

CROSSROADS SPECIAL

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THE ILLUSTRATED
FANTASY MAGAZINE



GIMENEZ



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NOPE. TOO
SERIOUS.



WELL,
THERE'S
ALWAYS
FRANK.



TCH... NO, HE
TALKS TOO MUCH
ABOUT WORK...



>SIGH<

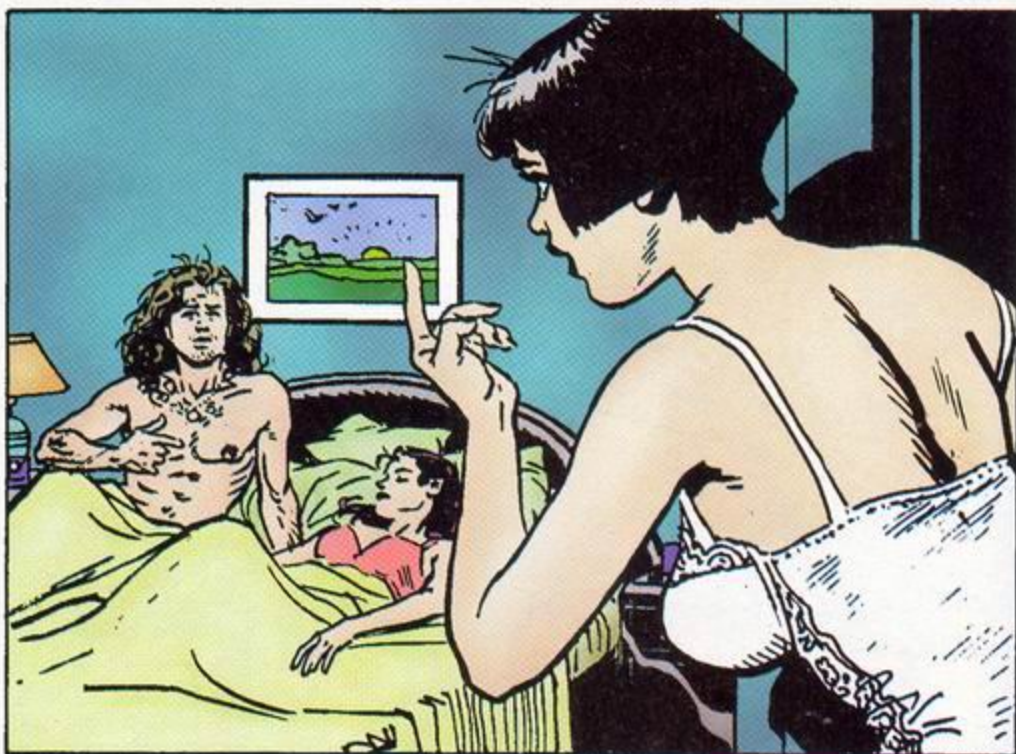


GOD KNOWS WHY
I'M SO ALONE.



NO... GOD'S NO
HELP EITHER.
I DON'T LIKE MEN
WITH BEARDS.

DREAMS

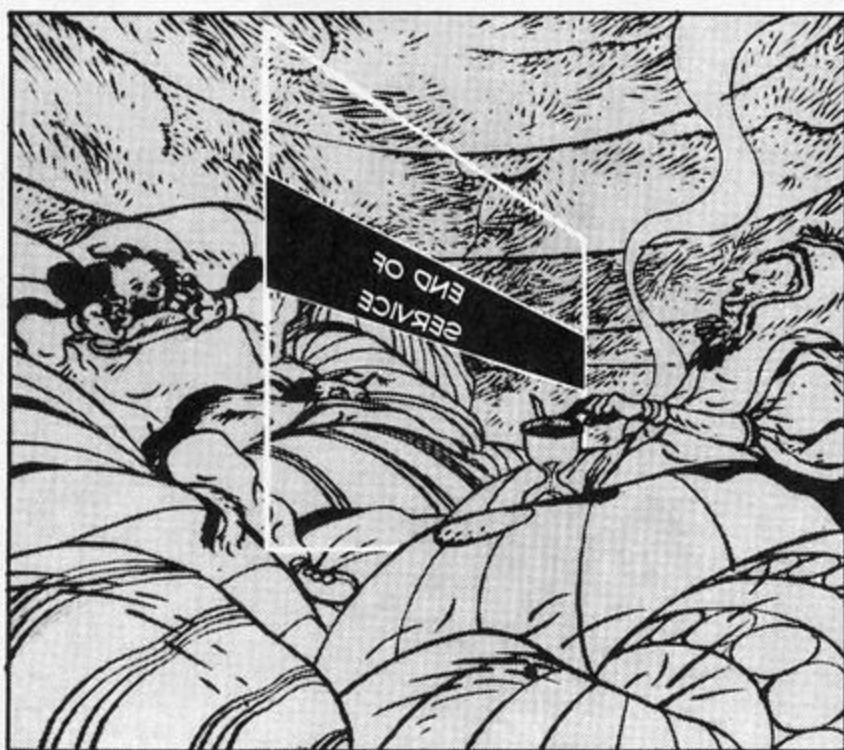
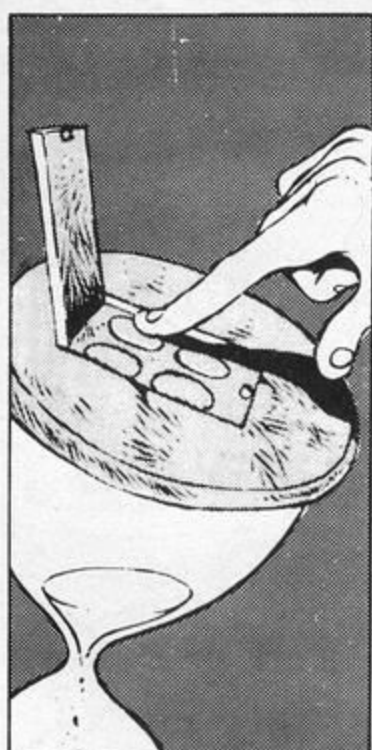


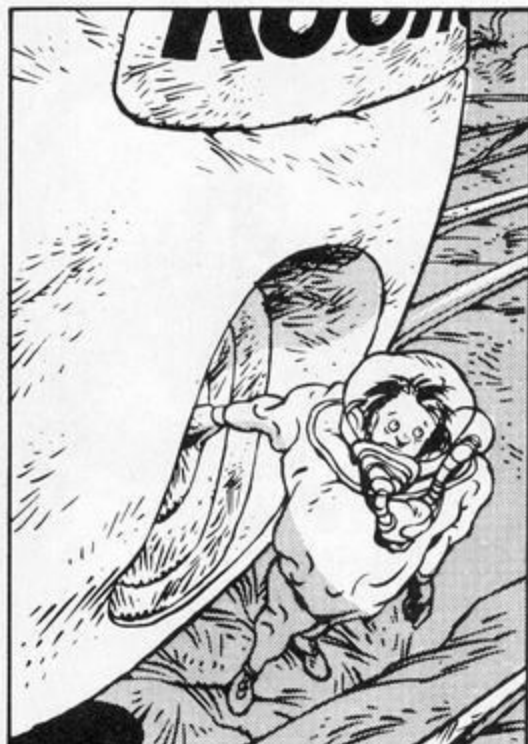


A SIMPLE MODEL

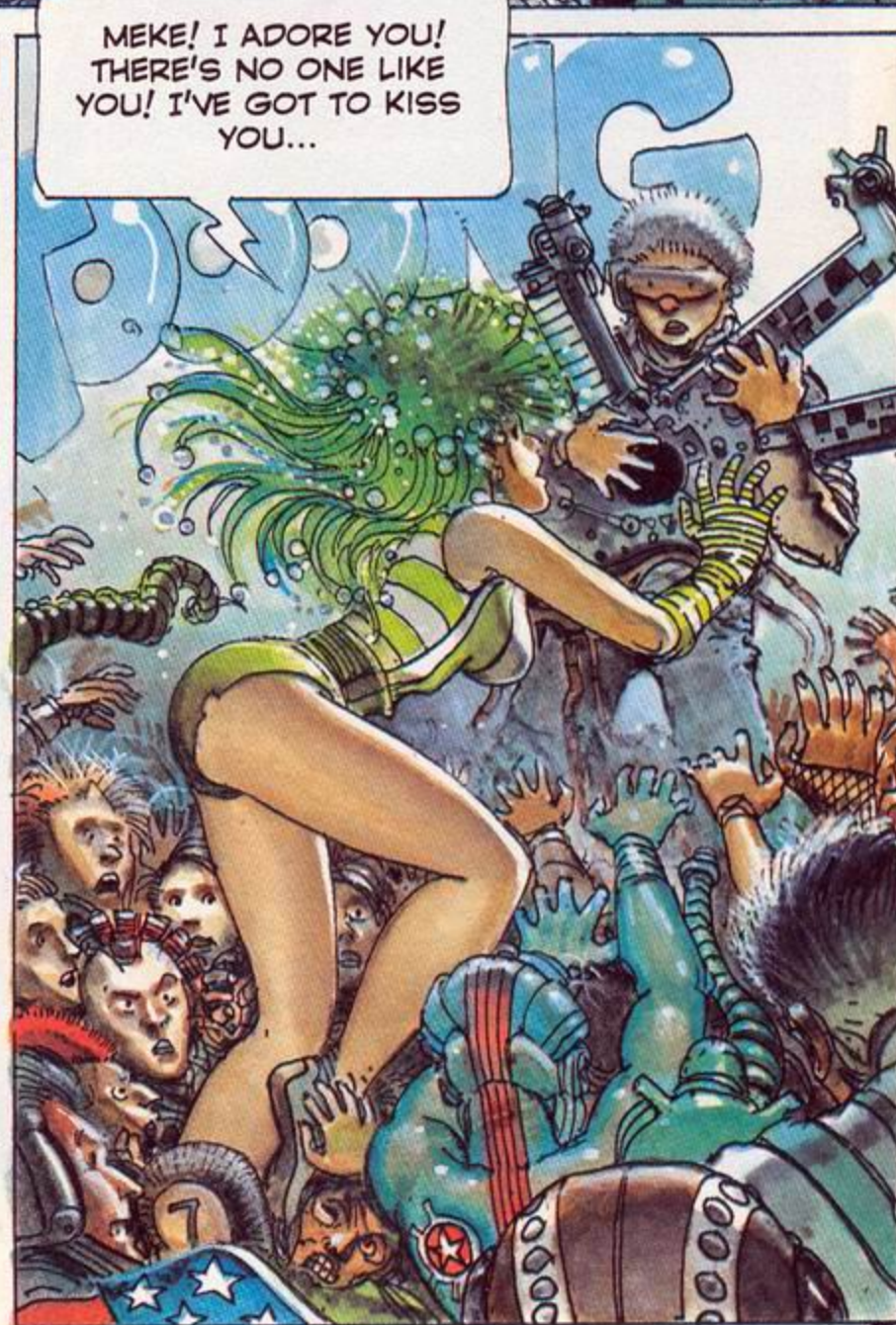








LEO ROA: THE BACKWARDS ODYSSEY



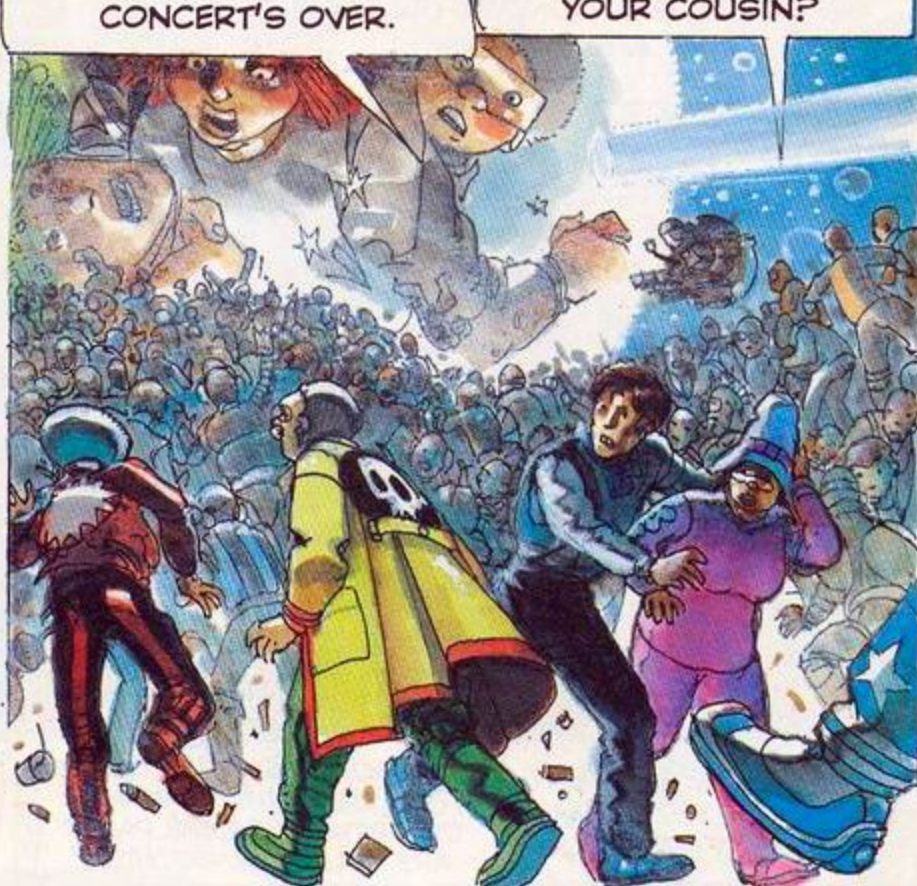
WHAT ARE YOU DOING BITCH? MEKE IS OUR IDOL. DON'T TOUCH HIM!

BACK OFF, ASSHOLES! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST!

WHAT A DRAG! C'MON, AUNTIE. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. THINGS ARE HEATING UP. THE CONCERT'S OVER.

THEY'LL TEAR HIM APART! AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP YOUR COUSIN?

AND WE WILL!



NOO, THEY WOULDN'T KILL HIM. BUT HE'D MAKE A GOOD MARTYR FOR THE CAUSE OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC!

MEKE, SON! DON'T BE TOO LATE GETTING HOME!



I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D GET OUT OF THERE ALIVE! MY POOR MEKE! I GUESS HE'S GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN JAIL...

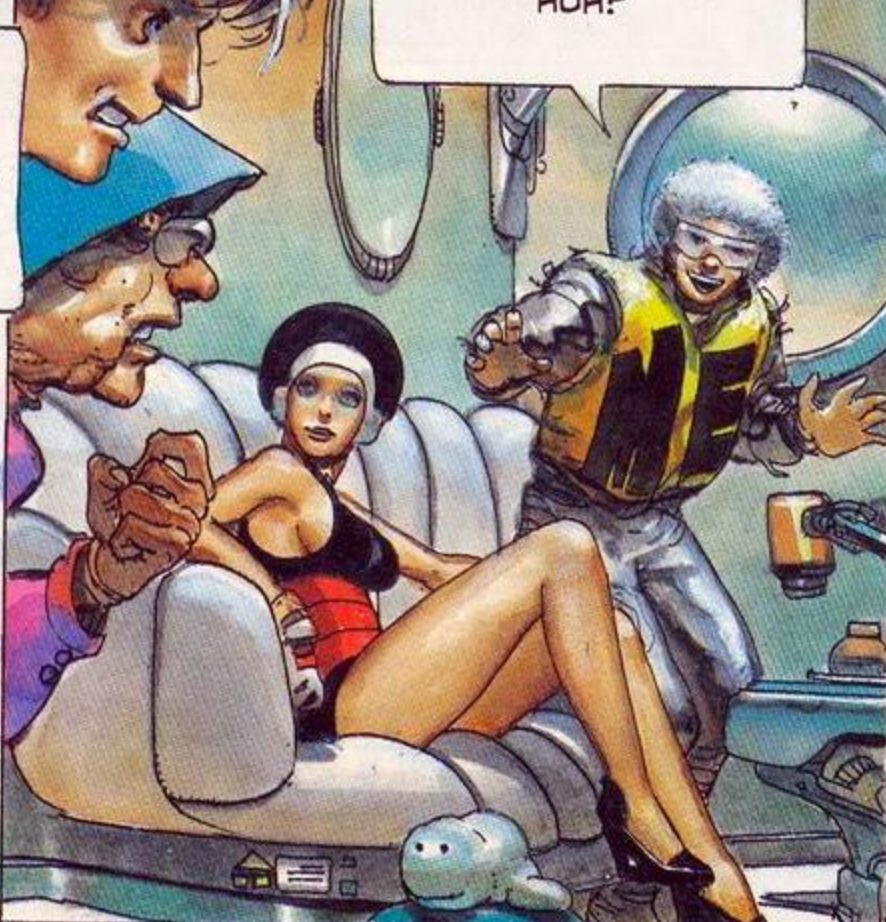
MEKE!

HI, MOM! SO, HOW'D YOU LIKE THE CONCERT? GREAT, HUH?

BUT... HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

YEAH, HOW DID YOU MAKE IT BACK BEFORE US, THROUGH THAT MESS? AND WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

MAYBE THE COPS PUT A STOP TO IT! BUT MEKE IS HAPPY, AUNTIE! HE'S DOING WHAT HE LIKES.



THIS IS MARGA! SHE TURNED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIOT ON A FLY-MOTH, AND SHE GOT ME OUT! SHE'S WONDERFUL! WHAT A NIGHT!

OY VEY! WHAT AN EVENING! CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT? I'VE MADE A DELICIOUS PIE...

GREAT IDEA! WE'RE STARVING! WILL YOU STAY, MARGA?

OH, I DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE...

DON'T WORRY! I'M STAYING TOO. I DON'T HAVE TO BE AT THE NEWSPAPER TILL LATER.

HELLO!

HI, THERE!

MMM! THE PIE'S GREAT, MOM! BETTER EACH TIME YOU MAKE IT!

SO, LEO, YOU WORK FOR THE STARR, RIGHT?... WHAT DEPARTMENT OF THE PAPER ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH?

YEAH, BUT, UMM...

LEO'S IN A... HUMM... SPECIAL, NEW... MMM DEPARTMENT. IT'S SPECIAL, LIKE THIS PIE!

HMM... SORRY, MARGA, BUT... HUMM... I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT HERE... MMM... OR AT LEAST, NOT YET...

HE'S RIGHT! MMM... HE HASN'T EVEN TOLD US WHAT HE REALLY DOES ON THE HUMM...STARR.

MMM... HE'S A MYSTERIOUS GUY!

HEY, SPEAKING OF THE STARR, HERE IT COMES! LET'S SEE IF THEY'VE WRITTEN UP THE CONCERT. I HOPE I GOT A GOOD REVIEW!

I'M SURE YOU DID!

MY SON, THE ROCK STAR!

SO, LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

COULDN'T BE VERY RESPECTABLE IF YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL YOUR OWN FAMILY!



THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION!
SOMETHING BIG MUST'VE
HAPPENED!

IT'S PROBABLY
ABOUT THE CATA-
STROPHE AT THE
CONCERT...



NO, IT MUST BE REALLY
BIG, AUNTIE.

CLICK!

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE STARR, THE
NUMBER ONE PLANETWIDE NEWS
BULLETIN... THE MAIN NEWS TONIGHT....

BORING
BITCH!



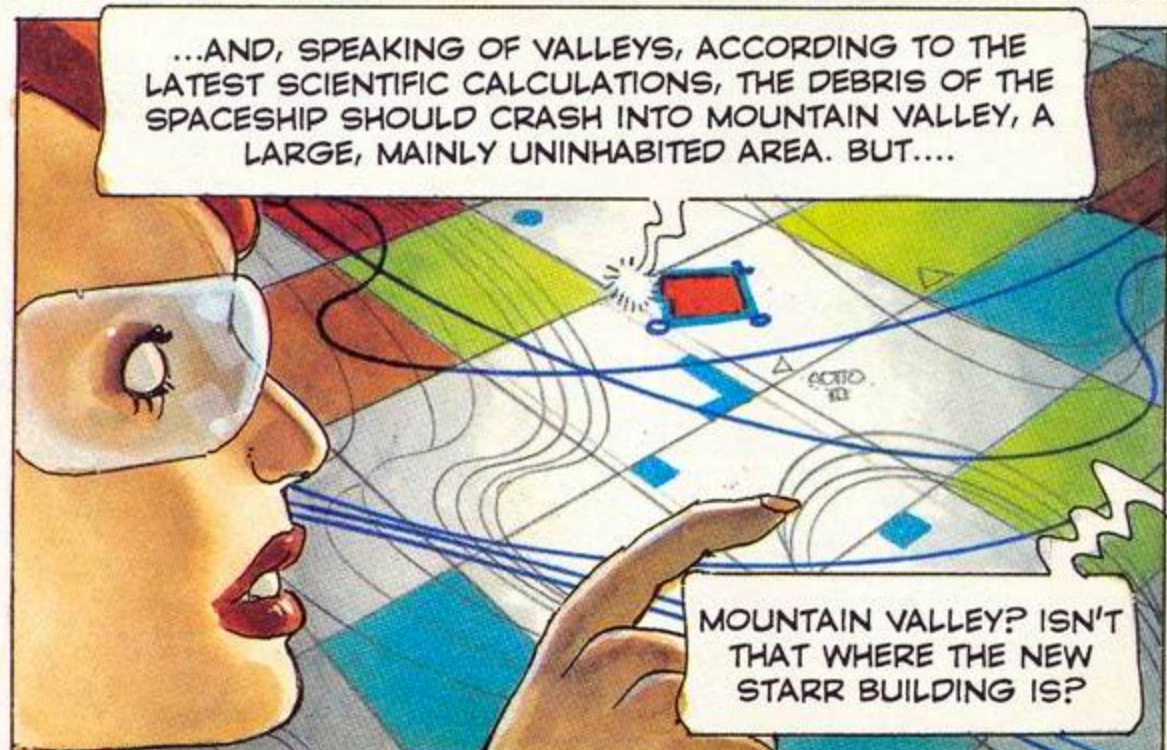
...THERE'S BEEN A MAJOR ACCIDENT AT THE TERRANOVA SPACE
STATION. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS THE EARTH'S LARGEST INHABITED
ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE. A SPACESHIP LOST CONTROL EARLIER TODAY
AND CRASHED INTO TERRANOVA. THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS NOT
YET KNOWN.



BUT WE DO KNOW THAT POLLUTEXIT IS
VERY EFFECTIVE! REMEMBER POLLUTEXIT,
THE ANTI-POLLUTION PILLS THAT REALLY
WORK! IN THREE ALL-NATURAL
FLAVORS: MORNING BREEZE, SEA
BREEZE, AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY BREEZE.



...AND, SPEAKING OF VALLEYS, ACCORDING TO THE
LATEST SCIENTIFIC CALCULATIONS, THE DEBRIS OF THE
SPACESHIP SHOULD CRASH INTO MOUNTAIN VALLEY, A
LARGE, MAINLY UNINHABITED AREA. BUT....



MOUNTAIN VALLEY? ISN'T
THAT WHERE THE NEW
STARR BUILDING IS?

...IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, RIGHT ON THE BEACH, OR EVEN IN THE FOREST, AND WITHOUT EVER LEAVING THE CITY, TRY SIMULCAMP! COVER YOUR WALLS AND WINDOWS WITH SIMULCAMP'S ENCHANTING SYNTHETIC VIEWS.

..THANKS TO SIMULCAMP YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE ANYWHERE YOU WANT — WITHOUT LEAVING THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME! SIMULCAMP LETS YOU SMELL, HEAR AND SEE YOUR FAVORITE SCENES! NOW, BACK TO TODAY'S NEWS...

SO, YOU WERE SAYING? OH, YEAH! THE NEW STARR BUILDING IS IN MOUNTAIN VALLEY? I BETTER GO. THEY MAY NEED ME.

CLICK!

I'M SPLITTING TOO. I'VE GOTTA DO SOME SHOPPING. YOU COMING, MEKE?

OKAY, MARGA! I'LL GO WITH YOU. IT'S STILL PRETTY EARLY.

AND LEAVE YOUR MOTHER ALL ALONE? YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

OH COME ON, AUNTIE. LET HIM GO. IT'S HIS NIGHT!

SHUT UP! IT'S ALWAYS MEKE'S "NIGHT"! WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M ALWAYS ON MY OWN, CLEANING, COOKING...

OKAY, BYE THEN! YOUR PIE WAS DELICIOUS, AUNTIE!

BYE, MOM! I WON'T BE LONG!

