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MARCH 1998

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HEAVY METAL

WPS 36587

THE ILLUSTRATED
FANTASY MAGAZINE



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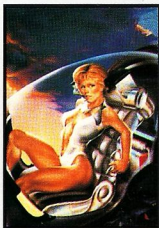


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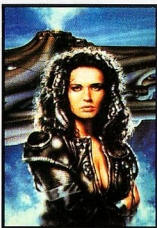
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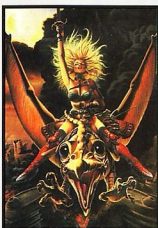
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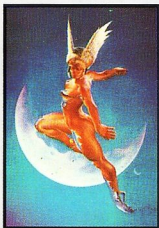
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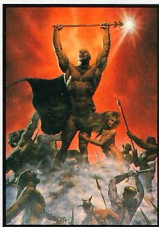
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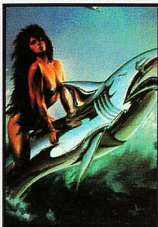
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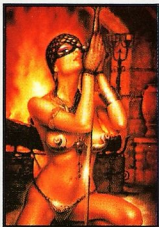
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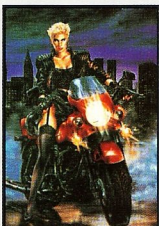
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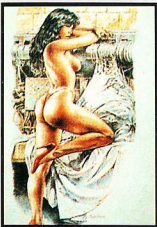
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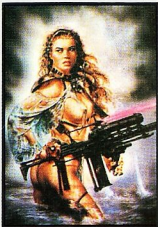
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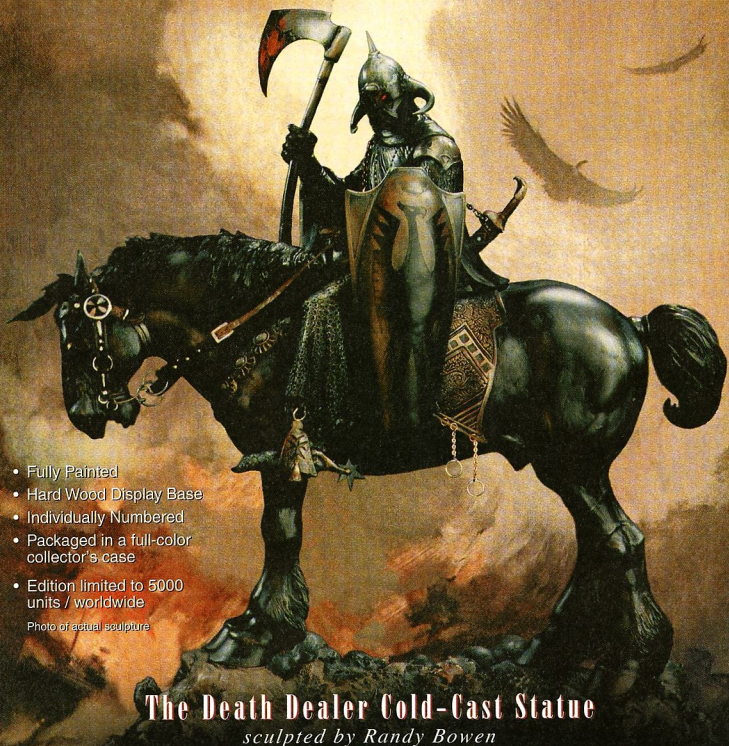
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6. GALLERY on

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DUIEGO

GARAVANO

92. THE SLOW BOAT TO

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97. WHY DWARVES ARE SMALL

by BUCHET, MORVAN AND

COLOR TWINS

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No. 1

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© Les Humaniodes Associes SA - Geneve. A story by Bilal in 1981.

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HEAVY METAL

I love Bisley! I love De Felipe! I love Risso! I love Bilal, Gonzalez, Juillard and the rest of this issue's crazy gang! I love our new Galactic Geographic section! I love the gallery! I love my staff! And I really, really love my job! (I'm also extremely fond of puppies, collecting toys, very small rocks and... well, let's not go there...)

Seriously folks -- this issue rocks! By far my favorite of 1998! We'll surely never be able to do another this cool... Well... until, the next issue, which is pretty smokin'... Come to think of it, the Spring Special is awfully good too... Wait a minute -- what we've got planned for the July issue is sure to blow your mind... And then there's... Um... Hey -- Did I tell you how much I love my job yet?!

Oh yeah... Right... Ahem... Say, how are you all doing? Great, I hope! We're having a blast here! Whoa, I just had a killer idea -- At this exact moment in time I want you to stop reading this (no -- not really this exact second -- finish the paragraph, then stop). Write me about the craziest thing you ever did in your life -- and I'll print it in the next issue! Now that would be fun!

For those of you who are not writing at this moment, as well as those who have now finished writing and have resumed reading -- I want to thank you all for those great suggestions for the sound track for Heavy Metal: F.A.K.K.2! It's been a great help, and keep 'em coming -- We are listening (well, except for that one guy who thought it should be an all Christmas carol sound track...) Anyway, thanks!

Okay, enough from me. Enjoy the issue and we'll see you all soon.

K. Eastman

Website: www.pinupmall.com

DIALOGUE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.M.,

I caught the last hour or so of the Heavy Metal Movie last night on tv. At first, I didn't pay much attention to it, I just noted the blood, gore and sexual stuff. Then that warrior girl with the white hair came on. I was entranced, this movie made more of an effect on me than anything I've ever seen. I'm dying to see it again but I have a few problems with trying to rent/purchase it. I am, after all, a 13 year old female. I would assume that's a pretty uncommon fan base for this movie, and I would certainly run into trouble trying to get it. I live in Canada and was wondering if you would know if it's going to air again soon. Please write back

Cassandra

Dear Cassandra,

Firstly, we won't tell on you -- and secondly, welcome aboard! We have so few female fans, we're glad to have you. As for catching the movie, ask your parents if it's okay first, then watch the cable channels. I know it's making the rounds -- or check out your local video store.

Dear H.M.,

I loved the first movie!! Taarna is my hero! My hubby and I also love your magazine, it's outrageously beyond imagination!! We can't wait for the new movie. Keep up the great work. WE LOVE YOU!!

Christina

Dear Christina,

Speaking of female fans -- whoa! Here's another!! Thanks for your kind words. We love Taarna too! As for the new movie -- look for an animation update on Heavy Metal: F.A.K.K.2, coming soon to an issue near you!

Dear H.M.,

I recently read the latest issue with a well-made story, "Gypsy: Siberian Fires". I wanna see more!! It was so intriguing and original! This is what makes HM stories great. The last two years have been somewhat okay compared to many great science fiction and fantasy segments over the years. I would like to see HM return to its original roots. Keep it up and I will enjoy Heavy Metal for years to come.

Robert

Dear Robert,

Thanks for the comments and advice! Gypsy is one of our new favorites also, and we expect another installment in the near future. As for the rest of our issues, we search all over Europe to try and find the best work available and are pretty proud of what they're doing these days -- but would love any detailed info you care to send. We're here for you, so keep the letters coming!

Dear H.M.,

First let me say your magazine is exceptional. I've been a fan since I was 14. Your web-site however, lacks in so many ways. It's very conventional. Try another web builder service. Add a monthly strip by a new artist. Anything!! It won't match the magazine, but if the web-site were a bit more exciting, more people would add links at their home page. This would result in more hits, and ultimately, more new people would be turned on to your magazine.

Casey

Dear Casey,

We hear you man, and we've got some great web action coming your way!! I don't want to spill the beans just yet, but after months and months of work, you won't believe what's coming your way -- stay tuned...

Any questions or comments you may have, please send to:
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HEAVY METAL

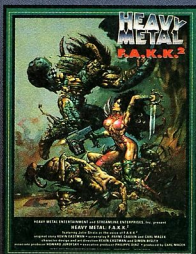
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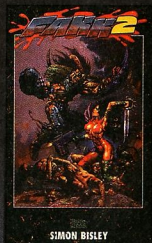
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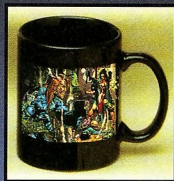
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Image on Back

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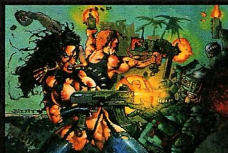
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KEN KELLY



• DEMON OF THE DEEP •

STRANGE AND STRONG, THE ART OF KEN KELLY SPEAKS TO THE VIEWER JUST AS HE MIGHT. STRAIGHTFORWARD, YET WITH A HINT OF HUMOR IN ITS VOICE. WHILE THE ART DRAWS US IN AND MAKES US NOTICE EVERY BRILLIANT, MOODY DETAIL, THE ARTIST LIGHTEARTEDLY SCOLDS: "DON'T TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY!"



AFTER A TOUR OF DUTY IN THE MILITARY, KELLY SETTLED BACK IN NEW YORK. INFLUENCED BY A NUMBER OF ARTISTS' WORK IN THE FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION GENRES, KEN DECIDED TO MAKE A GO OF AN ILLUSTRATION CAREER. IN 1968 HIS FIRST COMMISSIONED PAINTING, "THE LURKING TERROR" WAS PUBLISHED ON THE COVER OF VAMPIRELLA MAGAZINE.

THE NEXT 29 YEARS WOULD PROVE TO BE A ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF HARD WORK AND SUCCESS FOR KEN. HE'S ILLUSTRATED MORE THAN 200 MAGAZINE COVERS, ONE OF WHICH CAUGHT THE EYES OF THE ROCK BAND KISS AND LED TO HIS ILLUSTRATION OF THEIR ALBUMS "DESTROYER" AND "LOVE GUN". HIS WORK WITH KISS EARNED HIM TWO GOLD ALBUMS, AND OPENED THE DOOR TO SIMILAR PROJECTS WITH BANDS LIKE DEEP PURPLE AND MOST CURRENTLY MANOWAR.



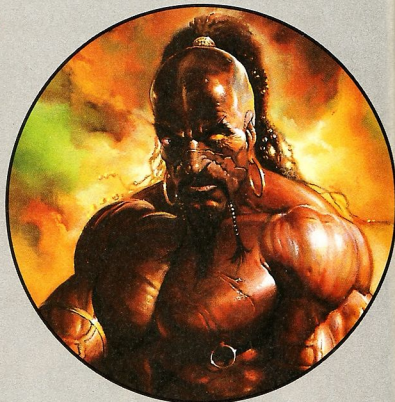
• TIGRESS •



• SCALED VENGEANCE •



• DEATH'S END •



• "THE KEEPER" •

PAPERBACK BOOK COVER ILLUSTRATION HAS ALSO BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF KEN'S CAREER; EARLY ON HE ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS THE COVER ARTIST FOR THE ROBERT E. HOWARD "CONAN" SERIES. HE DID MANY OTHER PAPERBACK COVERS, BUT IT IS HIS ASSOCIATION WITH CONAN THAT BECAME ONE OF HIS MOST ENDURING. IN FACT, IT QUALIFIED HIM AS SUCH A CONAN EXPERT THAT HE WAS ASKED TO SERVE AS VISUAL CONSULTANT FOR THE NEW FILM "KULL THE CONQUEROR."



KEN'S ART HAS GRACED TOY PACKAGES FROM THE TRANSFORMERS TO G.I. JOE AND, THANKS TO A NUMBER OF LUCRATIVE TEXTILE LICENSING DEALS INVOLVING KEN'S TRANSFORMERS ART, HIS YOUNGEST FANS CAN LITERALLY SLEEP ON IT! SPEAKING OF FANS, KEN'S ARE AMONG THE GENRE'S MOST LOYAL, AND IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THEIR OVERWHELMING DEMAND THAT KEN'S BOOK, "THE ART OF KEN KELLY" WAS PUBLISHED IN 1990. ADD TO THAT KEN'S MOST RECENT WORK IN THE TRADING CARD AND COMIC BOOK ARENAS, AND IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY KEN'S RENOWNED AS ONE OF FANTASY'S HARDEST WORKING, MOST DIVERSE AND MOST TALENTED ARTISTS.



• SOLITAIRE •

AS FOR THE HARD WORKING PART, KEN WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. HIS MOTTO: "I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO DO WHAT I LOVE AND MAKE A LIVING AT IT, SO I'LL KEEP DOING IT AS LONG AS THEY'LL LET ME!"

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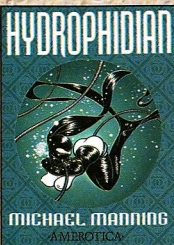
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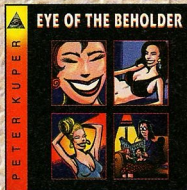
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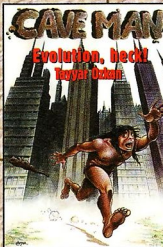
EUROTICA



EUROTICA



PETER KUPER



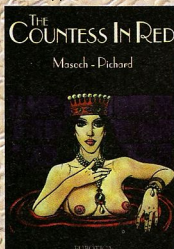
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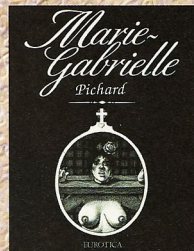
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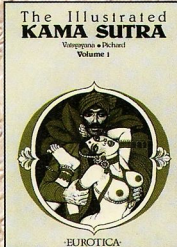


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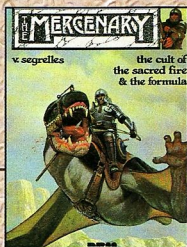
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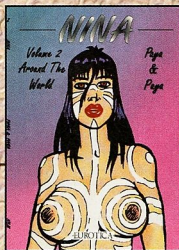
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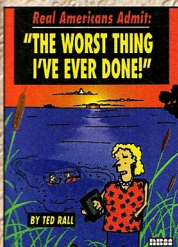
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Jeffrey Goldsmith

Interviews

John Kricfaluci

John Kricfaluci created Ren and Stimpy, then Viacom took control of his creations. Now John K is back with George Liquor, cutting out distribution channels by airing his breakthrough quality cartoon directly using Shockwave Flash technology. Finally there's something great - but not yet quite perfect - to look at on the web @ www.spumco.com.



JK: So, did you like it?

JG: I like it. A real cartoon on the web, amazing, finally, but are you satisfied?

JK: Well, you know, there's always things you want to improve. Technology and, you know, our own drawings. We can always draw a better-looking dump. I'd like to put more corn in it.

JG: More corn? Walt Disney once said something like, "We sell corn." He meant corniness. What do you mean by corn?

JK: Well, in a dump. Corn, you know, like tomato skins, corn, peanuts, things you just don't digest.

JG: [LAUGHS] Ah, like

sesame seeds.

JK: Yes. Sesame seeds.

JG: And do you think that's what made your reputation?

JK: Corn? Well, this is the first time that we've even attempted something like this. I think our reputation will probably be known for that now. That's all I'm reading about in the press. Every journalist I've been talking to, the only thing they write about is the dumps.

JG: I think an animated poop pushing a baby carriage with a smaller baby poop in it might be less interesting than the fact that people finally have something cool to just watch on their computer screens. That blows my mind.

JK: And they watch it over and over again. I get tons of email just on this. We even got a breakdown from our server of which corporations are watching the most on company time.

JG: Who's watching it the most?

JK: Disney employees. I love that.

JG: That's brilliant. So, why do you think it took people so long to do this? Flash technology has been around for a while. Are you the first to do an actual 2-D cartoon?

JK: We've seen some animation here and there. But I guess what you'd consider a cartoon - something with characters and continuing stories - I think we're the first.

JG: There was Protozoa with their VRML episodes at www.protozoa.com or at mediadome.com.

JK: Right. I saw that.

JG: What did you think?

JK: Well, I didn't see the whole episode. We saw some clips, but I didn't really see it as a story. Everybody's used to Quicktime and RealVideo and RealAudio.... and they've come to expect grainy or pixel-ly images. So they're surprised when they see Flash. They're kind of taken aback. A lot of people didn't see it, they just say, "What do you think about the limitations of the technology and having to have a really small picture, postage stamp picture?" And I have to say "Go and see the cartoon. It's not a postage stamp. [But] it's not quite up to TV yet."

JG: So what's in the future? You're going to keep doing episodes of this?

JK: Yeah. Hopefully every week. It's kind of a struggle right now because we're just doing it on our own funds and I'm really looking for a sponsor to be able to at least pay for it. I'm not looking to make a giant profit right off the bat. We want to make the characters popular and then hopefully support ourselves with the merchandise. And then basically just be able to do whatever we want creatively. That's been my struggle the whole time I've been in animation, to just make something that I find amusing and that the audience finds amusing. That's all I want to do.

JG: I know. I heard you've had a few problems with that.

JK: Everybody in animation does. The whole problem is distribution. Distribution has been, up till now, a necessary evil. There are people who are producers or creators and then there are people who are consumers or audience and there really shouldn't be anything in between those two. But unfortunately, you know, if you have chickens and they lay eggs, you've got to hire a truck, somebody to take the eggs to the store and get the store to approve the eggs and there's just



fifty steps between the chicken and the person who's going to eat the egg.

JG: It's true that right now the Web allows you to approach the consumer directly, but don't you think that five or ten years from now there'll be branding on the Web the same way there is on TV and people will keep going to the same channels over and over?

JK: I don't know if I'm totally against branding. I like to know I'm watching a Hanna-Barbara cartoon or a Warner Brothers cartoon. I don't see anything wrong with that. It's not so much that, but I don't think the big corporations will be able to compete on the net with smaller, more sincere, honest companies who really are just trying to make a better product. And the big corporations are going to bring all their bad habits from whatever they're producing right now. And their hugely complicated distribution system full of managers and broadcast standards people and executives and all kinds of people who have their fingers in the creative process, basically take out the creative elements.

JG: And make it more...

JK: Just water it down. Make it homogenous. Try to imitate something that somebody else did before.

JG: I don't know whether I should ask, but are you bitter about what happened with Ren and Stimpy. Viacom had the rights, but are you bitter about having that snatched away from you?

JK: Not at this point. If you asked me six years ago, you know... Right when somebody

kidnaps your kids, what are you going to do? How are you going to feel?

JG: Yeah. I feel for you, man.

JK: As soon as I discovered the Internet it was over. All of a sudden I just realized "Hey, you know, everybody can do this now."

JG: So what does someone who's reading Heavy Metal magazine need to do this?

JK: Depends how complicated you want to make it. If you want to do a black and white cartoon with a little bit of motion, you can probably do it by yourself, if you draw it and write it, get somebody else to ink it, if you've got a scanner, if you have Flash.

JG: Flash costs \$300 or so.



JK: That's not too bad. Just put it up on your website. It's not that complicated. If you want to do a more full-blown production, like what we're doing, full color and, you know, music soundtrack...

JG: How do you do the lip-synch anyway? It's not perfect but...

JK: It's trial and error. The problem with Flash is that you can't do perfect synching because everybody's computer runs at a different speed. So you can't count on synching your picture with the sound. So we have to figure out ways to trick the computer into doing it, into simulating synch sound. We figured out some ways to do it so at least we can have some dialogue.

JG: I'm happy you've done this.

JK: I'll be real happy when we can get a sponsor.

JG: Yeah. It'll probably happen by the time this magazine article comes out. Do you have any desire to work for TV again or to do a feature or any of those kinds of things?

JK: No. Creatively and theoretically, I would love to make a movie but with the situation the way it is today. I think it's impossible. I just don't know how you could pull it off. First of all, you have to get somebody to distribute it and pay for it. And as soon as that happens, they want to ruin it; they want to stick you with some hack Hollywood writer.

JG: Unfortunately, they wouldn't stick you with me.

JK: Do you write movies?

JG: I write my own strange little fictions. I didn't pursue Hollywood for the exact reasons that you're outlining. The business aspects suck.

JK: Even if you had everything you wanted financially with creative support, you still would have a nightmare trying to find animators who could pull this stuff off. Who could do a funny style of animation? Most animators, most American animators do Disney-style. I've actually worked with Disney animators before, some really good ones who have trouble just drawing characters like Ren and Stimpy. They are so used to doing that one style that adapting is really hard and it takes time. It's as if you had a superhero artist all of a sudden trying to do a Warner Brothers cartoon. People probably think it's harder to draw Superman than it is to draw Bugs Bunny. Well, there's more lines in Superman and maybe you have to know something about anatomy, but it's just different.

JG: Are you looking for animators?

JK: Not at the moment because we don't have that much stuff to do. But, you know, we're always interested in seeing who's out there. We will be when we put more comics, more

cartoons out. We're publishing our comics right now through Dark Horse. And it's another problem, you know. We have real trouble keeping up. You know how fast you have to do comics?

JG: Yep.

JK: And the kind of artwork we're doing is sort of new to comics. It's just hard. It's really hard to keep up and keep yourself in business doing comic books with the low circulation they have now for most comics.

JG: There's low circulation because there're too many titles out there.

JK: Too many superhero comics. They're just all the same. So anything that's unique just doesn't get distributed. And things that should be selling to a mainstream audience don't make it. You don't see them anywhere where you can buy them. Or they're ashamed because you tend to think of comics as being for kids.

JG: There's a shelf space issue which is the same in the CD-ROM business, not enough slots.

JK: You can't charge little enough for them either to get a big audience. I'm of the opinion that I would rather make a smaller profit margin on something and get it to a wider audience, make your money that way. Like go back to selling comics for 50 cents or something. I don't see how you



couldn't do it if you were selling in the millions. Surely, you'd be able to make a profit. In the old days, comics did sell by the million. Now you're lucky to get 25 thousand.

JG: I don't know the economics, but Peter Bagge, the creator of Hate, told me his circulation is 20 thousand. That works for him and his publisher, Fantagraphics.

JK: He's a guy I would think could be much more popular even than he is. His stuff to me is practically mainstream. It's something that most kids can identify with. His characters are totally believable. I'm sure those would be really popular if they could get distributed through mainstream outlets. There's a guy who could really profit by being on-line.

JG: Hate's going to be animated eventually, though, I think.

