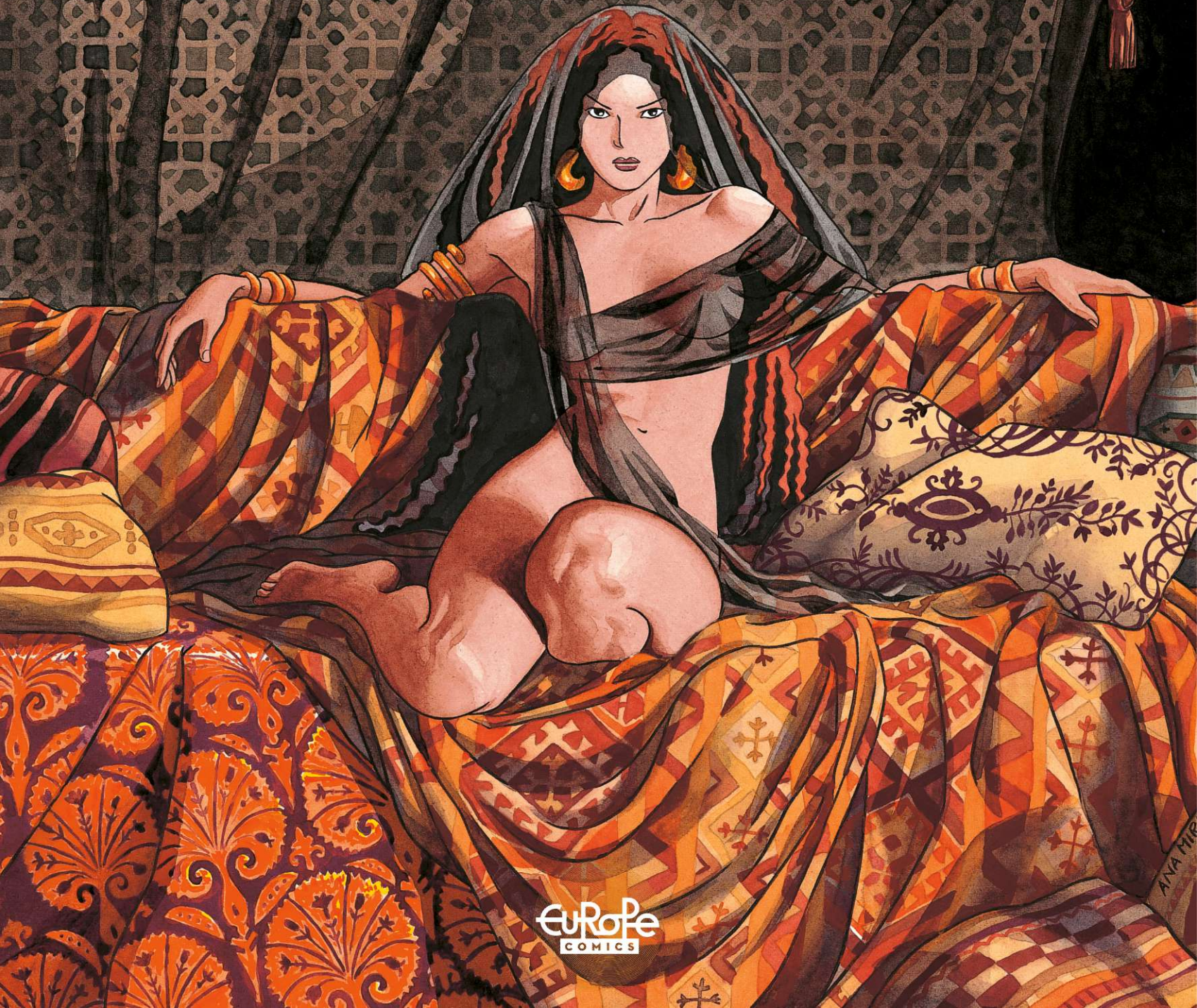


DUFAUX

MIRALLES

# Djinn

I. THE FAVORITE

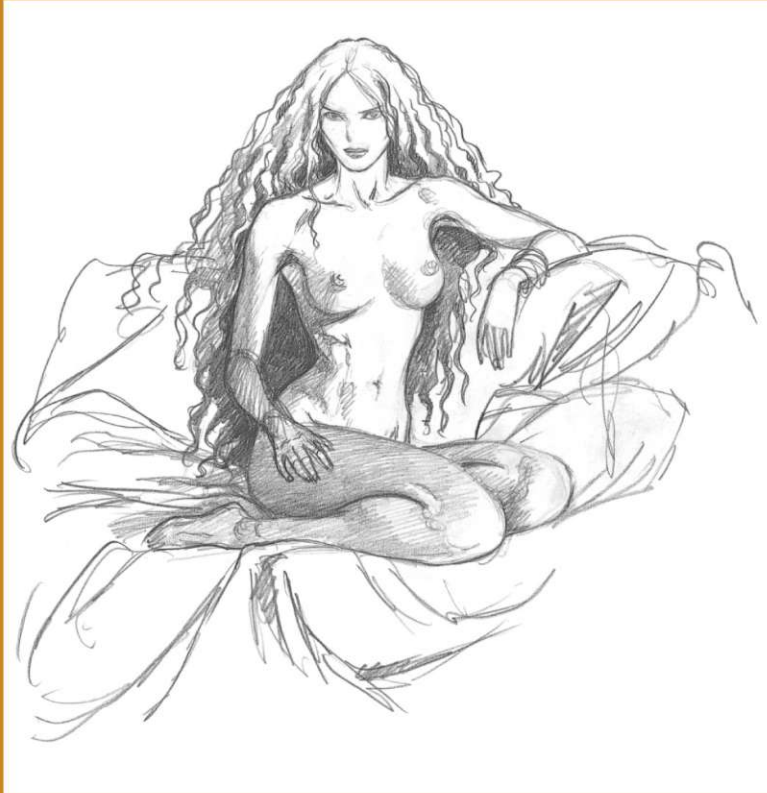








DJINN



DUFAUX / MIRALLES



Everything begins with the body, everything leads back to the body.  
Bodies exposed in the harems, bodies torn apart on the field of battle.  
Coveted bodies, abandoned bodies.

In 1912, Turkey chose the wrong side. She aligned herself with Germany in the Great War that was to follow. The former Ottoman Empire descended into ruin and the Turkish economy passed officially into the control of foreigners. Toward 1895, the weakening of the last sultans allowed the emergence of the Young Turks, a nationalist movement of which the most dominant member, Enver Pasha, became minister of war in 1914. When the sultan called for a holy war against the Allies, the fatal die had been cast for the destruction of the old empire. Then, when Turkey finally withdrew from World War One, (the Armistice of Moudros in 1918) the Young Turks survived only by fleeing to Germany. Years of stagnation followed. Turkey had to wait until 1923 for a former military inspector from the Anatoli province, Mustafa Kemal, to return his country its lost dignity.

Those are a few of the points of history that underlie our story.  
We are speaking of the end of an era, of a spirit, those of the last sultans.  
And we are concerned with a mythology attached to their names, that of the harems.  
They were a place of seduction. They were refined and they were cruel,  
places where power had no effect unless it went hand in hand with desire.  
Numerous images spring to mind when one speaks of the harems.  
It would be an error to avoid them. But it is within these images where our good  
and bad associations dwell. The body of a woman will always remain the supreme  
power before which men will submit. History has proven this. The notion holds true.  
Nonetheless, the game is subtle. Who, for example, holds the power? Master or slave?  
Genies, or *djinn*s, reply that it is they who hold the power, for they exist purely of spirit.  
Even if that spirit hides within the body of a desirable and desired woman.  
In our tale, a couple ventures upon a risky path of body and spirit.  
This three-way love story, based on reality, was chronicled  
in its time by Tanizaki in literature and by Liliana Cavani in cinema.  
But now, let's dream again... Bronze doors swing open,  
a woman's voice beckons you in song.  
Everything is but a mirage.

Jean Dufaux, January 2001

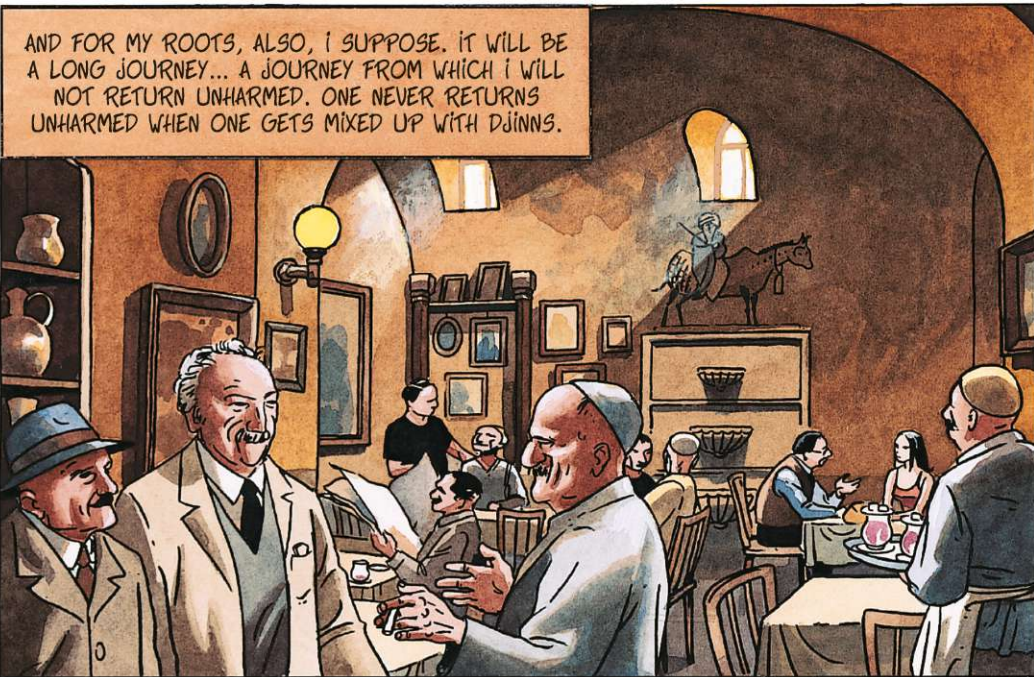


I AM LOOKING FOR  
A DJINN...A SPIRIT...  
THAT OF MY GRANDMOTHER.



1A

AND FOR MY ROOTS, ALSO, I SUPPOSE. IT WILL BE  
A LONG JOURNEY... A JOURNEY FROM WHICH I WILL  
NOT RETURN UNHARMED. ONE NEVER RETURNS  
UNHARMED WHEN ONE GETS MIXED UP WITH DJINNS.



I HAVEN'T  
FOUND  
ANYTHING.

BUT YOU  
PROMISED ME!



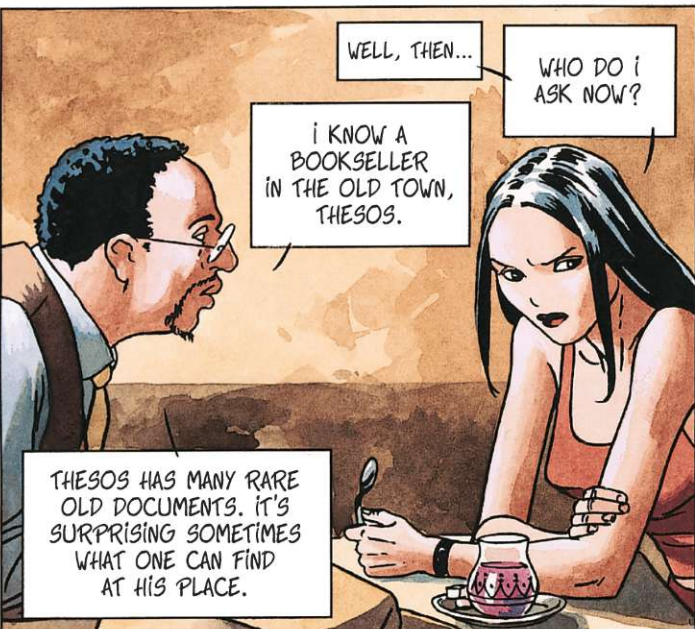
I KNOW. BUT THE FILES ARE MISSING.  
I ASKED ALL MY COLLEAGUES... IN VAIN.  
NO ONE COULD HELP ME.

1B

WELL, THEN...

WHO DO I  
ASK NOW?

I KNOW A  
BOOKSELLER  
IN THE OLD TOWN,  
THESOS.



THESOS HAS MANY RARE  
OLD DOCUMENTS. IT'S  
SURPRISING SOMETIMES  
WHAT ONE CAN FIND  
AT HIS PLACE.

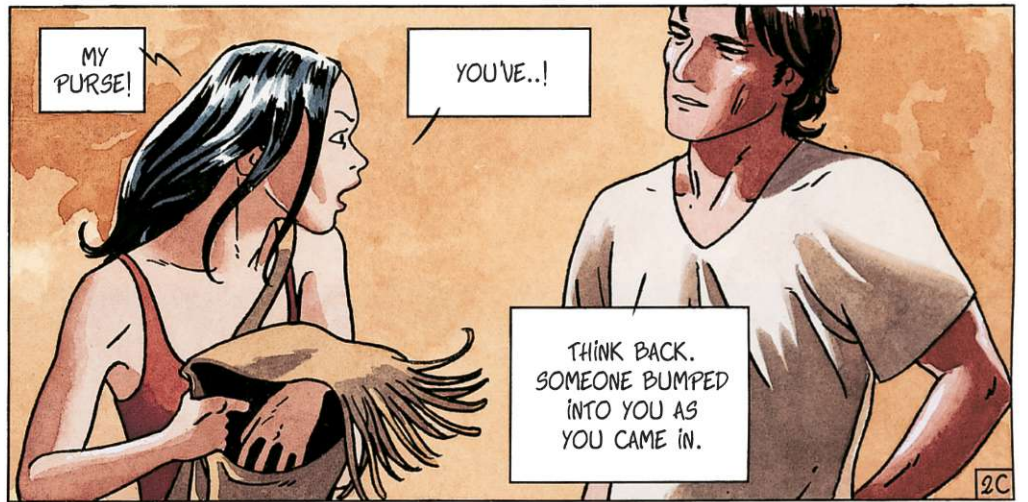
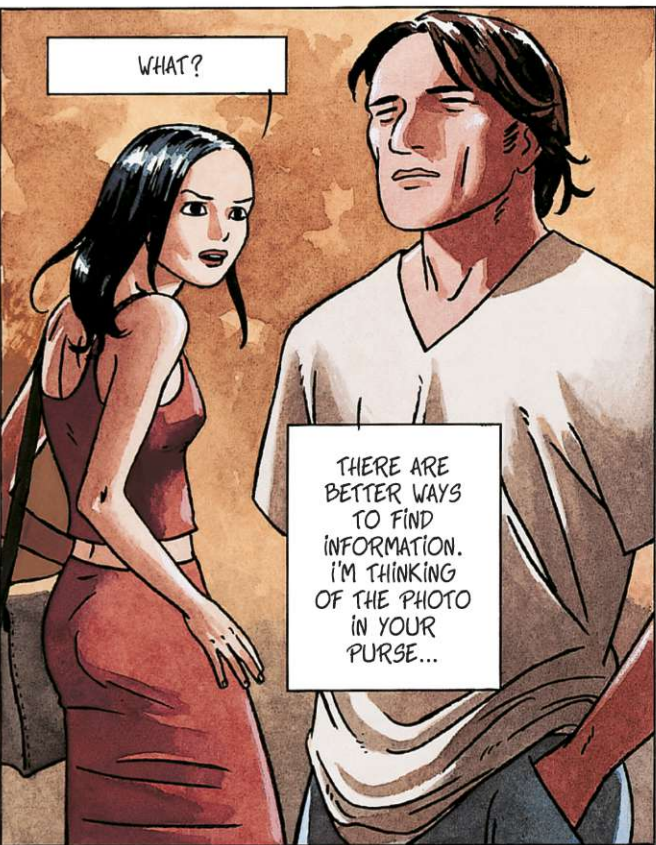
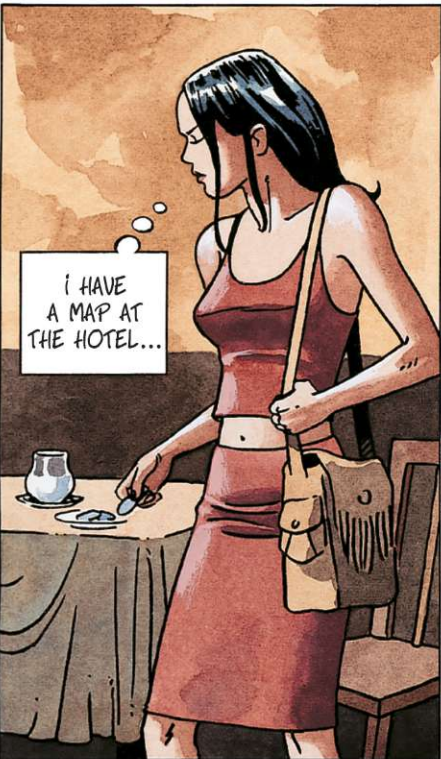
YOU NEVER KNOW.  
PERHAPS HE COULD  
GIVE US SOME TIPS.

MMMM...  
WE COULD  
GIVE IT  
A SHOT.  
BUT IT'S  
STILL DISAP-  
POINTING



1C









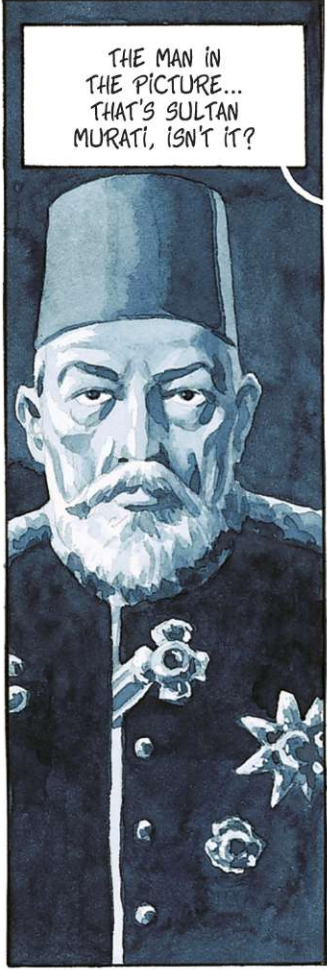
WHY, YOU... !

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A THIEF! HOW DARE YOU?

DARE TO SAVE YOU FROM WASTING YOUR TIME? TIME IS PRECIOUS TO ME, TOO. THIS PHOTO COULD GET YOU ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE, IN FACT, I COULDN'T CARE LESS. BUT I CAN HELP YOU ALONG YOUR WAY.



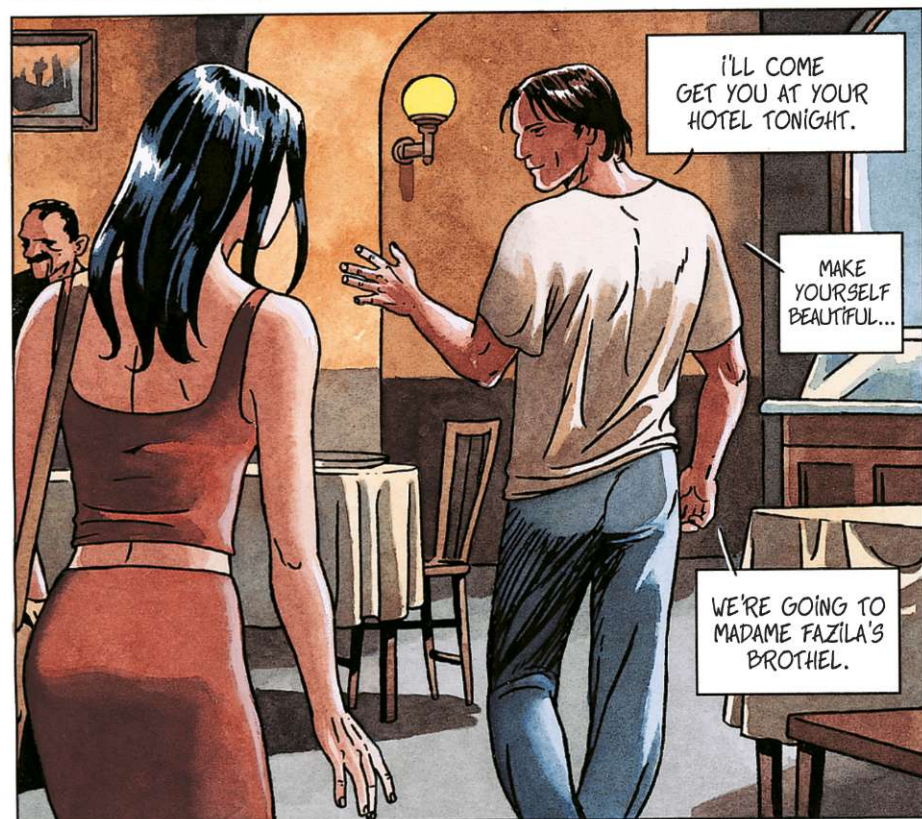
THE MAN IN THE PICTURE... THAT'S SULTAN MURATI, ISN'T IT?



THE BLACK SULTAN. YES.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM?

I CAN REPEAT WHAT'S IN THE HISTORY BOOKS. BUT YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE, I THINK...



I'LL COME GET YOU AT YOUR HOTEL TONIGHT.

MAKE YOURSELF BEAUTIFUL...

WE'RE GOING TO MADAME FAZILA'S BROTHEL.



BUT...!!!



WHO TOLD YOU WHERE I'M STAYING!!?



I WAS WORRIED. I SHOULD HAVE SLAPPED HIM AND TOLD HIM TO GET LOST. INSTEAD, THAT SAME NIGHT, IN MY HOTEL ROOM...

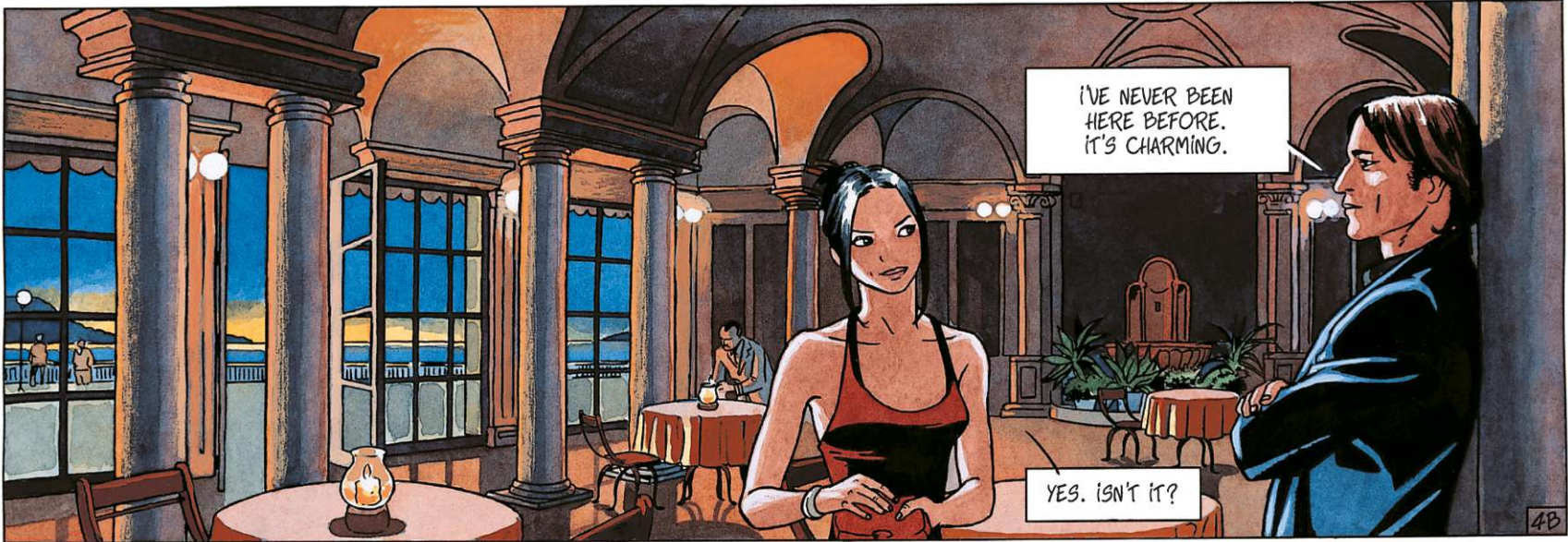


I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND MYSELF WAITING FOR HIM... AND WHEN THE TELEPHONE RANG, I JUST ANSWERED...



I'M READY... I'LL COME DOWN.

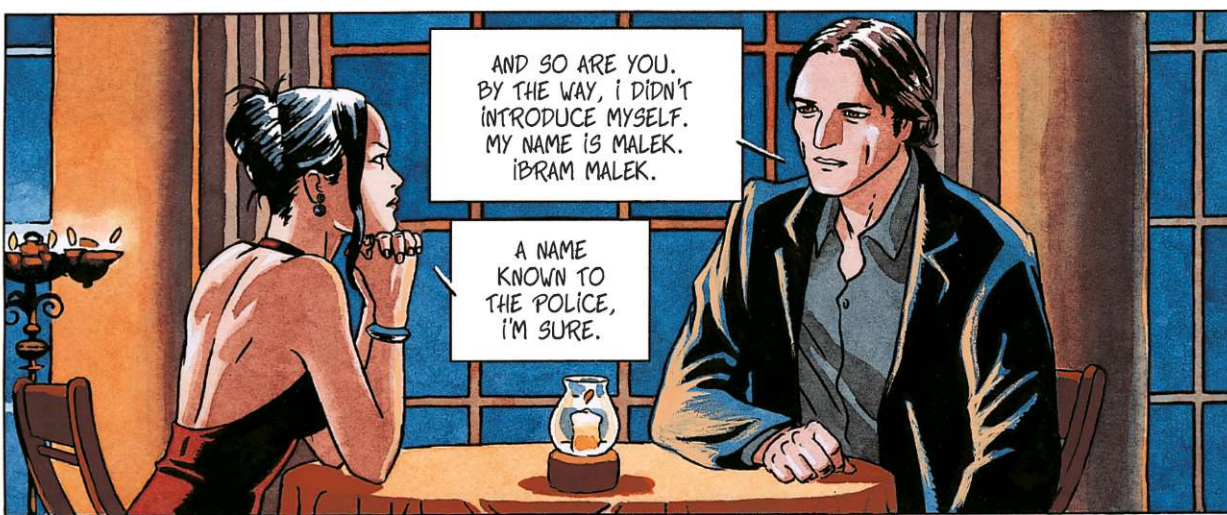
4A



I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE. IT'S CHARMING.

YES. ISN'T IT?

4B



AND SO ARE YOU. BY THE WAY, I DIDN'T INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY NAME IS MALEK. IBRAM MALEK.

A NAME KNOWN TO THE POLICE, I'M SURE.



TO GIVE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT, MY FRIEND...

4C



THE POLICE AND OTHERS... ARE YOU READY?

READY FOR WHAT?





GET UNDRESSED!



I BEG YOUR PARDON!

IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK IN TIME, YOU CAN'T FOOL AROUND. YOU HAVE TO REVEAL WHO YOU ARE.

5A



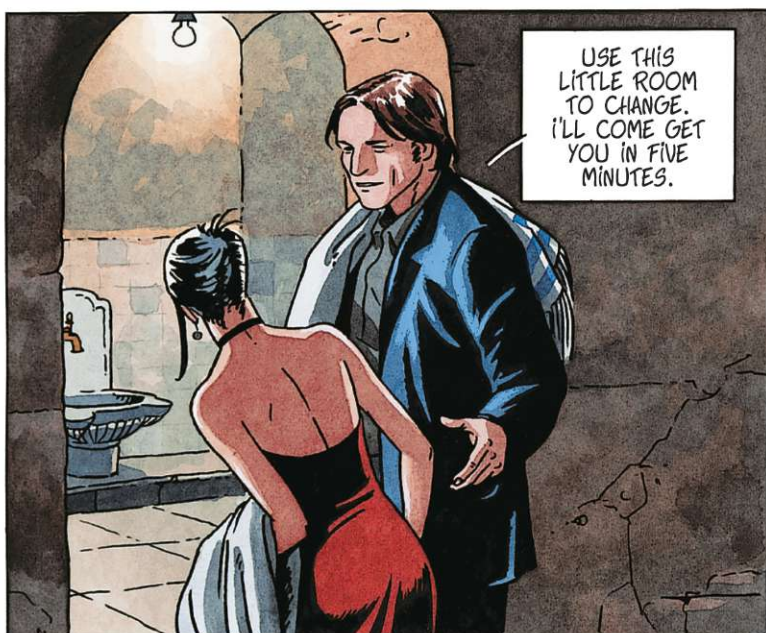
YOU WILL BE JUDGED BODY AND SOUL. BUT I THINK YOU CAN PULL IT OFF. AND DON'T WORRY, I'M COMING WITH YOU.



