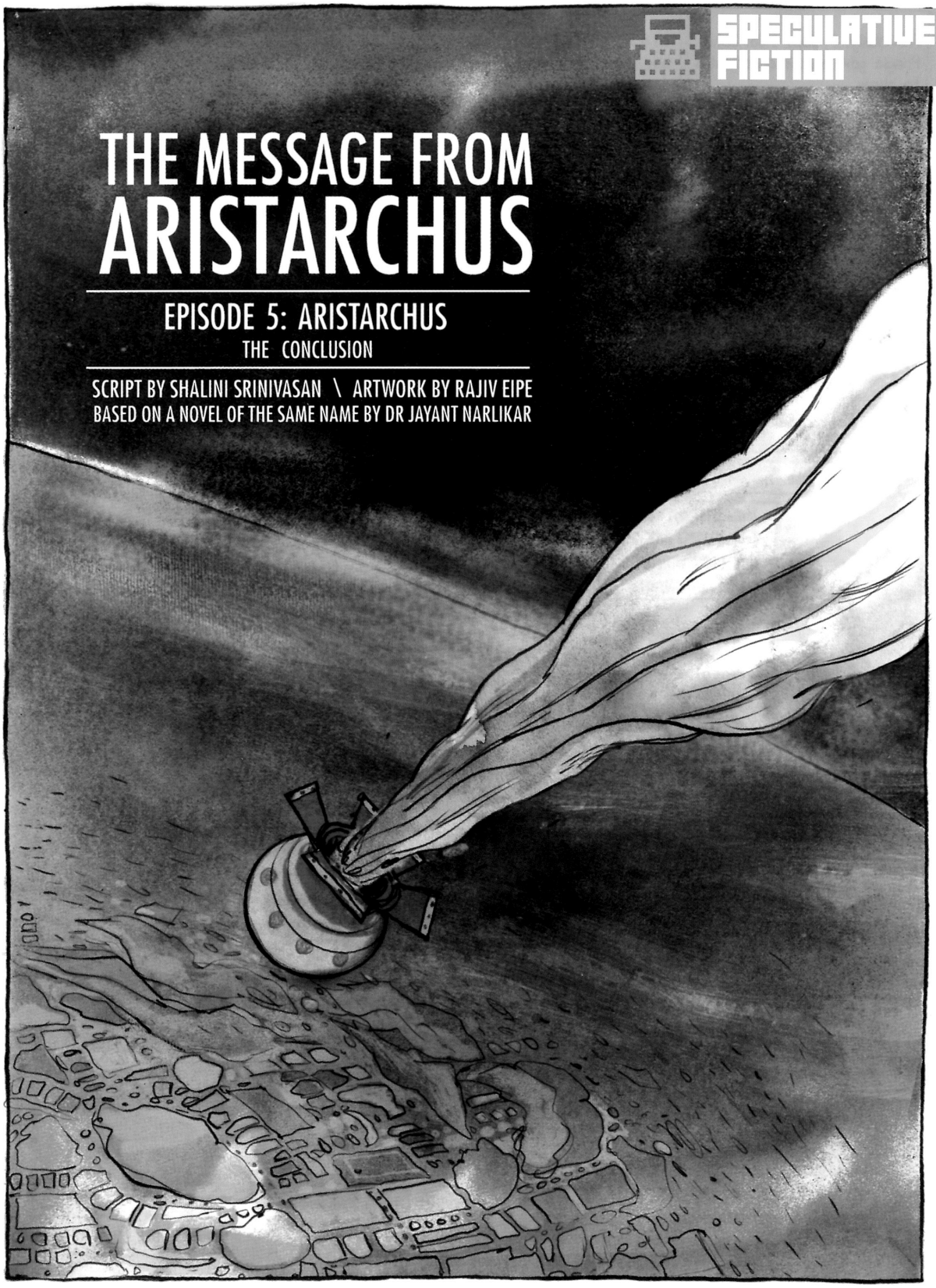
