

SUMMER 2001  
U.S. \$5.95  
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# HEAVY

THE ADULT ILLUSTRATED  
FANTASY MAGAZINE

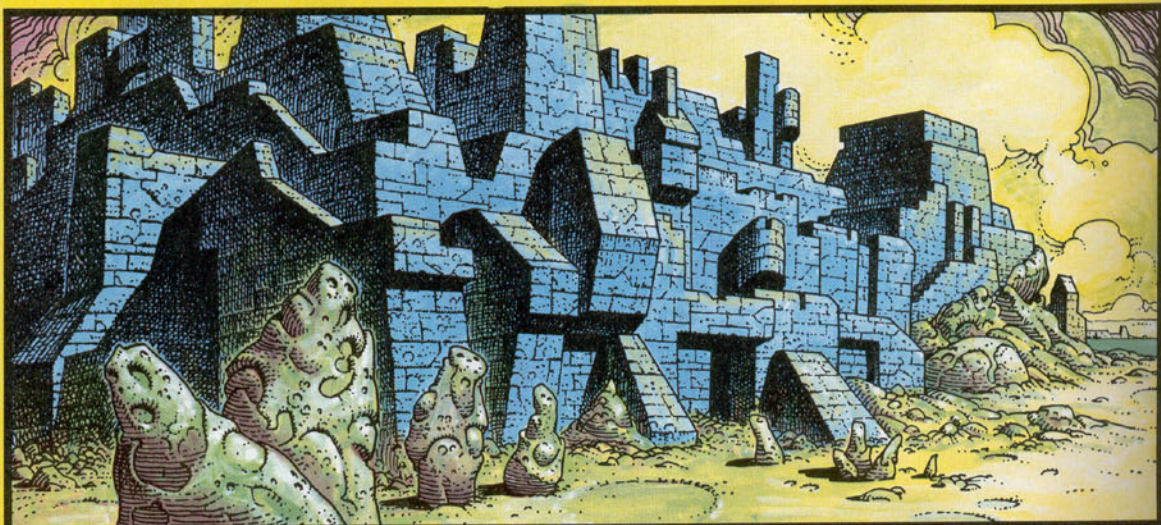
16 1/2" H x 11 1/2" W  
FOLD OUT  
POSTER  
ENCLOSED!



RETAILER: DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 30, 2001



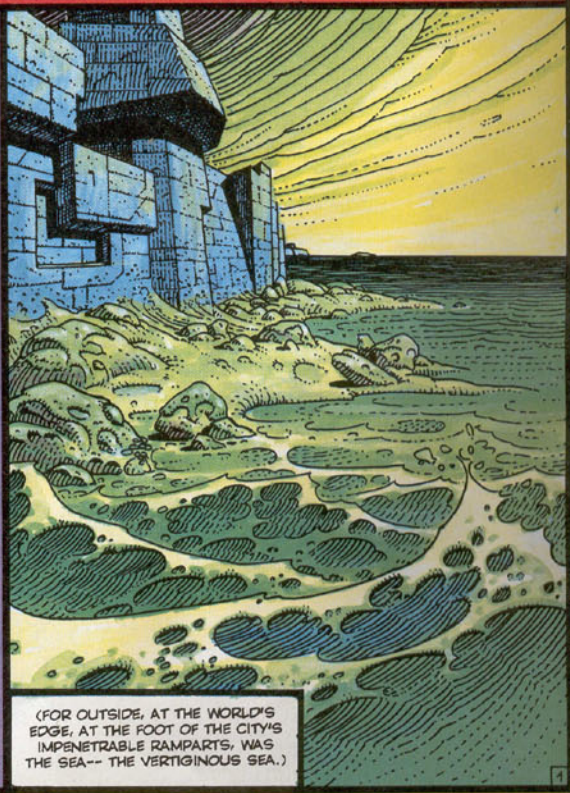
# EQUINOX



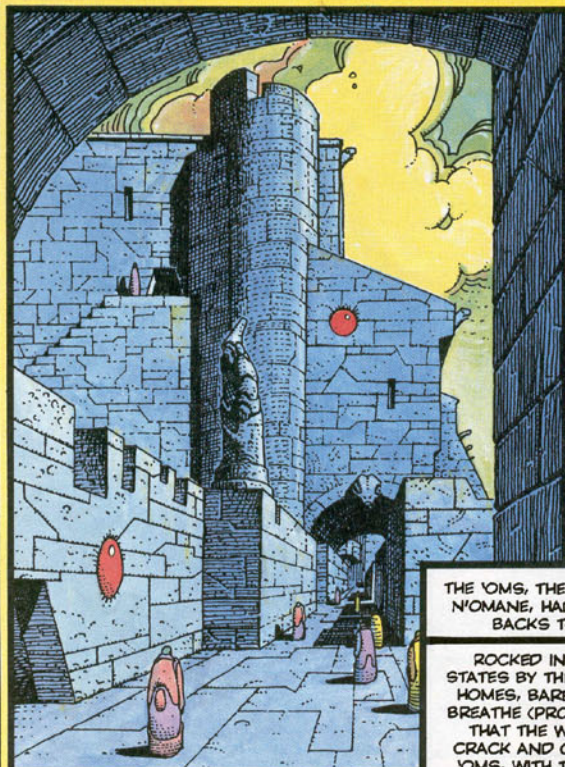
THIS WAS N'OMANE, THE CITY AT THE WORLD'S EDGE: A BASTION AGAINST THE NIGHT, SURROUNDED BY IMPOSING RAMPARTS AND FIERCELY PROTECTED BY DIKES, BREAKWATERS AND BUTTRESSES.

EACH WALL WAS STRENGTHENED WITH INFRANGIBLE METAL. EACH BLOCK OF STONE WAS SEALED WITH LEAD, AND EVERY ARMORED GATE TRIPLE-LOCKED.

N'OMANE, THE CLOSED CITY, WAS PROTECTED AND INACCESSIBLE.

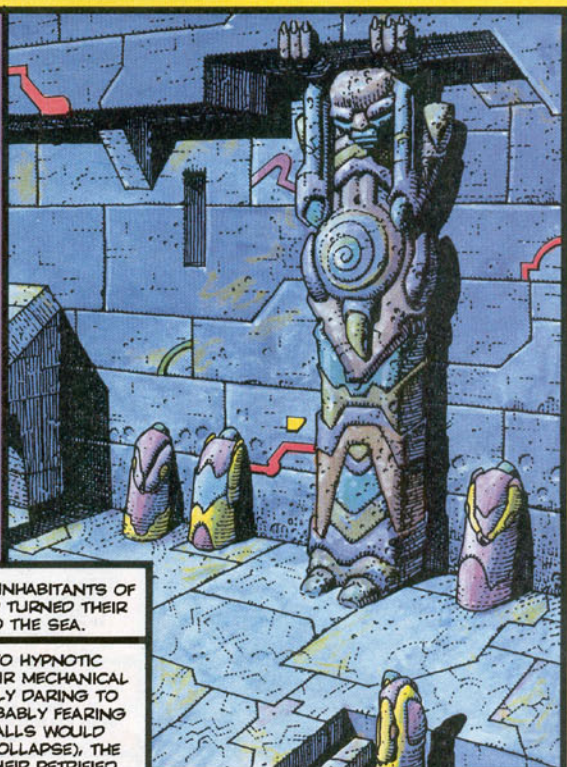


(FOR OUTSIDE, AT THE WORLD'S EDGE, AT THE FOOT OF THE CITY'S IMPENETRABLE RAMPARTS, WAS THE SEA-- THE VERTIGINOUS SEA.)

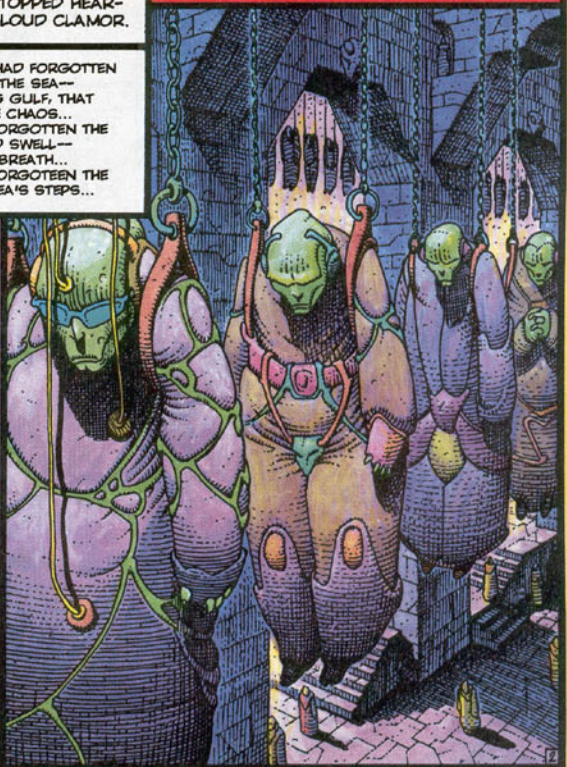
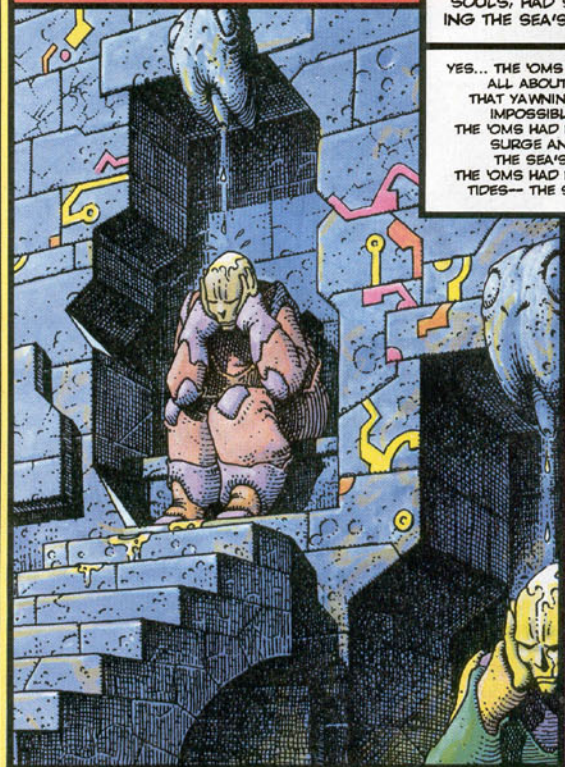


THE 'OMS, THE INHABITANTS OF N'OMANE, HAD TURNED THEIR BACKS TO THE SEA.

ROCKED INTO HYPNOTIC STATES BY THEIR MECHANICAL HOMES, BARELY DARING TO BREATHE (PROBABLY FEARING THAT THE WALLS WOULD CRACK AND COLLAPSE), THE 'OMS, WITH THEIR PETRIFIED SOULS, HAD STOPPED HEARING THE SEA'S LOUD CLAMOR.



YES... THE 'OMS HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THE SEA— THAT YAWNING GULF, THAT IMPOSSIBLE CHAOS... THE 'OMS HAD FORGOTTEN THE SURGE AND SWELL— THE SEA'S BREATH... THE 'OMS HAD FORGOTTEN THE TIDES— THE SEA'S STEPS...





IN N'OMANE, THE CITY AT  
THE WORLD'S EDGE, LIVED  
MORGONE, A STRANGER  
AMONG THE 'OMS...

IN OTHER TIMES, MORGONE  
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE DAUGHTER  
OF A KING, AND WOULD HAVE  
BEEN KNOWN AS A FAIRY-- OR A  
WITCH...

MORGONE HAD PALE SKIN  
AND THE SILVER EYES OF THE  
DAUGHTERS OF THE MOON.  
MORGONE WHO NEVER WENT OUT  
BEFORE DUSK, AND STAYED OUT  
ALL NIGHT...

(AND EACH NIGHT IN 666 IN  
THE ERA OF THE 'OMS, WHEN  
THE EARTH HAD SLOWED  
DOWN, WAS AS LONG AS A  
LUNAR CYCLE).



AT NIGHT, MORGONE WOULD  
STAND ALONE ON THE RAMPARTS  
AND SING. ... (SHE SANG EVERY  
NIGHT, FOR MANY MONTHS. WHILE  
THE 'OMS HUGGLED IN THEIR  
CAVES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS  
AND FORGOT THE SEA.)



(... MORGONE  
SINGS...)

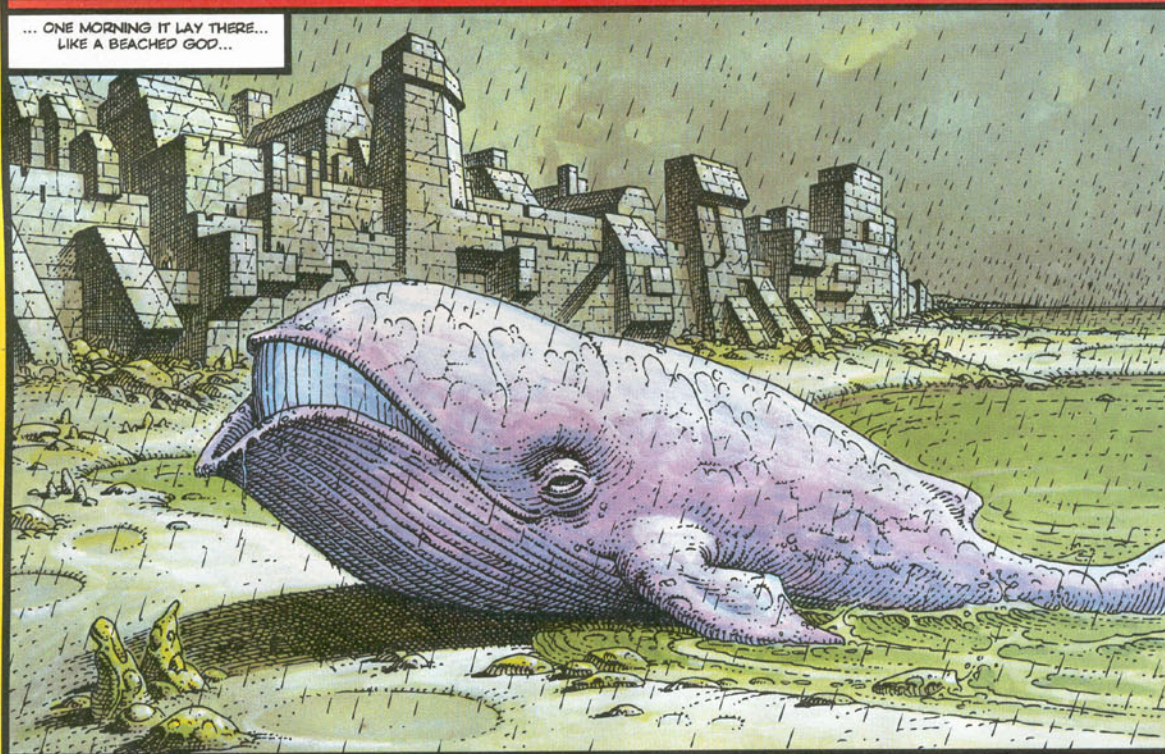
(... AND THE SEA  
LISTENS...)



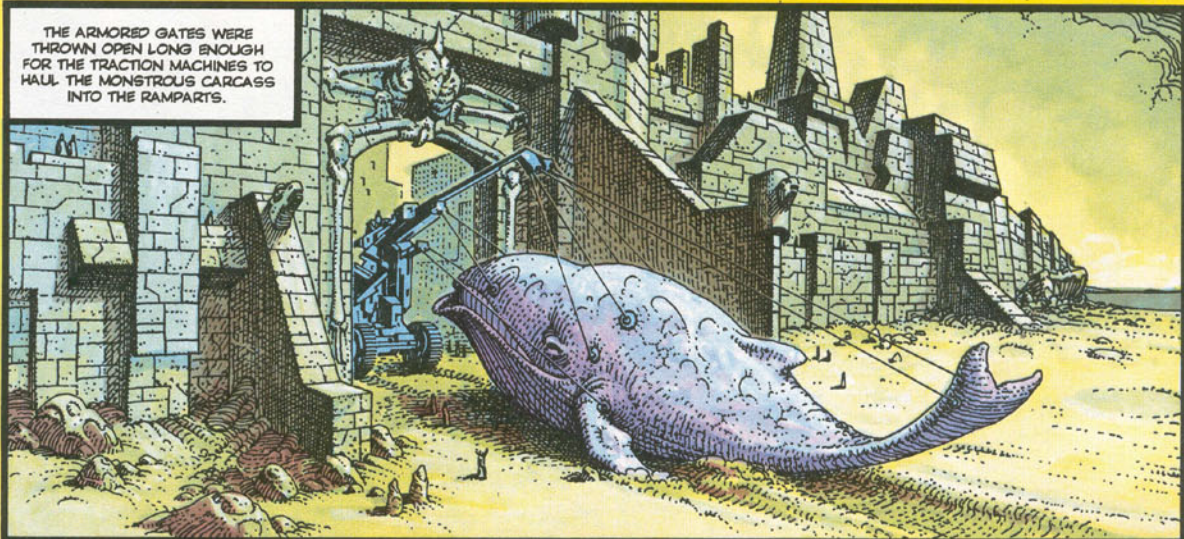
THEN ONE MORNING-- ONE OF  
THOSE SLOW, GRAY MORNINGS  
WHEN THE DAY SEEMS TO DAWN  
UNWILLINGLY...

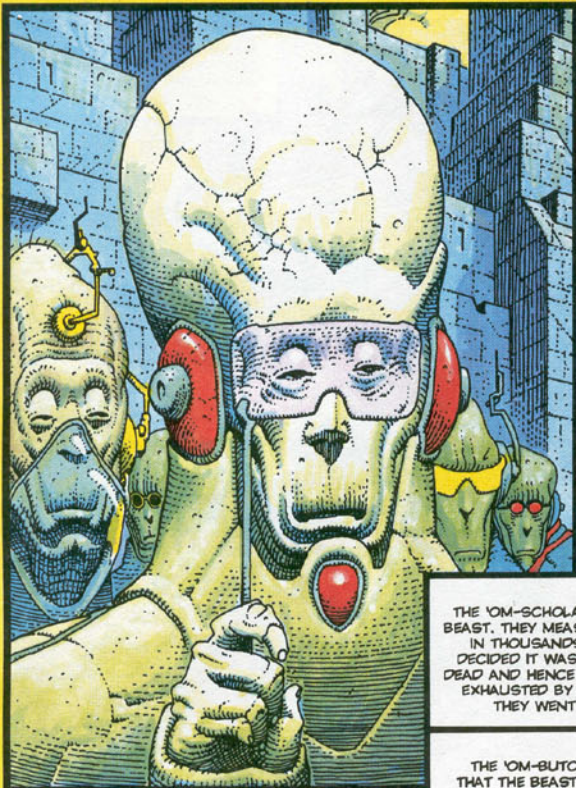


... ONE MORNING IT LAY THERE...  
LIKE A BEACHED GOD...



THE ARMORED GATES WERE  
THROWN OPEN LONG ENOUGH  
FOR THE TRACTION MACHINES  
TO HAUL THE MONSTROUS  
CARCASS INTO THE RAMPARTS.



