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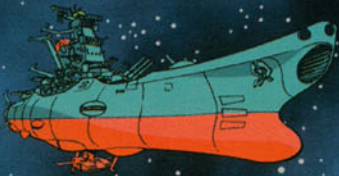
STAR BLAZERS

THE MAGAZINE OF SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO

ICARUS

Part 1 of 3





STAR BLAZERS

THE MAGAZINE OF SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO

Based on *Space Battleship Yamato*
created by Yoshinobu Nishizaki and Leiji Matsumoto

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FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK

Greetings, everyone. THE NEW VOYAGE is now behind us, and we hope you enjoyed reading it as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you, extra scenes and all. The next "episode" in the animated YAMATO saga is the classic feature film, BE FOREVER YAMATO, which is currently available on video from Voyager Entertainment. The BE FOREVER storyline will grace the pages of this publication as well...but not right away.

Over this and the next two issues, we'd like to present something readers have been asking for since we published issue #0 over a year ago—a new, original story to augment our adaptations of the YAMATO animated films. That story begins this month, with a tale of the Star Force set between THE NEW VOYAGE and BE FOREVER.

This is the first new STAR BLAZERS story that has appeared in several years, and we hope that it satisfies all the expectations that must have built up during the long wait.

After the comics, a new set of articles awaits you...including a very special overview of Mr. Leiji Matsumoto's original story treatment for the first SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO TV series. Not only is it a fascinating read, it will also answer many long-standing questions about the relationship between the Yamato series and another famous Matsumoto creation, Captain Harlock!

Finally, a very special announcement can be found on this issue's YAMATO SHOP page. Many of you have wondered where and how to start a collection of the exceptional music from the Yamato saga...and we're proud to answer you by saying, "here!" and "now!"

Barry Winston
Publisher

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Voyager Entertainment, Inc. is proud to announce the development of a new STAR BLAZERS tactical miniatures game, in cooperation with Musashi Enterprises, Inc. The STAR BLAZERS FLEET BATTLE SYSTEM will be previewed at this year's Gen Con, to be held August 8-11 at the Mecca Convention Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Musashi Enterprises will host free rounds of this exciting new game each day of the convention. To obtain more information on Gen Con, call 414-248-3625 or send E-mail to TSRinc@AOL.com. Voyager Entertainment and Musashi Enterprises will also have STAR BLAZERS/YAMATO merchandise for sale at the convention (at booth #480).

VOYAGER ENTERTAINMENT
PRESENTS

"... NO WORD YET FROM - WAIT. WAIT ... IT SOUNDS LIKE - YES! WE ARE GETTING CONFIRMATION NOW FROM U.N. HEADQUARTERS ..."

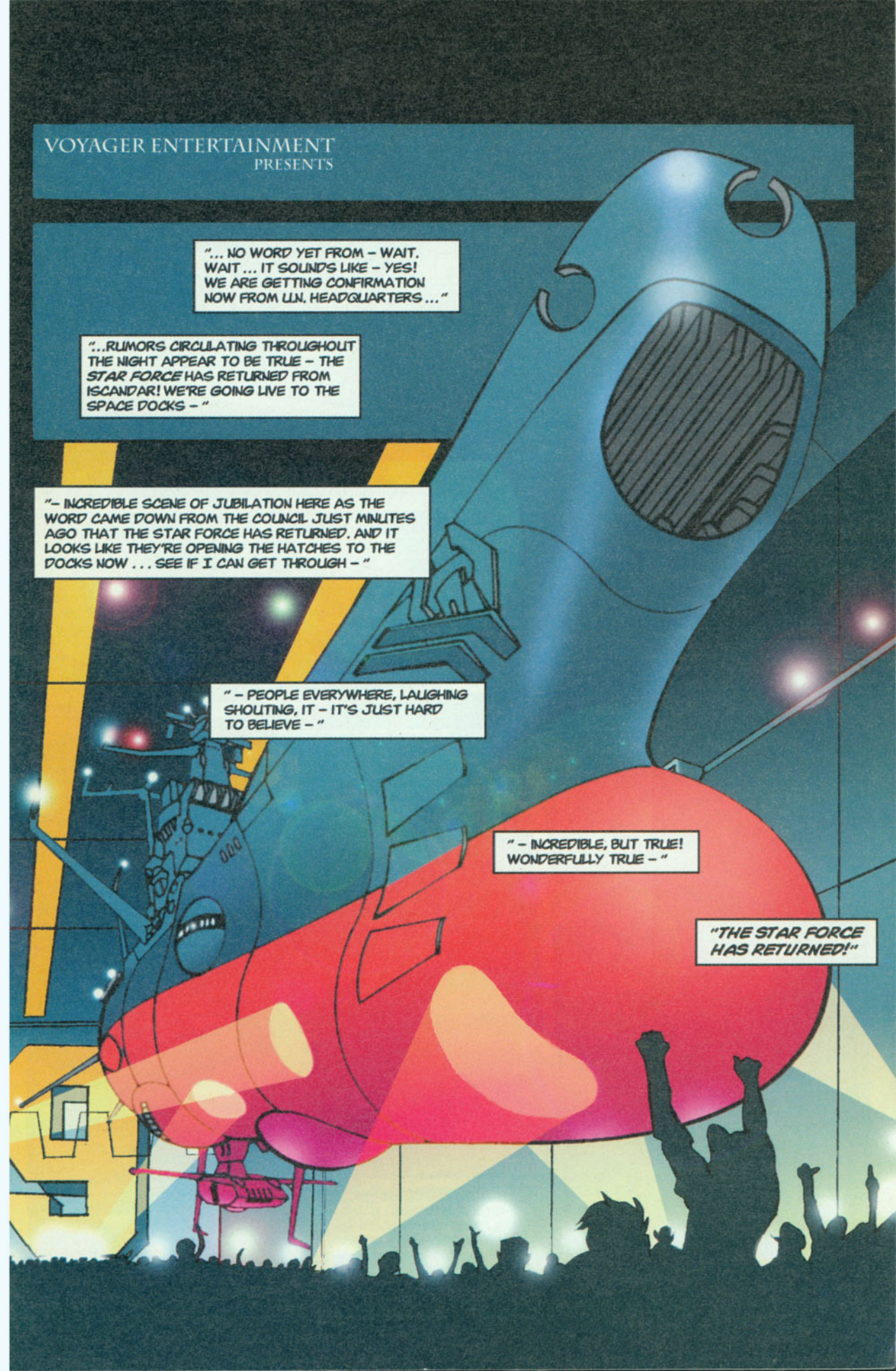
"...RUMORS CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT APPEAR TO BE TRUE - THE STAR FORCE HAS RETURNED FROM ISCANDAR! WE'RE GOING LIVE TO THE SPACE DOCKS -"

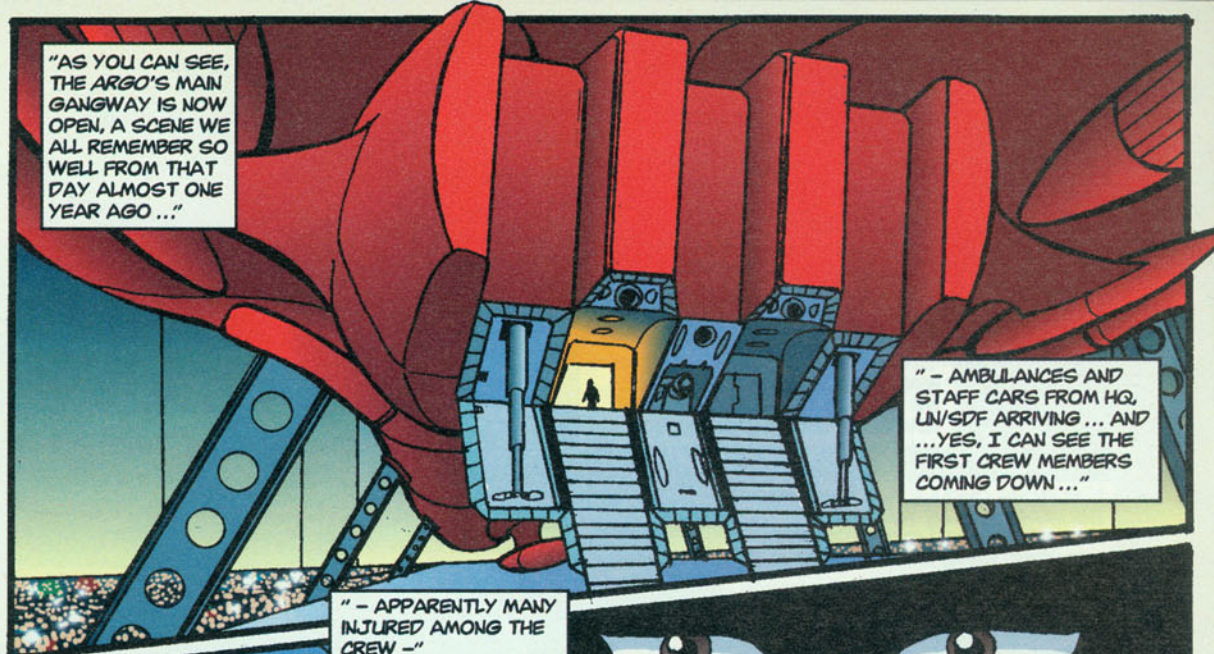
"- INCREDIBLE SCENE OF JUBILATION HERE AS THE WORD CAME DOWN FROM THE COUNCIL JUST MINUTES AGO THAT THE STAR FORCE HAS RETURNED. AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE OPENING THE HATCHES TO THE DOCKS NOW ... SEE IF I CAN GET THROUGH -"

"- PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, LAUGHING SHOUTING, IT - IT'S JUST HARD TO BELIEVE -"

"- INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE! WONDERFULLY TRUE -"

"THE STAR FORCE HAS RETURNED!"





"AS YOU CAN SEE, THE ARGO'S MAIN GANGWAY IS NOW OPEN, A SCENE WE ALL REMEMBER SO WELL FROM THAT DAY ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO ..."

"- AMBULANCES AND STAFF CARS FROM HQ, UN/SDF ARRIVING ... AND ...YES, I CAN SEE THE FIRST CREW MEMBERS COMING DOWN ..."

"- APPARENTLY MANY INJURED AMONG THE CREW -"



"- AND THE NOISE YOU HEAR IS THE CROWD CHEERING AS THE BRIDGE CREW APPEARS ON THE GANGWAY -"

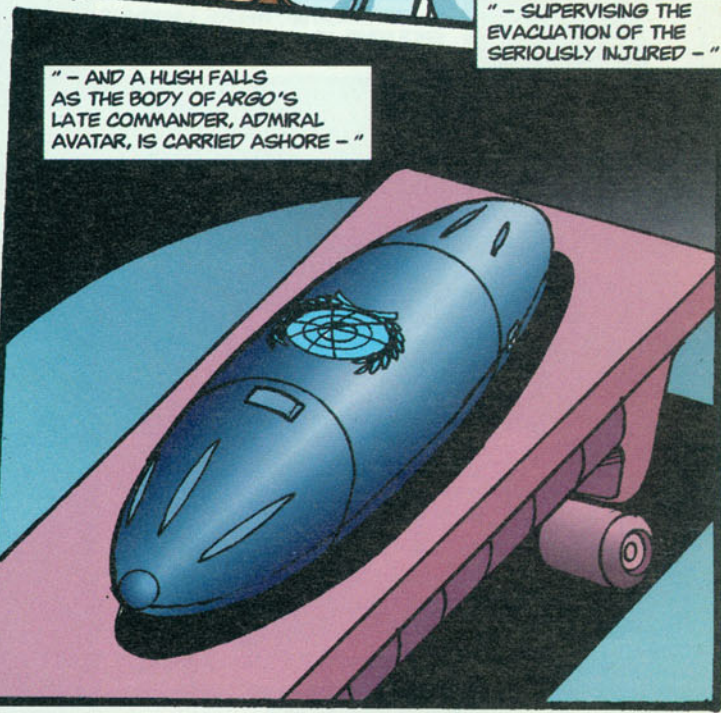


"- WILDSTAR, FORRESTER, VENTURE -"



"- AND THERE'S THE SHIP'S CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, DR. SAKEZO SANE -"

"- SUPERVISING THE EVACUATION OF THE SERIOUSLY INJURED -"

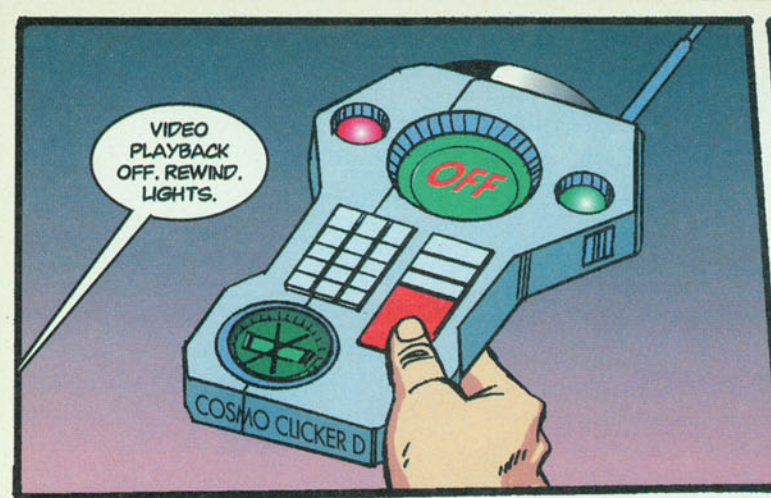


"- AND A HUSH FALLS AS THE BODY OF ARGO'S LATE COMMANDER, ADMIRAL AVATAR, IS CARRIED ASHORE -"



"- OUR COVERAGE OF THE RETURN OF THE ISCANDAR MISSION CONTINUES AS WE -"

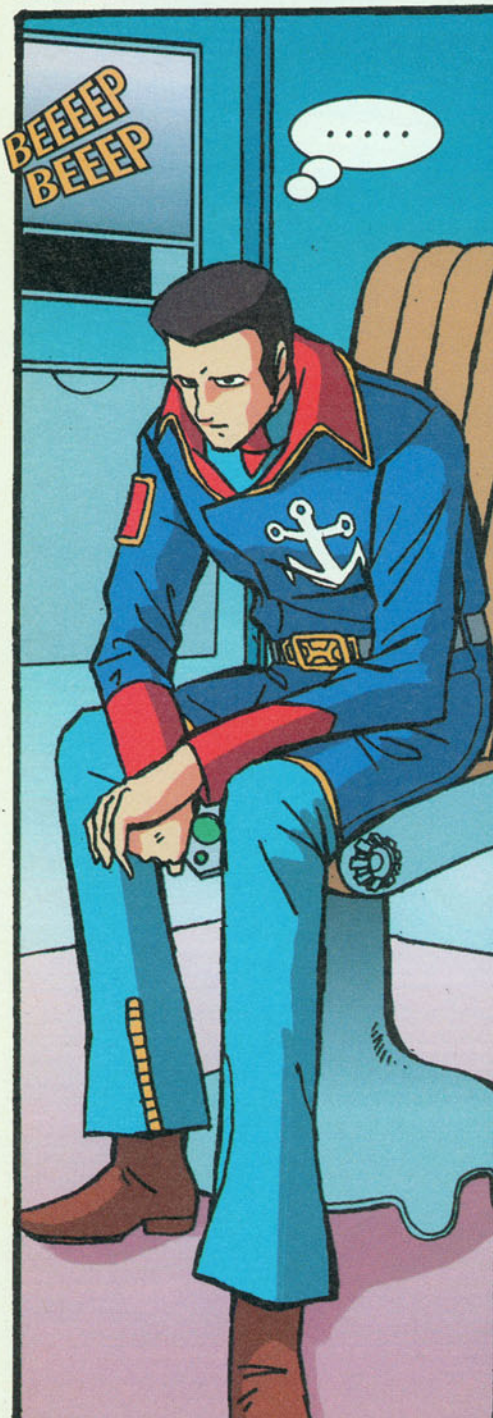
STOP PLAYBACK.



VIDEO PLAYBACK OFF. REWIND. LIGHTS.

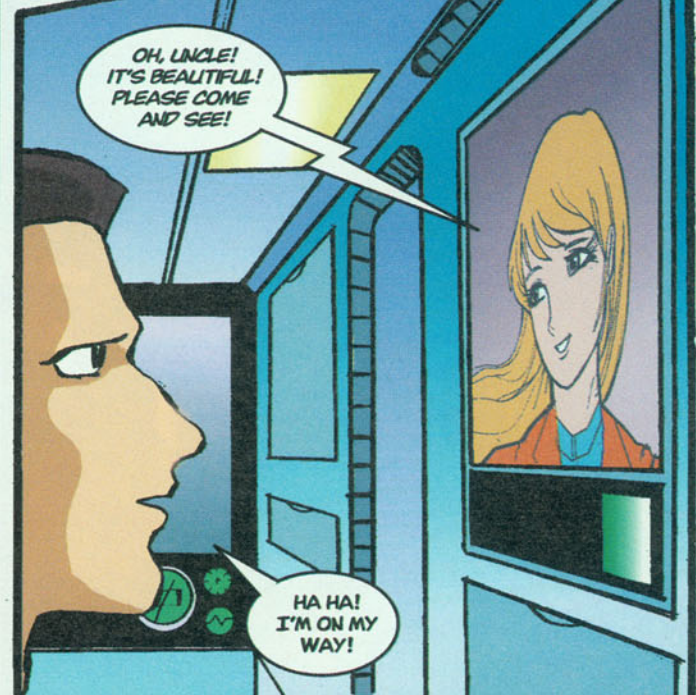


THE SIXTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2200 ... TWO YEARS AGO TODAY. THE DAY WE GOT BACK FROM ISCANDAR. IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM NOW ... A DREAM ...



