



TALES OF

HONOR



#0 • FREE

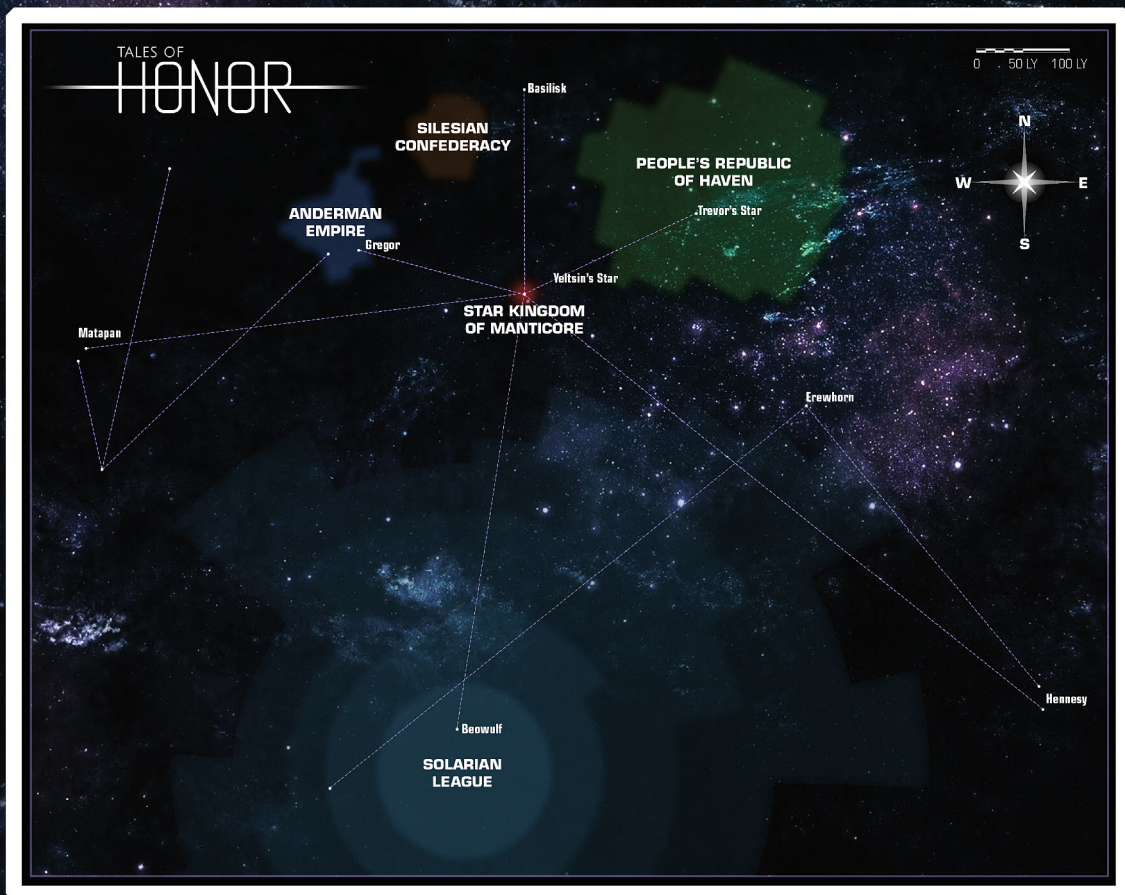
BRED TO KILL



Matt Hawkins
Linda Sejic

www.tales-of-honor.com

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY



"BRED TO KILL"

MATT HAWKINS WRITER

LINDA SEJIC ARTIST

TROY PETERI LETTERER

BETSY GONIA EDITOR

Set in the Honorverse created by David Weber

Linda Sejic
Cover



For Top Cow Productions, Inc.

