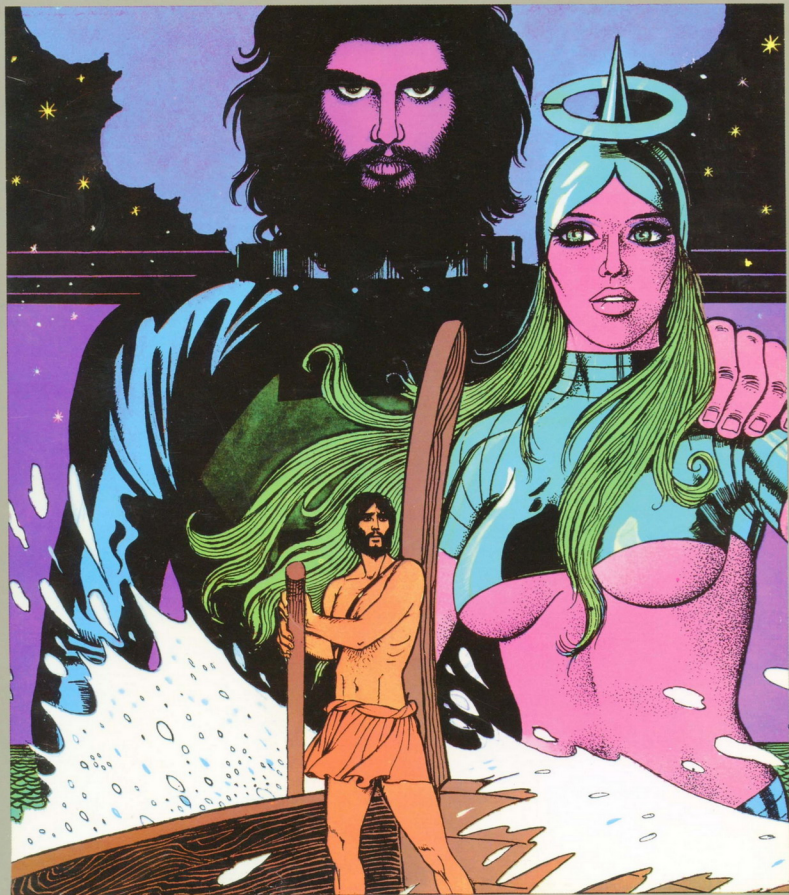


HEAVY
METAL PRESENTS

ULYSSES

HOMER - LOB - PICHARD



ULYSSES

HOMER LOB PICHARD

1-932413-68-5

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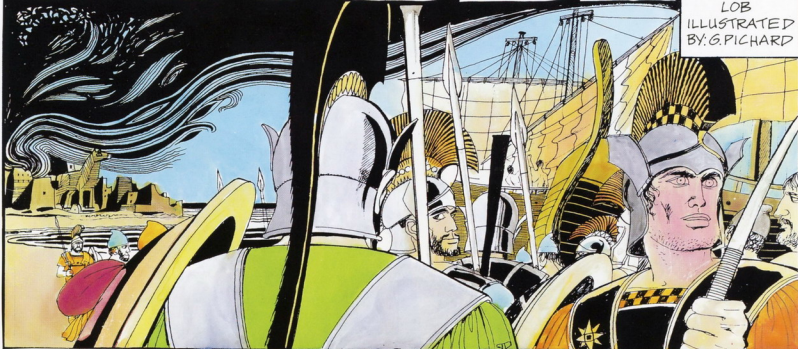
Homer-Lob-Pichard



Translated by Sean Kelly and Valerie Marchant

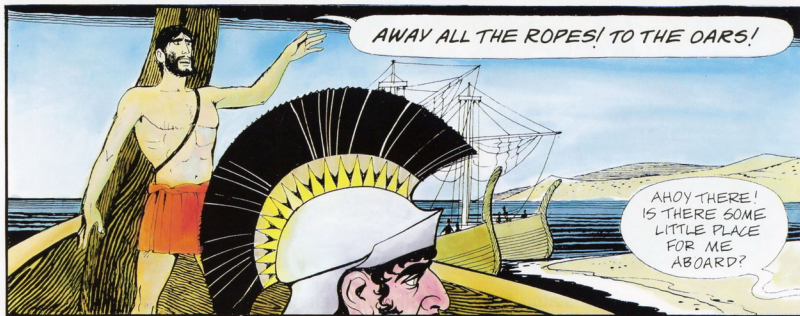
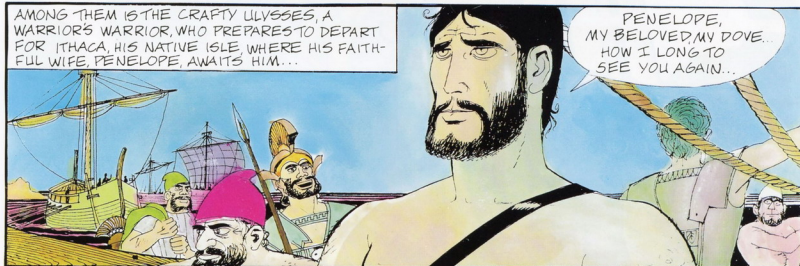
ULYSSES

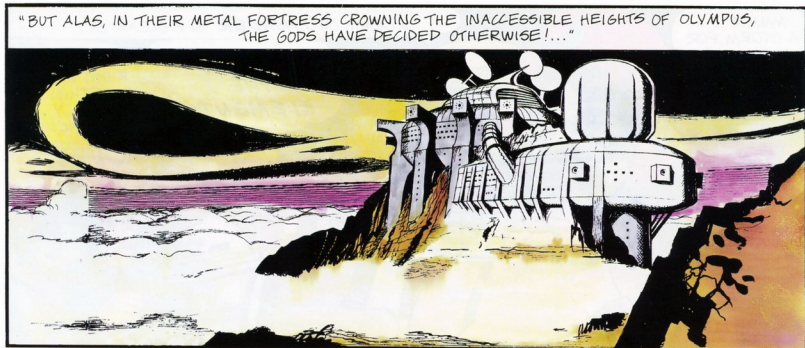
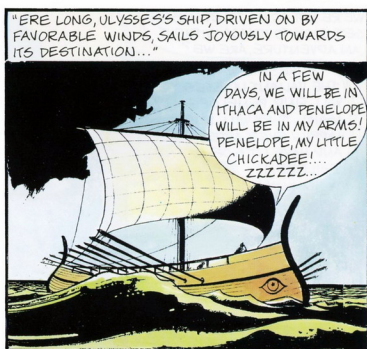
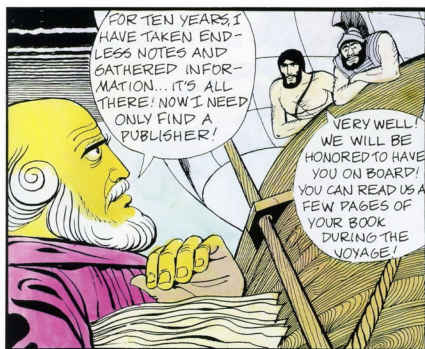
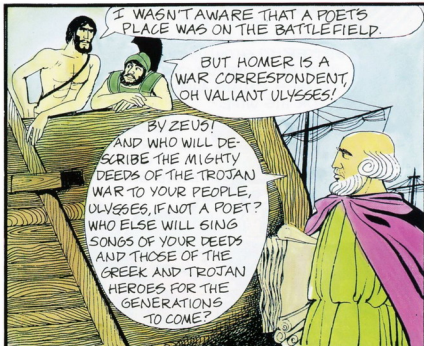
SCRIPT:
HOMER
ADAPTED BY:
LOB
ILLUSTRATED
BY: G. PICHARD

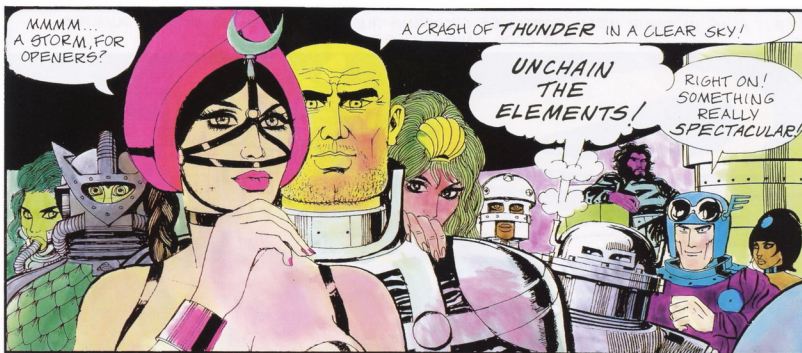


AFTER TEN YEARS OF FIERCE FIGHTING, THE PROUD CITY OF TROY HAS FALLEN TO THE GREEK WARRIORS. TODAY, THE BLOOD OF GALLANT MEN WILL NO LONGER BE SPILLED, AND THE VICTORS WISH ONLY TO RETURN TO THEIR FAR-OFF HOMES.

AMONG THEM IS THE CRAFTY ULYSSES, A WARRIOR'S WARRIOR, WHO PREPARES TO DEPART FOR ITHACA, HIS NATIVE ISLE, WHERE HIS FAITHFUL WIFE, PENELOPE, AWAITS HIM...

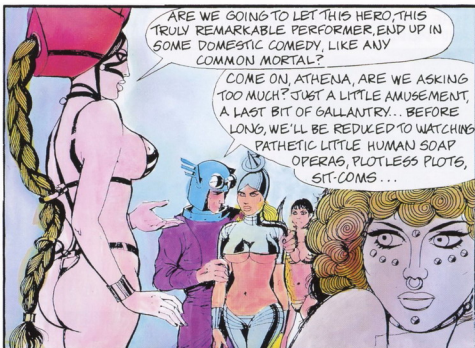
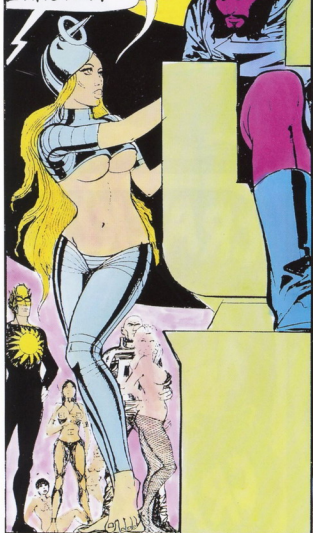






DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, ZEUS! HAGN'T ULYSSES ALREADY PROVED HIS COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DANGER? HAS HE EVER DISAPPOINTED US? HE'S PUT IN TEN YEARS FIGHTING, FOR OUR AMUSEMENT! DOESN'T HE FINALLY DESERVE TO FIND HIS HOME AND THOSE HE LOVES AGAIN?

EXACTLY!



ARE WE GOING TO LET THIS HERO, THIS TRULY REMARKABLE PERFORMER, END UP IN SOME DOMESTIC COMEDY, LIKE ANY COMMON MORTAL?

COME ON, ATHENA, ARE WE ASKING TOO MUCH? JUST A LITTLE AMUSEMENT, A LAST BIT OF GALLANTRY... BEFORE LONG, WE'LL BE REDUCED TO WATCHING PATHETIC LITTLE HUMAN SOAP OPERAS, PLOTLESS PLOTS, SIT-COMS...

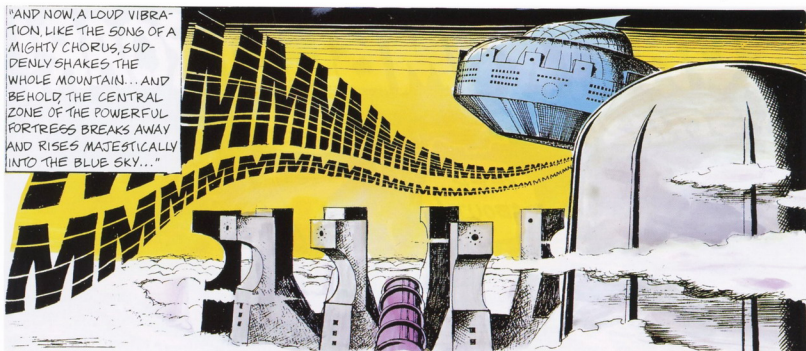


ULYSSES IS A TERRIFIC SAILOR! HE'LL COME THROUGH WITH FLYING COLORS!

SO BE IT, THEN!... AND IF HE CAN'T DO IT ALONE WE'LL HELP HIM! ALL RIGHT, ATHENA?

ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY, PLACES FOR THE SHOW!

