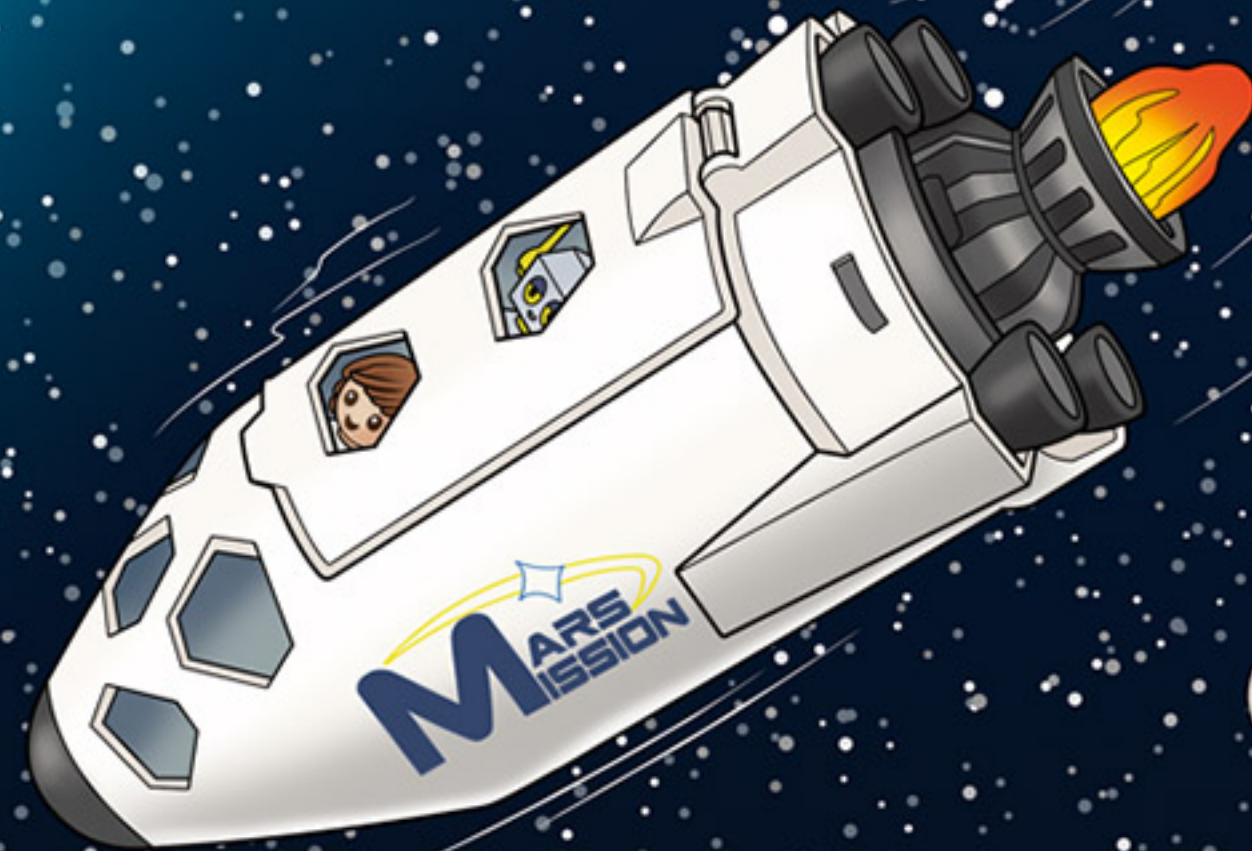


# SANDSTORM ON THE RED PLANET

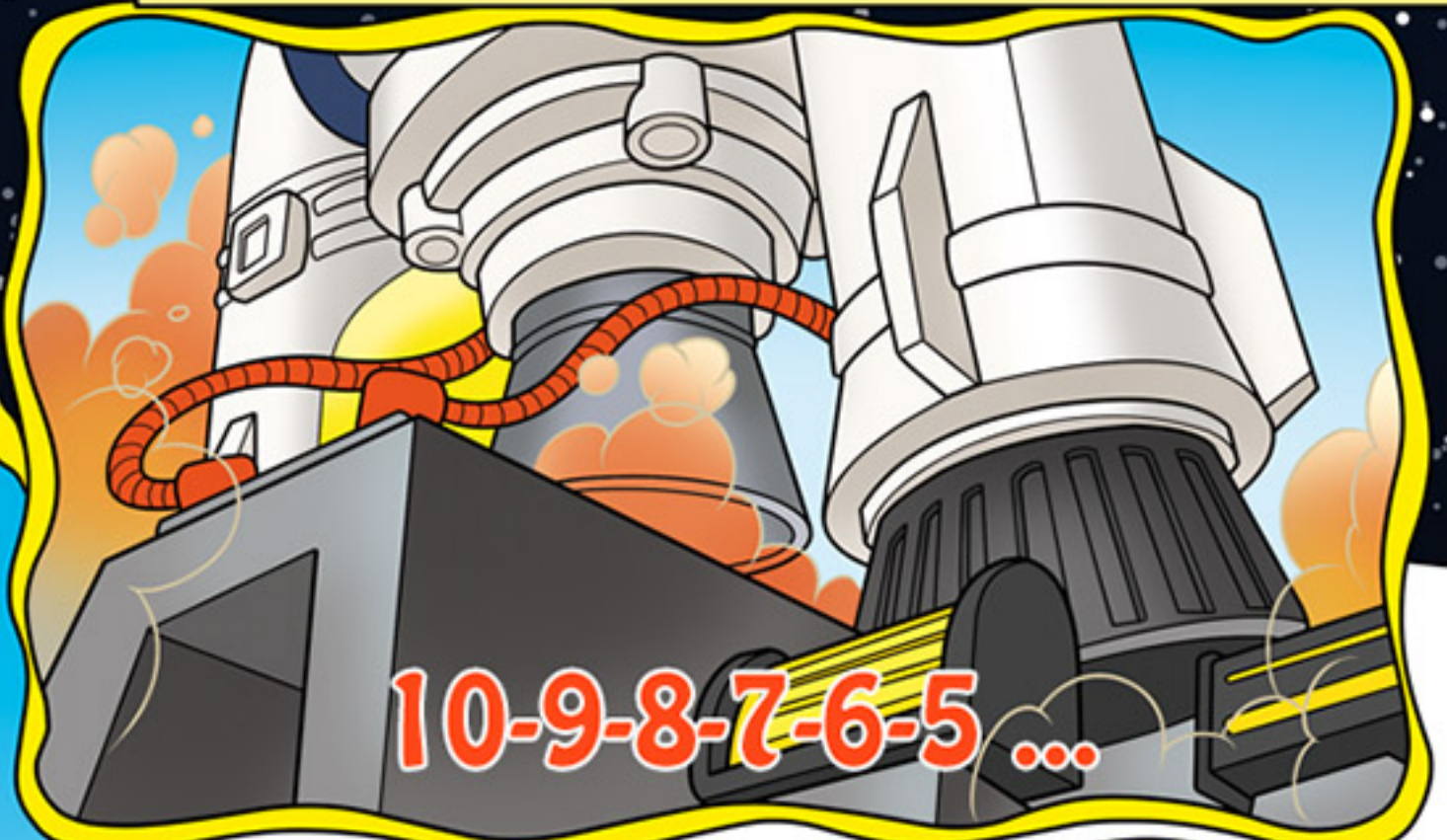
Space. Infinite vastness. In the Mars rocket, brave astronaut Alvin Goodman is on his way from Earth to the Mars Space Station where the rest of the team is waiting for him.



But wait! Someone else is on board - the clever robot RU-EC-2. He's not just Alvin's best friend, but he is especially helpful when it comes to any work on the Martian surface.



A few days ago...



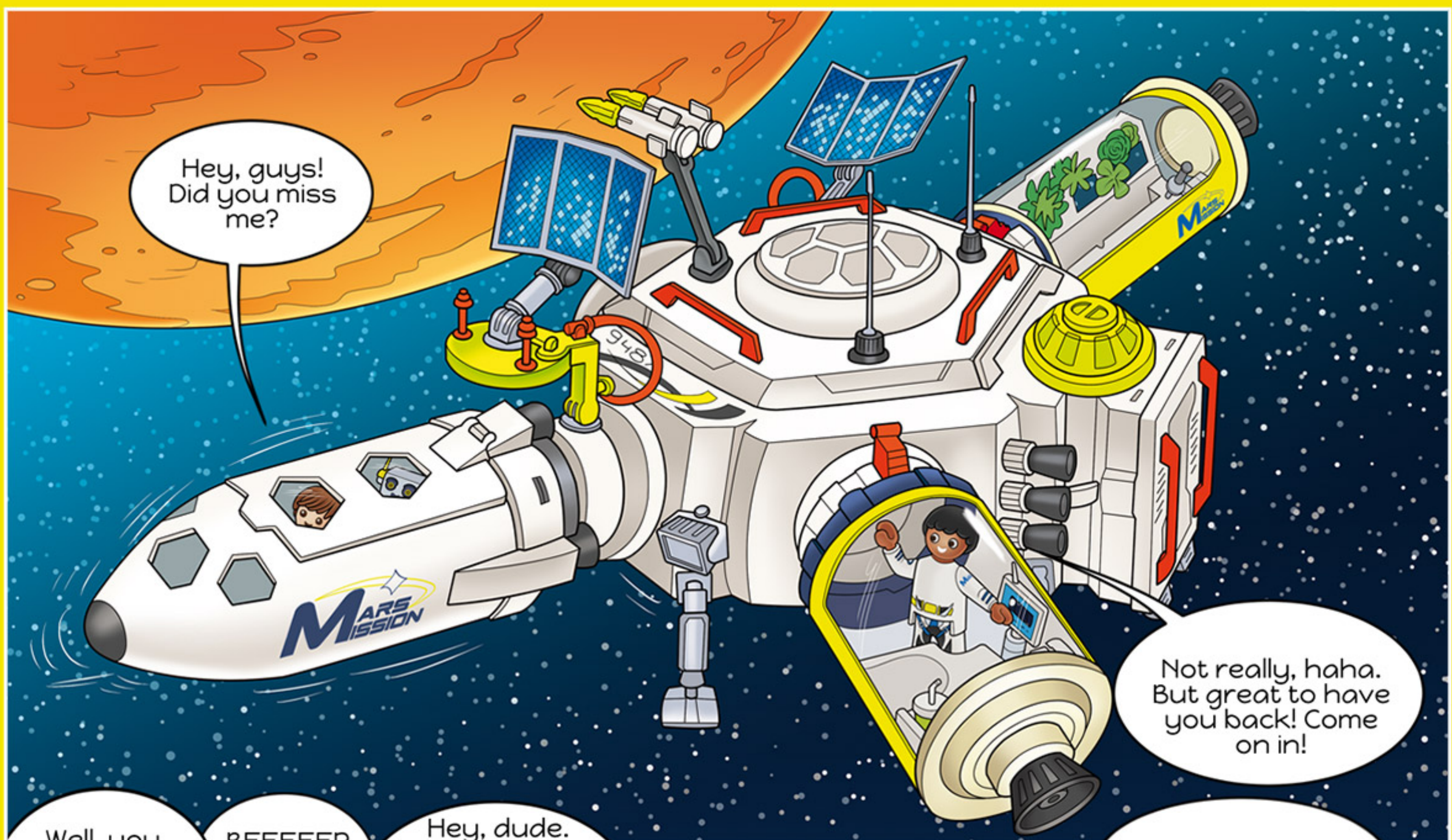
The rocket is almost ready. Astronaut Alvin Goodman and his faithful companion RU-EC-2 just have to board and off we go!

