



# TALES OF HONOR



#2 • \$2.99

**"ON BASILISK STATION"**

**MATT HAWKINS • SANG-IL JEONG • LINDA SEJIC**

***www.topcow.com***



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#2

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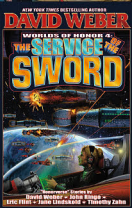
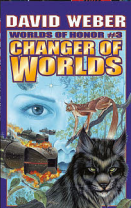
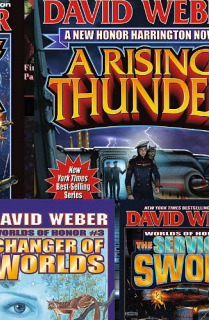
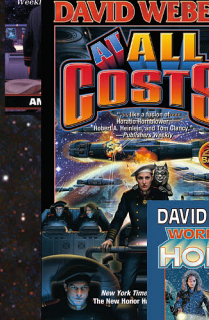
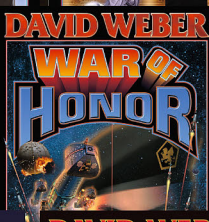
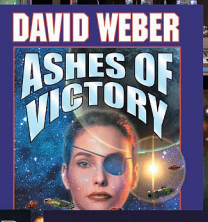
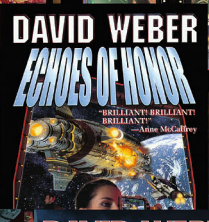
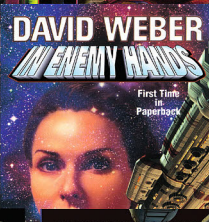
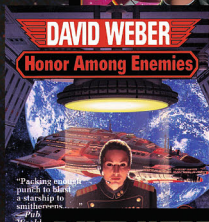
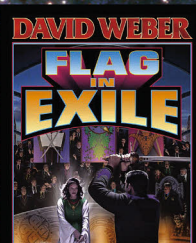
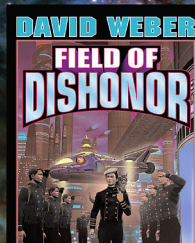
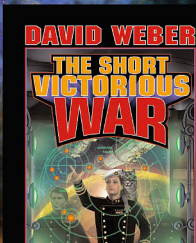
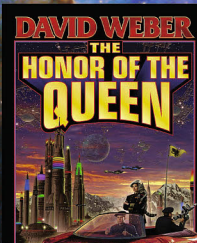
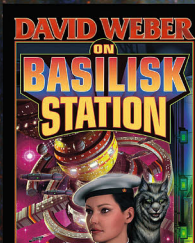
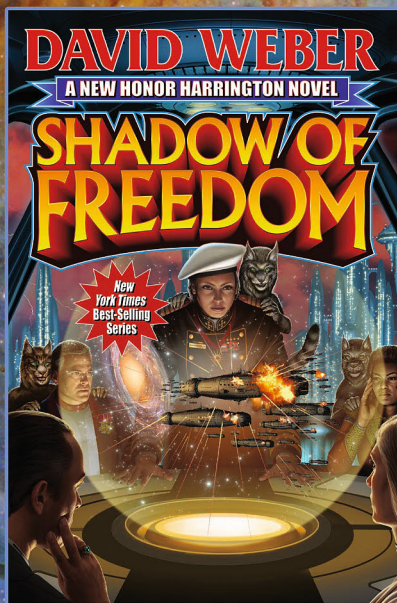
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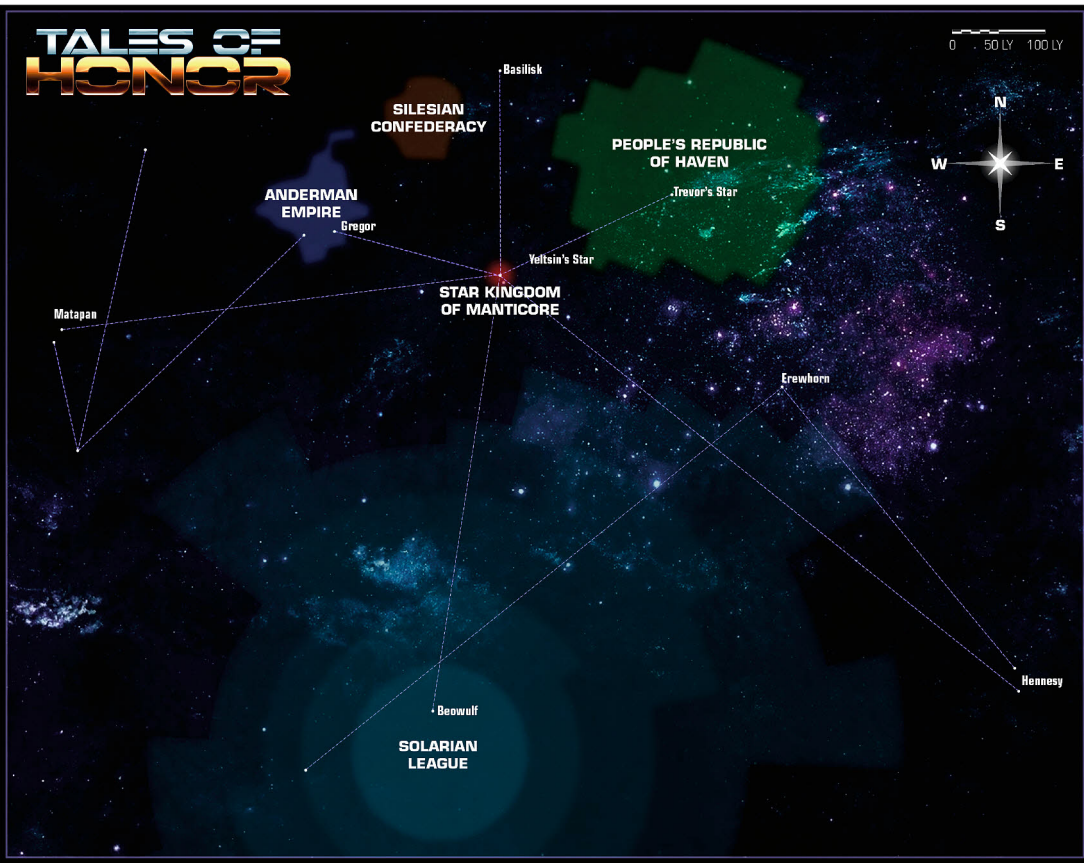
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# TALES OF HONOR



## "ON BASILISK STATION"

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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...

WITHOUT THE BOND I SHARE WITH MY TREC CAT NIMITZ, MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR LESS INTERESTING.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN HOW IT WORKS TO SOMEONE WITHOUT A FRAME OF REFERENCE...LIKE TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHAT COCOA TASTES LIKE TO SOMEONE WITHOUT TASTE BUDS.

MORALE IS DOWN ACROSS THE BOARD. EVERYONE KNOWS BASILISK STATION IS WHERE CAREERS GO TO DIE.

**LIEUTENANT  
COMMANDER  
ALISTAIR  
MCKEON**

**CHIEF  
ENGINEER  
DOMINICA  
SANTOS**

THE BEST WAY TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND THE CONNECTION IS THAT I FEEL HIS PAIN, KNOW HIS SADNESS AND HE MINE. THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME, OUR CONNECTION WOULD GET EVEN DEEPER.

HIS EMPATHIC SENSE WOULD LET ME KNOW HOW OTHERS WERE FEELING, AND THIS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH SENSATIONS AND IMAGES.

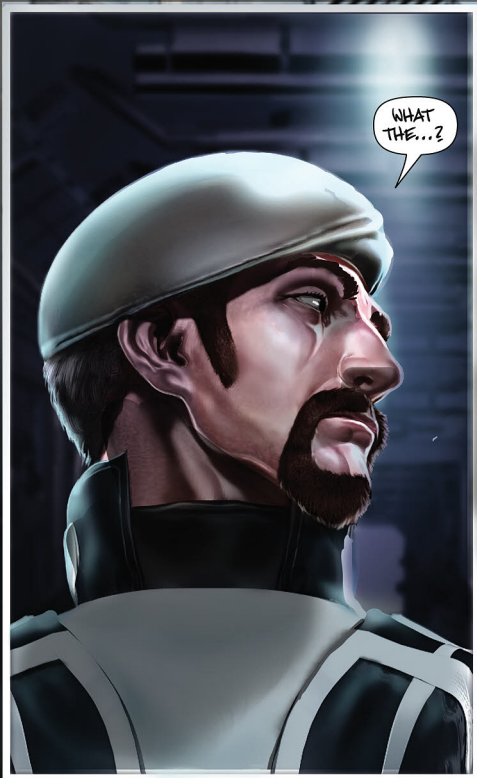
IT ALL SEEMS SO UNFAIR.



