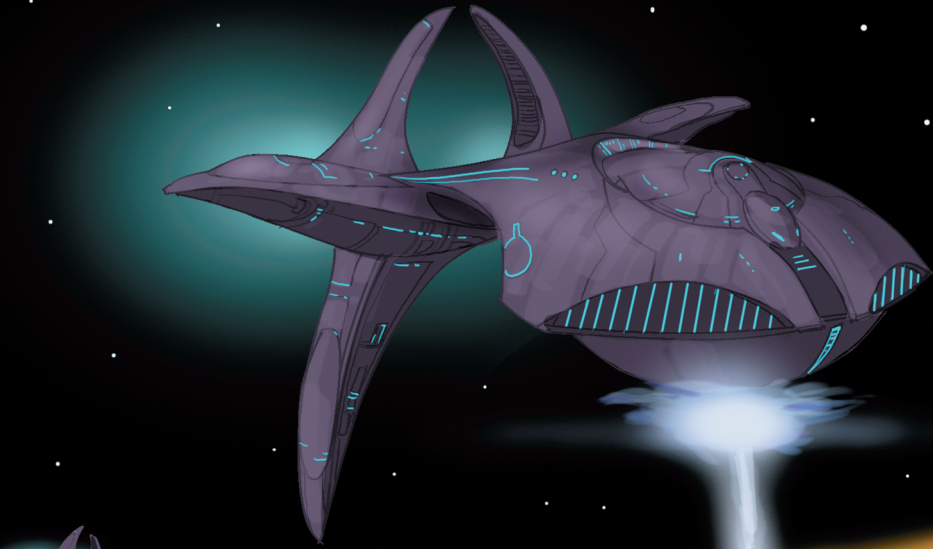


# HALO WARS<sup>™</sup>

## GENESIS

HALO WARS · GENESIS

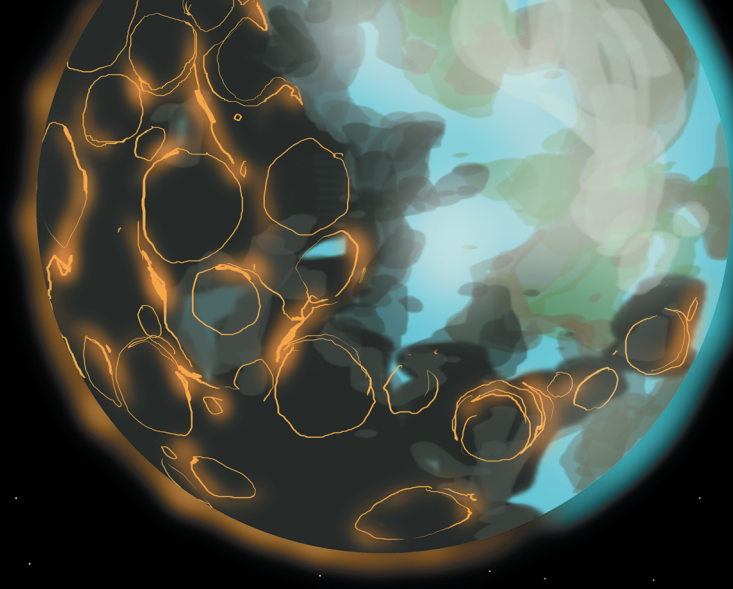


Microsoft  
game studios

ENSEMBLE  
STUDIOS

1008 Part No. X14-76671-01

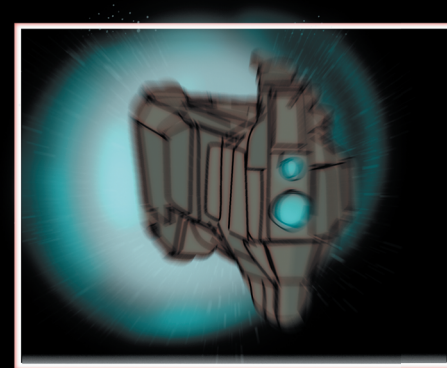
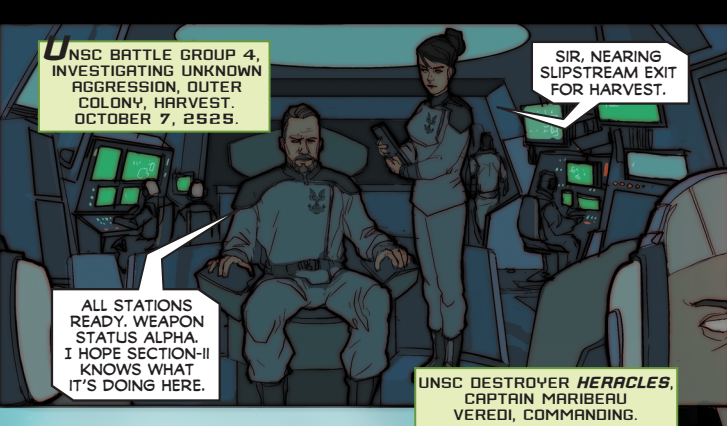




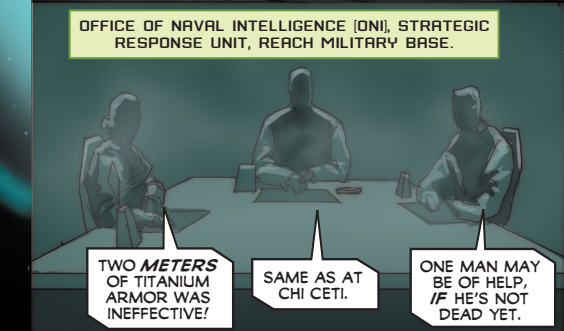
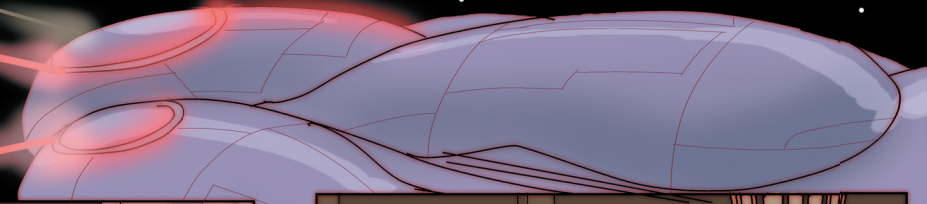
# HALO WARS™

## GENESIS

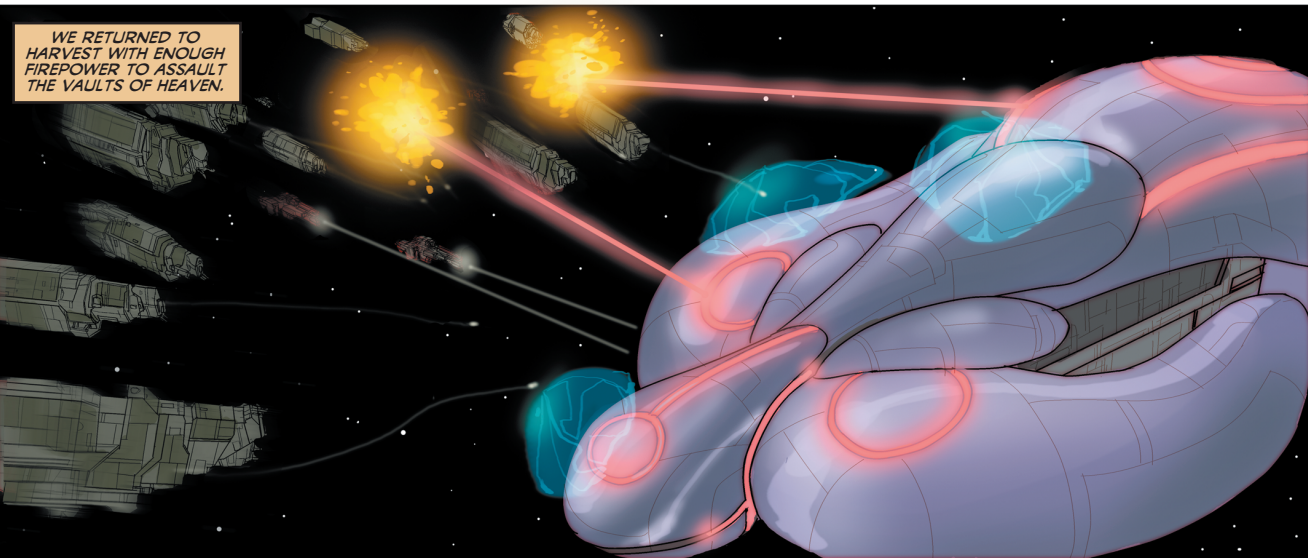




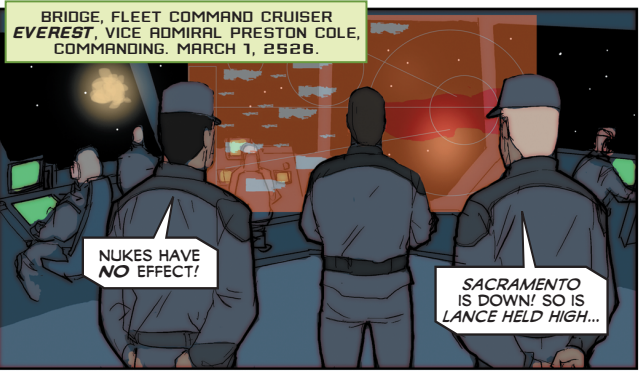
... YOUR DESTRUCTION  
IS THE WILL OF THE  
GODS... AND WE ARE  
THEIR INSTRUMENT...







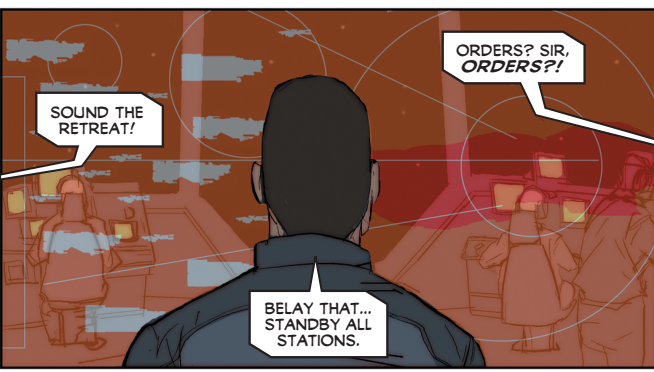
WE RETURNED TO HARVEST WITH ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO ASSAULT THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN.



BRIDGE, FLEET COMMAND CRUISER **EVEREST**, VICE ADMIRAL PRESTON COLE, COMMANDING. MARCH 1, 2526.