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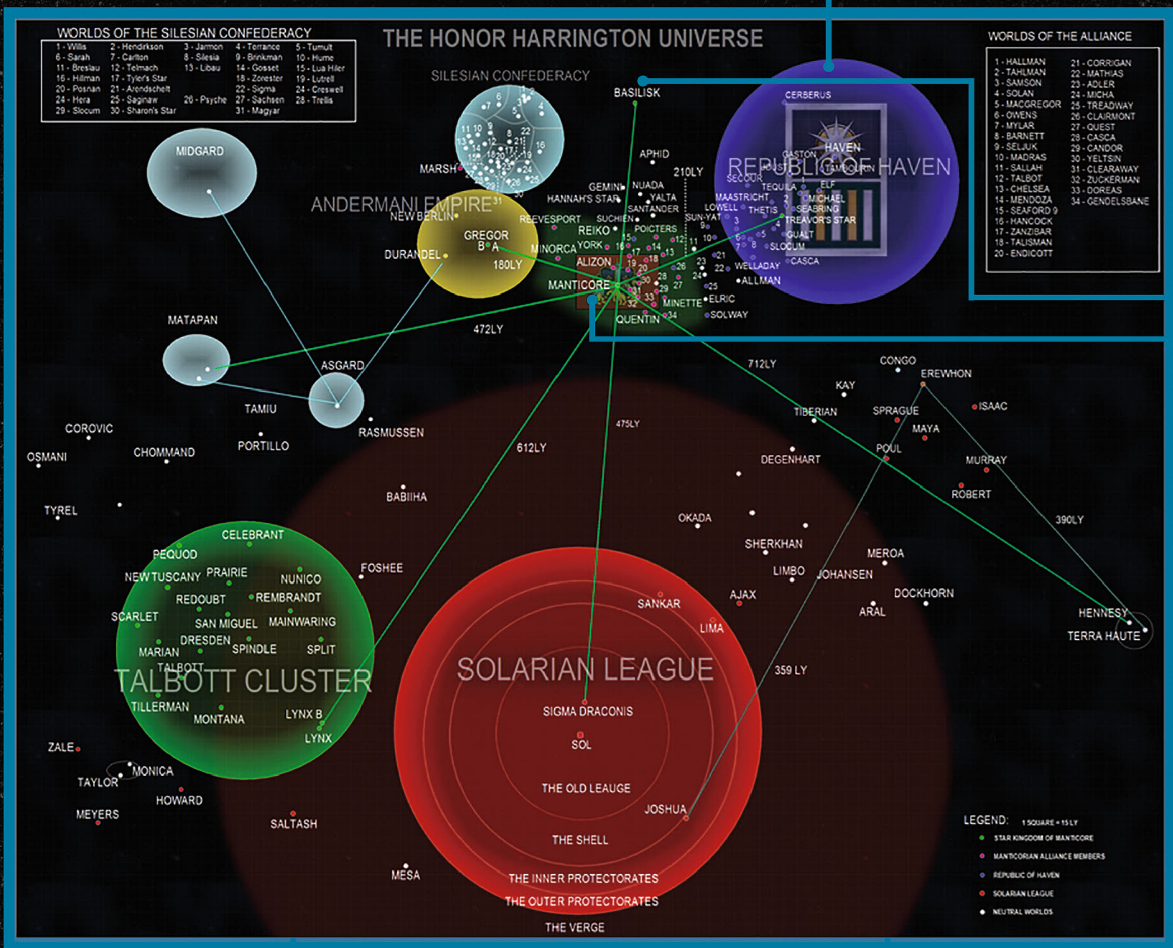
In the year 2130, a colony ship left Old Earth with the mission of interstellar colonization, launching the largest diaspora in the history of mankind. A new calendar system was born that year with 1 PD commemorating the “post-diaspora” era.

Sublight colonization allowed like-minded individuals to populate and govern new Star Nations however they deemed appropriate. Theocracies, monarchies, communist states, democracies and fringe groups all flourished. Initially a source of great peace, technological advances in transit speed and further expansion shrunk the distances between star systems, bringing about an inevitable clash of ideologies.

One of these Star Nations, The People’s Republic of Haven, is on the surface a democracy, but in practicality a central party controlled dictatorship. Wasted economically by its welfare state, Haven embraced an expansionist policy of military conquest to sustain its bloated system.

Conquering system after system, Haven finally set its sights on the Star Kingdom of Manticore, home to our hero Honor Harrington...

TALES OF HONOR



EVENTS LEADING TO THE DIASPORA

1740-1786 CE
FREDERICK THE GREAT RULES PRUSSIA.

17TH CENTURY CE
ISRAEL NEWTON FORMULATES HIS LAWS OF GRAVITY.

EARLY 19TH CENTURY CE
GENERAL CLAUSEWITZ WRITES ON WAR DURING THE NAPOLEONIC ERA OF THE FINAL AGE OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM.

MID-19TH CENTURY CE
MATTHEW PERRY HELPS OPEN UP U.S. TRADE WITH JAPAN.

MID-20TH CENTURY CE
WORLD WAR II IS FOUGHT. IN 1959, UNITED STATES LANDS FIRST MANNED SPACECRAFT ON MOON.