NIMITZ AND I'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SO LONG HIS THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OFTEN FEEL LIKE MY OWN.

FAIRNESS IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.





WHAT THE...?

TREECATS ARE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT OMNIVORE HUNTERS AND WILL PRACTICE THEIR HUNTING SKILLS REGARDLESS OF ENVIRONMENT OR NEED.



FELT LIKE SOMETHING TAPPED ME ON THE SHOULDER...BUT THERE'S NOTHING THERE.



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU OKAY?

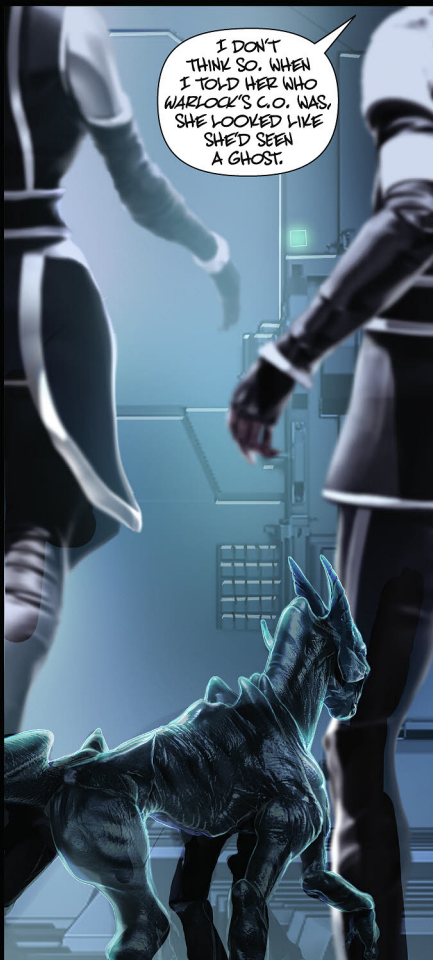


NIMITZ WAS ALSO A BIT OF A PRANKSTER.

I'M ON EDGE, BUT I'LL BE FINE.



HOPEFULLY COMMANDER HARRINGTON HAS SOME GOOD NEWS AFTER HER VISIT TO WARLOCK.



I DON'T THINK SO. WHEN I TOLD HER WHO WARLOCK'S C.O. WAS, SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE'D SEEN A GHOST.





COMMANDER PAVEL YOUNG, SON OF THE EARL OF NORTH HOLLOW. AN ARISTOCRAT AND STUCK HERE IN BASILISK TOO... HE MUST BE A REAL PRIZE.



I CHECKED HARRINGTON'S SERVICE RECORD. SHE TRAINED AT SAGANAMI ISLAND AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS THERE --

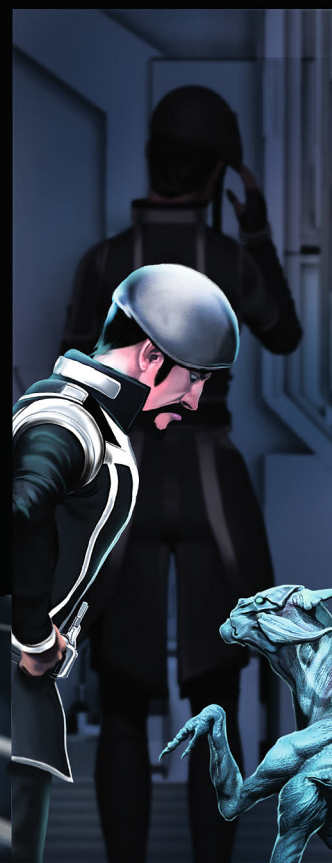
BLEEK.



AHHHH!



HA! HA! HA! HE SNUCK RIGHT UP ON YOU, AL-HISTAIR.



PEOPLE DISCOUNT NIMITZ'S INTELLIGENCE AND SPEAK OPENLY IN FRONT OF HIM. HE'S GREAT AT EAVESDROPPING.

OUR LINK ISN'T TELEPATHIC, SO I DON'T HEAR THE CONVERSATIONS, BUT I KNEW THAT MCKEON WAS UNHAPPY.

THE BRIDGE ABOARD A ROYAL MANTICORAN NAVAL VESSEL IS THE CENTRAL HUB AND COMMAND CENTER.

THE CAPTAIN'S BRIEFING ROOM IS ADJACENT AS A CONVENIENT MEETING PLACE FOR SENIOR OFFICERS.



HEY, STINKER, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?



YOU WANTED US, COMMANDER?

YES. ASSEMBLE THE REMAINING SENIOR OFFICERS IN MY BRIEFING ROOM. I'VE MET WITH WARLOCK'S C.O. AND WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.

**PNS TEPES  
HOLDING CELL**

EVEN THE BAD MEMORIES, LIKE THOSE AT BASILISK, ARE BETTER THAN THIS PRESENT I FIND MYSELF IN.

ENDLESS HOURS, DAYS...WEEKS? I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN HERE. MY CONTINUING REFUSAL TO TALK HAS ANGERED SECRETARY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CORDELIA RANSOM, AND SHE HAD MY CYBERNETIC EYE REMOVED AS A PETTY TORTURE.

STILL NOTHING TO SAY, HONOR?

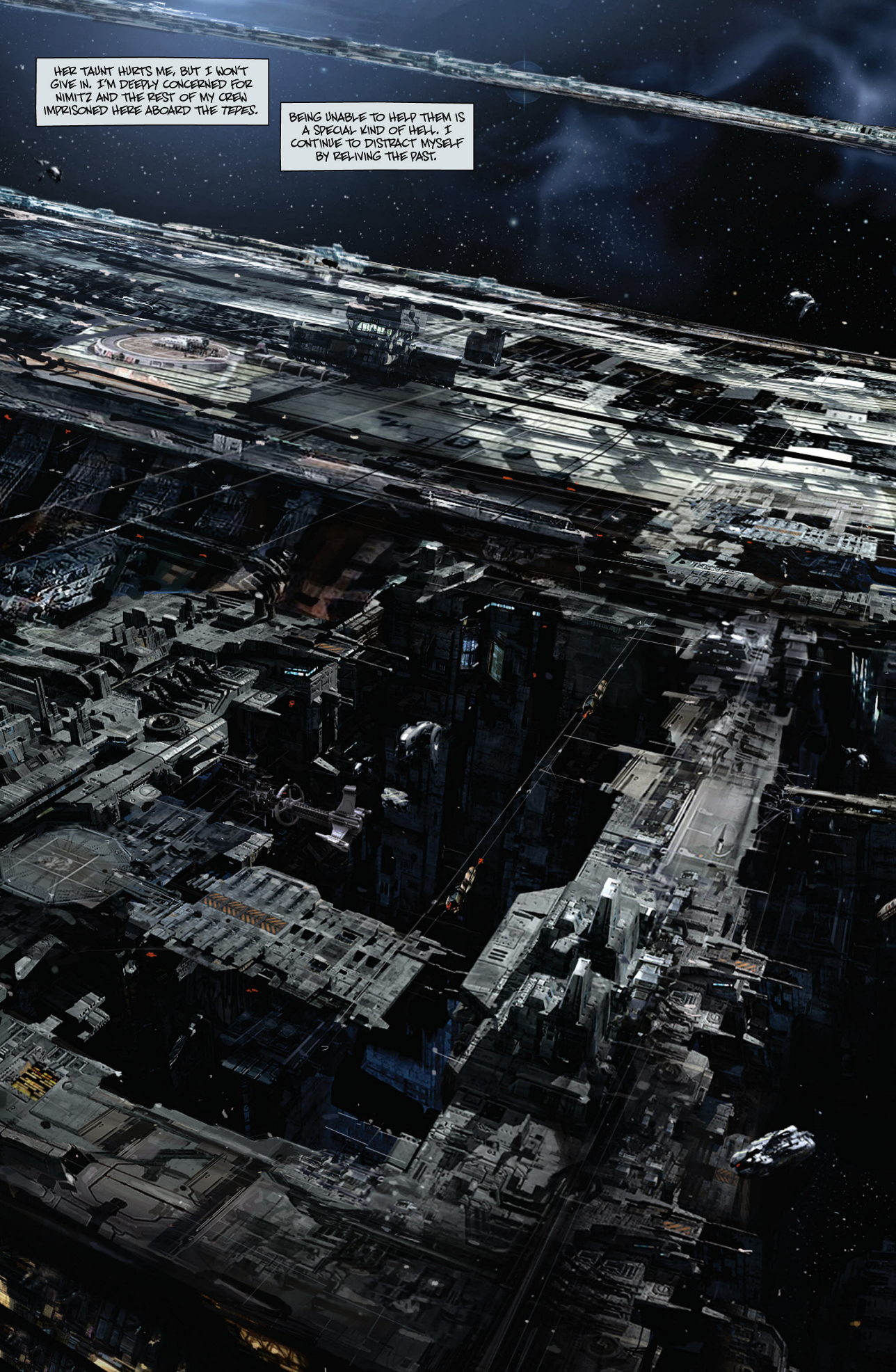
THIS WOULD ALL GO EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU CONFESS PUBLICLY TO YOUR CRIMES.

