



HALO WARS™

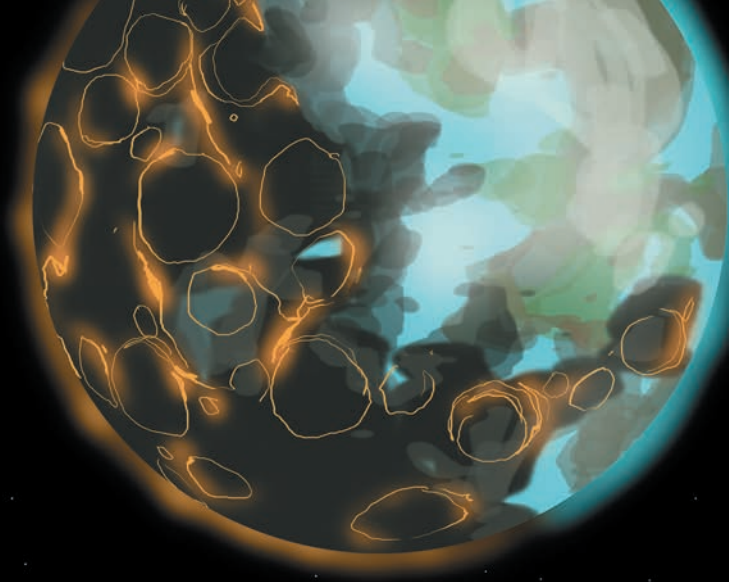
GENESIS

HALO WARS · GENESIS

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ENSEMBLE
STUDIOS

1008 Part No. X14-76671-01



HALO WARS™
GENESIS

UNSC BATTLE GROUP 4,
INVESTIGATING UNKNOWN
AGGRESSION, OUTER
COLONY, HARVEST.
OCTOBER 7, 2525.

SIR, NEARING
SLIPSTREAM EXIT
FOR HARVEST.

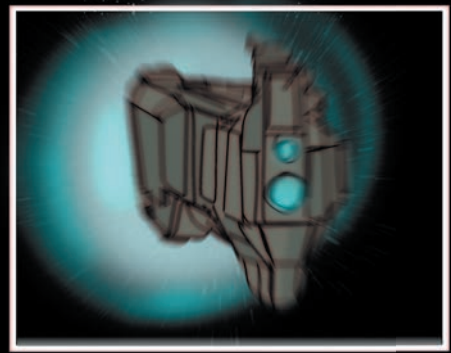
ALL STATIONS
READY. WEAPON
STATUS ALPHA.
I HOPE SECTION-II
KNOWS WHAT
IT'S DOING HERE.

UNSC DESTROYER *HERACLES*,
CAPTAIN MARIBEAU
VEREDI, COMMANDING.

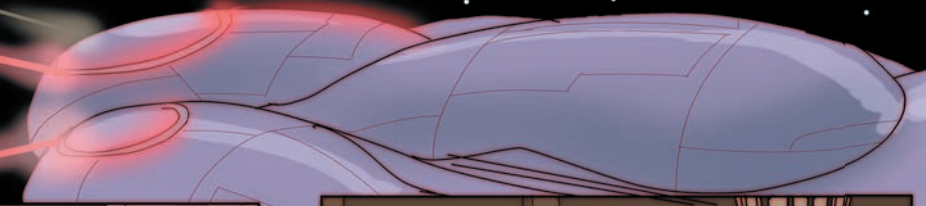


ARABIA AND VOSTOK-
DESTROYED!

LATERAL SPIN, ONE
EIGHT ZERO BY ZERO.
OVERLOAD THRUST!

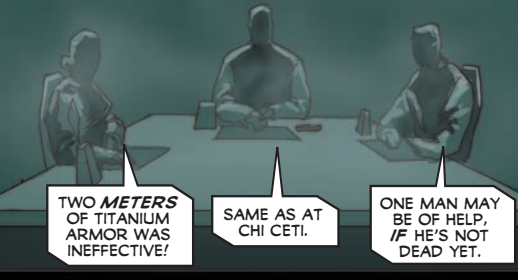


... YOUR DESTRUCTION
IS THE WILL OF THE
GODS... AND WE ARE
THEIR INSTRUMENT...



OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE (ONI), STRATEGIC
RESPONSE UNIT, REACH MILITARY BASE.

PRIVATE RESIDENCE,
VICE ADMIRAL PRESTON
COLE, RETIRED.



TWO METERS
OF TITANIUM
ARMOR WAS
INEFFECTIVE!

SAME AS AT
CHI CETI.

ONE MAN MAY
BE OF HELP,
IF HE'S NOT
DEAD YET.



THREE DIVORCES,
A CLONED LIVER,
TWO HEART
ATTACKS. NOT
MUCH LEFT OF
ME, BOYS.



LIKE ANYONE
CAN HELP WITH
THIS SLICE OF
ARMAGEDDON...

BUT OKAY.
I'M IN.

WE RETURNED TO HARVEST WITH ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO ASSAULT THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN.

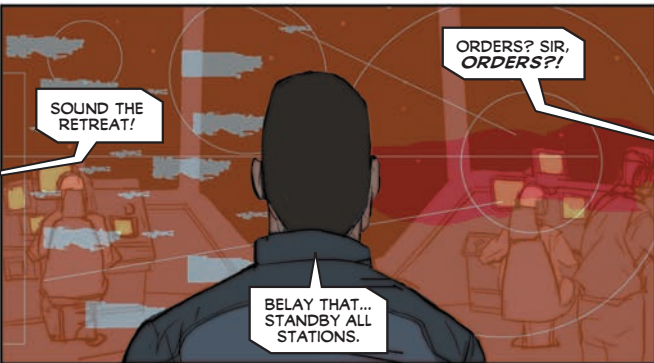


BRIDGE, FLEET COMMAND CRUISER EVEREST, VICE ADMIRAL PRESTON COLE, COMMANDING. MARCH 1, 2526.



NUKES HAVE NO EFFECT!

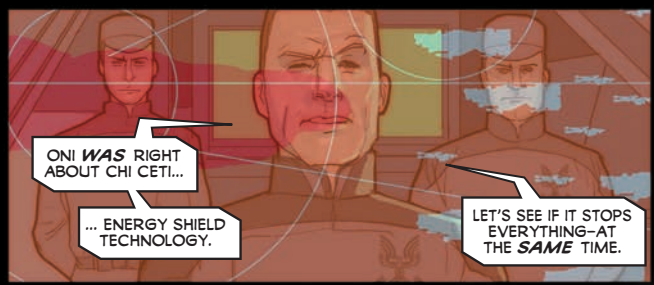
SACRAMENTO IS DOWN! SO IS LANCE HELD HIGH...



SOUND THE RETREAT!

ORDERS? SIR, ORDERS?!

BELAY THAT... STANDBY ALL STATIONS.



ONI WAS RIGHT ABOUT CHI CETI...

... ENERGY SHIELD TECHNOLOGY.

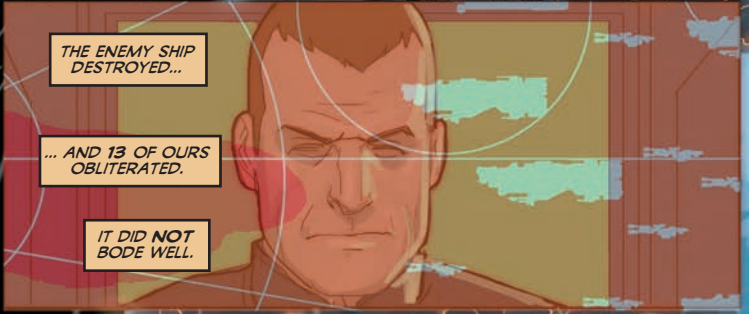
LET'S SEE IF IT STOPS EVERYTHING-AT THE SAME TIME.



OPEN ALPHA FLEETCOM CHANNEL!

RESET NUCLEAR PAYLOADS AT MARK PLUS 0.1 SECOND DETONATION.

FIRE! EVERYTHING-NOW!



THE ENEMY SHIP DESTROYED...

... AND 13 OF OURS OBLITERATED.

IT DID NOT BODE WELL.

THE NEWLY PROMOTED ADMIRAL PRESTON COLE WAVES TO HIS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS!

HE DEFEATED INSURGENTS WHO HAD SEIZED A COMMUNICATION SATELLITE NEAR THE OUTER COLONY, HARVEST.



RUMORS OF COLONIES, SECOND BASE AND GREEN HILLS, UNDER ENEMY ATTACK ARE COMPLETELY FALSE.

SIMILAR INSURGENT CAPTURING OF LOCAL SATELLITES, HOWEVER, HAS RENDERED TEMPORARY LOCAL COM BLACKOUTS.



OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE (ONI), STRATEGIC RESPONSE UNIT, REACH MILITARY BASE.

SECOND BASE AND GREEN HILLS WERE GLASSÉD! TWO MILLION PEOPLE CREMATED.

IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.

SO DON'T...

GIVE COLE THE ENTIRE FLEET AND GO PUBLIC WITH THE THREAT.

IF HE DESTROYS THEM... FINE.

IF NOT, WELL, HEROES ARE IDEAL SCAPEGOATS.

ORIGAMI ASTEROID FIELD, ALPHA AURIGAE SYSTEM. OCTOBER 21, 2526.

ONE HUNDRED SEVEN UNSC SHIPS AGAINST 12 ENEMY VESSELS. WE WON. BUT A STAGGERING 37 HUMAN SHIPS WERE DESTROYED.

SYSTEM XI BOÖTIS A. FEBRUARY 13, 2528.

SEVENTY SHIPS IN OUR ARMADA. THEY HAD EIGHT. WE LOST 30!