JK: Oh, one more thing. You might want to mention that we will be having sexy girls in our animation cartoons, something you rarely get in cartoons these days. There will be plenty of sexist material. Not allowed to do that on TV. So you can be happy about that.



By Karl Kofoed

GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCHER

"It's always been called Green," says the planet's human discoverer, L. A. Thompson of the GGS starship *Houston*. "It looked like an emerald floating in space... so Earth-like and peaceful. Odd that the beauty of Green is matched by the hostility of its lifeforms."

In the image at right, a xenobiologist experiences firsthand life on this planet of eternal daylight. Once like Earth, Green is locked in resonance with its parent star, rotating only once every year, leaving one side in permanent sunlight and the other in cold, eternal darkness.

The planet's ecosystems have evolved to survive such adverse conditions. On the sun side a canopy of plant-like forms has grown to a height of twenty miles, covering the land. The canopy siphons excess heat to the night side of the planet.

But the price of life in the sun is war on a grand scale; particularly at the shorelines, where creatures of land and sea fight for space and survival. So crowded is the planet's sun side that even the air provides a home for huge floating algae mats.

Green is an evolutionist's dream. But how to study it? The Federation's answer comes from technology; a Null-Gee Stasis Module (NGSM). Developed in 3078 by the GGO research division, it found the hostile environment of Green a perfect testing ground. And while the module did provide protection, the frightening view left an impression on researcher Charles Beardsley, pilot of the stasis module.

"I wanted to study the shoreline but it was a war zone," said Beardsley of the incident. "Then I saw a clear space that appeared to be a good place to watch the action. To my surprise I was attacked from below by something that sounded like it came from the bowels of hell itself. Without the NGSM I'd have lasted two seconds... tops."

Shaken but otherwise unharmed, Beardsley now leads a permanent team studying this fascinating hot-house world.

In a future issue, the *Galactic Geographic* will explore "The Mysterious Nightside of Green".

GREEN

Planet of Eternal Day



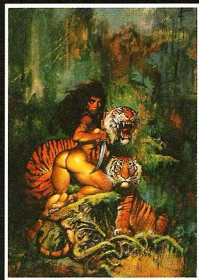
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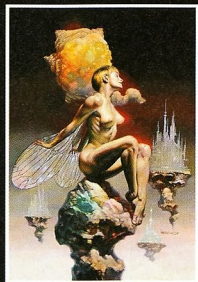
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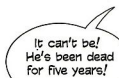
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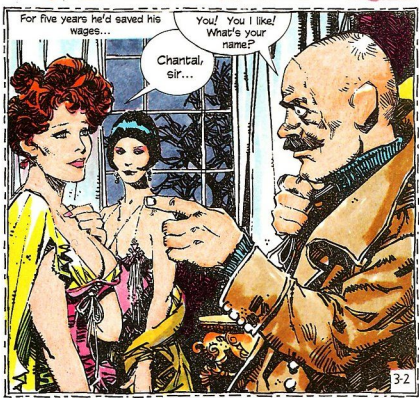
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That's where I knew Axel... A crazy guy who always wound up being enlisted in some army...



...And at the end of those five years he went on a binge...



A month!
We'll be
together here
for a month!
You and I
alone, my
love!

You're joking,
right?
Come on, get
undressed!

No! I'm not
joking!
A month!



You're crazy!
As a goat!



They will serve
us food in here...
and wine... and a
bed pan! We need
a bed pan!
Ha ha ha!



Chantal!
What's going on?
Open up!
Chantal!

We'll be so
happy! A month!
Then I'll go back
to the army!



Don't open
it! If you force
the door, I'll kill
you, adorable
Chantal!

And so, in effect, I lived in prison for a month. It almost drove me mad!



Adorable,
Chantal!

And...
no one told
the police?

Axel would have
killed me! A
scandal would
have been fatal
for the Jolie De
Vivre...

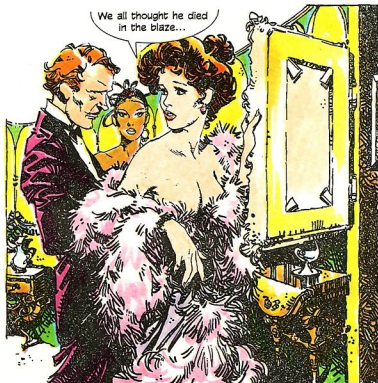
Five years later,
Axel repeated
his feat in
Rennes...



... The last time, the girl managed to escape over the window cornice. Axel set the building on fire!



We all thought he died
in the blaze...



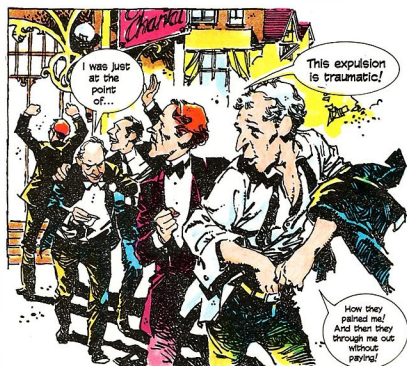
But he's alive,
and here!

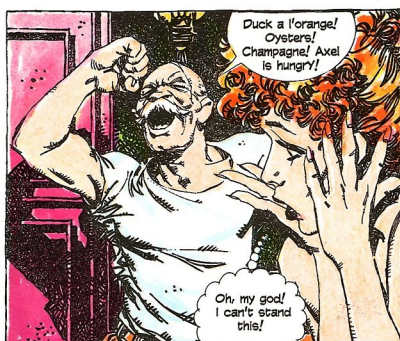


No, that's
the pharmacist,
Duvai...

Cops! I've
got the wrong
room!









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the same grief...



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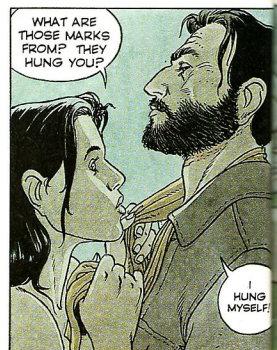
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- ☐ X-LARGE

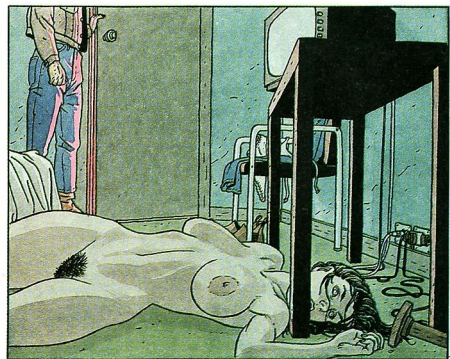
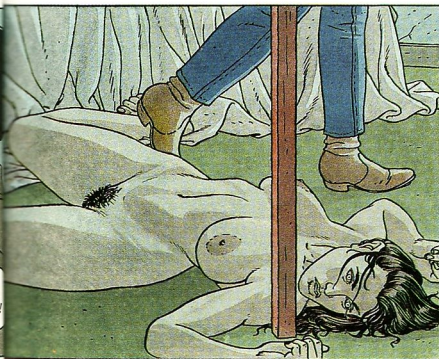
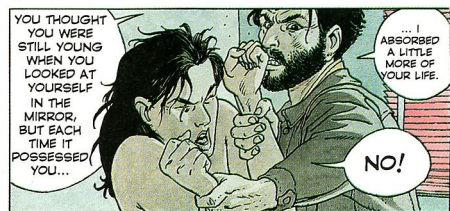
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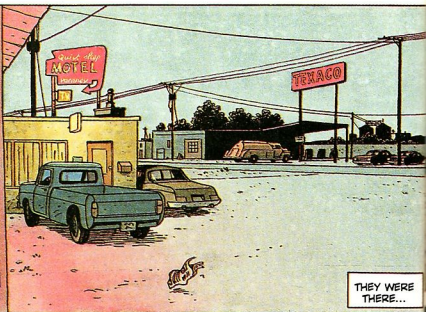
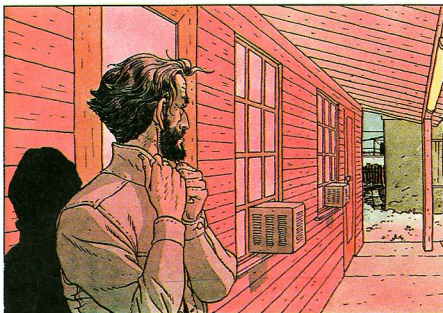
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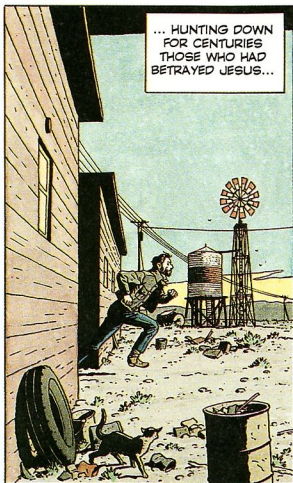


THEY WERE
THERE...

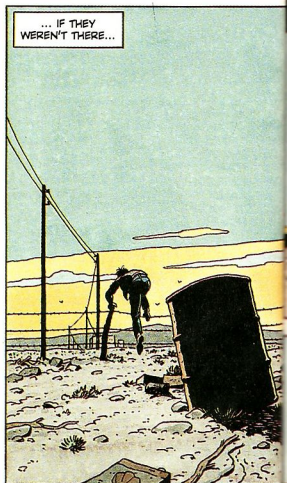
THEY ARE A PACK OF WILD DOGS
SENT BY THE CHURCH...



... HUNTING DOWN
FOR CENTURIES
THOSE WHO HAD
BETRAYED JESUS...



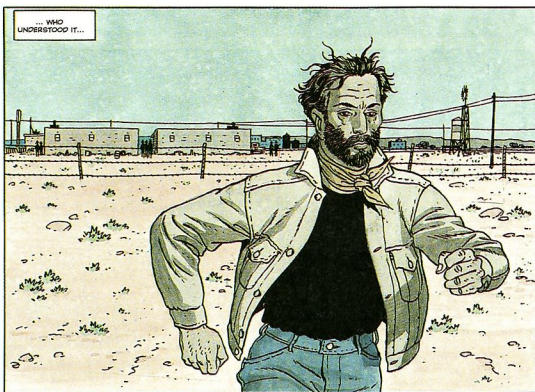
... IF THEY
WEREN'T THERE...



... WHO WOULD
DO IT...



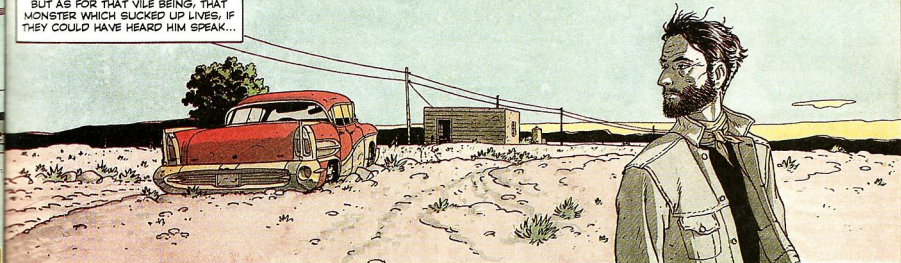
... WHO
UNDERSTOOD IT...



... AND WHO
KNEW MORE
THAN COULD BE
PERMITTED...



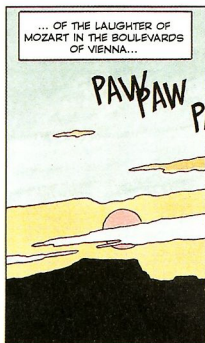
BUT AS FOR THAT VILE BEING, THAT
MONSTER WHICH SUCKED UP LIVES, IF
THEY COULD HAVE HEARD HIM SPEAK...



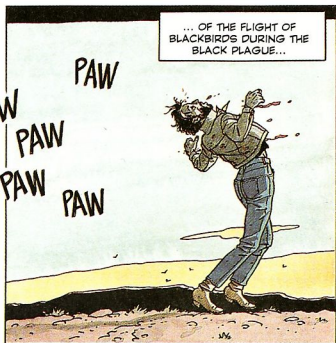
HE COULD HAVE TOLD THEM
OF THE LIGHT OF THE SUN
ON THE SEA OF GALILEE IN
ANCIENT TIMES...



... OF THE LAUGHTER OF
MOZART IN THE BOULEVARDS
OF VIENNA...



... OF THE FLIGHT OF
BLACKBIRDS DURING THE
BLACK PLAGUE...



... OF THE WAVING
FLAGS AND THE
SHINING UNIFORMS ON
THE FIELDS OF BATTLE
ALL OVER THE
WORLD... IF THEY
COULD IMAGINE ALL
THAT MY EYES HAVE
SEEN...



DRIVE A
STAKE IN THE HEART OF THIS
ABOMINABLE
PERSON...

... AND
PUT ON
GLOVES TO
THROW HIS
BODY INTO THE
FIRE...

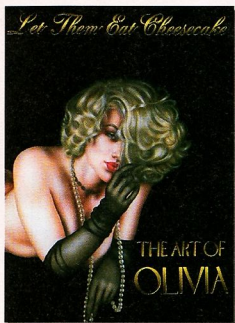
... ALL THAT MY EYES...
HAVE... SEEN...



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BUT NOBODY LAUGHS
WHEN THEY LEAVE

WE ARE ONLY EQUAL/
IN THE DARK AND IN
THE GRAVE IN THIS
LAND OF STRANGERS/
THERE ARE DANGERS/
THERE ARE FREAKIEES

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Peace and love, dearest
congregation... I'm Harry Head,
your favorite master of
ceremonies. Resign yourselves
and enjoy your meal!

the
Freakies
TM
an armless production

in
Shakin' Shakespeare



I'm here to present the lavish
opening number of our biannual
cultural festival. And you folks
can be sure it's gonna shake
FREAKYTOWN to the marrow!

Watch out now! I don't wanna
see anyone munchin' popcorn...
or havin' a grope in the dark!

Seriously now, I have the
immense pleasure of
introducing a great performer, a
prodigiously talented actor...

...a man who had the guts to trade
in a well-paid job and comfortable
lifestyle for the uncertainties of the
stage... He is a star among stars
whose immense popularity outshines
that of his peers.



Kings and queens have loved
him, his fans adore him, and the
critics (that's right, the critics!)
worship him...

Out of feelings of sheer
philanthropy, he deigns to
perform before ordinary
audiences such as yourselves,
expecting nothing in return...
Allow me to introduce...

MYSELF!!!

Music, Bartolo!
(whispers)



The play is by
"Sheik Spear..."

You snooty bore,
You shameless whore,
My love you dare dismiss?
My ass you may then kiss.
For you I will not pine,
For my new love is wine!
Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Something is rotten in the state
of Denmark!

To be, or not to be: that's the
nitty-gritty of the question...
But hark! Here comes the fair
Ophelia...



And then they all visited her tomb, covering it with flowers which were still moist with the tears of her loyal lovers...

We wanna see
her tits!

I saw you, Meat Burger,
I saw you!

We don't give a shit about
your story! We want some
booze! You can give it to us
intravenously!

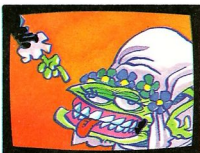


Booze, huh? And easy sex,
and gratuitous violence, and
all the other sales gimmicks,
right? Okay! Mountain Bike...

Drop yer pants!!!

Sorry to interrupt your
performance, Harry, but that's
not in the script... and it's
unworthy of a great talent such
as yours...

Well I saw the movie, and at
the end they have this huge
fight and everyone's pissing
blood and...



So, Monty, you can be the bad
guy... and I'll... I'll stick this
great screwdriver right smack
in your hunchback!!!

Yeah! That's great!

Let me see now... I have a
feeling that this scene goes
beyond the logical necessity
that seems to govern my
fate...

Logic, my ass, Mountain Bike!
I didn't drop a great burial
scene to watch you playing a
dandified idiot! I paid to see
blood!



And tits! I'm gonna have to
sacrifice you, Monty! You'll
make a great corpse!

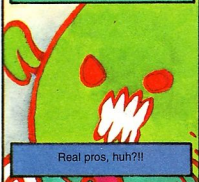
Just a sec! Just a sec! No one
told me about the screwdriver
when I accepted the role...!
And there's no mention of tits
in my contract!

Garbo would also have said
no!! **The scene doesn't
work!!!**

Hasn't anyone noticed the
anachronism of the
screwdriver? (In the context
of this play, of course.)



Hey! The scene doesn't work!!!
And what about continuity? No one seems to have noticed the problem that raises!!



Real pros, huh?!!

The screwdriver was in the previous episode! You're spoiling the show, making it look as though it were produced on a shoestring budget.
I told you it doesn't work!!!



Just a sec! I think I've got it...
(since the present strategy has failed...)



Real honest professionals.

Credits by: M. Citterinni. Theme music for elevators and dentists' waiting rooms, Molto Energico e Accelerato, Op.69.
Welcome to teleshopping, the show that has made zapping a form of self-defense.



Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!!!!

"Turn-of-the-screw," a unique screwdriver from Kiferplus, now finally on sale, at an amazing price!!!



Right on target, and no mistakes!

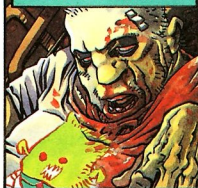
With this tool you'll be able to do whatever you wish in the privacy of your home... while pretending to indulge in some do-it-yourself carpentry.



A great tool that the whole family can use to titillate its favorite electrical sockets! And so easy-to-use, even the young 'uns can have a go!



Don't miss this unique opportunity! You can put off writing that check to the hungry and the homeless, but don't let this golden opportunity slip past!



You won't regret it! And you'll be the envy of your all your neighbors. Does someone want to buy one right away...?



But of course... and from the word "go"... As I said, these guys are pros!

Hey, Mountain Bike... I want that wonderful screwdriver...
BUT OF COURSE, DEAR CUSTOMER, BUT OF COURSE!!!!
Of course, young man! I'll owe you my life!



The only problem is that I haven't got a red cent on me... Can you give me credit?



More coffee?

We're in business, Ronny...

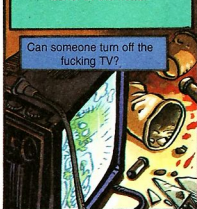
Step up on the stage, and show our wonderful audience how great you look with it! It even matches your eyes!!!



And so in a stroke, years of study and hard intuitive work are annihilated by sheer selfishness!!!
Let history be my judge, but I can't take this anymore!!!



BAAANG!!! Harry Head you brainless punk!! You shot the usher in the head!

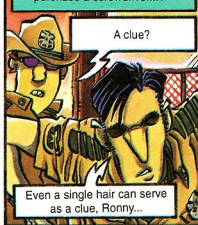


Can someone turn off the fucking TV?

I was... I was shaking... I haven't had much practice in self-destruction... We're gonna cut off your balls, Wolfy!!! Everything that's gone wrong is your fault!!! And so's everything that hasn't gone wrong yet!!!



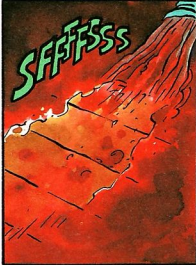
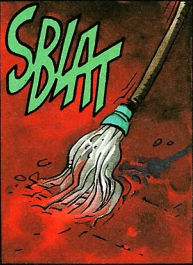
Why my fault, when all I did was purchase a screwdriver...?



A clue?

Even a single hair can serve as a clue, Ronny...

We're gonna make hamburgers out of you, you dumb shit!



WELL, IT SEEMS WE FINALLY HAVE SOMETHING ON VIDEO TAPE...

LET'S HOPE THERE'S A DECENT MUG SHOT OF THE PSYCHO WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MESS... GET THE TAPE TO THE BOSS, SO HE CAN SEND IT TO THE LAB...

CAREFUL WITH HIS HAND! IT'S GONNA GET STUCK IN THE ZIPPER!

GET IT TO HIM PRONTO, RONNY!

HIS HAND? WHAT HAND?

OKAY... WILL DO... YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SOME COFFEE?

EVERYONE COMES TO FREAKYTOWN, BUT NOBODY LAUGHS WHEN THEY LEAVE...

County Police, Baffin Bay.
Report 2245/4, Code g7: 13-6-2033
Between 7:15 and 8:26 a.m., Irving "B-52" Harrier, owner of Dirty Harry's Gun Shop on 17 Sunset Strip, was shot dead on the premises.

The body, which had been shot in the chest several times with an automatic, was found at 8:30 a.m. by Bugsy Bunny, a clerk at the above-mentioned gun shop, who had come in early to sweep the floor before opening time.

Harrier's body was found behind the main counter. The motive seems to have been theft, but other possible leads are under investigation.

BLACK

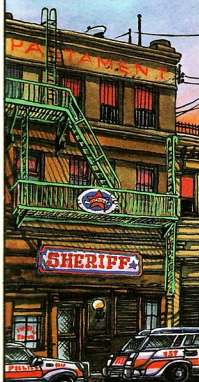


DEKER

YELLOW MOON

I MUST WARN YOU, CHIEF RIOS, THAT SO LONG AS WE HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THE VIDEO, ITS STATUS AS EVIDENCE IS TO BE HIGHLY...

RAMIREZ, YOU'RE AN EVEN GREATER BORE THAN THAT BUNCH ON "HILL STREET." GET TO THE FUCKING POINT!



OKAY, OKAY... I WAS JUST TRYING TO GO BY THE BOOK... THE PRESUMED KILLERS SMASHED THE CAMERA SO THE PICTURES ARE OF POOR QUALITY, BUT WE CAN HOPE THAT THE SOUND WASN'T DAMAGED.



HEY, GUYS, WE'RE STILL CLOSED! ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY TO KILL SOMEONE?

THAT'S THE MURDERED MAN'S VOICE...

BAAAAANNGG! CREEEGG... PSH... T-T-T-THAT'S ALL FOLKS!!

PLEASE... I'LL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT... FS... FSHH... TAKE THESE... THEY'RE WORTH A LOT OF MONEY... FSH...

I CAN SMELL FEAR ON YOU, YOU DOUCHE-BAG.

