

STAR TREK

PART 2 OF 5

STARFLEET ACADEMY



PREVIOUSLY in *STARFLEET ACADEMY*...

In the year 2258, Cadet Uhura discovers an unusual audio signal from deep space. With Cadet Chekov's help she locates the signal's origin in system Wagner-219, but finds that all Starfleet records about the system are classified!

Three years later, Cadet T'Pol is prepared to leave the Academy, feeling out of place as a Vulcan. Professor Trumble convinces her to take part in the upcoming Centennial Competition, joining a team of fellow Cadets in a series of tests against students from across the Federation...

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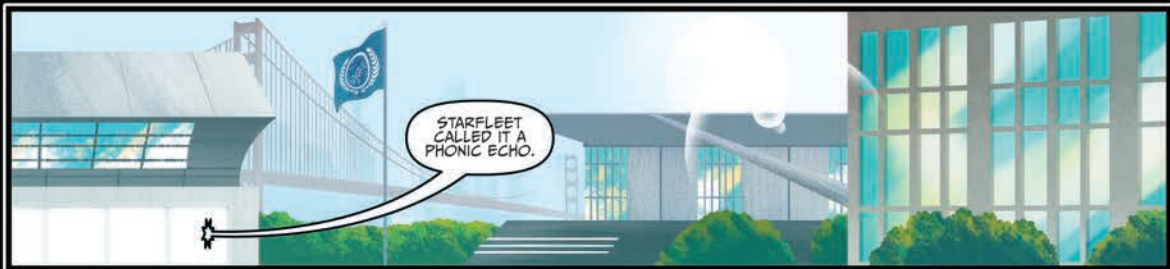
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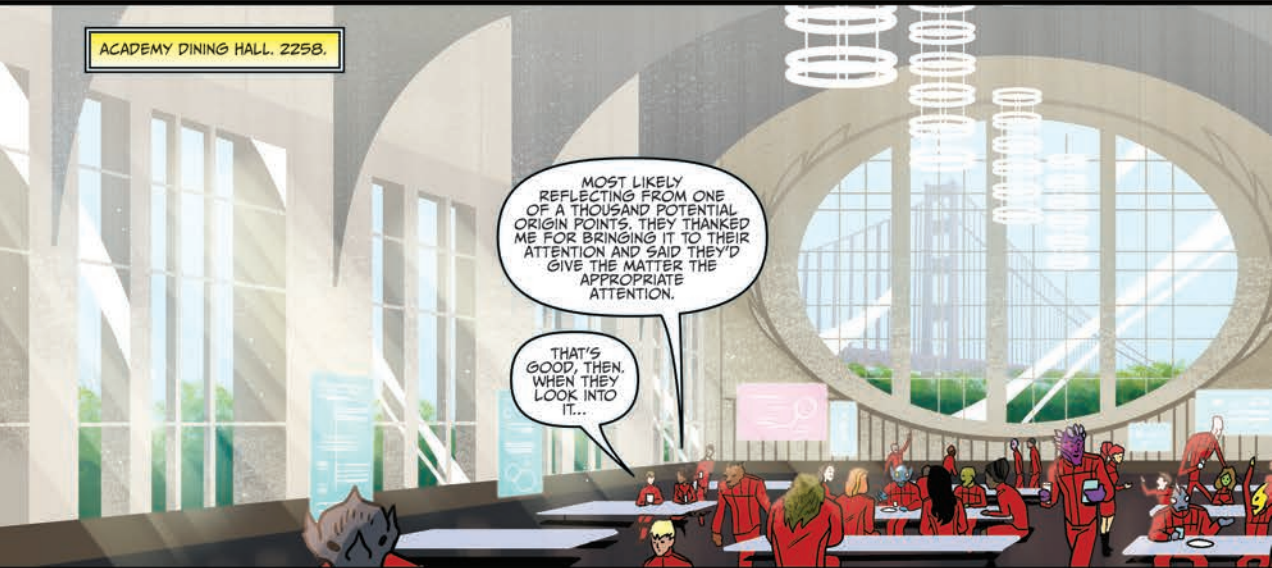


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STARFLEET CALLED IT A PHONIC ECHO.

