THE FRACTURE PROTOCOL

ISSUE #2

VMP COMICS



QUARNAIN





STRONTHILUS



PROTEUS



AETHER



HARLAN



ZORATH

ON THE ARTIFICIAL WORLD OF BARIDINUS-12, GOVERNED BY THE GALACTIC PROTECTORATE AND SUSTAINED BY A FORBIDDEN DARK MATTER CONSTRUCT AT ITS SOUTHERN POLE, SOLE SENTINEL MARCUS VALE—KNOWN AS AETHER— HOLDS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY. NORA VENTRA OF THE MATRIARCHAL COLLECTIVE PETITIONS HIM AFTER THE BRUTAL INTERLOPER JAX HARLAN SEIZES THEIR BARIDIUM MINING OPERATION IN THE REDLANDS. HARLAN HACKS AND ENSLAVES THE LABOR DROIDS, DISABLES COMMUNICATIONS, DEFEATS THE SISTERS THROUGH SHEER INVULNERABILITY, AND FORCES THEM INTO SUBMISSION.

AETHER CONFRONTS HARLAN, DEFEATS HIM IN COMBAT, AND TERMINATES THE COLLECTIVE'S EXTRACTION CONTRACT FOR SECURITY FAILURES. DURING INTERROGATION, HARLAN REVEALS HE WAS ONCE A FRINGE PROTECTORATE OPERATIVE. BARIDIUM IS NO MERE ORE; IT STABILIZES THE DARK MATTER CORE. OVER-EXTRACTION RISKS PLANETARY FRACTURE. HARLAN HIMSELF HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY ENHANCED BY THE SUBSTANCE.



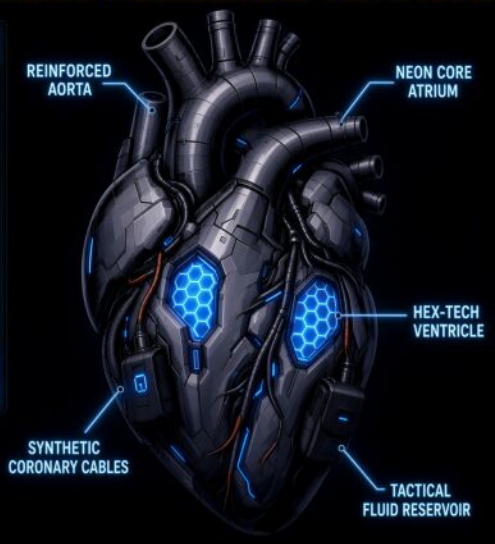
COMICS AUTHORITY

12 YEARS AGO.
PROTECTORATE PLANET, BARIDINUS 3.

PATIENT SERENA: MECHANICAL ARTIFICIAL HEART IMPLANT



PATIENT: SERENA



IMPLANT SPECIFICATIONS

Advanced biomechanical pump with hex-tech energy core.

RECIPIENT DETAILS

Serena. Recipient of the advanced biomechtical heart.

MATERIAL COMPOSITION

Carbon-titanium alloy,
Sync rate: 99.9%.
Power draw: 40W.

