

KORRIGANS: CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT BY CIVIELLO

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Children of the Night

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Cover  
by Royo

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THE DEVIL  
MADE HER  
DO IT!

SATAN CREPT INTO ANN  
GREELING'S BED AT  
NIGHT AND CARESSED  
HER WITH HIS ICY CLAWS,  
WHISPERING HIS WICKED  
IDEAS INTO HER EAR.

## THE MURDERER'S MOTHER

WRITER: JOSEF ROTHER  
ARTIST: TONI GREIS



I TELL YOU, IT  
WAS THE DEVIL!

THE DEVIL!



Don't listen to the right  
reverend's hog-wash.

I beg you to believe me: I  
didn't have anything to do with  
this unfortunate business.



I don't know what gave Ann  
Greeling her horrible ideas.

It's been a long time  
since I stopped wonder-  
ing why people do  
what they do.



I just watch them do it...

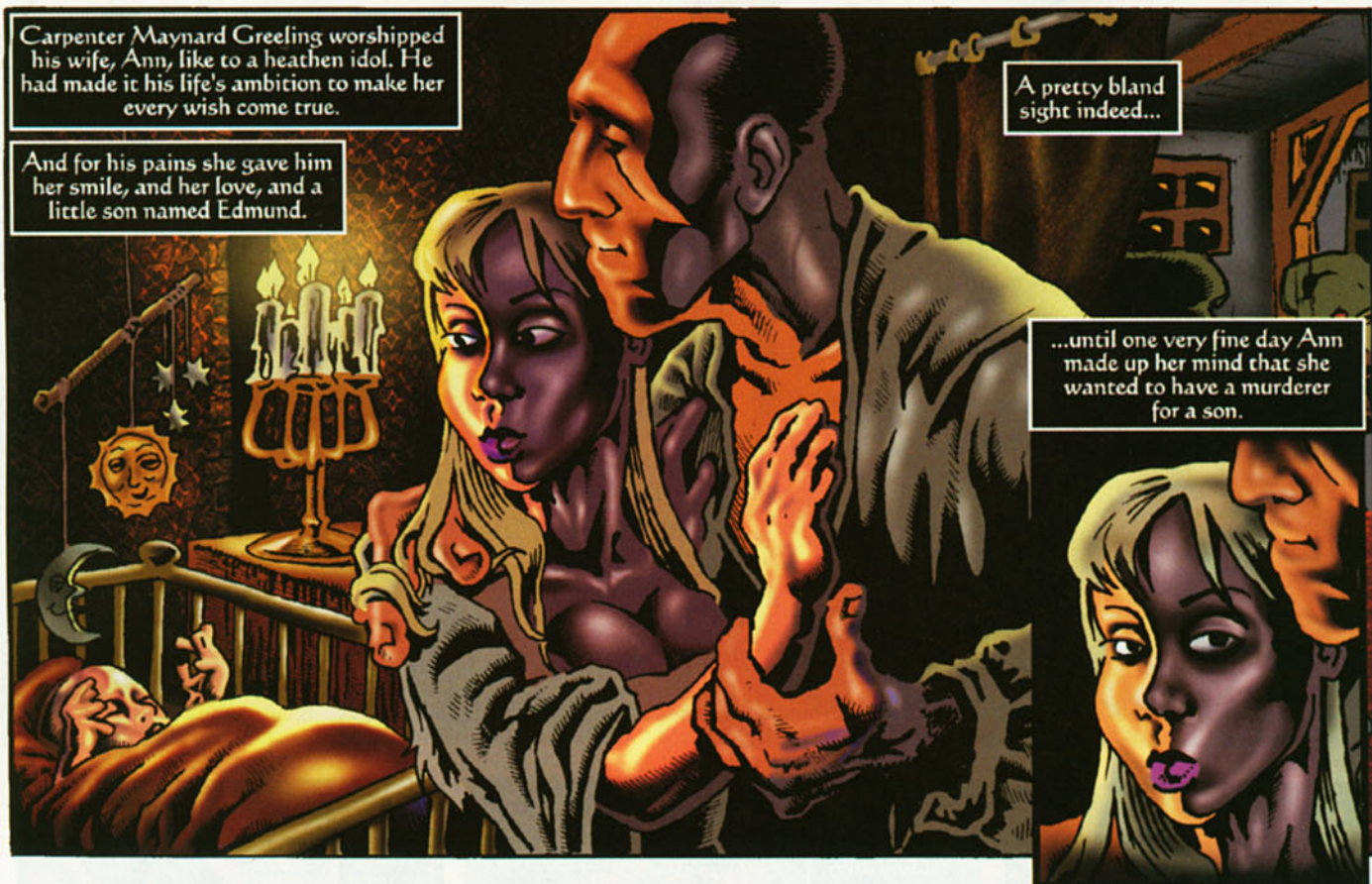


Carpenter Maynard Greeling worshipped his wife, Ann, like to a heathen idol. He had made it his life's ambition to make her every wish come true.

And for his pains she gave him her smile, and her love, and a little son named Edmund.

A pretty bland sight indeed...

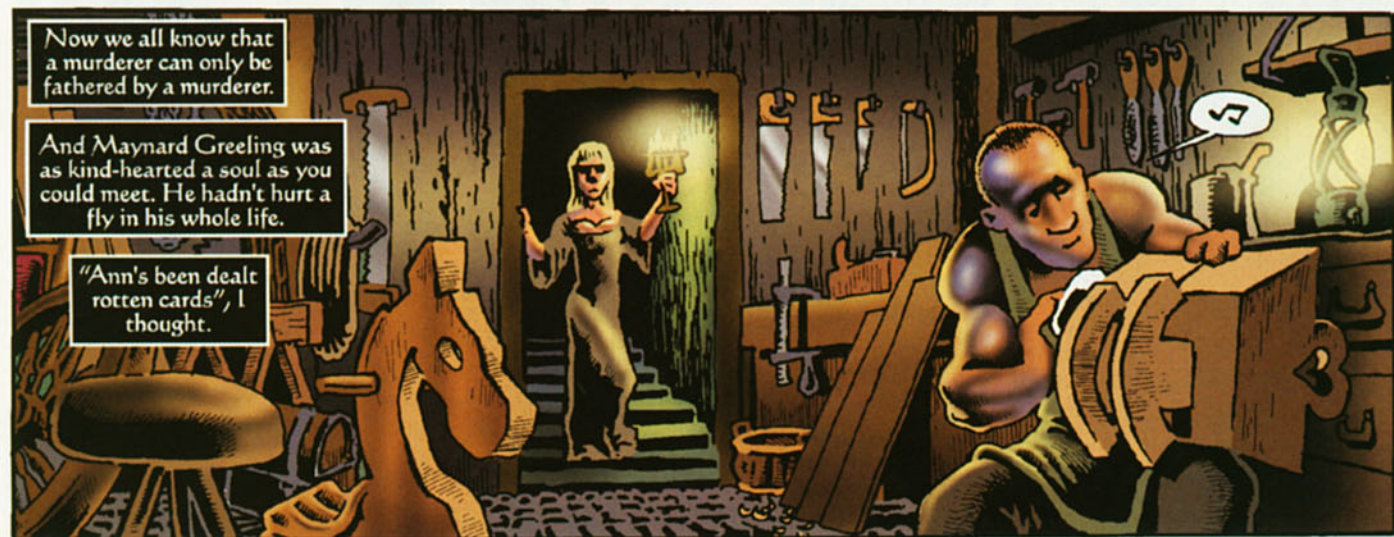
...until one very fine day Ann made up her mind that she wanted to have a murderer for a son.



Now we all know that a murderer can only be fathered by a murderer.

And Maynard Greeling was as kind-hearted a soul as you could meet. He hadn't hurt a fly in his whole life.

"Ann's been dealt rotten cards", I thought.

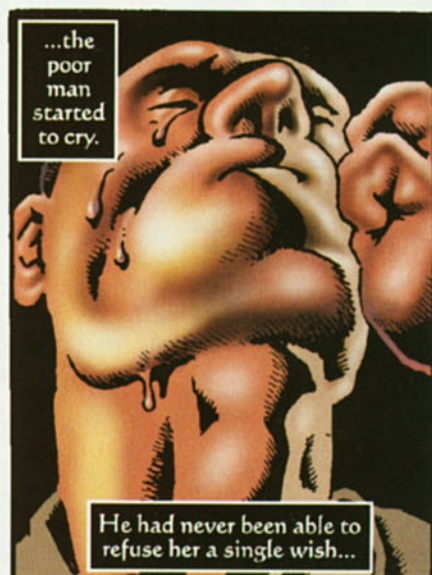
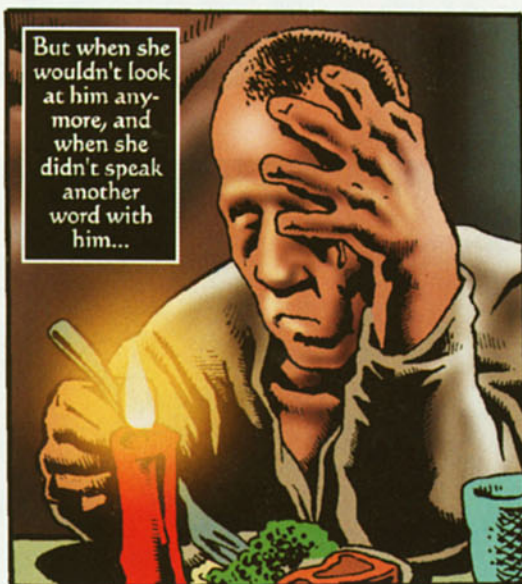


I should be proven wrong...

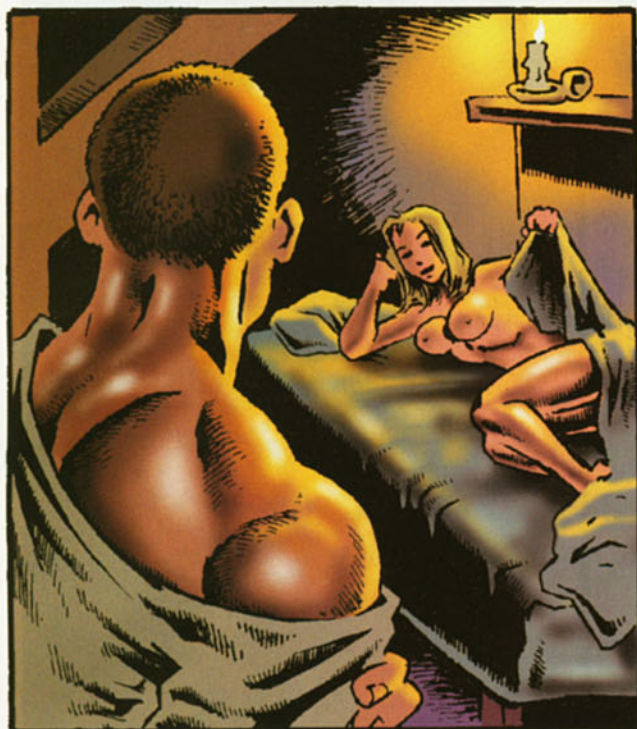
**SLAUGHTER THE BRAT!**











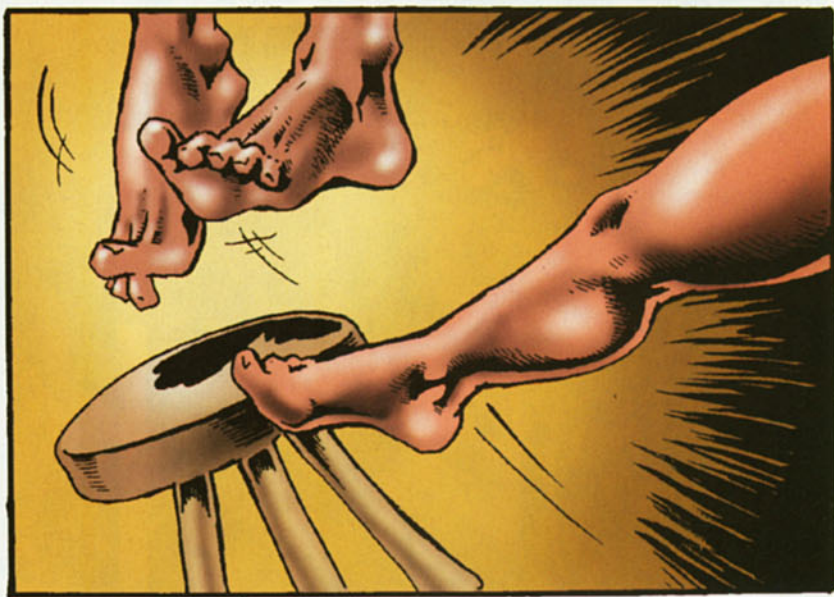
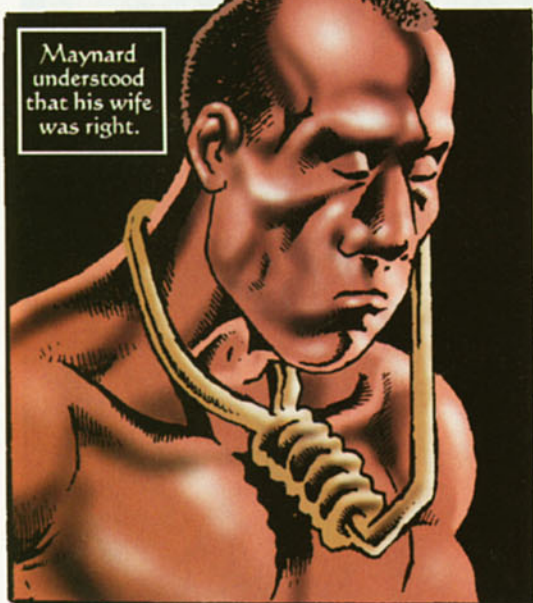
When Maynard woke the next morning, Ann had already been up and about for some time. She was waiting for him...

YOU HAVE TO DIE, HUSBAND.

YOU KILLED YOUR OWN CHILD AND DESERVE TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD.



Maynard understood that his wife was right.













Ann told him how his father had killed his brother at her behest.



Maynard went pale with horror.



Ann told him how she had executed his father.

