

20
YEARS OF
IDW
ISSUE
1
COVER A

TIPTON • TIPTON • MESSINA • D'AMICO • ALEXAKIS

STAR TREK



THE Q CONFLICT

STAR TREK

THE Q CONFLICT

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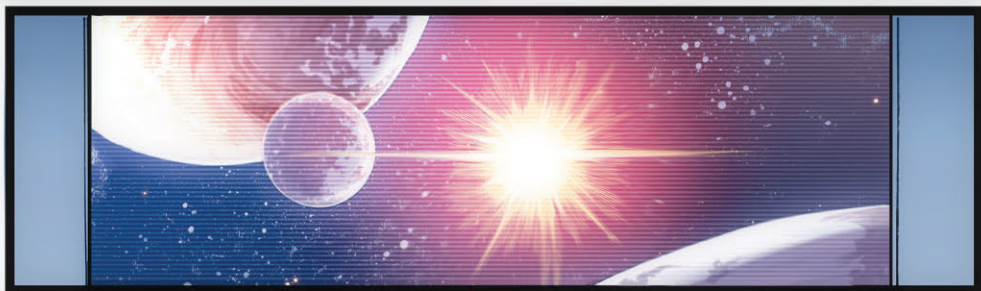
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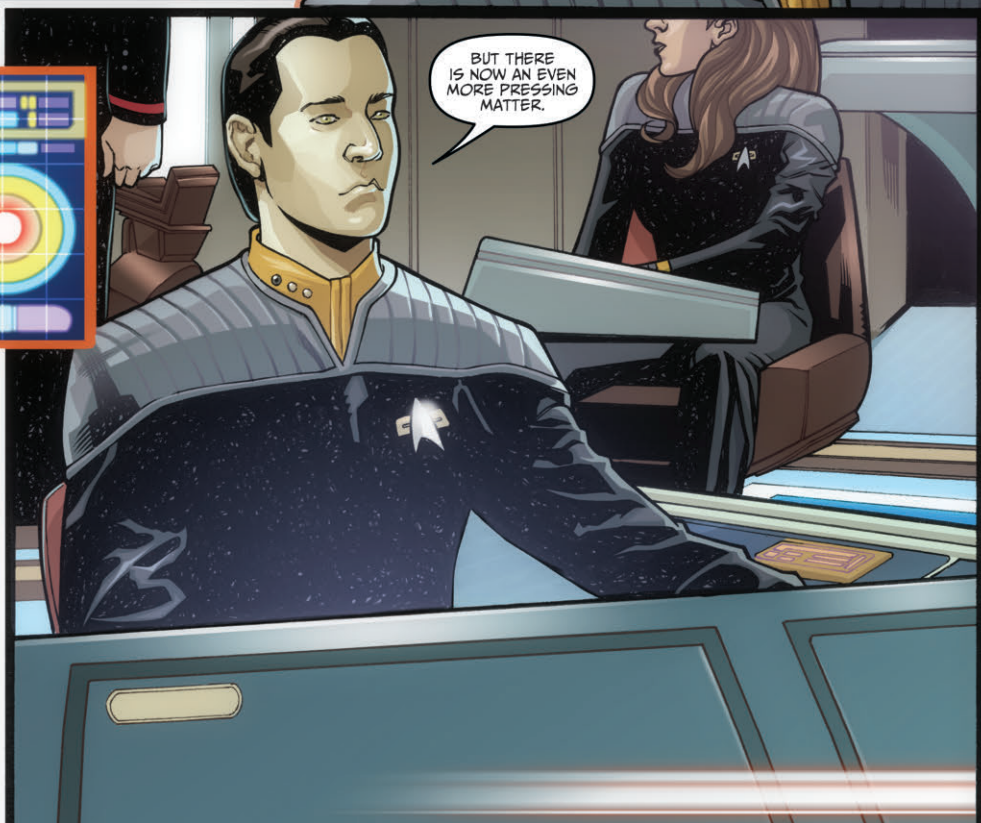
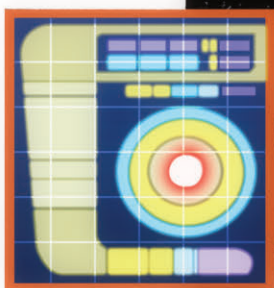
CAPTAIN, THE SUN
IN THE CESTUS SYSTEM
CONTINUES TO EXPAND AT AN
UNNATURAL, ACCELERATED RATE. I
PROJECT THAT WE WILL HAVE 48
HOURS TO EVACUATE ALL THE
COLONISTS BEFORE THE GLOBAL
TEMPERATURES ON CESTUS III
BECOME TOO HIGH TO
SUPPORT LIFE.



