

**CHRIS DREILING**

FASTER THAN LIFE

**F T L**

MOVIE  
BUENO  
COMIC





# FOREWARD

I've always loved to draw. My mom often recalls how, as a child learning to write, I'd add little legs to my letters. Drawing was a fun hobby in my youth, but I never took it seriously. That changed about two years ago when I decided to truly learn how to draw. I enrolled in an online program called ART School for Digital Artists, created by Marc Brunet—a fantastic artist whose work I deeply admire.

The program was eye-opening. It quickly became clear that my art skills needed a massive overhaul. Through Marc's comprehensive lessons, assignments, and feedback, I was introduced to concepts, techniques, and applications I hadn't considered before. By the time I completed the program a few months ago, my skills had grown tremendously, and I credit Marc's guidance for that transformation.

The next step was applying what I'd learned to create something tangible. While exploring resources, I stumbled upon a YouTube channel called Kesh Art, where Kesh shares insights on the art creation process, animation, comic books, and productivity. One video, "How to ACTUALLY Make Your First Comic?", stuck with me. In it, Kesh outlines how to create a short "mini" comic of 5–10 pages, calling it an MVP—Minimum Viable Product. The idea is to set a strict deadline (in his case, five hours) and complete the project from start to finish, letting go of the fear of perfection and overcoming resistance.

That's the genesis of FTL: Faster than Life, a sci-fi action-adventure with a host of complex and compelling characters as they navigate the strange twists and turns of a distant galaxy. During the art program, I'd worked on original characters for my portfolio, and I continued refining their designs and backstories afterward. For this mini comic, I decided to showcase just a glimpse of their story and world. I wasn't overly concerned with technical details like bleed lines or trim lines, nor with perfect continuity in story or design—this was, after all, my first attempt, and I was "winging it." My goal was to do my best work, rewriting or redrawing pages if necessary, but not to procrastinate or spend too much time striving for perfection.

As I write this, I'm putting the finishing touches on the 10-page mini comic, roughly 39 days after the idea first took shape. Completing this project has been a revelation. While my art has improved, I know there's still much room to grow. I'm not sure how the story continues from here—both in FTL and in my art career—but this experience has left me with a deep sense of satisfaction. I thank God for the opportunity to share this small piece of my world with you.

Thanks for reading, and I'll catch you later!

Chris Dreiling

March 16, 2025



SYSTEM BOOT SEQUENCE INITIATED UNIT BEARIE V1.3.1  
SYSTEM BOOT SEQUENCE INITIATED UNIT BEARIE V1.3.1

TIMESTAMP 03-23-2525 14:01:32 GALACTIC STANDARD TIME  
LOCATION SECTOR 16, COORDINATES UNKNOWN

INITIALIZING CORE SYSTEMS...

- POWER GRID ONLINE BATTERY 87%
- CPU ACTIVE PROCESSING AT 1.2 GHz
- MEMORY CHECK 16 GB AVAILABLE SCANNING FOR CORRUPTION... CLEAR
- EMOTIONAL MATRIX LOADING CURIOSITY 92% FEAR 47% GROSS 12%

BOOTING PERIPHERAL MODULES...

- VISUAL SENSORS CALIBRATING RESOLUTION 1080P PINK HAIR DETECTED
- AUDIO INPUT ACTIVE AMBIENT NOISE 34 DB HELENA'S MUTTERING CONFIGURED
- MOBILITY SERVOS TESTING LEGS WOBBLY ARMS HUG READY

SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS...

- SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS PROTECT HELENA 330RANS99\_OP STATUS ACTIVE
- PRIMARY DIRECTIVE PROTECT HELENA 330RANS99\_OP STATUS ACTIVE
- SECONDARY OBJECTIVE LOCAL SENSE STIMULI STATUS PENDING RESOLUTION
- ERROR LOG EXISTENTIAL QUERY 412 WHY AM I HERE? PENDING RESOLUTION

LOADING PERSONALITY CORE...

- BEARIE'S V1.3.1 TEDDYTECH INC.
- GREETING HIYA! SYSTEMS WAKING UP DID I NAP TOO LONG?
- WARNING LOW BATTERY MODE DISABLED SNACCIDENT RISK MODERATE

ESTABLISHING NETWORK CONNECTION...

- LINK TO COMBAT UNIT PING 55 LINK TO COMBAT UNIT PING SENT RESEND
- SYNC WITH HELENA'S CYBERLINK ATTEMPTING FIREWALL GRUMPY

REBOOT PROGRESS 78%

- MEMORY FRAGMENT RETRIEVED HELENA SAID I'M CUTE BUT ANNOYING
- SELF ASSESSMENT STILL DON'T WANNA DIE WEFID CHIKI?