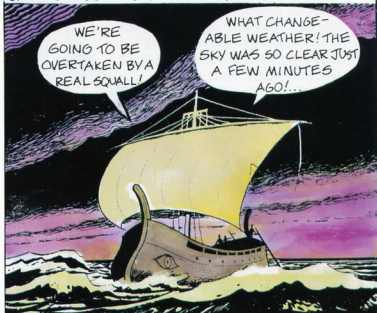
"AND NOW, A LOUD VIBRATION, LIKE THE SONG OF A MIGHTY CHORUS, SUDDENLY SHAKES THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN... AND BEHOLD THE CENTRAL ZONE OF THE POWERFUL FORTRESS BREAKS AWAY AND RISES MAJESTICALLY INTO THE BLUE SKY..."



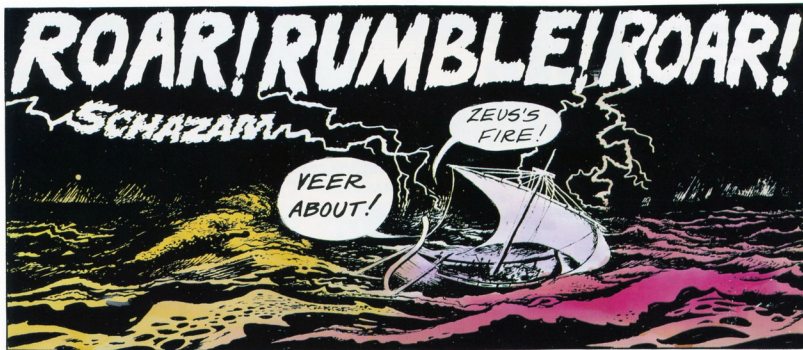
"THE VESSEL OF THE GODS NOW SLIPS ITS MOORINGS
AND DRIFTS ACROSS THE HEAVENS..."

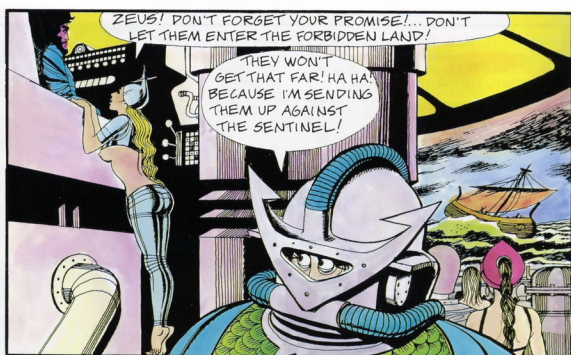
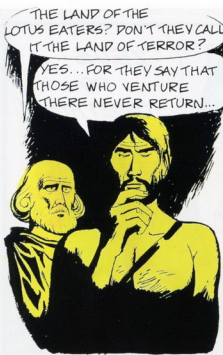
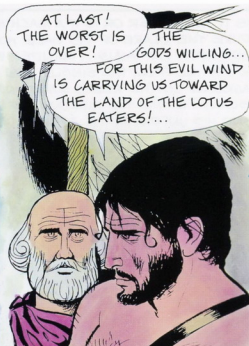
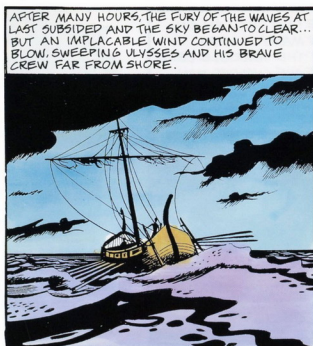
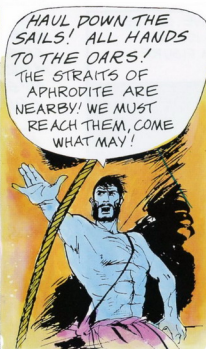


"...AND SEE HOW THE HEAVY BLACK CLOUDS
GATHER ABOVE ULYSSES'S SHIP!..."

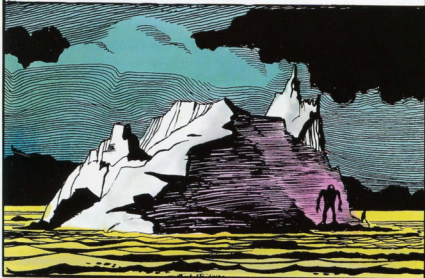


"IT IS THE WORK OF ZEUS, COLLECTOR OF CLOUDS, MASTER OF THE
ELEMENTS, WHO RIGHT NOW IS PREPARING TO UNLEASH FLOODS OF
ENERGY UPON THE EARTH!..."

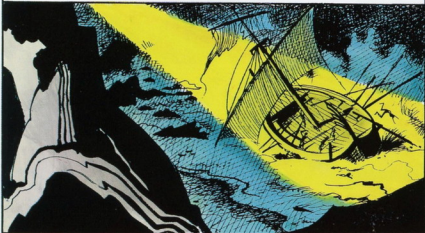




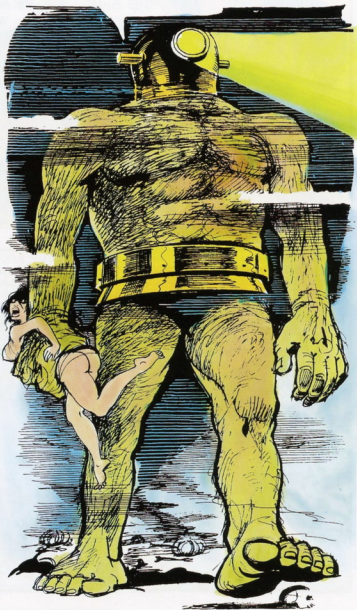
FAR AWAY FROM LANDS WHERE MEN LIVE, ON THE EDGES OF THE FORBIDDEN WORLD, IS AN ISLAND INHABITED BY A GIGANTIC, NIGHTMARISH FIGURE: THE SENTINEL ...



IS IT A MONSTER OR IS IT A MACHINE? NO ONE CAN ENDURE THE GLARE OF ITS GAZE. HOW MANY SAILORS... HOW MANY CAPTAINS... BLINDED BY THE TERRIBLE BEAM RADIATING FROM THE SINGLE EYE OF THE CYCLOPS, RAN AGROUND ON THE REEFS SURROUNDING THIS ACCURSED ISLAND? IS THIS THE HIDEOUS END PREPARED FOR ULYSSES AND HIS UNFORTUNATE COMPANIONS?

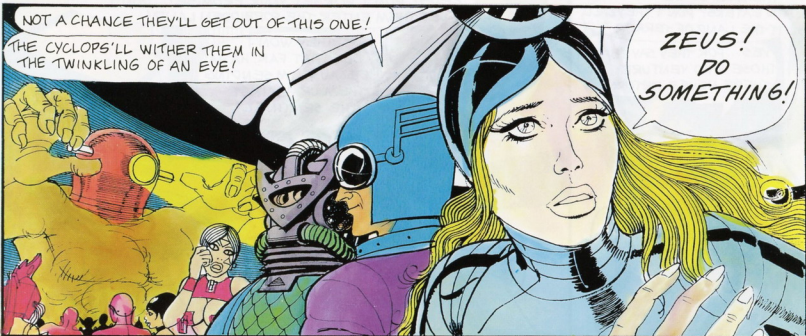


MY NAME IS POLYPHEMUS! MY MASTER POSEIDON, GOD OF THE SEA, CREATED ME TO DENY POOR MORTALS ACCESS TO THOSE MYSTERIOUS LANDS WHERE ONLY GODS MAY ENTER!

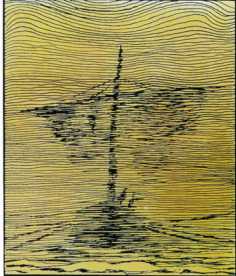


NOT A CHANCE THEY'LL GET OUT OF THIS ONE!

THE CYCLOPS'LL WITHER THEM IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE!



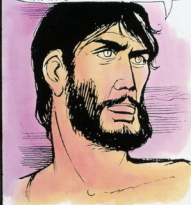
"SO ZEUS PRODUCED A FOG SO THICK THAT EVEN THE GHASTLY BEAM OF THE CYCLOPS COULD NOT PENETRATE IT..."



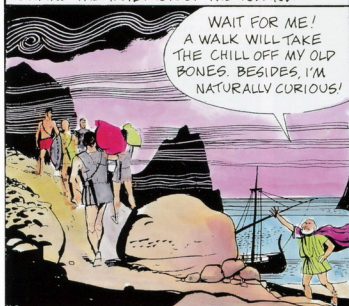
"ULYSSES'S SHIP MANAGED TO REACH THE ISLAND. ALL OTHERS BEFORE HAD SMASHED ON THE REEFS, BUT ULYSSES IS AN EXCELLENT SAILOR AND HE IS, PERHAPS, GUIDED BY ZEUS!"



THE FOG IS BEGINNING TO BREAK UP... FOUR OF YOU MEN COME WITH ME! WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE THIS ISLAND. CARRY YOUR WEAPONS AND SOME PROVISIONS. THE OTHERS CAN STAY ON THE SHIP AND MEND THE SAILS WHILE THEY AWAIT OUR RETURN.



"THE LITTLE BAND, LED BY ULYSSES, SETS OUT TOWARD THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND..."

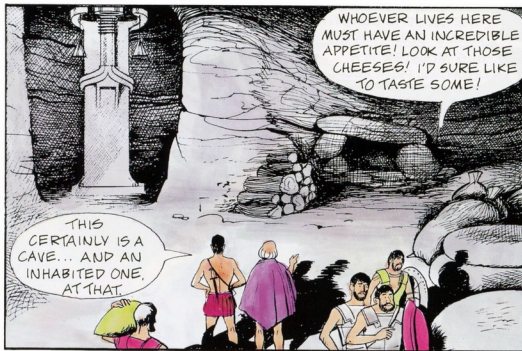


WAIT FOR ME!
A WALK WILL TAKE
THE CHILL OFF MY OLD
BONES. BESIDES, I'M
NATURALLY CURIOUS!



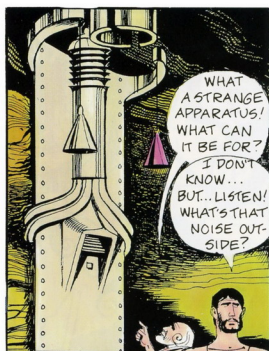
EWES AND
SHEEP... THIS ISLAND
IS CERTAINLY
INHABITED

LOOK!
UP THERE! ISN'T THAT
AN ENTRANCE
TO A CAVE?

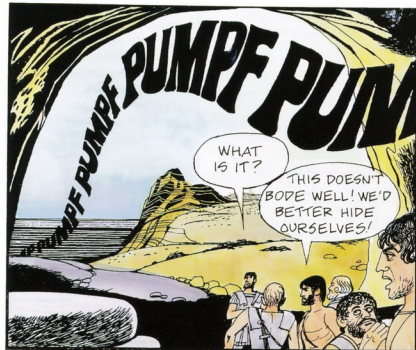


THIS
CERTAINLY IS A
CAVE... AND AN
INHABITED ONE.
AT THAT

WHOEVER LIVES HERE
MUST HAVE AN INCREDIBLE
APPETITE! LOOK AT THOSE
CHEESES! I'D SURE LIKE
TO TASTE SOME!



WHAT
A STRANGE
APPARATUS!
WHAT CAN
IT BE FOR?
I DON'T
KNOW...
BUT... LISTEN!
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE OUT-
SIDE?



WHAT IS IT?

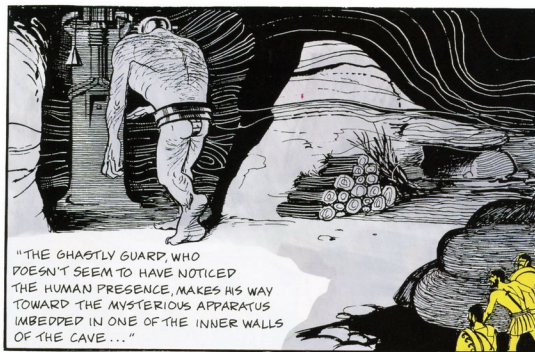
THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL! WE'D BETTER HIDE OURSELVES!



OH! BY ZEUS!...

A... A... GIANT!...

LOOK AT ITS FACE... AN EYE... ONLY ONE EYE SHINING IN THE DARK!



"THE GHASTLY GUARD, WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE NOTICED THE HUMAN PRESENCE, MAKES HIS WAY TOWARD THE MYSTERIOUS APPARATUS IMBEDDED IN ONE OF THE INNER WALLS OF THE CAVE..."



