







TERRAN TACTICAL LEVIATHAN, OUI S'Y FROTTE.

SOLAR ORBIT, FIRU FENZU, SYSTEM.

I'M TELLING YOU, CAPTAIN, THEY *KNEW* SHE WAS COMING!



THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*, AGENT QUIRE. ONLY YOU, MYSELF AND MATRIX GREEN HAD ACCESS TO BARBARELLA'S DROP COORDINATES.

EVEN SO, SIR. THE RUA STATIONED A *BATTLE SKIFF* AT THAT EXACT SPOT.

*COINCIDENCE*. NOTHING MORE.

I RESPECTFULLY *DISAGREE*, CAPTAIN. THE MISSION WAS ALMOST *OVER* BEFORE IT BEGAN.

I THINK WE HAVE A *SPY* ONBOARD.

A *SPY*! CAPTAIN! RESPECTFULLY!

YOU SAID *ALMOST* OVER.

IF THE RUA TOOK BARBARELLA *CAPTIVE*, I'M VERY MUCH AFRAID--

THEY TOOK HER, BUT THEY COULDN'T *HOLD* HER.

SHE *SABOTAGED* ONE OF THEIR FACTORY PLATFORMS SOMEHOW. THEN JUMPED FREE OF IT AS IT FELL.

I SAW HER *FALL*--DEEPER INTO THE SUN.



THIS IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS. *EARTHGOV* RELIES ON THE RUA FOR TWO THIRDS OF ITS RAW NEUTRONIUM.

THAT'S WHY THIS MISSION WAS MOUNTED IN *SECRET*.



WELL I GUESS THE *SECRET'S OUT*, SIR. PERMISSION TO MAKE A RETRIEVAL.

I'LL JUST NEED A SINGLE *SHIP* AND A TEAM OF THREE.

PERMISSION *DENIED*.



WHAT? SIR, BARBARELLA'S SUIT IS CURRENTLY DEALING WITH A HEAT LOAD IN THE *MILLIONS* OF DEGREES.

IT CAN'T DO THAT FOR MUCH LONGER. SHE'LL *DIE* IF SHE'S NOT FOUND SOON.

Aroooooo



THERE ARE *POLITICAL* CONSIDERATIONS HERE THAT GO BEYOND THE WELL-BEING OF ONE INDIVIDUAL.

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN FOR BARBARELLA. IN THE MEANTIME, GUIRE, STAND DOWN AND WAIT FOR FURTHER ORDERS.



DON'T SAY A *WORD*, VIX. I'M *PISSED*, TOO.

AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS *LIE*.

LIE. LIE. LIE.