

SOVA'S LEGEND

Dusk of the Gods



Issue 3: The Valkar

Day 9. Planet Valkar.
The plan was Rakushka's idea.
The costume was also Rakushka's idea.
The suffering was entirely Sova's.

Sova,
are you
ready?

Am I
ready?
No, of
course I'm
not ready!



This is
complete
madness!

No more
than the
fact that you
were born
at all.







NO.

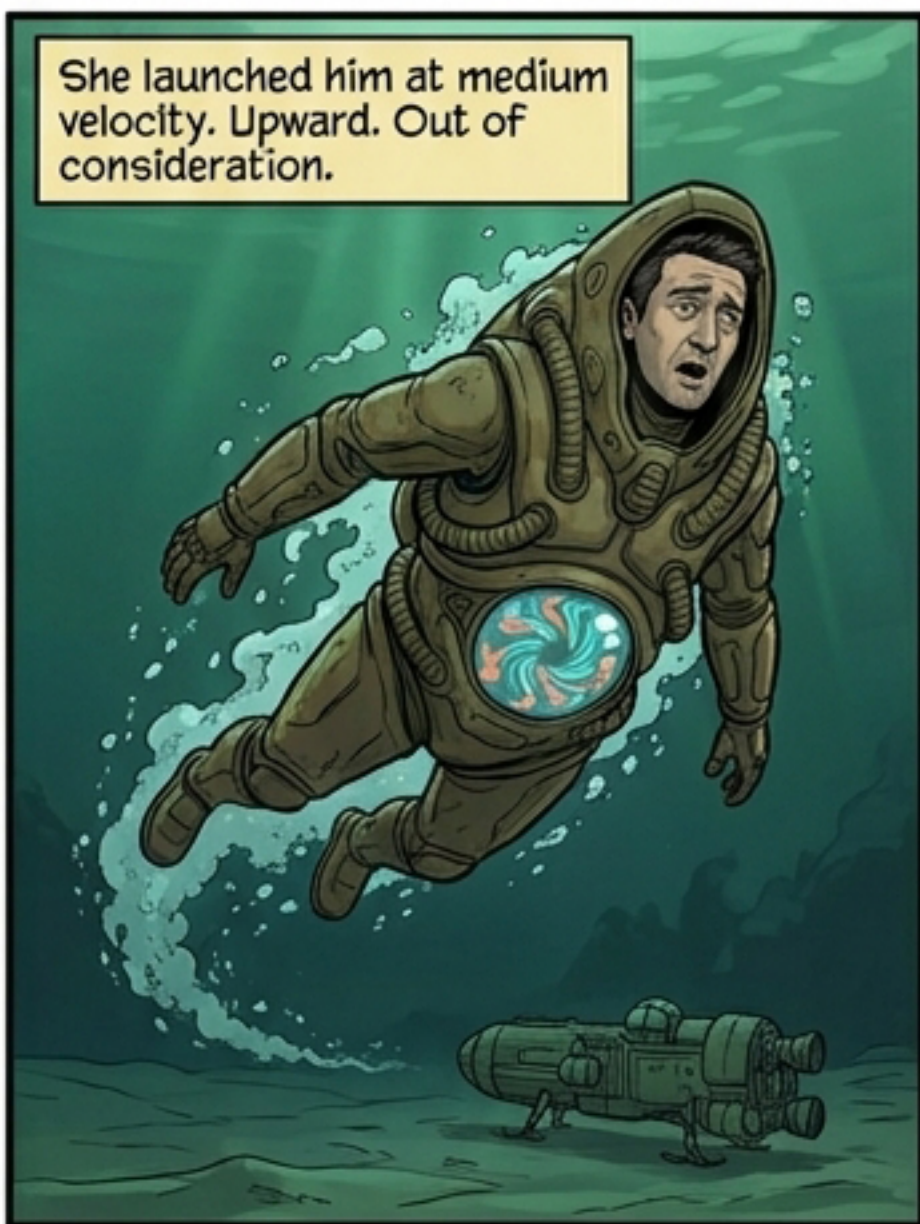
You're going
or you're not.