NUKES HAVE **NO** EFFECT!

SACRAMENTO IS DOWN! SO IS LANCE HELD HIGH...



SOUND THE RETREAT!

ORDERS? SIR. **ORDERS?!**

BELAY THAT... STANDBY ALL STATIONS.



ONI **WAS** RIGHT ABOUT CHI CETI...

... ENERGY SHIELD TECHNOLOGY.

LET'S SEE IF IT STOPS EVERYTHING-AT THE **SAME** TIME.



OPEN ALPHA FLEETCOM CHANNEL!

RESET NUCLEAR PAYLOADS AT MARK PLUS 0.1 SECOND DETONATION.

**FIRE! EVERYTHING-NOW!**



THE ENEMY SHIP DESTROYED...

... AND 13 OF OURS OBLITERATED.

IT DID **NOT** BODE WELL.





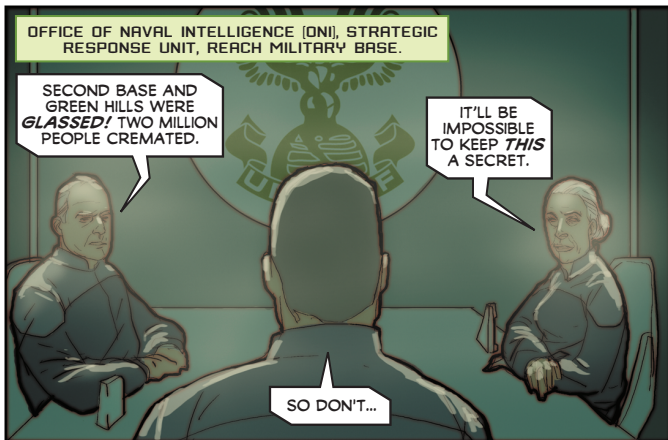
THE NEWLY PROMOTED **ADMIRAL PRESTON COLE** WAVES TO HIS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS!

HE DEFEATED INSURGENTS WHO HAD SEIZED A COMMUNICATION SATELLITE NEAR THE OUTER COLONY, HARVEST.



RUMORS OF COLONIES, SECOND BASE AND GREEN HILLS, UNDER ENEMY ATTACK ARE COMPLETELY **FALSE**.

SIMILAR INSURGENT CAPTURING OF LOCAL SATELLITES, HOWEVER, HAS RENDERED TEMPORARY LOCAL COM BLACKOUTS.



OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE (ONI), STRATEGIC RESPONSE UNIT, REACH MILITARY BASE.

SECOND BASE AND GREEN HILLS WERE **GLASSED!** TWO MILLION PEOPLE CREMATED.

IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP **THIS** A SECRET.

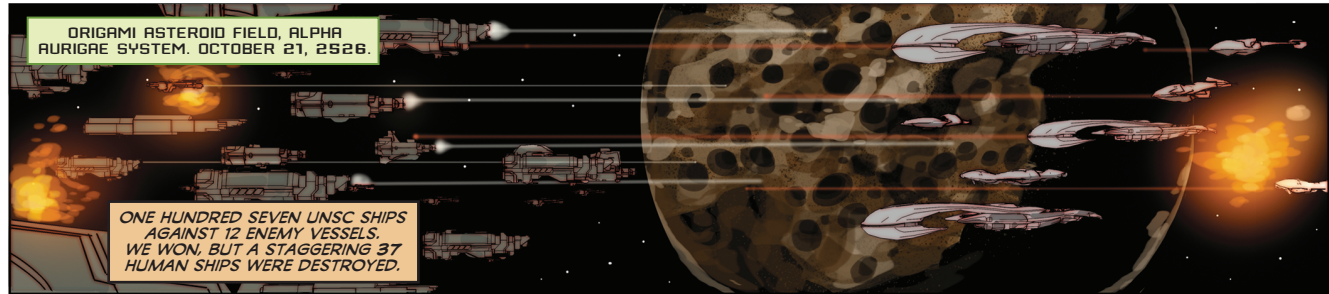
SO DON'T...



GIVE COLE THE **ENTIRE FLEET** AND GO PUBLIC WITH THE THREAT.

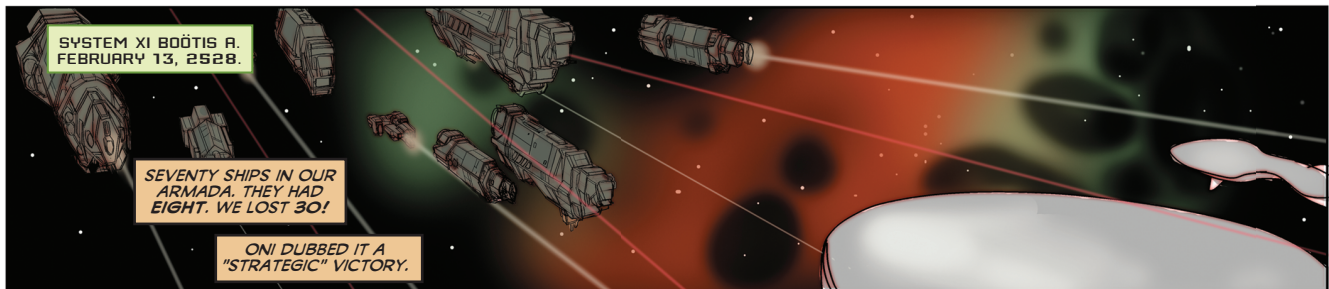
IF HE DESTROYS THEM... FINE.

IF NOT, WELL, HEROES ARE IDEAL SCAPEGOATS.



ORIGAMI ASTEROID FIELD, ALPHA AURIGAE SYSTEM. OCTOBER 21, 2526.

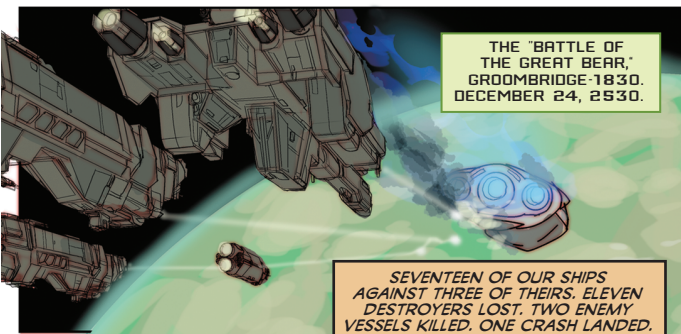
ONE HUNDRED SEVEN UNSC SHIPS AGAINST 12 ENEMY VESSELS. WE WON, BUT A STAGGERING 37 HUMAN SHIPS WERE DESTROYED.



SYSTEM XI BOÖTIS A. FEBRUARY 13, 2528.

SEVENTY SHIPS IN OUR ARMADA. THEY HAD EIGHT. WE LOST 30!

ONI DUBBED IT A "STRATEGIC" VICTORY.



THE "BATTLE OF THE GREAT BEAR," GROOMBRIDGE-1830. DECEMBER 24, 2530.

SEVENTEEN OF OUR SHIPS AGAINST THREE OF THEIRS. ELEVEN DESTROYERS LOST. TWO ENEMY VESSELS KILLED. ONE CRASH LANDED.



ENEMY SHIP SURVIVED REENTRY, SIR. WE HAVE A SURVIVOR.

I WANT TO SEE IT.



UNSC CRUISER, *EVEREST*, BIO-HAZARD UNIT.

WE  
ARE THE HOLY  
AND GLORIOUS  
INHERITORS.

WHY ARE YOU  
ATTACKING US?

YOU HAVE  
BEEN JUDGED  
**UNCLEAN**. A SCOURGE  
THAT MUST BE  
**BURNED  
AWAY!**

WHEN WE  
FIND YOUR  
HOME WORLD, IT  
WILL BE REDUCED  
**TO ASHES!**

DESTROY  
YOU  
ALL...\*

ADMIRAL PRESTON COLE'S  
OFFICE, UNSC CRUISER, *EVEREST*.

THEY HAD SUCH  
ADVANCED  
TECHNOLOGIES...  
YET KNEW LITTLE  
ABOUT US.

UTTERLY  
XENOPHOBIC.

I KNEW THAT FROM  
THE BEGINNING, THOUGH.

... BUT I NOW KNOW  
WE HAD ONE STRATEGIC  
ADVANTAGE: **SECURITY**.

Admiral Parangosky/ Office of Naval Intelligence/Routing Sequence: **Hypodermic-FXT-1**  
**CODE NAME CLASSIFIED: Pied Piper**  
(Continued from previous page)...

IT WOULD TAKE **YEARS** TO RAM THIS DOWN THE  
THROATS OF THE POLITICIANS, BUT AS FAR AS MY  
BATTLE GROUP WAS CONCERNED, IT WAS **LAW**.

Based on the data revealed by the alien, these new protocols must be immediately  
implemented:

- 1) All UNSC and civilian ships which come in contact with alien assets must have NAV com AI erased—destroyed if necessary—to prevent capture of core world locations.
- 2) ALL human vessels fleeing from alien forces must do so on a randomly generated vector away from UNSC core worlds.
- 3) ONI Section II to immediately begin Slipstream space attenuated broadcast of pre-recorded human carrier signals from antiquity to prevent triangulation of



UNSC STAGING AREA,  
INTERSTELLAR SPACE,  
COORDINATES ~~CLASSIFIED~~.  
JANUARY 3, 2531.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR ONI,  
COMMANDER OREZ?

THE PROPHECY HAS  
REPELLED ALIENS  
NEAR HARVEST, SIR.  
HER REACTOR  
WENT CRITICAL. SHE  
NEEDS IMMEDIATE  
ASSISTANCE.

WE CAN'T SPARE A COMBAT  
SHIP... ALTHOUGH I COULD  
SEND A SUPPORT VESSEL.

THAT WOULD  
BE IDEAL,  
OREZ OUT.

I DON'T  
TRUST A PROWLER  
COMMANDER-TOO  
SLICK. WHO'S ON THE  
DUTY ROSTER?

THE *SPIRIT OF FIRE*...  
CAPTAIN CUTTER.

HMMM. WARN CUTTER  
HE MAY BE IN FOR MORE  
THAN A CLEAN-UP OP.

