



THE "A" CIRCUIT IS CROSS-CIRCUITING TO "B" BEFORE THE PROCESS IS COMPLETE!

SHUT IT DOWN!
SHUT IT DOWN!

WHAT ABOUT SONIC?

HE'S --
HE'S --

"-- GONE!"



THE **PRAETORIAN** COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF!

HE AND HIS COLLABORATORS HAVE **RUPTURED** THE SPACE/TIME CONTINUUM ONCE **AGAIN!**

SO THE ERA OF **OVERRIDE** BEGINS ANEW --

-- AND **THIS TIME, PRAETORIAN, VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE!**

THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE LARA-SU CHRONICLES: SHATTERED TOMORROWS

THEN & NOW: WORLD BUILDING 101

A little history here first.

Back in 1998 or '99 - I'm a little fuzzy on the dates as I was working literally months if not almost a full year ahead of schedule at that point - I had pitched a story titled **KNUCKLES: TWENTY YEARS LATER** to my editor Justin Gabrie, who was in charge of all things **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** at Archie Comics.

Ever since I was a kid, I always enjoyed the stories DC Comics would put out showing what their characters would be doing years down the road from their present day adventures, and since the stories I had previously written depicting Sonic and his friends as adults were received quite well by the readers, I felt a one-shot story in the pages of **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL** featuring Knuckles and his cast would be just as well received.

So I began writing and illustrating the story after receiving the go-ahead from Justin. At about five pages into the story, I had reached the point where Knuckles' relationship with Julie-Su entered into the picture. Were they married? Absolutely not, but this was an Archie Comic, and I couldn't state that fact any which way one could imagine. But they did have kids. Or rather, they had a daughter. (It would turn out Sonic and Sally had a son and daughter, but only the kids would matter in this story.)

I also established Knuckles had suffered a great personal loss with the death of his father years prior to the events of the story.

I only got about halfway through the story when I received word both the **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL** and **KNUCKLES** series were going to end with their 15th and 32nd issues respectively.

Knuckles would eventually be relegated to 6-page back-up stories in the **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** series, which was a step down for the character, but it allowed Justin to still have me associated with the Sonic line of characters for the duration.

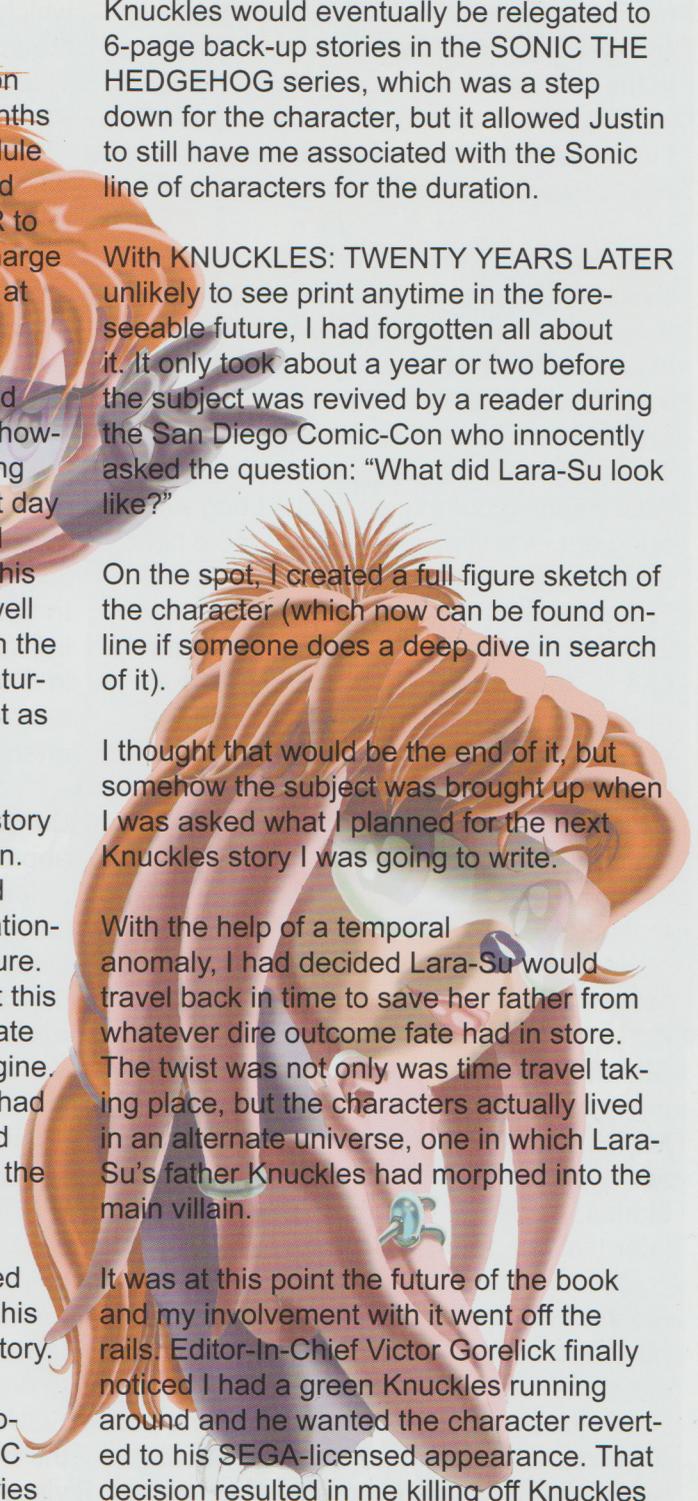
With **KNUCKLES: TWENTY YEARS LATER** unlikely to see print anytime in the foreseeable future, I had forgotten all about it. It only took about a year or two before the subject was revived by a reader during the San Diego Comic-Con who innocently asked the question: "What did Lara-Su look like?"

On the spot, I created a full figure sketch of the character (which now can be found online if someone does a deep dive in search of it).

I thought that would be the end of it, but somehow the subject was brought up when I was asked what I planned for the next Knuckles story I was going to write.

With the help of a temporal anomaly, I had decided Lara-Su would travel back in time to save her father from whatever dire outcome fate had in store. The twist was not only was time travel taking place, but the characters actually lived in an alternate universe, one in which Lara-Su's father Knuckles had morphed into the main villain.

It was at this point the future of the book and my involvement with it went off the rails. Editor-In-Chief Victor Gorelick finally noticed I had a green Knuckles running around and he wanted the character reverted to his SEGA-licensed appearance. That decision resulted in me killing off Knuckles in the next story, with plans to revive him as Victor wanted.



Justin saw the revival of Knuckles different from what I envisioned, requesting a total reset to how the character was before I created his mythology, to the point where the next story would occur after the events of SONIC issue 13, his very 1st appearance in the comics.

I told Justin to give those instructions to the next writer and took my leave of the book.

I can't speak to why Justin called me about a month or so later, but when I answered the call, he asked me for my take where to go with the character. I replied I wanted to start with the TWENTY YEARS LATER premise and go from there.

After hashing out a few details, I began figuring out exactly how the story would play out.

The first thing I decided, given the format I had to work with, was to do one long-running story that would eventually reset the characters in a better world compared to their previous experiences. Or at least give them a happy ending. That meant blowing up the planet and starting over on a new world. The next thing decided was to make Lara-Su a pivotal character, but that couldn't happen at the start. Knuckles had to be the main star at this juncture.

So I dug in, and managed fourteen chapters when I received word I had to put the M25YL stories on hold, as the new editor wanted my focus on writing the main Sonic stories. It wasn't much more than a year later I left the book altogether.

Flash forward a few years and one legal battle later, I retained ownership of the stories and characters I created, wondering what I was going to do with them. I knew I didn't want to do a monthly series, so that meant doing a lengthy graphic novel with a story suitable for that format instead.

As I began writing what would evolve into SHATTERED TOMORROWS, it was obvious the setting of the story was also affecting characters outside the main narrative, which in turn led me to consider creating these sidebar adventures under the banner THE LARA-SU CHRONICLES: ELSEWHERE.

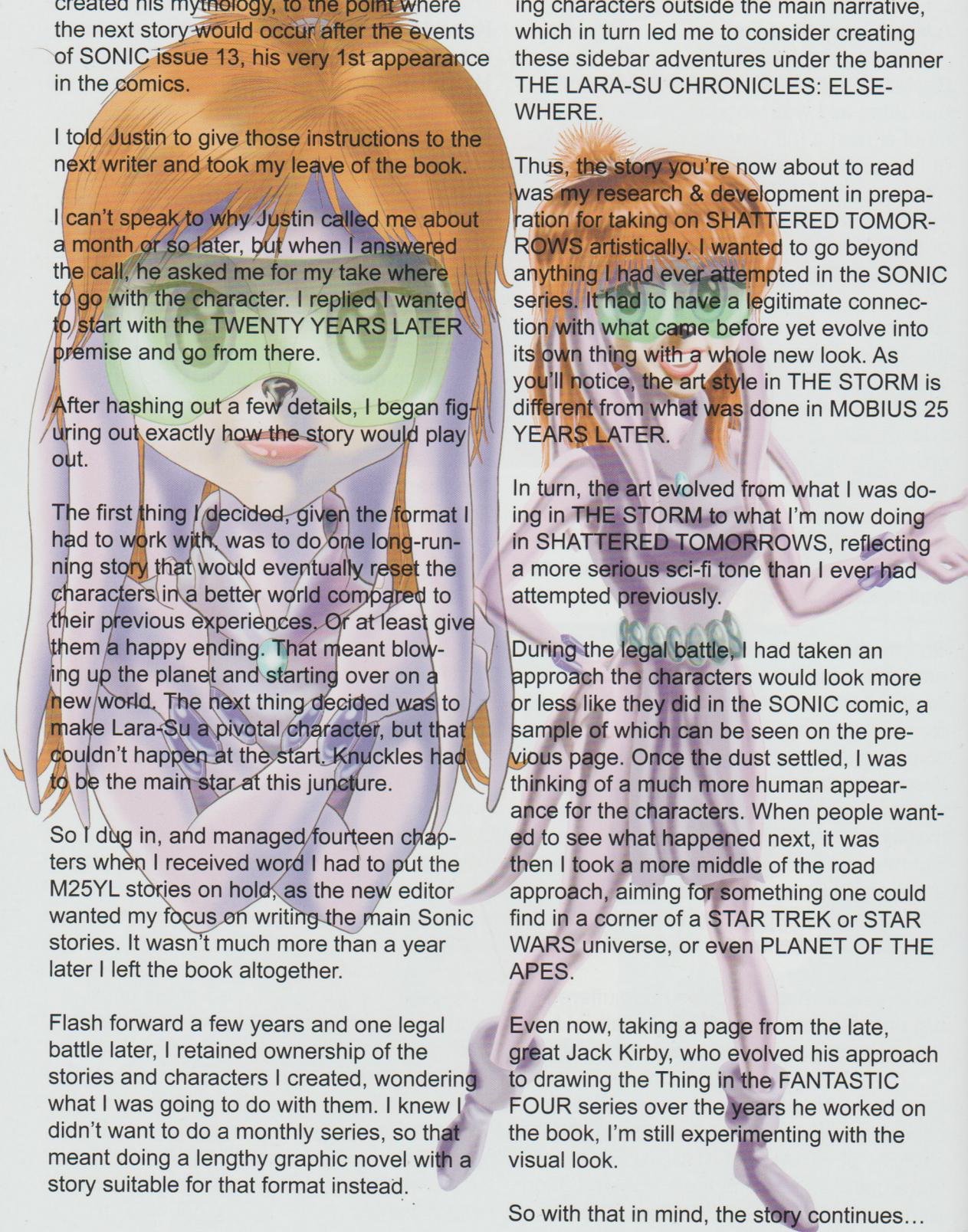
Thus, the story you're now about to read was my research & development in preparation for taking on SHATTERED TOMORROWS artistically. I wanted to go beyond anything I had ever attempted in the SONIC series. It had to have a legitimate connection with what came before yet evolve into its own thing with a whole new look. As you'll notice, the art style in THE STORM is different from what was done in MOBIUS 25 YEARS LATER.

In turn, the art evolved from what I was doing in THE STORM to what I'm now doing in SHATTERED TOMORROWS, reflecting a more serious sci-fi tone than I ever had attempted previously.

During the legal battle, I had taken an approach the characters would look more or less like they did in the SONIC comic, a sample of which can be seen on the previous page. Once the dust settled, I was thinking of a much more human appearance for the characters. When people wanted to see what happened next, it was then I took a more middle of the road approach, aiming for something one could find in a corner of a STAR TREK or STAR WARS universe, or even PLANET OF THE APES.

