
FAN MADE
STAR WARS
THE HIGH REPUBLIC
ENEMY WITHIN
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THE HIGH REPUBLIC

ENEMY WITHIN

It is a time of great challenge. Though the brave and glorious JEDI KNIGHTS have kept the peace for many generations, recent Outer Rim crises have tested their resolve.

Amidst this turmoil, Jedi CARETAKERS are a pillar of light within the Order. Through their compassion and valor, balance is kept, and those afflicted by darkness do not become a danger.

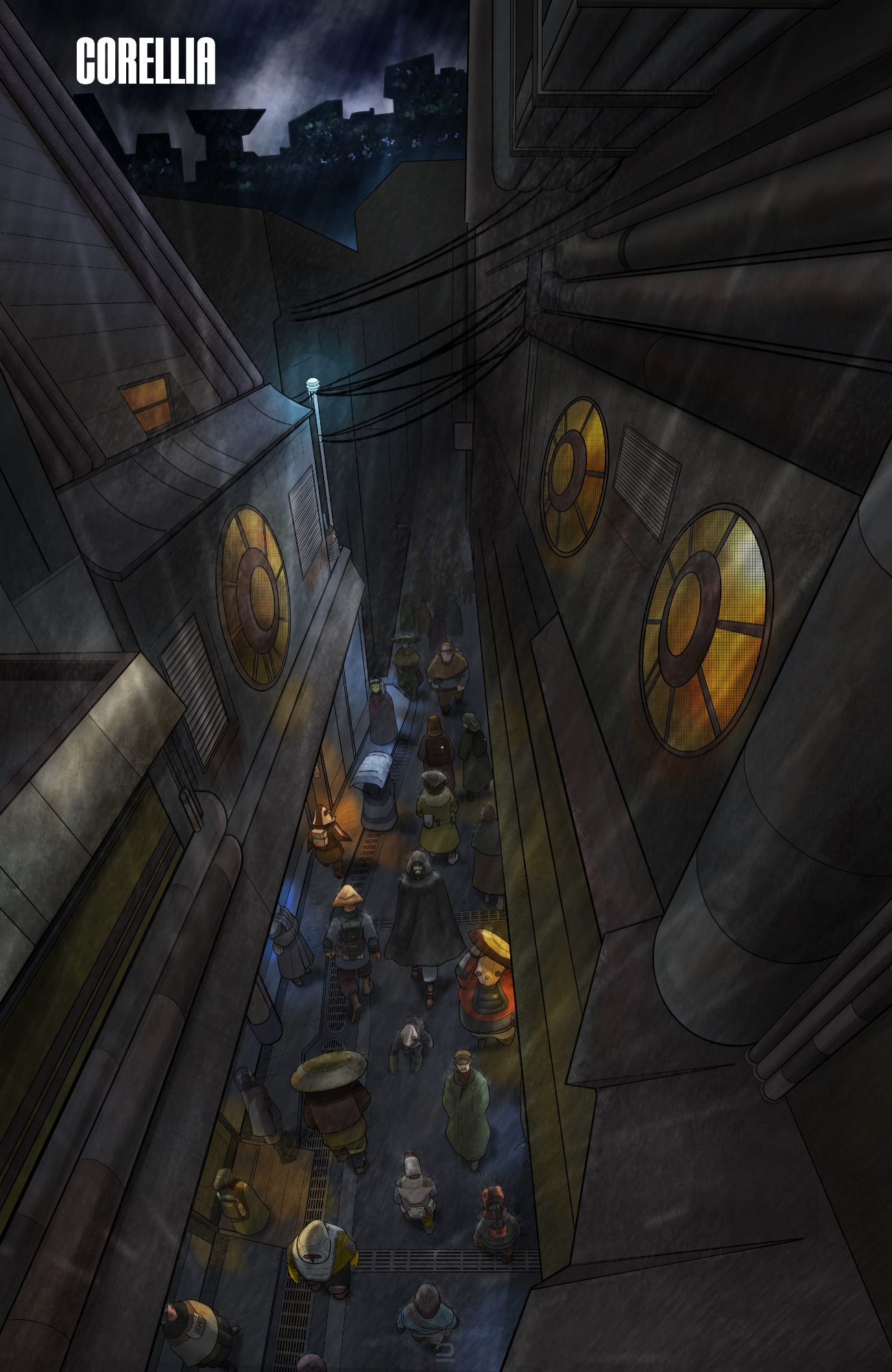
Bound by duty, these counselors extend their support across Jedi temples and the galaxy alike, providing help to those in need, believing that even those farthest from the light can still be redeemed....

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CORELLIA


HUH...
ANYONE HERE?
I'M LOOKING FOR BRINNA TOR--
HYAHH!


FWOOM
BZZZZZRM
ALRIGHT...
--THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU'RE... A JEDI?!


SORRY ABOUT ALMOST LIGHTSABERING YOU.
THOUGHT YOU WERE A TRESPASSER.
YOUR DOOR WAS OPEN.
SO, WHY ARE YOU HERE, EXACTLY?
I LEFT BEFORE MY TRIALS... AFTER THAT BUSINESS ON MULITA.
I DON'T OWE THE ORDER ANYTHING.
BUT WE STILL OWE YOU SOMETHING.
EVEN AS A FORMER PADAWAN, YOU'RE STILL CONNECTED TO THE FORCE...
AND THAT COMES WITH CHALLENGES.
WAIT... YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE. THE OTHER YOUNGLINGS AND I USED TO CALL YOUR TYPE COUNSELOR CONSULARS.
WE PREFER THE TERM CARETAKERS.
I'M OUT OF THE ORDER. I DON'T TAKE CARE OF ANYONE, AND NOBODY NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF ME.


