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OSTAFF

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Miss World 2000 by Cromwell ©Editions Albin Michel © Dargaud (SUISSE) S.A. 1999 Gypsy 3- The Day Of The Czar by Marini and Smolderen



Publishers Note:

I've never been shy to Shamelessly promote Heavy Metal's extracurricular activities, through the stories, galleries, letters page, and yes, even the publisher's note, and this issue is no exception.

Mind you, I try not to do litell the time, and I don't want to do it so often that you all go, "Aw geez, there he goes again!" Bur99% of the time when I do push something, it's because Usincerely think it is something you're gonnal lite. Which, by the way, I'll tell you're gonnal lite. Which, by the way, I'll tell you're gonnal lite. Which, by the way, I'll tell you're gonnal lite. I wouldn't like what I have to say or how I'm saying lor pushing) it, TELL ME and we'll talk ebout it then.

Okay, now limgoling to brage boutour NEW website...picture medicaking, eavyouell throws tuffil Seriously, liknow what you fro thinking, because every time I would libear someone pushing their "COMF, I wanted to pulse for six days straight, and I don't want this to be like that.

YES, we sell stuff there. YES, there are web exclusives, and YES, we have a fairly in the immortal words of ture you see elsewhere. BUT, in the immortal words of the Highlander, "There can be only one..." and that ONE my friends is pure Heavy Metal!

We've teamed up with the amazingly talented crew at TheThreshold (.com for those not in the know) to revamp, rebuild and bring yourn all new internet version of Heavy Metal that goes beyond my wildest dreams.

We've put a place together where you can tour behind the scenes of past, present and future movie projects. You'll find 6 exclusive online graphic novels each year... full previews of past historical Heavy Metal issues, as well as the coolest things in the new ones... piles of artists' galleries with bios, and cool links to some of the hippest related sites around! (Can you say wordsandpictures.org anyone?) Plus a billion other cool things you'll freak over, so I won't go into them all right now.

What more could you ask for? How about a live webcam from the desk of Simon Bisley? Anyone else out there interested in looking over his shoulder when the BIZ is slamming away on his latest masterpiece?! (At least i'll know when he's lying about finishing a painting for me; when he's really watching television!) Well, stay tuned Buckos because 2000 is coing to be the year.

Okay, Okay, Ilknow, enough already. I promise I'll shut up, but only if you'll promise you'll take a quick peek lift you don't like it you don't have to come back, but you still have to buy all the regular issues (and specials). Speaking of which, you've got a pretty freakin' good one right here! [[won't]golinto all the details like I usually do, mainly because all this web List has stired me out so I'll just tell you to read on, and I'll catch you intended to detail the chat room at the avy. Metal... oh, you know...]

Best,

King East May

Dear H.M.,

DIALOGUE

I have always thought that you were out on the front lines battling the evils of censorship and selling out, so imagine my dismay when I found out that FAKK2 is being released with a PG-13 rating. Everything that I have seen and read does not translate into PG-13. I thought it was coming out with an R rating. Tell me that you didn't edit it to earn a PG-13 to draw in the adolescent fan-boy dollar. I have seen most of the FAKK2 stuff. I have a signed copy of Thumpin Guts and the sketchbooks and whatever. I will buy darn near anything that Biz does. Alex Ross can't carry the Biz's jock strap in my opinion. I will continue to support you, but I do feel slightly betrayed. I hope you didn't compromise your artistic integrity just to earn the PG rating and probably a lot more box office dollars.

Dear H.M.,

Just wondering if there's any truth to the rumor that FAKK2 will be rated PG-13? I'm sorry to have to say that if that is the case, it would suck. How can you have a flick starring Julie Strain and put out by you guys that doesn't give up blood, guts and tits? You should be going for an NC-17! Ok, maybe that's a little extreme, but I'm sure you see my point. So what's the word? Let me know.

Mr. Bundle

Dear H.M.,

I have a problem with the FAKK2 movie. It's hard for me to accept that you guys got buckled down by the execs to make a PG-13 movie. I don't know how they even would consider a PG-13 movie with all the factors involved (subject matter, Bisley art, Julie Strain). As an avid Heavy Metal reader, I just don't have any desire to see such a movie.

Dear Readers.

I wanted all three of these to run, my favorites of many we got on this subject matter, so I could restate for everyone... Thanks for your support, and your letters helped us convince the executives to do it our way...THE FILM WILL CARRY AN "R" RATING!! Again, my thanks.