NOT.

She opened the launch tube. It pointed
straight up. Through thirty meters of
water. He didn't know this yet.



She launched him at medium
velocity. Upward. Out of
consideration.



The surface. He had
made it. Technically.



He walked toward
the nearest bunker.



The journey passed without incident.
The first five seconds.



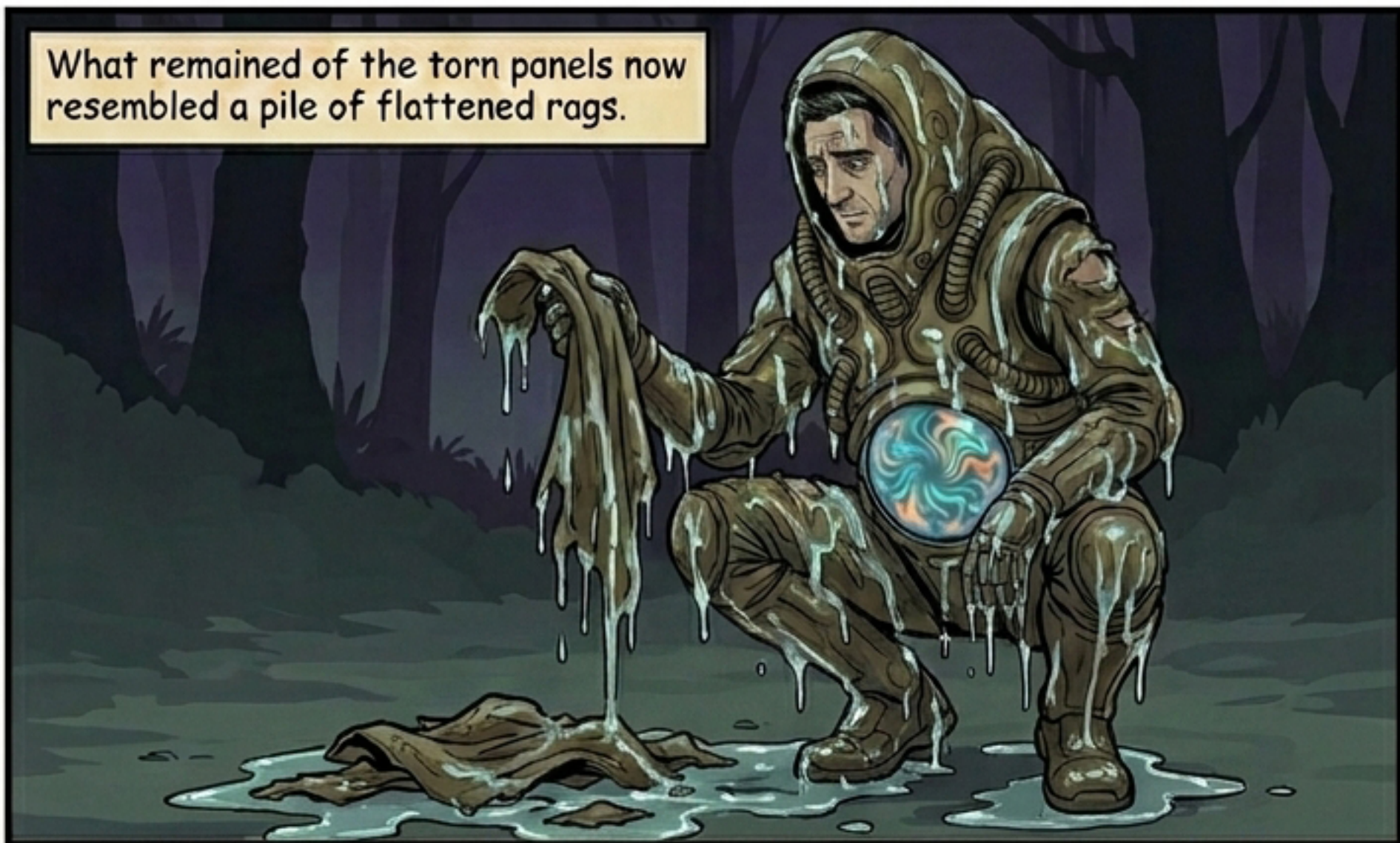
Apparently this was
someone's pet "doggie".