WHAT'S IT DOING? THAT THING HAS STARTED BUZZING... THERE'S A HALO OF LIGHT AROUND IT... WHAT KIND OF MARVEL IS THIS? AH, THAT BEAM IS BECOMING UNBEARABLE!

IT'S AN ENCHANTMENT! LET'S GO!



WAIT A MINUTE! THE HALO IS DIMMING... THE GIANT IS MOVING AWAY FROM THE MACHINE...

HE'S GOING TOWARD THE HEARTH!



THE WOOD IS BURSTING INTO FLAME BENEATH HIS GAZE!! THIS MONSTER IS A CREATURE FROM HELL!

HAVING CHARGED HIS CIRCUITS, THE CYCLOPS BEGINS TO THINK OF HIS STOMACH...

LET'S GET OUT OF THIS PLACE WHILE HE'S BUSY EATING. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FACE THIS FELLOW!



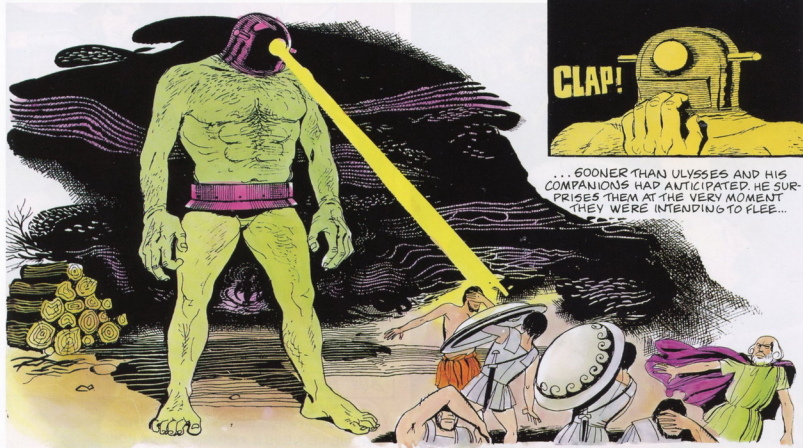
THE GIANT SHOVELS ENORMOUS PIECES OF MEAT INTO THE OPEN CHUTE FITTED INTO HIS METAL FACE.



THE MEAL IS SOON OVER...



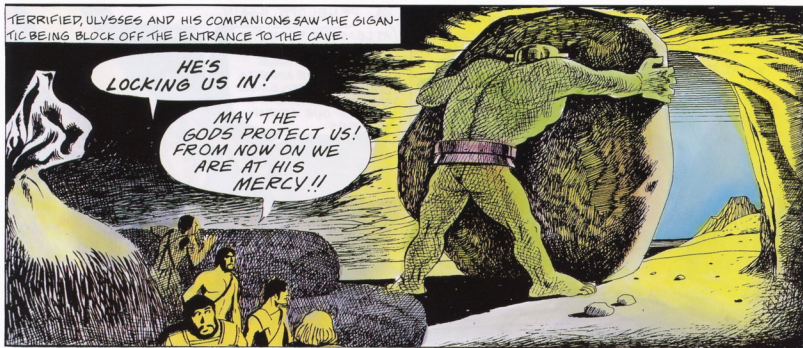
... SOONER THAN ULYSSES AND HIS COMPANIONS HAD ANTICIPATED, HE SURPRISES THEM AT THE VERY MOMENT THEY WERE INTENDING TO FLEE...



TERRIFIED, ULYSSES AND HIS COMPANIONS SAW THE GIGANTIC BEING BLOCK OFF THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE.

HE'S LOCKING US IN!

MAY THE GODS PROTECT US! FROM NOW ON WE ARE AT HIS MERCY!!





MY NAME IS POLYPHEMUS AND NO MORTAL CAN WITHSTAND MY GAZE

ZEUS! REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE TO ME! ULYSSES MUST NOT DIE!



WELL, IN FACT, WE WANT IT THAT WAY TOO, ATHENA. BUT NOW IT'S UP TO POSEIDON TO NEUTRALIZE THIS CREATURE OF HIS.

I'D LIKE TO, ZEUS, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN BRING IT OFF.. THE CYCLOPS IS IRREVERSIBLY PROGRAMMED TO EXTERMINATE ALL HUMANS WHO APPEAR ON THE RANGES OF HIS VISION!

YOU'RE LYING!

BUT ISN'T IT ALREADY TOO LATE?...

OUR SHIELDS ARE ON FIRE... THAT LIGHT DESTROYS EVERYTHING IT HITS... AH! WE'LL NEVER RETURN TO OUR HOME LANDS NOW! I WILL NEVER SEE PENELOPE AGAIN...

AT LEAST WE'RE NOT DYING IN THE PARK! STILL, I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ADDED A COUPLE OF SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTERS TO THE TALE OF OUR ADVENTURES...

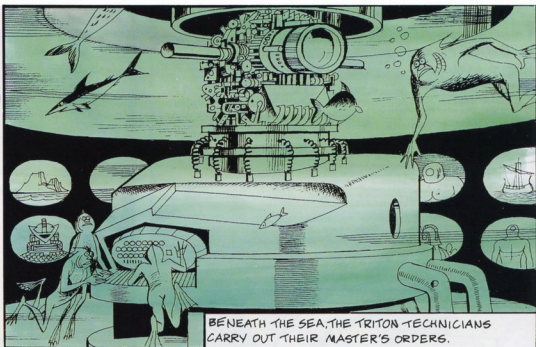


WE ALL KNOW THAT IT'S POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TAMPER WITH THE MEMORY CIRCUITS OF THE CYCLOPS WITHOUT AFFECTING HIS CONDITIONING.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, ZEUS?

I SAY DO IT! HURRY UP AND SAVE ULYSSES— TIME'S RUNNING OUT!

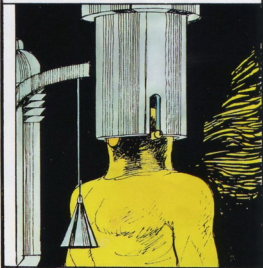
RELUCTANTLY, POSEIDON COMMUNICATES WITH THE TECHNICIANS IN HIS EMPIRE BENEATH THE SEA...



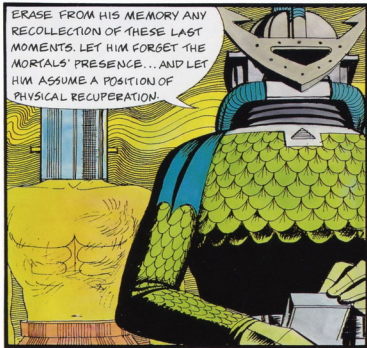
AND A MOMENT LATER, IN THE SENTINEL'S DEN...



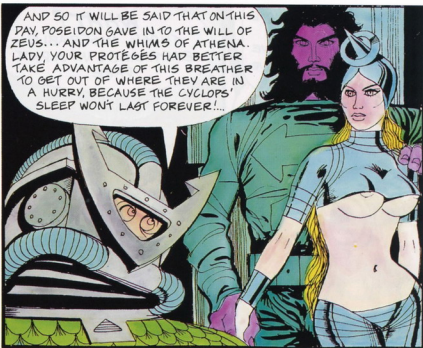
RESPONDING TO A CALL INAUDIBLE TO HUMAN EARS, POLYPHEMUS LEAVES HIS VICTIMS IN ORDER TO IMMOBILIZE HIMSELF BY MEANS OF THE STRANGE MACHINE. A MYSTERIOUS CYLINDER LOWERS SLOWLY OVER THE CYCLOPS...

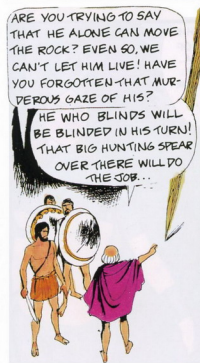
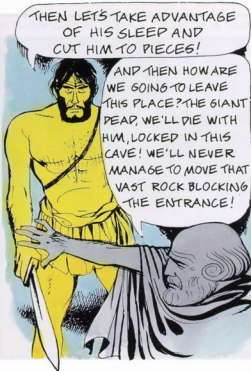
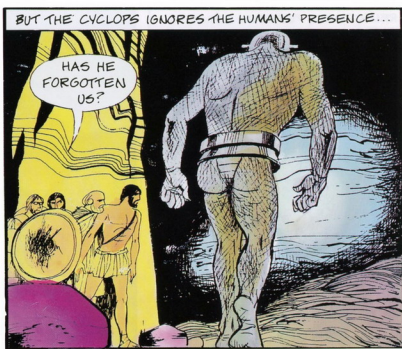


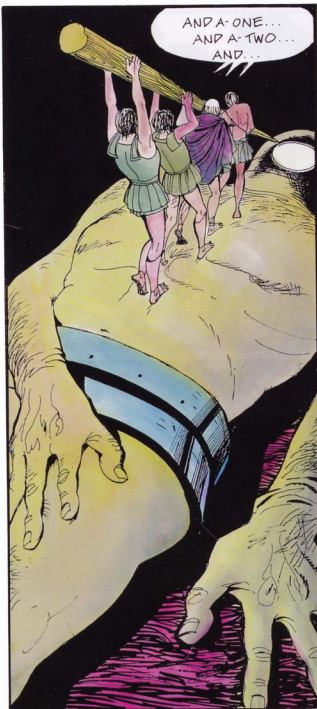
ERASE FROM HIS MEMORY ANY RECOLLECTION OF THESE LAST MOMENTS. LET HIM FORGET THE MORTALS' PRESENCE...AND LET HIM ASSUME A POSITION OF PHYSICAL RECOVERY.



AND SO IT WILL BE SAID THAT ON THIS DAY, POSEIDON GAVE IN TO THE WILL OF ZEUS...AND THE WHIMS OF ATHENA. LADY YOUR PROTÉGÉS HAD BETTER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS BREATHER TO GET OUT OF WHERE THEY ARE IN A HURRY, BECAUSE THE CYCLOPS' SLEEP WON'T LAST FOREVER!...







AND A-ONE...
AND A-TWO...
AND...

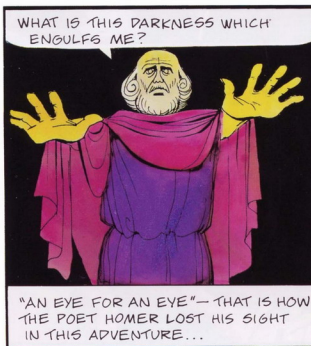


THE SPEAR BREAKS OPEN, SHATTERS, WRECKS THE ELECTRONIC EYE OF THE CYCLOPS IN AN EXPLOSION OF LIGHT...

BUT ALAS, BEFORE BEING EXTINGUISHED, THE LAST FLASHING GAZE OF THE CYCLOPS STRUCK THE MOST CLEAR-SIGHTED AMONG THE MORTALS.



IT'S
BECOME SO
BLACK, ALL OF
A SUDDEN...



WHAT IS THIS DARKNESS WHICH
ENGULFS ME?

"AN EYE FOR AN EYE"—THAT IS HOW
THE POET HOMER LOST HIS SIGHT
IN THIS ADVENTURE...



OH, CYCLOPS, MY CONCEPT,
MY CREATION, MY
POLYPHEMUS! THE BEST
OF SENTINELS, SABOTAGED
BY THESE IDIOTS! AND TO
THINK THAT THIS IS HOW
I HAVE REWARDED YOU
FOR SPARING THEIR
MISERABLE LIVES!

R-A-A-A-G-E

THUMP! CLAS

"WITHIN THE CAVE, THE MUTILATED MONSTER MOVES WITH STUMBLING STEPS. IS HE SUFFERING? FROM HIS GIGANTIC CHEST THERE COMES A DEEP AND CONSTANT RATTLE... HIS VAST, DISORGANIZED BODY CRASHES AGAINST THE INNER WALLS..."



AH! HE'S GRABBING THE ROCK THAT BARS THE WAY... HE'S MOVING IT!

LET'S GO!
THE WAY IS
CLEAR!!!

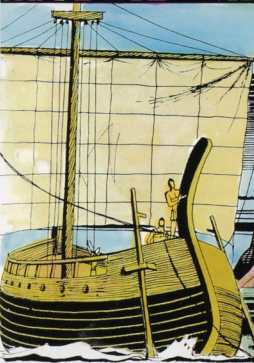


GA-A-A-PE!
CRASH!
STAMP!
TEAR!

