

THE OMEGA SECTOR



STARBUSSSED

EP4

Keep the CM-328 on stand-by I'll be on the bridge shortly.

Hey, before you head up, do you still have your trusty paper clip?



That did come in handy. No, it's been a long time since I've needed it.

I don't know. I still feel better knowing that you have one.

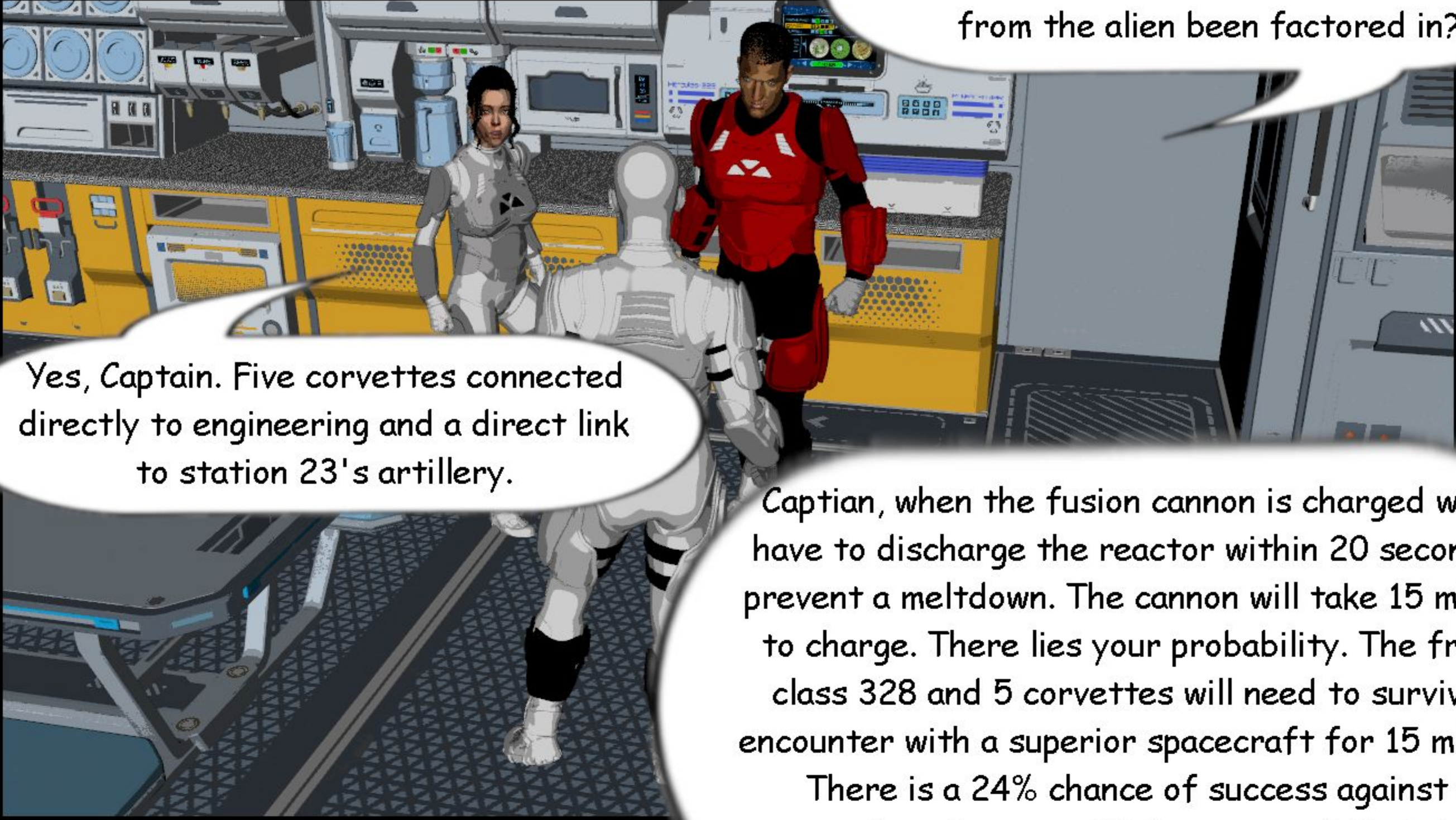
Riley, if this is our last mission. I want you to know... I do have regrets.



Tyson, I'd be lying if I said I didn't think about us. Especially now.




We've been separated for a long time now.



S.I.M.O.N., you're very stealthy today. Are we linked to the fleet? Has the data from the alien been factored in?


Yes, Captain. Five corvettes connected directly to engineering and a direct link to station 23's artillery.

Captian, when the fusion cannon is charged we will have to discharge the reactor within 20 seconds to prevent a meltdown. The cannon will take 15 minutes to charge. There lies your probability. The frigate class 328 and 5 corvettes will need to survive an encounter with a superior spacecraft for 15 minutes. There is a 24% chance of success against an aggressive adversary. If the cannon fails to breach the hull or misses altogether, it is a 0% percent chance.



SIMON, log in to engineering and test the speed of those connections. We will load the formation data for a defensive scatter. Keep them off of us and the cannon.

Ay, sir.



Make sure that we can make the battle adjustments we need to.

Of course, sir.

Bet that lucky paper clip looks better now. I left you a little something special in your room.

Reporting to the bridge.

Do we only have one AI? Tyson, I'm worried about this one.




I don't want to leave things unsaid.



Neither do I.






Tech Sergeant Wilson, I know your concerns but I am capable of running the fleet at 5.6 Teraflops. We will be able to carry out the Captain's defensive strategy.




SIMON, I know you'll do what you can but...



SIMON, she's just saying what we all know. Fleet has sent us out here to die.



SIMON, I'm not ready to die.



Jenna, you're not going to die. You're gonna do your job. Keep the reactors on weapons when we need weapons and shields when we need shields.




I know that there is nothing better for us than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime, but I only see the futility in this.

I think there is a part of me that feels that we can dictate, deceive, or cajole this weak-minded enemy. That the fleet sent us for this task because we are best suited to attain victory.



But the truth is, we are here to die for humanity. To die for the chance that we may have a weapon to stall our enemy. To die.





My duty crowds my heart. My crew of now 8
on the edge of Terra 7 with no calming
platitudes to sleep to.



Only the inevitability of a superior enemy.
And the promise that the outcome of the
battle will be in their hands.

Still, my duty clouds my heart and I will
ignore the minds that aren't ready and
steer this group into danger.

Kyle, will you be able to route trajectory information to SIMON for formation transitions?



Kyle?





Kyle, are you okay?



You're going to have to work with SIMON? Are you ready for that?

Uh, yeah. I just need to load some new formation data I've been working on.




Kyle, we need your head in the game for this one. Linda will be good. She knows what she signed up for.

Kyle, I'm sorry. I forgot Linda was your niece. But we've got a bargaining chip. As long as we have the alien on board we might not be a target. At least we are counting on that.