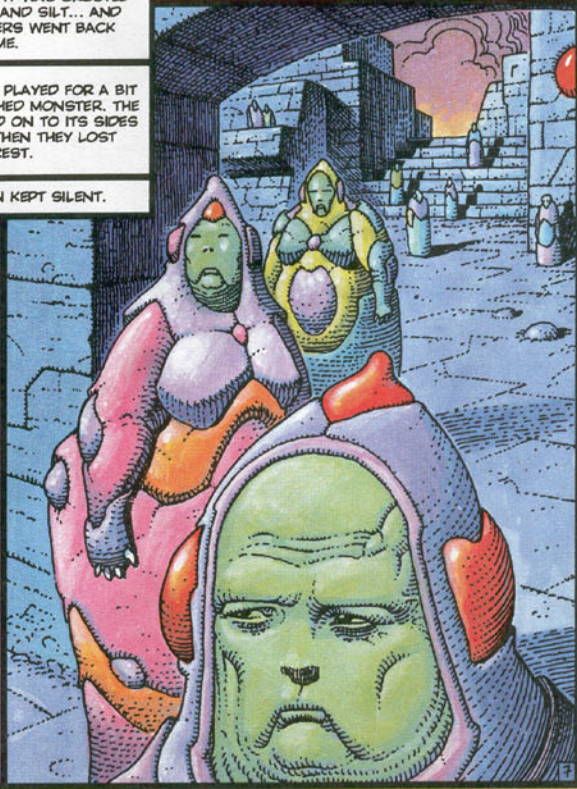
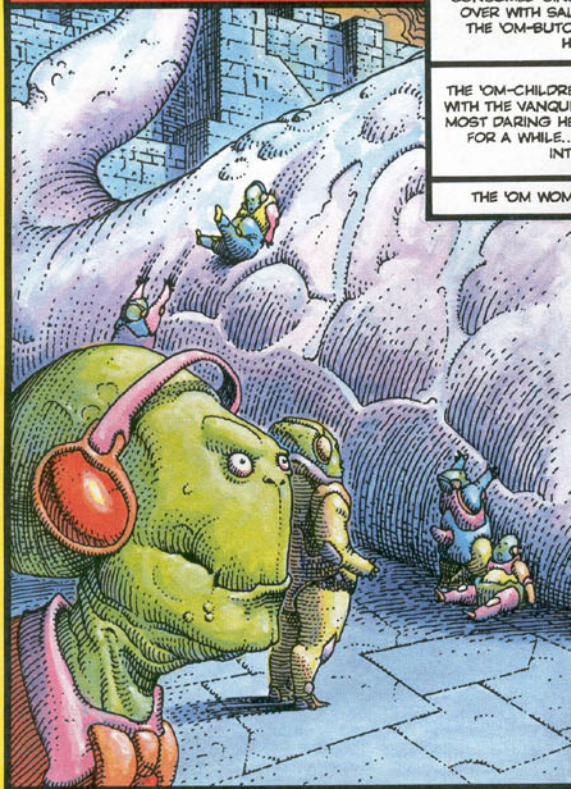


THE 'OM-SCHOLARS EXAMINED THE BEAST. THEY MEASURED IT, TESTED IT IN THOUSANDS OF WAYS, AND DECIDED IT WAS MOST CERTAINLY DEAD AND HENCE HARMLESS... THEN, EXHAUSTED BY THEIR ACTIVITIES, THEY WENT BACK HOME.

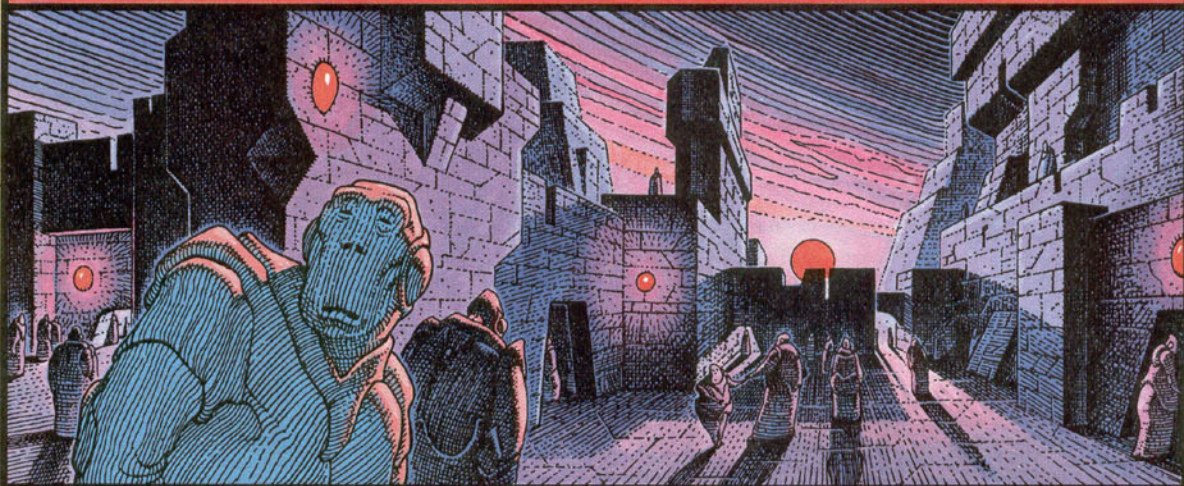
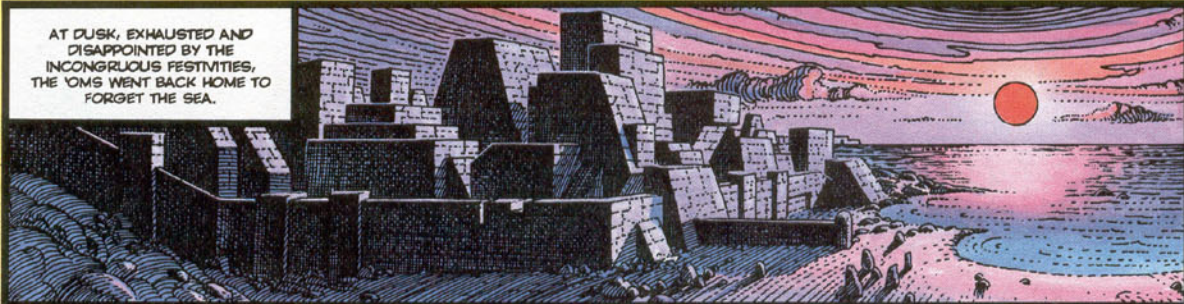
THE 'OM-BUTCHERS DECLARED THAT THE BEAST WAS UNFIT TO BE CONSUMED SINCE IT WAS CRUSTED OVER WITH SALT AND SILT... AND THE 'OM-BUTCHERS WENT BACK HOME.

THE 'OM-CHILDREN PLAYED FOR A BIT WITH THE VANQUISHED MONSTER. THE MOST DARING HELD ON TO ITS SIDES FOR A WHILE... THEN THEY LOST INTEREST.

THE 'OM WOMEN KEPT SILENT.



AT DUSK, EXHAUSTED AND DISAPPOINTED BY THE INCONGRUOUS FESTIVITIES, THE 'OMS WENT BACK HOME TO FORGET THE SEA.

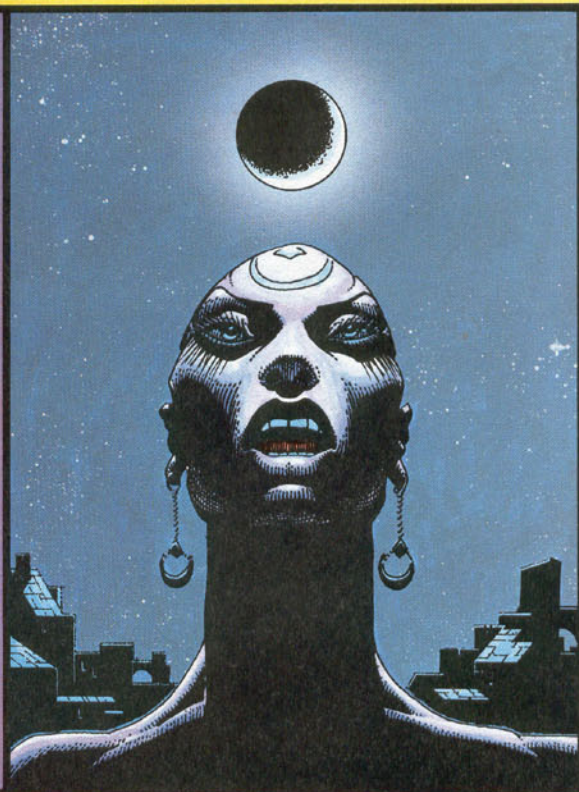
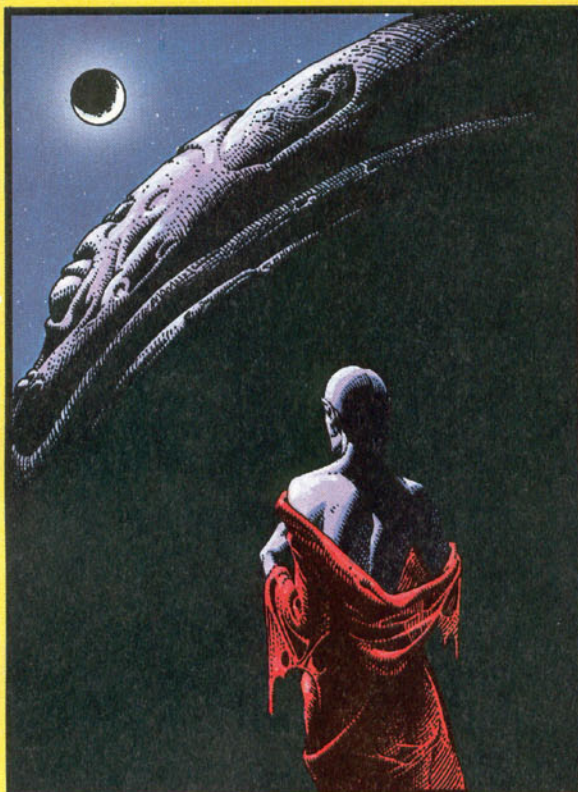


THE LEVIATHAN STAYED WHERE IT WAS... LIKE AN IDOL ABANDONED BY ITS WORSHIPPERS OF A SINGLE DAY...



(... THAT NIGHT, MORGONE DID NOT GO TO THE RAMPARTS TO SING...)





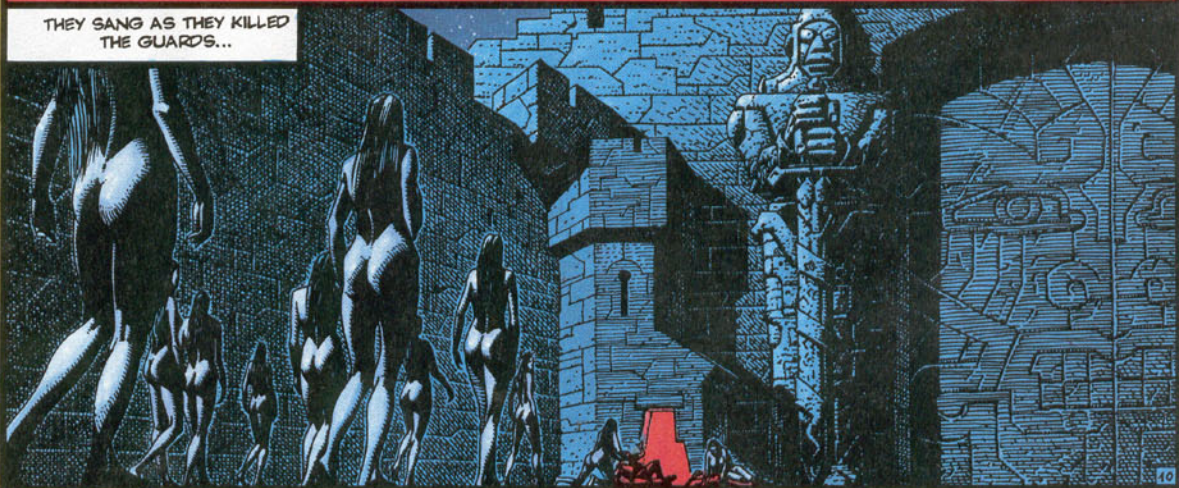
... AND THEN THEY BEGAN TO  
SING...



... THE PALE WOMEN WALKED  
THROUGH THE CITY SINGING...

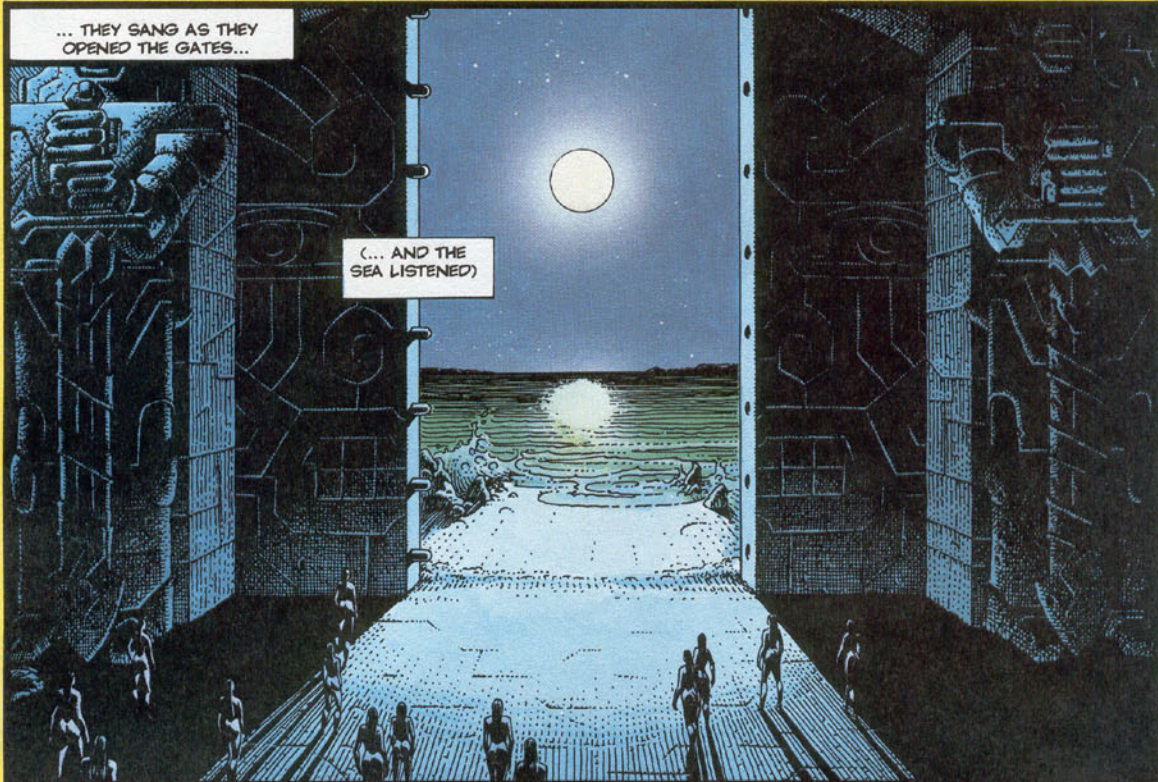


THEY SANG AS THEY KILLED  
THE GUARDS...

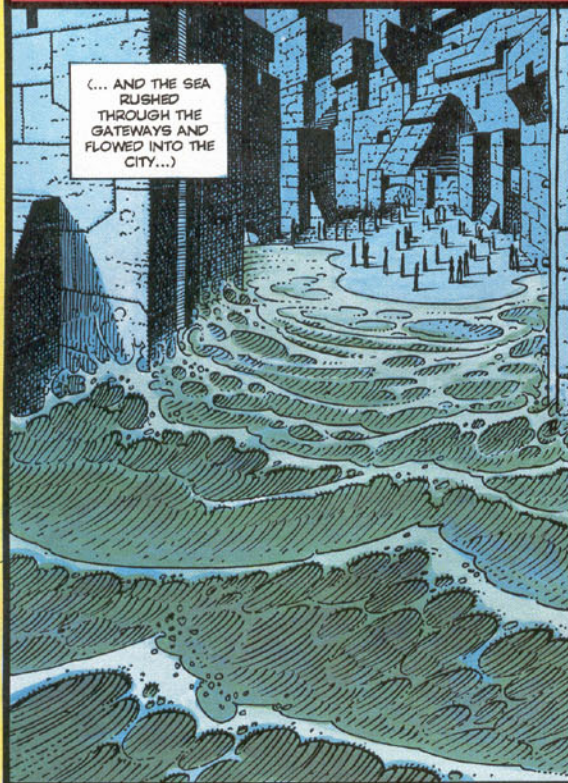


... THEY SANG AS THEY  
OPENED THE GATES...

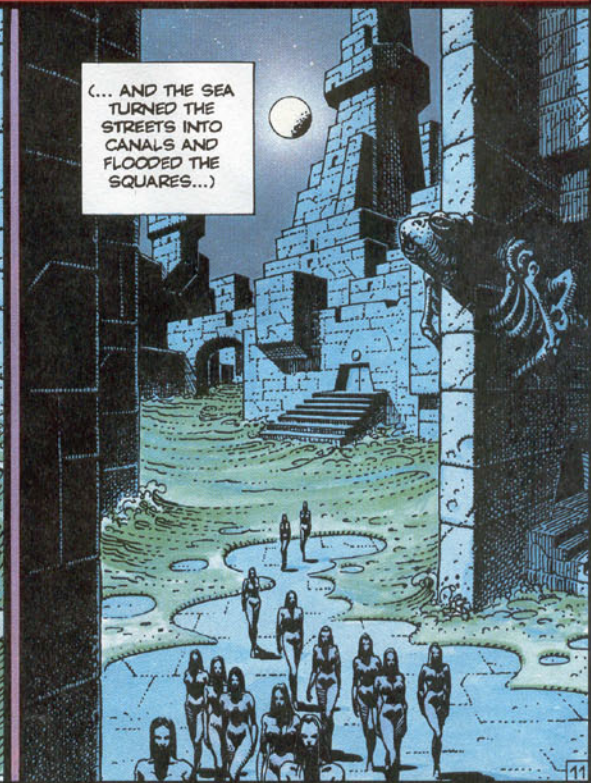
(... AND THE  
SEA LISTENED)



(... AND THE SEA  
RUSHED  
THROUGH THE  
GATEWAYS AND  
FLOWED INTO THE  
CITY...)



(... AND THE SEA  
TURNED THE  
STREETS INTO  
CANALS AND  
FLOODED THE  
SQUARES...)

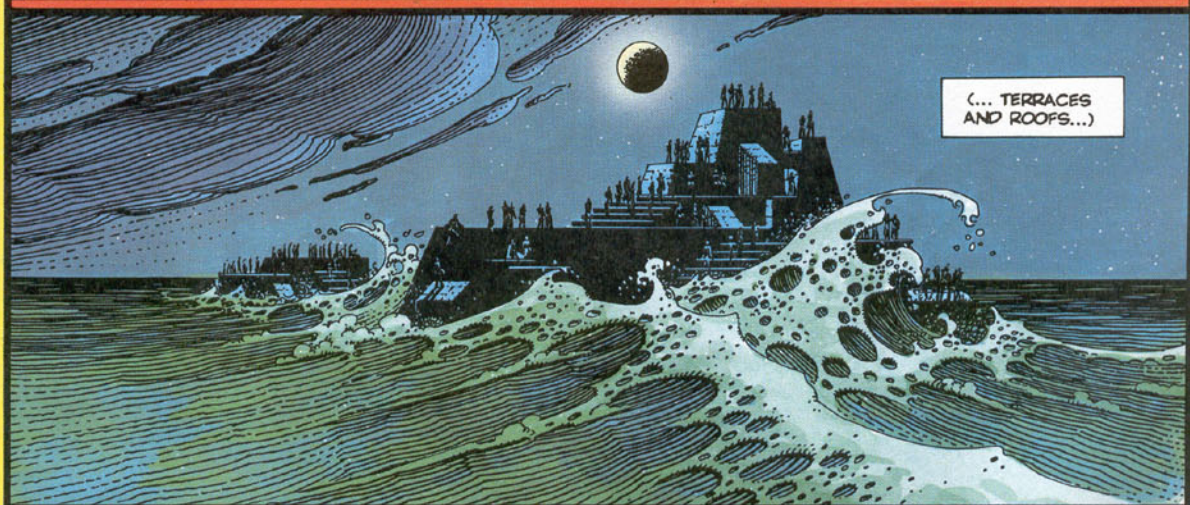




(... ALMOST  
SILENTLY,  
THE SEA ROSE,  
COVERING EVERY  
LEVEL OF THE  
CITY, STEP BY  
STEP...)