Dear H.M.,

I'm amazed by some of the art that is in your magazine. Simon Bisley is one of these artists. GAAAAAUUUDDD awfully good! Anyway, I was hoping you could tell me about some of his upcoming work. Also, will there be a FAKK2 video game??

David

Dear David,

I bow to the incredible Lord Bisley daily! Simon will have a new Simon Coldwater story in the next issue of Heavy Metal, and we'll be starting a 96 page graphic novel on the website that will run at two pages a week for nearly a year. Cool beans!

Video game, you say?! Why yes-Ritual Entertainment will release a p.c. game that picks up 20 years after the FAKK2 movie ends. It will blow your mind.

Check it out at Ritual.com

Dear H.M.,

I've been a subscriber of HM since April of 77. I have every issue and several dupes of back issues. I have watched the trend of censoring issues grow from occasional incidents to the now apparent constant and continuous altering of the original content. This is artwork. If members of the public are offended that their kids are seeing controversial content then THEIR KIDS SHOULDN'T BE LOOKING AT THIS!!!

KTT

Dear KTT.

I love letters like yours and couldn't agree more. Unfortunately for now, the system is what it is and if we didn't censor a little bit, they wouldn't let us sell the copies we do. We'd all lose!

Any questions or comments you may have, please send to: Heavy Metal, 100 Merrick Road, Suite 400, East Building, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570

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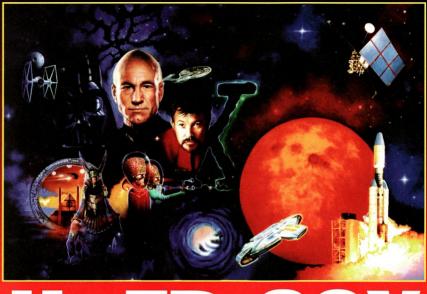
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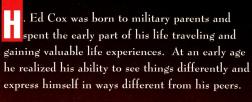
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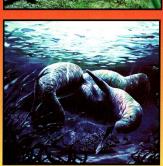






n 1985 Cox began to freelance his art, painting everything and anything that sat still long enough, and having an occasional piece printed and published.

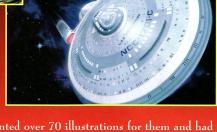








n 1995 Ed began to illustrate for the AMT/Ertl Co., a manufacturer of STAR WARS and STAR TREK scale models and replicas. To date, Ed has

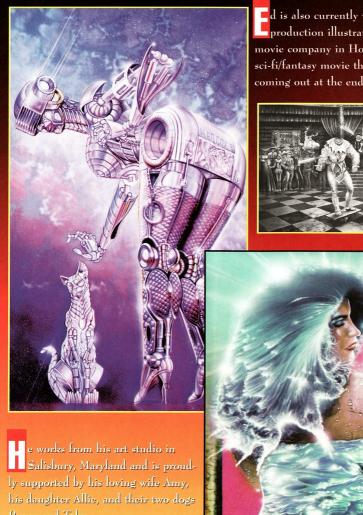


painted over 70 illustrations for them and had his work displayed in the Smithsonian Institute during their STAR WARS 20th anniversary exhibit.



is focus these days is cover work for several RPG (role playing games) companies, painting such diverse subjects as two headed monster dogs from hell to swashbuckling pirates.





d is also currently working as production illustrator for a movie company in Hollywood on a sci-fi/fantasy movie that will be coming out at the end of the year.



Penny and Toby.

on can view more of Ed's work at http://www.edcox.com



Walk on the Dark Side with Kelley Jones

For the last decade or so, Kelley Jones has consistently been one of the most interesting artists in comics. Although he has been somewhat typed as a horror artist for his work on Deadman, various Aliens books, and the 2 Hammer miniseries, he is also widely regarded as one of the best Batman artists of all time. Given the grim nature of much of his work, you might expect Jones to be one of these sullen, brooding artiste types, but you'd be wrong. Jones' personality is surprisingly sunny and positive. Although he is a serious, dedicated professional, from talking to him you soon realize that Kelley Jones wouldn't even be doing comics if it weren't also a hell of a lot of fun. Yet, his dedication to quality and originality shines through-all his projects, from his three-year tenure on Batman, to his most recent Batman Elseworlds miniseries. Haunted Gotham, to Crusade, his latest series for DC's Vertigo line, are darkly beautiful visual feasts

RINGGENBERG: Kelley, what have you been doing for the last few years? When we spoke last (in 1995), you were finishing up the first Hammer series. How did The Hammer go over?

that have been very well received.

