN I  
SAW YOU ENTERING NEVERLAND-6  
ALL MY DOUBTS WERE CLEARED. I  
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO  
GET HER OUT OF THERE, BUT ANY-  
WAY, YOU DID A GOOD THING...  
SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T DARE TO  
DO AND THAT I OWED HER.



IT'S GETTING LATE...  
WHAT ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO NOW? WILL YOU  
KEEP ON LOOKING FOR  
THE ALTERED M.Y.P. KIT?



WELL, I DON'T KNOW. I  
DON'T WANNA GET  
YOU OR YOUR GUYS  
INTO TROUBLE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU  
THINK YOU KNOW, THE  
SEARCH WON'T BE  
EASY.

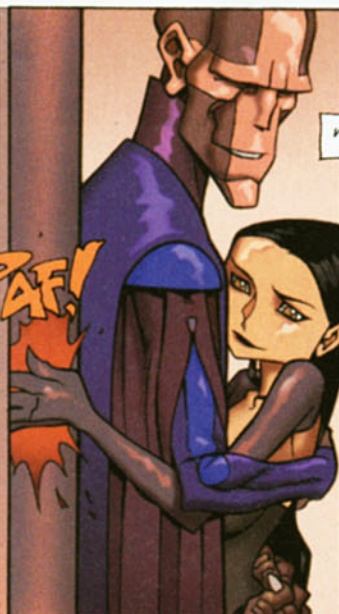




BESIDES, I  
DON'T WANNA  
MAKE YOU FEEL  
THAT YOU OWE  
ME SOMETHING.



PAF!



WHAT WAS THAT?



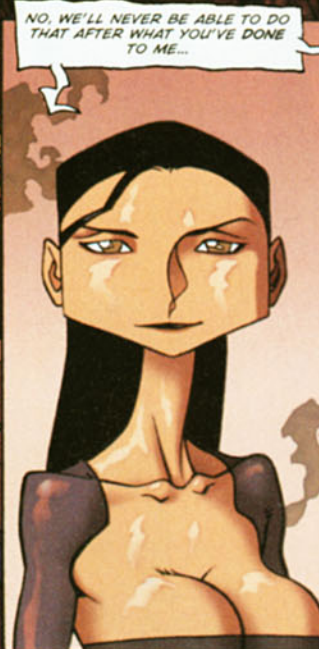
NOTHING.  
JUST A  
WASP.



SO LONG, UMMMA... AND  
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO  
DO. WE'LL ALWAYS BE  
THERE FOR EACH OTHER.



NO, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO  
THAT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE  
TO ME...



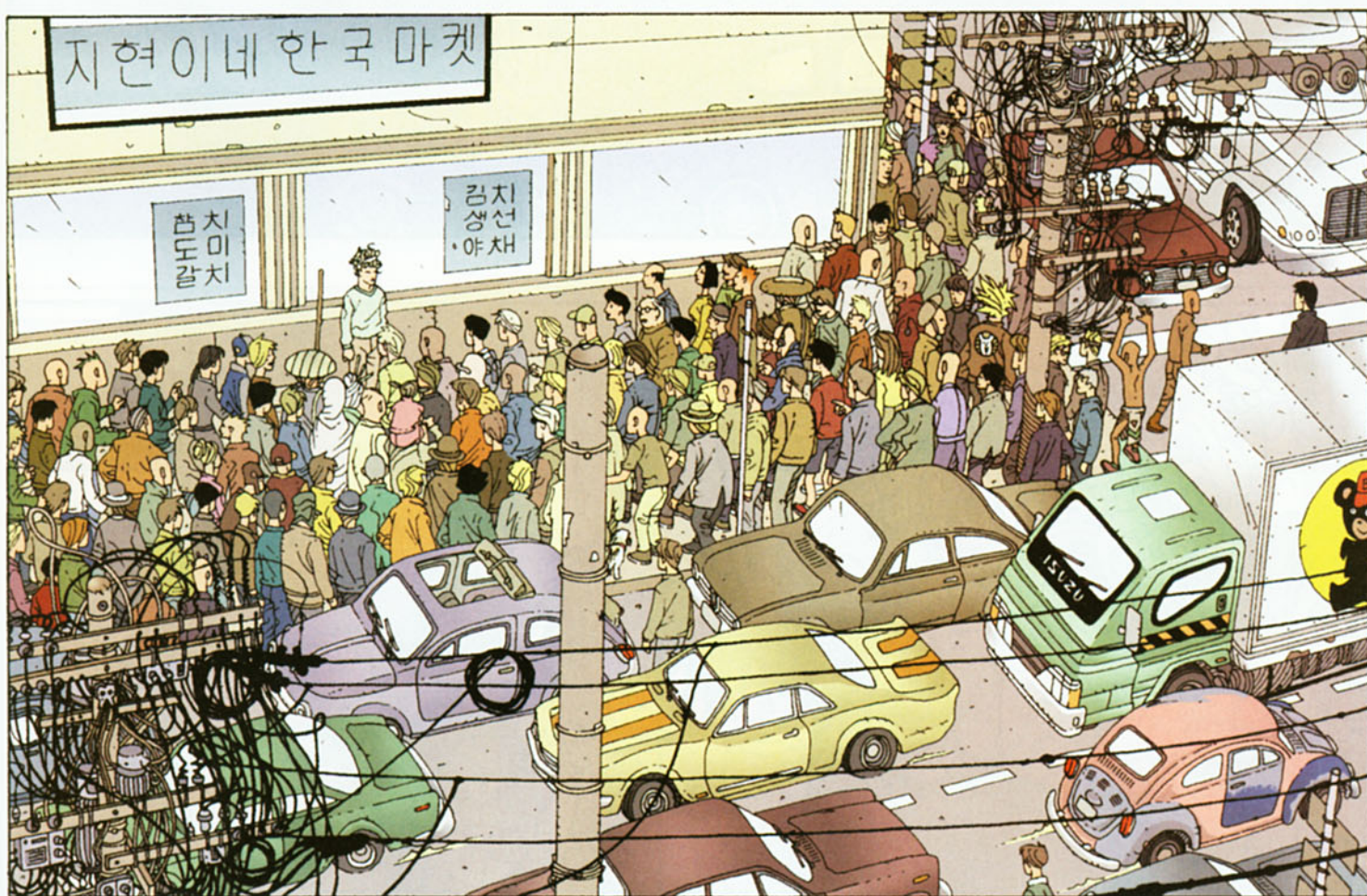
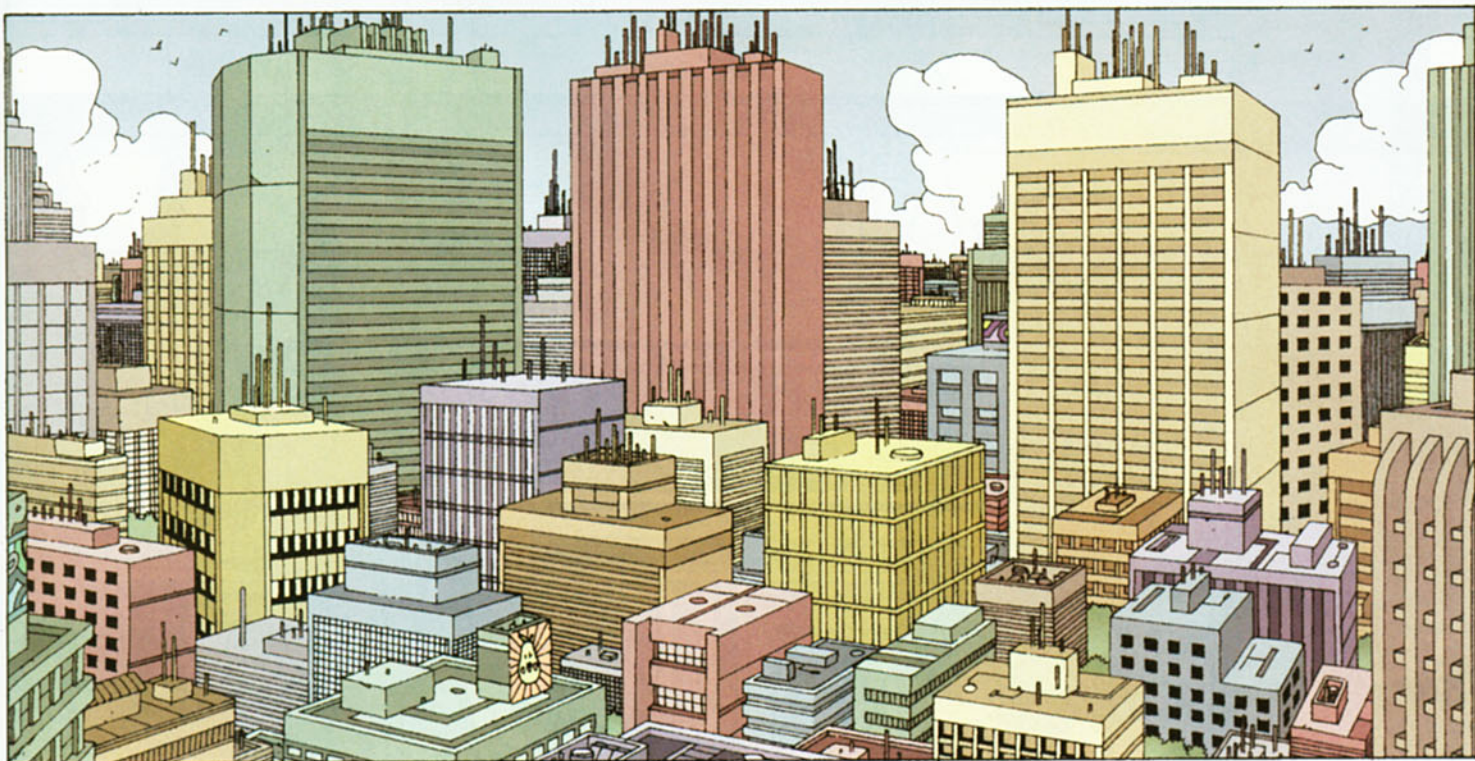
... BUT, AT LEAST I  
FEEL MUCH BETTER  
NOW.



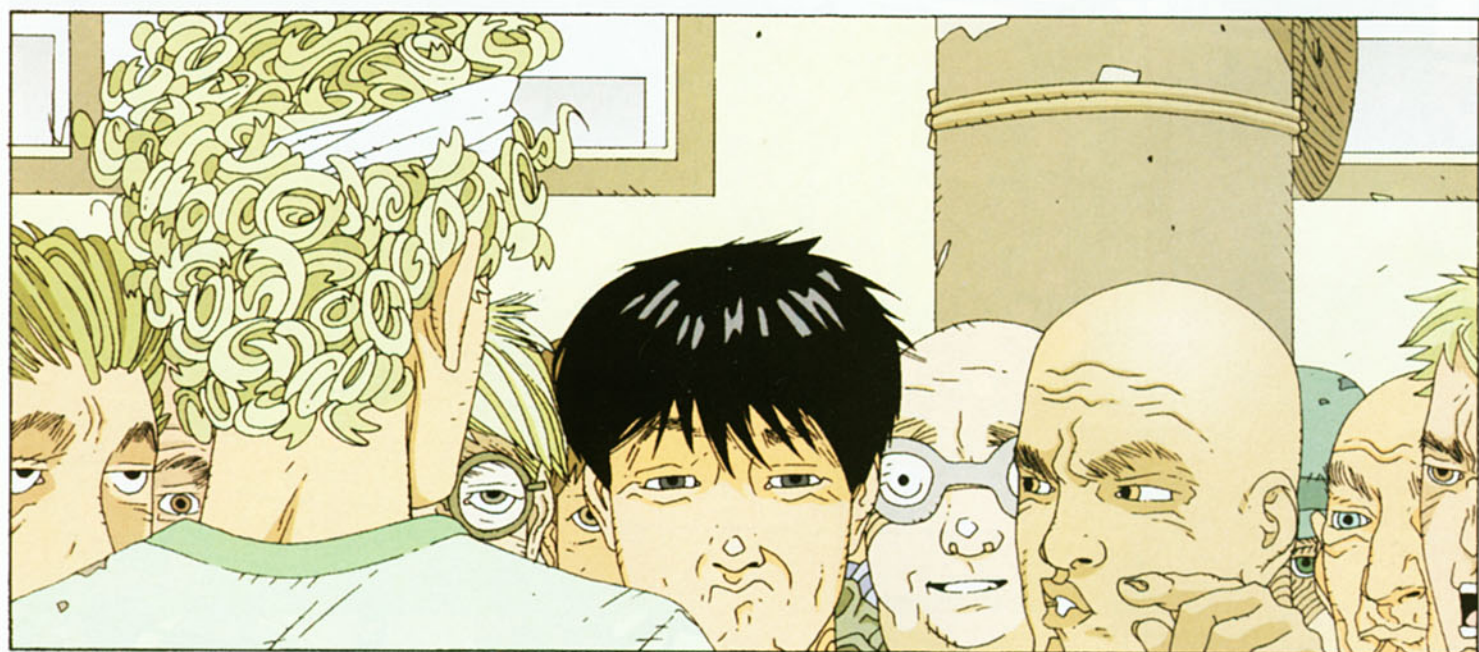
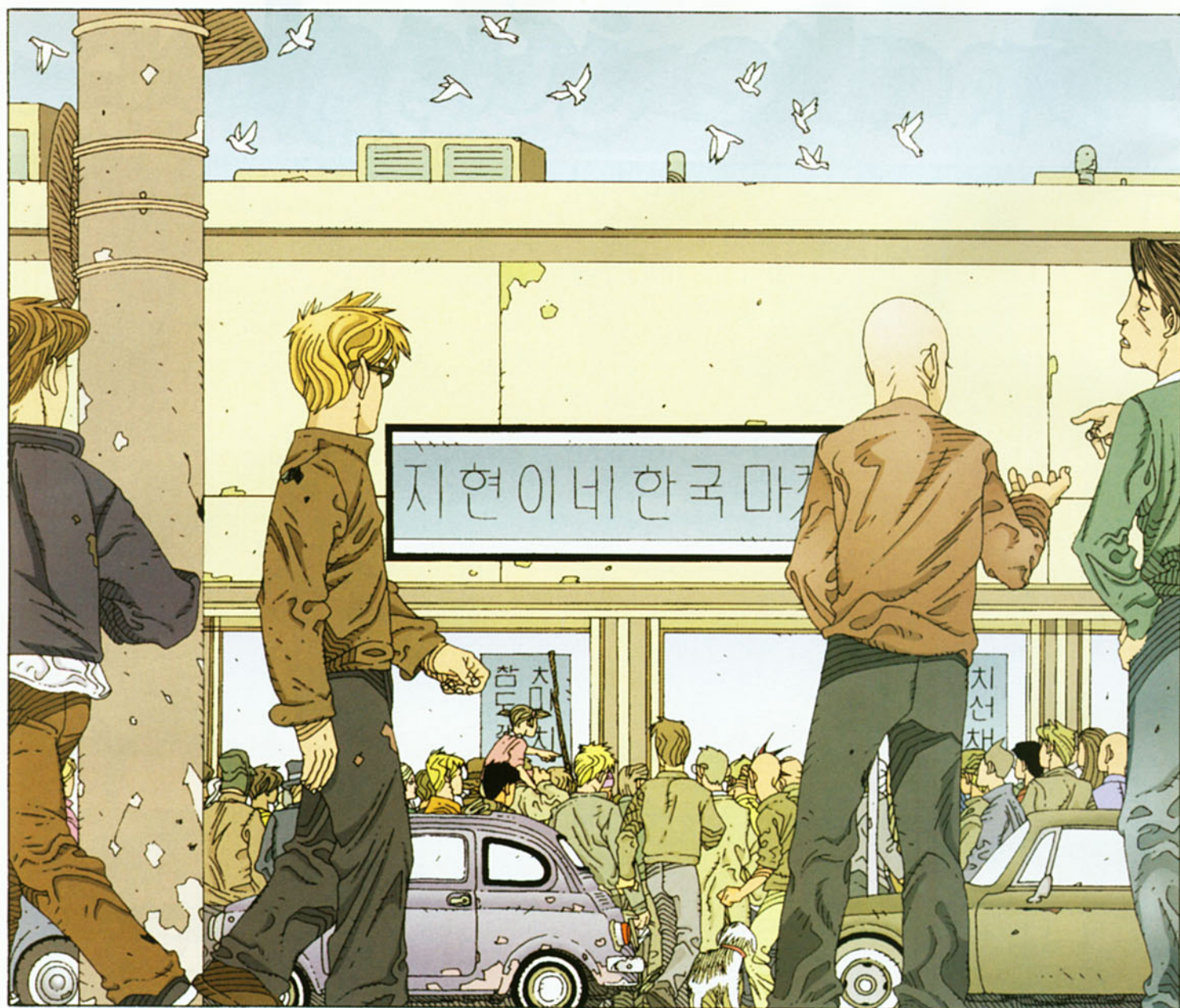
THE END.



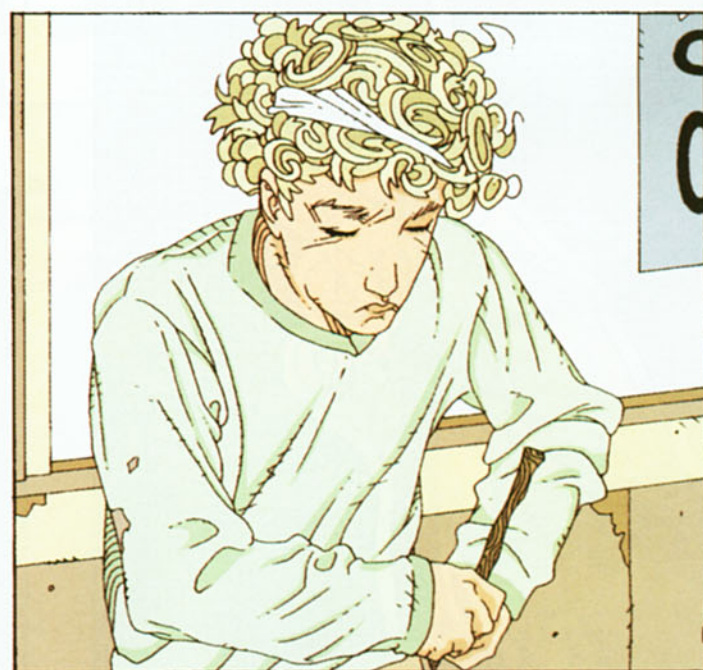
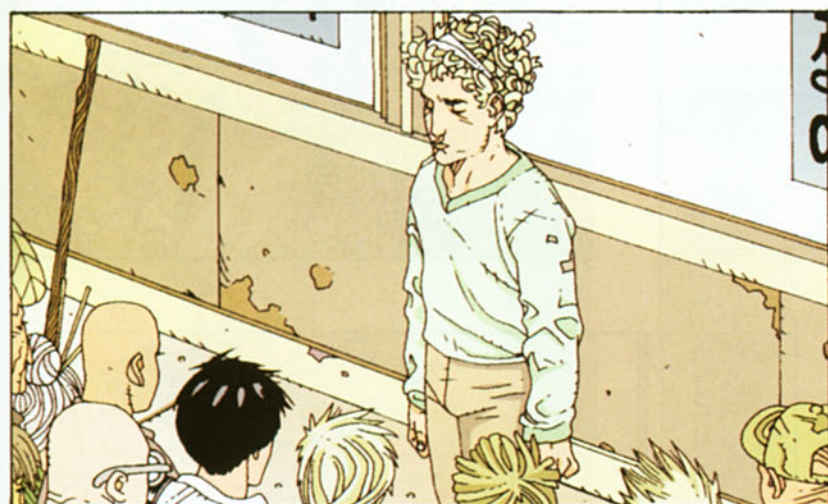
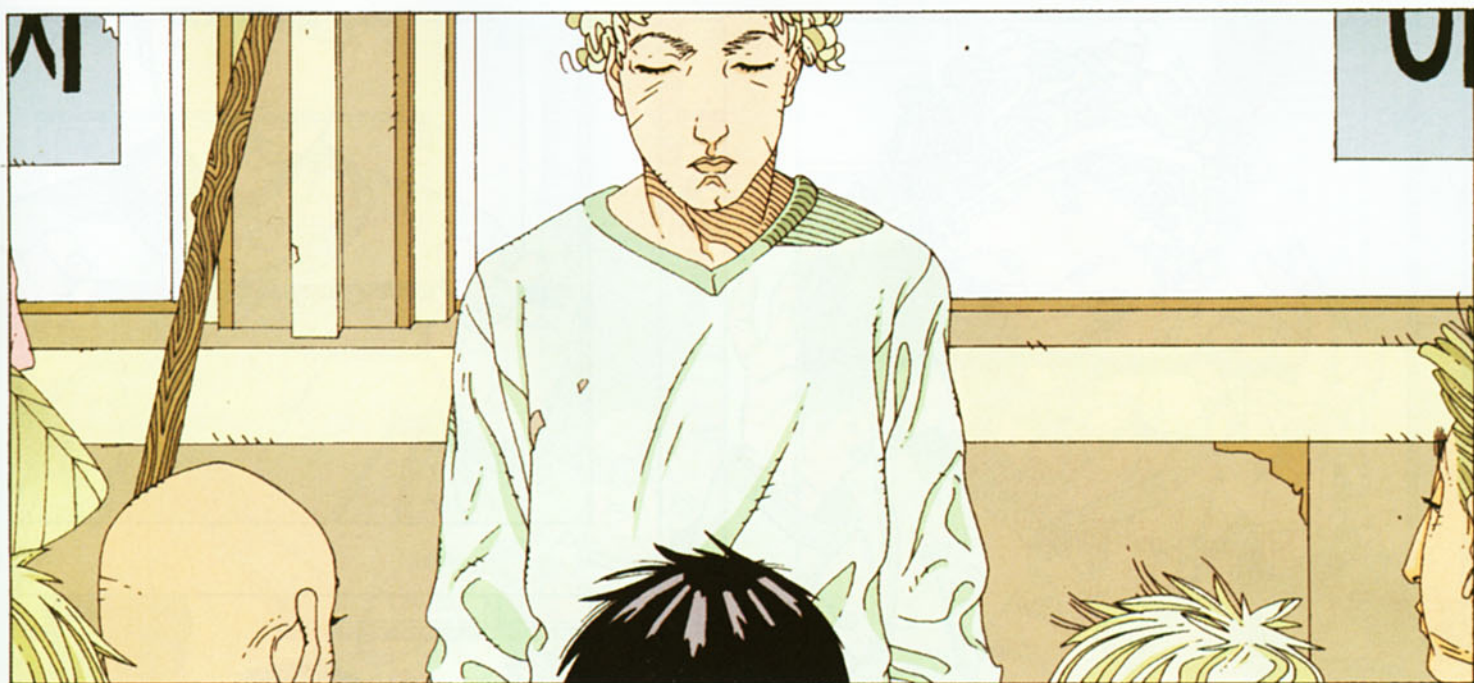
# Snake juggler



