VANGUARD & FOIL ADVENTURES

The Beacon Bandit

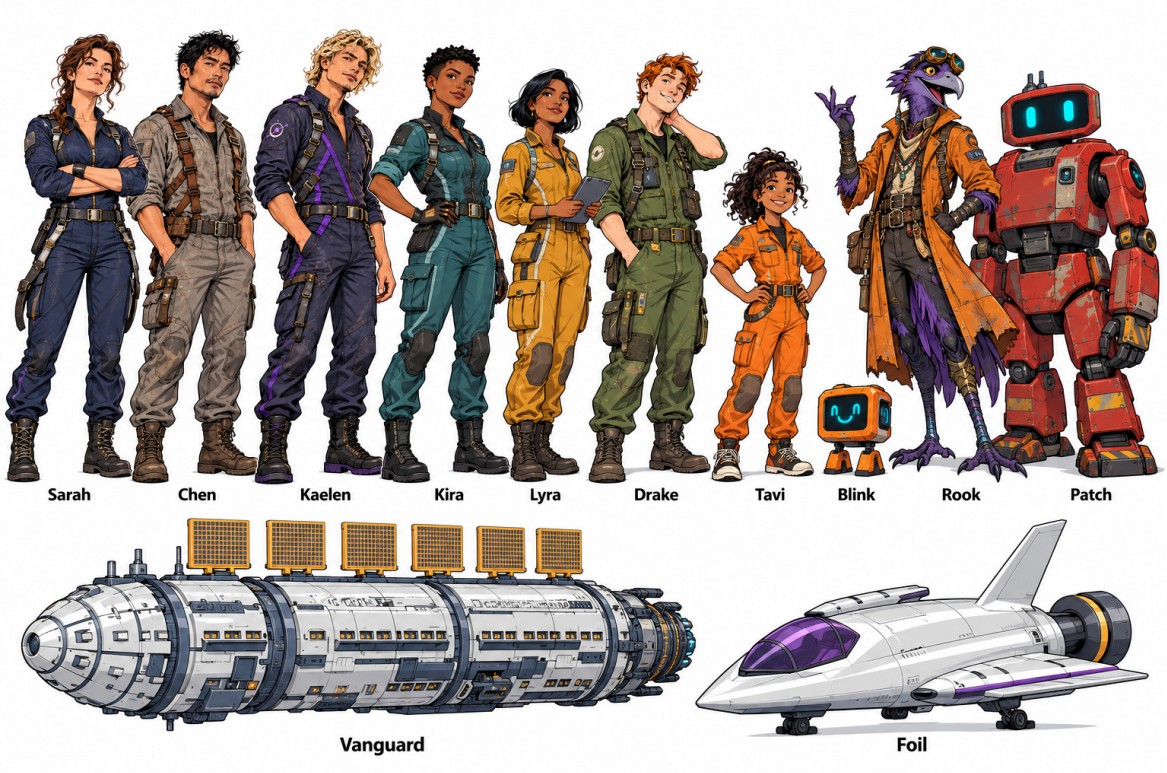
COMIC 1 / AGES 8-12



A stolen lighthouse. A hungry station. One very flashy thief.

JEFFREY JAY

Meet the crew and comic guests



Sarah: Captain. A steady leader who puts people first.

Kaelen: Pilot of the Slipstream Foil. They read gravity currents and find careful routes.

Chen: Engineer. He measures, tests and builds practical solutions.

Kira: Safety and tactical specialist. She protects the team.

Lyra: Communications expert. She checks signals and evidence.

Drake: Maintenance specialist. He repairs what the team needs.

Tavi & Blink: New comic friends: a curious 11-year-old station resident and her little repair robot.

The Vanguard carries the crew and equipment. The smaller Foil reaches tight places quickly. You can start here: these comics tell their own stories.

