

CLASSIC BATTLESTAR GALACTICA
CYLON APOCALYPSE
Issue #1 of 4
Javier Grillo-Marxuach
Rev. #3 11.08.06 (FINAL)

*

PAGE ONE

PANEL ONE

TRAVELING THROUGH DEEP SPACE - vast and infinite...

CAPTION: *There are those who believe that life here began out there...*

PANEL TWO

CONTINUED - as the leading edge of a planet - its surface a matte shade of gold bathed in a creepy red light - appears on the lower right hand corner of the frame...

CAPTION: *...far across the universe, with tribes of humans who may have been the forefathers of the Egyptians, or the Toltecs...*

CAPTION #2: *...or the Mayans... that they may have been the architects of the Great Pyramids...*

PANEL THREE

CONTINUED - the planet pokes further into frame. Growing larger - and continental mass can now be seen across the curve of this golden world...

CAPTION: *...or the lost civilizations of Lemuria... or Atlantis.*

CAPTION #2: *Some believe that there may yet be brothers of man...*

PANEL FOUR

CONTINUED - only it's not a golden world -

- it's STARBUCK'S flight helmet - the continental mass is now clearly visible as the eagle decoration on all Colonial Warrior headgear...

...the cockpit is dark but for a red light -

- and Starbuck's eyes are open wide...

CAPTION: *...who even now fight to survive... far, far away
amongst the stars...*

STARBUCK
HOLY FRACK, APOLLO! I'M SCANNING
HUNDREDS OF RAIDERS!

APOLLO (O.S. - ELECTRONIC BALLOON)
STOW THE CHATTER STARBUCK!

END OF PAGE ONE

PAGES TWO AND THREE

A SPLASH takes up the two pages:

Hundreds of Cylon Raiders opening fire on one of their own Basestars.

And it is - to paraphrase a statesman known to us all - a massive attack characterized by shock and frackin' awe!

*

This is our opening salvo, folks - and it's weird and disconcerting - and on a scope never before seen in the Galactica-verse.

Cylon raiders buzz the Basestar like swarms of psychotic hornets - firing desperately: loosing a hail of laser fire intended to obliterate one of their own capital ships!

A large blue planet - covered completely by oceans - dominates the background.

And in the foreground, on the top left hand corner...

.. an asteroid - a small, unremarkable floating piece of ore.

An asteroid that would normally be too trivial to even bother drawing when illustrating an epic battle like this one...

...except that this one has two Colonial Vipers clamped to its underside.

THE FOLLOWING PANELS ARE TINY - AND FLOAT IN SEQUENCE ALONG THE SIDES OF THE SPLASH

PANEL ONE:

Close on Apollo in his cockpit - also bathed in red light - clearly, he and Starbuck are in serious stealth mode.

APOLLO
WE DON'T WANT THEM HEARING US.

PANEL TWO:

Close on Starbuck - his devil-may-care attitude very much in evidence...

STARBUCK
QUIT FRETTING - I'M NOT GONNA DIE
HANGING ON TO SOME ASTRALON - I
ALREADY MADE THAT DECISION TODAY.

STARBUCK (SECOND BALLOON)
CYLONS ATTACKING CYLONS. THE LORDS
OF KOBOL ARE SMILING UPON US.

PANEL THREE:

CLOSE ON APOLLO

APOLLO
YOU READING WHAT I'M READING?

PANEL FOUR:

CLOSE ON STARBUCK

STARBUCK
CORE BREACH INSIDE THE BASESTAR...

STARBUCK (SECOND BALLOON)
...BIG BOY'S GOING DOWN!

PANEL FIVE:

CLOSE ON APOLLO

APOLLO
CHECK YOUR SHORT-RANGE - LOOKS LIKE
THEY'RE RETREATING.

APOLLO (SECOND BALLOON)
AND COMING RIGHT AT US!

END OF PAGES TWO AND THREE

PAGE FOUR

THE TOP HALF OF THE PAGE FORMS ONE MASSIVE PANEL - THE LOWER
HALF OF THE PAGE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE

PANEL ONE:

Apollo and Starbuck's Vipers hang upside-down from the
asteroid at the top of the page...

...as a flight of Cylon raiders ZOOM beneath them - getting
the hell out of there as...

BOTTOM HALF OF THE PAGE**PANEL TWO:**

A massive plume of fire ERUPTS from the Basestar as the
crippled, lumbering giant takes on a list...