Even now, taking a page from the late, great Jack Kirby, who evolved his approach to drawing the Thing in the FANTASTIC FOUR series over the years he worked on the book, I'm still experimenting with the visual look.

So with that in mind, the story continues...



WELCOME TO **THE BUNKER**, NERVE CENTER OF THE SECURITY APPARATUS PROTECTING THE ROYAL KINGDOM.

YEAH, IT'S MY FIRST TIME DOWN HERE AS WELL.

ENSIGN BROWNIE REPORTING.

I'M LOOKING FOR COMMANDER ST. JOHN.

THAT BETTER BE A METEOROLOGICAL REPORT YOU HAVE THERE --

-- OTHERWISE THIS WILL BE A SHORT CONVERSATION,

FORBIDDEN ZONE
FORBIDDEN ZONE

08:57:58:30

I COULDN'T SAY, SIR.

I WAS GIVEN THIS --

-- AND TOLD IT WAS FOR YOUR EYES ONLY.

THE STORM

CREATED, WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY KEN PENDERS

CHARACTERS, STORY & ART © AND ™ 2015 KEN PENDERS



YOU'RE NEW HERE.

JUST OUT OF THE ACADEMY.

TOP OF YOUR CLASS, I BET.

WHY -- YES.

SO WHOSE SPY ARE YOU?



ALICIA'S OR ELIAS'S? WHOSE SPY ARE YOU?

I BEG YOUR PARDON -- SIR?

03.58.42.886



03.58.48.334



YOU DON'T GET PAST LIEUTENANT BOXER WITHOUT CLEARANCE.

I WAS SIMPLY TOLD TO HAND YOU THIS REPORT.

DOCTOR ZEPHYR VOUCHER FOR ME TO LIEUTENANT BOXER -- SIR. IN FACT --

03.58.47.007



HE SAID THAT WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.



COMM-LINK FROM PORTAL ONE, COMMANDER.



PATCH IT THROUGH AND SCRAMBLE.

ST. JOHN HERE.



DID YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULDN'T FIND YOUR TAP ON OUR LINES?

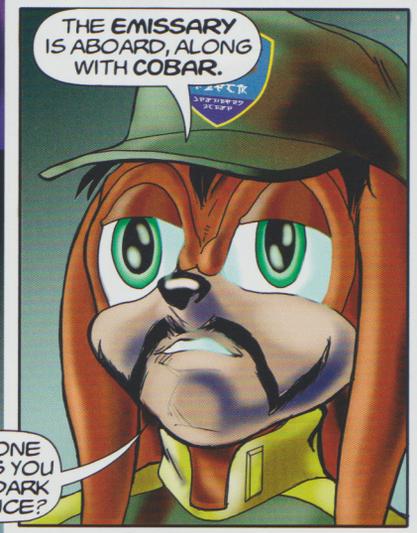
I'M AMAZED THE GUARDIANS THOUGHT THEY COULD ENTER THE FORBIDDEN ZONE WITHOUT TRIPPING OUR SENSORS.

YOU KNOW THE PRAETORIAN IS AN AUTHORITY UNTO HIMSELF WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SECURITY.



HOW COME NO MARKINGS ON THE CRAFT?

THAT COULD BE ANYONE IN THERE.



THE EMISSARY IS ABOARD, ALONG WITH COBAR.

SOMEONE KEEPING YOU IN THE DARK FOR ONCE?



REALLY?



FAIR ENOUGH.

THE PRAETORIAN ISN'T ANY MORE FORTHCOMING THAN YOUR QUEEN.

WE'RE PICKING UP STRANGE ANOMALIES RADIATING FROM DEAD CENTER OF THE ZONE.

I'LL SHOW YOU MINE IN EXCHANGE FOR YOURS.

THEY'RE PLAYING HELL WITH OUR SENSORS.



SAME HERE.

IT WAS THOSE ANOMALIES THAT LED TO THE EMISSARY MEETING WITH THE PRAETORIAN.

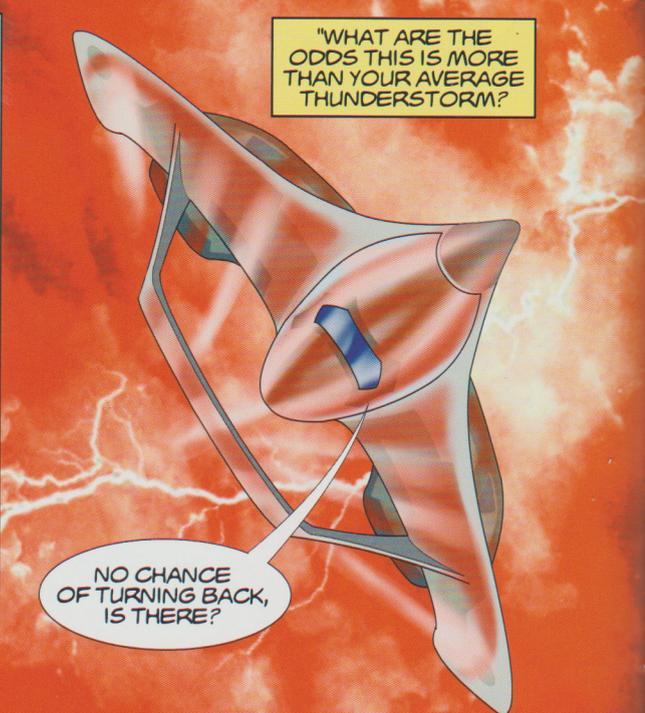
WHAT SURPRISED US WAS COBAR ACCOMPANYING THEM.



ISN'T HE ONE OF CYBERDARK COLONY'S MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS?

QUANTUM PHYSICS, RIGHT?

YOU'RE WELL INFORMED, COMMANDER.



"WHAT ARE THE ODDS THIS IS MORE THAN YOUR AVERAGE THUNDERSTORM?"

NO CHANCE OF TURNING BACK, IS THERE?

YOU KNEW THE ODDS OF MISSION SUCCESS BEFORE LIFT-OFF!

I ONLY BET SURE THINGS.

YOU'RE RIGHT! SENSORS ARE PICKING UP FOUR LIFESIGNS ON BOARD!

BY THE WAY, DID YOU SAY THERE WERE ONLY THREE ABOARD?

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME, AREN'T THEY?

SO WHY BRING LARA-SU?

SHE'S STILL A GIRL.

YOU'RE AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY TO THE EMISSARY.

SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW MUCH MY OWN FATHER KNOWS ME --

EVERYONE, STRAP IN!!!

WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT TURBULENCE!

THE SENSORS ARE OFF THE CHARTS!

WHAT IN AURORA'S NAME IS HAPPENING?

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE THE SCI-DIVISION FOR.

ST. JOHN TO DOCTOR ZEPHUR --



ZEPHUR
HERE.

SO NOW
YOU NEED MY
BRILLIANCE --

-- ONCE
AGAIN.

I'VE A WORKING
THEORY AT BEST FOR
THE MOMENT.

I GATHER
YOU'RE UP
TO SPEED
WITH OUR
PROBLEM.

REALLY,
ST. JOHN! YOUR
SECURITY LEAVES
MUCH TO BE
DESIRED!

YOU THINK
I'M UNAWARE OF
THE GUARDIAN AT
YOUR SIDE?

FAIR
POINT!

THIS IS
CONSTABLE
REMINGTON,
DOCTOR --

-- AND I'M
TOLD WE'RE
EXPERIENCING
NOTHING LESS
THAN --

-- A
DISRUPTION
OF THE
SPACE/TIME
CONTINUUM!

I SEE YOU'VE
BEEN TALKING
TO COBAR.

WE'VE BEEN
LOOKING AT
THE UNDER-
LYING BUILD-
UP OF FORCES
EMANATING
FROM SECTOR
42.

WHAT YOU'RE
DESCRIBING IS A
REAL END-OF-THE-
WORLD -- OUR
WORLD --
SCENARIO.

I'M NOT QUITE
SURE I'D GO THAT FAR,
COMMANDER.

EITHER IT'S
ENDING OR IT'S
NOT!

I WOULD SAY THE
END OF THE WORLD
AS WE KNOW IT.

THIS IS
GROUND
ZERO.

WE BELIEVE WE'VE UNCOVERED
EVIDENCE OF AT LEAST THREE PREVIOUS
EVENTS OF SIMILAR FORCES UNLEASHED
ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

WHAT'S
YOUR
PROOF?



OBVIOUSLY, WE WEREN'T DESTROYED DURING THOSE PREVIOUS OCCURRENCES --

-- BUT THERE WAS -- CHANGE --

MASSIVE CHANGE.

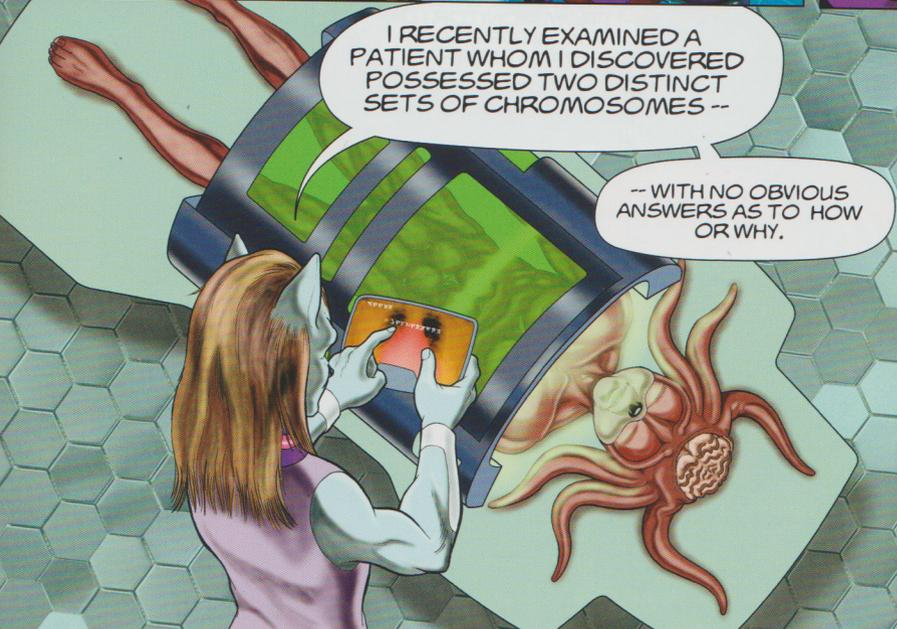


WHAT KIND OF CHANGE?



PHYSICAL. GENETIC. TEMPORAL.

GENETIC?!



I RECENTLY EXAMINED A PATIENT WHOM I DISCOVERED POSSESSED TWO DISTINCT SETS OF CHROMOSOMES --

-- WITH NO OBVIOUS ANSWERS AS TO HOW OR WHY.



YOU ALSO MENTIONED TEMPORAL.

THAT'S WHERE IT REALLY STARTS TO GET INTERESTING.



EVERY DEVICE IN MY LAB DESIGNED TO KEEP TRACK OF MISSING TIME RECORDS A MISSING SECOND.

ANY POSSIBLE SYSTEMIC FAILURE?



NONE AT ALL. EVEN THE BACK-UP TIMEKEEPERS HAD BACK-UPS.

SOMETHING HAPPENED DURING THAT MISSING SECOND.



DOCTOR, I WANT YOU TO PUNCH IN THE TIME TEN SECONDS PRIOR TO THE MISSING SECOND.

DONE.

NOW RUN PLAYBACK FROM MONITOR 1 ON MONITOR 2 FROM THAT POINT.



I'LL BE DAMNED.



DOCTOR, WHAT JUST HAPPENED?



WITHOUT FURTHER INFORMATION, I CAN ONLY SPECULATE!



BROWNIE, CONTACT THE SHUTTLE!



I WANT TO SPEAK WITH THE PRAETORIAN!

YES, SIR!

DON'T BOTHER!



I ALREADY LOST CONTACT!



JUST BEFORE YOU CONTACTED US.



YOU WERE TRYING TO SEE IF WE KNEW SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T!



WHICH YOU DID!



MY THANKS TO DOCTOR ZEPHYR!



QUITE THE OPPOSITE!



THEY DON'T HAVE ALL THE FACTS EITHER!



THUNDERHAWK IS SCRAMBLING IN PURSUIT AS WE SPEAK!



WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON, REMINGTON?



THE GUARDIANS KEEPING YOU ON A TIGHT LEASH?

ANY SIGN OF VANGUARD ONE?

NEGATIVE, SABRE!