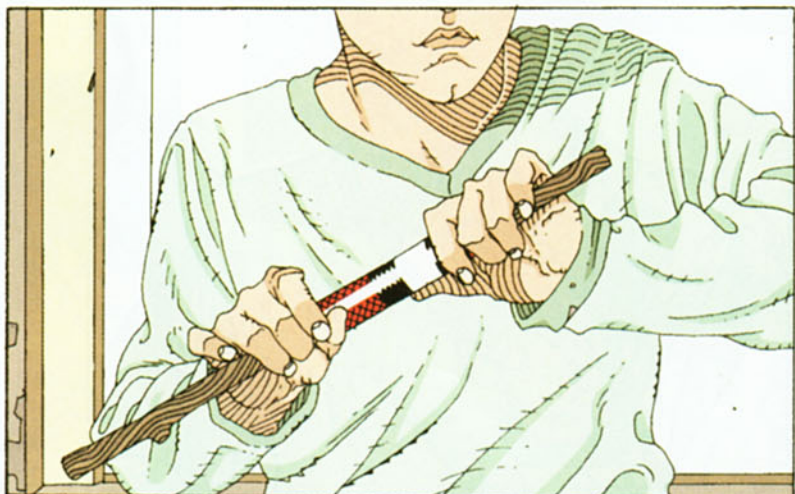
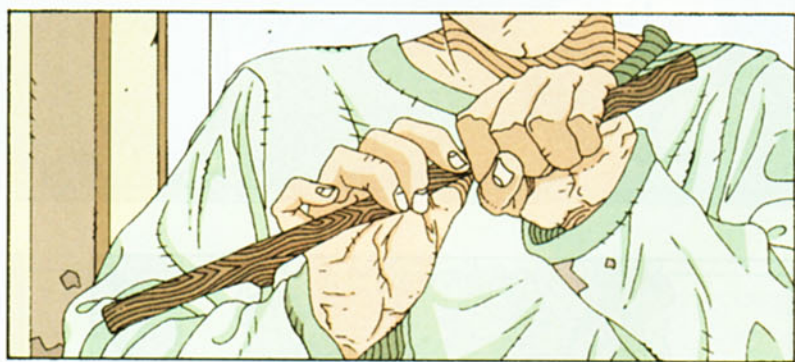
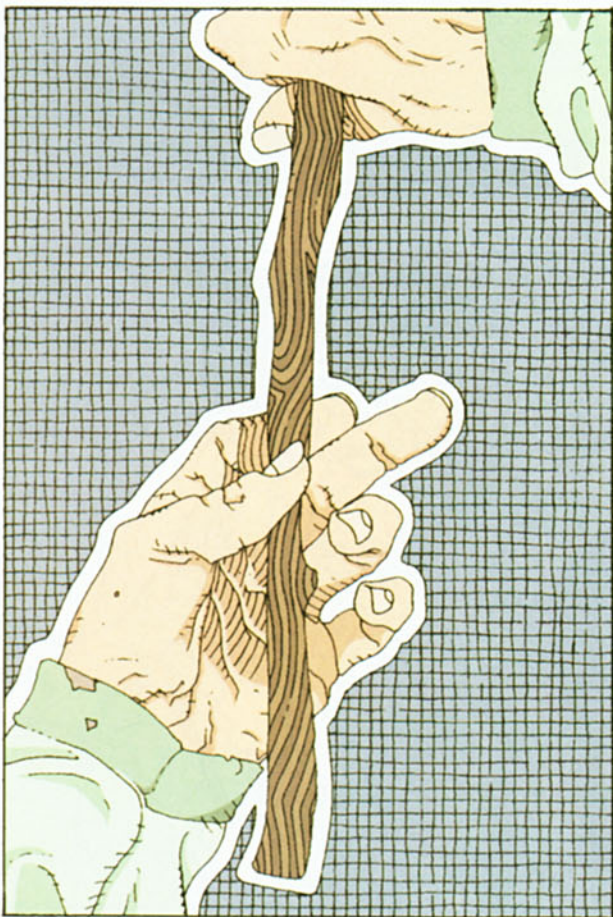
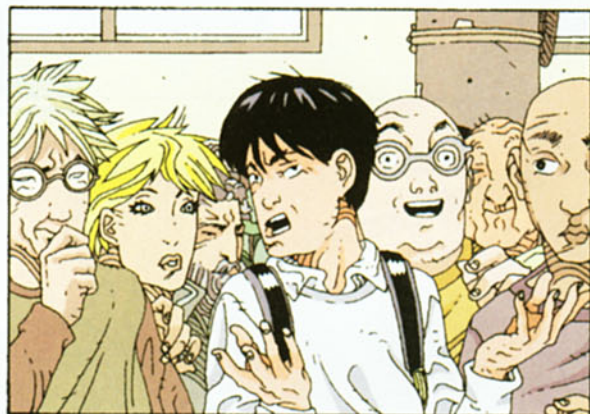
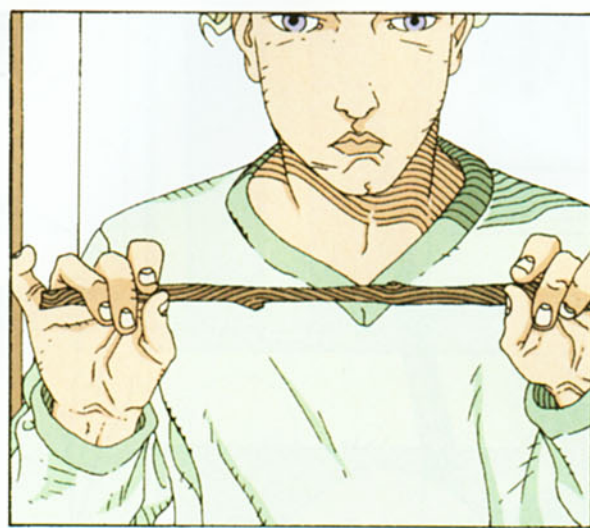
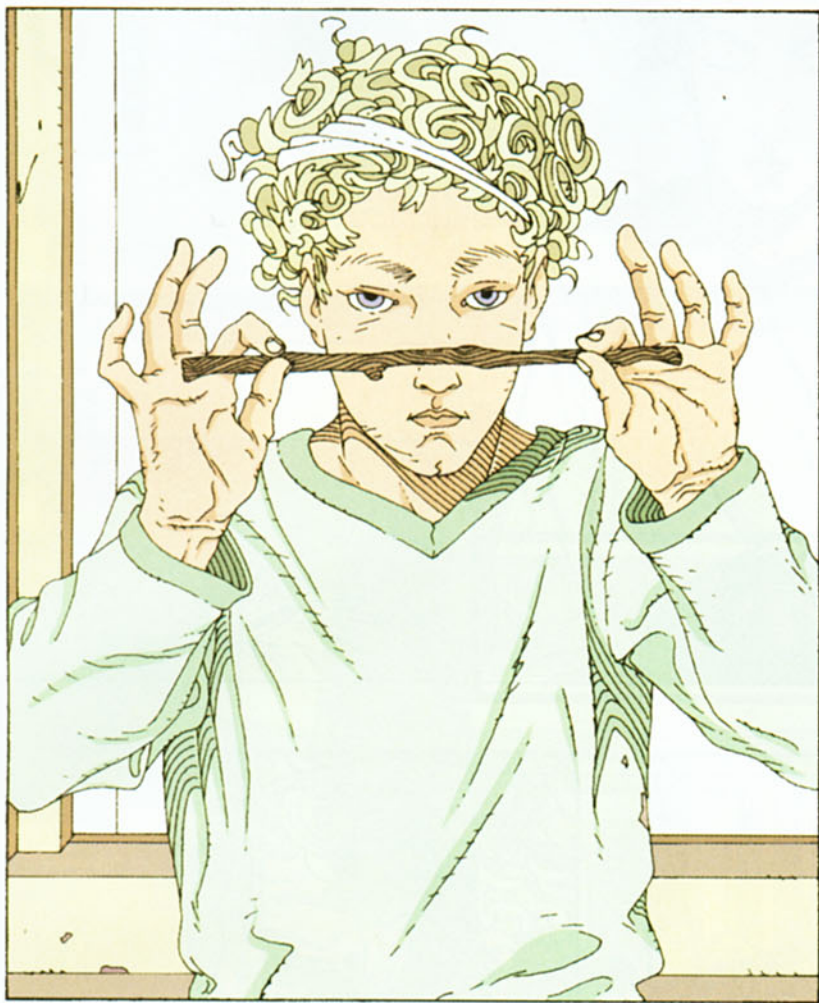




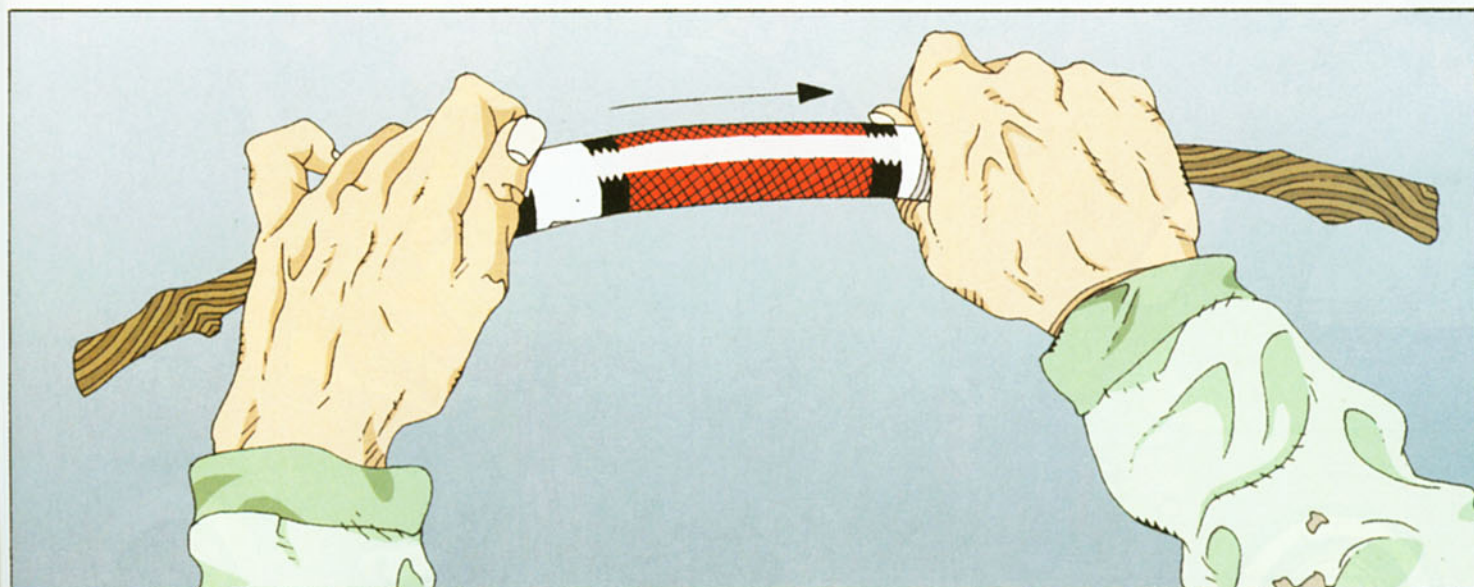
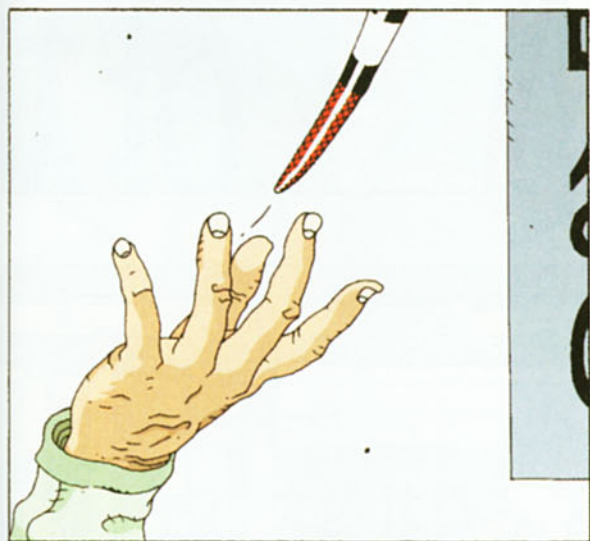
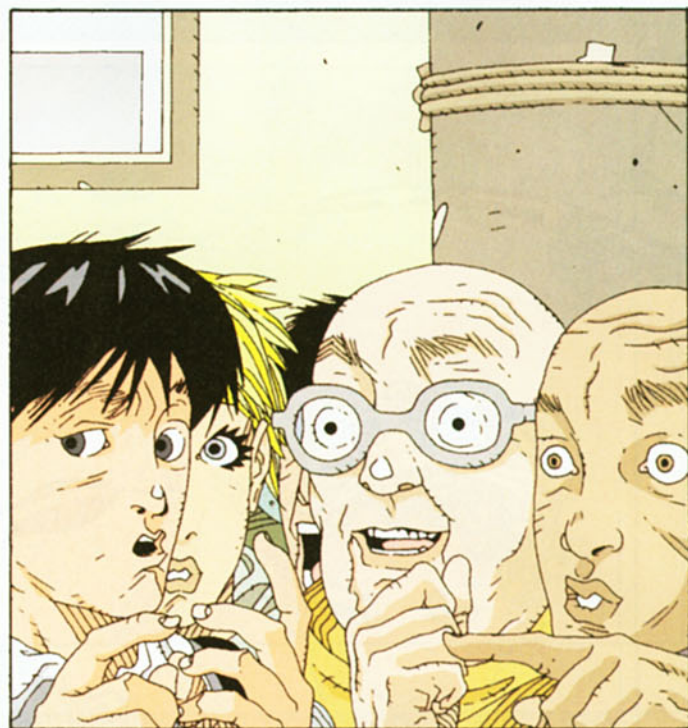




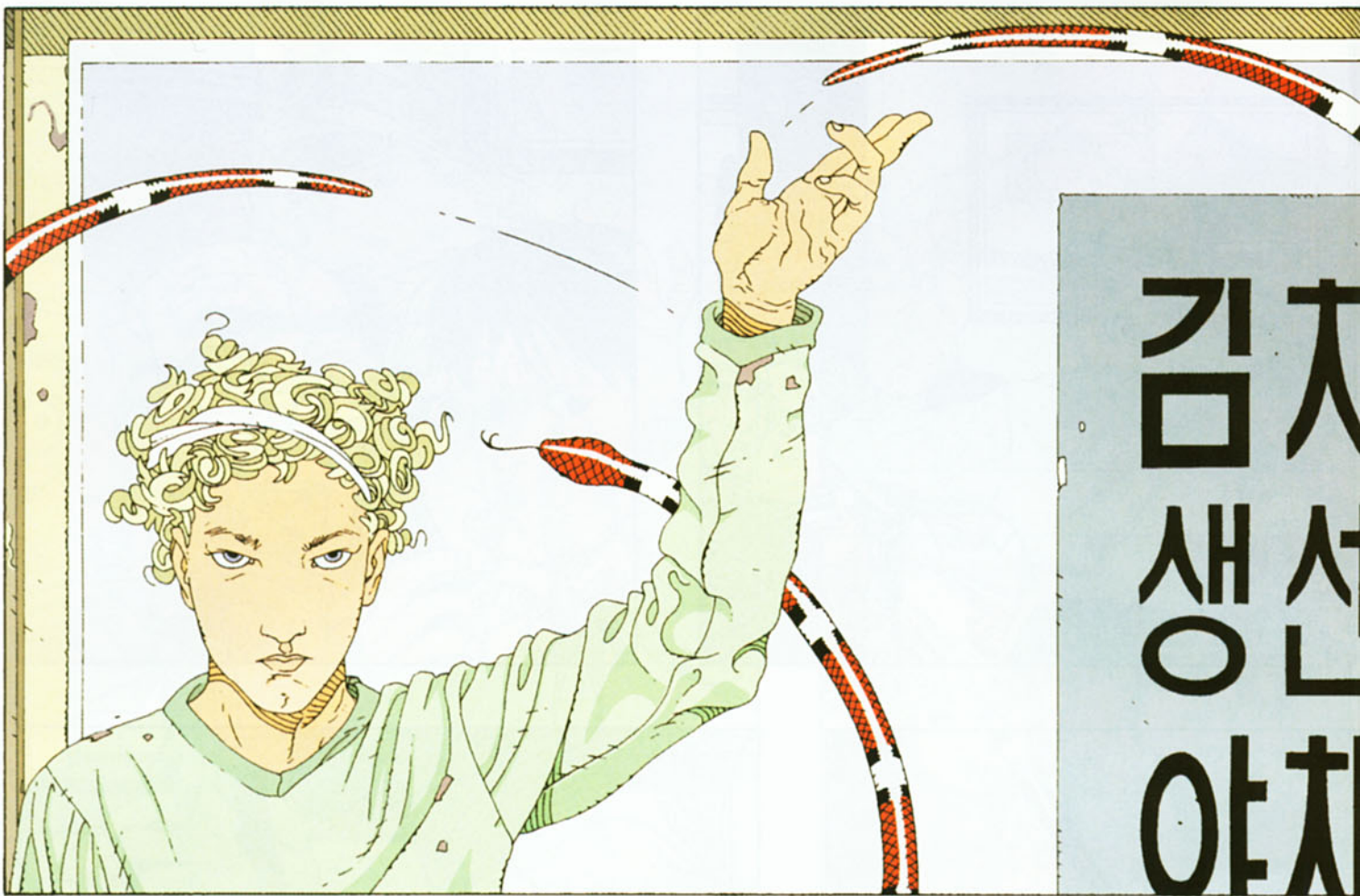




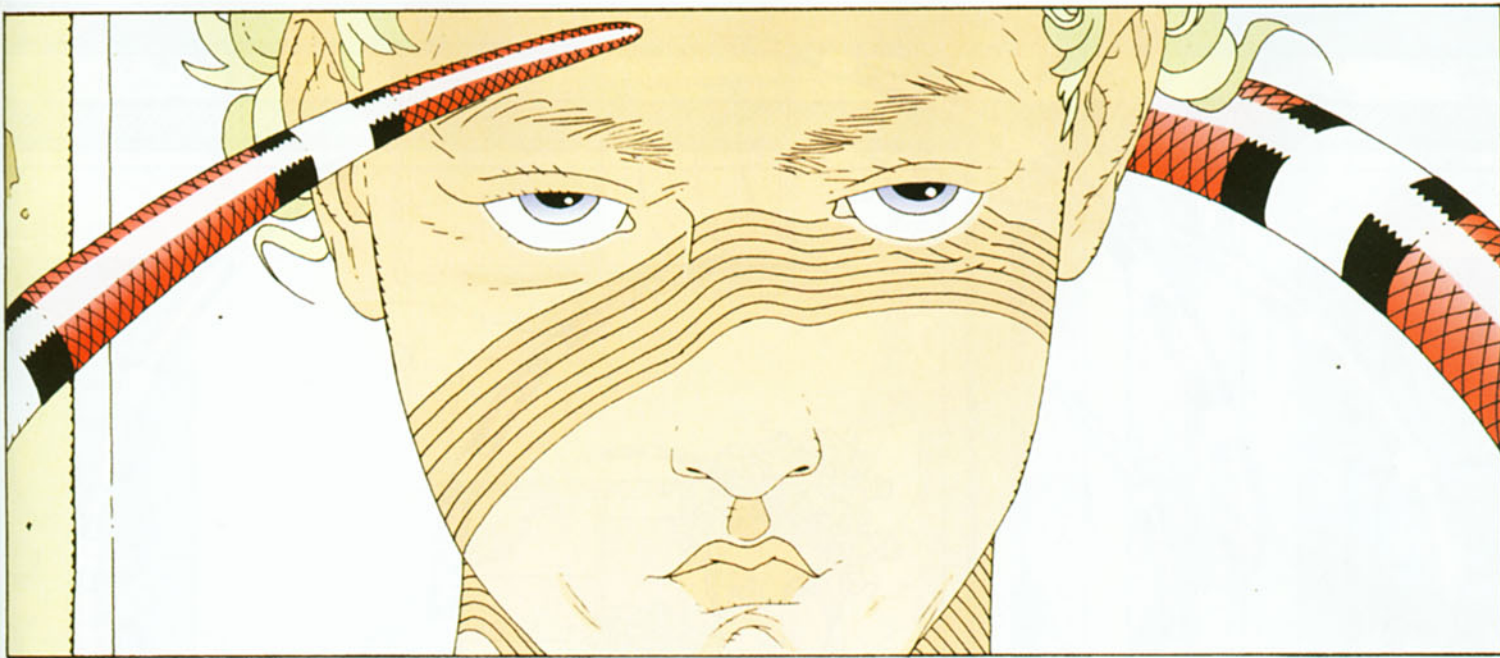




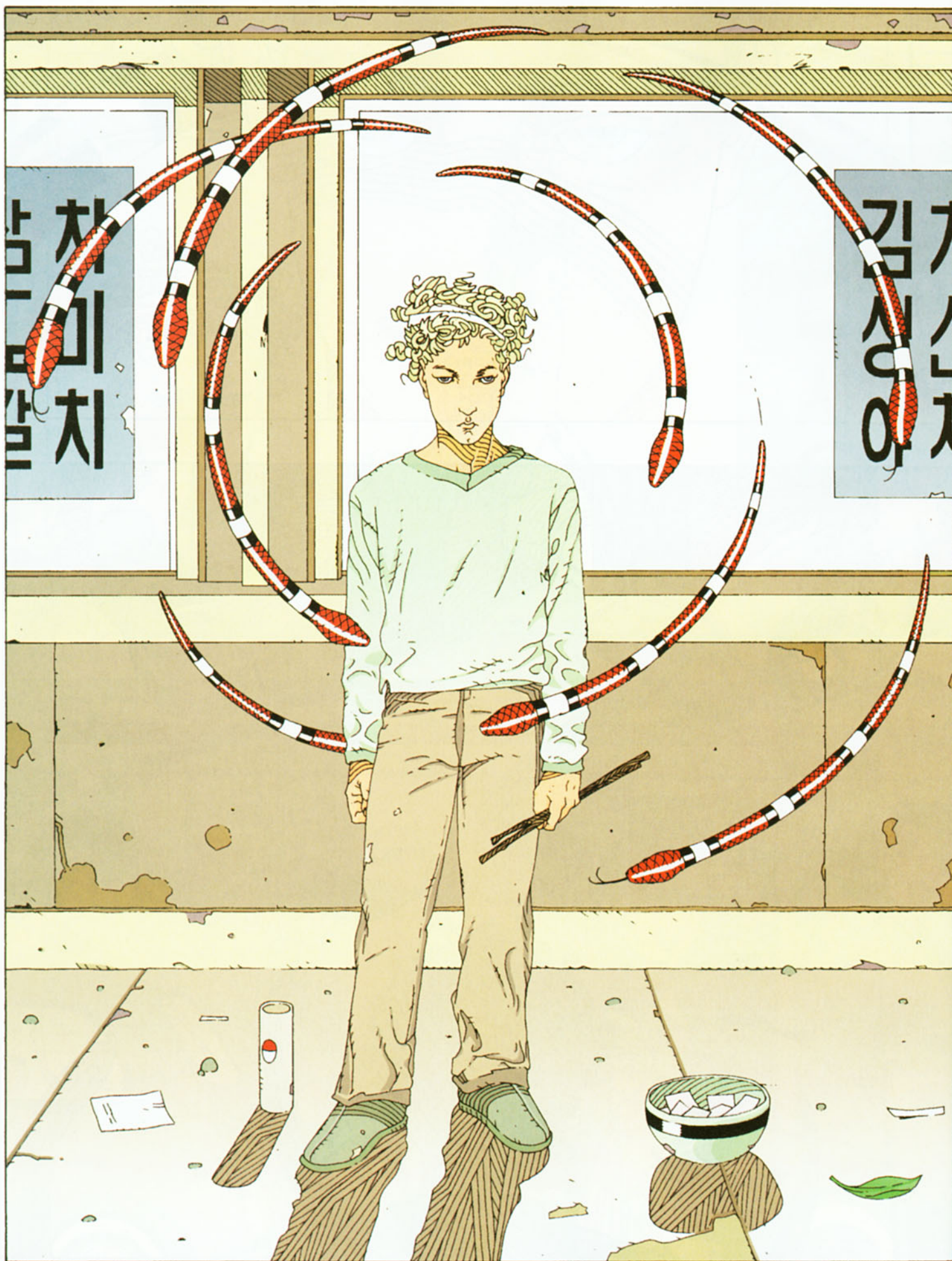




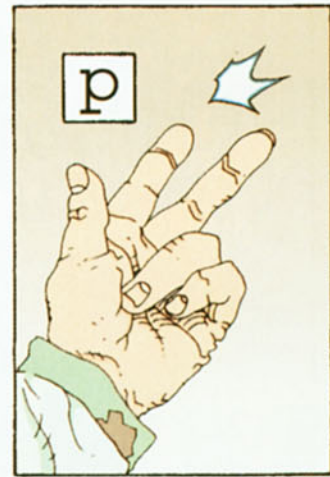
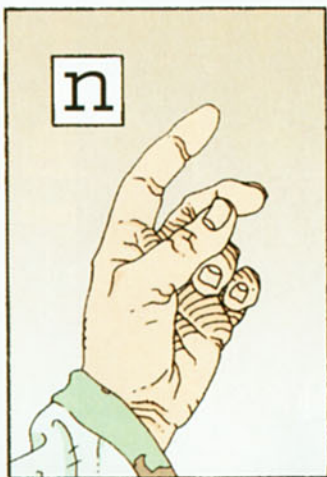
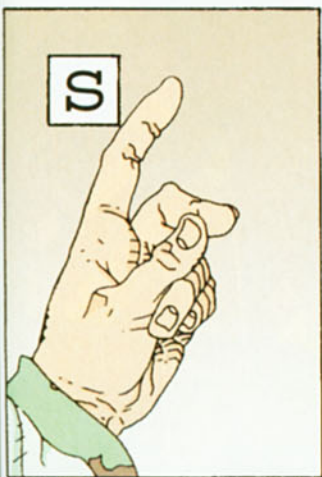