YOU MAY HAVE DEPARTED, BUT THE FORCE CAN CHALLENGE US IN WAYS NOT MANY CAN UNDERSTAND.
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU PRESERVE YOUR OWN BALANCE.
WELL THEN, MASTER...?
MALLEN ZORCAS.
WELL THEN, MASTER ZORCAS... I'M SORRY TO WASTE YOUR TIME, BUT I'M FINE.
THE BATTLE ON MULITA WAS HORRIBLE, YES. MY MASTER DIED, YES. AND YES, I COULDN'T BE A JEDI WITHOUT HIM. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I NEED YOUR CHECK-INS.
DREAMS.
HUH?
YOU'RE HAVING DREAMS.

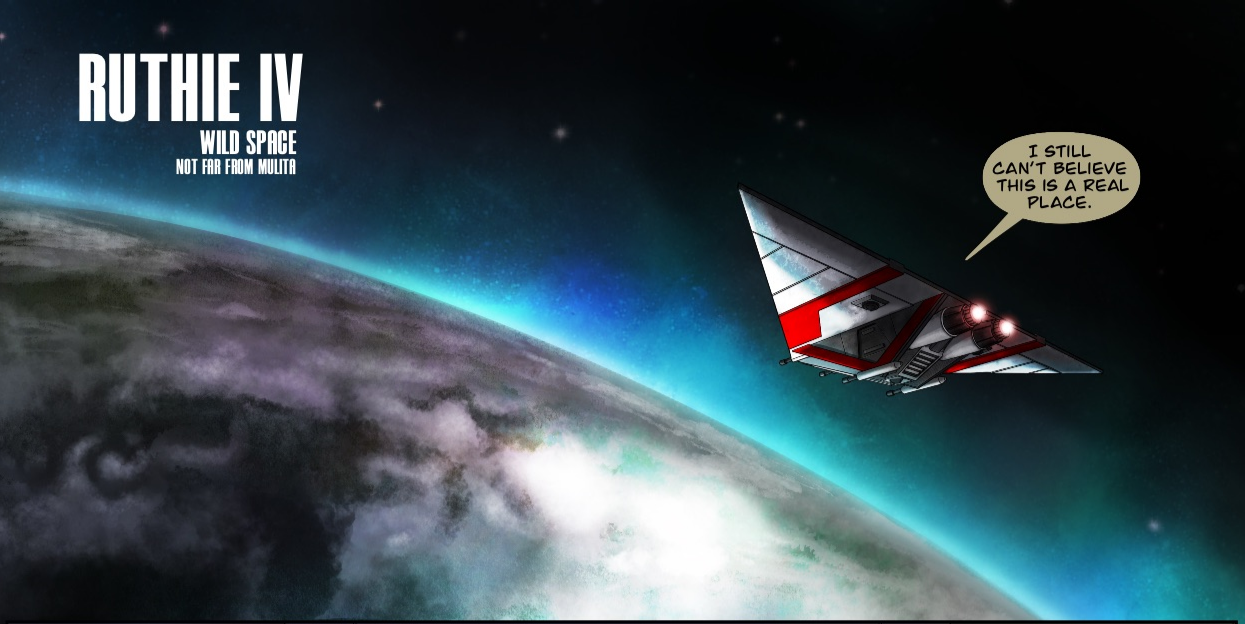

ASSAULT ON MULITA
1 YEAR AGO
"SO WHAT? EVERYONE HAS DREAMS, DON'T THEY?
I GUESS IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE STRANGE THAT I KEEP HAVING THE SAME ONE.
IT ALWAYS STARTS HERE... THE ASSAULT ON THE DRENGIR.
MY MASTER... MASTER VULUU AND I, WE GOT SEPARATED DURING THE REAL BATTLE, AND IT WAS JUST LIKE THAT. I'M TRYING TO GET TO HIM, BUT..."


"THEN I'M SOMEWHERE ELSE... SOMEWHERE I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I'M ME."
"IT'S DESOLATE... I'M SO ALONE, BUT IT'S BITTERSWEET, LIKE IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I'M ALLOWED TO BE."
"OR MAYBE THAT I CAN'T LEAVE."
AND THEN?
THEN I'M BACK ON MULITA.
I'M CALLING OUT TO SOMEONE, LIKE I'M TRYING TO FIND MYSELF. BUT IT'S DISJOINTED..
...IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.
WAIT... ARE YOU IN MY HEAD?
NO. I'D NEVER DO THAT WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION. THIS IS... SOMETHING ELSE. I KNEW I'D FELT SOMETHING IN THE FORCE WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, AND YOUR DREAM CONFIRMS IT.
YOUR MASTER... VULUU. HE'S ALIVE.
AND I KNOW WHERE HE IS.