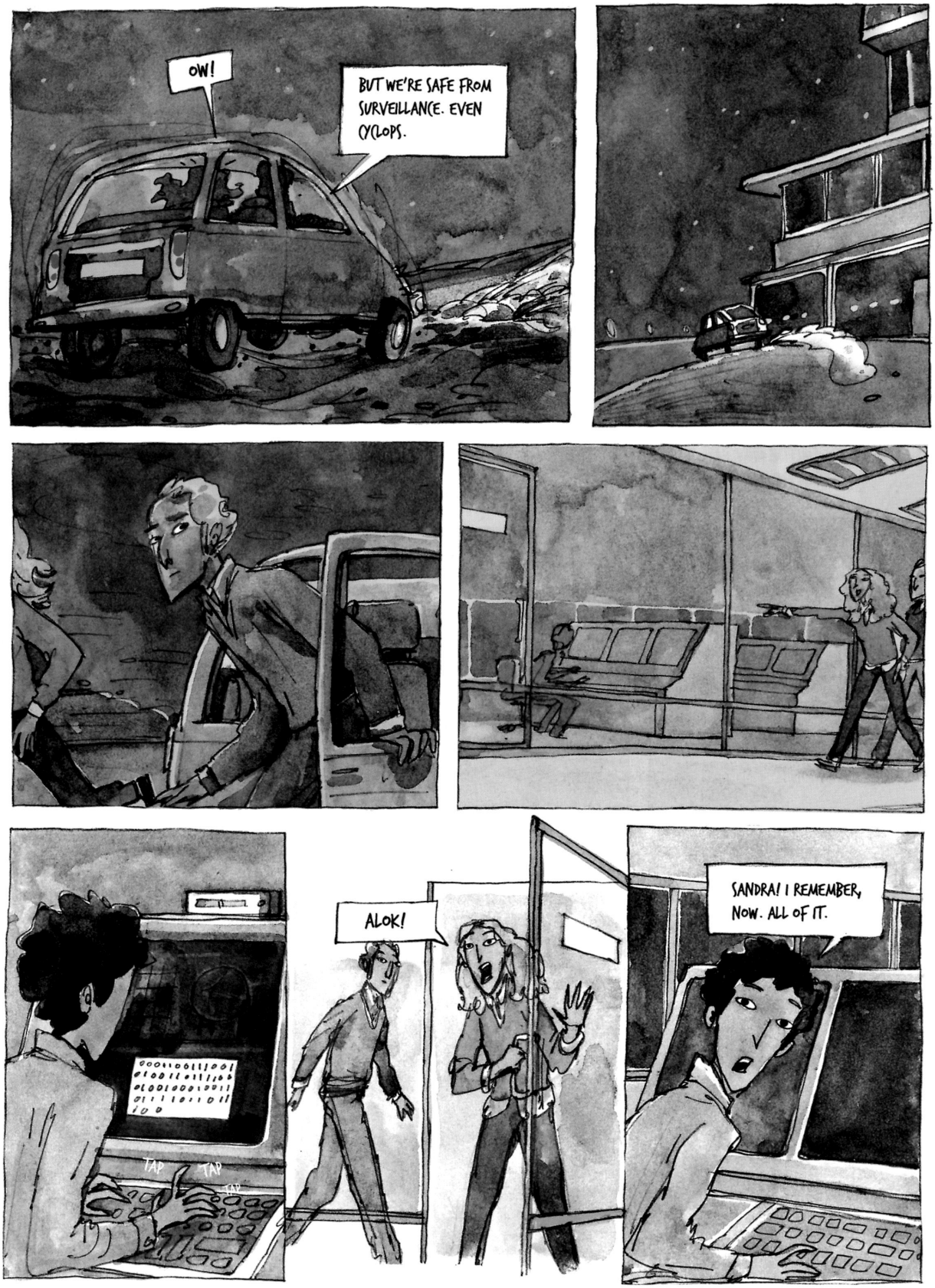