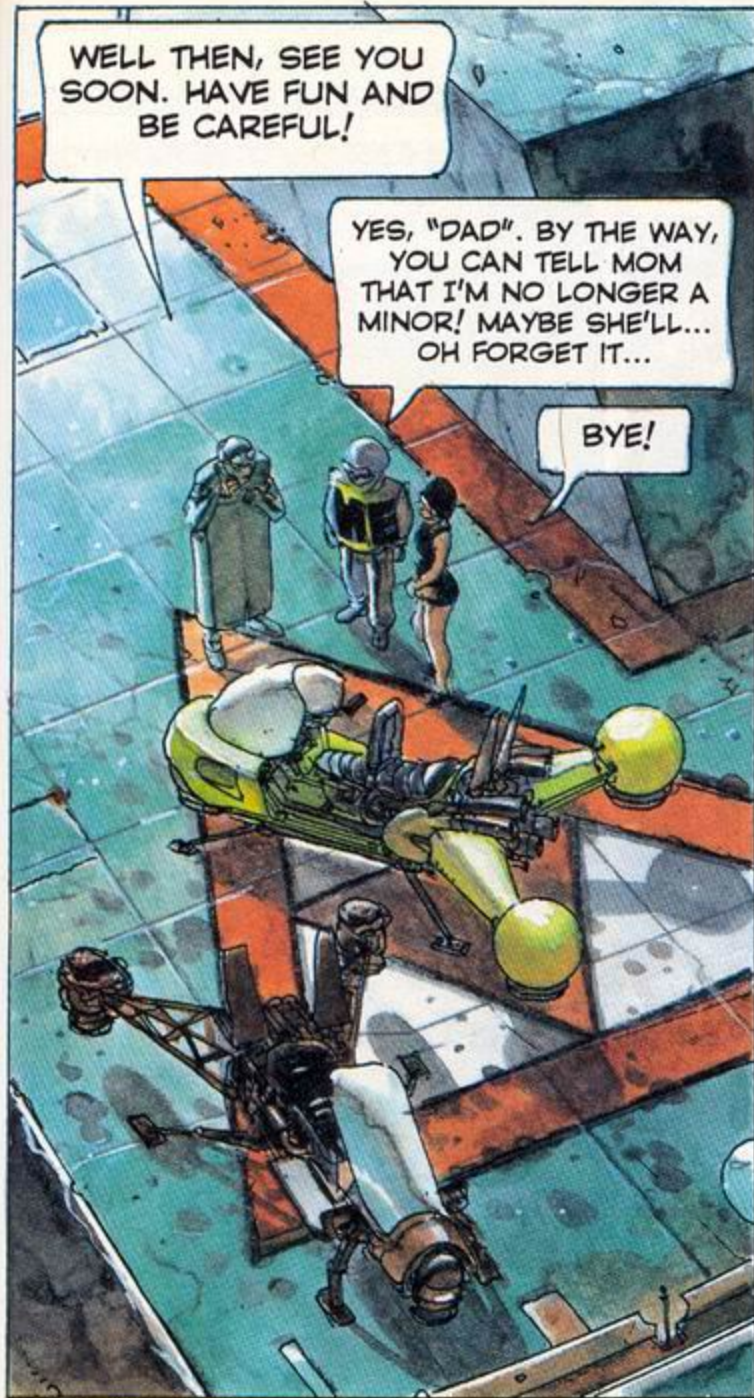
IS YOUR MOM ALWAYS LIKE THAT, MEKE?

NO. USUALLY, SHE'S WORSE!

REALLY?

UNGRATEFUL BRATS!

BYE, MRS. ROA!



WELL THEN, SEE YOU SOON. HAVE FUN AND BE CAREFUL!

YES, "DAD". BY THE WAY, YOU CAN TELL MOM THAT I'M NO LONGER A MINOR! MAYBE SHE'LL... OH FORGET IT...

BYE!



WHAT DID YOU SAY?

MAYBE I SHOULD STAY. PERHAPS MY MOM IS RIGHT. I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND MUCH RECENTLY...

WHAT? I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE NEW KING OF MUSIC... TIED TO HIS SWEET OLE MOM'S APRON STRINGS?



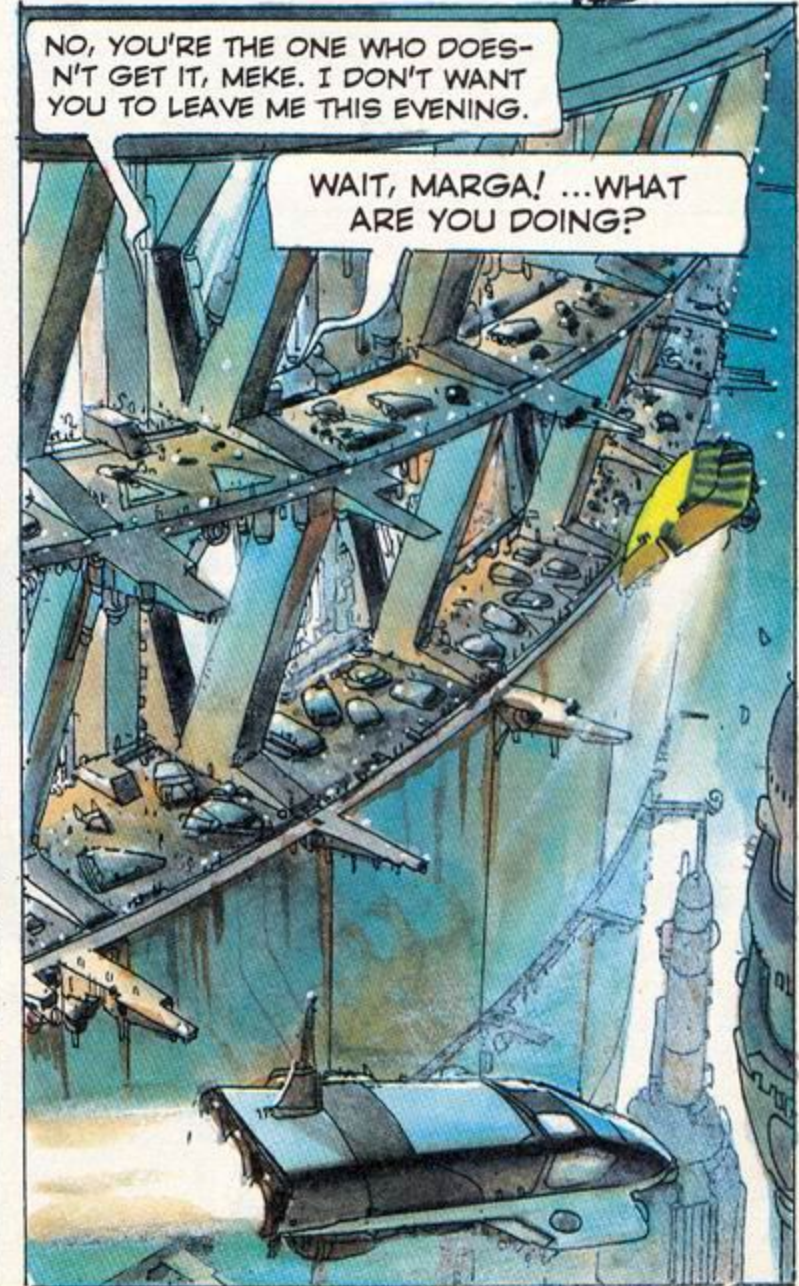
SO? I NEGLECTED HER WHILE I WAS PUTTING THE SHOW TOGETHER...



BUT DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE PARTYING AFTER THIS EVENING'S HUGE SUCCESS? AFTER ALL, YOU DESERVE IT. JUST YOU AND ME, ALONE, SOMEWHERE?



YOU DON'T GET IT, MARGA. THAT'S NOT IT... I DON'T WANT YOU TO...



NO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GET IT, MEKE. I DON'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE ME THIS EVENING.

WAIT, MARGA! ...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MEKE, THAT BOY IS GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF ME!

MY MOTHER!

MHMM! EXCITING!

OH, MEKE, YOUR GUITAR ISN'T THE ONLY THING YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY...

MEKE!

SHHH! SHE'LL HEAR US!

IT'S LEO WHO'S GIVING HIM BAD HABITS! THIS CAN'T GO ON. WHEN THEY GET BACK, I'LL CHEW THEM OUT!

MHM, MHM!

SHE'S FINALLY GONE!

LET'S DO IT HERE, MY LOVE! NOW... I CAN'T WAIT ANOTHER MINUTE...



MARGA... WAIT... I... I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT, NOW...

OKAY. IT WAS DUMB OF ME TO THINK THAT THIS WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY, BUT YOU ASKED FOR IT... LET'S GO!

OKAY, OKAY! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D GET ALL UPSET! BUT THE PAVEMENT'S ALL WET AND COLD AND SHE...

JUST SHUT IT, RIGHT NOW!



NOW GET ON MY FLY-MOTH.
YOU'RE DRIVING.

SURE.

START IT UP!
HEAD FOR THE
IRON COAST!
AND STEP ON IT!

DON'T YOU THINK
YOU'RE PUSHING IT A
BIT? THIS IS KIDNAP-
PING! YOU REALIZE
THAT, MY LOVELY?

I KNOW. DON'T MAKE
ME HAVE TO TICKLE
YOUR EAR WITH MY
LASER. LOOK WHERE
YOU'RE GOING. I
DON'T WANT TO
CRASH.

WE'LL SEE
ABOUT THAT!

HAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!

STOP, DAMN IT!
SHIT! WE'RE GOING
TO CRASH! SO YOU
HAVE GOOD
REFLEXES, NOW
LEVEL OUT!

MARGAAA! I'M LOSING
CONTROL!...



HANG IN THERE!

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS! DO SOMETHING FOR FUCK'S SAKE!



IT'S JUST THAT THIS MACHINE IS NOT LIKE MINE...

YOU THINK I'M STUPID?



HUH... WHERE'S YOUR HAIR?

NEVER HAD ANY! NOW HEAD FOR THE IRON COAST... PLEASE.



WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HOLDING? IS WHERE WE'RE GOING SUPPOSED TO BE DANGEROUS?

SAFER THAN BEING IN THE PASSENGER SEAT WITH YOU!

NOW I GET IT... SAVING ME DURING THE CONCERT WAS A PREMEDITATED PLOY, RIGHT? I CAN SEE YOU'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN...

WOW! YOU'RE NOT AS DUMB AS I THOUGHT!

YOU COULD'VE NABBED ME THEN... WHY DID YOU GET ALL FRIENDLY AND PRETEND TO GET ALL HOT AND BOTHERED?

SORRY... I THOUGHT THAT... I MADE A MISTAKE. YEAH, I GUESS I MADE A MISTAKE.



HELLO, EVERYONE! HOW ARE THINGS, MR. ROTATIVAL?

AH! LEO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DIDN'T YOU GET THE MESSAGE? THE BUILDING IS BEING EVACUATED. THE WHOLE THING MIGHT BLOW!

I WASN'T HOME, BUT THE SECURITY GUARDS JUST WARNED ME.



I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF THE TROUBLE AT THE TERRANOVA SPACE STATION...

THAT'S RIGHT. ALL THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE SPACESHIP WILL CRASH HERE, INTO MOUNTAIN VALLEY. THERE'S A 90% CHANCE IT'LL HIT OUR BUILDING.

AND I SUPPOSE EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE DONE TO CHANGE ITS TRAJECTORY, OR TO BLOW IT UP HAS BEEN TRIED..?

YES, NOTHING MORE CAN BE DONE.

YOU KNOW, IT'S A POLITRON SPACESHIP. IT WAS TRANSPORTING VERY DANGEROUS PRISONERS. THEY CAUSED THE CRASH AND THEN HIJACKED THE SPACESHIP. THE CREW IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE.

WHAT BAD TIMING! SO THE ANTI-T TEST VOYAGE HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED?

WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE! WE CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THE DAMNED SPACESHIP TO FALL ON TOP OF US WHILE HORATIO GOES FOR A "WALK."

DOES HE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

NO. WE'LL TELL HIM WHEN HE ESTABLISHES CONTACT. FOR THE MOMENT, WE ONLY HAVE A SCREEN IMAGE. YOU'LL SEE, IT'S PERFECT. HE SHOULD MAKE CONTACT IN ABOUT 20 MINUTES. LET'S HOPE HE'S ON TIME! WE WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO EVACUATE THE ENTIRE STAFF. WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?

OH, NOTHING! I WAS JUST LOOKING AT PARIS IN THE 19TH CENTURY. IT WAS MARVELOUS!

YEAH. SOON THE STARR WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THE WORLD THE HIGHEST-QUALITY INFORMATION OF ALL TIME...

...YEAH, OF ALL TIME...

THAT'S RIGHT, DOCTOR FROG! AND I HOPE THAT WILL STILL BE THE CASE AFTER THIS CATASTROPHE!

HERE, ON THE
PLATFORM!

OVER THE OLD
OIL WELL?

THAT'S RIGHT!



QWERT IS COMPLETELY
PARANOID! DON'T FORGET...

I GIVE THE
ORDERS HERE!

OKAY, BOSS!



THERE YOU ARE! AND
ABOUT TIME! QWERT IS
GETTING IMPATIENT.

LOWER YOUR ARMS!
THEY'RE OF NO USE!

QWERT TOLD US NOT TO
DROP OUR DEFENSES.



IT SEEMS HORNS ARE
ALL THE RAGE HERE,
RIGHT "BOSS"?

YES, WE'RE VERY
PROUD OF THEM.



WE KEEP GOING
DOWN. WE MUST BE
BELOW SEA LEVEL BY
NOW...



CORRECT! BUT WE'RE UNDER A CENTURIES-OLD SCRAP-METAL DUMP. THIS ELEVATOR IS CONNECTED TO AN OLD NUCLEAR SUBMARINE THAT SANK TO THE BOTTOM A LONG TIME AGO...

THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE! WITH A SELF-SUFFICIENT, PRACTICALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE ENERGY SUPPLY.

CHECK OUT THIS WISE GUY. ARE YOU SURE HE'S RIGHT FOR THE JOB?



LISTEN TO ME, YOU HORNED CREEP, I'M A GREAT MUSICIAN AND AN ENGINEER TO BOOT. GOT IT?

IT'S OBVIOUS, JUST LOOKING AT YOU!

THAT'S ENOUGH, REFT! OKAY?



BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM ME? I HAVEN'T EVEN GOT MY GUITAR!



WELL WE DON'T EXPECT YOU TO SAVE AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION FROM ANNIHILATION WITH A GUITAR, MR. MEKENASSOLE!



WHAT? SAVE A CIVILIZATION! AND HOW COME YOU KNOW MY HORRIBLE FULL NAME?

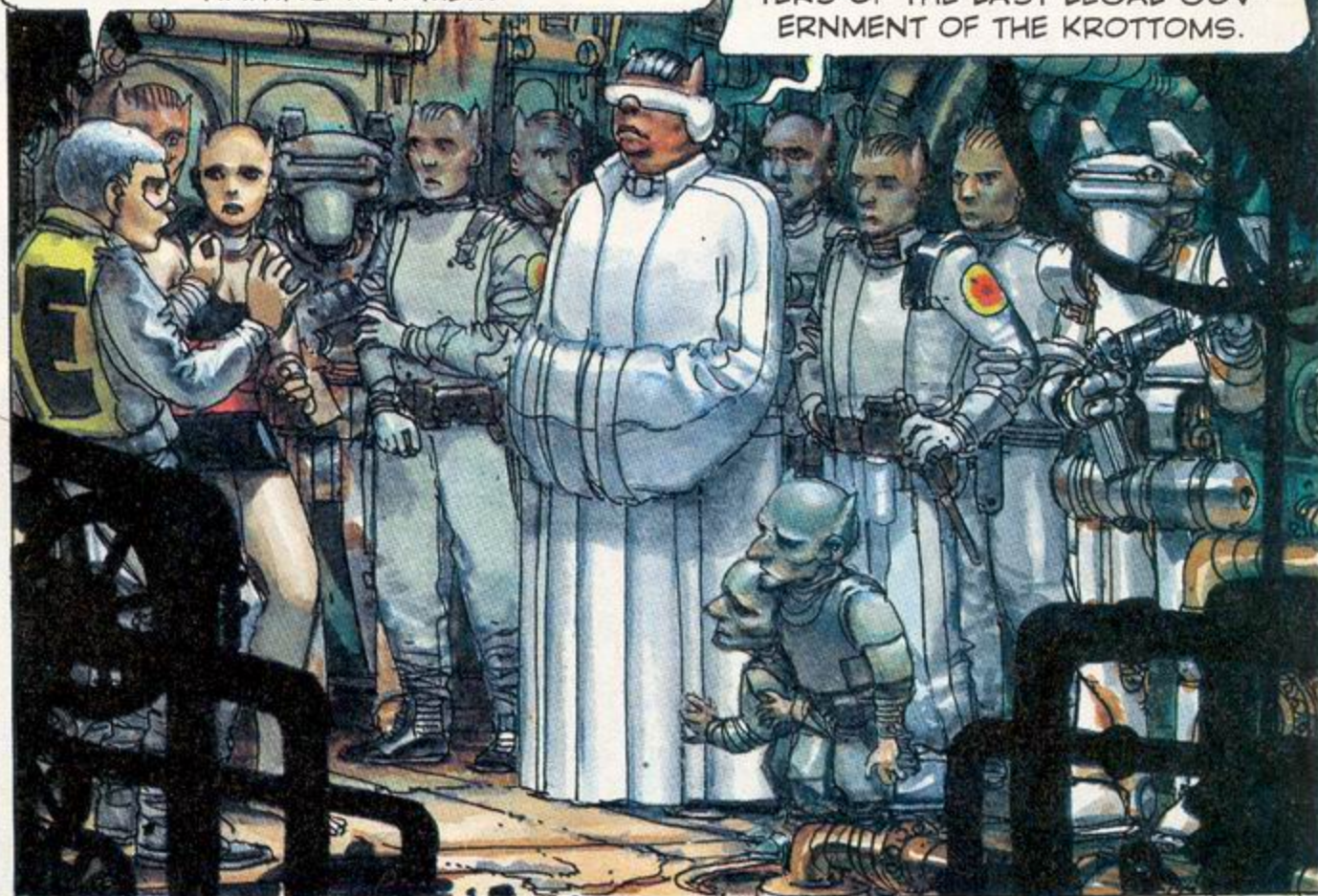
YOU WERE RIGHT, MARGA. HE'S PERFECT!

...YEAH, ALMOST...



NO, LOOK AT ME! I'M FAR FROM PERFECT! I'LL BE THE CAUSE OF YOUR FAILURE! BESIDES, MY MOTHER'S WAITING FOR ME...

MY NAME IS QWERT. WELCOME TO THE RETRENCHED HEADQUARTERS OF THE LAST LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF THE KROTTOMS.



YOU SAID THE KROTTOMS? THEN THOSE HORNS ARE FOR REAL!

LIKE THE NOSE ON YOUR FACE!

I SEE! IT SEEMS YOUR PEOPLE LOVE WAR. HALF THE GALAXY RESPECTS AND FEARS YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOW DIVIDED INTO OPPOSING CAMPS...

YOU'RE WELL INFORMED! YOUR ANALYSIS IS CORRECT BUT A BIT SUPERFICIAL! FOLLOW ME... I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

COME ALONG, MEKE. DON'T WORRY.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE SORT OF THING THAT ONLY HAPPENED TO LEO. NOW I'M GONNA BE LATE GETTING HOME!



WE'RE GONNA CRASH! EVEN IF WE SURVIVE, THEY'LL SWAT US LIKE FLIES!

SHUT UP, YOU FOOL! WE HAD TO GIVE IT A TRY, AND I COULDN'T WORK EVERYTHING OUT ON MY OWN!



MAYBE WITH A BIT OF LUCK WE'LL SPLASH DOWN SAFELY. WHAT DO YOU THINK, YA' FUCKIN' POLITRON?

FIRST WE'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE THE ATMOSPHERE IN ONE PIECE! WE'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE WITH SOME OUTSIDE HELP.

YOU'RE GIVING US A PRETTY PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THINGS! SO WHY ARE WE KEEPING YOU ALIVE, HUH?

THAT'S ENOUGH, MACRO! DON'T MAKE THINGS ANY WORSE!





LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL
TAKE CARE OF HIM.
IT'S ALL THEIR
FUCKING FAULT
ANYWAYS!



I TOLD YOU TO COOL IT,
DICK HEAD!

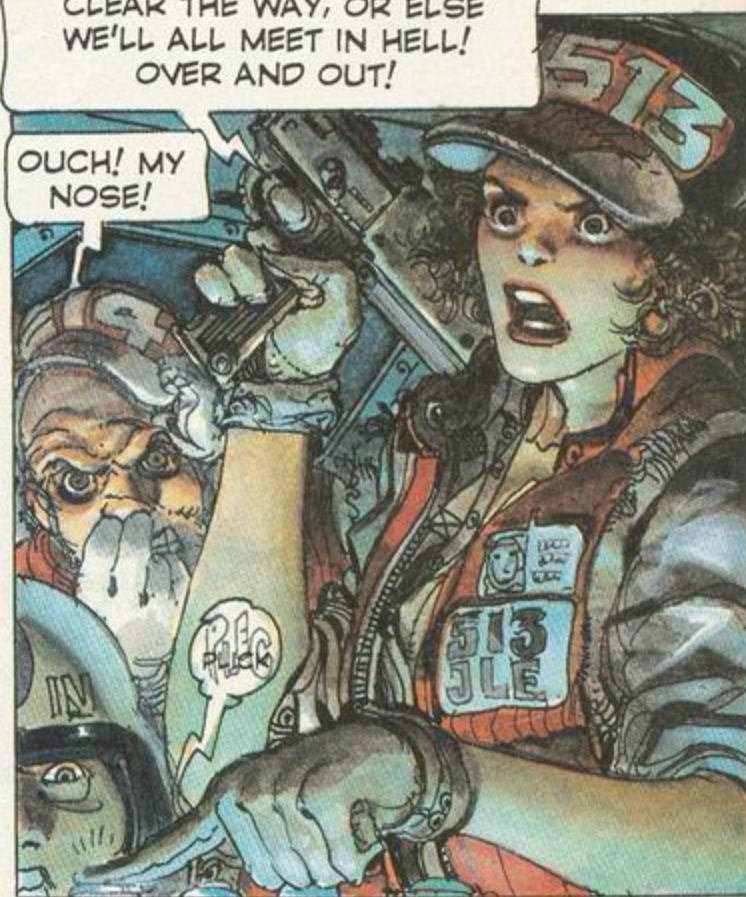
POLITRON CALLING
SPACESHIP A7,
OVER!



LISTEN, WE ENTER THE
ATMOSPHERE IN 16 MINUTES.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER,
WE'LL ANNIHILATE YOUR
SURVIVING COLLEAGUES.
GOT IT? TELL THEM THAT!

THAT'S THE
TRUTH,
CHIEF!



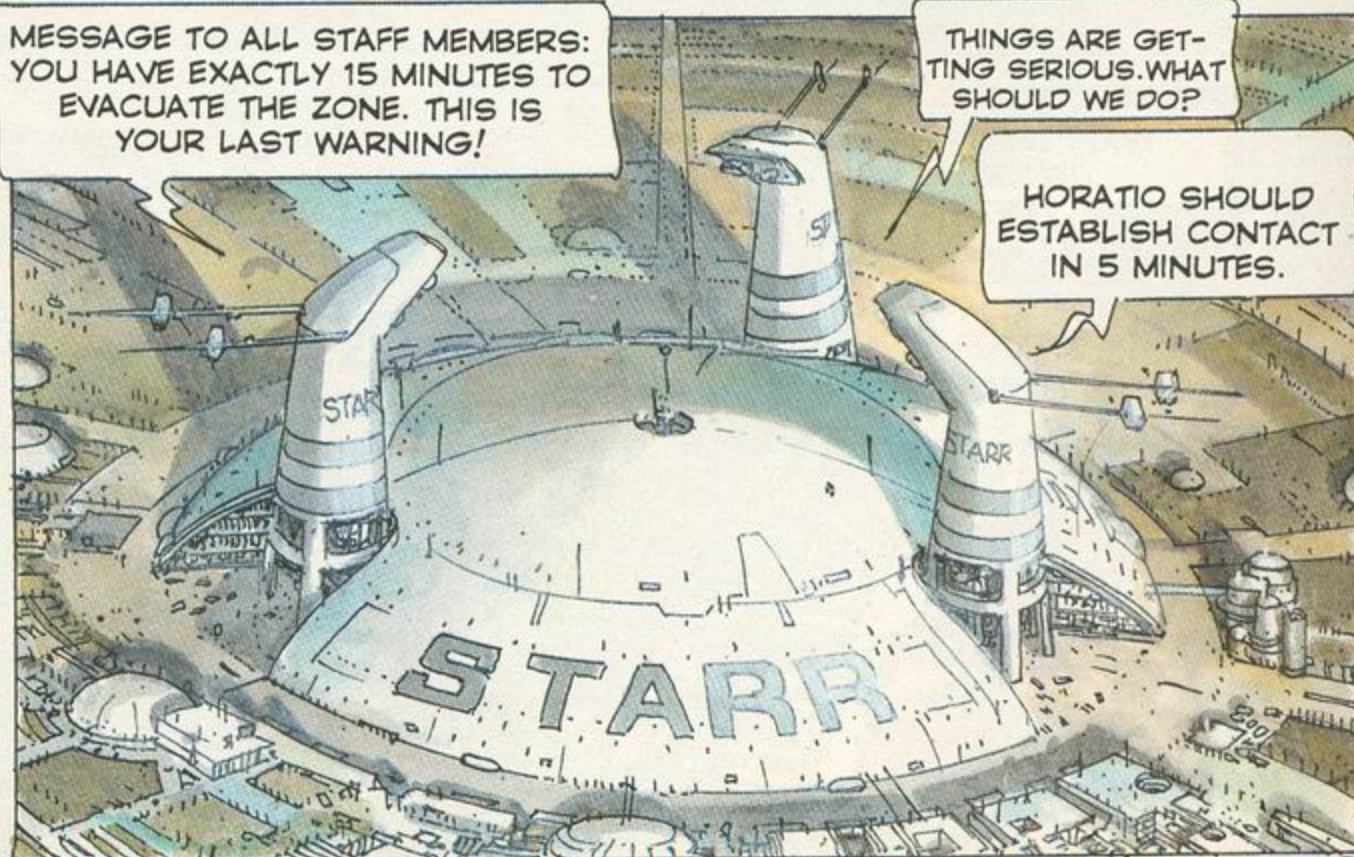
CLEAR THE WAY, OR ELSE
WE'LL ALL MEET IN HELL!
OVER AND OUT!