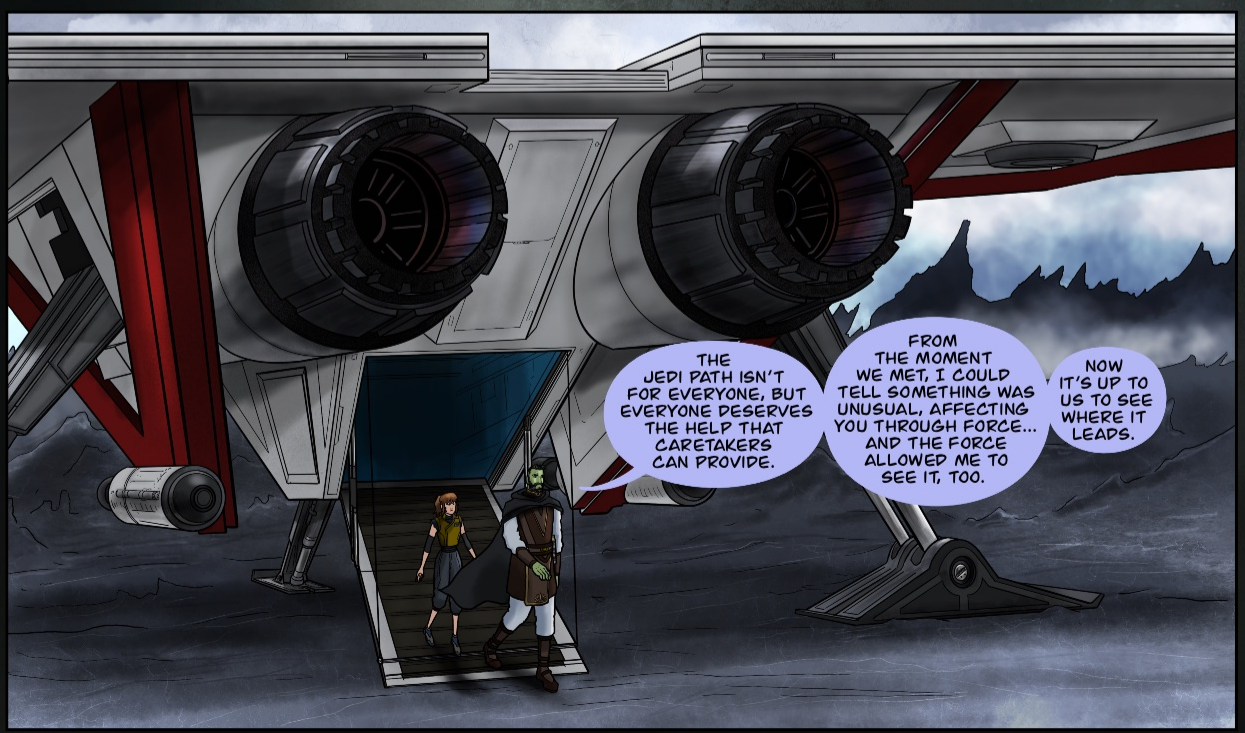
RUTHIE IV

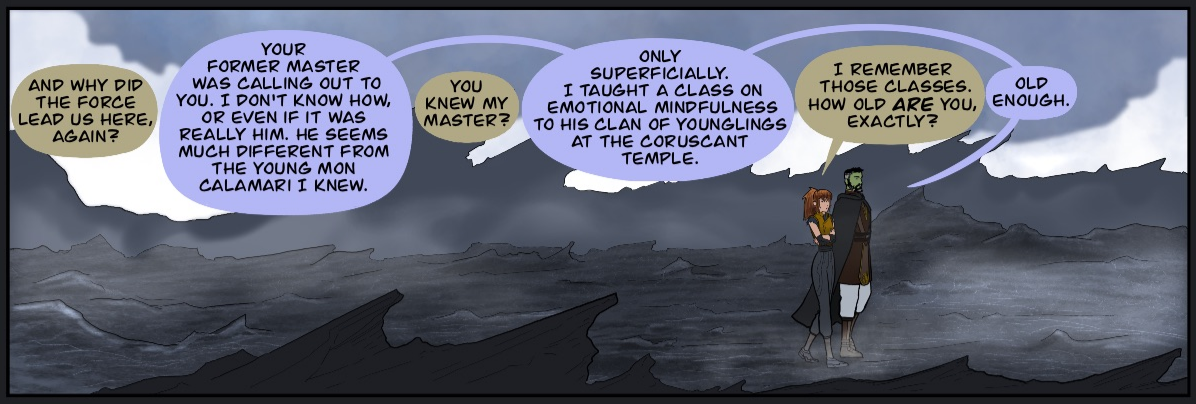
WILD SPACE

NOT FAR FROM MULITA








AND WHY DID THE FORCE LEAD US HERE, AGAIN?
YOUR FORMER MASTER WAS CALLING OUT TO YOU. I DON'T KNOW HOW, OR EVEN IF IT WAS REALLY HIM. HE SEEMS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE YOUNG MON CALAMARI I KNEW.
YOU KNEW MY MASTER?
ONLY SUPERFICIALLY. I TAUGHT A CLASS ON EMOTIONAL MINDFULNESS TO HIS CLAN OF YOUNGLINGS AT THE CORUSCANT TEMPLE.
I REMEMBER THOSE CLASSES. HOW OLD ARE YOU, EXACTLY?
OLD ENOUGH.