PANEL THREE:

... and slowly falls...

PANEL FOUR:

...right into the upper atmosphere of the blue planet... a
massive beast glowing red from re-entry!

END OF PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE**PANEL ONE:**

SMALL - INSET ON APOLLO

APOLLO
 DISENGAGE YOUR MAGNETIC DOCKING
 CLAMP. WE'RE GOING IN.

STARBUCK (O.S. - ELECTRONIC BALLOON)
 ARE YOU SNIFFING PLANT VAPORS?

PANEL TWO:

Apollo's Viper disengages and flips over - Starbuck is above him, still docked to the asteroid.

It's a very close-quarters move that puts Apollo's canopy right under Starbuck's.

They're so close, in fact, that Apollo just looks up and out from his cockpit - as if he could talk to Starbuck through the vacuum of space!

APOLLO
 MY FATHER WILL HAVE A LOT OF
 QUESTIONS ABOUT CYLONS KILLING
 CYLONS... I PLAN ON HAVING ANSWERS.

PANEL THREE:

Closer on the two men - looking at one another through their respective canopies, with Starbuck still upside-down:

STARBUCK
 DID I MENTION WHAT I WAS DOING
 BEFORE LONG-RANGE RECON?

APOLLO
 AMBROSIA? BETTING ON TRIAD? CARDS?

STARBUCK (SECOND BALLOON)
 HAD A PERFECT PYRAMID ON BOJAY,
 DROVE THE BET TO THREE CASES OF
 MUSHIES - SOIL GROWN, NOT THE
 HYDRONIC STUFF - BOOMER'S HOLDING
 THE HANDS IN TRUST 'TIL WE GET
 BACK.

APOLLO (SECOND BALLOON)
 YOUR POINT?

STARBUCK (THIRD BALLOON)
LIKE I SAID - I DON'T PLAN ON DYING
TODAY.

END OF PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX**PANEL ONE:**

CLOSE ON APOLLO - determined, a hero:

APOLLO
NOR DO I.

PANEL TWO:

SMALL - INSET: On Apollo's hand pushing the turbo button on his flight stick. You know this show, you saw it on the TV show a million times!

PANEL THREE:

Apollo's Viper ZOOMS across the page - cutting a swath through open space toward the blue planet -

- and bearing down on the comet-like plummeting Basestar.

PANEL FOUR:

On Starbuck - looking through his canopy at Apollo's Viper as it speeds off into the distance - getting closer and closer to the planet.

STARBUCK (THOUGHT BALLOON)
YOU BETTER NOT.

PANEL FIVE:

ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

Starbuck hits the afterburner -

- and as his Viper arcs across the page, following Apollo's lead...

END OF PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN**PANEL ONE:****ACROSS THE TOP OF THE PAGE**

Remember that establishing shot you saw at the beginning of every episode of *Battlestar Galactica*?

The slow push into the outrigger nacelle to show the word GALACTICA written on the side of the ship?

This is the exact same shot.

Yep, it's a beaut - the first time we're seeing our lady in this book!

And making this shot even more exciting is the fact that Galactica is nestled inside a colorful nebula.

CAPTION: Commander's log - we are entering our third week of hiding in the Korax nebula.

CAPTION #2: Beyond this inhospitable storm of space dust and electromagnetic interference is the Canopus wormhole - a mysterious gateway that might hold the key to our survival...

CAPTION #3: ...but also a secret that could destroy us all.

PANEL TWO:

IN THE SCIENCE LAB. Flanked by BOJAY and SHEBA, COMMANDER ADAMA stands before a quizzical DOCTOR WILKER.

ADAMA

LIEUTENANT. SHOW DOCTOR WILKER THE TRANSMISSION YOU INTERCEPTED.

BOJAY

YES - LIEUTENANT SHEBA AND I WERE ON STEALTH APPROACH TO THE WORMHOLE - SURVEYING SIGNALS BEYOND ANYTHING THE CYLONS WOULD EVER EVEN **THINK** TO EXPLORE: AMPLITUDE AND FREQUENCY MODULATION, ULTRA-HIGH AND VERY-HIGH FREQUENCY SIGNALS.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

WILKER

WHY WOULD YOU MAKE A STEALTH APPROACH TO A WORMHOLE?

*
*

PANEL THREE:

Bojay and Sheba both turn to Adama. They are all hiding something, no one wants to say it.

