

### **“Motley Crew of Misfits”**

“We’ve got her on visual sir. In range shortly”

“Good. Hail the...what was her name again?”

the Captain asked.

“LA Woman, sir.”

“LA Women?” the Captain eyed the com-screen as a figure shimmered into view. That’s him, he thought. Speaking to the screen he began.

” William R. Pinkley, AKA “Billy Pink”, AKA “Sweet Willie Pink” AKA...”

“Who wants to know?” “Billy Pink” interjected.

“Captain Belkane of the Capalan light cruiser “Morion”. By the authority of the Capalan League I have an order for your arrest,” he replied with a smile.

“On what charge?” Billy began. “I’m a legal trader just trying to earn a decent living.”

“Of course you are Mister Pinkley. But we’ve an outstanding “5150” on you. Prepare for boarders and subsequent arrest. Belkane off.”

“Wait!” Billy said as he slammed a fist on the console facing the now black screen. Damn Krel! He must have tipped the Capalans off about the info that he had picked up back on Cestus V. Billy absently fingered the implant on the back of his neck. Sometimes going “brown” had its dangers. The light cruiser was too fast to run from and too heavily armed to fight.

“Beezle, it seems we’re going to have company. Pipe me in.”

Beezle moved his claws with precision, “All set, Billy,” he hissed.

“Trouble Billy?” Char asked. Billy hadn’t seen her come onto the bridge but that was normal. He had learned early on if Char didn’t want to be seen she wasn’t going to be seen.

“Seems like it. Ready to fight some Capalan?” Billy asked.

“I am,” Beezle said licking his lips. “Keske lita grizlak”.

“What?” Char asked.

“He said they “taste like chicken”. Billy answered.

“I think I’m going to be sick.”

“Later, we’ve things to do now. Beezle, how about some Jimmy and real loud.”

With a half-smile/snarl Beezle nodded his head and went back to the controls.



*Beezle, Billy Pink, and Char*

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*This is a recount of a 5150 playtest fought last week. 5150 will be the THW sci-fi “mega-system” which will cover skirmish, big battle, and ship combat set in the 5150 universe. This started out as a ship to ship fight but quickly switched to a boarding action. This was a Raid mission with the notorious “Billy Pink” as the target. The battle starts with the Capalan away pod slamming into the hull of the LA Woman.*



*Capalan “away team”*

### **“LA Woman” Crewmembers**

**Registry** – Class 3 Free Trader 9

*Captain - William R. Pinkley (Humanoid-Male)*

- **Rep 5 Star**
- **Street Punk**
  - **Tough**
  - **Brawler**
  - **Looter**
- **Agile**

- **Laser Pistol 12/1/4**

**First Mate** – Beezle (Reptilian-Male)

- **Rep 5**
- **Dumbass**
- **Laser Rifle 48/2/4**

**Crewmember** – Char (Humanoid-Female)

- **Rep 4**
- **Stealth**
- **Laser Pistol 12/1/4**

**Crewmember** – Angel (Humanoid-Female)

- **Rep 3**
- **Fast**
- **SMG 24/3/1**

**Med/Science** – Brain (Humanoid-Male)

- **Rep 3**
- **Shortsighted**
- **Laser Pistol 12/1/4**

**Engineer** – Greenie (Humanoid-Male)

- **Rep 3**
- **Brawler**
- **Laser Pistol 12/1/4**

## CAPALAN AWAY PARTY

### Lt. Byals

- Rep 4 Leader
- “Aug” suit – Counts as “protected”
  - Agile
  - Athlete
  - Fast
  - Quick Reflexes
  - IR vision
  - Enhanced Audio
- Laser Carbine 24/2/4

### NCO

- Rep 5
- “Aug” suit – Counts as “protected”
- Hard as nails
- Laser Carbine 24/2/4

### #3

- Rep 4
- “Aug” suit – Counts as “protected”
- Coward
- Laser Carbine 24/2/4

### #4

- Rep 4
- “Aug” suit – Counts as “protected”
- Brawler
- Laser Carbine 24/2/4

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The Capalan “away” team wasn’t the best but definitely not the worse. All had seen some action and with the potential of this one going “hot” it was a good thing. The bad thing was it would be their Leader’s first action.

“Alright now. Look into your “com-visors” and you’ll see an image of our target. He is to be captured and unharmed if at all possible. All clear?” Byals two hearts were racing as he spoke. Just like the academy he thought to himself. Just do what you’ve been trained for.

“What of the other occupants, sir?”

“They are viable targets. Fire on if need be,” he replied. “You’re discretion.” The third small light inside Byals visor lit up green. “Brace yourself!”

As the hatch exploded outward the away team disembarked from the pod. An empty area greeted them and then...



*First fire!*

The away team stumbled forward as bright lights and loud blaring noise began to overload their “aug” suits. Reeling from the pain the Capalans came under fire. Billy, Brain and Angel opened up from cover. The away team had stepped in it!