ONI DUBBED IT A "STRATEGIC" VICTORY.

THE "BATTLE OF THE GREAT BEAR," GROOMBRIDGE-1830. DECEMBER 24, 2530.

SEVENTEEN OF OUR SHIPS AGAINST THREE OF THEIRS. ELEVEN DESTROYERS LOST. TWO ENEMY VESSELS KILLED. ONE CRASH LANDED.

ENEMY SHIP SURVIVED REENTRY, SIR. WE HAVE A SURVIVOR.

I WANT TO SEE IT.

WE ARE THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS INHERITORS.

WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING US?

YOU HAVE BEEN JUDGED **UNCLEAN**. A SCOURGE THAT MUST BE **BURNED AWAY!**

WHEN WE FIND YOUR HOME WORLD, IT WILL BE REDUCED **TO ASHES!**

DESTROY YOU ALL...*

THEY HAD SUCH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES... YET KNEW LITTLE ABOUT US.

UTTERLY XENOPHOBIC.

I KNEW THAT FROM THE BEGINNING, THOUGH.

... BUT I NOW KNOW WE HAD ONE STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE: **SECURITY.**

Admiral Parangosky/ Office of Naval Intelligence/Routing Sequence: **Hypodermic-FXT-1**

CODE NAME CLASSIFIED: Pied Piper

(Continued from previous page)...

IT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO RAM THIS DOWN THE THROATS OF THE POLITICIANS, BUT AS FAR AS MY BATTLE GROUP WAS CONCERNED, IT WAS LAW.

Based on the data revealed by the alien, these new protocols must be immediately implemented:

- 1) All UNSC and civilian ships which come in contact with alien assets must have NAV com AI erased—destroyed if necessary—to prevent capture of core world locations.
- 2) ALL human vessels fleeing from alien forces must do so on a randomly generated vector away from UNSC core worlds.
- 3) ONI Section II to immediately begin Slipstream space attenuated broadcast of pre-recorded human carrier signals from antiquity to prevent triangulation of

UNSC STAGING AREA,
INTERSTELLAR SPACE,
COORDINATES **//CLASSIFIED//**.
JANUARY 3, 2531.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR ONI,
COMMANDER OREZ?

THE PROPHECY HAS
REPELLED ALIENS
NEAR HARVEST, SIR.
HER REACTOR
WENT CRITICAL. SHE
NEEDS IMMEDIATE
ASSISTANCE.

WE CAN'T SPARE A COMBAT
SHIP... ALTHOUGH I COULD
SEND A SUPPORT VESSEL.

THAT WOULD
BE IDEAL.
OREZ OUT.

I DON'T
TRUST A PROWLER
COMMANDER—TOO
SLICK. WHO'S ON THE
DUTY ROSTER?

THE *SPIRIT OF FIRE*...
CAPTAIN CUTTER.

HMMM. WARN CUTTER
HE MAY BE IN FOR MORE
THAN A CLEAN-UP OP.

Cutter, James Gregory Age: 52 Rank: Captain

{CURRENT} Commanding Officer, Captain, *UNSC Sprit of Fire*, CFV-88.
08.08.2525

Commanding Officer, Commander, *UNSC Glasgow* 08.08.2519

Navigation Officer, First Lieutenant, *UNSC Final Summit* 01.09.2514

Junior Navigation Officer, First Lieutenant, *Stick* (CSR: 0007681/diplomatic
attaché vessel assigned to the *UNSC Brilliant Shores*) 11.16.2507

UNSC OCS Emphasis in Command and astrogation 06.19.2504

*UNSC School of the North Star, Earth Magna cum laude, emphasis in
astrogation and political science.* 09.15.2500

Awards, commendations, duty history:

Bronze Star/ Meritorious action on board the *Glasgow*/ 05.22.24

Campaign Ribbon / Operation *TREBUCHET*/ Logistics Corps/

Campaign Ribbon / Operation *BREADCRUMB*/

Campaign Ribbon/ Operation *WHISPER AMONG STARS*/ **CLASSIFIED**

(see attached files 4-11)

ONI INT-PSYCH-OPS E-VAL: Cutter's motivations for turning down command of the *Prophecy* in favor of the less career-strategic colonial vessel, *Spirit of Fire*, stems from his familial devotion (*Spirit's* original sphere of operation was near his wife and daughter). This is the only flaw in an otherwise brilliant military officer. See notes (**CLASIFED CODE WORD**) regarding correction procedures.

SHAW-FUJIKAWA DRIVE ROOM, SPIRIT OF FIRE.

WE ALWAYS CHECKED THE FTL PRIOR TO A JUMP. NO ONE WITHIN SEVERAL LIGHT YEARS COULD FIX THESE THINGS IF THEY FAILED.



DROP BAY BRAVO, SPIRIT OF FIRE.

WE ONCE CARRIED HYDROPONICS AND SCHOOLS FOR THE COLONIES.

NOW WE PACKED BARRACKS, FUSION REACTORS, AND ATAF MISSILE TURRETS-DISPATCHED TO THE FRONT LINES AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.



BRIDGE, SPIRIT OF FIRE, CAPTAIN J. G. CUTTER, COMMANDING.

ALL SHIPSHAPE, CAPTAIN. READY TO DEPART.

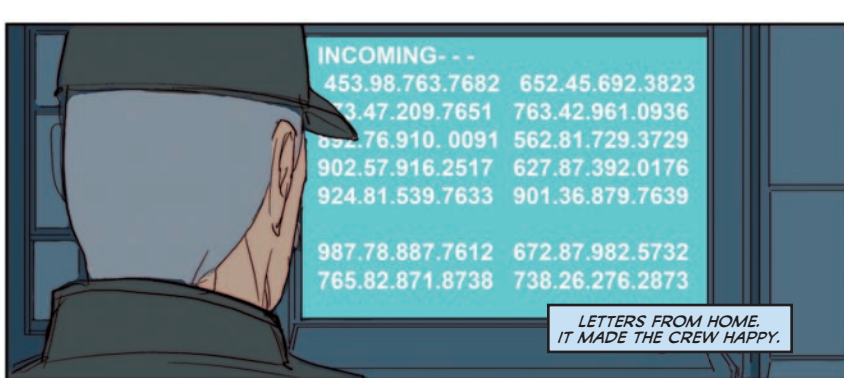
UPDATE OUR SERVERS BEFORE WE BREAK FROM THE BATTLE GROUP, SERINA.



INCOMING - -

453.98.763.7682	652.45.692.3823
73.47.209.7651	763.42.961.0936
892.76.910.0091	562.81.729.3729
902.57.916.2517	627.87.392.0176
924.81.539.7633	901.36.879.7639
987.78.887.7612	672.87.982.5732
765.82.871.8738	738.26.276.2873

LETTERS FROM HOME. IT MADE THE CREW HAPPY.



AND ONE FOR THE CAPTAIN. REACH IS LOOKING LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR.

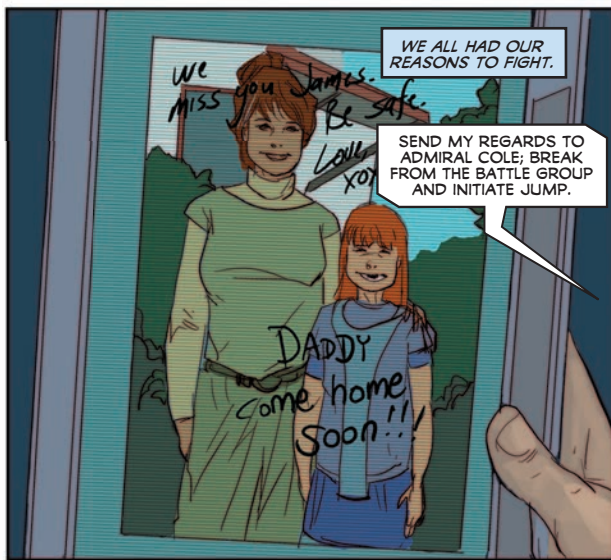


THANK YOU, SERINA.



WE ALL HAD OUR REASONS TO FIGHT.

SEND MY REGARDS TO ADMIRAL COLE; BREAK FROM THE BATTLE GROUP AND INITIATE JUMP.



UNSC *SPIRIT OF FIRE*, SLIPSTREAM SPACE, EN ROUTE TO HARVEST.

THE UNSC *SPIRIT OF FIRE*, CFV-88, CONSTRUCTED 2473. A COLONY SHIP, A SYMBOL OF HOPE... BUT AS THEY SAY, "PLOWS INTO SWORDS."

REPAIR/REFIT BAY IS CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING "CYCLOPS" EXOSKELETON VEHICLES AND A CREW OF OVER 60 EVA ENGINEERS.

IN 2520, THEY ADDED A MAGNETIC ACCELERATOR CANNON (MAC), ABLE TO ACCELERATE DEPLETED URANIUM SLUGS TO A FRACTION OF LIGHT SPEED.

THRUST ASSEMBLIES REPLACED FROM THE SCUTTLED UNSC DESTROYER *CALCUTTA* IN 2530. OUTPUT INCREASED 37%.