2064 CE (38 ANTE DIASPORA)
THE LUNAR REVOLT BREAKS OUT AGAINST EARTH IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

SEPT 30, 2103, CE (1 PD)
BEGINNING OF THE DIASPORA

ROYAL MANTICOREAN NAVY

RANKS

MIDSHIPMAN	ENSIGN	LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE	LIEUTENANT	LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
COMMANDER	CAPTAIN JUNIOR GRADE	CAPTAIN SENIOR GRADE	COMMODORE	REAR ADMIRAL
VICE ADMIRAL	ADMIRAL	FLEET ADMIRAL	ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET	

PATCHES

NAVY PATCH

HMS FEARLESS CL-56

REPUBLIC OF HAVEN



CAPITAL:
NOUVEAU PARIS

CURRENCY:
HAVENITE CREDIT

BANKRUPTED BY:
WELFARE STATE IN 1804 PD

FIRST CONQUEST:
PEGASUS SYSTEM

MEDUSA

BASILISK SYSTEM



LANGUAGE:
SEMAPHORIC
BODY LANGUAGE

CIVILIZATION LEVEL:
BRONZE AGE

RELIGION:
SHAMANISTIC,
KNOWN FOR RITUAL
USE OF DRUG
MEKODHA

INHABITANTS:
MEDUSANS
ALSO KNOWN
AS STILTIES





JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

PARLIAMENT

CABINET

CROWN

CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

ARMN

ARMN NAVY

ARMN MARINES

ARMN ARMY

ARMN ARMED FORCES

ANNEXED TERRITORY:
BASILISK SYSTEM

SOLE HABITABLE PLANET:
MEDUSA

INDIGENOUS SPECIES:
MEDUSANS

ALTHOUGH EVENTS AT BASILISK STATION* DID NOT RESULT IN WAR BETWEEN THE STAR KINGDOM OF MANTICORE, MY HOME, AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF HAVEN, TENSIONS REMAINED HIGH AND WE KNEW HAVENITE VESSELS WERE IN OUR VICINITY.

SILESIA CONFEDERACY
1902 PD

MY SHIP, THE *HMS FEARLESS*, WAS ASSIGNED TO PIRATE DUTY IN THE SILESIA CONFEDERACY.

UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL,
THIS IS CAPTAIN HONOR
HARRINGTON OF THE ROYAL
MANTICORAN NAVY. YOU WILL
HEAVE TO IMMEDIATELY AND
PREPARE TO BE BOARDED OR
WE WILL FIRE INTO YOUR
VESSEL. THIS IS YOUR
FINAL WARNING.

*SEE TALES OF HONOR VOLUME 1.

THAT SHIP HAS
NO IMPELLER DRIVE,
THERE HAS TO BE
ANOTHER ONE NEARBY.
KEEP SEARCHING FOR IT
AND GET THE MARINES
ON BOARD THE CUTTERS
AND PREP THEM FOR
SURFACE DROP, THEY'RE
ABOUT TO ENTER THE
ATMOSPHERE.

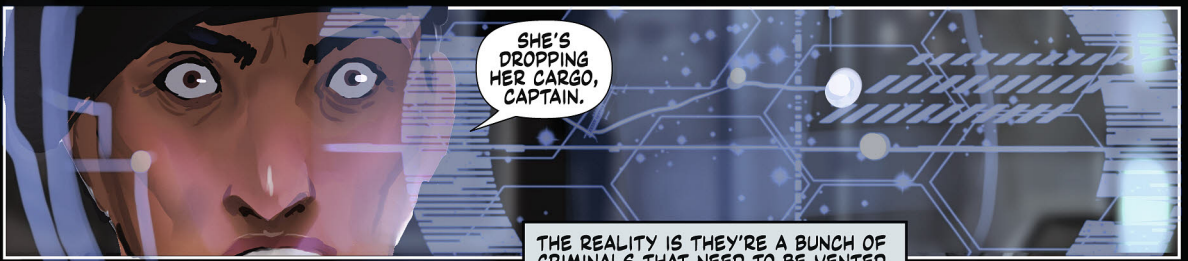
ACKNOWLEDGED,
SKIPPER. PLANET HAS
TERRAN-LIKE
ATMOSPHERE, LIMITED
MICROBIOTIC LIFE, BUT NO
DISCERNIBLE STRUCTURES
OF ANY KIND.

SWASHBUCKLING ADVENTURE,
DARING EXPLOITS: FICTION
ROMANTICIZES THE LIVES
OF PIRATES.

JETTISON
THE CARGO.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

DEADLY, BOY.
DO IT NOW OR
I'LL DUMP YOU
TOO.



SHE'S
DROPPING
HER CARGO,
CAPTAIN.

THE REALITY IS THEY'RE A BUNCH OF
CRIMINALS THAT NEED TO BE VENTED
OUT THE CLOSEST AIRLOCK.



PIRACY STARTED THOUSANDS OF YEARS
AGO ON OLD EARTH WHEN SEA RAIDERS
THREATENED THE TRADE ROUTES OF
ANCIENT GREECE.

THE SCOURGE OF THESE
PIRATES SPREAD TO ALL
SEAFARING NATIONS FOR
MILLENNIA BEFORE
EXPANDING TO THE STARS.



ATTRACTING THIEVES, DREAMERS
AND OUTCASTS, INDEPENDENCE FROM
NATIONAL LAWS ENTICED MANY TO
TAKE ON THIS LIFE.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY,
PIRATES ARE JUST A BUNCH OF
PSYCHOPATHS AND MURDERERS WHO
PROFIT FROM THE MISERY OF OTHERS.



