



LOGLINE

Gelizeh is a woman in a world of women, and a failed Seneschal. Marked for death by the authorities as a radical, she is forced to uncover the oldest truths of her species, and become the lone protector of the Amaxen.

SYNOPSIS

Gelizeh is a woman in a world of women - the Amaxen. Genetically modified to be female for 90% of their lives, they become male and pass on genetic code in their final moments. The Eden Rosette is their home, an artificial world, light years from the Humans of Earth.

Gelizeh is a failing Seneschal, tasked with maintaining the social integrity of Amaxen society. She doesn't live up to the Seneschal ideal being a radical; a free thinker with a disdain for the rules. Put on probation, she is tasked with performing a special mission as proof of her capabilities. However, as the mission unfolds it turns near suicidal. Gelizeh believes her own High Priestess - Hepizhel - wants her dead. She is saved only by her breaking the rules and using a robotic combat drone to back her up.

During this mission Gelizeh meets Bixpix, a young administrator who is secretly investigating the High Priestess-hood. Bixpix asks Gelizeh's help in gaining access to Hepizhel's personal fles and network, to collect evidence.

Although caught up in domestic squabbles with her partner, Gelizeh reluctantly agrees to uncover the truth. They break into the High Priestess' estate and learn her secrets: illegal use of a cloning lab, and the impounding of an alien ship. Alarms are triggered and they escape on stolen hoverbikes, making their way through the environs of their artificial world, to where the alien ship is hidden.

Hepizhel's Seneschals pursue and lay siege to the ship while the duo explore. The ship is of Human origin and its logs lead to a Human Colony far away. To the Amaxen, Humans are a mythical abstraction, but in reality, they are the ancestors of the Amaxen. The Amaxen were genetically modified to deal with a corruption in Humanity's genetic code, which would lead to a species without viable males. Unfortunately, this modification was seen as an abomination by the humans, and the Amaxen exiled themselves to look for a new home.

The Human colony is home to a personality construct named Gehann, left behind by the last remnants of Humanity, who now search for the Amaxen to help them combat the same genetic corruption that the Amaxen were created to cure. Gehann pleads for the Amaxen's help, even though his people are likely long dead, but Gelizeh realizes her duty as a Seneschal, deletes Gehann for fear of the same sentiment that drove the Amaxen into exile, and returns to the Eden Rosette to confront Hepizhel.

The duo raid the genetic labs where Hepizhel has done her research. Hepizhel has been trying to clone a new version of the Amaxen that undoes the Change that makes an Amaxen woman into a male, essentially making the new clones Human, and thus susceptible to the Human's genetic fate. To the Seneschals, this is heresy - unmaking the Amaxen as a species, and so Gelizeh attempts to bring Hepizhel to justice.

Hepizhel admits to engineering a new Amaxen genome, and using the Seneschals to conduct terrorist attacks on the Creche - the machinery the Amaxen use to procreate reliably. Gelizeh was a Seneschal who wouldn't conform to Hepizhel's vision, and so had to be removed.

They fight, but Hepizhel has the upper hand, and only with Bixpix's help and a repaired Robot combat drone, does Gelizeh triumph.

Gelizeh is left in an Amaxen existential crisis: the life-giving, hallowed Creche can be turned into a weapon of extinction. Ultimately, she realizes it must be abolished.

Gelizeh returns home to her partner, who confesses that she is facing her own Change and soon to die. She wants Gelizeh to carry her child, rather than the Creche. She was unable to tell Gelizeh any of this, as it is heretical to the Seneschals.

But now, all that has changed...



