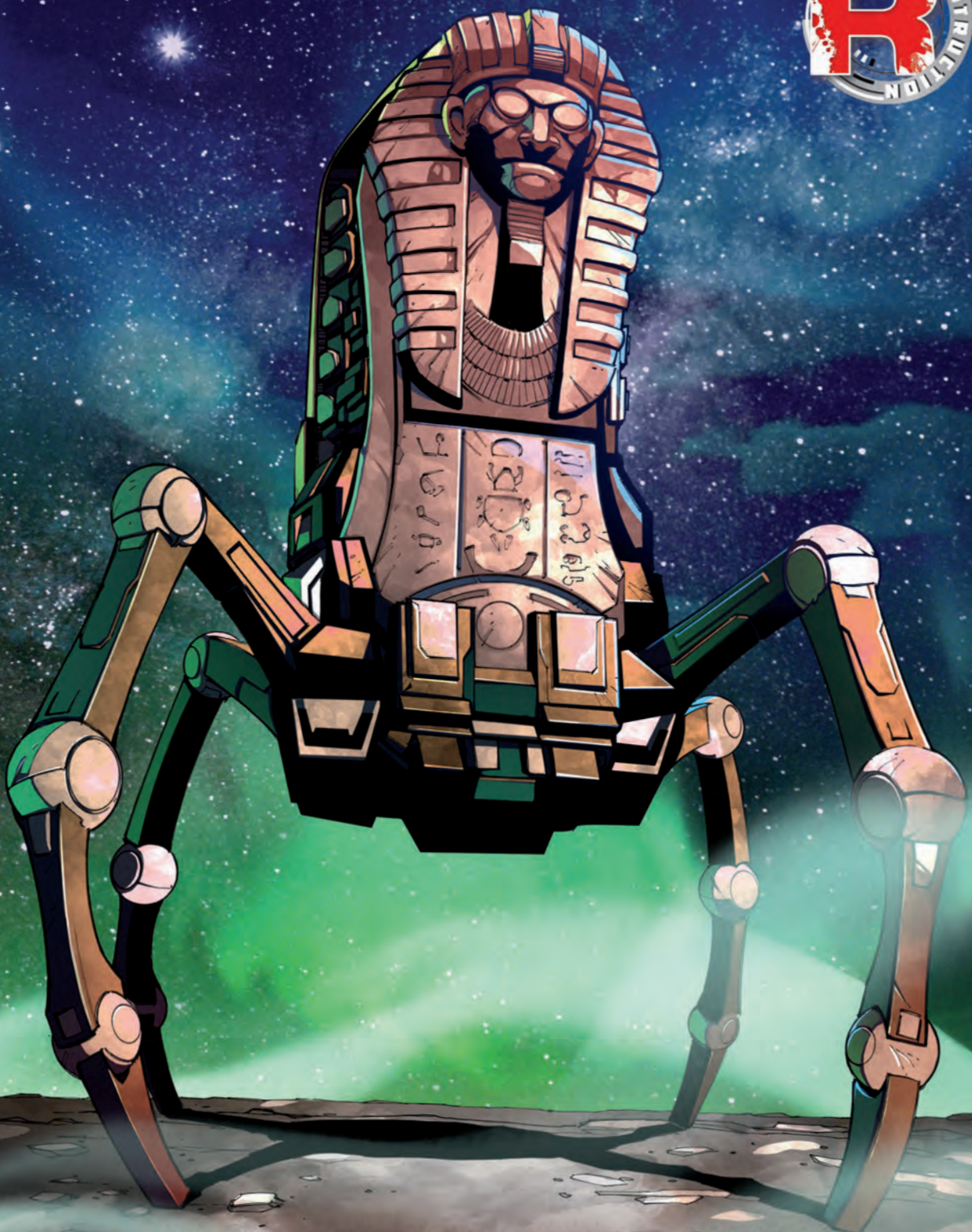


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MICRONAUTS



BUNN • JOHNSTON • DUNBAR • ZARATE

MICRONAUTS

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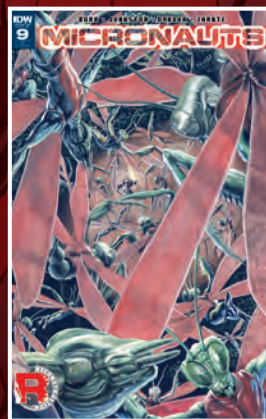
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HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU **LOST** AN ALIEN SPACESHIP? SOMEBODY TELL ME!