WITH THE TURBULENCE LEVEL RISING --

-- I'M NOT SURE WHAT WE'LL FIND!

CONTINUE ON YOUR VECTOR!

WE'RE FAST APPROACHING THE OMEGA SCENARIO IF IT DOESN'T DIMINISH!

THAT BAD?

COULD GET WORSE!

DID YOU GET THAT?



YOU'D BE BETTER OFF WITH MY COMMANDOS!

THAT'S ALL I NEED!

THE GUARDIANS WOULD THEN ASK WHEN I ESTABLISHED A DIRECT LINE WITH YOU!



THE ROYAL FAMILY ISN'T EXACTLY WILD OVER YOU GUYS EITHER!

LET'S KEEP A CHANNEL OPEN!

WE CAN'T AFFORD MISCOMMUNICATION AS EVENTS FURTHER DEVELOP!

AGREED!

I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE CONTACT YOURS.

OVER AND OUT...

LIEUTENANT!

SIR?

WHOSE SPY ARE YOU?

YOURS, SIR.

TAKE THIS TO DOCTOR ZEPHYR!

DISMISSED!

YES, SIR!

THE FIRST RULE OF THE SERVICE IS YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT THE SERVICE.

NOT ITS OPERATIONS.

AND I SUSPECT QUEEN ALICIA WOULD APPRECIATE PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY IN THIS CASE.

NOT THE DECISIONS MADE.

TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, **TURN THE PAGE!**

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

SHATTERED TOMORROWS is essentially a rebirth and coming of age story. I had essentially a beginning with the MOBIUS 25 YEARS LATER chapters, but as much as I hoped otherwise, I knew Knuckles was never going to be a part of it. I also knew the focus could never be on the character who stepped into Knuckles' shoes either.

A passing of the torch was required, and thus Lara-Su was thrust into the spotlight on a journey going wherever the latest adventure took the audience. The only rule I set for myself was everything was fair game and the consequences of one's actions would reverberate throughout the rest of the story. Death, so often played for a quick sales hit in comics, would matter. There would be no resurrection.

I thus replaced Knuckles with K'Nox, because Lara-Su's path is a result of the choices her father made and how she deals with those choices. The loss of her father is Lara-Su's Kobiyoshi Maru test because it's not just dealing with the loss of her father, it's also to a much larger degree coming to grips with the legacy she inherits as a result. (And no, I'm not really spoiling anything here as our story opens with Lara-Su struggling with the loss.)

I wrote about 100 pages of story before I realized some events were so significant as to require a separate narrative dealing with those corners of the narrative that add to the main story, but don't really serve the main narrative being told. The story is Lara-Su's. Anything dealing with anyone but the core characters of the narrative is a sidebar. That's why THE STORM exists.



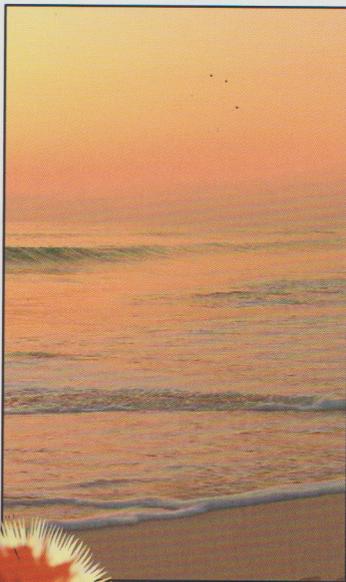
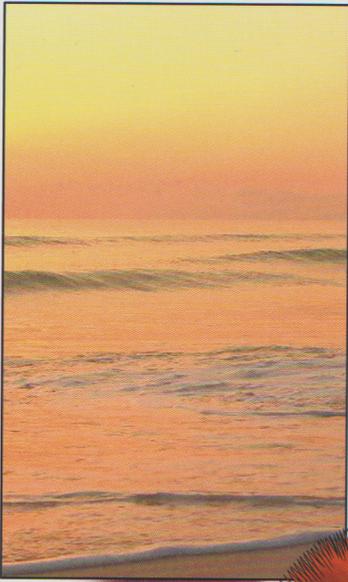
THE
LARA-SU
CHRONICLES

SHATTERED
TOMORROWS

Created, written & illustrated by
KEN PENDERS

CHRONON 37

(POST-CATACLYSM)



EVEN NOW,
I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE IT.

JUST LIKE THAT,
DAD WAS GONE --

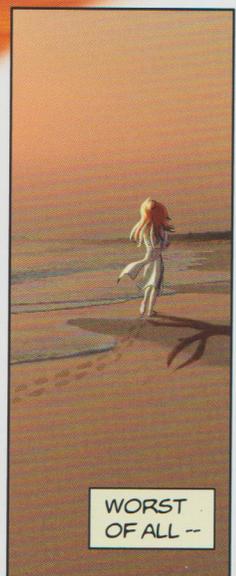
-- AND THE
HOW AND WHY
NO LONGER
MATTER.

I'LL NEVER
SEE HIM
AGAIN.

HE WON'T BE
THERE TO
MAKE ME
SMILE --



-- OR GIVE ME
A HUG WHEN I
NEED ONE
THE MOST.



WORST
OF ALL --

-- IF I'M REALLY HONEST
WITH MYSELF --

-- I'M NOT
ANYWHERE
READY TO
FILL HIS
SHOES.

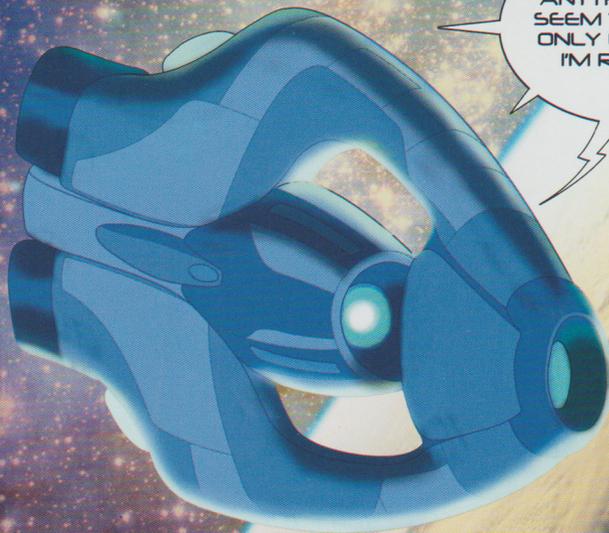
NOT EVEN CLOSE.

NO ONE EVER SAID
LIFE WAS FAIR.

SPACE SECTOR X3793491Y770256Z333492

CHRONON 43

ANYTHING? YOU
SEEM TO BE THE
ONLY LIFE&FORM
I'M READING.





I THINK
THE SENSORS
NEED TO BE
RECALIBRATED.

YOU DIDN'T PICK
UP THOSE DAMN
TALKING APES ON
THE LAST RESCUE
MISSION EITHER.

THE SYSTEM DIDN'T DETECT
THE VIRAL IMPLANT LEFT BY THE
SKYWEB A-I NETWORK UNTIL WE
WERE WELL INTO THE MISSION.

SPACE IS
A DANGEROUS
PLACE.

TRUST NO
LIFEFORM,
I SAY.

WE COME
IN *PEACE*, BUT
SHOOT TO
KILL?

WITHOUT
HESITATION.

THAT'S A
HELL OF A PRIME
DIRECTIVE.

HOLD
IT.

WHAT IS IT,
MYKHAL?

I'VE LOCKED
ON A FREQUENCY
AND TRIANGULATED
THE POINT OF ORIGIN.





ONE LEARNS
QUICK AT THE ACADEMY
IF ONE DOESN'T WANT TO
END UP A RED SHIRT.



BUT ALL
I SEE --

-- IS PROBABLE
EVIDENCE OF SOMETHING
AMISS HAVING RECENTLY
TRANSPIRED.

AND WE KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED THE
LAST TIME WE GOT AHEAD
OF OURSELVES.



I THOUGHT YOU AQUARIANS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A PEACEFUL RACE.

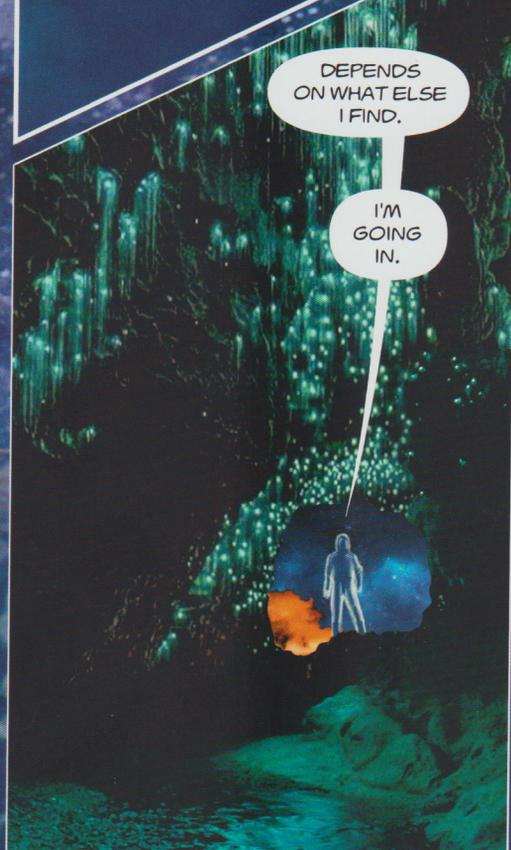
WE ARE, BUT WE'RE ALSO MORE PRACTICAL, UNLIKE YOU HUMANS --

-- WHO WILL DIVE INTO THE DEEP END OF ANYTHING WITHOUT HESITATION.



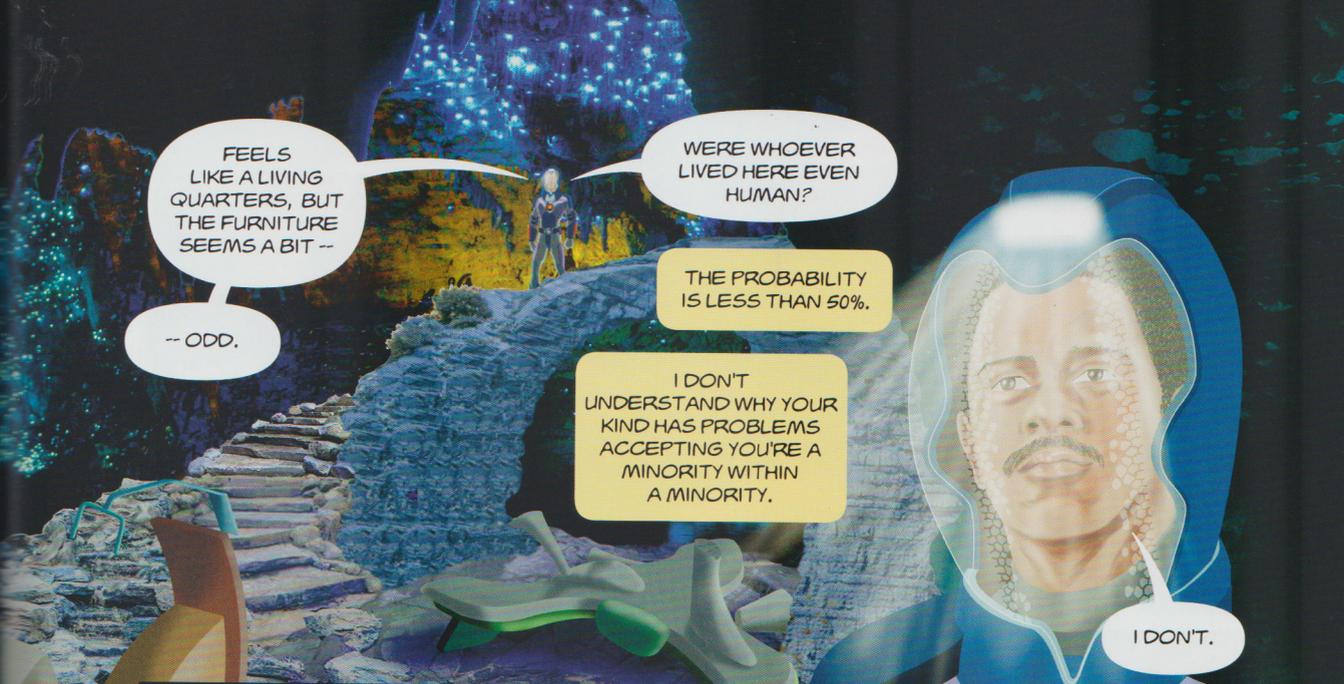
AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE, I'LL CUT AND RUN.