*Cutter, James Gregory* Age: 52 Rank: Captain

{CURRENT} Commanding Officer, Captain, *UNSC Sprit of Fire*, CFV-88.  
08.08.2525

Commanding Officer, Commander, *UNSC Glasgow* 08.08.2519

Navigation Officer, First Lieutenant, *UNSC Final Summit* 01.09.2514

Junior Navigation Officer, First Lieutenant, *Stick* (CSR: 0007681/diplomatic  
attaché vessel assigned to the *UNSC Brilliant Shores*) 11.16.2507

*UNSC OCS Emphasis in Command and astrogation* 06.19.2504

*UNSC School of the North Star, Earth Magna cum laude, emphasis in  
astrogation and political science.* 09.15.2500

*Awards, commendations, duty history:*

*Bronze Star/ Meritorious action on board the Glasgow/ 05.22.24*

*Campaign Ribbon/ Operation TREBUCHET/ Logistics Corps/*

*Campaign Ribbon/ Operation BREADCRUMB/*

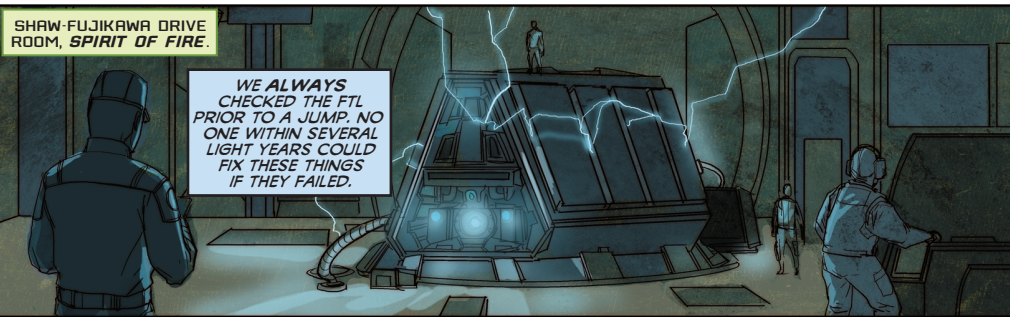
*Campaign Ribbon/ Operation WHISPER AMONG STARS/ CLASSIFIED  
(see attached files 4-11)*

*ONI INT-PSYCH-OPS E-VAL: Cutter's motivations for turning down command of the Prophecy  
in favor of the less career-strategic colonial vessel, Spirit of Fire, stems from his familial devotion  
(Spirit's original sphere of operation was near his wife and daughter). This is the only flaw  
in an otherwise brilliant military officer. See notes (CLASIFED CODE WORD) regarding correction  
procedures.*





SHAW-FUJIKAWA DRIVE  
ROOM, SPIRIT OF FIRE.



WE ALWAYS  
CHECKED THE FTL  
PRIOR TO A JUMP. NO  
ONE WITHIN SEVERAL  
LIGHT YEARS COULD  
FIX THESE THINGS  
IF THEY FAILED.



DROP BAY BRAVO,  
SPIRIT OF FIRE.

WE ONCE CARRIED HYDROPONICS  
AND SCHOOLS FOR THE COLONIES.

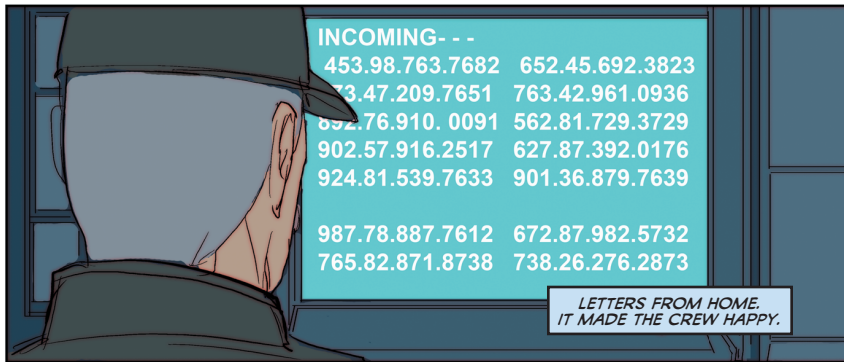
NOW WE PACKED BARRACKS,  
FUSION REACTORS, AND ATAF MISSILE  
TURRETS-DISPATCHED TO THE FRONT  
LINES AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.



BRIDGE, SPIRIT OF FIRE,  
CAPTAIN J. G. CUTTER,  
COMMANDING.

ALL SHIPSHAPE,  
CAPTAIN. READY  
TO DEPART.

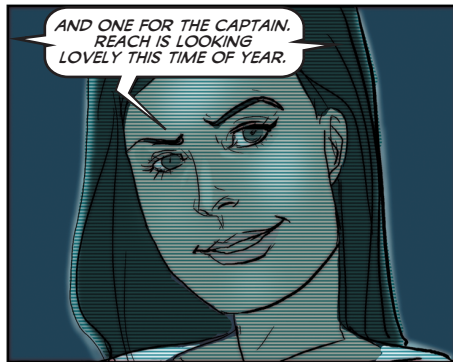
UPDATE OUR  
SERVERS BEFORE  
WE BREAK FROM  
THE BATTLE  
GROUP, SERINA.



INCOMING- - -

453.98.763.7682	652.45.692.3823
73.47.209.7651	763.42.961.0936
652.76.910. 0091	562.81.729.3729
902.57.916.2517	627.87.392.0176
924.81.539.7633	901.36.879.7639
987.78.887.7612	672.87.982.5732
765.82.871.8738	738.26.276.2873

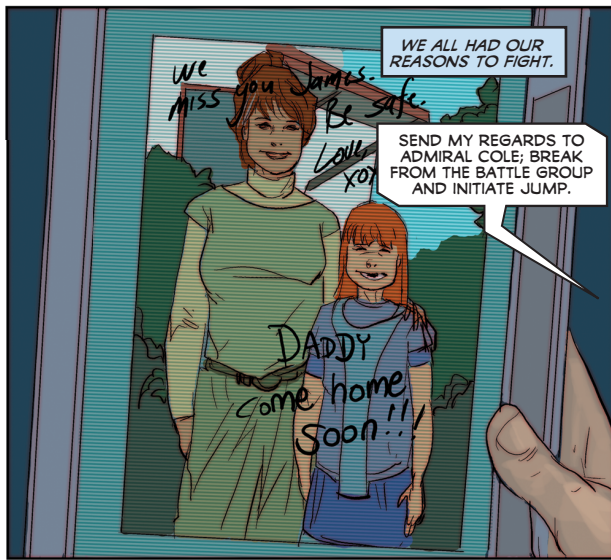
LETTERS FROM HOME.  
IT MADE THE CREW HAPPY.



AND ONE FOR THE CAPTAIN.  
REACH IS LOOKING  
LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR.



THANK YOU,  
SERINA.



WE MISS YOU JAMES.  
Be safe.  
Love  
Yori

WE ALL HAD OUR  
REASONS TO FIGHT.

SEND MY REGARDS TO  
ADMIRAL COLE; BREAK  
FROM THE BATTLE GROUP  
AND INITIATE JUMP.

DADDY  
Come home  
Soon!!!



UNSC *SPIRIT OF FIRE*, SLIPSTREAM SPACE, EN ROUTE TO HARVEST.

THE UNSC *SPIRIT OF FIRE*, CFV-88, CONSTRUCTED 2473. A COLONY SHIP, A SYMBOL OF HOPE... BUT AS THEY SAY, "PLOWS INTO SWORDS."

REPAIR/REFIT BAY IS CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING "CYCLOPS" EXOSKELETON VEHICLES AND A CREW OF OVER 60 EVA ENGINEERS.

THRUST ASSEMBLIES REPLACED FROM THE SCUTTLED UNSC DESTROYER CALCUTTA IN 2530. OUTPUT INCREASED 37%.

*SPIRIT OF FIRE*

IN 2520, THEY ADDED A MAGNETIC ACCELERATOR CANNON (MAC), ABLE TO ACCELERATE DEPLETED URANIUM SLUGS TO A FRACTION OF LIGHT SPEED.

ARCHER MISSILE PODS.

SPIRIT'S "SMART" A.I., SERINA, CAN COORDINATE THE SIMULTANEOUS REPAIR AND REFIT OF 12 SHIPS OF THE LINE. WE COULDN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT HER.

SLIPSTREAM SPACE TRANSLATIONS FOR A VESSEL THIS SIZE REQUIRE 4.3 QUADRILLION CALCULATIONS OF THE QUANTUM FIELD PER SECOND. I DON'T BELIEVE SPIRIT COULD EVER LEAVE SPACEDOCK WITHOUT ME!

STORAGE/AUXILIARY LAUNCH HOUSES SCORPION TANKS, WARTHOGS, SELF-ASSEMBLING FUSION REACTORS, AND OTHER GROUND-SIDE FACILITIES THAT CAN BE DROPPED VIA PELICAN ASSIST.

THE OBSERVATION ROOM WAS ORIGINALLY PURPOSED FOR COLONIAL SURVEYS. IT'S BEEN QUIET HERE RECENTLY (ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOCIAL OFF-DUTY FRATERNIZING I TURN A BLIND EYE TO).





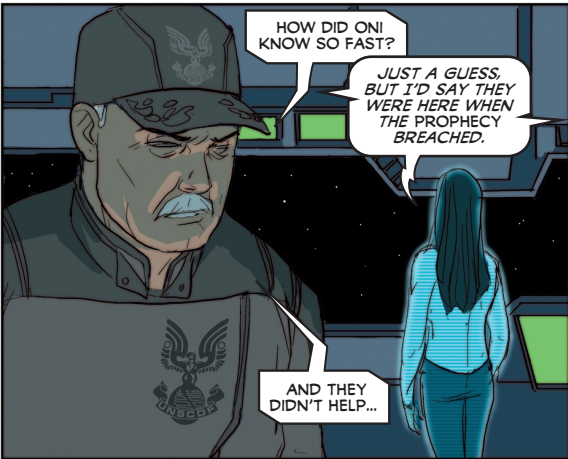
... REACTOR MELTDOWN... EVACED TO SOLAR BUNKERS.  
RADIATION AFFECTING A.I.... PROTOCOLS IN  
VIOLATION... UNSC PROPHECY, BROADCASTING  
ON ENCRYPTED CHANNEL TO ALL FRIENDLY...



LOOPED DISTRESS  
SIGNAL, RECORDED  
THREE DAYS AGO. SURVIVORS  
WILL NOT  
BE IN GOOD  
SHAPE, SIR.