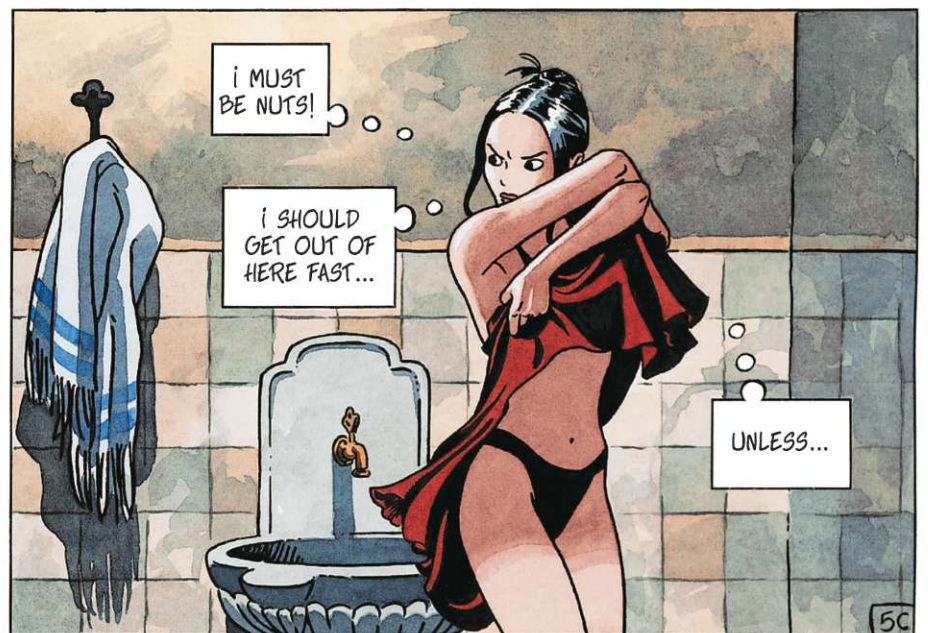
SO WHERE ARE WE NOW?

IN THE OLD TOWN. THIS WAS A 'HAMMAM', A PUBLIC BATH. NOW MADAME FAZILA HAS SET UP HER BROTHEL HERE.

5B



USE THIS LITTLE ROOM TO CHANGE. I'LL COME GET YOU IN FIVE MINUTES.



I MUST BE NUTS!

I SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE FAST...

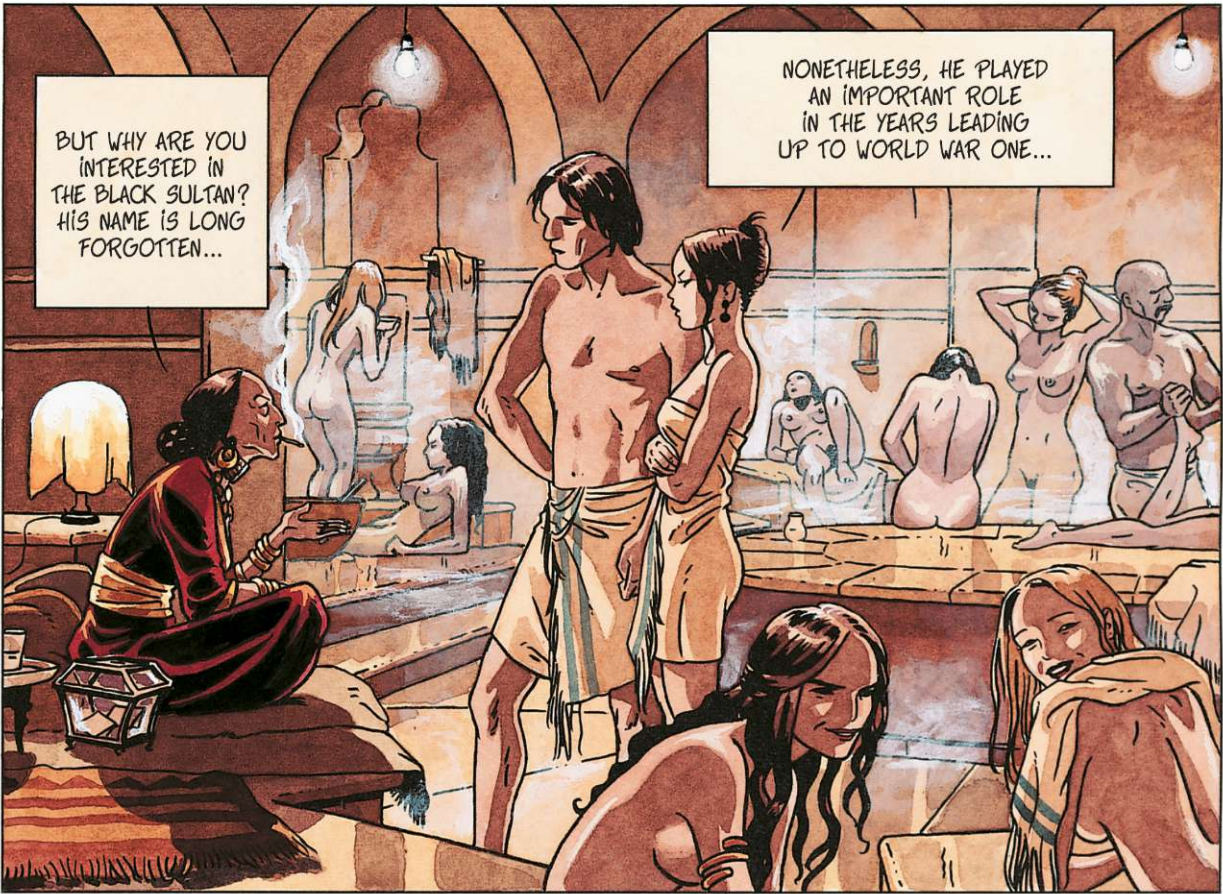
UNLESS...

5C





TRUE.  
I KNOW  
SOMEONE  
WHO COULD  
HELP YOU.



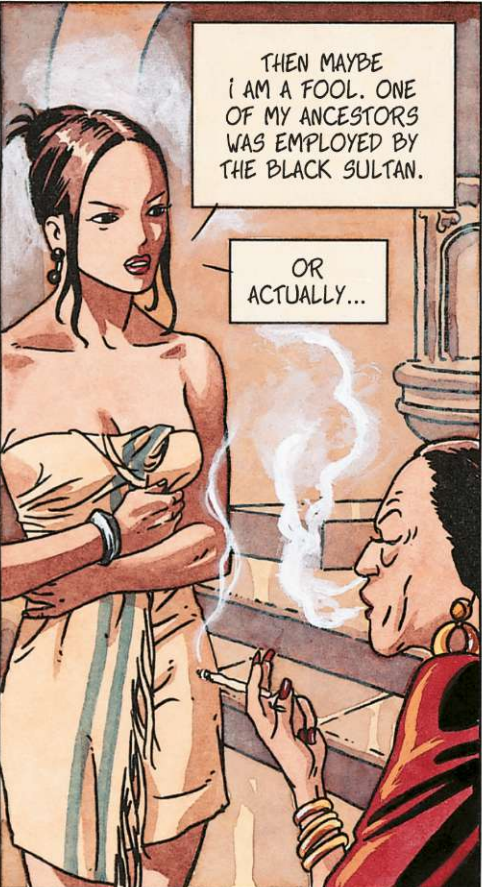
BUT WHY ARE YOU  
INTERESTED IN  
THE BLACK SULTAN?  
HIS NAME IS LONG  
FORGOTTEN...

NONETHELESS, HE PLAYED  
AN IMPORTANT ROLE  
IN THE YEARS LEADING  
UP TO WORLD WAR ONE...



EVEN IF  
THE HISTORY  
BOOKS DON'T  
MENTION IT.

EVERYONE INTERESTED IN THE BLACK  
SULTAN DIED A VIOLENT DEATH.  
HISTORIANS ARE NOT FOOLS.

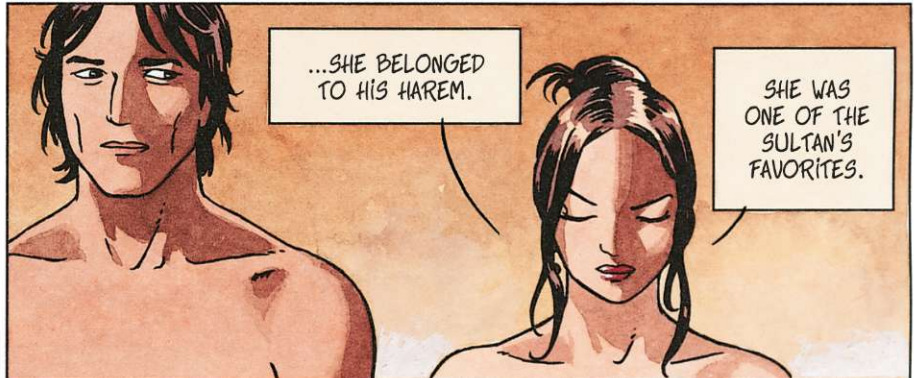


THEN MAYBE  
I AM A FOOL. ONE  
OF MY ANCESTORS  
WAS EMPLOYED BY  
THE BLACK SULTAN.

OR  
ACTUALLY...



YES...?



...SHE BELONGED  
TO HIS HAREM.

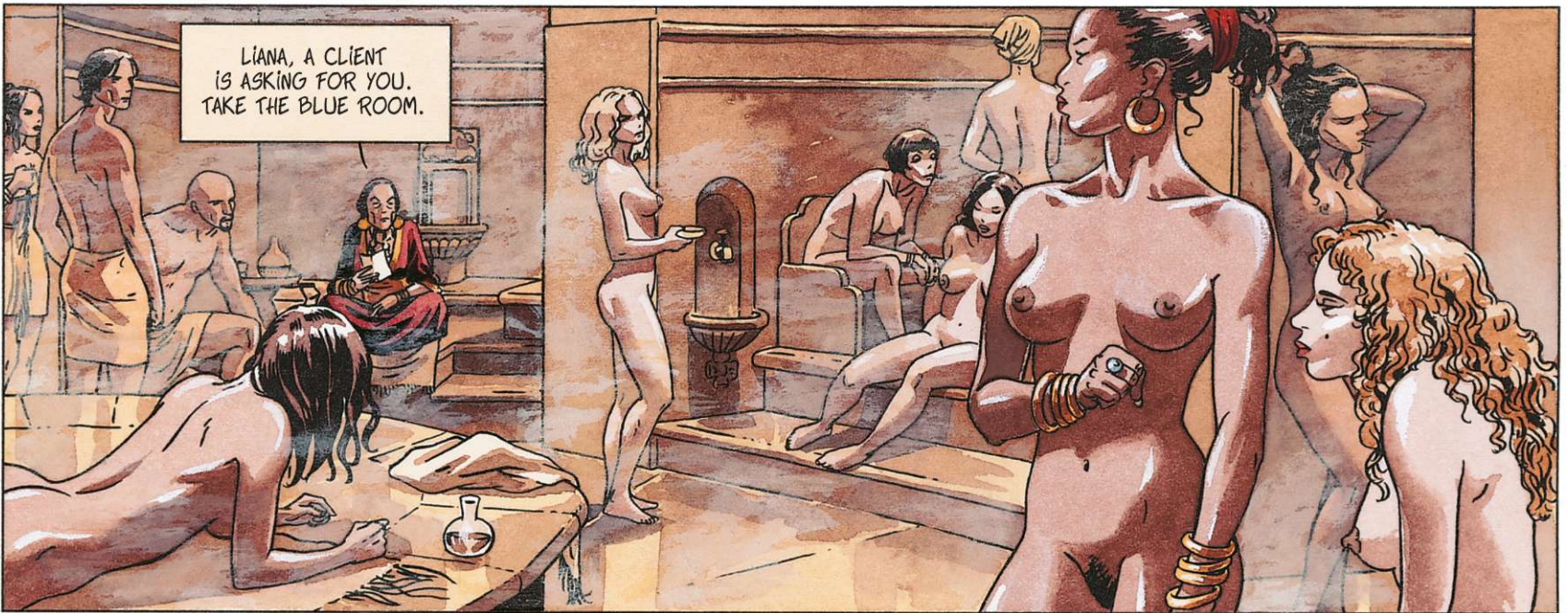
SHE WAS  
ONE OF THE  
SULTAN'S  
FAVORITES.



AH,  
EXCUSE  
ME...

JUST  
A MOMENT...



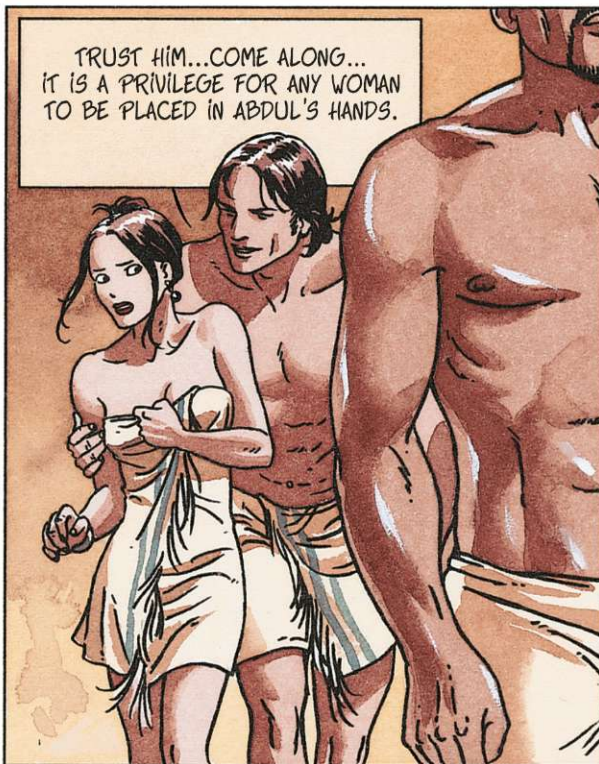


LIANA, A CLIENT  
IS ASKING FOR YOU.  
TAKE THE BLUE ROOM.

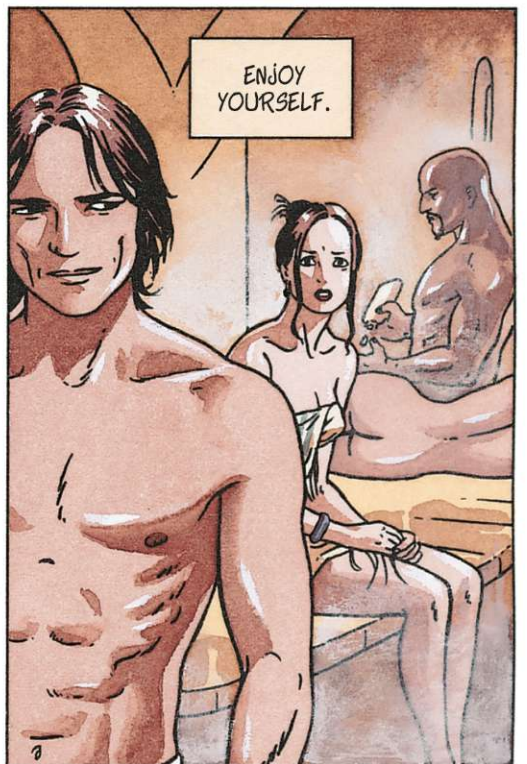


I MUST  
ASK YOU  
TO WAIT.  
ABDUL WILL  
TAKE CARE  
OF YOU.

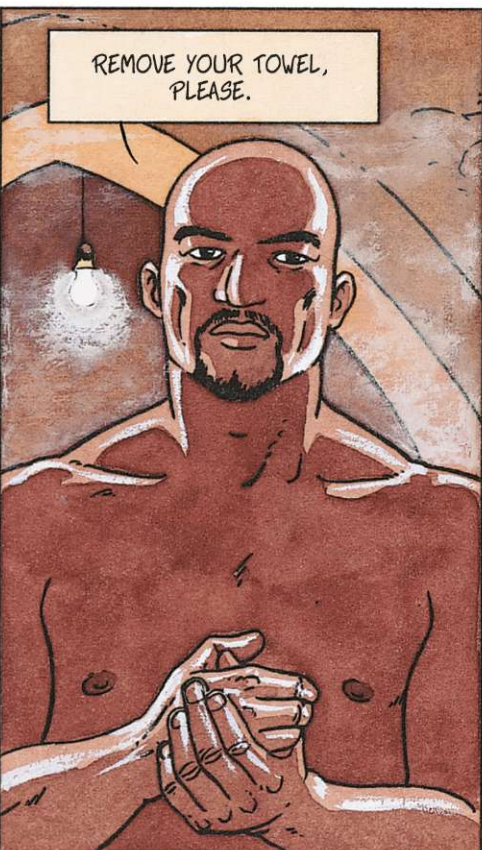
BUT...!!!



TRUST HIM...COME ALONG...  
IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ANY WOMAN  
TO BE PLACED IN ABDUL'S HANDS.



ENJOY  
YOURSELF.

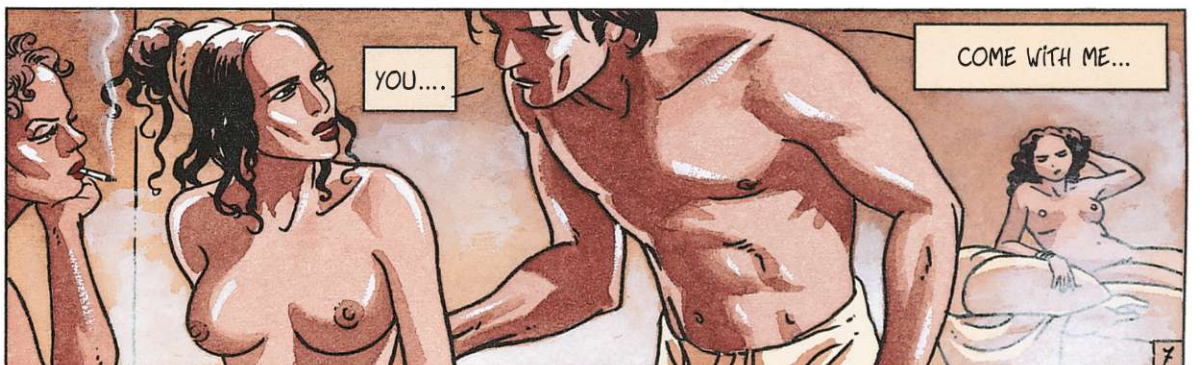


REMOVE YOUR TOWEL,  
PLEASE.



YOU ARE  
VERY TENSE.

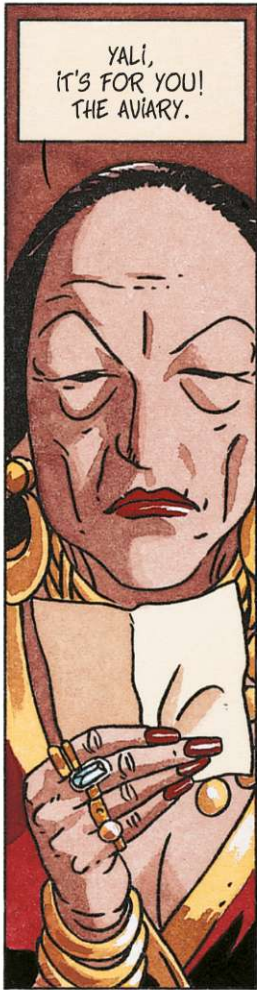
RELAX...



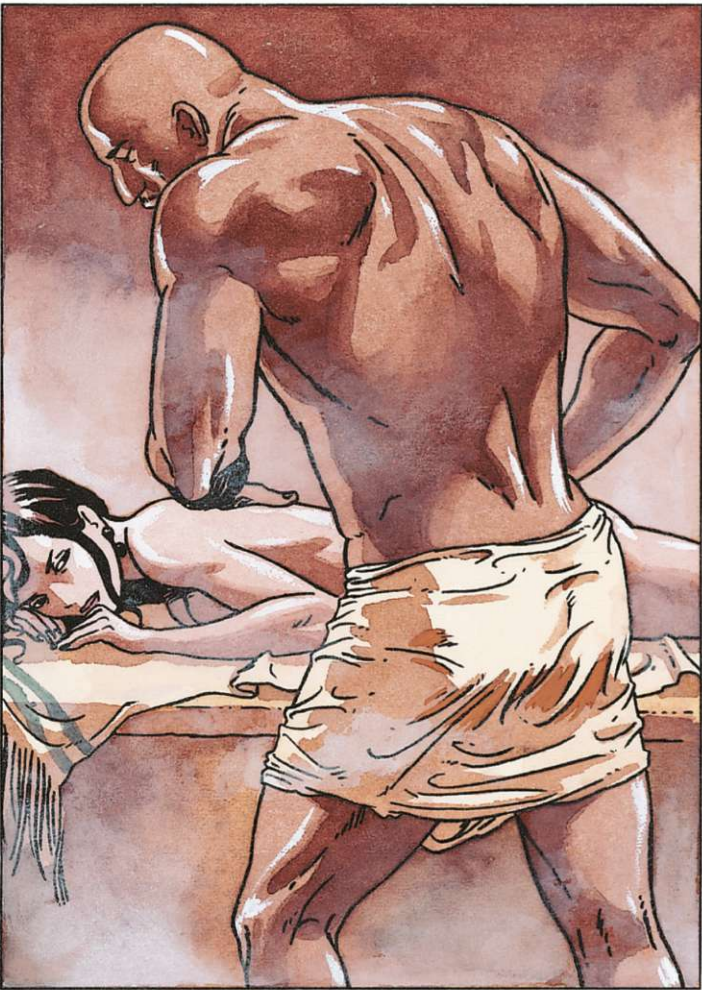
YOU....

COME WITH ME...

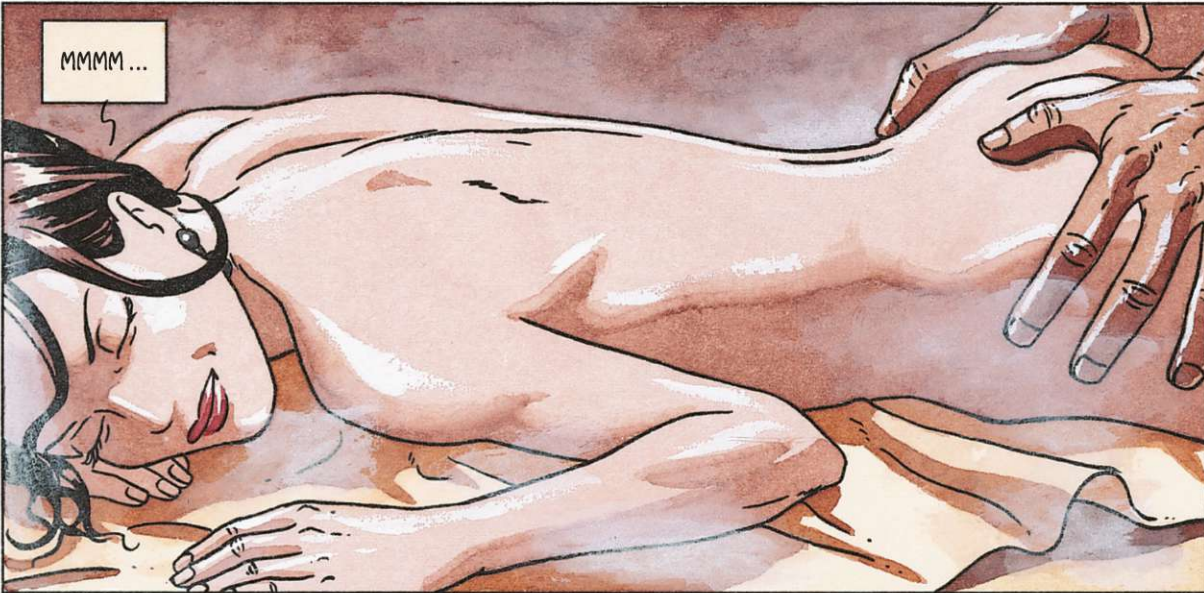




YALI,  
IT'S FOR YOU!  
THE AVIARY.



OZOU,  
THE EBONY  
ROOM.



MMMM...



AAAH!!!



!!??



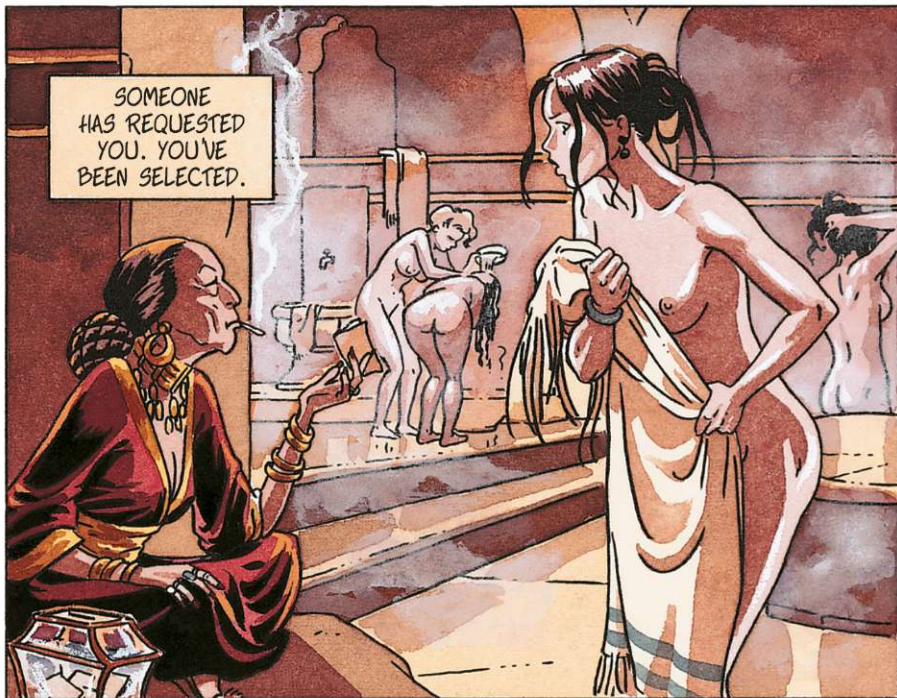
KIM...

KIM  
NELSON  
...?!

