

# STAR TREK™

# PICARD

# COUNTDOWN



STAR TREK created by Gene Roddenberry

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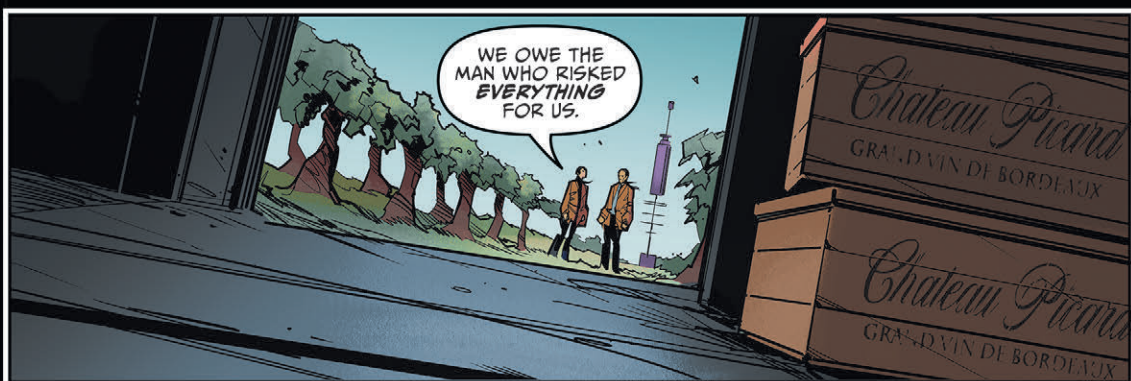
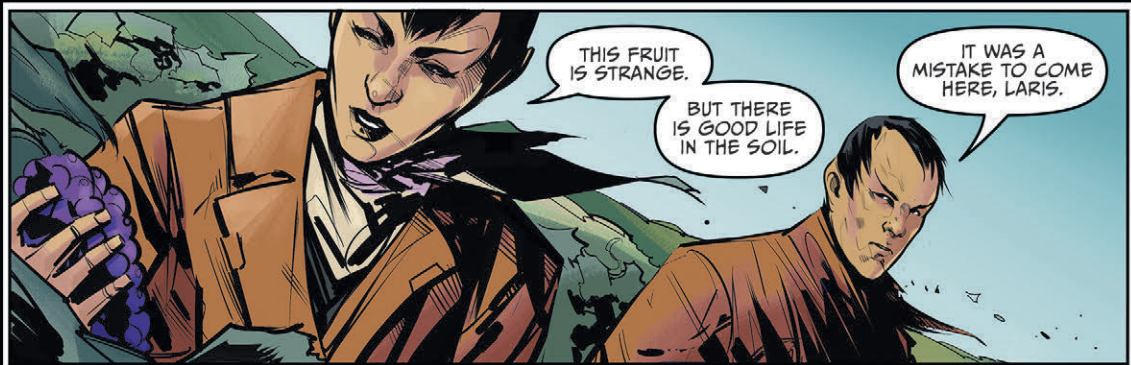
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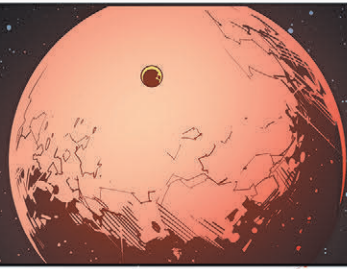
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EARTH.  
2386.

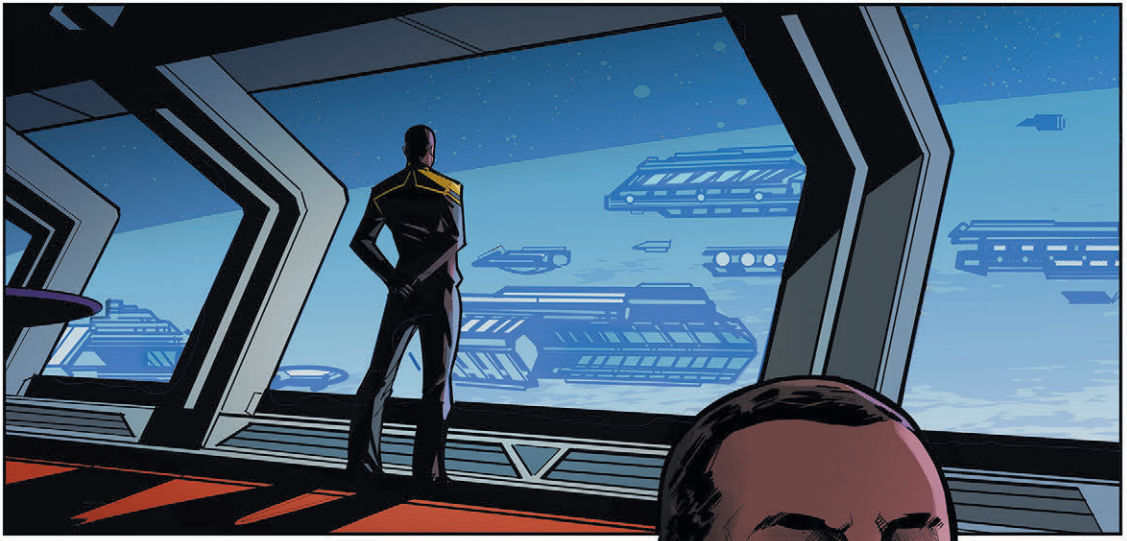
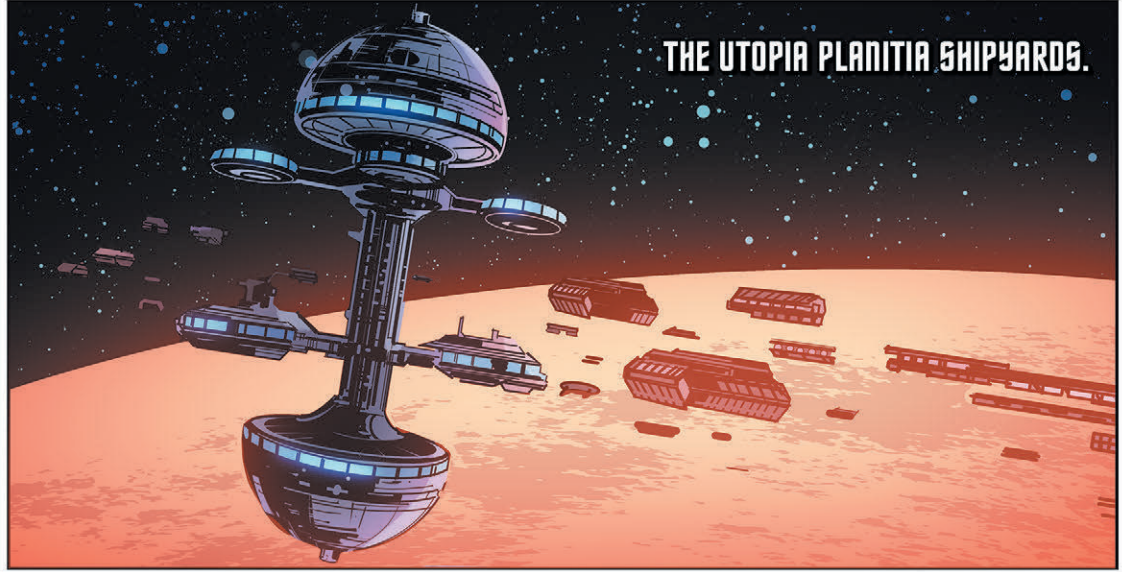


MARS.

ONE YEAR BEFORE.



THE UTOPIA PLANITIA SHIPYARDS.

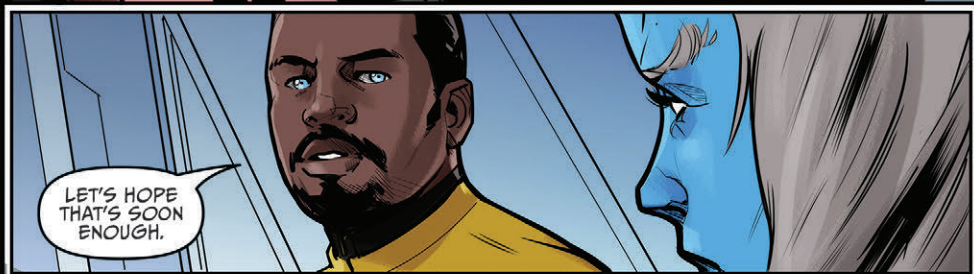




COMMANDER LA FORGE, YOU HAVE AN INCOMING COMMUNICATION FROM THE VERITY.

THEY'LL WANT THE LATEST. WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

THE FIRST WAVE IS *AHEAD* OF SCHEDULE. THEY'LL BE ON THEIR WAY TO ROMULAN SPACE BY THE END OF THE MONTH.



LET'S HOPE THAT'S SOON ENOUGH.



ONSCREEN.



COMMANDER LA FORGE.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.

GOOD TO SEE YOURS, TOO...

...ADMIRAL.

HOW'S LIFE  
IN ROMULAN  
SPACE?

EVENTFUL.