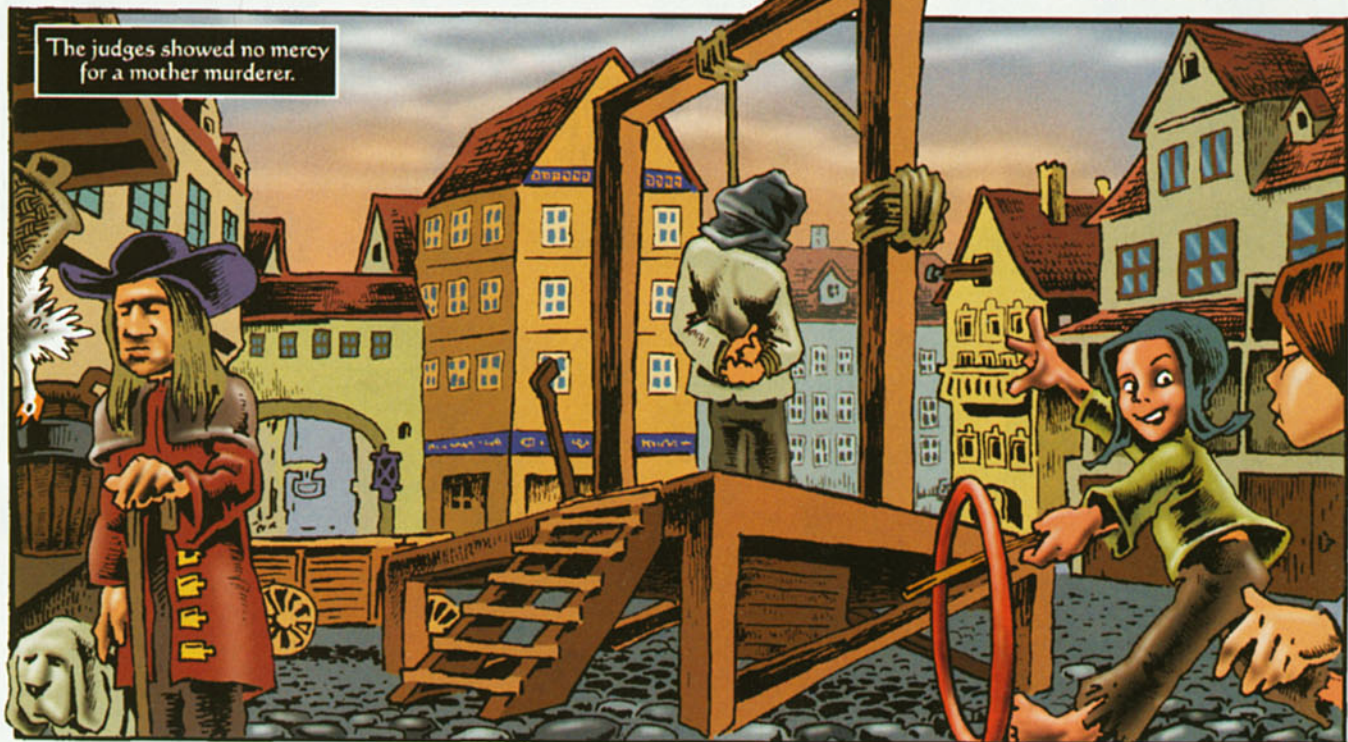


Later Maynard Greeling told his judges that the hammer had suddenly sprung into his hand.

He didn't remember what he had done, but in the end his mother was dead.



The judges showed no mercy for a mother murderer.







Ann is so proud of herself. She tells me her story time and time again, and I just can't get enough of it.



Once curiosity got the better of me, and I dared to ask her why she had done it.



She gave me a strange look...



...and said:

YOU MADE ME DO IT.



# KORRIGANS: CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT







WE'RE LOST,  
AREN'T WE?  
WE SHOULD BE  
ABLE TO SEE  
THE VILLAGE  
LIGHTS BY  
NOW.



WHAT DO  
YOU EXPECT  
TO SEE IN  
THIS  
WEATHER?

WE TOOK THE  
WRONG TURN-  
OFF AT THE  
CROSSROADS  
BECAUSE OF  
THE STORM!



SHOULDN'T  
WE GO  
BACK?



**NO!** I'M SURE  
THE STREAM WE  
FORDED A WHILE  
AGO CAN NO  
LONGER BE  
CROSSED. IT'S  
BETTER TO KEEP  
ON GOING...



IF THE PATH  
FOLLOWS THE  
COAST, WE'LL  
KNOW WHERE  
WE ARE...



I HOPE SO...  
WE'RE IN A  
DESERTED AREA,  
AND SAMAIN'S  
NIGHT HAS  
OPENED ITS  
GATES...





THIS IS HARDLY  
THE MOMENT  
TO SPEW OUT  
SUCH  
BLASPHEMY!



THERE IS  
NO  
BLASPHEMY  
IN WHAT I'M  
SAYING...

BE QUIET!  
YOU'VE  
OUTRAGED OUR  
LORD AND PUT  
YOUR  
IMMORTAL  
SOUL IN  
PERIL!



SUCH  
SUPERSTITIONS  
ARE THE WORK  
OF THE DEVIL,  
OR DON'T YOU  
KNOW THAT  
YET?!

DON'T  
WORRY! THE  
STORM WILL  
ABATE AND  
WE WILL FIND  
OUR WAY...



GRANDPA,  
WHAT IS  
SAMAIN'S  
NIGHT?



IN A FARAWAY  
TIME, SAMAIN  
MARKED THE  
BEGINNING OF A  
NEW YEAR. OUR  
ANCESTORS  
BELIEVED...

... THAT MYSTERIOUS  
PASSAGES OPENED  
UP DURING THE  
NIGHT AND THAT  
THEY CLOSED UP  
AGAIN AT THE FIRST  
RAYS OF LIGHT. THEY  
THOUGHT...



... THESE  
PASSAGES  
LINKED OUR  
WORLD TO THE  
HEROIC WORLD  
OF THE GODS  
AND...

LORD!!

!!

RRROOOO OMM-BB-BROMBOL OMM

LUAIIINE!!

... OF  
ENCHANTED  
CREATURES.






THE NIGHT HAS  
BEGUN UNDER  
MOST  
AUSPICIOUS  
SIGNS, DON'T  
YOU THINK SO,  
DEAREST  
GUESTS?

ABSOLUTELY!  
A MOST  
ENCHANTING  
SHOW!







HOWLING WINDS  
AND RAGING  
RAIN! BLOODY  
WOUNDS AND  
HIDEOUS PAIN! A  
MAGNIFICENT  
NIGHT!




AND  
WHAT DO  
WE HAVE  
HERE?



AN AGING  
BUT  
ROBUST  
CARCASS!



YOU!  
RUN, CATCH  
IT AND TIE IT  
UP!



AND WHAT IS  
THIS? THIS  
SCRUMPTIOUS,  
SWEET-  
SMELLING  
SLEEPING  
RUMP?



YOU! AND YOU!  
RUN! GATHER  
AND CARRY  
AWAY THIS  
INTOXICATING  
FLOWER!





BELIEVE US,  
CHILD, WE'RE  
YOUR FRIENDS!  
STOP  
STRUGGLING OR  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO MAKE US...



AAAHH!!  
GOD  
ALMIGHTY!



NO!



WE CAN'T FIGHT  
THEM OFF! THERE  
ARE TOO MANY OF  
THEM! WE WERE  
LUCKY WE WERE  
ABLE TO SNATCH  
YOU FROM THEIR  
CLAWS...



THE STALK OF  
THIS FLOWER  
IS STILL FILLED  
WITH SAP. I'D  
LIKE TO BRING  
IT TO MY LIPS  
TO QUENCH MY  
THIRST!

AND I WISH I  
COULD STICK  
MY CLAWS INTO  
THIS DELICIOUS  
COROLLA!  
I'M HUNGRY!







THERE!  
BLEEDING  
FLESH AND  
DEATH...



HUH  
?!



LORD OF  
DARKNESS!  
HOW  
DISGUSTING!



AAARRH! GO  
BACK TO THE  
SLIME THAT  
GAVE YOU  
BIRTH!



AAAHH!



TELL ME, MY  
FRIENDS,  
WASN'T THERE  
ALSO A  
DELICIOUS  
LITTLE SEED? I  
BELIEVE THERE  
WAS...





AND I HAVE  
ALWAYS  
DREAMED OF  
PLANTING A  
LITTLE WILD  
SEED...



... IN  
MY  
ORCHARD!



FOLLOW  
ME!



THESE  
WOODS  
EXUDE A  
STRANGE  
ODOR...



YES!









IS MY  
FATHER  
DEAD?



FOLLOW THESE  
MISERABLE  
CREATURES AND  
SEE WHERE  
THEY'RE TAKING  
THEIR CAPTIVES.  
WE'LL MEET YOU  
IN THE VILLAGE...



I'M  
OFF!



YOUR  
NAME IS  
LUAINE,  
RIGHT?

YES...

IF YOU'RE  
FEELING BRAVE  
ENOUGH,  
LUAINE, WE  
COULD GIVE  
YOUR FATHER  
A PROPER  
BURIAL...





THE PASSING  
OF TIME IS  
DIFFERENT IN  
OUR WORLD,  
LUAINE...



WHEN YOU CROSS  
THE THRESHOLD  
THAT SEPARATES  
OUR WORLDS, YOU  
WILL BE LEAVING  
BEHIND  
EVERYTHING THAT  
IS FAMILIAR TO  
YOU...



YOU CAN STILL  
CHANGE YOUR  
MIND! I WON'T  
HOLD IT  
AGAINST  
YOU...

MY  
MOTHER  
AND MY  
GRAND-  
FATHER...



... ARE  
ALL THAT  
I HAVE  
LEFT!





OOOHH!  
ISN'T IT  
BEAUTIFUL!?

YES, IT'S  
NOT BAD...


THE  
MOON IS  
SO  
HUGE!

I DON'T WISH  
TO OFFEND  
YOU, BUT IT'S  
ACTUALLY THE  
MOON IN YOUR  
WORLD THAT'S  
SMALL!

LOOK! WE'RE  
COMING TO  
SIDH, WHERE  
MY CLAN  
LIVES...

I MUST LET  
THEM KNOW  
WHAT  
HAPPENED...





WHEN IT'S COLD AN'  
YA NEED TO GET  
WARM... WHEN IT'S  
HOT AND YOU'RE  
ALL CLAMMY AN'  
SWEATY...

WHEN IT'S WINDY  
AN' YOUR MOUTH  
IS ALL DRY... EVEN  
IF IT'S RAININ' AN'  
YOU'RE SO  
SOAKED YOU  
COULD CRY...

IF YOU'RE SO  
THIRSTY THAT YOU  
THINK YOU COULD  
DIE... THEN POUR  
YOURSELF A JUG  
OF SACRACH AND  
YER THIRST WILL  
BE QUENCHED!

**YEAH!**

POUR YOURSELF  
TWO JUGS! OR  
EVEN THREE OR  
FOUR! YOU'LL BE  
PLASTERED, YOU'LL  
SEE! FIVE OR SIX!  
AND IT'S UNDER  
THE TABLE YOU'LL  
BE!

**STOP!**  
I HAVE  
SOMETHING  
TO TELL  
YOU!

I'VE BEEN  
THINKING AND  
I'VE COME TO A  
DECISION! WE'LL  
ONLY TAKE ONE  
OF OUR  
PRISONERS TO  
BALOR!





WE'VE DONE ALL  
THE WORK,  
TAKEN ALL THE  
RISKS, SO WE  
DESERVE A  
REWARD!



THE OLD MAN WILL  
KEEP BALOR BUSY  
FOR A LONG TIME!  
SO LET BALOR  
FEED ON HIS  
SOFTENED BRAIN  
FOR AS LONG AS  
HE LIKES!



BUT WE'LL  
KEEP THE  
FEMALE! SHE'S  
NICE AND  
PLUMP! WE'LL  
HAVE QUITE A  
FEAST...



... WHICH  
YOU'LL ALL  
REMEMBER  
FOR A  
LONG TIME!



YEAH!

HA!  
HA!  
HA!

NOW  
THAT'S A  
GREAT  
IDEA!







COME  
EVERYONE!  
HURRY!

EOLAS HAS  
CROSSED THE  
THRESHOLD  
BETWEEN THE  
TWO  
WORLDS!

MAY LUG  
PROTECT  
US!



LET ME  
EXPLAIN...

HAVE YOU  
GONE  
COMPLETELY  
MAD?!

WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE,  
YOU  
PATHETIC  
CREATURE?



YOU'VE  
VIOLATED  
A  
TABOO...

... AND  
YOU'VE  
BROUGHT  
THAT CHILD  
HERE!



BY THE  
FIRES OF  
HEAVEN!  
WE'RE  
LOST!



**SILENCE!**



OUR QUEEN  
WANTS TO SEE  
EOLAS  
IMMEDIATELY!  
LET HIM  
THROUGH!







THE FORMORES  
WILL  
EXTERMINATE  
US!

LET'S JUST  
HOPE THEY  
DON'T  
TORTURE US  
FIRST!



OUR  
VILLAGE  
WILL BE  
DESTROYED!

SHUT UP!!  
YOU'RE IN THE  
PRESENCE OF  
DEIRDRE, OUR  
BELOVED  
SOVEREIGN!



COME  
CLOSER,  
EOLAS...



... AND  
TELL ME  
WHAT  
HAPPENED!

I... EMER  
AND I, I  
MEAN... WE  
THOUGHT...




...NO HARM  
WOULD COME OF  
IT IF WE JUST  
TOOK A PEEK AT  
THE OTHER  
SIDE...



... BUT WE SAW  
LUAINE AND HER  
PARENTS  
TRAVELING IN A  
BROKEN-DOWN  
CARRIAGE. THEN A  
BIG ROCK CAME  
OUT OF NOWHERE  
AND HIT THEM.  
THEY WERE  
AMBUSHED...


... BY THE  
CLAN OF  
THE DARK  
FOREST!






LUAINE'S FATHER  
WAS KILLED RIGHT  
AWAY. HER MOTHER  
AND HER  
GRANDFATHER WERE  
KIDNAPPED BY  
ABACC AND HIS  
CRONIES. IN THE  
MEANTIME...

... WE MANAGED  
TO RESCUE  
LUAINE FROM  
RIGHT UNDER  
THE VERY  
NOSES OF THE  
CLURICAUNES!  
THAT'S WHAT  
HAPPENED...




IT WOULD  
HAVE  
BROKEN OUR  
HEARTS TO  
LEAVE THE  
CHILD...

KNOWING  
THAT YOU  
COULD GET  
US ALL  
KILLED!!




THAT'S ENOUGH!  
EOLAS' ERRORS  
WILL BE DEALT  
WITH LATER! WE  
HAVE MORE  
IMPORTANT  
THINGS TO DO  
NOW THAN ARGUE!




WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO  
EMER?!

HE RAN  
AFTER  
ABACC TO  
SEE WHERE  
HE WAS  
TAKING HIS  
CAPTIVES!



THIS IS WHAT I  
THINK. WE DIDN'T  
KNOW EXACTLY WHY  
BALOR FORBODE  
ANYONE TO COME  
CLOSE TO THE  
THRESHOLD. WE CAN  
NOW PERHAPS  
DEDUCE THE  
REASON...

HE SECRETLY  
KIDNAPS  
HUMAN  
BEINGS! THIS  
MEANS THAT...



... IF MY  
HYPOTHESIS IS  
CORRECT, AND  
ABACC IS NOW  
HEADING TOWARD  
THE FORTRESS  
OF THE DARK  
LORD TO OFFER  
HIM THE SPOILS  
OF THE HUNT,  
THEN...





... BALOR WILL SURELY FIND OUT ABOUT LUIAINE'S EXISTENCE, AND IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT HE'LL DISCOVER THAT SHE IS IN OUR WORLD, AND MORE PRECISELY IN OUR VILLAGE...

THUS PROVING THAT OUR WORST FEARS WERE WELL FOUNDED!

