

RD-INK



BOOK TWO

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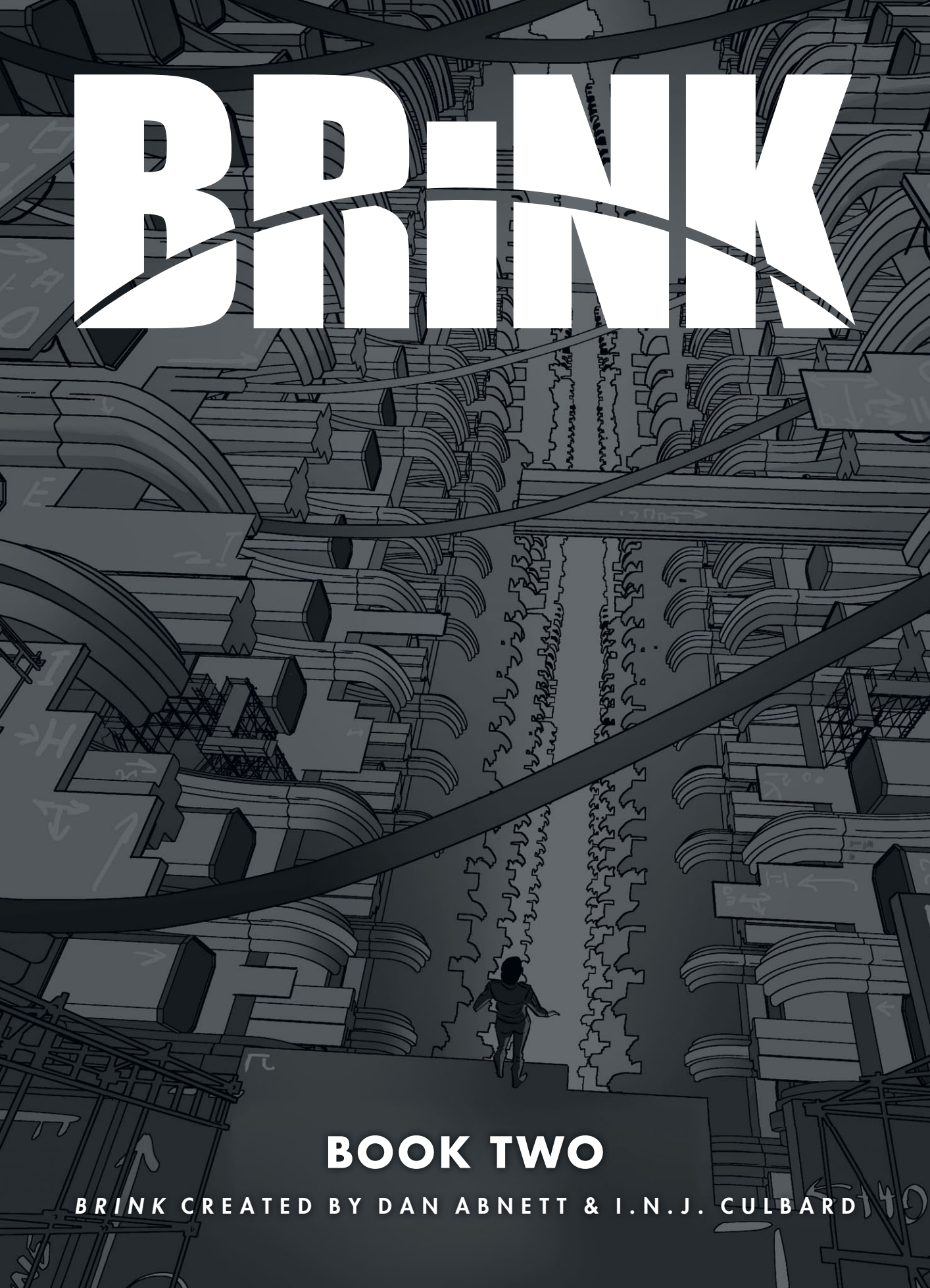
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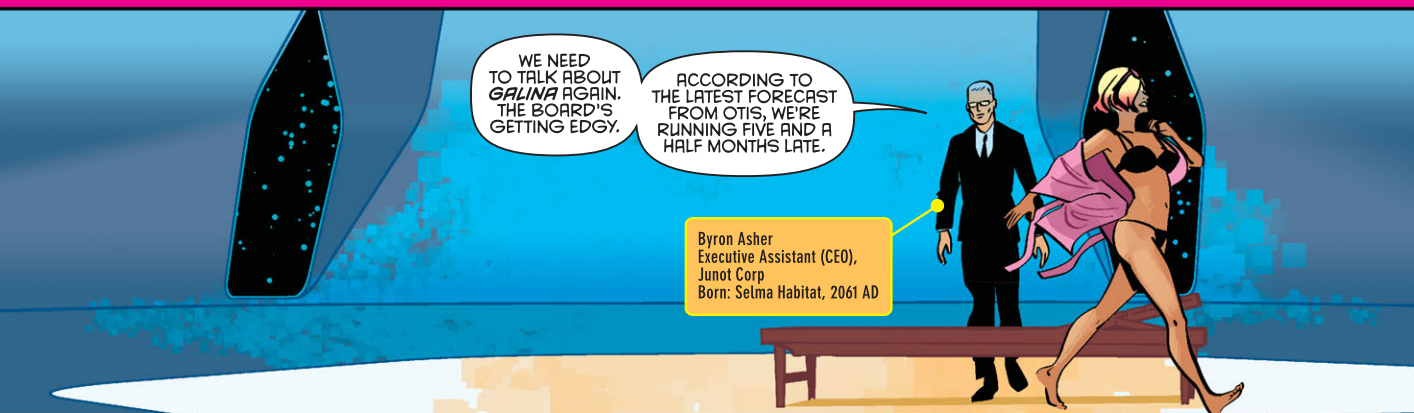
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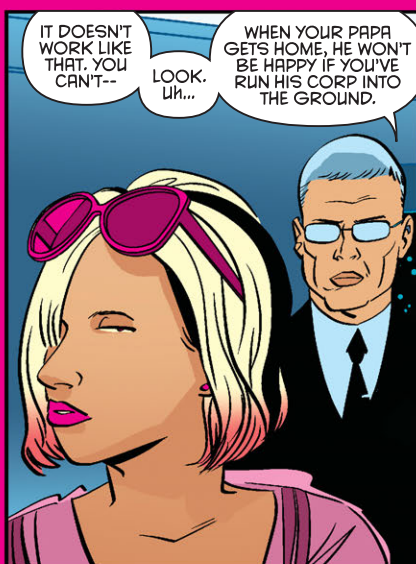
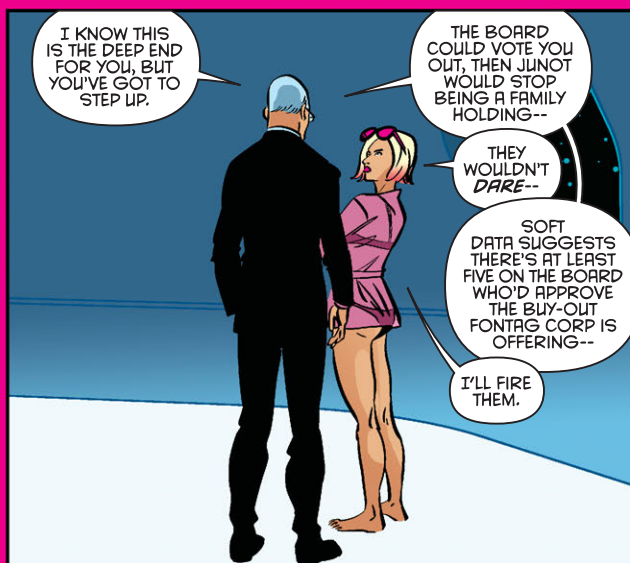
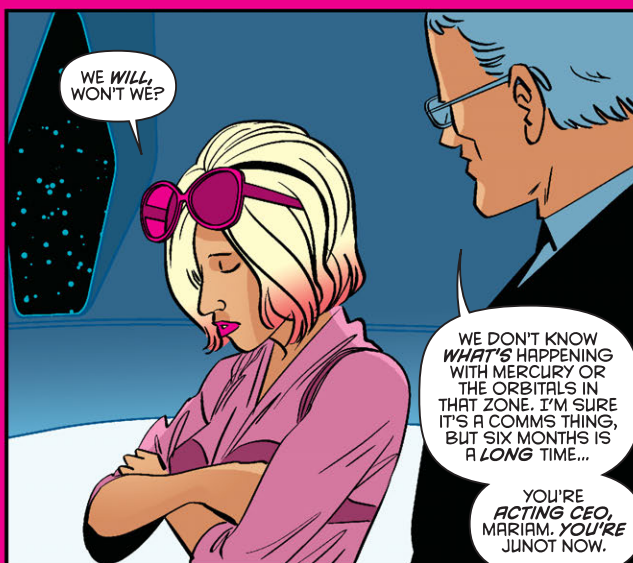
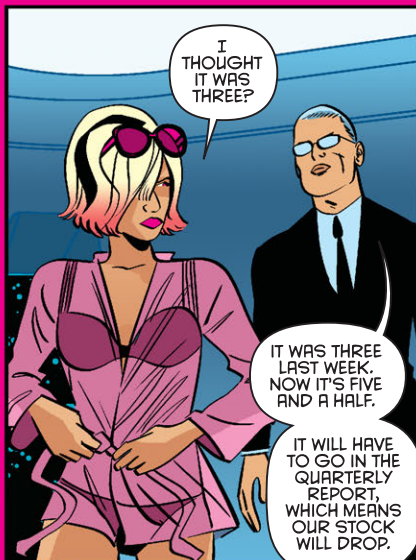
The background of the entire cover is a dense, intricate, and dark illustration. It depicts a futuristic cityscape or a complex network of structures, possibly a data center or a high-tech urban environment. The scene is filled with numerous curved, ribbed, and angular forms that create a sense of depth and complexity. A person is shown running away from the viewer, towards the center of the image, on a flat surface. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of grey, black, and white, giving it a gritty and industrial feel. The title 'BRINK' is prominently displayed at the top in a large, bold, white font.

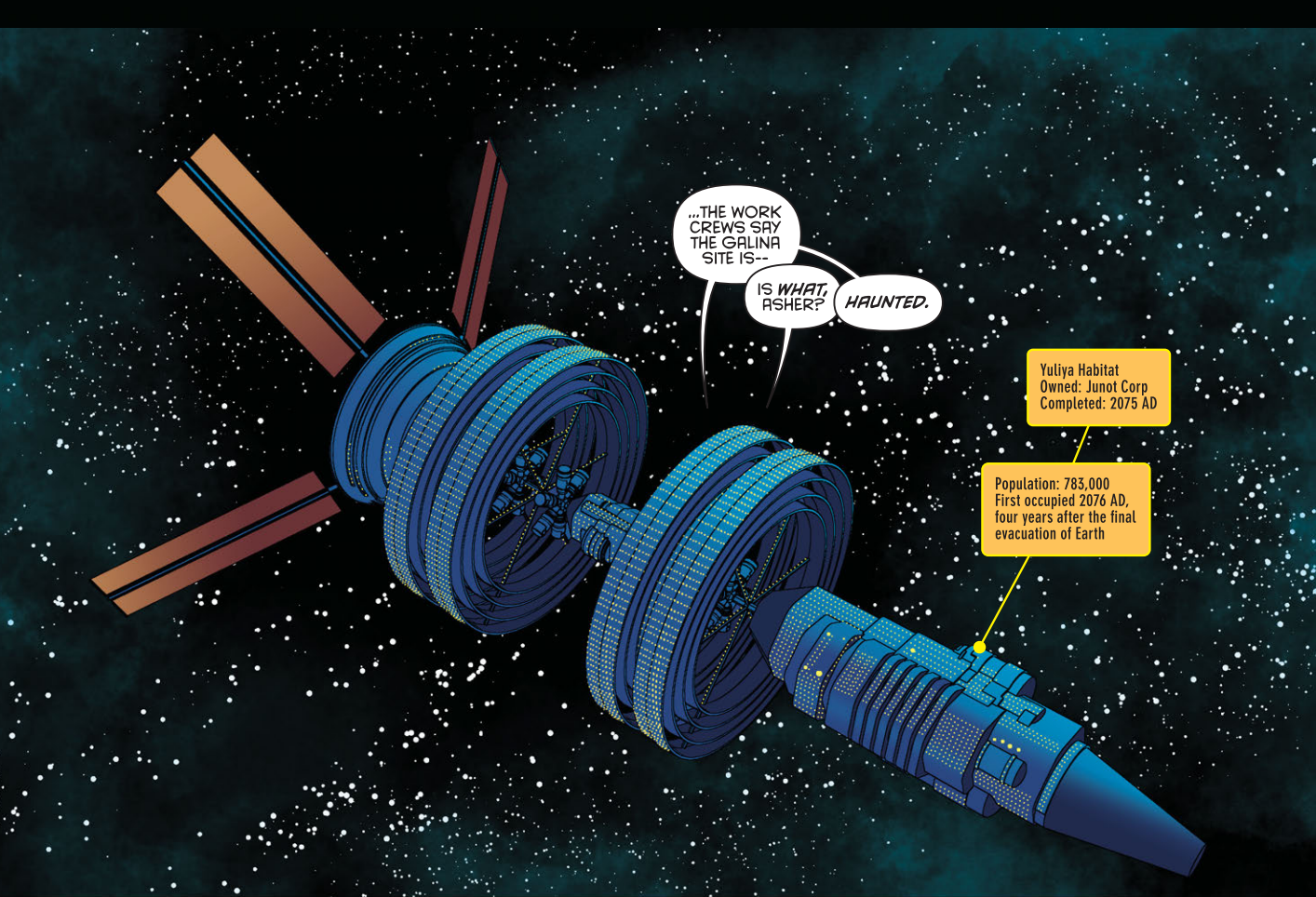
BRINK

BOOK TWO

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







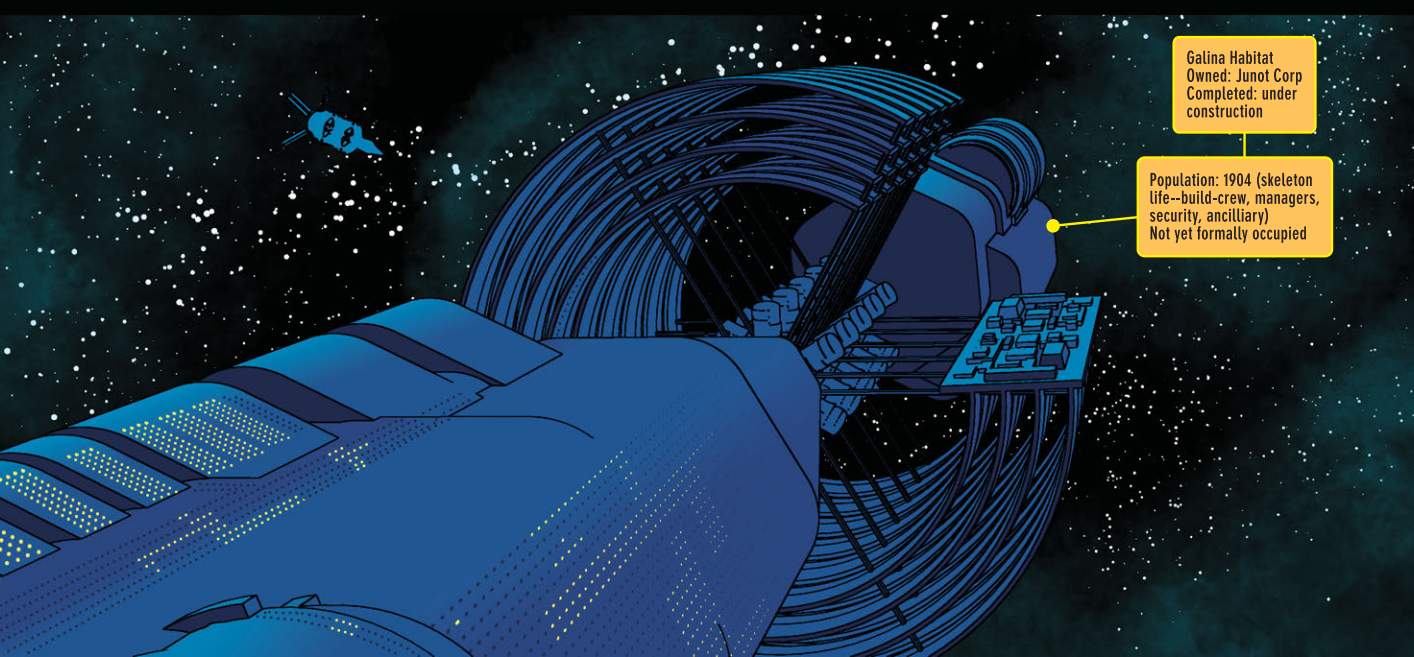
„THE WORK
CREWS SAY
THE GALINA
SITE IS--

IS *WHAT*,
ASHER?

HAUNTED.

Yuliya Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: 2075 AD

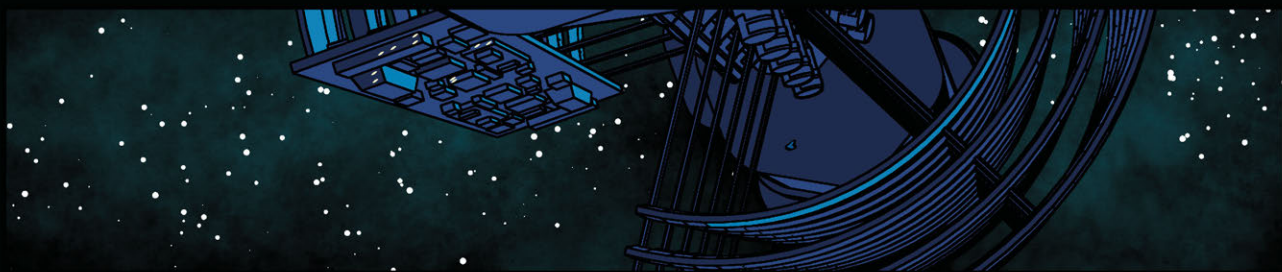
Population: 783,000
First occupied 2076 AD,
four years after the final
evacuation of Earth



Galina Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: under
construction

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



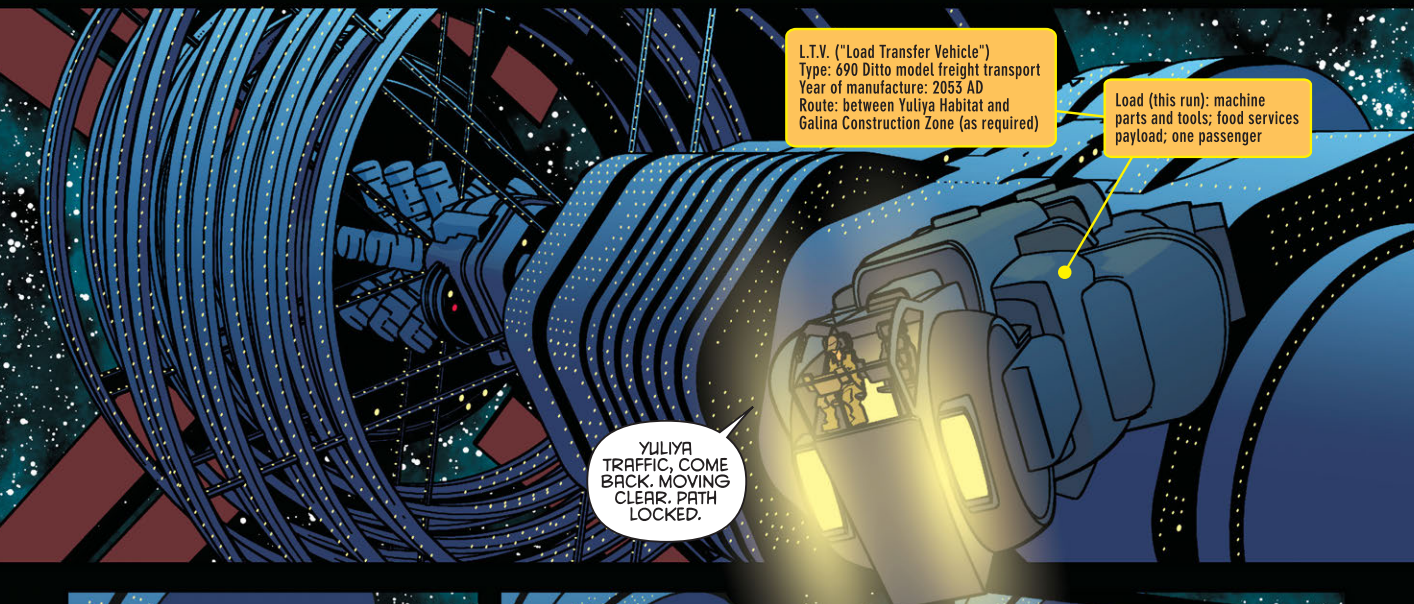




Yuliya Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: 2075 AD

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

CLAMPS
TO UNLOCK.
BURNING.



