

ALIBI JONES

BLIND EYE

STORY & LETTERS BY MIKE LUOMA
ART BY MEISHA

HUR - HOMEWORLD OF THE
CAT-LIKE ALIEN RACE THE **DAKHUR...**

SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISER 15B, YOU ARE CLEARED TO BREAK ORBIT.



THANK YOU, HUR CONTROL.

THIS IS ALIBI JONES, SOLAR ALLIANCE MEDIATION CORPS CRUISER 15B, OUT.

THE DAKHUR WERE ABLE TO COME TO A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE FLAZE...

THE DAKHUR IMPRESSED ME... THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH THEM. JUST GETTING TO KNOW THE CAT-PEOPLE, REALLY...



NOT BAD. A SUCCESSFUL MEDIATION! THE FLAZE REP STAYED FOR SOME VACATION TIME ON HUR. THAT'S GOTTA BE A GOOD SIGN.

...SEEM TO DISTRUST THE FLAZE AS MUCH AS WE DO!



ONLY MESS-UP WAS MISTAKING THE AMBASSADOR'S BROTHER FOR HIM! THE DAKHUR DON'T "ALL LOOK ALIKE" - BUT THOSE TWO HAD SIMILAR COLORING! KIND OF EMBARRASSING...

...BUT, NOW HOME TO CAT'S EYE FOR SOME REP!

PRIORITY CALL FROM DOCTOR ANITA CAPITUNA! PRIORITY CALL!



AUNT ANITA! I JUST FINISHED WITH THE DAKHUR AND THE FLAZE...

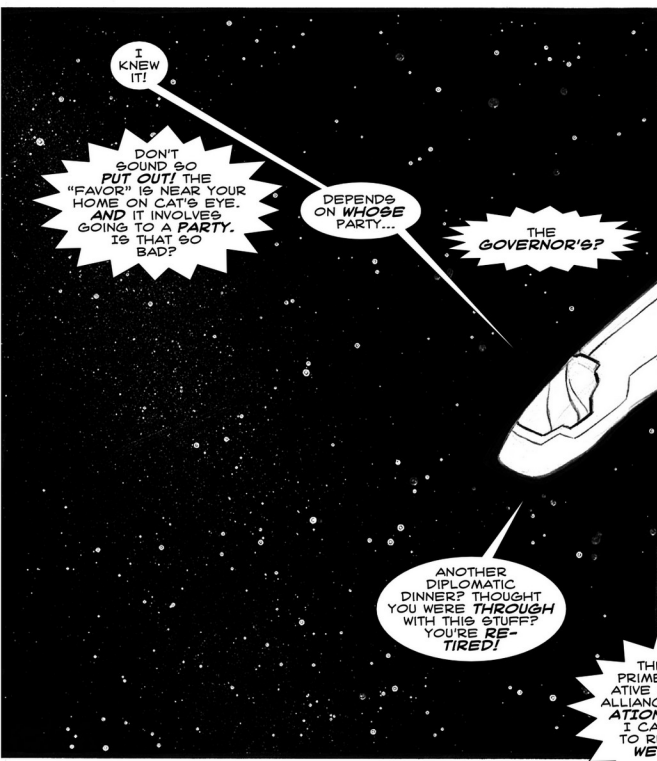


SO I HEAR. SOUNDS LIKE A SOLID TRADE AGREEMENT. CONGRATULATIONS, ALI!



YOU'RE NOT CALLING JUST TO CONGRATULATE ME, THOUGH, ARE YOU? I CAN HEAR IT IN YOUR VOICE. WHAT'S UP?

WELL... I DO WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU, ALIBI! BUT I ALSO HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK...



I KNEW IT!

DON'T SOUND SO PUT OUT! THE "FAVOR" IS NEAR YOUR HOME ON CAT'S EYE. AND IT INVOLVES GOING TO A PARTY. IS THAT SO BAD?

DEPENDS ON WHOSE PARTY...

THE GOVERNOR'S?

ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC DINNER? THOUGHT YOU WERE THROUGH WITH THIS STUFF? YOU'RE RE-TIRED!



EVEN THE FORMER PRIME REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOLAR ALLIANCE HAS OBLIGATIONS. ALL I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU TO REPRESENT ME WELL AND WITH HONOR.



GOVERNOR VILA WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU AGAIN... WEAR YOUR DRESS UNIFORM!

YOU KNOW, I'M JUST ABOUT TO MAKE THE TRANSPACE JUMP TO CAT'S EYE. THE TRANSPACE ENGINES MIGHT MISFIRE! I COULD END UP ANYWHERE!

