

STAR BLAZERS #12
"BE FOREVER YAMATO" PART II

SCRIPT VERSION 1.0
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PANEL A

SKALDART [OFF]

- (A) Oh, Dark Lady...Mistress of Dezarium...Your humble servant approaches You as You have commanded him...

SKALDART

- (B) I await your command, O Dezaria, O thou Queen of the Dead.

PANEL B

DEZARIA

DEZARIA

- (C) I am most displeased with thee, Steward of my people. Why hast thou disobeyed me? Why hast thou not done as I commanded thee, O walker among the lowly?

PANEL C

SKALDART [OFF]

- (D) My Lady...all that thou hast commanded, your servant has done. The blood of your people spilt at Iscandar is avenged...the Armies of the Wicked are driven before us...and the World of Death itself made humble, all at my bidding. How have we displeased thee, O dread sovereign?

PANEL D

DEZARIA [OFF]

- (E) Dost thou mock me, Steward? Did I not command thee concerning the Ship that Cannot Die? Hast thou destroyed it, as thou wert told to do, or dost thou mock thy Queen?

SKALDART

- (F) The Yamato...has eluded your Steward, My Lady. I-I have no excuse...

PANEL E

DEZARIA

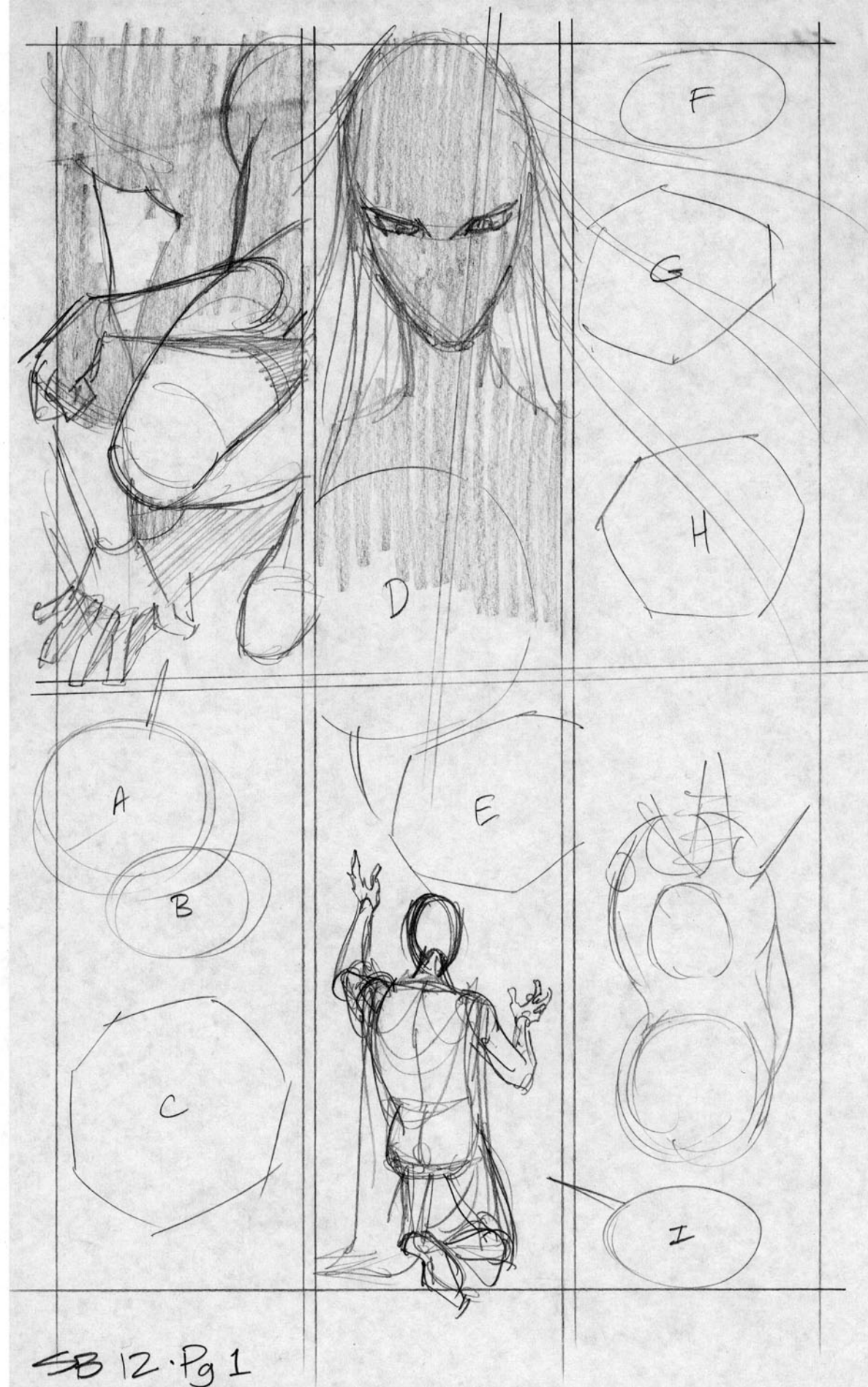
- (G) Then know this, Defiler of Tombs! Thy goddess is not mocked! Even now, that ship draws nearer, defiling the very gates of Heaven itself!...

DEZARIA

- (H) Knowest thou not of the Death Eternal that shiup brings? Or hast thou forgotten the ancient words of thy forefathers?

SKALDART

- (I) No, My Lady! Thy humble servant--





(A) DEZARIA
"And in the Last Days, the Ship That Cannot Die will breach the portals of the Heavens themselves, and will cast down the angels and all their hosts, even as it did unto far Gamilas!..."

PANEL B

(B) DEZARIA
"And the Daughter of the Ancient Ones shall tread the skin of Holy Dezaria, and defile the Tombs, and turn her back on life and love to stab the Heart of the World..."

(C) SKALDART
No...not the fire! Please, O Dread one, I beg thee--!

PANEL C

(D) DEZARIA [OFF]
"...and cause the Ship That Cannot Die to smite our world with the Fist of the Gods themselves..."

PANEL D

(E) SKALDART [OFF]
Noooo---

(F) DEZARIA [OFF]
"And wrap our world in fire!"

PANEL E

(G) SKALDART
Guyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!





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SPLASH PANEL

[TITLE: STAR BLAZERS: BE FOREVER YAMATO]

(A) SKALDART [SOBBING]
Not the fire...

[TITLE: CHAPTER 2: THE HOLE IN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE]

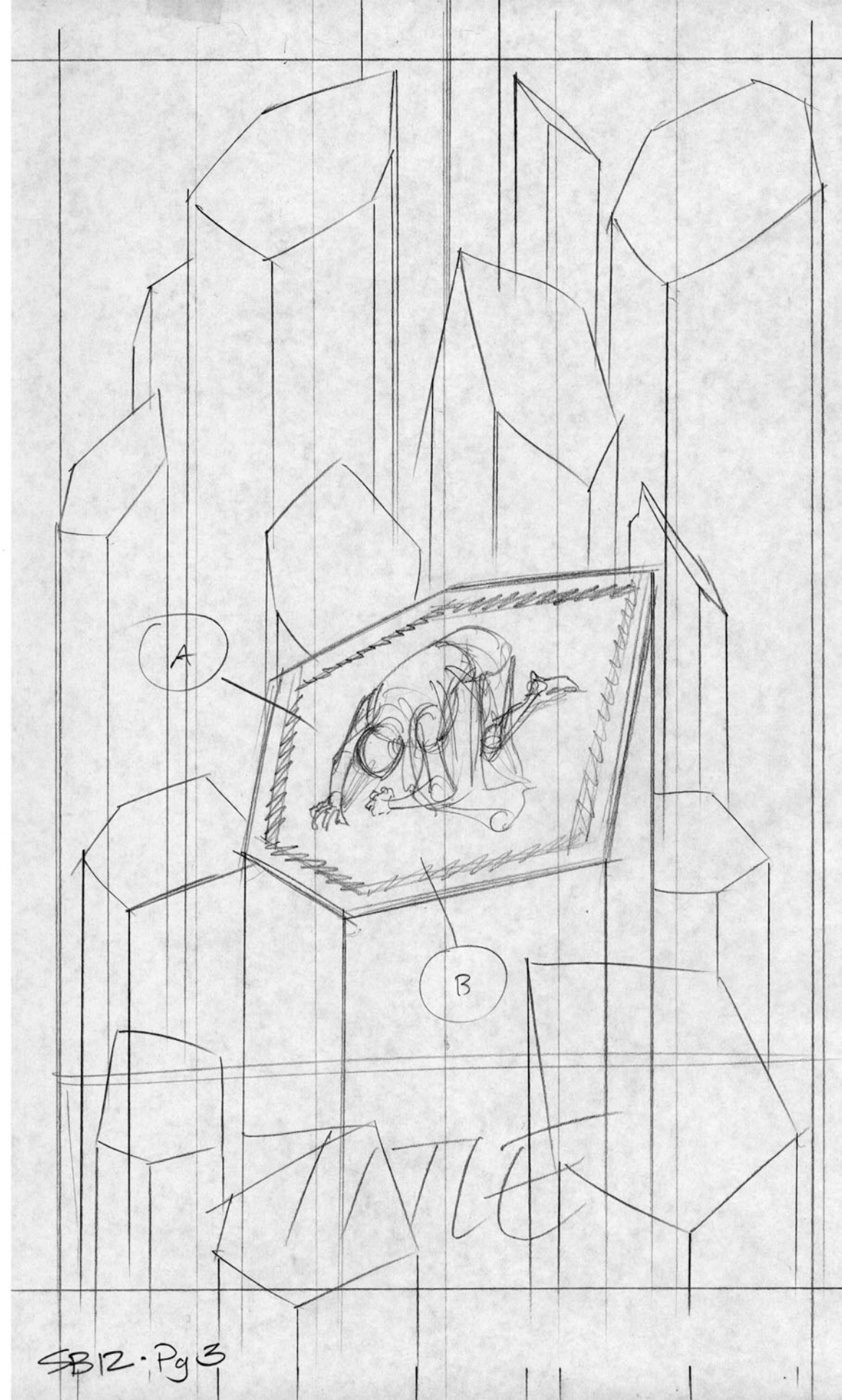
[TITLE: Script & layouts by Bruce Lewis]

[TITLE: Art by Tim Eldred]

[TITLE: Color and Digital Effects by John Ott]

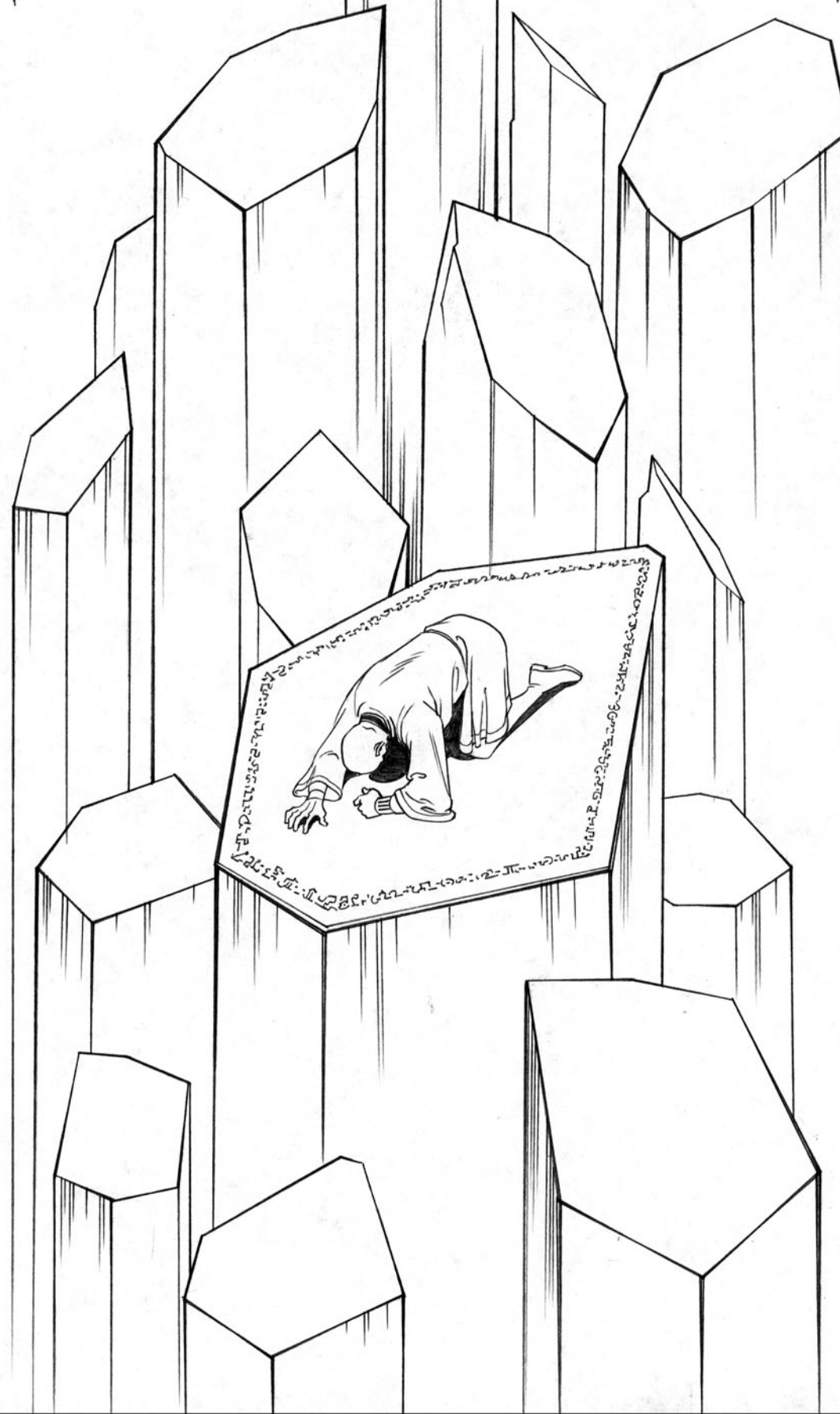
TITLE: Special thanks to the Iscandar Project]

(B) SKALDART [SOBBING]
Not...the...fire...



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(A) [CAPTION: NEW YEARS DAY, A.D. 2203]

PANEL A

ALPHON [OFF]

(B) "The humans tell me it's the first day of their New Year, but to me the planet looks just the same as it has for the past week..."

ALPHON [OFF]

(C) "...Indescribably lovely--even under our bootheel."

ALPHON [OFF]

(D) "Unlike most people from Prosht, I'm not a religious man, although I'm forced to play-act the rituals to keep Kazan from chopping off the one part of me that's truly alive. The patriarch of our clan is a dangerous man--and doubly so because he happens to be my commanding officer as well..."

PANEL B

ALPHON [OFF]

(E) "...But I never went on my knees to the Queen of the Dead, and I don't intend to now, no matter what Kazan da Prosht might do. If I did believe in a God, I'd believe in the one that made this lovely world--not our own cold and lonely Mother of Stones..."

ALPHON [OFF]

(F) "...My job here is almost done. This world is ours, her defenders all now among the honored dead, or hiding from us beneath the earth, peering out from their catacombs in the night when they think we do not see."

PANEL C

ALPHON [OFF]

(G) "But we do see--only we dare not follow. Whatever gods rule this Earth--if any there be--would surely strike us down should we venture beneath the ground, into the abodes of the dead."

ALPHON [OFF]

(H) "No. What killing we do, will be done aboveground and in full light of the sun--and when we are through, there will be no one left to mourn, no one left to feel sorrow or guilt..."

PANEL D

ALPHON [OFF]

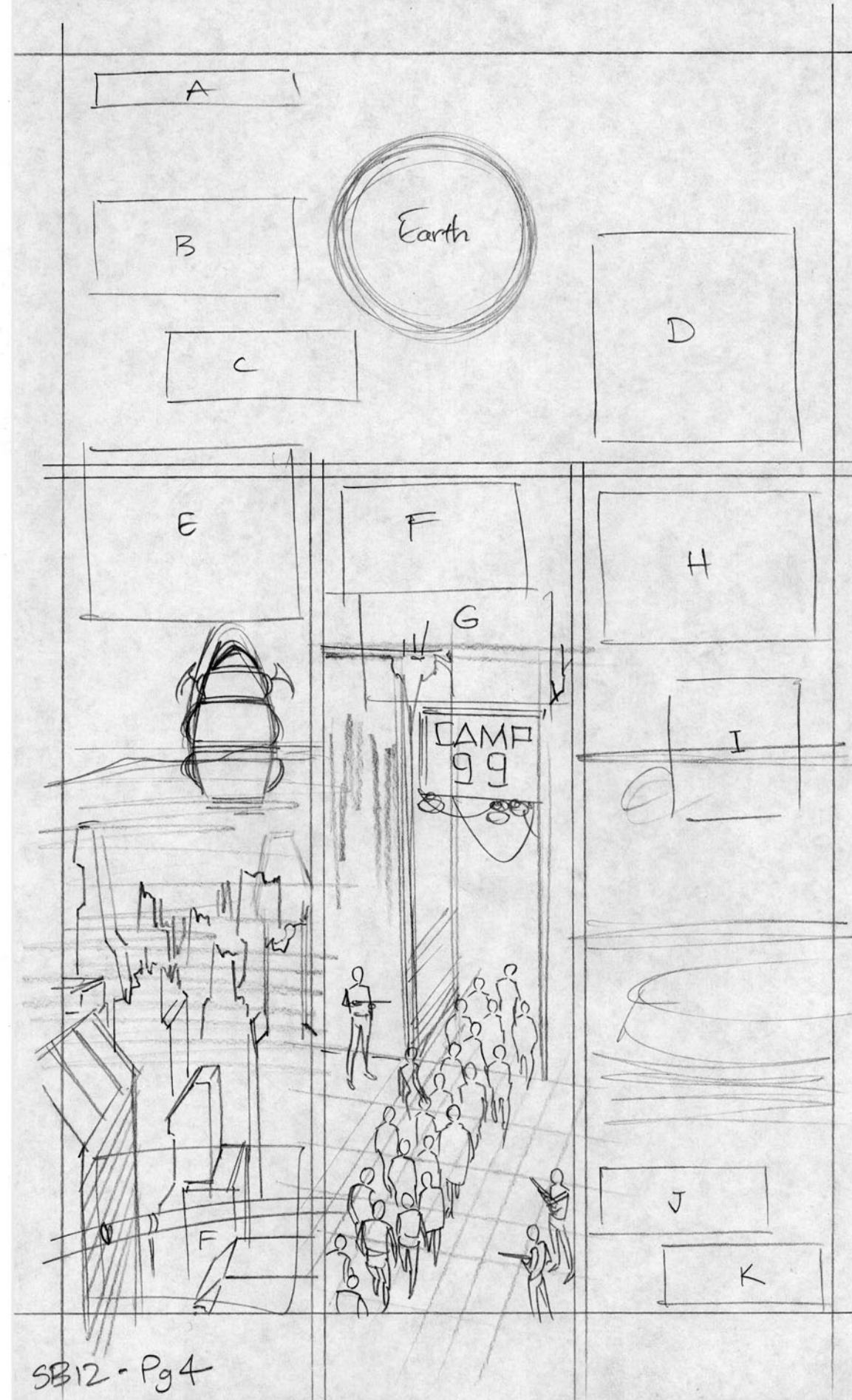
(I) "...No one for the God of Earth to punish for our sins...except me."

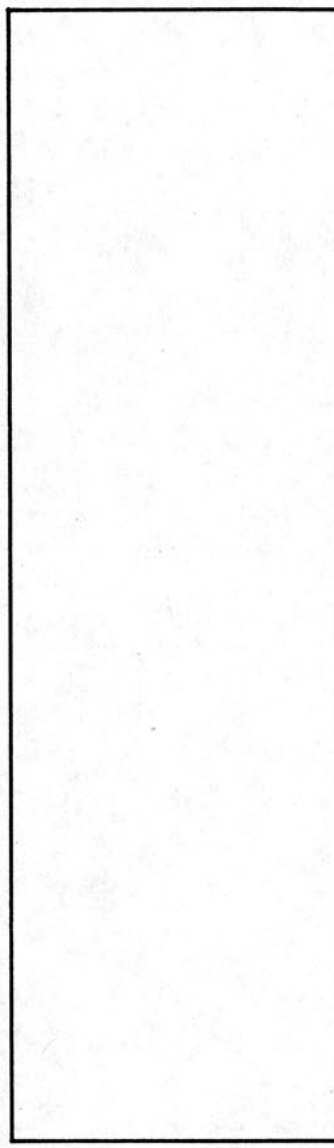
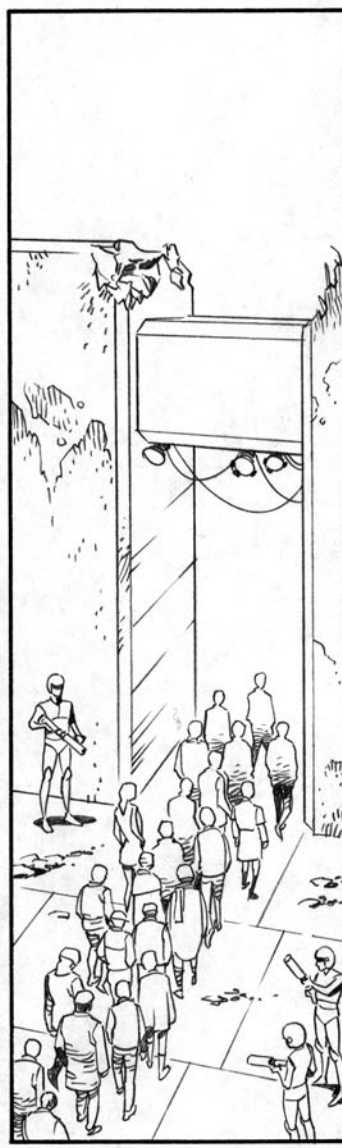
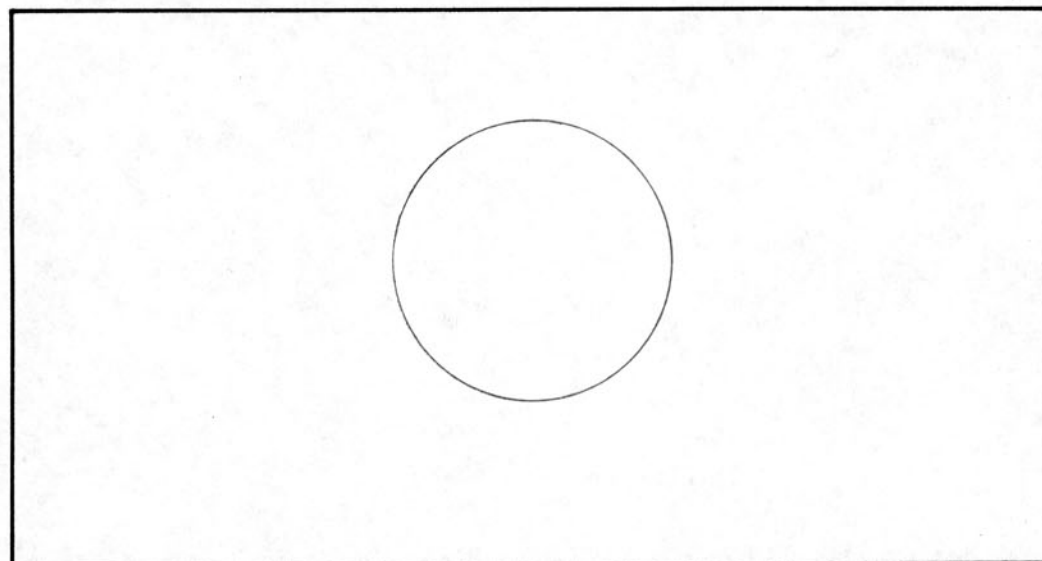
DARK NEBULAN ADJUTANT [OFF]

(J) Sir...it's the prisoner. The Earth woman is waking.

ALPHON [OFF]

(K) Acknowledged. I'm on my way.





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NOVA
(A) Who..what is this...?

ALPHON
(B) Lie still. Your injuries are not yet healed.

PANEL F

ALPHON
(C) I am Technical Lieutenant Alphon of Her Dark Ladyship's Military Intelligence Group. I brought you here after the battle...

(D) ALPHON
...here, where you are safe.

PANEL G

NOVA
(E) But why? Why didn't you just leave me to die there...?





(A) ALPHON
Because I am not the sort of man who sends a beautiful woman to a...concentration camp. There are things happening outside these walls...

(B) ALPHON
<HFF> No matter. Your wounds will be tended here, your needs sat--

(C) NOVA
Derek! What about Derek and the others?...

(D) ALPHON
<HRRRM> Ah, yes..."Derek..." You cried out that name often in your delirium. One of your comrades, I suspect...

(E) ALPHON
...unfortunately, however, neither Derek nor any of your other fellow soldiers survived. An unfortunate accident, perhaps, or the result of anti-aircraft artillery...

(F) ALPHON
...regrettable, really...we found their bodies inside the shattered hulk of the shuttle not long after. If only they'd surrendered--I would have--

(G) ALPHON
--I--

(H) NOVA
Nooo!

(I) NOVA
Derek! No! Noooo!

(J) ALPHON
(...)

(K) NOVA [OFF]
...can't be dead! Oh, God, oh God, not dead...

(L) NOVA
..please God, not dead...

(M) ALPHON [OFF]
"I suppose my words must have cut her like a diamond wire. We of Dezaria, with our cold hearts and bloodless souls--what can we know of such heart-wracking torments?"

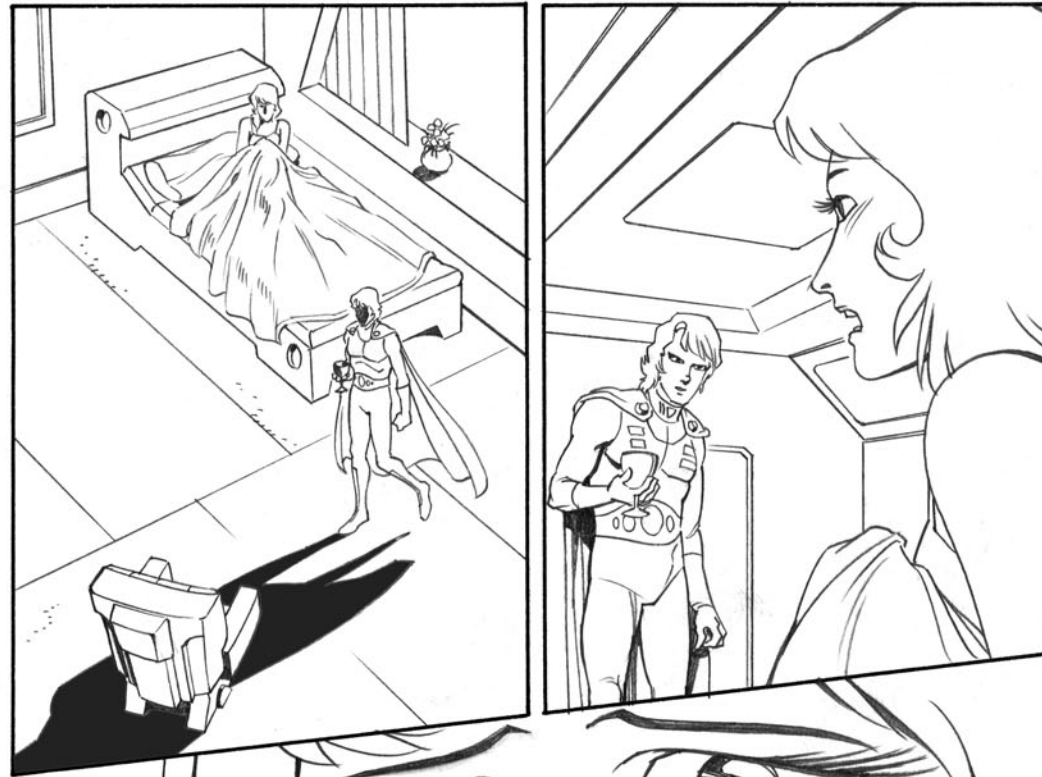
(N) ALPHON
Orderly...tend to her needs.

(O) ALPHON
I'm going...out.

(P) ALPHON
"As I walked away, I could hear her in her agony, crying and begging her God for her lost beloved..."

(Q) ALPHON
"...How I envy her."





AA [CAPTION: EARTH UNDERGROUND CITY]

SINGLETON [OFF]

A Let me get this straight, Doctor Probe--

SINGLETON [OFF]

B --They're letting us live for religious reasons?

DR. SIMON PROBE [OFF]

C Yes, General Singleton. The entire Alien Psychology Team is in agreement. The invaders' refusal to touch our dead...

PROBE [OFF]

D ...the rituals and ablutions they performed before formally laying claim to our planet...

PROBE [OFF]

E ...and the fact that they have not as yet destroyed the human race with the Double Nucleus Bomb...

SINGLETON [OFF]

F Okay, Doctor. No need to go over it again. Until we see anything to the contrary, we'll assume your team's assessment of the invaders' motivations is correct. The question is: what do we do with this theory?

PROBE

G I'll let young Dr. Ryder answer if I may, General. Karl, tell him about your findings.

DR. KARL RYDER (see issue #6)

H Sir, the behaviors and cultural patterns of the Dark Nebulans bear a startling similarity to patterns we've seen before...from the Gamilons. Language analysis so far confirms this--whatever the aliens are after here on Earth, it's not material. We've long suspected that Desslok's attacks were motivated by fear and faith--and now these new aliens arrive, with similar behavioral patterns....

RYDER

I ...in short, sir, we believe that the Dark Nebulans are engaged in a jihad against us--a holy war.

PANEL F

SINGLETON [OFF]

J So these are Gamilons, then?

RYDER

K No sir--not in the least. It's true that they physically resemble Gamilons on a superficial basis--but DNA analysis has shown that Iscandarians, Gamilons, the Telezart, and we humans are all 99% genetically identical. In a real sense, we're all human beings...but with vastly differing cultures.

RYDER

L And it's the cultural aspects of this war that are so reminiscent of the Gamilons. For example, captured writings from both races seem to show a peculiar attitude about the Earth--a sort of religious awe of the place, mixed with stark terror. If the Gamilons tried to destroy the Earth for religious reasons--out of fear that our planet was a prophesied bringer of doom, for example...

RYDER [OFF]

M ...then similar fears might be motivating the Dark Nebulans now.

SINGLETON

N It makes sense. There's really no good reason to fight an interstellar war...





PANEL A

SINGLETON [OFF]

(A) "...except to stave off the end of the world."

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(B) "...I hope this warp radio message reaches you, Supreme Commander--we have no way of knowing whether any of our relay satellites are still functioning. In any event, this will be our last message for the foreseeable future..."

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(C) "...We have found the enemy."

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(D) "Their invasion was coordinated from a large mobile space station in orbit around planet Brumis. On my orders, a Black Tiger strike team attacked the station while the Yamato was engaged in damage control operations..."

PANEL B

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(E) "The new pilots acquitted themselves well in battle--and the performance of the Cosmo Tiger IIs was nothing short of phenomenal! Their advanced gravity drives coupled with the new smart missiles enabled our strike force to penetrate the enemy's antiaircraft systems like they weren't even there..."

PANEL C

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(F) "...and the skill of our pilots enabled us to neutralize the Enemy base completely. 'Scratch one flattop!'"

PANEL D

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(G) "Meanwhile, a gravitational stress survey of the area has revealed the origin of the enemy force: an artificial wormhole in orbit around the sun."

(G) Commander Sandor has traced the Double Nucleus Bomb's trigger signals to this wormhole, making our next action obvious."

PANEL E

WILDSTAR [OFF]

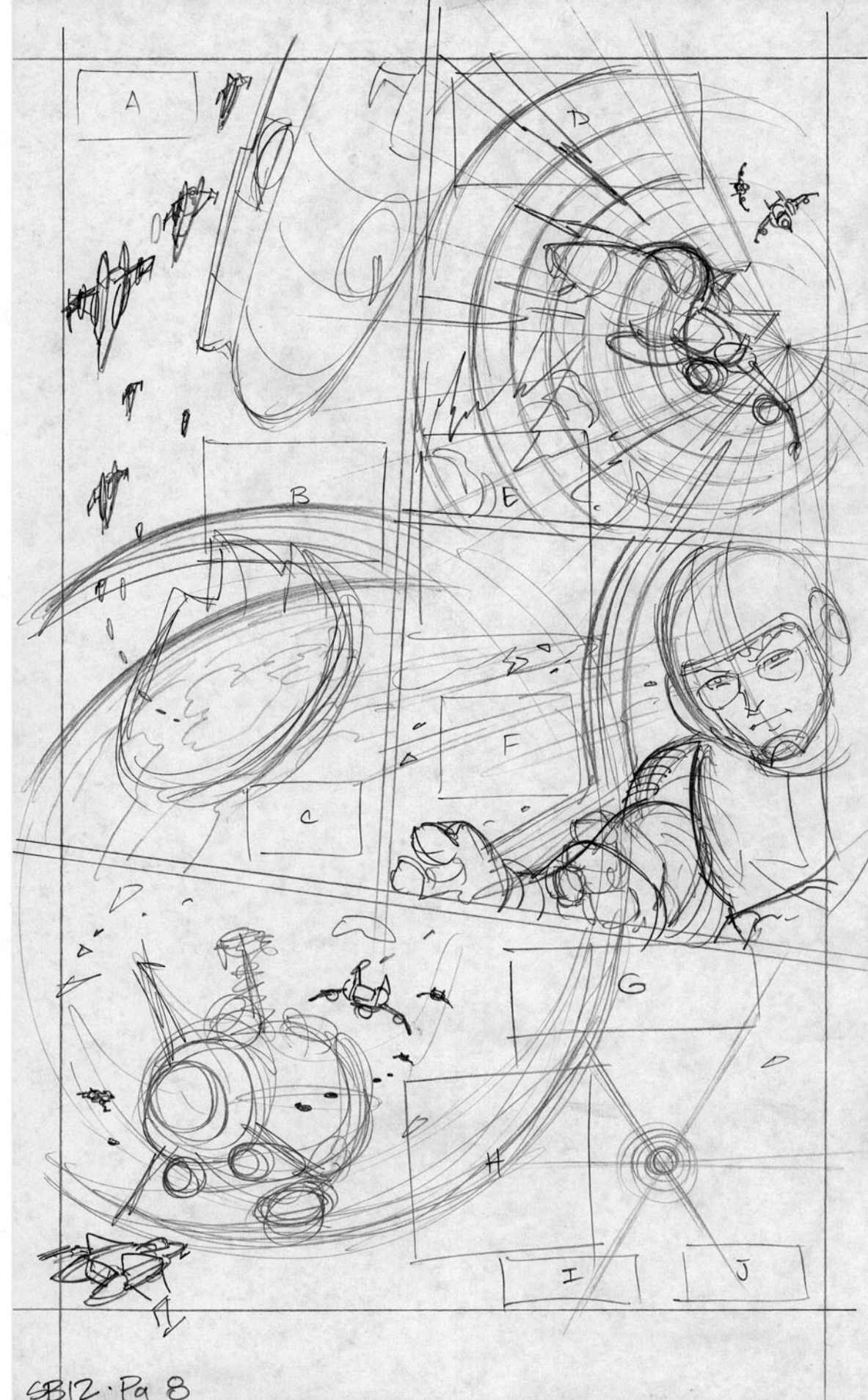
(H) "By the time this message reaches you, we'll be through the wormhole--armed for bear. With any luck, we'll find a clear path straight to the enemy homeworld beyond it. With Captain Yamanami and the improvements to our Wave-Motion systems on our side, we stand a fighting chance of destroying the trigger before it's too late..."

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(I) "Whether we can return home afterwards, however...remains to be seen."

WILDSTAR [OFF]

(J) "Commander Derek Wildstar, EDS Yamato...out."





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PANEL A

ALPHON [OFF]

(A) "She stands there...looking out into a sky for an answer that cannot possibly come. The wind is cold tonight, and the thin fabric of her servant's costume cannot possibly offer much protection..."

ALPHON [OFF]

(B) ...yet still she stands...and watches...and waits.

PANEL B

ALPHON [OFF]

(C) "Her name is Nova...Nova Yuki Forrester, Captain, Staff Corps, Earth Defense Force. This war is killing her, of course, although her wounds are almost completely healed. There are deeper wounds, of course--ones far more telling than any my soldiers' weapons may have caused..."

PANEL C

ALPHON [OFF]

(D) "I dare not tell her what I have learned...that her Derek may be alive. That the Yamato, the Ship that Cannot Die, has broken free of its hiding place and is even now bearing down on our motherworld. Such a hope would cut her...would kill her, just as it is killing me."

PANEL D

ALPHON [OFF]

(E) "No, I do not fear the wrath of Kazan; there is nothing his executioners could do to me that I would not welcome. My failure to find and destroy the Yamato is already forgotten. Even now, my clan's patriarch leads our fleet away from this place, chasing the Yamato across the sky in an attempt to prevent her from fulfilling her destiny."

ALPHON [OFF]

(F) "A part of me hopes he fails."

PANEL E

ALPHON

(G) "And so I sit here, holding some lost Earthman's curious picture, left to oversee the disassembly of him and his fellow humans in our concentration camps, all the while watching the thing I desire the most dying before my eyes."





PANEL A

(A) [CAPTION: WILDERNESS AREA 14, GREAT ISLAND]

MANDELLA [OFF]

(B) With all due respect, Madam Minister, I'm sick of hiding in these hills...

MANDELLA [OFF]

(C) ...I say we attack!

PANEL B

MANDELLA

(D) Look...Aziz...the others and I all agree on this. This thing with the aliens goes way beyond anything else we might want. Dammit, they're taking civilians to pieces in their camps ever night, thousands of them! We've got to hit them--hard--before they kill us all!

MANDELLA

(E) Look, I know what you're thinking, Aziz. You're thinking that if we wait up here in these hills, let the aliens take what they want, they'll get sloppy. You think that after a little blood and fire they'll pack off back to wherever they came from, leaving behind a few bored recruits and fat bureaucrats to rule the new colony....and then we storm down the mountain, cut a few throats, and divide up the planet. Right? Right?

PANEL C

MANDELLA [OFF]

(F) Well it's not going to happen like that! These guys aren't like the Cometies--Zordar just wanted to kick us around, show us who was boss! These bastards though...they're...evil. Not just greedy...evil!

AZIZ

(G) "Evil." What a ridiculously stupid thing to say. Are you a religious man, Senator Mandella?

PANEL D

MANDELLA

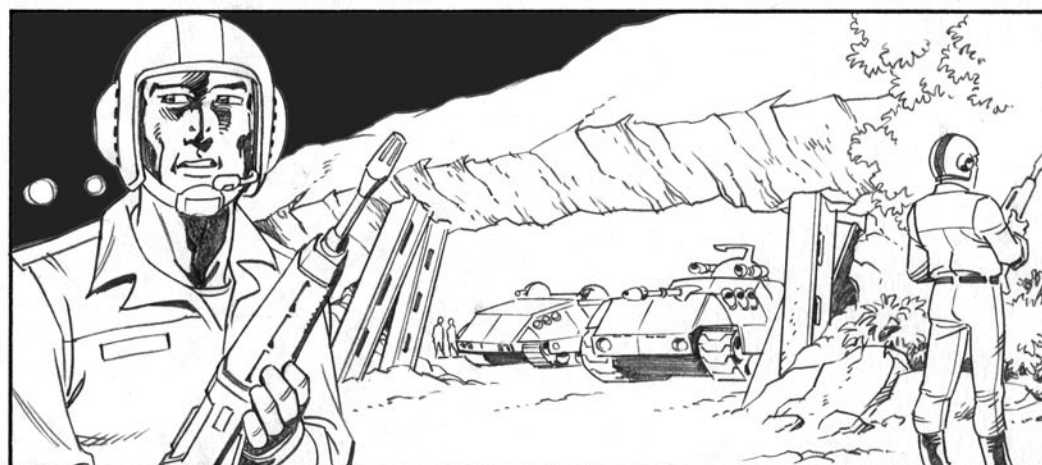
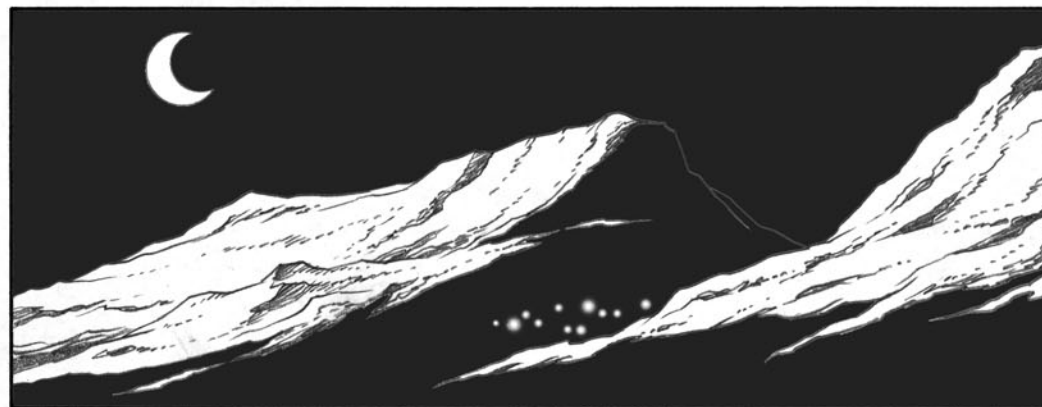
(H) No, Minister Aziz, I'm not. I'm a pragmatic man, though, and I'm telling you that these invaders aren't here to enslave us or use us as cannon fodder like the others were. These aliens are after something else...

PANEL E

MANDELLA [OFF]

(I) "Something all the tanks and soldiers in your little toy army can't defend."





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PANEL A

MANDELLA

- (A) Dammit, Aziz, listen to me! There's no point in waiting for them to quit and go home, because they aren't going home until we're all dead! Look, there's no one here but their concentration-camp goons and the Big Bomb guys—I say we mount up, hit them hard and fast--"

PANEL B

MANDELLA [OFF]

- (B) "--While we still have a fighting--"

PANEL C

- (C) MANDELLA [OFF]
"--Aziz--"

PANEL D

[no dialog]

PANEL E

ISF PRIVATE

- (D) He--he's dead! She shot him--just shot him!

ISF SERGEANT

- (E) Ma'am--?

AZIZ

- (F) Sergeant, inform the other members of the Inner Circle that Senator Chambers has been found guilty of treason and summarily executed. Then fetch my dress uniform and sidearm and report to the transport pool.

AZIZ

- (G) It's time I had a little talk with our enemy--face to face.