Uh yeah, Captain if this goes sideways that alien will play ball right?



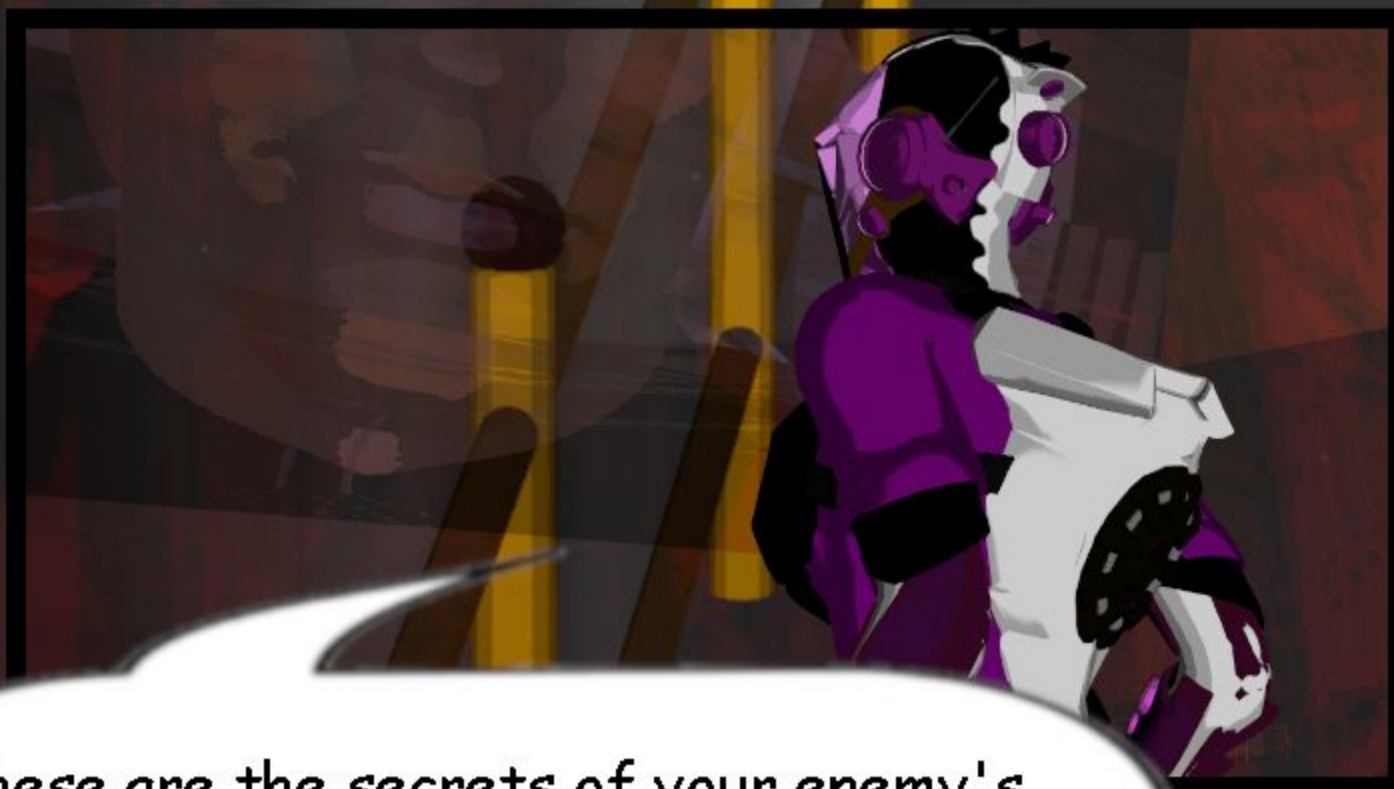
I need passage to a safe place. That is the deal.


You will have what you give!

You have tied us up in a precarious position. And the only reason we haven't jettisoned you into space is on the chance that you aren't the lying traitor we all think you are.

Truth is what I have given you. But you respond with hate.

These are the secrets of your enemy's shields.






Captian, just make sure she knows if we aren't safe, she isn't safe.



She's the only real shield we have.



Good thing she's not smart enough to figure that out.




Commonspace incursion. Jump detected.



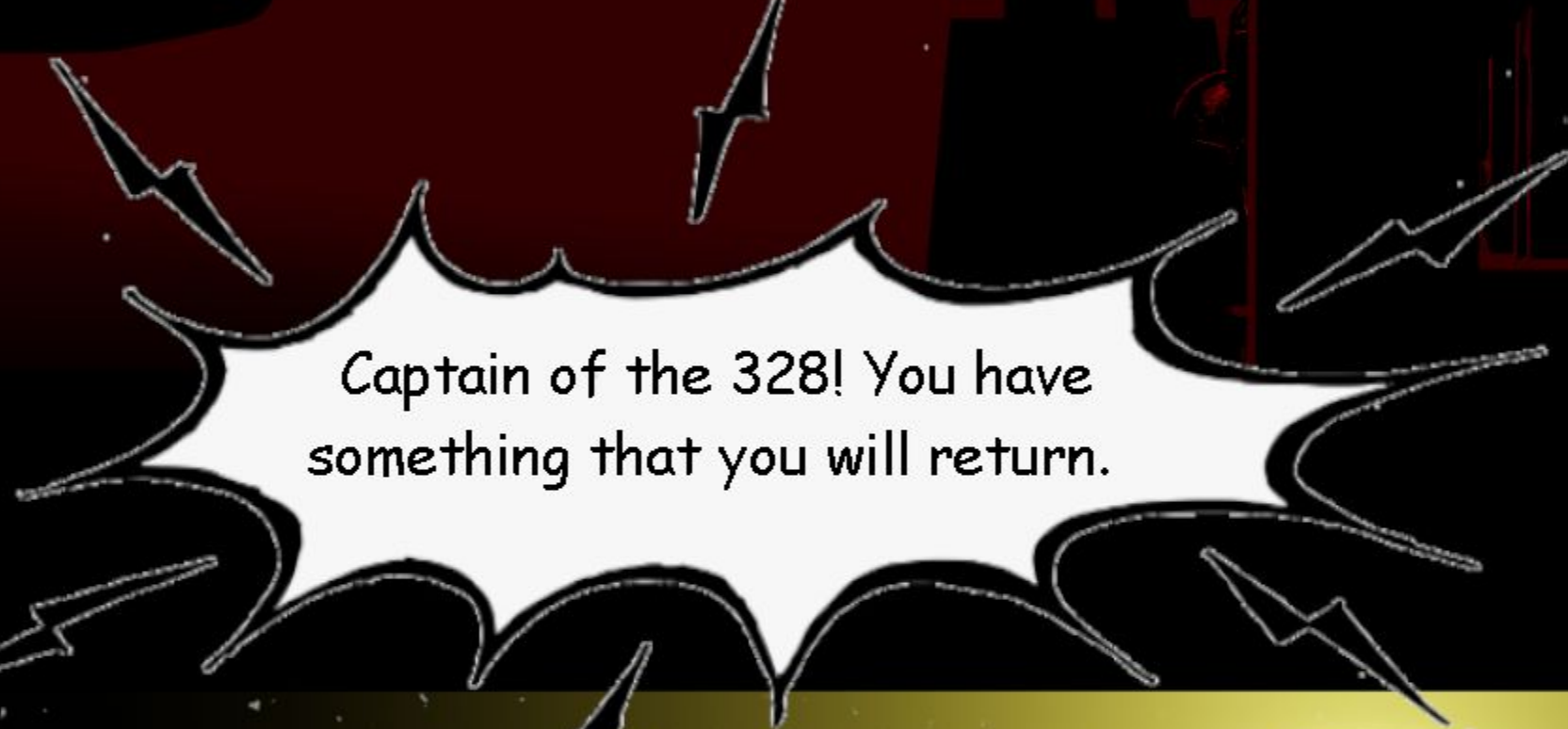
Go to red alert! Battlestations.



