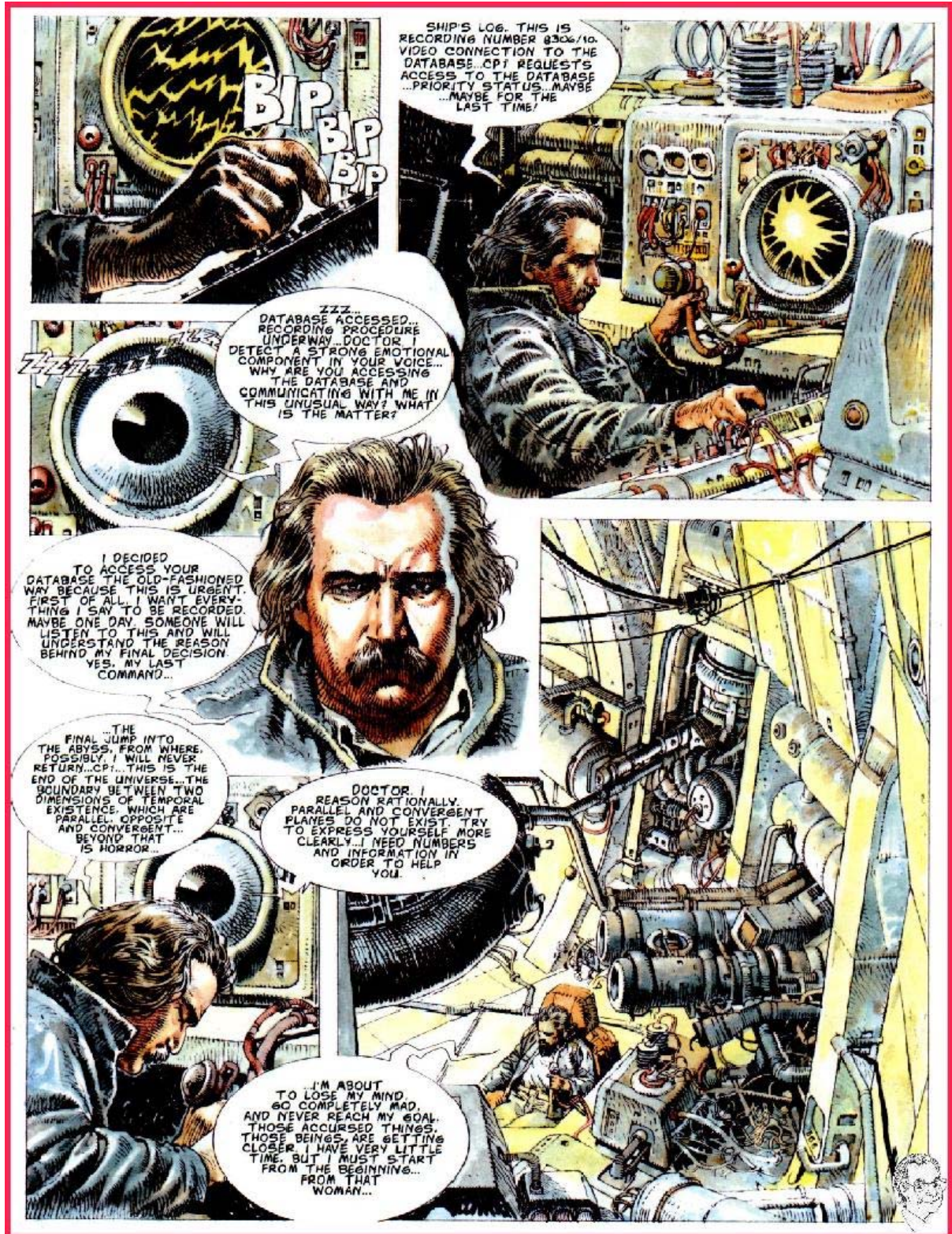


PAOLO ELEUTERI SERPIERI

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# CARNIVORA



BigD.

YES, I HAVE TO BEGIN WITH HER... WITH HER DREAMS...

SHE WAS DIFFERENT FROM US. CLOSER TO THE SPECIES WE CALL "PROLETS." SHE EMANATED A STRANGE BUT VERY POWERFUL AURA OF SENSUALITY. I BEGAN TO STUDY HER RIGHT AWAY, WITH GREAT INTEREST IN THE BEGINNING. I HAD A HARD TIME OVERCOMING HER STUBBORN SUSPICIOUSNESS, HER RELUCTANCE TO RECALL HER MEMORIES, ANALYZE HER THOUGHTS, HER ANXIETIES, HER DREAMS...

...HER DREAMS... OR WERE THEY REALITY?

HMMM... OH GOD... OH GOD... I'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

THEY ARE WITHIN ME... I CAN FEEL IT... I KNOW IT!

AAAHHH... NO, NOT NOW!

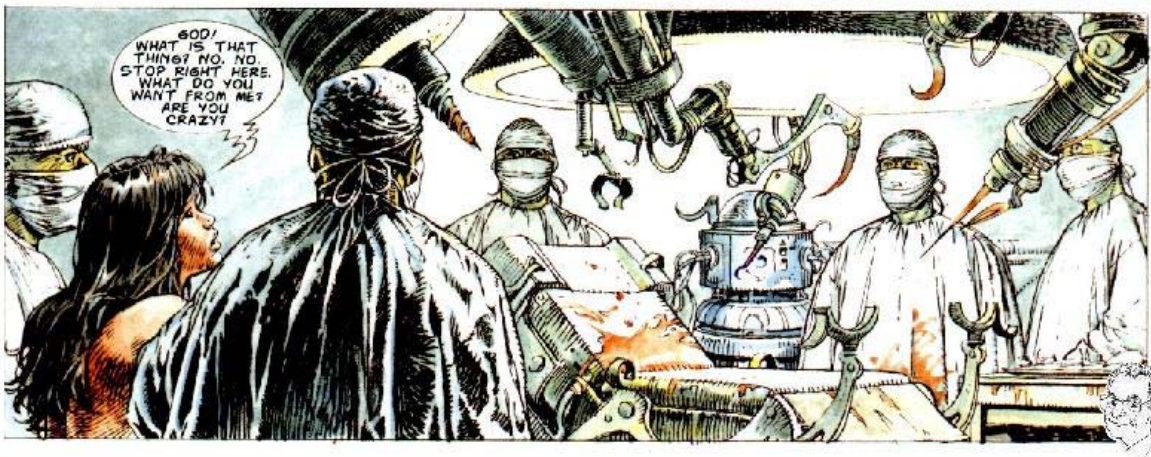
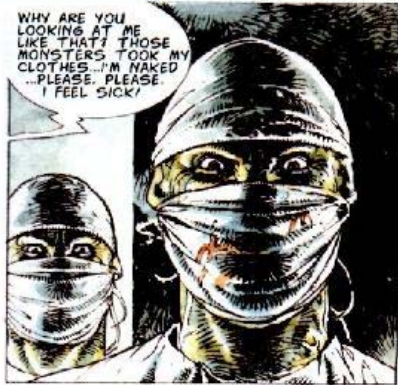
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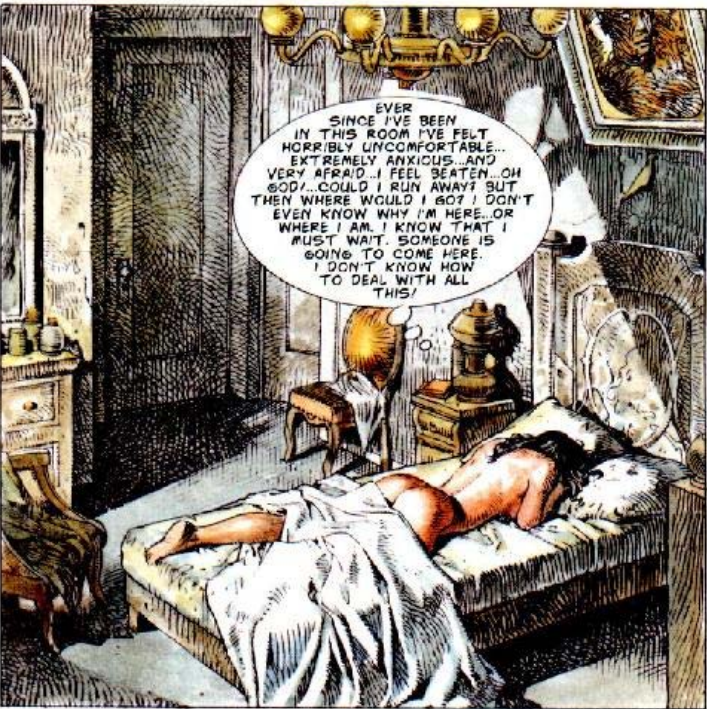
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME NIGHTMARE AND IT ALWAYS FEELS REAL... THAT SCALPEL PIERCING MY GUT... I REALLY FELT THE PAIN WOKE ME UP...