IT WAS STOWED AWAY SECURELY.

THE ALIENS THEMSELVES WERE CAGED AND INCAPACITATED.

AND YET ALL YOU CAN TELL ME IS THAT THE SHIP IS **GONE**... AND THE ALIENS WITH IT!

GONE WITHOUT A TRACE!

THAT ISN'T ENTIRELY ACCURATE.

THE SCIENCE TEAM SAYS THERE MAY BE A WAY TO TRACE THE SHIP.

THERE'S A VOID OR SOMETHING IN THE AIR WHERE THE SHIP TRAVELS.

IT'S LIKE A VAPOR TRAIL.

ARGON OR SOMETHING... DEPLETED FROM THE AIR IN THE SHIP'S WAKE...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT IT MEANS WE CAN FOLLOW THE ALIENS.

PREPARE THE OMEGA TEAM. WE'RE GOING AFTER THEM.

DO YOUR JOBS... AND YOU MIGHT GET THROUGH THE DAY WITHOUT ME HAVING TO **SHOOT** ANY OF YOU.

MR. MAYHEM.

JUST REPORTING IN TO LET YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE A **LOCATION** ON THE ESCAPED ALIENS.

A TEAM IS BEING ASSEMBLED AS WE SPEAK.

THAT IS GOOD NEWS, COMMANDER KLAINE.

I SHALL BE EXPECTING A REPORT OF YOUR **SUCCESS** BEFORE THE DAY HAS ENDED.

AND COMMANDER...

...I KNOW YOUR **KILL RECORD**. I ADMIRE IT.

BUT I WANT THOSE SPECIMENS CAPTURED **ALIVE**.

AM I CLEAR?

CRYSTAL.

"SO... YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTING US..."



WAITING FOR US...
...FOR ME...
...ON THIS PLANET?



OKAY... SURE... WHY NOT?
I CAN ACCEPT THAT.
BUT MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME WHO YOU ARE?



PLEASE, PHAROID.
LOWER YOUR HANDS.
YOU ARE NOT OUR PRISONERS.



SADLY...
I GUESS MAYBE THE GUNS GAVE US THE WRONG IDEA.
...IT'S THE WARMEST WELCOME WE GET WHEN OZ IS INVOLVED.



WE DO NOT OFTEN RECEIVE GUESTS.

WE MUST BE WARY OF INDIGENOUS WILDLIFE ENCRDACHING ON OUR CITY. THE AREA IS CRAWLING WITH NATURAL PREDATORS—MANY OF WHICH ARE QUITE DELICIOUS, I AM TOLD.

THE SOLDIERS WERE JUST BEING CAUTIOUS.



WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.

STARTING MAYBE WITH MY ORIGINAL QUESTION. WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR TIMING WAS IMPECCABLE. A FEAST IS BEING PREPARED IN THE GREAT HALL.

RIGHT.

WELL, GUYS, LOOKS LIKE DINNER IS ON THEM TONIGHT!



HEY, MICROTRON, WE ARE GOING TO BE DEALING WITH SOME "LOCALS" FOR A BIT OUT HERE.

YOU OKAY BACK AT THE SHIP?

THINGS ARE GOING **SPECTACULARLY**, CAPTAIN.

BIOTRON HAD MODIFIED THE ENGINES TO PULL SPECIFIC CHEMICAL ELEMENTS FROM THIS PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE.



OUR SAMPLERS WERE ALREADY CONVERTING IT, BUT THESE MODIFICATIONS SHOULD INCREASE ENGINE EFFICIENCY DRAMATICALLY.

YEAH, OKAY. SOUNDS GOOD, MICROTRON.

KEEP AT IT.

WE'LL BE BACK SOON.