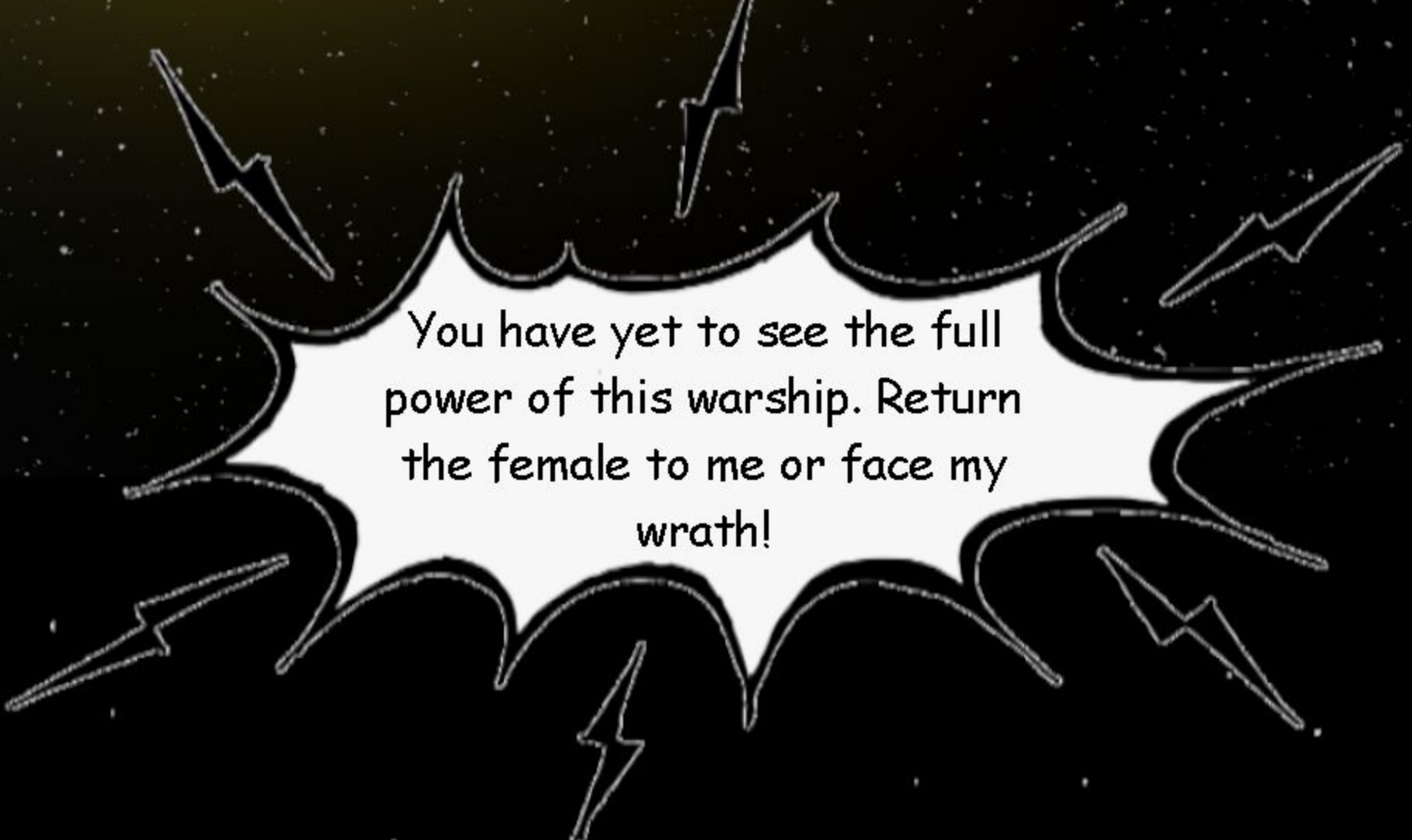

John, I need everything you got. Ronnie, stay on the spot with those torpedos.




Captain, I've got the class 2 on screen.



Captain of the 328! You have something that you will return.




You have yet to see the full power of this warship. Return the female to me or face my wrath!



Captain, I'm getting a huge energy reading from the class 2!

They are targeting one of the corvettes.



S.I.M.O.N., we've only got 5 of them. Keep them alive as long as you can.



Slaughter their escorts! Show them the full power of the Redhawk.



Hollia, soon you will be mine again. Fire!

CV-2 Has been destroyed!



Ronnie, fire torpedos! CV-1, 3, 4, and
5 target and fire on the class 2!





SIMON, sending new formation information.



FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!



Fools with your slingshots! Give me what is mine. If any harm befalls her before I get to her I will rip you limb from limb!


CV 3 and 4 shields are taking direct hits their shields are failing!



I'm moving the last to corvettes to flank now. we just need to delay another 8 minutes. I don't think they can scan our fusion cannon in the rubble of Terra 7.



These ants annoy me. Charge our primary weapon again. And maintain our plasma spread on the little ones until it is ready.



Captian, CV3 just bought it! We took hull damage from the blast.

We've got to get some distance.

The chamber conduit is gonna overload. I've got to disconnect it.



Almost got it!



UGGHHHHH!!

NO! Linda!

WAPPPPP




OOOFFFF!



What happened?

The conduit blew. I think she's dead!!



Uri, I need you back on the EDI.

Linda! Get up! Linda!

Captian, deliver me the female or be destroyed! How many ships must you lose!



Captian, there is a hanger breach.
The alien is trying to...

Major, you have the bridge. That alien
is not getting off my ship.



SIMON, send in CV 1 and 5 fire pattern
Xulu!

Station 23 at 80%



If she gets off our ship it's game over Captain.



I'll die before I let that happen.

