VANGUARD & FOIL ADVENTURES

The Moon That Blinked

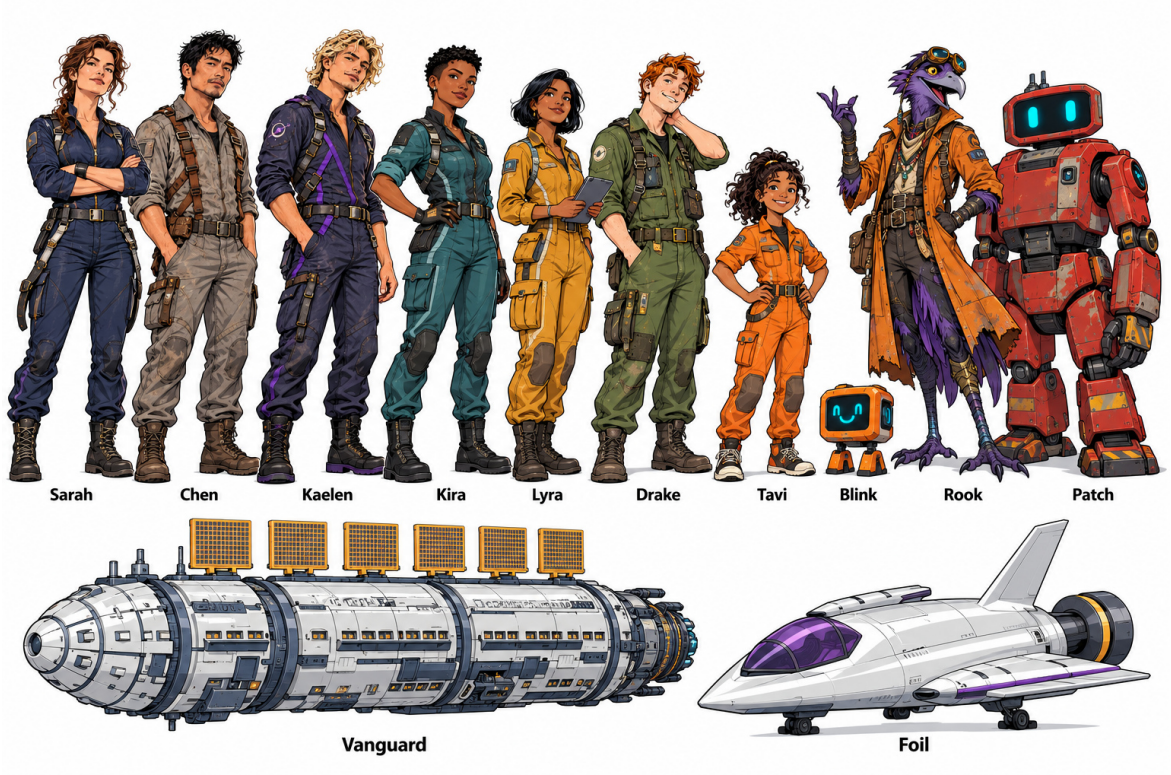
COMIC 3 / AGES 8-12



Something is blinking inside a little moon. A collector is already on the way.

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.

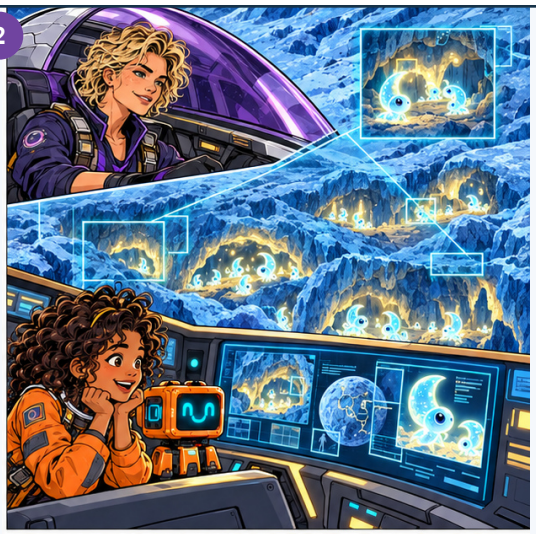
A strange light

1



LYRA: Those flashes are not a station beacon.
SARAH: Let us look from a safe distance.