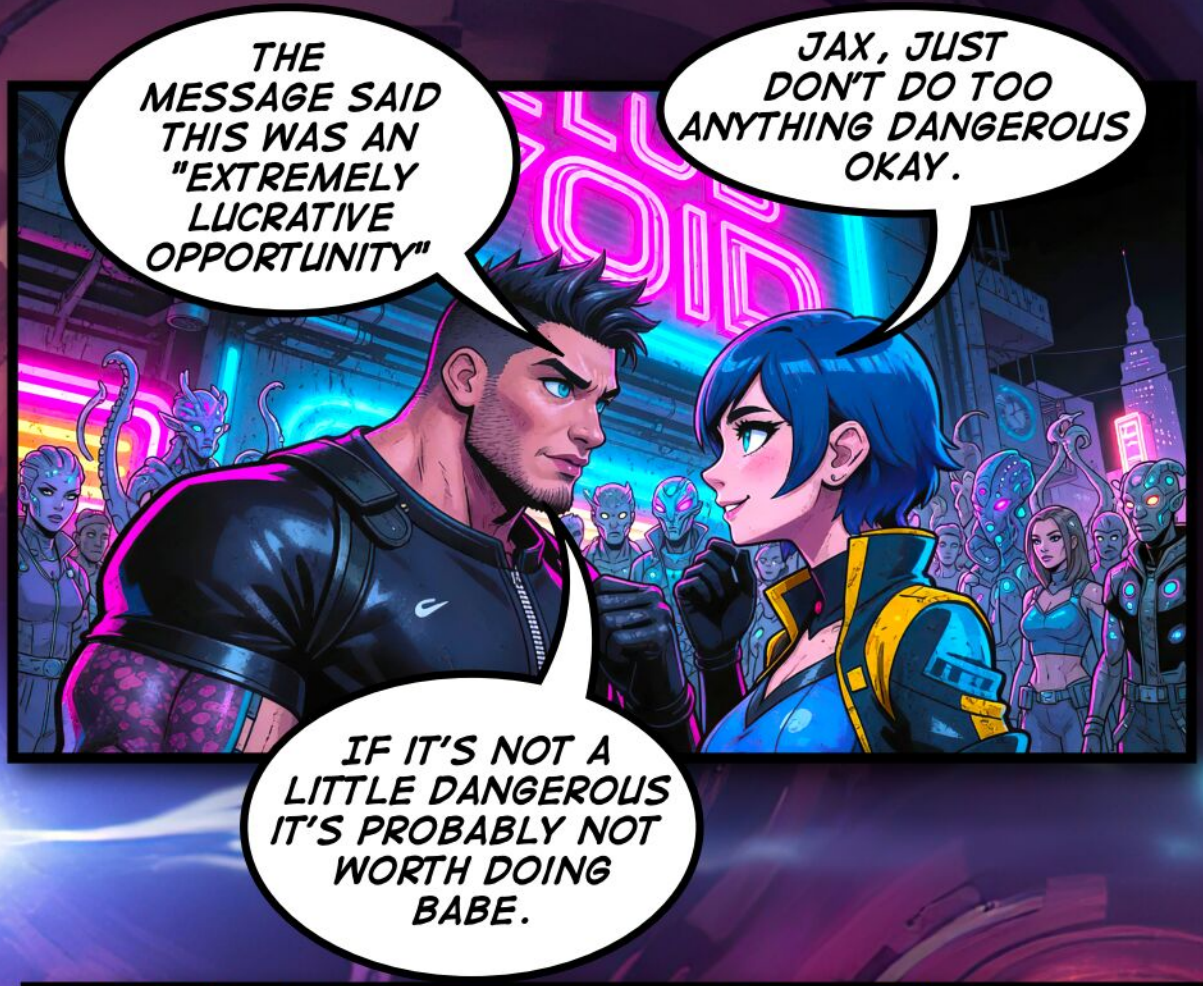
SURGICAL INTEGRATION NOTES