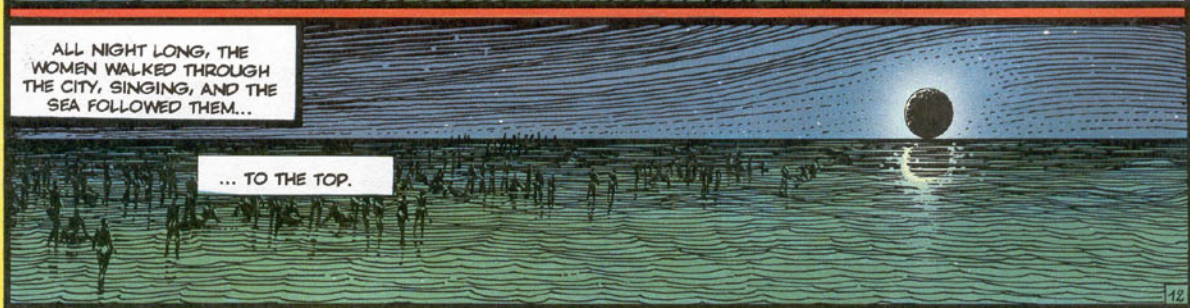


(... SWALLOWING  
BALCONIES AND  
STAIRWAYS...)



(... TERRACES  
AND ROOFS...)

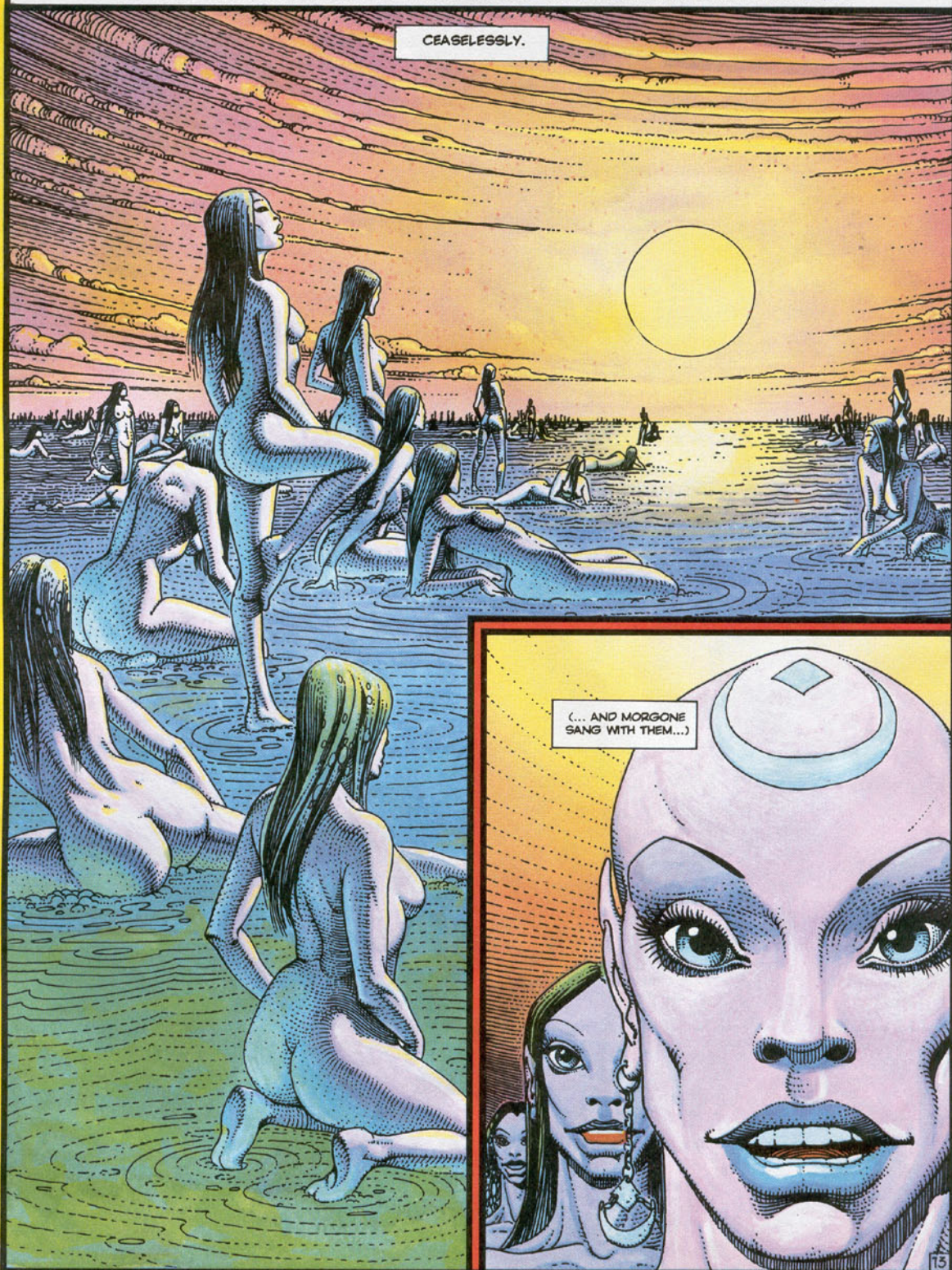
ALL NIGHT LONG, THE  
WOMEN WALKED THROUGH  
THE CITY, SINGING, AND THE  
SEA FOLLOWED THEM...



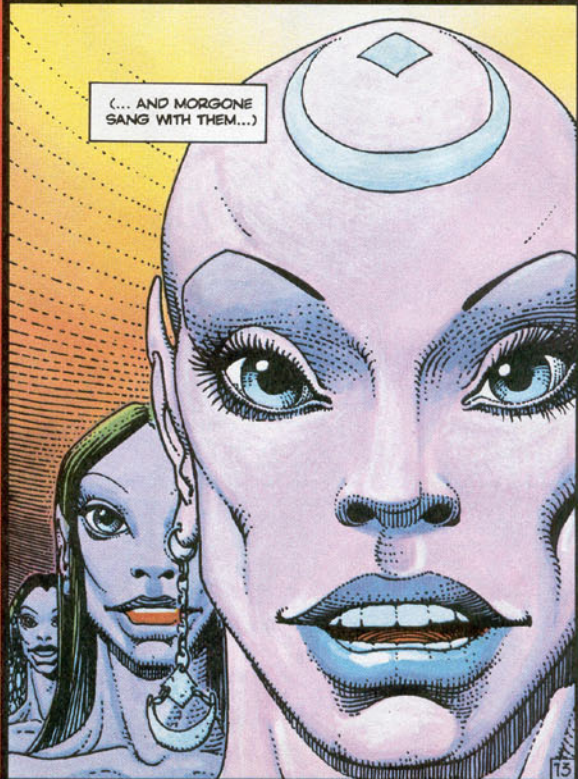
... TO THE TOP.

WHEN THE DAY DAWNED ON THE SURFACE OF THE WORLD THAT HAD BEEN FINALLY CLEANSED, THEY WERE STILL SINGING...

CEASELESSLY.



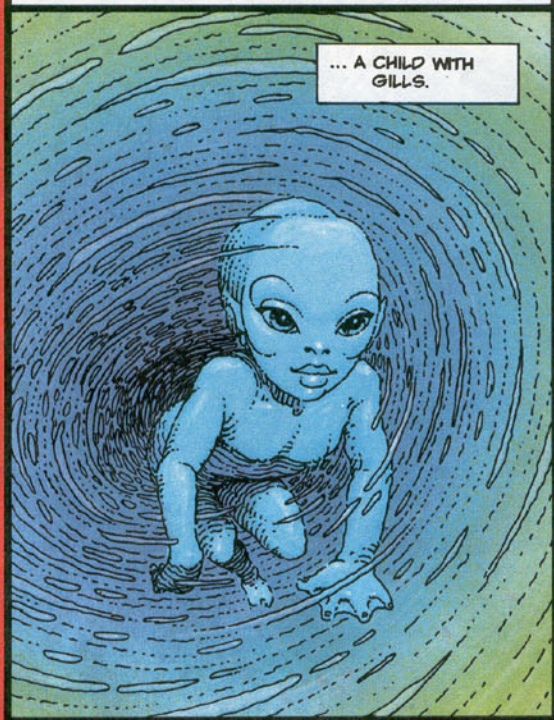
(... AND MORGONE  
SANG WITH THEM...)



EPilogue

THAT NIGHT, IN NOMANE, THE  
SUBMERGED CITY, AN 'OM-CHILD WAS  
BORN OF A SUNKEN INCUBATOR...

... A CHILD WITH  
GILLS.

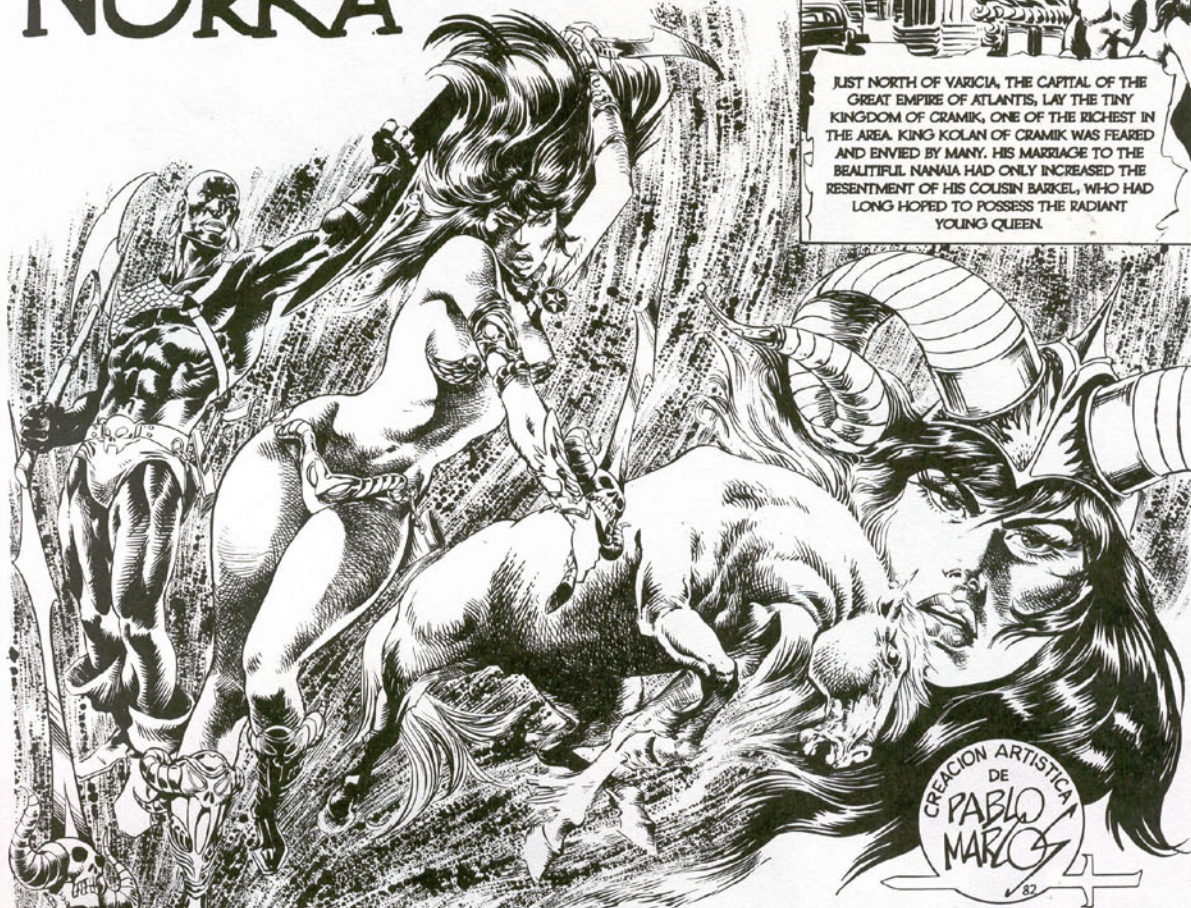


# NORKA

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, ON THE MARVELOUS CONTINENT OF ATLANTIS, THERE LIVED A HEROIC RACE OF ALMOST SUPERHUMAN CREATURES. THE MOST FAMOUS AND BEST LOVED AMONG THEM WERE NORKA AND YAKAR, PRINCE OF ATLANTIS.



JUST NORTH OF VARICIA, THE CAPITAL OF THE GREAT EMPIRE OF ATLANTIS, LAY THE TINY KINGDOM OF CRAMIK, ONE OF THE RICHEST IN THE AREA. KING KOLAN OF CRAMIK WAS FEARED AND ENVIED BY MANY. HIS MARRIAGE TO THE BEAUTIFUL NANAIA HAD ONLY INCREASED THE RESENTMENT OF HIS COUSIN BARKEL, WHO HAD LONG HOPED TO POSSESS THE RADIANT YOUNG QUEEN.



ONE NIGHT, IN THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER, KOLAN AND NANAIA ARE DELIGHTING IN THE INTENSE LOVE THAT UNITES THEM.



THIS IS THE MOMENT THAT THE CRUEL, TREACHEROUS BARKEL AND HIS GENERALS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...



THEY AMBUSH THE IMPERIAL GUARD... AND NOW THE YOUNG ROYAL COUPLE IS AT THE MERCY OF THE TRAITORS.





NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU... AT LEAST FOR A FEW MINUTES...

YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS WITH YOUR LIFE!



WITH MY LIFE? HA, HA, HAI YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR PATHETIC EXISTENCE FOR TAKING NANAIA AWAY FROM ME!

I'M THE KING AND I CAN CHOOSE THE WOMAN I DESIRE!

SHE'S MY WIFE NOW... THE QUEEN... YOUR QUEEN! AND YOU OWE HER OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION!



HA, HA, HAI NOW SHE BELONGS TO ME... I'LL TAKE HER FAR AWAY FROM HERE, AND AS FOR YOU... HA, HA, HA, HAI!

RUN AWAY, NANAIA!

SEIZE HIM!

UGH!

I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE! GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU FILTHY PIG!

OUCH! MY FACE!... YOU'VE SCARED ME! BITCH!



FEW ARE THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED SHRED-DEK'S TERRIBLE BLOWS.

TOO BAD! IF YOU GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE, YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THIS THRASHING! HA, HA, HAI!



I'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF YOUR WIFE. BYE, DEAR COUSINE!



RAAACH!



FOLLOWING A SHORT ENGAGEMENT, KOLAN, KING OF CRAMIK, MARRIED PRINCESS NANAIA. BUT THIS ANGERED SOME MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, ESPECIALLY THE KING'S COUSIN BARKEL. ONE NIGHT, THE IMPERIAL GUARD THAT PROTECTED THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER WERE AMBUSHED BY BARKEL AND HIS HENCHMEN. KOLAN BRAVELY DEFENDED HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE. BUT, IN HER DESPERATE STRUGGLE TO BE FREE OF HER ASSAILANTS, NANAIA WAS BRILLIANTLY STRUCK IN THE HEAD BY THE FEARFUL ASSASSIN KNOWN AS "SHREDDER." IN THE ENSUING BATTLE, BARKEL KILLED KOLAN.

HA, HA, HA  
THAT'S HOW  
I LIKE TO  
SEE YOU,  
COUSIN!

WE SHOULD  
HURRY, SIR THE  
GUARDS WILL  
SOON BE  
MAKING THEIR  
ROUNDS.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT...  
WE'LL  
GET OUT  
OF HERE  
SOON...

...AND YOU'LL SEE,  
SWEET NANAIA,  
YOU'LL HAVE A  
GREAT TIME  
WITH ME...

AND THE TRAITOR BARKEL CARRIES  
NANAIA OUT OF THE PALACE...

THE SHADOWS OF NIGHT ARE  
ACCOMPLICES TO THE COWARDLY  
ACT AGAINST THE YOUNG RULERS  
OF CRAMIK. BARKEL AND A  
HANDFUL OF FOLLOWERS QUICKLY  
GET OUT OF THE CITY.

HURRY! IN A FEW  
HOURS WE'LL HAVE  
THE WHOLE ROYAL  
ARMY AT OUR  
HEELS.

BUT THEY'LL NEVER  
FIND THE PATH  
WE'RE TAKING! HA,  
HA, HA!

THEY RIDE FOR THREE DAYS,  
STOPPING ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY  
NECESSARY. THEY ARE ALREADY FAR  
FROM CRAMIK...

MY LORD, IS  
THE QUEEN STILL  
UNCONSCIOUS?  
"SHREDDER" MUST'VE  
HIT HER A BIT TOO  
HARD...

YES, DON'T WORRY.  
SHE'LL WAKE UP. BUT  
FIRST, WE HAVE TO FIND  
A PLACE WHERE WE  
CAN CAMP.



THREE DAYS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THEY ESCAPED FROM CRAMIK, AFTER ASSASSINATING THE KING AND ABDUCTING THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN... THREE DAYS SPENT CLIMBING MASSIVE MOUNTAINS AND CROSSING VAST LAKES... BUT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN CROWNED WITH SUCCESS... NO ONE WILL FIND THEM NOW... EVEN THEY WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK... THEY ARE NOW AT THE FOOT OF THE GREAT GOLDEN MOUNTAIN, NEAR THE SEA...

LORD, WE'VE LOST HALF OF OUR HORSES.

LUCKILY, WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE PORT. OUR FRIENDS THERE ARE WAITING FOR US.

SIR, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE QUEEN'S STATE... SHE HASN'T MOVED... SHE SEEMS TO BE DEAD.



SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT! SHE'S ALIVE! SHE HAS TO BE...

...AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE TAKEN TO BRING HER HERE... LET ME SEE HER.



DEAREST QUEEN, WHY DON'T YOU OPEN YOUR EYES? LOOK AT ME... I'M RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!

WHAT?! YOU'RE... YOU'RE... NO, NO, NO! YOU CAN'T DIE!

YOU MUST LIVE FOR ME... D'YOU HEAR ME? JUST FOR ME!



A DEATHLY SILENCE FALLS OVER THE SCENE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, BARKEL IS AFRAID...

NO... NO... IT CAN'T BE! NOOOO! SHE'S DEAD!

WHAT'S UP?

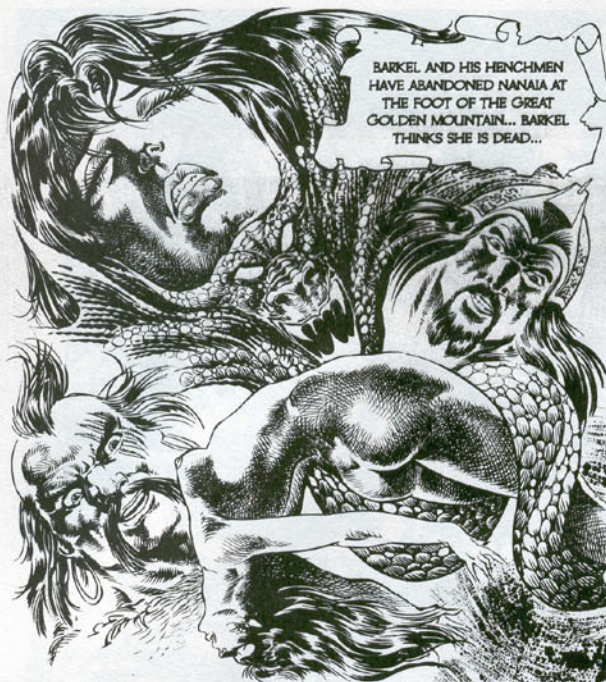
SHE... IS... DEAD...