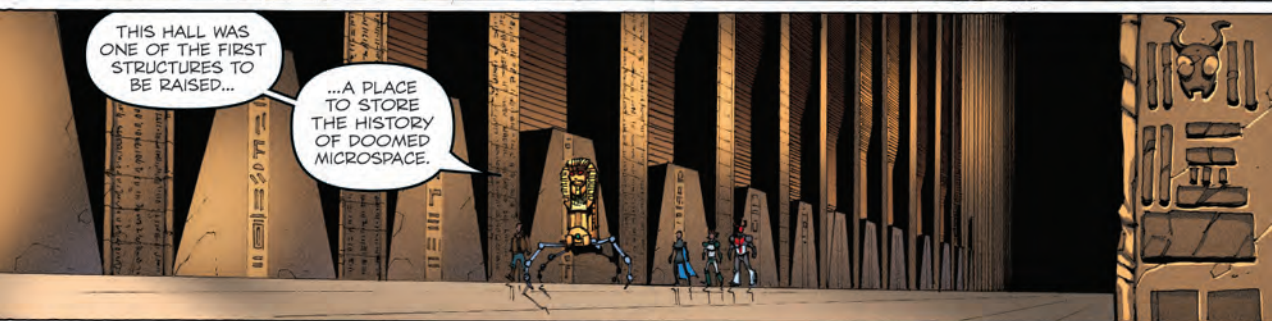
DID I DETECT A **TONE** IN THE CAPTAIN'S VOICE?

SOMETIMES I DON'T THINK OZ TRULY APPRECIATES EVERYTHING WE DO.

I AM SURPRISED YOU THINK THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE **DOES**.



WHEN I ARRIVED HERE WITH THE **KRONUS**, WE CAME TO THIS AREA TO BUILD OUR CITY.



THIS HALL WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STRUCTURES TO BE RAISED...

...A PLACE TO STORE THE HISTORY OF DOOMED MICROSPACE.



DOOMED?

OF COURSE.

YOU KNOW THE DAY IS COMING WHEN OUR UNIVERSE WILL COLLAPSE.

FOR ME... FOR THE **KRONUS**... THAT DAY HAS ALREADY PASSED.



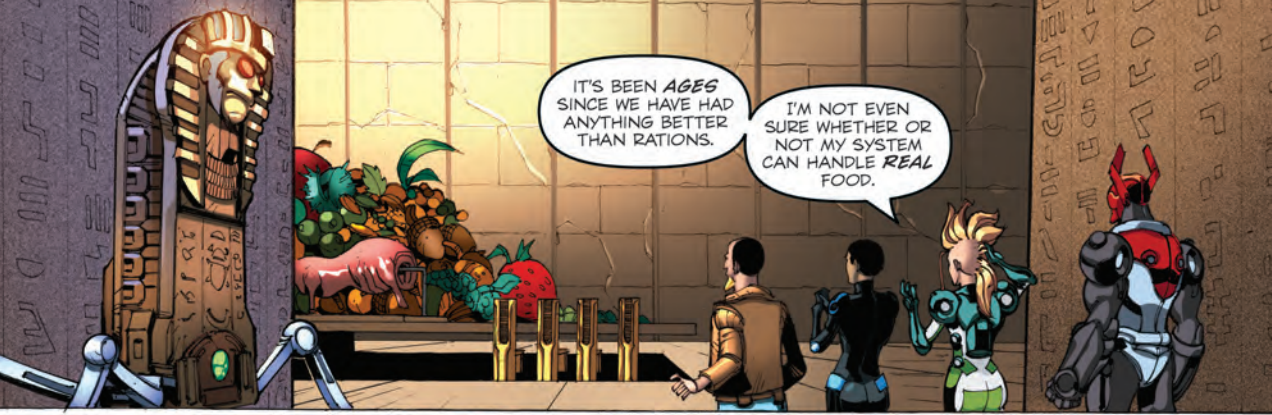
SO... YOU'RE FROM THE **FUTURE**.

AND THIS PLACE HOLDS HISTORICAL RECORDS ABOUT EVENTS THAT **HAPPENED YET?**

DETAILS ABOUT THE ENTROPY CLOUD...