THAT'S FINE, SO LONG AS YOU END UP AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE ON CAT'S EYE BY EIGHT O'CLOCK TONIGHT!

CAT'S EYE - HUMAN COLONY WORLD.
NAMED AFTER THE NEBULA IN THE SKY ABOVE.

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.
EIGHT O'CLOCK THAT NIGHT.

BEARING
THE GREETINGS
OF HIS ESTEEMED
AUNT, FORMER PRIME
REPRESENTATIVE ANITA
CAPITUNA - MR. ALIBI
JONES, OF THE
SOLAR ALLIANCE
MEDIATION
CORPS...

SO
GLAD YOU
COULD COME, ALIBI.
YOUR AUNT HAS BEEN A
GREAT BENEFACTOR
TO CAT'S
EYE!

THANK
YOU, GOVERNOR
VILA.

IS THAT SHIRRA?
LOOKS LIKE HER.
DIDN'T KNOW SHE
WAS OUT HERE.

WE HOOKED UP FOR A WHILE WAY BACK
WHEN. WONDER IF SHE REMEMBERS?

ALIBI JONES?
WOULD YOU
BE SO
KIND?

YES,
GOVERNOR?

ONE HOUR LATER...

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN VILA INTRODUCE ME TO?

CAN ONLY MAKE SO MUCH SMALL TALK!

ALIBI JONES!

COME! YOU MUST MEET OUR GUEST OF HONOR...

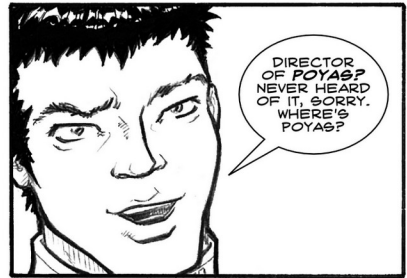


...THE DIRECTOR OF POYAS, GEORGIA MCGREGORY!

HELLO, I'M ALIBI JONES, SOLAR MEDIATION CORPS.



DIRECTOR OF POYAS? NEVER HEARD OF IT, SORRY. WHERE'S POYAS?



WE'RE A GROWING COLONY ON THE EDGE OF DAKHUR SPACE. YOU HADN'T HEARD OF US YET. AND NOW...



YOU'VE HEARD OF US.

JONES, YOU WERE JUST ON HUR - THAT ALMOST MAKES YOU AN EXPERT ON THE DAKHUR! I WAS SURE YOU WOULD HAVE RUN ACROSS POYAS COLONY...

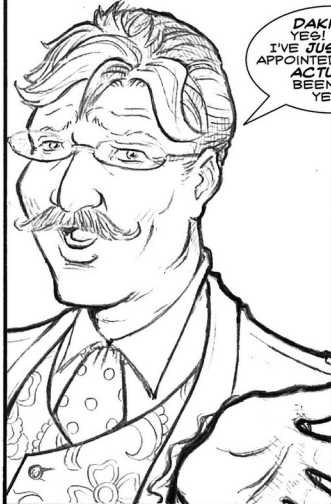


I'M AFRAID YOU MUST EXCUSE ME...

YEAH, THAT IS WEIRD.







DAKHUR?
YES! WELL,
I'VE JUST BEEN
APPOINTED. HAVEN'T
ACTUALLY BEEN OUT
YET...



REALLY?
HUH...

TELL
ME, THE
WOMAN WITH
THE DIRECTOR...
HER NAME'S
SHIRRA?

SHIR...
WHAT? NO...
THAT'S THE
LADY ANDREA
LOVERA.

REALLY?
OH...



WOULD
YOU PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME?

AMBASSADOR...

I
SHOULD
GET GOING
TOO...



COME
NOW, ALIBI!
ALL MY A-LISTERS
CAN'T LEAVE AT
ONCE!

YOU OWE ME FOR
THIS ONE, AUNT ANITA!

TWO HOURS LATER...

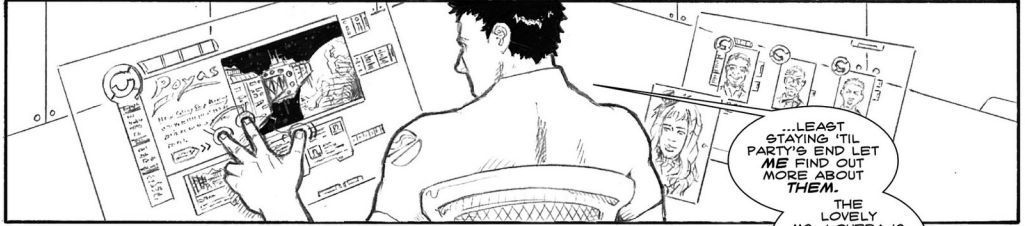


THAT "PARTY" DRAG ON FOR A WEEK OR WAS IT JUST ME?