THE MESSAGE FROM
ARISTARCHUS
EPISODE 5: ARISTARCHUS
THE CONCLUSION
SCRIPT BY SHALINI SRINIVASAN \ ARTWORK BY RAJIV EIPE
BASED ON A NOVEL OF THE SAME NAME BY DR JAYANT NARLIKAR


Previously: Cyclops, 1985. John Pringle gave earth's coordinates to aliens.
And then died
In 2025 the Naiks adopted a boy they found on the road.
WAAAAH!
Alok Naik grew up and went to Cyclops.
In 2046, Sandra, his girlfriend, went to meet John's friend Peter.
Peter's house.
JOHN SENT OUT OUR COORDINATES! JUST LIKE THAT? WITHOUT CONSULTING ANYONE?
JOHN ALWAYS WAS IMPULSIVE.
THE MESSAGE WAS SENT IN 1985, AND THE SHIP ARRIVED IN 2025. MAKING THE STAR ABOUT 15 LIGHT YEARS AWAY.
DO YOU HAVE A CHART SOMEWHERE, PETER?
JOHN AND I DREW UP A LIST OF STARS TO TRY AND CONTACT. THE ONLY ONES AT THAT DISTANCE WERE TELEMACHUS, BALTHAZAR AND ARISTARCHUS.
CYCLOPS WILL HAVE RECORDS TELLING US THE LAST ONE CONTACTED. WE CAN TELL ALOK EVERYTHING THEN. LET'S HURRY.
WE'LL TAKE JOHN'S SPECIAL ROUTE.


OW!
BUT WE'RE SAFE FROM SURVEILLANCE. EVEN CYCLOPS.
ALOK!
SANDRA! I REMEMBER, NOW. ALL OF IT.
TAP
TAP
TAP


I MUST'VE BEEN BORN EN ROUTE, CLOSE TO EARTH. AND THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE SHIP.
CYCLOPS FOUND A SERIOUS DISTURBANCE IN SPACE IN 2025. AN ASTEROID. IT MUST'VE HIT OUR SHIP.
BOOM!
THEY WERE ALL DYING.
THE SHUTTLE ONLY HAS OXYGEN FOR ONE PERSON. IF THAT.
ENOUGH FOR A BABY. HE AT LEAST WILL BE SAFE ON THE PLANET. IT'S NOT FAR. THE PICTURES THOSE PEOPLE SENT – THEY LOOK SO MUCH LIKE US!
MY PARENTS, TARU AND MARU, IMPLANTED ALL THE INFORMATION IN MY BRAIN, AND SENT ME AWAY.
I WAS JUST GOING TO SEND A MESSAGE TO MY PEOPLE, SAYING THAT I REACHED. I CAN TELL THEM THAT EARTH IS INDEED A MOST HOSPITABLE PLANET.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! THEY'RE TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR TO US. THEY COULD ENSLAVE US, TAKE OUR HOMES, EVEN DESTROY US.
YOU GREW UP IN INDIA. YOUR PARENTS WILL TELL YOU HOW IT WAS EXPLOITED BY EUROPEAN COLONISERS. THIS WILL BE FAR WORSE.


THEY – WE – SENT JUST ONE SHIP. IT WAS A SCOUTING MISSION, NOT AN INVASION FORCE.
THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND ARTS COULD WORK TOGETHER WITH EARTH'S. I HAVE FAITH IN OUR COLLECTIVE WISDOM, IN OUR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER. JOHN PRINGLE WAS RIGHT TO CONTACT US IN FRIENDSHIP.
YOU SHOULD THINK THIS THROUGH ...
SEND
I CAN'T AGREE. YOU MIGHT HAVE JUST STARTED A WAR.
OUR FIRST ALIEN IS QUITE A MAN OF ZEAL! JOHN WOULD'VE LOVED TO MEET YOU.
HMMM...
DONE'S DONE. WE CAN ONLY WAIT NOW, EH ALOK?
BUT ALOK WAS TOO BUSY WATCHING CYCLOPS.
AND CYCLOPS WAS WATCHING ARISTARCHUS.
END