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FANTASY MAGAZINE

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► **Illustration by Irvin Bomb**
To find out more about Irvin's work,
contact him at irvin@nastyart.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

If there are any fans out there of "Animation", "Anime", and "The Matrix", have I got great news for you—ANIMATRIX "FUCKING ROCKS! My pal, Jeff Conner is working on the PR for the film, and got me into a screening at Warner Brothers at the end of February and I was blown away. This is the kind of film the second Heavy Metal movie should have been. Nine mind-bending short films, conceived by the creators of "The Matrix" and completed by the top Anime writers/directors in the world.

The direct to DVD movie ships in June and this is a must have. Additionally, I wanted to promote that we will be doing a special six page gallery in our August issue filled with images from the film, plot notes, and other cool details.

As for this issue, speaking of Anime, we've got a very special gallery on the just released, "Cowboy Bebop" movie! I'm a huge fan of the series and think the movie delivers everything a geek like me wanted. Another must have.

I want to welcome John Zelenick back to the cover—nice one, John! I also want to welcome back Billy Martinez, Pahek, Juan Gimenez, and Matthius Beeguer back to the short stories section. Top shelf, guys. Also back by popular demand is "Caveman" by Tayyar Ozkan. Tayyar's put out a few collections of his "Caveman" stories—well worth adding to your bookshelf.

For the feature story, we have "Magika—Dreams of Blood", and how cool it is. I had just gotten a bunch of postings on the HeavyMetal.com message board from folks who had seen it in Europe and thought it was perfect for the magazine. Great minds think alike, I guess and I've got two more installments of it in inventory to come in the near future.

Mr. Ringgenberg Mr. Kofoed, as well as Goupil and Walter deliver the "goods" as always, while Pontrelli, Cazaux, and Sorel sent me three moving short stories I'd like to get your thoughts on. The Cazaux and Sorel stories were both written by the super talented Boris Vian.

I think I've covered everything for this issue, but want to remind you to keep those letters coming—I'm always looking for ways to improve as we launch into our new monthly schedule starting in August.

Lastly, don't forget to finalize your San Diego plans if you're going, it's in July this year and it's sure to be a blast!

Talk to you soon,

Kir Footman



Scene from "Osiris"
- from Animatrix

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.M.,

This letter is in response to the September 2001 issue. Two reasons prompted me to write after several years as a loyal subscriber (and even longer as a reader). The first reason was your publisher's note which so strongly prompted feedback, the second was the issue itself, which is a perfect case in point for the following comments and suggestions.

My main concern with this issue is with the subject matter of three of the stories, "Dusk", "Pissy Little Bitch", and "The Ballerina" are the ones in question. The tag line of the magazine is "Adult Illustrated Fantasy Magazine", not "Adult Illustrated Magazine", which to me implies that the stories will be in the realm of fantasy in some way, shape or form. Yet the three stories I mentioned above have nothing to do whatsoever with anything even reminiscent of the fantasy genre I, and I think all of your readers expect. In my opinion all of the stories you publish should have some sort of fantastical qualities. That is not to say that you should only publish sci-fi or middle earth stories. In fact, I rather enjoy the reality grounded stories like "Gypsy" which work well because of the believability of the world depicted which is maybe just a few years in the future. The three stories in question certainly meet with the artwork standards I expect from this magazine but again it is not just the "Adult Illustrated Magazine", the fantasy must be there as well or you simply fall short of your own intentions.

I would also like to suggest a few other changes that I think might make the magazine a little more reader-friendly. I think the "Gallery" and "Dossier" sections could be greatly improved if you could include lists of the comics, graphic novels, books, etc. made by the artists you feature, especially if they have done previous covers or stories for Heavy Metal. This might generate more interest in back issues if readers can see some examples of work they could expect to see in previous issues. I realize that it might not be in your best marketing interests to mention works that may not have been available through your own sales programs, but it would be a great service, none the less for readers interested in learning more about a particular artist. Also, I think the "Dossier" section would work a lot better if you could do two things;

first, preface the article with better biographical information and secondly, do "Dossiers" on an artist in that particular issue to tie the whole thing together. The artists featured are generally unfamiliar to me so it seems to serve little purpose to learn about someone when you don't know what they create.

I appreciate your magazine's need to generate revenue through advertising, as well as to sell the other products Heavy Metal offers. However, I feel it would be a much more attractive package if you could put all that stuff in one section at the back. Surely you get tired of seeing the same commercials over and over on television or hearing the same stupid ads on the radio, likewise I'm tired of seeing the same products advertised issue after issue.

I would also like to suggest that you solicit and print (perhaps on the back page), reader created art. I think an interactive component like that would be a great way to inspire creativity and longer subscriptions from your readers. And who knows, you might accidentally discover the next Moebius.

I just thought of one more suggestion. I always seem to miss the special issues when they come out and end up buying them later from comic shops if available. So I wonder if you could offer two different subscription rates, one that would include the regular issues and the other to include the regular issues plus all of the specials as well.

Thanks for hearing me out.
Josh

Dear Josh,

Your letter was excellent, well thought out and extremely informative. I really appreciate you taking the time to give us so many great thoughts and ideas, most of them I take very seriously and will try to incorporate them (especially the fan art section)—others will be more difficult due to some long term commitments with our European partners, and artists. Regardless, I wanted your letter to be the only one in the section as a special thanks. Keep the faith, and keep hanging with us.

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THE TIPS OF GREEN

**The Planet of Eternal Day and Night
Reveals Its Quiet Zone.**

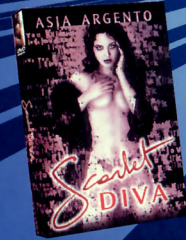
BY KARL KOFOED, GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Since its discovery, the planet known as GREEN has been an object of curiosity for scientists and space tourists alike. The world has eternal day and night, because it is locked in gravitational resonance with its star. One side bakes in unrelenting radiation, while the other freezes under a sky full of stars. On this page is depicted a battleground where the sea meets the land, chilling evidence of an endless struggle for space and survival.

On the opposite page we see a more peaceful realm, in the tips of a great tree-like mass, 20 kilometers above sea level. In the distance, giant fungal forms with hydrogen filled canopies reach high into the sky. Inside them are creatures who live only there, protected from the star's radiation. Far below, at their bases, creatures abound; some crawl and climb, while others swoop through the air. Whatever its nature, each creature must compete for a place to live and reproduce, and something to feed upon. Even in this relatively peaceful realm, the lifespan for any animal is frighteningly short.



MEDIA BLASTERS



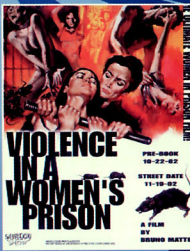
Scarlet Diva - A dark, dramatic and surreal descent into the smoky, yin-yang world of rising actress Anna Balletta. Anna's raw, graphic journey plunges her into the dark heart of the film industry where she experiences despair, loneliness, and degradation while trying to recapture her innocence and purity. Filmed in a bold, experimental style, *Scarlet Diva* is an intense, sexually charged and unforgettable cinema experience. Drama

DVD \$29.95



Eaten Alive: Mangiati Vivvi - A girl risks her life and plunges into a jungle hell in search of her missing sister. Through a perilous journey, she must fend off hungry cannibal tribes and avoid being served up as a sacrificial lamb for a good old-fashioned jungle cut! Cannibal

DVD \$24.95



Violence In A Women's Prison - Planning to expose the corrupt practices of a women's prison, Emanuele goes undercover as an inmate. She is shocked by the guards' brutal treatment of the inmates, but she never gets a chance to report these horrors. When her actual identity is revealed, the riots result on the receiving end of even worse tortures. Horror

DVD \$24.95



Cosmo Warrior Zero: A Soldier's Odyssey - It is a soldier's duty that makes him fight, but it is his heart that allows him to choose his battles. Zero puts his quest for Harlock on hold after uncovering evidence of a mechanized conspiracy within the government. Following the clues, he ends up on a frozen planet, where thousands of human bodies are embedded in the ice. Sci-Fi Adventure

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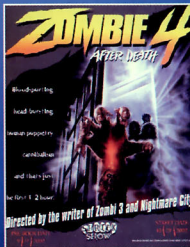
House on the Edge of the Park - After helping a ran couple with their car, Alex and Rory invite themselves to a party. The people at the party seem bored and looking for kicks, unaware of the two madmen in their midst. When the tension is broken, the film descends into an unrelenting collection of repugnant moments of humiliation, rape, mutilation and murder. Horror

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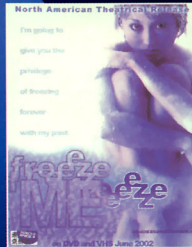
Space Pirate Mito Volume 1: Call Me Mom - Mito isn't just another space pirate, she's a three foot tall, childlike alien with enough guts to outshine a supervillain. Known as the galaxy's most dangerous criminal, Mito lays it down on the Galactic Patrol who track her every move. But behind the ferocious facade lies a mother's love. Her earthbound son Aoi has no idea about his mother's infamous career or even what she really looks like. Action

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Zombie 4: After Death - A voodoo curse on a remote island opens the gates of hell for the fast-acting undead to devour the living. With blood-spurring, head-busting human puppetry, cannibalism, & great zombie gore & FX, who will survive this onslaught of the undead while coping with the harsh realities of the jungle? Horror

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GALLERY

THEY'RE HERE TO SAVE THE PLANET. BUT NOT FOR FREE.

COWBOY BEBOP

THE MOVIE



Cowboy Bebop is an enormously popular animated TV show, currently seen in the U.S. on Cartoon Planet. The show, which fuses compelling sci-fi elements with an amazing soundtrack, has been called one of the greatest Japanese anime imports ever. Cowboy Bebop fans have not only been eagerly anticipating the movie, but they have also successfully lobbied to make sure that the film included the original English-language voices they have come to know and love. Cowboy Bebop is scheduled for release by Columbia-TriStar Pictures in early 2003.



2071 A.D. Mars.

On the eve of Halloween, a tanker explodes on a freeway in the crater of Alba City. The substance, spilling out from the rig fills an area three kilometers wide, killing more than 500. The police determine there must have been some chemical substance in the tank. When the surviving witnesses begin to die mysteriously, the police suspect a terrorist attack using a biological weapon. The Martian government announces a W300,000,000 reward.

The Bebop crew, in dire straits as usual, is hooked by this unprecedented reward. In addition, Faye happens to have videotaped the suspect while tracing criminal Lee Samson for use of a stolen credit card. The blurry image seems useless to identify the suspect. Even though the suspect was at the center of the explosion, Faye starts a search for him, convinced he's still alive.





Unconvinced by Faye's arguments, Spike, Jet and Ed each begin working on the case on their own. Spike begins his search to identify the poison on Moroccan Street, where (anything can be had). He obtains a vase containing a small round capsule from a guy named Rashid. Meanwhile, using his ISSP connections, Jet comes across a rumor that a pharmaceutical company may be involved in the incident. After analyzing the image, Ed and Faye discover that the suspect has a tattoo on his arm. Further investigation leads to the information that he is a military officer named Vincent. However according to the official records, he has been dead for some time.



As the Bebop crew pieces the information together, the mystery begins to take shape.

A suspect who died a long time ago. A pharmaceutical conglomerate. A special unit of the military. And a mysterious round capsule... It is becoming obvious that there was more to this than a random terrorist attack...

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ANIME
18

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DOSSIER

DOSSIER IS WRITTEN BY S.C. RINGENBERG
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Stan Winston Finds New Worlds to Conquer



Stan Winston has enjoyed fabulous success as a special-effects expert and makeup artist for films like *Aliens*, *Predator*, *Jurassic Park*, *AI*, and the Terminator series. In his three decades in the film business, Winston has been

At this point in his career, Winston can do pretty much what he wants. And what he wants to do now is unleash the incredible talents inside Stan Winston Studios and turn them loose creating action figures, comic books and other multimedia projects that are based on some of Winston's most personal and long-cherished ideas. "It's interesting to me how the genesis of these stories has changed over the years. Now all the lines are blurred. It's not a matter of comic begets action figure begets movie. We also have action figure begetting movie begetting comic book and so there's many different ways that these worlds mix together, including now video games. It's a wonderful symbiotic relationship because what I've realized...is that the mindset of the comic book lover, of the action figure lover, of the science fiction fantasy horror movie lover, of the video game new world lover, they're all the same people. It's very



nominated for ten Academy Awards, winning four of the coveted Oscars, as well as three British Academy of Film and Television Awards, and two Emmys for his television work. He's become the go-to guy when directors like James Cameron and Steven Spielberg need someone to conjure up a horde of fabulous, frightening creatures.

seldom that you ever find a comic book lover who doesn't love science fiction, fantasy and horror in the movies. Very seldom do you find a starched fan who doesn't love it all."

Of course, part of Winston's rationale for letting his newest creatures loose is purely creative. "In fact," Winston admits, "it's something that I've been wanting to do for

many, many, many years. I've been a huge comic book fan since I was a younger version of a kid than I am today. I was always a fan of Superman, Batman and Spider-Man. Couldn't wait for these movies to come out and, you know, and always looking forward to X-Men can't wait to see The Hulk. (I'm a) huge, huge comic book fan, obviously a toy fan because my whole life is about building toys. They just happen, for the last 30-some years, to have been very big toys for movies, not the kind you can have in anybody's house. I have a studio full of the coolest action figures in the world. They all just happen to be life-size, and you can't really sell a life-sized dinosaur to the public."

In talking with Winston about his latest ventures, a new line of action figures based on his original ideas, accompanied by a line of comic books, his enthusiasm is infectious. It's obvious that these are the dream projects of a prolific modern mythmaker who's at the peak of his powers. "My life is about creating fantastic creatures. I've been doing it for thirty years...I believe they're some of the most iconic characters in motion picture history, and I just decided that I wanted to do the same thing for the world that I came from, which is the comic book world...What I've always tried to do (is) create characters that nobody's ever seen before."

The Mutant Earth miniseries, premiering in early 2003, leads off Winston's line of comics. "I've got a new character that I'm so thrilled with...His name is Trakk. He is an immortal. He's a warrior. He's been around since 100 A.D. He's a monster hunter, and just one of the most amazing characters that you could possibly imagine."

The Mutant Earth miniseries is set in on a futuristic post-apocalyptic Earth. But this first series is only one chapter in Winston's saga of the immortal Trakk. In the Trakk comic book, "the first...six-issue series, is Trakk in contemporary times. He's in the city. And he's an urban legend. When I say he is a monster hunter, there's also his arch-



foe, who is the ultimate monster of all time, who has...actually been alive longer than Trakk, an evil character by the name of Vaquoul. He's immortal based in science. He happens to be an alien, and is made up of alien cells, which constantly die and regenerate by themselves throughout his body. He's been here since 100 A.D. Because he literally crash-landed here looking for a vessel...called the Helmet of Kildran, but we find out that it was a space vessel.

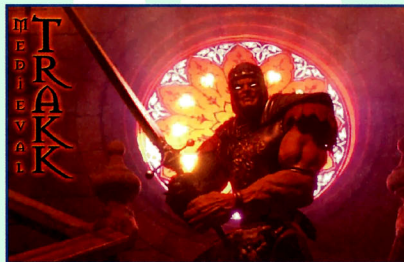
"As Trakk is the monster hunter, what we find out is that Vaquoul is the ultimate monster maker. He is the force behind all of the great monsters of history. It is his alien cells and his megalomaniac personality that has in fact created all of the dark creatures throughout history that we know of. It's his cells that literally have turned wolves into werewolves, and his cells, which have created the mutants. And every monster and every creature historically that we know of, in fact, is (made by) Vaquoul. So he is the ultimate monster and Trakk's ultimate goal is to vanquish Vaquoul."

Fortunately, Trakk's not alone; Winston has given him a powerful ally in the form of Cedryk. "Trakk was created as an immortal in 100 A.D. by a spiritual leader of men by the name of Cedryk. Cedryk is kind of like an Obi-Wan Kenobi. Trakk was...the greatest warrior of the time. He was virtually the last man standing in the great wars of that time, and had lost his family in the war. Cedryk is the spiritual leader who realized that there was a power on Earth that was beyond mortal man, and that

we needed a champion to battle this power and that champion had to be this great warrior. He gave Trakk his immortality in that he would stay immortal until he vanquished Vaquoul. And he has never been able to do so. He has prevented him from destroying the Earth; he has saved people's lives. He has won many, many battles, but he's never won the war because Vaquoul is the ultimate evil. He's smarter than Trakk. He's got alien powers; Trakk is a mortal man. He has the failings of mortal man.

"Trakk battled Vaquoul and mutants and aliens in Mutant Earth after Vaquoul has virtually destroyed Earth, as we know it today, but still there is a handful of humanity left that needs to be saved...As we get into the Trakk series, we'll be going back in time and we'll be seeing Trakk in medieval times. He will be battling medieval werewolves. He will be battling every great creature that we can imagine in my studio. When people have said over the years, 'What are the monsters or creatures that you would, that you'd like to do in a movie that you haven't gotten the script for?' Well, everything that we have ever imagined we are now creating in our free palette and world of creatures and monsters that can go throughout time...And that core of it is this one bad guy, Vaquoul. He's our Darth Vader."

Winston is already expanding his stable of characters beyond Trakk's world with his Realm of the Claw series. "Realm of the Claw...introduces these cat gods, which are characters that I've been developing for almost 20



years. There's this black panther man that I already sculpted. This image came to me in the middle of the night and I sculpted it almost twenty years ago. I have been developing the story around him and his nemesis and scripts and characters for all of these years. And now with these stories that have been in my head and dear to my heart for the longest time, I have introduced these characters to the world in comic books, and at the same time, I released them as action figures. And at the same time, I develop screenplays and let the movies follow them, rather than as I have done in history of my career, created the movies and have the action figures come from them."

"I don't think there's anything unique about the fact that Stan Winston, who has been basically creating monsters for the past 30+ years, is a comic book fan," Winston points out, continuing, "It all makes sense, and since I'm the type of person who never wants to stop the creative process, why wouldn't I want to start a comic book company? Why wouldn't I want my own comic books? Why wouldn't I want to create my own stories and my own characters. Why wouldn't I, since I'm such a big fan of toys and I love the art that we do here at the studio, why wouldn't I want to share that art on the level of an action figure with everyone out there who appreciates it? I mean, one of the frustrations to me over the years has been, if you ever have a chance to visit my studio, and you walk in the conference room and you see all of these life-size wonderful characters from film history.

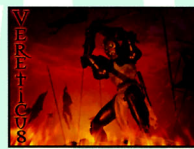
You see the Predator, and you see the Terminator, you see Aliens. You see a warrior Alien; you see a miniature of the Queen Alien. But only a handful of people, who work in the motion picture business, people who are producers or directors, ever really have a chance to walk through the doors of my studio and appreciate truly the art behind what we do."

With justifiable pride, Winston describes the artists who work for him as, "the Renaissance artists of the 21st Century. In the days of Michelangelo, the Renaissance artists worked for the churches. In today's world, the Renaissance artists work for the motion picture business, they work in the comic book world... What is wonderful about the action figures to me is that the very same artists, the same artists who sculpted and created the Terminator, who sculpted and painted and created the dinosaurs in Jurassic Park, who sculpted and created the Predator...are the artists that are designing, painting, sculpting all of the prototypes for the action figures. I'm not going out and getting toy artists who have been doing toy lines. I'm using the same artists under my vision. There's not an action figure we create that doesn't have my input, personally, to it."

And speaking of artists, Winston works with some of the best artists on the planet, among them HM regular Simon Bisley, original Swamp Thing artist Bernie Wrightson, and the popular and prolific fantasy painter Brom. "I have Simon Bisley often working a great deal with me as far as a lot of the original designs of

the action figures. Before I created the comic book series and the action figures, I had Simon doing designs with me, for movies. He's always been part of my family before I got into the action figures or comic books. Simon designed many of the characters for Galaxy Quest, the movie. Brom worked on Galaxy Quest, also Bernie Wrightson. Bernie Wrightson did designs for me, and basically because I'm a huge fan of these guys. I could be one of the big Bernie Wrightson fans. I mean, I hate to use the word stolen, but I have stolen so many ideas and visions from Bernie's work. When I first did my original sketches of Tswana and Tare, the black and the white cat-gods, one of them, the basic feeling of it, the look in the eyes, I actually took from this Frazetta painting of Conan. The other one, which is Tare, this white terrible cat-god...I actually stole the essence of his eyes and his look from one of Bernie Wrightson's Frankenstein drawings. And ultimately, I think that people have responded to art of Stan Winston Studios because I'm the ultimate plagiarizer. I'm inspired by so many artists historically. Michelangelo is a great inspiration of mine. I was a Fine Arts major in college and a Drama minor, and a painter and a sculptor, but I love surrounding myself with great artists.