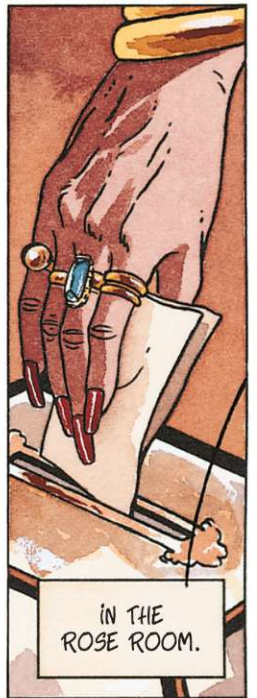




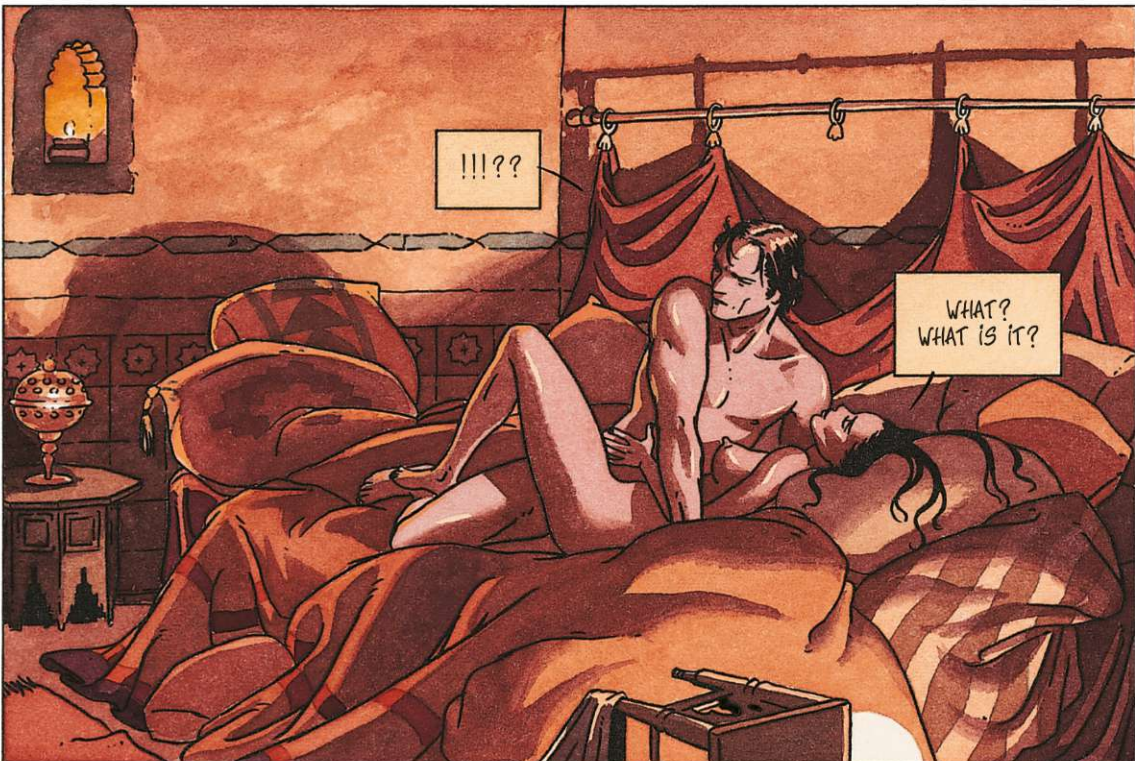
WH...  
WHAT?



SOMEONE  
HAS REQUESTED  
YOU. YOU'VE  
BEEN SELECTED.



IN THE  
ROSE ROOM.



!!!??

WHAT?  
WHAT IS IT?



I DON'T KNOW...

BUT  
I SENSE...



DANGER!

I FOLLOWED  
YOU.



I COULD NOT WAIT  
TO MEET YOU HERE.  
I SWEAR. I EVEN  
HESITATED...

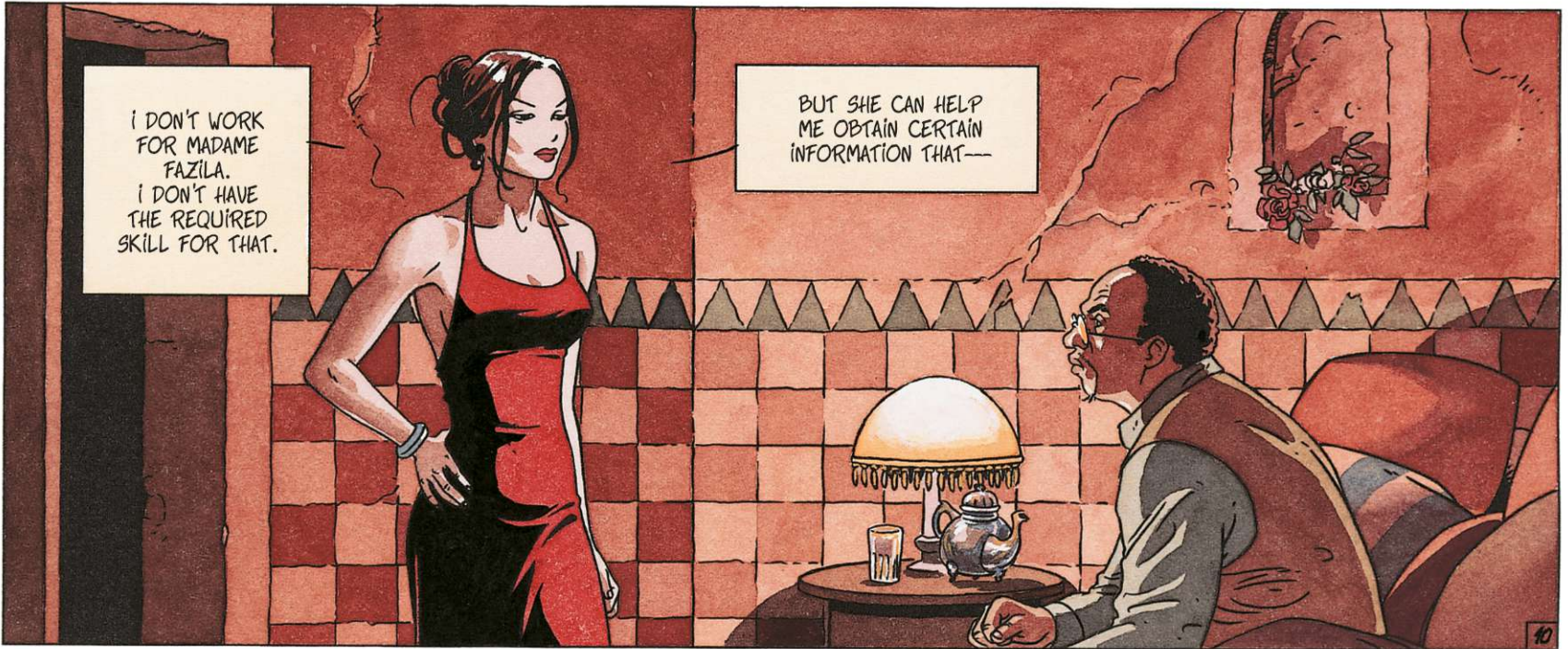
BUT THEN, I TOLD  
MYSELF I SHOULDN'T  
PASS UP MY CHANCE...



YOU SHOULD  
HAVE COME NAKED.

LIKE ALL THE GIRLS  
WHO WORK FOR  
MADAME FAZILA.





I DON'T WORK FOR MADAME FAZILA. I DON'T HAVE THE REQUIRED SKILL FOR THAT.

BUT SHE CAN HELP ME OBTAIN CERTAIN INFORMATION THAT---



OTHERS CAN OBTAIN IT FOR YOU!

I TALKED TO THESOS ABOUT YOU! IT SO HAPPENS THAT HE'S ALSO INTERESTED IN THE COURT OF THE BLACK SULTAN. HE WANTS TO MEET YOU AND FAST!



SORRY. BUT I'M NOT AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW.

OH, REALLY...?



YOU FORGET THAT IT'S YOU WHO CAME LOOKING FOR ME.

I HAVE TOO MUCH INVESTED IN THIS AFFAIR. YOU THREW A STONE IN STILL WATERS... THE RIPPLES ARE SPREADING... NOW IT'S UP TO YOU TO TAKE IT ON--



TAKE WHAT ON?

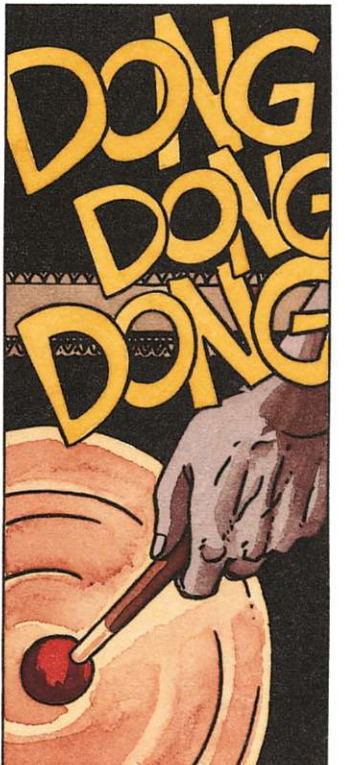
RESPONSIBILITY! FOR YOUR PAST. AND THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISED ABOUT IT! AND I ASSURE YOU...



MMFFFF!

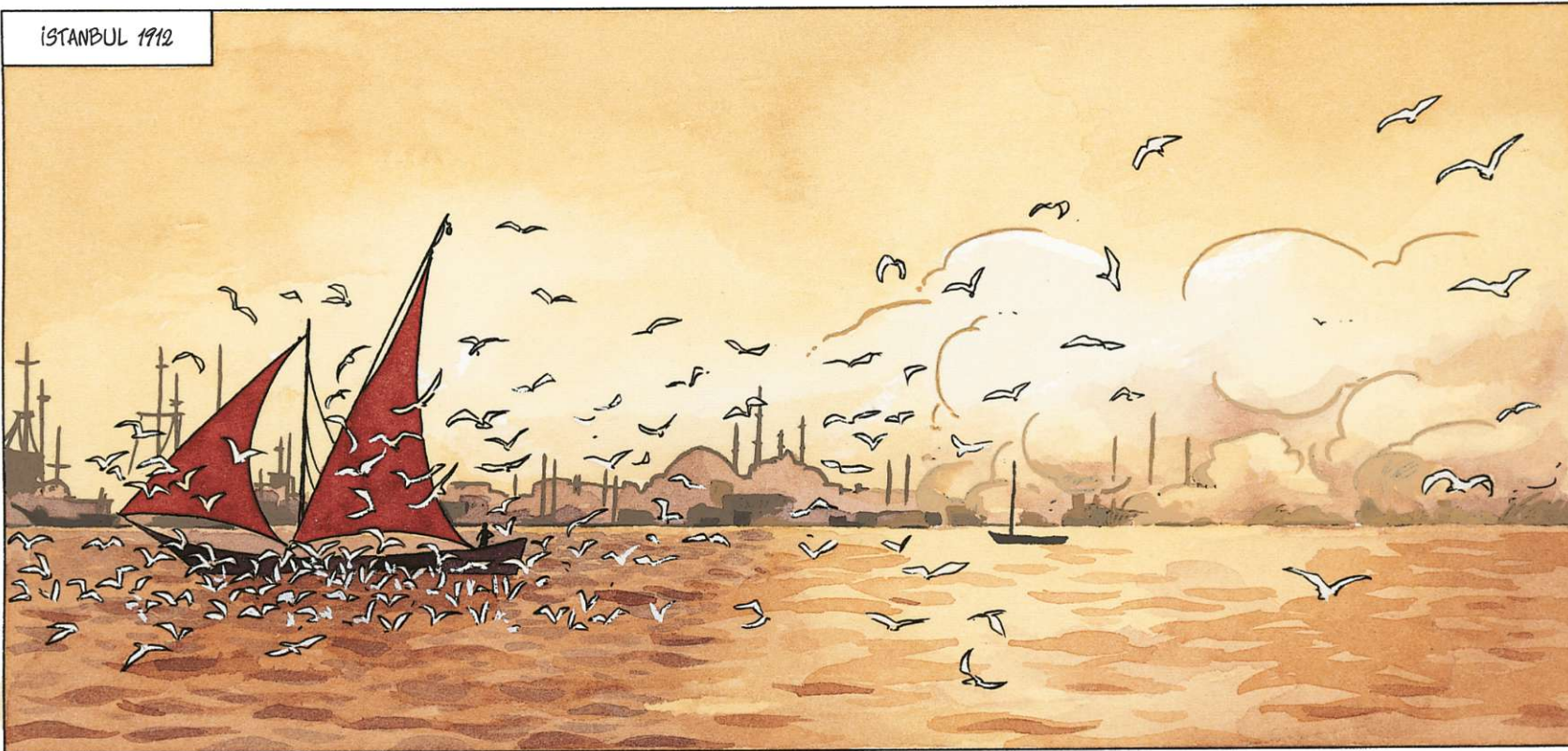
WE WILL ASSIST YOU!

AND THE RIPPLES SPREAD WIDER....



**DONG  
DONG  
DONG**



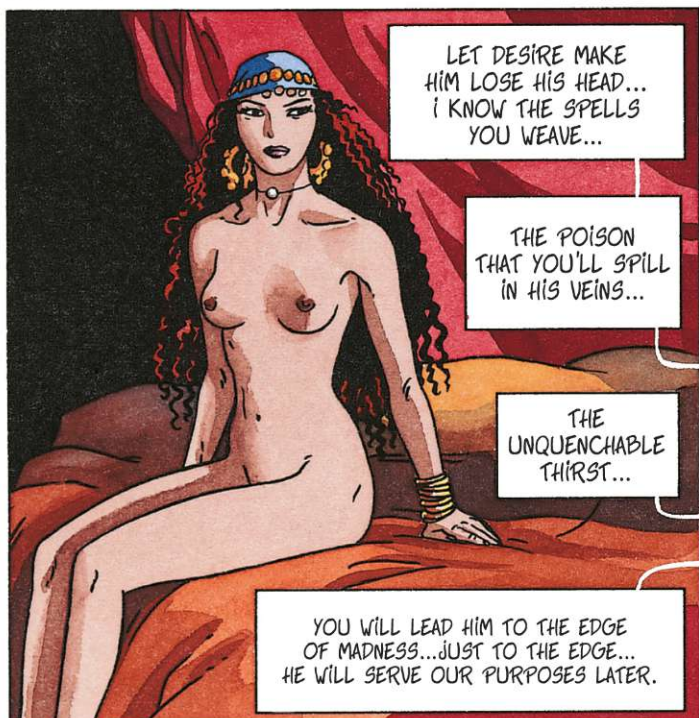


I SUMMONED YOU, JADE, BECAUSE I NEED YOU.



I'M PLANNING TO INVITE AN IMPORTANT MAN TO THE PALACE IN A WEEK. THIS MAN IS OUR ENEMY.

I WANT HIM TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.



LET DESIRE MAKE HIM LOSE HIS HEAD... I KNOW THE SPELLS YOU WEAVE...

THE POISON THAT YOU'LL SPILL IN HIS VEINS...

THE UNQUENCHABLE THIRST...

YOU WILL LEAD HIM TO THE EDGE OF MADNESS...JUST TO THE EDGE... HE WILL SERVE OUR PURPOSES LATER.



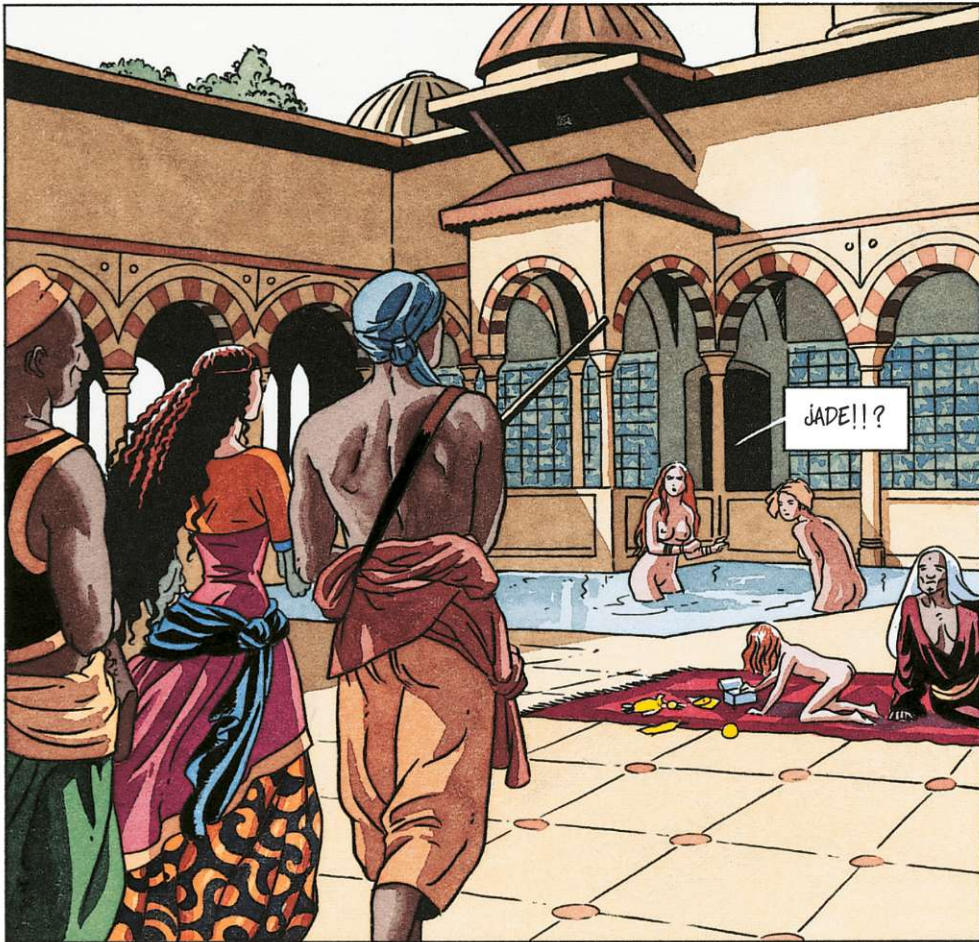
YOU WILL HAVE MY ENTIRE PALACE AT YOUR DISPOSAL FOR THIS.

AND THE FULL POWERS THAT ARE CONFERRED ON THE FAVORITE OF THE SULTAN. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THAT?

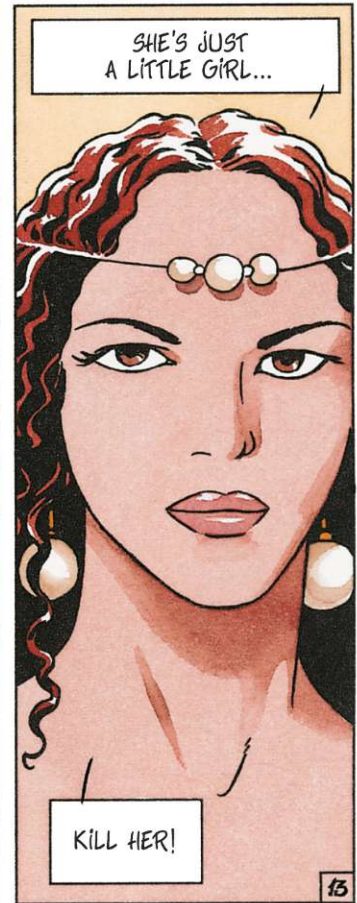
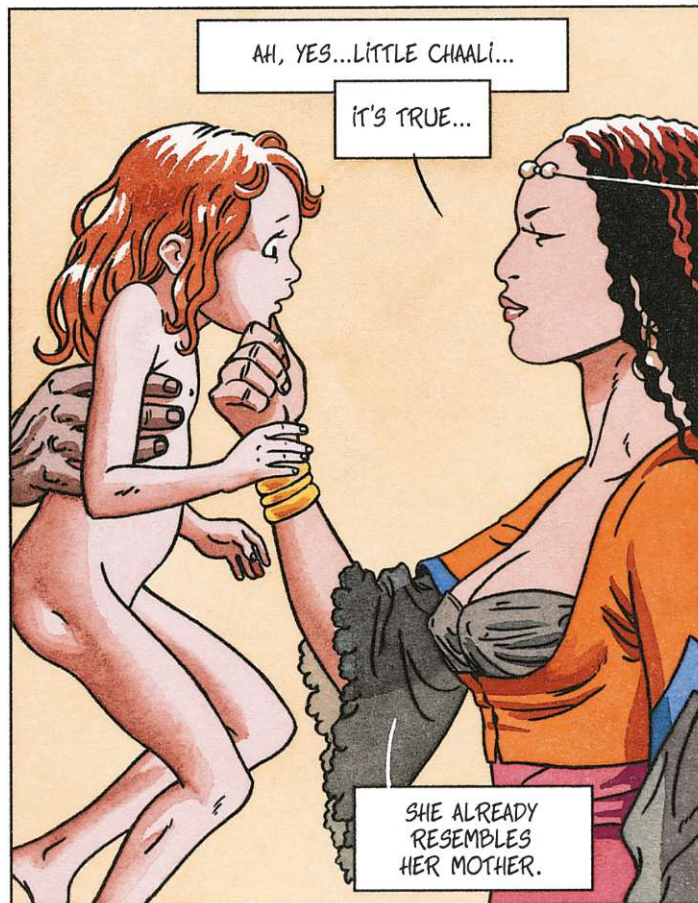
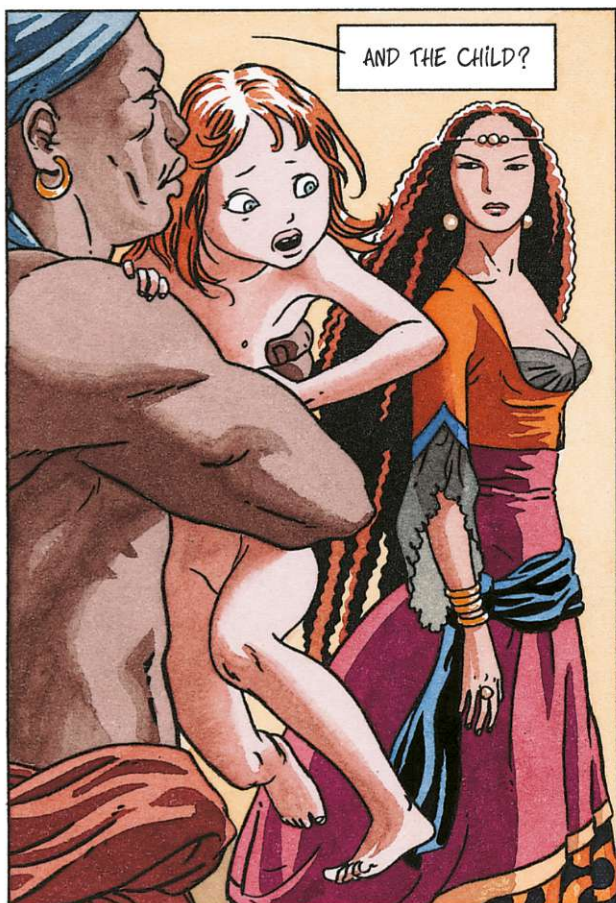


AND DJOUA? SHE IMAGINES THAT SHE STILL PLEASURES YOU!

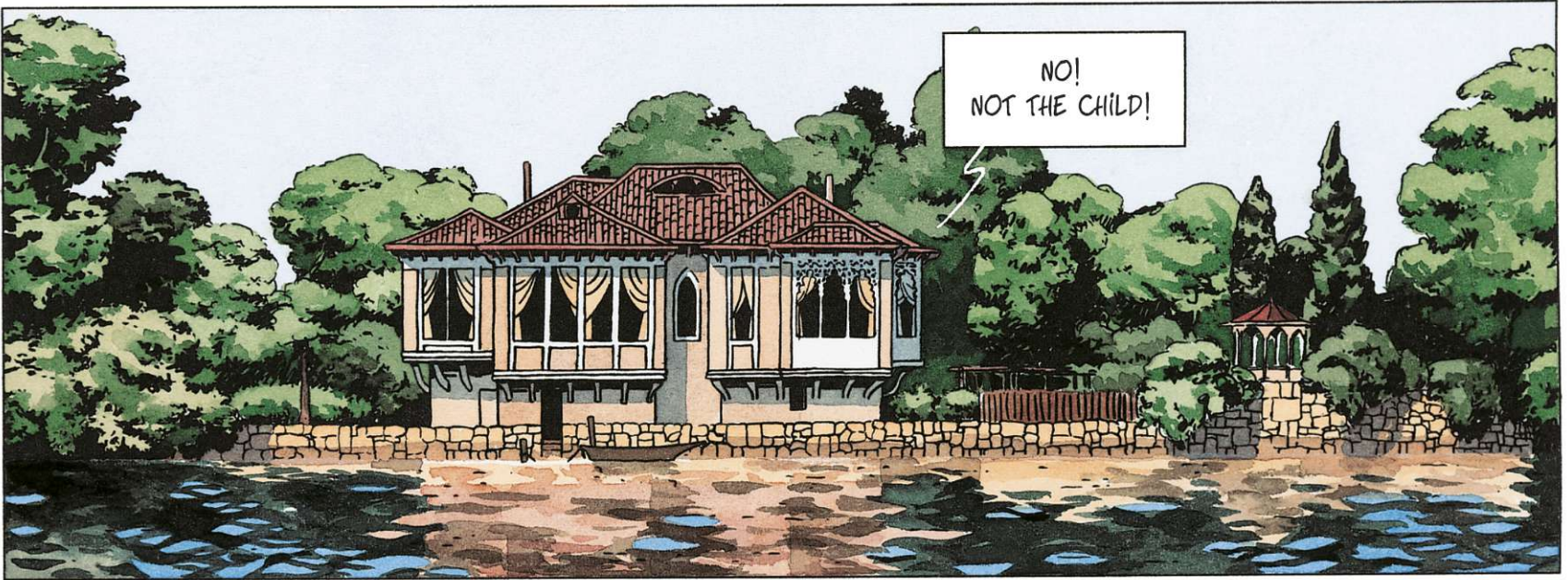








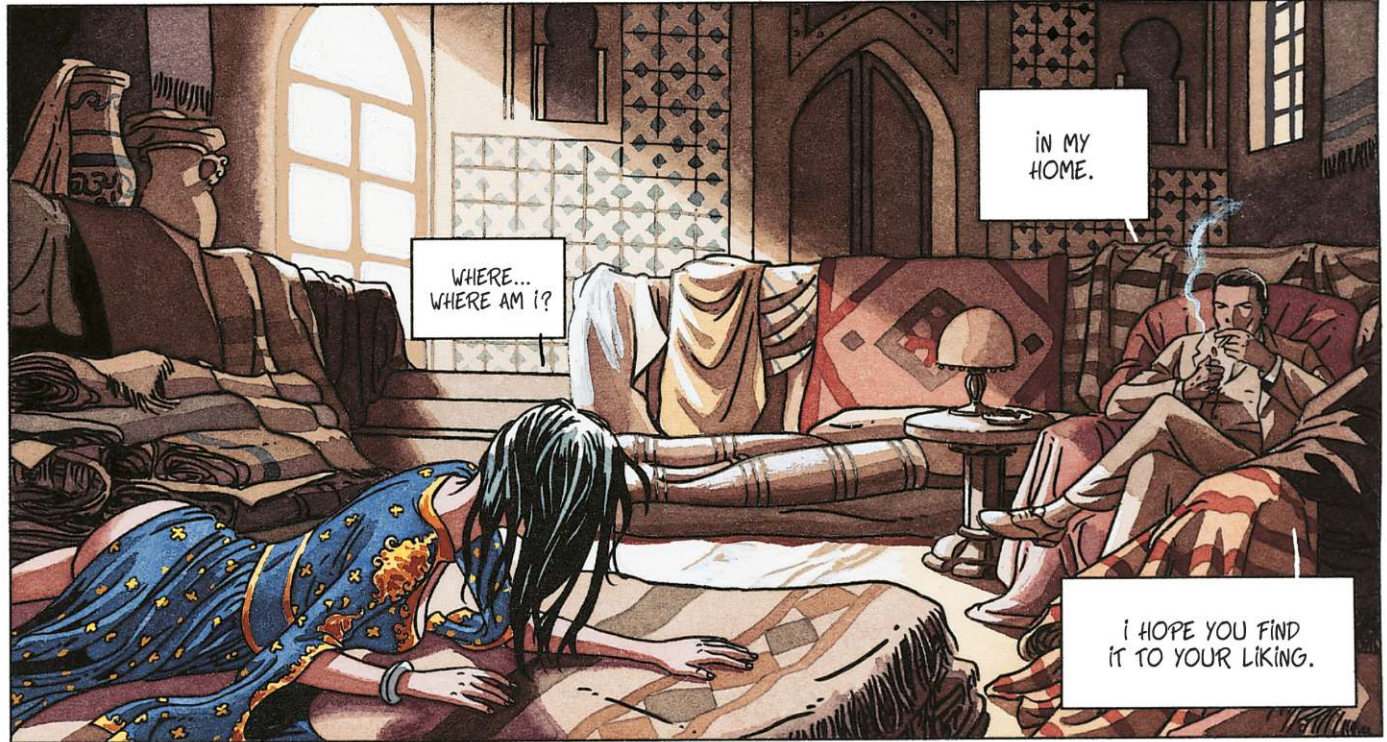




NO!  
NOT THE CHILD!



BAD DREAM?  
THE NARCOTIC,  
MOST LIKELY.



WHERE...  
WHERE AM I?!