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

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

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



COPY
THAT, L.T.V.

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

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



YOU CAN
RIDE UP
FRONT, IF
YOU LIKE.

NOT
LIKE WE'RE
STANDING
ROOM ONLY
TODAY.

THANKS.



I'M FIL.





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

HA HA!

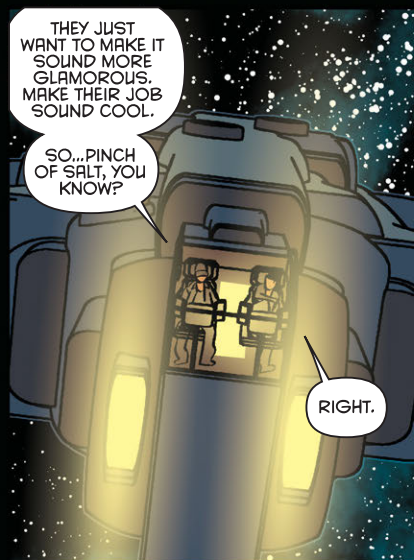
I'VE HEARD
THE CHATTER.
IT'S JUST THE
REGULAR
SCUT.



FOR
SURE.

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

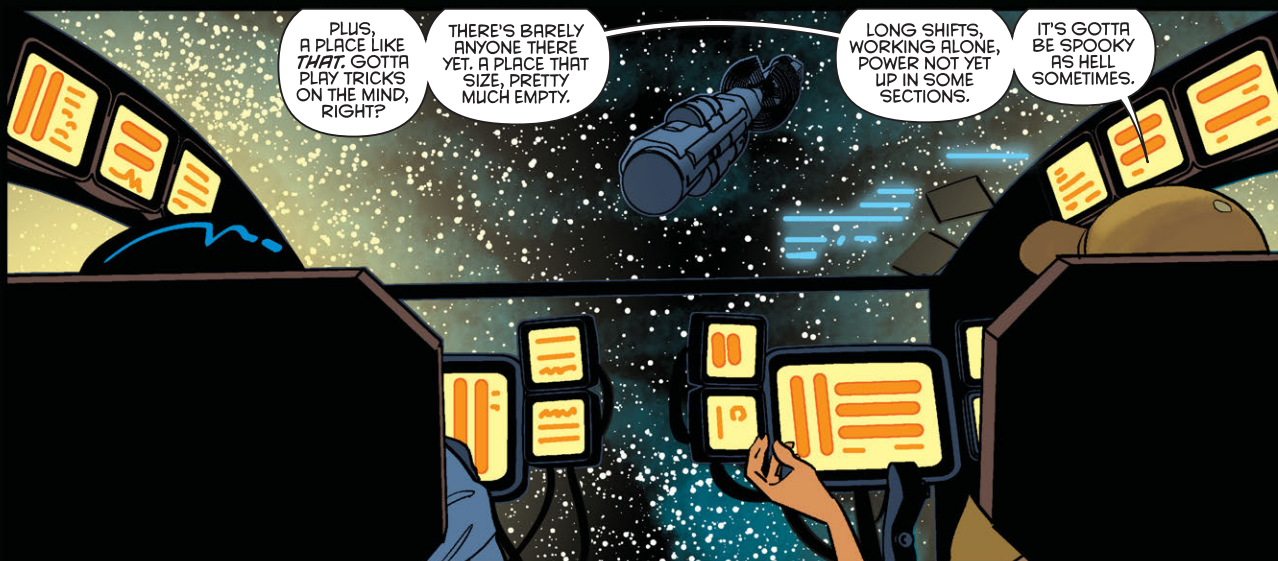
THOSE GUYS ARE
FULL OF CRAP. I MEAN,
I KNOW IT'S HIGH-HAZ
WORK, BUT WHEN IT
COMES DOWN TO IT, IT'S
JUST HEAT-LOCKING
RIVETS, RIGHT?



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

SO...PINCH
OF SALT, YOU
KNOW?

RIGHT.



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

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

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

IT'S GOTTA
BE SPOOKY
AS HELL
SOMETIMES.



WE'RE
NOT USED TO
BEING
ALONE.

CROWDS
EVERYWHERE,
PACKED
TIGHT...

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

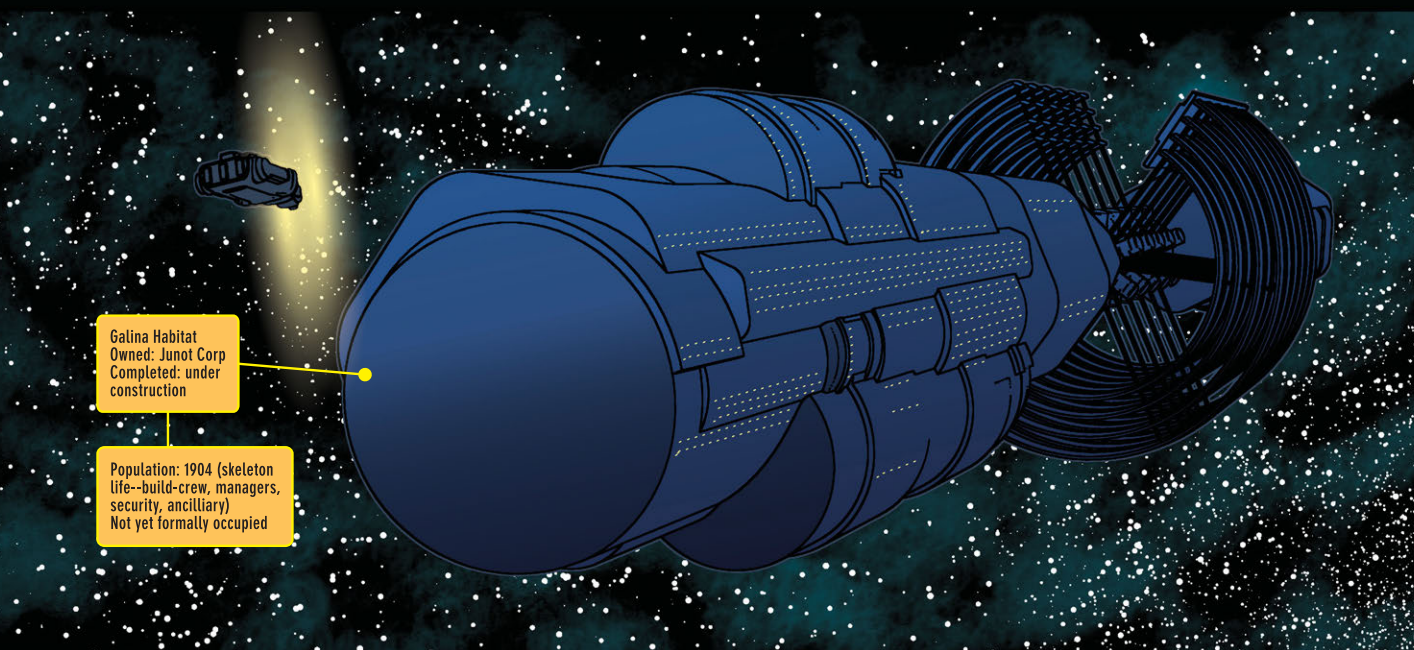
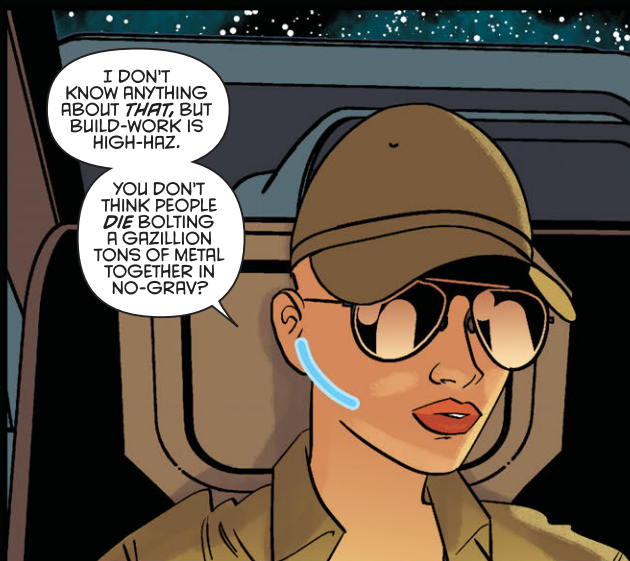
JUNOT SHOULD
HAVE PSYCHO-
THERAPISTS ON
THE PAYROLL.

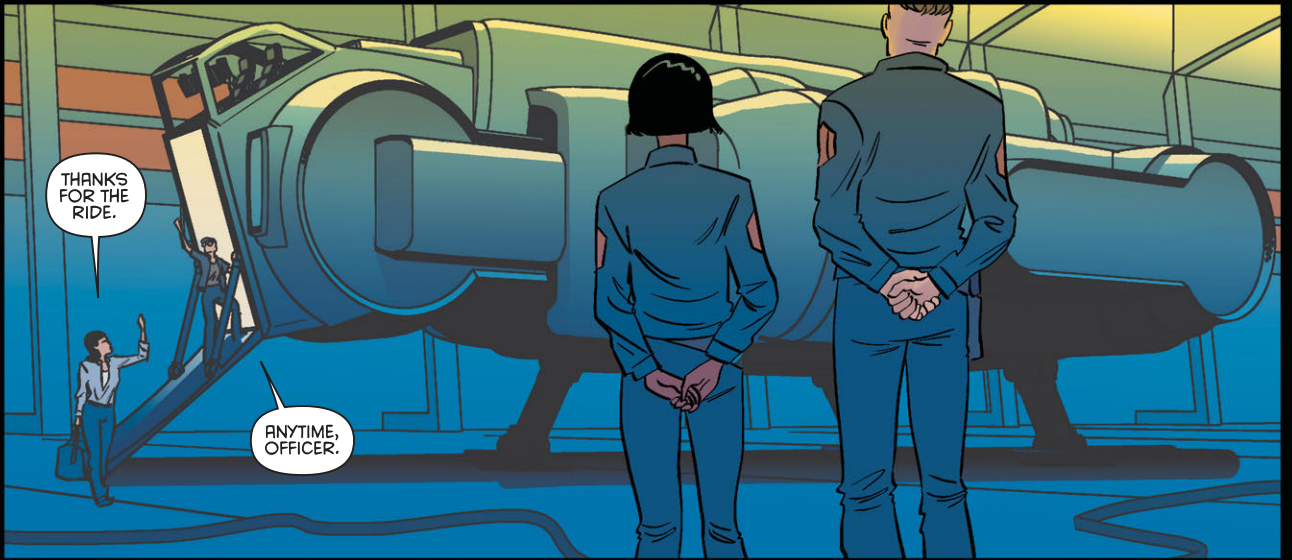


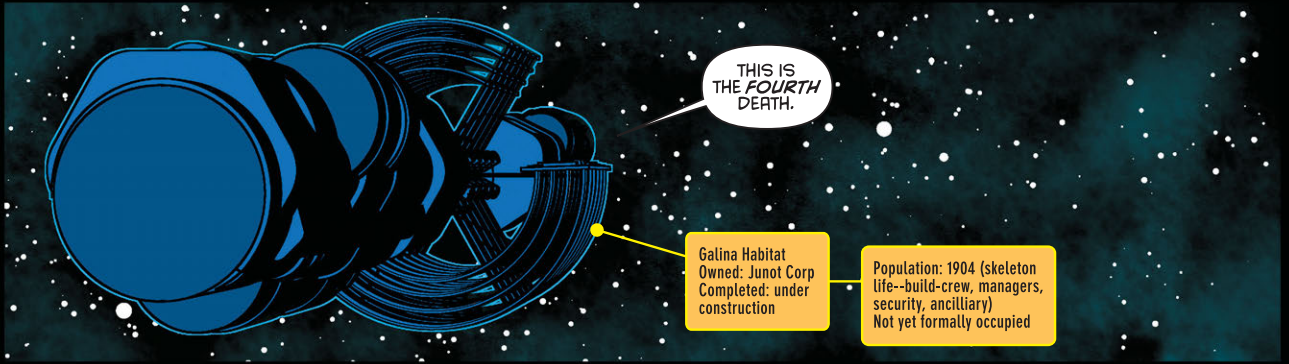
I *LIKE*
BEING ALONE.
I SPEND MOST
OF MY TIME IN
THIS RIG.

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

I *HEAR*
STUFF.







THIS IS
THE **FOURTH**
DEATH.

Galina Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: under construction

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



WELL, WE
THINK IT'S
A DEATH.

THINK?

Habitat Security
Division Operations
suite, Loop 3



NO
BODY
YET.

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

WE
HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO FIND
HIM.

DOESN'T
AUTOMATICALLY
MEAN HE'S
DEAD.

Bridget Kurtis
Freelance security consultant
Born: Salma Habitat 2067 AD

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

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

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



OKAY,
SO TRACK
HIS BIO-
MONITOR.

NO DICE.
SIGNAL
LAPSED.

DID
ANYONE
GO **LOOK**
FOR HIM?



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

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

COOL
DOWN,
GIBRANI.

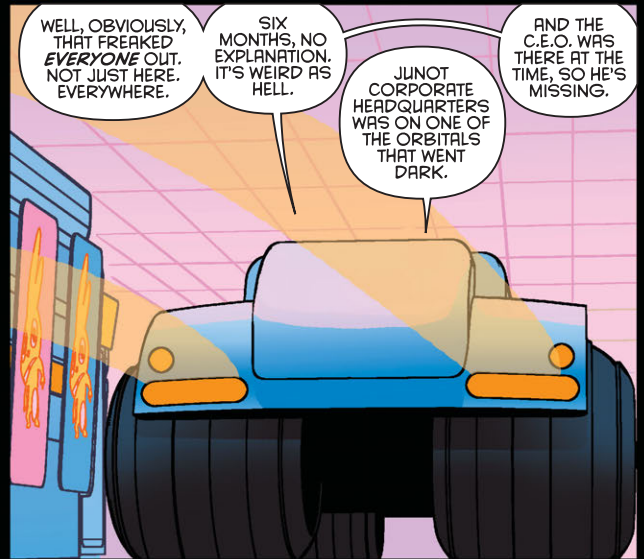
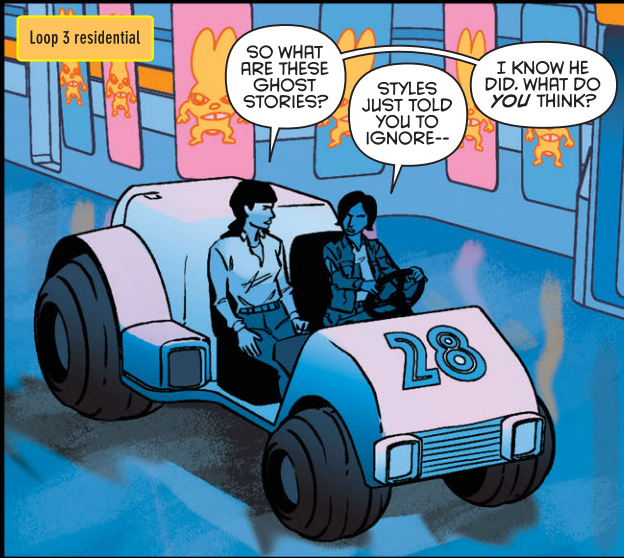
YES,
WE **DID**
LOOK,
KURTIS.

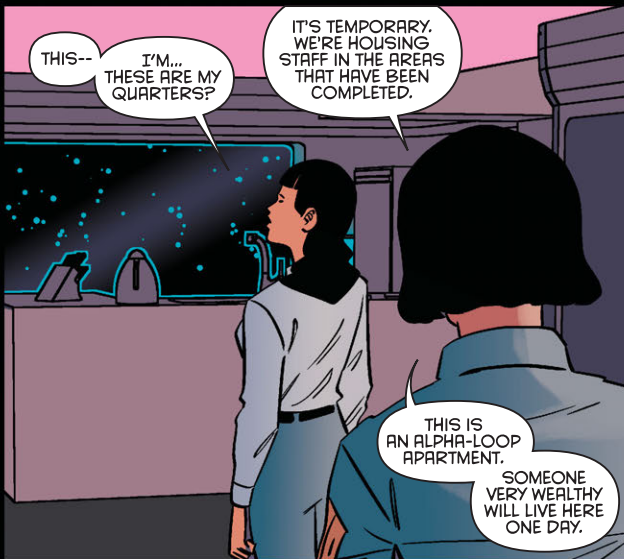
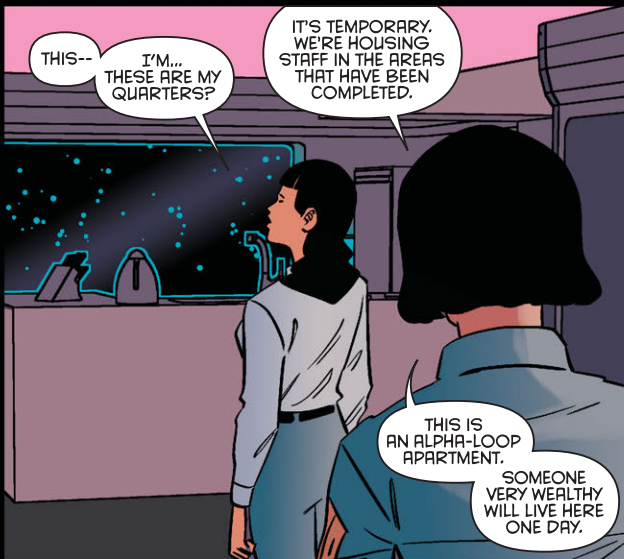


HAVE YOU
ANY IDEA HOW **FEW**
PEOPLE THERE ARE
HERE? AND HOW **BIG**
THIS PLACE IS?

OKAY.
FOUR
DEATHS?









YOU OKAY?

YEAH.

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



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

IT DOES YOUR HEAD IN.



I THINK THE RUMOURS HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS.

THE SOLITUDE?

THAT AND AGORAPHOBIA.

AND KENOPHOBIA.



WHAT ARE THE RUMOURS?

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

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



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

PEOPLE WHO SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

DEFINE "SHOULDN'T"?

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

OF TOO MANY PEOPLE ON BOARD.



"TOO MANY PEOPLE ON BOARD"?

YEAH. BASICALLY.



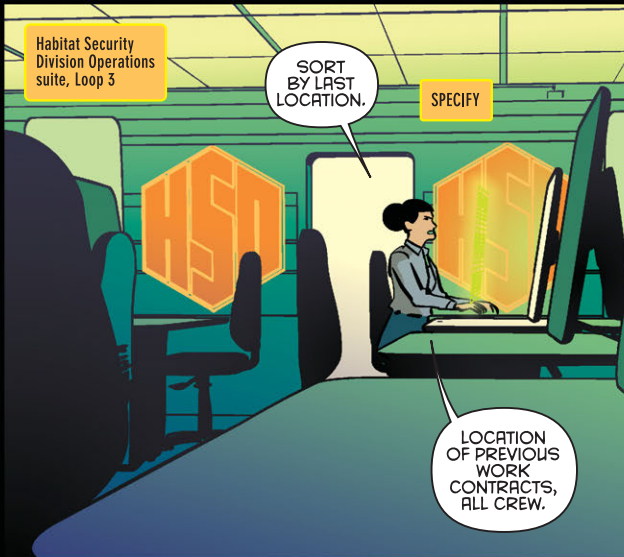
THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN THERE *SHOULD* BE.