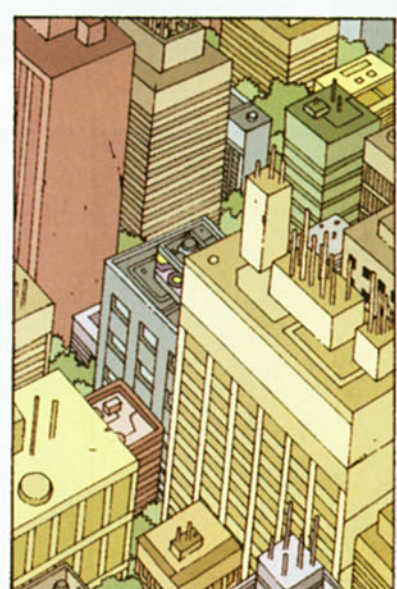
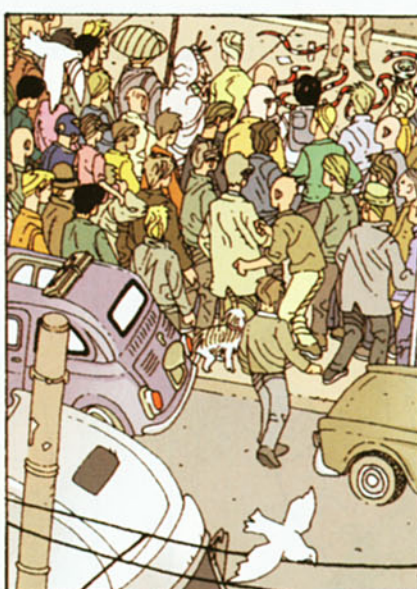
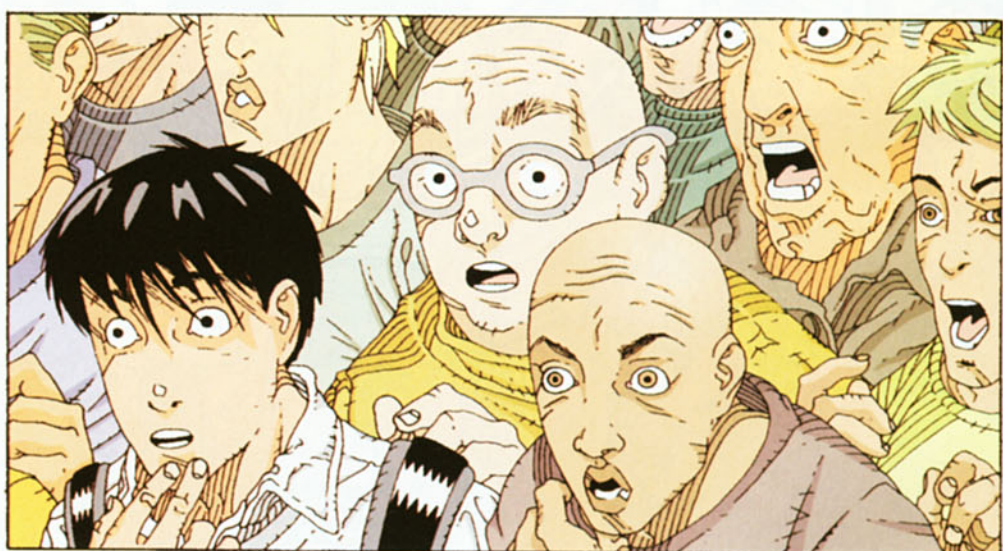
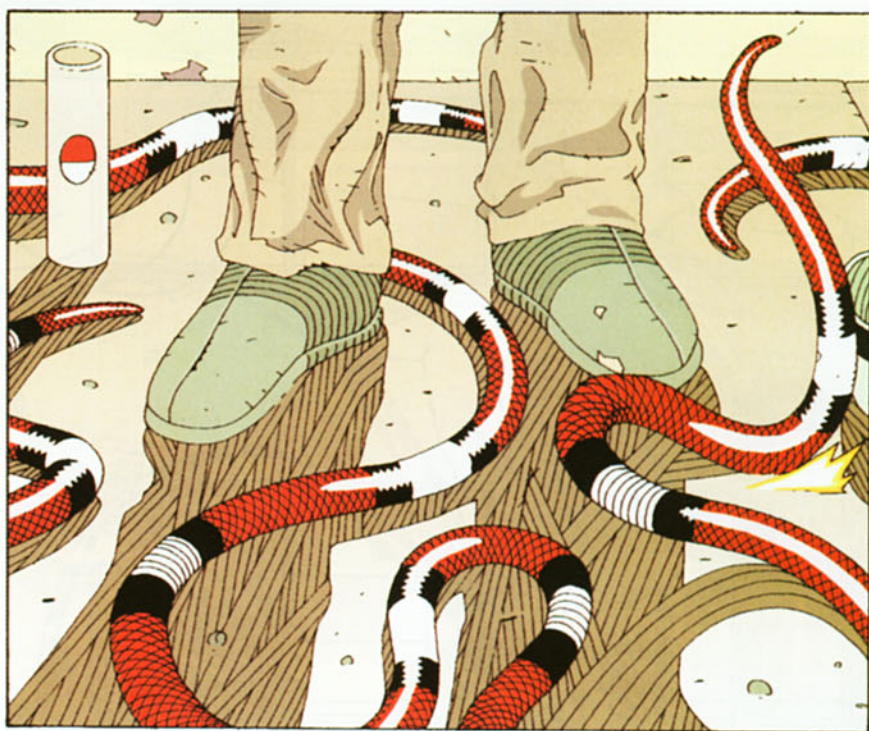










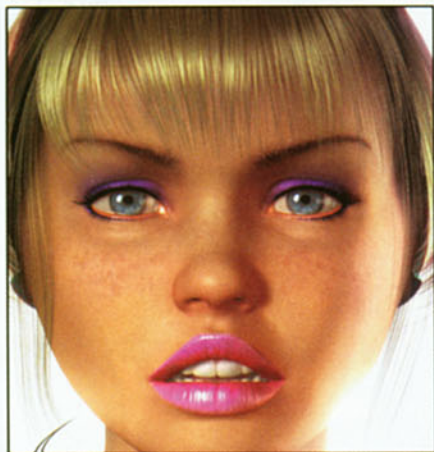




## SINKHA: HYLEYN



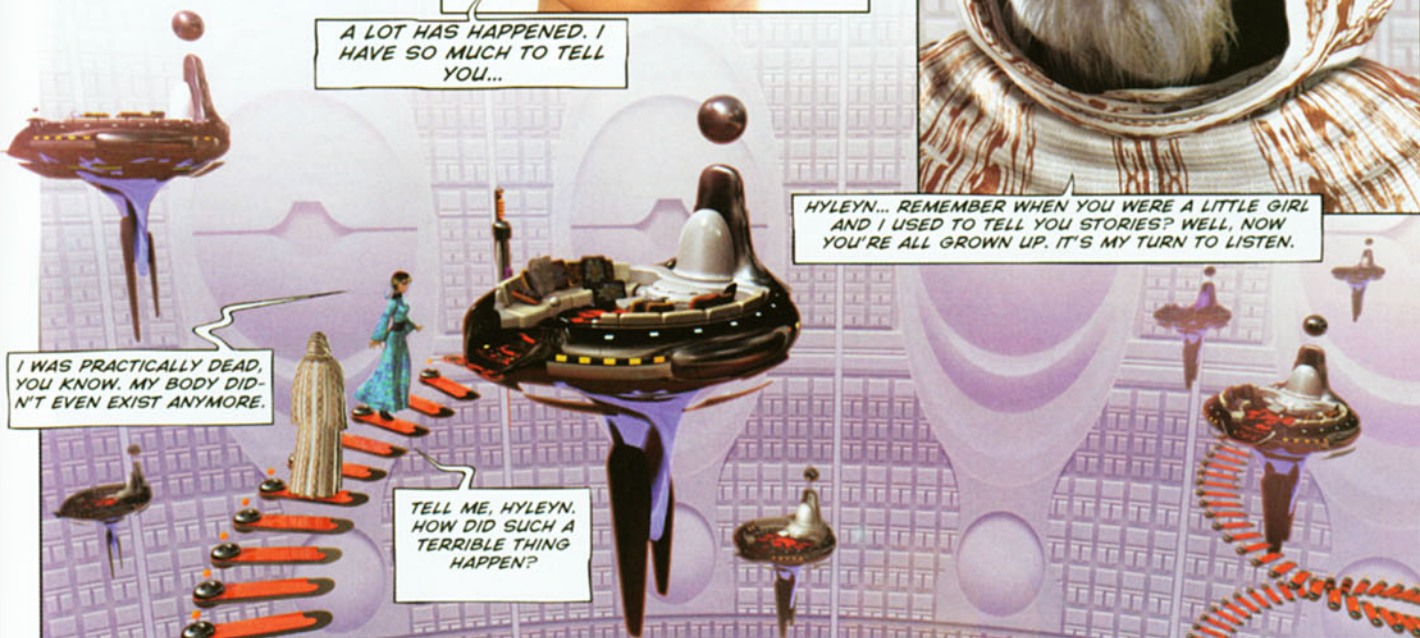
IT'S BEEN SO LONG I  
THOUGHT YOU WERE  
DEAD...



A LOT HAS HAPPENED. I  
HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL  
YOU...



HYLEYN... REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL  
AND I USED TO TELL YOU STORIES? WELL, NOW  
YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP. IT'S MY TURN TO LISTEN.



I WAS PRACTICALLY DEAD,  
YOU KNOW. MY BODY DID-  
N'T EVEN EXIST ANYMORE.

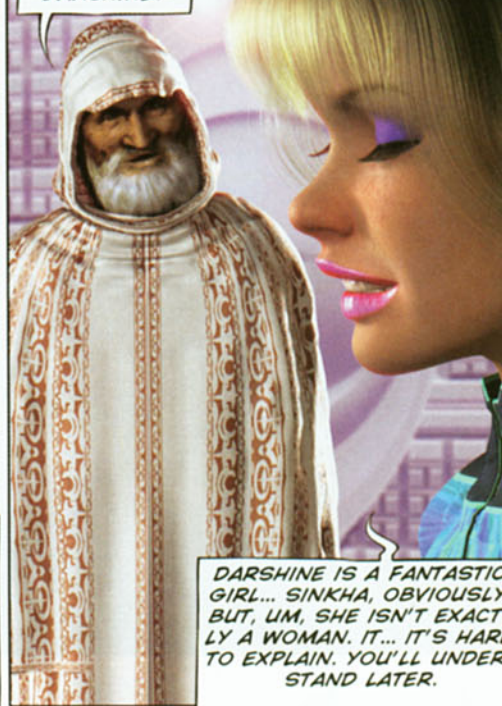
TELL ME, HYLEYN.  
HOW DID SUCH A  
TERRIBLE THING  
HAPPEN?

I'LL TELL  
YOU HOW  
LATER.



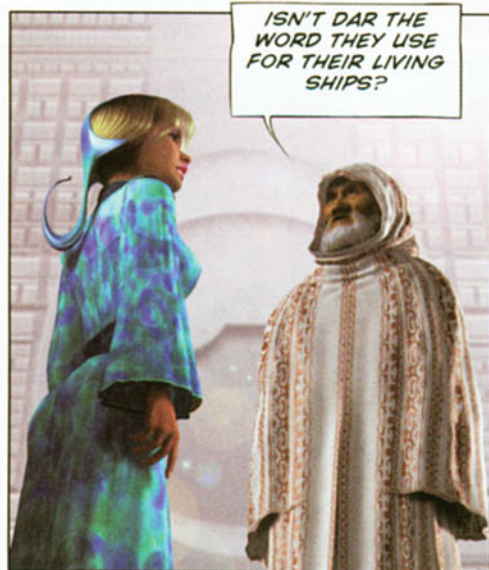
BUT FIRST, AS I WAS SAYING... ONLY MY  
HEAD REMAINED... BUT THEN SHE GAVE ME  
A NEW BODY, A BODY MADE OF SINKHA  
MATTER. OF COURSE, IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE  
IT DOES NOW, NOT AT FIRST. DARSHINE IS  
A TRUE MIRACLE WORKER. YOU SEE, I WAS  
BEING KILLED BY A NIGHTMARISH CREA-  
TURE...

WHO'S  
DARSHINE?



DARSHINE IS A FANTASTIC  
GIRL... SINKHA, OBVIOUSLY,  
BUT, UM, SHE ISN'T EXACT-  
LY A WOMAN. IT... IT'S HARD  
TO EXPLAIN. YOU'LL UNDER-  
STAND LATER.



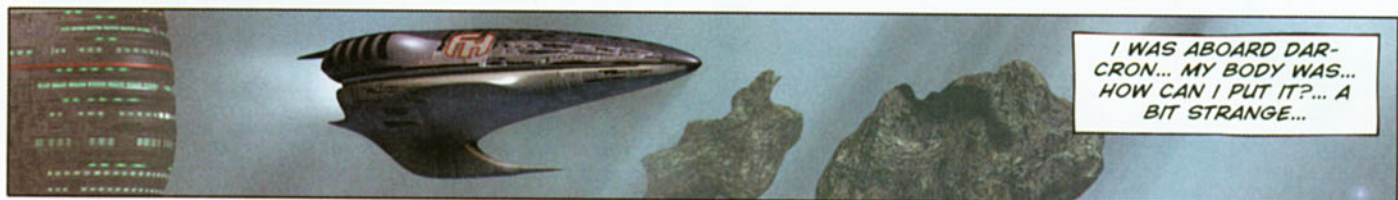


ISN'T DAR THE  
WORD THEY USE  
FOR THEIR LIVING  
SHIPS?

YOU KNOW SO MANY THINGS,  
GRANDPA ASAR. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
TO TELL YOU ANYTHING NEW.



I'M JUST A POOR OLD MAN  
MAKING A LUCKY GUESS. IT  
WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT I  
HADN'T BEEN ANYWHERE OUT-  
SIDE THALISSAR... PLEASE, GO  
ON.

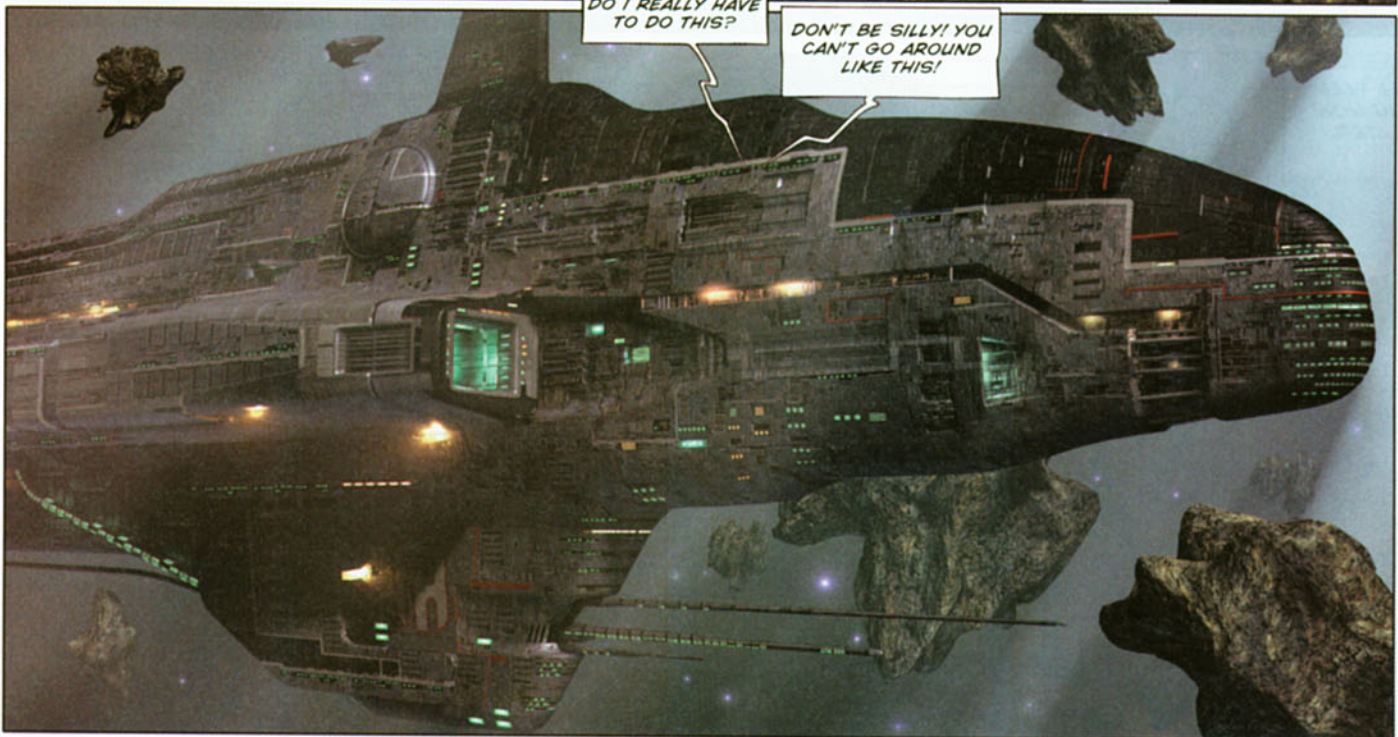


I WAS ABOARD DAR-  
CRON... MY BODY WAS...  
HOW CAN I PUT IT?... A  
BIT STRANGE...



BUT DARSHINE,  
DO I REALLY HAVE  
TO DO THIS?

DON'T BE SILLY! YOU  
CAN'T GO AROUND  
LIKE THIS!





BUT I KIND OF LIKE BEING  
TRANSPARENT!



COME ON, STOP KIDDING  
AROUND! JUST LAY DOWN  
AND BE QUIET WHILE DAR-  
CRON GIVES YOU A MORE  
HUMAN APPEARANCE.



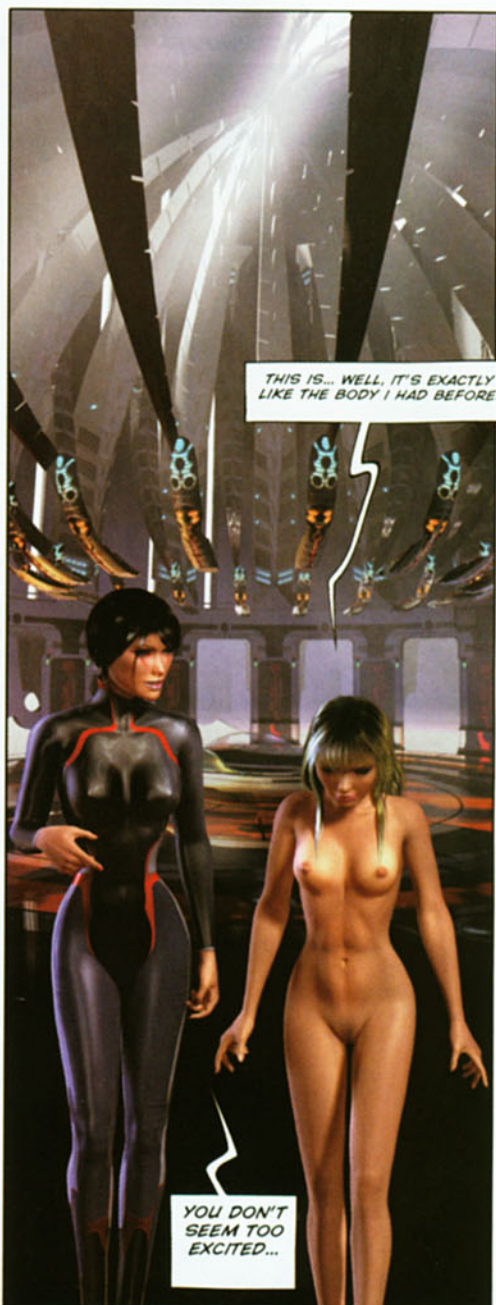
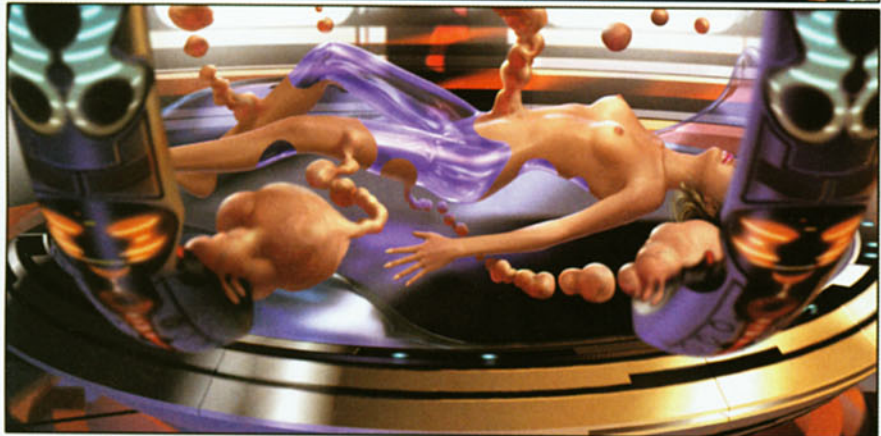
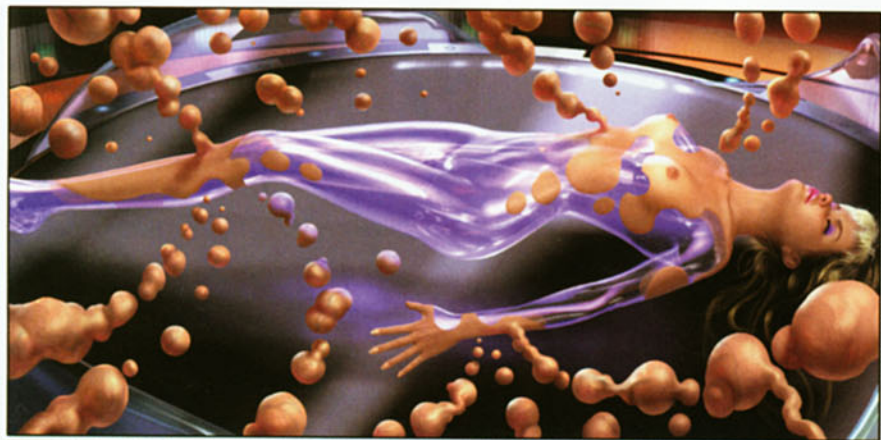
BUT THIS BODY SAVED  
MY LIFE... AND IT'S PART  
OF YOU...  
I LOVE IT!



THAT'S ENOUGH, CHAT-  
TERBOX!... JUST BE  
THANKFUL I DIDN'T  
MAKE YOU INTO THE  
SHAPE OF A D-  
KEEPEE!









HUH?! WHO'S THIS "SOMEONE"?



DON'T YOU START IN NOW, TOO! AND BY THE WAY, I AM TWENTY, YOU KNOW... WHY SHOULDN'T THERE BE SOMEONE?

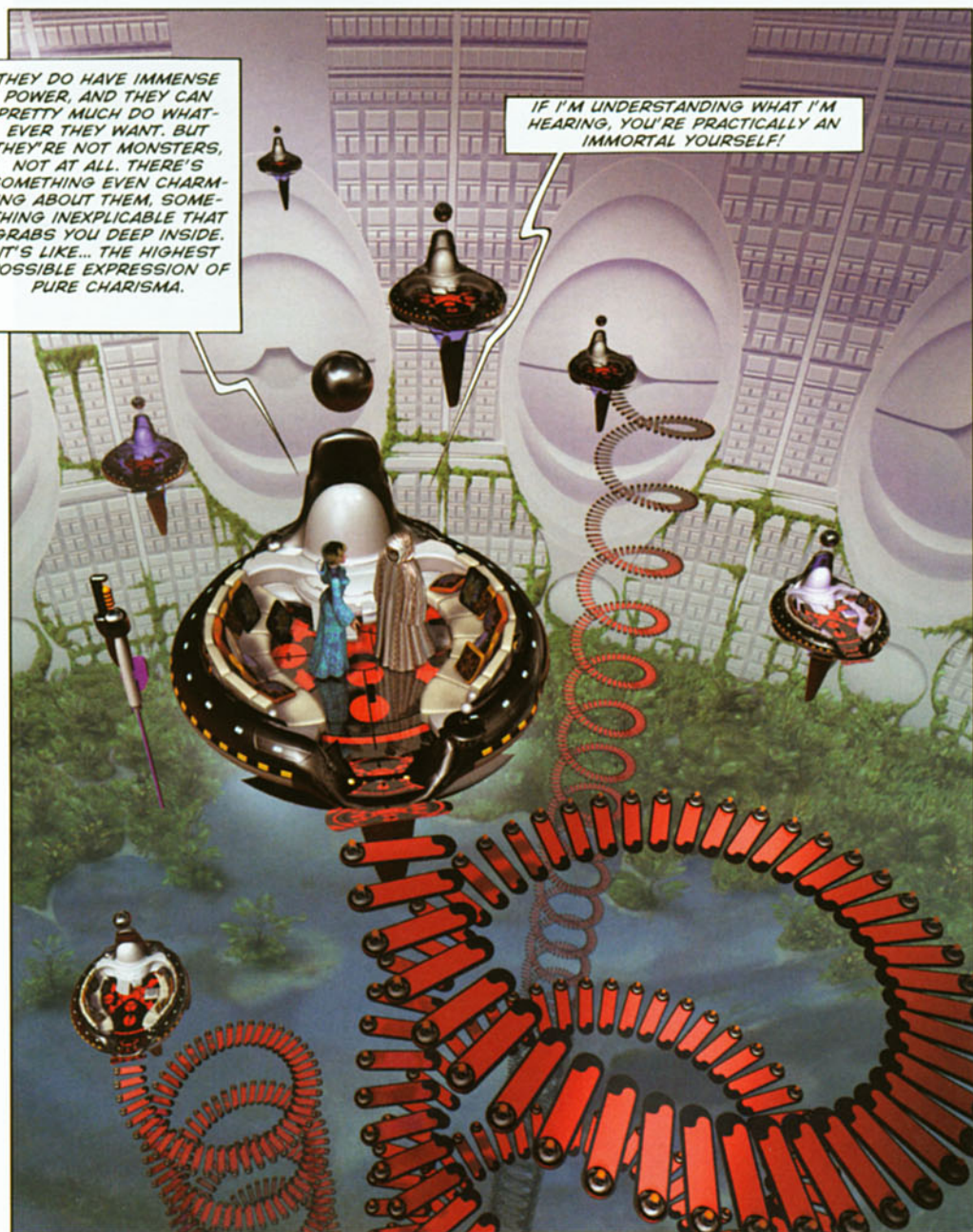


ALL RIGHT, FINE... WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT LATER! BUT IT CERTAINLY SEEMS YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE IMMORTALS. EVERYONE IN THALISSAR WAS CERTAIN THEY COULD REDUCE PEOPLE TO ASHES WITH JUST A GLANCE!



THEY DO HAVE IMMENSE POWER, AND THEY CAN PRETTY MUCH DO WHATEVER THEY WANT. BUT THEY'RE NOT MONSTERS, NOT AT ALL. THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN CHARMING ABOUT THEM, SOMETHING INEXPLICABLE THAT GRABS YOU DEEP INSIDE. IT'S LIKE... THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE EXPRESSION OF PURE CHARISMA.

IF I'M UNDERSTANDING WHAT I'M HEARING, YOU'RE PRACTICALLY AN IMMORTAL YOURSELF!



