



# COLONUS

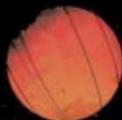
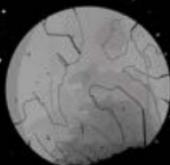
## CHAPTER 1: THE MESSENGER

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY KEN PISANI / ART BY ARTURO LAURIA / LETTERS BY MAGNUS

SHIP IS COMING.

THEY DON'T COME OFTEN.

FIRST OF ALL, UNDER THE BEST CONDITIONS IT'S A HUNDRED MILLION KILOMETERS FROM MARS TO VENUS, AND THREE MONTHS EATING PASTE THROUGH A TUBE.



BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY HAVE TO PASS EARTH, AND NO ONE WANTS TO BE REMINDED OF HOW EARLY WE ██████████ THAT UP.

WHEN IT CAME TIME TO COLONIZE, THE SMART MONEY FLED OUTWARD TO MARS.

THERE WAS WATER, IN THE FORM OF ICE, AND AN ATMOSPHERE, HOWEVER THIN. DESPITE THE COOL, TERRAFORMING WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY.

UNLIKE HERE, VENUS, A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, FURNACE HOT, TOXIC AIR, A PLACE FIT FOR SCUMBAGS.



THE MESSENGER GRIPS MY FOREARM AND I GRIP HIS, A THROWBACK TO THE "HANDSHAKE" GREETING ON OLD EARTH.

REALLY, IT GOES BACK FURTHER THAN THAT— TO A TIME WHEN IT MEANT TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ENEMY HELP NO WEAPON IN HIS HAND.



OUR OWN WEAPONS, FOR NOW, ARE SHEATHED.

We're very impressed with what you've accomplished here, Braxton. **Astonishing**, really, considering what you started with.

I'm sure we're all pleased to hear we **astonish** our friends on Mars.



We were thinking, the time is right for the colonies to commingle.

To our mutual benefit. Share up resources. Open up trade. Invite some of you to set up business on Mars.

And some of you, **here**.

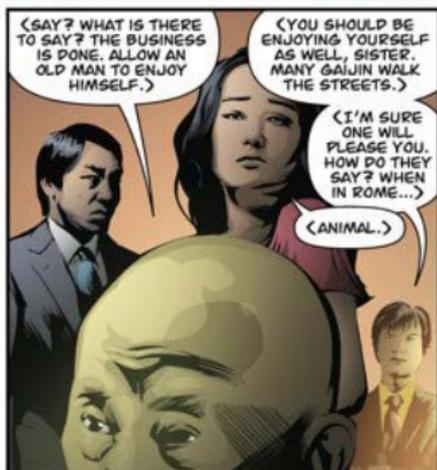
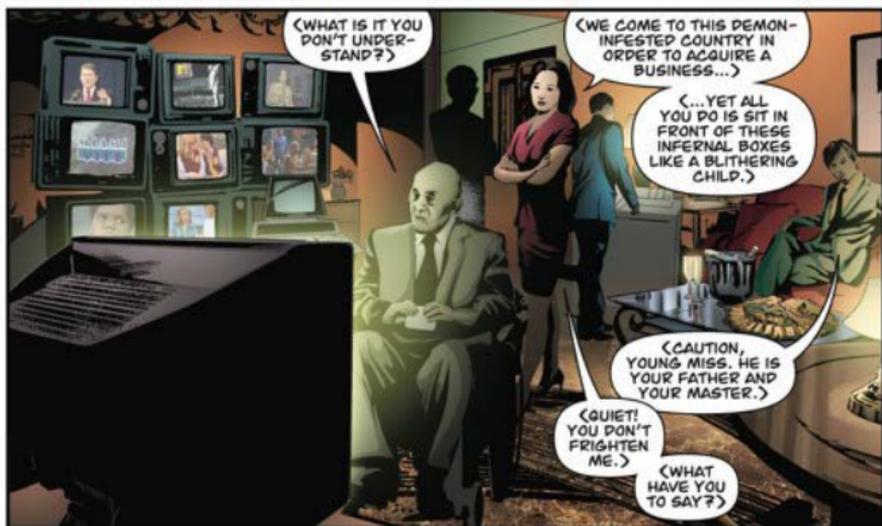
Of course.



I passed them on the way down.

**Astonishing.**





\* TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.



OH... IT'S SO NICE...

YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL THERE'S ANY FLOOD DAMAGE...

YEAH, MY DAD IS REAL PROUD OF THIS ONE...

...SO TRY NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING, OKAY?



YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET MY FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER ANYTHING, IS THAT IT?

I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? THAT WHAT YOU SAYING? YOU KNOW WHO MY DAD IS?



RAINA, I'M GONNA GET YOU THREE PLACES LIKE THIS.

ONE HERE, ONE IN LA, ONE OVERLOOKING THE BEACH IN CABO...

YOU JUST FULL OF PROMISES, AREN'T YOU?



YOU INSPIRE ME TO MAKE OATHS.

OKAY, OKAY! QUIT IT! I'M STARVING.



LET'S EAT FIRST.

'KAY, GLAD WE TURNED ON THE PLUMBING IN THIS PLACE TODAY...

GOTTA LAY ME SOME CABLE...

DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT!

