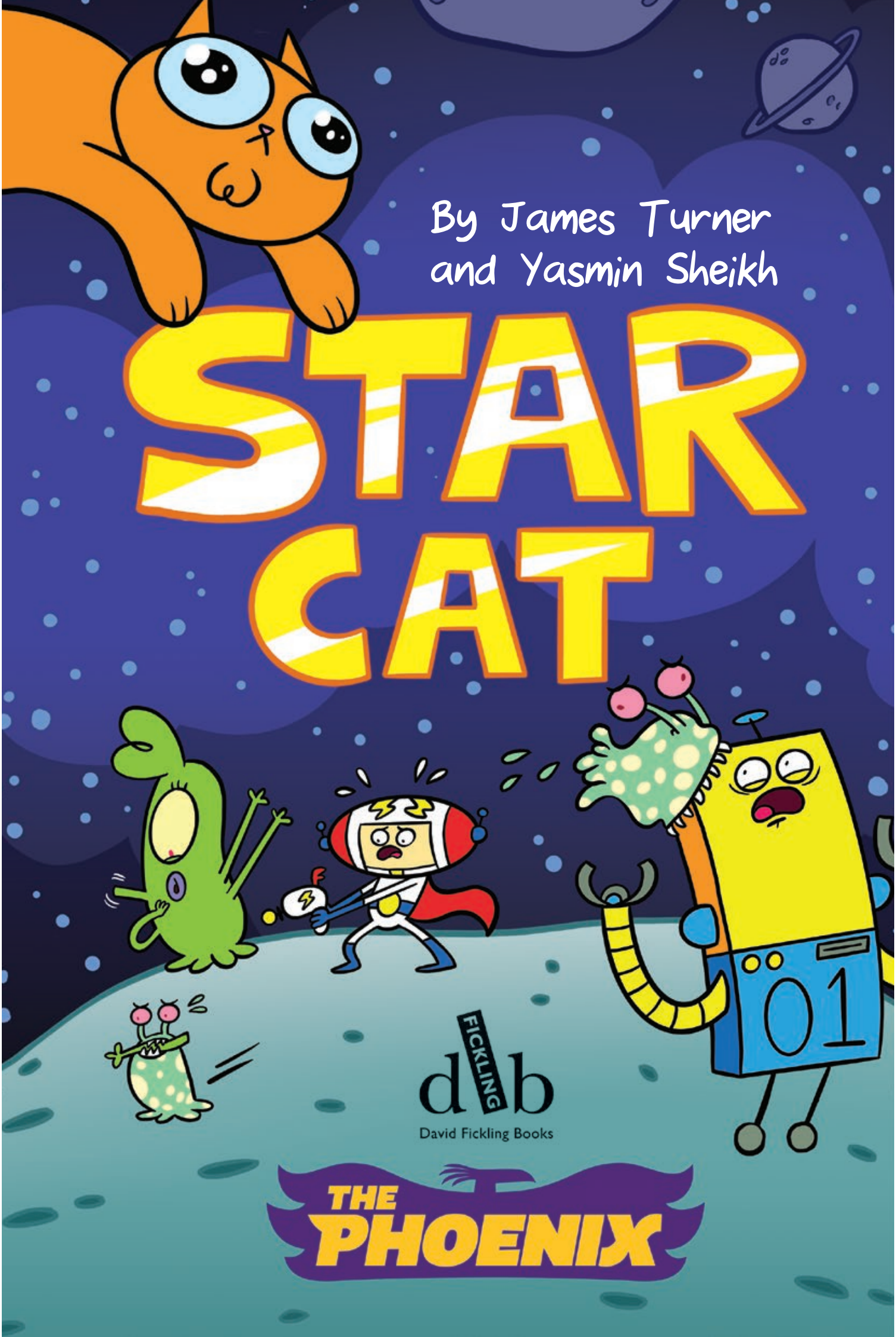
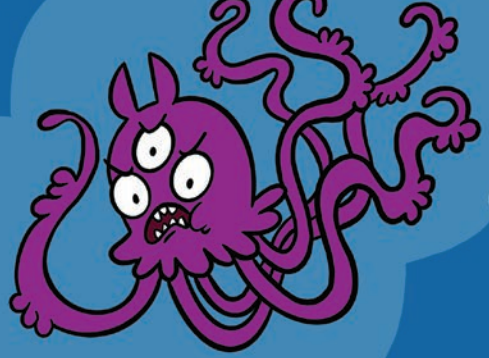

By James Turner
and Yasmin Sheikh
STAR CAT
01
FICKLING
dfb
David Fickling Books
THE PHOENIX