Billy scored a direct hit on one of the Capalans sending him out of the fight. Angel and Brain fired but missed with the Capalan LT causing Brain to Duck Back as the fire from the laser carbine outgunned him. Angel’s SMG caused the “newbie” Capalan to run but training had him Hunker Down behind a wall instead.



*First casualties*

The NCO fired at Billy and missed as the laser blasts tore into the corner providing cover. Billy stood his ground and hit the NCO square. But Leyland (NCO) had been through the wars before and what should have obviously killed him just knocked him to the ground. Not missing a beat, Leyland poured more fire into Billy who decided to duck back. At the end of the first turn one Capalan was OOF, one Hunkered Down, and the other two still good to go. The crew of the LA Woman hadn’t taken any casualties. This was directly attributed to the discomfort caused by the loud noise (Roadhouse, The Doors, circa late 20<sup>th</sup> Century at high, high volume.)

Turn two saw an exchange of fire between the two surviving Capalans and the three crewmembers.

Turn three things took a turn for the worse as Brain and Angel bolted under murderous fire. Billy

Pink grabbed Angel as she went by and talked some sense into her. Not enough to stay and fight but enough to stop her from running. Brain took off down the corridor trying to find a nice warm hiding place.

Billy grabbed Angel's hand. "C'mon," he shouted and ran down the corridor with her in tow.

Meanwhile, Lt. Byals sprinted over to the Hunkered Down soldier and slapped him around to bring him back into the fight. As he did this, the NCO picked up the OOF soldier and together the three headed back to the away pod.

As they entered Byals instructed his men to remove their "aug" suit helmets. Better to have normal senses of hearing and sight than to give up the advantage caused by the numbing pain of the bright lights and loud sounds. At least they would still keep their enhanced reflexes and agility.



*Capalans fall back*

Making sure that the wounded soldier was secure the three stepped back into the LA Woman.

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*The Capalan away team was dressed in "augmentation suits". See the OB elsewhere for their benefits. Unlike exo-armor these are rudimentary suits that have problems. One is the filtering of sound and light if intensified. Billy knew this and when Beezle cranked up the tunes, so to speak, it caused great discomfort to the away team. This was reflected in the reduction of their Rep by 1 or 2 depending upon a simple Reaction test. This reduction allowed the crew of the LA Woman to engage the soldiers on equal or better terms. This would not be true once they returned to their away pod and removed their control helmets.*

*In any case, the Capalans literally dodged a bullet in that the NCO rolled the Hard As Nails attribute that saved him from being obviously dead early on.*

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Turn five saw the away team moving along the now dimly lit ship. The three away team members entered a large common area. Nestled in the shadows was Char, waiting her chance. As the team walked by she slipped behind them to the exit, turned and fired, missing the last soldier but causing him to

dive for cover. Before the other two could turn around she was gone.



*Char in the shadows*

"Should we follow, NCO?" Byals asked unthinking.

NCO Leyland shook his head. "Wasn't the target. Let's keep going," he replied matter of factly. With a quick bend and jerk he pulled the cowering soldier back into the fight. "Let's go."

Byals and the other followed him into the next compartment.

"I've been waiting for you "grizlak", Beezle said with a toothy grin and opened fire. Pop, pop the laser rifle cracked. NCO dodged the blast and came up firing. Two rounds neatly placed in the reptilian's chest. With a gurgle Beezle fell to the ground.



*Beezle's last stand*

"Must have watched too many "old west" holograms," Leyland said with a smirk.

Just then Billy Pink and Greenie came into sight. While Greenie tried to provide covering fire Billy ran and dove for Beezle's body. He knew Beezle always carried a frag grenade and if he could just...

Billy was cut down in a flash of laser fire. Greenie swung his pistol up and fired at NCO Leyland, missed, and received a head shot for his trouble.

Then it was silent.



*Billy's desperate gamble*

*game wasn't decided until the end and the result was a surprise.*

The three Capalans made their way over to the bodies and methodically began to search them. Billy opened his eyes and tried to focus. All he got for his trouble was a big armored fist in the face knocking him unconscious.

"The target's still alive, sir."

"Good job men. Carry him back to the pod."

Byals smiled. Not the best of operations but not too bad either.



*"Game over man."*

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*Once the Capalans weren't functioning under the constraints of the ill effects from the sound their superior Rep and weaponry turned the tide. However, the LA Woman crew had their chance. Char missing a free shot in the back (her Stealth attribute worked well for her) and Beezle missing both his shots kind of ruined it for them. If even half of the shots would have scored then things could have ended differently. Billy's mad dash in an attempt to retrieve Beezle's grenade was rewarded with the Capalans best shooting of the day. Billy needed to use Cheating Death and is now down to a rep 4 but there was no other way around it. The next encounter will be an escape as Billy tries to escape from the local Capalan authorities. All in all a typical THW battle in that the*