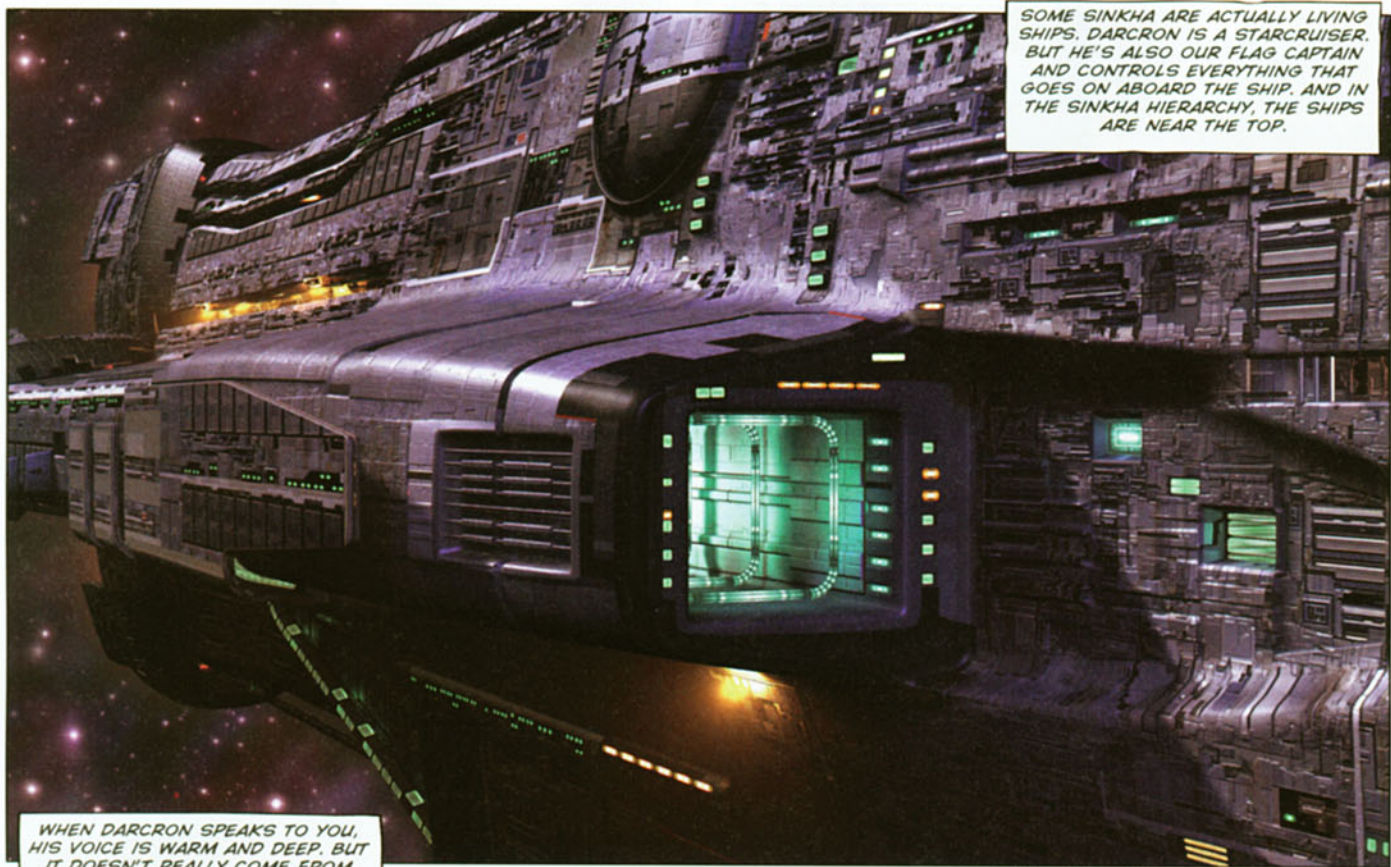
THIS BODY MAY LOOK HUMAN, BUT IT'S MADE OUT OF SINKHA MATTER, WHICH ACTUALLY MAKES ME PART SINKHA... THOUGH I CAN'T EVER FORGET THAT MY HEAD'S THE SAME AS IT ALWAYS WAS, AND JUST AS VULNERABLE.



I'M HOPELESS, I KEEP INTERRUPTING YOU... PLEASE GO ON WITH YOUR STORY.







SOME SINKHA ARE ACTUALLY LIVING SHIPS. DARCRON IS A STARCUISE. BUT HE'S ALSO OUR FLAG CAPTAIN AND CONTROLS EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON ABOARD THE SHIP. AND IN THE SINKHA HIERARCHY, THE SHIPS ARE NEAR THE TOP.

WHEN DARCRON SPEAKS TO YOU, HIS VOICE IS WARM AND DEEP, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY COME FROM ANY PARTICULAR PLACE. AT FIRST IT CAN MAKE YOU UNEASY. THEN, AS WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, YOU GET USED TO IT.



HAVE YOU EVER MET AN EMPEROR, HYLEYN?

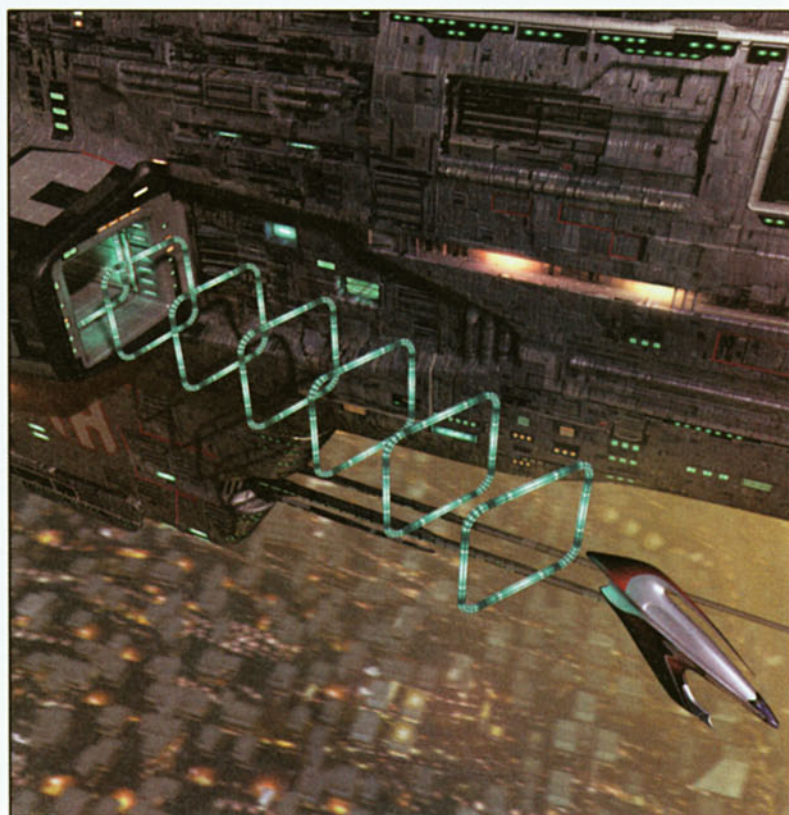
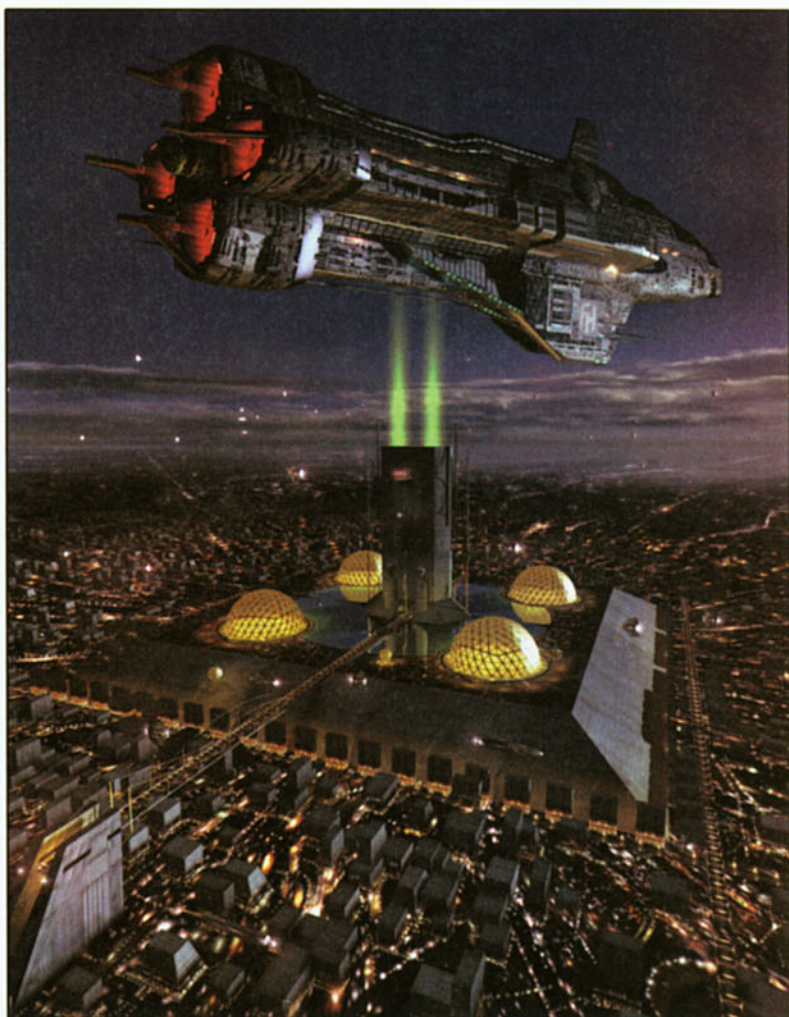
I DIDN'T KNOW THE CORPORATIONS HAD EMPERORS!



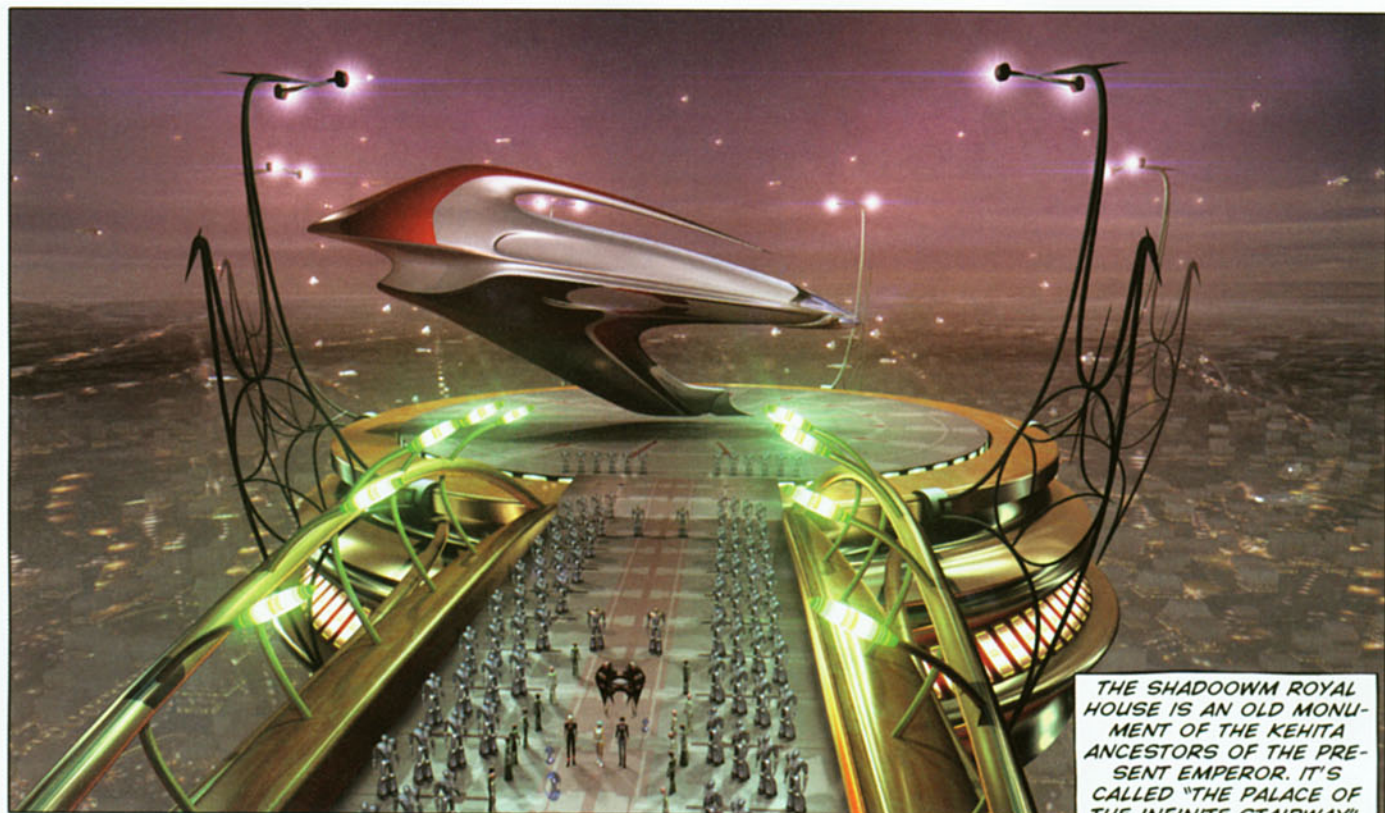
ACTUALLY, THE TITLE'S BEEN HANDED DOWN THROUGH TRADITION. HE'S REALLY ONLY A LOCAL GOVERNOR OF MDC... BUT THE POMP IS JUST LIKE A TRUE EMPIRE!



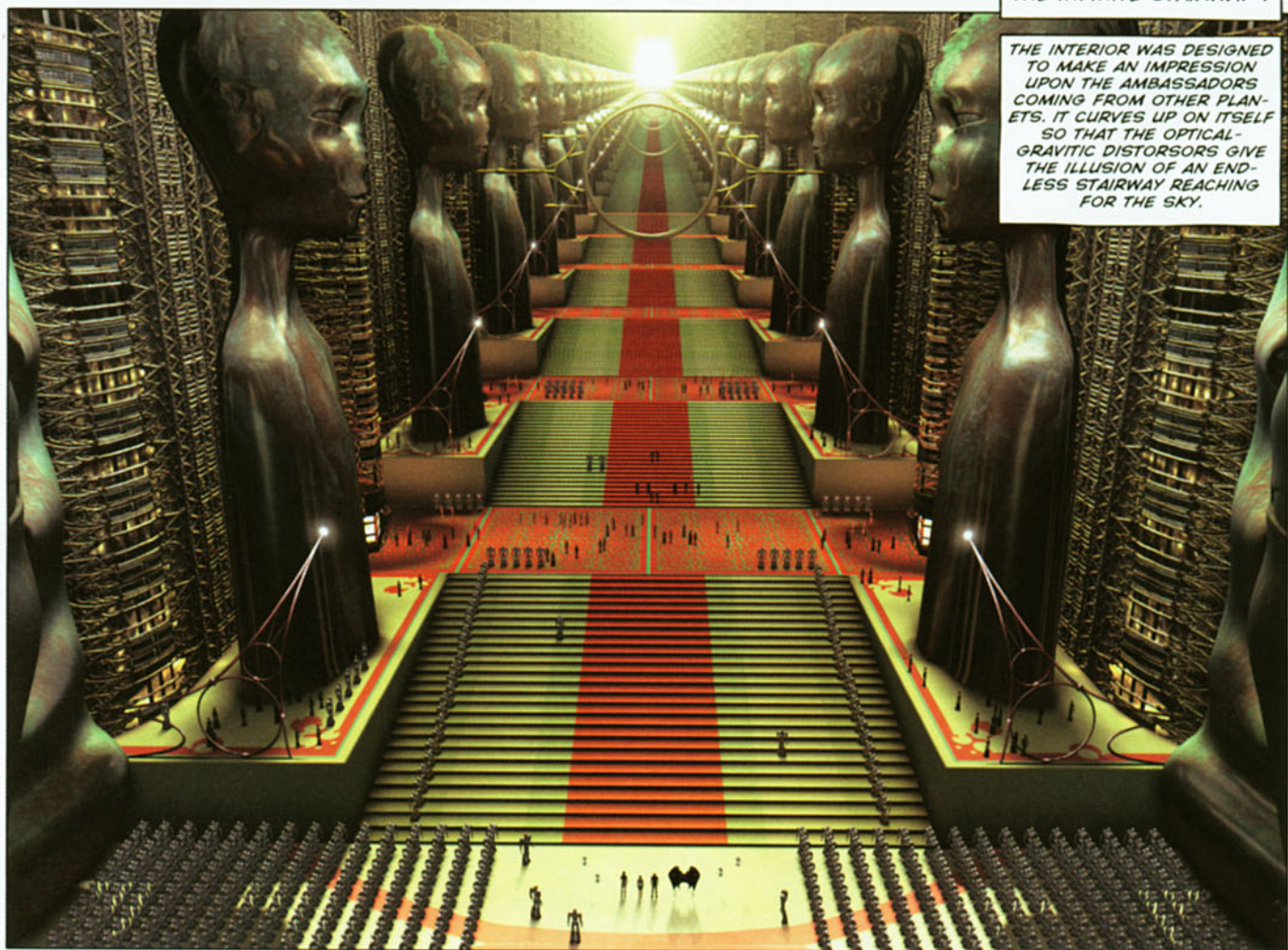






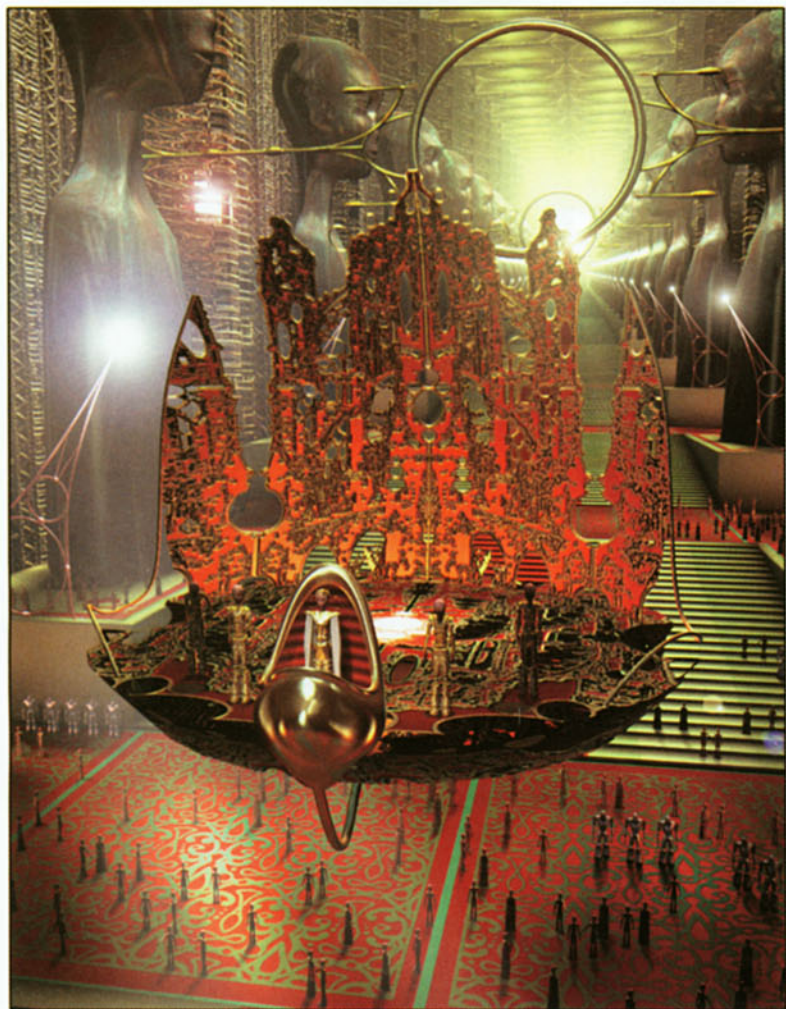


THE SHADOOWM ROYAL HOUSE IS AN OLD MONUMENT OF THE KEHITA ANCESTORS OF THE PRESENT EMPEROR. IT'S CALLED "THE PALACE OF THE INFINITE STAIRWAY".

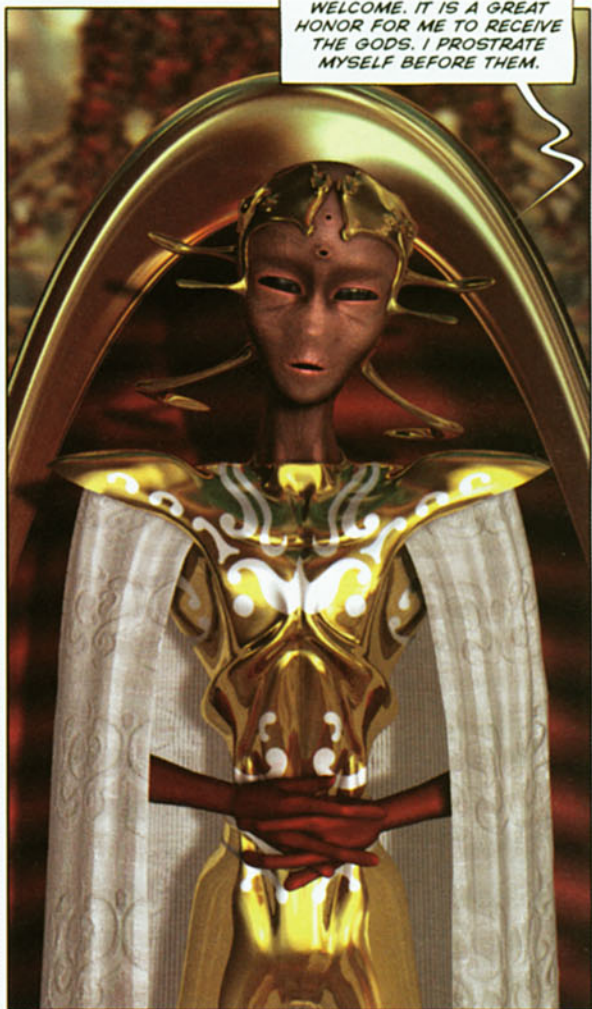


THE INTERIOR WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION UPON THE AMBASSADORS COMING FROM OTHER PLANETS. IT CURVES UP ON ITSELF SO THAT THE OPTICAL-GRAVITIC DISTORSORS GIVE THE ILLUSION OF AN ENDLESS STAIRWAY REACHING FOR THE SKY.





WELCOME. IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO RECEIVE THE GODS. I PROSTRATE MYSELF BEFORE THEM.



YOU KNOW WE DON'T LIKE TO BE CALLED GODS, SHADOOWM... AND YOU'RE STILL HANGING ON TO THAT RIDICULOUS THRONE! YOU HAVEN'T PROSTRATED YOURSELF AT ALL!





SHOULDN'T YOU BE A  
TAD MORE DIPLOMATIC?



YOU AREN'T AFRAID,  
ARE YOU, HYLEYN?



WELL, SHADOOWM, I  
KNOW WE AREN'T  
HERE JUST TO HANG  
OUT WITH YOUR  
KEYAR!



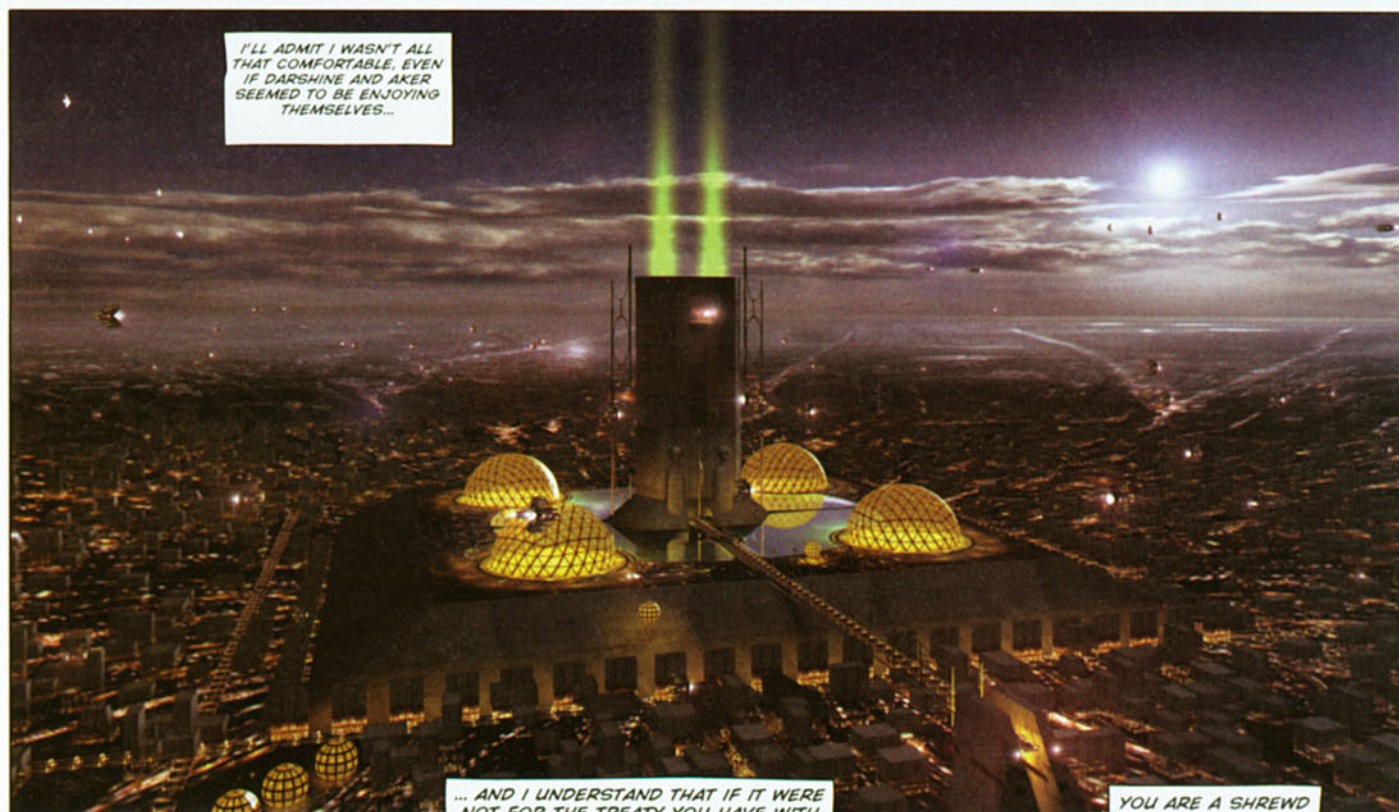




NO, IT'S A NEUTRINIC TRANSMISSION, A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USED BY THE SINKHA. IT'S MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN THE ENDOCOM CEREBRAL IMPLANTS, AND IT'S ACTUALLY A PART OF THEIR BEING.