After bouncing around for about thirty
minutes, it calmly trotted away.



What remained of the torn panels now
resembled a pile of flattened rags.



Intelligent creatures crawled out of their burrows.



This gesture genuinely frightened the aborigines.



Good day, brothers!



The crowd emitted a terrible cry in the red spectrum.



Then almost immediately
came the blow.



And thousands of stars
obscured everything again.



Sova came to in a pit that
served as a storage room.



If the robot had ever been capable of moving, it was only a very long time ago.





He picked up a larger rock and knocked the head loose.

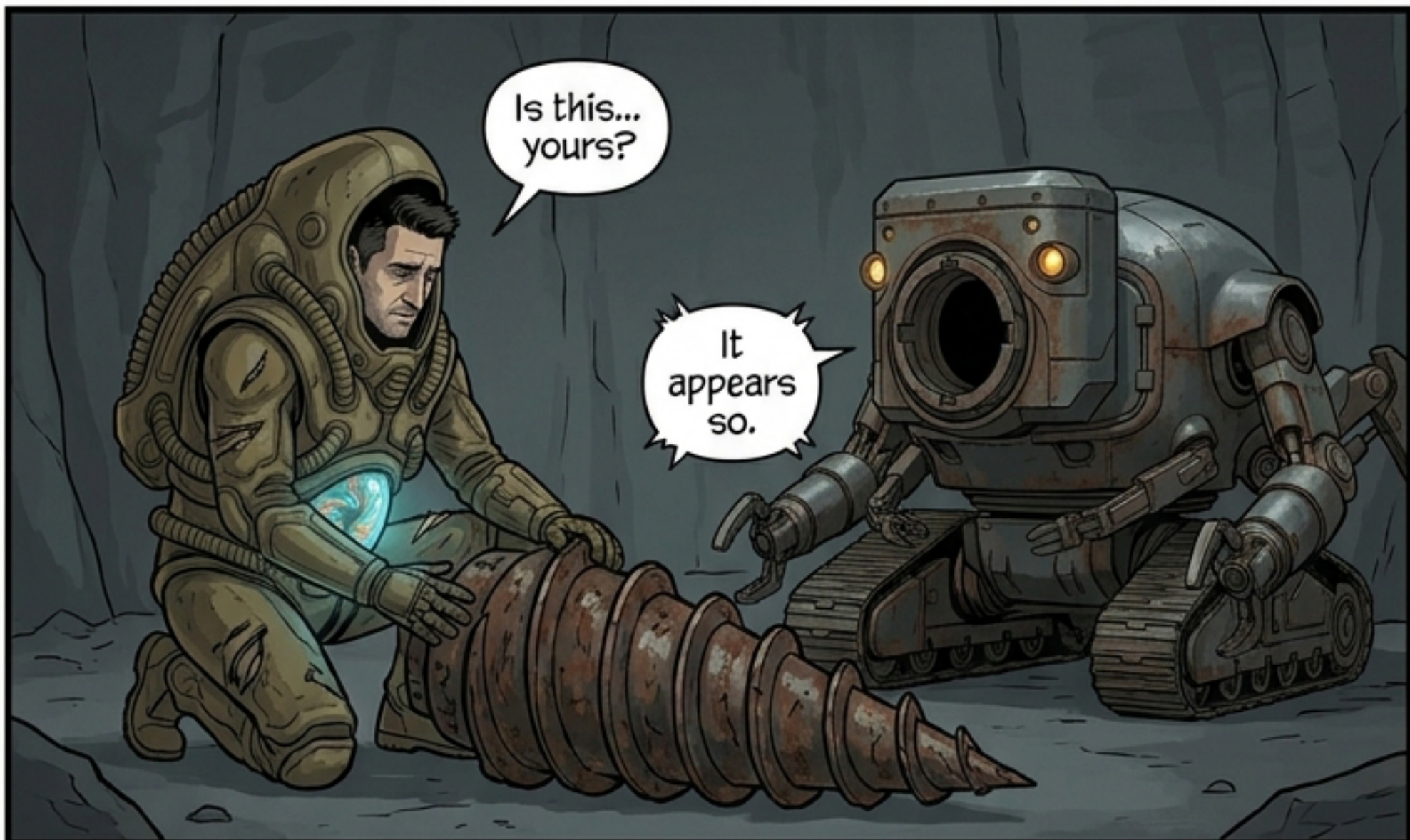


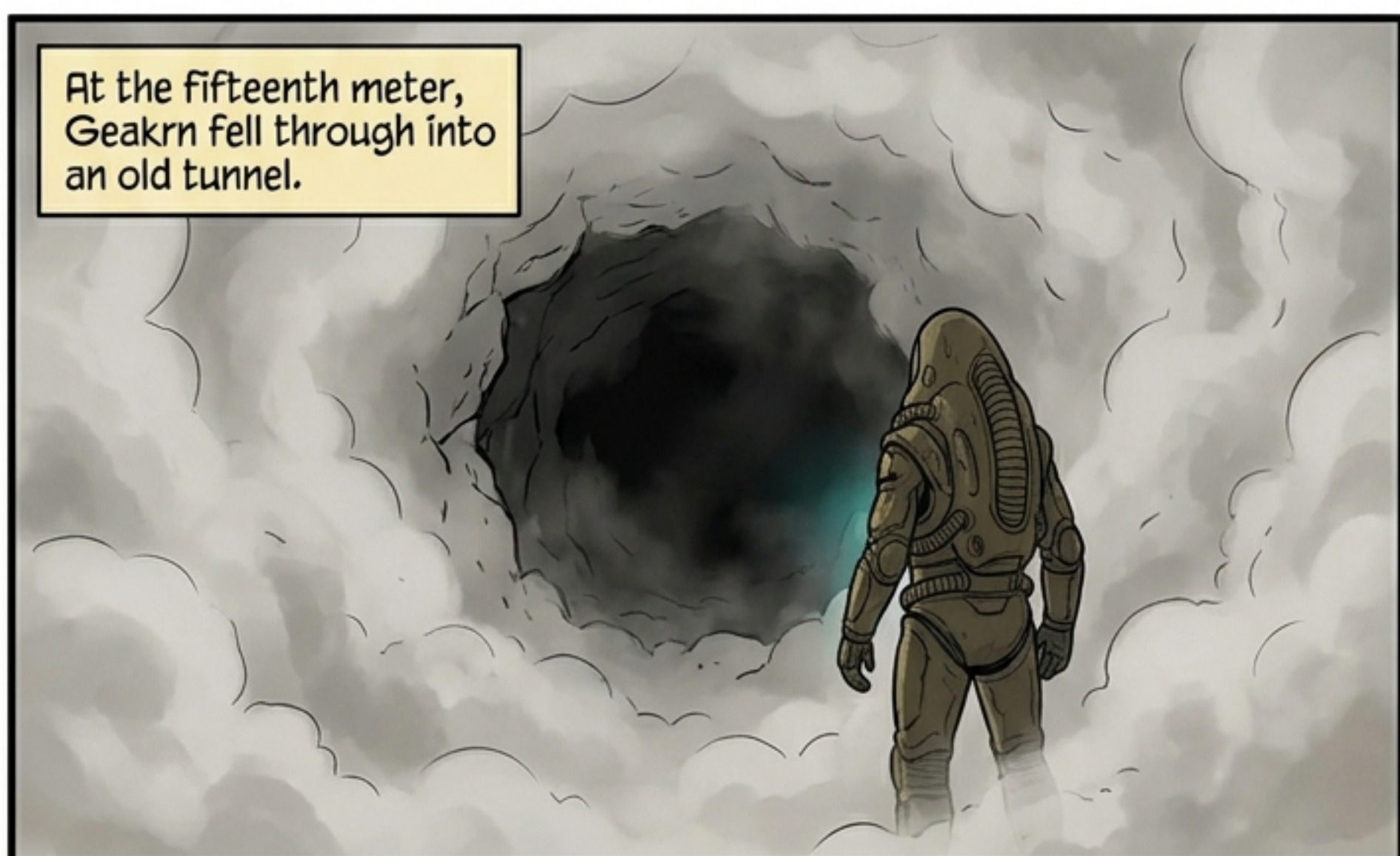
The eyes lit up and went dark. Something smelled strongly of burning.