IT'S ONLY A DREAM... A DREAM THAT WON'T GO AWAY... IT'LL MAKE ME CRAZY... I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE IT... I'M OBSESSED!



YES, I'M OBSESSED... I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND ALL THIS... IN MY DREAM, I'M BACK IN THAT ACCURSED CITY, MY BELLY IS SWOLLEN, I'M EXPECTING A CHILD... GOD, THE DISCOMFORT I FEEL IS REAL, ALMOST TANGIBLE... THEN WHEN THAT MAN WITH THE TERRIFYING EYES PLUNGES THE SCALPEL INTO ME, I WAKE UP... I ALWAYS WAKE UP AT THE SAME TIME. WHY IS THAT? WHY? I WISH I COULD SLEEP, SLEEP AND NOT DREAM...



EVER SINCE I'VE BEEN IN THIS ROOM I'VE FELT HORRIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE... EXTREMELY ANXIOUS... AND VERY AFRAID... I FEEL BEATEN... OH GOD!... COULD I RUN AWAY? BUT THEN WHERE WOULD I GO? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M HERE... OR WHERE I AM. I KNOW THAT I MUST WAIT. SOMEONE IS GOING TO COME HERE. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH ALL THIS!



OH GOD, THE PERVERSE PLEASURE OF WAITING. THAT STRANGE, OBSCENE DESIRE. I FEEL LIKE A SLAVE HERE. YES, SOMEONE IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE HERE... I KNOW THAT MUCH IS TRUE... AND HERE I AM WAITING.

**TUMPTUM**



?!



AH... NO...NO!



NO! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...WHO ARE YOU?



YOU DEMON... WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?



NO...WAIT A MINUTE PLEASE...DO YOU WANT TO HURT ME? WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT...YOUR BODY IS SHINY...I LIKE THAT...IT LIKE TO TOUCH YOU, BUT I'M SCARED, YOUR EYES FRIGHTEN ME...



YOU LOOK SO DESPERATE...YOU'RE SUFFERING... I'LL MAKE YOU BETTER...



I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED...I WANT TO TAKE YOU INSIDE ME...BUT YOU MUST PROMISE NOT TO HURT ME, OKAY?



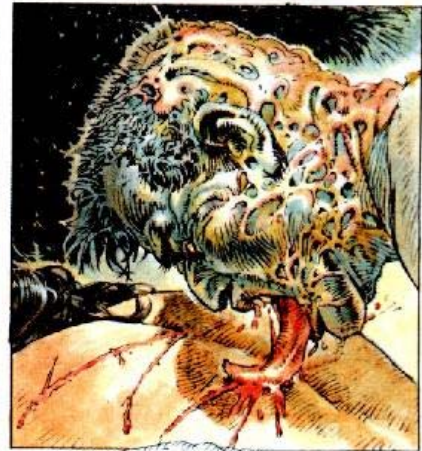
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BigD.



HHH...  
HH...

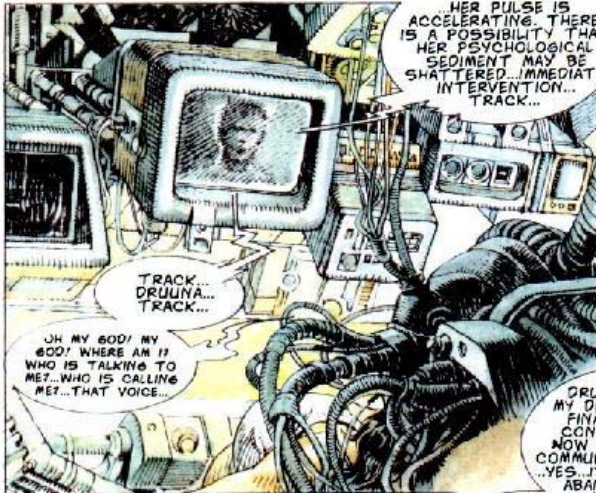


TRAK...  
BZZZ...  
CEREBRAL  
ACTIVITY HAS  
RESUMED...



HER CONSCIOUS-  
NESS MAY POSSIBLY  
HAVE BEEN ALTERED  
...BZZZ... PROGRESSIVE  
EMOTIONAL SHOCK...  
DANGEROUS TEMPORARY  
MEMORY LOSS  
...BEEP...

WHAT IS  
THIS? WHY...  
WHERE AM  
I?...



HER PULSE IS  
ACCELERATING. THERE  
IS A POSSIBILITY THAT  
HER PSYCHOLOGICAL  
SEDIMENT MAY BE  
SHATTERED... IMMEDIATE  
INTERVENTION...  
TRACK...

TRACK...  
DRUUNA...  
TRACK...

OH MY GOD! MY  
GOD! WHERE AM I?  
WHO IS TALKING TO  
ME?... WHO IS CALLING  
ME?... THAT VOICE...



OH  
SHASTAR!...  
IT'S YOU!  
IT'S YOU!

DRUUNA... DRUUNA...  
MY DEAREST... YOU'VE  
FINALLY REGAINED  
CONSCIOUSNESS...  
NOW AT LAST... I CAN  
COMMUNICATE WITH YOU  
YES... IT'S ME... I HAVEN'T  
ABANDONED YOU... I  
NEVER LEFT  
YOU!



SHASTAR... SHASTAR...  
HOW CAN ALL THIS BE  
POSSIBLE? I CAN'T REMEMBER  
ANYTHING... WHAT HAPPENED?  
ARE YOU ALIVE... BUT... BUT... I  
DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW  
CAN YOU BE THERE... ALIVE...  
ON THAT SCREEN... TALK  
TO ME... MY LOVE... MY  
LOVE... I MUST BE  
DREAMING...  
DREAMING...



DRUUNA... TRY  
TO UNDERSTAND  
WHAT I AM ABOUT  
TO SAY... I'M ALIVE... IT'S  
TRUE... BUT I AM PURE  
ENERGY... LEWIS AND I... WELL...  
OUR TWO MINDS HAVE  
BEEN INTEGRATED WITH THE  
SHIP'S COMPUTER... DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND? AND THE  
COMPUTER IS CAPABLE--  
THANKS TO ONE OF ITS  
SYNTHETIC SENSORY  
PROCEDURES-- OF  
TRANSMITTING MY IMAGE  
DIRECTLY TO YOUR  
MEMORY... JUST  
THE WAY...

...YOU MUST  
REMEMBER ME...  
DRUUNA... MY  
IMAGE LIVES  
ONLY THROUGH  
YOU!

OH MY GOD...  
SHASTAR... I... I...  
BUT THIS IS CRAZY!  
I'M LOSING MY MIND... I  
DON'T UNDERSTAND... I  
DON'T REMEMBER... I CAN'T  
SEEM TO DISTINGUISH  
BETWEEN MY DREAMS  
AND REALITY...

MAYBE  
THIS ISN'T REAL...  
MAYBE I'M JUST LIVING  
THROUGH ANOTHER  
NIGHTMARE... WHAT'S  
THIS PLACE? THESE  
INSTRUMENTS? WHO  
PUT THIS HELMET  
ON MY HEAD?





NO, DRUUNA. IT'S NOT A DREAM. THIS IS REAL!

YES...YES... BUT...I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. I REMEMBER HORRIBLE NIGHTMARES...AHMHH... I'M FINALLY RID OF THIS DIABOLICAL HELMET!



YOU HAVE BEEN IN A VERY DEEP SLEEP FOR A LONG TIME. THE MEN IN THIS SHIP WERE TRYING TO DISCOVER CERTAIN TRUTHS BY PERFORMING SENSORY EXPERIMENTS ON YOUR BRAIN. THEY WERE SURE THEY WOULD FIND WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS...THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED...SOMETHING HORRIBLE...THE COMPUTER REGISTERED DANGER...I FELT VERY STRONG IMPULSES, ANGUISH... SHOOTING PHYSICAL PAIN...

OH MY GOD!...BUT WHAT KIND OF DANGER...INSIDE MY OWN MIND?



NO THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. MAYBE SOME PROCEDURE CONNECTED WITH YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS AND SET OFF THIS CRISIS...

BUT I MIGHT BE WRONG...I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT...

BUT SHASTAR...WHAT KIND OF DANGER IS IT? IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR?