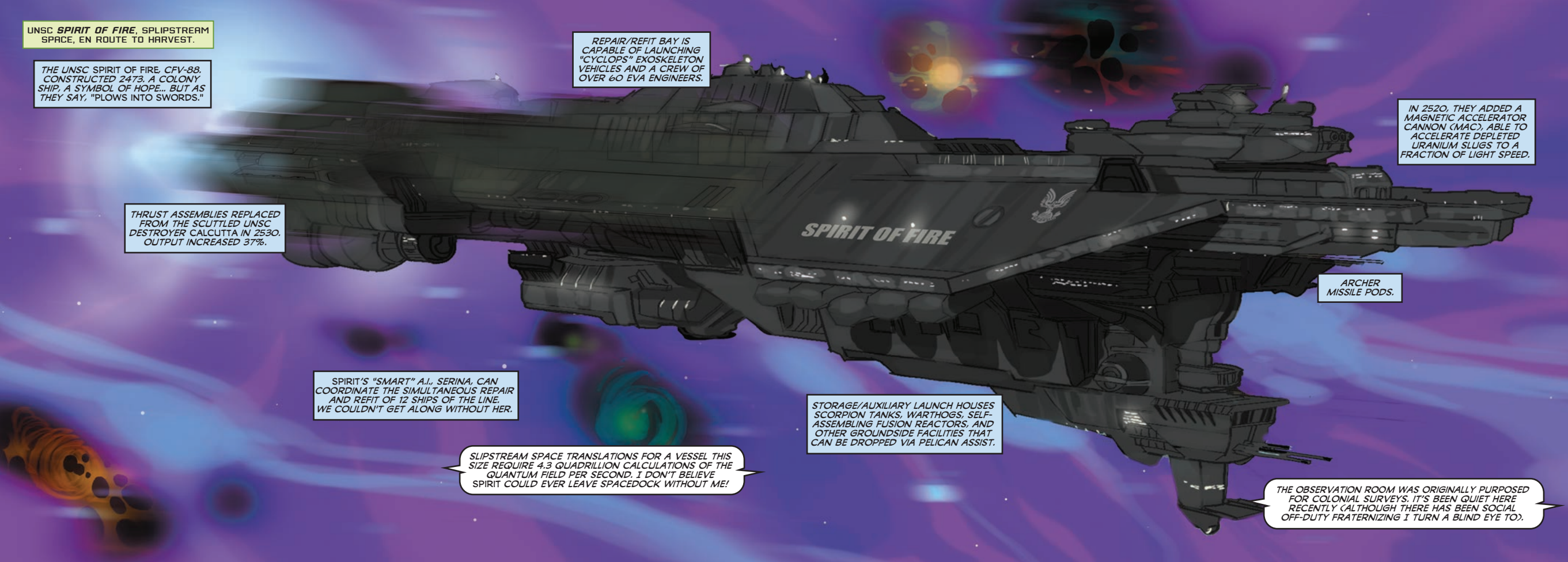
ARCHER MISSILE PODS.

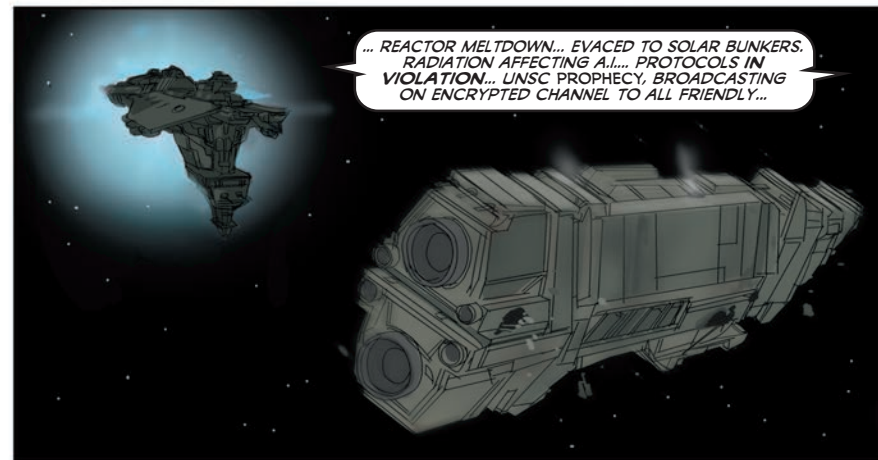
SPIRIT'S "SMART" A.I., SERINA, CAN COORDINATE THE SIMULTANEOUS REPAIR AND REFIT OF 12 SHIPS OF THE LINE. WE COULDN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT HER.

STORAGE/AUXILIARY LAUNCH HOUSES SCORPION TANKS, WARTHOGS, SELF-ASSEMBLING FUSION REACTORS, AND OTHER GROUND-SIDE FACILITIES THAT CAN BE DROPPED VIA PELICAN ASSIST.

SLIPSTREAM SPACE TRANSLATIONS FOR A VESSEL THIS SIZE REQUIRE 4.3 QUADRILLION CALCULATIONS OF THE QUANTUM FIELD PER SECOND. I DON'T BELIEVE SPIRIT COULD EVER LEAVE SPACEDOCK WITHOUT ME!

THE OBSERVATION ROOM WAS ORIGINALLY PURPOSED FOR COLONIAL SURVEYS. IT'S BEEN QUIET HERE RECENTLY (ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOCIAL OFF-DUTY FRATERNIZING I TURN A BLIND EYE TO).





... REACTOR MELTDOWN... EVACED TO SOLAR BUNKERS. RADIATION AFFECTING A.I... PROTOCOLS IN VIOLATION... UNSC PROPHECY, BROADCASTING ON ENCRYPTED CHANNEL TO ALL FRIENDLY...



LOOPED DISTRESS SIGNAL, RECORDED THREE DAYS AGO. SURVIVORS WILL NOT BE IN GOOD SHAPE, SIR.



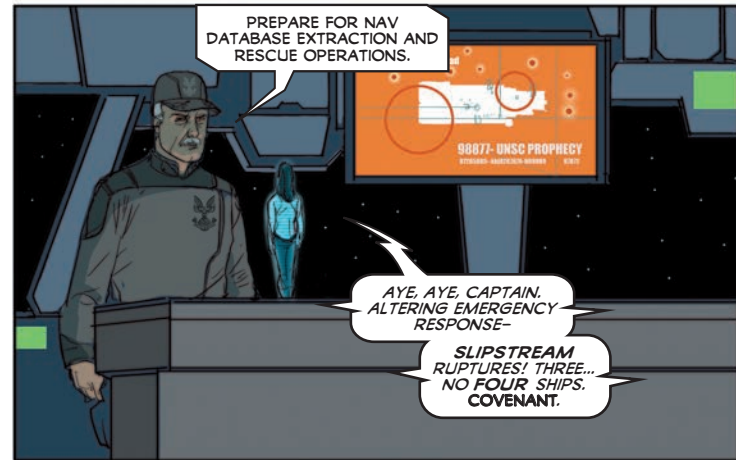
PROPHECY BLOCKED THE SHOT FROM OUR MAC.



HOW DID ONI KNOW SO FAST?

JUST A GUESS, BUT I'D SAY THEY WERE HERE WHEN THE PROPHECY BREACHED.

AND THEY DIDN'T HELP...



PREPARE FOR NAV DATABASE EXTRACTION AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN. ALTERING EMERGENCY RESPONSE-

SLIPSTREAM RUPTURES! THREE... NO FOUR SHIPS. COVENANT.



O15 BY O30.

FLANK ACCELERATION!

SCRAMBLE PELICAN EVA SQUADS.



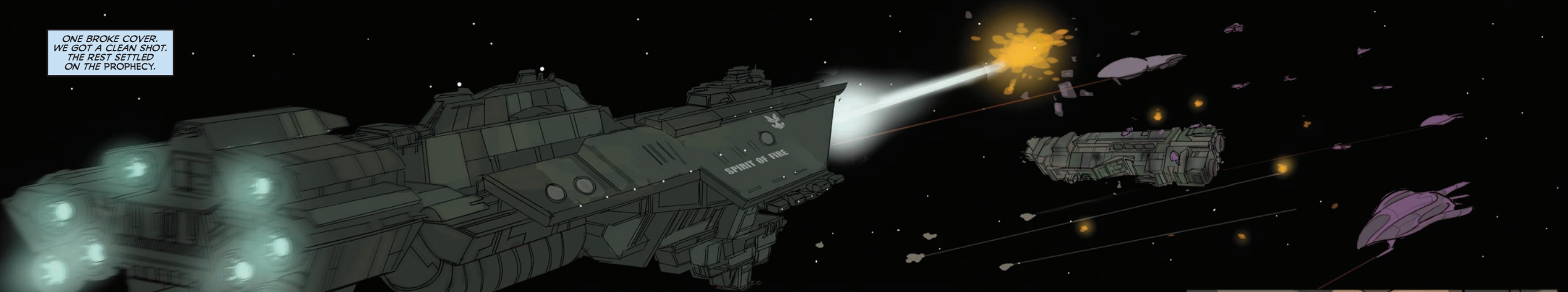
ANSWERING NEW COURSE, FLANK SPEED, AYE.

FIRE TEAMS ECHO, INDIA, LIMA, NOVEMBER SCRAMBLE.



... SCRAMBLE! THIS IS NO DRILL!

ONE BROKE COVER.
WE GOT A CLEAN SHOT.
THE REST SETTLED
ON THE PROPHECY.



UNLOCK HAVOK
MISSILES.
CODE WORD:
"POLLYANNA."

VOICEPRINT AND
CODE AUTHORIZED.
HAVOK NUCLEAR
MISSILES ACTIVATED.





A "SOFT-SEAL"
ENTRANCE.

PERFECTED IN
THOSE LAST NASTY
BITS OF "OPERATION
TREBUCHET."

WAKE UP, CHRIS!
WE'VE GOT...

OH...
MAN.

COMPANY'S
COMING!

SHHHHHH

FULL-FLOOD
PRESSURIZATION.

ZERO-GEE,
CLOSE-QUARTER
COMBAT...

... YOU GOT GOOD
AT IT FAST...

... OR YOU
DIED.

GOOD THING
JACKALS WERE
SLOW LEARNERS.

CRACK

OH
CRAP...