"Comic books and the action figures are simply another vehicle to allow me to work with great artists with the most creative imaginations in the world, that create wonderful characters and share our imaginations with as many of the public as we possibly can. Hopefully, (this will) inspire young comic book readers and toy collectors to ultimately one day...get into this field...It's amazing how successful you can be, just loving comic books and toys."



A decorative graphic element located at the bottom of the page. It consists of a grid of colored squares and semi-circles. The top row features a yellow square, a yellow semi-circle, a yellow square, a yellow semi-circle, a yellow semi-circle, and a yellow semi-circle. The bottom row features an orange square, an orange square, an orange square, an orange semi-circle, an orange square, and an orange square. The entire graphic is set against a white background.



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**PUTTING
YOUR
MOUTH
TO GOOD
USE**

**SOME
GREAT ORAL
TIPS...**

WHAT'S GOING ON? WELL, OKAY.

WHAT DO YOU
CHARGE FOR AN
ORAL EXAMINA-
TION, DOCTOR?

30 BUCKS WITH
A CONDOM, 40
WITHOUT TEETH.

IS A BIG MOUTH REQUIRED? SIZE DOESN'T
MATTER- IT'S WHAT YOU PUT IN IT.

ONE LARGE
CONE WITH
TWO BIG
SCOOPS...

THE
WHIPPED
CREAM IS
ON THE
HOUSE!

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR TEETH? THE MOST
SKILLFUL COVER THEM WITH THEIR LIPS.
THE ELDERLY HAD BETTER POP THEM OUT...

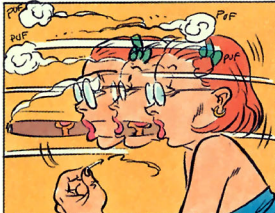
DENTURES HURT EVEN
WORSE THAN CRABS!

INSTRUCTIONS IN FOUR EASY STEPS. (WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO MONICA, OUR
TRUSTED EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, FOR HER SLOW-MOTION DEMONSTRATION.

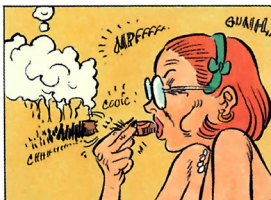
WITH OR WITHOUT
VITAMINS?



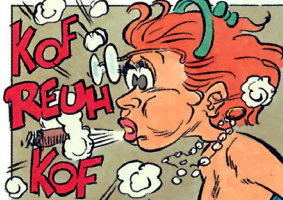
ALLEGRETTO: ROLL IT AROUND IN
YOUR MOUTH, ESPECIALLY THE TIP.



ALLEGRO: MOVE THE NECK BACK AND
FORTH, FOLLOWING A REGULAR
RHYTHM.



PRESTO: BLOW IS A FIGURE OF
SPEECH... SUCK!



PRESTISSIMO: KEEP UP THE
TEMPO AND TRY NOT TO COUGH.



SCIENTIFIC STUDIES SHOW
THAT IT'S GOOD FOR THE
COMPLEXION AND LOW-CAL.

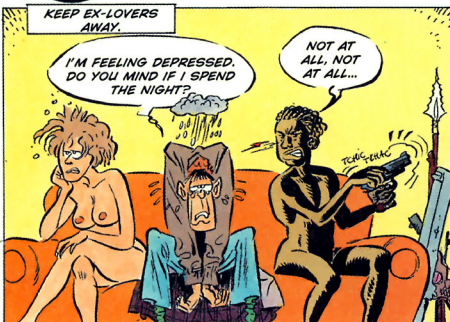
HOW
NOT TO
LOSE
IT?

HUMAN SEXUALITY CAN BE PRETTY
TEMPERAMENTAL... THE SLIGHTEST HITCH
CAN DEFLATE IT.

KEEP EX-LOVERS
AWAY.

I'M FEELING DEPRESSED.
DO YOU MIND IF I SPEND
THE NIGHT?

NOT AT
ALL, NOT
AT ALL...



DON'T REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST.

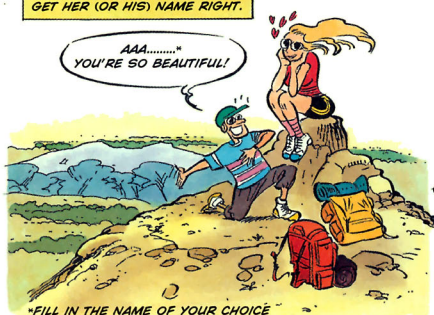
IN THE DARK
YOU REMIND ME
OF MY DOG...

OH?!
YOU'VE GOT
A DOG?



GET HER (OR HIS) NAME RIGHT.

AAA....."
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL!



"FILL IN THE NAME OF YOUR CHOICE"

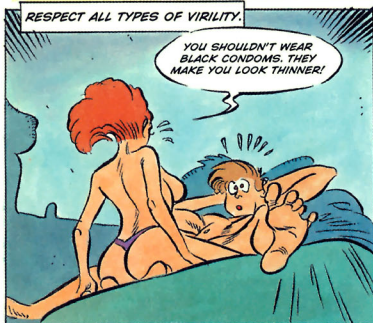
FORGET ABOUT FOOD.

I CAN'T SEEM
TO KEEP THE
PIZZA DOWN.



RESPECT ALL TYPES OF VIRILITY.

YOU SHOULDN'T WEAR
BLACK CONDOMS. THEY
MAKE YOU LOOK THINNER!

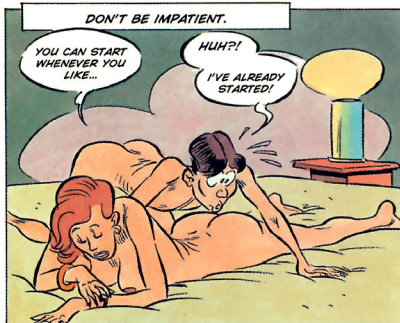


DON'T BE IMPATIENT.

YOU CAN START
WHenever YOU
LIKE...

HUH?!

I'VE ALREADY
STARTED!



HEAVY HITTERS



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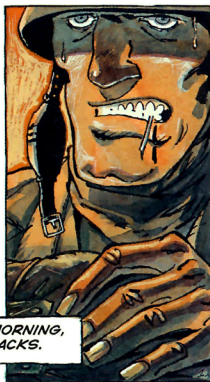
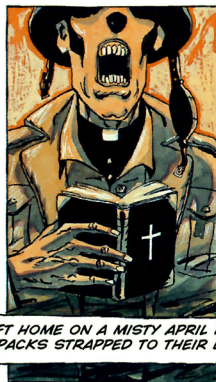
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ St. _____ Zip: _____
 I have enclosed: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Bill My Credit Card
 MC/Visa/Discover _____ Exp. _____
 Signature: _____

To all the children

GILLES
CAZAUX



I WISH TO ERECT A MEMORIAL TO ALL THE
CHILDREN...



...WHO LEFT HOME ON A MISTY APRIL MORNING,
THEIR PACKS STRAPPED TO THEIR BACKS.

I WISH TO ERECT A MEMORIAL
TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO LEFT HOME
ON A MISTY APRIL MORNING,
THEIR PACKS STRAPPED TO THEIR BACKS.
I WISH TO ERECT A MEMORIAL
TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO WEPT,
EACH HOLDING HIS PACK.
HIS SAD EYES NOT LOOKING BACK.
A MEMORIAL NEITHER OF STONE, NOR CONCRETE,
NOR EVEN OF BRONZE THAT TURNS GREEN WITH THE
BITTER PASSING OF TIME.
A MEMORIAL TO THEIR SUFFERING,
TO THEIR TERROR AND FRIGHT,
AND TO THEIR FEARFUL SURPRISE,
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SWEET-SMELLING WORLD

FILLED WITH LAUGHTER AND THE SONG
OF THE BLUEBIRD?
WIPED OFF THE MAP WITH A GUNSHOT!
IN THIS NEW WORLD,
A BLOOD STAIN IS SPREADING ON A FALLING BODY.
WHILE ALL THOSE WHO STAYED HOME
HAVE TUCKED THEIR WARM FEET UNDER
THEIR DESKS.
THERE THEY SIT WORKING OUT THE PROFIT
THAT THE WAR THEY DESIRED WILL BRING THEM.
TO ALL THOSE FAT MEN,
TO THOSE POTBELLIED CUCKOLDS
WHO SIT AND COUNT THEIR CASH

I WISH TO ERECT A MEMO-
RIAL TO ALL THE CHILDREN
WHO WEPT, EACH HOLDING
HIS PACK...



A MEMORIAL NEITHER OF STONE, NOR CONCRETE,
NOR EVEN OF BRONZE THAT TURNS GREEN WITH
THE BITTER PASSING OF TIME.



A MEMORIAL TO THEIR SUFFERING,
TO THEIR TERROR AND FRIGHT...



...AND TO THEIR FEARFUL
SURPRISE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
SWEET-SMELLING WORLD
FILLED WITH LAUGHTER...



...AND THE SONG OF
THE BLUEBIRD?

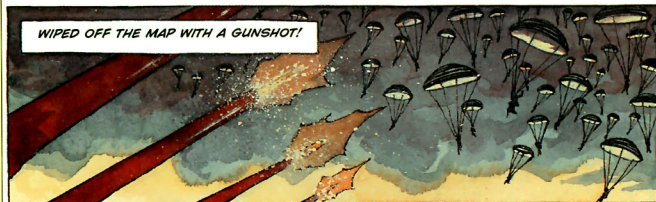


TO THEM I WILL ERECT
A MOST SUITABLE MEMORIAL.
I WILL FLOG THEM WITH A WHIP
HIT THEM WITH MY FEET, WITH MY FISTS
WITH WORDS THAT WILL STICK

TO THEIR FAT FACES
TO THEIR FLABBY JOWLS,
STAMPING THEM AND THEIR NAME
WITH MUD AND WITH SHAME.



WIPED OFF THE MAP WITH A GUNSHOT!



IN THIS NEW WORLD, A BLOOD STAIN IS
SPREADING ON A FALLING BODY.



WHILE ALL THOSE WHO STAYED
HOME HAVE TUCKED THEIR WARM
FEET UNDER THEIR DESKS.



THERE THEY SIT WORKING
OUT THE PROFIT THAT THE
WAR THEY DESIRED WILL
BRING THEM.



TO ALL THOSE FAT MEN, TO
THOSE POTBELLED CUCKOLDS
WHO SIT AND COUNT AND
COUNT THEIR CASH...



*...TO THEM I WILL ERECT A MOST SUITABLE
MEMORIAL. I WILL FLOG THEM WITH A WHIP, HIT
THEM WITH MY FEET, WITH MY FISTS...*

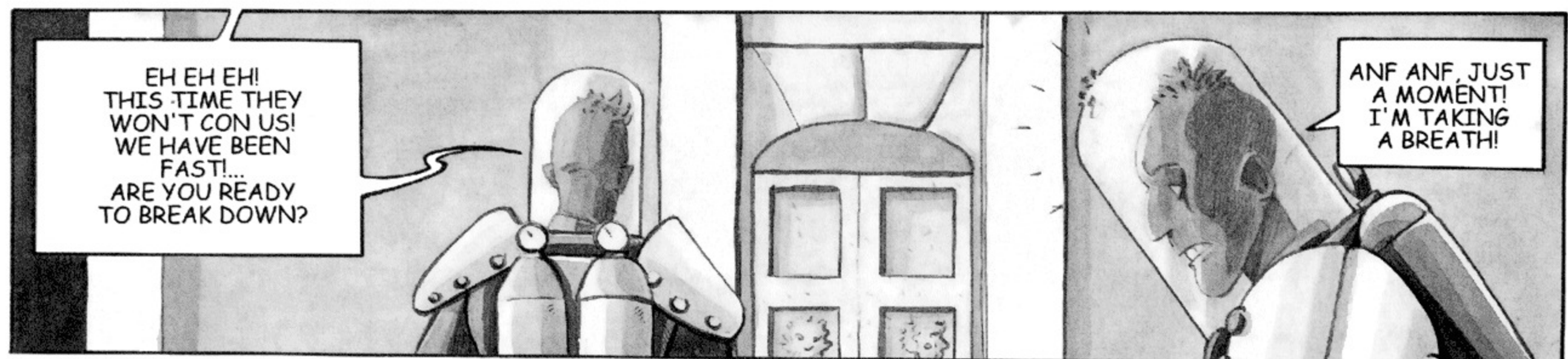
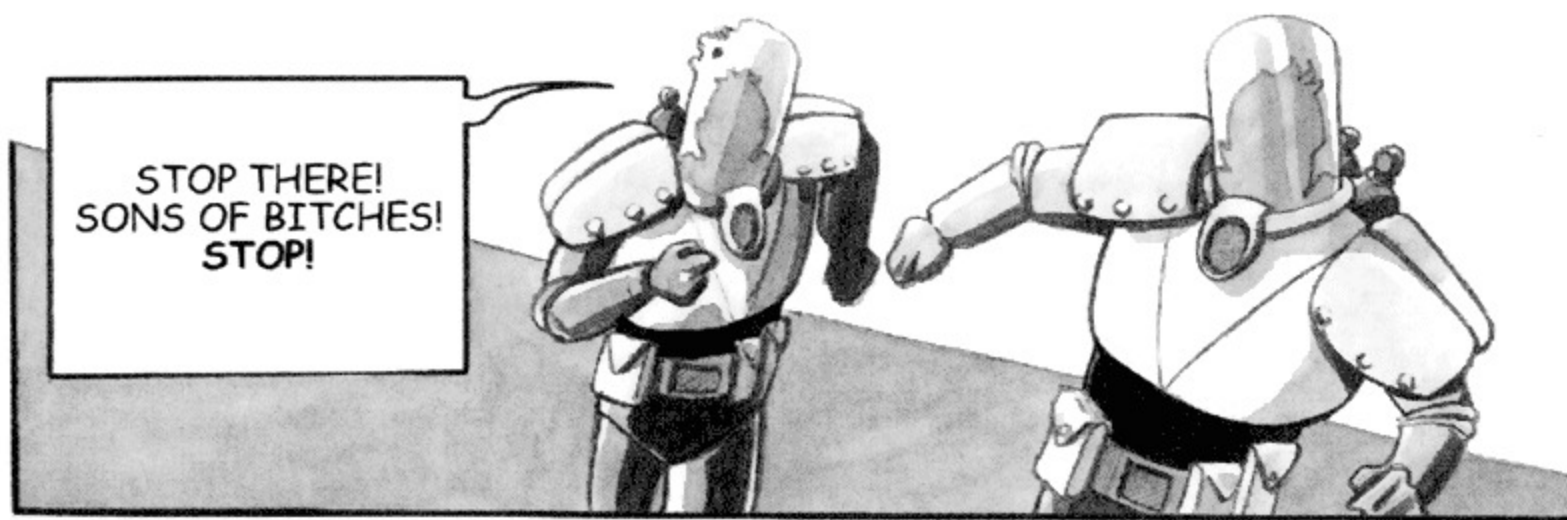


*...WITH WORDS THAT WILL STICK TO THEIR
FAT FACES, TO THEIR FLABBY JOWLS,
STAMPING THEM AND THEIR NAME, WITH
MUD AND WITH SHAME.*



STORY
&
ART
G.PONTRELLI







IH IH
WHAT A
WANKERS!



WE CONNED
THEM AGAIN!

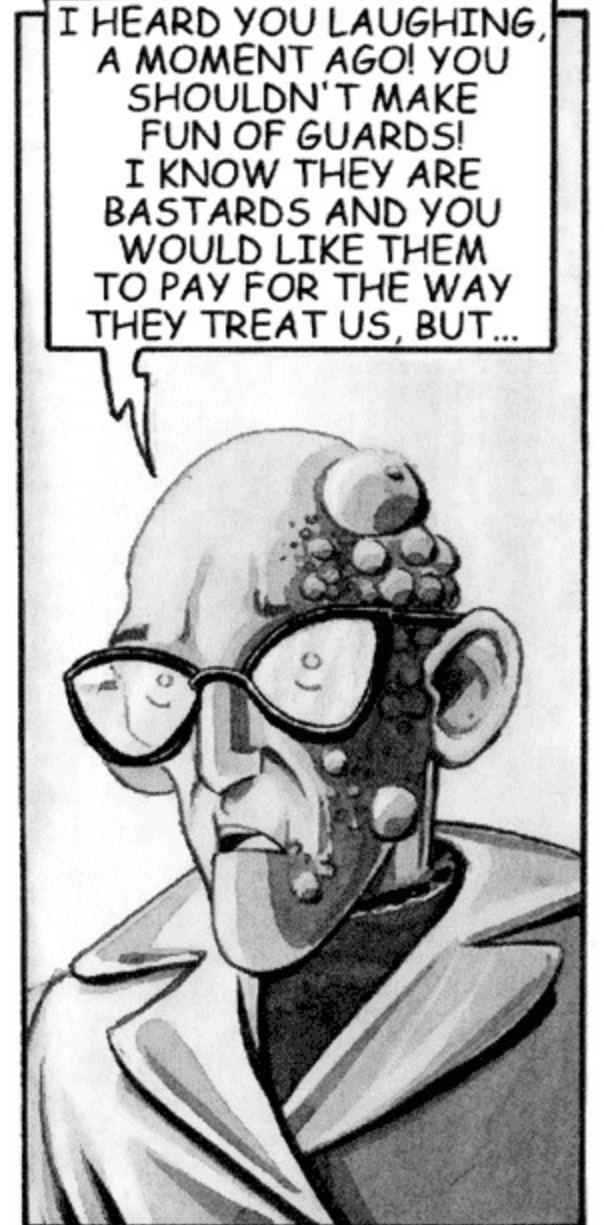
GOODNESS KNOWS
WHAT A KIND OF FACE!
I RECOMMEND YOU
NOT SAY A SINGLE
WORD TO DOC!



HEI!
NOBODY
HERE?...
DOC?



BOYS! WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN?
LOOKING FOR
PROBLEMS I BET?
NO... WE DON'T
GET ON WELL...



I HEARD YOU LAUGHING,
A MOMENT AGO! YOU
SHOULDN'T MAKE
FUN OF GUARDS!
I KNOW THEY ARE
BASTARDS AND YOU
WOULD LIKE THEM
TO PAY FOR THE WAY
THEY TREAT US, BUT...



YES! MAKE
THEM PAY!
THEY CALLED
US LEPERS!

AHH, ALWAYS THIS
FUCKING STORY! I PAID
YOU A THOUSAND
VISITS, YOU DON'T
SEEM TO BE SUFFERING
FROM A VIRUS AND YOU
WILL GET OUT OF THIS
SHITTY SITUATION!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME!



SO, TRY NOT TO MESS
ABOUT! AND STAY AWAY
FROM THOSE MADMEN!

OK?

OK! BUT THOSE
BASTARDS WILL
PAY US BACK!



HELL! DOC
DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
ANYTHING! BUT,
NOW ENOUGH
BULLSHIT, IT'S
TIME TO SHOW
THE GUARDS
WHO WE ARE!



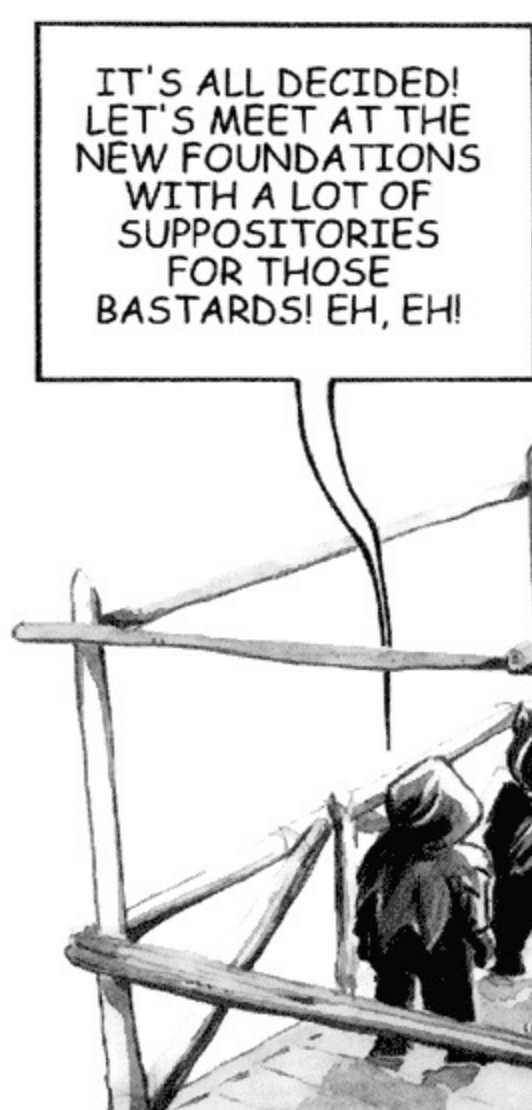
TOGETHER
AS USUAL!...
I'LL FIND A
GONDOLA, YOU
AND LOBO
GO TO THE
WAREHOUSE!



