

THE ROYAL TRANSPORT, **SLASH**, LEAPS THROUGH TRANSITION SPACE.

DEET...DEET...DEET...DEE

THERE'S A DISTRESS SIGNAL COMING IN.

IT CAN'T BE FROM AN OUTPOST. WE'RE TOO FAR OUT OF RANGE.

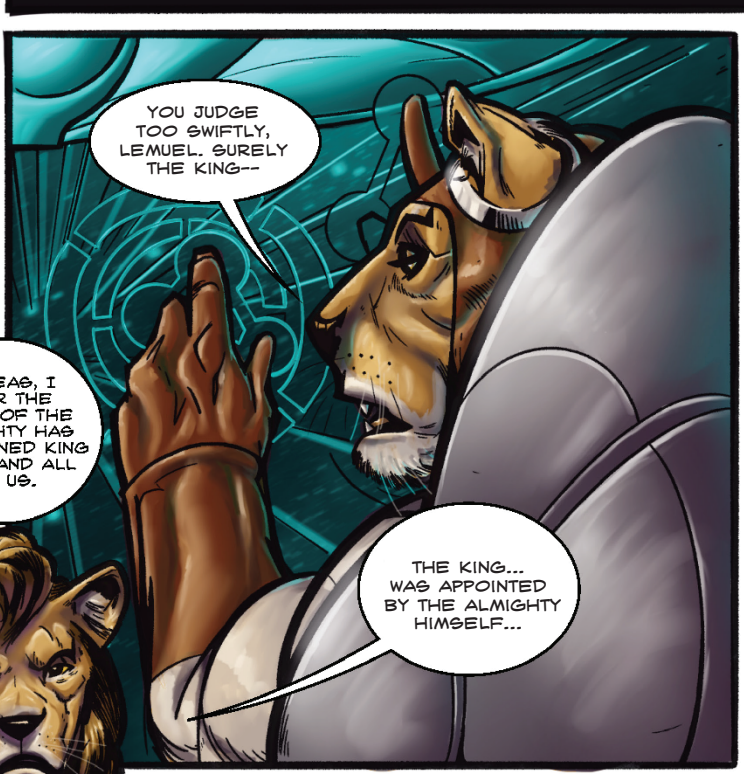
WE'RE BARELY PICKING IT UP...
"BORDER DEFENSES HAVE FAILED. OUTPOST LIBNAH IS UNDER ATTACK."

I'LL INFORM THE PRINCE.

THE PHILISTINES PRESS IN ON EVERY SIDE. THEY GROW STRONGER EVERYDAY, YET THE KING SENDS NO AID TO THE OUTPOSTS.



PHINEAS, I FEAR THE SPIRIT OF THE ALMIGHTY HAS ABANDONED KING SAUL...AND ALL OF US.



YOU JUDGE TOO SWIFTLY, LEMUEL. SURELY THE KING--

THE KING... WAS APPOINTED BY THE ALMIGHTY HIMSELF...



IT IS NOT FOR US TO QUESTION HIS LEADERSHIP.