I STILL DON'T KNOW. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I AM TRYING TO FIND OUT BY PROCESSING DATA... HOPEFULLY, THAT WILL GIVE ME ENOUGH INFORMATION...THEN IT WILL BE INTEGRATED WITH THE DATABASE. I CAN ONLY RECEIVE DATA FROM A TERMINAL...I WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING, BUT I'M POWERLESS... THE SHIP HAS REMAINED SILENT FOR A LONG TIME. NO ONE HAS BEEN LOGGING ON TO THE COMPUTER, AND THAT WORRIES ME...THE LAST CONTACTS WE HAD WERE DELIRIOUS CRIES FOR HELP...THEN NOTHING...



OH! MY GOD! WAIT A MINUTE...I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT DID THEY DO TO MY BRAIN? ARE THEY CRAZY? NO, NO...I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE...HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THIS DAMNED PLACE?

DRUUNA...TRY TO CONNECT WITH ME THROUGH THE COMPUTER...YOU JUST HAVE TO TYPE IN MY NAME...MY NAME...DID YOU HEAR? BUT BE CAREFUL... CAREFUL...I LOVE YOU... I LOVE YOU...



SHASTAR! OH SHASTAR! YOU'RE INSIDE THE COMPUTER...YOU ARE PURE ENERGY...BUT THIS IS INSANE...I MUST STILL BE DREAMING. I CAN'T SEEM TO WAKE UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE!



OR MAYBE THOSE BASTARDS ARE STILL USING ME AS A GUINEA PIG AND ARE GOING TO MAKE ME GO COMPLETELY CRAZY!  
LOOK AT THIS HOLE IN THE WALL... I'M GOING TO TRY TO GET OUT THROUGH HERE.



THIS IS HORRIBLE! WHAT HAPPENED HERE? THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AN EXPLOSION!



THIS ROOM IS LIKE THE ONE I JUST LEFT... DESERTED... WITH EXACTLY THE SAME MACHINES... MAYBE THEY USE THIS ROOM FOR THEIR OTHER EXPERIMENTS... OH GOD... BUT WHAT KIND?



WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE THESE? WAIT, I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER. THAT MAN WITH THE DARK SKIN THE ONE THEY CALLED 'DOC'... THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE PHYSIOLOGICALLY DIFFERENT FROM ME. I WAS SIMILAR... SIMILAR TO THEIR 'PROLETS'... YES... BUT WHO ARE THESE 'PROLETS'? GOD... I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS NOW...



TOL TOL TOL TOL TOL

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?



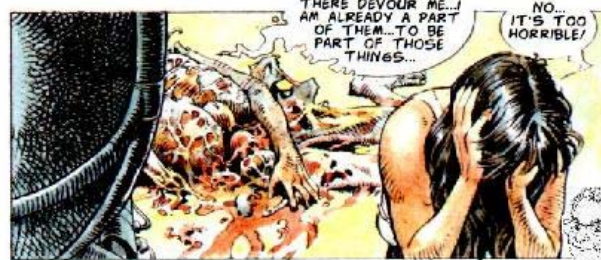
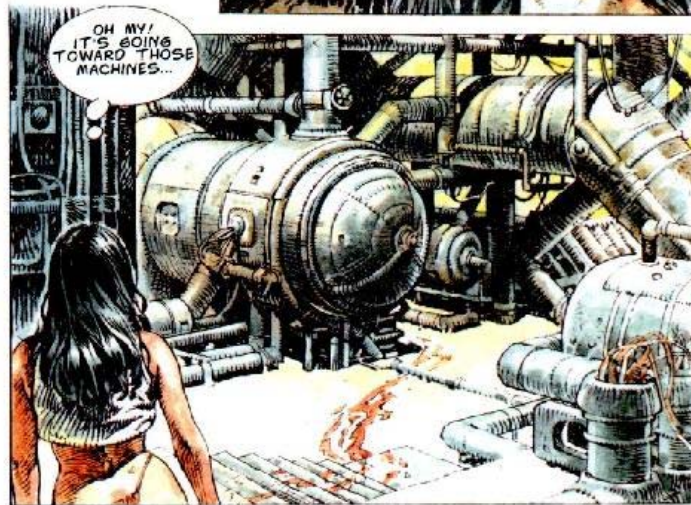
IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE... WHAT IS IT? IT LOOKS LIKE A DECAYING CORPSE.



OH GOD! IT'S HORRIBLE... WHAT IS IT? IT'S MOVING...

TOL TOL TOL TOL TOL

BigD.



BigD.



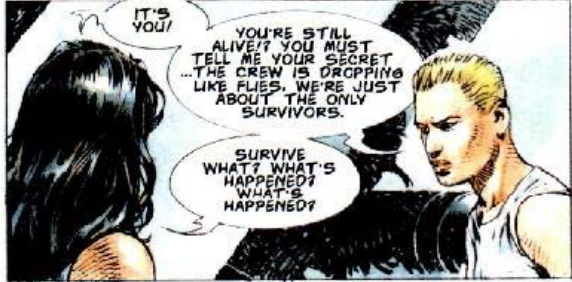
GO AWAY BEFORE THEY COME BACK... DON'T LET THEM GET YOU... THEY'RE ALL AROUND US... DON'T MAKE DISTINCTIONS... YOU ARE A "PROLET"... YOU AND YOUR KIND HATE US... BUT THOSE DAMNED THINGS... DON'T MAKE DISTINCTIONS..

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "DON'T MAKE DISTINCTIONS?"

PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTS THEY WERE DOING ON MY BRAIN... AND WHY YOU DON'T TRY TO WAKE ME UP FROM THAT HORRENDOUS SLEEP WHEN I WAS IN DANGER ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



GET AWAY FROM HIM... THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM!  
OH!



IT'S YOU!

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE? YOU MUST TELL ME YOUR SECRET... THE CREW IS DRIPPING LIKE FLIES, WE'RE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY SURVIVORS.

SURVIVE WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHAT'S HAPPENED?



TELL... TERRY...

HOWARD... I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU...

HHH...NO...NO TERRY...GET RID OF ME...I DON'T REMEMBER THE PAST...THE PAIN...



THE PAIN...HOWARD...JUST A MOMENT LONGER AND YOU WILL BECOME A MEMORY... MEMORIES BELONG TO US, MY FRIEND...

ARGH...



OH GOD WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?

THAT MAN WAS A VERY GOOD OFFICER... HIS SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE HAD TO BE PRESERVED... IT WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO A DIFFERENT EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECT.



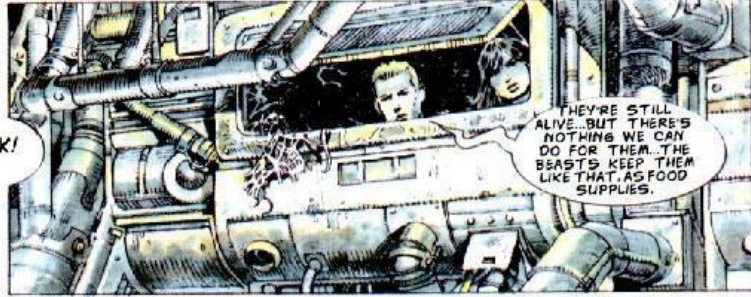
COME ON... WE HAVE TO LEAVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE... COME WITH ME... AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

WHAT...ABOUT HIM?