SERINA. LIMA. WE'RE IN.
... WHERE ARE WE?

GO 100 METERS AFT TO AUXILIARY TERMINAL 4.
RETRIEVE THE BLACK BOX AND WIPE THE NAV CORE.



WHAT ABOUT THE SURVIVORS?

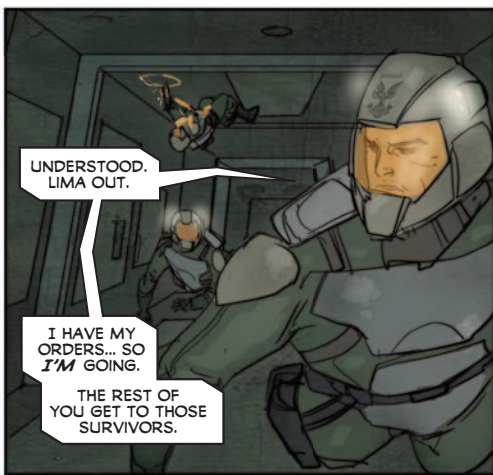


PROCEED TO TERMINAL 4.

ADMIRAL COLE'S PROTOCOL TAKES PRECEDENCE.



TRUST ME ON THIS ONE, SERGEANT.



UNDERSTOOD. LIMA OUT.

I HAVE MY ORDERS... SO I'M GOING.

THE REST OF YOU GET TO THOSE SURVIVORS.



SO MUCH FOR BEING A ZERO-GEE COMBAT "EXPERT." I THINK I BROKE MY ANKLE.



SERINA. LIMA-ONE. I'M THERE.

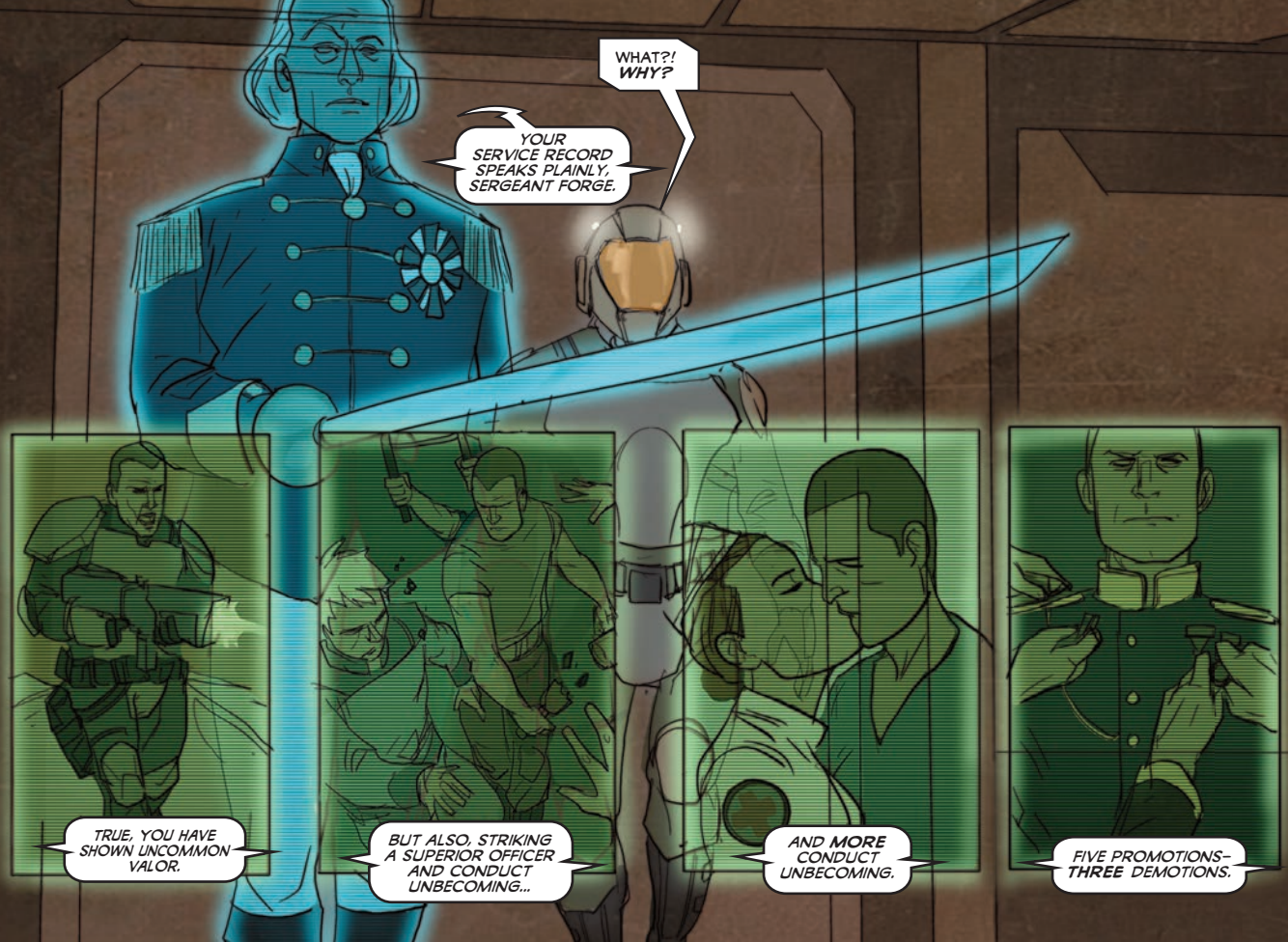
ACCESS THE RETINAL SCANNER ON YOUR RIGHT.
ALSO NOTE THE A.I. MAY ACT... PECULIAR DUE TO ELEVATED RADIATION LEVELS.



"PECULIAR"?



I AM FITZGIBBON, A.I. OF THE PROPHECY.
ACCESS DENIED.



WHAT?!
WHY?

YOUR
SERVICE RECORD
SPEAKS PLAINLY,
SERGEANT FORGE.

TRUE, YOU HAVE
SHOWN UNCOMMON
VALOR.

BUT ALSO, STRIKING
A SUPERIOR OFFICER
AND CONDUCT
UNBECOMING...

AND MORE
CONDUCT
UNBECOMING.

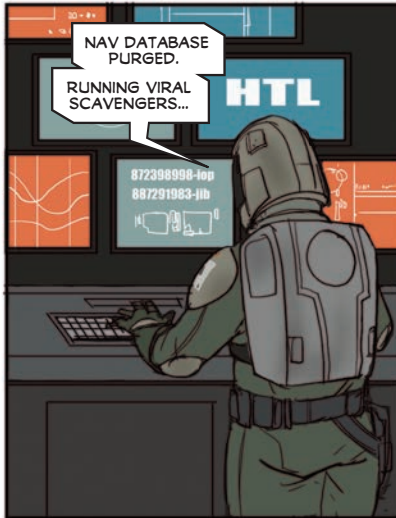
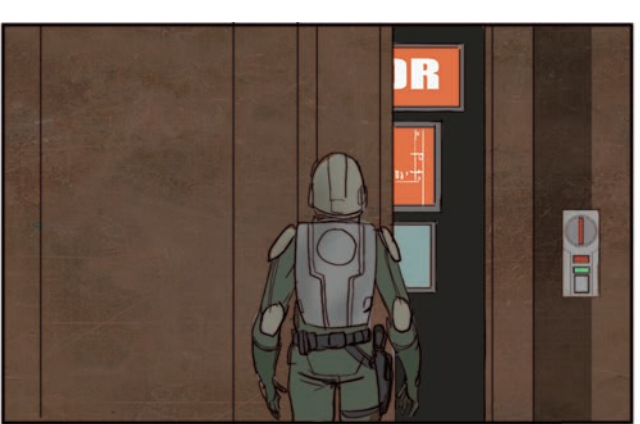
FIVE PROMOTIONS--
THREE DEMOTIONS.



LISTEN, **LORD SPARKY**, YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN BOARDED?
OR ARE YOUR CIRCUITS SO SCRAMBLED YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME FROM FOLLOWING COLE'S PROTOCOL?



SO SORRY, CHUM. RADIATION REPAIR ROUTINES ENABLED.



NAV DATABASE PURGED.
RUNNING VIRAL SCAVENGERS...



INITIATING SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE. THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING...
YOUR MEN ARE IN BAY 2, SERGEANT.



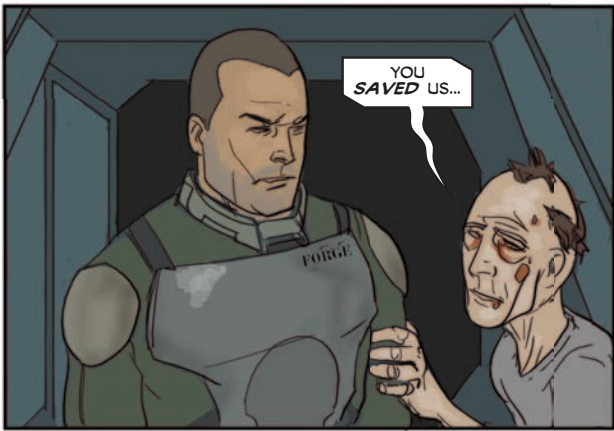
FRACTURED ANKLE.
AND THIS IS THE FIRST OF SEVEN DOSES OF ANTI-RAD TREATMENT.

I SEE NO ONE BOTHERED TO PROGRAM A BEDSIDE MANNER...
HOW ARE THE SURVIVORS?



THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS.