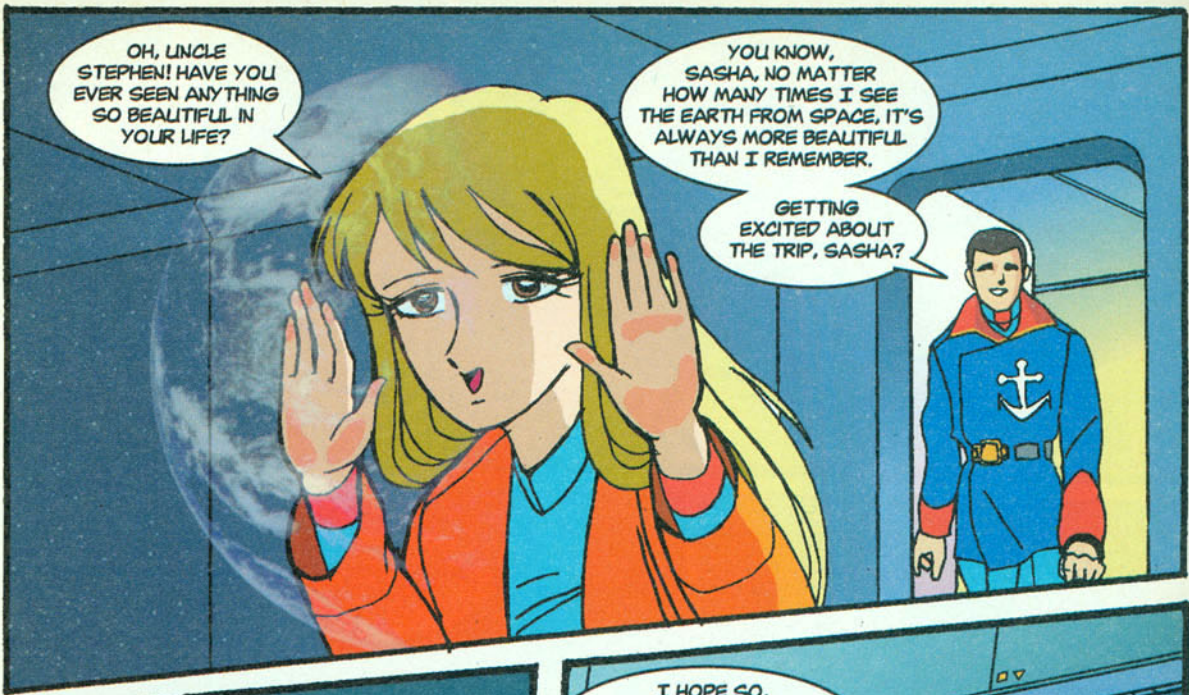
COMMANDER SANDOR, A CALL FROM THE OBSERVATION DECK.

ANSWER CALL. SASHA, IS THAT YOU? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?



OH, UNCLE! IT'S BEAUTIFUL! PLEASE COME AND SEE!

HA HA! I'M ON MY WAY!



OH, UNCLE STEPHEN! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR LIFE?

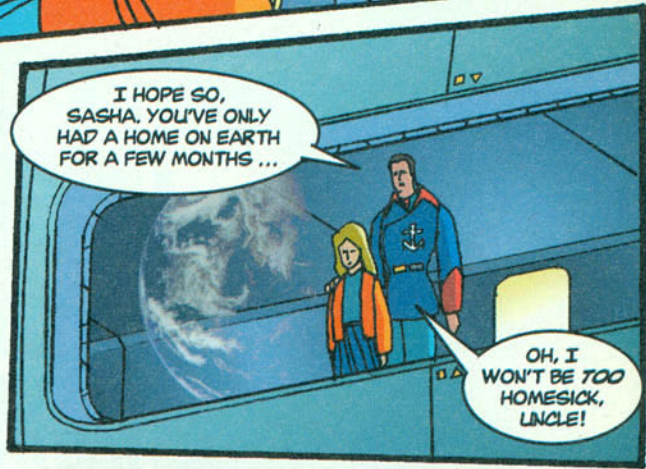
YOU KNOW, SASHA, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE THE EARTH FROM SPACE, IT'S ALWAYS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I REMEMBER.

GETTING EXCITED ABOUT THE TRIP, SASHA?



I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD LEAVING HOME LIKE THIS, BUT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CALL YOUR FATHER FROM THE BASE ONCE A WEEK IF YOU WANT ...

OH, I'M OKAY, UNCLE STEPHEN. A CHANCE TO HELP YOU REBUILD THE YAMATO - AND TO BE IN SPACE - IT'S WORTH BEING A LITTLE HOME-SICK.



I HOPE SO, SASHA. YOU'VE ONLY HAD A HOME ON EARTH FOR A FEW MONTHS ...

OH, I WON'T BE TOO HOMESICK, UNCLE!



...SPACE IS MY HOME ...

"ALL HANDS, THIS IS THE CAPTAIN. WE ARE NOW DEPARTING EARTH ORBIT ..."



"...AND WILL ARRIVE AT THE ICARUS SPECIAL FACILITY IN 72 HOURS."

STAR BLAZERS ICARUS

by BRUCE LEWIS
color by JOHN OTT

special thanks to
THE ISCANDAR PROJECT

22 NOVEMBER 2202
EDF ICARUS SPECIAL FACILITY



"I CAN'T REMEMBER MY MOTHER'S FACE, YET IT SEEMS LIKE I SEE HER EVERYWHERE I GO ..."

...UH, OKAY. THIS IS, UM, SASHA - SASHA ALEXANDER WILDSTAR. I'M ELEVEN MONTHS OLD TODAY ...OR IS THAT FIFTEEN YEARS? I LOSE TRACK ...

"IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE INSIDE THIS ROCK."

CHAPTER ONE: THE ROCK



I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET STR-CRAZY IN HERE. I MEAN, IT'S NICE AND ALL - BUT NOW I JUST WANT TO GET OUT ...

... I WANT TO SEE THE EARTH AGAIN, AND THE STARS, AND - AND EVERYTHING!

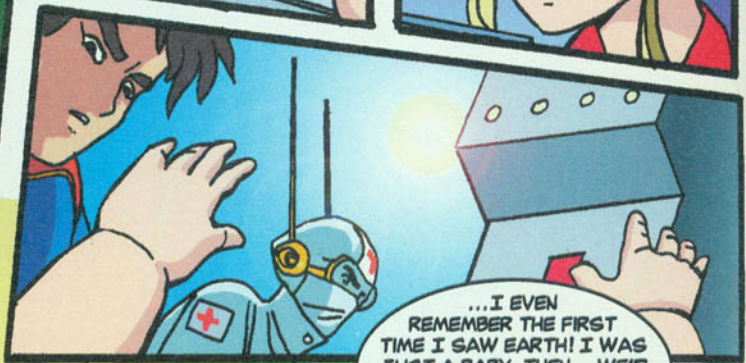
OF COURSE, I LOVE UNCLE STEPHEN AND THE GROUP HERE ON THE ROCK - THAT'S WHAT WE CALL IT, "THE ROCK" - BUT I REALLY MISS MY FRIENDS BACK ON EARTH ...

... THAT'S WHY I'M MAKING THIS DIARY - SO I CAN REMEMBER ALL THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND PLACES I'VE SEEN ...

That's why I'm making this diary. so I can remember all the wonderful people and places



DR. SANE ... FUNNY OL' IQ-9 ... I REMEMBER ALL THE FUN WE HAD BACK ON EARTH.



... I EVEN REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW EARTH! I WAS JUST A BABY, THEN ... WE'D JUST GOTTEN BACK FROM ISCANDAR. I REMEMBER SEEING THE SUN ...



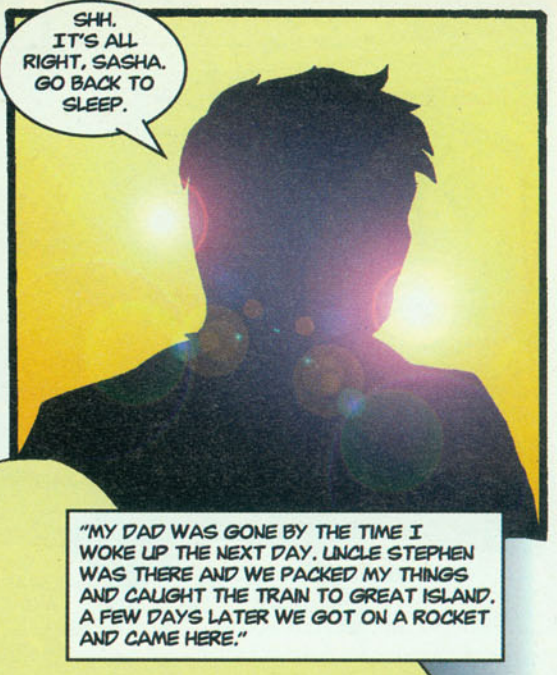
... AND HOW HANDSOME MY FATHER LOOKED IN IT ...



"I REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW MY FATHER. HE WAS ARGUING WITH UNCLE STEPHEN. IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT ... THE NOISE WOKE ME UP."

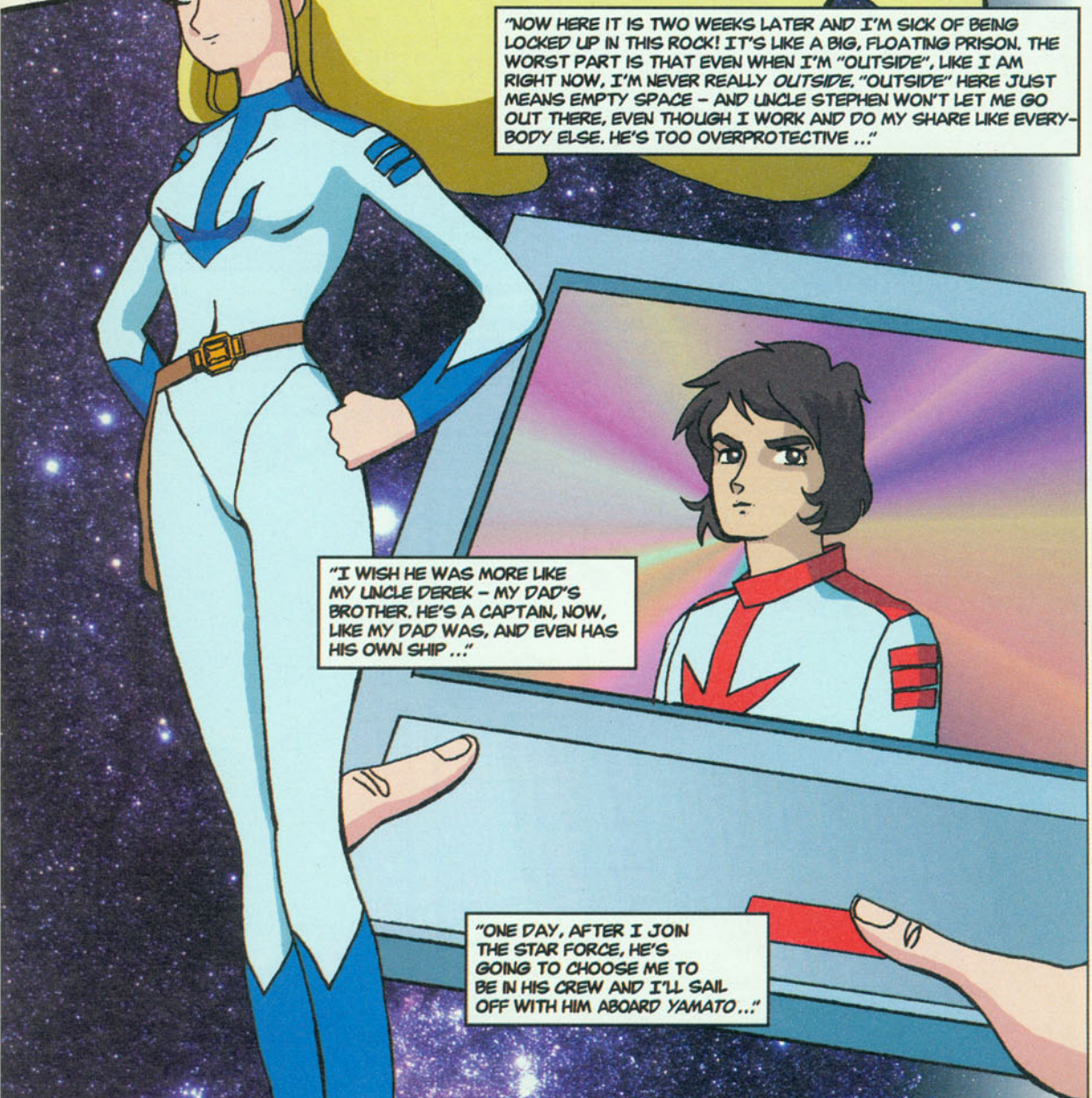
OKAY, ALEX. YOU WIN. I'LL TAKE HER. GOD HELP ME, I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN.

DADDY -?



SHH. IT'S ALL RIGHT, SASHA. GO BACK TO SLEEP.

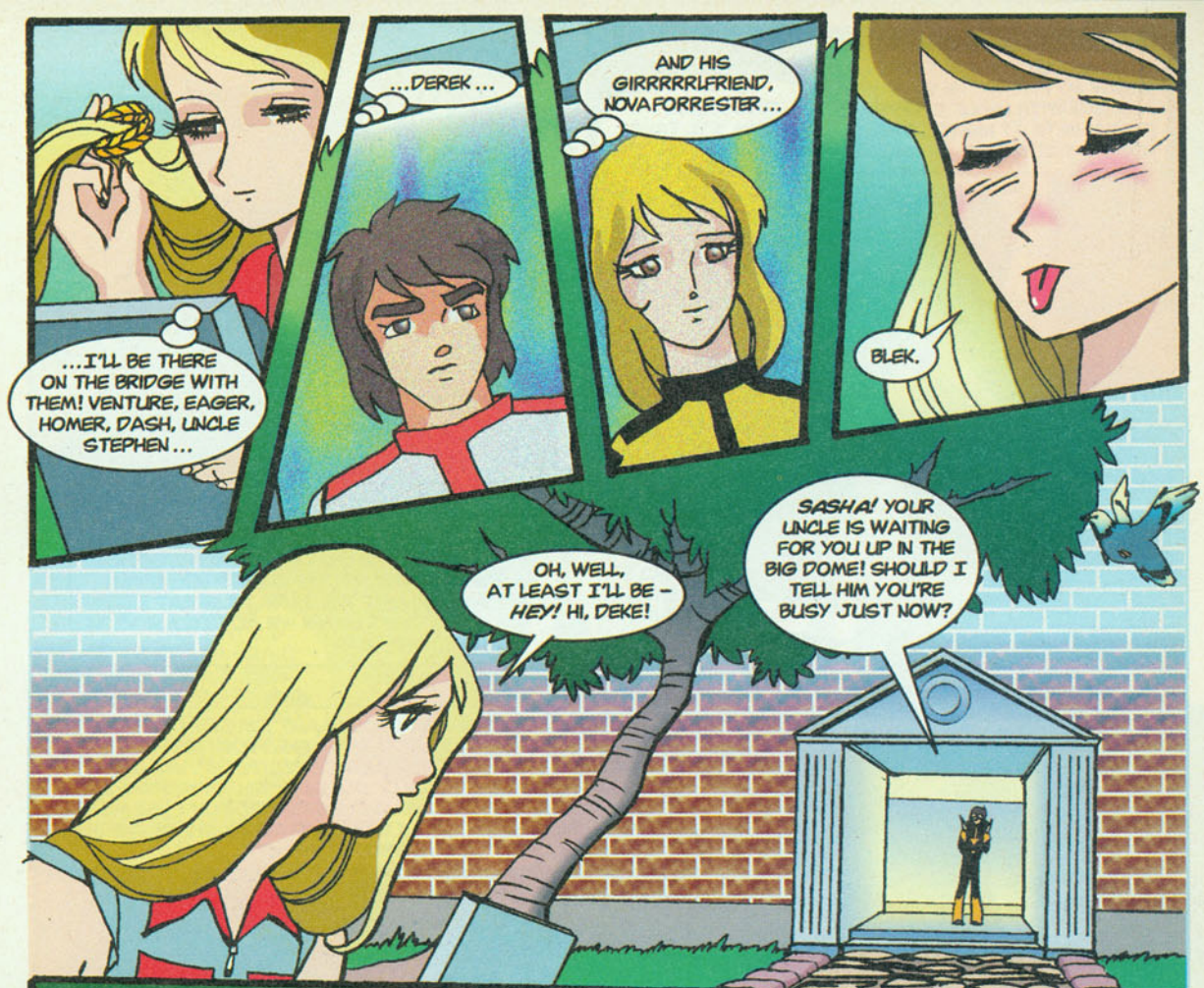
"MY DAD WAS GONE BY THE TIME I WOKE UP THE NEXT DAY. UNCLE STEPHEN WAS THERE AND WE PACKED MY THINGS AND CAUGHT THE TRAIN TO GREAT ISLAND. A FEW DAYS LATER WE GOT ON A ROCKET AND CAME HERE."



