

The Man

Bath time?



Illustration 36: Ionization pulled you apart down to your ions.

Aelfric banged on a red fire button, but it was not a fire button, that was too fool people, it was what Posidonius feared worst?

“Bloody hell all die, scumbags, I am Aelfric, Aelfric do you hear.”

“I hear you,” The Man replied and Aelfric hearing lost his composure.

“Die please die, oh please die,” he mumbled and now because he was no longer running and heart pounding could feel his human pain, “God almighty,” he shouted in agony and began to stumble away seeking a tube to exit.

Tubes existed like the pores in an insect allowing the bug to breathe, in this case to escape.

But what about The Man?

There was an explosion, explosion?

*

Now the new supreme commander of Augustus, Po Lee had ordered the invasion

of New Saturn 12.

“My enemy The Man was not there when this decision was taken, he was on Planet Rhegid so I was told?”

“Why must I come too, I will be in danger Po Lee?” Augustus had asked.

“You will not be in the battle but merely observing from a safe distance. Your presence will inspire your men to be brave and may I suggest you double all pay for combatants and the promise of New Saturn 12 will not be under military law for a week,” Po Lee replied bowing.

“But that will mean the soldiers will rob me of everything valuable, they will loot the city clean,” Augustus annoyed.

“But you want to inspire them to fight don’t you my emperor, what will be gained, The Man’s home base, just a psychological blow and what will be lost, we are losing anyway,” Po Lee was brave to remind Augustus of this fact.

SILENCE.

“Fail and I will crucify you, understand Po Lee?”

“I understand,” and Po Lee planned to live, he wasn’t going to be executed for the likes of Augustus; already a fast schooner was loaded with bounty and would accompany the fleet as his personal comforter. Yes the ship would give the appearance of being full of Madam Butterfly Chou’s girls, but was his escape route into uncharted Alien Land.

*

And there was an explosion as an imperial missile hit the house of Aelfric by chance, one in a thousand probabilities and the corridor was ripped open and fresh air came in and nerve gas went out into the street.

There was also another small explosion muffled by the bigger, for The Man had

used plastic explosive to blow the door open.

“Bugger him, he’s gone,” he said viewing an empty room.

“He will lead us to him?” It was Zagor Blue skin and he was holding Posidonus up by his hair knot again. It was obvious the evil Posidonus was suffering discomfort.

And he pointed to a wing of the house and they went throwing caution to the wind, the FAMOUS 5 where here and had Posidonus stuck out in front full of FEAR.

“There he is?” Hairless one of the FAMOUS 5 for on a ledge five floors above was the robot still holding Wilhelmina upside down. Seeing his enemies and fearing he might not be able to escape in his tube he was trying to get in, he held Wilhelmina out over the ledge.

He got his way, all stopped.

But The Man was now absent, his planet was under attack, he had to defend it, the FAMOUS 5 here was more than capable of rescuing her.

And he left Tintagel and Nesta to make sure humanity and not mutant urges came first where Wilhelmina was concerned.

Now would the FAMOUS 5 have stopped if Tintagel had not restrained them?

And none knew at the time The Man had left but now Tintagel was informed and he knew Wilhelmina must not fall into the hands of imperial troops as that would be a disastrous blow. Her presence would raise the enemy’s moral and she would lead them to possible victory.

*

An hour later:

Much can happen in an hour especially when attacking The Man for Po Lee rained destruction upon New Saturn 12, but not as much as he would have liked, for having

broken the code for the defense energy shield meant to excite the atoms in a missiles head so it would explode, he thought the planet exposed.

But it was not, his ships had been painted in ion paint so they would merge into the ions of anti gravity and gravity lines that made up space so his ships were undetected.

But he was fighting The Man.

Ion reassemble machines existed here, so large for Tintagel had invested wisely and when the machines were activated many of Po Lee's ships were never seen again.

To where they were sent no one knows, and it is a secret whether The Man, he who used super market plastic bags with this message, 'Send more,' reassembled them at the other end?

Only you can guess, he was a dictator.

"What is happening?" Augustus asked, the ship he was in was breaking up.

"I don't know," Po Lee thinking of his schooner.

In fact the ship was being pulled apart by electromagnetism that Maxwell eons ago in Edinburgh had discovered. You see a lot can happen in an hour; this was New Saturn 12 not Hope where children once lived?

And Augustus fled his ship and entered a lifeboat, much as The Master Priest had used long ago but it too was breaking up.

"Every man for himself," someone shouted and he was no longer an emperor, but someone in the way as all fought to get in a tube.

"I am your emperor, Po Lee tell them."

But Po Lee was gone; he was heading for a schooner anchored just outside of the fleet.

“What the?” Augustus as he was pushed into a tube as parts of a sailor hit him, not from an enemy weapon, but from the melee in front of him as all fought to get into a tube.

And as Augustus lay heavily down the tube automatically closed and exited into space.

He had never really been this close to the stars and he was terrified. He was alone; my he could reach up and pluck a star. All about him was silence and he felt he was buried alive in a coffin and FEARING death because he was The Crucifier he began to scream to be let out.

Silly man, let out into what?

And he had no idea how to operate a tube which automatically headed to the nearest inhabited world; New Saturn 12.

Well, what goes round comes round!

But it had not come round to Aelfric who found as he moved away from the ledge those below advanced.

But he knew he needed an exit tube fast.

But he knew if he let go of Wilhelmina those FAMOUS 5 mutants did be upon him in seconds for they were better bionics than him.

But he knew The Man would be back some time, the sounds of battle seemed to be fading.

But he knew some idiot had attacked New Saturn 12 and been ionized.

But he knew Wilhelmina must come with him in the exit tube.

But how?

He moved away from the ledge.

He heard them coming up the stairwell.

He knew he had too hurry.

He thought he heard “My prize, give me my prize,” ‘bloody idiot’ he thought and hurried away.

He gave vermin a bad name like the black rat in the ventilation shaft above hating him for he had brought disturbance to its life for it wanted out to roam the kitchen for scraps and big fat tasty juicy roaches that spread disease because they could eat through concrete and get to your essentials.

*

And outside many exit tubes began to land on New Saturn 12, many hitting the city domes and slid down it into no man’s land where the air was full of green polluted gases.

And many went through the holes where missiles had hit the domes and landed on the streets amongst spectators now that the attack was over.

And the spectators opened the exit tubes and hauled the survivors out and did not give them hot coffee and warm bread and a cozy blanket to wrap themselves in for shock.

Instead they shouted “Imperialist scum?” and tore them apart literally, yes many hands took each appendage such as a foot or hand and pulled while others hit with fists, bricks and wooden laundry poles and tore exposed soft bits.

The killed had brought war, FEAR and death and The Man was busy elsewhere, since victory was assured he handed mopping up operations to his generals for he had business elsewhere did he not?