



MY HUSBAND WAS DISAPPOINTED WE WEREN'T CHOSEN FOR THE CREW.
HE DOESN'T WANT OUR CHILDREN GROWING UP HERE ON EARTH.

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE OLD WORLD I CAME FROM. IT ENDED A LONG TIME AEO. IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THIS ONE.



I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. HAD MY WIFE AND CHILD NOT BEEN KILLED IN THE THIRD UPRISING, I TOO WOULD WANT TO TAKE THEM FAR FROM THIS HELL.

STUDYING THE CONFUSING HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THIS AGE, DETAILS OF ITS DEMISE ARE VAGUE, CONTRADICTIONARY, AND STEEPED IN NEW RELIGIOUS DOGMA.

MORE MYTH THAN FACT.

I KNOW YOU THOUGHT WORKING FOR ME MIGHT AID YOU IN THE SELECTION PROCESS, BUT WE NEED ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS TO BUILD THE LUNAR COLONY, NOT WARRIORS. IT'S WHY WE STAY...

THE ONE INDISPUTABLE TRUTH IS THAT, AT SOME POINT, THE HUMAN RACE WAS DESTROYED, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS PERMANENTLY SCARRED, AND THE SUN'S LIFE-GIVING FORCE BECAME MOSTLY HIDDEN FROM VIEW.



...IT'S WHY WE FIGHT.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO FEND OFF THE ENDLESS ATTACKS OF THESE PERVERSE, UNNATURAL SAVAGES AND THE MONSTERS THEY HAVE CREATED.

YES SIR, OF COURSE. AS I SAID, IT IS MY HUSBAND THAT IS DISAPPOINTED.
I, MY LORD, AM HONORED TO FIGHT WITH YOU.



NEW SPECIES EVOLVED FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD WORLD'S DESTRUCTION. TWO BECAME DOMINANT AND THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR SUPREMACY EVER SINCE.

ONE POPULATED BY GENETICALLY ALTERED HUMANS UNDER A WARLIKE, BUT THEOCRATIC MONARCHY THAT LIVED IN THE EAST.

THE OTHER, HUMANS WITH CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS, RULED BY A TOTALITARIAN CENTRAL PARTY THAT LIVED IN THE WEST.

LOCKED IN A BATTLE OF IDEOLOGIES AND SURVIVAL.

WAR IS TIME'S TRUE CONSTANT.

KEEP YOUR MEN BEHIND THE STORM'S EDGE, LINA. SURPRISE WILL BE OUR BIGGEST WEAPON TODAY.

YES, MY LOVE. ALL FLIGHTS AWAIT YOUR SIGNAL.

BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE. I HAVE SPECIAL PLANS FOR YOU TONIGHT AND I NEED YOU IN ONE PIECE...WELL, THE IMPORTANT PIECES ANYWAY.

EVERY NIGHT WITH YOU IS SPECIAL, MY HEART.
BUT I WILL BE CAREFUL. I'LL SEE YOU SOON.





FOR THE FIRST FEW CENTURIES AFTER MANKIND'S FALL, THESE TWO DISPARATE GROUPS MANAGED TO LIVE IN TENUOUS HARMONY DESPITE THEIR CLOSE PROXIMITY.

THAT PEACE WAS DISRUPTED OVER GENERATIONS BY AN INTOLERANCE THAT GREW ALONG WITH THEIR POPULATIONS AND THE DEMAND FOR SCARCE RESOURCES.

INTOLERANCE POISONED THOSE FROM BIRTH WITH AN INSTITUTIONAL PREJUDICE LEADING TO A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE OF VIOLENCE.


EVEN AFTER THE FALL, AFTER ALL THE PROMISE OF A NEW, "PERFECT" WORLD, THINGS AGAIN PROVE TO NEVER CHANGE.



DRAKES!



IT'S MARCUS.



1ST AND 3RD
FLIGHTS, YOU'RE WITH LINA.
YOU'RE IN FIRST, PULL
THEM AWAY FROM THE
HANGAR.
2ND FLIGHT,
YOU'RE WITH ME.
WE'RE
TAKING OUT
THAT SHIP.

CHOOOM

SCRAMBLE
ALL UNITS. IF
WE CAN KILL
MARCUS, THEY
WON'T BE SO
BOLD.



WE NEED SHIPS IN THE AIR! NOW!

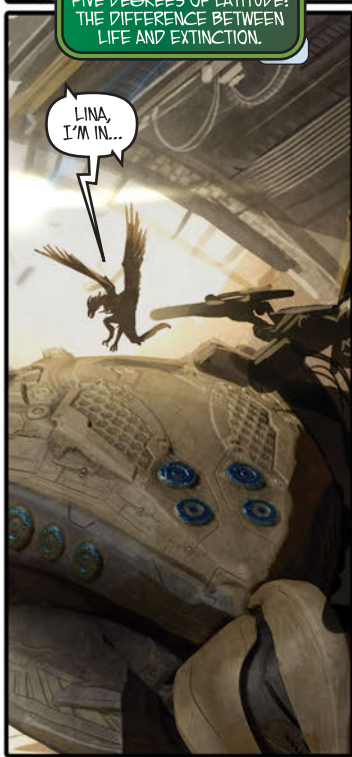
ALL SQUADRONS LAUNCH.

THE NEW WORLD WAS LARGELY UNINHABITABLE EXCEPT FOR A SMALL STRIP OF LAND AT THE EQUATOR WHERE CONDITIONS WERE STILL AGREEABLE TO FARMING NEW TYPES OF CROPS AND RAISING CATTLE ENGINEERED LONG AGO TO SURVIVE THE FALL OF MANKIND.

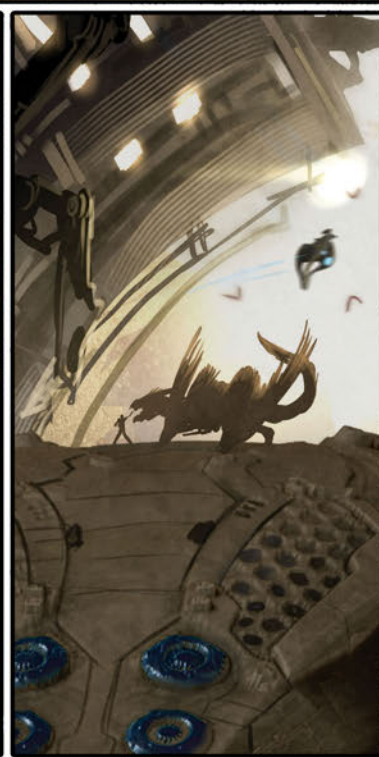


ARMOR DEPLOYED.

FIVE DEGREES OF LATITUDE: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND EXTINCTION.



LINA, I'M IN...



I'M DROPPING THE THERMITE. GET YOURSELF AND YOUR MEN AS FAR BACK AS POSSIBLE...



THIS DAY IS ABOUT TO TURN VERY BAD FOR THESE DRONE BASTARDS.