



TAMIR LENK HAS ARRIVED.

WHY DO YOU CONSTANTLY REFER TO YOURSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON?



WELL, *EVIT*... IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M **BETTER** AT IT THAN ANYONE ELSE.

DUDE, YOU'RE A NARCIST.



HEY, *VAR*...?

ONE OF THE WORDS YOU JUST SAID IS NOT ACTUALLY A WORD.



THAT'S THE PRIZE, I TAKE IT?

HULK-CLASS EXHUMER.

FAT AND SLOW, JUST LIKE WE LIKE 'EM.



ONCE WE DEAL WITH WHATEVER DRONES THEY THROW AT US, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO STRIP THEIR MODULES* IN ABOUT--

SCANS INDICATE THEY DON'T HAVE ANY DRONES.

*MODULES ARE THE VALUABLE EQUIPMENT THAT LETS SHIPS DO THEIR JOBS. SHIPS LIKE A HULK COULD BE CARRYING EQUIPMENT WORTH MILLIONS.



THEY'RE BASICALLY DEFENSELESS.

AS SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT IT, I KNEW THIS WAS GONNA PAY OFF -- REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER SEEN TWO STAR GATES SO CLOSE TOGETHER IN ONE SYSTEM?

I BET THE ORE MINERS HAVE BEEN USING THIS ROUTE AS A SHORTCUT FOR YEARS!

AND PEOPLE SAY I'M A NARCIST...

ATTENTION, HULK-CLASS BARGE:

THE VESSEL YOU ARE COMMANDING IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE GOONSWARM CORPORATION. WE HAVE NO USE FOR YOU, HOWEVER...SO YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

YOU HAVE OUR WORD THAT WE WILL NOT FIRE UPON YOUR POD, YOU HAVE NINETY SECONDS TO COMPLY.

AHEM.

SUCK IT.

YESTERDAY

"THIS MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER."

DALIUS 372
CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS
OF BLACK NOVA
CORPORATION
(BNC)



IN ATTENDANCE ARE THE DIRECTORS OF THE VARIOUS CORPORATIONS THAT, TOGETHER, FORM **BAND OF BROTHERS**. IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, THEY ARE --

CAN WE PLEASE JUST GET THIS OVER WITH?



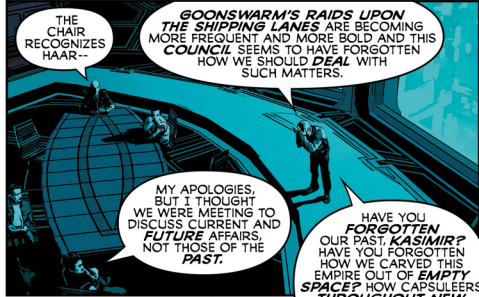
PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME.

SERIOUSLY? YOU'VE KNOWN ME FOR YEARS.

FOR THE RECORD, YOU MUST --



HAARGOTH.
AGAMAR.



THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES HAAR--

GOONSWARM'S RAIDS UPON THE SHIPPING LANES ARE BECOMING MORE FREQUENT AND MORE BOLD AND THIS **COUNCIL** SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW WE SHOULD **DEAL** WITH SUCH MATTERS.

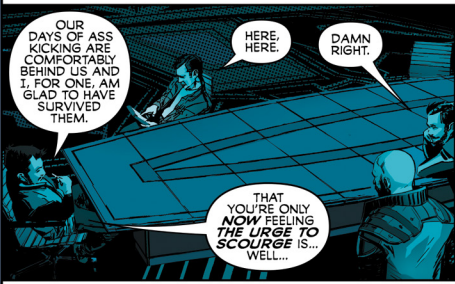
MY APOLOGIES, BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING TO DISCUSS CURRENT AND **FUTURE** AFFAIRS, NOT THOSE OF THE **PAST**.

HAVE YOU **FORGOTTEN** OUR PAST, **KASHMIR**? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW WE CARVED THIS EMPIRE OUT OF **EMPTY SPACE**? HOW CAPSULEERS **THROUGHOUT NEW EDEN** TREMBLED IN FEAR AT THE MERE **MENTION** OF **BAND OF BROTHERS**?



WHAT I REMEMBER IS THAT I DID A LOT OF THAT CARVING **MYSELF**, HAARGOTH...AND THAT **YOUR** SHIP ALWAYS SEEMED AT THE VERY REAR OF THE FORMATION.

SAFELY OUT OF THE FIELD OF FIRE.



OUR DAYS OF ASS KICKING ARE COMFORTABLY BEHIND US AND I, FOR ONE, AM GLAD TO HAVE SURVIVED THEM.

HERE, HERE.

DAMN RIGHT.

THAT YOU'RE ONLY **NOW** FEELING THE URGE TO SCOURGE IS... WELL...

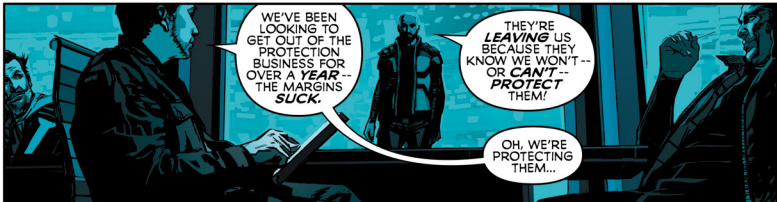


...KINDA SAD?



WHAT'S **SAD** IS THAT **SIX OF THE ELEVEN MINING CORPORATIONS** FOR WHICH WE PROVIDE PROTECTIVE ESCORT SERVICES HAVE VOIDED THEIR CONTRACTS IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

AND YOU THINK THAT'S A **BAD** THING?



WE'VE BEEN LOOKING TO GET OUT OF THE PROTECTION BUSINESS FOR OVER A **YEAR**-- THE MARGINS **SUCK**.

THEY'RE **LEAVING** US BECAUSE THEY KNOW WE WON'T-- OR **CAN'T**-- **PROTECT** THEM!

OH, WE'RE PROTECTING THEM...




OR, RATHER, OUR **SUBCONTRACTED AGENTS** ARE PROTECTING THEM...



...WE'RE
PAYING
SOMEONE TO
FIGHT OUR
BATTLES?!

YES,
HAARGOTH...
THAT'S *EXACTLY*
WHAT WE'RE
DOING.



"AND I MUST SAY,
THIS NEW GENERATION
OF CONTRACTORS
IS *REALLY QUITE*
INVENTIVE."



YOU
SAID YOU
SCANNED
THE --

I SCANNED
FOR DRONES,
NOT RECON
CRUISERS!



OH!

WELL, IN
THAT CASE,
I *TOTALLY*
FORGIVE
YOU!