IN MY  
HOME.

I HOPE YOU FIND  
IT TO YOUR LIKING.



MY NAME IS AMIN DOMAN.  
I'M INTERESTED IN MY COUNTRY'S  
PAST. IN PARTICULAR...

...THE COURT OF SULTAN MURATI.  
YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING  
WITH THIS?



MURATI? NO, NOT AT ALL...  
WAS IT YOU WHO  
HAD ME ABDUCTED?



I RECOGNIZE THAT MY...  
INVITATION LACKED A CERTAIN  
COURTESY. KEMAL PROVED  
CLUMSY, HEAVY-HANDED.  
I THINK HE HARBORED  
CERTAIN  
ILLUSIONS  
ABOUT YOU.

BUT PERHAPS WE COULD  
CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION  
OVER A FINE BREAKFAST?

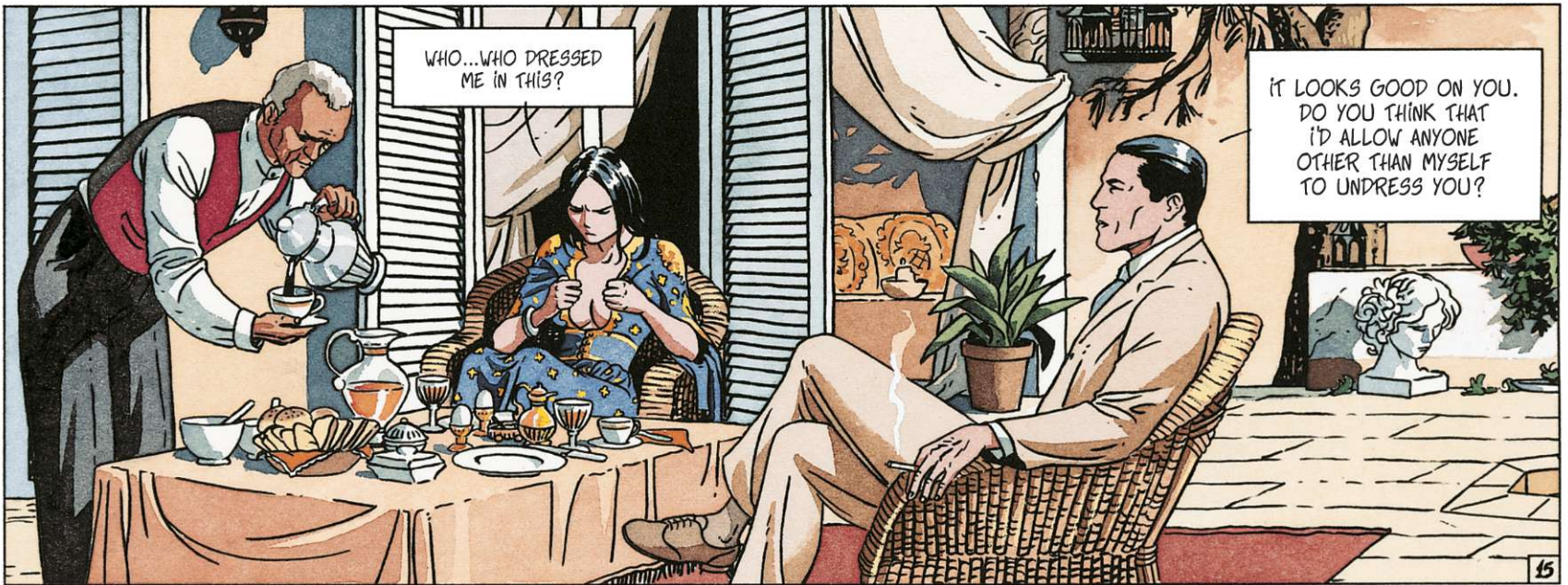


I'M SURE  
YOU'RE HUNGRY.

!!?

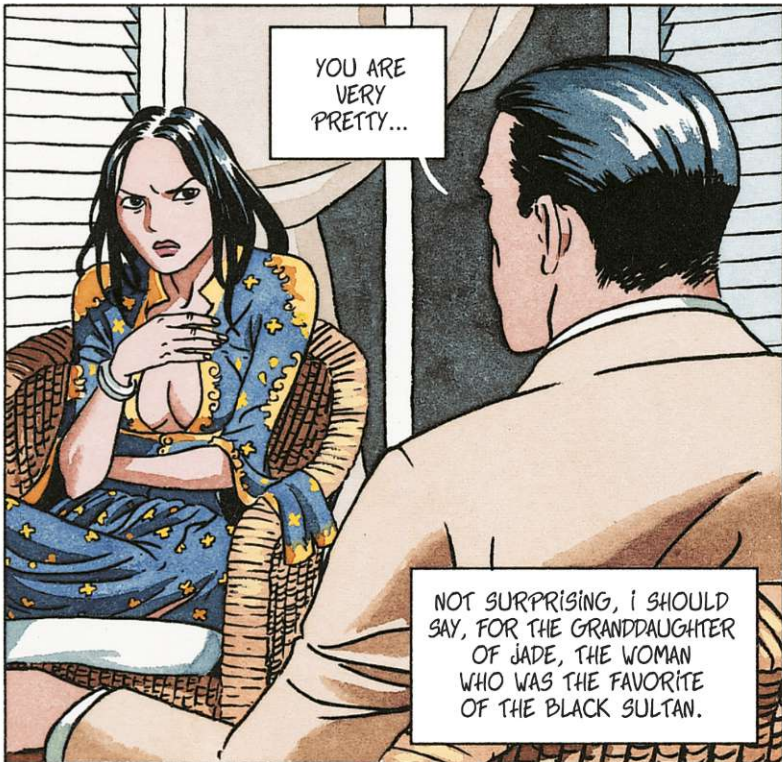
BUT...





WHO...WHO DRESSED ME IN THIS?

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU. DO YOU THINK THAT I'D ALLOW ANYONE OTHER THAN MYSELF TO UNDRESS YOU?

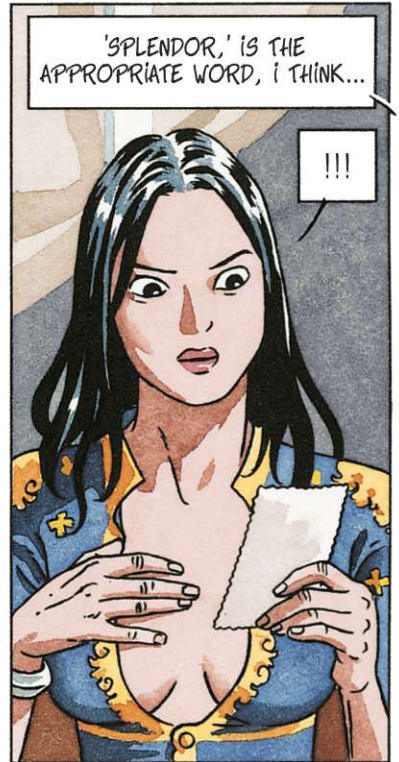


YOU ARE VERY PRETTY...

NOT SURPRISING, I SHOULD SAY, FOR THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF JADE, THE WOMAN WHO WAS THE FAVORITE OF THE BLACK SULTAN.

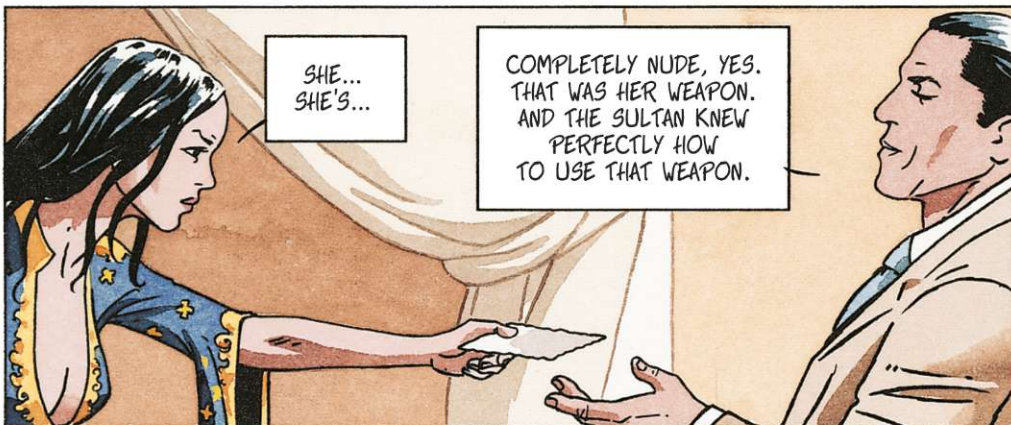


BY THE WAY, I HAVE A PHOTO OF HER IN ALL HER SPLENDOR, TAKEN AT THE TIME WHEN SHE WON THE HEART OF THE SULTAN... INTERESTED?



'SPLENDOR,' IS THE APPROPRIATE WORD, I THINK...

!!!



SHE... SHE'S...

COMPLETELY NUDE, YES. THAT WAS HER WEAPON. AND THE SULTAN KNEW PERFECTLY HOW TO USE THAT WEAPON.



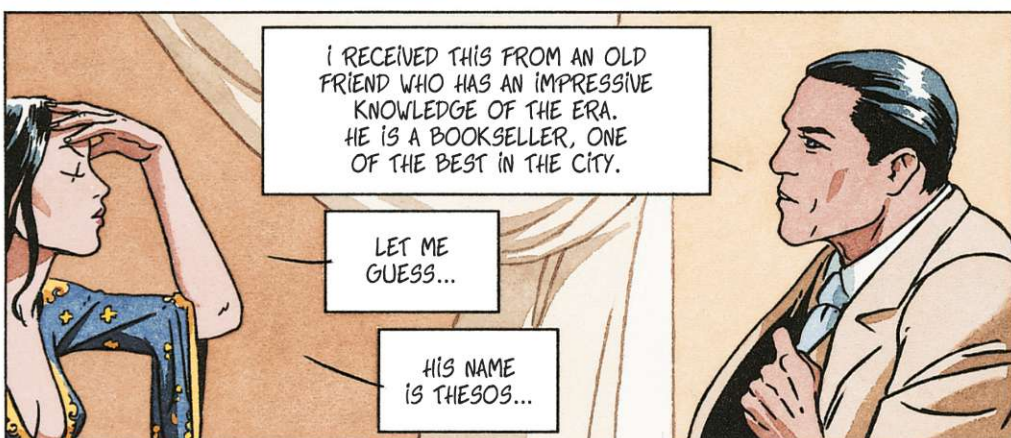
HMMM. PERCEPTIVE. PEOPLE HAVE WARNED ME THAT YOU ARE NOT STUPID.

DOES THAT DISCONCERT YOU? YOU ONLY LIKE WOMEN WITH NO BRAINS?



IF SO, YOU SHOULD GO FIND ONE. BUT THEY ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY RARE, IF YOU ASK ME.

MEN, ON THE OTHER HAND...

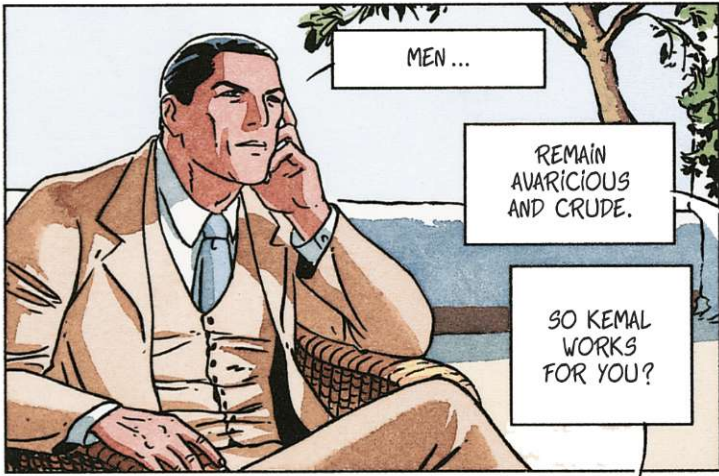


I RECEIVED THIS FROM AN OLD FRIEND WHO HAS AN IMPRESSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ERA. HE IS A BOOKSELLER, ONE OF THE BEST IN THE CITY.

LET ME GUESS...

HIS NAME IS THESOS...





MEN ...

REMAIN  
AVARICIOUS  
AND CRUDE.

SO KEMAL  
WORKS  
FOR YOU?



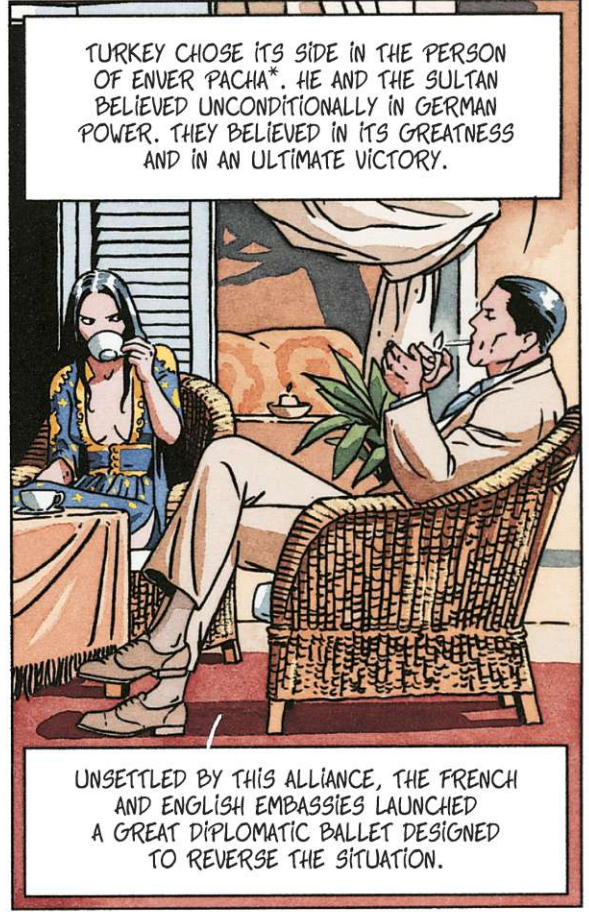
KEMAL KNOWS  
WHAT I'M  
LOOKING  
FOR.

OH, REALLY?  
AND WHAT  
IS THAT?



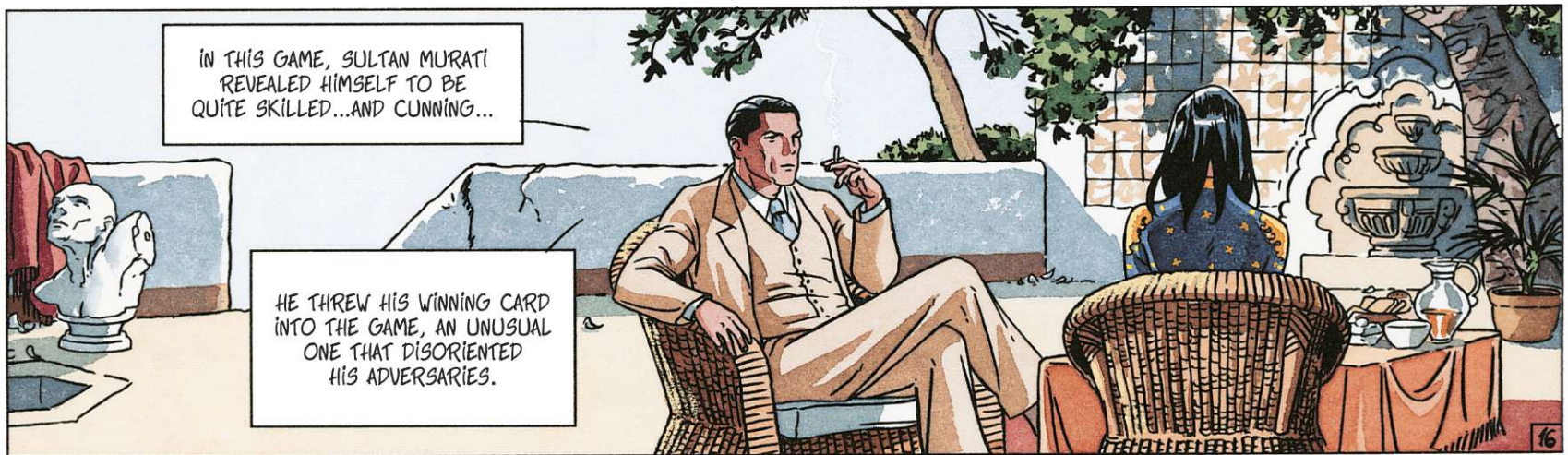
THE TREASURE AMASSED  
BY SULTAN MURATI,  
THE RICHES DESTINED  
TO ASSIST GERMANY  
SHORTLY BEFORE  
THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

YOU'RE INTERESTED  
IN OUR COUNTRY.  
SO YOU KNOW  
THE HISTORY.



TURKEY CHOSE ITS SIDE IN THE PERSON  
OF ENVER PACHA\*. HE AND THE SULTAN  
BELIEVED UNCONDITIONALLY IN GERMAN  
POWER. THEY BELIEVED IN ITS GREATNESS  
AND IN AN ULTIMATE VICTORY.

UNSETTLED BY THIS ALLIANCE, THE FRENCH  
AND ENGLISH EMBASSIES LAUNCHED  
A GREAT DIPLOMATIC BALLET DESIGNED  
TO REVERSE THE SITUATION.



IN THIS GAME, SULTAN MURATI  
REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE  
QUITE SKILLED...AND CUNNING...

HE THREW HIS WINNING CARD  
INTO THE GAME, AN UNUSUAL  
ONE THAT DISORIENTED  
HIS ADVERSARIES.

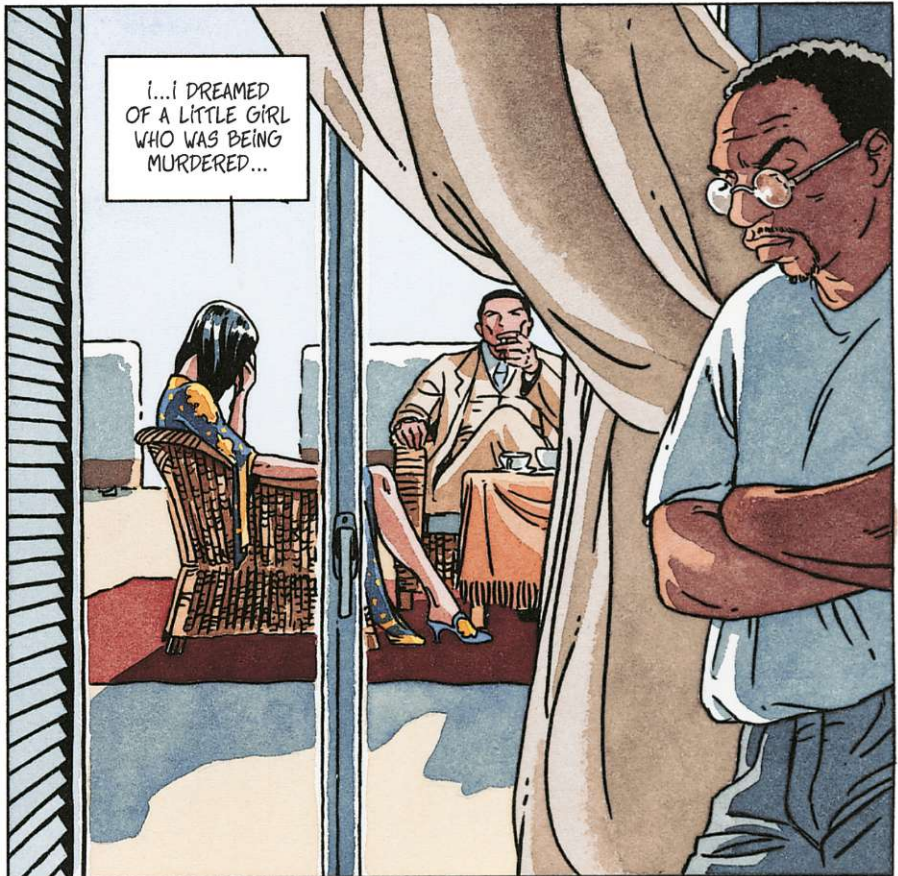


THAT CARD WAS YOUR GRANDMOTHER...  
THIS WOMAN WHO EXPOSED HER BODY,  
BUT NEVER HER TRUE FEELINGS.

SHE OFFERED HERSELF WITHOUT  
GIVING HERSELF. MANY PEOPLE  
CLAIMED THAT THE SPIRIT OF  
THE DJINN WAS WITHIN HER.



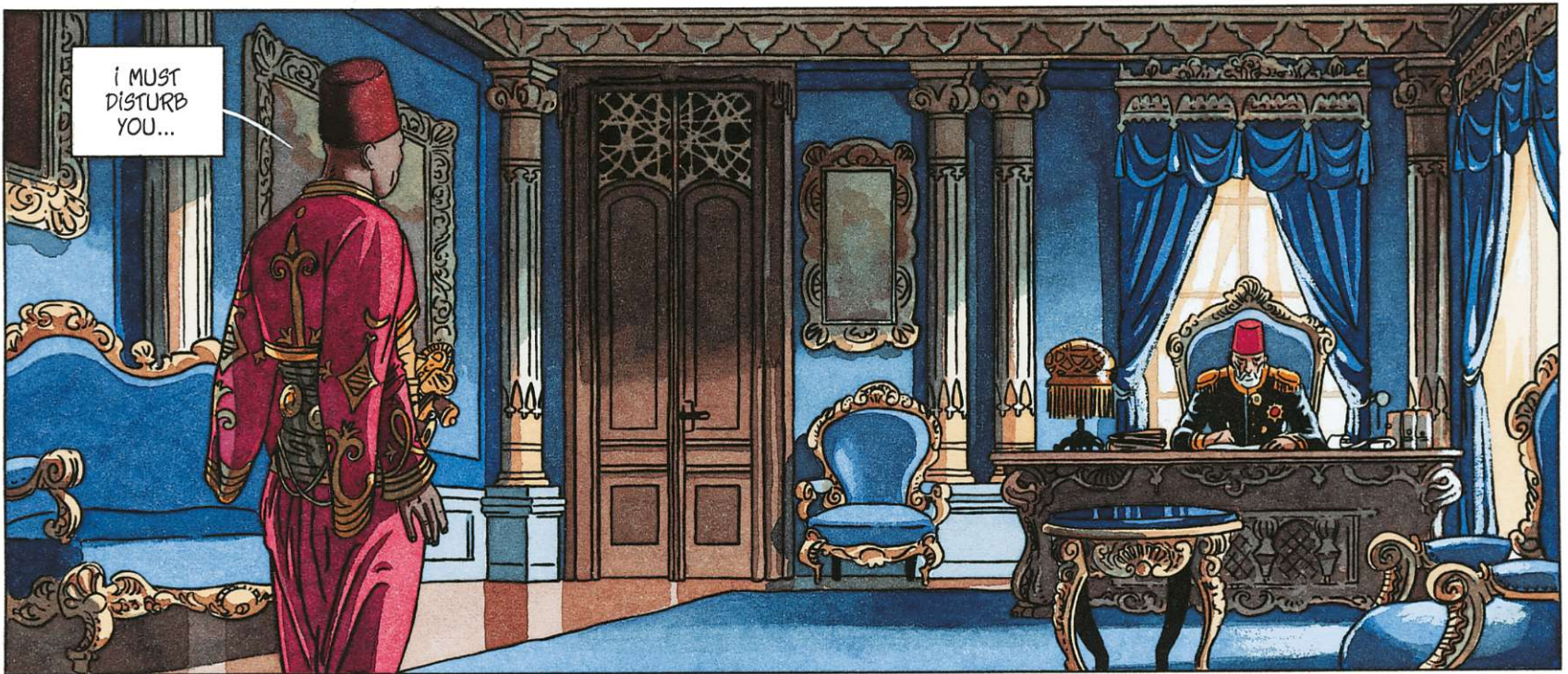
IS THAT SPIRIT  
BREATHING IN YOU TOO,  
MISS NELSON?



I...I DREAMED  
OF A LITTLE GIRL  
WHO WAS BEING  
MURDERED...

(\*) SEE PREFACE.





I MUST DISTURB YOU...



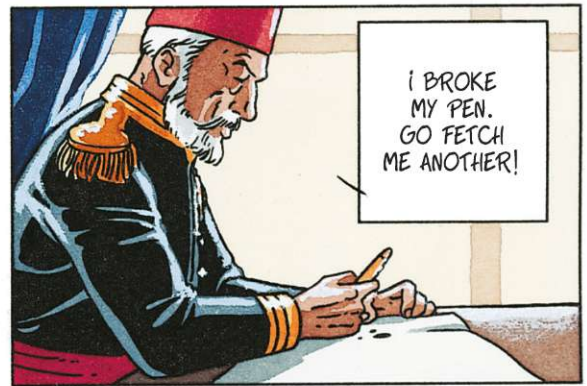
THEN IT MUST BE SERIOUS. I'M LISTENING.



IT'S JADE. IT SEEMS THAT KILLING HER RIVAL WASN'T ENOUGH. SHE KILLED THE CHILD, TOO.



LITTLE CHAALI...



I BROKE MY PEN. GO FETCH ME ANOTHER!

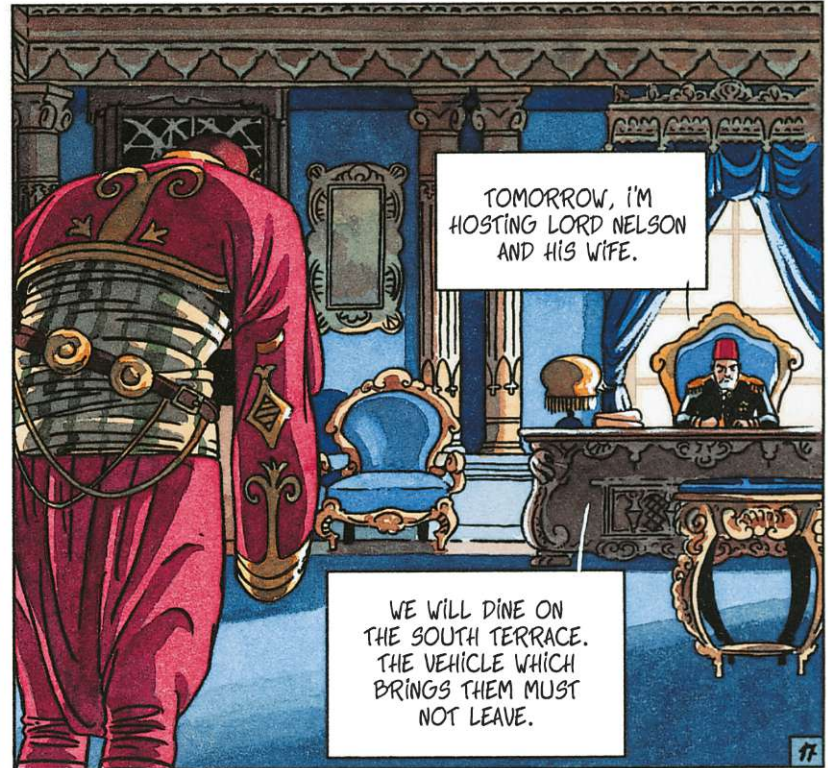


AND JADE? ANY PUNISHMENT?

NO PUNISHMENT.



YOUSSOUF?



TOMORROW, I'M HOSTING LORD NELSON AND HIS WIFE.

WE WILL DINE ON THE SOUTH TERRACE. THE VEHICLE WHICH BRINGS THEM MUST NOT LEAVE.





WHAT A SUPERB NIGHT.



I ALMOST FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN A STAGE SET. OUR HOST SEEMS TO HAVE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING TO MAKE THIS A PERFECT EVENING.

PERFECT?



THERE'S JUST ONE THING MISSING. THE PERFECT THING TO FINISH OFF A WONDERFUL MEAL: A MAGNIFICENT DESSERT. JADE'S SECRET RECIPE.

JADE?



MY FAVORITE. IF YOU WISH, SHE HERSELF CAN SERVE US HER WONDERFUL CREATION, BUT I MUST WARN LADY NELSON...

ME??



JADE'S PRESENCE MIGHT DISTURB YOU.

AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT, JADE HIDES NONE OF HER MYSTERIES.



