



Topps
COMICS

SEASON
ONE

AUTHORIZED
ADAPTATION
OF THE HIT
FOX TV
SERIES

"SPACE"

X-FILES

THE FILES
SEASON ONE

Created by CHRIS CARTER

\$4.95 U.S. / \$6.95 CANADA
00611
0 11116 00233 5

Written by Chris Carter

Adapted by Roy Thomas, Alexander
Illustrated by Rick Berman, Val Mayerik
& John Van Fleet

nileth.comics.com

WXLN
11 NEWS

I'M HERE IN PASADENA
WITH THE NASA MISSION
CONTROL TEAM AS THEY
CELEBRATE SCIENTIFIC
HISTORY...

JET PROPULSION
LABORATORY
PASADENA, CA
1977



...THE FIRST CLOSE-
UP PHOTOGRAPHIC
TRANSMISSIONS OF
MARS FROM THE
VIKING OBSERVER
SPACECRAFT...

...PHOTOS
THAT HAVE
CREATED SOME-
THING OF A STIR
BY REVEALING THE
PRESENCE OF LARGE
AMOUNTS OF WATER
LOCKED IN MARS'S
POLAR ICE CAPS...

EVEN MORE CONTRO-
VERSIAL IS ONE IMAGE
OF A LAND
FORMATION--

--A FORMATION THAT
LOOKS LIKE A SCULPTED
HUMAN FACE.

...WATER THAT,
SOME SPECULATE,
COULD HAVE POSSIBLY
SUSTAINED LIFE ON
THE PLANET.

HOWEVER,
NASA OFFICIALS
ARE DENYING
IT IS AN INDICA-
TION OF AN ALIEN
CIVILIZATION.

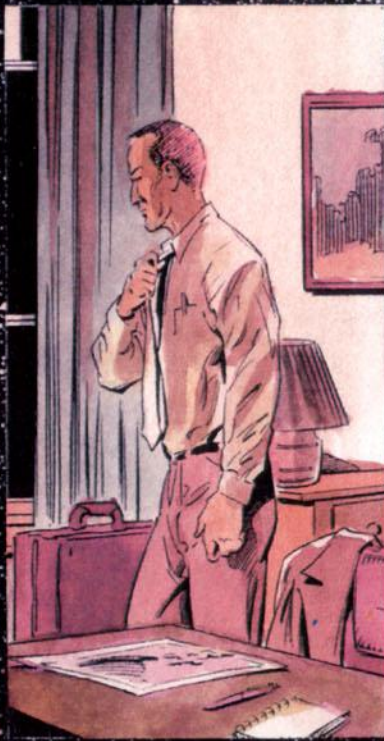
IT'S NOTHING MORE
THAN A TRICK OF LIGHT
AND SHADOWS...A
GEOLOGIC
ANOMALY.

I'M SORRY
TO SAY THE
ONLY
SCULPTORS
AT WORK
HERE--

--TEN MONTHS
A YEAR.

LT. COL. MARCUS
AURELIUS BELT
VIKING ORBITER
PROJECT DIRECTOR

--ARE
THE SOLAR
WINDS THAT
BLOW ACROSS
THE SURFACE
OF MARS AT 300
MILES AN HOUR--





HNNNN
NNHHH

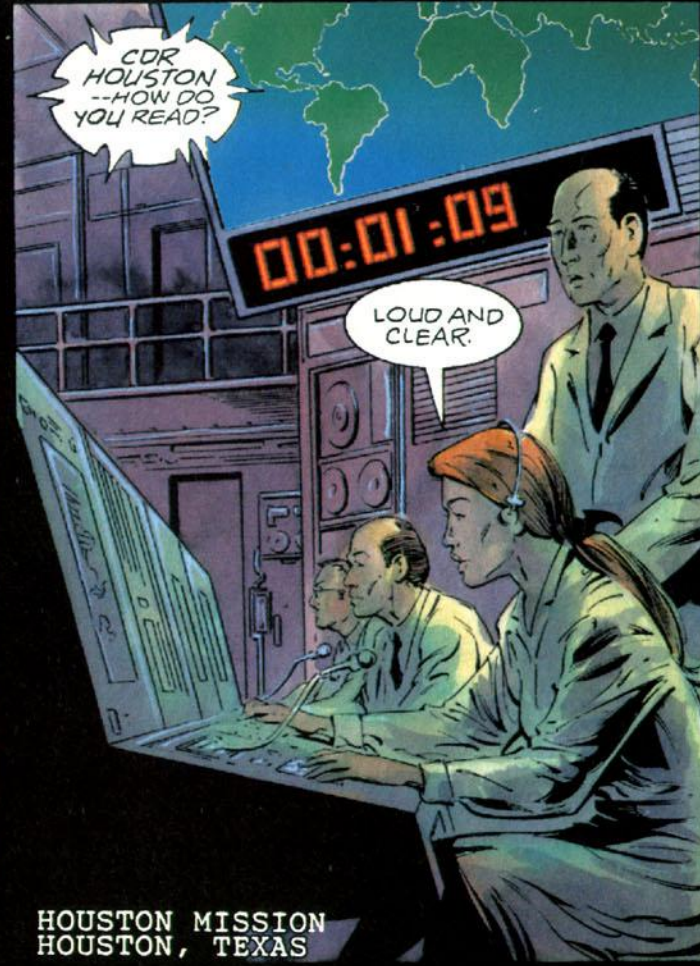


THIS IS SHUTTLE
LAUNCH CONTROL
WITH T
MINUS
ONE
MINUTE, 15
SECONDS,
AND
COUNTING.

OTC TO
CDR--HOW
DO YOU
READ?

LOUD
AND
CLEAR.

SHUTTLE SPACE
CENTER
CAPE CANAVERAL,
FLORIDA
1993



CDR
HOUSTON
--HOW DO
YOU READ?

LOUD AND
CLEAR.

HOUSTON MISSION
HOUSTON, TEXAS



...LOCK YOUR
VISORS AND
INITIATE YOUR
O₂ FLOW, Y'ALL
HAVE A GOOD
TRIP.

ROGER
THAT,
TEN-
FOUR.

GO FOR
MAIN ENGINE
START. T MINUS
TEN SECONDS
AND COUNTING.
T MINUS 9...8...
7...6...5...4...3...



CHA-OOCHA-OOCHA-OO

ABORT

ABORT
LIFTOFF.
ABORT
LIFTOFF.



SYSTEM
FAILURE...



...ABORT
LIFTOFF.





ANY
IDEA
WHO
SENT
IT TO
YOU?

NO. BUT I CAN TELL YOU
THE OFFICIAL ANALYSIS
OF THE MALFUNCTION
WAS SIMPLE
MECHANICAL
FAILURE.

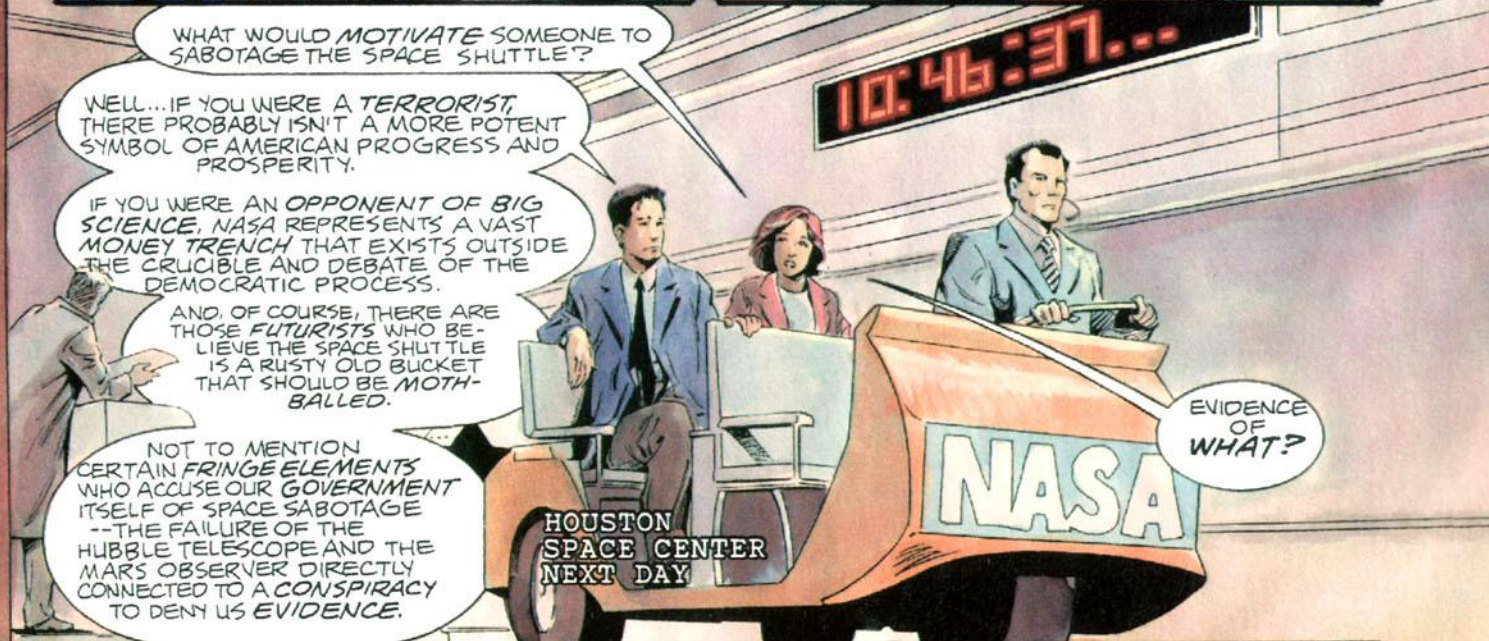
DOES
ANYBODY
SHARE YOUR
SUSPICIONS?

IF THEY DO,
THEY'RE NOT
TALKING TO
THE FBI.



I BELIEVE IN THE SPACE
PROGRAM AND IN THE
PEOPLE WHO RUN IT. BUT
THERE'S ANOTHER LAUNCH
WINDOW TOMORROW,
AND-- MY REASONS MAY
SOUND SELFISH--

MY FIANCEE IS
THE SHUTTLE
COMMANDER
ON THAT
MISSION.



WHAT WOULD MOTIVATE SOMEONE TO
SABOTAGE THE SPACE SHUTTLE?

WELL...IF YOU WERE A **TERRORIST**,
THERE PROBABLY ISN'T A MORE POTENT
SYMBOL OF AMERICAN PROGRESS AND
PROSPERITY.