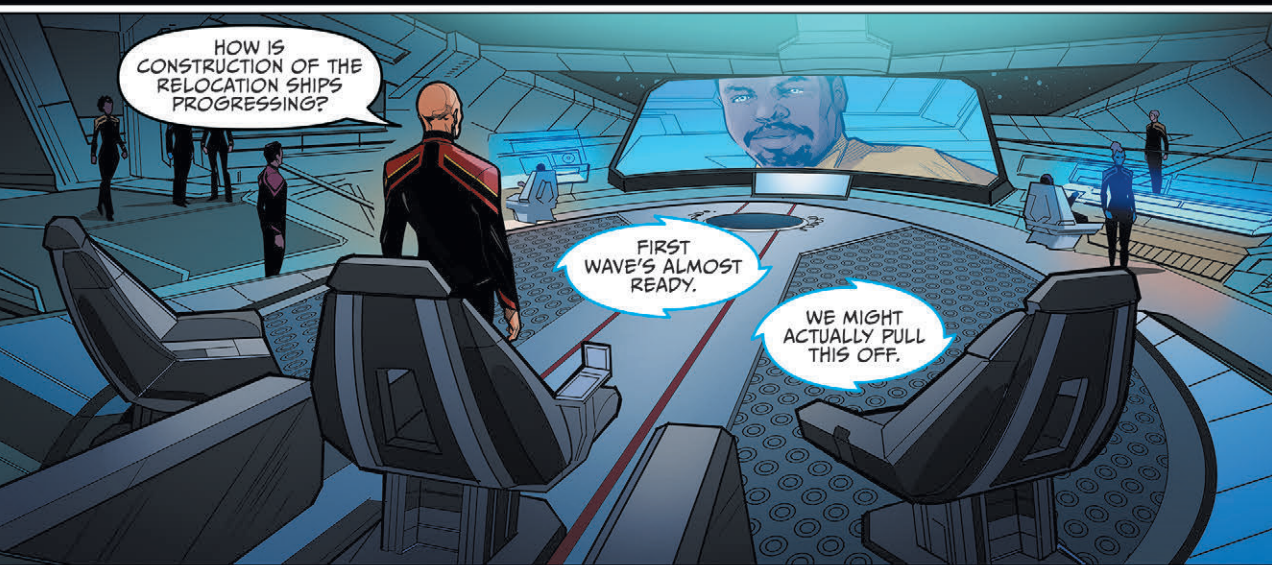
FORTUNATELY,  
THE SENATE HAS  
YET TO BAN ME  
ALTOGETHER.

I'M PLEASED  
TO SAY THAT THE  
STAGE IS SET.

OUR MISSION  
ENTERS A CRITICAL  
PHASE.

THE SURVIVAL  
OF THE ROMULAN  
PEOPLE IS IN  
OUR HANDS.





HOW IS CONSTRUCTION OF THE RELOCATION SHIPS PROGRESSING?

FIRST WAVE'S ALMOST READY.

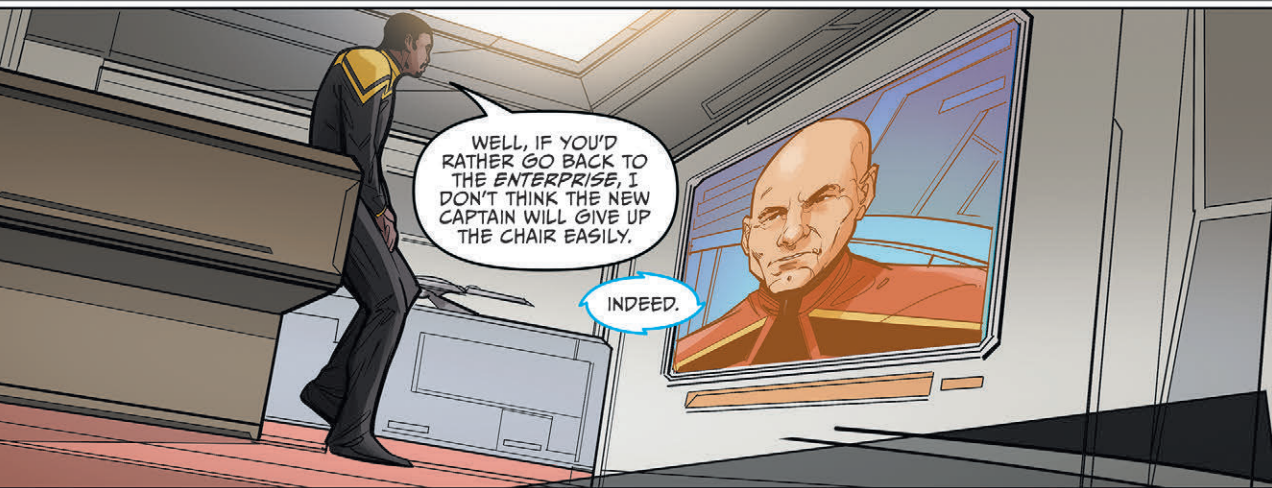
WE MIGHT ACTUALLY PULL THIS OFF.



IF ONLY WE KNEW JUST HOW MUCH TIME WE HAD, GEORDI.

THE BEST ESTIMATES TELL US THE ROMULAN SUPERNOVA IS STILL A YEAR AWAY, AT MINIMUM.

BUT IT STILL FEELS LIKE RACING A CLOCK WE CAN'T SEE.



WELL, IF YOU'D RATHER GO BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE, I DON'T THINK THE NEW CAPTAIN WILL GIVE UP THE CHAIR EASILY.

INDEED.



BUT I TAKE COMFORT THAT THE ENTERPRISE IS IN GOOD HANDS. THAT WILL AND DEANNA ARE ABOARD THE TITAN.

AND THAT YOU ARE PRECISELY WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.

AS FOR A SHIP OF MY OWN...

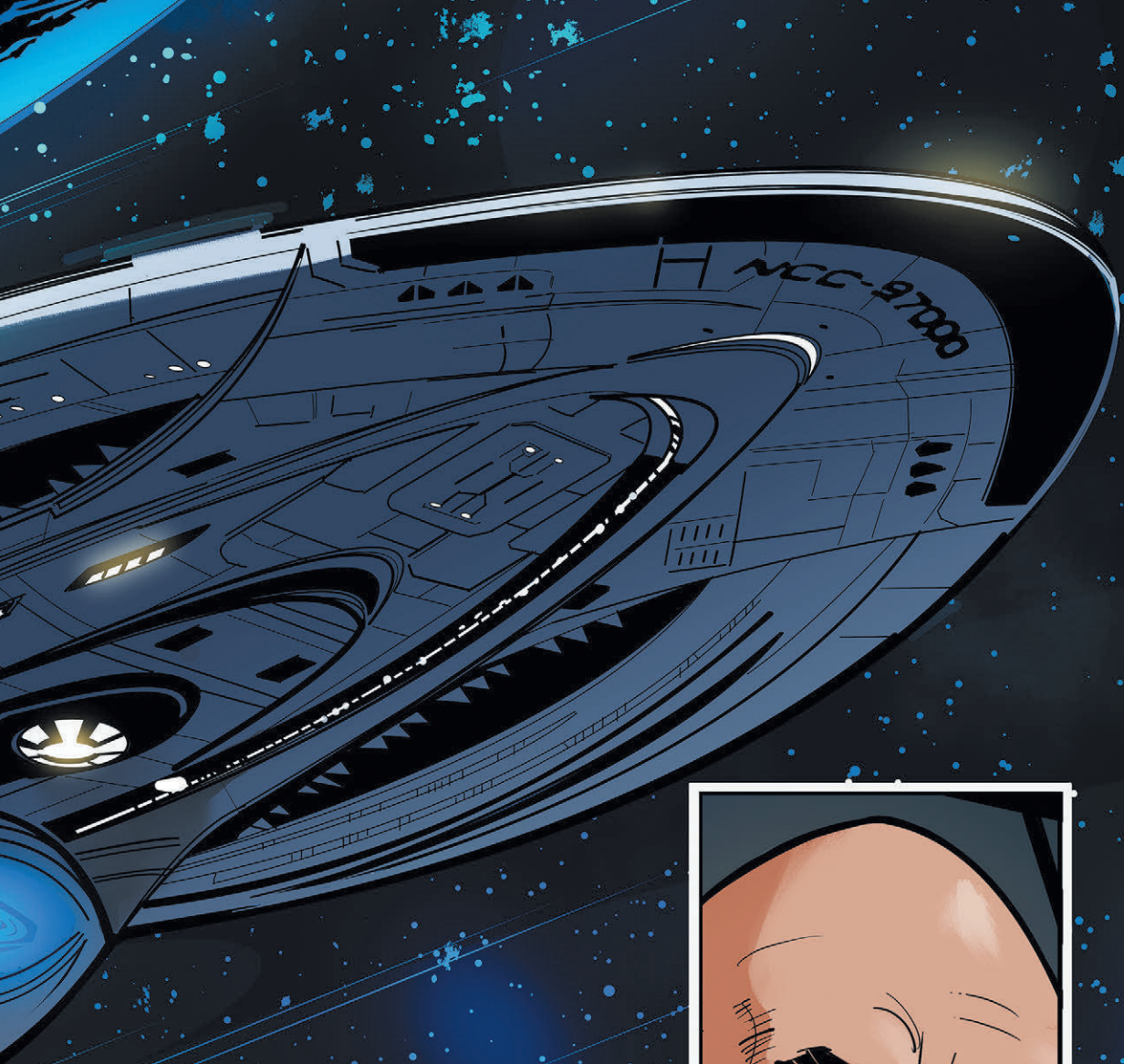


"...I'M QUITE CONTENT,  
I ASSURE YOU."

ADMIRAL'S LOG,  
SUPPLEMENTAL.

AS IT HAS BEEN FOR DECADES,  
THE VOICE OF GEORDI LA FORGE  
IS A BALM FOR THE SOUL.

THERE IS NO BETTER OFFICER--NO  
BETTER **ENGINEER**--THAT STARFLEET  
COULD ENTRUST WITH THE TASK OF  
CONSTRUCTING AN ENTIRELY NEW  
FLEET IN RECORD TIME.



I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO BE THERE TO SEE THE NEW SHIPS COMING OFF THE LINE.

BUT MY WORK IS HERE, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NEUTRAL ZONE, ENSURING THAT THE RESETTLEMENTS ALREADY UNDERWAY PROCEED SMOOTHLY.



THE UNSEEN CLOCK IS TICKING.

IT'S A WONDER WE KNOW ABOUT THE IMPENDING SUPERNOVA AT ALL.