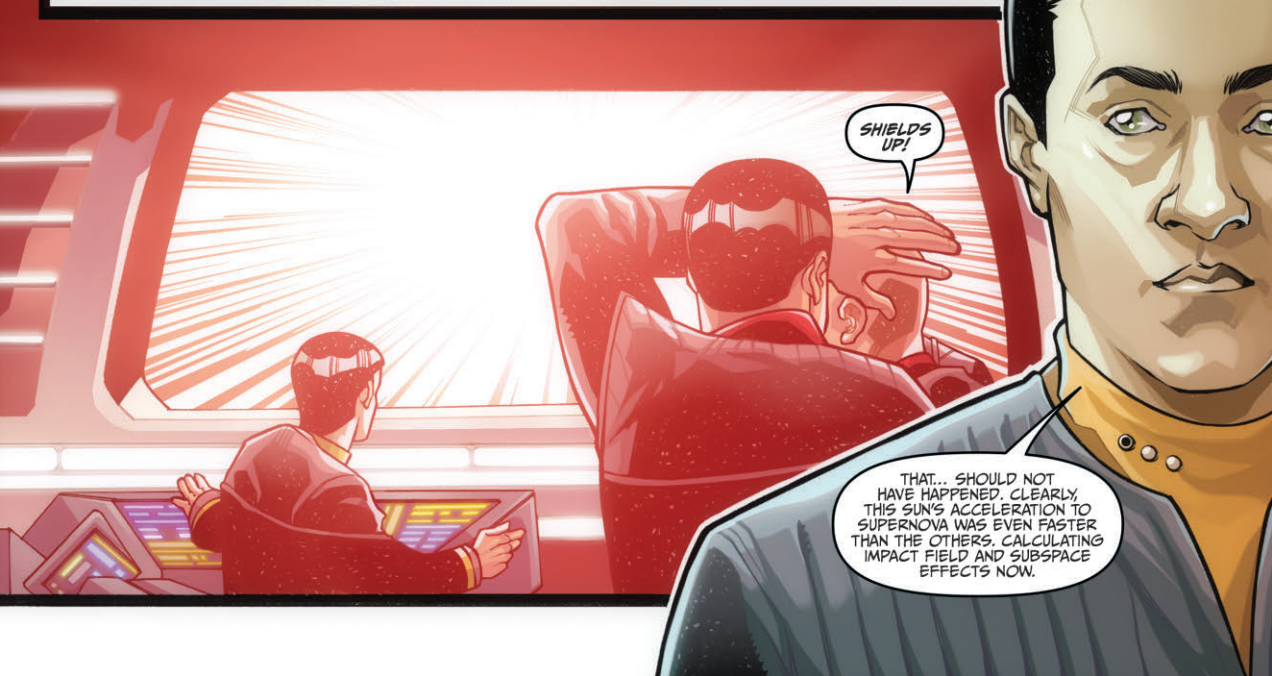
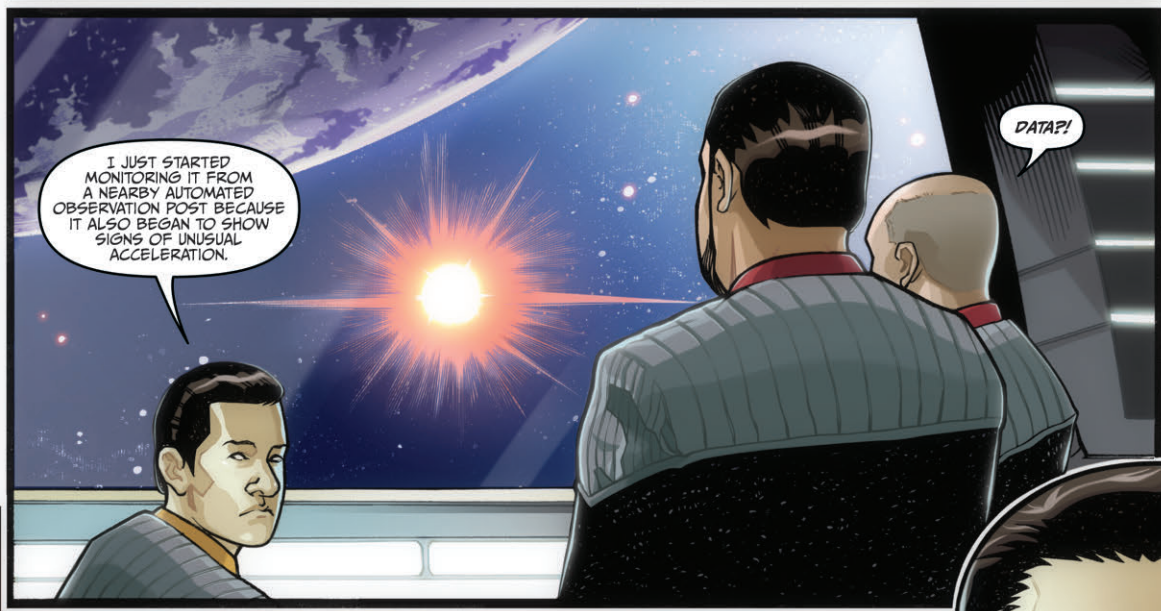
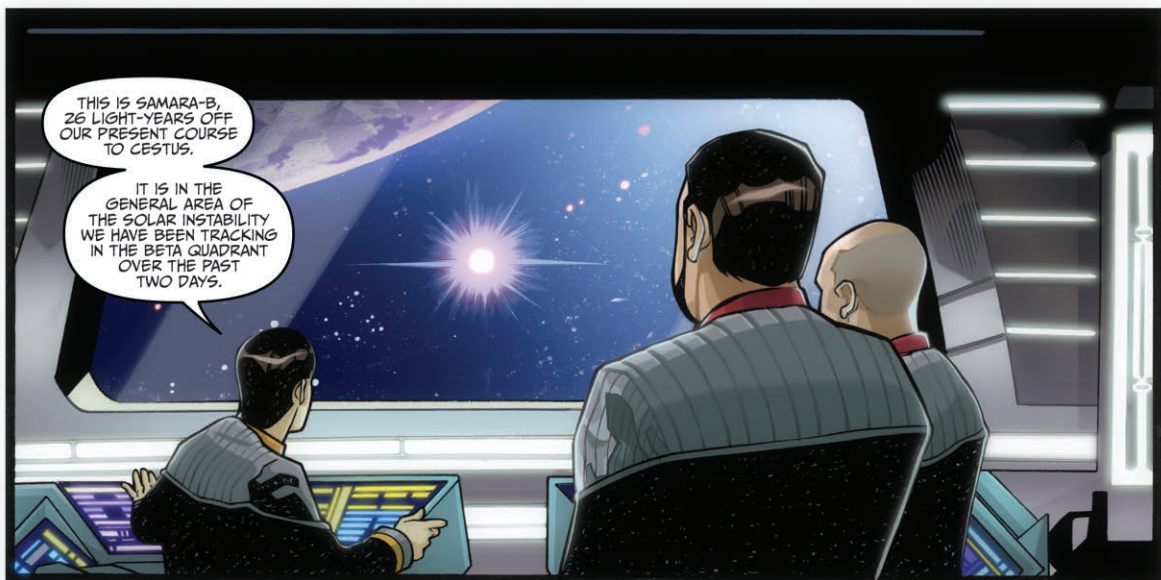
IS THAT GOING TO
BE ENOUGH TIME? DO WE
HAVE ENOUGH CAPACITY
ON THE RESCUE
SHIPS?

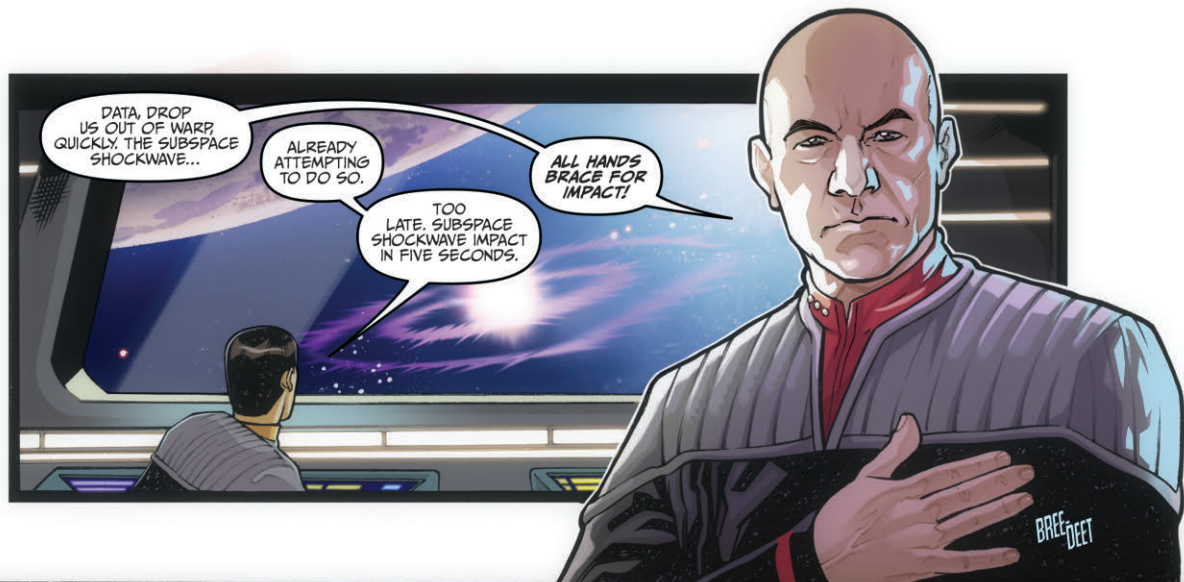
UNFORTUNATELY,
WHAT WE HAVE DEPLOYED
CURRENTLY WILL BE
INSUFFICIENT. I HAVE INFORMED
STARFLEET COMMAND, AND
THEY HAVE ALSO DIRECTED
THE MAGELLAN AND THE
MADRID TO CESTUS III.

THEY ARE
ALSO MODIFYING THE
ENGINES OF A CRUISE
SHIP, THE FORTALEZA,
TO SUPPORT HIGH WARP
SPEEDS, BUT IT IS
UNCERTAIN IF THIS CAN
BE COMPLETED
IN TIME.