NOW...



...LET'S SEE ABOUT "LADY ANDREA LOVERA" AND THE "POYAS COLONY"...



...LEAST STAYING 'TIL PARTY'S END LET ME FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEM.

THE LOVELY MS. LOVERA IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ORIGINAL COLONIST? YEAH RIGHT...

"...IS IT TIME FOR A NEW START?"

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT PLACE TO RAISE YOUR KIDS?

THIS IS BRADY THOMAS FOR THE POYAS COLONY, THE GROWING HUMAN COLONY ON THE EDGE OF DAKHUR SPACE... AND MAYBE YOUR NEW HOME!"

"...THANKS TO A SPECIAL CHARTER FROM THE DAKHUR KING OF POYAS, DIRECTOR GEORGIA MCGREGORY AND HER STAFF HAVE GROWN THE ORIGINAL, TINY, EXPERIMENTAL POYAS COLONY INTO A NEAR PARADISE! NO PLACE IS PERFECT, BUT THE POYAS COLONY COMES DARN CLOSE!"



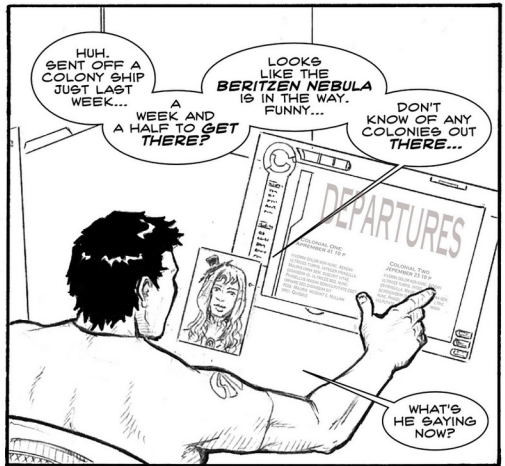
"IT'S A LITTLE OFF THE BEATEN PATH... THE NEARBY NEBULA DOES LIMIT WAND COMMUNICATION, AND MAKES A TRANSPACE JUMP POINT A LITTLE DISTANT, BUT IF YOU'RE LIKE ME AND LIKE THE THOUGHT OF GETTING AWAY FROM THE CHAOS OF MODERN LIFE? WELL, LET'S JUST SAY, IT AIN'T BAD BEING A WEEK AND A HALF AWAY FROM IT ALL!"



"THE DAKHUR KING?"
THEY DON'T HAVE KINGS!

WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!

GUESS THEY'VE GOT A GOOD PR @STAFF...



HUH. SENT OFF A COLONY SHIP JUST LAST WEEK...

A WEEK AND A HALF TO GET THERE?

LOOKS LIKE THE BERITZEN NEBULA IS IN THE WAY. FUNNY...

DON'T KNOW OF ANY COLONIES OUT THERE...

WHAT'S HE SAYING NOW?



...THOUSAND PER INDIVIDUAL, OR JUST 750,000 SOLAR ALLIANCE DOLLARS FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR, YOU CAN SOON BE LIVING IN YOUR NEW HOME ON POYAS!

...YOUR PAYMENT COVERS ALL TRANSPORTATION COSTS, PAYS FOR YOUR NEW HOME IN THE COLONY, AND YOU'LL GET A STARTER SEED, INTEREST FREE LOAN OF 100,000 POYAS DOLLARS, THE CURRENCY OF THE COLONY.

THE POYAS COLONY IS ALSO OPEN TO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

OFF!



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

HA, YEAH, BET YOU ARE...

...STAR CHARTS FOR THE BERITZEN NEBULA AND SURROUNDINGS UP, PLEASE.



NO WAY!

THEY WOULDN'T, WOULD THEY?

ONLY THING OUT THERE IS A DEAD ELDRED WORLD, ATMOSPHERE POISONED WITH DEADLY TOXINS, MAKE-UP UNKNOWN... IS THAT THEIR POYAS?



WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO, SHIRRA?

THE NEXT DAY...

WELCOME TO THE TREMAINE ESTATE...

HI, THIS IS ALIBI JO...

...THE HOME OF AMBASSADOR KEVIN TREMAINE AND RESIDENCE ON CAT'S EYE OF POYAS COLONY DIRECTOR GEORGIA MCGREGORY AND THE LADY ANDREA LOVERA...

WHO MAY I SAY IS CALLING?