Taaaktorn Geakrn.
Robot for
conducting
exploratory drilling
operations.

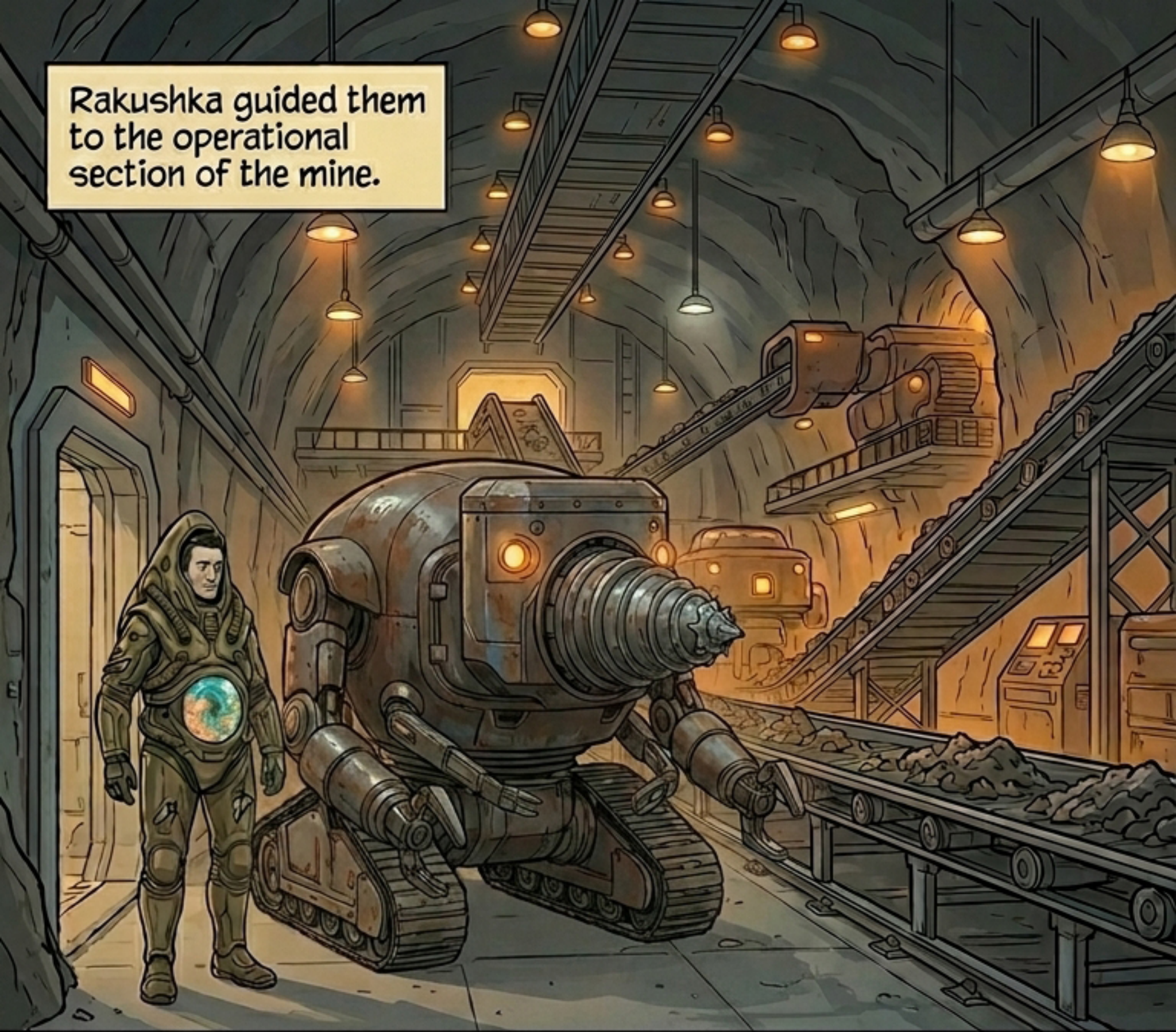




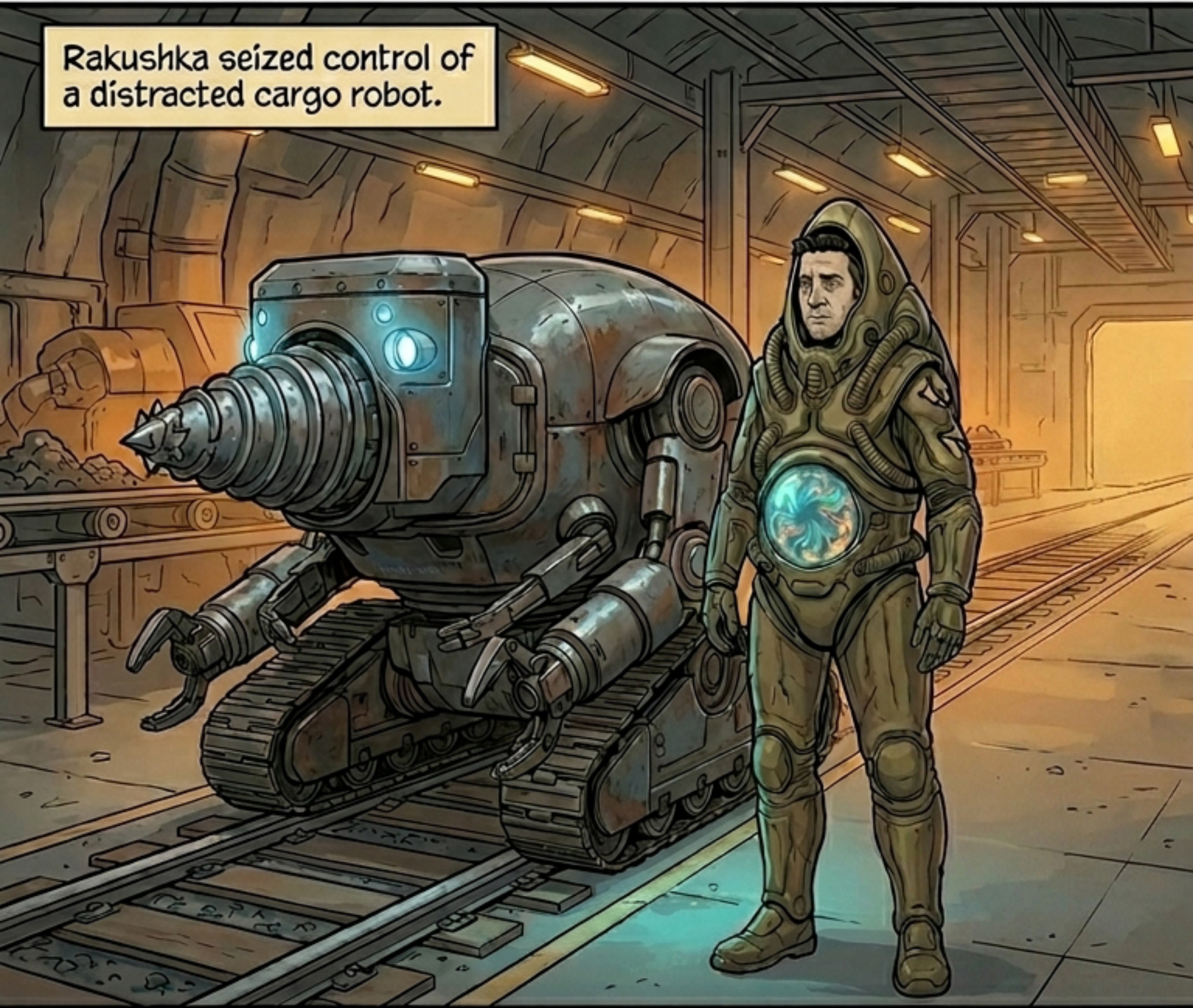




Rakushka guided them
to the operational
section of the mine.



Rakushka seized control of
a distracted cargo robot.



Sova and the rattling Geakrn loaded up and drove.



Up, down, forward, back —
and at last, the ship appeared.



They had made it back.
Nobody mentioned how.



Geakrn. You're going to drill us a
passage. My source says a science
team arrives soon. After that: no
safe access to anything.



...

What
about
me?

You:
sleep.

Geakrn said nothing. He got
up and walked out directly
into the water.



Geakrn worked for nearly a week.
The water, already murky,
became completely opaque.



The tunnel was wide enough.
Just barely. The ship had
opinions about this.



The mine robots carried it as if
it were the most precious thing
they had ever seen.



Two hours. Then daylight. Then the
scrapyard of forgotten ships.



The engines hummed. The ship lifted off the ground.



They broke free.



Sova screamed.