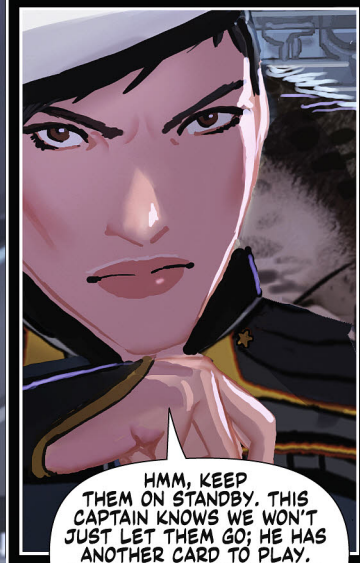


MY GOD,
CAPTAIN, THEIR
CARGO...WAS
PEOPLE.

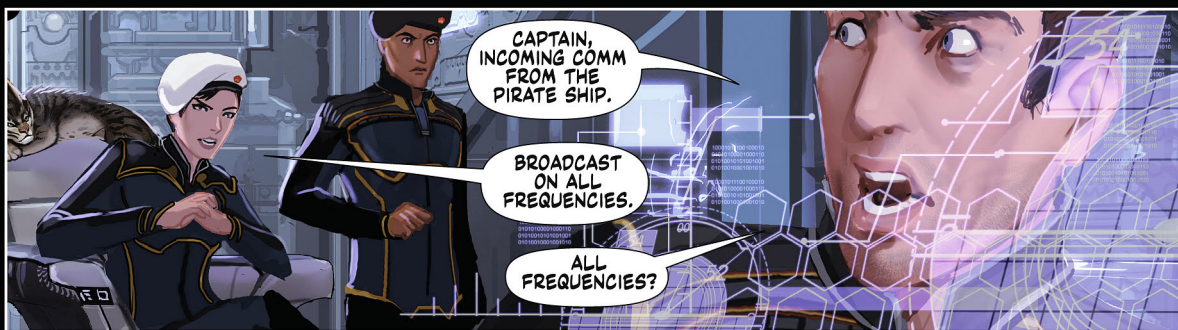
THE SLAVE TRADE
IS A PROFITABLE BUSINESS,
XO, AND THEY KNOW IT'S A
CAPITAL OFFENSE. THE
ELIMINATION OF PHYSICAL
EVIDENCE IS A COMMON
TACTIC.



THE
MARINES
ARE READY
TO DROP.



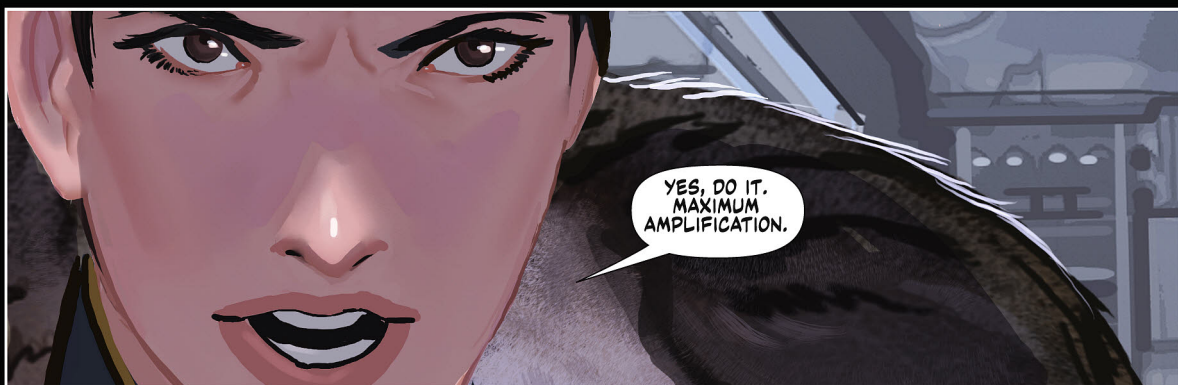
HMM, KEEP
THEM ON STANDBY. THIS
CAPTAIN KNOWS WE WON'T
JUST LET THEM GO; HE HAS
ANOTHER CARD TO PLAY.
SEND CODED TRANSMISSION
TO BASILISK ADVISING
STATUS AND REQUESTING
SUPPORT.