OUR SENSORS SHOW AN ITEM ON FIRE LEAKING A HYDROGEN-BASED FUEL. WOULD THAT COUNT?



DEPENDS ON WHAT ELSE I FIND.

I'M GOING IN.



FEELS LIKE A LIVING QUARTERS, BUT THE FURNITURE SEEMS A BIT --

-- ODD.

WERE WHOEVER LIVED HERE EVEN HUMAN?

THE PROBABILITY IS LESS THAN 50%.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR KIND HAS PROBLEMS ACCEPTING YOU'RE A MINORITY WITHIN A MINORITY.

I DON'T.

AND YOU'RE RIGHT --

TO ANYONE CURRENTLY WATCHING THIS --

MY NAME IS LARA-SU --

-- DEFINITELY NOT HUMAN.

-- AND THIS IS MY LAST ENTRY.

THE SITUATION IS DIRE AND OUR CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL PRACTICALLY ZERO.

BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF --



YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT GUARDIAN.

OH, DAD! YOU'RE THE BEST!

OHMYGOSH!!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING --
?!!!!



THE LIGHTNING SHORTED OUT THE POWER GRID!!!



DON'T I HAVE A SAY IN THE MATTER?

YOUR EYE IS TWITCHING FUNNY.

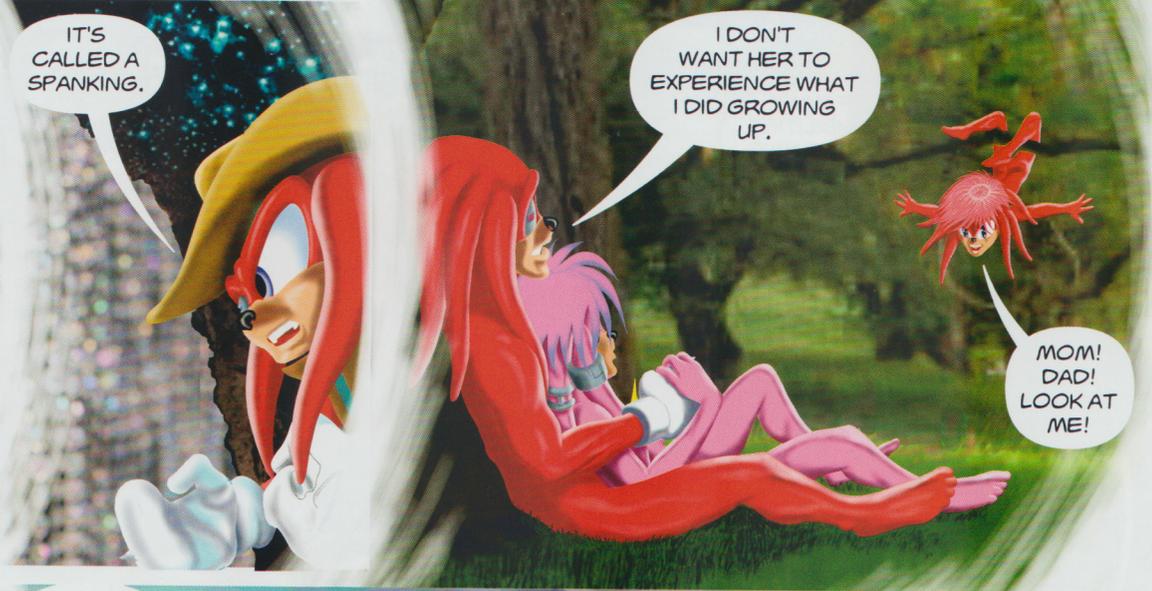
EVERYTHING'S FINE, HON.

I WANNA BE A GUARDIAN!

ALL YOUR FATHER AND I WANT IS WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU.

YOU OKAY, DAD?

Y'KNOW, THERE'S ANOTHER ANCIENT ECHYD'NYA CUSTOM I THINK NEEDS REVIVING.



IT'S CALLED A SPANKING.

I DON'T WANT HER TO EXPERIENCE WHAT I DID GROWING UP.

MOM! DAD! LOOK AT ME!



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NAME LARA-SU?

I THINK HER GRANDMOTHER WILL HAVE TEARS OF JOY.



JUST RELAX --
-- AND LET GO.



YOUR FATHER NEVER HAD A CHOICE.

YOU DO.



WHAT IS THIS PLACE, DAD?



THE POWER CORE.

ONE OF MANY RESPONSIBILITIES I'M ACCOUNTABLE FOR.



COBAR SAYS IT'S THE END OF EVERYTHING WE KNOW IF I DON'T DO THIS.

WHAT IF HE'S WRONG?



GO WITH YOUR FATHER TO KEEP HIM FROM DOING ANYTHING STUPID.

REALLY?!



THAT'S NOT WHAT I CALL A PLAN.

I DON'T RECALL WHEN I STARTED HAVING THE DREAMS, BUT THEY WERE WEIRD --

-- LIKE I LIVED A LIFE, THEN PRESSED THE RESET BUTTON.

BUT THE ONLY THING THAT WAS OUT OF THE ORDINARY WERE THE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

HERE.

THIS WILL REFRESH YOU.



THANKS.

WHERE ARE WE, COBAR?



WE SHOULD BE TOUCHING DOWN SOON.



AND THEN?

THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT WE FIND.

MY INSTRUMENTS DISPLAY A STRANGE ENERGY ANOMALY CREATING THE CONDITIONS EXPANDING ALL AROUND US.

WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT ORIGINATES FROM ARTIFICIAL OR NATURAL MEANS.

EVERYONE STRAP YOURSELVES IN! THIS IS GOING TO BE A BUMPY LANDING!



IF WE DON'T MAKE IT BACK, PUNCH IN ZERO-ZERO-ONE-KAY-ZERO ON THE CONSOLE KEYPAD, THEN LIFT OFF.



YOUR MOTHER KNOWS BETTER.

BUT, DAD, MOM SAID NO STUPID ACTIONS --

THEN WHY'D SHE LET ME COME?

YOUR MOTHER WANTED YOU TO KNOW THE DEAL BEFORE YOU MADE THE COMMITMENT.

DEAL? WHAT DEAL?

I PROMISED YOUR MOTHER IT WOULD BE YOUR DECISION TO TAKE OVER FOR ME IF AND WHEN THE TIME CAME.



AND IF I DON'T, WHO WILL?



THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.



YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO AURORA KNOWS WHAT AND YOU HIT ME WITH THIS NOW?



ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOUR TIMING SUCKS, DAD?

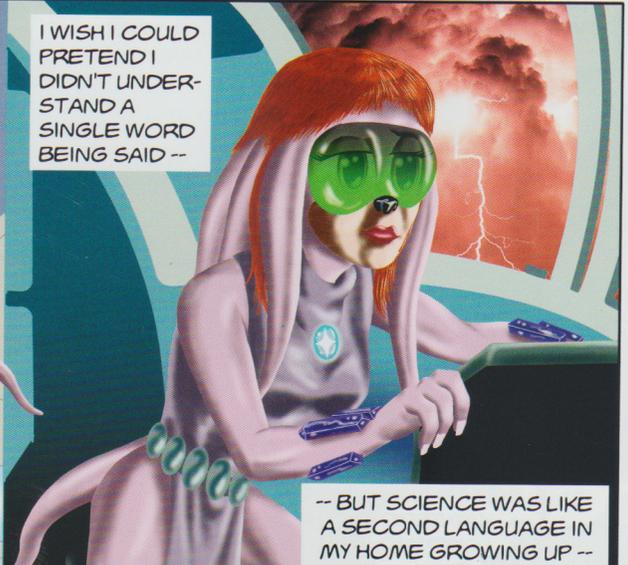
YOUR MOTHER -- ALL THE TIME.

DEAL WITH IT.

NOW CLOSE THE HATCH.

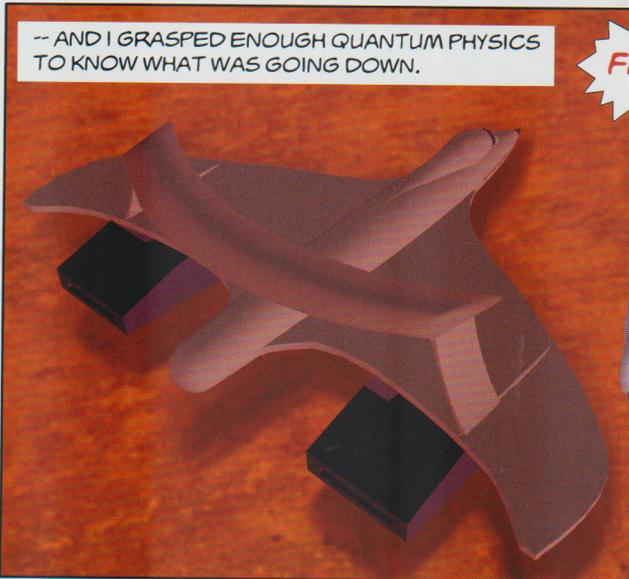


I WISH I COULD PRETEND I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE WORD BEING SAID --



-- BUT SCIENCE WAS LIKE A SECOND LANGUAGE IN MY HOME GROWING UP --

-- AND I GRASPED ENOUGH QUANTUM PHYSICS TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING DOWN.



FARK!!!

SHUTTLEPOD TO MISSION TEAM!
SHUTTLEPOD TO MISSION TEAM!
PLEASE RESPOND!



OPEN THE HATCH, LARA-SU.



THERE'S ONLY TWO OF YOU. WHERE'S THE THIRD?

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW. OPEN THE HATCH.



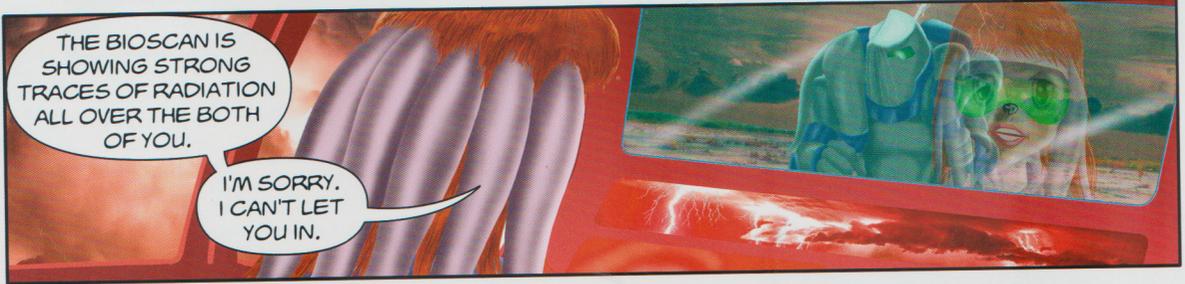
WHAT ARE YOU NOT TELLING ME? WHERE'S MY FATHER?

I'LL EXPLAIN ONCE WE'RE INSIDE. NOW OPEN THE HATCH.



NOT SO FAST. WHO'S WITH YOU? AND HOW COME HE'S NOT RESPONDING?

IT'S COBAR. HE NEEDS MEDICAL TREATMENT.



THE BIOSCAN IS SHOWING STRONG TRACES OF RADIATION ALL OVER THE BOTH OF YOU.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T LET YOU IN.



AT LEAST OPEN THE HATCH AND LET US INTO THE AIRLOCK.

THEN LIFT OFF AND HEAD FOR HAVEN-ONE.

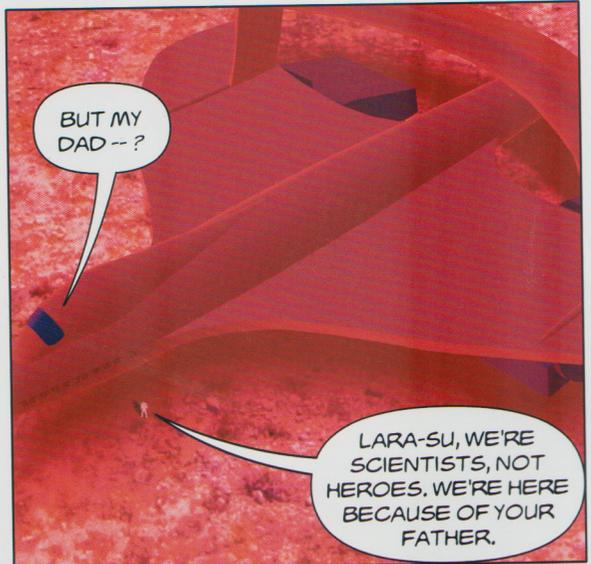


WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER?

