

LEO

ANTARES

EPISODE 2



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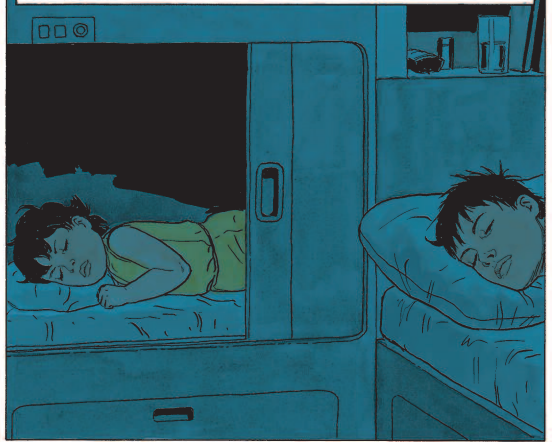


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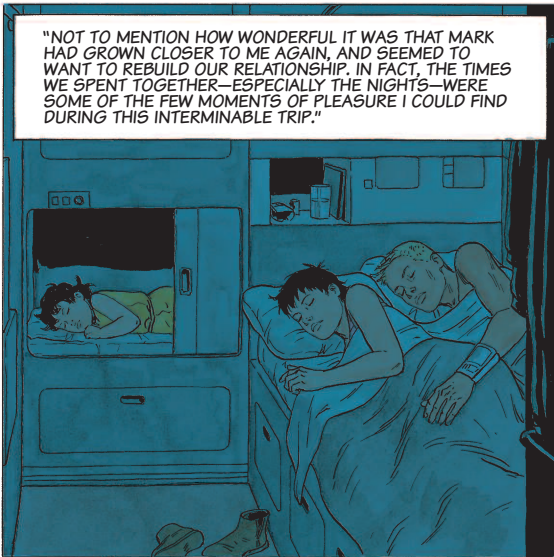
"WE'VE BEEN STUCK IN THIS TIN CAN FOR OVER 20 DAYS NOW. JUST THINKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TO ENDURE ANOTHER 40 IS BRINGING ME DOWN! AND YET, IT ALL STARTED SO WELL... BEFORE DEPARTURE, I WAS FEELING HAPPY AND OPTIMISTIC—SOMETHING THAT HADN'T HAPPENED TO ME IN A LONG TIME..."



"AFTER THE ROUGH PATCH I'D SPENT ALONE ON BETELGEUSE, I FELT RELIEVED TO HAVE ALEXA AND MARK BACK, AND TO BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH THEM THE ABSURDITY OF HAVING A HALF-ALIEN DAUGHTER."

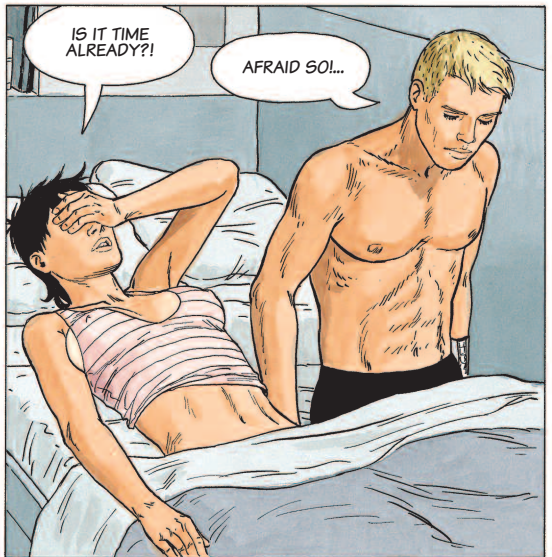


"NOT TO MENTION HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS THAT MARK HAD GROWN CLOSER TO ME AGAIN, AND SEEMED TO WANT TO REBUILD OUR RELATIONSHIP. IN FACT, THE TIMES WE SPENT TOGETHER—ESPECIALLY THE NIGHTS—WERE SOME OF THE FEW MOMENTS OF PLEASURE I COULD FIND DURING THIS INTERMINABLE TRIP."

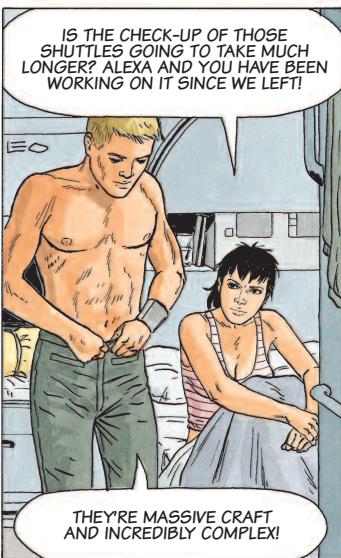


IS IT TIME ALREADY?!

AFFRAID SO!...