Galina Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: under construction

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

PULL UP
WORK-CREW
PROFILES.



Habitat Security
Division Operations
suite, Loop 3

SORT
BY LAST
LOCATION.

SPECIFY

LOCATION
OF PREVIOUS
WORK
CONTRACTS,
ALL CREW.



YULIYA HABITAT:
FOUR HUNDRED
AND THIRTEEN

SALMA HABITAT:
EIGHTY-FOUR

KIROS HABITAT:
SEVENTEEN

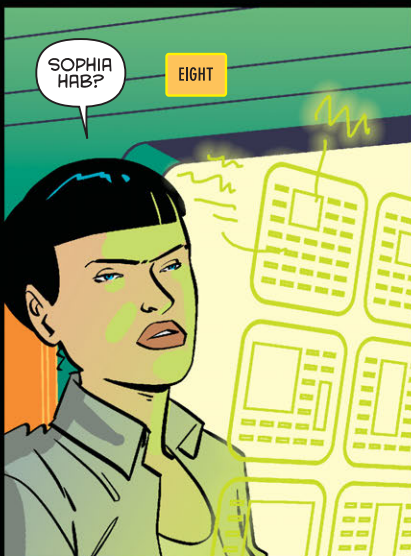
XIANG
HABITAT: SIX

PHOROS
HABITAT: FOUR

PAUSE
READBCK.

ANY PRIOR
WORK PLACEMENTS
FROM ODETTE HAB
OR LUDMILLA HAB?

NO RESULTS



SOPHIA
HAB?

EIGHT



PULL UP
REPORTS OF
HAUNTING.

QUERY?

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

NO RESULTS



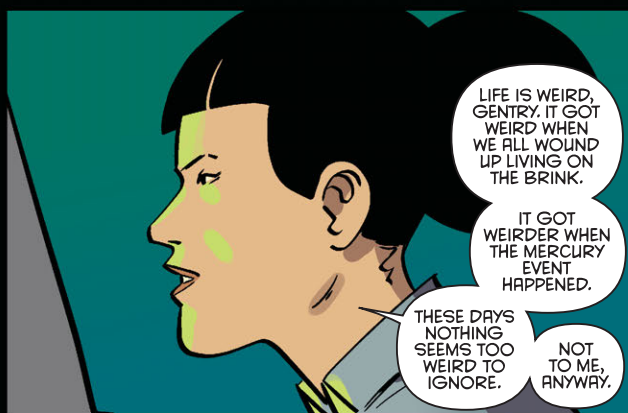
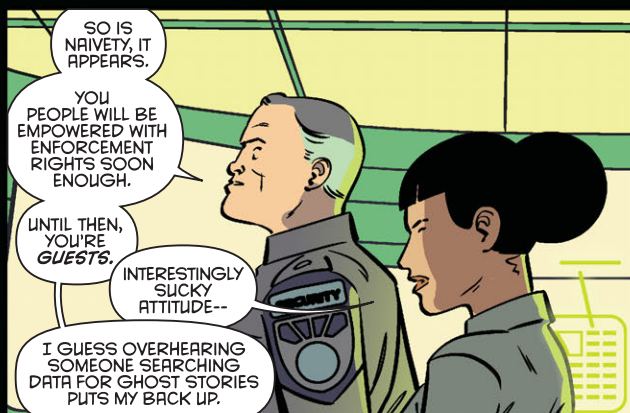
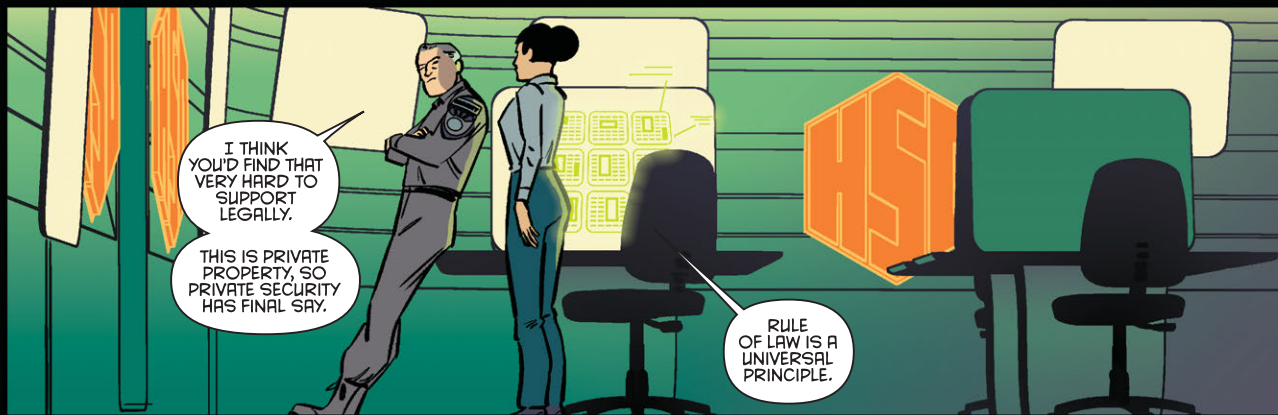
TRY...

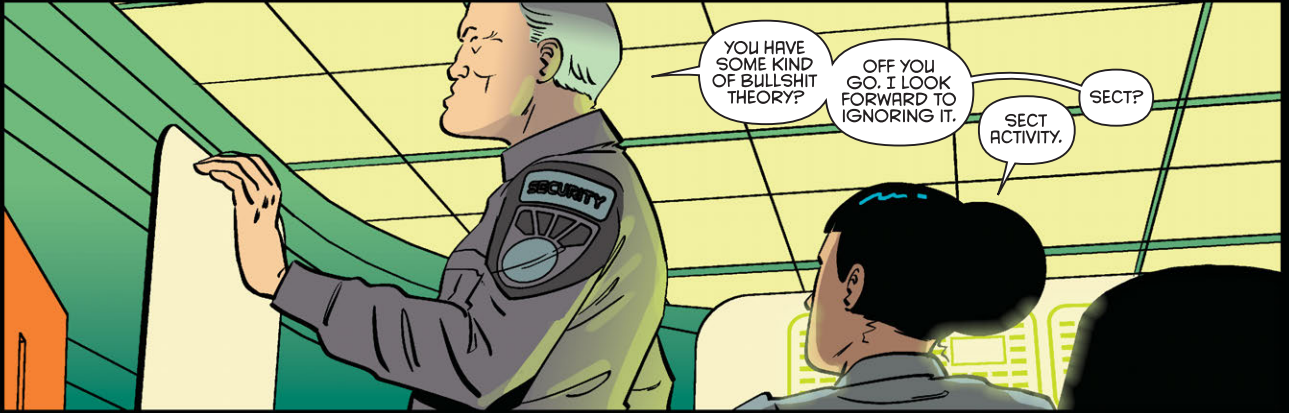
REPORTS OF UNKNOWN
PERSONNEL.

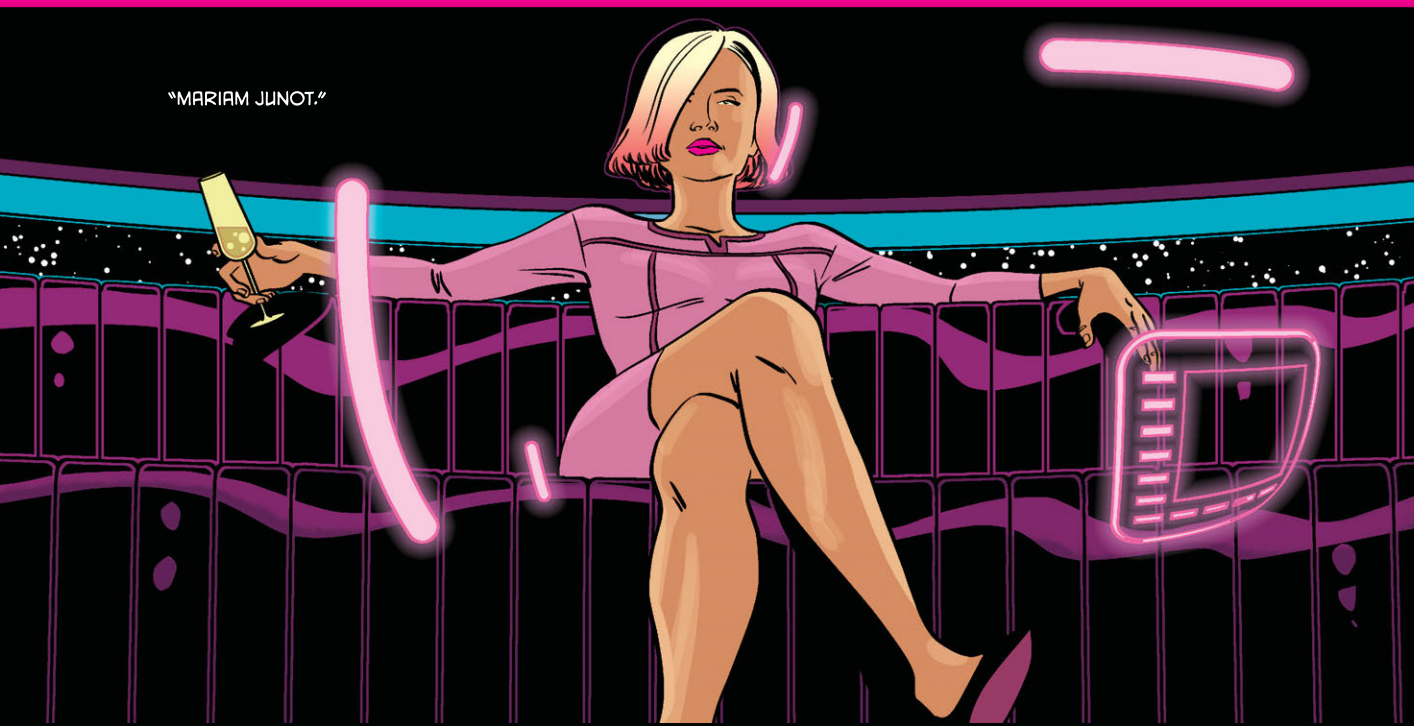
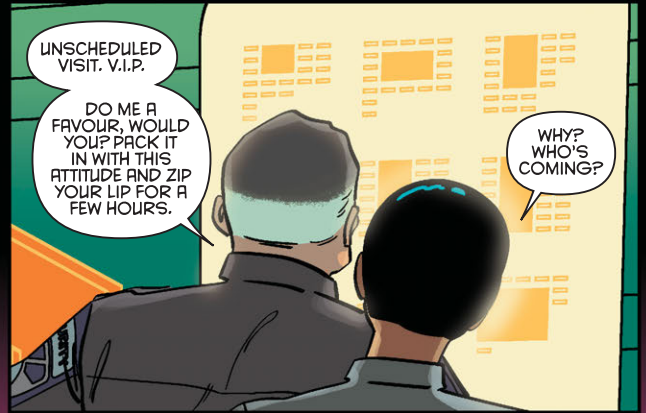
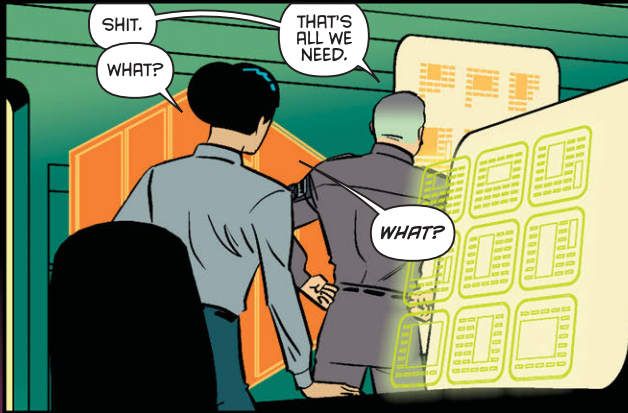
SPECIFY

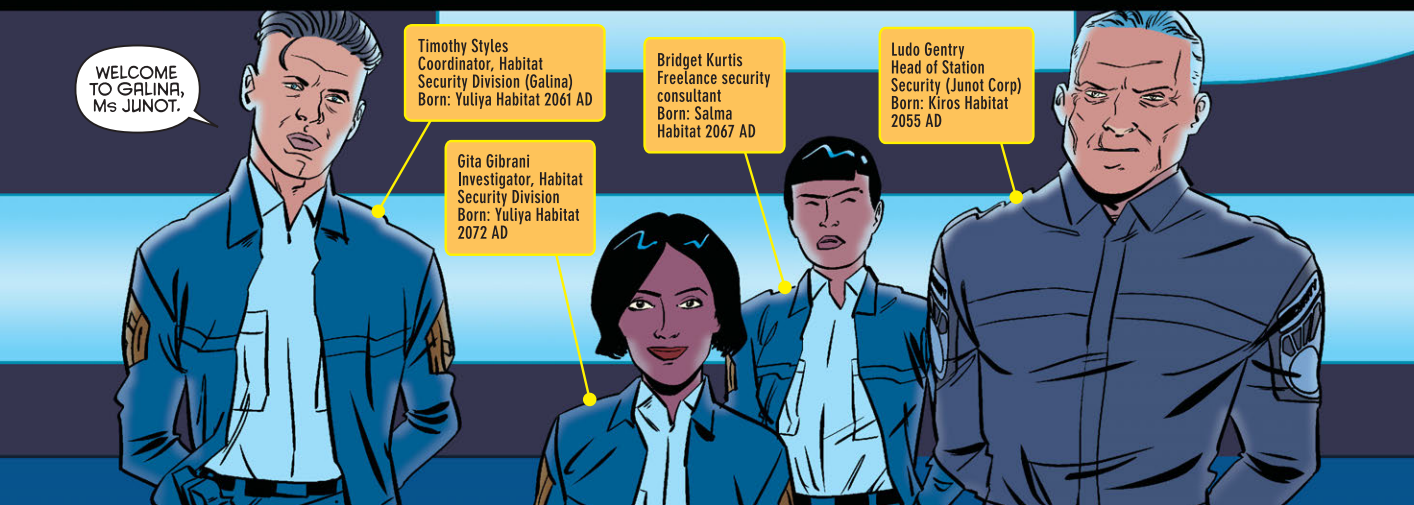
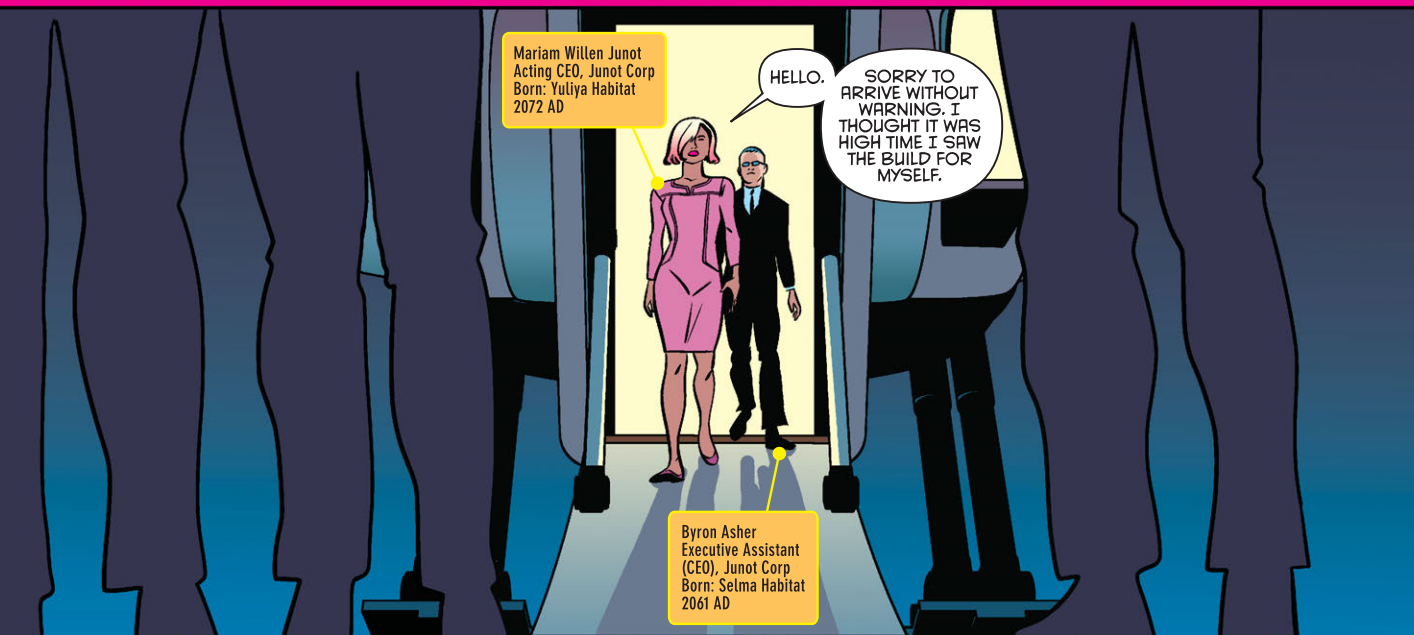
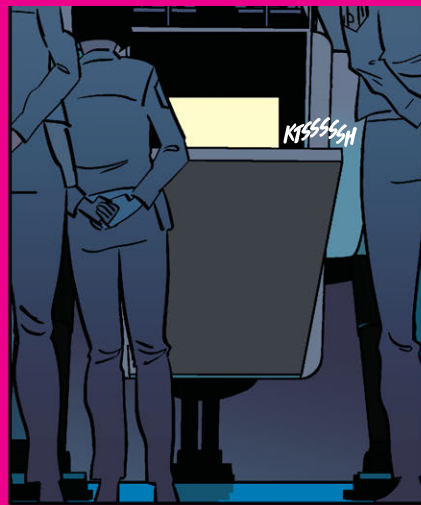
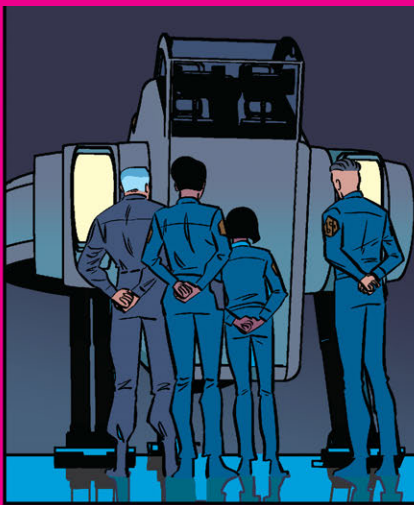
PEOPLE
WHO
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.

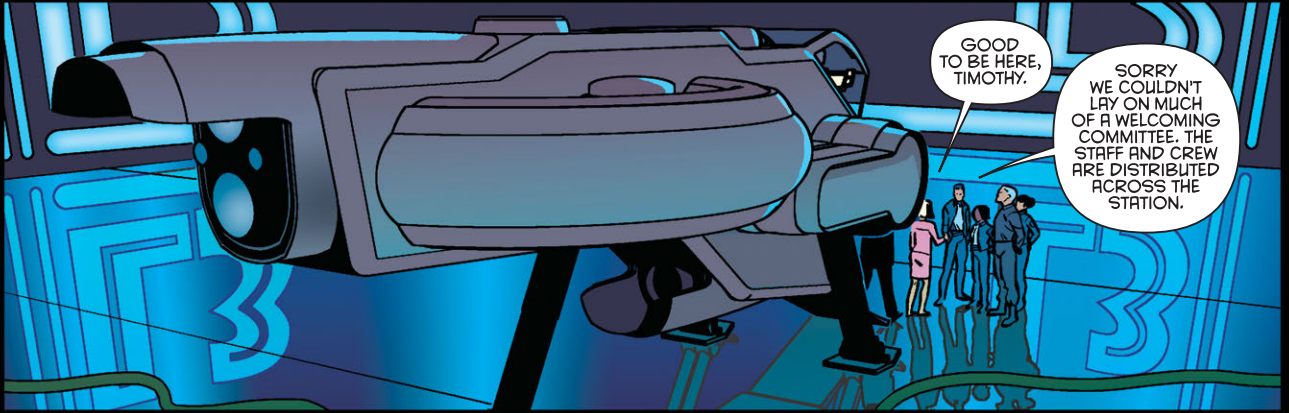












GOOD
TO BE HERE,
TIMOTHY.