BUT THERE
IS NOW AN EVEN
MORE PRESSING
MATTER.









"PLANETARY EVACUATION IS SOMETHING WE READ ABOUT, WRITE ABOUT, PREPARE FOR... BUT HOPE WE NEVER EVER HAVE TO ACTUALLY CONDUCT. IT'S AN OPERATIONAL DISASTER CONDUCTED IN HASTE UNDER THE WORST CONDITIONS."

I'M GOING TO CHECK WITH THE COLONY'S MEDICAL CHIEF. I'LL MEET YOU BOTH BACK HERE IN 45 MINUTES!

YES, 45 MINUTES!

THAT'S DEFINITELY *NOT* THE WAY THE SUN SHOULD LOOK, IS IT, DATA?

NO, SIR. THE SUN ON CESTUS III USUALLY LOOKS VERY SIMILAR TO THE SUN ON EARTH.

THE SUN HERE SHOULD NOT BE AT THIS STAGE OF ITS LIFESPAN FOR ANOTHER NINE BILLION YEARS.

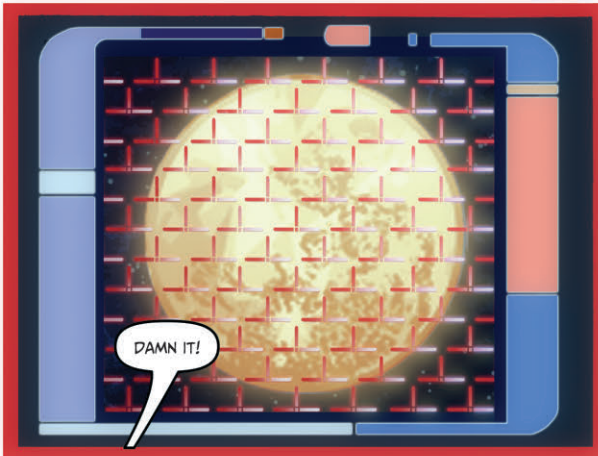
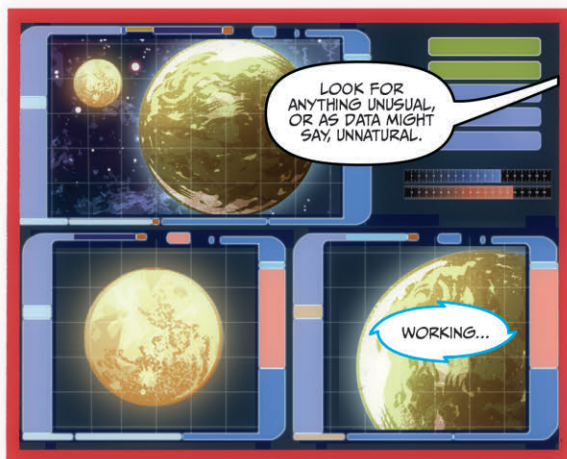
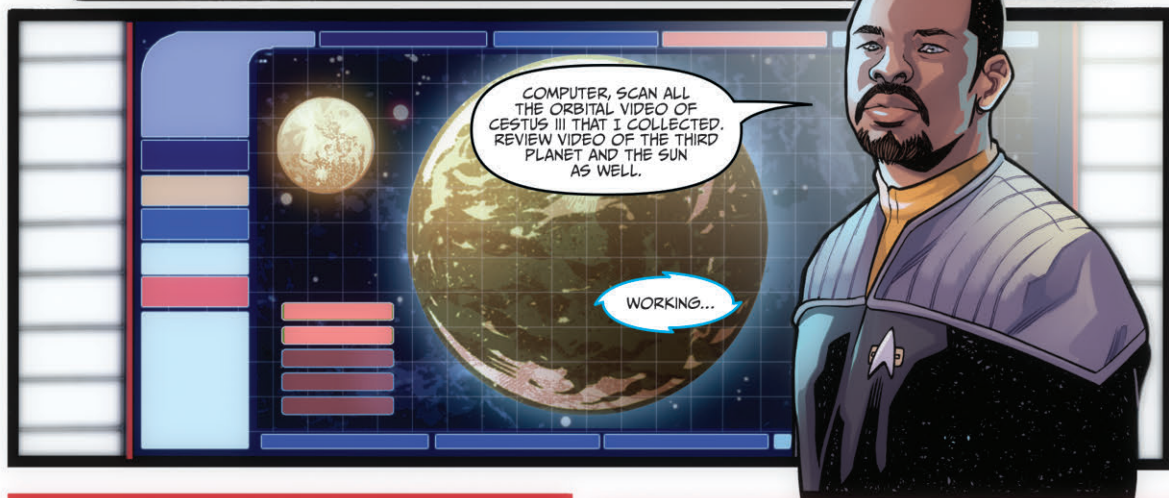
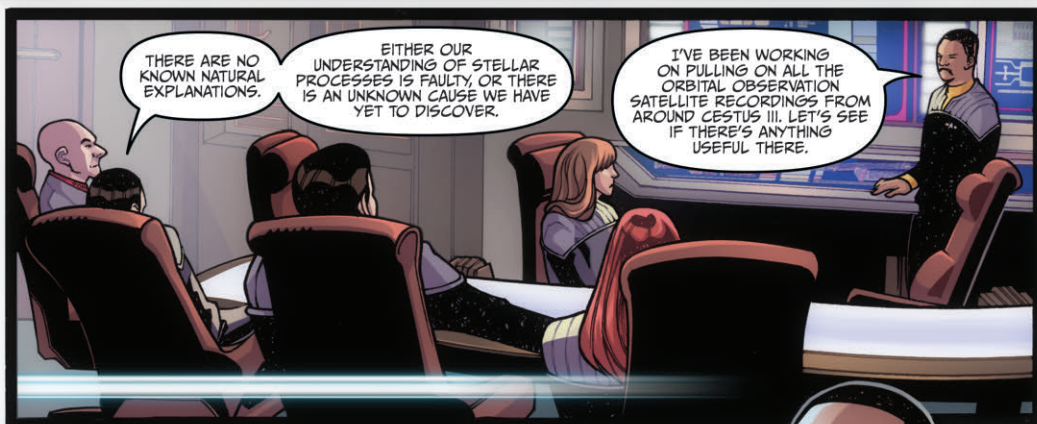
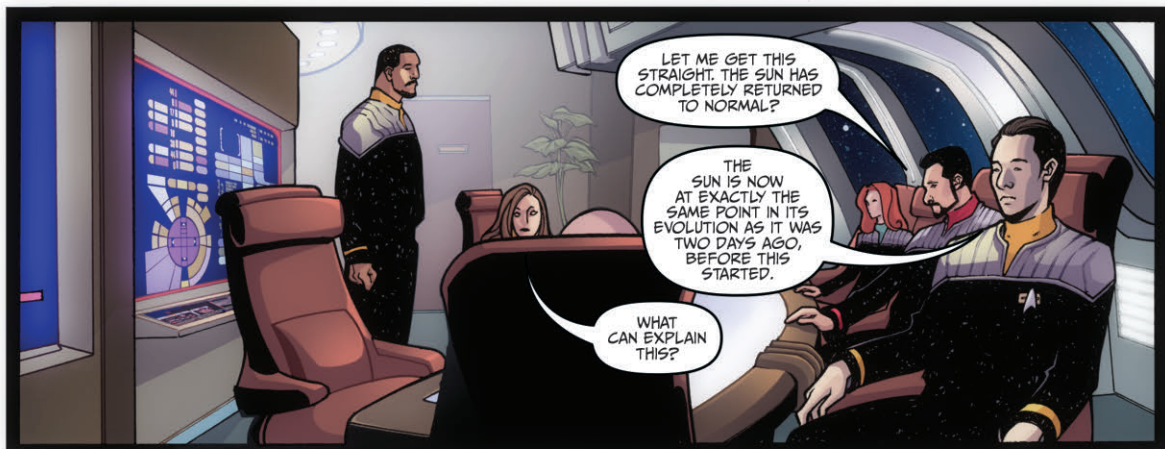
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DATA. WHAT COULD BE CAUSING THIS? IS THIS A NATURAL PHENOMENON WE HAVE NEVER WITNESSED BEFORE?