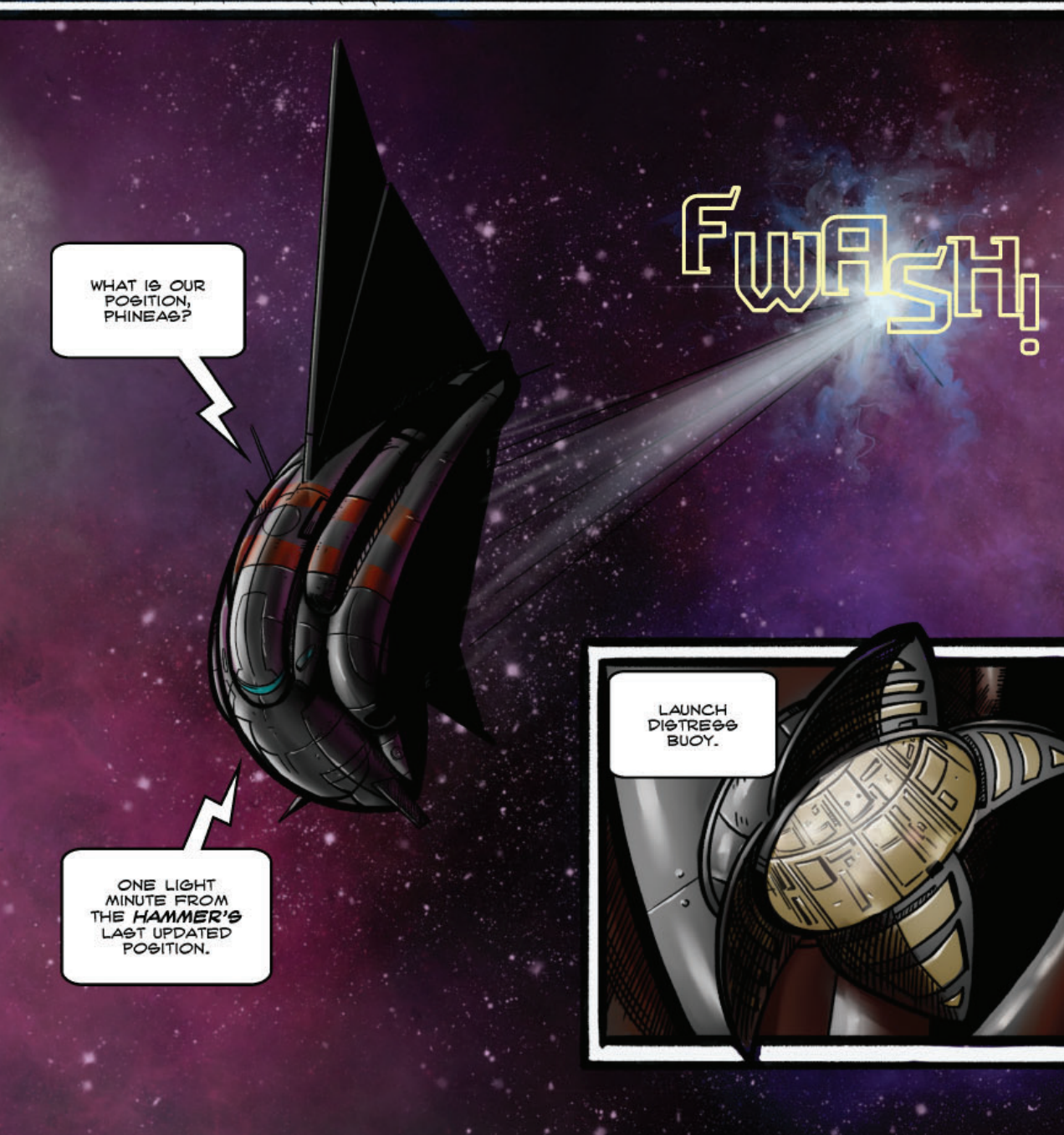


APOLOGIES, PRINCE JONATHAN.

WE MUST NOTIFY THE SERAPHIM MARINES OF THE ATTACK ON LIBNAH AT ONCE.



EXIT TRANSITION
SPACE.



WHAT IS OUR
POSITION,
PHINEAS?

FWASH!

ONE LIGHT
MINUTE FROM
THE **HAMMER'S**
LAST UPDATED
POSITION.

LAUNCH
DISTRESS
BUOY.