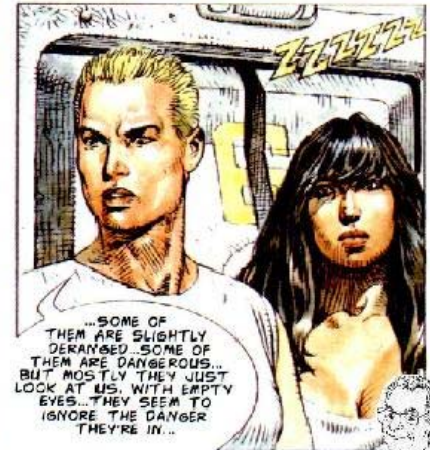
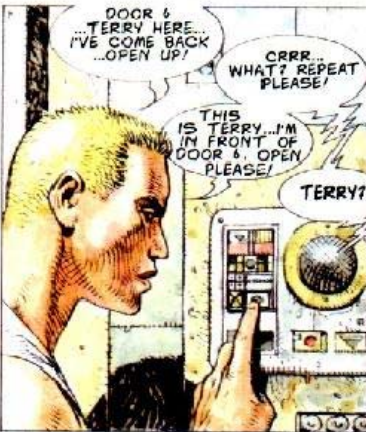
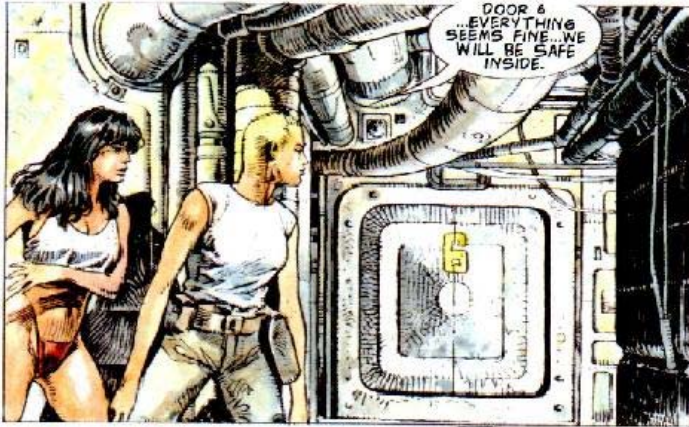
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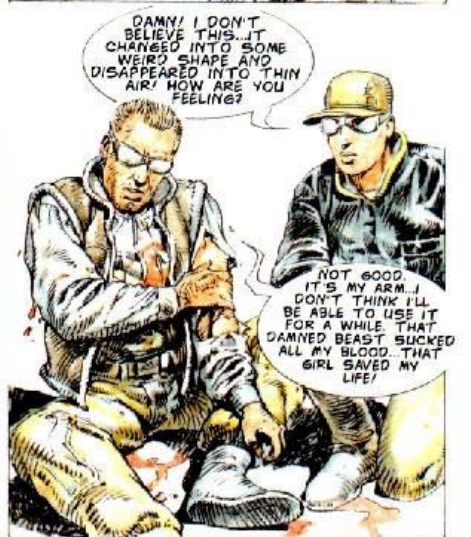
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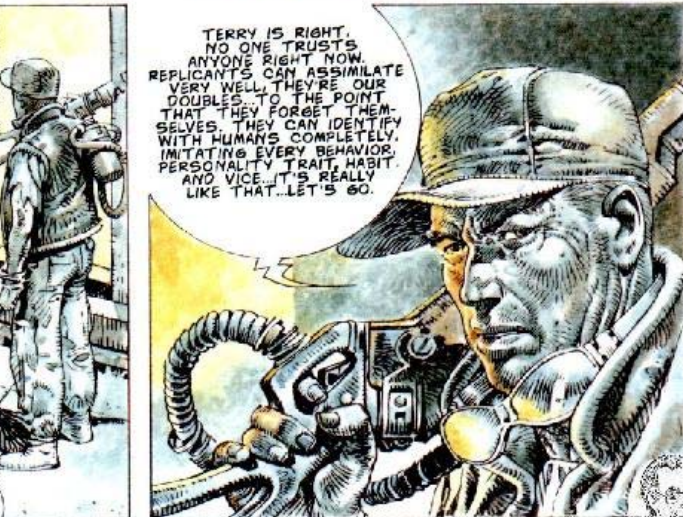


BigD.



BigD.





BigD.





BigD.



OH NO!  
THE DOOR IS  
OPENING! OH  
GOD!



HERE THEY  
COME... THERE  
THEY COME!



THEY ARE  
COMING CLOSER  
...I DON'T WANT  
TO LOOK AT THEM  
...OH, THEY'RE  
TOUCHING ME!



THEY'RE  
TOUCHING ME  
ALL OVER! I HAVE  
TO TRY TO RESIST...  
IT MAY DISCOURAGE  
THEM... MAYBE THEN  
THEY WON'T  
HURT ME!



AHHH! THESE  
HANDS ARE HARD,  
CALLOUSED, VICIOUS,  
NERVOUS AND CRUEL,  
TERRIBLE HANDS...  
THEY SEEM TO  
WANT TO TEAR  
AWAY MY  
SKIN!



...BASTARDS  
...DAMNED  
BASTARDS!

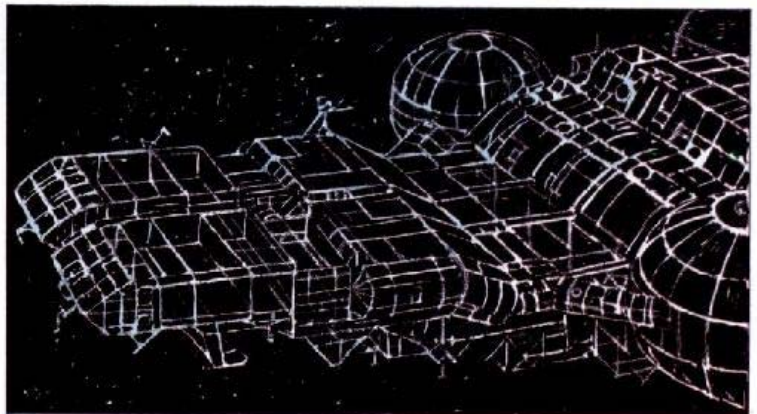
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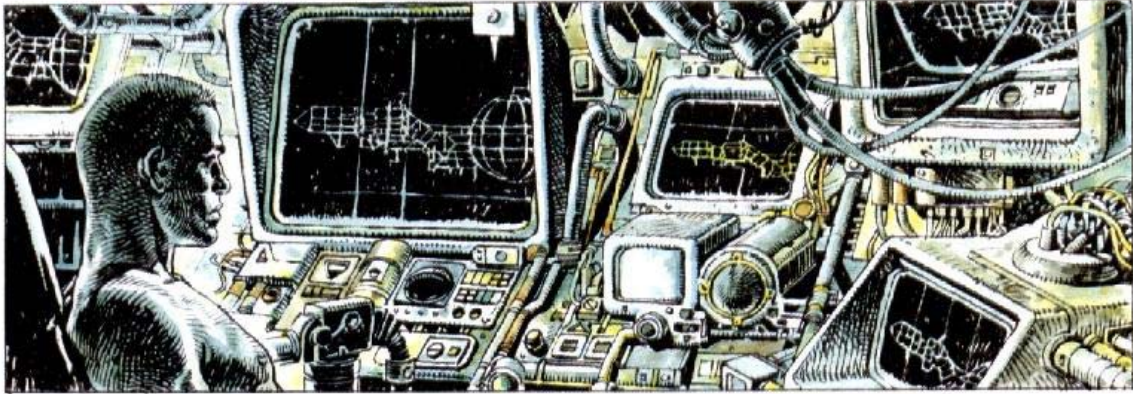
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BigD.



BigD.



BigD.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. WILL I DON'T UNDERSTAND... BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU SO SAD!

HERE I AM WITH YOU AND I'M THE WOMAN OF YOUR DREAMS. YOU SAID SO YOURSELF... REMEMBER? I LOVE YOU...

I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND... IT'S AS IF MY MIND HAD GONE TO SLEEP... SOMETHING IS KEEPING ME FROM DOING ANYTHING

OH, WILL, MAYBE IT'S THE WAY YOU SAY IT IS! I CAN'T EXPLAIN ALL THIS... I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU. I REALLY WOULD...

BUT IF YOU COULD SEE INSIDE ME YOU WOULD SEE HOW COLD I AM... ONLY YOUR HEART CAN GIVE ME WARMTH... YOUR LOVE... YOUR CARESSES...



OH... DRUUNA... DRUUNA...

I'M GOING TO KISS YOU, MY LOVE... I KNOW YOU'LL LIKE IT.

HMMMM... HMMMM!



A... HHH... HO... HMMM!



TIME... THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING. A TIME FOR LOVE... YES. FOR LOVE...



COME... COME...

WHERE DOES TIME BEGIN?

BigD.



AND WHERE DOES TIME END?

COME!



THIS WOMAN...WHAT TIME AND SPACE IS SHE FROM?

...YOU, YOU ARE A PART OF MY TIME, BECAUSE YOU EXIST AND YOU ARE WITH ME...YOUR SENSUAL, WARM, FIRM, BEAUTIFUL AND VERY REAL BODY...YOUR HANDS REACH OUT TO ME AND CARESS ME GENTLY, YOUR MOUTH...OH GOD, YOUR MOUTH...NO ONE CAN MAKE LOVE LIKE YOU...YOU ARE ORUUNA...AND...

YES, WILL... I AM ORUUNA. I KNOW HOW TO GIVE PLEASURE AND SATISFY ALL YOUR DESIRES, EVEN THE MOST SECRET, THE MOST PERVERSE...I'M A WHORE AND YOU EXCITE ME...COME IN ME, TAKE ME ANY WAY YOU WANT...