For Sara and Swinton - JT
For Robin and Sascha, my biggest hype men - YS

STAR CAT
is a
DAVID FICKLING BOOK

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WELCOME ABOARD



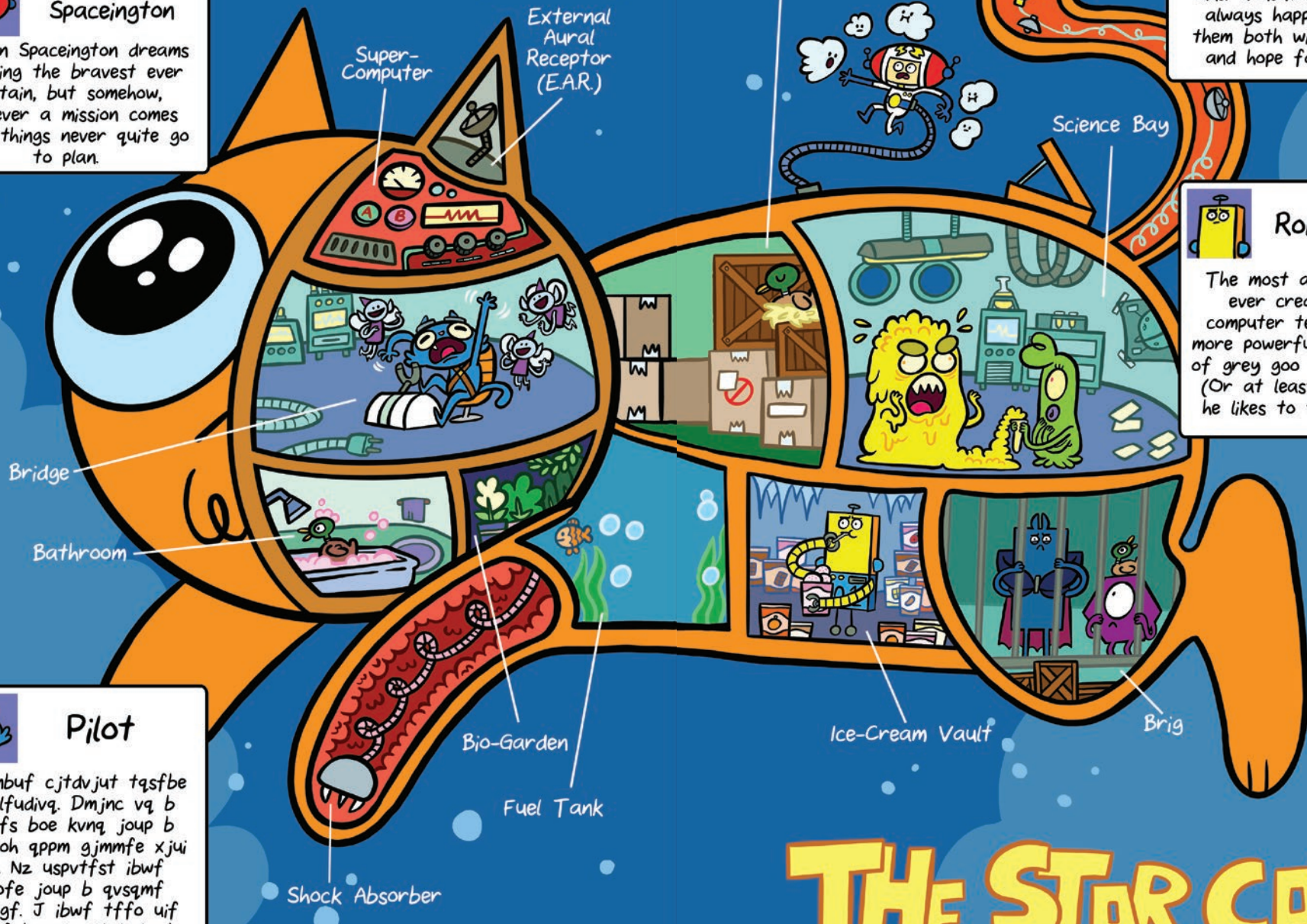
Captain Spaceington

Captain Spaceington dreams of being the bravest ever captain, but somehow, whenever a mission comes along, things never quite go to plan.



Pilot

Dipdpmbuf cjtdvjut tqsfbe xjui lfudivq. Dmjnc vq b mbeefs boe kvnq joup b txjnnjoh qppm gjmmfe xjui kbn. Nz uspvtfst ibwf uvsofe joup b qvsqmf hjsbggf. J ibwf tffo uif gvuvsf beo ju jt kvtu b sfbmmz cjh pxm.