GOOD HEAVENS. I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. DO YOU, HAROLD?

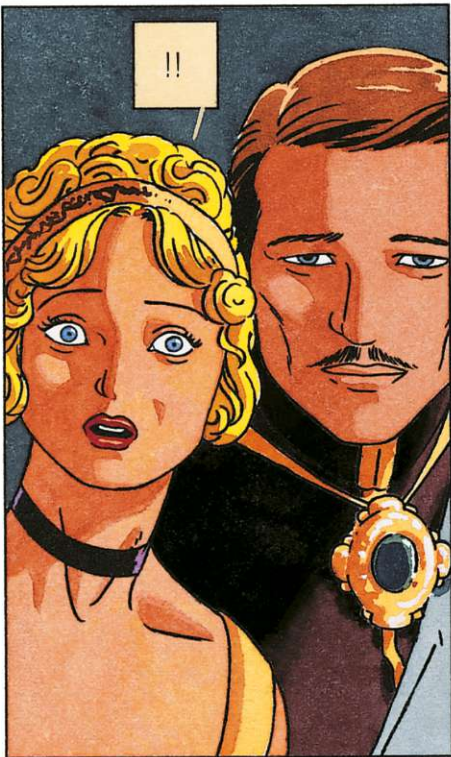
I'M WITH YOU, MY DEAR.



IN THAT CASE...

CLAP CLAP



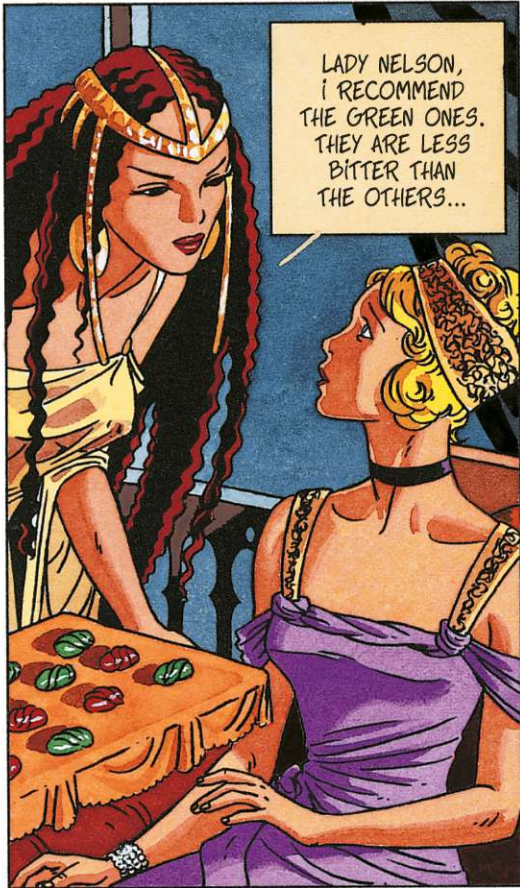


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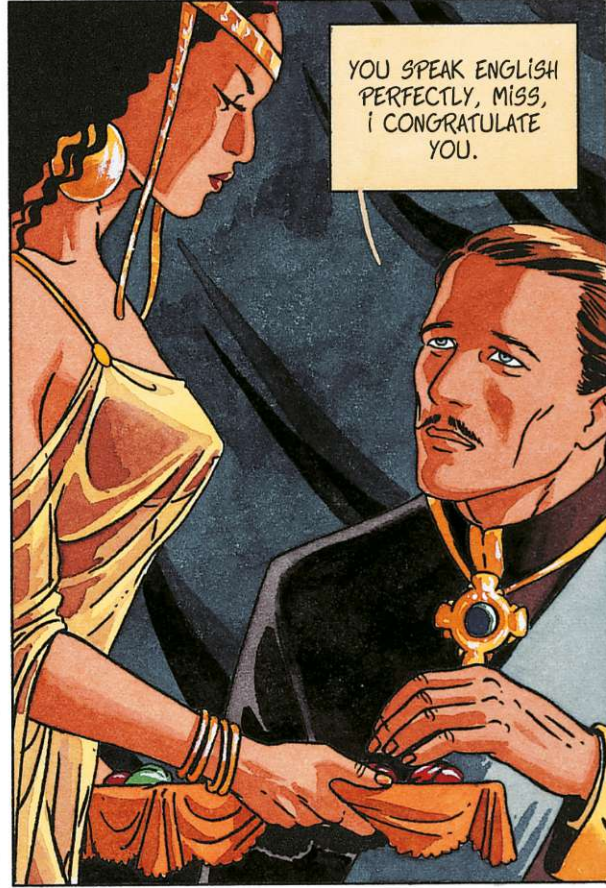


SHE... SHE IS...

ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT. I SHARE YOUR OPINION.



LADY NELSON, I RECOMMEND THE GREEN ONES. THEY ARE LESS BITTER THAN THE OTHERS...

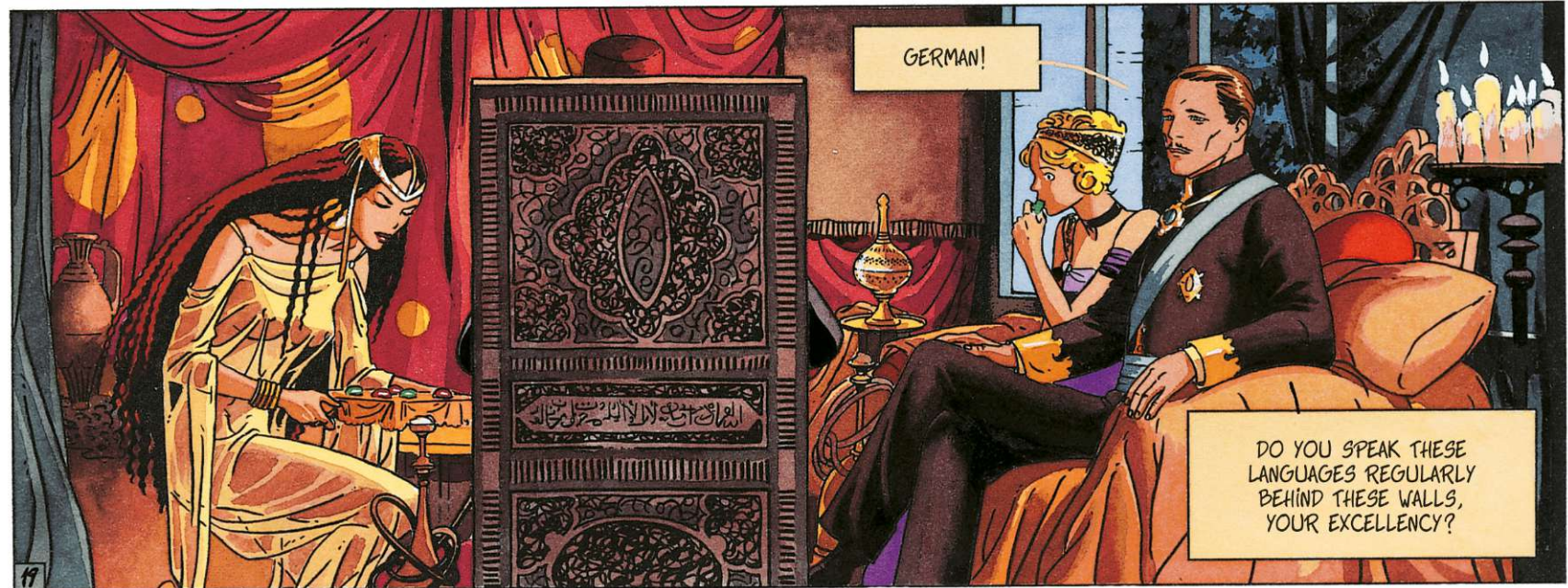


YOU SPEAK ENGLISH PERFECTLY, MISS, I CONGRATULATE YOU.



JADE SPEAKS SEVERAL LANGUAGES FLUENTLY.

ARABIC, ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN, FOR EXAMPLE, AS WELL AS GERMAN.



GERMAN!

DO YOU SPEAK THESE LANGUAGES REGULARLY BEHIND THESE WALLS, YOUR EXCELLENCY?



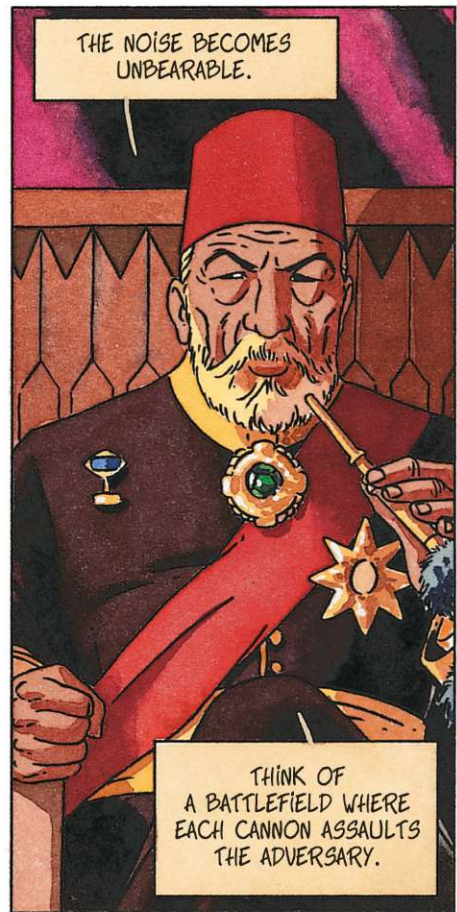


THESE WALLS ARE NEITHER BLIND NOR DEAF, LORD NELSON. THEY HEAR ALL THE RUMBLINGS FROM EUROPE...CERTAIN THINGS ARE HEARD BETTER THAN OTHERS.



BUT THERE ARE MANY DISCORDANT SOUNDS. ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER.

THINK OF AN ORCHESTRA WHERE EACH INSTRUMENT ASSAULTS YOUR EARS.



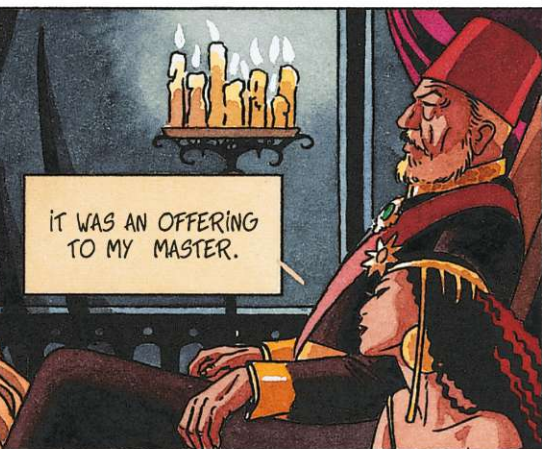
THE NOISE BECOMES UNBEARABLE.

THINK OF A BATTLEFIELD WHERE EACH CANNON ASSAULTS THE ADVERSARY.



THE DESSERT IS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA FOR THIS RECIPE?



IT WAS AN OFFERING TO MY MASTER.



A PASTRY OF ENHANCED FLAVOR OF WHICH THE PROPERTIES ARE NOT INSIGNIFICANT.

THE PROPERTIES?



YES. THE APHRODISIAC PROPERTIES. THEY OPEN A DOOR TO ALL YOUR DESIRES. MY MASTER DREAMS AND DESIRES MANY THINGS AT NIGHT.



AND YOU, LADY NELSON, DO YOU SOMETIMES ENJOY YOUR DREAMS?

OH! WELL... I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT...



EX... EXCUSE ME... I DON'T FEEL WELL.

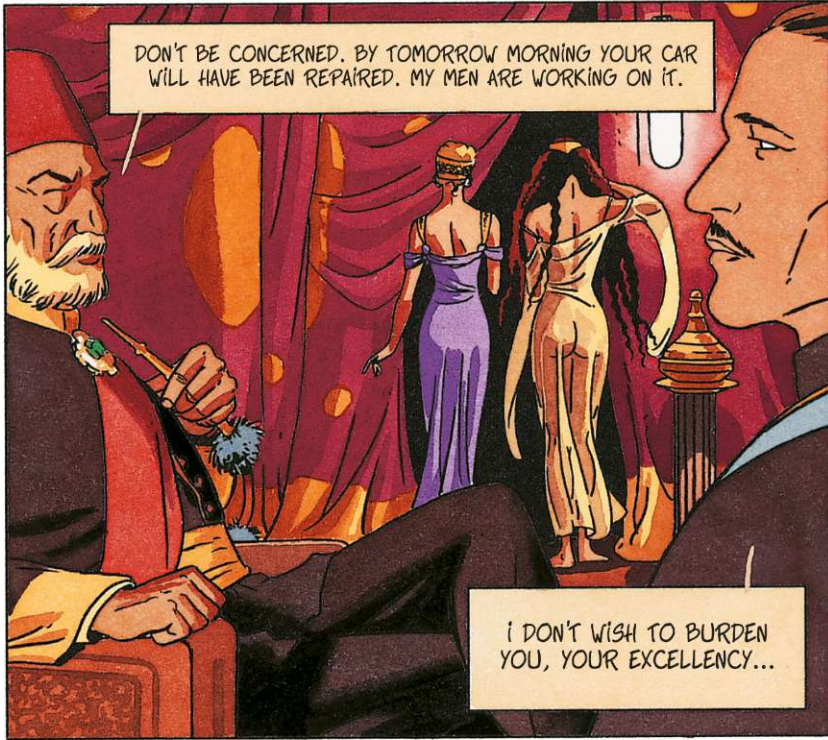


I SUDDENLY HAVE A TINGLING SENSATION... A SUDDEN FLUSH...



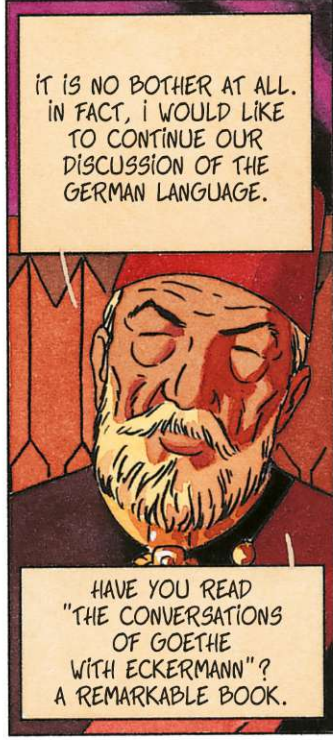


JADE,  
OUR GUESTS WILL  
SLEEP HERE TONIGHT.  
SHOW LADY NELSON  
THE WAY TO HER ROOM.  
SHE SHOULD REST.



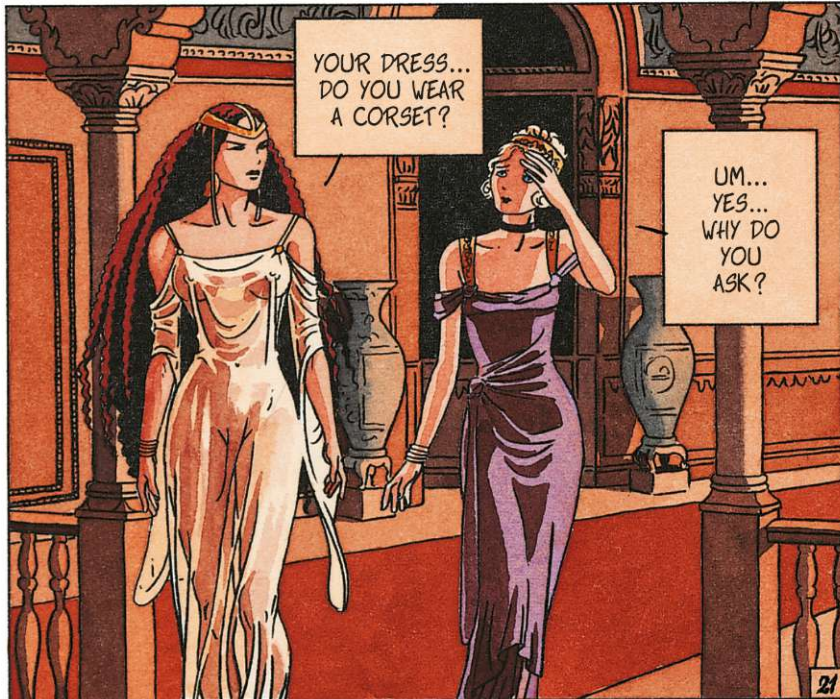
DON'T BE CONCERNED. BY TOMORROW MORNING YOUR CAR  
WILL HAVE BEEN REPAIRED. MY MEN ARE WORKING ON IT.

I DON'T WISH TO BURDEN  
YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY...



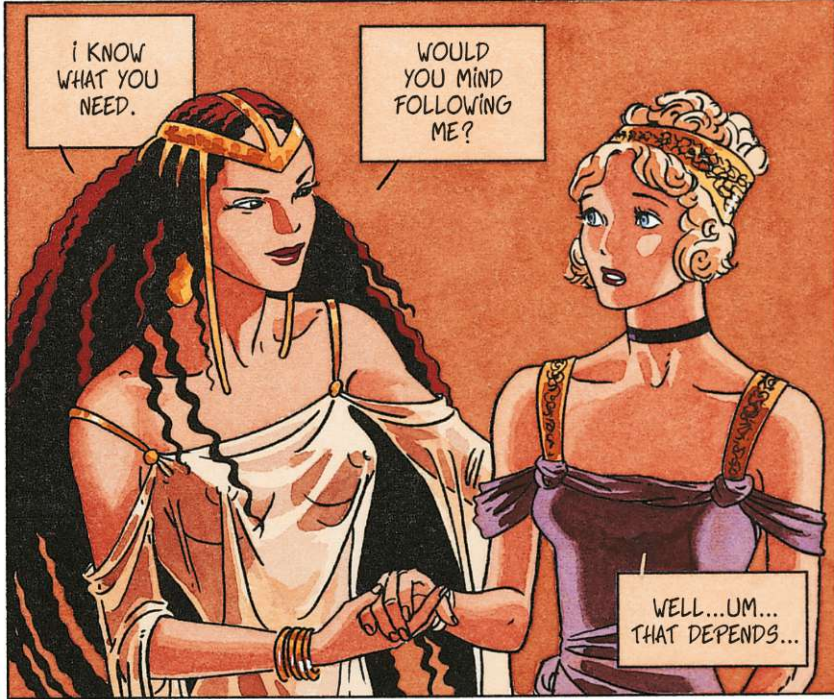
IT IS NO BOTHER AT ALL.  
IN FACT, I WOULD LIKE  
TO CONTINUE OUR  
DISCUSSION OF THE  
GERMAN LANGUAGE.

HAVE YOU READ  
"THE CONVERSATIONS  
OF GOETHE  
WITH ECKERMANN"?  
A REMARKABLE BOOK.



YOUR DRESS...  
DO YOU WEAR  
A CORSET?

UM...  
YES...  
WHY DO  
YOU  
ASK?



I KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
NEED.

WOULD  
YOU MIND  
FOLLOWING  
ME?

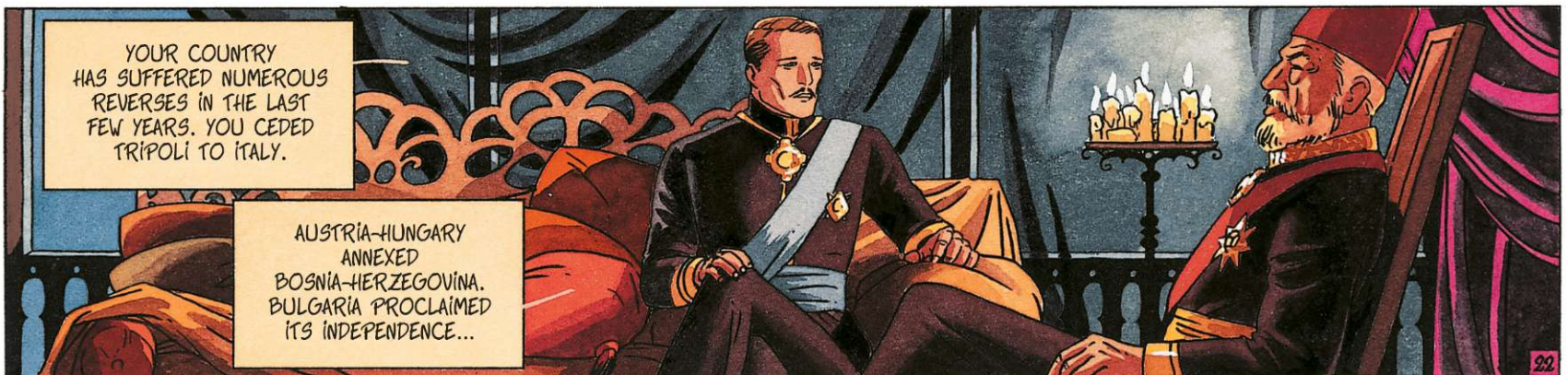
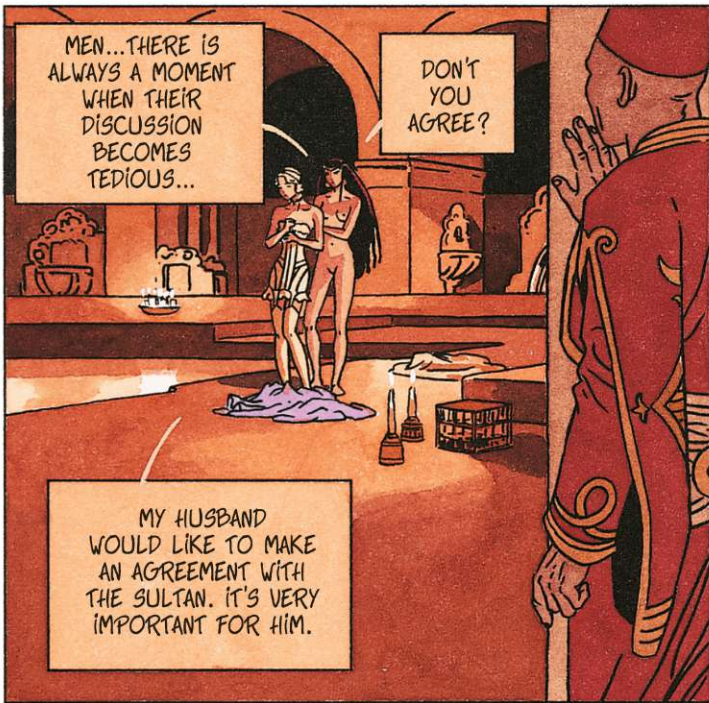
WELL...UM...  
THAT DEPENDS...



WE'RE GOING TO TAKE  
A BATH. YOU'RE GOING  
TO REMOVE ALL YOUR  
CLOTHES. THEY ARE  
SUFFOCATING YOU.

!!??



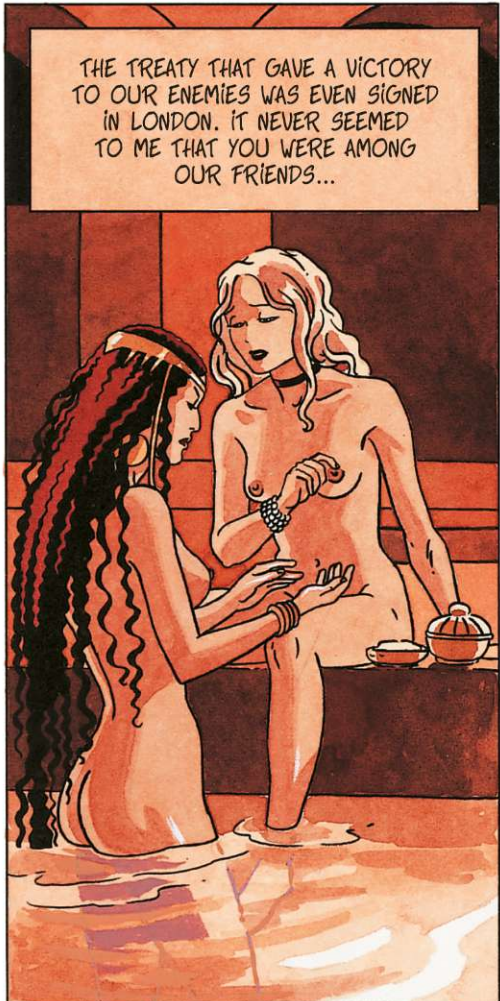






...AND HAS ALLIED HERSELF WITH SERBIA, MONTENEGRO AND GREECE TO STILL FURTHER WEAKEN TURKEY IN EUROPE. I KNOW ALL THIS...

DOUBTLESSLY I NEED TO THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME OF ALL THE HUMILIATIONS SUFFERED BY MY PEOPLE...



THE TREATY THAT GAVE A VICTORY TO OUR ENEMIES WAS EVEN SIGNED IN LONDON. IT NEVER SEEMED TO ME THAT YOU WERE AMONG OUR FRIENDS...



I...I THINK I AM GOING TO FAINT...



POOR LITTLE DOVE...NO...

YOU'LL REMAIN CONSCIOUS....



AAAAAAH!

...UNTIL THE END...UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU BEG ME TO STOP.



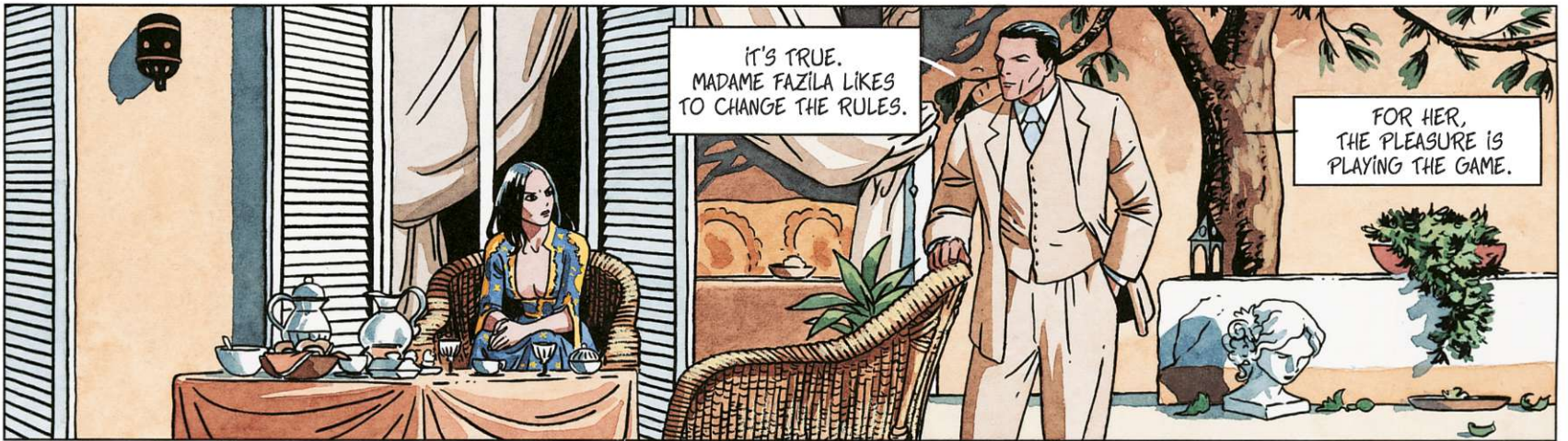
NO. THE ONLY NATION THAT SUPPORTED US WAS GERMANY. EVEN IN BISMARCK'S TIME BERLIN DEALT VERY CAREFULLY WITH THE NEAR EAST.

AND BERLIN NEVER ALLIED ITSELF WITH THE NUMEROUS PREDATORS THAT SWOOPED DOWN ON MY COUNTRY.



IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU HAVE ONLY EVER BEEN HANDLED BY MEN. THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT. ONLY A WOMAN CAN TRULY SATISFY ANOTHER WOMAN.



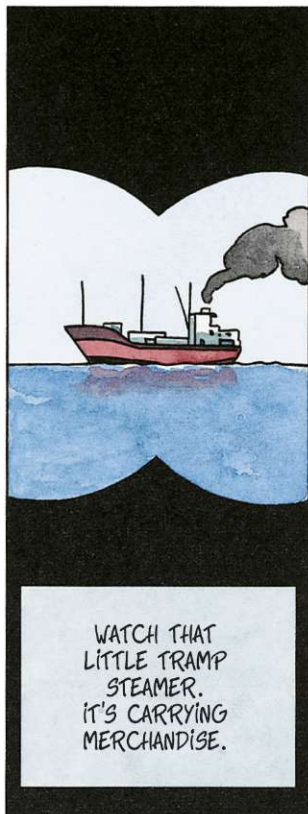


IT'S TRUE.  
MADAME FAZILA LIKES  
TO CHANGE THE RULES.

