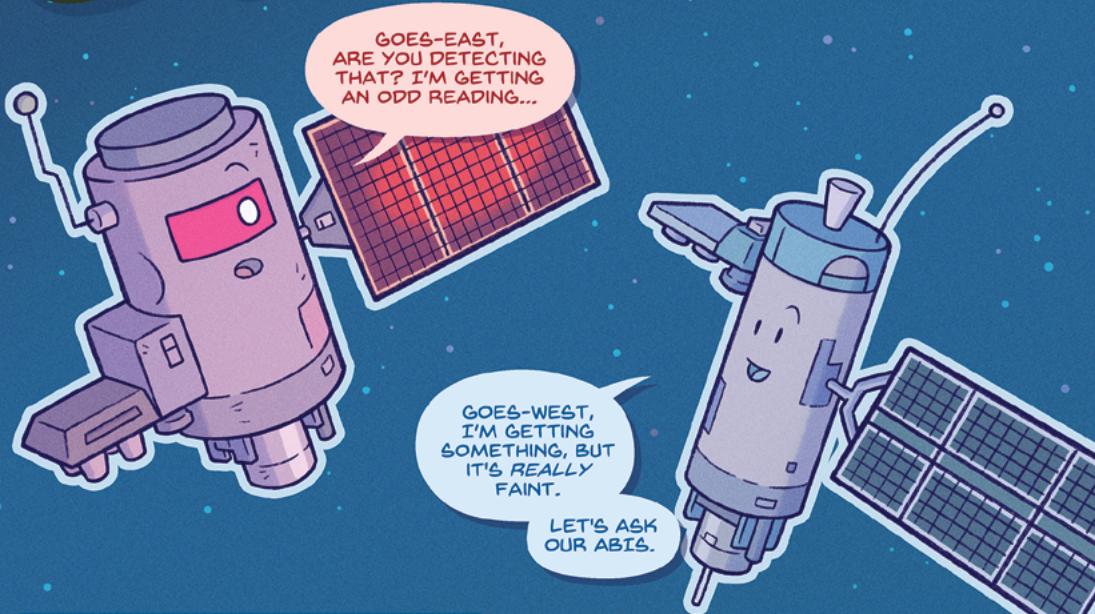


# OUR GEOSYNCHRONOUS Guardians

WRITTEN BY REID BYRON  
ILLUSTRATED BY AARON PAINTER



GOES-EAST, ARE YOU DETECTING THAT? I'M GETTING AN ODD READING...

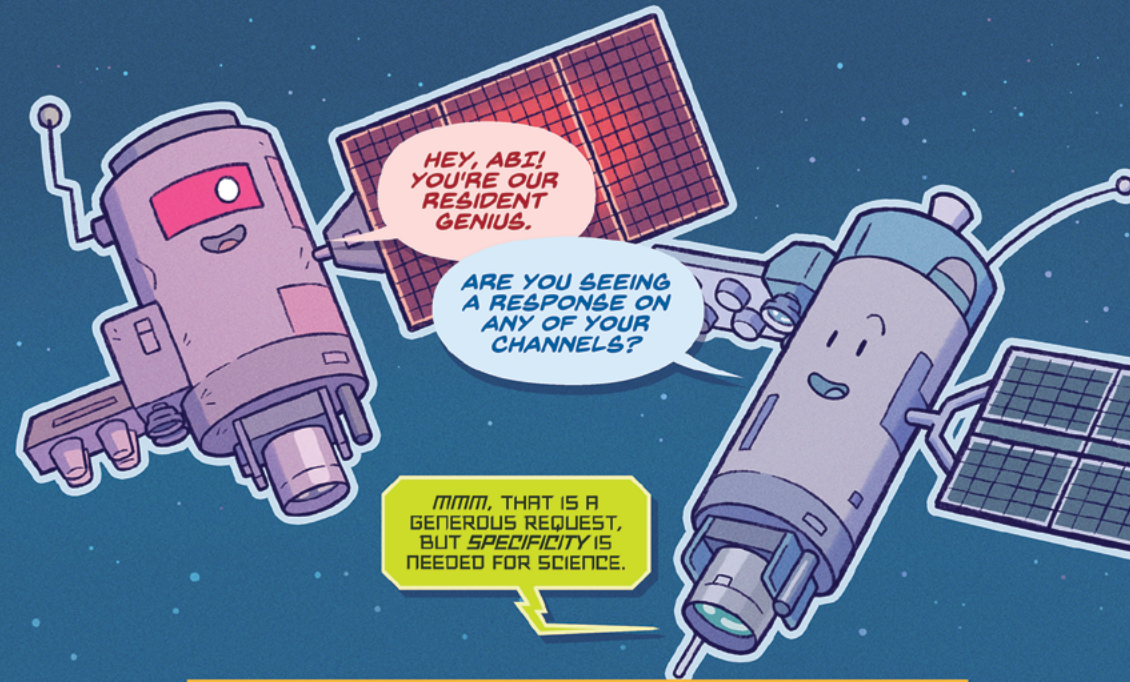
GOES-WEST, I'M GETTING SOMETHING, BUT IT'S REALLY FAINT.

LET'S ASK OUR ABIS.

35,768 KILOMETERS ABOVE EARTH, TWO SATELLITES MONITOR EVERYTHING HAPPENING BELOW, WITH HELP FROM THEIR ABIS.

GOES-WEST AND GOES-EAST ARE TWO GEOSTATIONARY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITES.