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



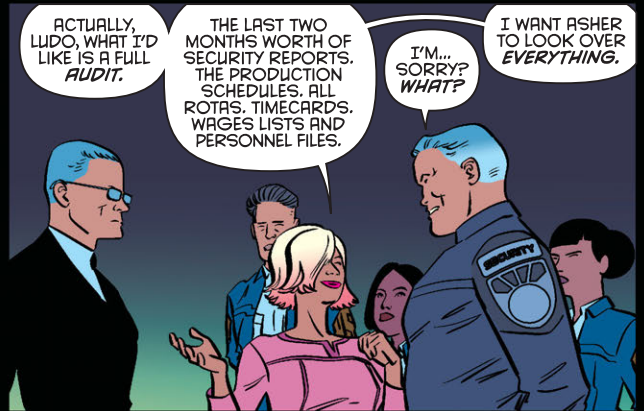
A FEW
FRIENDLY FACES
IS FINE, TIM.

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

BRIDGET
KURTIS--

KURTIS
IS A SECURITY
CONSULTANT.

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

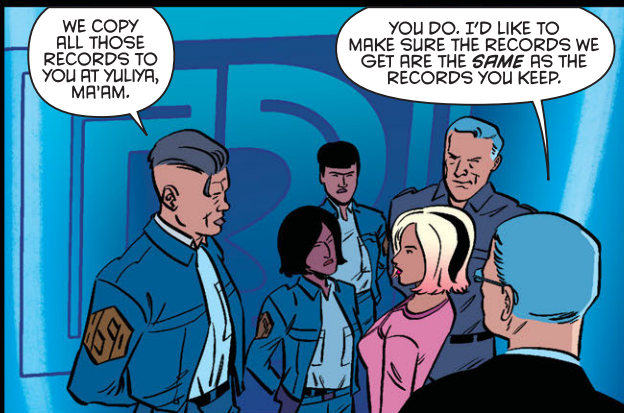


ACTUALLY,
LUDO, WHAT I'D
LIKE IS A FULL
AUDIT.

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

I'M...
SORRY?
WHAT?

I WANT ASHER
TO LOOK OVER
EVERYTHING.



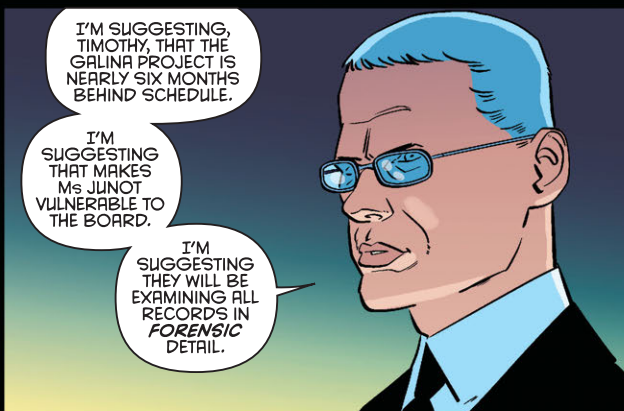
WE COPY
ALL THOSE
RECORDS TO
YOU AT YULIYA,
MA'AM.

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



WAIT
A MINUTE,
MR ASHER.

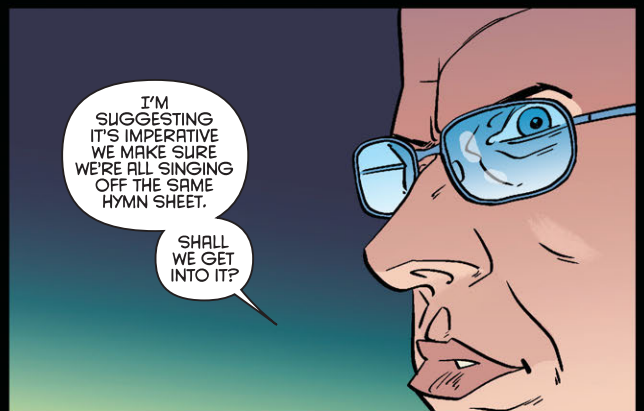
ARE YOU
SUGGESTING--



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

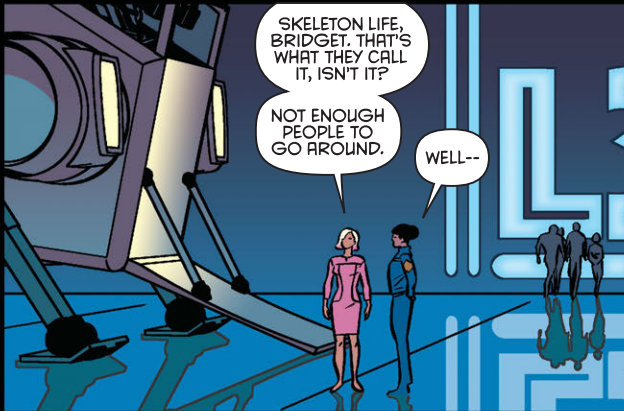
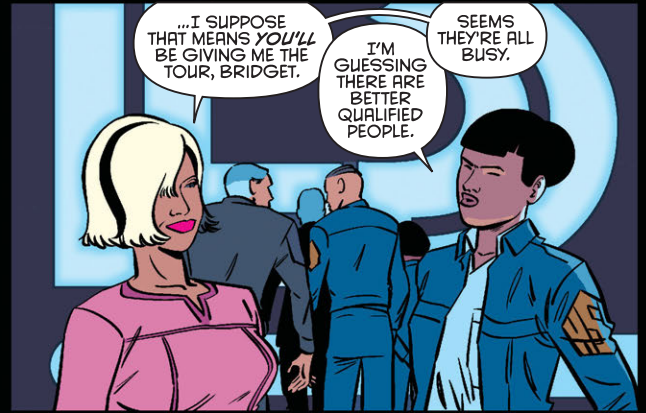
I'M
SUGGESTING
THAT MAKES
MS JUNOT
VULNERABLE TO
THE BOARD.

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



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

SHALL
WE GET
INTO IT?





YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

NOT AT ALL.

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

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



I INTEND TO ERADICATE THE PROBLEM.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

I... NO.

BUT YOU HAVE A THEORY.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ONE.



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

CAN YOU FIND HIM FOR ME?



TRACELET SAYS LINTON IS CURRENTLY IN LOOP EIGHT.



CAN YOU FIND THAT?

SHOULDN'T BE HARD.



WHAT IS YOUR THEORY, BRIDGET?

YOU THINK THIS IS SECT?

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



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

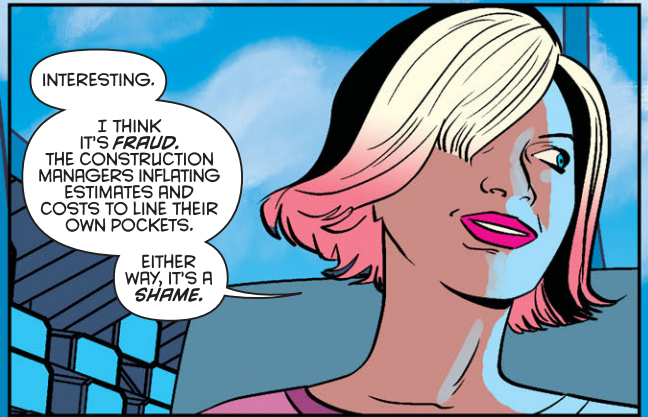
I THINK THIS HAS THE HALLMARKS.



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

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

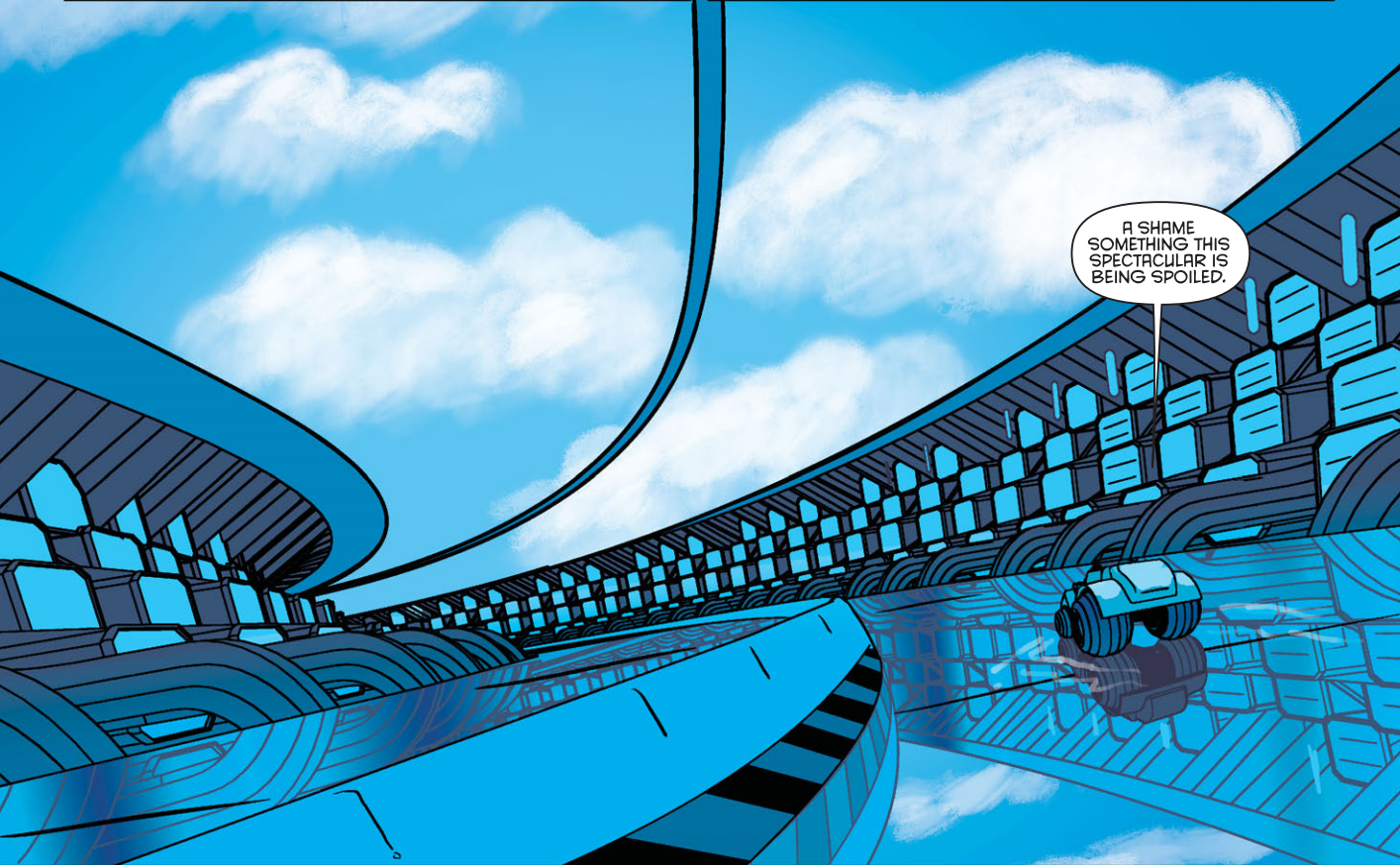
THAT COULD BE ENOUGH TO DISRUPT THE WORK SCHEDULE.



INTERESTING.

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

EITHER WAY, IT'S A **SHAME**.



A SHAME SOMETHING THIS SPECTACULAR IS BEING SPOILED.

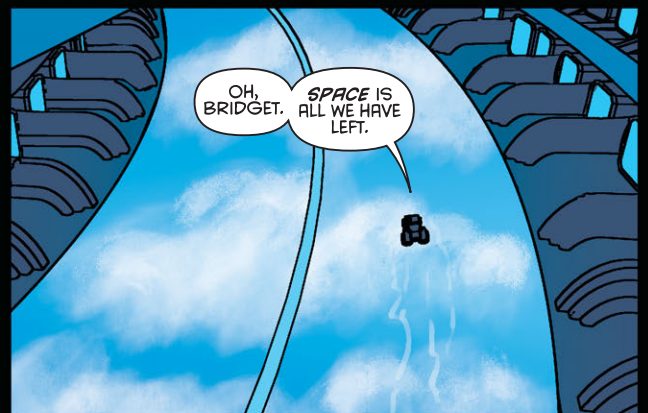


YOU'RE NOT ENJOYING THE VIEW.

YOU DON'T APPRECIATE THE GRANDEUR?

FRANKLY, IT MAKES ME FEEL ILL.

TOO BIG. TOO MUCH SPACE.



OH, BRIDGET.

SPACE IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT.

Loop Eight

Galina Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: under construction

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



GOD
HELP ME.





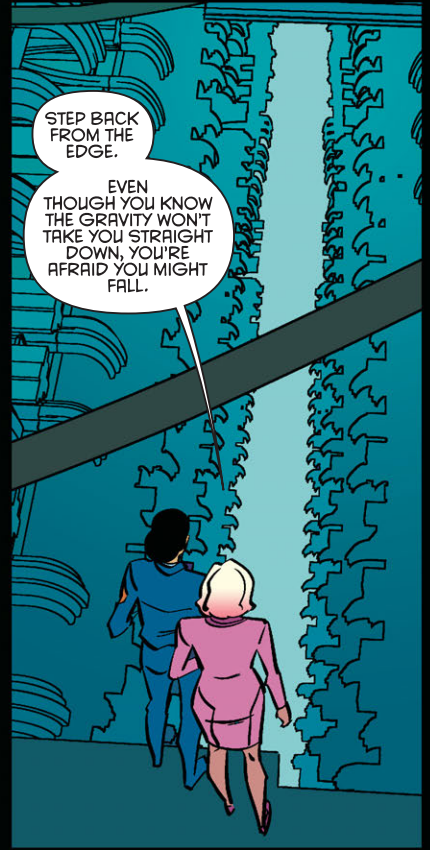
VERTIGO,
BRIDGET?

AND
THEN
SOME.



WHY DOES
IT HAVE TO BE
SO BIG?

SO THAT
EVERYBODY
HAS ROOM.



STEP BACK
FROM THE
EDGE.

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



THAT'S
NOT IT AT
ALL.

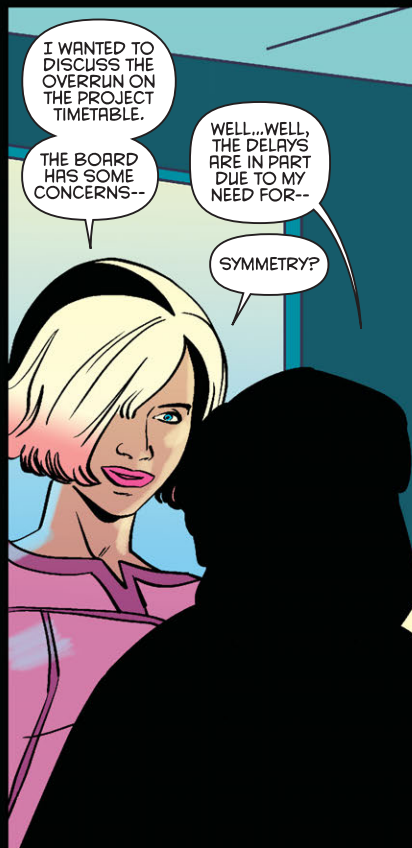
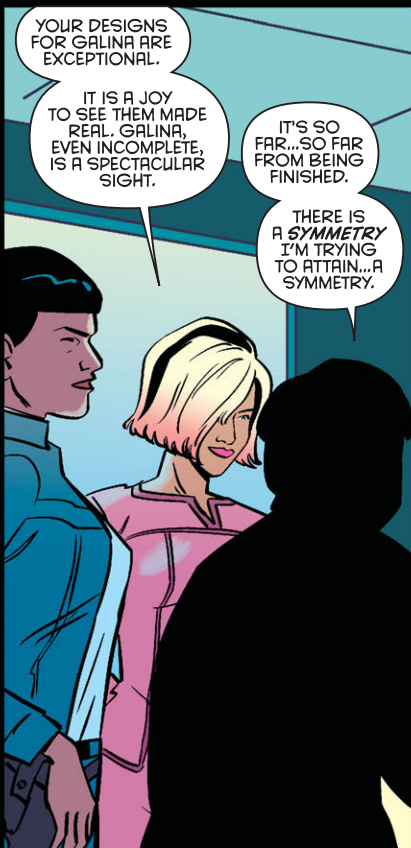
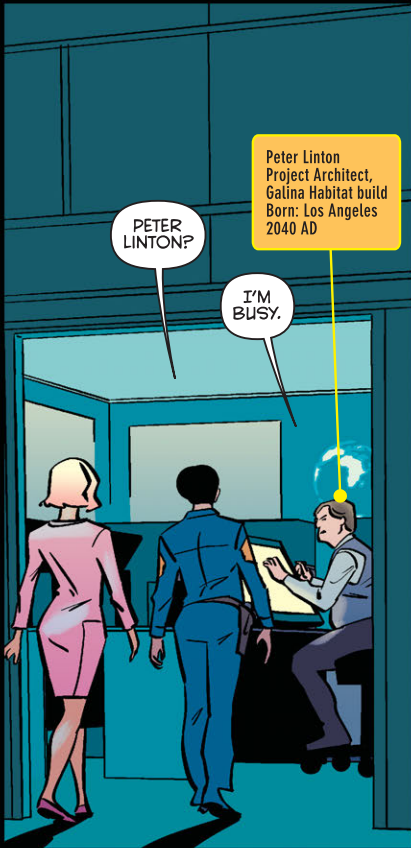


I'M
AFRAID I
MIGHT
JUMP.

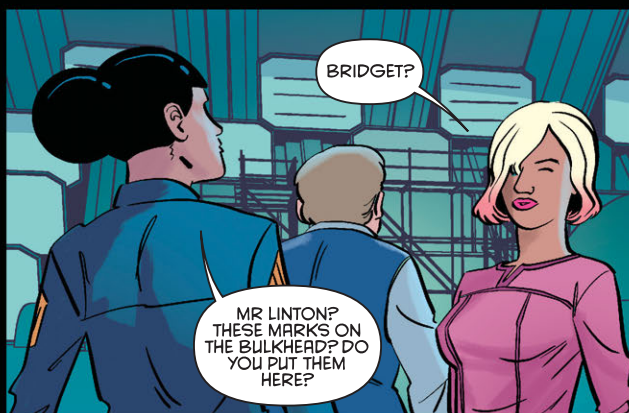
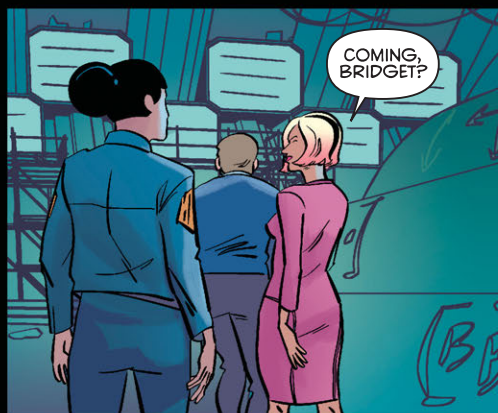


YOU
EVER GET
THAT?

