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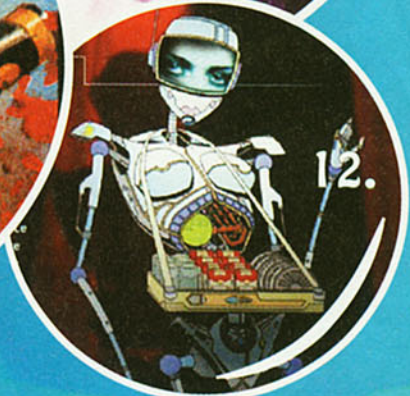
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HEAVY METAL

Publishers Note:

I don't know about you guys, but I think the Simon Bisley cover of this issue **FUCKING ROCKS!**

During a recent visit to L.A., I showed Simon a shoot of Julie as "Joan of Arc" by the completely kick ass photographer Justice Howard (her work just happens to be featured in our gallery this month!!!) and he was so inspired that he knocked out this masterpiece! Cheers to Julie, Justice, and Simon!

Very fitting opening for the rest of the issue, which I'm very proud of and features a lot of our first string players. But, I'm especially pumped to have Pat Mills and Olivier Ledroit's next "SHA" installment included.

I'd like to make special note of my pal, Billy Martinez' premiere in Heavy Metal with his story, "WILDFLOWER" and want to take the time to wish him and all the other struggling independent artists and publishers out there my best, and to keep up the good fight. I also want to say that I hope to expand a section of the magazine in the future to promote more of this up and coming kind of talent. I'll keep you posted.

Related to the last point, the editorial staff at Heavy Metal and I have been kicking around a number of ideas to expand the magazine without taking away the number of "story pages" in each issue. We want to bring in some more traditional magazine-like sections, like in the old days. Nothing has been carved in stone yet so stay tuned and give me any thoughts you might have.

This leads me to comment on the letters section of this issue which features a lot of the mail we've been getting related to the movie since its release for rental and DVD back in October—I can't thank all of the folks that wrote in enough for their efforts, they really do help. Please keep them coming, keep them as critical as you've been making them. I'll also ask you to continue to comment on any specific issue you feel strongly about, as well as any part of the web-site, www.heavymetal.com you thing we can improve.

Beyond that, I hope that all of you are making it through the winter months and all the holidays just fine. Personally, I love this time of year, and I love spending time with my family back in Maine and Massachusetts.

Until next time, thanks for taking a ride.

Kim Eastman

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With the movie hitting the DVD and rental markets, comments are starting to roll in, and much like the selection of letters below—folks seem to be divided 50/50, but slightly more on the thumbs down side. Keep the notes coming—more next time.

Oh my god!!! This has got to be one of the best movies I've ever seen. I have been waiting for over a year to see the new Heavy Metal 2000 movie and I wasn't disappointed. All I can say is wow, the movie was awesome, the features were awesome, and the soundtrack is one of the best I've ever heard. Keep up the good work on one of the best magazines ever published.

Nate

I just watched Heavy Metal 2000 and I was thoroughly disappointed in it. I guess I expected the animation to be like the first one. If you're considering a third animated movie, it needs to have better animation. This movie looked like Saturday morning television. It was a let down.

Dave

I saw your movie on cable television. The story line rocked big time. I loved it, but I had a major problem with your 2D to 3D mesh work. The 3D was slam'in, especially the work done on the starship Cortez. Your 2D however, lacked the quality found in your first Heavy Metal film. The techniques used there should have been employed in 2000. As for Bisley's concept work, I wish the characters he originally rendered could have been placed on the larger cinema canvas. That alone would have turned your promising efforts on this long awaited sequel into box office gold. I look forward to your next project.

Louis

Mortality sucks. Immortality sucks. This movie sucks. I can't believe you let a movie like this bare the Heavy Metal name. I am just thankful that I rented it before I bought it. WHEW... Thanx for the delay in VHS for sales release... otherwise it would be sitting in the trash right now.

Did Heavy Metal 2000 come out in theatres? I don't ever remember promotions for it. I finally saw it in at my video store and immediately rented it. The story line, characters, art, plot, and music were fantastic! I must admit I wished there was more frontal nudity and sex scenes, but hey, Heavy Metal 2000 is still more coherent than its predecessor. If it was never released in theatres than the movie did not get its due, because it was a very good movie.

Don

Just saw FAKK2 on a satellite dish. What happened? Not a single hint of a theatrical release? Be that as it may. I was embarrassed!! I encouraged people to seek out this movie. What the %\$@# happened??? The look in their eyes!! They think I'm nuts because I hyped it, and the worst thing is that I've got nothing to say to defend the movie or my entertainment selections. Bummer man, no touchdown, strike out, air ball. What can I say!

Miller

SEND LETTERS TO HEAVY METAL, 100 MERRICK RD., SUITE 400, EAST BUILDING, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11752

GALLERY

JUSTICE HOWARD

PART ONE...THE INCEPTION...BY JUSTICE HOWARD

Let me hip you to the mechanics of how it all started.



It all commenced with a short trip to SWORD & STONE. It was at Jane's insistence that I ended up there. Tony Swatten is the owner of SWORD & STONE. I went to visit him with nothing else in mind than just to meet the man and see his wares. The collaboration was an act of God, born in and of itself. Jane kept saying, "You must see him...you'll go apeshit when you see his stuff!" She was absolutely right...especially about the "apeshit" part! As soon as I walked through the door, I completely lost my mind.



Headpiece from Marilyn Manson video



MODELS

In Joan of Arc armour: JULIE STRAIN
Blonde: ELKE JENSEN - 26 time Playboy Playmate
Brunette: DEVIN DEVASQUEZ - Playboy Playmate
Model on Rocks: ARBAN
Asian Model: MIMI MIYABI
Page Four Model: KIRA BIRD



Blade by Little John



I was looking at the "blade" from the movie "BLADE," the Zorro sword, as well as the sword built for the CONAN the BARBARIAN tv series (The original sword for the CONAN movie was made by Jody Samson), the sword from HIGHLANDER 4, the Zorro movie sword, etc., etc., etc. (All were used later in this photo profile.



After the pile of drool had settled that I left on the floor directly under Tony's weapons...I mentioned to him that I was shooting JULIE STRAIN for a magazine cover that evening. Tony said he had worked with Julie on a few movies and he inquired as to what the styling of the shoot was to be. I told him that the magazine issue was called THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE.





So Tony walks over to a spot in his shop where this gorgeous chain mail piece was laying out and picks up another huge piece of armour. With his unique brand of blacksmith brilliance, Tony drops this bomb on his visiting fotog: "We'll why don't you shoot her like JOAN OF ARC? You can't get more feminist than that! Here,

I'll lend you this armour and you can just bring it back tomorrow."

Well, tomorrow came and went, the shoot went flawlessly (well, of course it did. I was shooting JULIE STRAIN!!!) and I ended up with some absolutely stunning images of Julie in Joan of Arc chain mail & armour. The sword we used in the Julie's shoot was, of course, her F.A.K.K. 2 sword from her movie. Julie is my favorite model (and friend) and I cherish the time I spend documenting her voluptuous form.



After the Julie shoot was completed and all her images had been processed, Julie suggested I continue on with the series and have the end result appear as a profile in **HEAVY METAL**.



Since they had never, ever featured a photographer before (Heavy Metal has always only published illustrators), I was jazzed to death by the factoring of this proposal.



So, I contacted Tony at SWORD & STONE once again and asked him if he'd like to initiate a collaboration for HEAVY METAL. Tony was up for it. I'm sure visions of naked femailian warrior princesses lounging around his shop might have sold him on the idea. So with that, I planned the shoot.

PART TWO...THE SHOOT

I had decided that the photo shoot would be story boarded and then broken down into three parts.

1. The Joan of Arc shoots with Julie were the first images and they were already "in the can." Those were taken against the black velvet backdrop right in the living room of Julie's own spacious residence.



Claw Sword





HIGHLANDER movie sword.

2. Would be photographed at Tony's shop, thereby giving it the "real-deal blacksmith shop" feel, where we could shoot sparks behind the camera and the girls would wear all the swords and armour as props. For this shoot, I would use two Playboy Playmates, ELKE JEINSEN and DEVIN DEVASQUEZ. Elke is a blonde, Devin darkhaired. I wanted a sort of salt vs. pepper look. Light vs. dark. And no foam-domes!!!



Head piece from Marilyn Manson video.



(Left) Elke with CONAN television series sword; (Right) Devin with Marines sword.

3. This shoot would have more of a 1,000,000 Years B.C., "cave girl" kind of feel to it. So I decided to shoot it on some big rocks in Chatsworth, CA. It's the actual spot where they shoot all of the western movies. An outside shoot would give a different feel altogether to both indoor shoots I had already styled. I would use Arban

(pronounced R-BONN) for this one. The knife that Arban used in the shoot was provided by LITTLE JOHN, a badass blademaker. That knife, with the birdface on the end of the handle and two skull-spawns by the blade, is now part of my private art collection. All of the other weapons, swords and costuming in the shoot, however, are from SWORD & STONE.



Marilyn Manson head piece with Soul Hunter scythe.



Blade by Little John.

Well, that's about it, kiddies. That's how it came into play. I wanted to do a cross between Frazetta meets "Untamed Warrior Women." Or, Xena times 10. Without the collaboration of TONY SWATTEN this profile never would have come to fruition. Also thanks to JANE McMANIGILL for the introduction which fused TONY and I together. Thanks to my gorgeous girls for being exciting canvases. The voluptuous palettes aiding me in my quest for beautiful imagery. Props to my pal Julie Strain for possessing the parameters from which all other models must be measured. And kudos to Tony Swatten, one rad, bad blacksmith.



Razor shoes & Soul Hunter scythe. The scythe was featured in the last season of *BABYLON 5*. The "Soul Hunters" were featured characters in this episode with Martin Sheen.



Blade by Little John.



Check website www.justicehoward.com for more HEAVY METAL imagery.

Peering Into Distant Corners

Jaded web surfers, UFOlogists, gamers, comics, horror, and sci-fi fans looking for a website that's definitely skewed toward the bizarre need scour the web no more for content they can sink their fangs into. Distant Corners is now online. (www.distantcorners.com premiered June 26, 2000) It's the latest generation multimedia web environment replete with current UFO sightings, a rotating lineup of webseries, a virtual museum of film memorabilia, celebrity guest appearances, gaming, film previews, and chat rooms (advertised with free e-mail and straight jackets, though lobotomies are not included). President and CEO Hegeman describes it as, "an entertainment company that creates horror and sci-fi franchise properties and introduces them to our audience via our online network, DistantCorners.Com. DistantCorners.Com is an Internet destination we like to call the last beacon of sanity, a place where horror and sci-fi fans can call home." So beyond simply providing entertainment, it's a launching pad for mainstream and cult concepts with a built-in way to field-test them through the stream of web denizens surfing by to check it out. On first consideration, Distant Corners' most innovative idea may be its streamlined melding of production, promotion, and experimentation.

In trying to create content that, "highlights the uniqueness of the Internet," Hegeman explains, "We try to find the right balance between providing information, giving the fans a platform to communicate with each other, and also to be entertained with...interesting original content."

"We have strong offline components to help support our efforts as the bandwidth evolves, with licensing and traditional production efforts; publishing, merchandise, games, TV shows and movies are part of our equation. The Internet efforts are a true companion piece to these areas, so it doesn't need to live or die on its own."

Future plans for Distant Corners are equally bold. 2001 will bring a Distant Corners comic book line, and further steps to establish a presence on television and films. "We want Distant Corners to be a brand that is known

across most major entertainment platforms."

Once you learn who's behind this media juggernaut, it's no surprise that it's such an innovative fusion of content and promotion. Its creators possess some truly impressive entertainment industry credentials, especially Producer/Director Joe Roth. Roth, head of Revolution Studios, is the founder of the Distant Corners Entertainment Group. Roth has the most impressive pedigree of any of the twisted innovators responsible for the site. He was the chairman

of Walt Disney Studios from 1996 through 2000, ran Caravan Pictures for two years, and was chairman of 20th Century Fox from 1989 until 1992. The different series developed at Distant Corners will form the nucleus of

Revolution Studios' pool of entertainment properties.

John Hegeman's web marketing company was responsible for the innovative *Blair Witch* website that made that fright film the phenomenon it was. Hegeman's company also created promotional websites for *Stargate*, *The Buena Vista Social Club* and many other films. Like several of his Dark Corners colleagues, Hegeman's roots are in the world of cult fare like *Day of the Dead* and *Kentucky Fried Movie*.

One of Distant Corners' most omnipresent creators, and one whose imagery plays a large part in the distinctive aura of menace the site exudes is Eli 5 Stone, late of *The Tick* comic. 5 Stone can best be called Distant Corners' chief designer, though he

lacks a formal title. "I need to invent a new buzzword that takes 'multitasking' a step further," says 5 Stone, suggesting, 'Megatasking? Omnitasking?' Asked about the scope of his role in creating Distant Corners, he states, "Generally speaking, I am responsible for creating and maintaining the Distant Corners universe (and its merchandising, advertising, letterhead, and so on.)...My characters and environments play host to all of these elements and more, giving the site a common theme...Each section of the web site now has its own character that greets you in its respective interface. But that's not enough for John (Hegeman) and it's not enough for me, either. No, these characters must have well-defined personality traits and back-stories, motivations and jealousies. The Distant Corners universe should be full

and rich and stand on its own."

When asked where he gets some of the twisted concepts he creates, he replies, "I'm a big fan of abnormal psychology, but I prefer to watch it in action rather than read about it."

The Masters of Horror and Sci-Fi channel

takes fans into the hearts of those two genres. The disembodied head of screenwriter and producer John Fasano (*Alien3*, *Universal Soldier 3*, *The Return*) hosts the **Dark Thoughts** channel. It's a kind of virtual talk show set in an office crammed with links to Fasano's new and old concepts, even to discarded ideas fished from a virtual trash can. Like CEO Hegeman, Fasano's filmic roots are in schlocky shockers like *Blood Sisters*, *The Edge of Hell*, and *Zombie Nightmare*. **Dark Thoughts** explores the horror genre with digital tours, original screenplays, music, film memorabilia (for sale!), animation, and a movie poster gallery from the films Fasano has written. Fasano has also lent his talents to conceiving six original ideas for the site.

His current offering, created in collaboration with Tim Hunter, is *Bad Vlad*, a violent retelling of the Dracula legend animated by the Moser Brothers, with a script by veteran comic book scribe Joe (X-Force, *The Search for Cyclops*, etc.) Harris.

Bob Balaban's **Closer Encounters** takes visitors to the science fiction end of the spectrum, and is one of Distant Corners' brightest spots (no pun intended). It's an interactive science fiction environment styled like the interior of a flying saucer features an animated Balaban as the host. A highly respected character actor (*Midnight Cowboy*, *Catch-22*), who also boasts impeccable science fiction credentials, Balaban is a perfect choice for a host. In addition to his acting credits, Balaban has latterly moved into the directing arena, directing the cannibal comedy *Parents*, the teen zombie comedy, *My Boyfriend's Back*, and is also active as a writer and producer.

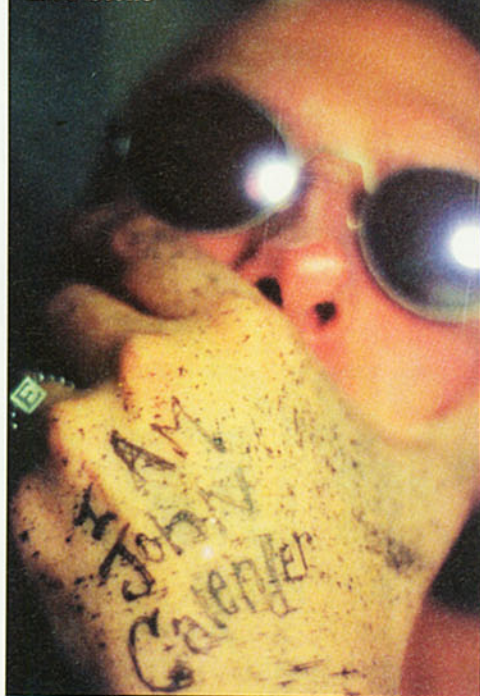
Balaban's own reasons for signing on as a sci-fi host are surprisingly obvious, "Science fiction is an ongoing part of my life because of acting in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, 2010, etc., and recent and future directing work for a new sci-fi series, *Dead Last*...that will be coming out on the WB (network) in the spring... I am truly fascinated by the whole subject."

His channel encompasses field trips to conventions, makeup studios, and the like, as well as cameo appearances by stars like fellow *Close Encounters* alum Richard Dreyfuss.

Balaban admits to a long-standing interest in UFOs that predates acting in *Close Encounters*. One of that film's technical advisors was UFO expert J. Allen Hynek. "While filming *Close Encounters* I spent a lot of time with Dr. Hynek, a scientist who worked on Project Blue Book, a UFO search sponsored by the Federal government. Hynek told me they found many examples of UFOs, but the official government report stated, 'nothing found.' I hope to do a segment with his son in the near future." One of the site's most interesting features is a UFO encyclopedia that encompasses the most commonly seen spacecraft, and alien body types. For those curious about UFOs, it presents a wealth of information in a very compact package.

Dark Corners also offers visitors the opportunity to download a 3-D tour of *Blair Witch* World that includes jaunts through Rustin Parr's house and the forbidding Black Hills Forest. In addition to the tour, there's also the *Blair Witch Testament*, an animated series that ends in a plug for Distant Corners'

Eli 5 Stone



Blair Witch comic book.

Wacked News features a daily dose of extreme weirdness, and it's real! There are ghost stories, UFO sightings, rains of fish, and all things paranormal.

Original Sins is DC's home of its original series, of which there are currently about eight. *Wicked*, with Frank Miller-esque art by Ray Martinez is a dark fantasy that should appeal to Heavy Metal fans.

Wish You Were Here allows web surfers to travel back in time to Jonestown, Lizzie Borden's trial, and other creepy historical happenings. The current installment is a retelling of the Jonestown massacre starting with the assassination of Congressman Leo Ryan and his party. It culminates with the deaths by poisoned fruit drink and bullets of the majority of Jonestown's 900+ occupants. Thankfully, Distant Corners' version isn't as grim as it could be. Oddly enough, being animated adds an element of psychological distance to the events without seeming to trivialize them.

Nightmares is just that, an animated sequence of nightmarish events that can be run with or without voice over narration. With its dreamy, disconnected narrative, it successfully evokes the feeling of a really bad dream. It should be noted that some of Distant Corners is too violent, or gross for really young viewers, though some programming features ratings. John Fasano's *Bad Vlad*, for instance, is rated 'R.'

Santarella PI was one of the site's first new features. Premiering in July of 2000, it was an interactive webseries (starring former NYPD gumshoe Arthur Nascarella) told via streaming video, background text, weblinks, photos, and a game called InTerRoGation that related the adventures of a retired detective turned private dick who bat-

tled the cybervillain Moledo and his "Legion of Thieves." Santarella was just one more

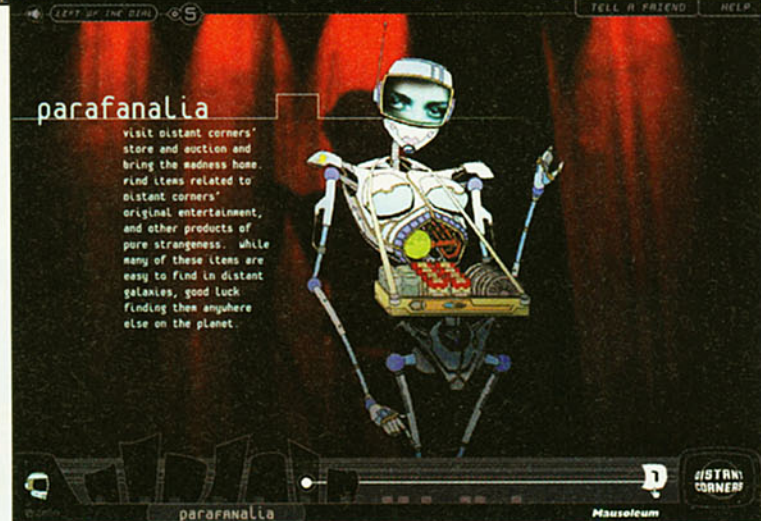
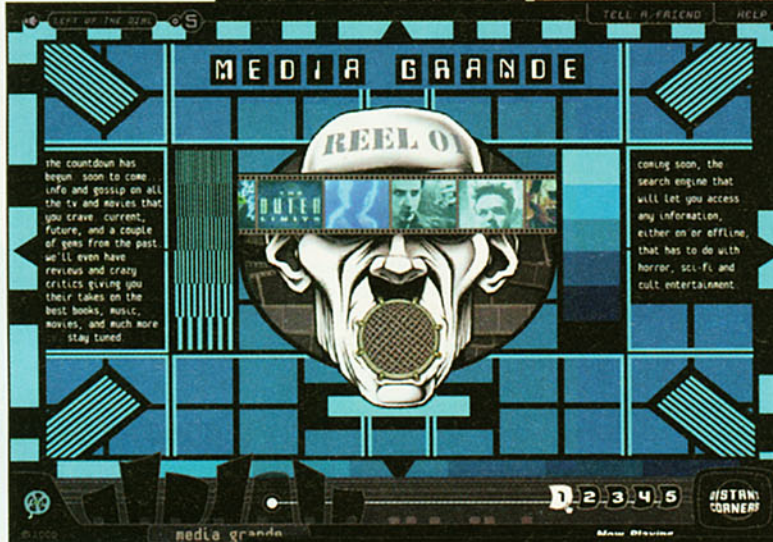
trio of young adventurers on a dangerous, dizzying documentary odyssey, visiting the world's wildest and most remote locations in search of bizarre customs and peoples. The current 'Destination' features a trip to uncover the mysteries of South America,

described as a clearinghouse of info about horror, sci-fi, books, comics, TV, movies, music, gaming, DVDs, celebrity gossip and so forth. Its comprehensive listing of science fiction, horror, and genre conventions is a useful feature for fans looking to find events in their region. Recent visits to the Distant Corners site enabled me to view streaming video trailers of several of this year's films of the fantastic, including the low-budget superhero parody *The Specials* (starring Rob Lowe), and *Shadow of the Vampire* (starring John Malkovich), a film about the filming of F.W. Murnau's vampire classic *Nosferatu*. Other previews on display included the Val Kilmer sci-fi opus *Red Planet*, and the Winona Ryder spooker *Lost Souls*. The only drawback is the small size of the image, approximately 1/4 of the screen. Still, for anyone interested in genre films, it's nice to have a representative sampling of current and upcoming releases in one place.

Aside from InterRoGation, the site's other games include *Brain Strain*, *Freak Out*, *Avenger*, and *Fite Nite*. The gaming area also includes a section of game previews and reviews.

All in all, the corners explored at the Distant Corners website are dark indeed, and that could be a problem. While well produced, interesting, and clever, the sinister content is only occasionally leavened by flashes of macabre or whimsical humor, leading to a certain sameness of tone. Though, in speaking of his ambitions for his own channel, Bob Balaban notes, "I feel the design for **Closer Encounters** is morphing, it's becoming funnier, quirkier, more personality specific. I would like my channel to be a little sillier, a little easier to access and for my character to have more zip! It's happening. It's all part of the growth process." That said, Distant Corners is off to a nasty, stylish start, though only time will tell if its high-tech blend of ghoulish fannishness and horror/sci-fi connoisseurship will establish the Distant Corners brand as an important one in the multimedia entertainment continuum of the new millennium.

Note: I'm always looking for new and unusual concepts, artists, writers, films, and cutting edge technologies to explore. If you're working on a project with a Heavy Metal edge, e-mail me at the address on this column or write in care of Heavy Metal.



example, notes Hegeman, of "Distant Corners' commitment to blend new and traditional technology for the purpose of creating a unique experience for the online audience."

Destination Unknown features a

parts, anyway).

ASYLUM is the Distant Corners' chatroom, where like-minded fan types can congregate and ruminate over all things dark and grisly.

MEDIA GRANDE can best be

Destination Unknown has real potential because it partakes of one of the real beauties of the Internet. You can sit in your room (in your underwear, even!), and have the entire world piped in (or the weird

THE TREND

BY MEREDITH BOGARD THEATRE OF TRAGEDY

Writers block S-U-C-K-S!!! So I've been out of commission for awhile, thinking of some new ingenious way to criticize some new group's attempt at pop rock. Didn't work. Back to my hardcore drawing board.

I popped in **Theatre of Tragedy** and to my delight, listened carefully to an anti-tragic sound. Blending gothic rock, synthesized metal, and a kick-ass harmony of vocals...I got over my stint of writing-phobia.

Opening with **Machine**, on their 2000 release, **Musique**, sent shivers down my throat. The element of that old sonic resonance, develops **Theatre of Tragedy** into their own method of 2000 pioneers of sound and exposure to mystical euphony. Co-vocalist, Liv Kristine Espenæs, harmonizes with modernly tranquil Raymond Rohonni exceptionally well. I see **Blondie** for the millenium in Ms. Espenæs...

Don't be alarmed that they have worked damn hard for this success they are finding in this new "Gen Y" era. They have a slew of tunes under their belt:

Der tranz Der Schatten – 1996

A Rose For the Dead – 1997

Cassandra – 1998

Velvet Darkness They Fear – 1999

Image – 2000

This year, **Theatre of Tragedy** is determined to conquer the world, by signing to Nuclear Blast America, and West Records in Germany, leaving behind their mentor label, Massacre Records.

A great move I might add...with depressing yet romantically pleading lyrics leading their way on



Musique, this Norwegian band is bound to impress the likes of all ages, 6 and above. Well, maybe 16 and above. But no matter.

Theatre of Tragedy has secured a polished and confident sound easily identified in **Radio**, **Image**, and **Musique** while keeping up their raw and gritty attitude on **Crash/Concrete**. And no, not all their songs are one-worded titles. For instance, track 11 is

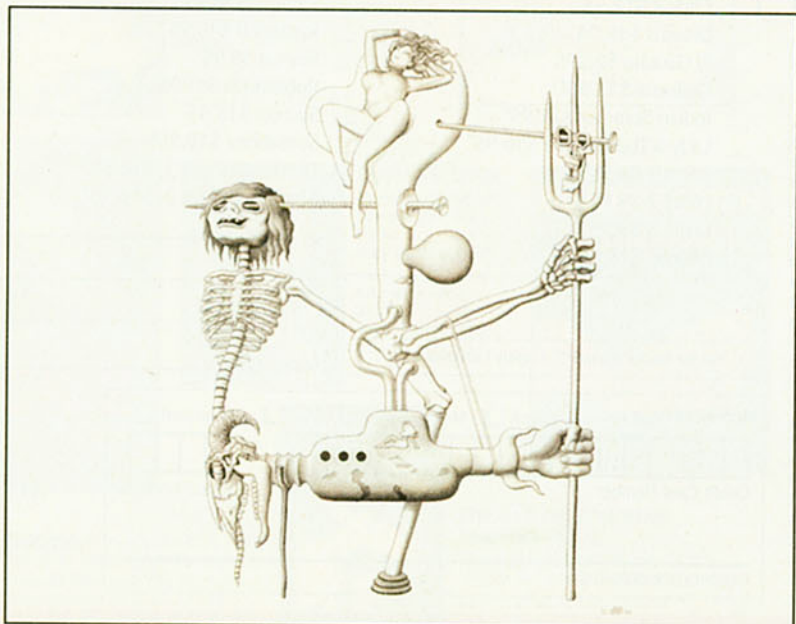
called **kocm_ecka_pa**. Sorry, I can't identify more than that. But hey – looks interesting, doesn't it?

It even sounds interesting. Beginning with an enveloping melody of synthesized sound waves and subtle rhythm, it's practically a soothing experience. A rather spaced-age fantasy to unintentionally mind-fuck us all. What a great way to travel.

Theatre of Tragedy's Musique was actually more than I bargained for. I of course ran through the who's who, and what's what of a modern-day band, and found ultra stardom lurking in undiscovered territory. With the rhythm of Hein Frode Hansen, power licks featured by Frank Claussen, and Lorentz Aspen's psychedelic keyboard playing, I hope to empower that post-goth thrown away decade and relive it through **Tragedy**.

There are worse things in the world than a tragedy...there is still my unconsciously run writer's block.

Stay tuned...



© ALLAN BAKER

The Strangest Outpost

To Federation colonists on remote CeiTai Folix12
the inexplicable is routine.

Perhaps the most intriguing of human outposts is a world on the fringes of the Federation space. Discovered over seventy years ago by Tsailerol sub light cruisers, the world they named CeiTai Folix is aptly described by the name's translation, 'Place of Riddles.'