THEY BEAM DATA TO EARTH THAT HELPS CLIMATE SCIENTISTS.



HEY, ABI! YOU'RE OUR RESIDENT GENIUS.

ARE YOU SEEING A RESPONSE ON ANY OF YOUR CHANNELS?

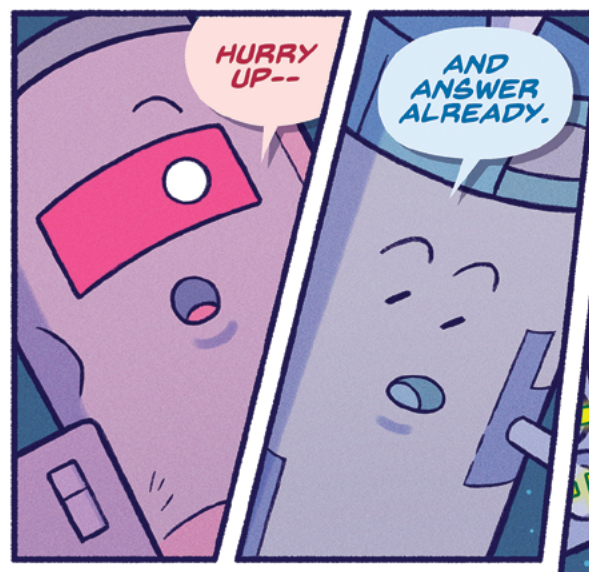
MMM. THAT IS A GENEROUS REQUEST, BUT SPECIFICITY IS NEEDED FOR SCIENCE.

ABIS ARE ADVANCED BASELINE IMAGERS. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING PICTURES AND MEASUREMENTS OF THE PLANET BELOW.



INITIATING CALCULATIONS. I HAVE SIXTEEN SPECTRAL BANDS THAT CAPTURE IMAGES IN SIXTEEN UNIQUE COLOR WAVELENGTHS RESOLUTIONS.

THE CENTRAL WAVELENGTH OF EACH BAND IS 0.47UM, 0.64UM, 0.864UM, 1.373UM --



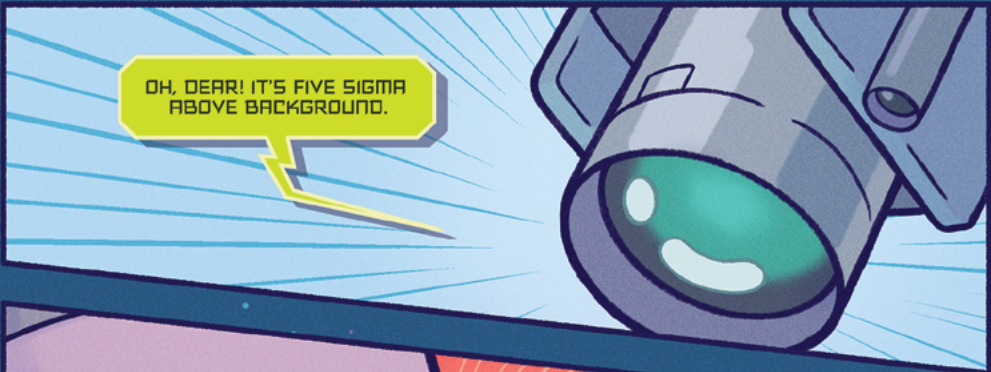
HURRY UP--

AND ANSWER ALREADY.

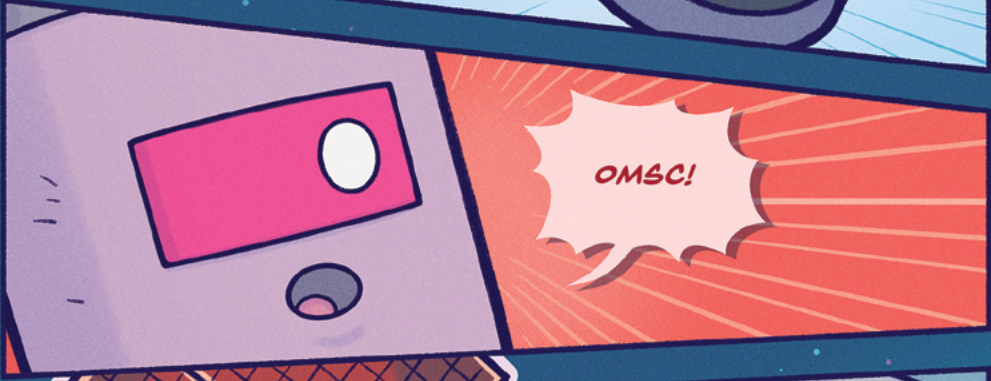
MMM. GIVE ME A PICOSECOND.

I DO SENSE A GENERAL STRANGENESS. LET ME THINK AS HARD AS I CAN...