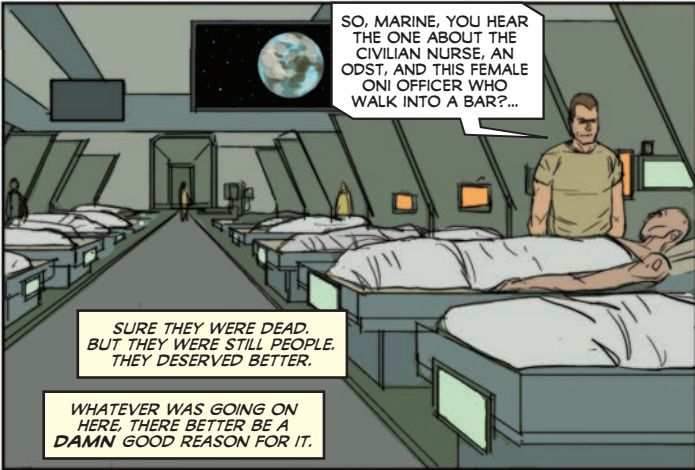
ALL RECEIVED RADIATION FAR IN EXCESS OF WHAT CAN BE TREATED.
THERE IS NOTHING TO DO... BUT WATCH THEM DIE.



YOU SAVED US...



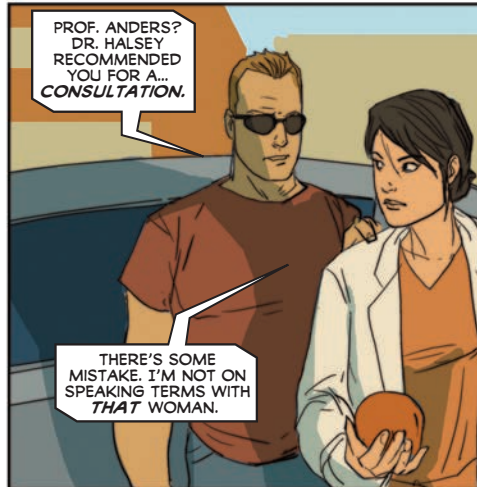
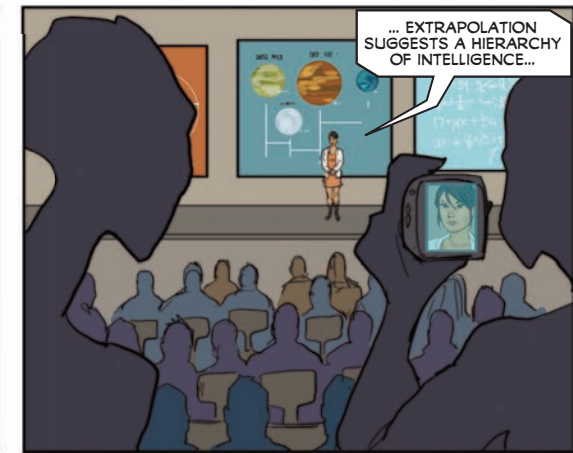
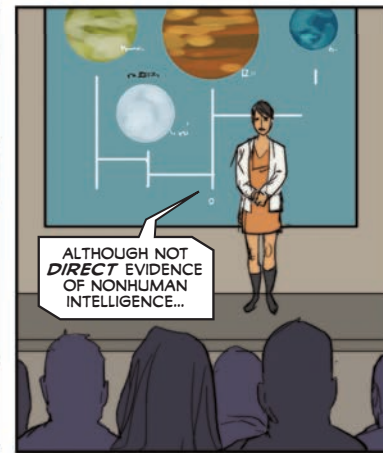
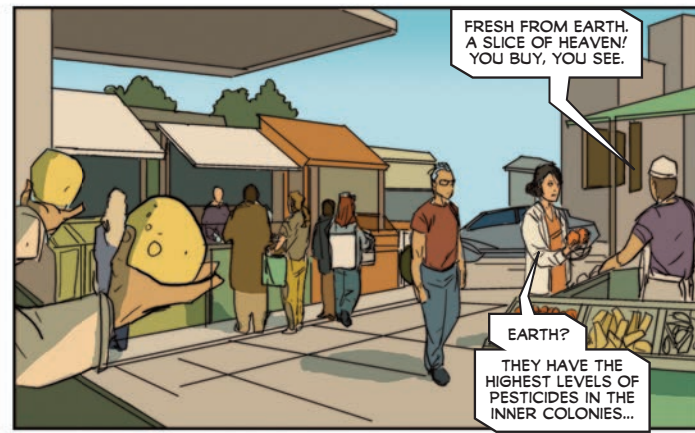
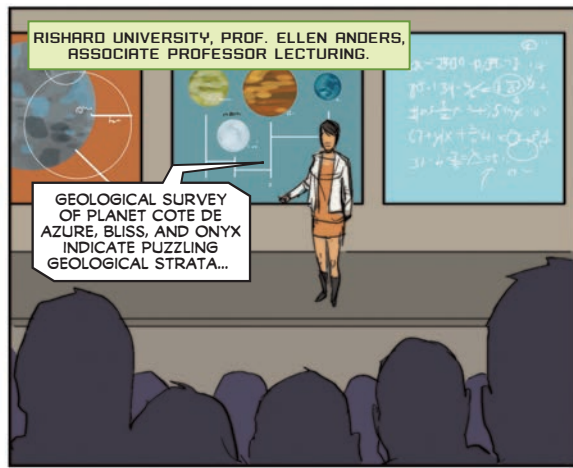
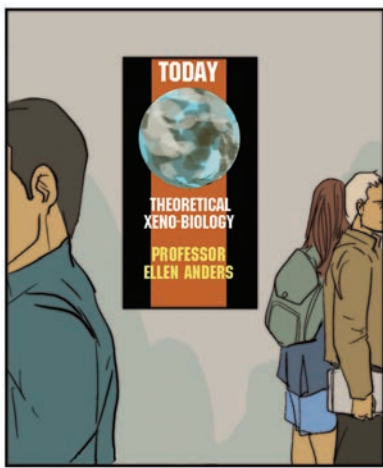
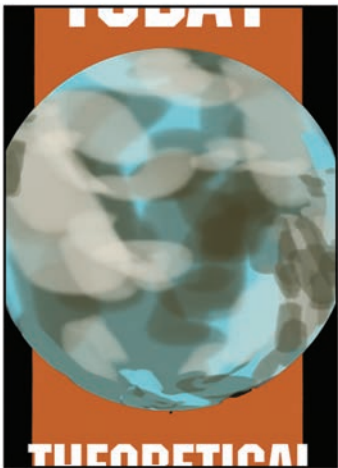
LIKE HELL THERE IS.

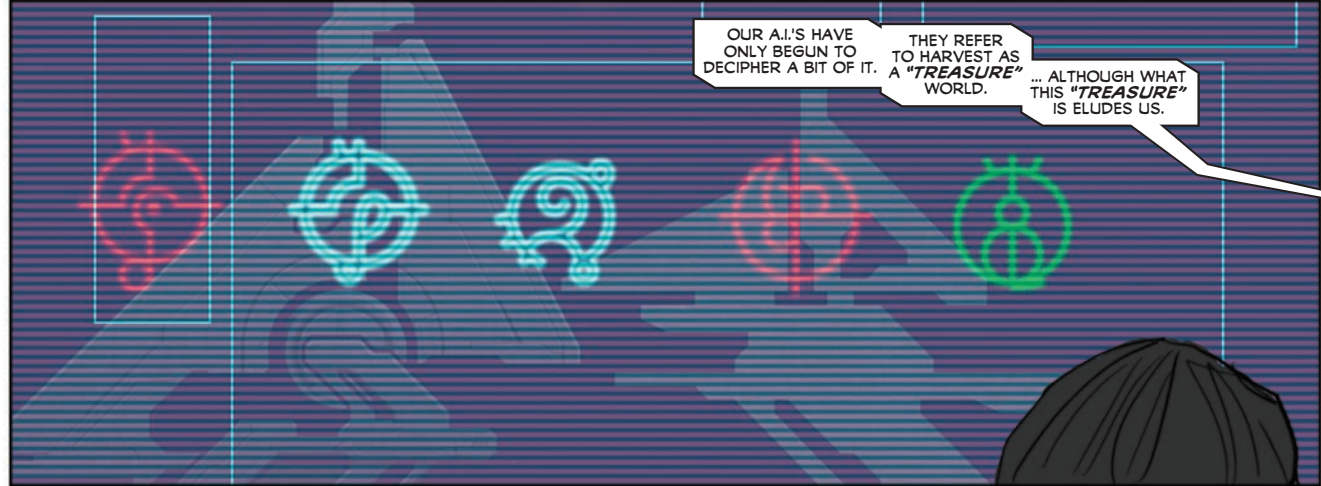
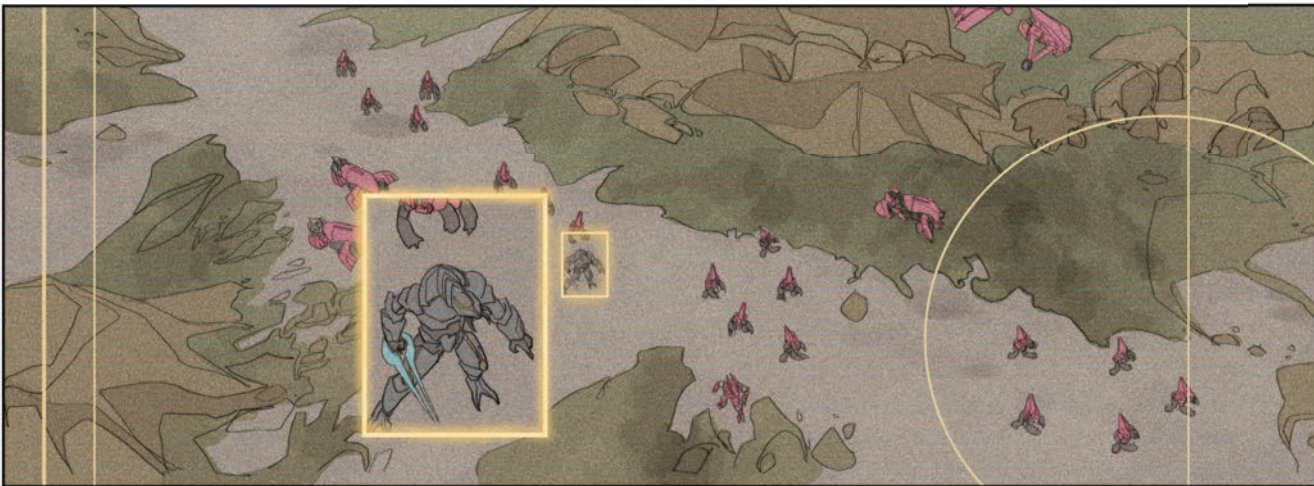
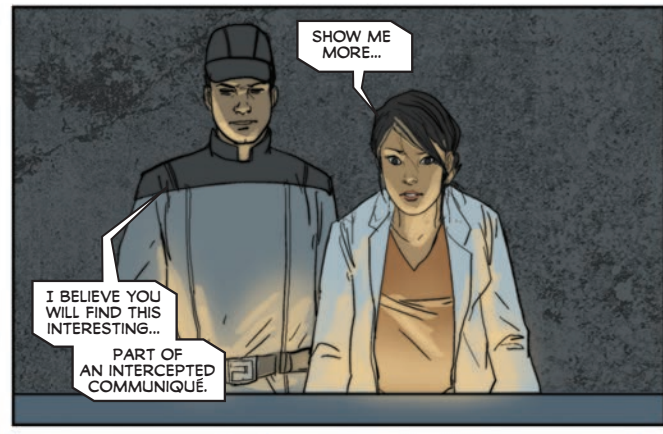