ADAMA

I'M SURE YOU DON'T NEED THE
OPERATIONAL DETAILS, DOCTOR -
LIEUTENANTS BOJAY AND SHEBA CAME
UPON A VERY WEAK TRANSMISSION -

*
*
*

BOJAY

AND WE JAMMED THE TRANSMISSION
RIGHT AFTER WE... SO THAT NO ONE
ELSE COULD POSSIBLY -

*
*
*
*

ADAMA (SECOND BALLOON)

AHEM. THANK YOU LIEUTENANT.

*
*

PANEL FOUR:

SMALL, INSET : Adama places a data crystal into a slot -

ADAMA (O.P.)

YOUR INSIGHT WOULD BE MUCH
APPRECIATED, DOCTOR WILKER.

*
*
*

SFX: KLIK!

And then -

PANEL FIVE:

CLOSE ON WILKER - and his expression ought to be enough to
make you want to turn the page.

WILKER

BY THE GODS! **CAN IT BE?**

END OF PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT**PANEL ONE:**HUGE.

ON THE FOREGROUND is a screen - a display on which can be seen the transmission that has Doctor Wilker so absolutely shocked...

...it's Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

F.D. fracking R!

*

At the 1939 World's Fair - the first ever appearance of an American President on television.

And the look on Wilker's face says it all - this is a miracle.

Finally - evidence that the Earth, the Holy Grail of this rag-tag fleet - is out there...

...somewhere.

WILKER
FROM THE LOST COLONY?

ADAMA
I HAVE MY OPINION.

ADAMA (SECOND BALLOON)
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW **YOURS**, DOCTOR.

PANEL TWO:

IN PROFILE - Wilker gets closer to the screen - processing:

WILKER
WE'RE OBVIOUSLY LOOKING AT
HOMINIDS, VERY SIMILAR TO US, USING
VERY PRIMITIVE MEANS OF
TRANSMISSION.

*
*
***PANEL THREE:**

Adama leans in on Wilker - he wants answers.

ADAMA
DOCTOR - DID THIS TRANSMISSION COME
THROUGH THE WORMHOLE?

WILKER
 THE INTERFERENCE WITH THE SIGNAL
 PATTERNS... THE FRAGMENTATION AND
 COMPRESSION...

WILKER (SECOND BALLOON)
 ...MY FIRST IMPRESSION,
 COMMANDER...

PANEL FOUR:

Wilker turns to face Adama, Bojay and Sheba - the elation
clear on his face:

WILKER
 THIS IS A GREAT DAY - THIS COULD BE
 EVIDENCE THAT THE LOST COLONY DOES
 EXIST -

WILKER (SECOND BALLOON)
 - **THAT THEY MAY BE JUST BEYOND THE**
WORMHOLE!

PANEL FIVE:

CLOSE ON ADAMA - not sharing the excitement.

ADAMA
 I'M AFRAID THIS - POSSIBILITY -
 ONLY MAKES OUR SITUATION MORE
 DIFFICULT, DOCTOR.

ADAMA (SECOND BALLOON)
 THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE.

And off Adama's cryptic statement -

END OF PAGE EIGHT

PAGE NINE**PANEL ONE:**

Apollo and Starbuck's Vipers ZOOM side-by-side between the watery surface and stormy atmosphere of this ocean-covered world...

STARBUCK
GREAT - ANOTHER UNBREATHABLE
ATMOSPHERE.

STARBUCK (SECOND BALLOON)
EVER WISH WE'D FIND A HOSPITABLE
WORLD... OXYGEN RICH... THE RIGHT
CLIMATE... MAYBE A NICE BEACH?

APOLLO
AND DO WHAT?

PANEL TWO:

ON STARBUCK - through his canopy.

STARBUCK
I'M TORN. PROFESSIONAL PYRAMID
PLAYER? FUMARELLO LEAF PLANTATION
OWNER? RETIRED GENTLEMAN OF
LEISURE?

PANEL THREE:

ON APOLLO - through his canopy.

APOLLO
SITTING DUCK FOR THE CYLONS? IT'S
AN IDEA WORTHY OF COUNT BALTAR
HIMSELF!

APOLLO (SECOND BALLOON)
SCANNERS UP - WE HAVE A TARGET!

PANEL FOUR:

MASSIVE: a full bleed taking up the lower half of the page.

The fallen Basestar sits on its side just off a shore - half buried in water and listing to the side.