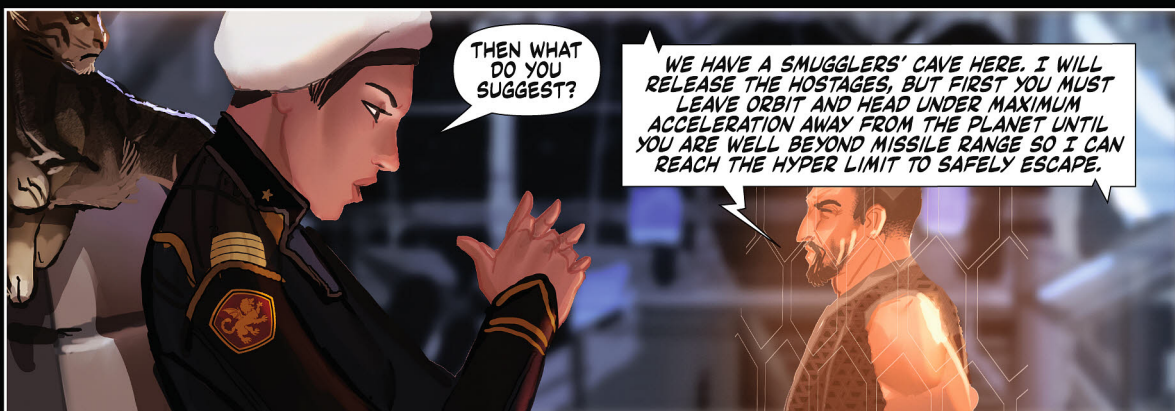
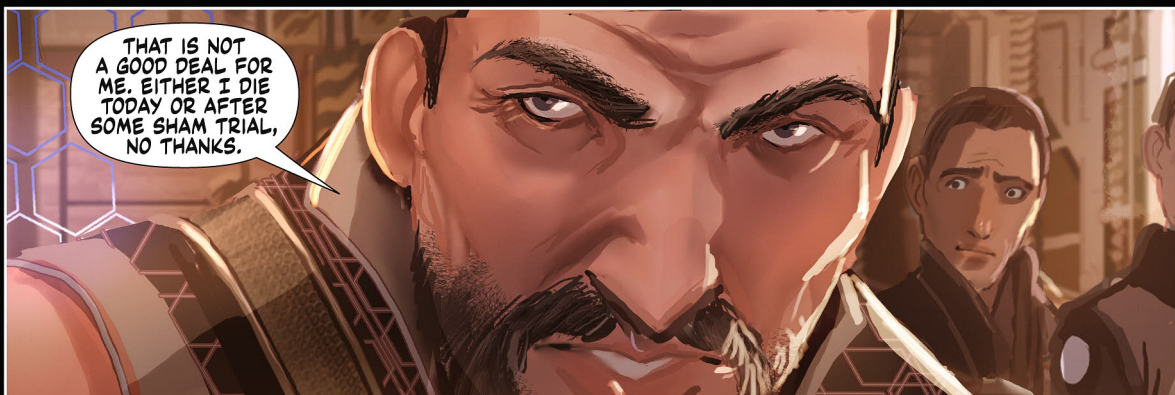
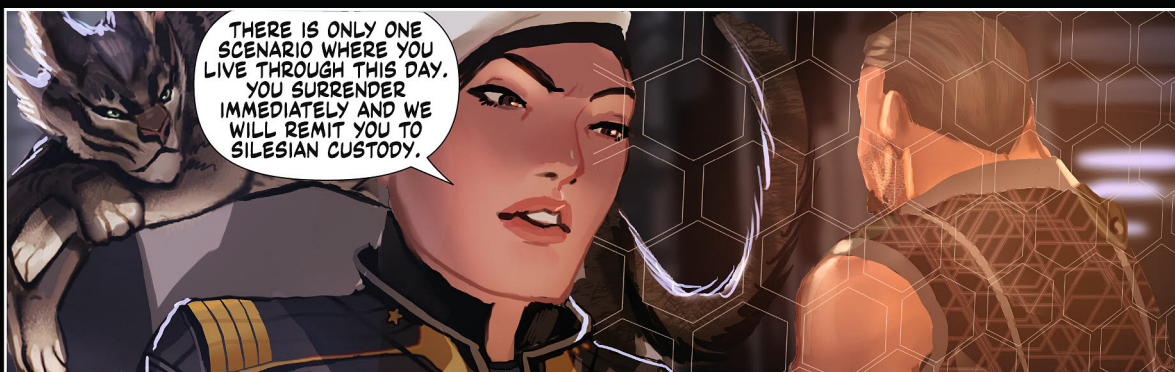
CAPTAIN,
INCOMING COMM
FROM THE
PIRATE SHIP.