NO?

I KILLED YOUR TREECAT AN HOUR AGO; HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

I REACH OUT TO NIMITZ WITH MY MIND. HE'S WITHDRAWN, CAGED AND HURT, BUT HE LIVES. I KNOW SHE'S LYING.

DO YOU CARE ABOUT ANYONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF?



HER TAUNT HURTS ME, BUT I WON'T  
GIVE IN. I'M DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR  
NIMITZ AND THE REST OF MY CREW  
IMPRISONED HERE ABOARD THE TEPES.

BEING UNABLE TO HELP THEM IS  
A SPECIAL KIND OF HELL. I  
CONTINUE TO DISTRACT MYSELF  
BY RELIVING THE PAST.

# BASILISK STATION

PAVEL YOUNG ABANDONING A WORMHOLE JUNCTURE WAS UNHEARD OF FOR A C.O.

IT WAS WITHIN HIS PURVIEW, BUT OBVIOUSLY A CALCULATED EFFORT TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD AND GET REVENGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED AT SAGANAMI ISLAND.

THE BASILISK DUTY STATION WAS TASKED WITH POLICING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM AND ALL OF THE TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH THE TERMINUS, AND THERE WAS NO WAY ONE SHIP COULD DO IT ALL.

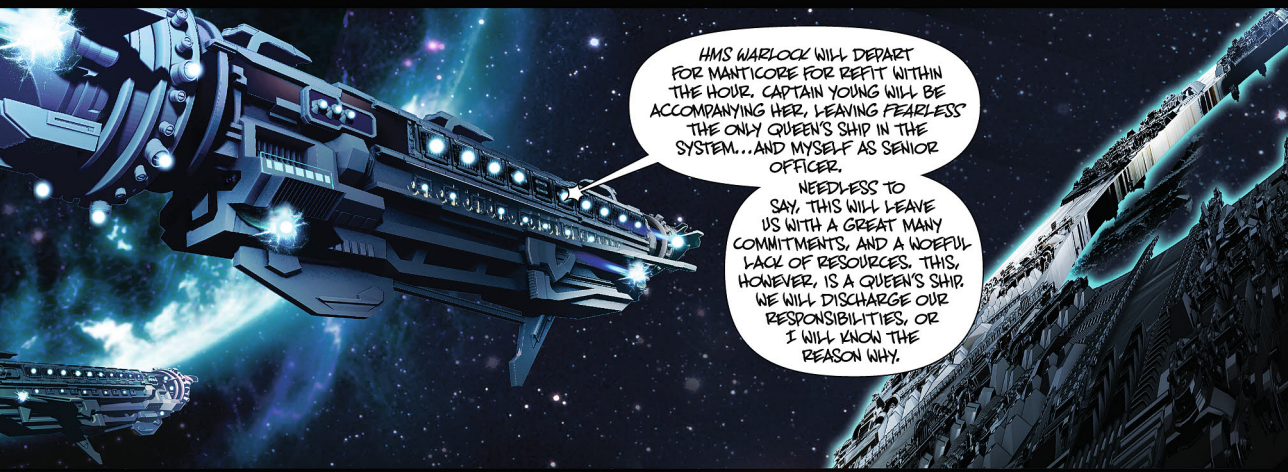
HE'D LEFT ME AN IMPOSSIBLE JOB IN AN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE MY RECORD AND END MY CAREER.

UNLIKE HIM, MY FATHER COULD NOT PUT ME ON THE CAPTAIN'S LIST; THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE FLAG RANK IN THE ROYAL MANTICORAN NAVY, AND IF I BOTCHED MY FIRST INDEPENDENT COMMAND, HOWEVER IT HAD FALLEN ON ME, I NEVER WOULD.

KNOWING THAT YOUNG HAD SET ME UP, THAT HE INTENDED FOR ME TO FAIL AND RUIN MY COMMAND POTENTIAL, STRENGTHENED MY RESOLVE.

WHATEVER IT TOOK, I WAS DETERMINED TO DISCHARGE MY DUTIES.

I REFUSED TO LET AN ARROGANT PIECE OF SCUM LIKE PAVEL YOUNG WIN.



HMS WARLOCK WILL DEPART FOR MANTICORE FOR REFIT WITHIN THE HOUR. CAPTAIN YOUNG WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HER, LEAVING FEARLESS THE ONLY QUEEN'S SHIP IN THE SYSTEM...AND MYSELF AS SENIOR OFFICER.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS WILL LEAVE US WITH A GREAT MANY COMMITMENTS, AND A HOPEFUL LACK OF RESOURCES. THIS, HOWEVER, IS A QUEEN'S SHIP. WE WILL DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, OR I WILL KNOW THE REASON WHY.



OUR PROBLEM, IN THE SIMPLEST TERMS, IS THAT ONE SHIP CAN ONLY BE IN ONE PLACE AT A TIME. THE FLEET IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING BASILISK CONTROL IN MANAGING JUNCTION TRAFFIC, INCLUDING CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS AS REQUIRED.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTING ALL MEDUSAN TRAFFIC, FOR SUPPORTING THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND HER NATIVE PROTECTION AGENCY POLICE, FOR SAFEGUARDING ALL VISITORS TO THE PLANET, AND FOR ENSURING THE SECURITY OF THIS SYSTEM AGAINST ALL EXTERNAL THREATS.



TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE MUST BE HERE--

--HERE--



--AND, IN FACT, HERE, NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?



OBVIOUSLY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A SINGLE LIGHT CRUISER CAN'T BE IN ALL THOSE PLACES AT ONCE, NONETHELESS, WE HAVE OUR ORDERS, SO LET'S BE ABOUT IT, PEOPLE.

## ENGINEERING

THE NICE PART OF SKIMMING MY OWN MEMORIES IS THAT I CAN SKIP OVER MANY OF THE MUNDANE DETAILS. THE HOURS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION, ENDLESS TACTICAL REVIEWS, AND THE DISCUSSIONS/ARGUMENTS OVER WHAT WOULD AND WOULDN'T WORK.

COMMANDER SANTOS, I WANT TO DEPLOY OUR ON-HAND RECON DRONES AS STATIONARY SENSOR PLATFORMS. I REALIZE THEY AREN'T DESIGNED FOR THIS, BUT I KNOW YOU AND YOUR TEAM WILL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO MAKE IT WORK.

STRIPPING THE SENSOR HEADS FROM THE MISSILE BODIES IN ORDER TO FIT THEM WITH SIMPLE STATION-KEEPING DRIVES AND ASTROGATION PACKAGES WILL ALLOW US TO USE THEM TO MONITOR SYSTEM TRAFFIC AND BE PLACES FEARLESS CAN'T.

CAPTAIN, WHAT YOU ASK IS POSSIBLE, BUT WE DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH INVENTORY TO COVER EVEN HALF OF WHAT WE WOULD NEED.

I KNEW IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK, BUT I WAS DETERMINED. BASILISK WAS IMPORTANT, AND THE YEARS OF WAR THAT FOLLOWED PROVED JUST HOW IMPORTANT.

WHAT WE DON'T HAVE, WE'LL FABRICATE. WHAT WE CAN'T FABRICATE, WE'LL REQUISITION. WHAT WE CAN'T REQUISITION, WE'LL STEAL.

I MAY HAVE BEEN CURT, BUT PUSHING EVERYONE TO THEIR ABSOLUTE LIMITS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THE JOB DONE.

I SCREWED UP, MA'AM. I SET THE DRONES FOR DIRECTIONAL, NOT OMNIDIRECTIONAL. I THINK I MADE A LITTLE MISTAKE IN THEIR TELEMETRY PACKAGES TOO. I CAN'T SEEM TO ACCESS THEM FOR REMOTE REPROGRAMMING.

WELL, LIEUTENANT CARDONES, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO ABOUT IT?

I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO PICK THEM UP AND REPROGRAM THEM MANUALLY, MA'AM.

NOT ACCEPTABLE. THAT WOULD DELAY US FOR DAYS.

I'VE ALWAYS FELT IT BEST FOR AN OFFICER TO SOLVE HIS OR HER OWN PROBLEMS.

YOU'RE TACTICAL OFFICER ABOARD THIS SHIP, MR. CARDONES. THE DRONES' PROGRAMMING WAS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, SO YOU NEED TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM. DEAL WITH IT, LIEUTENANT.