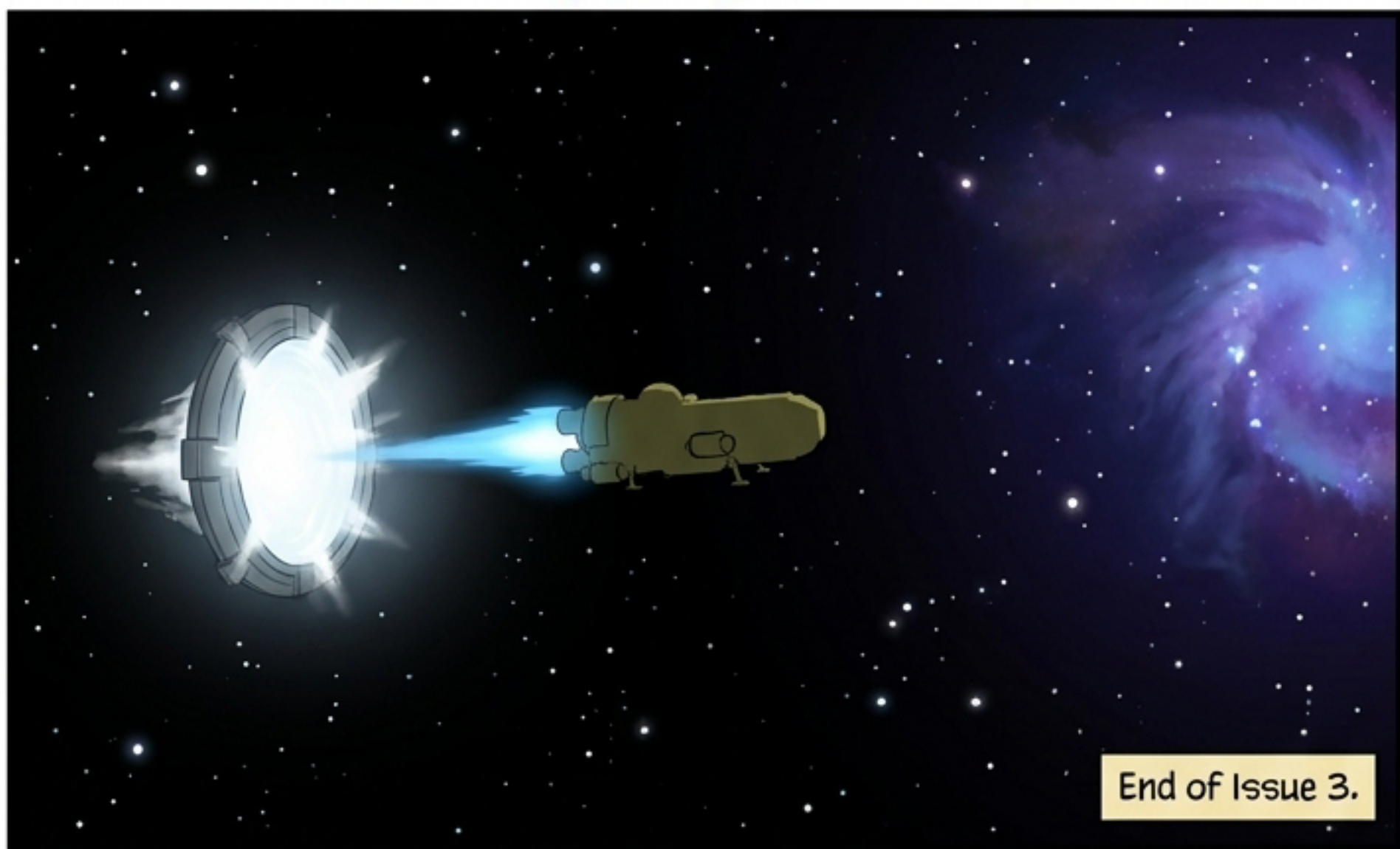
The world went dark.



They emerged in a different sector. The Valkar sector was behind them.



Well,