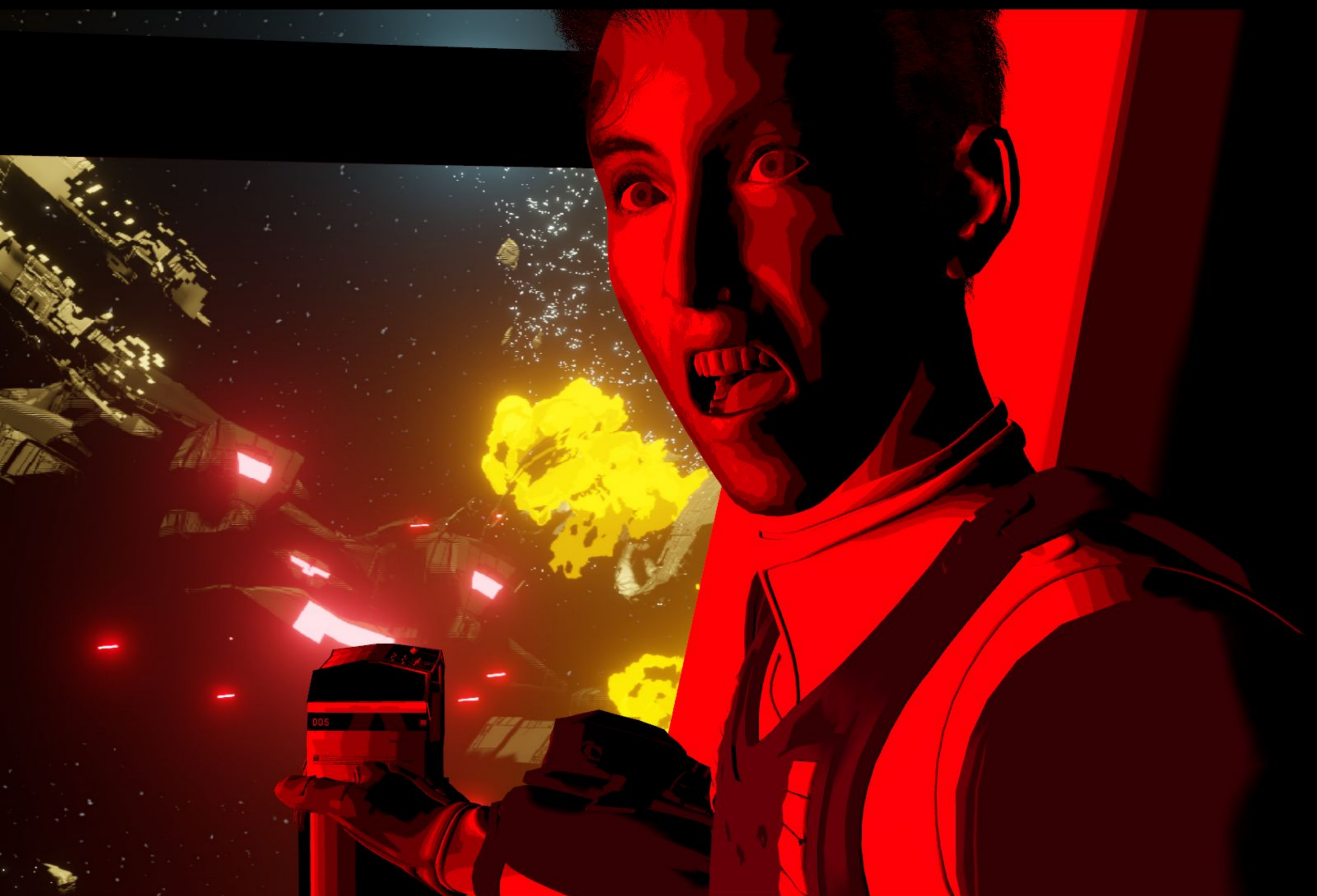


A close-up, high-contrast image of a man's face, heavily tinted with red. He has a serious, intense expression, looking slightly to the left. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights, emphasizing his features. A white speech bubble is positioned in the upper right corner of the frame.

Let's see what you got!

A close-up, high-contrast image of a man's face, heavily tinted with red. He has a serious, intense expression, looking slightly to the left. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights, emphasizing his features. A white speech bubble is positioned in the lower right corner of the frame.

Ronnie, watch out!






ARRGGHHH!!!

BOOOOOOMMM

Your pitiful fleet is lost!


NOOOOOO!!!!



Your people die! You have no chance of surviving this!




Station 23 at 85%



Major, I need your orders. We've got no offense.