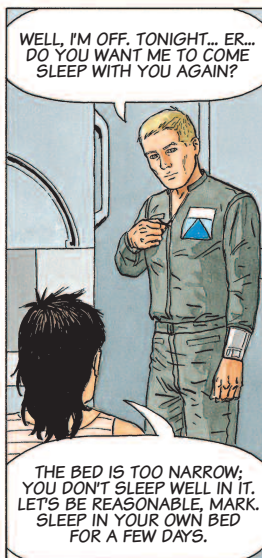


IS THE CHECK-UP OF THOSE SHUTTLES GOING TO TAKE MUCH LONGER? ALEXA AND YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING ON IT SINCE WE LEFT!



THEY'RE MASSIVE CRAFT AND INCREDIBLY COMPLEX!

WELL, I'M OFF, TONIGHT... ER... DO YOU WANT ME TO COME SLEEP WITH YOU AGAIN?



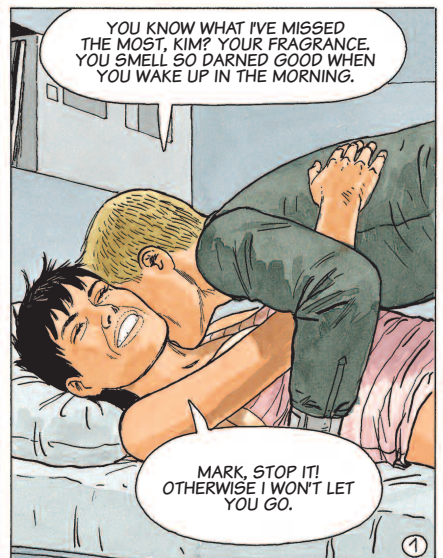
THE BED IS TOO NARROW; YOU DON'T SLEEP WELL IN IT. LET'S BE REASONABLE, MARK. SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED FOR A FEW DAYS.

HMM... NO MORE THAN TWO DAYS, THEN!

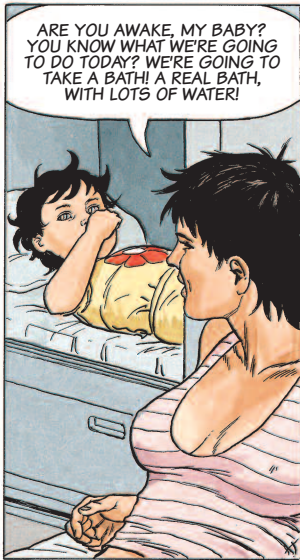


OK.

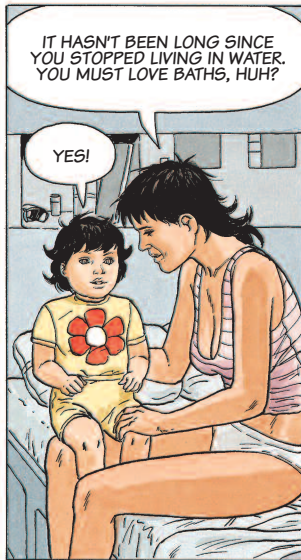
YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE MISSED THE MOST, KIM? YOUR FRAGRANCE. YOU SMELL SO DARNED GOOD WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING.



MARK, STOP IT! OTHERWISE I WON'T LET YOU GO.

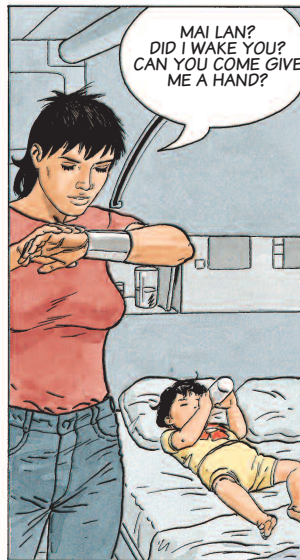


ARE YOU AWAKE, MY BABY? YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO TODAY? WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A BATH! A REAL BATH, WITH LOTS OF WATER!

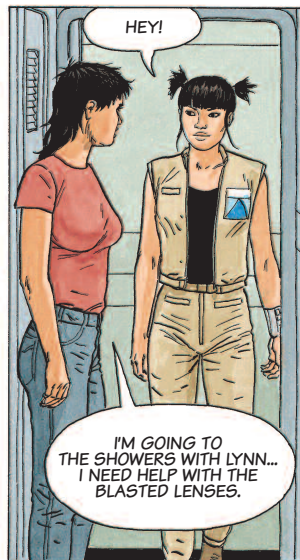


IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE YOU STOPPED LIVING IN WATER. YOU MUST LOVE BATHS, HUH?

YES!

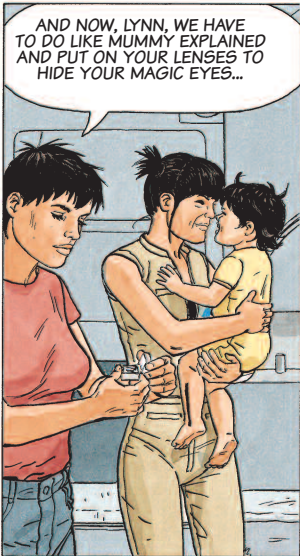


MAI LAN? DID I WAKE YOU? CAN YOU COME GIVE ME A HAND?