"NOW HERE IT IS TWO WEEKS LATER AND I'M SICK OF BEING LOCKED UP IN THIS ROCK! IT'S LIKE A BIG, FLOATING PRISON. THE WORST PART IS THAT EVEN WHEN I'M "OUTSIDE", LIKE I AM RIGHT NOW, I'M NEVER REALLY OUTSIDE. "OUTSIDE" HERE JUST MEANS EMPTY SPACE - AND UNCLE STEPHEN WON'T LET ME GO OUT THERE, EVEN THOUGH I WORK AND DO MY SHARE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. HE'S TOO OVERPROTECTIVE ..."

"I WISH HE WAS MORE LIKE MY UNCLE DEREK - MY DAD'S BROTHER. HE'S A CAPTAIN, NOW, LIKE MY DAD WAS, AND EVEN HAS HIS OWN SHIP ..."

"ONE DAY, AFTER I JOIN THE STAR FORCE, HE'S GOING TO CHOOSE ME TO BE IN HIS CREW AND I'LL SAIL OFF WITH HIM ABOARD YAMATO ..."



...I'LL BE THERE ON THE BRIDGE WITH THEM! VENTURE, EAGER, HOMER, DASH, UNCLE STEPHEN...

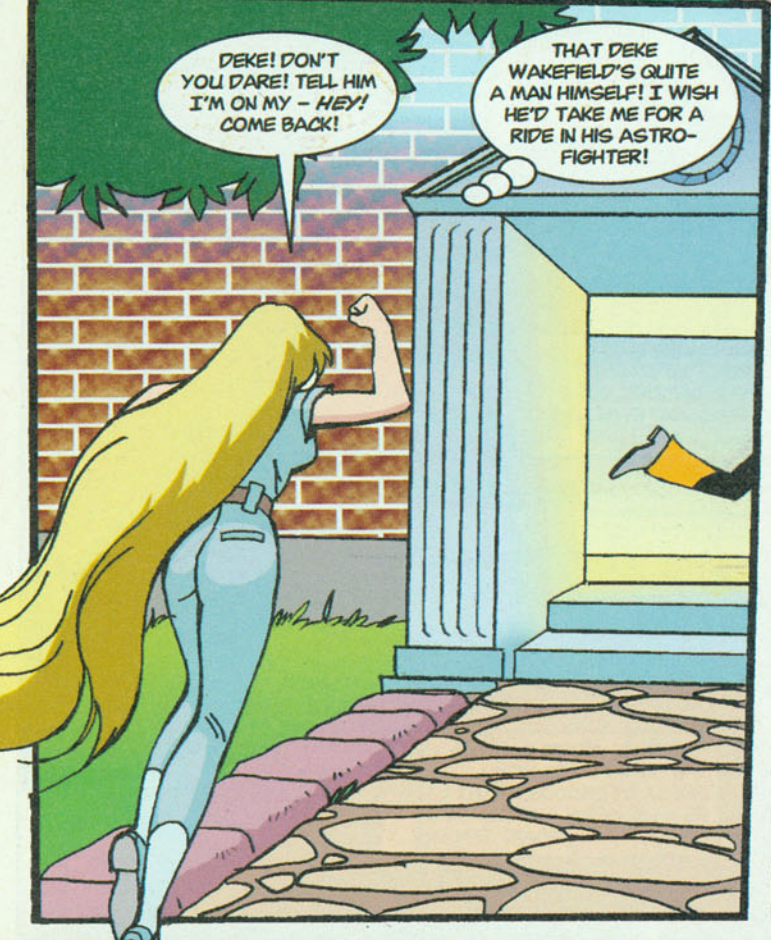
...DEREK...

AND HIS GIRRRRRRIFRIEND, NOVA FORRESTER...

BLEK.

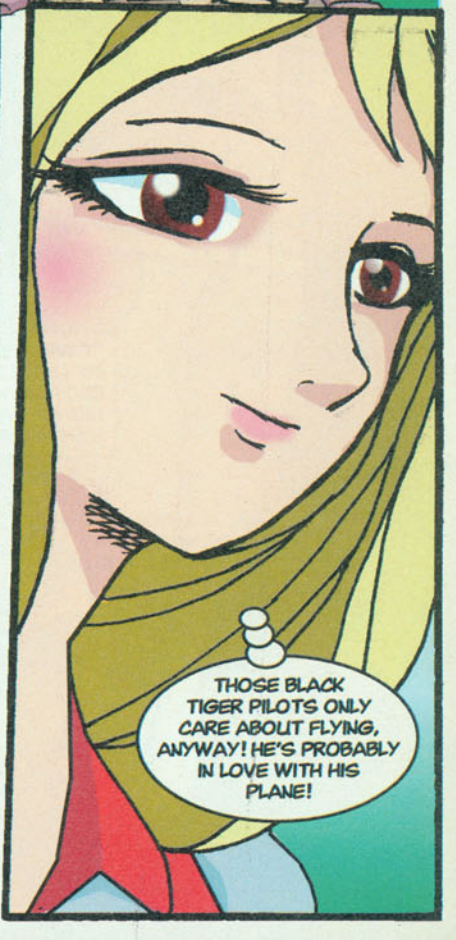
OH, WELL, AT LEAST I'LL BE - HEY! HI, DEKE!

SASHA! YOUR UNCLE IS WAITING FOR YOU UP IN THE BIG DOME! SHOULD I TELL HIM YOU'RE BUSY JUST NOW?

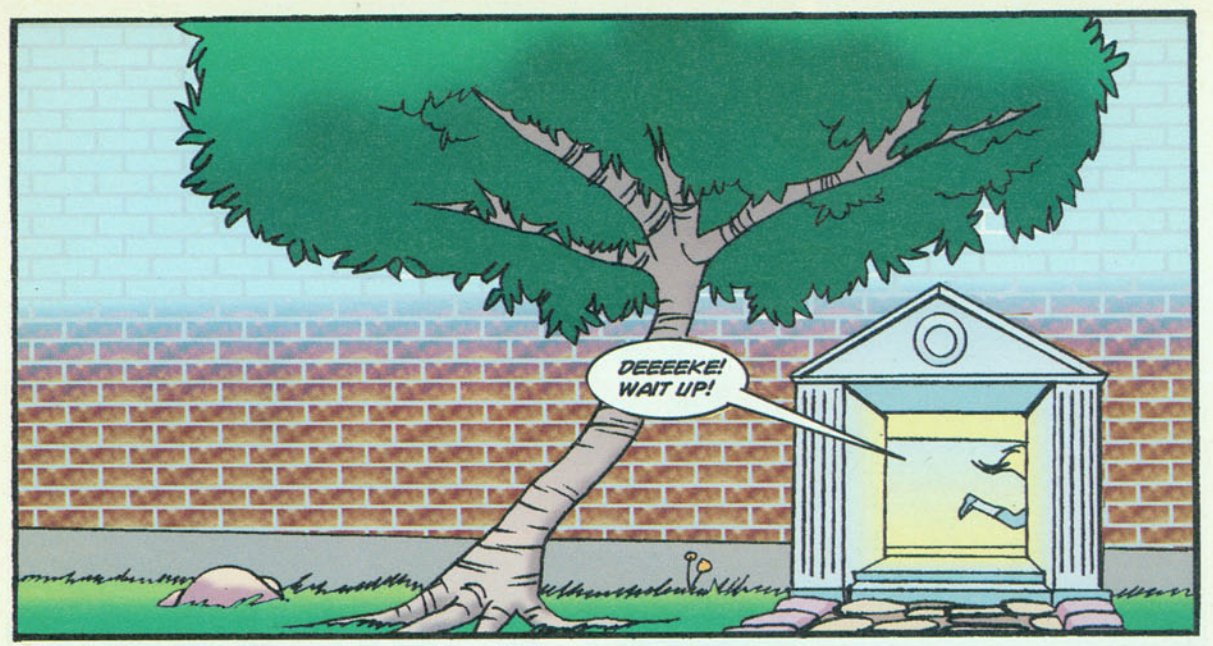


DEKE! DON'T YOU DARE! TELL HIM I'M ON MY - HEY! COME BACK!

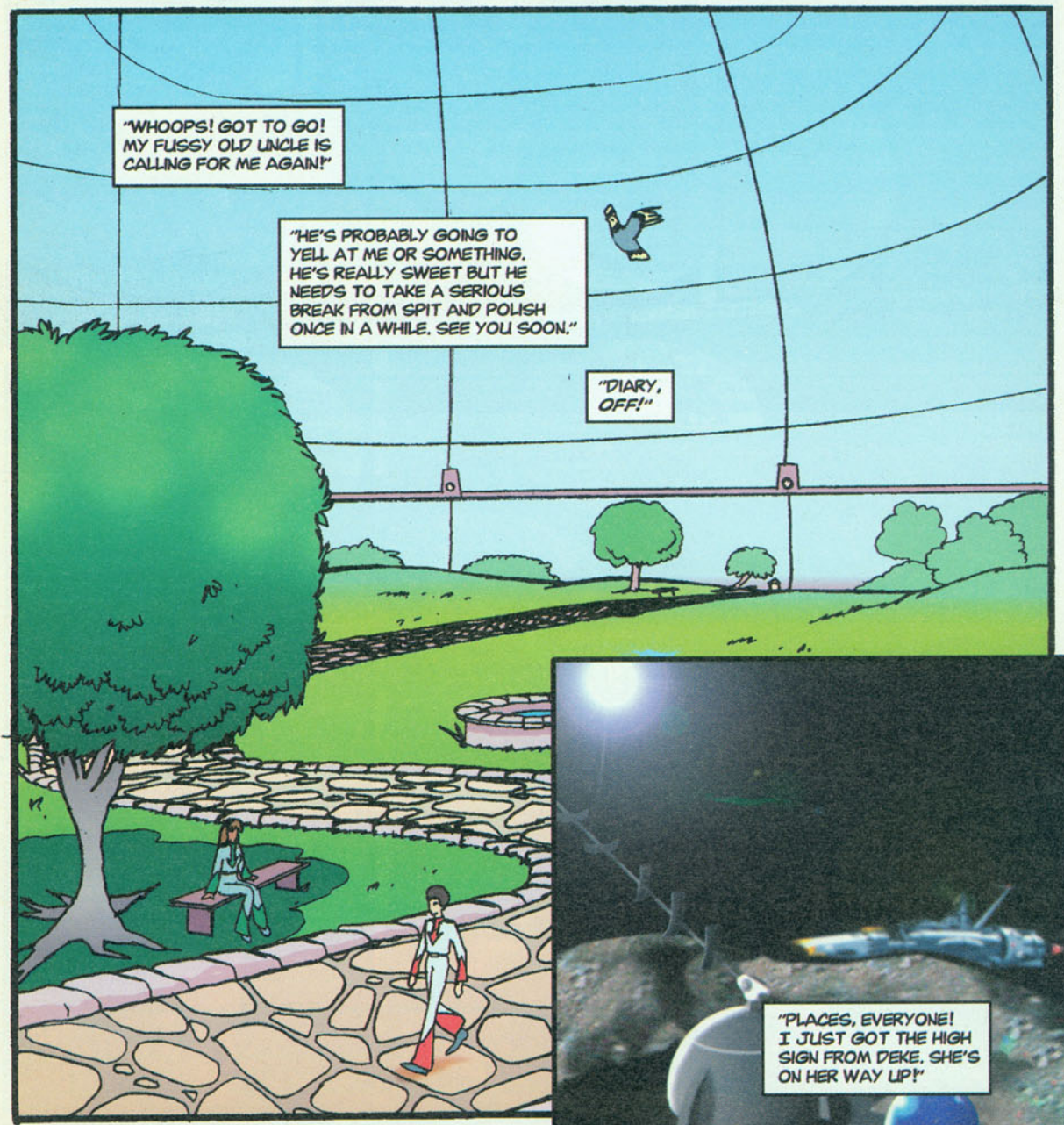
THAT DEKE WAKEFIELD'S QUITE A MAN HIMSELF! I WISH HE'D TAKE ME FOR A RIDE IN HIS ASTRO-FIGHTER!



THOSE BLACK TIGER PILOTS ONLY CARE ABOUT FLYING, ANYWAY! HE'S PROBABLY IN LOVE WITH HIS PLANE!



DEEEKE! WAIT UP!



"WHOOOPS! GOT TO GO! MY FUSSY OLD UNCLE IS CALLING FOR ME AGAIN!"

"HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO YELL AT ME OR SOMETHING. HE'S REALLY SWEET BUT HE NEEDS TO TAKE A SERIOUS BREAK FROM SPIT AND POLISH ONCE IN A WHILE. SEE YOU SOON."

"DIARY, OFF!"

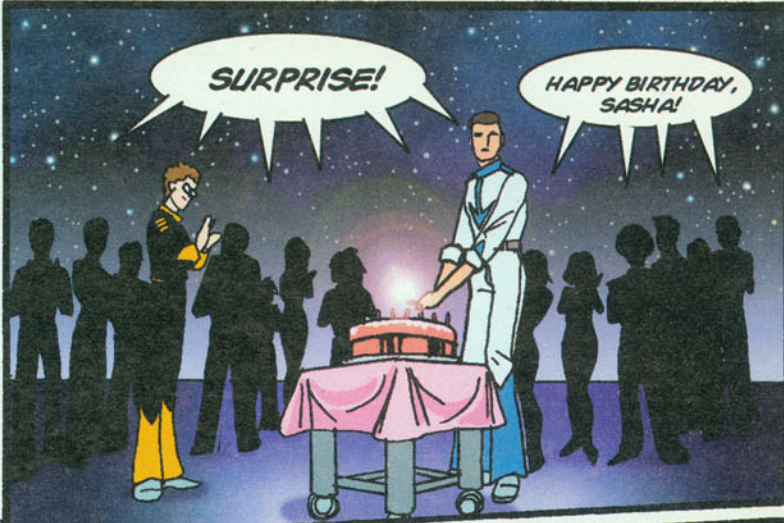


"PLACES, EVERYONE! I JUST GOT THE HIGH SIGN FROM DEKE. SHE'S ON HER WAY UP!"



DEKE?
UNCLE STEPHEN?

DID YOU
WANT TO
SEE ME -?



SURPRISE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
SASHA!



WELL, COME
IN, SASHA! THE
PARTY CAN'T
START WITHOUT
YOU!



OH-OH!



AND DON'T
SAY WE SHOULDN'T
HAVE, SASHA - IT'S
NOT EVERY DAY A GIRL
CELEBRATES HER "SWEET
SIXTEEN" IN SPACE! NOW
BLOW OUT THOSE
CANDLES!

B-BUT I'M REALLY
ONLY ELEVEN MONTHS
OLD, UNCLE! I- I SHOULD
BLOW THEM OUT? BUT
THEY'RE SO PRETTY!