IF YOU WERE AN **OPPONENT OF BIG
SCIENCE**, NASA REPRESENTS A VAST
MONEY TRENCH THAT EXISTS OUTSIDE
THE CRUCIBLE AND DEBATE OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE
THOSE **FUTURISTS** WHO BE-
LIEVE THE SPACE SHUTTLE
IS A RUSTY OLD BUCKET
THAT SHOULD BE MOTH-
BALLED.

NOT TO MENTION
CERTAIN **FRINGE ELEMENTS**
WHO ACCUSE OUR GOVERNMENT
ITSELF OF SPACE SABOTAGE
--THE FAILURE OF THE
HUBBLE TELESCOPE AND THE
MARS OBSERVER DIRECTLY
CONNECTED TO A CONSPIRACY
TO DENY US EVIDENCE.

HOUSTON
SPACE CENTER
NEXT DAY

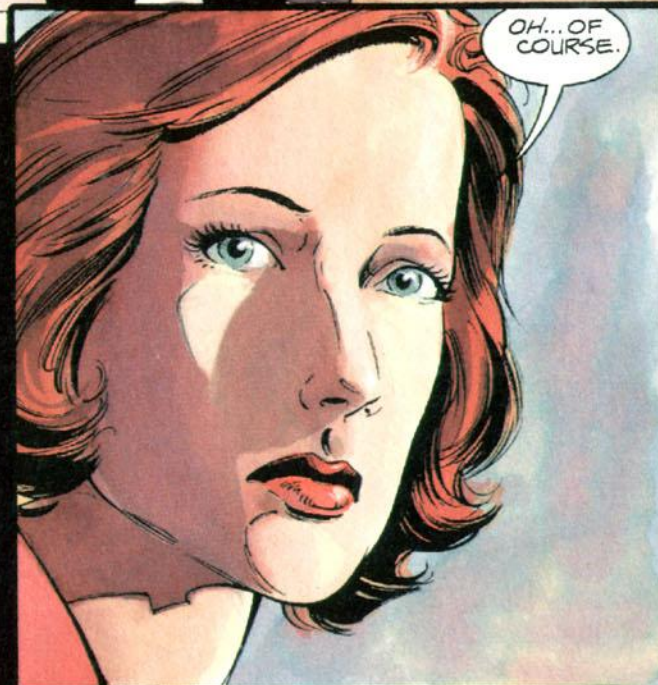
10:46:37...

NASA

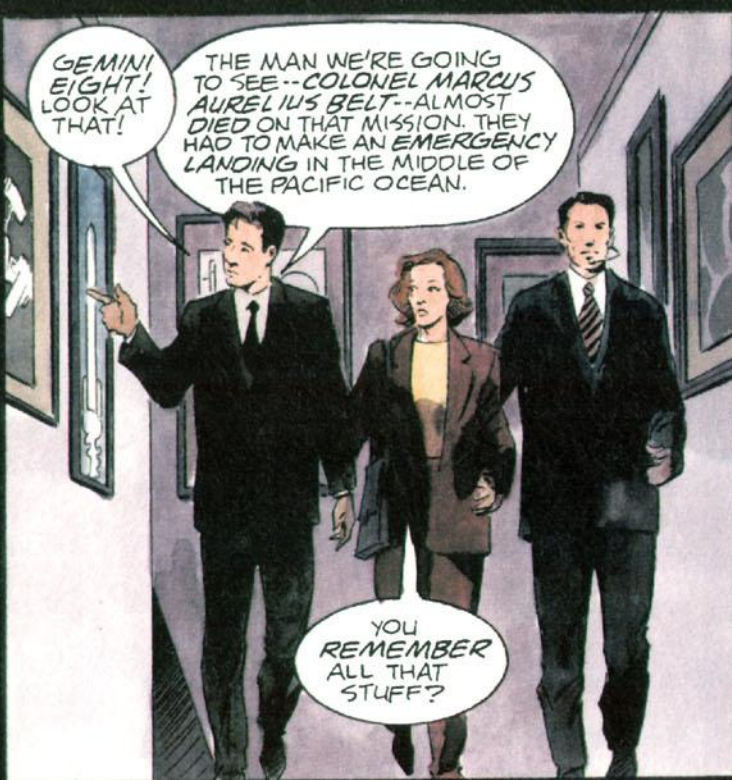
EVIDENCE
OF
WHAT?



ALIEN
CIVILIZATIONS.



OH...OF
COURSE.



GEMINI EIGHT!
LOOK AT THAT!

THE MAN WE'RE GOING TO SEE--COLONEL MARCUS AURELIUS BELT--ALMOST DIED ON THAT MISSION. THEY HAD TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

YOU REMEMBER ALL THAT STUFF?



YOU NEVER WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT WHEN YOU WERE A KID, SCULLY?

I GUESS I MISSED THAT PHASE.



COLONEL BELT, I'M SPECIAL AGENT DANA SCULLY, AND THIS IS--

FOX MULDER. I'M A BIG FAN, YOU WERE A HERO TO ME WHEN I WAS A KID.

I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TO WATCH YOUR SPACE WALK WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN.

NOW IT'S LIKE A STROLL AROUND THE BLOCK. SO--HOW CAN I HELP YOU?



THIS FOUND ITS WAY TO THE FBI. DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT?

SURE. IT'S AN AUXILIARY POWER UNIT VALVE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON...

...TO BELIEVE THE DAMAGE TO IT WAS PART OF AN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE THE SPACE SHUTTLE?

NO REASON WHATSOEVER, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR THIS PROGRAM OR THE PEOPLE WHO'VE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO IT..

...YOU'LL BE CAREFUL TO WHOM YOU MAKE THOSE ACCUSATIONS.

LOOKING AT THIS EVIDENCE, SIR-- WOULD YOU CONSIDER POSTPONING THE SHUTTLE FLIGHT UNTIL A FULL INVESTIGATION COULD BE CONDUCTED?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THIS SPECIOUS ARTIFACT--BUT WITH THE SECURITY MEASURES WE TAKE, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE MAN--EVEN TWO OR FOUR MEN--TO DO WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING TWO WEEKS FOR A WINDOW TO INITIATE THIS MISSION.

WE'VE GOT A PAYLOAD TO DELIVER.

THERE ISN'T A PERSON AT THIS FACILITY WHO DOESN'T WANT TO SEE THAT SHUTTLE GO INTO SPACE, COMPLETE ITS MISSION, AND COME BACK LIKE WINGED VICTORY HERSELF.

AND IN ABOUT TEN HOURS, GOD WILLING, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE JUST THAT.

DO YOU THINK THERE'D BE A PROBLEM WITH US...

...WATCHING THE LIFTOFF FROM MISSION CONTROL?

WELL...

...BEING THAT YOU'D PROBABLY GO OVER MY HEAD, ANYWAY...

...PLEASE. BE MY GUESTS.

IT'S AN HONOR, SIR.

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO GET HIS AUTOGRAPH?

COL. MARCUS SPACE SHUTTLE

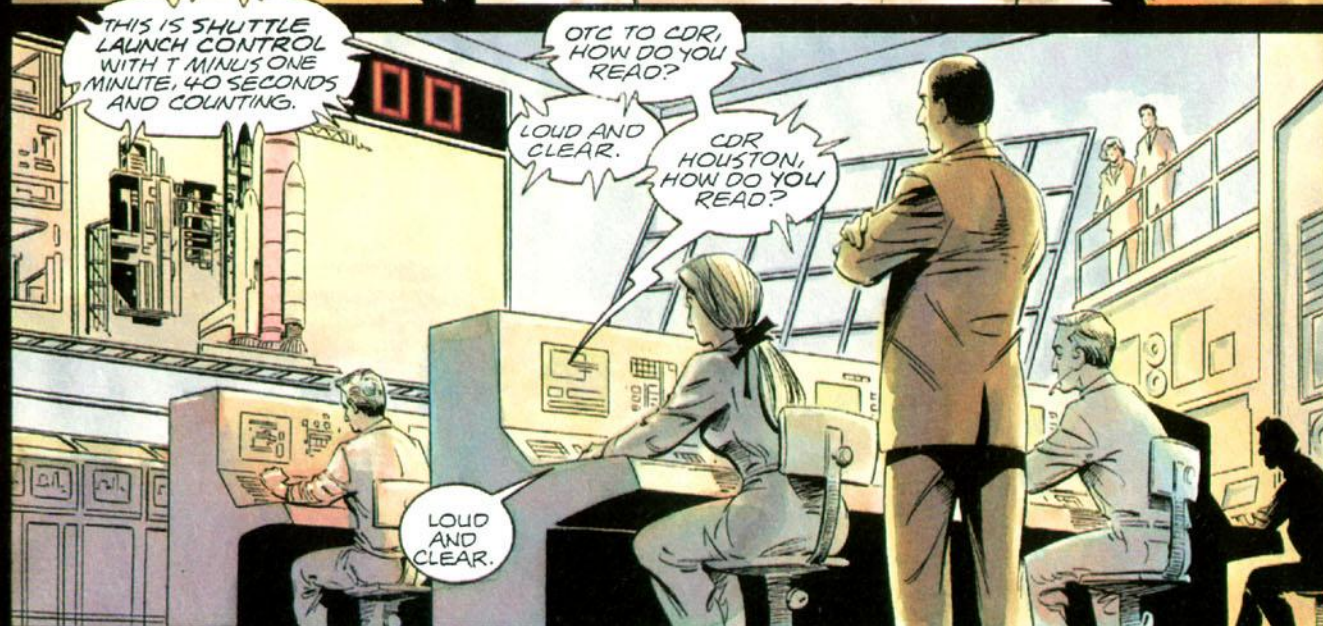
YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T ORDER THIS ANALYSIS?

BUT AS A MATTER OF COURSE, YOU WOULDN'T DO A MATERIAL ANALYSIS WHEN A PART MALFUNCTIONED?

EVERY SHUTTLE HAS FLOWN WITH THAT SAME APU VALVE. TO DO AN ANALYSIS AND REDESIGN WOULD DELAY THE PROGRAM FOR MONTHS --NOT TO MENTION THE COST.

08:43:40

SIMULATOR ROOM
HOUSTON SPACE CENTER





...OKAY, CDR. LOCK YOUR VISORS AND INITIATE YOUR O2 FLOW.

Y'ALL HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

ROGER THAT. TEN-FOUR.

GO FOR MAIN ENGINE START. T MINUS TEN AND COUNTING... 9... 8... 7... 6... 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...

IGNITION.



WE HAVE LIFTOFF OF THE SHUTTLE ORBITER!



CDR HOUSTON, BETCHA Y'ALL NEVER SEEN A MORE BEAUTIFUL SIGHT.



ROGER THAT. TEN-FOUR.



ROGER, BACK TO YOU. THROW THE THROTTLE BACK... MAIN ENGINE AT 65%...



WELL, I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT FULFILLS ONE OF MY BOYHOOD FANTASIES.