HEY!

I'M GOING TO THE SHOWERS WITH LYNN... I NEED HELP WITH THE BLASTED LENSES.



AND NOW, LYNN, WE HAVE TO DO LIKE MUMMY EXPLAINED AND PUT ON YOUR LENSES TO HIDE YOUR MAGIC EYES...



... BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO THE SHOWERS. YOU REMEMBER WHAT MUMMY SAID? WE MUSTN'T LET PEOPLE SEE YOUR MAGIC EYES!

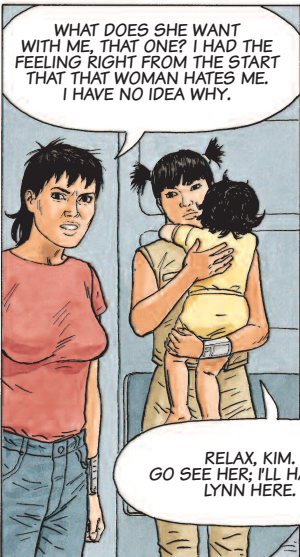
I DON'T WANNA... I DON'T WANNA PUT THEM ON!



I HATE DOING THIS!



THIS IS SUBCOMMANDER SCOTT. I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU, MISS KELLER. CAN YOU COME SEE ME? RIGHT AWAY, PLEASE, I HAVE A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE. THANK YOU.



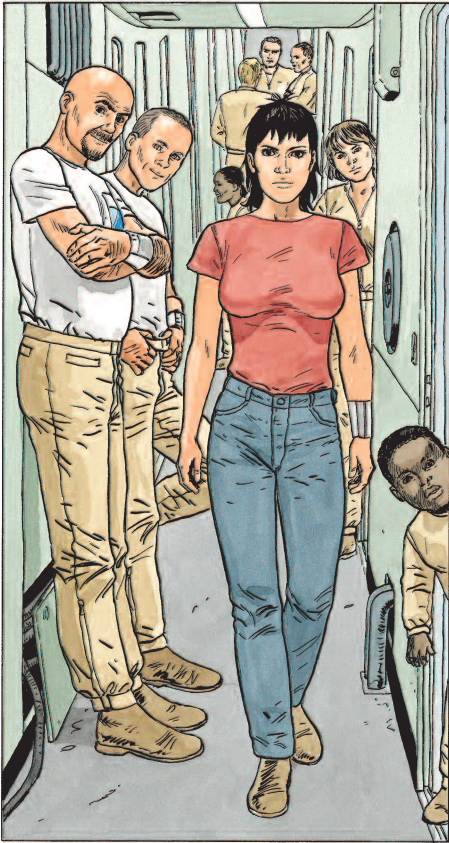
WHAT DOES SHE WANT WITH ME, THAT ONE? I HAD THE FEELING RIGHT FROM THE START THAT THAT WOMAN HATES ME. I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.

RELAX, KIM. GO SEE HER; I'LL HANDLE LYNN HERE.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU, MAI LAN. THANKS.



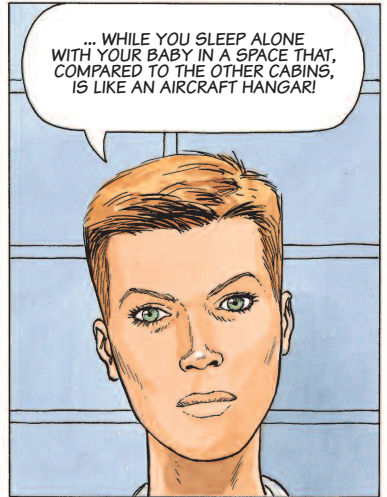


YOU CALLED ME?

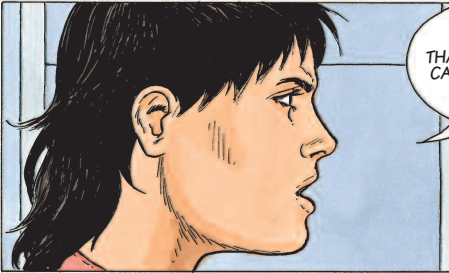
COME IN, MISS KELLER.



I IMAGINE YOU NOTICED WE'RE TIGHTLY PACKED ON THIS TRIP. PEOPLE ARE SLEEPING FOUR OR FIVE TO A CABIN—TINY CABINS AT THAT!...

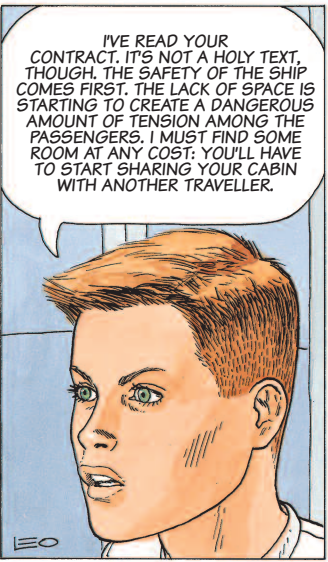
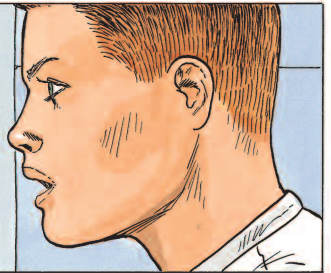


... WHILE YOU SLEEP ALONE WITH YOUR BABY IN A SPACE THAT, COMPARED TO THE OTHER CABINS, IS LIKE AN AIRCRAFT HANGAR!