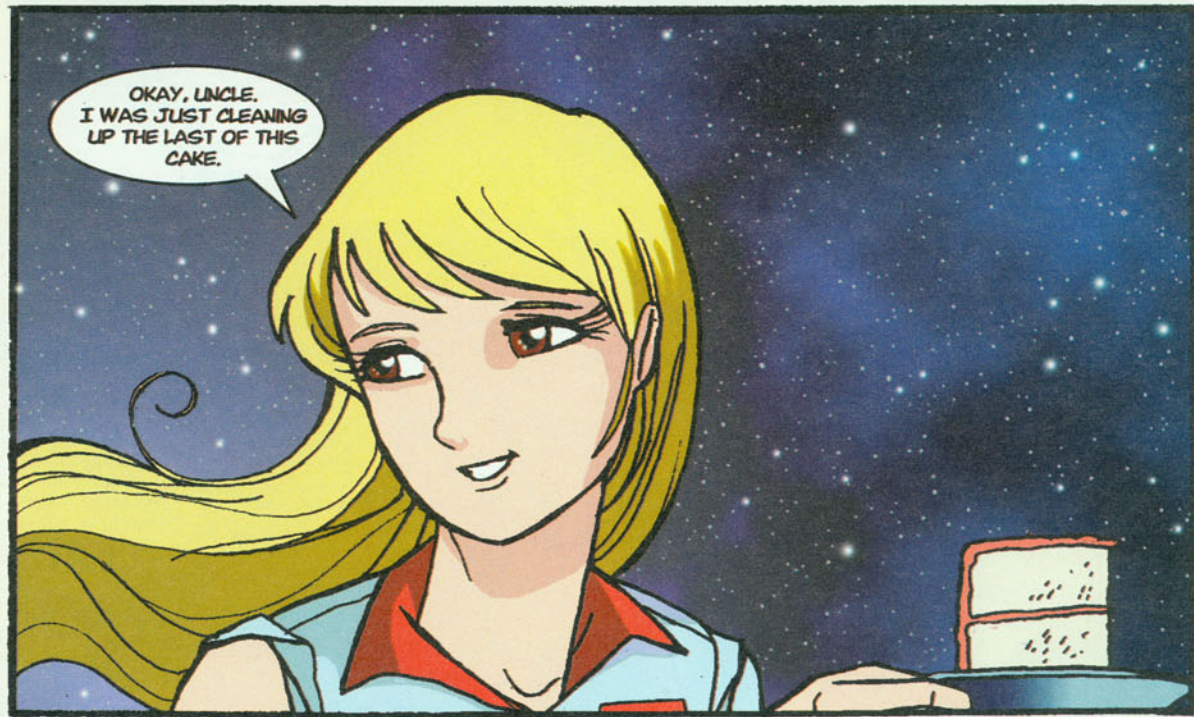
YES, SASHA,
BUT THE FIRST
ELEVEN MONTHS OF
AN ISCANDARIAN LIFE ARE
LIKE FIFTEEN AND A HALF
YEARS FOR EARTHLINGS,
SO YOU'RE ENTITLED!
GO AHEAD! BLOW!



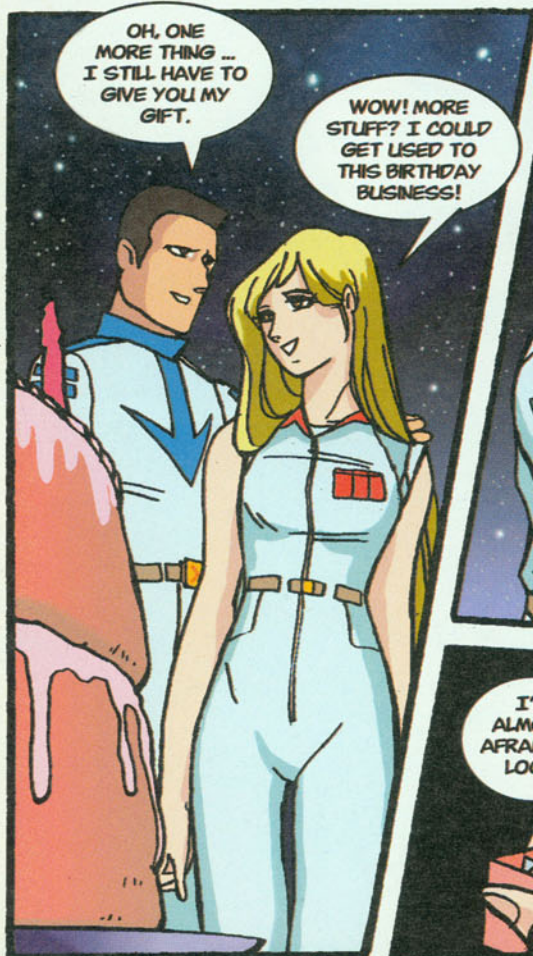
LATER...

"WELL, SASHA,
IT'S GETTING TO BE
ABOUT BEDTIME, AND
EVERYONE'S TURNED IN
FOR THE NIGHT."

"GO ON DOWN
TO YOUR ROOM AND
I'LL START DAMAGE
CONTROL HERE."

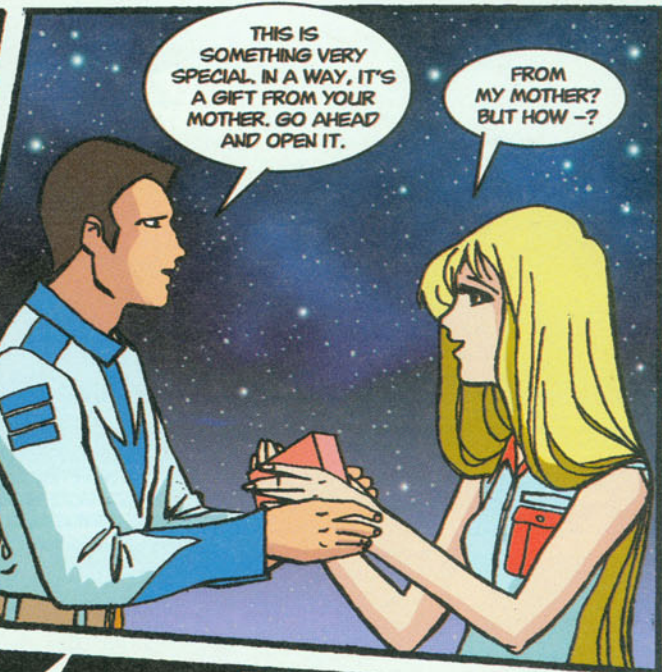


OKAY, UNCLE.
I WAS JUST CLEANING
UP THE LAST OF THIS
CAKE.



OH, ONE
MORE THING ...
I STILL HAVE TO
GIVE YOU MY
GIFT.

WOW! MORE
STUFF? I COULD
GET USED TO
THIS BIRTHDAY
BUSINESS!



THIS IS
SOMETHING VERY
SPECIAL. IN A WAY, IT'S
A GIFT FROM YOUR
MOTHER. GO AHEAD
AND OPEN IT.

FROM
MY MOTHER?
BUT HOW -?



I'M
ALMOST
AFRAID TO
LOOK.

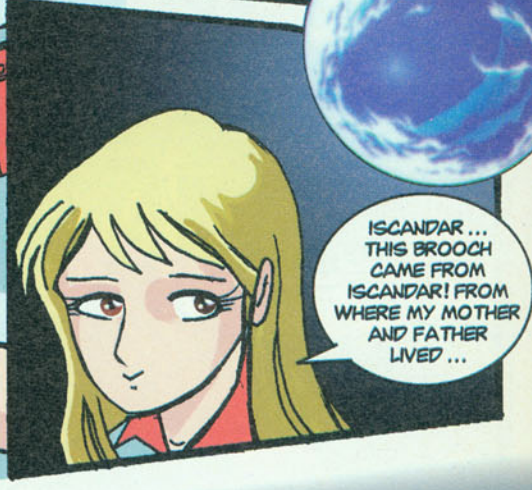


SEE WHAT I MEAN?

IT - IT'S A CRYSTAL BROOCH!



NOT JUST ANY CRYSTAL, EITHER. IT'S CUT ISCANDARILUM. FROM YOUR HOME PLANET.



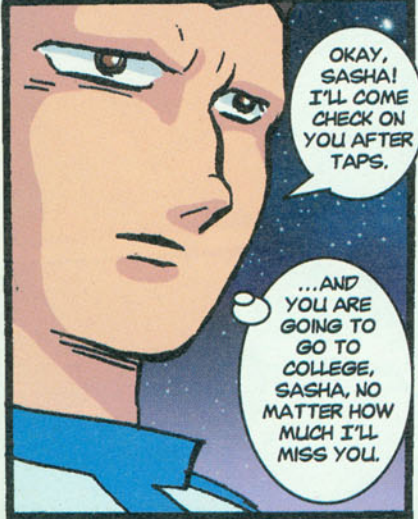
ISCANDAR ... THIS BROOCH CAME FROM ISCANDAR! FROM WHERE MY MOTHER AND FATHER LIVED ...

IT CAME FROM A PLACE ON ISCANDAR CALLED DIAMOND ISLAND. A PLACE OF GREAT POWER, OR SO YOUR MOTHER SAID. I HAD ORION JR. WORK IT UP FOR ME A FEW MONTHS AGO. IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF THE EDF ANCHOR, SO YOU'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER US POOR SAILORS BY WHEN YOU GO OFF TO COLLEGE BACK HOME. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT, SASHA.



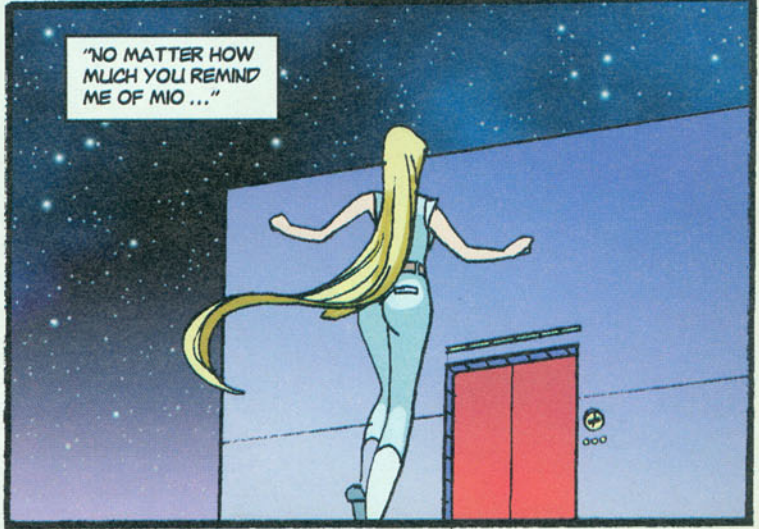
OH, UNCLE! IT'S PERFECT! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I GOTTA GO SHOW IT TO THE GUYS DOWN IN THE BAY!

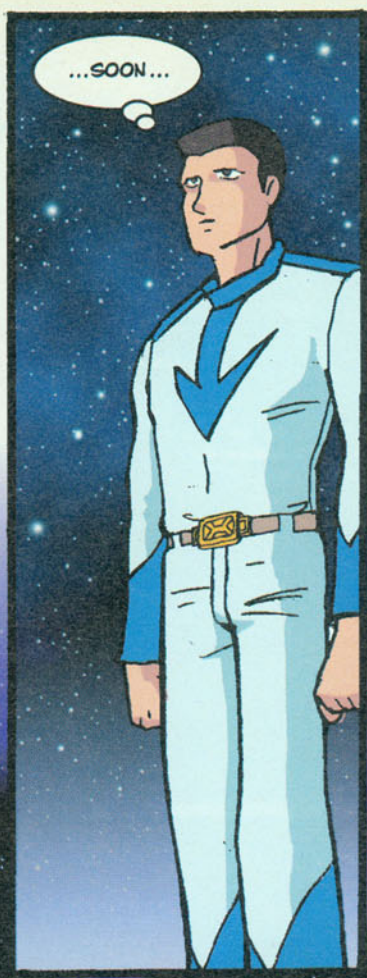
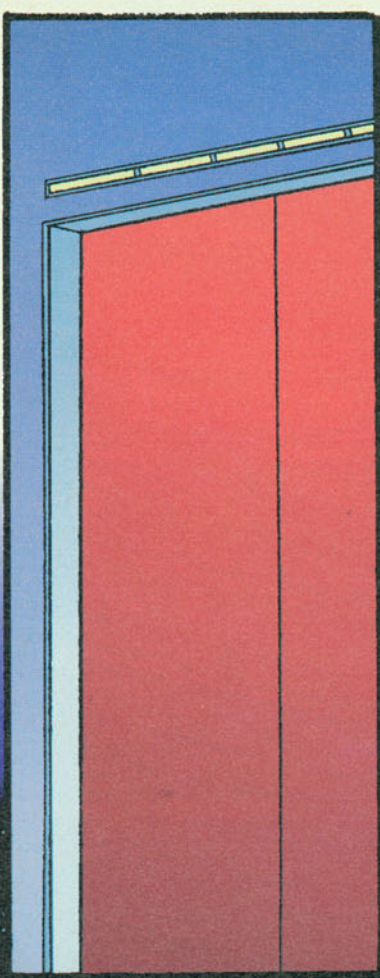


OKAY, SASHA! I'LL COME CHECK ON YOU AFTER TAPS.

...AND YOU ARE GOING TO GO TO COLLEGE, SASHA, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I'LL MISS YOU.



"NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU REMIND ME OF MIO ..."

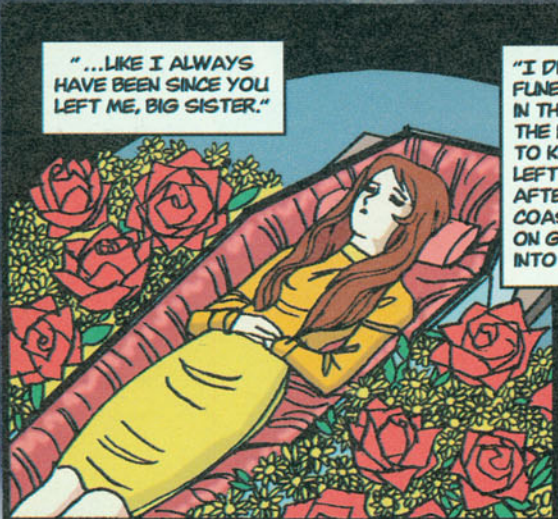


...SOON...



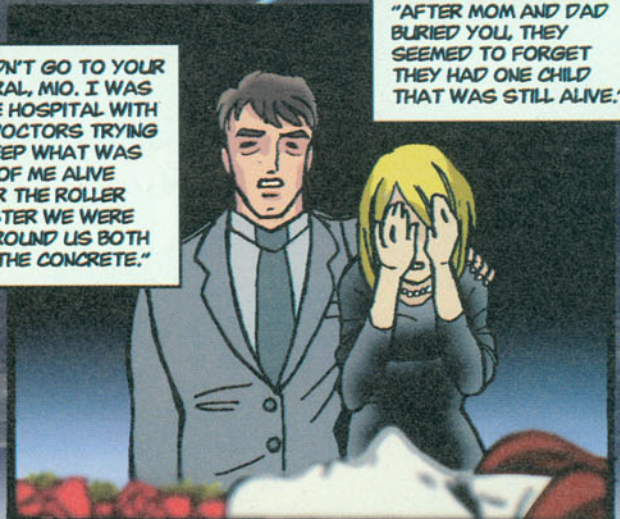
...SOON, YOU'LL BE GONE, SASHA. SOON I'LL BE ALONE AGAIN LIKE I ALWAYS AM ...

NEW SWEDEN, LUNA
OCTOBER 2177



"...LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN SINCE YOU LEFT ME, BIG SISTER."

"I DIDN'T GO TO YOUR FUNERAL, MIO. I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH THE DOCTORS TRYING TO KEEP WHAT WAS LEFT OF ME ALIVE AFTER THE ROLLER COASTER WE WERE ON GROUND US BOTH INTO THE CONCRETE."



"AFTER MOM AND DAD BURIED YOU, THEY SEEMED TO FORGET THEY HAD ONE CHILD THAT WAS STILL ALIVE."

"THE DOGS PUT ME BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, WITH ARMS AND LEGS I HAD TO LEARN TO USE LIKE UTENSILS. BUT I WAS ALIVE."

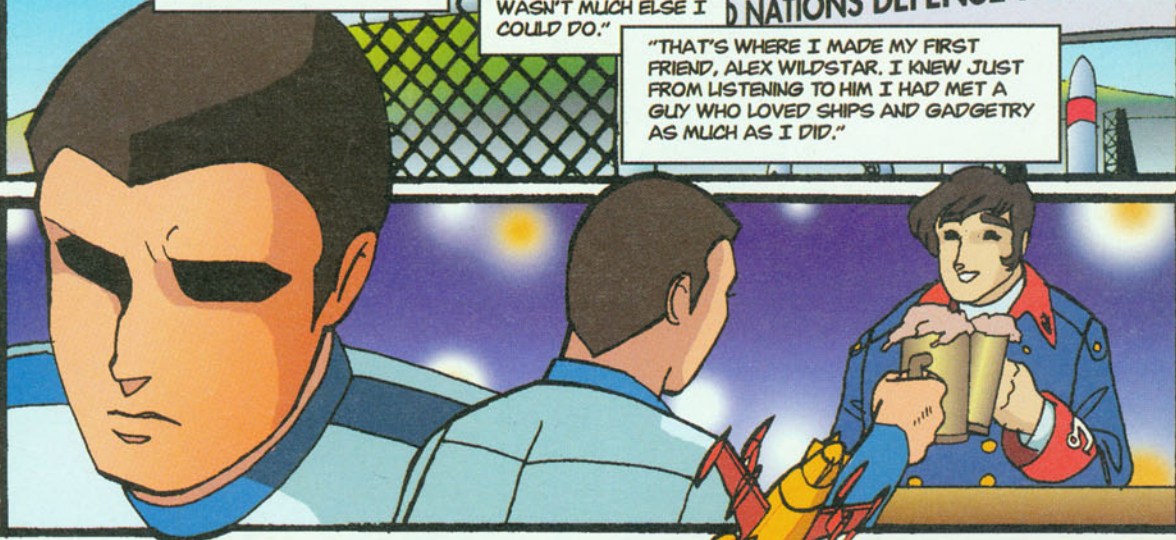
"AND I HAD PARENTS, EVEN IF THEY DID TREAT ME LIKE A STRANGER. THEN THE GAMILONS CAME BACK."