END OF PAGE NINE

PAGE TEN**PANELS ONE AND TWO:**

CONSIST OF ONE IMAGE SPLIT IN HALF ACROSS THE HORIZONTAL AXIS

ON THE UPPER PANEL: the cliffs of a lone outcropping in the middle of the sea.

The two Vipers sit on top, resting on their landing gear...

...and on the LOWER PANEL, the turbulent shore below - a rocky shoal where Apollo and Starbuck wade into the sea, their faces covered by breathing masks.

Apollo holds portable scanning computer in his hand:

APOLLO
I'M NOT READING ANY MOVEMENT IN THE
BASESTAR.

STARBUCK
DON'T WORRY, IF WE RUN INTO ANY
SURVIVORS...

PANEL THREE:

Apollo and Starbuck draw grapnel guns from their utility belts, and together (like Jules Winfield and Vincent Vega in *Pulp Fiction*) open fire -

STARBUCK
...I'LL BE SURE TO **KILL** THEM.

SFX: TCHOOM!

PANEL FOUR:

Their grapnels find their target - the steel of the crashed Cylon ship.

PANEL FIVE:

WIDER - to show the massive scope of the fallen Basestar.

Apollo and Starbuck are dwarfed by the leading edge of the massive vessel as they use their cables to guide them across the choppy sea.

END OF PAGE TEN

PAGE ELEVEN**PANEL ONE:**

RUNS DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE PAGE FROM THE TOP LEFT HAND CORNER TO THE BOTTOM -

Starbuck and Apollo descend, Apollo first - rappelling style - with their grapnels down a dark shaft from an iris-like hatch above.

NOTE: APOLLO AND STARBUCK BOTH WEAR LEATHER GLOVES IN THIS SEQUENCE AND FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEQUENCE ON THIS PLANET * *

The shaft is clearly a launch tube turned on its side.

As they descend, their flashlights lighting the way, the following panels line the right side, showing what they see...

PANEL TWO:

...the bulkheads lining the side of the launch tube - scorched with laser fire.

The two following lines are O.P. but correspond to Starbuck and Apollo's position on the left side of the page.

STARBUCK (O.P.)
BLAST MARKS - MUST HAVE BEEN A HARD
FIREFIGHT IN HERE.

APOLLO (O.P.)
BUT AGAINST WHAT?

STARBUCK (O.P.) (SECOND BALLOON)
LOOK BELOW.

PANEL THREE

BELOW - something shiny barely lit by Starbuck's flashlight - getting closer...

PANEL FOUR

- and closer - until we get a faint glimpse at what it is... the dull silver glow of the flashlight...

... shining against a pile of lifeless Cylon Centurions...

END OF PAGE ELEVEN

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL ONE:

ON APOLLO - descending - still on his rope - until he is just above the pile of mechanical corpses.

APOLLO
NO ENEMY BODIES... JUST DEAD
CYLONS...

PANEL TWO:

SMALL, INSET - as Apollo releases his grip on his grapnel gun.

SFX: SLLLT!

PANEL THREE:

Apollo lands on his feet on top of the pile of dead Centurions.

STARBUCK
MAKING NEW FRIENDS DOWN THERE?

PANEL FOUR:

SMALL - Apollo brushes his gloved hand over the disembodied head of a Centurion... wiping off a thick black ooze.

PANEL FIVE:

Holding up his hand, Apollo looks up at Starbuck:

APOLLO
THEY'RE ALL COVERED IN THIS
STUFF...

APOLLO (SECOND BALLOON)
...WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

And off the question...

END OF PAGE TWELVE

PAGE THIRTEEN**PANEL ONE:**

THE CELESTIAL CHAMBER - the small, glass-domed observation deck on the Galactica (the place no one uses anymore thanks to overreliance on scanners and technology) now seems positively crowded with Commander Adama, Colonel Tigh and Doctor Wilker.

Wilker sits in the observation chair -

TIGH
WE HAVE TEMPORARILY MOVED THE SHIP
OUT OF THE NEBULA - BUT WE ARE
RISKING DETECTION.

WILKER
DETECTION? BY WHOM? *

ADAMA
(to Tigh) *

IT WILL ONLY BE A MOMENT.

PANEL TWO:

CLOSE ON ADAMA - tentative:

ADAMA
TRAIN THE SIGHT ON THE WORMHOLE,
DOCTOR - AND YOU WILL SEE THE
REASON WE HAVE BEEN HIDING HERE...