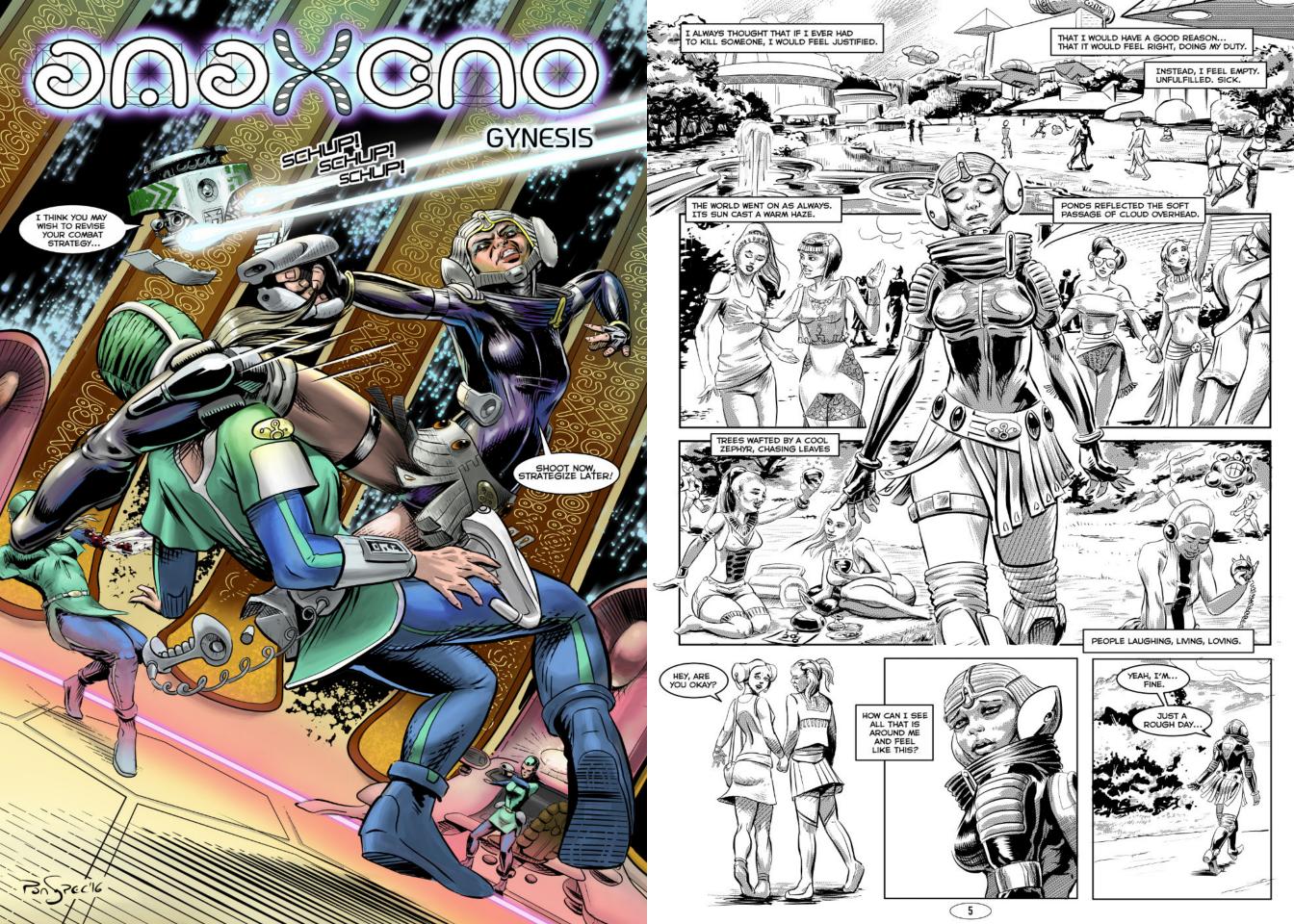
























THEY DON'T

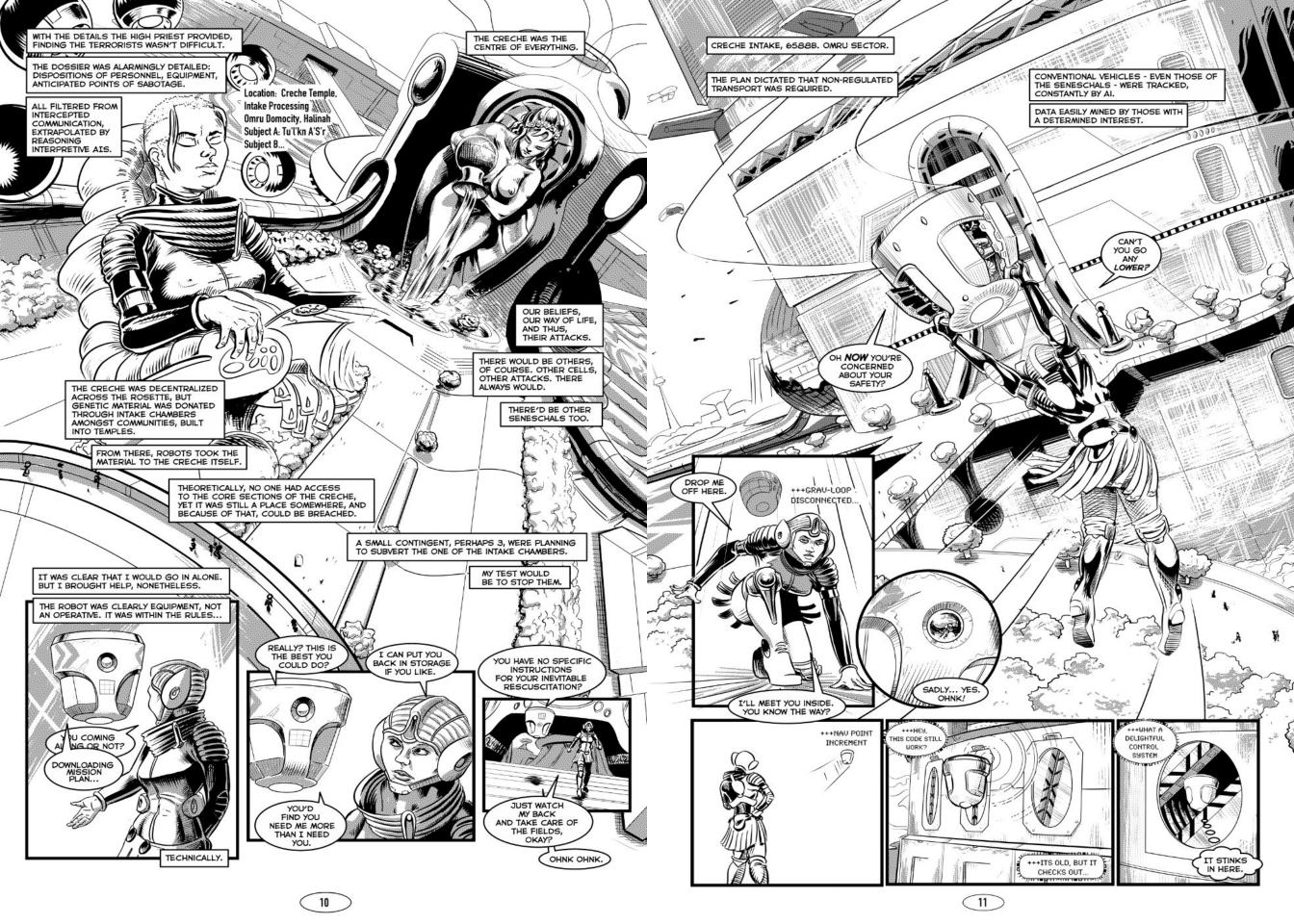
ALWAYS TELL US WHAT

WE NEED TO KNOW.



HMMM. MEDIUM BUILD, FIRM MUSCULATURE, OVERALL GOOD





A NOTE ON AMAXENI LANGUAGE

Within the book, I have used Amaxeni grammar for writing names, in order to remind the viewer that the characters they are meeting are not Human, but a species that is alien to them. The reader is, of course, free to read the names however they wish, but here is how they are intended to be read.

- Amaxeni has two very common vowels, E (eh) and I (ee).
- E is put between any two consonants, and I is denoted by a ', usually separating syllables.
- If a "vowel" (a, o, u, e) is placed at the beginning or end of a word/syllable, it becomes a consonant and shapes the word itself. Eg: "Omru" is simply that: Om-Ru

Gl'xh = Gel'i'zeh, GEL-ee-zeh (emphasis on capitalized syllable), G is hard G (as in Great) Hp'xl = Hep'i'zel, HEP-ee-zhel

INSPIRATIONS

Amaxeno's story is inspired by two main sources, the mythological Amazons of antiquity and the concept of Adam's Curse. The intent was never to remain true to the legends, nor to the exact science behind the inspiration, but to weave a compelling tale of a future species trying to find understanding and its place in the universe, and reflecting some of the issues and dilemmas of today.