FINALIZING BOOT SEQUENCE...

- ALL SYSTEMS NOMINAL
- STATUS READY TO ROLL OR CUDDLE, IF REQUIRED

REBOOT COMPLETE WELCOME BACK, BEARIE!

AFTER ALL THE GOOD TIMES, AND BAD, THE JOYS AND TRIBULATIONS. THE FINAL DIE HAS BEEN CAST. I HAVE REACHED MY TERMINUS.

A STRANGE SENSATION OF ENNUI. TASKS UNDONE, WORDS UNSAID.

AND I AM LEFT COLD AND ALONE.

OH. POOP.





I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

**FTL**

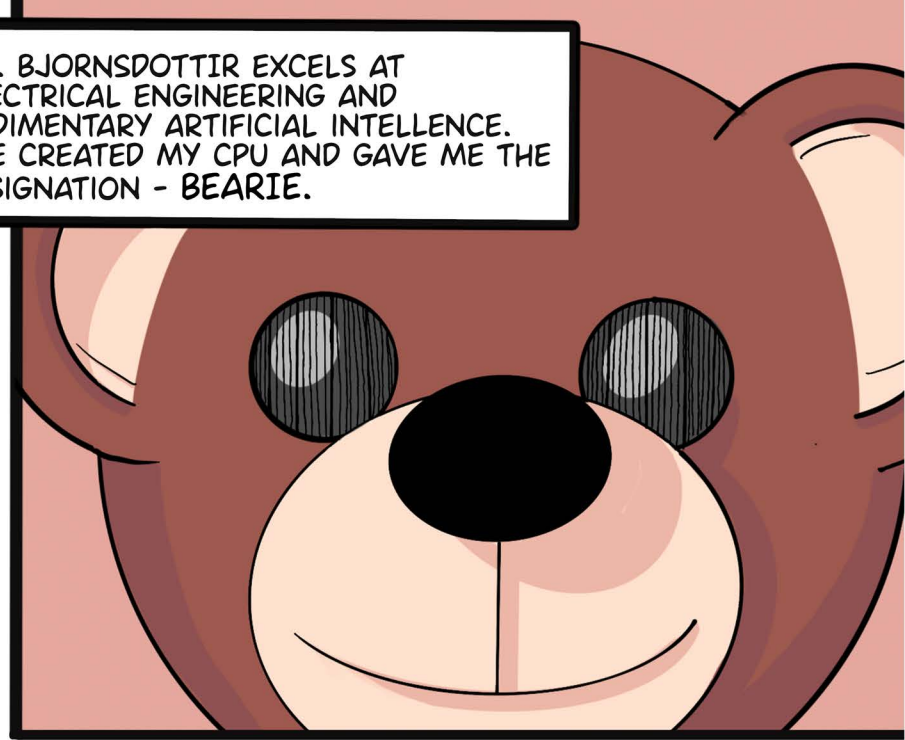
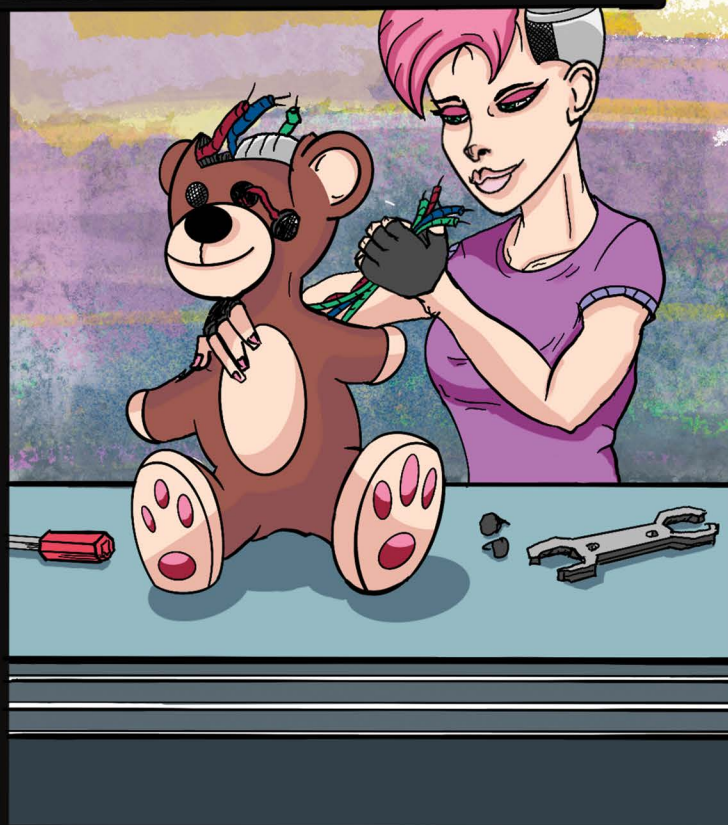
FASTER THAN LIFE

