

The shipyards of Falladim.

And the **THIEF OF FIRE**, Barbarella's ship.
Currently in need of a new null-d regulator.

TO BE *HONEST*, I THINK IT'S
THE WHOLE PLANAR-FOLD
ASSEMBLY THAT'S SHOT.

AND YOU SHOULD REPLACE
YOUR *CUSP-TRIGGER*, TOO.

THAT WILL
TAKE *DAYS*.

EIGHTEEN *HOURS* IF YOU'RE
OKAY WITH RECONDITIONED
PARTS. A WEEK OR SO IF
YOU WANT US TO ORDER IN.

RECONDITIONED
WILL DO FINE.

TOMORROW NOON, THEN.
GIMME A MINUTE, I'LL
RUN YOU UP A *RECEIPT*.





LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE **BUSY**.

EVERYBODY AND HIS **BROTHER** WANTS A SHIP RIGHT NOW. THEY'RE ALL HEADING OUT TO **VAN NEUMANN'S WORLD**.

WHY'S THAT?



SOMEONE FOUND **R.U.S.T.** THERE. THREE CENTURIES IN A SINGLE HAUL, OR SO I HEARD.

LUCKY BASTARD IS GONNA BE AS **RICH** AS MIDAS MACCROESUS.

THERE YOU GO.



IF YOU'RE **INTERESTED**, WE SELL PROSPECTING KITS AND HOMESTEAD UNITS.

I'M NOT. I HEARD THERE WAS A **BELT-HOTEL** NEAR HERE?

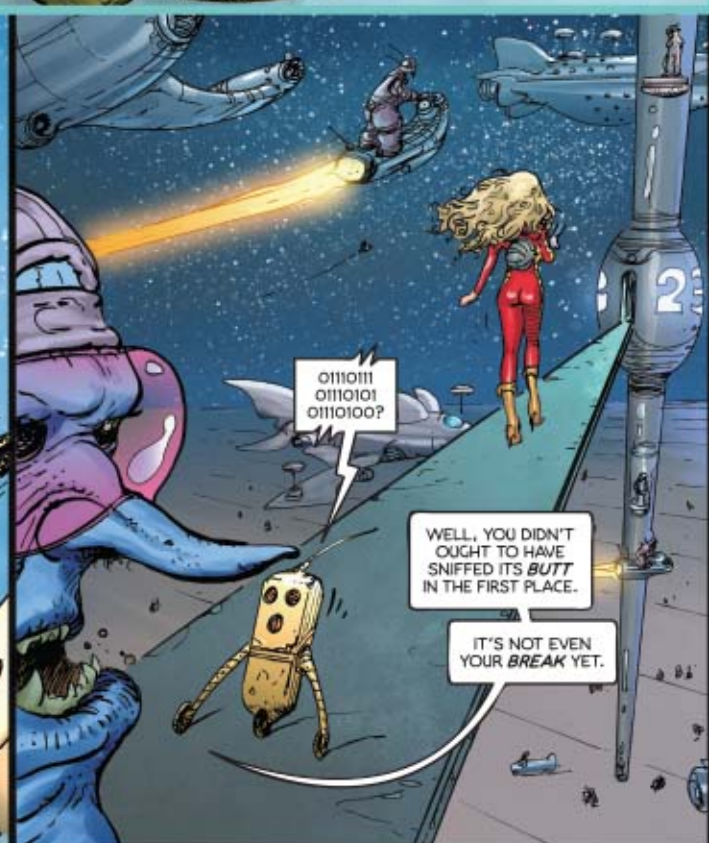


YEAH, THERE IS. THE **ROLL-A-BYE**. THREE LEVELS UP AND FOUR BLOCKS OVER. YOU'RE SURE--?



I DON'T HAVE ANY **INTEREST** IN GETTING RICH, OR IN LIVING FOREVER.

THANK YOU FOR THE **THOUGHT**.



01110111
01110101
01110100?

WELL, YOU DIDN'T OUGHT TO HAVE SNIFFED ITS **BUTT** IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IT'S NOT EVEN YOUR **BREAK** YET.



A NIGHT'S SLEEP IN
A REAL BED, VIX.

WE'VE OWED OURSELVES
THIS EVER SINCE WE LEFT
THE HAND OF ∞ .



YOU WANT A REGULAR
ROOM, OR A DELUXE
WITH SOUNDPROOFING?

REGULAR.

NUMBER 24. IT'LL
WIND THROUGH IN
TWO MINUTES OR SO.



ER... MA'AM,
WE HAVE A NO
PETS RULE.

THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE,
DR. VIX. WE'RE IN TOWN FOR
A MEDICAL CONFERENCE.

DR. VIX. MEDICAL
CONFERENCE.

