

PROLOGUE.
HUNDREDS OF YEARS
IN THE FUTURE,
A DOZEN GALAXIES AWAY
FROM THE MILKY WAY.



WELCOME,
FRIENDS,
WELCOME!

*NOTE: THIS STORY
TAKES PLACE DURING
"SEASON 1" OF *OUTER
DARKNESS*, SOME
TIME BETWEEN ISSUES
#6 AND #10.

ABOARD THE **CHARON**
THE GALACTIC SERVICE'S FASTEST AND MOST
HEAVILY-ARMED ADVANCED RETRIEVAL VESSEL.

IT ALSO TAKES
PLACE AFTER
CHEW #60.

BUT ALSO:
DURING
CHEW #18.



THIS IS
GOING TO BE A
DISASTER.

SHHH.
JUST SMILE AND
TRY TO MUDDLE
THROUGH IT,
CAPTAIN.



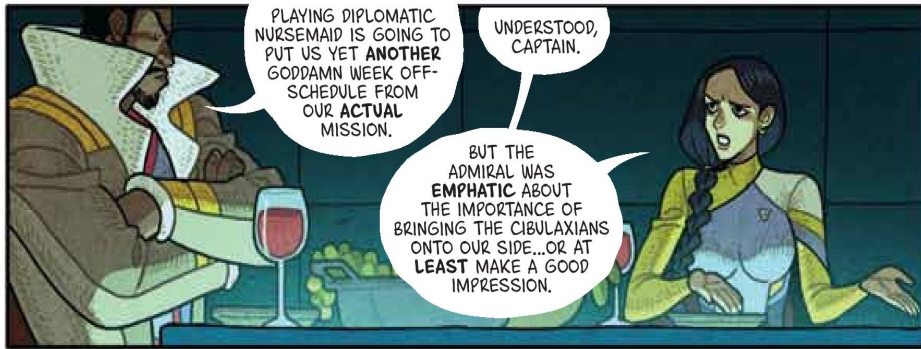




THE ONLY WAY TO TALK WITH THEM IS TO FEED THEM, AND TO EAT WITH THEM.

AND THEN HOPE LIKE HELL WHAT YOU'VE COOKED UP AGREES WITH THEM.

THIS ISN'T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR, ADMINISTRATOR PRAKASH.



PLAYING DIPLOMATIC NURSEMAID IS GOING TO PUT US YET ANOTHER GODDAMN WEEK OFF-SCHEDULE FROM OUR ACTUAL MISSION.

UNDERSTOOD, CAPTAIN.

BUT THE ADMIRAL WAS EMPHATIC ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING THE CIBULAXIANS ONTO OUR SIDE...OR AT LEAST MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.



IF WE COULD CONVINCE THEM TO ALLOW US TO OPEN A TRADE ROUTE THROUGH CIBULAXIAN SPACE, WE COULD CUT SUPPLY RUN TIME TO SAGITTARIUS BASE ALPHA BY UP TO 28%.

THIS COULD GIVE US A CRITICAL ADVANTAGE IN OUR CONTINUING WAR AGAINST THE DRYX.



I STOPPED LISTENING THREE SENTENCES AGO, PRAKASH.

JUST MAKE SURE THE GOOD ADMIRAL KNOWS I SMILED AND PLAYED THE GRACIOUS HOST AND PERFORMED DUTIFULLY FOR THE SAKE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE AND THE GOOD OF THE GALACTIC SERVICE.

I'M DOING MY PART.



LET'S JUST HOPE CHEF FEENYX CAN DO HIS.



YOUR MAN AGWE FOUND HIM ON TANTALINE IV, AFTER OUR LAST CHEF GOT RIPPED APART BY BUCAVACIAN BLOOD DEMONS.

THE ONLY OTHER CHEF MORE HIGHLY-RATED THAN FEENYX IS SIX-HUNDRED THOUSAND LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.

OH, AND HERE'S A SPECIAL TREAT.



KARTYZYIAN MÖTTÖNEN MOON-PIE, BAKED WITH SLOW-ROASTED GHATHAR AND PHAMBERRIES PLUCKED FROM THE ICY SHORES OF MOHXIMAHT VII.

THE SECRET, THOUGH, IS A LIGHT GLAZE OF TANALYNTIAN GHEE.



THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, CHEF.

NO, OF COURSE, BUT IT IS ALL PART OF THE PRESENTATION, NO?

BON APPÉTIT!



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