2



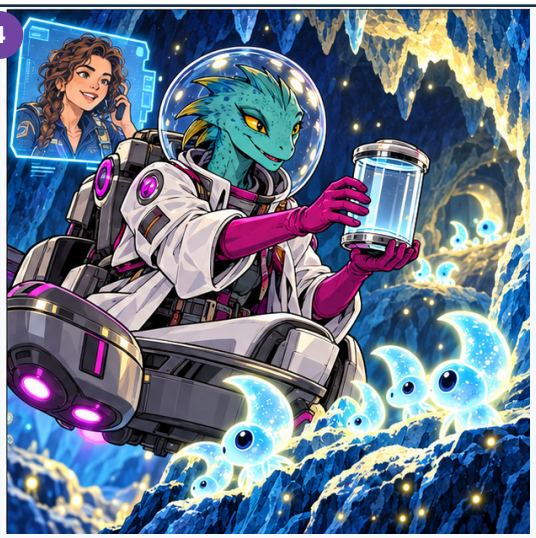
KAELEN: Something is moving beneath the ice.
TAVI: Little lights! Are they alive?

3



CHEN: Warm bodies, not broken machinery.
LYRA: The little ones flash. The larger ones answer.

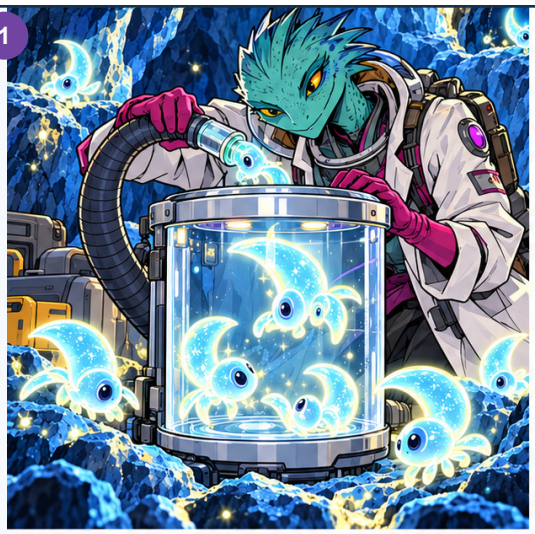
4



VEXA: Doctor Vexa. Those moonlings will look splendid in my exhibit.
SARAH: They are living creatures. Leave their home alone.

A stolen nursery

1



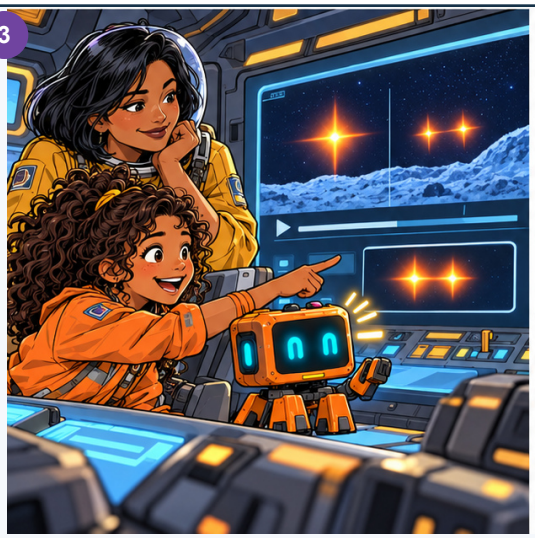
VEXA: One little scoop. Nobody will miss them.
KAELEN: Their parents are already looking!