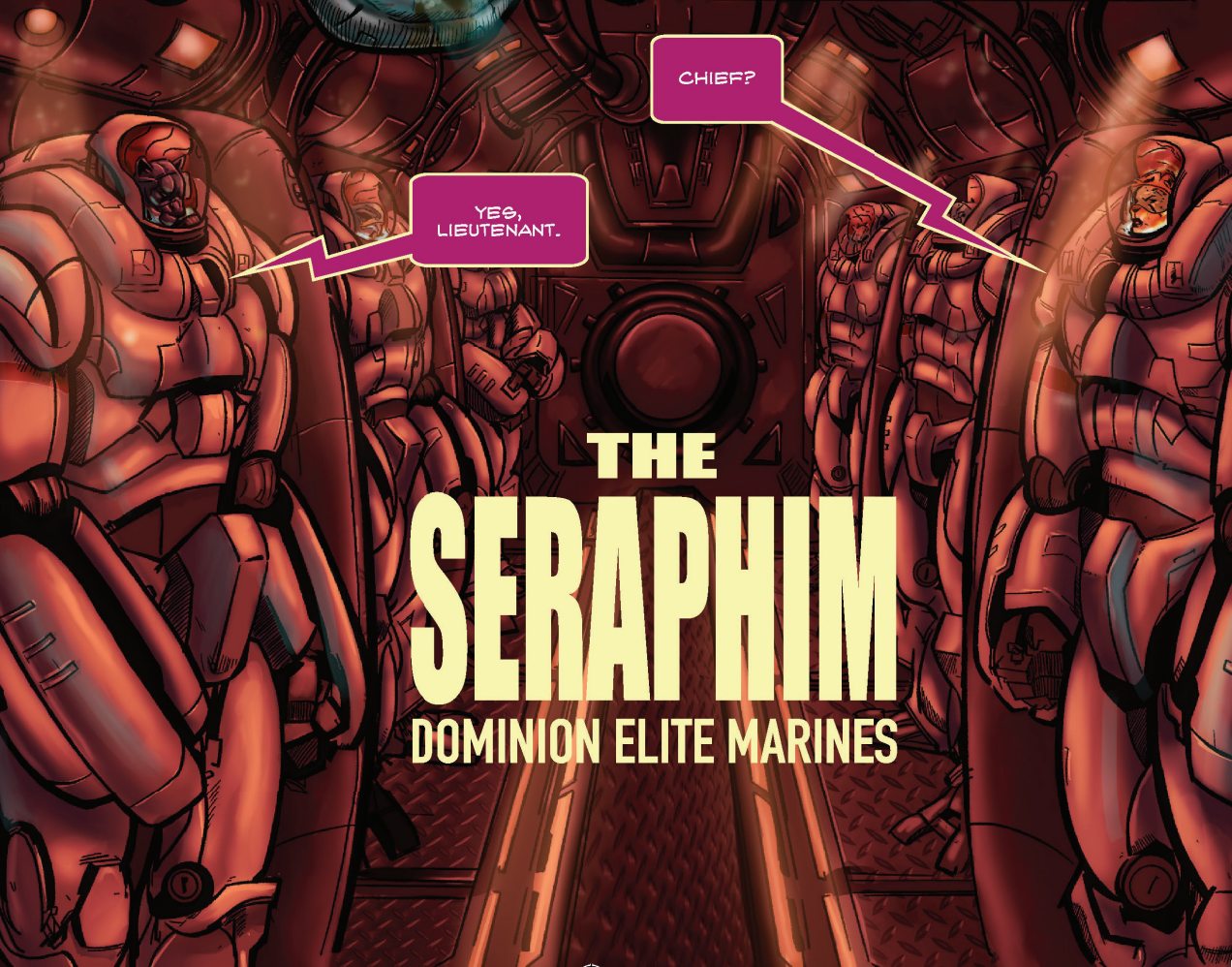
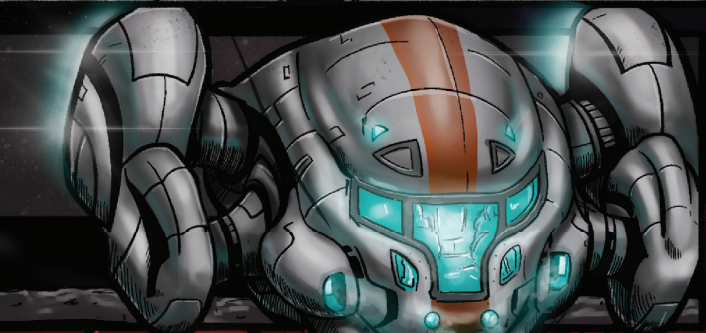
THE BUOY IS LOCKED ON THE HAMMER'S ENERGY TRAIL. LET US HOPE THE SERAPHIM RECEIVE IT IN TIME.

I WILL REPORT THE PHILISTINE ADVANCES TO MY FATHER...HE WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

TAKE US HOME.

LATER.

CORVETTE DROPSHIP, HAMMER, ON COURSE TO THE OUTPOST *LIBNAH* ON THE DOMINION BORDER WITH THE PHILISTINE EMPIRE.



CHIEF?


YES, LIEUTENANT.

THE SERAPHIM

DOMINION ELITE MARINES



I CANNOT SHAKE
THE FEELING
SOMETHING IS
OFF ABOUT THIS
MISSION.