I CAN SMELL YOUR FEAR AND I LIKE IT!



YOU MAKE ME SICK... BAAANG!!! KGGGGFFSH...

IS THAT ALL WE'VE GOT?

SO IT SEEMS, CHIEF RIOS... THE REST IS TOTALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE. BUT WE CAN ANALYZE WHAT CAME BEFORE...

RUN IT AGAIN FROM THE TOP, RAMIREZ.

T-T-T-THAT'S ALL
FOLKS!!

THE ASSHOLE THINKS HE'S
FUNNY. LET'S SEE IF HE'S
STILL LAUGHING WHEN I
CUFF HIS BALLS!

...I CAN SMELL
FEAR..

I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT HIS VOICE
SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
MAYBE IT'S HIS
ACCENT...

IT ECHOES IN MY MIND LIKE SOME
LOUSY MOVIE I SAW A LONG TIME
AGO... HIS WAY OF...

BAAANG!!!
KGGGGFFSH...

IF YOU DON'T SIT
STILL, I'LL CUT OFF
YOUR GOOD EAR,
CHIEF RIOS!

CLE CLE
CLE CLE
CLE CLE

I'M GOING TO HOOK UP THE AUDIO SYSTEM
TO THE COMPUTER TERMINAL... LET'S SEE IF
WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING.

GNNNNN
KKRIK

BUT I HAVEN'T
TRIMMED YOUR
SIDEBURNS YET...!

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, MR. LEE...
I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO.

EXCUSE ME, CHIEF,
UHM... THE EXTEN-
SION SPRING ON
YOUR ARM... I THINK
IT'S THE WRONG WAY
ROUND...

WE GOT IT! FASTER THAN
EXPECTED... AND YOU'RE
GOING TO LOVE THIS,
CHIEF!

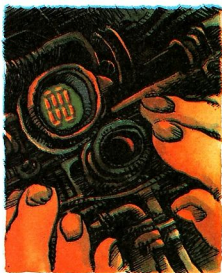
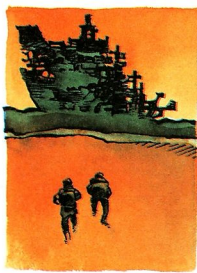
TONG

I BETTER GET THIS
DAMNED ARM FIXED
BEFORE IT MANGLES
SOMEONE!

K-CLEG

BRILLIANT, MEN!!!
MORTALLY BRILLIANT!!!
HA HA!!

WATER, WALK, OUTSTAY!
DE BROT, F.D.-30 (05/1994)



DEKER... DAMN HIS BLACK ASS! I SWEAR I'M GONNA PUNCH HIM TILL HIS EYEBALLS FALL OUTTA THE BACK OF HIS NECK. THEN I'LL PEEL HIS DICK AND WATCH AS HE SLOWLY CROAKS, PLEADING FOR ME TO KILL HIM!!!

— YOU FORGOT THE BIT ABOUT PISSING ON HIS TOMB, CHIEF...

— YEAH... AND THEN I'LL PISS ON HIS TOMB!!!

THAT VULTURE PULLED OFF MY ARM AND KEPT IT AS SOME SORT OF TROPHY... WHEN I WAS ON PATROL IN LOYOLA, I USED TO BE QUITE A CONSCIENTIOUS OFFICER, YOU KNOW... HE WAS A "TERMITE," STEALING FROM SHIPWRECKS... WE ALSO SUSPECTED HIM OF BEING INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING WITH A BUNCH OF CUBAN HOODS...

THE STOOLIE'S INFORMATION SEEMED RELIABLE. WE RAIDED THE WRECK TO SEE IF THERE WERE DRUGS ON BOARD. WE FOUND A SEALED CONTAINER, A FUCKIN' TRAP!

— AND THAT'S WHEN KOVALSKI...?

YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT... I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW I WAS SHOWERED WITH PIECES OF HIS EXPLODING BODY... BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH WAY MY ARM FLEW OFF... I DON'T KNOW HOW I MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THAT INFERNO ALIVE...

— AND DEKER?

— HE DISAPPEARED FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I LOST ALL TRACE OF HIM. TWO YEARS OF SURGERY... ENOUGH TO GIVE A RAT A GOOD HEAD START...



WELL, ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER, HE NOW SPECIALIZES IN STEALING ARMS. ER... NO PUN INTENDED, CHIEF!

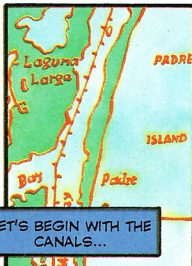
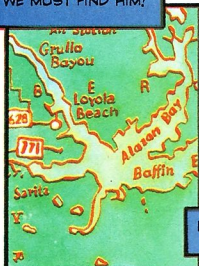
SO NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND HIM, ARREST HIM AND GIVE HIM WHAT HE DESERVES...

HIS TIME'S UP, CHIEF RIOS!

DEKER...! YOU BLACK SCUMBAG!

I'M GONNA RIP YOUR LIVER OUT!!!

WE MUST FIND HIM!

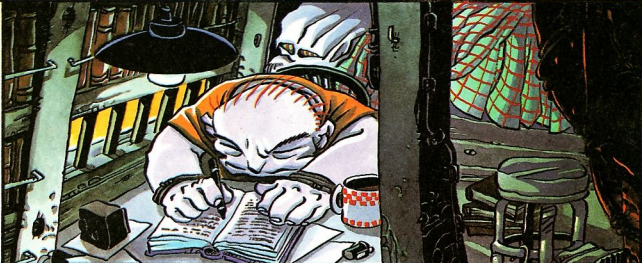


JUNE 15, 2033. TOP CHOP'S LOG: FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, WE'VE BEEN HEADING TOWARDS THE RIO GRANDE. CONDITIONS ON THE CANALS ARE NO BETTER THAN THE LAST TIME: THE MOSQUITOES ARE THE SIZE OF A MAN'S FIST, THE WATER IS MURKIER THAN THE SOUL OF A TELE-EVANGELIST, AND THE HEAT IS SO FUCKIN' OPPRESSIVE THAT IF IT DOESN'T COOL DOWN SOON, I'M GONNA DROWN IN MY OWN SWEAT.

OUR PLAN IS STRAIGHTFORWARD: WE'LL HEAD SOUTH TO THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER, THEN WE'LL SAIL UPRIVER FOLLOWING THE OLD "WETBACK BORDER." WE'LL TRY NOT TO BE TOO CONSPICUOUS... WE'LL RAISE THE MOST NOTICEABLE WRECK, STRUGGLING HARD SO AS NOT TO SEEM TOO SUSPICIOUS. THEN IT WILL BE TIME FOR A TOUR OF THE BORDELLOS OF HIDALGO COUNTY. I'M DYING TO SEE THE SIAMESE TWINS, ESPECIALLY THE ONE WITH THE BIG TITS.



JUNE 18. WE'VE LEFT PORT MANSFIELD BEHIND US. MY QUARTERLY PACKAGE OF BOOKS WAS WAITING FOR ME... UNFORTUNATELY, IT CONTAINED NOTHING SPECIAL... I CAN SCARCELY GET MY HANDS ON CLASSICS FROM THE 1990'S. THE KID SEEMS DISCONCERNED BY MY HOBBY... HE STARES AT THE BOOKS WITHOUT DARING TO TOUCH THEM. I TOLD HIM THEY BITE... THIS IS KNOWN AS EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY FOR IDIOTS.



NOT MUCH TRAFFIC IN THIS AREA, BOSS. WE'LL ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION...

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. WE SHOULD LOOK BUSY...

WE SHOULD TRY TO ACT NORMAL, DON'T YOU THINK?

SHOULD I SWITCH ON THE RADAR?

GIVE IT SOME JUICE...



TRY A LOW-FREQUENCY SEARCH. WE'LL FILL THE HOLD WITH WHATEVER WE FIND FIRST...

RIGHT, BOSS... I SUPPOSE THERE ARE NO BONUSES FOR HIGH PRODUCTIVITY?

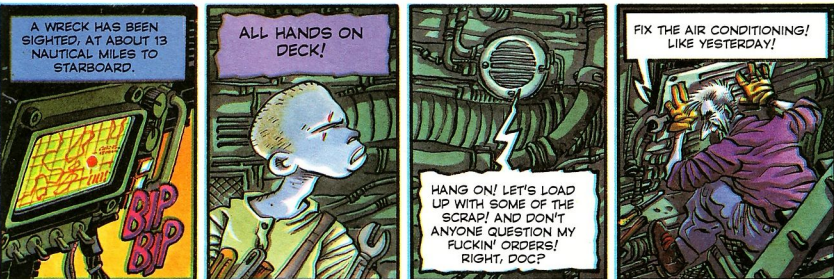


A WRECK HAS BEEN SIGHTED, AT ABOUT 13 NAUTICAL MILES TO STARBOARD.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

HANG ON! LET'S LOAD UP WITH SOME OF THE SCRAP! AND DON'T ANYONE QUESTION MY FUCKIN' ORDERS! RIGHT, DOC?

FIX THE AIR CONDITIONING! LIKE YESTERDAY!



THERE SHE IS! FRESHLY GROUNDED.
TAKE IT IN CLOSER, REDNECK!

KILL THE ENGINES!
WE'RE ALMOST ON
TOP OF IT! SLOWLY
NOW, SLOWLY...!

IT WAS AN OLD BOMBER, THE
KIND THAT'S STILL USED BY
THE INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENTS OF THE SOUTHERN
STATES. THEY'VE BEEN
SCREWED AS USUAL. WE
BEGAN STRIPPING IT THE NEXT
MORNING. CONCENTRATING
ON RECYCLABLE WEAPONS
AND INSTRUMENT PANELS--
ANYTHING IN FACT THAT
COULD BE AUCTIONED OFF TO
THE RAGTAG MERCENARIES...

...WHO WERE IN THE PROCESS OF
FIGHTING SEVERAL REGIONAL WARS IN
THE AREA. THEY'D RECYCLE AND REUSE
ANYTHING-- SO LONG AS THEY COULD
FIGURE OUT HOW TO REASSEMBLE IT.
LIKE K-MART COMMANDOS!

THERE'S TOO MUCH SCRAP
IRON HERE FOR US... WE
SHOULD GO LOOK FOR HELP
IN THE NEARBY VILLAGES...
THAT WILL GIVE CREDENCE TO
THE STORY THAT WE'RE
REALLY WORKING.

WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE
AROUND HERE LIKE?

MOST OF THEM
ARE CATLICKS...

JUNE 20. AT DAWN A
BARGE APPEARED. ON
BOARD WERE A DOZEN
SLEEZEBALLS... WHO'D DO
ANYTHING FOR A BIT OF
COLD CASH AND LOTS OF
BAD BOOZE.



THE KIND YOU'D AVOID IN
AN ELEVATOR.



PROBLEMS ARE QUICK TO
DEVELOP WITH THAT SORT...
AND THEY DEVELOPED IN
RECORD TIME.

LEMME GO, YA
FUCKIN'
BASTARD!!!

WHO THE HELL IS
THAT?



OKAY... GO WITH DOC
AND LET'S SEE WHAT
KIND OF SCUM YOU CAN
RECRUIT THIS TIME. AND
DON'T FORGET WHAT
HAPPENED AT
SAUSALITO.

IT'S DOC. ONE OF THE MEN
CORNED HIM IN THE
INFIRMARY!

COME ON THEN, POPS,
LEMME HAVE THE
GOD-DAMNED KEYS...
NOW!

SORRY...

OUR MEDICINE CABINET
IS PRETTY SKIMPY...

TAPTAPTAP

I NEED THE FUCKIN'
DRUGS... ANY DRUGS...
AND YOU'RE GONNA GIVE
'EM TO ME!

ASPIRIN AND COTTON
BALLS... THAT'S ALL WE
GOT... I DON'T THINK THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

WE'RE SHELTERED FROM
SERIOUS DISEASES ON
BOARD. BUT YOU HAVE TO
STEER CLEAR OF THE AREA
AROUND THE DOCKS...

HEY, POPS, I WASN'T BORN
YESTERDAY! IF YOU DON'T
OPEN THE FUCKIN' CABINET,
I'LL SPLIT YOU WIDE OPEN!

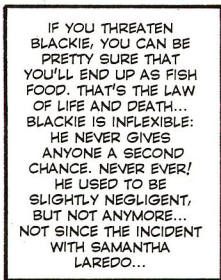
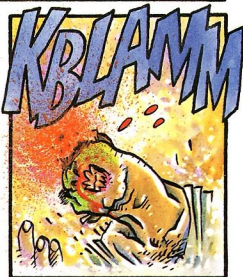
I'M REALLY SORRY,
SON...

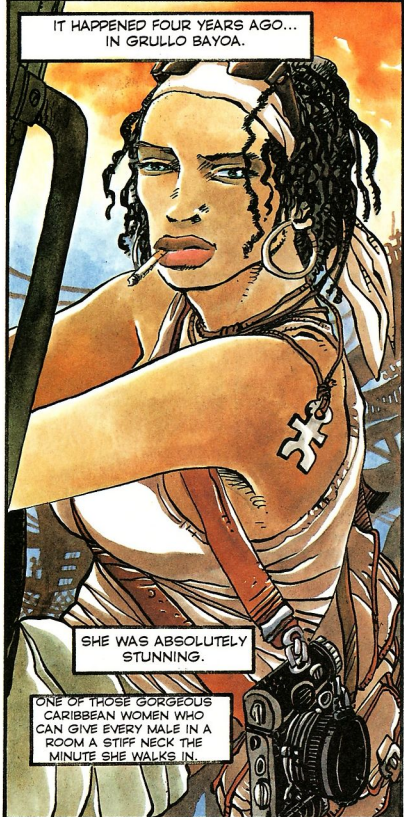
FSSSS

OUTTA THE WAY,
DOC!!!

FUCKIN'
ASSHOOOLE!!!

SMACK





IT HAPPENED FOUR YEARS AGO...
IN GRULLO BAYOA.

SHE WAS ABSOLUTELY
STUNNING.

ONE OF THOSE GORGEOUS
CARIBBEAN WOMEN WHO
CAN GIVE EVERY MALE IN A
ROOM A STIFF NECK THE
MINUTE SHE WALKS IN.



SHE WAS A PHOTOJOUR-
NALIST AND SHE WAS
DOING A STORY ABOUT
THE CORPORATION.


NO ONE ASKED HER
ANY QUESTIONS.

"TERMITAS"
NOW!!!




AND BLACKIE, LEAST OF
ALL.


THEY GOT TOGETHER...



SHE SEEMED VERY
CARING...




IF ONLY THAT BASTARD
HADN'T TURNED UP...



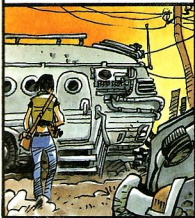
BLACKIE SMASHED HIS FACE IN. SHE
WAS HIS LADY, HIS ILLUSION, HIS
TEMPLE, AND HE WANTED TO MAKE IT
CLEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL. HE
LOVED HER ABOVE ALL ELSE...

BUT THE OTHER GUY WAS
THE SORT THAT DOESN'T
GIVE UP EASILY. AND HE
SWORE REVENGE...



I'LL KILL YA, YA BITCH!
I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL
KILL YOU!!!

WE SHOULD HAVE
BELIEVED HIM...



WE SHOULD HAVE
IMAGINED...



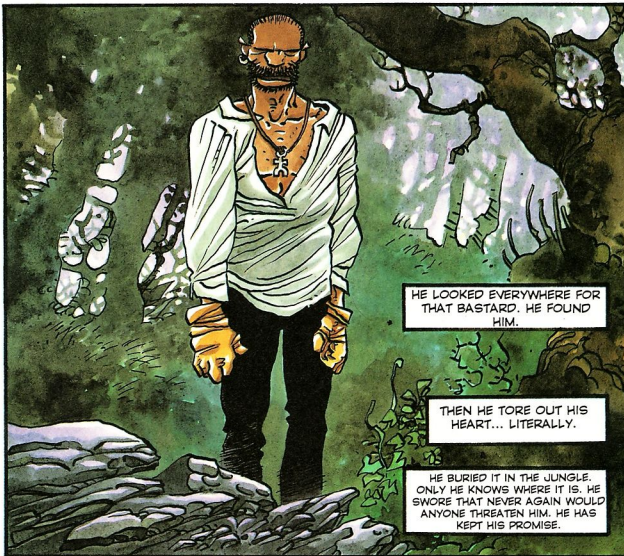
...THAT THE GREATEST
COWARDS...



...ARE ALSO THE MOST
VINDICTIVE.



THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME
I SAW BLACKIE CRY.



IT WASN'T EASY TO
CONSOLE HIM.



HE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR
THAT BASTARD. HE FOUND
HIM.

THEN HE TORE OUT HIS
HEART... LITERALLY.

HE BURIED IT IN THE JUNGLE.
ONLY HE KNOWS WHERE IT IS. HE
SWORE THAT NEVER AGAIN WOULD
ANYONE THREATEN HIM. HE HAS
KEPT HIS PROMISE.

JUNE 29. STILL NO NEWS FROM BIG MAMA. THE RADIO'S BROKEN DOWN AND WE'VE CAST ANCHOR IN AN AREA OF TORTUOUS WATERWAYS. BLACKIE AND REDNECK ARE TRYING TO FIX THE RADIO. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT OUR GUY HAS AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE...

I BET MY LEFT EYE THAT THE RADIO BROKE DOWN BECAUSE OF THE DAMNED CONDENSER.

AND SO WE STAY PUT...

KEEP COOL, BOSS. THESE THINGS TAKE TIME. MODERN TECHNOLOGY IS LIKE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN... IF YOU RUSH THROUGH THINGS...

...YOU'LL NEVER GET INTO HER PANTIES...

I GUESS THAT'S THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE.

WELL... SOMEONE HAS BEEN FOOLIN' AROUND WITH THE INTIMATE PARTS OF THIS MACHINE. THE IDIOT BLOCKED THE TERMINALS...

IT'S FUCKED.

WHAT'S YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

ANY PROGRESS?



IT WILL BE HARD TO FIND RELIABLE PARTS. SO FOR THE TIME BEING, WE'LL HAVE TO REMAIN INCOMMUNICADO.

NONE OF THIS HAPPENED BY CHANCE. WHOEVER PLANNED IT WANTS TO CONTROL US.



OKAY. NOW'S THE TIME FOR US TO LEAD THIS FUCKIN' DANCE.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'VE LOST TRACE OF OUR TARGET?!!! A SHIP CANNOT DISAPPEAR WITHOUT TRACE, YOU GOD-DAMNED IDIOTS!

THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS A FORTUNE TRAINING YOU TO BE EFFICIENT!!!

...WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE LOST THE SIGNAL, BUT WE CAN'T DEFINE THE PRECISE CAUSE, SIR...



DON'T BORE ME WITH DETAILS OF YOUR SEX LIFE, LIEUTENANT!!! AND FIND "LADY IN THE DARK" RIGHT NOW!!!

I WANT A COMPLETE REPORT BEFORE 10 PM.

I WON'T PUT UP WITH ANY MORE MISTAKES!!! THIS OPERATION HAS TOP PRIORITY!!!

JULY 1: WE'RE NOW IN THE STRAITS OF LAGUNA VISTA, A DANGEROUS SWAMP THAT NO SANE CAPTAIN WOULD THINK OF SAILING INTO. THE AREA IS CONSTANTLY COVERED IN A THICK CHEMICAL FOG THAT DESTROYS ALL NAVIGATING INSTRUMENTS. THE TOXIC WATER GLOWS WITH A GHOSTLY FLUORESCENCE, SO THAT IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE DAYTIME. INTUITION MUST SERVE AS YOUR GUIDE HERE. INTUITION AND BALLS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, NO ONE CAN FIND US HERE-- NOT EVEN GOD.



WATCH OUT! THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO MAKE MISTAKES.

STOP! CUT THE ENGINES, BLACKIE!

SPARK



WE'VE HIT SOMETHING!
LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOT
TANGLED IN ROOTS!



SHIT! OUR FRIEND WON'T BE ABLE
TO TELL ANYONE HOW HE BUMPED
INTO US IN FLESH AND BLOOD!

LET ME SEE IF I CAN
PUSH HIM OUT OF THE
WAY...

DON'T WAKE HIM UP
WHATEVER YOU DO!



READY, BLACKIE?
STEP ON IT 'N SEE IF
WE CAN GET OUTTA
HERE!

WE GOTTA HURRY!

I HOPE POOR AMBROSE BIERCE WILL
STILL BE ALIVE WHEN WE ARRIVE!



WHADYA MEAN?
AMBROSE BIERCE???

SO IT TURNED OUT THAT THE GUY WE WERE GOING TO RESCUE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER WAS CALLED AMBROSE BIERCE... VERY FUNNY... IF MY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY BETTER READ, THEY WOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT BIERCE COULDN'T BE FOR REAL. THE SNOB WHO HIRED US HAD LIED FROM THE WORD GO! THE WHOLE BUSINESS WAS A SEWER OF LIES, DULCITY, AND TRAPS... IN FACT I COULD SMELL THE STENCH OF A MILITARY CONSPIRACY.



...AMBROSE BIERCE... YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THE HONKEY SAID WHEN HE GAVE US THE PAPERS...

AMBROSE BIERCE WAS A WRITER... AND HE DISAPPEARED IN MEXICO IN 1914! THAT'S OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!!! I DOUBT IF HE'S STILL WAITING FOR US THERE!

MAYBE IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE... THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

YEAH, SURE, BUT THEY ONLY HAPPEN TO US! TRUST ME, FOR CHRISAKE!!!

FOR SOME TIME NOW, SECRET MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN GIVEN LITERARY CODE NAMES! DON'T ASK ME WHY, THAT'S HOW IT IS!

AND LIKE A BUNCH OF IDIOTS, WE SAVE THEM FROM A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT... WHILE WE RISK OUR ASSES FOR UNCLE SAM AND GI JOE'S BUDDIES AND THEIR ALL-WHITE CLUB, AND NO ONE EVEN GIVES US ANY MEDALS...