OK, I'M
WITH
YOU
JIMMI!



THIS TIME
WE'LL FUCK
THEM!



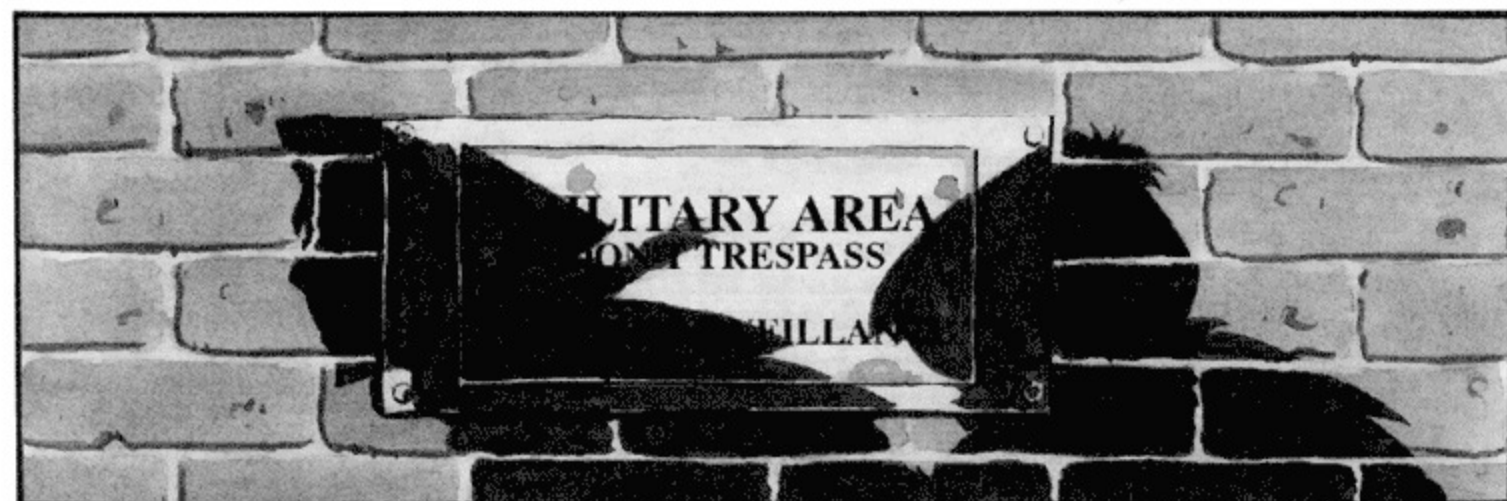
IT'S ALL DECIDED!
LET'S MEET AT THE
NEW FOUNDATIONS
WITH A LOT OF
SUPPOSITORIES
FOR THOSE
BASTARDS! EH, EH!



BE SURE!
A COUPLE OF
HOURS AND
WE'LL BE THERE!

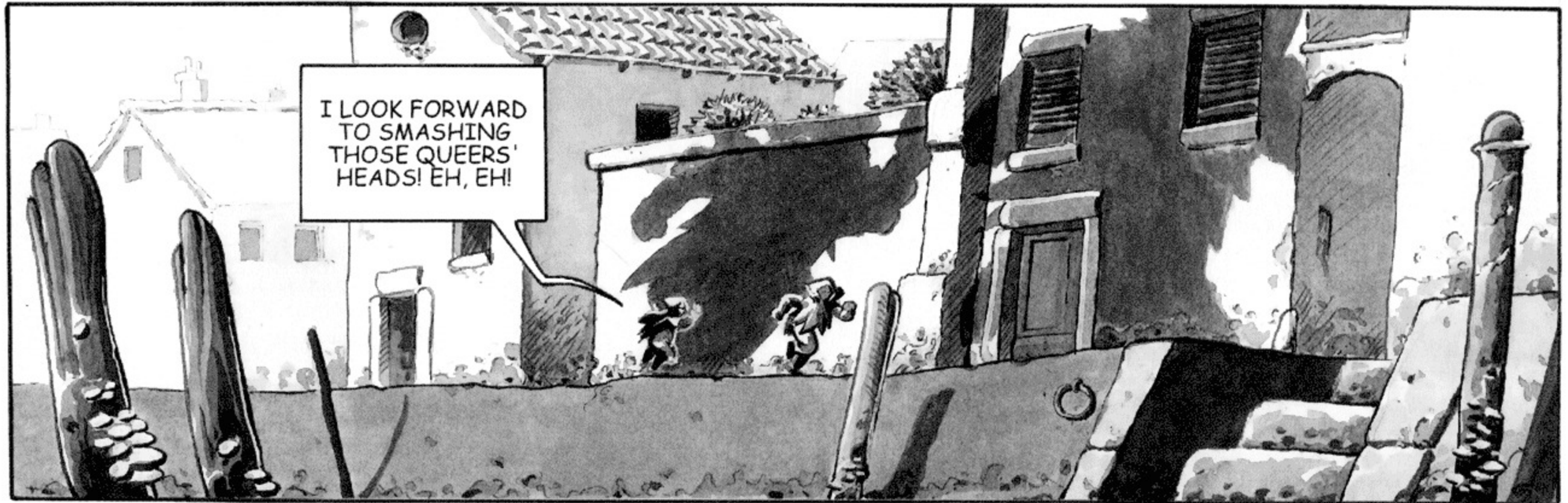


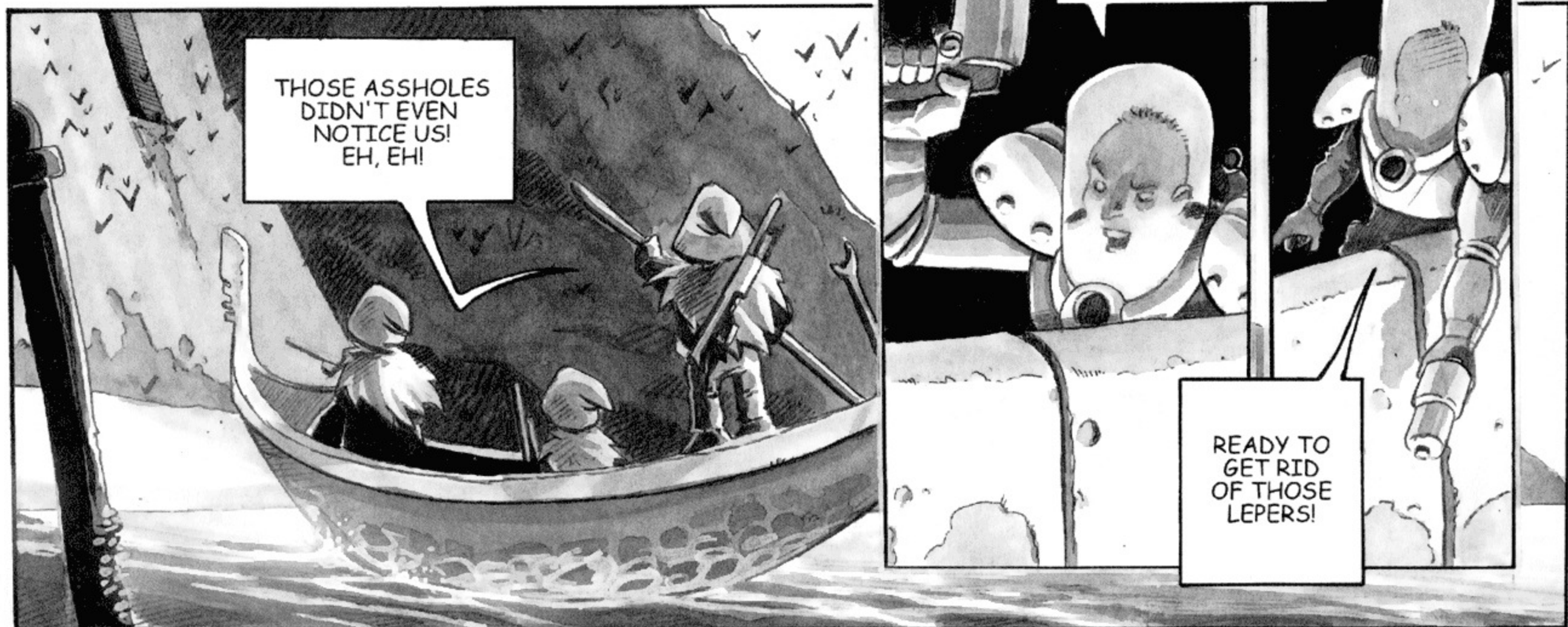
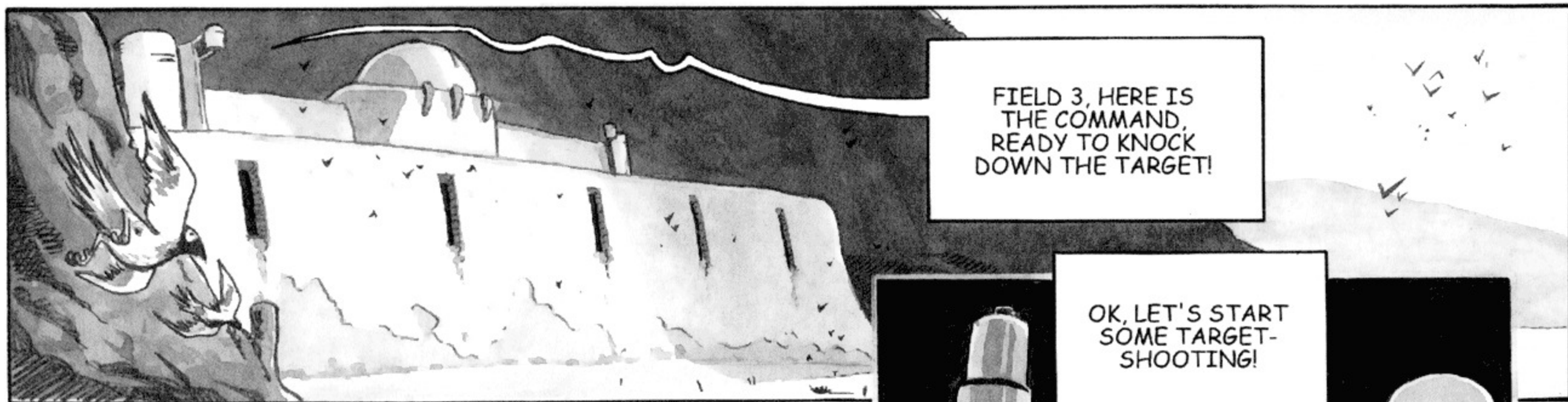
HURRY UP!
NOW!
THERE IS
NO-ONE
AROUND!

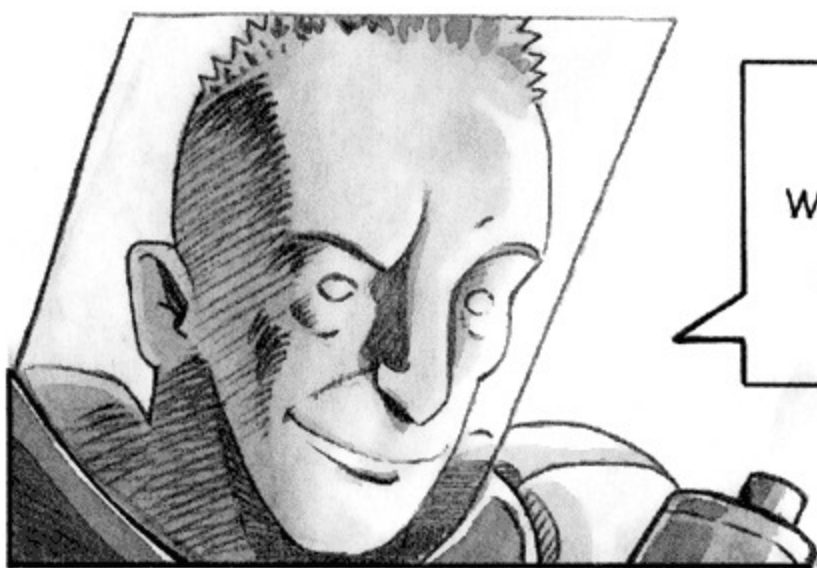
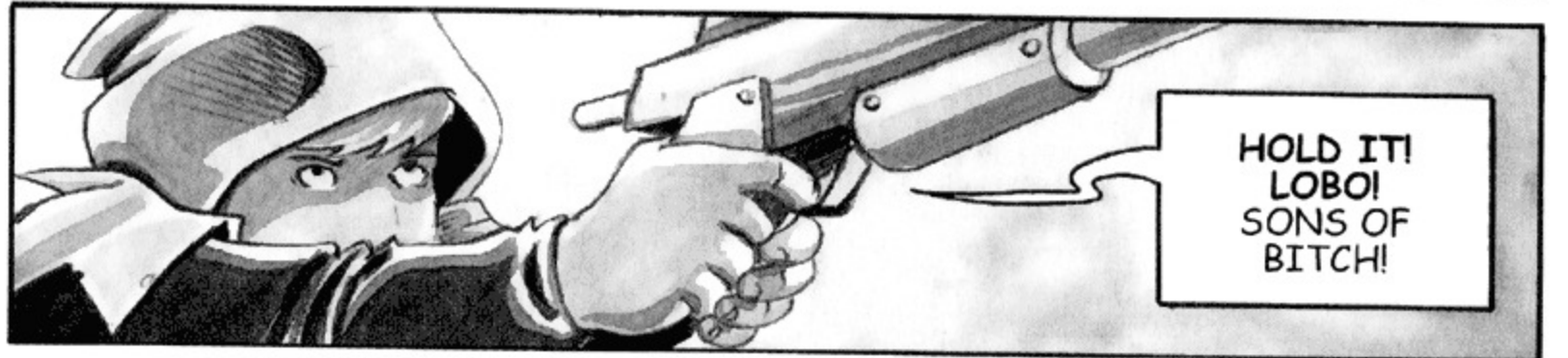
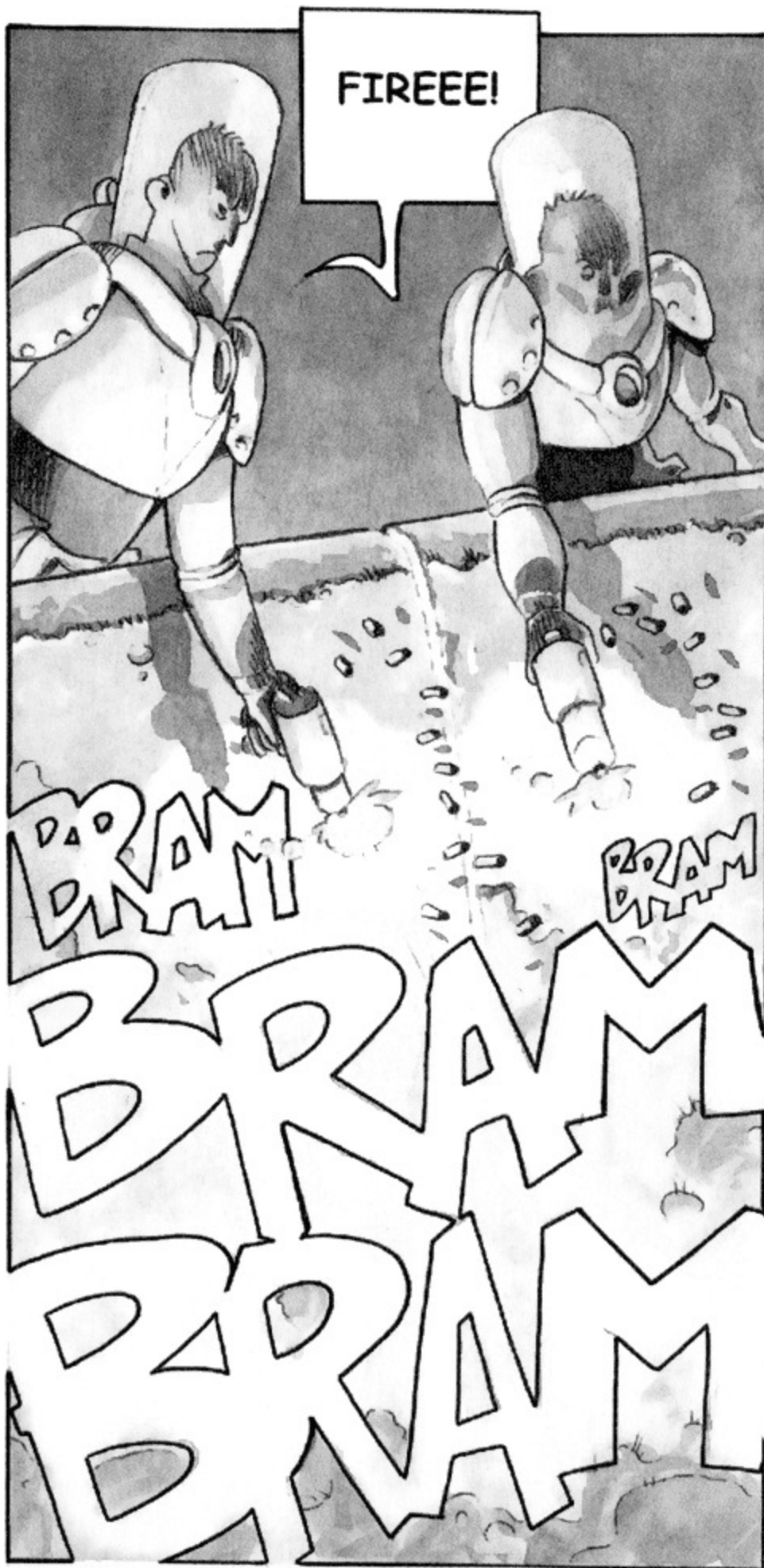


WOW! WHAT
NICE TOYS!
LET'S HOPE
JIMMI
OVERCAME
THE GUARDS!