"AFTER OUR PARENTS WERE KILLED IN THE PLANET BOMBINGS, I JOINED UP... THERE WASN'T MUCH ELSE I COULD DO."

"THAT'S WHERE I MADE MY FIRST FRIEND, ALEX WILDSTAR. I KNEW JUST FROM LISTENING TO HIM I HAD MET A GUY WHO LOVED SHIPS AND GADGETRY AS MUCH AS I DID."

YOKOSUKA SPACE BASE

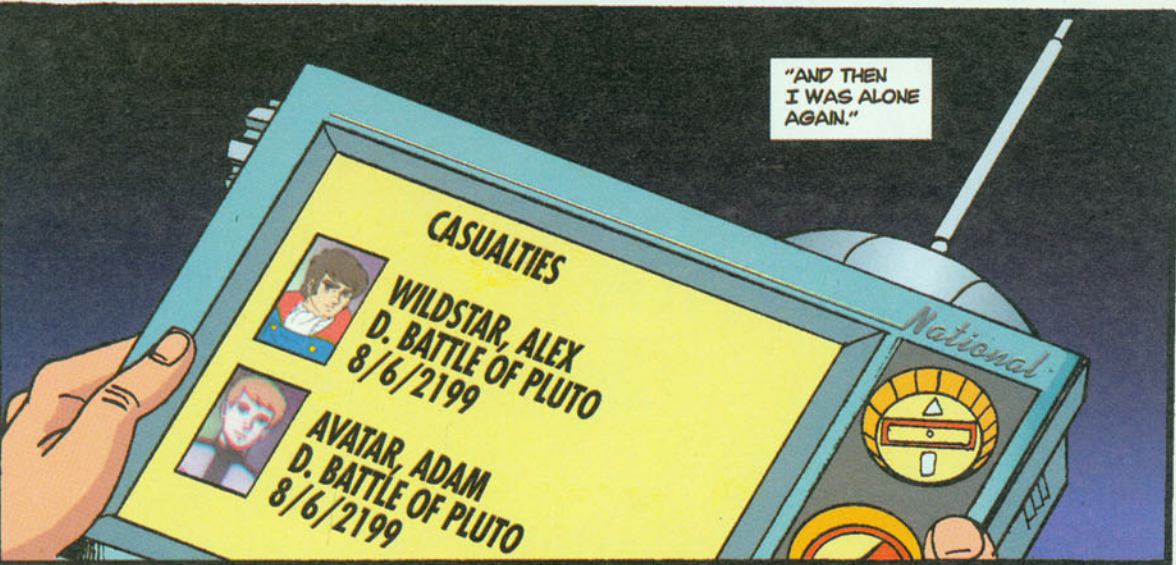
NATIONS DEFENSE FORCE



"NOT LONG AFTER WE MET, I GOT PUT IN CHARGE OF THE REPAIR DOCK WHERE HIS SHIP, THE OLD YUKIKAZE, WAS BEING REPAIRED. I WENT OVER THAT SHIP 'TILL SHE SANG LIKE A HARP. AND THEN HAD TO WATCH HIM SAIL OFF IN HER ON A SUICIDE MISSION."

6 AUGUST 2199

"AND THEN I WAS ALONE AGAIN."



CASUALTIES

WILDSTAR, ALEX
D. BATTLE OF PLUTO
8/6/2199

AVATAR, ADAM
D. BATTLE OF PLUTO
8/6/2199

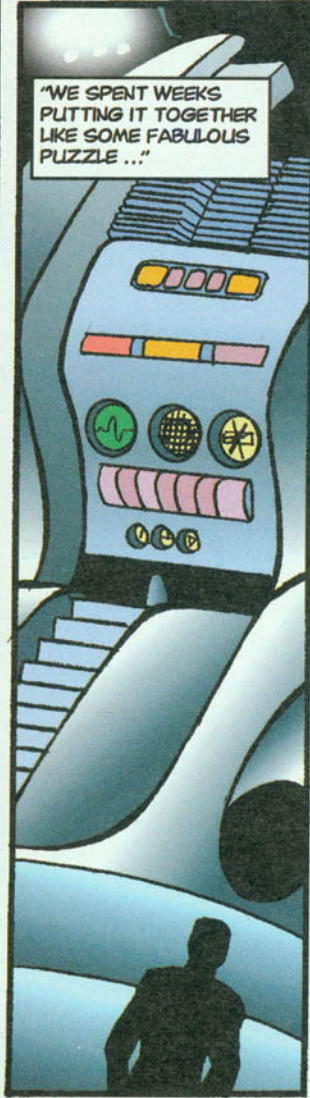
"I GAVE ALEX UP FOR DEAD AND JOINED AVATAR'S PROJECT ARGO. IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN MONTHS LATER, AS A MEMBER OF ARGO'S CREW, I SAW ALEX WILDSTAR ALIVE AGAIN."



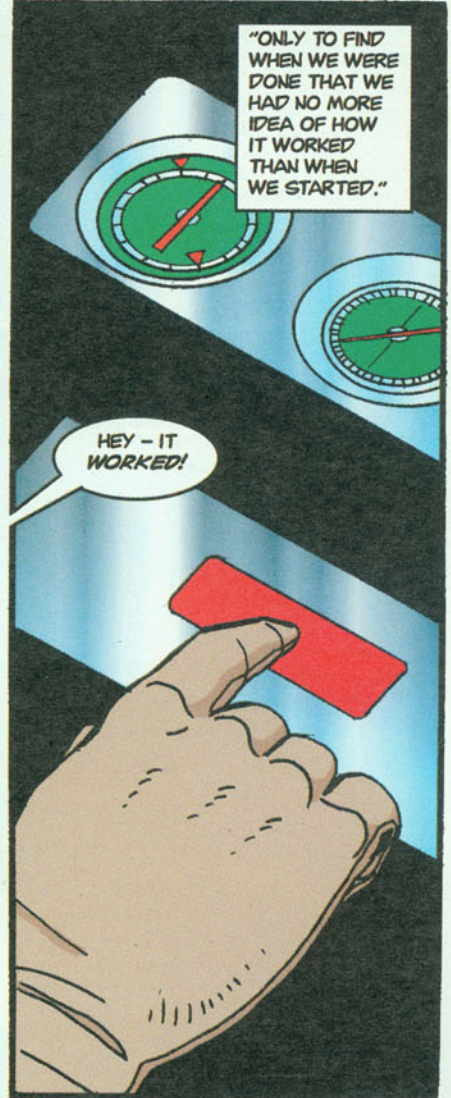
"I WAS ALONE MOST OF THAT HORRIBLE TRIP TO ISCANDAR, WHILE MOST OF MY SHIPMATES WERE FIGHTING OR FALLING IN LOVE. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME, AND THERE WAS NO ONE BUT IQ-9 TO FALL IN LOVE WITH, SO I JUST KEPT TO MY WORK."



"ON THE WAY BACK, THE HORROR WAS REPLACED WITH JOY. AT LAST! A NEW MECHANICAL TOY TO PLAY WITH! THE COSMO DNA!"



"WE SPENT WEEKS PUTTING IT TOGETHER LIKE SOME FABULOUS PUZZLE ..."



HEY - IT WORKED!

"ONLY TO FIND WHEN WE WERE DONE THAT WE HAD NO MORE IDEA OF HOW IT WORKED THAN WHEN WE STARTED."

"THANKS TO QUEEN STARSHA'S GIFT, OUR POOR PLANET WAS INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED FROM HELL ..."

"... TO HEAVEN. WELL, MAYBE NOT INSTANTLY. IT TOOK A YEAR OF HARD WORK TO EVEN BEGIN TO PUT EARTH BACK TOGETHER."

"THEY GAVE ME A MEDAL AND A JOB PUSHING ELECTRONS PLANETSIDE."

"TRELAINA'S PLEA FOR HELP MEANT NOTHING TO THEM. AS FOR US - AT BEST THE STAR FORCE WAS CONSIDERED AN EMBARRASSING ANACHRONISM."

"NATURALLY, THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT MLITNY."

"THEN, ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM SPACE - AND WE REALIZED ALL OUR WORK HAD BEEN FOR NAUGHT. THE PEOPLE OF EARTH HAD LEARNED NOTHING FROM THEIR BRUSH WITH EXTINCTION."

"I FELT KIND OF BAD ABOUT DRAGGING THE YOUNGSTERS INTO OUR REBELLION - BUT WILDSTAR GAVE THEM THE OPTION TO LEAVE. NONE DID - NOT YAMATO SAILORS."

"BESIDES, WILDSTAR KNEW GENERAL SINGLETON WOULD COVER FOR US LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH THAT WEIRD WHITE COMET. WE FOUND OUT, ALL RIGHT - THE HARD WAY!"

"CONROY, HIS FACE SMEARED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD. POOR OLD ROYSTER, AT HIS POST AND FIGHTING TO THE END. AND SERGEANT KNOX - HE STAYED TO THE LAST TO SAVE US ALL. THE STAR FORCE PAID DEARLY FOR EARTH'S FREEDOM."

"BUT OF COURSE WE COULDN'T DEFEAT SOMETHING LIKE THE COMET EMPIRE. THE TECHNOLOGY ZORDAR HAD FOUND WAS LIKE NOTHING CREATED BY HUMAN HANDS."

"YET I'LL NEVER FORGET OUR TIGERS SCREAMING OUT OF THE SKY, THE YAMATO LEAPING THROUGH THE WAVES, TAKING THE COMET EMPIRE THE MESSAGE THAT EARTH NEVER SURRENDERS!"

"THE WHITE COMET FLED WITH YAMATO IN PURSUIT LIKE A SNARLING WATCHDOG."

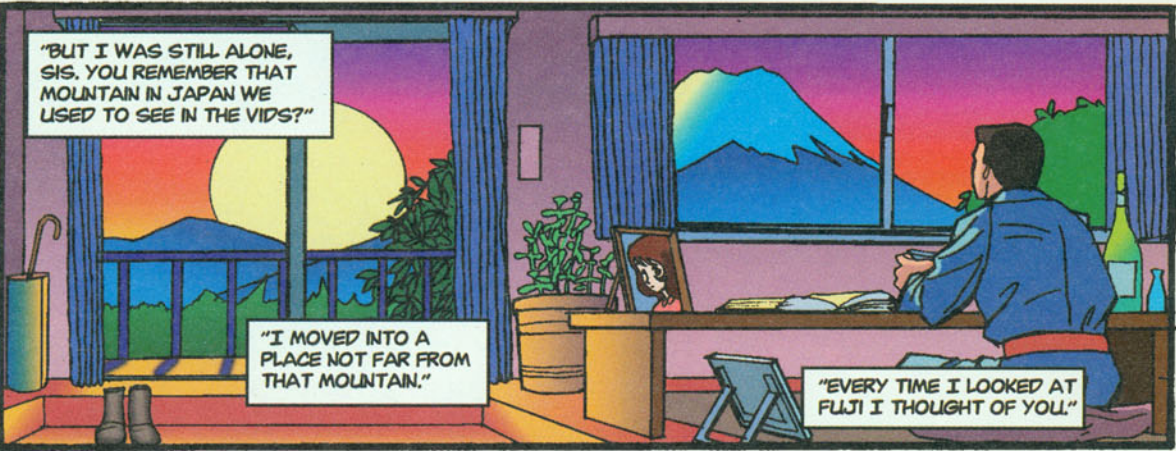
"IF ZORDAR HAD SUSPECTED HOW TOOTHLESS A DOG WE REALLY WERE ..."

"THEN, OF COURSE, TRELAINA APPEARED. ONCE AGAIN EARTH WAS SAVED BY A GENTLE VOICE FROM SPACE. SHE WAS SO LONELY ... ONLY LOVE COULD SAVE HER - AND SAVE OUR EARTH."



"ONCE AGAIN, THE STAR FORCE CAME HOME TO BURY ITS DEAD."

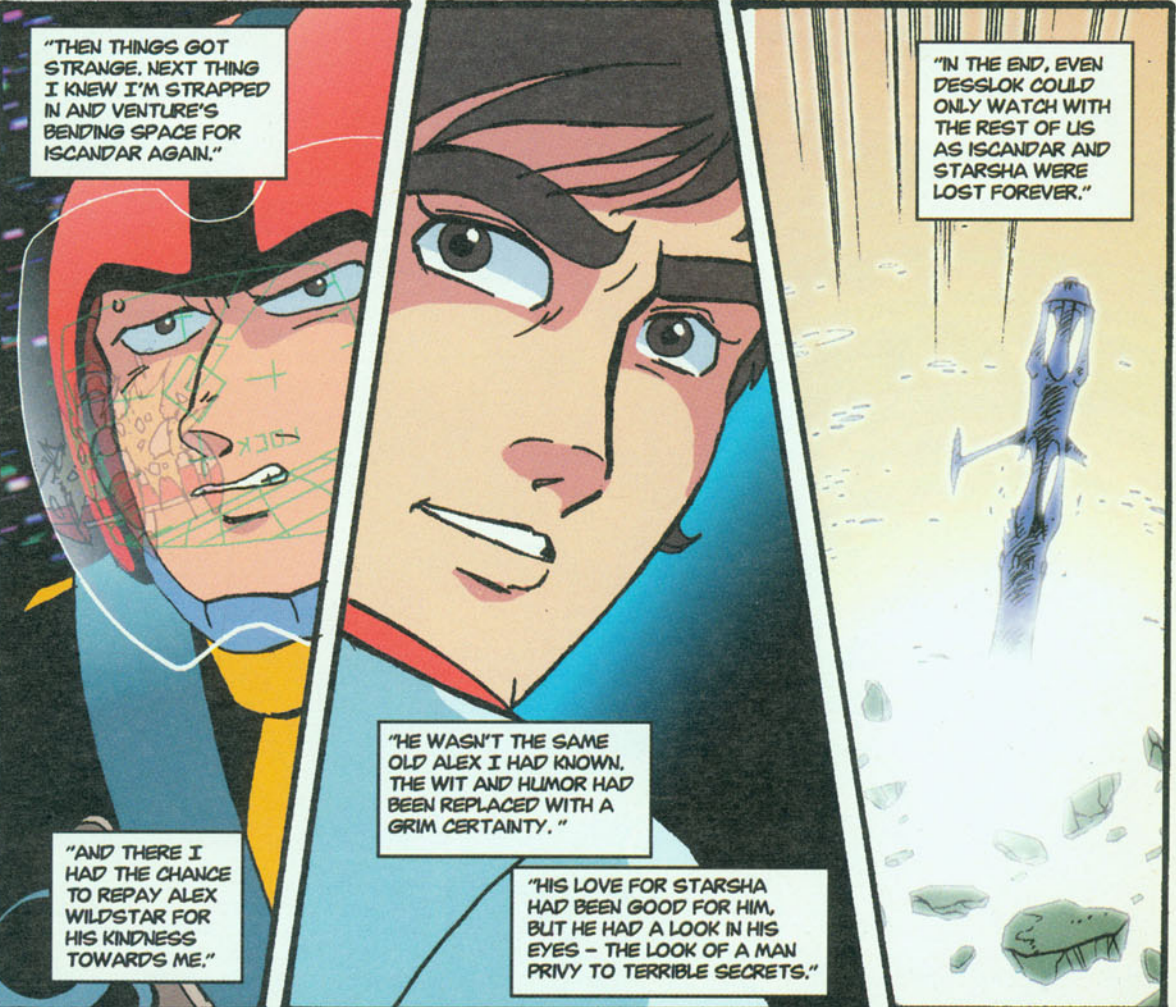
"THIS TIME, HOWEVER, WE RECEIVED THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF NEW LIFE! THE SIGHT OF THOSE YOUNG, FRESH CADETS MADE MY HEART GLAD AGAIN."



"BUT I WAS STILL ALONE, SIS. YOU REMEMBER THAT MOUNTAIN IN JAPAN WE USED TO SEE IN THE VIDS?"

"I MOVED INTO A PLACE NOT FAR FROM THAT MOUNTAIN."

"EVERY TIME I LOOKED AT FUJI I THOUGHT OF YOU."



"THEN THINGS GOT STRANGE. NEXT THING I KNEW I'M STRAPPED IN AND VENTURE'S BENDING SPACE FOR ISCANDAR AGAIN."

"HE WASN'T THE SAME OLD ALEX I HAD KNOWN. THE WIT AND HUMOR HAD BEEN REPLACED WITH A GRIM CERTAINTY."

"AND THERE I HAD THE CHANCE TO REPAY ALEX WILDSTAR FOR HIS KINDNESS TOWARDS ME."