OUCH! MY
NOSE!



HORATIO, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS
BEEN DECLARED! HORATIO H.!

IT'S NO USE!



MESSAGE TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS:
YOU HAVE EXACTLY 15 MINUTES TO
EVACUATE THE ZONE. THIS IS
YOUR LAST WARNING!

THINGS ARE GET-
TING SERIOUS. WHAT
SHOULD WE DO?

HORATIO SHOULD
ESTABLISH CONTACT
IN 5 MINUTES.

YOU GUYS HURRY UP.
I'M STAYING IN CHARGE
OF THE ANTI-T. HORATIO
WON'T BE LONG.



...WE STILL DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH
DAMAGE THE SPACESHIP CAN CAUSE.
BUT IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT
THE BUILDING.



...THERE'S NO POINT
ENDANGERING MORE LIVES...



IT'S HORATIO!

H.H. SPEAKING!
CAN YOU HEAR
ME?

...LISTEN, H.H., PREPARE
YOURSELF! A STATE OF
EMERGENCY HAS BEEN
DECLARED!

WHAA?
WHAT HAPPENED?

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME
TO EXPLAIN NOW. WE
HAVE 14 MINUTES TO
EVACUATE EVERYTHING!

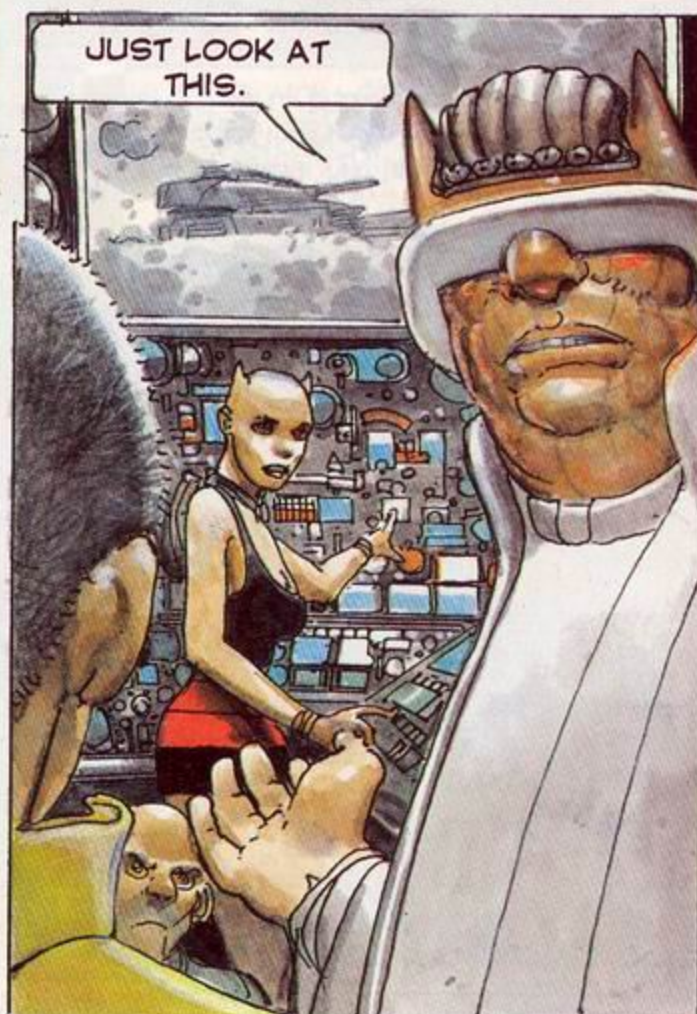
LET'S
GO!



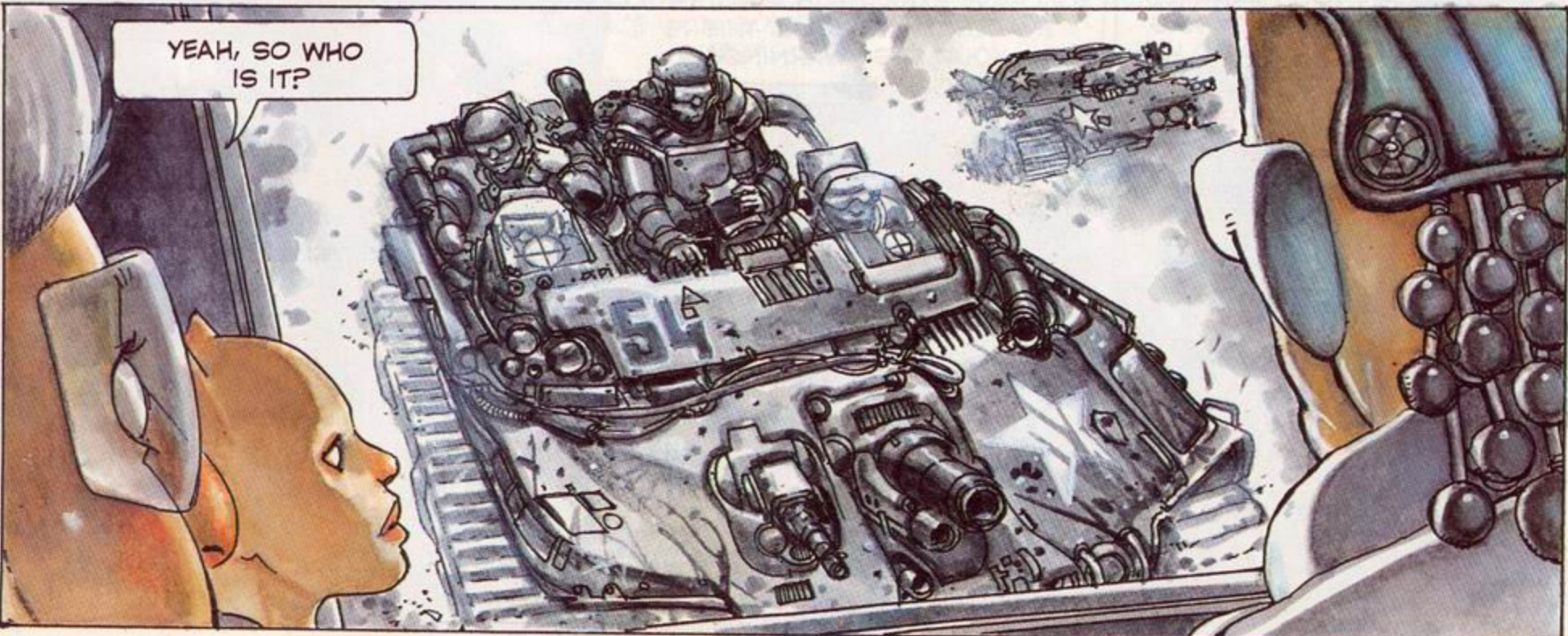
HOW COME YOU'RE SO
SURE THAT I CAN HELP
YOU?



JUST LOOK AT
THIS.



YEAH, SO WHO
IS IT?



WAIT A MINUTE! HE LOOKS LIKE... BUT IT CAN'T BE!

YOUR TURN, MEKE! IT'S THE GREAT KRAMM, MY KID BROTHER!

IT'S JUST A VAGUE RESEMBLANCE... I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE HORNS!

NO, MEKE. THE TWO OF YOU ARE IDENTICAL! LOOK AT HIS BIOLOGICAL DATA. HE'S JUST LIKE YOU!

YOU DON'T JUST LOOK ALIKE. YOU'VE GOT THE SAME BLOOD TYPE... EVERYTHING IS IDENTICAL!

BUT...

HOW DID YOU GET HOLD OF THAT INFORMATION?

I STOLE IT FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE STATE SIMULATION CENTER, YOUR FORMER EMPLOYER.

MAKES SENSE! LUCKILY, ONLY THE PSYCHIC AND CULTURAL PARAMETERS VARY... WHICH WON'T AFFECT OUR PLANS IN ANY WAY.

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT! YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THE GREAT KRAMM'S PLACE, CORRECT?

EXACTLY!

EXCELLENT DEDUCTIVE POWERS, MR. MEKE!

YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST NOW, MEKE. I'LL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS LATER ON.



COME! LET ME SHOW
YOU YOUR REST
AREA.



POLITRON ESCORT HERE! WE'RE ENTERING
THE ATMOSPHERE!

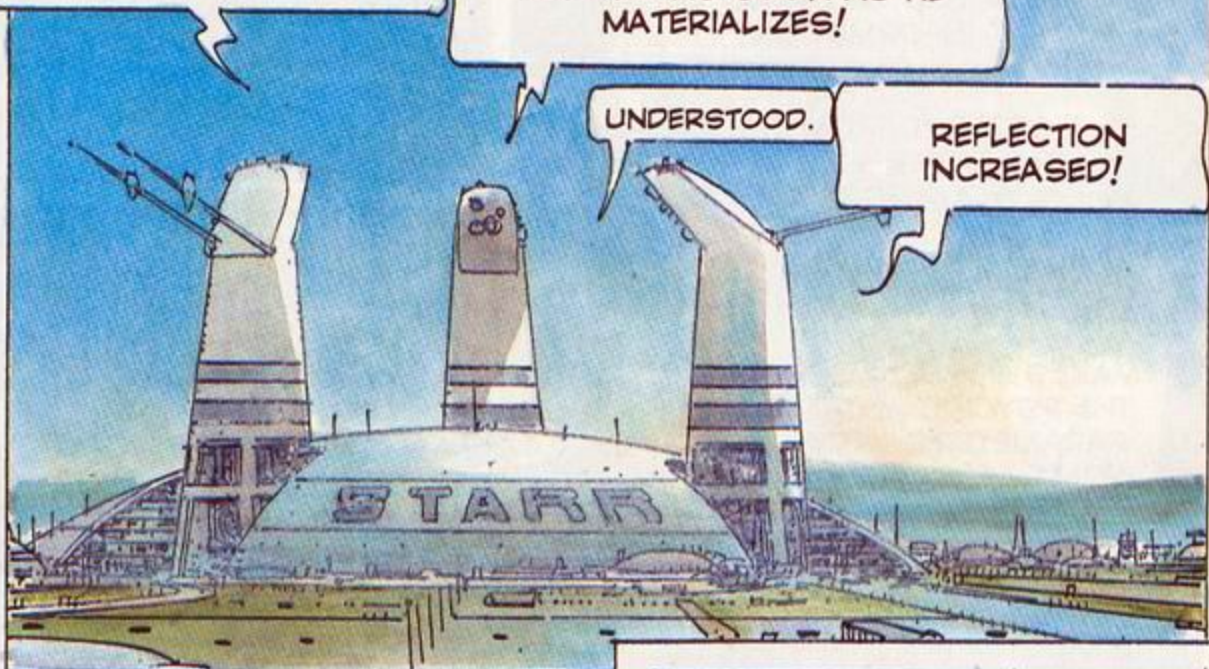
AFTER ALL, ANYTHING'S
POSSIBLE. MAYBE NOTHING
OF THE SPACESHIP WILL
TOUCH THE GROUND. IT MAY
ALL DISINTEGRATE.



WE'RE GOING TO
BURN ALIVE! LET'S
GET OUT OF HERE!

IT'S TOO
LATE!

...WE CAN TRY GUIDING
IT. INCREASE THE
REFLECTION!



PAY ATTENTION!
YOU, LEO, GO AND HELP
HORATIO AS SOON AS HE
MATERIALIZES!

UNDERSTOOD.

REFLECTION
INCREASED!



SHIT, MARGA'S GOT REALLY
GREAT EYES! WOW! AND
THOSE LEGS!... BUT...



...I'M BEING USED! I SHOULD
TRY TO GET OUT OF HERE AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE!



LET'S TRY THE EASIEST
WAY OUT... THE DOOR!



CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

UHH, I'M LOOK-
ING FOR THE
TOILET... PLEASE.



LET'S SEE. DON'T TELL
ME. DOWN THE HALL
AND TO THE LEFT?

CORRECT!

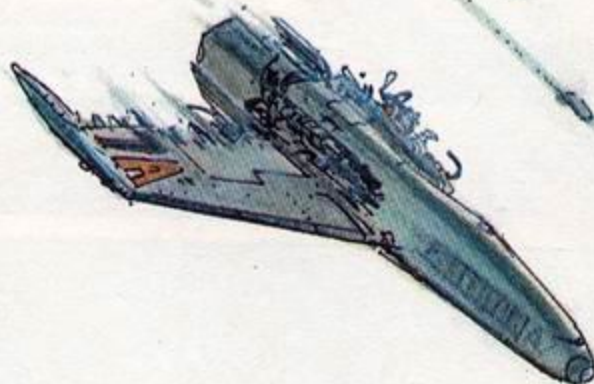


ATTENTION! SPACESHIP A7, DO YOU
HEAR ME? IF YOU CAN JUMP, DO IT
NOW! SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE!

NO REPLY! IT'S A
BIT LATE TO BOARD
THEM!

THE ANGLE OF ENTRY
INTO THE ATMOSPHERE
WAS CATASTROPHIC!

IMPACT IN 5
MINUTES!



WE COULD BLOW IT UP
NOW. AT THIS ALTITUDE, NO
ONE WOULD GET HURT!

NO, WE HAVE NO
WAY OF KNOWING IF
THERE ARE ANY
SURVIVORS ON
BOARD.



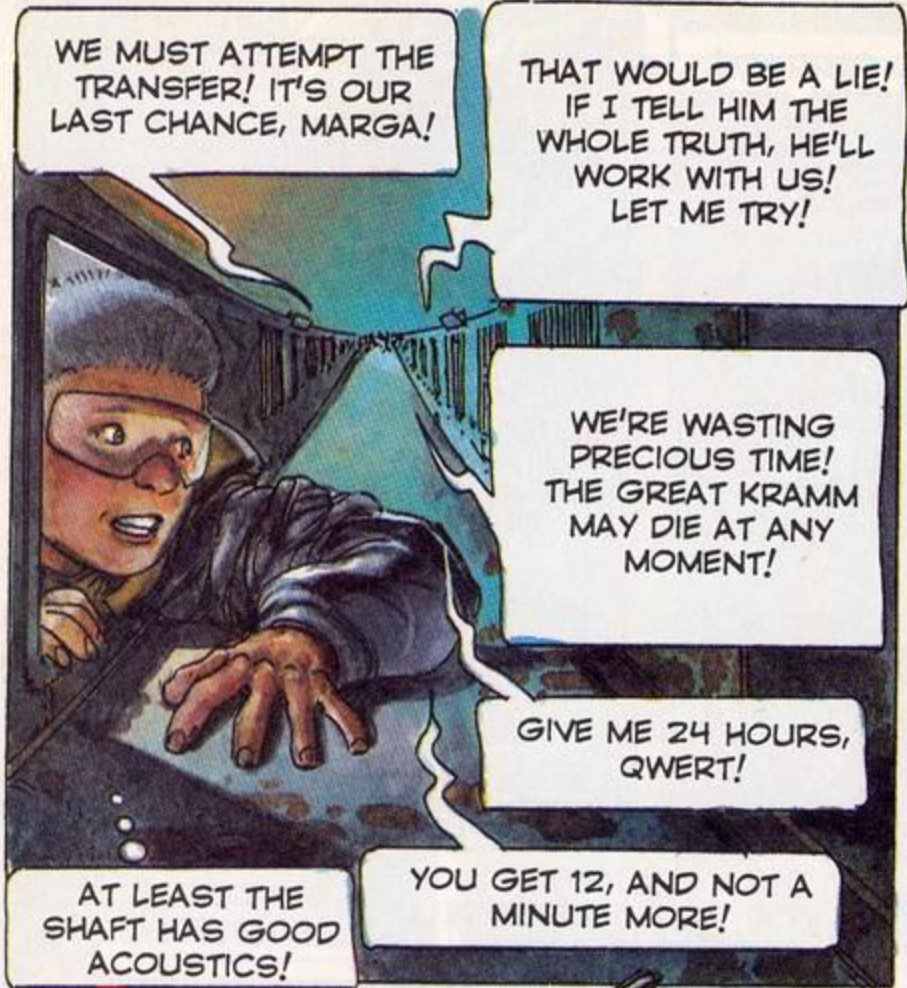
THE AIR CIRCULATES
THROUGH THIS VENT.

IF I WAS A COMIC-BOOK
CHARACTER, I WOULD
BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THROUGH
THERE!

BUT SINCE THAT'S NOT
THE CASE, I CAN'T EVEN
GET MY HEAD
THROUGH... UNLESS...

NO, QWERT!
THAT WASN'T
PART OF THE
PLAN.





WE MUST ATTEMPT THE TRANSFER! IT'S OUR LAST CHANCE, MARGA!

THAT WOULD BE A LIE! IF I TELL HIM THE WHOLE TRUTH, HE'LL WORK WITH US! LET ME TRY!

WE'RE WASTING PRECIOUS TIME! THE GREAT KRAMM MAY DIE AT ANY MOMENT!

GIVE ME 24 HOURS, QWERT!

AT LEAST THE SHAFT HAS GOOD ACOUSTICS!

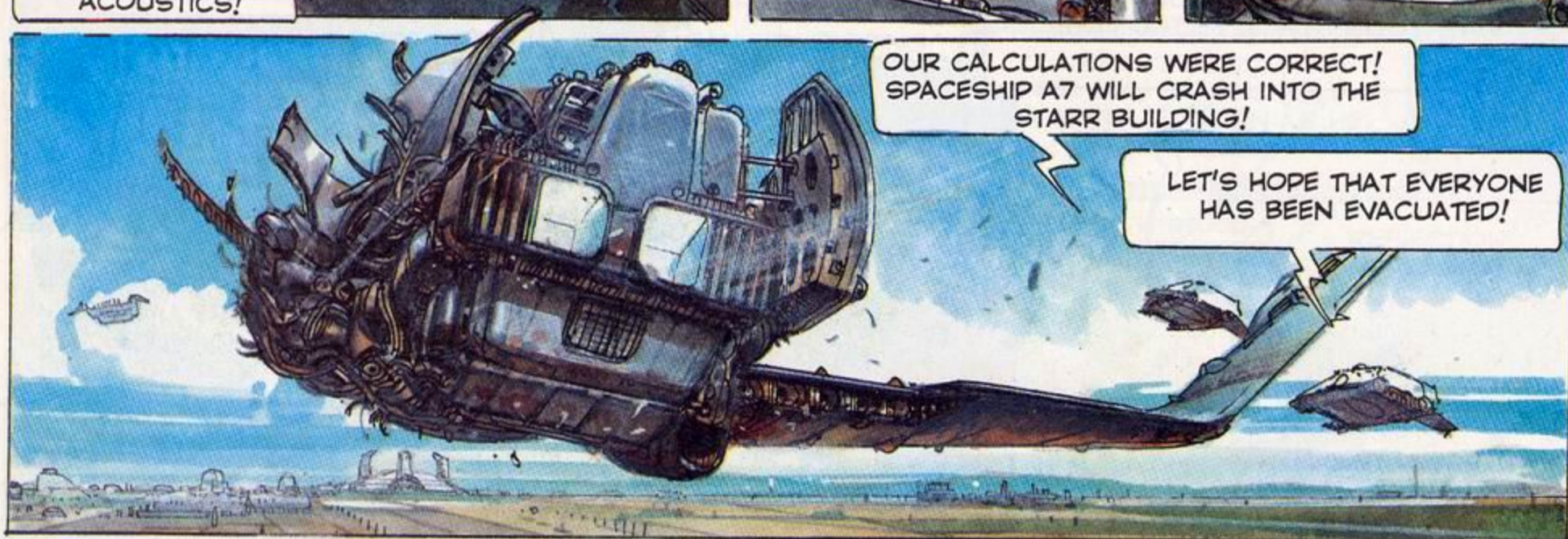
YOU GET 12, AND NOT A MINUTE MORE!



NOW MARGA HAS TO TALK ME INTO IT!



IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO GO TO THE CAN... BUT THIS ONE STINKS!



OUR CALCULATIONS WERE CORRECT! SPACESHIP A7 WILL CRASH INTO THE STARR BUILDING!

LET'S HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN EVACUATED!



ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL! THE IMPACT WILL OCCUR IN EXACTLY SIX SECONDS.

THERE HE IS!

HELP HIM, LEO! GET HIM OUT OF THERE!





HURRY!
WE'VE GOTTA GET
OUTTA HERE!

LEO!



SHIT! THE
SHIP IS
CRASH-
ING!

HEY, WHAT'S
GOING ON? THE
CONE OF THE ANTI-
T HAS REOPENED!



OH NO! THEY DIDN'T GET
OUT IN TIME! THEY'RE
DEMATERIALIZING!



MOVE AWAY FROM THE
CONE. THE ANTI-T WAS
LEFT OPEN!





WHAT A CATASTROPHE!

H.H. AND LEO ARE TRAVELING TOGETHER. LET'S HOPE THEY DON'T GET SEPARATED.

YEAH! LEO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SUIT!

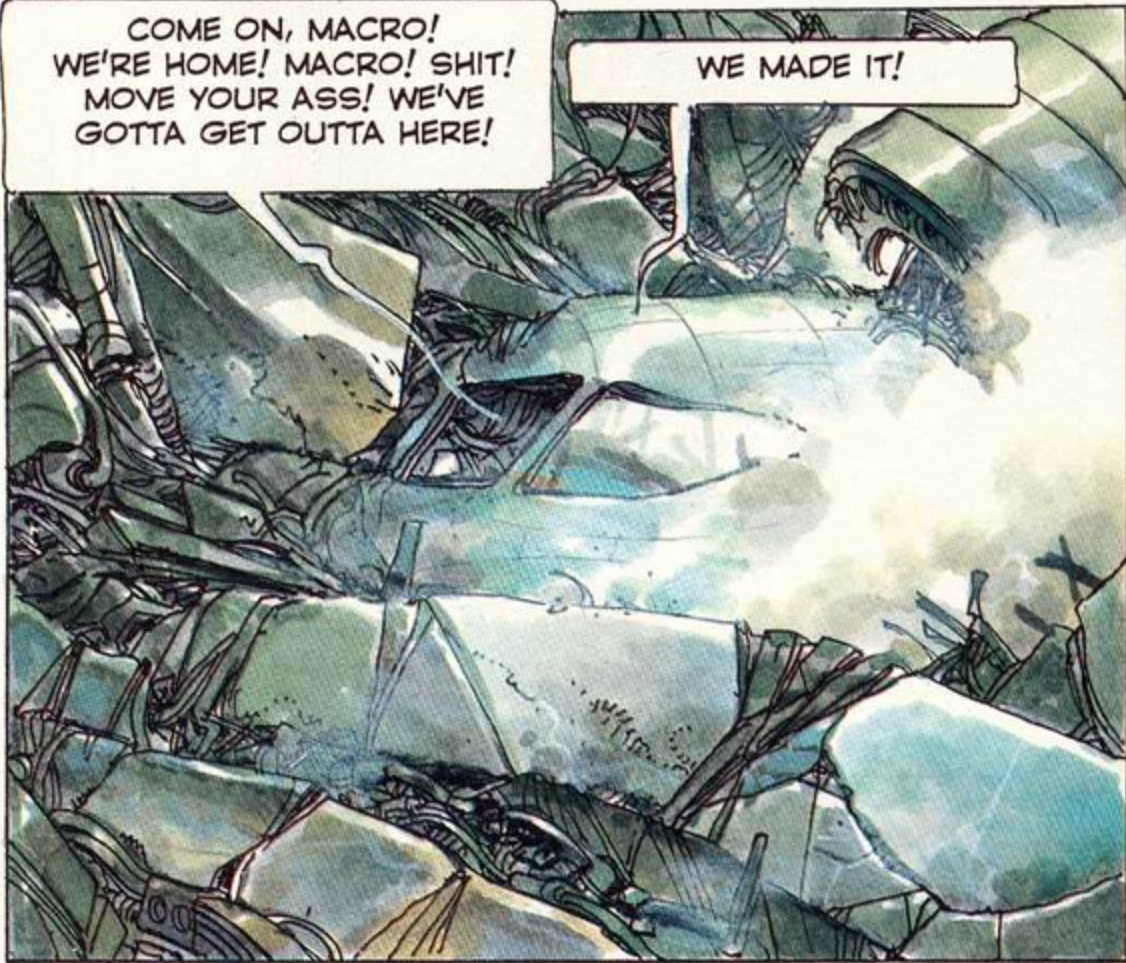
DID ANYONE GET HURT?

HORATIO, WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE WE TIME TRAVELING?

I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU WHAT HAPPENED! JUST DON'T LET GO OF ME!

COME ON, MACRO! WE'RE HOME! MACRO! SHIT! MOVE YOUR ASS! WE'VE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

WE MADE IT!



OUCH! MY LEG! I CAN'T GO ON...

WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE, SO LET'S USE THE CONFUSION TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

MEKE! ARE YOU AWAKE! IT'S MARGA!

WHAT?

DID YOU THINK I COULD SLEEP AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED?

SHHH. SPEAK SOFTLY!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING
TO YOU! I OWE IT TO YOU!
BUT LET'S NOT LOSE ANY TIME!