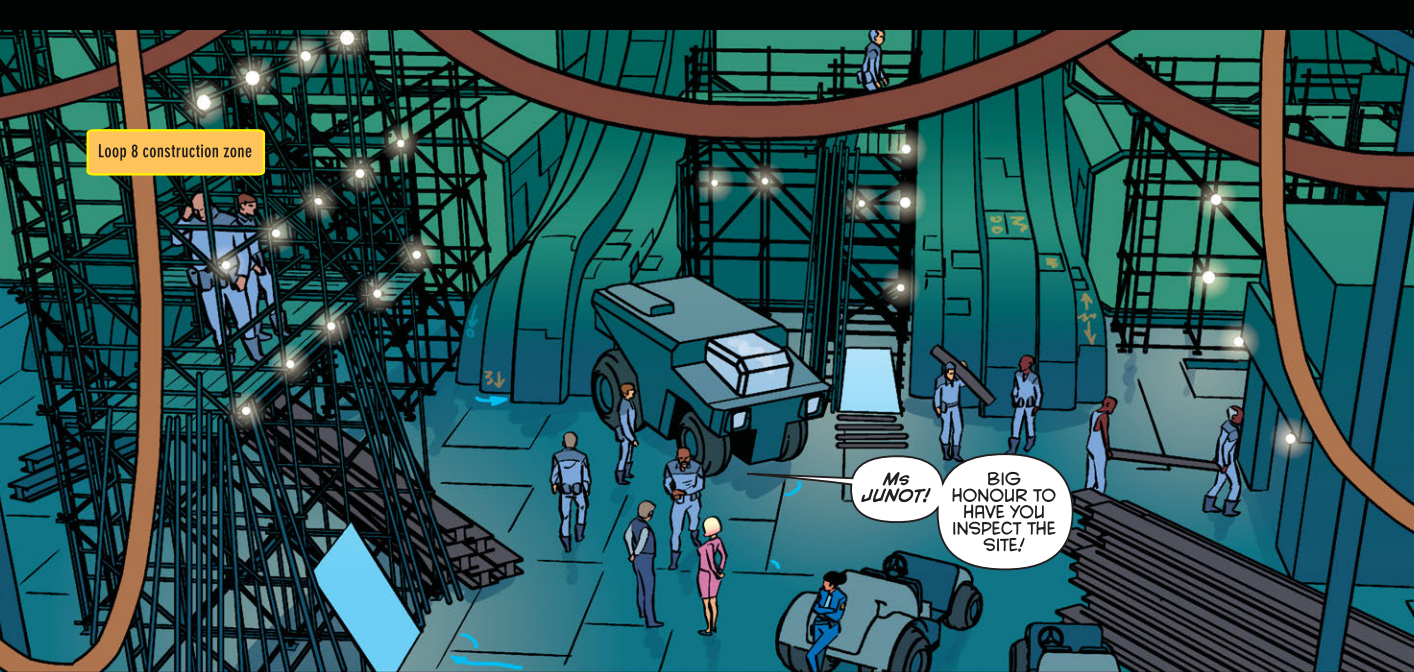
YES.
ALL THE
TIME.







Loop 8 construction zone



Ms JUNOT!

BIG HONOUR TO HAVE YOU INSPECT THE SITE!



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

HE TURNS MY DREAMS INTO REALITY.

MR OTIS. YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU.

ALL GOOD, I HOPE! HA HA!

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

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



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

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE, GIBRANI?



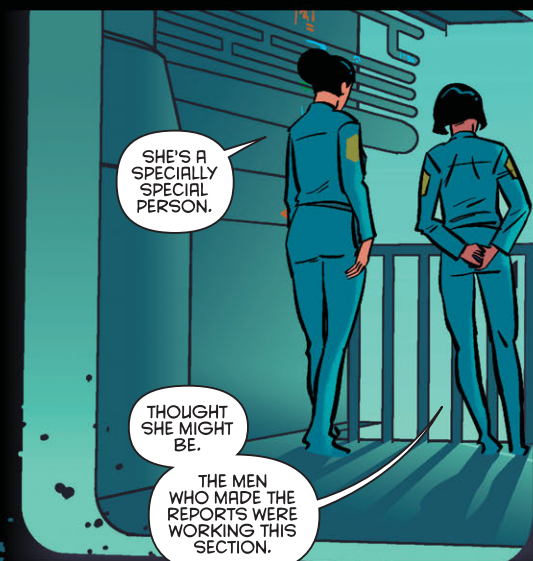
GOT SOME NEW REPORTS THIS MORNING. CAME DOWN TO INSPECT.

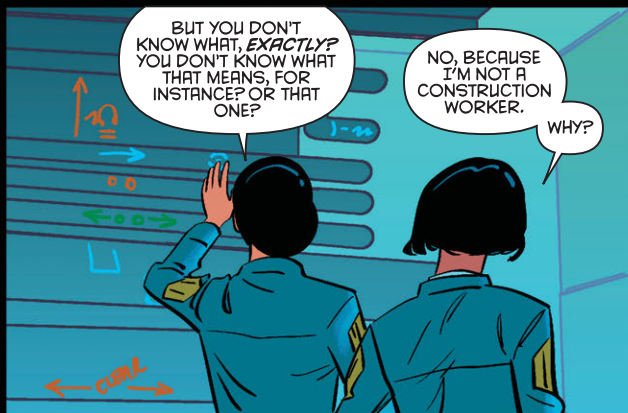
REPORTS?

DON'T MAKE ME SAY THE WORD.

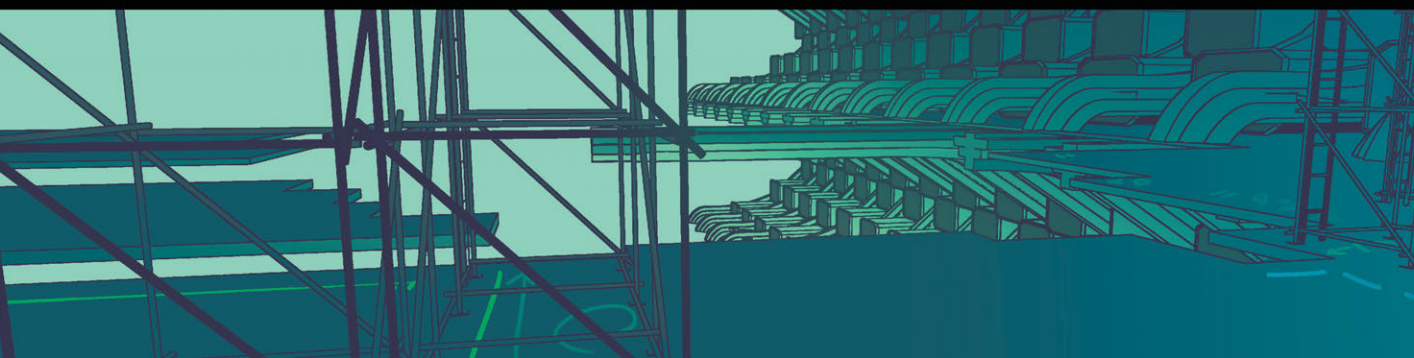
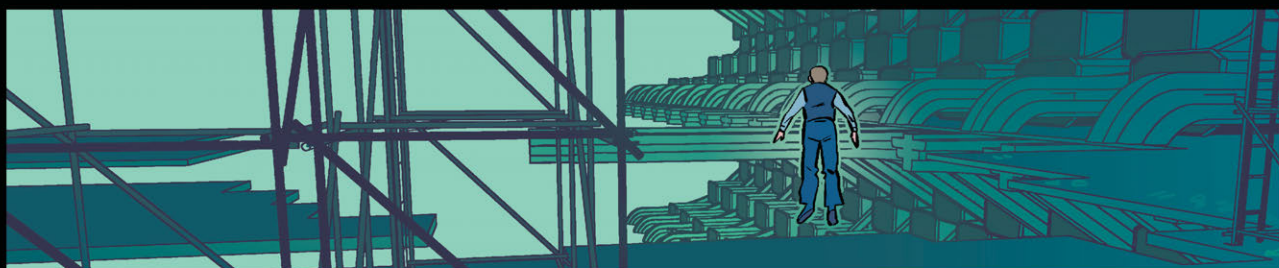
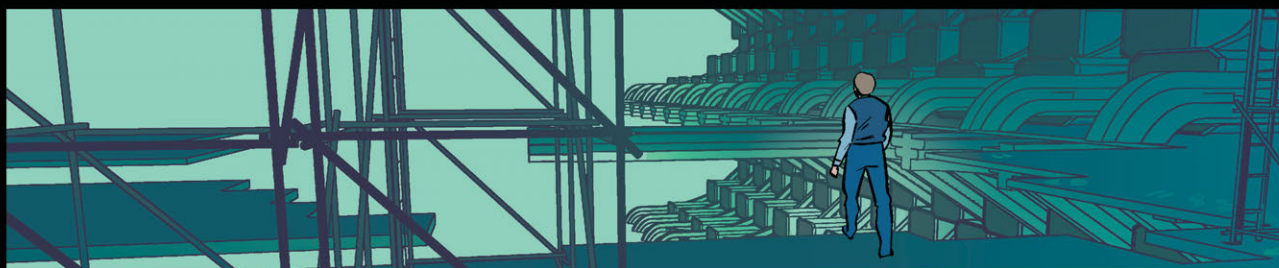
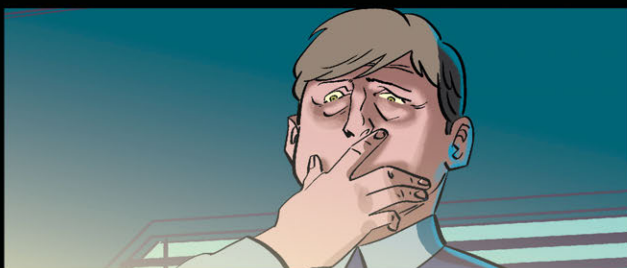


Ms JUNOT? I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.





Loop 8 construction
office, 23.52 Hrs.





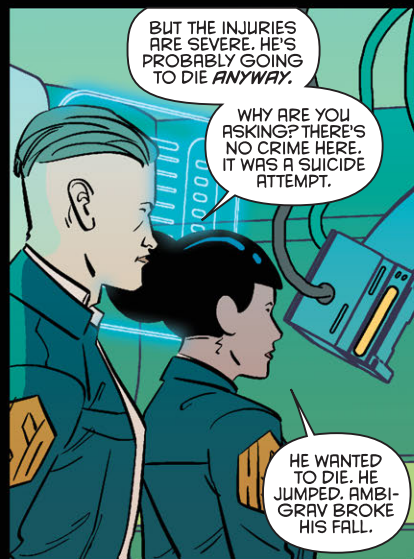
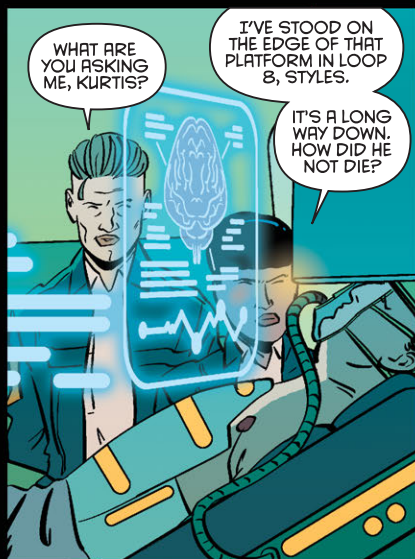
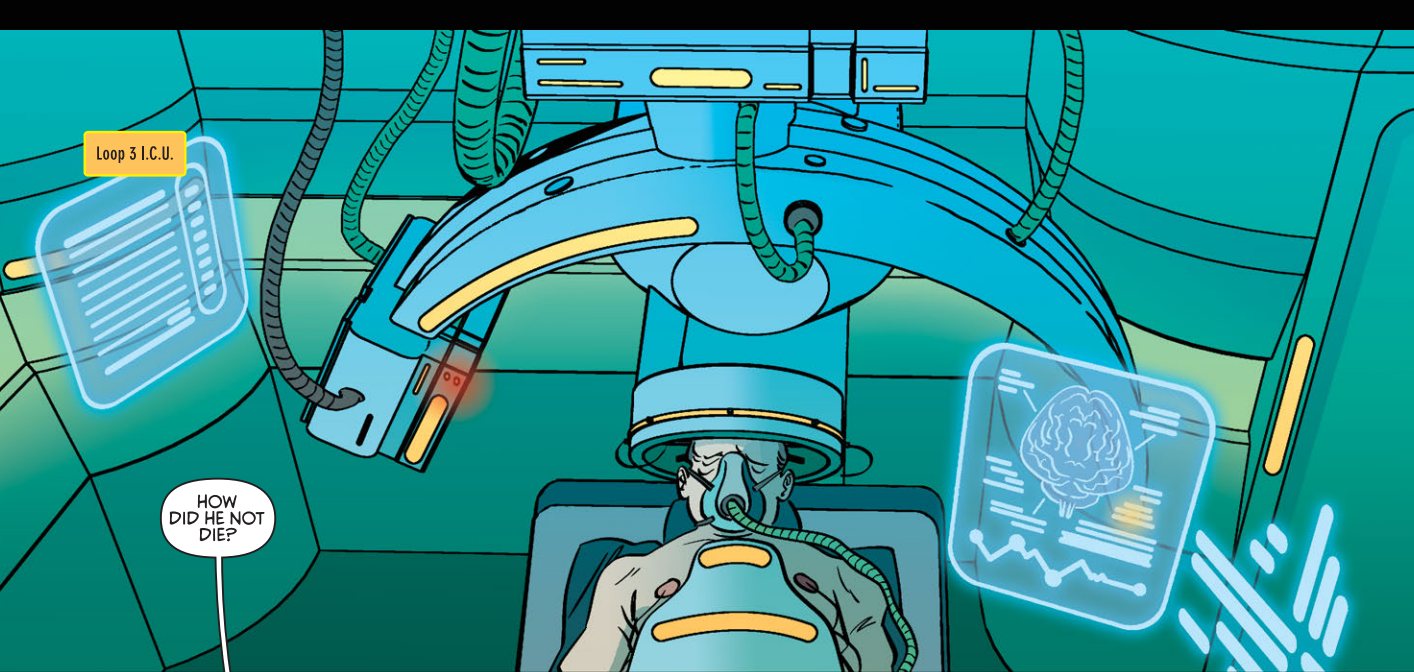
Kurtis's accommodation,
Loop 3 residential, 00.45 Hrs.

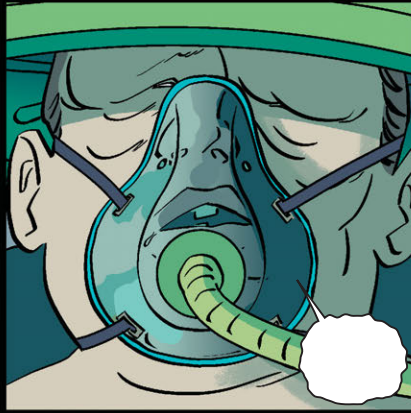


IT'S GITA,
CAN YOU
COME DOWN
HERE?

PETER LINTON
JUST JUMPED
OFF A PLATFORM
IN LOOP 8.









Loop 8 construction zone

YOU
THINK THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
THE BUILD?

I DON'T
KNOW.





Loop 8 sublevel

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND?

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



I WAS HOPING...

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

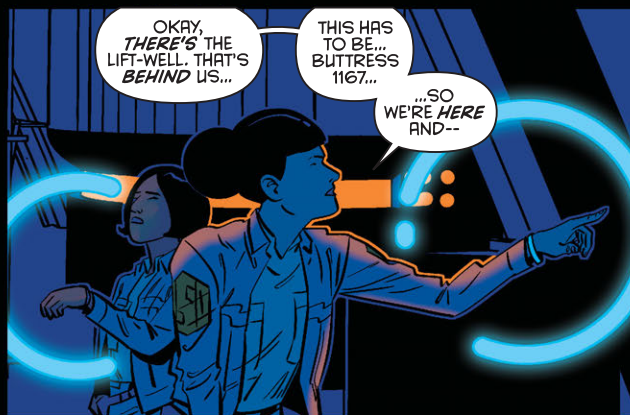
Y-HUH. DOES IT?



I DON'T KNOW.

IS THIS *THAT*?

NO IDEA.



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

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

...SO WE'RE *HERE* AND--



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

KURTIS? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?



LOW THETA



OH SHIT.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

NOTHING.

BUT YOU'RE FREAKING OUT.



THERE'S ANOTHER ONE HERE.

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

WHAT DOES "LOW THETA" MEAN?



I MEANS NOTHING. IT'S NONSENSE.

BUT--

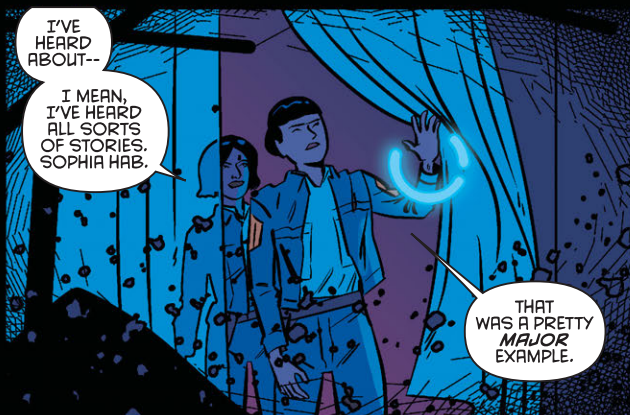
LOOK, IT BROUGHT UP SOME MEMORIES, OKAY? MY LAST MURDER CASE ON LUDMILLA. SUSPECTED SECT ACTIVITY.



YOUR FILE SAID IT WAS SOLVED.

WHAT? YES.

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



I'VE HEARD ABOUT--

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

THAT WAS A PRETTY MAJOR EXAMPLE.



YOU BRIEFED ON SECT CRIME, GIBRANI?

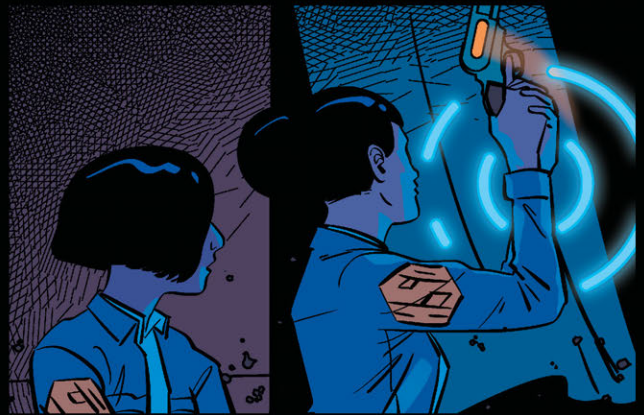
WE DON'T--

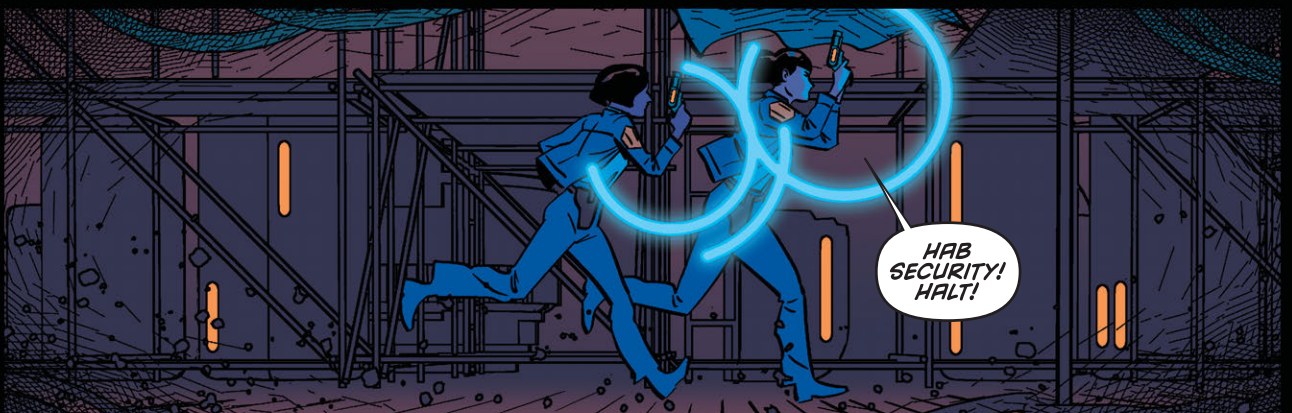
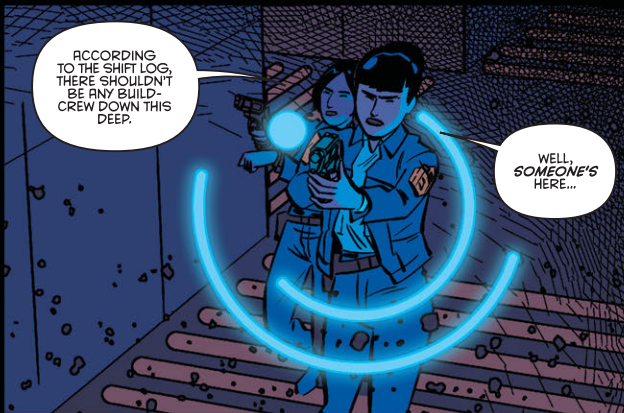
NOT SO MUCH. WE HAVEN'T HAD THAT KIND OF PROBLEM ON YULIYA.

YOU PROBABLY HAVE.

IT'S WIDESPREAD.











DON'T
MOVE.