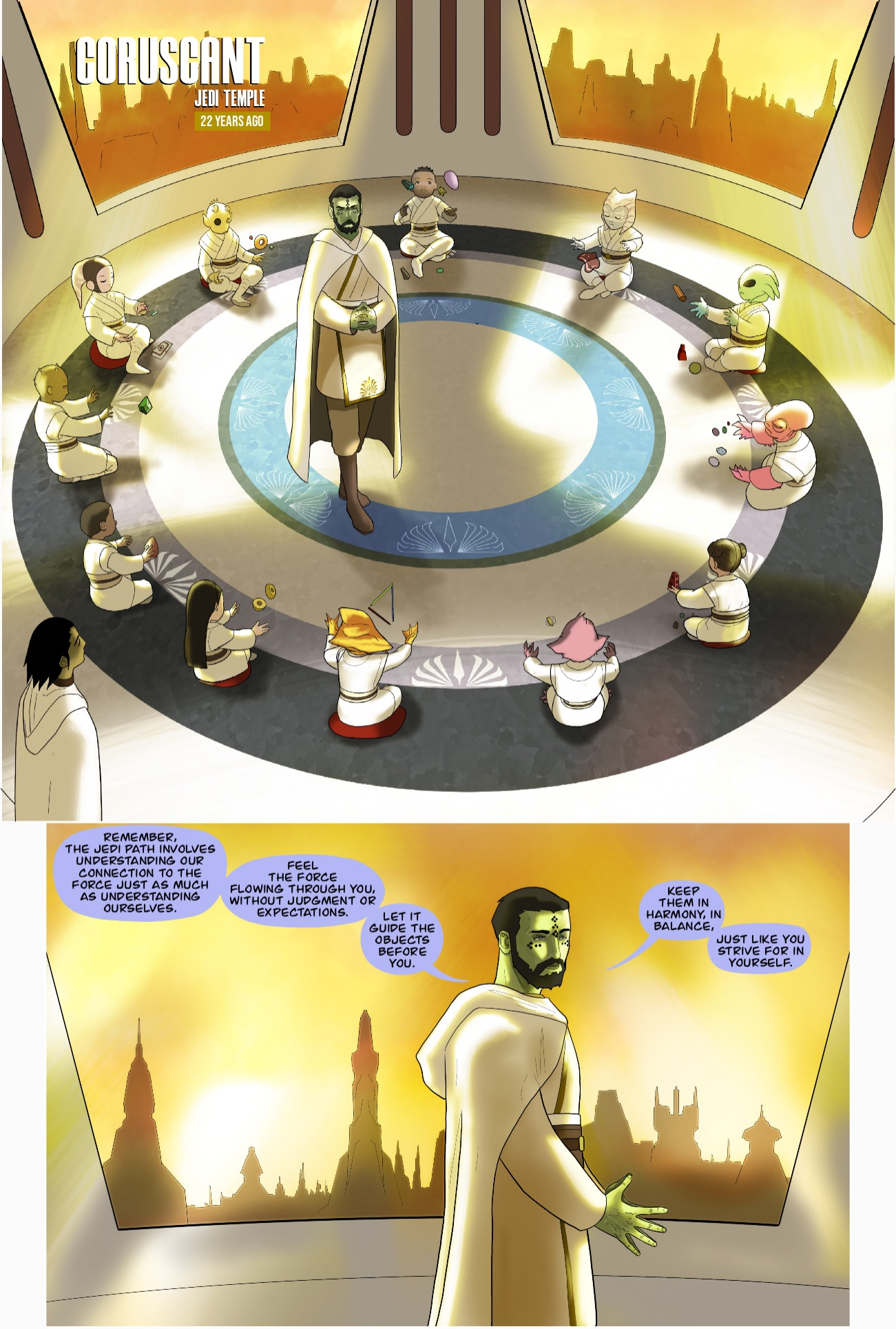

ANY IDEA ON WHY A JEDI TEMPLE IS... WHY IT WAS HERE?
THIS PLANET USED TO THRIVE, AND THE JEDI HELPED WITH THAT. BUT WAR WITH THE SITH DESTROYED IT ALL AGES AGO. NOT MUCH LEFT NOW.
REGARDLESS, IT'S THE ONLY THING AROUND. WE SHOULD TAKE A LOOK.


I FEEL... SOMETHING. COLD.
THE DARK SIDE. SOMETHING'S HERE.
LET'S LOOK AROUND.


MALLEN, OVER HERE! I'VE FOUND SOMETHING.
THE LIGHTSABER'S BEEN COMPLETELY DECONSTRUCTED INTO ITS SMALLEST PARTS. I DON'T SEE ANY TOOLS... THIS MUST HAVE TAKEN AGES TO DO BY HAND.


WAIT, DO YOU FEEL THAT? IT'S... STRONGER.
BRINNA?
BRINNA, WAIT!
I HEAR HIS VOICE!
MASTER! MASTER!!
MASTER, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALIVE!
IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE YOU! I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG, AND HERE YOU ARE.
HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, NOT AT ALL! NOW YOU'RE HERE.
NOW I CAN MAKE EVERYTHING RIGHT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE CAN TAKE YOU HOME. GET YOU HELP.
HOME? I... I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE. BUT I CAN'T. I HAVE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO.
BALANCE!
IT'S ACHIEVABLE.
I CAN DO IT, WITH THE HELP OF THESE RITUALS.
THESE ARE SITH GLYPHS.
JEDI VULUU, PLEASE...
I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF THE DARK SIDE.
LET US LEAVE THIS PLACE. GET YOU HELP.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THIS IS ABOUT BALANCE. REAL, TRUE BALANCE, WHAT THE JEDI HAVE SOUGHT FOR THEIR ENTIRE EXISTENCE!


BUT MASTER...
LISTEN TO ME. I LEARNED THINGS ON MULITA...
...SHOWN HOW I CAN DO THIS. HOW I CAN PUSH THE FORCE INTO BALANCE.
I KNOW IT'S FORBIDDEN, BUT IT TAXES ME. I SEE THE GLYPHS EVERY TIME I CLOSE MY EYES.
BUT NOW YOU CAN HELP ME SAVE EVERYONE!
BRINNA... MY FORMER PADAWAN.
I... I WANT TO HELP, BUT...
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT THIS MEANS SAVING THE ENTIRE GALAXY? BALANCE, BRINNA. BALANCE!
IT'S WHY I WAS REACHING OUT! I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. IT WILL BE JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS, YOU AND I TOGETHER!
LISTEN TO ME. I REMEMBER THAT EVEN AS A YOUNGLING, BALANCE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR YOU.
BUT YOU MUST REALIZE, YOU MUST FEEL, THAT INVOKING THE DARK SIDE WON'T RESULT IN WHAT YOU WANT.
H-HOW WOULD YOU...? IT DOESN'T MATTER!
NEITHER OF YOU UNDERSTAND! IF I DON'T DO THIS, THE ENTIRE GALAXY COULD DESCEND INTO UTTER CHAOS!
YOU WILL DO AS I SAY!


CORUSCANT
JEDI TEMPLE
22 YEARS AGO
REMEMBER, THE JEDI PATH INVOLVES UNDERSTANDING OUR CONNECTION TO THE FORCE JUST AS MUCH AS UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES.
FEEL THE FORCE FLOWING THROUGH YOU, WITHOUT JUDGMENT OR EXPECTATIONS.
LET IT GUIDE THE OBJECTS BEFORE YOU.
KEEP THEM IN HARMONY, IN BALANCE,
JUST LIKE YOU STRIVE FOR IN YOURSELF.