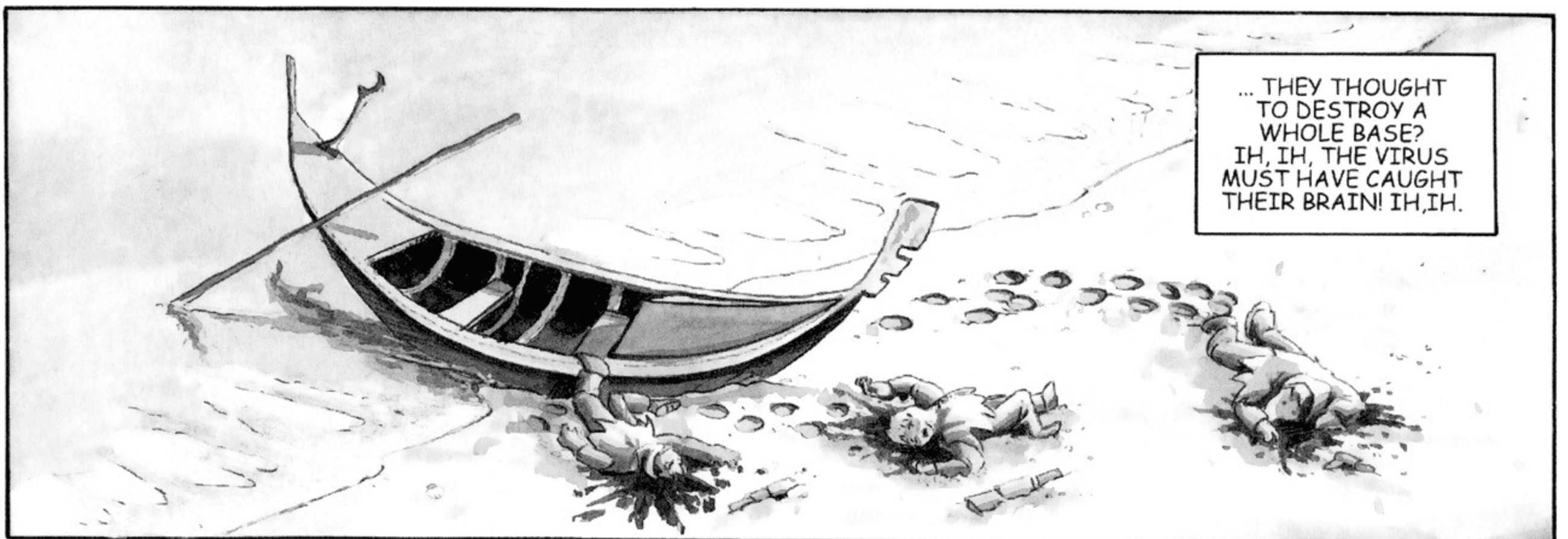
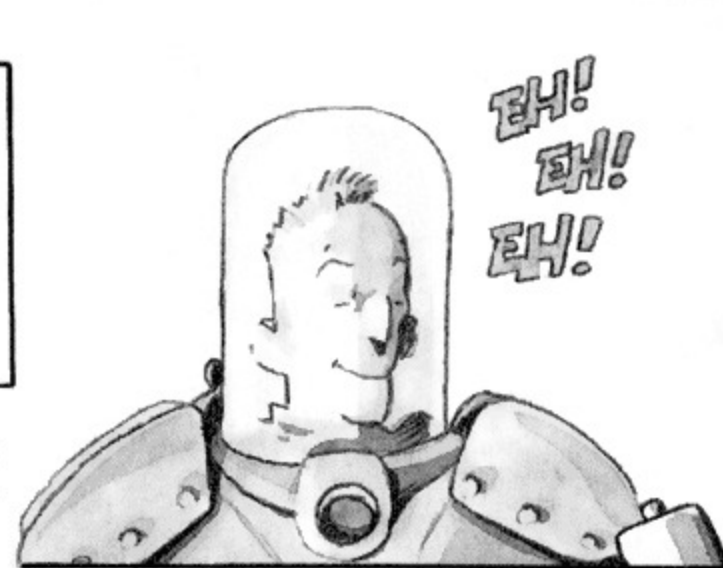


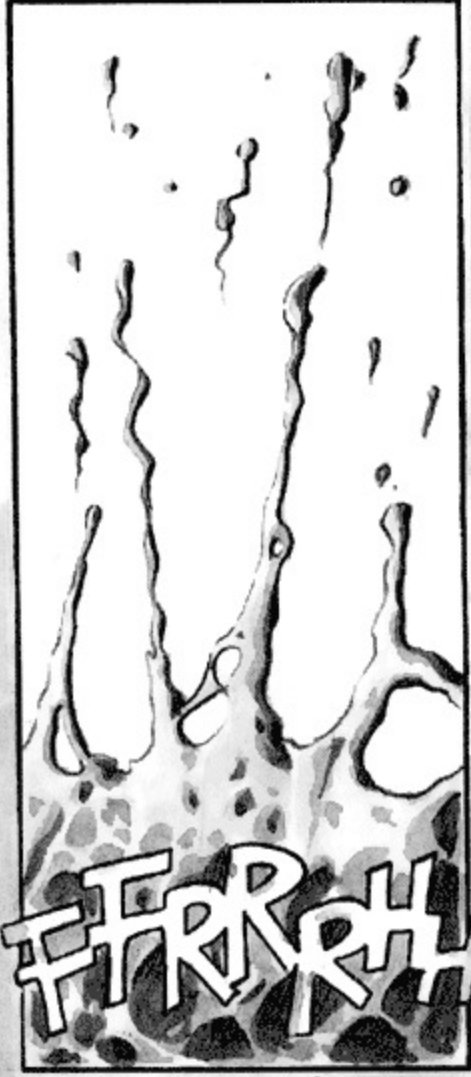






EH!
EH!





"VENICE, A MONTH LATER,
A PATROL FINDS THE OUTPOST
INFESTED BY THE VIRUS.
THE AIR IS FULL OF DEATH.
HOWEVER, THREE CHILDREN
ESCAPED FROM THE DISASTER...
ALLELUIA!"

THE END

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18

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VERY
GRAPHIC
NOVEL™

MAGIKA: DREAMS OF BLOOD

IT WAS ALL SO
LONG AGO...

FRAGMENTS FROM
THE PAST.

A PACK OF WOLVES DRUNK
ON MY ENEMIES' BLOOD.

THE SMELL OF THE
SLAUGHTERHOUSE. THE
VICTIMS' CRIES.

A HEADY MIXTURE!

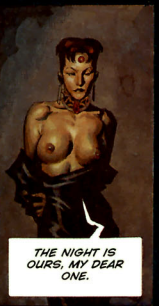
BUT IT'S ONLY A DREAM...
A RECURRING DREAM...

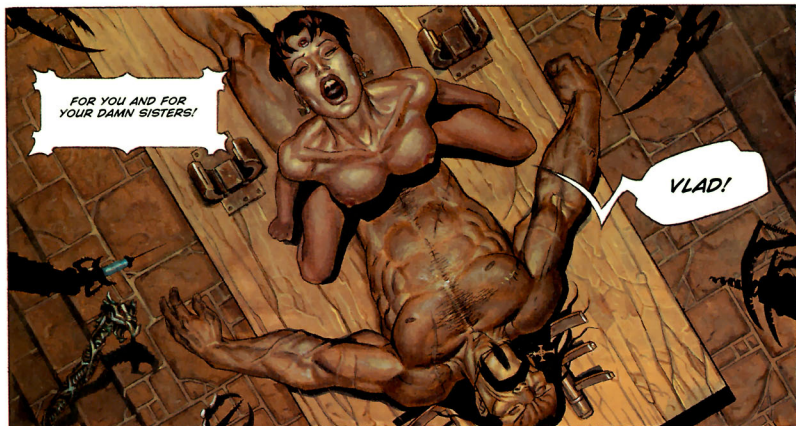
THEY HAVE STOLEN MY
MEMORIES...

...NOW LET THEM PAY
FOR IT!



I HAVE COME, VLAD.
FOR YOUR SAKE I
HAVE BROKEN THE
RULES.





FOR YOU AND FOR
YOUR DAMN SISTERS!

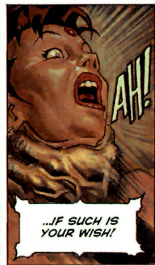
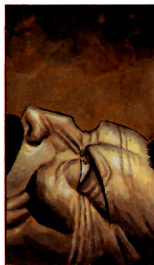
VLAD!



TEACH ME...



...ABSOLUTE
EVIL...



...IF SUCH IS
YOUR WISH!



THIS IS MY
FIRST...

CRACK!



...AND LAST...

CRACK



...LESSON!



FOR I AM...

...ABSOLUTE
EVIL!



SO, GEORGIO,
READY FOR THE
BIG GAME?

YOU'RE REALLY
THE BEST,
JUSTINE!

YOU'LL MAKE 'EM
ALL GOOD 'N HOT!

YEAH! THAT'S IT!
MOVE YOUR ASS!
DON'T BE SHY!

TAKE THE TOP
OFF... NICE 'N
SLOW 'N SEXY...
THAT'S IT!

FLASH!

FLASH!

FLASH!

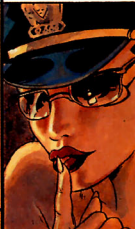
OUR SALES WILL
GO THROUGH
THE ROOF,
GORGEIOUS!

AND NOW, TAKE
THE BOTTOM OFF...
GREAT!

YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO HIDE! SHOW US
EVERYTHING!



FLASH!



GEORGIO?

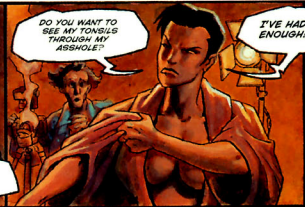


THE PROBLEM WITH
YOU, MY FRIEND, IS
YOUR HORMONES!
YOU CAN'T
CONTROL THEM!



YOU'RE CRAZY!
MY BRAND-NEW
CAMERA!

WHAT CAME
OVER YOU?



DO YOU WANT TO
SEE MY TONGUES
THROUGH MY
ASSHOLE?

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH!



CONSIDER-
ING WHAT
I'M PAID!

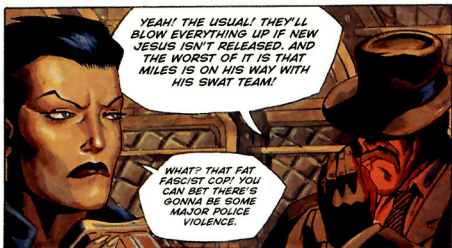
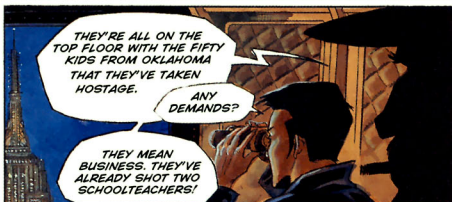


IN ANY CASE,
I HAVE AN
IMPORTANT CALL.



BYE NOW! KEEP IN TOUCH...
MAYBE WE CAN DO LUNCH
ONE OF THESE DAYS!

JUSTINE!
YOU CAN'T
DO THIS TO
ME! THINK OF YOUR
FANS!





THE LABYRINTH AND
THE CENTRAL
TOWER...

I HAVE A FEELING I
SHOULD GO THERE.

IT MAY TAKE LONG...

...BUT I'M IN NO
HURRY.



MY INSTINCT
GUIDES ME
THROUGH THE
MAZE.



THE INSTINCT
OF THE BEAST
THAT IS IN
ME!

I'VE LOST
ALL NOTION
OF TIME.

HUNGER AND
PAIN MEAN
NOTHING!

I'VE BEEN WANDER-
ING THROUGH
THESE TUNNELS
FOR AN HOUR, A
DAY, OR PERHAPS A
WEEK...

IT MAKES NO
DIFFERENCE!

'CAUSE
I
KNOW...



...MY GOAL'S IN
SIGHT!

THE CABAL SEEMS TO
BE COMPLETE... BUT
THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP!

I HESITATE FOR A
MOMENT...

I COULD WAKE THEM
AND REVEL IN THEIR
TERROR WHEN THEY
REALIZE WHAT IS
ABOUT TO HAPPEN...

...BUT I PREFER NOT
TO TAKE ANY
CHANCES!

TOO BAD...

...IF THAT DIMINISHES MY
PLEASURE!

FIRST OF ALL I MUST
MEDITATE. MY BLOOD
COURSES THROUGH
MY VEINS LIKE BURN-
ING LAVA. MY DESIRE
STARTS TO SWELL.

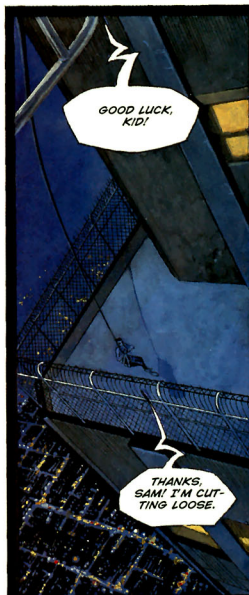
WHEN IT BECOMES
TOO PAINFUL...

...I KNOW THAT IT'S
TIME...

...TO GO TO
WORK!

THWY!

KP
NK



GOOD LUCK,
KID!



OH,
OH...



WHAT WAS
THAT?



BITE THIS!



GLURP!



WAS
IT GOOD
FOR
YOU?

I'M
GLAD!

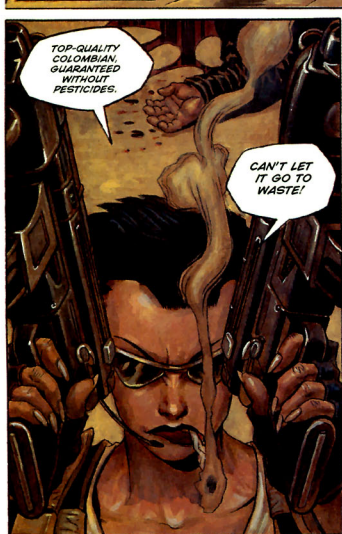
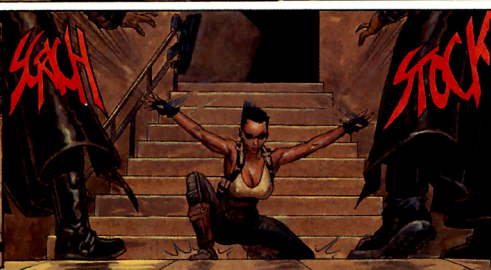


THERE'S
MORE WHERE
THAT CAME
FROM IN THE
PAGES OF
'PLAYHOUSE'.



I'M IN...
ONE DOWN...

...NINE
TO GO!



IT'S ALMOST OVER...

IT WAS SO EASY.

NOT MUCH OF A CHALLENGE.

NOW LOOK AT THAT!
THE LAST BITCH JUST
WOKE UP!

A GAME OF CAT-AND-MOUSE...

JUST LIKE OLD
TIMES...

HA HA HA HA HA

YOUR DEATH
COULD'VE
BEEN QUICK
'N EASY.

BUT YOU'RE
GONNA GET
SPECIAL
TREATMENT!

KEEP AWAY
FROM ME,
VLAD TEPE!

ZAP

ARGH!

IS THAT THE EXTENT OF
YOUR POWERS, WITCH?

THEN YOUR END
IS NEAR!

CLANG

I'M GONNA
MASSACRE
YOU!

HA! HA! DO YOU
THINK THAT CAGE
CAN PROTECT YOU?

OPEN THE
GATE!

NO!

ALL YOUR
LITTLE
TRICKS ARE
USELESS!

YOU CAN'T
ESCAPE
ME!

CLANG

SHRAK

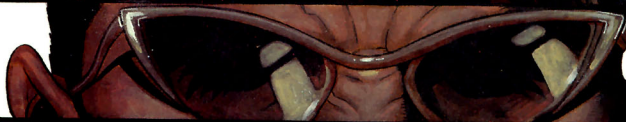
CRRAAK!

AAAAH!!

MANY OF MY
MEMORIES STILL
ELUDE ME...

...BUT THERE IS
SOMETHING
I HAVE NOT
FORGOTTEN...

...THAT I AM
ABSOLUTE EVIL!



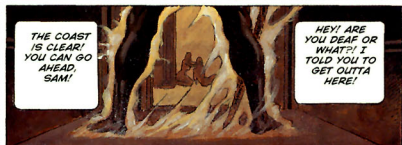
FUCKIN' ASS-HOLES!

**YOU'RE
GONNA PAY
FOR THIS!**



**DAMN IT!
I KNEW I'D ONLY
COUNTED NINE!**







YOU CAN'T
ESCAPE! I TOLD
YOU!

WHAT THE
FUCK...?

THIS IS NOT THE
MOMENT FOR
A LOVERS'
QUARREL!



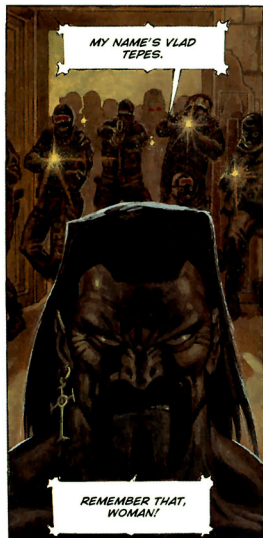
LET HER
GO!



SHIT!



DON'T ANYBODY
MOVE!



MY NAME'S VLAD
TEPES.

REMEMBER THAT,
WOMAN!



DON'T
WORRY, I
WILL!

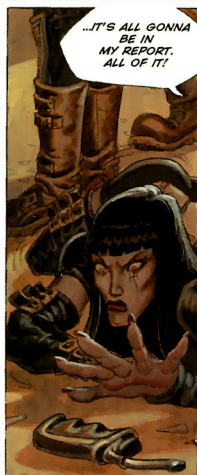
...NOW RAISE YOUR
RIGHT HAND VERY
SLOWLY, AND USE
YOUR LEFT TO
COVER THAT THING
BETWEEN YOUR
LEGS!



LUCK WAS ON
YOUR SIDE TODAY!

HUH!?







THIS WORLD...



...SEEMS SO FAMILIAR...



...AND YET SO DIFFERENT.



IT WILL BE MINE SOON!
AND THE NAME VLAD TEPES
WILL MAKE IT TREMBLE!





WE JUST RECEIVED SOMETHING THAT SHOULD INTEREST YOU, MA'AM.



PLEASE LEAVE US NOW, DOCTOR.

BUT IT'S TIME FOR YOUR TREATMENT...



MY TREATMENT, DOCTOR VON KARLOV?

THE ONLY VISIBLE EFFECT IT HAS IS TO WORSEN MY CONDITION!

SO LEAVE US ALONE NOW.



SO, BORIS, I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR INTERRUPTING MY YOUTH TREATMENT!

YES, I DO... OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN NEW YORK SENT US THESE...



HMM... AND...?

ACCORDING TO THEIR SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, THESE TWO TURNED UP AS IF BY MAGIC ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING...

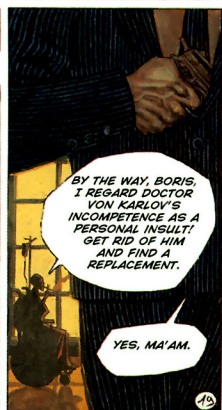


A FEMALE POLICE OFFICER WAS THERE AND HER EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT CONFIRMED THEIR PRESENCE.

ACCORDING TO OUR AGENTS' READINGS, THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD WAS GREATLY ALTERED.



THAT'S MAGIKA'S SIGNATURE! PUT A TAIL ON THAT FEMALE COP AND KEEP ME INFORMED.



BY THE WAY, BORIS, I REGARD DOCTOR VON KARLOV'S INCOMPETENCE AS A PERSONAL INSULT! GET RID OF HIM AND FIND A REPLACEMENT.

YES, MA'AM.

STRANGE...

THE BLOODY HOSTAGE CRISIS AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IS OVER. THE PERPETRATORS, MEMBERS OF THE NEW JESUS SECT, WERE OVERPOWERED BY A SQUAD FROM SPECIAL FORCES. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS AMONG THE HOSTAGES...

THIS WORLD AND ITS LANGUAGE SEEM SO UNFAMILIAR... AND YET I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING SAID.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A GLIMMER OF HOPE. LARA! THERE'S ONE SURVIVOR. A WOMAN, WHOSE IDENTITY HAS NOT BEEN REVEALED, HAS JUST BEEN EVACUATED TO CENTRAL HOSPITALS. HER CONDITION IS REPORTEDLY CRITICAL.

THANKS, JOHN. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

THERE'S SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SEVEN WITCHES AND MAGIKA...

FIRST I HAVE TO FIND THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY FROM ME.

THIS TRAGIC EVENT ONCE MORE RAISES THE ISSUE OF SECURITY IN PUBLIC PLACES. AT A TIME WHEN MILLENNARIAN SECTS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY VIOLENT, WE HAVE OBTAINED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NEW JESUS, THE LEADER OF THE CHILDREN OF THE APOCALYPSE AND THE AUTHOR OF THE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL "VERSES OF BLOOD." OUR REPORTER TALKED TO HIM IN THE HIGH-SECURITY PENITENTIARY WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY IMPRISONED.

I'LL GO AND SEE THAT MAN, NEW JESUS.

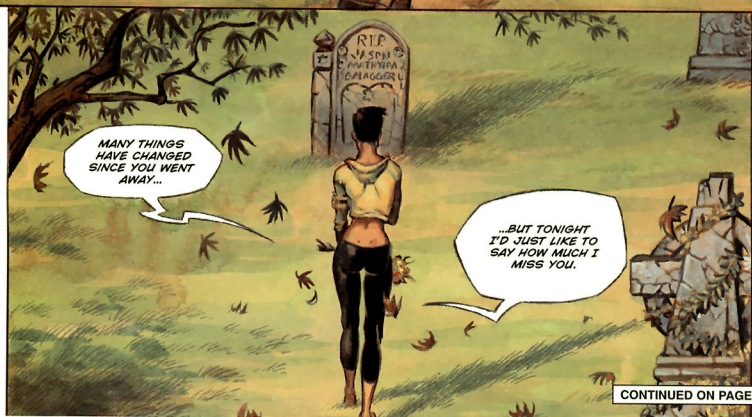
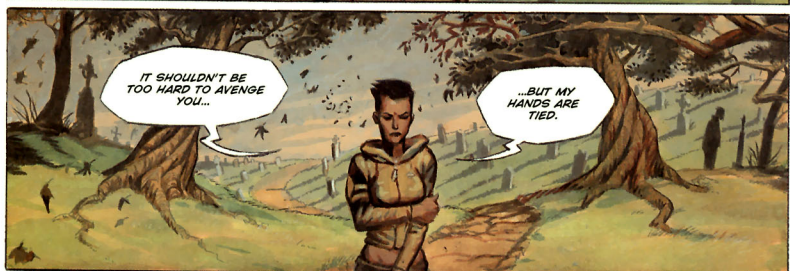
LONG AGO, I FOUGHT IN HIS NAME...