AND IF WE FAIL, WE ALL GO UP IN SMOKE! VERY NEAT!!!

I DUNNO, TOP CHOP... NONE OF US TOOK MUCH NOTICE OF THE FUCKIN' NAME. HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE THAT THE ARMY IS BEHIND THIS?

OKAY, OKAY. SO, LET'S REVIEW THE SITUATION...

AMBROSE BIERCE: MEXICAN RESCUE OPERATION, SEE?

THEY GET US TO SAVE SOME UNKNOWN FUCKER'S ASS, BEFORE HE'S SHOT DEAD IN ENEMY TERRITORY...

EUH... I'VE COOKED UP SOME GREAT TORTELLINI. DOESN'T ANYONE WANT A TASTER?

JULY 3.

AREN'T WE OUTSIDE OUR JURISDICTION NOW, CHIEF RIOS? THIS IS NOT STRICTLY KOSHER...

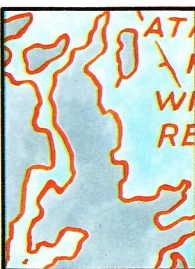
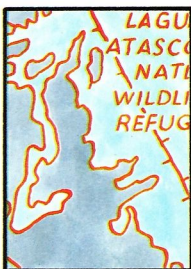
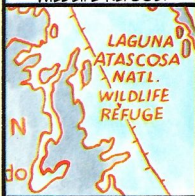
OKAY, RAMIREZ... WE'LL BE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW. DEKER'S SCUMBAGS WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE FUCK 'EM.

SO WE'RE REALLY INCOGNITO.

HOW DID YOU EVER GET YOUR BADGE, WITH THAT GOD-DAMNED ETHICAL CODE HANGING AROUND YOUR NECK! WHEN WE GET TO SANTA ROSA, WE'LL GET ON A REGULAR FLIGHT... NO ONE'S GONNA PUT A BLACK MARK NEXT TO YOUR NAME, SO DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP.

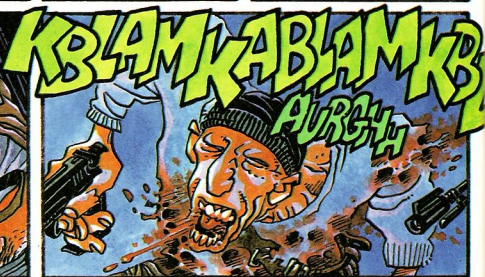
CRKKK

JULY 4: "LAGUNA ATAS-
COSA" (THAT MEANS
BLOCKED LAGOON)
WILDLIFE REFUGE.



BUSTAMANTE!

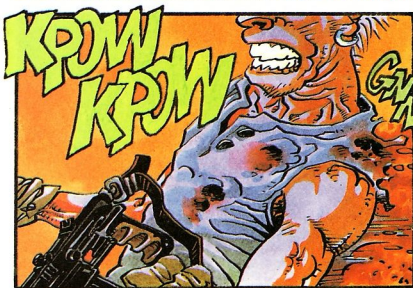
TAKE THAT!!!



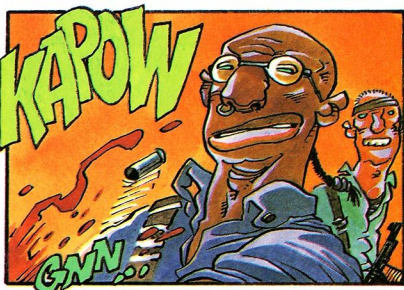
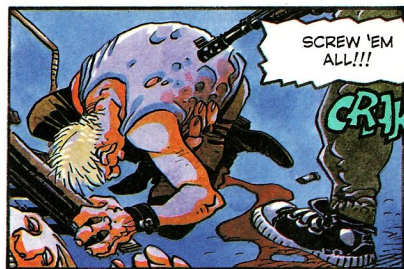
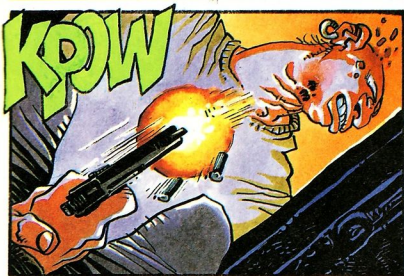
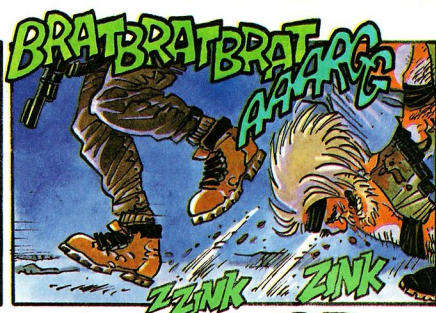
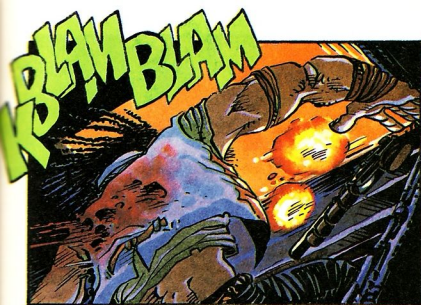
THEY HIT THE
TURK!

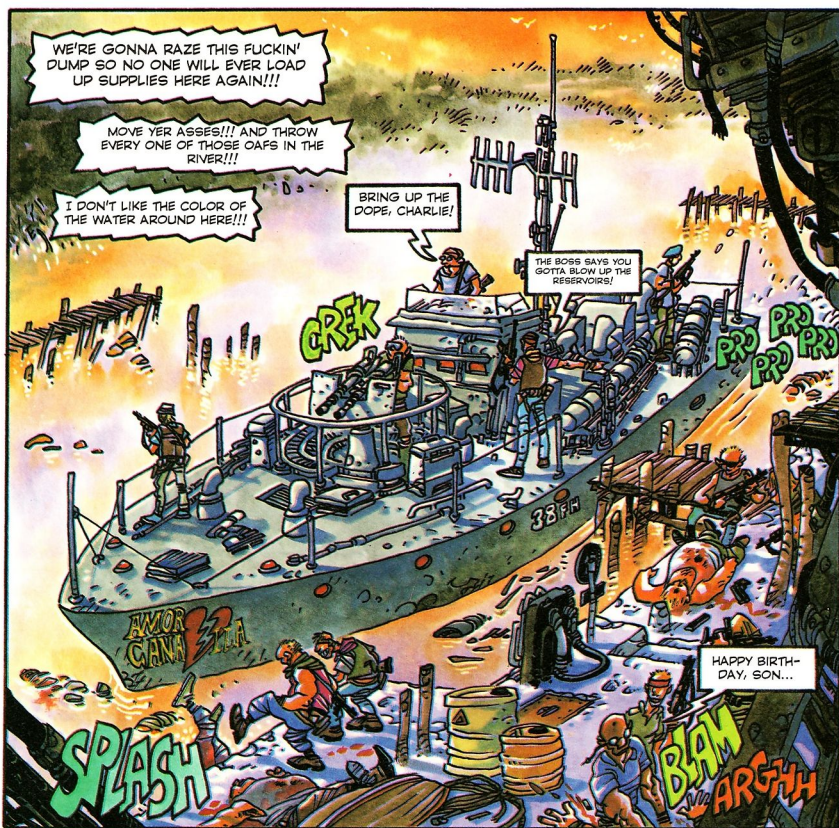


WE'RE GONNA SHOW YOU
NOW, ASSHOLES!!!



SHIT, FUCK,
PISS, CUNT!!!





WE'RE GONNA TAKE
THE CARGO OF
"SNOW" ON BOARD.
THE "AMOR
CANALLA"!!! WE CAN
USE IT TO BRIBE THE
BORDER POLICE!!!

WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY, YA
CUNTS!!! I WANT THIS DUMP
WIPED OFF THE MAP!!! RIGHT
NOW!!!

GO ON, YA BUNCH OF
FAGS! ARE YER BALLS
MADE OF LEAD?!!

CHKLACK

BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK

HORICE'S
FISH MARKET

KREK
KREK
KREK

OKAY!
LET'S GO!!!

DAMN THEM! THEY'VE
GOT TOO MUCH OF A
HEAD START!

LAGUNA
ATASCOSA
NATL.
WILDLIFE
REFUGE

WILDLIFE
REFUGE

Port Isabel
State Hist.
Laguna Vista
Laguna
Hts.

Port Isabel
State Hist.
Laguna Vista
Laguna
Hts.

JULY 5. WE'VE DECIDED TO
THOROUGHLY SEARCH
"LADY IN THE DARK." IF
WE'VE BEEN TRICKED, WE'RE
CERTAINLY LEAVING A TRAIL
OF CLUES. AND OUR
CLIENTS-- OR THEIR EN-
MIES-- MAY BE INTERESTED.
BESIDES, WE DON'T LIKE
FEELING THAT SOME
OUTSIDE FORCE IS
CONTROLLING US. WE
HEROES ENJOY INTIMACY!



ARE YOU RECEIVING
ME, TOP CHOP?

ROGER! I HOPE YOU'RE NOT GONNA
SCREW UP... WE'RE TRYING TO FIND
THE FREAKIES' FREQUENCY.

CONCENTRATE ON WHAT
YOU'RE DOING, BLACKIE...



AS YOU KNOW, WE ONLY
HAVE ONE DIVING SUIT...

...WHICH ONLY
HAPPENS TO FIT YOU...

I PROMISE I'LL BUY YOU
A CUSTOM-MADE DIVING
SUIT... I'VE GOT IT!!!

ZOOM IN A BIT... YEAH! LOOKS
LIKE A TRANSMITTER!



I HOPE IT'S NOT WIRED...
WOULDN'T WANT TO RUIN
YOUR SUIT!



DRUUNA

HOT,

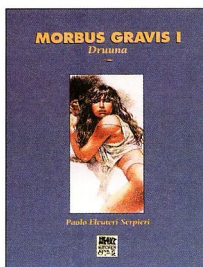
HARDBOUND

AND

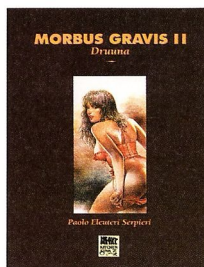
DELIVERED...

ORDER ALL 9
DRUUNA
BOOKS FOR
\$120!!

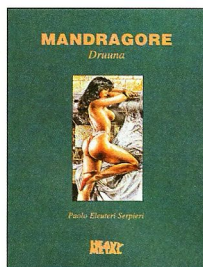
UNCENSORED
VERSIONS!



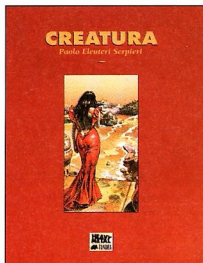
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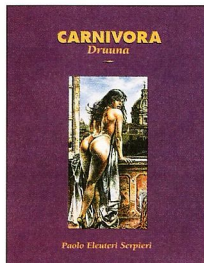
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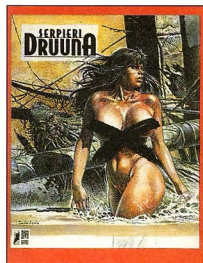
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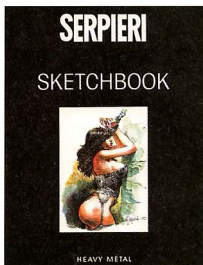
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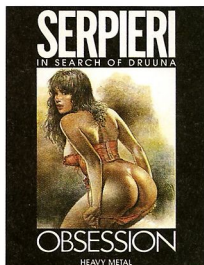
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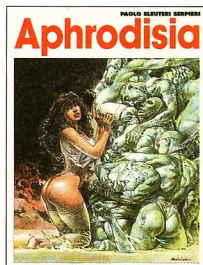
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LIFE IN THE OLD WORLD HAS BEEN ENTIRELY FORGOTTEN. TWENTY YEARS AGO, THEY ERECTED GIANT STEEL BUBBLES OVER THEIR CITIES, SO FULFILLING THEIR MOST CHERISHED DREAM: TO CREATE A PERFECTLY CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.

VIRTUAL HAPPINESS

RAIN NEVER FALLS UNEXPECTEDLY ON THEIR CITIES; MOSQUITOES NEVER DISTURB THEIR PEACEFUL NIGHTS. THEY HAVE BANISHED ALL FORMS OF SURPRISE AND FEAR... THEY KNOW ONLY PLEASURABLE, DESIRED EVENTS.

BUT IS IT HAPPINESS?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I HAVE MY OWN THEORY... FOR I HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE PROTECTIVE BUBBLES AND I WANDER AROUND THE OLD WORLD.

HAVE A NICE DAY!
YOU'RE NOW ENTERING
ALPHA CITY 2!

MY FRIENDS, I ASK YOU IF OUR
HAPPINESS CAN BE PERFECT
WHEN OTHERS DO NOT YET
SHARE IT?

PARTICIPATE IN OUR
STRUGGLE! HELP
HAPPINESS
CONQUER THE
UNIVERSE!

ADOPT ONE OF
THE LAST DOWN
'N OUTS!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
LISTEN TO ME! MY NAME IS
ELLISON AND I COME HERE
TO REMIND YOU THAT
THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD
OUTSIDE YOUR BUBBLES.

AND YOU'LL BE
GRANTED SOME
MAJOR TAX
BREAKS...

HEY! DON'T GLARE AT ME! I'VE COME TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE... ABOUT A REALITY THAT YOU SHOULD NOT IGNORE. IT'S A WORLD OF ROTTING PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT ATTACK AND BITE BACK... WHERE DOGS WANDER AROUND IN PACKS LED BY GIANT MASTIFFS WHOSE JAWS ARE SO POWERFUL THAT THEY CAN EASILY TEAR OFF YOUR ARM.

CLAC!

FAR AWAY FROM THIS HOLOGRAM PET.

OUTSIDE, ANIMALS HAVE REAL PERSONALITIES... THEY ARE VIOLENT... IMPASSIONED...

BUT...

PERHAPS YOU'D RATHER I SPOKE TO YOU ABOUT PLANTS...

AND TREES WITH FRAGRANT, LEAFY BRANCHES FILLED WITH BIRDS AND BUZZING INSECTS...

AND GREEN-FLIES...

HEY, THERE!

IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY!!

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR YOUR ADOPTION!

WHAT???

YOU LUCKY DEVIL!

BUT I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY-THING!

SLACK!

...ANY-THING...

... AT...

THEY LOCKED ME UP FOR TEN DAYS IN A REHABILITATION CENTER WHERE SPECIALISTS INDOCTRINATED ME IN "THE RUDIMENTS OF A PEACEFUL, HAPPY LIFE."

THEN I WAS DELIVERED LIKE A PACKAGE TO THE FAMILY THAT HAD "SO KINDLY" OFFERED TO ADOPT ME.

COME ON IN. THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME.

YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE! IT'S REALLY COMFORTABLE AND WE HAVE ALL THE LATEST APPLIANCES... AS WELL AS PERMANENT ACCESS TO ALL THE NETWORKS.

OH... I ALMOST FORGOT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE DEAR BOY UPSTAIRS...

OUR SON, ELONIE!!

COME WITH ME...

ELONIE IS AN UNUSUALLY GIFTED ARTIST...

BUT FOR SOME REASON HE'S GOING THROUGH A DRY SPELL...

HE'S BEEN CREATING PRETTY LANDSCAPES FOR THE VIRTUAL IMAGE BANK SINCE HE WAS TEN!

AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE! WE FIGURED THAT YOUR BIZARRE STORIES COULD INSPIRE HIM!

...BE SEEN' YOU!

I'LL BE VACATIONING ON THE ISLANDS FOR ANOTHER WEEK...

SO THIS IS MY "NEW FAMILY"?

SHIT! THEY MUST BE JOKING!!! SOME WELCOME! THEY CERTAINLY DON'T THINK OF ME AS FAMILY... EVEN ADOPTED.

YEAH... I GET IT. I'M HERE
BECAUSE THEY NEED
SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE
OF YOU. ELONE...

EVEN THOUGH
YOU SEEM
TOTALLY
OBVIOUS OF
MY PRESENCE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER...
I CAN WAIT TILL YOU
GET OUT FROM UNDER
THERE.

IN THE
MEANTIME,
I'LL WATCH
YOU...

FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS,
I LISTEN TO YOU YELLING,
WHINING... THEN YELLING
AGAIN...

YOUR MOTHER WAS
RIGHT. YOU DON'T SEEM
PLEASED WITH YOUR
CREATIVE
EFFORTS.

I KEEP TRYING TO GET
YOUR ATTENTION.
AFTER ALL, MAYBE I
COULD EVEN HELP
YOU.

BUT YOU DON'T SEEM
TO HEAR ME. YOU
SEEM TO BE MILES
AWAY, LOST IN
YOUR OWN
UNIVERSE.

SO I JUST KEEP ON
WAITING. YOU'LL
HAVE TO REMOVE
YOUR HELMET
SOMETIME...

I GUESS NOT! WHEN
YOU FINALLY DROP
OFF, YOU'RE STILL
ITS PRISONER.

DAMNED
HELMET!

IT'S TIME
TO GO TO
SLEEP!

WHEN I WAKE UP
THE NEXT MORNING,
I THINK I'M GONNA
GO CRAZY.

DAMNIT! YOU PUT ON
THE FUCKING HELMET
BEFORE WE HAD A
CHANCE TO TALK!

AS IF NOTHING
EXISTED BESIDES
YOUR VIRTUAL
CREATIONS.

INITIALIZE
MOONLIT
EVENING IN T.2

INITIALIZING
"MOONLIT EVENING."

INITIALIZATION COMPLETE.

AND NOW
INITIALIZE
A LION
SITTING IN...

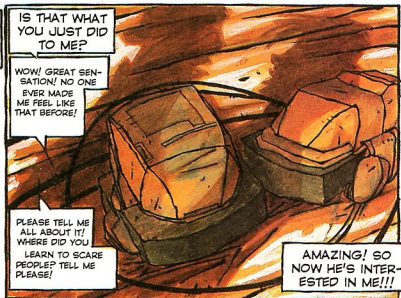
TAKE THAT
HELMET OFF!

EXTRANEUS ELEMENT
INTRODUCED IN PROGRAM!

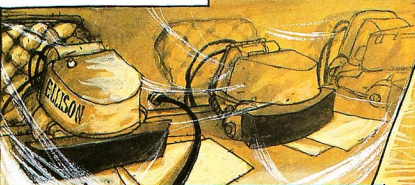
I WANT TO SEE YOUR
EYES AND TALK TO
YOU FACE TO FACE.
D'YA HEAR?!?

[!] EXTRANEUS ELEMENT
INTRODUCED IN PROGRAM!

I SAID TAKE IT
OFF!!!

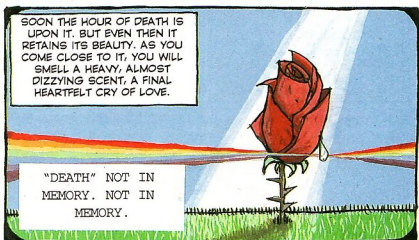
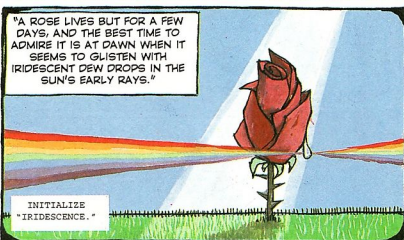
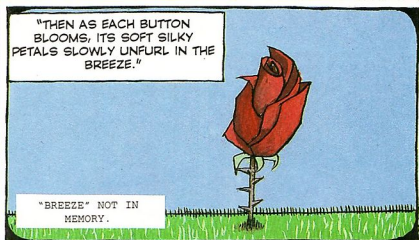
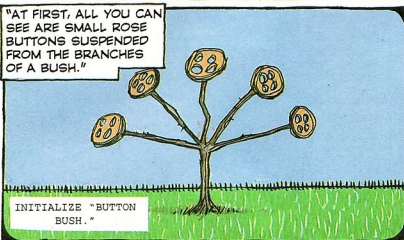
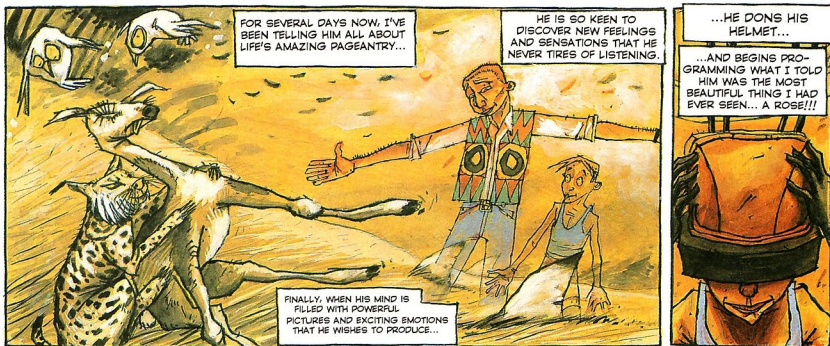


OKAY, THEN! SO I TELL HIM HOW I USED TO WORK FOR A SMALL SOFTWARE COMPANY THAT THE WEB PUT OUT OF BUSINESS...



AND HOW IN THE PROCESS I LOST EVERYTHING MY JOB, MY APARTMENT AND ENDED UP MISERABLY ROAMING THE STREETS, WHILE AROUND ME EVERYONE SEEMED BLISSFULLY HAPPY! I COULDN'T STAND IT!







ELONIE,
SWEETIE! MOM
AND DAD ARE
BACK, DEAR!



OH! IT'S AWESOME!!!
JUST AWESOME, AL!
LOOK...
HE...
HE...



HE'S
CREATING!!

GOOD! AT LEAST BRINGING
THAT DOWN 'N OUT INTO
OUR HOME HELPED ELONIE
REDISCOVER HIS TRUE SELF!



EVERYTHING
AMAZES AND
MOVES YOU!