WE REALLY -- DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

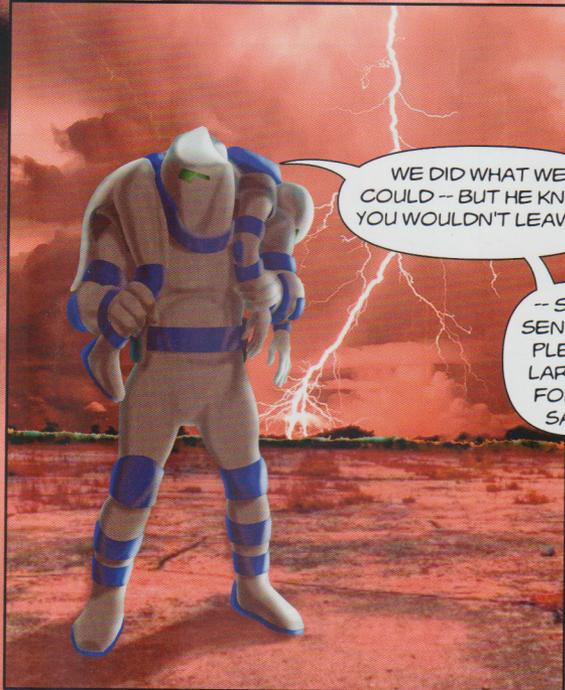
PLEASE, LARA-SU, OPEN THE HATCH.

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE COBAR AS WELL.



BUT MY DAD -- ?

LARA-SU, WE'RE SCIENTISTS, NOT HEROES. WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER.



WE DID WHAT WE COULD -- BUT HE KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE --

-- SO HE SENT US -- PLEASE, LARA-SU, FOR HIS SAKE.

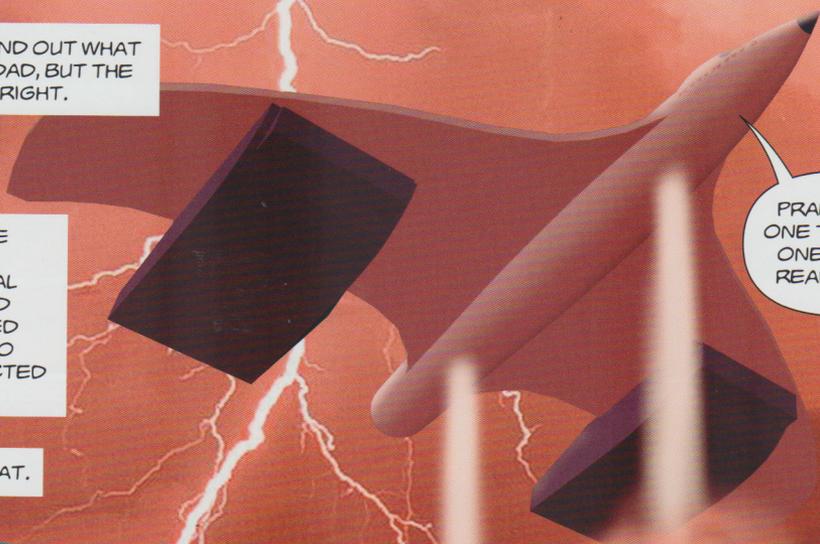


I WAS IN OVER MY HEAD AND THE WATERS WERE ONLY GETTING DEEPER -- BOTH FIGURATIVELY AND LITERALLY.

I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO DAD, BUT THE EMISSARY WAS RIGHT.

WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS, AND DAD WOULD'VE KILLED ME IF I DIDN'T DO WHAT HE EXPECTED OF ME.

NO MATTER WHAT.



PRAETORIAN ONE TO HAVEN-ONE. DO YOU READ? OVER.

LARA-SU? WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THE PRAETORIAN WITH YOU?



DAD'S NOT HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM.



RIGHT NOW I'M DEALING WITH A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

COBAR APPEARS TO BE SERIOUSLY OUT OF IT AND THE BIOSCANS SHOW HIM AND THE EMISSARY EXPOSED TO HIGH LEVELS OF RADIATION.

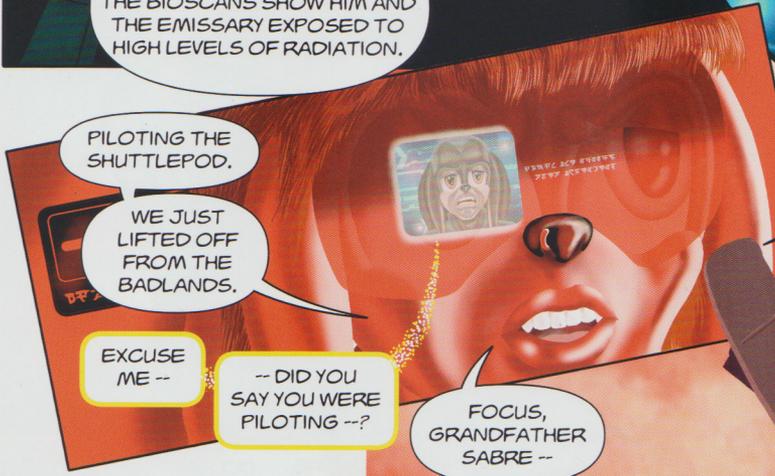


HAVE THEY UNDERGONE DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES?

NOT YET.

WHEREABOUTS ARE YOU?

THERE ARE SEVERAL DE-CON FACILITIES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE POWER CORE.



PILOTING THE SHUTTLEPOD.

WE JUST LIFTED OFF FROM THE BADLANDS.

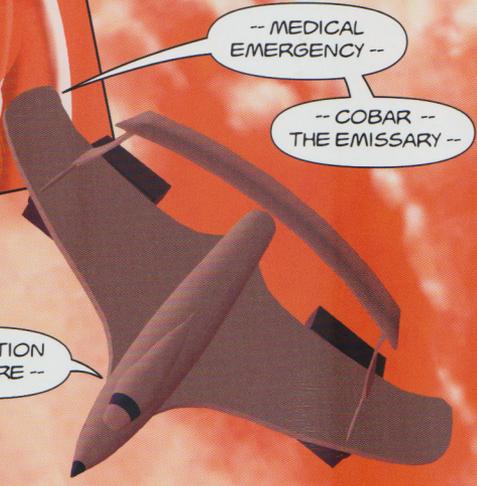
EXCUSE ME --

-- DID YOU SAY YOU WERE PILOTING --?

FOCUS, GRANDFATHER SABRE --

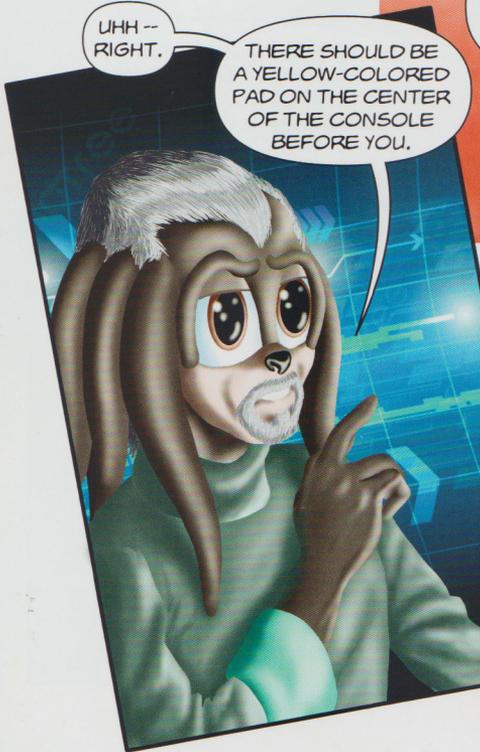
-- RADIATION EXPOSURE --

-- AND THE RED ALERT SYSTEM HAS TRIGGERED.



-- MEDICAL EMERGENCY --

-- COBAR -- THE EMISSARY --



UHH -- RIGHT.

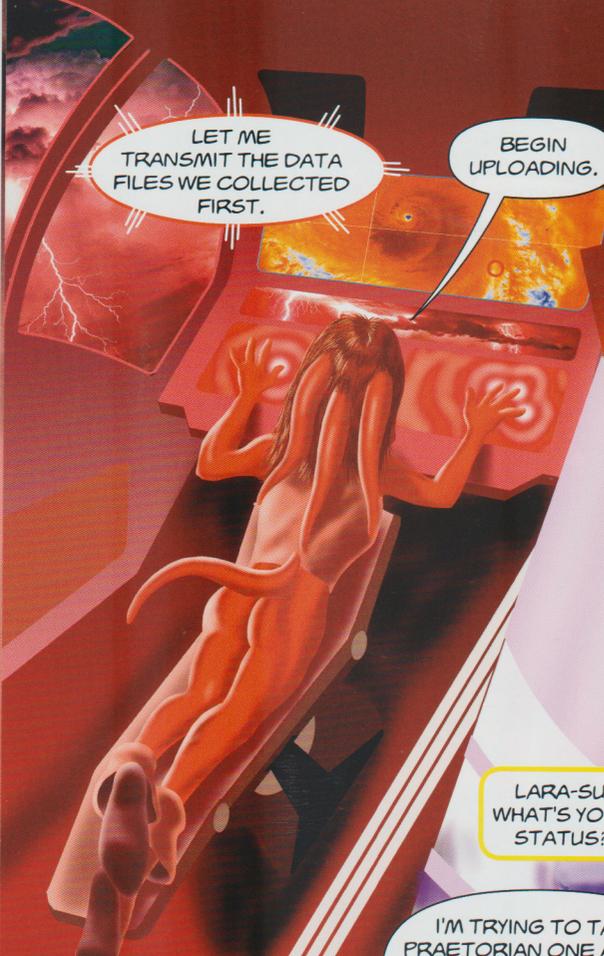
THERE SHOULD BE A YELLOW-COLORED PAD ON THE CENTER OF THE CONSOLE BEFORE YOU.



I SEE IT.

PRESS THAT TO ACTIVATE A LEVEL ONE DE-CON BATH IN THE AIRLOCK.

DON'T PRESS THAT BUTTON YET.



LET ME TRANSMIT THE DATA FILES WE COLLECTED FIRST.

BEGIN UPLOADING.

TRANSFERRING...

COMPLETED.

READY FOR YOUR BATH, EMISSARY?

GO AHEAD.

GODDESS, DON'T LET HIM DIE ON ME.

LARA-SU, WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?

I'M TRYING TO TAKE PRAETORIAN ONE ABOVE THE CLOUDS, BUT THE TURBULENCE IS HITTING US PRETTY STRONG.

DO YOU WANT US TO LOCK IN ON YOU AND BRING YOU IN?

NEGATIVE.

YOU MIGHT SCREW UP THE GUIDANCE SYSTEMS IF YOU DO THAT.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING, GIRL?

IT'S BEEN AWHILE, GRANDFATHER.

YOUR FATHER WAS NEVER MUCH ONE FOR FAMILY GOSSIP, DEAR.

COPY THAT.

GO AHEAD, GRANDFATHER.

I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.

AT LEAST ALLOW ME TO SEE IF I CAN LOCK ONTO YOUR COORDINATES SO I CAN DIRECT YOU WHERE TO LAND.

HUH -- ?



DAD!!!



LARA-SU,
CAN YOU READ
ME? OVER.

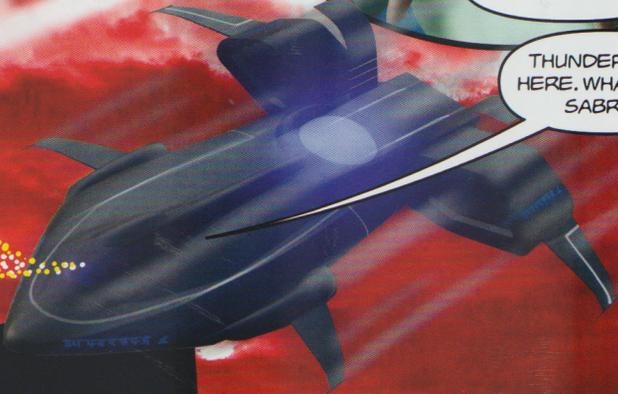
LARA-SU,
RESPOND,
PLEASE.

LARA-SU!!!

BOLLOCKS!!!

THUNDERHAWK!
PRIORITY ONE!

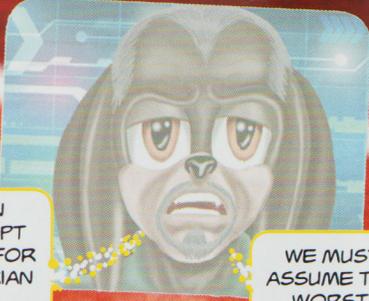
THUNDERHAWK
HERE. WHAT'S UP,
SABRE?



