

ROBERT A. HEINLEIN

CITIZEN OF THE  
**GALAXY**

A C T I I



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CITIZEN OF THE

# GALAXY

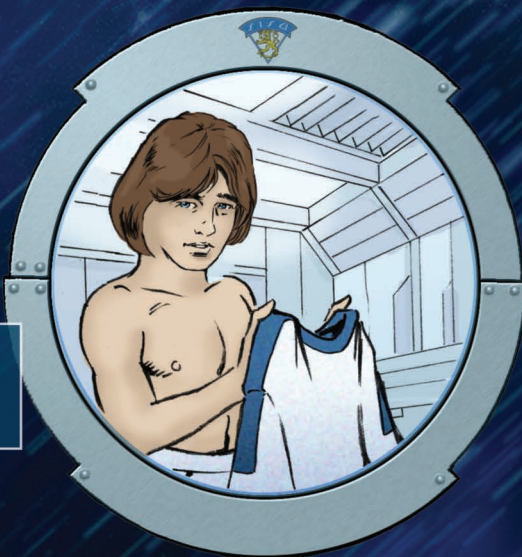
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A C T I I I

*THE SISU.*  
A FREE-TRADER STARSHIP



INSIDE THE FIRST FEW MILLION MILES  
THORBY WAS UNHAPPILY CONVINCED  
THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE.






THE FIRST THING THORBY DISCOVERED WAS THAT THE SISU WAS MUCH LARGER THAN HE HAD IMAGINED.



SECOND, HE WAS SURPRISED TO FIND SO MANY PEOPLE.



AND THIRDLY, THAT HE WAS BEING SNUBBED.



IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TO HEAR THE WORD **FRAKI**?

HUH?



I'M SORRY, MY NAME IS **DR. MARGARET MADER**. MY SPECIALTY IS ANTHROPOLOGY WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FREE TRADER CULTURES, BUT PLEASE CALL ME MARGARET.


HELLO, MARGARET.

SO WHAT DOES "FRAKI" MEAN?



A FRAKI IS JUST A HARMLESS, RATHER REPULSIVE LITTLE ANIMAL. BUT WHEN THEY SAY IT, IT MEANS "**STRANGER.**"

WELL, I GUESS I AM A STRANGER.



YES, BUT IT ALSO MEANS YOU CAN NEVER BE ANYTHING ELSE. IT MEANS THAT YOU AND I ARE **SUB-HUMAN BREEDS** OUTSIDE THE LAW... **THEIR LAW.**



I WAS TOLD THAT YOU WERE A BEGGAR'S BOY IN JUBBULPORE.

I AM THE SON OF BASLIM THE CRIPPLE. MY NAME IS THORBY.

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S SPOKEN TO ME!

THE FREE-TRADERS HAVE WORKED OUT POSSIBLY THE ODDEST SOLUTIONS TO THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF HOW TO BE HUMAN AND SURVIVE. THEY ARE QUITE UNIQUE AND VERY CLOSED OFF.



DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO STAY IN MY ROOM AND NEVER, EVER TALK TO ANYBODY?

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT. THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE FEELINGS NEVER OCCURS TO THEM. I'LL TALK TO THE CAPTAIN. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM SOON.



HEAVENS, LOOK AT THE TIME! I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT JUBBUL AND WE HAVEN'T SAID A WORD ABOUT IT. MAY I COME BACK AND DISCUSS IT WITH YOU?

HUH? WHY, SURELY, MARGARET. I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH ELSE TO DO.



BY THE WAY, YOUR TUNIC IS ON BACKWARD.



THE NEXT MORNING THORBY IS AWAKENED BY A BANGING AT THE DOOR.

BAM!  
BAM!



YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE C.O. DON'T GIVE ME TROUBLE, FRAKI, OR I'LL STUFF YOUR HEAD IN YOUR MOUTH.



I WANT TO SEE CAPT. KRAUSA!

THORBY STANDS BEFORE CHIEF OFFICER GRANDMOTHER KRAUSA.

CHIEF OFFICER, HERE'S THE FRAKI.

THANK YOU, THIRD DECK MASTER. YOU MAY GO.

HEAR THE MESSAGE YOURSELF, MY MOTHER.

REPEAT THE MESSAGE FROM YOUR FATHER.



MY SON IS THE ONLY THING OF VALUE OF WHICH I DIE POSSESSED; I ENTRUST HIM TO YOUR CARE. WHEN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS, I ASK THAT YOU DELIVER HIM TO THE COMMANDER OF ANY VESSEL OF THE HEGEMONIC GUARD, SAYING THAT HE IS A DISTRESSED CITIZEN OF THE HEGEMONY AND ENTITLED AS SUCH TO THEIR HELP IN LOCATING HIS FAMILY.