I TOLD YOU, SIR, WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

THERE'S NO POINT TAKING HER WITH US. JUST LEAVE HER HERE.

IDIOT! HE HASN'T EVEN NOTICED THAT SHE'S STILL BREATHING... I'LL COME BACK FOR HER LATER.

SLOWLY THE MEN RIDE OFF, LEAVING A TATTERED TENT BEHIND THEM... INSIDE IT LIES NANAIA, LEFT FOR DEAD...



BARKEL AND HIS HENCHMEN HAVE ABANDONED NANAIA AT THE FOOT OF THE GREAT GOLDEN MOUNTAIN... BARKEL THINKS SHE IS DEAD...

THE SILENCE THAT REIGNS IN THAT LONELY SPOT IS BROKEN BY A FARAWAY SONG, WHICH SLOWLY APPROACHES NANAIA'S TENT.



WHOO!! COME BY HERE EVERY DAY AND I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE.

WHOOOO!!



SEEMS SOMEONE'S IN THERE.

HELLO! I'M BUTO! ANYONE IN THERE?



WHAT? A WOMAN... SHE'S COMPLETELY NAKED... AND SEEMS LIFELESS.



I HEAR SOMETHING! SHE'S BREATHING... SHE'S ALIVE... BUT HER BREATH IS WEAK... I'M NOT MISTAKEN... SHE'S ALIVE!

I'M SURE MY MOTHER CAN HEAL HER. WE MUSTN'T WASTE ANY TIME.



HER BEAUTY IS SO STRANGE... WHO COULD HAVE ABANDONED HER HERE?



BUTO, THE FISHERMAN, PLACES NANAIA CAREFULLY IN HIS CART, AND RUSHES UP THE MOUNTAIN IN SEARCH OF THE OLD WITCH TAKALA... THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL NANAIA...

BUTO WHIPS HIS HORSES, AND THE DILAPIDATED CART CLIMBS STEADILY UP THE STEEP MOUNTAIN PATH, DANGEROUSLY SKIRTING VERTIGINOUS ABYSSES.

C'MON! FASTER, FASTER! NO SHIRKING!

SWEAT A BIT, FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIVES!

FINALLY, THEY REACH A DESOLATE AREA, ALMOST AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...

HOME, AT LAST!

WHOA!

I TRUST THAT MY MOTHER'S TALENT WILL SAVE THE YOUNG WOMAN'S LIFE.

ALL THIS IS VERY STRANGE... THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF VIOLENCE. THERE ARE NO SCRATCHES OR BRUISES ON HER BODY.

UNLESS... SHE WAS HIT IN THE HEAD...

MOTHER! HELP ME! THIS YOUNG WOMAN IS ALMOST DEAD. I NEED ALL YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO SAVE HER.

WHO IS SHE, SON?

I DON'T KNOW, MOTHER. I FOUND HER. SHE HAD BEEN LEFT NAKED IN A SMALL TENT AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN, BY THE PATH THAT GOES DOWN TO THE SEA.

SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS. SHE MAY BE IN SHOCK... OR PERHAPS SHE WAS ATTACKED BY SOMEONE WHO ABDUCTED HER TO RAPE HER...

WE'LL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SHE WAKES UP.

SURROUNDED BY MYSTERIOUS GOINGS-ON, NANAIA, THE YOUNG QUEEN OF CRAMIK, REMAINS MOTIONLESS. THE KINDLY BLACK WITCH IS GETTING READY TO SAVE THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE WOMAN.

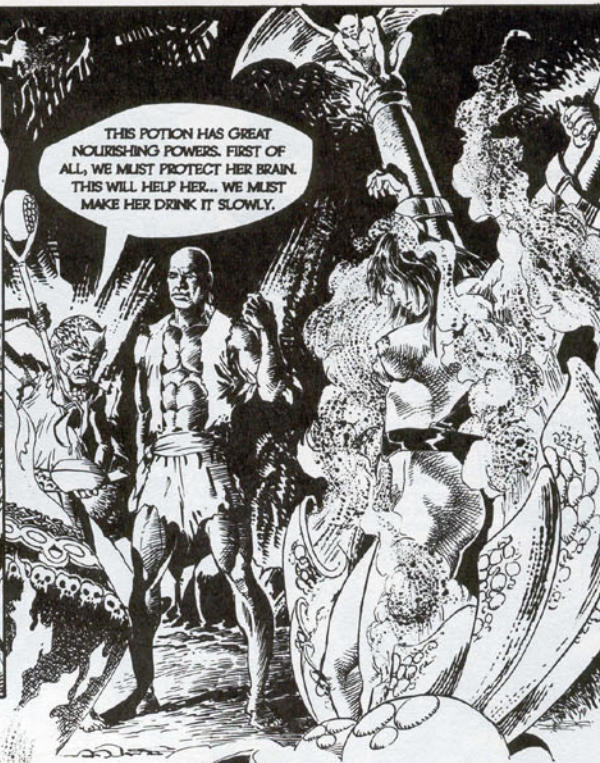
I NEED HUMAN BLOOD TO PREPARE THE POTION.

TAKE AS MUCH OF MY BLOOD AS YOU NEED, MOTHER.



HOW LONG HAS THIS POOR WOMAN BEEN IN THIS SORRY STATE? PERHAPS MY BLOOD WILL HELP TO HEAL HER, MOTHER...

YES, SON. WE WILL SAVE HER... WITH YOUR BLOOD, THE POTION AND THE HELP OF THE GODS...



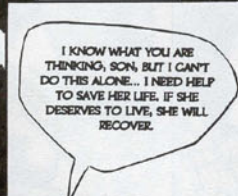
THIS POTION HAS GREAT NOURISHING POWERS. FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST PROTECT HER BRAIN. THIS WILL HELP HER... WE MUST MAKE HER DRINK IT SLOWLY.



SHE'S VERY YOUNG AND INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL. SHE SEEMS STRONG... I'M SURE SHE'LL COME OUT OF THIS.



IS MY MOTHER'S KNOWLEDGE SUCH THAT THIS POTION ALONE WILL SUFFICE TO SAVE THE YOUNG WOMAN?



I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING, SON, BUT I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE... I NEED HELP TO SAVE HER LIFE. IF SHE DESERVES TO LIVE, SHE WILL RECOVER.



MY KNOWLEDGE IS ONLY PART OF THE MIRACLE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS HIS HELP.

POSEIDON, OUR CREATOR AND  
ETERNAL FATHER.

THE MOST POWERFUL AND BELOVED  
GOD OF THE UNIVERSE. HIS  
UNLIMITED POWER IS FEARED AND  
VENERATED IN EVERY CORNER OF THE  
GREAT EMPIRE OF ATLANTIS.

FATHER, I BEG YOU TO  
SPARE THE LIFE OF THIS  
POOR WOMAN WHO LIES  
UNCONSCIOUS BEFORE US. HERE  
IS MY BLOOD, THE VERY BLOOD  
THAT NOW FLOWS IN HER  
VEINS. HELP HER!

THE GREAT POSEIDON  
WON'T ABANDON US,  
MOTHER. WE WILL RECEIVE  
HIS HELP SOON.

YES, BILTO. ARM YOURSELF  
WITH PATIENCE AND  
MOSTLY WITH A LOT OF  
FAITH.

SHE IS YOUNG  
AND STRONG. SHE  
WILL SURVIVE.

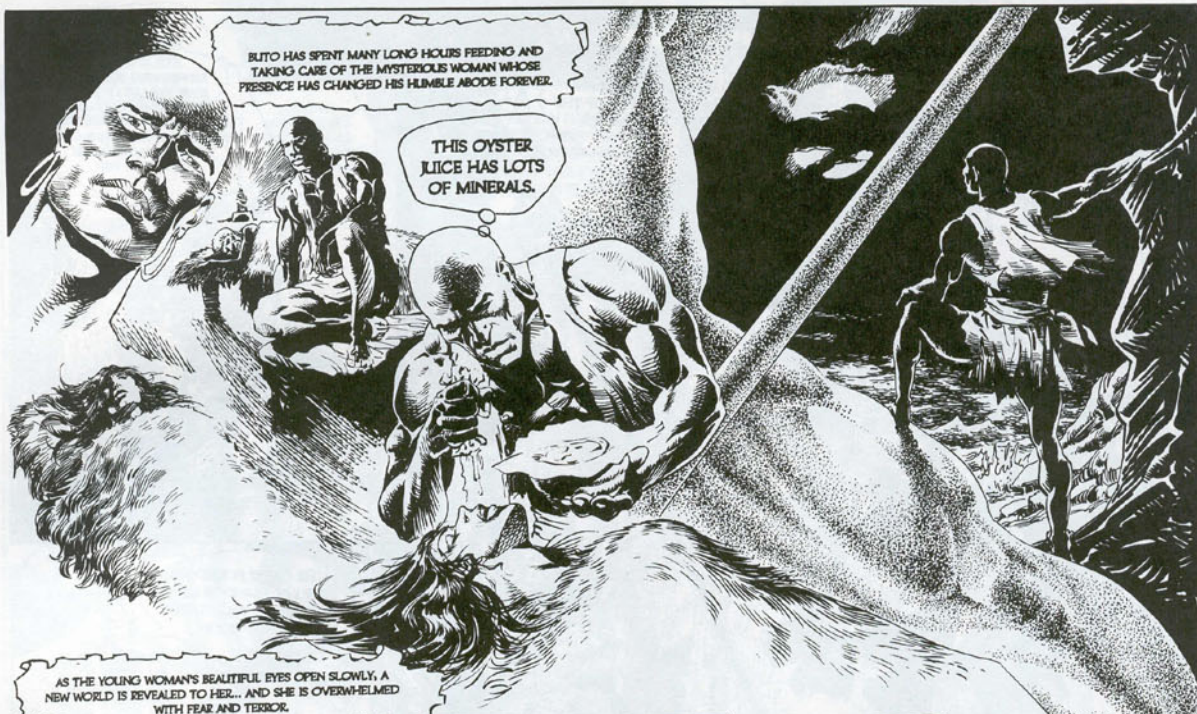
HOW LONG WILL  
WE HAVE TO WAIT  
FOR HER TO  
REVIVE?

A LONG TIME!  
SHE MUST LIE  
DOWN AND BE  
COVERED.

COVER HER WITH THESE FURS.  
THEY WILL KEEP HER BODY AT  
THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!  
WHO CAN SHE BE? HER PRE-  
SENCE REMAINS A MYSTERY...  
A BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY.





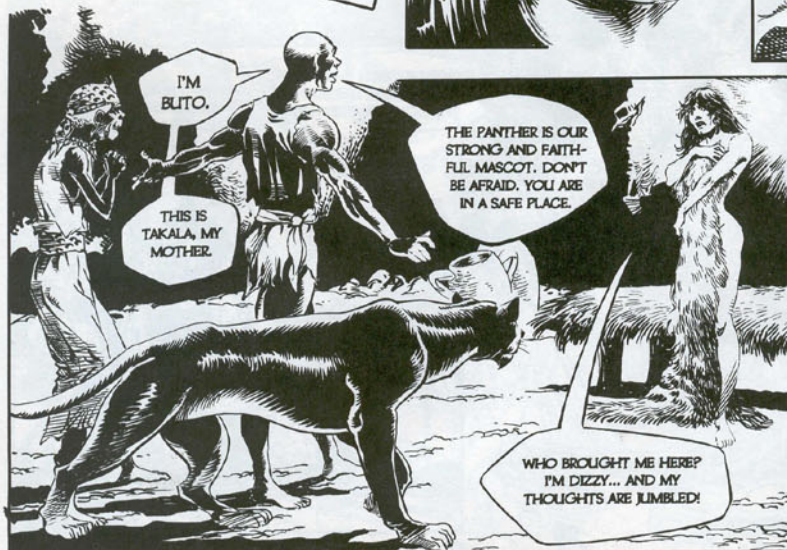
BUTO HAS SPENT MANY LONG HOURS FEEDING AND TAKING CARE OF THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WHOSE PRESENCE HAS CHANGED HIS HUMBLE ABODE FOREVER.

THIS OYSTER JUICE HAS LOTS OF MINERALS.

AS THE YOUNG WOMAN'S BEAUTIFUL EYES OPEN SLOWLY, A NEW WORLD IS REVEALED TO HER... AND SHE IS OVERWHELMED WITH FEAR AND TERROR.



WHO ARE YOU?  
WHERE AM I? WHAT  
AM I DOING IN  
THIS CAVE?



I'M  
BUTO.

THIS IS  
TAKALA, MY  
MOTHER.

THE PANTHER IS OUR  
STRONG AND FAITH-  
FUL MASCOOT. DON'T  
BE AFRAID. YOU ARE  
IN A SAFE PLACE.

WHO BROUGHT ME HERE?  
I'M DIZZY... AND MY  
THOUGHTS ARE JUMBLED!

AND WHO AM I?  
I CAN'T REMEMBER.

I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!

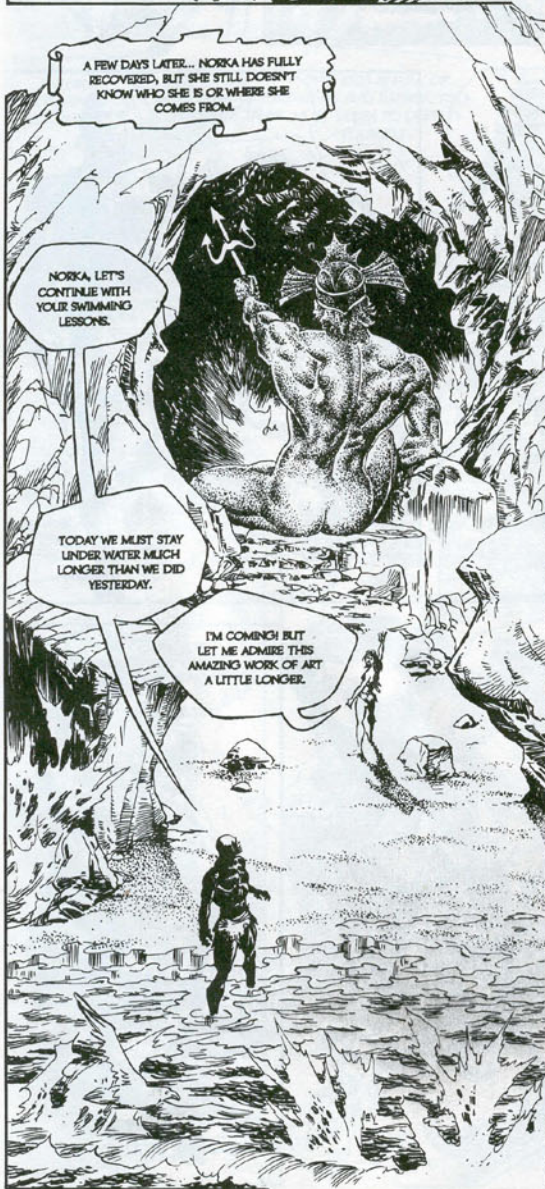
I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-  
THING I KNOW ABOUT  
YOU. YOU'LL RECOVER  
YOUR MEMORY  
SLOWLY.



WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. YOU'VE BEEN WITH US FOR TWO DAYS, EVER SINCE MY SON FOUND YOU, FAR FROM HERE.

UNTIL YOU REMEMBER YOUR NAME, WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE YOU ONE. HOW DO YOU LIKE NORKA? IT MEANS HONOR, VALOR, AND LOYALTY.

NORKA... NORKA... THAT'S A VERY PRETTY NAME.



A FEW DAYS LATER... NORKA HAS FULLY RECOVERED, BUT SHE STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHO SHE IS OR WHERE SHE COMES FROM.

NORKA, LET'S CONTINUE WITH YOUR SWIMMING LESSONS.

TODAY WE MUST STAY UNDER WATER MUCH LONGER THAN WE DID YESTERDAY.

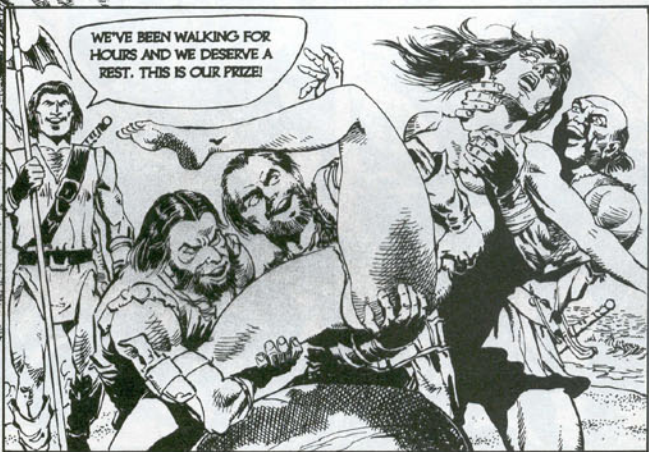
I'M COMING BUT LET ME ADMIRE THIS AMAZING WORK OF ART A LITTLE LONGER.



SHE'S FASCINATED BY MY STATUE. THAT'S VERY FLATTERING.



I NEVER TIRE OF CONTEMPLATING THIS WONDERFUL SCULPTURE. WHO COULD'VE CARVED THIS COLOSSAL WORK?



WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS AND WE DESERVE A REST. THIS IS OUR PRIZE!





MUCH LATER, BUTO SUCCEEDS IN BRINGING A CHEST OUT OF THE WATER. IT IS FILLED WITH SOUVENIRS THAT WERE THE CAUSE OF SO MUCH SUFFERING A FEW YEARS BACK...



PABLO MARCO  
2000

MANHATTAN. 4.30PM, WEDNESDAY EVENING.  
PATRICK ARRIVES AT JIM HENLEY'S UNIVERSE  
FOR A HEAVY METAL SIGNING.

OH, MAN.  
I THOUGHT THEY'D  
BE HALF OVER  
BY NOW...

# ALISON ARENA

...THE LINE'S  
STILL AS LONG AS  
THE EMPIRE STATE  
BUILDING IS  
TALL!!

IT WOULD  
HAVE HELPED IF  
THE BIZ HAD GOT  
HERE ON  
TIME.

HE'S JUST  
ARRIVED. HE  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
HERE TWO HOURS  
AGO!

YOU  
GUYS DON'T  
SOUND LIKE  
LOCALS...

BUT, LOUISE,  
DID YOU SEE  
THE COOL HARLEY  
HE RODE UP  
ON?

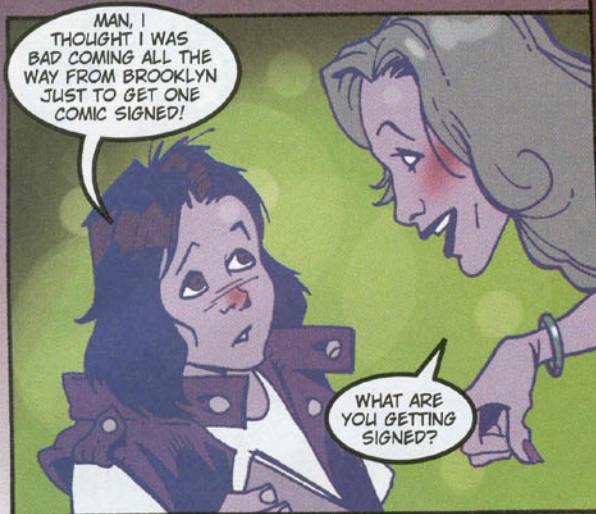
HI. LOUISE  
RUBENSTEIN.  
I'M FROM  
PENNSYLVANIA.