GO AHEAD!
TELL ME!

WE WANT THE GREAT KRAMM,
OUR LEADER, TO REUNITE THE
KROTTOMS AND PUT AN END TO
THE CIVIL WAR THAT HAS BEEN THE
CAUSE OF SO MUCH DESTRUCTION
FOR MANY YEARS.

...BESIDES HE'S THE ONLY
REPRESENTATIVE WE HAVE
THAT THE UNIVERSAL PLANE-
TARY FEDERATION (U.P.F.) WILL
ACCEPT. AND WE'RE TRYING
TO GET INTO THE FEDERATION
AFTER BEING REJECTED FOR
CENTURIES.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE GREAT KRAMM?

HE WAS IN A MYSTERIOUS
ACCIDENT AND WAS CRIPPLED —
TEMPORARILY, I HOPE. WE'RE
HIDING HERE TILL HE RECOVERS.

THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN HE HAD
FINALLY CONVINCED THE RIVAL GANGS
TO UNITE UNDER ONE CONSTITUTION.
DISCUSSIONS WERE WELL UNDERWAY...

...SO THE U.P.F. ACCEPTED US
AS FULL MEMBERS —
THANKS TO HIS REPUTATION,
PERSONALITY AND CHARM.

THIS IS A NOBLE CAUSE
AND I'D LIKE TO HELP
YOU! I CAN'T SAY IT
HURTS THAT THE CALL
FOR HELP COMES FROM
YOU...

YOU COULD SAY THAT
I'M THE KROTTOMS'
PRIME MINISTER.

AND BESIDES BEING THE GREAT
KRAMM'S BROTHER, WHAT ROLE
DOES THAT BALL-BUSTER QWERT
PLAY?

HE WAS A GREAT KROTTOM
WARRIOR WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR
UNIFICATION. BUT HE DOESN'T
APPROVE OF MY TACTICS IN THE
PRESENT SITUATION.

COULDN'T YOU AND QWERT
RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, AT
LEAST TEMPORARILY?

THE GREAT KRAMM HAS SUCCESS-
FULLY SUBDUED ALL CONFLICTS, BUT
THE SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL.
A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT COULD
RESULT IN A NEW CRISIS... AND THIS
TIME IT MAY BE IRREPARABLE.

COULDN'T A BIO-ROBOT
HELP YOU? ...NO, I GUESS
NOT. IT WOULD BE
DETECTED IMMEDIATELY.

YOU SAID
IT!



DON'T YOU EVER ACCEPT
DEFEAT? LET ME GO,
DEBORAH!

SHUT UP,
STUPID!

HI! WE'RE MAC AND DEB
AND A BIG BLASTER! IT WAS
A PLEASURE MEETING YOU,
YOU PATHETIC ASSHOLES!

HALT! WHO GO...

HALT! IDENTIFY
YOURSELVES!



QWERT AND I WILL TELL YOU WHAT
TO DO. BESIDES, WE'LL BE WITH YOU
ALL THE TIME.

I... I... COULD NEVER
PRETEND I'M
SOMEONE ELSE...
EVEN TALKING TO
SOMEONE I DON'T
KNOW IS DIFFICULT...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO
DO, MARGA! COULD I
CALL MY MOTHER?



SORRY, MEKE, BUT NOT YET.
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.
I CAN STAY WITH YOU FOR A
WHILE, IF YOU LIKE.

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU
SOMETHING.

IT'S ALSO FOR THE GOOD
OF YOUR COUNTRY...

...NOT JUST FOR
MINE.

I MEAN... IF YOU WANT TO, AS WELL...
THE OTHER DAY I DID IT OUT OF DUTY...
BUT NOW IT'S DIFFERENT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU MEAN, YOU AND
ME... RIGHT NOW...?

YES... I WANT TO... I WANT YOU,
MEKE!

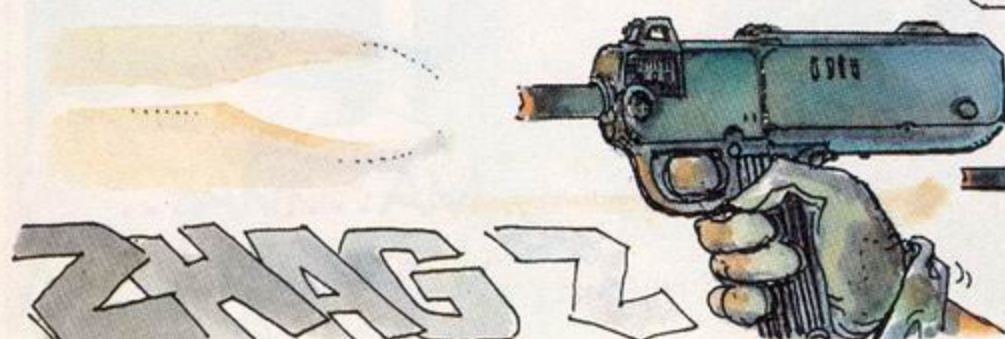
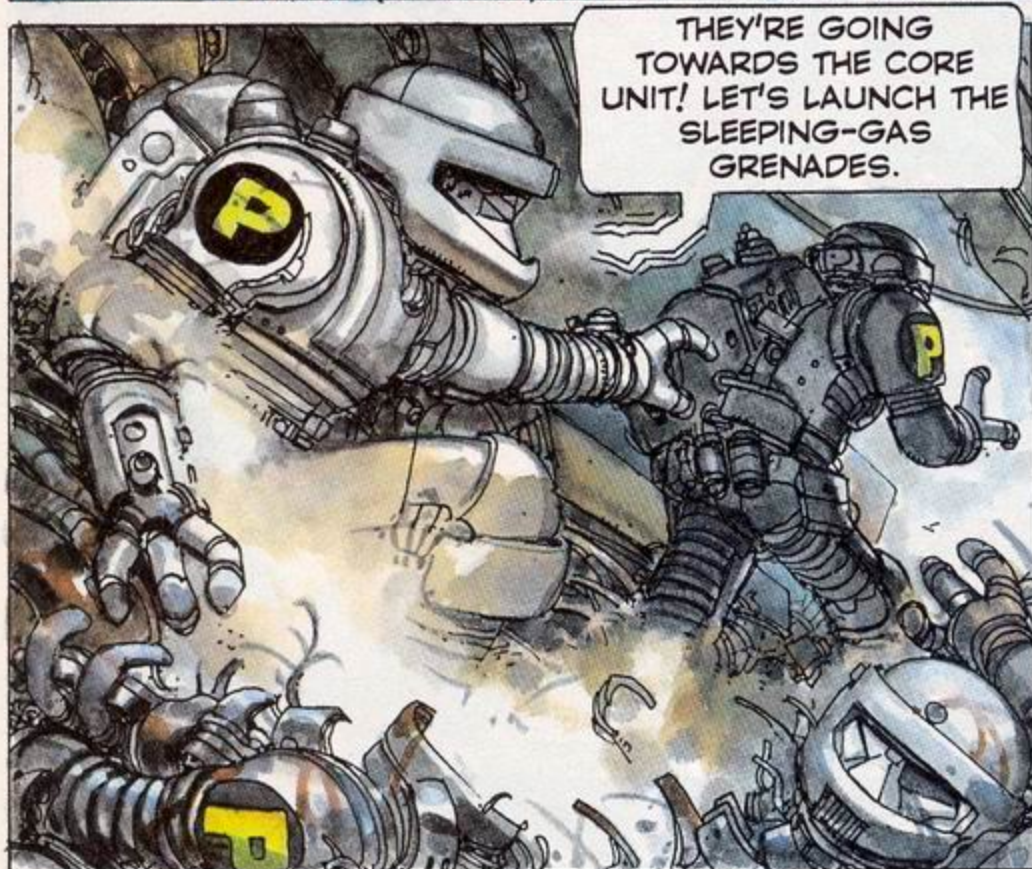
...AND ESPECIALLY SINCE
I SAW YOU PLAY THE
GUITAR AT THE CONCERT!
DO IT AGAIN!

MARGA!

MARGA, MAR...

THE BITCH!
AND WE CAN'T
EVEN SEE WHAT
THEY'RE DOING!

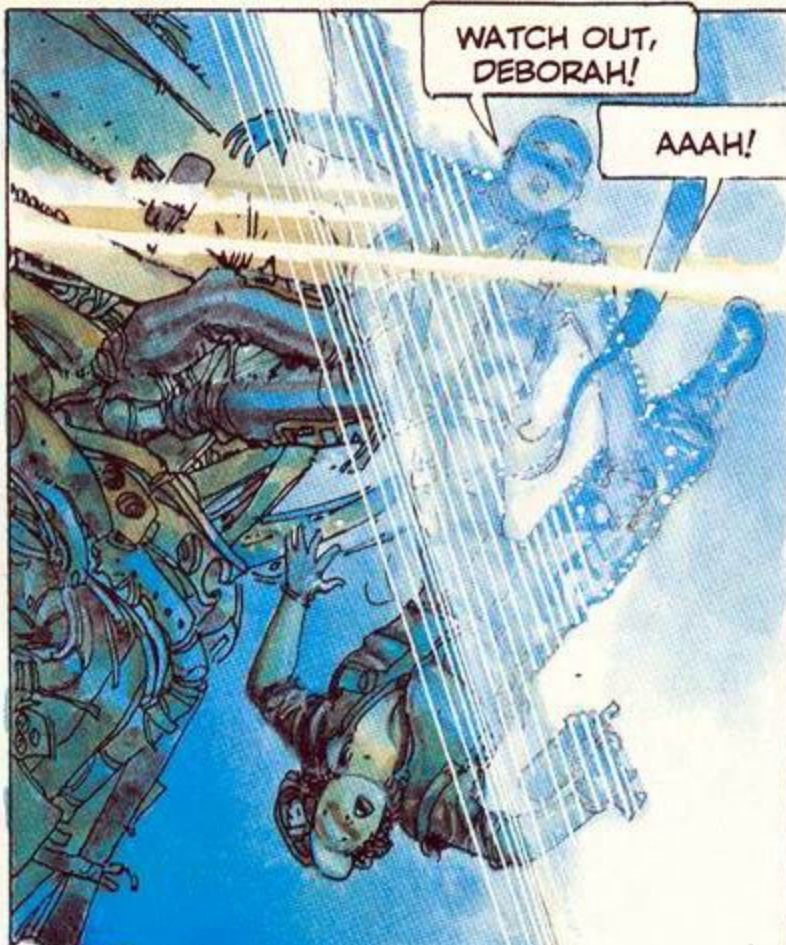
MA...MA...
MAMA!





THAT'S IT! WE'RE STOPPING! BUT WHERE THE HELL ARE WE, HORATIO?

FROM THE VIEW, I'D SAY ABOUT 16,000 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND!



AAAAH!



**WHAT?
16,000
FEET?**

RELAX, LEO! WE'RE SAFE! THE ANTI-T PROTECTS US FROM ALL EXTERNAL DANGERS! WE'RE JUST FLOATING, THAT'S ALL!

THAT'S ALL! DAMN IT, HOW CAN YOU KEEP SO COOL? I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THIS!



PLEASE, PLEASE, DON'T LET GO OF ME!



WHEN THE SPACESHIP CRASHED IT MUST HAVE OPENED THE ANTI-T CONE, SO IT'S WORKING AGAIN!



THAT MUST BE IT! BUT DON'T LET GO OF ME WHATEVER YOU DO! I CAN'T STAND THIS!

WHEN THEY FIND MY MARKER,
THEY'LL COME AND GET US.
SO YOU SEE, THERE'S NO
REASON TO WORRY!

OKAY! I WON'T WORRY —
BUT CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT
THAT IS OVER THERE? IT'S
COMING STRAIGHT AT US!

WHERE? OH! YEAH!
IT'S A PREHISTORIC
FLYING MACHINE.

IT'S GOING TO CRASH
STRAIGHT INTO US!

NO, IT'S NOT! IT WILL GO
RIGHT PAST US. I TOLD
YOU ALREADY, WE'RE
PROTECTED BY THE ANTI-T!

HELP! THIS IS THE
END!

RELAX, LEO!
YOU IDIOT! YOU JUST
PRESSED THE ANTI-T
BUTTONS!

STOP IT! WE'RE...

NOOO!

AAAAH!

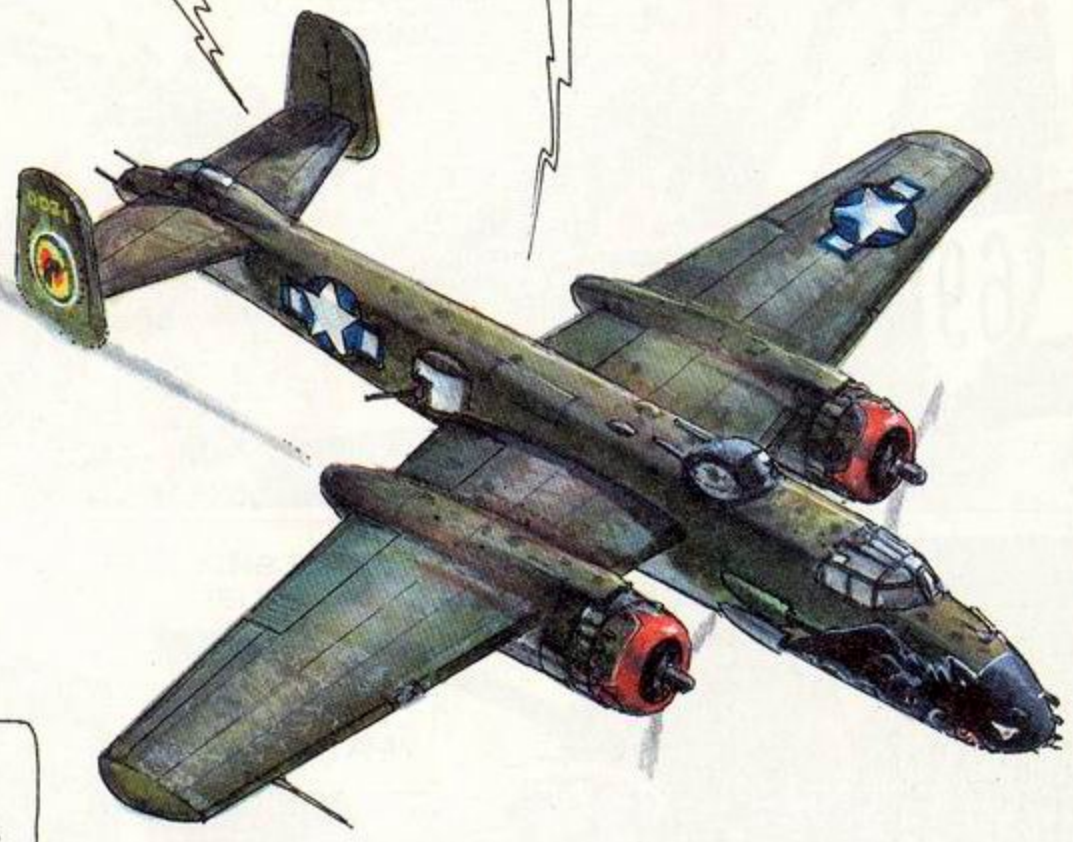
SHUT UP,
YOU IDIOT!



DAMN IT!

HORATIO!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WE WERE SUCKED
INTO THE FLYING
MACHINE!

AND THE OPERATION
HAS FIXED OUR
PRESENCE IN THIS
TIME-FRAME! DON'T
TOUCH ANYTHING!



I'M NOT TOUCH-
ING ANYTHING!
LOOK! THERE ARE
LOTS OF
WOUNDED PEOP-
LE HERE! WHAT
ERA ARE WE IN?

WE MUST'VE DROPPED IN
SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A
WAR! THERE'S NO TIME TO
CHECK! THE ANTI-T HAS BEEN
DEREGULATED! WE'LL HAVE TO
DEMATERIALIZER AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE!

I'VE FOUND THEM! THEY'RE IN 1945, IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC! BUT... WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY'RE MOVING FARTHER AWAY FROM THEIR
COORDINATES! I DON'T GET IT!



THE TWO OUTLAWS ARE HEADING
TOWARDS 2000 BC.

IF WE DON'T FIND A
MARKER, WE'LL LOSE THEM
FOREVER... POOR DEVILS!

THE JAPANESE ARE ATTACKING AGAIN!
IS ANYONE BACK THERE STILL CAPABLE
OF FIRING BACK? IF NOT, WE WON'T
MAKE IT!





WE'LL SOON DEMATERIALIZE AND THEN NOTHING FROM THIS ERA WILL AFFECT US, LEO!

YOU ALREADY TOLD ME THAT! HURRY UP!

WE'LL SOON... AAAAHH!

HORATIO! ARE YOU HURT?

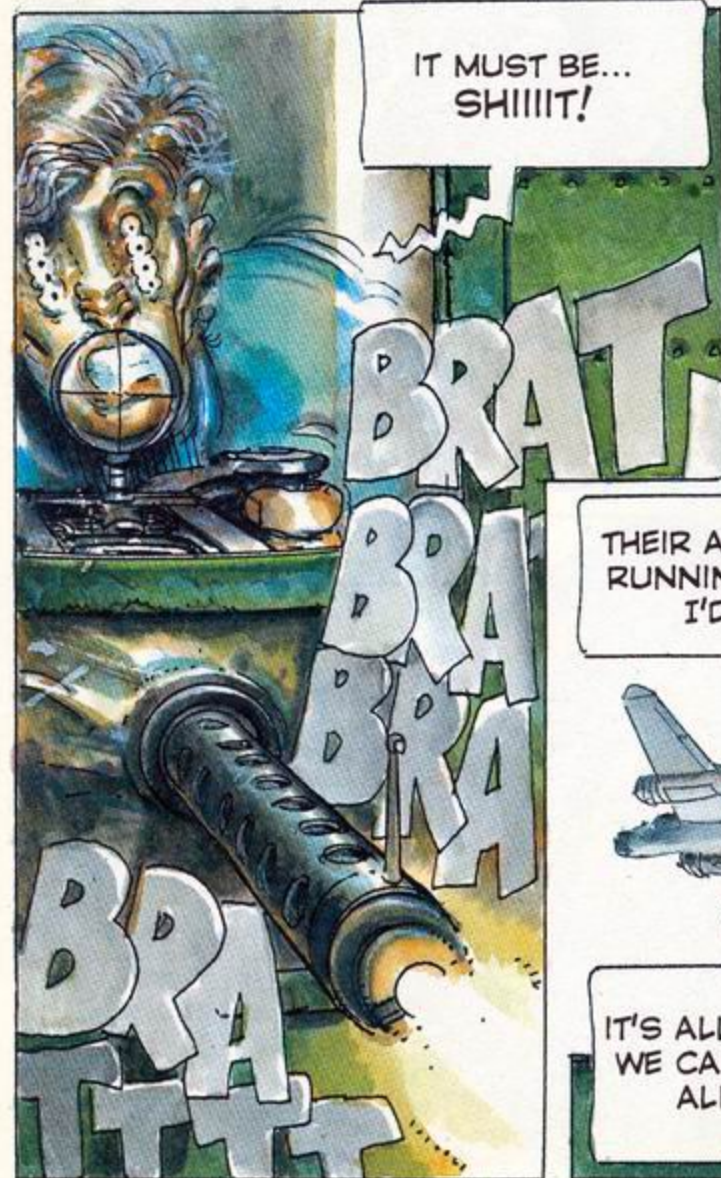


THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!

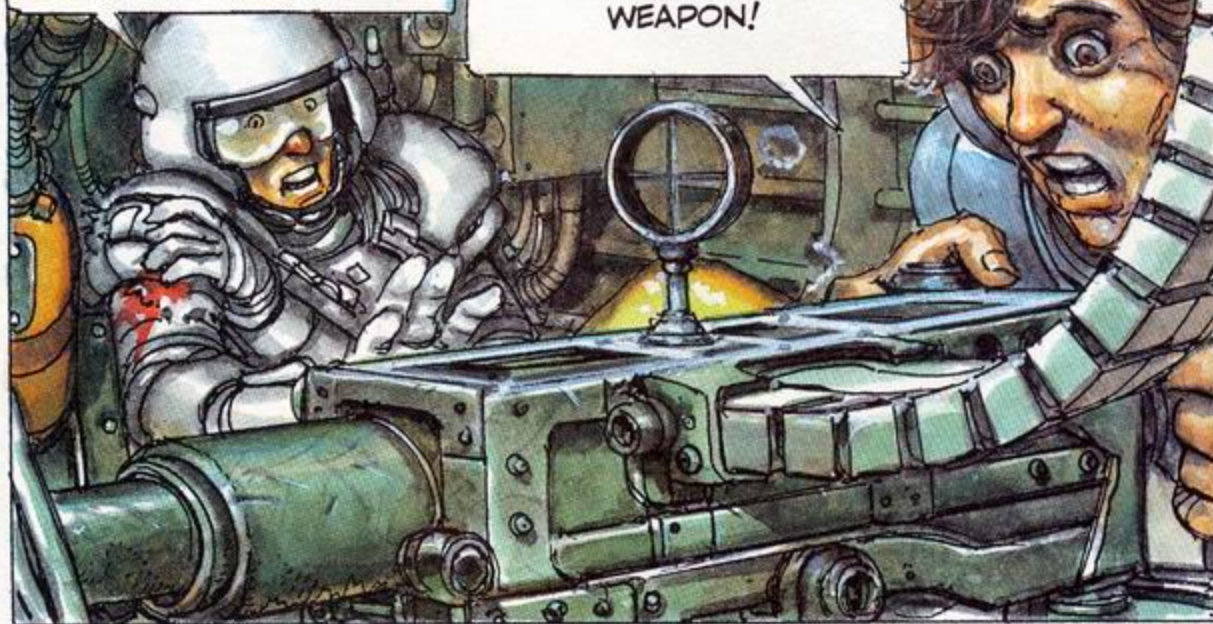
LEO! MY ARM! WHAT SHIT LUCK!

IT'S JUST A SCRATCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!

WHILE YOU TRY TO FIX THE GODDAMNED ANTI-T, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN WITH THIS WEAPON!



IT MUST BE... SHIIIT!



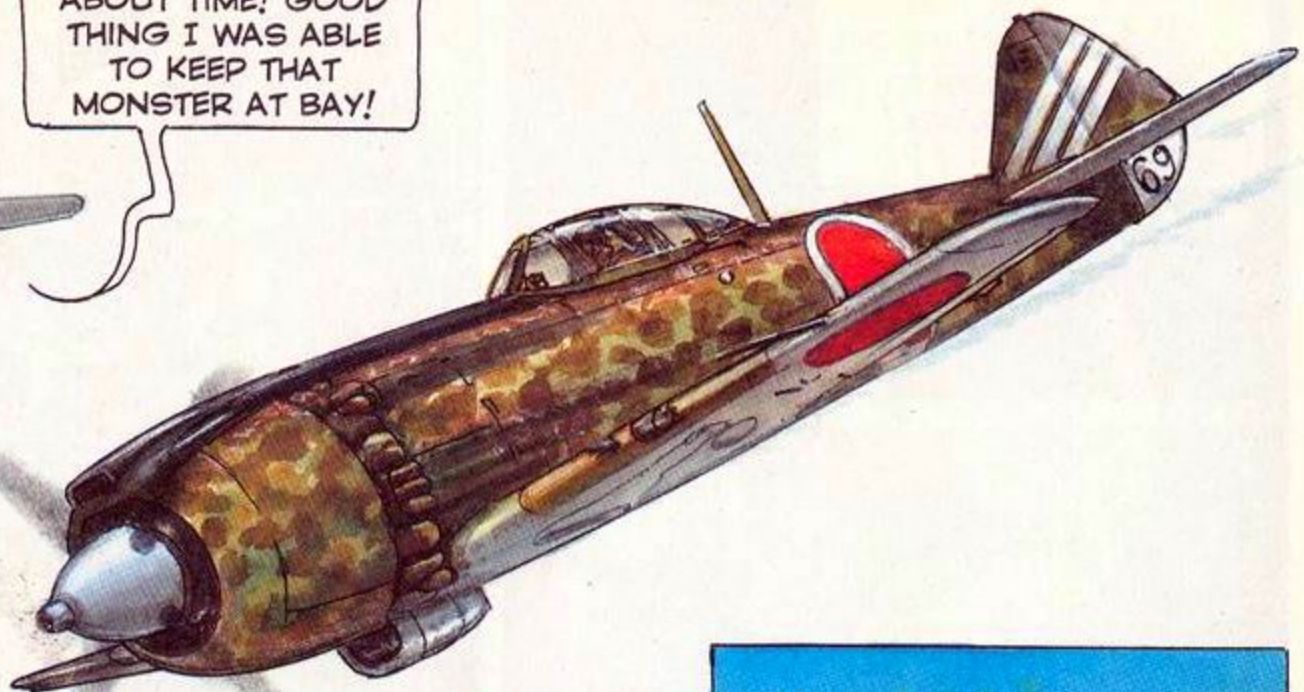
THEIR ARTILLERY IS STILL UP AND RUNNING. AND I'M OUT OF GAS, I'D BETTER TURN BACK.



IT'S ALL RIGHT, LEO! WE CAN DEMATERIALIZE NOW!



ABOUT TIME! GOOD
THING I WAS ABLE
TO KEEP THAT
MONSTER AT BAY!



CONGRATULATIONS, MEN!
FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT THAT
WAS THE END! WE CAN STILL
MAKE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE!