MY CONTRACT STATES THAT I'M ENTITLED TO A PRIVATE CABIN. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, MISS?

DON'T CALL ME "MISS." I'M SUBCOMMANDER SCOTT.

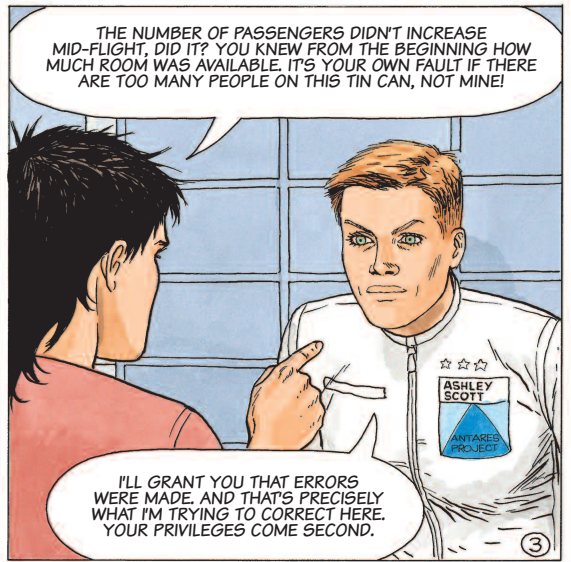


I'VE READ YOUR CONTRACT. IT'S NOT A HOLY TEXT, THOUGH. THE SAFETY OF THE SHIP COMES FIRST. THE LACK OF SPACE IS STARTING TO CREATE A DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF TENSION AMONG THE PASSENGERS. I MUST FIND SOME ROOM AT ANY COST: YOU'LL HAVE TO START SHARING YOUR CABIN WITH ANOTHER TRAVELLER.



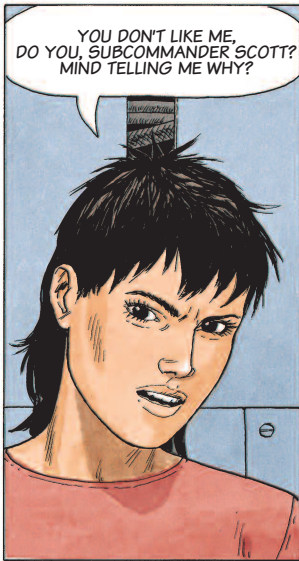
THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!

IT'S AN ORDER, MISS. I'M NOT ASKING FOR YOUR PERMISSION.



THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS DIDN'T INCREASE MID-FLIGHT, DID IT? YOU KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING HOW MUCH ROOM WAS AVAILABLE. IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT IF THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE ON THIS TIN CAN, NOT MINE!

I'LL GRANT YOU THAT ERRORS WERE MADE, AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I'M TRYING TO CORRECT HERE. YOUR PRIVILEGES COME SECOND.



YOU DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU, SUBCOMMANDER SCOTT? MIND TELLING ME WHY?



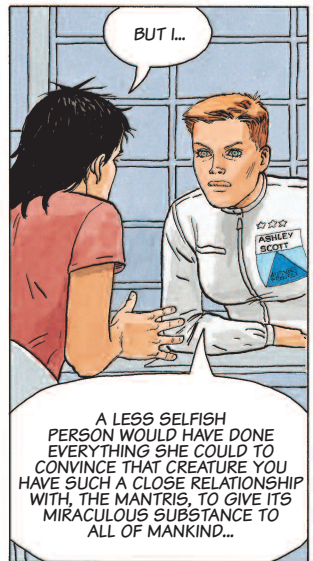
MAKE NO MISTAKE, MISS KELLER. I DON'T LET MY PERSONAL FEELINGS INFLUENCE MY PROFESSIONAL DECISIONS. BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I DISLIKE YOU...

... BECAUSE OF YOUR INCREDIBLE SELFISHNESS.



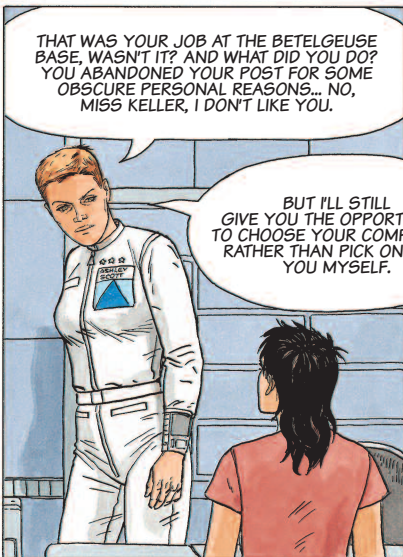
MY SELFISHNESS?!... WHAT THE...?!