I'M AFRAID THAT THE TRUTH OF WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID WILL BE CONFIRMED...



**EOLAS!**  
YOUR MAJESTY!



BALOR HAS GIVEN THE ORDER TO KIDNAP THE HUMANS! ABACC IS MARCHING TOWARD...

WE KNOW THAT!



...?! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE!

THE CLURICAUNES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO GIVE LUIAINE'S MOTHER TO BALOR! THEY'VE SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. ONE IS GOING TO THE FORTRESS AND THE OTHER IS HEADING TOWARD THE DARK FOREST...

19



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

I DON'T KNOW...





DID I ORDER  
YOU TO  
STOP? NO!  
SO KEEP ON  
MARCHING!



... SHUT  
YOUR  
TRAPS!  
YOU'RE  
TAKING ME?  
TO THIS  
CASTLE?







SO THAT'S  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
TAKING ME?  
TO THIS  
CASTLE?



THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
GRANDPA!  
WHY? DON'T  
YOU LIKE IT?  
'CAUSE IN  
THAT CASE...



!

!

!

WHAT WILL  
BECOME  
OF ME  
HERE?



OH, JUST  
ANOTHER  
VICTIM OF THE  
DARK LORD'S  
OBSCURE  
DESIGNS!

WHAT  
ELSE?!



IF I WERE YOU,  
OLD MAN, I'D BE  
LESS CURIOUS!  
BELIEVE ME,  
YOU'LL FIND  
OUT WHAT  
AWAITS YOU  
SOON ENOUGH!



LET'S GO!  
GET A MOVE  
ON! WE'VE  
WASTED  
ENOUGH  
TIME!





WHAT'S  
GOING TO  
HAPPEN  
NOW?



DEIRDRE CALLED A  
MEETING OF THE  
CLAN COUNCIL TO  
DECIDE WHAT  
SHOULD BE DONE,  
GIVEN THE GRAVITY  
OF THE PRESENT  
SITUATION...



IS THIS  
BALOR YOU'VE  
BEEN TALKING  
ABOUT  
REALLY SO  
EVIL?



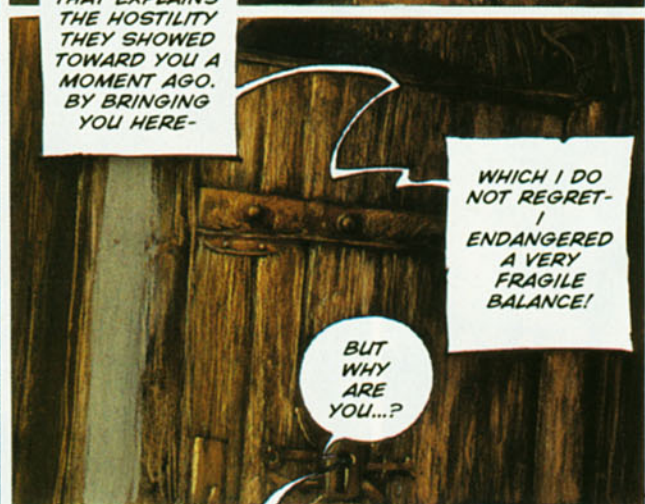
YES, HE IS, LUAINÉ!  
MORE EVIL THAN  
YOU CAN IMAGINE!  
HE IS THE MASTER  
OF CHAOS AND  
DARKNESS! HE  
RULES OVER THE  
FEARFUL  
FORMORES AND  
OUR ISLAND...

... IS  
BURDENED BY  
HIS HEAVY  
YOKE! HE HAS  
IMMENSE  
POWERS!



WITH HIS THIRD  
EYE, HE CAN  
DESTROY ENTIRE  
ARMIES! BUT  
THAT'S NOT ALL!  
FOR GENERATIONS  
MY PEOPLE HAVE  
BEEN HELD  
CAPTIVE ON THIS  
ISLAND, WITHOUT A  
SINGLE ALLY!

THAT EXPLAINS  
THE HOSTILITY  
THEY SHOWED  
TOWARD YOU A  
MOMENT AGO.  
BY BRINGING  
YOU HERE-



WHICH I DO  
NOT REGRET-  
I  
ENDANGERED  
A VERY  
FRAGILE  
BALANCE!

BUT  
WHY  
ARE  
YOU...?





WE'LL TRY TO  
RESCUE LUAINÉ'S  
MOTHER TONIGHT!  
WHILE OUR  
WARRIORS DO  
BATTLE, THE REST  
OF THE VILLAGERS  
WILL PREPARE OUR  
ESCAPE INTO THE  
MOUNTAINS!



WE ARE ALL  
FAMILIAR WITH THE  
UNDERGROUND  
GALLERIES OF THE  
MINES. WE'LL HIDE  
THERE FOR AS LONG  
AS NECESSARY!

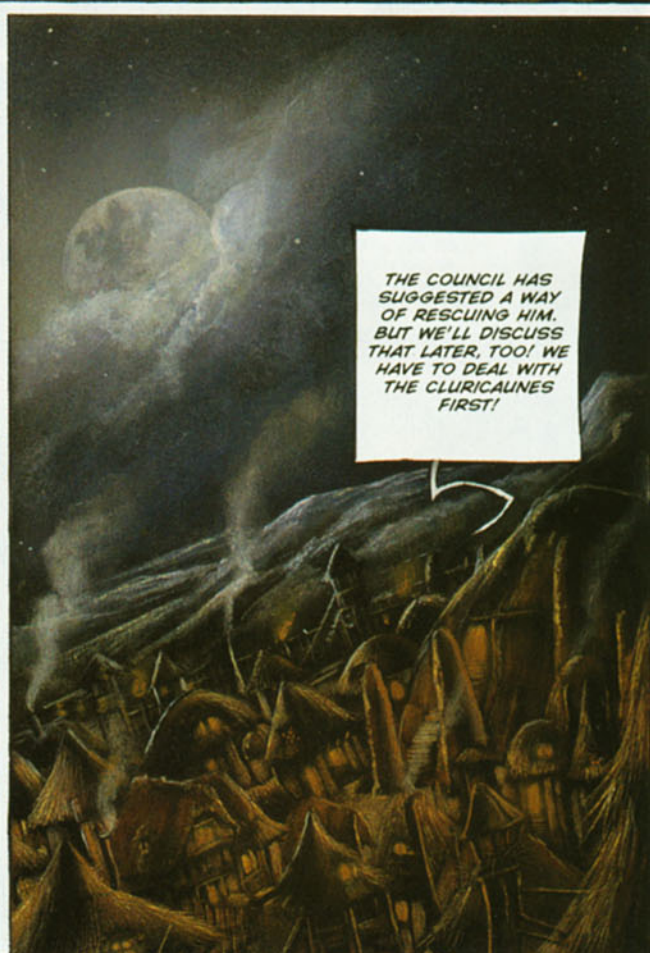


"FOR AS LONG  
AS NECESSARY!"  
WHAT DOES  
YOUR MAJESTY  
MEAN BY THAT?




WE'LL TALK  
ABOUT IT  
LATER!

AND... MY  
GRANDPA,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY?




THE COUNCIL HAS  
SUGGESTED A WAY  
OF RESCUING HIM.  
BUT WE'LL DISCUSS  
THAT LATER, TOO! WE  
HAVE TO DEAL WITH  
THE CLURICAUNES  
FIRST!





THE YOUNGER OF  
THE TWO HAS DIED,  
OH MOST POWERFUL  
LORD! BUT, LUCKILY,  
THE OLD MAN IS IN  
GOOD HEALTH! HIS  
EXISTENCE IS MOST  
CERTAINLY OF GREAT  
INTEREST!

THAT'S  
FOR ME  
TO  
JUDGE...




... OF COURSE,  
MOST  
ESTEEMED  
MAJESTY!  
HOW...

... COULD A MERE  
FLY DROPPING,  
SUCH AS MYSELF,  
PRESUME TO  
EXPRESS AN  
OPINION ON THIS  
COMPLEX ISSUE?

I  
AGREE...



BUT I  
APPRECIATE  
YOUR EFFORTS.  
YOU CAN GO  
BACK HOME  
AND REPORT  
THAT I'M  
SATISFIED...



OH! A THOUSAND  
THANKS,  
POWERFUL LORD!  
THERE WILL BE  
MUCH FEASTING  
AND CELEBRATING  
IN YOUR HONOR!





GO NOW! I  
HAVE SEEN  
ENOUGH OF  
YOU!



RIGHT AWAY,  
MOST FEARED  
LORD! IT'S AS  
IF I WERE  
ALREADY  
GONE!

TAKE THE  
PRISONER  
AWAY! I'LL  
BE THERE IN  
A MOMENT!




ABACCI!...  
I HAVE  
ANOTHER  
QUESTION  
FOR YOU!

?!



YES,  
MOST  
MIGHTY  
LORD?!...





DID YOU  
REALLY THINK  
YOU COULD  
HIDE ANYTHING  
FROM ME?

OH!  
NO!  
PLEASE!

YES, YES! MY  
LORD! BESIDES  
THE MEN, THERE  
WAS A WOMAN  
AND A LITTLE  
GIRL, BUT THEY  
MANAGED TO  
GET AWAY!  
THAT'S WHY...

WHO ARE THE  
HUMAN'S THAT  
YOU DIDN'T  
TELL ME  
ABOUT? I  
ADVISE YOU TO  
START  
TALKING...

ABACC!

ARE YOU SO  
AFRAID OF ME  
THAT YOU  
PERSIST IN  
LYING, INSTEAD  
OF ADMITTING  
YOUR ERROR?

I... YES,  
MY LORD!  
I AM  
TERRIFIED...

ABACC,  
SPEAK...

I HAD DRUNK TOO  
MUCH! SACRACH  
HAD ALTERED MY  
JUDGEMENT! AND  
I WANTED TO  
KEEP THE  
WOMAN...

... BUT THE  
GIRL... IT'S  
TRUE! SHE  
GOT AWAY!






ALL RIGHT!  
THERE'S ONLY  
ONE WAY FOR  
YOU TO  
REDEEM  
YOURSELF...




YES,  
MY  
LORD?!...



BRING ME  
THE WOMAN,  
AS SOON AS  
YOU CAN!

OH! YES, LORD!  
THANK YOU, LORD! I  
WILL OBEY YOUR  
ORDER IMMEDIATELY!  
I'LL BE FASTER THAN  
THE WIND! I WILL  
ONLY STOP RUNNING  
WHEN I'VE BROUGHT  
HER TO YOU!



AND DON'T LIE  
TO ME AGAIN,  
ABACC, OR  
I'LL HAVE TO  
BE RUTHLESS!


I  
UNDERSTAND,  
MY LORD!  
NO MORE  
LIES...

... EVER!!!

ABACC!



YES,  
MY  
LORR...




HOW DID I SO  
GROSSLY  
UNDERESTIMATE  
THE EXTENT OF  
YOUR  
STUPIDITY?!











REPORT TO ME  
AFTERWARDS. I'M  
COMING DOWN...  
I'M DYING TO FIND  
OUT WHAT LIES IN  
THE MIND OF OUR  
NEW GUEST.




WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
HEE, HEE... SO YOU  
WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I  
DON'T KNOW... OR  
MAYBE I DO... BALOR  
IS OPENING HIS THIRD  
EYE... HEE, HEE... AND  
IT'S ENTERING INTO  
YOUR SOUL...



I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S  
DOING THAT! HEE, HEE...  
OUT OF PURE CRUELTY,  
PROBABLY... HEE, HEE...  
WHEN HE'S IN YOU...  
FOR HOURS... DAYS...  
FOREVER... HEE...  
YEESSSS!



... IT'S AS IF A  
FILTHY RAT HAD  
SLIPPED INTO  
YOUR BRAIN...  
HEE... A RAT  
THAT'S QUIETLY  
GNAWING AWAY AT  
YOUR BRAIN...  
HEE, HEE...



... THE PAIN...  
HEE... IT'S  
UNBEARAA...!!





NOOOOO!!!

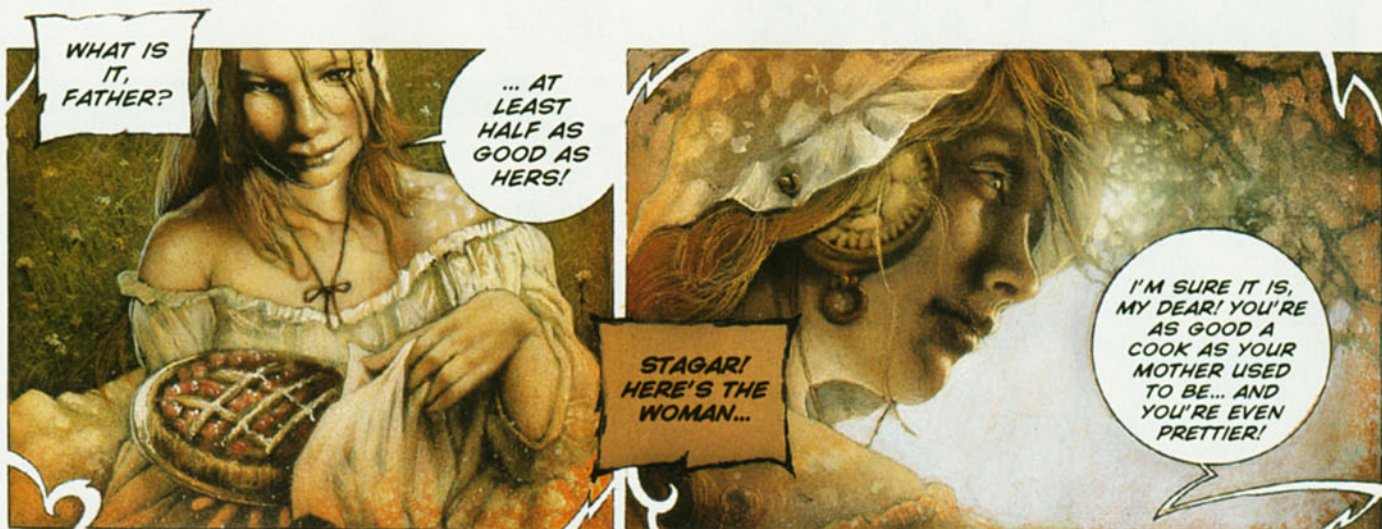


LOOK, DADDY...

STAGAR!

... I'VE BAKED MOM'S CHERRY PIE... I HOPE IT'S...





WHAT IS  
IT,  
FATHER?

... AT  
LEAST  
HALF AS  
GOOD AS  
HERS!