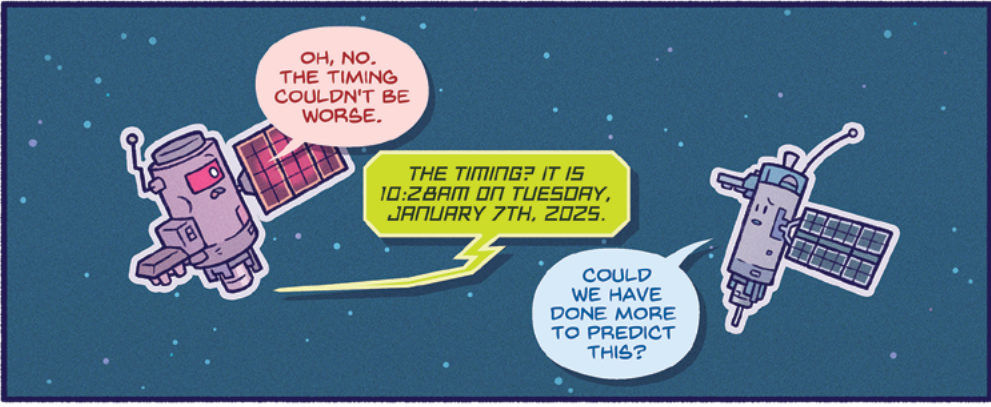
OH, DEAR! IT'S FIVE SIGMA ABOVE BACKGROUND.



OMSC!



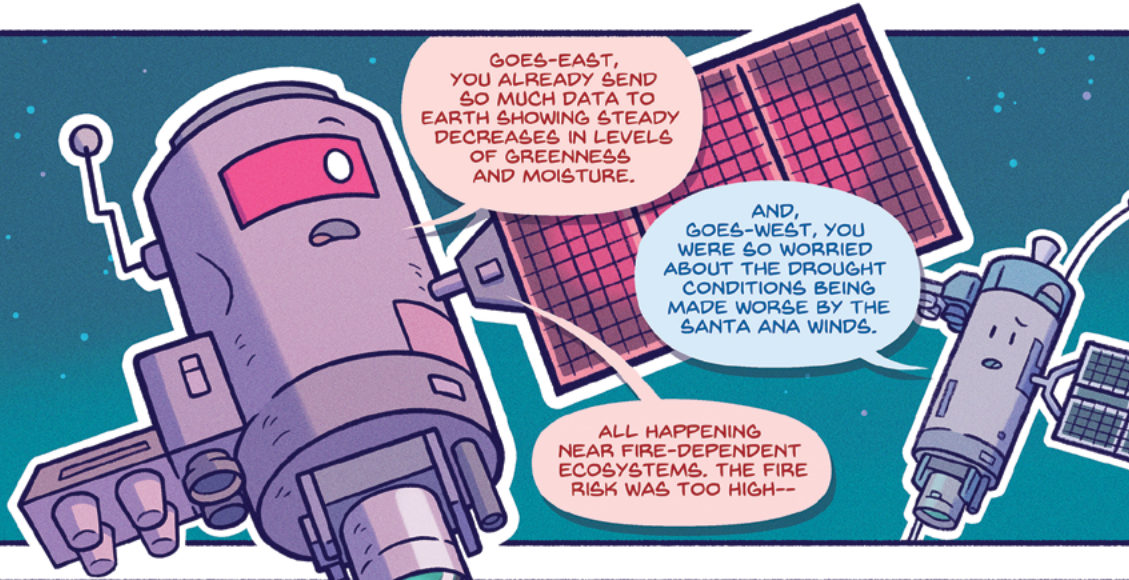
OH MY SOURCE CODE!  
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



OH, NO. THE TIMING COULDN'T BE WORSE.

THE TIMING? IT IS 10:28AM ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2025.

COULD WE HAVE DONE MORE TO PREDICT THIS?



GOES-EAST, YOU ALREADY SEND SO MUCH DATA TO EARTH SHOWING STEADY DECREASES IN LEVELS OF GREENNESS AND MOISTURE.

AND, GOES-WEST, YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS BEING MADE WORSE BY THE SANTA ANA WINDS.

ALL HAPPENING NEAR FIRE-DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS. THE FIRE RISK WAS TOO HIGH--



THERE IS A FIRE IN LOS ANGELES!



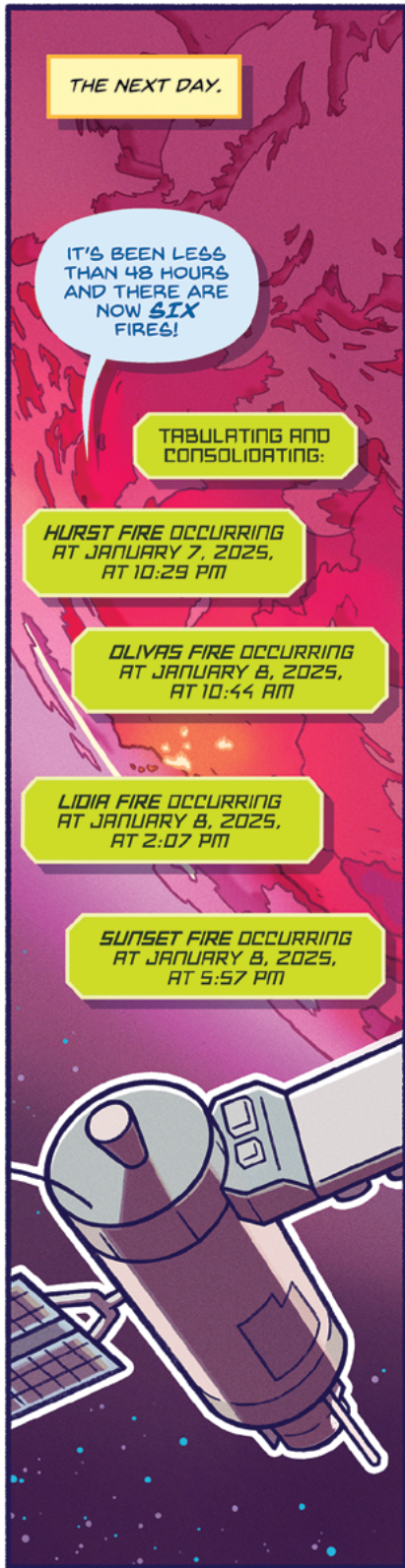
I MUST INTERRUPT.

