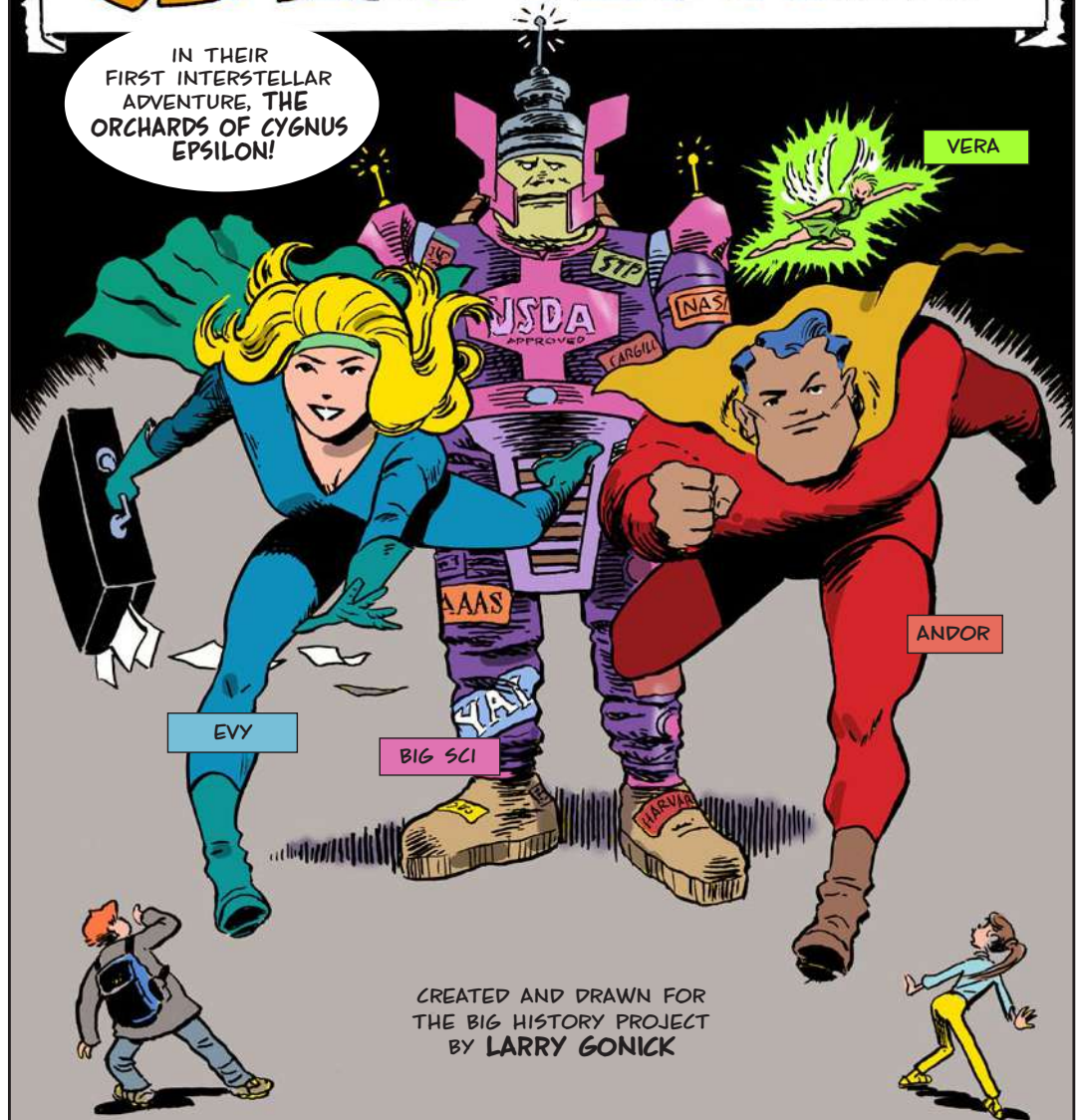


OVERWHELMED BY QUESTIONS? BEDEVILED BY DOUBTS? DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN
IN THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH? HOW CAN YOU KNOW? WHOM DO YOU CALL? WELL, HERE'S
WHOM! CALL THE