JONES: Generally you do something and that's that. But what I've found is, I got a lot of converts. I understood going in that there would be a lot of reticence towards vet another artist writing his own stuff, much less handling Lovecraft concepts, which always come off very hackneved. So, my thing wasn't so much Lovecraft in and of slimy things in the dark. Mine was the total alienation of a character. And it was extremely interesting to do something along those lines. So, I would have Lovecraft aficionados react extremely enthusiastically. I

would have very jaded comic book fans, some of (whom) said they dumped comics because they got tired of it, telling me how much they enjoyed it. I don't consider myself a terrific writer. I think I'm a pretty good plotter, but I'm not very good in terms of more academic writing. I pretty much wing it, you know. I knew that I didn't want to do a pastiche of Lovecraft, But I did want to get across something that was completely unique. Lovecraft got you to feel things that a lot of writers who are much. much better prose writers weren't able to achieve; he always described things that you couldn't really visualize, so therefore, they became more terrifying. I wanted to get across exactly what Lovecraft was feeling, that 'outsidedness'. And in creating a character who was outside, to try to make him interesting. The Hammer's decidedly alien, and some places that's cute, and other places it's terrifying. If the world was at stake and he needed your pancreas to create a spell, he very well might take it.

RINGGENBERG: What did you do after you concluded that first miniseries?

Not ask you, just take it.

JONES: I did a one-shot explaining more about him, and then followed it up with another miniseries. I then concluded Crimson Mist, the third and final part of the Batman Red Rain trilogy, And since that time, I've done a four-part Prestige series with Batman called Haunted Gotham and an adaptation of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, As of now, I'm in the middle of just finishing designing a pretty gruesome vampire statue of Batman for Warner Brothers, as well as a lithograph of the Batcave, and I'm working on a new monthly series that'll go through Vertigo.

RINGGENBERG: Tell me about this new Vertigo series.

JONES: It's called <u>The Crusade</u>. Basically, it's the first Crusade of

the year 2000. It's a premise from Steve Siegel, who did the adaptation on Sleepy Hollow. When he ran it by me initially, we had been talking about what we missed in comics. And one of the things that I missed was optimism. And that doesn't mean a Pollvanna approach, but just that even if everybody dies, it was for a point, There is some kind of seed of hope, where you felt like, okay, it wasn't worthless, and it isn't such a horrible, nihilistic world after all. Because I personally find that not too much fun to illustrate stories like that. I also find it ultimately not very saleable. I generally don't like stuff where you feel like you have to take a shower afterwards. If everybody in it is not too likeable, or reprehensible. or depressed, or really negative, why should you care? And I wanted more in-depth, expressive characters. I wanted things that don't insult your intelligence when vou're done. You don't feel like it's too juvenile, or it's manipulative, or it's trying to be highbrow. It's just an entertaining story; funny where it's funny, scary where it's scary. I wanted something where you don't have all the answers... there's a certain enigmatic quality to it. I don't want endless storvlines. A couple of issues and out. The subplots can carry on. But, I've always been terribly bored by subplots that take years to finish. Right now, the first issues are being written. I have yet to really get to the design of it. There's quite a number of characters in it. I don't like group books generally because they have so many characters that they basically only come on to say a cliché. I want to give everyone enough screen time. So, I want to spend time with them.

RINGGENBERG: When you say spending time with the characters, does that mean doing sketches, playing with them?

JONES: Partly it's that. I don't need to draw them to visualize them. They're in my head. I don't believe in endless amounts of designs, or thumbnails, because I think that in comics the trick is getting it from your head into a reader's hands with as little effort as possible. The immediacy is what makes it work. I know Steven wants to do a full script at