YES. FOR EXAMPLE, SOMEONE LESS SELFISH WOULD HAVE PAID ATTENTION TO THE CRAMPED LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS AND VOLUNTEERED TO SHARE HER CABIN.



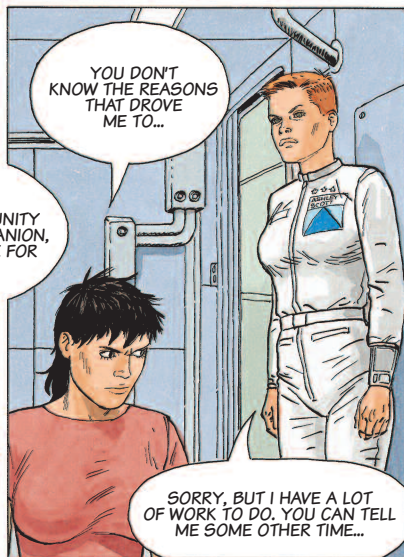
BUT I...

A LESS SELFISH PERSON WOULD HAVE DONE EVERYTHING SHE COULD TO CONVINCED THAT CREATURE YOU HAVE SUCH A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH, THE MANTRIS, TO GIVE ITS MIRACULOUS SUBSTANCE TO ALL OF MANKIND...



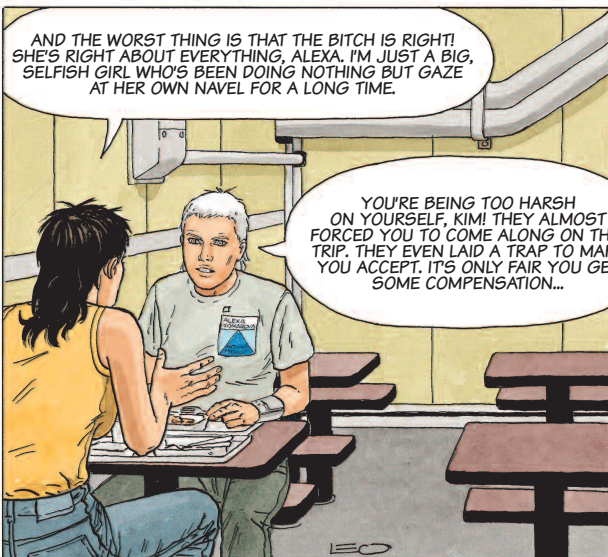
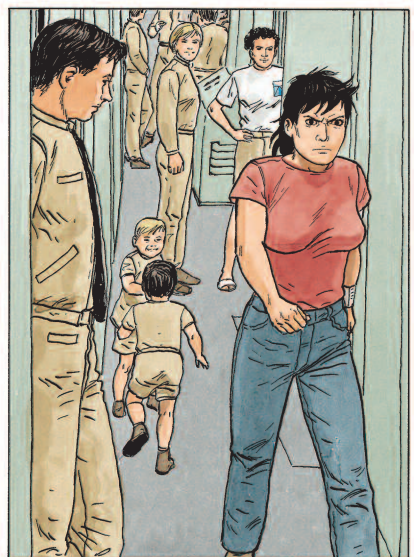
THAT WAS YOUR JOB AT THE BETELGEUSE BASE, WASN'T IT? AND WHAT DID YOU DO? YOU ABANDONED YOUR POST FOR SOME OBSCURE PERSONAL REASONS... NO, MISS KELLER, I DON'T LIKE YOU.

BUT I'LL STILL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE YOUR COMPANION, RATHER THAN PICK ONE FOR YOU MYSELF.



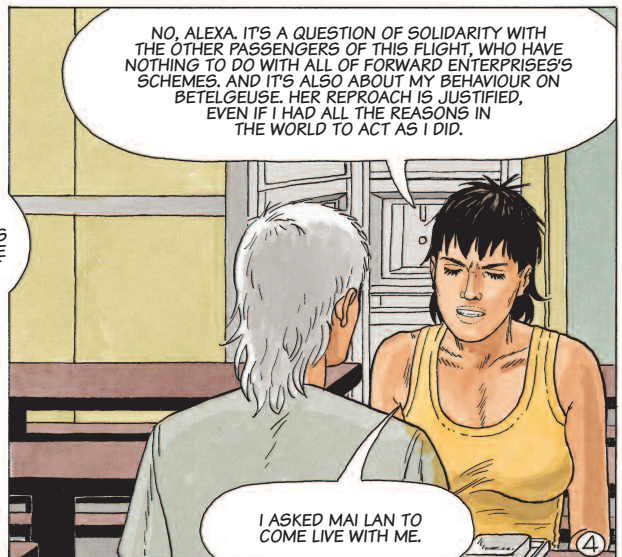
YOU DON'T KNOW THE REASONS THAT DROVE ME TO...