Amazon Myth & Legend, from The Dictionary of Mythology, by J. A. Coleman

In some accounts their mother was Aphrodite or Otrere. They came from Asia Minor or Scythia and made a practice of breaking the arms and legs of all male infants to keep them subservient. They cut off one breast to make it easier to use a bow or spear. There were three tribes, each with its own city and ruled by one of three queens.

Some say that they killed and ate any men who landed on their shores.

They were defeated in battle by Theseus leading the Athenians.

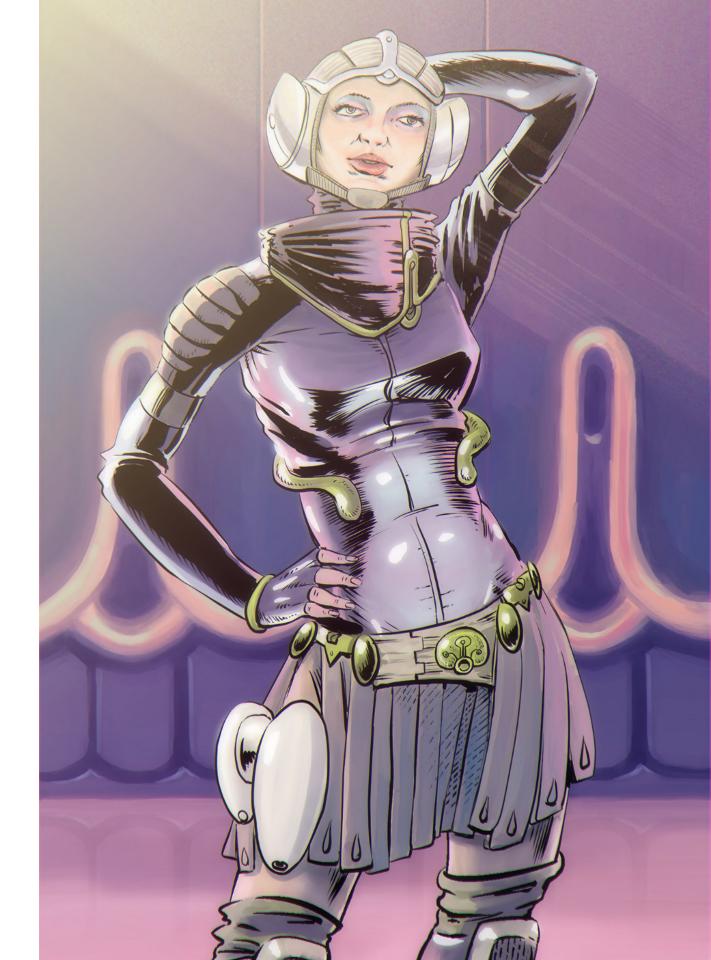
In Arthurian Lore, they appear as a subject race under Lucius. In one story, they were engaged in battle by Gawain, and the Crop-Eared Dog is said to have killed their queen. Spenser called their queen Radigund.

In Arabian lore, each had one male, one female breast, or one breast in the center. Some say men and women lived on opposite sides of the river in West Africa, and met only in the dry season when the river could be forded. Others say the women lived without men, conceiving by bathing in a certain pool, perhaps inhabited by a jinnee who mated with them.

Adam's Curse, From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Adam's Curse: A Future Without Men (also known as Adam's Curse: A Story of Sex, Genetics, and the Extinction of Men) is a 2003 book by Oxford University human genetics professor Bryan Sykes expounding his hypothesis that with the declining sperm count in men and the continual atrophy of the Y chromosome, within 5,000 generations (approximately 125,000 years) the male of the human species will become extinct.

Sykes believes one of the options for the survival of humanity is unisex reproduction by females: female eggs fertilized by the nuclear X chromosomes of another female and implanted using in vitro fertilization methods. He also introduces the possibility of moving the SRY and associated genes responsible for maleness and male fertility to another chromosome, which he refers to as "the Adonis chromosome", engendering fertile males with an XX karyotype.





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