CAROL MUNOZ. I CAN'T REALLY BITCH  
ABOUT THE TRAVELING...I'M JUST HALF  
AN' HOUR OUT OF MANHATTAN.

MA' NAME'S  
VIRGINIA GOLEN.  
'AM FROM TEXAS, SO  
I THINK AH GOT  
YOU OL' BEAT.

CAIN'T ARGUE  
WITH THAT. I'M DON.  
DONALD HARDRICK. AN'  
VIRGINIA? I'M FROM...  
VIRGINIA!

DEDICATED TO MY DAD.



FINALLY, **THREE HOURS LATER**,  
A WEARY FIGURE STAGGERS  
INTO THE STORE.

AT LAST...

...WATER...  
WATER...

OY!  
YOU!!

DO YOU  
WANT YA BLOODY  
COMIC SIGNED  
OR WHAT?

SIMON!  
GIVE THE  
KID A BREAK.  
HE'S BEEN ON  
LINE FOR  
HOURS!

CAN YOU  
SIGN IT NEXT  
TO THE MAXIMUM  
FORCE STORY?

GOOD STORY,  
THAT ONE. SHAME  
DAVE'S ALWAYS TOO  
BUSY I TOLD 'IM I'D  
LOVE TO DO  
ANOTHER ONE.

MIND YOU,  
SAID THE SAME  
THING TO KEITH  
ABOUT LOBO...  
**OOPS!**

SORRY,  
MATE. NOW  
I'M OUTTA  
HERE!

WHAT?!

WHAT A  
JERK.

YOU...YOU...  
I'VE BEEN  
WAITING FOR FOUR  
HOURS FOR THIS...  
THIS...



HOLY \$#@\*!  
NO NEED TO DO  
THAT, KID! I'D HAVE  
SIGNED SOMETHIN'  
ELSE FOR YA!



HE  
DIDN'T DO  
THAT!



THAT  
SOUND'S LIKE  
GUNFIRE...



WHAT'S  
GOING ON?



BACK INSIDE,  
SIR. THE ARMY  
CAN HANDLE  
THIS.

I SAID,  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON?



I DON'T  
KNOW! WE'VE  
BEEN ORDERED  
TO GET EVERYONE  
OUT OF THE  
AREA!

WHAT ARE THEY  
SHOOTING  
AT?




THEY'D  
BETTER NOT  
DAMAGE MY  
BIKE!

SHIE!  
SHIE!

SIMON?  
HAVE YOU  
FARTED?



OH, \$#@\*!  
LOOK AT  
THAT!



WHAT DO  
YOU THINK YOU  
ARE TRYING TO DO?  
PISS ME OFF?

LET'S SEE  
IF HE CAN STAND  
SOME HEAT!

OUR  
GUNS AREN'T  
HAVING AN  
EFFECT!!

DAVE



BURN  
YA PIECE'A  
\$#\*%!!!

AAARRRGSHH!!!



THAT'S SHYTE,  
MISTER! AND  
CONGRATULATIONS...  
YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED  
IN REALLY PISSING  
ME OFF!!

WHAT THE  
HELL ARE YOU  
DOING ON THIS PLANET  
ANYWAY? IT'S LAST INTELLIGENT  
LIFE-FORMS LEFT NEARLY  
A MILLION YEARS  
AGO.



...GLUB...  
MMRRUGH...



DAMN!  
THERE'S A  
SPOT OF DIRT  
HERE!!

THINK YOURSELF  
LUCKY YOU'RE ALIVE.  
WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE  
OUT WHAT WE CAN  
DO TO HELP.

WE DON'T  
WANT TO MAKE  
THINGS WORSE,  
DO WE?



HOW CAN  
THIS POSSIBLY  
GET WORSE?



A comic book panel depicting a scene in West Midtown Manhattan. In the upper left, a man with a purple bandana and a dark, tactical jacket is lunging forward with a determined, aggressive expression. He has a purple cloth tied around his head and is wearing a dark jacket with a yellow zipper. In the lower left, a man with dark skin and short hair, wearing a purple short-sleeved shirt and grey trousers, is shown from the waist up, looking towards the other man with a serious expression. In the center-right, a large, muscular green monster with glowing yellow eyes and a wide, toothy grin is the central focus. The monster has a purple bandana around its neck and a purple cloth tied around its waist. It has a mechanical device on its chest and a purple cloth tied around its waist. The background is a dark, urban setting with a sign that partially reads "LIAN" and "OOD".

WHO ARE YOU?

WEST MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.  
RAFAEL AND ANTONIO LOPEZ  
FIND WHAT THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING  
FOR ALL MORNING. TROUBLE.

LOOK, GUYS...  
OUCH! IT IS OBVIOUS  
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.  
I AM DAGGLOK! DAGG  
TO MY FRIENDS...

...TALK ABOUT  
A SHORT LIST. I BET  
YOUR MOM ISN'T EVEN  
ON THAT ONE.



JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE INTRODUCED YOURSELF, DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS. PEOPLE ARE GETTING HURT!

HEY, THAT HURT! LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET ME TELL YOU THE RULES...

FIRST RULE IN NEW YORK... THERE ARE NO RULES!



OKAY, OKAY. OUCH!! I'VE TRIED TO BE NICE ABOUT THIS, I REALLY HAVE...



I WAS REALLY SORRY TO SEE THIS THING SPRUNG ON YOU, OKAY?



NO ONE HAD ANY IDEA THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING APPROACHING CIVILIZED LIFE FORMS ON THIS PLANET.



ACTUALLY THE JURY IS STILL OUT ON THAT ONE.



BUT NOW I HAVE TO HURT YOU. DON'T WORRY I MUSTN'T KILL YOU BUT YOU'LL WISH I HAD!

"...I WONDER IF SHY'TE'S GETTING ANY OF THIS TREATMENT."

COME ON, YOU TWO. THINK! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO...

COULD KNOCK 'IS 'EAD OFF!

GO AND GET YOUR BIKE!

WOT FOR?

I'LL TELL YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK. ERIC?

SIMON ISN'T GOING TO LIKE WHAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR HIS BIKE. YOU MAY HAVE TO STEP IN. NOW IF WE COULD JUST GET A MUTANT TURTLE TO GO DOWN THE SEWER...

WHUL, HULLO BABY. SHARKY'LL MAKE ALL YOUR PROBLEM'S GO AWAY!

OH, GREAT! FIRST WE GET INVADED BY ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE AND NOW ELVIS DECIDES TO MAKE A COMEBACK FROM THE GRAVE!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS A JOB FOR...

SIMON. DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING. I SAW SOME GUY DO THIS IN A MOVIE, YOU'RE GONNA TAKE HIS HEAD OFF LIKE YOU SAID.

SORRY, SIMON. CAN'T HANG AROUND AND DISCUSS THIS!

JULIE TELLS ME NOT TO WORRY? NOW I'M WORRIED! WE AREN'T DOING THIS WITH MY BIKE...

"WHY IS IT I CAN ONLY THINK OF STEVE MCQUEEN GETTING CAUGHT IN BARBED WIRE AFTER TRYING THE SAME THING IN *THE GREAT ESCAPE*?"

A comic book panel showing a large, dark, monstrous creature with a single glowing eye and sharp teeth, breaking through a red barrier. A speech bubble from the creature says "WHA?!".

[illegible]

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE DID IT!

AM I TOO LATE TO HELP?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE DID IT!

AM I TOO LATE TO HELP?

HI. MY NAME'S  
DOM-X-TOS. YOU LOOK  
LIKE YOU'RE IN A BIT OF  
TROUBLE HERE.  
CAN I HELP?

OH, MY GOD.  
WHAT IS THAT SMELL?  
MAYBE YOU COULD USE ME  
AFTER ALL. I MAY NOT HAVE BIG  
MUSCLES LIKE YOU, BIG BOY, BUT  
I CAN KILL 99% OF ALL GERMS WITH  
A TOUCH AND LEAVE EVERYTHING  
SMELLING SPRING  
CLEAN.

I THINK  
WE'VE GOT  
THIS ALL TAKEN  
CARE OF.

WHAT?!!  
IT'S MOVING!!

YOU'VE...

...PISSED...

...ME...

...OFF!!

...REALLY...

I'M GONNA  
HAVE'TA INVOKE  
THE RULES HERE.  
THE USE OF "NECESSARY"  
FORCE ON THE LOCAL  
POPULACE SHOULD  
MY LIFE BE  
THREATENED!

STAND ASIDE.  
CAN'T LET A BOY  
DO A MAN'S  
JOB.

OH, PLEASE.  
ARE YOU, ERIC AND  
SIMON TRYING TO  
KILL IT WITH  
TESTOSTERONE?

WHAT  
HIT ME?



THEY  
CALL HIM  
SHARKY! SHARKY!  
FASTER THAN  
LIGHTNING...

I'D BETTER  
CALL FOR AN  
AMBULANCE...

MY BIKE!  
WHERE'S MY  
BIKE?

PREPARE  
FOR THE  
'FLUSHING'  
OF YOUR  
LIFE!!

DON'T  
YOU HUMANS  
EVER GIVE  
UP?



AWWWW,  
NO!

LET ME  
OUT! LET  
ME OUT!!



HA, HA,  
HAH! YOU  
WANT OUT?



NO  
PROBLEM.  
UGH...LEAST  
I CAN DO!!

**BRRRAAAAAPP!!**

OH, GOD.  
THAT WAS  
DISGUSTING!!

OH,  
DARHLING.  
YOU'RE TELLING  
ME!

!!







THAT DOES IT!!



I HAVEN'T  
KILLED ANYONE  
FOR A LONG TIME.  
I GUESS I'M  
ABOUT DUE!!



ERIC? REMIND  
ME TO NEVER ASK  
YOU TO GET SOMEONE'S  
ATTENTION AGAIN!



I CAN'T SEE  
ANYTHING THAT  
SAYS 'GAS MAIN!'  
I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE  
TO GUESS.



I--CAN'T  
SMELL--ANYTHING  
YET!

SNIFF--SNIFF--  
ERIC. GET READY  
WITH THAT  
BAZOOKA!

ARE YOU  
SURE THAT SMELL  
ISN'T SHY'TE OR EVEN  
THE GAY BLADE HERE,  
WHO I THINK JUST  
CRAPPED  
HIMSELF?

JUST FIRE  
THE BLOODY  
THING!!!

JESUS!  
NO WONDER  
KEVIN'S NOT HERE  
FOR THE SIGNING...IT  
MUST BE HIS EARS  
THAT NEEDED THE  
REST.

HE DIDN'T  
TELL ME IT  
WOULD BE  
DANGEROUS...

**BLAM!**

IS THIS  
THE BEST YOU  
CAN DO?

WHAP!

HAH!!

COUGH--  
COUGH--  
DID WE GET  
HIM?





Yow!



WE DID IT! WE DID IT!!

I BET THE INSURANCE ON MY BIKE DOESN'T COVER THIS!

JUST LOOK AT THE MESS. WHO'S GOING TO SCRAP HIM UP?

PHEW. I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING AFTER ALL...

YOU-ARE-ALL-DEAD!!

OKAY, JULIE. I'M LISTENING. WHAT'S YER PLAN?

WELL...

143



OKAY. I'M  
FIRST TO THE  
ARENA, BUT WHERE  
THE FRAK'S SAKE  
IS SHY'TE?



I WONDER  
IF HE HAD ANY  
OF THE TROUBLE  
THAT I HAD GETTING  
HERE?

I WOULDN'T  
USE THE PAST  
TENSE IF I WERE  
YOU!



UNLESS  
YOU'RE TALKING  
ABOUT YOURSELF,  
OF COURSE.



OUCH!



DO YOU  
THINK THAT'S  
TAKEN CARE  
OF HIM?

NORMALLY,  
WITH WHAT WE  
HAVE JUST DONE TO  
HIM, I'D BE LOOKING FOR  
A LAWYER RIGHT NOW.  
BUT THIS GUY? I  
DON'T KNOW.

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND DO YOU? I'M NOT LIKE YOU...

I AM NOT A FLESH AND BLOOD ORGANISM, LIKE YOU. I AM A VIRUS.

BIZ BACK

VIRUS? YOU MEAN WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING AN OVERGROWN GERM?

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND DO YOU? I'M NOT LIKE YOU...

I AM NOT A FLESH AND BLOOD ORGANISM, LIKE YOU. I AM A VIRUS.

BIZ BACK

VIRUS? YOU MEAN WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING AN OVERGROWN GERM?

YOU STILL  
DON'T UNDERSTAND  
DO YOU? I'M NOT  
LIKE YOU...

I AM NOT  
A FLESH AND  
BLOOD ORGANISM,  
LIKE YOU. I AM  
**A VIRUS.**

**BIZ  
BACK**

VIRUS? YOU  
MEAN WE'VE BEEN  
FIGHTING AN OVERGROWN  
GERM?

OH, NO.  
YOU WOULDN'T

THINK OF IT THIS WAY DOM, ONE DRY CLEANING BILL, BUT YOU WILL HAVE SAVED THE WORLD!!

OHhhh, I DON'T WANT TO

THINK OF IT THIS WAY DOM, ONE DRY CLEANING BILL, BUT YOU WILL HAVE SAVED THE WORLD!!

OHhhh, I DON'T WANT TO

[illegible][illegible]





SNIFF--  
LOOK WHAT  
YOU'VE DONE...  
DO YOU KNOW HOW  
HARD IT IS TO CLEAN  
A SEQUINED OUTFIT  
LIKE THIS?

LOOK.  
I'M SORRY,  
DOM. BUT...  
HEY!



WHAT'S  
THAT?



I'VE GOT  
A BAD FEELING  
ABOUT THIS...



I DON'T  
BELIEVE A  
WORD YOU  
SAY.

LOOK, HUMAN.  
IF IT WASN'T OVER  
DO YOU THINK I'D BE  
LETTING YOU TAKE THESE  
SHOTS AT ME? SEE  
THIS FLASHING  
LIGHT?



THIS LIGHT FLASHES  
WHEN AN ARENA COMBATANT  
IS DEAD AN' IT ISN'T ME! BOY  
IS YOUR PLANET IN DEEP  
DO-DO NOW!



TROUBLE?





"OH-OH,  
DEEP \$#@!!"

?

代本館

FR

FE

WHAT ARE  
THE ODDS AGAINST  
THEM WANTING TO  
CONGRATULATE US  
FOR OFFING  
MR. HANKEY?

I DON'T  
THINK WE'LL  
HAVE TO WAIT TOO  
LONG TO FIND  
OUT.

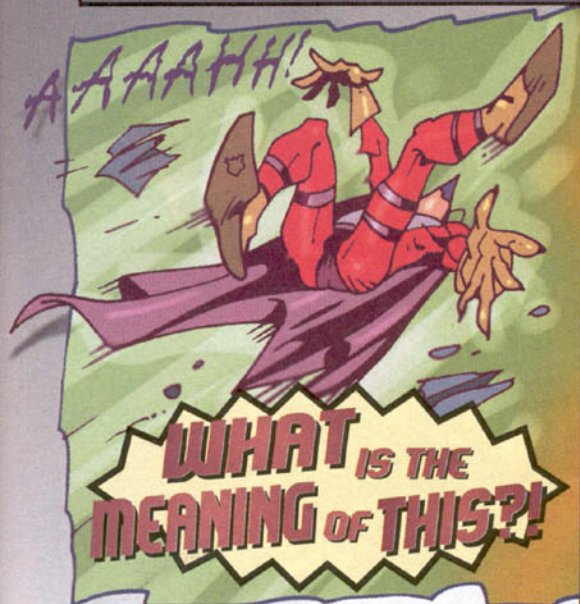
WHY  
DON'T YOU  
DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT THIS...



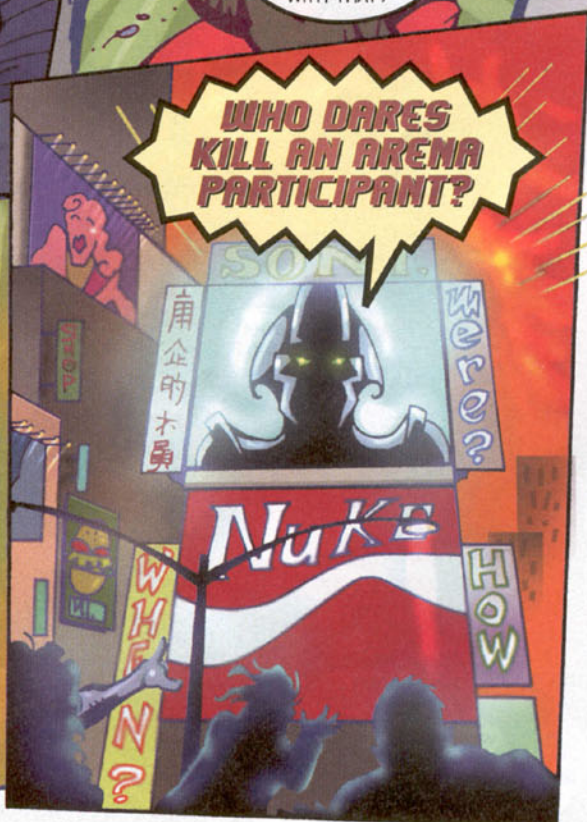
...AFTER ALL--  
IT IS YOUR FAULT.  
YOU KILLED  
HIM!



OH AND  
YOUR BLEACH  
RINSE DIDN'T HAVE  
ANYTHING TO  
WITH THAT?



**WHAT IS THE  
MEANING OF THIS?!**



**WHO DARES  
KILL AN ARENA  
PARTICIPANT?**

THIS IS UNFORTUNATE... THE RULES OF THE ARENA HAVE BEEN IN PLACE FOR OVER 3000 YEARS. THEY STATE VERY CLEARLY, THAT THE UNLAWFUL DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT BY THE INHABITANTS OF A HOST WORLD, WILL RESULT IN EXILE FROM THE FEDERATION AND THE PASSING OF JUDGMENT ON YOUR ENTIRE RACE TO THE OFFENDED RACE. YOUR PLANET'S FUTURE LIES IN THE HANDS OF THE SHY'TE'S FAMILY.



THEY CAN'T DO THAT! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT!



IT IS A SHAME ON MY FAMILY...WE HAVEN'T HAD TO CANCEL AN ARENA FINAL FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. WELL, I WAS GOING TO RETIRE ANYWAY...



WHAT IS IT?

THIS PLANET... EARTH. IT IS NOT PART OF THE FEDERATION! THEIR WORLD WAS ONLY CHOSEN BECAUSE WE HAD THOUGHT IT UNINHABITED, AFTER ALL CIVILIZED LIFE HAD LEFT THE PLANET LONG AGO BEFORE A METEOR HIT.



AHHH... SO WE DO HAVE A FIGHT AFTER ALL!



"PRESIDENT VENTURA HELD A HISTORIC PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN, WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF THE ARENA GAMES TREATY TODAY."



"THE TREATY MEANS THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE ANYTHING TO FEAR FROM THESE ALIENS, PROVIDED THAT WE PROVIDE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE FALLEN ALIEN IN THE EVENT, THAT EVERYONE HAS NOW DUBBED..."



**ALIEN ARENA** IS DRAWING CONTESTANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. PEOPLE ARE BEING TOLD, "ONLY THE BEST OF THE BEST" NEED APPLY. CUT OFF DAY FOR ENTRANTS IS TOMORROW AT NOON.

I KNOW I'VE NEVER REALLY ACCEPTED THE LIFE YOU LEAD, BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU APPLIED? YOU'RE NOT HOLDING BACK BECAUSE OF ME ARE YOU?



I'M OLDER NOW... I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SET AN EXAMPLE...

DAD! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?



THEY ACCEPTED MY APPLICATION! I'M INTO THE ALIEN ARENA HEATS!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?