YEAH, IT RANKS RIGHT UP THERE WITH GETTING A PONY AND LEARNING HOW TO BRAID MY OWN HAIR.

MULDER-- WAIT--!



SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH THE SHUTTLE!

WE CHANGED WATCH AND I WENT HOME TO GET SOME SLEEP. I GOT A PHONE CALL TWENTY MINUTES AGO THAT COMMUNICATION WITH THE SHUTTLE HAD GONE DOWN.

COME ON. WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO HOUSTON...



"YOU CAN FOLLOW ME IN YOUR CAR."

THEY HAVE A PRESS BLACKOUT IN EFFECT. CHANCES ARE THE MEDIA WON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

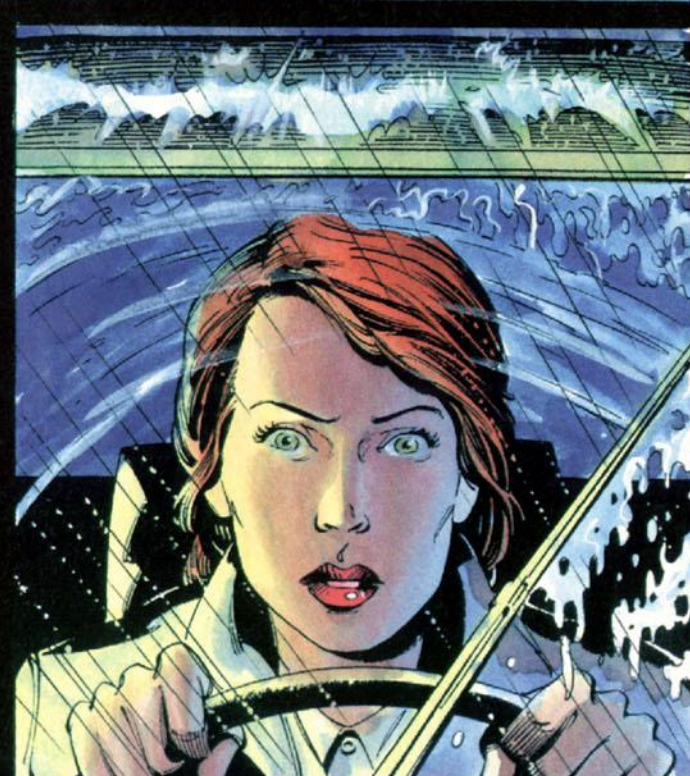
THINK IT WAS SABOTAGE?



I DON'T KNOW. THINGS GO WRONG ALL THE TIME.

YEAH, BUT THEY USUALLY FIX 'EM, RIGHT?

SHE'S TURNING.





MICHELLE!

I CAN SEE HER!

HELP!
I'M STUCK!



DON'T TRY TO MOVE.

I'VE... GOT TO GET BACK... TO HOUSTON...

DID SOMETHING HIT YOU?



I DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING CAME AT ME... IN THE FOG. THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS UPSIDE-DOWN.

WAS IT SOME KIND OF ANIMAL?

NO. IT HAD A FACE. IT WAS... GROTESQUE.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THEY CAN'T GET THE ORBITER ON AN ATTITUDE ROTATION. TEMPERATURE IN THE CABIN IS PUSHING 103, AND WE'VE GOT DOWNLINK TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

I HAD AN ACCIDENT. WHAT'S THEIR POSITION?



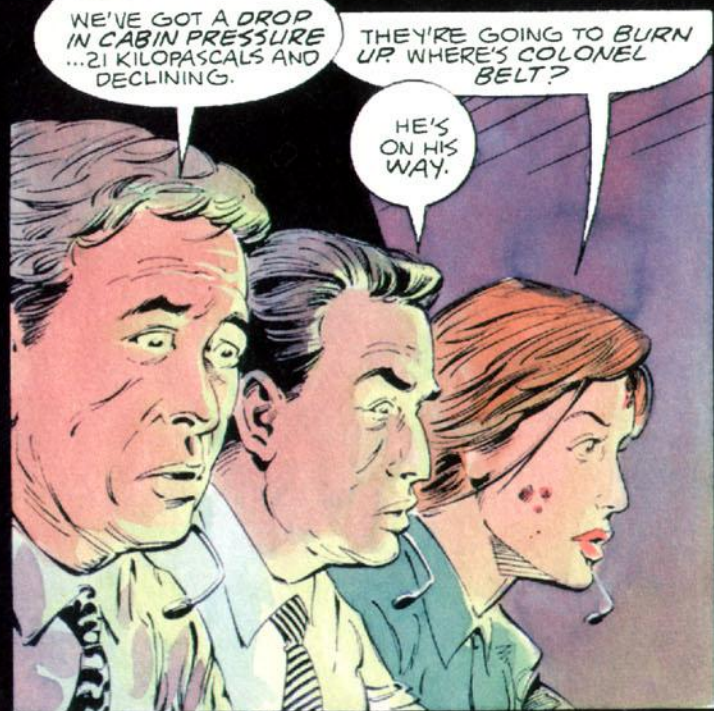
JUST OVER
EASTERN
AFRICA.

TRY PATCHING THEM
IN THROUGH THE
SEYCHELLES
TRACKING
STATION.

HANG
IN THERE,
OTC!

THE
MANEUVERING
SYSTEM HAS
MALFUNCTIONED.

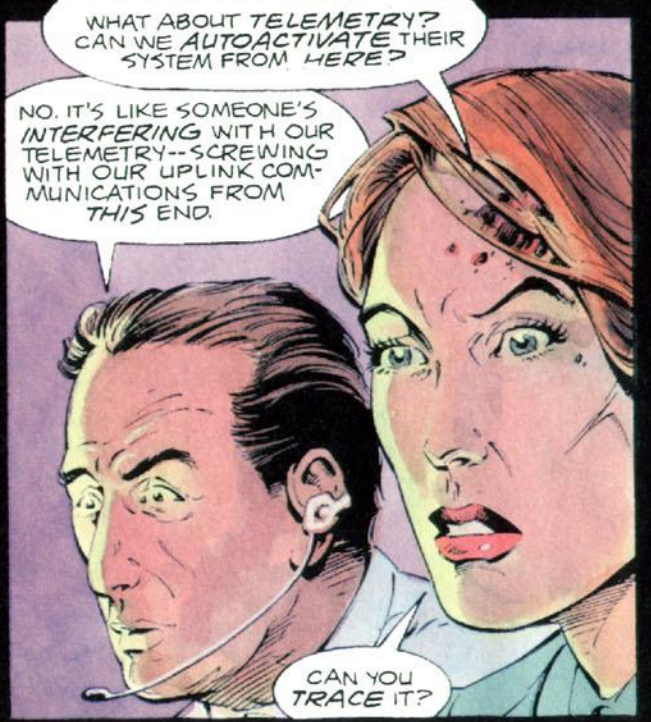
WITHOUT IT,
THEY CAN'T
ROTATE THE
SHUTTLE
AWAY FROM
THE SUN TO
KEEP THE
ORBITER
COOL.



WE'VE GOT A DROP
IN CABIN PRESSURE
...21 KILOPASCALS AND
DECLINING.

THEY'RE GOING TO BURN
UP. WHERE'S COLONEL
BELT?

HE'S
ON HIS
WAY.



WHAT ABOUT TELEMETRY?
CAN WE AUTOACTIVATE THEIR
SYSTEM FROM HERE?

NO. IT'S LIKE SOMEONE'S
INTERFERING WITH OUR
TELEMETRY--SCREWING
WITH OUR UPLINK COM-
MUNICATIONS FROM
THIS END.

CAN YOU
TRACE IT?



IT'D HAVE TO
BE A DIGITAL
PROCESSOR.

THEY'D
HAVE TO BE
IN THE
DATA-
BANKS.

WHERE'S
THAT?



COME
ON!



I'M A
FEDERAL
AGENT! COME
OUT OF
THERE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING IN
HERE?

I
WORK
HERE.



THLAP
THLAP
THLAP

LET ME
SEE YOUR
CLEARANCE.

A SENSOR WENT OFF.
THERE WAS A MALFUNCTION
IN ONE OF THE
TELEMETRY
PROCESSORS.

NO.

DID YOU
FIND IT?

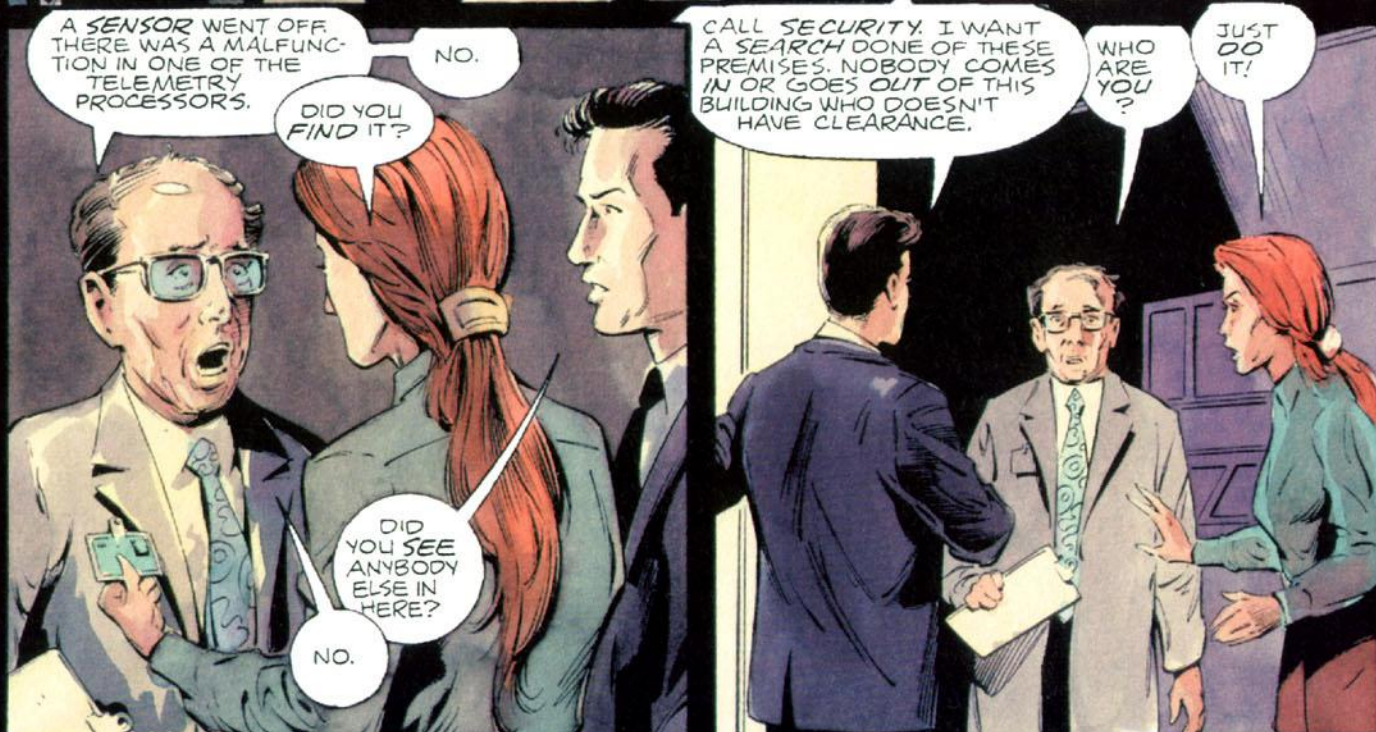
DID YOU SEE
ANYBODY
ELSE IN
HERE?

