

## THE WRECK

BY RACHEL E.S. WALTON

### WITNESS

*Tarai Asan* - operator of the *Stalwart*, an assist & repair spaceship. She's responded to *Talon's* distress call, hoping to help while making some money. *Tarai's* strength is *tenacious*, and her personality trait is *curious*.

### OTHER CHARACTERS

- ⊙ *Ahmed Hakimi*, *Tarai's* android companion, capable of piloting the *Stalwart*, applying first aid, assisting in repairs, and sometimes calming an angry customer. Ahmed is forthright and often follows *Tarai*.
- ⊙ *Narumi Sato*, owner of the *Talon*, and an old hand at asteroid mining. But this job is starting to wear on her. It's been no end of problems, and she's been losing sleep recently. It's starting to show in the redness of her eyes and shortness of her temper.
- ⊙ *Richard Garcia*, once the *Talon* foreman, demoted to driller and waste rock mucker. He finds it difficult to enjoy his job like he used to, so he looks for distractions like playing cards or poking around the wreck.
- ⊙ *Joanna Speed*, mining geologist and number cruncher. It's her first job with *Narumi*, and she has serious doubts about this crew, but the wreck is an exciting discovery. She always wanted to be an archaeologist.

### LOCATION AND ERA

The distant future. Asteroid mining is profitable and critical to planetary colonization efforts. The crew of the mining ship *Talon* sent out a distress call for their location on the asteroid *253 Mathilde*. They discovered the wreck of a strange, unknown ship, and since then, their own ship *Talon* has been stalling out and breaking down.

*Prodigious huge Shoggoths employed  
to build an underwater city in  
a vast watery abyss. Same as the  
sunless sea we saw before?*

**OTHER LOCATIONS**

- ⊙ *The mining operation on 253 Mathilde* - an asteroid in the main belt, *253 Mathilde* is 50 km in diameter, irregularly-shaped, with huge craters across its bleak, dark surface. It has been hollowed deeply by the *Talon's* machinery. Around the main shaft are haphazard stacks of support beams, heaps of rubble, and coils of hoses.
- ⊙ *Talon* - a lengthy, segmented ship designed to latch onto asteroids, mine them for precious materials, then process and transport the goods. This ship is clearly aging. Its bulk groans as it works, and seams from repairs are visible everywhere. Replacement parts contrast with original sections, caked in layers of rust and grease. It has a small section for the crew to live in, and is otherwise given over to poorly-lit storage areas and powerful, dangerous mining machinery, built to drill, scoop, grind, and smash.
- ⊙ *The Stalwart* - Tarai's tough little ship designed to carry common repair parts and crew necessities, and to tow broken down ships if needed. It's uncomfortably cramped inside. Built for two and overflowing with barely tied-down odds and ends, tools, hoses, and stacks of paneling.
- ⊙ *The wreck* - a strange unknown ship, old and half-buried, near the main mine, now broken into by the *Talon's* curious mining crew.

**SPECIAL CARDS**

- ⊙ Inhuman creature
- ⊙ Reprisals
- ⊙ Flashback

*We have finally located a navigable entrance to the sub-glacial parts of the city. What bizarre secrets await us?*

**THE WRECK: SAMPLE CLUES**

- ⊙ High-pitched, metallic screeching. A ground-shaking boom follows. But the mining equipment is switched off.
- ⊙ A ancient stasis pod is found - someone is alive inside it.
- ⊙ Someone researches the wrecked ship and learns disturbing news.
- ⊙ Odd, fresh tracks are discovered in the dust.
- ⊙ The black box from the wreck is recovered. It contains a garbled warning.
- ⊙ Tarai realises she is being stalked.
- ⊙ Crew members speak in hushed, urgent voices and stop abruptly when Tarai nears.
- ⊙ Ringing thumps along the metal grate, too heavy for human footsteps.
- ⊙ Someone is holed up in their bunk, refusing to come out. It smells of piss and rot.
- ⊙ The *Talon's* pantry has been raided. All protein foods are gone.
- ⊙ Something at the edge of vision skitters away, again and again.
- ⊙ A grotesque figure huddles over something and suddenly looks up.

*Construction of the underwater city was a mammoth undertaking, described in great detail in the murals.*

*Abandonment of the city appears to have coincided with the beginnings of the ice age - this far north, somewhat before the inception of the Pleistocene.*

*Giant, grotesque penguins only remaining terrestrial life in abandoned city.*