I HAD TO HAVE IT INSTALLED, OBVIOUSLY... AND IT WASN'T EASY TO LEARN TO USE, EITHER!



I'LL ADMIT I WASN'T ALL THAT COMFORTABLE, EVEN IF DARSHINE AND AKER SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING THEMSELVES...

... AND I UNDERSTAND THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE TREATY YOU HAVE WITH THE CORPORATION, YOU WOULD HAVE SWEEPED ME AND MY ARMY AWAY...

YOU ARE A SHREWD ONE... SO TELL US WHY WE'RE HERE!

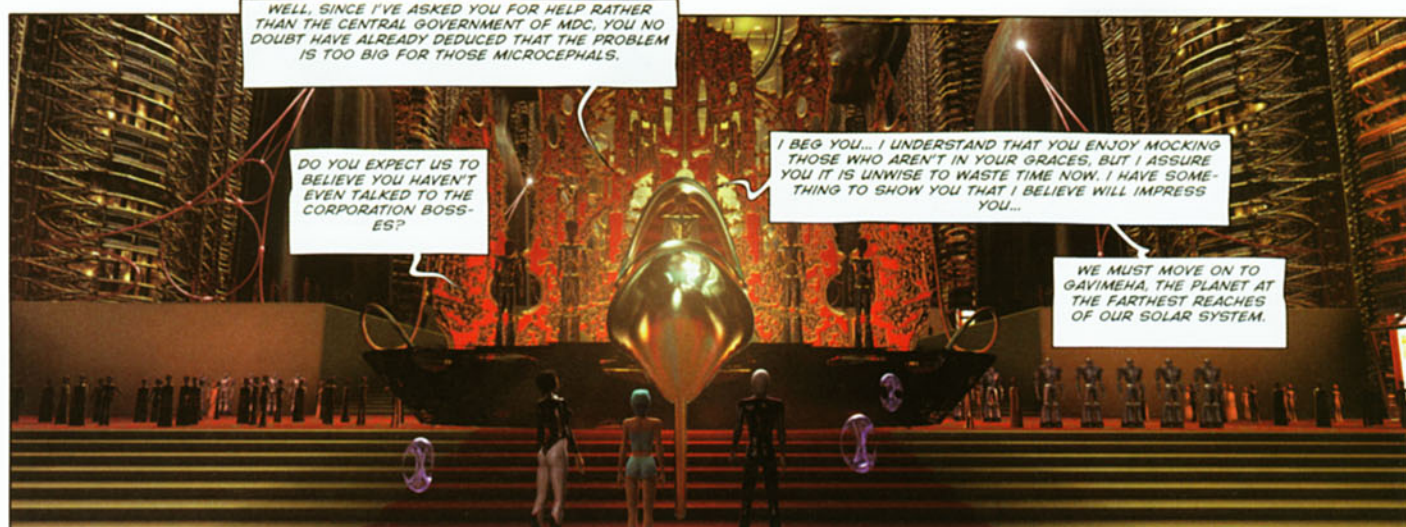
I REALIZE THAT I AM NOT VERY POPULAR WITH YOU IMMORTALS.



... IN AN INSTANT...







WELL, SINCE I'VE ASKED YOU FOR HELP RATHER THAN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF MDC, YOU NO DOUBT HAVE ALREADY DEDUCED THAT THE PROBLEM IS TOO BIG FOR THOSE MICROCEPHALS.

DO YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TALKED TO THE CORPORATION BOSS-ES?

I BEG YOU... I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ENJOY MOCKING THOSE WHO AREN'T IN YOUR GRACES, BUT I ASSURE YOU IT IS UNWISE TO WASTE TIME NOW. I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU THAT I BELIEVE WILL IMPRESS YOU...

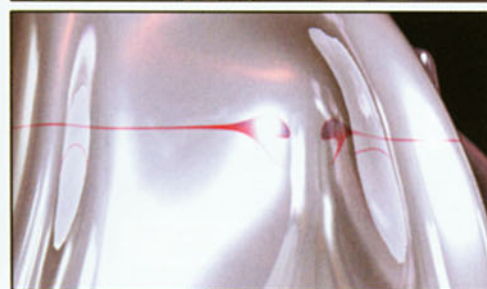
WE MUST MOVE ON TO GAVIMEHA, THE PLANET AT THE FARTHEST REACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.



MY GOD! WHAT A FLEET!

SHADOOWM LOOKS PETRI-FIED!







DARSHINE... HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS?... DO YOU FEEL MORE LIKE A WOMAN... OR MORE LIKE A STARSHIP?



OH, GOD!  
WHAT A STU-  
PID QUESTION!



NO, NO, IT'S NOT STUPID  
AT ALL! IT'S SOMETHING  
I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT  
ABOUT...



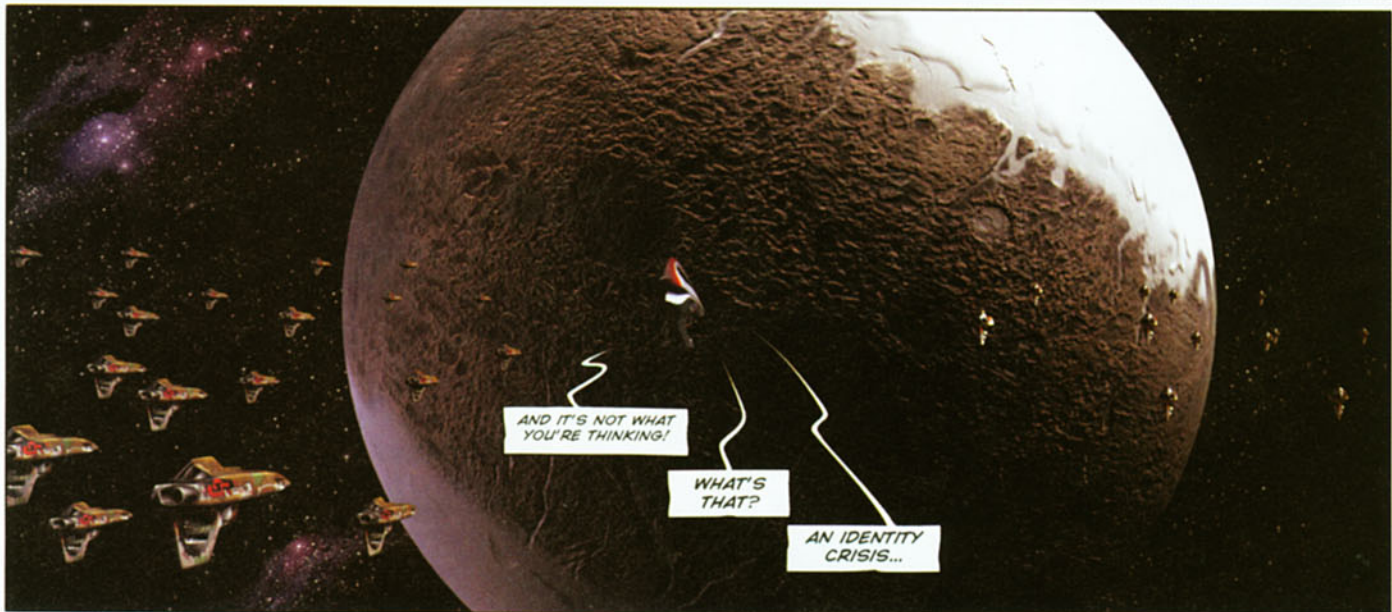
... YOU KNOW, I WAS  
BORN TO BE A SHIP.  
BUT THEN THE PART OF  
ME BORN AS MY  
HUMAN INTERFACE  
BECAME MORE AND  
MORE DOMINANT...



AND IT'S NOT WHAT  
YOU'RE THINKING!

WHAT'S  
THAT?

AN IDENTITY  
CRISIS...





A METAPORT...



... A GOD DAMNED PLANETARY METAPORT...



... KHAHAEK...



THIS IS NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RUIN!



SHIT... WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

DON'T BE SURPRISED, LITTLE BROTHER... I WONDER HOW MANY MORE WE'LL FIND!

THE EMPEROR... BUT SOMETHING'S INTERFERING WITH THE SIGNAL...



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MASSIVE PORTAL IS, AND... AND WHO COULD HAVE BUILT IT?

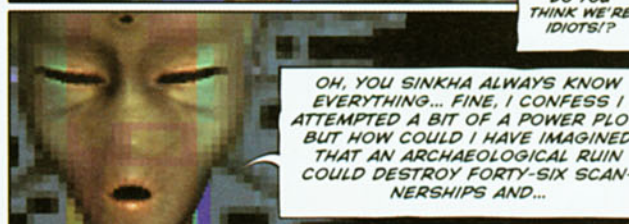


MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW WHO BUILT IT, SHADOOWM, BUT YOU KNOW VERY WELL WHAT IT IS... ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUR OWN SCIENTISTS DID ALL THEY COULD TO ACTIVATE IT!



BUT HOW COULD YOU INSINUATE...

DO YOU THINK WE'RE IDIOTS!?



OH, YOU SINKHA ALWAYS KNOW EVERYTHING... FINE, I CONFESS I ATTEMPTED A BIT OF A POWER PLAY. BUT HOW COULD I HAVE IMAGINED THAT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RUIN COULD DESTROY FORTY-SIX SCANNERSHIPS AND...



NO?!

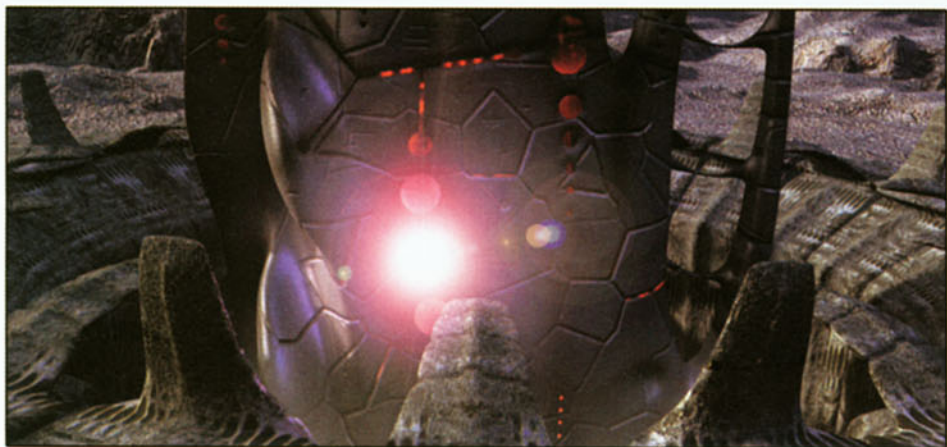


NO! THE RACE THAT DID THIS IS NOT EXTINCT!



NO?!... SO WHERE ARE THEY?









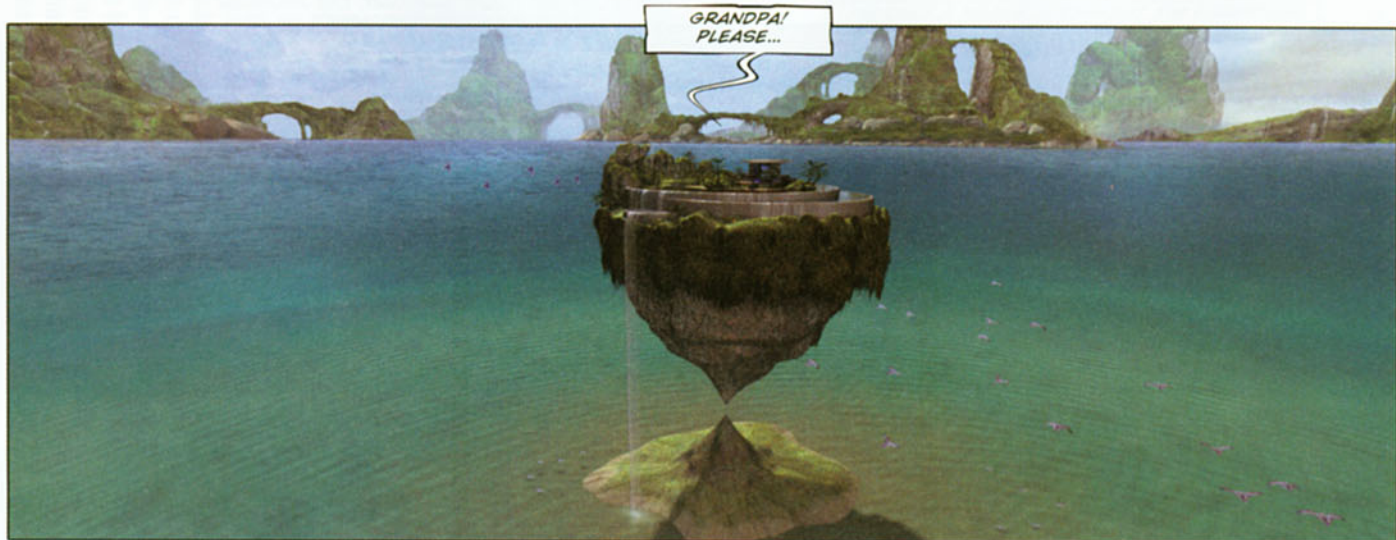




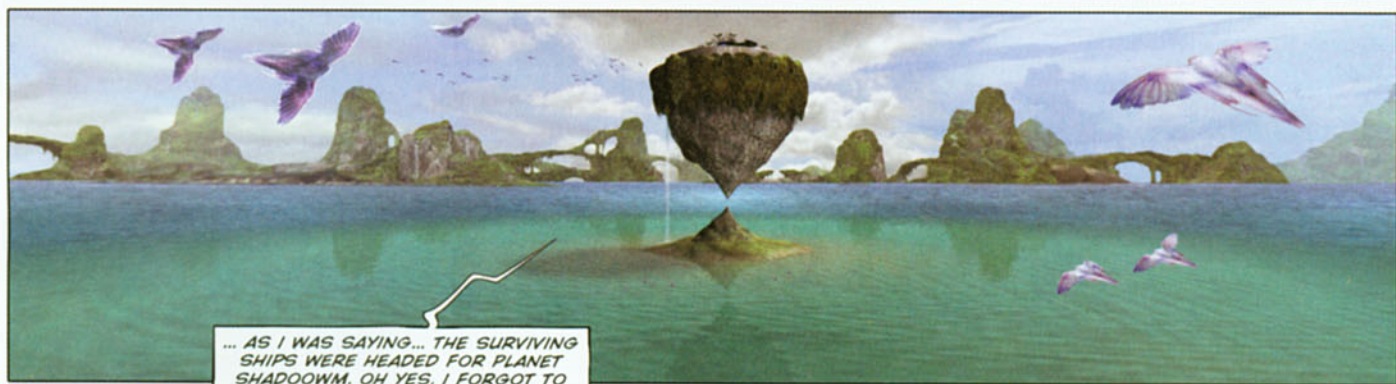
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN  
TO YOU THIS TIME, MY  
LITTLE HYLEYN. I'M  
HERE FOR YOU, I  
PROMISE...



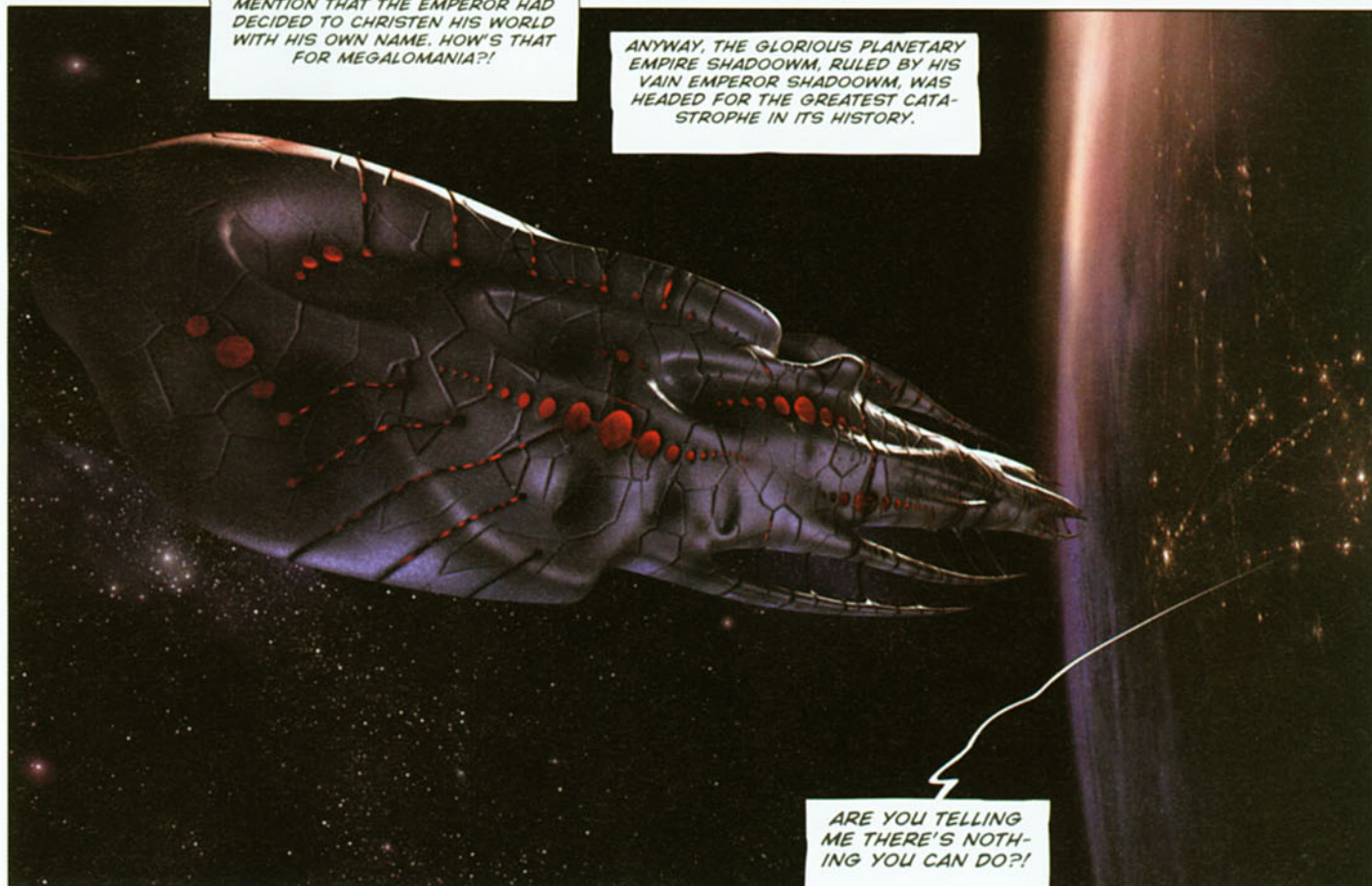




GRANDPA!  
PLEASE...



... AS I WAS SAYING... THE SURVIVING SHIPS WERE HEADED FOR PLANET SHADOOWM. OH YES, I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT THE EMPEROR HAD DECIDED TO CHRISTEN HIS WORLD WITH HIS OWN NAME. HOW'S THAT FOR MEGALOMANIA?!



ANYWAY, THE GLORIOUS PLANETARY EMPIRE SHADOOWM, RULED BY HIS VAIN EMPEROR SHADOOWM, WAS HEADED FOR THE GREATEST CATASTROPHE IN ITS HISTORY.

ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO?!





WE DIDN'T SAY THAT. THE PROBLEM IS WE SINKHA PROMISED TO PROTECT THE MORTALS OF THE EYEN. AND THERE'S MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND OF THEM INSIDE DARCRON.

...



KHAHAEK WEAPONS CAN PASS RIGHT THROUGH SINKHA MATTER. THEY CAN'T KILL A SINKHA, BUT ANYONE INSIDE DARCRON WOULD BE IN GRAVE DANGER.



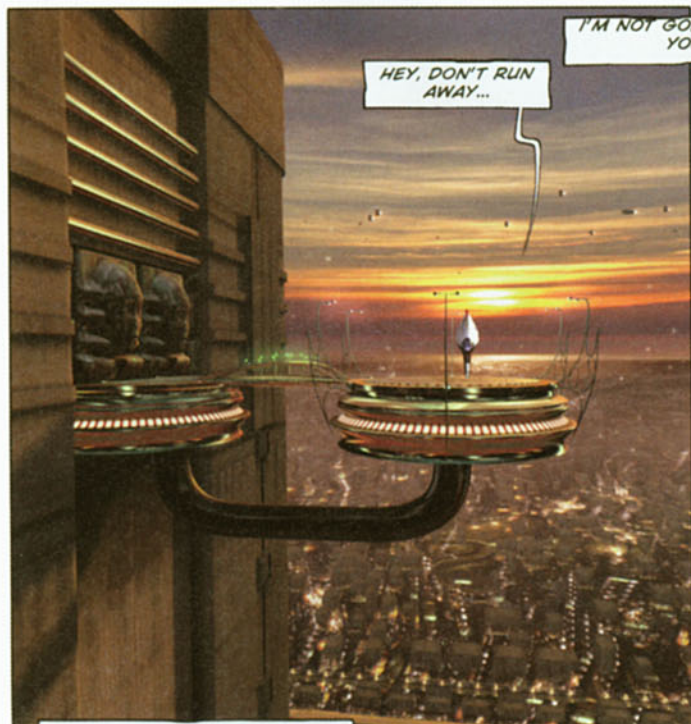
DARCRON IS NO LONGER HERE...



THERE ARE MORE THAN TEN BILLION PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET!

WE'LL DO OUR BEST. THE KHAHAEK SHIP IS STILL OUT IN SPACE RIGHT NOW. KHAHAEK HAVE A STRANGE CONCEPTION OF TIME, AND SOMETIMES THAT CAN BE AN ADVANTAGE.

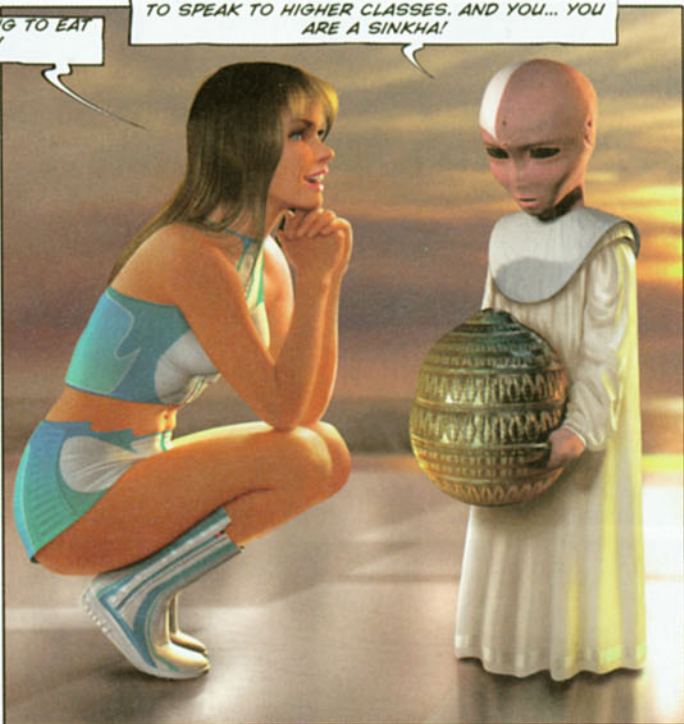




HEY, DON'T RUN AWAY...

I'M NOT GOING TO EAT YOU!

I'M ONLY A NAJGA. A SERVANT. I'M FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK TO HIGHER CLASSES. AND YOU... YOU ARE A SINKHA!



I'LL TELL YOU A LITTLE SECRET. SINKHA WOULD MUCH RATHER TALK TO THE NAJGA THAN TO THE EMPEROR!

YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME...

NOT AT ALL!... BESIDES, I'M NOT REALLY AN IMMORTAL. AND YOU... AREN'T YOU A LITTLE YOUNG FOR SUCH A HARD JOB?



I WAS BOUGHT BY THE EMPEROR AND I MUST WORK FOR HIM...

BOUGHT? BUT SLAVERY DOESN'T EXIST IN THE CONTACT ZONE! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

DAGYS.



WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST DREAM, DAGYS?

TO BE BOUGHT BY A SINKHA.





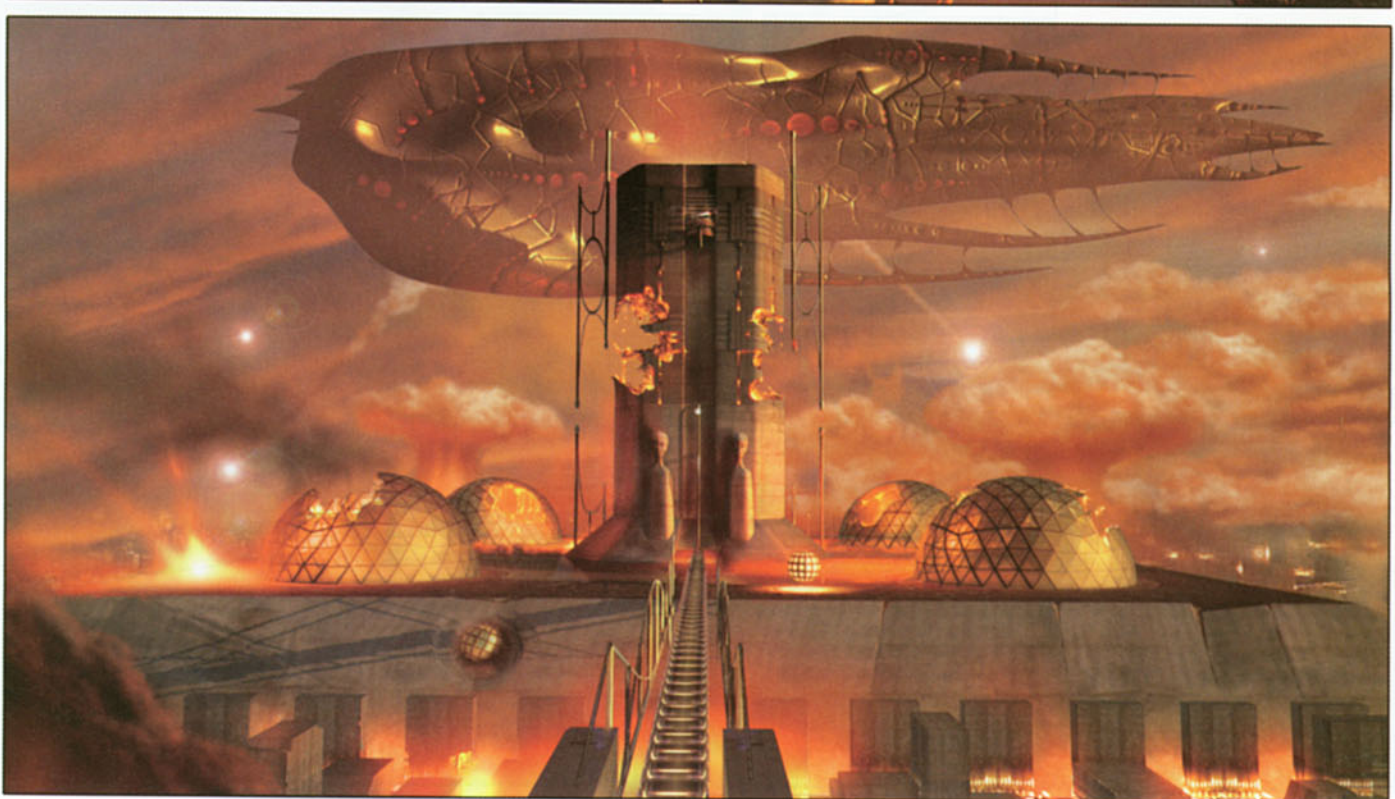
THEY'VE ARRIVED!! THEY'RE  
DESTROYING EVERYTHING!!  
DO SOMETHING!!



NO, NOT YET.



THEY AREN'T REALLY HERE. IT'S JUST A  
TRICK. WHEN IT COMES TO THE KHAHAEK,  
YOU CAN'T EVER BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE SEE-  
ING.



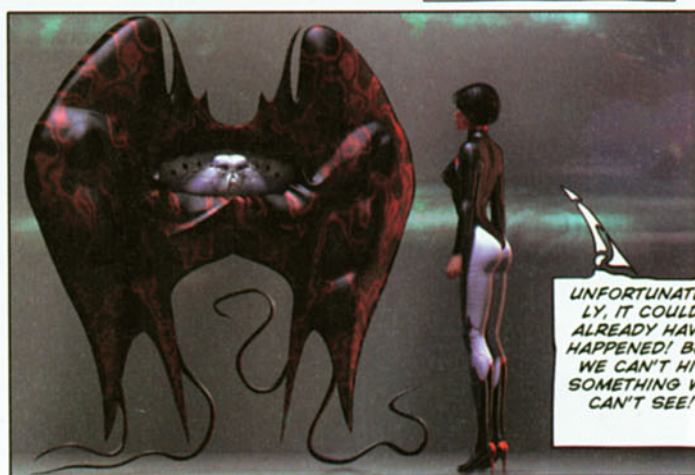
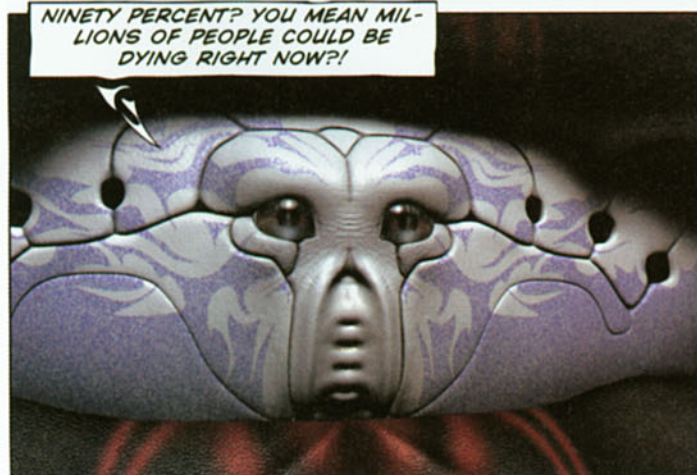


ARE YOU POSITIVE IT'S NOT REAL, DARSHINE?

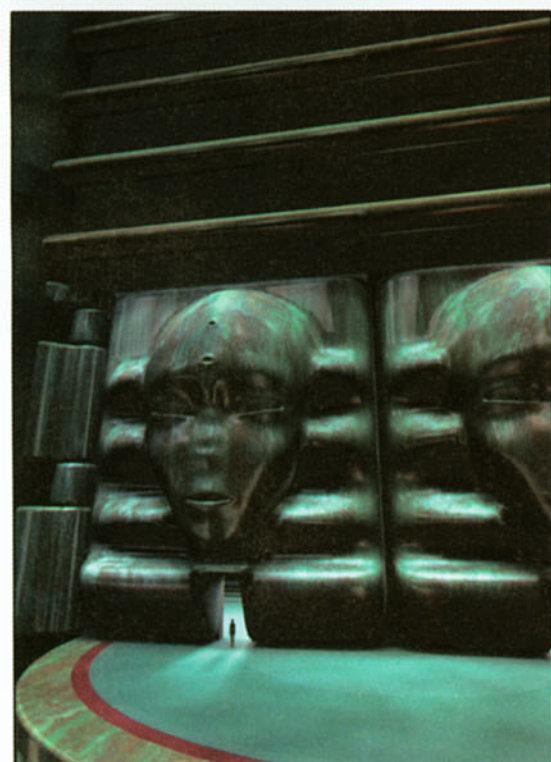


I'M PRETTY GOOD AT SPOTTING KAHALTAR TRICKS. I'D SAY I'M ABOUT NINETY PERCENT POSITIVE.

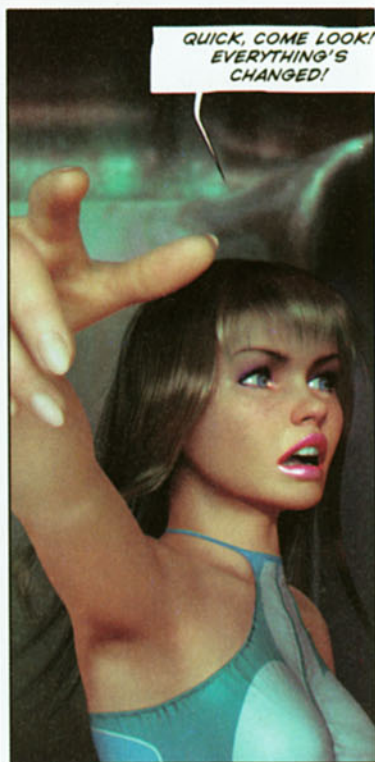
NINETY PERCENT? YOU MEAN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE COULD BE DYING RIGHT NOW?!



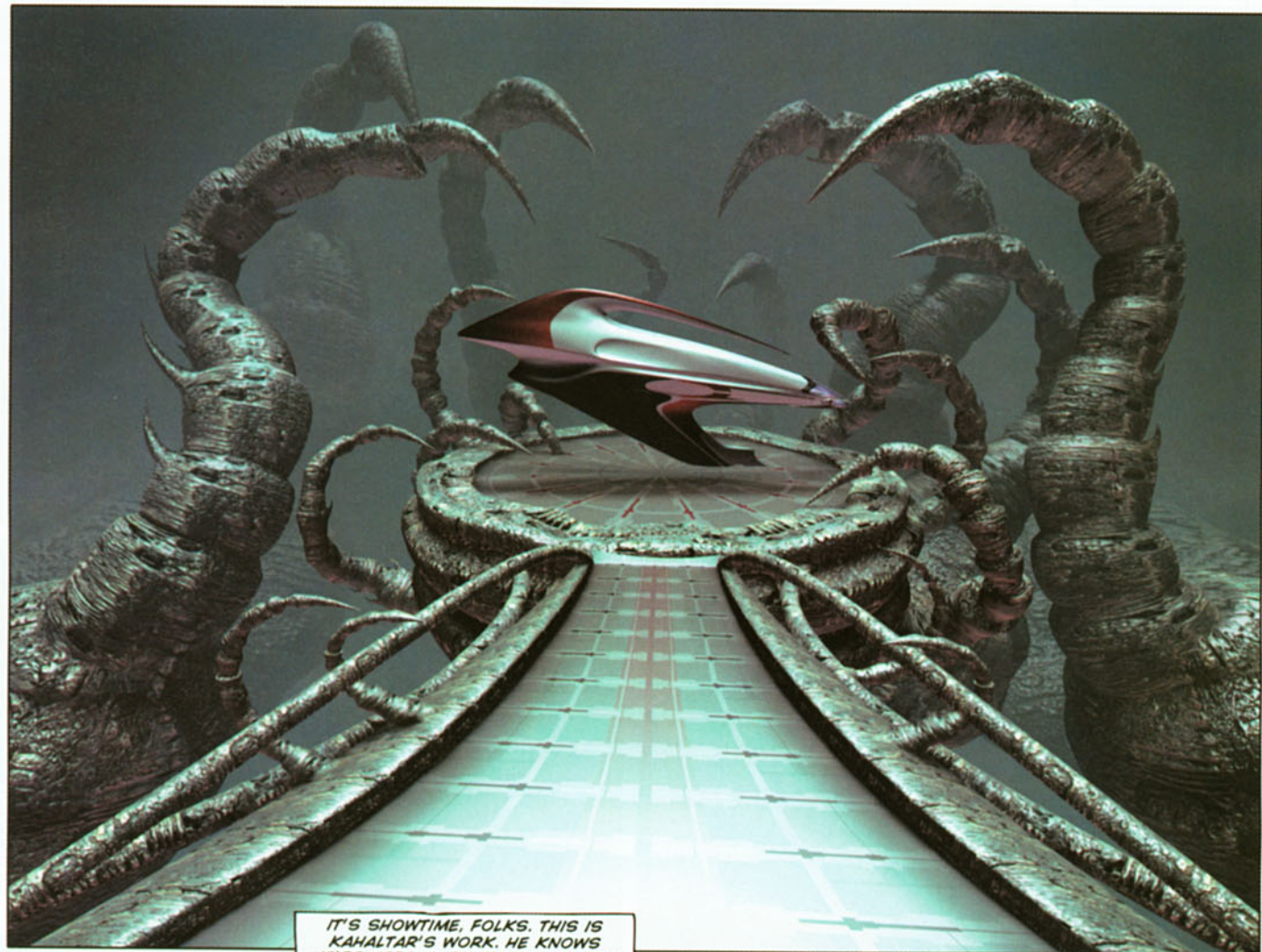
UNFORTUNATELY, IT COULD ALREADY HAVE HAPPENED! BUT WE CAN'T HIT SOMETHING WE CAN'T SEE!



QUICK, COME LOOK! EVERYTHING'S CHANGED!

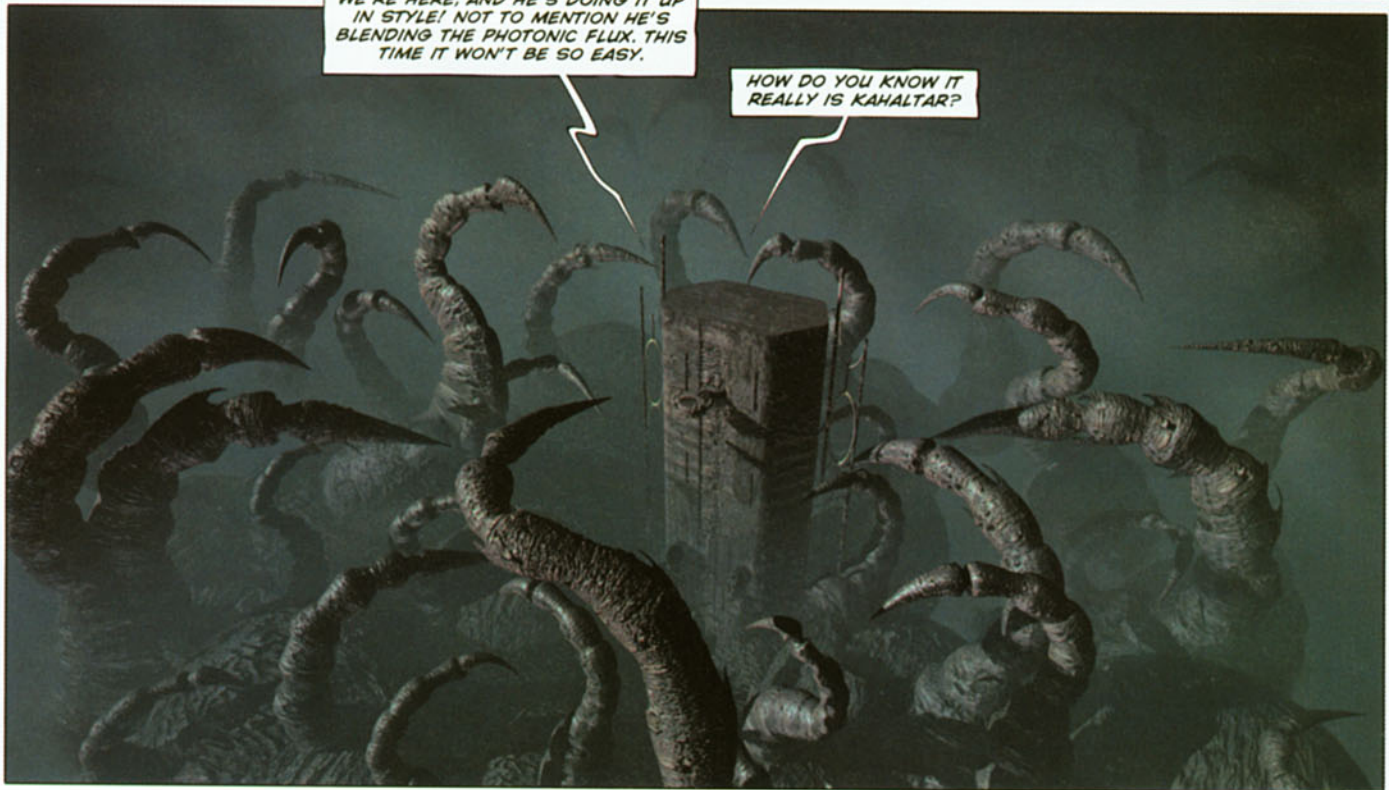




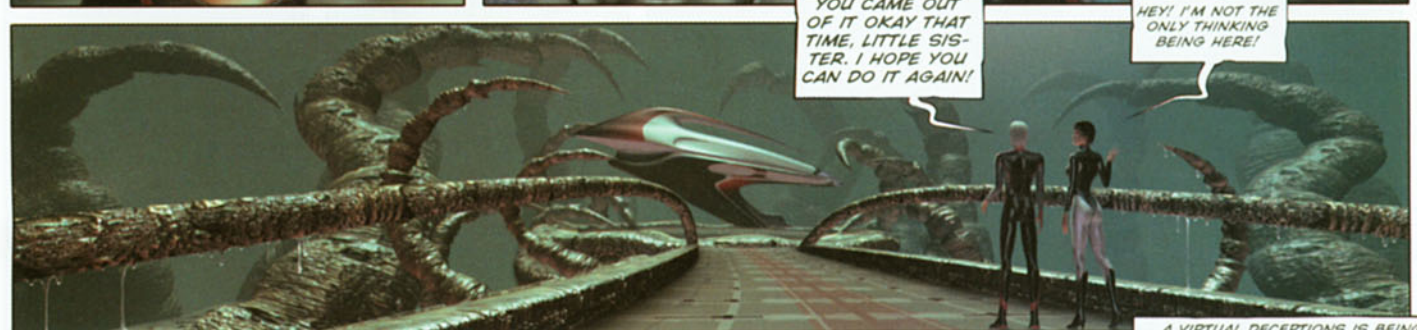
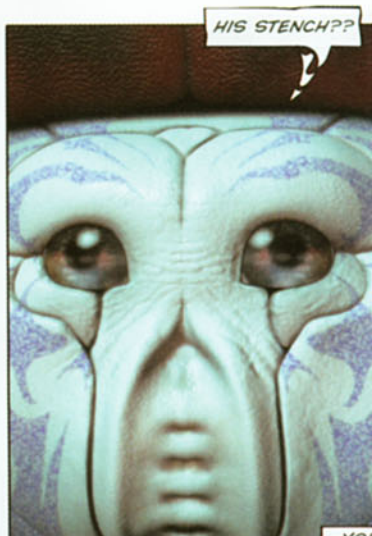


IT'S SHOWTIME, FOLKS. THIS IS KAHALTAR'S WORK. HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE, AND HE'S DOING IT UP IN STYLE! NOT TO MENTION HE'S BLENDING THE PHOTONIC FLUX. THIS TIME IT WON'T BE SO EASY.

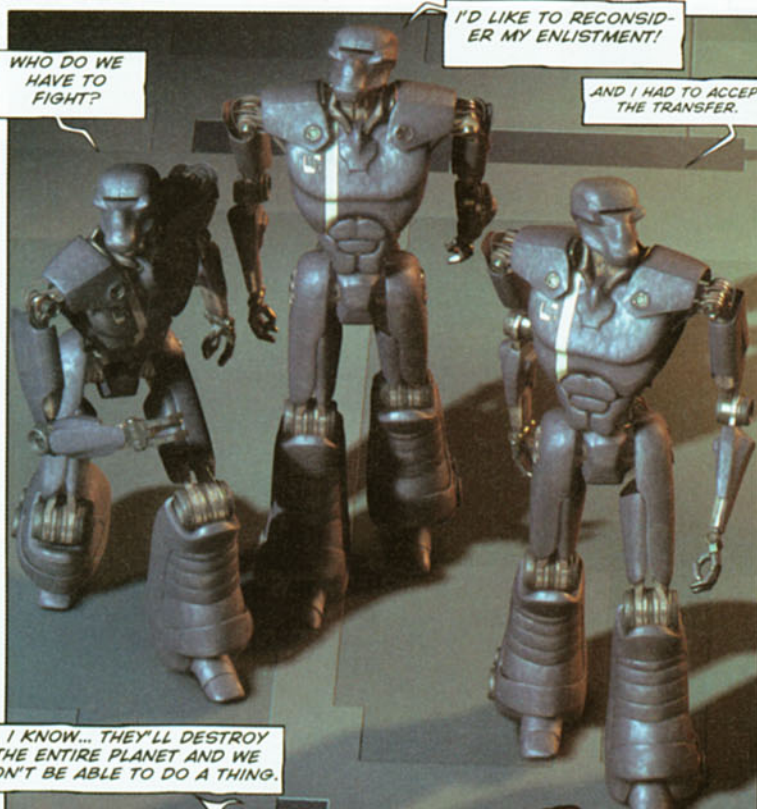
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT REALLY IS KAHALTAR?












WHO DO WE  
HAVE TO  
FIGHT?

I'D LIKE TO RECONSIDER  
MY ENLISTMENT!

AND I HAD TO ACCEPT  
THE TRANSFER.

... I KNOW... THEY'LL DESTROY  
THE ENTIRE PLANET AND WE  
WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING.



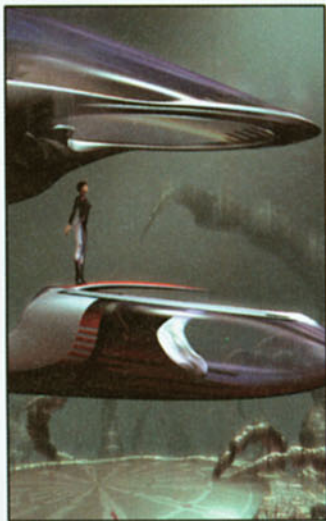
HOW DO YOU  
FEEL?

LIKE SHIT. WE SINKHA  
WON'T DIE, BUT IT'LL BE  
JUST LIKE THEY KILLED  
US, TOO...

HOLD ON... I HAVE AN IDEA.  
DARSHINE, YOU CAN FOLLOW  
YOUR OWN SHADOW... BUT  
YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE  
FAST IN ORDER TO HIT THE  
TRANSMITTER BEFORE THEY  
TRACK YOU.

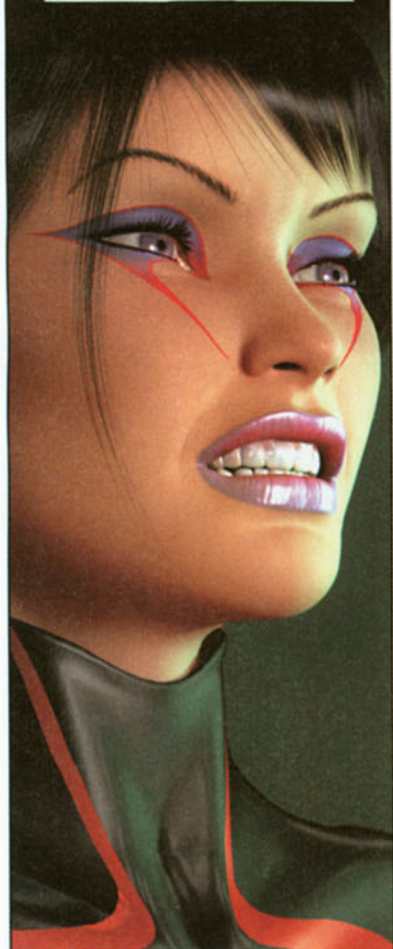
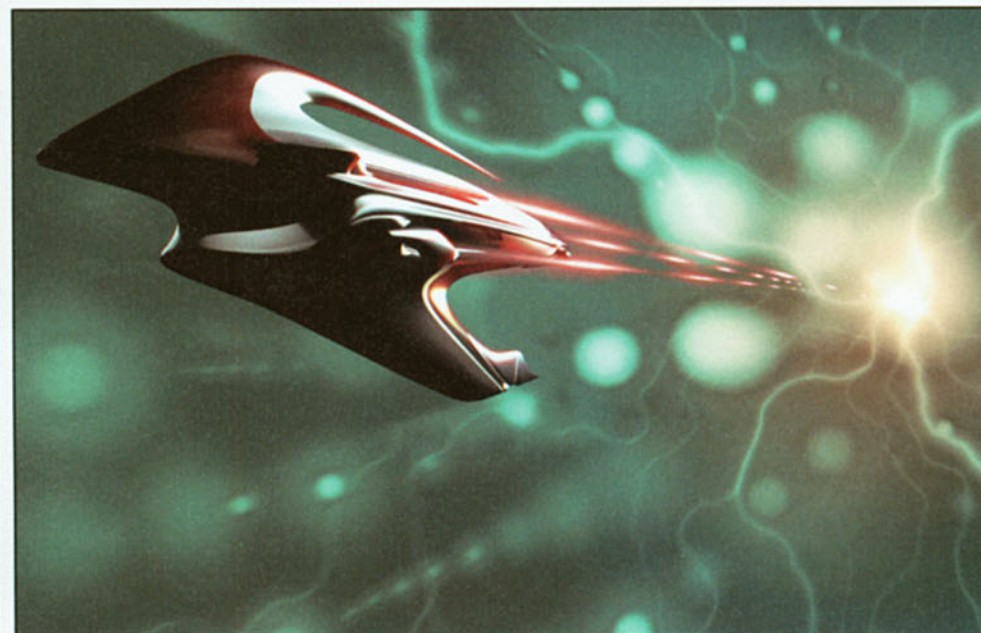
CLEVER, BUT NOT ALL THAT  
EASY... AND IF THEY FIGURE  
OUT THE TRICK? THEY'LL PILOT  
PHOTONS WITH A SYSTEM OF  
DISTORSORS CREATED TO  
DEAL WITH THE OBSTACLES. IF  
THEY PROJECT THE VIRTUAL  
REALITY AROUND ME AND  
COVER MY SHADOW, I'LL BE  
COMPLETELY LOST!