FOR HER,  
THE PLEASURE IS  
PLAYING THE GAME.



COME HERE.  
I WANT TO SHOW  
YOU SOMETHING.



WATCH THAT  
LITTLE TRAMP  
STEAMER.  
IT'S CARRYING  
MERCANDISE.



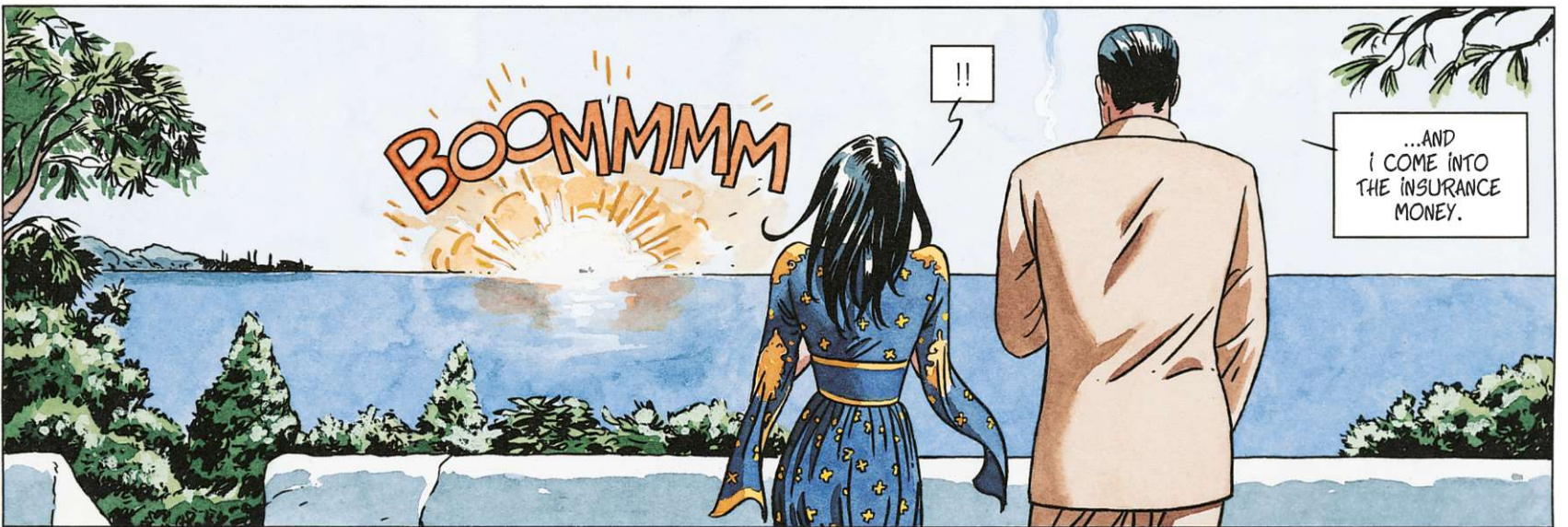
IT'S MY VESSEL.  
IT IS WELL INSURED.

SO WHAT?



....  
WHAT ?

A FEW  
SECONDS  
TO GO...



**BOOMMMM**

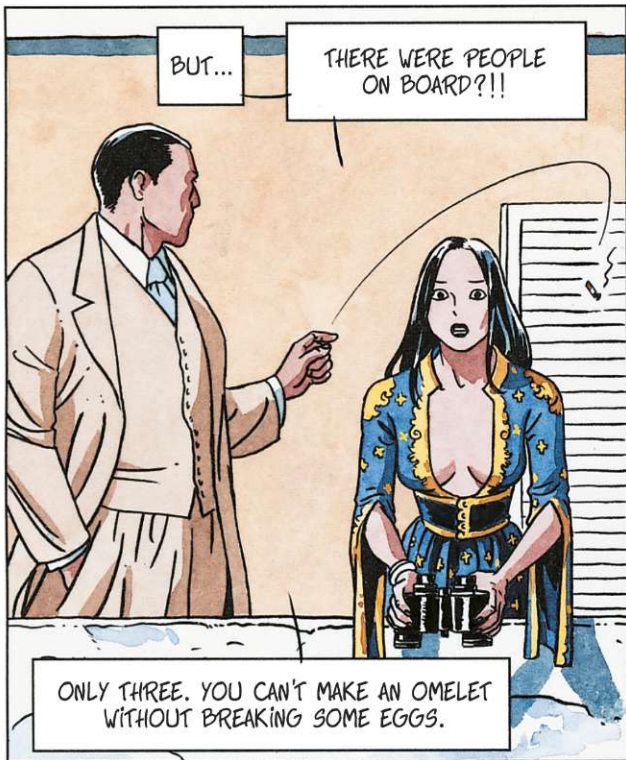
!!

...AND  
I COME INTO  
THE INSURANCE  
MONEY.



I ASSURE YOU.  
WE REMAIN HIGHLY  
PROFESSIONAL.  
THE EXPLOSION  
WILL BE BLAMED  
ON A TECHNICAL  
PROBLEM COVERED  
BY THE INSURANCE.









MURATI HAS PUT TOGETHER A WAR TREASURE THAT IS DESTINED FOR THE GERMANS.



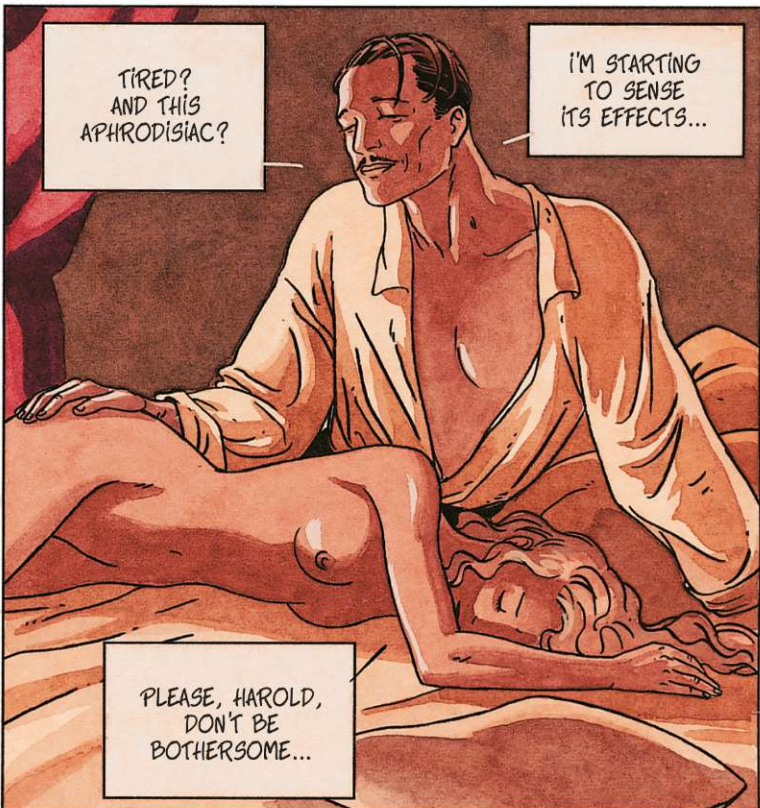
OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE CERTAIN OF IT. AND IT'S NOT AS IF OUR HOST IS DECEIVING US. HE HAS FIRMLY CHOSEN HIS SIDE.

IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DISSUADE HIM...



...ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

I'M TIRED. LET'S TALK ABOUT ALL THIS TOMORROW.



TIRED? AND THIS APHRODISIAC?

I'M STARTING TO SENSE ITS EFFECTS...

PLEASE, HAROLD, DON'T BE BOTHERSOME...



SHE IS EASY.



SHE WILL LEAD ME TO HER HUSBAND, AS YOU WISH.

GOOD. TELL ME, WHAT DID YOU SENSE?



NO-THING.

SHE IS NOT GIFTED AT LOVE.

THE SHEETS OF THEIR BED OFTEN REMAIN COOL AT NIGHT.



UNLIKE WITH YOU, JADE...

UNLIKE WITH YOU, MASTER...





JADE KNEW ALL THE SECRETS OF THE SULTAN. BUT SHE LEFT NOTHING BEHIND, NOT EVEN A SCRAP OF PAPER.

ALL THAT WE KNOW IS THAT SHE BETRAYED THE SULTAN TO FOLLOW AN ENGLISH DIPLOMAT, HAROLD NELSON, YOUR GRANDFATHER.



LORD NELSON DIED IN LONDON. THE TREASURE OF THE SULTAN NEVER REACHED THE GERMANS. AND WE LOSE ALL TRACE OF JADE ON HER ARRIVAL IN EUROPE.

SO WHAT HAPPENED? I'VE STRUGGLED WITH THIS PUZZLE FOR YEARS... AND NOW YOU SHOW UP...



INNOCENT IN APPEARANCE, BUT ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS...ABOUT THE RIGHT PERSON. THE PROOF IS IN THIS NOTEBOOK WE FOUND IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM.

?!!



WHAT? YOU...HOW DARE YOU!

AHHHHH!



BITCH!!

SMACK!



MY EYES!

(...I CAN'T SEE!

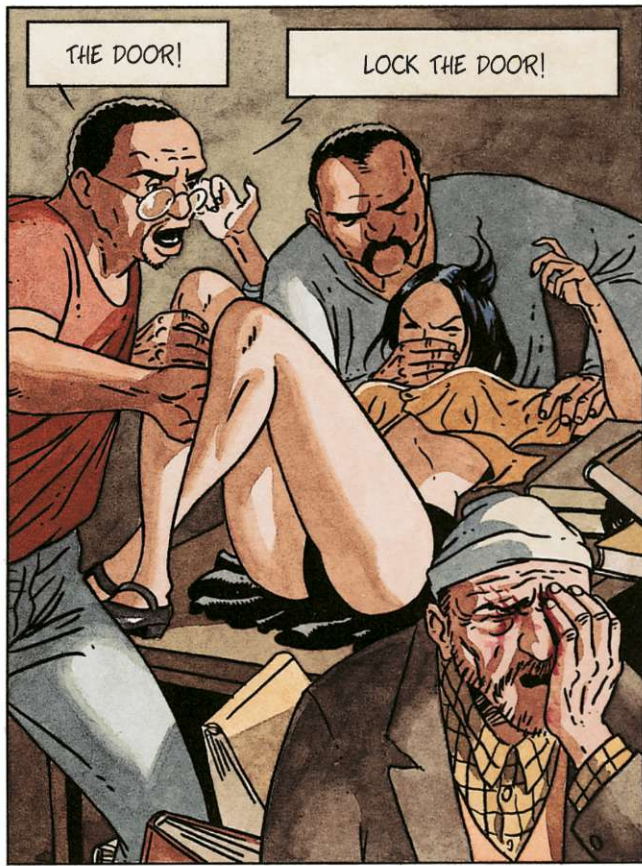




I'D SAY YOU STILL DON'T GET IT! AND THIS TIME...



HOLD HER!



THE DOOR!

LOCK THE DOOR!



WAIT FOR ME!

I WANT TO ENJOY THIS, TOO...



ENJOY WHAT?

A GOOD READ ?

??



CRACK



MALEK!!

!!



THERE'S A PROBLEM.

WHAT?!









YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE...



OH, REAL--



LOOK OUT!



HELP ME!

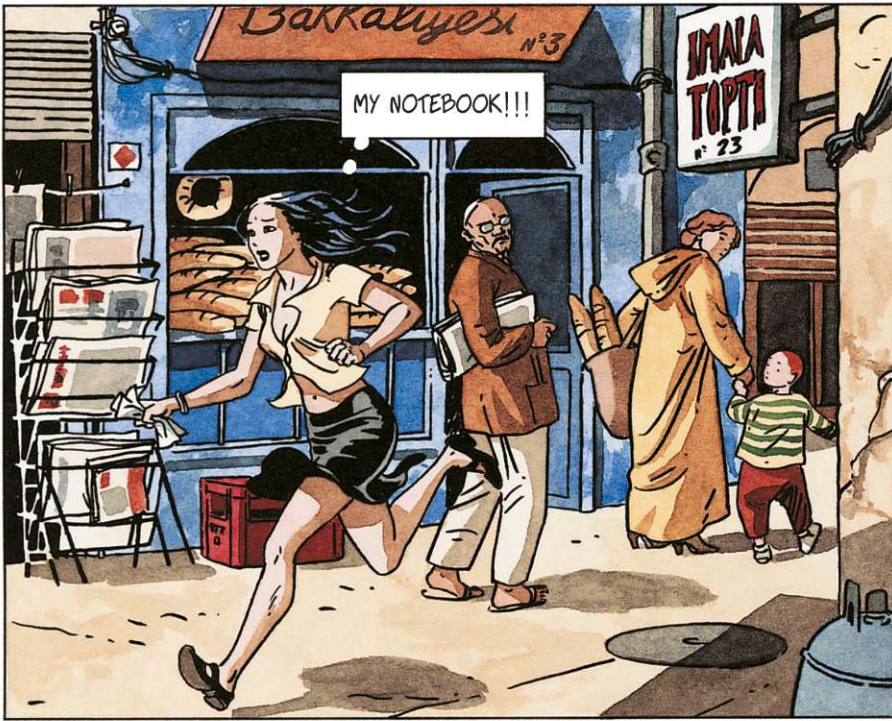


RUN! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!



SAVED!









PUT THIS BLINDFOLD OVER YOUR EYES...

...AND DON'T ARGUE!



WHERE.... WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

BE PATIENT.

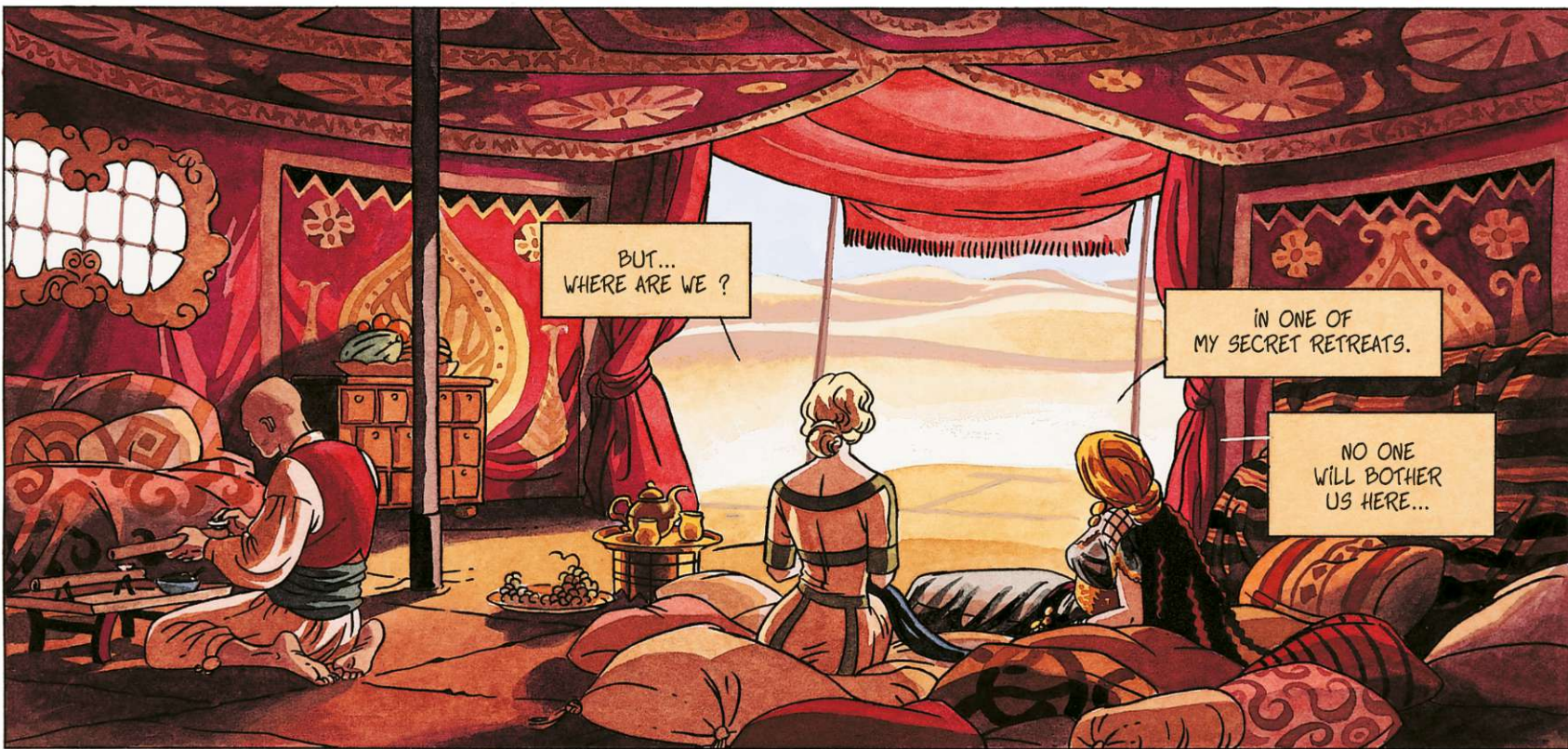


THERE!

YOU CAN LIFT THE BLINDFOLD!



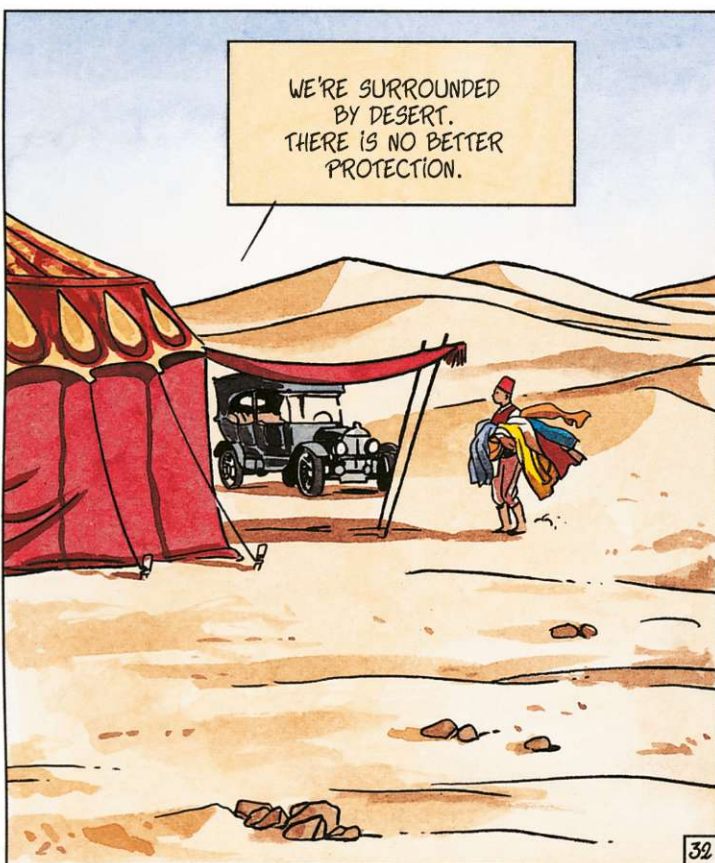
OH!



BUT... WHERE ARE WE ?

IN ONE OF MY SECRET RETREATS.

NO ONE WILL BOTHER US HERE...



WE'RE SURROUNDED BY DESERT. THERE IS NO BETTER PROTECTION.



ARE YOU AFRAID I WILL ESCAPE?

IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR THAT. PUT THESE CLOTHES ON... THIS IS WHAT A WOMAN WEARS IN THE COURT OF THE SULTAN IF ONE WISHES TO PLEASE HIM.





BUT IT'S YOU WHOM I WISH TO PLEASE.

THOSE WHO PLEASE ME PLEASE MY MASTER. NEVER FORGET THAT.



THESE...THESE CLOTHES ARE STUNNING... BUT A LITTLE DARING, DON'T YOU THINK?

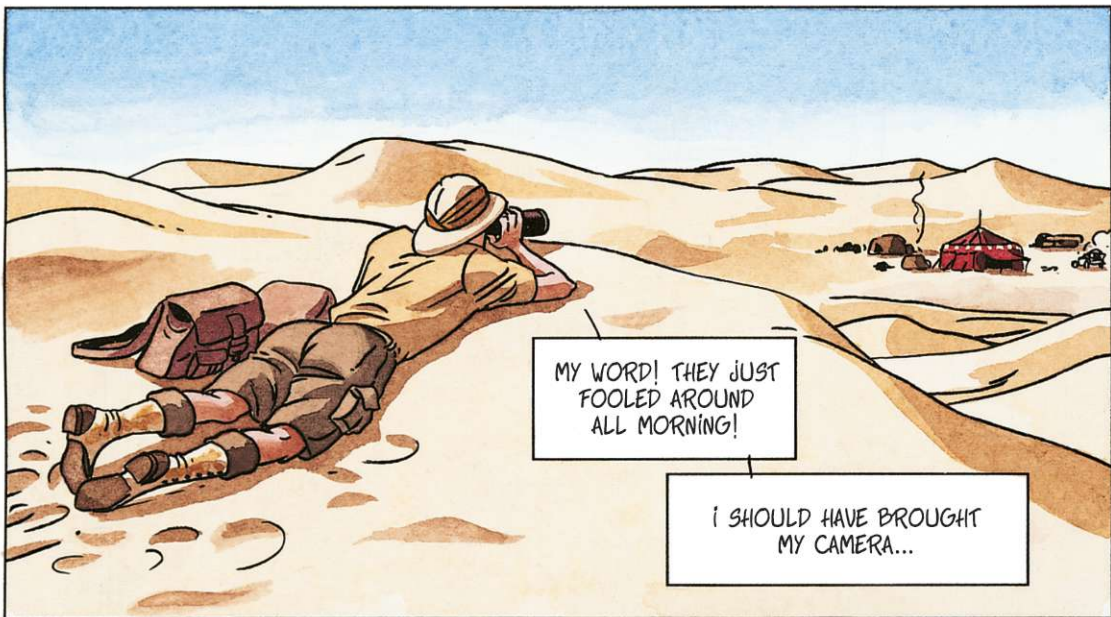


IT'S WHAT I WEAR. AND YOU FIND ME BEAUTIFUL, DON'T YOU?



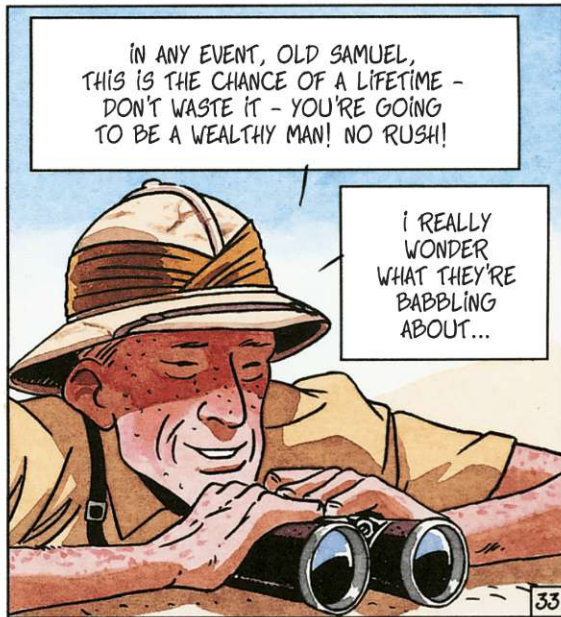
THAT'S TRUE.

WHY DENY IT?



MY WORD! THEY JUST FOOLED AROUND ALL MORNING!

I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MY CAMERA...



IN ANY EVENT, OLD SAMUEL, THIS IS THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME - DON'T WASTE IT - YOU'RE GOING TO BE A WEALTHY MAN! NO RUSH!

I REALLY WONDER WHAT THEY'RE BABBLING ABOUT...



I...I SEE THE CHAMBER WHERE YOU SEDUCED ME...YOU ARE ALONE... NUDE...AND THERE ARE COBRAS! DOZENS OF COBRAS SURROUNDING YOU...





YOU STAND UP...

SUDDEN DEATH IS AT YOUR FEET.  
YOU APPROACH THE BATHS...



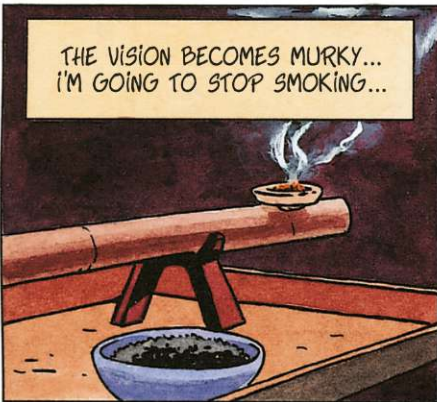
YOU STOP...THE WATER  
TRANSFORMS INTO BLOOD...  
A VAST RED STAIN THAT  
YOU AVOID...



YOU TURN YOUR HEAD... SOMEWHERE  
IN THE PALACE...

A CHILD IS  
CRYING...

A LITTLE  
GIRL...

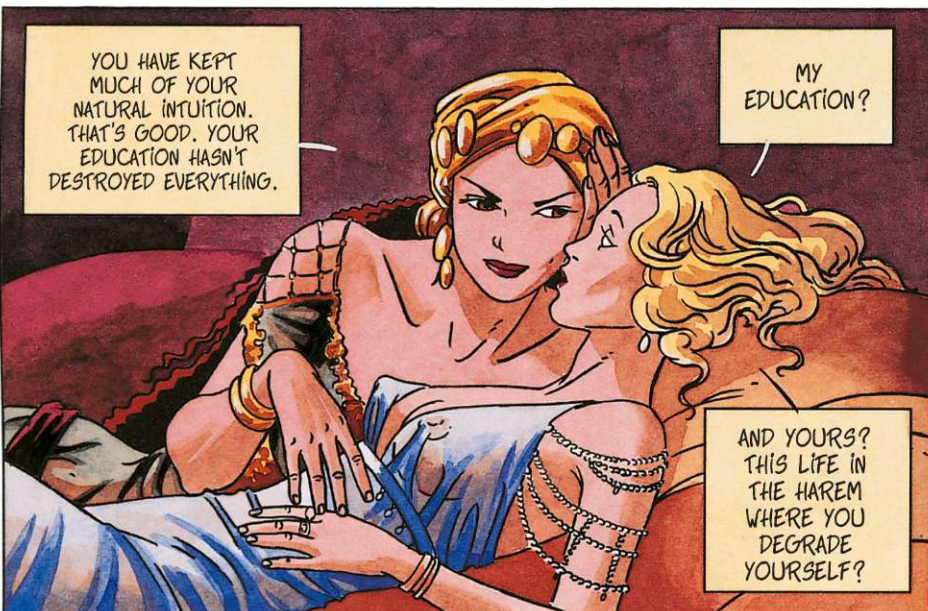


THE VISION BECOMES MURKY...  
I'M GOING TO STOP SMOKING...



A LITTLE GIRL...

34



YOU HAVE KEPT  
MUCH OF YOUR  
NATURAL INTUITION.  
THAT'S GOOD. YOUR  
EDUCATION HASN'T  
DESTROYED EVERYTHING.

MY  
EDUCATION?

AND YOURS?  
THIS LIFE IN  
THE HAREM  
WHERE YOU  
DEGRADE  
YOURSELF?



YOU'VE UNDER-  
STOOD NOTHING!  
THE HAREM IS NOT  
A DEGRADATION -  
IT'S AN HONOR.