WHAT IS
HAPPENING TO
ME NOW?

FREE!
AT LAST!

TO THE SHIP!
PRAY HEAVEN
THEY'RE READY TO
WEIGH ANCHOR!



AH! CAPTAIN! THERE YOU ARE! WE WERE FEELING NERVOUS ABOUT YOU!... SOME VERY STRANGE THINGS SEEM TO HAPPEN ON THIS ISLAND! YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT WE'VE HEARD...

AND
WHAT WE'VE
SEEN...

I KNOW!
EVERYONE ON BOARD!
LET'S GET OFF THIS
CURSED ISLAND AS
FAST AS POSSIBLE!





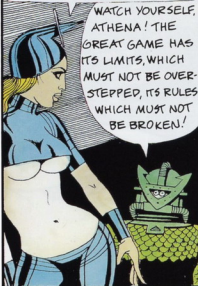
WOULD YOU HESITATE TO PUNISH THOSE WHO RIDICULED MY POWER AND BROKE OUR LAW? DON'T THEY DESERVE TO DIE?

HE'S RIGHT! THE WRATH OF ZEUS! GIVE 'EM THE WRATH!



IT'S NOT FAIR! IF WE HADN'T STARTED THIS, NONE OF IT WOULD HAVE EVER HAPPENED!

WATCH YOURSELF, ATHENA! THE GREAT GAME HAS ITS LIMITS, WHICH MUST NOT BE OVER-STEPPED, IT'S RULES WHICH MUST NOT BE BROKEN!



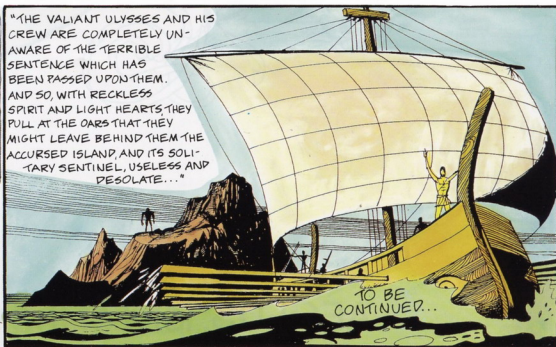
HMMMM... I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER, POSEIDON, AND IN TRUTH IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT THESE MORTALS BE PUNISHED. BUT SHOULD IT BE BY DEATH? ISN'T THERE A MORE SUBTLE AND MORE INTERESTING FORM OF PUNISHMENT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ZEUS?



...SUPPOSE ULYSSES AND HIS COMPANIONS SIMPLY FOLLOW THE PERILOUS COURSE ON WHICH THEY ARE SET. LET'S SEE TO IT THAT THEY STRAY INTO THE FORBIDDEN WORLD! AND... MMMMM... AFTER A CERTAIN NUMBER OF YEARS... IF THEY MANAGE TO OVERCOME THE DANGERS WE PLACE IN THEIR PATH... AND IF THEY LEARN HOW TO SATISFY US... THEN, PERHAPS, WE WILL LET THEM RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND...

"THE VALIANT ULYSSES AND HIS CREW ARE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE TERRIBLE SENTENCE WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED UPON THEM. AND SO, WITH RECKLESS SPIRIT AND LIGHT HEARTS THEY PULL AT THE OARS THAT THEY MIGHT LEAVE BEHIND THEM THE ACCURSED ISLAND, AND ITS SOLITARY SENTINEL, USELESS AND DESOLATE..."





AEOLUS, lord of the winds



TAKE THIS DOWN,
CHILD:
"HAVING VANQUISHED
THE TERRIBLE
GIANT POLYPHEMUS,
COMMA, THE BRAVE
ULYSSES RETURNS
TO THE SEA
AND COMMA..."

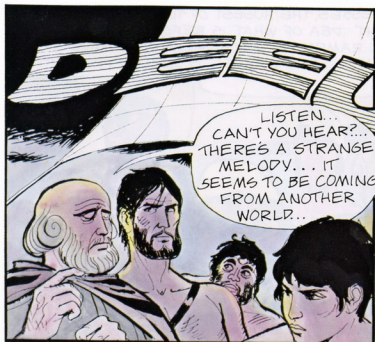
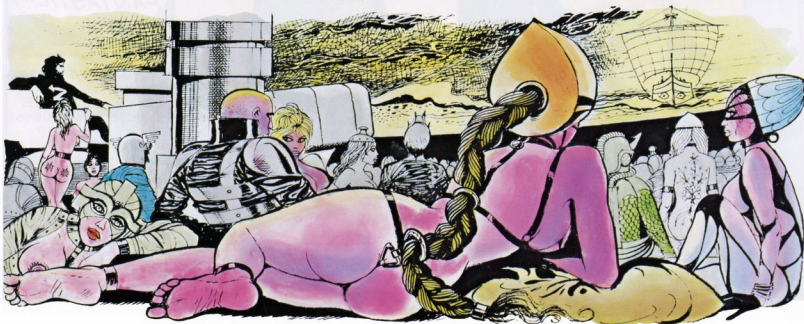


... AND WHILE THE SHIP
SAILS TOWARDS
ITHACA, COMMA..."

I'M TAKING DOWN WHAT YOU
SAY EXACTLY, HOMER, BUT
YOU'RE WRONG— WE AREN'T
SAILING TOWARDS ITHACA!

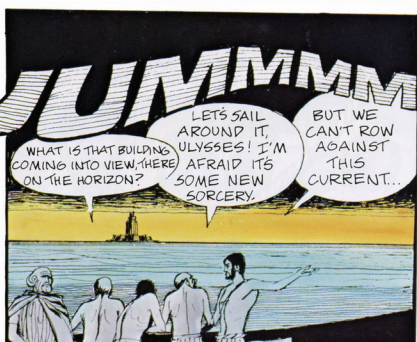
ON THE
CONTRARY, I'M
AFRAID!
WE ARE BEING
SWEEPED FURTHER
TOWARDS THE
SLEEPING
SEA!

"ULYSSES AND HOMER ARE UNAWARE THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF THE GODS, PRESIDED OVER BY ZEUS, HAS CONDEMNED THEM TO WANDER INTO THE FORBIDDEN WORLD WHICH NO MORTAL HAS EVER PENETRATED..."



DEE

LISTEN...
CAN'T YOU HEAR?...
THERE'S A STRANGE
MELODY... IT
SEEMS TO BE COMING
FROM ANOTHER
WORLD...

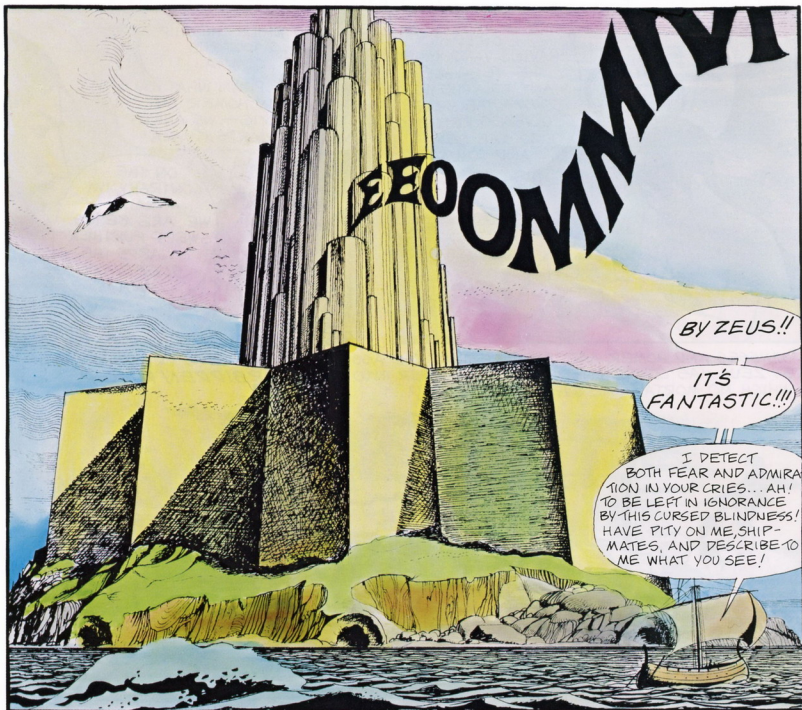


UUMMMM

WHAT IS THAT BUILDING
COMING INTO VIEW, THERE
ON THE HORIZON?

LET'S SAIL
AROUND IT,
ULYSSES! I'M
AFRAID IT'S
SOME NEW
SORCERY.

BUT WE
CAN'T ROW
AGAINST
THIS
CURRENT...



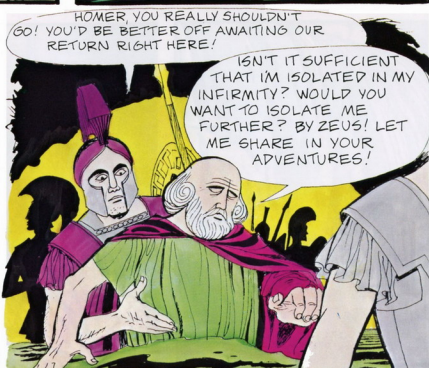
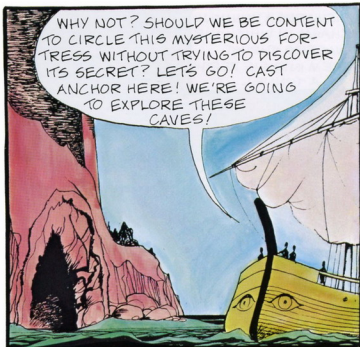
BY ZEUS!!

IT'S
FANTASTIC!!!

I DETECT
BOTH FEAR AND ADMIRA-
TION IN YOUR CRIES... AH!
TO BE LEFT IN IGNORANCE
BY THIS CURSED BLINDNESS!
HAVE PITY ON ME, SHIP-
MATES, AND DESCRIBE TO
ME WHAT YOU SEE!

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THE MOST POWERFUL OF FORTRESSES, THE HUGEST OF TEMPLES, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF PALACES, YOU WILL HAVE ONLY A SLIGHT IDEA OF WHAT IS BEFORE US!
... NOW WE ARE WINDING AROUND THE COLOSSAL RAMPARTS WHICH SEEM TO BE MADE OF POLISHED METAL... BUT WE CAN'T SEE ANY ENTRANCE... THIS CITADEL IS SEALED FROM WITHIN,
CLOSED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...





"TOWARDS A YAWNING
CHASM IN WHICH THE
WATERS THRUST
THEM INTO THE DEPTHS
OF A TUNNEL..."

H-E-E-E-ELP!!!



"THEY ARE CAUGHT SUDDENLY
IN A GREAT NET STRETCHED
ACROSS THE WAY AND ARE
THUS PREVENTED FROM COMING
TO GRIEF IN THE ABYSS..."