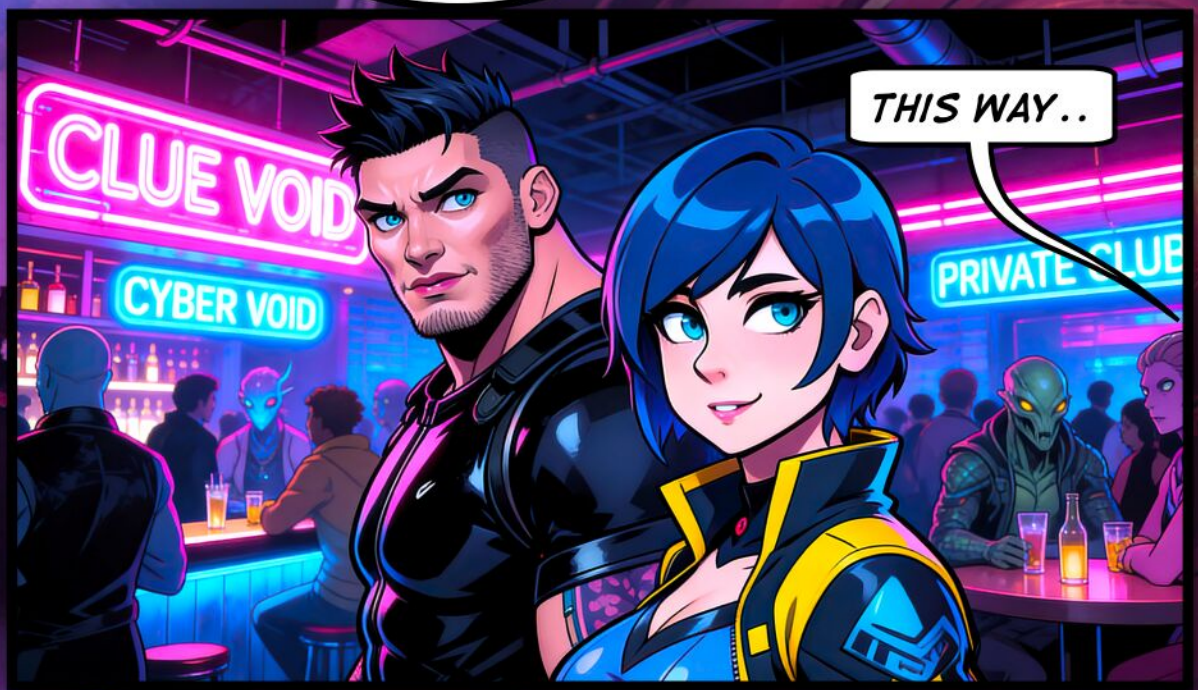
Full synthetic coronary bypass required.