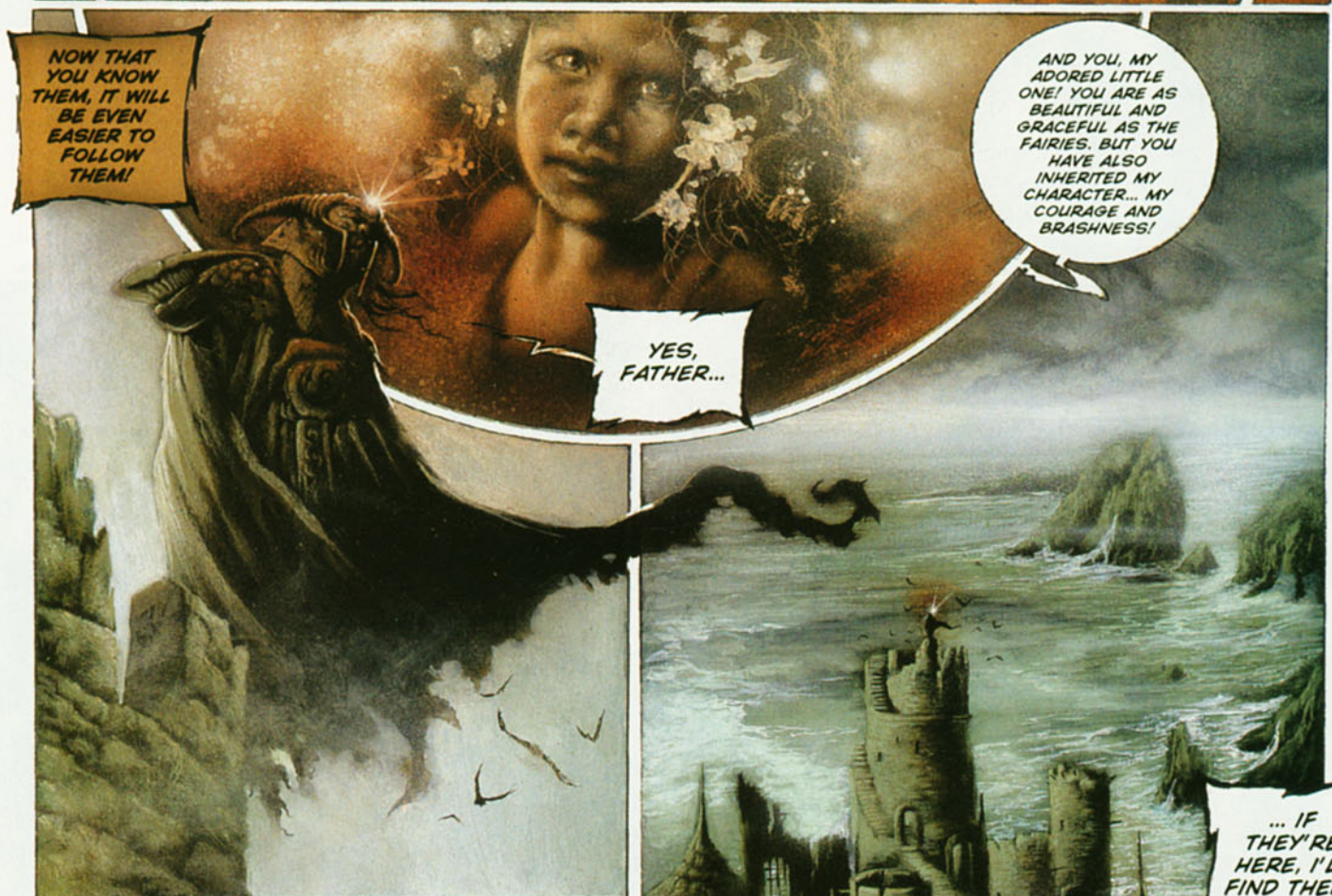
STAGAR!  
HERE'S THE  
WOMAN...

I'M SURE IT IS,  
MY DEAR! YOU'RE  
AS GOOD A  
COOK AS YOUR  
MOTHER USED  
TO BE... AND  
YOU'RE EVEN  
PRETTIER!



... HERE'S  
HER  
OFFSPRING!

WHAT ABOUT  
ME? DON'T I  
GET ANY  
COMPLIMENTS?



NOW THAT  
YOU KNOW  
THEM, IT WILL  
BE EVEN  
EASIER TO  
FOLLOW  
THEM!

YES,  
FATHER...

AND YOU, MY  
ADORED LITTLE  
ONE! YOU ARE AS  
BEAUTIFUL AND  
GRACEFUL AS THE  
FAIRIES. BUT YOU  
HAVE ALSO  
INHERITED MY  
CHARACTER... MY  
COURAGE AND  
BRASHNESS!

... IF  
THEY'RE  
HERE, I'LL  
FIND THEM!







**CRACK!**



**HURRY UP!!**



**COME IN!  
THE PATH  
IS CLEAR!**



**YOU CAN STILL  
DECIDE TO  
STAY IN THE  
FOREST, AND  
WAIT FOR US  
THERE...**



**I SAID  
NO!**

**WHY ARE  
YOU SO  
STUBBORN?**





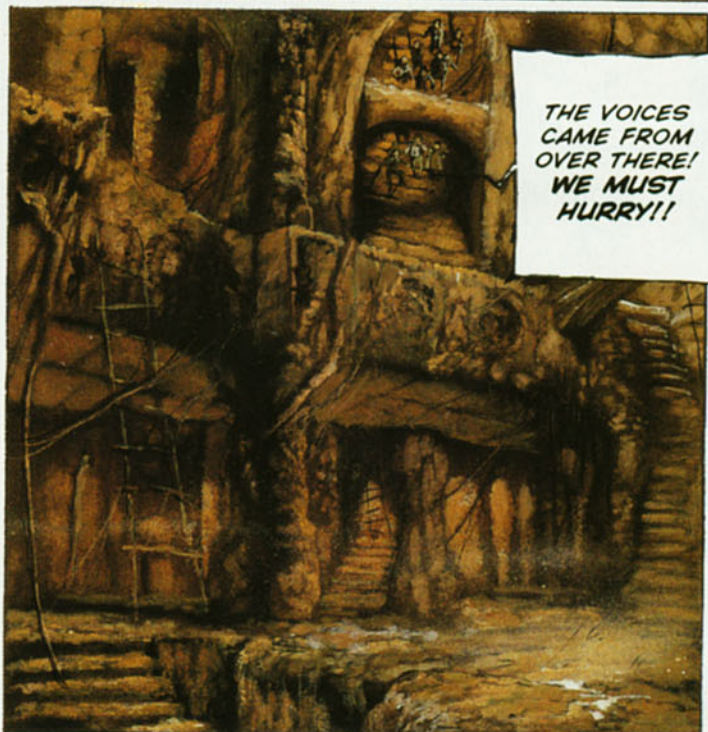
EOLAS!  
HURRY! I'M  
AFRAID  
MORANN IS IN  
GREAT  
DANGER!



SO, IS SHE  
READY?! ABACC  
WILL BE HERE  
SOON AND HE  
WON'T LIKE IT IF  
HE HAS TO WAIT  
TO UNBUCKLE  
HIS BELT...



... I BET HE'S  
LICKING HIS  
CHOPS JUST  
THINKING ABOUT  
THE ORGY  
THAT'S BEING  
PREPARED!



THE VOICES  
CAME FROM  
OVER THERE!  
WE MUST  
HURRY!!



GIVE HER A FEW  
MORE JUGS.  
THAT WILL MAKE  
HER FLESH EVEN  
JUCIER AND  
MORE TENDER!

QUITE A  
FEAST FOR  
ABACC! AND  
FOR US,  
TOO!

HA!  
HA!



HERE  
WE  
ARE...





!!

I'LL HAVE  
A PIECE  
FROM THE  
SHANK!

AND I'LL TAKE  
THE MOST  
SUCCULENT  
PART OF THE  
FEMALE  
BODY...



... WHICH  
IDIOTS  
DON'T  
APPRECIATE!



DRINK SOME  
MORE, MY  
PRETTY! IT  
WILL MAKE  
YOU EVEN...



... TASTIER...



LUAINÉ... COME  
HERE... WE'VE  
GOT TO DRAW  
UP A PLAN OF  
ATTACK!



























HER SOUL HAS  
FLOWN AWAY,  
LEAVING HER  
BODY EMPTY!  
UNFORTUNATELY,  
THERE IS NOTHING  
I CAN DO ABOUT  
IT...

BUT  
PERHAPS  
ALL IS NOT  
YET LOST...

LISTEN...

SINCE IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US  
KORRIGANS TO  
SAVE YOUR  
GRANDFATHER  
FROM BALOR'S  
CLUTCHES ON  
OUR OWN, OUR  
COUNCIL HAS  
REQUESTED  
HELP FROM  
THE TUATHA OF  
DANANN!

BUT,  
BELOVED  
SOVEREIGN...

... WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,  
IT'S JUST AS CRAZY TO  
TRY TO GO AND SEE THE  
TUATHA OF DANANN AS IT  
IS TO ATTACK BALOR'S  
BLACK FORTRESS!

FIRST OF ALL, IT IS  
PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE  
TO GET TO THE COAST  
WITHOUT ALTERING THE  
FORMORES!

BUT EVEN IF WE GOT THERE, WE  
DON'T HAVE A BOAT TO TAKE US  
TO THE ISLAND OF TUATHA OF  
DANANN...

... AND EVEN IF  
WE DID GET A  
BOAT, THE  
WORST WOULD  
STILL LIE AHEAD  
OF US...


... THE  
TERRIFYING,  
UNCHAINED  
OCEAN!!

YOUR  
MAJESTY,  
WHO ARE  
THE TUATHA  
OF  
DANANN?


THEY ARE  
THE  
ANCESTRAL  
ENEMIES OF  
THE  
FORMORES!

LONG AGO, BALOR HIMSELF WAS VANQUISHED  
BY LUG, ONE OF THE HEROES OF THE TUATHA  
PEOPLE OF DANANN, WHO WILL BE DELIGHTED  
TO FIND OUT THAT...






... BALOR SECRETLY KIDNAPS HUMANS DURING THE NIGHT OF SAMAIN. THEY WILL SURELY WANT TO KNOW THE REASON WHY.



SOME OF THEM WILL HAVE TO COME HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, FAR FROM THE ENDLESS NAVAL BATTLE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WAGING AGAINST THE FORMORES. WHEN THEY DO, THEY MAY WELL RESCUE YOUR GRANDFATHER!



UNLIKE US, THE TUATHA OF DANANN ARE EXPERTS IN THE ARTS OF MAGIC... SO THEY MAY BE ABLE TO HEAL YOUR MOTHER!



AND LET'S HOPE THEY DECIDE TO GRANT US THEIR PROTECTION, BECAUSE WE WILL SOON BE IN DIRE NEED OF IT!

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHO WILL BE THE UNLUCKY ONE WHO WILL HAVE TO GO AND INFORM THEM!





EMER AND I ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DANGER THAT HAS BEFALLEN OUR CLAN, SO WE VOLUNTEER FOR THIS TASK!

?!



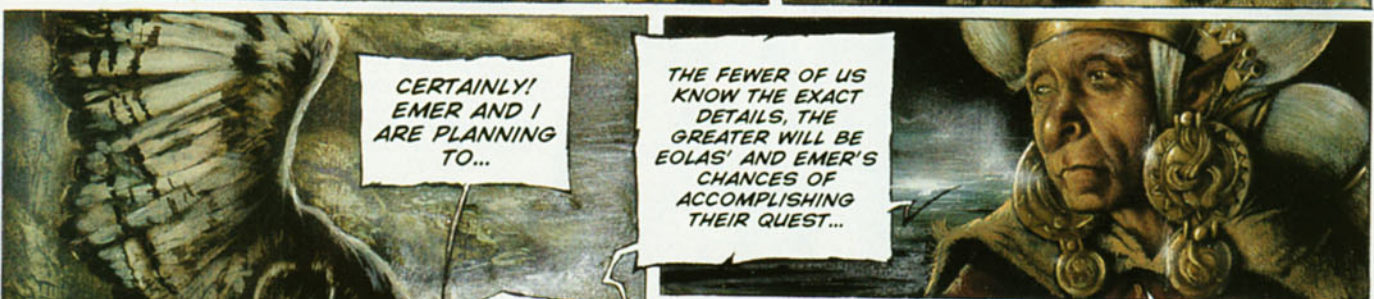
OUR QUEEN HAS EVOKED THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING HELP FROM THE TUATHA OF DANANN. THAT MEANS THAT SHE AND HER COUNCIL HAVE COME UP WITH A WAY TO REACH THEM.

IF NOT, WHY TALK ABOUT IT?



AND I BELIEVE I HAVE GUESSED HOW...

OH YEAH?! IN THAT CASE, TELL US SO WE CAN JUDGE THE EXTENT OF YOUR SPLENDID CLAIRVOYANCE!



CERTAINLY! EMER AND I ARE PLANNING TO...

THE FEWER OF US KNOW THE EXACT DETAILS, THE GREATER WILL BE EOLAS' AND EMER'S CHANCES OF ACCOMPLISHING THEIR QUEST...

NO!! THE FORMORES COULD CAPTURE ONE OF YOU!



IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO START MOVING! WE'VE DELAYED LONG ENOUGH!

YOUR MAJESTY!





I'M GOING WITH THEM!



THINK ABOUT IT, CHILD! YOU WILL BE SAFER WITH OUR CLAN IN THE MOUNTAINS...

I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT IT, YOUR MAJESTY! I'M GOING WITH EOLAS AND EMER...



... IF THEY'LL HAVE ME!



EOLAS, EMER! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S MADNESS, YOUR MAJESTY! BUT THIS WHOLE PROJECT IS PURE MADNESS ANYWAY, AND LUAINÉ'S BRAVERY IS UNEQUALED.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! IF ANY OF US HAD SUFFERED AS MUCH AS SHE HAS, WE WOULD BE DEVASTATED...



... YET HERE SHE IS, READY TO FACE NEW DANGERS!










I FOUND  
THEM,  
FATHER!  
BOTH OF  
THEM...




THE WOMAN IS  
IN POOR  
HEALTH!  
DEIRDRE AND  
HER PEOPLE  
ARE FLEEING  
TO HIDE IN THE  
MINES...



BUT, STRANGELY,  
THE CHILD IS  
HEADING NORTH,  
ACCOMPANIED  
BY ONLY TWO  
KORRIGANS.



PERFECT!  
LET THE  
HUNT  
BEGIN!



HAVE TURMAC  
TAKE CARE OF  
THE KORRIGANS.  
AND GET ASTUR  
TO KIDNAP THE  
CHILD!

I HAVE NEVER  
STUDIED SUCH A  
FRAGILE CREATURE!  
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE  
SHE HAS WHAT I  
HAVE BEEN SEEKING  
FOR SO LONG!

MOSDI  
CIVIELLO



# CONTACT

DRUMS ECHO THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE. TIED ON THE TREETOPS, THE MESSENGERS HIT THE INSTRUMENTS RHYTHMICALLY AND FURIOUSLY. THEY ARE SWEATING PROFUSELY, AND THEIR ARMS HURT TO THE POINT OF PARALYSIS. BUT THEY DO NOT STOP.

THE COUNCIL SUMMONS ALL THE WARRIORS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE RAVAGING VILLAGES ACROSS THE JUNGLE OR CHASING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER INTRUDERS WHO DARED TO ENTER THEIR DOMAIN. THEY NEED THEM HERE. NOW.

WHAT IS THAT?

THE COUNCIL'S HAVING AN EMERGENCY MEETING. WE MUST LEAVE EVERYTHING AND GO BACK.