"When you go to a planet you expect to make an impact on the life forms you find there. But after a year on this planet I'm still not sure the inhabitants are aware of us," says Bojdaan Zub, shuttle pilot for the CeiTai Folix colony. Like all the colonists in this remote outpost, avoidance and non-involvement with the "locals" are the order of the day.

Usually the *Colonial Imperative* is the hardest rule to follow, but for the 37 humans and Tsailerol living in this single outpost on CeiTai's equator, the problem seems to be the opposite.

Pictured on the opposite page are two of the many peculiarities that abound on this mystifying world. What appears to be a castle or intricately carved monolith is really a sort of factory or machine whose purpose is unknown. What appeared to be a Gothic styled doorway turned out to be just an inset of solid stone.

Another mystery of this world are the roads. There are thousands of them and they cover great distances. One roadway was traced for over 2000 km before ending in a swamp. Like all the roads, it seemed to lead nowhere.

Then there are the creatures that travel the roadways. They come from underground near marshes and swamps and appear to be amphibious, since they seem undaunted by liquid or dry environments. Yet to be observed are any feeding or mating habits. They make no sound.

None of these black formless creatures has ever been seen on the roadways without a strange decorated shell, like the one shown at right. Note that something resembling a head protrudes from the

upper front and grasping arms wave continually as it moves. And it moves slowly, stopping every hundred meters or so, then moving on, leaving green trails of slime where it stopped. Rain causes the excrement to dissolve and spread out, becoming another layer of road surface.

It is assumed the creatures built the roads in this way. But their purpose remains a mystery.

"We [used the roads] ourselves and encountered [one or two of the] beings. They [do not] mind our [being] here, [but] don't move [out of the] way, either." Says JsG15^{RegTsai}, a Tsai colonist and offspring of the planet's discoverer, STsG5^{RegTsai}.

Another oddity pictured here are the flocks of bat-like animals which appear threatening but are not predatory. Occasionally they can be seen sweeping over the marshlands. Since no specimens have been studied, these too remain a mystery.

The CeiTai Folix colony seen in the distance (and in the inset, opposite page) is self sufficient and keeps in close contact with an orbiting station in space. The beam of light is a laser floodlight which serves two purposes; to sterilize gasses ingested from the environment for use by the colony, and to insulate a tachyon communications beam so that it won't react with the atmosphere. The beam is used only when necessary and switched off if flocks of "bats" are in the area.

Colonial life is usually hazardous duty. But on CeiTai Folix, fear and caution are replaced by puzzlement and mystery. "We'll eventually unlock the secrets of the towers and the roads," said a human colonist. "Planets are like single organisms. To truly understand them, you have to learn how all their parts work together. It takes time. Lots of time." ☺



GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC

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WWW.MEMBERS.HOME.NET/GGEOGRAPHIC





THE POST IS DIGGING INTO MY BACK.
IT HURTS, BUT I DON'T CARE.

IT DON'T MATTER.

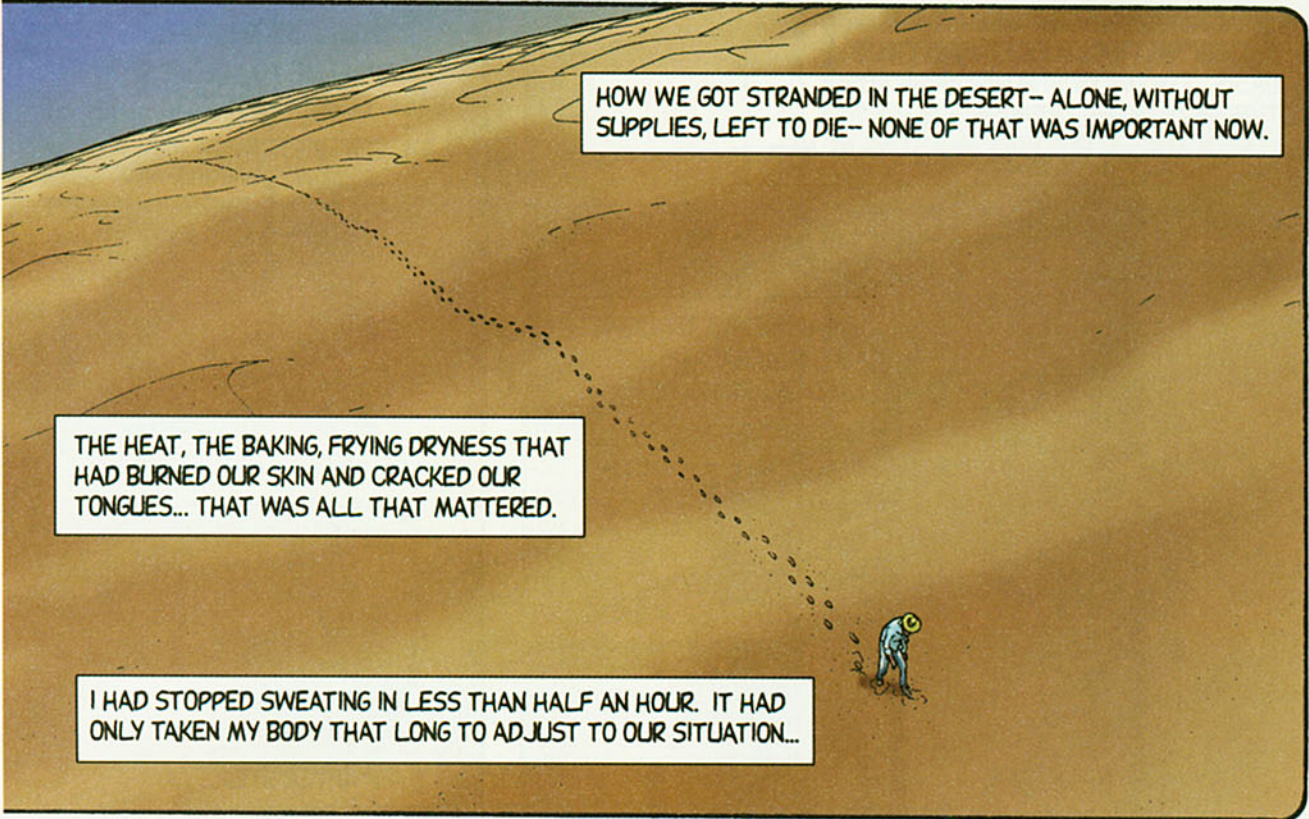
NOTHIN' MATTERS.

EXCEPT WAITING FOR TOM.

the LONGEST pleasure

"NOW, HATRED IS BY FAR THE LONGEST PLEASURE.
MEN LOVE IN HASTE, BUT THEY DETEST AT LEISURE."

— LORD BYRON



HOW WE GOT STRANDED IN THE DESERT— ALONE, WITHOUT SUPPLIES, LEFT TO DIE— NONE OF THAT WAS IMPORTANT NOW.

THE HEAT, THE BAKING, FRYING DRYNESS THAT HAD BURNED OUR SKIN AND CRACKED OUR TONGUES... THAT WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.

I HAD STOPPED SWEATING IN LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR. IT HAD ONLY TAKEN MY BODY THAT LONG TO ADJUST TO OUR SITUATION...



TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE LOST IN A HELL OF BURNING GLARE AND BLINDING PAIN...

AND THAT IT WAS GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING WE HAD TO GET OURSELVES OUT ALIVE.



WHERE TOM WAS AT THAT POINT, I DIDN'T KNOW. OR CARE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM.

I HAD HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

IT TOOK ME TWO DAYS TO FIND THE OASIS. TWO DAYS STRUGGLING ACROSS THE FIERY SANDS. ACROSS THE SUFFOCATING FORGE EVER BLASTING AT ME--

DRAINING ME, REDUCING ME, SEARING AND BOILING AND CHARRING ME--

STRIPPING ME TO THE MOST BASIC COMPONENTS...

THOSE THAT KEPT ONE FOOT MOVING AFTER THE OTHER.

STEP AFTER STEP...

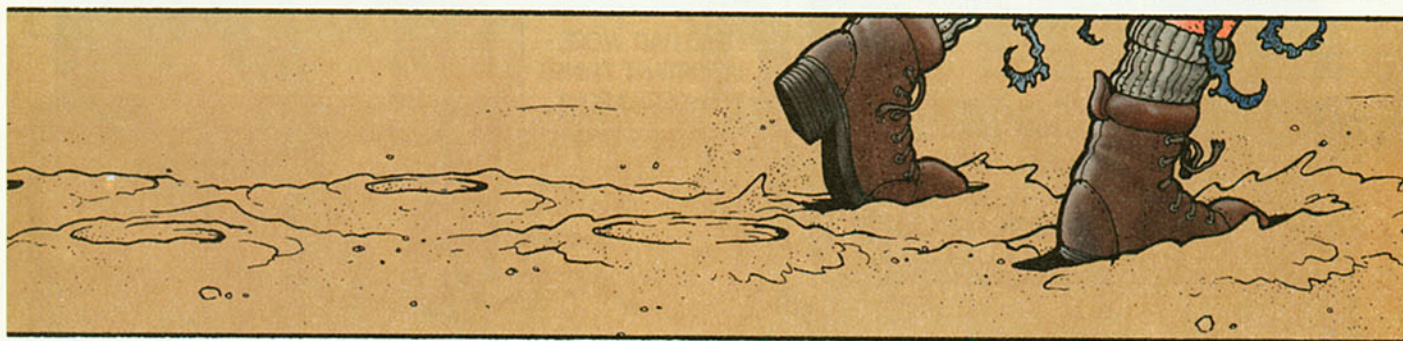
STEP AFTER STEP...

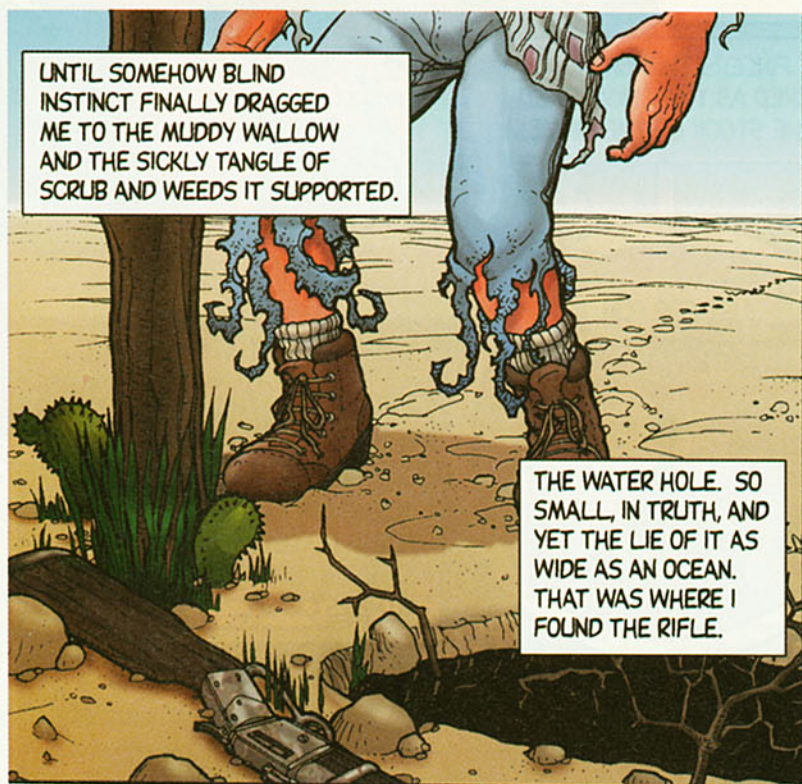
STEP...

AFTER...

STEP...

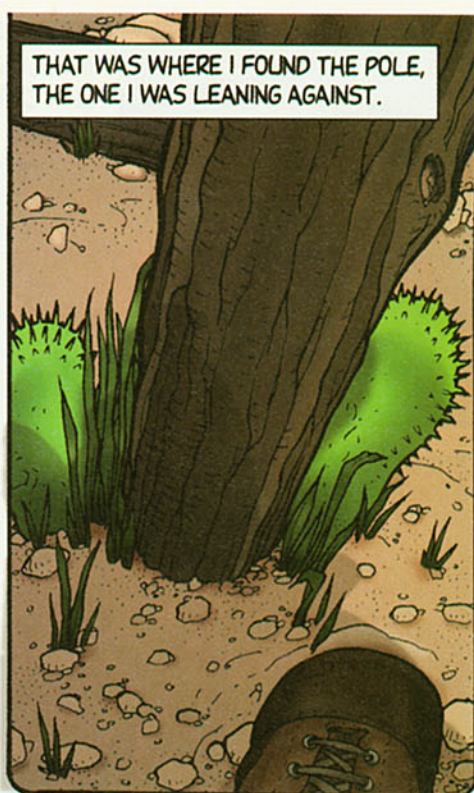
AFTER STEP.





UNTIL SOMEHOW BLIND
INSTINCT FINALLY DRAGGED
ME TO THE MUDDY WALLOW
AND THE SICKLY TANGLE OF
SCRUB AND WEEDS IT SUPPORTED.

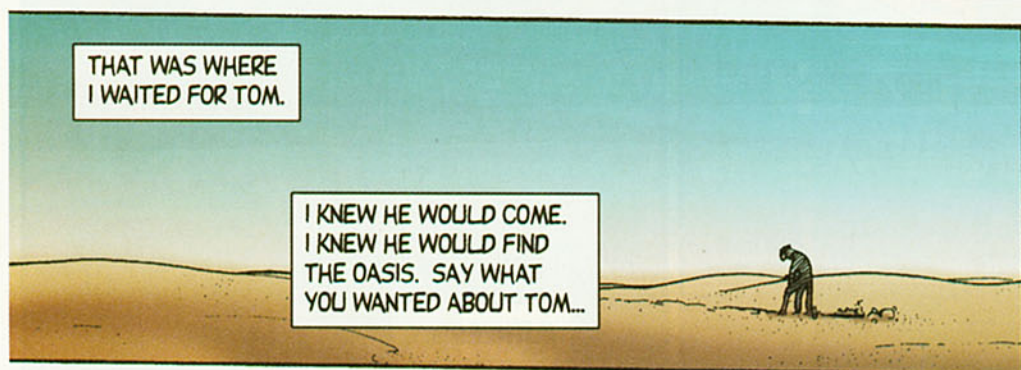
THE WATER HOLE. SO
SMALL, IN TRUTH, AND
YET THE LIE OF IT AS
WIDE AS AN OCEAN.
THAT WAS WHERE I
FOUND THE RIFLE.



THAT WAS WHERE I FOUND THE POLE,
THE ONE I WAS LEANING AGAINST.



THE ONE THAT DUG SO
CRUELLY INTO MY BACK.



THAT WAS WHERE
I WAITED FOR TOM.

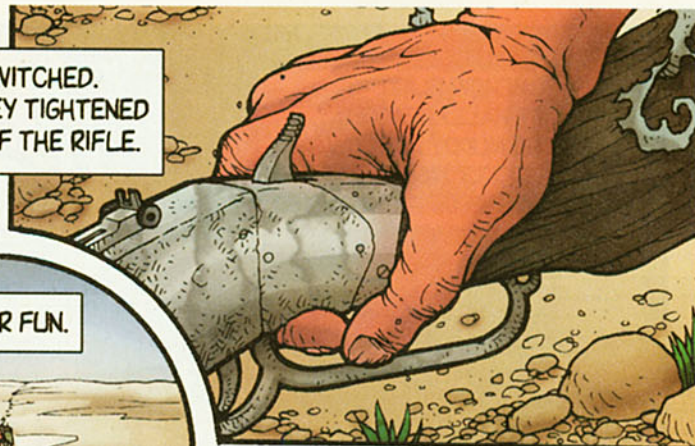
I KNEW HE WOULD COME.
I KNEW HE WOULD FIND
THE OASIS. SAY WHAT
YOU WANTED ABOUT TOM...



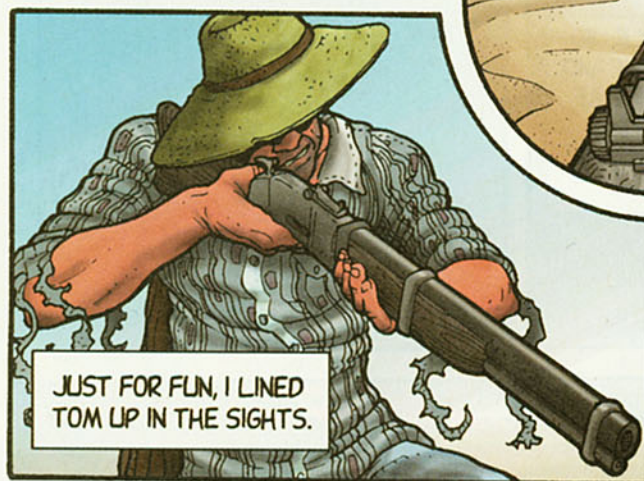
HE WAS A SURVIVOR.



MY BURNT FINGERS TWITCHED.
SKIN CRACKED AS THEY TIGHTENED
AROUND THE STOCK OF THE RIFLE.



JUST FOR FUN.

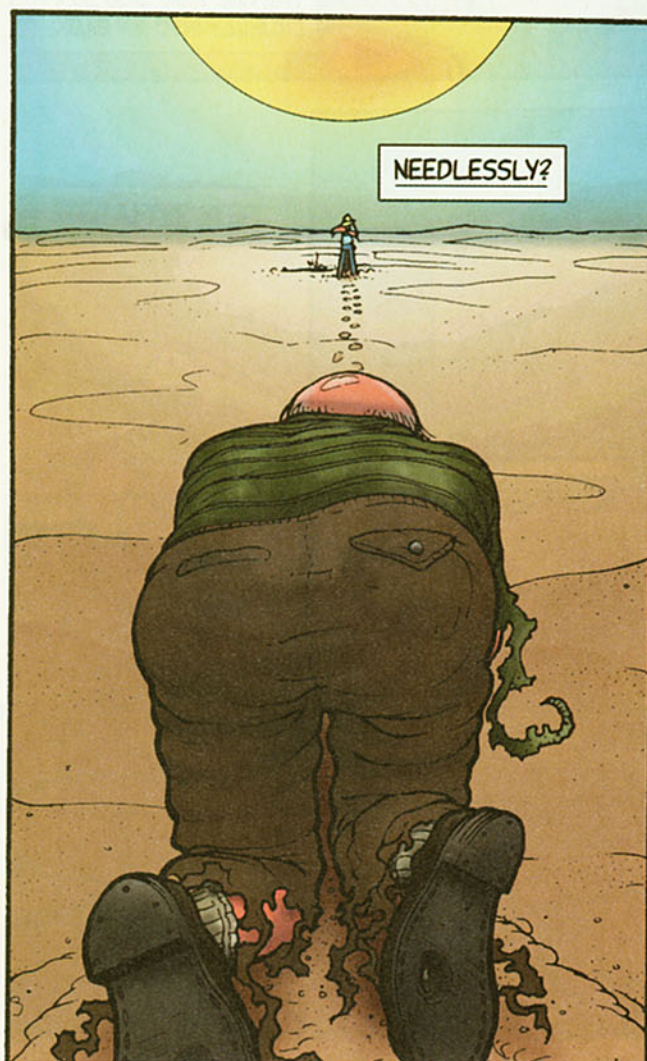


JUST FOR FUN, I LINED
TOM UP IN THE SIGHTS.

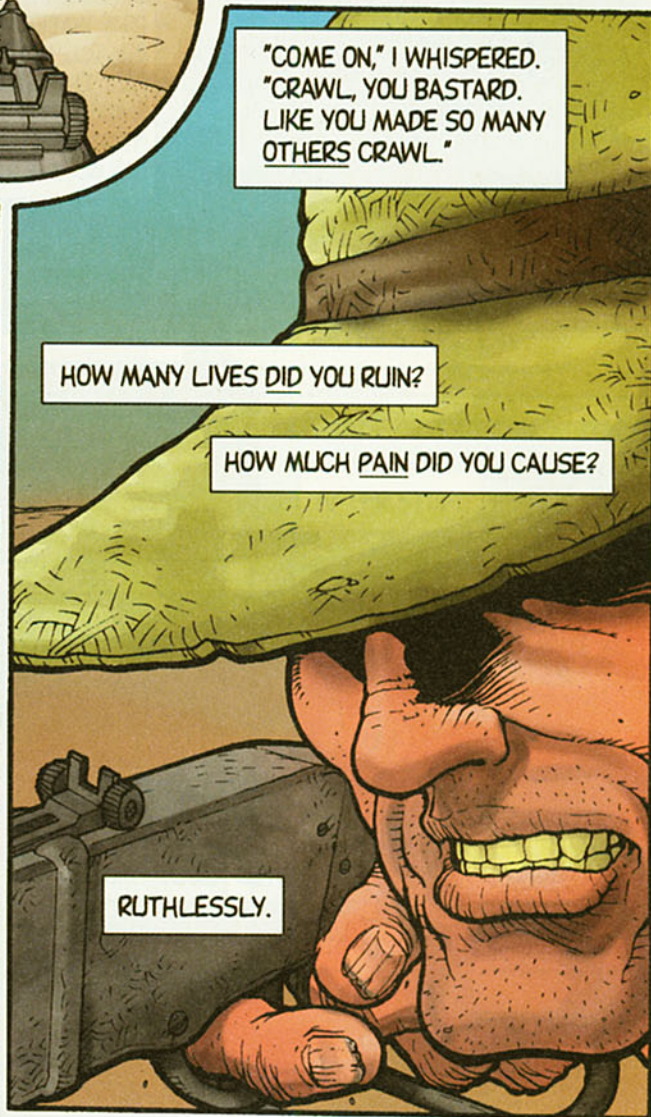
"COME ON," I WHISPERED.
"CRAWL, YOU BASTARD.
LIKE YOU MADE SO MANY
OTHERS CRAWL."

HOW MANY LIVES DID YOU RUIN?

HOW MUCH PAIN DID YOU CAUSE?



NEEDLESSLY?



RUTHLESSLY.



YOU'RE STILL IN MY
SIGHTS, TOM. BUT
SUDDENLY IT'S NOT SO
MUCH FUN ANYMORE.

SUDDENLY, I DON'T CARE TO LET YOU REACH THE WATER. SOMEHOW, SEEING YOU CRAWL TOWARD ME— HEAD GLEAMING IN THE SUNLIGHT...

SUCH A TEMPTING... PERFECT TARGET...

ONE BULLET—

AN EASY SHOT— A SIMPLE PULL...

AND IT WOULD ALL... FINALLY BE OVER.

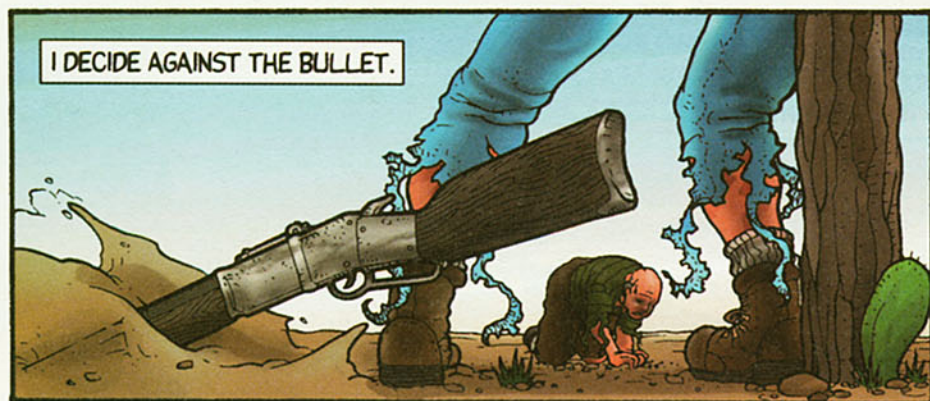
I COULD MOVE AWAY FROM THIS PAINFUL POST... AND MAKE MY OWN THIRSTY WAY OUT OF THIS INFERNO.

JUST ONE...

EASY...

SHOT.

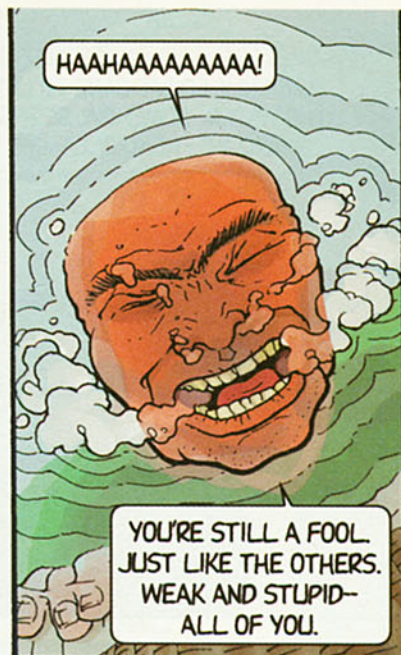




I DECIDE AGAINST THE BULLET.



LET HIM DRINK.



HAHAHAHAHAHA!

YOU'RE STILL A FOOL.
JUST LIKE THE OTHERS.
WEAK AND STUPID—
ALL OF YOU.



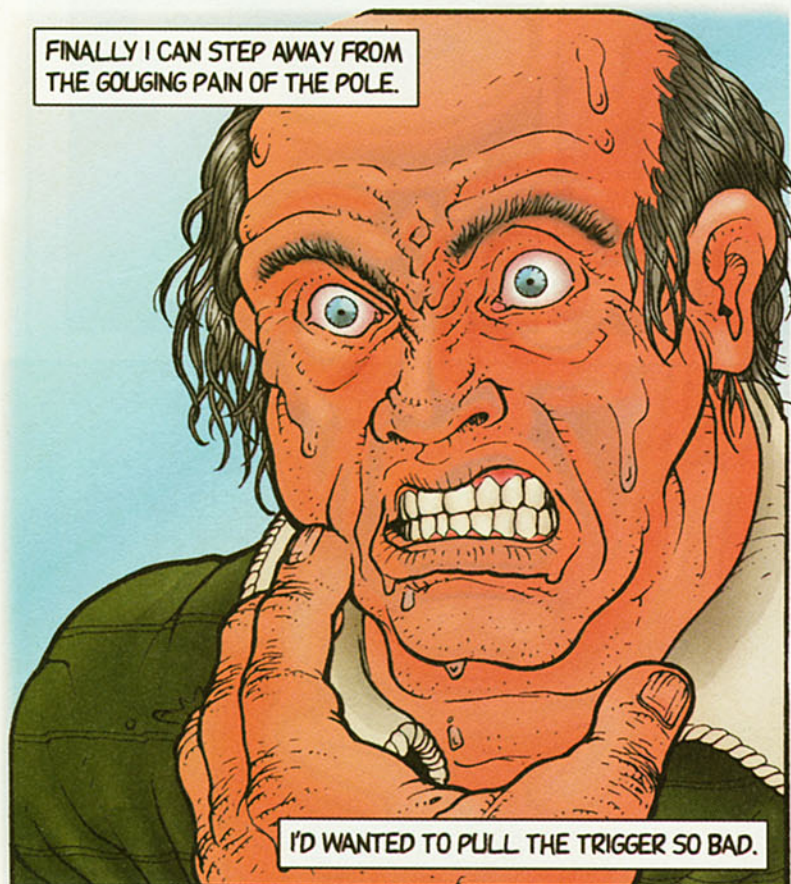
THAT'S WHY I
ALWAYS WON.



THAT'S WHY
I ALWAYS—



FINALLY.




FINALLY I CAN STEP AWAY FROM
THE GOUGING PAIN OF THE POLE.

I'D WANTED TO PULL THE TRIGGER SO BAD.



NOW I'M SO
GLAD I DIDN'T



A BULLET WOULD'VE BEEN TOO CLEAN.

TOO EASY.

REMEMBER ME OVER THE NEXT
FEW HOURS, TOM. AS YOUR GUTS
BOIL AND YOUR STOMACH BLEEDS.

REMEMBER THE STUPID
WEAKNESS I SHOWED IN
LETTING YOU GOBBLE
DOWN YOUR DEATH.

I HAVEN'T HAD A DRINK IN THREE
DAYS. BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.
WORTH WAITING FOR YOU TO
CATCH UP WITH ME. WORTH IT
TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE...

