

The Divine Vessel breathed a great sigh of relief. She felt battered, bruised and in need of a damn good clean, but she was no longer a vehicle for the dastardly Martian invasion.

Looking back on the events of the last few weeks she could see with hindsight that things were wrong when Geral had become sick. It was just not like those Mongolians to get ill. Thinking back she remembered reading about an outbreak of myxomatosis near Bluff at the bottom of New Zealand, where a farmer had released a new deadly home made strain into the rabbit population. They had been delayed for almost a week there because of the rain on her last visit and Geral had taken the opportunity to get out into the bush. It's where he felt most at home, sleeping out beneath the stars. She guessed now that the commander's bunny must have gone in for a little late night nooky with the natives whilst Geral had slept. The fact that the disease had spread from the rabbit to Geral and then onto the other human vessels she could not explain. She could only guess it might have something to do with the new strain of the awful virus or perhaps because they were in such close contact with the rabbits or something to do with having some important parts of their brains removed in their refits or perhaps it was triggered by the presence of the Martians. She would never know for certain the exact scientific explanation, but for now she was just content to think that fortune had been shining upon her.

As the sun poured down onto her decks the Divine Vessel could feel its warming effect deep down in her holds, where for the past weeks a terrified chill had set it. She smiled to herself about how she had overcome all the odds, and beaten those brain sucking Martian

invaders, and was now happily powering towards New Zealand with her engines set to full ahead.

Set to full ahead! Oh shit! That fiendish Oddbjorn Ballengrud must have put her on a head on collision course with the mainland before taking his final fall. She was out of control, without anyone to save her now. Help, help, heeeelp.

But there was no one left to help.