THIS IS ALIBI JONES. I'D LIKE TO SEE THE, UH, LADY ANDREA LOVERA?

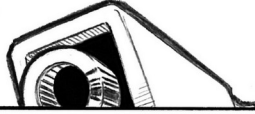
ALIBI? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!

SHIRAP? OR IS IT "LADY LOVERA"?!?

YES, ALIBI. YOU REALLY SHOULD'NT HAVE COME NOBING AROUND...



...NOW THAT YOU HAVE, I MUST **INSIST** YOU COME IN.



KNEW YOU WERE **TROUBLE** WHEN I MET YOU LAST NIGHT. WHEN SHIR... UH, LADY ANDREA TOLD ME YOU WERE AN OLD BOYFRIEND, WELL....



THE JEALOUS TYPE, HUH?

SHE'S THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE NOT DEAD ALREADY!

GUESS IF YOU'D SENTENCE A SHIPLOAD OF INNOCENT "COLONISTS" TO DEATH, YOU WOULDN'T HESITATE TO KILL LIL' OL' ME, HUH?



WHAT?



DIRECTOR GEORGIA? GREAT NEWS, JUST HEARD FROM THE COLONY SHIP OVER THE RELAY! THEY'RE ABOUT A DAY OUT FROM POY...



TREMAINE, YOU OLD FOOL! GO PRETEND TO BE IMPORTANT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

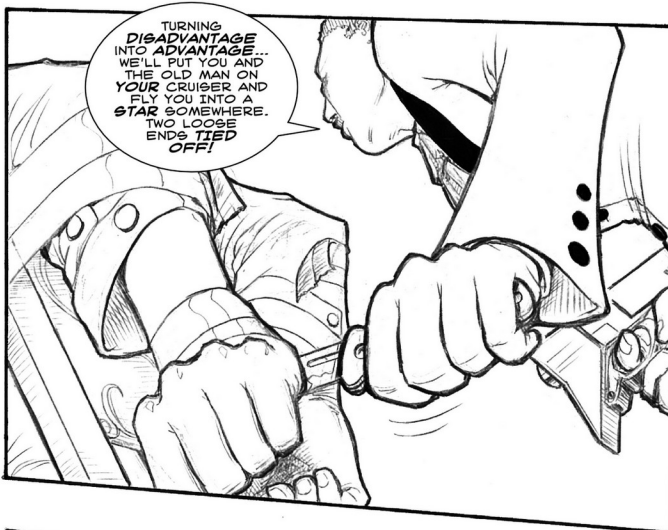
DIRECTOR? OH DEAR... WHAT IS GOING ON?



ENOUGH!

FWWAASHH!

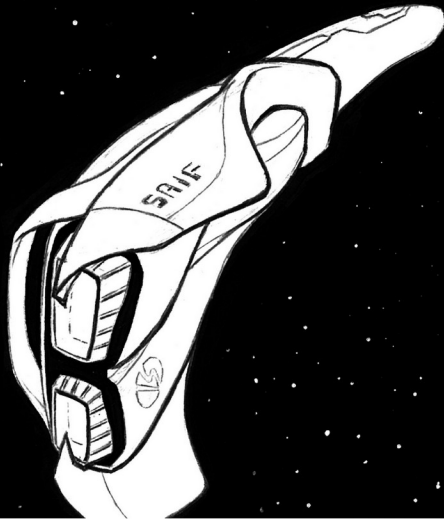






GEORGIA HAS DECIDED DESPITE MY PROTESTS, YOU'VE GOTTA DIE.

SO... I'VE SET THE CONTROLS FOR THE HEART OF THE SUN.





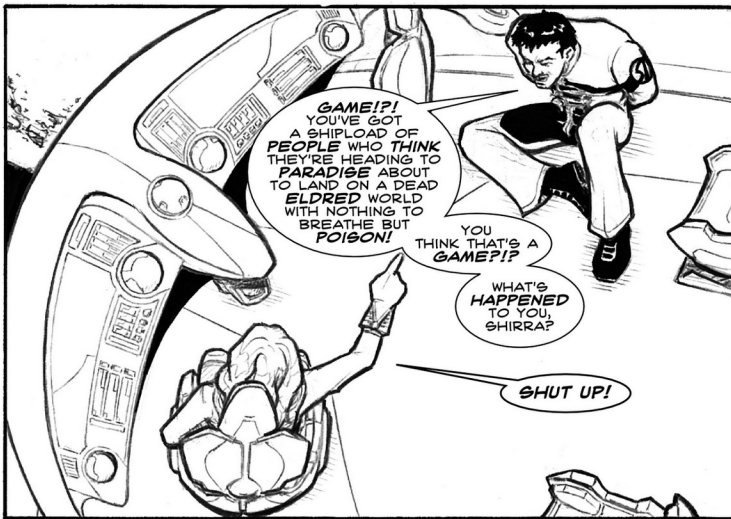
BEEN A WHILE, HUH, SHIRRA?

