



"THE MELD IS WHERE YOUR KEYS GO WHEN YOU LOSE THEM."

"THAT MISSING SOCK IN THE LAUNDRY."

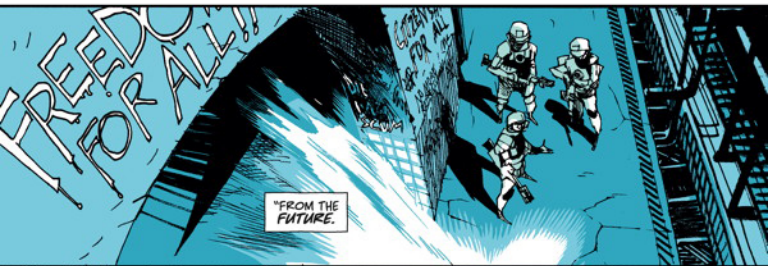
"EVEN, AS HORRIBLE AS IT MAY BE, A MISSING PERSON."



"TIME IS NOT A SOLID OBJECT, YOU SEE. IT IS FLUID."

"JUST AS A RIVER HAS EDDIES AND CURRENTS, TIME HAS POINTS IN ITS FLOW WHERE THINGS ARE PULLED AWAY..."

"AND NOT JUST FROM OUR PRESENT. THEY'RE PULLED FROM THE DISTANT PAST."



"FROM THE FUTURE."



"AND THEY ALL FALL INTO THE MELD, WHICH EXISTS OUTSIDE OF TIME."

"I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE TRYING TO GET THERE..."



...ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT I WILL EVER REACH IT.

LET'S JUST FOCUS ON STAYING ALIVE FOR NOW, DR. HAMM.



I DON'T FEEL LIKE BURYING ANYONE ELSE FOR A WHILE.



I NEVER MEANT FOR ANY OF THIS--THIS DEATH--TO HAPPEN!

I MERELY INTENDED TO STUDY THE STORM, TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW IT COULD FUNCTION AS A PORTAL TO THE MELD!



HUSH, DOC...!



COME ON, YOU SNEAKY





**RRAGGA**

COME ON!

**BRATT  
TAT  
TAT  
TAT**



UNNF--!



COL...  
COLLINS?



TIME--NHH--TO  
START FINDING US A  
WAY HOME, DOC.

BECAUSE I'VE  
ONLY BEEN ABLE TO  
SALVAGE SO MUCH AMMO  
FROM THE CRASH...

AND I'M  
GUESSING THERE'S  
A LOT MORE WHERE  
THIS THING CAME  
FROM...





BEAUTIFUL  
IN ITS OWN WAY,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?

MY  
**SCOURGE.**



SO MANY WONDERFUL  
THINGS HAVE FALLEN INTO  
THE MELD, BUT THIS MIGHT  
BE MY FAVORITE.

TINY MACHINES,  
YET THEY ARE AS ALIVE  
AS ANY ORGANISM!

SO SMALL, BUT SO  
**DESTRUCTIVE!**



SELF-  
REPLICATING.

HUNGRY.

**UNSTOPPABLE.**

ARE YOU  
SURE IT'S WISE  
TO LET THEM  
OUT?

WHEN LAST WE DID SO, YEARS AGO,  
WE WIPE OUT MOST OF THE  
RESISTANCE. BUT THE COLLATERAL  
DAMAGE WAS CONSIDERABLE. WE  
LOST MANY GOOD MEN.

THE  
SCOURGE DIES  
ALONG WITH  
THOSE IT  
INFECTS...

...BUT WE  
CANNOT FULLY  
CONTROL WHO  
IT INFECTS.

YOU THINK  
ME INCAPABLE OF  
CONTROLLING  
IT?

YOU  
THINK THAT  
MY POWER HAS  
LIMITS?





NO, MY  
LIEGE.

AS ALWAYS,  
MY SOLE INTENT  
IS TO ENSURE THE  
GREATER GLORY OF  
YOUR REALM.



INDEED AND YOU  
HAVE DONE SO  
HONORABLY, EVER  
SINCE YOU YOURSELF  
FELL INTO THE  
MELD.

WHAT  
NEWS OF THE  
NEW ARRIVAL'S  
SHIP? HAVE MY  
SCIENTISTS  
DISCERNED ITS  
WORKINGS  
YET?




NOT YET,  
MY LORD...



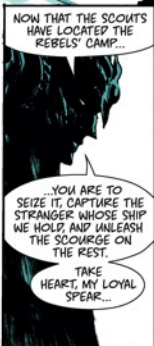
"...BUT THEY  
DETECT A  
FUNDAMENTAL  
SIMILARITY  
BETWEEN THE  
NEW SHIP  
AND THE  
ONE IN WHICH  
I ARRIVED  
YEARS AGO.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL  
SOON HAVE **BOTH** VESSELS IN  
FULL WORKING ORDER."



EXCELLENT! IMAGINE IF WE CAN JOURNEY  
**OUT** OF THE MELD... INTO ANY TIME  
AND PLACE WE CHOOSE!

WE COULD  
EXPAND MY  
DOMINION  
THROUGHOUT  
**PAST,  
PRESENT,  
AND  
FUTURE!**



NOW THAT THE SCOUTS  
HAVE LOCATED THE  
REBELS' CAMP...

...YOU ARE TO  
SEIZE IT, CAPTURE THE  
STRANGER WHOSE SHIP  
WE HOLD, AND UNLEASH  
THE SCOURGE ON  
THE REST.

TAKE  
HEART, MY LOYAL  
SPEAR...



"A GRAND DESTINY  
AWAITS US!"