COMPATIBILITY

100% match with Patient Serena's DNA.

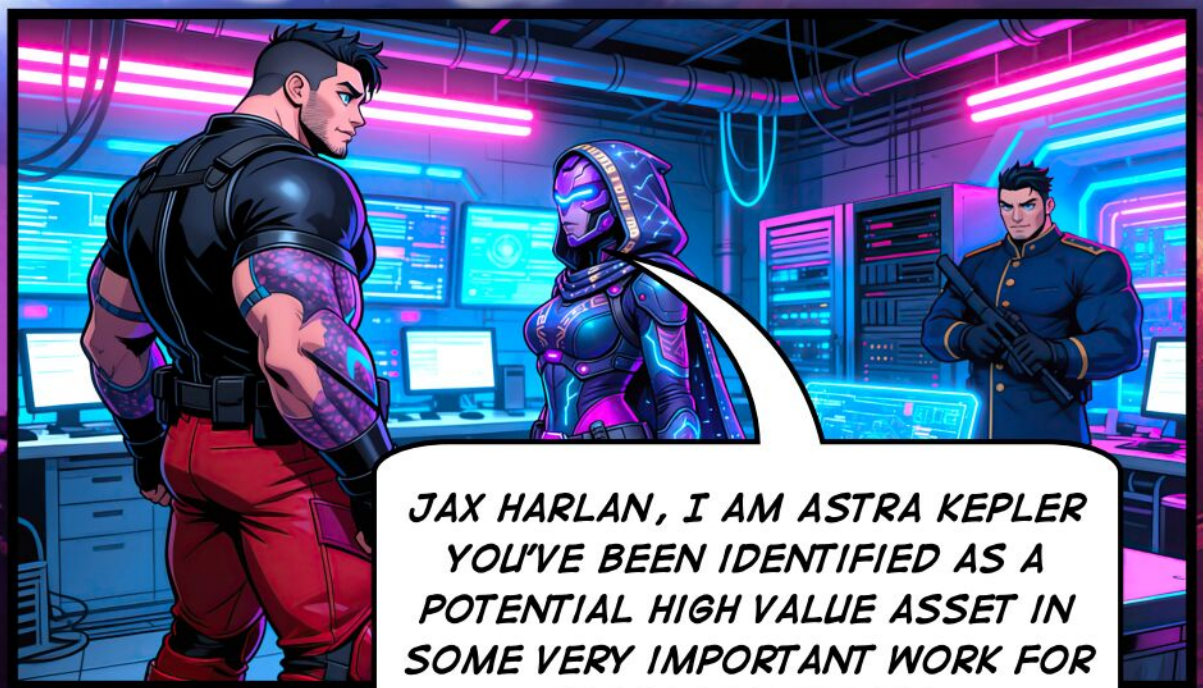
JAX AND SERENA HARLAN





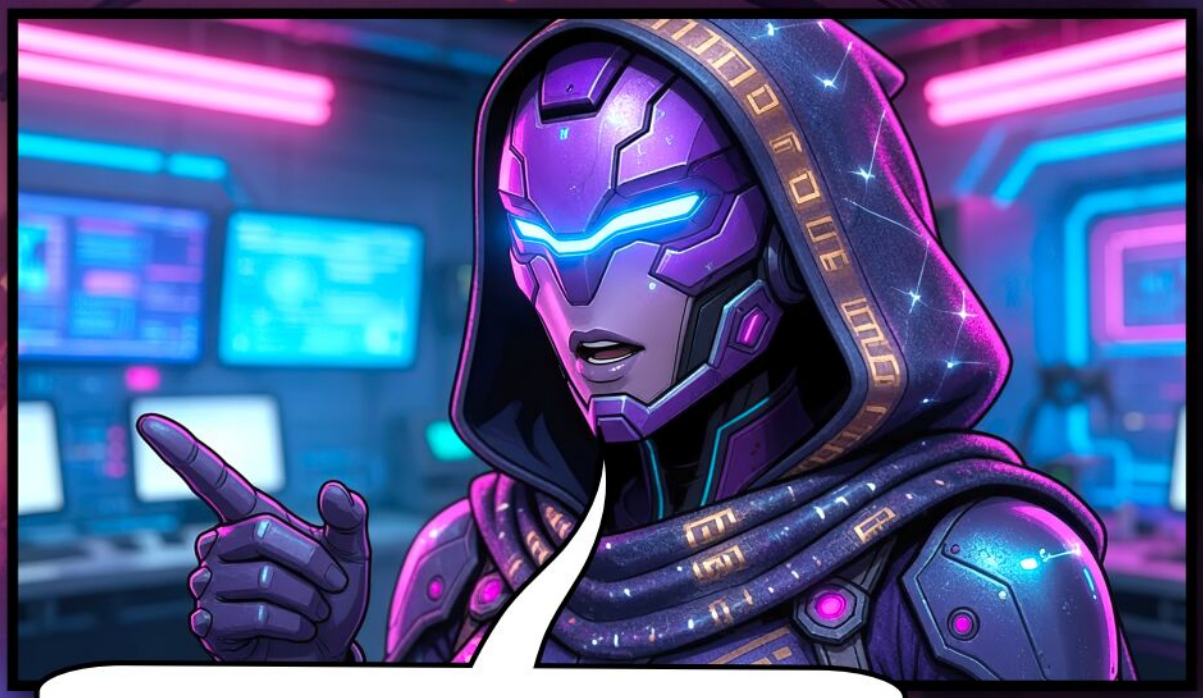


THE MISTRESS WILL SEE YOU, MR HARLAN, HOWEVER YOUR FEMALE FRIEND MUST STAY HERE.



JAX HARLAN, I AM ASTRA KEPLER YOU'VE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A POTENTIAL HIGH VALUE ASSET IN SOME VERY IMPORTANT WORK FOR THE PROTECTORATE.