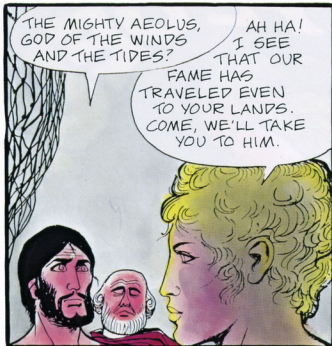
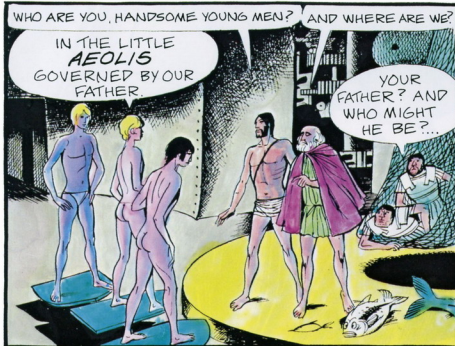


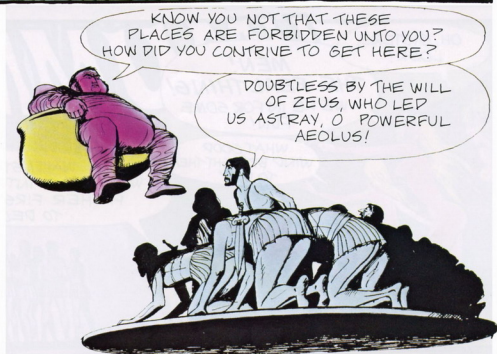
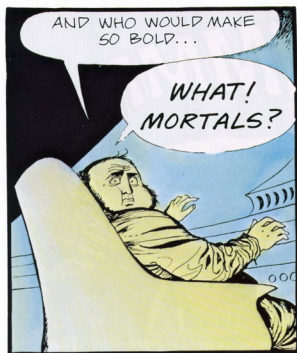
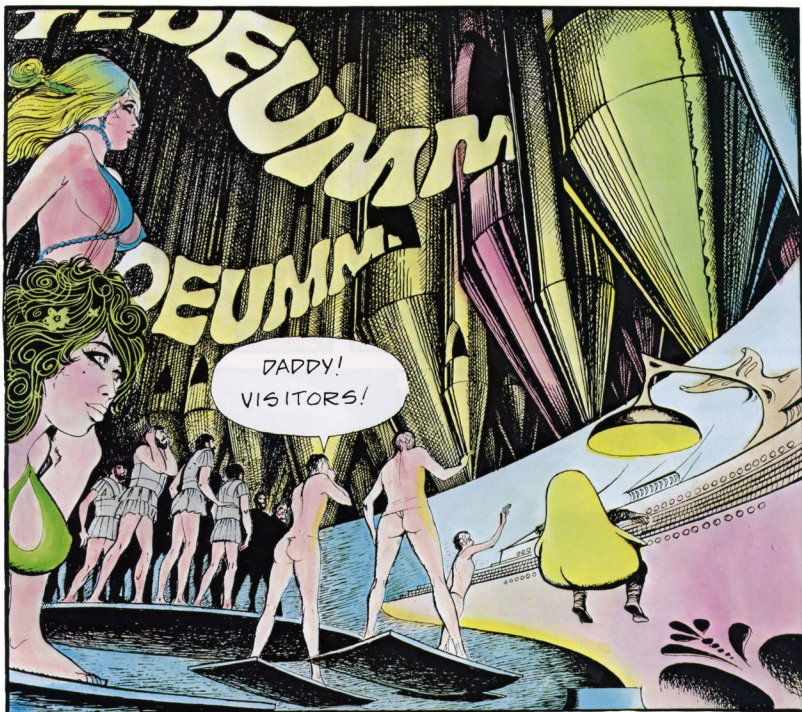
WELL, WELL!
HUMANS!

WHAT A
CATCH!

WON'T
OUR SIS-
TERS BE
PLEASED!

WE MUST
BRING THESE
SPECIMENS
TO THEM!





I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT MIGHT HAVE INSPIRED ZEUS TO ALLOW YOU TO CROSS THE BORDERS! IT'S QUITE AGAINST THE LAWS! I REGRET THAT THE OLYMPIANS DIDN'T SEE FIT TO CONSULT ME UPON THIS MATTER!



WE ASK ONLY TO RETURN TO OUR HOME LAND... THEY SAY THAT THE WINDS OBEY YOU WHEN THEY BREAK LOOSE, AND SUBSIDE AT YOUR COMMAND. IT WOULD SEEM EASY FOR YOU TO PUSH US ON WITH A BREATH OF WIND TO OUR COUNTRY, ITHACA!

IN POINT OF FACT, I DO HAVE THE MEANS AT MY DISPOSAL TO RETURN YOU TO YOUR HOMELAND WITH THE UTMOST CCELERITY...



WHAT? THEY'RE NOT LEAVING ALREADY?

IT'S NOT FAIR! WE NEVER GET TO SEE ANYONE!

OH, YES!

YES!
YES!!

IT IS THE CASE THAT ZEUS AND HIS COURT HAVE FORSAKEN US, AND THAT WE RESIDE APART FROM ANY MORTALS... BAH! STAY A LITTLE. IT WILL PLEASE MY DAUGHTERS!

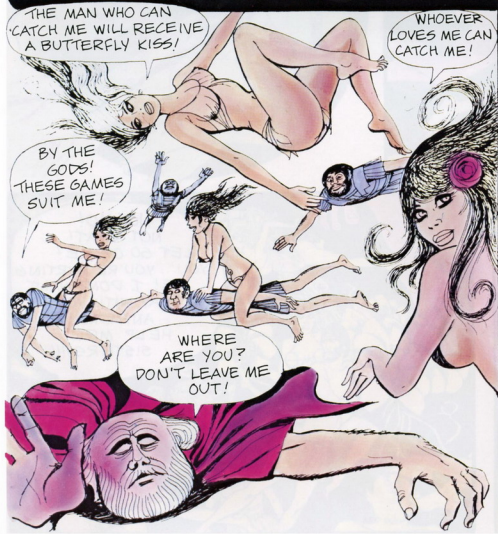
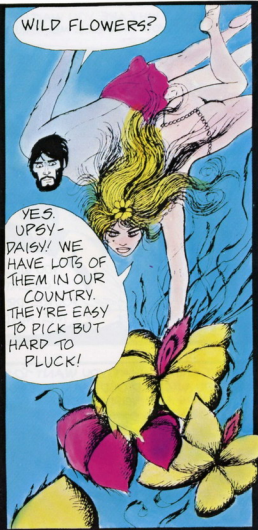
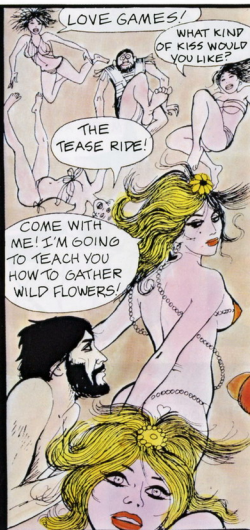


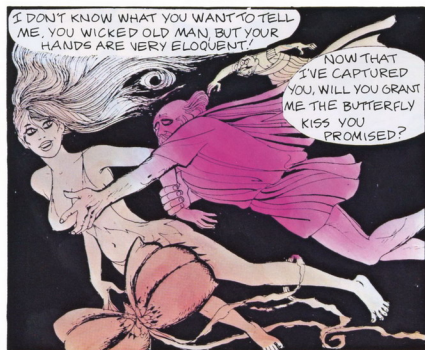
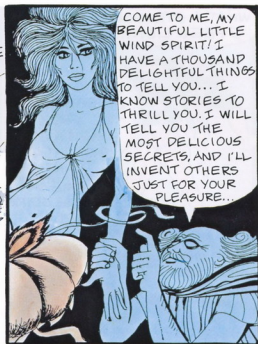
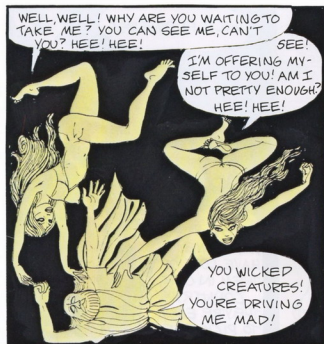
COME ON! LET'S GO PLAY IN THE ATRIUM!

TEE! HEE!
WE'LL HAVE SO MUCH FUN!











OUT OF HERE!
I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED THAT YOU WERE INCAPABLE OF PARTICIPATING IN THESE INNOCENT GAMES WITH MY YOUNG DAUGHTERS! **OUT OF MY SIGHT!** YOU ARE UNWORTHY OF MY HOSPITALITY!

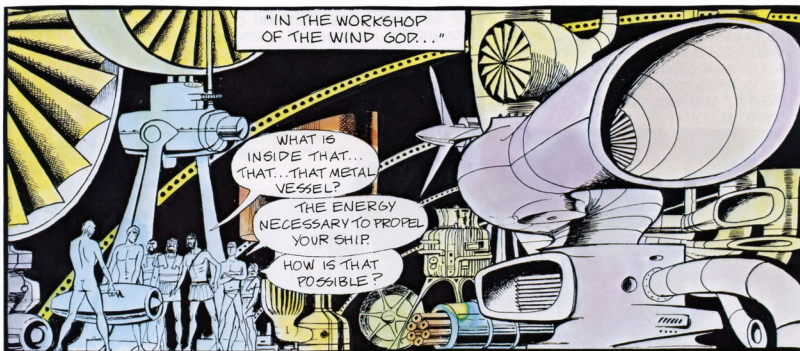
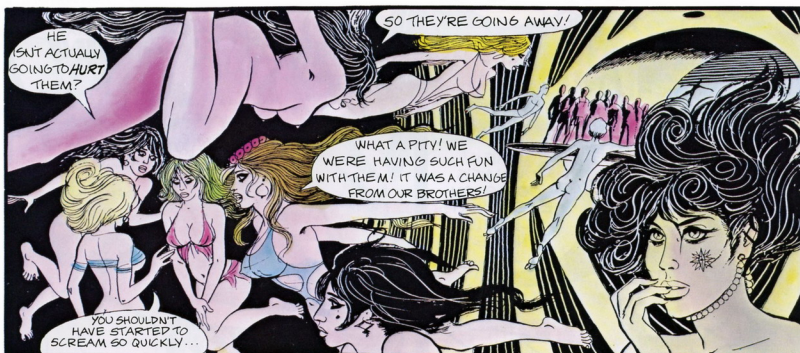
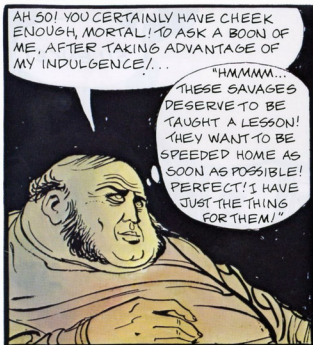


IF WE HAVE OFFENDED YOU, O POWERFUL AEOLUS, WE CERTAINLY DID NOT MEAN TO DO SO. WE NEVER ASKED TO COME HERE. NOW YOU WANT US TO LEAVE. THAT IS ALSO OUR DEAREST WISH. WOULD YOU GRANT US A MEANS TO RETURN TO OUR LAND IMMEDIATELY? THAT IS— IF YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO SO.



WHAT?



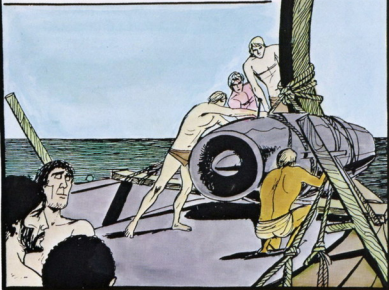


"...THE WIND GOD'S CHILDREN INVITE ULYSSES AND HIS COMPANIONS TO TAKE THEIR PLACE ON BOARD THIS STRANGE VEHICLE, WHICH PASSES OUT OF THE FORTRESS WALLS..."

A WIND CRAFT!
IS THIS THEN HOW THE GODS
TRAVEL?

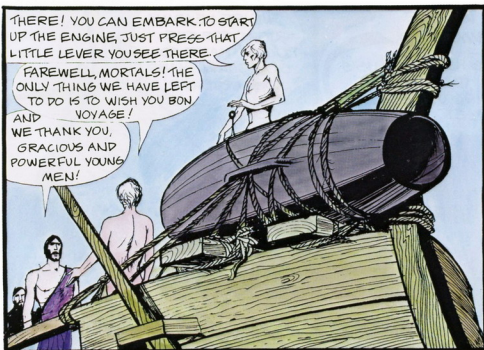


"THE WIND GOD'S GIFT IS FIXED
WITH ROPES ONTO THE STERN OF
ULYSSES'S SHIP..."



THERE! YOU CAN EMBARK TO START
UP THE ENGINE, JUST PRESS THAT
LITTLE LEVER YOU SEE THERE

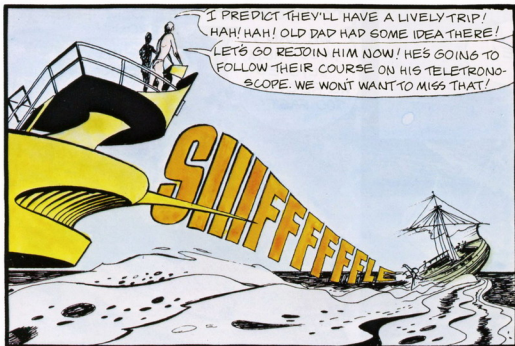
FAREWELL, MORTALS! THE
ONLY THING WE HAVE LEFT
TO DO IS TO WISH YOU BON
VOYAGE!
AND
WE THANK YOU,
GRACIOUS AND
POWERFUL YOUNG
MEN!



BY
THE GRACE
OF THE
WIND
GOD...



I PREDICT THEY'LL HAVE A LIVELY TRIP!
HAH! HAH! OLD DAD HAD SOME IDEA THERE!
LET'S GO REJOIN HIM NOW! HE'S GOING TO
FOLLOW THEIR COURSE ON HIS TELETRONOS-
SCOPE. WE WON'T WANT TO MISS THAT!