"HIS LOVE FOR STARSHA HAD BEEN GOOD FOR HIM, BUT HE HAD A LOOK IN HIS EYES - THE LOOK OF A MAN PRIVY TO TERRIBLE SECRETS."

"IN THE END, EVEN DESSLOK COULD ONLY WATCH WITH THE REST OF US AS ISCANDAR AND STARSHA WERE LOST FOREVER."



"BUT ALEX HAD A SURPRISE FOR US: HIS DAUGHTER SASHA. AT FIRST, SHE SEEMED LIKE A NORMAL BABY."

"...SHE BEGAN SPEAKING ALMOST AT ONCE. SHE WAS READING IN SIX WEEKS, AND SHE WAS GROWING AT LIGHTSPEED."

"WE EVENTUALLY PEGGED HER GROWTH AT ABOUT SEVENTEEN TIMES HUMAN NORMAL ..."

"BUT THEN, AFTER WE GOT BACK TO EARTH, HER HALF-ISLANDARIAN HERITAGE BECAME EVIDENT ..."

"THE PAIN SHE WENT THROUGH ... THE FEVERS ... ALL PART OF THE NORMAL ISLANDARIAN GROWTH PATTERN."

"SHE WAS LIVING WITH HER DAD THE NIGHT BEFORE I WAS TO LEAVE FOR MY NEW POSTING."

WELL, ALEX, I THINK SHE'S ASLEEP. YOU'RE REALLY DOING A GOOD JOB WITH HER.

ALEX - ?

SANDOR, LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION.

DO YOU BELIEVE IT'S POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE FUTURE?



DON'T ANSWER THAT. I RAN INTO NOVA FORRESTER TODAY ... SHE TOLD ME YOU WERE GETTING SOME KIND OF SECRET ASSIGNMENT.

LAST I HEARD, YOU WERE GOING TO BE RUNNING YAMATO'S REFIT OVER AT GREAT ISLAND. WHAT'S GOING ON?

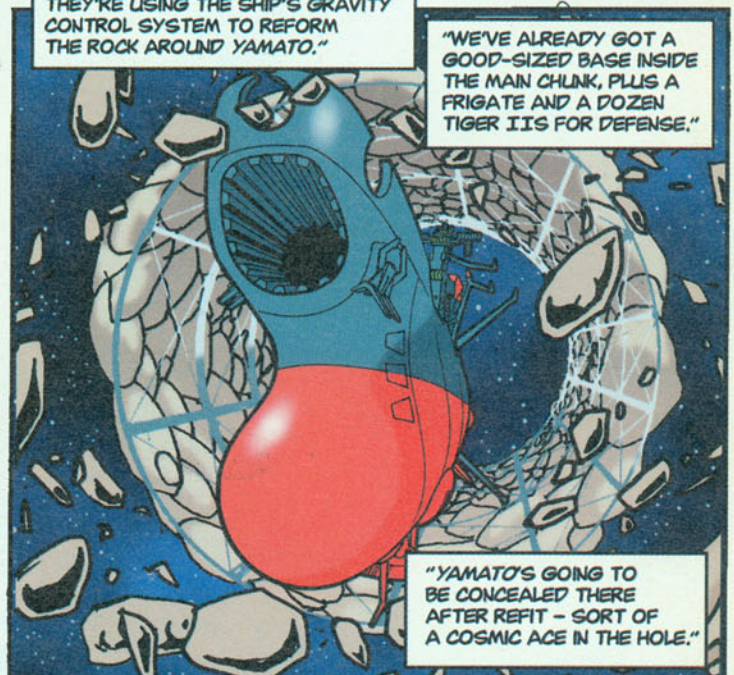


I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T KNOW ALREADY, ALEX. I AM LEADING THE REFIT TEAM, BUT YAMATO'S NOT GOING TO BE AT GREAT ISLAND.

IT'S AT ICARUS! WE'RE REBUILDING HER INSIDE ICARUS.

"ICARUS IS A LARGE PLANETOID. THEY BLEW THE THING UP AND NOW THEY'RE USING THE SHIP'S GRAVITY CONTROL SYSTEM TO REFORM THE ROCK AROUND YAMATO."

"WE'VE ALREADY GOT A GOOD-SIZED BASE INSIDE THE MAIN CHUNK, PLUS A FRIGATE AND A DOZEN TIGER IIS FOR DEFENSE."



"YAMATO'S GOING TO BE CONCEALED THERE AFTER REFIT - SORT OF A COSMIC ACE IN THE HOLE."



HEH, YEAH. SANDOR, YOU ALWAYS WERE OUR ACE IN THE HOLE. ALWAYS THERE WHEN WE NEED YOU...

WELL, I NEED YOU AGAIN, STEPHEN. I NEED YOU TO HELP SASHA.



I NEED YOU TO TAKE HER AWAY FROM HERE!



THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS TO BE DONE, STEPHEN!

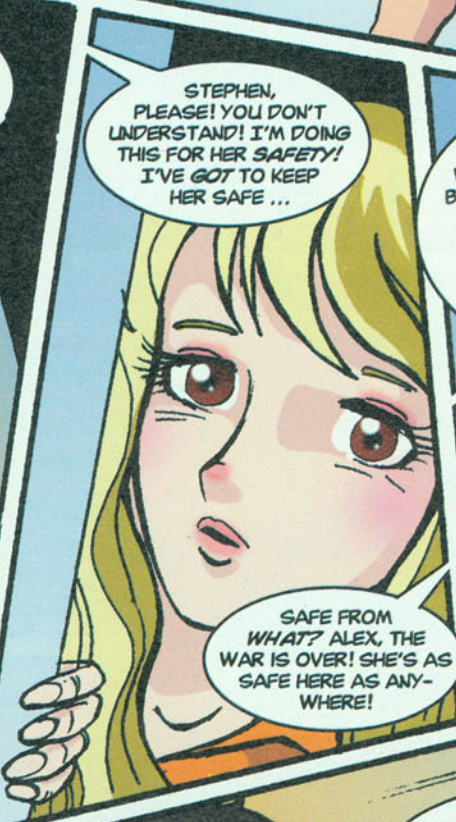
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ALEX? SASHA'S YOUR DAUGHTER! SHE NEEDS TO BE WITH HER FATHER!

NOT OFF ON SOME SPACE ROCK WITH ME!



LOOK, ALEX, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING. GOD KNOWS ... WHAT HAPPENED TO STARSHA ... BUT WHY SEND SASHA AWAY?

SHE'S GROWING UP FAST, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED! SHE NEEDS YOU, MAN!



STEPHEN, PLEASE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M DOING THIS FOR HER SAFETY! I'VE GOT TO KEEP HER SAFE ...

SAFE FROM WHAT? ALEX, THE WAR IS OVER! SHE'S AS SAFE HERE AS ANYWHERE!

NO SHE'S NOT! THERE ARE TWO PLACES WHERE SASHA WILL NEVER BE SAFE. ONE IS EARTH. THE OTHER IS THE BRIDGE OF THAT SHIP. STEPHEN, YOU MUST PROMISE ME THAT YAMATO WILL NEVER SAIL WITH HER ABOARD!

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HER TO YAMATO BUT NEVER LET HER ABOARD? THIS IS CRAZY!



IT'S THAT SHIP, STEPHEN! YAMATO! DON'T ASK HOW, BUT I KNOW THAT HAVING THAT SHIP NEAR SASHA WILL KEEP HER SAFE FROM ... FROM WHAT'S COMING, HERE ON EARTH!

SO TAKE HER, STEPHEN. KEEP HER SAFE - BUT FOR GOD'S SAKE KEEP HER OFF THAT SHIP!

"THAT'S ALL HE WOULD SAY ABOUT IT. I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN SO TERRIFIED BEFORE, LIKE SOMEONE WATCHING A FOREST FIRE SWEEPING TOWARDS THEIR HOME, POWERLESS TO STOP IT."

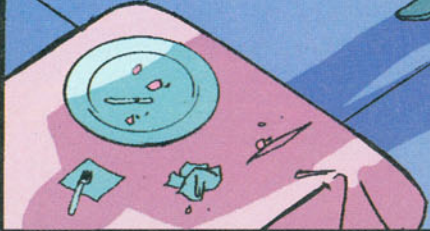
"SO I DID AS HE ASKED. I TOOK SASHA AWAY WITH ME TO THIS GODFORSAKEN ROCK."



"I HOPE TO GOD ALEX KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING SENDING HER HERE, MIO. IT'S NOT THE PLACE I'D WANT TO RAISE MY CHILD."

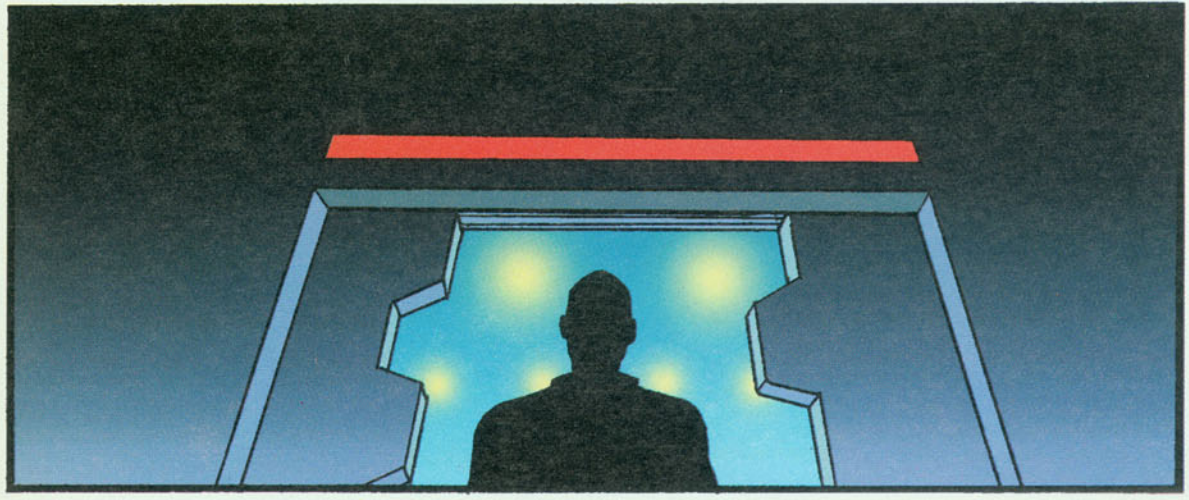
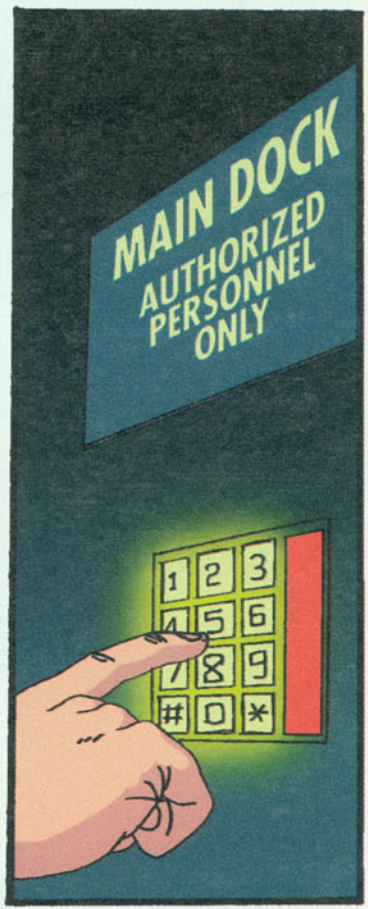
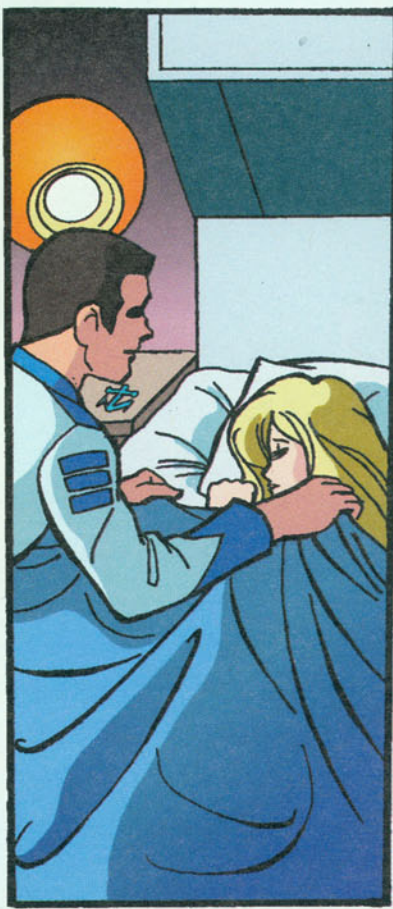
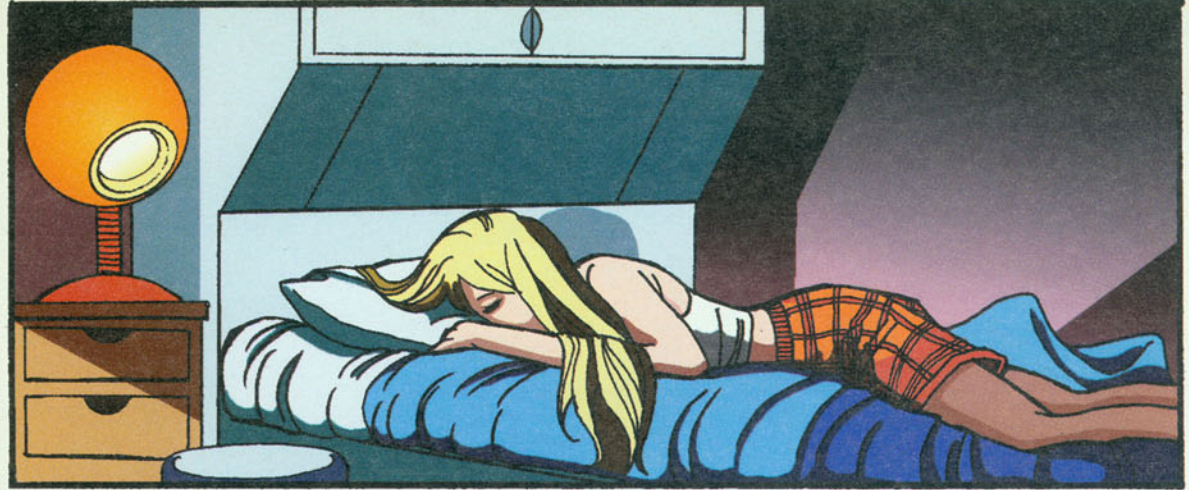
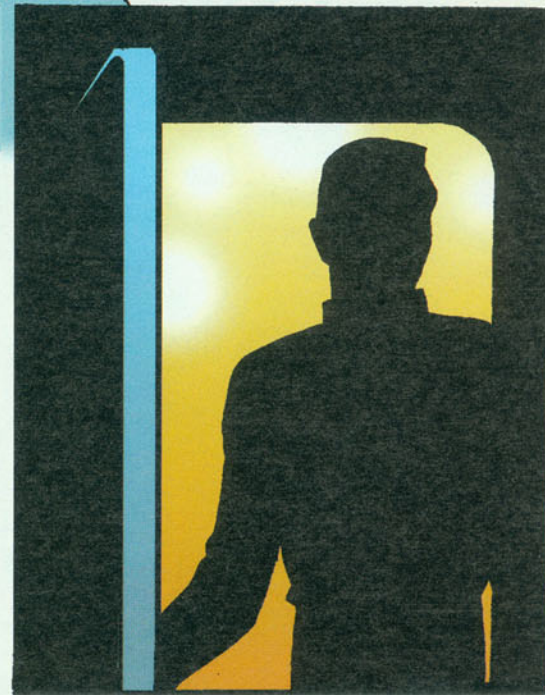
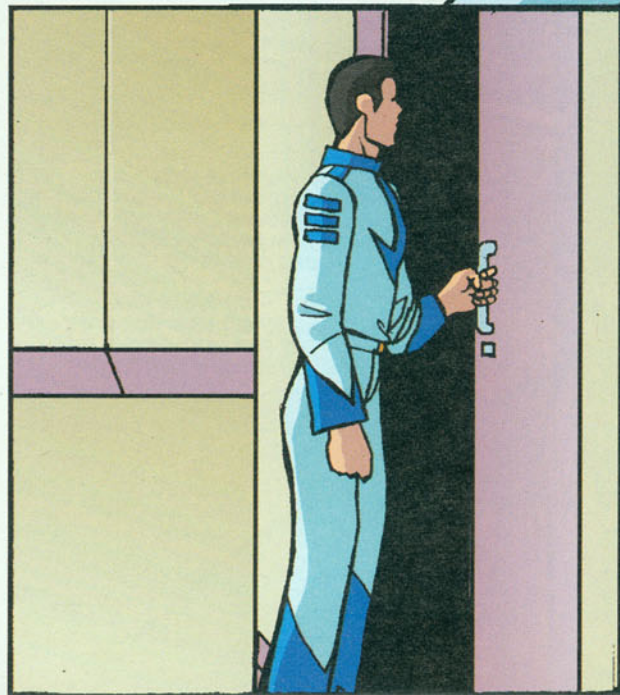