SO, MARINE, YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT THE CIVILIAN NURSE, AN ODST, AND THIS FEMALE ONI OFFICER WHO WALK INTO A BAR?...

SURE THEY WERE DEAD. BUT THEY WERE STILL PEOPLE. THEY DESERVED BETTER.

WHATEVER WAS GOING ON HERE, THERE BETTER BE A DAMN GOOD REASON FOR IT.

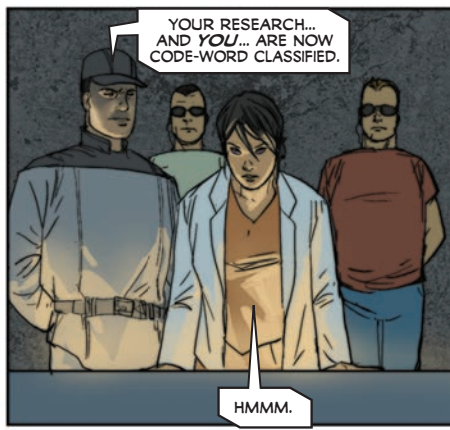






WE REQUIRE YOUR HELP TO FIND WHAT THESE ALIENS WANT.

I KNOW YOU'RE RECENTLY ENGAGED, BUT...

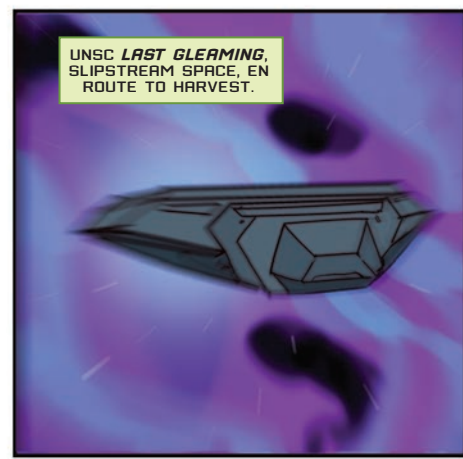


YOUR RESEARCH... AND YOU... ARE NOW CODE-WORD CLASSIFIED.

HMMM.



I'LL NEED THE TRANSCRIPTS...
... AND UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO YOUR A.I.'S.



UNSC *LAST GLEAMING*, SLIPSTREAM SPACE, EN ROUTE TO HARVEST.



(SIGH)



YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PERSON.

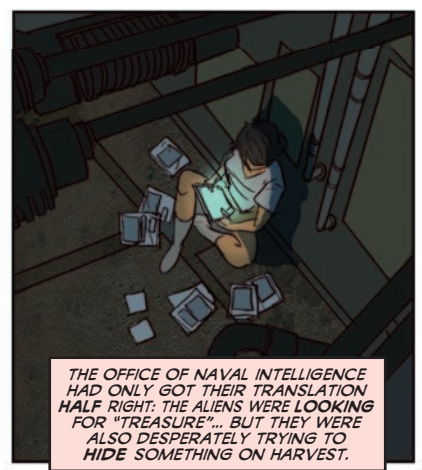


YOU'LL GET EVERYTHING...
TIME IS A FACTOR. YOU'LL REVIEW THE DATA ON THE *LAST GLEAMING*.

THE LAST WHAT?



"BREATHING ROOM" AND "SPACE TO THINK" WEREN'T LUXURIES THEY HAD ON THIS SHIP...



THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE HAD ONLY GOT THEIR TRANSLATION HALF RIGHT: THE ALIENS WERE LOOKING FOR "TREASURE"... BUT THEY WERE ALSO DESPERATELY TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING ON HARVEST.

OUTER COLONY
WORLD, HARVEST.



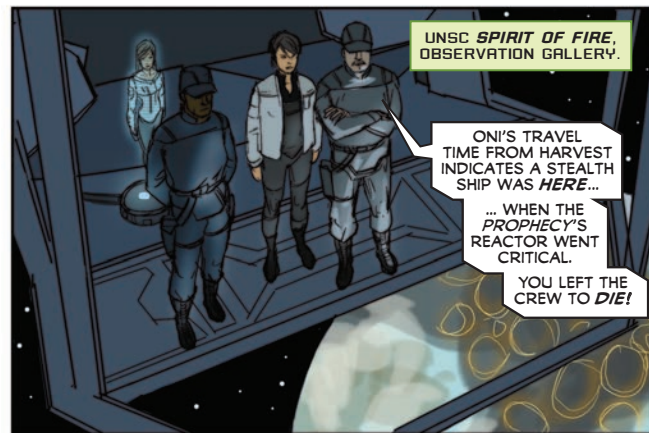
IS THAT THE
PROPHECY?

I CAN SEE WHY
THERE WERE
NO SURVIVORS.



MAKE READY
SHUTTLE ONE...

THAT'S NOT THE
PROPHECY... THAT'S
YOUR NEW BASE
OF OPERATION,
THE *SPIRIT OF FIRE*.



UNSC *SPIRIT OF FIRE*,
OBSERVATION GALLERY.

ONI'S TRAVEL
TIME FROM HARVEST
INDICATES A STEALTH
SHIP WAS *HERE*...

... WHEN THE
PROPHECY'S
REACTOR WENT
CRITICAL.

YOU LEFT THE
CREW TO *DIE!*



THE *PROPHECY*'S
CREW WOULD HAVE
BEEN DEAD FROM
THE RADIATION.

FURTHERMORE ANY
HYPOTHETICAL PROWLER
HERE WOULD'VE BECOME
VISIBLE IF IT INITIATED
RESCUE OPERATIONS...

... WHICH WOULD HAVE
MOST CERTAINLY
BEEN AGAINST
THEIR ORDERS.



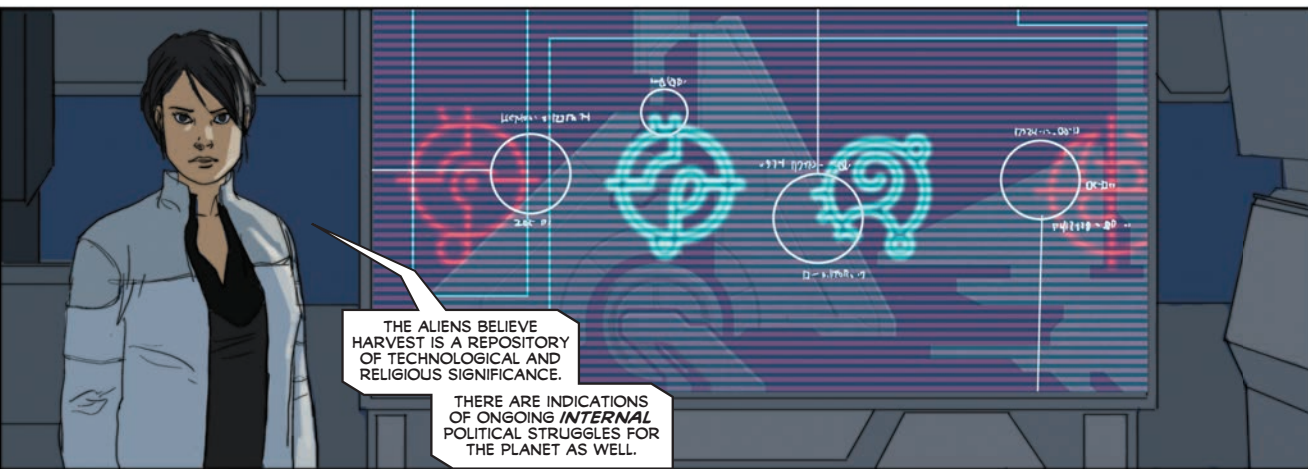
NOW, SIR, THIS
IS PROF. ANDERS.

YOU'VE BEEN *REQUESTED*
TO LET HER CALL THE SHOTS
ON THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS
OF THIS MISSION.