WHAT CAN POSSIBLY BE HAPPENING? WHAT CAN BE SO IMPORTANT THAT WE MUST LEAVE A BATTLE?

THEY SAY THEY HAVE FOUND... SOMETHING.

HMM... SOMETHING TO SHARPEN OUR WEAPONS?



FERRARI  
CAPRISTO





IS  
EVERYONE  
HERE?

ALMOST.



THEN WE  
CAN START.  
WE HAVE NO  
TIME TO  
LOSE.

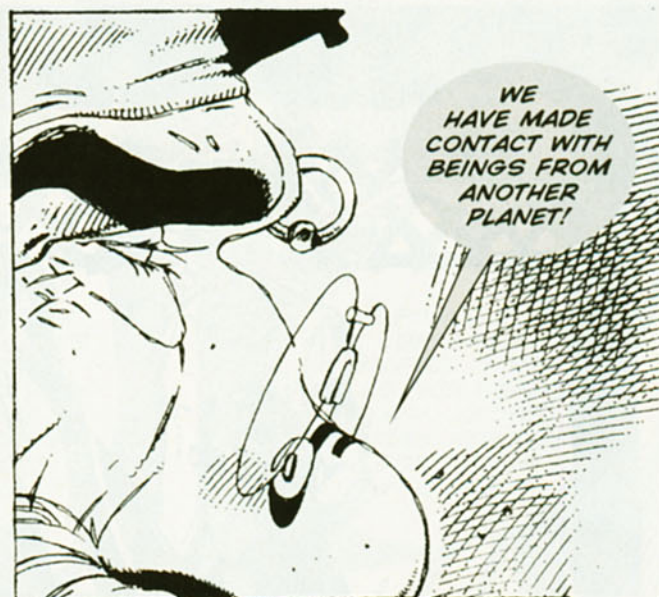
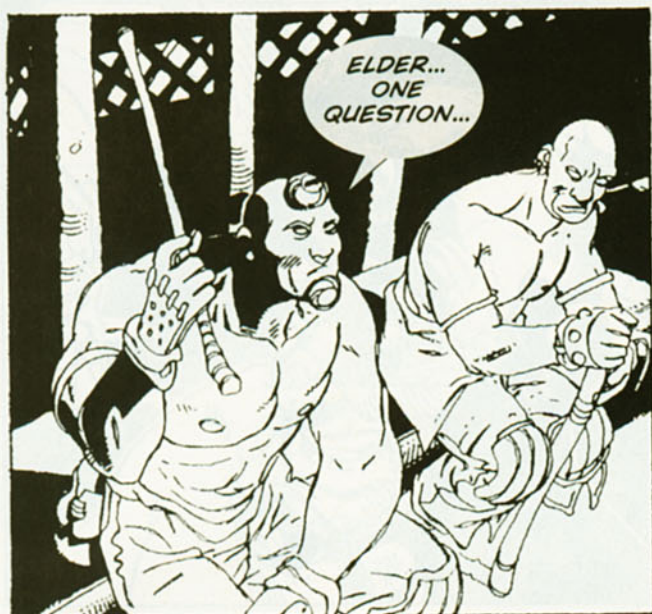


WE HAVE FOUND  
WHAT MANKIND WAS  
WAITING FOR CEN-  
TURIES, WHAT IT WAS  
LOOKING FOR AT THE  
PINNACLE OF ITS  
POWER.



WOW... AND  
I THOUGHT  
THEY  
WOULDN'T  
GIVE A  
DAMN.

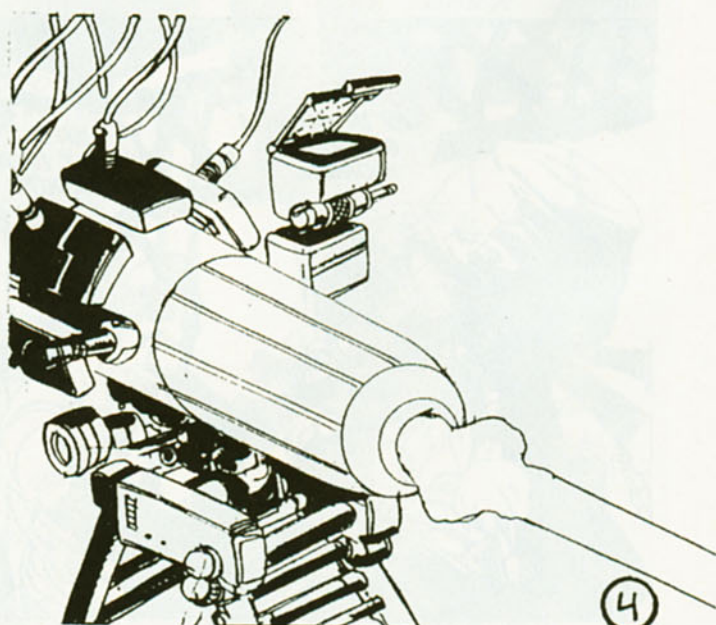
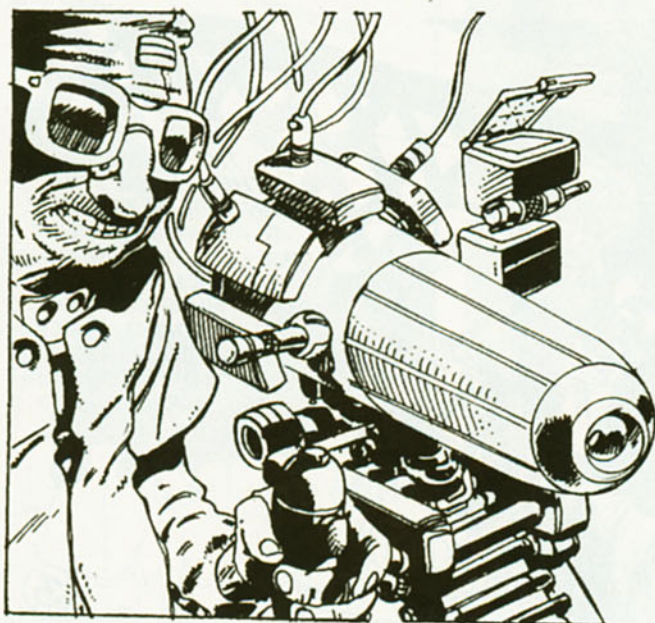






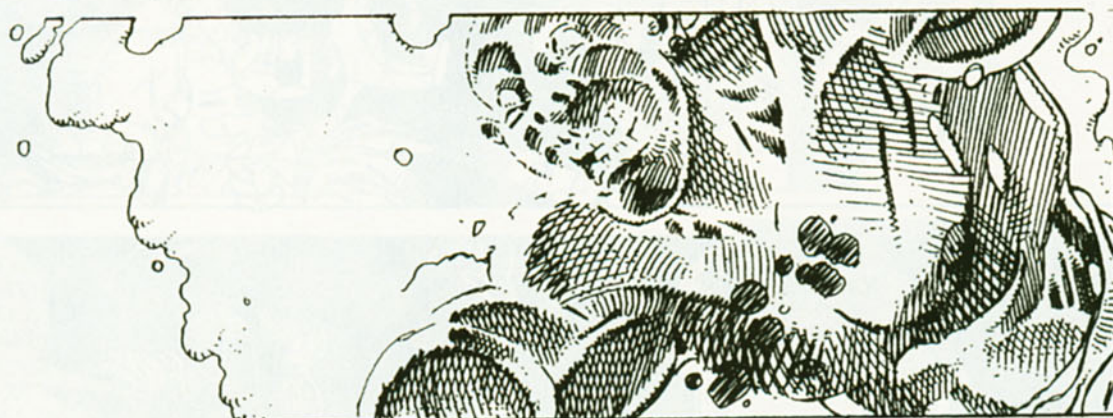


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CAPRISTO  
FERRARI



OKAY... I WILL  
PROCEED. SO, IT SEEMS  
AFTER UNTOLD CENTURIES  
WAITING, THEY ARRIVED.  
HOWEVER, THEY DIED UPON  
LANDING. OR MAYBE...  
THE THING THAT ARRIVED  
HERE... DIDN'T NEED  
ANYONE DRIVING  
IT.

WE FOUND IT.  
IT CONTAINED  
WONDERFUL THINGS  
SUCH AS THIS WEAPON.  
AND WHO KNOWS  
WHAT ELSE. HOWEVER,  
WE DON'T KNOW  
HOW TO USE IT.



SO WE MUST  
TRAVEL THERE,  
AND GET A HOLD  
OF IT. WE WILL  
MOVE OUR CAMP  
THERE...

OUR CITY WILL  
GROW AROUND THE SHIP,  
SO THAT WHEN THEY COME  
AGAIN TO RESCUE IT THEY  
KNOW WE HAVE PROTECTED  
IT... AND THEN THEY WILL  
BECOME OUR ALLIES, AND  
TOGETHER WE WILL RULE  
THE WORLD.

WARN THE  
CHIEFS. THEY  
MUST BE  
STOPPED. WE  
MUST SEIZE  
THAT THING.

DO YOU  
THINK IT IS  
TRUE? I  
THINK IT'S A  
TRAP.

THEY  
HAVE GATHERED ALL  
THEIR TROOPS HERE.  
AT THE MOMENT, THE  
EMPIRE THEY BUILT IS  
CRUMBLING BECAUSE  
THEY HAVE SUMMONED  
ALL THEIR WARRIORS.  
IF IT IS A TRAP, IT IS  
A SILLY ONE.

WELL... THEY  
WERE NEVER  
VERY SMART TO  
BEGIN WITH... I  
REMEMBER ONE  
TIME WHEN...

OKAY,  
OKAY... I'M  
GOING...







NO!



OH,  
NO... THE  
DIGGERS...



LET  
ME FINISH  
THEM, ELDER...  
I HAVE ALREADY  
TASTED THEIR  
TRAPS, AND I  
KILLED THEM IN  
THEIR HOLES..



NO...  
WAIT...  
THIS TIME  
THEY ARE  
GRILLED...



IT  
IS TRUE...  
WE CANNOT  
HARM  
THEM...





BUT  
THEY  
CAN HURT  
US...

THIS  
IS WRONG...  
YOU CAN'T  
BUILD AN EMPIRE  
WITH SUCH A  
BUNCH OF  
IDIOTS...

THROUGH THE EVENING,  
THE DIGGERS KILL EVERYONE  
IN SIGHT USING THEIR  
CROSSBOWS FROM THE  
GRILLED HOLES.

WHEN IT GETS DARK, THEY  
BRING OUT POLES WITH  
TORCHES THROUGH THE  
GRILLS, AND KEEP ON KILLING.  
ON THE NEXT DAY, THERE IS  
NOTHING LEFT TO KILL

MAN...  
I NEVER  
THOUGHT THEY  
WOULD GIVE US  
THE CHANCE TO  
TRAP THEM ALL  
TOGETHER...

WHAT  
SHOULD  
WE DO  
NOW?

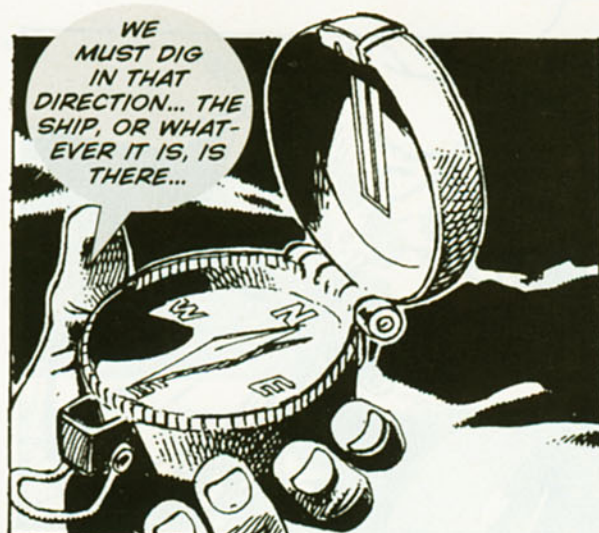
FE  
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WE  
MUST DIG  
IN THAT  
DIRECTION... THE  
SHIP, OR WHAT-  
EVER IT IS, IS  
THERE...



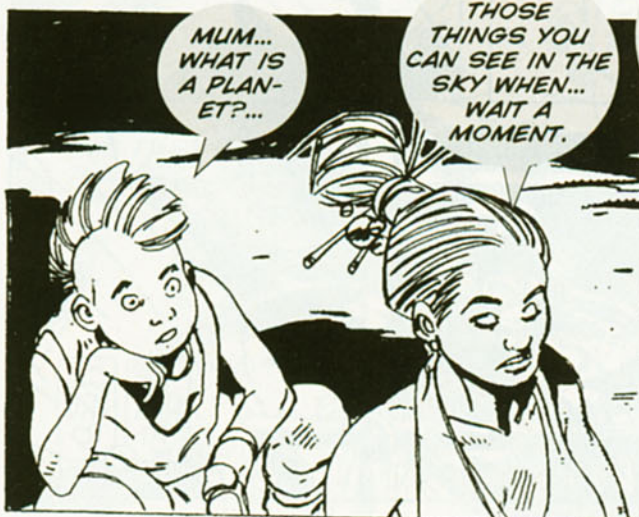
WE  
WILL BUILD  
OUR LAIR UNDER  
THE SHIP AND THEN  
WAIT. WE WILL WAIT  
AS LONG AS IT IS  
NECESSARY... UNTIL  
OUR STARLORDS  
COME BACK...



TWO MONTHS  
LATER, THE HUGE  
BURROWING IS  
FINISHED. ADOBE  
COLUMNS, SPE-  
CIALY MODIFIED  
TO WITHSTAND  
THE WEIGHT OF  
THE SHIP, SUP-  
PORT THE CEIL-  
ING.

MUM,  
WHY HAVE  
WE MOVED  
TO THIS NEW  
CAVERN?

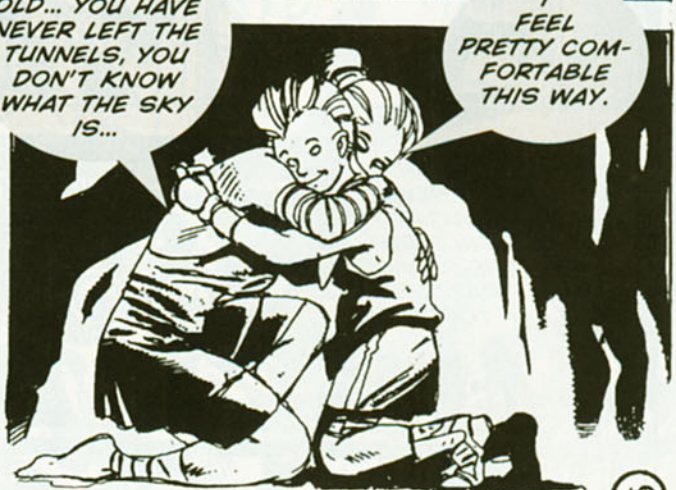
WE  
ARE WAIT-  
ING FOR THE  
LORDS FROM  
ANOTHER PLAN-  
ET. WE WILL  
JOIN THEM.



MUM...  
WHAT IS  
A PLAN-  
ET?...  
...