LARA-SU
WAS PILOTING
PRAETORIAN ONE
OUT OF THE
BADLANDS WHEN
CONTACT WAS
BROKEN.



HUH?
WHAT ABOUT THE
PRAETORIAN?



STATUS
UNKNOWN,
SITUATION
POSSIBLY
DIRE.

SET AN
INTERCEPT
COURSE FOR
PRAETORIAN
ONE.

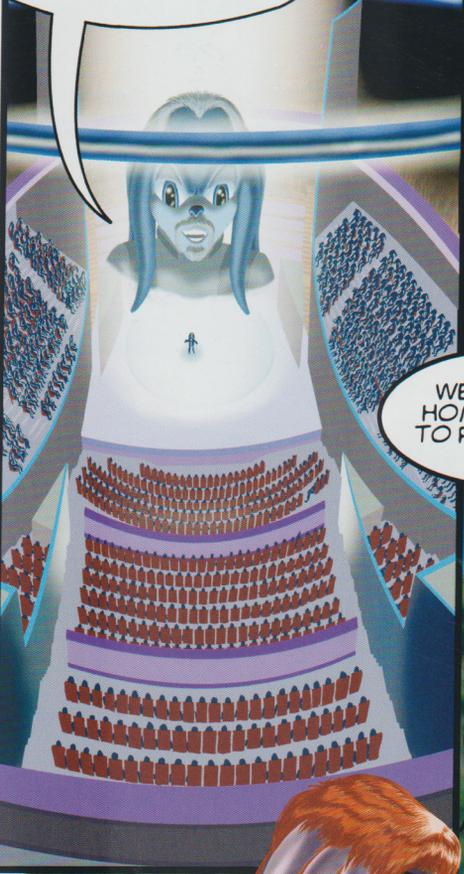
WE MUST
ASSUME THE
WORST.



TO BE CONTINUED --

NOW WHAT? AS THINGS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE, WHAT FOLLOWS IS

AS EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM IS AWARE, THE FUTURE OF OUR EXISTENCE HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY.



WE HAVE NO HOME PLANET TO RETURN TO.

YOU'VE GOT YOUR DIRECTIVE, THUNDERHAWK. PRAETORIAN ONE IS THE PRIORITY.



BUT I'M JUST A TEENAGER.

YOU AND ME.

I'LL MAKE YOU A BET.

WINNER TAKE ALL.

WINNER TAKE WHAT?

WINNER GETS DECLARED THE PRAETORIAN.



YOUR MOTHER OR YOUR FRIEND.

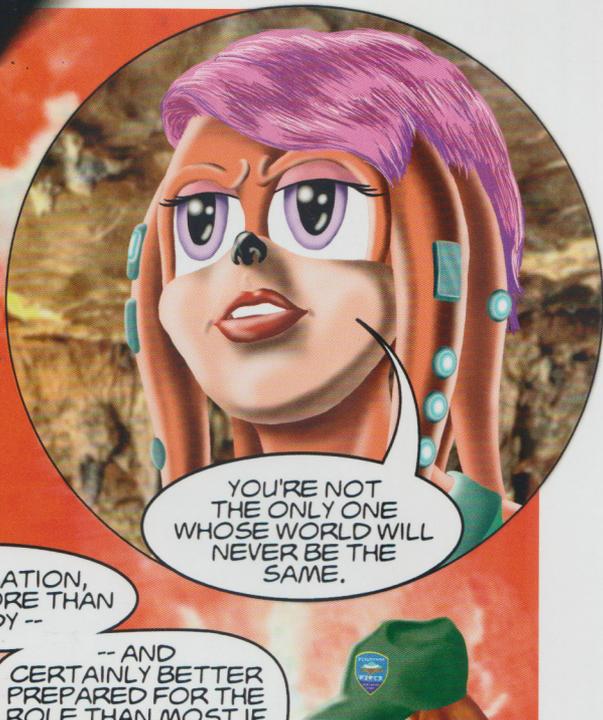


...ST A FEW OF THE THRILLS AND SURPRISES...



BUT, SABRE --

LARA-SU IS OUR FUTURE NOW.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHOSE WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

IN SUMMATION, YOU'RE MORE THAN READY --

-- AND CERTAINLY BETTER PREPARED FOR THE ROLE THAN MOST IF NOT ALL OF YOUR PREDECESSORS --



NOT JUST ANY TEENAGER.



-- INCLUDING YOUR FATHER.

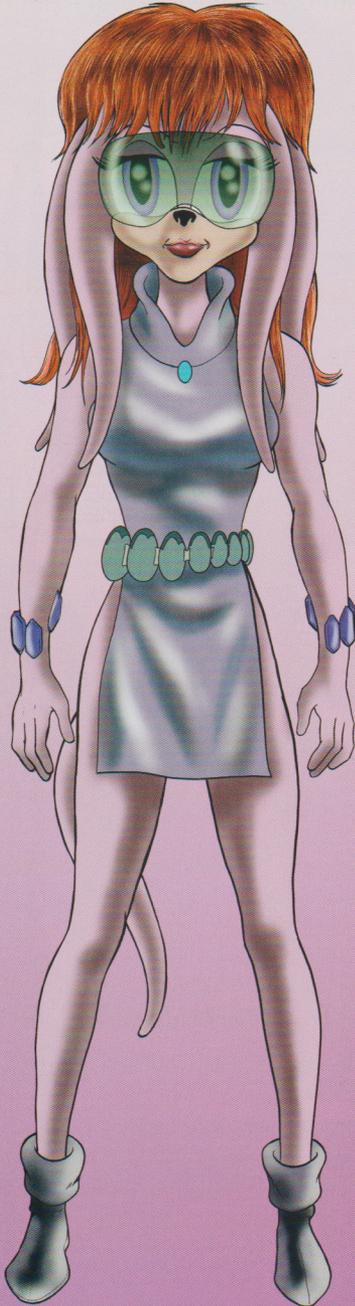


YOU CAN ONLY SAVE ONE.



EXPERIENCE THE TRIUMPH AND THE TRAGEDY AS THE LARA-SU CHRONICLES: SHATTERED TOMORROWS CONTINUES!
AVAILABLE VIA DIGITAL DOWNLOAD.
A PRINT EDITION FOLLOWS THE STORY'S CONCLUSION.

LARA-SU



FIRST APPEARANCE (Original): SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #106

FULL NAME: Lara-Su K'Nox

FAMILY STATION: Daughter of the Praetorian, Heir to the House of Jordann

BORN: 428 LSD (Local Solar Date) / Rev 3266

EYES: Deep Violet

HAIR: Fiery red

HEIGHT: 76 Marks

WEIGHT: 6.8 Stone

SPECIES: Echyd'nya

ABILITIES: High intellect, quick reflexes, mastered unarmed combat taught by her father, proficient with a dagon, knows a dozen different languages spoken on Mobius as a result of extensive travel with her parents

LOCATION: Family dwelling located outside of Echyd'nyapolis, the center of government on the Floating Island

KNOWN FAMILY: K'Nox AKA by nickname acquired as a young lad due to the unusual bone structure of his hands AKA The Praetorian (father), Julie-Su Luger (mother), Lien-Da Luger (aunt - half-sister of Julie-Su), Rutan (1st cousin - son of Lien-Da), Locke (paternal grandfather - deceased), Kragok (uncle - half-brother of Julie-Su), Mace (uncle - half-brother of K'Nox), Lara-Le (paternal grandmother), Wynmacher (paternal step-grandfather), Simon (adoptive maternal grandfather

- deceased), Floren-Ca (adoptive maternal grandmother), Luger (maternal grandfather - whereabouts unknown), Mari-Su of the House of Atrades (maternal grandmother - deceased), Sabre (paternal great-grandfather), Jenna-Lu (paternal great-grandmother), Moritori Rex (maternal great-grandfather), Auri-On Garvon (paternal great-great-grandmother - whereabouts unknown), Menniker (maternal great-great-grandfather), Janelle-Li Sojourner (paternal great-great-great-grandmother - in stasis), Dimitri (maternal great-great-great grandfather/twin brother to Edmund), Sojourner (paternal 4th great-grandfather), Thunderhawk (paternal 5th great-grandfather), Spectre (paternal 6th great-grandfather), Tobor (paternal 7th great-grandfather - whereabouts unknown/believed deceased), Voni-Ca (paternal 7th great-grandmother - deceased), Hawking (paternal 8th great-grandfather -

deceased), Sonja-Ra (paternal 8th great-grandmother - deceased), Mathias (paternal 9th great-grandfather - fate unknown), Jordan (paternal 10th great-grandfather - deceased), Aaron (paternal 10th great-uncle - died in the line of duty/replaced by his brother Jordan), Rembrandt (paternal 11th great-grandfather - deceased/1st Praetorian), Harlan (paternal 12th great-grandfather - deceased), Moonwatcher (paternal 13th great-grandfather - deceased), Steppenwolf (paternal 14th great-grandfather - deceased/founder of the Brotherhood of the Guardians), Edmund (paternal 15th great-grandfather - assassinated by his nephew, Menniker/1st Guardian/twin brother to Dimitri), Byron (paternal 16th great-grandfather - deceased), Cara-Lyn (paternal 16th great-grandmother - deceased), Jordann (paternal 19th great-grandfather - deceased), Kayla-La (paternal 19th great-grandmother - deceased/was responsible for leading the effort that saved Echyd'nya society from destruction by an asteroid), Angel-La (paternal 20th great-grandmother - deceased/her studies of the star systems would result in her daughter's discovery of the asteroid bound on a collision course with their world)

KNOWN FRIENDS: Salma, Riki-Li, Jaker

KNOWN AFFILIATIONS: Brotherhood of the Guardians (next in line for the rank of Praetorian)

HISTORY: Lara-Su was born the daughter of K'Nox and Julie-Su during the Cyber-Biogen Global Conflict and raised to one day walk in her father's shoes as the latest Praetorian, first among equals who come together as the Brotherhood of the Guardians, whose primary mission first, last and always is the defense of the Echyd'nya species. In the tradition of their species, her last name is derived from her father's given name.

Though initially born Echyd'nya, at various points during her young life she experienced changes as a result of disruptions at key moments in the time-space continuum. These disruptions and resulting changes would affect everyone on the macro level. It was not until her 16th year that she experienced glimpses of these events, and it remains to be seen whether she is the only one experiencing these glimpses, to say nothing of being able to piece the puzzle together before the ultimate disruption occurs, locking in the changes to the time-space continuum permanently.

Lara-Su was precocious at a young age, demonstrating the capacity to master skills and information beyond her tender years. At the age of five, she demonstrated tenth-level reading and math skills as well as an affinity for hunting with a dagon, able to hit her target with precision and efficiency. It would be these skills, among others, that would prove invaluable when a disruption in the time-space continuum altered her reality when she was but twelve years of age.

With the reset of her reality, she found her mother Julie-Su was one of the leaders of the Rebel Underground. There was no Brotherhood of the Guardians during this reset, as the Dark Legion was now firmly in charge under the leadership of her estranged mate K'Nox. During the battle of Portal, the time-space continuum was reset again, restoring Lara-Su to continue her studies with her friends instead of fighting to overthrow her father's rule.

Her biggest quandary was her reluctance to make her public debut while simultaneously begging her father to begin training her as a Guardian, (Continued on the last page)

CMDR GEOFFREY ST. JOHN



FIRST APPEARANCE (Original): SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #20

FULL NAME: Geoffrey Ian St. John

RANK: Commander, R.S.S. (Royal Secret Service AKA The Rebel Underground during wartime) to the Kingdom of Acorn

BORN: 007 LSD (Local Solar Date) / Rev 3214

EYES: Blue

HAIR: White

HEIGHT: 82 Marks

WEIGHT: 9.5 Stone

SPECIES: Mephitidae

ABILITIES: Great tactician and problem solver, quick reflexes, mastered armed and unarmed combat, especially proficient with a crossbow or a high-powered Marauder, capable of jury-rigging the most innocuous object into a deadly weapon, knows more than a dozen different languages spoken on Mobius as a result of numerous undercover assignments, expert pilot along with similar level skills as a skydiver, underwater demolition diver and land vehicle operator, photographic memory, master of disguises

NUMBER OF CONFIRMED KILLS: Classified

DECORATIONS: Commendation Medal for years of service, all other awards are classified

LOCATION: Whereabouts whether opera-

tional or off-duty are classified at the highest level

KNOWN FAMILY: Commander Ian St. John (father), Monique (Delacroix) St. John (mother), siblings unknown, believed to have a sister

KNOWN COLLEAGUES: Constable Remington E.S.T. (Director, Echyd'nya Security Troopers), Ceylon (Secretary of State Security, Land of a Million Lights)

FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS: Princess Acorn, Hershey, known to have romantic dalliances during many of his missions with most ending in a tragic manner

HISTORY: Not much is known of Commander St. John's early days other than he was born early in the Solar Calendar Cycle to Ian & Monique St. John. The family history and known members were kept a state secret due to his father's rank within the RSS and maintained a state secret once he assumed control of the RSS as its youngest Commander as a result of service rendered to the Kingdom during a time of insurrection.