HA, HA, HA, HAH!! NOTHING, CHRIS. JUST AN EXAMPLE BEING SET IS ALL!




DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE THAT YOU FEEL MAY DEEM YOU SUITABLE? WE HAVE TO ASK THIS AS THERE HAVE BEEN MORE ENTRANTS THAN WE THOUGHT WE'D GET AND WE MUST HAVE A CHAMPION IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS...




I UNDERSTAND.









HUMANS! LISTEN  
TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.  
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN  
FROM THE BEST THAT YOUR  
RACE HAS TO OFFER. BUT  
YOUR TRIALS HAVE  
JUST BEGUN.




IN JUST EIGHT WEEKS, WE WILL  
HAVE A CHAMPION FOR EARTH. BUT  
REMEMBER...THERE ARE THOUSANDS  
OF YOU FIGHTING FOR THIS...




AND YOU WILL BE  
FIGHTING EACH OTHER.




BUT AT NO POINT MUST  
THIS BE PERSONAL. YOU  
ARE ALL WORKING  
TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL...




I KNOW THERE IS NO  
POINT OF ME TELLING  
YOU THAT THIS IS JUST  
A COMPETITION...




THAT IS, THE BEST CHANCE  
FOR EARTH TO WIN. DO NOT  
LOSE SIGHT OF THAT...







...THAT THE FUN IS JUST  
BEING A COMPETITOR.




NO. THIS IS WHERE THE BEST  
THIS WORLD HAS PRODUCED FIND  
OUT WHO IS THE GREATEST  
WARRIOR OF THEM ALL.



YOU ALL HOPE  
IT WILL BE YOU.



BUT IT CANNOT BE.  
EVERYBODY HERE WILL  
GET TO KNOW WHAT  
IT IS TO FAIL.



EVERYBODY BUT ONE. THAT  
ONE WILL CARRY THE TORCH  
OUT INTO SPACE AND  
FIGHT FOR YOU ALL.

**SLAM!**



TWO MONTHS LATER. THE QUALIFYING FINALS FOR 'ALIEN ARENA' BETWEEN ERIC CARTER AND THE MYSTERIOUS TIBURON.

ERIC REALLY IS THE BEST I'VE FACED SO FAR. I'M LUCKY HE DOESN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING. I FEEL LIKE I'M CHEATING...



UGGH!  
YOU?!!

...BUT I REALLY DO STAND THE BEST CHANCE!



HIYA, ERIC...



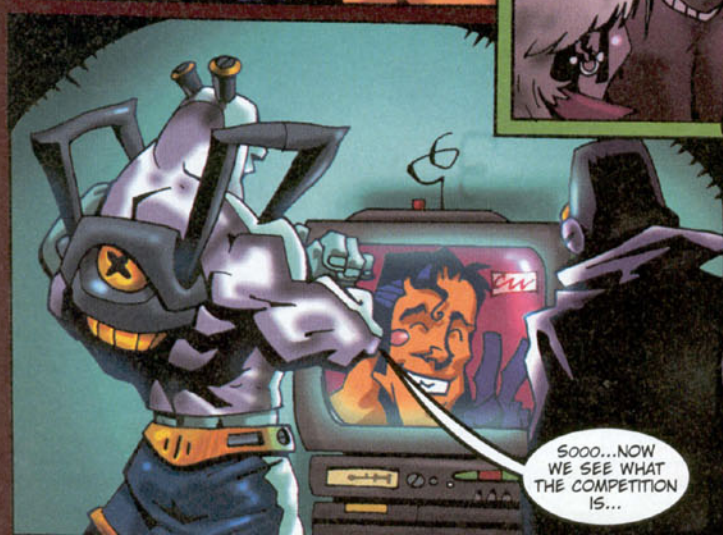
WHY THE MASK?

I CAN'T TELL HIM IT WAS SO MY MOM WOULDN'T FIND OUT...

I'VE JUST ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR THOSE OLD MEXICAN WRESTLING FILMS, WHAT CAN I SAY?



WELL DONE. EARTH HAS IT'S CHAMPION!



SOOO...NOW WE SEE WHAT THE COMPETITION IS...



...WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HIS WEAKNESS IS, DON'T WE?

TWO WEEKS LATER.  
KATHARCHUK, SHY'TE'S  
HOME WORLD.

HOME TO THE  
FINAL OF  
ALIEN ARENA.

"SO WHY AM I NOT  
SURPRISED THIS WAS  
DAGGLOK'S CHOICE?"

DAGGLOK WILL  
TAKE ANY ADVANTAGE  
HE CAN GET, ERIC. HAVING  
THE FIGHT HERE, AFTER AN  
EARTHMAN KILLED THEIR CHAMPION,  
IS GOING TO BE A VERY BIG  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ADVANTAGE.

HE'LL NEED  
MORE THAN THAT  
TO GET ONE OVER  
ON SHARKY!

I HOPE!!

THE INJECTION  
IS TO GIVE YOU PROTECTION  
FROM THE KATHARCHUKAN  
ENVIRONMENT. IT CONTAINS NANITES,  
WHICH TRANSMIT A SIGNAL TO US SO  
WE CAN TRACK YOU AT ANY TIME,  
AS WELL AS RECONFIGURE  
YOUR BIOLOGICAL  
SYSTEM.

IT IS TIME!  
MAY YOUR GODS  
BE WITH YOU,  
PATRICK!

THANKS!  
HEY...HOW  
DID YOU KNOW  
MY NAME?









HORLEY '99

YOU'D BE SURPRISED  
AT WHAT WE KNOW,  
YOUNG MAN.

WHOOA...  
NO ONE WARNED  
ME TRANSPORTING  
WOULD FEEL  
LIKE THIS.

LOOKS LIKE  
THERE MAY NOT  
BE ANY OF ME LEFT  
FOR DAGGLOK BY  
THE TIME HE  
GETS HERE...

DO NOT  
WORRY. THEY  
ARE FORBIDDEN TO  
INTERFERE. IF THEY DO,  
THEIR PLANET WILL BE BANNED  
FROM THE GAMES FOR AS  
LONG AS THE VICTIM  
OF THEIR AGGRESSION  
WISHES.

WHAT A  
CROWD...YOU  
GOTTA LOVE  
'EM.

EVEN IF THEY  
ARE THE VILEST  
LOOKING THINGS IN  
THE GALAXY...WHAT  
YOU AFTER?  
A BREATH  
FRESHER?

OKAY,  
EARTHMAN...  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?



OWWWW!



NO!  
NOW WE ARE  
RUINED!!

THEY WILL  
GET THEIR REVENGE  
AGAIN! WE WILL BE  
BANNED FOR SURE.  
WHY DID YOU  
DO IT?



THEY  
KILLED MY  
FATHER!!



SHARKY.  
YOU KNOW THE  
RULES...HOW LONG  
SHOULD THEY BE  
BANNED FOR?  
IT IS YOUR  
DECISION!

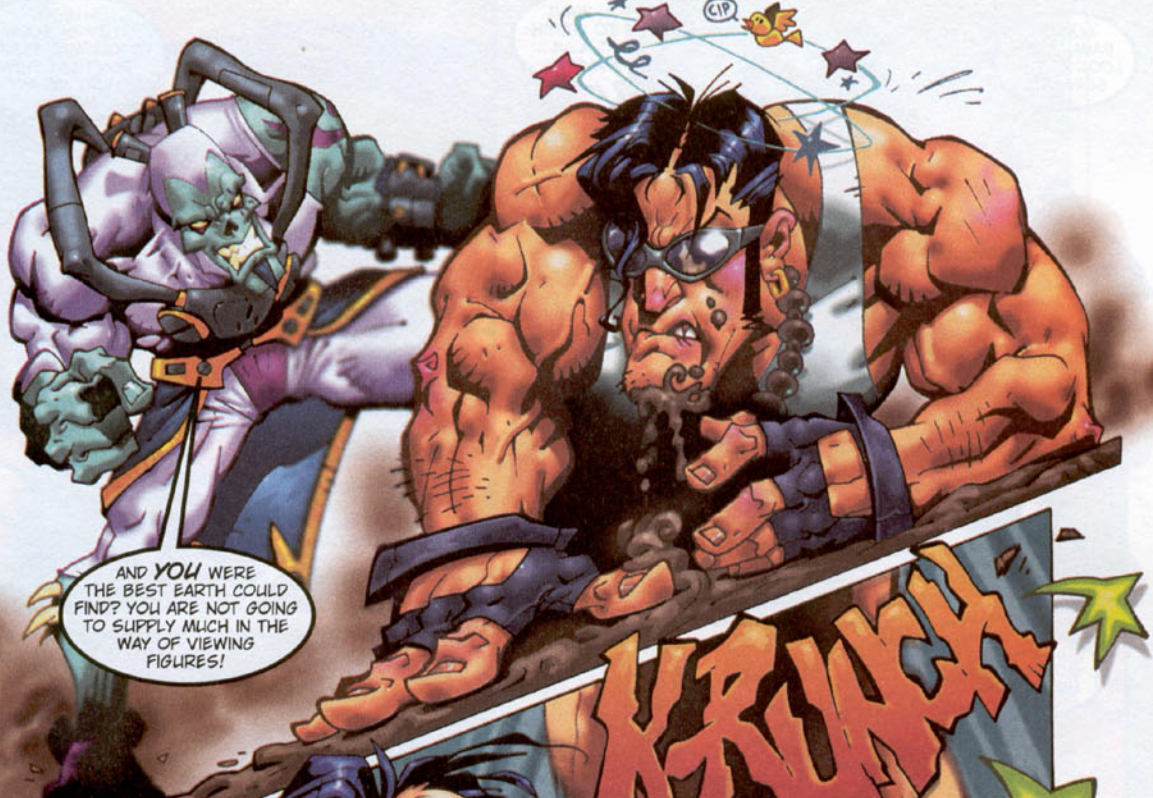


I SENTENCE  
KARTHARCHUK TO  
BE BANNED FROM  
THE ARENA FOR  
ONE THOUSAND...

...SECONDS.  
STARTING  
NOW.



BAW!



AND YOU WERE  
THE BEST EARTH COULD  
FIND? YOU ARE NOT GOING  
TO SUPPLY MUCH IN THE  
WAY OF VIEWING  
FIGURES!

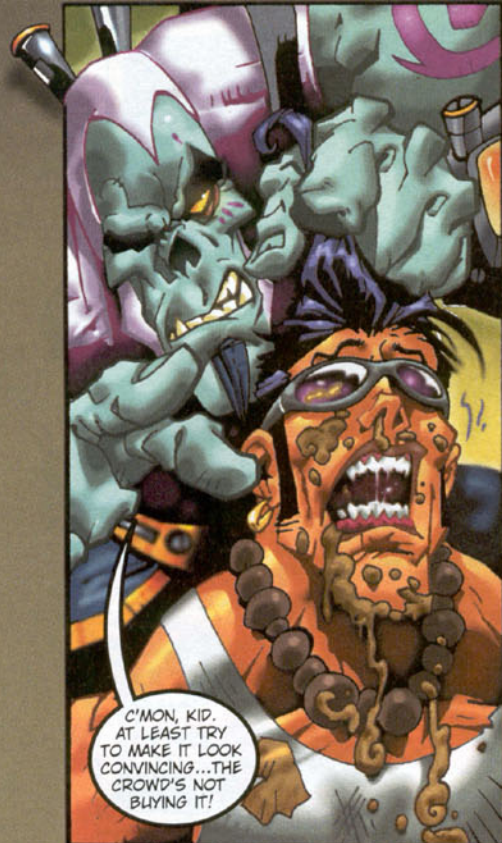
DO THEY  
SING SOPRANO  
IN YOUR NECK  
OF THE  
UNIVERSE?

SO, ATTACKING  
FROM BEHIND IS  
YOUR STYLE? WE'D  
BETTER ALL KEEP OUR  
BACKS TO THE WALL  
IN THE FUTURE.

WAIT...  
->COUGH->...







C'MON, KID.  
AT LEAST TRY  
TO MAKE IT LOOK  
CONVINCING...THE  
CROWD'S NOT  
BUYING IT!



WHAT IS  
HAPPENING?  
WHY IS HE NOT  
FIGHTING  
BACK?



YOU'RE GONNA  
HAVE TO TRUST ME  
ON THIS ONE GUYS,  
BUT I THINK I HAVE  
AN IDEA WHAT  
IS UP...

YES. BUT  
WHAT HAVE  
YOU IN  
MIND?

KUN'TUK,  
CAN YOU  
TRANSPORT PEOPLE  
FROM SHIP  
TO SHIP?



I THINK  
WE SHOULD  
MAKE A TRIP OVER  
TO DAGGLOK'S  
SHIP...



WELL AT  
LEAST HE'S  
GOING TO BE  
IN A GOOD  
MOOD FOR A  
WHILE...

I STILL  
HAVE AN ESCAPE  
POD READY IN CASE  
HE LOSES. I AM NOT  
GONNA STAY  
AROUND FOR  
THAT!



OH,  
FOOSCHUK!  
TROUBLE!!



NOT SO FAST, ARE YOU EARTHMAN?



I DON'T JUST FIGHT WITH MY HANDS, OR MY MOUTH!

THE OTHER ALIEN, SENSING A CHANGE COMING, RUNS FOR THE ESCAPE PODS.



STOP ME AND THE EARTH WOMAN DIES!

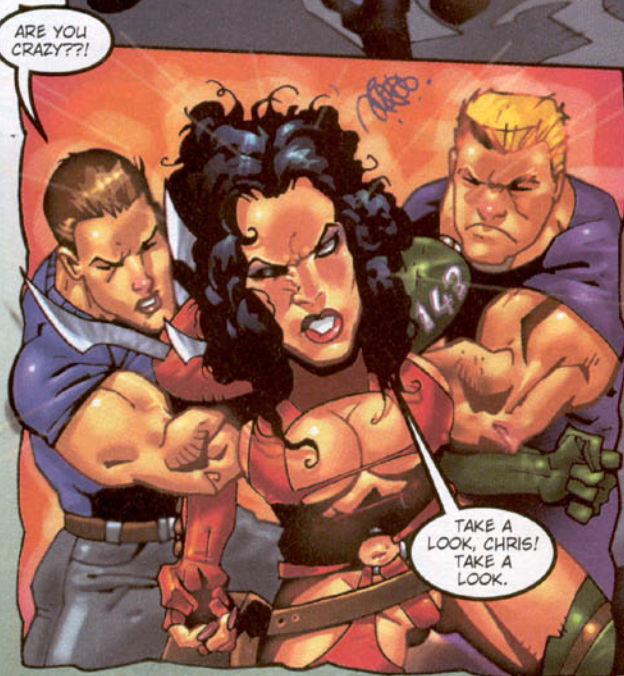
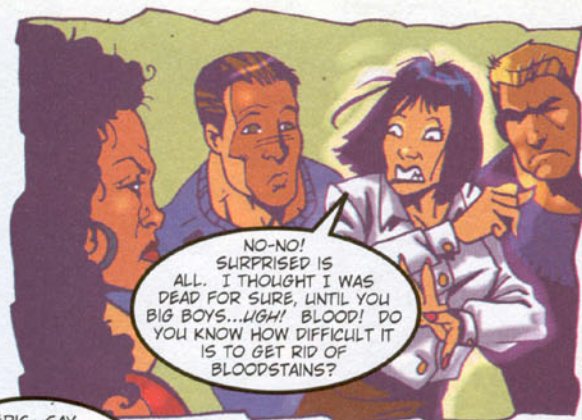


WHY'D YOU TRY FACE-BUTTING MY ELBOW LIKE THAT? YOU COULD HURT SOMEBODY.



ERIC. CHRIS. COME HERE.







WHO ARE YOU AND WHERE'S SHARKY'S REAL MOTHER?

WE NEVER HAD HIS MOTHER... DON'T HIT ME! MY NAME IS AMONUS.



I COME FROM A RACE OF SHAPESHIFTERS ON SHATHRA. I COVER MYSELF IN PERFUME TO HIDE THE SMELL OF AMMONIA WE SECRETE FROM OUR SKIN...



OF COURSE! THE AMMONIA WAS WHAT KILLED SHYTE... YOU TOOK HUMAN FORM TO BLAME IT ON EARTH...

WE HAVE TO LET SHARKY KNOW!




I THINK EVERYONE HAS HAD ENOUGH NOW...YOU CAN DROP ANYTIME YOU LIKE.



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? JUST FALL DOWN!

GET IT OVER WITH!




WHAT IS KEEPING  
THIS HUMAN ON HIS  
FEET? I CAN'T REMEMBER  
A TIME WHEN SOME ONE HAS  
TAKEN SUCH A BEATING!  
WHAT ARE THESE  
HUMANS MADE  
OF?



I'M GETTING  
ANGRY NOW...  
YOU'RE BEING TO  
MAKE ME LOOK  
BAD.


MY  
COMMUNICATOR?  
WHAT DO THEY  
WANT?



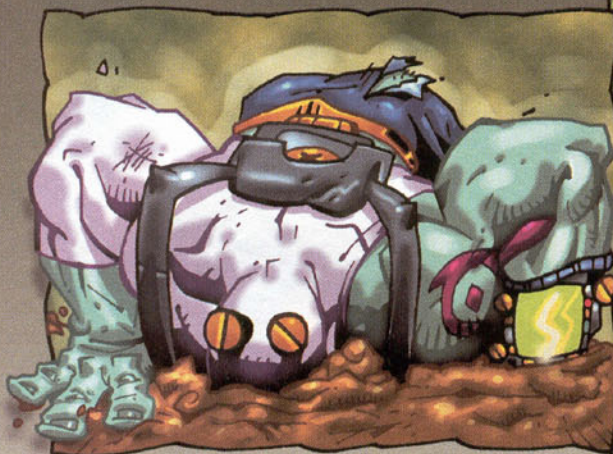
SHARKY!!  
THEY NEVER  
HAD YOUR MOM!  
IT WAS A TRICK!  
YOU CAN STILL  
TAKE HIM!



TOO LATE,  
SWEETIE. THE  
KID'S HAD  
IT.



HAD IT?  
HAD IT? YOU  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  
IT MEANS TO HAVE  
"HAD IT". BUT  
YOU WILL...



BUT YOU  
CAN BE  
HURT!

CRUNCH!

OW!

POO! AAARGH!

OUCH!

YACK!

A YEE!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
DO?

I'M GUESSING  
THE RULES ARE  
LIKE SUMO WRESTLING.  
IF YOU'RE OUT  
OF THE RING,  
I WIN.

FINES

NINNOOOOOOOOOO...

"DOES THAT HURT AS  
MUCH AS IT LOOKS?"



CHRIS,  
I'M SURE  
SHARKY DOESN'T  
NEED TO BE  
REMINDED...

WHAT  
AM I GONNA  
TELL MY  
MOM?!!!



SHE'S  
GONNA KILL  
ME FOR  
SURE!

IF YOU'RE  
SCARED OF  
YOUR MOM, AFTER  
WHAT YOU DID OUT  
THERE TODAY...



...WE'VE  
GOT TO GET  
HER TO ENTER  
NEXT YEAR!

HA, HA,  
OUCH--HAH!  
STOP--HA,  
HA!



HE MADE  
A FOOL OF  
ME IN FRONT OF  
THE ENTIRE  
GALAXY...

AFTER  
WHAT YOU  
DID, THAT IS THE  
LEAST OF YOUR  
PROBLEMS.



EARTH  
WILL PAY FOR  
WHAT THEY DID TO ME  
TODAY...I WILL SEE  
TO THAT!



