





THIS IS  
THE PER-  
FECT TIME  
TO BE UP  
HERE.



AMAZING!

MASTER,  
WE ARE ALL  
VERY GRATEFUL  
FOR THIS OP-  
PORTUNITY...

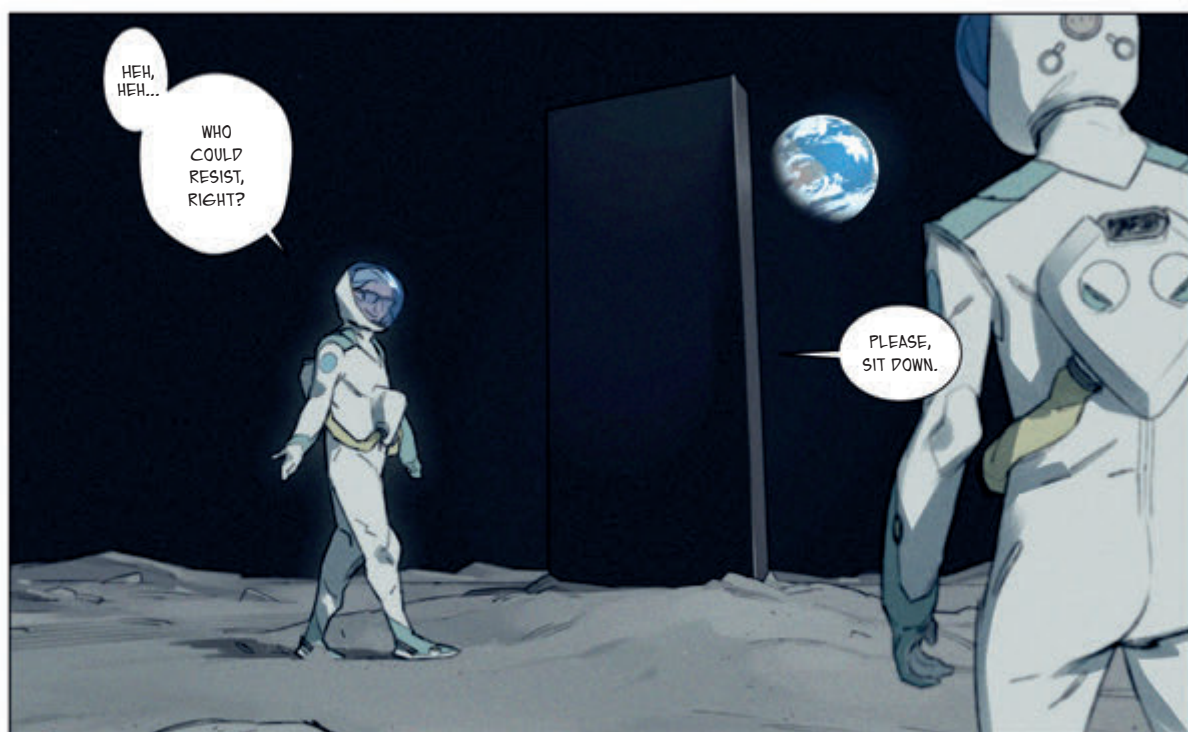
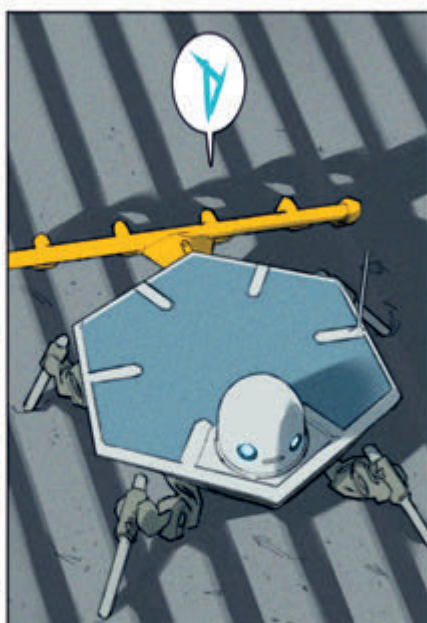


...BUT...



AH, DON'T WORRY.  
MY GARDENERS WILL  
TAKE CARE OF IT.





YOU MUST BE SICK  
TO THE BACK OF YOUR  
TEETH OF HEARING OF  
THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR  
MISSION. I'M SURE THEY'VE  
ALREADY BURDENED YOU  
WITH HUMANITY'S  
HOPES.

I, TOO, COULD  
TELL YOU HOW  
CRUCIAL THIS IS TO  
THE SURVIVAL OF  
OUR AGONIZING  
PLANET...



...BUT...

...THAT'S  
NOT WHAT YOU  
ARE ABOUT TO  
HEAR FROM  
ME.





LOOK. FROM THIS  
EXACT POSITION,  
EARTH COMPLETELY  
DISAPPEARS BEHIND  
THE MONOLITH...

...YET THE  
WORLD AND THE  
HUMAN RACE STILL  
EXIST EVEN THOUGH  
WE DON'T SEE  
THEM.

HOWEVER,  
LET'S  
IMAGINE  
FOR JUST A  
MOMENT...

...THAT WE  
REALLY ARE  
ALONE.

US.

HERE.

NOW.

ER...  
I DON'T  
THINK I'M VERY  
GOOD AT  
THIS.

CAN I NOT  
JUST PICTURE  
DIFFERENT  
COMPANY?

MH, MISS  
GRIFFON...

THE JOURNEY  
YOU AND YOUR  
FRIENDS ARE  
ABOUT TO EMBARK  
ON WILL REALLY  
TEST YOU AS A  
GROUP...