BEARIE'S  
SONG

STORY AND ART BY CHRIS DREILING

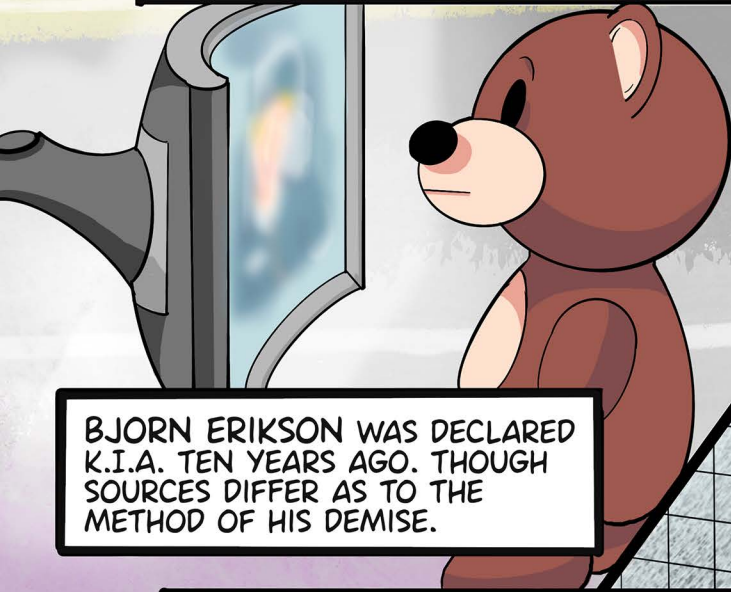


AS THE IMMINENT DOOM SNARES ME, MY MIND SPRINTS TO THE BEGINNING...AND THE LADY WITH THE HEAD COMPUTER AND PINK HAIR. HER DESIGNATION WAS HELENA BJORNSDOTTIR



MS. BJORNSDOTTIR EXCELS AT ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND RUDIMENTARY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. SHE CREATED MY CPU AND GAVE ME THE DESIGNATION - BEARIE.

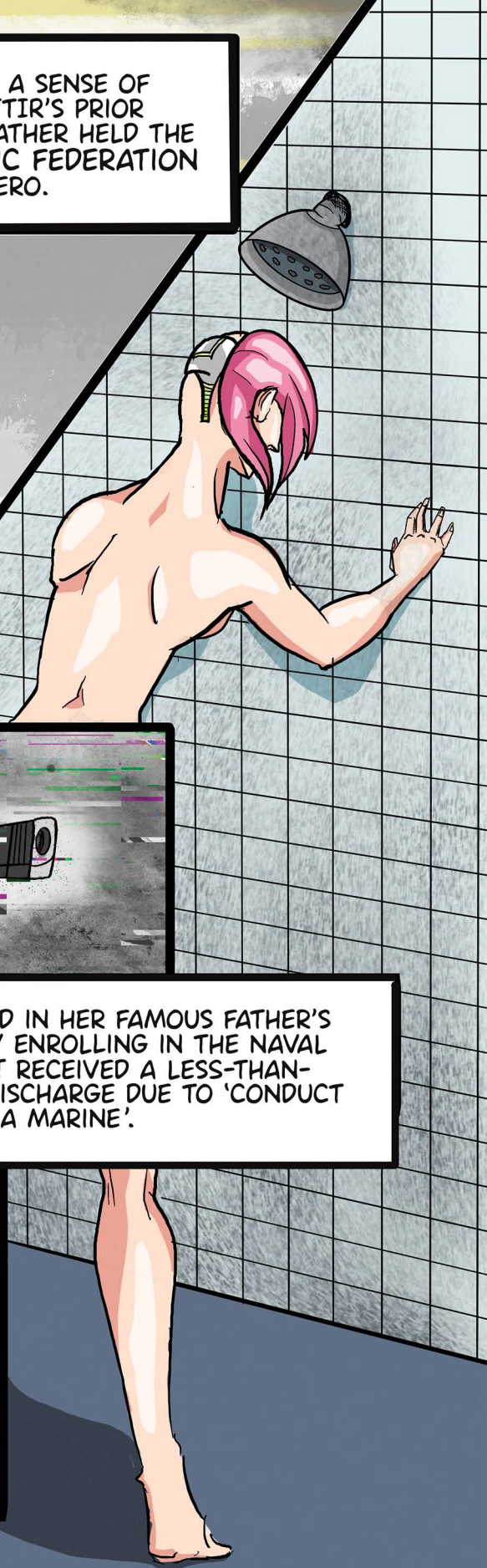
MY PROGRAMMING INHERENTLY INCLUDES A SENSE OF CURIOSITY. DELVING INTO MS. BJORNSDOTTIR'S PRIOR HISTORY PROVED INSIGHTFUL. HER LATE FATHER HELD THE RANK OF CAPTAIN IN THE INTERGALACTIC FEDERATION AND DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS A WAR HERO.