DO. NOT.
MOVE.



PLEASE.
NOT HURT.



DROP
THE FRIGGING
WRENCH AND
WE'LL NOT
HURT.



KANG



YOU
GOT A
NAME?

NAME IS
KYRIL.



NO IDENT
ON THE CREW
MANIFEST.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

WE TO
WORK. TO
BE BUILD.





ALL OF
MANY.

JESUS.



OH,
THIS IS **GREAT**.
UNREGISTERED
WORKERS.

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

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



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

THEY'RE
BASICALLY
PAYING THEM
IN FOOD.

THIS
IS HUGE,
KURTIS. YOU
REALISE?

THE
REPORT WILL
SCREW JUNOT
AND--



WAIT
AND
THINK.

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

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

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

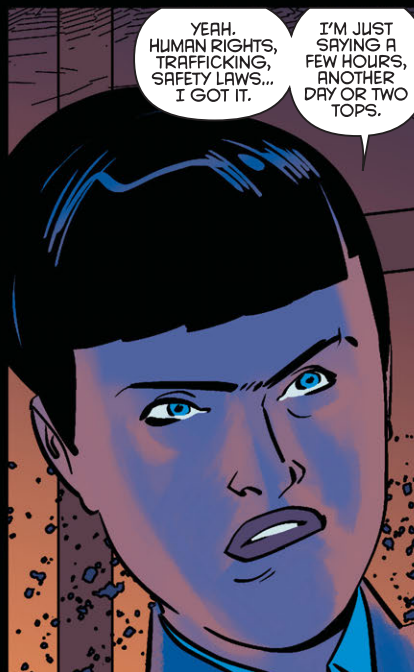


SOMEONE
HIGHER UP,
I SAID.

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

YOU'RE
SAYING WE
SHOULD SIT
ON THIS?

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



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

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



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

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



WHERE...
WHERE
WOULD WE
START?

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

OKAY.



THIS IS
THE BEST
WAY.

OKAY.

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



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

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



Galina Habitat
Owned: Junot Corp
Completed: Under construction

Dock sixty-eight

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

YOU
FOUND
WHAT?

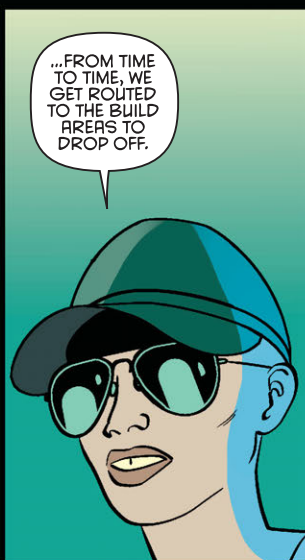
MIGRANT
WORKERS.
UNDOCUMENTED.
LIVING LIKE RATS
IN THE BILGE
DECKS.

HOLY *CRAP*.
HOW DID THEY
GET HERE?

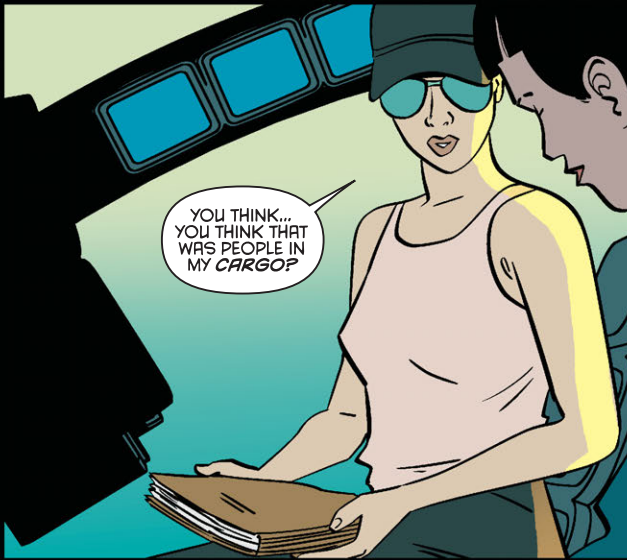
Philomena "Fil" Epps
L.T.V. driver
Born: Yuliya Habitat
2069 AD

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

WAIT.
YOU DON'T
THINK I--







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



YES.

GOD.



LOOK,
HERE.

THE RECENT
DROP-OFF
SCHEDULE.

THESE ARE
THE UNUSUAL
DELIVERY
SITES?



YEP. LOOP
EIGHT INDUSTRIAL.
LOOP NINE
SERVICEWAY.

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



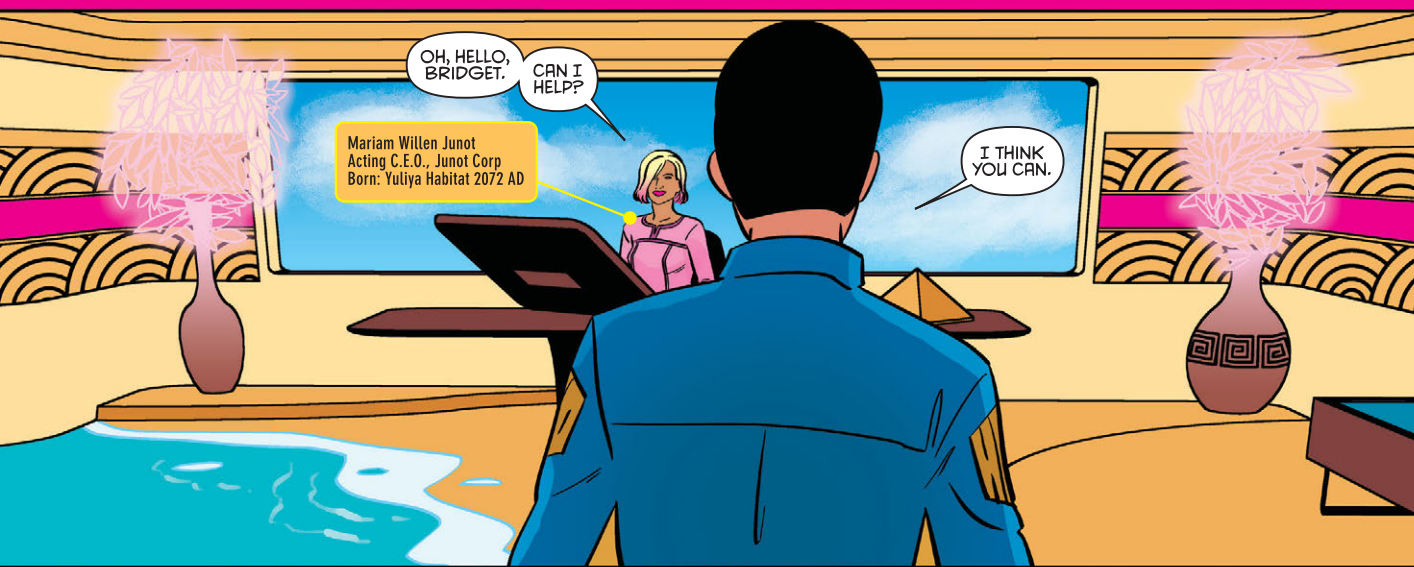
IS THERE AN
AUTHORITY ON
THOSE LOADING
ORDERS?

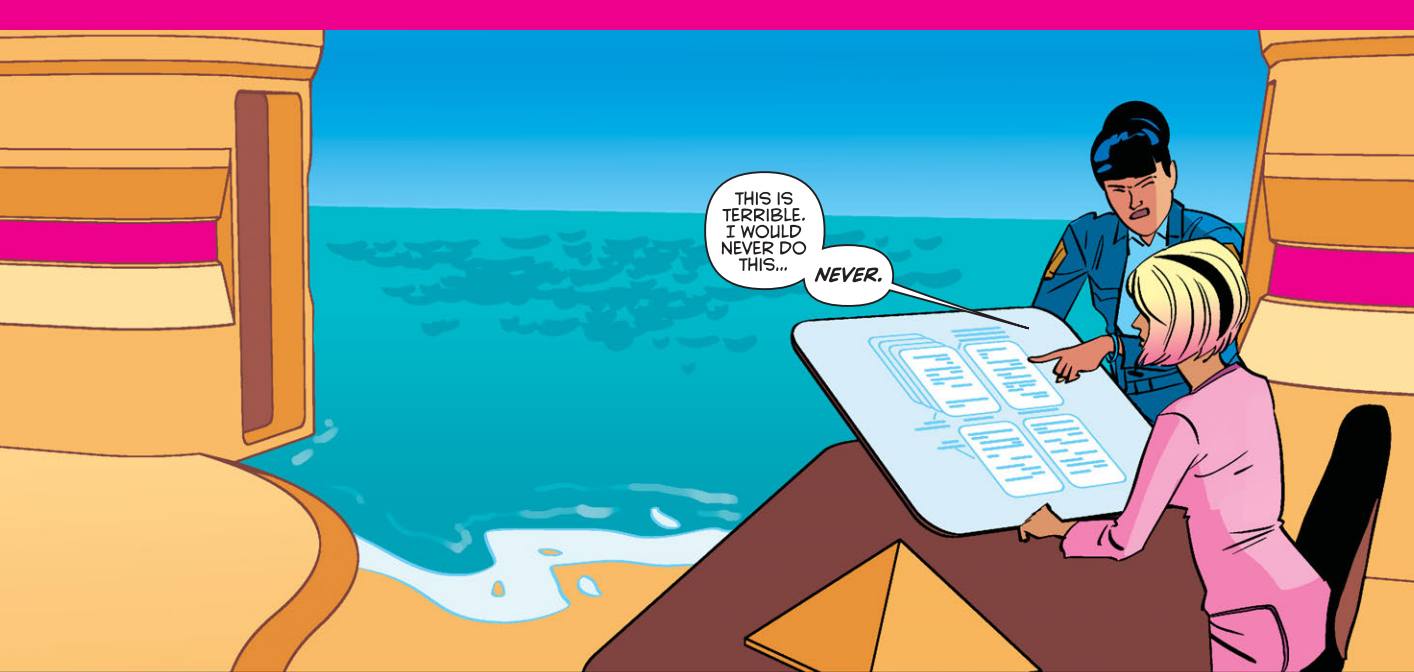
YEAH.



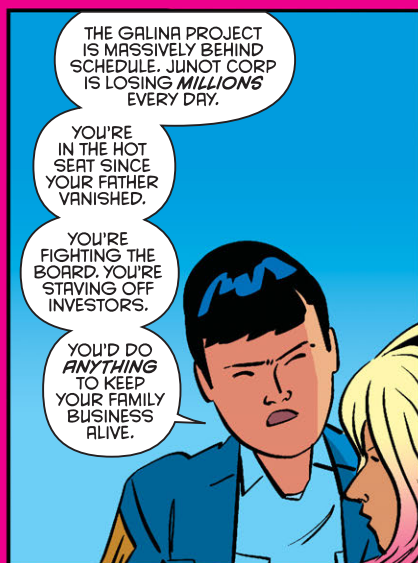
JUNOT
CORPS.
UPPER-LEVEL
CLEARANCE.

THE
PRINCESS
HERSELF.





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



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

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

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

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



LIKE SMUGGLE IN SLAVES TO SHAVE BUILD COSTS?

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



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

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

PLEASE DON'T FINISH THAT.



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

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS--



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

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

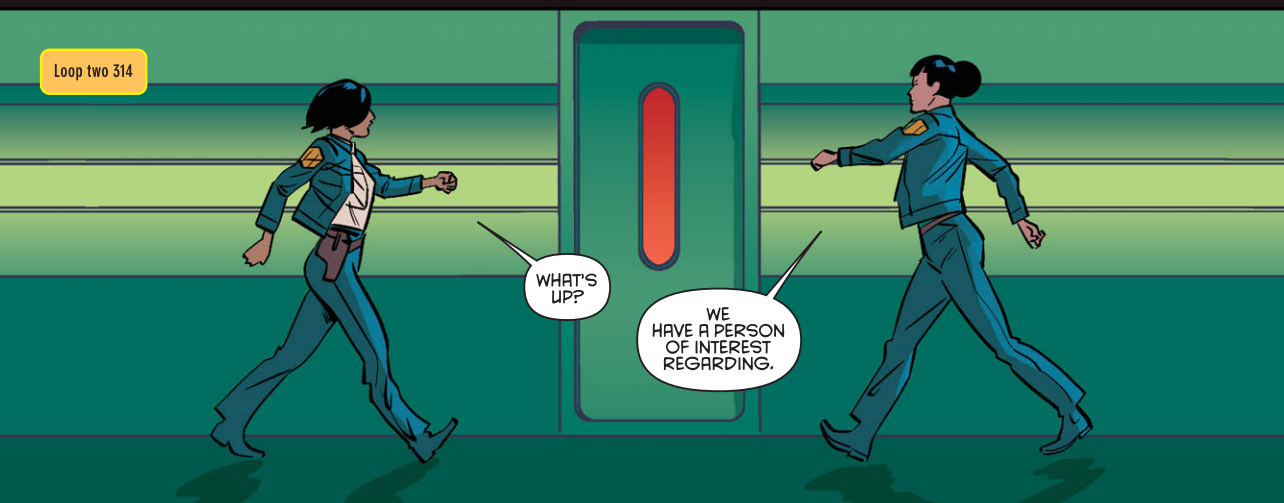
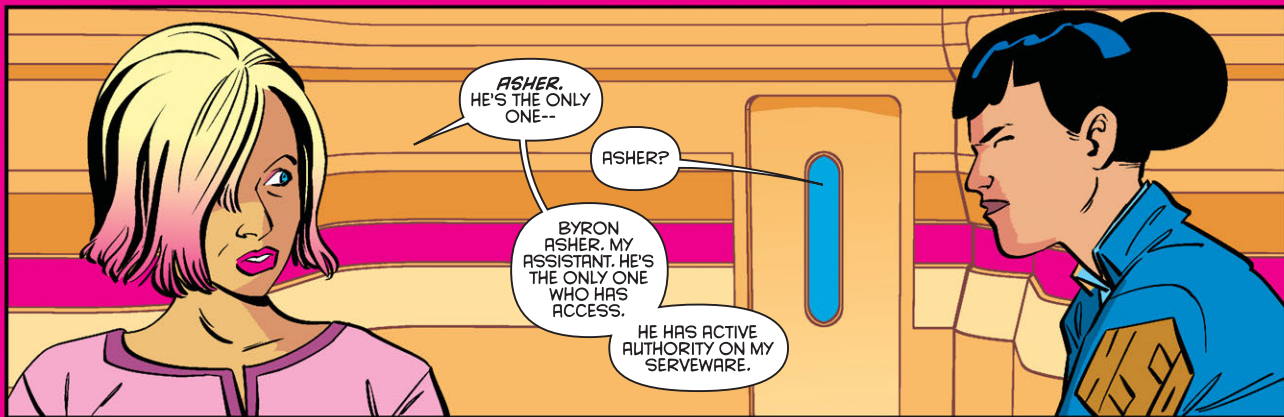
AND IF I *DID*, I'D DAMN WELL COVER MY TRACKS.



SO WHAT? IT'S SOMEONE ELSE?

SOMEONE ELSE USED YOUR CODES?

WHO?









THAT AN ADMISSION?

Y-YES.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?



NOTHING. EXCEPT MY JOB. MY LIFE.

I WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM THE BOARD.

THE JUNOT BOARD?

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



I JUST DID WHAT THEY TOLD ME TO DO!

I THINK IT'S A SNOW JOB.

TO DISGRACE MARIAM?



WHY ELSE WOULD THEY HAVE LEFT THE BREADCRUMBS?

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

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

I WAS JUST TOLD TO--



KURTIS? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

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

AGAIN, WHAT?



THEY WANT HER ACTUALLY GONE.

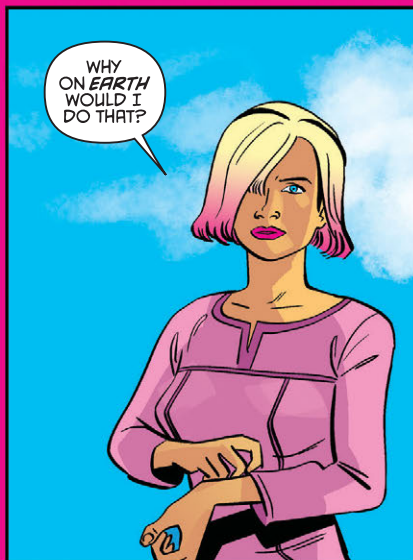
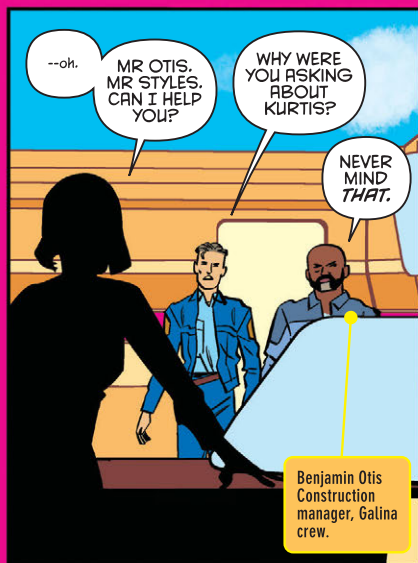
GETTING HER HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY.

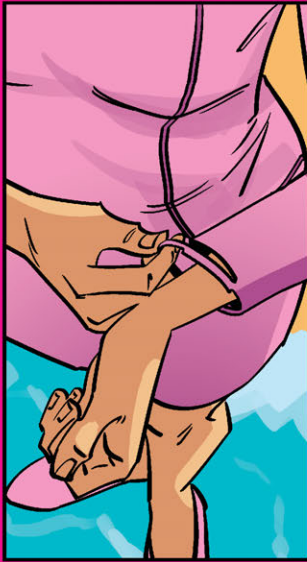
TO WHAT?

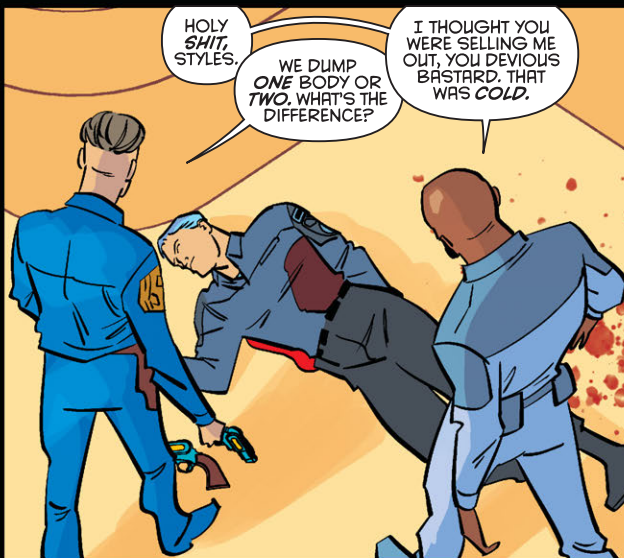
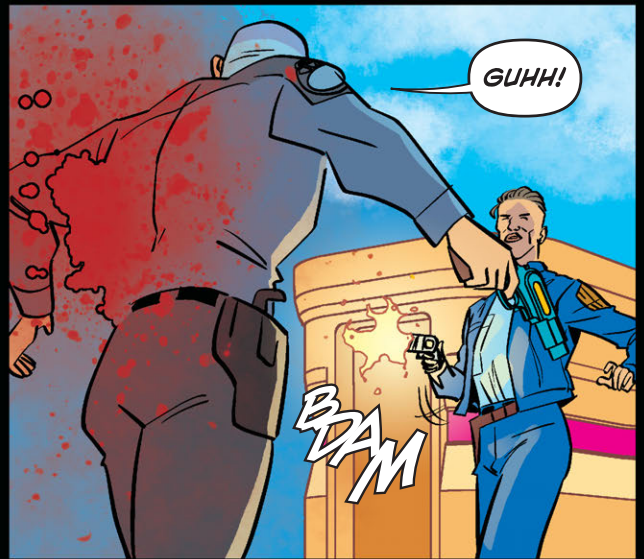
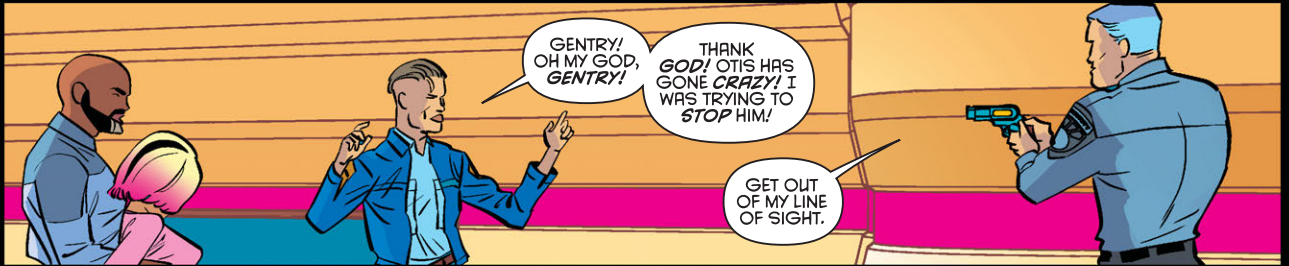
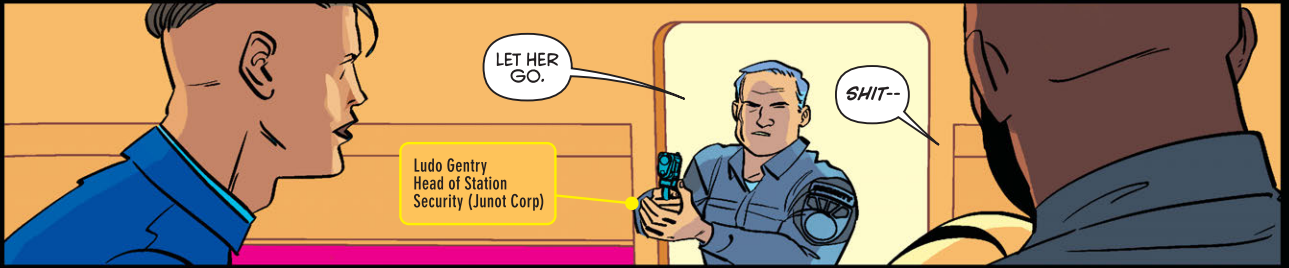
OH BALLBAGS. THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HER.