He learned to operate in the shadows from his father, blending in with his surroundings wherever the mission took him. It was only when the Princess of Acorn interfered with an undercover mission whose goal was to terminate the Insurrectionist Kintobor that he became known to others within the Kingdom.

St. John stated to others his affiliation was with the Rebel Underground, a fictional cover used to allow for plausible deniability of the existence of the Royal Secret Service during the time Kintobor seized the throne until it was restored to its rightful King. As many members were captured and executed or enslaved, it was easy for St. John to conceal the true scope of the Service's capabilities and facilities along with the identities of those who survived to fight another day, many of whom were also trained by his father.

Shortly after foiling Kintobor's latest plan but failing to carry out his execution, St. John faded back into the shadows to plan for another opportunity, especially since the Princess voiced displeasure over several of his methods. He would later resurface when Kintobor was transporting his latest hi-tech weapon, the Dynamac-3000. It was during that mission he discovered a rival for the Princess' affections. Whereas the Princess would be one of a line of conquests where St. John was concerned, the blue-spined Erinaceae who protested doth a bit too much regarding his affections for the Princess for St. John's taste would prove to be a source of great sport and amusement.

Eventually St. John was part of a mission to recover the King that would eventually result in the King's restoration to the throne. The official reactivation of the RSS soon followed, with St. John selected as the King's choice to continue leading the organization. Since that time, St. John has maintained an iron grip on the reins of power, serving the King and his successors faithfully and well.

In recent years, he has been prodded to groom a successor. Whether that individual will be from his bloodline or a designated individual has yet to be determined. How long he will continue in his current position is a question on the minds of many key individuals both within and without the Kingdom.

ALTERNATE TIMELINE EXPERIENCES: Classified Ultra-Top Secret

END REPORT.

UPDATES WHEN WARRANTED.



DIRECTOR REMINGTON



FIRST APPEARANCE (Original):

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4

FULL NAME: Remington

RANK: Chief Constable, Avion Security Force

BORN: 125 LSD (Local Solar Date of his discovery) / Rev 3217 (listed - actual birth-date unknown)

EYES: Green

HAIR: Black

HEIGHT: 82 Marks

WEIGHT: 8.3 Stone

SPECIES: Echyd'nya

EDUCATION: Graduated first in his class from STEPPENWOLF HIGH CURRICULA

LOCATION: Home domicile classified.

KNOWN FAMILY: Qarmok (adoptive father - deceased), Cara-Le (adoptive mother),

KNOWN COLLEAGUES: Geoffrey St. John

KNOWN AFFILIATIONS: A.S.F. (Avion Security Force), Royal Secret Service

HISTORY: The circumstances of Remington's birth have been shrouded in mystery and much speculation since the discovery of his having been abandoned as an infant found by a young couple, Qarmok and his betrothed of several cycles, Cara-Le. After all efforts to establish who Remington's actual parents were had failed, the couple

applied to the State Ministry to raise the infant as their own. They were granted parental status after a rigorous testing period along with a successful evaluation of how they raised their first born son, Kyron. Based on medical evaluation, Remington was determined to be no more than a quarter cycle in age at the time of his adoption. In addition, no DNA match with any registered Echyd'nya could be found, further adding to the exotic speculations of Remington's origins.

Qarmok and Cara-Le ran a disciplined and loving household, treating both sons equally. As Kyron was by all appearances slightly older, he was presumed the older sibling and

treated accordingly. Still, Kyron bonded very well with Remington, and the boys soon became inseparable. They were both among the top students in their class and popular among their peers. When it came time to assign the boys their future course according to the customs of their society, Kyron was placed on a track for government service while Remington was deemed more suited for the security force.

Both rose through the ranks of their respective professions in rapid succession, serving with distinction and honor. But along with the honors and accolades came additional pressures resulting from the tough calls needing to be made, particularly when it came to various threats facing the Echyd'nya civilization. The main cause of disagreement arising between the brothers came about as a result of the insurrections led by the Cyberdark Dominion both overtly and covertly, including the time when a faction within Cyberdark Dominion worked to install the candidate Benedict as their agent within.

Kyron believed in Echyd'nya unity whereas Remington believed exceptions needed to be made for the greater good. This led to the pair adopting a policy of separating the professional from the personal in their dealings with each other, especially when in the presence of Cara-Le since the passing of her beloved Qarmok.

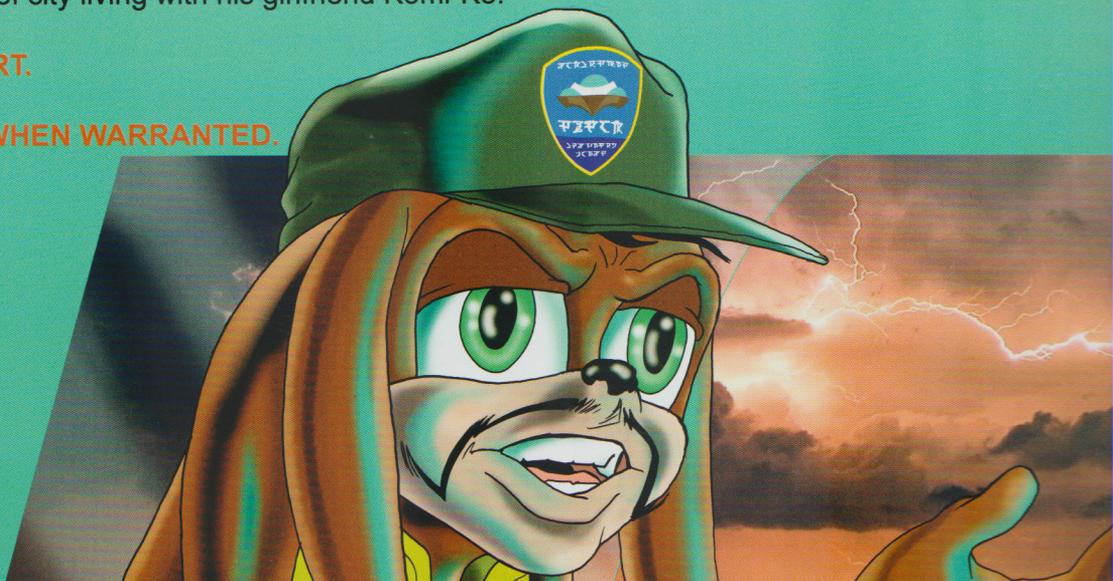
Remington was promoted to the rank of Constable, the highest rank attainable within the Echyd'nya Security Taskforce while Kyron was elected to the High Council. Both continue to serve their people from these key positions to this day.

Unknown to all but the Brotherhood of the Guardians, Remington maintains secure hidden channels of communication with the various security agencies throughout the globe, paying particular attention to the Royal Secret Service protecting the Kingdom of Acorn. Rumor has it that Remington and current RSS Director Commander Geoffrey St. John became rivals when training together for a mission many cycles ago that remains classified to this day.

When not on the job, Remington can be found either supervising a number of youth groups in their preparation for assignment within the service or enjoying the many cultural advantages of city living with his girlfriend Komi-Ko.

END REPORT.

UPDATES WHEN WARRANTED.



LIEN-DA



FIRST APPEARANCE (Original):

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #22

FULL NAME: Lien-Da Luger

FAMILY STATION: Sister of Kragok and Half-sister of Julie-Su, 1 of 3 Heirs to the House of Luger

BORN: 233 LSD (Local Solar Date) / Rev 2867

EYES: Deep Violet

HAIR: Fuchsia

HEIGHT: 80 Marks

WEIGHT: 7.4 Stone

SPECIES: Echyd'nya

ABILITIES: Ruthless, cunning, devious, high intellect, advanced survival skills including proficiency with hand-to-hand combat as well as all classifications of weaponry, capable of inflicting great pain through an assortment of methods due to her extensive knowledge of physiology, extremely advanced bio-tech scientist/engineer

LOCATION: Home domicile unknown, believed to be located within the Cyberdark Colony Province, maintains a work environment within the city district of Echyd'nyaopolis

KNOWN FAMILY: Rutan (son), Julie-Su Luger (half-sister), Lara-Su (niece, daughter of Julie-Su), K'Nox (distant cousin, descendent of Edmund who was brother to Dimitri - Missing in action, presumed deceased), Kragok (half-brother), Savoq

(acknowledged nephew - Kragok's illegitimate unacknowledged son), Luger (father - whereabouts unknown), Mari-Su of the House of Atrades (stepmother - deceased), Merin-Da of the House of Onyx (mother - deceased), Moritori Rex (grandfather), Menniker (great-grandfather - deceased), Dimitri (great-great grandfather/twin brother to Edmund), Edmund (great-great uncle - assassinated by his nephew, Menniker - 1st Guardian/twin brother to Dimitri)

KNOWN FRIENDS: Unknown. Lien-Da keeps her private life extremely private. Any discussion of relationships with others outside of known family members should be regarded

as heresy and not supported by evidence of any substance. Even the identity of her son's father remains a closely guarded secret.

KNOWN AFFILIATIONS: Cyberdark Dominion

HISTORY: Born to the House of Dimitri as the heir to Luger, her blood father, and Mer-in-Da, her blood mother, Lien-Da established her primacy even over her twin brother by hatching first. Her early years were spent on a world at the edge of a black hole that separated the Cyberdark Colony from the world of Mobius. At the age of eight, a dimensional portal opened up allowing Lien-Da and her family to step onto Avion once again.

Lien-Da's mother died shortly upon the return to Avion, leaving a distraught Luger to care for his 2 children. He soon met Mari-Su before the Cyberdark Dominion escaped through another dimensional portal during an all-out battle against the Brotherhood of Guardians and assembled Echyd'nya forces. It was during their time on Avion Lien-Da became aware time moved at different speeds on each dimensional plane, where she and the rest of Cyberdark Colony aged but a few years whereas generations lived and died on Avion.

Mari-Su soon gave birth to Lien-Da's and Kragok's half-sister Julie-Su and would meet with an untimely demise through mysterious means when Julie-Su was but a toddler. Although Kragok and Lien-Da were suspected of foul play, no evidence was ever found of their involvement in the tragic incident.

When Luger disappeared under mysterious circumstances, Kragok and Lien-Da arranged for their half-sister to be taken from the care of her assigned guardians, performing a mind wipe and enlisting her in Cyberdark Dominion youth training.

What means she used to wrest control of Cyberdark Dominion from her brother remains unknown, and she has retained power through fear and intimidation. It was only upon the return of her Great-great-grandfather Dmitri under extraordinary circumstances that she surrendered control of the Cyberdark Dominion to him. Even in his disembodied state, he is the one being capable of exercising limits upon Lien-Da, fully aware she would betray him without hesitation.



It's only in recent years Lien-Da has re-established a relationship with her half-sister Julie-Su and niece Lara-Su. Only time will tell to what purpose, as Lien-Da has rarely demonstrated a capacity for personal relationships. Even Lien-Da's son Rutan has no idea who his father is or the circumstances of his birth. Whether Lien-Da ever divulges her secrets is a story for another time.

END REPORT.

UPDATES WHEN WARRANTED.