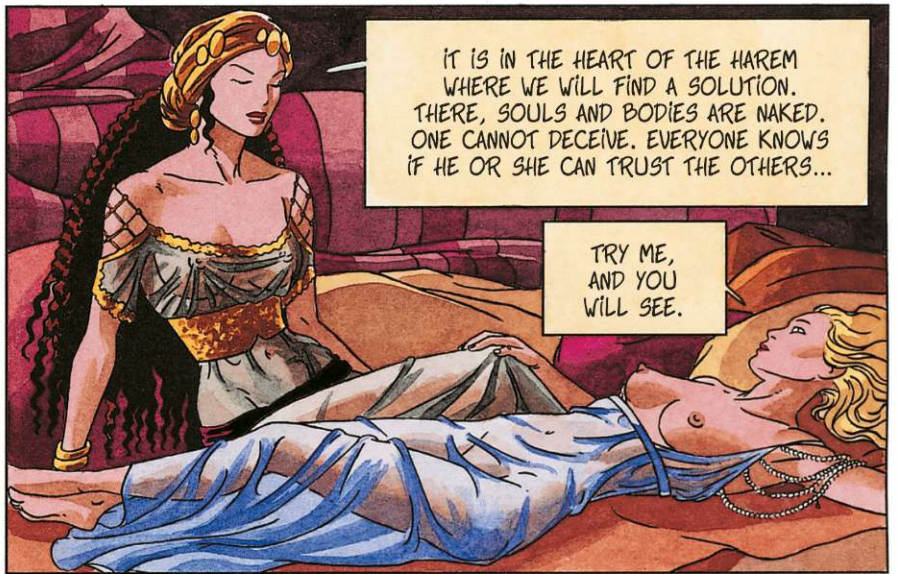
SATISFY A MAN AND YOU WILL OBTAIN THE TREASURES OF THE WORLD FROM HIM.

ALL THE TREASURES? EVEN THOSE OF THE WAR...



THEY SPOKE TO YOU ABOUT THAT... MY MASTER THE SULTAN IS VERY WEALTHY...

BUT HE'S MAKING THE WRONG CHOICE PROVIDING AID TO THE GERMANS. WE ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES, JADE.

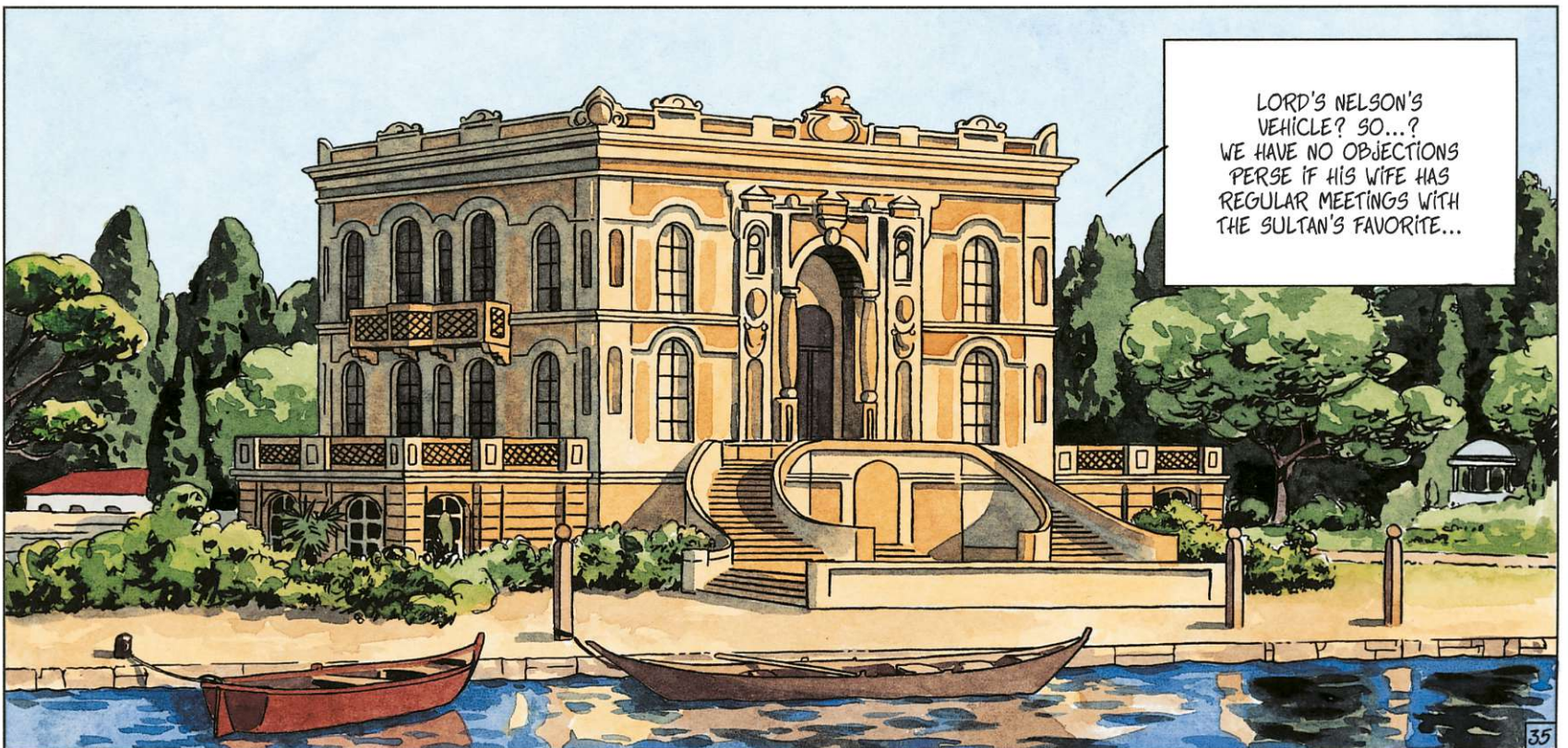


IT IS IN THE HEART OF THE HAREM WHERE WE WILL FIND A SOLUTION. THERE, SOULS AND BODIES ARE NAKED. ONE CANNOT DECEIVE. EVERYONE KNOWS IF HE OR SHE CAN TRUST THE OTHERS...

TRY ME, AND YOU WILL SEE.

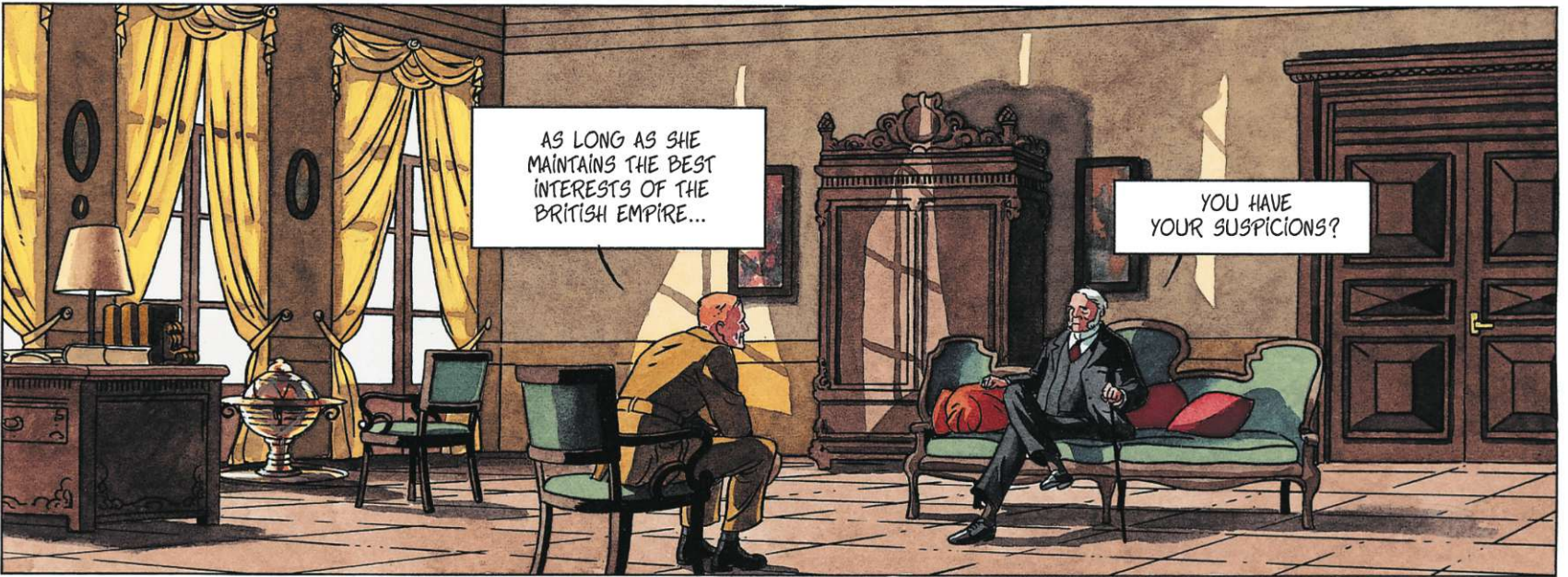


I WILL TEACH YOU.



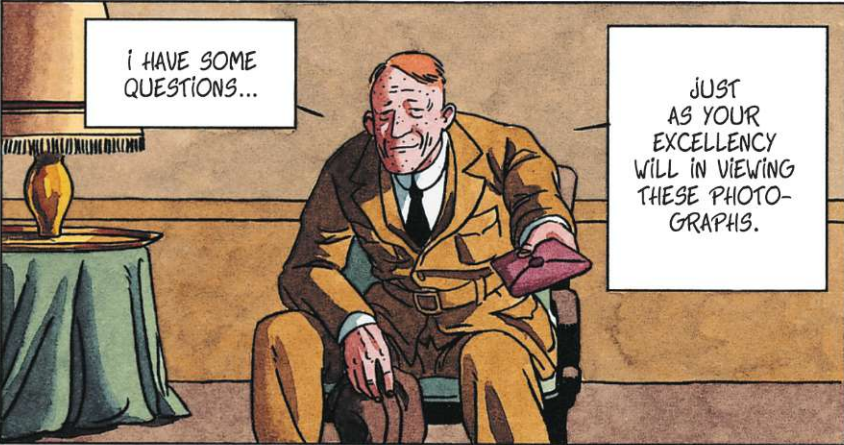
LORD'S NELSON'S VEHICLE? SO...? WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS PERSE IF HIS WIFE HAS REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE SULTAN'S FAVORITE...





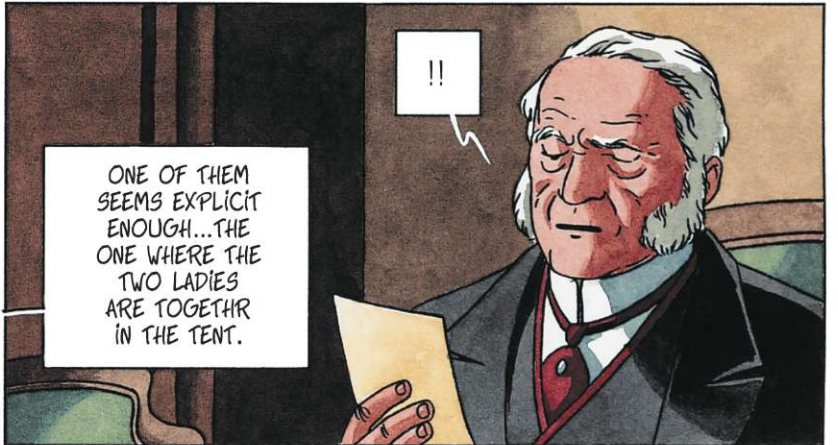
AS LONG AS SHE MAINTAINS THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE...

YOU HAVE YOUR SUSPICIONS?



I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS...

JUST AS YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL IN VIEWING THESE PHOTOGRAPHS.



!!

ONE OF THEM SEEMS EXPLICIT ENOUGH...THE ONE WHERE THE TWO LADIES ARE TOGETHER IN THE TENT.

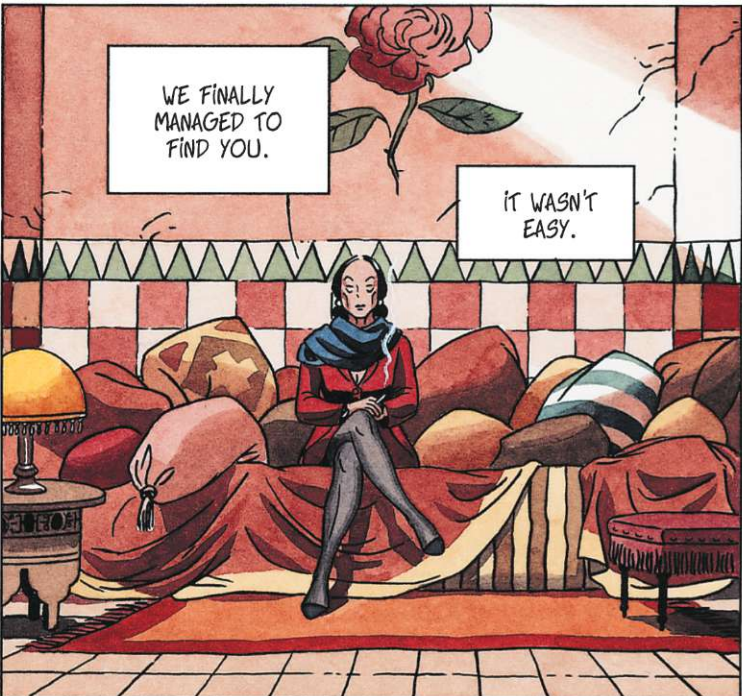


NOW...

YOU CAN REMOVE YOUR BLINDFOLD...



OH!



WE FINALLY MANAGED TO FIND YOU.

IT WASN'T EASY.



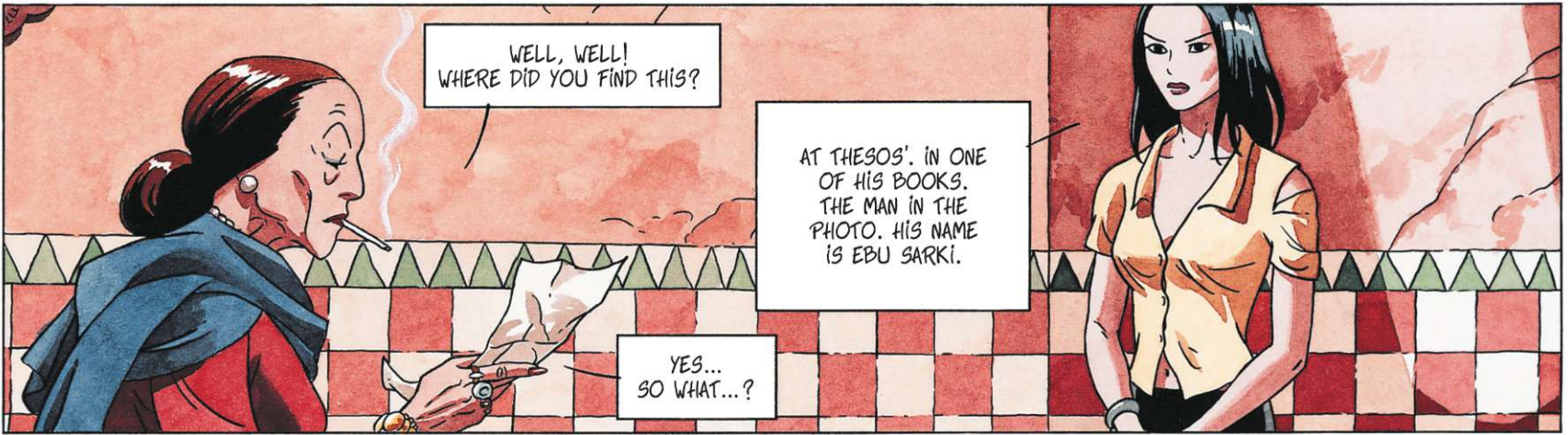
IT SEEMS YOU'VE BECOME VERY POPULAR...

AND NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRETTY BODY...



SHE HAD THIS ON HER...





WELL, WELL!  
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?

AT THESES'. IN ONE  
OF HIS BOOKS.  
THE MAN IN THE  
PHOTO. HIS NAME  
IS EBU SARKI.

YES...  
SO WHAT...?

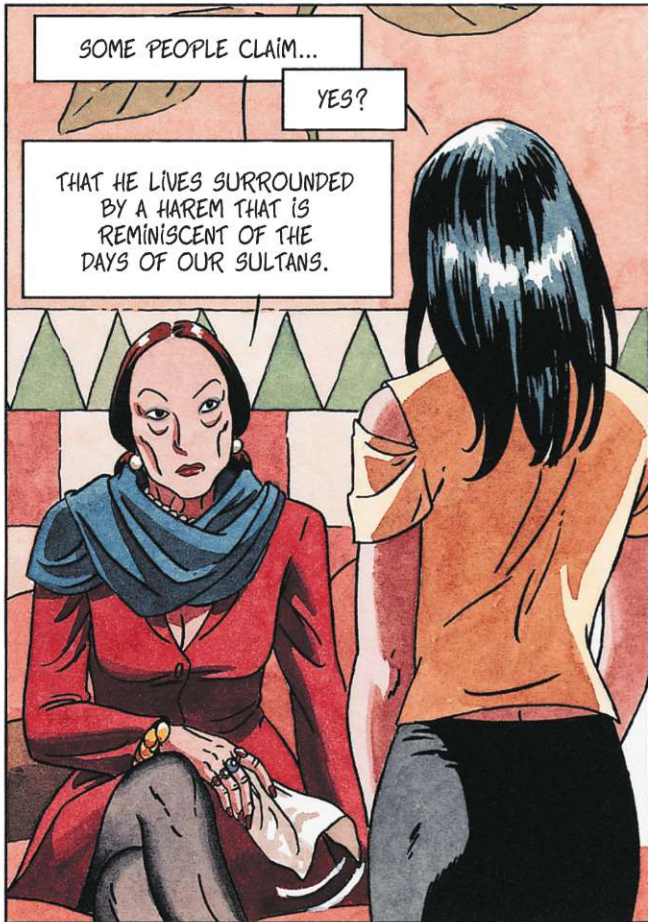


I HAD A NOTEBOOK THAT WAS STOLEN.  
IT BELONGED TO MY MOTHER. THAT'S  
WHERE I SAW THAT NAME FOR THE FIRST  
TIME, FOLLOWED BY A CODE...

WHO IS  
EBU SARKI?

ONE OF THE MOST  
POWERFUL MEN IN TURKEY...  
BUT HE IS IN HIDING.

THIS DOCUMENT  
IS ONE OF THE  
FEW THAT EXISTS  
ON HIM...



SOME PEOPLE CLAIM...  
YES?

THAT HE LIVES SURROUNDED  
BY A HAREM THAT IS  
REMINISCENT OF THE  
DAYS OF OUR SULTANS.



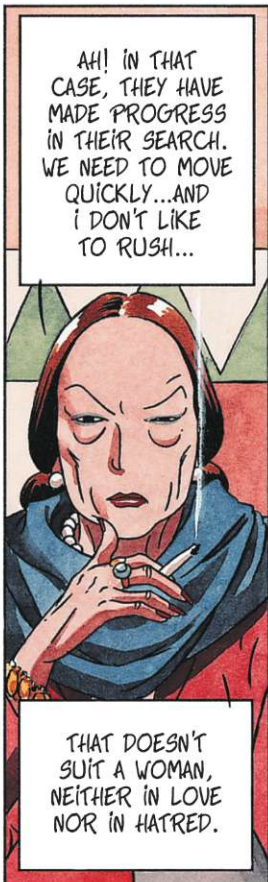
A... A HAREM?  
IN MODERN  
TIMES!!??



IT'S AN ATTRACTIVE IDEA,  
ISN'T IT? BUT, TELL ME,  
THE PEOPLE WHO STOLE  
YOUR NOTEBOOK,  
I NEED TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT THEM...

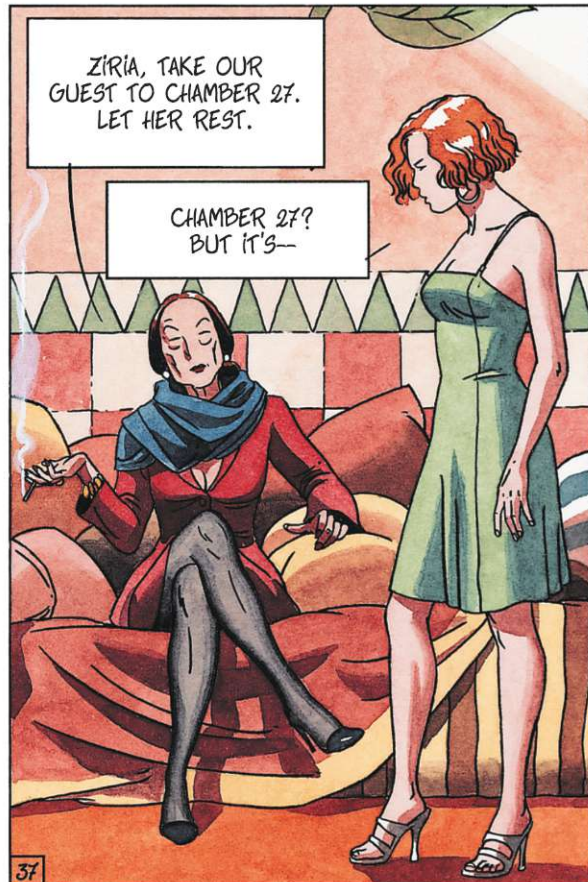
THESES  
WORKS  
FOR THEM?

YES.



AH! IN THAT  
CASE, THEY HAVE  
MADE PROGRESS  
IN THEIR SEARCH.  
WE NEED TO MOVE  
QUICKLY...AND  
I DON'T LIKE  
TO RUSH...

THAT DOESN'T  
SUIT A WOMAN,  
NEITHER IN LOVE  
NOR IN HATRED.



ZIRIA, TAKE OUR  
GUEST TO CHAMBER 27.  
LET HER REST.

CHAMBER 27?  
BUT IT'S--



OCCUPIED.  
I KNOW.

BUT I DON'T THINK  
OUR GUEST  
WILL HOLD IT  
AGAINST US.

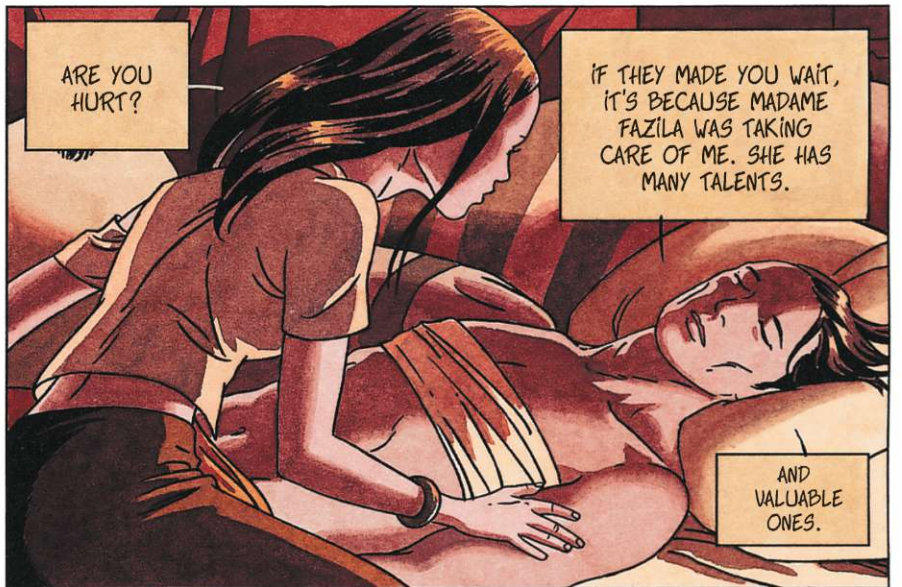




YOU!

AH, YES...  
I TRIED TO  
FOLLOW YOU...

BUT I WASN'T FAST  
ENOUGH. WELL, WE'RE  
BOTH HERE. THAT'S ALL  
THAT MATTERS...



ARE YOU  
HURT?

IF THEY MADE YOU WAIT,  
IT'S BECAUSE MADAME  
FAZILA WAS TAKING  
CARE OF ME. SHE HAS  
MANY TALENTS.

AND  
VALUABLE  
ONES.



HOW DID  
YOU FIND  
ME AGAIN?

I WATCHED  
THEOSOS'  
SHOP.

I KNEW KEMAL  
WOULD LEAD YOU  
THERE EVENTUALLY.



YOU SAVED  
MY LIFE.

I OWE  
YOU  
ONE.

THEN YOU  
SHOULD  
PAY UP.



BUT HOW?  
HELP ME...

I BELIEVE....  
THAT I HAVE  
AN IDEA.



I'LL GUESS...  
I SHOULD KISS YOU.

THAT'S A START.

I SHOULD UNDRRESS.

THAT'S EVEN  
BETTER.

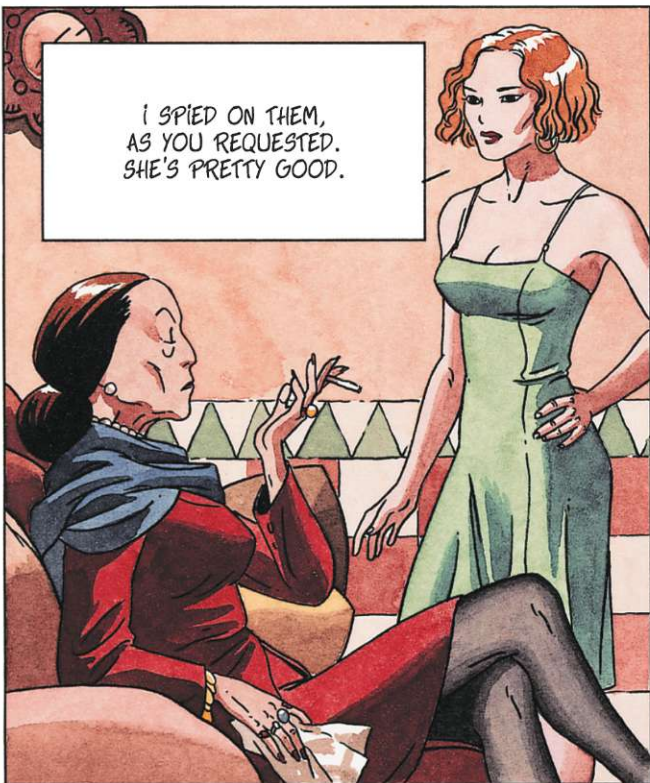
I WILL  
START WITH  
MY MOUTH...

THAT WOULD  
BE PERFECT.



WELL,  
THEN...?





I SPIED ON THEM, AS YOU REQUESTED. SHE'S PRETTY GOOD.



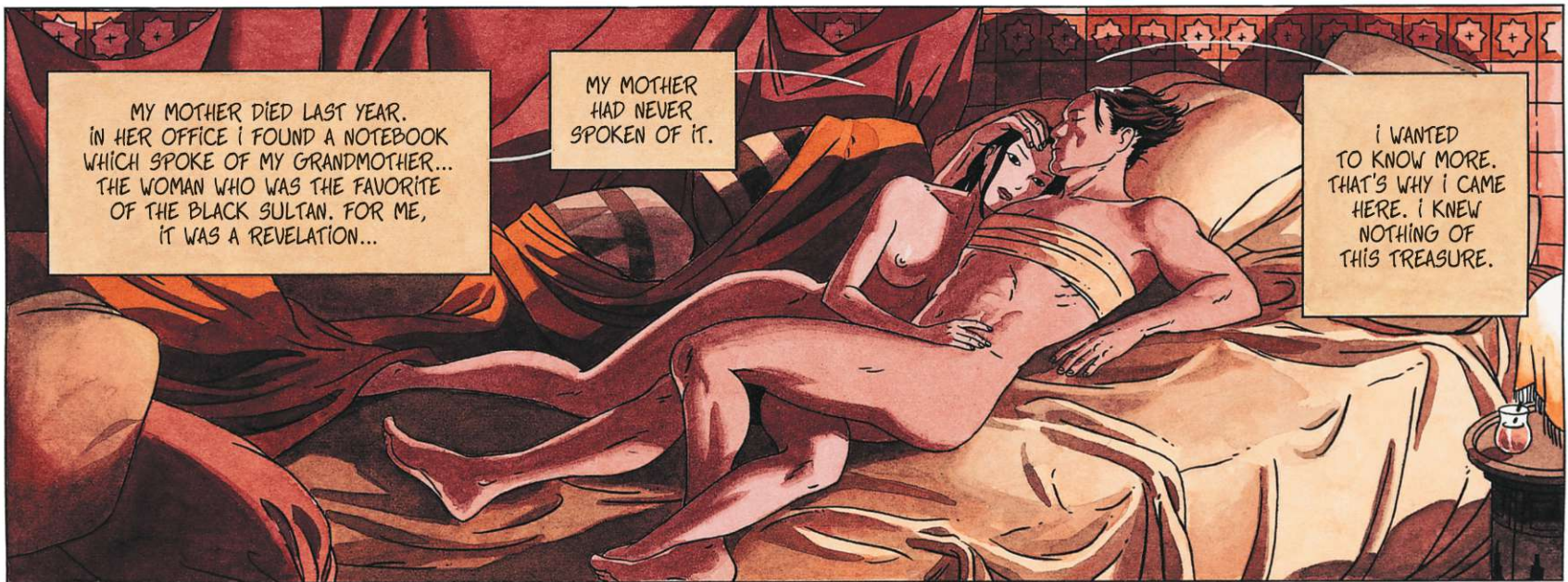
SHE EVEN ENJOYS HERSELF. YOU CAN MOULD HER AS YOU SEE FIT.



