

**MIRACLES:** EVENTS SO RARE, SO UNLIKELY, THAT THE FACT THEY EVEN HAPPENED SEEMS INCREDIBLE. EARTH'S FIRST MIRACLE HAPPENED HERE, MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO.

...LIFE.

LIFE EVOLVES IN BABY STEPS, PIECE BY PIECE...BUT THIS PROCESS NEEDS TO START SOMEWHERE.

SOMEHOW, AMINO ACIDS MUST MAKE THAT ONE GIANT LEAP FROM LIFELESS CHEMICALS INTO ORGANIC PROTEINS.

PROTEINS THAT CAN COLLECT AND SUSTAIN THEMSELVES, PROTEINS THAT CAN RESPOND TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT, THAT CAN GROW AND CHANGE AND REPRODUCE.

KRAAAACK

WE DON'T KNOW HOW THIS FIRST LEAP-- THIS FIRST MIRACLE-- HAPPENED. WE CAN'T MAKE IT HAPPEN AGAIN, EVEN WHEN WE WANT IT TO. BUT LIFE BEGETS LIFE, AND ONCE IT'S THERE, IT TENDS TO STICK AROUND.

THIS WAS THE FIRST MIRACLE ON EARTH.

POP

THE SECOND MIRACLE HAPPENED LATER. LIKE THE FIRST, WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN AGAIN, AND WE'RE STILL DEALING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.



COOPER, HOW WE LOOKING?

GOOD! SHOULD BE FIXED NOW.



GREAT, WE'RE ALMOST THERE. YOU HEADING BACK IN?

YEP. THESE SENSORS, MAN.



I TELL YOU, JOEY, I ALWAYS WANTED SENSORS THAT NEVER WENT OFFLINE, AND NOW I SPEND HALF AN HOUR EACH DAY RECALIBRATING THEM FROM BEING ON ALL THE TIME.



CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, I GUESS?



LATER.

WE'RE GOOD TO GO, JOEY. FATTY, DO YOU HAVE VISUAL SPECTRUM AGAIN?

MAYBE. DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE FOR ME OF YOU IN YOUR **ADORABLE** LITTLE SPACE SUIT?

FATIMA.

YES, WE'RE IN GOOD SHAPE. VISUALS ALL LOOK GOOD.

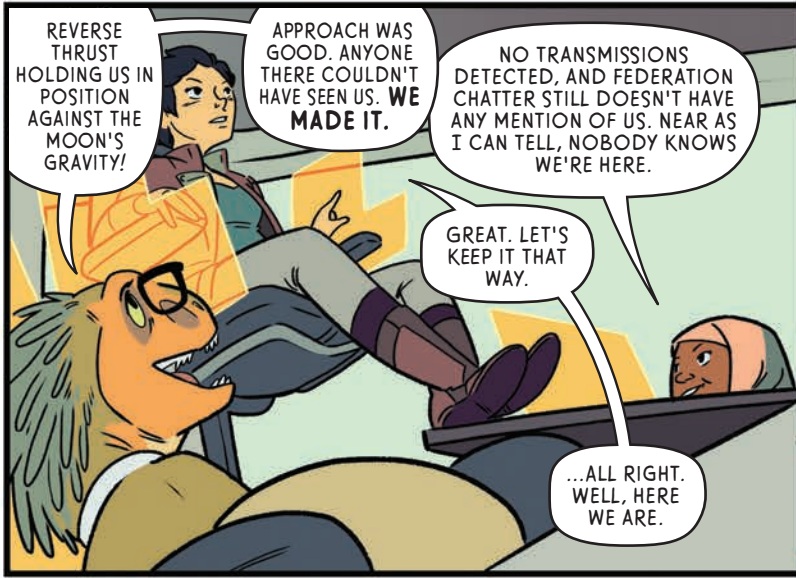
I ONLY MADE THE BET BECAUSE SPACEFLIGHT IS SO **BORING** ALL THE TIME.

SHOULD'VE MADE A BET YOU COULD WIN, DUDE. ALL RIGHT--LET'S DO OUR LAST BURST AND STOP JUST BEHIND THE MOON. GIMME THRUST IN THREE... TWO...ONE...



ZERO.

I **DO** RULE THE SCHOOLS; THANKS FOR NOTICING.



REVERSE THRUST HOLDING US IN POSITION AGAINST THE MOON'S GRAVITY!

APPROACH WAS GOOD. ANYONE THERE COULDN'T HAVE SEEN US. **WE MADE IT.**

NO TRANSMISSIONS DETECTED, AND FEDERATION CHATTER STILL DOESN'T HAVE ANY MENTION OF US. NEAR AS I CAN TELL, NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE HERE.

GREAT. LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

...ALL RIGHT. WELL, HERE WE ARE.



LET'S SEE WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.



THIS IS WHAT THE PROBE'S SEEING?

IT'LL TAKE A BIT TO GET UP ABOVE THE HORIZON, RIGHT?

YEP.



I KINDA FEEL LIKE AS CAPTAIN I SHOULD SAY IF ANYONE'S HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO BACK OUT... BUT UH, THAT CHANCE PROBABLY CAME AND LEFT A WHILE BACK.

YEAH...



...I'M GUESSING THAT CHANCE LEFT WELL BEFORE WE REACHED THE POINT WHERE ALL THAT STOOD BEFORE US AND **UNKNOWN AND ANCIENT PLANETARY DEFENSES** WAS SOME DEAD MOON.

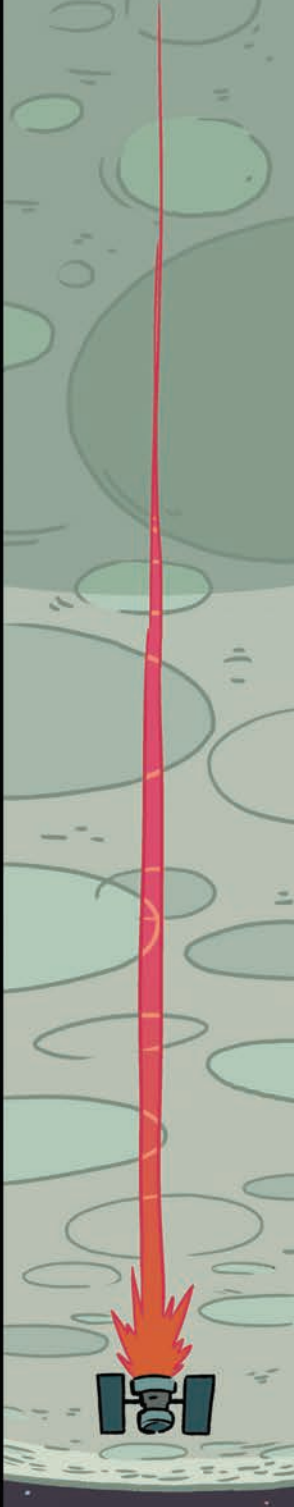


IT'S A BIG MOON, AT LEAST.

TRUE.



THAT'S THE HORIZON! THIS IS IT. THIS'LL BE OUR FIRST LOOK AT--





--YOU KNOW, WHATEVER THIS PLANET IS CALLED.

EARTH.

1,693,710 DAYS AFTER THE SECOND MIRACLE.



EARTH.

10 DAYS BEFORE THE SECOND MIRACLE.