# AZUREK STORIES

Story & Art:  
Stefano Cardoselli  
Colorist:  
Rita Gorgoni  
Art Assistant:  
Daniele Errico

SOME STORIES  
TIMELESS

# TARGET

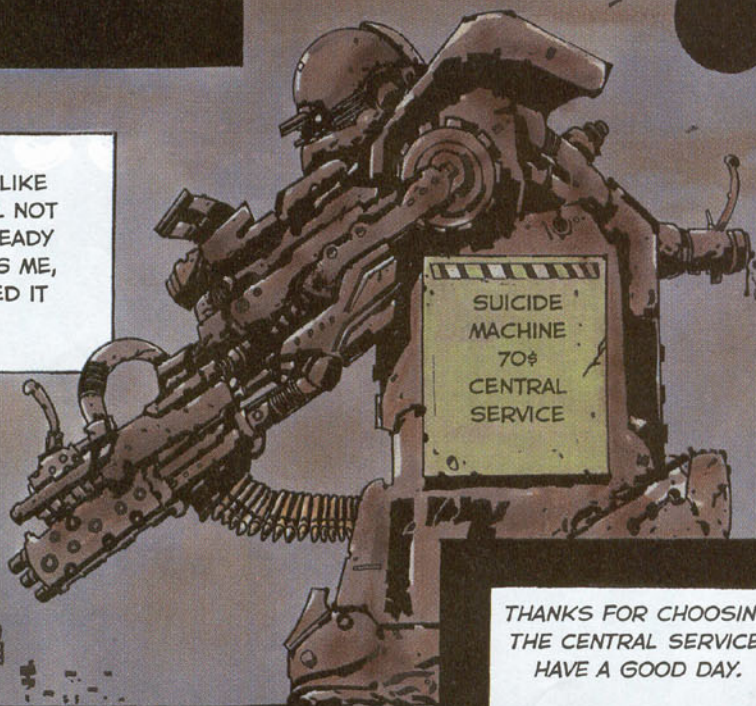
EDEN, WHAT A  
SLUT TO LEAVE  
A MAN LIKE ME...

FOR A FUCKING  
UNEMPLOYED:  
THE TARGET SAYS  
THAT I'M A WINNER....

ON THE CONTRARY,  
YOU, EDEN ARE  
PART OF A LOSER'S  
TARGET. TOGETHER  
WITH PETER DICK  
OR HOLOVER, HIS  
DAMNED NEMESIS!!



YOU WON'T BE LIKE  
EDEN, YOU WILL NOT  
HURT ME, I ALREADY  
LOVE YOU. KISS ME,  
HUG ME, I NEED IT  
BADLY...



THANKS FOR CHOOSING  
THE CENTRAL SERVICE.  
HAVE A GOOD DAY.

# TERRRRR

**GERALD**

SHIT!!!!

YOU'RE HIDING  
IN THE TOY  
DEPARTMENT!!!

WE GOT INTO  
THE MALL.  
THE MOTHERFUCKER  
IS HOPING TO SAVE  
HIMSELF!!!

HEY, KEATON.  
WHAT ABOUT  
YOUR BROTHER,  
GERALD. DID HE  
FIND A JOB?

T R R R R R R R

GIVE ME AN  
APPROXIMATE  
COUNT OF  
INNOCENT VICTIMS.  
HURRY UP!

500 WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN...  
AND, I REPEAT,  
GERALD, YOUR  
BROTHER?

HE'S NOW IN THE HOUSE-  
PRODUCTS DEPARTMENT.  
WELL, LET'S USE  
EXPLOSIVE BULLETS.

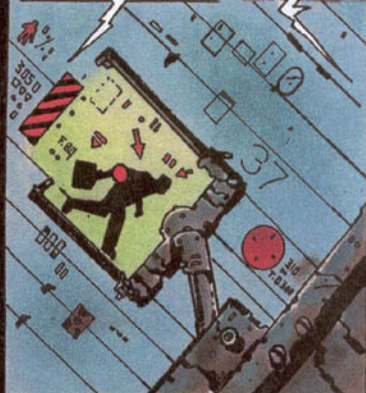


HEY, KEATON. I'VE GOT  
YOUR BAG SNATCHER FRIEND  
TARGET ON SCREEN 10.

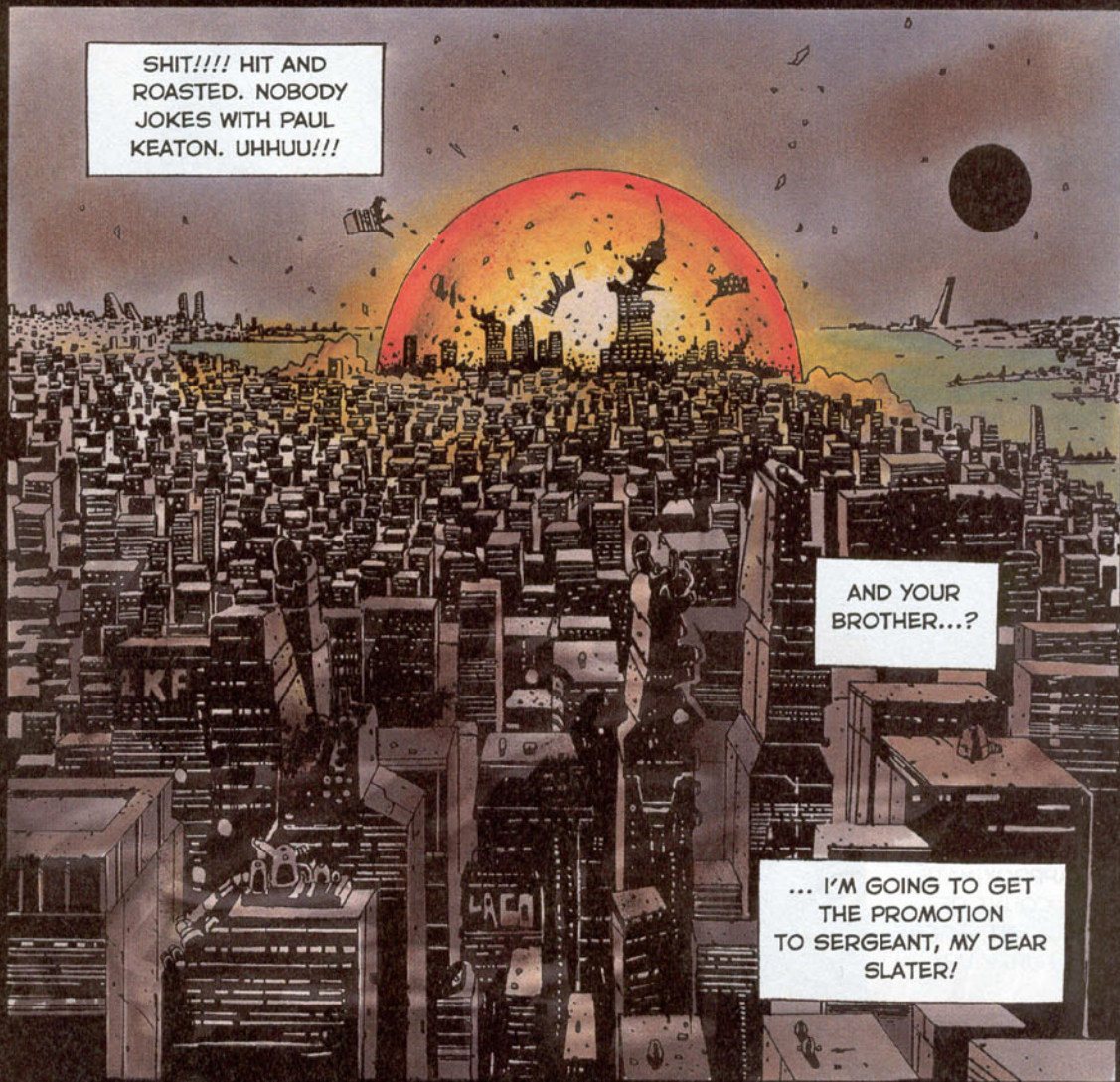


THERE HE IS.  
I'LL SCREW HIM  
WITH A MEGA-  
TON MISSILE IN  
HIS ASS.

AND YOUR  
BROTHER,  
GERALD?



SHIT!!!! HIT AND  
ROASTED. NOBODY  
JOKES WITH PAUL  
KEATON. UHHUU!!!



AND YOUR  
BROTHER...?

... I'M GOING TO GET  
THE PROMOTION  
TO SERGEANT, MY DEAR  
SLATER!

**WE SUPPLY  
EQUIPMENT**

... HAS DEVASTATED THE WHOLE DISTRICT OF CORNING. SMALL DAMAGES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A 5 YEAR PLAN TO TAKE A LOOK: SINCE I'M UNEMPLOYED, THE GOVERNMENT FINDS ME A JOB...

TONIGHT...  
A VIOLENT  
EXPLOSION...



CHEMICAL CENTER  
OF BLACK SAND BEACH

FESTER, WHERE THE  
HELL ARE YOU!? SHIT.  
HURRY UP, THERE IS  
WORK TO DO... SHIT!

WHAT A FUCKING DAY,  
AND WHAT A SHITTY  
FRIEND. SHIT!!!

TAKE A LOOK:  
THE GOVERNMENT  
FINDS ME A  
JOB AS A  
FUCKING  
DISINFESTOR IN  
A FUCKING  
FACTORY...

MOVE, FESTER.  
SHIT!



FESTER!!!!

KLACK

PHH

PHH

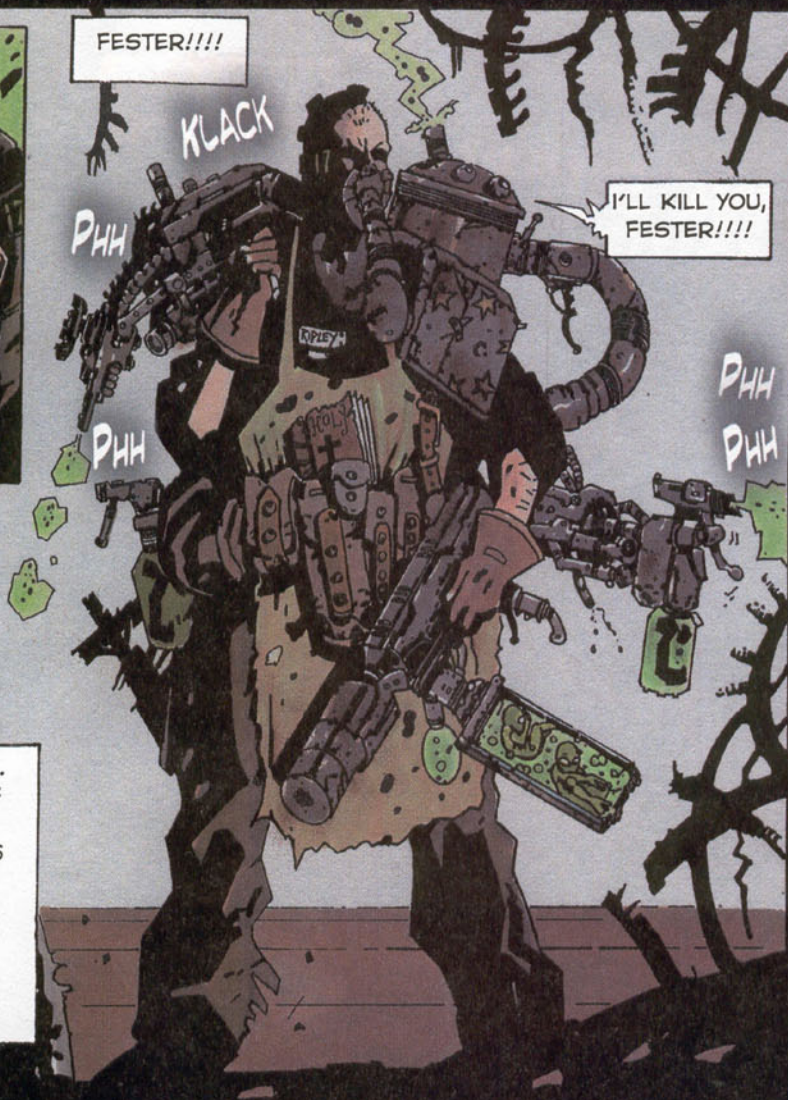
I'LL KILL YOU,  
FESTER!!!!

PHH

PHH

WHY DO I ASSOCIATE  
MYSELF WITH SOME  
KINDS OF PEOPLE...  
I HAVE STUDIED.  
I HAVE CULTURE.  
SHIT... SHIT...

I'D BE A COP INSTEAD.  
THAT STUPID DICK OF  
MY BROTHER.  
BUT I JUST KILL BUGS  
WITH ALL THIS SHIT I  
WEAR. I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT IT IS FUCKING  
FOR...



GERALD!!  
GERALD!!  
LET'S GO  
AWAY.  
SOON!!

OH, GOD!  
I HAVE  
SEEN A  
SHADOW!  
GERALD...

ARE YOU  
DRUNK?



SKREEEE



OH, GOD.  
THE DEVIL.  
THE DEVIL!

WAIT FOR  
ME,  
FESTER!

SKREEEE



A FLAME-  
THROWER, I  
THINK...

WHAT'S THIS  
THING I'VE  
GOT IN MY  
HAND?

YEAHH. WE CAN  
GET IT!!!

LET'S JUST  
OPEN FIRE  
AT 3!

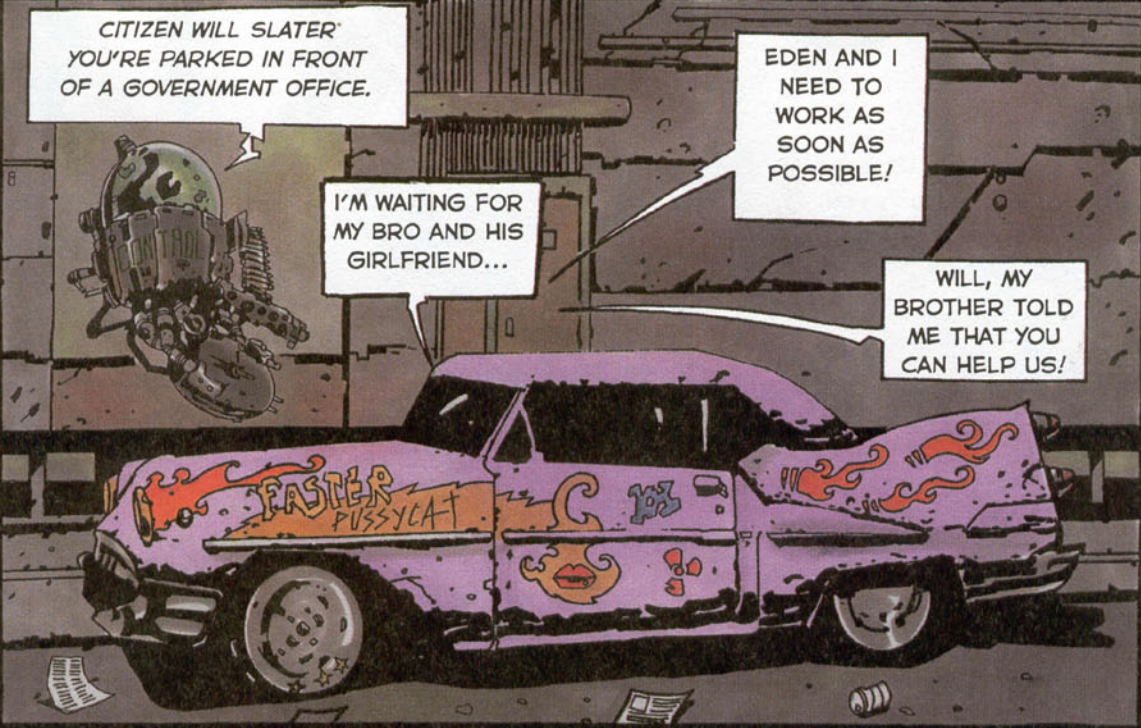


ONE, TWO...  
SHIT. THREE!

DAMN!

WHERE DID I  
PUT THE  
BIBLE...?






CITIZEN WILL SLATER  
YOU'RE PARKED IN FRONT  
OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

I'M WAITING FOR  
MY BRO AND HIS  
GIRLFRIEND...

EDEN AND I  
NEED TO  
WORK AS  
SOON AS  
POSSIBLE!

WILL, MY  
BROTHER TOLD  
ME THAT YOU  
CAN HELP US!



I KNOW YOUR BROTHER  
WELL. HE IS A GREAT  
FRIEND AND A COURAGEOUS  
COP. HE WORKS ON THE  
FLYING UNITS, CORRECT?

PETER, I'M  
HUNGRY!

YOUR TIME IS  
GONE.

TRRRRRR

SO, SIR.  
IS THERE A JOB?



CERTAINLY. THERE  
ARE SOME  
RESPECTFUL  
POSITIONS...

... AS DISINFESTOR IN  
THE BLACK SAND BEACH  
CENTRE. WE SUPPLY  
THE EQUIPMENT...





...ARUA, I WILL COVER YOU WITH GOLD!...

...RICHES LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER IMAGINED AND, OF COURSE...

...YOU CAN ALSO HAVE...



...ME!



GULP!

I MUST BE DREAMING!

AM I?

YES, YOU ARE!...

...THAT IS THE REAL PROBLEM!



I'M REALLY A VERY POWERFUL SORCERESS...

BUT...

...A RIVAL WITCH HAS PUT ME UNDER THIS DREADFUL SPELL...

...WHICH KEEPS ME ADRIFT IN LIMBO...

...ALONE AND...

...FORMLESS...

...FOR ALL ETERNITY!

YES, IT'S REALLY...



...HORRIBLE!



TO RID ME OF THIS CURSE, I HAVE NEED OF A MAGICAL STONE...

...IT BELONGS TO AN ENORMOUS KYRA, THAT LIVES IN THE NORTH...

...WILL YOU GO THERE?

OH, MY CHOSEN ONE,

WILL YOU HELP ME TO BE WHOLE AGAIN?



YES, MY LOVE!



SO, HURRY THEN...

...GO FIND THE STONE...

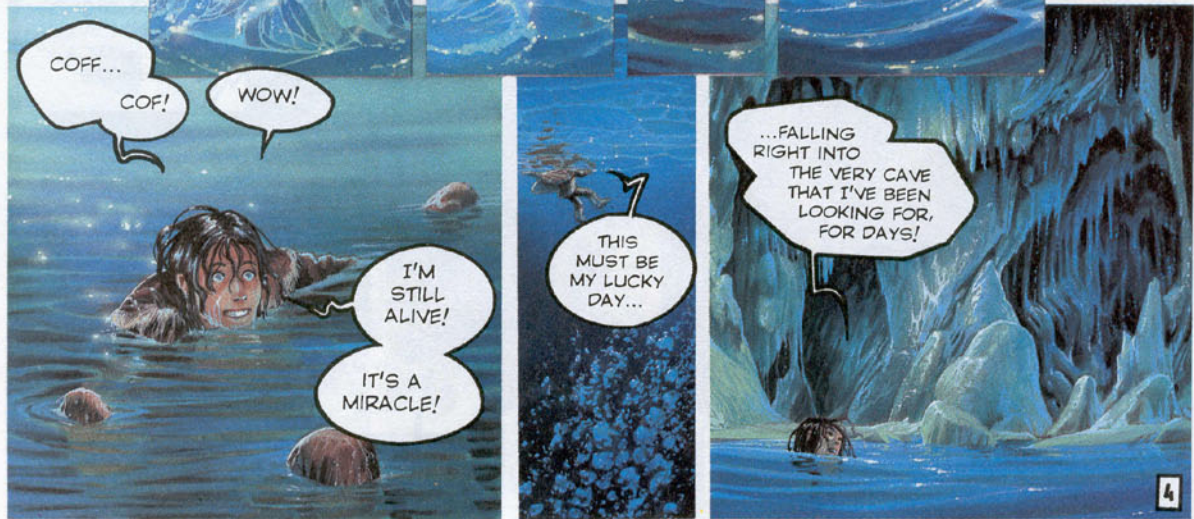
...FIND IT...