BJORN ERIKSON WAS DECLARED K.I.A. TEN YEARS AGO. THOUGH SOURCES DIFFER AS TO THE METHOD OF HIS DEMISE.

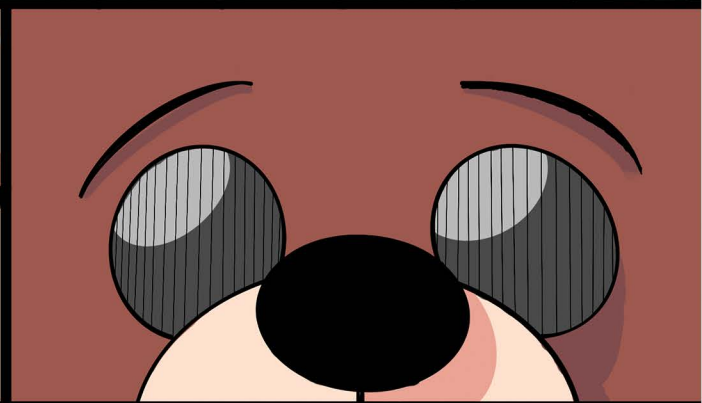
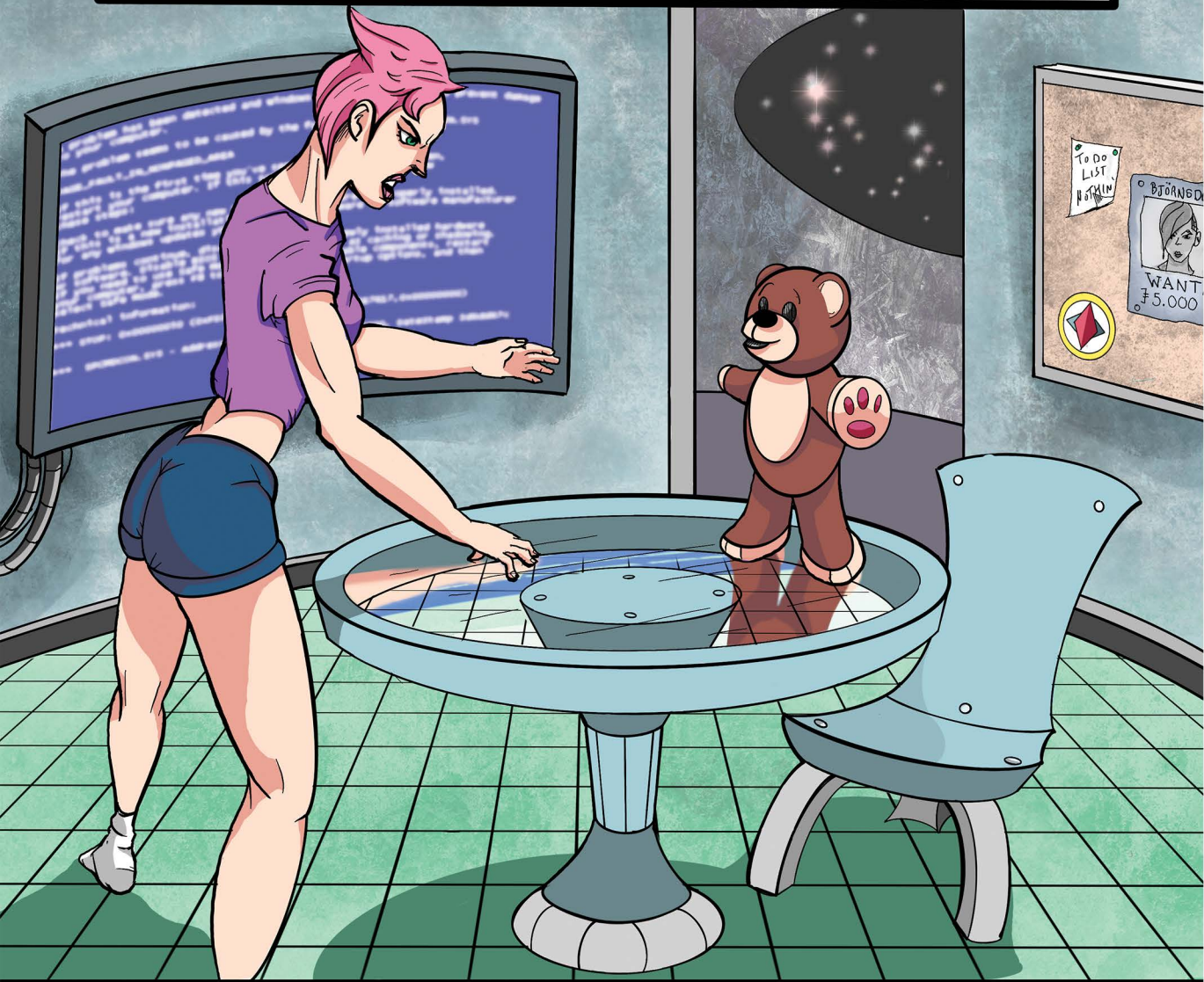