damn...
undersold
myself
again.

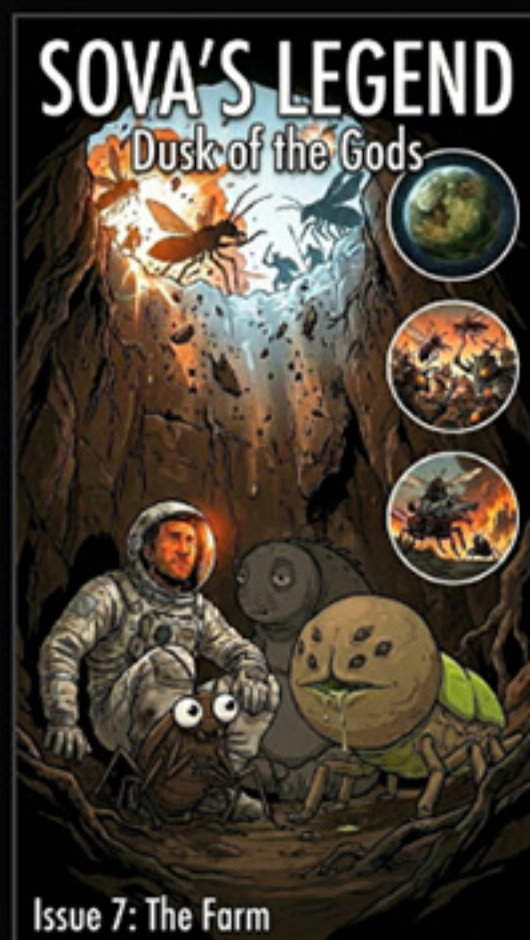


End of Issue 3.

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