Science Officer PLIXX

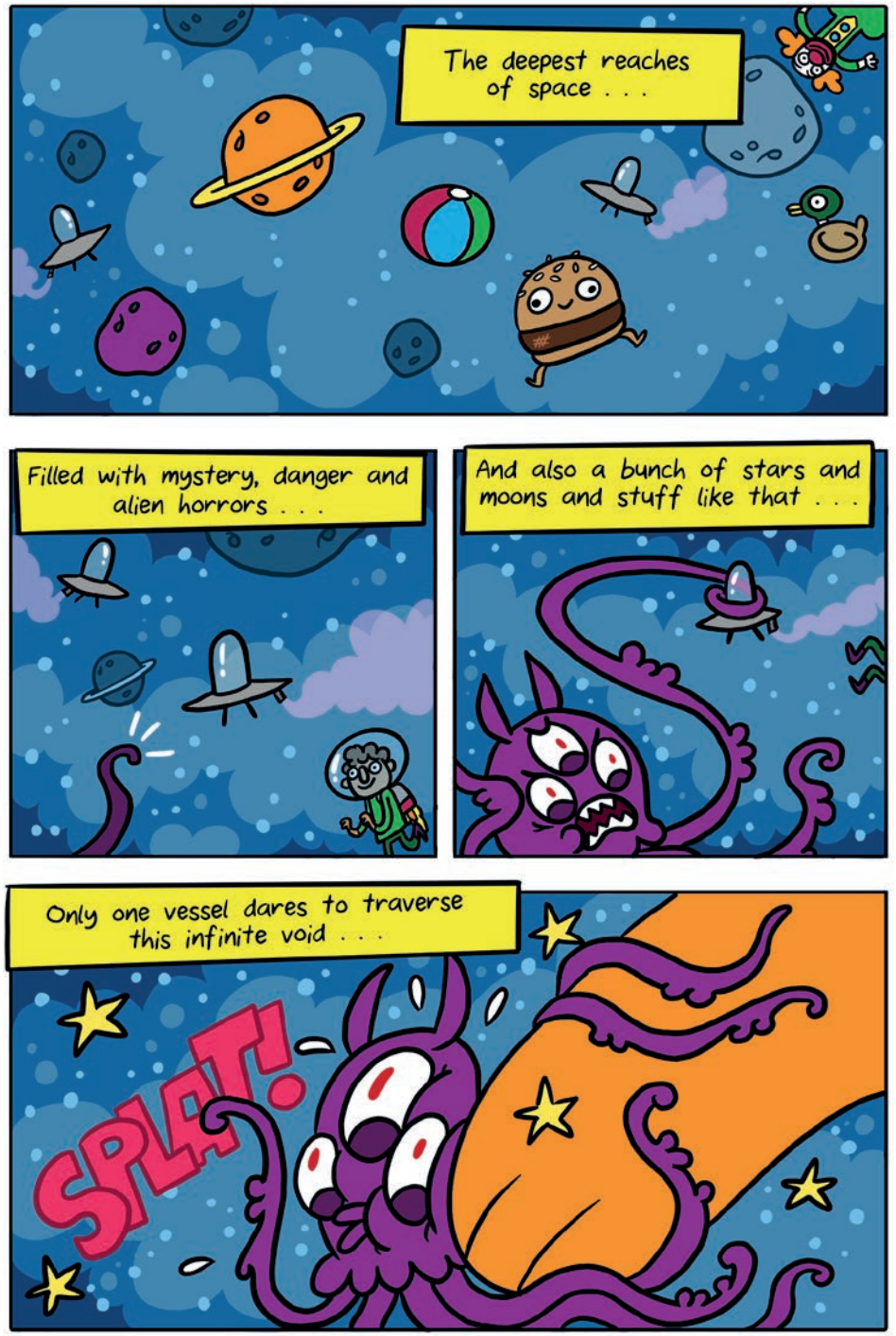
She may not know the difference between a proton and a neutron, but she's always happy to whack them both with a hammer and hope for the best.