YUP.



HOW'D YOU GET MIXED UP IN THIS THING?

I GOT MIXED UP WITH HER. SHE PROMISED THIS WOULD BE THE LAST GAME...



GAME?! YOU'VE GOT A SHIPLOAD OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE HEADING TO PARADISE ABOUT TO LAND ON A DEAD ELDRED WORLD WITH NOTHING TO BREATHE BUT POISON!

YOU THINK THAT'S A GAME?!?

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, SHIRRA?

SHUT UP!



I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. ABOUT THE PLANET THEY'RE GOING TO, I MEAN. SHE SAID IT WAS FINE, JUST NOT AS NICE AS WE'D PROMISED.



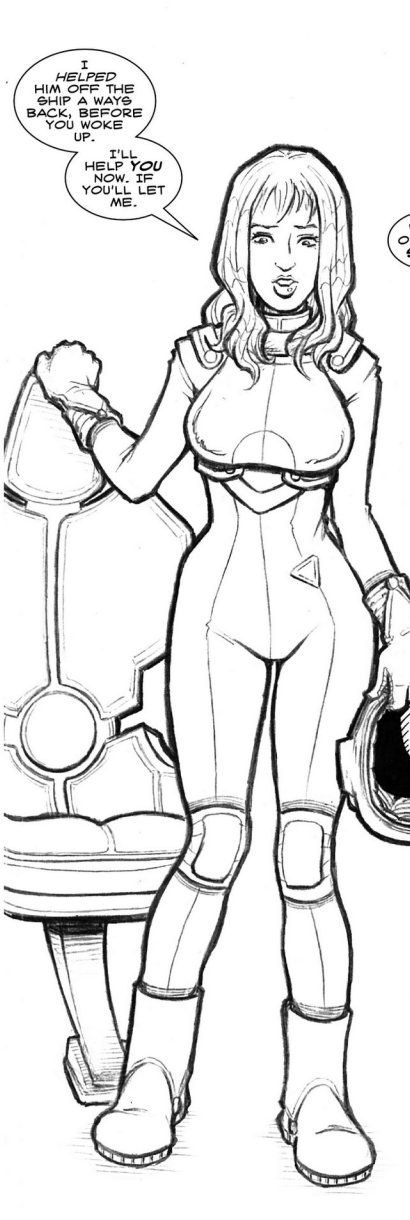
THE ELDRED BOOBY-TRAPPED ALL THEIR WORLDS WHEN THEIR RACE DIED OUT, SHIRRA. THAT SHIP LANDS ON THAT PLANET? THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALL GONNA DIE!

I KNOW, I KNOW, NOW.

GEORGIA DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT, HUH?



GEORGIA? HA! HER NAME'S NOT GEORGIA...





I TRUST HER... I **STILL** LOVE HER. SHE'LL **EMPTY** THE POYAS ACCOUNTS AND THEN COME GET ME.

YOU **SURE** CAN **PICK** EM, SHIRRA...

FUNNY, THAT'S WHAT **SHE** SAID ABOUT YOU!



HOW DO YOU KNOW I WON'T JUST **BIT** HERE, **BLASTERS** READY AND WAITING, AND **TAKE OUT** HER SHIP WHEN SHE ARRIVES?

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU ALIBI...



...AND I'M **TRUSTING** YOU TO MAKE THINGS **RIGHT**.

THE **NEBULA'S** INTERFERENCE WON'T LET YOU CONTACT THE COLONY SHIP FROM **HERE**...

...**BUT** IF YOU JUMP TO THE **TRANSFACE** POINT NEAREST THE **NEBULA RIGHT NOW**, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO REACH THEM OVER THE RELAY AND **WARN** THEM NOT TO LAND. THE **COORDINATES** ARE **PRESET**. YOU'D BETTER GET **GOING**...

RIF



DAMN. YOU'RE GONNA GET **CAUGHT**! ALWAYS WERE TOO **SMART** FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, **SHIRRA**.

LUCKY FOR YOU... **NOW GO!**



I'LL
COME BACK
FOR YOU,
SHIRRA!

NO YOU
WON'T. I'LL
BE LONG
GONE.

SEE
YOU LATER,
ALIBI
JONES!