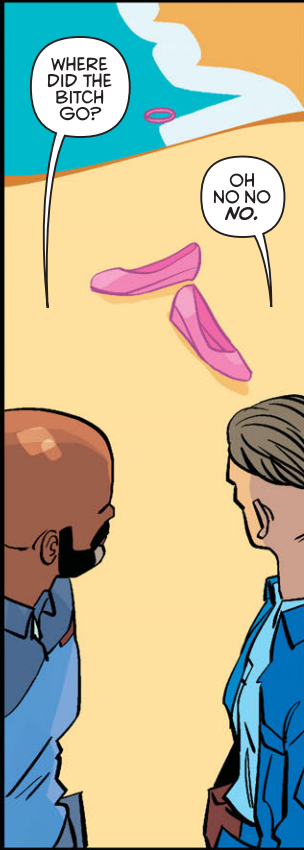
Loop three residential.

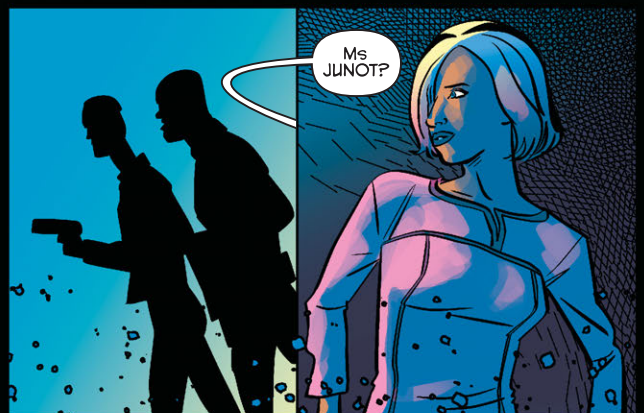
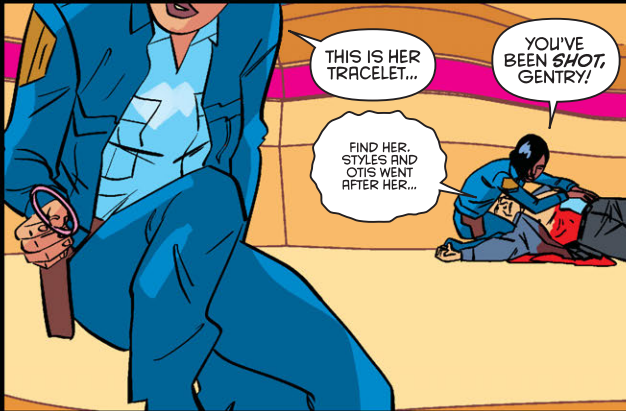
KURTIS?
WHAT DID
YOU--













Loop 4
construction
zone.

Ms
JUNOT?

GET
OUT HERE.
THIS ISN'T
FUNNY ANY
MORE.

Ms JUNOT?
MARIAM?

WE CAN
OFFER YOU
A WAY *OUT*
OF THIS.

SMELL THAT?
ANY OF YOUR
CREW WEAR
GIVENCHY?

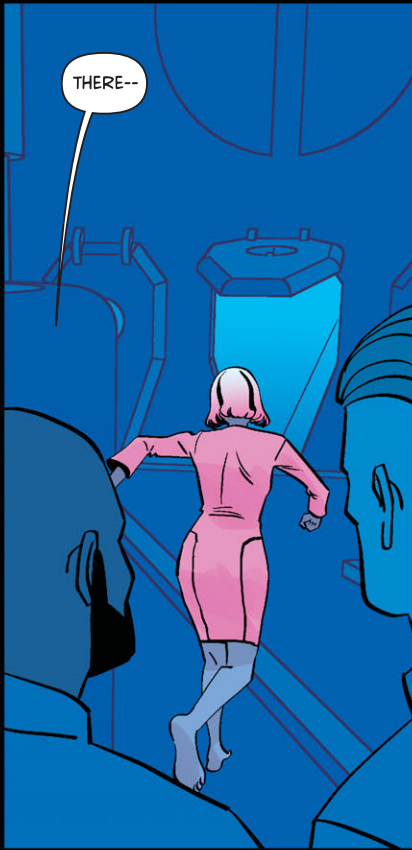
Hah.
NO.

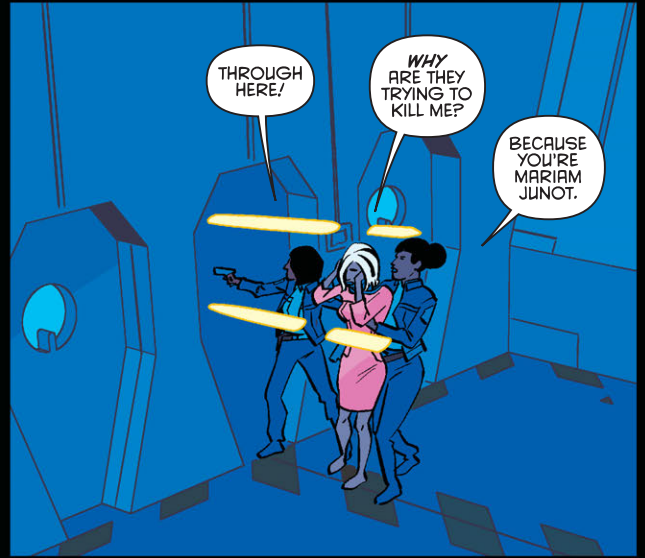
BACK
THERE.

OH
GOD!

BDAMBDAM

BDAMBDAMBDAM







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

WHAT THE HELL...?



SET?

ARMED AND COUNTING.

THEY'RE LOCKED IN THERE.



CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

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

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



FIVE-MINUTE COUNT.

OKAY. JOB DONE.



CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

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

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

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

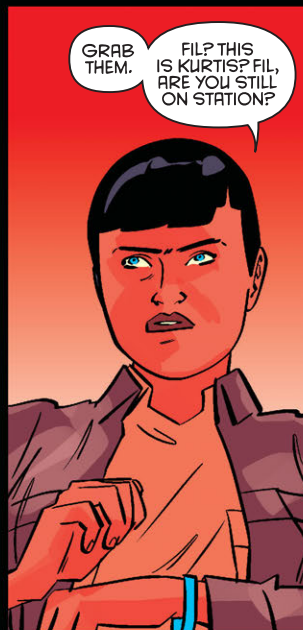
THEY'RE BLOWING THE BOLTS.

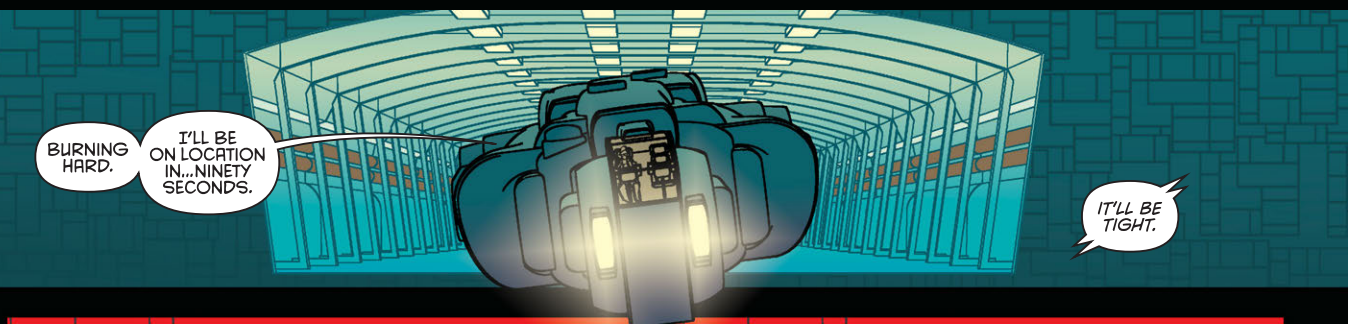


YES, BUT WHAT--

IT MEANS WE'RE DEAD.

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





BURNING HARD.

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

IT'LL BE TIGHT.



SUIT UP.

CLEAR THE AREA. CLEAR THE AREA.

HOW DOES THIS EVEN WORK?

STRAP IT THERE! THERE!

I'LL CLOSE YOUR SEALS.



NINETY SECONDS IS GOING TO BE TIGHT, FIL.

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

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



YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, KURTIS?

MAKING IT UP AS I GO ALONG.

CAN YOU DECOMPRESS?

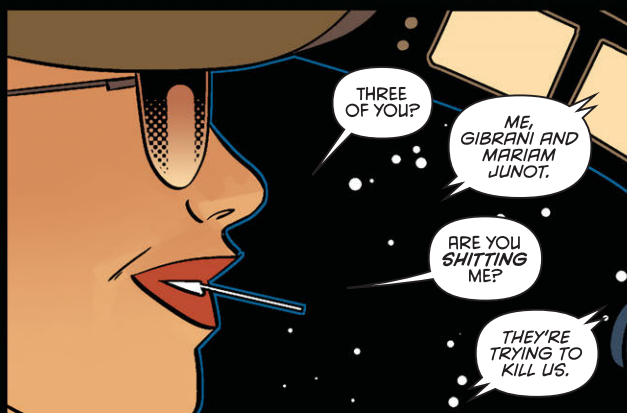
NO. I DON'T KNOW.



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

GOT IT.

TIGHTEN IT HERE. LIKE THIS.



THREE OF YOU?

ME, GIBRANI AND MARIAM JUNOT.

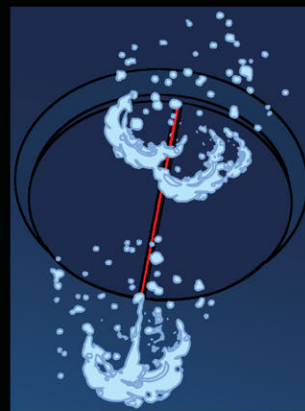
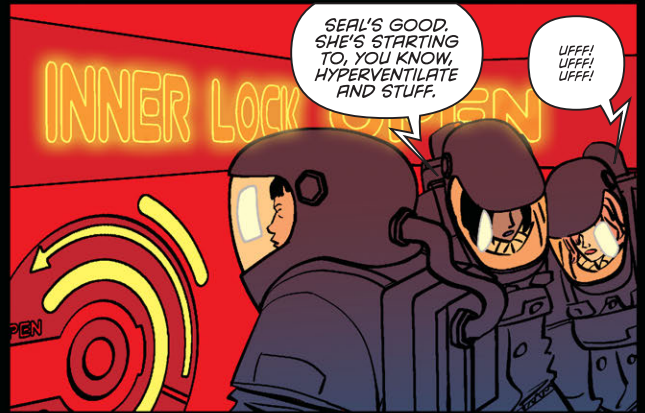
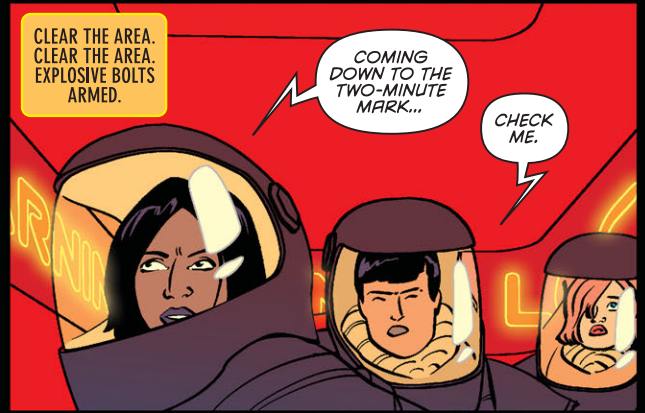
ARE YOU SHITTING ME?

THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US.



WHO ARE?

NOT NOW.





JESUS--

AHHHH!
THIS IS
BULLSHIT!

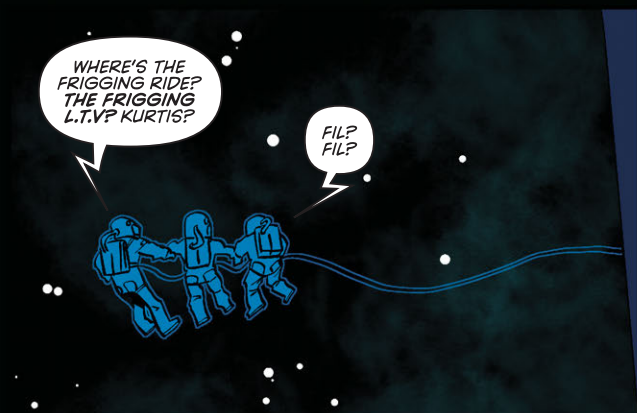
UFFF!
UFFF! UFFF!



COME
ON, HELP
HER!

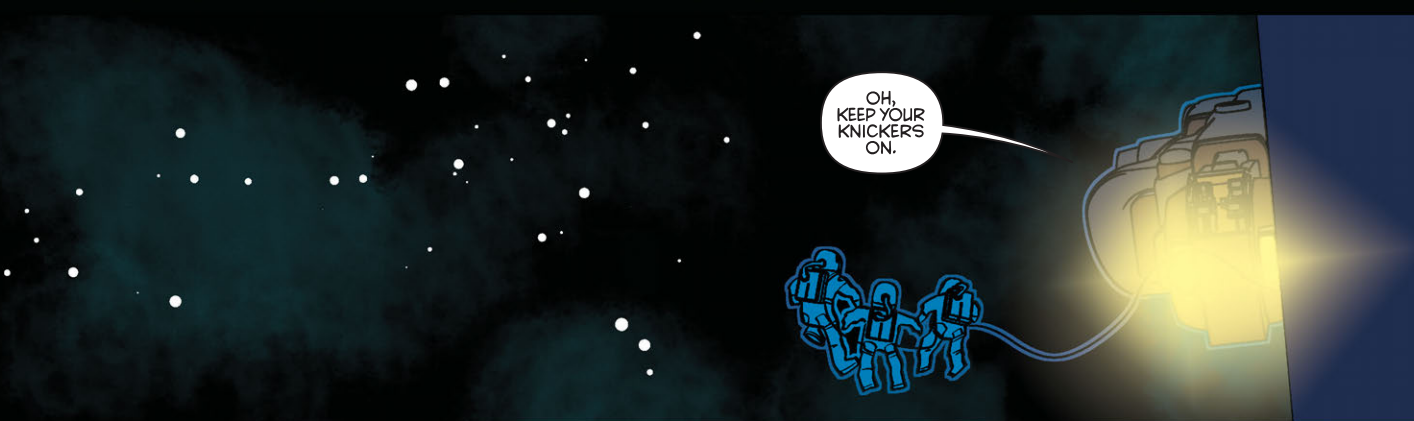
UFFF!
UFFF!
UFFF!

SHIT.
BASTARD.
BOLLOCKS.



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

FIL?
FIL?

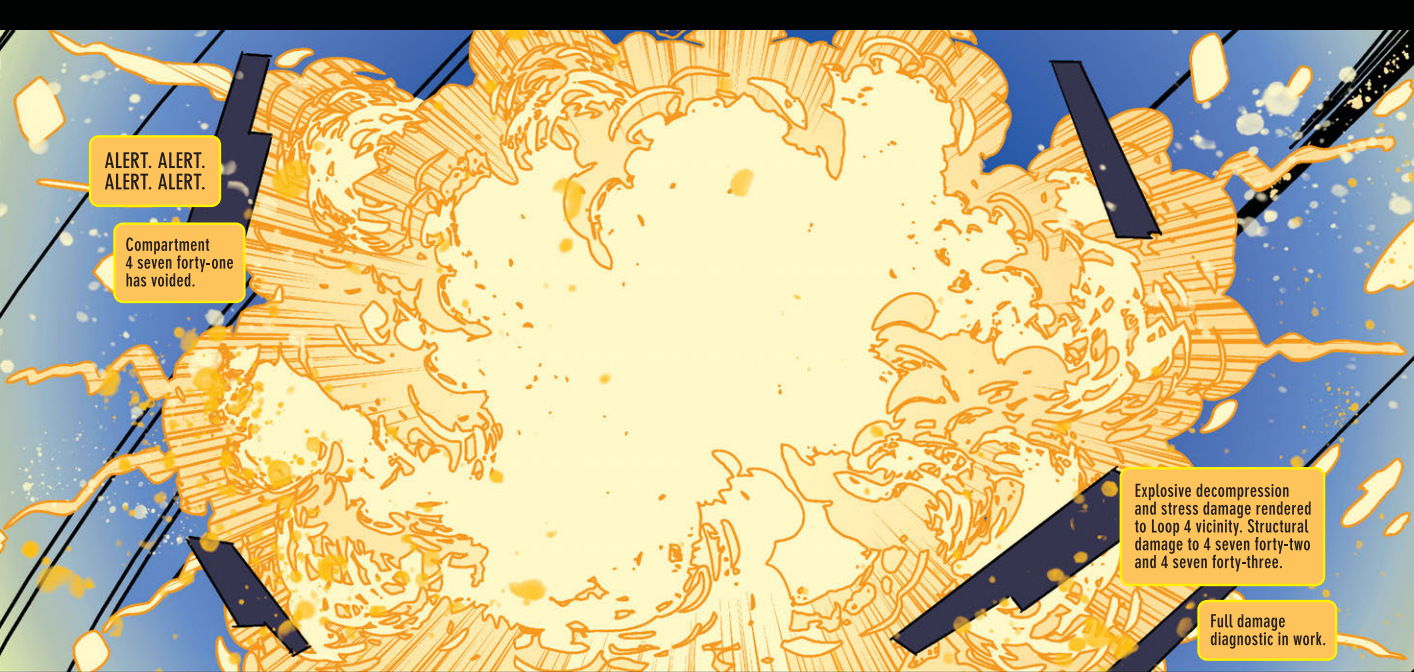


OH,
KEEP YOUR
KNICKERS
ON.



ALL
ABOARD,
LADIES.







ALL
RIGHT,
THEN.

SHEEEZ,
THAT WAS
CLOSE.
EVERYONE
OKAY?



SWELL.



FIL, GET US
INTO DOCK
FAST.

COPY
THAT.

GUUHH!

THIS
IS...THIS
IS...

TAKE
IT EASY,
MA'AM.



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

I *AM*
HSD.

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



YOU--
WHAT?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT,
KURTIS?



I'M
HSD.
STILL.

