

ISS VANGUARD



EX
FORTITUDINE
VERITAS



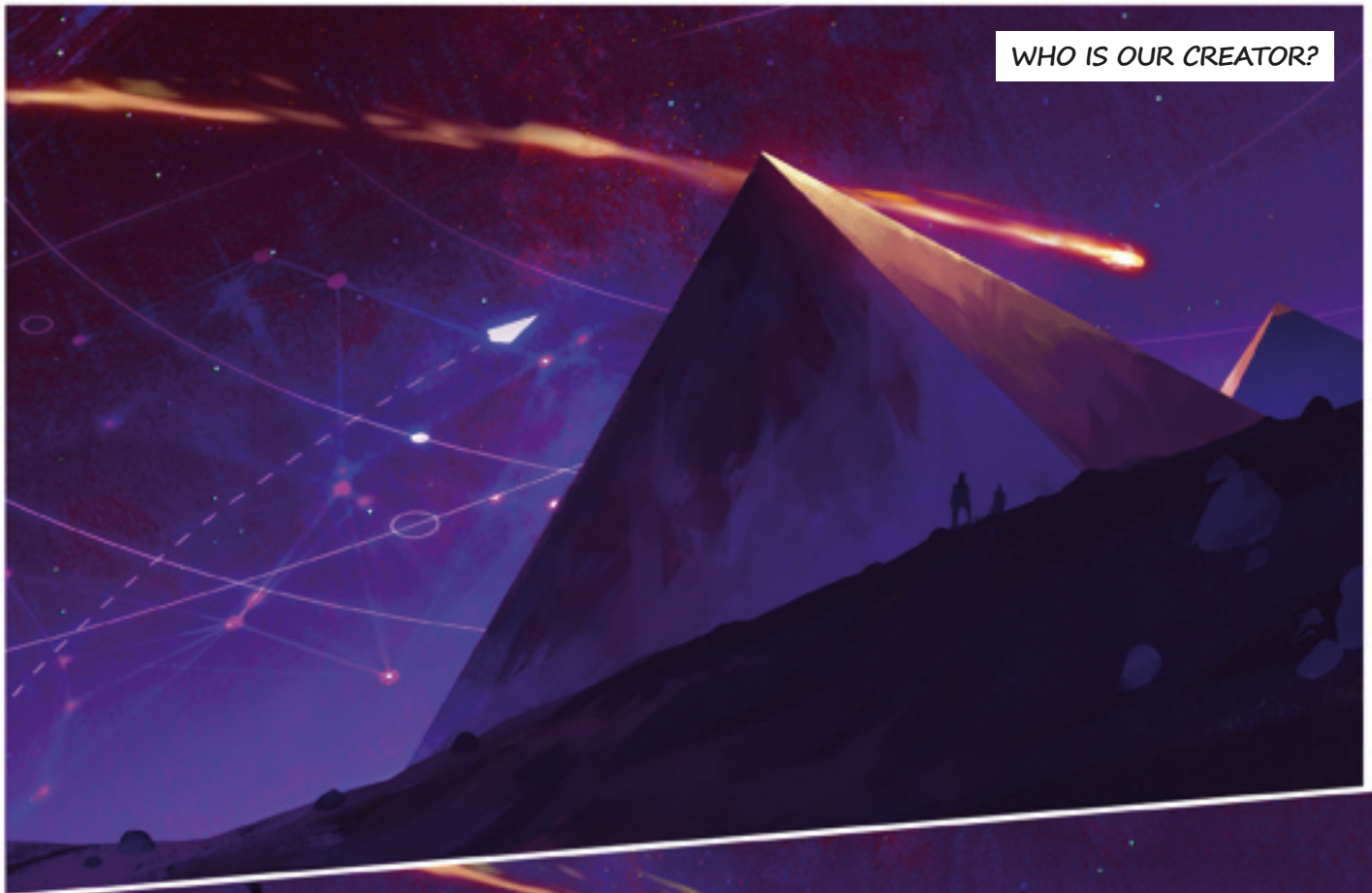
JUST IMAGINE FOR A SECOND ...





... THAT INSIDE YOU, THERE LIES AN ANSWER
TO HUMANITY'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS.

ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE?



WHO IS OUR CREATOR?




IS THERE A CREATOR AT ALL?



WHAT WOULD YOU DO
WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE?



I CAN TELL YOU WHAT WE DID.



MY NAME IS JAKE CROOL
AND HERE IS MY STORY.
OR, RATHER, OUR STORY!