YES...I KNOW...WHAT YOU WANT...

YOU WANT TO FUCK ME, RIGHT? GO ON, I LOVE IT!

YES, DO IT...NOW PLEASE!

HHHH!

YES...YES...AH...DEEPER...GO DEEPER...YES...YES!



I LOVE IT! YES...A MMM...MORE...OH...AH...

BigD.



AHHHAH...  
OH!



AHHH!

HHHH!



I LOVE  
YOU WILL... I  
LOVE YOU...

OH  
DRUUNA...IT'S  
MADNESS!



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING...  
WHY WILL  
WHY?

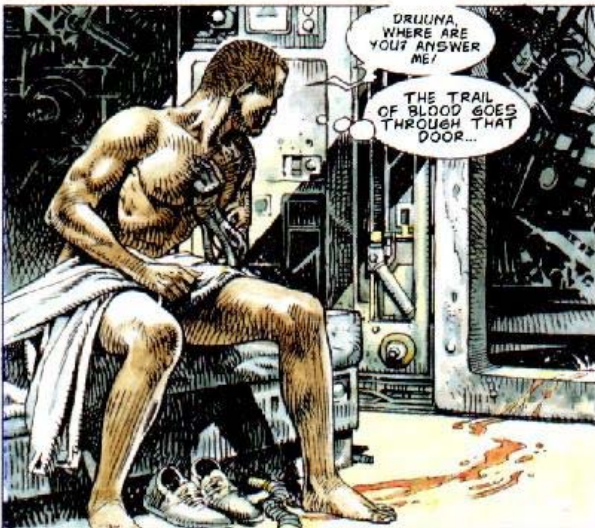
HOW  
LONG HAVE I  
BEEN IN HERE  
WITH YOU... I  
FEEL LIKE I'VE  
LOST MY  
IDENTITY...



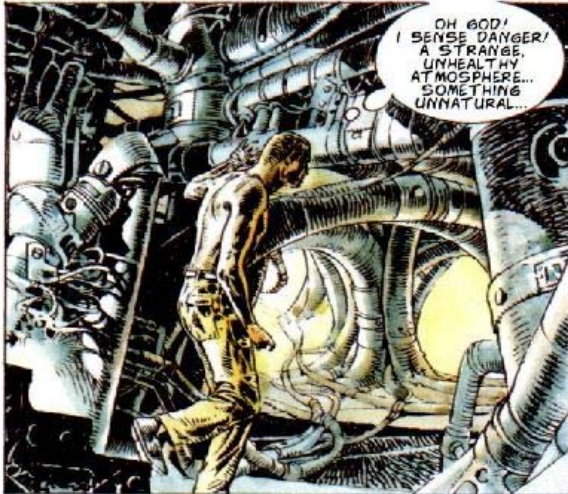
IT'S AS IF I  
HAD FALLEN INTO  
THE DEEPEST ABYSS  
... I WISH I COULD DO  
SOMETHING, BUT I FEEL  
THAT LIKE MY SPIRIT, MY  
MIND, AND MY BODY ARE  
SLOWLY DISINTEGRATING  
...MY MEN ARE PROBABLY  
ALL DEAD...WE'VE  
REACHED THE  
END...



BigD.



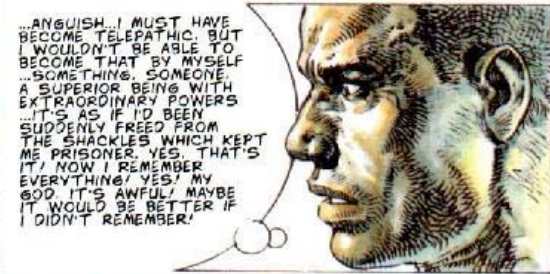
BigD.



OH GOD! I SENSE DANGER! A STRANGE, UNHEALTHY ATMOSPHERE... SOMETHING UNNATURAL.



WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY THESE STRANGE SENSATIONS? DAMN IT! MY HEAD IS A JUMBLE OF INCOMPREHENSIBLE THOUGHTS, OF LAMENTATIONS...



...ANGUISH... I MUST HAVE BECOME TELEPATHIC. BUT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BECOME THAT BY MYSELF... SOMETHING, SOMEONE, A SUPERIOR BEING WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS... IT'S AS IF I'D BEEN SUDDENLY FREED FROM THE SHACKLES WHICH KEPT ME PRISONER. YES, THAT'S IT! NOW I REMEMBER EVERYTHING! YES! MY GOD! IT'S AWFUL! MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I DIDN'T REMEMBER!



THE VOICES ARE GETTING CLOSER AND MORE GARBLED. I SENSE THAT DANGER IS NEAR!



I FEEL THAT I AM ABOUT TO COME UPON SOMETHING THAT IS NOT HUMAN. DAMN IT. I FORGOT TO BRING MY GUN! I MUST BE CAREFUL!



THIS STICKY SUBSTANCE MIXED WITH BLOOD... THERE IS SO MUCH OF IT HERE. IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT HAVE COME FROM AN ANIMAL...



OH GOD! NO!

BigD.



IT'S HORRIBLE!  
DAMN MONSTERS!  
HOW COULD I  
LET THINGS  
GET TO THIS  
POINT?

IT'S THE BEAST  
IT'S THE ILLNESS  
...TOTAL NEGATION...IT  
HAS PENETRATED MY  
BRAIN AND MY BODY.  
THAT'S WHY I'M STILL  
ALIVE...IT DOES NOT  
BELONG TO OUR  
UNIVERSE...IT BELONGS  
TO CHAOS...WHERE THE  
SYSTEM OF VALUES IS  
OPPOSITE TO OURS...  
TOTAL CONFUSION...WE  
ARE AT THE LIMITS OF  
THE UNIVERSE...NO...WE  
SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED  
TO PROBE THE  
DEPTHS OF THE  
ABYSS...NO...



THAT  
MAN IS  
DELIRIOUS...  
WHAT HE  
SAYS IS  
IMPOSSIBLE!



A MYSTERIOUS  
FORCE...KEPT ME  
AWAY...FORCING  
ME TO LIVE IN A  
STATE OF TORPOR  
AND LETHARGY...  
BUT WHY?  
WHY?

HE'S  
MOVING...IT  
MEANS HE'S  
STILL ALIVE.

CAP...  
CAPTAIN...CAPTAIN  
...KILL ME, I  
IMPLORE YOU!



THEY ARE EATING ME  
ALIVE...BIT BY BIT...I AM  
THEIR SOURCE OF FOOD  
...THEY KEEP ME ALIVE SO  
THEY CAN EAT ME...DON'T  
LET THEM CATCH YOU.  
CAPTAIN...GET AWAY  
FROM HERE!

YOU ARE  
ONE OF THE CREW  
MEMBERS WHO LEFT ON  
THAT DATA GATHERING  
EXPEDITION. I KNOW  
WHO YOU ARE. LET  
ME HELP YOU!

NO...DON'T GET  
ANY CLOSER.  
IT'S...IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE.



WE  
SHOULD NOT  
HAVE...WE WERE  
NOT GIVEN  
PERMISSION...

SOMEONE  
JUST MOVED  
RIGHT BEHIND  
ME!

BigD.



NO ONE...JUST MORE MACHINES AND MORE BODIES TRAPPED IN THAT STICKY SUBSTANCE. BUT NO ONE IS MOVING... MAYBE...

I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A THOUSAND EYES UPON ME. THE EYES OF MONSTERS WHO ARE READY TO STRIKE!



BUT...THERE IS SOMEONE DOWN THERE...IT'S DRUUNA! WHAT IS SHE DOING? ...THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING BEHIND HER. OH GOD, WHAT IS IT?



I'VE GOT TO HELP HER. THAT THING IS ABOUT TO JUMP ON HER...THIS PIECE OF IRON WILL DO, I THINK!



DRUUNA! BE CAREFUL! WATCH YOUR BACK!



NO... NO...

WHERE DID IT GO? IT DISAPPEARED! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE. DRUUNA! WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'RE NOT MOVING.



BigD.



I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU WHY DID YOU COME HERE? COME, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE YOU COULD GET CAUGHT IN THIS STICKY SUBSTANCE... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? OH, NO!



DRUUNA... NO...IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE! YOU MUST BE CRAZY! YOU'RE EATING HUMAN FLESH! HOW CAN YOU DO THAT? DRUUNA... IT'S INSANE... BUT THEN...

WILL...



YOU'RE NOT DRUUNA!...WHO ARE YOU? OH, GOD, WHY DIDN'T I SEE THIS SOONER? YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, YOU'RE A REPLICANT, A MONSTER...YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DESTROYED MY MIND, WHO KEPT ME PRISONER, AND FORCED ME TO STAY AWAY FROM MY MEN!