WE MADE IT OUT OF
THERE!

DON'T TOUCH
ANYTHING, LEO!
YOU COULD
CHANGE
HISTORY!



WE MUST GET BACK TO THE
STARR! WHEN IT VEERED, THE
AIRCRAFT PUSHED US BACK IN
THE DIRECTION OF OUR
COORDINATES...

FLYING ISN'T SO BAD,
AFTER ALL! I'M NOT REALLY
FRIGHTENED ANY MORE... I'M
JUST SCARED SHITLESS!



READY? LET'S GIVE IT
A TRY...



PLICK!





I'M BEGINNING TO
HATE TIME TRAVEL!

OH, NO! WE'RE STILL
TRAVELING BACK IN
TIME!

TRY
AGAIN!



LAND!
LAND AHOY!

LAND?

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
PLACE YOUR TRUST IN HIS
COLLABORATION... BUT HAS
MR. MEKENASSOLE GIVEN US
ANY GUARANTEES? HE'S JUST A
STUPID EARTHLING!

YOU PROMISED TO AVOID
DOING A CEREBRAL
TRANSFER. AND DON'T
FORGET — I GIVE THE
ORDERS AROUND HERE!



I'VE CONSIDERED IT. CENTURIES
OF KROTTOM SPLENDOR MUSTN'T
BE THREATENED BY A FEW STUPID
MISTAKES. WE MUST TAKE YOU
OFF THIS SACRED MISSION!
LOCK HER UP!



YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE GREAT KRAMM WON'T APPROVE OF YOUR TACTICS. AND I DON'T EITHER! LET GO OF ME!

NEITHER YOU NOR THE GREAT KRAMM ARE ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS!

I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU! YOU WANT TO GET RID OF ME AND THE GREAT KRAMM AND ANYONE ELSE WHO DISAGREES WITH YOU!

THE KROTTOMS WILL ENTER A GLORIOUS ERA AGAIN! AND I WILL LEAD THE GALAXY'S GREATEST WARRIORS! LOCK HER UP!

TRAITOR! QWERT, YOU'RE A LOUSY TRAITOR!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT WE FINALLY MADE IT OUT OF HELL! MACRO, WE'RE ALIVE!

YEAH... BUT WHERE ARE WE? THIS THING'S MOVING...

MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK THAT STRANGE CREATURE?

WE'RE SITTING ON "THE STRANGE CREATURE," DUMMY!

BESIDES, I DOUBT IF IT CAN SPEAK. I THINK IT'S A BRACHIOSAURUS. THEY BECAME EXTINCT 65 MILLION YEARS AGO.

65 MILLION YEARS? WOW!



AHH!

SHIT! THEY'VE SENT US INTO PRE-PREHISTORIC TIMES! HOW DID THEY DO THAT?



SHUT UP AND LET ME THINK!

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!



OKAY, WE'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED! WE'LL SOON HAVE THE ANTI-T UNDER CONTROL!

YEAH. WELL AT LEAST THAT'S SOMETHING!



WHERE ARE LEO AND HORATIO?

A SHORT WHILE AGO THEY WERE IN THE MIDDLE AGES, BUT THEY'RE STILL GOING BACK IN TIME.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO?

WE LOST TRACK OF THEM BETWEEN THE CRETACEOUS AND MESOLITHIC PERIOD...

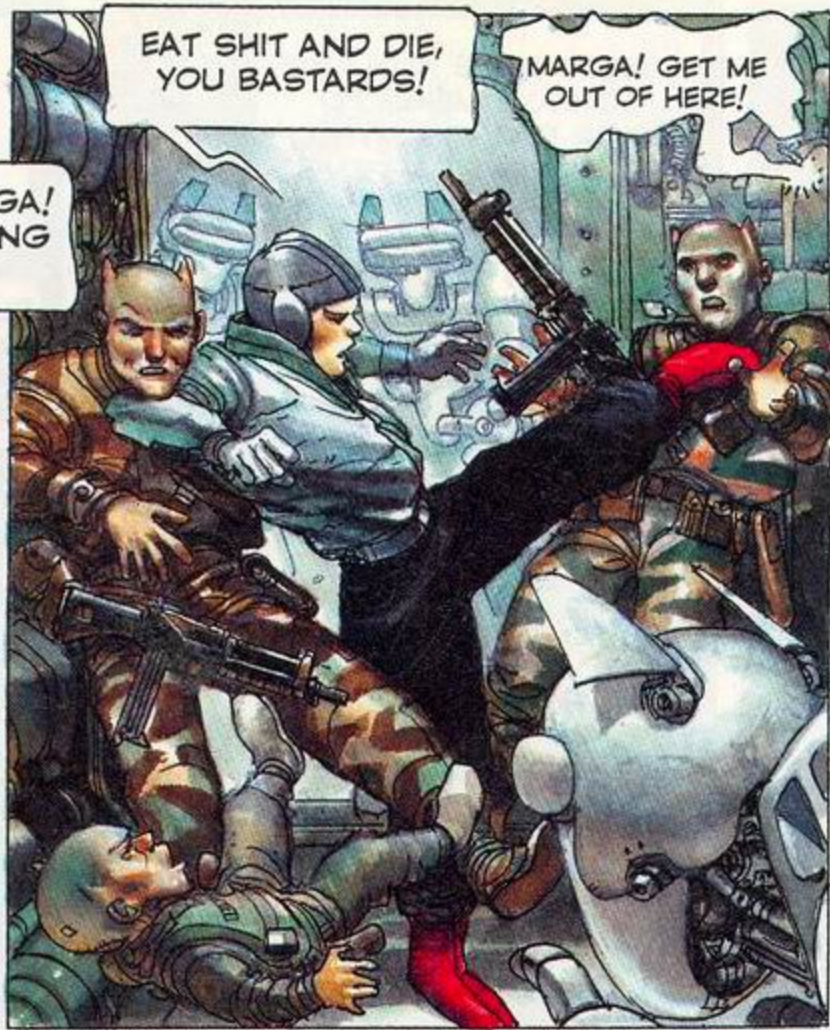
THAT'S TERRIBLE! THEY'RE PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW IF THEY'RE WANDERING ROUND IN THOSE TIMES WITHOUT ANY FORM OF PROTECTION!





LET ME GO,
FUCKIN' TRAITORS!

THAT'S MARGA!
WHAT'S GOING
ON?



EAT SHIT AND DIE,
YOU BASTARDS!

MARGA! GET ME
OUT OF HERE!



MARGA!



I'M GOING TO GET HELP,
MEKE! I PROMISE I'LL GET
YOU OUT OF THERE!



CLICK!

SHA

WAG!

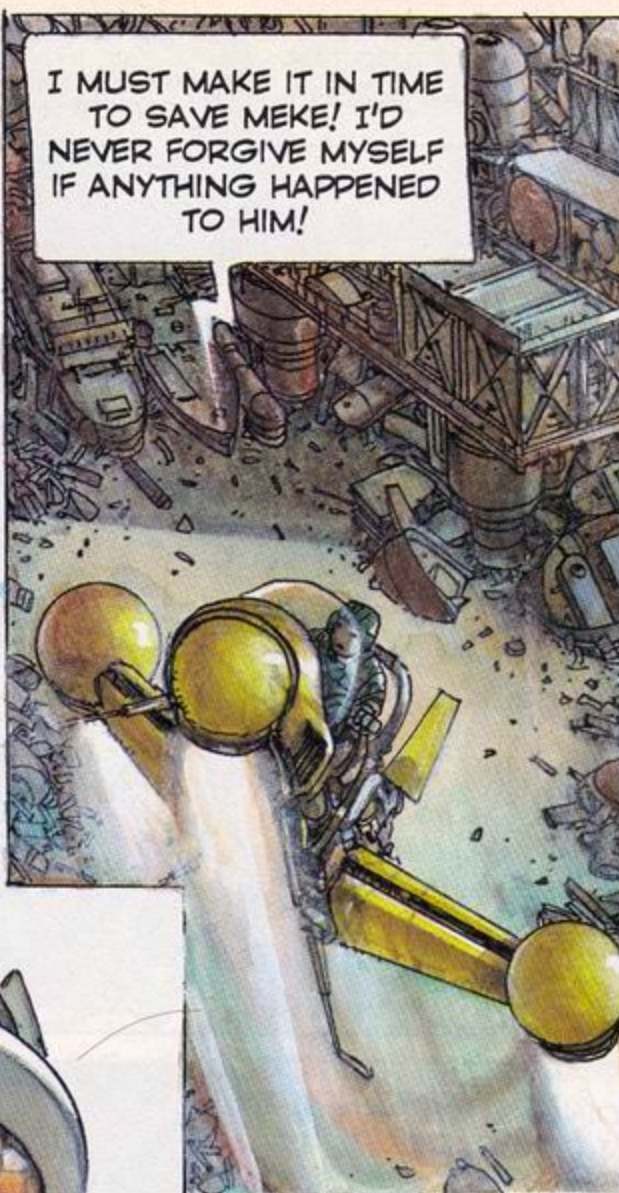


DON'T MOVE! LET ME
THROUGH OR I'LL
SHOOT!

BUT... WHAT'S
GOING ON?



YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!



I MUST MAKE IT IN TIME TO SAVE MEKE! I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HIM!



INCOMPETENT FOOLS! YOU LET HER GET AWAY! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SPEED UP THE TRANSFER!

BUT AFTER ALL, MARGA IS THE PRIME MINISTER, AND I...



SHUT IT, YOU FOOL! OR I'LL HAVE YOU EXECUTED LIKE ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS THE AUDACITY TO DELAY OUR SACRED MISSION — WHICH IS TO REKINDLE THE KROTTOMS' NOBILITY. I SHALL SACRIFICE MYSELF: I WILL INHABIT THE IGNOBLE BODY OF THE PRISONER, INSTEAD OF THE GREAT KRAMM. START THE PROCEEDINGS!



GOOD MORNING! I'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY TO REPORT! I MUST SPEAK TO LEO ROA. HE'S MY NEPHEW, YOU KNOW...



I'M SORRY, MA'AM, LEO CAN'T SPEAK TO YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU CAN LEAVE HIM A MESSAGE.

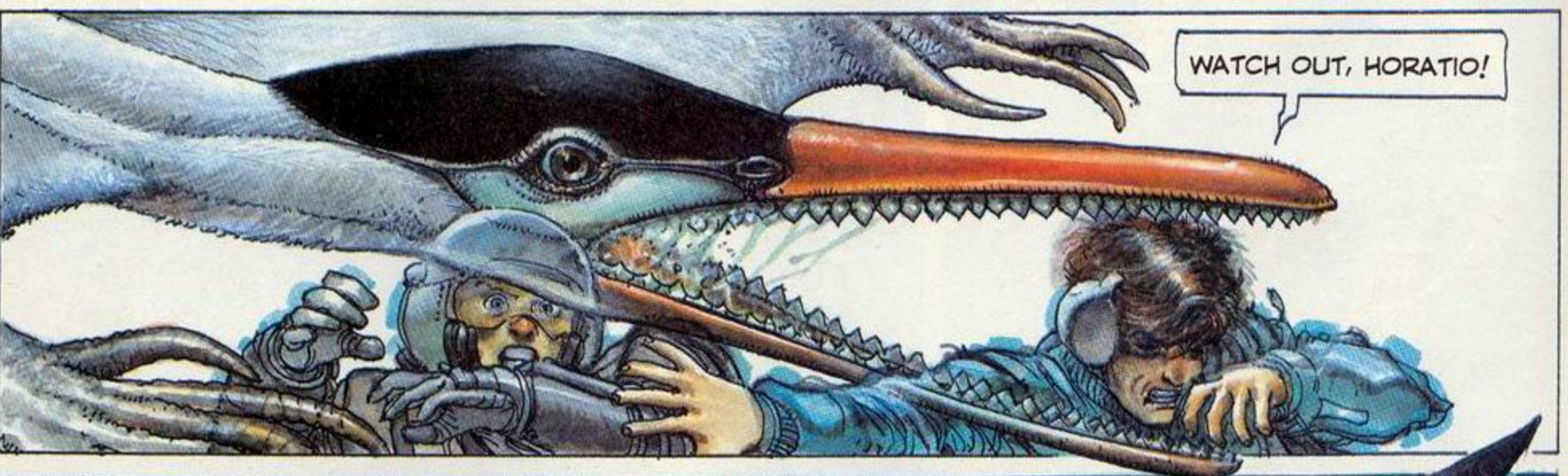
WELL, TELL HIM THAT HIS COUSIN MEKE, MY SON, DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT. I'M VERY WORRIED.

YES...

LAST NIGHT HE WENT OUT WITH A BRAZEN HUSSY... YOU GET MY GIST? AND MY SON IS NOT TOO BRIGHT... A BIT NAIVE...

I SEE, MA'AM. I'LL GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE AS SOON AS I SEE HIM. DON'T WORRY, HE'S PROBABLY JUST HAVING A GOOD TIME...

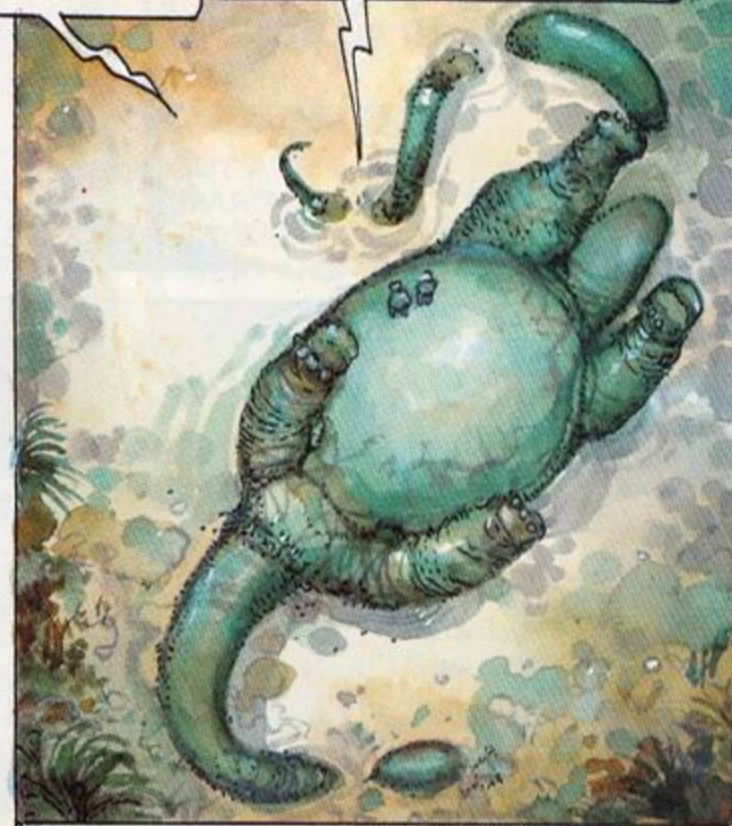
A GOOD TIME? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL THIS DEGENERATE BEHAVIOR?



HEY... SOMEONE'S
FIRING AT IT... WITH A
LASER!

YEAH, SURE, A LASER HERE IN
PRE-PREHISTORIC TIMES! YOU'RE
CRAZY!

HEY LOOK, LEO! DON'T
YOU NOTICE ANYTHING?



WE'RE BEING RESCUED!
WE'RE GOING BACK! BACK
HOME! THE PAST IS OVER!

YEAH!

THERE THEY ARE!
AT LAST!

IT TOOK US A WHILE,
BUT WE'VE GOT EVERY-
THING UNDER CONTROL!

YEAH, SURE! WE STILL HAVE TO
FIND THE CRIMINALS RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALL THIS CHAOS. AND THE
SOONER THE BETTER!

HORATIO, LOOK AT YOUR
WOUND! IT'S ALMOST GONE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THE SCAR
TISSUE HAS FORMED REALLY
FAST. HOW STRANGE!



WHAT HAP-
PENED? HOW
WERE YOU
INJURED?

WE MATERIALIZED FOR A FEW
MINUTES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
20TH CENTURY — AND THAT'S WHEN
IT HAPPENED! BUT THERE WERE NO
OTHER REPERCUSSIONS...

WE'RE NOT YET FAMILIAR WITH ALL
THE CONSEQUENCES OF TIME TRAVEL.
WE'D BETTER PUT YOU IN
QUARANTINE.

WHAT?

JUST A SECURITY MEASURE. IN
THE MEANTIME, WE'LL ADJUST THE
ANTI-T. AND THEN WE'LL TRY TO
BRING BACK THE RUNAWAYS.

SO THEY ALSO
MANAGED TO
GET INTO THE
CONE?

YES, LEO. TWO OF THEM FELL
INTO THE CONE AFTER YOU.
THEY MUST BE LOST SOMEWHERE
IN PRE-PREHISTORY...

HEY! WE SAW A LASER
DISCHARGE RIGHT
BEFORE WE GOT BACK!
IT WAS PROBABLY
THEM!

PERFECT! NOW WE'LL
BE ABLE TO LOCATE
THEM EASILY!

MESSAGE FOR
MR. ROA ON THE
VISIOPHONE.

THANKS!

HELLO?

YOUR AUNT PHONED TO
SAY THAT YOUR
COUSIN DIDN'T GO
HOME LAST NIGHT...

SHE CALLED TO
TELL ME THAT?

JUST A MINUTE...

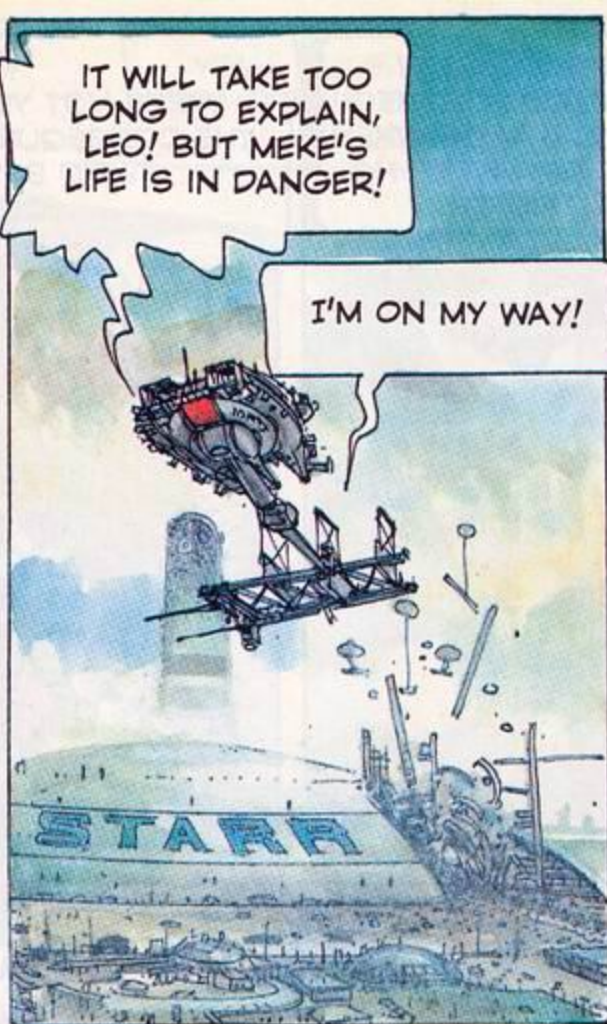
THERE'S ALSO A YOUNG LADY
WHO WANTS TO SEE YOU.
SHE SAYS IT'S URGENT. SHE'S IN
HALL B. SHE SAYS HER NAME IS
MARGA.

MARGA? PUT
HER ON.



I NEED HELP!

WHERE IS MEKE?
WHAT HAPPENED?



IT WILL TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN, LEO! BUT MEKE'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!

I'M ON MY WAY!



IS THERE A POLITRON DIRECTOR SOMEWHERE IN THIS ZONE?

YES, INSPECTOR GONZALES. HE'S QUESTIONING THE LOCAL SECURITY GUARDS.



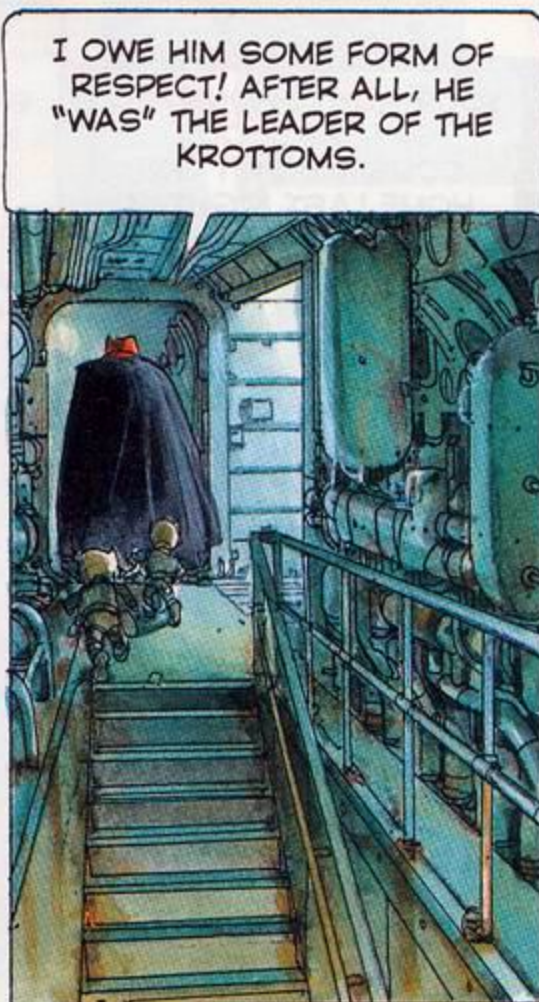
THE PRISONER IS READY FOR THE TRANSFER, QWERT!

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!

THE GREAT KRAMM WANTS TO SEE YOU, QWERT!



THE GREAT KRAMM? OKAY. I'LL GO. I WON'T BE LONG, MR. MEKENASSOLE, DON'T GO AWAY!



I OWE HIM SOME FORM OF RESPECT! AFTER ALL, HE "WAS" THE LEADER OF THE KROTTOMS.



WHAT DO YOU WANT, KRAMM? DO YOU NEED MORE ATTENTION?

WHERE... IS... MAR... GA...? I... WANT TO... SEE... HER.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR PRIME MINISTER IS AWAY! I COULDN'T MAKE HER STAY. ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR MISTAKES... YOU GAVE HER TOO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES!

YOU... YOU'RE... TOO... AMBITIOUS! YOU'LL CREATE... CHAOS ALL AROUND YOU!

ENOUGH! I'VE BEEN PUTTING UP WITH THE SAME INANITIES FOR YEARS! WE MUST BRING ORDER BACK! I'M GOING TO SEIZE THE RULER'S SCEPTER WHICH OUR FATHER GAVE YOU INSTEAD OF ME, HIS ELDEST SON! HE THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE HONEST AND INTELLIGENT! WHAT A SHIT!



AND THAT'S WHY I TORE A HOLE IN YOUR PROTECTIVE CLOAK, WHEN YOU WERE ON THE REVOLTING PLANET CALLED "VISCUSIA." ONE BREATH OF ITS DISGUSTING AIR WAS...

...ENOUGH TO CATCH THE TERRIBLE DISEASE THAT HAS BEEN CONSUMING YOU EVER SINCE! NOW I'M GOING TO TRANSFER MY SPIRIT INTO THE BODY OF A STRONG, HEALTHY, STUPID EARTHLING WHO LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE YOU, DEAR BROTHER! FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE THE GREAT KRAMM!

TRAI... TOR!
COW... ARD!

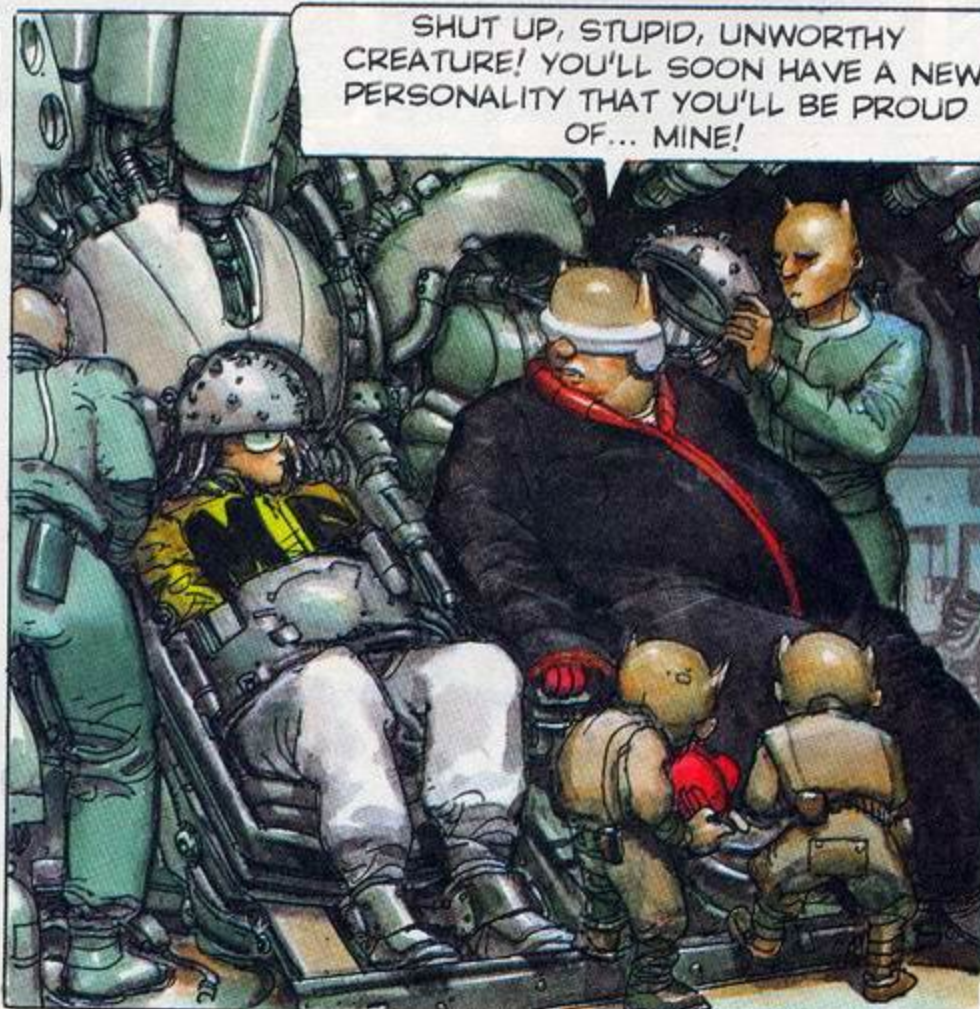


GET ME OUT OF HERE! MARGA, WHERE ARE YOU? HELP ME!

