



APHRODITE?



AH, YOU'RE FUNCTIONAL AGAIN.



EXCELLENT.




I'M SURE THIS MUST BE A DISORIENTING EXPERIENCE EVEN FOR YOU, APHRODITE IV. BUT I PROMISE YOU, EVERYTHING WILL BE CLEAR SOON ENOUGH.

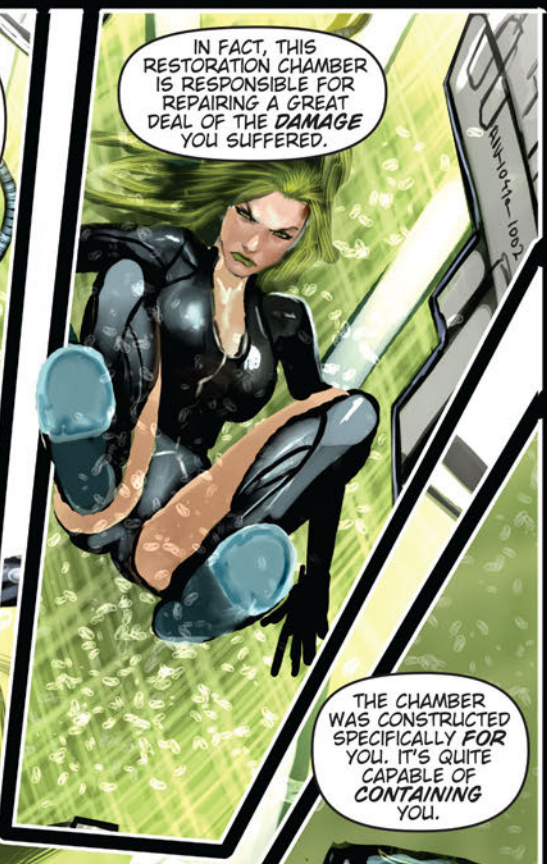
YOU FIND YOURSELF IN ONE OF MY FACILITIES. THE SPECIFIC LOCATION ISN'T IMPORTANT.



I THOUGHT
IT BEST TO **BLOCK**
YOUR GLOBAL
POSITIONING AND
SATELLITE UPLINKS,
AT LEAST FOR THE
TIME BEING.




THIS
REACTION
OF YOURS IS
UNNECESSARY.
IF I'D WISHED TO
HARM YOU, I'D
HAVE ALREADY
DONE SO.



IN FACT, THIS
RESTORATION CHAMBER
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
REPAIRING A GREAT
DEAL OF THE **DAMAGE**
YOU SUFFERED.



THE CHAMBER
WAS CONSTRUCTED
SPECIFICALLY **FOR**
YOU. IT'S QUITE
CAPABLE OF
CONTAINING
YOU.