ADAMA (THIRD BALLOON)
...AND THE SECRET THE HIGH COMMAND
HAS BEEN KEEPING FROM THE COUNCIL -
AND EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN
THIS FLEET.

PANEL THREE:

WILKER'S P.O.V. Showing the Canopus wormhole -

- a beautiful conflagration of a singularity and a swirling mass of space dust and plasma forming a shimmering corona...

... and in front of it, a planet.

A gray speck marring the beauty of the phenomenon just beyond.

WILKER (O.P.)
IT'S A PLANET...

PANEL FOUR:

Wilker turns from the chair to look at Adama and Tigh:

 WILKER
 ...WHY ARE WE SO AFRAID OF IT?

 TIGH
 IT'S INHABITED.

PANEL FIVE:

Adama turns to look at Wilker, his expression grave:

 ADAMA
 BY CYLONS.

END OF PAGE THIRTEEN

PAGE FOURTEEN**PANEL ONE:**

A shot of the planet - dead center in front of the wormhole:
what once seemed an innocent rock now taking on an ominous
air...

PANEL TWO:

ON ADAMA - INSET

ADAMA
AN ENTIRE ENEMY WORLD STANDING
BETWEEN US AND THE POSSIBILITY OF
FINDING THE LOST COLONY.

Adama's speech balloons all connect through the page as we
introduce this new world through his words...

PANEL THREE:

ZOOMING in closer to the planet - the lights of its cities
shine brightly within the confines of the black continents
that dominate its surface...

ADAMA (O.P.)
IF OUR STEALTH PROBES ARE
ACCURATE...

PANEL FOUR:

CLOSER - to show the main building of one of the Cylon
cities: looking like some modern monstrosity in black and
brutalist concrete - with wires coming out of every
orifice...

...a babylonian computing tower that also serves as the
center of a massive Cylon city.

ADAMA (O.P.)
...THE ENTIRE PLANET IS A CYLON
MAINFRAME...

PANEL FIVE:

STILL CLOSER: to look into a window - through which can be
seen a familiar outline -

- that of a red-cloaked IL class Cylon - the ruthless
leadership class second only to the Imperious Leader!

ADAMA (O.P.)
...A SOCIETY OF CYLON CIVILIANS AND
MILITARY TASKED WITH THE PROTECTION
OF THEIR EMPIRE'S DATA!

END OF PAGE FOURTEEN

PAGE FIFTEEN**PANEL ONE:**

The IL now dominates the foreground: he's an especially nasty upgrade on the ones seen on the television series - we need to take this somewhat comical invention of the show and make him sleek and menacing...

...because this is ABBADON - the main villain of this series.

...and he is so menacing, in fact, that he appears far scarier than the pair of gold-plated, sword-carrying, CYLON COMMANDERS entering the apartment through sliding glass doors.

COMMANDER #1
REGENT ABBADON - THE INFIDEL
BASESTAR HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

PANEL TWO:

Abbadon's face is huge in the frame - dwarfing the two Commanders.

ABBADON
YOU SAW IT DISINTEGRATE?

PANEL THREE:

The Commanders look at one another - not that toasters would ever do this, but their body language might just connote...

...a note of fear.

COMMANDER #2
WE SAW IT CRASH INTO THE OCEANS OF
BURANIA.

PANEL FOUR

Abbadon turns on the Commanders -

ABBADON
WRONG ANSWER.

END OF PAGE FIFTEEN

PAGE SIXTEEN**PANEL ONE:**

Abbadon steps up to Commander #2:

ABBADON
 COMMANDER... IS SELF PRESERVATION
 AN INSTINCT YOU POSSESS?

COMMANDER #2
 AFFIRMATIVE.

ABBADON (SECOND BALLOON)
 IS THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF THE CYLON
 ORDER SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE TO BE
 CORRECT MODE OF ALL EXISTENCE?

COMMANDER #2
 AFFIRMATIVE.

*

PANEL TWO:

CLOSE ON ABBADON:

ABBADON
 THEN WHY DO YOU COME TO ME WITH
 THIS REPORT? WHY DO YOU STAND
 BEFORE ME WITH UNFINISHED WORK?

ABBADON (SECOND BALLOON)
 AS LONG AS THAT BASESTAR EXISTS AS
 ANYTHING BUT ATOMS, THE WORK OF THE
 INFIDEL IS OUT THERE -

ABBADON (THIRD BALLOON)
 - **WAITING TO BE USED AGAINST US
 ALL.**

PANEL THREE:

Abbadon moves closer into a profile to profile face-to-face
 off with the Commanders - sheer evil clear in his electronic
 features.