IT REMAINS UNCLEAR. I CANNOT FIND ANY HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS FOR COMPARISON.

HOW'S IT GOING, LIEUTENANT?

FINE, COMMANDER. THE EQUIPMENT IS HOLDING UP WELL UNDER HEAVY LOADS AND TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS. I'M TRYING TO STAY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE BY —

DATA, WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?





MR. Worf
HAILING
FREQUENCIES
OPEN. ALL
CHANNELS.

AYE, SIR.



Q! I KNOW
THIS IS YOUR
DOING!

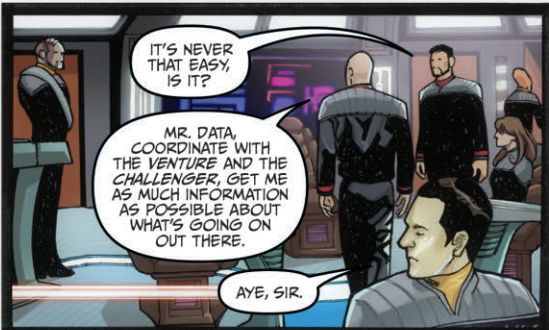


SHOW
YOUR FACE AND
ANSWER FOR THE
DAMAGE YOU'VE
CAUSED!



NO
RESPONSE,
CAPTAIN.

HRM.



IT'S NEVER
THAT EASY,
IS IT?

MR. DATA,
COORDINATE WITH
THE VENTURE AND THE
CHALLENGER, GET ME
AS MUCH INFORMATION
AS POSSIBLE ABOUT
WHAT'S GOING ON
OUT THERE.

AYE, SIR.



WHAT ARE
YOU ON ABOUT
NOW, PICARD?

Q!

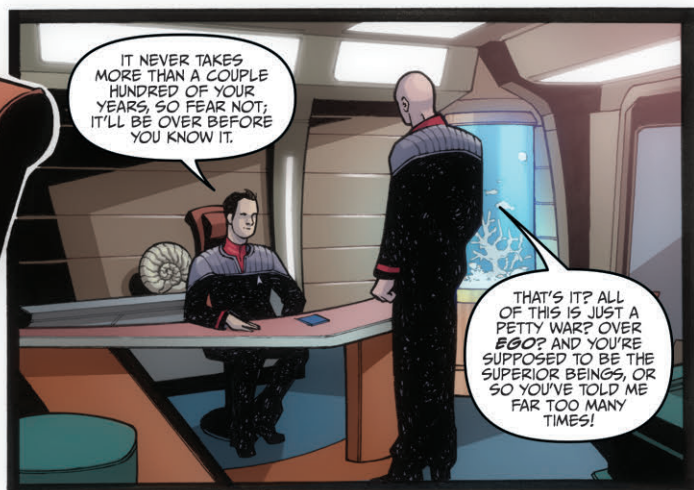


SO, WHATEVER'S
GOING ON HERE IS
YOUR DOING! INNOCENT
LIVES ARE BEING LOST!
ENTIRE STAR SYSTEMS
BEING SNUFFED
OUT!

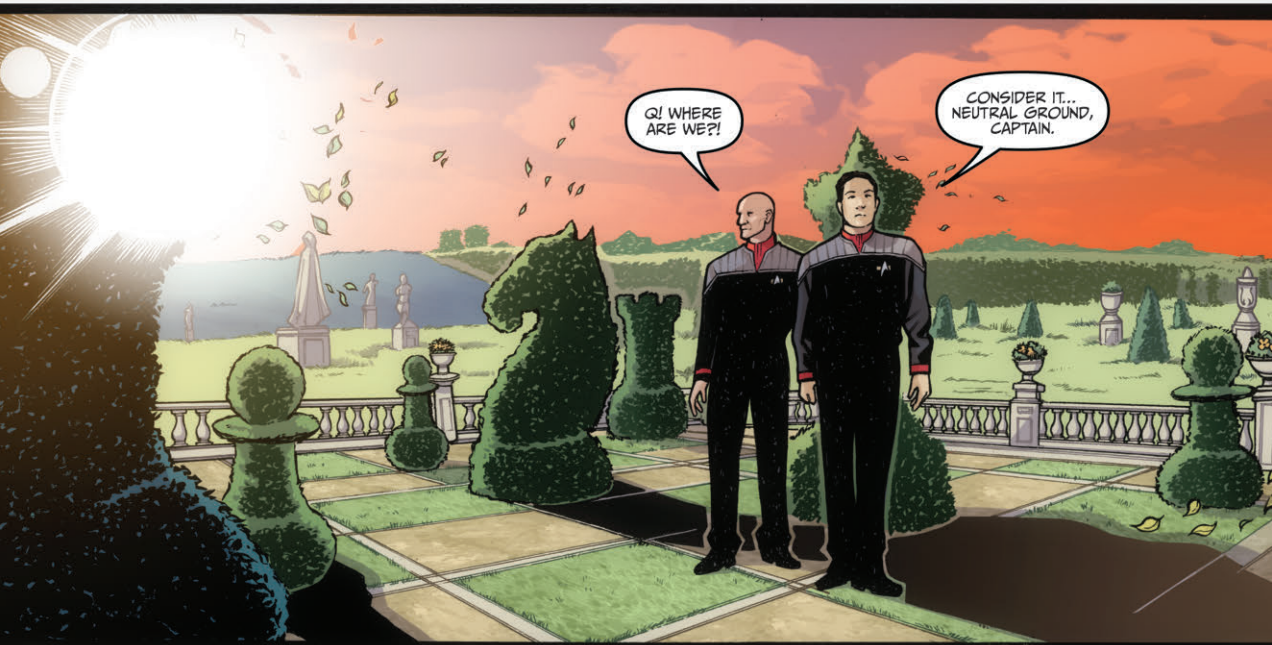


DON'T YOU
LECTURE ME,
PICARD.

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT'S
TRANSPIRING BEYOND
YOUR FEEBLE PLANE
OF EXISTENCE.

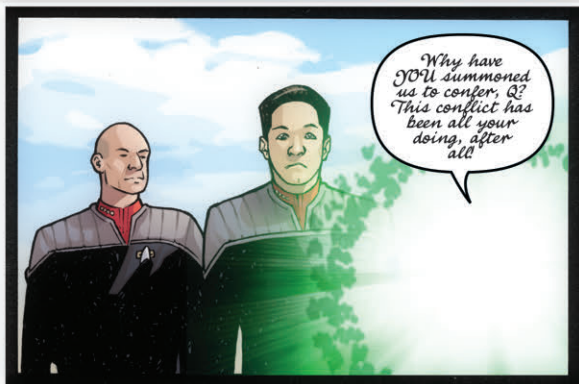


FWASH!