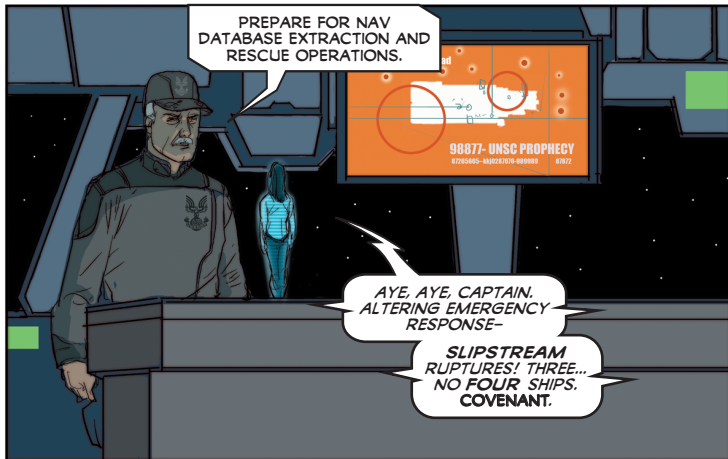
PROPHECY BLOCKED THE  
SHOT FROM OUR MAC.



HOW DID ONI  
KNOW SO FAST?

JUST A GUESS,  
BUT I'D SAY THEY  
WERE HERE WHEN  
THE PROPHECY  
BREACHED.

AND THEY  
DIDN'T HELP...



PREPARE FOR NAV  
DATABASE EXTRACTION AND  
RESCUE OPERATIONS.

AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN.  
ALTERING EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE-

SLIPSTREAM  
RUPTURES! THREE...  
NO FOUR SHIPS.  
COVENANT.



O15 BY  
O30.

FLANK  
ACCELERATION!

SCRAMBLE  
PELICAN EVA  
SQUADS.



ANSWERING NEW  
COURSE, FLANK  
SPEED, AYE.

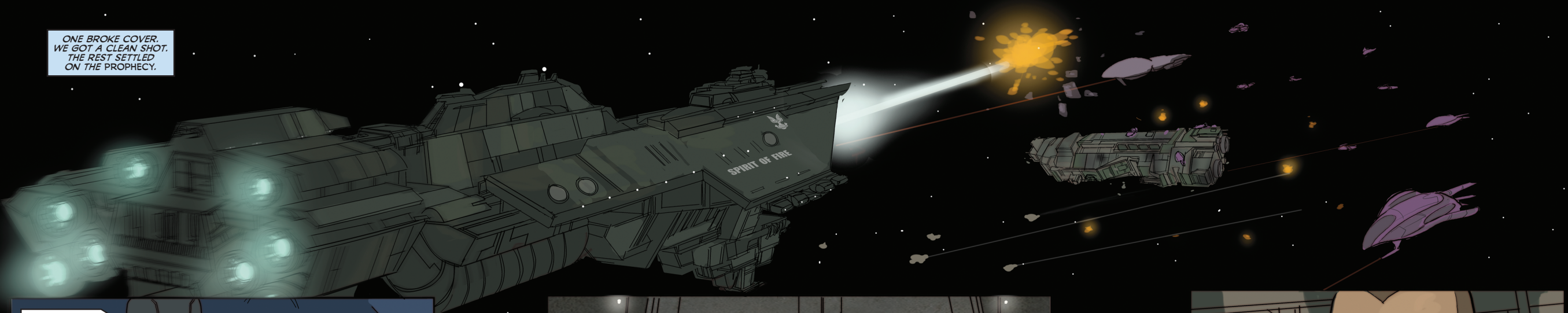
FIRE TEAMS  
ECHO, INDIA,  
LIMA, NOVEMBER  
SCRAMBLE.



... SCRAMBLE!  
THIS IS NO  
DRILL!



ONE BROKE COVER.  
WE GOT A CLEAN SHOT.  
THE REST SETTLED  
ON THE PROPHECY.

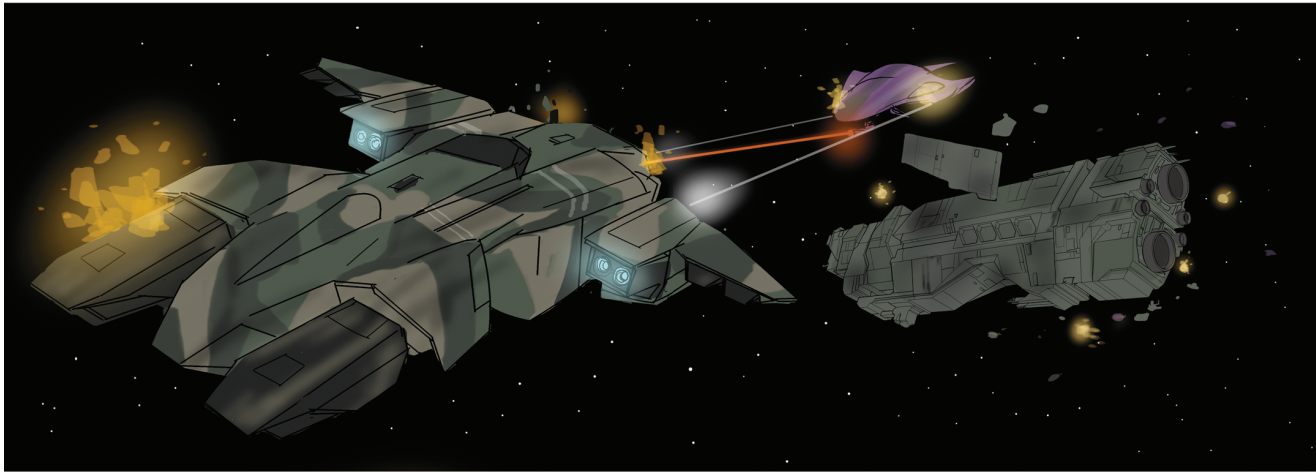


UNLOCK HAVOK  
MISSILES.  
CODE WORD:  
"POLLYANNA."

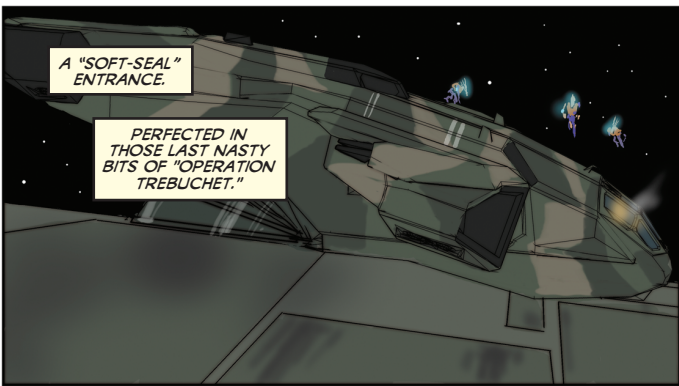
VOICEPRINT AND  
CODE AUTHORIZED.  
HAVOK NUCLEAR  
MISSILES ACTIVATED.



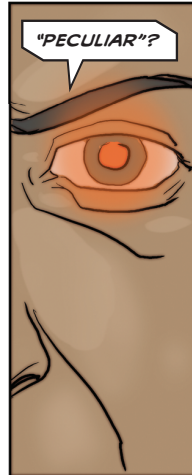
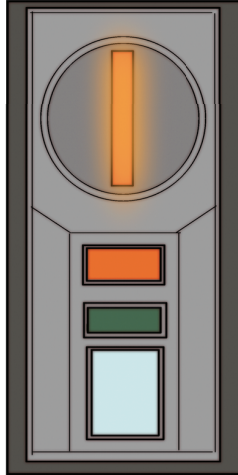
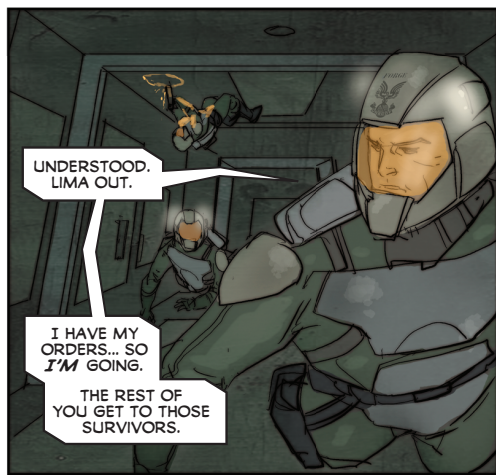
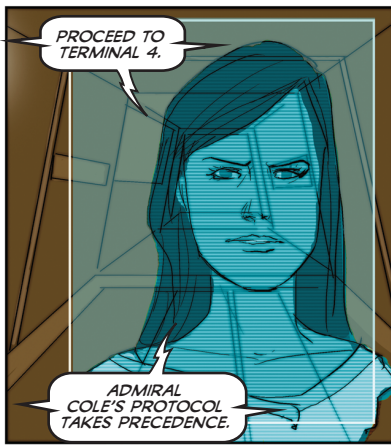