IN TYPICAL ROMULAN FASHION, THEY PRIZED **SECRECY** ABOVE ALL ELSE.

THEY ADMITTED THE TRUTH, BUT ONLY AFTER WE PRESENTED THEM WITH OUR OWN INTERCEPTS OF THEIR COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE CRISIS.

ACCEPTING STARFLEET'S HELP TO RELOCATE THEIR THREATENED POPULATIONS WAS HARDLY A GIVEN.

FOUR YEARS LATER AND SEVERAL ENDANGERED WORLDS EVACUATED, I'M STILL NOT SURE THE ROMULANS TRUST US, OR EVER WILL.

BUT ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE **MISSION**.



ANY SUCCESS WE'VE HAD THUS FAR, I CREDIT TO LEAVING OLD PREJUDICES BEHIND...

COME.

REET  
REET

...AND TO THE EFFORTS OF MY MOST CAPABLE FIRST OFFICER, *LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RAFFI MUSIKER*.

CHANGE OF PLANS, JL!

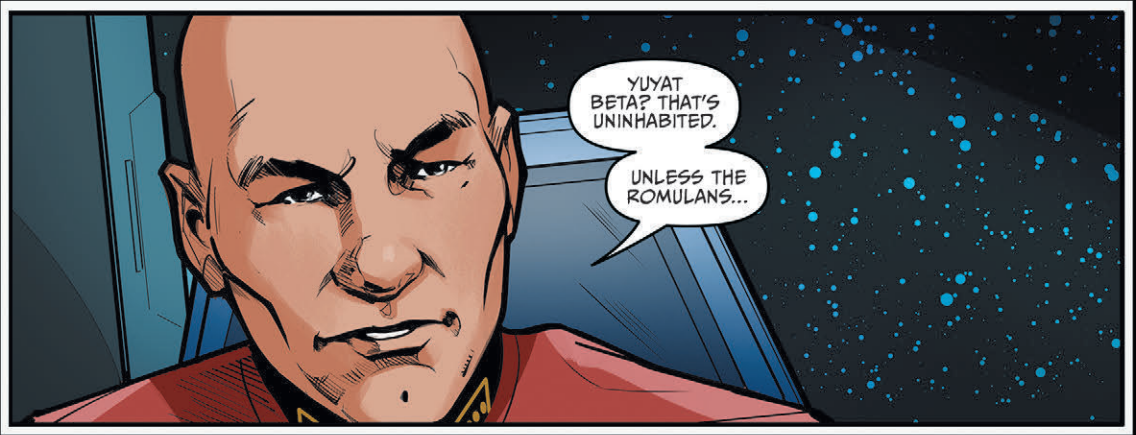
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO CALL ME "ADMIRAL" AGAIN, ARE YOU?

FORMALITY IS THE ENEMY OF EFFICIENCY. ALSO, I KNOW YOU ENJOY IT.

DEBATABLE. CONTINUE.

HOME OFFICE WANTS US TO DIVERT TO *YUYAT BETA*, A ROMULAN COLONY AT THE EDGE OF THE BLAST ZONE.

JUST OVER TEN THOUSAND EVACUEES WAITING FOR A RIDE.



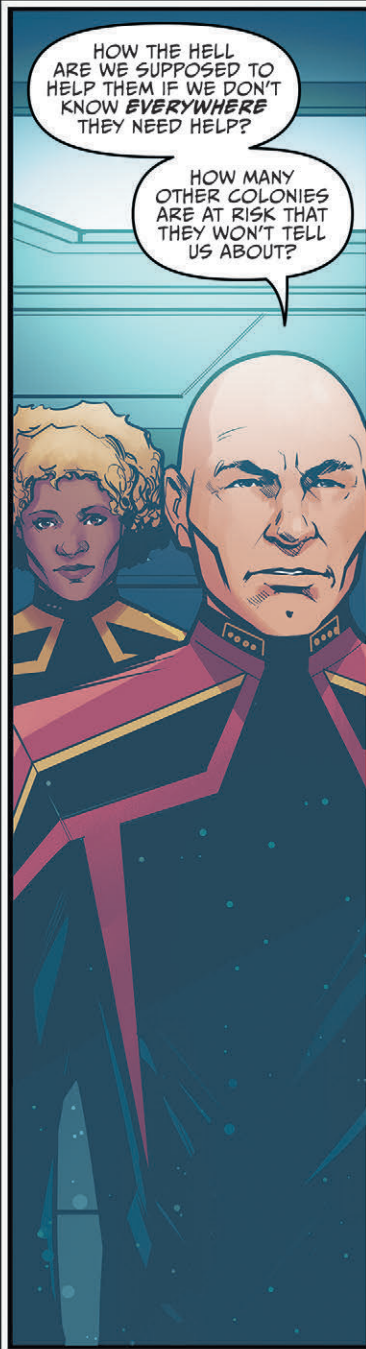
YUYAT BETA? THAT'S UNINHABITED.

UNLESS THE ROMULANS...



EXACTLY. THEY WANTED US TO *THINK* SO. THEY'RE PARANOID ENOUGH THAT WE'RE USING THIS RELOCATION EFFORT AS A RUSE TO SPY ON THEM.

WE KNOW PRECIOUS LITTLE ABOUT MOST OF THE WORLDS IN THEIR EMPIRE. THEY AIM TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, CATASTROPHIC SUPERNOVA OR NOT.



HOW THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO HELP THEM IF WE DON'T KNOW *EVERYWHERE* THEY NEED HELP?

HOW MANY OTHER COLONIES ARE AT RISK THAT THEY WON'T TELL US ABOUT?



SAY IT WITH ME, JL...

...*ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING* AT A TIME.

## YUYAT BETA.

ADMIRAL'S LOG,  
SUPPLEMENTAL.

I'VE COME TO ACCEPT  
CERTAIN REALITIES OF  
DEALING WITH THE  
ROMULANS.

LIKE THE FACT THAT SCANS  
OF THEIR PLANETS ARE  
FORBIDDEN.

EVEN IF WE TRIED, WE WOULD  
FIND OUR SCANS JAMMED BY  
THEIR COUNTERMEASURES ON  
THE SURFACE.

SECRETS WITHIN SECRETS,  
SCHEMES WITHIN SCHEMES.

WE MUST SIMPLY  
EMBRACE OUR ROLE  
AS HUMBLE GUESTS.





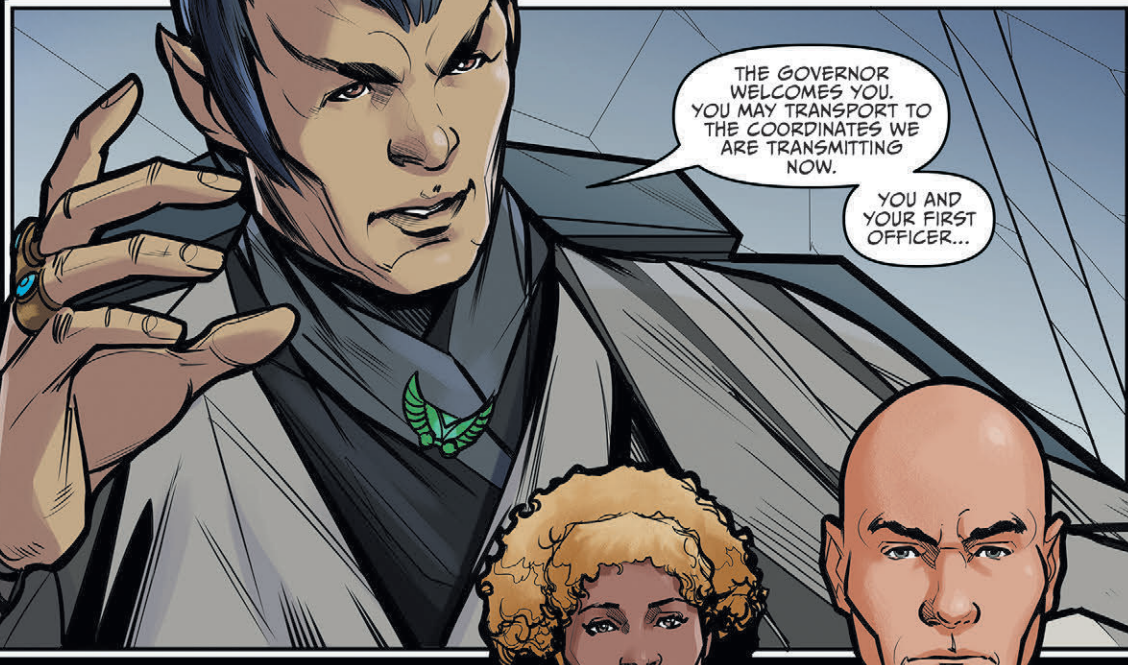
GREETINGS,  
I AM **ATHUS**,  
MAJOR-DOMUS TO  
THE GOVERNOR OF  
YUYAT BETA.



AND I AM  
ADMIRAL JEAN-LUC  
PICARD OF THE  
*U.S.S. VERITY*.

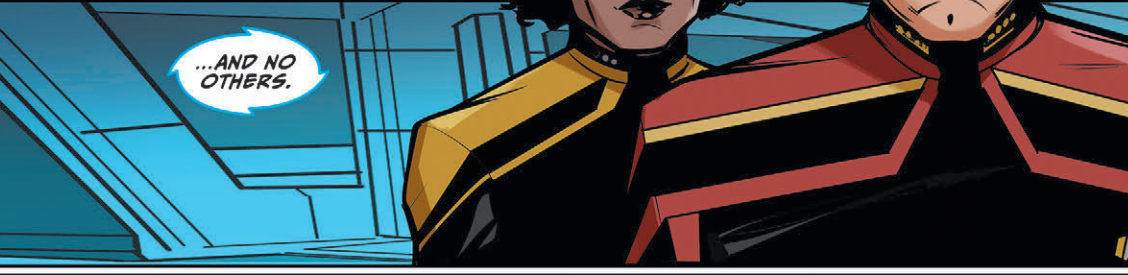
WE ARE  
HERE TO ASSIST IN  
EVACUATING YOUR  
COLONY.