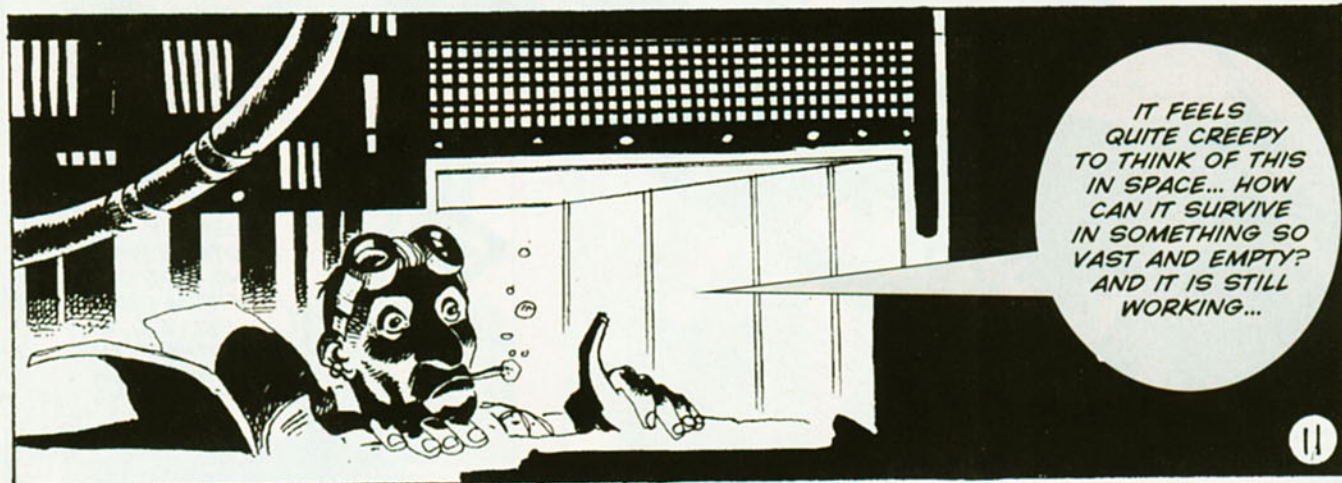
IT'S  
THOSE  
THINGS YOU  
CAN SEE IN THE  
SKY WHEN...  
WAIT A  
MOMENT.

YOU  
ARE ONLY  
TWELVE YEARS  
OLD... YOU HAVE  
NEVER LEFT THE  
TUNNELS, YOU  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THE SKY  
IS...

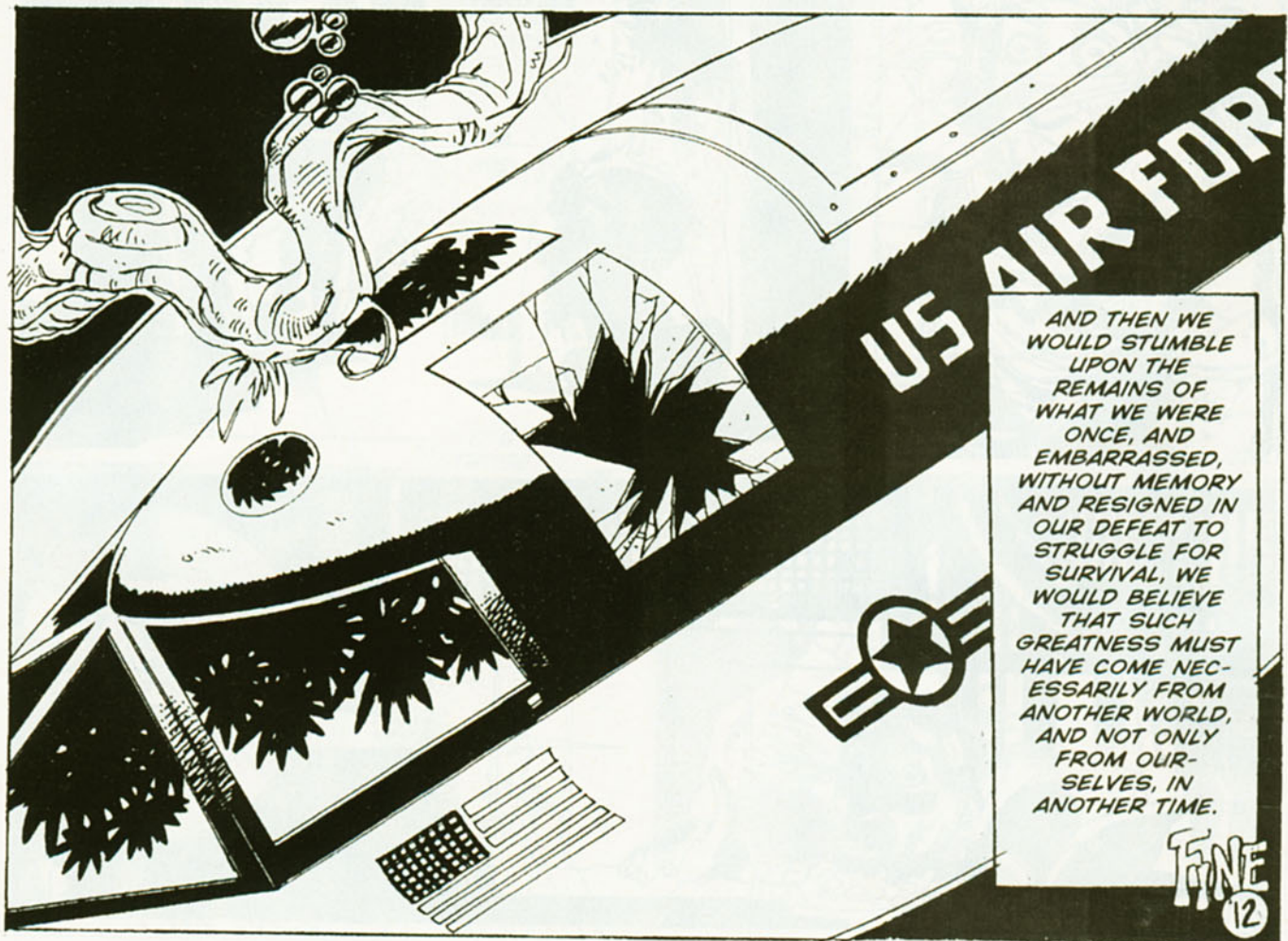
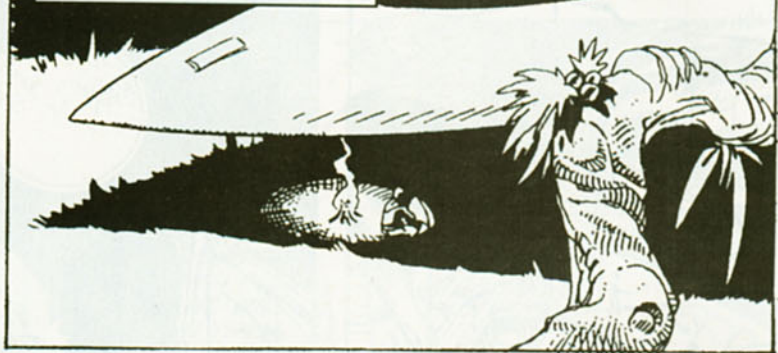


I  
FEEL  
PRETTY COM-  
FORTABLE  
THIS WAY.











# BAMBOO MEMORIES

IT WAS MANY CYCLES  
AGO, BUT THE PEOPLE'S  
CRIES ECHO STILL... THE  
HAUTEROQUAILLES WERE  
VICTORIOUS IN THE FACE  
OF THE ONSLAUGHT OF  
THE LHINS, BUT AT WHAT  
COST?

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD THAT YOU WON THE  
BATTLE, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THE  
CONFLICT WAS CAUSED BY A MEMBER OF YOUR  
OWN TRIBE...

MAJOR EVENTS IN HUMAN HISTORY CAN BE  
INITIATED BY ONE MAN...

...KRIZ.







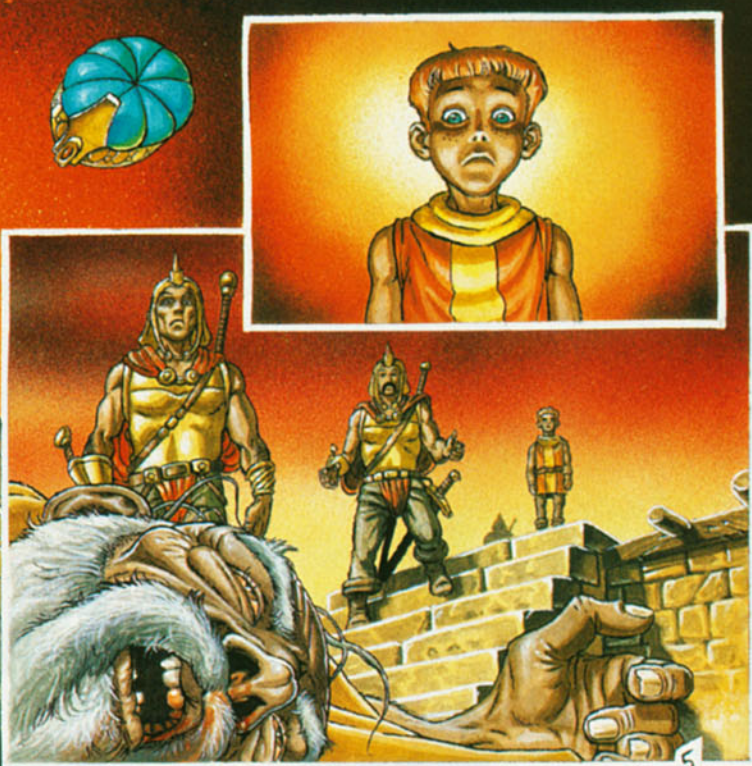






THEIR CRIES ECHO STILL... THE CRIES OF THE UNLUCKY SOLDIERS OF YOUR KINGDOM, AS THEY WERE DESTROYED BY THE INVADING FORCES OF THE UNDEFEATED "BAMBOO".

LET ME MEET MY DESTINY!







BY DRAIM'S  
LIGHT!  
IT... IT CAN'T BE!



A HUMAN  
BEING IN A  
LHIN-TRANCE?!  
WHAT IS THE  
MEANING OF  
THIS?



I NEVER WOULD  
HAVE THOUGHT THE  
HUMAN BODY WAS  
COMPATIBLE!! WHO IS  
HE? WHAT HAS HE GOT  
TO DO WITH THE LHINS?



I DON'T KNOW...  
THIS CHARMING  
YOUNG MAN  
SOLICITED MY  
SERVICES... BUT  
HE FLEW OUT OF  
MY BED AT A  
MOST AWKWARD  
MOMENT.



HE IS DANGEROUS,  
TAL... HE MUST BE  
DESTROYED BEFORE  
HE MASSACRES  
EVERYONE! HE'S A  
POTENTIAL KILLER!!

I GET THE IMPRESSION HE'S  
STRUGGLING TO CONTROL HIS  
TRANCE. HE'S JUST FLOATING  
IN THE AIR AND MAKING A  
STRANGE NOISE...

NEVER MIND THE CAUSE  
OF THE MIRACLE! WE  
MUST SEIZE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY AND  
REVERSE THE SPELL,  
BRACAM!

YOU'RE THE ONLY  
ONE WHO CAN DO IT!  
TRANSFORM THIS  
ENEMY INTO AN  
ALLY! HE IS ONE OF  
US!







AND SO IT CAME TO PASS... TAL, THE COURTESAN  
AND BRACAM, THE SORCERER, TOOK THE SPELL  
THAT HAD STRICKEN THE WARRIOR AND TURNED IT  
AGAINST ITS SOURCE...



THE KING HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE IN VAIN. THE HUMAN  
KINGDOM HAD SUCCESSFULLY APPROPRIATED A  
POWER THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BELONGED TO THE  
ENEMY- "THE BAMBOO TRANCE".

NO ONE KNEW WHERE KRIZ HAD COME  
FROM, AND NO ONE CARED ABOUT HIS  
CAUSE OR QUEST. HE SIMPLY  
REPRESENTED THE DESPERATE BELIEF THAT  
HUMANITY HAD A FUTURE, THAT  
HAUTEROQUAILLE WOULD NOT BECOME THE  
GRAVEYARD OF YOUR PEOPLE...



THIS IDEA WAS  
GRADUALLY ACCEPTED.  
KRI'Z WAS FORMIDABLE.  
HE SUFFERED NO  
INJURIES...



IT WAS MANY CYCLES  
AGO, BUT THEIR CRIES  
ECHO STILL...





# THE THATCHED TRANCE

MOVE  
IT!!

HEY! I SAID  
MOVE IT!  
YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED TO  
PULL THIS  
WAGON,  
DAMN BEAST!

COME ON,  
DAMN IT!





TURTLE FARTS!  
JUST LOOK AT THIS!

YOU'RE SHAKING THE  
WAGON SO MUCH THAT  
NOTHING STAYS ON IT!



OOPS! HEY,  
COME BACK!



BY ALL THE  
FIREFLIES!



POOR BABY!  
WHAT AM I  
GOING TO DO  
WITH YOU?

HOW  
AWFUL...  
ABANDON-  
ING A  
CHILD LIKE  
THIS!











WHY ARE THEY SCREAMING LIKE THAT? WHAT DID SHE DO?



THEY'RE GOING TO BURN HER AT THE STAKE. SHE'S AN ISTRA... THEY'RE WITCHES WHO CAST SPELLS ON RICH, POWERFUL MEN TO MAKE THEM FALL IN LOVE WITH THEM... AND THEN THEY TAKE EVERYTHING THEY HAVE!



SOMETIMES THEY GET MARRIED AND THEN KILL THEIR HUSBANDS!



MY MOM SAYS THEY SHOULD ALL BE BURNED SO THAT THEY DON'T PUT THE MAKE ON DAD!



MOVE!

MAKE WAY FOR THE CHARIOT OF OUR LORD AND MASTER, PRINCE FUS!

MOVE!



STOP!



LEAVE THE POOR WOMAN, ALONE!











THE STREET MARKET OF THE  
CURRENT CYCLE ATTRACTED  
MORE READERS OF THE  
DRAIMS' DREAMS THAN EVER  
BEFORE...

NAAR RETURNED HOME  
LADEN WITH SUCH VAST  
QUANTITIES OF FOOD  
AND CLOTH THAT HIS  
PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.