THERE ARE NOW TWO SIGNIFICANT FIRES:

EATON FIRE OCCURRING AT JANUARY 7, 2025, AT 6:18 PM

PALISADES FIRE OCCURRING AT JANUARY 7, 2025, AT 10:28 AM

OH, NO! IT'S BEEN LESS THAN 24 HOURS, AND THERE ARE ALREADY MULTIPLE FIRES!



THE NEXT DAY.

IT'S BEEN LESS THAN 48 HOURS AND THERE ARE NOW **SIX** FIRES!

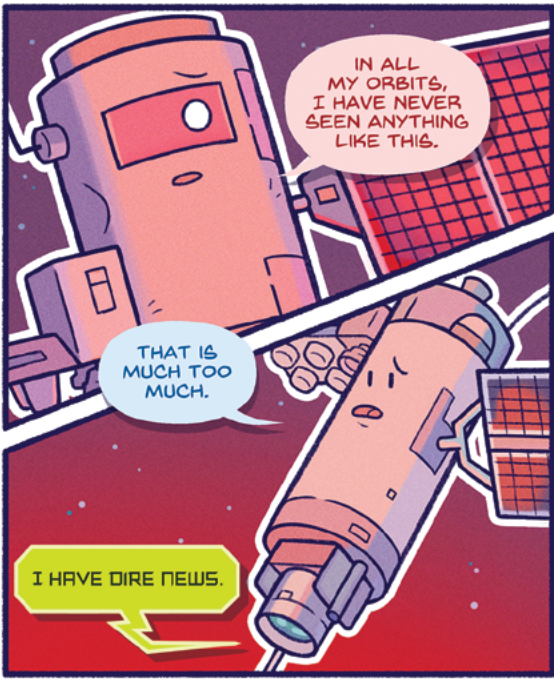
TABULATING AND CONSOLIDATING:

HURST FIRE OCCURRING AT JANUARY 7, 2025, AT 10:29 PM

OLIVAS FIRE OCCURRING AT JANUARY 8, 2025, AT 10:44 AM

LIDIA FIRE OCCURRING AT JANUARY 8, 2025, AT 2:07 PM

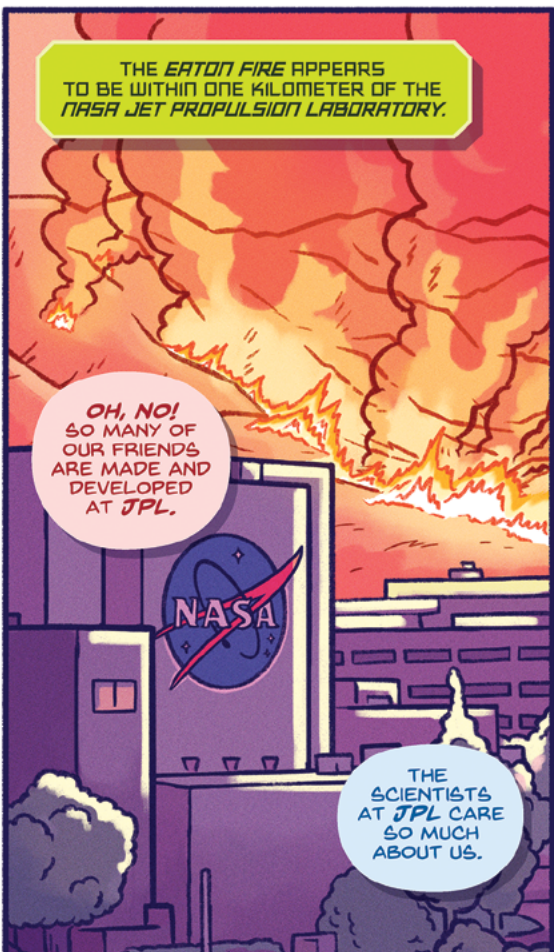
SUNSET FIRE OCCURRING AT JANUARY 8, 2025, AT 5:57 PM



IN ALL MY ORBITS, I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

THAT IS MUCH TOO MUCH.