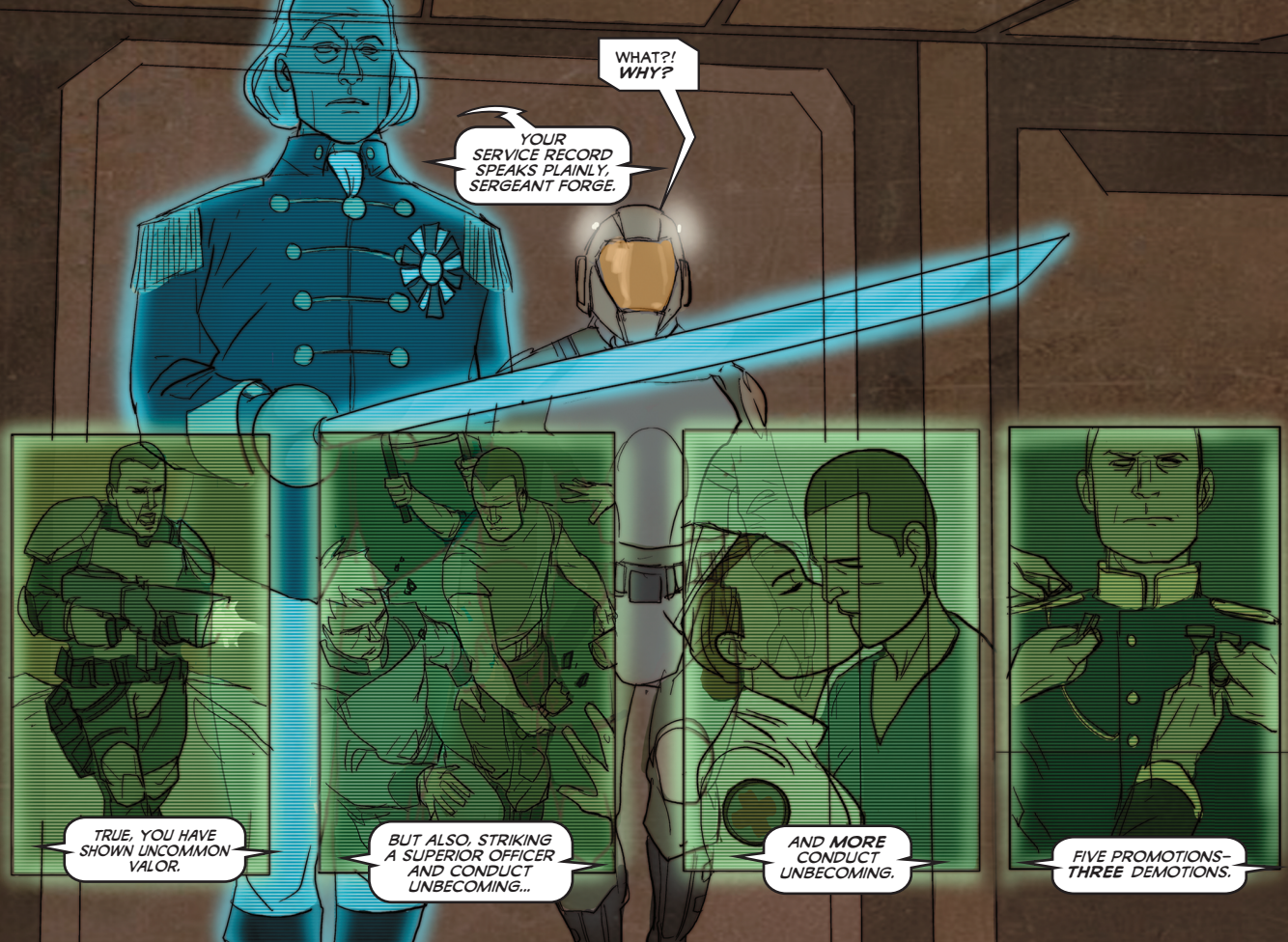












YOUR SERVICE RECORD SPEAKS PLAINLY, SERGEANT FORGE.

WHAT?! WHY?

TRUE, YOU HAVE SHOWN UNCOMMON VALOR.

BUT ALSO, STRIKING A SUPERIOR OFFICER AND CONDUCT UNBECOMING...

AND MORE CONDUCT UNBECOMING.

FIVE PROMOTIONS-- THREE DEMOTIONS.

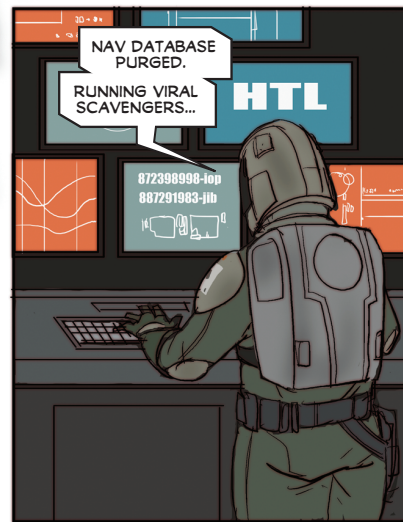
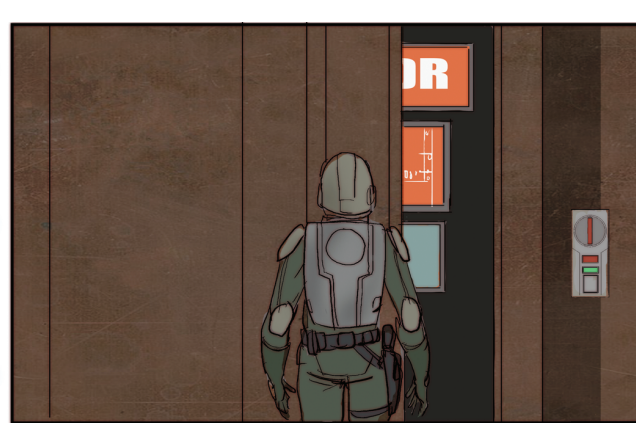


LISTEN, LORD SPARKY, YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN BOARDED?

OR ARE YOUR CIRCUITS SO SCRAMBLED YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME FROM FOLLOWING COLE'S PROTOCOL?



SO SORRY, CHUM. RADIATION REPAIR ROUTINES ENABLED.

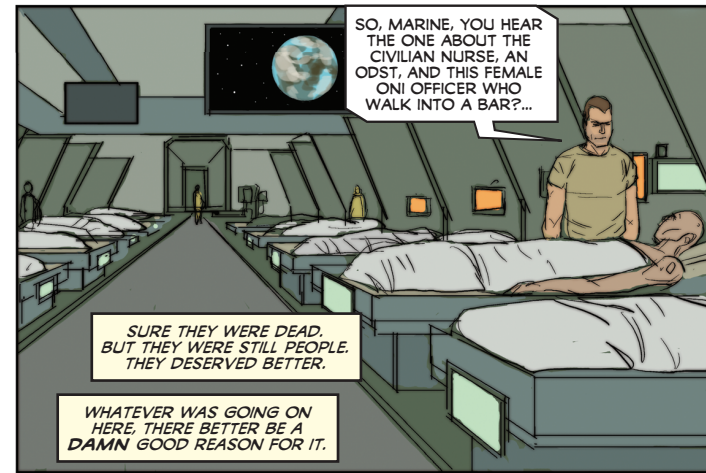
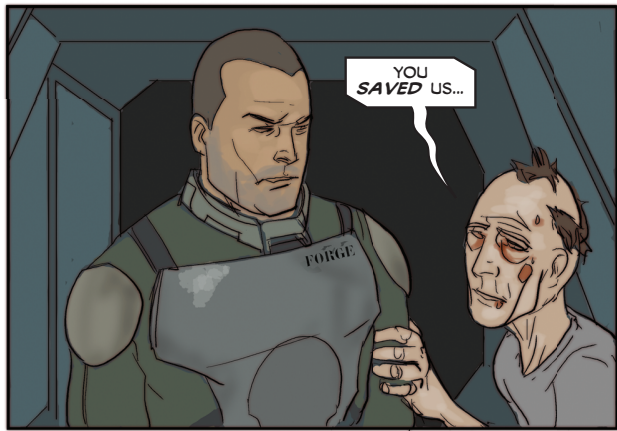
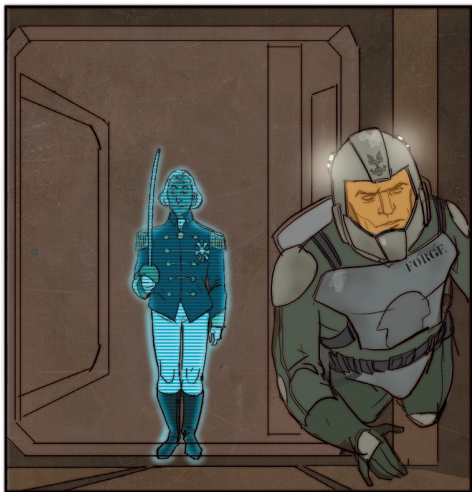


NAV DATABASE PURGED.  
RUNNING VIRAL SCAVENGERS...

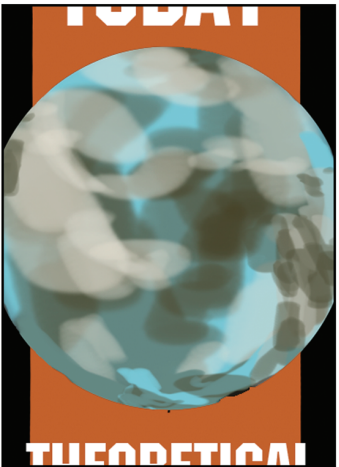


INITIATING SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE. THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING...  
YOUR MEN ARE IN BAY 2, SERGEANT.

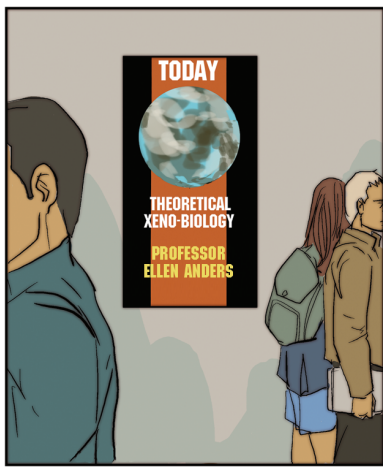




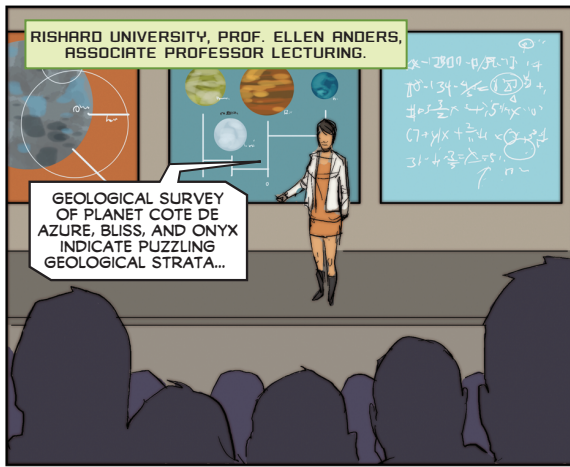




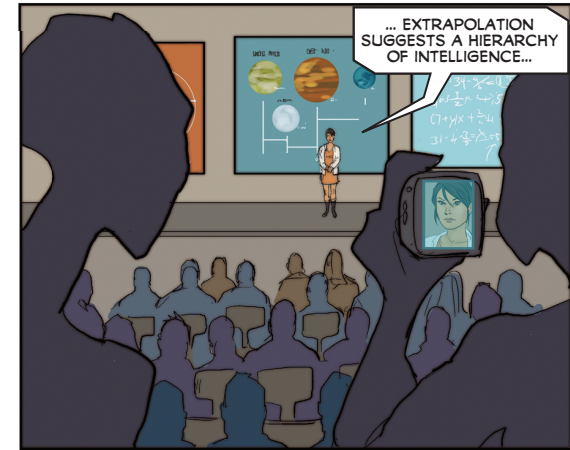
A.I. ANALYSIS  
INDICATES LARGE-SCALE,  
*ENGINEERED* FEATURES.



ALTHOUGH NOT  
*DIRECT* EVIDENCE  
OF NONHUMAN  
INTELLIGENCE...



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF PLANET COTE DE  
AZURE, BLISS, AND ONLYX  
INDICATE PUZZLING  
GEOLOGICAL STRATA...



... EXTRAPOLATION  
SUGGESTS A HIERARCHY  
OF INTELLIGENCE...