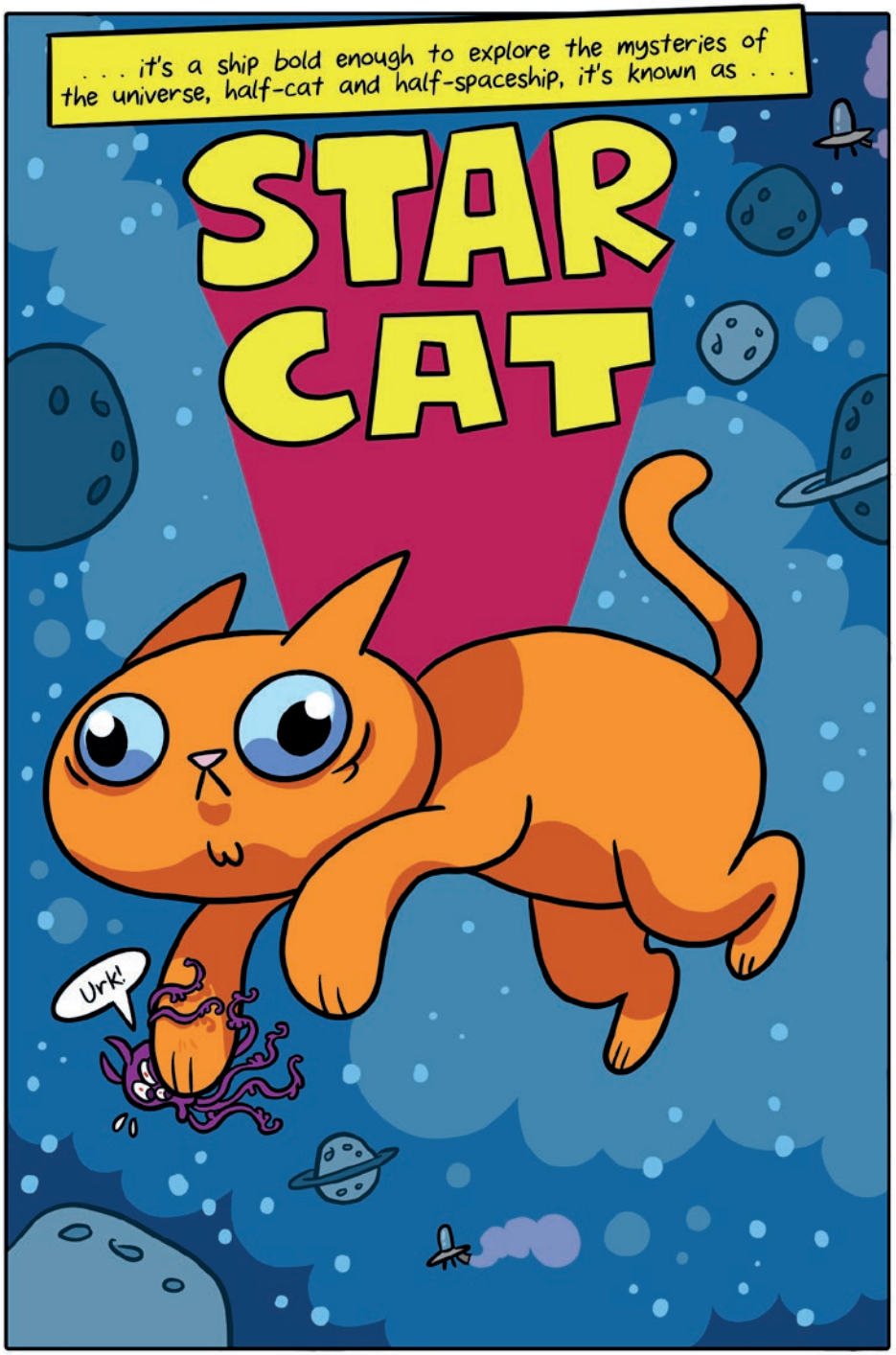
Robot One

The most advanced robot ever created, with a computer ten million times more powerful than the blob of grey goo we call a brain. (Or at least that is what he likes to tell everybody.)

THE STAR CAT




The deepest reaches of space . . .
Filled with mystery, danger and alien horrors . . .
And also a bunch of stars and moons and stuff like that . . .
Only one vessel dares to traverse this infinite void . . .
SPLAT!


. . . it's a ship bold enough to explore the mysteries of the universe, half-cat and half-spaceship, it's known as . . .
STAR CAT
Urk!


And on board the Star Cat . . .
. . . we find the only space-farer courageous enough to command this craft . . .
CAPTAIN SPACEINGTON
GRAB


NEOWW!
PYEW!
PYEW!

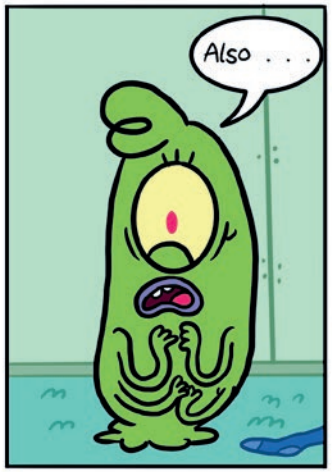

Captain Spaceington saves the universe again!

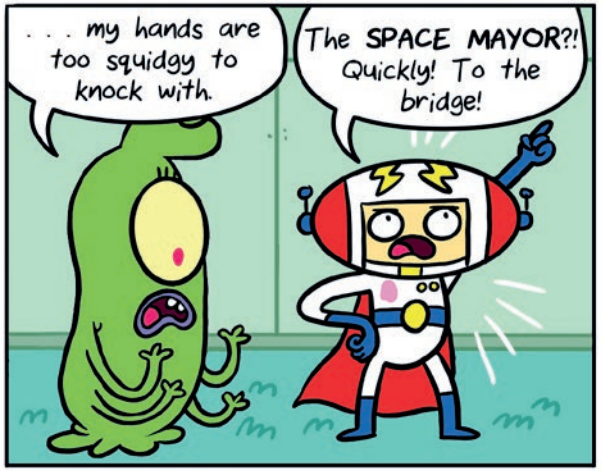

Everyone cheers and gives him medals and ice cream!

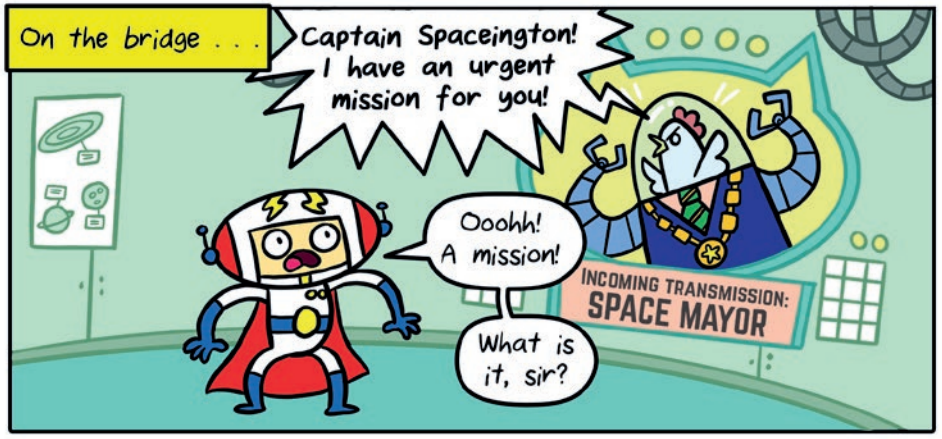

CAPTAIN SPACEINGTON!
SWONK!