NO.

CALL SECURITY. I WANT
A SEARCH DONE OF THESE
PREMISES. NOBODY COMES
IN OR GOES OUT OF THIS
BUILDING WHO DOESN'T
HAVE CLEARANCE.

WHO
ARE
YOU
?

JUST
DO
IT!



WHAT'S THE ATTITUDE
OF THE ORBITER?

THEY'RE
FAILING TAIL-
FIRST, SIR
--WITH THEIR
BELLY TOWARD
THE SUN.

THE FLASH
EVAPORATOR SYSTEM
ISN'T ENOUGH
TO COOL THEM DOWN.
CABIN TEMPERATURE
CLIMBING TO 116.

SOMEBODY'S
JAMMING OUR
TRANSMISSIONS!

ABANDON
TELEMETRY!
GO TO FLY-BY-
WIRE MODE.

THEY'RE CUTTING OFF
GROUND CONTROL OF
THE ORBITER. THE ASTRO-
NAUTS WILL BE FLYING
THE SHUTTLE ALL BY
THEMSELVES.

OTC, THIS IS
HOUSTON. HOW'S
THE WEATHER
UP THERE?

SUNNY AND
WARM.
HOUSTON.
WHAT'S THE
FORECAST?

OTC, WE'RE GOING
TO FLY-BY-WIRE MODE.
WE'RE GOING TO
ABORT GROUND
CONTROL MOMEN-
TARILY TO SEE IF
YOU CAN BRING
THOSE SYSTEMS
BACK UP.

...
ROGER
THAT,
HOUSTON.
AND
LEAVE THE
DRIVING
TO US.

SOMETHING IS INTER-
FERING WITH OUR UP-
LINK TELEMETRY. THE
SHUTTLE IS NOT RE-
SPONDING TO OVER-
RIDE SIGNALS.

TO LET THEM
FLY BY WIRE.
I'M CUTTING OFF
TELEMETRY.

WE MIGHT
LOSE CONTACT
FOR GOOD! WE'VE
GOT TO TRY AND
BRING THEM
DOWN.

WE'VE GOT TO
TAKE THE CHANCE
THAT THEY'LL BE
ABLE TO PERFORM
THE ROTATION
MANEUVER AND
DELIVER THEIR
PAYLOAD.

WHAT IF
THEY CAN'T?
WE COULD
BE STRANDING
THEM UP THERE--!

IS IT
GOING TO
WORK?

DAVID
...?

YOU
TAKE
CARE.



WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

THEY'VE SHUT OFF CONTACT WITH THE SHUTTLE.



FORTY-FIVE SECONDS



IF THEY WERE ABLE TO EXECUTE, THEY'D HAVE DONE IT BY NOW.

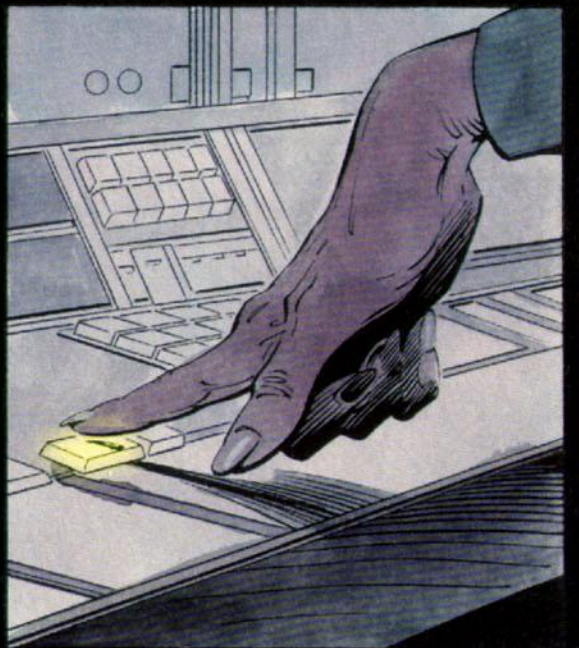
STAND BY.

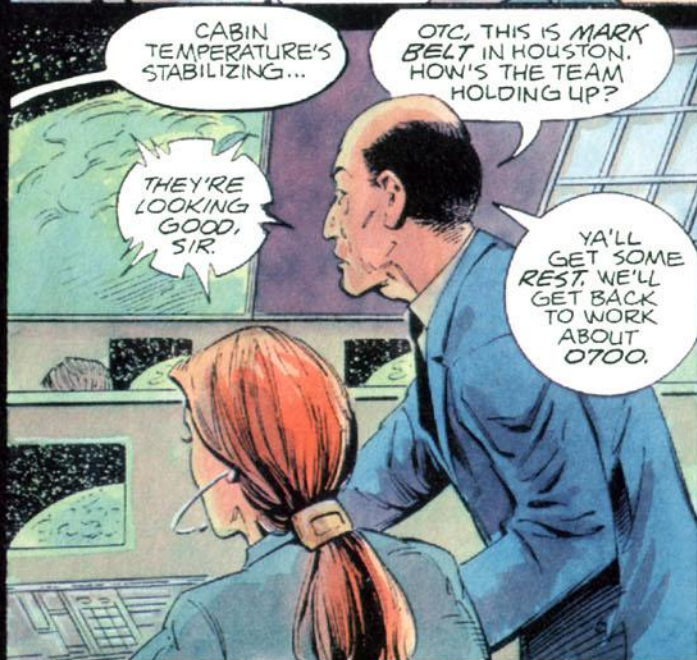


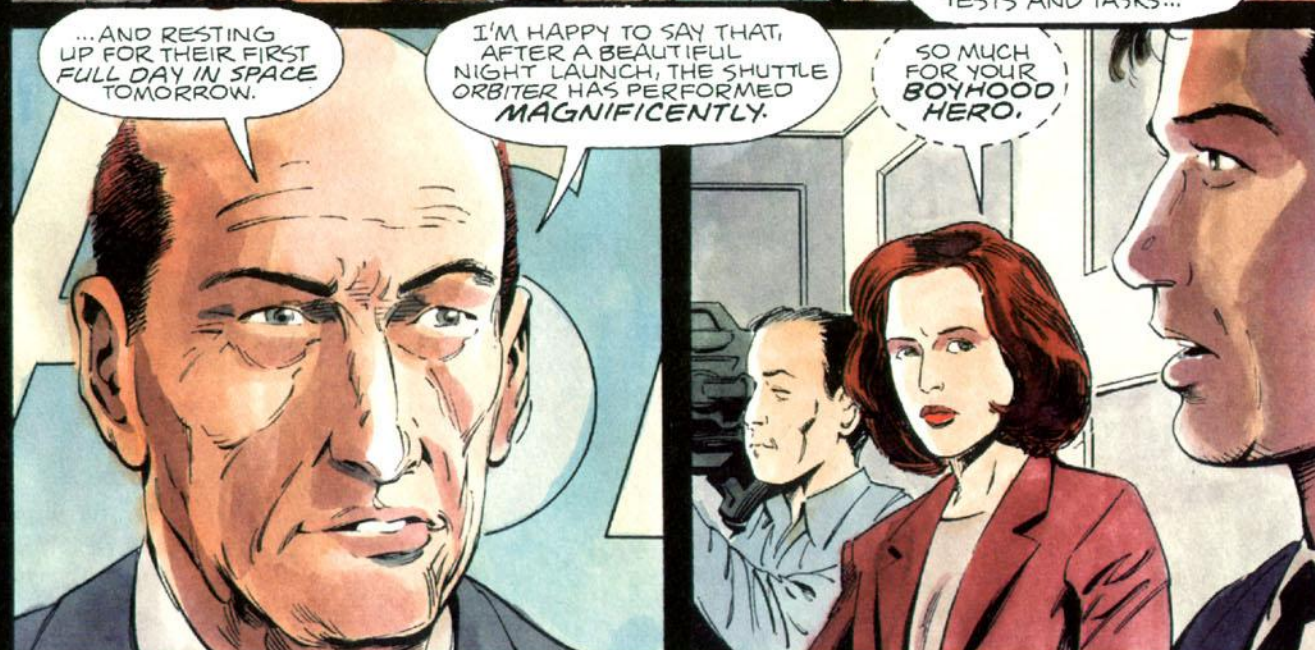
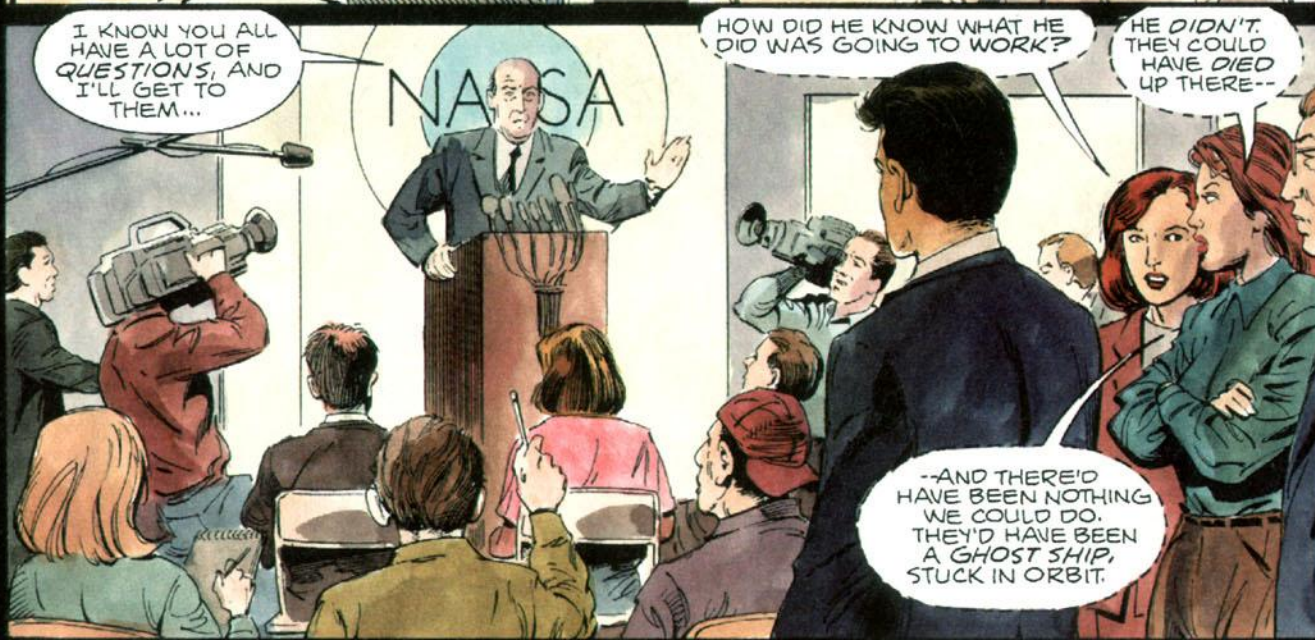
...SIXTY SECONDS.