A light goes missing

1



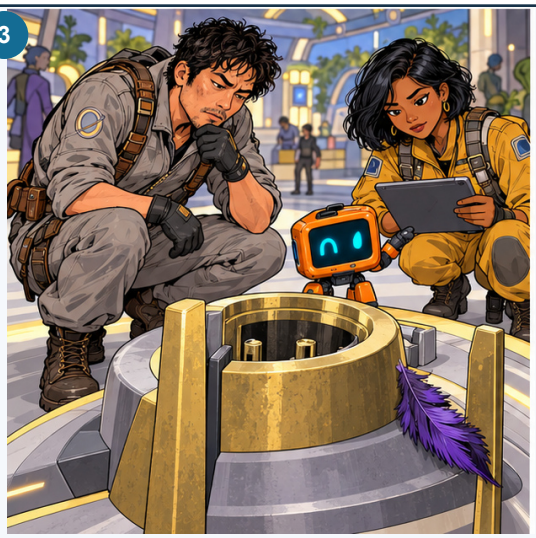
CAPTION: Lantern Station was ready for its yearly feast. Its supply shuttle was not.
LYRA: The beacon is dark. That shuttle cannot find the safe docking lane.

2



TAVI: Someone took our beacon! The shuttle has all the food.
SARAH: We will help. Kira, keep everyone inside the station.

3



CHEN: Unplugged neatly. No broken wires.
LYRA: And a purple feather. That gives us something to check.

4



ROOK: Captain Rook! Finest collector in the stars!
SARAH: That lamp guides deliveries. Bring it back.
ROOK: My collection needs a centerpiece!

The wrong chase

1



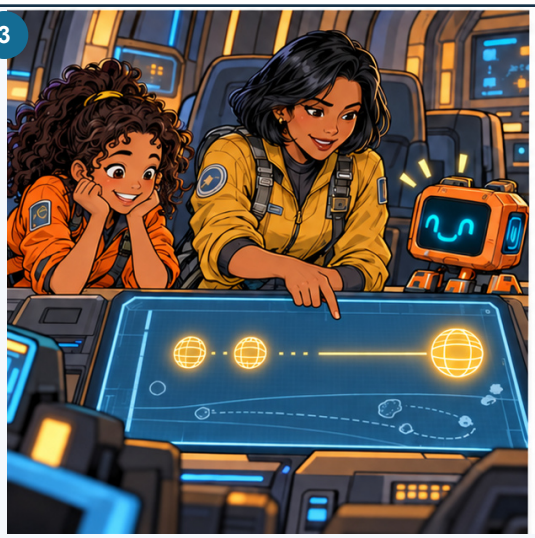
KAELEN: The Foil can catch that tug.
SARAH: Slowly. A smashed beacon helps nobody.

2



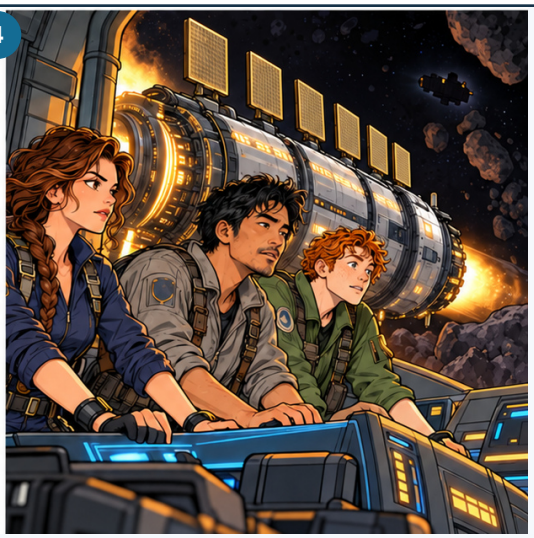
ROOK: Which shiny light is mine?
KAELEN: Three lights. One beacon. I need a better clue.

3



TAVI: Our real beacon flashes short, short, long.
LYRA: The decoys blink at random. Watch the pattern.

4



DRAKE: The real lamp needs power. Its tug will give off heat.
CHEN: Checking the heat camera. There!

A careful catch

1



SARAH: Worklights on. Kaelen, leave him room to stop.
KAELEN: Two ships. One safe way back.

2



ROOK: My cargo straps! Those crates are drifting!
KAELEN: Stop your engines. We can help.

3



CHEN: Net ready.
DRAKE: Easy does it.
ROOK: You would rescue my cargo? Even after I stole the lamp?

4



SARAH: We help people in trouble. You still have to return what you took.
TAVI: And help fix our beacon!

