

Illustration: 45082120-001
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Illustration: 45082120-012

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THIS ISSUE
HOW IT WORKS

JOYRIDE™

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"OH, HEY, UMA!"

"HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A HOT MINUTE, WHAT'S THE WHAT--"



UGH. "WHAT'S THE WHAT"? LAME, DUDE.



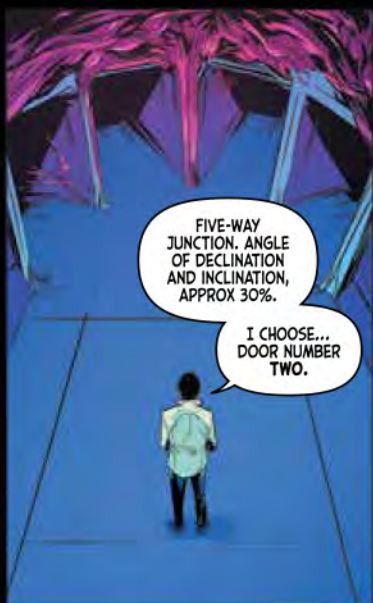
EXOTIC GANGLIA. PHOSPHORUS, MAYBE. FUNCTION: UNKNOWN.



"WHAT'S NEW?" YEAH, THAT'S GOOD, CASUAL.



"ME? OH, YEAH, I'VE BEEN KEEPING BUSY."



FIVE-WAY JUNCTION. ANGLE OF DECLINATION AND INCLINATION, APPROX 30%.

I CHOOSE... DOOR NUMBER TWO.



"WHAT DO YOU THINK? MAYBE WE CAN GO SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME?"

"I KNOW THIS REALLY GROSS LITTLE PLACE ON THE SHIP."



"IT'S WEIRD AND..."

SNIFF
SNIFF

"...KINDA STINKY..."



Chapter Six: HOW IT WORKS

"TRUST ME, UMA, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS PLACE."





KID. TAKE IT FROM A GUY WHO IS **MAGNITUDES** OLDER THAN YOU. WHEN YOU CHOOSE A **MATE**, BUT YOUR CHOSEN MATE DOESN'T CHOOSE TO MATE WITH YOU--

--WHOA! I AM NOT MATING WITH ANYONE.



OH, GET OFF IT WITH THAT. SO SENSITIVE ABOUT LANGUAGE. MATE, LOVE, NEST, WHATEVER.

POINT IS, IT **STINKS**, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT GOES BAD. I GET WANTING TO RUN AWAY.



I'M NOT RUNNING FROM ANYTHING.



YEAH, YOU'RE JUST HIDING.



I'M EXPLORING.

THIS IS OUR SHIP, BUT WE KNOW **NOTHING** ABOUT IT. IT'S MECHANICAL, BUT IT'S GOT MEAT. IT TRANSFORMS LIKE, **ALL THE TIME**. IT'S PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MAP!



WHAT KIND OF ENGINE DOES IT HAVE? WARP? TEAR-SPACE? SOME OTHER RIDICULOUS, TOTALLY FICTIONAL THING THAT APPARENTLY ISN'T FICTIONAL AT ALL? WE DON'T KNOW!



...YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?



YES! I'M A **SYSTECH**. UNDERSTANDING IS MY JOB.



I HAVE TO KNOW HOW IT WORKS.





DO YOU
THINK SHE'S
HAPPY?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

LUCY, DO
YOU THINK SHE'S
HAPPY IN THE
SKY?

Luuuucy in the skyyyy with diaaamonds



CATRIN,
THERE IS NO
LUCY.

SHE'S A
METAPHOR!
THAT MEANS IT'S A
THING YOU SAY THAT
DOESN'T ACTUALLY,
LITERALLY MEAN
WHAT YOU--

UMA. I WENT
TO SCHOOL. I
KNOW WHAT A
METAPHOR IS.



JUST...LOOK
WHERE WE ARE.
THE SKY. WITH
DIAMONDS.

I BET
SHE'S
HAPPY.



DANGER!

ALERT!

IT'S
ALL BAD,
YOU'VE GOT
TO GO!



WAIT,
WHAT?

THERE'S
SOMETHING.
SOMETHING! IN
THIS SHIP!

BESIDES
US?

VERY MUCH
BESIDES! DEEP
IN THE SQUISHY
BOWELS. I
FOLLOWED
DEWYDD--



D? WHAT
WAS DEWYDD
DOING THERE--

DOESN'T MATTER, OKAY? HE WAS
THERE, I WAS THERE, THEN SUDDENLY
THIS OTHER THING WAS THERE AND I
HAD TO RUN UP HERE AND YOU'VE
BOTH GOT TO--

WHERE'S
DEWYDD?



IT TOOK
HIM.

HE'S
GONE.