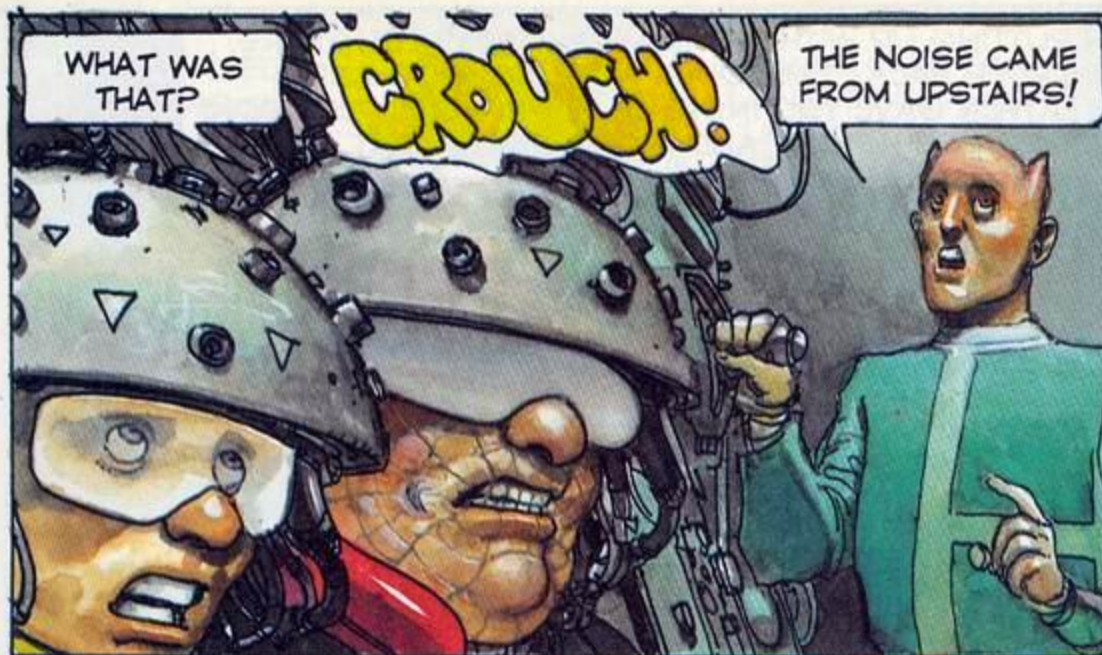
SHUT UP, STUPID, UNWORTHY CREATURE! YOU'LL SOON HAVE A NEW PERSONALITY THAT YOU'LL BE PROUD OF... MINE!

I SHOULD BE FEELING DISTRESSED! MY MIND WILL BE IN YOUR BODY! HOW DEGRADING!

READY TO ENGAGE, QWERT!



CROWN



WHAT WAS THAT?

CROUCH!

THE NOISE CAME FROM UPSTAIRS!



THIS WAY! THEY MUST BE IN THE TRANSFER ROOM!

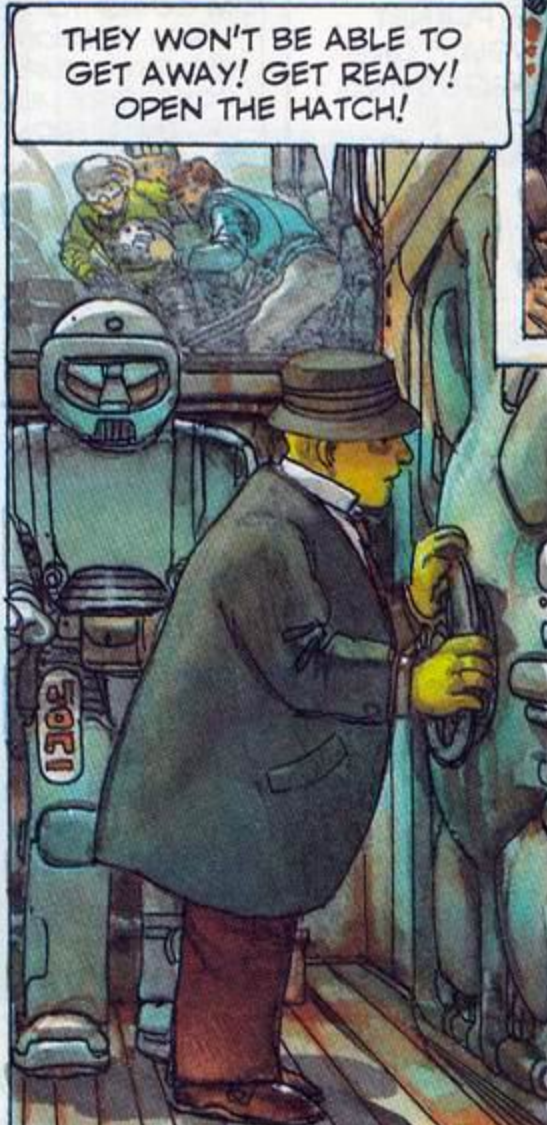
THESE GUYS HAVE REAL HORNS!



MEKE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHERE'S QWERT?

THEY WENT THAT WAY. THEY ALMOST VAPORIZED MY BRAIN!



THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AWAY! GET READY! OPEN THE HATCH!



WATCH OUT! QWERT IS FLOODING THE SUBMARINE!

AAAH!



I MUST RESCUE THE GREAT KRAMM! THE WATER'S POURING IN!



NO TIME TO LOSE!



GREAT KRAMM! YOU MUST GET OUT OF HERE!

MA... MA... MARGA!



IS THAT THE GREAT KRAMM?
THAT'S QWERT'S KID BROTHER?



MARGA!



HE'S AN OLD MAN!

YEAH, BUT HE'S ONLY 19!
HE'S GOT A TERRIBLE
DISEASE THAT SPEEDS UP
THE AGING PROCESS. HELP
ME GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
HURRY!

GET INTO THE SERVICE ELEVATOR!
THE WATER LEVEL IS RISING QUICKLY,
INSPECTOR GONZALES!

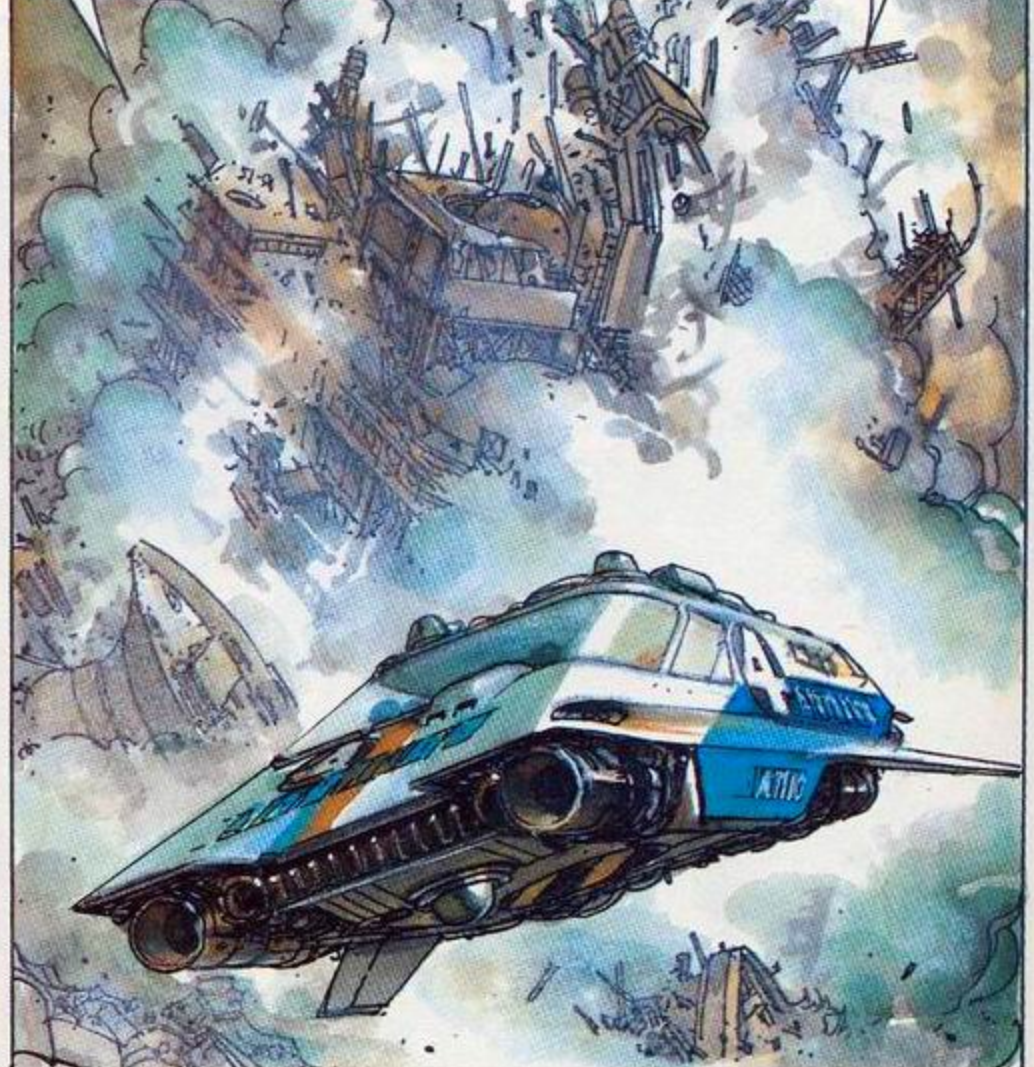
I WAS AFRAID OF
THIS!



IMMEDIATE BLAST OFF!
THE PLATFORM IS
COLLAPSING!

WE MUST GET TO THE MAIN
HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
THE GREAT KRAMM IS DYING!

YEAH, HE WON'T LIVE
MUCH LONGER!

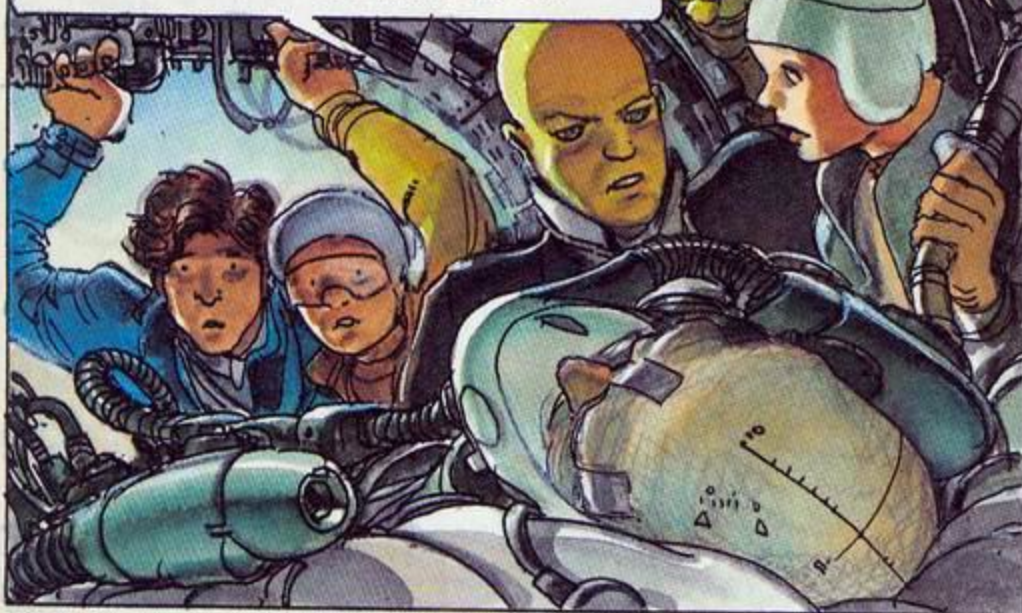


© MENEZ

FOLLOWING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, YOU MUST UNDERGO AN OFFICIAL INTERROGATION, MARGA... IN THE NAME OF THE RULERS OF THE PLANETARY FEDERATION, I...

OF COURSE, INSPECTOR!

SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL GET QWERT, BUT I'M SORRY FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE GREAT KRAMM.



A MESSAGE FOR MR. ROA.

LEO! THERE YOU ARE! AT LAST! I HOPE I'M NOT DISTURBING YOU!

NOT AT ALL, DOCTOR FROG!



YOU MUST GET BACK TO THE STARR FOR SOME MEDICAL TESTS.

OKAY!

I'M GOING TO THE STARR, TOO! YOU CAN RIDE WITH ME, LEO!

THANKS, INSPECTOR!

SEE YOU SOON, MEKE! AND DON'T FORGET TO CALL YOUR MOM!

I'M STAYING WITH MARGA.

OH GOD! MY MOTHER!



YOU AGAIN!
NOOOO!

WAIT, CRAPULA! LET ME
CHOP OFF HIS HEAD!
HE'S MINE!

DO WE LOOK
DEAD, LEO?

COME ON THEN!
WHEN DRAKE LOPS OFF
HIS HEAD, YOU'LL EAT HIS
BODY! HEY, WAKE UP!

WAKE UP!
WAKE UP!

MY GOD! WHAT A NIGHT-
MARE! FOR A MOMENT I
THOUGHT I WAS BACK IN
CRAPULA AND DRAKE'S
SPACESHIP*! WHAT'S GOING
ON?

NO!

DOCTOR FROG WISHES TO SPEAK
TO YOU.

AT LAST! HE STILL HASN'T TOLD
US WHY WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR A
WEEK.

JUST A ROUTINE
CHECKUP, LEO!

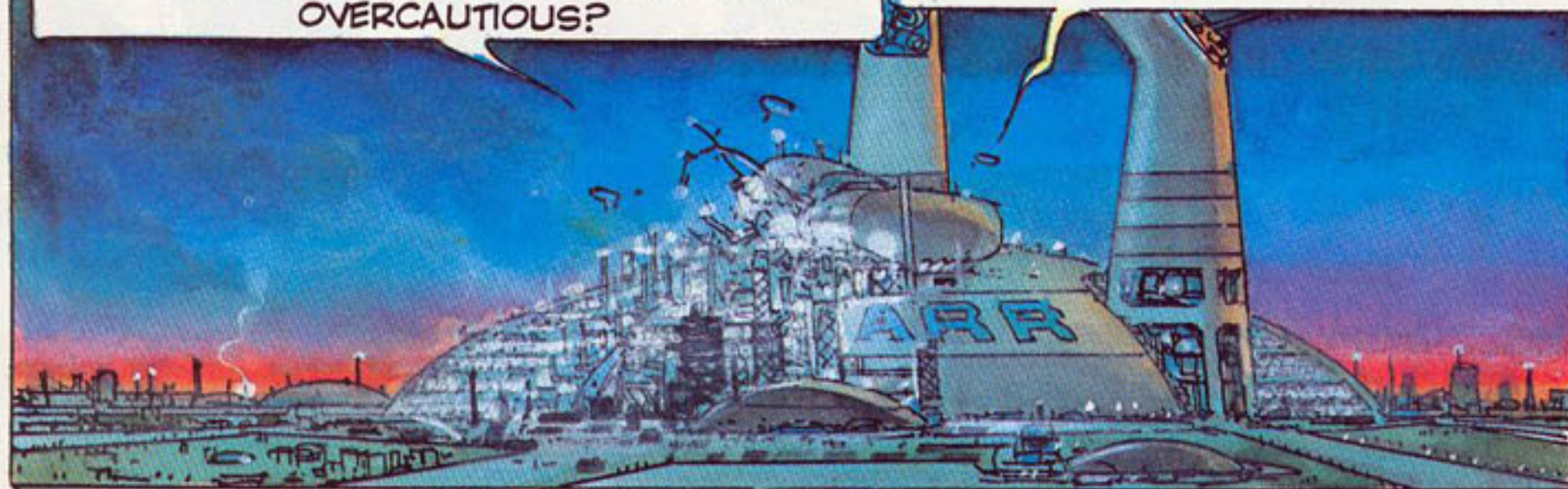
GOOD MORN-
ING, DOCTOR!

AT THE STARR, A WEEK LATER.

ROUTINE CHECKUP? WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY FOR A WHOLE WEEK! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S BEING A BIT OVERCAUTIOUS?

WE HAVE TO CHECK IF TIME TRAVEL WITH THE ANTI-T AFFECTED YOU IN ANY WAY.

THE RESULTS OF ALL THE TESTS SHOW THAT YOU ARE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH. YOU CAN GO, LEO.



WE'LL KEEP YOU UNDER OBSERVATION FOR ANOTHER FEW DAYS. YOUR INJURY HAS HEALED, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW...

WHAT?



WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?



HAS THE ANTI-T BEEN CHECKED?

YES. EVERYTHING'S READY. NOW WE CAN GO GET MACRO AND DEBORAH.

WHO'S WE?

SINCE THIS MAINLY CONCERNS THE POLITRON, TWO POLIBOTS WILL GO WITH YOU. BUT NO ONE ELSE HAS ANY EXPERIENCE OF TIME TRAVEL WITH THE ANTI-T.

THIS ISN'T FAIR!!

WHAT?! THEY DON'T?

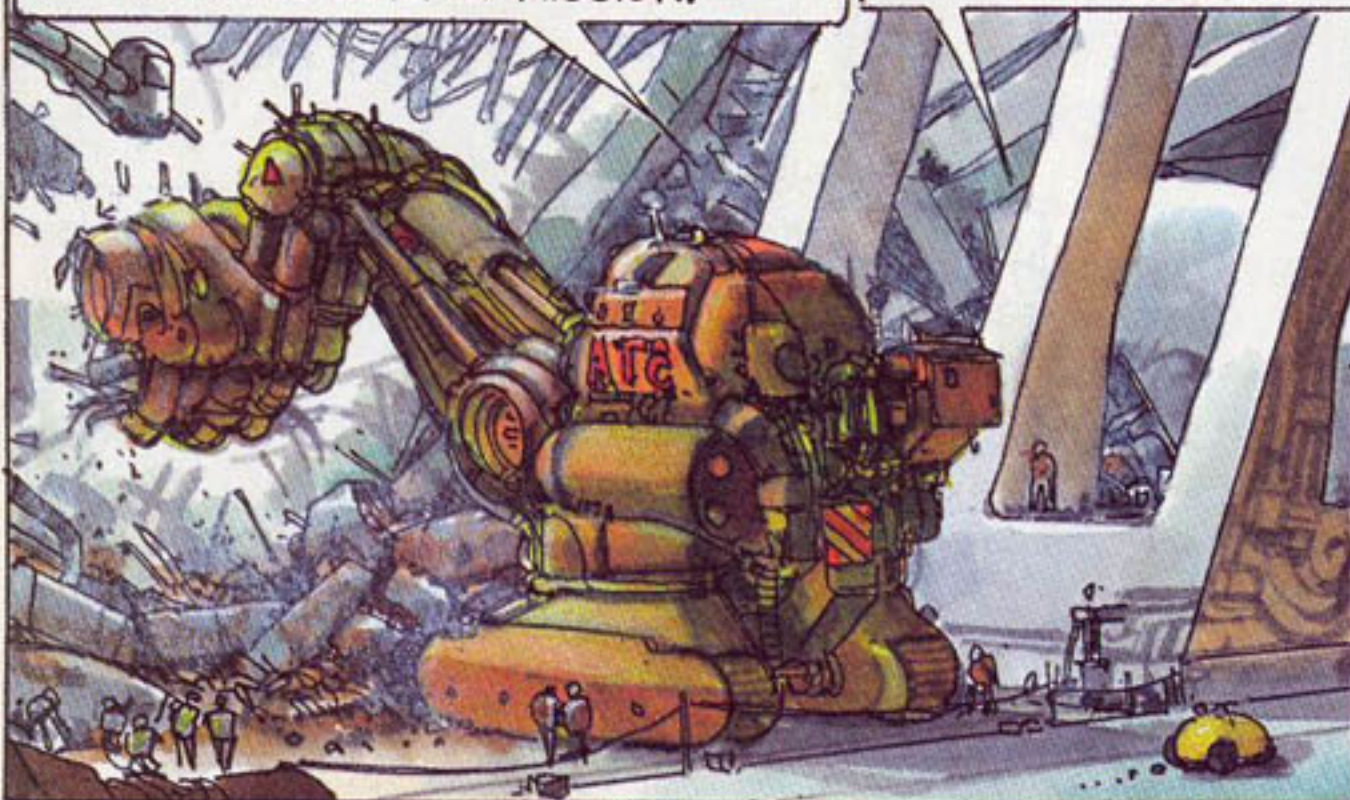


DOCTOR FROG, BE HONEST WITH ME! DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT MY ACCIDENTAL TRIP THE OTHER DAY HAS GIVEN ME THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE FOR THIS SORT OF MISSION?

WELL... NO, BUT YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF INITIATIVE AND I THINK YOU'LL MAKE IT... IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES...

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR THAT! ...ANY NEWS OF THE GREAT KRAMM?

HE'S ON HIS DEATHBED. AND SINCE MARGA AND QWERT HAVE BOTH DISAPPEARED, THE KROTTOMS SUSPECT THE WORST. THEY'RE ON THE VERGE OF STARTING A CIVIL WAR.



HELLO, INSPECTOR! DO YOU ALSO THINK THAT I SHOULD GO?

WELL... NO, BUT YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF INITIATIVE AND I THINK YOU'LL MAKE IT... IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES... SO OFF YOU GO!

RIGHT NOW?

SINCE YOU VOLUNTEERED, I'D SAY THE SOONER THE BETTER. YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BRINGING THEM BACK ALIVE. AH, IF ONLY I WERE 20 YEARS YOUNGER!

AS YOU KNOW, THE ANTI-T PROTECTS YOU FROM THE ENVIRONMENT. THE POLIBOTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOCK ON TO MACRO AND DEBORAH'S SIGNALS.

GREAT! ARE THESE TWO ANTI-T SUITS FOR THE PRISONERS?

REMEMBER, YOU CAN FLY OR WALK, IT'S UP TO YOU. THE MARKER WILL TRANSMIT CONSTANTLY. WE'LL KEEP YOU IN SIGHT.

YOU HAVE FOUR HOURS. IF YOU HAVEN'T FOUND THEM BY THEN, THE ANTI-T WILL AUTOMATICALLY BRING YOU BACK.

GOOD LUCK!

THAT'S RIGHT!

UNDERSTOOD!

OKAY!

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. THE POLIBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO REACT TO THE VIBRATION OF YOUR VOICE, LEO. THEY'LL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL THEM.

IF THE CRIMINALS RESIST ARREST, JUST SAY, "FIRE!" AND THE POLIBOTS WILL SHOOT THEM FULL OF SLEEPING DARTS.

LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND... IF I SAY "FIRE!" THEY... SHIT!

OOPS!



WATCH OUT!
HE'S BEEN HIT!

I WAS AFRAID OF
THAT!

AH!



HE COLLAPSED ON
TOP OF THE
CONTROLS!

WAP!



INSPECTOR!
INSPECTOR! HE'S
PORTING WITH
THEM!