THE NOISY
FLAPPING OF
THEIR WINGS...

THEIR VULGAR
CRIES...

BUT THAT'S WHAT'S
DIFFERENT FROM THE
IMAGES UNDER THE
BUBBLES, ELONIE...

THIS IS
REALITY!!!

UNLIKE THE TWO HOLOGRAMS WE
LEFT BEHIND TO COVER UP OUR
DISAPPEARANCE!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK
THEY'LL TRICK EVERYONE? FOR
AN HOUR...?

OR MONTHS, MAYBE?
WHO KNOWS?

WHEN PEOPLE ARE
SURROUNDED BY IMAGES ALL
THE TIME, THEY END UP BEING
NO MORE THAN IMAGES FOR
ONE ANOTHER.



BRUNSCHWIG
PONTAROLO.



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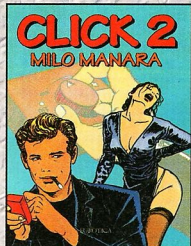


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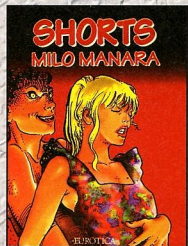
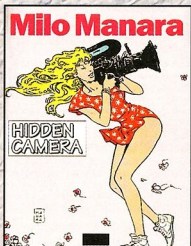
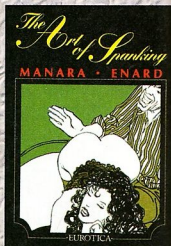
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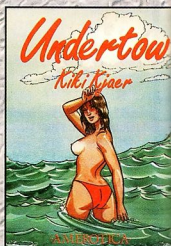
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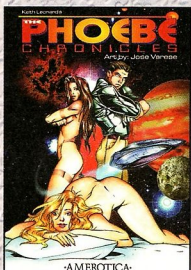


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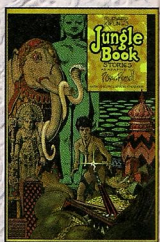
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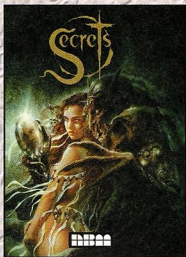
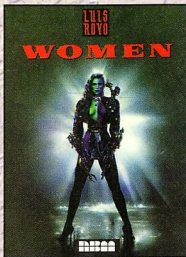
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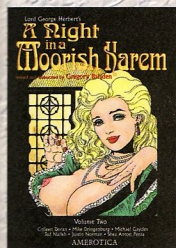
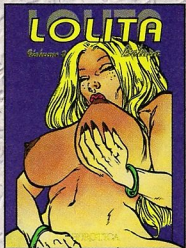
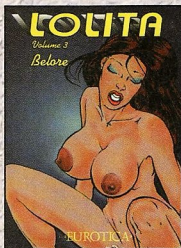
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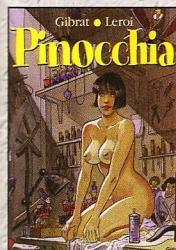
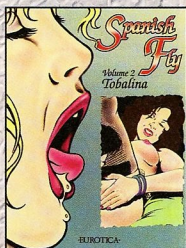
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TAXI

RAMIRO, GET
OUT HERE
WITH THE
DOGS!!

QUICK! THAT GIRL
IS THE BIGGEST
BITCH IN THE WORLD
IF SHE THINKS SHE
CAN ESCAPE US!

GLESSER, YOU
AND YOUR BOYS
GET DOWN TO
THE RIVER!

OK!

CONDOTTIERE!
ALRIGHT... HERE
I COME WITH THE
DOGS!

LET THEM GO
AND STOP
BREAKING MY
BALLS!!

THEY'RE
TAKING THE
TRAIL, CON-
DOTTIERE!
THEY'LL CHEW
HER UP!

COLONEL
ZAVIR!

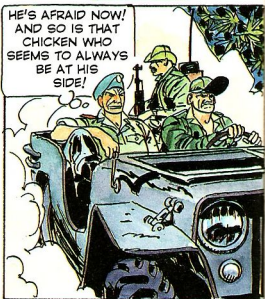
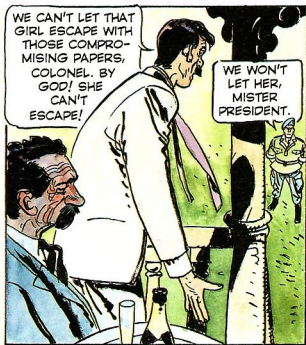
WE CAN'T LET THAT
GIRL ESCAPE WITH
THOSE COMPRO-
MISING PAPERS,
COLONEL. BY
GOD! SHE
CAN'T
ESCAPE!

WE WON'T
LET HER,
MISTER
PRESIDENT.

HE'S AFRAID NOW!
AND SO IS THAT
CHICKEN WHO
SEEMS TO ALWAYS
BE AT HIS
SIDE!

IT SEEMS LIKE THE
DOGS HAVE GOT
HER DOWN IN THE
RAVIN, OLD MAN...

LET'S GET
DOWN
THERE...



© Controlled by NORMA

BUT...

SHE LEFT HER UNDERWEAR ON
A RABBIT, CONDOTTIERRE...
THE SCENT IS WHAT LED THE
DOGS HERE!

!!?

SPREAD
OUT AND
CATCH
HER!!!

AND FOLLOWING HIS ORDERS,
THE MERCENARIES SPREAD OUT,
SEPARATELY FROM ONE
ANOTHER...

... EACH
TIME
MORE...

AND...

THERE'S
THE RIVER...

THIS DAMN
SHOE POLISH IS
KILLING ME!!
OH, MY POOR
HAIR!

... OFF WITH THE
MOUSTACHE...
AND THE
EYEBROWS...
OUCH!

NOW INSTEAD
OF THE
UNIFORM...

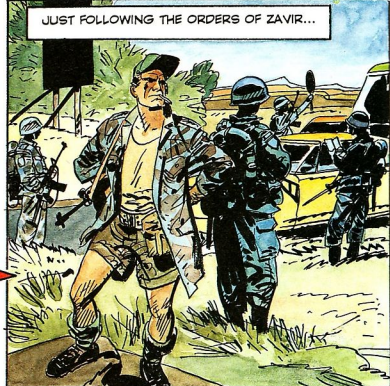
I PREFER
THIS...

2

2



PABLO REACHED A POINT WHERE HE SAW A MOTORCYCLIST TAKE OFF UP THE STREAM TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN... IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW IN THE JEEP.



JUST FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF ZAVIR...



WELL, THAT'S THAT. FINE! I WANT PATROLS ON THE ROAD LEADING TO THE BORDER AND HELICOPTERS ON THE LOOKOUT. KEEP TABS ON THE ROADS, TRAINS AND AIRPORTS! SHE CAN'T LEAVE THE COUNTRY!

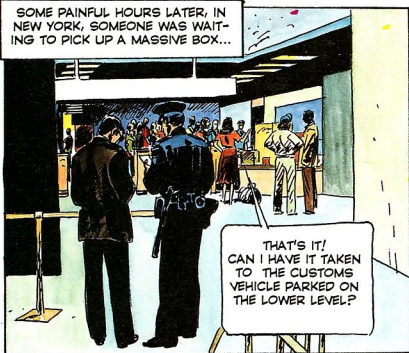


... NO ONE WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE...



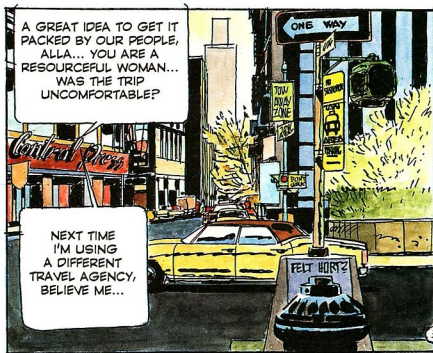
... SHE COULDN'T SUCCEED WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED...

ALL PASSENGERS WHO HAVE BEEN CHECKED CAN BOARD...



SOME PAINFUL HOURS LATER, IN NEW YORK, SOMEONE WAS WAITING TO PICK UP A MASSIVE BOX...

THAT'S IT! CAN I HAVE IT TAKEN TO THE CUSTOMS VEHICLE PARKED ON THE LOWER LEVEL?



A GREAT IDEA TO GET IT PACKED BY OUR PEOPLE, ALLA... YOU ARE A RESOURCEFUL WOMAN... WAS THE TRIP UNCOMFORTABLE?

NEXT TIME I'M USING A DIFFERENT TRAVEL AGENCY, BELIEVE ME...



THE NEXT MORNING...

ADMIRAL- I'LL TELL HIM- I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE. ENOUGH TREMBLING! I NEED A JOB IN AN OFFICE SO I'LL MAKE IT TO 40...

BUT... YOO HOO, DEAR!



MY LITTLE ONE!



MAMA!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN NEW YORK?

WELL, YOU SEE. I WANT TO TRY ONE OF THOSE ORGANIZED TOURS TO THE THIRD WORLD... FOR OLD PEOPLE... WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO WITH OURSELVES, RIGHT?

MAMA! THERE'S NO RUSH, RIGHT?



OH, WELL... I CAN'T STAY LONG... BUT AT LEAST WE CAN GO SHOPPING TOGETHER... TELL ME, WHAT HOTEL ARE YOU STAYING IN?

NOWHERE YET... MY PLANE LEAVES TONIGHT...

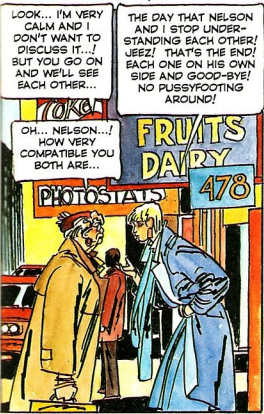
WELL! IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE IS INTERESTED IN MY COMPANY...



MAMA! I'M WORKING. I'M NOT HERE ON VACATION! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

PERFECTLY... YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FATHER SAID? THAT HE'S AFRAID OF NEW YORK! DO YOU THINK HE'S IN HIS RIGHT MIND?

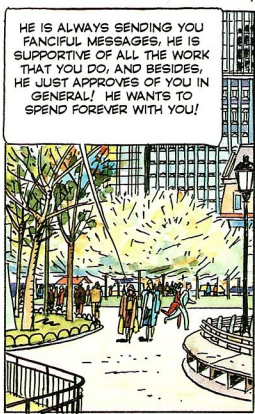
PAPA AND YOU HAVE SPENT YEARS PLAYING THIS GAME... IT'S NOTHING NEW...



LOOK... I'M VERY CALM AND I DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS IT...! BUT YOU GO ON AND WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER...

THE DAY THAT NELSON AND I STOP UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER! JEEZ! THAT'S THE END! EACH ONE ON HIS OWN SIDE AND GOOD-BYE! NO PUSSYFOOTING AROUND!

OH... NELSON...! HOW VERY COMPATIBLE YOU BOTH ARE...



HE IS ALWAYS SENDING YOU FANCIFUL MESSAGES, HE IS SUPPORTIVE OF ALL THE WORK THAT YOU DO, AND BESIDES, HE JUST APPROVES OF YOU IN GENERAL! HE WANTS TO SPEND FOREVER WITH YOU!



SO MUCH THAT HE WANTS TO FIND YOU A GOOD OFFICE JOB...

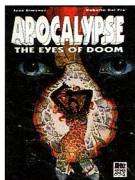
THAT, I'LL NEVER DO!

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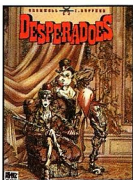
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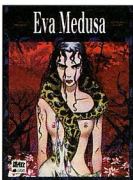
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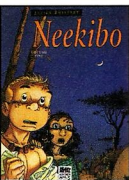
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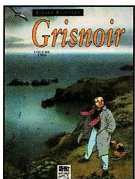
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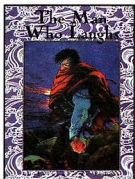
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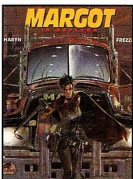
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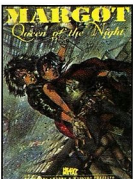
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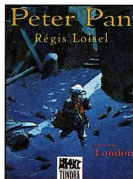
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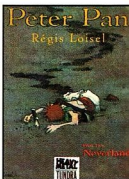
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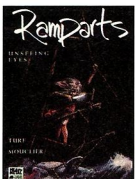
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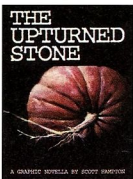
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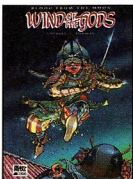
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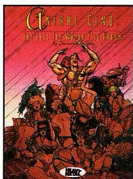
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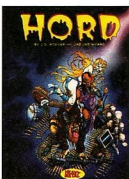
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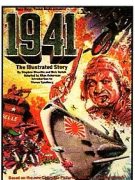
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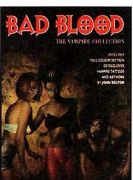
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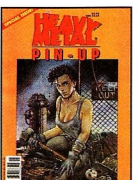
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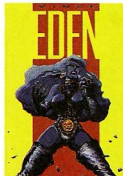
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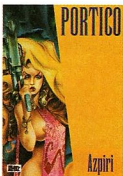
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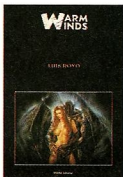
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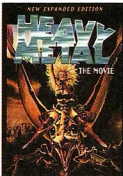
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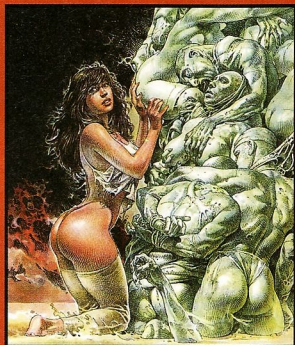
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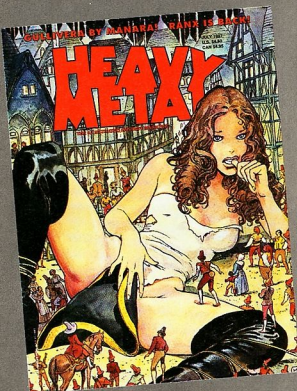
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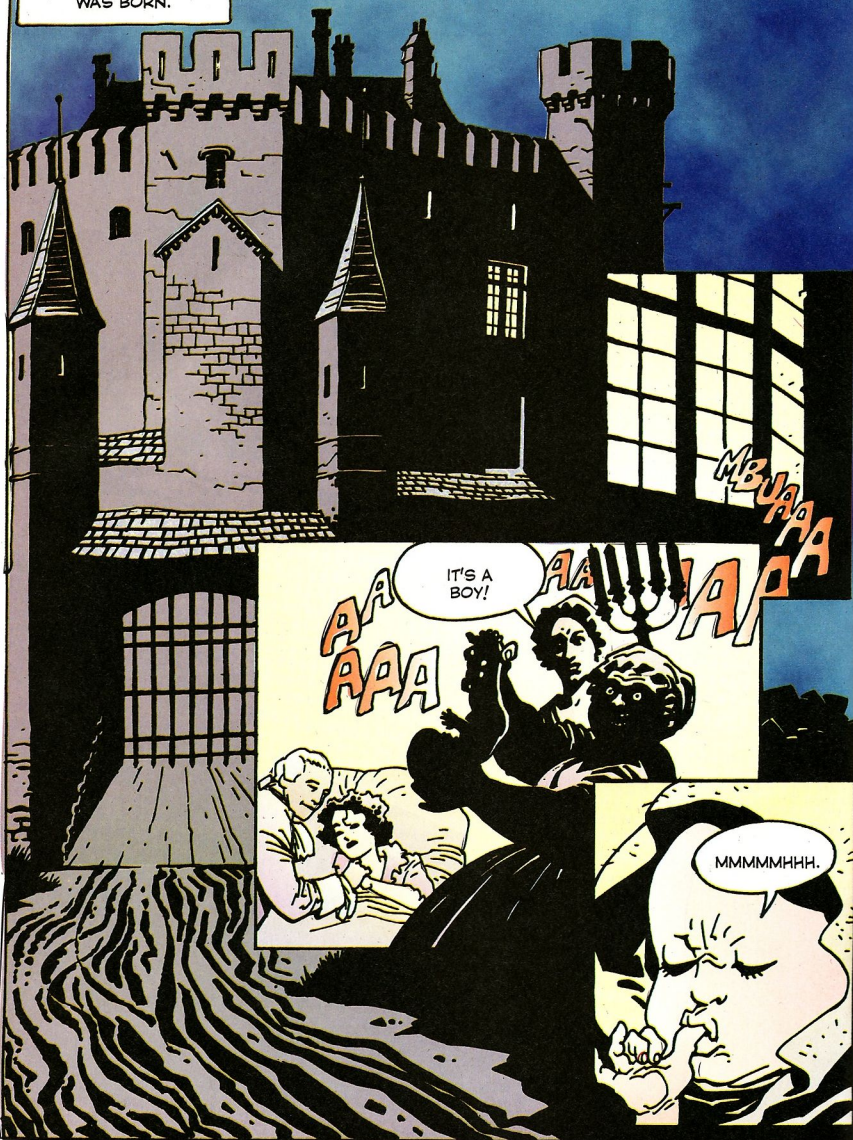
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I THINK THAT AT
ONE TIME, I WAS
OWNER AND LORD
OF THIS LAND.

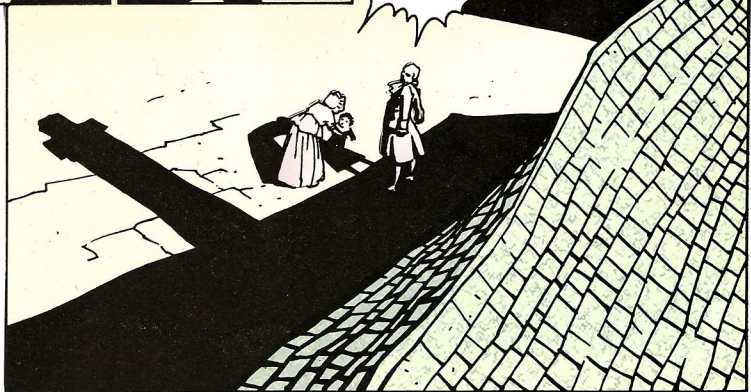
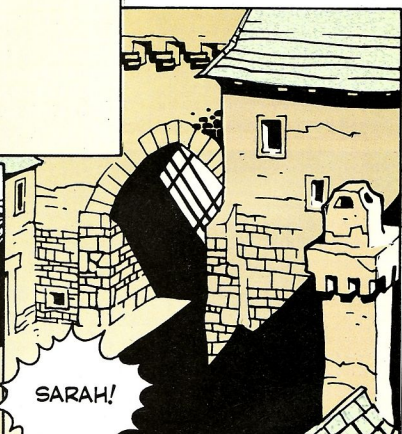
I SAID I THINK,
BECAUSE I'VE
NEVER BEEN SURE
OF ANYTHING.
AND NOW, I'M MORE
UNCERTAIN THAN
EVER BEFORE.
OR SO IT SEEMS
TO ME.



THEY SAY THAT DOUBT
HAD BEEN A PART OF ME
SINCE THE MOMENT I
WAS BORN.



THE DOUBTFUL
FEELINGS DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
IMPORTANCE IN
THOSE EARLY
YEARS, NOR SOME
TIME LATER.
SOME OF MY MORE
TRANSCENDENTAL
DOUBTS CAME
ABOUT DUE TO ONE
OF MANY INCIDENTS
OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE.





I KNEW IT!
I'VE SUSPECTED IT
FOR SOME TIME NOW!
YOU CHEATED ON ME
WITH THE VISCOUNT OF
CORNWALL!

N...
NO...

AND IT JUST GOT
WORSE AS THE YEARS
WENT BY.



NOT UNTIL I HAVE
A CHILD OF MY OWN
WILL I TREAT HIM LIKE
A SON I SAY! I AM
NOT HIS FATHER,
YOU WHORE!

MMMHHH.



I AM THE
PUPIL?

MMMHHH.

I AM
THE PUPIL.
REPEAT.



I SHOULD SAY, TO KEEP THINGS CLEAR, THAT IT ALWAYS SEEMED THAT WHATEVER I THOUGHT NEVER EXACTLY CORRESPONDED TO WHAT I SAID OR DID.

I LOVE YOU.
DO YOU LOVE ME?

MMMHHH...

IF YOU DON'T LOVE ME...

WELL THEN...

MY LIFE HAS... NO WORTH...

MMMHH...

IT WASN'T MY INDIFFERENCE TO THEIR PAIN THAT CAUSED A PERMANENT STATE OF DOUBT IN OTHERS, BUT IT WAS THEM THAT CAUSED MY PERMANENT STATE OF DOUBT.

AT HAND IS A MEMORY
THAT EXEMPLIFIED THIS,
AND THAT MEMORY
PERTAINS TO THE DEATH
OF MY FATHER.

SON, COME!
YOUR FATHER HAS
MOUNTED A HORSE!
AT HIS AGE! YOU'VE
GOT TO STOP HIM!

OH, GOD!
HE'S GALLOPING!
HELP HIM, SON!

OH, GOD!
HE'S GOING TO
GET KILLED!
HELP HIM, SON!

OH, GOD!
HE'S...
HE'S DEAD!

MMMH...
MMMH...
MMMH...

AND YOU...
AND YOU
DIDN'T HELP HIM,
YOU SELFISH
BASTARD!