BUT
YOU SAID--

COVER
STORY,
GIBRANI.
SORRY.



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

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

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



INTO
WHAT?

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



MY
BUSINESS?



TRACE LUDO GENTRY. GET FIRST RESPONDERS TO HIM FAST.

YES, MA'AM.

I MEAN **FAST**.



GIBRANIP GET MS JUNOT SECURE. GUARD HER WITH YOUR LIFE.

OKAY, BUT--



KURTIS?

WHERE YOU GOING, KURTIS?

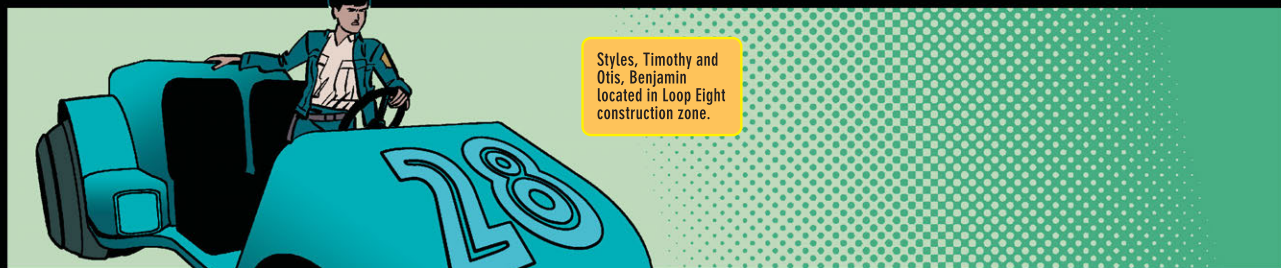
BE RIGHT BACK.



IS THE DATA BLOCK CANCELLED?

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

LOCATE TIMOTHY STYLES AND BENJAMIN OTIS.



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



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



NO. HIDE IT SOMEWHERE.

WHERE?

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



I DUNNO--

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

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



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

NOT--

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

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



BOO.



SHIT. SHIT.

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



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

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

I *TOLD* YOU TO GET OTIS OUT HERE.



YOU THINK THIS IS A LITTLE CORPORATE COUP OR--

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



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

KURTIS, PLEASE. PLEASE.

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



I SHOULD JUST FRIGGING SHOOT YOU, STYLES.

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



OTIS! GET THE HELL OUT HERE NOW!

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



SAVE IT FOR THE INTERVIEW.



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



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



JESUS! SHUT UP!

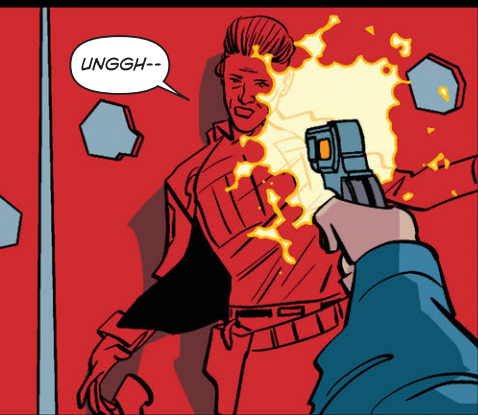
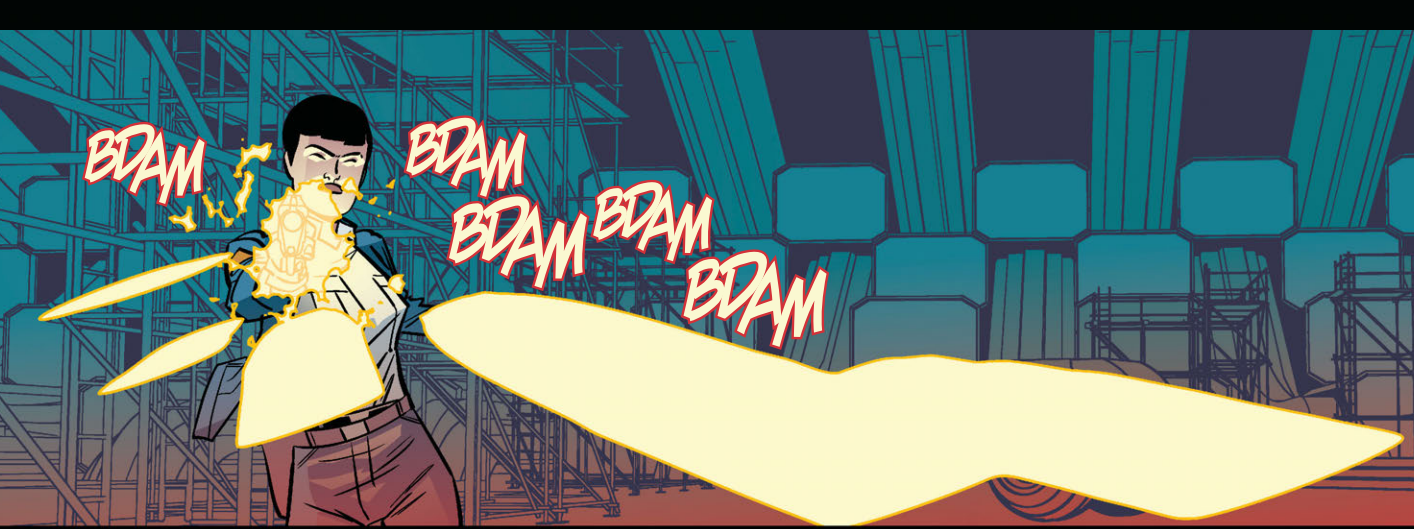


--PHALE CHRONOZON--



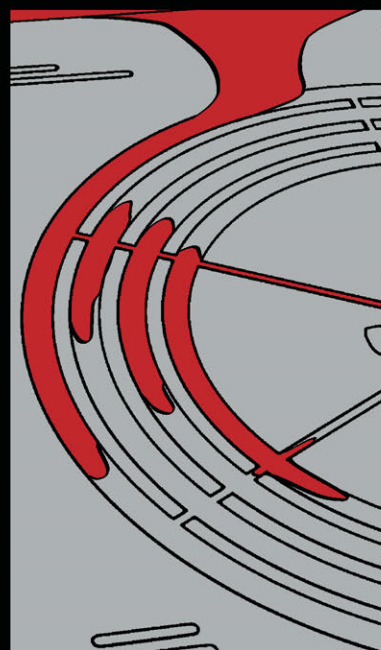
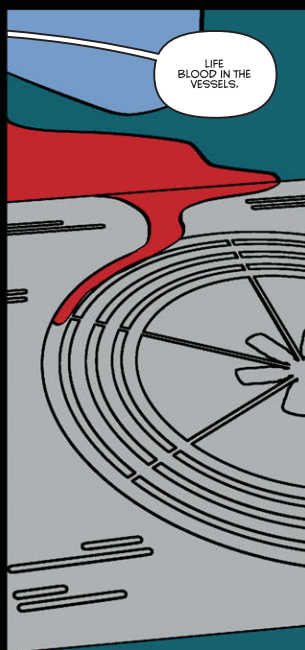
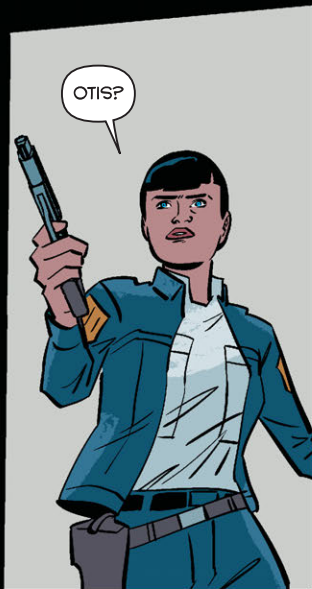
MMNNGH!







GO
AWAY.



Loop one,
detention suite.

Interview 010/007/12
Otis, Benjamin.

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

WHO
ELSE?

NO
COMMENT.

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

SOMEONE
WILL TALK.

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

THE ILLEGALS
WEREN'T A
COST-CUTTING
MEASURE.

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

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

NO
COMMENT.

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

NO
COMMENT.

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

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

BUT
MAD? I MEAN,
CLINICALLY?

THAT'S
SEEMS
EXTREME.

SHOULD
YOU EVEN BE
STANDING UP,
GENTRY?

SHHH.
I WANT TO
HEAR THIS.

THE REVISED
ARCHITECTURE IS
DISTURBING.
OPPRESSIVE.

THE
DIMENSIONS AND
PROPORTIONS
ARE OUT.

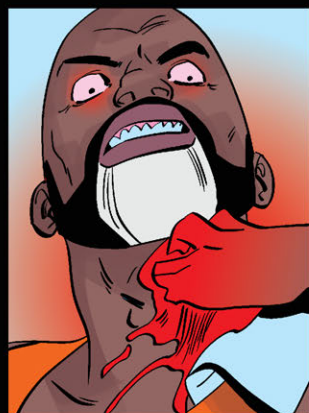
VERGING
ON THE NON-
EUCLIDIAN.

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

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

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







Residential suite,
Loop two
[monitoring off]

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

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

I'VE DONE
NOTHING--

I'M PRETTY
SURE YOU
HAVEN'T.

I'M
REQUESTING YOUR
COOPERATION.

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

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

THE CASE I
WAS INVESTIGATING
IS ONGOING.

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

SECT
CRIME?

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

IT USUALLY
APPEARS AS
DISCREET CULT
GROUPS ON
PARTICULAR
STATIONS.

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

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

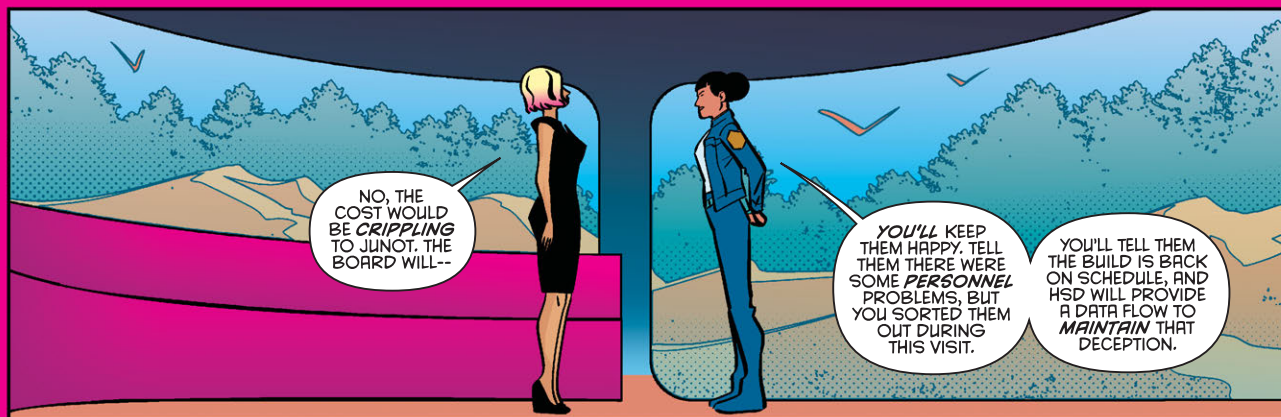
WE BELIEVE
KEY PLAYERS
EXIST WITHIN THE
UPPER LEVELS OF
YULIYA SOCIETY.
MAYBE INSIDE
JUNOT CORP
ITSELF.

OH
GOD,
NO...

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

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

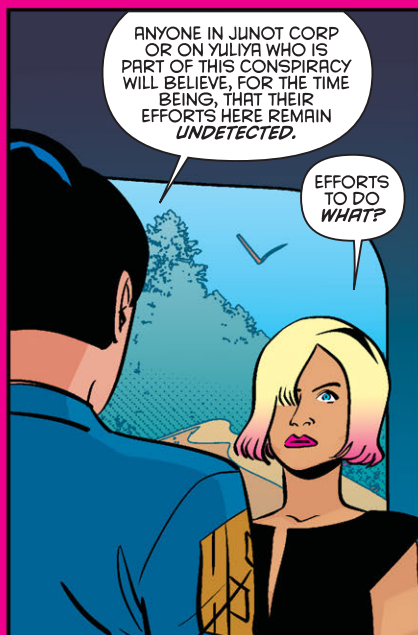
SPECIAL
CRIMES WILL BE
EXAMINING THE
HABITAT. THAT
PROCESS MAY
TAKE YEARS.



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

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

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



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

EFFORTS TO DO **WHAT?**



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

NO.

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



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

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



WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING IS BEYOND FANCIFUL, BRIDGET.

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

OTIS, STYLES AND ASHER TRYING TO MURDER YOU--

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



WE CAN ESTABLISH NO EVIDENCE OF THAT.

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

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





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

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



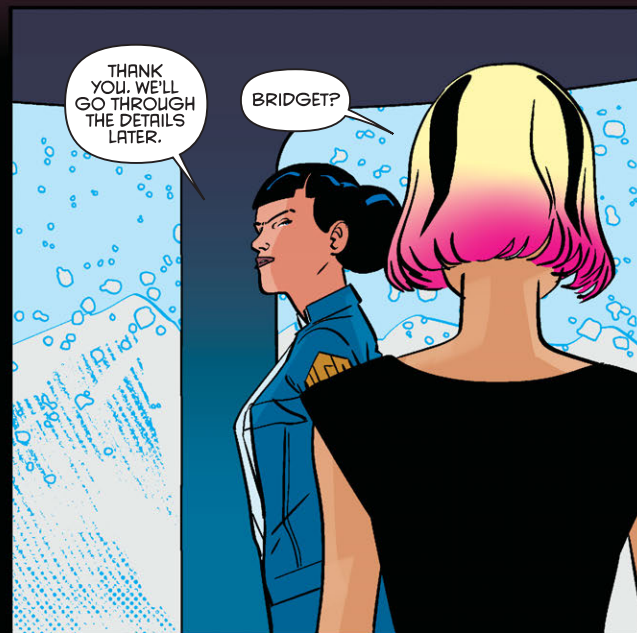
MS JUNOT, IF HSD PURSUES AN OPEN INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS HERE, JUNOT CORP WILL BE FINISHED *ANYWAY*.

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

CAN THE DIVISION COUNT ON YOUR COOPERATION?

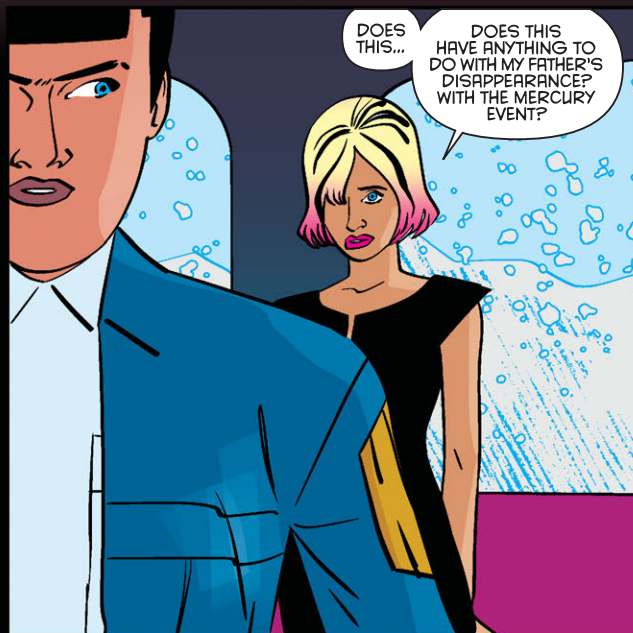


...YES, I SUPPOSE.



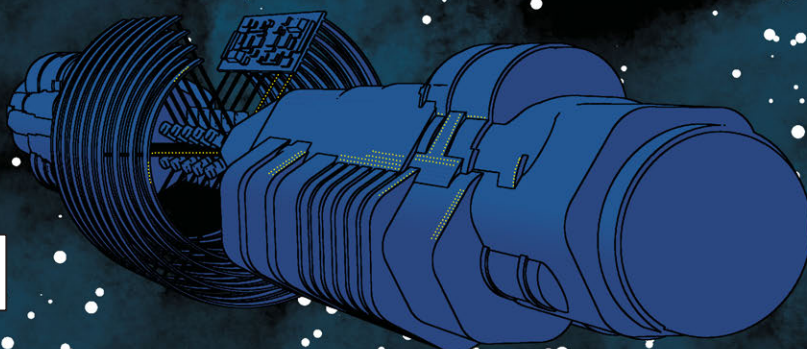
THANK YOU. WE'LL GO THROUGH THE DETAILS LATER.

BRIDGET?



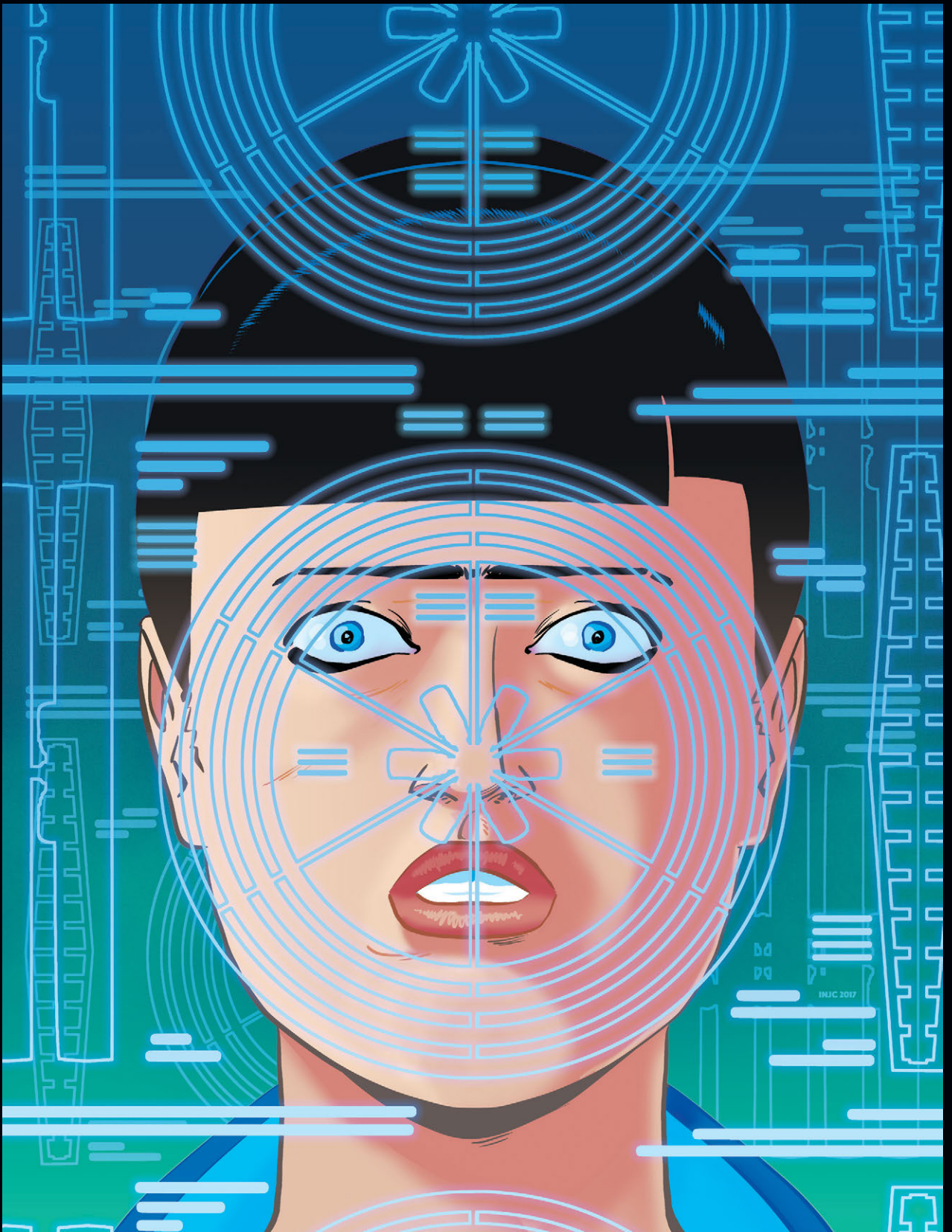
DOES THIS...

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



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

COVER GALLERY





DAN ABNETT

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

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

I.N.J. CULBARD

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

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



MERCURY HAS DISAPPEARED. NO ONE KNOWS WHY.

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

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

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