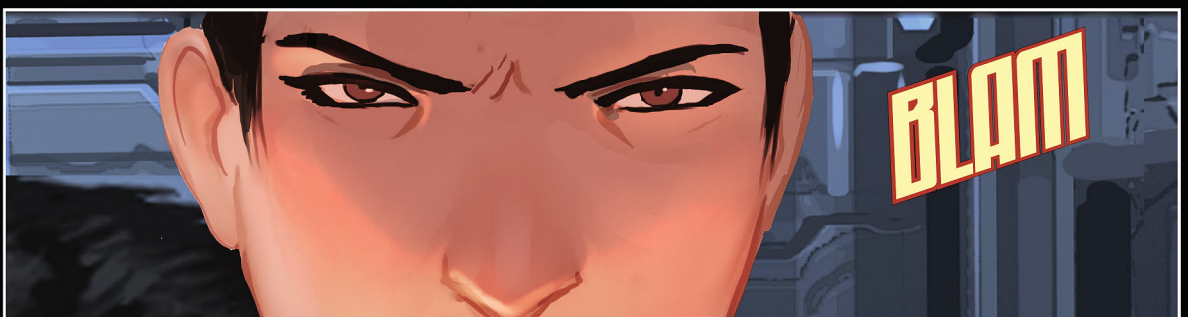
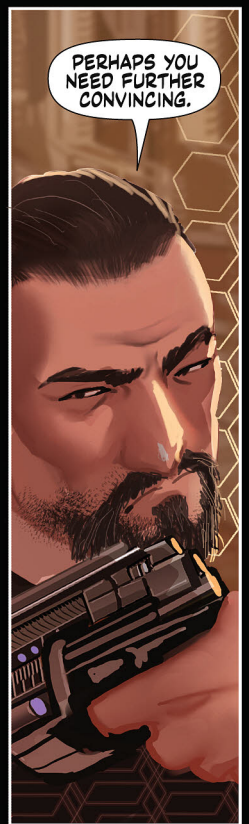
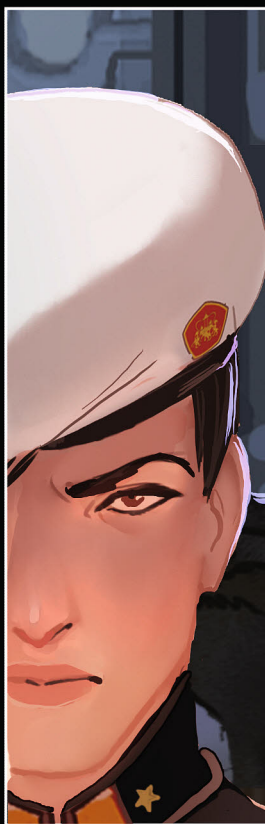
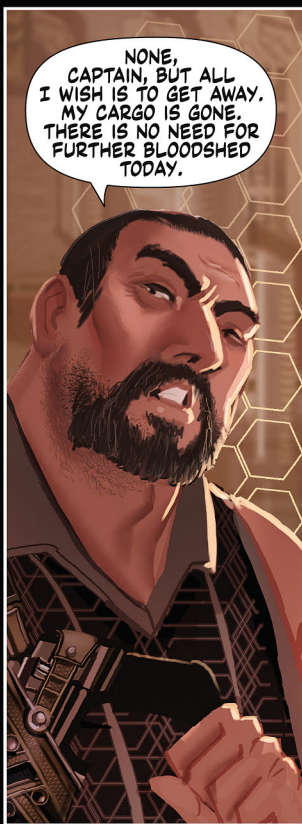
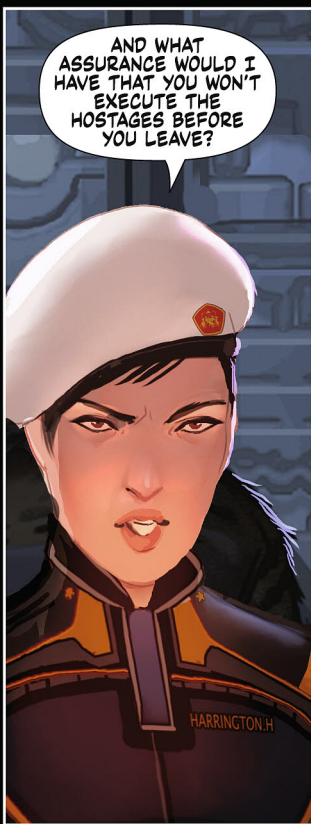
BROADCAST
ON ALL
FREQUENCIES.

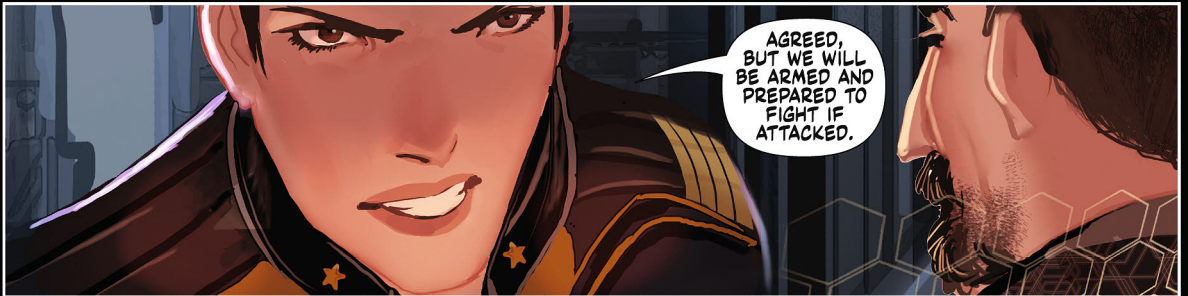
ALL
FREQUENCIES?