YES, MA'AM.

RAFE, HEAD BACK TO YOUR STATION. I'LL BE ALONG IN A FEW AND WE CAN TALK IT THROUGH.

HE'S DOING HIS BEST, CAPTAIN. EVERYONE IS WORKING DOUBLE SHIFTS TO IMPLEMENT THE DRONE SURVEILLANCE NET.

WELL, MR. MCKEON, HE HAS TO DO BETTER. FAILURE IS UNACCEPTABLE AND I BELIEVE HE WILL RISE TO THE OCCASION.



# SURFACE OF THE PLANET MEDUSA NATIVE PROTECTION AGENCY (NPA) HEADQUARTERS

DAME ESTELLE MATSUKO, THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER FOR PLANETARY AFFAIRS AND HEAD OF THE NPA ON MEDUSA, WAS A LIKE-MINDED SOUL, AND WE QUICKLY BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS.

I MUST SAY, COMMANDER, THAT I'M SURPRISED -- AND PLEASED -- BY YOUR VISIT TO MY OFFICE. I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T HAD QUITE THE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE NAVY I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR.

IMPROVING RELATIONS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR MY VISIT. I WAS ALSO HOPING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENCLAVES AND THE INDIGENOUS SPECIES HERE ON MEDUSA. THAT MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, THERE'S FAR MORE TRAFFIC HERE THAN I EXPECTED, WHICH IS KEEPING US VERY BUSY.

THE ENCLAVES ARE TRADING STATIONS RUN BY DIFFERING STAR SYSTEMS, AND HAVE GROWN EXPONENTIALLY ALONG WITH THE WORMHOLE TRAFFIC. HUNDREDS OF ORBITAL AND PLANETSIDE WAREHOUSES HAVE POPPED UP AS PART OF THE GROWING INTERSTELLAR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.

TRADE WITH THE NATIVES GREW AS AN OFFSHOOT OF THAT. THE MEDUSANS ARE THE EQUIVALENT OF A LATE BRONZE AGE CIVILIZATION, AND ASIDE FROM SOME GENUINELY BEAUTIFUL ARTIFACTS, THEY HAVE VERY LITTLE OF VALUE TO MODERN ECONOMIES.

ARE THEY HOSTILE?

NO. OUR RELATIONS HAVE BEEN GOOD FOR THE MOST PART AND WE HAVE REGULAR COMMUNICATION WITH THE CLAN CHIEFS. THEY'RE ORGANIZED INTO TRIBES, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOMADIC. MY PEOPLE CALL THEM STILTIES BECAUSE OF THEIR STILT-LIKE LEGS.

I AM TROUBLED BY THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN MEKOHA USE OVER THE PAST YEAR.

MEKOHA?

IT'S A DRUG THEY USE THAT'S PROTECTED FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS.



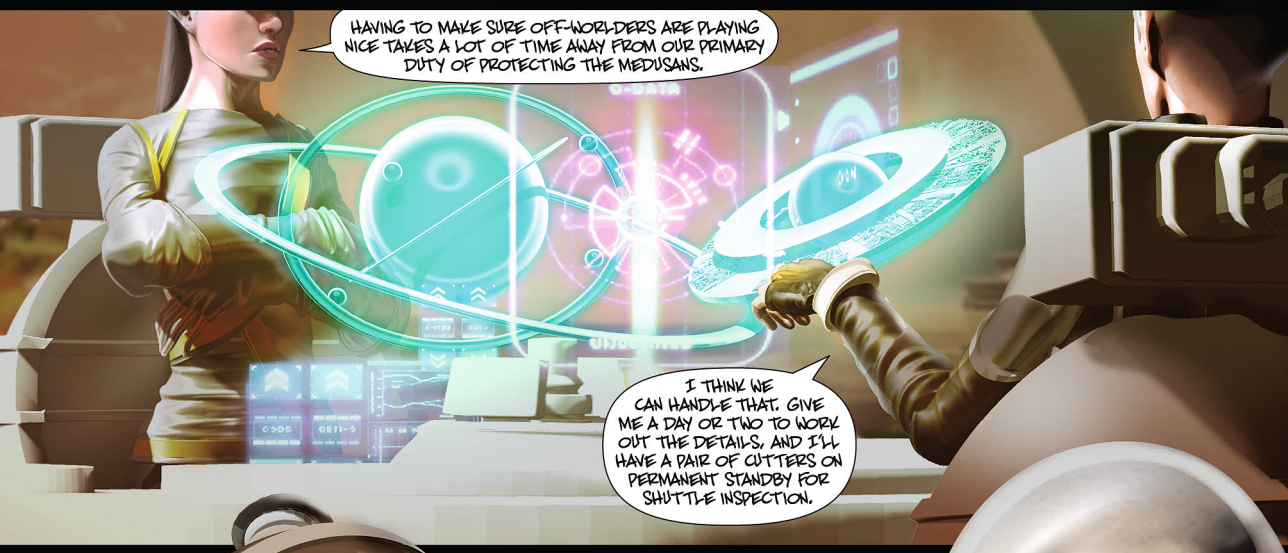
IT'S DIFFICULT TO REFINE, BY LOCAL STANDARDS, AND I DON'T LIKE THE EFFECT IT HAS ON ITS USERS, BUT IT'S NOTHING NEW.

I SUPPOSE IT BOTHERS ME BECAUSE ONE OF THE FIRST SIGNS OF A SELF-DESTRUCTING ABORIGINAL CULTURE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE AN INCREASE IN THE USE OF DRUGS AND INTOXICANTS, AND I'D HATE TO SEE THE MEDUSANS GO THAT ROUTE.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?



IF YOU COULD TAKE OVER THE INSPECTION OF SHIP-TO-SURFACE SHUTTLES AND GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROL, IT WOULD FREE UP A LOT OF MY NPA PERSONNEL.



HAVING TO MAKE SURE OFF-WORLDERERS ARE PLAYING NICE TAKES A LOT OF TIME AWAY FROM OUR PRIMARY DUTY OF PROTECTING THE MEDUSANS.

I THINK WE CAN HANDLE THAT. GIVE ME A DAY OR TWO TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS, AND I'LL HAVE A PAIR OF CUTTERS ON PERMANENT STANDBY FOR SHUTTLE INSPECTION.



PLUS, THE HAVENITES HAVE AN ABNORMALLY LARGE TRADING DELEGATION HERE, FAR LARGER THAN THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS WARRANT. I'VE LONG FELT THEY HAD AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHAT IT IS.



THAT IS TROUBLING, COMMISSIONER. WE'LL LOOK INTO IT.

# MANTICORAN MERCHANT CRUISER MONDRAGON CARGO BAY

THAT PAVEL YOUNG HAD BEEN NEGLIGENT HERE AT BASIHSK DIDN'T SURPRISE ME, BUT THE FACT THAT NO RMN OFFICER HAD EVER TRIED TO FULFILL THE STANDING ORDERS TO INSPECT AND PROTECT COMMERCE DESPITE PERSISTENT RUMORS OF ILLEGALLY TRAFFICKED GOODS WAS MIND-BOGGING.

SMUGGLING IS A TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND, BUT ANATHEMA TO NAVAL PRINCIPLES.

NO BETTER WAY TO CATCH A SMUGGLER THAN TO EMPLOY SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE; THERE HAD TO BE SOMEONE ON BOARD MY SHIP WITH EXPERIENCE. IT WAS STATISTICALLY PROBABLE.

I FOUND A SECRET WEAPON IN PETTY OFFICER HORACE HARKNESS. PROMOTED THEN DEMOTED MANY TIMES FOR FIGHTING AND SMUGGLING, HE WAS EXACTLY THE KIND OF ROGUE I NEEDED.

I APPOINTED ENSIGN SCOTTY TREMAINE, THE MOST JUNIOR OFFICER BUT SOMEONE I FELT HAD TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL, TO OVERSEE HIM, KEEP HIM IN LINE AND MAYBE EVEN LEARN A THING OR TWO. THEY QUICKLY BECAME A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

LOOK, KIDDO, NO ONE HAS EVER MADE ME HEAVE TO FOR INSPECTION. I'M A MANTICORAN MERCHANT, ON YOUR SIDE. I'M NOT SOME HAVENITE CRIMINAL. YOU NEED TO GET OFF MY SHIP NOW AND LET ME BE ABOUT MY BUSINESS.