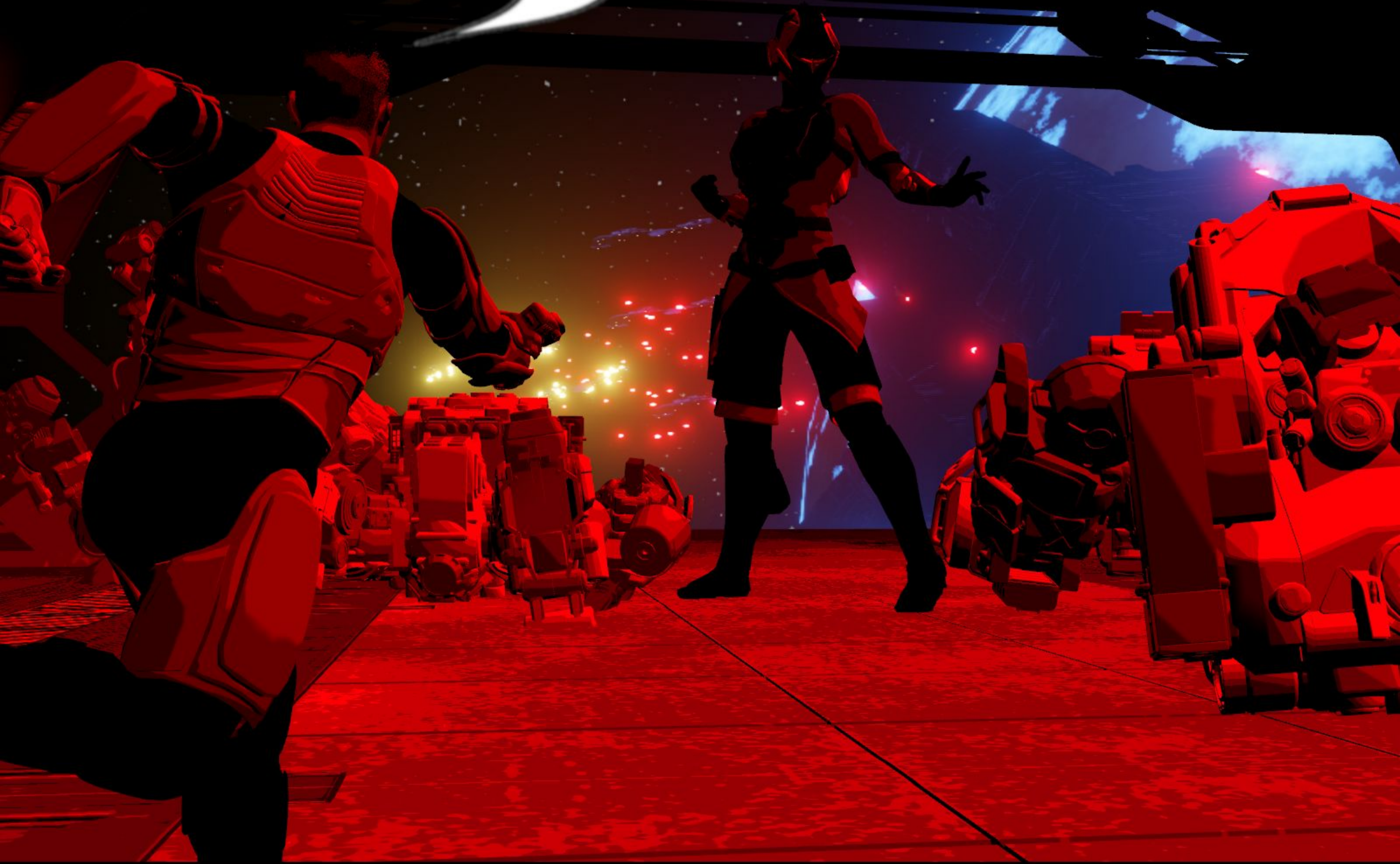


Ronnie, are you ok? Wake up.



Major, I need your orders!

Where do you think you are going?!




STOP!! We had a deal!



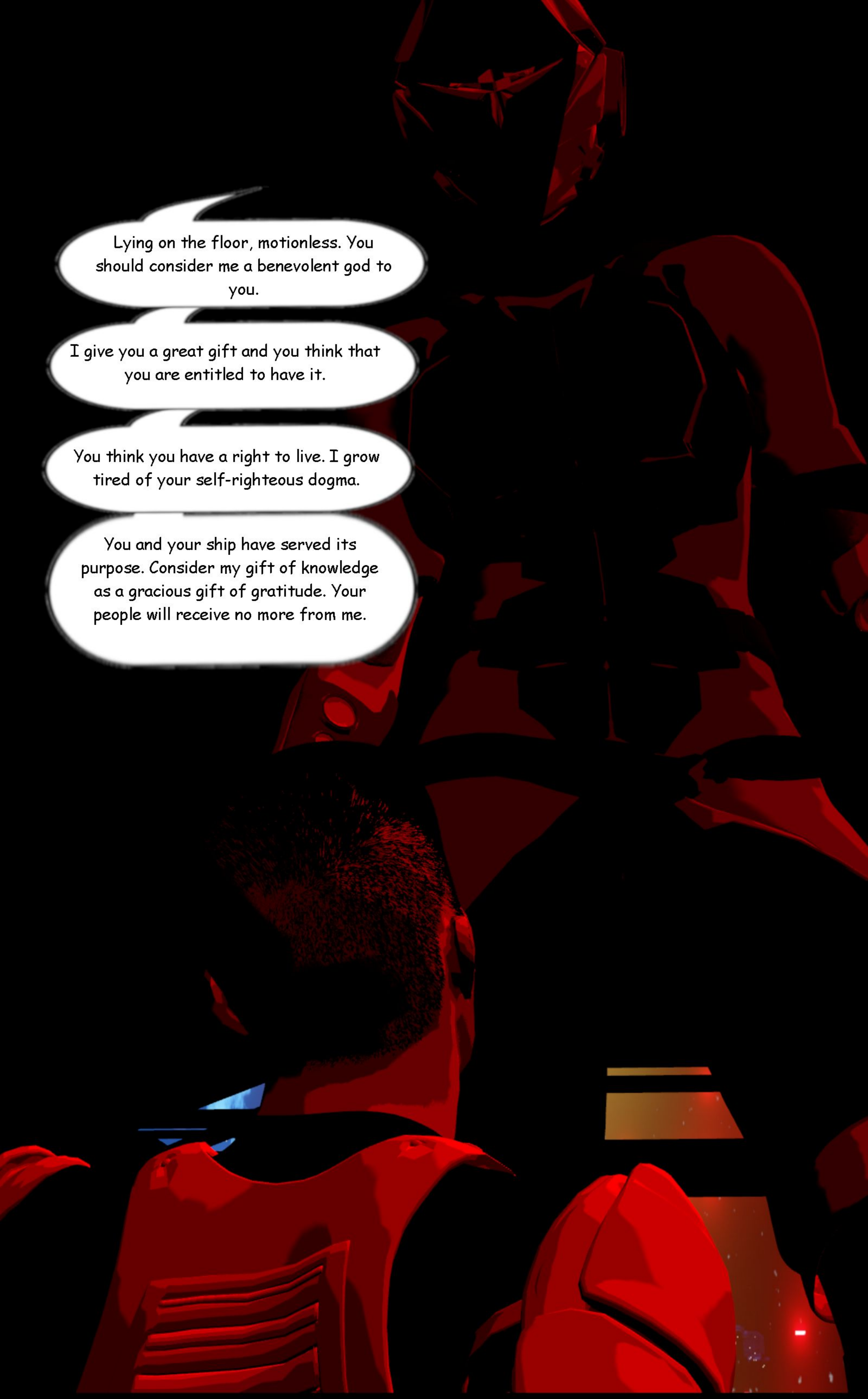
What are you to me?!





You and your species connive and deceive each other. You are inferior in your technology in every way.

Our mechs are...



Lying on the floor, motionless. You should consider me a benevolent god to you.

I give you a great gift and you think that you are entitled to have it.

You think you have a right to live. I grow tired of your self-righteous dogma.

You and your ship have served its purpose. Consider my gift of knowledge as a gracious gift of gratitude. Your people will receive no more from me.



You can't leave!



Are you going to float in space forever?



SWOOOPPPPPPPPP



Captian the major...



You are needed on the bridge.

Captian!



Ronnie, get up!

Major!



Orders, Major?!



This is it, isn't it?



Then we go on our terms! Helmsman bring the 328 around!



Station 23 at 90%

Already ahead of you Major!



Collision course!




Full power!

Respectable. Perhaps there is hope for
your species yet.

But none the less...Your crew...


your expansion...has...

come to an end.



Major! Detecting a Union ship entering
common space!

It's the Warhammer!



CM-328 move to aft position. We'll
buy you some time.

Bridge crew take over the remaining
corvettes in a one-to-one link.