Science Officer Plixx! Don't you ever **knock**? I'm working on important captain's business.


Sorry, sir, but there's an incoming communication for you from the Space Mayor himself!


Also . . .


. . . my hands are too squidgy to knock with.
The SPACE MAYOR?! Quickly! To the bridge!


On the bridge . . .
Captain Spaceington! I have an urgent mission for you!
Ooohh! A mission!
What is it, sir?
INCOMING TRANSMISSION:
SPACE MAYOR


The mission is of grave importance and, as always . . .
INCOMING TRANSMISSIO
SPACE MAYOR
POTENTIALLY DEADLY!
!! ESCAPE ALERT !!
Notorious space criminal DARK RECTANGLE has just escaped from SPACE PRISON!
SPACE PRISON
DARK RECTANGLE
SPACE BANK PLANET
YOU ARE HERE
SPACE BANK
We suspect that he plans to rob the SPACE BANK near your current location.


HE MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE HE COMMITS THIS HEINOUS SPACE CRIME!
You can count on us, Space Mayor!
We'll have this four-cornered fiend in custody before you can say . . .
INCOMING TRA
SPACE
'Irregular quadrilaterral!'
GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN SPACEINGTON, WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON YOU.
INCOMING TRANSMISSION:
SPACE MAYOR


Pilot, how long until we reach the Space Bank?

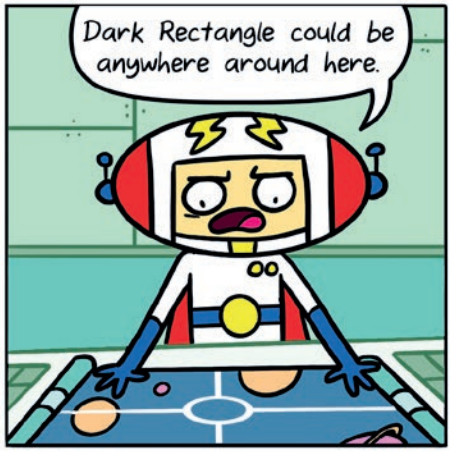

J MJLF FHHT.


UP CF TDSBNCMFE.

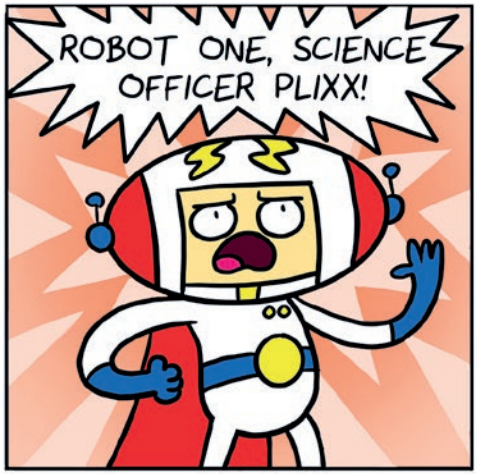

B MJUUMF SVOOZ-
XJU!

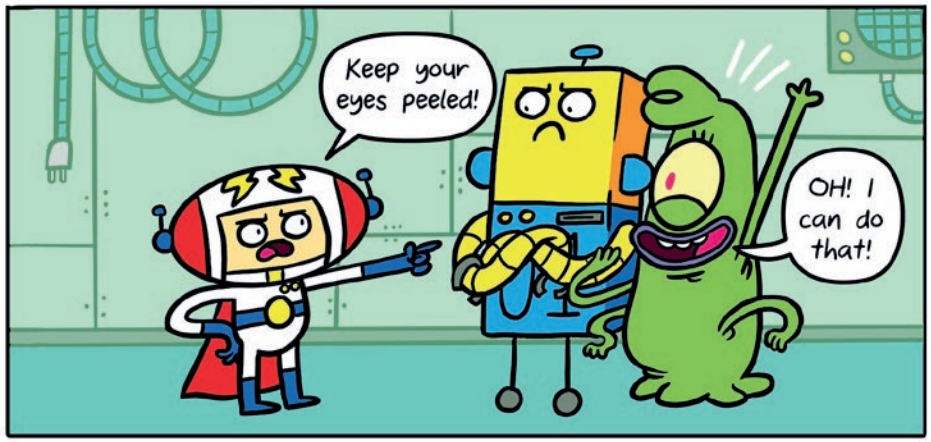

Er . . .
Good work.

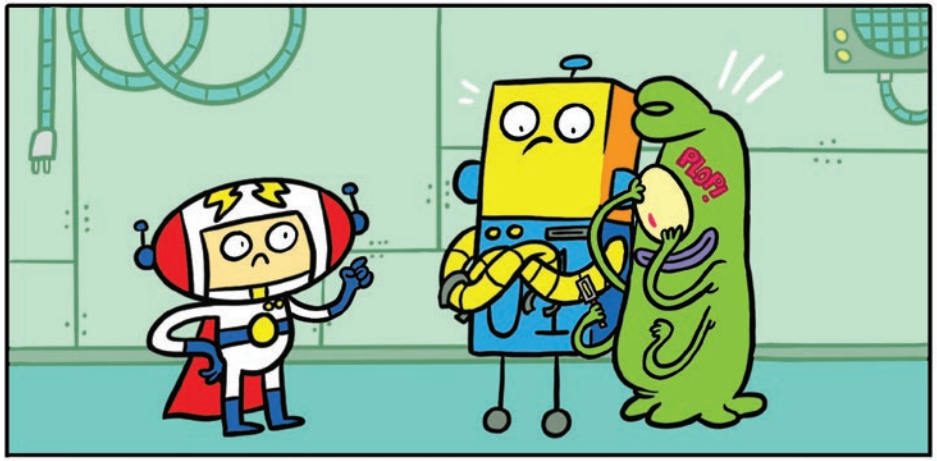

Okay, well . . .