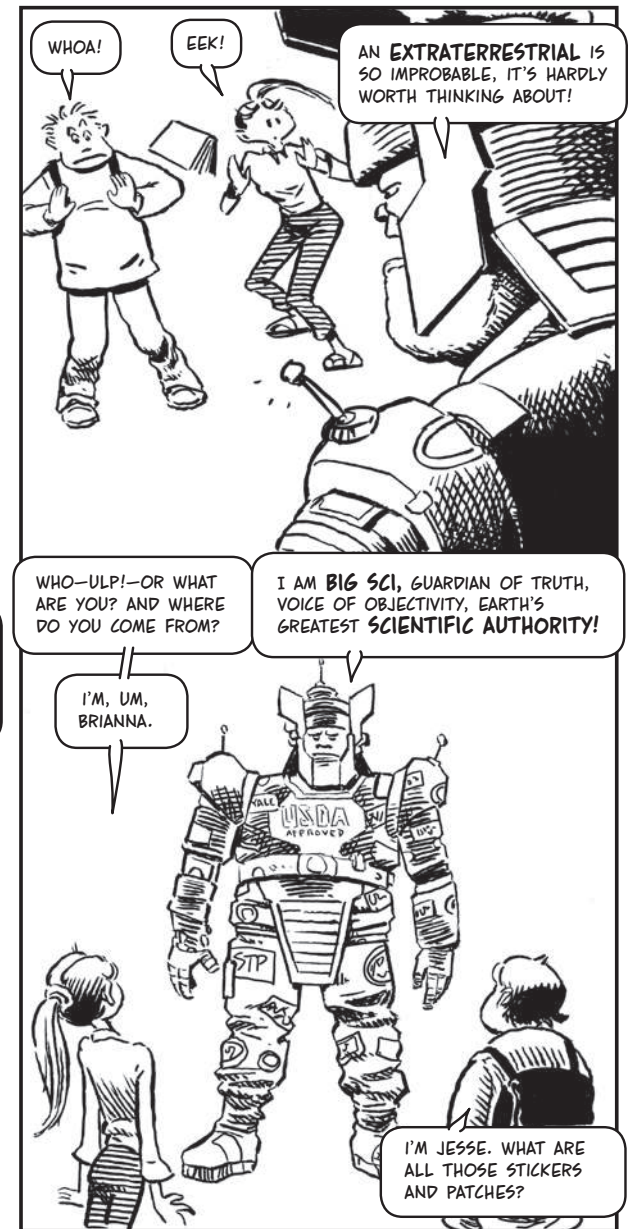
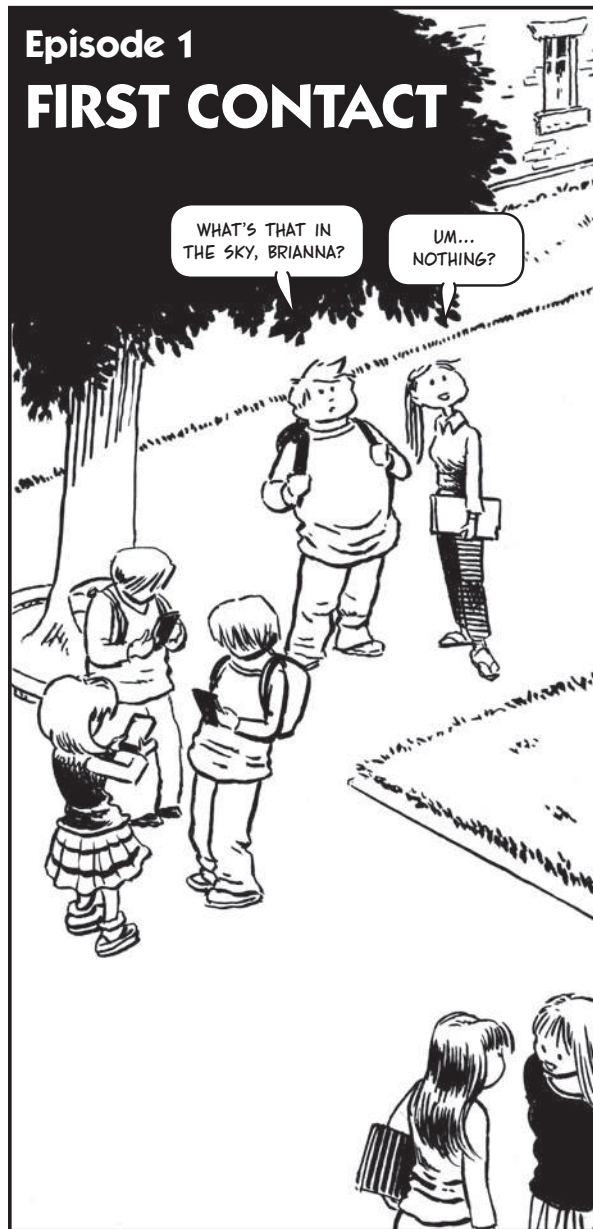
CLAIM TESTERS