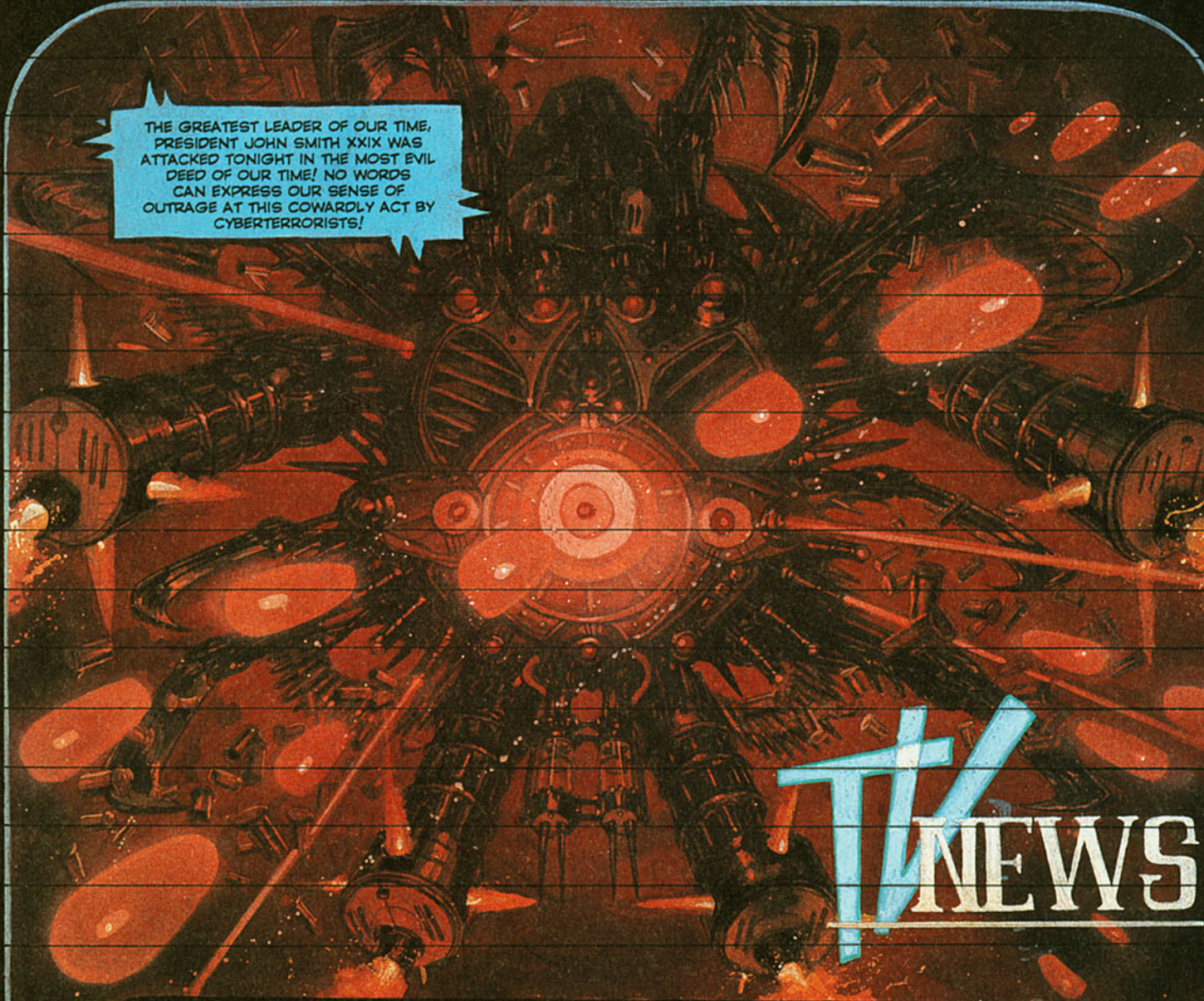
PERHAPS I WON'T SURVIVE.
MAYBE MY HATE'S KILLED
THE BOTH OF US.

AT THIS POINT IT
DOESN'T MATTER

I CAN DIE HAPPY BECAUSE
I'VE REAPED ALL THE PLEASURE
I NEED FROM LIFE NOW.

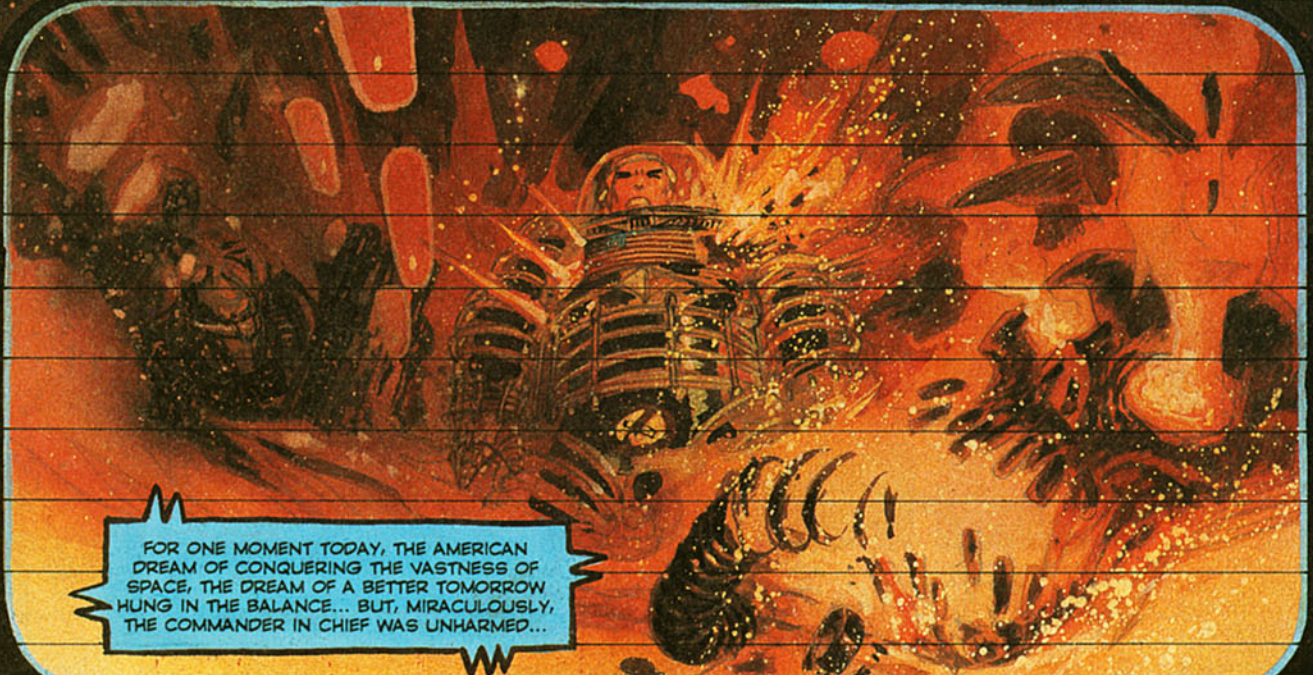
ALL I COULD WANT.

THE LONGEST PLEASURE OF ALL.



THE GREATEST LEADER OF OUR TIME,
PRESIDENT JOHN SMITH XXIX WAS
ATTACKED TONIGHT IN THE MOST EVIL
DEED OF OUR TIME! NO WORDS
CAN EXPRESS OUR SENSE OF
OUTRAGE AT THIS COWARDLY ACT BY
CYBERTERRORISTS!

TV
NEWS



FOR ONE MOMENT TODAY, THE AMERICAN
DREAM OF CONQUERING THE VASTNESS OF
SPACE, THE DREAM OF A BETTER TOMORROW
HUNG IN THE BALANCE... BUT, MIRACULOUSLY,
THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF WAS UNHARMED...

WW

... GOING INTO ACTION SINGLE-HANDED AGAINST THE ROBOT ASSASSIN. WE WERE REMINDED OF HIS LAST SPEECH ABOUT THE DANGERS OF CYBERPORN...

"MY FELLOW AMERICANS, NO WEAPON IS AS FORMIDABLE AS THE COURAGE OF FREE MEN..."

OK!

SKOVK!


"SO LET THERE BE NO QUARTER IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE FOE... WE WILL MEET THIS ENEMY ON A HUNDRED BATTLEFIELDS..."

SHUCKS!

"UNTIL WE HAVE FREED OUR COUNTRY FROM THE EVIL THAT IS POLLUTING THE MINDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE... TELL THE CYBER-PUSHERS..."

LOG OFF!

TV NEWS



"IT'S TIME WE IN AMERICA
STOOD UP TO THOSE WHO
ARE CORRUPTING PUBLIC
MORALS WITH THEIR FILTHY
MACHINES, FLOODING THE
LAND WITH A HORDE OF
DEGENERATES..."

"FOR CYBERSEX HAS THE PROPERTY OF A
DRUG... PENETRATING INTO THE NERVE
FIBERS OF THE BRAIN... PRODUCING A
CRAVING FOR MORE..."

"PARALYZING OUR MORAL SENSES...
OUR RECOGNITION OF RIGHT AND
WRONG... CAUSING ADDICTS TO COMMIT
UNNATURAL AND HIDEOUS CRIMES."

"I'M OKAY, FOLKS—
I REMEMBERED
TO DUCK!"

THE MASTERMIND WHO CONTROLLED
THE ROBOT HAS BEEN ARRESTED...
LIEUTENANT DUFFY OF THE NEPO...

BEEP YOU ALL!
WHY DON'T YOU
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP?
UP YOUR BEEP! YOU
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

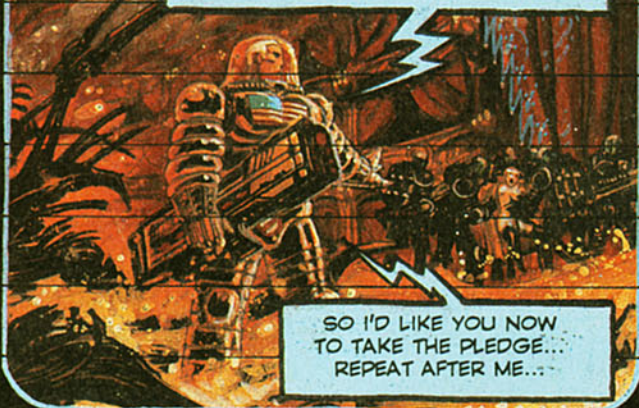
CYBERWITCH!

"IT IS NOW KNOWN THAT DUFFY IS AN
ADDICT AND HELPED SULFURA,
QUEEN OF CYBERSEX, TO HAVE SEX
WITH MULTIPLE USERS..."

LISTEN, YOU
BEEP! BEEP!
JACK IN AND
JACK OFF WITH
SULFURA... YOU
CAN BEEP! BEEP!

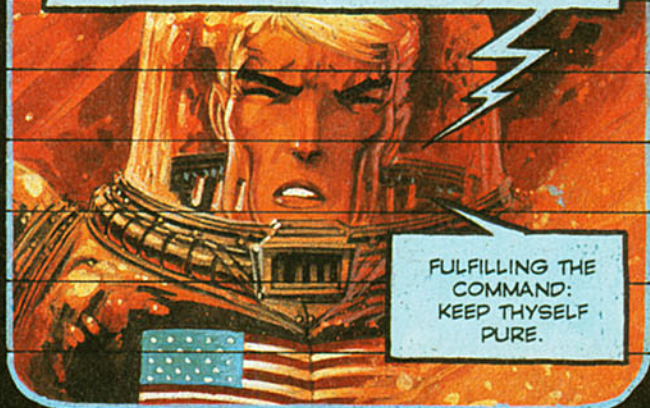
AND ENJOY A BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! WITH
THE BEEP OF YOUR DIRTIEST, BEEP! BEEP
DREAMS! YOU'LL BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! UNTIL
YOU BEEP!

I'M MINDFUL THAT CYBERPORN IS
A CONSTANT TEMPTATION FOR
MILLIONS... BUT YOU SEE THE
TERRIBLE EFFECT THIS DISEASE HAS...



SO I'D LIKE YOU NOW
TO TAKE THE PLEDGE...
REPEAT AFTER ME...

I HEREBY SOLEMNLY PROMISE TO ABSTAIN FROM
ALL FORMS OF ELECTRONIC INTERCOURSE,
INCLUDING THE USE OF GLOVES AND
GOGGLES...



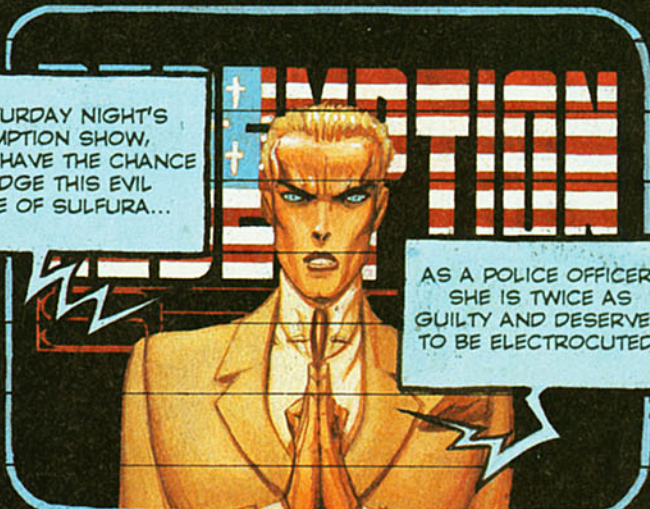
FULFILLING THE
COMMAND:
KEEP THYSELF
PURE.

GOD BLESS
YOU AND
GOODNIGHT.



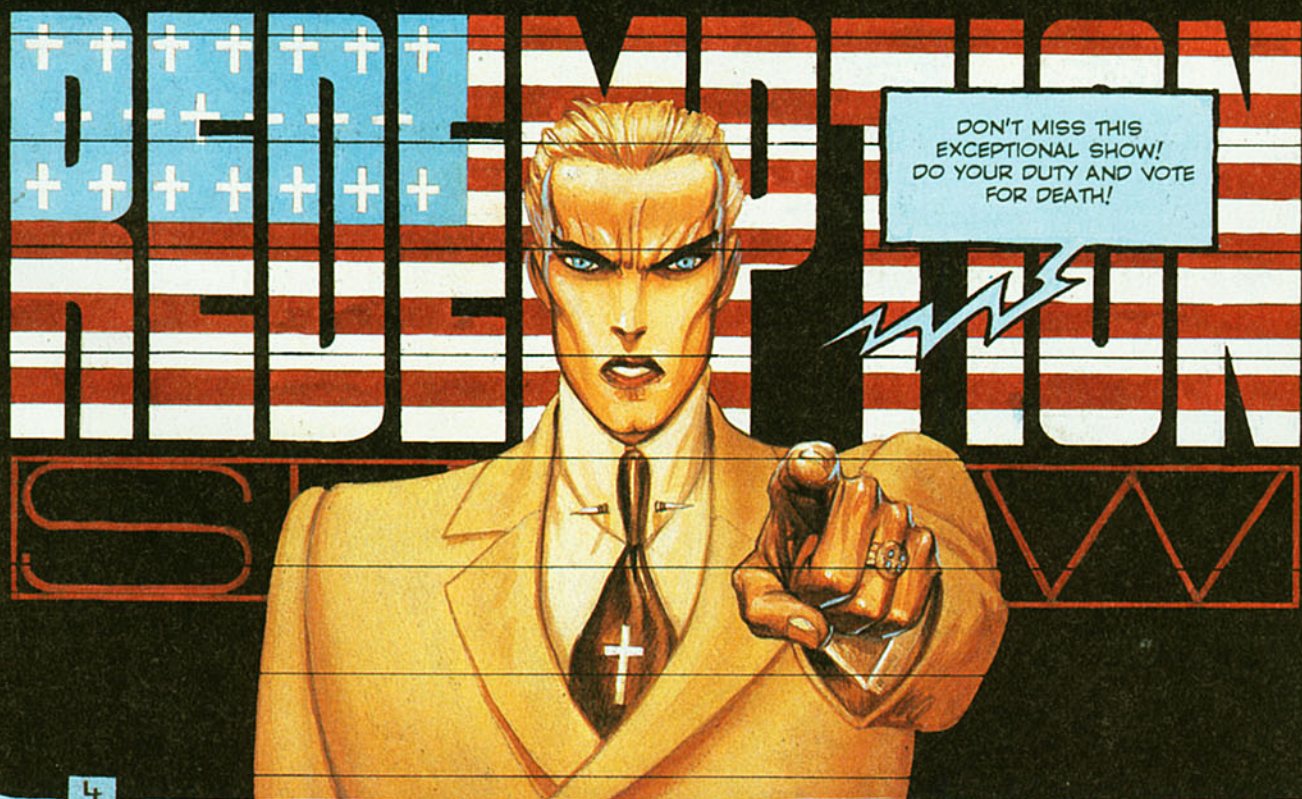
THANK YOU,
MR. PRESI-
DENT.

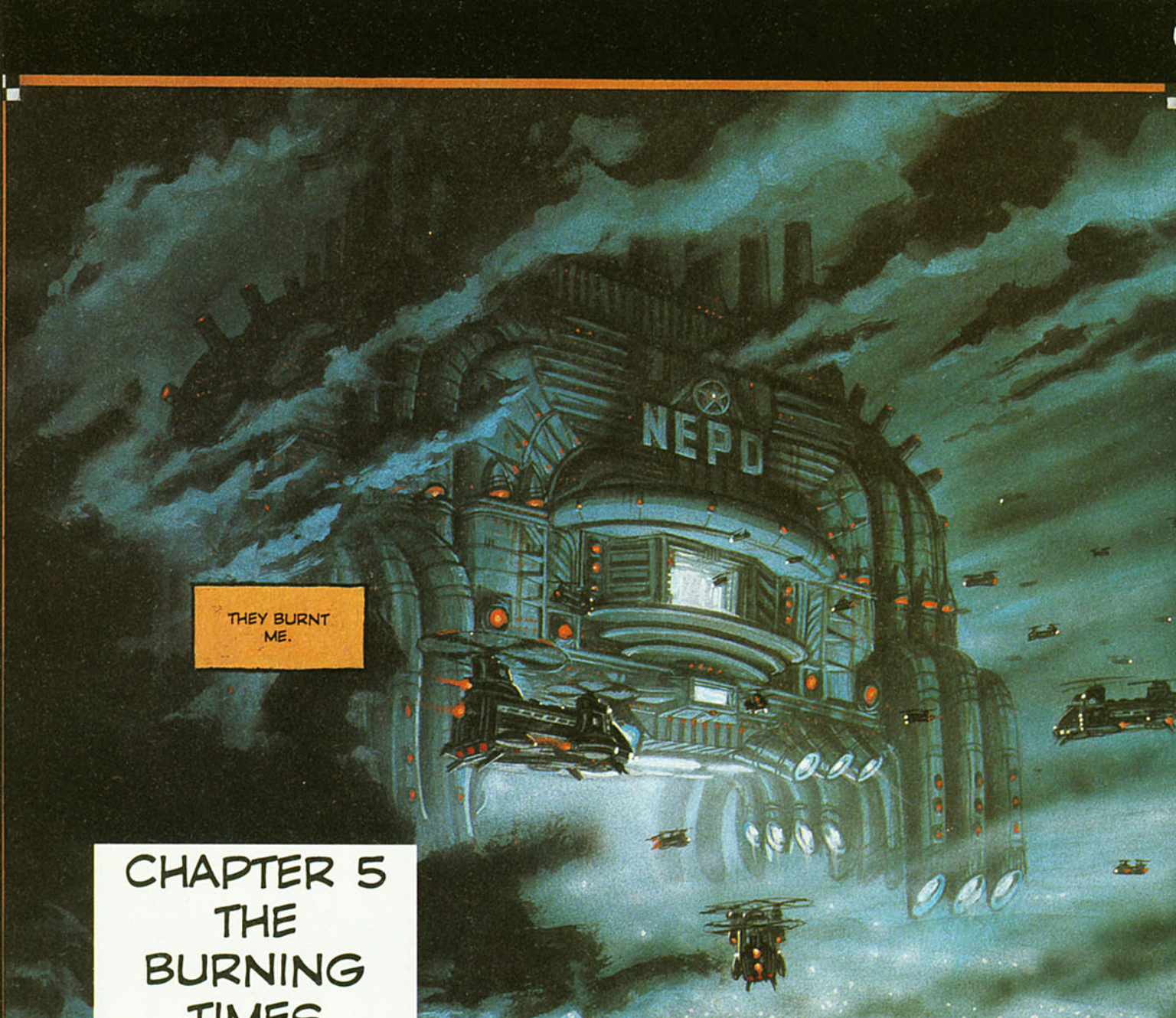
ON SATURDAY NIGHT'S
REDEMPTION SHOW,
YOU WILL HAVE THE CHANCE
TO JUDGE THIS EVIL
DISCIPLE OF SULFURA...



AS A POLICE OFFICER,
SHE IS TWICE AS
GUILTY AND DESERVES
TO BE ELECTROCUTED.

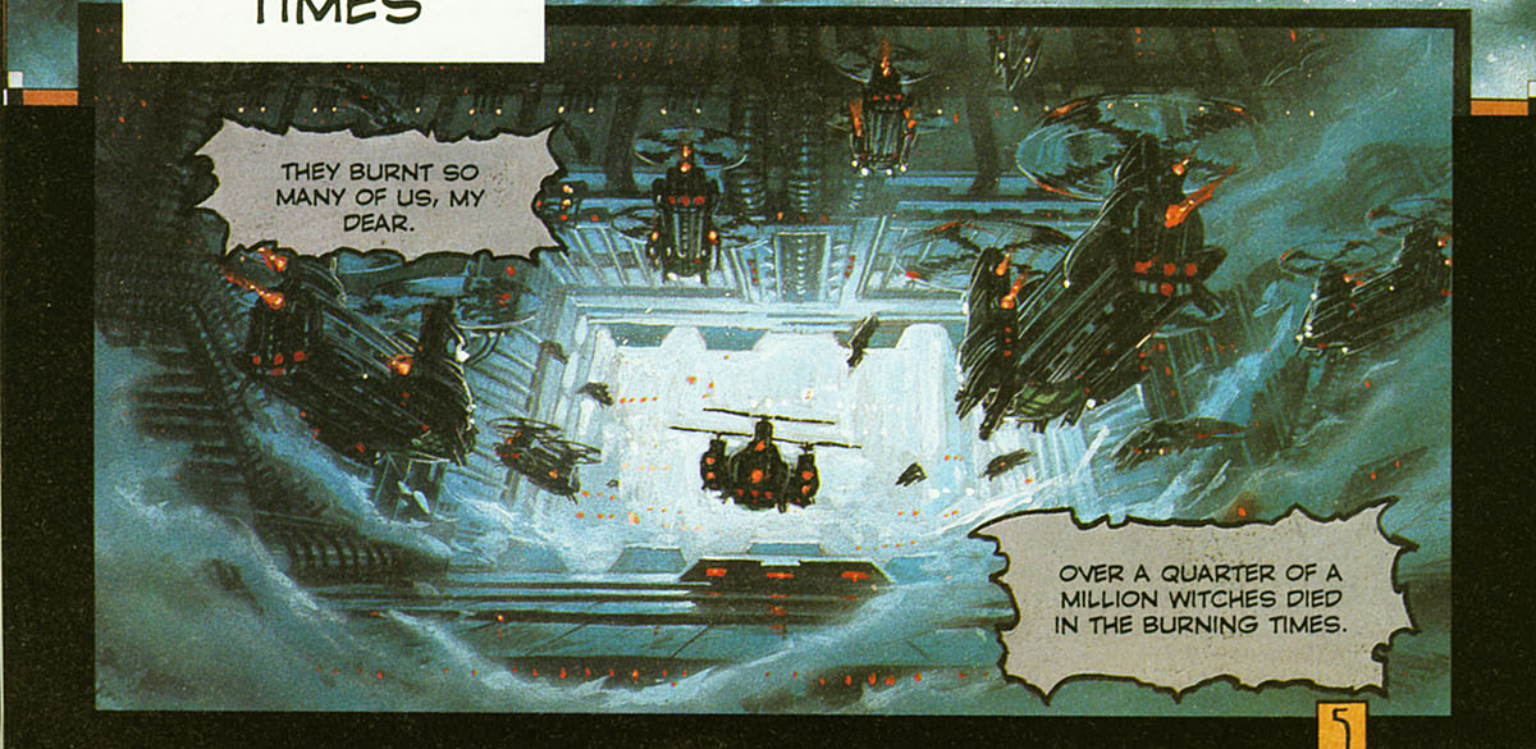
DON'T MISS THIS
EXCEPTIONAL SHOW!
DO YOUR DUTY AND VOTE
FOR DEATH!





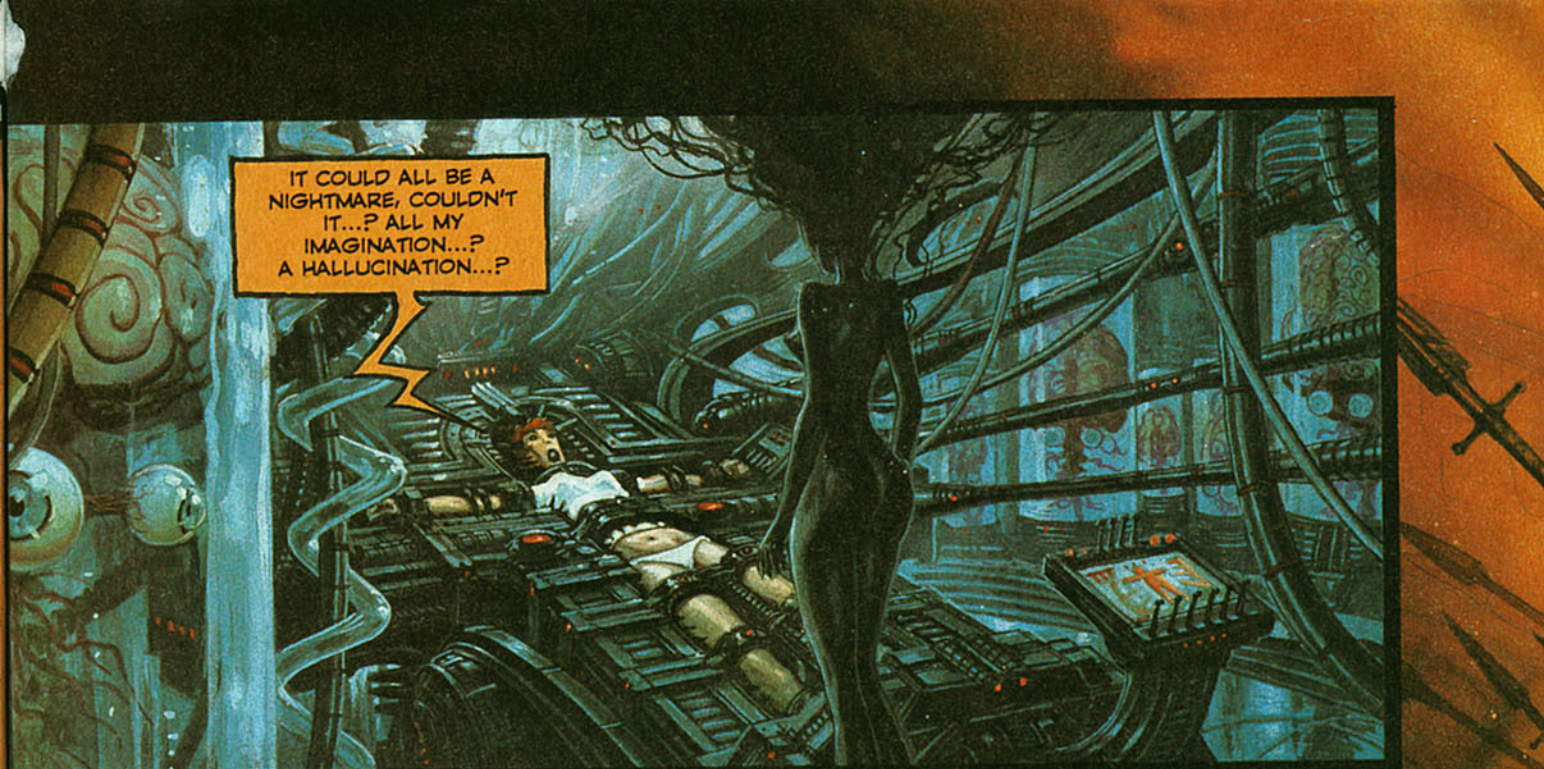
THEY BURNT
ME.

CHAPTER 5 THE BURNING TIMES




THEY BURNT SO
MANY OF US, MY
DEAR.