2



KAELEN: They are following my lights. I cannot move safely.
SARAH: Hold position. We will guide them away.

3



TAVI: The big ones flash once. The little ones flash twice.
LYRA: It could be a call and an answer. Let us test carefully.

4



ROOK: I saw that collector pod. Need a hand?
SARAH: Yes. Help us keep this nursery safe.

Answer the blink

1



LYRA: One gentle flash. They are turning!
KAELEN: The Foil has a clear path now.

2



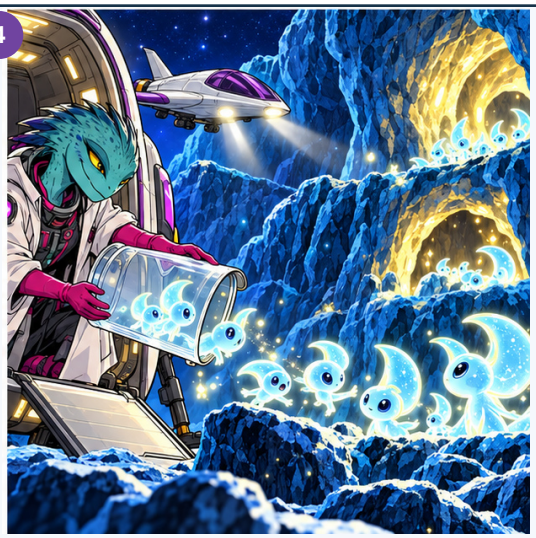
ROOK: The way out is closed, Doctor.
KAELEN: The safe way back is open. Return the moonlings.

3



VEXA: I wanted people to see them.
SARAH: You can share pictures without taking their family away.

4



VEXA: Opening the container.
KAELEN: Two soft flashes. This way, little ones.

The best exhibit

1



TAVI: They found each other!
LYRA: Saving that observation. We still have lots to learn.

2



KIRA: The wildlife keeper will review what happened.
VEXA: And check my new observing plan before I return.

3



ROOK: A sketch for my collection. Nothing stolen.
TAVI: That is a much better collection!

4



CHEN: Do not tell me the engine has started blinking.
DRAKE: Only Blink.
BLINK: Family found. Adventure complete.

YOUR TURN

Try a quiet signal

The crew observed a possible one-flash call and two-flash reply. How should they describe it?

A: We know every word the moonlings say.

B: This pattern may help them find each other.

C: All flashing lights are living creatures.

Talk about it
How can you enjoy wildlife without taking it away from its home?

Make your own
On paper, draw a one-circle call and a two-circle reply. Invent a different signal with a friend. Moonlings and their space habitat are fictional; real animals need their own proper habitats.

Check your answer
B. One useful observation does not explain a whole language.

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 Moon That Blinked

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.

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

Find: MOON, FAMILY, BLINK, SIGNAL, ICE, ROOK

2. Moonling number patterns

These are number games, not a translation of moonling language.

A. 1, 2, 1, 2, ___, ___ (repeat the pair)
B. 2, 4, 6, 8, ___, ___ (add the same number)
C. 1, 2, 4, 8, ___, ___ (double each number)

Bonus: invent a repeating signal using circles and squares.

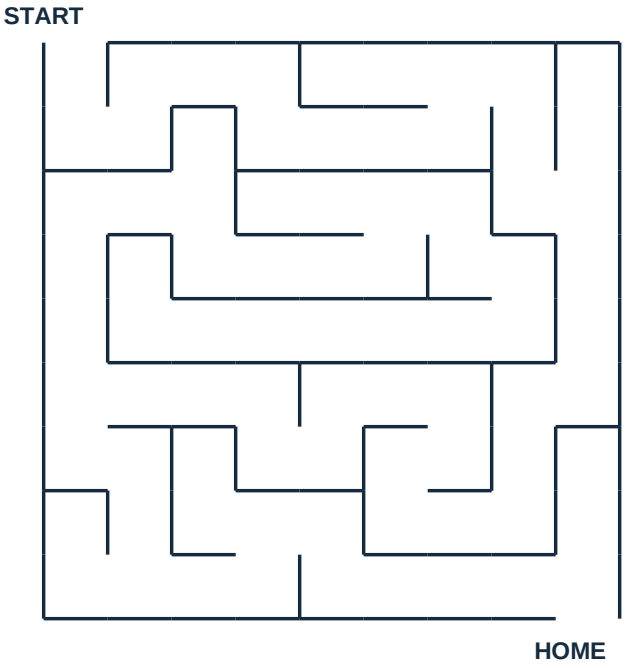
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The Moon That Blinked