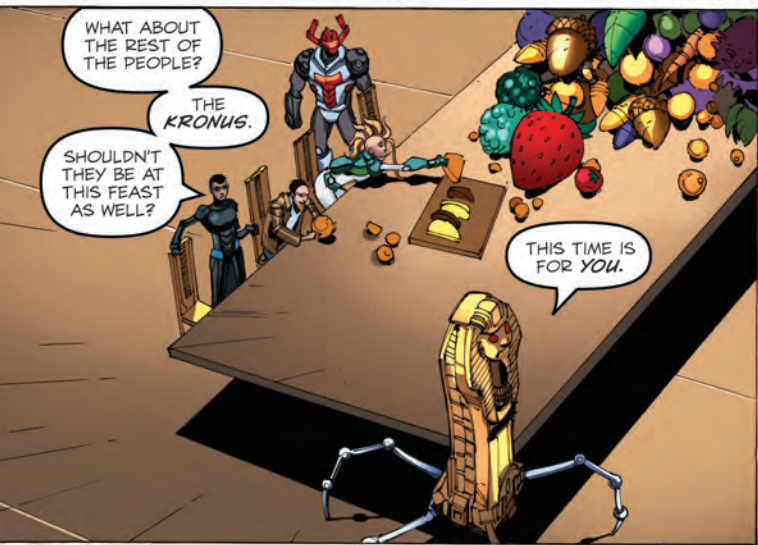


THEY HAVE NOT HAPPENED YET FOR YOU, BUT THEY HAPPENED MANY YEARS AGO FOR ALL OF THOSE LIVING IN THIS CITY.



IT'S BEEN *AGES* SINCE WE HAVE HAD ANYTHING BETTER THAN RATIONS.

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHETHER OR NOT MY SYSTEM CAN HANDLE *REAL* FOOD.



WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE PEOPLE?

THE *KRONUS*.

SHOULDN'T THEY BE AT THIS FEAST AS WELL?

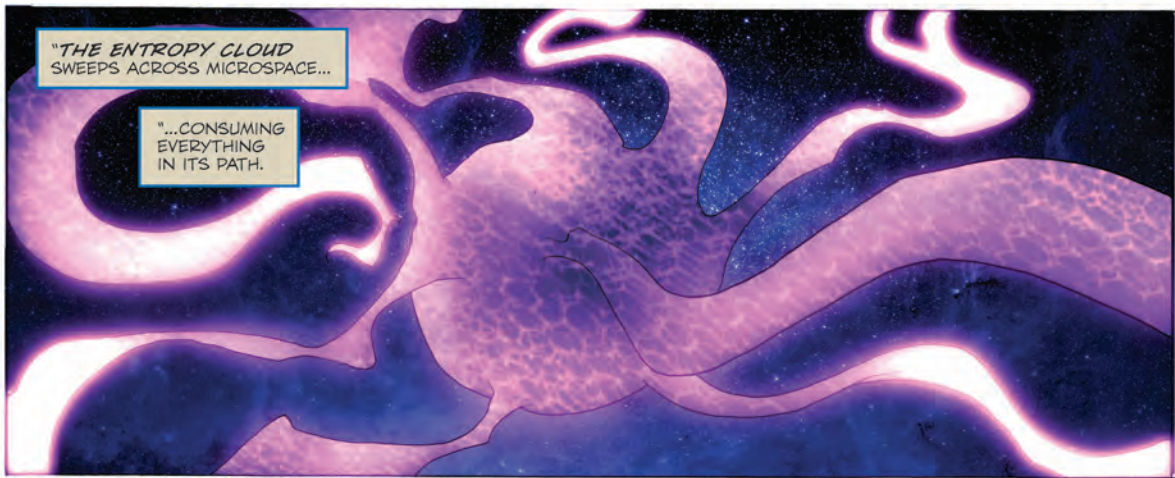
THIS TIME IS FOR YOU.



AND WHILE YOU EAT, I WILL ANSWER YOUR ORIGINAL QUESTION...

...THE ONLY QUESTION THAT REALLY MATTERS.

I WILL TELL YOU WHO WE ARE.



"THE ENTROPY CLOUD SWEEPS ACROSS MICROSPACE..."

"...CONSUMING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.



"ONE BY ONE, THE SYSTEMS OF MICROSPACE ARE ENGULFED BY THE CLOUD..."

"...UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT."