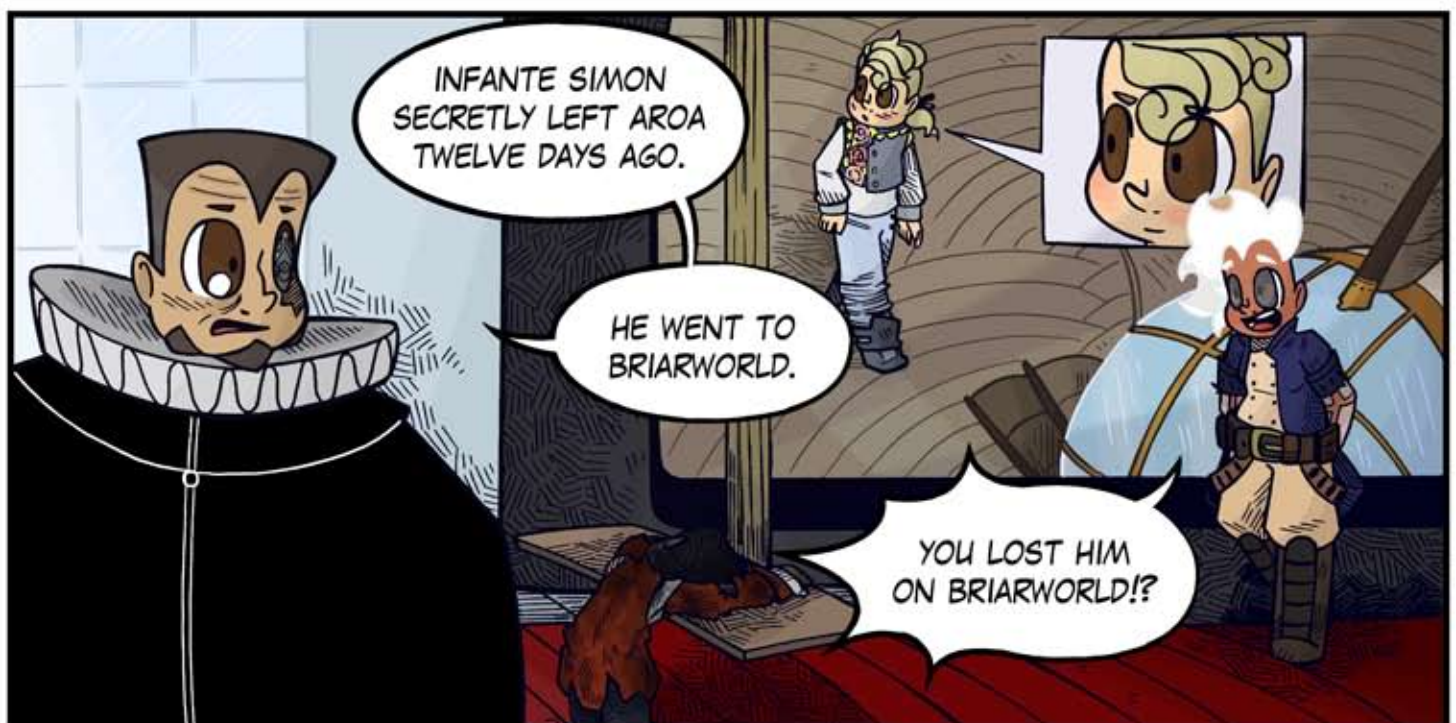



KINGDOM OF AROA.










IF THE INFANTE IS IN PAITA, BRING HIM HOME. IF HE'S IN THE SAVAGE AREAS, MY SPIES CAN SUPPLY YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SEND YOUR CABALLEROS?




DO YOU KNOW OF ANY ROBOTS THAT FUNCTION FOR LONG ON BRIARWORLD?

AND YOUR SPIES?

ON BRIARWORLD A LOT OF SCANNERS WON'T WORK. YOU'RE THE RARE MERCENARY WITH PSI TALENTS.

VERY SMALL TALENTS.




THE INFANTE IS IN DANGER. ANY EDGE, EVEN A SMALL ONE, WILL HELP.

MY PEOPLE ARE GOOD, BUT THEY'RE NOT THE HERO OF CASTAÑAR.



NONE OF THEM BROKE INTO OSORNO.

NONE OF THEM BROKE OUT OF PERELADA.



NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT PERELADA.





OH, HI MANUELA.

HI, BERNARDO.

I, UM... YOU LOOK NICE. I MEAN... UM, YOU'RE WALKING FAST.

THE SCRAP YARD AGAIN? YOU LOOK NICE. YOU SHOULD... I MEAN... I'M GOING TO THE BULL FIGHT.

I MEAN... WHAT IS... DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE BULL FIGHT WITH ME?

I'M GOING SOMEWHERE.

HAVE FUN.



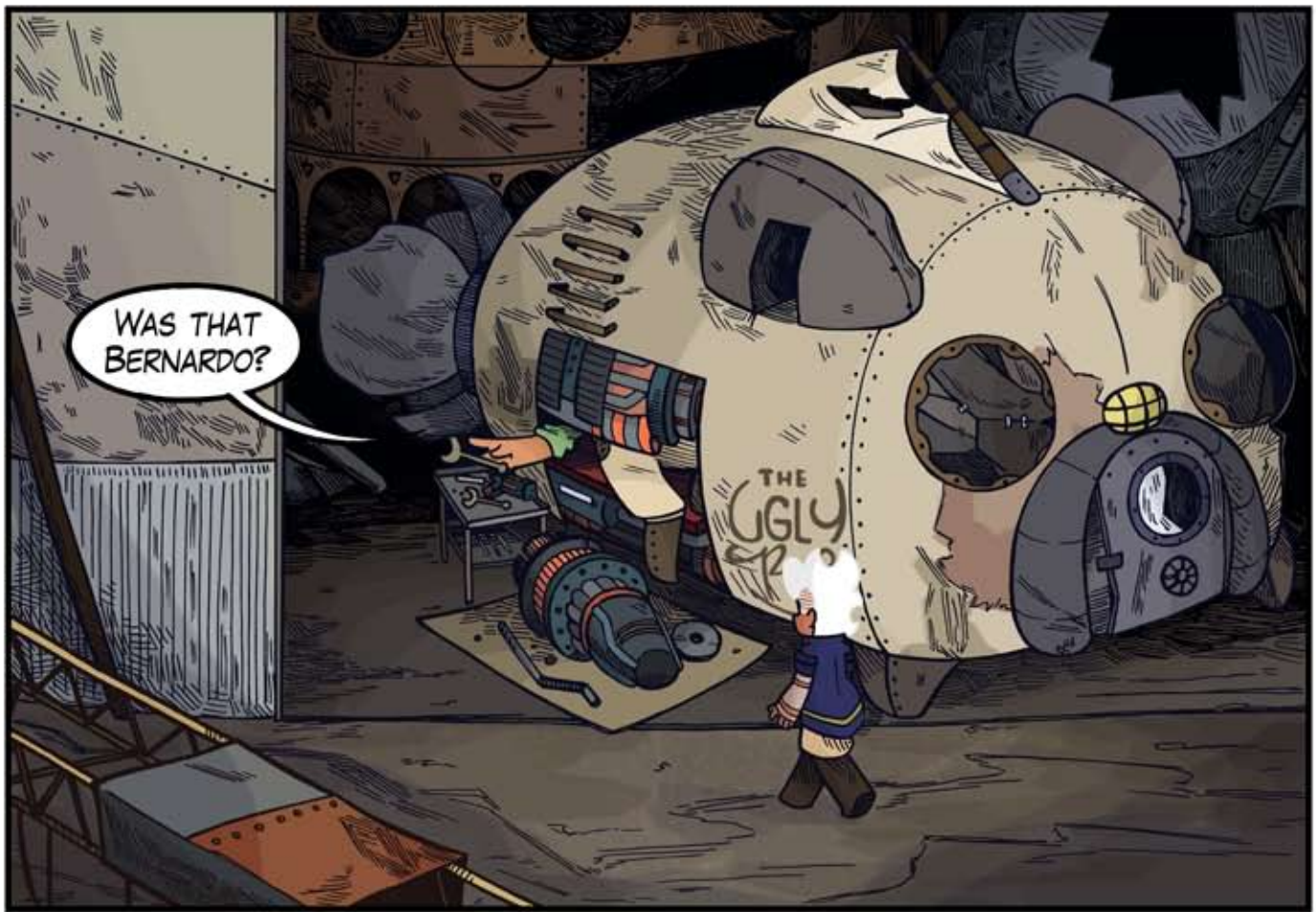
YOU'RE A NOBLE FROM THE CABILDE, BERNARDO. YOUR NAME IS IN THE BOOK. I'M JUST A COMMONER.



MAYBE IF YOU WANTED... IF WE DID... THE REY COULD GRANT A DISPOSITION AND... TO MAKE IT OKAY.

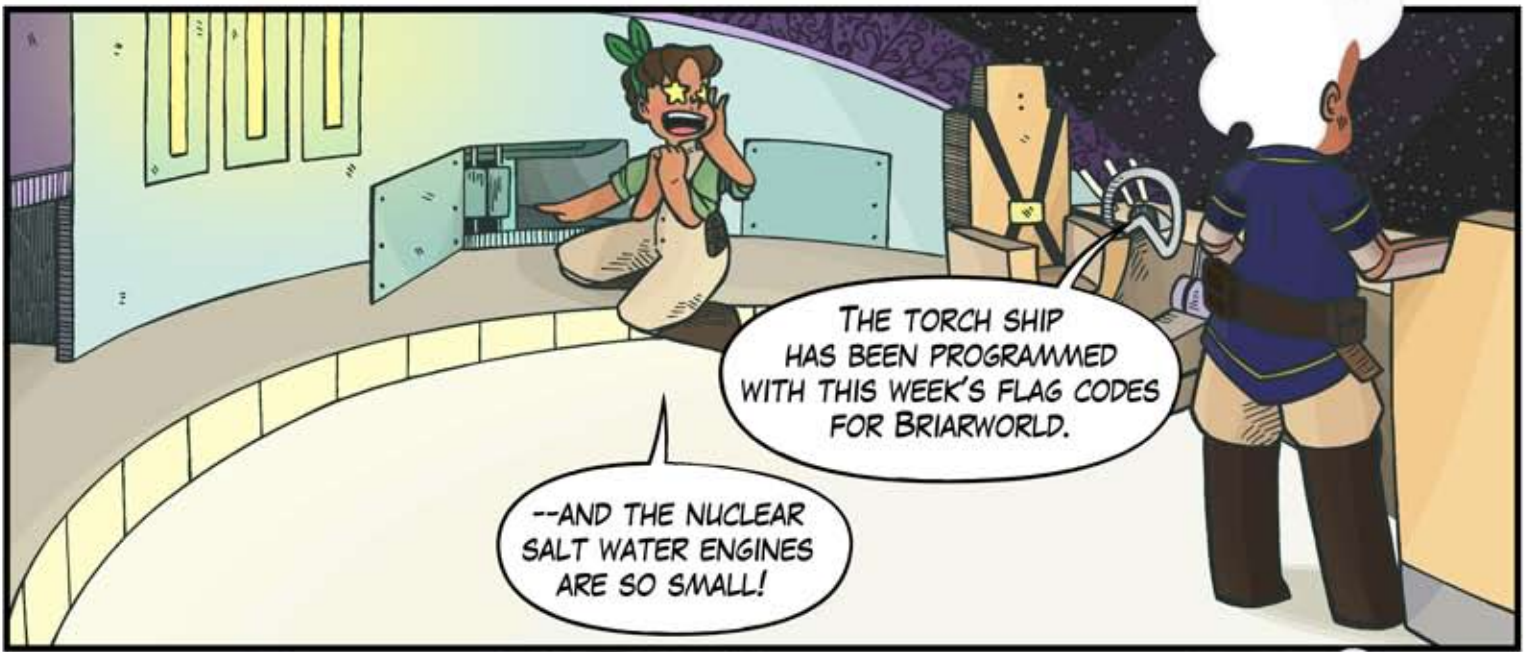
I DON'T WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NOBILITY, BERNARDO.











THE TORCH SHIP HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED WITH THIS WEEK'S FLAG CODES FOR BRIARWORLD.

--AND THE NUCLEAR SALT WATER ENGINES ARE SO SMALL!



IN A BRACHISTOCCHRONE ORBIT, WE GET THERE IN FOUR DAYS, SO WE HAVE THREE DAYS TO DOCK AT PAITA, RESCUE THE INFANTE, AND BUG OUT.

OH MY GOD! CUTE LITTLE ENGINES!



THE DUQUE'S PLAN IS UNIMAGINATIVE.

WHO'S A GOOD ENGINE? YOU'RE A GOOD ENGINE! YES, YOU ARE...



YEAH, IF THIS IS HIS PLAN, I'M NOT SURPRISED HE LOST THE INFANTE. WE'LL DO THINGS MY WAY AND THEN DOUBLE THE PRICE.

I HAVE A REALLY GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS SHIP! CAN WE GET A MASCOT FOR IT? LIKE A FERRET? OOOH! NO! AN OCELOT!

TERESITA, NEVER TRUST YOUR FEELINGS. THEY GET YOU INTO TROUBLE.