first so he gets comfortable with it, and eventually go to plot. Because out of plots you get a lot of wonderful idiosyncratic moments, and inspirations come from that. And I think that you can tell when something's been planned into the ground. It comes off kind of boring. What we're trying to do is bring some of that freshness that I think a comic book really has to have, the twists and the turns from the plot, to my actually illustrating it, to it being in a store. You want as few steps as possible. No one told me, draw Deadman really skinny and corpselike. It was just that Mike Baron wrote it in a way that it made sense. Without saying do that, he just wrote it that way, and it was left open to interpretation. So, you look for happy things like that to happen... I turned down a lot of the big ticket things in the early '90's to do Deadmans and Aliens because I thought they were much better written, and I thought they had a chance of lasting longer in people's memories. When I took Batman, I didn't think you could really take an artist credibly unless he had done at least two years on a monthly book, and I hadn't done that yet. When Denny O'Neill offered that to me, it was a stunning honor ... After I accepted, I completely froze up. I couldn't draw, for like a week. I kept trying and everything turned out like crap. I kept everything that I drew from that horrendous week to remind myself that, (laughs) you're never too big for your britches. I just can't understand that when you get handed an icon, you don't take it like, Wow, I'm really lucky! I gave it my all, all the time. To this day, that's the one thing I get pride out of. If someone says, 'Oh, so what do you do?' You don't have to explain some obscure X-Men character. You can say, Batman... We got reviewed in the New York Daily News. Batman was the only comic book they ever reviewed. That was wonderful. The reviewer mentioned in the same breath, Bob Kane, Frank Miller, and me, and said, this is a monthly worth fighting for. That meant a lot to

RINGGENBERG: Are you going to be completely wrapped up in Crusade during 2000? JONES: Probably, but the good thing about having gone through that three years on Batman, and actually before that penciling and inking a lot of these big things is, I've learned to marshal my time really well. So, if they wanted more Haunted Gothams, I can fit that in. I don't like overworking, but overworking is if you do the same character, the same thing. When I was doing the monthly Batman, I penciled and inked The Hammer.

RINGGENBERG: That sounds like a lot of work.

JONES: It sounds like it, but

now, when I read something over, I know what I want, and I'm confident in my ability. I'm not sitting there stressing over minute details because I know how to execute. I get started at eight, and it takes me about an hour to lay out a page, and about another three or four to finish it, no matter what's going on, I really think (with) comic books, you want to make sure the point of the page is clear. And you want to make sure, for example, that if it's a six-panel page, that two of those panels are wonderful, that they're eye-catching, that they grab you. And then I work on the center, the panels between those, and that means if there's something that needs to be punched to sell the point of that page-you do it. I don't take any page for granted, I don't think, OK, this one's not as important as the next one, or whatever. I read it over and I try to think, what's the most interesting thing on this page? One of the best things that I had happen was, Archie Goodwin told me after I had been on Batman two years, he hadn't noticed any repetitions. If Batman had to climb up a wall for the eighteenth time, it was a different way. You can only do that for so long. And that's the trick. Sometimes you just go, Hey, I've got to get it done. And other times, you go, I've got to (give the readers) more. But, that decision's got to be every week, every day, every hour. Because you've got to justify the expense. I don't think people have a problem with the cost of a comic book. They only notice it if they feel like they didn't get their money's worth. And that's true for any type of entertainment. So, I always figured, do the drawings that are in your head

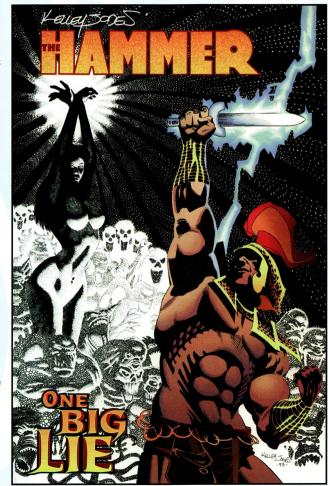
and that you want to do because that's the best way to communicate with your reader. That never goes out of style...

goes out of style...
'I'll have very young readers, eight or nine years old still send me letters over Batman, or I'll have acknowledged peers, who've been doing it since the '50's come up and say: 'You're good.' I know it's not because I'm drawing like they did in 1951. I just know that they can relate to what I'm doing,

because that same sincerity is there. And I've always found that if people did not know who you were... you were doing something wrong. Maybe that's the Andy Kaufman thing, a reaction please. Just don't sit on your hands. I always found that some artists were so afraid of a negative reaction they wouldn't take a chance any more... I didn't want to get tired of something I loved to do. So, when I turned down projects,

I'd love to say it was just a highminded thing that I didn't want to do Wolverine versus the Hulk or something. It's just that I knew it wouldn't last very long. I knew nobody was really going to care, ultimately. But, they might care about the Aliens thing I did, just as a story. Whether I drew it or not, I knew the story was good enough that it could count. And those are the kinds of stories I

always jumped at.