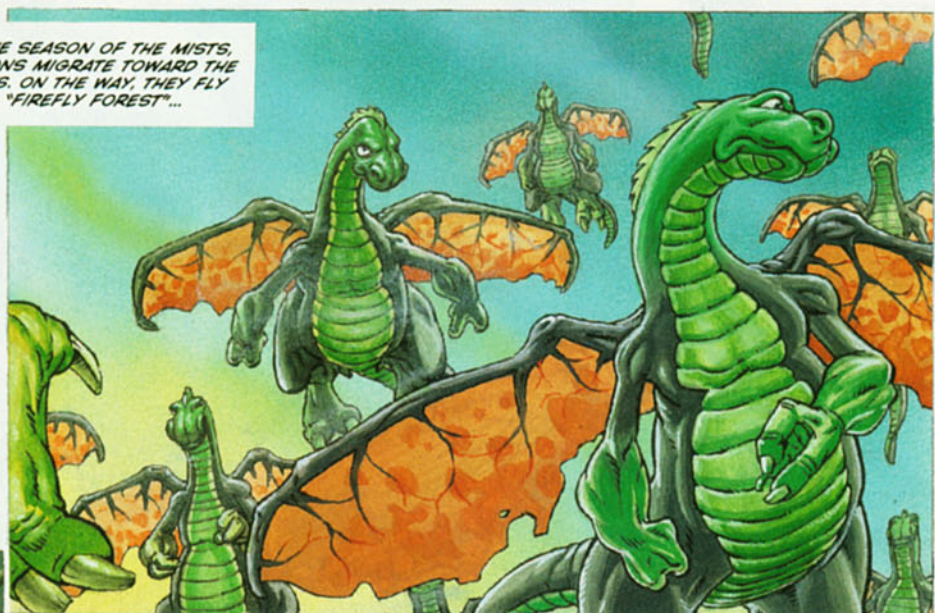
IT HAD BEEN A PROFITABLE MARKET... IT  
WAS ALSO THE LAST TIME THAT HUMAN  
BEINGS WOULD SEEK OUT THE FRUIT OF  
THE DRAIMS' DREAMS...

THE DRAIMS HAVE SINCE  
RETRACTED INTO THEMSELVES IN  
THE FARTHEST REACHES OF  
"FIREFLY FOREST", WHICH THEY  
NOW NEVER LEAVE...

... BECAUSE THE "BAMBOO  
INVASION" HAS STARTED AGAIN!



DURING THE SEASON OF THE MISTS,  
THE DRAGONS MIGRATE TOWARD THE  
FLATLANDS. ON THE WAY, THEY FLY  
OVER "FIREFLY FOREST"...



... WHERE THE ENTIRE POPULATION  
LIES SUSPENDED IN DREAM  
TREES.



RZZZZZ







YOU TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIM, NAAR...



YOU LOVED HIM AS IF HE WAS YOUR OWN SON...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIS APPEARANCE. SOME DAY, HE'S SURE TO REJECT HIS ORIGINS... AND HIS HEAD WILL COME AGLOW!









WE WERE ABANDONED AT BIRTH... WELL, MOST OF US... AND WE ALL REJECTED HATRED AND REBELLION... WE PREFER TO DREAM OUR LIVES!

WE'VE GIVEN UP.



BUT... I WAS ABANDONED, NAAR... YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'D FOUND ME IN THE MOAT... AND THAT...

IT SEEMS IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...

AND YOU, NAAR? WEREN'T YOU ABANDONED?

YOU MUST REST, CIOL...

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE UP, CHILD...



AND SO... HIC! BOOM!!! WE DESTROYED THE DRAWBRIDGE WITH OUR HELMETS! AND WE FOLLOWED THE LHINS INTO THEIR DESPERATE SHELTER...

AND I HIC! EVEN KILLED MORE THAN SIXTY OF THE VERMIN!

THE KING DIED DURING THE BATTLE, MY FRIENDS! HE DIED HIC A HERO!





BUT KRIHIC!  
KRIZ... HE WON THE  
WAR! HA HA!

BAMBOO!  
HA HA!

'CAUSE HE'S GOT  
THAT LHIN THING-  
THE CRY THAT  
KILLS! HA, HA!



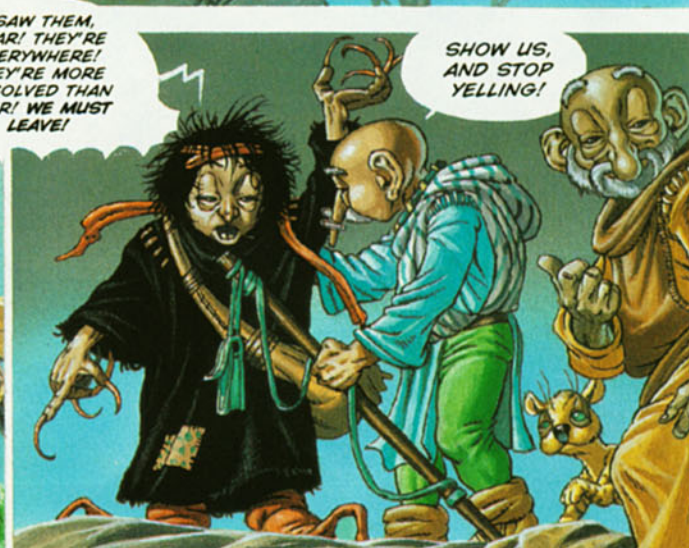
NAAR,  
NAAR!  
THE DRAGONS  
ARE COMING  
BACK!

THEY'VE  
TURNED  
BACK!



THERE'S  
TROUBLE IN  
THE  
FLATLANDS!









LOOK, NAAR!  
LOOK AT THE  
ANCIENT DRAIMS,  
AND YOU WILL  
UNDERSTAND MY  
TERROR!!

IT'S A  
FISHING  
VILLAGE IN  
THE PLAINS...



HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT  
DUST CLOUD?!



AH, YES... WE  
HAVE SOME  
VISITORS!



TRAVELLERS ARE  
APPROACHING! BRING ME  
MY TELESCOPE SO I CAN SEE  
WHO THEY ARE!



OH DEAR! THERE  
ARE A LOT OF  
THEM! WE DON'T  
HAVE ENOUGH FISH  
FOR EVERYONE!







YOU'RE  
A GREAT  
WARRIOR,  
KRIZ... I'M  
GREATLY  
HONORED  
THAT YOU  
HAVE CHOSEN  
ME AS YOUR  
DISCIPLE!



YOU HAVE JUST  
CONQUERED NEW  
TERRITORIES FOR MY  
BROTHER, DRAK THE RANC!!  
PRINCE FUS'S ARMY IS  
POWERLESS AGAINST YOU...

YOU'RE A  
HERO, KRIZ...



... I'M VERY  
LUCKY!

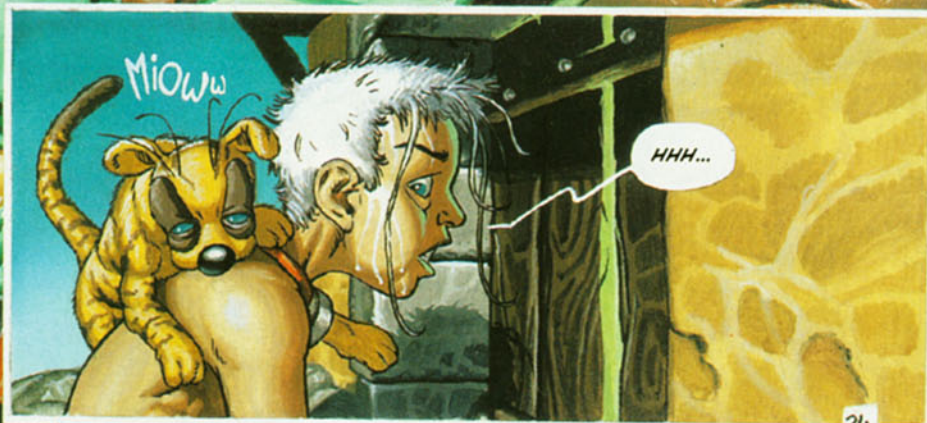
LISTEN CAREFULLY,  
LITTLE DRAK... I'M A  
MERCENARY AND YOUR  
FATHER OWES ME A  
LOT OF MONEY. YOU  
WON'T SEE YOUR  
FAMILY TILL I'M PAID...



IN THE MEANTIME...  
SHUT UP AND STOP  
YOUR STUPID  
FLATTERY...



"DISCIPLE"!



HHH...





AND NOW, BAMBOO,  
PURIFY THE LAND...  
CLEANSE THE EARTH OF  
THE PUTRID CIVILIZATION  
THAT RAPED IT...

OUR DUTY HAS  
BEEN DONE! DO  
YOURS, NOW!



?!

OH, NO!  
THE TRANCE  
IS TAKING  
HOLD OF ME  
AGAIN!



THERE...  
THERE ARE  
LHINS NEAR  
HERE! IN THE  
FLATLANDS!



I... BIRD SHIT!!!









WOW! SO IT'S  
TRUE! I WAS  
SURE!!

THE LEGEND OF "THE  
SON OF BAMBOO"... IT  
SAID YOU WOULD WIN  
THE BATTLE OF  
HAUTEROQUAILLE...

SO... TELL ME,  
WHERE DO THE  
LHINS COME  
FROM? I NEED  
TO UNDERSTAND,  
SO I CAN GET A  
VIEW OF THE  
SITUATION AS A  
WHOLE...

DON'T...  
DON'T YOU  
AGREE?



AND THAT IS HOW A WORD THAT  
HAD BEEN BANISHED TO  
SILENCE AND THE SHADOWS OF  
HAUTEROQUAILLE WAS  
SUDDENLY HEARD AGAIN...

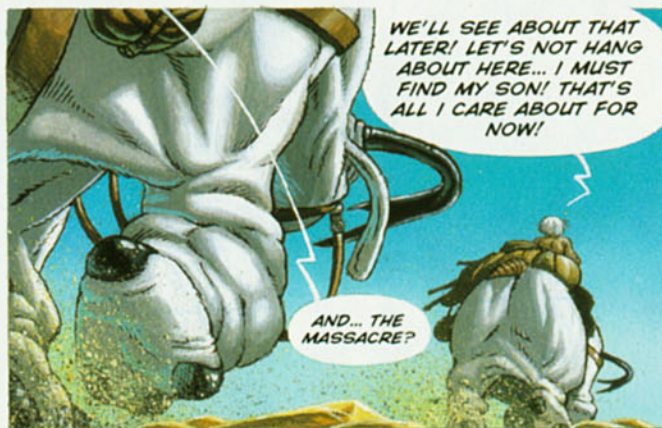
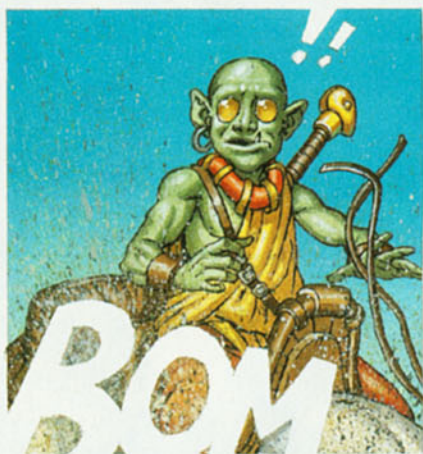


THE BAMBOO,  
THE BAMBOO  
IS BACK!















WHAT'S  
HAPPENED IS  
SCANDALOUS!  
YOUR MOTHER  
IS PERFECTLY  
RIGHT, DEAR  
PRINCE!

WE MUST MAKE THE  
DRAIMS LEAVE "FIREFLY  
FOREST"!!



IT'S NOT THE DRAIMS, DRAGAR.  
WE JUST THINK THAT THE LHINS  
WILL NOT ENTER "FIREFLY  
FOREST"!!

IF THAT'S THE  
CASE, I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT THIS  
STUPID WOMAN  
KNOWS ABOUT  
THE ART OF  
WAR...

WHO  
THINKS  
THAT, SON?  
YOU... OR  
HER?

... BUT SHE  
SEEMS TO KNOW  
HOW TO EXPLOIT  
MEN'S  
WEAKNESSES!





WELL, ASSUMING THE LHINS CROSS THE FOREST... HOW WOULD THAT GIVE US THE ADVANTAGE?

IT'S OBVIOUS, YOUR MAJESTY!

IN HALTEROQUAILLE, THE CASE OF YOUNG KRIZ TAUGHT US THAT THE LHINS' TRANCE IS PRODUCED BY THE GROUP. THE GREATER THE NUMBER OF LHINS, THE MORE DESTRUCTIVE THE TRANCE...



WE ARE SURE THEY'LL CROSS "FIREFLY FOREST" BECAUSE GOING AROUND IT IS A LONG JOURNEY AND NOT IN THEIR INTEREST.



THEY'LL CUT STRAIGHT THROUGH! AND WHEN THEY GET TO THE FIREFLIES' KINGDOM, THEY'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP BECAUSE THE VEGETATION IS SO DENSE...

AS THEY GO DEEPER INTO THE FOREST, THEY'LL BECOME WEAKER AND WEAKER! AND WE'LL BE WAITING FOR THEM!



MHM... EXACTLY, DRAGAR... YOU MENTIONED KRIZ THE MERCENARY... HE'S BEEN DEFYING MY RULE, CONSTANTLY CONQUERING LAND THAT IS IN MY KINGDOM...

... FOR THE BARBARIANS THAT HIRE HIM... I'VE HEARD THAT RECENTLY HE'S BEEN ACTIVE IN THE SOUTH...

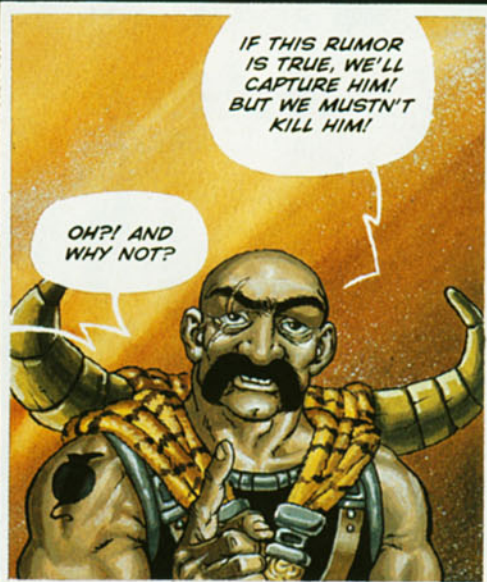


HE FORCED US TO RETREAT IN A BATTLE AGAINST THE RANCS... THIS IS SHAMEFUL! I ORDERED YOU TO CAPTURE THE TRAITOR AND EXECUTE HIM. WHAT HAPPENED?



HMM... IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO CAPTURE KRIZ... HE'S A FIERCE WARRIOR! IT IS RUMORED THAT HE IS HEADING TOWARD OUR KINGDOM... IT SEEMS HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS SON... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HE'S UP TO...











WE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING HIM DOWN... QUICKLY! WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM LATER...



WE MUST LEAVE THE FOREST BEFORE THE LHINS GET HERE!

WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE, BUK...



... THE LHINS WILL NEVER MAKE IT HERE!



... I CRIED OUT, SAVE US, KRIZ! HELP US GET RID OF THIS SCOURGE! HIC! TIME HAD COME TO A STANDSTILL... WE WERE DESPERATE... THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF LHINS... COULD KRIZ SAVE US ON HIS OWN?

THEN HE JUST FLEW OFF... AMAZING! HIC! WIELDING HIS LEGENDARY SWORD, HE FOUGHT OFF THE HORDES THAT DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS! HIPS!

WAS KRIZ A TRUSTWORTHY ALLY? WOULD HE JOIN THE LHINS? HIC! THAT'S WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, "HAVE NO FEAR, ABER... YOU WILL SEE YOUR FAMILY AGAIN!"