HE WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

...YOUR CITIES AND NATION WILL FALL! REMEMBER THE GREAT CITY OF BABYLON WHICH WAS DEVoured BY THE FLAMES OF THE FALSE CREATOR. I PROMISE YOU AN EVEN WORSE FATE! FIRE, BRIMSTONE AND A VALE OF TEARS! ONLY MY CHILDREN WILL SURVIVE MY ANGER! THEN WE WILL REBUILD THIS WORLD AND ERECT A PALACE FOR HIM!

AS FOR SERGEANT GALLAGHER WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY EXILE, I INFORM HER THAT I HAVE PUT A FATWA ON HER AND THAT MY CHILDREN HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN HER REQUIEM.

THANK YOU, NEW JESUS. AND WE HAVE MORE BREAKING NEWS... AN EXPLOSION HAS JUST OCCURRED IN THE SUBWAY... THE DEATH COUNT HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED...



Art from
The Art of
Dave
Nestler

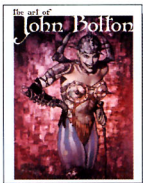
SENSUAL



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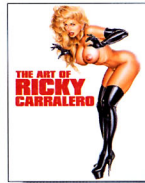
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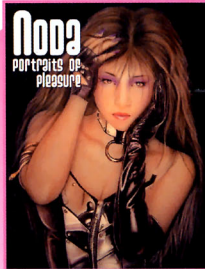
ART OF RICKY CARRALERO
Gravity-defying breasts and bodies so curvy they come with directions! Thanks Ricky! 48pgs full color.



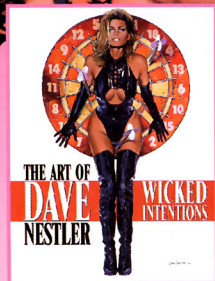
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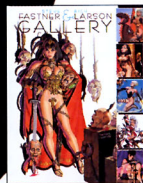
SKIN TIGHTHEART OF MARCUS GRAY
It's the warm and friendly squeeze of latex against flesh salty with sweat and lust! Fetishes come and go, but the moist promise of form-fitting outfits on young female flesh - well, let's just say it's something artist Marcus Gray has made a serious study of! Slip into something decidedly UNcomfortable and enjoy Mr. Gray's wild ride! 48 pages in full color on heavyweight coated stock.



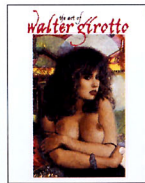
NODA: PORTRAITS OF PLEASURE
The shimmering line between pleasure and pain has never been so lovingly caressed as by the hand of Shin Noda. Beautiful women in bondage, leather, and restraints are as alluring as they are forbidding! Noda's technical prowess is matched only by his fascination with the female form (and how to imprison it in the most esthetically-pleasing fashion!) 104 pages in full color.



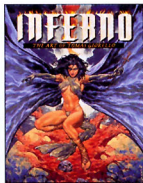
THE ART OF DAVE NESTLER
Dave Nestler made it big in Hollywood, and THEN got famous! He worked on the hottest properties for film and television, but it the pin-up that put him on them map. Creating a series of stunning erotic portraits got him the attention of Playboy Magazine. For those not quite ready to mortgage the house, here is a collection of full color masterworks for your own personal admiration. 48 pages full color.



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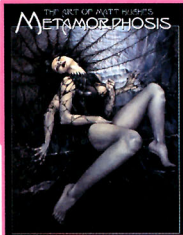


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EXOTIC EROTIC



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JENNIFER JANEKO

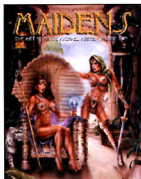
ART OF JENNIFER JANEKO

Showcased in magazines like Playboy and Maxim, her insight into the feminine mystique gives her a distinct advantage over her male counterparts. Her erotic portraits command top gallery prices, but now you can enjoy Jennifer's finest works in this oversized collection. 128 pages full color oversized format with heavy cardstock covers.

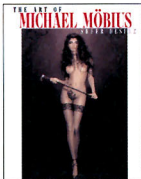


THE ART OF LORENZO SPERLONGA

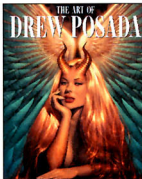
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Art from
The Art of
Lorenzo
Sperlonga

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- | | | | |
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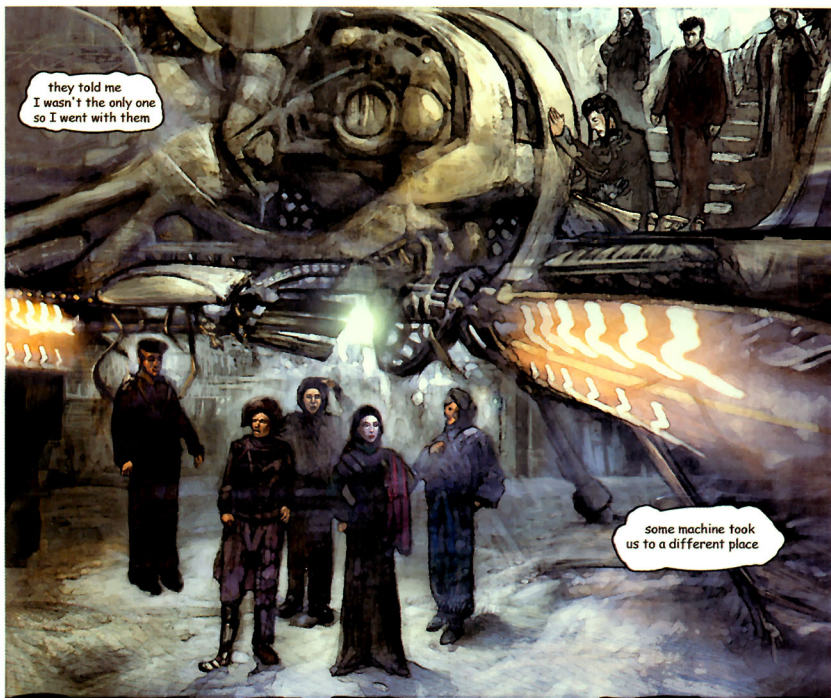
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I CERTIFY I AM OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE





they told me
I wasn't the only one
so I went with them

some machine took
us to a different place



it made me
understand inside



...it made me
see...

... archetypes of
creation...the way they
look in three dimensions...

...human
polarities afraid of
each other sometimes

they said I
was ready then
for the ultimate
challenge

so the machine
took me again...











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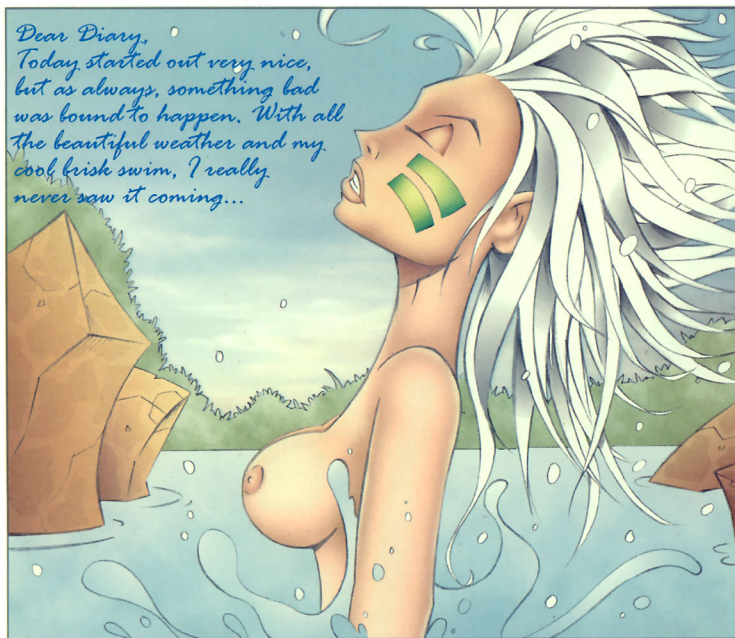
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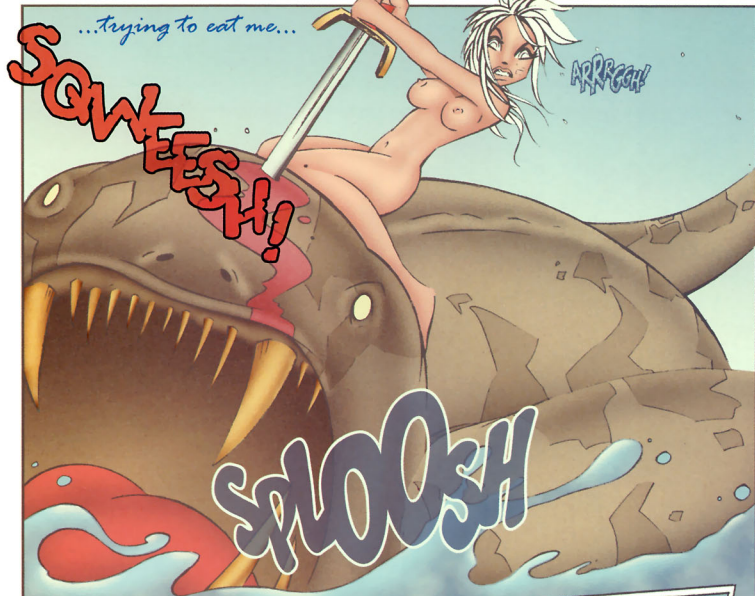
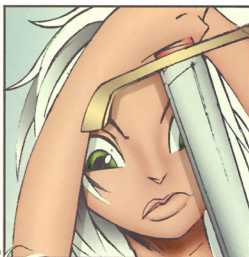


...All of a sudden I felt
this hot warm breeze
blowing on my back...





...Come to find out, the warm breeze was nothing more than a great beast...



...trying to eat me...

SQUEESH!

ARRGGH!

SPLOOSH

...As always, I came out on top...

... and saved my ass once more. That's when things got real strange...

HELLO!
IS ANYBODY
OUT THERE?



HELLO!
DID SOMEONE
SAVE ME?

LOOKS
LIKE IT FROM
THE LOOKS OF
THAT CUT!
WOW!

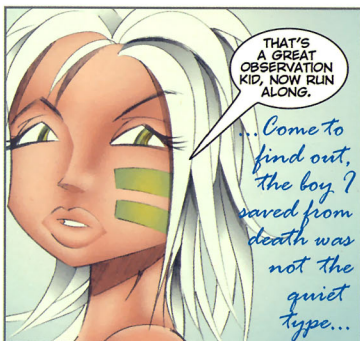


THAT
WOULD BE
ME. I HAD NO
IDEA I SAVED YOU,
OR FOR THAT MATTER,
THAT YOU WERE IN
THE BELLY OF THAT
CREATURE.

THAT
THING ATE
ME WHILE I WAS
PLAYING ON THE
ROCKS NEXT
TO THE
SHORE.

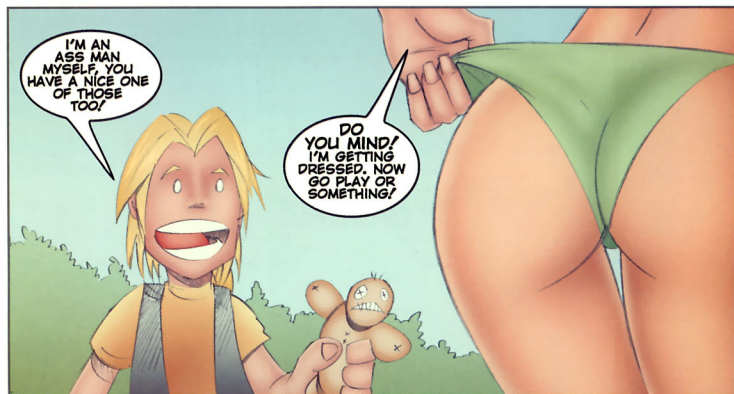


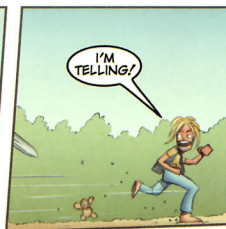
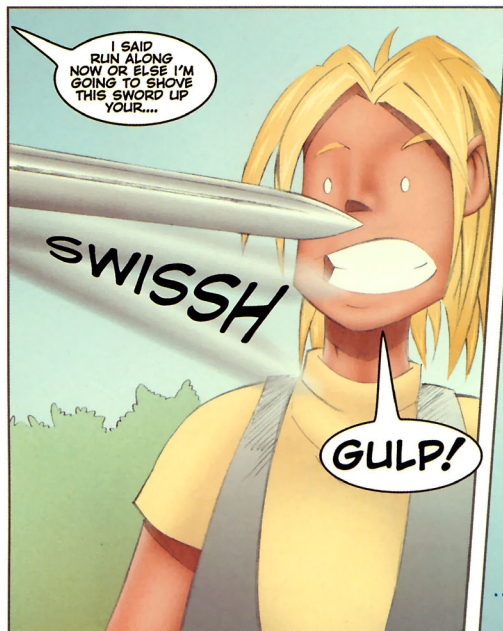
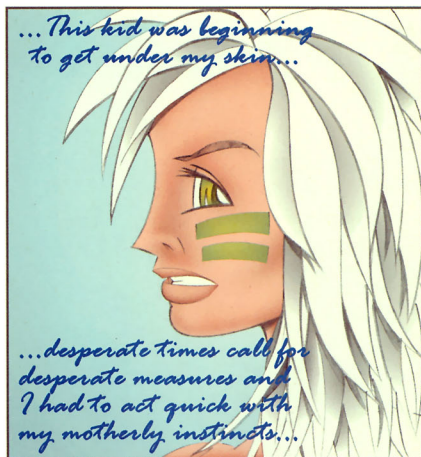
WOW
LADY! YOU
GOT BIG
BOOBS!



THAT'S
A GREAT
OBSERVATION
KID, NOW RUN
ALONG.

...Come to
find out,
the boy I
saved from
death was
not the
quiet
type...





I'm a
monster
of
perversity

GUILLAUME
SOREL



ALL SORTS OF COLLECTORS ABOUND,
AND LIKE A BLOODHOUND,
EACH ONE SEEKS AND SNIFFS
(SOME OF 'EM EVEN COLLECT STIFFS!)
TILL THEY FIND THEIR HEART'S' DESIRE.
BEETLES MAY AROUSE THEIR FIRE,
AND SOME AMASS MOUNTAIN SUMMITS.
COLLECTING HAS NO LIMITS!
SOME FANCY VINTAGE WINES,

BUT EVERYONE PINES
FOR BARGAINS GALORE.
AND WHAT MORE?
HOW 'BOUT A PRETTY BLUE PLATE
WITHOUT IT'S MATE?
OR AN OLD COFFEE POT
FOUND IN AN EMPTY LOT?
BUT WHAT DO I DESIRE?
ONLY ONE THING AROUSES MY FIRE!



I'M A MONSTER OF PERVERSITY.
I OFFER YOU NO CHARITY.
HEY, I'M NO NUN.
BUT I HAVE SUCH FUN!
THE HEARTS OF MEN
I TAKE AND TOSS 'EM IN THE LAKE.
THEIR PASSIONS SO WILD
I HAVE IN THE GRAVEYARD PILED.
GAZING ON THEIR BLEEDING HEARTS
IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE PARTS.

TEARING OUT THEIR SOULS
IS BUT ONE OF MY GOALS.
I'M A MONSTER OF PERVERSITY.
AS YOU MAY'VE HEARD, I BET,
BUT YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!
WHEN I IMAGINE A MAN
(OR A WOMAN)
SURRENDERING TO MY POWER
I SEE THEM COWER.
THE WILDEST BABYLONIAN NIGHTS
WITH THEIR PASSIONATE FIGHTS

PALE IN COMPARISON.
I DO IT FOR FUN.
FROM HER TOE TO HER BUN
HER CLOTHES I TEAR OFF
TILL SHE BEGINS TO COUGH
THEN A PORCELAIN VASE
I THROW IN HER FACE,
MAKING HER YELL:
"WHAT THE HELL
DID YOU DO?"
WELL, I KNOW QUITE A CREW

(SSM IS THEIR THING)
FOR THE SCISSORS THEY ALWAYS SPRING,
AND THEN IN A FLASH,
THEIR OWN FACES THEY SLASH.
IF ONE DAY I'M SENTENCED TO DIE
I'LL ASK MY JAILOR (THIS IS NO LIE)
FOR A MIRROR TO BRING ME
SO MY HEAD I CAN SEE
WHEN IT ROLLS WITH NO TALK
OFF THE EXECUTIONER'S BLOCK.



*I'M A MONSTER OF PERVERSITY
YET I'M FREE OF ALL VANITY.
NOTORIOUS KILLERS AND FAITH-HEALERS,
TYRANTS, ROBBERS AND DEALERS,
YOU JUST DON'T MEASURE UP!*

*I KILL WITHOUT RESPITE
THEN MY CONFESSIONS I WRITE.
I EARN MY LIVELIHOOD
WRITING KILLER THRILLERS BOUT THE 'HOOD.
I'M A MONSTER OF PERVERSITY.*

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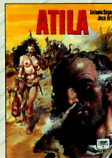
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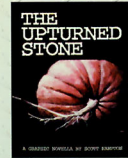
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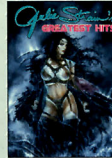
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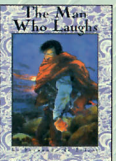
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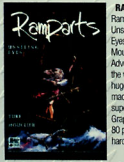
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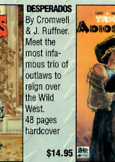
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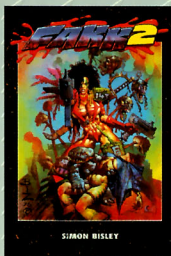
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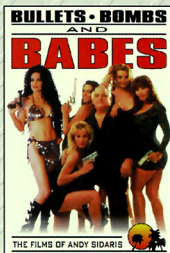
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WHAT A TERRIBLE NIGHT! NO ONE COULD HAVE IMAGINED ANYTHING SO AWFUL!



CHOOSE YOUR GAME (ALONE IN THE SHADOWS)

I WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THEY TRY TO FIND LOGICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR THE INEXPLICABLE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED.

HE'D BEEN ACTING STRANGELY LATELY.

YEAH, ESPECIALLY AFTER CLARA WENT INTO A COMA. AND NOW HE'S IN A COMA, TOO.

COULD IT BE SOME SORT OF EPIDEMIC?

MAYBE IT'S CONTAGIOUS.

I BET FITO SUFFERED SO MUCH THAT HE DEVELOPED THE SAME SYMPTOMS. HOW ROMANTIC!

THEY SEEM TO BE SLEEPING. ALL LIFE SIGNS ARE NORMAL.

I CAN'T TELL THEM WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BECAUSE THEY WOULD NEVER BELIEVE ME.

IT'S THOSE VIDEO GAMES HE PLAYED ALL DAY LONG THAT ARE TO BLAME.

IF MY FATHER FINDS OUT HE'LL PROBABLY CONFISCATE MY CONSOLE.

IF ONLY THEY KNEW.



NOW THAT I'M IN A SIMILAR SITUATION,
I REALIZE WHAT FITO WENT THROUGH.

SQUAWK!

HE COULDN'T EVEN
CONVINCE ME THAT CLARA'S
ILLNESS WAS CONNECTED
TO THE GAMES.

I CAN'T HELP BUT BLAME
MYSELF FOR WHAT
HAPPENED TO FITO.

IT WAS ONLY LAST WEEK THAT
CLARA SENT FITO ALL THESE GAMES
VIA MODEM, AND HE COPIED THEM
TO AN OPTICAL DISK.

WHO KNOWS WHERE CLARA GOT THEM FROM? SHE
PROBABLY DOWNLOADED THEM OFF THE WEB. BUT WHAT
WENT WRONG WHILE THE FILES WERE BEING TRANS-
FERRED? HOW DID THE MUTATION OCCUR?

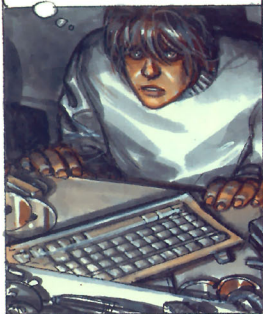
WHAT PRODUCES THE BIO-MECHANIC
FUSION? IF I HAD THE ANSWERS, I COULD
RESCUE FITO AND CLARA FROM THAT
VIRTUAL WORLD.

I'M SURE FITO WAS RIGHT. THE SOLUTION MUST LIE
IN THE GAMES THEMSELVES, BUT IN WHICH ONE?
THE ONLY GAME THAT HASN'T BEEN PLAYED IS...

... CHOOSE YOUR GAME!

CHOOSE YOUR GAME!