YES, DO IT.
MAXIMUM
AMPLIFICATION.









I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, XO, BUT IT'S MY SWORN DUTY TO PROTECT THE ROYAL FAMILY. AND THESE PIRATE TYPES ARE COWARDS; HE JUST WANTS TO LIVE TO STEAL ANOTHER DAY.

LET ME GO. YOU CAN'T RISK YOURSELF LIKE THIS.



NO, I NEED YOU ON FEARLESS, MR. VENIZELOS. WE KNOW THERE ARE HAVENITES IN THE AREA; AND OUR ENEMIES COULD BE LISTENING.

CAN'T WE WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS?

THIS CAPTAIN ISN'T STUPID. HE KNOWS HE HAS LIMITED TIME BEFORE ANOTHER VESSEL ARRIVES.



PIRATES PICK ON UNESCORTED MERCHANT CONVOYS AND FERRY ILLEGAL GOODS AND PEOPLE THROUGH SYSTEMS.



THIS PIRATE CLEARLY HAD LITTLE VALUE FOR HUMAN LIFE, BUT I WAS BETTING ON THE FACT THAT HE DID CARE ABOUT SAVING ONE PERSON: HIMSELF.



STAY CLOSE TO THE SHIP, WEAPONS READY IF THEY ENGAGE.

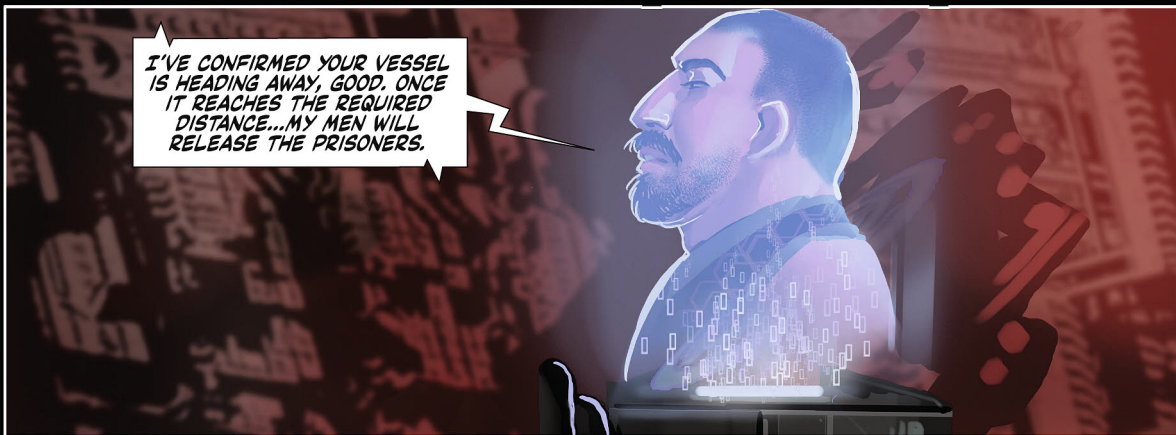
WE WILL HOLD OUR FIRE.

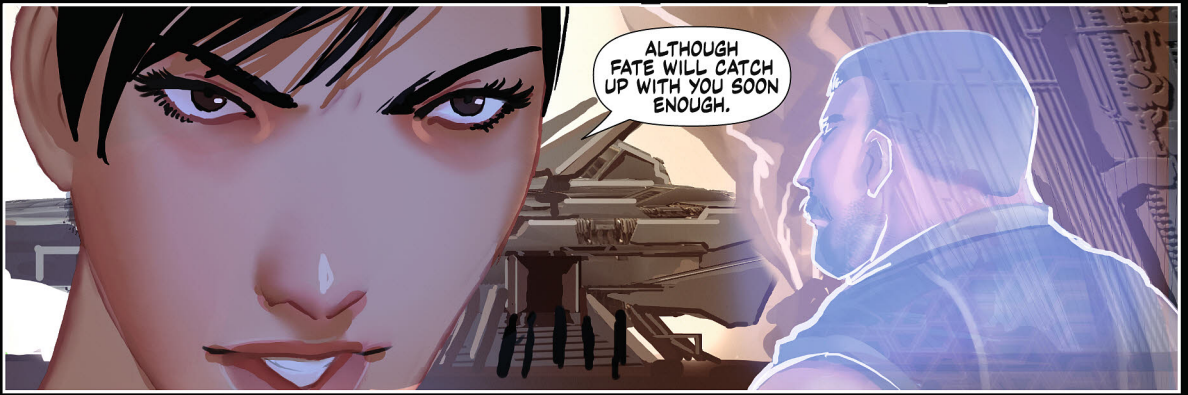


I DOUBT THAT, BUT I'M HERE NONETHELESS. WHERE'S YOUR CAPTAIN?



UNLIKE YOU, I AM NO HERO. I'LL STAY INSIDE MY SHIP.





ALTHOUGH
FATE WILL CATCH
UP WITH YOU SOON
ENOUGH.



WE SHALL SEE
WON'T WE? AS A
SPECIAL TOKEN
OF MY GRATITUDE,
I OFFER YOU
THESE MEN HERE
TO DO WITH WHAT
YOU WILL.

WHAT?



YOU
CAN'T LEAVE
US HERE.

HA HA HA HA! IT'S
IMPORTANT FROM TIME TO
TIME TO PURGE THE BAD
ELEMENTS OF ANY CREW.
I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL.



THE SHIP'S
LEAVING WITHOUT
US.









THESE
MILITARY TYPES ARE
SO PREDICTABLE.
THEY HAVE RULES; WE
DO NOT. THAT IS WHY
WE ALWAYS COME
OUT ON TOP.



"SOON WE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE
OTHERS, HEAD BACK TO MESA
AND GO FOR ANOTHER RUN...
PRICE OF DOING BUSINESS."



THANK YOU. THE QUEEN WILL REWARD YOU HANDSOMELY FOR THIS.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I AM HONORED TO PROTECT A MEMBER OF THE QUEEN'S FAMILY.



MR. VENIZELOS, STATUS?



THEY'VE REACHED THE HYPER LIMIT. WE'LL BE UNABLE TO PURSUE. IT JUST GALLS ME THAT THEY GOT AWAY.



YOU NEVER KNOW, MR. VENIZELOS. SEND THEIR SHIP SIGNATURE, ACCELERATION AND VECTOR ON AN OPEN COMM ON ALL FREQUENCIES.



WE HAVE NO SHIPS IN SYSTEM, MA'AM, WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?

JUST DO IT.

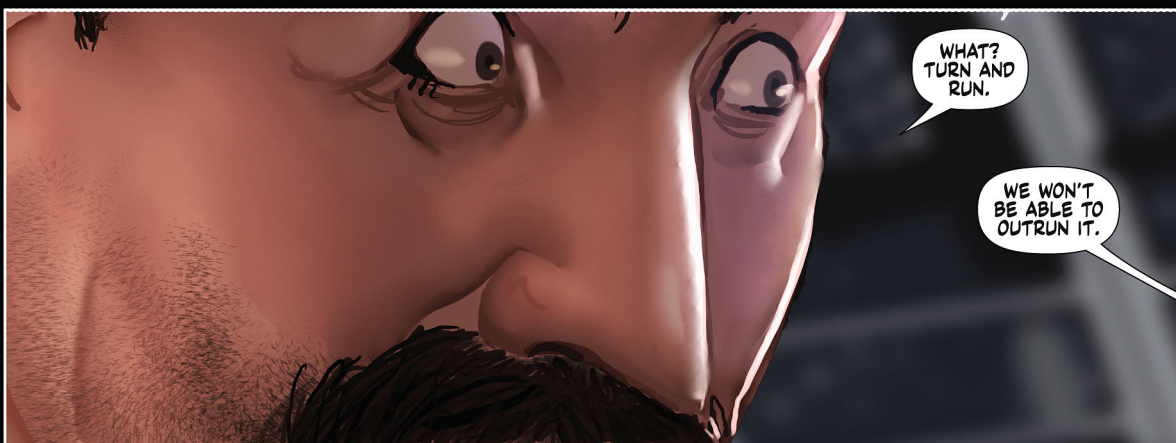
ACKNOWLEDGED.



I TOLD YOU
NOT TO WORRY. THE
MILITARY HAS A FEW
MEN TO HANG THAT WE
DIDN'T WANT ANYWAY
AND NOW WE CAN GET
BACK TO RUNNING
SLAVE GIRLS.
WIN, WIN.



WAIT...NEW
CONTACT ON OUR
DIRECT VECTOR. A
HAVENITE BATTLE
CRUISER...AND IT'S
ON AN INTERCEPT
COURSE.



WHAT?
TURN AND
RUN.

WE WON'T
BE ABLE TO
OUTRUN IT.



HAVENITE VESSEL,
WE SURRENDER.
POWERING DOWN.

HAVEN AND MANTICORE MIGHT NOT
SEE EYE TO EYE ON MOST THINGS,
BUT SLAVING IS A CAPITAL CRIME,
AND THE ONE THING HAVENITES
ARE REALLY GOOD AT IS
EXECUTING PEOPLE.



Next Issue

TALES OF

HONOR

#1

June 2015



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