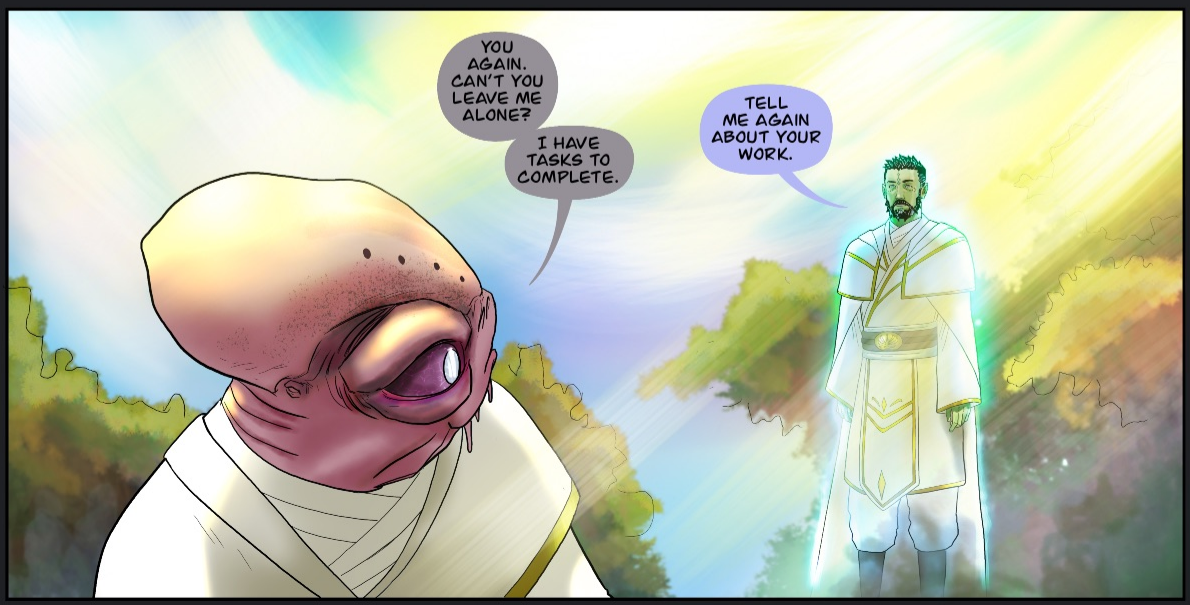

HEY!
YOU MESSED UP MY CONCENTRATION!
POLKO VULUU.
BUT HE KNOCKED DOWN MY STONES.
NOW I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER ACHIEVE BALANCE!
REMEMBER, POLKO.
BALANCE ISN'T JUST ABOUT ORDERING THE STONES. IT'S ABOUT FINDING HARMONY WITHIN YOURSELF.
TAKE A MOMENT. BREATHE, LET GO OF THE FRUSTRATION.
TRUST IN YOURSELF, TRUST IN THE FORCE, AND YOU WILL ACHIEVE BALANCE.


PRESENT DAY
"NOW, SHALL WE TRY AGAIN?"
(GASP)
BRINNA... VULUU...
HOW?!


I SENSE THE TORMENT IN YOU, POLKO. JUST LIKE THERE WAS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
STAY BACK! YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND!
SOMETHING INSIDE OF YOU HAS REAWAKENED. A THING THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF YOU. BUT NOW, SUMMONED BY THE DARK SIDE.
I WILL HELP YOU.




POLKO...

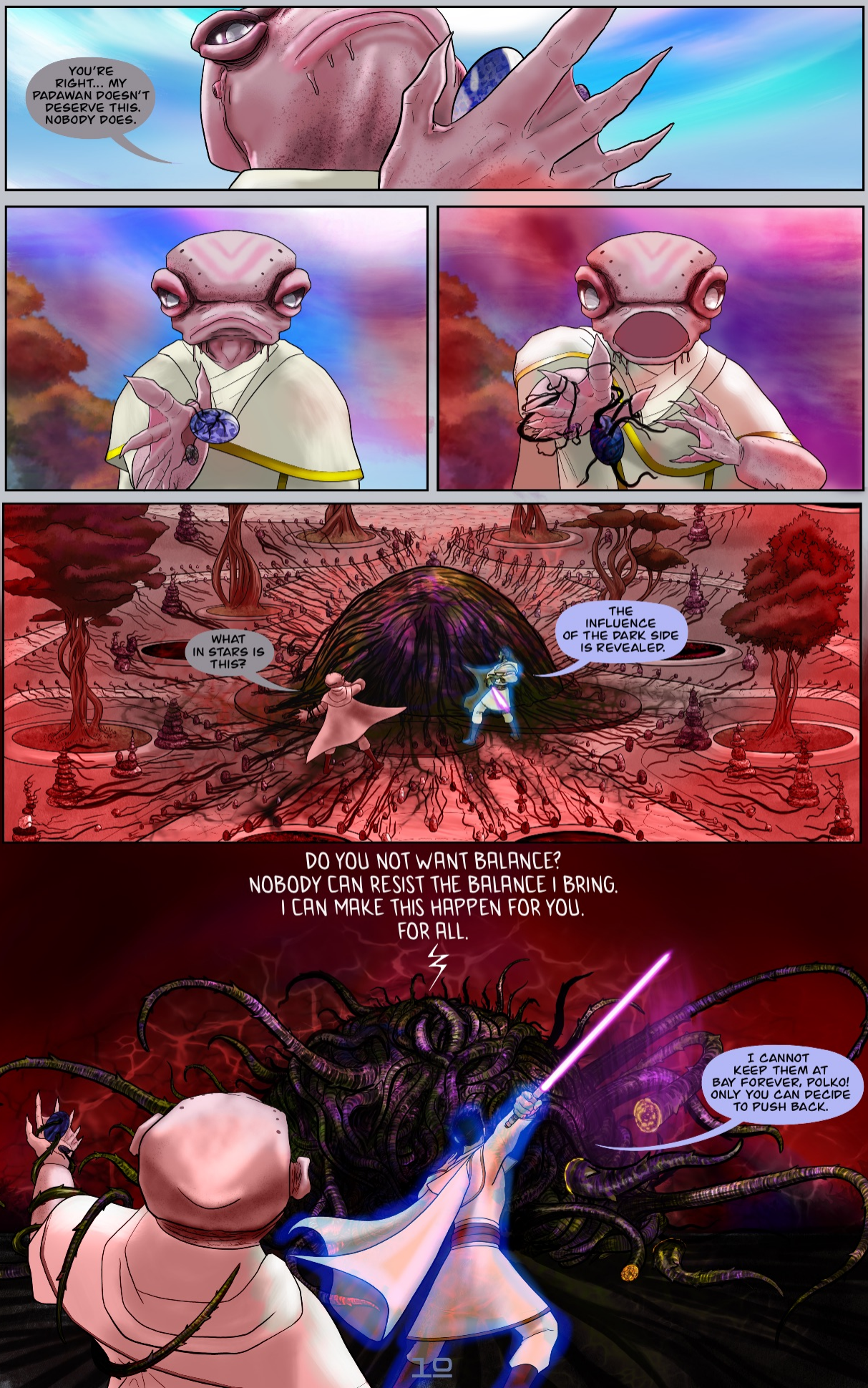

YOU AGAIN. CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?
I HAVE TASKS TO COMPLETE.
TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT YOUR WORK.