ABBADON
 YOU WILL RETURN TO THE SEAS OF
 BURANIA WITH A FLIGHT OF BOMBERS -
 YOU WILL BLAST WHAT REMAINS OF THE
 INFIDEL BASESTAR INTO THE ETHER...

ABBADON (SECOND BALLOON)
AND YOU WILL LEAVE BEHIND A MAXIMUM
SELF-SUFFICIENCY STEALTH TEAM TO
TRACK AND INTERCEPT **ANYONE** WHO
SHOULD HAPPEN UPON THAT WORLD.

PANEL FIVE:

CLOSE UP - on the Cylon Commanders, staring dead ahead with
its awful, inhuman red eye ...

CENTURION #1
BY YOUR COMMAND.

...and off this panel - and the knowledge that Starbuck and
Apollo are currently inside the target!

END OF PAGE SIXTEEN

PAGE SEVENTEEN**PANEL ONE:**

Starbuck and Apollo inspect the Cylon carnage on the overturned launch corridor of the Basestar.

There is now enough light from Starbuck and Apollo to see that the end of the corridor is wider than the opening - an atrium-like space.

APOLLO

THIS SUBSTANCE SEEMS TO BE ON EVERY
ONE OF THE BODIES... APPEARS TO BE
BIOLOGICAL...

STARBUCK

HOW ABOUT WE TRY TO GET THE
COMPUTERS ON LINE AND DOWNLOAD
EVERY LAST BIT OF TACTICAL DATA
FROM THEIR -

And by the way... If you look very closely, somewhere in the pile of robot carnage... You may just - just - notice...

...the Faint red glow off a Cylon eye, coming to life!

PANEL TWO:

SFX: MMMMMRRRRRRRRRRROOOOOOWWWWWWRRRRRRRRKKKKKKKKKKKKWWWRRR!

A MASSIVE BEAST rises over Apollo and Starbuck -

- and it is a hideous thing, a gigantic, multi-limbed biomechanical conflagration of Cylon parts reassembled into a giant, quasi-humanoid figure held together by the black ooze!

And throughout the beast - the red glow of Cylon eyes -

- of Cylon life itself -

- blasting out of every orifice on this heinous creature.

END OF PAGE SEVENTEEN

PAGE EIGHTEEN**PANEL ONE:**

Swept up in the tide of mechanical limbs and heads - all of them bound together in the mysterious slime and glowing an eerie red.

Apollo stumbles back, opening up on the creature with his pistol as Starbuck reaches for his grapnel...

PANEL TWO:

SMALL - INSET Starbuck's hand grabs a hold of Apollo.

PANEL THREE:

Starbuck - holding Apollo with his free hand - rise on the wire - the perfect team -

- and Apollo fires away with his pistol, keeping the beast at bay.

SFX (APOLLO'S GUN): TKOOM! TKOOM! TKOOM!

PANEL FOUR:

Starbuck and Apollo emerge from the hatch atop the Basestar - two gnats on the back of an elephant -

STARBUCK
NOW CAN WE GET OUT OF THIS HADES
HOLE?

But Apollo's attention is elsewhere -

APOLLO
OH...**FRACK.**

PANEL FIVE:

Starbuck looks up, matching Apollo's sightline to see -

- three Cylon bombers bearing down in the distance!

(and no, we never saw Cylon bombers in the original series - this is a chance to design an ultra-cool, ultra-deadly new weapon - enjoy!)

END OF PAGE EIGHTEEN

PAGE NINETEEN**PANEL ONE:**

The bombers come closer - swooping down for the kill - as Apollo and Starbuck look back to see -

- the MONSTER - or at least one of its hideous appendages - squeezing out of the hatch -

SFX: RRRRRWWWWWWMMMMMMRRRRRRRRROOOOWWWWWKKKKKKKKKK!

PANEL TWO:

The Cylon bombers let loose - firing a volley missiles at the Basestar -

- as the missiles serpentine toward the Basestar, leaving coiled streams of exhaust in their wake...

SFX: TZZZZZZZZZCCCCCCHHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

...and Apollo and Starbuck run like hell - straight for the leading edge of the Basestar's hull!