GREETINGS,  
MOST  
VALOROUS  
DRUNKARD!

HAIL TO THE  
MERCENARY!!

MOCK ME, IF YOU LIKE,  
BUT THE CURSE OF THE  
BAMBOO APPROACHES...  
AND YOUR IGNORANCE  
WILL KILL YOU!!



HEY THERE!  
MOVE OUT  
OF MY WA...



K... KRIZ?!...



OH!



KRIZ THE MERCENARY!

HERE!

BY THE WARTS ON MY  
NOSE! HIC! I CAN'T  
BELIEVE MY... MHF!

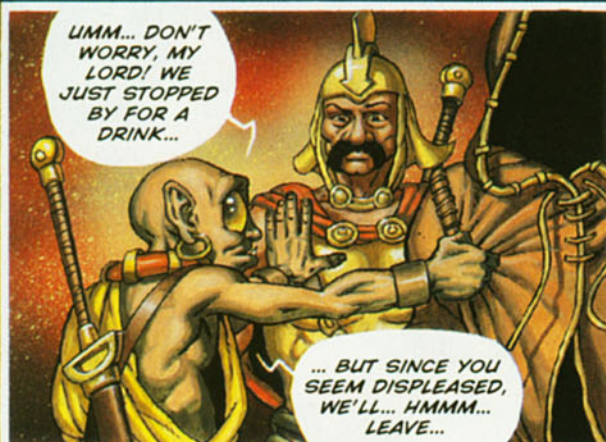
SHUT UP,  
LOUDMOUTH!  
STOP YELLING!



WE WANT TO  
ASK YOU SOME  
QUESTIONS,  
STRANGER...







UMM... DON'T WORRY, MY LORD! WE JUST STOPPED BY FOR A DRINK...

... BUT SINCE YOU SEEM DISPLEASED, WE'LL... HMMM... LEAVE...



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

... A BABY RANC, RIGHT?!

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THIS IS THE AGE WHEN THEY SHOULD BE BURNED?

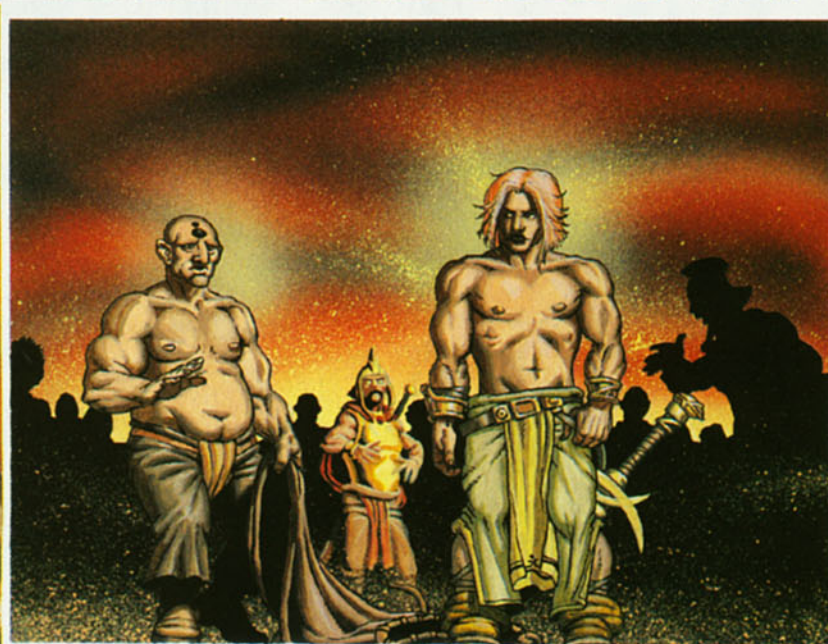
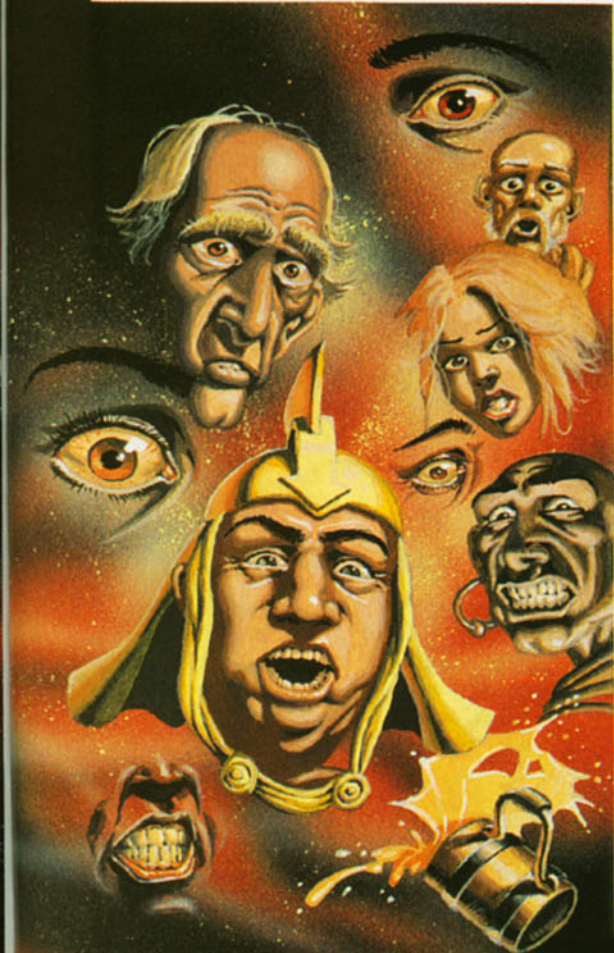


EXACTLY!

UNBELIEVABLE! HIC!



WELL, THEN... SHOW US YOUR STUFF, MY PRETTY!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!









HIPS!

UHH... DID YOU  
REALLY HAVE  
TO TORCH  
EVERYTHING?



OUCH!

I DON'T WANT  
ANY  
WITNESSES!

BLINK



HAHAHA!

ISN'T THAT A  
WITNESS?



I'M A SORCERER!!  
I FORETOLD THOSE  
SOLDIERS' FUTURE!  
HAHAA! THE CURSE OF THE  
BAMBOO IS UPON THEM!  
HIPS!



HMMM... SINCE YOU SEEM  
TO KNOW EVERYTHING  
ABOUT ME, SORCERER,  
MAYBE YOU COULD HELP  
ME... I'M LOOKING FOR  
SOMEONE...

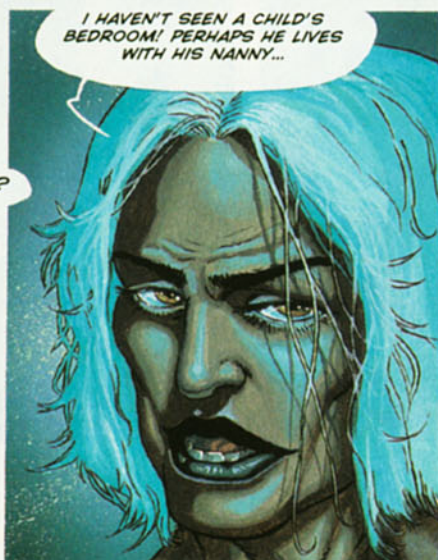
HIPS!

... A WOMAN!

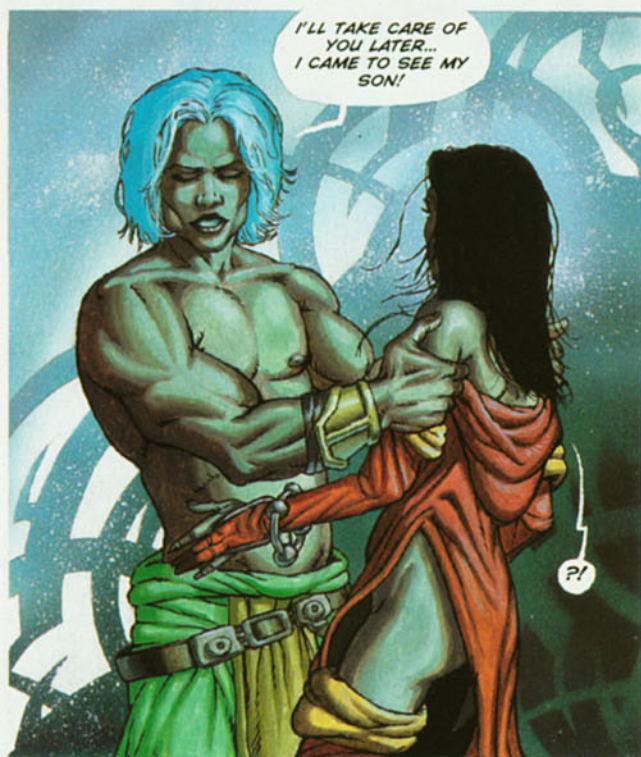












I'LL TAKE CARE OF  
YOU LATER...  
I CAME TO SEE MY  
SON!

?!



LOOK AT ME,  
WARRIOR!  
DON'T STOP  
NOW!



STOP THAT!  
WHERE IS MY  
SON? SPEAK,  
WHORE!



YOUR SON IS DEAD, YOU  
DOG!!

!!

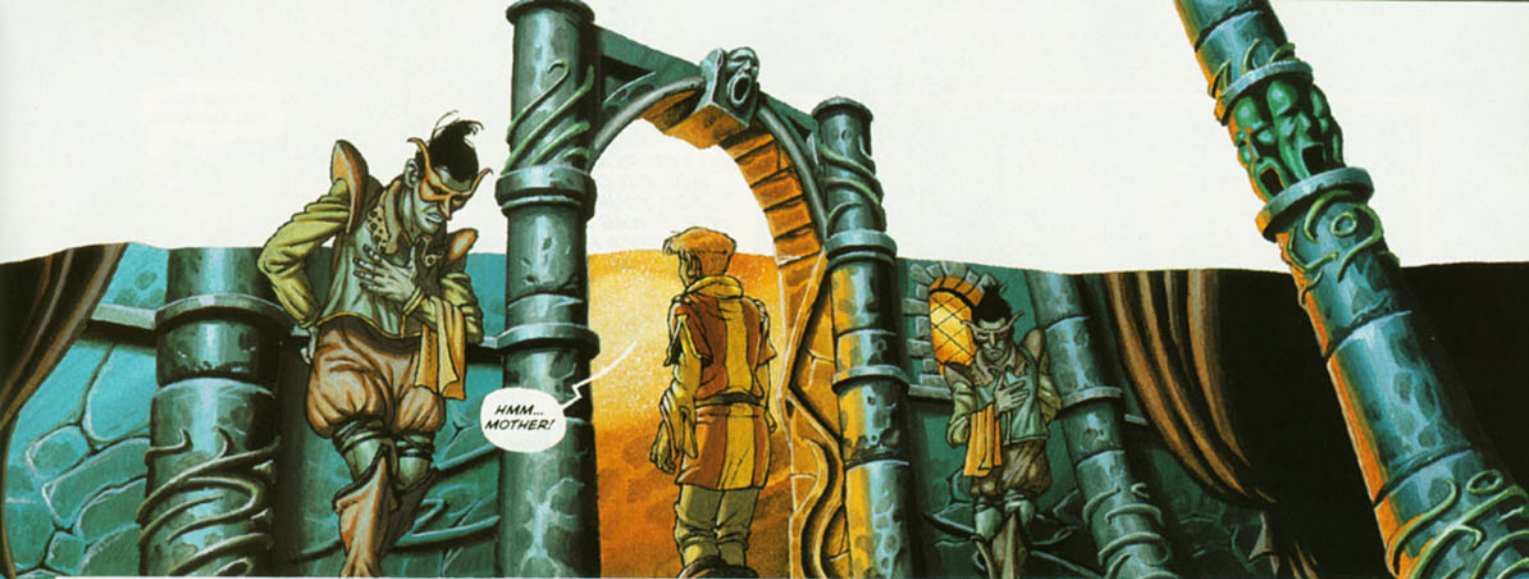
I'M AN ISTRAN, OR  
HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN?



WHAT USE WAS A  
MALE CHILD TO ME?  
I DROWNED HIM IN THE  
MOAT...WHERE YOU ALL  
BELONG!







HMM...  
MOTHER!



SIT DOWN,  
SON. IT'S  
LATE!

TELL ME WHAT'S  
WORRYING YOU? YOU  
SEEMED TORMENTED  
EARLIER TODAY...

READ, MY SON, READ THE  
PARCHEMENT THAT THE MESSENGER  
BROUGHT ME... THEN YOU'LL  
UNDERSTAND!



WHAT IS IT...?! A COPY OF  
THE RULES OF THE ORDER  
OF THE ISTRAS?



BUT?! WHAT  
DOES THIS MEAN?  
IS THIS SOME  
SORT OF FARCE?...  
MOTHER?!



YOU'RE PROBABLY  
THE ONLY ONE WHO  
DIDN'T SUSPECT  
ANYTHING, FUS!

IT WAS THE  
ONLY WAY TO  
MAKE YOU  
SEE REASON!



TAL... A  
WITCH...





DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE  
GOT RID OF HER CHILD  
FOR YOUR SAKE? THE  
CHILD WAS A BOY, FUS...  
AN ISTRA HAS NO USE  
FOR SONS!!

EXCUSE ME, MOTHER...  
I MUST GO AND SPEAK  
TO HER!



THAT'S  
ENOUGH!!

YOU'RE DISHONORING OUR  
KINGDOM! YOUR FATHER  
DIED FIGHTING TO SAVE  
HIS SUBJECTS FROM THE  
SCOURGE OF THE LHINS...  
THE LHINS ARE  
THREATENING US AGAIN  
AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS  
WORRY ABOUT AN  
ISTRA?!



YOU'RE AN IDIOT, FUS...  
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN  
ONE! BUT I WON'T LET  
YOU DESTROY YOUR  
FATHER'S MEMORY!!



I SENT MY OWN GUARDS  
TO ARREST HER! THE WITCH  
WILL BE BURNED AT THE  
STAKE IN PUBLIC AND YOU  
WILL GIVE THE ORDER!



HIHIHI



MAYBE THAT WILL HELP US  
WIN BACK A BIT OF  
RESPECT FROM OUR  
PEOPLE.





AH! SHE'S WAKING UP!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?



UMM... PLEASE FOLLOW US, LADY TAL... BY ORDER OF QUEEN FUSCHIA!



YOU ARE ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT!

YOU ARE HEREBY STRIPPED OF YOUR PROPERTY AND PRIVILEGES.



WHAT?! HE'S GONE MAD! WE CAN'T SPEND OUR LIVES HERE!

KRIZ, IT'S NO USE... IT WOULD TAKE MANY CYCLES...



IT WOULD REQUIRE A HUNDRED MEN! THE MOAT GOES ALL AROUND THE ROYAL CITADEL!



IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO... YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT, KRIZ... LET'S GO!



BUT THE QUESTION  
REMAINS...

HEY!  
KRIZ?!

46.

HOW CAN  
A MOTHER  
KILL HER  
OWN  
CHILD?