IT WAS AN UNBELIEVABLY  
SWIFT MANEUVER, INCONCEIV-  
ABLE FOR ANYONE BUT A  
SINKHA.

DARSHINE CALCULATED HER  
COURSE BY FOLLOWING HER  
SHADOW ON THE SURFACE OF  
THE PLANET. NOT THE SOLAR  
SHADOW, OBVIOUSLY BUT THE  
ONE PROJECTED BY THE  
RADIATIONS GENERATING THE  
FALSE REALITY.



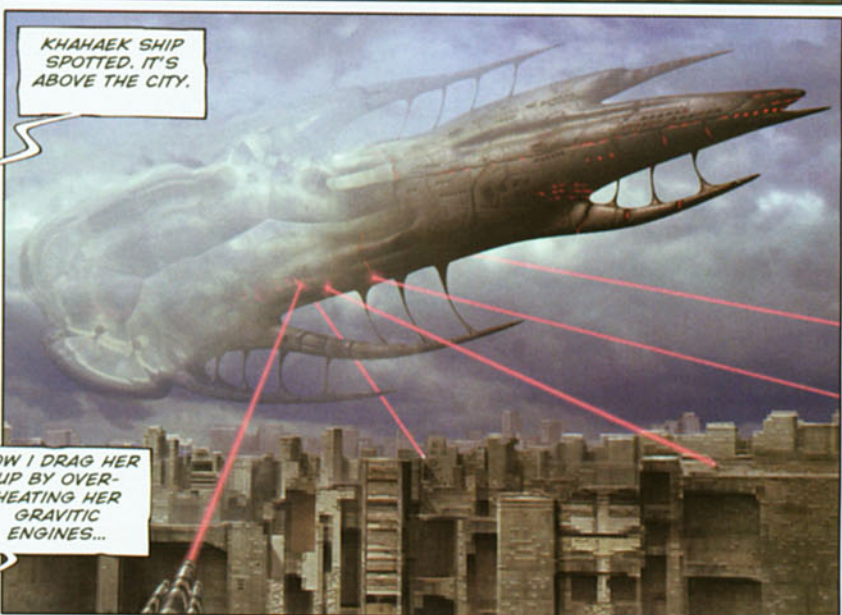




PHASE ONE  
COMPLETED... PROJEC-  
TOR DESTROYED!!



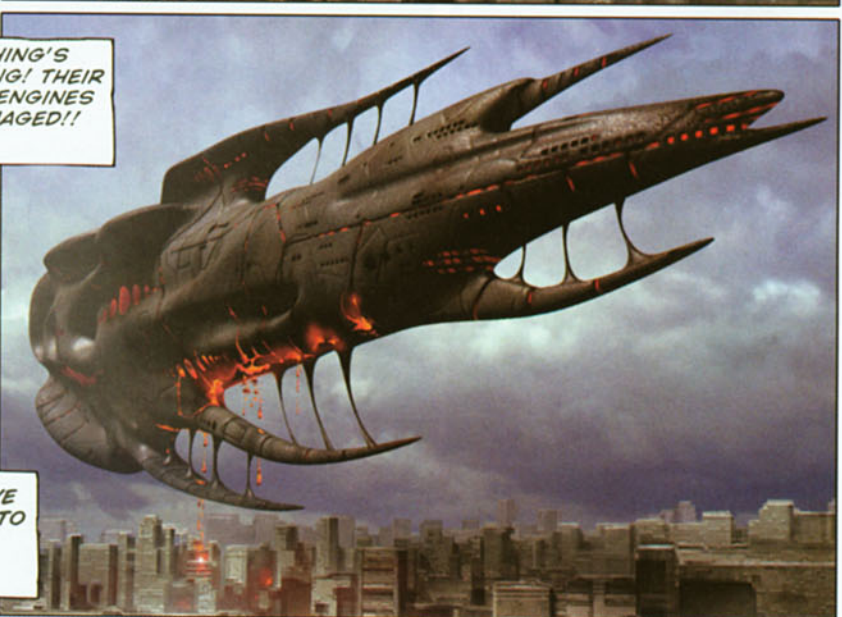
KHAAAEK SHIP  
SPOTTED. IT'S  
ABOVE THE CITY.



NOW I DRAG HER  
UP BY OVER-  
HEATING HER  
GRAVITIC  
ENGINES...



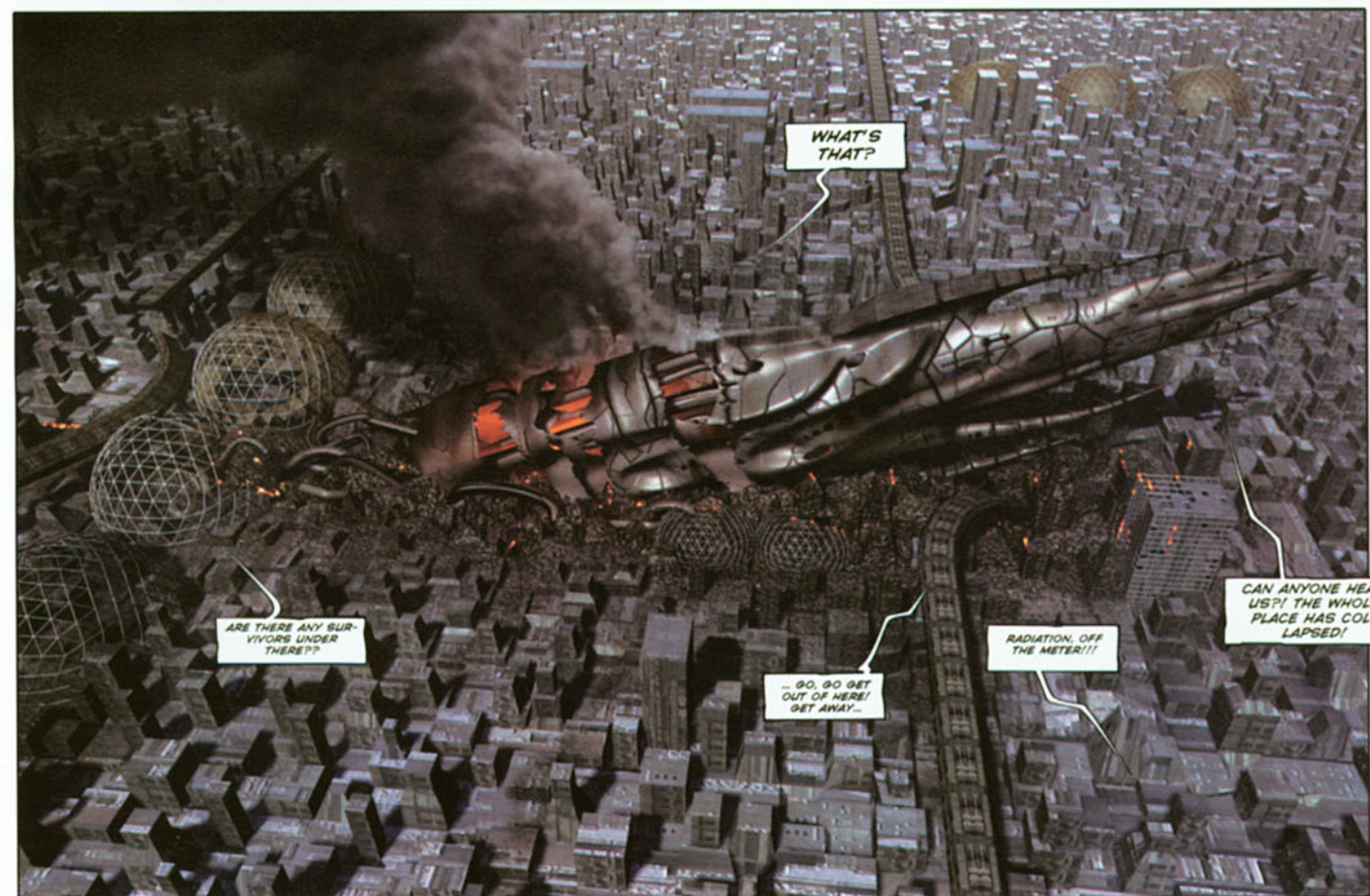
SOMETHING'S  
INTERFERING! THEIR  
GRAVITIC  
ENGINES  
ARE DAMAGED!!



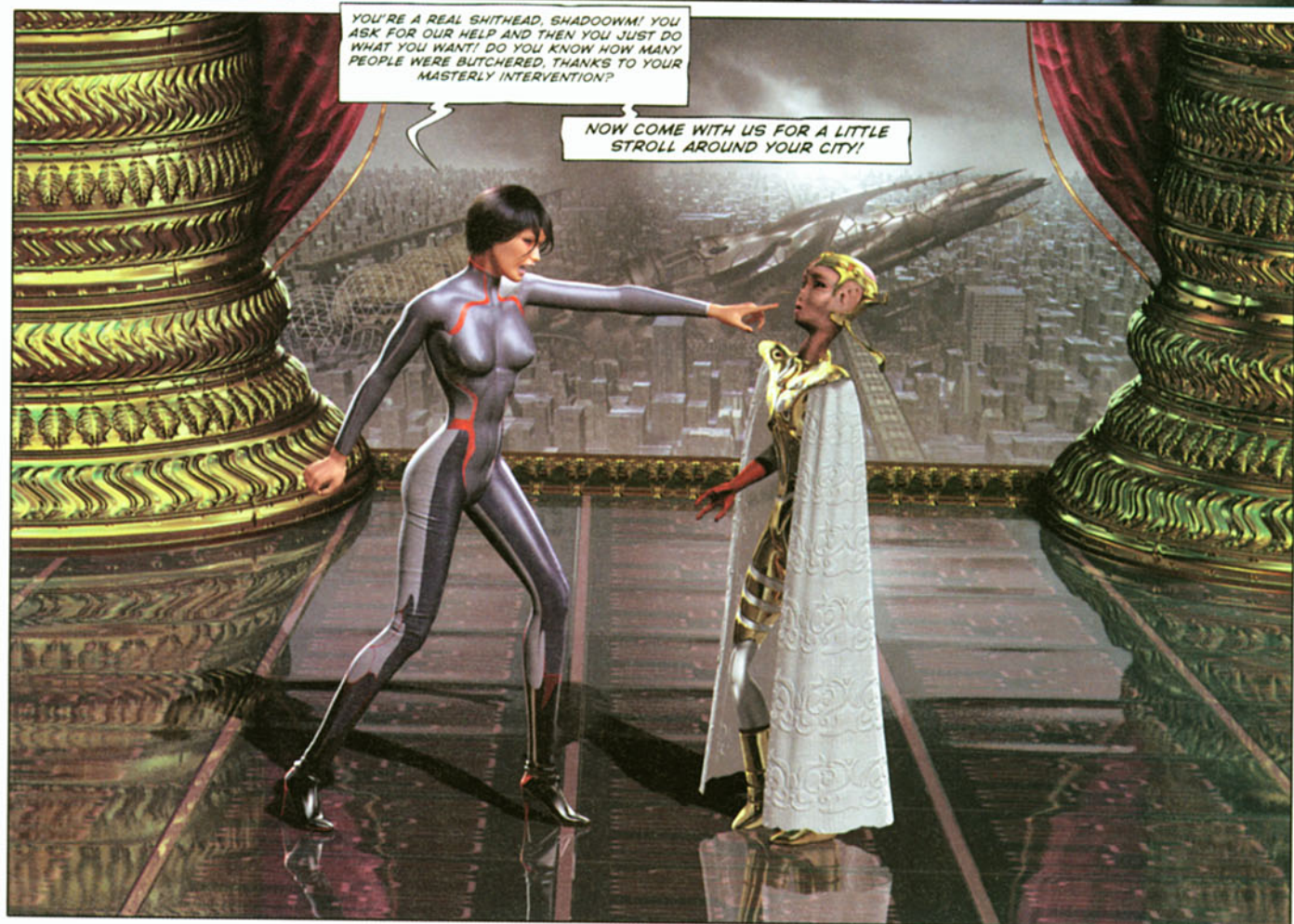
... WHO GAVE  
THE ORDER TO  
FIRE?



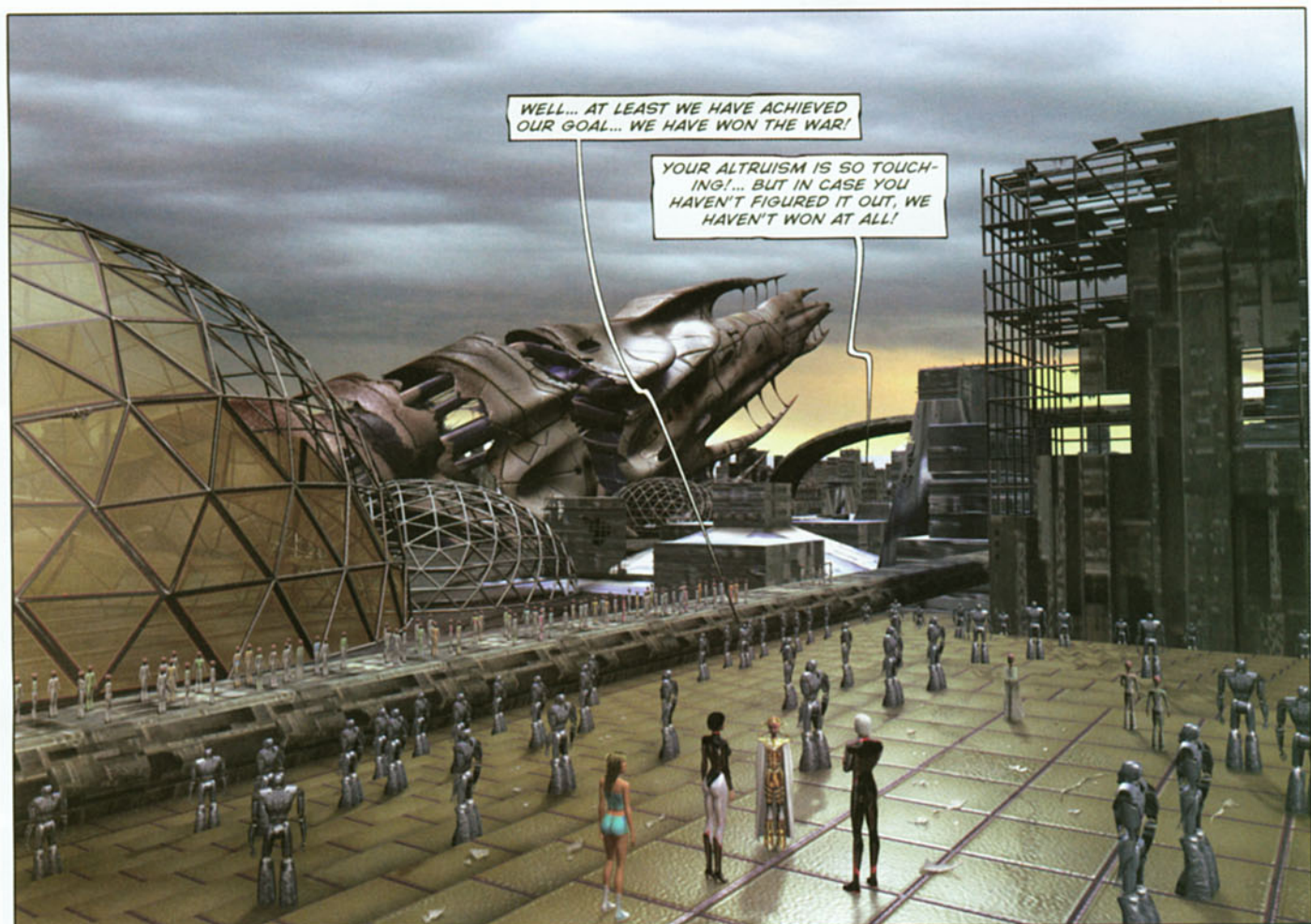












WELL... AT LEAST WE HAVE ACHIEVED  
OUR GOAL... WE HAVE WON THE WAR!

YOUR ALTRUISM IS SO TOUCH-  
ING!... BUT IN CASE YOU  
HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT, WE  
HAVEN'T WON AT ALL!



WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?



THERE ARE STILL THOUSANDS OF KHAHAEK  
ALIVE... AND THEY'RE PISSED OFF!

AND... YOU'RE ONLY TELLING ME THIS NOW...  
LETTING ME WANDER AROUND THE CITY  
KNOWING THERE IS STILL DANGER?!

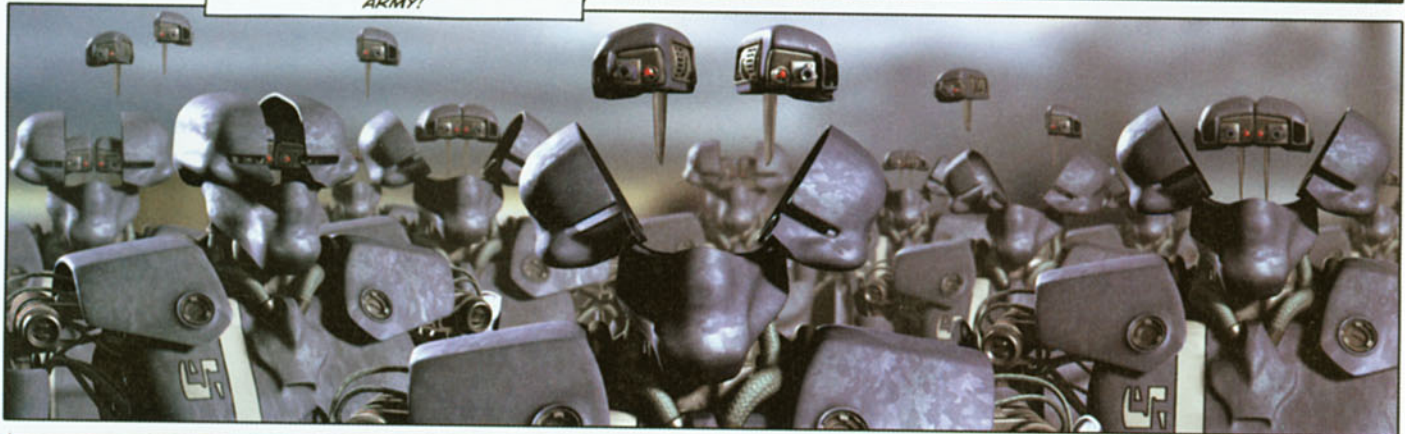


YOU... YOU SINKHA DID THIS  
ON PURPOSE. YOU WANT TO  
HUMBLE ME... OR MAYBE YOU  
WANT THEM TO KILL ME!!

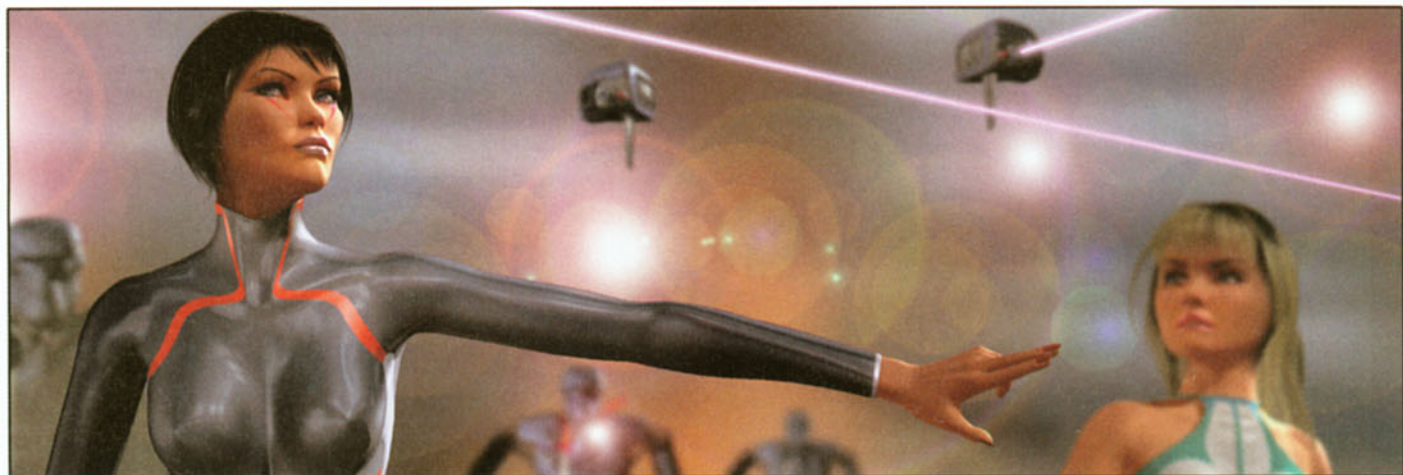


DO YOU  
THINK SO?









THE SINKHA... SO INCREDIBLY SWIFT THAT IMPOSSIBLE ACTIONS BECOME SIMPLE, AS IF TIME NO LONGER EXISTS. WHAT OCCURS IN A TENTH OF A SECOND APPEARS AS A STATIC IMAGE, WHERE ONE CAN PERCEIVE NEITHER THE GRAVITY NOR THE EFFORT.



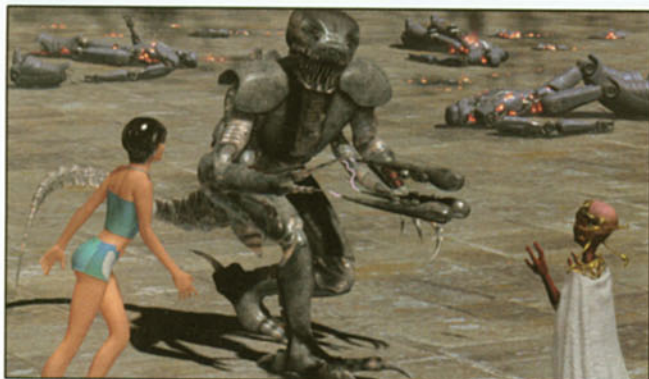




I WAS SCARED, BUT I TRIED NOT TO SHOW IT. I PUT ON A HELMET THAT MADE ME INVULNERABLE TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND WAS INVISIBLE TO KHAHAEK WEAPONS... DARCRON, KNOWING FULL WELL THAT MY BODY WAS IMMORTAL BUT MY HEAD WAS NOT, HAD FORCED ME TO TRAIN HARD.

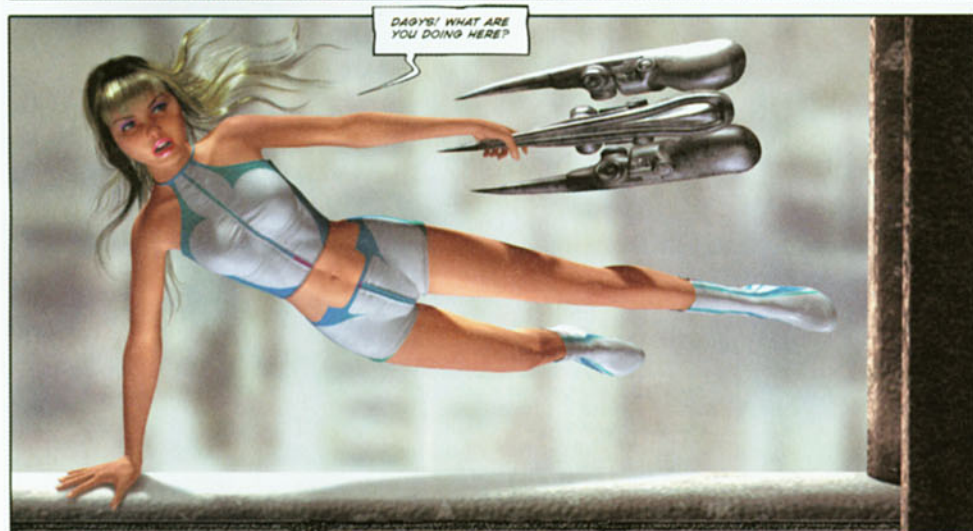
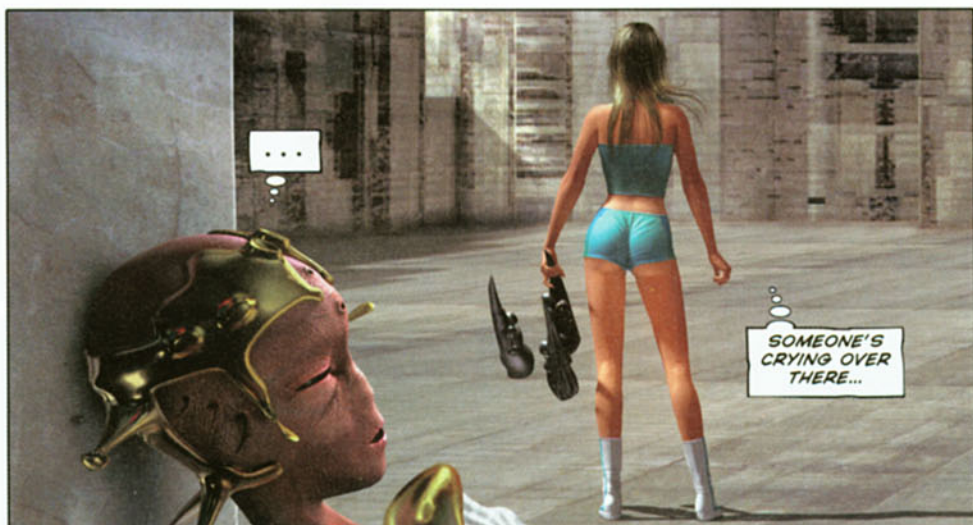


HE TAUGHT ME THAT A SINKHA BODY CAN REACT TO STIMULI IMPERCEPTIBLE TO OTHERS. AND, ABOVE ALL, A SINKHA BODY CAN ACCELERATE AT A RATE INCONCEIVABLE TO ANY OTHER ORGANISM.