GO TO RE-ESTABLISH UPLINK COMMUNICATION.







I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS, AND I'LL GET TO THEM...

HOW DID HE KNOW WHAT HE DID WAS GOING TO WORK?

HE DIDN'T. THEY COULD HAVE DIED UP THERE--

--AND THERE'D HAVE BEEN NOTHING WE COULD DO. THEY'D HAVE BEEN A GHOST SHIP, STUCK IN ORBIT.

WHY WOULD HE TAKE THAT RISK?

BRING THOSE MEN BACK DOWN WITHOUT DELIVERING THE PAYLOAD? YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MILLIONS OF WASTED DOLLARS. THAT'S ALL CONGRESS WOULD NEED TO SHUT DOWN NASA

...AS OF 0800 HOURS, THE CREW HAS BEEN CONDUCTING ON-BOARD TESTS AND TASKS...

...AND RESTING UP FOR THEIR FIRST FULL DAY IN SPACE TOMORROW.

I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT, AFTER A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT LAUNCH, THE SHUTTLE ORBITER HAS PERFORMED **MAGNIFICENTLY.**

SO MUCH FOR YOUR **BOYHOOD HERO.**

COLONEL BELT--MAY I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I LIED TO THEM.

YOU'RE ASKING IF THAT MEANS I COULD LIE TO YOU.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ASTRONAUT, SIR?

YOU RISK YOUR LIFE EVERY TIME YOU GET IN YOUR SPACECRAFT--FOR NOTHING MORE THAN THE GOOD PROGRESS OF MANKIND.

YOU'VE GOT NO ARGUMENT FROM ME, SIR. YOU'RE TRUE AMERICAN HEROES...

HEROES? WE USED TO MAKE HEADLINES WHEN WE DID OUR JOB RIGHT.

NOW THEY BURY YOU IN THE BACK OF THE PAPER.

YOU MAKE THE FRONT PAGE TODAY ONLY IF YOU SCREW UP.

THEY ONLY KNOW YOUR NAME IF YOU'RE THE UNLUCKY SOB SITTING ON FIVE HUNDRED TONS OF DYNAMITE.

THAT'S ALL THEY'RE REALLY WAITING FOR.

SIR... I HAVE TO ASK. SORRY, IT'S MY JOB.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE IS SABOTAGING THE SHUTTLE?

MY ANSWER TO YOU, SIR--

--WILL BE TO BRING THOSE MEN BACK SAFELY TO EARTH!



HOUSTON CONDOMINIUM
A SHORT TIME LATER



MY
GOD...



HOW'S IT
GOING OUT
THERE?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
OUT HERE!

WOULD YOU
REPEAT THAT,
COMMANDER
BELT?



IT'S
COMING
AT ME!



HOLY
GOD...



01100
PASSING OVER CANADA

UH...HOUSTON,
WE JUST HEARD
SOMETHING
WEIRD UP
HERE...

OTC, THIS IS
HOUSTON. CAN
YOU DESCRIBE
IT?

IT WAS...SORT
OF A DULL
THUMP--LIKE
SOMETHING
BUMPED THE
SHIP. YOU GOT
ANY IDEAS
ABOUT THAT?

WHMP!

THERE IT
IS AGAIN!

THEY'VE GOT
AN OXYGEN
LEAK ON BOARD
THE ORBITER.

WE GOT PROBLEMS.
THERE'S AN O₂ LEAK
IN THE MAIN TANK.

WHAT DID
THEY SAY
HAPPENED
?

THEY
DON'T KNOW
THEY JUST
HEARD A
THUMP.

AN ASTRONOMER
IN WINNIPEG JUST
SPOTTED A GASEOUS
CLOUD ABOUT A
MILE LONG TRAILING
IN OUR ORBIT.

THAT'S
THE LIQUID O₂
LEAKING INTO
SPACE. THE
EXACT SAME
THING HAPPENED
TO COLONEL
BELT ON AN
APOLLO
MISSION.

HOW MUCH TIME DO THEY HAVE?

HARD TO KNOW WITHOUT ACCURATE TELEMETRY DATA. WE'RE DOING THE CALCULATIONS, BUT IT'LL BE JUST A GUESS-TIMATE.

...TO BEGIN PAYLOAD DEPLOYMENT.

WE'RE WORKING ON IT, OTC.

HOUSTON? WE'RE UP HERE KINDA WONDERING -- WHEN DO WE HAVE TO START HOLDING OUR BREATH?

I NEED THOSE CALCULATIONS, AND I NEED A WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO! AND THEN I WANT SOMEONE TO FIND COLONEL BELT!

WE DON'T KNOW IF ONE OR BOTH OF THE O₂ TANKS IS DAMAGED.

I NEED SOME ANSWERS! AND WHERE IS COLONEL BELT?

WE CAN'T FIND HIM. HE WAS DUE HERE NINETY MINUTES AGO...

WE'LL FIND COLONEL BELT.

WHY DOES SHE NEED BELT?

SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW SERIOUS THE LEAK IS.

IT'S AN OXYGEN LEAK! EVEN I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF OXYGEN.

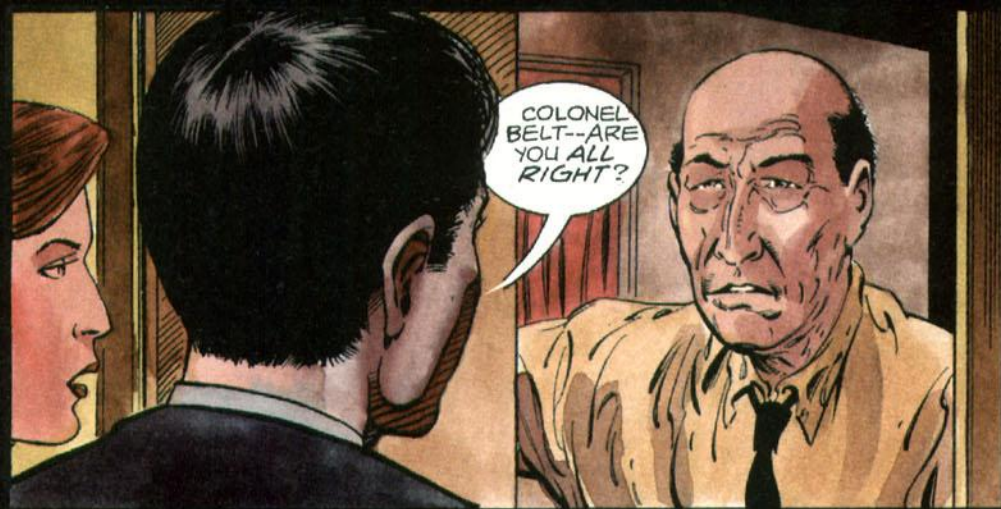
COLONEL BELT'S BEEN UP THERE IN THE SAME SITUATION. HE'LL KNOW BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE WHAT TO DO. HE'S GOT TO MAKE THE DECISIONS.

THEN WHERE THE HELL IS HE?



COLONEL BELT!
COLONEL BELT--?

I'M GONNA
GO GET
SECURITY...



COLONEL BELT--ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



YEAH. I...
WASN'T
FEELING
WELL.

THEY NEED
YOU DOWN AT
MISSION CONTROL,
SIR. THERE'S BEEN
ANOTHER ACCIDENT.



OTC, IS YOUR
ORBITAL MANEUVER-
ING SYSTEM STILL
OPERATIONAL?

ROGER,
HOUSTON.
WE'RE READY
FOR RE-
ENTRY.
JUST SAY
THE WORD.



HOW
BAD
IS THE
LEAK?

WE HAVE
NO WAY TO
DETERMINE--



OTC--HOW MUCH
CONDENSATION
IS THERE IN YOUR
CABIN?

WINDOWS
ARE
GETTING
A LITTLE
STEAMY.

CARBON
DIOXIDE
BUILDUP

OKAY, OTC--YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE. I WANT YOU TO GET INTO YOUR SPACESUITS AND DE-PRESSURIZE THE CABIN. THEN I WANT YOU TO VENT THAT CO₂.

I WANT YOU TO STAY IN YOUR SUITS--AND THEN I WANT YOU TO PREPARE TO USE YOUR EMERGENCY OXYGEN SYSTEMS.

AND THEN I WANT YOU--TO DELIVER YOUR PAYLOAD.

ROGER, HOUSTON. AND THEN WHAT?

THOSE ARE MEN UP THERE!

YOU'RE OUT OF LINE, YOU WANT TO TELL ME HOW TO DO MY JOB.