NO... WILL I DON'T KNOW...I DON'T KNOW WHY I DO THIS! I'M... I'M SCARED, I'M SCARED!

I CANNOT READ YOUR MIND...I FEEL IT IS EMPTY...IT IS DARK AND COLD... THE DEEPEST ABYSS...



STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL CREATED YOU BUT I'M NOT YOUR PRISONER ANYMORE!

WILL, NO, PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!...HELP ME...I LOVE YOU... HELP ME!



I'M GOING BACK TO MY CREW...YOU WON'T HOLD ME BACK THIS TIME!

BigD.





BigD.



BigD.



DRUUNA, MY DARLING...COME HERE...

OH, MY LOVE... IT REALLY IS YOU... YOU'RE ALIVE. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL DREAM... BUT HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND...CAPTAIN LEWIS, WITH HIS EXTRAORDINARY MENTAL POWERS, WAS ABLE TO DO THIS...HE'S DOING IT FOR YOU, BUT ALSO FOR ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN IN HIS CREW. AS YOU KNOW, LEWIS AND I HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED WITH THE SPACESHIP'S COMPUTER AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH IT IS NOT TOO SMOOTH...LET'S JUST SAY THAT THERE ARE MANY AREAS IN WHICH WE ARE INCOMPATIBLE!

COMPUTER? SHASTAR YOU ARE SO HANDSOME!



YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, DRUUNA! BUT NOW LISTEN TO ME. IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT... YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY... OUR INCOMPATIBILITY PREVENTS US FROM COMMUNICATING IN A NORMAL WAY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOUR LIFE AND THAT OF THE CREW ARE IN DANGER AND YOU MUST BE VERY COURAGEOUS AND DETERMINED NOW, DRUUNA. WE KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW A MYSTERIOUS AND OVERPOWERING FORCE IS RELENTLESSLY TRYING TO DESTROY YOU...THERE MAY BE NO HOPE...UNLESS...

OH MY GOD, SHASTAR! THOSE ACCURSED BEINGS ARE HORRIBLE, MAN-EATING BEASTS...THEY CAN ASSUME OUR SHAPE! BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?

YES, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT. LOOK AT THOSE HIGH WALLS. LET'S GO NEAR THEM.



EVERYTHING YOU SEE IS AN ILLUSION CREATED BY CAPTAIN LEWIS. IT'S ONLY A VIRTUAL IMAGE... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES...YES... BUT THE WALL IS SO HIGH...I CAN'T SEE THE TOP. IT'S INCREDIBLE. IT LOOKS LIKE IT REACHES THE SKY!

I'M CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF HIS DESIRE TO EXPLORE THE TELEPATHIC UNIVERSE, LEWIS HAS PROJECTED A VISION THAT IS REAL. PROBABLY INCREDIBLY ANCIENT, BUT REAL...



BigD.



BUT WHY HERE? WHAT DOES THIS WALL MEAN. WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

THE WALL REPRESENTS THE END OF OUR UNIVERSE. BEYOND IT LIES ANOTHER DIMENSION, SIMILAR TO OURS, BUT OPPOSITE. THIS REFLECTED IMAGE IS COMPLETE NEGATIVITY. HERE, GOOD. OVER THERE, EVIL.



MAYBE THIS IS THE DARK WORLD WHERE HUMAN BEINGS THROW ALL THEIR ANXIETIES, THEIR FEARS, AND THE MONSTERS THEY DREAM UP DURING THE NIGHT.

WHO COULD HAVE CONCEIVED OF A WALL LIKE THIS?



UNDOUBTEDLY SOME INTELLIGENT BEINGS, THE ANCIENT INHABITANTS OF THIS PLANET, THE WALL MUST HAVE SYMBOLIZED THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES. IT SEPARATED THE TWO OPPOSITE DIMENSIONS WHILE PRESERVING THEM FROM CONTAMINATION.

HEAVENS! I UNDERSTAND! LEWIS WANTS TO TELL US THAT WE ARE AT THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE, AND THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED!

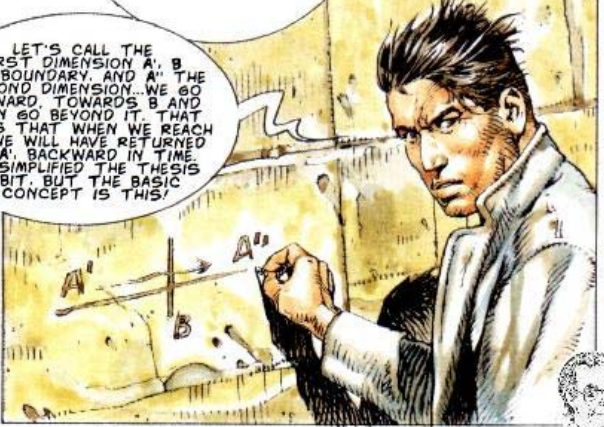
YES, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT! THE SHIP IS IMMOBILIZED ON THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS, AT THE BOUNDARY WITH THE OTHER DIMENSION. IT CAN'T GO BACK BECAUSE IT IS ABOUT TO ENTER A CONFLICT IN TIME. DO YOU FOLLOW ME? IT'S A PARADOX... BEYOND THIS WALL THE UNIVERSE IS REFLECTED UPSIDE DOWN, AND TIME IS INVERTED!



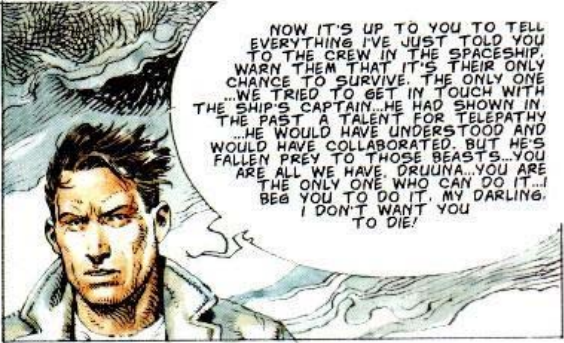
TIME IS...WHAT? INVERTED?

YES, AND IT'S ON THIS PREMISE THAT LEWIS PLANS TO SAVE THE SPACESHIP IS BASED...LOOK!

LET'S CALL THE FIRST DIMENSION A, B THE BOUNDARY, AND A' THE SECOND DIMENSION. WE GO FORWARD TOWARDS B AND THEN GO BEYOND IT. THAT MEANS THAT WHEN WE REACH A', WE WILL HAVE RETURNED TO A, BACKWARD IN TIME. I'VE SIMPLIFIED THE THESIS A BIT, BUT THE BASIC CONCEPT IS THIS!



BigD.



BigD.



BigD.



SHASTAR!!



OH... WHERE AM I?

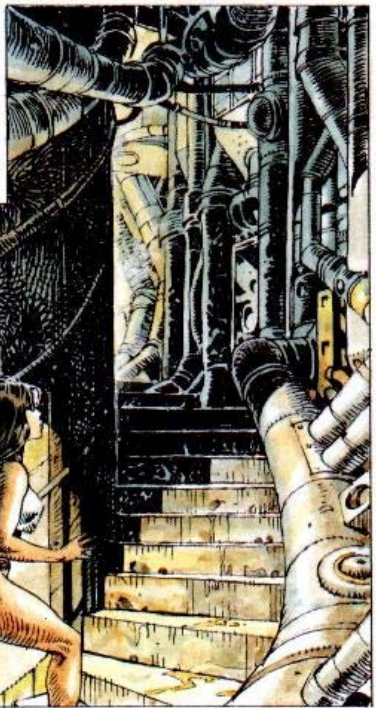


I'M IN THIS DAMNED CELL... YES, NOW I REMEMBER THOSE HORRIBLE MEN, THOSE PROLETS, OR WHATEVER THEY'RE CALLED... THEY RAPED ME... OH GOD, I'M IN PIECES... THEY ALMOST DESTROYED ME... BUT THEY DIDN'T KILL ME, OR TEAR ME APART LIKE TERRY SAID THEY WOULD... THEY LET ME LIVE... THAT MEANS THAT I'M NOT A REPLICANT... HOW SILLY, I'M DRUUNA. HOW COULD I EVER DOUBT THAT?



I HAD ANOTHER DREAM. I DREAMT OF SHASTAR... IT WAS SO TRUE, ALMOST REAL... WHAT A WONDERFUL DREAM!

THE DOOR IS OPEN, I CAN GET OUT OF HERE!