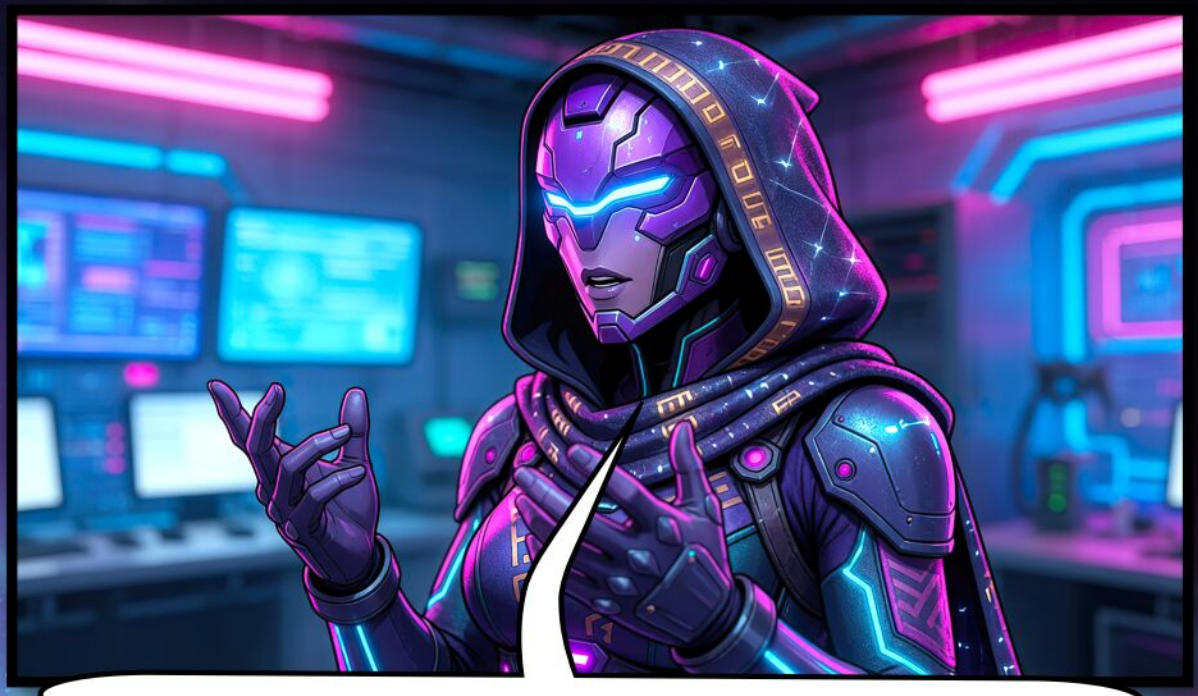

YOU WOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO RAW BARIDIUM, WHICH WE BELIEVE COULD ACTIVATE CERTAIN LATENT ABILITIES IN YOUR GENETIC MAKEUP, THE PROGRAM IS CALLED " PROJECT WATCHMAN."
UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO BARIDIUM IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE UNDER PROTECTORATE LAW WHY SHOULD I TAKE SUCH A RISK?.



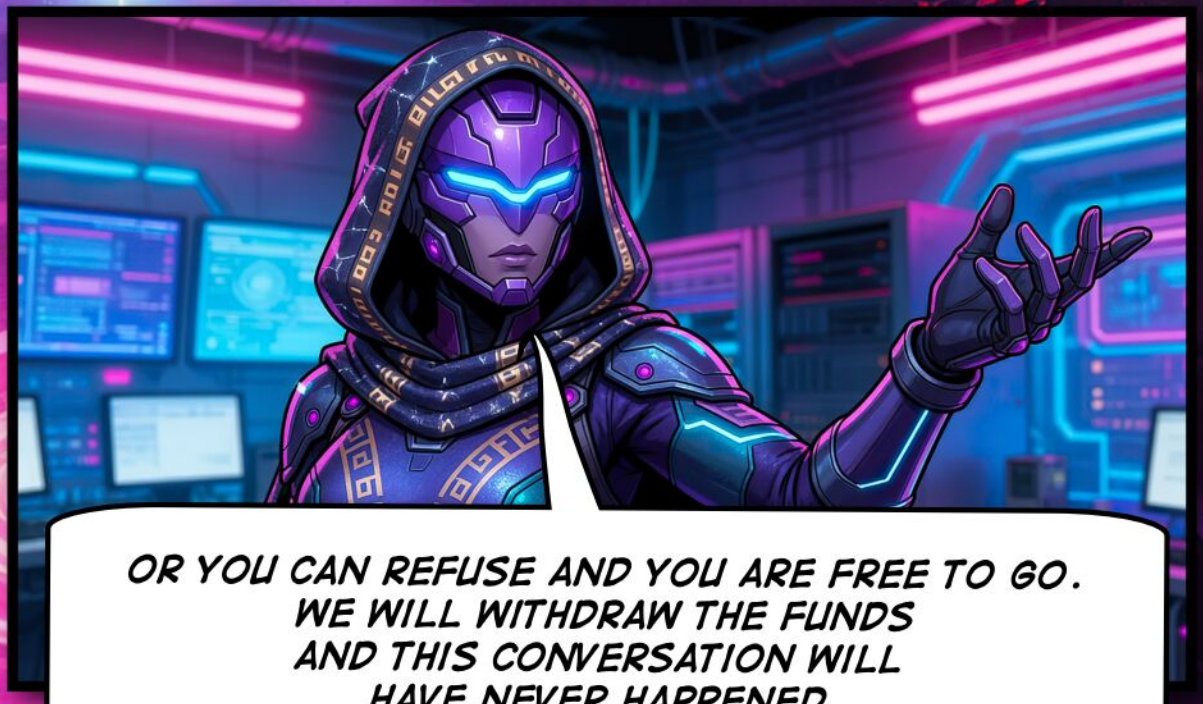
BECAUSE YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO REPLACE YOUR WIFE'S MECHANICAL HEART WITH A REAL ONE WITHOUT THE MONEY WE HAVE JUST DEPOSITED INTO YOUR SECRET ACCOUNT.



JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE ?.



I'M THE ONE PERSON ON THIS PLANET CAPABLE OF OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO RISE ABOVE THIS POINTLESS EXISTENCE UNDER PROTECTORATE RULE.



OR YOU CAN REFUSE AND YOU ARE FREE TO GO. WE WILL WITHDRAW THE FUNDS AND THIS CONVERSATION WILL HAVE NEVER HAPPENED.