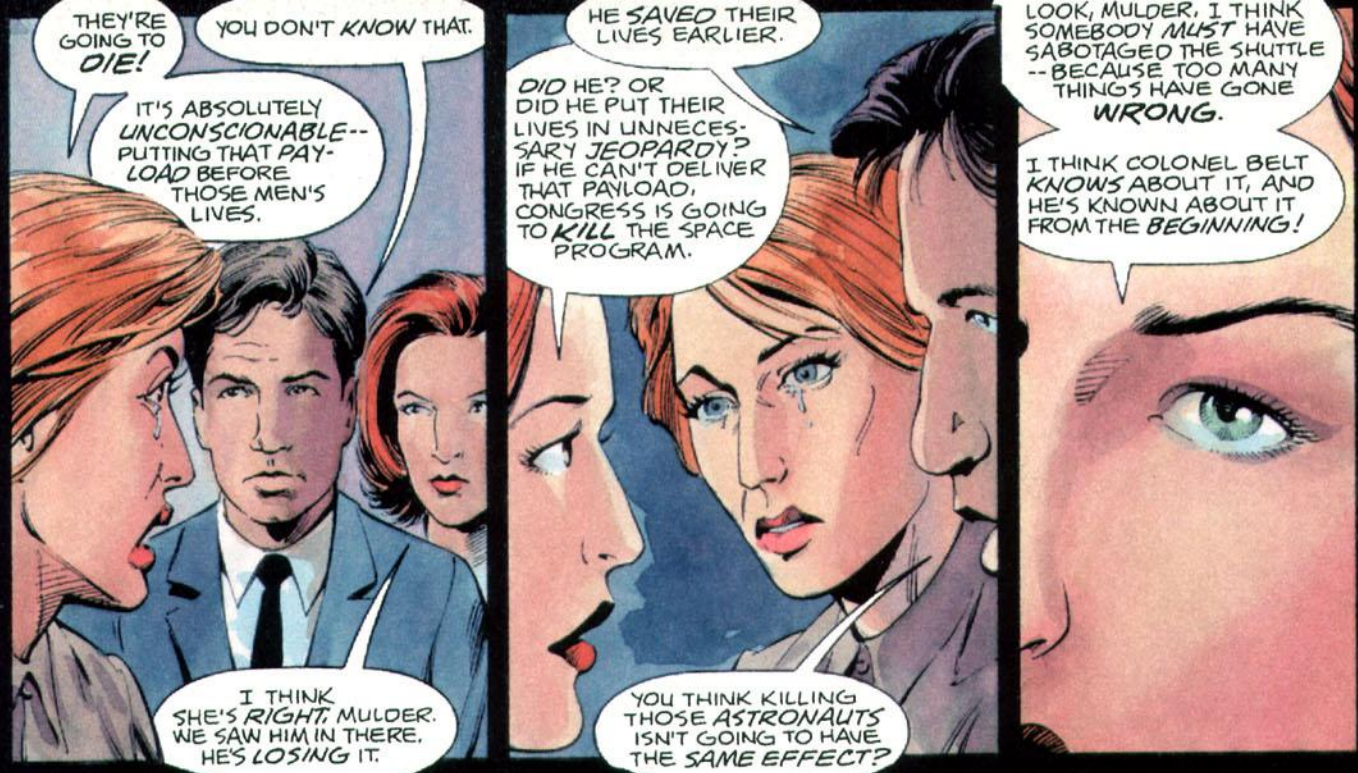
I'VE BEEN UP THERE IN THAT SITUATION, MISS GENEROO. THERE'S MORE AT RISK HERE THAN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE--

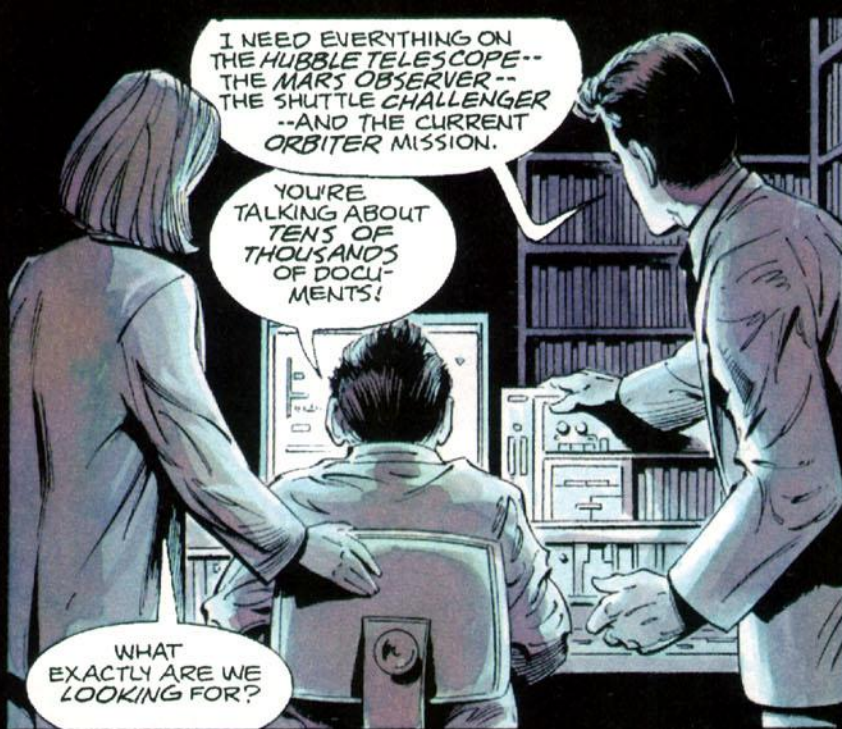
AND IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT, OR OPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEN YOU'D BETTER LEAVE THE DECISIONS TO PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM WHO CAN.

OTC, DO YOU COPY?

ROGER, HOUSTON. WE'RE WAITING ON THOSE O₂ CALCULATIONS...

MICHELLE!





I NEED EVERYTHING ON
THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE--
THE MARS OBSERVER--
THE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER
--AND THE CURRENT
ORBITER MISSION.

YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
TENS OF
THOUSANDS
OF DOCUMENTS!

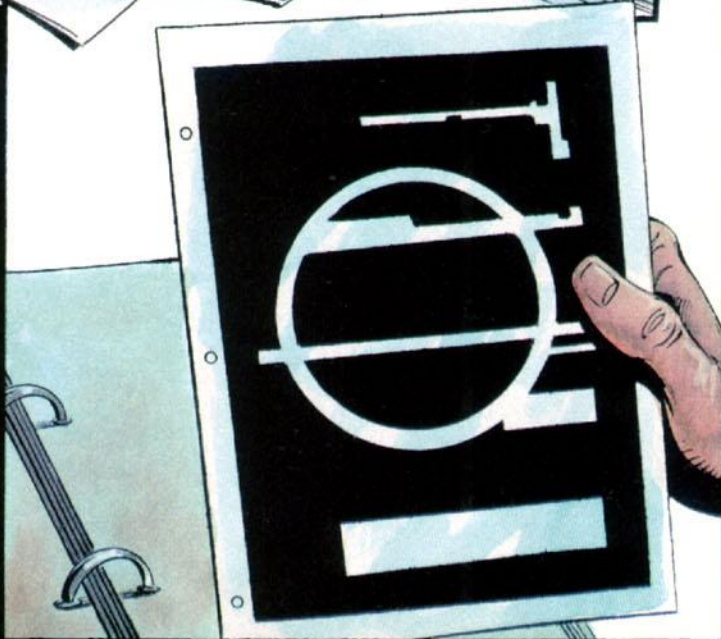
WHAT
EXACTLY ARE WE
LOOKING FOR?

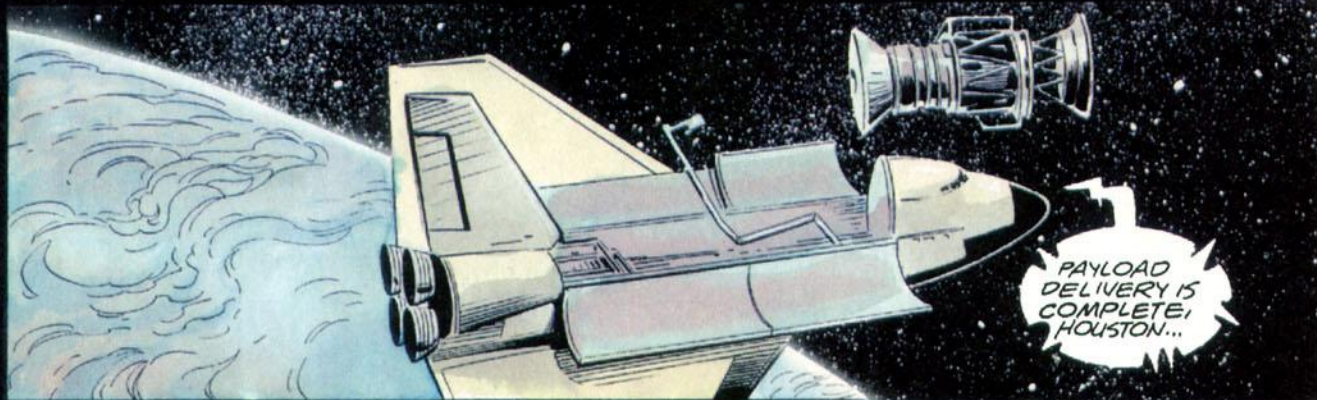
DIAGRAMS--X-RAY
SCHEMATICA-- ANY
PROOF THAT BELT
KNEW ABOUT A
SABOTAGE.

A NEEDLE IN
A HAYSTACK.



CHALLENGER 6 1L
JANUARY 23, 1986
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS





PAYLOAD
DELIVERY IS
COMPLETE,
HOUSTON...

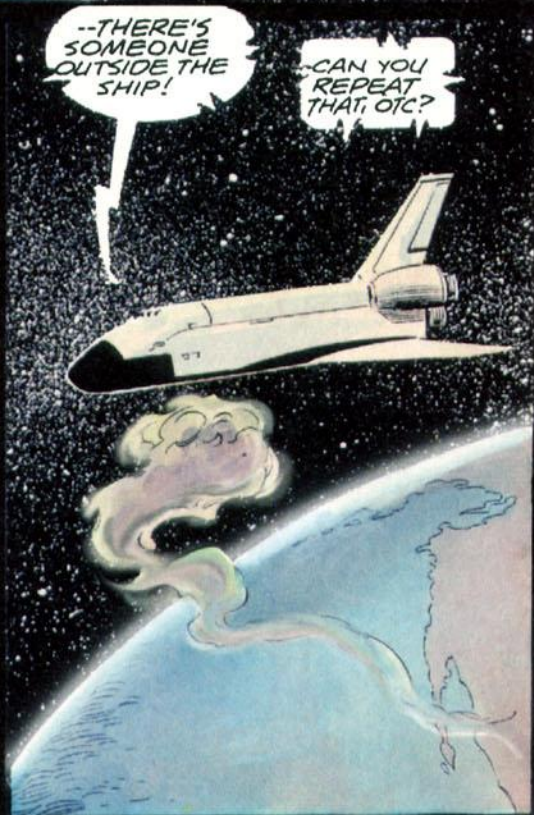


...WE'RE
AWAITING
YOUR
ORDERS.

SYSTEMS
CHECK FOR
RE-ENTRY
ORBIT
BURN.



HOLY
GOD!
THERE'S
SOME-
THING--



--THERE'S
SOMEONE
OUTSIDE THE
SHIP!

--CAN YOU
REPEAT
THAT, OTC?



THERE'S
SOME KIND
OF GHOST
OUTSIDE THE
SHIP!

NO...
NO...



NO...

NO...

NO...



NNNOOOO...

MULDER!
I FOUND IT!