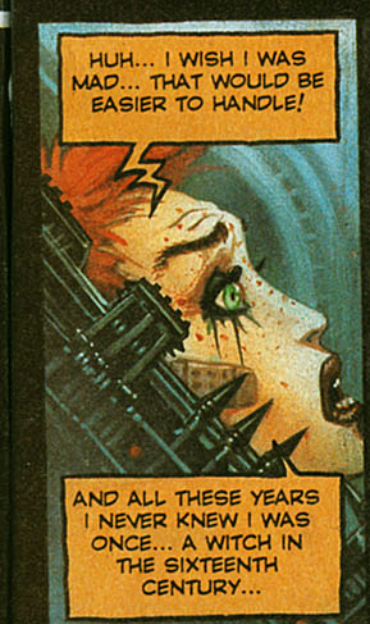
OVER A QUARTER OF A
MILLION WITCHES DIED
IN THE BURNING TIMES.



IT COULD ALL BE A NIGHTMARE, COULDN'T IT...? ALL MY IMAGINATION...? A HALLUCINATION...?




MAYBE I'M SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER...? FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME...? THE MIND CAN PLAY STRANGE TRICKS... AND MY BROTHER'S A BIT MAD...



HUH... I WISH I WAS MAD... THAT WOULD BE EASIER TO HANDLE!

AND ALL THESE YEARS I NEVER KNEW I WAS ONCE... A WITCH IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY...



AND YET... I DID...

I ALWAYS HAVE...



I DIDN'T WANT THIS. I DIDN'T NEED THIS. I REALLY DIDN'T NEED THIS!

YOU CALLED ON ME FOR HELP, MY DEAR. AND I ANSWERED.

ALL THE KILLINGS YOU INVESTIGATED WERE REALLY YOUR DOING... ACTS OF REVENGE YOU ORDERED...



THE DUKE WHO
LED THE WITCH
HUNT...

... WAS REINCARNATED
AS ARMS DEALER,
THOMAS ADAMS... HE COM-
MITTED SUICIDE RATHER
THAN FACE YOUR ANGER...

THE MONK
WHO RAPED
YOU...

... CAME BACK AS THE
FOOD TYCOON,
BIG MAX AND DIED
IN AGONY...

YOUR BEST FRIEND,
DOMINIQUE WAS A
MEMBER OF YOUR
COVEN...

SHE RETURNED AS MADAM
MESSONNE... AND FACES
A SLOW, TERRIBLE DEATH
FOR BETRAYING YOU...



... WHICH LEAVES
OFFALLE... THE
TORTURER...

AND THE REVEREND
GREY... THE
INQUISITOR...

YEAH... I SAID I'D
COME BACK AND
MAKE THEM ALL
BURN!



BUT WHY AM I ABLE
TO REMEMBER...?
WHY CAN'T
EVERYONE RECALL
THEIR PAST
LIVES...?

BECAUSE,
ALTHOUGH WE
LOOK HUMAN,
WITCHES ARE
ACTUALLY A
DIFFERENT
SPECIES...



HUMAN INCARNA-
TIONS ARE LINKS
IN A CHAIN... ONLY
VAGUE MEMORIES
ARE CARRIED
FROM ONE LINK TO
THE NEXT...

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT
FOR WITCHES...
OUR INCARNA-
TIONS ARE LIKE A
RING... IT'S ALL
ONE LIFE...



BUT YOU...
YOU'RE MORE
THAN A
WITCH...?

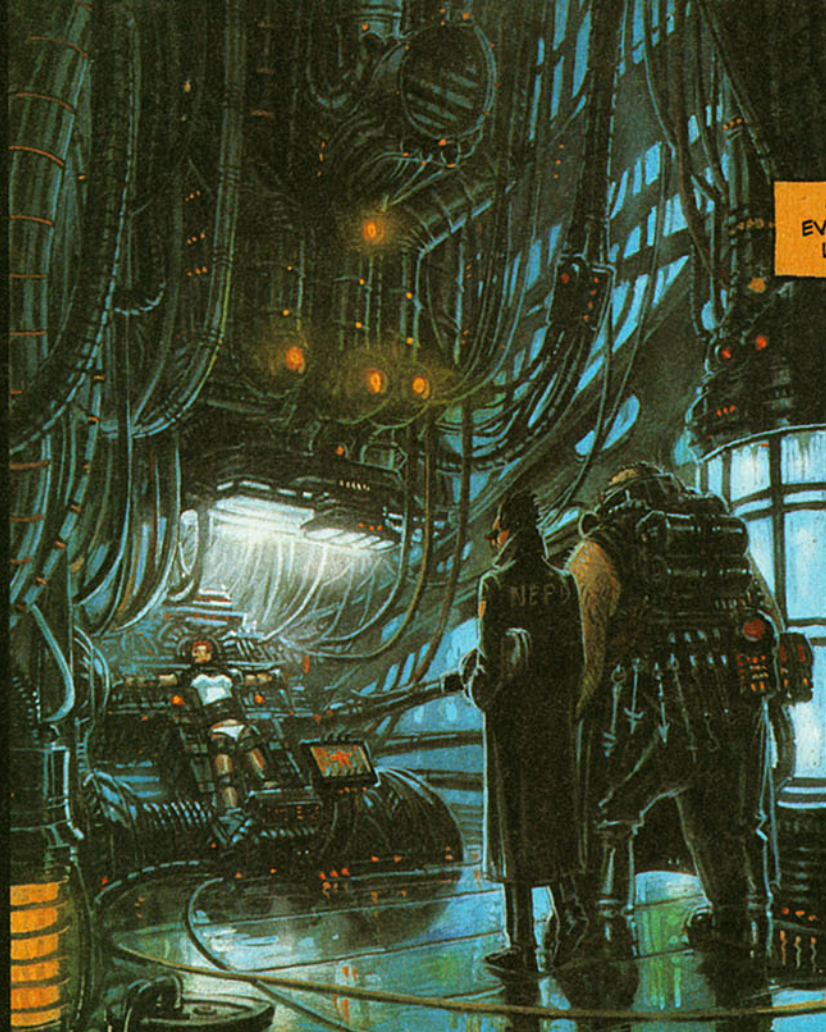
YES... I AM YOUR
GUARDIAN SPIRIT,
NOW I HAVE ENTERED
THE SHADOW LAND...



THE
SHADOW
LAND...?

BETWEEN LIGHT AND
DARK, LIKE SLEEP IS
BETWEEN LIFE AND
DEATH, IS THE PLACE OF
SHADOWS...

YOUR OWN PRIVATE
PLACE... WHOSE
CREATURES YOU MAY CALL
ON IN TIMES OF
MORTAL DANGER...

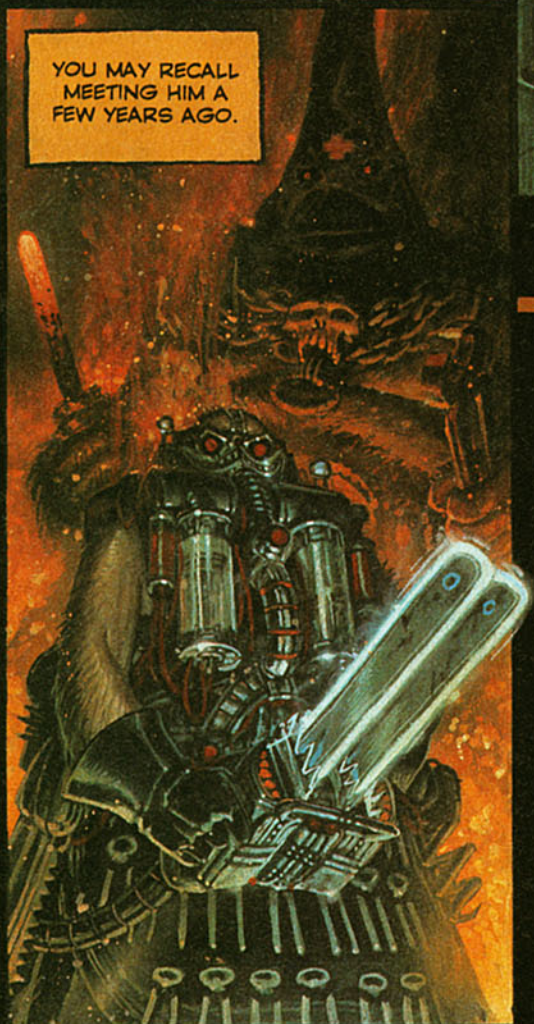


GOOD
EVENING...
LARA...



THIS IS MY
ASSISTANT...
"IRON LUNG"...

YOU MAY RECALL
MEETING HIM A
FEW YEARS AGO.



AH, YES...
I SEE IT'S
COMING BACK
TO YOU...




SO... IT'S JUST
LIKE OLD TIMES
REALLY...!



NOTHING...
SHE'S DESERTED
ME!


I'M FINISHED!



YOUR WORDS CANNOT
BE HEARD IN THE
SHADOWLAND,
MY DEAR...


FEELINGS ARE THE
KEY TO MY
WORLD...

REMEMBER WHEN
YOU WERE LARA
AND CALLED ON
THE GODDESS...?




FEELING YOUR
RAGE...

AND
TORMENT...

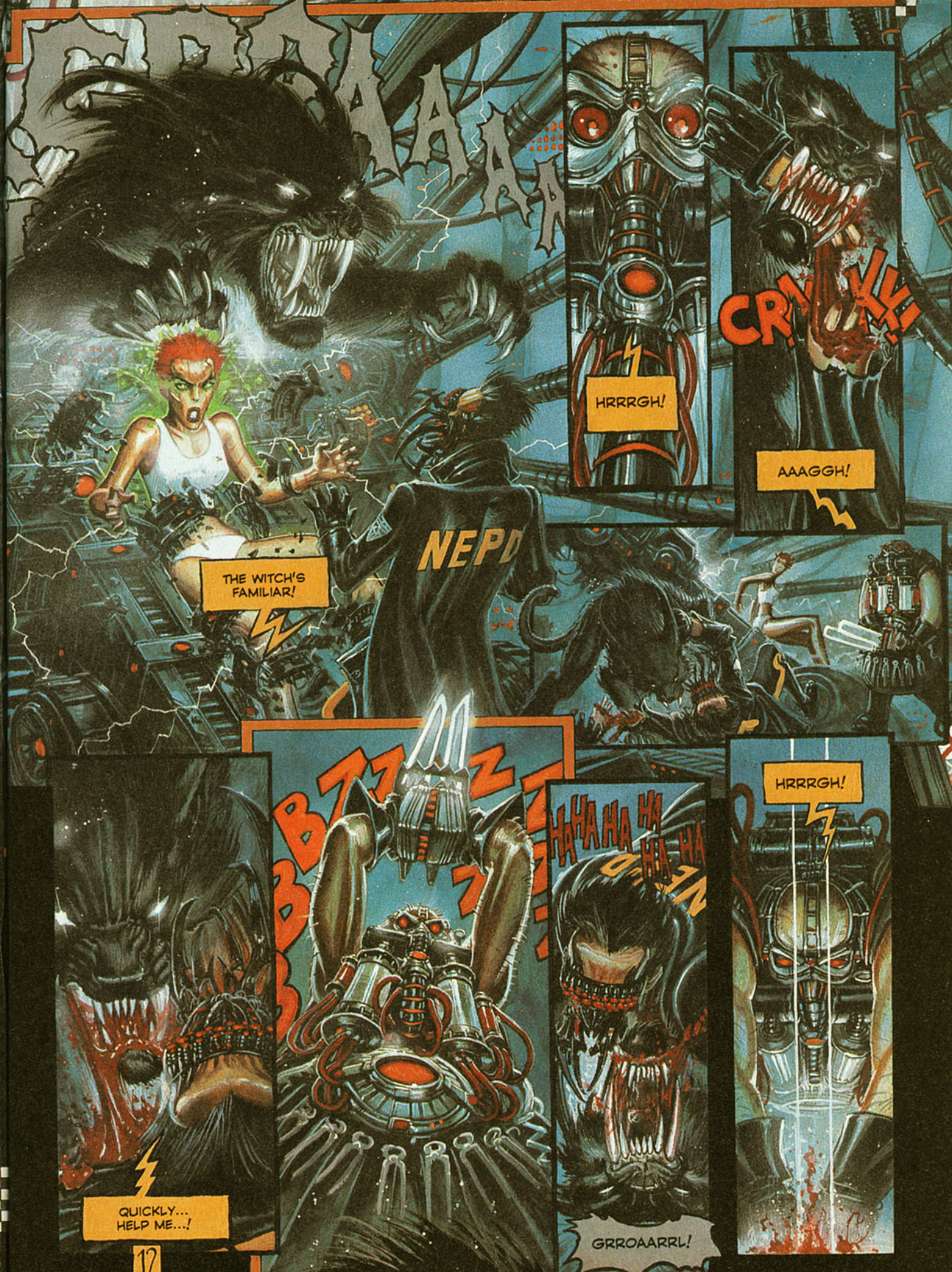


SO I MAY USE
THAT POWER...



FOR I AM
YOUR
SPIRIT...

YOUR
GUARDIAN.



AAAAA

HRRRGH!

CRASH!

AAAGGH!

THE WITCH'S FAMILIAR!

NEPD

BZZZ

HAHAHA HA

HRRRGH!

QUICKLY...
HELP ME...!

GRROAARL!

AAAGGH!

HRRGH?!

HRGH?!

RED ALERT! ESCAPE
FROM INTERROGA-
TION ROOM 4!
SUSPECT IS
INSPECTOR DUFFY!

THAT'S HER!
THE COP
KILLER!!!

GRROAARL!

BLINK!



SOS. INTERROGATION
ROOM 4. CHIEF OFFALE
IN CRITICAL STATE.
INITIATING EMERGENCY
MEDICAL CARE.

HELP ME...!



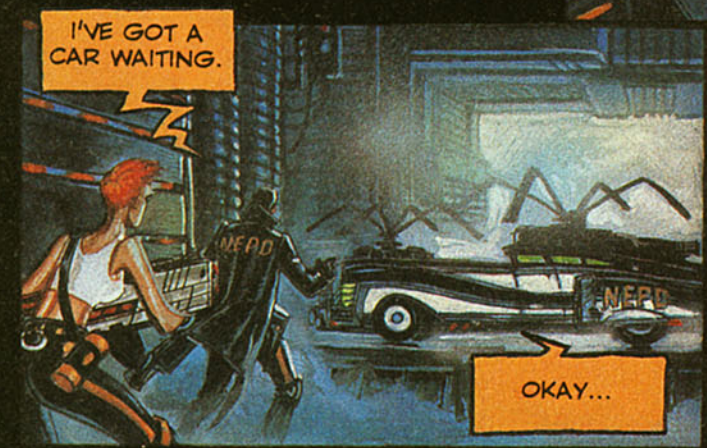
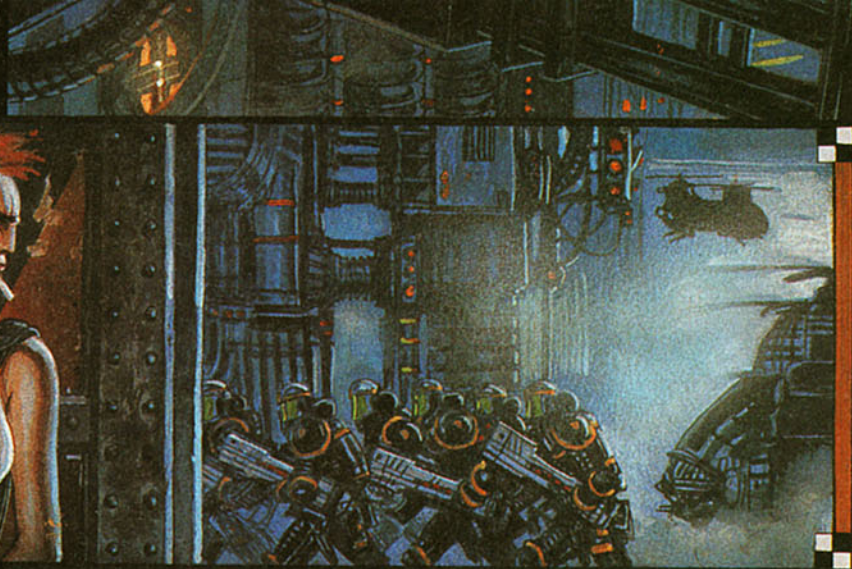
KA-POW

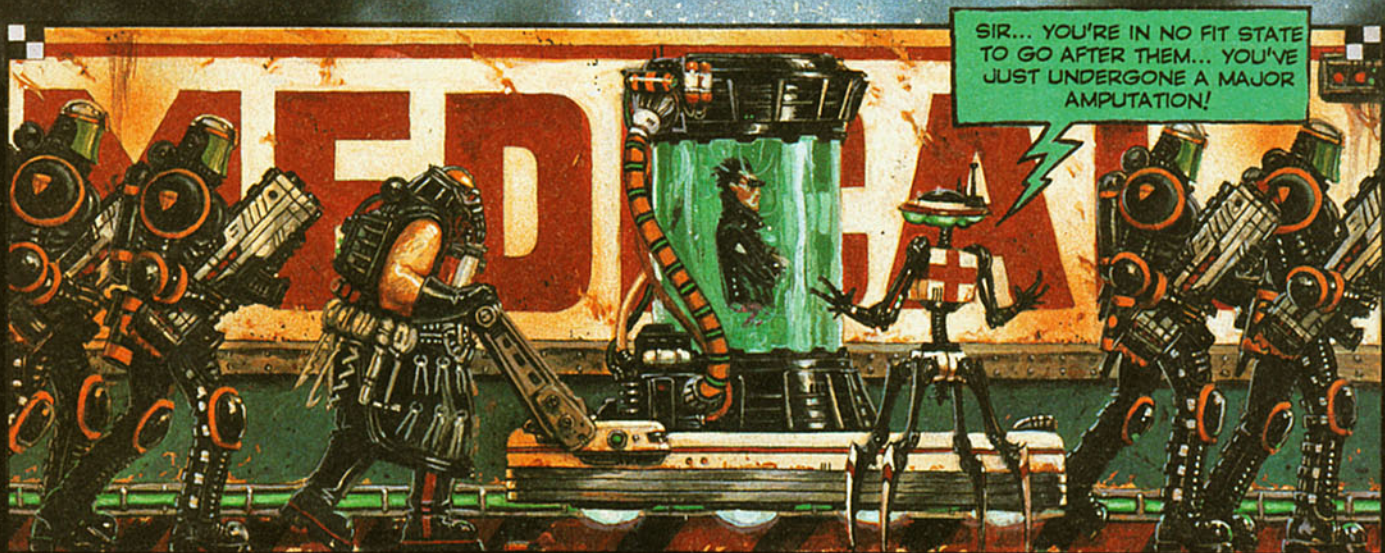
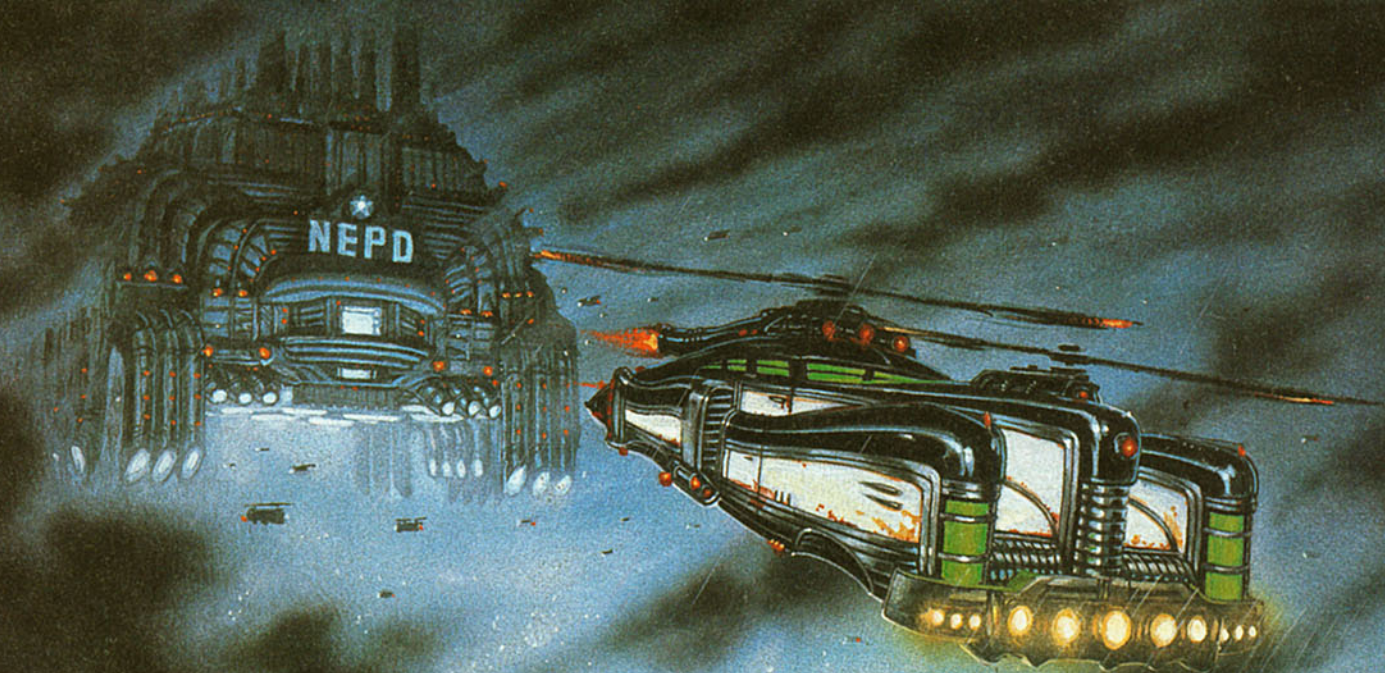
AAARRRGH!!!



NOW DUFFY, THE CIRCLE
MUST BE REPEATED.
ONCE AGAIN YOU MUST
FOLLOW THE PATH
THAT LED TO YOUR
EXECUTION.

SHAP





SIR... YOU'RE IN NO FIT STATE TO GO AFTER THEM... YOU'VE JUST UNDERGONE A MAJOR AMPUTATION!

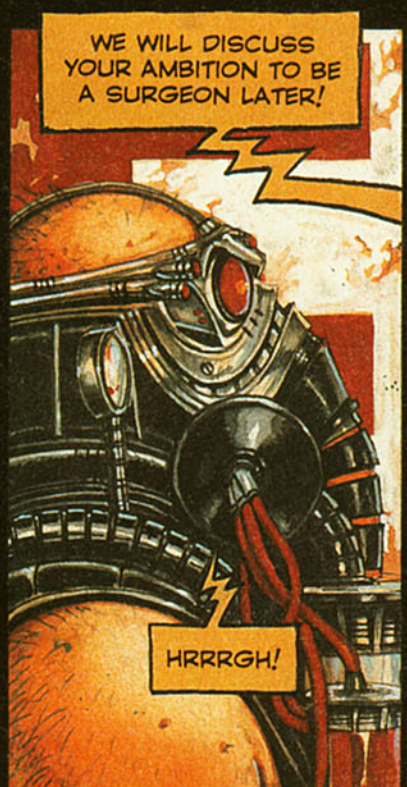


I AM AWARE OF THAT... DOCTOR!

JUST KEEP PUMPING ME FULL OF PAINKILLERS...



GET ME INTO A "MANO-SHARK"... I INTEND TO CONDUCT THE PURSUIT FOR HER PERSONALLY!



WE WILL DISCUSS YOUR AMBITION TO BE A SURGEON LATER!

HRRRGH!



... IT'S NOT GOOD, DUFFY...
THEY USED A VIDEO-MORPH
TO TURN YOU INTO A
CYBERTERRORIST...

DAMN!

CHECK OUT
TONIGHT'S REDEMPTION
SHOW...


... AND NOW IT'S TIME
TO MEET THIS WEEK'S
STAR SINNER...
LIEUTENANT DUFFY!

BUT... BEFORE YOU PASS
SENTENCE... LET'S SEE THE
DRAMATIC VIDEO EVIDENCE THAT
LED TO HER ARREST...

NOTHING EVADES
THE EYE OF GOD...

... AS ONCE AGAIN, WE PEER
"THROUGH THE CURTAINS"
WITH OUR SECRET POLICE
CAMERAS...

NOTHING EVADES
THE EYE OF GOD...



"INSIDE... HUMAN BEINGS
WERE HAVING INTIMATE
RELATIONS WITH ROBOTS..."

"REMEMBER- AS ALWAYS,
THEY WERE UNAWARE THEY
WERE BEING FILMED..."

"THE ARCH SINNER
SULFURA HERSELF
WAS PRESENT..."

"THEN... DUFFY
ENTERED..."

"SHORTLY AFTER,
SULFURA WENT ON
LINE..."

LIVE

"AND RECEIVED A BRIBE FOR
KEEPING THE SEXEASY OPEN...!"

"WITH FIVE THOUSAND
USERS THROUGHOUT
NEW EDEN... AT THE
SAME TIME...!"

"MEANWHILE... ANOTHER THOUSAND
WAITED FOR THEIR TURN TO HAVE
CYBERSEX WITH THE ROBO WHORE
OF BABYLON!"

STAND BY

SULFURA... EVEN WHEN
I'M NOT ON LINE, I CAN
STILL SMELL YOU, FEEL
YOU!

STAND BY

SULFURA, I COULD EASILY
FALL IN... OOPS! ALMOST
SAID THE "L" WORLD...!

STAND BY

I'VE GOT WINDSCREEN
WIPERS FITTED TO MY
SCREEN READY FOR
OUR NEXT SESSION!

LIVE

BEAUTY COMES FROM
WITHIN... I KNOW BENEATH
YOUR METAL SKIN IS A
CREATURE AS SPIRITUALLY
BEAUTIFUL AS ANY HUMAN!

STAND BY

STRANGE ONE, I NEED YOUR
LOVE... MORTAL LOVE, NOT
THEOCRATIC I HASTEN
TO ADD.

STAND BY

I WANT US TO BE LOVERS!
MY CYBER-PROBE IS A COILED
SPRING... IT MAY RELEASE ITS
ENERGY ACROSS THE SCREEN IN
WILD ABANDON!

STAND BY

I'M NOT DOING THIS
FOR SEX... BUT BECAUSE
I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY;
I WANT YOU TO FEEL SAFE
AND COMFORTABLE...

STAND BY

ER- ANY CHANCE OF A
DISCOUNT?

YOUR BEAUTY IS JUST ONE
OF THE MANY THINGS I LIKE
ABOUT YOU. SEE LIST ON
ATTACHED FILE.

STAND BY

STAND BY

I'M MICRO-HARD
FOR YOU!

YOU SEE THE
FILE NATURE OF
THIS FILTH?

UNFORTUNATELY,
SULFURA ESCAPED WHEN
POLICE RAIDED THE
SEXEASY...

GRRRR!!!

AND NOW FOR YOUR VERDICT...!
WELL... HAS SHE SHOWN ANY SIGN OF
REPENTANCE...? EVEN THE SLIGHTEST
REMORSE FOR HER FOUL CRIMES...?

BUT DATA THEY DISCOVERED
SHOWED SHE AND DUFFY
PROGRAMMED THE KILLER
ROBOT TO ASSASSINATE
OUR PRESIDENT!

SO... PRESS
YOUR BUZZERS
FOR DEATH!


BITCH!

LET HER FRY!

WHORE!

YES!

BURN THE CYBERWITCH!



A UNANIMOUS SENTENCE
FROM OUR STUDIO AUDI-
ENCE AND YOU, THE
VIEWERS AT HOME!

LOOK OUT!

NOTHING'S CHANGED...
THE BURNING TIMES...
THEY NEVER WENT
AWAY...

BAAOM

NAPALM THEM!!!

BUT WE'RE IN A
DENSELY POPULATED
AREA!

WHO
CARES...?
JUST DO IT!

BLOW THEM OUT
OF THE SKY!



KILL THEM!

KILL THEM!

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

TO THE REDEMP-
TION SHOW...!

TO MEET A CERTAIN
REVEREND AND
FULFILL A PROMISE
I MADE FIVE
CENTURIES AGO...!

YOU MEAN A CURSE...?
THERE'S A PSYCHIC
LAW- IF YOU CURSE
SOMEONE IT ALWAYS
COMES BACK TO YOU...
THREE TIMES!



NOT IF YOU DO IT
RIGHT.

BUT LOOK AT THE
CARNAGE IT'S CAUSED
ALREADY! THERE'S GOT
TO BE AN END TO IT...!

THE ONLY WAY TO
LIFT THE CURSE IS
TO FULFILL IT...

WITCHES DON'T-
CAN'T- FORGIVE!