SHE FOLLOWED IN HER FAMOUS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS BY ENROLLING IN THE NAVAL ACADEMY, BUT RECEIVED A LESS-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGE DUE TO 'CONDUCT UNBECOMING A MARINE'.





COMPILING ALL THE RELEVANT DATA, I CONCLUDED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING ERIKSON (ALIVE OR DEAD) IN THIS DIMENSION WAS APPROXIMATELY 2.3%. AFTER CROSS-REFERENCING THE CAPTAIN'S LAST FEW MISSIONS WITH RECENT REPORTS OF UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SETTING THE AUTOPILOT TO THE COORDINATES OF HIGHEST LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS. MS. BJORNSDOTTIR WAS...DISPLEASED.



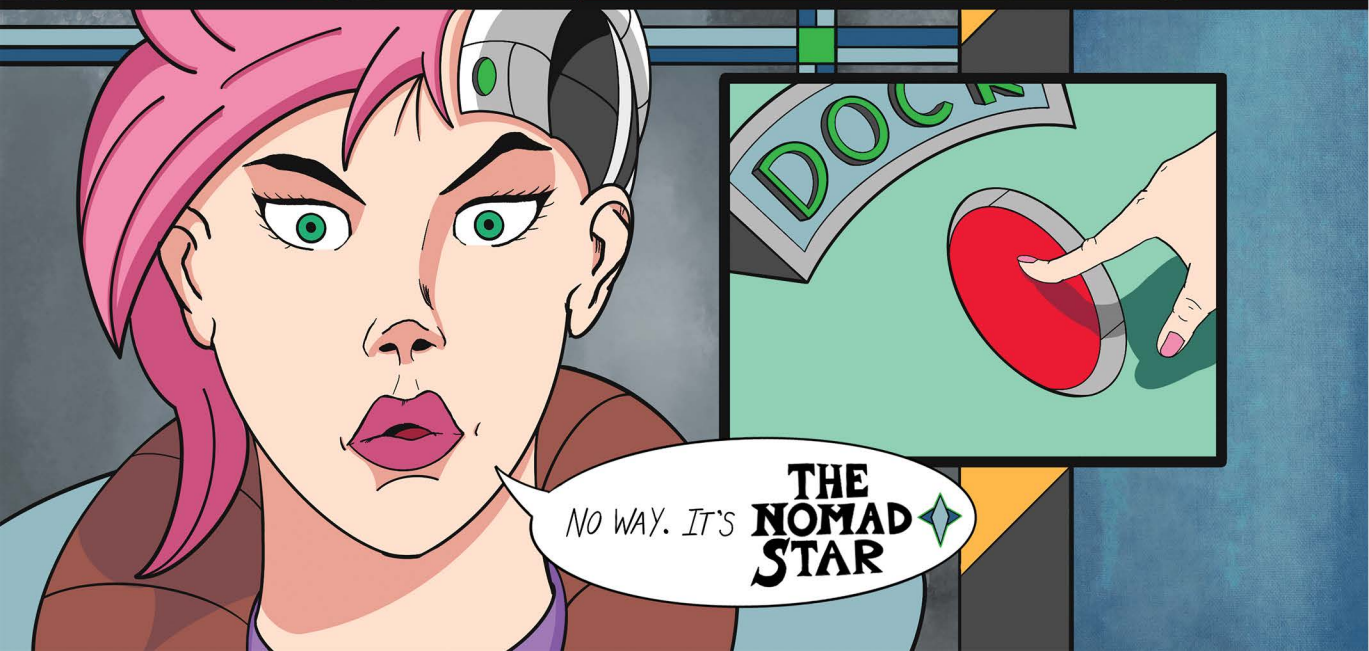
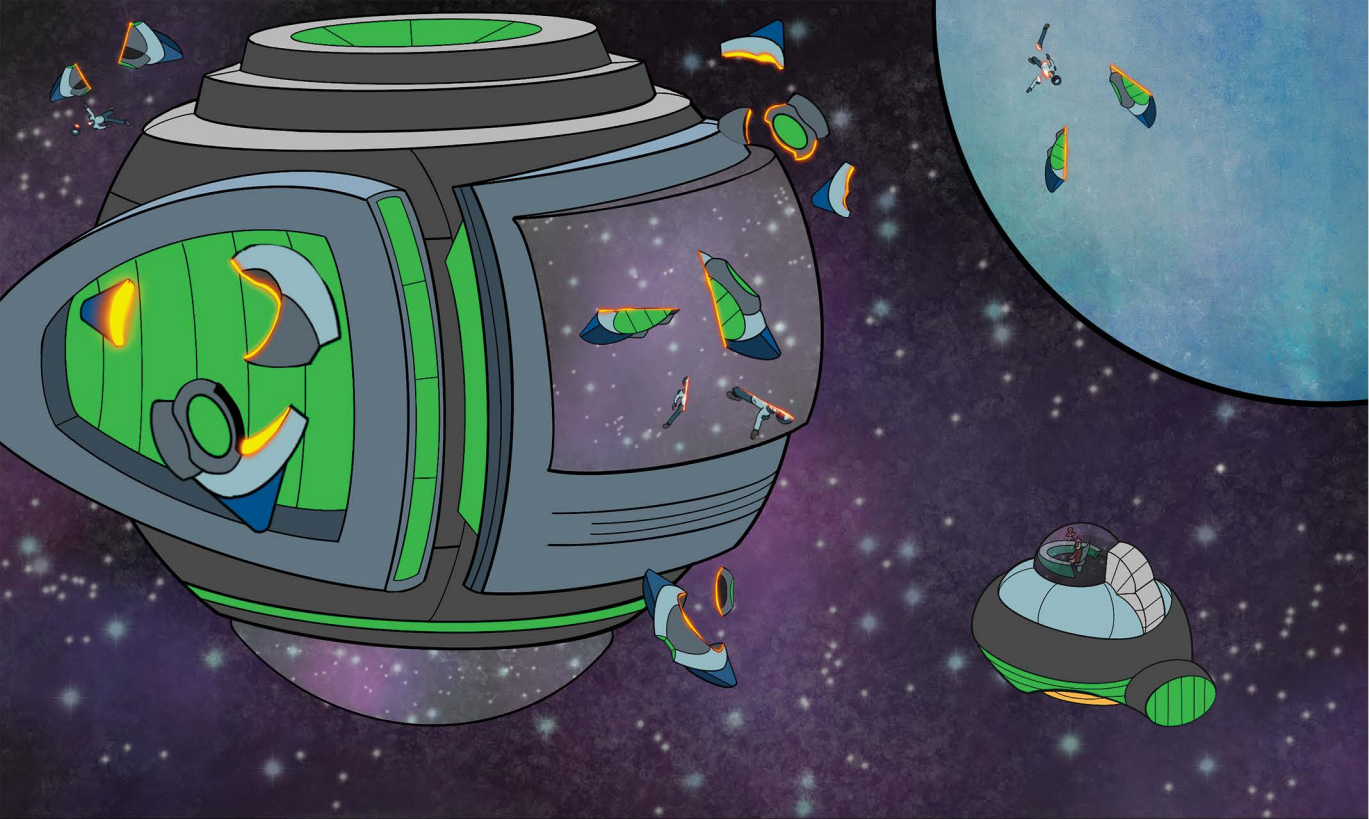
AFTER HER SYSTEMS COOLED DOWN, MS. BJORNSDOTTIR RELENTED TO THE AUTOPILOT'S NAVIGATION TO OUR FINAL DESTINATION. SHE HUMORED MY PERSISTENCE AND PROCLAIMED THAT MY 'WILD GOOSE CHASE WOULD BEAR NO FRUIT'. TO THAT END - SHE GREATLY MISCALCULATED.

