

JULY 3, 2179. 9:15 AM, EARTH CENTRAL TIME. LV-426, AKA "ACHERON," ONE OF THREE KNOWN MOONS OF THE CALPAMOS PLANETOID IN THE ZETA 2 RETICULI SYSTEM.

FOR A TIME, IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE **ANYONE** WAS GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF HADLEY'S HOPE ALIVE...

NO, PLEASE, NO!

SHISS

STHLUNK

SHRREEE



I'D BEEN RUNNING THE TERRAFORMING OPERATION ON ACHERON FOR FOUR YEARS, BY THAT POINT. HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD--OR SO THEY TOLD ME.

COME ON, COME ON! THIS WAY! DON'T STOP!



YAHIIIEEE!



OH, GOD! THEY'RE CLOSE!

AND GETTING CLOSER, WHICH IS WHY WE NEED TO MOVE!



=ULP=



OH, THANK GOD, RUSSELL!  
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU  
WERE MORE OF *THEM*.



GENEVIEVE DIONE WAS A GREENHOUSE  
SUPERVISOR WHO MOONLIGHTED AS A  
TEACHER FOR THE COLONISTS' CHILDREN.

*HFF!*  
THEY'RE NOT FAR  
BEHIND US.

THEN  
LET'S *GO*,  
ALREADY!



NO, NOT THAT WAY!  
THE CORRIDORS ARE  
*OVERRUN* WITH  
THE DAMNED  
THINGS.

THEN  
WHERE?



I'VE GOT  
A *PLAN*. WE'RE  
GETTING *OFF*  
THIS ROCK.

THERE WASN'T A SHIP ON  
ACHERON THAT COULD  
REACH FASTER-THAN-  
LIGHT SPEEDS. BUT WE  
DID HAVE ONE OPTION.

THE *ONAGER* WAS DESIGNED  
FOR DRILLING ORE AND  
FERRYING CARGO TO LOW  
ORBIT AND BACK--AND NOT  
MUCH ELSE. BUT IT COULD  
GET OFF THE SURFACE, WHICH  
WOULD HAVE TO BE ENOUGH.



MOVE IT!  
MOVE IT!

NOLAN CALE WAS A SURVEYOR  
AND PROSPECTOR--ONE OF OUR  
SO-CALLED "WILDCATTERS"--  
DOING COMPANY JOBS WHILE  
ALSO SEEKING PROFITABLE NEW  
MINING OPPORTUNITIES WITH  
WHAT LITTLE FREE TIME HE HAD.



SHIFT  
THAT STUFF--  
**PRONTO!**  
WE DON'T KNOW  
HOW LONG WE'LL  
BE WAITING FOR  
A PICKUP.

YOU SURE  
THIS THING WILL  
**MAKE** IT THAT  
FAR, BOSS?

IT'S NOT LIKE  
WE HAVE A CHOICE,  
J.R., NOW DO WE?  
SO **MOVE!**

OH,  
GOD!  
**NO!**





WHEN WE GOT TO THE HANGAR, THINGS LOOKED PRETTY BLEAK.





COME ON,  
COME ON!  
MOVE IT!



CALE!

DID YOU  
GET ANY SUPPLIES  
LOADED  
ONBOARD?



ER...UH...  
WHAT...?



NOT EVERYTHING  
WE WANTED, NO. BUT  
WE'VE GOT THE TRANSCIVER  
AND SOME EMERGENCY  
RATIONS, AND--

THEN CLOSE  
UP THE CARGO  
HATCHES!



WE CAN DO  
THIS, WE CAN  
DO THIS, IT'LL  
WORK...