IT ALL STARTED IN A LABORATORY.

THERE'S THIS THING WE USED TO CALL THE "JUNK DNA" FOR DECADES. IN FACT, MOST OF OUR GENETIC CODE ...

... IS LEFTOVERS FROM OUR MESSY EVOLUTION, SOME DATING BACK TO THE FIRST SINGLE-CELL ORGANISMS.

SCIENTISTS WERE CERTAIN THEY SERVED NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE.

THEY WERE WRONG. BIG TIME!

70% JUNK DNA

INFORMATION DISCOVERED INSIDE
"GOD'S COORDINATES?"

ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE RESEARCHER
WHO NOTICED MATHEMATICAL ORDER
IN THE CHAOS.



WITHIN THE OLDEST SECTIONS OF OUR
DNA, SHARED BETWEEN EVERY LIVING
THING ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH,
THERE WAS DATA!

OUR DNA CONTAINED COORDINATES POINTING SOMEWHERE
WITHIN OUR GALAXY, DUBBED "GOD'S COORDINATES."

AS HUMANS, DEEP DOWN,
WE'RE ALL EXPLORERS.



EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES IT TAKES
A LITTLE PUSH TO WAKE US FROM
CENTURIES OF APATHY.



WE JUST NEEDED A NEW GLOWING
PURPOSE ON OUR HORIZON.



NOW, WE HAD ONE




REACHING GOD'S COORDINATES!



THIS PURPOSE SPURRED SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED PEOPLE TO MOVE FROM WORK ON NEW SOCIAL APPS, TECH GIZMOS, OR FINANCIAL ALGORITHMS INTO SPACE ENGINEERING.



WE COULD ALMOST FEEL THE STAR MAP, BURNING WITHIN EVERY CELL OF OUR BODIES.



BUT ALL OF THIS WASN'T ENOUGH. AT LEAST NOT IN OUR LIFETIMES. HUMANITY DID NOT HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO REACH SUCH A DISTANT PLACE.

OR AT LEAST WE THOUGHT SO.




ONCE AGAIN, ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE PERSON.

THIS TIME, AN INFORMANT RISKED EVERYTHING TO BRING TO LIGHT A SECRET HIDDEN DEEP IN SIBERIA.



AN ALIEN SHIP. OR RATHER, ITS WRECKAGE.

ONCE AGAIN, THE WORLD REELED. HOW COULD SOMETHING SO VITAL STAY UNDER WRAPS FOR DECADES? WHOSE SHIP WAS IT, AND WHY DIDN'T THEY CONTACT US? WERE THEY BEHIND OUR GENETIC STAR MAP?




THE WORLDWIDE PRESSURE ON THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE THE WRECKAGE WAS UNPRECEDENTED.

IN THE END, THEY RELENTED.



UNITED NATIONS

THE SHIP WAS TRANSFERRED TO A NEW GLOBAL SPACE EXPLORATION AGENCY.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a space scene. In the upper half, a massive rocket launch is depicted with bright orange and yellow flames and thick black smoke billowing upwards. Several smaller rockets are also visible in the background, streaking upwards. In the foreground, a satellite or space station component is shown in orbit, angled diagonally. It has a white cylindrical section with the word "HEROLD" written in red. The satellite is emitting a bright blue beam of light or energy. The background is a deep blue space with a white horizon line, suggesting the Earth's surface. The overall style is reminiscent of classic comic book art.

AFTER YEARS OF CONCENTRATED EFFORTS, WE RESTORED THE SHIP'S DRIVE. WE COULD NOT REPLICATE ITS ALIEN CORE, AND WE DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND IT. STILL, WE KNEW HOW TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE.

AN UNPRECEDENTED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BEGAN.



NEARLY EVERY COUNTRY ON EARTH CONTRIBUTED.
THE OBJECTIVE WAS TOO TANTALIZING,
THE POTENTIAL RETURNS TOO BIG TO IGNORE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COMBINED POTENTIAL OF
OUR ENTIRE SPECIES BECAME FOCUSED ON A SINGLE
TARGET.



IT WAS BREATHTAKING.

WE FUSED THE DRIVE OF THE WRECKAGE WITH OUR CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY. ISS VANGUARD WAS BORN: A HUMAN-MADE MIRACLE WITH AN ALIEN HEART.

TODAY, WE FINALLY STAND READY...

...FOR THE GREATEST ADVENTURE...

...IN HUMAN HISTORY.

WE GO NOW TO LEARN THE TRUTH...

...OF GOD'S COORDINATES!