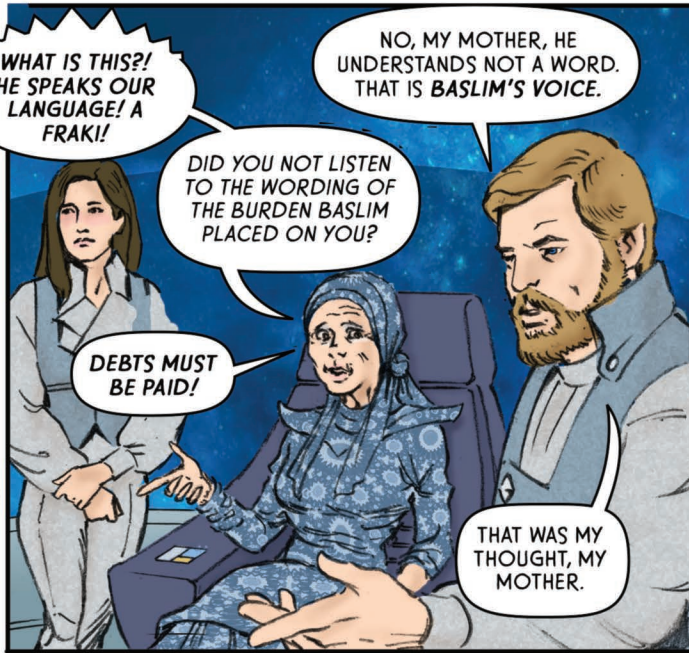
WHAT IS THIS?! HE SPEAKS OUR LANGUAGE! A FRAKI!

NO, MY MOTHER, HE UNDERSTANDS NOT A WORD. THAT IS BASLIM'S VOICE.

DID YOU NOT LISTEN TO THE WORDING OF THE BURDEN BASLIM PLACED ON YOU?

DEBTS MUST BE PAID!

THAT WAS MY THOUGHT, MY MOTHER.



SISU PAYS DEBTS IN FULL.

NO HALF-MEASURES, NO SHORT WEIGHTS...

THE FRAKI MUST BE ADOPTED... BY YOU.

BUT, MY MOTHER, WHAT WILL THE FAMILY~



THIS IS NOT ALL BAD, OLDEST SON... THE FREE-TRADERS OWE COLONEL BASLIM A GREAT DEBT AND WE WON'T SUFFER.

YOU ALWAYS WERE THE SHREWD ONE!



TAKE THE FRAKI BOY AND PREPARE HIM.

WE'LL DO THIS QUICKLY.





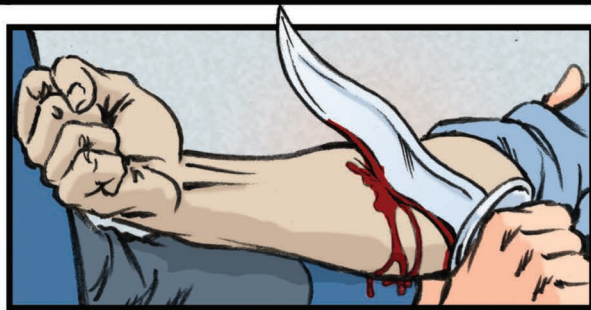
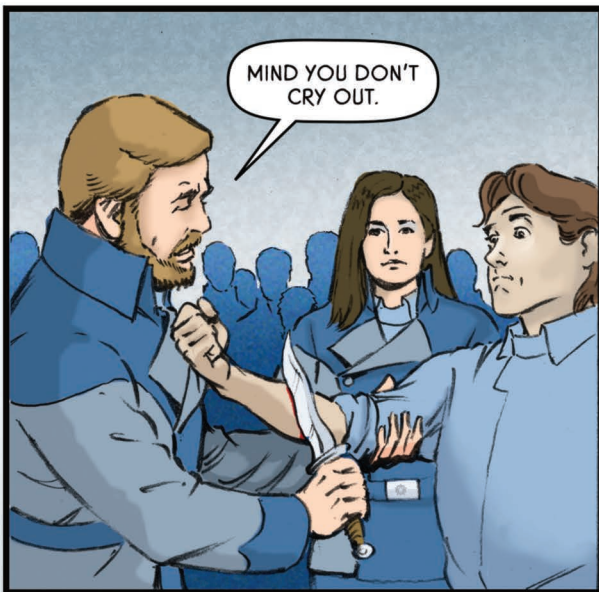
THAT EVENING THE ADOPTION TOOK PLACE IN THE DINING SALOON.

THORBY HAD TWO CHOICES: BE ADOPTED QUIETLY, OR MAKE A FUSS AND BE ADOPTED ANYHOW.

YOU MAY PROCEED.



MIND YOU DON'T CRY OUT.



YOUR BLOOD IS NOW IN THE STEEL.

OUR STEEL IS IN YOUR BLOOD.



THORBY HAD ENCOUNTERED SYMPATHETIC MAGIC ALL HIS LIFE AND ITS WILD, ALMOST REASONABLE LOGIC HE UNDERSTOOD. HE FELT A BURST OF PRIDE THAT HE WAS NOW PART OF THE SHIP.