IT'S NOT A FEELING. MY ASTROLOGER SAID SHIPS FLY BETTER WITH ANIMALS ON THEM. MAYBE AN IGUANA? WE COULD CALL HIM CAMILO.



ACTIVATE STEALTH DRIVE. SET STALKING COURSE.



YOU'VE GOT TO STOP CALLING FOR ME, INFANTE.





I CAN PARDON YOU SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER.



WHEN I TELL MY FATHER OF OUR LOVE, HE'LL UNDERSTAND.



YOU'RE NERVOUS.



A LOVE LIKE OURS WILL SET TONGUES WAGGING.



YOUR POSITION ON THE COUNCIL OF THORNS WON'T BE JEOPARDIZED...



NOT WHEN WE WED AND YOU BECOME A PRINCESSA.



ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR YOUR RANSOM.

RANSOM!?! WHAT? I LOVE YOU!



I KNOW. YOU SAID IT EVERY LETTER. BARF.



I'LL KEEP THE PEASANTS FROM THROWING REFUSE INTO YOUR WINDOW, BUT DON'T CALL FOR ME AGAIN.



JOAQUINA...

DON'T CALL FOR ME AGAIN, INFANTE.



THAT'S BRIARWORLD...

HE GAVE US A FALSE FLAG.
WHO DID HE GET IT FROM?
IS SOMEONE SETTING
UP THE DUQUE?



MAYBE THE GHOSTS ARE SETTING HIM UP! WE SHOULD GO WARN HIM!

I DON'T WANT TO USE HIS CODES.

WHAT? IF YOU DON'T GIVE THE RIGHT PASSWORDS THE VAMPIRES WILL PUT A CURSE ON US!



GET READY FOR APPROACH. I'M GOING TO TRY USING AN OLD PIRATE CONTACT.

I'M MAKING MYSELF A WARD TO KEEP AWAY EVIL SPIRITS. DO YOU SUPPOSE MAGNETIC COUPLERS WILL KEEP AWAY WEREWOLVES?

NO.



WHAT ABOUT MIND-SUCKING ALIENS?

TERESITA, THERE ARE NO WEREWOLVES, GHOSTS, VAMPIRES OR ANYTHING ON BRIARWORLD. THERE "USED" TO BE PSIONIC MONKS HERE, BUT MAYBE NOT ANYMORE. THEY KEPT MUTATING WITH THE RADIATION.



DON'T CALL ME TERESITA. I'M LIKE YOUR PARTNER, NOT A KID.

YOU HAVE A LONG WAY TO BEING A PARTNER.

I'M AS MERCENARY AS YOU!



WHILE THE DUQUE WAS CALLING ME FOR A JOB, YOU WERE ASKING YOUR ASTROLOGER ABOUT PUPPIES.

I ASKED ABOUT THE PROPULSION EFFECTS OF FERRETS! THAT'S USEFUL FOR US.



MY LITTLE TERESITA...





HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT WE WON'T GET MUTATED IN PAITA?

YOU ALREADY HAVE FOUR ARMS.

BUT WHAT IF I GET MORE? OR LOSE ONE?

THE WAY A FROG LOSES ITS VESTIGIAL TAIL!

YOUR ARMS AREN'T VESTIGIAL.

THE RADIATION AND OTHER EFFECTS OF BRIARWORLD ARE LOW HERE.

OTHER EFFECTS? WHAT OTHER EFFECTS?

EFFECTS THAT HAPPEN THE MORE YOUNG WOMEN TALK ABOUT THEM

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT GHOSTS?

COME ON!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S STILL HERE.

WE'RE NOT GOING INSIDE ARE WE?

HIDE SOME OF YOUR ARMS. FACE TOO.