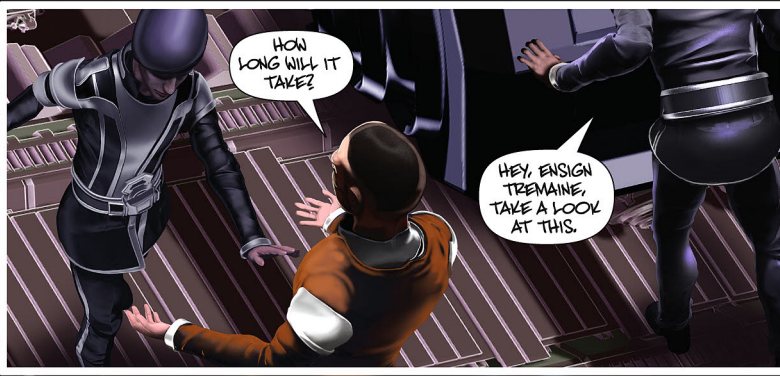
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, SIR. ACCORDING TO BASIHSK CONTROL, YOU TRANSSHIPPED CARGO AT ORBITAL WAREHOUSE BAKER-TANGO-ONE-FOUR, AS I'M CERTAIN YOU'RE AWARE, SIR, THAT CONSTITUTES A MATERIALS TRANSFER IN MANTICORAN SPACE.

AS SUCH, UNDER PARAGRAPH TEN, SUBSECTION THREE, OF THE COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS AS AMENDED BY PARLIAMENT IN 278 A.L., THE SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICER IS REQUIRED TO INSPECT YOUR CARGO BEFORE PASSING YOU FOR TRANSIT TO THE JUNCTION'S CENTRAL NEXUS. ACCORDINGLY, I'M AFRAID I MUST INSIST ON CARRYING OUT MY DUTIES BEFORE I CAN CLEAR YOU FOR TRANSIT.



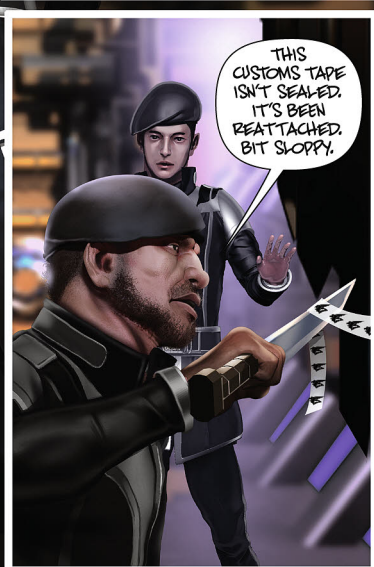
I'VE BEEN MAKING THIS RUN FOR FIVE T-YEARS AND NOT ONE OF MY SHIPS HAS EVER BEEN INSPECTED.

THAT MAY BE TRUE, SIR, AND I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE, BUT WE WILL INSPECT YOUR CARGO.



HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

HEY, ENSIGN TREMAINE, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.



THIS CUSTOMS TAPE ISN'T SEALED. IT'S BEEN REATTACHED. BIT SLOPPY.



THAT'S A VIOLATION OF TRANSPORT REGULATIONS. I'LL NEED YOU TO OPEN THIS ONE UP IMMEDIATELY.

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WE SEIZED BILLIONS WORTH OF ILLEGAL AND CONTROLLED GOODS AND SUBSTANCES AND IMPOUNDED THE SHIPS FROM THE VARIOUS STAR SYSTEMS TRANSPORTING THEM.

THESE WERE SENT BACK TO MANTICORE AND SOLD AT AUCTION. THE ADMIRALTY COURT, AS WAS CUSTOMARY, GAVE A PERCENTAGE OF THESE SALES TO THE CREW OF THE VESSEL THAT APPROPRIATED THEM AS A REWARD.

THIS MADE HARKNESS AND TREMAINE VERY POPULAR AND DID A LOT FOR IMPROVING MY POPULARITY WITH THE CREW, AS WELL.

ACCORDING TO THIS MANIFEST, IN HERE IS A SHIPMENT OF DURALLOY ANIMAL-DRAWN PLOWS IN TRANSIT TO THE HAUPTMAN CARTEL IN THE ERENHON SYSTEM.



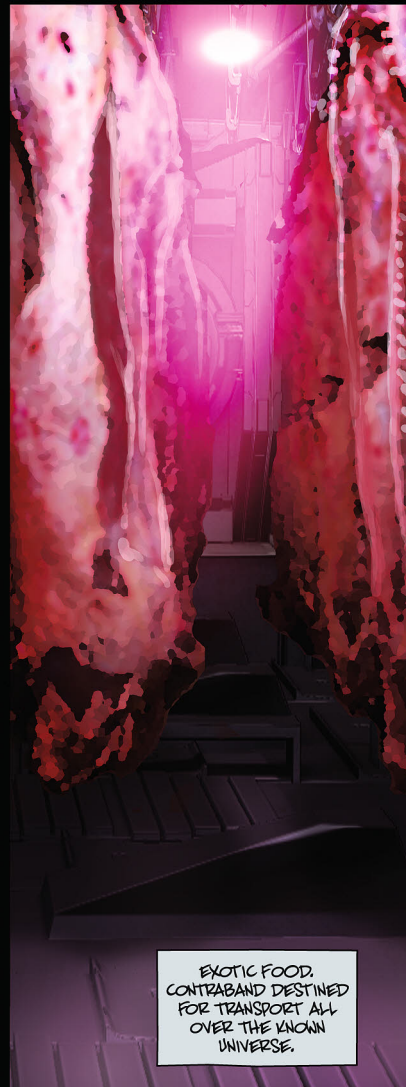
WELL, WELL, WELL! MIGHTY STRANGE LOOKING PLOWSHARES, I'D SAY. THESE LOOK LIKE PEAK BEAR FUR PELTS, ON THE CONTROLLED SPECIES LIST, TOO.



WE FOUND EVERYTHING AFTER THAT. LAB EQUIPMENT HEADING TO THE SILESIA CONFEDERACY.



WEAPONS DESTINED FOR SOMEWHERE IN THE ANDERMANI EMPIRE.



EXOTIC FOOD, CONTRABAND DESTINED FOR TRANSPORT ALL OVER THE KNOWN UNIVERSE.

THE SHEER VOLUME OF CONFISCATED GOODS WAS STAGGERING, AND BOTH STAR NATIONS AND MERCHANT CARTELS TRIED TO APPLY DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURE TO HAVE OUR EFFORTS STOPPED.

THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, DAME ESTELLE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

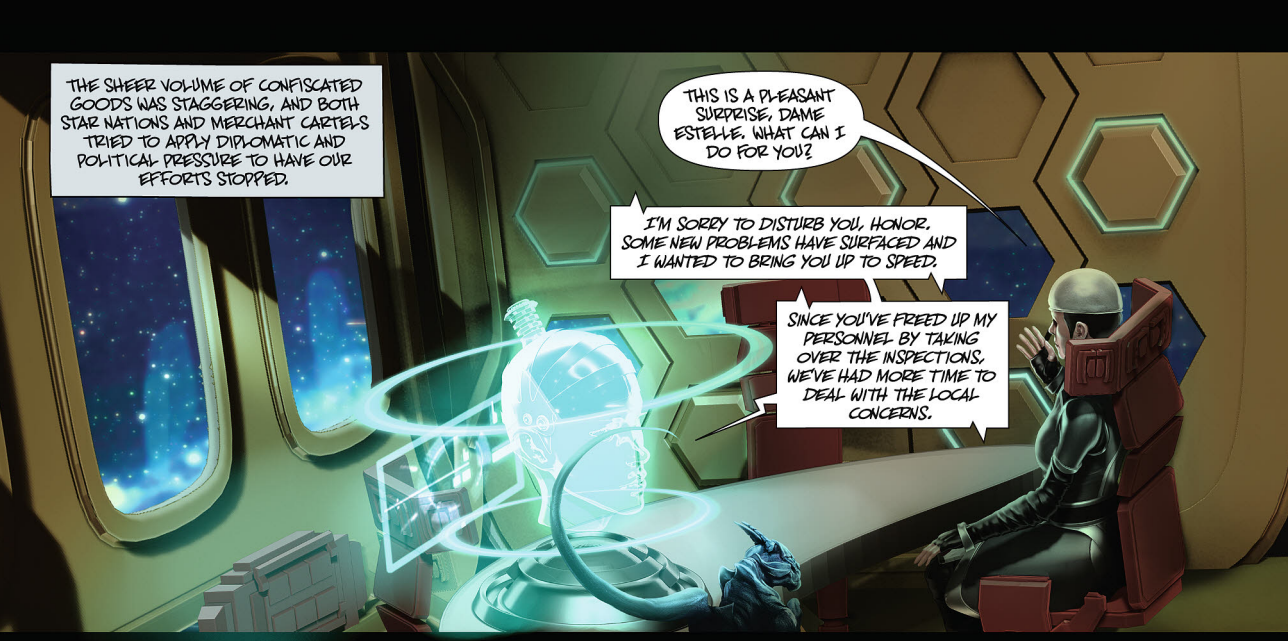
I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, HONOR. SOME NEW PROBLEMS HAVE SURFACED AND I WANTED TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED.