I REQUEST A  
MEETING WITH THE  
GOVERNOR SO THAT  
MY FIRST OFFICER  
AND I MIGHT PLAN THE  
LOGISTICS OF THE  
OPERATION.

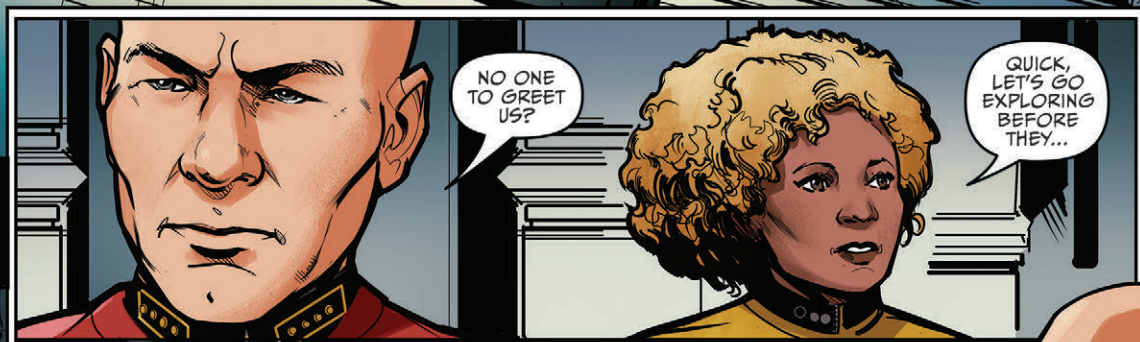
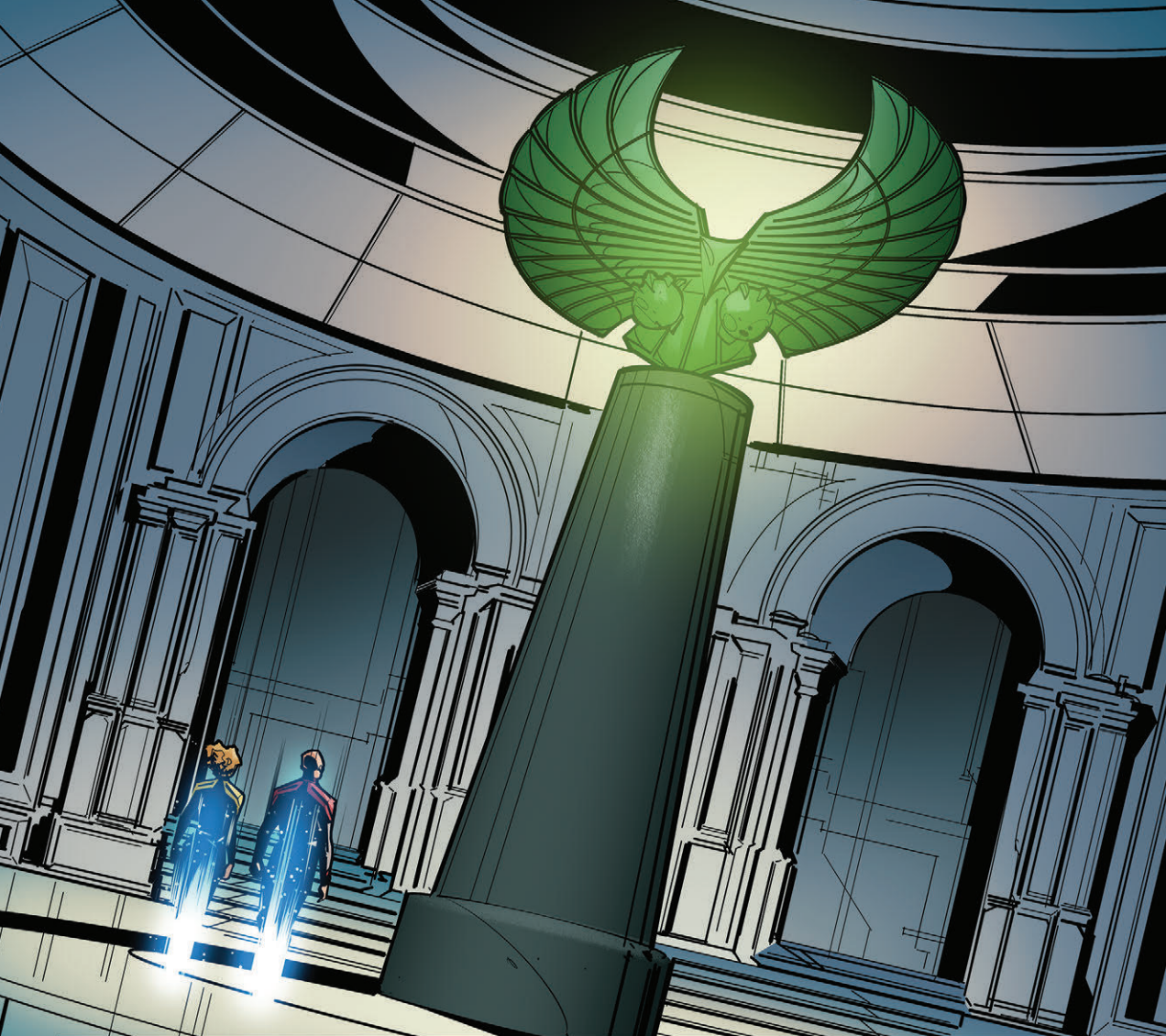


THE GOVERNOR  
WELCOMES YOU.  
YOU MAY TRANSPORT TO  
THE COORDINATES WE  
ARE TRANSMITTING  
NOW.

YOU AND  
YOUR FIRST  
OFFICER...



...AND NO  
OTHERS.





WITH US.

CERTAINLY.



A HIDDEN DOORWAY.  
OF COURSE.



NEVER A STRAIGHT LINE  
TO YOUR DESTINATION  
IN A ROMULAN EDIFICE.

THE BETTER TO OBFUSCATE.  
TO CONFUSE. TO PROTECT  
SECRETS.



RAFFI KNOWS  
THIS WELL.

AS STARFLEET'S FOREMOST  
ANALYST ON ROMULAN AFFAIRS,  
SHE WAS A NATURAL CHOICE  
TO ASSIST ME.



AND SHE WILL NOT  
BE FAZED BY THEIR  
ATTEMPTS TO  
INTIMIDATE US.



WELCOME, ADMIRAL.



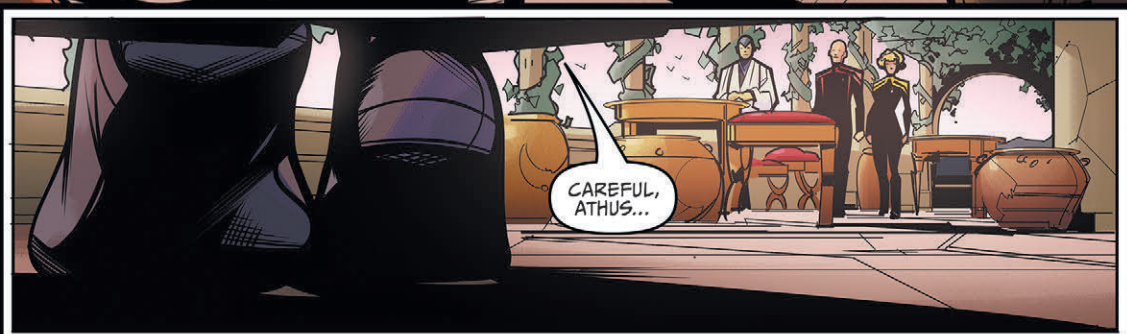
MAY YOUR VISIT PROVE TO BE A MOST SUCCESSFUL ONE.

THIS IS...  
...UNEXPECTED.

PROVIDING YOU WITH AN UNENCUMBERED VIEW OF THE COLONY?

NOT CONFINING OUR NEGOTIATIONS TO SOME SMALL, SECRET CHAMBER?

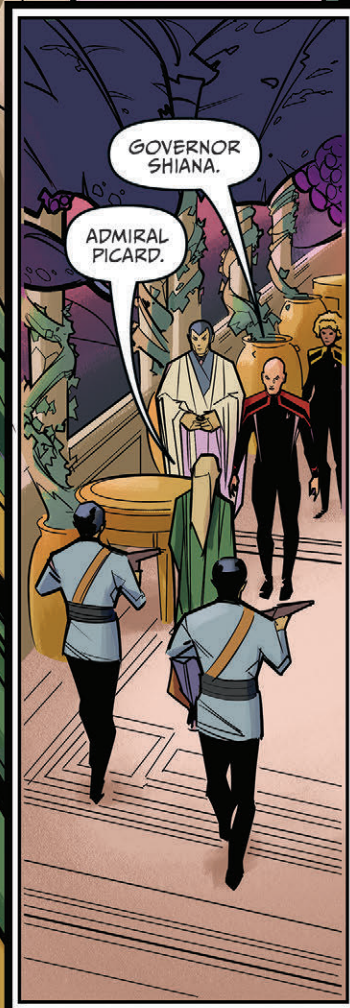
YOU WILL FIND THAT HERE ON YUYAT, WE TAKE CERTAIN LIBERTIES WITH TRADITION.



CAREFUL, ATHUS...