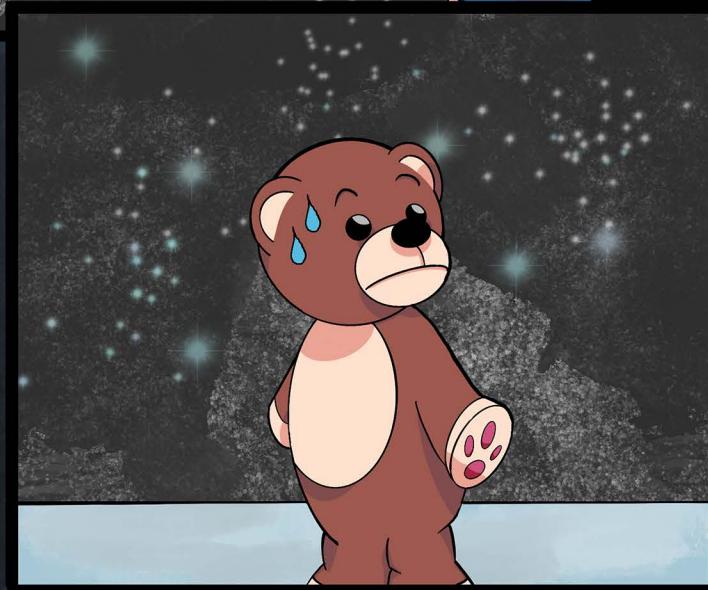
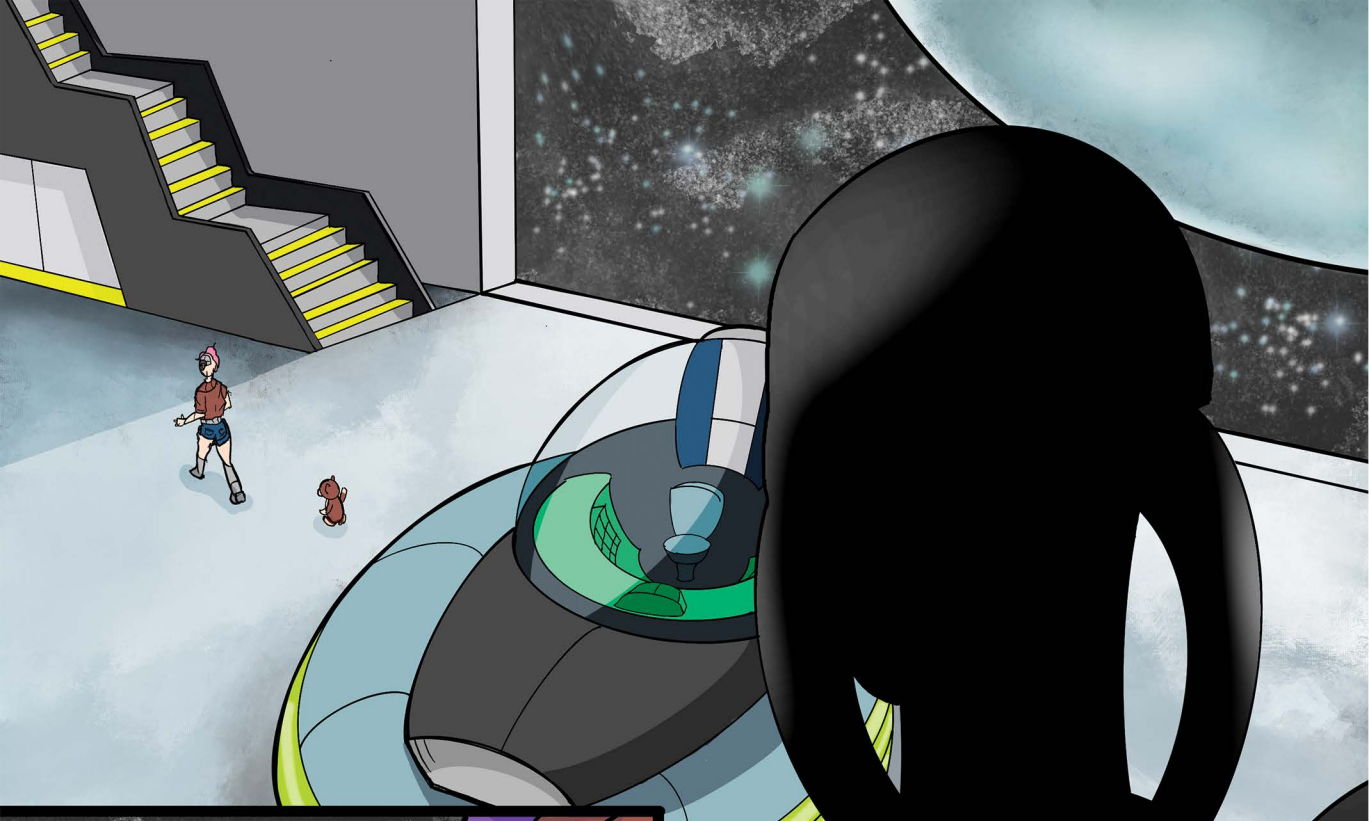


UM... MISS, WE SEEM TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT.