EACH MAN'S LIFE IS THE OUTCOME
OF HIS FORMER LIVING; THE
BYGONE WRONGS BRING FORTH
SORROW AND WOES- BUDDHA

THE SINNER IS
PREPARED, SET UP IN
THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.



AND NOW... LET'S
MEET TONIGHT'S
EXECUTIONER...



CHAPTER 6 REDEMPTION

THE "NOSY NEIGHBOR"
WHO TIPPED OFF THE
POLICE TO RAID THAT
SEXEASY...

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN...
MISS CANDY!



SO... THIS IS ALL
THANKS TO YOU,
MY DEAR!

THAT'S RIGHT, REVEREND...
I SUSPECTED SOMETHING
WAS WRONG... MEN WERE
COMING OUT WITH BIG
SMILES ON THEIR FACES!
THE FILTHY ANIMALS!

AND SUCH PUBLIC SPIRITED
ACTION ENTITLES YOU TO THE
FOLLOWING FANTASTIC
PRIZES...

AMEN!
AMEN!

A SET OF EXOTIC
LINGERIE...!

A CAR REPAIR KIT...!

AND A HOME
GYMNASIUM!

AS WELL AS ELECTROCUTING
THE CRIMINAL YOU HELPED
CATCH... PLUS! YOUR
CHANCE TO WIN... MORE
FABULOUS PRIZES!

WHEN YOU SPIN...
THE WHEEL OF
FORTUNE...!

HURRAAAAY!



FIRE, YOU FOOL!
FIRE!

I CAN'T! WE'LL KILL
INNOCENT PEOPLE!

THEN LET MY
ASSISTANT DO IT!

RAARGH!

POTCH!

THERE'S BEEN
ENOUGH POINTLESS
DEATHS!

HEURRRGH!

HE DOES NOT SUFFER
FROM YOUR
SQUEAMISHNESS!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 101

MY NAME IS CASSANDRA,
BUT MY FATHER NICKNAMED
ME WILDFLOWER.

I DO MISS HIM VERY MUCH.
IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE
THE DEATH OF MY FATHER AND THE
DESTRUCTION OF HIS KINGDOM.

SINCE THEN, THERE
HAVE BEEN TIMES THAT
I'VE FORGOTTEN WHO
I WAS AND WHERE I HAD
COME FROM.....

...BUT THE LAND ALWAYS
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES
WHEN YOU LEAST
EXPECT IT.

WELL!!
WOULD YOU
LOOK AT THAT !!

IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL !

WILDFLOWER

- THROUGH DESERT PLAINS -

STORY & ART
BILLY MARTINEZ

LETTERING, COLORS, & PRODUCTION
MINDYINDER STUDIOS
MICKEY CLAUSEN & KRYSTAL CLAUSEN



HEY!

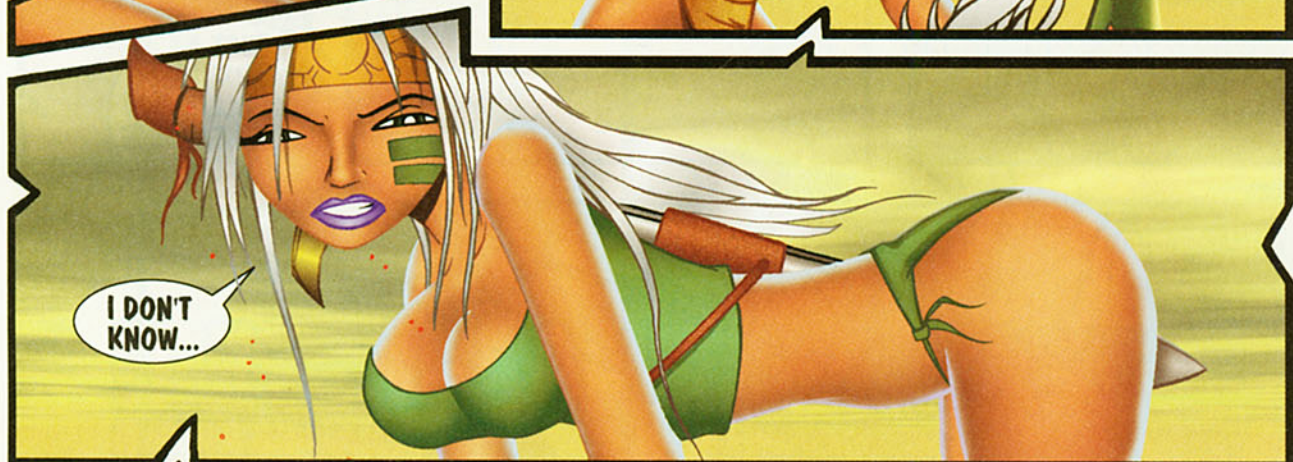
IT'S MINE.
I SAW IT FIRST!



HUH!
WHAT?



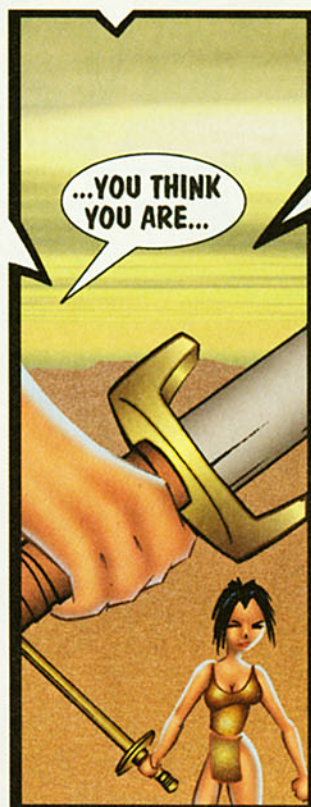
WACK



I DON'T
KNOW...



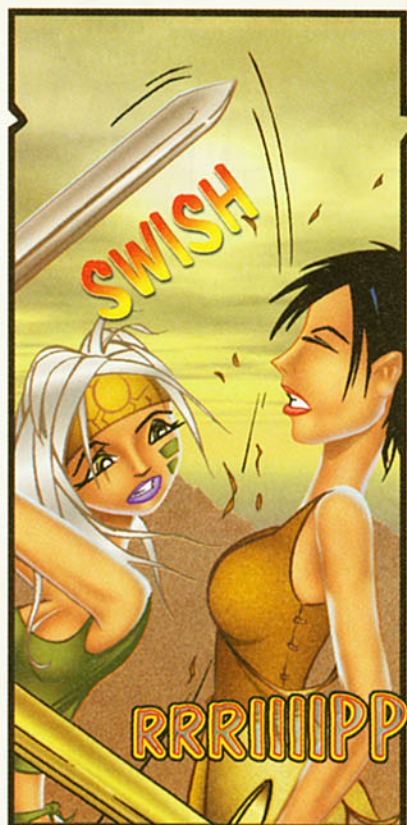
...WHO THE
HELL...



...YOU THINK
YOU ARE...



...BUT, GIRL,
YOU'VE JUST
PISSSED ME
OFF!!



WHY DOESN'T
ANYONE LISTEN
TO REASON
ANYMORE ?

SO... I
GUESS THIS
MEANS YOUR'E
MINE.

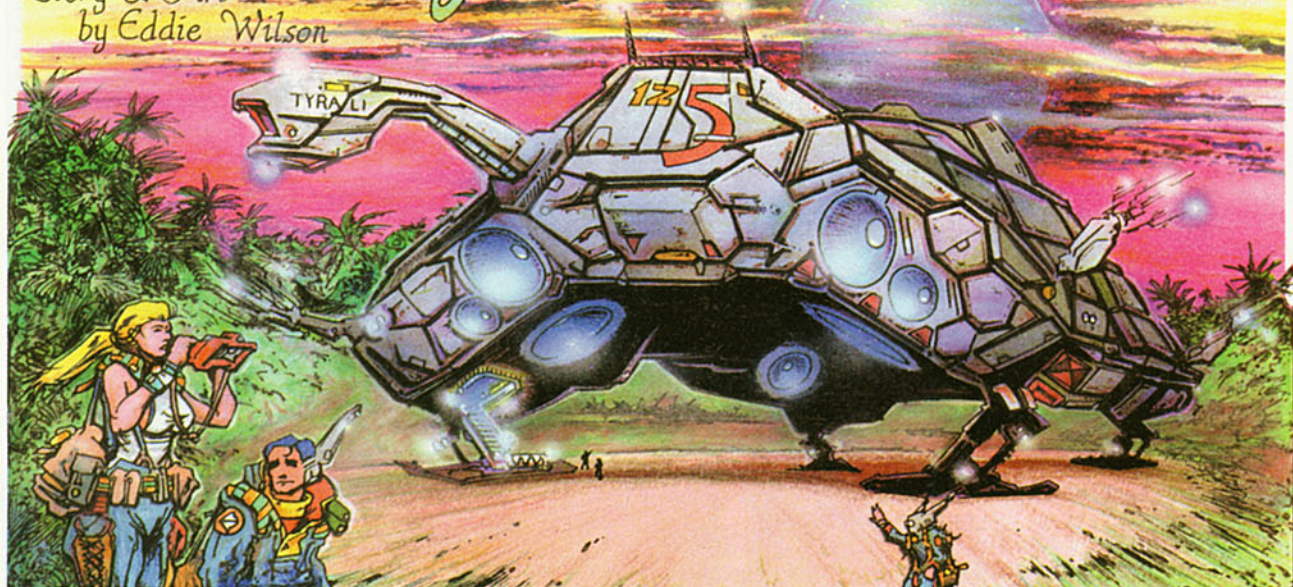
SNIFF
SNIFF

FATHER,
I MISS YOU...

-fini-

Wake of the Tyra Li

Story & Art
by Eddie Wilson



ANSCHUTZ, F.M.
COMM MATE



LANZEROTTE, W.
TECH OFFICER



CARTER, I.C.
YARD OFFICER



TEAK, U.C.
BIO/MED TECH



BANNER, F.H.
FIRST MATE



WALKER, D.A.
CAPTAIN



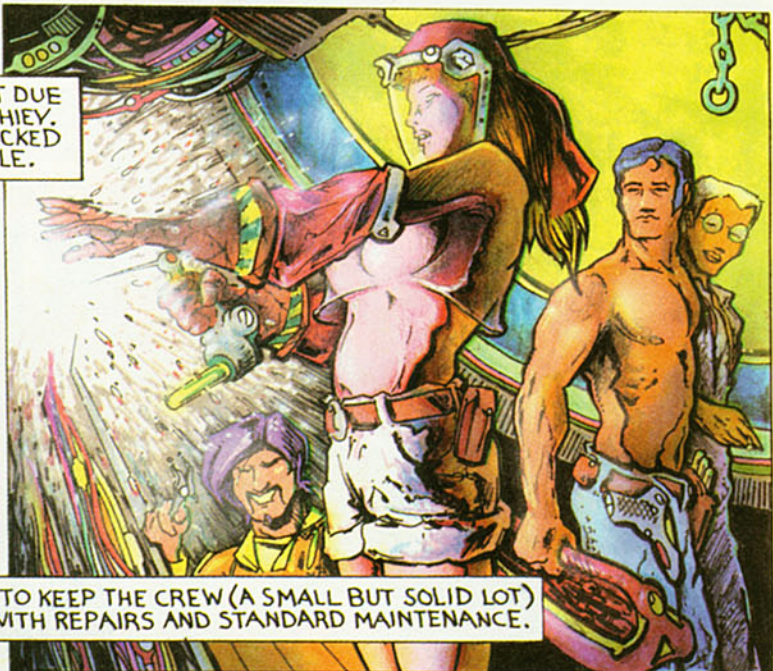
CAPTAIN'S JOURNAL - UEMSS TYRA LI.

WE WERE CRASH/STRANDED ON THIS PLANET DUE TO THE MALFUNCTION OF A BASTARD WHISTLE SHIEV. OUR MAIN DRIVE UNITS OVERHEATED AND LOCKED ... RENDERED COMPLETELY INOPERABLE.

I FOUND THE SITUATION BOTH LAUGHABLE AND HORRIBLE THAT OUR FATES HAD TAKEN SUCH A DRAMATIC TURN DUE TO A VALVE SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN MY FIST.



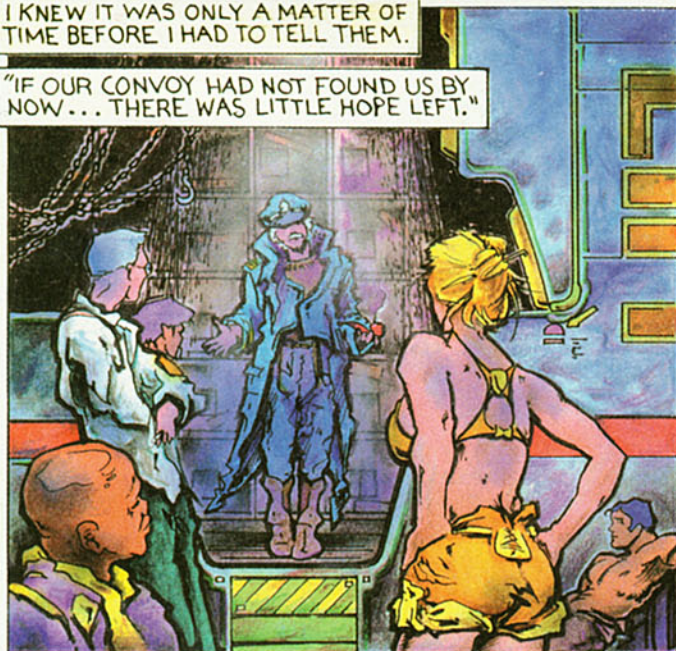
I TRIED TO KEEP THE CREW (A SMALL BUT SOLID LOT) BUSY WITH REPAIRS AND STANDARD MAINTENANCE.



IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THEIR MINDS FROM WANDERING.

I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I HAD TO TELL THEM.

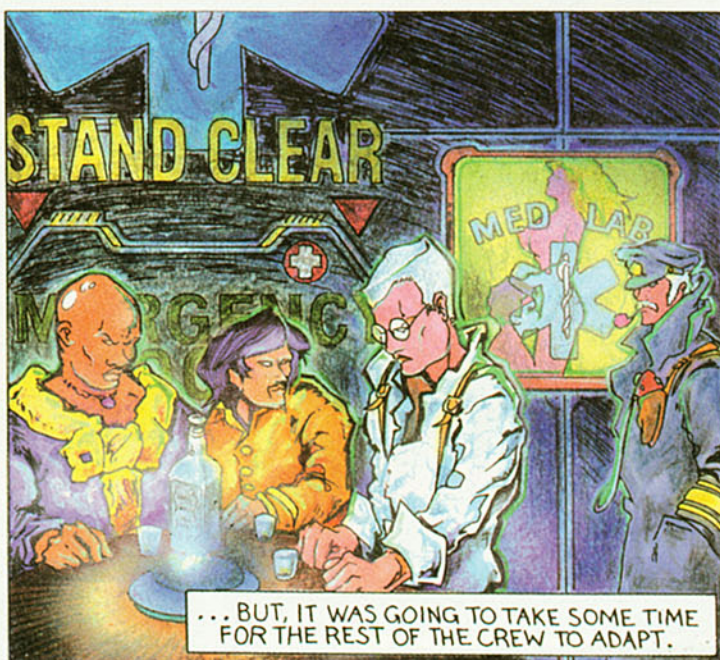
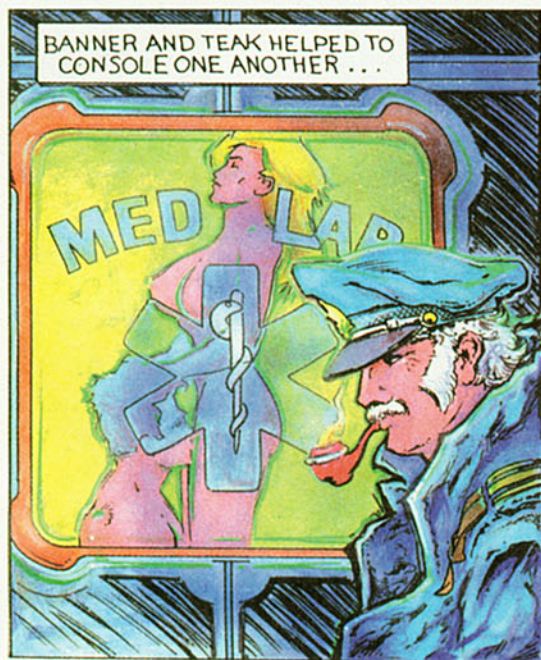
"IF OUR CONVOY HAD NOT FOUND US BY NOW... THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE LEFT."



IN LIGHT OF POTENTIAL DANGERS THIS PLANET MAY HAVE HELD, I BEGAN TO CARRY A SIDE ARM.

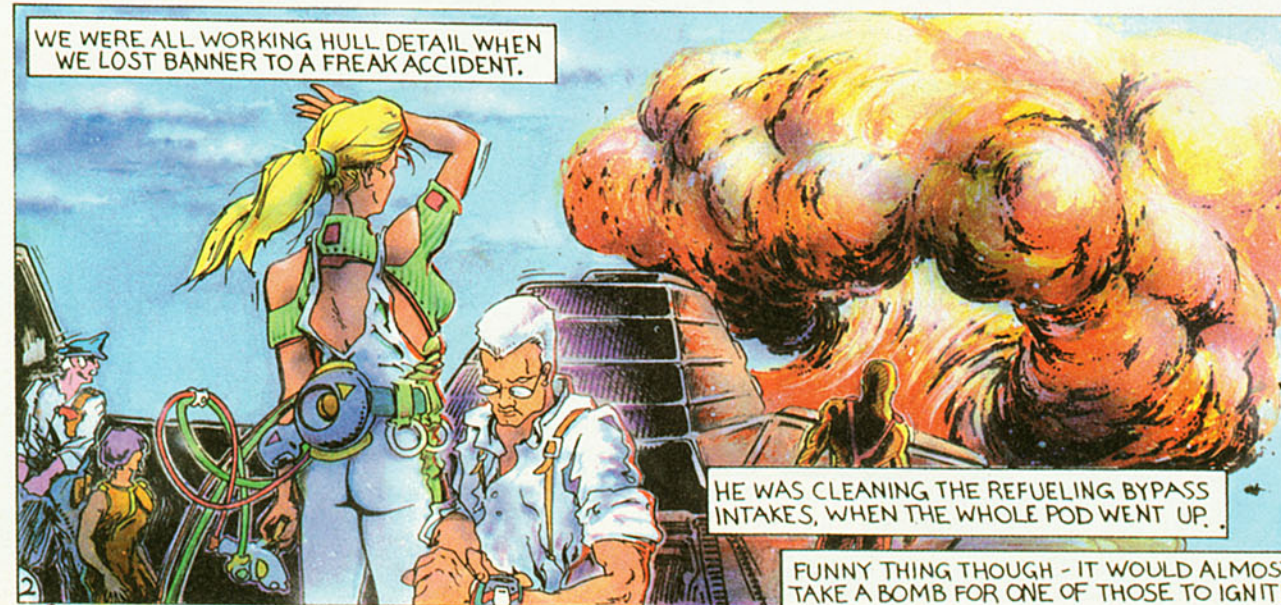


BANNER AND TEAK HELPED TO CONSOLE ONE ANOTHER...



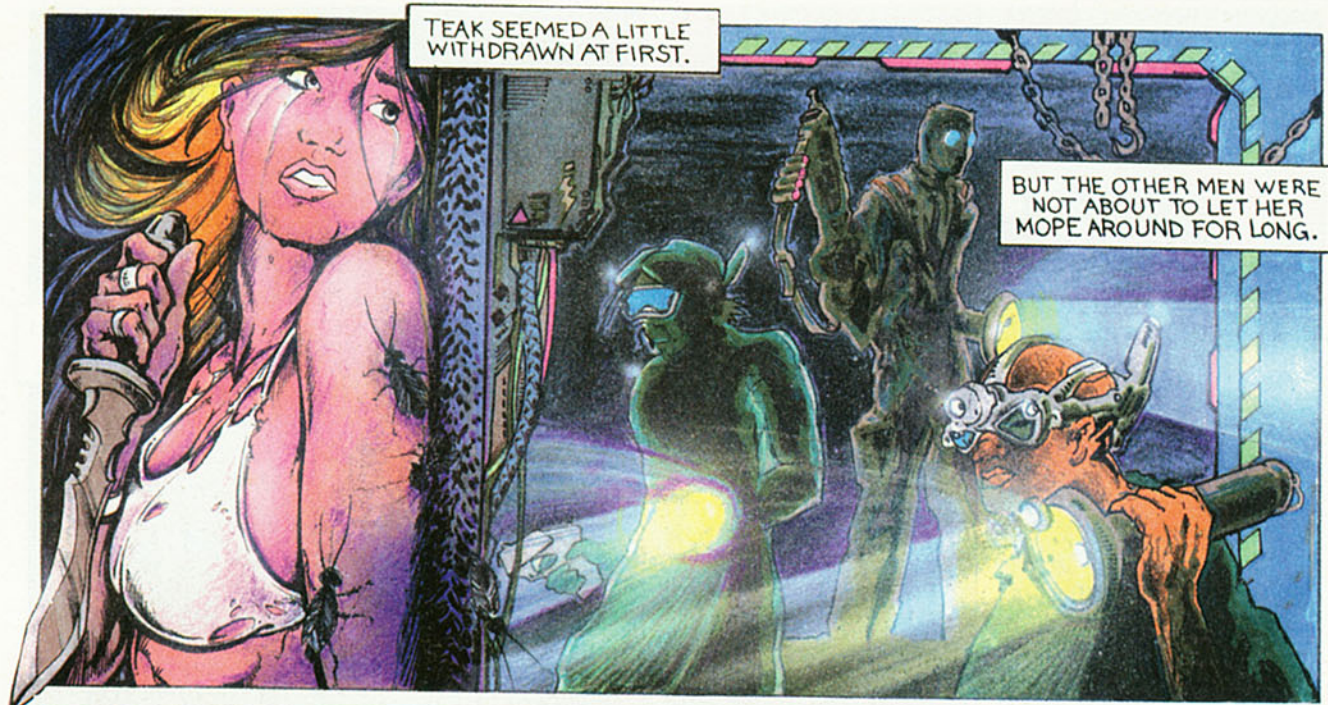
... BUT, IT WAS GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE REST OF THE CREW TO ADAPT.

WE WERE ALL WORKING HULL DETAIL WHEN WE LOST BANNER TO A FREAK ACCIDENT.



HE WAS CLEANING THE REFUELING BYPASS INTAKES, WHEN THE WHOLE POD WENT UP.

FUNNY THING THOUGH - IT WOULD ALMOST TAKE A BOMB FOR ONE OF THOSE TO IGNITE.



TEAK SEEMED A LITTLE
WITHDRAWN AT FIRST.

BUT THE OTHER MEN WERE
NOT ABOUT TO LET HER
MOPE AROUND FOR LONG.

THERE ARE TIMES FOR A STRONG
LEADERSHIP AND TIMES TO STEP BACK.
I FELT *THIS* WAS A TIME FOR THEM
TO WORK THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

LIKE A CREW.

LIKE A FAMILY.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THEY DIDN'T
NEED A CAPTAIN POKING ABOUT.

THEN TRAGEDY STRUCK AGAIN.

LANZEROTTE HAD FALLEN
OFF OF A PRECIPICE -

ANSCHUTZ -
"WATCHED
IN HORROR!"

AND CARTER -
"JUST COULDN'T
REACH HIM IN TIME."

NOT LONG AFTER --

CARTER CHOKED TO DEATH ON
SOMETHING IN THE MESS HALL.

AND AFTER THAT -- ANOTHER.

IT WAS AS IF *DEATH* HIMSELF
HAD MADE HIS BED HERE.

WE FOUND ANSCHUTZ WITH
A BULLET THROUGH HIS HEAD.

THERE WAS NO NOTE. BUT, I
AM POSITIVE IT WAS SUICIDE.

AND, IN THAT ONE
TENDER MOMENT
TEAK WAS SO LOST -

- SO FRAGILE.

AFTER EVERYTHING SHE'D
BEEN THROUGH ...

I WAS SURE - SHE
NEEDED MY STRENGTH

AND IT WAS LIKE TEAK AND I
WERE SEEING EACH OTHER
FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

A CAREER CAPTAIN USUALLY
HAS SO LITTLE TIME FOR
RELATIONSHIPS. BUT I HAD
FOUND THAT ONE THING MORE
RARE THAN EVEN LOVE ...

...TEAK RESPECTED ME!

FOR US, IT WAS A
BOND LIKE NO OTHER.

THEN, AS IF MY HAPPINESS WAS
AN AFFRONT TO THE FATES --

THE REAPER STRUCK AT US AGAIN.

SOME MYSTERIOUS JUNGLE FEVER.
I COULD NOT REVERSE ITS AFFECT
ON MY PARTNER, MY LOVER ...

BUT, NEITHER COULD DEATH STEAL
HER AWAY FROM ME. I WOULD NOT
ALLOW IT... I COULD NOT ALLOW IT.

STILL, AFTER THAT, THINGS
WERE NEVER QUITE THE SAME.

I COULD TELL BY THE FAR
AWAY LOOK IN HER EYES -

-SOMETHING WAS WRONG.

AND, WE NEVER TALKED ANYMORE.

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT, REALLY.
I'VE NEVER BEEN THE KIND OF GUY
THAT'S REAL LUCKY WITH THE WOMEN.

THE DAYS AND NIGHTS MELT FROM ONE INTO ANOTHER.

THE JUNGLE HAS ALL BUT SWALLOWED MY SHIP.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I AM DRIFTING
THROUGH THESE EMPTY CORRIDORS
I ADMIT I FEEL I HAVE LOST TOUCH.

(BUT, NEVER PURPOSE.)

I RECENTLY FOUND AN ERROR IN MY LOG ENTRIES.
MY DATES HAVE BEEN OFF BY OVER A HUNDRED YEARS.
I CANNOT FIND WHERE I FIRST MADE THE MISTAKE —

- BUT, I MUST BE MORE DILIGENT IN THE FUTURE.

I GUESS I AM JUST TIRED.

TODAY, I DISCOVERED HUMAN REMAINS IN THE COMMAND
MOD. EVIDENCE PROVES IT CANNOT BE ONE OF MY FORMER
CREW. IS IT A COINCIDENTAL CASTAWAY? ... A STOWAWAY?

HE HAD BEEN WRITING SOMETHING, BUT I COULDN'T MAKE IT OUT.
THE CHAP EVEN HAD A SMOKE FROM MY FAVORITE PIPE ...

... AND WHAT DID HE DIE OF?

PERHAPS THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE
SITUATION DROVE HIM TO MADNESS.
PERHAPS HE DIED OF LONELINESS —
I CANNOT GIVE IN TO THESE PAINS.

AND I CAN NO LONGER SPEND
MY TIME SURMISING HIS FATE.

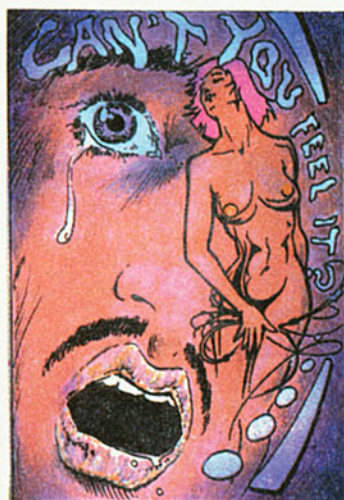
I MUST MAKE PLANS FOR TOMORROW.