... NUMBER 7, "ALONE IN THE SHADOWS"... I REMEMBER THIS GAME! IT WAS GREAT, BUT IT FLOPPED BECAUSE IT WAS SO DIFFICULT AND REALLY HARD TO FINISH.



"ALONE IN THE SHADOWS"... NOW WHERE DID I PUT MY UNCORRUPTED COPY? IT WAS HERE SOMEWHERE?



AH, THERE IT IS! THE NEW WORLD GAME... CATACOMBS, DUNGEONS, SPELLS... THE USUAL STUFF.



I SHOULD RUN THROUGH IT QUICKLY TO REFRESH MY MEMORY.



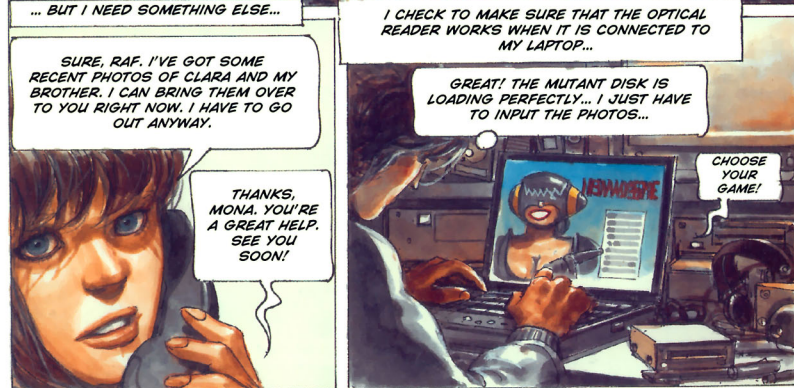
THE PRESENTATION SCENES MAKES ME REALIZE THAT PERHAPS HERE IS THE KEY THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO BRING FITO AND CLARA BACK INTO OUR WORLD.



... BUT I NEED SOMETHING ELSE...

SURE, RAF. I'VE GOT SOME RECENT PHOTOS OF CLARA AND MY BROTHER. I CAN BRING THEM OVER TO YOU RIGHT NOW. I HAVE TO GO OUT ANYWAY.

I CHECK TO MAKE SURE THAT THE OPTICAL READER WORKS WHEN IT IS CONNECTED TO MY LAPTOP...



GREAT! THE MUTANT DISK IS LOADING PERFECTLY... I JUST HAVE TO INPUT THE PHOTOS...

THANKS, MONA. YOU'RE A GREAT HELP. SEE YOU SOON!

CHOOSE YOUR GAME!

HALF AN HOUR LATER, MONA IS AT MY DOOR.

THANKS, MONA. DON'T WORRY.
I'LL GIVE THEM BACK TO YOU IN
A FEW DAYS.

OKAY.

I MAKE HIGH-RESOLUTION SCANS OF
MONA'S PHOTOS, AND ONE OF MYSELF.

NOW THAT THE IMAGE FILES
ARE ON THE HARD DISK OF
MY LAPTOP, THEY'LL BE
EASIER TO ACCESS
THROUGH THE GAME.

I SEPARATE ALL THE FILES
THAT SHOW THE RESULTS OF
THE GAMES THAT CLARA
PLAYED—THE ONES SHE WON
AND THOSE SHE LOST—AND
THE GAMES THAT FITO AND I
PLAYED IN "THE LOST TOMB"
WHEN HE "DIED"... THEN I
PRESS "ENTER".

GREAT! "ALONE IN THE SHADOWS"
ACCEPTED ALL THE ARCHIVES,
PHOTOS AND PERSONAL DATA
THAT I HAD INPUT!

TERRIFIC!
YOU'RE A
GENIUS, RAF!
THIS IS SURE
TO WORK!

ENTER,
ENTER!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE
HOSPITAL, WITH ALL THE GEAR IN MY BACKPACK.

GREAT. TODAY'S SATURDAY, SO THERE
WILL BE LOTS OF VISITORS, AND IT
WILL BE EASY TO SLIP BY UNNOTICED.

LUCKILY, SINCE FITO AND CLARA ARE SUFFERING FROM THE SAME MYSTERIOUS ILLMENT, THEY ARE IN THE SAME ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR.



NOW, I JUST HAVE TO WAIT. TO KEEP BUSY I START PLAYING THE UNCORRUPTED GAME... I WILL NEED IT, IN ANY CASE.

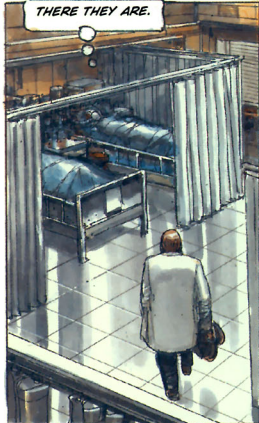


AFTER MIDNIGHT...

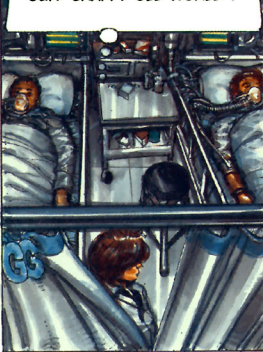
THIS DOCTOR'S JACKET WILL BE A GOOD DISGUISE.



THERE THEY ARE.



HELLO GUYS! IF IT ALL WORKS OUT AS I'VE PLANNED, YOU SHOULD SOON BE BACK IN OUR "CRAPPY OLD WORLD".



AFTER CONNECTING MY LAPTOP TO THE OPTICAL READER, I SELECT "ALONE IN THE SHADOWS".



FINE!

CHOOSE YOUR GAME!

THE OPTIONS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!



BESIDES MYSELF, I INCLUDE FITO AND CLARA AS THE OTHER PLAYERS.



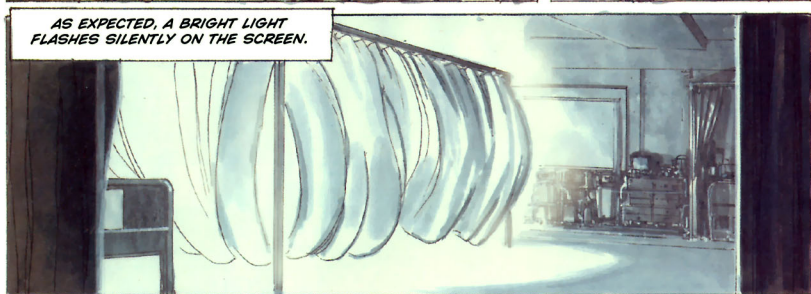
THIS IS IT! IF I DON'T SUCCEED, PLEASE
FORGIVE ME, FITO, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE!



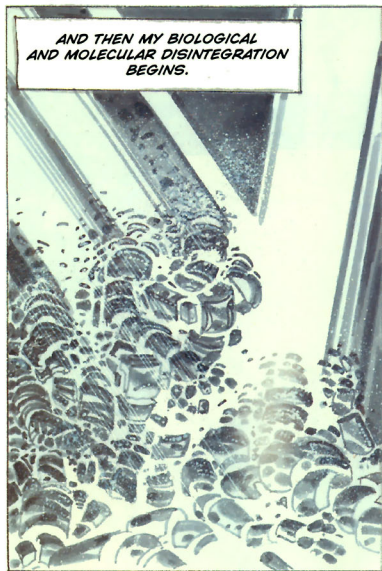
HERE GOES NOTHING!



AS EXPECTED, A BRIGHT LIGHT
FLASHES SILENTLY ON THE SCREEN.



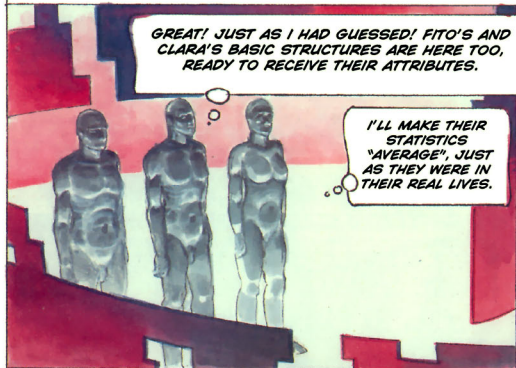
AND THEN MY BIOLOGICAL
AND MOLECULAR DISINTEGRATION
BEGINS.



THIS TIME AROUND, MY APPEARANCE IS
NOT CLEARLY DEFINED. I MEAN, I HAVE
NO APPEARANCE AT ALL, EXCEPT FOR
THE BASIC FORM OF A 3D-STRUCTURE
TO BE TWEAKED BY THE OPTIONS THE
GAME OFFERS.



THAT SEEMS LOGICAL SINCE IN ROLE-PLAYING GAMES THE PLAYERS CAN CHOOSE THE APPEARANCE AND ATTRIBUTES THEY WANT OR NEED, BEFORE THEY START THE GAME.



GREAT! JUST AS I HAD GUESSED! FITO'S AND CLARA'S BASIC STRUCTURES ARE HERE TOO, READY TO RECEIVE THEIR ATTRIBUTES.

I'LL MAKE THEIR STATISTICS "AVERAGE", JUST AS THEY WERE IN THEIR REAL LIVES.



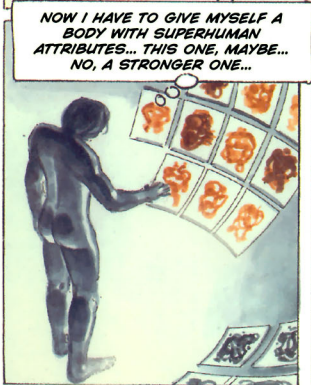
I'LL START WITH MY OWN FACE... HERE'S THE FILE.



I HOPE IT WORKS WHEN I DRAG IT ACROSS THE SCREEN...



YUP! IT WORKS!



NOW I HAVE TO GIVE MYSELF A BODY WITH SUPERHUMAN ATTRIBUTES... THIS ONE, MAYBE... NO, A STRONGER ONE...



YEAH! THIS ONE SEEMS SUFFICIENTLY MUSCLE BOUND.



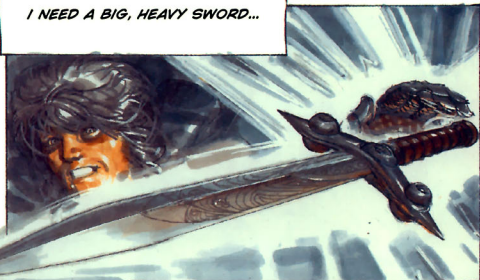
PERFECT! I COULD GIVE SCHWARTZY A RUIN FOR HIS MONEY.



I MUST CHOOSE
MY ARMOR, NEXT.

IT MUST BE IMPENETRABLE.

I NEED A BIG, HEAVY SWORD...



... AND A FEW OTHER WEAPONS... A
CROSSBOW AND BOLTS, A DAGGER AND
KNUCKLE-DUSTERS, A BLOWGUN AND POI-
SONED DARTS, AND A NICE HEAVY FLAIL.



AND, FINALLY, SOME MAGIC POWERS.

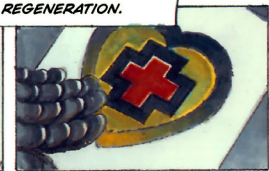
FLIGHT.



INVISIBILITY.



REGENERATION.



I THINK I'M READY TO ENTER INTO THE
WORLD OF SHADOWS. AND NOW...



... FOR THE HARDEST PART. I MUST TAKE CLARA
AND FITO WITH ME SO THAT I CAN INCORPORATE
THEM INTO THE GAME LATER ON.

MAYBE IF I PUT THEM IN THE
BLOWGUN AND SEAL THE ENDS...

BUT HOW?
LET'S SEE...

I'LL BE ABLE TO REDUCE
THEM TO DUST. AND I MUSTN'T
FORGET TO INCLUDE...

... THE FILES WITH ALL THE
LEVELS THEY PLAYED IN THE
NEW WORLD GAMES.

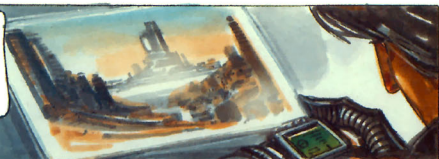
THEY CORRESPOND TO
THE PHOTOS THAT I
SCANNED.

FINE... NOW WE'RE...

... READY TO MOVE ON...

... I THINK.

*I WON'T FINISH THE ENTIRE LEVEL.
I'LL JUST PLAY THE PART OF THE GAME
THAT INTEREST ME... AND THAT'S THE
JOURNEY TO THE GRAND MANN PLATEAU...
THIS IS IT.*



*THE FASTEST WAY TO GET THERE
IS TO TRANSFORM INTO AN
EAGLE...*



*... AND OBSERVE THE
DANGERS FROM ABOVE.*



*I'LL HAVE TO ELUDE THE TRAPS
IN RED VALLEY.*



*BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID
THE DISTORTIONS CREATED BY THE
MUTANT GAME.*



*DANGER ALSO LURKS IN THE
BOTTOMLESS LAKE...*

*... IN THE FORM OF POISONOUS
GLASS TENTACLES...*

*... WHICH MAKE IT IMPOSSI-
BLE TO GET TO THE FRUIT
OF THE WIND WITHOUT
SMASHING INTO THEM.*



*THE WHITE DESERT!
THIS IS WHERE I
HAVE TO CAPTURE
THE SACRED SNAKE.*

*IT LIVES UNDER THE STONES
OF THE RUINS OF ROSENTHAL'S
SACRED WALL. I MUSTN'T WAKE
UP THE GOLEM.*

*THE GHOST OF LORD
ROCKWELL PROTECTS THIS
WALL. NO ONE WHO
TOUCHES IT CAN SURVIVE...*



*BUT I'M NOT QUITE
ENOUGH...*





MEANWHILE, AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL...
IN THE MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE ROOM...



IT'S THOSE COMATOSE KIDS
ON THE THIRD FLOOR. I'D BETTER
GO AND CHECK.



LORD ROCKWELL DOESN'T NOTICE THAT THE EAGLE HAS TURNED INTO A MAN. THINKING HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED HIS TASK, HE GOES BACK TO HIS USUAL STATE OF STONY VIGILANCE.



IT'S A BIT DARKER.

WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND, I BEGIN TO LOOK FOR ROSENTHAL'S STONE. IT CAN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT TO FIND...



TIME IS GOING BY, AND I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT... I BECOME LESS CAUTIOUS. THE SACRED SNAKE SEES ME FIRST AND DEFENDS ITSELF WITH ITS BEST WEAPON...



... IT'S ABILITY TO GROW!

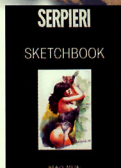


IT BECOMES A MILLION TIMES BIGGER, AND ALMOST BURNS ME ALIVE WITH ITS ACID BREATH, REDUCING MY VITAL ENERGY BY 50 PERCENT.



DRUUNA

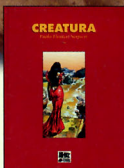
HOT, HARDBOUND and DELIVERED...
UNCENSORED VERSIONS!



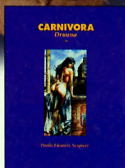
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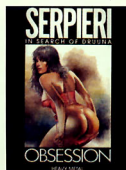


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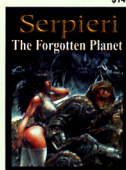
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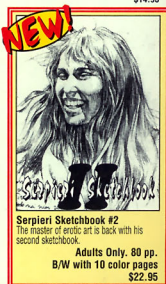
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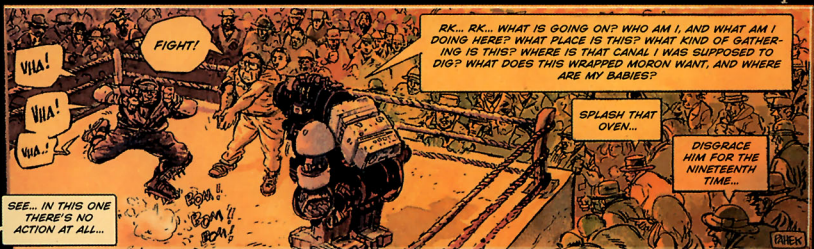
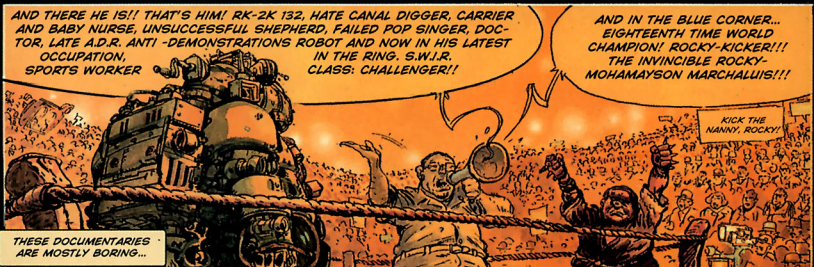
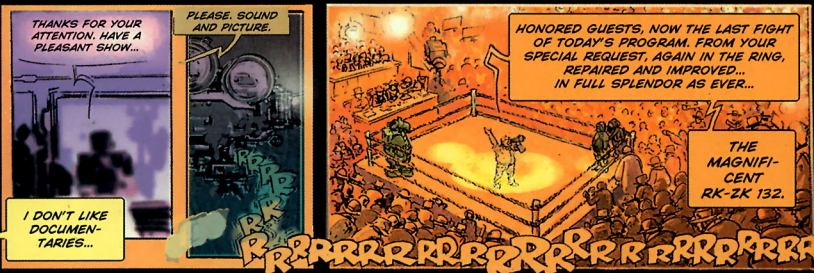
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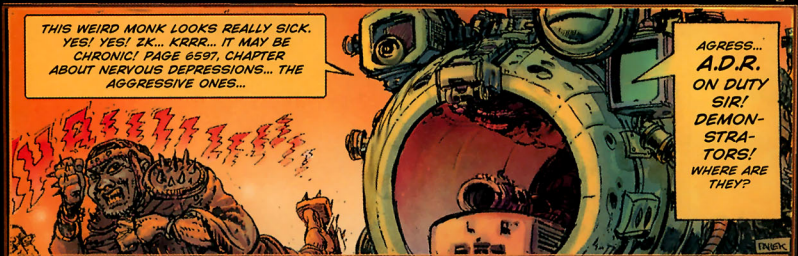
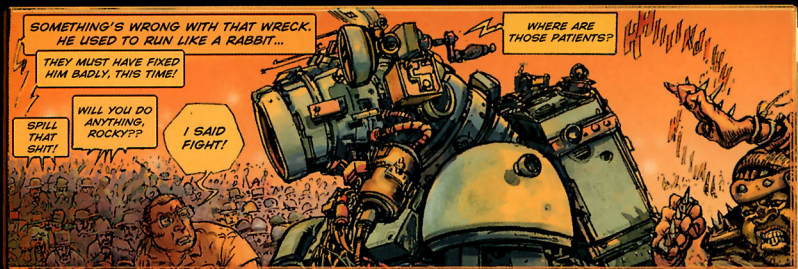
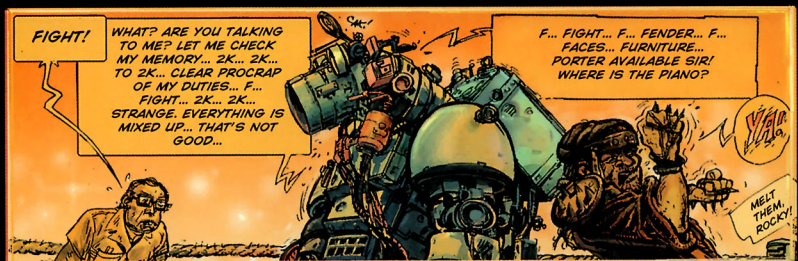
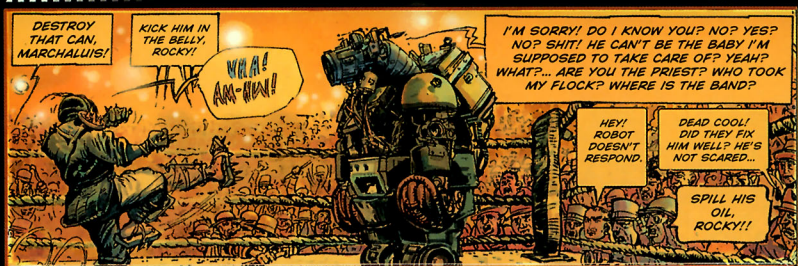
CINEMA HISTOIRES

© PAHEK

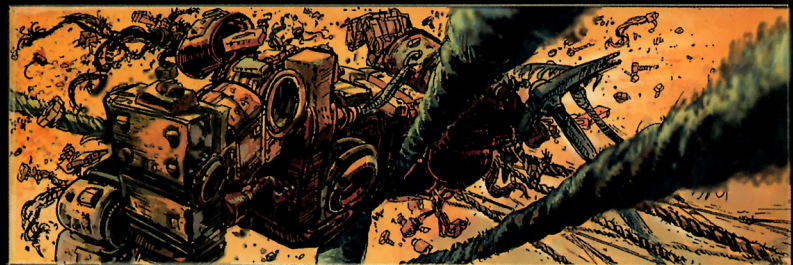
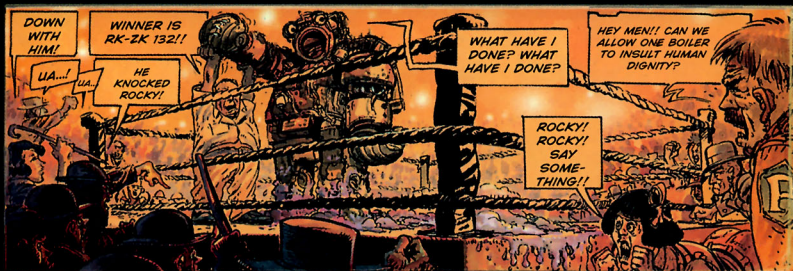
- DEAR SPECTATORS, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SHOW YOU TODAY, ON OUR "CINEMA HISTORIES" PROGRAM, THE GREAT DOCUMENTARY FILM, RK-ZK 132 ROBOT- "NINETEENTH TIME".
- IN THIS SPORT ARCHIVE YOU WON'T FIND OUT ANYTHING NEW ABOUT ROBOTS OR HUMANS. THIS IS ONLY HISTORY.
- THIS FILM IS NOT ONLY A SPORT DOCUMENTARY, IT IS ALSO ONE TRULY SAD TESTIMONY ABOUT THAT BARBAROUS TIME, WHICH RECENTLY PASSED AND NEVER, NEVER, NEVER WILL BE BACK AGAIN...