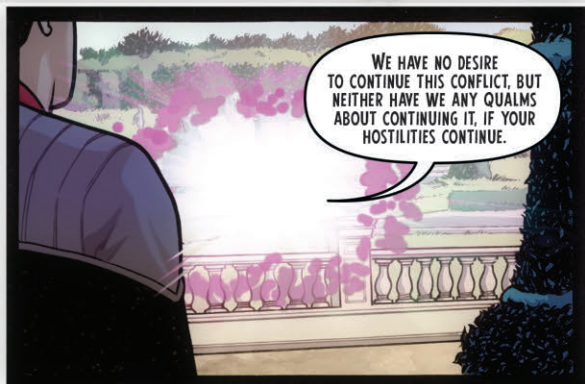


Q! WHERE ARE WE?!

CONSIDER IT... NEUTRAL GROUND, CAPTAIN.



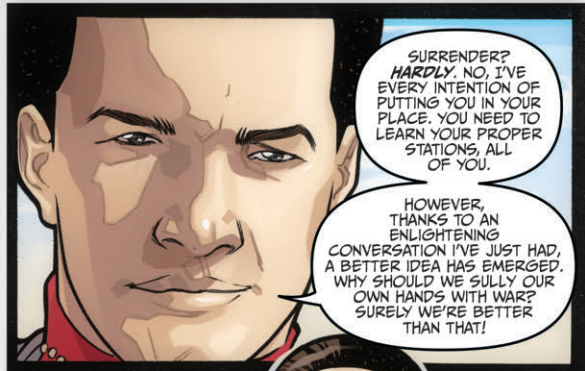
Why have you summoned us to confer, Q? This conflict has been all your doing, after all.



WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO CONTINUE THIS CONFLICT, BUT NEITHER HAVE WE ANY QUALMS ABOUT CONTINUING IT, IF YOUR HOSTILITIES CONTINUE.



IF YOU WISH TO SURRENDER, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO CEASE HOSTILITIES.



SURRENDER? **HARDLY.** NO, I'VE EVERY INTENTION OF PUTTING YOU IN YOUR PLACE. YOU NEED TO LEARN YOUR PROPER STATIONS, ALL OF YOU.

HOWEVER, THANKS TO AN ENLIGHTENING CONVERSATION I'VE JUST HAD, A BETTER IDEA HAS EMERGED. WHY SHOULD WE SULLY OUR OWN HANDS WITH WAR? SURELY WE'RE BETTER THAN THAT!



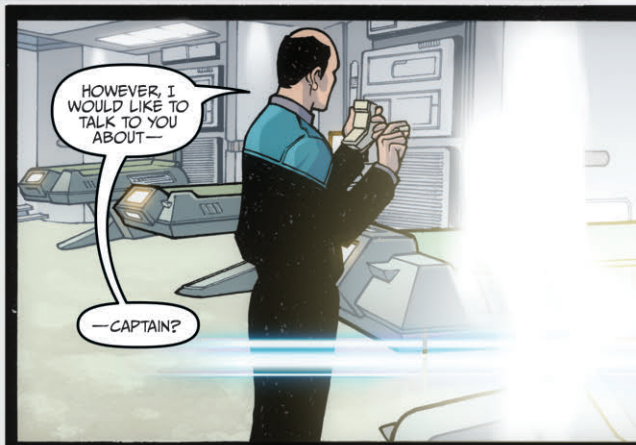
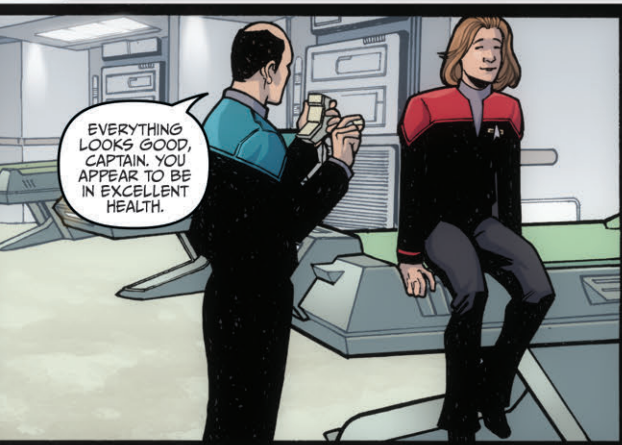
YOU NO DOUBT RECOGNIZE WHAT STANDS BEFORE YOU: HUMANITY, AS ABLY REPRESENTED BY THE GOOD CAPTAIN JEAN-LUC PICARD, OR SO HE CLAIMS.

THEY HAVE SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NOISE GENERATED BY OUR DISAGREEMENTS, AND SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD BE "ABOVE THAT" SOMEHOW.

ALL OF YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED THEM AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER—WHY NOT LET HUMANITY SOLVE OUR CONFLICT FOR US?



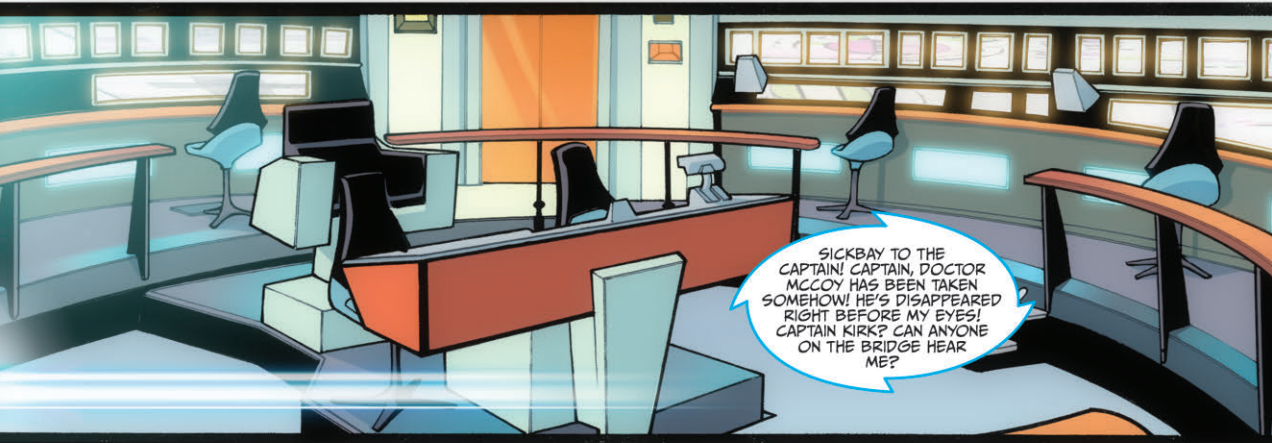
TWO YEARS EARLIER...