YOU KNOW ALREADY. THIS IS HOW I CAN FINALLY ACHIEVE BALANCE.
JUST A FEW MORE STONES.
POLKO, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU FIND CLARITY. YOU MUST SEE YOUR ACTIONS FOR WHAT THEY ARE, NOT FOR WHAT YOU WISH THEM TO BE.
LOOK.


WHAT HAVE YOUR ACTIONS GAINED YOU?
YOU MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE ACTION AND THE OBSESSION. DO NOT BECOME CONSUMED.


I CANNOT STOP.. EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I...
BALANCE CANNOT BE FORCED, POLKO. IT IS AN INDIVIDUAL JOURNEY THAT CAN BEAR ITS OWN FRUIT.
DO YOU NOT SEE HOW YOUR FORMER PADAWAN IS DRAWN TO YOUR DESIGNS?


BRINNA NEEDS YOU. NOT CONSUMED BY DARKNESS, BUT AS A BASTION OF LIGHT.


YOU'RE RIGHT... MY PADAWAN DOESN'T DESERVE THIS. NOBODY DOES.
WHAT IN STARS IS THIS?
THE INFLUENCE OF THE DARK SIDE IS REVEALED.
DO YOU NOT WANT BALANCE?
NOBODY CAN RESIST THE BALANCE I BRING.
I CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN FOR YOU.
FOR ALL.
I CANNOT KEEP THEM AT BAY FOREVER, POLKO! ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE TO PUSH BACK.


PART OF ME STILL WISHES TO.
BUT I LEARNED TO HANDLE MY APPROACH TO BALANCE LONG AGO.
I WILL NOT LET IT CONTROL ME!
HRAHH!




IT'S OVER...


REST, JEDI VULUU...


"IT IS OVER... FOR NOW."
MASTER VULUU IS SLEEPING COMFORTABLY.
LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T HAD GOOD REST IN A LONG TIME.
I'M GLAD YOU WERE THERE TO HELP. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.
DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE ALRIGHT?
HE'LL RECEIVE THE BEST CARE THE CORUSCANT TEMPLE HAS TO OFFER.
CONFRONTING ONE'S OWN IDIOSYNCRASIES IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT, A LIFELONG JOURNEY. VULUU HAS HAD IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN MOST. BUT THERE IS HOPE.
THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.


I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. THAT I MIGHT RE-JOIN THE ORDER.
THE THOUGHT HAD CROSSED MY MIND.
I JUST... DON'T KNOW IF I CAN. OR EVEN IF I SHOULD.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH MY MASTER WAS DIFFICULT, BUT THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I THINK BEING A JEDI ISN'T MY CALLING.
YOU ACT AS THOUGH YOU OWE ME SOMETHING, BUT YOU DO NOT.
BRINNA, BEING GIFTED WITH THE FORCE DOESN'T MEAN BEING A JEDI IS YOUR DESTINY.
"KNOW AND NURTURE YOUR TRUE SELF, AND YOU WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO BRING LIGHT TO THE GALAXY IN YOUR OWN WAY."



DEAR ESTEEMED JEDI

IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND PURPOSE THAT I EXTEND TO YOU A SPECIAL INVITATION ON BEHALF OF THE HIGH COUNCIL.

I AM STELLAN GIOS, AND WHILE MY TENURE ON THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN BRIEF SO FAR, I HAVE ALREADY COME TO REALIZE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF ADVOCATING FOR BALANCE THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.

TO THAT END, I HEREBY PRESENT TO YOU A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WITH THE CARETAKERS, A GROUP OF JEDI COMMITTED TO THE HOLISTIC WELL-BEING AND EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE OF BOTH OUR MEMBERS AND OTHER FORCE USERS.

WHEN CONSIDERING CANDIDATES FOR THE CARETAKERS, WE LOOK FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SHOWN A SPECIAL CAPACITY FOR COMPASSION AND A PROFOUND AFFINITY FOR EMPATHY. YOUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF... TIME AND AGAIN, YOU HAVE SHOWN AN EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS INTERPERSONALLY AND THROUGH THE FORCE.



ENVISION GUIDING YOUNGLINGS THROUGH THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS, INSTILLING THE ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE AND BALANCE THAT FORMS THE FOUNDATION OF THE STRONGEST JEDI. PICTURE YOUR INTERACTION WITH THOSE JEDI WITH PADAWANS, PROVIDING MENTORSHIP TO THE MENTORS, SHAPING THEIR APPROACH ON TOPICS THAT ARE KEY TO THE ORDER'S DURABILITY.

BUT REMEMBER, NO JEDI STANDS ALONE--WE ARE PART OF A GREATER GALAXY UNITED BY THE FORCE. AS A CARETAKER, YOU COULD ALSO FIND YOURSELF COLLABORATING WITH THE CONVOCATION OF THE FORCE, ADVISING OTHER FORCE USERS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON MATTERS OF GALACTIC WELLNESS AND UNITY.

I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT YOUR INCLUSION WITH THE CARETAKERS COULD BRING SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS, AND I HAVE HIGH HOPES YOU WILL ACCEPT MY OFFER. MAY THE FORCE GUIDE YOU WITH YOUR DECISION.