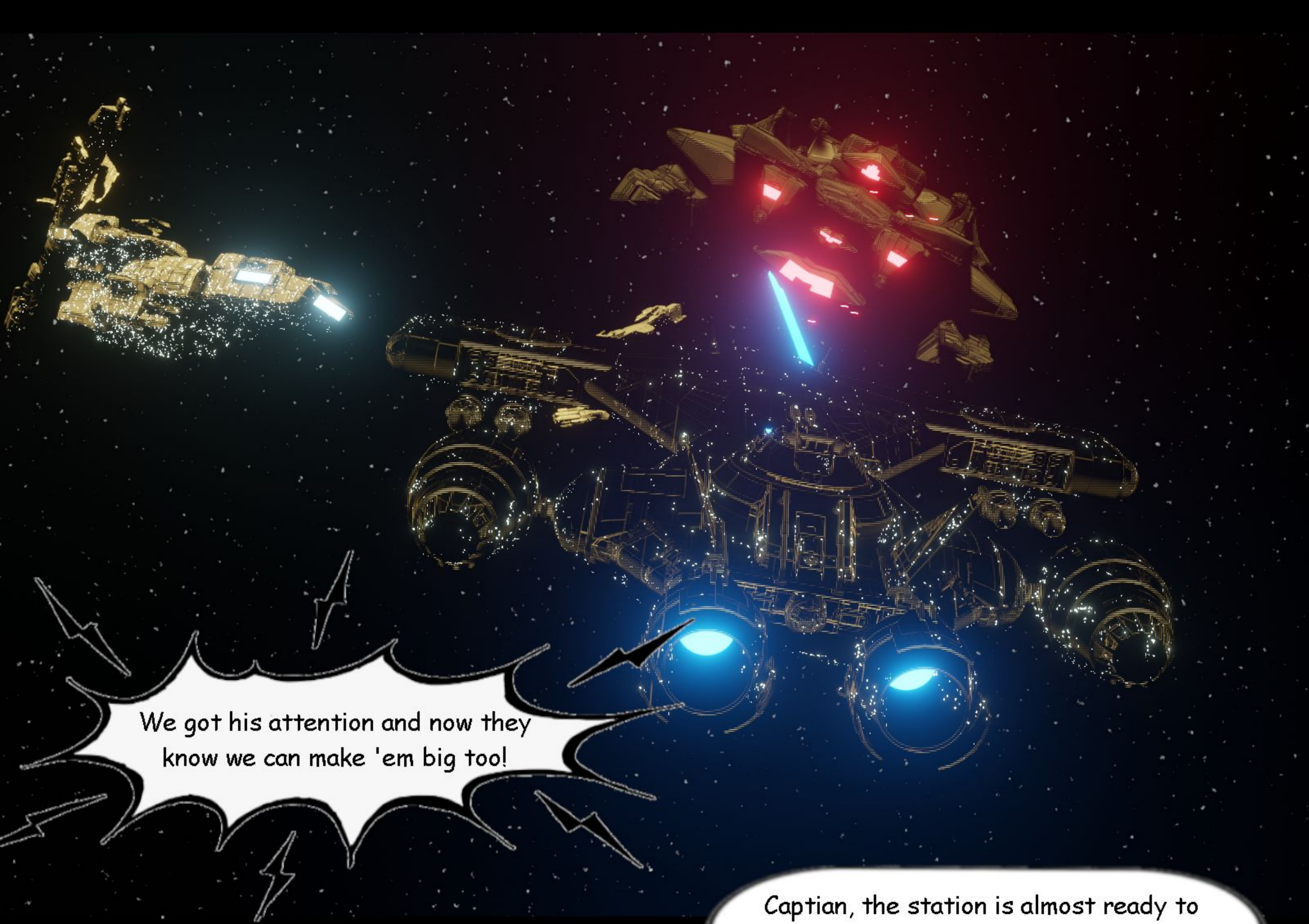
Run attack pattern November.



CM-328 is retreating. We have
taken heavy damage and can't
enter hyper space.



Well then I guess we have 30 seconds
to determine your fate. This intel we
got better work.



We got his attention and now they know we can make 'em big too!

Captian, the station is almost ready to fire!



Jenna! Pull it together! I can see Linda breathing from here! Get back on the EDS!





It split in half! We got a fireball!



I guess she was telling the truth.

We need to retrofit any ship large enough with this weapon. This is going to turn things around.

328, you look like you're banged up pretty bad.



Do a ship-wide eval and start making repairs.




And also, rest while you can.



SM3 scan the 328 and...



Common space jumps detected.



Five more class 2 starships off the bow.....I suggest we send a hail. We can't fight our way out of this one.




Sending IFF signals...




This is Captian Redder of the CM-328
please state your purpose.


This is it.




I am Muktak of the 4th Antarian Fleet
and I am here to collect my Hollia.




Your expansion has caused much distress among the civilized republic of Antaris.




I will be the one to ensure that your trespass ceases. Your destruction of Terra 7 will not go unpunished but I cannot be thankful enough for the role you played in recovering my wife from her captors.



My love are you ok. I have many questions.




I am my love. I have many answers on the humans.