THIS IS THE
SAME DIAGRAM
THAT WAS
SENT TO
MICHELLE--



--ORDERED
BY COLONEL
BELT!
HE KNEW
ABOUT THE
FAULTY
VALVE!

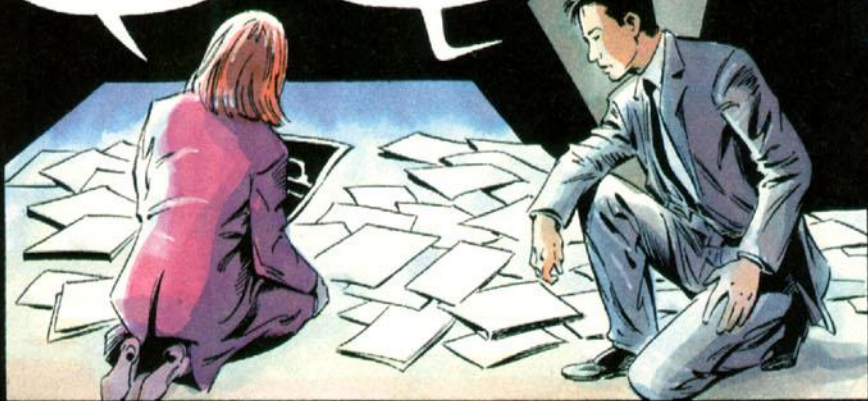


THIS IS FROM
THE CHAL-
LENGER.
IT'S THE
O-RING
FITTING
THAT
FAILED.
DATED
JANUARY
21, 1986...
ONE WEEK
BEFORE THE
SPACE SHUTTLE
BLEW UP



ARE YOU SAYING
HE COULD HAVE
KNOWN ABOUT
THE CHALLENGER
DEFECT?

SOMETHING
WEIRD IS
GOING ON HERE,
SCULLY...



AND THE
ANALYSIS
WAS ORDERED
BY COLONEL
BELT.



COLONEL
BELT'S
COLLAPSED!

WHERE
IS HE?

HE'S IN HIS
OFFICE.







HELP...
ME...

HOW CAN
WE HELP YOU,
COLONEL?

HE'S
HAVING
SOME
KIND OF A
SEIZURE,
MULDER.

COME
ON!



THEY'RE
TEARING
ME
APART---!

I'LL
SEE IF I
CAN GET A
PULSE



HELP
ME...HELP
ME...



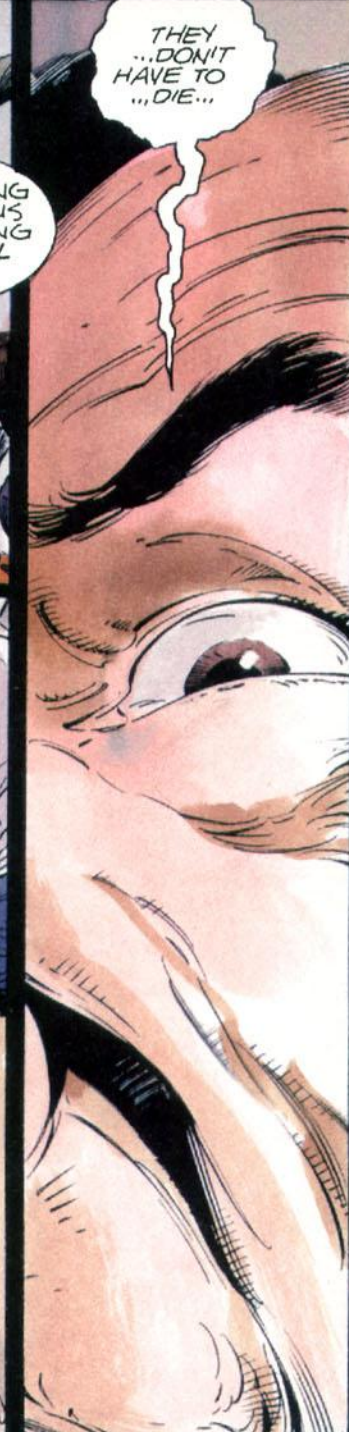
I'M
BRINGING
THAT
SHUTTLE
DOWN!

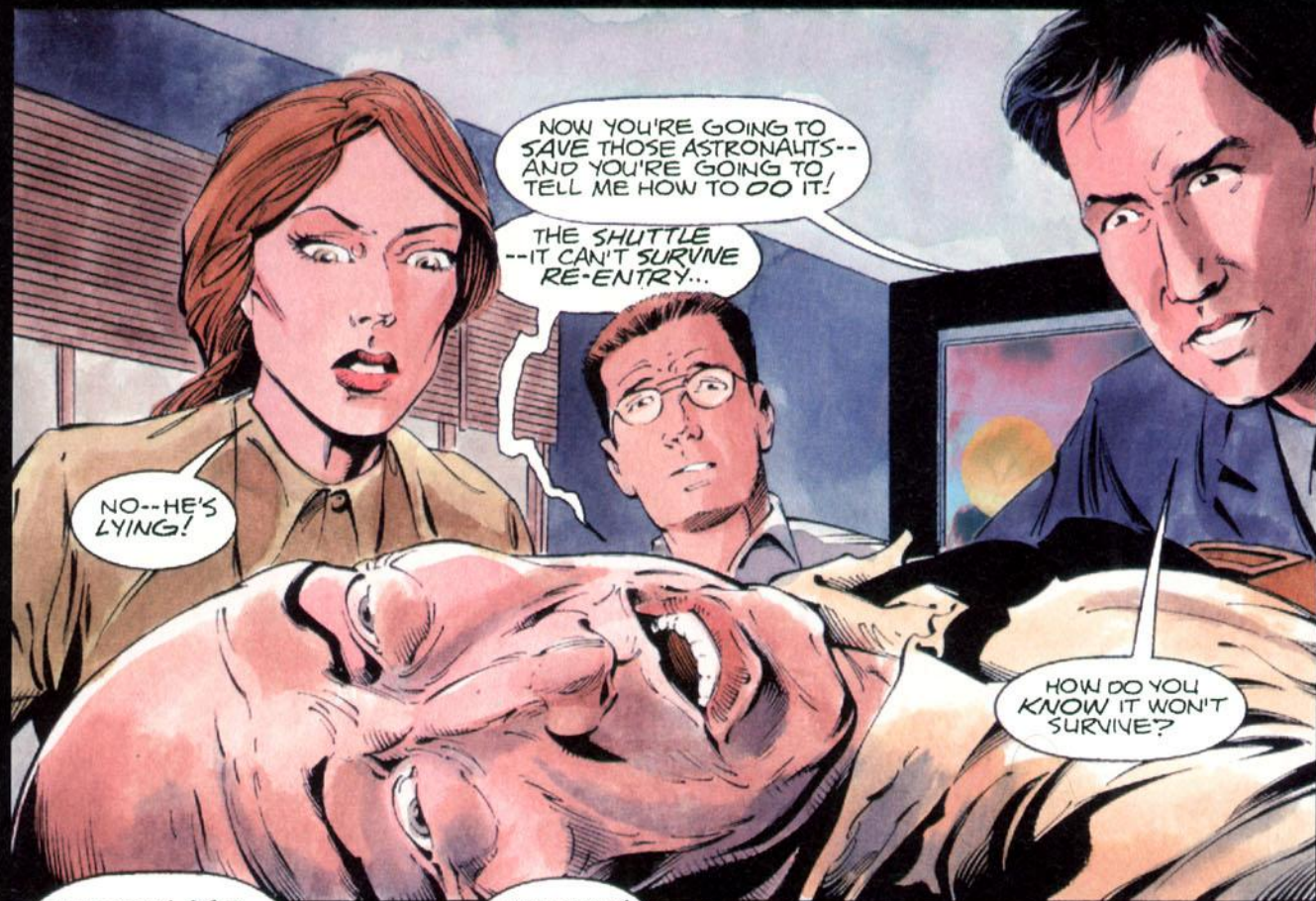
NNNOOOO!



COL. BELT

IT'S OUT
THERE!





NOW YOU'RE GOING TO
SAVE THOSE ASTRONAUTS--
AND YOU'RE GOING TO
TELL ME HOW TO DO IT!

THE SHUTTLE
--IT CAN'T SURVIVE
RE-ENTRY...

NO--HE'S
LYING!

HOW DO YOU
KNOW IT WON'T
SURVIVE?

THE FUSELAGE
--THE FUSELAGE IS
DAMAGED--THE--
SILICONE TILES--
ARE DESTROYED--

HOW DOES
HE KNOW?

DID YOU
SABOTAGE THE
SHUTTLE?

I'M...
RESPONSIBLE...

NO. BUT...I
COULDN'T STOP
THEM. NOBODY
CAN STOP
THEM...



STOP
WHO?

HEART
RATE IS
194...

YOU'RE
GOING TO
KILL HIM,
MULDER!

STOP WHO,
COLONEL?

THEY
DON'T WANT
US TO KNOW.
THEY DON'T
WANT US TO
KNOW!

WHO?



IT CAME
TO ME!

IT LIVES
IN ME!





WE'RE
LOSING
HIM!



DEFIB!

HERE
YOU
GO!



CLEAR!

THUMP

HMMF
FFFF!



TH-THEY'VE
JUST RUN
OUT OF
OXYGEN!

THEY'VE
GOT EXACTLY
THIRTY
MINUTES LEFT
ON THEIR
EMERGENCY
BACKUP
SYSTEMS!



THEY'RE
GOING TO
SUFFOCATE
UP THERE.

I'VE GOT
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
BRING THEM
DOWN!





CHANGE...THE TRAJECTORY.

CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY.



CHANGE THE RE-ENTRY TRAJECTORY...TO THIRTY-FIVE DEGREES...



T MINUS 35 SECONDS TO IONOSPHERE RE-ENTRY AND TEMPORARY COMMUNICATION BLACKOUT.

WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE THE RE-ENTRY TRAJECTORY?

WHAT?