SORRY, BUT I HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO. YOU CAN TELL ME SOME OTHER TIME...



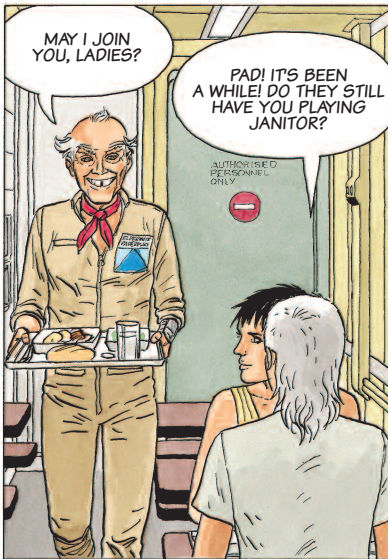
AND THE WORST THING IS THAT THE BITCH IS RIGHT! SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING, ALEXA. I'M JUST A BIG, SELFISH GIRL WHO'S BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT GAZE AT HER OWN NAVEL FOR A LONG TIME.

YOU'RE BEING TOO HARSH ON YOURSELF, KIM! THEY ALMOST FORCED YOU TO COME ALONG ON THIS TRIP. THEY EVEN LAID A TRAP TO MAKE YOU ACCEPT. IT'S ONLY FAIR YOU GET SOME COMPENSATION...



NO, ALEXA. IT'S A QUESTION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE OTHER PASSENGERS OF THIS FLIGHT, WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ALL OF FORWARD ENTERPRISE'S SCHEMES. AND IT'S ALSO ABOUT MY BEHAVIOUR ON BETELGEUSE. HER REPROACH IS JUSTIFIED, EVEN IF I HAD ALL THE REASONS IN THE WORLD TO ACT AS I DID.

I ASKED MAI LAN TO COME LIVE WITH ME.

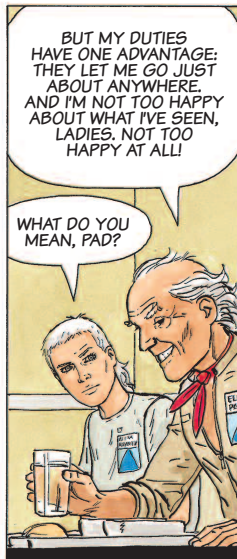


MAY I JOIN YOU, LADIES?

PAD! IT'S BEEN A WHILE! DO THEY STILL HAVE YOU PLAYING JANITOR?

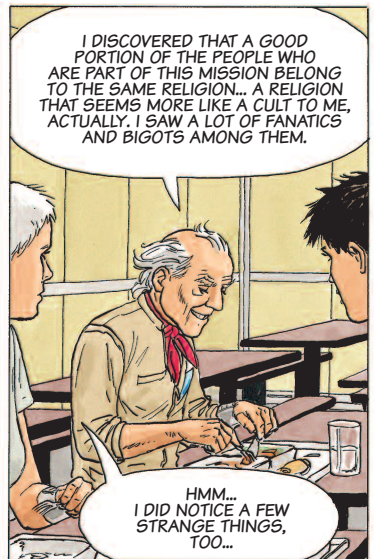


THEY DO INDEED, MA'AM. ISN'T THAT A SAD WASTE? INSTEAD OF MAKING GOOD USE OF MY MANY TALENTS, THEY GIVE ME JOBS THAT ANY AVAILABLE SIMPLETON COULD DO... A SAD WASTE, I TELL YOU!



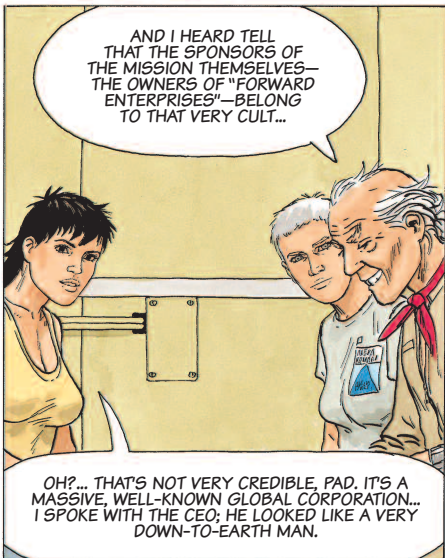
BUT MY DUTIES HAVE ONE ADVANTAGE: THEY LET ME GO JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE. AND I'M NOT TOO HAPPY ABOUT WHAT I'VE SEEN, LADIES. NOT TOO HAPPY AT ALL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PAD?