... 3-2-1 LIFT OFF!

Take care, Alvin. All the best for you and your team! Get back safely!







Hey, guys!  
Did you miss  
me?

Not really, haha.  
But great to have  
you back! Come  
on in!

Well, you  
shouldn't  
have  
bothered.

BEEEEEP  
BIP  
BEEEEEP

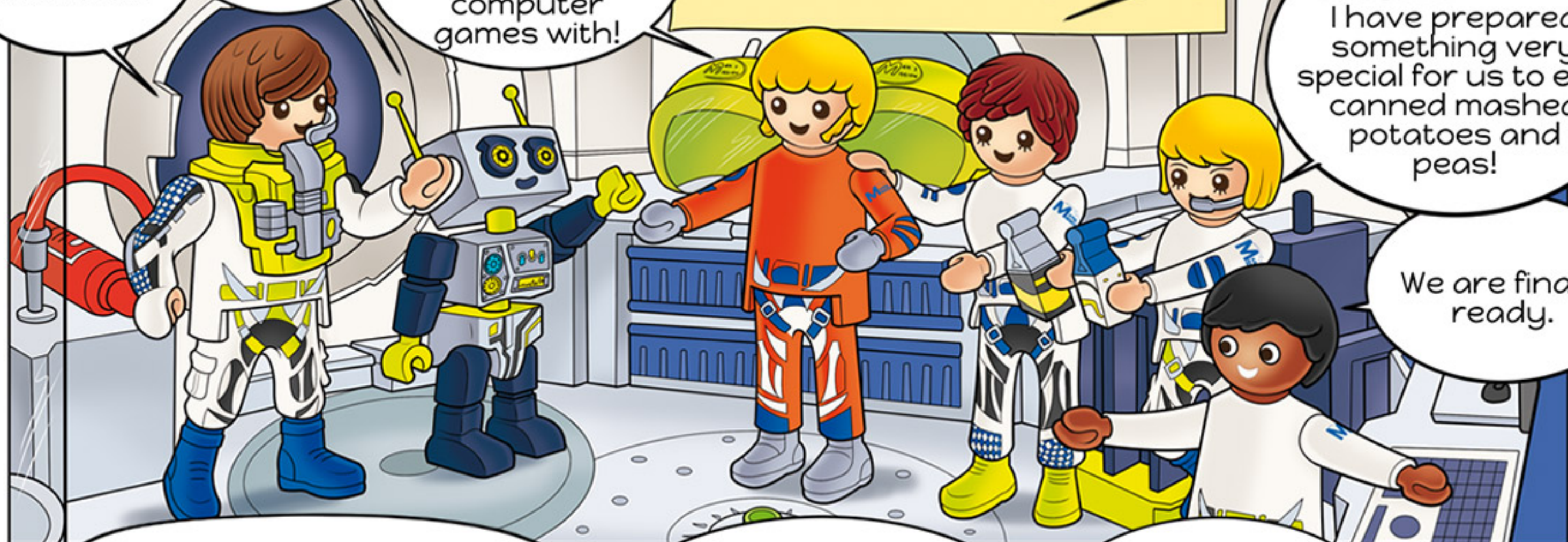
Hey, dude.  
Finally, I have  
found someone  
I can play  
computer  
games with!

HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN!

Business before  
pleasure!

I have prepared  
something very  
special for us to eat:  
canned mashed  
potatoes and  
peas!

We are finally  
ready.



You've outdone yourself  
again, Lizzy. Delicious!  
Too bad that RU-EC-2  
can't enjoy it.

RU-EC-2 has more  
important things to  
do right now. He is  
preparing for  
his mission!

Robots can't  
eat anyway!





The small robot's mission is to search the surface of Mars for valuable and rare water crystals. Without them, the station's plants cannot grow and thrive.

BEEP?

We'll drop you off in five minutes, RU. I hope you are ready.

BEEEEEEEEEP!

I'm gonna miss you so much.

The research vehicle and the rover are ready. Here we go, you little tin can.

Take care, my little friend. See you again soon.

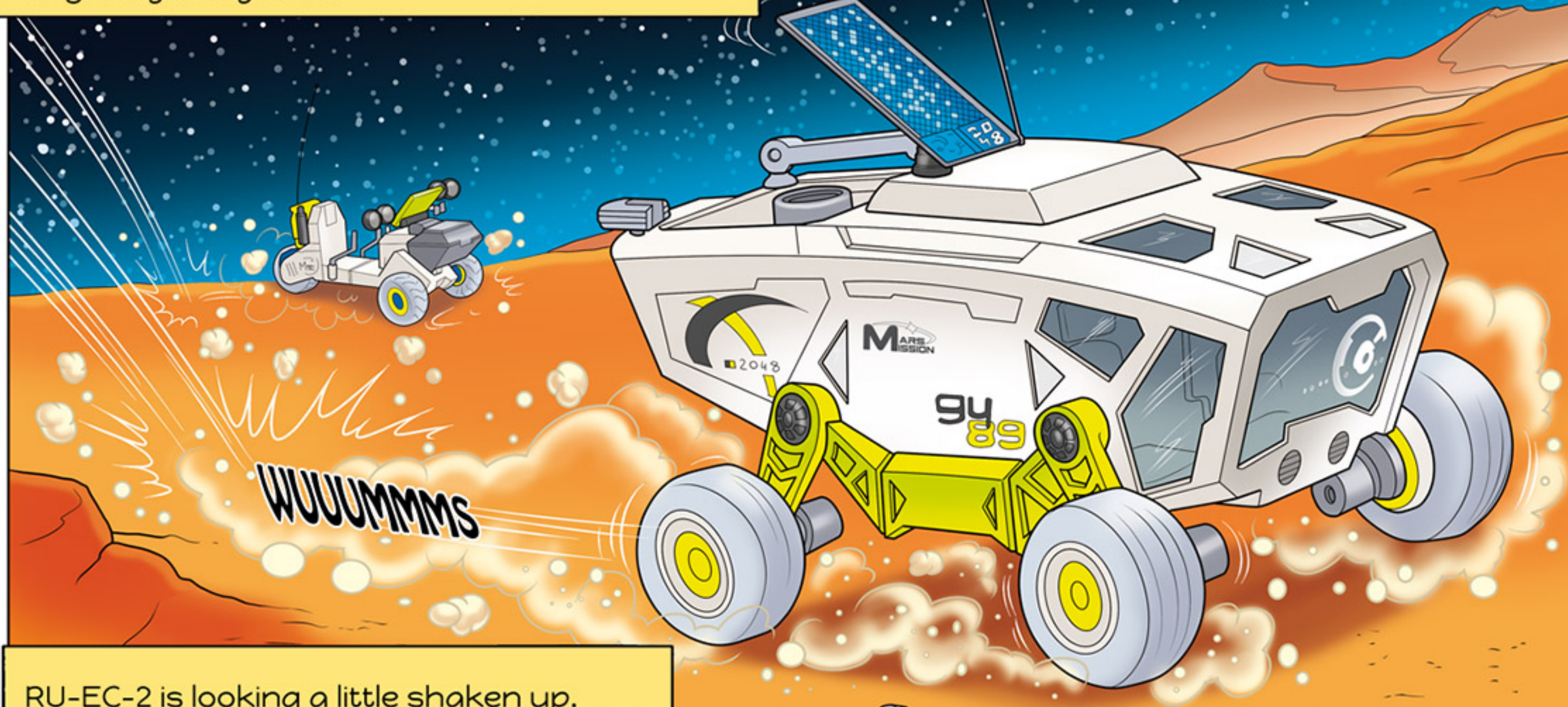
Don't call him a tin can!

Beep...