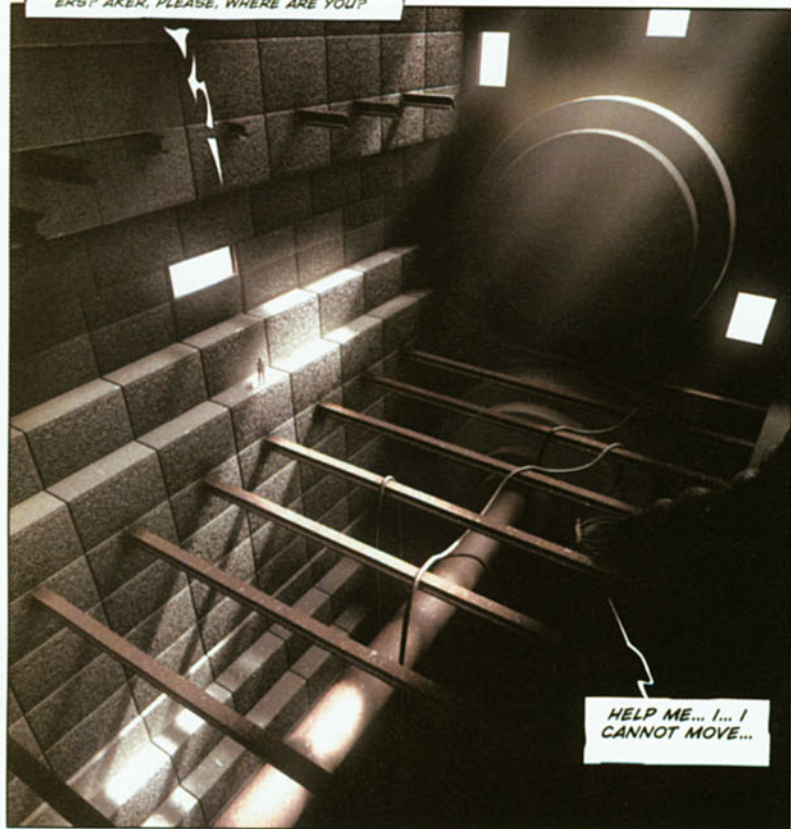
AND THAT'S HOW I SAVED THE EMPEROR'S LIFE. EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT. HE WAS FACE-TO-FACE WITH A KHAHAEK, AND I DRAGGED HIM AWAY FROM THAT HELL.







WHY CAN'T I COMMUNICATE WITH THE OTHERS? AKER, PLEASE, WHERE ARE YOU?



HELP ME... I... I CANNOT MOVE...



OH, NOOO! NOOO!!



SINKHA, AS POWERFUL AS NAIVE! GENEROUS, AND FOR THIS SO FRAGILE. THE LITTLE FRIEND OF THE SINKHA IS A HOSTAGE. MY TENTACLES PERMEATE HIS BODY, THOUGH HE WILL NOT DIE... NOT NOW...



I'LL NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKE MADE ON THE LAST OCCASION. YOU FIRED BECAUSE YOU KNEW THAT HYLEYN WOULD HAVE DIED ANYWAY...



I'M HERE, HYLEYN... SEE? I HAVEN'T DESERTED YOU!

AKER. DON'T DO ANYTHING... ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. DON'T EVEN MOVE...







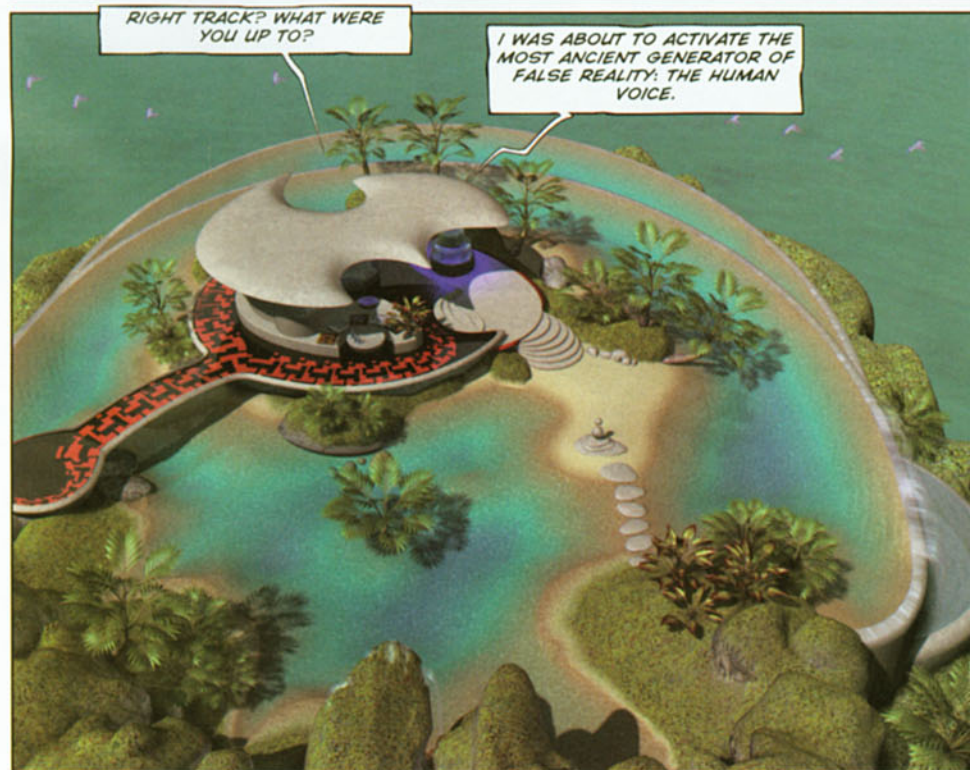
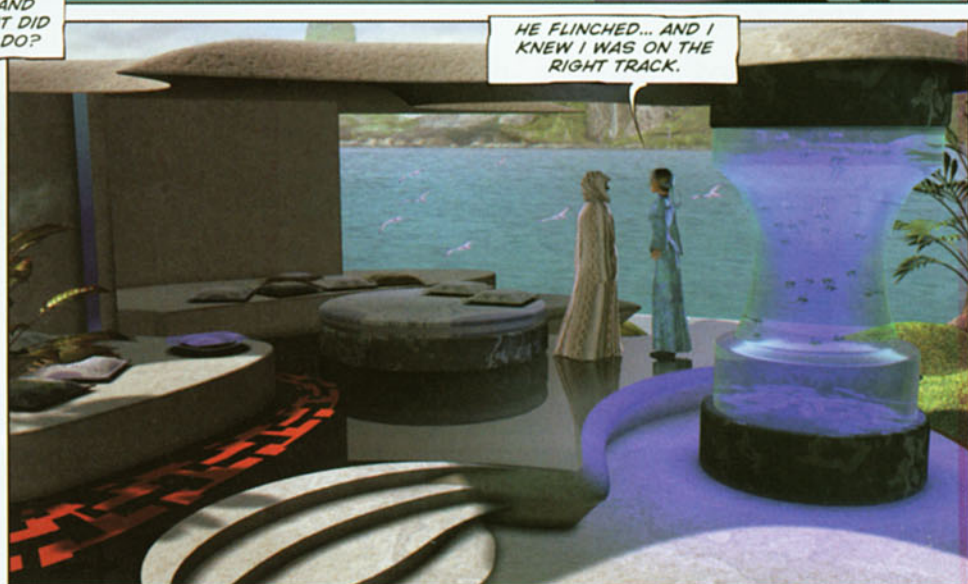
IT WAS HIM? IT WAS THE MONSTER  
THAT FRIGHTENED YOU SO MUCH?

YES, IT WAS HIM. BUT FROM  
A DISTANCE HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE  
ME. HE'D ONLY IDENTIFIED A SINKHA  
BEING. I WAS PETRIFIED,  
BUT I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO  
DO. I TURNED SLOWLY, AND  
I STARED AT HIM.

... AND  
WHAT DID  
HE DO?



HE FLINCHED... AND I  
KNEW I WAS ON THE  
RIGHT TRACK.



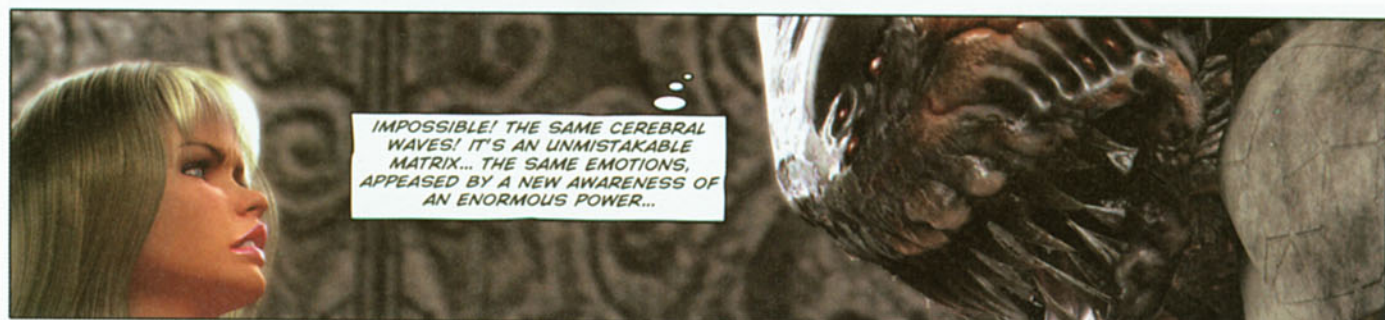
RIGHT TRACK? WHAT WERE  
YOU UP TO?

I WAS ABOUT TO ACTIVATE THE  
MOST ANCIENT GENERATOR OF  
FALSE REALITY: THE HUMAN  
VOICE.



AND WHY NOT? IN A UNIVERSE WHERE  
EVERYBODY GOES AROUND BUILDING  
DEVICES SO WE CAN SEE THINGS THAT  
AREN'T REAL, SIMPLE WORDS CAN BE  
JUST AS CONVINCING... ESPECIALLY  
WHEN THEY'RE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE  
EXPECTING TO HEAR!





IMPOSSIBLE! THE SAME CEREBRAL WAVES! IT'S AN UNMISTAKABLE MATRIX... THE SAME EMOTIONS, APPEARED BY A NEW AWARENESS OF AN ENORMOUS POWER...



I KNOW YOU ARE HYLEYN. I'VE BEEN IN YOUR MIND, SO OF THIS I HAVE NO DOUBT... JUST AS I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU WERE DEAD.



YES, I'M HYLEYN, AND I'M IMMORTAL...



AKER! TAKE THE KHA-HAEK WEAPON AND FIRE AT ME!

I GET IT... SELL HIM THE MOST LOGICAL REALITY...

THERE IS SINKHA ESSENCE IN EVERY HUMAN, KEHITA, OR PNEUMOPOD. WHENEVER YOU KILL MORTALS, IF THE ESSENCE INSIDE THEM IS STRONG ENOUGH, A NEW SINKHA WILL BE CREATED.

AND SO YOU'LL ONLY BE INCREASING OUR POWER. WE'LL LOSE SOME FRIENDS, BUT YOU'LL SIGN YOUR OWN DEATH SENTENCE.

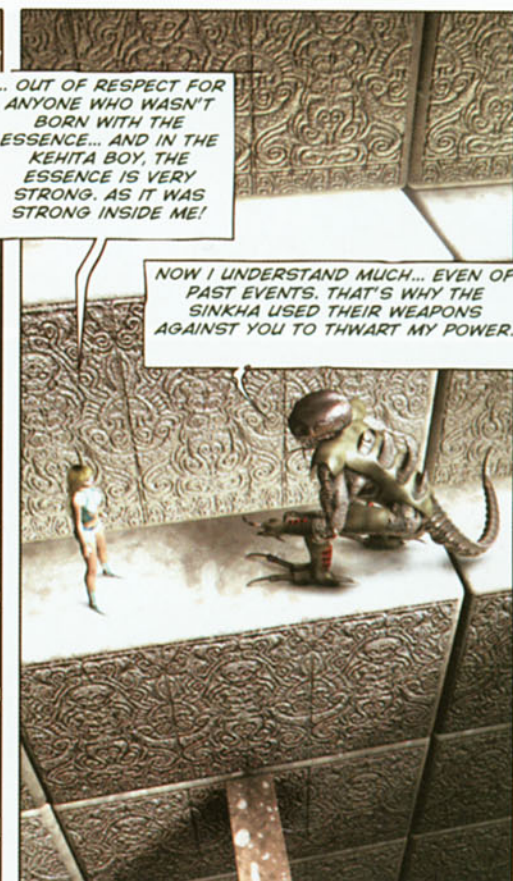
SEE, KAHALTAR... YOU ARE THE NAIVE ONE, BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR ENEMIES.







I DON'T UNDERSTAND...  
WHY HAS NOTHING OF  
THIS BEEN WRITTEN IN  
YOUR ARCHIVES?



... OUT OF RESPECT FOR  
ANYONE WHO WASN'T  
BORN WITH THE  
ESSENCE... AND IN THE  
KEHITA BOY, THE  
ESSENCE IS VERY  
STRONG. AS IT WAS  
STRONG INSIDE ME!

NOW I UNDERSTAND MUCH... EVEN OF  
PAST EVENTS. THAT'S WHY THE  
SINKHA USED THEIR WEAPONS  
AGAINST YOU TO THWART MY POWER.



BULLSEYE! HE BELIEVED  
YOU! YOU'RE FANTASTIC,  
HYLEYN. A FANTASTIC LIAR!



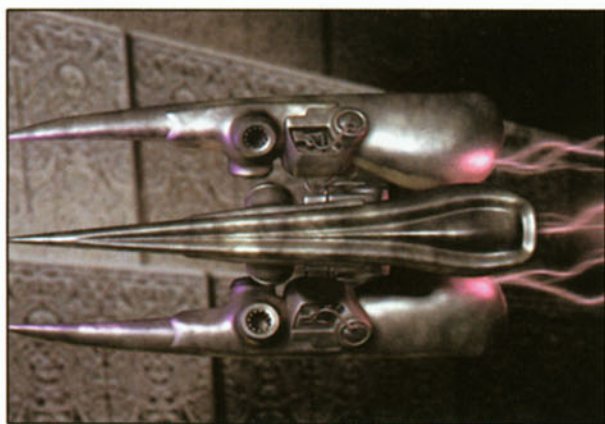
IF YOU DO NOT FEAR FOR  
THE BOY, YOU SHALL NOT  
HESITATE TO KILL ME!



HE LET GO, DAGYS!  
NOW!!







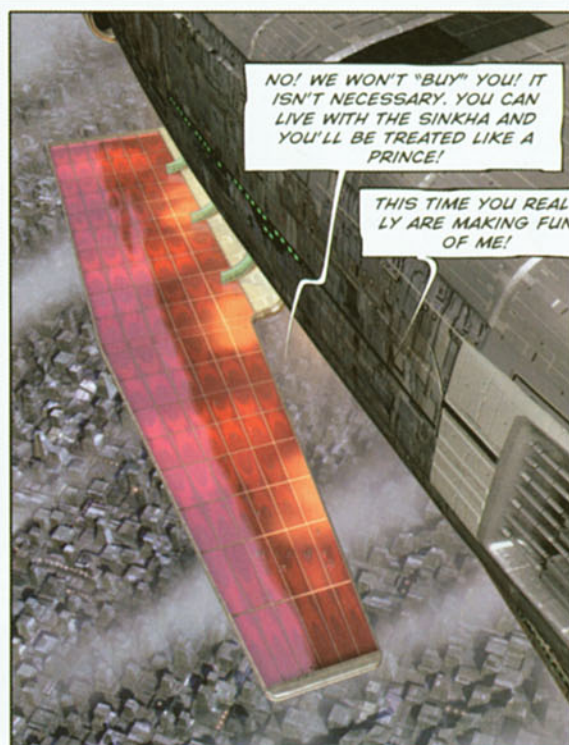
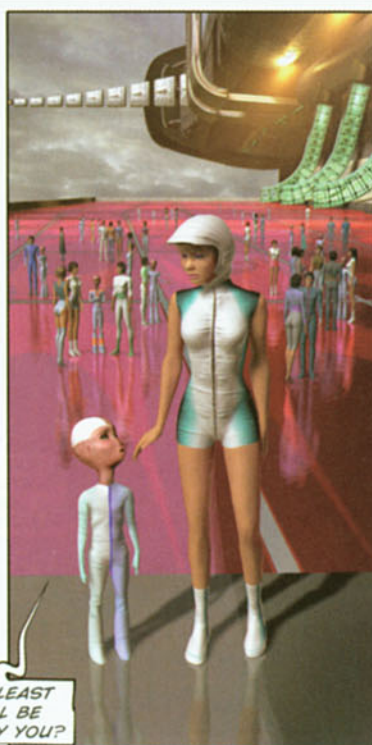
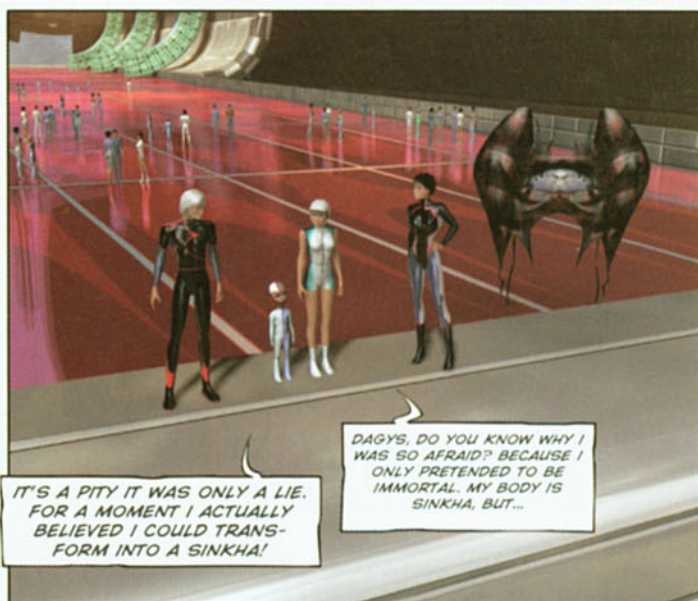




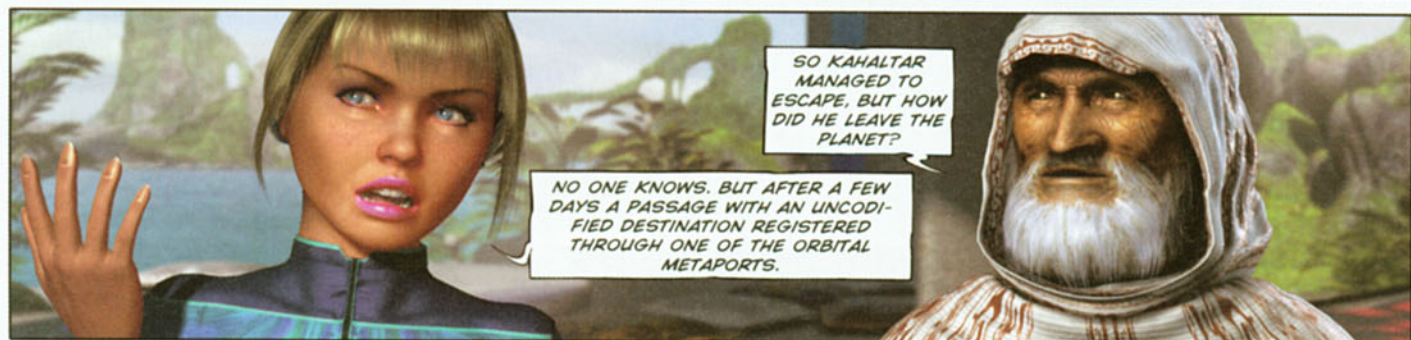
KAHALTAR MANAGED HIS USUAL TRICKERY... HE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! ONLY DARSHINE COULD'VE BEEN FAST ENOUGH TO STOP HIM!











SO KAHALTAR  
MANAGED TO  
ESCAPE, BUT HOW  
DID HE LEAVE THE  
PLANET?

NO ONE KNOWS. BUT AFTER A FEW  
DAYS A PASSAGE WITH AN UNCODI-  
FIED DESTINATION REGISTERED  
THROUGH ONE OF THE ORBITAL  
METAPORTS.



AND TO MAKE THINGS EVEN  
WORSE, SOMEONE STOLE  
SOME VERY DANGEROUS  
KHAHAEK WEAPONS DURING  
THE FIGHT! BUT I'LL TELL YOU  
ABOUT THAT ANOTHER TIME...

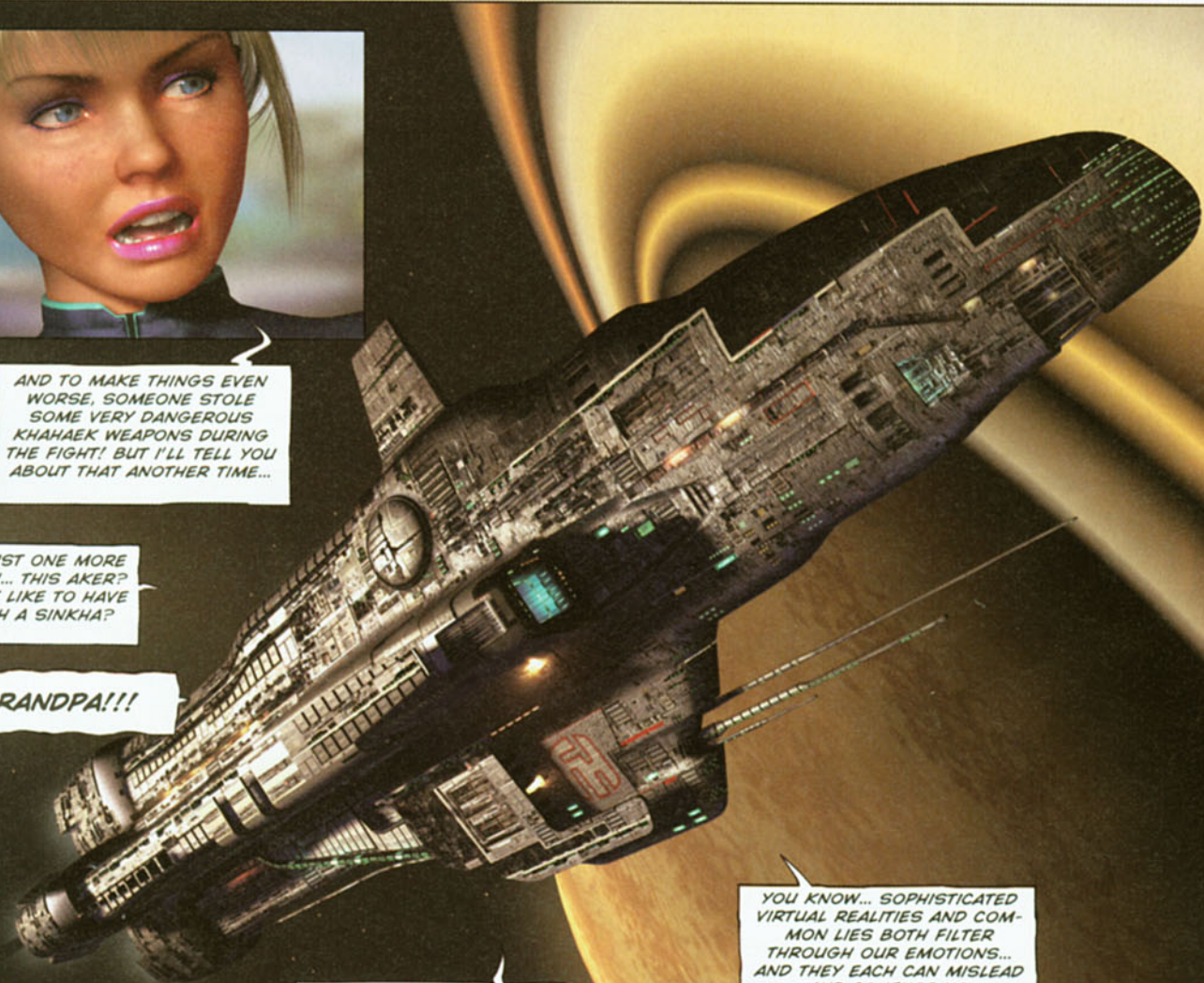
I HAVE JUST ONE MORE  
QUESTION... THIS AKER?  
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO HAVE  
SEX WITH A SINKHA?

**GRANDPA!!!**

UHHM... WHAT I MEANT IS, UH...  
REALLY, SO A SINKHA HAS  
FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU?

YOU KNOW... SOPHISTICATED  
VIRTUAL REALITIES AND COM-  
MON LIES BOTH FILTER  
THROUGH OUR EMOTIONS...  
AND THEY EACH CAN MISLEAD  
AND CONFUSE US.

I'M SURE ABOUT HIS LOVE.  
BUT SOMETIMES, I'M AFRAID  
I'LL WAKE UP AND REALIZE IT  
ALL WAS JUST A DREAM...







FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

**GENETIC GRUNGE**

PLUS

**SINKHA: HYLEYN**

PLUS MUCH MORE!

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