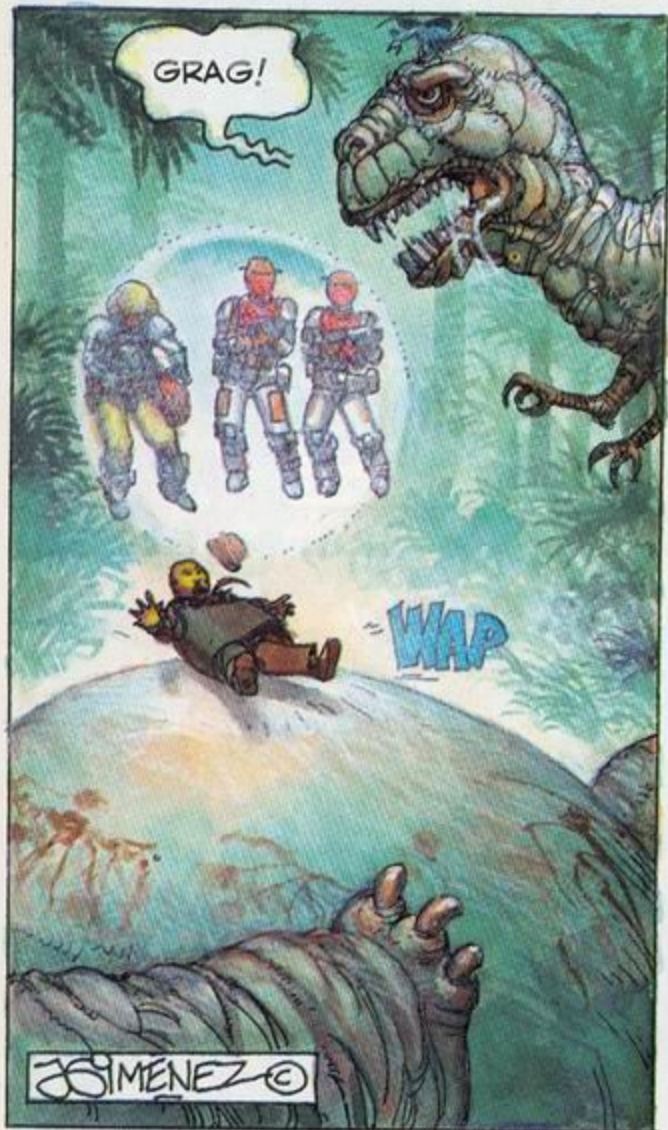


OH!

AAAH!

EVERYTHING OKAY,
INSPECTOR?

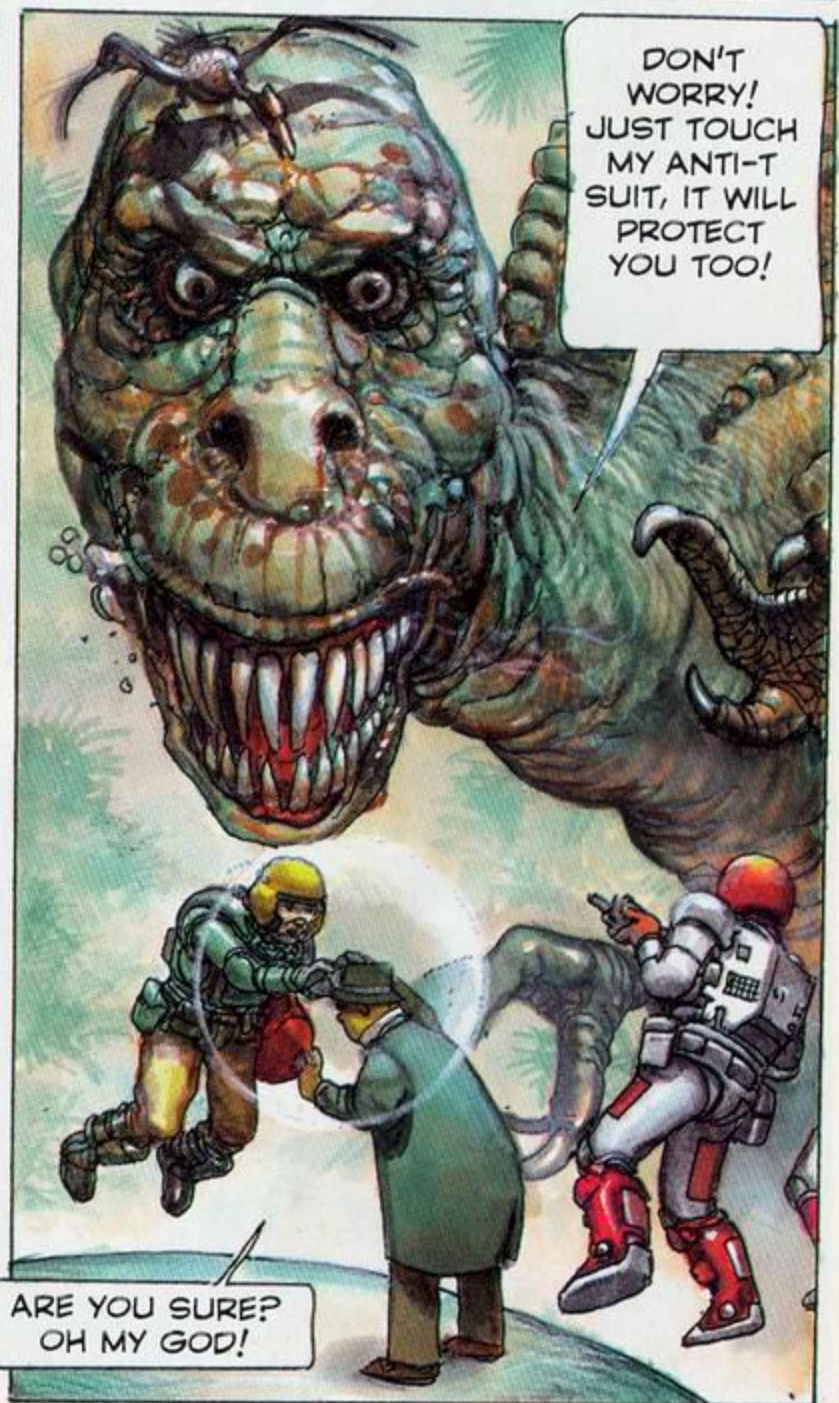
WHERE IS LEO?
I CAN HEAR YOU,
BUT I CAN'T SEE
YOU! AND THE
MONSTER HAS
SEEN ME!



GRAG!

WAP

SIMENEZ ©



DON'T
WORRY!
JUST TOUCH
MY ANTI-T
SUIT, IT WILL
PROTECT
YOU TOO!

ARE YOU SURE?
OH MY GOD!

NOW HE CAN'T
SEE US ANY
MORE!

I'M ABOUT TO
HAVE A
HEART
ATTACK!

I PEED ON
MYSELF!

I'M SORRY, INSPECTOR. I DIDN'T
WANT THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE
THIS! THE POLIBOTS HAVE LOCKED
ON TO SOMETHING. WE'RE ON THE
RIGHT TRACK.



FORWARD, MARCH,
POLIBOTS! BE READY TO...
I'D BETTER SHUT UP!

YEAH... THE SIGNALS ARE
COMING FROM THAT HILL. I
BET THEY'RE HIDING IN A
CAVE...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
THE SIGNAL IS VERY
STRONG HERE! THEY'RE IN
THERE! POLIBOTS, GET
READY TO...

NO DANGER!
NO DANGER!
NO DANGER!



I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!

IT'S INCREDIBLE!
LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S JUST NOT
POSSIBLE!



WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHIT, LEO, SAY
SOMETHING!

WE SHOULD'VE GIVEN HIM A
TRIDEO CAMERA! NOW WE CAN'T
SEE ANYTHING!

SO TELL US! DO YOU SEE THEM?
ARE THEY ARMED? ANSWER ME!
SHIT!

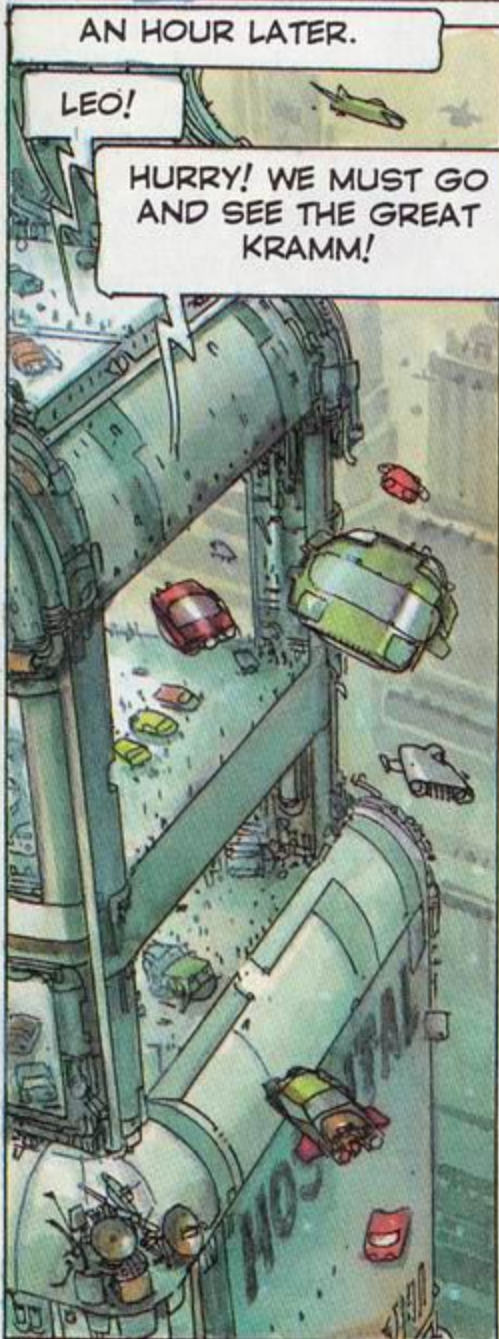
IT'S INCREDIBLE!



YES, IT'S THEM. PRISON UNIFORMS
REGISTRATION NUMBERS 513 AND 514.
THEY STILL HAVE THEIR LASER PISTOLS,
BUT WE'RE NOT IN ANY DANGER!

WE'RE GETTING READY TO
PORT THEM BACK.

OKAY!
WE'RE READY!



AN HOUR LATER.

LEO!

HURRY! WE MUST GO
AND SEE THE GREAT
KRAMM!



YOU'RE CRAZY! WHAT ARE YOU
DOING? THE DOCTORS...

LISTEN! THERE'S A SLIM
CHANCE THAT WE CAN SAVE
THE GREAT KRAMM. TRUST
ME! PLEASE, MARGA!



BUT... WHERE ARE THEY
TAKING HIM?

I CAN'T TELL YOU.
IT'S A STATE SECRET!
BUT I'LL BRING HIM
BACK IN FOUR DAYS.

WHAT...?

FOUR DAYS LATER.

LEO HAS FINISHED. IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS. THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME, MEKE!

RELAX, MARGA! I AGREE IT'S ALL PRETTY STRANGE. BUT LEO PROMISED HE'D EXPLAIN EVERYTHING HERE, IN THE ASTROPORT. SECURITY MEASURES!

THERE HE IS, WITH INSPECTOR GONZALES!

WHERE IS KRAMM? HE'S OKAY, ISN'T HE?

HE'S IN GREAT SHAPE. HE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE SPACESHIP THAT WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE KROTTOMS RIGHT AWAY, ACCORDING TO YOUR WISHES.

THANKS, LEO! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR US?

IT WAS NO BIG DEAL!

MARGA! I... KNOW THAT IT WAS... ME. I...

NOT A WORD, MEKE, PLEASE!

GOODBYE, MEKE! THANK YOU! THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

MARGA



SNIFF! I MUST BE ALLERGIC TO TAKEOFFS... SO TELL ME, WHY SO MANY MYSTERIES SURROUNDING THE GREAT KRAMM? I MEAN, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, NOW THAT HE'S BEEN CURED?

WELL... THE PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW THAT KRAMM WAS SICK. NO ONE HERE ON EARTH, OR ANYWHERE, KNEW! AND NO ONE SHOULD FIND OUT HOW WE SAVED HIS LIFE.

SINCE MEKE WAS THE MAIN PERSON INVOLVED WITH THE RECENT EVENTS, WE SHOULD TELL HIM EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED. CARRY ON, LEO, YOU CAN TELL HIM NOW... IT'S ONLY RIGHT!

THANKS, INSPECTOR!

BUT UNDER OATH... THAT NOTHING WILL BE REPEATED OUTSIDE THESE FOUR WALLS, MEKE!

OKAY, YOU CAN TALK! THE CLOSEST WALL IS THREE MILES AWAY!

THAT WAS A METAPHOR, MEKE!

WAS IT?!

OBVIOUSLY!



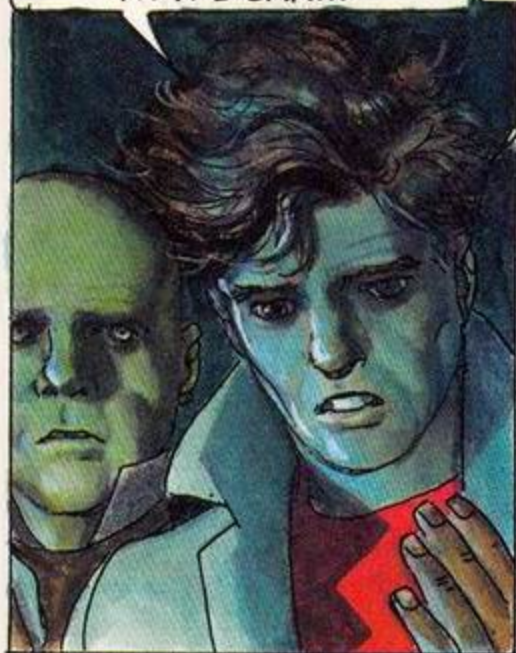
THE STARR IS LAUNCHING AN AMAZING NEW PROJECT. IT'S A MAJOR JOURNALISTIC CHALLENGE... I COULDN'T TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT THE OTHER DAY, BUT NOW I CAN...

IT CONCERNS TIME TRAVEL... WE'LL TRAVEL INTO THE PAST AND BRING BACK LIVING IMAGES TO THE PRESENT... WE'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THE WHOLE HISTORY OF HUMANITY!

WOW!
THAT'S
MARVELOUS!

FANTASTIC! FABULOUS!
WHAT A SCOOP! BUT WHAT'S
THAT GOT TO DO WITH THE
GREAT KRAMM'S MYSTERIOUS
HEALING?

TIME TRAVEL IS A DREAM COME
TRUE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE...
HUMANITY WILL NOW HAVE
ACCESS TO ITS DEAREST WISH...



...ETERNAL YOUTH!
ETERNAL LIFE!
WE'LL LIVE FOREVER!

WHAT?
BUT HOW?

WE STILL HAVE TO WORK ON THIS...
BUT, IF YOU RECEIVE AN INJURY IN
THE PRESENT, IT HEALS VERY
QUICKLY WHEN YOU TRAVEL INTO
THE PAST. SCAR TISSUE FORMS
RAPIDLY... IN A FEW HOURS.

YOU'RE A BIT THICK, AREN'T
YOU? IT'S PRETTY LOGICAL.
WHEN YOU TRAVEL BACK IN
TIME, THE CELLS REVERSE
THEIR PROCESSES, YOU SEE?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

OKAY, DON'T
GET MAD!

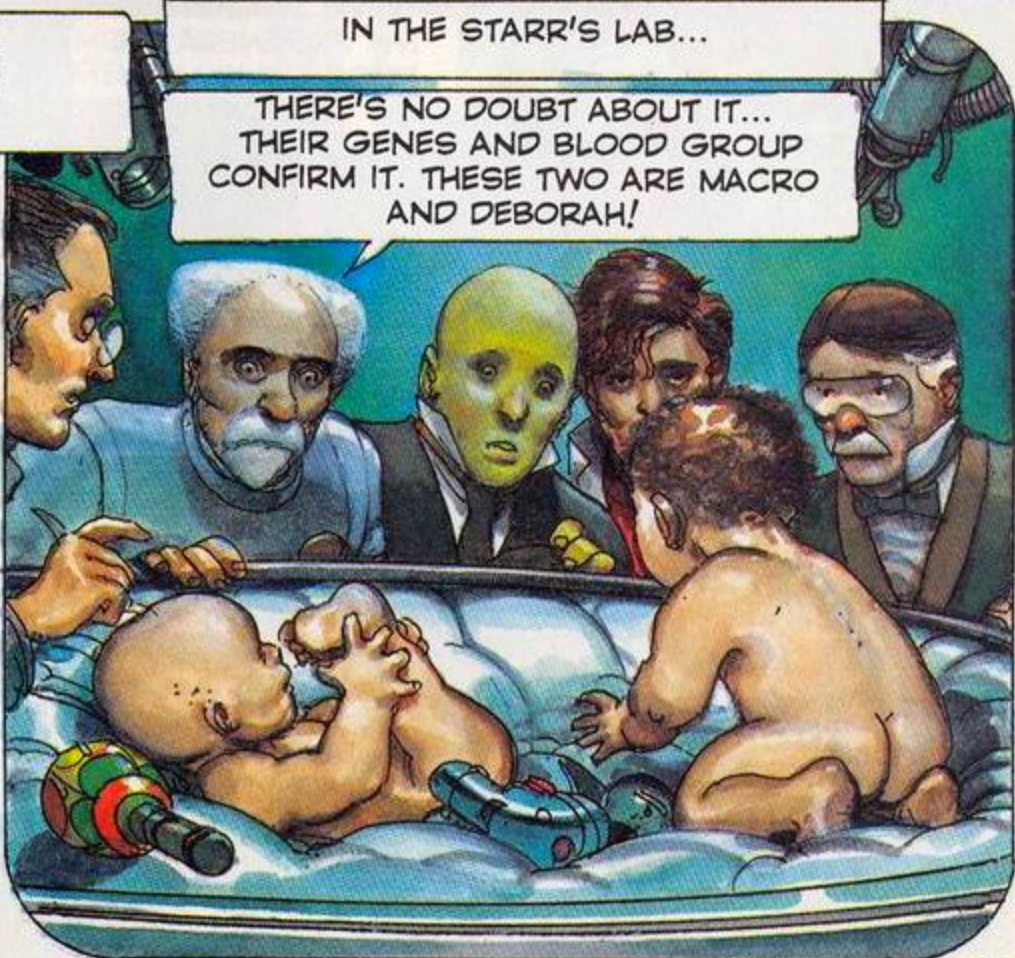


...AND THAT'S WHY WHEN
THE PRISONERS TRAVELED
ACCIDENTALLY BACK INTO THE
PAST FOR A WEEK, WE FOUND
THEM METAMORPHOSED INTO...

...LITTLE
BABIES!

IN THE STARR'S LAB...

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
THEIR GENES AND BLOOD GROUP
CONFIRM IT. THESE TWO ARE MACRO
AND DEBORAH!



IF THEY'D SPENT ANOTHER DAY IN THE PAST, THEY WOULD'VE DIED. DIED IN REVERSE! THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN!

IT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR! TRAVELING BACK IN TIME AT REGULAR INTERVALS WILL KEEP YOU FROM AGING! YOU COULD MAINTAIN THE SAME BIOLOGICAL AGE AND LIVE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!

SO WHEN WE SAW THE GREAT KRAMM'S PREMATURE AGING PROCESS, WE KNEW WHAT TO DO. BY THE WAY, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THEN, BUT WE TOOK HIM TO THE STARR...

...WITH A GROUP OF MEDICOBOTS. WE PORTED HIM TO THE SAME CAVE AND TO THE SAME ERA WHERE MACRO AND DEBORAH WERE FOUND.



IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT IN THREE MESOLITHIC DAYS HE'D BE JUST LIKE HE WAS BEFORE AND ALL SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE WOULD DISAPPEAR!

THE REGENERATIVE PROCESS IS VERY QUICK!

24 HOURS MORE SHOULD BE ENOUGH!

KRAMM WAS ONLY PARTIALLY CONSCIOUS, SO HE ISN'T AWARE OF ANY OF THIS. WE TOLD HIM WE'D SEDATED HIM, BUT WE DID TELL HIM ALL ABOUT QWERT. AND YOU KNOW THE REST!

FANTASTIC! I REALIZE THAT SECRECY IS VITAL! I WON'T TELL ANYONE, NOT EVEN MY MOTHER OR MARGA!



...OR MARGA...

WE HAVE TO MEET WITH THE
ANTI-T TEAM TO SWEAR THEM
TO SECRECY... AT LEAST FOR
THE TIME BEING!

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN IF THE WHOLE
PLANETARY SYSTEM FOUND OUT!
EVERYONE WOULD WANT TO BE
YOUNG AGAIN. INSPECTOR,
YOUR HEAD...



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY
HEAD?

STRANGE! A HAIR IS
GROWING ON YOUR
HEAD! IT WASN'T
THERE BEFORE!

WHAT? IT CAN'T BE.
YOU'RE PUTTING ME
ON!

NO, INSPECTOR!
FEEL IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT!
A HAIR HAS GROWN ON
MY SCALP! IT MUST BE
THE RESULT OF OUR
VOYAGE!

I DON'T KNOW! I
GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
PRETTY QUICK. ABOUT
12 MINUTES, I THINK!

A REAL HAIR! I
CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

...NOT EVEN
MARGA!

HAVE ANOTHER LOOK!
THERE MAY BE MORE!

LET'S SEE! ...HMM...
NO, THAT'S THE ONLY
ONE!

TOO
BAD...

COME ALONG, MEKE!
YOU CAN'T SPEND THE
NIGHT HERE... YOUR
MOTHER MUST BE
PETRIFIED!

MAYBE IF IT GOT LONG ENOUGH,
I COULD COMB IT AROUND TO
COVER MY WHOLE HEAD... WHAT
DO YOU THINK, LEO?

THAT WOULD
BE NICE,
INSPECTOR!

WE'LL MEET
AGAIN, MARGA!

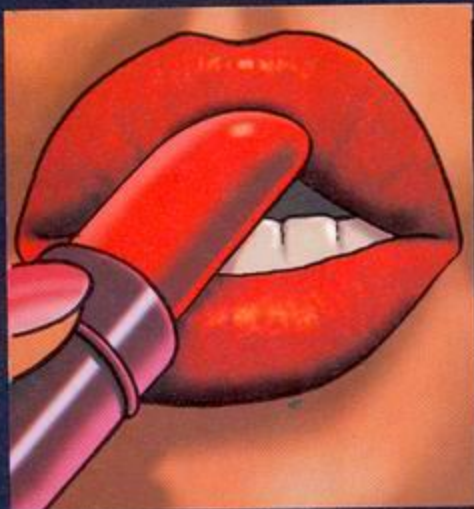
COME ALONG,
MEKE! WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?

WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE SOME
DAY!



INFERNO

CLAUDIA WAS ONE OF THOSE GIRLS THAT CAN BE FOUND AT ALMOST ANY HIGH SCHOOL.



SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL, AND HAD A BODY THAT MADE HER LOOK MUCH OLDER THAN SHE WAS.



SHE KNEW IT, OF COURSE, AND CARRIED HERSELF ACCORDINGLY.



CLAUDIA WENT FROM ONE GUY TO ANOTHER LIKE A BUTTERFLY IN A FIELD OF FLOWERS.



SHE ALWAYS LANDED WHOMEVER SHE WANTED AND WHEN SHE GOT BORED, SHE'D FIND HERSELF ANOTHER.



HARDLY SURPRISING, THEN, THAT HER LOVERS TENDED TO BE A TYPICALLY ARROGANT SUBSPECIES OF HUMANITY.



SOME GIRLS WERE ENVIOUS. THE REST OF THEM, OF COURSE, HATED HER GUTS...



AH, IT'S A CRUEL AND UNJUST WORLD ALL RIGHT -- TOO OFTEN, THE WEAK ARE PUSHED ASIDE TO MAKE WAY FOR THE STRONG AND THE STUPID. THE WEAK MUST SUFFER IN SILENCE, ENDURING GREAT HARDSHIP WITH THE UTMOST DIGNITY POSSIBLE. THEY ARE FORCED TO STAND FIRM IN THE FACE OF IGNOMINY AND INJUSTICE.

MY PHYSICAL APPEARANCE IS ONE SUCH INJUSTICE. I'M ONE OF MOTHER NATURE'S PRACTICAL JOKES -- THE PERFECT IMPERFECTION. I KNEW I'D NEVER BE A PART OF CLAUDIA'S INNER CIRCLE. EVEN SO, I LOVED HER WITH ALL MY HEART AND I WOULD HAVE GIVEN HER ANYTHING. (MIND YOU, THE RIDICULOUS CONCEPT OF ME AND CLAUDIA COULD ONLY HAVE EXISTED AS SOME KIND OF ALTERNATE REALITY).



HUH... I SAW HER AT BILLY PETERSON'S PARTY YESTERDAY... MAN, YOU LOST CONTROL... IT SAYS IN THE SCHOOL PAPER THAT YOU LOST YOUR NERVE AND WET YOURSELF.

I GUESS MY PASSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS THE REASON BEHIND MY RESENTMENT TOWARDS GOOD OLD MOTHER NATURE.



I HAVE A LOT OF HOMEWORK TO DO. DON'T DISTURB ME UNTIL DINNER TIME...

BE THAT AS IT MAY, DURING MY ADOLESCENCE I SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THE HOUSE, LOCKED IN MY ROOM WITH MY COMPUTERS. IT WAS HERE THAT I'D SPEND MY ONLY MOMENTS OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.



THE COMPUTER PUT SOME COLOR INTO AN OTHERWISE DRAB EXISTENCE. IT OFFERED ME MUSIC AND MOVIES...

I COULD PLAY, STUDY, AND RELAX WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ARTISTS...



