

**ONE HOUR AGO...**

THERE ARE  
**GOOD** WAYS TO  
DIE IN SPACE.

QUICK  
DEATHS.

NOBLE  
DEATHS.

BUT DYING IN SPACE  
WITHOUT **LIFE SUPPORT**?  
AS ANY SPACE PIRATE CAN  
TELL YOU, THERE ARE FEW  
**WORSE** DEATHS.

FEW WHICH  
ARE MORE  
LONELY...

...MORE  
SLOW...



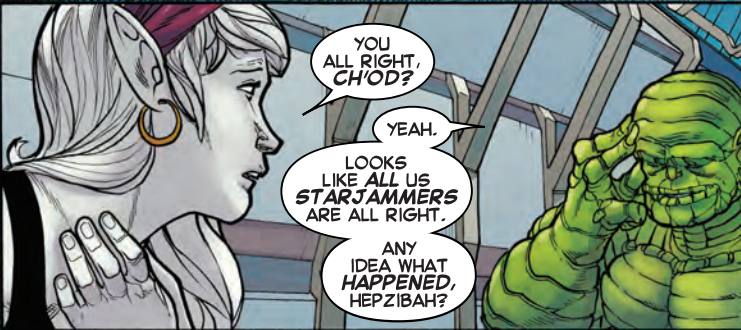


...OR MORE CERTAIN.



NOW...

UHHHHH...



YOU ALL RIGHT, CH'OD?

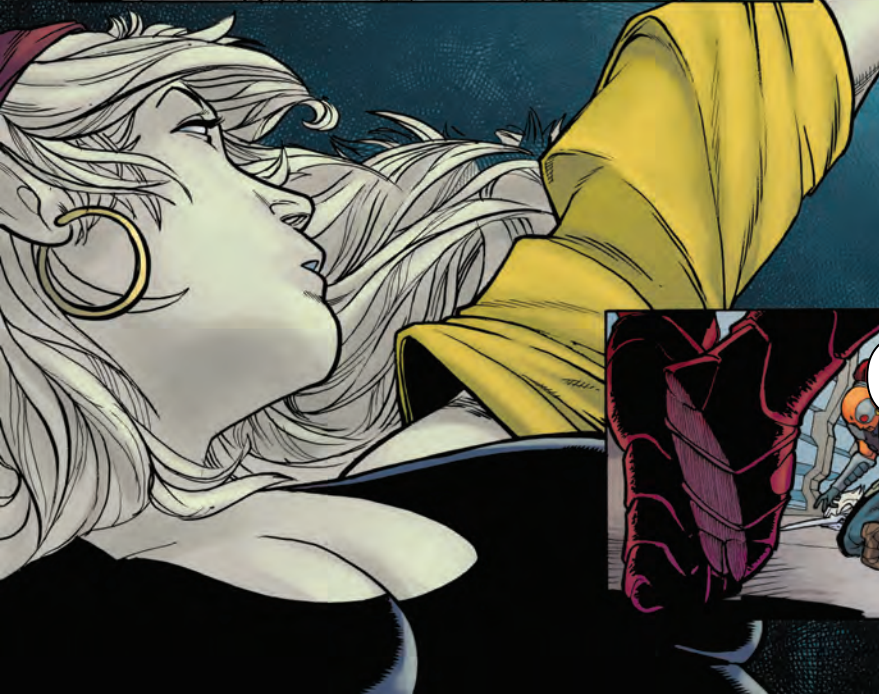
YEAH.

LOOKS LIKE ALL US STARJAMMERS ARE ALL RIGHT.

ANY IDEA WHAT HAPPENED, HEPZIBAH?

"AFTER WE USED UP THE LAST OF OUR AIR?"

"I JUST REMEMBER GASPING, STARTING TO BLACK OUT...AND THEN A BRIGHT LIGHT... I ASSUMED IT WAS MY DEATH..."



...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS OUR RESCUE.





SO I GUESS WE HAVE YOU TO THANK.

INDEED YOU DO.

YOU'RE ABOARD THE MERCHANT CLASS GALACTIC TRANSPORT SHIP *CELERITY*.

WE JUST FINISHED DELIVERING A CARGO RUN TO THE TAU CETI SYSTEM WHEN WE INTERCEPTED YOUR *S.O.S.*



"S.O.S.?" HUH?

NOT REALLY SURE WHAT YOU WERE *DOING* OUT THERE, THE ENTIRE CREW OF YOU--STRANDED OUTSIDE THE INTERSTELLAR SHIPPING LANES IN A DISABLED ESCAPE POD WITH *SABOTAGED* LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS...



...BUT WE MANAGED TO SAVE YOU IN THE *NICK OF TIME*, I'M HAPPY TO SAY.



BECAUSE IT TURNS OUT THE *BOUNTY* ON YOU IS *CONSIDERABLY* HIGHER IF WE BRING YOU IN *ALIVE*...

...*SPACE PIRATES*.





WELL, KRATUCK.

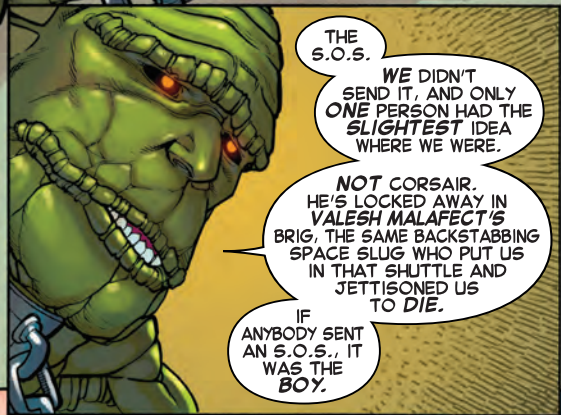
THAT COULD HAVE GONE BETTER.



COULDA GONE WORSE, TOO, RAZA.

AT LEAST WE'RE ALIVE.

AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY BRIGHT SIDE. THINK ABOUT IT.



THE S.O.S.

WE DIDN'T SEND IT, AND ONLY ONE PERSON HAD THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE WE WERE.

NOT CORSAIR. HE'S LOCKED AWAY IN VALESH MALAFECT'S BRIG, THE SAME BACKSTABBING SPACE SLUG WHO PUT US IN THAT SHUTTLE AND JETTISONED US TO DIE.

IF ANYBODY SENT AN S.O.S., IT WAS THE BOY.

"SCOTT SUMMERS.

"CYCLOPS.

"IT'S NICE TO KNOW, AT LEAST SOMEWHERE IN THE GALAXY, ONE OF US HAS THINGS UNDER CONTROL."