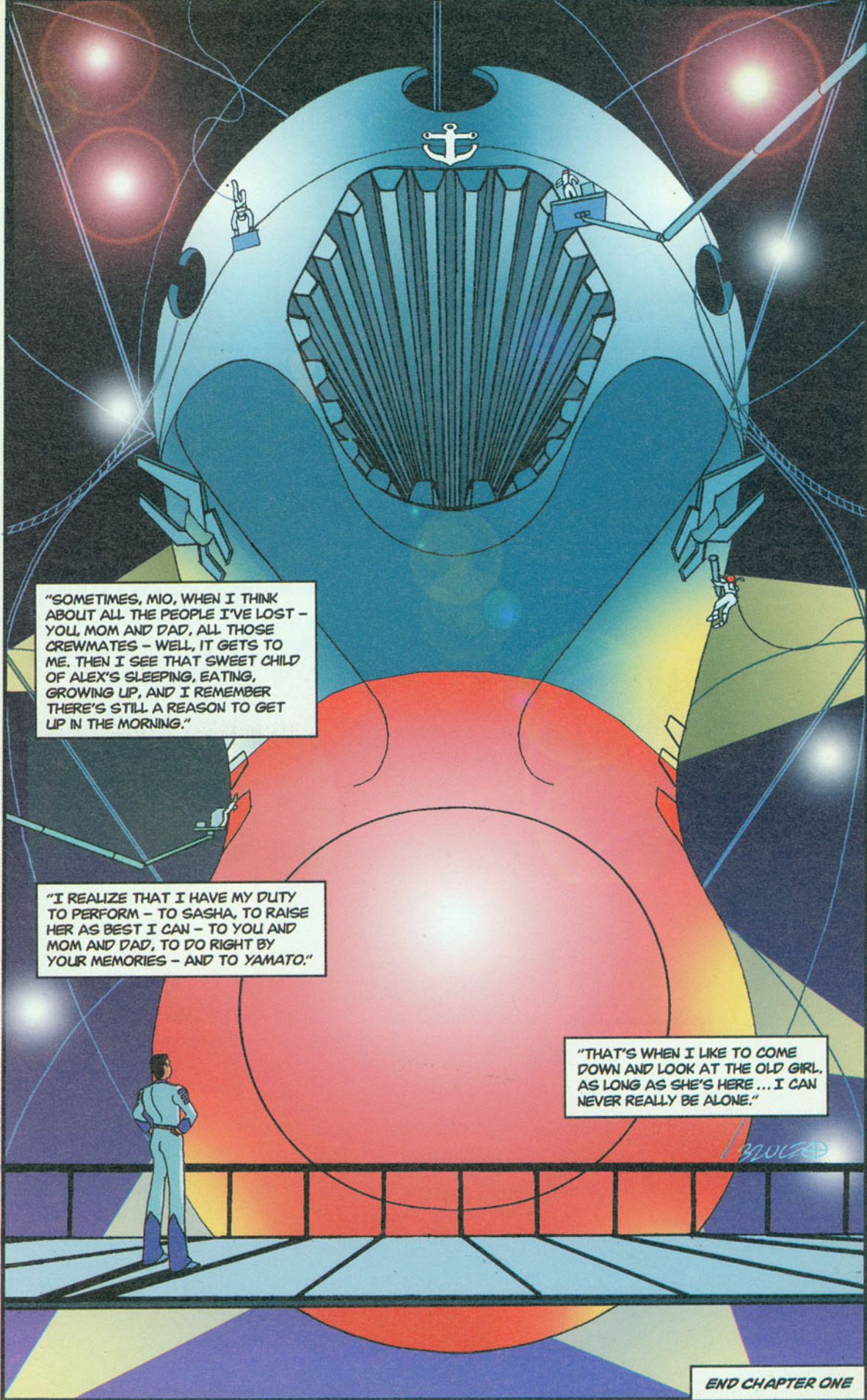
"IF I HAD A CHILD, OF COURSE."



"IF I COULD HAVE ..."

"...A CHILD."





"SOMETIMES, MIO, WHEN I THINK ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE I'VE LOST - YOU, MOM AND DAD, ALL THOSE CREWMATES - WELL, IT GETS TO ME. THEN I SEE THAT SWEET CHILD OF ALEX'S SLEEPING, EATING, GROWING UP, AND I REMEMBER THERE'S STILL A REASON TO GET UP IN THE MORNING."

"I REALIZE THAT I HAVE MY DUTY TO PERFORM - TO SASHA, TO RAISE HER AS BEST I CAN - TO YOU AND MOM AND DAD, TO DO RIGHT BY YOUR MEMORIES - AND TO YAMATO."

"THAT'S WHEN I LIKE TO COME DOWN AND LOOK AT THE OLD GIRL. AS LONG AS SHE'S HERE ... I CAN NEVER REALLY BE ALONE."

END CHAPTER ONE

ANALYZER

news and feature articles from the world of Yamato/Star Blazers

Pictured here is a rare promotional painting from the British release of the **SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO** feature film in 1978. Despite its numerous inaccuracies (the muzzle of the wave motion gun does **NOT** double as a launching bay), it made for a rather handsome poster, which is reproduced on page 32.

edited by **TIM ELDRED**



**SPACE
CRUISER**



MATSUMOTO'S YAMATO



Above: early Matsumoto character designs.

CONTINUING OUR SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORIGINAL SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO ANIMATED SERIES IN JAPAN, WE NOW COME TO THE POINT WHERE MASTER STORYTELLER COMICS ARTIST LEIJI MATSUMOTO SOLIDIFIED MANY OF THE CONCEPTS THAT WOULD BRING THE YAMATO WE KNOW AND LOVE OUT OF ITS PREVIOUS ASTEROID SHIP INCARNATION. MANY FASCINATING (BUT LATER DISCARDED) IDEAS WERE WOVEN INTO THE STORYLINE AT THIS POINT, INCLUDING THE INVOLVEMENT OF MATSUMOTO'S MOST FAMOUS CHARACTER, CAPTAIN HARLOCK.

THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE ELEMENT DEVELOPED BY MATSUMOTO, AND THE ONE THAT CONTINUES TO GIVE THE YAMATO SERIES INTERNATIONAL APPEAL, WAS THE HUMAN ELEMENT. MATSUMOTO HIMSELF DESCRIBED IT BEST:

"The Japanese have accomplished a miraculous economic growth, and have an abundance of material things, but as a result there is pollution, the prices of goods are high, and we're far from leading happy lives. Especially when it comes to the mental aspects of our lives, we are all just helpless cogs in the machine of the industrial world. Will we find a way out of our predicament? History will allow us to determine this. The human civilization has lived through a number of dangers and somehow managed to survive to the present day. An important point for us to realize is that we are human beings, and not part of the artificial things created from the industrial world.

"We created *Space Battleship Yamato* to teach not only the adults, but also children the importance of having dreams and understanding ourselves. This is a 21st century science-fiction adventure drama about a spirited group of young men and women who play an active part in the story. What I want to emphasize through the actions of the characters is that love defines the human aspect of ourselves."

LEIJI MATSUMOTO WROTE THE FOLLOWING STORY TREATMENT DURING APRIL AND MAY OF 1974. ALTHOUGH CHARACTER NAMES HAVE BEEN ADDED FOR CLARITY, NONE OF THEM EXISTED AT THIS STAGE (EXCEPT FOR CAPTAIN HARLOCK, WHOM MATSUMOTO HAD CREATED MUCH EARLIER). AGAIN, THIS WAS NOT THE FINAL YAMATO STORY; ONLY A TREATMENT.

In the year 2199, Earth's atmosphere was devastated by intense radiation. The oceans evaporated, exposing the sea bottom. This was caused in part by human activity, but the greater portion came from an unknown space fleet that bombarded the Earth during a 20-year space war.

Earth's military is gone. Now humans live underground as the last resistance against the enemy. Major contact points throughout the world are being eliminated. In the year 2198, the major cities fell silent. In the Kanto district of Japan, people struggle to survive in a large underground city.

The unknown alien force takes out a major part of the Earth defense force in an ambush attack, leaving the ships missing in action. Mamoru Kodai's ship is destroyed in the vicinity of Neptune.

A different alien spacecraft, not of the enemy, crashes near the Mars colony. The enemy then attacks and devastates Mars. Our hero's ship crashes near a destroyed martian base. He finds a corpse in the alien spacecraft that crashed earlier. The deceased resembles an Earthwoman, but is beautiful beyond any female from our world. Her ship also contains a message capsule.

The hero carefully buries the alien woman in the sands of Mars and brings the capsule back to Earth. Using the last of the mainframe computers in Japan, the message is deciphered. It reveals the identity of the unknown enemy who has devastated the world.

The aliens are humanoids called Rajendora with a superior civilization and technology, and the ability to wage interstellar warfare on a grand scale. Their home world is located within the greater Magellan Clouds (though the exact location is unknown because the message was garbled at this point). They are a warrior race, strong and proud, and they would die for the greater good of their people if their leader, Desular, ordered them to. The Rajendora attack fleets come from the Lesser Magellan Clouds.

The message came from planet Iscandar. It directs the Earthlings to go there and retrieve a machine that will remove the radiation. If they do not make it, they cannot be expected to live in a universe where only the fittest survive. However, if they succeed, then there is hope for their future. A small sample of the radiation remover is contained within the message, sufficient enough to convince the Earthlings they must go to Iscandar. A large, spaceworthy battleship will be necessary to make the journey. They will use the *Yamato*, the great warship from the past, now being secretly rebuilt in an underground facility.

The propulsion unit for the massive engine necessary to drive the *Yamato* through the deep reaches of space is described in the message, along with a detailed blueprint and an explanation of how to build it with Earth's limited technological resources. (Or the engine from the alien spacecraft that crashed could be used as a sample for the design.) The time limit to retrieve the radiation remover from Iscandar is only one year! The radiation will seep into the underground cities and kill all living things in one year, and all remaining natural resources will be used up in that time.

Unknown to the Earthlings are the origin of the messenger and her world. The population there is only two; two beautiful sisters who control their dying planet's declining technology. The younger sister became the messenger and died on Mars, leaving the elder sister on Iscandar. She is Queen Starsha, a proud, yet gentle lady...but like a lioness, she also tests other intelligent life forms to see if they are fit to survive. The Rajendora laugh and bide their time as the Earth slowly dies from the radiation.

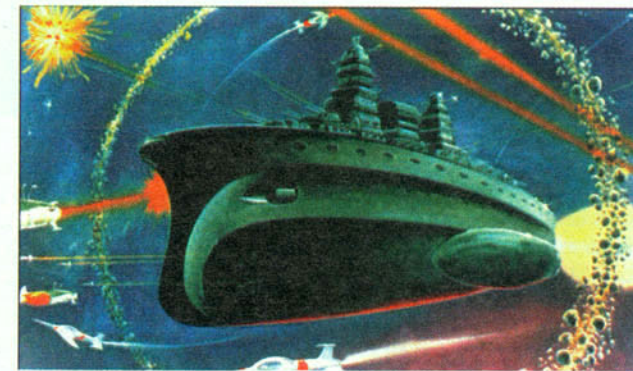
Space Battleship *Yamato* departs January 1st, 2199. One Captain leads the crew of the *Yamato*, which is divided into two groups: the space warriors and the technicians.

THE CREW:

- The Captain: a great scientist from the war.
- Susumu Kodai: Leader of the space warriors. He is the hero that found the alien spacecraft on Mars. Impatient and restless, he opts to take dangerous missions instead of speaking what's on his mind.
- Chief Technician: he has the opposite personality of Kodai's, and is a professional in all aspects of mechanics.
- Yuki Mori: she resembles the beautiful alien woman. She is very much a romanticist and wants to be a famous space poet.
- Analyzer: a two-in-one Robot. Its human and robotic personalities often conflict and it behaves strangely, especially in a crisis. However, when it comes to saving lives, it will continue to fight even when damaged, braving flames, water, or even methane gas to help its comrades. It is always worrying about dying.
- Doctor Sado: He's a quack veterinarian, but a top med tech.
- And over a hundred other crew members that will make this year-long journey aboard the *Yamato*.

Creating a protective asteroid ring around the ship, the crew of *Yamato* fight on as they leave the solar system behind. The *Yamato* often has to land on some unknown

planet to pick up supplies or must make emergency landings when attacked. The Rajendora attack using various life forms as slaves or with the aid of space pirates.



Above: early YAMATO design, complete with asteroid belt defense ring which travelled with the ship throughout its journey.

Once beyond the galaxy, the crew are not able to make contact with Earth. The pirate ship, *Deathshadow*, approaches the *Yamato*. It is a high-class battleship from Earth. (But it pales in firepower compared to the *Yamato*.)

The pirates are a dying people affected by radiation without any hope of survival. They hate the Rajendora for destroying them. They also despise the Earthlings because of their relative health and well-being. Captain Harlock is the leader of the pirates. He is a strange man who pays particular attention to Kodai.

Although there are many battles with the Rajendora, the *Yamato* continues to speed toward Iscandar. The space warriors begin bickering with the technicians. The Captain must deal with many trials and tribulations as they make their way toward their destination, using the asteroid ring as an effective defense mechanism.

They eventually are able to identify Iscandar. Surprisingly, Iscandar and Rajendora are binary planets. Iscandar has only one surviving citizen, but the Rajendora do not attack. If one of the planets were destroyed, the other would lose its orbital balance and fly straight into the sun. Iscandar also has a self-destruct system. The Captain collapses after

breaking through a barrier toward the planets. Kodai takes command thereafter.

After becoming Captain, Kodai discovers the difficulty of commanding a ship with all its responsibilities. He must deal not only with the space warriors' section, but needs to come to terms with the tech group as well. The Chief Technician, who was to become Captain, cannot deal with Kodai taking his position. Yuki is stuck between the two men's rivalry.

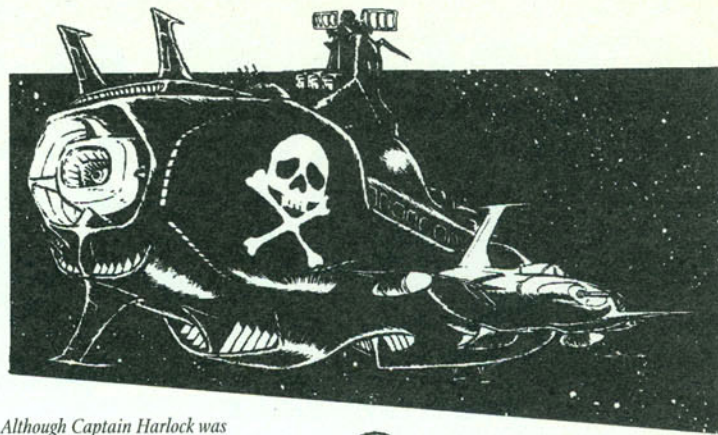
In the final battle, they must destroy the military force of Rajendora in order to reach Iscandar. The *Yamato*, enduring a number of casualties and damages, makes it to the Rajendora's planetary capital and silences it. Desular escapes in a large interstellar craft to fight another day. A pirate ship arrives and delivers the death blow to Rajendora.

Yamato lands on Iscandar. The crew is surprised to discover only Queen Starsha there. She sees Yuki and cries when she is reminded of her dead sister. They are able to pack the radiation remover, but it remains untested, because Starsha is without the help of her robots. (They are all inactive due to the depletion of their energy.) The crew prepares to make a final, single jump to Earth. They invite Starsha to go with them, but she refuses, saying Iscandar is her world and she plans on dying here. She tells Kodai that only the pirate, Captain Harlock, understands her feelings about a world that is destined to die. She tells Kodai that the true identity of Captain Harlock is no doubt among the possessions of Kodai's elder brother (which he has been keeping with him all this time).

The trip back home begins after a big commotion about leaving Starsha alone. "So I'll remain behind, too!" says one of the crew. *Yamato* disposes of its asteroid defense belt and departs. They test the radiation remover on a nearby planet along the way. The Chief Technician operates the machine by himself and dies as a result.

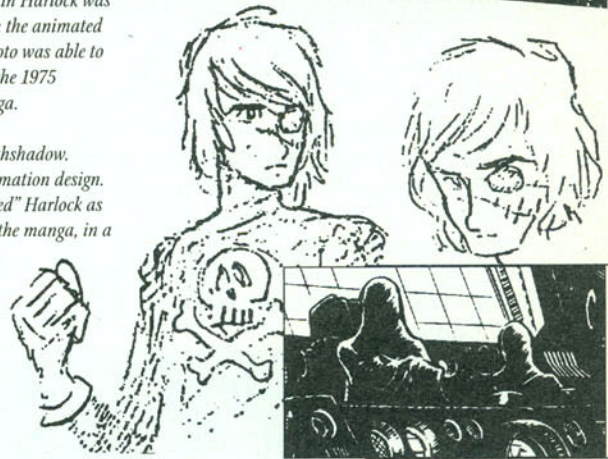
Even if they make it back, they could still be too late. Therefore, they plan to make another world into a second Earth...but humans are not able to live in a pure atmosphere. Ironically, they are more adapted to a world with pollution. It will take a number of decades before they are able to live in an unpolluted world again.