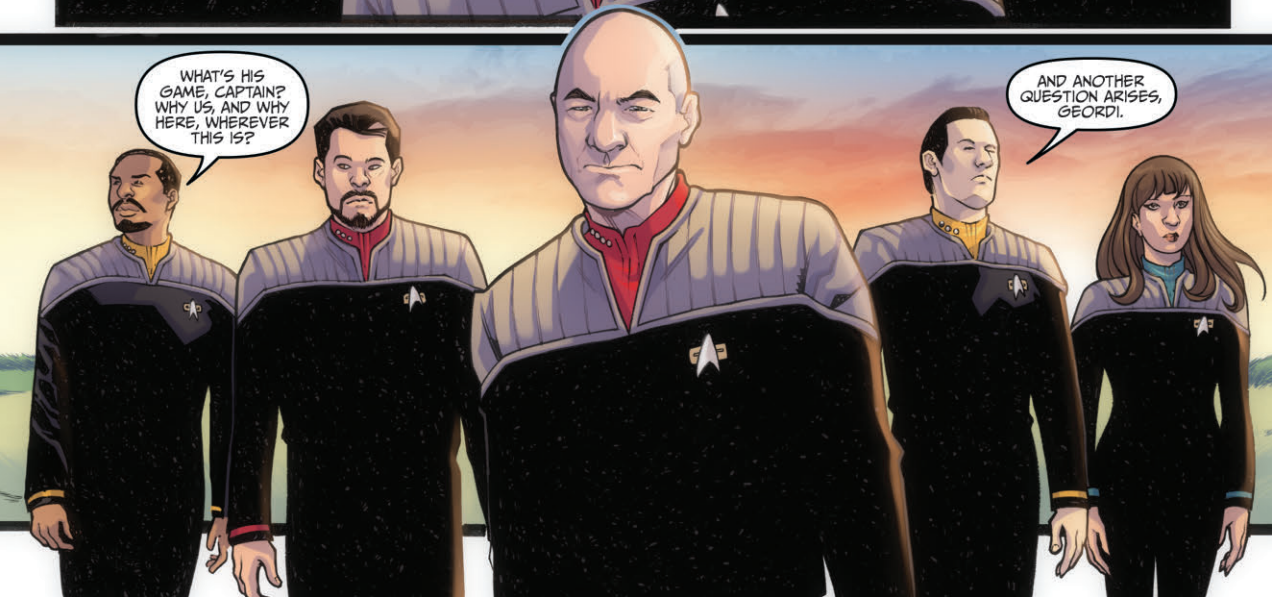
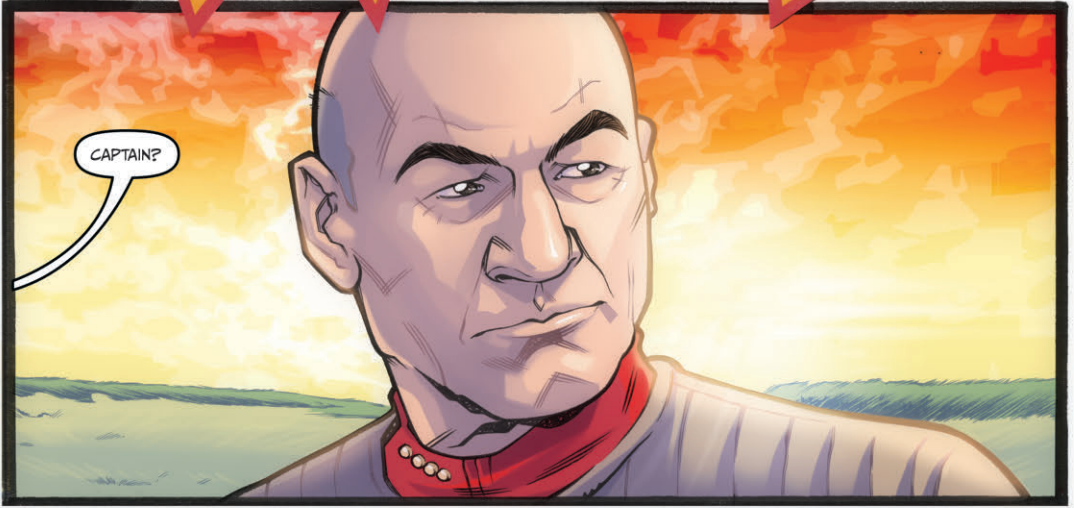
EIGHT YEARS EARLIER...



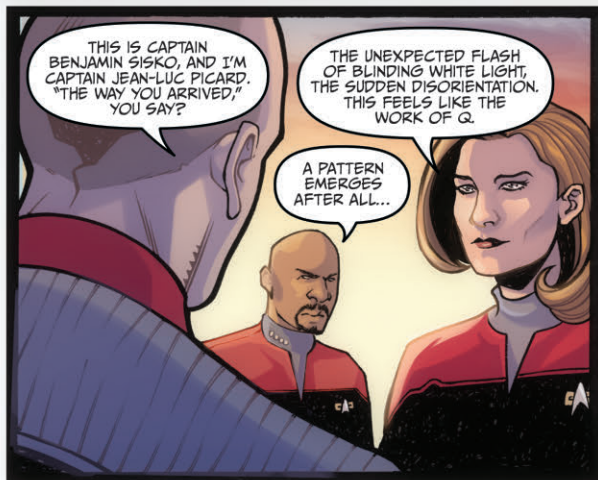
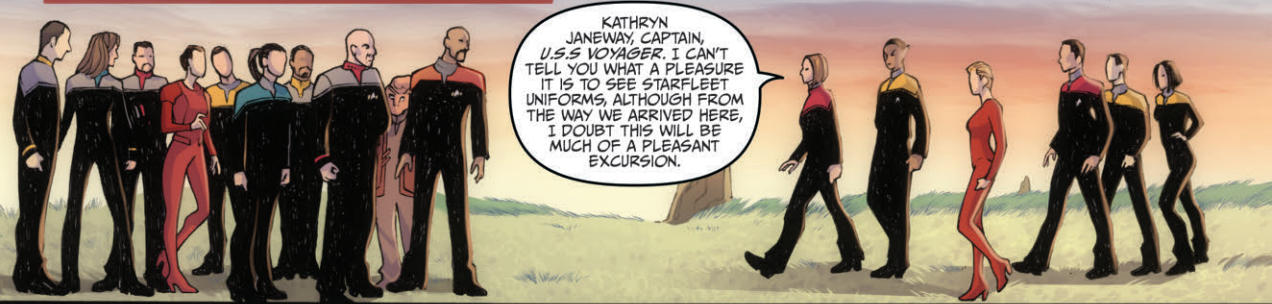
110 YEARS EARLIER...




FWASH!












HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN! YOU MAY THANK THE GOOD CAPTAIN PICARD FOR PROMPTING THIS GATHERING. HE *INSISTED* THAT THE CURRENT CONFLICT AMONG MY CONTEMPORARIES AND I WAS EASILY SOLVED, SO WE DECIDED TO LET HUMANITY SOLVE IT FOR US!

MY DEAR **CAPTAIN JANEWAY**, YOU'LL BE REPRESENTING THE METRONS, WHO INTERCEDED BETWEEN YOUR FEDERATION AND THE GORN CONFEDERACY RIGHT HERE ON CESTUS III CENTURIES AGO. DO NOT BE FOOLED BY HIS YOUTHFUL APPEARANCE, AS HE'LL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SOME WISDOM TO SHARE!

CAPTAIN JAMES TIBERIUS KIRK! HOW WONDERFUL TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE! YOUR PARTICIPATION WAS ABSOLUTELY *INSISTED* ON BY THIS GENTLEMAN I BELIEVE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH: TRELANE, THE SQUIRE OF GOTHOS!

I WOULD NOT *DREAM* OF PLAYING WITHOUT MY MOST ACCOMPLISHED OPPONENT AT MY HAND, CAPTAIN. YOU SHOULD BE HONORED!