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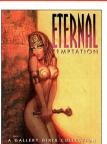


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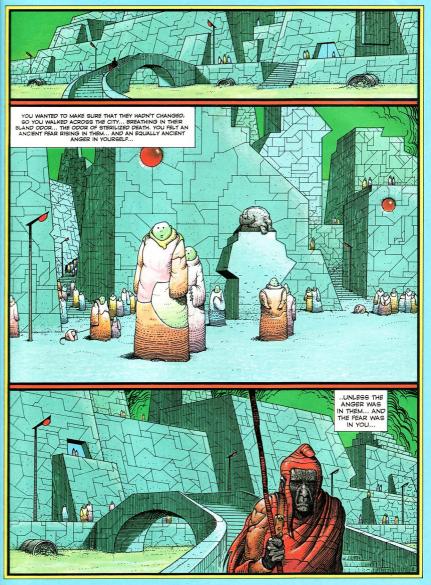
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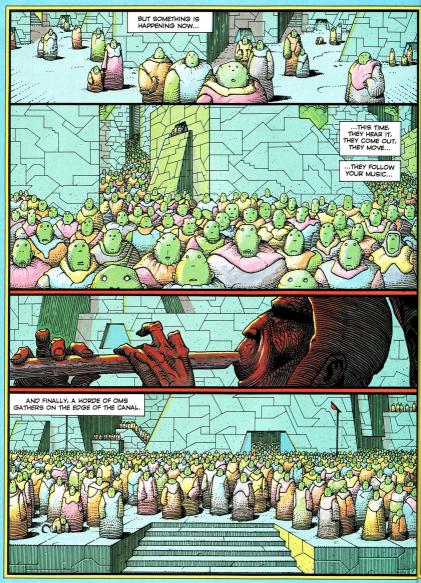


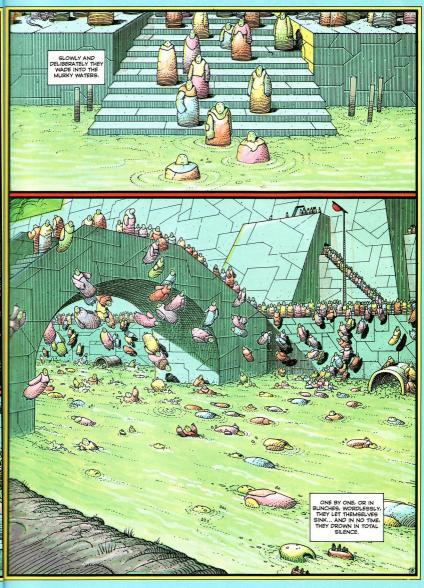








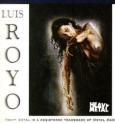






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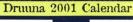
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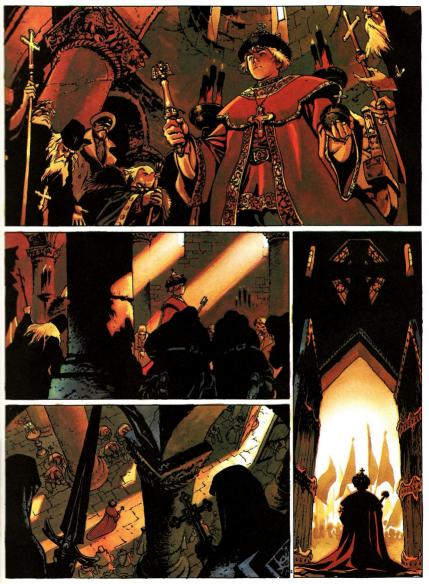
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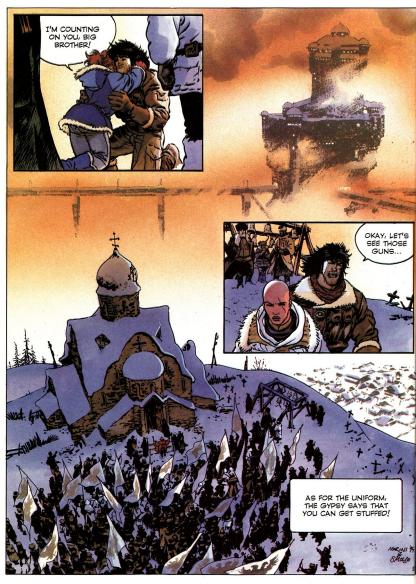