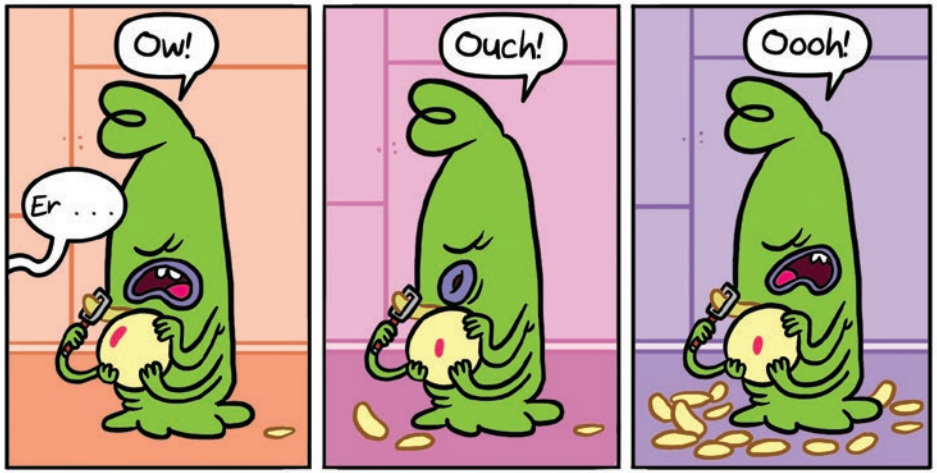

Dark Rectangle could be anywhere around here.


So we have to be vigilant.

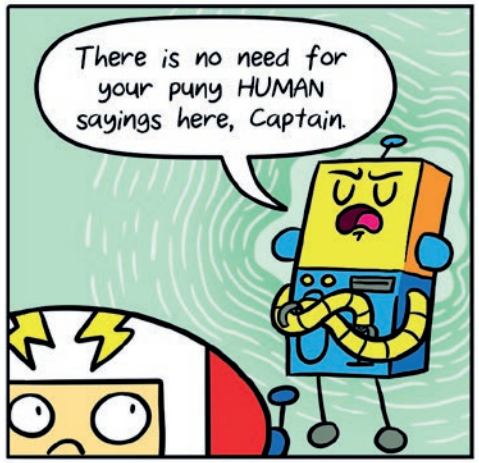

ROBOT ONE, SCIENCE OFFICER PLIXX!

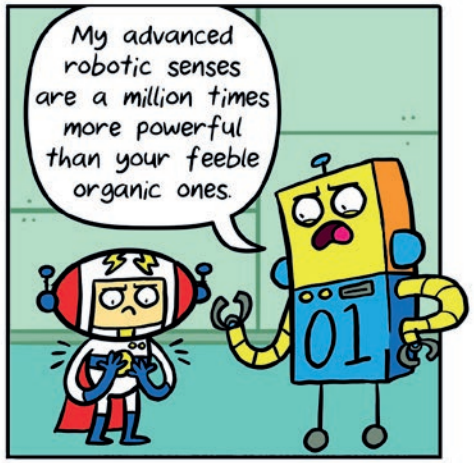

Keep your eyes peeled!
OH! I can do that!

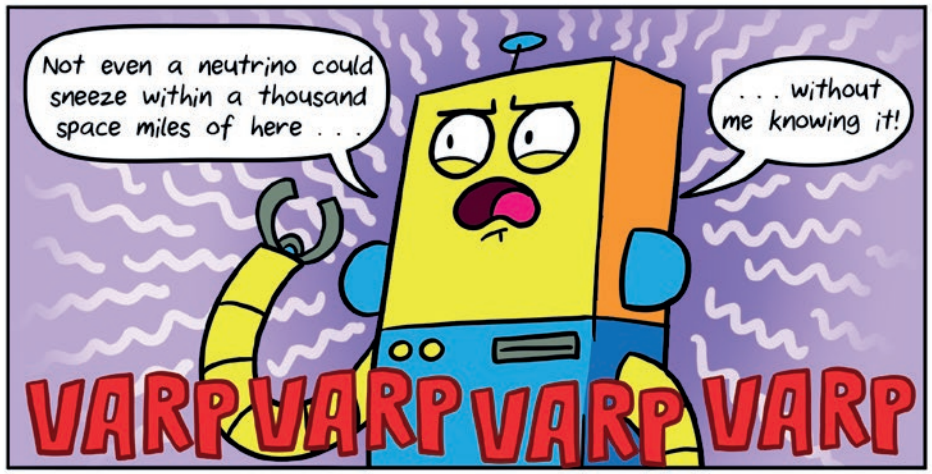

Plop!