ACADEMY DINING HALL, 225B.



MOST LIKELY REFLECTING FROM ONE OF A THOUSAND POTENTIAL ORIGIN POINTS, THEY THANKED ME FOR BRINGING IT TO THEIR ATTENTION AND SAID THEY'D GIVE THE MATTER THE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION.

THAT'S GOOD, THEN. WHEN THEY LOOK INTO IT...



I ALREADY DID, CHEKOV. CHECKED THE ARCHIVE FOR ANYTHING ABOUT WAGNER-219 AND LOOK WHAT IT SAYS.

SO? IT IS JUST RESTRICTED SPACE, FULL OF SUBSPACE EDDIES THAT CAN DISRUPT WARP FIELDS. THEY ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE—



COME ON. WE PICK UP A HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD DISTRESS CALL FROM A FEDERATION SHIP THAT POINTS DIRECTLY TO A RESTRICTED SECTOR AND YOU THINK THAT'S A COINCIDENCE?



SOMEBODY'S HIDING SOMETHING.



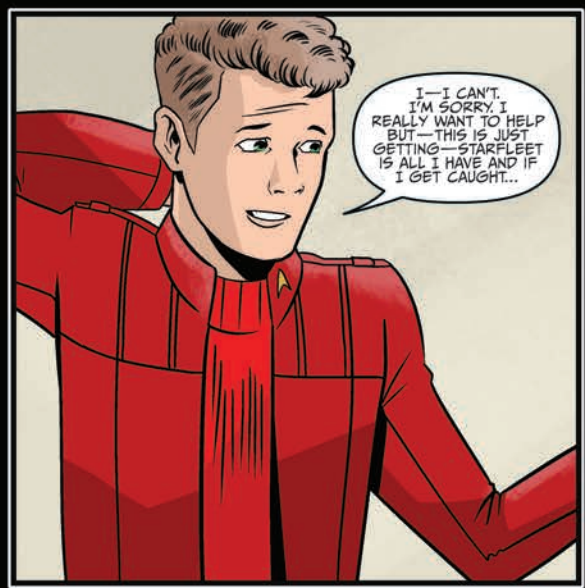
SO—ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO GET AROUND THE SECURITY WALL?

UH, I... I THINK...



UHURA, I'M SORRY—BUT I HAVE CLASS IN AN HOUR.

THAT'S OKAY. WE CAN WORK ON IT LATER TONIGHT IF—



I—I CAN'T. I'M SORRY. I REALLY WANT TO HELP BUT—THIS IS JUST GETTING—STARFLEET IS ALL I HAVE AND IF I GET CAUGHT...



...PLEASE DON'T BE MAD AT ME.