PROF. ANDERS?  
DR. HALSEY  
RECOMMENDED  
YOU FOR A...  
*CONSULTATION.*

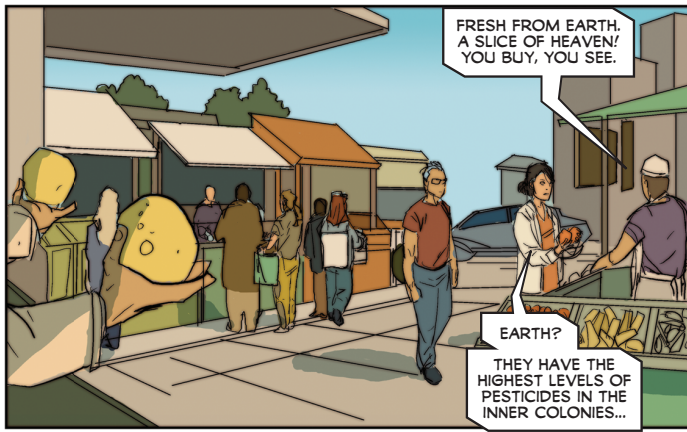
THERE'S SOME  
MISTAKE. I'M NOT ON  
SPEAKING TERMS WITH  
*THAT* WOMAN.



HEY!



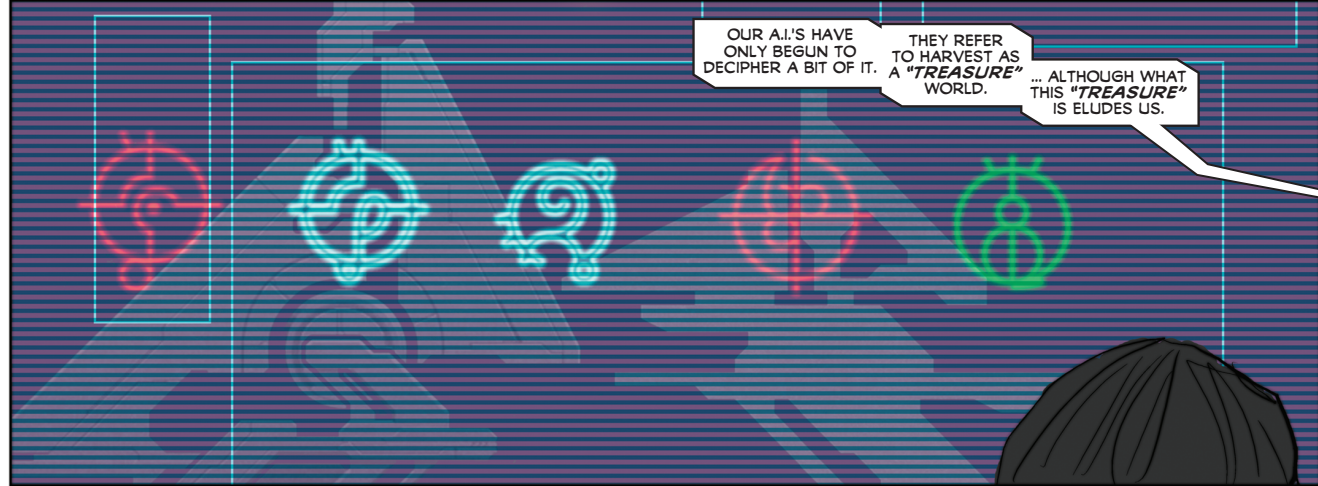
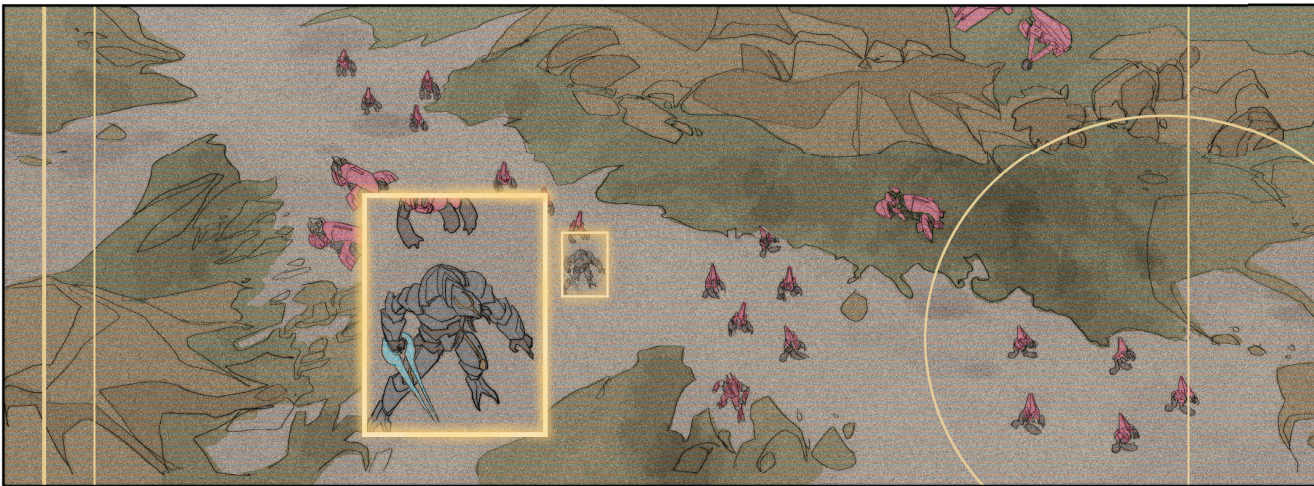
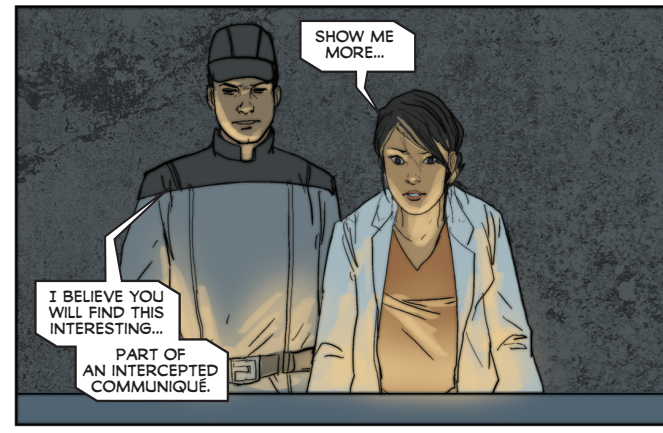
SCREEEE



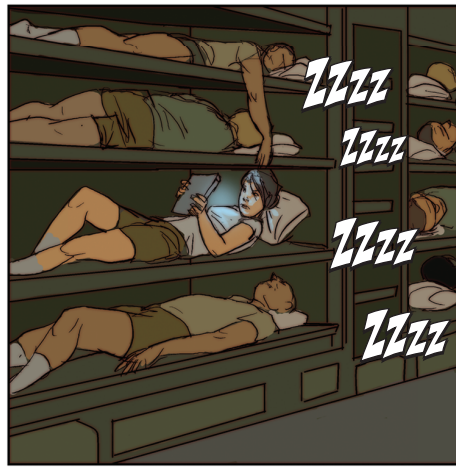
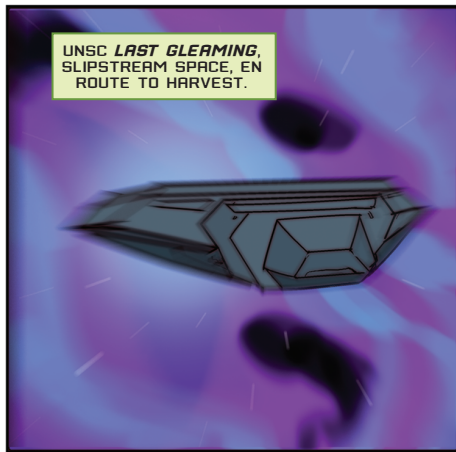
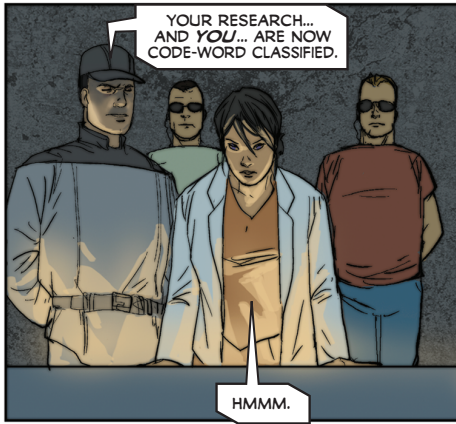
FRESH FROM EARTH.  
A SLICE OF HEAVEN!  
YOU BUY, YOU SEE.

EARTH?  
THEY HAVE THE  
HIGHEST LEVELS OF  
PESTICIDES IN THE  
INNER COLONIES...











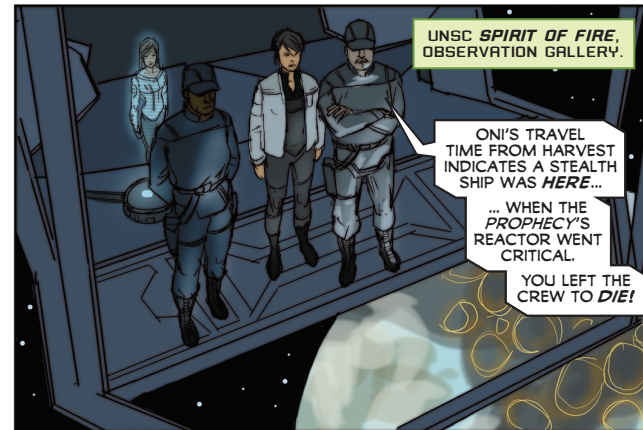
OUTER COLONY  
WORLD, HARVEST.



IS THAT THE  
*PROPHECY*?  
I CAN SEE WHY  
THERE WERE  
NO SURVIVORS.



MAKE READY  
SHUTTLE ONE...  
THAT'S NOT THE  
*PROPHECY*... THAT'S  
YOUR NEW BASE  
OF OPERATION,  
THE *SPIRIT OF FIRE*.



UNSC *SPIRIT OF FIRE*,  
OBSERVATION GALLERY.

ONI'S TRAVEL  
TIME FROM HARVEST  
INDICATES A STEALTH  
SHIP WAS *HERE*...  
... WHEN THE  
*PROPHECY*'S  
REACTOR WENT  
CRITICAL.  
YOU LEFT THE  
CREW TO *DIE*!



THE *PROPHECY*'S  
CREW WOULD HAVE  
BEEN DEAD FROM  
THE RADIATION.