The final battle with Desular: The *Yamato* is ambushed in a surprise attack. Both sides are equally matched, and they inflict severe damage on each other. Because the crew dismantled *Yamato's* asteroid shield, they begin to take severe losses. The crew realizes that if they lose here, the effort of their year long journey would be for nothing, so they dig in and fight to the death.



Although Captain Harlock was eliminated from the animated series, Matsumoto was able to include him in the 1975 *YAMATO* manga.

Above: the *Deathshadow*. Right: early animation design. Below: "Shrouded" Harlock as he appeared in the manga, in a fateful meeting with Kodai.



The *Deathshadow* enters the battle and complicates matters. Desular's battle strategy is foiled, and his ship is destroyed by the *Yamato's* main weapon. Most of the crew of the badly damaged *Deathshadow* are either injured or killed. Kodai offers to transfer the pirate crew aboard the *Yamato*, but Captain Harlock, laughing sadly, refuses. "Now is not the time to bring on extra cargo," he says. "Get rid of your excess baggage and make haste to Earth."

Kodai recalls Starsha's words about his dead brother's possessions, and searches through them but can find nothing concerning the identity of Captain Harlock until Analyzer reads a manga (Japanese comic book) found among the possessions: "The Tale of Captain Harlock."

Captain Harlock IS Kodai's elder brother!

Harlock laughs and waves. "Be strong and live long!" he says, as he departs for the dark reaches of space. Starsha hears the transmission and weeps. "It appears that I shall not die alone..." she says. "As things die, new life is born. That is the way of the universe."

The remaining *Yamato* crew, pawns in the greater scheme of things, returns home. Earth now has a chance to be reborn. It has been saved. The battle-weary Earthlings welcome the *Yamato* back with hope. (Or: there was nobody there to greet them in the end...did they make it back in time...?)
The End

Translated by Ernest and Sumiko Migaki

IN APRIL OF 1945, THE LARGEST BATTLESHIP EVER BUILT LEFT JAPAN ON A LAST-DITCH SUICIDE MISSION. HER ENEMY: THE MOST POWERFUL NAVAL ARMADA EVER ASSEMBLED. THIS IS THE STORY OF THAT SHIP—AND OF ONE MAN WHO SAILED IN HER.

BY BRUCE LEWIS

"Ensign Yoshida, it's shiruko for dessert tonight!" The young orderly smiled broadly as he sat a fourth cup of hot black tea onto Yoshida's stained china saucer. "Sweet bean soup with rice cake!"

Yoshida smiled back. By announcing the fact that the cooks were preparing a special treat for the evening meal, the orderly was expressing his hope that *YAMATO* and the fleet might actually survive to witness another sunset. With the coming of dawn, hopes were running high that somehow *YAMATO* and her *Ten-ichigo* ("Heaven #1") task force might actually reach Okinawa, might actually have a chance of throwing the Americans back into the sea and ridding Japanese soil of the foreign invaders once and for all. Of course, Okinawa wasn't part of Japan, strictly speaking; like Formosa, Korea, and the others, the islands of the Ryuku group had been conquered and annexed by Japan as part of the Meiji Emperor's quest for empire in the 1870s. But in any case there was no hope; even now, Yoshida knew, two American Martin flying boats were tailing them. Japan's colonies were lost forever, as was Okinawa; soon *YAMATO*, too, would vanish forever beneath the Yankee tide.

Shiigata ga nai, thought Yoshida, It can't be helped. Taking with him the now-empty bento that had held the radar officers' sparse lunch, the orderly retired from the auxiliary radar room where Yoshida sat, leaving him and the others in the room in silence. As someone passed around a flask of scotch whiskey, Yoshida lit a cigarette, a gift from His Imperial Majesty, and tried not to think about the rain pounding on the bridge windows outside the

radar room door, tried not to imagine how cold that rain would be to a man floating alone in the endless gray sea all around him. For now, he was warm, the tea was strong and hot, and the Americans had not yet come. As he sipped his tea, Yoshida composed his mind and prepared for his watch—his final watch aboard battleship *YAMATO*. It was high noon, 7 April 1945.

Part III: *YAMATO* at Midway—the Beginning

"In the first six or twelve months of a war with the United States and Britain, I will run wild and win victory after victory. After that I have no expectation of success."

—Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, IJN, 1940.

At 7:55 in the morning Hawaii time, on Sunday, 7 December 1941, the Japanese Empire began its war with the United States of America. Without warning, some one hundred eighty Japanese warplanes of the most modern type suddenly appeared in the air above the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. The base was just waking up; the nine great battleships of the U.S. Navy's Battle Fleet—CALIFORNIA, MARYLAND, OKLAHOMA, TENNESSEE, WEST VIRGINIA, PENNSYLVANIA, NEVADA, UTAH and ARIZONA—rested quietly at anchor along Ford Island in the middle of the harbor or in nearby drydocks. The forenoon watch was just coming on duty in most of the ships; the anti-aircraft guns were mostly unmanned, their ammunition securely under lock and key in armored boxes. Church bells could be heard softly across the water as the base's chapels began their morning services. Then, like thunder, the

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



The True Story of Battleship Yamato

first bombs began impacting into the naval air headquarters on Ford Island; seconds later, the base and the ships all around it were burning. At 7:58, Rear Admiral P.N.L. Bellinger, commanding officer of the fleet air arm in Hawaii, broadcast the message that brought America to its feet in anger: "Air raid, Pearl Harbor—THIS IS NO DRILL."

Two hours later, as the last of the Japanese attackers touched down on his home carrier some 230 miles to the north, the destruction of the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet was all but complete. OKLAHOMA lay on the bottom of the harbor by her berth; WEST VIRGINIA, CALIFORNIA, TENNESSEE, MARYLAND, and PENNSYLVANIA were in flames, as was NEVADA, beached near the mouth of the harbor after putting up a fierce fight. ARIZONA, after suffering torpedo hit after torpedo hit, took a bomb to her forward magazine and exploded in a shattering column of flame five hundred feet high, breaking her back and sending her to the bottom as well, trapping more than a thousand helpless sailors below decks even as Japanese planes continued to pound her burning hulk with more bombs. Smaller ships—cruisers, destroyers, minelayers and tenders—lay wrecked and ablaze all around. The damage ashore was just as horrifying; 96 out of 224 of the Army's planes at nearby Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows Field airbases were shattered and on fire, the rest damaged and useless; the Navy's airfield at Kaneohe had not fared much better, with 92 out of 123 aircraft destroyed and the rest again shot to pieces. A second Japanese air raid at 8:54 a.m. had concentrated on these airfields, with their long rows of airplanes parked wingtip-to-wingtip and totally unprotected; however, by the time they got there, the first wave had left them precious little to destroy. By 9:45 a.m. the attackers were gone.

Of the total of 353 planes used in the two attacks, the Japanese had lost only 29 planes and 64 men, some from the large submarine and five midjet subs sunk by Navy forces before the attack. One Japanese flyer was forced down on the small Hawaiian island of Niihau; sheltered by local Japanese, he terrorized the population for a week before a burly native Hawaiian took him on and despite being shot killed him with his bare hands and a stone. As for the Americans, by the end of that "date which will live in infamy" 2335 soldiers and sailors were dead, along with 68 civilians, and 1178 were seriously wounded. Back in the carrier Akagi, Vice-Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, commander of the victorious Japanese force, reported to headquarters that the air raid was a total success. At that moment, all across the Pacific, similar attacks were falling on American air and naval bases. The Pacific War had begun.

"In the final analysis, the success or failure of our entire strategy in the Pacific will be determined by whether or not we succeed in destroying the United States fleet, more particularly its carrier task forces...by launching the proposed operations against Midway, we can succeed in drawing out the enemy's carrier strength and destroying it in a decisive battle."

—Yamamoto, March 1942

Just over one week later, on 16 December 1941, His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Ship YAMATO slid forth from behind her protective bamboo screen at the great naval yard at Kure and entered Nihon Kaigun as a commissioned warship of the First Battleship Division. As Japanese ground and naval forces swept

across Southeast Asia towards Indonesia, YAMATO's crew entered a period of intensive at-sea training that lasted most of the winter of 1941-42. Finally, on 12 February 1942, the great battleship was named flagship of the Combined Imperial Fleet under Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the mastermind behind the Pearl Harbor attack. YAMATO at last had reached her destined place at the head of the fleet. Three days later, on 15 February, the British garrison at Singapore surrendered; Japan's control of the seas around east Asia was now total.

The question for Yamamoto now was how to use YAMATO and the other ships in the fleet most effectively. A former naval attaché in Washington, the admiral was no fool; he had opposed war with America from the beginning, knowing full well that the immense productive capacity of the United States was capable of building ten ships for every one sunk by Japan. Now, despite his opposition, war had come, and the patriotic Yamamoto knew his country's only hope of winning was to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet in one swift blow, then negotiate a settlement before the Americans could rearm. This was the rationale behind Pearl Harbor; but despite the seeming success of that attack, the admiral knew that America's true naval power—her aircraft carriers—had not even been in Hawaii at the time. As Japan's leading proponent of naval air warfare, Yamamoto knew that the Imperial Navy and the home islands themselves would never be safe as long as any American carriers were allowed to exist; with this in mind, the admiral set to work on a plan to draw out the enemy flattops and finish what he had started at Pearl Harbor: the destruction of America's Pacific Fleet.

There were several military options open to Japan in the spring of 1942. The first, an invasion of Australia, was rejected due to Army objections; in any case, the Empire's growing ring of island bases surrounding the southern continent would soon render that country irrelevant as far as the war was concerned. The second, an invasion of the island of Ceylon, was considered too premature in light of the as-yet-incomplete conquest of Burma. The third, conceived by Yamamoto's staff officers, called for a major naval offensive against the Aleutian Islands in the north and Midway Island in the south. Occupation of these strategic islands would prevent American land-based bombers from attacking Japan; in addition, Midway would serve as the idea staging area for the planned attack on and occupation of Hawaii. This done, the U.S. Navy would be forced to retreat to San Diego and Seattle, effectively ending its ability to make war with Japan. Yamamoto's goals would be achieved—there would be nothing to interfere with the consolidation of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere.

Upon further analysis any plans to invade Hawaii in the near term were dropped; the real objective, Yamamoto knew, was to sink the carriers. Once that was done, Japan could absorb Hawaii at her leisure. Soon, orders began to flow out from YAMATO, at her anchorage at Yashirajima; aboard her, Yamamoto would personally lead his ships into battle against the American carriers at Midway.

By May 1942, the attack fleet was ready; soon, YAMATO would sail into battle for the first time.

Next: YAMATO at Midway—the Showdown.

YAMATO SHOP



Few would disagree that the music of the YAMATO saga is one of its most immortal ingredients. Even if it has been many years since you watched STAR BLAZERS on television, hearing the music brings back a flood of memories and emotions. Now, at last, Yamato music is available on these high-quality CDs, imported directly from Nippon Columbia, all

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NEXT ISSUE



As the Yamato's refit continues, Sandor and Sasha are increasingly at odds over her desire to join the Star Force. As the conflict deepens, Sandor must find a way to deal with Sasha's growing pains and his own inner turmoil as well. Future tragedy and past triumph collide in part two of *Icarus* in STAR BLAZERS #7, on sale in August!

NEXT MONTH



In July, look for the STAR BLAZERS INTRODUCTORY PACK, exclusively at comic book stores, featuring both a 45-minute videotape (volume one of the QUEST FOR ISCANDAR series) and the STAR BLAZERS SPECIAL EDITION, a never-before-seen issue of the comic book series spotlighting the war between Earth and Gamilon BEFORE the birth of the Yamato!

net.yamato

There's a lot more on the Web these days than hokey homepages and hentai hellraisin'. It's entirely possible to actually learn something useful on the Web nowadays, and this issue features a selection of sites that are both informative and fun to view.

The first of these is one no fan of Yamato will want to miss—the Rail, Sea, and Air Page at <http://www.wpi.edu/~elmer/>. This page is chock-full of interesting graphics and data related to—you guessed it—railroads, ships, and aircraft. The Navy Pages are of particular note, with complete listings of almost every type of naval, patrol, and coast guard vessel ever afloat, plus photos and background data to boot. There's even a section devoted to futuristic ship concepts like the Arsenal Ship (floating missile base) and CVX (next-gen aircraft carrier) programs. All in all, RSA is the page to turn to first for anything that rolls on rails, floats, or flies.

Speaking of things that fly, the perfect place to find them on the WWW is the U.S. Air Force Museum site at http://www.am.wpafb.af.mil/museum/usaf_museum.html. Every plane you'll find at the actual museum in Ohio can be seen and read about at this wonderful site, with color photos galore and all the techie details any plane buff could hope for.

That's it for now. Next issue: the details on our new *Voyager/Star Blazers* webzine. Until then, happy webbin'!

—Bruce Lewis



An F-86 from the USAF Museum Site.

Below: one-sheet for British release of the YAMATO feature film.

Big Screen Entertainment~coming soon!

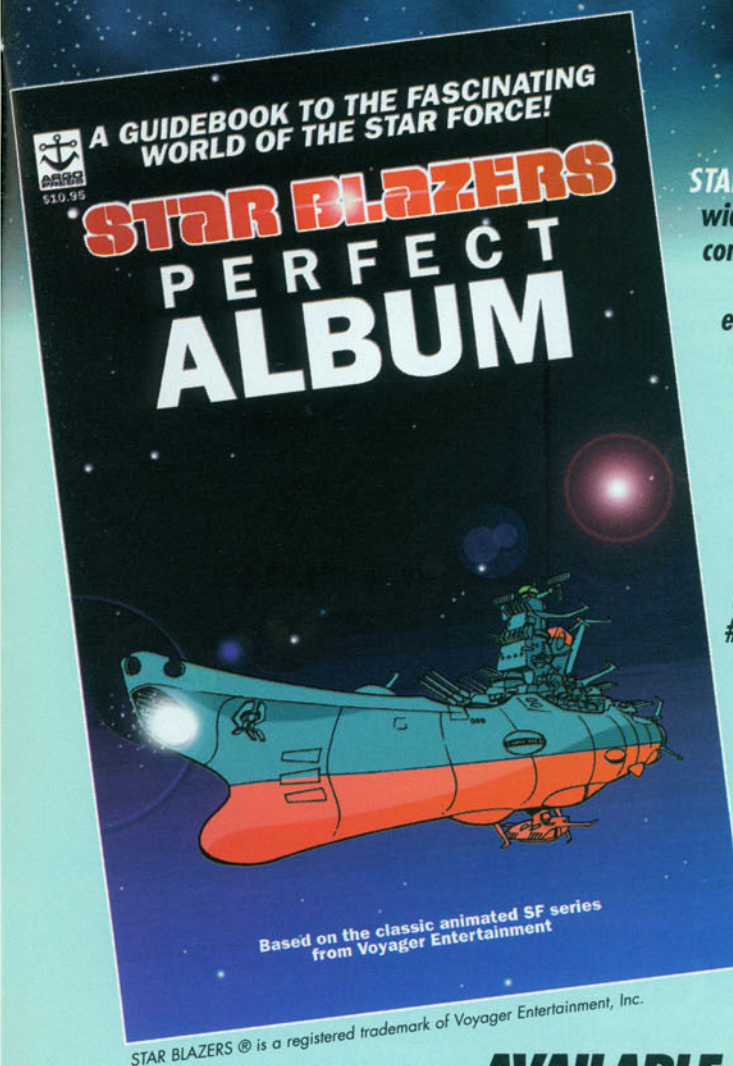
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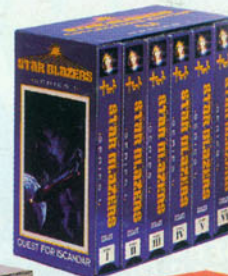
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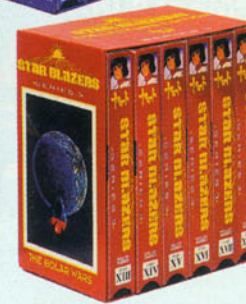
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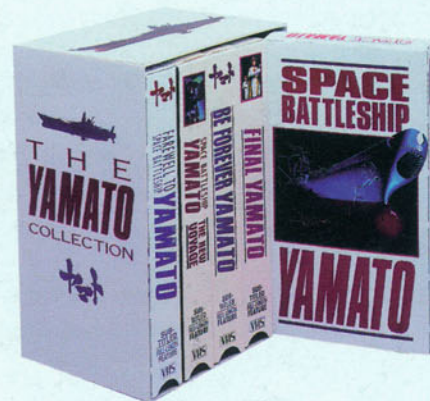
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