BONUS PLAY PAGE 2 / Pencil-and-paper fun

3. Safe-route maze

Guide the little moonlings home to their family.
Enter at START. Stay inside the paths and leave at HOME.



4. Your mini-comic challenge

Invent a creature. Show a discovery, a safe observation, and a happy ending.

1. Beginning	2. Teamwork	3. Ending

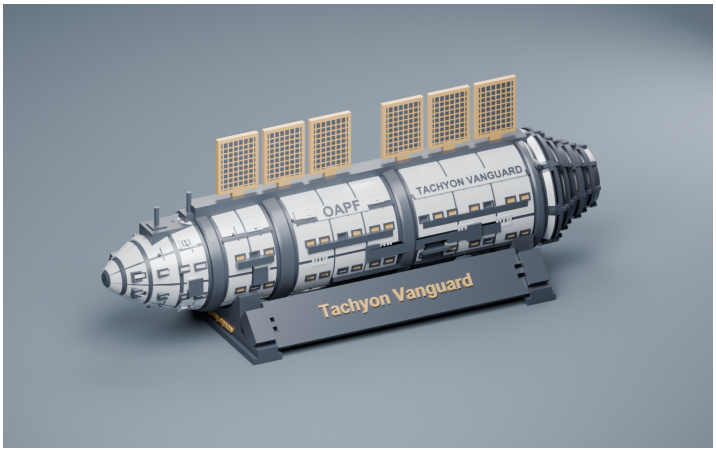
Answer corner - fold this part under until you finish!

Word search coordinates: (row, column), counting from the top left.
FAMILY: (2,2)-(2,7); SIGNAL: (3,12)-(8,12); BLINK: (8,9)-(12,9)
MOON: (4,8)-(7,11); ROOK: (2,10)-(5,10); ICE: (3,5)-(5,5)
Patterns: A 1, 2; B 10, 12; C 16, 32. Your own signal may vary.
Maze: R=right, D=down, L=left, U=up (one square per letter).
DRURRDRRRURDDRDDDLDDLLURULLDLULLLDRDDRRURDRRRR

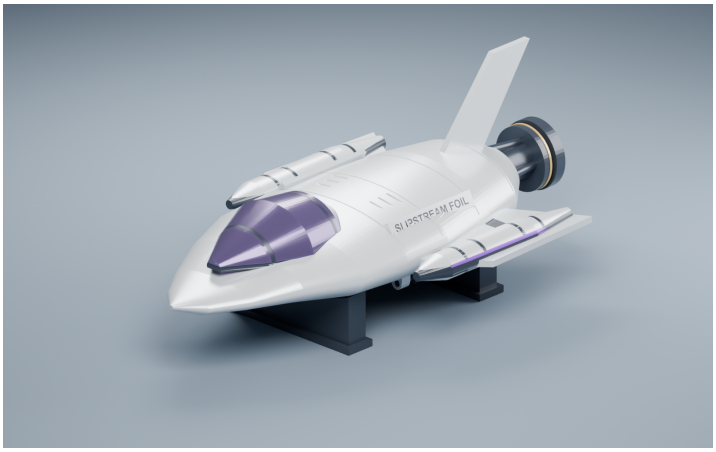
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THE ADVENTURE DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY ON THE PAGE.



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