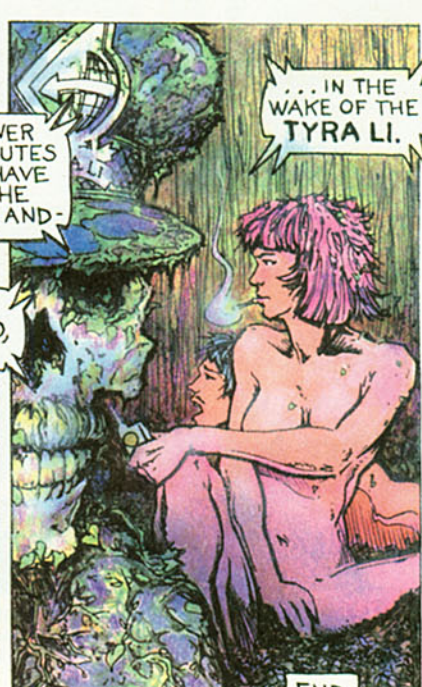
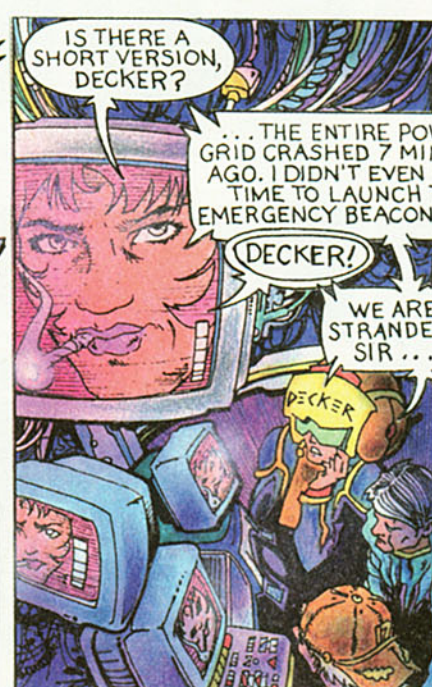
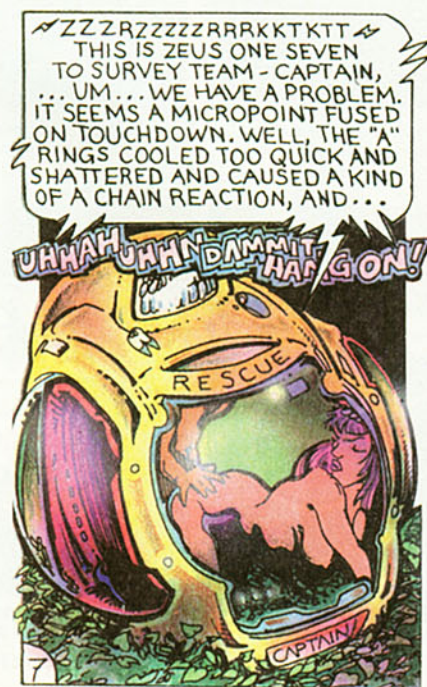
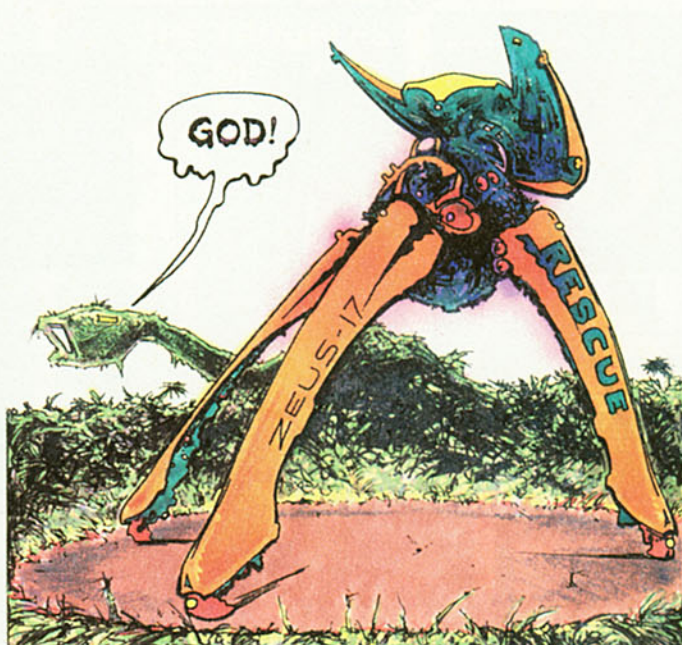
FOR WHATEVER ELSE I AM ...

... BECAUSE ABOVE ALL ELSE ...

... I AM STILL THE CAPTAIN OF THE "TYRA LI".

EPILOGUE

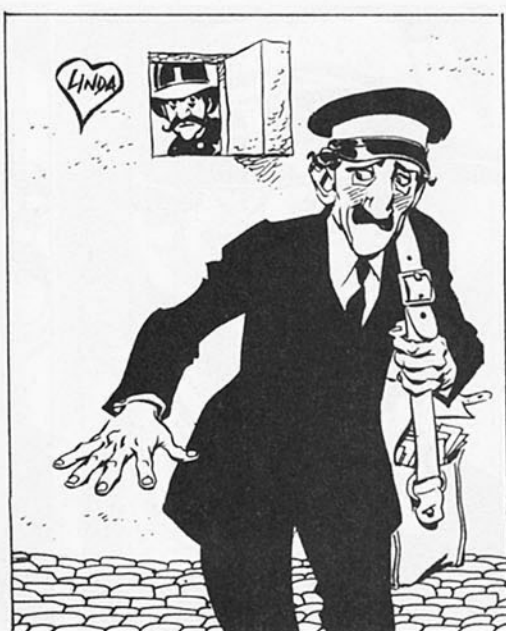




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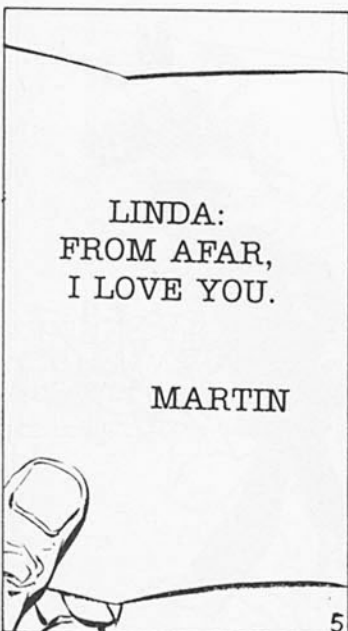
THE MAILMAN

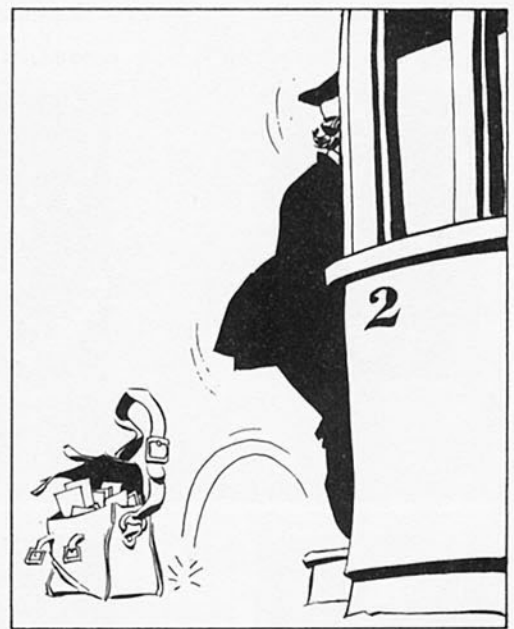
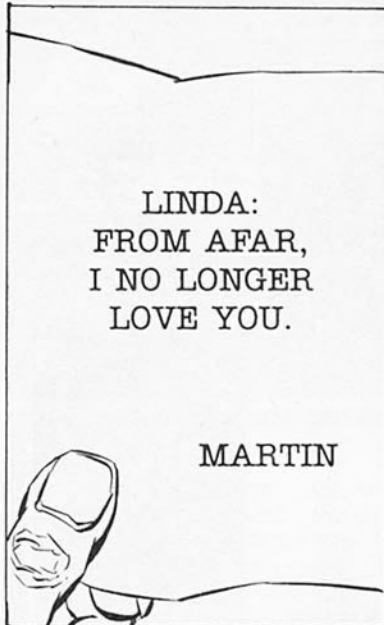












THE SWAMP MONSTER STRIKES AGAIN

ONCE I HAD MY
OWN WORLD...
AND IT WAS
GOOD.

I HAD CHOSEN TO LIVE IN
THAT WORLD, WHICH WAS
SO DIFFERENT FROM THE
OTHER ONE. THEY SAID
I WAS CRAZY WHEN I
CHOSE THE DENSE JUNGLE
AS MY GARDEN AND WILD
ANIMALS AS MY
NEIGHBORS.

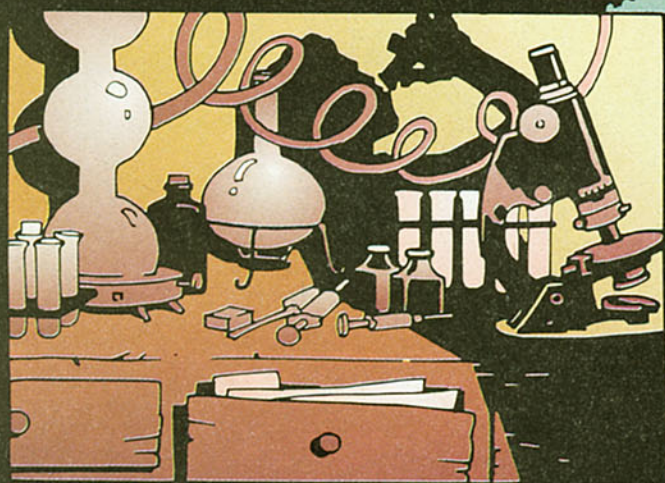
THEY SAID THAT
THE ABSENCE OF
HUMAN BEINGS IN MY
ENVIRONMENT WOULD
AFFECT MY SANITY.

I LAUGHED THEN
AND I LAUGH NOW
WHEN I THINK ABOUT
IT. HUMAN BEINGS!
HA! I DON'T GIVE
A FUCK ABOUT
HUMANITY.

WHAT I REALLY
WANTED WAS TO
GET AWAY FROM
STUPID HUMAN
BEINGS WHO
COULDN'T
APPRECIATE MY
REVOLUTIONARY
IDEAS...

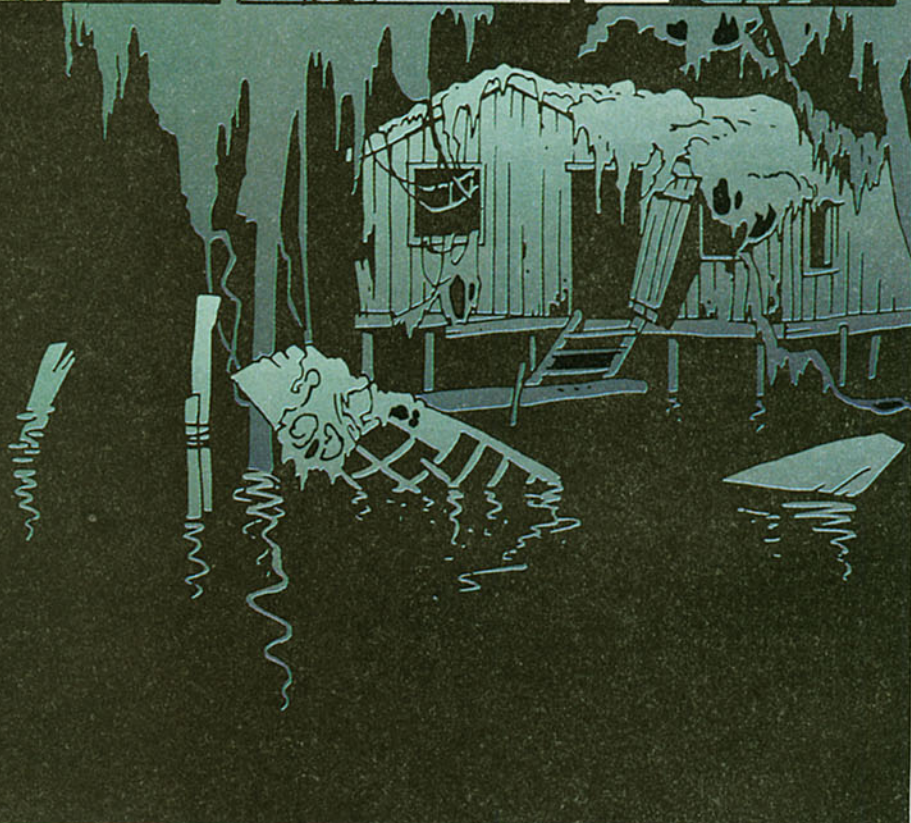
...AND ACCEPT ME FOR THE
TALENTED SCIENTIST THAT
I WAS.





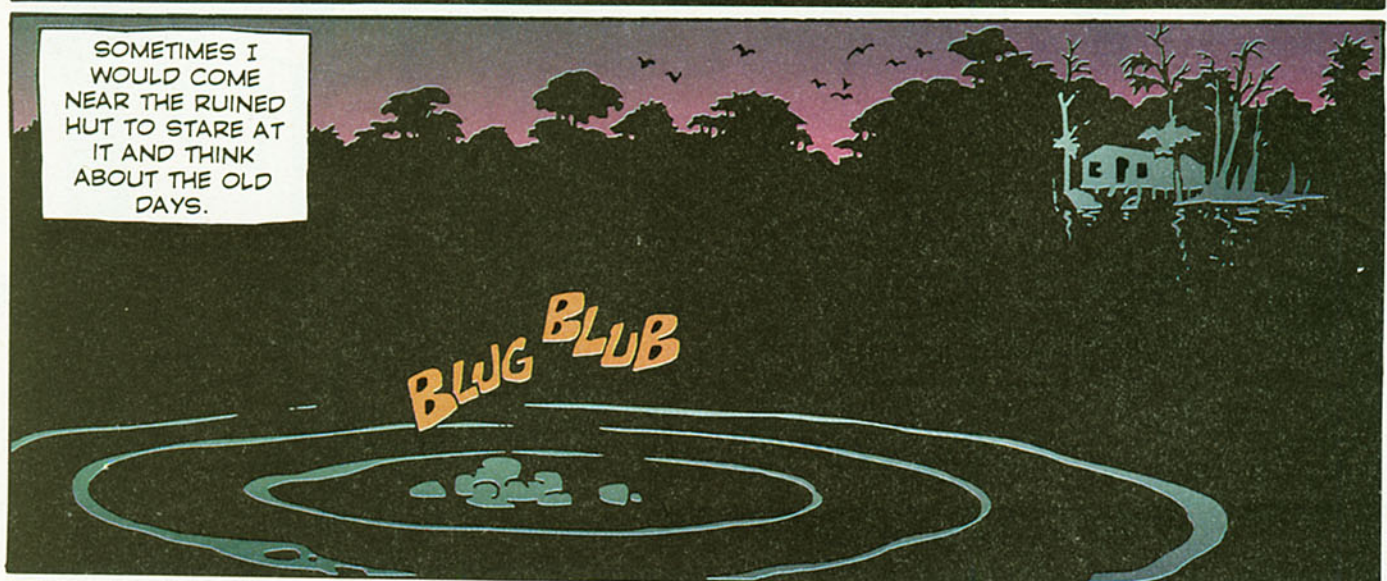
I STILL BELIEVE THIS,
ALTHOUGH WHEN I TRIED
TO PUT MY IDEAS
INTO PRACTICE BY
EXPERIMENTING WITH MY
OWN BODY SOMETHING
WENT WRONG.

A LONG TIME
WENT BY.
MY OLD HOME
HAD FALLEN INTO
RUINS, AND
NO ONE
REMEMBERED ME
ANY LONGER.



SOMETIMES I
WOULD COME
NEAR THE RUINED
HUT TO STARE AT
IT AND THINK
ABOUT THE OLD
DAYS.

BLUG BLUB





I WON'T DENY THAT I FELT A BIT NOSTALGIC, BUT I NEVER REGRETTED WHAT I HAD DONE.

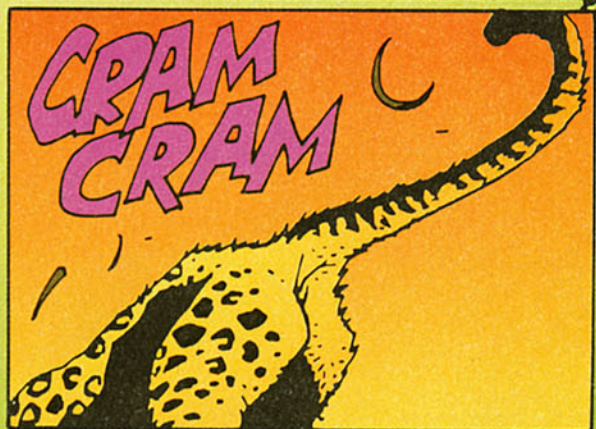
THOUGH I'LL ADMIT THERE WERE MOMENTS WHEN I MISSED THOSE STUPID HUMANS.



THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE SOME ASPECTS OF MY CONDITION WERE A BIT REPULSIVE TO ME...

...OR MAYBE BECAUSE, ONCE IN A WHILE, I WOULD REALLY HAVE LIKED TO HEAR SOMETHING BESIDES DEEP GUTTURAL CRIES.






IT WASN'T THAT I DIDN'T
LOVE MY NEW FAMILY.

NOR WAS IT
BECAUSE IN ALL
THAT TIME NO
HUMANS HAD TRIED
TO COMMUNICATE
WITH ME.

BUT IT JUST SO
HAPPENED THAT THE
FEW HUMANS THAT
TURNED UP IN THIS
WILDERNESS CAME
TO HARM MY LOVED
ONES.

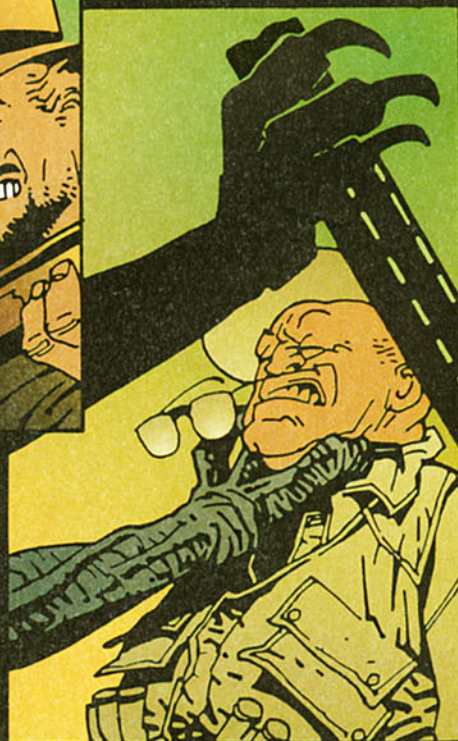
SO ALL THEY EVER DID WAS
MAKE ME PREFER MY ANIMAL TO
MY HUMAN SELF.





AS A SCIENTIST I
HAD NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO ACCEPT THE
INJUSTICE OF A
MEANINGLESS
DEATH...

...JUST AS
THE WILD ANIMAL
I AM NOW
CANNOT TOLERATE
THE SLAUGHTER OF
MY BROTHERS.



AS I SAID, THERE
WERE MOMENTS
WHEN I REALLY
MISSED THOSE
STUPID HUMANS.

BUT, LUCKILY,
THOSE MOMENTS
SOON PASSED.



GRRAUUUU



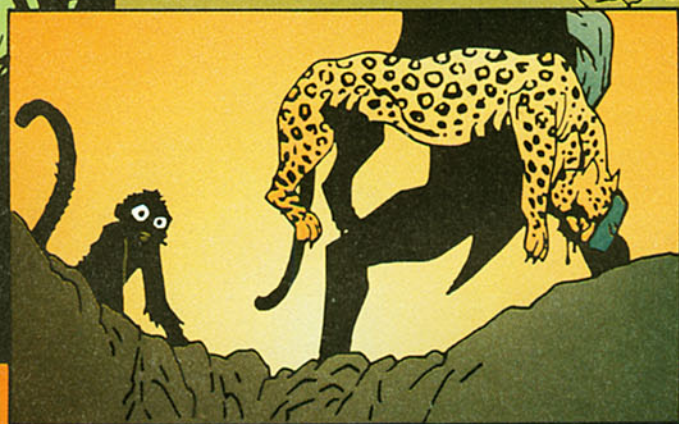
THE HUMANS THAT
CAME TO CAUSE
HAVOC LED ME TO
ASSERT MY NEW
CONDITION.

NEVER AGAIN
WOULD I BE PART
OF THEM.

I HAD BECOME THE
PROTECTOR OF THOSE
AROUND ME.

ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T MAKE
ME FEEL PROUD TO CUT
SHORT THE LIVES OF
CREATURES THAT I HAD
ONCE RESEMBLED...

...I WAS FIRMLY
CONVINCED THAT
HUMANITY WOULD
BE BETTER OFF
WITHOUT THEM.



I BELIEVED THAT WHAT I WAS
DOING WAS NECESSARY TO
MAINTAIN THE DELICATE
BALANCE OF MY WORLD.

AND I THINK THAT
EVERYONE ELSE SAW
IT THAT WAY.

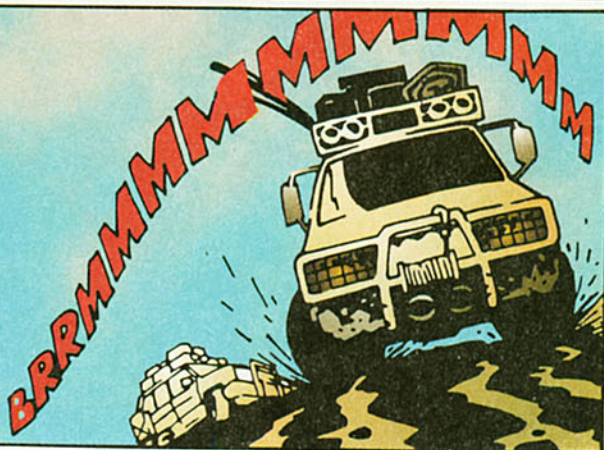
SO AFTER ALL, I DIDN'T
FEEL SO LONELY.

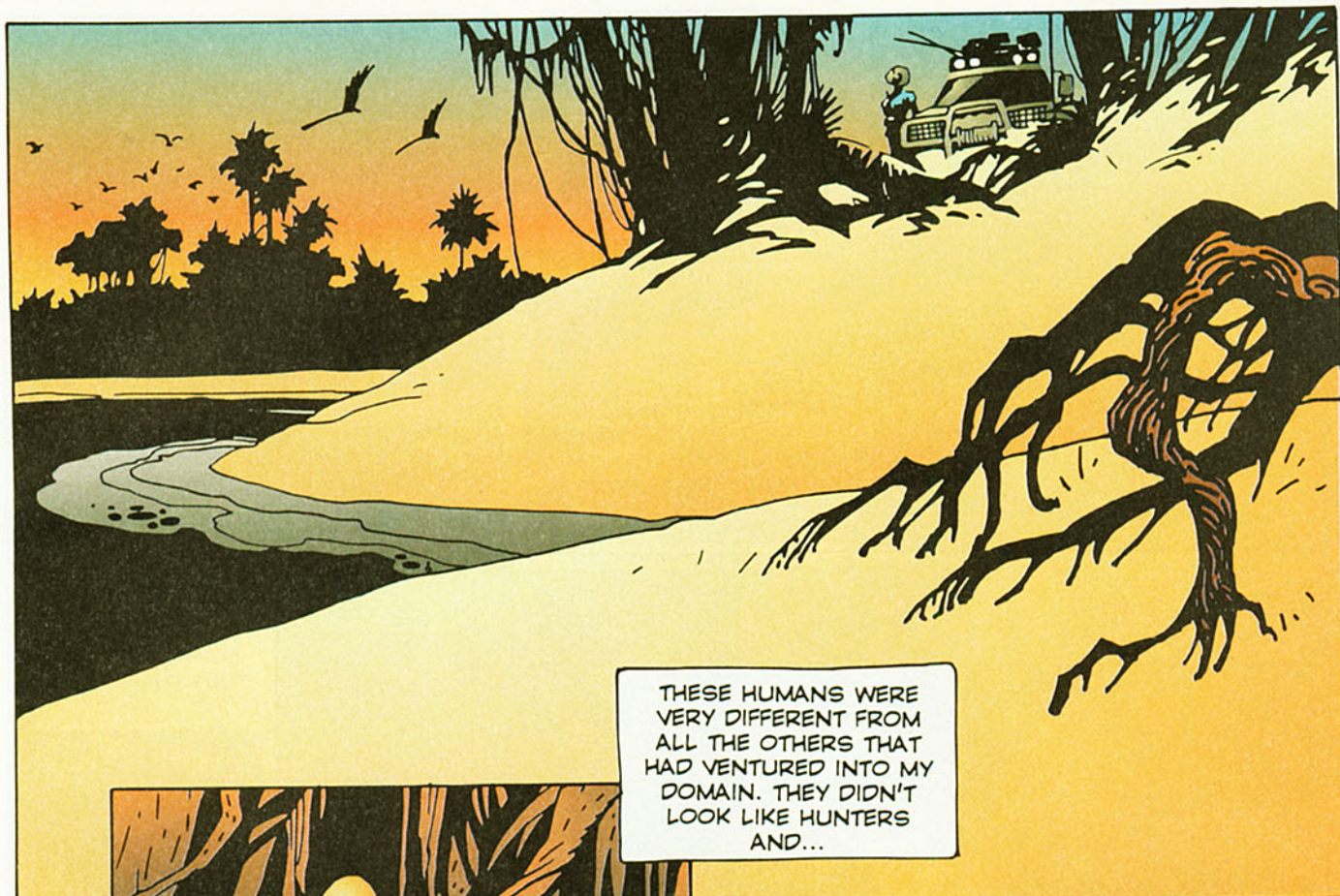
SOMEHOW I
ALWAYS
MANAGED TO
FIND SOME
HUMAN COMPANY.



BUT THIS TOO WAS
A LONG TIME AGO.

ONE DAY,
MORE HUMANS
CAME TO MY WORLD.





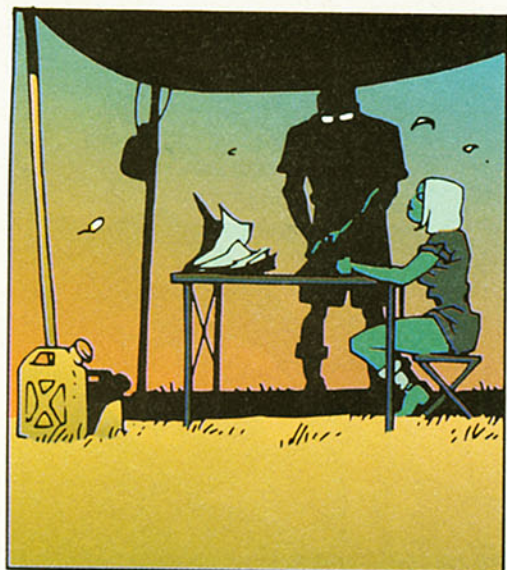
THESE HUMANS WERE
VERY DIFFERENT FROM
ALL THE OTHERS THAT
HAD VENTURED INTO MY
DOMAIN. THEY DIDN'T
LOOK LIKE HUNTERS
AND...



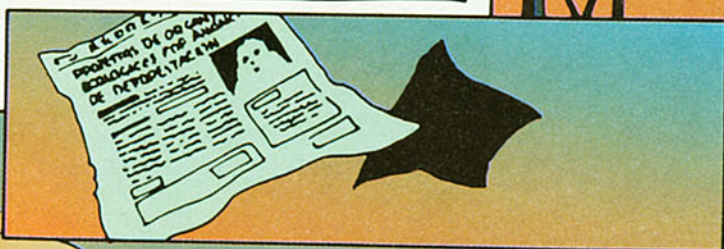
...I HADN'T EXPECTED
TO SEE A WOMAN
AMONG THEM.



OH GOD! COULD MY
BODY BE TREMBLING
WITH DESIRES THAT
I BELIEVED IT HAD
FORGOTTEN AND THAT
COULD NOT BE
FULFILLED?



THE THOUGHT THAT SHE
WOULD BE DISGUSTED
BY MY APPEARANCE
PARALYZED ME WITH
FEAR.

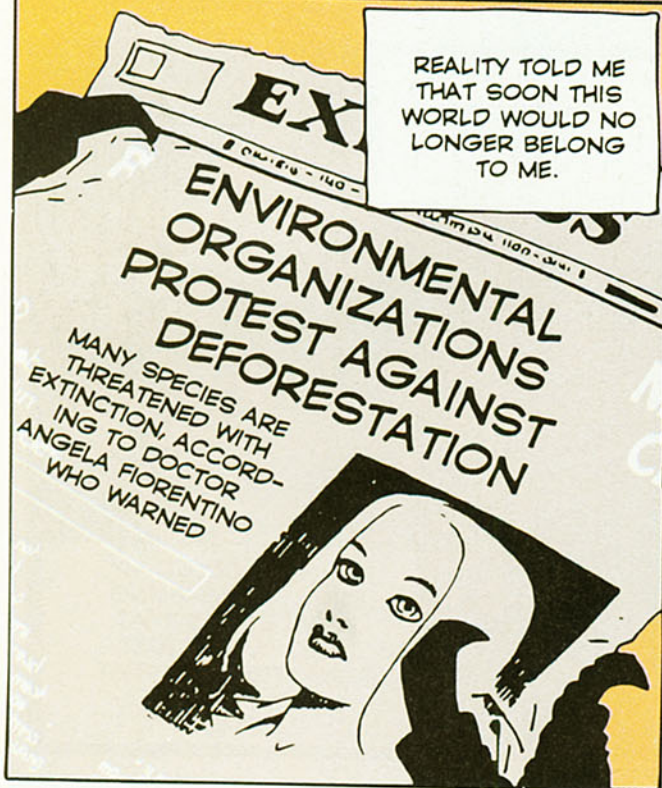


UNTIL REALITY
HIT ME IN THE
FACE ONCE
MORE.