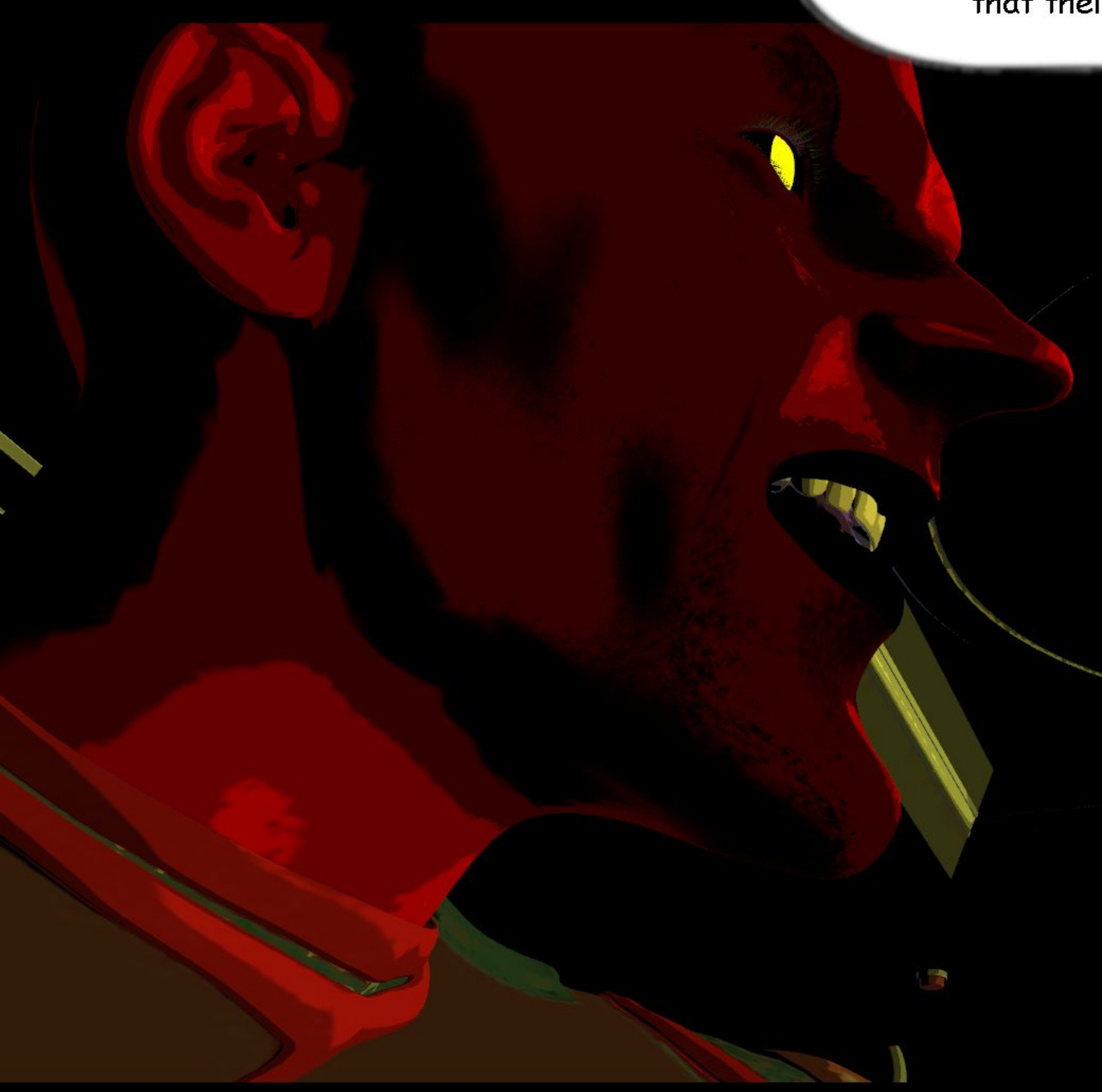


My Hollia will be your judge. Today is a gift from me but your tomorrows will not be promised.





Make no mistake, I can be nothing to you or I can be your destroyer. Let your people know that you are inferior to us. The fact that you exist is because we allow it.



For this, you will merely be messengers. Return to your people and let them know that their expansion stops here.

Return us to Antaris Prime.

As you wish, my lord.

Engage, hyperdrive.

WOOOOSHAAA



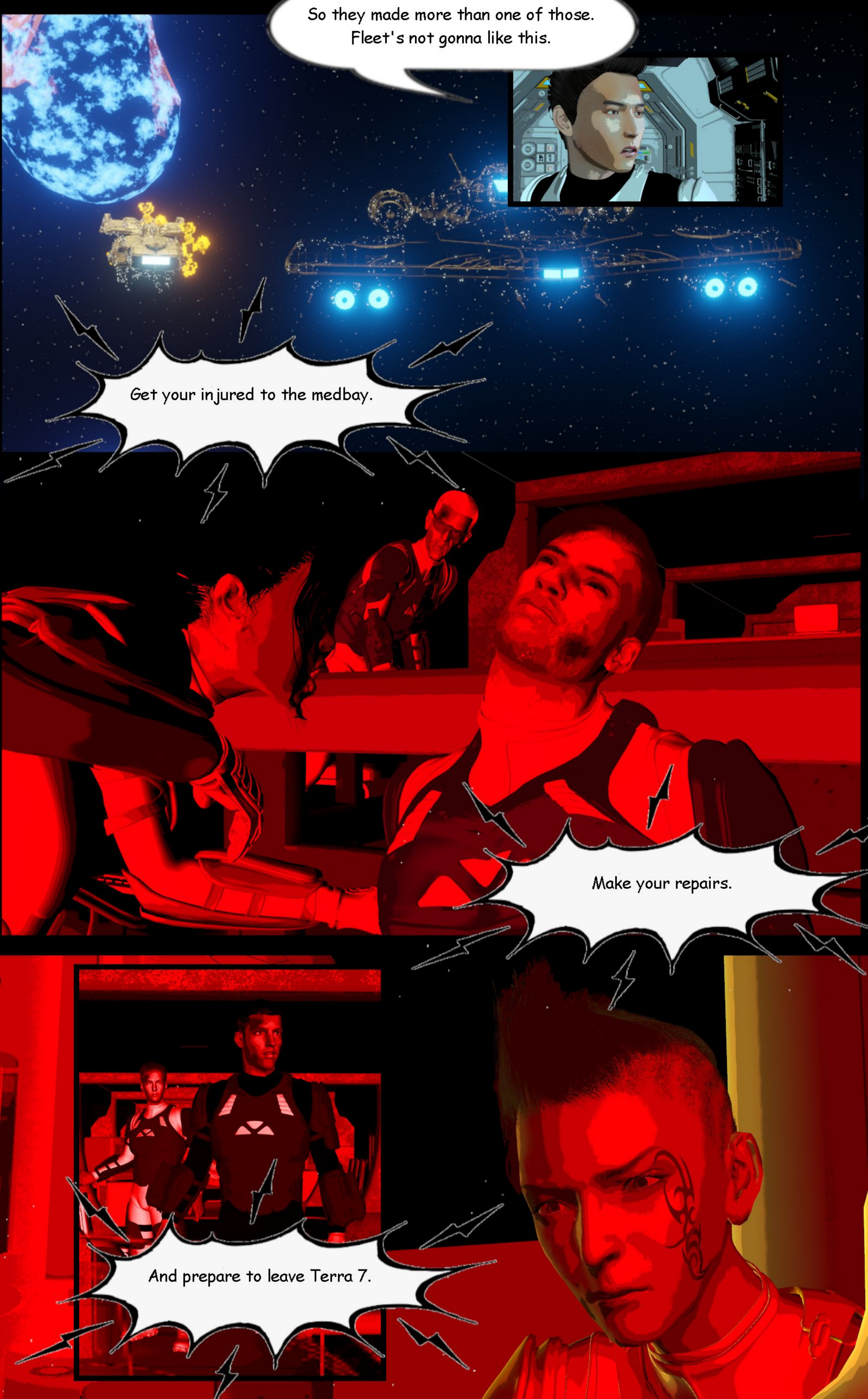
So they made more than one of those.
Fleet's not gonna like this.