MASTER STELLAN GIOS
JEDI HIGH COUNCIL

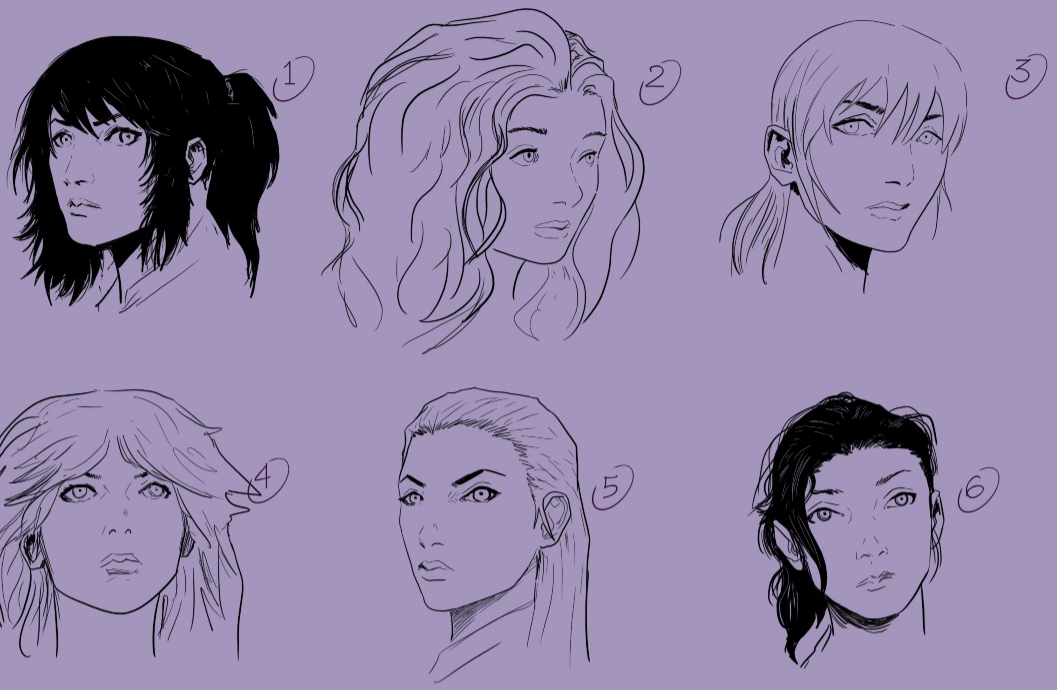
CONCEPT ART

CHARACTER DESIGN



CONCEPT ART
CHARACTER DESIGN

BRINNA TORGO



MALLEN ZORCAS



CONCEPT ART
CHARACTER DESIGN

MALLEN ZORCAS

Mirialan Jedi Caretaker

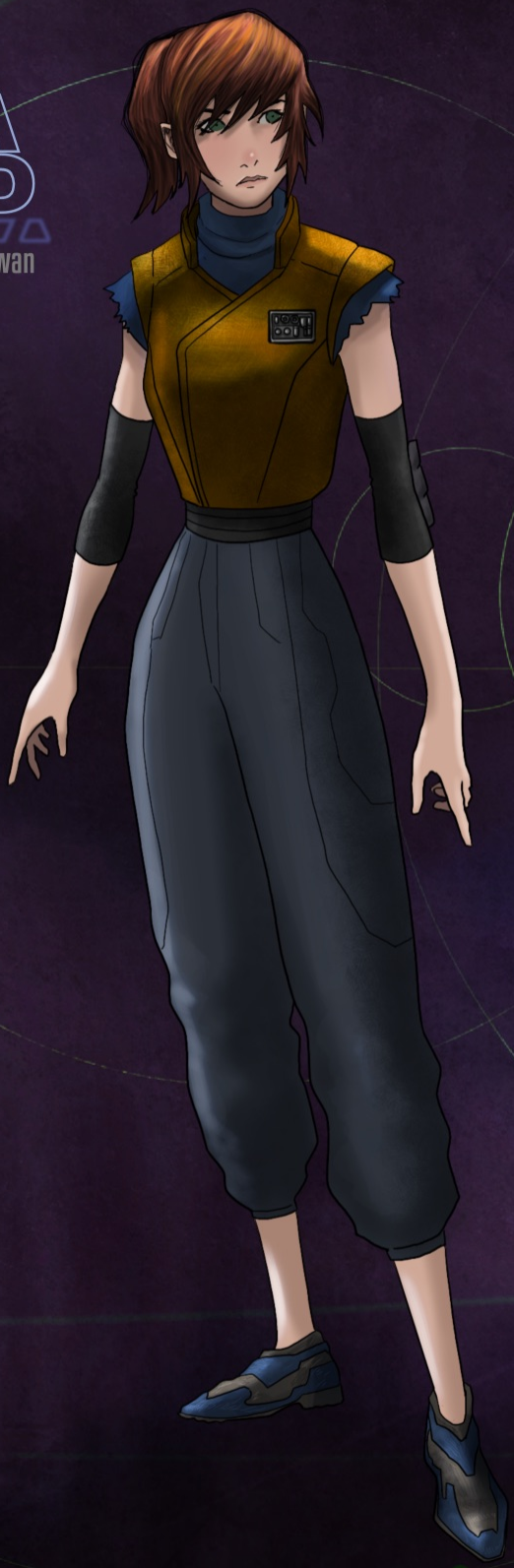