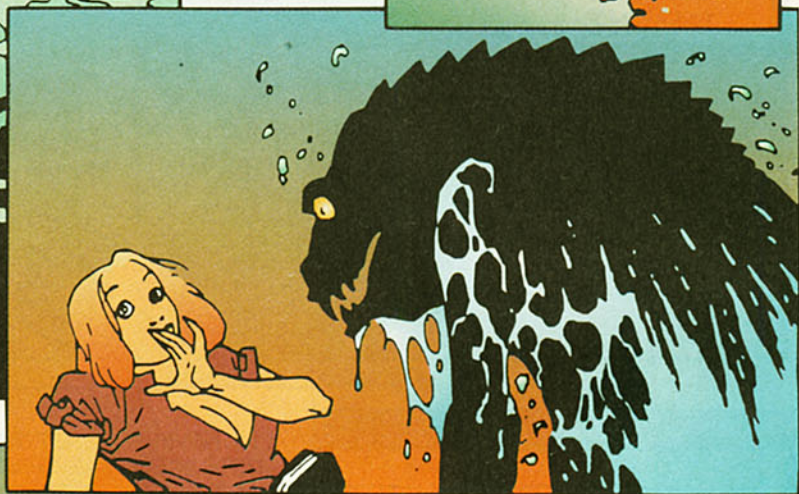
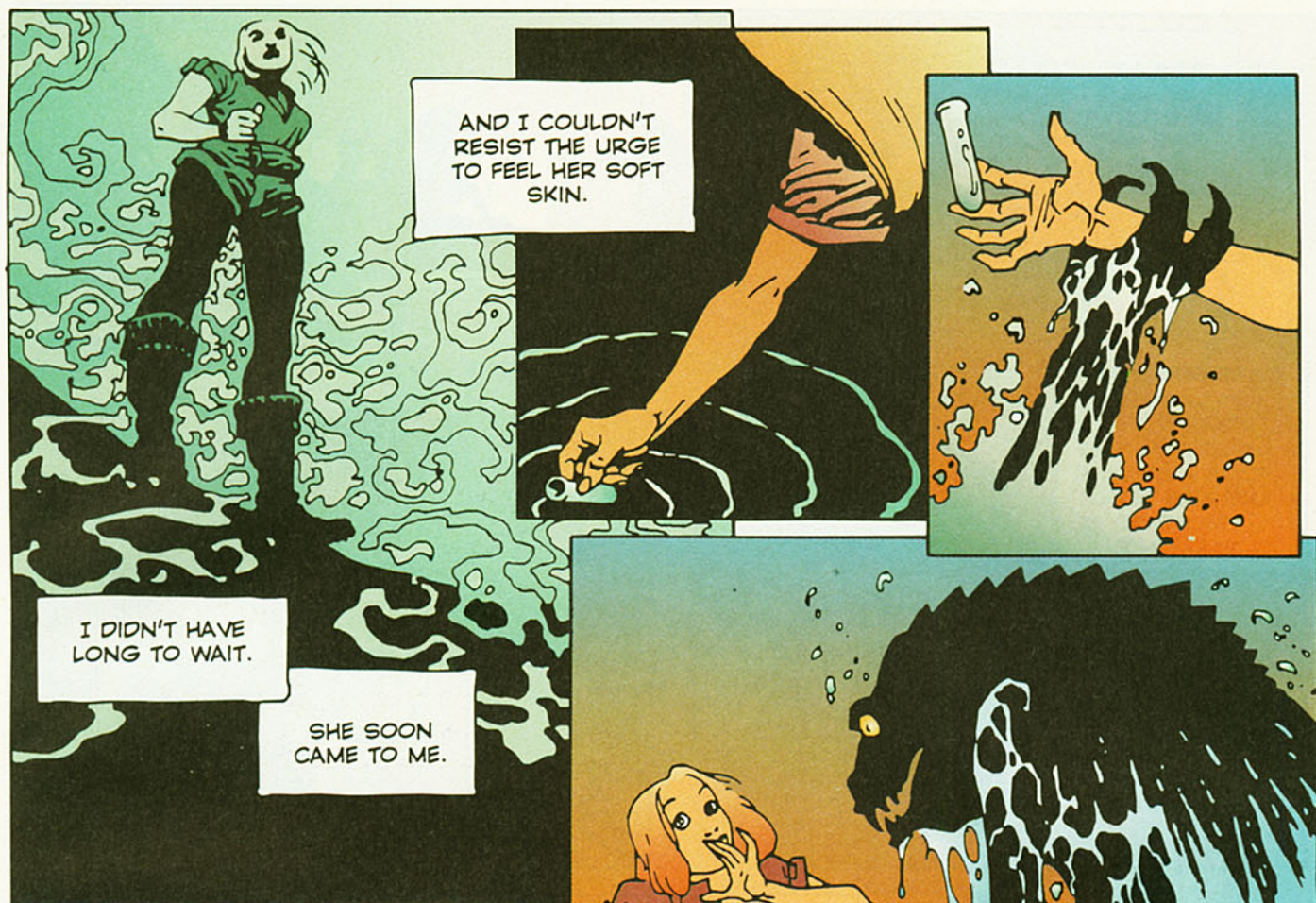
REALITY TOLD ME
THAT SOON THIS
WORLD WOULD NO
LONGER BELONG
TO ME.

REALITY TOLD ME
THAT THE WOMAN
WHO HAD MADE
ME FEEL LIKE A
MAN AGAIN WAS
SOMEONE LIKE ME...

...A SCIENTIST WHO
WOULD BE ABLE TO
GIVE BACK TO THE
WORLD A SMALL
PORTION OF THE
UNDERSTANDING IT
SO GREATLY LACKED.



MY HEART POUNDING WITH
EMOTION, I DECIDED TO HIDE IN
MY HOME.



FINALLY, I WOULD
BE ABLE TO TELL
MY STORY TO SOME-
ONE WHO WOULD
UNDERSTAND THE
DRAMA OF MY PER-
SONAL CONDITION.

I'LL NEVER
FORGET THE
MOMENT WHEN I
TOOK A BREATH
AND WAS ABOUT
TO START
SPEAKING.



GRF

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE ANGUISH
THAT CAME OVER ME WHEN I
REALIZED THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN
I COULD NO LONGER
COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER
HUMANS.

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE
PITIFUL SQUEAK THAT
CAME FROM MY THROAT
WHEN I TRIED TO UTTER
A WORD.

GRF

GRRF

I TRIED! I SWEAR I TRIED!
I THOUGHT THAT SOMEHOW
I'D BE ABLE TO COMMUN-
ICATE THROUGH SIGN
LANGUAGE. BIT BY BIT,
I TOLD HER MY LIFE STORY,
EXPLAINING THAT I TOO WAS
HUMAN. SHE SEEMED SO
INTERESTED IN ME...

AND WHEN HER BODY
TOUCHED MINE, I FELT THAT
MY EFFORTS HAD NOT BEEN
IN VAIN.



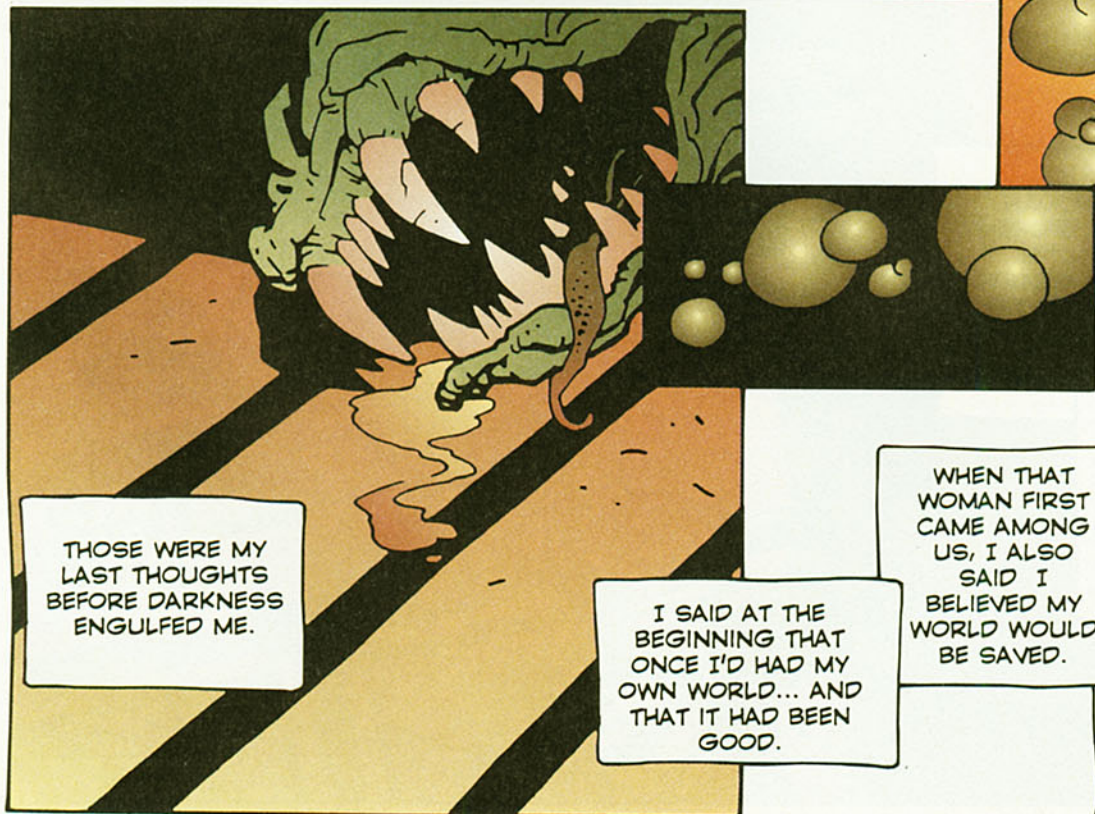
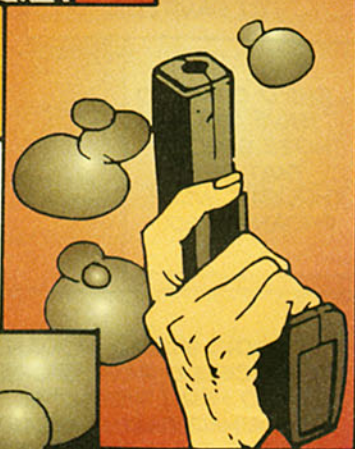
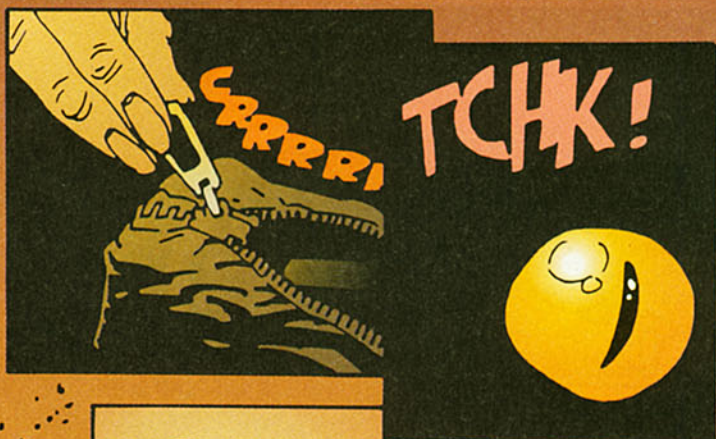
...AND AS SHE LOOKED AT ME
GENTLY AND STROKED ME, I
THOUGHT I'D SUCCEEDED IN
MAKING MYSELF UNDER-
STOOD.



Grouf

HUMANS WERE NOT
SO STUPID,
AFTER ALL.

THAT'S WHAT I
WAS THINKING
DURING THOSE
MOMENTS.



THOSE WERE MY
LAST THOUGHTS
BEFORE DARKNESS
ENGULFED ME.

I SAID AT THE
BEGINNING THAT
ONCE I'D HAD MY
OWN WORLD... AND
THAT IT HAD BEEN
GOOD.

WHEN THAT
WOMAN FIRST
CAME AMONG
US, I ALSO
SAID I
BELIEVED MY
WORLD WOULD
BE SAVED.

I LAUGH WHEN
I THINK OF ALL
THAT. I LAUGH
WHEN I REMEM-
BER THAT SHE
HAD MADE ME
THINK HUMANS
WERE LESS
STUPID THAN I
HAD BELIEVED.



I REALIZED MY MISTAKE
WHEN REALITY HIT ME...
AND I'M CONSTANTLY
REMINDING BECAUSE
REALITY HITS ME OVER
AND OVER.

HUMANS WERE JUST
AS STUPID AS EVER,
AND THAT WOMAN
WAS THE MOST STUPID
OF ALL. SHE HADN'T
COME TO MY WORLD
TO SAVE IT...

...SHE'D COME TO
SAVE ONLY
THOSE SPECIES
THAT SHE
THOUGHT WERE
ENDANGERED.

POOR, STUPID WOMAN.
IF I COULD HAVE SPOKEN
TO HER I WOULD'VE
EXPLAINED THAT MONSTERS
ARE THE ONLY SPECIES THAT
CAN NEVER BECOME EXTINCT.

UNFORTUNATELY,
THERE AREN'T
EVEN ANY LAKES
HERE THAT I CAN
ESCAPE TO.



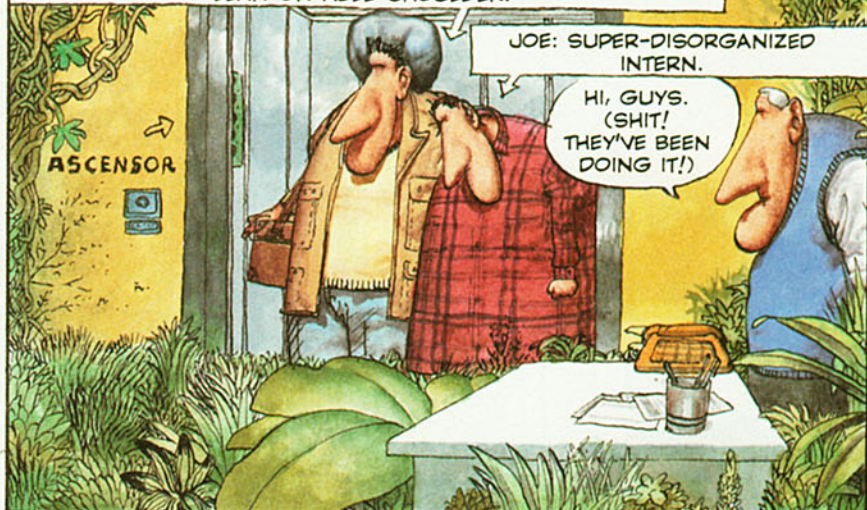
THE HUMDRUM ROUTINE ON THE LOCAL NEWS SECTION OF A TABLOID. SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

THE DAILY NEWS



HERMAN: SUPER-MAN-FOR-ALL-SEASONS.

GEORGE: SUPER-REPORTER, SUPER-PHOTOGRAPHER, SUPER-LEAN-ON-ABLE-SHOULDER.



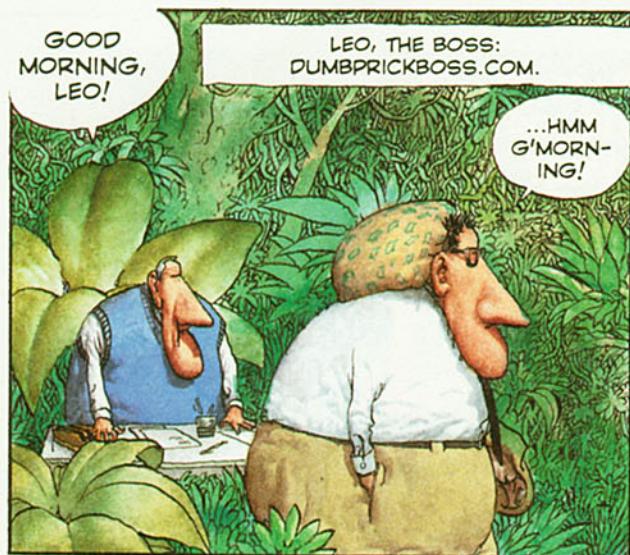
JOE: SUPER-DISORGANIZED INTERN.

HI, GUYS.
(SHIT!
THEY'VE BEEN
DOING IT!)

GOOD
MORNING,
LEO!

LEO, THE BOSS:
DUMBPRICKBOSS.COM.

...HMM
G'MORN-
ING!



HELP!

HERMAN!!!

YOU'D BETTER
STOP TALKING TO
YOUR PLANTS. THIS
PLACE IS BEGINNING
TO LOOK LIKE THE
RAINFOREST!

HMMM...
LET'S GET
TO WORK!



ALLY: SUPER-FLAGELLISTIC-EXTRA-HALITOSIS
WOMAN.

THESE
SPORTSWRITERS ARE
ALWAYS TRYING TO
PLAY BALL.

FUCKIN'
VERMIN!

STOP HUMMING
MY LEGS, YOU
ANIMALS!

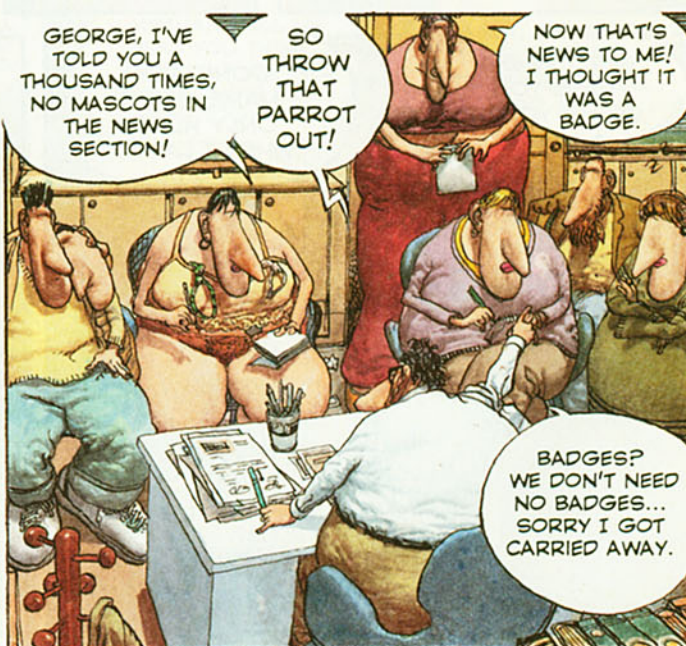
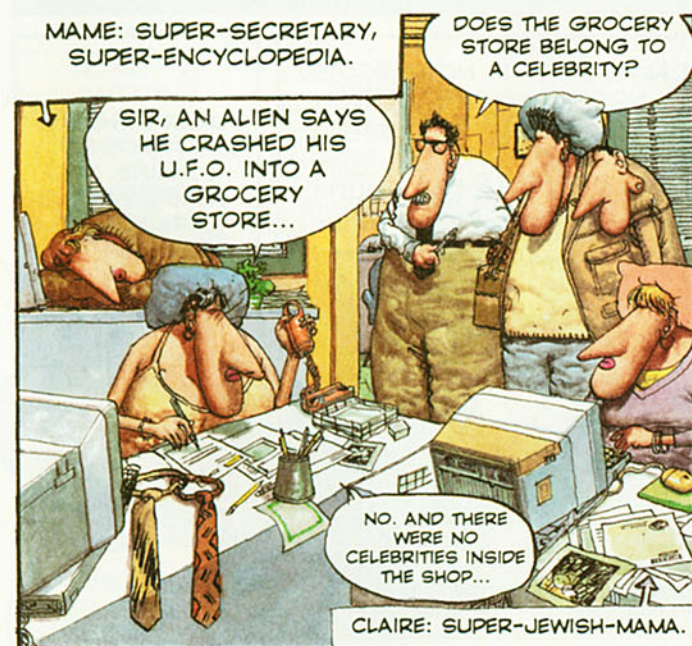
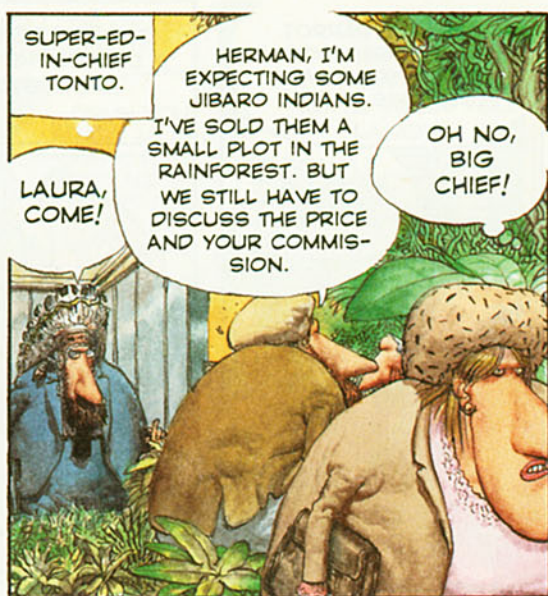


ANN: SUPER-NYPHOMANIAC.

IT'S A REAL PLEA-
SURE DRIVING TO
WORK WITH YOU IN
THE MORNING, ALLY!

OUCH!!





NEITHER A PARROT
NOR A BADGE! SHOW A
LITTLE RESPECT, WILL
YOU? THIS IS JOE!

I ALMOST PUT
MY FOOT IN IT! I
THOUGHT THAT
WAS BIRD SHIT!

GET
OUT!

ANN'S ASSIGNMENT:
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A
SPORTSWRITER.

GOOD.
I'LL BE
ABLE TO
RETURN
THEIR
TIES.

BUT PLEASE...
FIND YOUR OTHER
SHOE FIRST!

ALLY, YOU HELP HER.

I'VE ALREADY
THOUGHT OF THE
HEADLINE: "THE
TRUTH IS OUT OF
THE BALLPARK."

MAME, MAME!
COME BACK, MAME!

GEORGE, I WANT A SHITLOAD OF
PHOTOS OF THE DIRTY OLD MAN
THAT STANDS BY THE TRAFFIC
LIGHTS ON THE CORNER AND
HANDS OUT CANDY BARS TO
CHILDREN.

GEE... CAN'T YOU
SEND SOMEONE
ELSE, BOSS?

I DON'T
LIKE CANDY
BARS.

DO YOU HAVE A
MOMENT, LEO?
IT'S IMPORTANT...

GET TO
WORK,
GOOF-OFFS!

COME IN,
LAURA!

GIT GIT GIT!

BERT! WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN? YOU'RE
A MESS!

DON'T ASK,
MAME, BUT IT
ONLY HURTS
WHEN I LAUGH.

SUPER-PINCUSHION BERT IS MAME'S
HUBBY.

I ALREADY SAID, NO MASCOTS!
NOT EVEN A PORCUPINE!

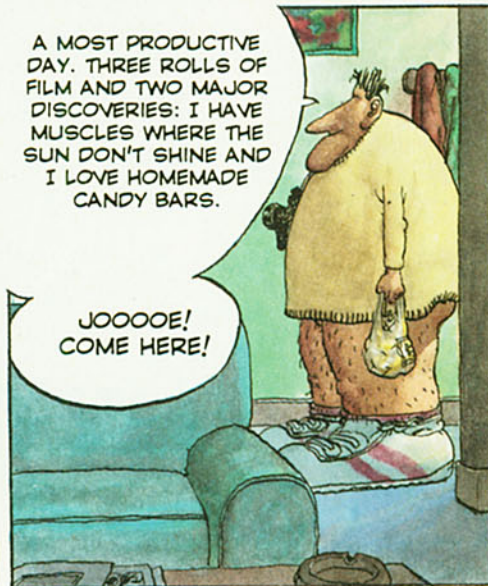
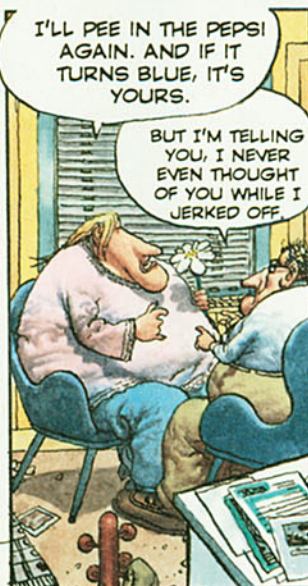
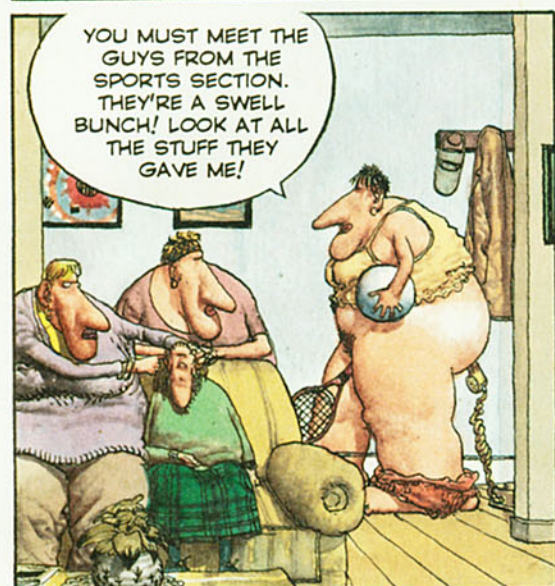
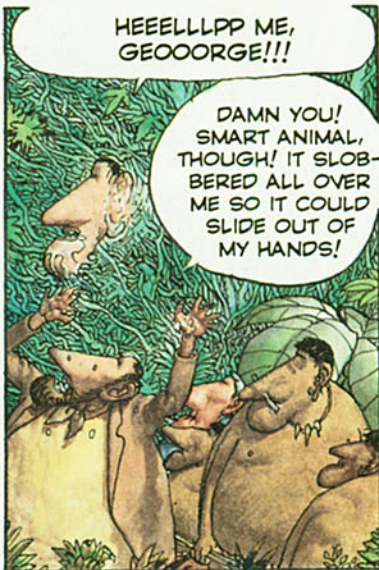
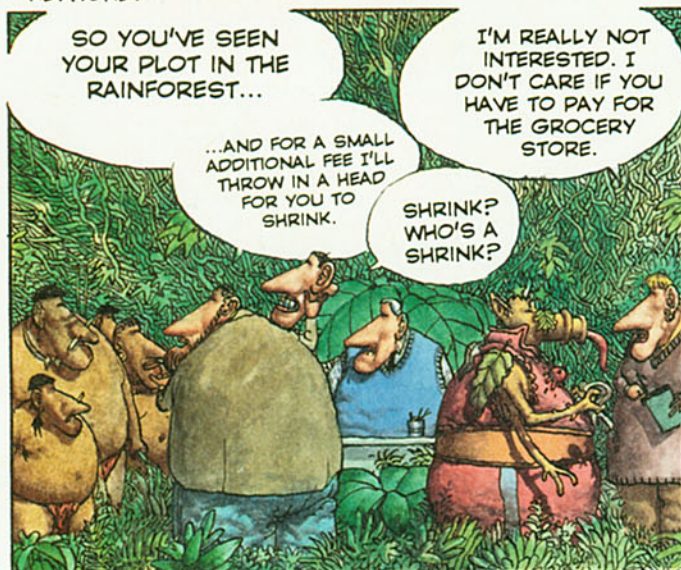
NOW, BERT,
JUST GO
HOME AND
CLEAN UP.

GET
OUTTA
HERE!!!

LAURA, THE KID
CAN'T POSSIBLY
BE MINE. YOU
NEVER SAW ME
JERKING OFF.

BUT LEO,
MARGIE'S TEST
IS FOOLPROOF.

AT THE END OF A HARD DAY'S LABOR THE ROUTINE OF HOME LIFE REPLACES THE ROUTINE OF WORK -- ROUTINE BEING THE KEYWORD.