PANEL THREE:

LONG AND VERTICAL

APOLLO AND STARBUCK DIVE OFF THE SIDE OF THE BASESTAR AS IT ERUPTS INTO FLAME - THE SUPERSTRUCTURE DISINTEGRATING FROM THE FIRE INSIDE -

- AND PLUMMET HUNDREDS OF FEET INTO THE OCEAN BELOW!

PANEL FOUR:

Starbuck and Apollo plunge underwater - pushing like hell as the surface above them fills with flame!

END OF PAGE NINETEEN

PAGE TWENTY**PANEL ONE:**

ON THE SHORE... Apollo and Starbuck wash up...

...as the Basestar disintegrates - millions of exploding pieces consumed in flame just beyond them...

...and the Cylon bombers disappear into the horizon.

STARBUCK

THE GOOD NEWS IS ALL WE GOTTA DO
NOW IS CLIMB THOSE CLIFFS BACK TO
OUR VIPERS.

PANEL TWO:

Apollo and Starbuck's Vipers **ZOOM!** across the Korax Nebula - past all of the ships in the rag-tag fleet...

PANEL THREE:

A THIN STRIP ACROSS THE PAGE - ALL BLACK

Interrupted by THREE CYLON EYES - one slightly above the other two - piercing the darkness...

...and beneath the image - a CAPTION - in a robotic font, matching the length of the page... *

CAPTION: *ENGAGE STEALTH PURSUIT PROTOCOL - ENGAGE STEALTH PURSUIT PROTOCOL - ENGAGE STEALTH PURSUIT PROTOCOL*

PANEL FOUR:

Apollo, flanked by Starbuck, puts a glass sample container on the lab bench in front of Doctor Wilker.

Inside the container is Apollo's glove - stained in black from the ooze seen on the Cylons inside the Basestar.

The stuff that bound the Cylons into their monstrous form.

WILKER

...AND THE CYLONS CAME BACK TO
LIFE, LIEUTENANT?

APOLLO

THEIR COMPONENT PARTS RECONSTITUTED
INTO ONE SINGLE LIVING ORGANISM,
DOCTOR WILKER...

APOLLO (SECOND BALLOON)
...AND THEY WERE COVERED IN **THIS**.

PANEL FIVE:

The lights go red - an alarm goes off all around the lab!

SFX: RED ALERT! RED ALERT! RED ALERT! RED ALERT! RED
ALERT!

STARBUCK
FOR SAGAN'S SAKE - HAVEN'T WE HAD A
FULL DAY?

END OF PAGE TWENTY

PAGE TWENTY-ONE**PANEL ONE:**

Apollo rushes to the intercom on the lab wall -

APOLLO
CORE COMMAND - THIS IS APOLLO -
WHAT'S GOING ON?

PANEL TWO:

The entire Core Command is under ALERT - bathed in red light - the crew scuttles around trying to get a hold of the developing crisis...

... and a visibly alarmed Adama leans in over a console manned by ATHENA (didn't think we'd forget her, did you?).

ADAMA
WE HAVE A HULL BREACH AND APPEAR TO
HAVE BEEN BOARDED - THEY'RE IN YOUR
SECTOR!

APOLLO (O.P. - ELECTRONIC BALLOON)
BOARDED? BY WHOM?

PANEL THREE:

CLOSE ON ATHENA -

ATHENA
FATHER - I HAVE A SECURITY CAMERA
VISUAL FROM THE SCIENCE DECK!

ADAMA (O.P.)
ON SCREEN!

PANEL FOUR:

Adama turns to look at the main screen - which covers the entire panel before him (the screen is heavily lined and in black-and-white, so Adama stands in stark contrast to the image) -

- and on the static-filled display...

...CYLONS! ENTERING THE SHIP THROUGH A BREACH IN THE HULL,
THEIR WEAPONS AT THE READY!

PANEL FIVE:

CLOSE ON ADAMA -

ADAMA
HOW IN PERDITION'S NAME DID THEY
GET IN MY SHIP?

END OF PAGE TWENTY-ONE

PAGE TWENTY-TWO**FULL PAGE SPLASH!**

Giving us the answer to Adama's question -

- we are out in space, and the gigantic hull of Galactica dominates half the page -

- as three Cylon Centurions - wearing back-mounted **thrusters** enter Galactica through the hole they have just blasted in the hull!

While another wave of three Centurions swoop in like lethal birds of prey!

And off this horrible moment - with our beloved Battlestar breached and under attack by its most deadly enemy...

CAPTION: TO BE CONTINUED

END OF ISSUE ONE