A DISTRESS SIGNAL
FROM A FORTIFIED
OUTPOST, COME
DEAD-SILENT FOR
HOURS...THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT WE'RE
WALKING INTO. BUT
CHEER UP, NAOMI,
EVERY MISSION
BRINGS US ONE
STEP CLOSER TO
THE ALMIGHTY.



OH NO.



WHAT?



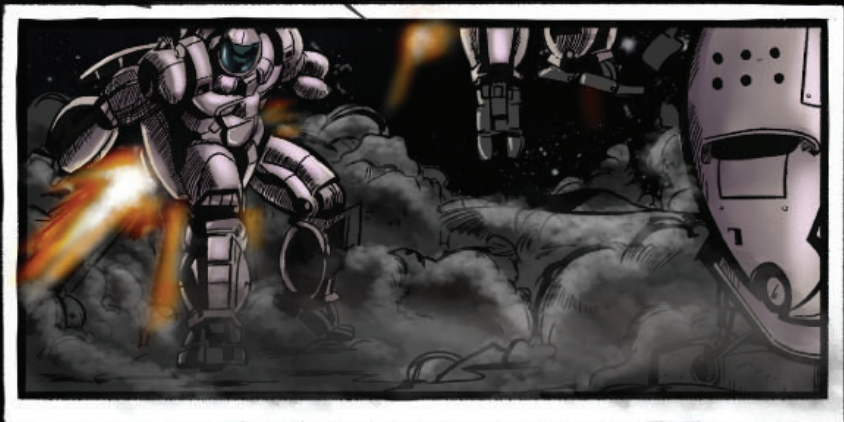
THE OUTPOST
IS...DESTROYED.



ALL RIGHT
MARINES,
THIS IS
OUR STOP!



BREEP, BREEP, BREEP, BREEP.



DOMINION OUTPOST 31,
A.K.A. LIBNAH.

NO LIFE-SIGNS.
THEY'RE
ALL...GONE.

BY THE
ALMIGHTY...FIFTEEN
HUNDRED SOULS.

HOW WERE
THEY
OVERTAKEN
SO QUICKLY?
WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE OUTPOST
DEFENSES?

CHIEF, I AM PICKING
UP HUNDREDS OF
DECAYING ENERGY
SIGNATURES DOTTED
AROUND US WITHIN A
THREE-HUNDRED-METER
RADIUS...ALL INERT.

LOOKS LIKE WE
FOUND THE OUTPOST
SECURITY DRONES.
TEK, CAN YOU
LOCATE THE
COMPUTER CORE?

ON IT.

PAK

THERE'S SOME
STRANGE
RADIATION FOULING
UP MY SENSORS...
IT'S OFF THE
CHARTS! IT'S
REGISTERING
AS...MAGNITRON.

MAGNITRON? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? THAT CLASS OF ENERGY HAS ONLY BEEN THEORIZED. DOMINION SCIENTISTS HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GENERATE IT.

TEK, SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM THE CORE. THE REST OF YOU, FAN OUT AND INVESTIGATE THE DRONE WRECKAGE.

I THINK I HAVE A LOCK.

ABEL, THIS OUTPOST HAD 10,000 DEFENSE DRONES, PARTICLE CANNONS, AND A REGIMENT OF MARINES. WE WOULD HAVE NOTICED A FORCE LARGE ENOUGH TO UNLEASH SUCH DESTRUCTION.

LATER.

TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE...

ONI, LOOK AT THESE BLAST BURNS...THIS DRONE WAS DESTROYED BY A MAGNITRON WEAPON.

THEY ALL WERE.


SOME TIME LATER...

UH, CHIEF, I
FOUND THE
COMPUTER
CORE.

IS IT INTACT?

MOSTLY...

FWASH!



OK, I WAS ABLE TO USE MY TRACKER TO FIND THE LAST BROADCAST. IT'S TOO DAMAGED FOR VIDEO BUT I RECOVERED THE AUDIO.

--IS FRONTIER OUTPOST 31 SENDING OUT A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE--

--WE ARE UNDER ATTACK--

PATCH US IN.

--SEND--PLEASE--END ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATE-- ATTACKED BY--GOLIATH-- AAAAGHHH!!

IT WAS A MASSACRE.

DID HE SAY GOLIATH ATTACKED THE OUTPOST? I THOUGHT GOLIATH WAS A MYTH.

UH, GUYS...

YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.