SINCE YOU'VE FREED UP MY PERSONNEL BY TAKING OVER THE INSPECTIONS, WE'VE HAD MORE TIME TO DEAL WITH THE LOCAL CONCERNS.

WE'VE PICKED UP SEVERAL FLIGHTS INTO RESTRICTED AREAS. WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE OR WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

I'M STARTING TO FEAR IT HAS TO DO WITH MEHOKA PRODUCTION. WE'VE HAD PROBLEMS WITH SOME OF THE STILTIES GETTING VIOLENT.

I'M UPLOADING A VIDEO TAKEN EARLIER TODAY. YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK.



"WHEN OVERUSED, MEKOHA CAN PRODUCE A STRENGTH REACTION LIKE AN ADRENAL-IN-HIGH AND VIRTUALLY SHUT DOWN THE USER'S PAIN RECEPTORS. THE IMMEDIATE EUPHORIA CAN SLIDE INTO A SORT OF INDUCED PSYCHOSIS WITH ABSOLUTELY NO WARNING WITH VIOLENT RESULTS."

EASY THERE, BIG GUY. CALM DOWN BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT.





WITH YOUR SMUGGLING  
CRACKDOWN WE EXPECTED  
VOLUME TO DECLINE, BUT THE  
SUPPLY HAS ACTUALLY GONE UP.



**PLANET MEDUSA  
MOSSYBACK RANGE**

WE REALIZED VERY QUICKLY THAT THE ONLY THING THAT MADE SENSE WAS THAT OFF-WORLDEERS HAD BUILT A LAB OR LABS PLANETSIDE TO MANUFACTURE MEHOKA IN BULK AND SELL IT TO THE STIITIES.

THAT KIND OF OPERATION WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF POWER USAGE AND MOST LIKELY BE LOCATED IN A REMOTE AREA.

WE BEGAN SWEEPING THE ENCLAVES AND OUTER AREAS FOR UNUSUAL POWER USAGE.

WELL NOW, MR. TREMAINE, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?

HOW BIG IS THE SPIKE?







I FIGURE THEY'RE SHIELDED, SIR -- I SURE CAN'T GET A GOOD READ ON THE USER END -- BUT THE FEEDER BEAM SEEMS TO BE PEAKING AT ABOUT TWO HUNDRED KILOWATTS. THAT'S A LOT OF JUICE FOR A BUNCH OF STILTIES.



IT IS, INDEED, HIRO. WHAT'S THE LOCATION?

SIXTY-THREE KILOKS WEST-SOUTHWEST OF THE MUDDY WASH VALLEY, SIR. THAT'S THEIR DIRECT FEED STATION, BUT IT MUST BE A RELAY.

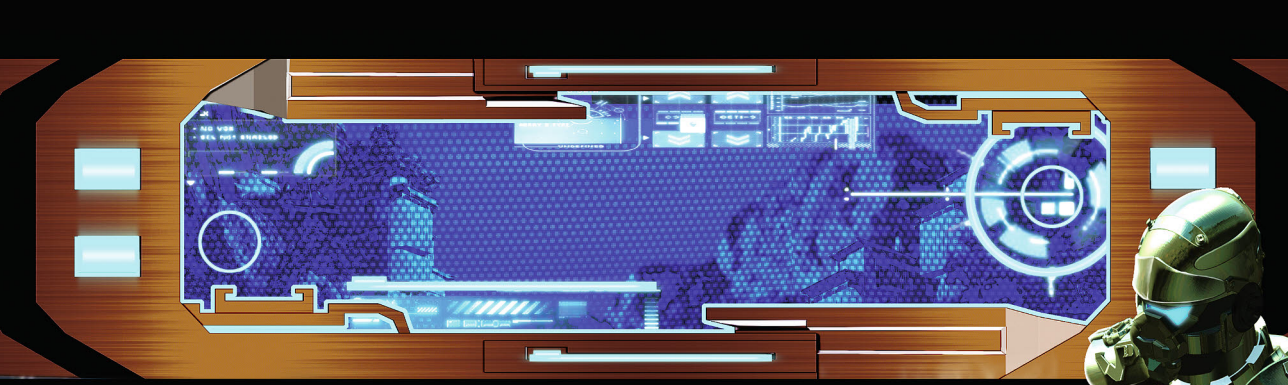


IT'S ON THE SIDE OF A RIDGE, WELL BELOW ITS CREST, AND I DON'T SEE ANY UP-LINK.



GOOD JOB, HIRO. I'LL MAKE SURE THE SKIPPER KNOWS WHO SPOTTED IT.

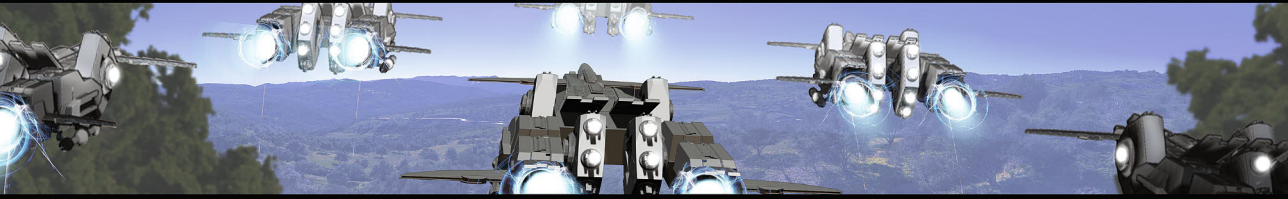




WITHIN HOURS WE SENT IN A JOINT TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE. WE DIDN'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN AT THE TIME THAT IT WAS A DRUG LAB, BUT ITS LOCATION WAS ILLEGAL TO OFFWORLDERS, AND IT WAS TOO SOPHISTICATED TO BE OF MEDUSAN CONSTRUCTION.

EYES ON TARGET. NO ACTIVITY OR VISIBLE LIFE FORMS PRESENT.

MOVE IN NOW. WEAPONS HOT. STANDARD RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.



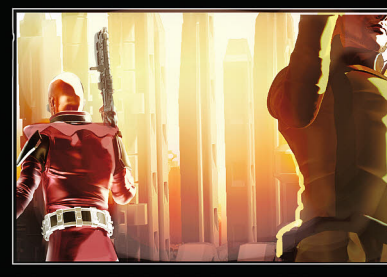
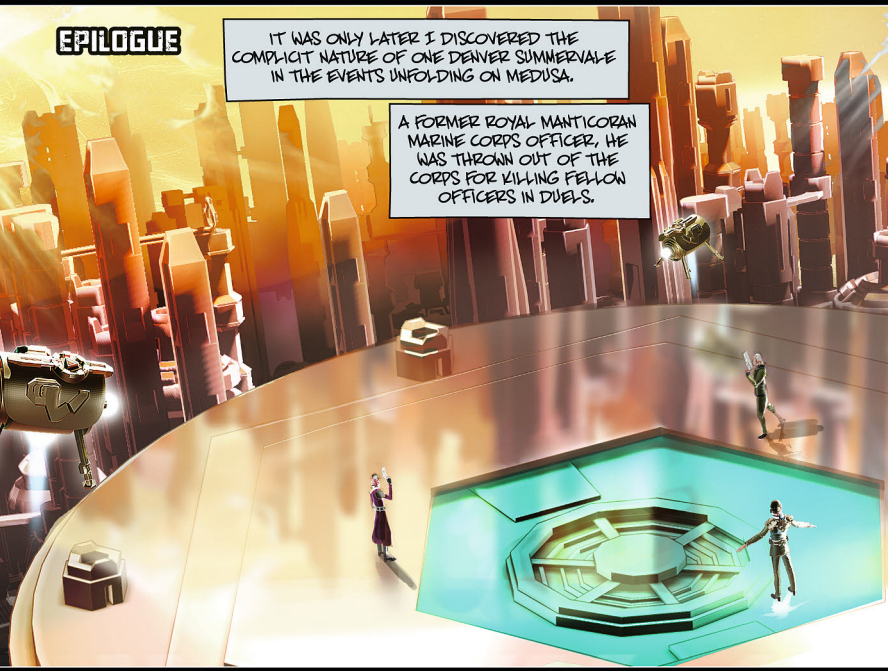


**EPilogue**

IT WAS ONLY LATER I DISCOVERED THE COMPLICIT NATURE OF ONE DENVER SUMMERVALE IN THE EVENTS UNFOLDING ON MEDUSA.

A FORMER ROYAL MANTICORAN MARINE CORPS OFFICER, HE WAS THROWN OUT OF THE CORPS FOR KILLING FELLOW OFFICERS IN DUELS.