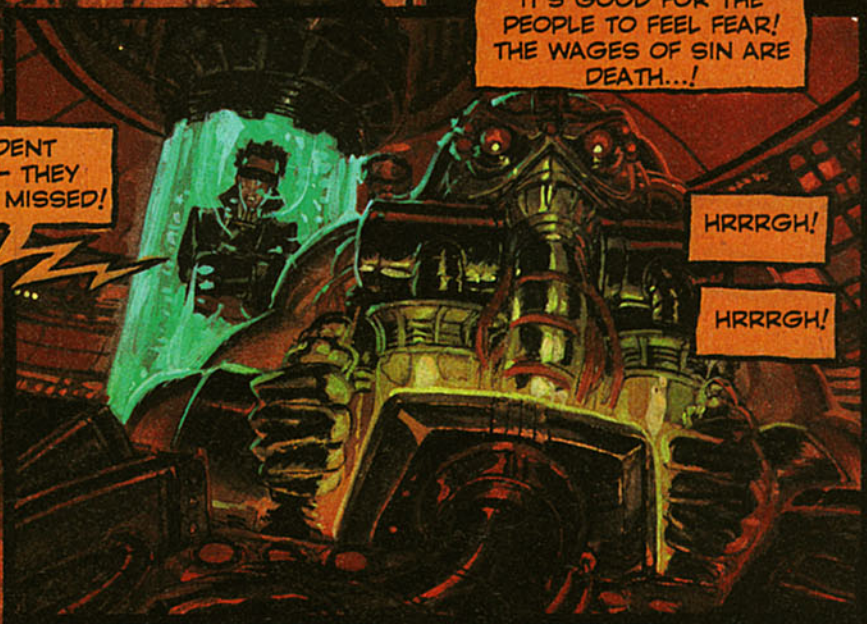


ONE MORE DAY, OR ONE DAY LESS, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT. GOOD NIGHT AND SWEET DREAMS!



THERE GOES THE
NEIGHBORHOOD!

DECADENT
RABBLE- THEY
WON'T BE MISSED!



IT'S GOOD FOR THE
PEOPLE TO FEEL FEAR!
THE WAGES OF SIN ARE
DEATH...!

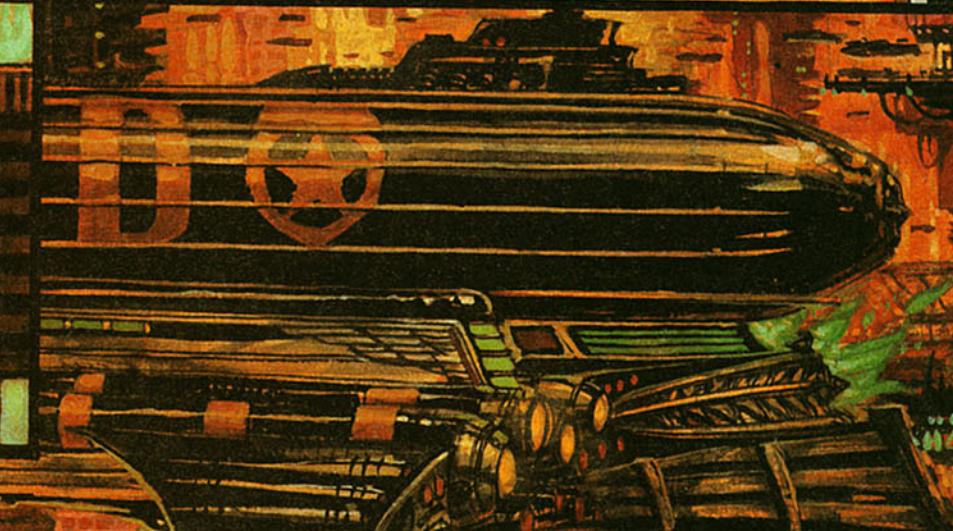
HRRRGH!

HRRRGH!



AND...

IT'S PAY DAY!



GREAT
MOTHER...
HEAR ME
NOW...



FEEL MY RAGE...
FEEL MY TORMENT...



LET MY SCREAM...



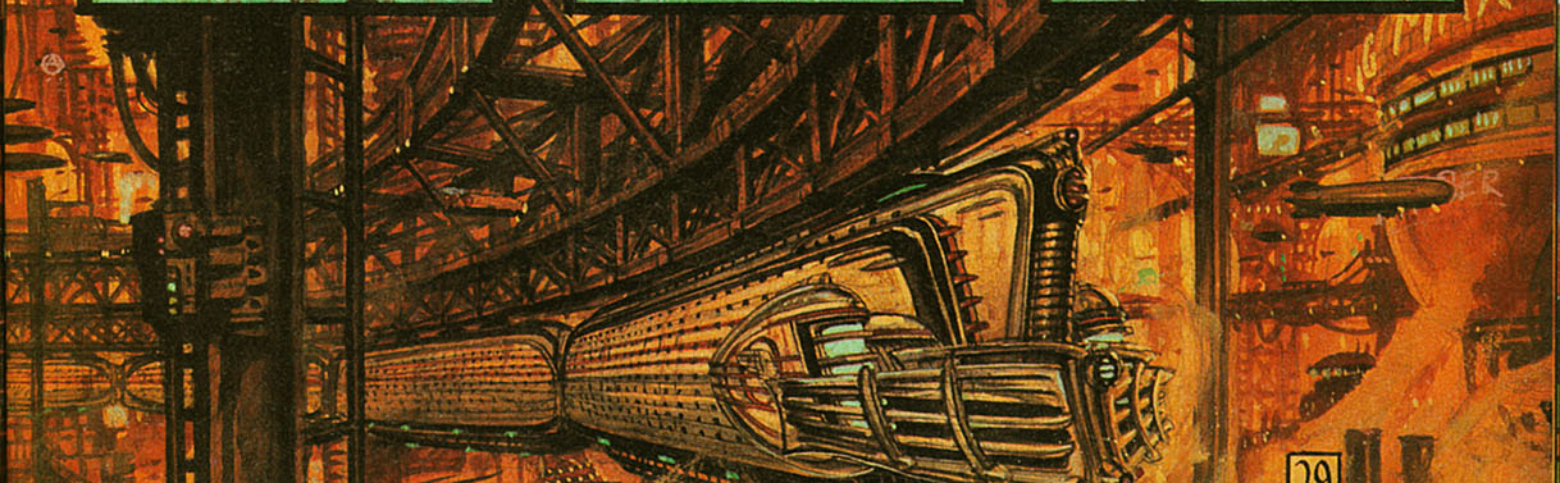
BECOME HIS
SCREAM!



MY BLOOD BECOME
HIS BLOOD!



MY PAIN BECOME HIS
PAIN!



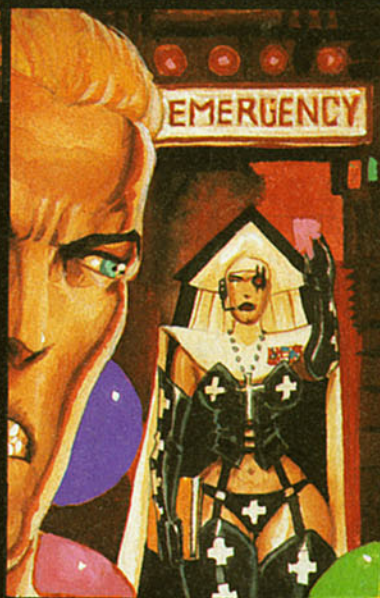


BBROOOMM!!!

REMEMBER, THE HIGHER
THE VOLTAGE THE MORE
THE MONEY SHE MAKES...
BECAUSE...?!

VOLTS MAKE
BUCKS!

THAT'S RIGHT! WILL SHE SCORE THE
MAXIMUM TEN THOUSAND VOLTS...
WINNING TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!
PLUS A LUXURY CRATER-SKATER HOLIDAY
ON THE MOON! AND A QUICK AND
PAINLESS DEATH FOR DUFFY?



ASK YOUR-
SELF... ARE YOU
FEELING LUCKY,
WITCH...?



WE'LL FIND OUT THE
ANSWER DIRECTLY
AFTER THIS
COMMERCIAL BREAK...!



DON'T GO
AWAY!

WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

OFFALLE'S DEAD! DUFFY'S
FREE! SHE TOTALLED HIS
SHIP AFTER HE SHOT UP
HALF THE CITY WITH HEAVY
ARTILLERY AND MISSILES!

IT HIT THE BIG
CHIEF AIR
TRAIN...

THE EXPLOSION TOOK OUT THE
OTHER SHARK COPTERS, AIRSHIPS
AND SURROUNDING BUILDINGS!
TRIGGERED RIOTS AND PANIC IN
THE STREETS. MAYBE CIVIL WAR!

WUMK

WHAT?

SECURITY ROOM

SO IT'S COME
AT LAST...

BUT SHE WAS
DESIGNED TO MAKE
SURE THIS NEVER
HAPPENED...

TO PROVIDE AN OPPOSITION MORE
ATTRACTIVE THAN ANY OTHER... TO
FLUSH OUT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS, SO
WE COULD CONTROL OUR ENEMIES
EFFICIENTLY...

I MUST SPEAK TO
THE PEOPLE.



CITIZENS OF NEW EDEN!
THIS IS A SIGN! APOCALYPSE HAS
BEGUN! THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT
IS HERE!

WE ARE LIVING IN THE FINAL
DAYS! YOU MUST REPENT NOW
AND LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS-
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

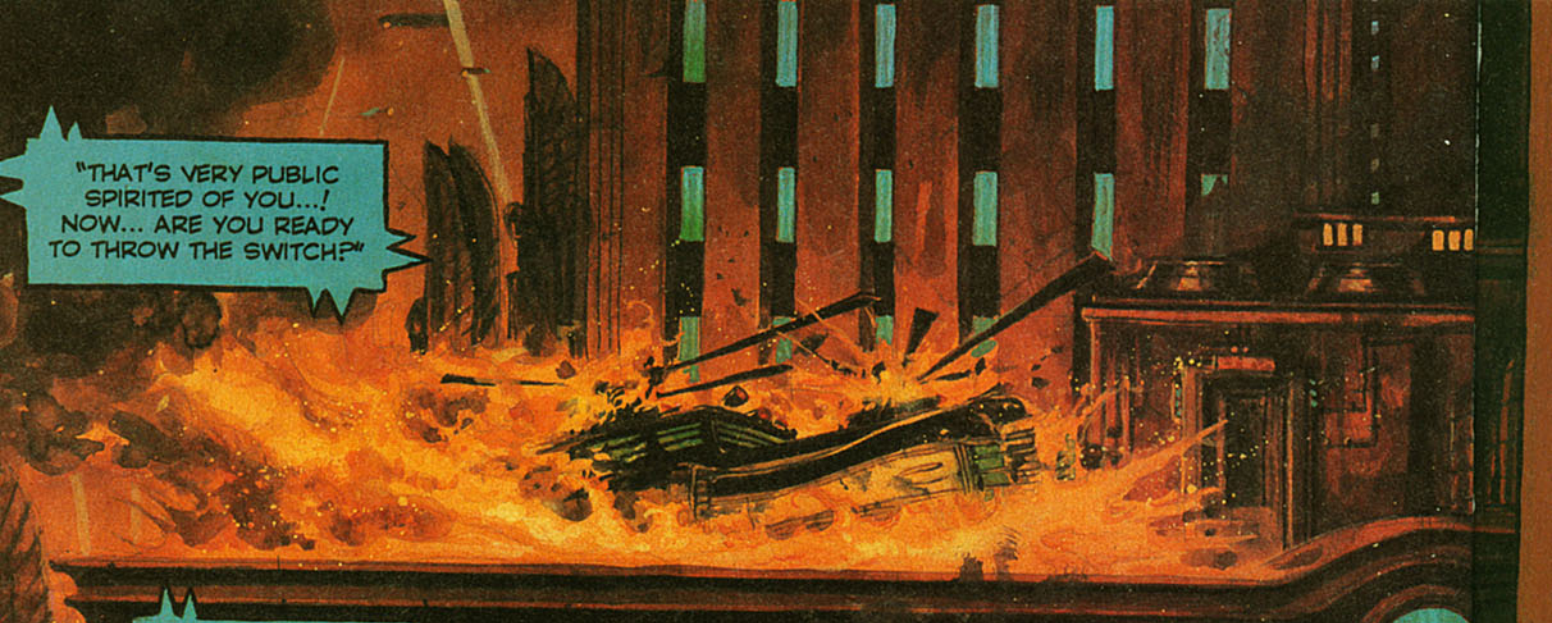
FOR I HAVE HERE THE
CYBERTERRORIST WHO BROUGHT
THE LORD'S WRATH UPON US!

YES, I HAVE JUST LEARNED SHE USED
HER DISGUSTING FEMALE POWERS
TO TRY AND DESTROY US!

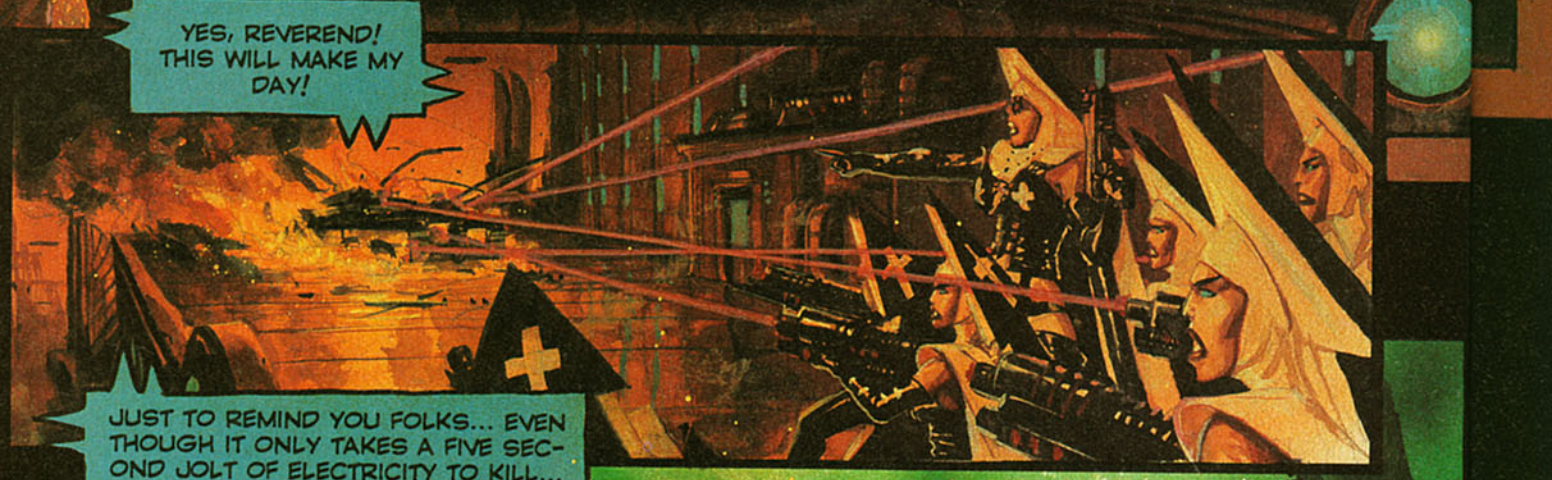
OH, MENSTRUATING WOMAN,
THOUGH ART A FIEND FROM WHICH
THE WHOLE OF NATURE MUST BE
SCREENED!

SO LET'S SEE THAT SCORE...!
TWO THOUSAND VOLTS! A SLOW DEATH!
SORRY, MISS CANDY... YOU WIN JUST
TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS!

I DON'T MIND.
IT'LL BE WORTH IT TO
SEE THE HARLOT
SUFFER!




"THAT'S VERY PUBLIC
SPIRITED OF YOU...!
NOW... ARE YOU READY
TO THROW THE SWITCH?"




YES, REVEREND!
THIS WILL MAKE MY
DAY!

JUST TO REMIND YOU FOLKS... EVEN
THOUGH IT ONLY TAKES A FIVE SEC-
OND JOLT OF ELECTRICITY TO KILL...
AT THIS VOLTAGE, THE PAIN FEELS AS
IF IT'S TAKING TEN MINUTES...!



AS THE BRAIN REGISTERS ALL
THE BURNS... DAMAGE
TO INTERNAL ORGANS...
AND VIOLENT MUSCULAR
CONTRACTION!



REFLECT ON THAT
SINNERS, AS
YOU PRAY FOR
FORGIVENESS!



REVEREND GREY...!

WHAT?



YOU STAND BEFORE THE
THRONE OF MY HEART,
IN THE TEMPLE OF MY
SPIRIT...

FOREVER DAMNED
IN THE PIT OF MY
SOUL!



BE WARNED, WITCH...!
HARM A SERVANT OF
THE LORD AND YOU
FACE THE FIRES OF
ETERNAL DAMNATION!




HEY- YOU
ALREADY DID
THAT ONE...



REMEM-
BER?



KILL ME NOW AND WE'LL
ONLY COME BACK IN
FUTURE LIVES AND DO
THIS ALL OVER AGAIN!



BUT WE'RE LIVING
IN THE FINAL
DAYS... AREN'T
YOU?



YOU... YOU
BURNT ME, YOU
BASTARD...!



YOU FILTH!

YOU WHORE!
YOU DARE TO TOUCH
A MAN OF GOD!

COME ON GIRLS, LET'S TEACH
RELIGION TO THIS PAGAN!



DON'T MESS WITH
A WITCH!

HHHAAAAAAAAARRRGH!!!

THIS LEAVES ONLY
YOU AND ME,
INQUISITOR!

DUFFY... LARA...
THAT'S ALL IN THE
PAST... PLEASE... THINK
ABOUT FORGIVENESS...

LETTING THE
LIGHT INTO
YOUR LIFE...

WHY DON'T I LET
SOME LIGHT
INTO YOUR LIFE?

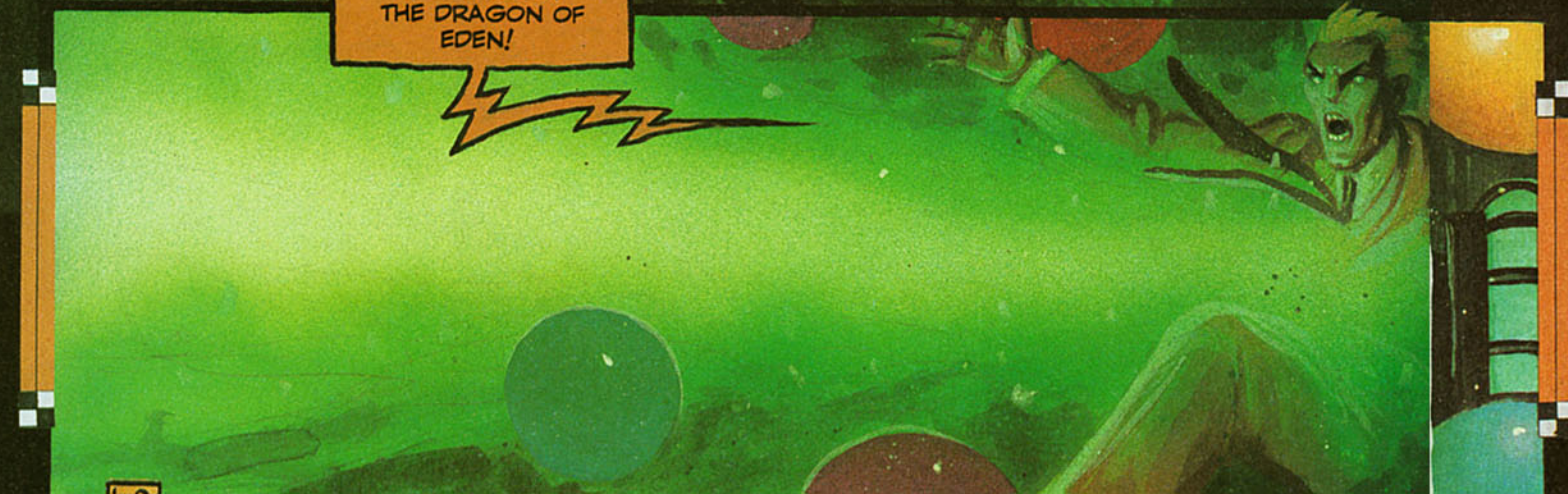
CRREEK!!



I CALL ON THE
POWER OF THE
SERPENT OF OLD!



THE DRAGON!
THE DRAGON OF
EDEN!



KLIK!



NO! NOT
THAT!

Klik!

Ktik!

Tkit!

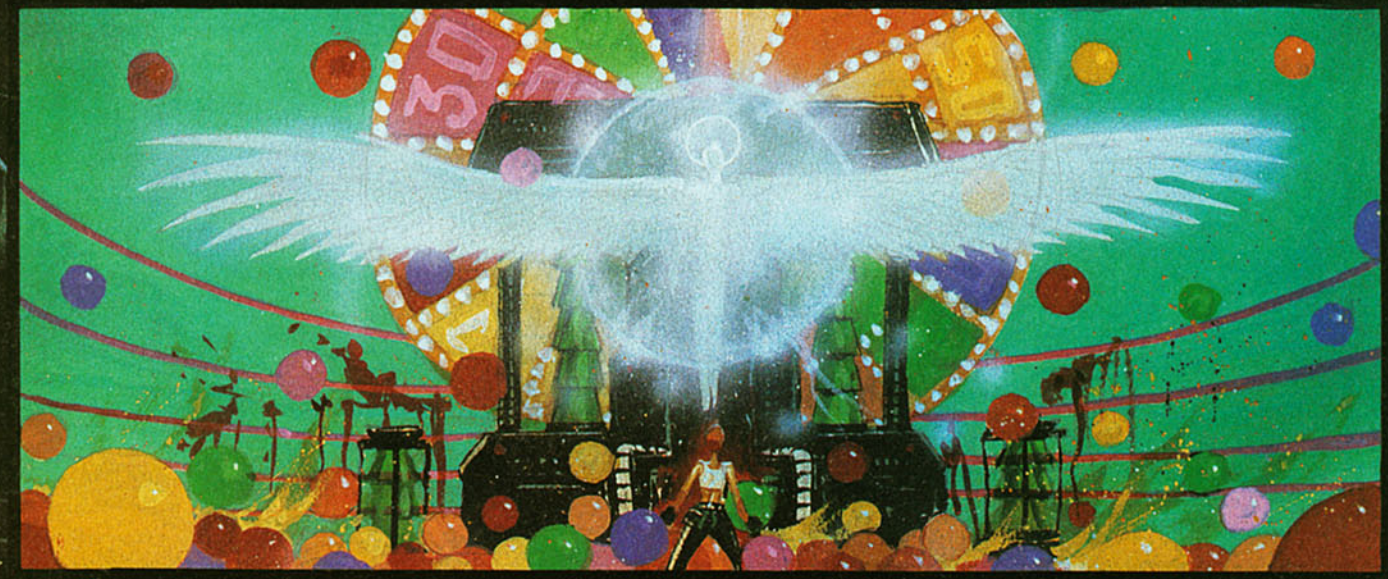
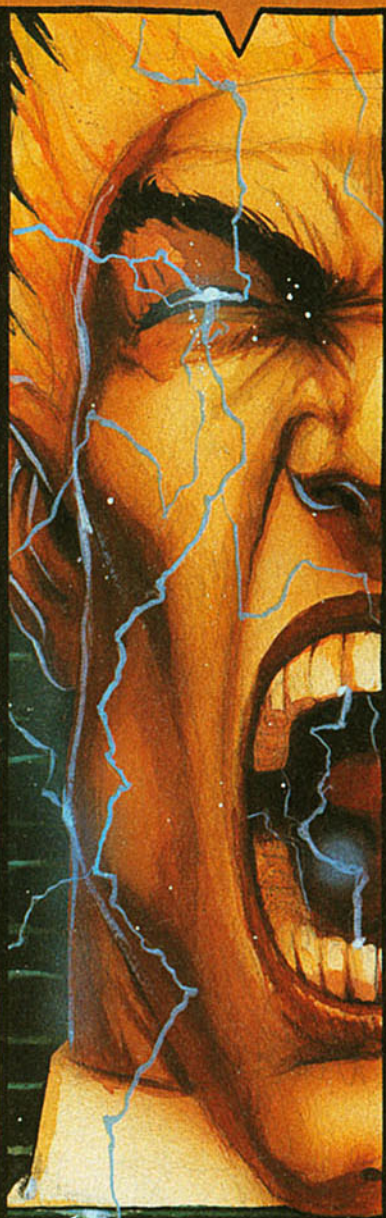
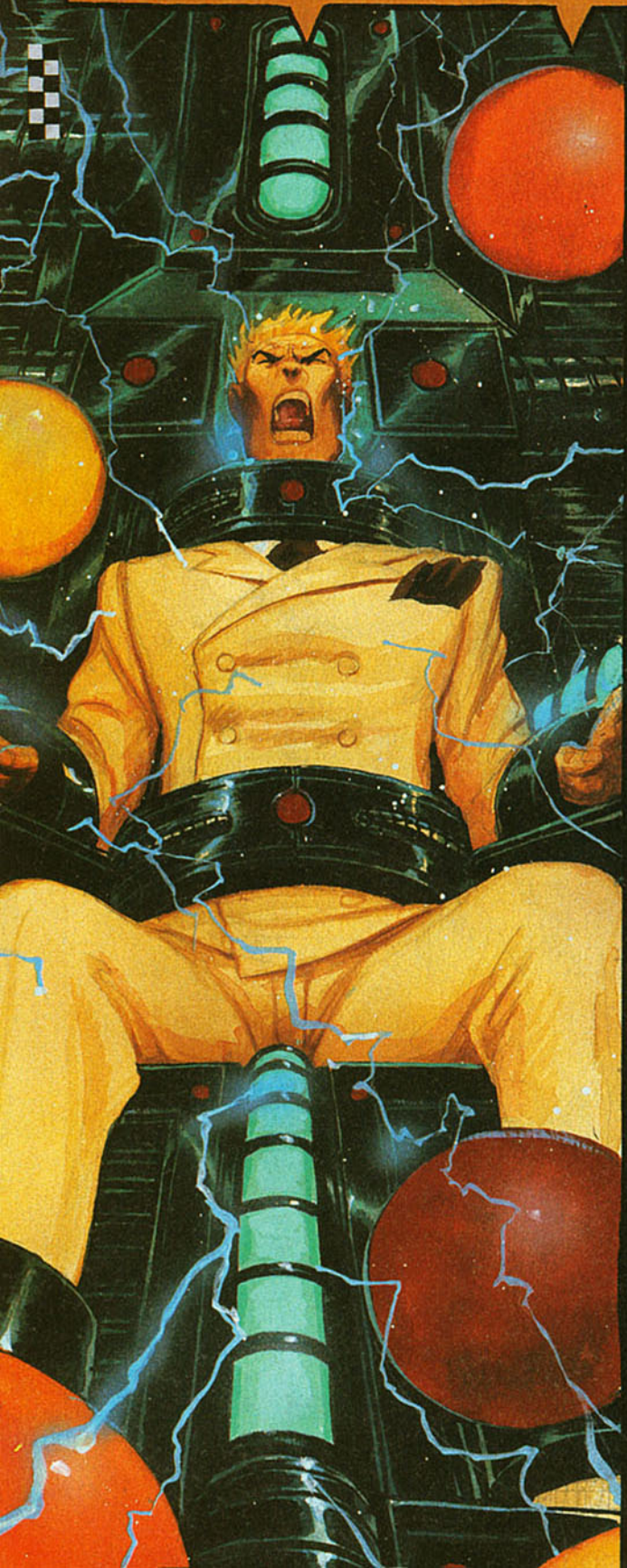
Ktik!

GGLiiiiing!!





HHHHHHHHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGHHH!!!



AND ALL OUR LIFE THROUGH
SEX TO DEATH IS GODDESS
FIRE AND DRAGON BREATH.



IS IT REALLY OVER?
CAN LARA BE AT PEACE
NOW?



SOON...



AND THEN... YOU WILL
BE ABSORBED BY HER
AND SHE BY YOU. HER
DARK WILL BE YOUR
DARK...



YOUR HONOR,
HER HONOR. YOUR
PEACE, HER PEACE.

LET IT BE.





YOU'RE
LEAVING?

WE BOTH MUST. EDEN IS NO
PLACE FOR DRAGON WOMEN.



BUT I WILL NEVER
LEAVE YOU, DUFFY.
I AM YOUR
GUARDIAN SPIRIT.

... I AM THE CANDLE
IN YOUR DARK. AND,
WHENEVER YOU
NEED ME, YOU WILL
FIND ME...

IN THE PLACE OF
SHADOWS.

MILLS
LEDROIT
99

THE CONCEPT OF REBIRTH ON EARTH...
IT WOULD ENABLE US TO BELIEVE THERE IS
JUSTICE IN THE UNIVERSE. - C.J. DUCASSE

DISTANT CORNERS



Illustration by ELI 5 STONE

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