

time. The future we make can be a consensual one, if we forget about being heroes alone against the world and accept that we're heroes-in-common. We only need to stop valuing image over substance, belittling our achievements, and ascribing to an ideal that will never make us happy. Instead we should take heed of the reminder contained in Mr. Universe's name—that smart, tech-savvy people are out there, everywhere, universal. Geeks of the world, unite!

I am indebted to Terry Pratchett for his philosophy on the eternal popularity of kings, which I have adapted for the case of action heroes.

NATASHA GIARDINA is a lecturer and senior research assistant at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. She is currently investigating the ways young people engage with new media technologies and the kinds of online and offline spaces they inhabit. She wears her "Geek Pride" badge with honor and encourages others to come out of the server room.

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Figure A

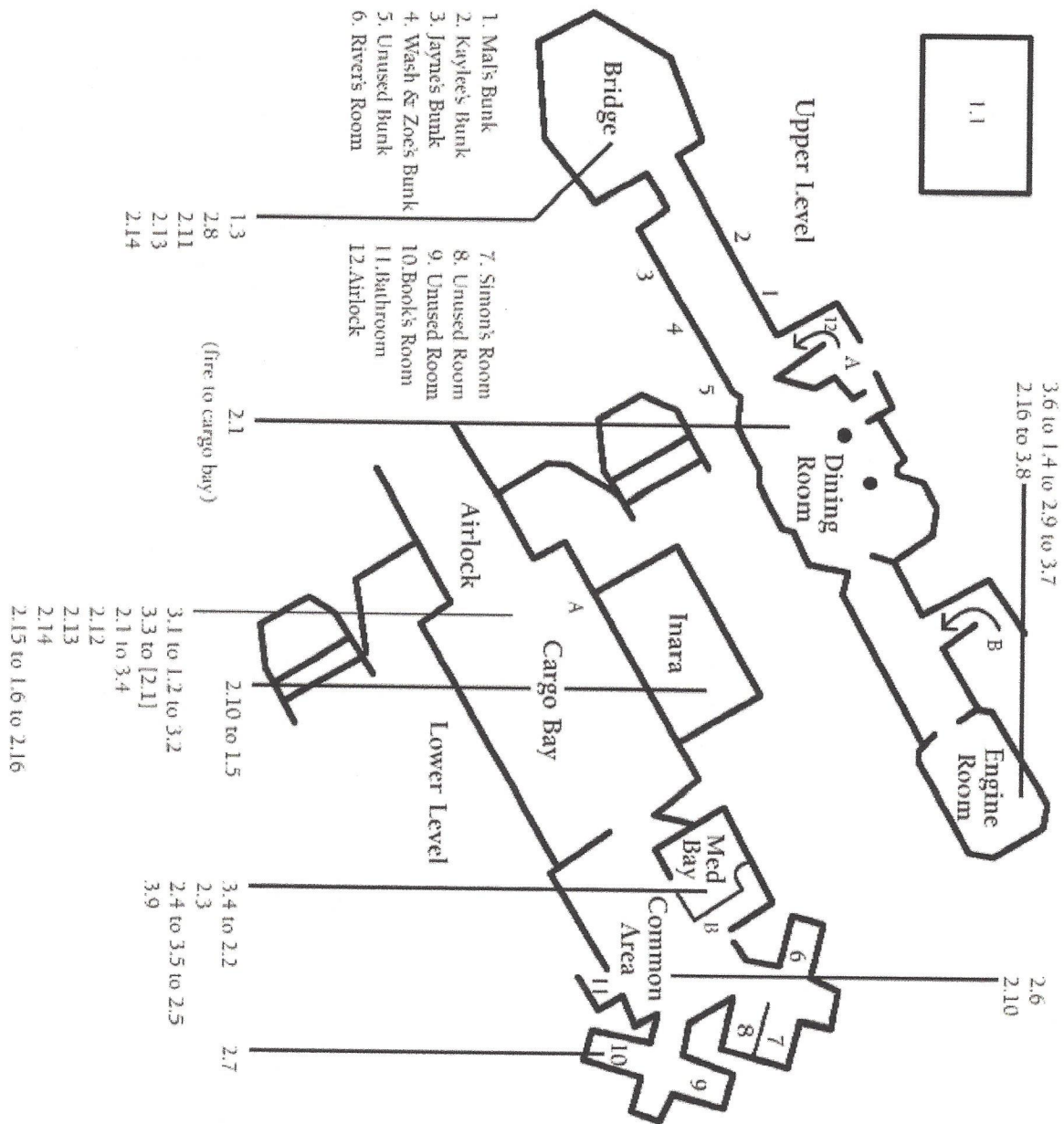


Figure adapted from <http://www.fireflywiki.org/img/serenity-map.jpg>