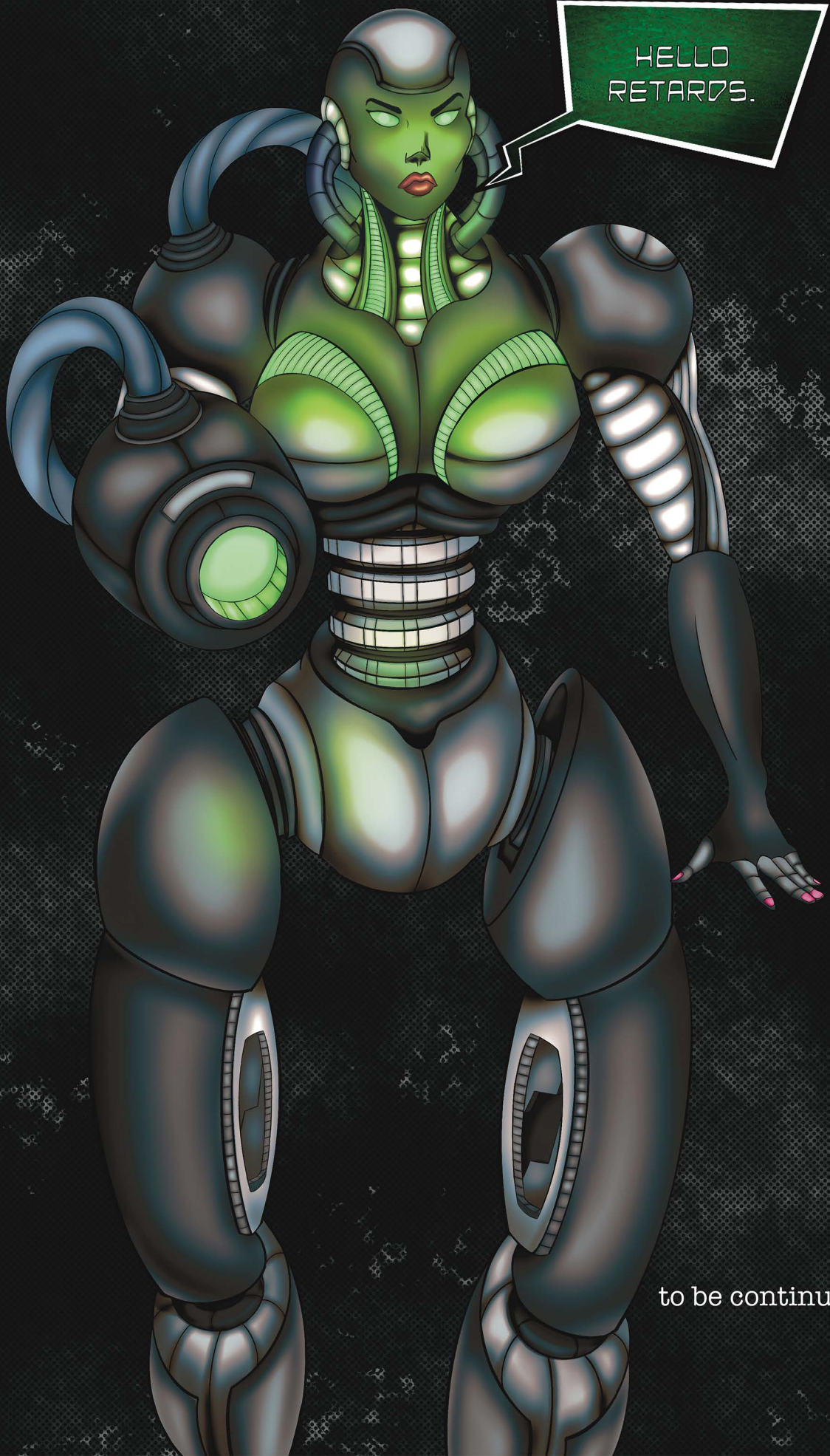


OH  
FUCK!









HELLO  
RETARDS.

to be continued.



# FTL

FASTER THAN LIFE

What do you get when you cross a loner ex-military cyborg hacker, her cute and inquisitive robotic teddy bear, and a mysterious, sentient (and sassy) combat robot?

This book. Duh.

This MVP (Minimum Viable Product) offers a glimpse into the universe of FTL: Faster Than Life. The story, 'Bearie's Song,' follows our main protagonist, Helena Bjornsdottir—an exceptionally talented hacker with a punk hairdo and a devil-may-care attitude—through the eyes of her latest creation: an unassuming robotic teddy bear named Bearie.

No good deed goes unpunished! Bearie's relentless quest for adventure drags him and Bjornsdottir into the shadows of her dark, unresolved past—and sets them on a collision course with the undiscovered country. Plus, a mysterious 8-foot-tall combat robot who could kill a man with her thighs.

So, there's that...

  
2025