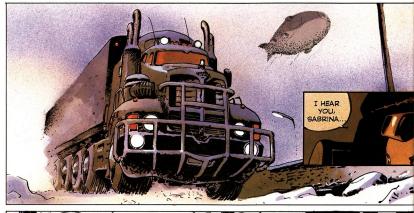






































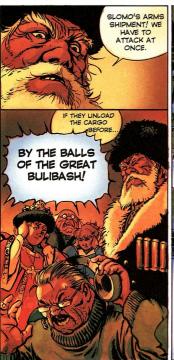






























































































































THE ZEPPELIN! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!





































HUM! THE GYPSY IS HAPPY IF HE CAN AVOID RESTING HIS BUTT ON A BED OF NAILS. AND SOMETIMES, EVEN THAT ISN'T TOO EASY!





















































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SULKOFF, IT

WAS A MAN.

DOES IT

MATTER?















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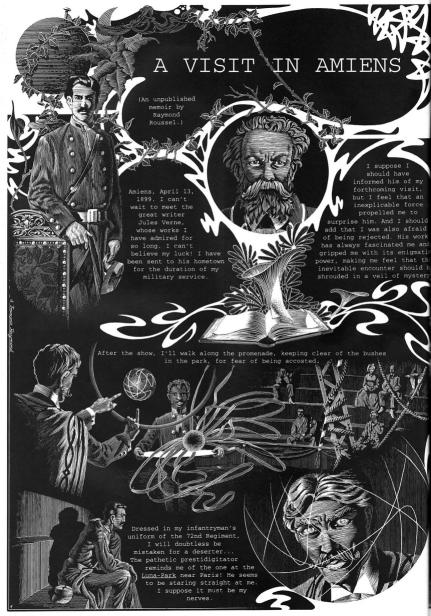


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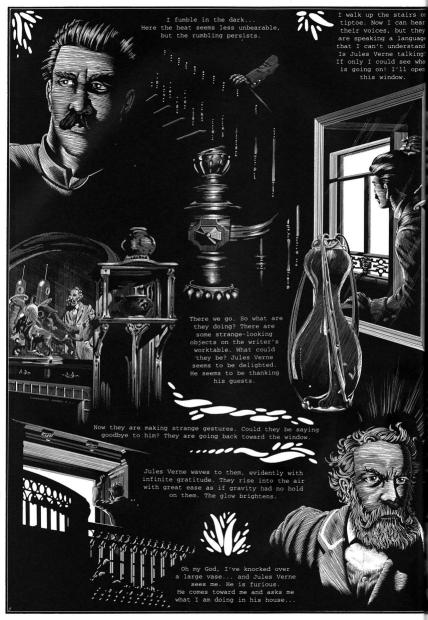
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Soon daylight breaks through the darkness of night. Plunged in our conversation, we've let ourselves be uprised by the passing of time. I get up. Mr. Jules Verne must be very tired. In a somber voice he says, Mr. Roussel, please promise me that you will never tell anyone what you have witnessed here tonight..."
Mr. Jules Verne, please allow me to say what happened posthumously." He nods slowly. "I grant you that, my young friend." I say goodbye to Mr. Verne.





As I walk back to my barracks along quiet paths that lend themselves to introspection, I slowly begin to realize the significance of the night's events. My visit to Mr. Verne seems to have been a strange meeting with Fate, and I feel that my destiny is sealed. Now the message communicated to me by the magician becomes very clear.



A few months later, in Paris, shortly after the publication of my poem "The Squabble," I too would play host to mediators from beyond space and time...

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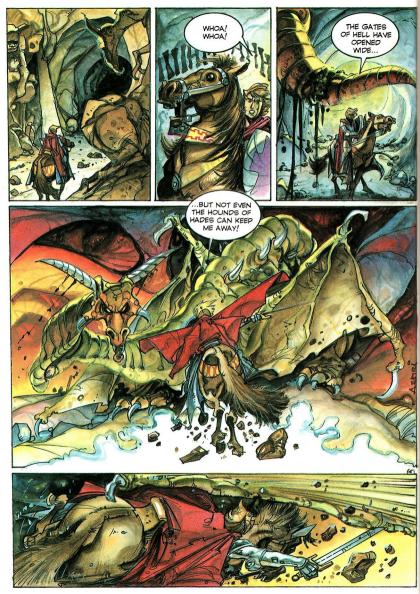


