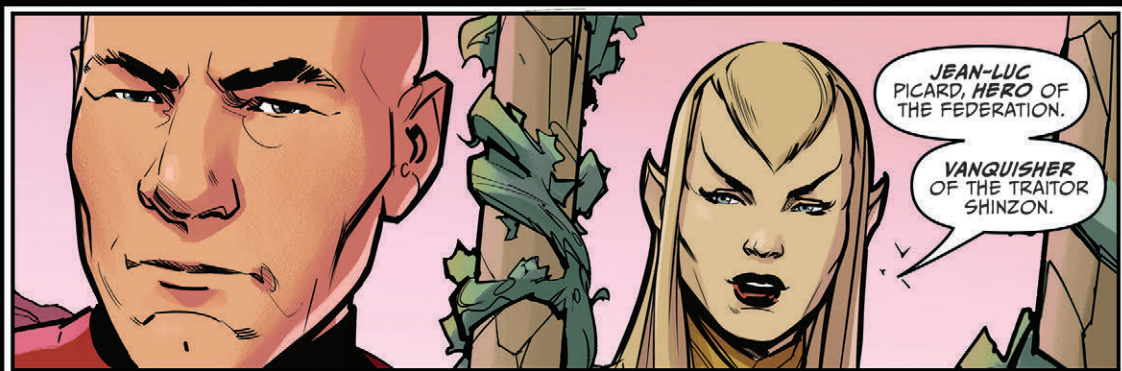


...OR  
THEY'LL THINK  
WE CAN'T BE  
TRUSTED.



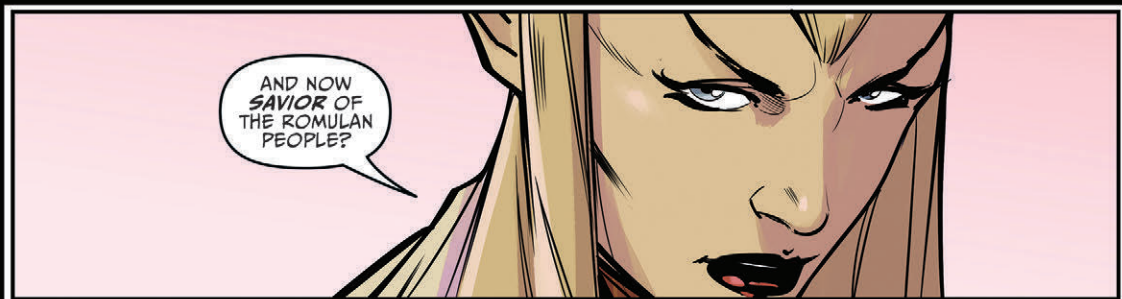
GOVERNOR  
SHIANA.

ADMIRAL  
PICARD.

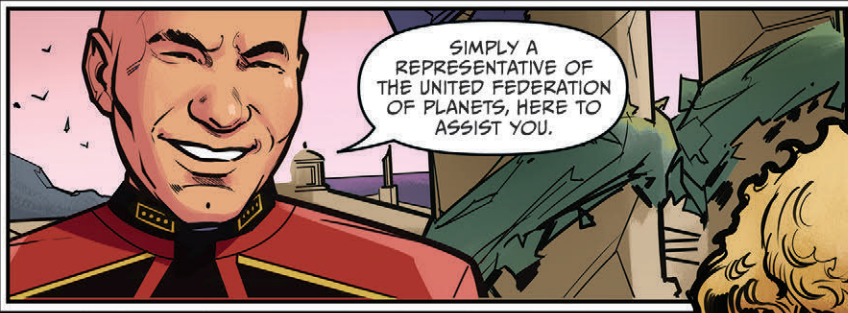


JEAN-LUC  
PICARD, HERO OF  
THE FEDERATION.

VANQUISHER  
OF THE TRAITOR  
SHINZON.



AND NOW  
SAVIOR OF  
THE ROMULAN  
PEOPLE?



SIMPLY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS, HERE TO ASSIST YOU.



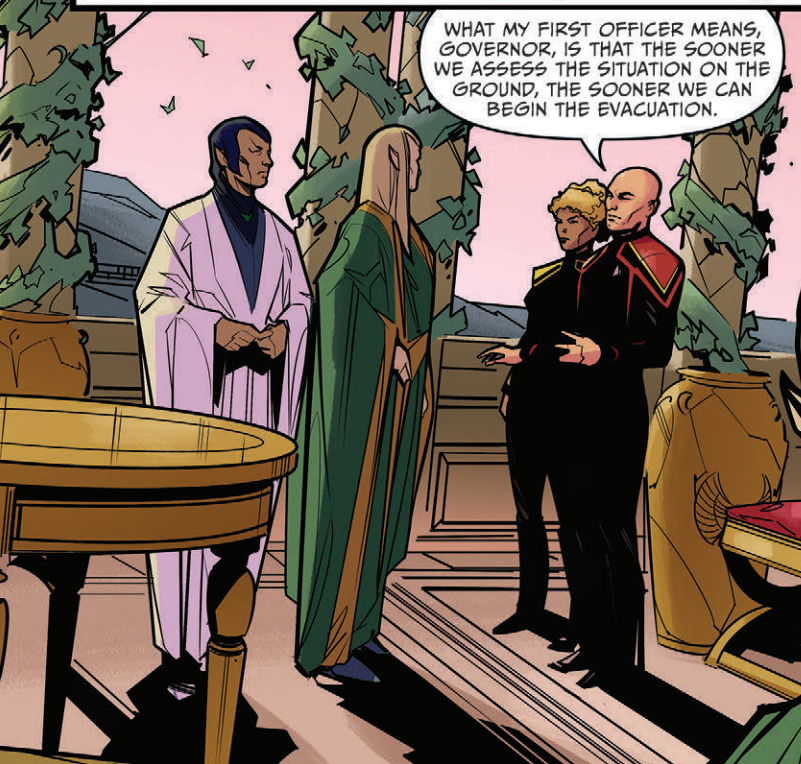
I HAVE NEVER MET A HUMAN BEFORE.

SUCH A CURIOUS SPECIES.



WE HAVE OUR MOMENTS.

WHAT WE DON'T HAVE IS TIME, SO...



WHAT MY FIRST OFFICER MEANS, GOVERNOR, IS THAT THE SOONER WE ASSESS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND, THE SOONER WE CAN BEGIN THE EVACUATION.



OF COURSE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE SENATE MANDATES THAT AFFECTED COLONIES ONLY PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION YOU NEED.

YOUR MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE COLONIES ARE RESTRICTED, YOUR INTERACTION WITH THE POPULACE LIMITED.



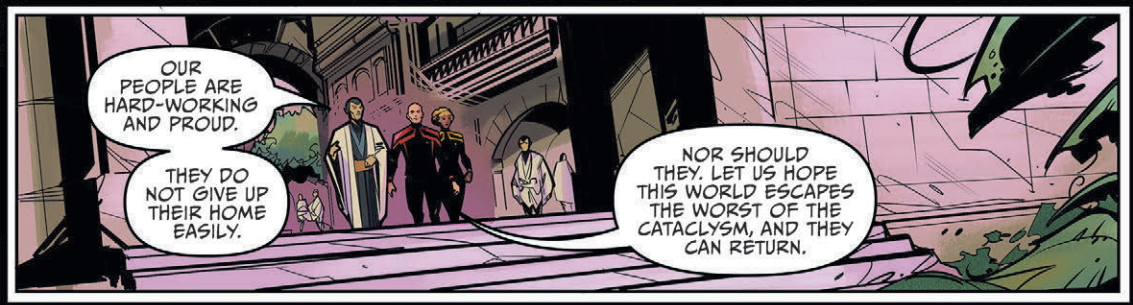
BUT AS ATHUS INTIMATED, HERE ON YUYAT WE ARE NOT AS CONSTRAINED AS THE SENATE WOULD HAVE US BE.

GO WHERE YOU NEED. SPEAK TO WHOMEVER YOU WISH.

"THE BETTER TO ENSURE YOUR SUCCESS."



WE ARE BUT A SMALL AGRICULTURAL COLONY, BUT OUR EXPORTS DWARF THOSE OF MUCH LARGER IMPERIAL WORLDS.



OUR PEOPLE ARE HARD-WORKING AND PROUD.

THEY DO NOT GIVE UP THEIR HOME EASILY.

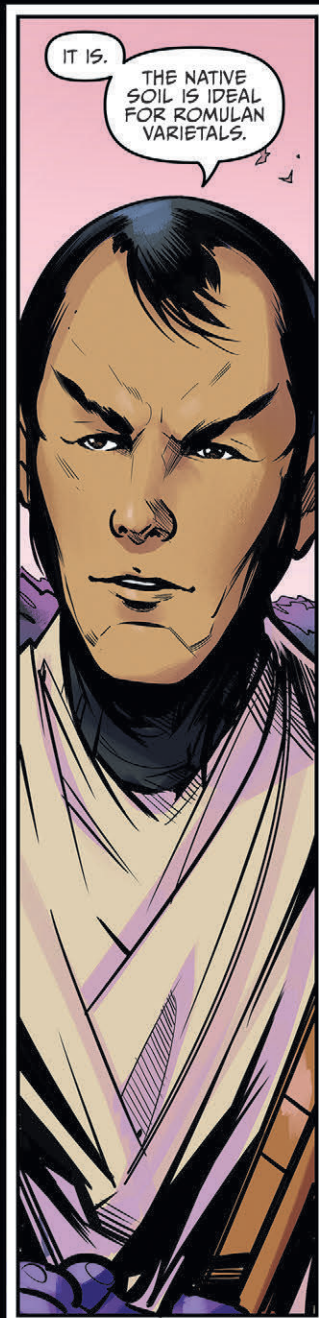
NOR SHOULD THEY. LET US HOPE THIS WORLD ESCAPES THE WORST OF THE CATAclySM, AND THEY CAN RETURN.



HOW BEAUTIFUL...