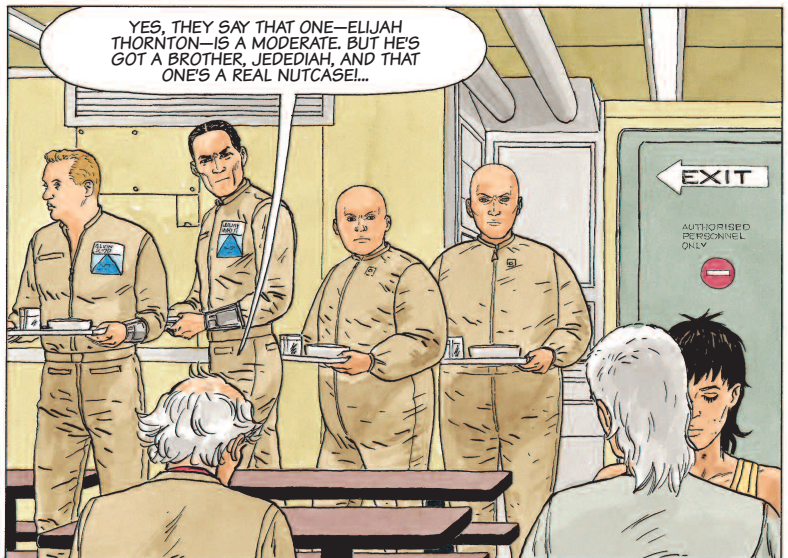
I DISCOVERED THAT A GOOD PORTION OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF THIS MISSION BELONG TO THE SAME RELIGION... A RELIGION THAT SEEMS MORE LIKE A CULT TO ME. ACTUALLY, I SAW A LOT OF FANATICS AND BIGOTS AMONG THEM.

HMM... I DID NOTICE A FEW STRANGE THINGS, TOO...



AND I HEARD TELL THAT THE SPONSORS OF THE MISSION THEMSELVES—THE OWNERS OF "FORWARD ENTERPRISES"—BELONG TO THAT VERY CULT...

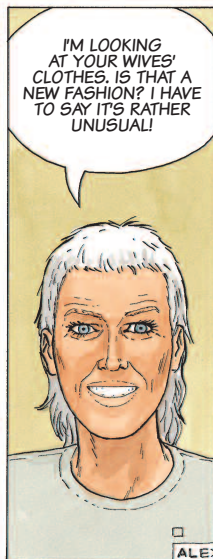
OH?... THAT'S NOT VERY CREDIBLE, PAD. IT'S A MASSIVE, WELL-KNOWN GLOBAL CORPORATION... I SPOKE WITH THE CEO; HE LOOKED LIKE A VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH MAN.



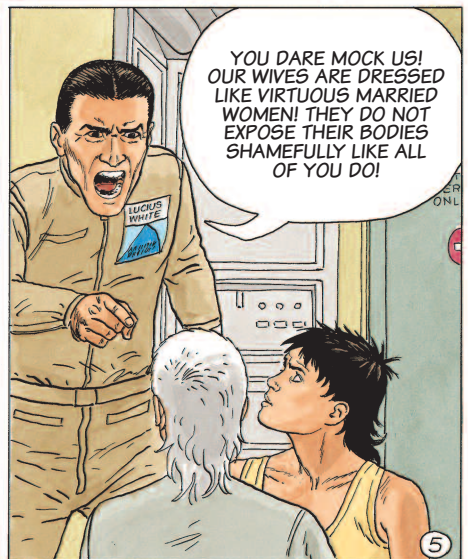
YES, THEY SAY THAT ONE—ELIJAH THORNTON—IS A MODERATE, BUT HE'S GOT A BROTHER, JEDEDIAH, AND THAT ONE'S A REAL NUTCASE!...



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?



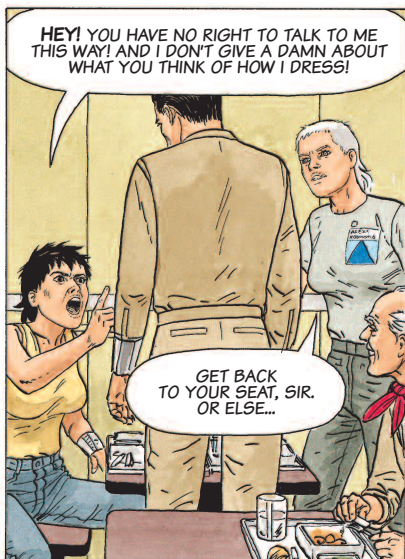
I'M LOOKING AT YOUR WIVES' CLOTHES. IS THAT A NEW FASHION? I HAVE TO SAY IT'S RATHER UNUSUAL!



YOU DARE MOCK US! OUR WIVES ARE DRESSED LIKE VIRTUOUS MARRIED WOMEN! THEY DO NOT EXPOSE THEIR BODIES SHAMEFULLY LIKE ALL OF YOU DO!

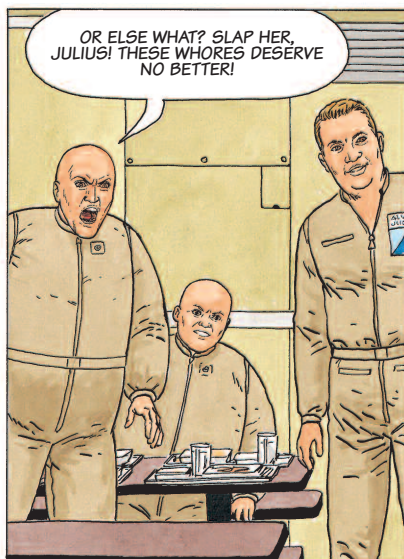


YOUR BIG BREASTS DISPLAYED LIKE THAT... SHAME ON YOU, WOMAN!