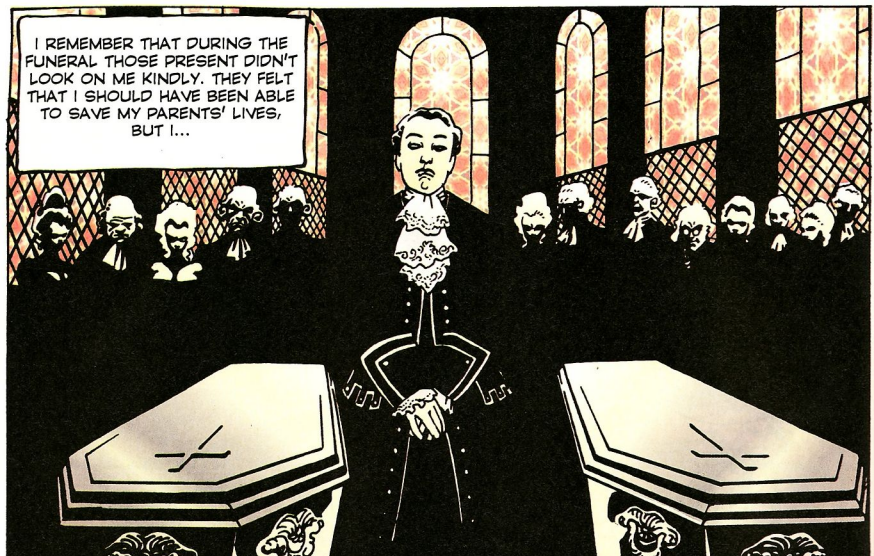
YOU'VE NEVER
ONCE MADE A
DECISION IN TIME,
IDIOT! YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO HELP...!

...OH... I... I'M
GOING TO FALL...
SO... SON...


MMMMMMHH...

MMMMHH...





I REMEMBER THAT DURING THE FUNERAL THOSE PRESENT DIDN'T LOOK ON ME KINDLY. THEY FELT THAT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE MY PARENTS' LIVES, BUT I...




... I AT LEAST WASN'T SO SURE.

NOW YOU ARE THE MARQUIS OF GOODFELLOW. I HOPE YOU COMPORT YOURSELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT YOUR TITLE CONFERS.

WAS I TRULY THE NEW MARQUIS OF GOODFELLOW?



MMMHHH.



WOULD I BE ABLE TO COMPORT MYSELF ACCORDING TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES MY TITLE CONFERRED? WERE THOSE PEOPLE WHO SOCIALIZED WITH ME AT NIGHT REALLY MY FRIENDS?

WAS THIS WOMAN WHO MADE
MY HEART'S PALPITATIONS
ACCELERATE WHEN I FELT THE
CLOSENESS OF HER BREATH,
THE WOMAN I LOVED?

OH, MY DEAR...
I EAGERLY DESIRE THAT
WHEN NIGHT COMES AND
EVERYONE IS ASLEEP,
THAT I CAN SLIP INTO
YOUR ROOM AND BE
ALONE WITH YOU...

PERHAPS YOU
ARE NOT
URGENTLY EAGER
TO FULFILL THOSE
SAME DESIRES?

MMMMMHH...

I NEVER ASSUMED.
THAT IS TO SAY, I NEVER
ASSUMED THAT SHE
WAS REALLY THE
WOMAN I LOVED.

FOR THAT REASON I
CAN'T EXPLAIN THE
EXTRAORDINARY
EVENTS OF THAT
NIGHT.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE
DRIVE TO MAKE A FIRM
DECISION THAT SEEMED
TO POSSESS HER...

WHAT'S CERTAIN IS THAT NIGHT...

OH, MY DEAR...

... WAS THE ONLY TIME IN MY LIFE...

... IF YOU DON'T MARRY ME...

... THAT I WAS ABLE TO PRONOUNCE THAT BOTH-ERSOME AND DETERMIN-ING MONOSYLLABLE.

... I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU! ANSWER ME! WILL YOU MARRY ME? YES OR NO?

Y... Y...YEEE... SSSS...

THE ONLY TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS ABLE, I SAID, AND I REPEATED IT.

DO YOU DESIRE TO TAKE THIS WOMAN FOR YOUR WIFE AND TO LOVE AND RESPECT HER UNTIL DEATH SEPARATES YOU.

MMMMHHH...

N... NOOO...



I THINK THAT WAS WHEN
EVERYONE STARTED
DISTANCING THEMSELVES
FROM ME.

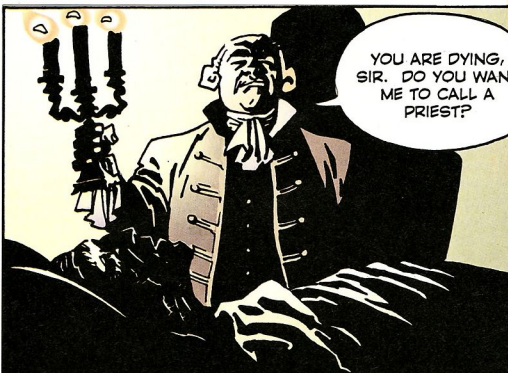


EXCEPT FOR JOHN, THE ONLY ONE WHO AGREED TO STAY WITH ME.

HERE ARE YOUR HORS D'OEUVRES, SIR.



HE WAS ALWAYS THERE, FOR ME AND MUCH MORE THE LAST DAY WE SAW EACH OTHER.



YOU ARE DYING, SIR. DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL A PRIEST?

PERHAPS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO IMPORTANCE PLACED ON MY GIVING HIM AN ANSWER.



DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH THEM.

I...
I AM DYING?



MMMHHH.



DO WHAT YOU WANT, THEN.



DO WHAT I
WANTED, HA.

AS IF IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN SO EASY FOR ME
TO DO WHAT I WANTED.

I THINK THAT'S
WHY I'M STILL
HERE, YET, I
SUPPOSE, I'M
NOT SURE.



I'M ONLY
REPEATING
WHAT I'VE
HEARD
PEOPLE
SAY.

BUT I'M STILL NOT
CONVINCED. I'M
NOT CONVINCED,
YET EVERY NIGHT I
FIND MYSELF IN
FRONT OF A TOMB
WHICH I'M SURE
KEEPS MY BODY.



I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT MY
HOUSE HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY
DESERTED AND THAT NOBODY
INTENDS TO RESIDE THERE OUT OF
PURE FEAR THAT I WILL AWAKE.

I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED,
EVEN THOUGH THEY ALL SAY
THAT I'M A SPIRIT WHO CAN
FIND NO REST, I'M NOT
CONVINCED THAT I'VE BEEN
DEAD FOR THIRTY YEARS.

DEAD?



BACK ISSUES
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MAY 1977 Russian astronauts, and rock festivals
JUNE 1977 Schuiten's "Shells"! Richard Corben! Bode!
AUGUST 1977 Ed Davis' "World Apart"! Corben!
SEPTEMBER 1977 Roger Zelazny! Corben!
OCTOBER 1977 Moebius, The Airtight Garage! Den!
NOVEMBER 1977 Harlan Ellison! Moebius!
DECEMBER 1977 Drullit's "Vuzz"! Howard Chaykin!
JANUARY 1978 Roger Zelazny! Gray Morrow!
FEBRUARY 1978 Forest's "Barbarella"! Moebius!
MARCH 1978 Gray Morrow's "Orion" & Corben's "Den"
APRIL 1978 First Anniversary Issue!
MAY 1978 Philippe Drullit! Alex Nino!
JUNE 1978 Corben's "Arabian Nights"
NOVEMBER 1978 "Exterminator" Delany/Chaykin's "Empire"
DECEMBER 1978 "Orion"! Kirchner's "Tarot"! Moebius!
JANUARY 1979 McKie! Corben! Drullit's "Gail!"
FEBRUARY 1979 Bilal! "Galactic Geographic! Macedo!
MARCH 1979 Moebius! Corben! Sire!
OCTOBER 1979 Halloween tribute to H.P. Lovecraft
DECEMBER 1979 Caza! Corben! Kofod! Suydam! Stiles!
JANUARY 1980 Neal McPeeters! Dan Steffan! Corben!
FEBRUARY 1980 Richard Corben! Angus McKie!
MARCH 1980 Schuiten's "Crevasse"! Corben! Lee Marrs!
APRIL 1980 Caza! Bilal! Howarth! Bode! Moebius!
MAY 1980 Jeronaton's "Champakou"
MARCH 1981 "Tex Arcana"! "What Is Really Papa?"
APRIL 1981 Juan Gimenez! Corben! Henry North!
MAY 1981 William S. Burroughs on immortality!
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NOVEMBER 1981 Jeronaton! Jeff Jones! Leo & Diane Dillon!
JANUARY 1982 Chaykin & Simonson! Jim Steranko!
MAY 1982 Black's "The Third Sexual Revolution!"
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NOVEMBER 1982 Mike Kaluta's "Starstruck!"
DECEMBER 1982 Art Suydam's "Mudwog"! Corben!
APRIL 1983 Guido Crepax! Kaluta! Moebius!
JUNE 1983 Corben! Crepax!
AUGUST 1983 Arno & Jodorowsky! Captain
 Bechthart interview!
SEPTEMBER 1983 Interview with Francis Ford Coppola!
 Rowena Morrill!
OCTOBER 1983 Timothy Leary! Bilal! Pepe Moreno!
NOVEMBER 1983 Interview with Will Eisner!
 Crepax's "Valentina!"
DECEMBER 1983 "Ranx's Liberator interviewed
JANUARY 1984 Arthur C. Clarke's "The Sentinel"! Ranx!
FEBRUARY 1984 Douglas Trumbull! Moebius!
MARCH 1984 Douglas Adams! McKie! Charles Burns!
APRIL 1984 Roger Corman interview! Joe Kubert!
MAY 1984 Schuiten! "Ranxerox"! Moebius!
JUNE 1984 "Liquid Sky"! Stava Tsukerman! Bilal!

JULY 1984 John Cleese interview! Jeronaton!
AUGUST 1984 John Kantner! Jeronaton!
SEPTEMBER 1984 Second Annual Music Video Awards!
 David Cronenberg interview!
OCTOBER 1984 John Sayles interview! Caza! Bilal!
NOVEMBER 1984 John Waters interview! Schuiten!
DECEMBER 1984 Federico Fellini interview! Milo Manara!
FEBRUARY 1985 Jack Davis interview! Russell Mulcahy!
MARCH 1985 Moreno's "Rebel"! Bilal! Schuiten!
APRIL 1985 Eighth Anniversary Issue! Moreno! Corben!
MAY 1985 Liberator cover! Corben! Manara!
JUNE 1985 Charles Burns! Massimo Ghini! Herkiberto!
JULY 1985 George Miller interview! Olivia! Sesar!
AUGUST 1985 Frank Frazetta interview! Juan Gimenez!
SEPTEMBER 1985 Hildebrandt cover! "Rock Opera!"
OCTOBER 1985 Olivia! Brian Aldiss! Jodorowsky!
NOVEMBER 1985 Boris Vallejo! Paul Kirchner! John Findley!
DECEMBER 1985 Caza! Swarte! Kierkegaard!
WINTER 1986 112 spectacular pages! Sesar! Pratt! Torres!
SPRING 1986 Moebius! Bob Deum! Vink!
SUMMER 1986 Sire! Serpieri! Das Pastoras!
FALL 1986 Bilal! Gimenez! Ortiz! Kierkegaard!
WINTER 1987 Greg Hildebrandt cover! Daniel Torres!
SPRING 1987 Juan Gimenez's "Garbage"! Daniel Torres!
SUMMER 1987 10th Anniversary issue: Moebius! "Tex
 Arcana"! Jeff Jones! Angus McKie!
FALL 1988 Olivia on the cover! Crepax's "Valentina!"
MAY 1989 The women of planet Zara! Daniel Torres!
JULY 1989 "Dieter Lumpen"! Segura & Ortiz!
SEPTEMBER 1989 Herkiberto! "Manuel Montano!"
NOVEMBER 1989 Altuna! Dieter Lumpen! "Stan Croc!"
JANUARY 1990 Juan Gimenez! "Manuel Montano!"
MARCH 1990 Olivia cover! Moebius! Font's "Taxi!"
MAY 1990 Adam's "The Waters of DeadMoon!"
JULY 1990 H.R. Giger! Daniel Torres! Rick Geary!
SEPTEMBER 1990 Harvey Kurtzman! Second installment
 of "The Waters of DeadMoon!"
NOVEMBER 1990 Frank Frazetta interview
JANUARY 1991 Mills & Bisle's "Staine"
MARCH 1991 Segura & Ortiz! Miguel Prado!
MAY 1991 Daniel Torres! More "DeadMoon!"
JULY 1991 Schuiten Brothers! "Burton & Cyb"! Olivia!
SEPTEMBER 1991 Gimenez! More "DeadMoon!"
NOVEMBER 1991 "Adventures of Tristan Karma"
JANUARY 1992 Richard Corben! "Raoul Fleetfoot!"
MARCH 1992 "Foligatto"! "Morocco"! "The Jungle!"

MAY 1992 Crepax! Torres! "Mickey Mouse"!
JULY 1992 "Arzach"! Bisle! And more!
SEPTEMBER 1992 Final "Dead Moon"! Corben!
NOVEMBER 1992 Serpieri's "Druuna"! Corben!
JANUARY 1993 "Druuna" Gallery! "Palomita!"
MARCH 1993 Royo cover! "Hombre!"
MAY 1993 Azpil! Prado! Frezzato!
SEPTEMBER 1993 Scott Hampton's "The Upturned
 Stone"! De Blas & Azpil! "Little Egg!"
NOVEMBER 1993 Schultheiss' "Network"! Altuna! "Eden"
JANUARY 1994 "Hombre"! Gelli & Tronchet's "Killer
 Death!"
MARCH 1994 Siro's "Master Volume"! Corben!
MAY 1994 Mezzo & Pirus' "The Disarmament"
JULY 1994 Font! "The Man Who Laughs!"
SEPTEMBER 1994 Adamov's "Dayak"! "White Trash!"
NOVEMBER 1994 "Hord"! "Hombre!"
JANUARY 1995 "Teddy Bear"! Corben! Suydam!
MARCH 1995 Olivia! "Hombre"! "Master Volume!"
MAY 1995 "Gypsy: The Wandering Star!"
JULY 1995 Jodorowsky & Gimenez's "Meta-Barons!"
SEPTEMBER 1995 Druuna returns in "Mandragero!"
NOVEMBER 1995 Manara! Giger! Corben!
JANUARY 1996 Frezzato! Segura & Ortiz!
MARCH 1996 Corben! Adamov's "Dayak!"
MAY 1996 Olivia cover! "Shadowslayer!"
JULY 1996 Azpil! Boucq! De Felipe's "The Museum!"
SEPTEMBER 1996 Manara! "Raul Fulgurex!"
NOVEMBER 1996 Royo cover! Frezzato! "Burton & Cyb!"
JANUARY 1997 "Storm"! F.A.K.K.'s Gallery!
MARCH 1997 Frezzato's "The Second Moon"! Azpil!
MAY 1997 "Teddy Bear II! Olivia cover! Schultheiss!
JULY 1997 "Gullivera" by Manara! Ranx returns!
SEPTEMBER 1997 Druuna returns in "Aphrodia!"
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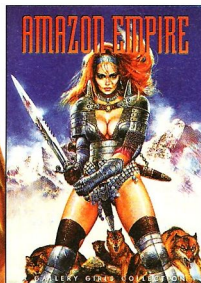
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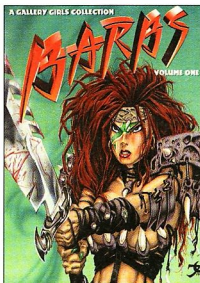
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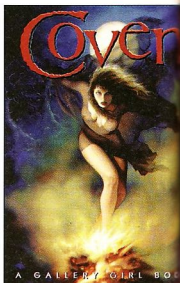
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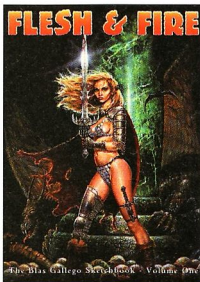
BARBS
Savage artwork by Dark One, Jusko, Roca, Rhett, Gallego, Maroto, Larson, Henry and more.



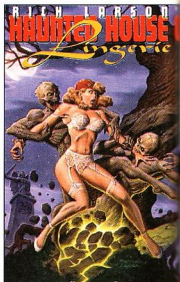
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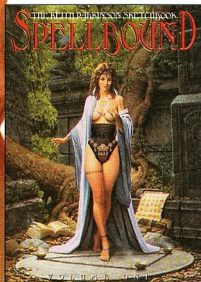
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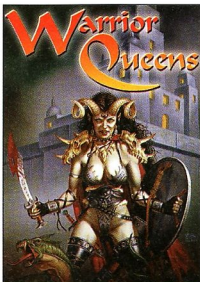
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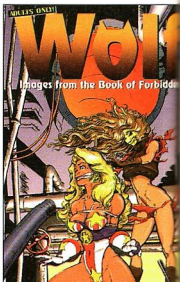
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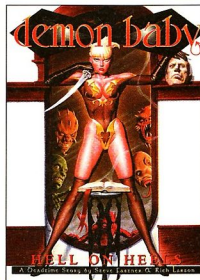
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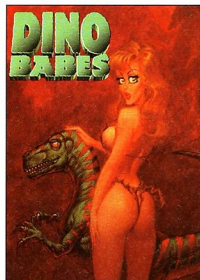
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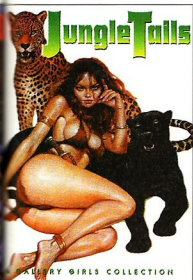
CRIMSON EMBRACE VOLUME 4
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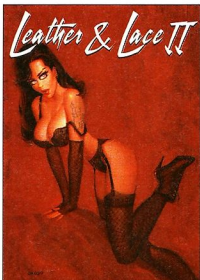
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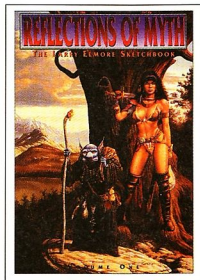
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Cave-gals and the dinosaurs who
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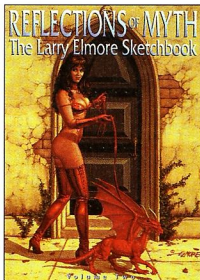
JUNGLE TAILS 1
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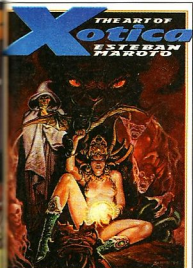
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Spanking good fun, with artwork by
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Arantza, Gross, and more! OUCH!!



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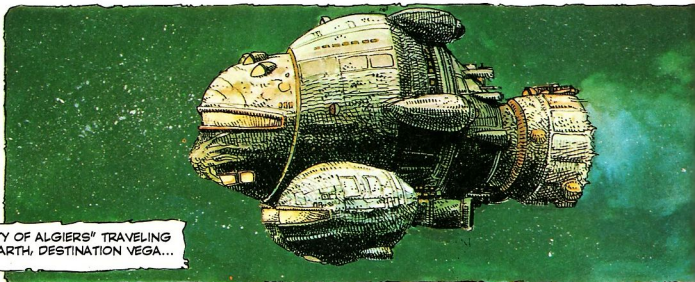
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THE SLOW BOAT TO VEGA

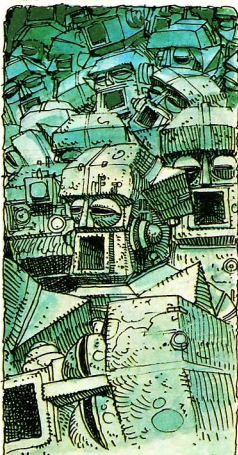


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THE HYDRA TANK:
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THE ONLY SOLUTION IN WHICH ALL AMPHIBIAN AND MARINE CREATURES IN THE GALAXY CAN SURVIVE AND FLOURISH.



THE CREW'S REC ROOM. ALL CREW MEMBERS ARE MIMETIC ANDROIDS WHO CAN SHAPE SHIFT TO AVOID FRIGHTENING THE PASSENGERS....



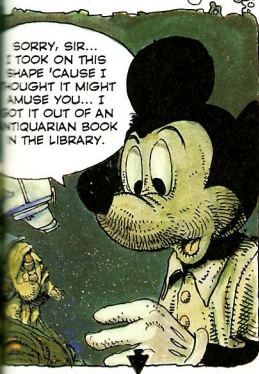
A GANYMEDE FUNGUS WHO CHOSE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE SHIP SO AS TO SAVE...
20 ZLOTS.



THE FIRST-CLASS BAR. (HEY YOU GUYS AT MARTINI, WITH THIS KINDA PLUG, YOU COULD SEND US A FREE CASE OF THE STUFF!)



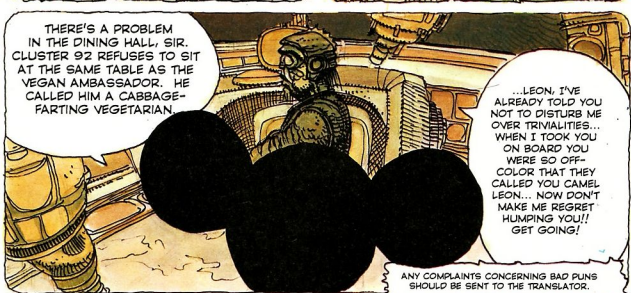
AND FINALLY, CAPTAIN EPHRAIM DALDER JR., WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 12,000 SOULS ON BOARD. (ASSUMING THAT VEGANS HAVE SOULS, WHICH I SERIOUSLY DOUBT.) BUT LET'S ZOOM IN...



MIMETIC LEON, I'VE ASKED YOU A MILLION TIMES NOT TO TRY TO AMUSE ME WHEN I'M ON DUTY... WHAT'S GOING ON?



YEAH?



THERE'S A PROBLEM IN THE DINING HALL, SIR. CLUSTER 92 REFUSES TO SIT AT THE SAME TABLE AS THE VEGAN AMBASSADOR. HE CALLED HIM A CABBAGE-FARTING VEGETARIAN.

...LEON, I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU NOT TO DISTURB ME OVER TRIVIALITIES... WHEN I TOOK YOU ON BOARD YOU WERE SO OFF-COLOR THAT THEY CALLED YOU CAMEL LEON... NOW DON'T MAKE ME REGRET HUMMING YOU!! GET GOING!