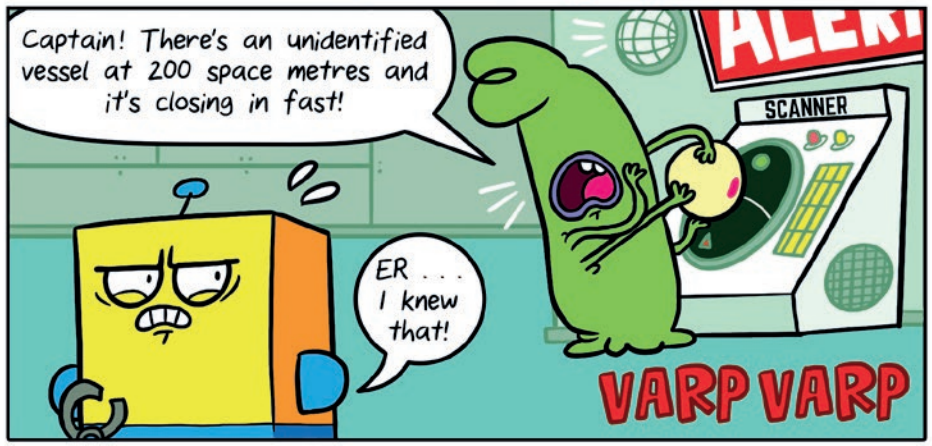

Ow!
Er . . .
Ouch!
Oooh!

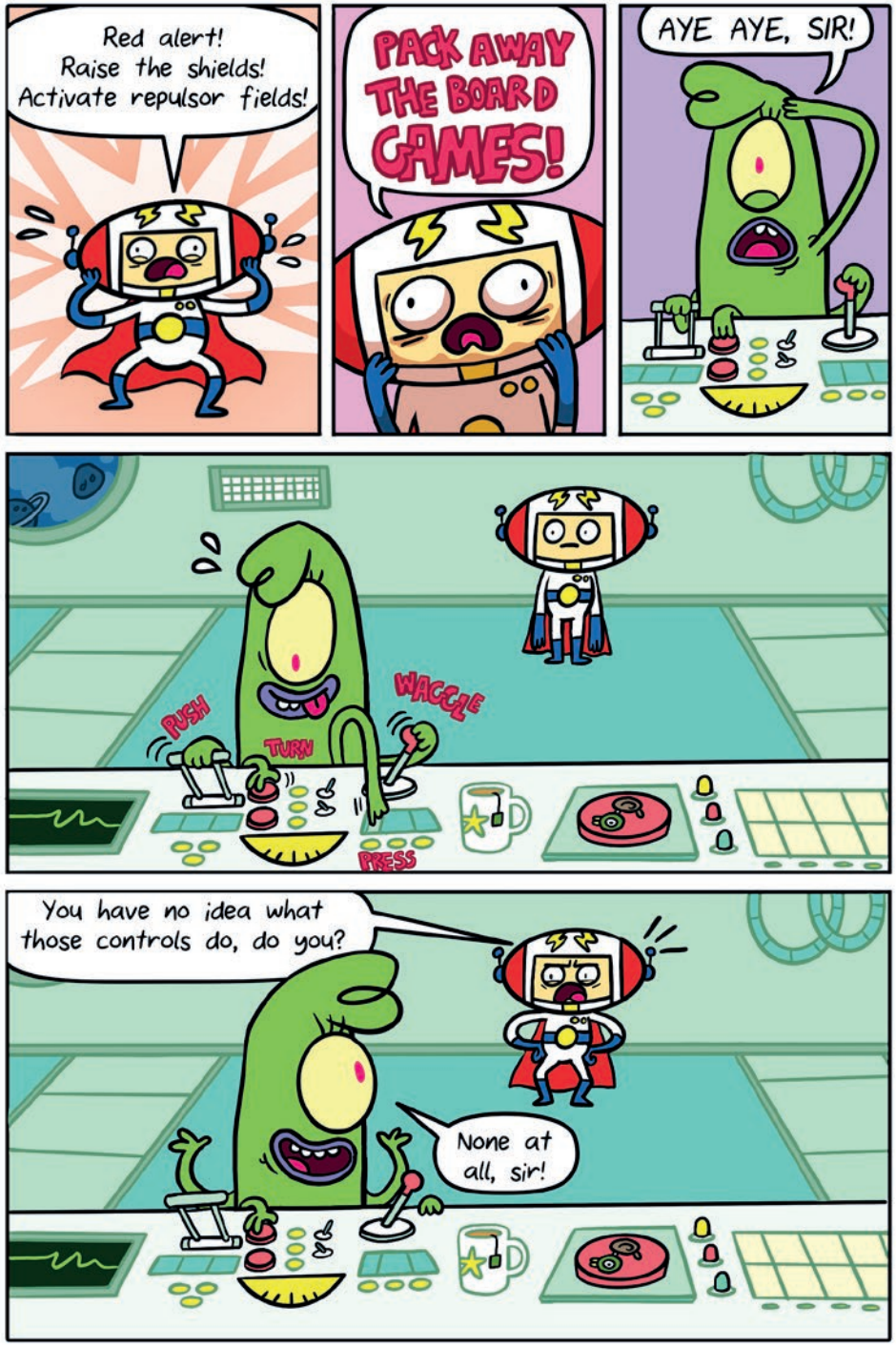

It's just a saying, Plixx . . .
I mean, keep your eyes on the scanner.
Ooooh!