AEOLUS IS NOT THE ONLY ONE
WATCHING THE MORTALS...
LOOK, ZEUS! THE HUMANS
ARE LEAVING THE ISLAND!



BUT... BUT... THEIR SHIP IS
EQUIPPED WITH A
REACTOR!

AEOLUS
MUST HAVE
PULLED THAT
STUNT!

THEY MUSTN'T BE
ALLOWED TO LEAVE
THE SLEEPING
SEA!

YOU CAN
REST ASSURED
THEY DON'T KNOW
HOW TO USE IT!
MAY I OFFER
A LITTLE
COMIC
RELIEF?

IT'S FANTASTIC! WE'RE
FLYING LIKE THE WIND!

SO, THAT METAL THING HELD AEOLUS'S
BREATH WITHIN IT, THE TERRIFYING
WIND WHICH IS PUSHING US AT THIS
INCREDIBLE PACE!

CAREFUL!
WE'RE HEADING
RIGHT FOR THE
ROCKS! HARD TO
STARBOARD! HARD
TO STARBOARD!

OOWWW!
THAT WAS CLOSE!

IT'S NOT OVER YET! MORE ROCKS THERE!
IN FRONT!
WE CAN'T
MISS THEM!
ULYSSES!
WE'RE GOING
TOO FAST!

LET ME
STEER!

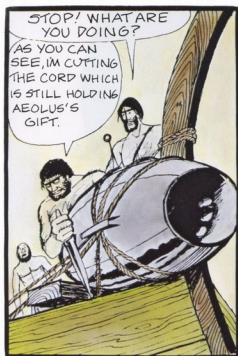


THIS LEVER RELEASED
THE WINDS. WE SHOULD BE
ABLE TO KEEP THEM IN
CHECK NOW.



THERE, IT'S DONE!
WE HAVE NOTHING MORE
TO FEAR...

NO, ULYSSES,
THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH...

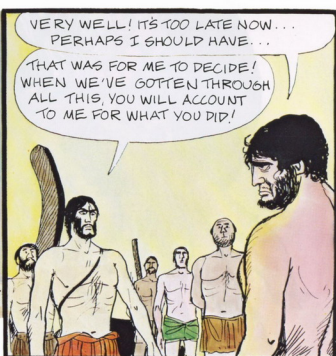


STOP! WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

AS YOU CAN
SEE, I'M CUTTING
THE CORD WHICH
IS STILL HOLDING
AEOLUS'S GIFT.

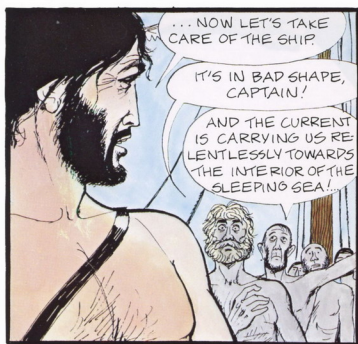


FOOL! WHO
GAVE YOU THAT
ORDER? WE COULD
HAVE DISCOVERED
THE SECRET OF
THAT THING AND...
WHO KNOWS—
CONTROLLED THE
FORCE WHICH
IT HELD!



VERY WELL! IT'S TOO LATE NOW...
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE...

THAT WAS FOR ME TO DECIDE!
WHEN WE'VE GOTTEN THROUGH
ALL THIS, YOU WILL ACCOUNT
TO ME FOR WHAT YOU DID!



... NOW LET'S TAKE
CARE OF THE SHIP

IT'S IN BAD SHAPE,
CAPTAIN!

AND THE CURRENT
IS CARRYING US RE-
LENTLESSLY TOWARDS
THE INTERIOR OF THE
SLEEPING SEA!



ALAS!
ARE WE DOOMED TO WANDER
FOREVER UPON THE SEA OF
TERROR?

WILL WE
EVER AGAIN
SEE ITHACA AND THOSE
WE LOVE?

WHAT
WILL BECOME
OF US?...



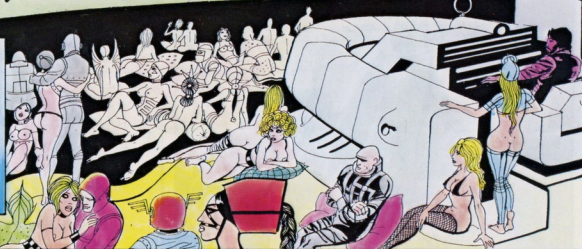
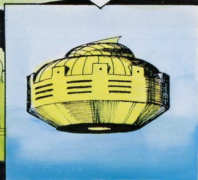
CIRCE

HAVING CONFRONTED
THE GIANT CYCLOPS...

AND HAVING BEEN
CHASED BY THE
WIND GOD...

CONDEMNED AS THEY
ARE BY ZEUS, ULYSSES
AND HIS COMPANIONS
CONTINUE THEIR
CURSED VOYAGE...

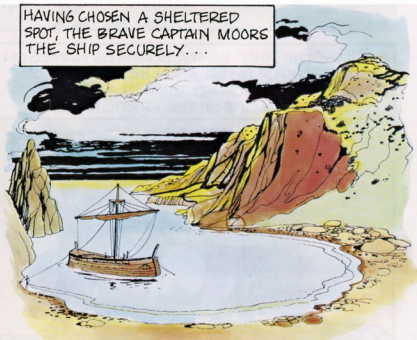
FOLLOWED BY THE
GODS ON HIGH IN
THEIR CELESTIAL
VESSEL...



I CAN'T FIGURE OUT
ANYTHING USEFUL
ABOUT THIS UNKNOWN
SHORE... ARE WE
GOING TO LAND,
CAPTAIN?

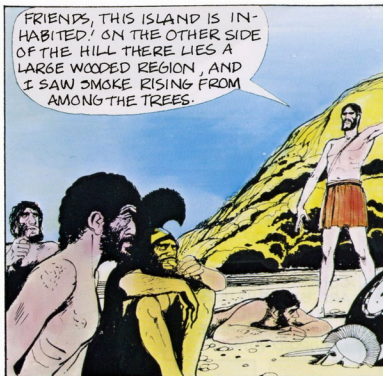
WE HARDLY HAVE
ANY CHOICE! WE
MUST REPLENISH
OUR SUPPLY OF
PROVISIONS.

HAVING CHOSEN A SHELTERED
SPOT, THE BRAVE CAPTAIN MOORS
THE SHIP SECURELY...





WHILE THE CREW REMAINS CLOSE TO THE BOAT, THE VAUNT ULYSSES CLAMBERS TO THE TOP OF A HILL TO RE-CONNOITER THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE

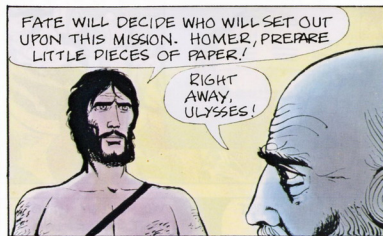


FRIENDS, THIS ISLAND IS INHABITED! ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL THERE LIES A LARGE WOODED REGION, AND I SAW SMOKE RISING FROM AMONG THE TREES.



FIVE OF US WILL GO TO EXPLORE THE PLACE WHERE THE SMOKE IS COMING FROM.

OH, NOBLE ULYSSES, IS IT ADVISABLE?



FATE WILL DECIDE WHO WILL SET OUT UPON THIS MISSION. HOMER, PREPARE LITTLE PIECES OF PAPER!

RIGHT AWAY, ULYSSES!

BLINDLY, THE POET HOMER SCRIBBLES NAMES ON LITTLE PIECES OF PAPER WHICH HE FOLDS CAREFULLY BEFORE THROWING THEM IN A HELMET KINDLY LENT BY ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS...

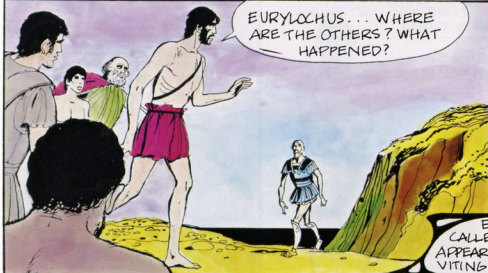


THEN AN INNOCENT HAND... THAT OF THE BOY, EPHEBUS, CHOOSES BY LOT THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS...



POLITES, EURYLOCHUS

CHANCE IGNORED ULYSSES, AND THE MEN WHO WERE CHOSEN TOOK THEIR DEPARTURE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF EURYLOCHUS... WHO WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO RETURN FROM THIS EXPEDITION SEVERAL HOURS LATER.



ALAS! ALAS! WE WENT WHERE YOU TOLD US TO GO, ULYSSES!... WE FOUND IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLEARING A STRANGE GARDEN, SURROUNDING A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING, AND FROM WITHIN CAME THE SOUND OF FEMALE VOICES.



EXCITED BY THE SOUND, OUR MEN CALLED OUT... AND THEN FOUR LOVELY NYMPHS APPEARED, RESPONDING TO OUR CRIES AND INVITING US TO ENTER! WHAT DO MY COMPANIONS DO?



BY ZEUS! THEY RUN TO JOIN THE NYMPHS!

EXACTLY! BUT I'M NOT CRAZY, SO I WAIT. I SMELLED A TRAP...



I WAITED FOR HOURS... NOT A SINGLE ONE OF MY MATES CAME OUT OF THAT PLACE AGAIN!

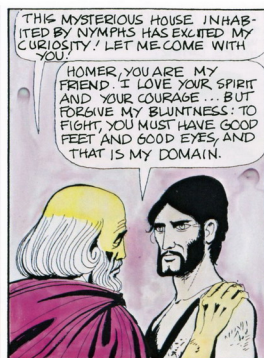
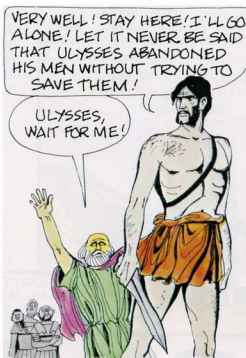
BY ZEUS! WHAT'S SURPRISING ABOUT THAT? OUR FRIENDS MUST BE HAVING A GOOD TIME!

WAIT! I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY STORY...



WHILE I WAS WAITING, I HEARD REPULSIVE, INHUMAN GRUNTS, AMONG WHICH I COULD SOMEHOW RECOGNIZE THE VOICES OF MY MATES!





AND SO, A FEW
MINUTES LATER...



HEY!
WHO GOES
THERE?

THE GODS
ARE WITH
YOU, ULYSSES.
I HAVE
COME TO
HELP YOU.



TELL ME, ULYSSES, HAVE YOU
NEVER HEARD TELL OF CIRCE, THE
PUSHER? SHE'S A STRANGE WOMAN,
WITH CAPTIVATING POWERS...
UNFORTUNATE IS HE WHO FALLS
INTO HER POWER! THAT'S WHAT
HAS HAPPENED TO THE MEN
YOU WANT TO SAVE.



YOUR COURAGE, ALONE COULD NOT OVERCOME
HER, BUT THE GODS, IN THEIR INFINITE MERCY,
HAVE DECIDED TO SEND ME TO HELP YOU...

THE GODS!!!... WOULD
YOU... BE THEIR
MESSENGER?

KEEP THE VIAL WITH
YOU WHENEVER YOU
ARE NEAR CIRCE, AND
TAKE A PILL TWICE A
DAY. BE CAREFUL NOT
TO OVERDOSE.
THAT'S ALL GOOD
LUCK TO YOU.



INDEED. I AM THE MESSENGER OF THE
GODS... AND A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN
AT THE SAME TIME. LOOK, I HAVE SOMETHING
HERE WHICH YOU MUST TAKE IF
YOU WANT TO RESIST THE MAGIC OF
CIRCE!

WHAT IS IT?



SOME ENERGINEUTROMINE
B-25 IN A TEN MILLIGRAM
DOSE - A VERY POWER-
FUL ANTIDOTE. PUT
OUT YOUR HAND AND
TAKE TWO TABS. COME
ON, THERE'S NOTHING
TO FEAR!

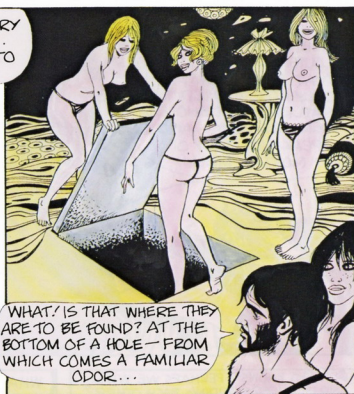


YES, IT IS
HE! HERMES, THE
MESSENGER WITH THE
WINGED FEET... AND
TO THINK I DOUBTED
HIM!