IN THEIR
FIRST INTERSTELLAR
ADVENTURE, THE
ORCHARDS OF CYGNUS
EPSILON!



CREATED AND DRAWN FOR
THE BIG HISTORY PROJECT
BY LARRY GONICK

Episode 1 FIRST CONTACT





OH, THESE? MY **CREDENTIALS**. THIS ONE'S FROM NASA... THAT'S A BLUE RIBBON FROM MIT... HERE'S A STAMP FROM THE SYNTHETIC SWEETENER PEOPLE... OH, YEAH, I'M A REAL EXPERT!

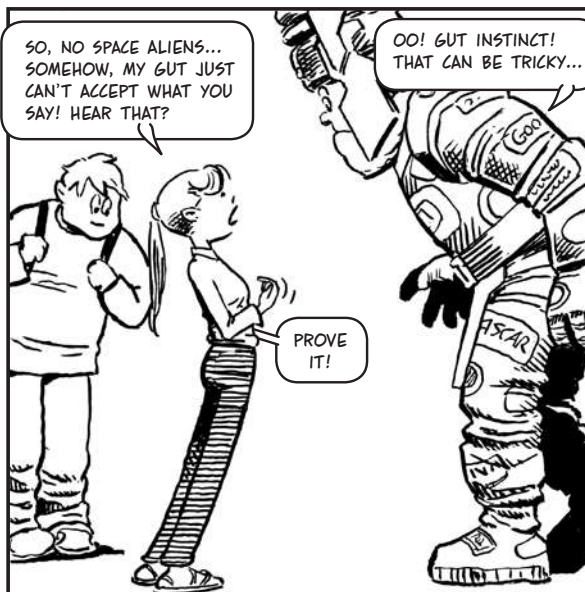
AWESOME!

SO YOU CAN BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY FORGET ABOUT IT... NOBODY'S TRAVELING BETWEEN STAR SYSTEMS, DESPITE WHAT YOU SEE IN MOVIES AND COMIC STRIPS. THE DISTANCES ARE JUST TOO **HUGE**...



BY THE WAY, WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?

SCIENCE SCARES SOME PEOPLE OFF, I GUESS...



SO, NO SPACE ALIENS... SOMEHOW, MY GUT JUST CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT YOU SAY! HEAR THAT?

OO! GUT INSTINCT! THAT CAN BE TRICKY...

PROVE IT!

DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, THEN! LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE YOURSELVES! EVY, HELP ME OUT HERE!

DON'T RUSH ME! I HAVE AN ARMLOAD!



I'M **EVY**, THE EVIDENCE KEEPER... IN THIS BRIEFCASE, I HAVE ALL THE PICTURES AND MEASUREMENTS EVER MADE OF THE **COSMOS**, AND A LOT OF OTHER STUFF BESIDES...

I USE TELESCOPES, SPECTROSCOPES, CAMERAS, ANTENNAS, MRI MACHINES, PENCILS, PENS, WHATEVER DOES THE JOB!

HERE'S SOME EVIDENCE ABOUT THE DISTANCE FROM EARTH TO THE STARS!

IT LOOKS LIKE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF PICTURES AND SCRIBBLES!