CONCEPT ART

CHARACTER DESIGN

BRINNA TORGO

Human former Jedi padawan



CONCEPT ART

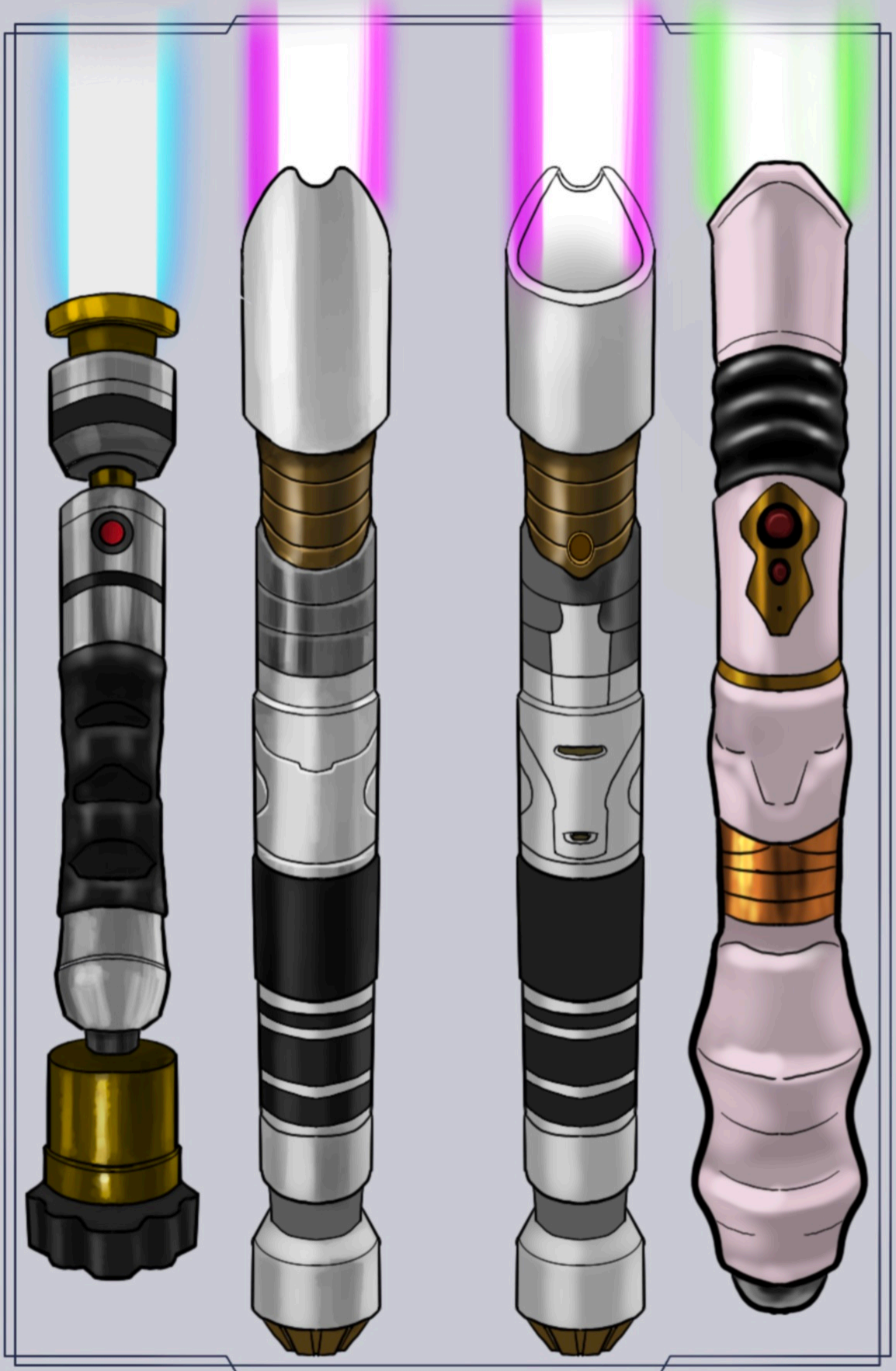
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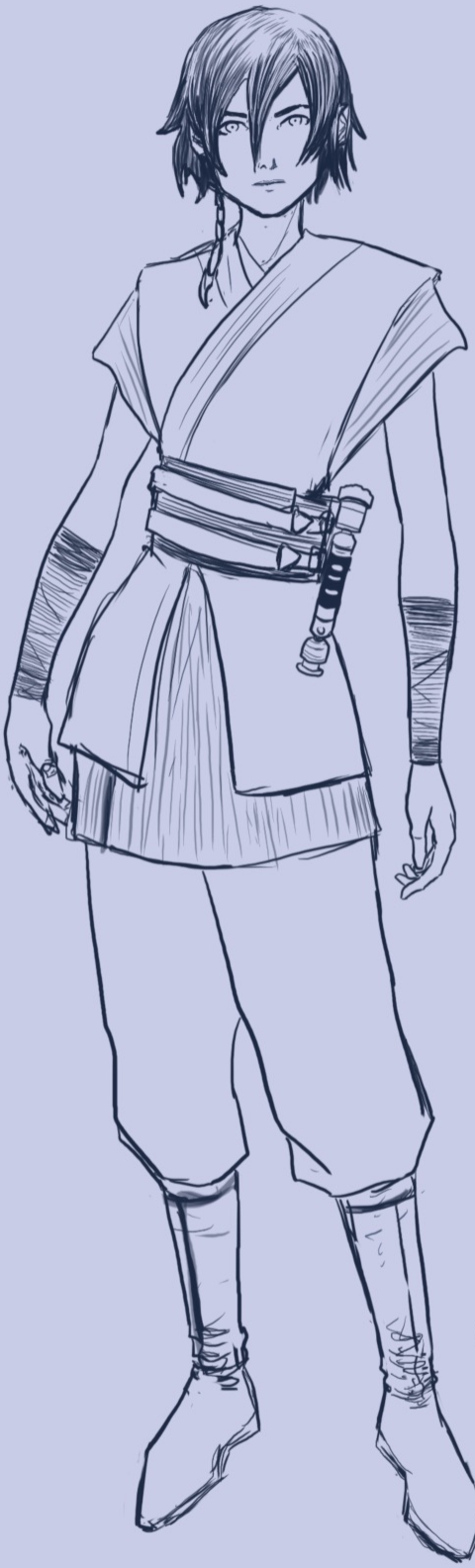
POLKO VULUU

Mon Calamari former Jedi



CONCEPT ART





PADAWAN
TORGO