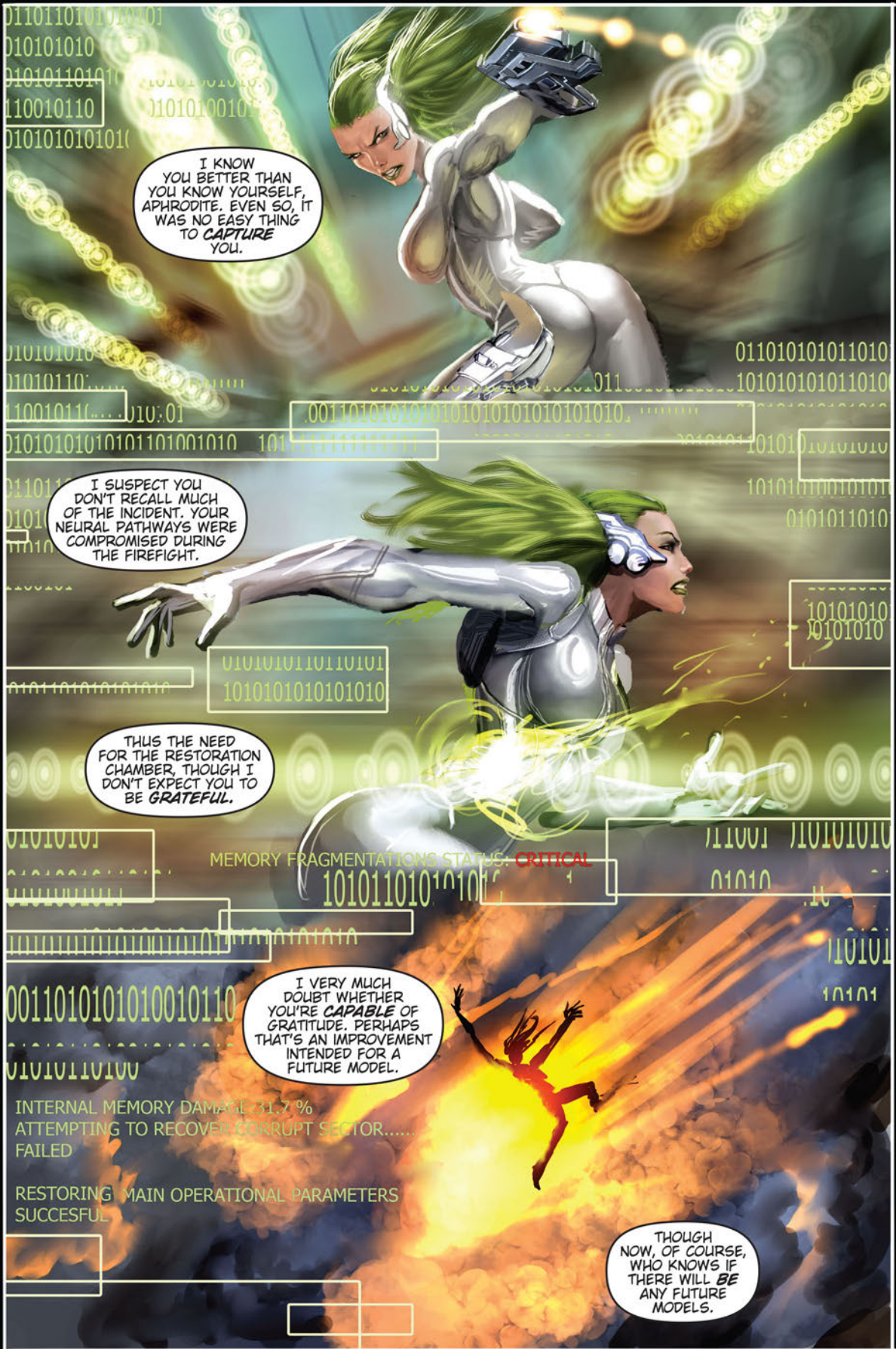


I'M VERY
WELL AWARE OF
WHAT YOU ARE,
APHRODITE: A
FOURTH-GENERATION
CYBORG,
CONSTRUCTED BY A
PRIVATE SCIENTIFIC
CONSORTIUM.

YOU POSSESS
AN UNPRECEDENTED
LEARNING CAPACITY
FOR AN ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE, ALONG
WITH TRAINING IN EVERY
CONCEIVABLE COMBAT
TECHNIQUE.

YOUR MAKERS
INTENDED TO
REPLICATE YOU AND
EXPLOIT THE
PRODUCT LINE FOR
ASSASSINATION AND
ESPIONAGE
APPLICATIONS.

ALL OF
MANKIND'S CAPACITY
FOR VIOLENCE, BUT
NONE OF HUMANITY'S
MORAL
COMPLICATIONS.



I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF, APHRODITE. EVEN SO, IT WAS NO EASY THING TO CAPTURE YOU.

I SUSPECT YOU DON'T RECALL MUCH OF THE INCIDENT. YOUR NEURAL PATHWAYS WERE COMPROMISED DURING THE FIREFIGHT.

THUS THE NEED FOR THE RESTORATION CHAMBER, THOUGH I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BE GRATEFUL.


MEMORY FRAGMENTATIONS STATUS: CRITICAL
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I VERY MUCH DOUBT WHETHER YOU'RE CAPABLE OF GRATITUDE. PERHAPS THAT'S AN IMPROVEMENT INTENDED FOR A FUTURE MODEL.

INTERNAL MEMORY DAMAGE: 31.7%
ATTEMPTING TO RECOVER CORRUPT SECTOR.....
FAILED

RESTORING MAIN OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS
SUCSESFUL

THOUGH NOW, OF COURSE, WHO KNOWS IF THERE WILL BE ANY FUTURE MODELS.



YOUR MAKERS
ABANDONED THEIR
RESEARCH FACILITY.
ABANDONED YOU, AND
LEFT YOU WITHOUT
A MISSION OR
PURPOSE.



YOU ARE
AN **EXQUISITE**
TOOL WITH NO
HAND TO GUIDE
IT.

BUT I WILL
GIVE YOU A
PURPOSE.

THERE ARE
THINGS YOU
MUST KNOW.
THINGS I WILL
TEACH YOU, IF
YOU WILL
ALLOW IT.

YOU ARE
CAPABLE OF
CURIOSITY.
GOOD.

THERE IS A
GREAT **CATAclysm**
COMING. MADMEN
AND FOOLS PREACH
SUCH A THING ALL
THE TIME. BUT I
KNOW THIS
CATAclysm IS
COMING...

...BECAUSE
I WILL BRING IT
ABOUT. IT IS A
NECESSARY
CLEANSING.

WHAT HAS
HAPPENED
BEFORE MUST
HAPPEN **AGAIN**.
ABOVE ALL ELSE,
YOU NEED TO
UNDERSTAND
THAT.

THE FATE
OF THIS WORLD
BALANCES UPON
THIRTEEN OBJECTS
OF POWER. **THIRTEEN**
ARTIFACTS, EACH IN
THE POSSESSION OF
A BEARER.

TWO OF
THEM YOU
ALREADY
KNOW.



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AIV TACTICAL INTERFACE

SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS

-----FIREWALL BREACH
-----INVASIVE DOWNLOAD
-----ACTIVATE COUNTERMEASURES
ERROR ERROR ERROR ERROR
DOWNLOAD IN PROGRESS
WRITNG WRITNG WRITING WRITING



SYMBOL RECOGNITION DATABASE

WITCHBLADE

THE
WITCHBLADE IS
THE OFFSPRING OF THE
DARKNESS AND ANGELUS.
IT IS MEANT TO SERVE AS
THE ETERNAL **BALANCE**
BETWEEN THE DARK AND
THE LIGHT OF THE
UNIVERSE.

TOGETHER
THEY ARE THE
TRINITY, AND STAND
ABOVE ALL OTHER
ARTIFACTS.

THE
WITCHBLADE IS
BORNE BY NEW YORK
CITY POLICE DETECTIVE
SARA PEZZINI, WHOM
YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED
TWICE ALREADY. YOU
WILL SEE HER AGAIN
SOON ENOUGH.



STATUS

VOICE IDENT: **NEGATIVE**
APH IV UNIT LOCATION: **UNKNOWN**
GPS SQUAWK: **UNAVAILABLE**
APH IV UNIT CONTROL: **OVERRIDEN**

TACTICAL COUNTERSTRIKE

OPTIONS
WORKING....