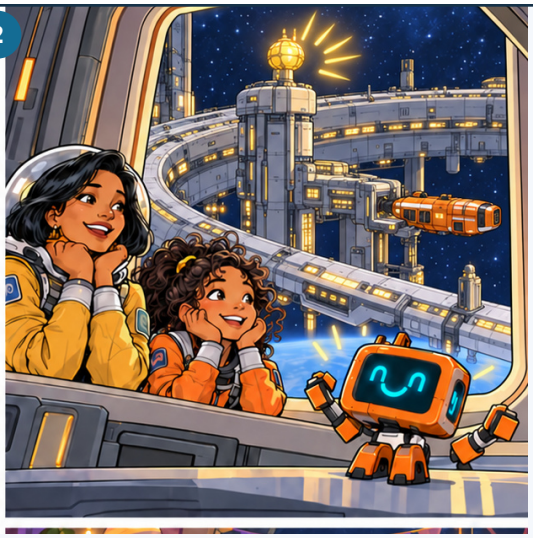
A brighter idea

1



ROOK: I wanted everyone to notice my collection.
CHEN: Try inviting visitors. Borrowing needs permission.

2



LYRA: Short, short, long. Docking confirmed!
TAVI: The feast is back on!

3



KIRA: Next: replace the damaged straps and finish your repair shift.
ROOK: My least glamorous adventure yet.

4



TAVI: You can keep this one. I made it for you.
ROOK: A gift? For my collection?
BLINK: Best. Shiny. Ever.

YOUR TURN

Be a beacon detective

A beacon repeats a pattern. Which line copies SHORT, SHORT, LONG twice?

A: SHORT, LONG, SHORT / SHORT, LONG, SHORT

B: SHORT, SHORT, LONG / SHORT, SHORT, LONG

C: LONG, SHORT, SHORT / LONG, SHORT, SHORT

Talk about it
Rook returned the lamp, but he still had repairs to do. Why was that fair?

Make your own
On paper, invent a pattern with circles and lines. Ask a friend to repeat it. Keep model lights switched off while you play.

Check your answer
B. The order stays the same each time.

Play idea: on a flat table, use your ship models to act out a new rescue. Let each ship solve a different part of the problem. Keep fragile fins and small parts attached.

Two ships. New adventures.

1. The Beacon Bandit
A stolen lighthouse. A hungry station. One very flashy thief.

2. The Garden Grab
The station garden has vanished into a recycling ship. Can the crew save it in time?

3. The Moon That Blinked
Something is blinking inside a little moon. A collector is already on the way.

Every comic stands alone.
These original adventures use characters and ships from Jeffrey Jay's The Tachyon Wake. They take place in a separate comic continuity and do not adapt the novel's plots. No prior reading is needed.

Story and characters: Jeffrey Jay.

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Reader edition - October 2026.
Read all three adventures free at JeffreyJay.space/#comics
Explore models and more at Etsy.com/shop/OhioRama

The Beacon Bandit

BONUS PLAY PAGE 1 / Pencil-and-paper fun

1. Mission word search

Find six story words. Look right, down, or diagonally down-right.
Circle each word. There are no backward words.

I	G	F	U	N	C	L	H	O	Z	J	Q
P	X	N	E	W	L	Y	I	B	E	P	U
H	T	I	X	A	C	Z	B	G	S	M	H
H	E	S	X	W	T	P	T	X	H	M	P
B	N	M	H	G	H	H	N	N	U	T	B
B	E	A	C	O	N	V	E	Y	T	L	B
Z	P	L	G	G	L	N	N	R	T	T	S
F	S	M	N	C	A	R	G	O	L	V	F
H	U	G	Z	P	R	P	V	D	E	B	K
P	G	E	R	R	P	O	O	L	L	U	V
K	X	C	T	Z	K	F	O	A	Q	E	P
V	G	V	S	V	P	Y	X	K	F	S	D

Find: BEACON, FEATHER, CARGO, LIGHT, ROOK, SHUTTLE

2. Crack the beacon code

A = 1, B = 2, C = 3 ... Z = 26. Decode the crew message.
18 - 5 - 20 - 21 - 18 - 14 20 - 8 - 5 12 - 9 - 7 - 8 - 20

Message: _____

Bonus: write a code for a friend to solve.