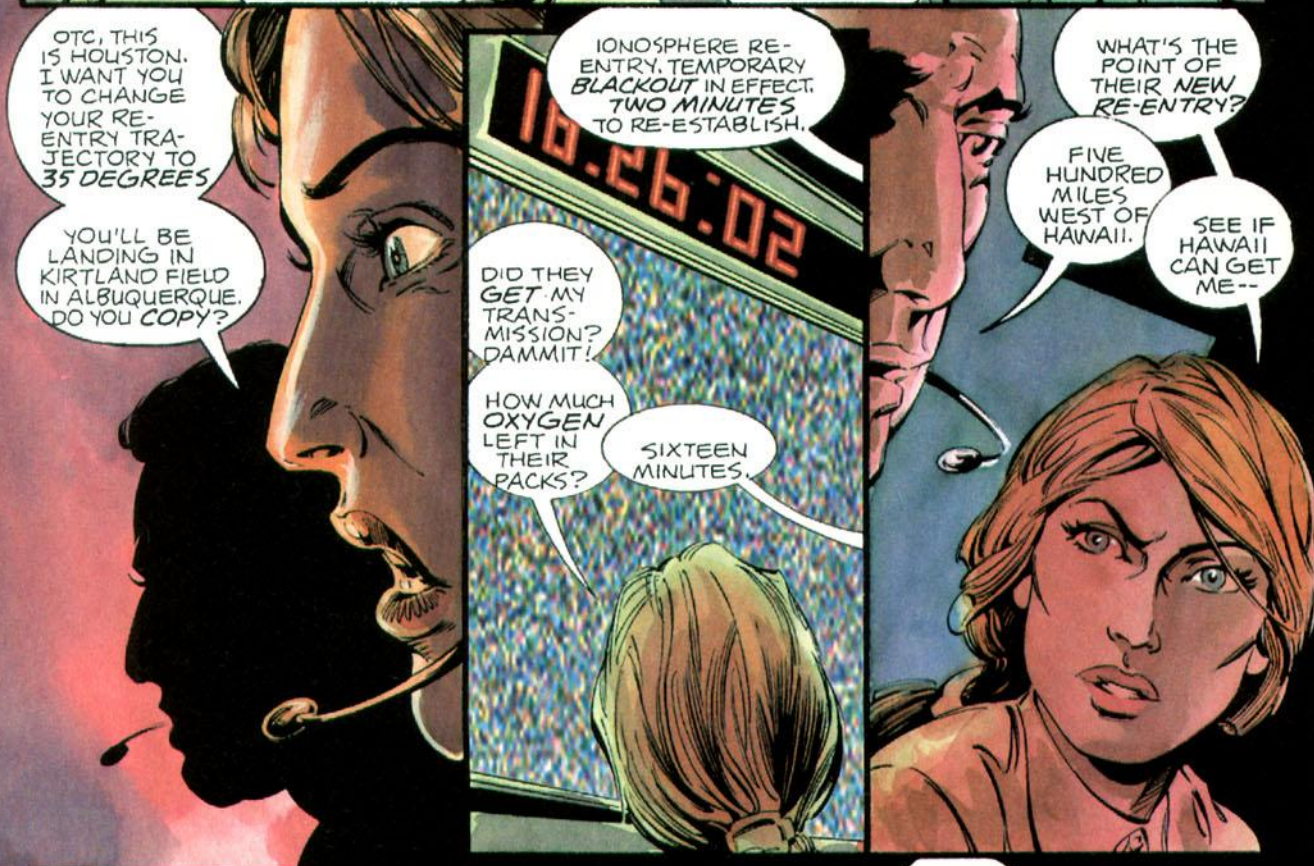


T MINUS 25 SECONDS TO IONOSPHERE RE-ENTRY.

YOU'VE GOT TO CHANGE IT TO THIRTY-FIVE DEGREES. COLONEL BELT SAID IT'S YOUR ONLY SHOT.

I CAN'T. WE'D HAVE TO CHANGE THE LANDING SITE. WE'D HAVE TO INFORM THEM BEFORE THE BLACKOUT...

T MINUS 15 SECONDS TO BLACKOUT.





ALBUQUERQUE, DO YOU HAVE RADAR CONFIRMATION?

NEGATIVE, HOUSTON. NOTHING ON THE SCREEN.



OTC, THIS IS HOUSTON. COME IN, OTC.



OTC, THIS IS HOUSTON.

COME IN, OTC!

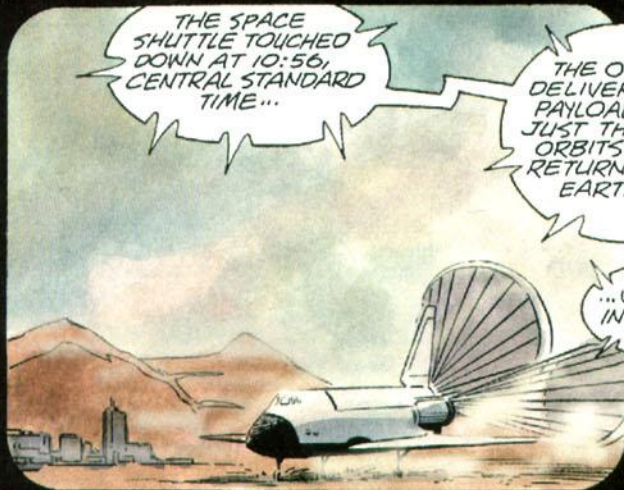


HOUSTON, THIS IS OTC. KNOW ANY PLACE GOOD TO EAT IN ALBUQUERQUE?

WE THOUGHT WE'D MEET YOU FOR DINNER.



WELCOME HOME, OTC-- YOU'RE LOOKIN' REAL GOOD!



THE SPACE SHUTTLE TOUCHED DOWN AT 10:56, CENTRAL STANDARD TIME...

THE ORBITER DELIVERED ITS PAYLOAD AFTER JUST THIRTEEN ORBITS AND RETURNED TO EARTH...

...WITHOUT INCIDENT.



WE AT NASA ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT SHUTTLE MISSION, AND TO FURTHER SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATIONS OF SPACE ...FOR MANKIND.



...AND FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND.



UNNN
GHHH...



HGGN
NNN...





I JUST HEARD.

SOMETHING HAD POSSESSED HIM... SOMETHING HE MUST HAVE SEEN OUT THERE IN SPACE.

THE DOCTORS WHO EXAMINED HIM SAID HE WAS EXPERIENCING SEVERE DEMENTIA.



I DON'T THINK HE EVER REALLY KNEW EXACTLY HOW IT WAS WORKING THROUGH HIM... OR IF HE EVER KNEW THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN ACTIONS.

HE ORDERED THOSE X-RAYS OF THE DAMAGED PARTS.

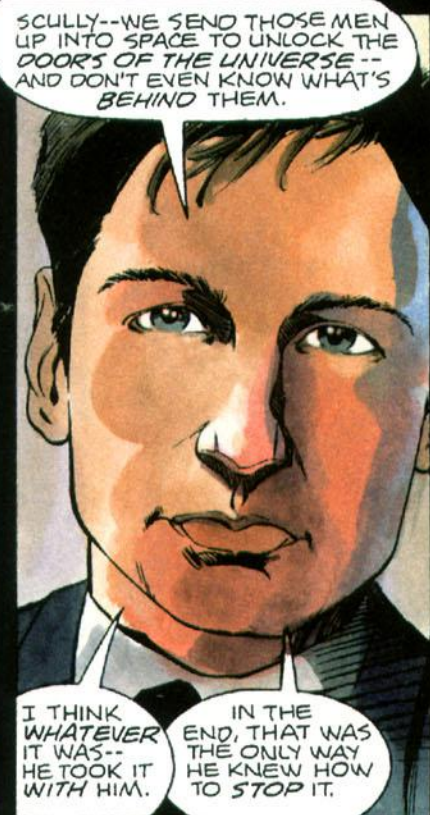


YOU SAW WHAT I SAW, SCULLY. I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO WARN HER.

I THINK HE SENT MICHELLE THOSE X-RAYS LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO REACH OUT TO HER... WITHOUT QUITE KNOWING WHY... AS IF HIS OWN INSTINCTUAL IMPULSE...

...WAS TO SAVE THOSE MEN.

WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY TRYING TO KILL THEM?



SCULLY--WE SEND THOSE MEN UP INTO SPACE TO UNLOCK THE DOORS OF THE UNIVERSE-- AND DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND THEM.

I THINK WHATEVER IT WAS-- HE TOOK IT WITH HIM.

IN THE END, THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY HE KNEW HOW TO STOP IT.

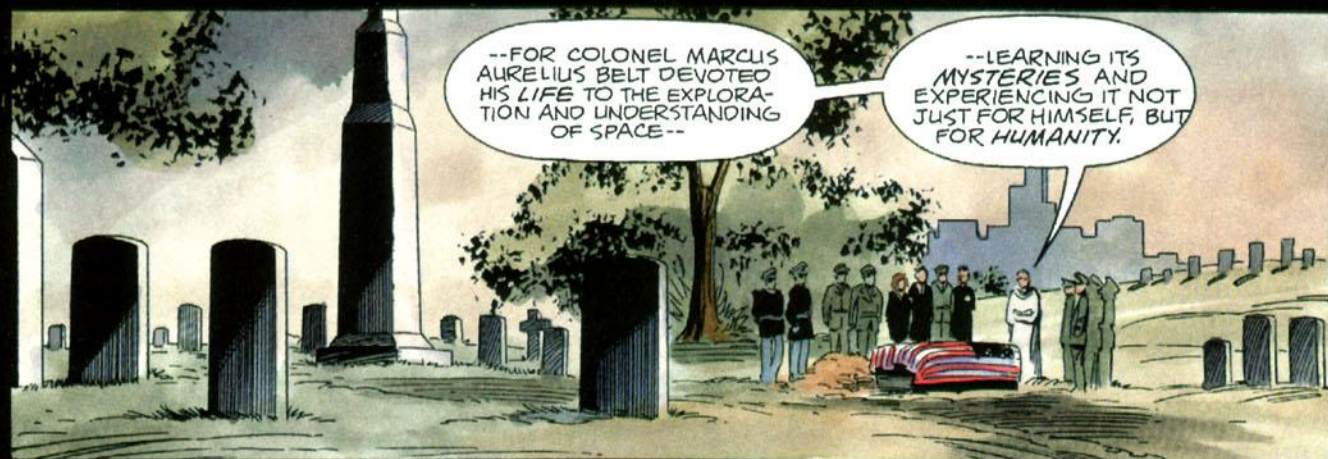


THERE'S AN INVESTIGATION, YOU KNOW, THEY HAVEN'T RULED OUT FOUL PLAY.



HE GAVE HIS OWN LIFE.

AS AN ASTRONAUT, THAT WAS SOMETHING HE WAS PREPARED TO DO.



--FOR COLONEL MARCUS
AURELIUS BELT DEVOTED
HIS LIFE TO THE EXPLORA-
TION AND UNDERSTANDING
OF SPACE--

--LEARNING ITS
MYSTERIES AND
EXPERIENCING IT NOT
JUST FOR HIMSELF, BUT
FOR HUMANITY.



LORD, TAKE THIS
MAN'S SOUL AND
LET IT RISE UP TO
YOUR HEAVENS--
HIGHER THAN HE
COULD EVER GO
AS A MAN.



LET HIM KNOW
THE TRUE NATURE
OF THE UNIVERSE
THAT HE SOUGHT
TO LEARN....



THE END