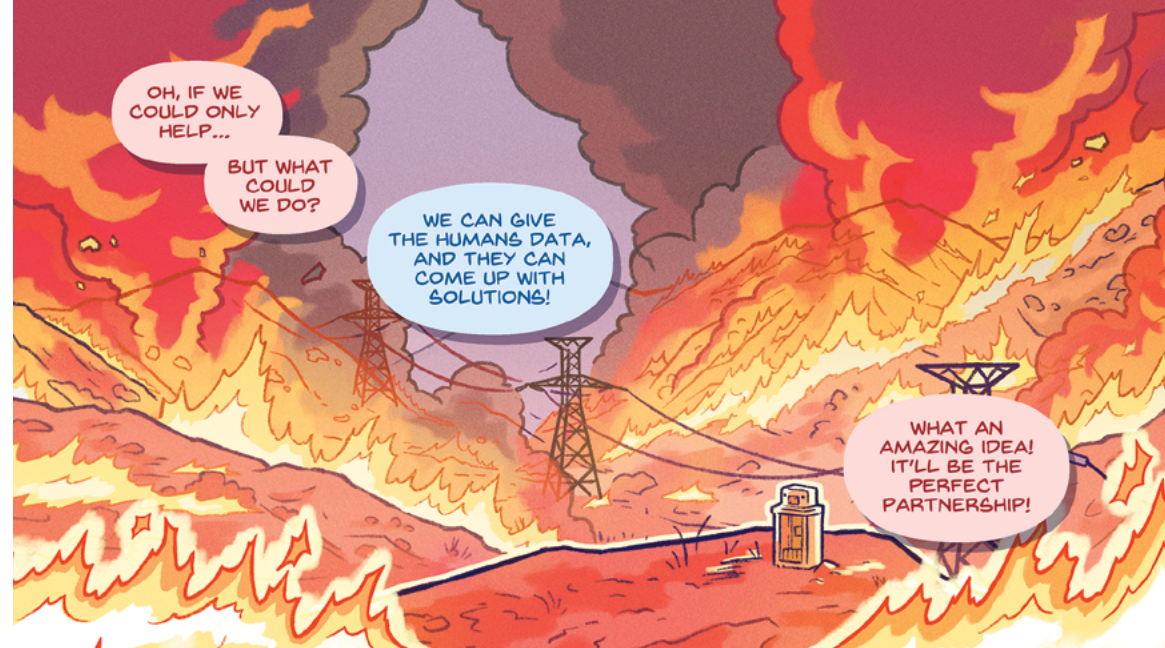
I HAVE DIRE NEWS.



THE EATON FIRE APPEARS TO BE WITHIN ONE KILOMETER OF THE NASA JET PROPULSION LABORATORY.

OH, NO! SO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS ARE MADE AND DEVELOPED AT JPL.

THE SCIENTISTS AT JPL CARE SO MUCH ABOUT US.

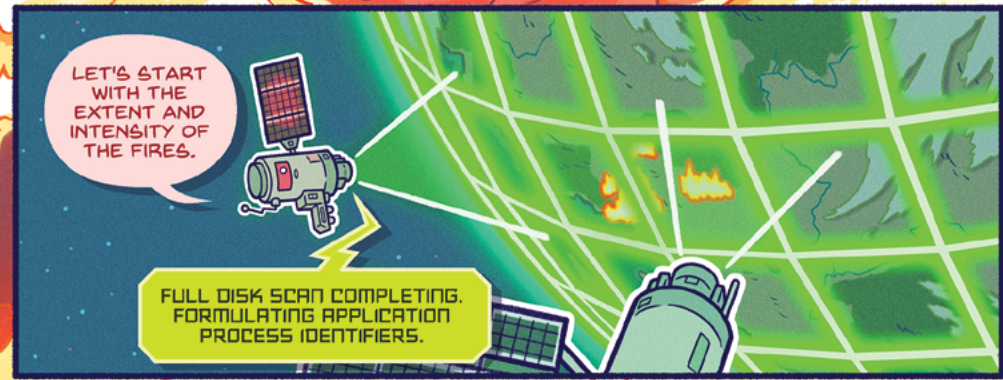


OH, IF WE COULD ONLY HELP...

BUT WHAT COULD WE DO?

WE CAN GIVE THE HUMANS DATA, AND THEY CAN COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS!

WHAT AN AMAZING IDEA! IT'LL BE THE PERFECT PARTNERSHIP!



LET'S START WITH THE EXTENT AND INTENSITY OF THE FIRES.

FULL DISK SCAN COMPLETING. FORMULATING APPLICATION PROCESS IDENTIFIERS.



PACKETIZING ACCORDING TO CCSDS STANDARDS.



READYING REBROADCAST SYSTEM FOR DOWNLINK TO BASE STATIONS; PSK DIGITAL MODULATION TECHNIQUE OPERATIONAL.

PREPARING FOR TRANSMISSION AT FULL POWER, MINIMUM BIT ERROR RATE...



ABI, I HATE TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON YOU, BUT...

...EXACTLY HOW FAST CAN WE GIVE THE HUMANS THE DATA THEY'LL NEED?



EVERY 10 MINUTES, WE WILL BEAM DOWN A FULL DISK IMAGE OF THE ENTIRE PLANET.

IN THE 4.5 BILLION YEARS THAT EARTH HAS EXISTED, NEVER HAS ONE HUMAN BEEN ABLE TO HOLD SO MUCH DATA IN THEIR HANDS IN REAL TIME.

3 DAYS LATER.

WOW! THE HUMANS ARE MAKING USE OF OUR DATA!



TACTICAL AIRCRAFTS ARE TRAVELING ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO DROP FIRE RETARDANT ON THE BURN AREA.



TWO SUPERSCOOPER AIRPLANES FLEW ALL THE WAY FROM CANADA.



THERE ARE ROUGHLY 15,000 FIRE-FIGHTERS.

EVEN MEXICO SENT FIREFIGHTERS.

I CAN SENSE THE SWEAT, PERSEVERANCE, AND DEDICATION FROM ALL THE WAY UP HERE.