A *REQUEST* THAT COMES
DIRECTLY FROM FLEETCOM,
CAPTAIN CUTTER.

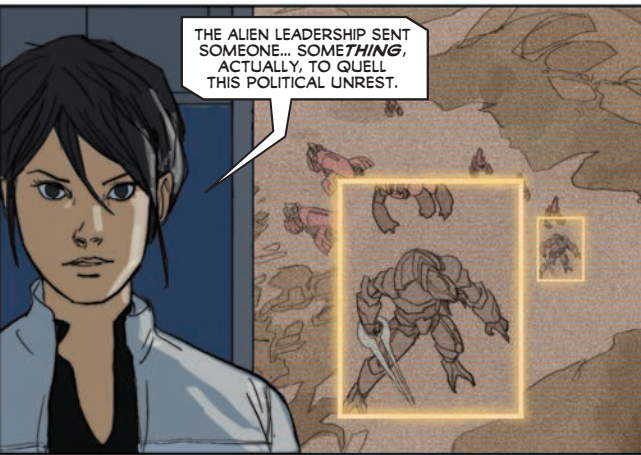


PERHAPS
I SHOULD
PROCEED WITH
MY ANALYSIS.

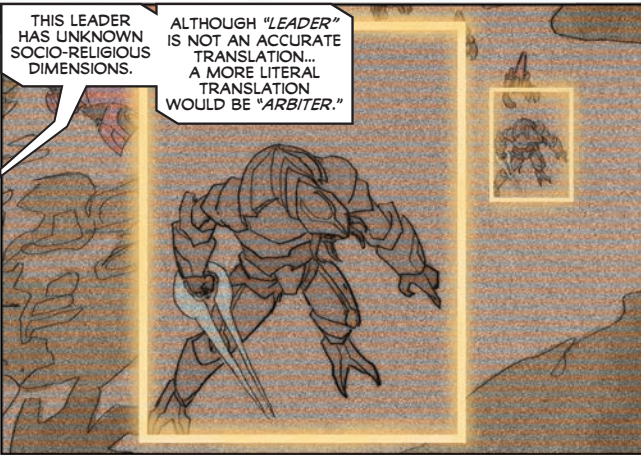


THE ALIENS BELIEVE HARVEST IS A REPOSITORY OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE.

THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF ONGOING *INTERNAL* POLITICAL STRUGGLES FOR THE PLANET AS WELL.



THE ALIEN LEADERSHIP SENT SOMEONE... SOMETHING, ACTUALLY, TO QUELL THIS POLITICAL UNREST.

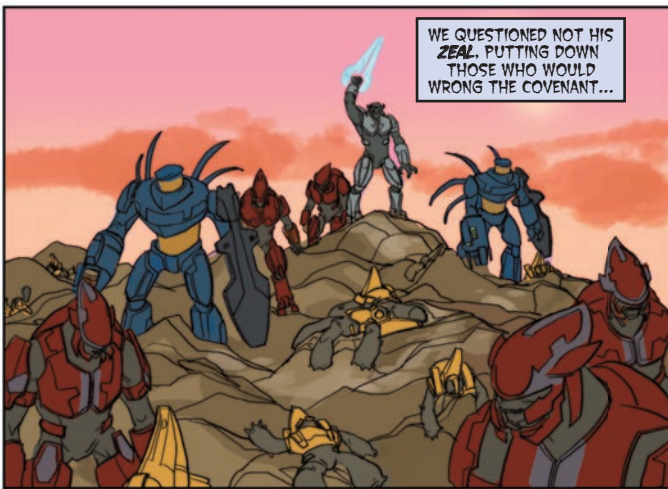


THIS LEADER HAS UNKNOWN SOCIO-RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS.

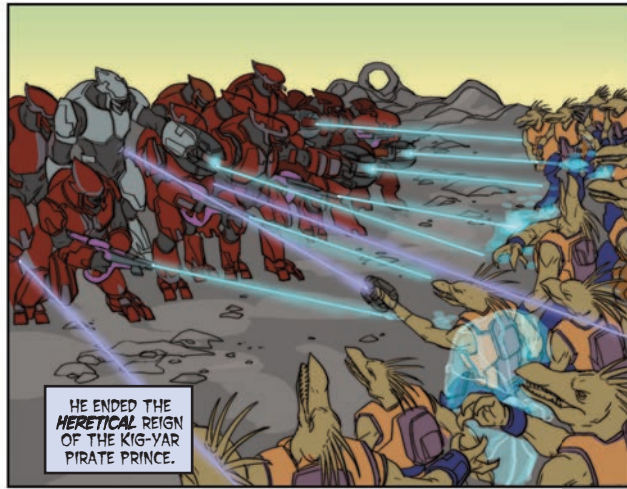
ALTHOUGH "LEADER" IS NOT AN ACCURATE TRANSLATION... A MORE LITERAL TRANSLATION WOULD BE "ARBITER."



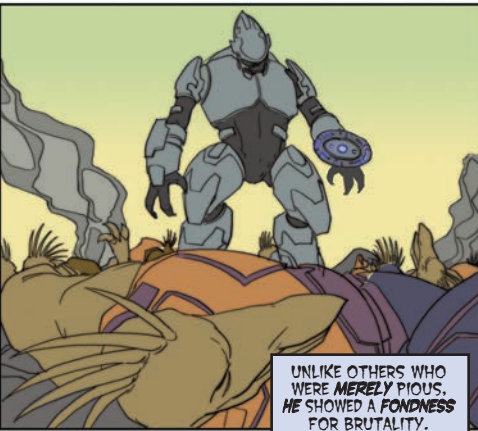
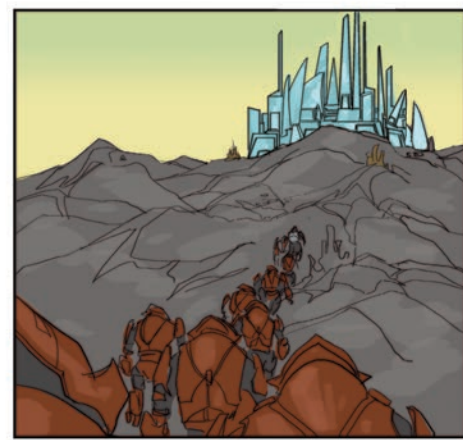
HIS STORY BEGAN MANY CYCLES PAST. HE WAS A WARLORD THRALL WHO HAD THE HONOR OF PUTTING DOWN THE "SIXTEENTH UNGGOY DISOBEDIENCE."



WE QUESTIONED NOT HIS **ZEAL**. PUTTING DOWN THOSE WHO WOULD WRONG THE COVENANT...



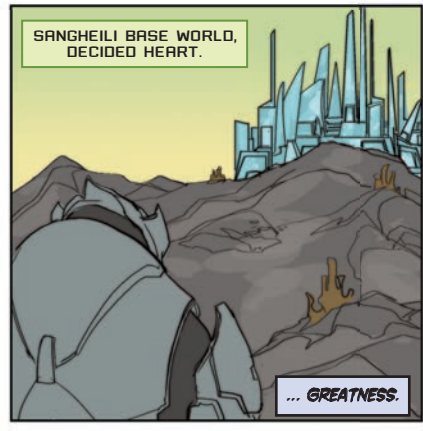
HE ENDED THE **HERETICAL** REIGN OF THE KIG-YAR PIRATE PRINCE.



UNLIKE OTHERS WHO WERE **MERELY** PIOUS, HE SHOWED A **FONDNESS** FOR BRUTALITY.



ALTHOUGH SOME FEARED THAT HE ALSO HAD A **DESIRE** FOR...



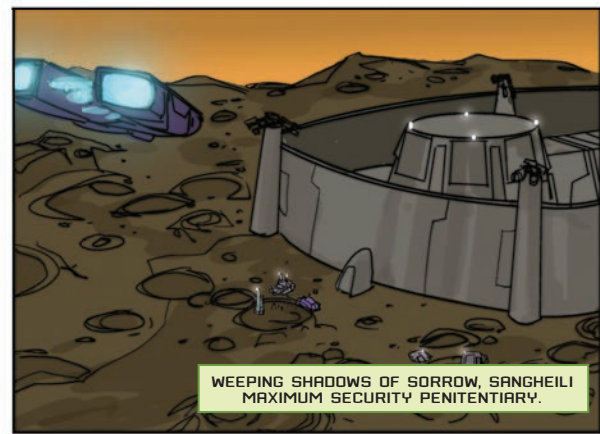
SANGHEILI BASE WORLD, DECIDED HEART.

... **GREATNESS**.



HE WENT TOO FAR, THOUGH, ATTEMPTING A COUP ON **HIS OWN** SANGHEILI CLAN LEADER.

HIS **GREATEST SIN?**... HE **FAILED**.



OF COURSE, HE DID WHAT HE DID BEST.



A QUESTION...



YOU HAVE BUT TO ASK... HOLY ONE.

DO YOU ENJOY THE SLAUGHTER?



ARRRRGGGH!