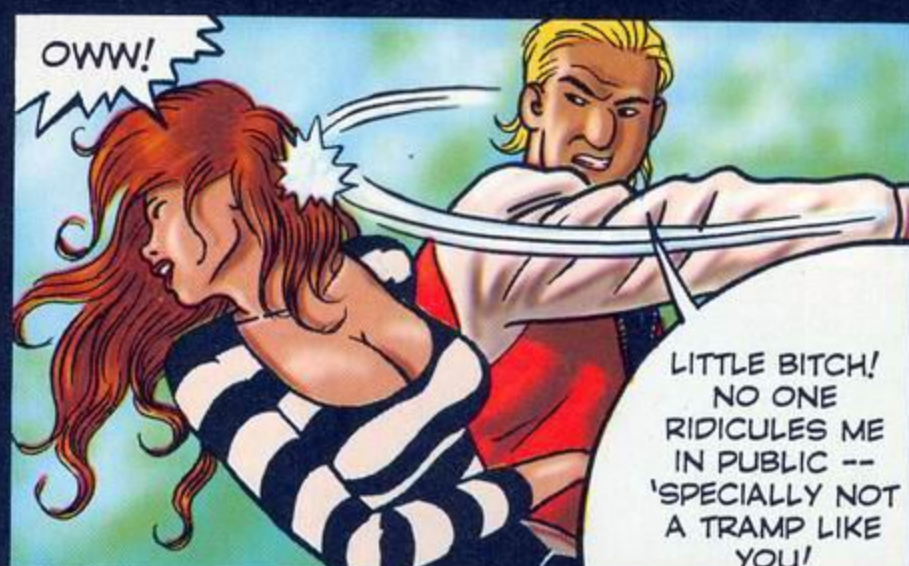
ONE AFTER-NOON, I WAS PRESENTED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY -- AN IRREPRESSIBLE URGE, IF YOU WILL -- TO BRING SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDER TO THE FEMALE CONDITION...

... LET ME GO, ANIMAL! YOU'RE HURTING ME!!

CLAUDIA!



HURT YOU? YOU'LL KNOW WHAT HURT IS IF I EVER SEE YOU ON THAT JERK'S MOTOR BIKE AGAIN! IF YOU HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE, TELL ME AND I'LL TAKE YOU, OKAY?





I WAS POUNDED, MERCILESSLY. BUT THEN, ANGER AND NERVOUSNESS REPLACED THE PAIN.



AT TIMES, FEAR AND DESPERATION ARE A MAN'S BEST ALLIES.



WE ARE TAUGHT TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE MORE THAN MERE BEASTS. BUT AT THAT MOMENT, I WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED MY OWN MOTHER.

DON'T YOU EVER LAY A HAND ON HER! DON'T YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN!



I WAS LOOKING PRETTY GOOD FROM THE GANG'S POINT OF VIEW...

PUT IT DOWN! PUT IT DOWN!



THE SLAP DIDN'T HURT ME...

LEAVE MY BOYFRIEND ALONE, YOU JERK! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ?!



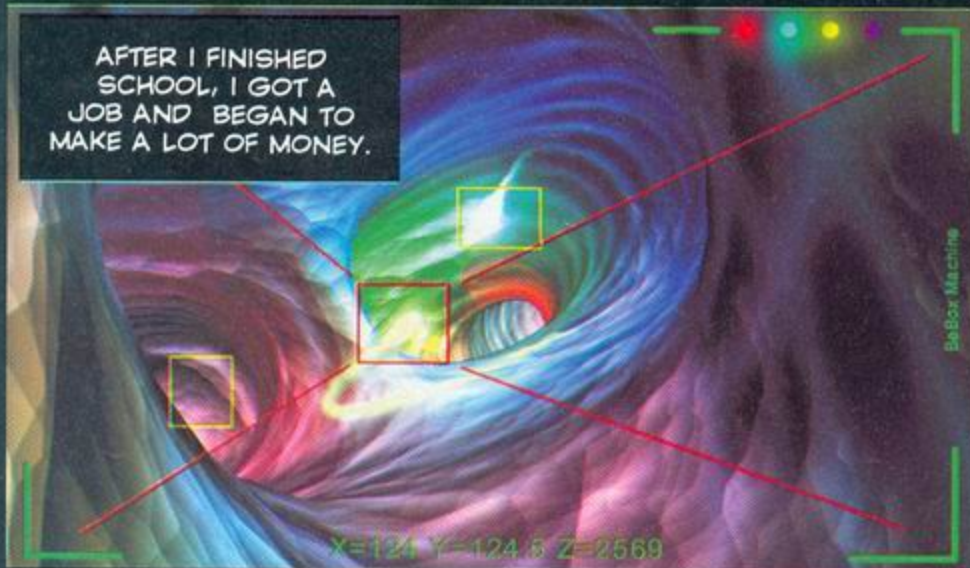
I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED SOME HELP...



... BUT HER NEXT WORDS WERE LIKE STEEL CLAWS THAT REACHED INSIDE MY SOUL AND TRIED TO RIP MY BATTERED HEART INTO A THOUSAND LITTLE PIECES...

HELP FROM WHOM...? YOU?! YOU'RE A GEEK. IF ANYONE CAN HELP ME, IT'S MY BOYFRIEND, NOT A NERD LIKE YOU...

AFTER I FINISHED SCHOOL, I GOT A JOB AND BEGAN TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.



VIRTUAL REALITY HAD BECOME THE STANDARD RECREATIONAL PASTIME.



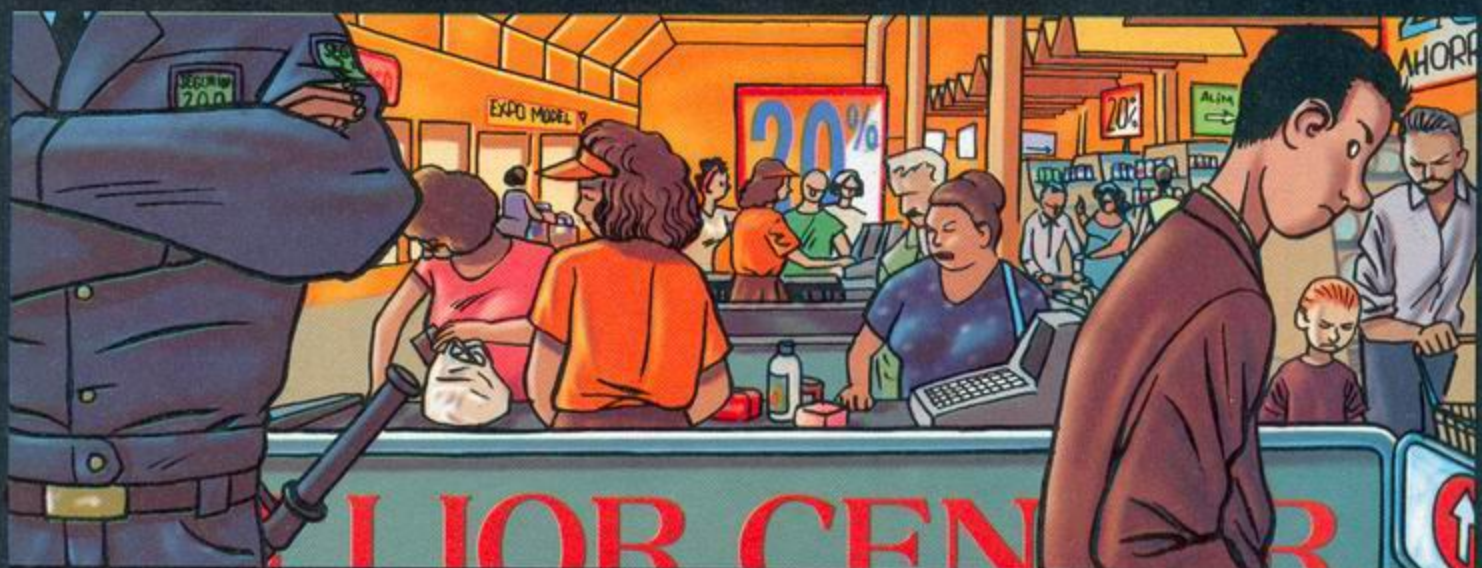
MY GAMES CLIMBED UP THE LISTS OF THOSE MOST SOUGHT AFTER AND BOUGHT!



I WAS TRAVELLING EVERYWHERE TO PROMOTE MY GAMES. I WOULD OFTEN FREQUENT THE LARGE SUPERMARKET CHAINS.



IT WAS MY WAY OF CHECKING UP ON THE COMPETITION. I GOT A KICK OUT OF STEALING MY OWN PRODUCTS WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT BY SECURITY, WHO AREN'T THE MOST INTELLIGENT PEOPLE ANYWAY.





ONE TIME, I SAW THIS GUY SCREAMING AT HIS KIDS...



HIS MOUTH WAS STAINED FROM CHOCOLATE HE MUST HAVE EATEN. (HE WOULD'VE BEEN ONE DEAD MEAT CHARACTER IN ONE OF MY GAMES.)



WHEN I SAW HIM APPROACH THE REST OF HIS CLAN, MILLIONS OF MEMORIES CAME FLOODING BACK.



TEN YEARS HAD PASSED, YET IT FELT LIKE THIRTY. THE KIDS LOOKED HAPPY, BUT I COULDN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT HER. SHE LOOKED EXHAUSTED, SHE DRESSED POORLY AND SHE HAD GOTTEN FAT.



I FELT AN OVERWHELMING SADNESS. LIFE HAD CHANGED FOR HER. SHE WAS NO LONGER THE QUEEN OF ALL WOMEN.



AS I BEGAN TO MAKE MY WAY OUTSIDE, OUR EYES MET FOR SEVERAL SECONDS. I KNEW THAT SHE HAD RECOGNIZED ME.



HER EYES BEGGED AND SCREAMED FOR HELP, BUT THIS TIME I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO REACT.



SO, I JUST LEFT.

AUGUST
21, 2021

IF THERE WERE ANY JUSTICE IN THE WORLD,
T.L. ("TOUGH LUCK") LEWIS WOULD HAVE
BEEN THE HAPPIEST PHYSICIST ALIVE.

THAT VERY MORNING HE
HAD SUCCESSFULLY
TESTED AN INVENTION
ALL MANKIND HAD LONG
DREAMT OF...
A TIME MACHINE!

BUT AS FATE WOULD HAVE
IT, HIS FIRST TRANSTEMPORAL
JUMP, 24 HOURS
INTO THE FUTURE...

Daily Kvetch
AUG. 22, 2021
FAMOUS
SCIENTIST
FOUND
DEAD!
ELECTRICUTED
IN OWN LAB
DR. LEBOWITZ

... HAD BROUGHT
HIM FACE TO FACE
WITH HIS OWN
MORTALITY.

S. LUNKETT '95

SHAKEN BY THIS
REVELATION, T.L. WAS
YANKED BACK TO HIS
NATIVE TIMESTREAM, HEAD
POUNDING WITH
QUESTIONS.

BUT WHAT OF THE PAST?

WITH JUST
HOURS TO LIVE,
HE HAD BUT
ONE CHANCE
TO FIND OUT.

"ALL HISTORY LIES BEFORE
ME," T.L. MUSED. "SHOULD I
WITNESS THE BURNING OF
ROME OR THE DEATH OF
SOCRATES AND PERHAPS
AVERT THOSE TRAGEDIES?"

HIS THEOREM
HELD THAT
FUTURE EVENTS
WERE FIXED, IMMUTABLE.

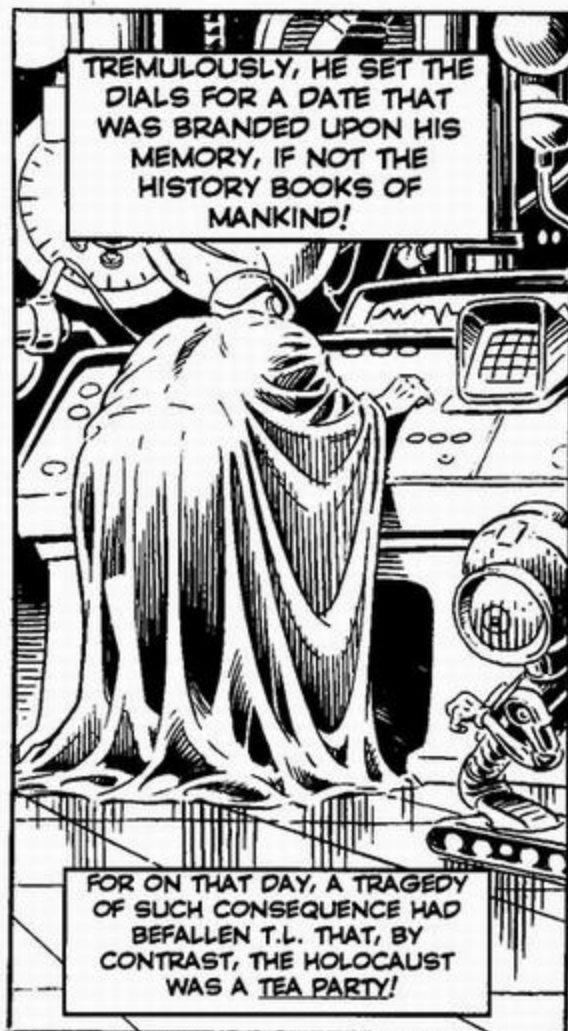
HIS MARVELOUS
CHRONOS CAP GLEAMED
PROMISINGLY.

OF ONE THING AT
LEAST, T.L. WAS
CERTAIN...

... WHATEVER HIS COURSE OF
ACTION, HE WOULD DO IT IN
STYLE AND IN COSTUME! AND
SO WAS BORN-

CITIZEN MARVEL,
HERO OF
THE FOURTH
DIMENSION

AND AS HIS
NEW IDENTITY
FORMED...
...SO TOO, THE
NATURE OF
HIS SECOND
(AND LAST)
TRANSTEMPORAL
ADVENTURE.



TREMULOUSLY, HE SET THE DIALS FOR A DATE THAT WAS BRANDED UPON HIS MEMORY, IF NOT THE HISTORY BOOKS OF MANKIND!

FOR ON THAT DAY, A TRAGEDY OF SUCH CONSEQUENCE HAD BEFALLEN T.L. THAT, BY CONTRAST, THE HOLOCAUST WAS A TEA PARTY!



THE REST OF HIS-TORY BE DAMNED!



HE WAS GOING TO GET LAID!

ONCE MORE HE PLUNGED INTO THE TEMPORAL VOID.



YONKERS, 1995; THE DESOLATE PATCH OF NEW YORK T.L. CALLED HOME THE SUMMER HE ATTENDED SEMINARY SCHOOL.



IT WAS LATE AFTERNOON IN A SMALL APARTMENT OVER MO'S PIZZA EMPORIUM. AFTER MONTHS OF FERVENT PRAYER, T.L. WAS IN THE COMPANY OF TIFFANY TITWYLER, GIRL OF HIS DREAMS!

AND MORE...!

TIFFANY WAS SMOLDERING-BURNING-

AFLAME!!

WITH LUST FOR HIM!



T.L.'S PULSE RACED UNDER HER LIQUID GAZE, FOR IN TRUTH, HE KNEW THAT FORNICATION OUT OF WEDLOCK WAS BLASPHEMY!



HE ASKED FOR A DRINK...

... CREAM SODA, MAYBE. BUT IT WAS JUST A PLAY FOR HIM.

HE NEEDED A SIGN-SOMETHING TO PROD HIM ONTO HOME-PLATE!

**THE CITIZEN
MANIFESTED!**

LIKE A CANCER, THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS YOUNGER SELF HAD FAILED TO CONSUMMATE HIS LUST FOR TIFFANY ON THAT HOT AFTERNOON HAD, EVER SINCE EATEN AT HIS SOUL! "WHY" NO LONGER MATTERED—ONLY THAT HE CHANGE THE COURSE OF THAT DAY'S EVENTS!

THE YOUNG
T.L. PALED...

UPON THAT THOUGHT...

... EYES SHINING WITH
A SENSE OF
PURPOSE!

... THE ROOM FILLED
WITH A BURST OF
LIGHT AND THE SMELL
OF BRIMSTONE!

THROUGH
OBSCURING WAFTS
OF SMOKE, THE
DEMONIC APPARITION
LUNGED!

FUCK
HER
BRAINS OUT,
YOU
SCHMUCK!

AND WITH THAT
EMPHATIC
DECLARATION, THE
CITIZEN VANISHED,
TO WITNESS THE
RESULTS OF HIS
INTERVENTION
FROM THE VOID (HIS
INVENTION
ALLOWING FOR
ONLY BRIEF
VISITS IN TIME).

WELL, T.L. SAT DAZED, BUT CLEARLY
HE HAD RECEIVED HIS SIGN!

BACK TO 2021 CITIZEN MARVEL
FLED, CURSING HIMSELF ALL THE
WAY! IT WAS HIS OWN MEDDLING
THAT HAD FOILED HIS ONE GREAT
CHANCE AT SEXUAL BLISS!

SO TRAUMATIC HAD THAT HELLISH
CONFRONTATION BEEN THAT HE HAD
SAVAGELY REPPRESSED THE MEMORY
FOR ALL THESE YEARS.

HE POUNDED HIS HEAD AGAINST
THE LAB WALL TILL DELICATE
COMPUTER WIRING SHORTED...

...CAUSING THE
OUTER GENERATORS
TO EXPLODE IN
FLAME! AND BACK IN
HIS LONELY LAB...

SURELY WHATEVER THAT
FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFER
ADVISED, HE MUST DO
THE OPPOSITE; HE
WOULD NOT SO MUCH
AS TOUCH THAT BLOND
DELILAH AGAIN!

"TOUGH LUCK'S" BRAIN FRIED
LIKE BACON.





OR I'LL
SHUT
YOU UP!

?!!



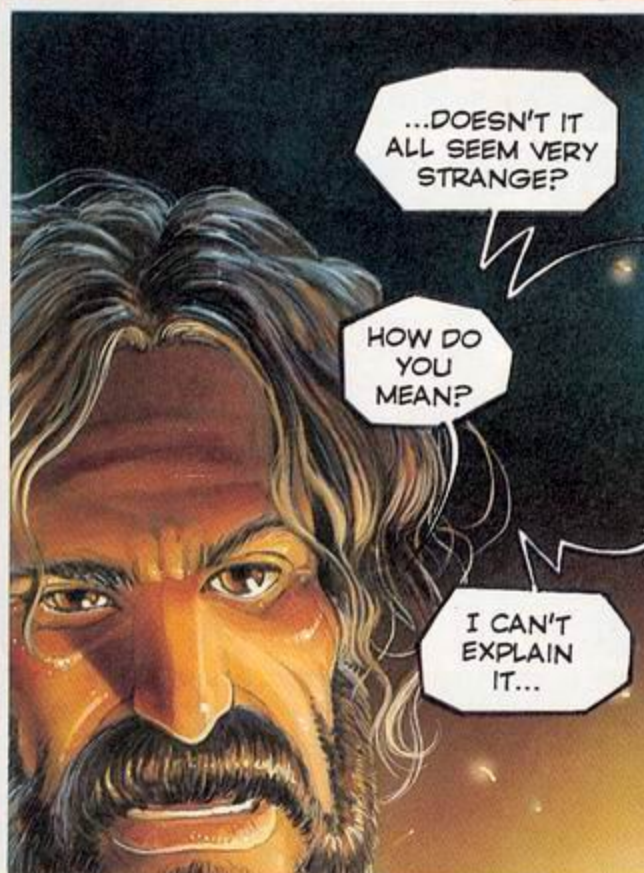
WHOA! WE'RE A
BIT EDGY TODAY,
AREN'T WE? DID
WE LEAVE OUR
PATIENCE BACK
HOME?

WATCH IT!
DON'T MAKE
ME LOSE MY
TEMPER!



OH! C'MON.
I DON'T WANT
TO ARGUE WITH
YOU NOW...

...BUT...



...DOESN'T IT
ALL SEEM VERY
STRANGE?

HOW DO
YOU
MEAN?

I CAN'T
EXPLAIN
IT...



...BUT
I HAVE A
HUNCH THAT
THE OLD MAN
IS PLAYING
A TRICK
ON
US...

WHY
WOULD HE
DO THAT?



WELL... I MAY
BE WRONG...
IT'S JUST A
HUNCH...

...BUT IN MY
OPINION HE
HASN'T FORGIVEN
US YET FOR THE
MESS WE MADE
IN VARDENKIRIA.

...AND THIS
MAY BE HIS
WAY OF
MAKING US PAY
FOR IT!

YEAH...
GO ON!
BUT MANY
MOONS HAVE
GONE BY SINCE
THAT ILL-FATED
DAY!



OH?

WELL
THEN... WHY
DO YOU
THINK HE
SPECIFICALLY
PICKED
US, OUT OF
THE WHOLE
VILLAGE, TO
GO ON THIS
MISSION?



THAT'S
EASY!

BECAUSE
WE'RE THE
BEST!



YEAH... SURE...

WE MAY BE THE BEST BEAR HUNTERS FOR MILES AROUND...



...BUT WHAT CAN WE DO AGAINST ...

...A GIANT?



OH! STOP FUSSING! YOU ALWAYS WORRY TOO MUCH! BELIEVE ME...

...IF WE STICK TOGETHER WE CAN FACE ANYTHING... AND DEFEAT IT!

MAYBE...



WELL, I TRUST KILIAR... HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO ME!

HE "SAW" THE MONSTER WAKING UP FROM ITS CENTURIES-OLD SLEEP... AND SO HE SENT US HERE TO STOP IT!

THERE'S NOTHING BIZARRE ABOUT THAT! IN FACT, BEING CHOSEN BY KILIAR IS A GREAT HONOR...

...I'M PROUD OF IT!



SO NOW WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP CALM AND CONCENTRATE ON PREPARING FOR THE ENCOUNTER...

RIGHT?



UMM... YES, WELL YOU COULD BE RIGHT...

LET'S WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...

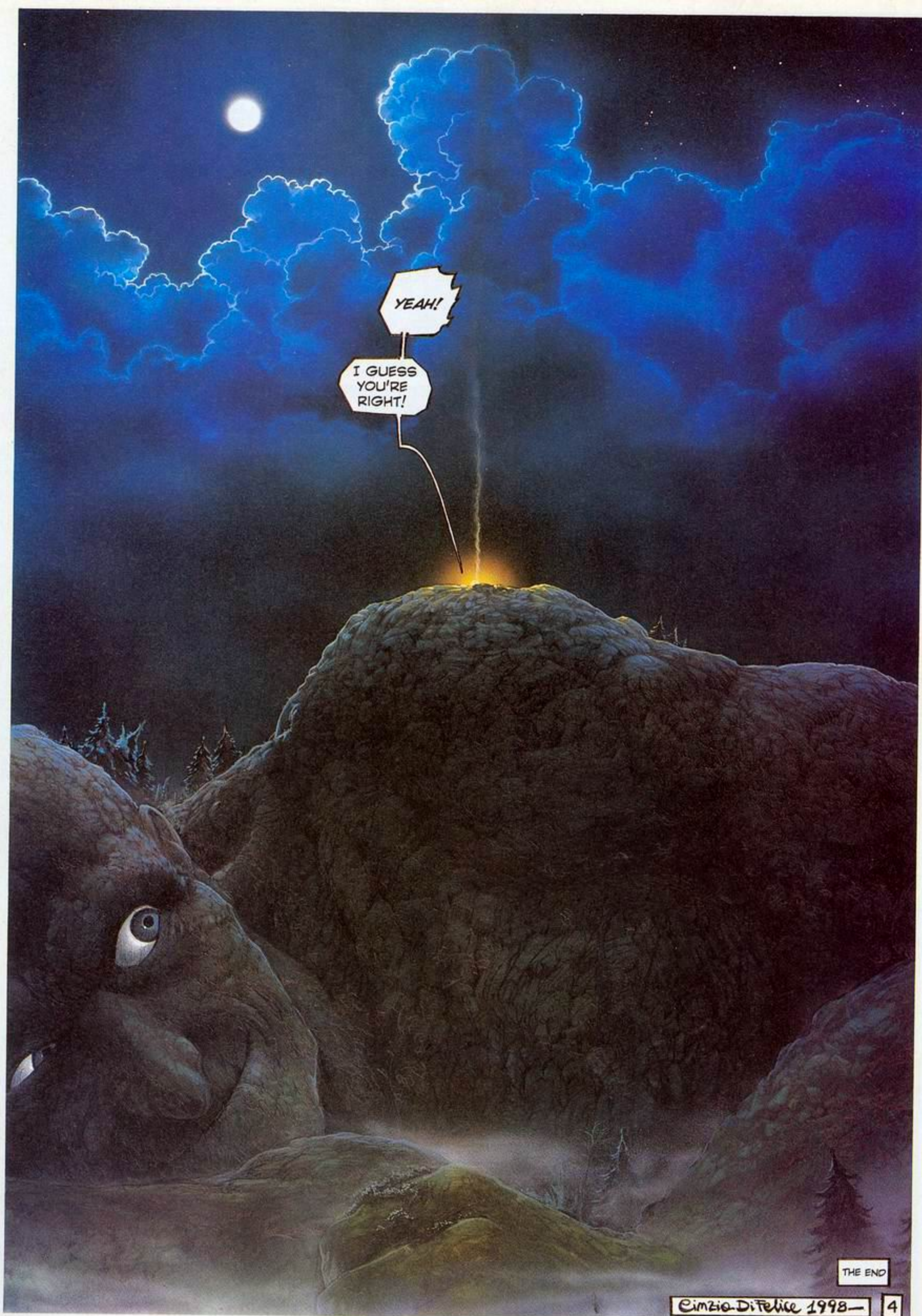


...WHAT D'YOU THINK...
... HOW BIG CAN A GIANT GET?

15...
20 FEET?

OH... I DON'T KNOW, BUT 20 FEET MAY BE A BIT OF AN EXAGGERATION...

...I MEAN IF IT WAS *THAT* BIG, KILIAR WOULDN'T HAVE SENT JUST THE *TWO* OF US!



YEAH!

I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

THE END

Cinzia Di Felice 1998-

4