COMMANDER MYKHAL TAEOR



FIRST APPEARANCE (Original): SHATTERED TOMORROWS Graphic Novel

FULL NAME: Mykhal Jefferson Taelor

RANK: Commander, Senior Field Officer

BORN: 276 LSD (Local Solar Date) / Rev 3214

EYES: Brown

HAIR: Black

HEIGHT: 187.96 cm

WEIGHT: 87.08 km

SPECIES: Homo Sapien

STARSHIP POSTING: A.C.F. (Alpha Centauri Federation) Columbia, designation EXR-1958, Explorer Class

ASSIGNMENT: Third-In-Command after the Executive Officer (XO) and Science Officer (SO), in charge of all off-ship assignments, including exploratory as well as search & rescue and other humanitarian operations

DECORATIONS: Commendation Medal for years of service, Federation Medal of Honor, the Orion Crystal, the Deneva Medal of Valor

LOCATION: Operations conducted primarily in the Alpha Centauri Quadrant, current whereabouts UNKNOWN

KNOWN FAMILY: Renae (wife), daughters Tasha and Ayla

HISTORY: Commander Taelor's family immigrated to the Alpha Centauri colonies during the climate upheavals on planet Earth. He was born during transport just before the arrival at the colony, is the second eldest among two brothers and a sister. Has dual-citizenship with Earth and Alpha Centauri, but primarily identifies as Alpha Centaurian. Was an exceptional student and admitted into Federation Service at age seventeen upon graduation from the senior level. Rose through the ranks faster than most of his contemporaries and eventually assigned to the Federation flagship exploratory vessel Columbia.

Met Renae Osiris while recuperating from operations conducted on the Venetian Colony during an environmental disaster. They married within a Solar Cycle later and had their



first child (Tasha) approximately three cycles after that. Daughter Ayla was born 1.6 cycles later. The family relocated to Proxima 89 Colony to care for Renae's parents prior to Taelor continuing on with his latest assignment.

MISSION STATUS: The Columbia had completed several exploratory as well as humanitarian missions prior to contact being lost with the ship. It is believed the Columbia encountered an uncharted wormhole and was subsequently lost. Unmanned probes have been dispatched to their last charted location in the hope contact can be established.

It is further believed the Columbia is currently located somewhere in uncharted space. The starship was designed to be self-sustaining for a period of 10 Revolutions before scheduled refit in 4 Revolutions. The Captain and his senior officers are among the finest of the Federation, in charge of a veteran well-trained crew, so there is every reason to hope for their eventual return.

END REPORT.

UPDATES WHEN WARRANTED.



JULIE-SU



FIRST APPEARANCE (Original):

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4

FULL NAME: Julie-Su Luger

FAMILY STATION: Half-sister of Kragok and Lien-Da, 1 of 3 Heirs to the House of Luger

BORN: 140 LSD (Local Solar Date) / Rev 3085

EYES: Deep Violet

HAIR: Fuchsia

HEIGHT: 79 Marks

WEIGHT: 7.2 Stone

SPECIES: Echyd'nya

ABILITIES: High intellect, quick reflexes, knows a dozen different languages spoken on Mobius, proficient at software programming, designing algorithms, designing and constructing cybertech both standalone and compatible with biological units, expert on artificial intelligence and virtual reality sciences, advanced survival skills including proficiency with hand-to-hand combat and a variety of hand weapons, advanced culinary and first-aid skills

LOCATION: Family dwelling located outside of Echyd'nyapolis, the center of government on the Floating Island, which include her offices in the Hall of Sciences

KNOWN FAMILY: Lara-Su (daughter), K'Nox (Lifemate - AKA The Praetorian - Missing in action, presumed deceased), Lien-Da Luger (half-sister), Rutan (nephew - son of Lien-Da), Kragok (half-broth-

er), Savoq (acknowledged nephew - Kragok's illegitimate unacknowledged son), Simon (adoptive father - deceased), Floren-Ca (adoptive mother), Luger (father - whereabouts unknown), Mari-Su of the House of Atrades (mother - deceased), Moritori Rex (grandfather - whereabouts unknown), Menniker (great-grandfather - deceased), Dimitri (great-great grandfather/twin brother to Edmund), Edmund (great-great uncle - assassinated by his nephew, Menniker - 1st Guardian/twin brother to Dimitri)

KNOWN FRIENDS: Lara-Le (K'Nox's mother)

KNOWN AFFILIATIONS: Echyd'nya Science Council, former soldier of the Cyberdark

HISTORY: Born to the House of Dimitri as the heir to Luger, her blood father, and Mari-Su, her blood mother, Julie-Su was the youngest of Luger's children. Her mother was Mari-Su, Luger's second wife, whom he married when his children Kragok and Lien-Da, sired with his first wife Merin-Da, were but 16 years of age. Mari-Su would meet with an untimely demise through mysterious means. Although Kragok and Lien-Da would be suspected of foul play, no evidence was ever found of their involvement in the tragic incident.

Shortly after his wife's death, Luger would enlist the aid of a couple who served his family well, Simon and his wife Floren-Ca, entrusting the care of Julie-Su to them. Simon and Floren-Ca would treat Julie-Su as if she were their own child, providing the love and nurturing she would never receive from her own blood family relations, especially her half-brother and half-sister.

When Luger disappeared under mysterious circumstances while Julie-Su was but eight years of age, Kragok and Lien-Da arranged for their half-sister to be taken from the care of Simon and Floren-Ca, performing a mind wipe and enlisting her in Cyberdark Dominion youth training. She would retain no memory of her foster parents until Simon re-established contact with her almost a decade later.

During her first 16 years of existence, her family along with the Cyberdark Dominion lived mostly in the space/time continuum known as the Twilight Zone, in which time advances at a different rate than in the space/time continuum in which most of their Echyd'nya brethren resided. Thus, once Julie-Su escaped from her enforced servitude to the Cyberdark Dominion, she met her soulmate K'Nox, whom she mistakenly took for an enemy. At the time of their first meeting, though they appeared to be roughly of the same age, Julie-Su was considerably older in terms of calendar years.

Julie-Su and K'Nox would become inseparable after that first meeting, though their relationship did suffer a rough patch or two in the early days. They would encounter adversity as a result of Julie-Su's relations to the Cyberdark Dominion, particularly from Julie-Su's Great-great-grandfather, Dimitri, whose twin-brother Edmund would be the first in a line that eventually gave birth to K'Nox many generations later. Because of the family feud that occurred generations before they were even born, Julie-Su's relations would never fully trust K'Nox, nor would K'Nox's relations ever fully trust Julie-Su, especially because of Julie-Su's half-sister Lien-Da.

Julie-Su and K'Nox would eventually make a commitment to each other, which resulted in the birth of their daughter Lara-Su. Julie-Su would soon take charge of Lara-Su's education during her formative years while holding down a position in the Echyd'nya Hall of Science. As K'Nox assumed the mantle of Praetorian, this would result in increased importance of Julie-Su's position within the Echyd'nian government.

She is currently leading the investigation into the whereabouts of the Praetorian.

END REPORT.

UPDATES WHEN WARRANTED.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I submitted my first SONIC stories back on October 6, 1993, along with my then-partner, Mike Kanterovich, with whom I collaborated with until the summer of 1995 when Mike decided he simply didn't want to work in comics anymore. To him I owe a lot as he was the one who thought I could go it alone while I thought I couldn't continue without him. It's been quite the journey ever since, now lasting over thirty years.

The most significant partner throughout the journey once Mike departed has been my soulmate Bernadette Shahin, who put up with my late nights, constant deadlines, convention appearances and even a legal battle. Everything I've done since we met, even this book, wouldn't have been possible without her.

Our children Stephen, Colin and Cara were also along for the ride, going to conventions and being a constant source of inspiration for the stories I wrote and characters created.

This endeavor would be meaningless without someone to pass down the legacy of my work to, and for that I have my grandchildren Julian, Jovie and Jemma. They are my tomorrow when I'm no longer here.

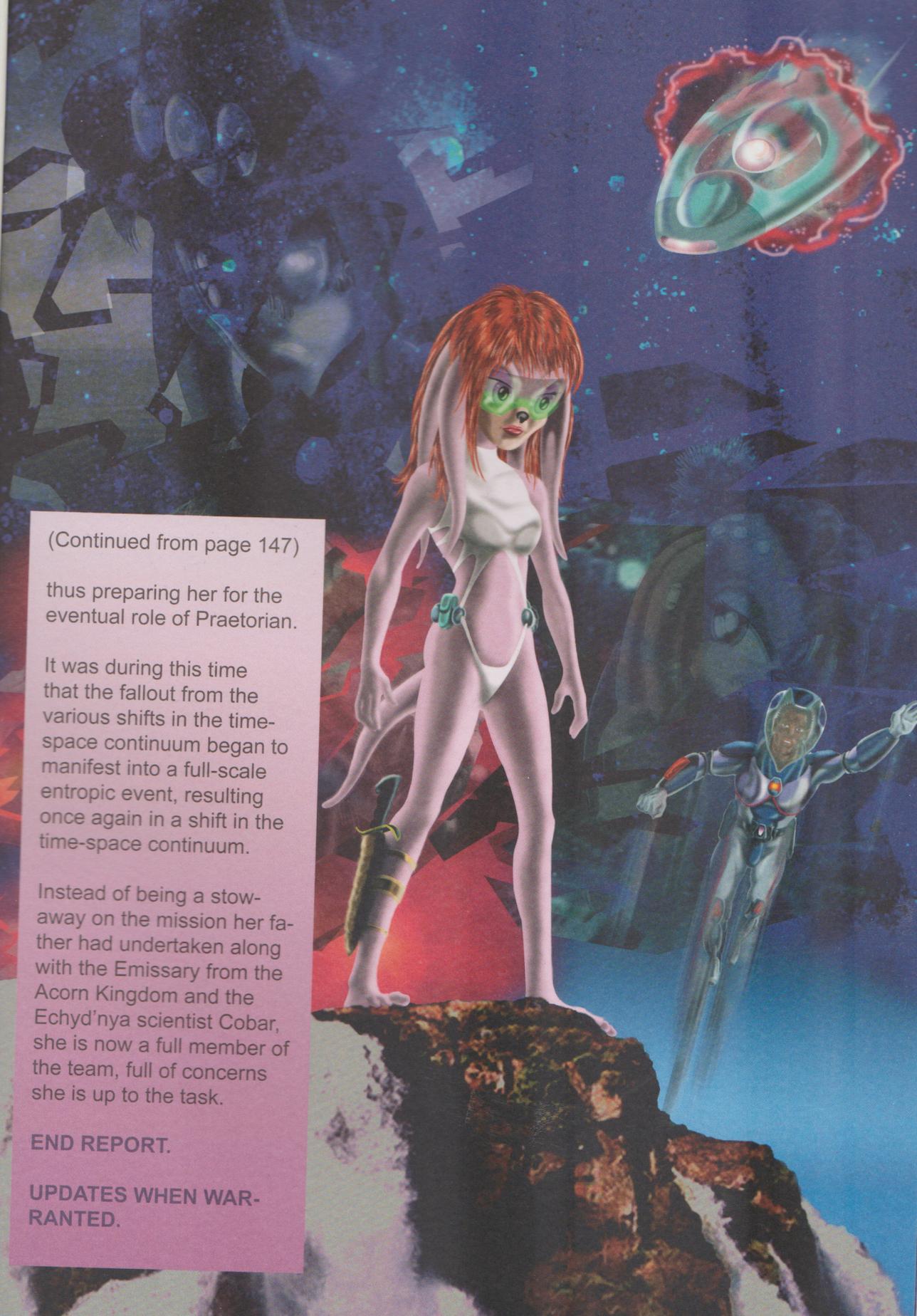
THE LARA-SU CHRONICLES in its totality wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts and faith of my lawyers Phil Daman and Michael Lovitz, true mensches in every sense of the word. I can never express my gratitude or my love for them enough.

Getting to this point would also have not been possible without George Winter, my lifelong friend who was always more brother to me than my own brothers, Elliot S! Maggin, who started as a friend then became my editor then stayed a close friend for over thirty years, and Larry Houston, my brother from another mother for almost as long. They saw me through some dark times and were there to celebrate the successes. I can't imagine life without them.

Finally, there were the people without whom I wouldn't have been possible but sadly didn't live to see this but were always there in spirit, which includes my parents Kenneth and Rita, my grandmother Florence, my defacto second parents Camilla & George Winter and my good friend Robert Repas.

My dad was the inspiration for the character Locke in many way, and his relationship with me often mirrored the relationship Locke had with his son Knuckles. My mom, grandmother and the Winters were always supportive of my efforts when I was growing up and even after when I left home to find my place in the world. Then there's Robert, or Bob as he preferred to be called, he was my science guru, story advisor and just a great friend in general.

As for the other people who played an important role in my life, they know who they are and that they matter.



(Continued from page 147)

thus preparing her for the eventual role of Praetorian.

It was during this time that the fallout from the various shifts in the time-space continuum began to manifest into a full-scale entropic event, resulting once again in a shift in the time-space continuum.

Instead of being a stow-away on the mission her father had undertaken along with the Emissary from the Acorn Kingdom and the Echyd'nya scientist Cobar, she is now a full member of the team, full of concerns she is up to the task.

END REPORT.

UPDATES WHEN WARRANTED.