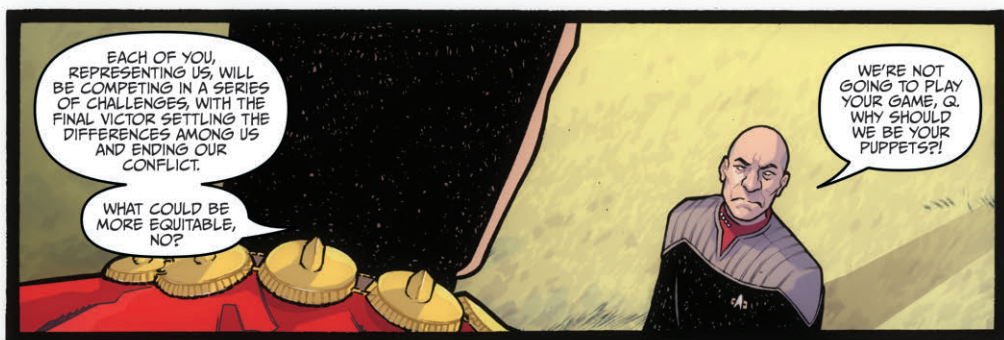
WITH YOUR
INDULGENCE, MY
ADVERSARIES AND I HAVE
ALREADY CHOSEN OUR
REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
UPCOMING GAMES. YET
INTRODUCTIONS MUST
BE MADE!

MON CAPITAINE! OF
COURSE, I WOULD HAVE NO
ONE BUT THE GREAT **JEAN-LUC
PICARD** REPRESENTING THE
INTEREST OF THE Q IN
THIS CLASH.

AND DON'T THINK
I'VE FORGOTTEN YOU,
COMMANDER SIKO, MY
CONTENTIOUS COMPATRIOT. YOU
AND YOUR GALLANT CREW WILL BE
COMPETING FOR THE GLORY OF
THE ORGANIANS, AS REPRESENTED
BY THE EVER SO EBULLIENT
AYELBORNE HERE.

IT'S
**CAPTAIN
SIKO**.

WELL,
CONGRATULATIONS!
IT'S ABOUT TIME.



LET US BEGIN TO CHOOSE THE REST OF OUR TEAMS. WHO WOULD LIKE TO PICK FIRST?



TO BE CONTINUED...

OPEN CHANNELS

Welcome, dear readers, to a brand new year AND a brand new edition of "Open Channels." I hope that your holiday seasons were filled with good will and great times and that your 2019 is looking bright – I know it is for *Star Trek* here at IDW, and there are some big things that I'm excited to share with you, starting with three amazing *Trek* books!



First, prepare yourselves for the biggest *Trek* crossover ever as worlds collide in *Star Trek: The Q Conflict* #1, written by Scott & David Tipton with art by David Messina. When a dispute between godlike beings threatens the galaxy, it will take all of Starfleet's best captains to stop them. Join James T. Kirk, Jean-Luc Picard, Kathryn Janeway, and Benjamin Sisko as they go head-to-head in a competition that will determine the fate of the Earth and beyond in this soon-to-be-classic 6-part miniseries.



Next, we've got *Star Trek vs. Transformers* #5, written by Mike Johnson & John Barber with art by the amazing Mr. Philip Murphy and colors by Josh Burcham. As the Klingon-Decepticon alliance prepares to wipe out their enemies once and for all, Kirk and the Autobots make one

last desperate bid to merge Cybertronian technology with Starfleet ingenuity in the stunning conclusion to this Saturday morning mashup.


And finally, as a part of IDW Publishing's 20 year anniversary celebration, we're thrilled to present *Star Trek: IDW 20/20*, written by legendary *Trek* scribe Peter David and fully painted by fan-favorite artist J.K. Woodward! Set 20 years before the events of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, Jean-Luc Picard (and his glorious head of hair) leads the crew of the *U.S.S. Stargazer* on a very sensitive mission that will change his life forever. Don't miss it!



For our first column of the year, I'd like to introduce you all to the newest member of our *Star Trek* (and IDW's) editorial team – editorial assistant Anni Perheentupa! Anni is a longtime *Star Trek* fan with an almost encyclopedic knowledge of *Trek* continuity and a great eye for details who comes to us all the way from Finland. She's been hugely helpful in making these books the best they can be, and we're excited to have her on the crew. Since her desk is pretty close to mine, it was mad easy to catch up with her and ask her a few questions! Enjoy.

1. When did you first become a Star Trek fan?

I was maybe ten or eleven when I started watching TOS because its reruns aired on TV right before an anime I was a fan of. At first I didn't pay that much attention to it, because it was in English (a foreign language to me at the time) and there was so much talking, but I caught glimpses here and there that I thought were fascinating. Soon enough, I was



watching it for real. I was hooked from then on. A year or two later, I had hooked the rest of my family as well, and we owned all the movies and several DVD box sets.

2. What has been your favorite part about joining the Star Trek team at IDW? Anything that's been particularly surprising to you so far?

Working on Waypoint is easily my favorite part. It's so great to see all the fascinating things creators come up with when you give them the freedom to explore some of the less focal characters and aspects of the Star Trek universe. I also love seeing the covers as they come in. We have some really great artists working on this stuff.

I don't think there have been any huge surprises, although I've been very glad to find out how much everyone here enjoys working on the Star Trek comics!

3. Who would you say is your favorite Star Trek character and why?

Talk about difficult questions... If I have to narrow it down to just two, I think I have to pick Captain Janeway and Commander Data. I always liked Janeway for the way in which she manages to be both a captain and a scientist, with endless curiosity but a firm sense of priorities. She is easily my favorite captain across all of Star Trek, so I have to give her a spot in my favorites. As for Data... Well, there is just something very endearing about his endless quest to learn what he is and what he wants to be. How can you say no to an android with a pet cat? I honestly can't pick who I like better, Janeway or Data.

4. Finally, if you could join one of the Star Trek crews, which one would it be? The original series, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, Voyager, Enterprise, the Kelvin timeline from the movies, or Discovery?

Voyager is honestly probably the worst option out of these, but I have to pick it anyway. The Voyager crew is the closest my heart, and there's just something oddly exciting about being stranded so far away from home and having to fight your way back across thousands and thousands of light years. I would absolutely be a science officer – exobiology, or maybe astrometrics – so think of all the discoveries I could make in the Delta Quadrant!

As we move forward into the year, I'd like to expand the scope of this column to include more about what we do here, from art progress images and behind-the-scenes details to interesting anecdotes from the frontlines of working at a comic company. If there's something in particular that you're curious about or would like to see, please tweet me @thrilltothechase, or beam us a letter over to letters@idwpublishing.com.

I can't wait to tell you more about what's coming up as we move into 2019, but I can tell you we're going to have a lot of fun.

See you next month!

Chase Marotz
Editor



IDW

#35

**JOHNSON
SHASTEEN**

STAR TREK

THE Q GAMBIT

1 2 3 4 5 6



FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME SERIES YOU MAY LIKE...

STAR TREK

THE Q GAMBIT 1-2-3-4-5



CAPT. JAMES T. KIRK
COMMANDER, *U.S.S. ENTERPRISE*
BORN 2233 ABOARD *U.S.S. KELVIN* SHUTTLE 37.



LT. COMMANDER SPOCK
FIRST OFFICER
BORN 2230 ON VULCAN.



LT. NYOTA UHURA
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
BORN 2233 IN KITUI, KENYA, EARTH.



LT. HIKARU SULU
HELMSMAN
BORN 2237 IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, EARTH.



LT. PAVEL CHEKOV
NAVIGATOR
BORN 2241 IN TAGANROG, RUSSIA, EARTH.

PREVIOUSLY IN STAR TREK...