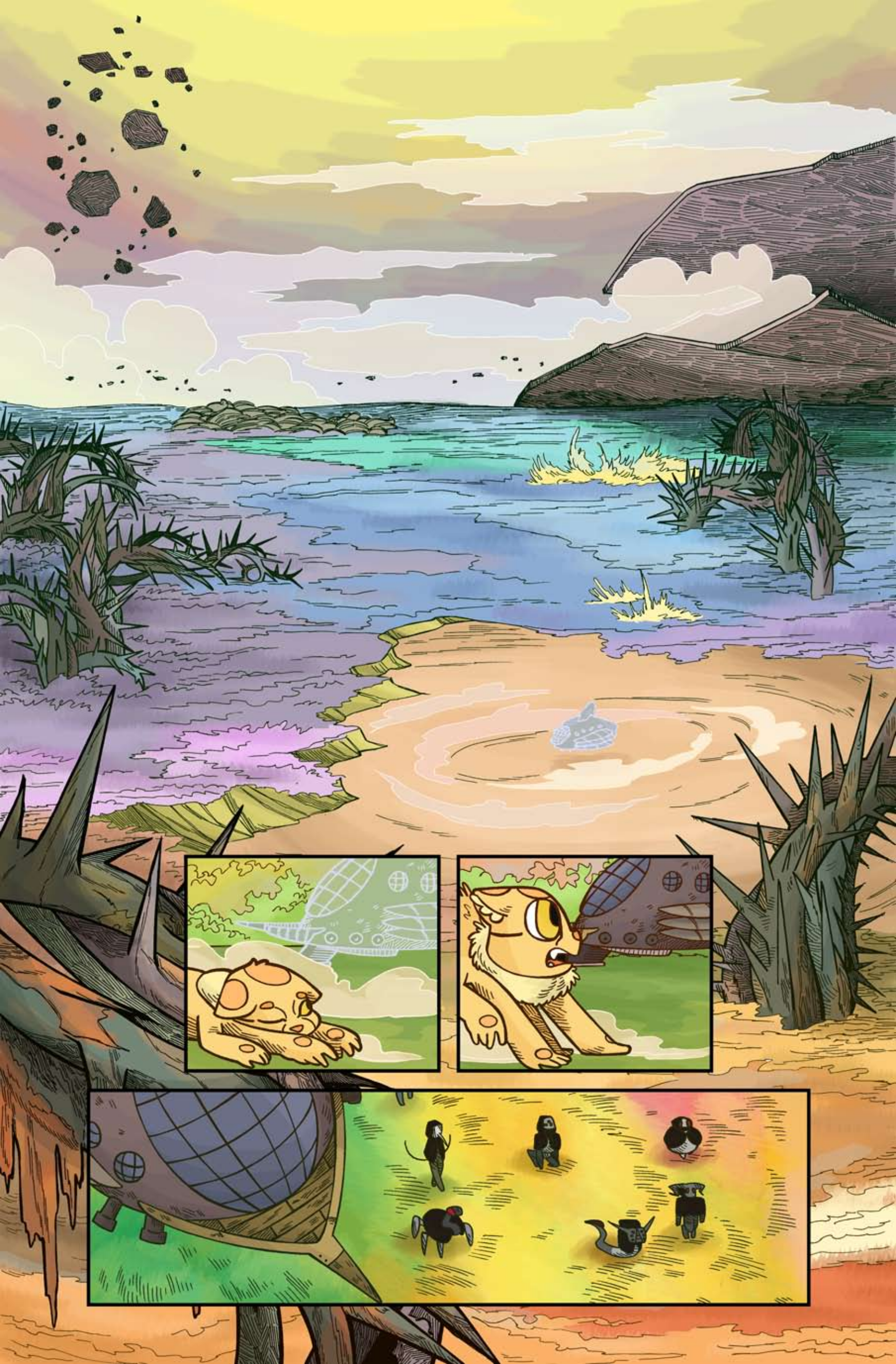
I DIDN'T BRING ENOUGH HAND SANITIZER.

SCUM AND VILLAINY? THIS PLACE DOESN'T SOUND CLEAN.

WHAT IF I NEED TO GO PEE?











THESE WON'T WORK. THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE US.

I KNOW. WE'LL HAVE TO BLUFF.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY CARDS. DO YOU WANT ME TO JUST CHANGE PASSES?



YOU CAN REPROGRAM A SECURITY CARD?

OH YEAH! THIS TECH IS SO LAST YEAR.



I GOT INTO A FLAMEWAR ON THE TECH BOARDS ABOUT HOW LAME THE SECURITY PATCHES WERE.

HUH.



DON'T USE THE PICTURE WHEN I HAD BLUE HAIR!

YOU CAN TELL THEM IT WAS PHASE.



IT WAS A REALLY SHORT PHASE.





WAIT HERE WITH THE MED KIT AND THE LINK TO THE SHIP. I'LL GET THE INFANTE.

WHY DIDN'T I MEET THE DUQUE?

YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

YOU DON'T KNOW SNEAK AND FIGHT MISSIONS, TERESITA.

I DIDN'T RAISE MY LITTLE COUSIN TO GET SHOT.



LET ME DO SOMETHING.



TEACH ME! I'LL BE TOUGH!







I BET YOU'RE JUST POCKETING EVERYTHING AND NOT PASSING IT ONTO THE COUNCIL.



I THINK ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FINE. PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, HIGH SHERIFF.











HURRY. SOMEONE'S COMING.