YOU WANT TO SEE THEM? VERY WELL, IF THAT IS YOUR WISH... GIRLS! TAKE THIS MORTAL TO HIS COMPANIONS.



WHAT! IS THAT WHERE THEY ARE TO BE FOUND? AT THE BOTTOM OF A HOLE - FROM WHICH COMES A FAMILIAR ODOR...



A PIGPEN!... SO THEN THIS IS HOW CIRCE TREATS THE BRAVEST OF MEN! LIKE BEASTS! COME! STAND UP, MEN! I'VE COME TO PUT AN END TO YOUR MISERY!

HEE! HEE!

HEE! HEE!

OINK!



PIGS! HEE! HEE! ALL OF THEM PIGS!

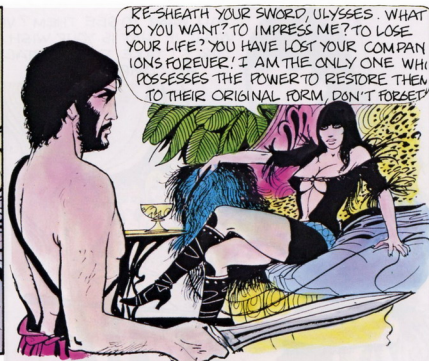
POLITES! ONASSIS! WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME? COME ON, GET UP! DON'T JUST STAY THERE! STOP ACTING LIKE THE PIGS AROUND YOU.

OINK!

OINK! OINK!

BY ZEUS! WHY HAVEN'T I UNDERSTOOD?! THEY HAVE BEEN BEWITCHED! THAT OPIOUS CIRCE HAS MADE PIGS OF THEM! WHAT PERVITY! AH, MY FRIENDS! I SHALL NOT LEAVE THIS HOUSE UNTIL I HAVE MADE THAT WITCH RESTORE YOU TO YOUR HUMAN STATE. BY THE GODS, I SWEAR TO IT!





CIRCE

THE GODDESS OF A THOUSAND
DRUGS, HAS REDUCED ULYSSES'S COMPAN-
IONS TO A BESTIAL STATE...



ULYSSES
AVOIDS THEIR FATE
AND RENDERS THE DRUG
INEFFECTIVE BY MEANS OF THE
ANTIDOTE, ENERGONEUTROMINE
B-25, GIVEN TO HIM BY
HERMES...



VANQUISHED,
THE GODDESS CON-
SENTS TO LIBER-
ATE HER
VICTIMS...



YOU CAN LEAVE SATISFIED, ULYSSES... TOMOR-
ROW YOUR COMPANIONS WILL BECOME MEN AGAIN...
AND I WON'T TRY TO INTERFERE WITH
THEIR DEPARTURE...



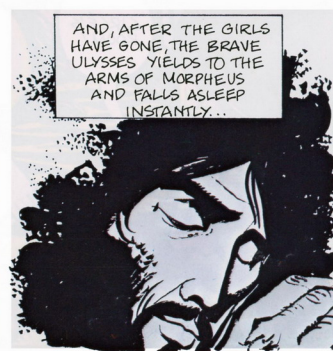
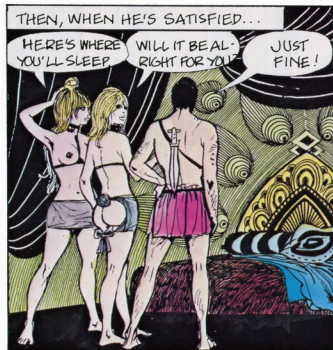
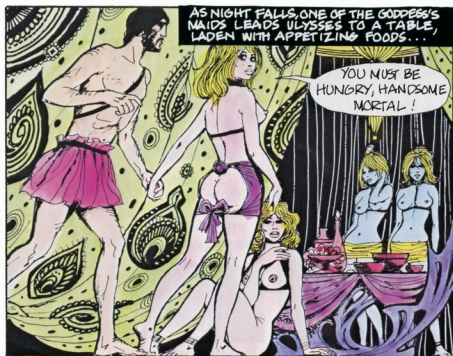
WHY DON'T YOU
LEAVE NOW? AREN'T YOU
SATISFIED? HAVEN'T I
GIVEN MY WORD? WHY
ARE YOU WAITING TO
LEAVE THE HOUSE?

NOT BEFORE
TOMORROW, CIRCE.
I WILL LEAVE
HERE ONLY
WITH MY
COMPANIONS.

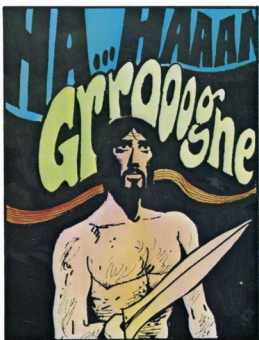


AS YOU WISH!...





BUT A LITTLE LATER, HE
IS TORN FROM HIS SLEEP BY
VERY STRANGE MOANS...



IT'S COMING
FROM BEHIND
THE TAPESTRY.
PERHAPS I
SHOULDN'T...

BUT CURIOSITY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM--AND A STRANGE SIGHT APPEARS TO MORTAL EYES...



CIRCE'S
ROOM!

SMY
SLIM

Grrrooon...

I... I SHOULDN'T BE
HERE... THE SENSATION OF
DISCOVERING A SECRET
I SHOULD NOT
KNOW... AND
YET.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHY CAN'T I
FLEE? WHAT MYSTERIOUS FORCE IS HOLDING
ME HERE?

O CIRCE,
YOUR BEAUTY IS A
THOUSAND TIMES MORE
MOVING THAN ALL THE DRUGS
YOU MIGHT HAVE
USED AGAINST
ME.

MMM

BUT WHERE ARE
YOU? IN WHAT OTHER
WORLD? YOUR EYES
ARE WIDE OPEN, BUT
THEY SEE
NOTHING.

Grrr

I
UNDERSTAND
THAT THESE THINGS
AROUND YOU BRING YOU PLEASURE...
AN ARTIFICIAL AND LONELY PLEASURE...
ARE YOU HAPPY, THEN?

ULYSSES...



THE NEXT MORNING...

HEY!... ULYSSES!
ARE YOU THERE?

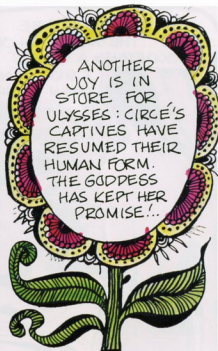


HOMER!
YOU CAME
ALL THE WAY
HERE!

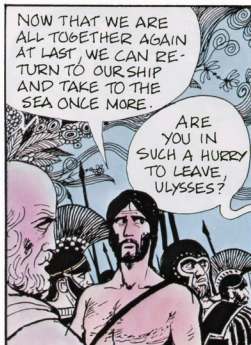
WE SPENT A
DREADFUL NIGHT
AWAITING YOUR RE-
TURN! FINALLY, I MAN-
AGED TO PERSUADE
THESE COWARDS TO
COME WITH ME TO
FIND YOU!



ANOTHER
JOY IS IN
STORE. FOR
ULYSSES: CIRCÉ'S
CAPTIVES HAVE
RESUMED THEIR
HUMAN FORM.
THE GODDESS
HAS KEPT HER
PROMISE!...



NOW THAT WE ARE
ALL TOGETHER AGAIN
AT LAST, WE CAN RE-
TURN TO OURSHIP
AND TAKE TO THE
SEA ONCE MORE.



ARE
YOU IN
SUCH A HURRY
TO LEAVE,
ULYSSES?

WHY DON'T
YOU STAY A LITTLE
WHILE? I WOULD
BE HAPPY TO
ENTERTAIN YOU.



CAN WE TRUST
HER AGAIN?

I DON'T SEE
ANY REASON TO
REFUSE... QUITE
THE CONTRARY!



OH, ULYSSES! I'M SO
HAPPY YOU DECIDED TO STAY!
I HAVE WAITED FOR YOU FOR SO
LONG... NOW I AM NO LONGER
ALONE. WE'LL TAKE A TRIP
TOGETHER...

A TRIP?

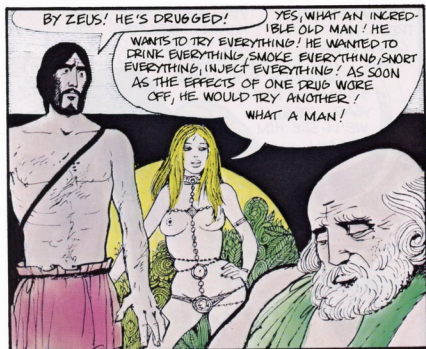
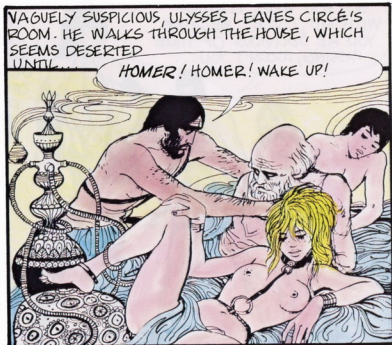
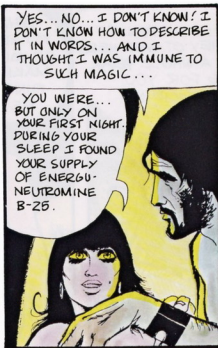


YES. YOU AND I
ARE GOING TO SET
OFF IN A FEW MINUTES
ON A LONG AND
WONDERFUL
TRIP...





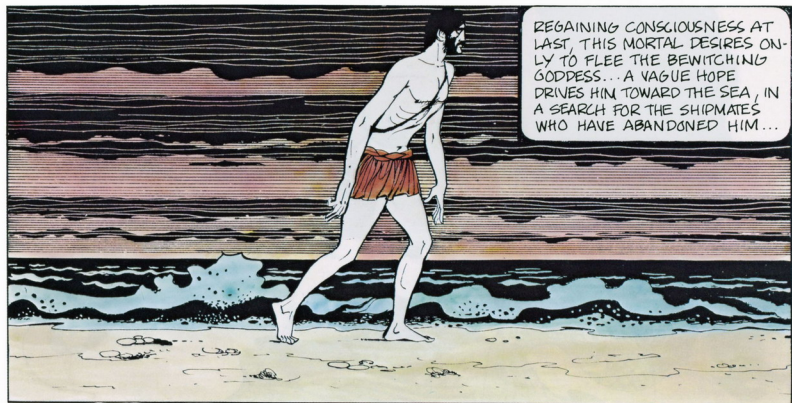
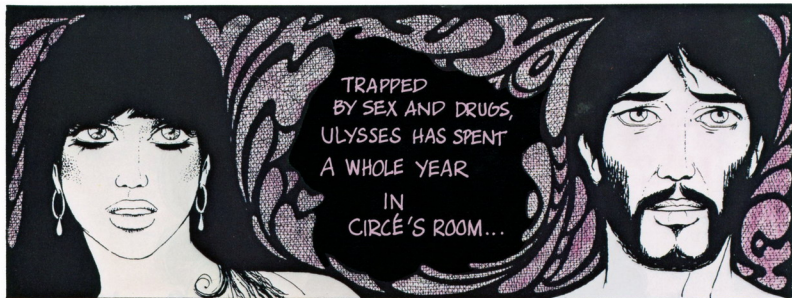








THE SIRENS



OH, ULYSSES! WE WAITED FOR YOU FOR SO LONG! AND IT WAS WITH SADNESS THAT WE DECIDED TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU... BUT WE HAD LOST HOPE OF EVER SEEING YOU LEAVE THAT MYSTERIOUS ROOM, WHICH WE DIDN'T DARE BREAK INTO!



MY FRIENDS! LET US THANK THE GODS, WHO DIDN'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOUR CAPTAIN! BRING FOOD AND WINE! LET'S CELEBRATE BEFORE LEAVING THIS CURSED ISLAND, TOGETHER AND FOREVER!

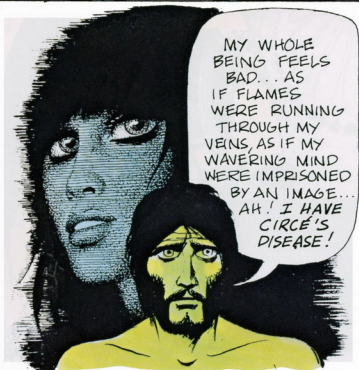


WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, ULYSSES? YOU'RE NOT DRINKING ANYTHING, AND YOU SEEM TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE... THERE ARE BEADS OF SWEAT ON YOUR FOREHEAD AND YOUR HAND IS TREMBLING. ARE YOU SICK?

IT'S STRANGE, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...



MY WHOLE BEING FEELS BAD... AS IF FLAMES WERE RUNNING THROUGH MY VEINS, AS IF MY WAVERING MIND WERE IMPRISONED BY AN IMAGE...
AH! I HAVE CIRCE'S DISEASE!



ULYSSES! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'M... I'M GOING BACK THERE...

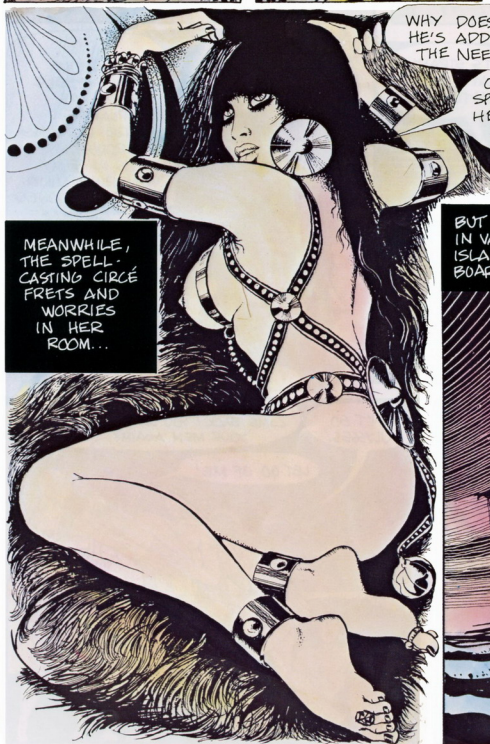


DON'T GO, ULYSSES!

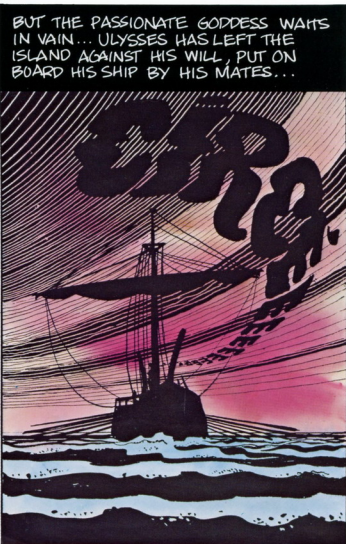
IF YOU GO BACK THERE, YOU WON'T COME BACK! YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR MEN AGAIN!

LET GO OF ME!



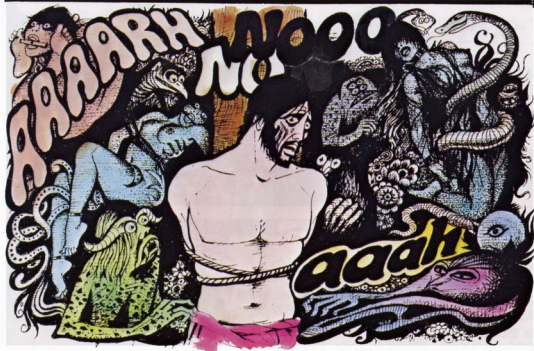


MEANWHILE,
THE SPELL-
CASTING CIRCE
FRETS AND
WORRIES
IN HER
ROOM...

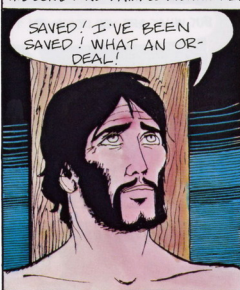


BUT THE PASSIONATE GODDESS WANTS
IN VAIN... ULYSSES HAS LEFT THE
ISLAND AGAINST HIS WILL, PUT ON
BOARD HIS SHIP BY HIS MATES...

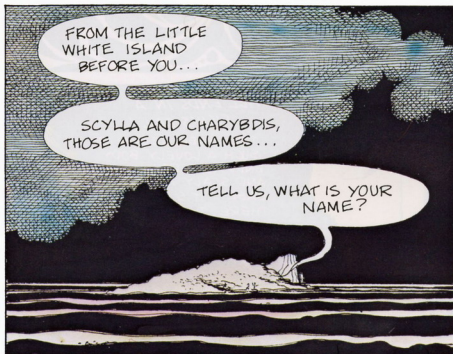
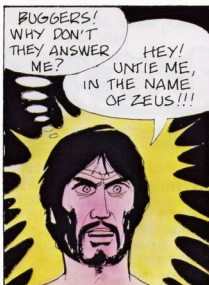
GRIEVED TO DEATH, THE MEN ARE FORCED TO LASH THEIR CAPTAIN TO THE MAST OF THE SHIP, TO PROTECT HIM AGAINST HIMSELF AND THE DEMONS TORMENTING HIS SOUL...



AT LAST, ON THE MORNING OF THE THIRD DAY, WORN OUT BUT TRIUMPHANT, ULYSSES EMERGES FROM HIS LONG AND PAINFUL NIGHTMARE.



BUT THE SAILORS, HAVING STUFFED WAX IN THEIR EARS SO AS NOT TO HEAR THE HEARTRENDING CRIES OF THE MAD, REMAIN DEAF TO THE APPEALS OF THEIR CAPTAIN...



SO ULYSSES, SON OF LAERTES, KING OF ITHACA AND CONQUEROR OF TROY, INTRODUCED HIMSELF...

BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THAT LOST ISLAND?

ALAS,
WE ARE
ENCHAINED
HERE...

VICTIMS AND PRISONERS OF
A TERRIBLE AND CRUEL GOD
WHO HAS MADE **SIRENS**
OF US!...

SIRENS?...
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
BY THAT?

OH, ULYSSES,
IMAGINE TWO RAVISHING YOUNG
GIRLS WITH LONG BLOND HAIR (WE
ARE REFERRING TO OURSELVES)... WITH
PLEASANTLY PROPORTIONED FACES,
BIG BLUE EYES, SMALL AND DELI-
CATE MOUTHS, REVEALING PEARLY
WHITE TEETH BENEATH... IMAGINE
ALSO, LONG AND GRACEFUL
NECKS...

WELL-SHAPED SHOULDERS...
PRETTY FORMED BREASTS,
NEITHER TOO SMALL NOR TOO
HEAVY, DECORATING THIS PLEASING
STRUCTURE AND OVERLOOKING
THE BEACH OF A SLIGHTLY
ROUNDED STOMACH.
THEN THIS... THIS...

ALL ENDS IN A
FISH'S TAIL!

THE LOWER REGION OF
SUCH A LOVELY BODY
ENDS AS A ROUGH
AND SCALY APPEN-
DAGE... IT'S HORRIBLE!
THERE, THAT'S A
SIREN: A FISH-
WOMAN!...

AND THAT IS WHAT YOU
ARE?

OH, THERE WAS
A TIME WHEN WE
HAD LEGS, LOVELY
LEGS... OUR STORY
IS A VERY SAD
ONE!...

AT THAT TIME, NOT
SO LONG AGO, WE LIVED
FAR FROM HERE, CARE-
LESS AND WILLFUL, AS
ALL YOUNG GIRLS OF
OUR AGE ARE...

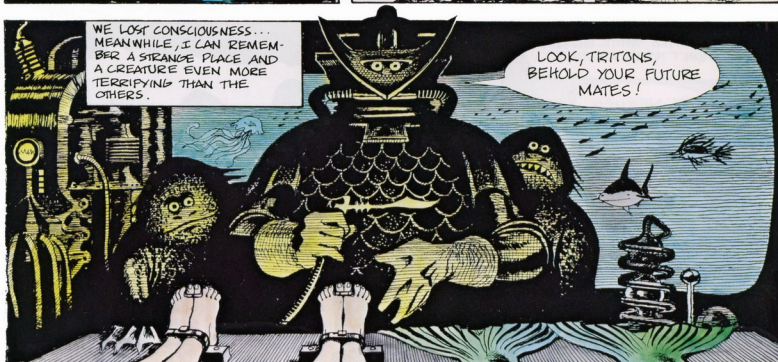
ONE DAY, WE WERE GAMBOGLING ON THE BEACH, BATHING IN ALL INNOCENCE...



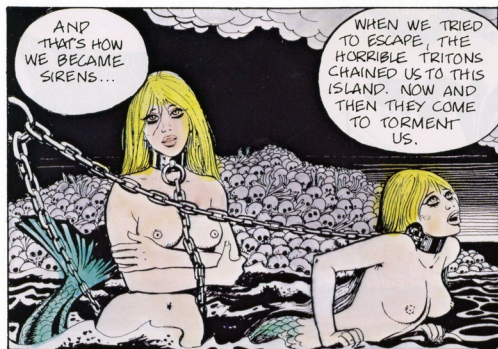
SUDDENLY WE SAW GHASTLY CREATURES, COVERED IN SCALES, EMERGE FROM THE WAVES. THEY THREW THEIR DISGUSTING BODIES ON US, AND CARRIED US AWAY...



WE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...
MEANWHILE, I CAN REMEMBER
A STRANGE PLACE AND
A CREATURE EVEN MORE
TERRIFYING THAN THE
OTHERS.



AND
THAT'S HOW
WE BECAME
SIRENS...

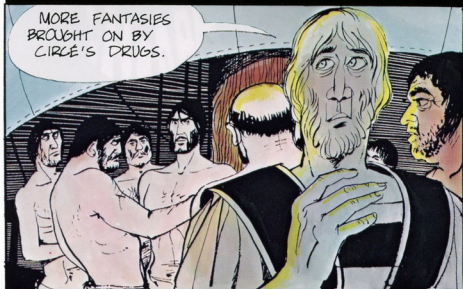


THAT IS OUR STORY,
ULYSSES. AREN'T
YOU AT ALL TOUCHED
BY OUR FLIGHT?



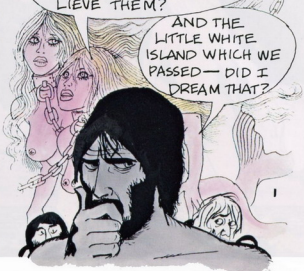
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, WHEN THE SAILORS DECIDE AT LAST TO RELEASE ULYSSES, HE TELLS THEM THE STORY OF SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS, BUT NO ONE BELIEVES HIM...

MORE FANTASIES
BROUGHT ON BY
CIRCE'S DRUGS.



NO, I DIDN'T DREAM THAT.
THERE WAS SUCH SADNESS
AND PAIN IN THEIR VOICES!
HOW COULD I FORGET THEM?
HOW COULD I NOT BE-
LIEVE THEM?

AND THE
LITTLE WHITE
ISLAND WHICH WE
PASSED— DID I
DREAM THAT?



IT'S TRUE ENOUGH THAT WE
PASSED A LITTLE WHITE ISLAND,
BUT I DIDN'T NOTICE A SOUL
THERE.

ME NEITHER.

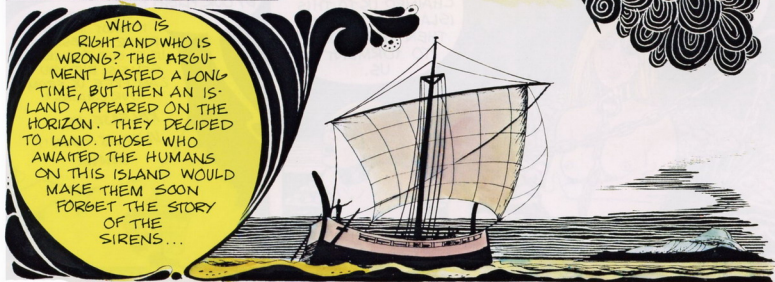
I
SAW
SOMETHING!

YOU
SAW TWO
YOUNG
GIRLS?



YOUNG GIRLS? BY ZEUS!
TWO DISGUSTING CREATURES, SO
REPULSIVE THEY MADE MY
BLOOD RUN COLD— THAT'S
WHAT I SAW!
IF THOSE WERE YOUNG
GIRLS, I HOPE NEVER
TO SEE ANOTHER
WOMAN IN MY
LIFE!

WHO IS
RIGHT AND WHO IS
WRONG? THE ARGU-
MENT LASTED A LONG
TIME, BUT THEN AN IS-
LAND APPEARED ON THE
HORIZON. THEY DECIDED
TO LAND. THOSE WHO
AWAIED THE HUMANS
ON THIS ISLAND WOULD
MAKE THEM SOON
FORGET THE STORY
OF THE
SIRENS...



**HEAVY
METAL**

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