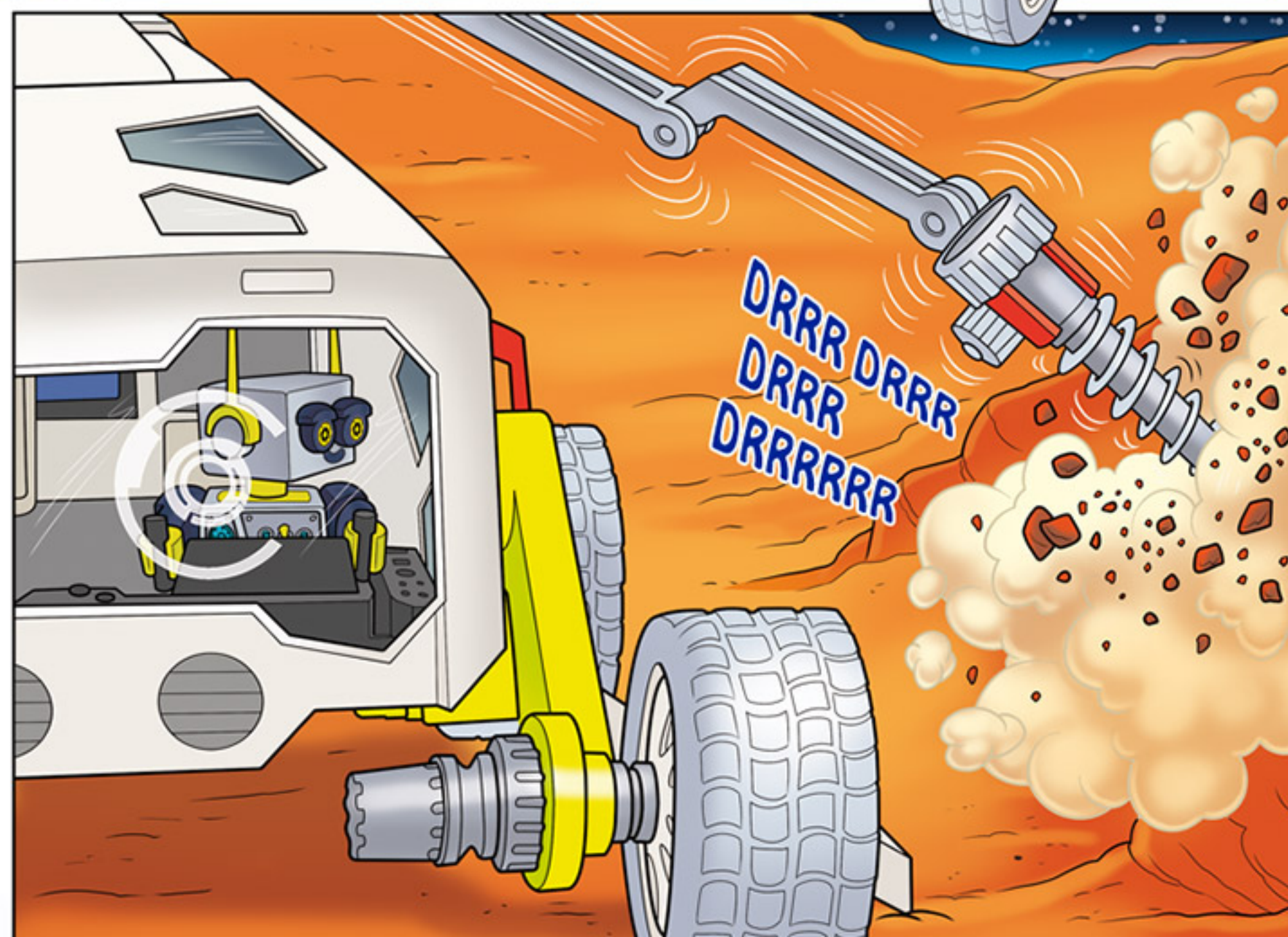
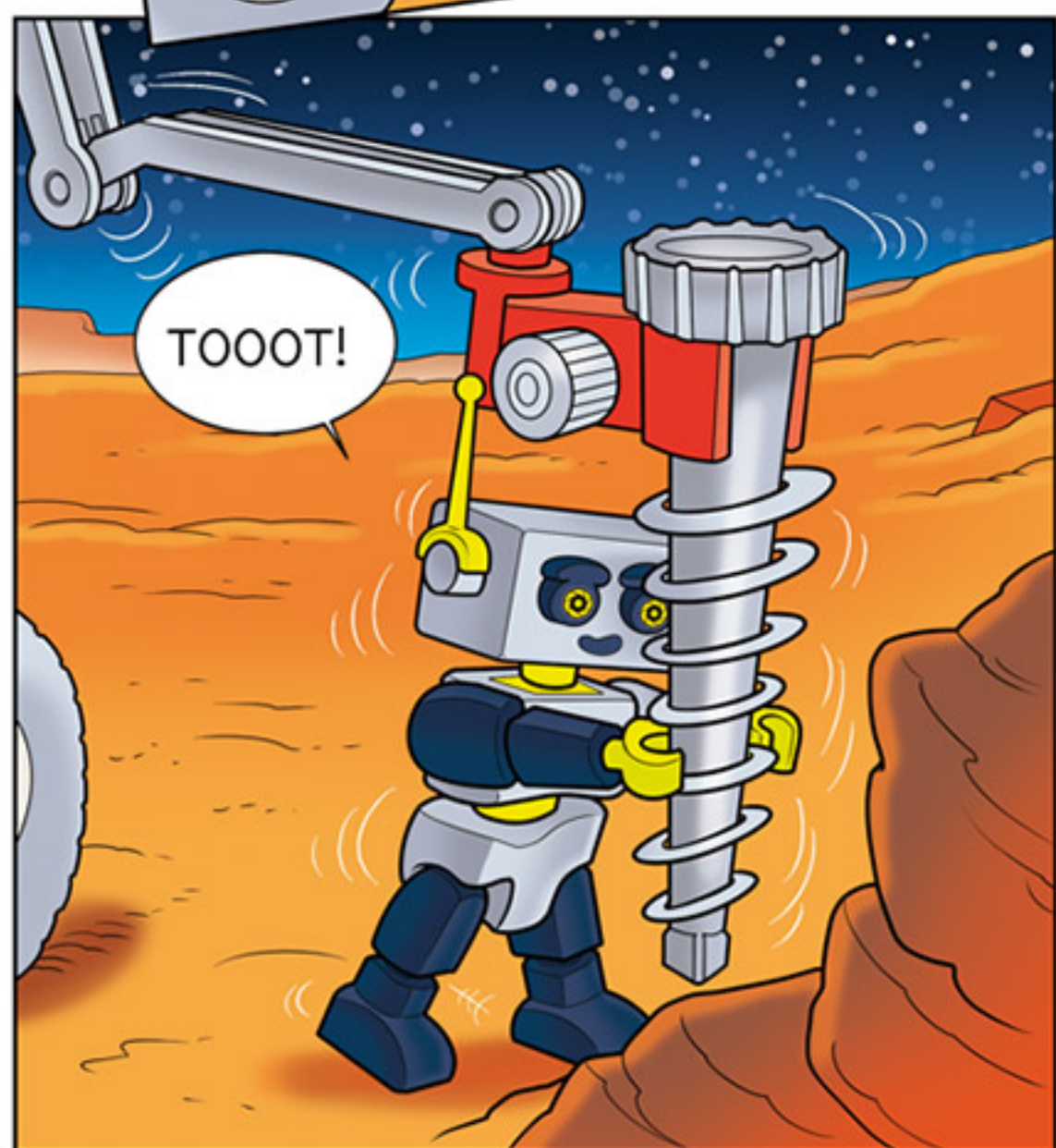
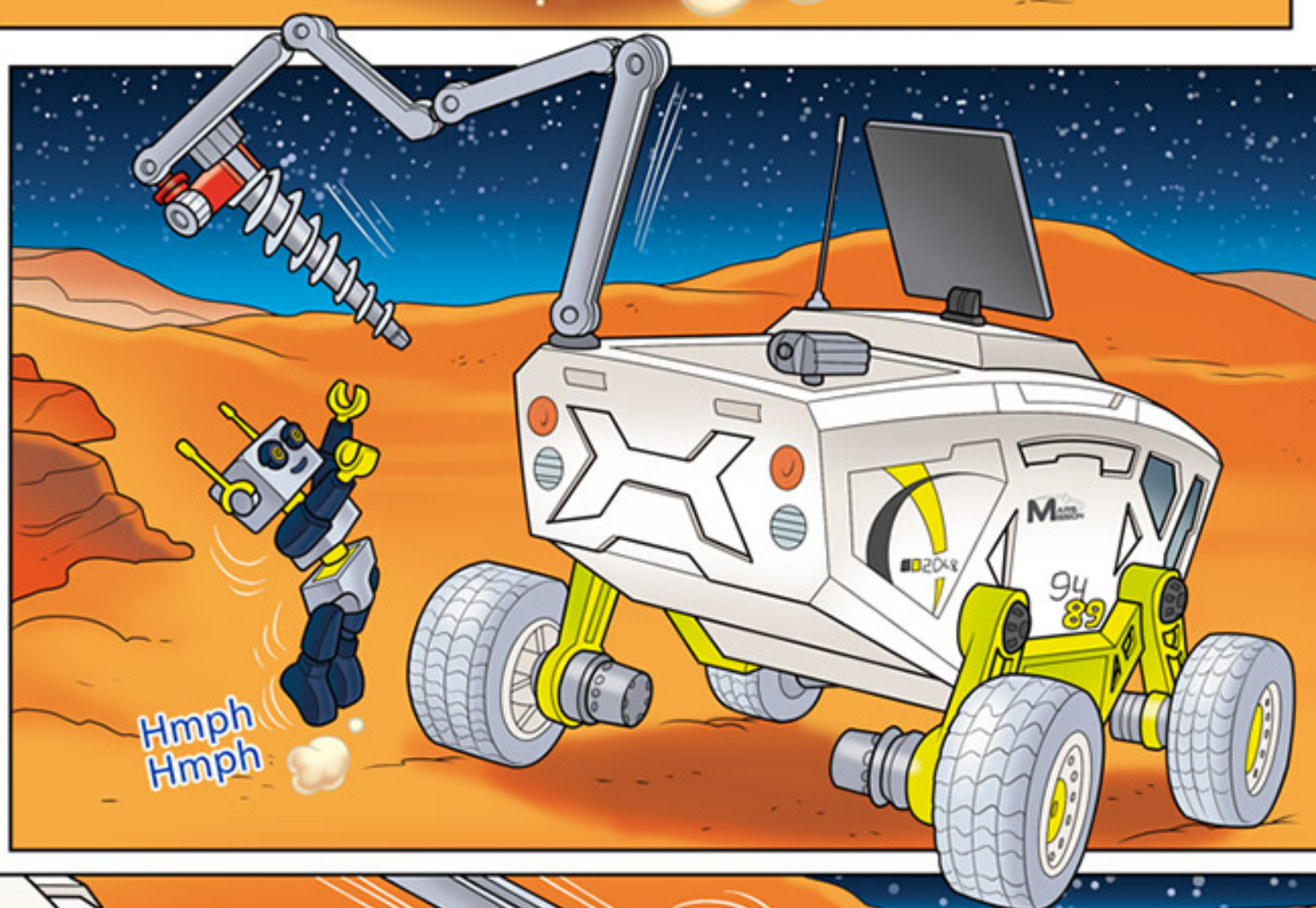
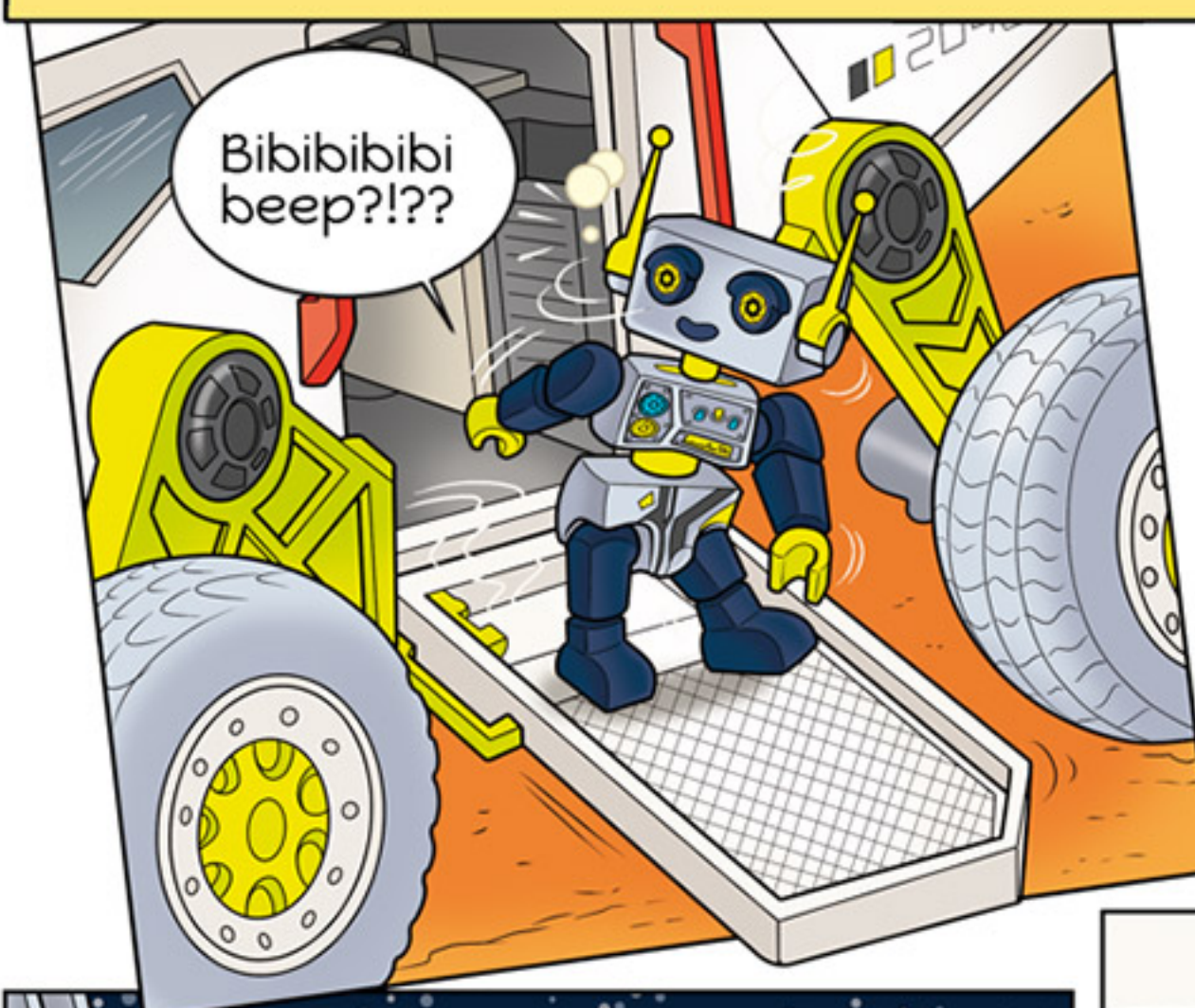
BEEP!



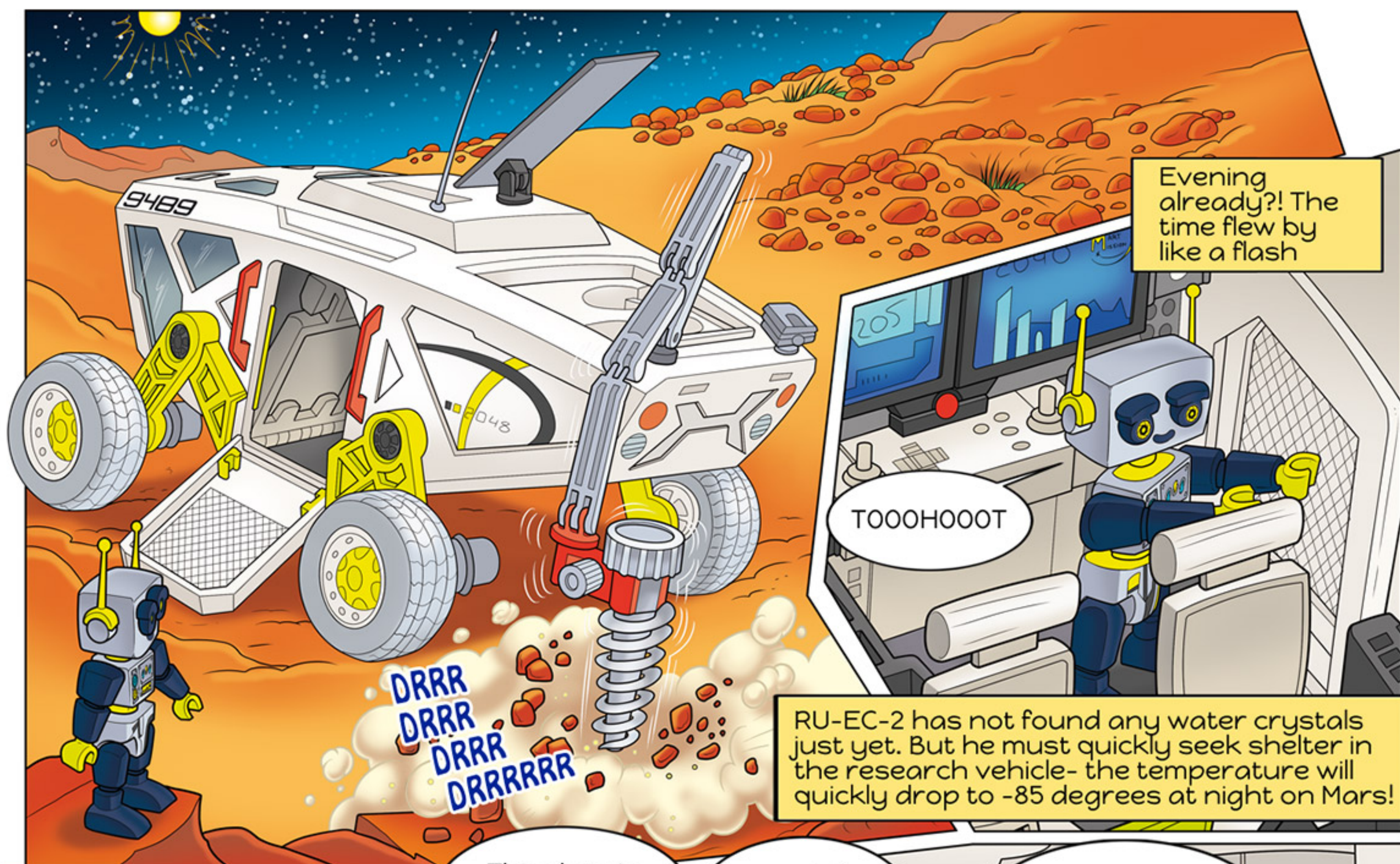
A few minutes later, RU-EC-2 lands on the surface of Mars with the research vehicle. It was a wild ride and the landing was anything but gentle.



RU-EC-2 is looking a little shaken up. But a little dizziness won't stop the robot. He gets right to work.







Meanwhile, RU-EC-2's friends are going about their normal everyday lives at the station.

This data is very interesting.

Hopefully RU-EC-2 will get back to you soon.

Pfew, exhausting. But I have to stay in shape.

Slow and steady.

Hey, look! RU-EC-2 is transmitting!

Beep blup toot pliep bloooh.

You haven't found any crystals yet?

Don't worry about it, RU. Tomorrow you will surely find something!

Exactly. Good work, RU-EC-2!



The next morning ...

HEY, GUYS!  
WE HAVE A  
PROBLEM!

More like  
RU-EC-2 has a  
problem.

A sandstorm!  
These are quite  
common on Mars, but  
this looks like a  
big one!

I'll send him a  
warning call!

It's heading directly  
for RU and the  
research vehicle.  
We have to do  
something!

The poor little robot RU-EC-2 has no idea of the approaching storm. He is working on the research vehicle trying to recharge the batteries.

Beep blop  
tuuutbeep.

Then he heads for the Mars rover to search for water crystals, travelling further away from the research vehicle ...

... Oh, no! That means he won't hear Lizzy's warning in time!



Oh, what's this? This large rock looks like a place I could find something

He did it! It took a while, but RU-EC-2 finally found some water crystals.

BEEEEEEEEEEEE  
EEEEP!

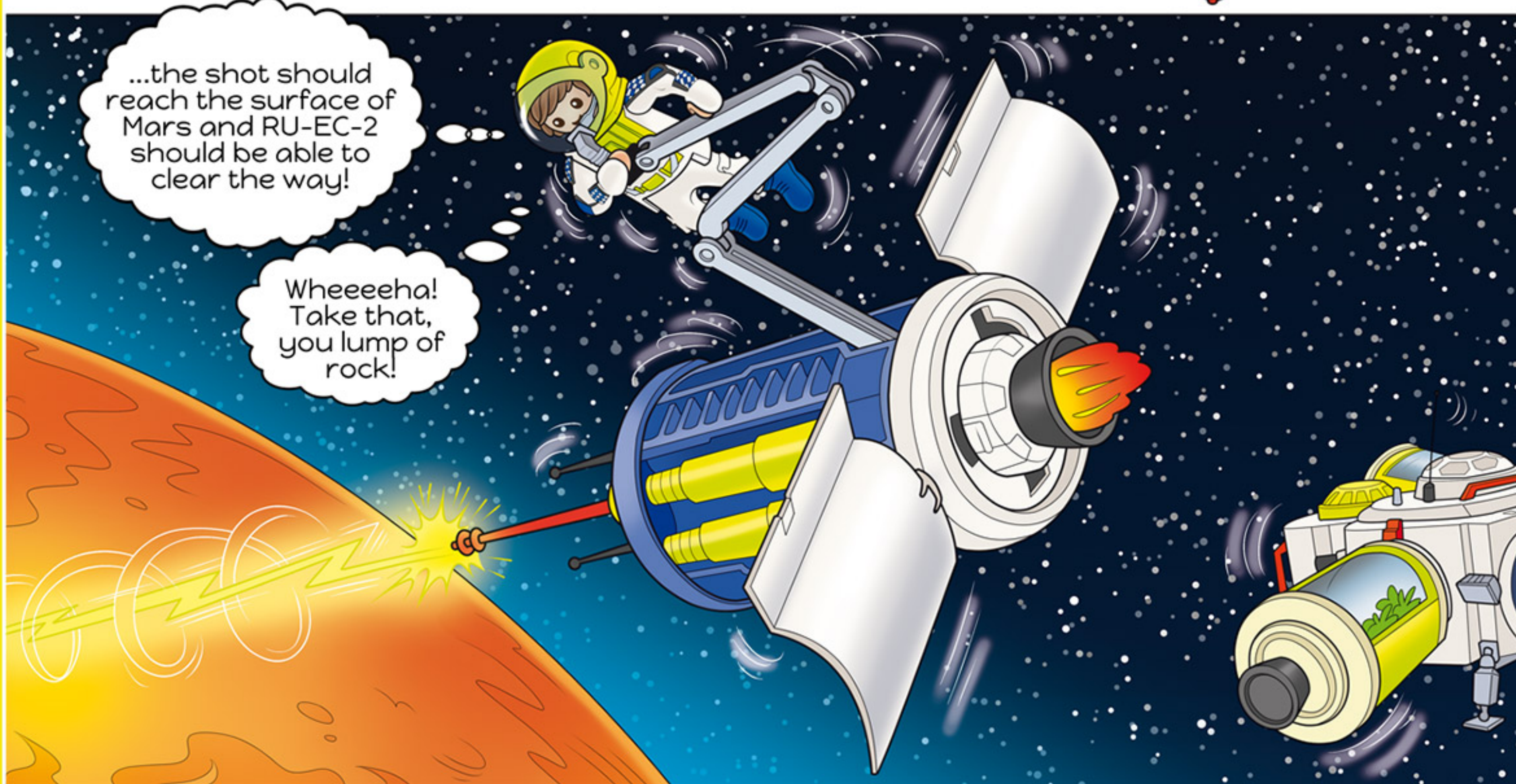
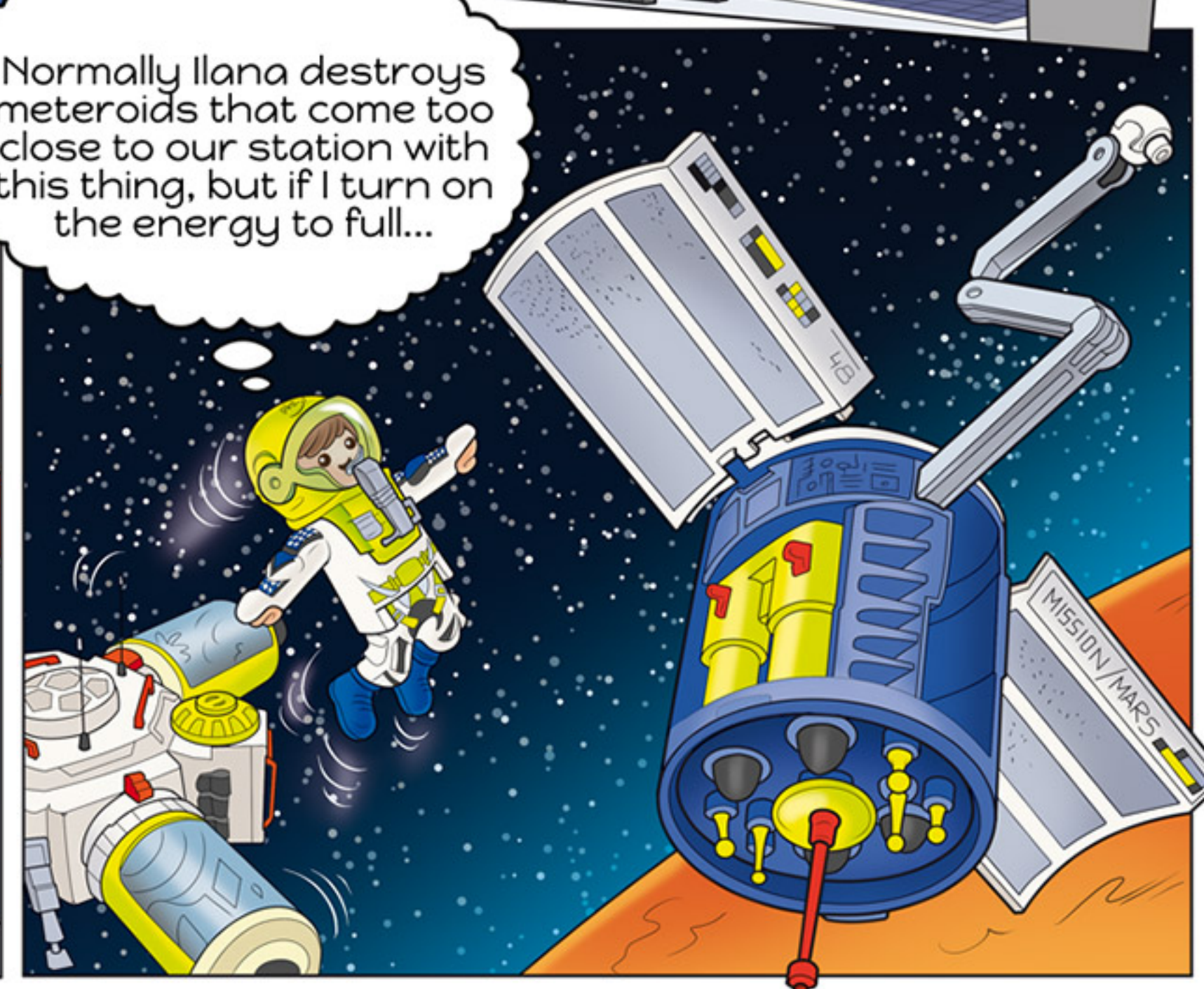
Now head back to the research vehicle where you can examine the water crystals further.

Oh, no! RU-EC-2 has finally noticed the approaching storm. Hopefully it's not too late. He accelerates and tries to reach the research vehicle before the storm catches him.

Fieeeeeep!

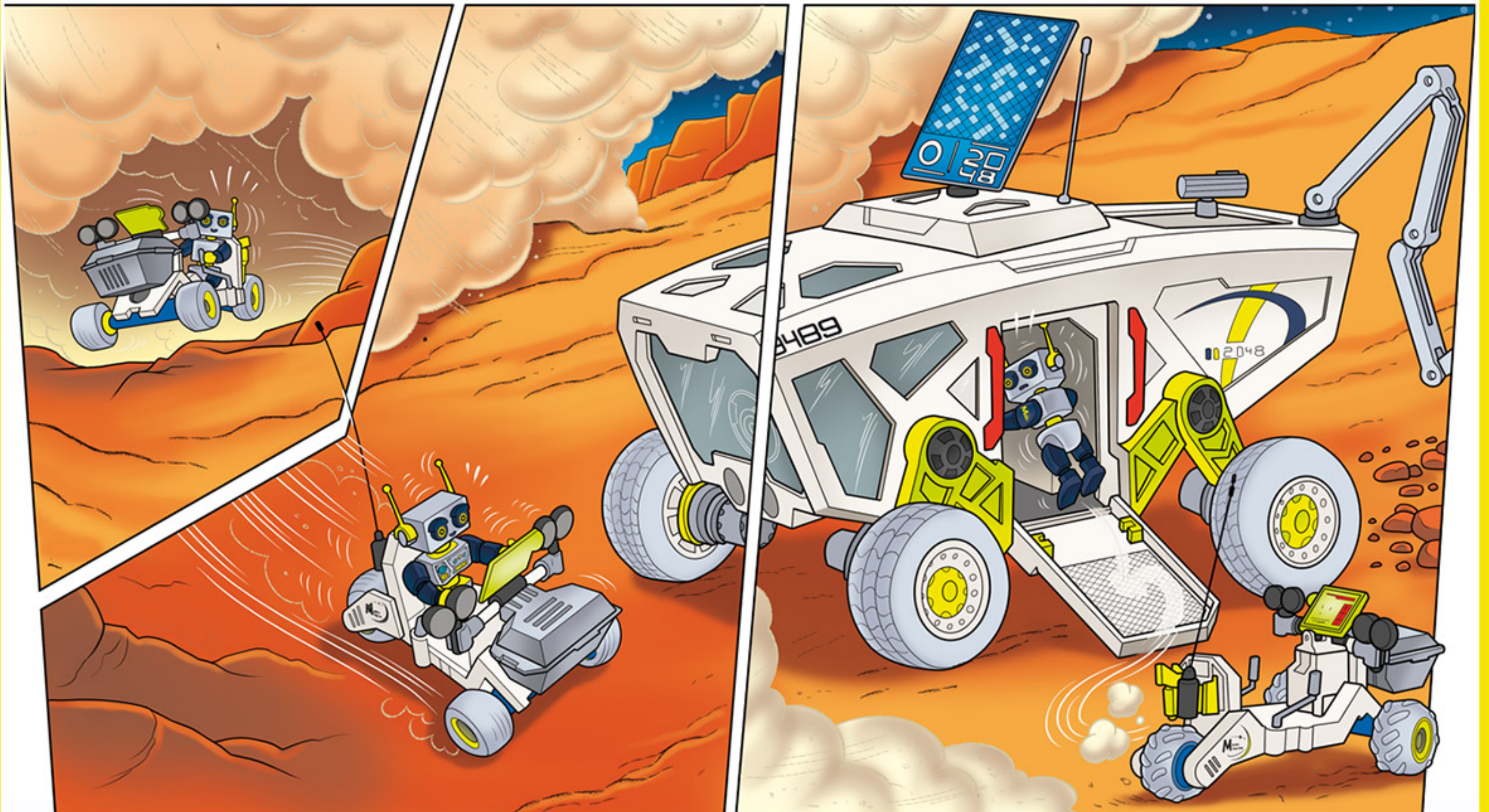
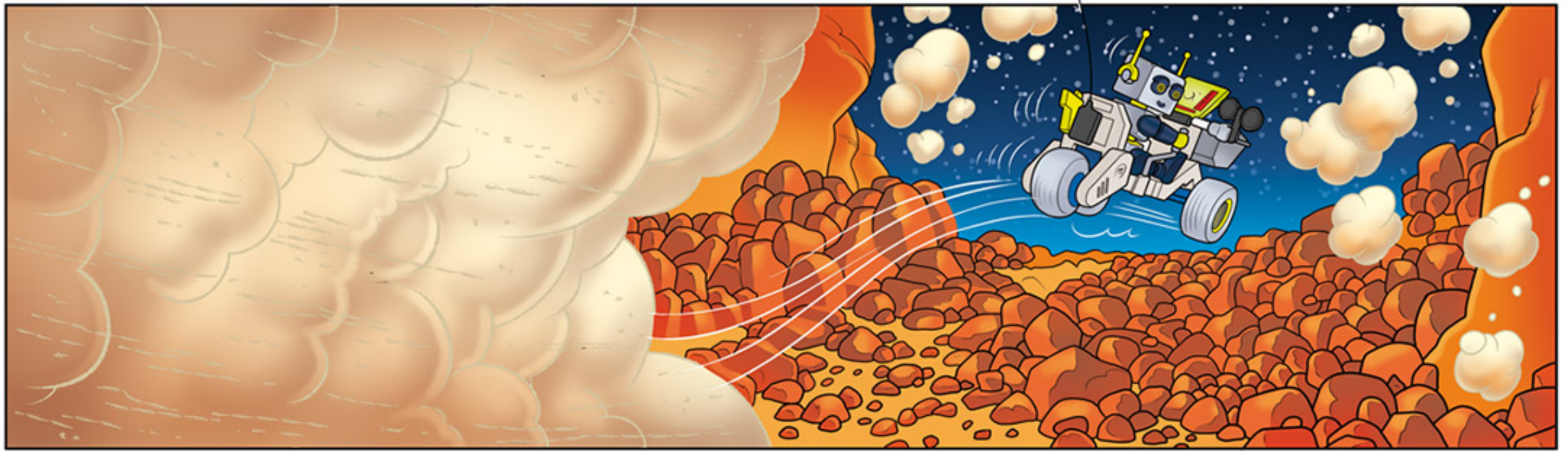
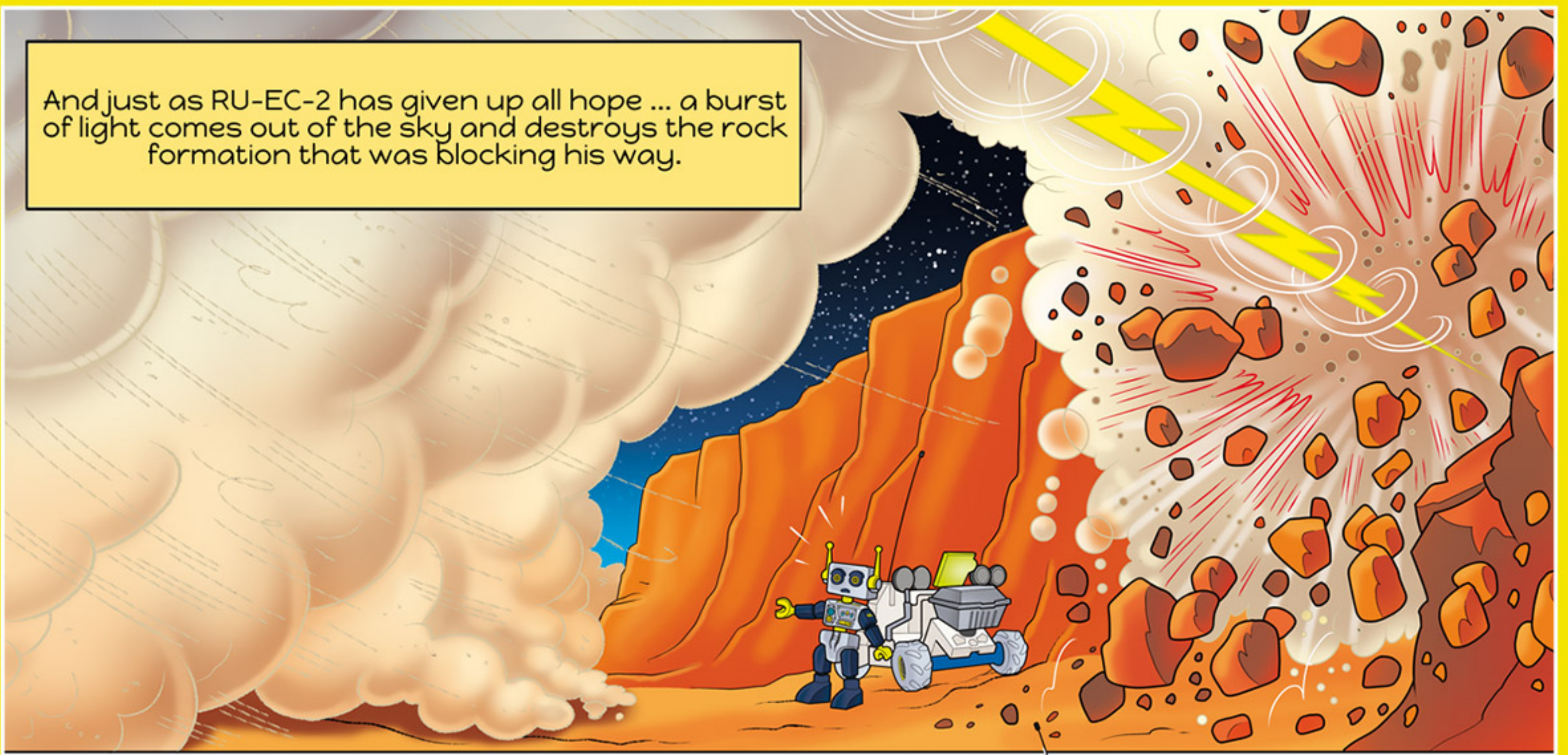
VRUUUUUUMM



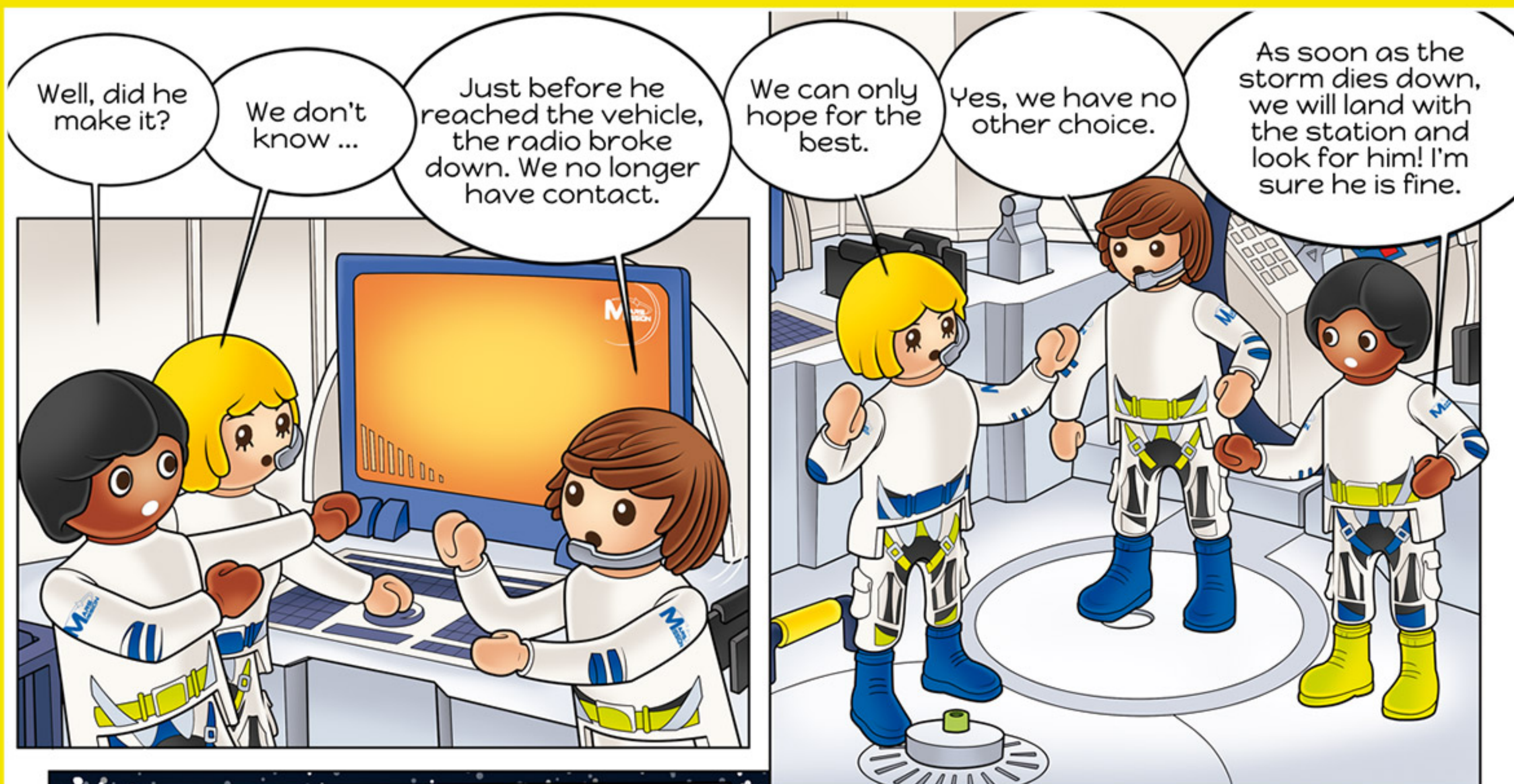




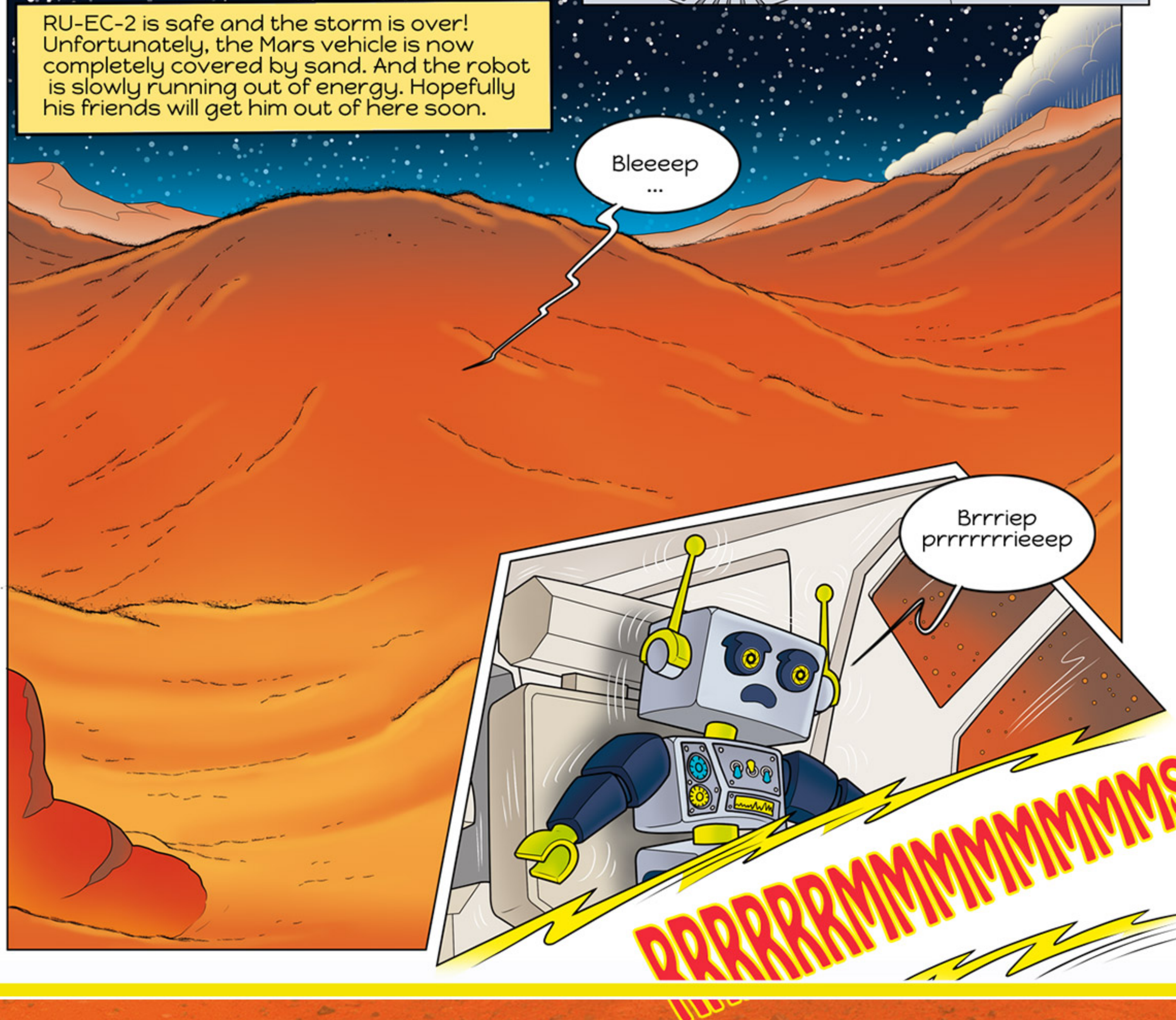
And just as RU-EC-2 has given up all hope ... a burst of light comes out of the sky and destroys the rock formation that was blocking his way.



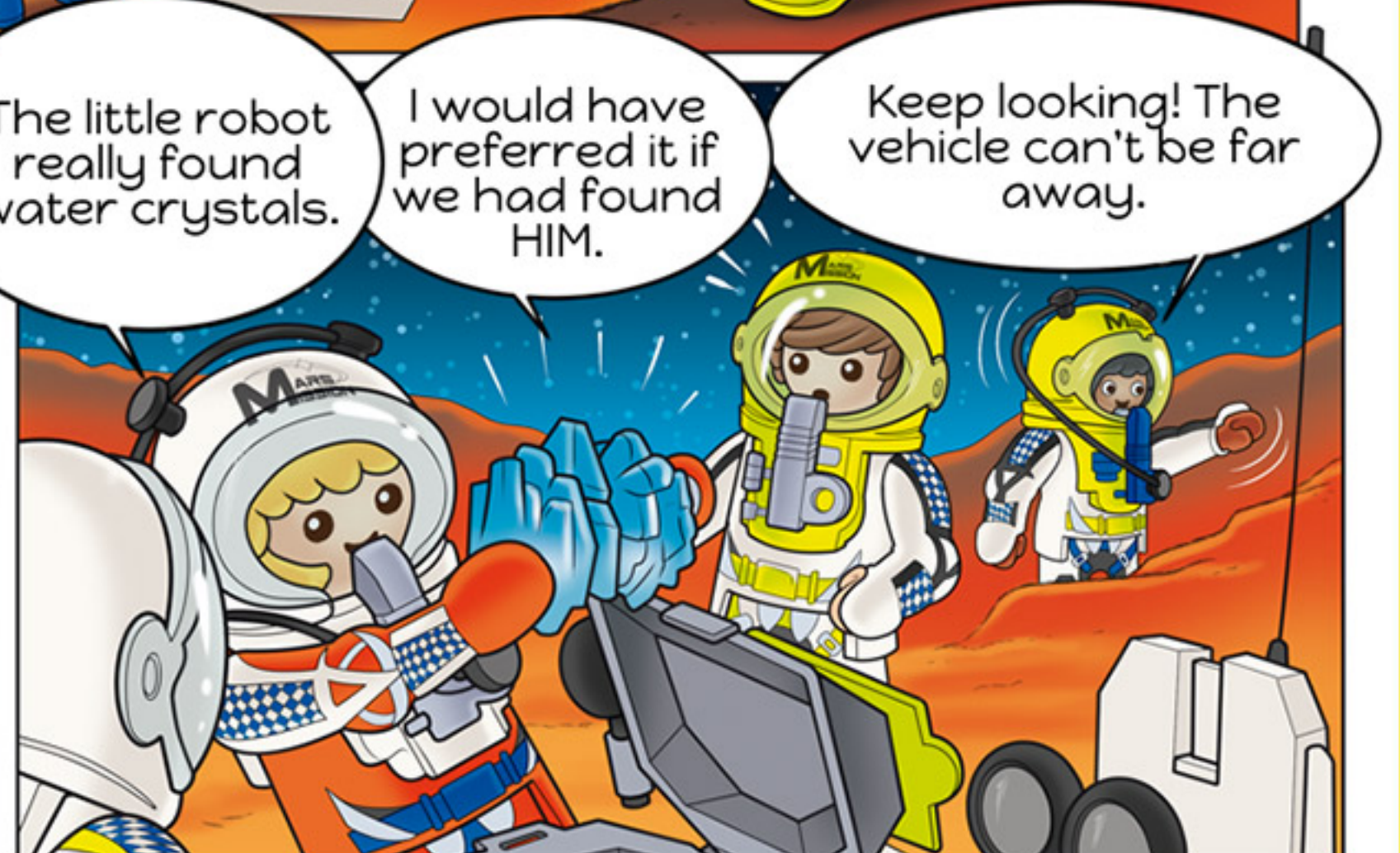
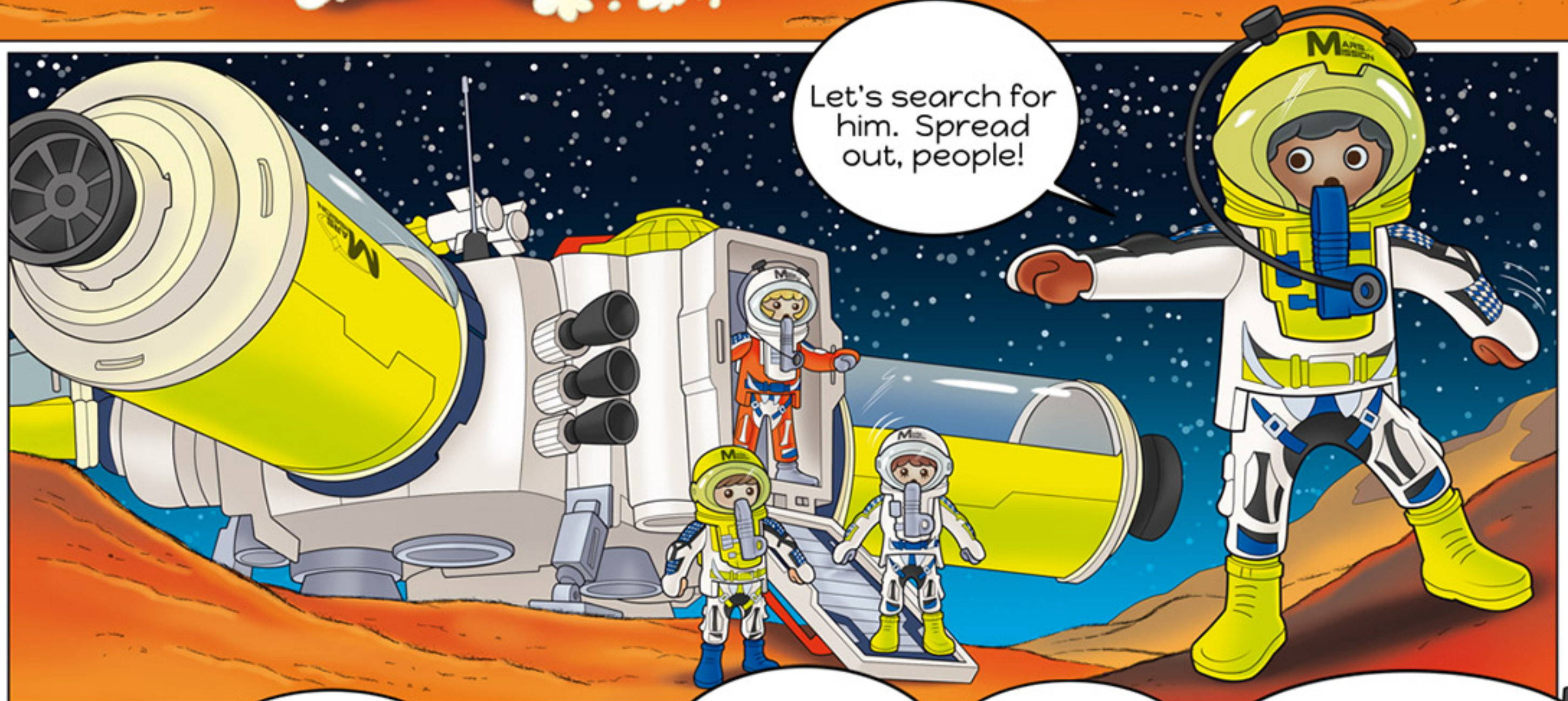
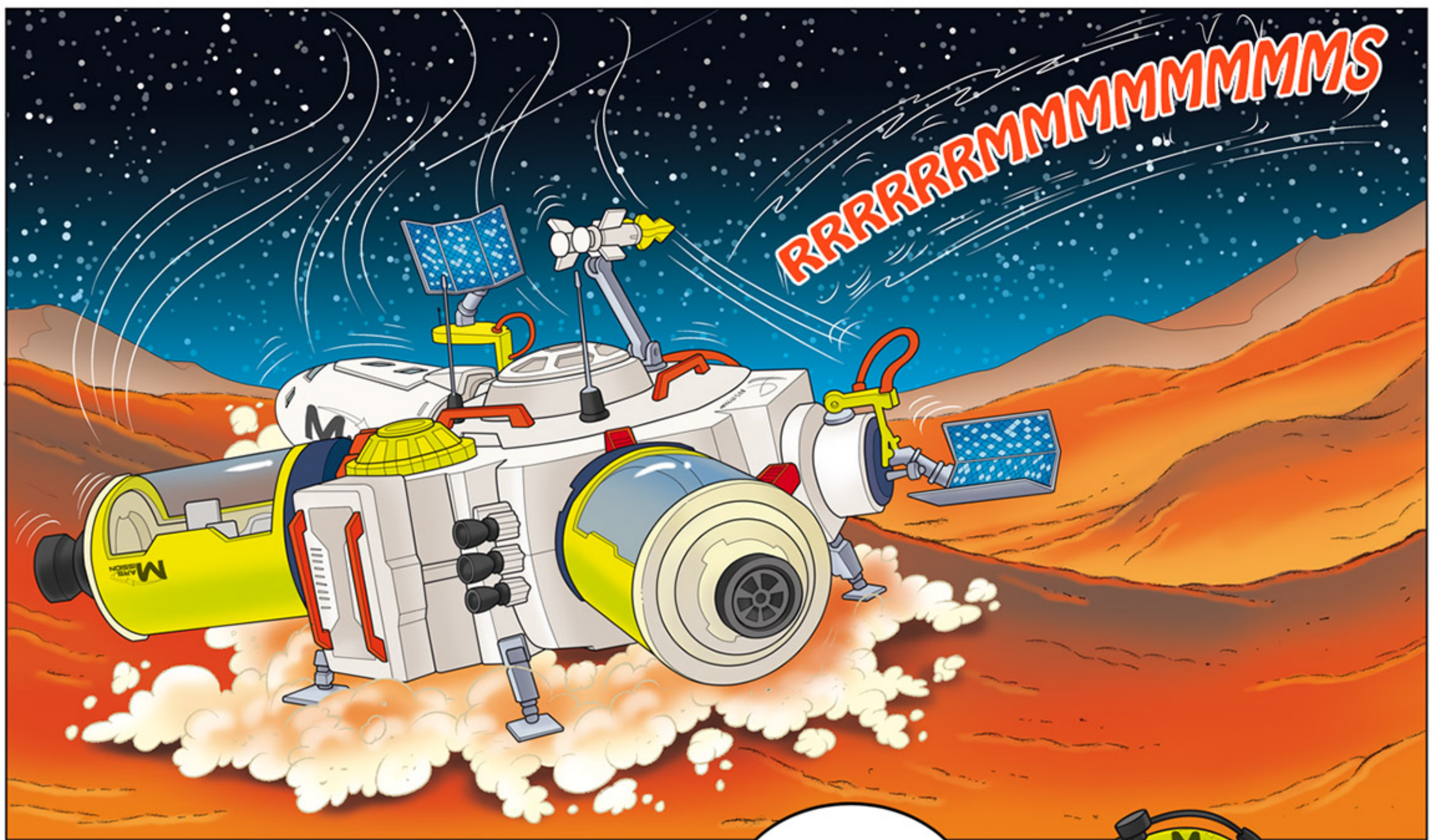




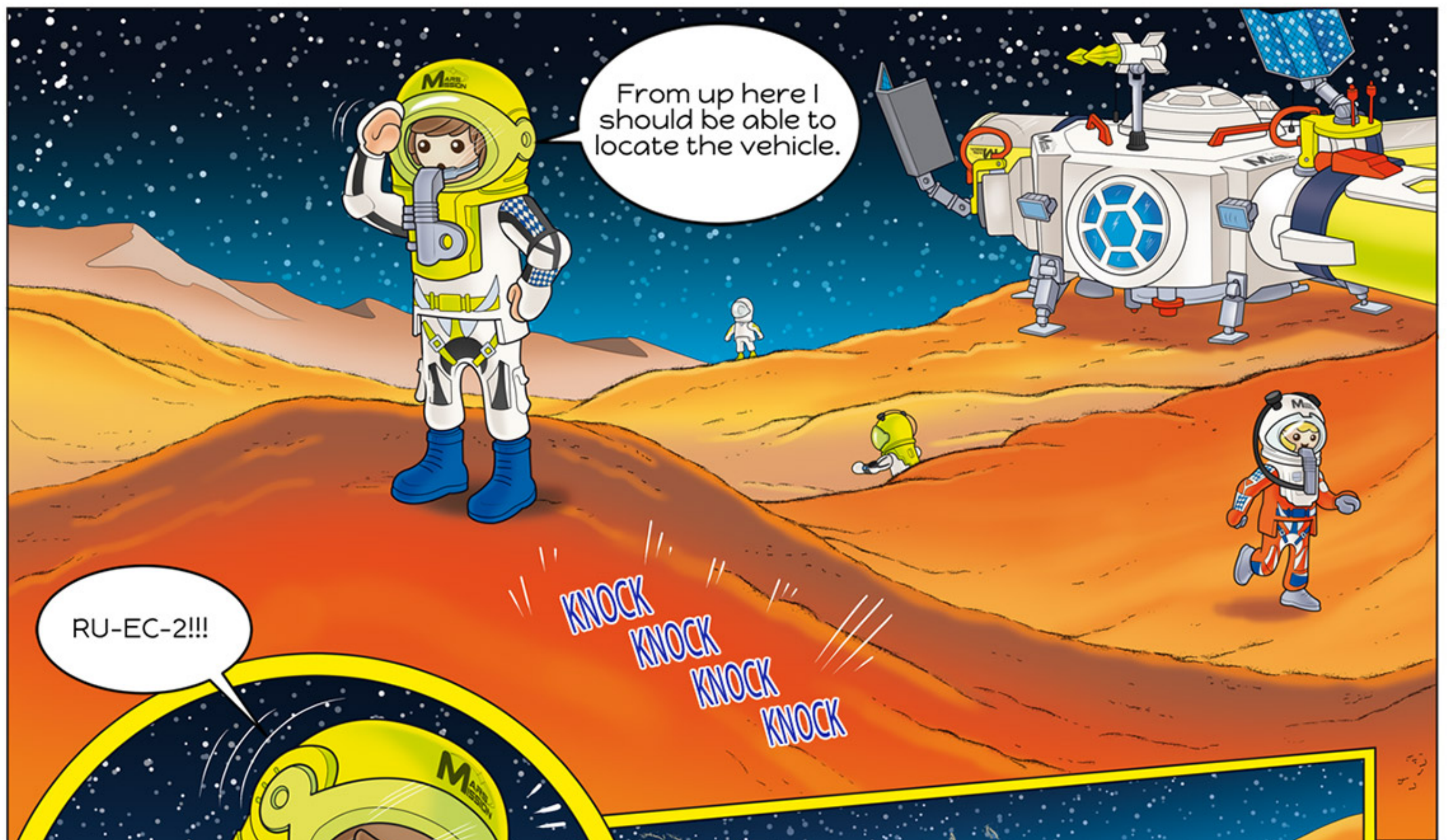
RU-EC-2 is safe and the storm is over! Unfortunately, the Mars vehicle is now completely covered by sand. And the robot is slowly running out of energy. Hopefully his friends will get him out of here soon.











KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK