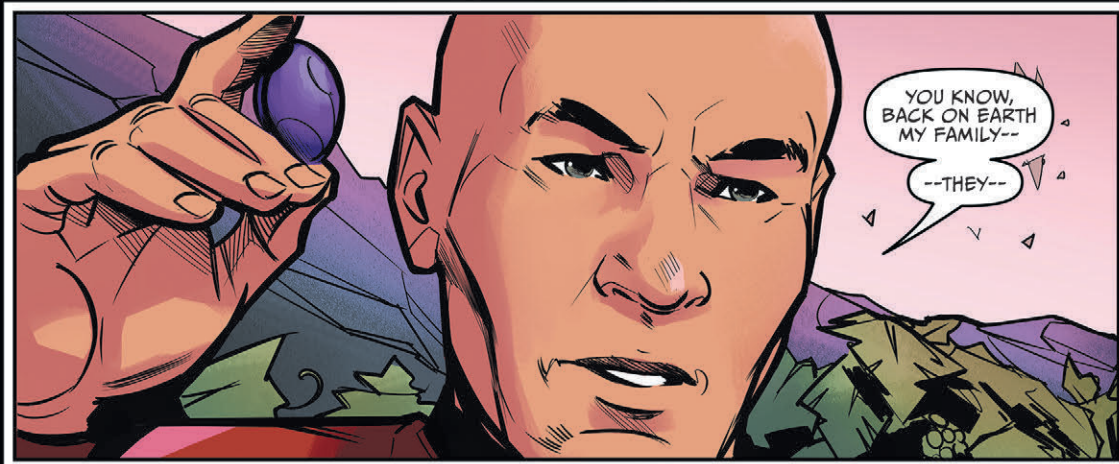
PARDON ME.  
THIS LOOKS LIKE A VINEYARD...



IT IS.  
THE NATIVE SOIL IS IDEAL FOR ROMULAN VARIETALS.



MAY I...?  
HOW WONDERFUL.

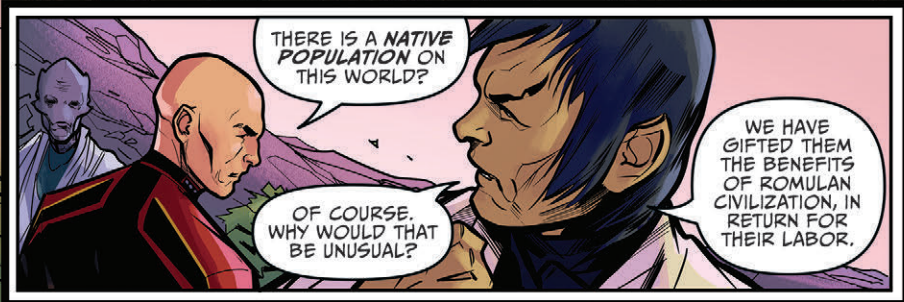


YOU KNOW, BACK ON EARTH MY FAMILY--  
--THEY--



WHO ARE THESE...?

MY NATIVE HELPERS, I'KAL AND I'JAV.



THERE IS A NATIVE POPULATION ON THIS WORLD?

OF COURSE. WHY WOULD THAT BE UNUSUAL?

WE HAVE GIFTED THEM THE BENEFITS OF ROMULAN CIVILIZATION, IN RETURN FOR THEIR LABOR.



SOUNDS LIKE FORCED LABOR.

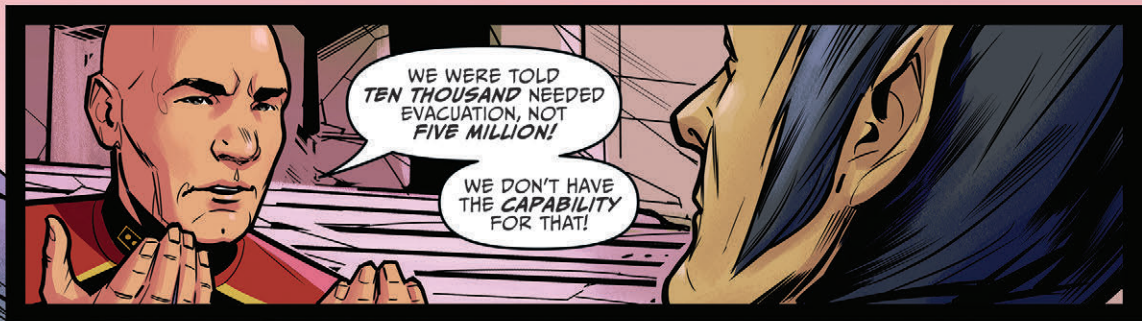
HOW MANY ARE THERE?



ACROSS THE PLANET? FOUR, POSSIBLY FIVE MILLION.

MOST LIVE IN THE WILDERNESS, FAR FROM THE COLONY ITSELF.

PRIMITIVES.



WE WERE TOLD  
TEN THOUSAND NEEDED  
EVACUATION, NOT  
FIVE MILLION!

WE DON'T HAVE  
THE CAPABILITY  
FOR THAT!



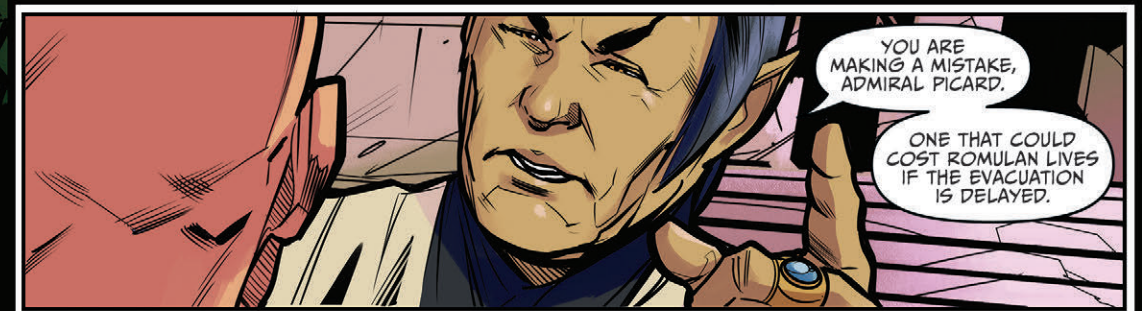
AND YOU  
DON'T NEED IT.  
AS I SAID, THE  
NATIVES ARE A  
PRIMITIVE  
RACE.

EVACUATING  
THEM WOULD BE  
AS RIDICULOUS AS  
EVACUATING THE  
ROCKS AND  
TREES.



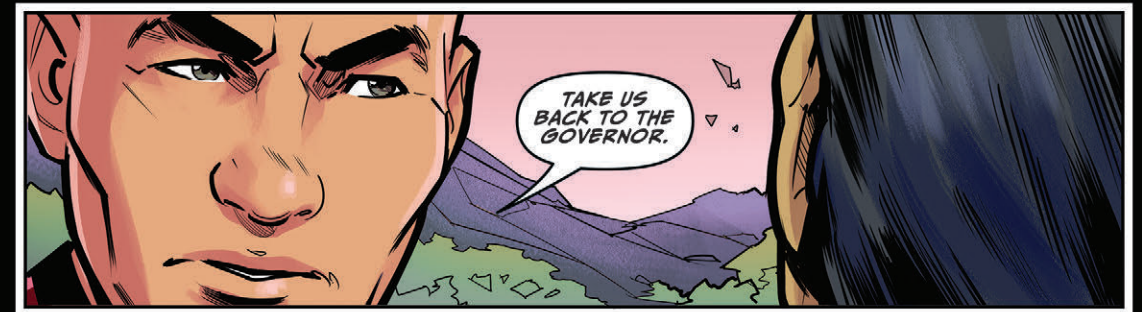
THESE ARE  
SENTIENT  
BEINGS.

OUR MISSION IS  
NOT SIMPLY TO SAVE  
ROMULANS. IT'S TO  
SAVE EVERY ADVANCED  
LIFE FORM WE CAN!



YOU ARE  
MAKING A MISTAKE,  
ADMIRAL PICARD.

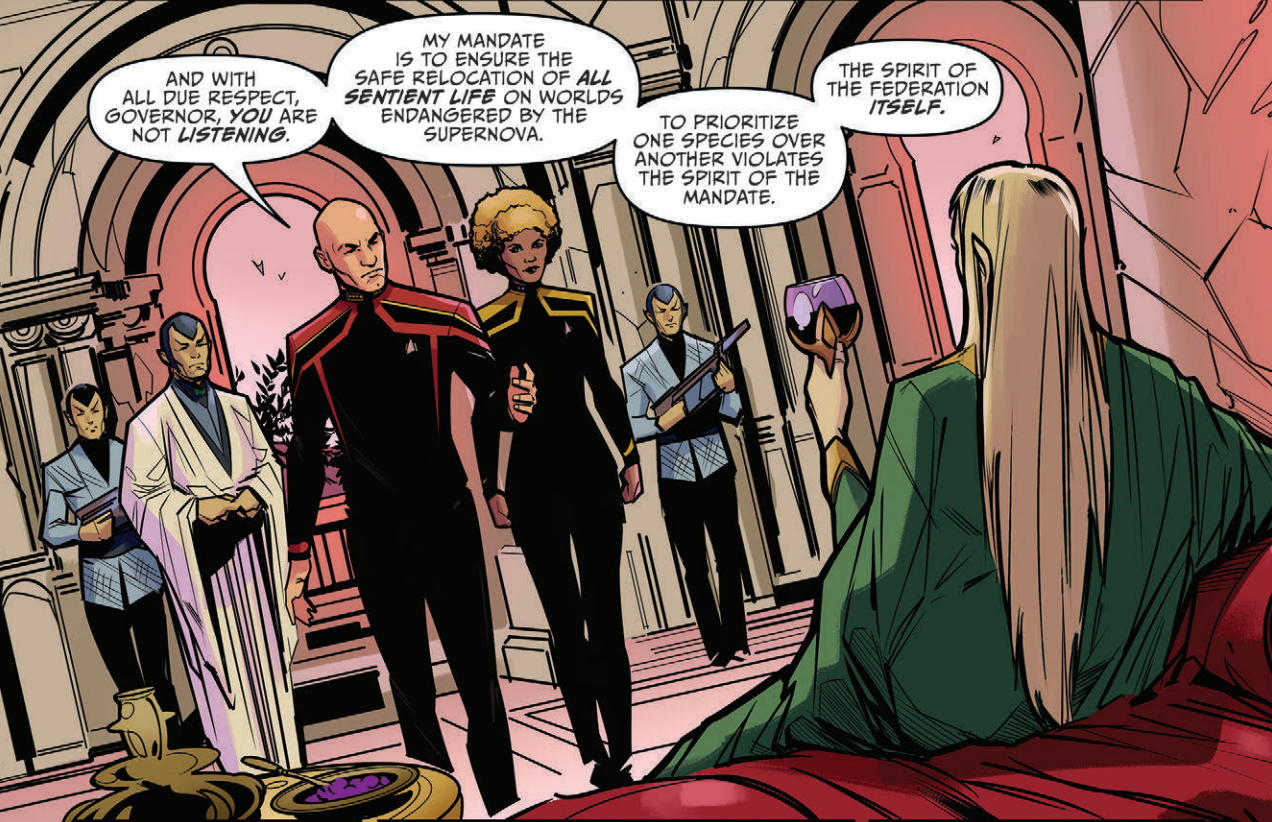
ONE THAT COULD  
COST ROMULAN LIVES  
IF THE EVACUATION  
IS DELAYED.



