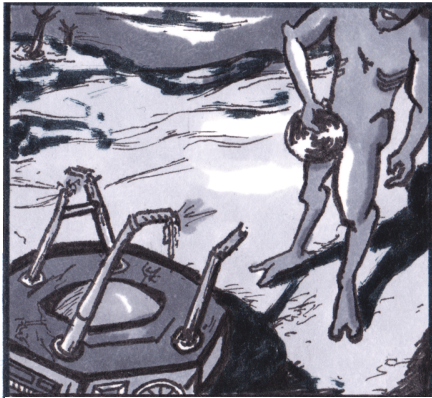


The Golden Record by Shawn Coots

A DAN BROWN SPACE ADVENTURE

BACK IN 77', WE LAUNCHED THE VOYAGER 1. ATTACHED TO ITS HULL WAS THE GOLDEN RECORD, WHICH CONTAINED GREETINGS OF PEACE FROM THE PLANET EARTH.

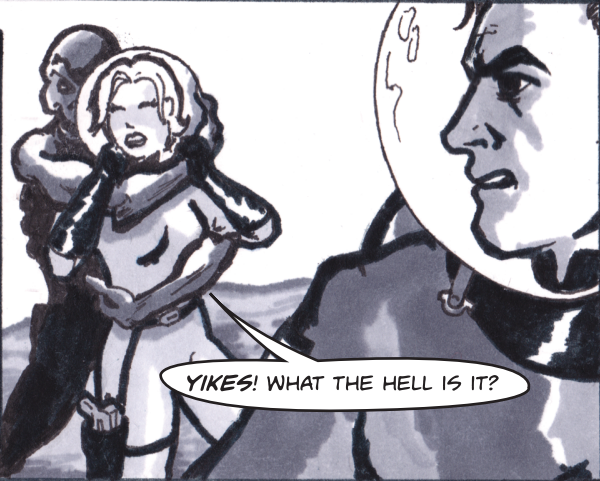


WE LOST TOUCH WITH THE VOYAGER ONCE IT PASSED BEYOND OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. I ALWAYS WONDERED WHERE IT LANDED.

THIS PLANET WAS LISTED AS A POSSIBLE CRASH SITE, SO I THOUGHT WE'D TAKE A LOOK. I DIDN'T KNOW SUZETTE WOULD RAISE SUCH A FUSS OVER LOOKING FOR IT.

SERIOUSLY, HOW ARE YOU NOT TIRED YET? WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR HOURS!

ALRIGHT ALREADY, YOU WIN. I'LL GO BACK TO THE SHIP IF YOU QUIT SCREAMING INTO THE COMM.



YIKES! WHAT THE HELL IS IT?



HUMANZZZZ... AT LAST YOU'VE ARRIVED!

YOU BET WE HAVE, PAL. DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND DROP THE LADY BEFORE I DROP YOU.

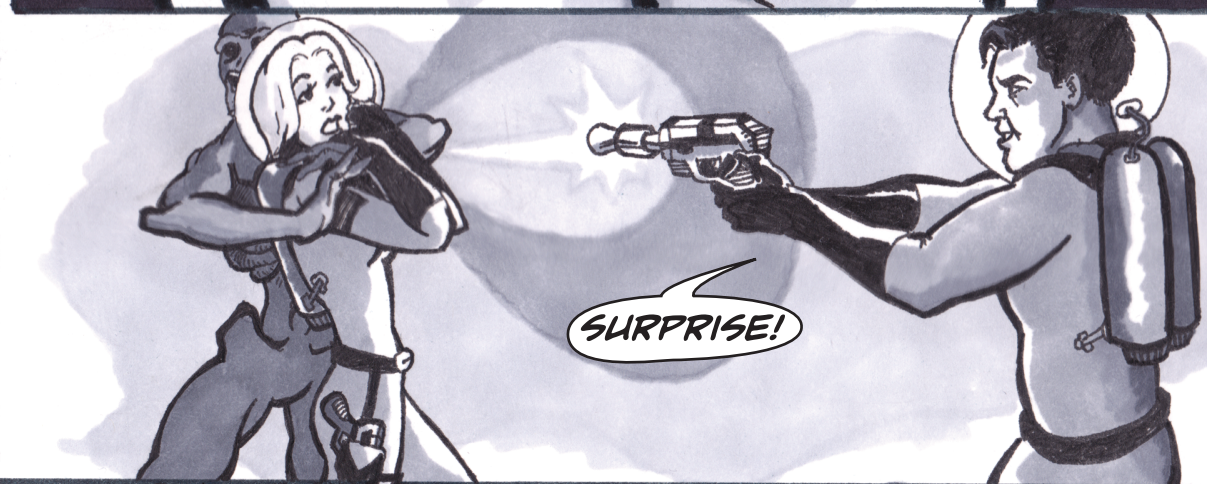
JUST WHAT WILL YOU DO WITHOUT HURTING YOUR FEMALE? WE STUDIED YOUR HISTORY DISC FROM THE DEAD ROCKET, LAUGHING AT YOUR CUSTOMS, YOUR PITIFUL MUSIC. YOU ARE NOTHING - INSECTS SMASHED UNDER OUR HEELS!

SO THEY DID FIND IT...

YOU LISTEN TO ONE LOUSY RECORD AND YOU THINK YOU'VE FIGURED US OUT, IS THAT RIGHT?

NOW, LOWER YOUR PATHETIC WEAPON OR I'LL PULL HER LIMBS FROM HER PUNY FRAME.

I'D LIKE TO KEEP MY LIMBS INTACT, IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU!



SURPRISE!

YOU SACRIFICE YOUR OWN KIND? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

THAT PEACE MESSAGE IS A RUSE. WHEREVER MANKIND GOES, WE CONQUER WHOEVER GETS IN THE WAY, PLANTING OUR FLAG IN THE ASSES OF OUR ENEMIES. WARN YOUR PEOPLE: PRAY WE DON'T COME BACK TO DRAIN YOUR RESOURCES.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNDERSTAND PLENTY.



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SHOT ME, YOU UNBELIEVABLE BASTARD.

YEAH, I'LL ADMIT, THAT WAS KIND OF RUDE. STILL, IT BEATS THE ALTERNATIVE.

THAT RECORD COULDN'T HAVE FALLEN INTO WORSE HANDS. THEY SAW US AS PREY, NOTHING MORE. IF I DIDN'T SHOW OUR FANGS, WE'D HAVE ENDED UP ON EXAMINATION TABLES, DISSECTED INTO TINY BITS. AFTER THAT LITTLE STUNT, THEY SEE ANOTHER HUMAN, THEY'LL RUN LIKE HELL.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE RIGHT, MY SHOULDER BURNS LIKE HELL AND YOU'RE STILL A BIG JERK!

ALTERNATIVE? CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS WISELY.

DAN BROWN RETURNS NEXT MONTH WITH CHAPTER 4 OF HIS THRILLING SPACE ADVENTURE!