_____

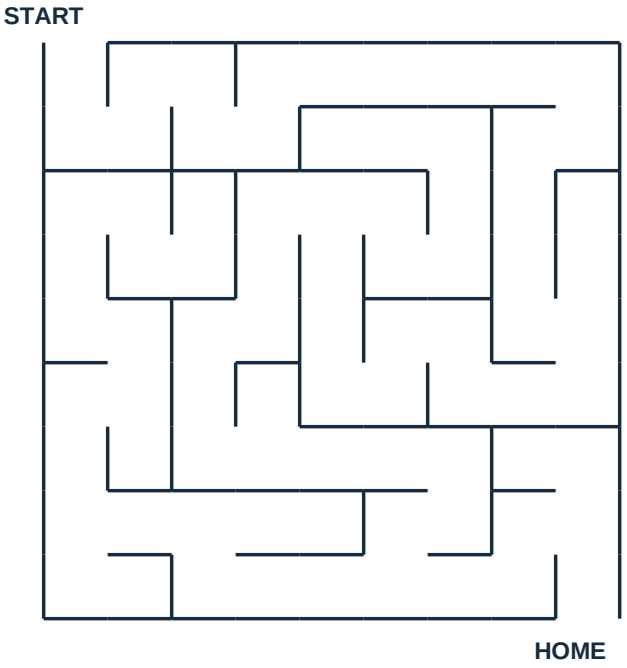
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The Beacon Bandit

BONUS PLAY PAGE 2 / Pencil-and-paper fun

3. Safe-route maze

Guide the shuttle back to Lantern Station.
Enter at START. Stay inside the paths and leave at HOME.



4. Your mini-comic challenge

Invent a new station rescue. Show a problem, a clue, and a kind solution.

1. Beginning	2. Teamwork	3. Ending

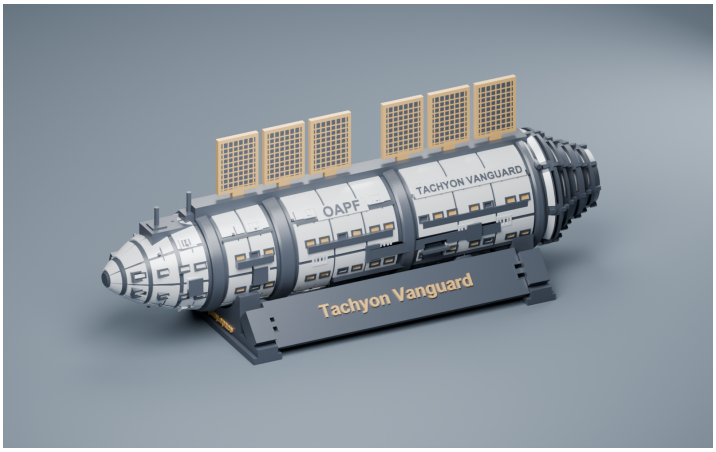
Answer corner - fold this part under until you finish!

Word search coordinates: (row, column), counting from the top left.
FEATHER: (1,3)-(7,9); SHUTTLE: (3,10)-(9,10); BEACON: (6,1)-(6,6)
CARGO: (8,5)-(8,9); LIGHT: (1,7)-(5,11); ROOK: (9,6)-(12,9)
Code: RETURN THE LIGHT. Your own codes may vary.
Maze: R=right, D=down, L=left, U=up (one square per letter).
DRURDRURRRRRDLDDDRDLLULDLUUULDDLDDRRRRDLDRRURD

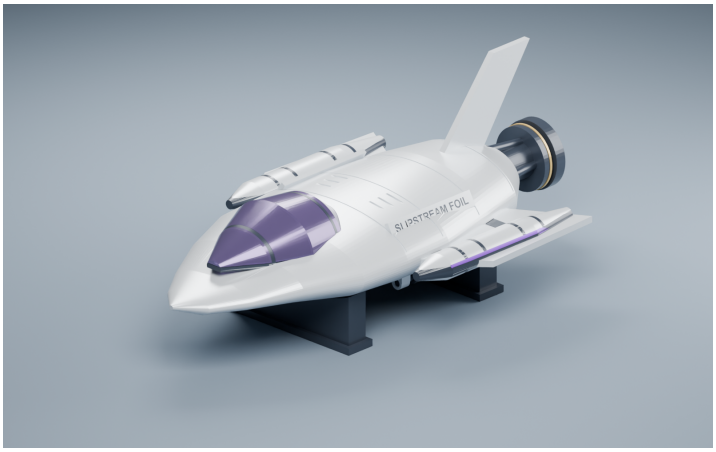
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OHIORAMA / PHYSICAL MODEL PAIR

THE ADVENTURE DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY ON THE PAGE.



TACHYON VANGUARD



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