TAKE US  
BACK TO THE  
GOVERNOR.



YOU'RE OVERREACTING.



AND WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, GOVERNOR, YOU ARE NOT LISTENING.

MY MANDATE IS TO ENSURE THE SAFE RELOCATION OF ALL SENTIENT LIFE ON WORLDS ENDANGERED BY THE SUPERNOVA.

TO PRIORITIZE ONE SPECIES OVER ANOTHER VIOLATES THE SPIRIT OF THE MANDATE.

THE SPIRIT OF THE FEDERATION ITSELF.

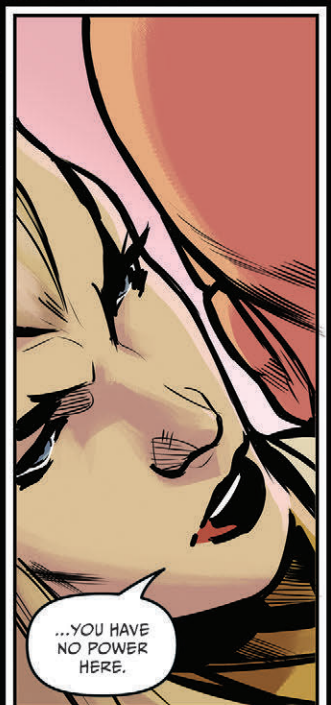


YOU ARE HERE BY THE GRACE OF THE ROMULAN SENATE.

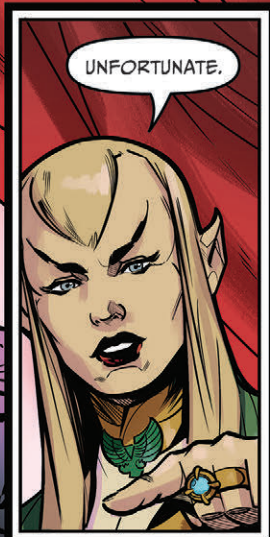
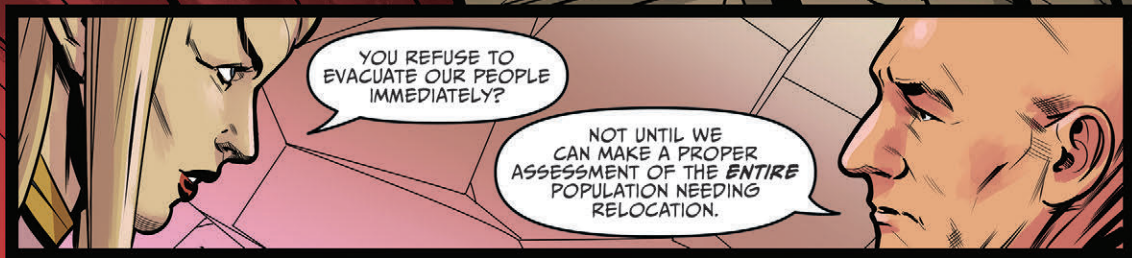


GRANTED SAFE PASSAGE AND UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS THANKS TO ITS COURTESY.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE...



...YOU HAVE NO POWER HERE.





I AM A FOOL.

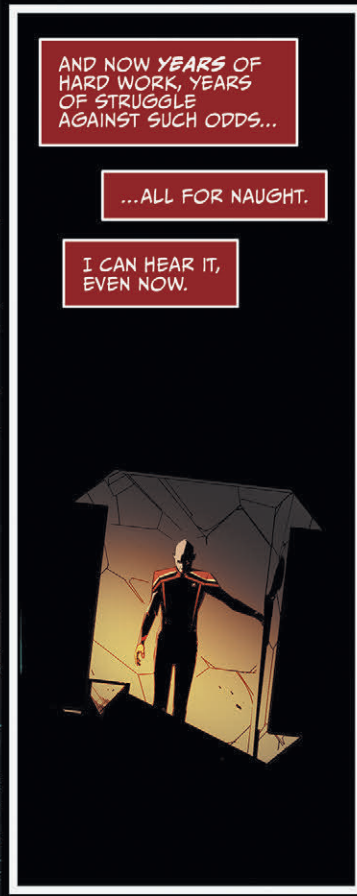
SO TRUSTING.



IN THE REDEMPTION  
OF AN OLD ENEMY.

IN MY OWN ABILITIES.

IN THE *RIGHTEOUSNESS*  
OF MY CAUSE.



AND NOW *YEARS* OF  
HARD WORK, YEARS  
OF STRUGGLE  
AGAINST SUCH ODDS...

...ALL FOR NAUGHT.

I CAN HEAR IT,  
EVEN NOW.



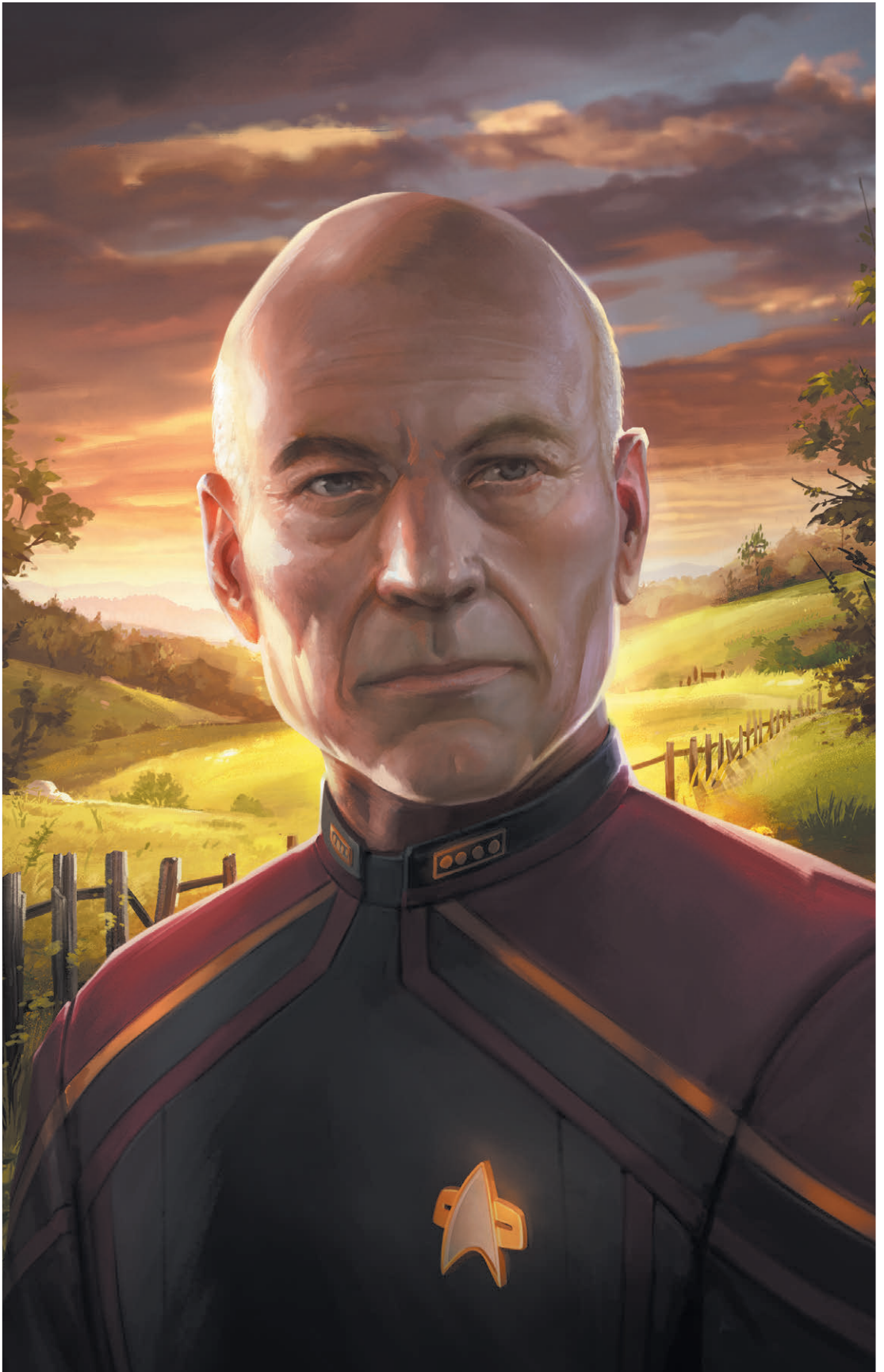
THE UNSEEN CLOCK.