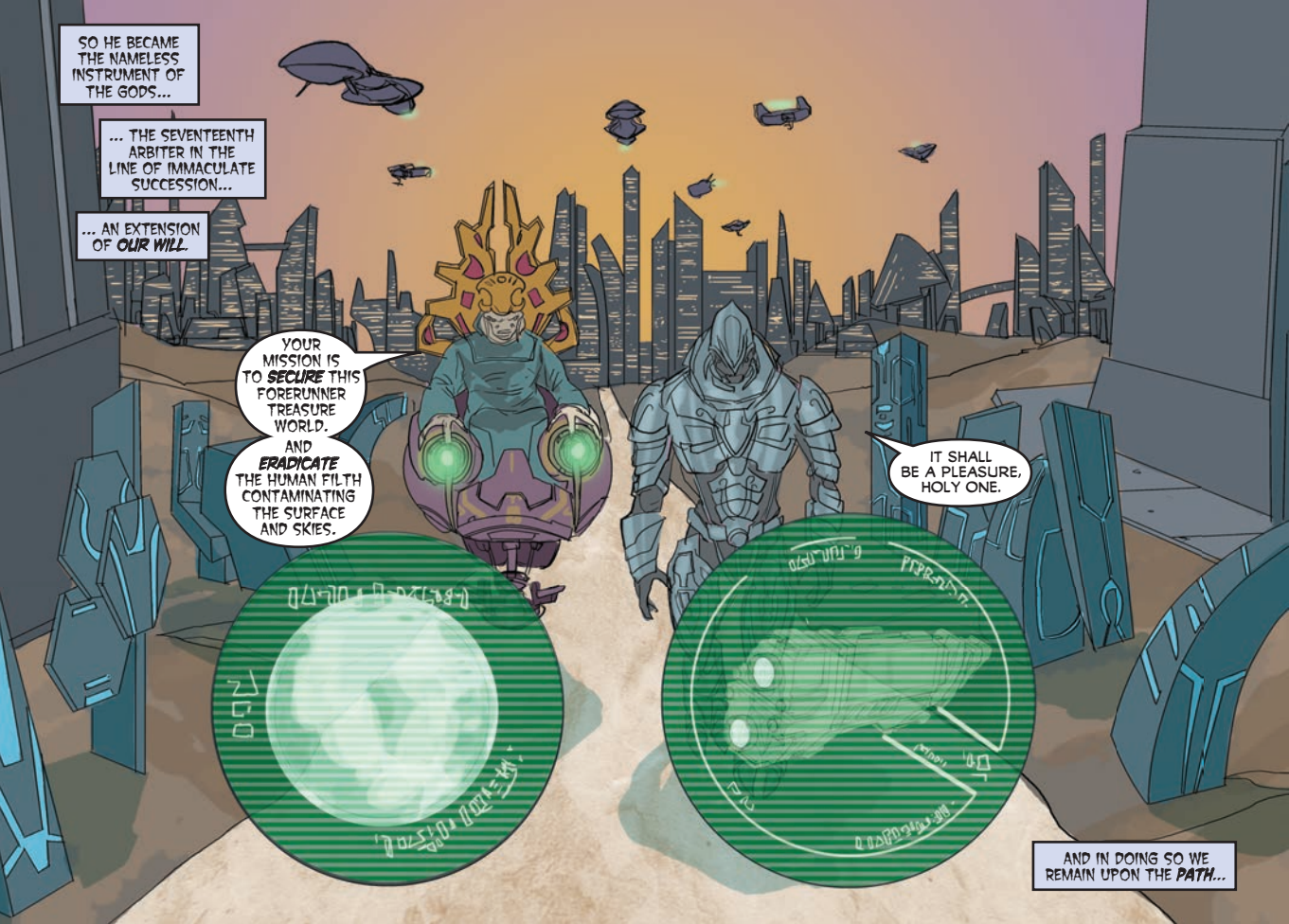
AND, OF COURSE, WE WERE WATCHING... WAITING.



I FEEL THE JOY OF DOING WHAT I WAS BORN TO. I HAVE NO REGRETS... SAVE, THAT I WILL NOT DIE FIGHTING.



OH, YOU WILL. THOUGH NOT TODAY.



SO HE BECAME THE NAMELESS INSTRUMENT OF THE GODS...

... THE SEVENTEENTH ARBITER IN THE LINE OF IMMACULATE SUCCESSION...

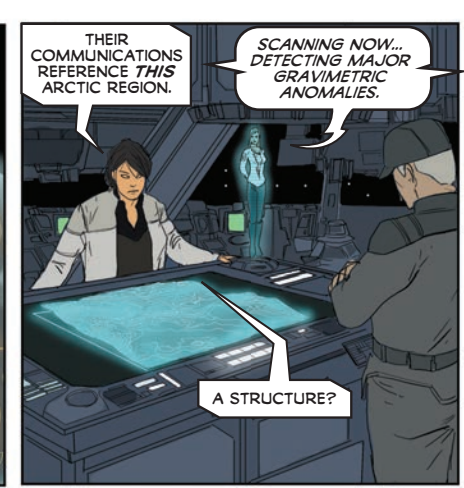
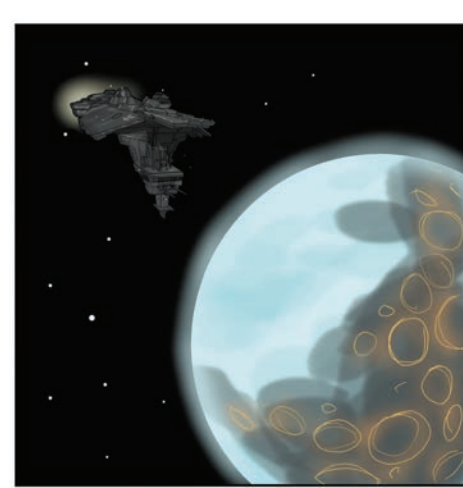
... AN EXTENSION OF OUR WILL.

YOUR MISSION IS TO **SECURE** THIS FORERUNNER TREASURE WORLD.

AND **ERADICATE** THE HUMAN FILTH CONTAMINATING THE SURFACE AND SKIES.

IT SHALL BE A PLEASURE, HOLY ONE.

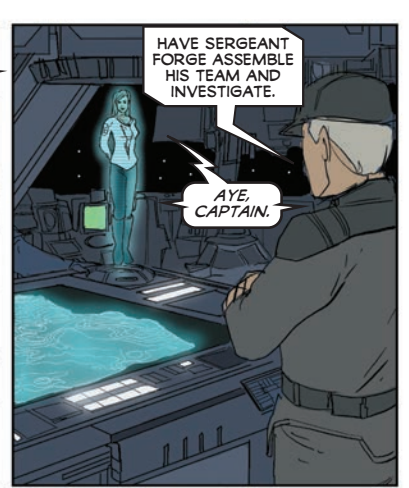
AND IN DOING SO WE REMAIN UPON THE **PATH**...



THEIR COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCE **THIS** ARCTIC REGION.

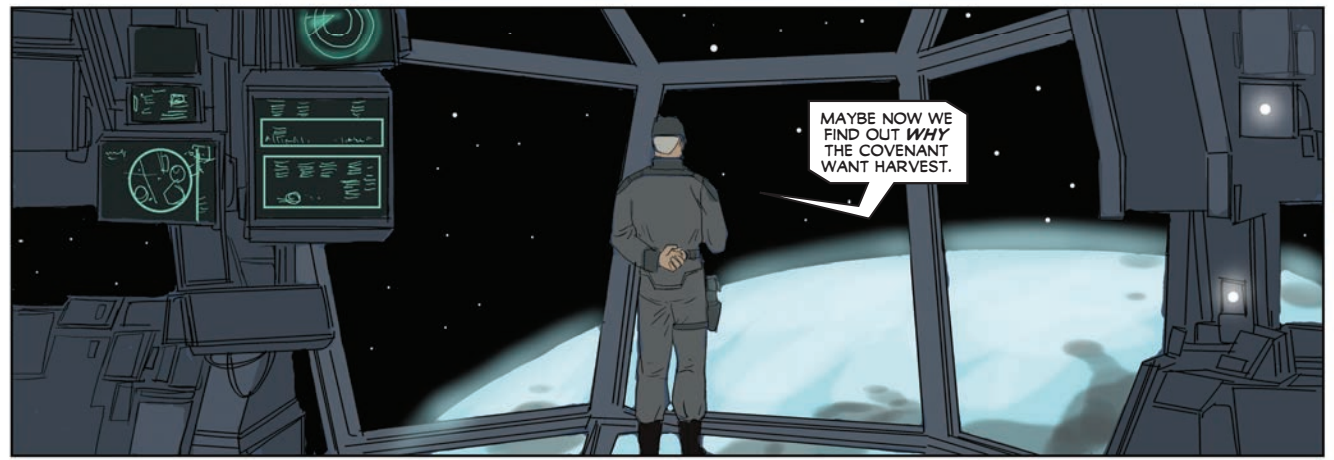
SCANNING NOW... DETECTING MAJOR GRAVIMETRIC ANOMALIES.

A STRUCTURE?



HAVE SERGEANT FORGE ASSEMBLE HIS TEAM AND INVESTIGATE.

A YE, CAPTAIN.



MAYBE NOW WE FIND OUT **WHY** THE COVENANT WANT HARVEST.



Photo by Syne Mitchell

Eric Nylund is a *New York Times* bestselling and World Fantasy Award–nominated author of many novels (including installments in the *Halo* series: *The Fall of Reach*, *First Strike*, and *Ghosts of Onyx*). For more information visit www.ericnylund.net. His latest novel, *Mortal Coils*, is slated for release in early 2009.

Lettering by Richard Starkings and Comicraft's Jimmy Betancourt (comicbookfonts.com).



Photo by Beth Noto

Phil Noto is a painter and comic book illustrator. After a 10-year career at Disney Feature Animation, he began working full time in comics. He has done work for DC, Marvel, Dark Horse, and Image comics. He is currently drawing a Superman/Supergirl miniseries. He is also illustrating *The Infinite Horizon*, which was nominated for an Eisner Award for best new series. Phil has also worked as a concept artist for video games; most recently, *BioShock*.

Two of his painting exhibitions sold out, as did his monograph, *Jet Seven*.

He resides in Orlando, Florida with his wife, Beth, and children, Kate and Fletcher.

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