DUELING IS LEGAL.

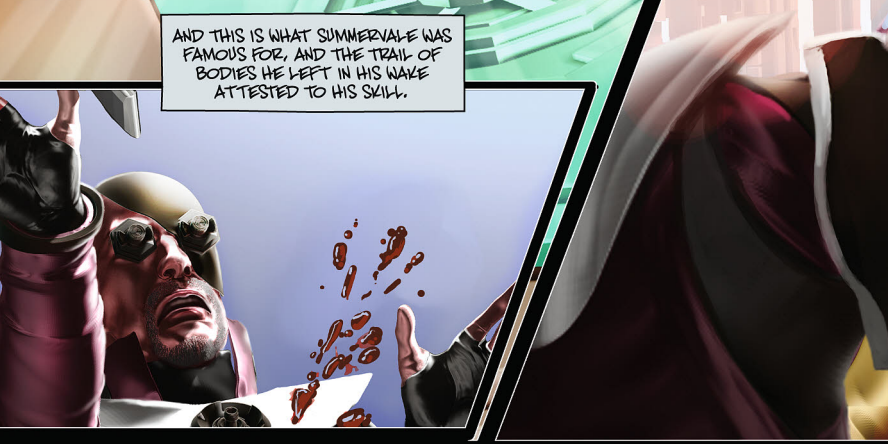


TRADITIONALLY IT ALLOWED FOR ONE ON ONE COMBAT TO DEFEND YOUR HONOR, BUT BEING PAID TO DO IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE WAS NOT ALLOWED.



A TRUE VILLAIN IF THERE EVER WAS ONE, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR WHAT HE DID.

AND THIS IS WHAT SUMMERVALE WAS FAMOUS FOR, AND THE TRAIL OF BODIES HE LEFT IN HIS WAKE ATTESTED TO HIS SKILL.





**NEXT ISSUE**

# TALES OF HONOR

**#3**

## SCIENCE CLASS

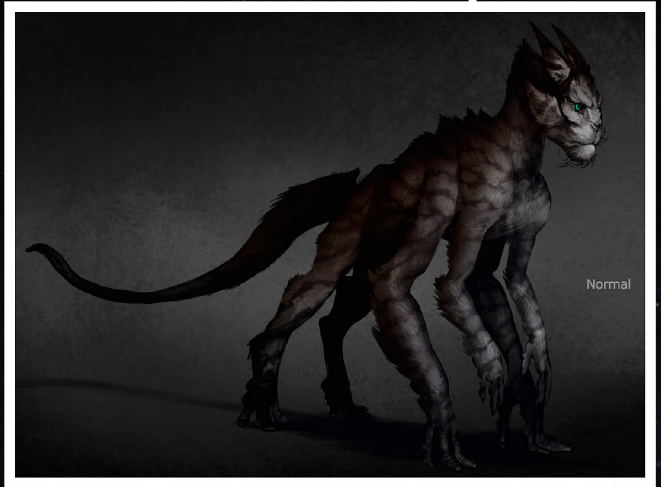
Hey all!

Welcome to the 2nd installment of the comic series *Tales of Honor* based on David Weber's fantastic series of novels. Thanks for picking up the book. If you enjoy it, we ask that you recommend it to friends/family and help us get the word out. Much appreciated!

First issues are always hard, especially when trying to introduce a new universe to readers that are unfamiliar with it. This project has been especially challenging as it needs to be accessible to new readers, yet detailed and immersive enough to not alienate the pre-existing fans.

### NIMITZ

The biggest source of concern from the pre-existing fans has been Nimitz's appearance. This has been a work-in-progress from day one and has been altered many times. Balancing the idea of a cute and cuddly cat-like creature with six legs, while correspondingly being a bad ass is not the easiest thing to convey visually. I'm not an artist, but I feel for the multiple people who've taken a stab at this. This image with additional fur will be used in the second arc of the comic series *Tales of Honor: Honor of the Queen*.

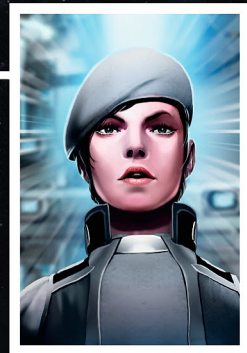


### CHARACTER BIOS

There are a lot of characters in this series. We'll be highlighting some here and in future issues.

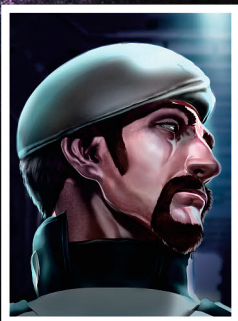
### HONOR HARRINGTON:

Honor Harrington was born on October 1st, 1859 (Post-Diaspora) on the planet Sphinx to physician parents. From the time she was a young girl Honor knew she wanted to be in the Royal Manticoran Navy. Although both of her parents were physicians, Honor enlisted in the Royal Manticoran Naval Academy and emerged an officer. The military life suited her – Honor rose through the ranks quickly, gaining command of the *HMS Fearless*, a light cruiser, in the year 1900. An intelligent, determined soldier, Honor dislikes favoritism and commands the respect of her crew firmly yet fairly.



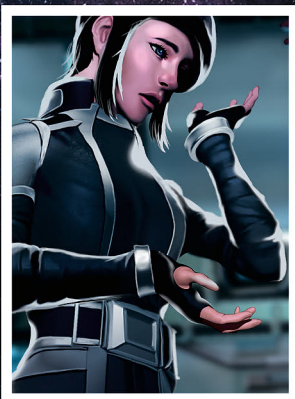
### NIMITZ:

Treecats are a native species of the planet Sphinx, where Honor Harrington was born. As a species, they are "tele-empathic" - meaning they can sense the feelings of those around them - and possess the unique ability to mentally bond with human beings, becoming companions for life and forming a permanent psychic link. Nimitz and Honor formed such a bond when she was 12 years old. Though he is known as "Laughs Brightly" to his clan, Honor named him after Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy during World War II. A highly intelligent creature, Nimitz is precocious and brave, but above all loyal to Honor.



### ALISTAIR MCKEON:

McKeon was the First Lieutenant aboard the *HMS Fearless*, first under Captain Rath and, after running the ship mid-transition, under Commander Honor Harrington. While McKeon assists Honor to the best of his ability and never questions her authority in public, he frequently questions her placement in charge of the *Fearless*, professing personal jealousy on being passed up for the position himself, as well as suspicion toward Honor's intentions. In spite of this, he is good man and a dedicated soldier, determined to ensure success for all aboard the *Fearless*.

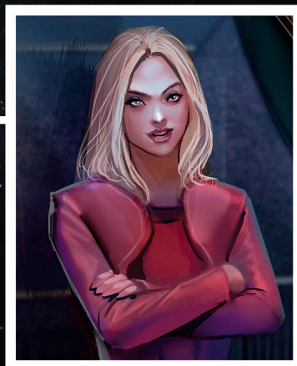


### DOMINICA SANTOS:

Chief Engineer aboard the *HMS Fearless*, holding the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Dominica Santos was in charge of programming and preparing recon droids for use on the planet Medusa. Close friends with Alistair McKeon and mistrustful of Honor Harrington, Santos is more open about her misgivings for the *Fearless*' new commander, but, like McKeon, is an incredibly talented and capable crewmember, invaluable to the *Fearless*' operations.

### CORDELIA RANSOM:

A propagandist with the government of the Republic of Haven, Cordelia is beautiful, deadly, and a master at manipulating information. She has nothing but loathing for the military establishment, viewing it only as a mean to her ends – which is why, from her perspective, the public assassination of Commander Honor Harrington of the Manticoran Alliance represents the ultimate publicity stunt, and an opportunity to change the tides of war in favor of Haven.



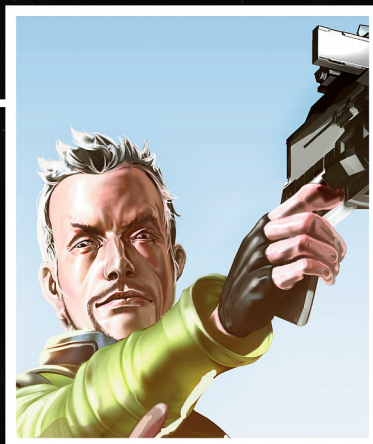
### PAVEL YOUNG:

The spoiled son of the powerful Earl of North Hollow, Young lived a life of entitlement. While attending the Royal Manticoran Naval Academy, he attempted to rape fellow cadet Honor Harrington – who, although putting a stop to the assault, never reported it. Later, as captain of the *HMS Warlock*, Young accompanied his vessel on an extended refit, forcing Honor and the *HMS Fearless* to take his place on Basilisk Station, intending for her to fail in her mission there and be disgraced.