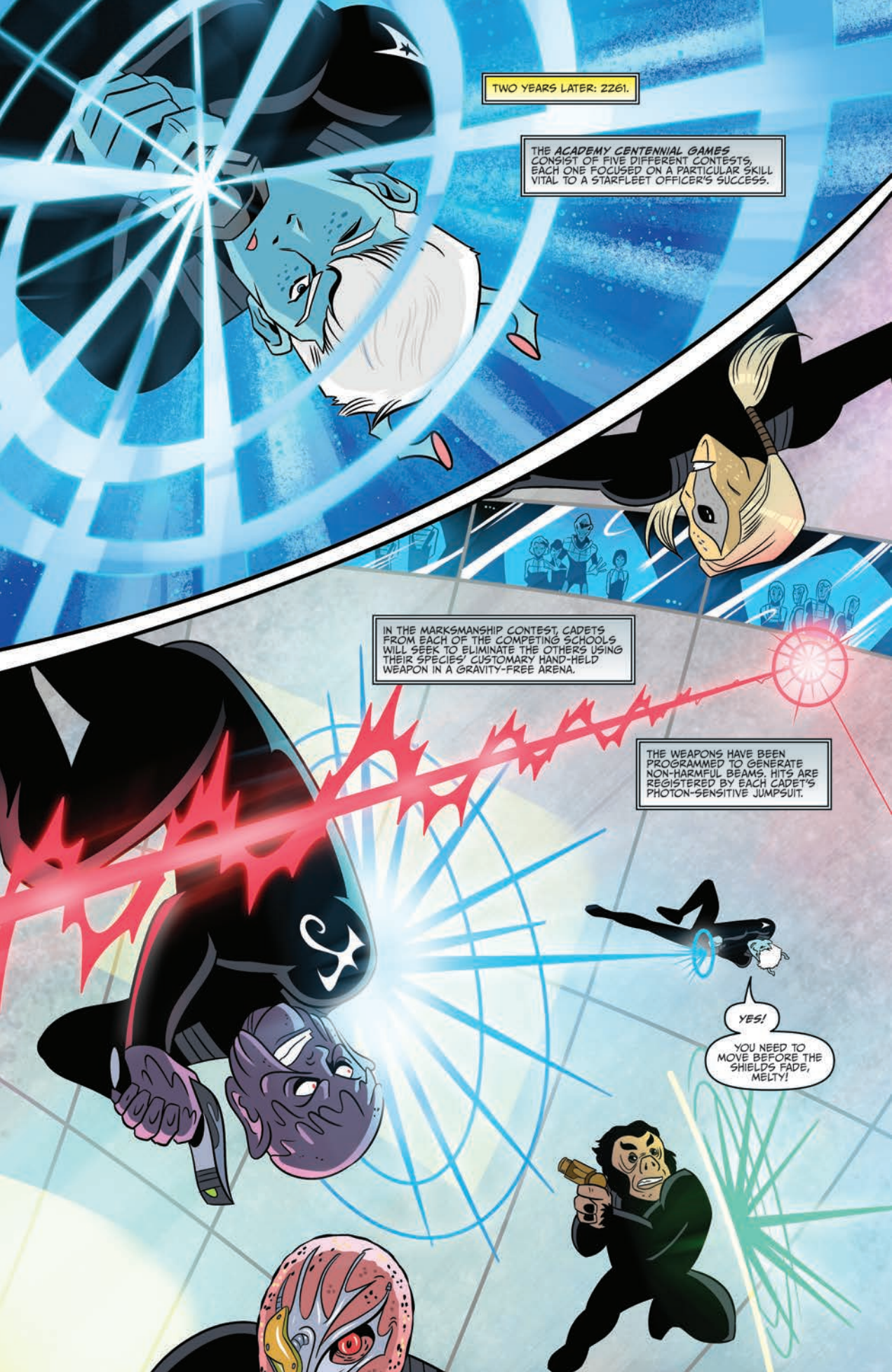
TWO YEARS LATER: 2261.

THE ACADEMY CENTENNIAL GAMES CONSIST OF FIVE DIFFERENT CONTESTS, EACH ONE FOCUSED ON A PARTICULAR SKILL VITAL TO A STARFLEET OFFICER'S SUCCESS.

IN THE MARKSMANSHIP CONTEST, CADETS FROM EACH OF THE COMPETING SCHOOLS WILL SEEK TO ELIMINATE THE OTHERS USING THEIR SPECIES' CUSTOMARY HAND-HELD WEAPON IN A GRAVITY-FREE ARENA.

THE WEAPONS HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO GENERATE NON-HARMFUL BEAMS, HITS ARE REGISTERED BY EACH CADET'S PHOTON-SENSITIVE JUMPSUIT.

YES!
YOU NEED TO MOVE BEFORE THE SHIELDS FADE, MELTY!



DEFENSIVE SHIELDS WILL APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR FOR SHORT DURATIONS AT VARIOUS POINTS WITHIN THE ARENA.



SHE HAS ELIMINATED THE ARCTURIAN CADET.

THE ARCTURIAN CADET IS NOW IN TEARS.



WE CAN ALL SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING, VEL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DESCRIBE EVERYTHING!



HE CAN'T HELP IT, GRACE. MONCHEZKINS DON'T USUALLY COMMUNICATE VOCALLY. THE WHOLE "TALKING" THING IS NEW TO HIM.

LUCIA IS EXPLAINING HOW MY SPECIES COMMUNICATES.



OH NO. HE'S NOT A TELEPATH, IS HE?

NO. THEIR SPECIES SHARES AN ELECTRO-CHEMICAL HIVE MIND. YOUR DIRTY THOUGHTS ARE SAFE.