ANY COMPLAINTS CONCERNING BAD PUNS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE TRANSLATOR.

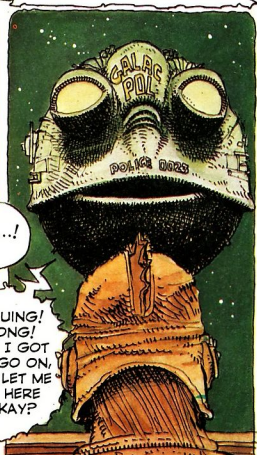


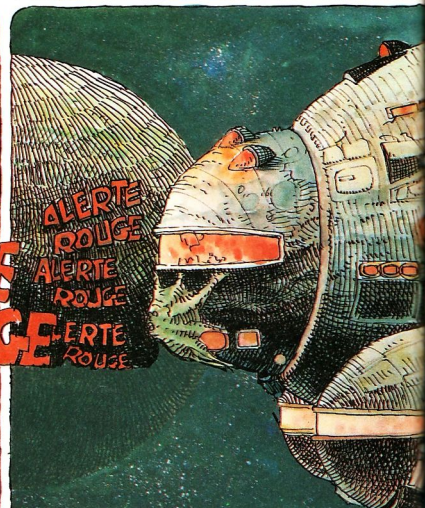
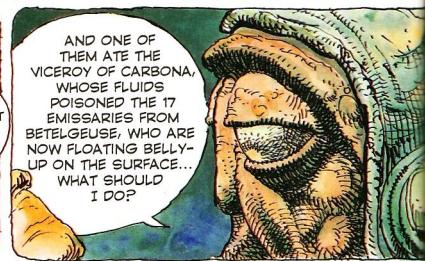
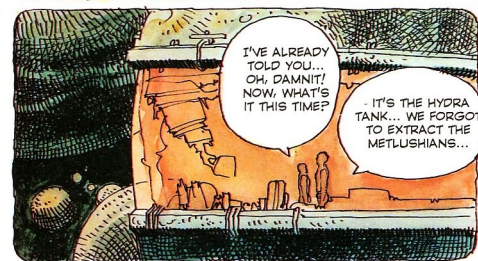
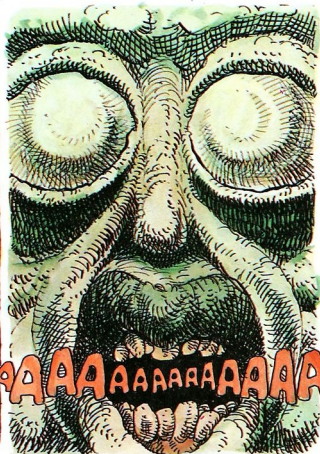
HEY, DID YOU FIND YOUR PILOT'S LICENSE IN A CRACKER JACK PACK?! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT WE'RE IN AN ASTEROID BELT?!

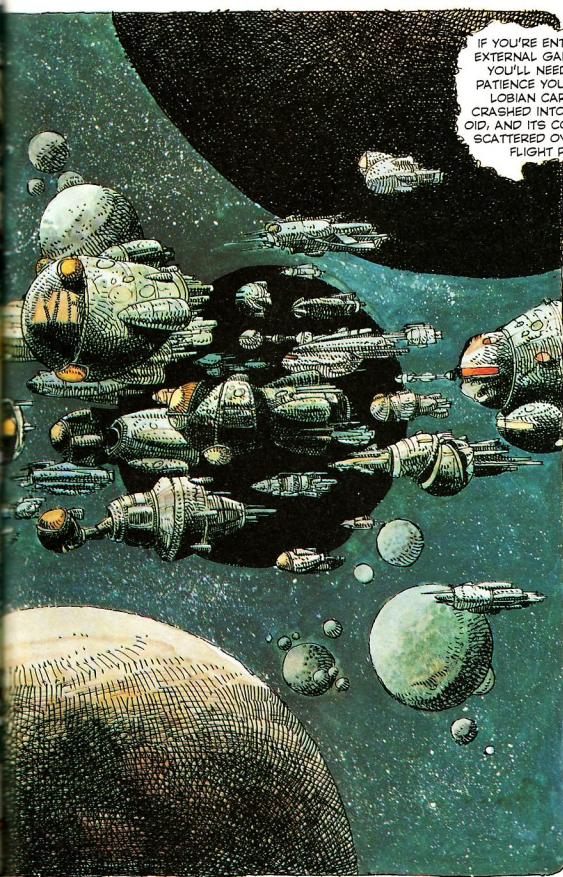


BUT...!

STOP ARGUING! MOVE ALONG! D'YA THINK I GOT ALL DAY?! GO ON, AND DON'T LET ME CATCH YA HERE AGAIN, OKAY?



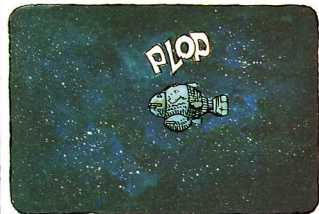




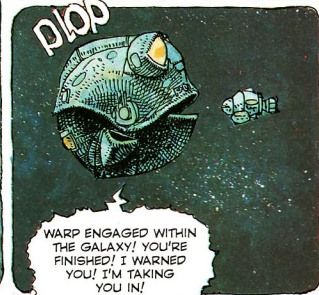
IF YOU'RE ENTERING THE
EXTERNAL GALAXY ZONE,
YOU'LL NEED ALL THE
PATIENCE YOU'VE GOT: A
LOBIAN CARGO SHIP
CRASHED INTO AN ASTEROID,
AND ITS CONTENTS ARE
SCATTERED OVER ALL THE
FLIGHT PATHS.



BY RINGO STARR'S
DRUMSTICKS! IT'S
GONNA TAKE FIVE
YEARS TO CLEAR THE
DEBRIS... TIME TO
IGNORE THE RULES. I
DON'T FEEL LIKE
HIBERNATING... I'M
GONNA WARP
OUTTA HERE...



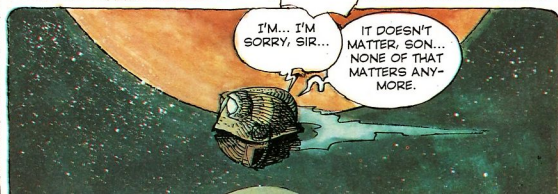
PLOP



WARP ENGAGED WITHIN
THE GALAXY! YOU'RE
FINISHED! I WARNED
YOU! I'M TAKING
YOU IN!



AAAAAH



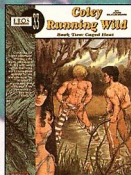
I'M... I'M
SORRY, SIR...

IT DOESN'T
MATTER, SON...
NONE OF THAT
MATTERS ANY-
MORE.

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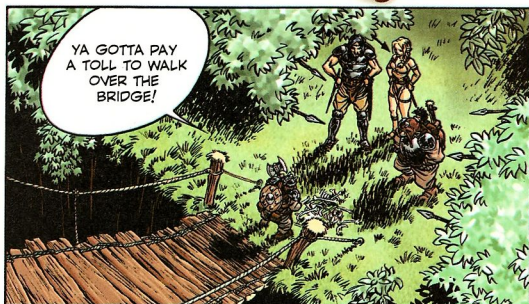


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WHY DWARVES ARE SMALL





HEM...! HEH!
HEH! HEH...! UHH
I WAS JUST
KIDDIN' AND...



I'LL
MAKE
YOU
LAUGH
TILL YOU
CRY!



GAG ON
THIS FOR
STARTERS!

BTF



NOW THEN...
ALL JOKIN'
ASIDE!



NO!
DON'T
LET GO
OF ME!!
I CAN'T
SWIM!



YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE DONE
THIS TO ME
IN THE OLD
DAYS!



WHAT OLD DAYS?
START TALKIN'. SOUNDS
INTERESTING.



IT WAS
CENTURIES
AGO, WHEN
THE WHOLE
WORLD
FEARED
US.



IN THOSE DAYS HUMANS WERE
KNOWN TO PANIC AT THE MERE
MENTION OF OUR NAME...

AAAH!
A DWARF!



EVERYONE RESPECTED US... 'CAUSE
WE HAD MEANS OF PERSUADING
THEM...!

THE TROLLS ENVIED OUR STRENGTH... THE
MAGICIANS, OUR INTELLIGENCE... THE
GOBLINS, OUR CUNNING...



GRRR
DON'T
LIKE
THESE
DWARVES!



...THE ELVES, OUR GOOD LOOKS!

GASP!
DON'T L...
LIKE
DWARVES!



I DON'T
LIKE
DWARVES.



I DON'T LIKE
DWARVES.



THE GIANTS,
OUR STATURE!

HUUH!
I REALLY
LIKE
DWARVES!

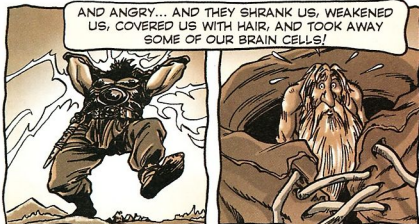


AS FOR THE GODS... EVEN THEY
THOUGHT WE WERE PERFECT!

...THOSE
CREATURES
ARE
INFRINGING
ON OUR
DIVINE
RIGHTS!



THEY BECAME JEALOUS OF
US...



AND ANGRY... AND THEY SHRANK US, WEAKENED
US, COVERED US WITH HAIR, AND TOOK AWAY
SOME OF OUR BRAIN CELLS!



WELL, YA SEE,
FATS, WE DON'T
MUCH LIKE
LIARS...

BUT WE REALLY
HATE THOSE WHO
DISPARAGE THEIR
OWN KIND... JUST TO
REMAIN DRY!



SOOOO...



NO!



POOF!



FAREWELL THEN, MAS-
TER OF THE UNIVERSE!
HA! HA! HA!

I DON'T GET
NO RESPECT!

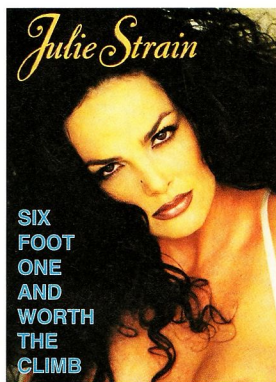


AAAH! A
DWARF!

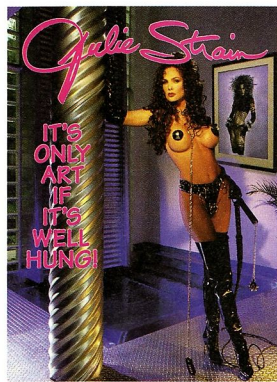


THANK HEAVENS FOR LIFE'S
MINOR CONSOLATIONS!
HO! HO! HO!

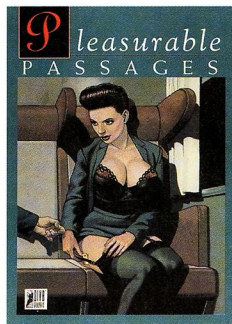
HOT, HARDBOUND AND DELIVERED...



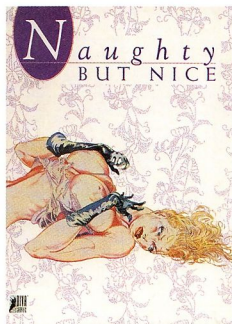
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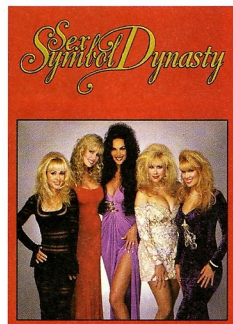
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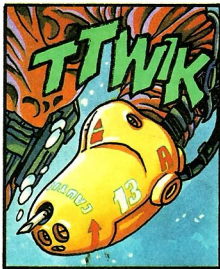
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Signature _____

GO EASY NOW... YOU
HAVEN'T PAID US IN
THREE YEARS...



IF I'M NOT BLOWN UP,
I SWEAR I'LL THROW
YOU OVERBOARD!



OKAY... CLIMB INTO
YOUR BATHING SUIT,
TOP CHOP!



I CAN HANDLE THE PUNISH-
MENT, OH, GREAT LEADER...



SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE! THIS LITTLE GADGET
COMMUNICATED OUR POSITION FROM THE
START... SO MY THEORY IS CONFIRMED.



CONSPIRACIES,
CONSPIRACIES... BUT I'VE
GOT AN IDEA THAT THE
ASSHOLE WITH SACKS
UNDER HIS EYES IS
GONNA LIKE...



JULY 7. OILTON AIR FORCE BASE,
U.S.A.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY:
THEY'RE HEADING IN THE OPPO-
SITE DIRECTION, LIEUTENANT?

...IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE
SAILING TOWARDS THE SEA.
OUR INSTRUMENTS SHOW THAT
THEY'VE REVERSED DIRECTIONS.

GOOD GRIEF! THE IDIOTS SHOULD
BE HEADING TOWARD THE INTERIOR,
TOWARDS THE MEXICAN BORDER!
NOT TOWARD THE FUCKIN' BEACHES!!

MR. DEKER'S A REAL
NICE GUY, ISN'T HE
REDGUMS?

A TRUE GENTLEMAN, THAT'S
FER SURE, AND BLACK TO
BOOT!

HE GAVE US A PRESENT. HE SAID
THAT IT'S A GREAT LITTLE MACHINE
THAT WE COULD SELL FOR A WAD OF
CASH AT ANY MARKET ALONG THE
COAST.

SO, DO YOU KNOW WHAT
IT IS?

AN ANTENNA SO YOU CAN
GET CABLE TV, OR
SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT...
HE SAID EVERYONE
WANTS ONE.

I BET WE'LL MAKE A
GOOD DEAL.

PROP PROP PROP PROP



JULY 12. WE'D BEEN SAILING UP THE RIO GRANDE PEACEFULLY FOR SEVERAL DAYS WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY ONE OF THE MANY BANDS OF PIRATES WHO STALK THE WATERWAYS. THEY ALWAYS ATTACK AT NIGHT WHEN THE CREW'S ASLEEP AND ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS SLIT THE WATCHMAN'S THROAT. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN REDNECK'S TURN...



BUT HE'S NEVER CAUGHT OFF GUARD.

HE'S A REAL FIGHTING MACHINE!
IT WAS AN EPIC STRUGGLE!



HE ONCE TORE OFF A MAN'S HEAD WITH HIS BARE HANDS! THE REST OF US DID OUR SHARE OF KICK-ASSING. ALL IN ALL, THE POOR BUGGERS HAD A ROUGH NIGHT. POOOOOR BABIES!

JULY 14. THE INDIANS.



IS IT FAR, CHIEF?

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, RAMIREZ... THAT'S WHERE WE SHOULD WAIT FOR THE STINKIN' RAT, IF THAT OTHER FUCK DIDN'T LIE TO US...

DEKER WILL STOP THERE TO GET SUPPLIES FROM THE INDIANS.



SINCE WE'RE INCOGNITO, WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACT WITHOUT ANY OBSTACLES AND NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE US.

WHAT DOES THE OLD GUY WANT?

I'VE GOT THIS URGE TO PLUG A .35 IN HIS BRAIN. DON'T TALK TO HIM, RAMIREZ.

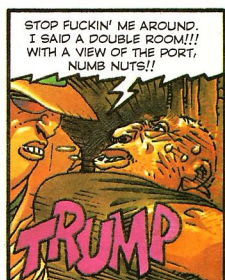
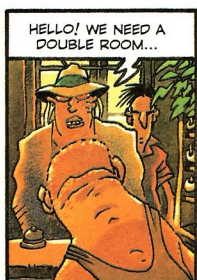
MONEY, I GUESS.

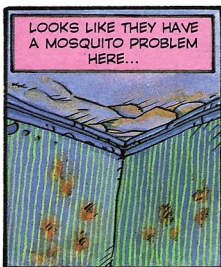
IT'S NOT MY FAULT, CHIEF... IT MUST BE A LOCAL CUSTOM.

CAN I CARRY YOUR BAGGS?

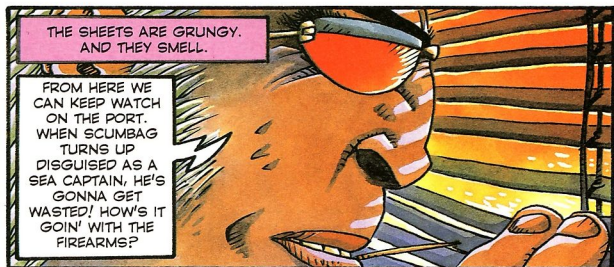
D'YA WANT NOSE CANDY?

I CAN FIND YOU SOME!





LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE
A MOSQUITO PROBLEM
HERE...



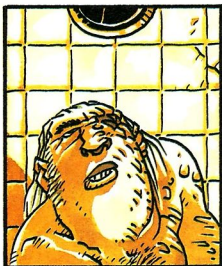
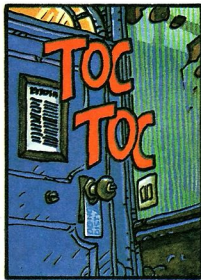
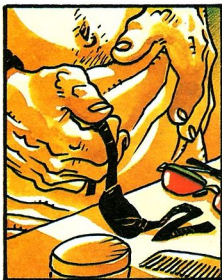
THE SHEETS ARE GRUNGY.
AND THEY SMELL.

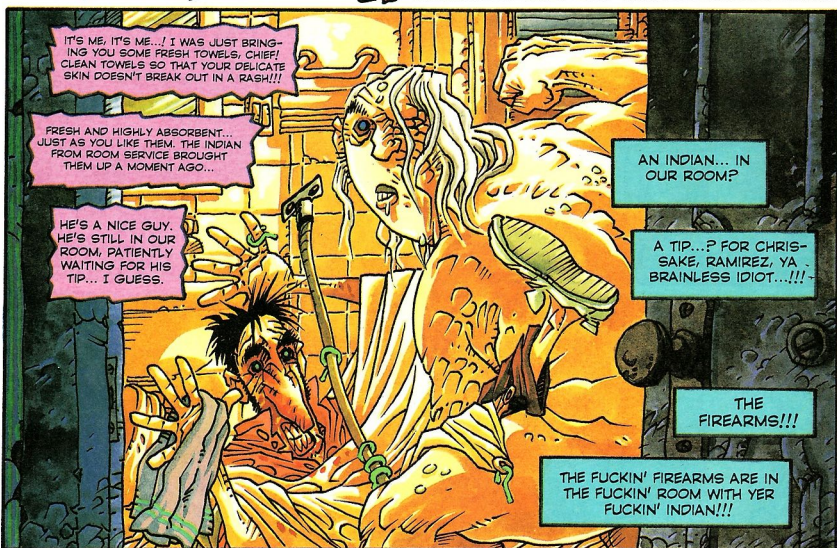
FROM HERE WE
CAN KEEP WATCH
ON THE PORT.
WHEN SCUMBAG
TURNS UP
DISGUISED AS A
SEA CAPTAIN, HE'S
GONNA GET
WASTED! HOW'S IT
GOIN' WITH THE
FIREARMS?



DO WE REALLY NEED ALL
THIS STUFF? YOU'D THINK
WE WERE PREPARING FOR
A WAR...

YOU CAN BET YER ASS
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOIN'...
I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER,
SON. GUARD THE FORTRESS!





WE GOTTA NAB HIM!!!
WE'VE GOT NO
CHOICE!

WE CAN STILL CATCH UP
WITH HIM!!!

RAMIREZ...?

GET DOWN, FLAT ON
THE GROUND!!! I
WANT TO SEE YER
GUTS GLUED TO
THE FLOOR!!!

GET DOWN, FATSO!!!
DROP YOUR STICK
AND LIE DOWN, FOR
CHRISSAKE!!!

OHH,
SHIT...

IS THIS SOME
KINDA JOKE?!

IT'S THEM, BIFF,
JES' LIKE I
TOLD YA.

IT'S... IT'S ALL A MISTAKE,
MY FRIEND... WE'RE THE
GOOD GUYS, WE...

GET DOWN,
YA SHITS!!!



IF SOMEONE'S THROAT
GETS SUIT IN MY DISTRICT,
I FIND OUT ABOUT IT--
FIRST!

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR
THIS... I'LL MAKE THE
HAIR ON YOUR BALLS
FALL OFF, BUTT BRAINS!

SO THE FLOOR WASN'T
CLEAN ENOUGH FOR YOU,
HUH FUCK FACE?

THIS IS INTOLERABLE,
INSPECTOR!!! DO YOU
KNOW WHO YOU'RE
TALKING TO...? DON'T YOU
DARE HANDCUFF ME!!!

SHUT IT, YA ONE-ARMED BANDIT.
I'M GONNA PUT YA UP IN A
FIVE-STAR HOTEL WITH FULL
BOARD. AND YA WON'T HAVE TO
PAY A CENT!

LINE THREE FOR
YOU, SIR...

SOUNDS
IMPORTANT!

I'LL PUT YOU
THROUGH.

SOME UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS HAVE
ARISEN CONCERNING OPERATION
"NACHSTÜCKE." WE'VE LOST ALL FUCKIN'
CONTACT. CORRECT THE POSITION SO YOU
CAN LOCALIZE IT AGAIN.

DO IT NOW!
HAVE YOU SELECTED THE
PATH CODES?

YES, I HAVE...
I'VE JOTTED THEM DOWN
ON POST-ITS...

PRIORITY CODE 1,
COMMANDER. LISTEN
CAREFULLY TO WHAT I
HAVE TO SAY...

POST-IT NOTES?!
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'LL SEE, SIR... IT'S 'CAUSE
I DON'T REALLY TRUST
COMPUTERS... SOMETIMES
THEY MAKE MISTAKES...

IF THEY'D MADE A MISTAKE,
COMMANDER, YOU WOULD
HAVE BEEN THE LATEST
FIREWORKS FOR THE
FOURTH OF JULY!



SHAKE UP YOUR TEAM. THEY'VE GOT TO FIND THE "FURNACE." WE HAVE TO FOLLOW EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HER MOVEMENTS...

WITH GREAT ACCURACY, OF COURSE!