FURTHERMORE ANY  
*HYPOTHETICAL* PROWLER  
HERE WOULD'VE BECOME  
VISIBLE IF IT INITIATED  
RESCUE OPERATIONS...

... WHICH WOULD HAVE  
*MOST CERTAINLY*  
BEEN AGAINST  
THEIR ORDERS.



NOW, SIR, THIS  
IS PROF. ANDERS.

YOU'VE BEEN *REQUESTED*  
TO LET HER CALL THE SHOTS  
ON THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS  
OF THIS MISSION.

A *REQUEST* THAT COMES  
DIRECTLY FROM FLEETCOM,  
CAPTAIN CUTTER.

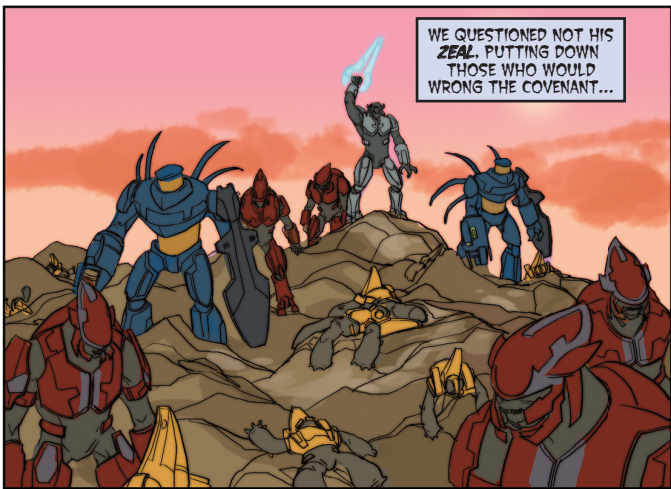


PERHAPS  
I SHOULD  
PROCEED WITH  
MY ANALYSIS.

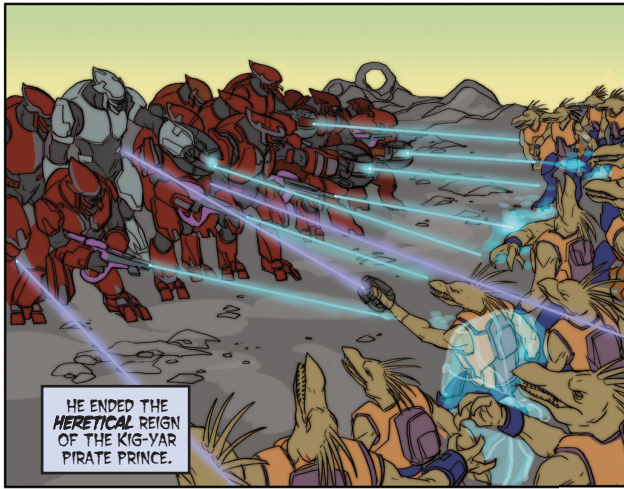




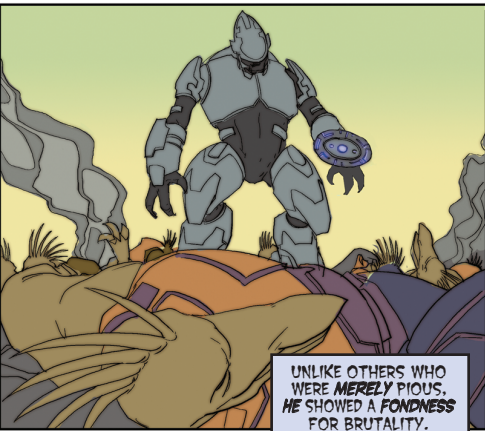




WE QUESTIONED NOT HIS **ZEAL**. PUTTING DOWN THOSE WHO WOULD WRONG THE COVENANT...



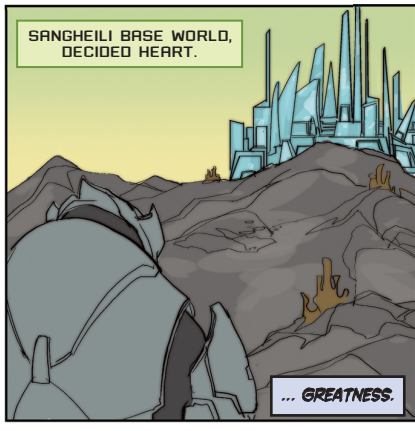
HE ENDED THE **HERETICAL** REIGN OF THE KIG-YAR PIRATE PRINCE.



UNLIKE OTHERS WHO WERE **MERELY** PIOUS, HE SHOWED A **FONDNESS** FOR BRUTALITY.

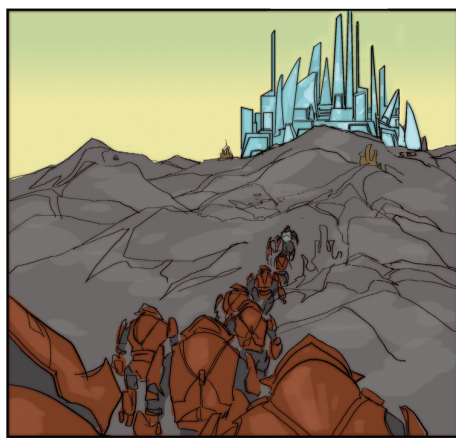


ALTHOUGH SOME FEARED THAT HE ALSO HAD A **DESIRE** FOR...

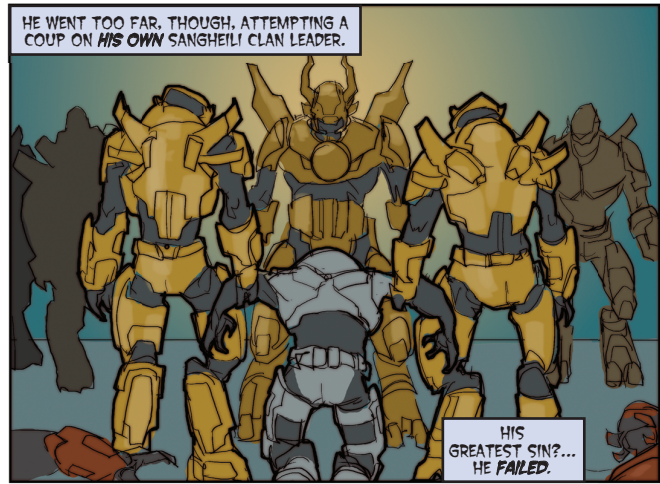


SANGHEILI BASE WORLD, DECIDED HEART.

... **GREATNESS**.

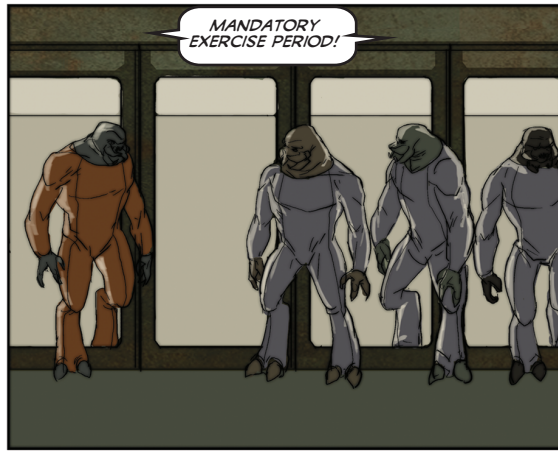
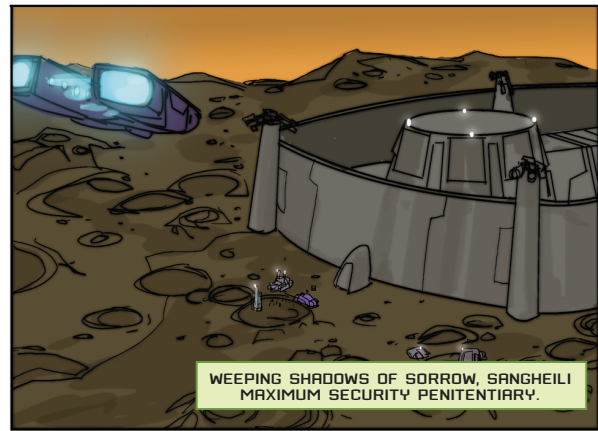
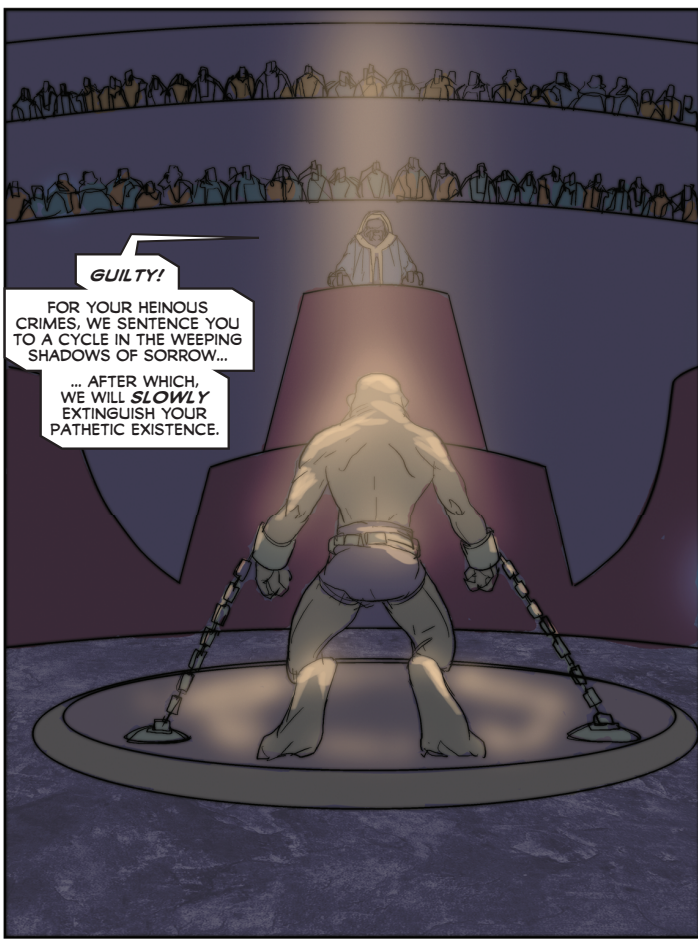


HE WENT TOO FAR, THOUGH, ATTEMPTING A COUP ON **HIS OWN** SANGHEILI CLAN LEADER.