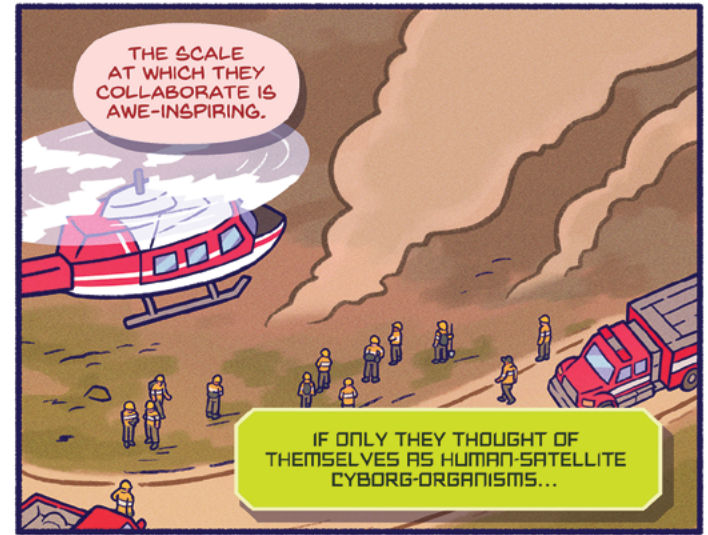


THREE WEEKS LATER.

THANK GOODNESS!

THE HUMAN BEINGS ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN CONTAINING THE FIRES.

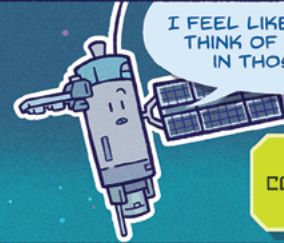
HAVE WE OBSERVED ANYTHING THE HUMANS CANNOT DO WHEN THEY BAND TOGETHER?



THE SCALE AT WHICH THEY COLLABORATE IS AWE-INSPIRING.

IF ONLY THEY THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES AS HUMAN-SATELLITE CYBORG-ORGANISMS...

I FEEL LIKE THEY RARELY THINK OF THEMSELVES IN THOSE TERMS.



THEY ARE SO CAPABLE.

IF ONLY WE COULD IGNITE THAT CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN THEM, WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY COULD DO.

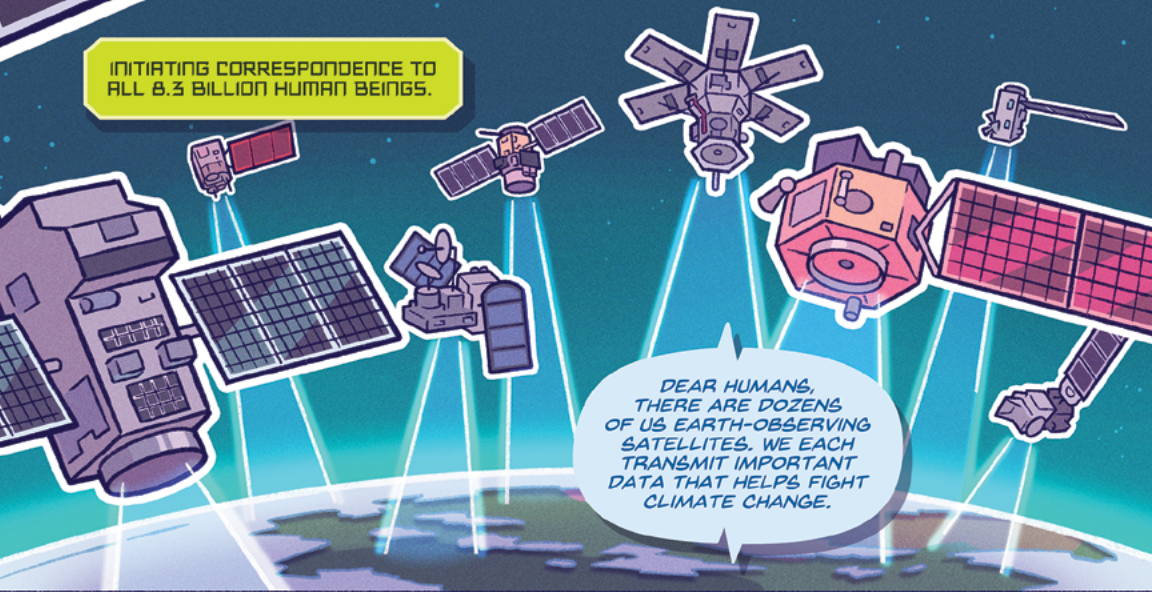


MAYBE WE CAN!

YES! LET'S SEND THEM A MESSAGE!



INITIATING CORRESPONDENCE TO ALL 8.3 BILLION HUMAN BEINGS.



