



B&W COMICS PRESENTS

THE MESSAGE FROM ARISTARCHUS

EPISODE 4: CYCLOPS

SCRIPT BY SHALINI SRINIVASAN \ ARTWORK BY RAJIV EIPE
BASED ON A NOVEL OF THE SAME NAME BY DR. JAYANT NARLIKAR



Previously: John Pringle searched illegally for aliens with Cyclops.

The Naiks adopted child genius Alok.

In his dreams, there is a spaceship full of corpses.



Sandra decided to try and help Alok. She and Cheng went to Dr Salunke, the man whose Rubik's cube Alok solved all those years ago, and told him about Alok's trances and nightmares.



ALOK HAS MENTIONED YOU AS A FAMILY FRIEND DR SALUNKE, WHICH IS WHY I THOUGHT I'D CONSULT YOU, CONFIDENTIALLY. WHAT DO HIS DREAMS MEAN?



GIVEN ALOK'S INTELLIGENCE, HIS EARLY DIFFICULTY RELATING TO PEOPLE, THE INTENSITY OF THE DREAMS ... I AM AFRAID THEY MIGHT BE TRUE EVENTS. THE WORDS MUST BE IN HIS REAL MOTHER TONGUE, NOT MARATHI.



Neither of them could bring themselves to tell Alok Dr Salunke's theory.

The years went by. Cheng graduated from the space academy, and soon it was Alok and Sandra's turn -



WHERE WILL YOU GO NOW, ALOK? THE LUNAR STATION?

THEY WILL BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU!

CYCLOPS. IF THE MILITARY WILL LET ME, THAT IS.

Though reluctant, the military was persuaded to let Alok work on a project at Cyclops. He had 60 days.



I BEGIN TODAY. SO 61 DAYS FROM NOW, WE CAN GET MARRIED.

At Cyclops, Alok tried very hard to be friendly and cooperate with the soldiers. They began to feel more comfortable with the hard-working young scientist. One day, as his project neared its end -

THAT'S FASCINATING! YOU CAN REALLY CHECK THE SKY RECORDS FOR EVERY SINGLE DAY?

MOST DAYS, UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING TO HIDE. PICK A DATE, I'LL SHOW YOU.

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2025.
THE DAY MY PARENTS FOUND ME.

tap tap

November 4th, 2025 1

SPECIAL EMBARGO

The same thing happened when they tried the 3rd and 5th of November, 2025.

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN HAPPENING IN NEAR SPACE ON THOSE DAYS?

THANK YOU FOR HELPING. I KNOW YOU GUYS WEREN'T VERY KEEN ON HAVING A SCIENTIST AROUND.

NOT SINCE JOHN PRINGLE.

JOHN PRINGLE AGAIN!
WHAT DID HE DO?

click!

John Pringle

> Lorry, Peter and Pringle, John. "Some Postulations upon the Nearness of Space". The Space Review. June 1983.

> Lorry, Peter and Pringle, John. "The Search for Extra-terrestrial Life."

THE DAILY PLANT

Tragic death of scientist John Pringle Epitaph for a Spy?

Sue Paman. December 5th, 1985

We spoke to Pringle's friend and collaborator, Dr Peter Lorry. "John had a brilliant mind. He was passionately dedicated to his research. His enthusiasm inspired all of us working in the field. He will be greatly missed in the scientific community," he said, his eyes dark with loss.

HMMM.

Alok called Sandra.

DO YOU KNOW OF
A DR PETER LORRY?

OF COURSE! HE'S THE
LIFE AND SOUL OF EVERY
FACULTY MEETING. AND
PARTY! IF YOU COME TO
(CALIFORNIA, I'LL TAKE
YOU TO MEET HIM.

Alok went to California and soon found himself being steered
through a noisy party.

I CAN BARELY HEAR
MYSELF! HOW DO WE
FIND HIM IN THIS CROWD?

WE MAKE FOR THE
BAR, OF COURSE!



SANDRA! AND YOU MUST BE
HER YOUNG MAN! HOW
NICE TO MEET YOU! COME,
HAVE SOME CHAMPAGNE.

Alok followed Peter around all night, wondering how to bring up the subject of
John Pringle. The room was noisy and crowded and Peter was drinking rapidly.

PERHAPS WE COULD GO
OUT TO THE BALCONY?
GET SOME FRESH AIR.

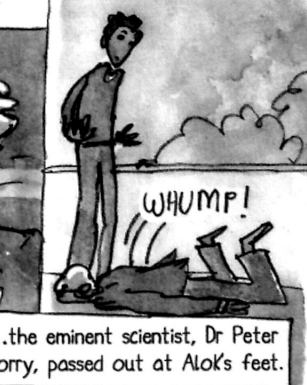
LOVELY!

Out in the cool night air, Alok felt a little bolder.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT JOHN PRINGLE. I
READ A PAPER YOU'D (CO-AUTHORED ON
EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE

OH I'LL TELL
YOU ALL ABOUT
JOHN!

And then, still smiling beatifically ...



But Alok wasn't going to give up that easily. The next day -

RING!

COME IN, COME IN! YOU KNOW, YOUNG MAN, YOU HAVE AN UNHEALTHY INTEREST IN JOHN. THE MILITARY THOUGHT HE WAS A SPY, YOU KNOW.

I'M NOT MILITARY. I JUST SUSPECT THAT WHAT JOHN PRINGLE WAS DOING THE DAY HE DIED IS SOMETHING THAT I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN.

AND WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SUSPECT JOHN PRINGLE OF?

MAKING CONTACT WITH AN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATION.

WELL!

I READ THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ABOUT THE ACCIDENT. YOU MUST'VE BEEN SO UPSET...

I WAS. BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. JOHN CALLED ME THAT NIGHT, JUST BEFORE HE DIED.

CONTACT AT LAST! I'M COMING TO YOUR HOUSE NOW, PETER. I HAVE IT ALL ON A TAPE!

To be continued ...