IT WASN'T A DREAM... SHASTAR TOLD ME SOMETHING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT... SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO TELL THE CREW OF THIS SPACESHIP. YES, NOW I REMEMBER, HE TOLD ME WE WERE IN DANGER... I HAVE TO TALK TO DOC, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL UNDERSTAND...



THAT'S THE ALARM! I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?

BigD.



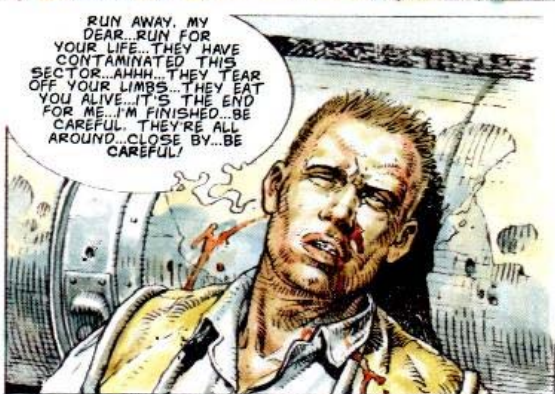
WHERE DO I GO NOW?...BUT... THAT'S BLOOD... THERE'S BLOOD EVERYWHERE!



OH MY GOD! NO!

AHHH AHHH!

YOU ARE...ARE... ROGER!



RUN AWAY. MY DEAR...RUN FOR YOUR LIFE...THEY HAVE CONTAMINATED THIS SECTOR...AHHH...THEY TEAR OFF YOUR LIMBS...THEY EAT YOU ALIVE...IT'S THE END FOR ME...I'M FINISHED...BE CAREFUL...THEY'RE ALL AROUND...CLOSE BY...BE CAREFUL!



DRUUNA... DRUUNA...ARE YOU STILL DOWN THERE?

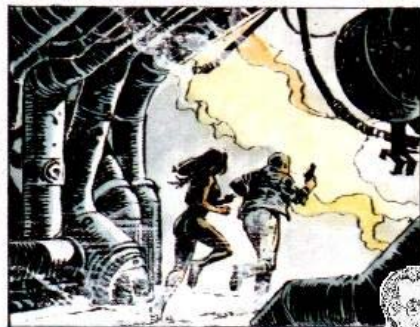


IT'S ME TERRY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE...COME ON. GET OUT...THE DOOR IS OPEN...GET OUT...DAMN IT?...DRUUNA, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT. WE CAN'T STAY IN THIS SECTOR ANY LONGER. WE HAVE TO LEAVE!



HEY...YOU AREN'T STILL UNCONSCIOUS. ARE YOU? DO I HAVE TO COME AND GET YOU?

BigD.



BigD.



BigD.



BigD.





DRUUNA!



OH DOC... IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT... I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU... I HAVE TO... BUT I'M WOUNDED... AND I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE!

YES... COME ON... I'LL HELP YOU... WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!



THERE'RE MONSTERS EVERYWHERE... AHMM! IT HURTS...

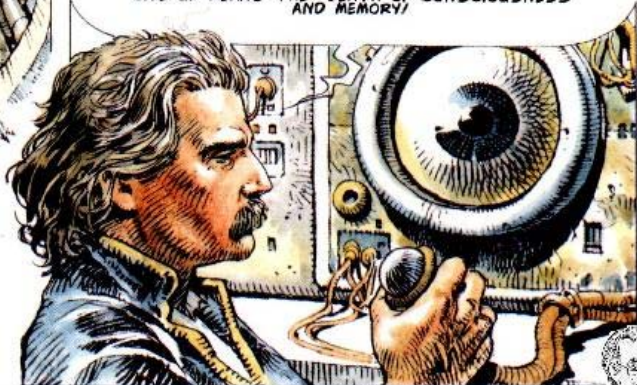
HANG IN THERE... HOLD ON FOR A LITTLE LONGER... I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A SAFE PLACE... WHERE NO ONE WILL HURT YOU ANYMORE!



DOC, I HAVE TO TELL YOU SO MANY THINGS... I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU... ABOUT A DREAM... THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING... YES, MAYBE THERE IS A CHANCE... FOR US TO GET OUT OF THIS HELL... ONLY YOU, DOC, CAN UNDERSTAND... I... AM SO TIRED... I FEEL SO WEAK... TAKE ME AWAY FROM THOSE MONSTERS... AND LET ME DIE... PLEASE...

DON'T TALK... DON'T TIRE YOURSELF OUT... YOU CAN TELL ME EVERYTHING LATER... NOW REST FOR A WHILE... I'LL STAY WITH YOU.

...HERE I AM... I'VE BEEN LOCKED UP HERE FOR SEVERAL HOURS... AND I'VE LOST ALL SENSE OF TIME... I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH A SYNOPSIS OF THE LATEST EVENTS... WHILE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE CAUSES WHICH HAVE LED ME TO MAKE THIS FINAL DECISION... TO UNDERTAKE WHAT MAY SEEM LIKE A DESPERATE OR EVEN CRAZY COURSE OF ACTION... BUT UP TO THIS POINT... EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME HAS BEEN MADNESS... I AM THE LAST LIVING HUMAN BEING ON THIS SHIP... POISED AT THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE... AND I HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION MYSELF... YES, IT'S A TERRIBLE RESPONSIBILITY... ONE LAST BURST OF HUMAN ENERGY... THE ALTERNATIVE IS HORRIBLE... TO GIVE UP MEANS THE DEATH OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND MEMORY!

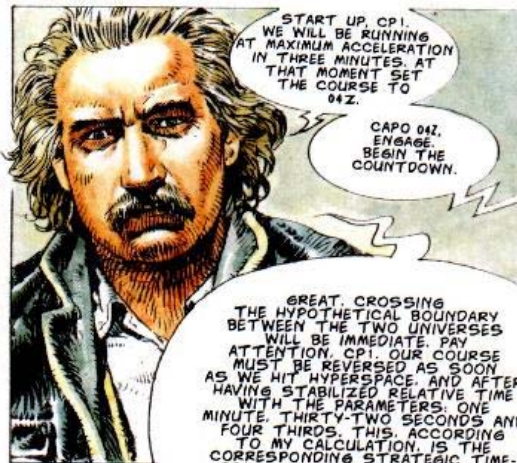


BigD.



DOCTOR, SOMETHING FOREIGN TO MY ELECTRONIC NATURE, SOMETHING BEYOND MY CONTROL, BUT VERY POWERFUL, IS TRYING TO FORCE ME TO FOLLOW ITS ORDERS. MY SENSORS ARE TELLING ME THAT WE'RE IN GREAT DANGER... I HAVE PROGRAMMED NOT TO ACCEPT ANY MODIFICATION. I ASK TO CHECK YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE AND TO REVISE YOUR PLANS.

NO, C.P.I. TIME IS RUNNING OUT... NO MORE REVISIONS. NOW YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY!



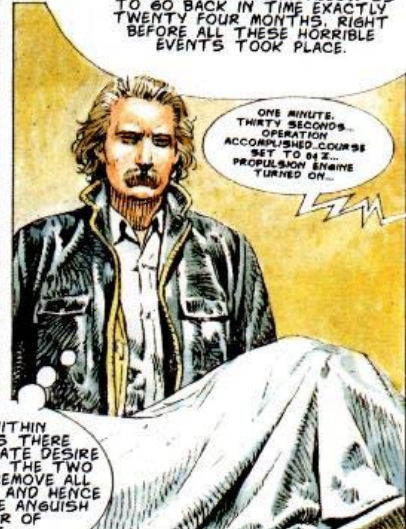
START UP, C.P.I. WE WILL BE RUNNING AT MAXIMUM ACCELERATION IN THREE MINUTES. AT THAT MOMENT SET THE COURSE TO 04Z.

CAPO 04Z, ENGAGE. BEGIN THE COUNTDOWN.

GREAT CROSSING THE HYPOTHETICAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES WILL BE IMMEDIATE. PAY ATTENTION, C.P.I. OUR COURSE MUST BE REVERSED AS SOON AS WE HIT HYPERSPACE AND AFTER HAVING STABILIZED RELATIVE TIME WITH THE PARAMETERS: ONE MINUTE, THIRTY-TWO SECONDS AND FOUR THIRDS. THIS, ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATION, IS THE CORRESPONDING STRATEGIC TIME-SPACE WHICH SHOULD ALLOW US TO GO BACK IN TIME EXACTLY TWENTY FOUR MONTHS, RIGHT BEFORE ALL THESE HORRIBLE EVENTS TOOK PLACE.



THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES, TWO DIMENSIONS THAT ARE A REFLECTION OF EACH OTHER, OPPOSITE AND ADVERSE, IN A MIRROR ONE CAN SEE ONESELF... TWO ASPECTS OF A SAME IDENTITY, ONE POSITIVE, THE OTHER NEGATIVE. GOOD AND EVIL, TWO ABSOLUTE BUT OPPOSITE VALUES COEXIST WITHIN EACH OF US... COULD IT BE THAT WE HAVE CREATED OUR DOUBLES, THE REPLICANTS, WITHIN OUR COLLECTIVE SUBCONSCIOUS?



ONE MINUTE, THIRTY SECONDS... OPERATION ACCOMPLISHED. COURSE SET TO 04Z. PROPELLION ENGINE TURNED ON...

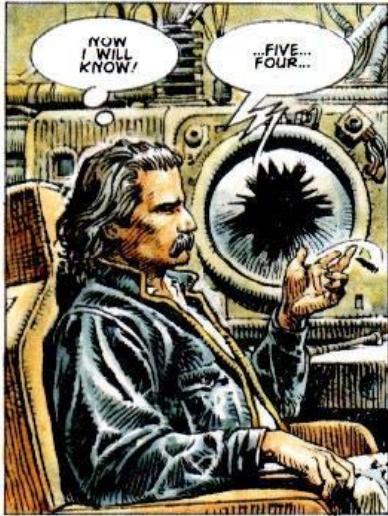
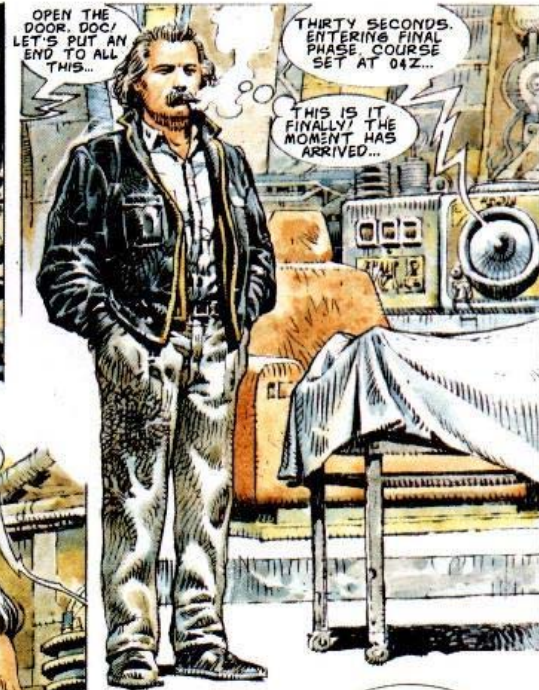
MAYBE WITHIN EACH OF US THERE LIES A DESPERATE DESIRE TO SEPARATE THE TWO IDENTITIES, REMOVE ALL EVIL FROM US, AND HENCE EXORCISE THE ANGUISH AND FEAR OF DYING...



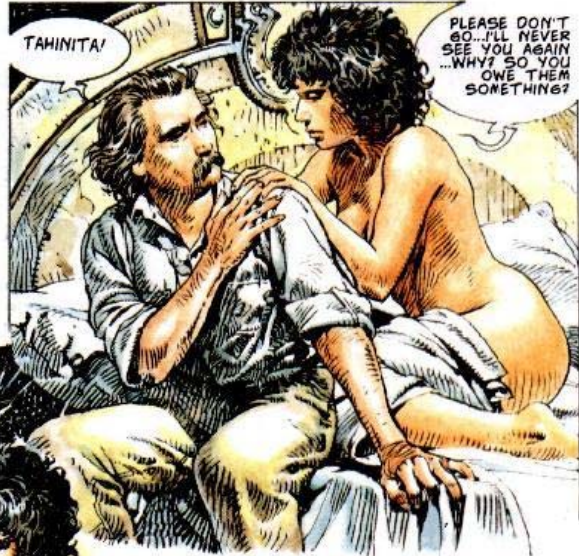
...GOOD-BYE DRUUNA... I DID WHAT YOU ASKED ME TO DO, BUT EVEN SO, I PROMISE YOU, THOSE BEASTS WON'T WIN. IF OUR COURSE OF ACTION IS UNSUCCESSFUL, THE COMPUTER HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED TO SET OFF A SYSTEM THAT WILL MAKE THE SPACESHIP EXPLODE... DEATH IS A LIBERATION OF SORTS AND THE END OF EVERYTHING, INCLUDING EVIL!



DOC, IN A VERY SHORT TIME I'LL BE THERE... THIS DOOR WON'T SAVE YOU FROM US, IT'S ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME, AND YOU KNOW IT, I'M GETTING CLOSE TO YOU AND I'LL INFILTRATE YOUR MIND. WE ARE LIFE, YOU ARE ONLY DEATH AND NEGATION...



BigD.



BigD.



MOMMY...

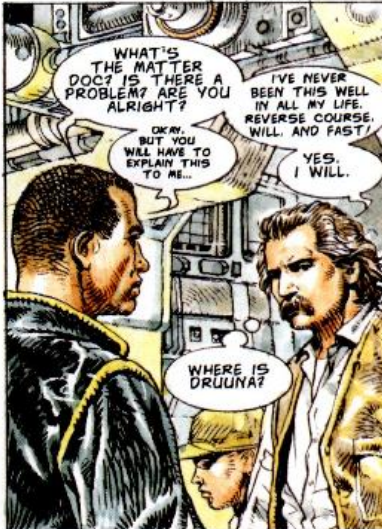
WELL DOC, WHAT DO YOU SAY? WE CAME OUT OF HYPERSPACE TEN MINUTES AGO...AND SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT! MAYBE WE MADE AN ERROR IN OUR CALCULATIONS, BUT THE RESULT IS THAT WE HAVE ENDED UP IN A VERY STRANGE SECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, WITH NO STARS, COMPLETELY DARK... IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO PROCEED AND...

OH! TAHINITA, MY MOTHER... I SAW MY ENTIRE LIFE GO BY... MY ENTIRE LIFE... I AM ALIVE... BUT WHERE AM I?

24 MONTHS BACK! YES, WE MADE IT! THEY ARE ALL ALIVE... WILL ROGER, TERRY, AND ALL THE OTHERS... THEY ARE ALIVE! IT'S INCREDIBLE AND ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS!



REVERSE YOUR COURSE. WILL, WE DON'T HAVE A MINUTE TO LOSE... DO AS I SAY, WE STILL HAVE TIME TO DO IT, BUT HURRY!



WHAT'S THE MATTER DOC? IS THERE A PROBLEM? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS WELL IN ALL MY LIFE. REVERSE COURSE, WILL, AND FAST!

YES, I WILL.

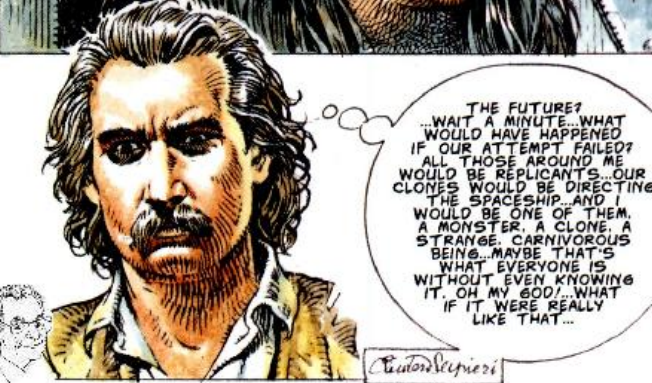
OKAY, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO ME...



THERE SHE IS... SHE IS ALIVE AND I HELPED HER TO DIE JUST A FEW HOURS AGO. HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT? NO, TIME DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... SHE IS WITH US NOW AND WE OWE OUR LIFE TO HER!



SHE'S SMILING AT ME. MAYBE SHE REMEMBERS EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED. NO, NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. DEATH MUST HAVE ERASED FROM HER MEMORY ALL THOSE HORRIBLE FUTURE EVENTS SHE LIVED THROUGH... IT'S BETTER THAT WAY...



THE FUTURE? ...WAIT A MINUTE...WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF OUR ATTEMPT FAILED? ALL THOSE AROUND ME WOULD BE REPLICANTS... OUR CLOMES WOULD BE DIRECTING THE SPACESHIP, AND I WOULD BE ONE OF THEM, A MONSTER, A CLONE, A STRANGE, CARNIVOROUS BEING... MAYBE THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE IS WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT. OH MY GOD!...WHAT IF IT WERE REALLY LIKE THAT...

Autobotsignees