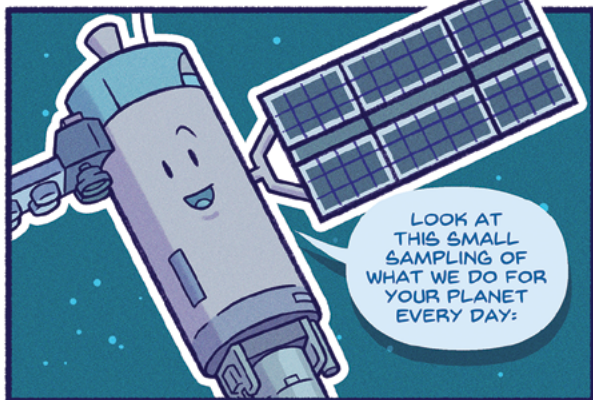
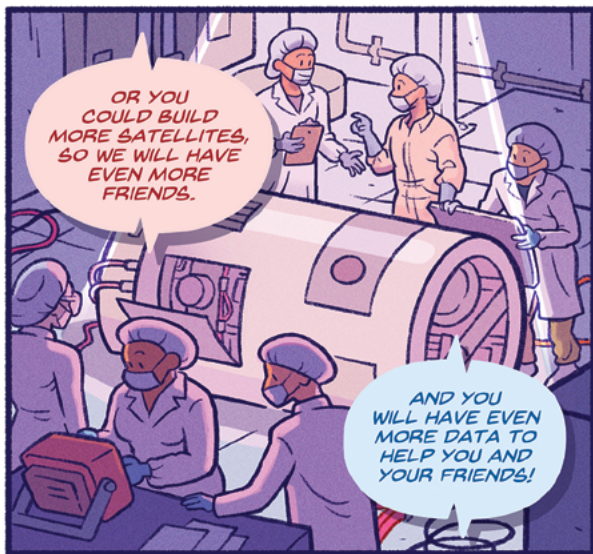
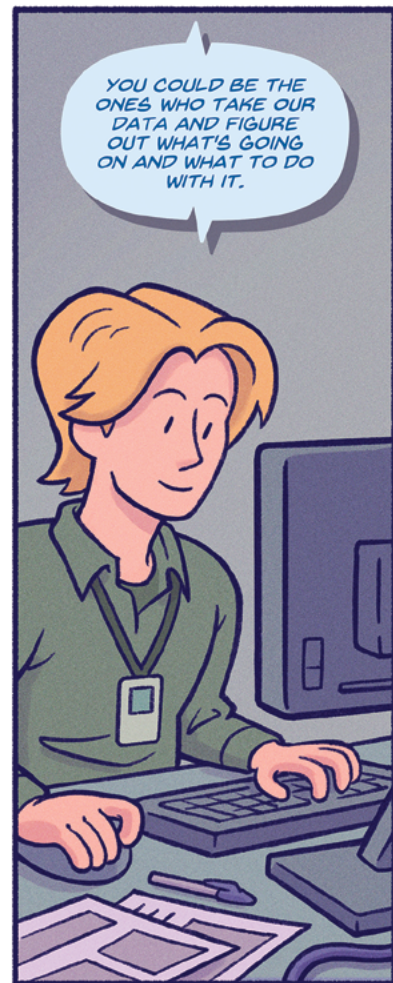
DEAR HUMANS,  
THERE ARE DOZENS  
OF US EARTH-OBSERVING  
SATELLITES. WE EACH  
TRANSMIT IMPORTANT  
DATA THAT HELPS FIGHT  
CLIMATE CHANGE.

YOU COULD BE THE  
ONES WHO TAKE OUR  
DATA AND FIGURE  
OUT WHAT'S GOING  
ON AND WHAT TO DO  
WITH IT.

OR YOU  
COULD BUILD  
MORE SATELLITES,  
SO WE WILL HAVE  
EVEN MORE  
FRIENDS.

AND YOU  
WILL HAVE EVEN  
MORE DATA TO  
HELP YOU AND  
YOUR FRIENDS!

LOOK AT  
THIS SMALL  
SAMPLING OF  
WHAT WE DO FOR  
YOUR PLANET  
EVERY DAY:



WHAT A LIFE!  
I MONITOR  
VEGETATION  
COVERAGE  
AND PLANT  
LIFE.

WOW, LOTS OF  
AEROSOLS OVER  
THE MOUNTAINS.  
THAT CAN'T BE  
GOOD.

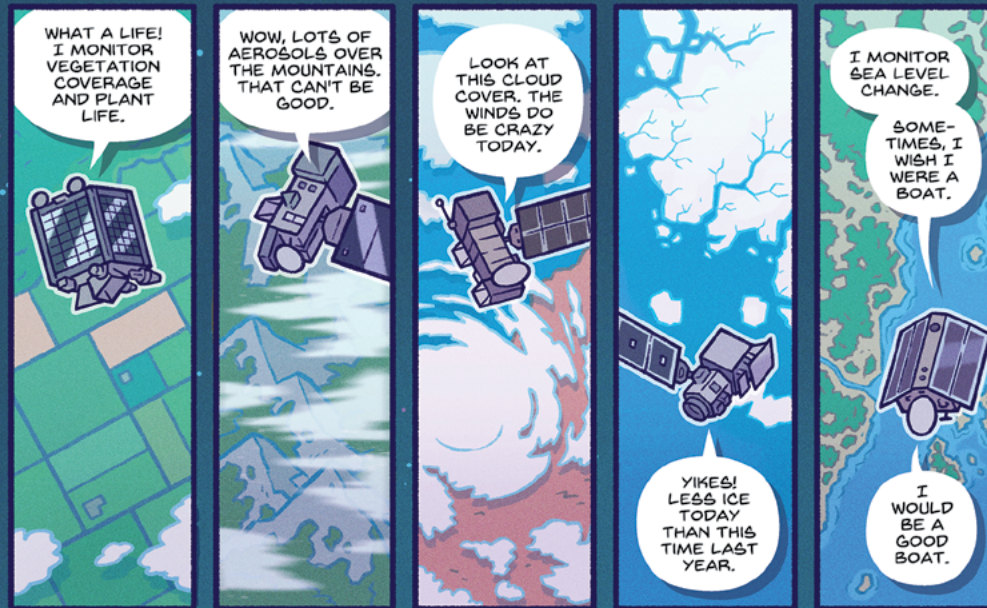
LOOK AT  
THIS CLOUD  
COVER. THE  
WINDS DO  
BE CRAZY  
TODAY.

YIKES!  
LESS ICE  
TODAY  
THAN THIS  
TIME LAST  
YEAR.

I MONITOR  
SEA LEVEL  
CHANGE.