HEY! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TALK TO ME THIS WAY! AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK OF HOW I DRESS!

GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT, SIR. OR ELSE...

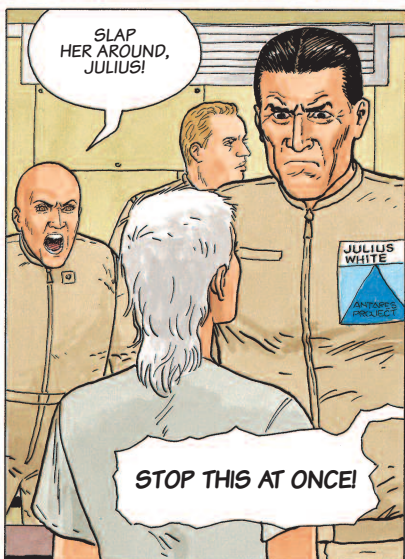


OR ELSE WHAT? SLAP HER, JULIUS! THESE WHORES DESERVE NO BETTER!



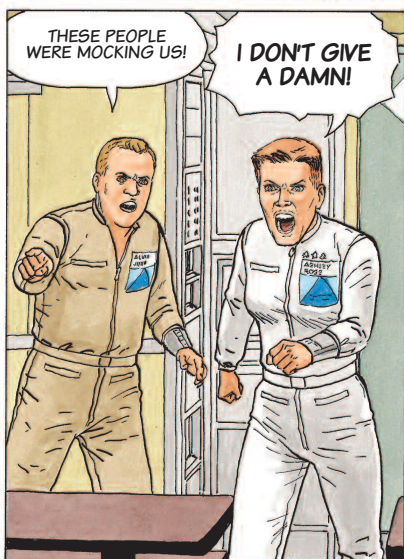
ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME? I WOULDN'T ADVISE IT, SIR...

CALM DOWN, ALEXA!



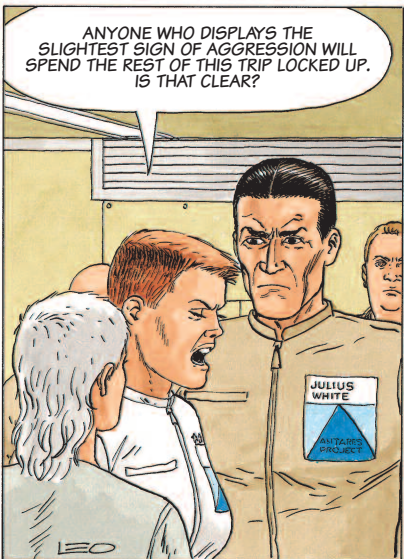
SLAP HER AROUND, JULIUS!

STOP THIS AT ONCE!

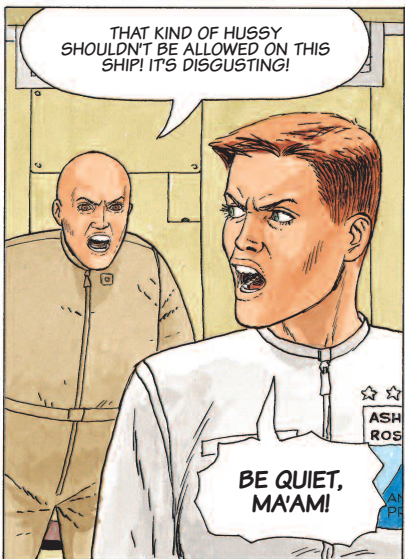


THESE PEOPLE WERE MOCKING US!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!

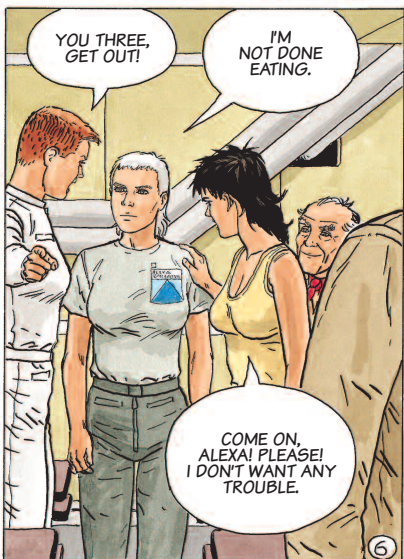


ANYONE WHO DISPLAYS THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF AGGRESSION WILL SPEND THE REST OF THIS TRIP LOCKED UP. IS THAT CLEAR?



THAT KIND OF HUSSY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED ON THIS SHIP! IT'S DISGUSTING!

BE QUIET, MA'AM!



YOU THREE, GET OUT!

I'M NOT DONE EATING.

COME ON, ALEXA! PLEASE! I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.