I AM SO
SORRY.



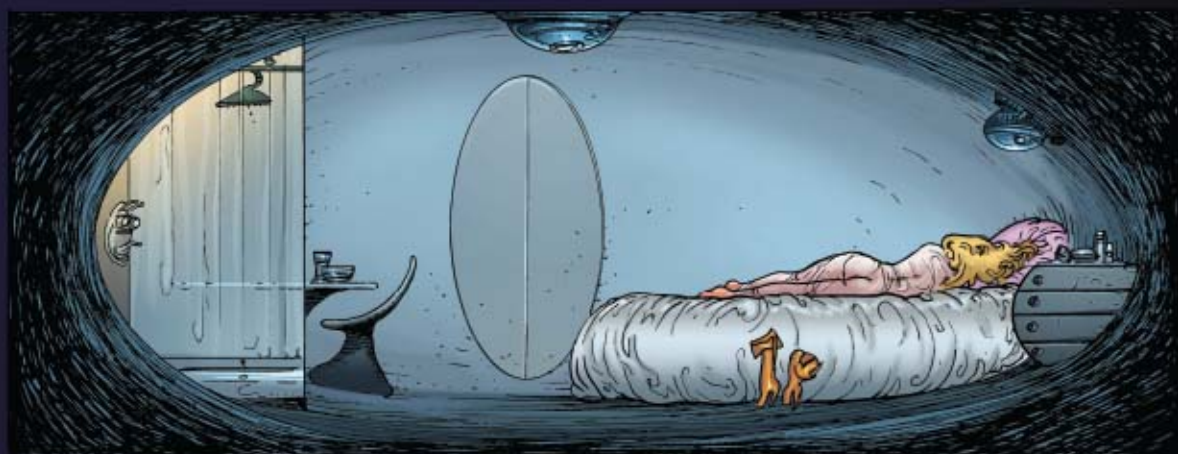
SHOWER
FIRST. THEN
SLEEP.

AND WHEN WE WAKE
UP, WE HIT ROOM
SERVICE. DEAL?

DEAL..



I'M STARTING TO HAVE
SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT
THAT SOUNDPROOFING.





WELL, IT ALL COMES OUT THE SAME IN THE END, YOU KNOW?

I REALLY DON'T.

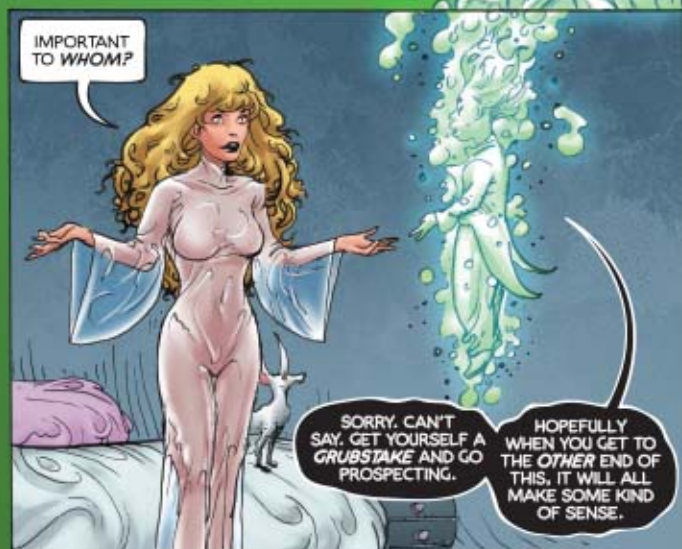
YOU DON'T MISS WHAT YOU NEVER HAD. EXCEPT I WISH I'D *KISSED* YOU BEFORE I WALKED UNDER THAT PET FOOD TRUCK.



THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M HERE FOR, THOUGH, IN CASE YOU'RE WORRIED.

I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO VAN NEUMANN'S WORLD.

IT'S REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT.



IMPORTANT TO WHOM?

SORRY, CAN'T SAY. GET YOURSELF A GRUBSTAKE AND GO PROSPECTING.

HOPEFULLY WHEN YOU GET TO THE OTHER END OF THIS, IT WILL ALL MAKE SOME KIND OF SENSE.



I'M SORRY TO JUST *DROP* THIS ON YOU, BUT 57 SECONDS IS ALL I'VE GOT. GOOD LUCK.

I'M SORRY TO JUST *DROP* THIS ON YOU, BUT 57 SECONDS IS ALL I'VE GOT. GOOD LUCK.

OH, AND AIM TO THE LEFT OF THE BURNING TREE. TIME SIGNATURE 23:02:29 SHOULD HIT THE WINDOW AND GET YOU—!!



I THINK ROOM SERVICE WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

WHINE