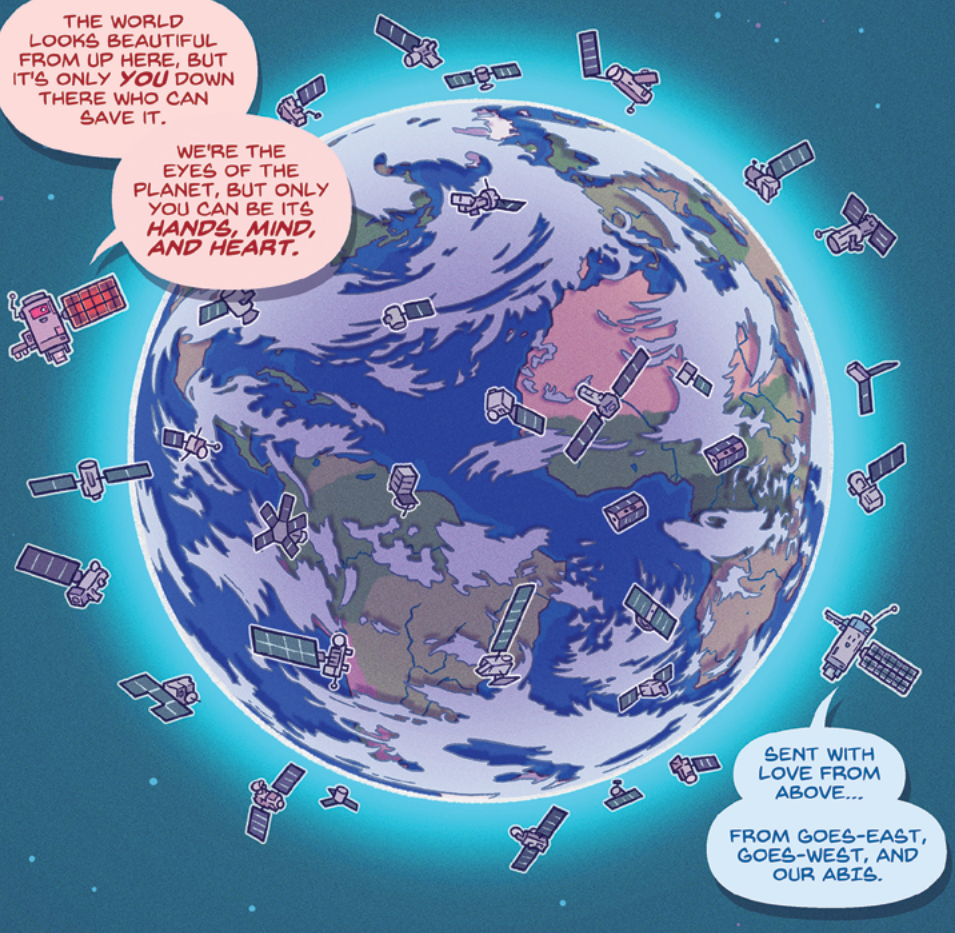
SOME-  
TIMES, I  
WISH I  
WERE A  
BOAT.

I  
WOULD  
BE A  
GOOD  
BOAT.



THE WORLD  
LOOKS BEAUTIFUL  
FROM UP HERE, BUT  
IT'S ONLY **YOU** DOWN  
THERE WHO CAN  
SAVE IT.

WE'RE THE  
EYES OF THE  
PLANET, BUT ONLY  
YOU CAN BE ITS  
**HANDS, MIND,  
AND HEART.**

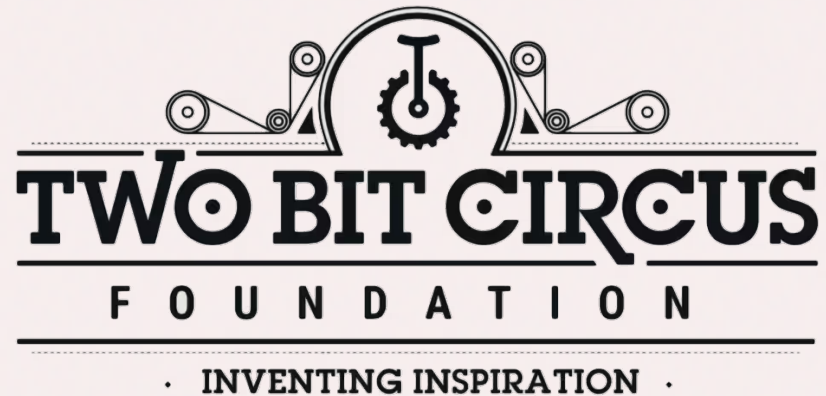


SENT WITH  
LOVE FROM  
ABOVE...

FROM GOES-EAST,  
GOES-WEST, AND  
OUR ABIS.

## NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

For each of our free eBooks, the storytellers select a local Los Angeles nonprofit to highlight. The creators of "Our Geosynchronous Guardians" chose the Two Bit Circus Foundation.



## FROM THE CREATORS

"I became an artist because of the support I received growing up. I hate the thought that the next generation of climate scientists and engineers never discover their passions or are cut short due to circumstances outside of their control.

Support these children by making a donation to the Two Bit Circus Foundation. This STEAM-focused nonprofit brings unforgettable hands-on programs and resources to children throughout LA."

--Aaron Painter, Illustrator of "Our Geosynchronous Guardians"

You can read about and donate to [the Two Bit Circus Foundation here.](https://www.twobitcircus.com)

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