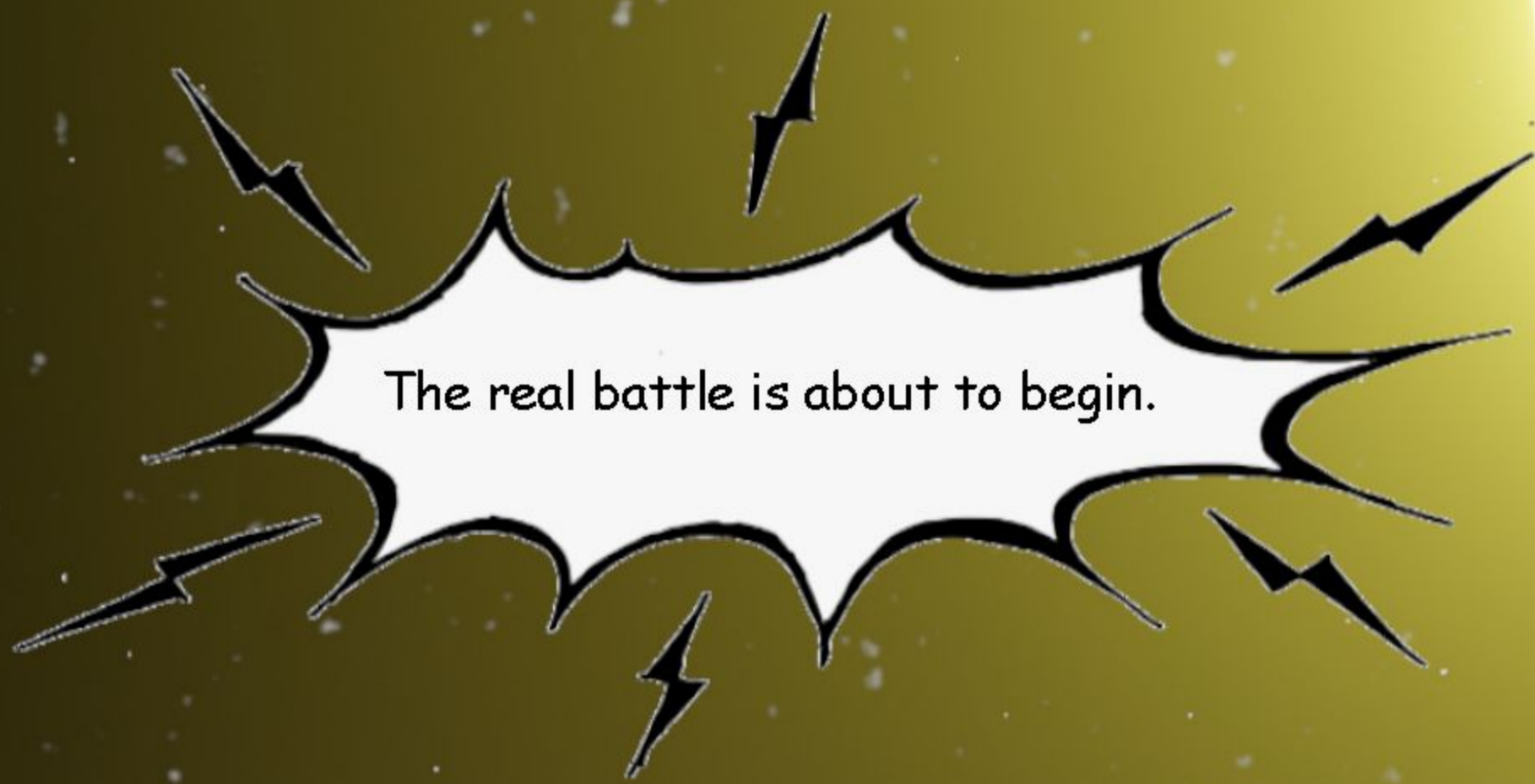
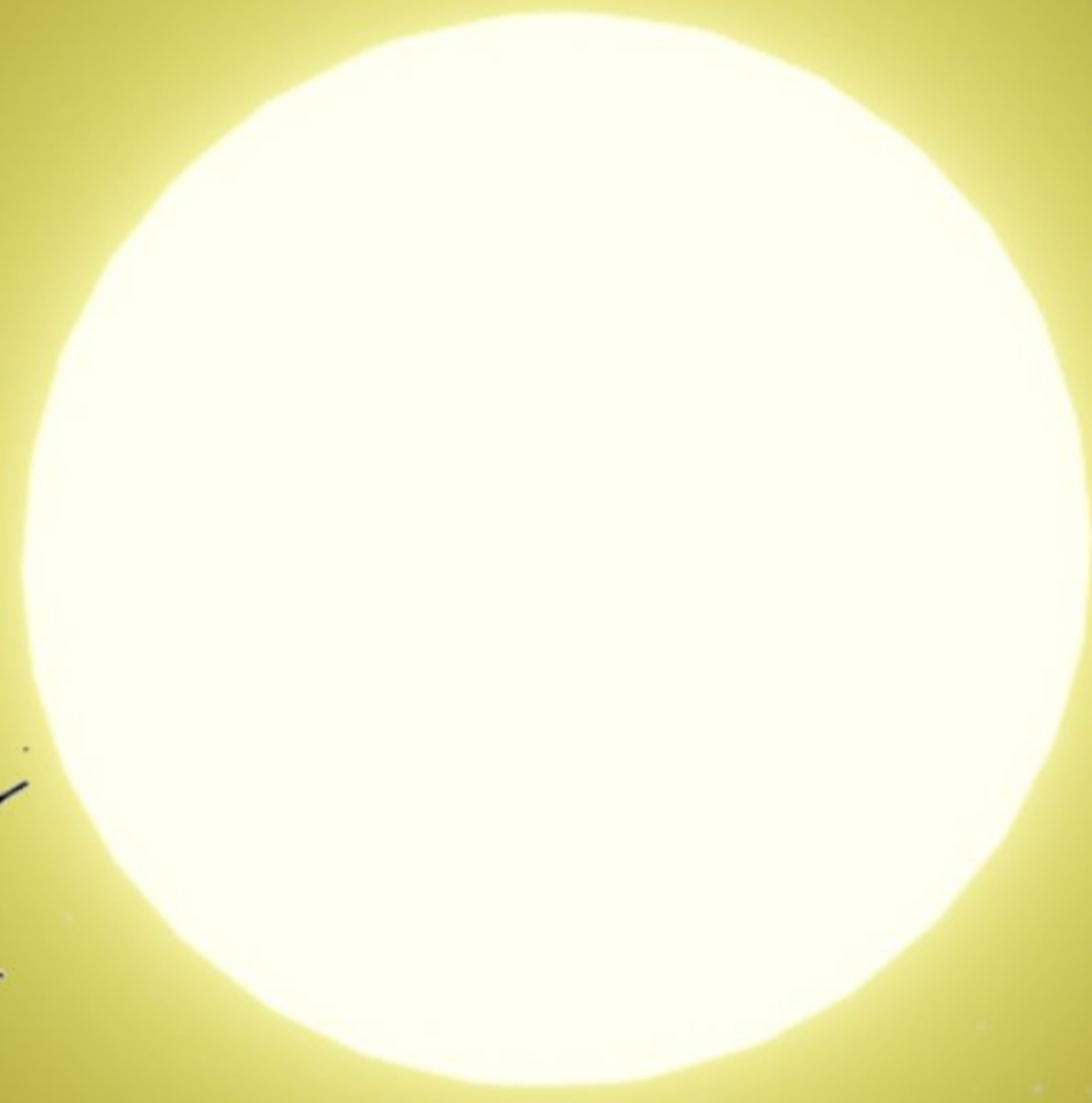


Get your injured to the medbay.

Make your repairs.

And prepare to leave Terra 7.





Let the series begin...