



YOUR **ABSURD**
ATTEMPTS AT SELF-
GOVERNMENT MUST
END! YOU SIMPLY
ARE NOT **READY**
FOR IT!

YOUR
BACKWARD WAYS
THROW YOUR PLANET
INTO CHAOS, AND
APPALL THE GALAXY!
YOU MUST BE
CONTROLLED,
GUIDED...

...RULED BY US SUPERIOR
BEINGS UNTIL WE'VE PROPERLY
"CIVILIZED" YOU, DRAINED ALL
YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES...

...AND TURNED YOU INTO
A VASSAL STATE THAT
TRUCKLES TO US AND
THE WAY WE DO THINGS
FOREVERMORE AND
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

AFTER YOU'VE BEEN DOING
THIS LONG ENOUGH, YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE GONNA SAY,
MAYBE EVEN BEFORE THEY DO.

DOING BATTLE

HIS NAME WAS IMPERION.

HE WAS FROM SOME ALIEN RACE THAT WANTED TO CONQUER EARTH A FEW YEARS BACK...

CONTAIN THEM, HONOR GUARD!

IF EVEN ONE GETS FREE, HE CAN GROW A NEW ARMY FROM IT!

FAUGH!

YOU GOT IT, BIG RED!

... ONLY WE KICKED THEIR TEETH IN, AND HE GOT LEFT BEHIND FOR FAILING. TOLD NOT TO CALL HOME 'TIL HE HAD US ALL DEFEATED AND GIFT-WRAPPED FOR THE MOTHER EMPIRE.

TRACKING INDIVIDUAL PROCESSOR-SIGNATURES. WE WON'T LOSE ANY OF...

I THOUGHT WE'D SEEN THE LAST OF HIM, THAT WE'D KILLED OFF ALL HIS HALF-PROTOPLASM/HALF-TECHNOLOGY/ ALL-NASTY KHYBORG UNDERLINGS.

LOOKS LIKE HE GOT A FRESH BATCH SOMEWHERE, ALONG WITH A WILL-SAPPING RAY WE'D ALREADY BUSTED UP.

THE REST WAS GONNA BE CLEAN-UP.

I WAS WONDERING -- OKAY, HE SAVED SOME PLASM, BUT WHERE'D HE GET THE CYBERNETICS? -- WHEN I REALIZED I WAS WOOLGATHERING --

UH-OH.

IT WAS AN EASY CORRECTION --

HAH! OUCH, RIGHT?

HRNHH?

-- BUT UNFORTUNATELY I MISJUDGED THE LANDING AND --

I WAS PICKING MY EXIT ROUTE, WHEN --

HUH? WHAT'S TH--

HRR

NRRH

HRARR





HEY, QUARREL.

NO STOPPING AND SMELLING THE ROSES, OKAY?

HOOPHÉ OWE YOU ONE, PAL.

THAT WAS TWICE IN A ROW I'D GOTTEN IN TROUBLE. I WAS SLOWING DOWN, NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT.



I CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP SCORE!

TOO SCARED YOU'D BE WAY AHEAD!

HA!

IF I WASN'T CUT OUT FOR THIS ANY MORE --

IF TEAMMATES LIKE M.P.H. HAD TO LOOK OUT FOR ME INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON THE FRAY --

NOT THAT M.P.H. MINDED, I KNEW. HE'D ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND. MORE THAN THAT, ONCE.



RASSMFRASSMGRAAR...

IT WAS YEARS BACK, BEFORE HE WAS MARRIED.

I WAS FURIOUS. I'D JUST BROKEN UP WITH JACK AGAIN, OVER GOD KNOWS WHAT. HE'D BEEN AN ASS, PROBABLY, OR MAYBE I'D BEEN ONE --

HEY.



IF YOU'RE TIRED OF DATING SUCH A JERK, JESS...
...THERE'S OTHER FISH IN THE SEA.

YEAH?
LIKE...WHO, EXACTLY?



JESSICA TAGGART, A.K.A. QUARREL.

WOULD YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF HAVING DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?

SOMEPLACE WITH CLOTH NAPKINS, WHERE THE FOOD ISN'T SERVED ON A TRAY FOR A CHANGE?



CLOTH NAPKINS? I DO DECLARE.

YOU'LL SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET, SIR!



SO WE DID.



WE DID FOR A WHILE.

IT WAS FUN.