Following the events of *STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS*, the *U.S.S. ENTERPRISE* has embarked on a new FIVE-YEAR MISSION of discovery. En route to the unexplored star system MENZIES 216, Captain Kirk and his crew are about to encounter a new challenge for which nothing they have experienced thus far could possibly prepare them...

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MIKE JOHNSON

ART BY
TONY SHASTEEN

STORY CONSULTANT
ROBERTO ORCI

LETTERS BY
NEIL UYETAKE

EDITS BY
SARAH GAYDOS

STAR TREK created by Gene Roddenberry
Special thanks to Risa Kessler and John Van Citters of CBS Consumer Products for their invaluable assistance

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SPOCK SAVED US ALL.



MY OLD FRIEND
SACRIFICED HIMSELF
TO DESTROY THE
MAELSTROM THAT
HAD ALREADY WIPED
OUT THE ROMULAN
EMPIRE AND WAS
NOW THREATENING
THE FEDERATION.



NERO GAVE CHASE, BENT ON
MISGUIDED REVENGE AFTER
THE DEATH OF HIS PEOPLE.

BUT HE WAS TOO LATE.



NERO DISAPPEARED WITH
SPOCK AS THE MAELSTROM
COLLAPSED IN UPON ITSELF.

THE THREAT WAS AVERTED.

ALL THAT IS LEFT IS TO THANK
SPOCK FOR HIS SACRIFICE...



...AND TO MOURN HIM.

TEA.
EARL GREY.
HOT.



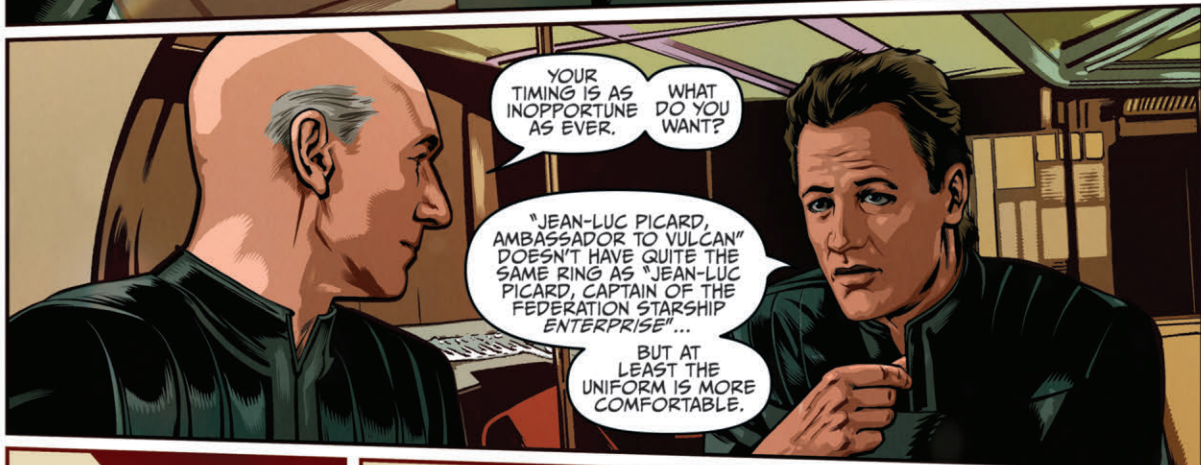
WOULD IT
KILL YOU TO TRY
CHAMOMILE
FOR ONCE?





Q.

JEAN-LUC.
IT'S BEEN
TOO LONG.



YOUR
TIMING IS AS
INOPPORTUNE
AS EVER.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

"JEAN-LUC PICARD,
AMBASSADOR TO VULCAN"
DOESN'T HAVE QUITE THE
SAME RING AS "JEAN-LUC
PICARD, CAPTAIN OF THE
FEDERATION STARSHIP
ENTERPRISE" ...

BUT AT
LEAST THE
UNIFORM IS MORE
COMFORTABLE.



TELL ME,
DOES IT HURT THE
LEGENDARY PICARD
PRIDE TO BE A GUEST
ON THE SHIP YOU ONCE
COMMANDED?

AND TO SEE
THE ANDROID
RUNNING THINGS
NOW?



CAPTAIN DATA IS
AS FINE A CAPTAIN
AS I HAVE EVER
KNOWN.

I ASK YOU
AGAIN, Q.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



I'M HERE TO
TALK ABOUT
SPOCK.



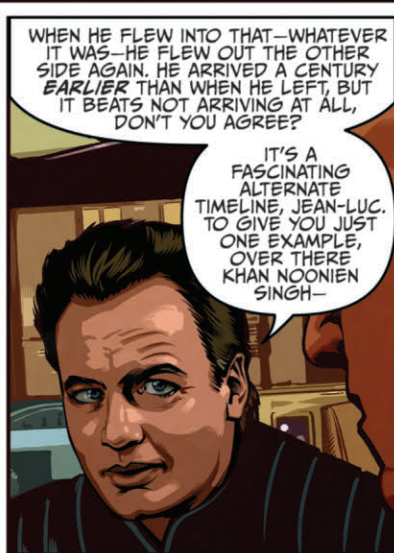
I'VE NO PATIENCE FOR ANOTHER OF YOUR GAMES, Q. NOT HERE. NOT NOW.

NO GAMES, JEAN-LUC, I PROMISE YOU. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN.



SPOCK LIVES.

...WHAT?



WHEN HE FLEW INTO THAT—WHATEVER IT WAS—HE FLEW OUT THE OTHER SIDE AGAIN. HE ARRIVED A CENTURY *EARLIER* THAN WHEN HE LEFT, BUT IT BEATS NOT ARRIVING AT ALL, DON'T YOU AGREE?

IT'S A FASCINATING ALTERNATE TIMELINE, JEAN-LUC. TO GIVE YOU JUST ONE EXAMPLE, OVER THERE KHAN NOONIEN SINGH—



STOP!

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANY OF IT, Q.



THE EVENTS OF PARALLEL TIMELINES ARE NOT WITTY ANECDOTES TO BE RELATED AS A LARK!

THEY ARE *REAL* EVENTS, HAPPENING TO *REAL PEOPLE*, AS REAL AS YOU OR...

...WELL, AS REAL AS I AM, AT ANY RATE.



IT'S BEST THAT THE INTEGRITY OF EACH TIMELINE BE MAINTAINED.

BEST THAT NONE HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE OTHERS.



FINE.

CLING TO YOUR TRAGICALLY SKULL-ENCASED PERSPECTIVE IF YOU MUST, JEAN-LUC.

I SIMPLY THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT YOUR FRIEND SURVIVED... AND IN RETURN I SOUGHT ONLY YOUR COUNSEL.



MY COUNSEL...?

SPOCK'S JOURNEY TO THAT ALTERNATE TIMELINE SAVED THIS ONE, JEAN-LUC...



...BUT IT TRIGGERED A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT WILL DOOM THAT ONE.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW, AND WOULD WANT TO HELP IF YOU COULD. I WAS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN.

PROMISE ME, Q. PROMISE ME YOU WON'T INTERFERE IN THAT ALTERNATE TIMELINE AS YOU HAVE IN THIS ONE!



OH, I PROMISE.

AS SOON AS YOU PROMISE TO BREATHE ONLY ONE OXYGEN MOLECULE AND NOT THE ALTERNATES SURROUNDING IT.

GOODBYE, FOR NOW.



Q!

NO!

JEAN-LUC...

IDW

#35

**JOHNSON
SHASTEEN**

STAR TREK

THE Q GAMBIT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥



TO BE CONTINUED IN...

STAR TREK #35