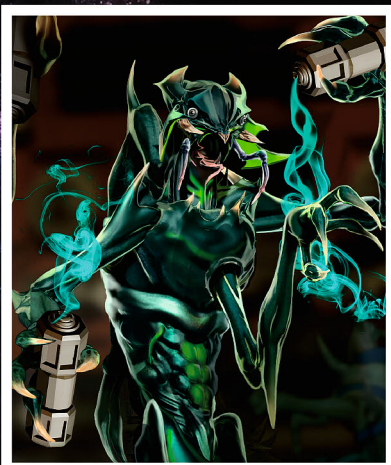
### DENVER SUMMERVALE:

A captain in the Royal Manticoran Marine Corps, Summervale accumulated a vast debt, and agreed to duel fellow royals for pay – eventually becoming addicted to the thrill of professional dueling. Classically dishonorable and travelling in royal circles with such questionable characters as Pavel Young, Summervale is a scoundrel of the worst variety, with a suspicious interest in the planet Medusa.



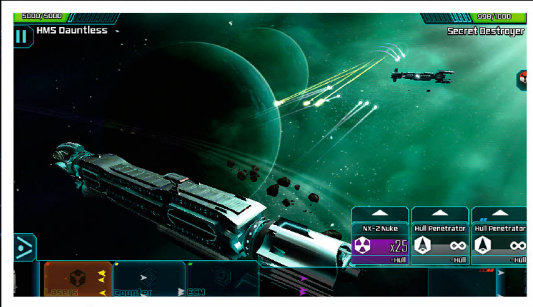
### MEDUSANS:

Sentient race of the Basilisk System and situated on the planet Medusa, the people colloquially referred to as Stilties were technologically unadvanced until the arrival of human beings. With advanced weaponry bestowed upon them by the People's Republic of Haven, the previously nomadic and peaceful Stilties began to organize and attack Manticoran forces on the planet. Human interaction with the Medusans also led the Stilties to develop addiction to mekoha, a drug developed from local vegetation.



## TALES OF HONOR VIDEO GAME

A "free to play" mobile game app is set to launch in Spring 2014 on both the iOS and Android platforms. This starship combat game allows the player to battle their way through the Honorverse, unveiling new ships, new worlds, and ever evolving new experiences.



## SUPPORTING WEB SITES

<http://tales-of-honor.com>

This is the web site built by Evergreen Studios, and a hub for all things going on with film, comic, book and video game. It's definitely worth checking out.

[http://honorverse.wikia.com/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://honorverse.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page)

This is a custom Wiki that is filled with awesome information, and the folks who keep it updated do a fantastic job.

<http://www.davidweber.net/>

This is the home site for David Weber, creator and novel author of *Honor Harrington* and many other great books! There is a very active community here that loves to talk about all things Honor.

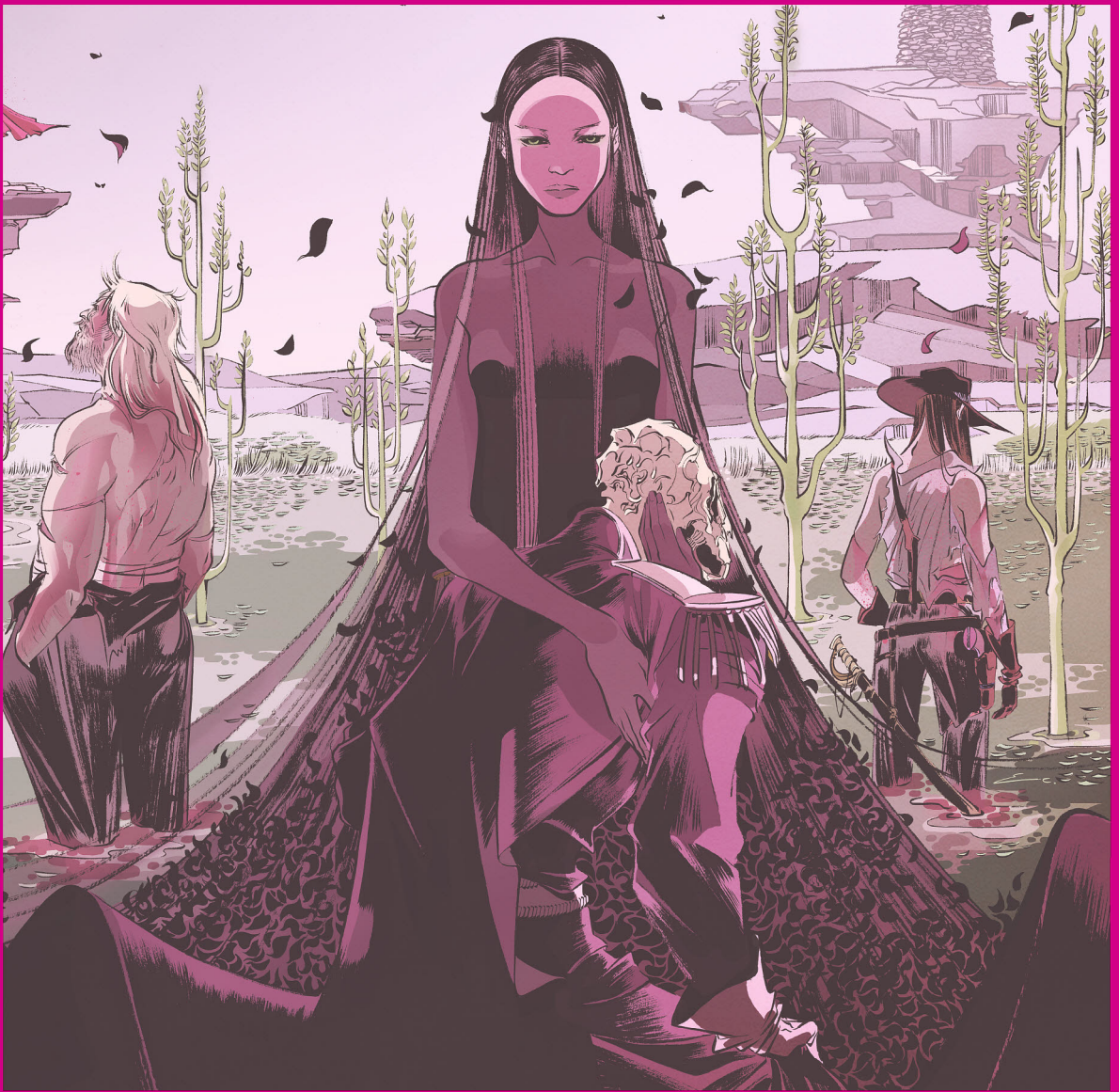
That's it for now, thanks again for reading this book.

Carpe Diem,

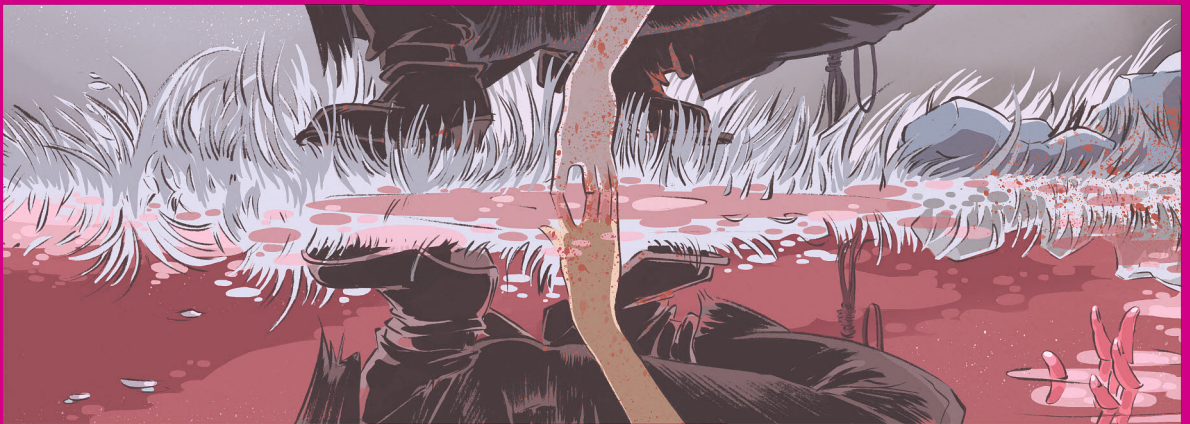
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Upgrade your ship, weapons, systems, and crew as you fight dangerous enemies and evil empires in the first FREE TO PLAY game set in David Weber's military science fiction Honorverse.



Visit [www.Tales-of-Honor.com](http://www.Tales-of-Honor.com)



Available on the  
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