...AND COME BACK...



...TO ME!







YEEEESSS!  
HE'S FOUND IT!

HA!  
HA!

HEE!  
HEE!



I KNEW IT!

I WAS RIGHT  
ABOUT HIM!

FINALLY!...  
AFTER ALL  
THESE  
CENTURIES!



BUT NOW  
COMES THE  
HARDEST  
PART!



OH, HOW  
WONDERFUL!

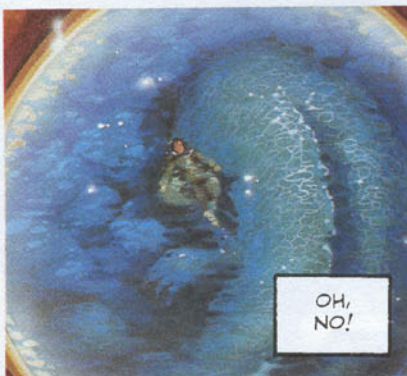
THIS WATER IS  
SURPRISINGLY  
WARM!...

...JUST WHAT  
I NEEDED!



NOW IF  
I CAN FIND  
SOMETHING  
TO EAT...

...I  
CAN START  
LOOKING  
FOR THAT  
DAMN  
STONE!



OH,  
NO!



LOOK OUT,  
ARUA!

YOU ARE  
IN GRAVE  
DANGER!



??

THERE  
SEEMS  
TO BE  
SOMEONE  
ELSE IN  
THE WATER!

!?

NOOO!!



AIEE!



HEEEELL...



...LLP!



UGH!  
I BROKE  
LOOSE!



I HAVE TO  
GET OUT OF THE  
WATER...

...BEFORE IT  
TURNS AROUND  
TO ATTACK!



MADE  
IT!

PHEW!

I NEED  
TO REST...

...FOR A  
WHILE!



GLOUSH



DAMN!...  
IT'S GOT  
LEGS!!



GO AWAY!  
SHOOO...

GET BACK IN  
THE WATER!

TVC

HISSESSSS

SSSSSS



OH, NO!

I CAN'T  
LOOK!



HISS

SSSSP!



POUSH...

?

WHA...?



...IT'S  
GOING  
AWAY!



THAT'S  
AMAZING!

I  
CAN'T...



To!



???



ARGH!

IT'S  
THE  
KYRA!



AND IT  
HAS THE  
STONE!



IT HASN'T  
SEEN ME YET!

SEEMS TO  
BE AS STUPID  
AS IT IS BIG!



OH,  
WELL...

...JUST MAKES  
IT EASIER TO  
GRAB THE  
STONE!



OUFF!



DAMN!  
I  
TRIPPED!



HUH?

OH,  
NOOO...

TUNFF FLLTCH...



KYRA  
ALONE...

...KYRA  
SAD...

...KYRA  
NO  
FRIENDS!

AND  
KYRA SO  
HUNGRY!

GURGLE

I

DON'T

BELIEVE IT!

THIS MUST  
BE PART  
OF THE  
CURSE!...

IT'S ALWAYS  
THE SAME...

...I ONLY  
SEEM TO GET...

...THE  
CLUMSIEST  
OAFS...

...FALLING  
FOR ME!

END

Cim'io Di Felice 2000-

8

# THE ETERNAL GAME

LOOK! THAT'S THE NEW  
"LAXER 7A". IT'S THE  
LATEST IN HIGH TECH. IT'S  
ALREADY SHREDDED ONE  
OF OUR PLANES.

YEAH SURE,  
JUST A LUCKY  
SHOT!



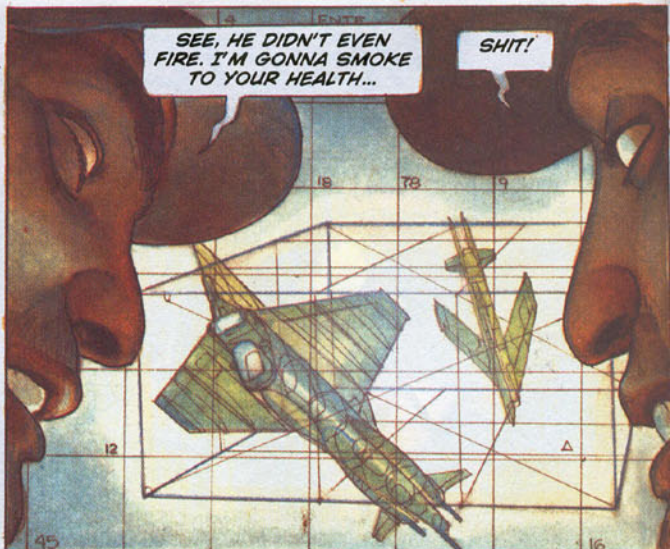
LUCKY?  
YOU'RE KIDDING!  
LOOK!

NO, HE WON'T  
HIT IT.



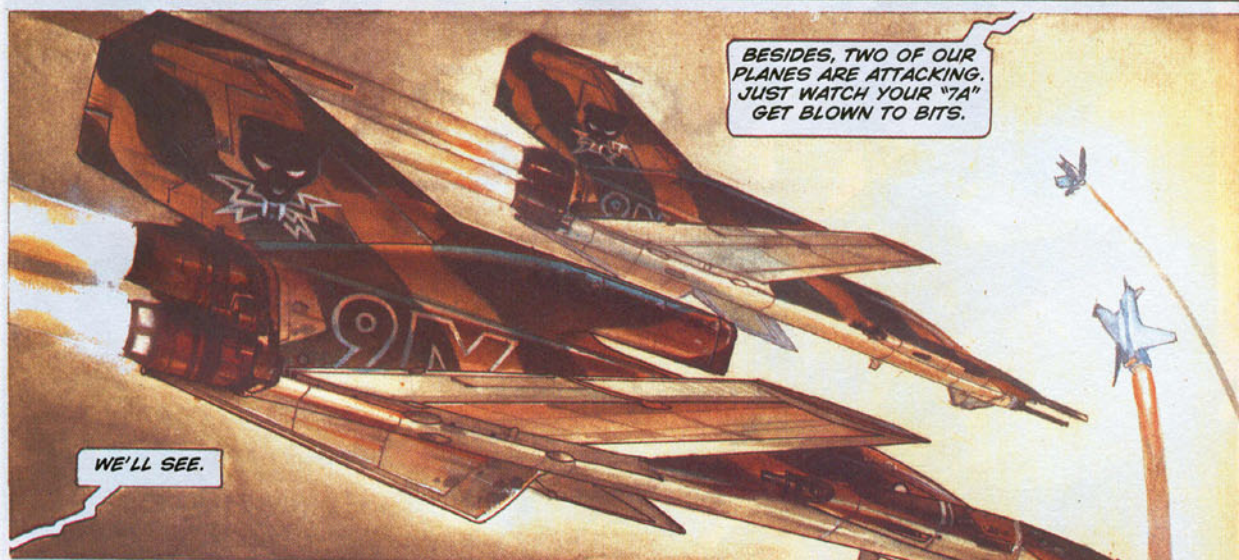
SURE HE WILL. I BET  
YOU MY LAST TWO  
CIGS AGAINST YOUR  
D-LITE-FUL CANDY BAR!

O.K.



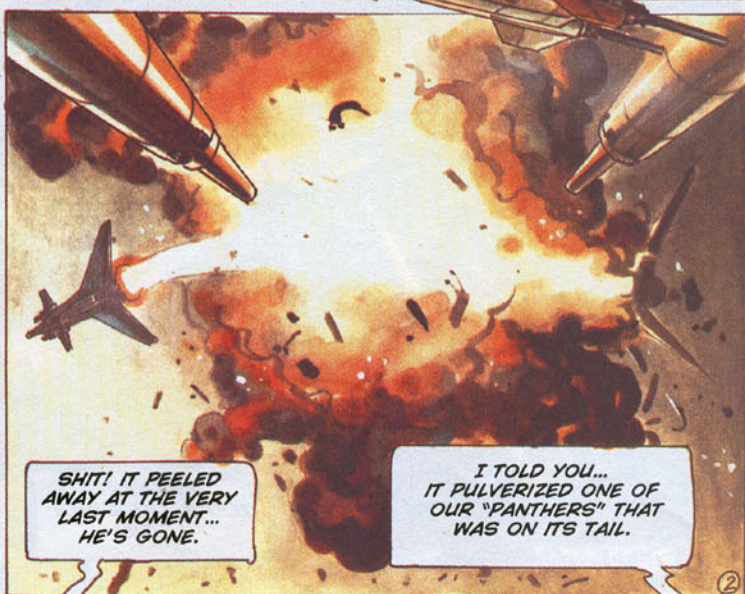
SEE, HE DIDN'T EVEN  
FIRE. I'M GONNA SMOKE  
TO YOUR HEALTH...

SHIT!



BESIDES, TWO OF OUR  
PLANES ARE ATTACKING.  
JUST WATCH YOUR "7A"  
GET BLOWN TO BITS.

WE'LL SEE.



SHIT! IT PEELED  
AWAY AT THE VERY  
LAST MOMENT...  
HE'S GONE.

I TOLD YOU...  
IT PULVERIZED ONE OF  
OUR "PANTHERS" THAT  
WAS ON ITS TAIL.

SO... WHERE'S MY  
CANDY BAR?

TAKE IT, BENSON! BUT IT'S NOT  
OVER YET. OUR FRIENDS ARE  
COMING BACK.

I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE!  
MY CIGARETTES AND CANDY BAR AGAINST  
YOUR THERMAL SOCKS THAT THE "7A"  
COMES THROUGH.

ALL RIGHT.

LOOK! IT'S BEEN  
HIT!

IT'S JUST A PLOY SO IT  
CAN GET AWAY.

WHAT PLOY? IT'S BEEN  
HIT, PURE AND SIMPLE.  
IT'S JUST BEEN SHOT  
DOWN.

COOL IT, SOUKAR. IT'S NOT EVEN  
SCRATCHED. LOOK HOW IT MANEUVERS!  
WHAT ELEGANCE! IT WOULD SEEM...

...THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO RETURN  
MY CANDY BAR AND GIVE ME  
YOUR LAST CIGARETTES.  
BEEP... BEEP...

BIP...  
BIP...

SHUT UP! ONE-EYE IS  
CALLING US.

TANK 3, B SQUADRON,  
SECTION X 106, HERE. DO YOU  
READ ME?

PANTHER LEADER HERE.  
A "LAXER 7A" HAS JUST GONE  
DOWN. WE SUSPECT THAT IT IS  
NOT STRICTLY KOSHER. I WANT IT  
IN ONE PIECE. UNDERSTOOD?

ROGER, PANTHER  
LEADER. WE'RE ON  
IT.

LET'S GO,  
SOUKAR! YOU  
HEARD HIM!

SO DO I GET  
MY FUCKIN' CANDY  
BAR?

HURRY UP, DAMN IT!  
WE'RE IN A WAR ZONE,  
AND ALL YOU CAN THINK OF  
IS CANDY!

WE'RE IN IT  
TOGETHER,  
OLD PAL!

I TOLD YOU THE  
"7A" WAS GREAT.

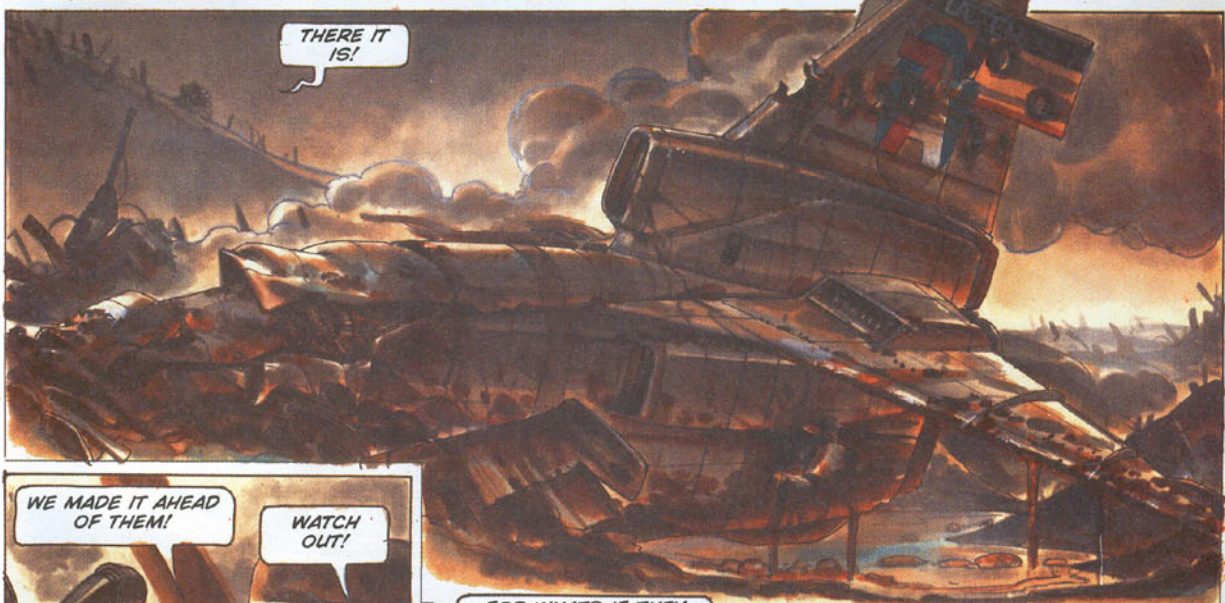
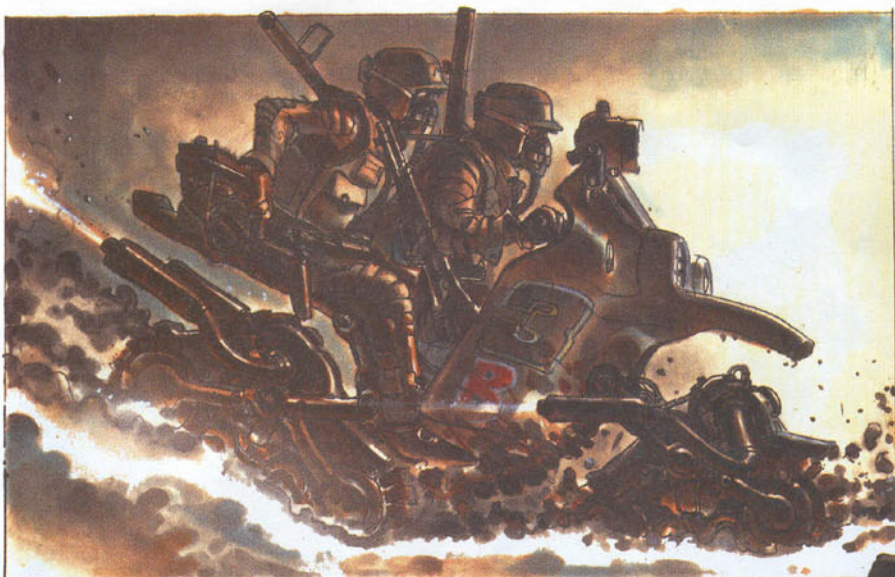
YEAH, SURE. AND  
I AIN'T BETTIN' ON  
ANYTHING ANYMORE...

HURRY UP AND  
CLIMB ON!

GO AHEAD,  
BREAK YOUR  
NECK!

RRR

RRR



THERE IT IS!



WE MADE IT AHEAD OF THEM!

WATCH OUT!



FOR WHAT? IF THEY WERE HERE, THEY'D...



FRARAF



DID YOU SAY WE GOT  
HERE FIRST?

WE NEED BACK-UP. THESE BASTARDS  
AREN'T FOOLING AROUND... ONE-EYE  
IS GONNA GET A MOUTHFUL.



FIVE BUCKS AND THE  
SOCKS SAY HE WON'T  
EVEN LISTEN!



I THOUGHT YOU'D  
STOPPED BETTING. YOU  
SAID FIVE BUCKS! IT'S A  
DEAL! SHIT! THE TANKS  
HAVE SPOTTED US!



I THINK IT'S THE  
MOMENT FOR A  
SO-CALLED STRATEGIC  
RETREAT... SO LET'S  
GET THE FUCK OUTTA  
HERE!



GOOD IDEA! SCREW  
THE "7A"!



WAIT FOR ME.

THE DRINKS ARE ON YOU!

ASSHOLE!



FIRE A MISSILE AT EVERY TANK AND WE'RE COOL.



HEY, SEE THOSE HELICOPTERS?



DON'T WORRY. THEY'RE PROGRAMMED TO COLLECT THE "TA". THEY DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT US!

WE'RE FUCKED!



THEY'RE GRABBING IT FROM UNDER OUR NOSES.



WE'RE RETREATING, BENSON! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!



ONE-EYE TOLD US TO PICK UP THE "7A"... RIGHT?



TWO IN THE HOLE! GOOD FOR YOU, BENSON. WE JUST HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE TANK NOW.

I WANNA SEE THIS FAMOUS "7A" UP CLOSE!

BY THE WAY, BENSON... YOU LOST YOUR BET!



NO, SORRY!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SORRY? YOU OWE ME TWO CIGARETTES AND YOUR CANDY BAR.

NO! LOOK! THE FLAPS ARE STILL MOVING. I'M SERIOUS!



THE LAXER  
BLEW UP!

BENSON! IT'S  
BLOOD! I'VE...



SHIT! DON'T  
MOVE! I'M  
COMIN'!

I CAN'T FEEL  
A THING,  
BENSON!

OF COURSE YOU CAN'T, IDIOT!  
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HIT! THAT'S  
NOT BLOOD... IT LOOKS LIKE  
SYNTHETIC PLASMA... AND IT  
CAME FROM THE "7A".



SO IT'S NOT A ROBOT-  
PLANE... IT'S ALIVE! IT'S A  
FLYING ANDROID!

BUT THAT'S AGAINST  
THE RULES! LAXER  
SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED  
FOR THAT! JUST LOOK  
AT THE SCORE!

IT SAYS WE TIED!  
BUT WE WON  
5 TO 3!



GODDAMN SELL-  
OUT UMPIRES!  
THINGS NEVER  
CHANGE!

IDIOTS! THE UMPIRE DIDN'T COUNT THE TWO HELICOPTERS BECAUSE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RETREATING... I SHOULD HAVE YOU SHOT... BUT SINCE YOU DISCOVERED THAT THE "7A" WASN'T REGULATION, WE WERE GIVEN AN EXTRA POINT, SO I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK.

BESIDES, I CAN'T GET RID OF YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A CAMPAIGN, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NEXT BATTLE COUNTS TOWARD THE OLYMPIC WAR MEMORIAL.

THE INTERGALACTIC CUP FINAL WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE TO 15 PLANETS AND VIEWED BY 572 BILLION SPECTATORS...

HER MASTER WAR  
SPORTING CLUB



...SO I NEED ALL THE AVAILABLE PERSONNEL BECAUSE I WANT TO BE THE HIGHEST ON THE PODIUM...

...SINCE THAT WILL ENABLE US TO ACQUIRE A NEW ARSENAL OF MISSILES AND, WITH YOUR HELP, WIN THE FINAL VICTORY.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?

WELL... I... WE...

THAT'S ALL NOW. IF YOU MAKE ANOTHER MISTAKE LIKE YOU DID YESTERDAY, YOU'LL BE COURT MARTIALED FOR INSUBORDINATION! NOW GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!

HOORAY FOR THE PANTHERS!

HOORAY!!!

HEY, SOUKAR! I FEEL LIKE AN ASSHOLE!

OH?

I LOST TWO BETS AND NOW ONE-EYE IS GIVIN' US A HARD TIME. BUY ME A DRINK BEFORE I FREAK OUT.

GO AHEAD, FREAK OUT!