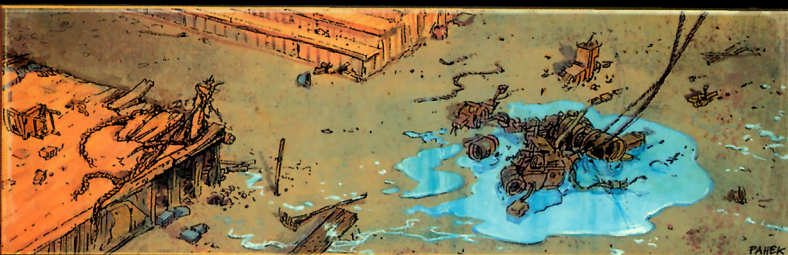
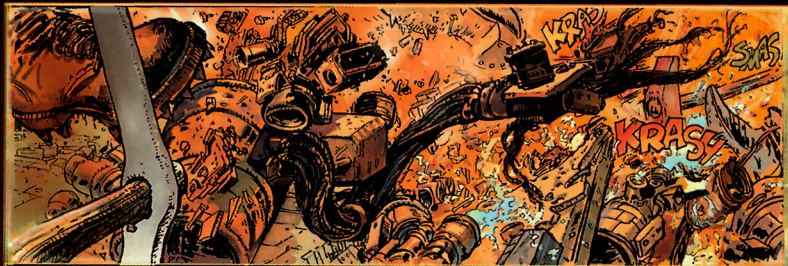


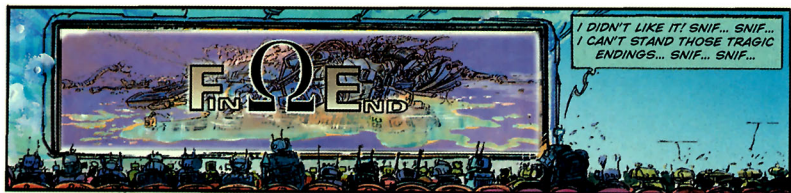
PAHEK











SEE WHY I DON'T LIKE THOSE DOCUMENTARIES? MOVIEMAKERS ARE TOO INFLUENCED BY MAMMALS... WHEN WE GONNA SEE SOME REAL HAPPY ENDING STORIES?

CINEMA HISTORIES

ACTUALLY, IT STARTED OUT VERY GOOD! REAL ENJOYMENT! NICE EFFECTS! SPLASH! SPLASH! SLOSH! SLOSH! WHAT BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS!

NO... NO... MY DEAR KIDLERS... DO NOT BE AFRAID... IT'S OVER NOW... HUH, HOW DARE THEY SHOW THINGS LIKE THIS...



EH... AH... UH... THOSE MELODRAMAS FROM THE LAST CENTURY ALWAYS MAKE ME SO SAD...

DISGUSTING! HORRIBLE! THIS GOT ME DOWN! I'M SHOCKED WITH THOSE OIL SCENES...

BLEUH! IT'S MORBID... EVERYWHERE SMALL PARTS, BOLTS, TORN WIRE!

YOU TIN-PLATE OF A HUSBAND, I TOLD YOU THAT KIDS CAN SEE IT!

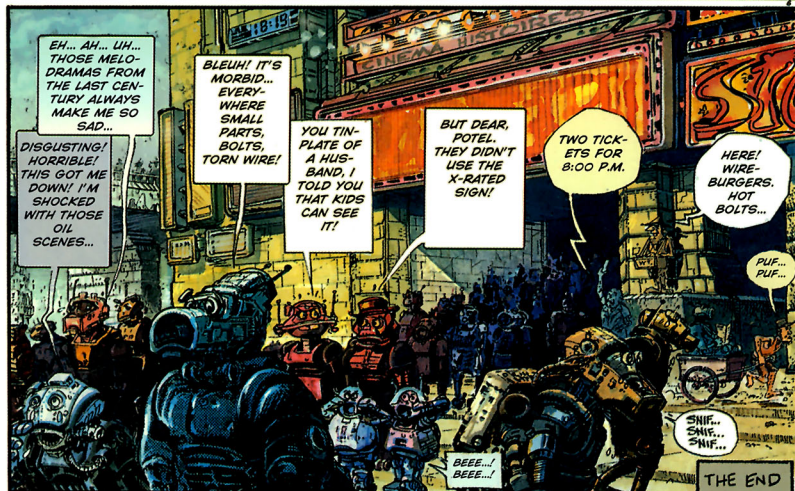
BUT DEAR, POTEL, THEY DIDN'T USE THE X-RATED SIGN!

TWO TICKETS FOR 8:00 P.M.

HERE! WIRE-BURGERS. HOT BOLTS...

PUF... PUF...

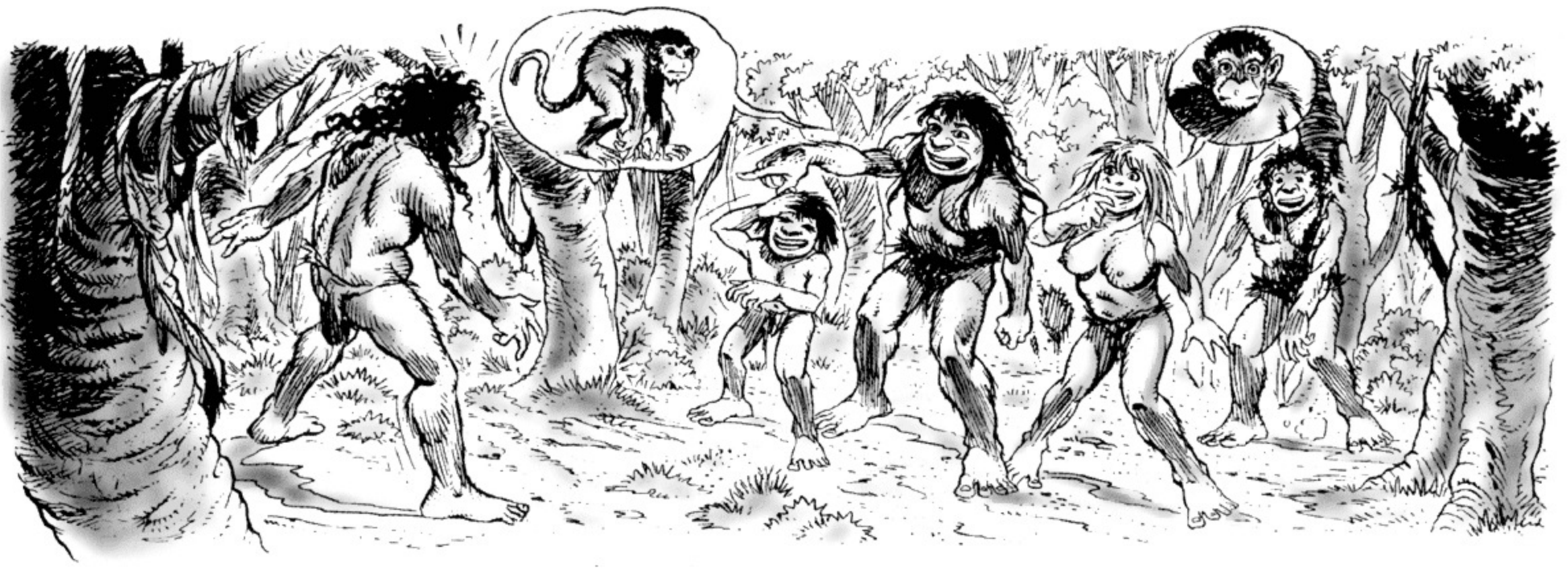
SNIF... SNIF... SNIF...



THE END
2. ПАНЕК









HI THERE, GORGEOUS!

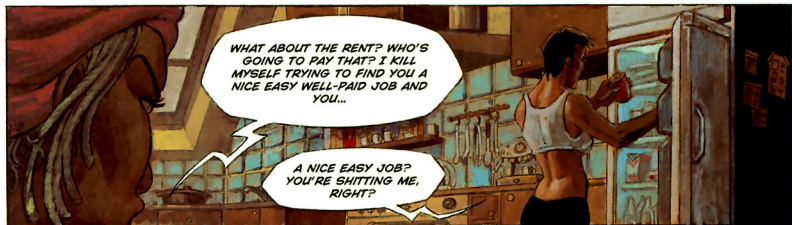
...I SWEAR, GEORGIO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO HER!

OKAY... I'VE GOTTA GO NOW. I'LL CHECK IT OUT WITH HER... YEAH... OKAY... BYE.



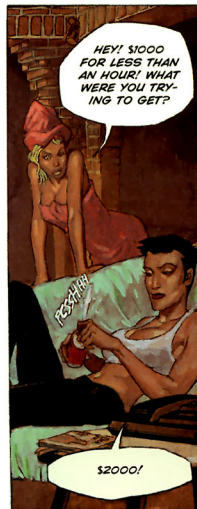
HI, SUPER BITCH! HEY, GEORGIO JUST PHONED. IT SEEMS YOU'VE TOALED HIS CAMERAS... WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

NO BIG DEAL... JUST A SLIGHT MIS-UNDERSTANDING... I WAS RENEGOTIATING MY HOURLY RATE.



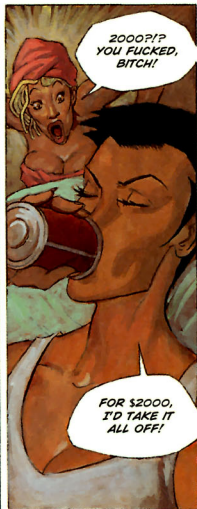
WHAT ABOUT THE RENT? WHO'S GOING TO PAY THAT? I KILL MYSELF TRYING TO FIND YOU A NICE EASY WELL-PAID JOB AND YOU...

A NICE EASY JOB? YOU'RE SHITTING ME, RIGHT?



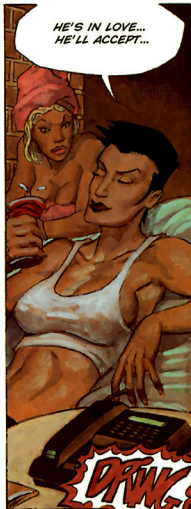
HEY! \$1000 FOR LESS THAN AN HOUR! WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO GET?

\$2000!



2000?!? YOU FUCKED, BITCH!

FOR \$2000, I'D TAKE IT ALL OFF!



HE'S IN LOVE... HE'LL ACCEPT...



OKAY! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!



I HAVE TO GO TO CENTRAL HOSPITAL!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT GEORGIO. HE'LL CALL BACK IN AN HOUR AND DOUBLE MY FEE!

...SO YOU SEE, SERGEANT,
WE'RE FACED WITH A MEDICAL
ENIGMA!

THE FIRST EXAMINATION REVEALED
A DOUBLE PERFORATION OF THE
LUNGS, DAMAGE IN THE ANTERIOR
VENA CAVA AND IN THE
PARIETAL-CRANIAL AREA... TO LIST
ONLY THE MOST SERIOUS INJURIES.

WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?

NORMALLY, SHE
SHOULD BE DEAD
AND LONG
BURIED!

ANOTHER MYSTERY... WE HAVE
TWO SCANS, ONE BEFORE AND
ONE AFTER HER CONDITION
STABILIZED...

...THE SECOND
SCAN SHOWS THAT
ALL HER INTERNAL
LESIONS HAVE
DISAPPEARED!

AND HERE'S
THE CLINCHER...

...WHEN SHE ARRIVED,
HER ELECTRO-
ENCEPHALOGRAM WAS
FLAT-LINING. BUT WHEN
WE EXAMINED HER
AGAIN, HER MENTAL
ACTIVITY WAS SO GREAT
THAT SHE GRILLED THE
CIRCUITS!

WOW!

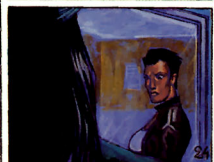
BELIEVE ME, SERGEANT,
I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN
MY ENTIRE CAREER!

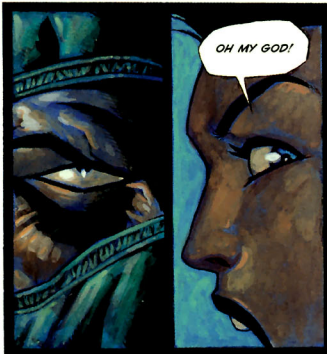
WHEN DO YOU THINK
SHE WILL BE READY FOR
INTERROGATION?

BY THE WAY, SERGEANT...
I'LL BE GOING OFF DUTY
IN A FEW MINUTES AND
I KNOW A NICE
RESTAURANT...

HOLD IT! NOT SO FAST!
SHE'S STILL IN A DEEP
COMA AND THERE'S NO
SAYING WHEN SHE'LL
COME OUT OF IT...

NOT TONIGHT,
DOC. I'VE HAD A
TOUGH DAY.
SOME OTHER
TIME, MAYBE...



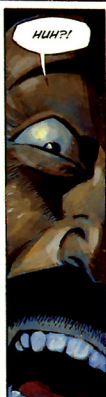




SO WE MEET
AGAIN,
WOMAN!



HUH?!



WHAT...?







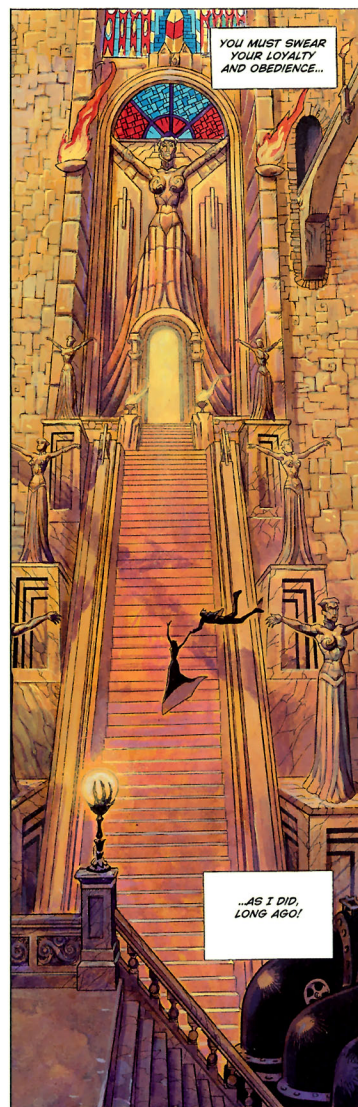
LET ME GUIDE YOU
THROUGH THE DOOR
BETWEEN THE WORLDS,
JUSTINE GALLAGHER!

THE CABAL OF
SEVEN HAS BEEN
DISMANTLED...



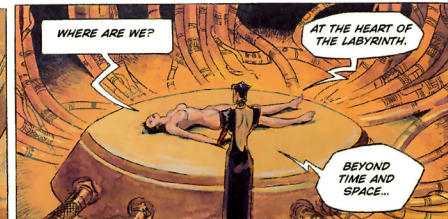
...AND MY
MISSION IS TO
RECONSTRUCT IT.

MAGIKA HAS CHOSEN
YOU!



YOU MUST SWEAR
YOUR LOYALTY
AND OBEDIENCE...

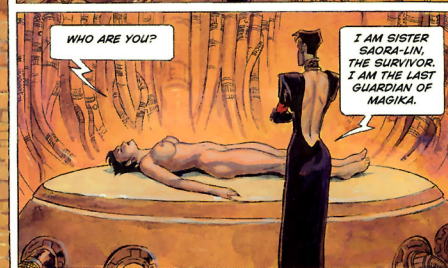
...AS I DID,
LONG AGO!



WHERE ARE WE?

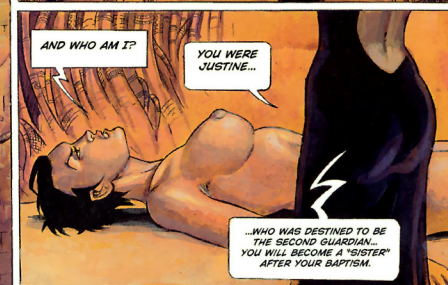
AT THE HEART OF
THE LABYRINTH.

BEYOND
TIME AND
SPACE...



WHO ARE YOU?

I AM SISTER
SAORA-LIN,
THE SURVIVOR.
I AM THE LAST
GUARDIAN OF
MAGIKA.



AND WHO AM I?

YOU WERE
JUSTINE...

...WHO WAS DESTINED TO BE
THE SECOND GUARDIAN...
YOU WILL BECOME A "SISTER"
AFTER YOUR BAPTISM.



THAT'S
ENOUGH! I'M
FED UP WITH
THIS NEW-AGE
BULLSHIT!

HMMM...



I CAN SEE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO EDUCATE YOU. THIS DRESS BELONGED TO SHANA-LIN, THE DEAD WOMAN. IT'S YOURS NOW.



I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO TACKY! NO WAY I'M GONNA WEAR THAT!

OKAY. WE CAN BEND THE RULES A BIT... REGARDING YOUR OUTFIT.



YEAH SURE! BEND THE RULES! BUT I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

YOU HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS ALREADY, JUSTINE. YOU JUST HAVE TO OPEN UP YOUR MIND!



COME WITH ME! I MUST SHOW YOU YOUR NEW HOME.

OKAY, MARY-LIN! I'M JUST LOADING MY GUN, IN CASE WE BUMP INTO THE MINOTAUR!



SO?



WE'VE EXISTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME. WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF MAGIKA, WHICH IS THE ESSENCE AND FOUNDATION OF EVERY LIVING THING.

IS THAT ALL?



WE LIVED ON EARTH FOR A VERY LONG TIME... THEN ONE DAY THERE AROSE A NEW CABAL, DEVOTED TO CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION... BLACK MAGIKA!

I SEE... AND ITS LEADER IS DARTH VADER.



YOUR INCREDULOUS, REBEL-
LIOUS SPIRIT KEEPS YOU FROM SEEING THE REALITY OF THINGS. YET, IF YOU'D ONLY OPEN YOUR EYES...



YEAH... WELL, I MUST SAY IT'S BIGGER THAN DISNEYLAND. THAT'S A PLUS FOR YOU.



THIS IS THE LABYRINTH WHERE THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO EMBRACE CHAOS ARE CLOISTERED!

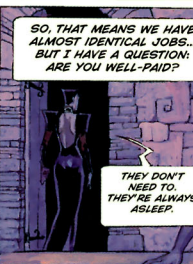
OUR ROLE IS TO INTERVENE AS SOON AS THE BALANCE IS THREATENED. WE MUST NOT GIVE BLACK MAGIKA THE SLIGHTEST OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD AN ARMY.



RIGHT! SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE LABYRINTH IS A SUPER-PRISON. AND YOU, MICHE-LIN, YOU'RE A SUPER-PRISON-GUARD.



SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



SO, THAT MEANS WE HAVE ALMOST IDENTICAL JOBS... BUT I HAVE A QUESTION: ARE YOU WELL-PAID?



EUH... WHERE DO YOUR PRISONERS PLAY BASKETBALL?

THEY DON'T NEED TO. THEY'RE ALWAYS ASLEEP.

COME THIS WAY. I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.



I STILL FEEL FUNNY FROM LAST NIGHT. MUST'VE BEEN THE JOINT... GRASS ALWAYS HAS THAT EFFECT ON ME.

PRETTY STEEP STAIRCASE YOU GOT HERE.

THESE ARE THE QUARTERS WHERE THE INMATES SLEEP.



THERE'S JAMES MAYBRICK'S CELL.

THAT NAME RINGS A BELL...

ON EARTH, HE'S BETTER KNOWN AS JACK THE RIPPER.



THE MARQUIS DE SADE, RASPUTIN, STALIN, CHARLES MANSON...

YOU'RE JUST NAME-DROPPING.



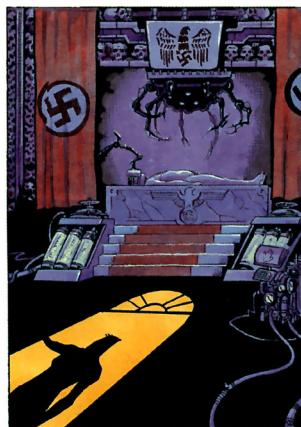
ADOLF HITLER.

?



POL POT, DAVID KORESH, AND EVEN...

CLIK CLIK



A NINE-MILLIMETER CRANIAL PROBE IS ON ITS WAY...

HEY, ADOLF!

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR TREATMENT!

WASS?

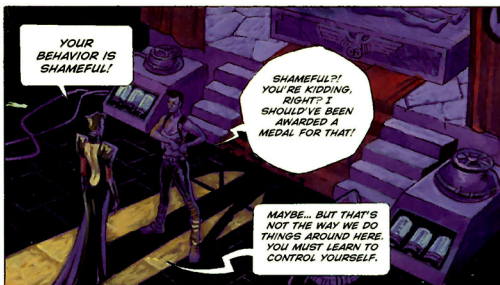
SAY HI TO THE DEVIL FOR ME!



NO!
STOP!

POW!

LEMME
GO!



YOUR
BEHAVIOR IS
SHAMEFUL!

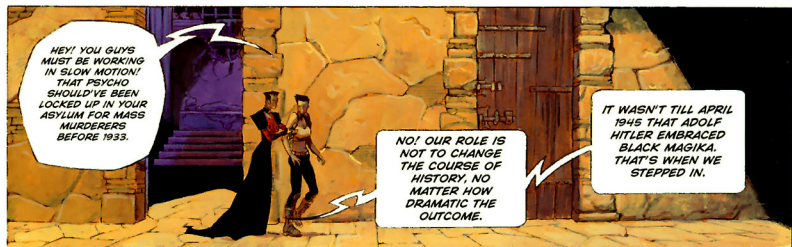
SHAMEFUL?!
YOU'RE KIDDING,
RIGHT? I
SHOULD'VE BEEN
AWARDED A
MEDAL FOR THAT!

MAYBE... BUT THAT'S
NOT THE WAY WE DO
THINGS AROUND HERE.
YOU MUST LEARN TO
CONTROL YOURSELF.



FUCKIN'
STUPID!

WE'RE NOT
EXECUTIONERS. WE
JUST RESTRAINED
THEM IN ORDER TO
STOP THE
OBSCURE CABAL
FROM BEING
REBORN. THAT'S
ALL!



HEY! YOU GUYS
MUST BE WORKING
IN SLOW MOTION!
THAT PSYCHO
SHOULD'VE BEEN
LOCKED UP IN YOUR
ASYLUM FOR MASS
MURDERS
BEFORE 1933.

NO! OUR ROLE IS
NOT TO CHANGE
THE COURSE OF
HISTORY, NO
MATTER HOW
DRAMATIC THE
OUTCOME.

IT WASN'T TILL APRIL
1945 THAT ADOLF
HITLER EMBRACED
BLACK MAGIKA.
THAT'S WHEN WE
STEPPED IN.



LISTEN TO ME, JUSTINE
GALLAGHER. IF YOU WANT
TO JOIN US, YOU MUST BE
PREPARED TO TRY A BIT
HARDER... I CAN'T
TOLERATE YOUR CHILDISH
TANTRUMS MUCH LONGER!

JUST A
MINUTE! I
DIDN'T ASK TO
GET INTO THIS!

MAYBE...
BUT YOU WERE
CHOSEN BY
MAGIKA...

...TO BECOME A
GUARDIAN...



...IF YOU SURVIVE
THE BAPTISM OF
KALA-AAS...

WOW!

SUPER-DISCO
ATMOSPHERE!
ARE THEY SHOOTING
A REMAKE OF
"SATURDAY NIGHT
FEVER"?



AND WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED
TO DO NOW?

YOU KNOW, I'M
NOT REALLY INTO
RELIGIOUS
CEREMONIES...

COME IN!
THE BATHS
OF MAGIKA
AWAIT
YOU!



NO, JUSTINE!
NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU CAN'T
IGNORE...

...THE PROTO-
COL!

GREAT! I
LOVE LONG
SOAKS IN THE
TUB!
WHERE'S MY
RUBBER
DUCK?

POOF!
POOF!
POOF!

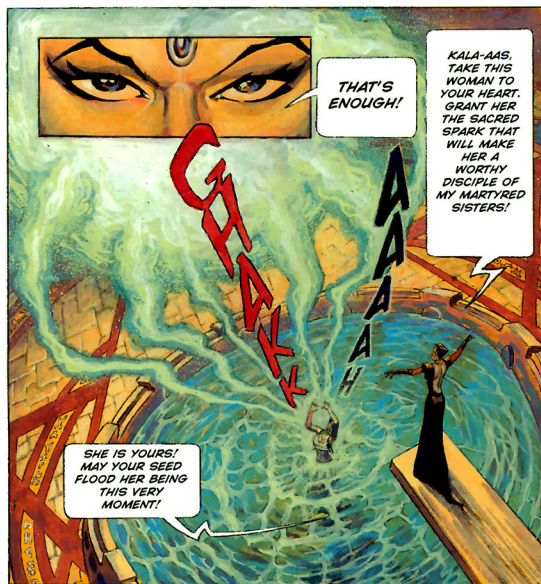


COME ON!
WE CAN
HAVE A WET
T-SHIRT
CONTEST!

BUT I'M
WARNING YOU,
I'M GONNA WIN
'CAUSE MY
BOOBS ARE
BIGGER THAN
YOURS!

JUSTINE!

POOF!
POOF!



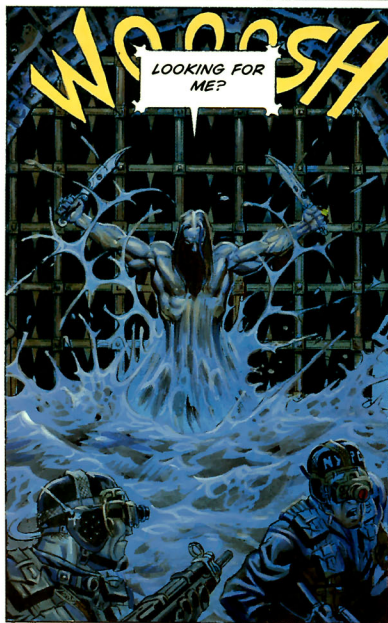
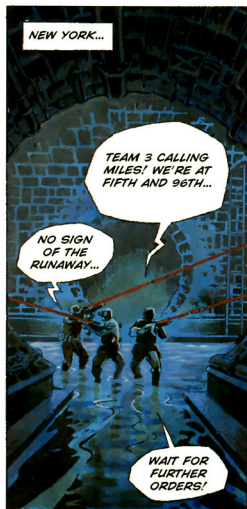
THAT'S
ENOUGH!

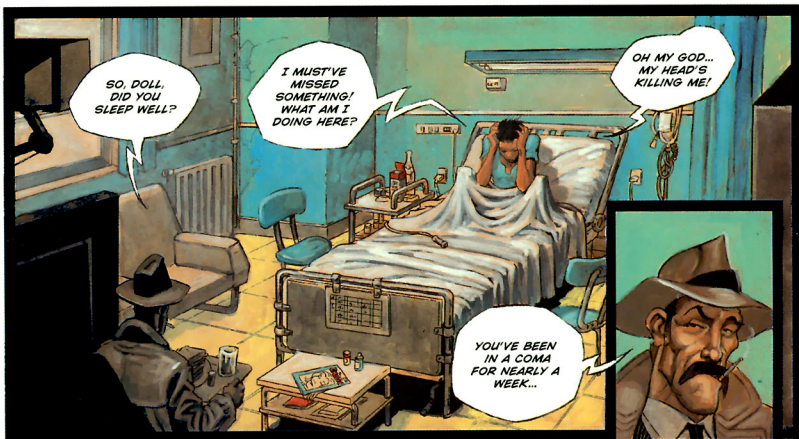
KALA-AAS,
TAKE THIS
WOMAN TO
YOUR HEART.
GRANT HER
THE SACRED
SPARK THAT
WILL MAKE
HER A
WORTHY
DISCIPLE OF
MY MARTYRED
SISTERS!

SHE IS YOURS!
MAY YOUR SEED
FLOOD HER BEING
THIS VERY
MOMENT!



GO BACK TO
YOUR WORLD,
SISTER
JUSTINE! FIND
VLAD TEPES.
FOR THIS IS
YOUR FIRST
MISSION. THE
FUTURE OF THE
CABAL AND OF
THE WORLD
DEPENDS ON
YOUR
SUCCESS!





SO, DOLL,
DID YOU
SLEEP WELL?

I MUST'VE
MISSED
SOMETHING!
WHAT AM I
DOING HERE?

OH MY GOD...
MY HEAD'S
KILLING ME!

YOU'VE BEEN
IN A COMA
FOR NEARLY A
WEEK...

A WEEK?!

YEAH... YOU WERE
OFTEN DELIRIOUS. YOU
KEPT TALKING ABOUT
MAGIKA AND A
LABYRINTH...

YOU WERE EVEN
PREPARING TO KILL
HITLER. BUT DON'T
WORRY... I WON'T RAT
ON YOU TO THE COPS.

YOU REALLY
DON'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING?

NO! IT'S
A TOTAL
BLANK!

WELL... TOO
BAD.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

HMM...
I'M GOING
HOME! I
CAN'T STAND
HOSPITALS.

THE DOC ISN'T
GOING TO BE
HAPPY! I THINK
HE'S GOT THE
HOTS FOR YOU.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU'RE
OKAY, KID?

DO YOU WANT A
RIDE HOME?

NO
THANKS,
SAM.

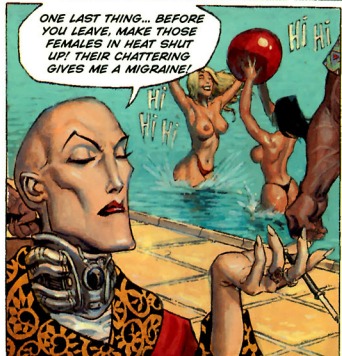
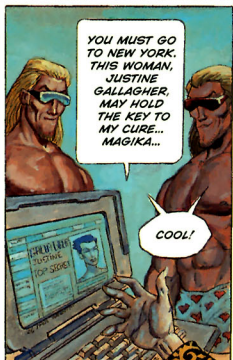
BY THE WAY,
THE BOSS
WANTS A
WORD...

HE WANTS TO KNOW HOW
YOU AND THAT PSYCHO
DIDN'T SHOW UP ON THE
SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS...

...AND HOW YOU
REAPPEARED
ALONE TEN
SECONDS
LATER!

NO PROBLEM!
I'LL
TELL HIM
THAT.

VLAM!





...YOU'RE GONNA
CATCH COLD!

WHO ARE YOU,
LITTLE GIRL?

...AND THEN
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE
BLED...

...OR EVEN MADE
TO DRINK SOME
HOT SEWER JUICE.

MY NAME IS MINHEA. AND
THIS IS MY DOLL, BARBIE.
BUT YOU MUSTN'T TELL MY
FATHER. HE DOESN'T WANT
ME TO HAVE A BARBIE
DOLL.

I'M COMING,
MINHEA. DON'T GO
AWAY...

BEFORE,
MY DADDY
USED TO
BE CALLED
MARTIN.
BUT NOW
EVERYONE
CALLS HIM
NEW
JESUS...

WHAT DID YOU
SAY HIS NAME
WAS?

NEW JESUS!
YOU SHOULD GET
THE WAX OUT OF
YOUR EARS!

YOU KNOW, MY DADDY WAS IN PRISON.
PEOPLE SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT MY
DADDY...

...HE CAME HOME
YESTERDAY. HIS
BROTHERS
SPRUNG HIM...

AND
THERE'S
THIS MEAN
LADY THAT
LOCKED HIM
UP. HE
SAYS HE'S
GONNA
PUNISH
HER.

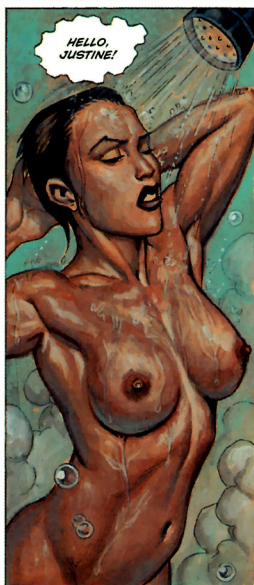
MINHEA...

...AND HE
BROUGHT
ME THIS
DOLL, AND
I CALL HER
BARBIE.

...TAKE ME
TO YOUR
FATHER!

YES,
MISTER!

THE CHILDREN OF
THE APOCALYPSE
WILL BE HAPPY!
WE DON'T HAVE
MANY VISITORS!





IS THAT YOU, NORA?



ZAP!
AFTER ESCAPING FROM A HIGH-SECURITY PRISON TWO DAYS AGO, ACCORDING TO AN FBI SPOKESPERSON, INVESTIGATORS ARE FOLLOWING A TIP-OFF...



...NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MYSTERIOUS PERPETRATOR OF LAST WEEK'S MASSACRE AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL...



THREE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCES UNIT THAT FOLLOWED HIM INTO THE SEWERS HAVE BEEN KILLED, BUT HIS WHEREABOUTS REMAIN UNKNOWN. LIEUTENANT MILES, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT...



JUSTINE, TRY TO REMEMBER!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

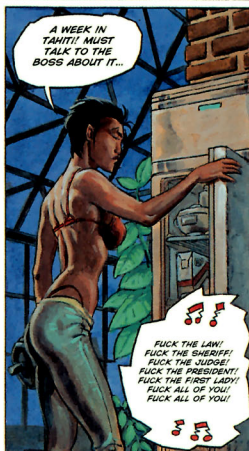
YOUR WORLD IS IN DANGER!

HUH?!



I'M HALLUCINATING!

OUR SPECIAL GUEST TODAY IS THE FAMOUS WHITE RAPPER EMINENCE. NOW! DO I LOVE THIS JOB! BUT FIRST, LET'S LISTEN TO HIS NEW INTERPLANETARY HIT!



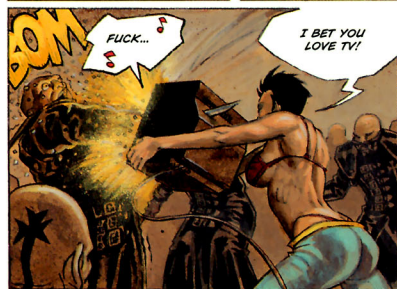
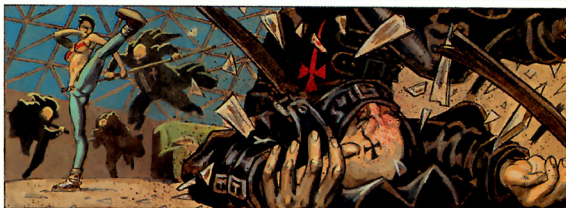
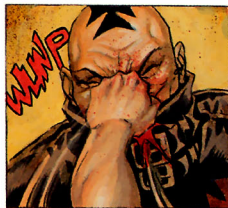
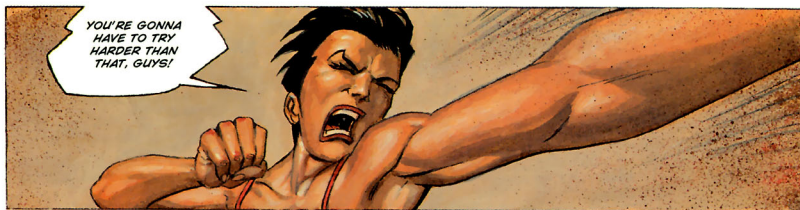
A WEEK IN TAHITI! MUST TALK TO THE BOSS ABOUT IT...

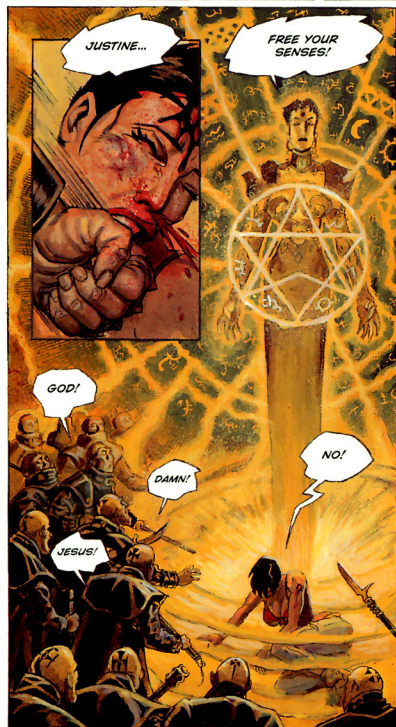
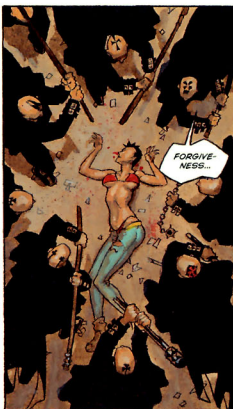
**FUCK THE LAW!
FUCK THE SHERIFF!
FUCK THE JUDGE!
FUCK THE PRESIDENT!
FUCK THE FIRST LADY!
FUCK ALL OF YOU!
FUCK ALL OF YOU!**



YOUR TURN, JUSTINE!









YOU'VE BECOME
A FIGHTER!
YOU MUST LEARN
TO USE THIS!~

NO!

...NOTHING
SHOULD STOP
YOU!

IF YOU HELP
MAGIKA, YOU
WILL BE
REWARDED!

VLAD TEPOS IS NOT
JUST A PAWN!
HE HAS ABSORBED
THE POWER OF MY
MARTYRED SISTERS...

WE CAN OVERPOWER
HIM BEFORE HE
REMEMBERS!

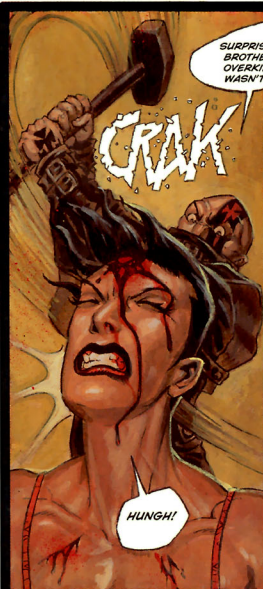
HURRY! HE HOLDS THE
KEY TO BLACK MAGIKA!
AND IF HE MANAGES TO
UNLOCK THE DOORS, THE
BALANCE WILL BE FOREVER
BROKEN.

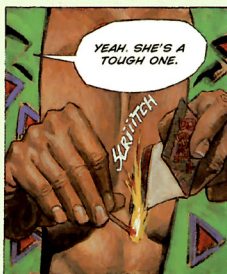
STOP
SCREAMING
INSIDE MY
HEAD...

STOP IT,
I SAID!

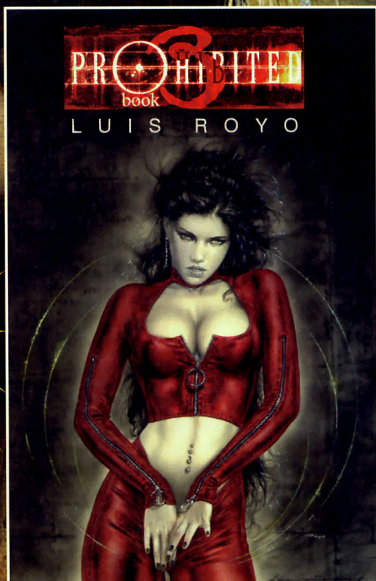
NO!

NONE OF THIS IS
MAKING ANY
SENSE.





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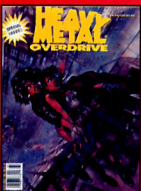
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