OKAY, OKAY... COOL IT. I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD TIME TO DRINK MY COFFEE...

I'LL DO IT, SIR.

MY COFFEE'S TOO HOT.

DUPREE! SAVE THE NEW COORDINATES AND BLOW UP THE MAP OF THE SECTOR FOR ME! ON THE DOUBLE, DUPREE!

THANKS, BROWN NOSE!

AMPLIFY THE SPECTRUM... 'THE SIGNAL ISN'T CLEAR... I GUESS IT MUST BE THE GUERRILLA'S DETECTORS.

THINGS ARE HOPPING AT SANTA MARIA... THE SIGNAL IS GETTING SCRAMBLED, THEY MUST BE AT WAR, AGAIN...

AFFIRMATIVE. THEY'RE USING FREQUENCY ALTERNATORS... THE FUSES IN THE SCANNERS ARE ALL BLOWING...

IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO FIND YOUR TARGET, SIR.

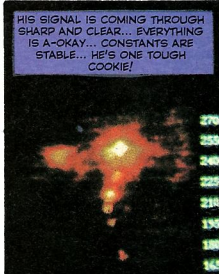
VERY HARD...

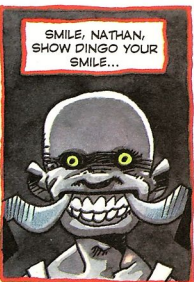
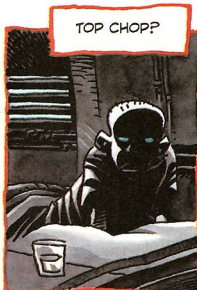


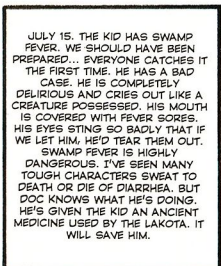
THE SIGNAL IS REACHING SATURATION LEVEL... DIFFICULTIES ARE INCREASING.

AND HOW'S THE OTHER ONE?

HIS SIGNAL IS COMING THROUGH SHARP AND CLEAR... EVERYTHING IS A-OKAY... CONSTANTS ARE STABLE... HE'S ONE TOUGH COOKIE!







HE'S A STRONG LITTLE DEVIL!

SO WHAT HAVE YOU DECIDED TO DO, BOSS?

WE'LL STOP OFF AT THE INDIAN VILLAGE. WE'LL LOAD UP ON SUPPLIES LATER.

I DON'T WANT THEM TO QUARANTINE THE SHIP. THE PORT AUTHORITIES ARE VERY STRICT.

I'M GOING UP ON DECK. LET ME KNOW IF THE FEVER BREAKS.

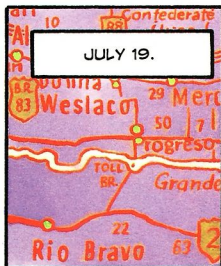
JULY 17.



DINGO'S MADE IT. HE MADE A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY THANKS TO DOC'S KNOWLEDGE OF ANCIENT INDIAN MEDICINE. THE RAINY SEASON HAS JUST BEGUN WITH A VENGEANCE. BUCKETS OF WATER HAVE BEEN FALLING ON US. IF "LADY IN THE DARK" WEREN'T SUCH AN EXPERIENCED OLD DAME, WE WOULD'VE SUNK. WE JUST LUCKED OUT.



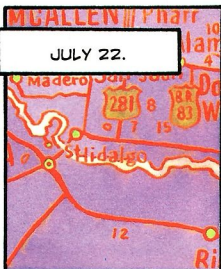
JULY 19.



THIS MORNING WE WOKE UP TO CLEAR SKIES. THE TWO DAYS OF TORRENTIAL RAINFALL HAD BEEN A TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE. THE RIVER HAS FLOODED. WE'VE RESCUED SEVERAL SURVIVORS WHO WERE STRANDED ON THE ROOFTOPS OF THEIR HOUSES. WE NAVIGATED AS BEST WE COULD, TRYING TO KEEP TO THE COURSE OF THE RIVER. IF THE FLOODWATERS SUDDENLY RECEDED, WE DIDN'T WANT TO END UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INTERSTATE! IT'S BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN!



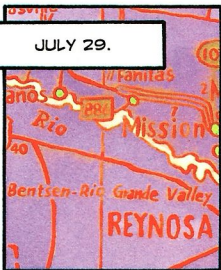
JULY 22.



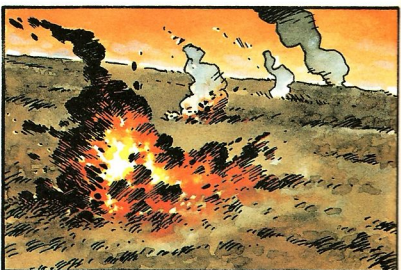
THE NEXT PORT OF CALL WAS HIDALGO, WHERE WE REFUELED, STOCKED UP ON SUPPLIES, AND HAD A BIT OF FUN. THE SIAMESE TWINS WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE ME-- ESPECIALLY THE ONE WITH THE BIG TITS. I MUST CONFESS THAT MY SIZE IS A BIT OF A PROBLEM IN BED. I MOVE AROUND A LOT, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE. THAT SEEMS TO HELP, AND SO DOES THE FACT THAT I DON'T GET LAID VERY OFTEN.



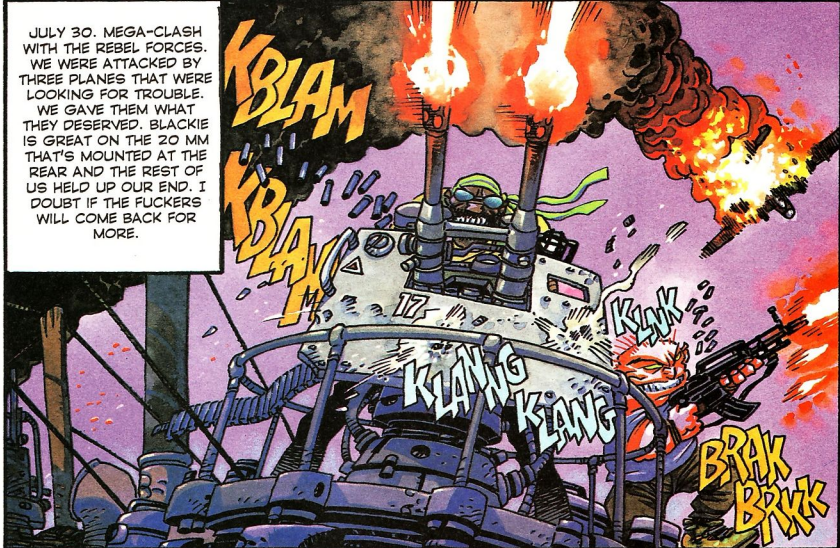
JULY 29.



A NEW MINOR CONFLICT HAS BROKEN OUT IN BENTSON VALLEY BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENTS AND THE ARMIES OF HIDALGO COUNTY. THEY'RE BOMBING THE JUNGLES AND THEY'VE SET UP CHECKPOINTS ALL ALONG THE RIVER. WE JUST HOPE THAT THEY WON'T INVOLVE US IN THEIR GOD-DAMNED WAR. THEY'VE TURNED THIS PART OF OUR JOURNEY INTO SHEER HELL. WE PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION.



JULY 30. MEGA-CLASH WITH THE REBEL FORCES. WE WERE ATTACKED BY THREE PLANES THAT WERE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. WE GAVE THEM WHAT THEY DESERVED. BLACKIE IS GREAT ON THE 20 MM THAT'S MOUNTED AT THE REAR AND THE REST OF US HELD UP OUR END. I DOUBT IF THE FUCKERS WILL COME BACK FOR MORE.



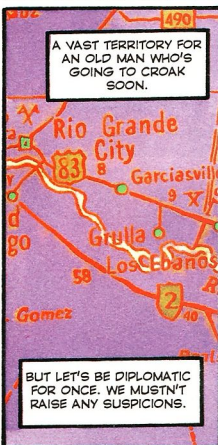
AUGUST 2. WE'RE NOW IN THE AREA HELD BY DON FRANCISCO, A POWERFUL LOCAL BOSS. HE CONTROLS THIS PART OF THE RIVER, FROM THE EBONY FOREST TO THE MOUTH OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER.

BLACKIE HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE OLD MAN. HE WISHES TO PAY HIS RESPECTS AND ALL THAT... ON THE WAY IN, HE WAS FRISKED BY BODYGUARDS SEVEN TIMES.

IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NEED A FIREARM TO DO AWAY WITH THE OLD MAN... HE'D PROBABLY KEEL OVER IF YOU COUGHED. BLACKIE PAID HIS "DUES." WE DIDN'T WANT ANY TROUBLE...

ONCE WE HAD ALL THE NECESSARY "DOCUMENTS" WE WERE TOLD WE COULD CARRY ON, AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED. THE MEETING NEVER TOOK PLACE... BUT BLACKIE DOESN'T LIKE BEING FORGOTTEN SO EASILY.

A VAST TERRITORY FOR AN OLD MAN WHO'S GOING TO CROAK SOON.



BUT LET'S BE DIPLOMATIC FOR ONCE. WE MUSTN'T RAISE ANY SUSPICIONS.

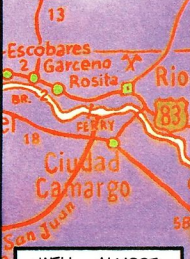


S'LONG, YA BUNCH OF GREASEBALLS!

AUGUST 5. WE'RE STILL ON THE RIO GRANDE, HEADING TOWARD THE MOUTH OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER WHOSE COURSE WE'LL FOLLOW TILL WE GET TO CHINA PRISON IN NUEVO LEON, MEXICO. THE AREA IS NOT VERY HOSPITABLE. PARAMILITARY GROUPS SCOUR THE REGION, ATTACKING THE "TERMITES" WHO OPERATE THERE.

WHOEVER REFUSES TO PAY THE TOLL IS DEVoured BY FISH. A MOST EFFICIENT FORM OF ENFORCEMENT!

SO EVERYONE PAYS.



WELL... ALMOST EVERYONE.

AUGUST 6. WE DECIDED NOT TO PAY. AT FIRST THEY HAD A HARD TIME ACCEPTING OUR DECISION, BUT...

...SHALL WE SAY THAT...

...WE WERE VERY PERSUASIVE!

WE CONVINCED THEM THAT WE DIDN'T PLAN TO BE INTIMIDATED.

WE MADE THEM UNDERSTAND...

...THAT THE RIVER BELONGS TO GOD...

...AND THAT THE IRON HULKS BELONG TO WHOEVER FINDS THEM...

WE SAID IT WAS A QUESTION OF PERSONAL HONOR AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS... WE SAID ALL SORTS OF THINGS!

BLACKIE WAS SURE THAT THE PUNKS WERE WORKING ON THEIR OWN, USING TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE THE REIGN OF TERROR CAUSED BY COLONEL SNARK'S PATROLS.

I HOPE HE'S RIGHT.

WE'RE UP TO OUR NECKS IN SHIT. WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE MISTAKES.

AUGUST 7.

LET IT BE,
RAMIREZ...

BUT WE HAVE TO TRY,
CHIEF RIOS!

THIS IS A TERRIBLE HUMILIATION FOR
US... AND ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR REPUTATION AS
THE SCOURGE OF CRIMINALS?

WE MUST SAVE YOUR
REPUTATION!

IT'S NO USE,
RAMIREZ...

IN ANY CASE, YOU WON'T
BE ABLE TO TEAR DOWN
THOSE BARS... BESIDES,
YOU'RE DEPRESSING ME...

GET SOME SLEEP, CHIEF... I'LL
CARRY ON. A STRONG WILL CAN
TEAR DOWN THE STURDIEST OF
PRISON BARS!

AUGUST 8.

IT'S EASY,
PASADENA...

...EASY AND VERY
CLEVER.

"TIGHT-ASS" WANTS DEKER,
RIGHT?

SO WE'RE
GONNA GIVE HIM
DEKER ON A SILVER
PLATTER...

...REDUCED TO A
PULP AND SERVED
IN A JAR.

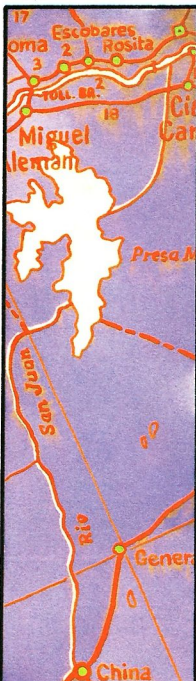
BUT FIRST WE'LL WAIT FOR
HIM TO FINISH THE JOB
HE'S ON.

AND THEN
WHAT?

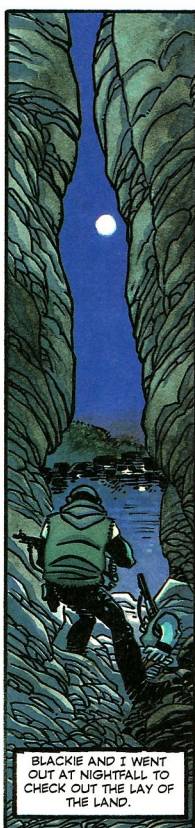
WE'LL GET HIM
ON THE WAY
BACK. SO...

...NOT ONLY WILL WE POCKET THE
CASH, BUT WE'LL ALSO TAKE THE
CREDIT FOR THE JOB THE RUCKIN' IDIOT
WILL HAVE DONE. "CAPITO?" AND WE
WON'T EVEN HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER!

AUGUST 12. WE'VE BEEN SAILING DOWN THE RIVER WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY PROBLEMS. IT'S PRETTY DESERTED AROUND HERE, THOUGH IT SEEMS TO BE A GOOD AREA FOR FISHING. THE FISH ARE HUGE. WE'VE SEEN SEVERAL CORPSES WITH THEIR HANDS TIED BEHIND THEIR BACKS BEING PULLED ALONG BY THE CURRENT. SNARK IS A DANGEROUS SON OF A BITCH. WE'LL MAKE HISTORY IF WE KILL HIM!



AUGUST 15. WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION: CHINA HIGH-SECURITY PRISON. NOW WE JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT BY STORM, FREE "BIERCE"—WHOEVER HE MAY BE—BLOW EVERYTHING UP, AND ROCKET THE CASH.



BLACKIE AND I WENT OUT AT NIGHTFALL TO CHECK OUT THE LAY OF THE LAND.

THE PRISON'S MAIN ENTRANCE IS ON THE SOUTH SIDE, FACING THE RIVER. THE JUNGLE AND THE MOUNTAINS BEAR DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDES, MAKING THE PRISON NEXT TO IMPREGNABLE. WE HAVE TO ATTACK FROM THE RIVER, BUT THE SOUTH SIDE IS ALWAYS FLOODLIT AND HEAVILY PATROLLED. THEY KNOW THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE MOST VULNERABLE. WE MUST PLAN CAREFULLY, IF THE OPERATION IS TO SUCCEED.



THEY'RE GONNA MAKE US SWEAT BLOOD... YOU CAN BE SURE ABOUT THAT.



WE'VE HIDDEN THE SHIP IN A LAGOON IN THE DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE. READY FOR A QUICK GET-AWAY.



WE MOVED INTO AN OLD CEMENT FACTORY. IT'S ON A HILL SO WE CAN SURVEY THE RIVER FOR MILES.



THE AREA IS CONTROLLED BY THE LIBERATION FRONT OF NUEVO LEÓN, GUERRILLAS WHO'VE SWORN TO KILL SNARK.

THEY MAY BE OF HELP TO US...

AUGUST 17.

IT WAS NO SWEAT TO CAPTURE ONE OF THE COLONEL'S FLUNKIES. IT'S EASY TO GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR BARE ASS IN THE AIR IN A BORDELLO. HE WAS SCARED SHITLESS! HE THOUGHT WE WERE THE L.F.N.L. HE TOLD US EVERYTHING WE WANTED TO KNOW. SO NOW WE HAVE A DETAILED MAP OF THE PRISON. DOWN TO THE LAST LATRINE.



I TALKED BLACKIE INTO LETTING US GO WITH DOC TO THE NEAREST VILLAGE.

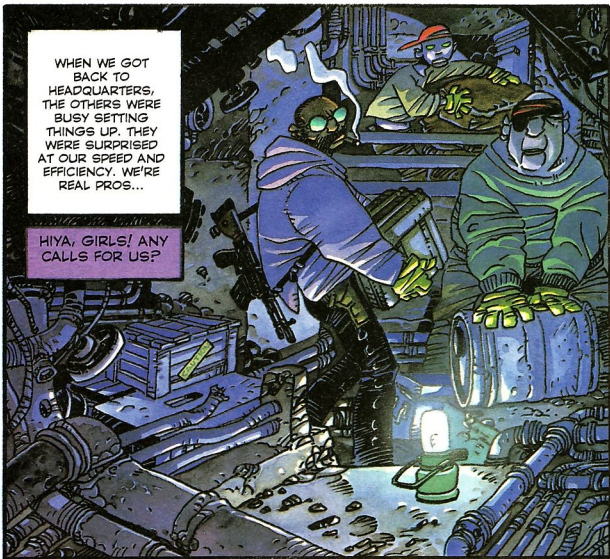
WE TOOK THE PRISONER WITH US. HE CRAPPED HIS PANTS AGAIN!



THE GUERRILLAS WERE QUICK TO TURN UP. THEY WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR "GIFT." THEY'RE READY TO GO...

WHEN WE GOT BACK TO HEADQUARTERS, THE OTHERS WERE BUSY SETTING THINGS UP. THEY WERE SURPRISED AT OUR SPEED AND EFFICIENCY. WE'RE REAL PROS...

HIYA, GIRLS! ANY CALLS FOR US?



COME AND SEE... WE'VE BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE PRESENT.

THAT MADE THEM FALL OFF THEIR CHAIRS. WHO SAYS FAITH CAN'T MOVE MOUNTAINS?



FREEDOM AND HAPPY WHORING,
COMRADES! YOUR FRIEND TOLD US THAT
YOU GUYS WANTED TO GIVE OLD SNARKIE
A HARD TIME, RIGHT?

WELL YOU CAN COUNT
ON US TO COME TO THE
PARTY! HA, HA, HA!!!



SNOOKS "GATEMOUTH" SLIM
JR., ALIAS "COMMANDER
SOUL." THAT WAS THE CRAZY
NAME OF THE CRAZY JAMAICAN
REVOLUTIONARY WHO NOW LED
THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT. HE
WAS A DARING, STEADFAST,
CHARISMATIC LEADER, BUT HIS
FOLLOWERS WERE REAL THUGS
WITH LOTS OF TIME ON THEIR
HANDS. WITH THEM FOR ALLIES,
WE WERE SURE TO GET
SNARK'S ASS! WE HAD A
PLAN... A FUCKIN' STUPENDOUS
PLAN, NO KIDDIN'!



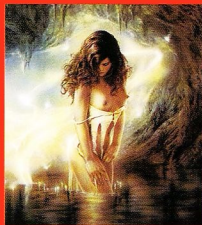
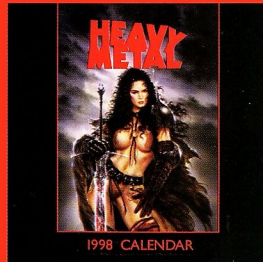
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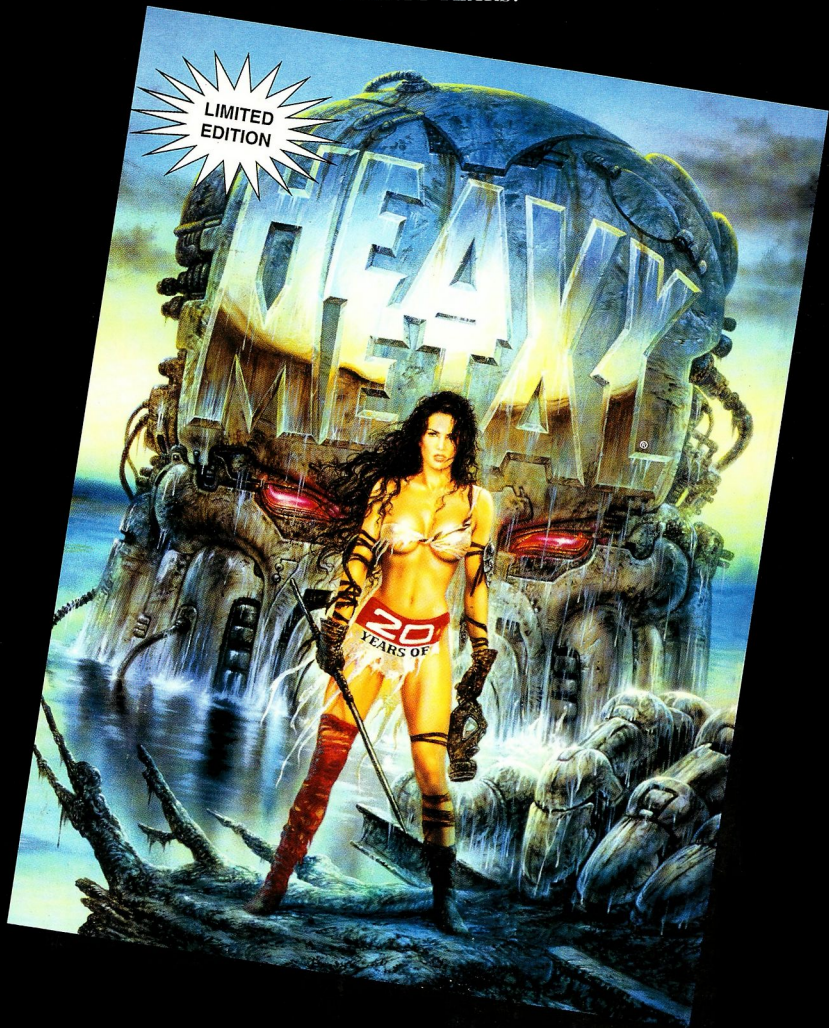
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