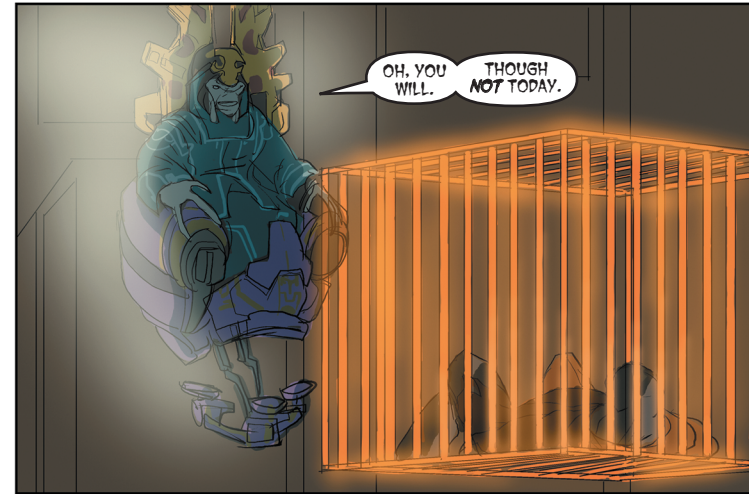
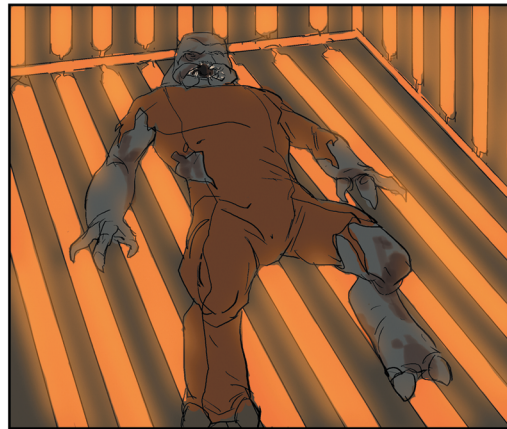


HIS **GREATEST SIN**?... HE **FAILED**.











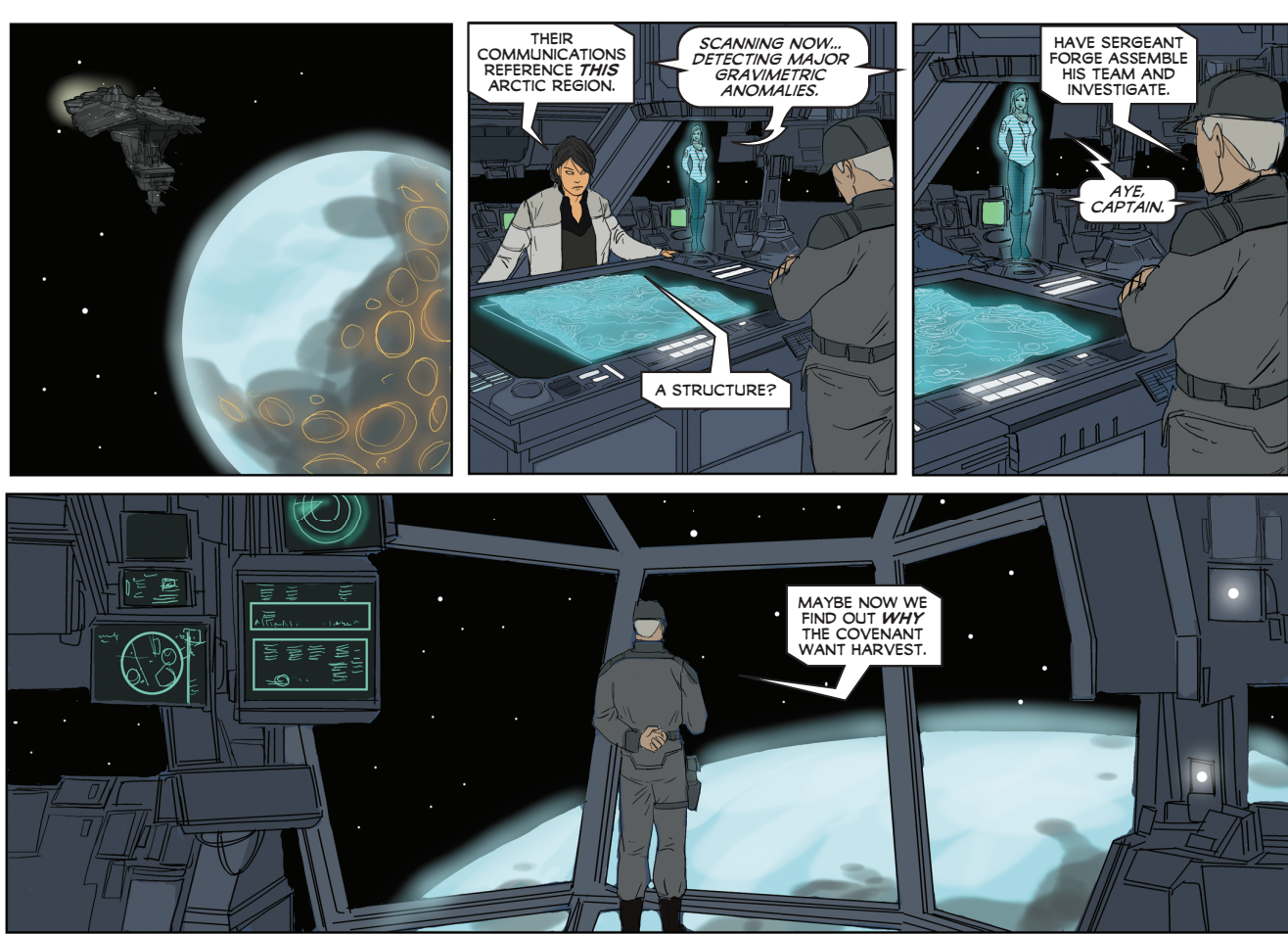
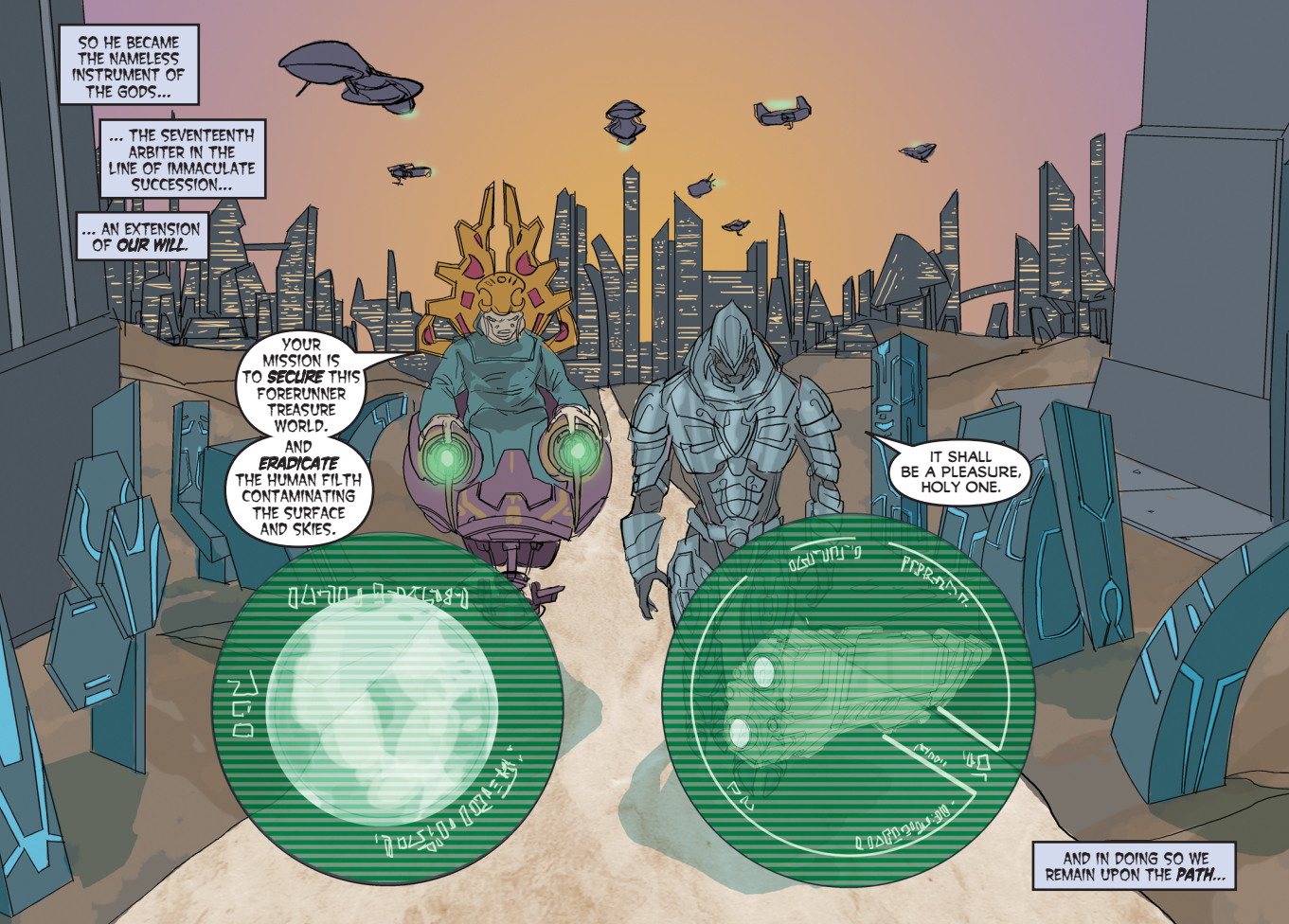






Photo by Syne Mitchell

Eric Nylund is a *New York Times* bestselling and World Fantasy Award–nominated author of many novels (including installments in the *Halo* series: *The Fall of Reach*, *First Strike*, and *Ghosts of Onyx*). For more information visit [www.ericnylund.net](http://www.ericnylund.net). His latest novel, *Mortal Coils*, is slated for release in early 2009.

Lettering by Richard Starkings and Comicraft's Jimmy Betancourt ([comicbookfonts.com](http://comicbookfonts.com)).



Photo by Beth Noto

Phil Noto is a painter and comic book illustrator. After a 10-year career at Disney Feature Animation, he began working full time in comics. He has done work for DC, Marvel, Dark Horse, and Image comics. He is currently drawing a Superman/Supergirl miniseries. He is also illustrating *The Infinite Horizon*, which was nominated for an Eisner Award for best new series. Phil has also worked as a concept artist for video games; most recently, *BioShock*.

Two of his painting exhibitions sold out, as did his monograph, *Jet Seven*.

He resides in Orlando, Florida with his wife, Beth, and children, Kate and Fletcher.

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