TICKING.

*TO BE CONTINUED...*







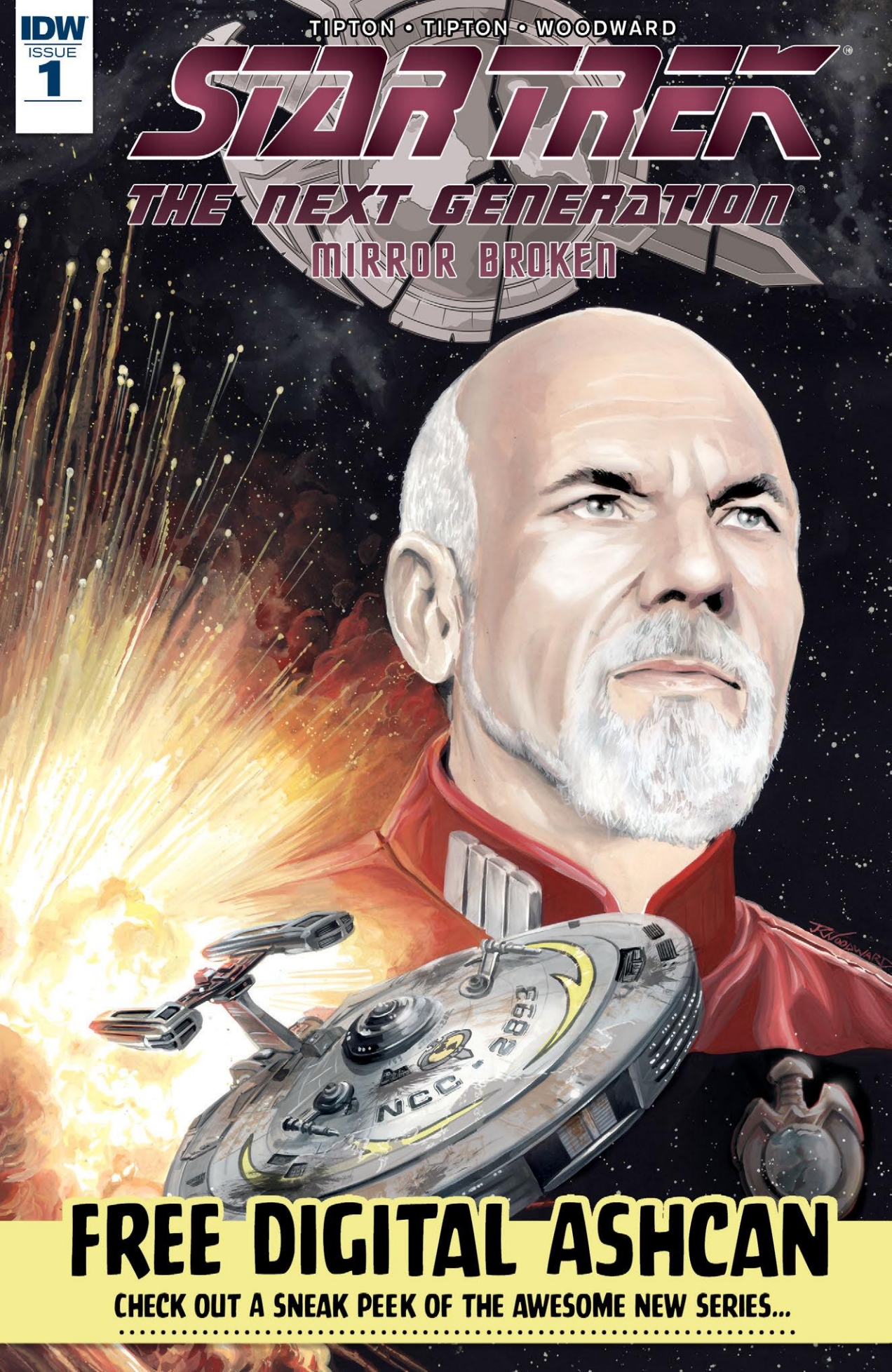
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TIPTON • TIPTON • WOODWARD

# STAR TREK

## THE NEXT GENERATION

### MIRROR BROKEN



# FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

CHECK OUT A SNEAK PEEK OF THE AWESOME NEW SERIES...

.....

# STAR TREK

## THE NEXT GENERATION

### MIRROR BROKEN



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THERE IS THE REALITY YOU KNOW.  
AND, ON ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL PLANE, THERE  
EXISTS A DARK, TWISTED REFLECTION OF  
THAT UNIVERSE. SO FAMILIAR, AND YET SO  
DIFFERENT. AN EMPIRE IN PLACE OF A FEDERATION,  
WHERE PROFIT AND POWER TAKE PRECEDENCE  
OVER PEACE AND EXPLORATION...



...BUT THE NATURAL COURSE OF THE EMPIRE  
WAS CHANGED BY THE INTERFERENCE OF AN  
INTERDIMENSIONAL INTRUDER, WHO CONVINCED A  
VULCAN IMPERIAL OFFICER THAT THE EMPIRE  
COULD NOT SUSTAIN ITSELF, AND GAVE HIM THE  
MEANS TO RISE TO POWER. UNDER SPOCK'S  
LOGICAL COMMAND, THE EMPIRE ENTERED AN AGE  
OF REFORM, ENACTING PEACEFUL INITIATIVES:  
DISARMAMENT, DIPLOMACY, COMPROMISE.



BUT SPOCK'S "ENLIGHTENED" EMPIRE WAS  
NO MATCH FOR THE KLINGON-CARDASSIAN  
ALLIANCE, WHICH OVERRAN THE EMPIRE,  
DESTROYED ITS FLEET, AND DROVE IT  
COWERING BACK TO EARTH, WITH RUMORS  
SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE ALPHA  
QUADRANT OF THE EMPIRE'S FINAL DEMISE.



BUT THE RUMORS ARE UNTRUE. A HANDFUL  
OF IMPERIAL SHIPS STILL REMAIN, INTENT  
ON PROTECTING EARTH AND WHAT'S LEFT  
OF THE EMPIRE. AND COMMANDING ONE  
OF THOSE SHIPS IS A MAN EQUALLY  
INTENT ON SEEING IT RISE AGAIN....

*I.S.S. STARGAZER.  
COMMAND: CAPTAIN  
JEAN-LUC PICARD*

PATIENCE. IF I HAVE  
LEARNED ANYTHING IN  
THIS LIFE, IT IS THIS. THE  
VALUE OF PATIENCE.



NOT COMPLACENCY.  
NOT INACTIVITY.  
PATIENCE.

EVERY MOVE MUST  
BE CONSIDERED,  
EVERY CONTINGENCY  
PLANNED FOR.

ONLY THEN  
IS ONE TRULY  
PREPARED  
TO ACT.

THEN, SO PREPARED,  
ONE MUST MERELY  
REMAIN CALM, AND WAIT  
FOR A MISTAKE...

...AN OPPORTUNITY.  
AND THEN...



...CHECKMATE.



CAPTAIN TO  
THE BRIDGE,  
PLEASE. CAPTAIN  
NEEDED ON THE  
BRIDGE.



CAPTAIN!

AH, GOOD MORNING, INQUISITOR. COME, WALK WITH ME.



SO, REPORT: WHAT DO YOU FEEL FROM THE CREW?

THE USUAL, CAPTAIN. DISCONTENT. DISILLUSIONMENT. SUSPICION.



IT'S NO SECRET HOW POORLY THE WAR HAS GONE. THE KLINGONS AND CARDASSIANS HAVE CORRALLED THE EMPIRE BACK TO THE LIMITS OF OUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM.

AND WITH OUR MISSION STRICTLY TO PATROL OUR OWN BORDERS, INSTEAD OF TAKING THE WAR TO THEM...WELL, SPIRITS ARE LOW.

THE ONLY THING PROVIDING ANY HOPE AT ALL ARE THE RUMORS STILL SWIRLING ROUND ABOUT SOME AMAZING NEW WARSHIP BEING DEVELOPED BY THE IMPERIAL STARFLEET.

RIDICULOUS. IF THAT WERE TRUE, MY SOURCES WOULD HAVE INFORMED ME.



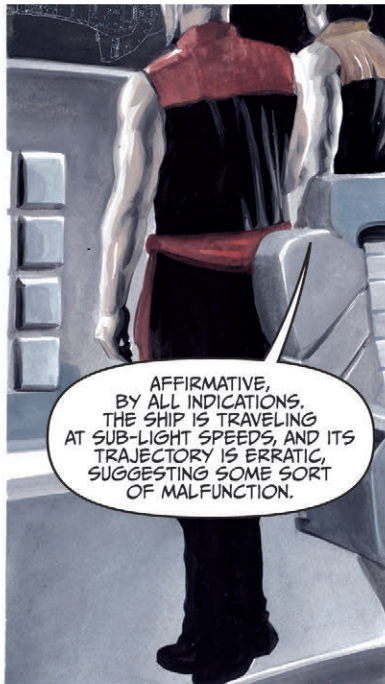
THIS ISN'T JUST RAMPANT PARANOIA AND DESPERATION, CAPTAIN. I'M SENSING GENUINE FAITH FROM SOME OF THE CREW. SOME OF THESE PEOPLE KNOW SOMETHING.

SO THEN YOU ACTUALLY HAVE HOPE FOR THIS PHANTOM WARSHIP? AND I SHOULD HAVE THE SAME?



PERHAPS, JEAN-LUC. AFTER ALL, EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS A LITTLE HOPE, JUST TO SURVIVE.

HRM.



20 YEARS OF IDW  
ISSUE 1  
COVER A

STAR TREK

P I C A R D



COUNTDOWN

BEYER • JOHNSON • HERNANDEZ • LAFUENTE