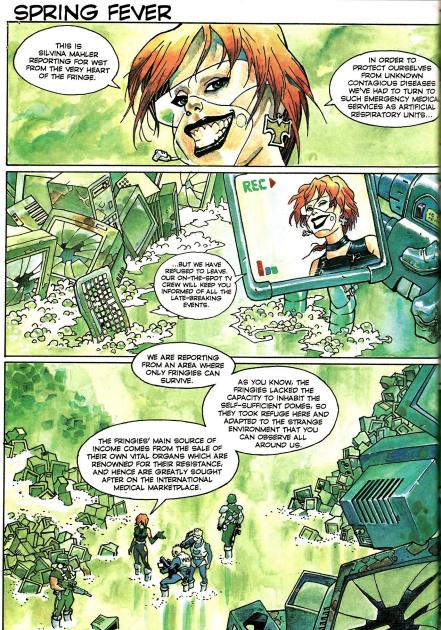


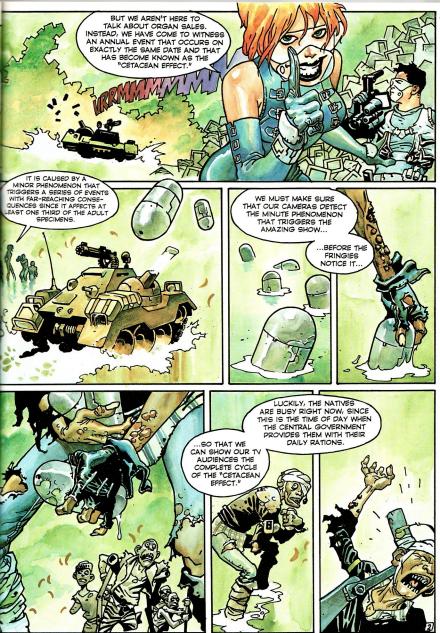
























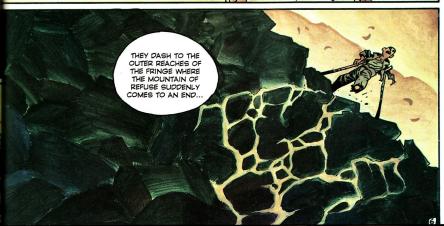




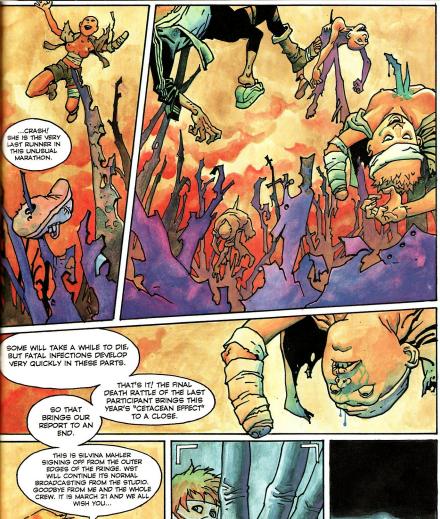






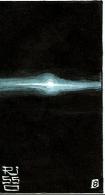












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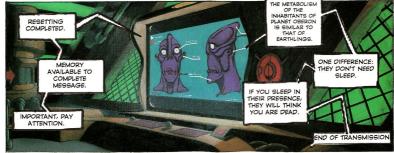






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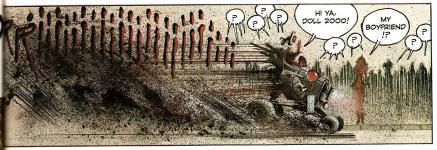
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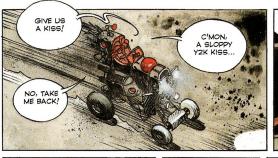








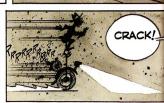






































































































































































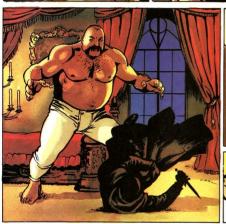




















































































































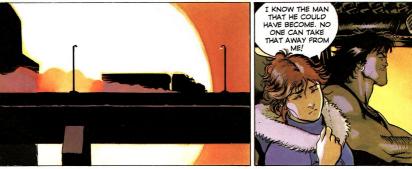


















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