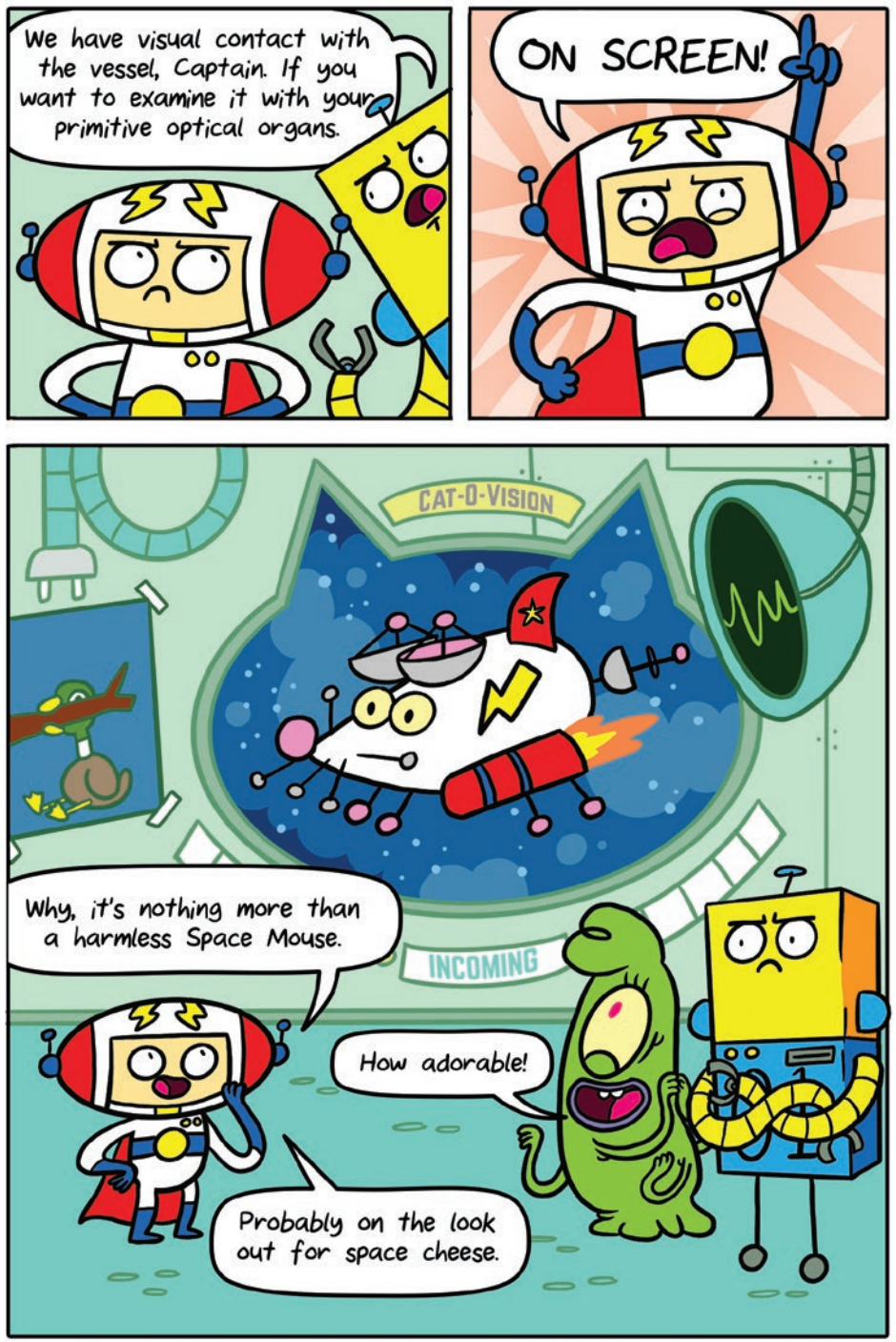

There is no need for your puny HUMAN sayings here, Captain.


My advanced robotic senses are a million times more powerful than your feeble organic ones.
01


Not even a neutrino could sneeze within a thousand space miles of here . . .
. . . without me knowing it!
VARP VARP VARP VARP


Captain! There's an unidentified vessel at 200 space metres and it's closing in fast!
ER . . . I knew that!
SCANNER
VARP VARP


Red alert! Raise the shields! Activate repulsor fields!
PACK AWAY THE BOARD GAMES!
AYE AYE, SIR!
PUSH
TURN
WAGGLE
PRESS
You have no idea what those controls do, do you?
None at all, sir!


We have visual contact with the vessel, Captain. If you want to examine it with your primitive optical organs.
ON SCREEN!
CAT-O-VISION
INCOMING
Why, it's nothing more than a harmless Space Mouse.
How adorable!
Probably on the look out for space cheese.