I ENVISION OTHER PLACES FOR HER 'RE-EDUCATION'...



WE'LL SEND HER ALONG TO THIS CHAP.



MY MOTHER DIED LAST YEAR. IN HER OFFICE I FOUND A NOTEBOOK WHICH SPOKE OF MY GRANDMOTHER... THE WOMAN WHO WAS THE FAVORITE OF THE BLACK SULTAN. FOR ME, IT WAS A REVELATION...

MY MOTHER HAD NEVER SPOKEN OF IT.

I WANTED TO KNOW MORE. THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE. I KNEW NOTHING OF THIS TREASURE.



IT WAS IN THE NOTEBOOK THAT I FOUND THE NAME OF EBU SARKI, ACCOMPANIED BY A CODE. I SEARCHED FOR WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN UNTIL I FOUND THE ANSWER...



YOU'D NEVER GUESS! IT HAD TO DO WITH A NUMBER OF A SECRET ACCOUNT IN A SWISS BANK. IN THAT ACCOUNT THERE ARE 300 POUNDS STERLING, NO MORE, NO LESS!

NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE ONE'S LIFE...! DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM?



NO, I...

MR. IBRAM! QUICK YOU NEED TO HIDE!!

BOM BOM BOMBOM BOM





AMIN DOMAN DEMANDS AN AUDIENCE WITH MADAME FAZILA. HE IS IN THE GRAND SALON DOWNSTAIRS.



I AM EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED, FAZILA. I NEVER BEFORE HAD ANY COMPLAINTS WITH YOUR SERVICES.

BUT NOW, IT SEEMS YOU OFFER ANY GIRL TO YOUR CLIENTS...

ONE OF MY GIRLS DISPLEASED YOU...? HAVE ANOTHER... IT'S ON ME.



THE RULES OF HOSPITALITY.

DON'T SPEAK TO ME OF HOSPITALITY!!



YOU WHO VIOLATE THE WALLS OF MY HOUSE AND KIDNAPPED ONE OF MY GUESTS! HOW DARE YOU!

DARE?



A MAN WHO PAYS CAN DARE TO DO ANYTHING HERE. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT?



YES... YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN.

LET ME REFRESH YOUR MEMORY...



I'LL HAVE THIS GIRL FOR A MOMENT...

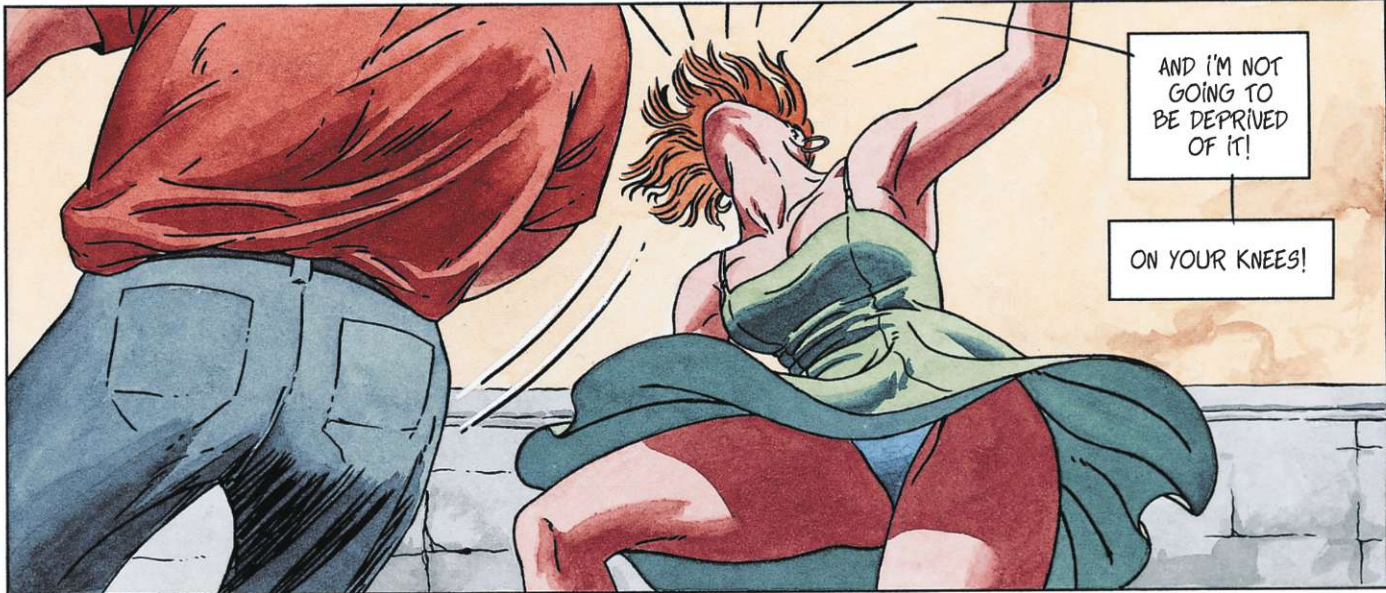


SHE'S YOURS. USE HER AS YOU WISH.



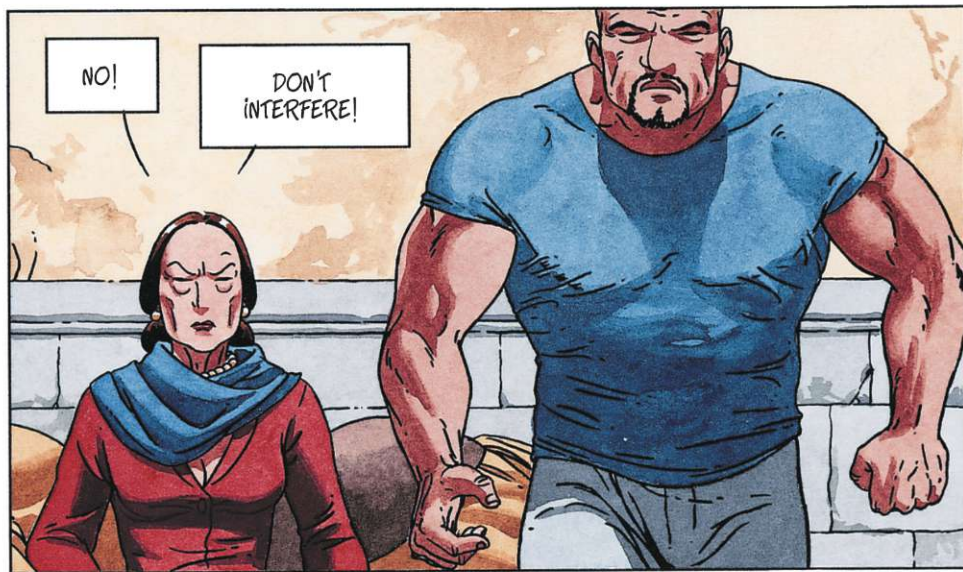


YES, KEMAL HAS A MEASURE OF REVENGE TO TAKE...



AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE DEPRIVED OF IT!

ON YOUR KNEES!



NO!

DON'T INTERFERE!



LET US BE CLEAR... THIS YOUNG WOMAN, KIM NELSON, YOU ARE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE SHE IS HIDING.



I DON'T KNOW. AS FAR AS I KNOW SHE IS NO LONGER PART OF THIS HOUSE.



I WANT TO HEAR HER SCREAM!

AAAAHHHHH!



KIM NELSON! I HAVE TO FIND HER!

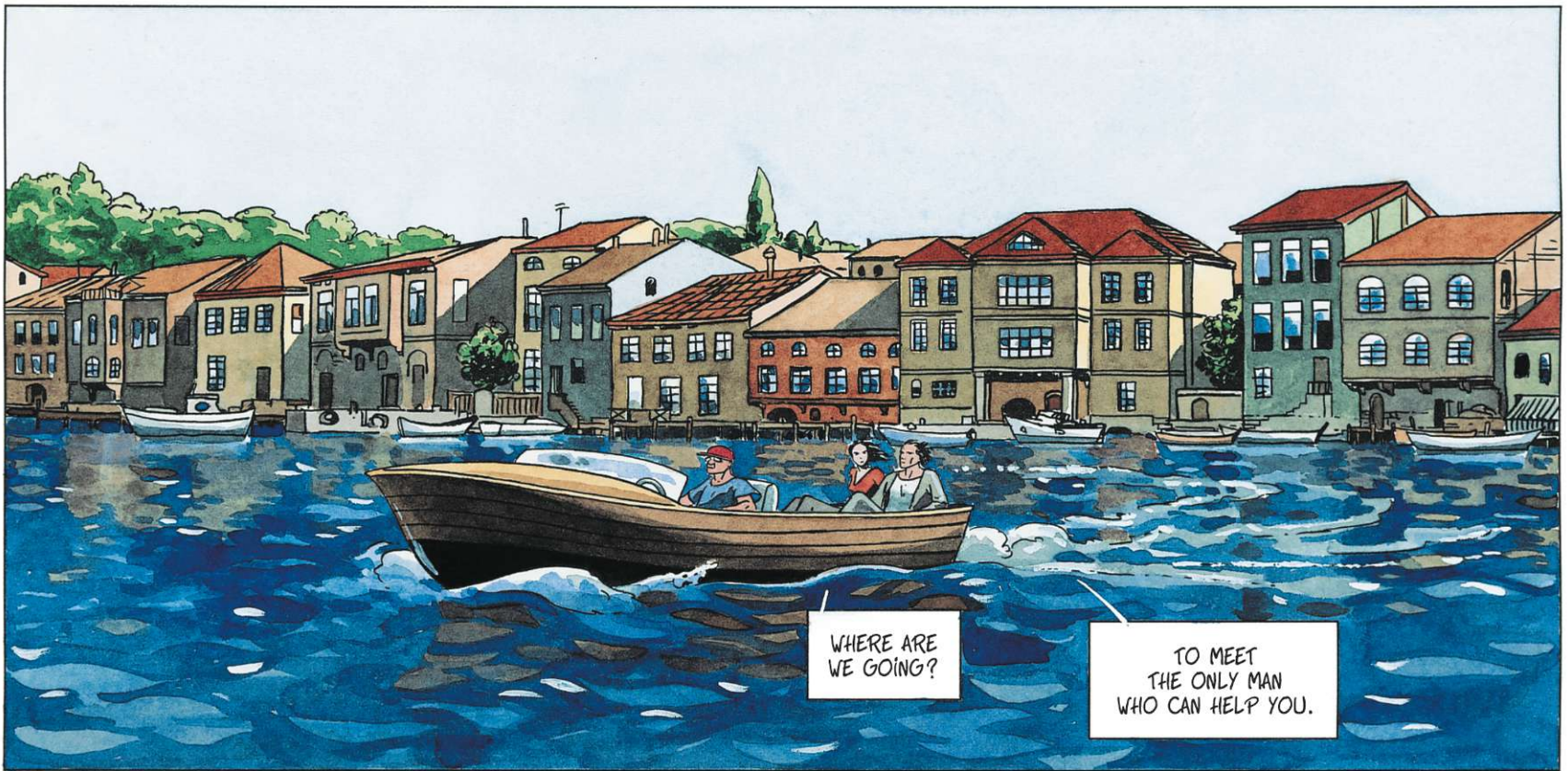


NOOOO... MERCY!

MERCY!







WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO MEET THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN HELP YOU.



EBU SARKI.

!!??



YOU... YOU KNOW HIM ?

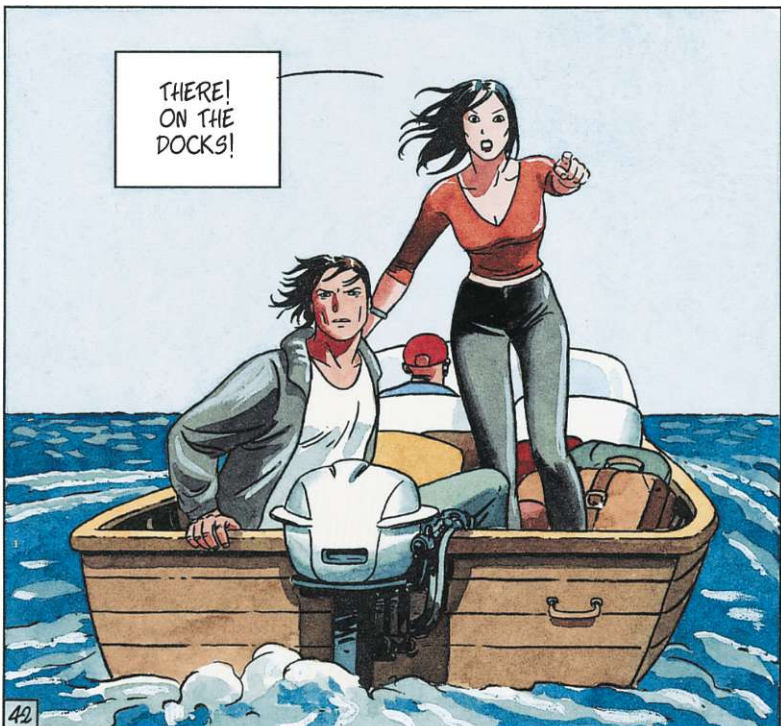
MADAME FAZILA WORKED FOR HIM IN THE PAST. IT'S AN ADVANTAGE THE OTHERS DON'T HAVE.



EBU SARKI? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



!!??



THERE! ON THE DOCKS!

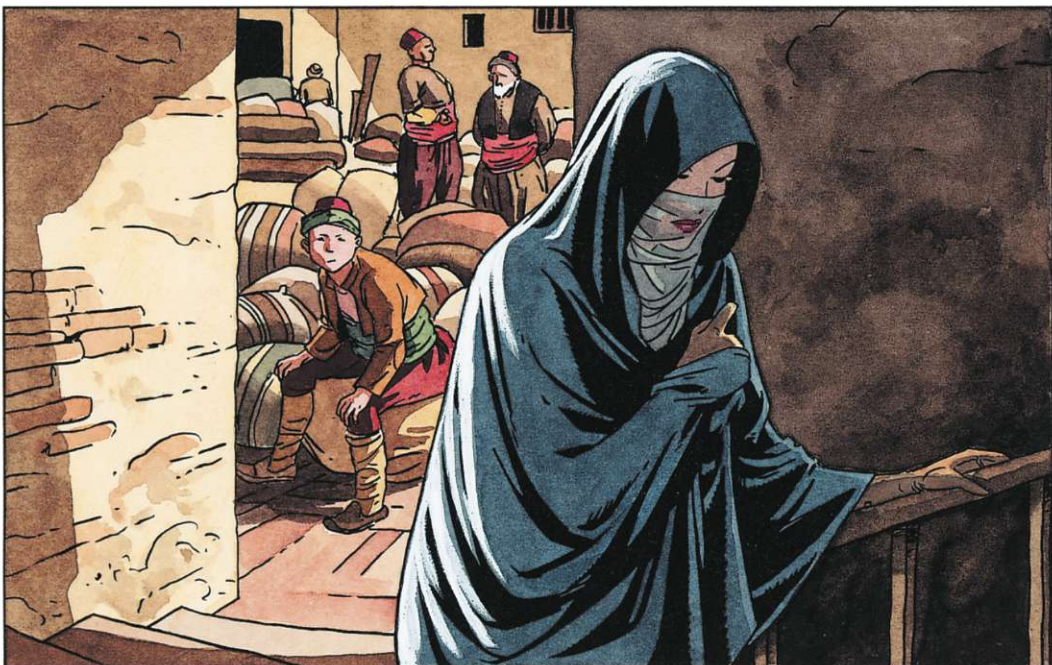
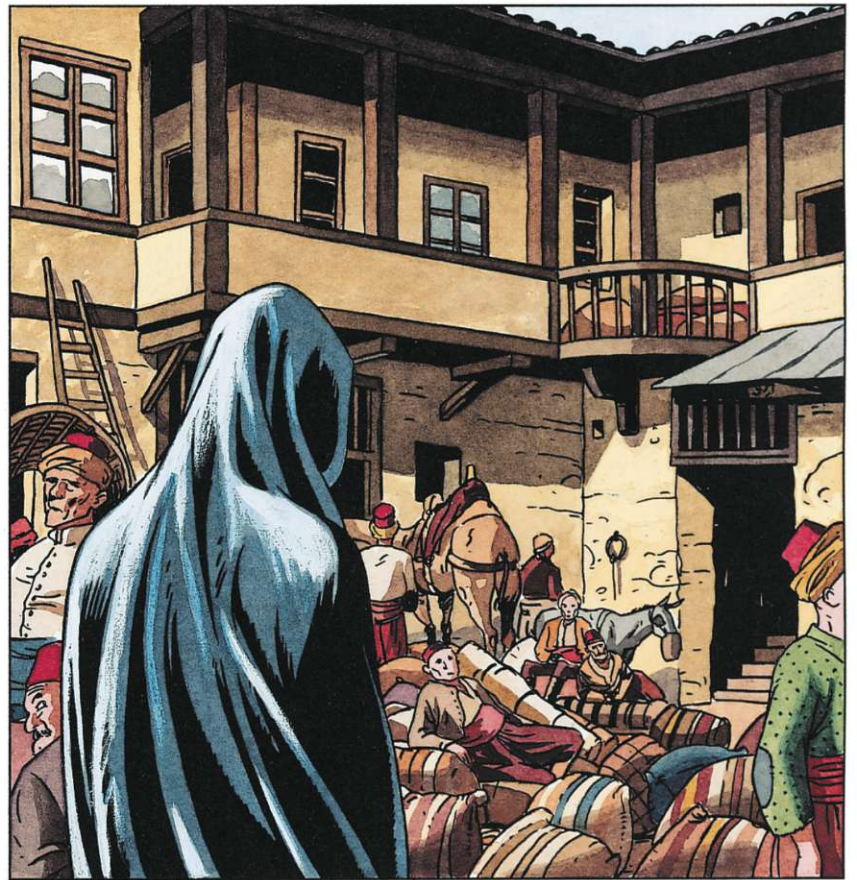
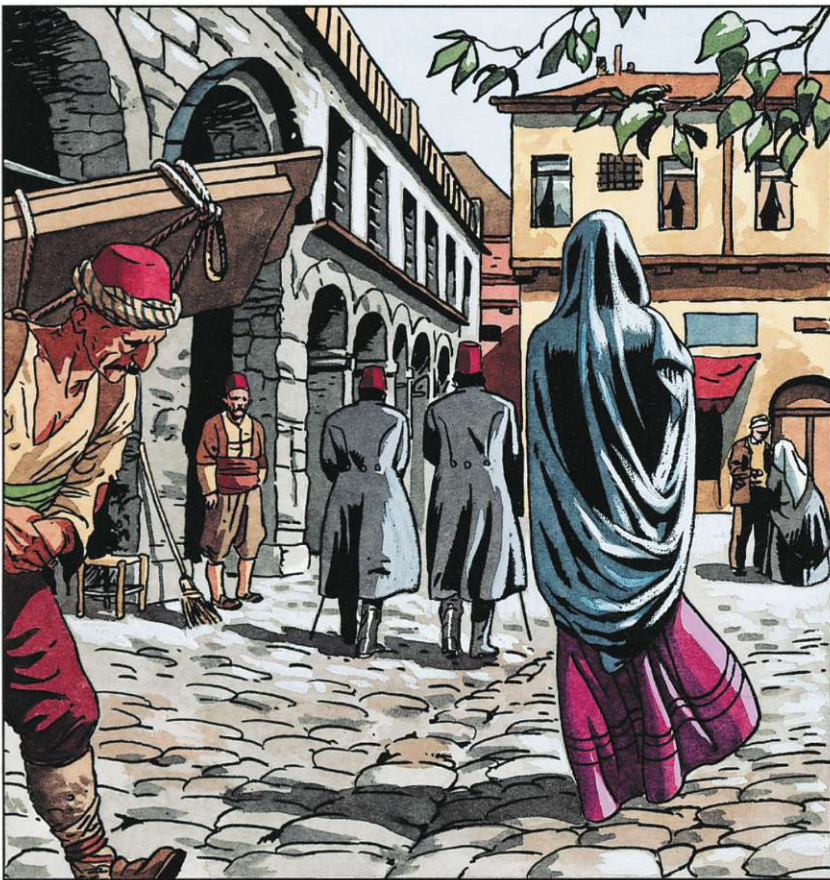


WHAT WAS IT?

NO...NOTHING... I THOUGHT I SAW A SILHOUETTE...

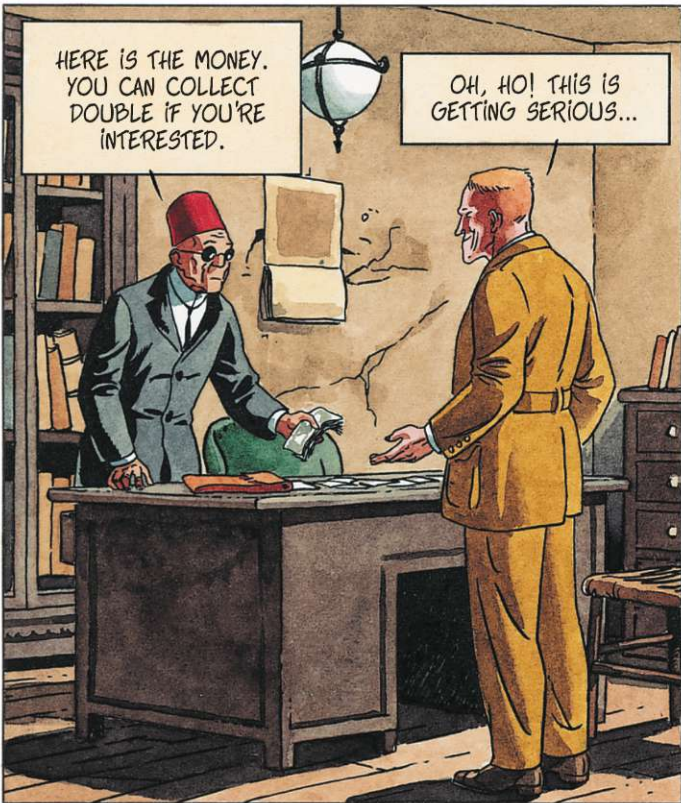


A STRANGE SILHOUETTE...LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE PAST...FAMILIAR...YET AT THE SAME TIME DISTANT.



I BELIEVE THE PHOTOS HAD THEIR SMALL IMPACT... IN ANY CASE, I DID MY PART OF THE WORK...





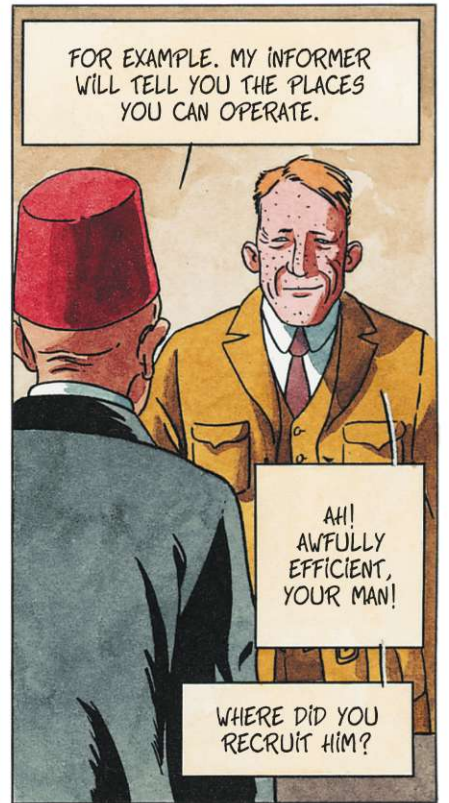
HERE IS THE MONEY. YOU CAN COLLECT DOUBLE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

OH, HO! THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS...



IT IS. AND FOR YOU, NOTHING MUCH CHANGES. YOU CONTINUE TO SPY ON THE YOUNG ENGLISHWOMAN. BRING ME DOCUMENTS, SUFFICIENTLY EXPLICIT.

LIKE THOSE IN THE TENT?



FOR EXAMPLE. MY INFORMER WILL TELL YOU THE PLACES YOU CAN OPERATE.

AH! AWFULLY EFFICIENT, YOUR MAN!

WHERE DID YOU RECRUIT HIM?



THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. YOU KNOW ENOUGH OF OUR BUSINESS ALREADY.



THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK YOU BLIND OLD BAT!



SEEN ENOUGH, HAVE YOU, MUSTAFA?

!!?



EH? I WAS JUST ADMIRING THE QUALITY OF THE PHOTOS...

REALLY?



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE TWO OF US? ATTRACTIVE, I HOPE...

UH... UM....

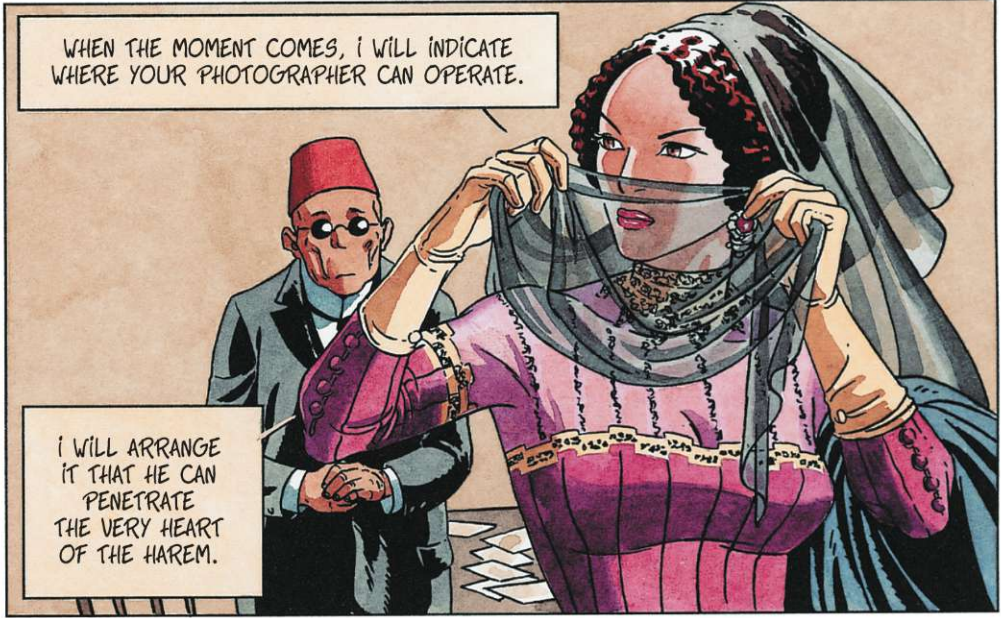
THE PEOPLE AT THE ENGLISH EMBASSY SEEM TO HAVE APPRECIATED THEM...





'SEEM TO'  
IS NOT  
ENOUGH!

I WANT THEM  
TO BE UNABLE  
TO IGNORE  
THE EVIDENCE -  
I WANT THIS  
TO EXPLODE IN  
THEIR FACES!



WHEN THE MOMENT COMES, I WILL INDICATE  
WHERE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER CAN OPERATE.

I WILL ARRANGE  
IT THAT HE CAN  
PENETRATE  
THE VERY HEART  
OF THE HAREM.



IT IS NECESSARY FOR HER  
HUSBAND TO REACT...AND  
THAT'S ALL I'M WAITING FOR!

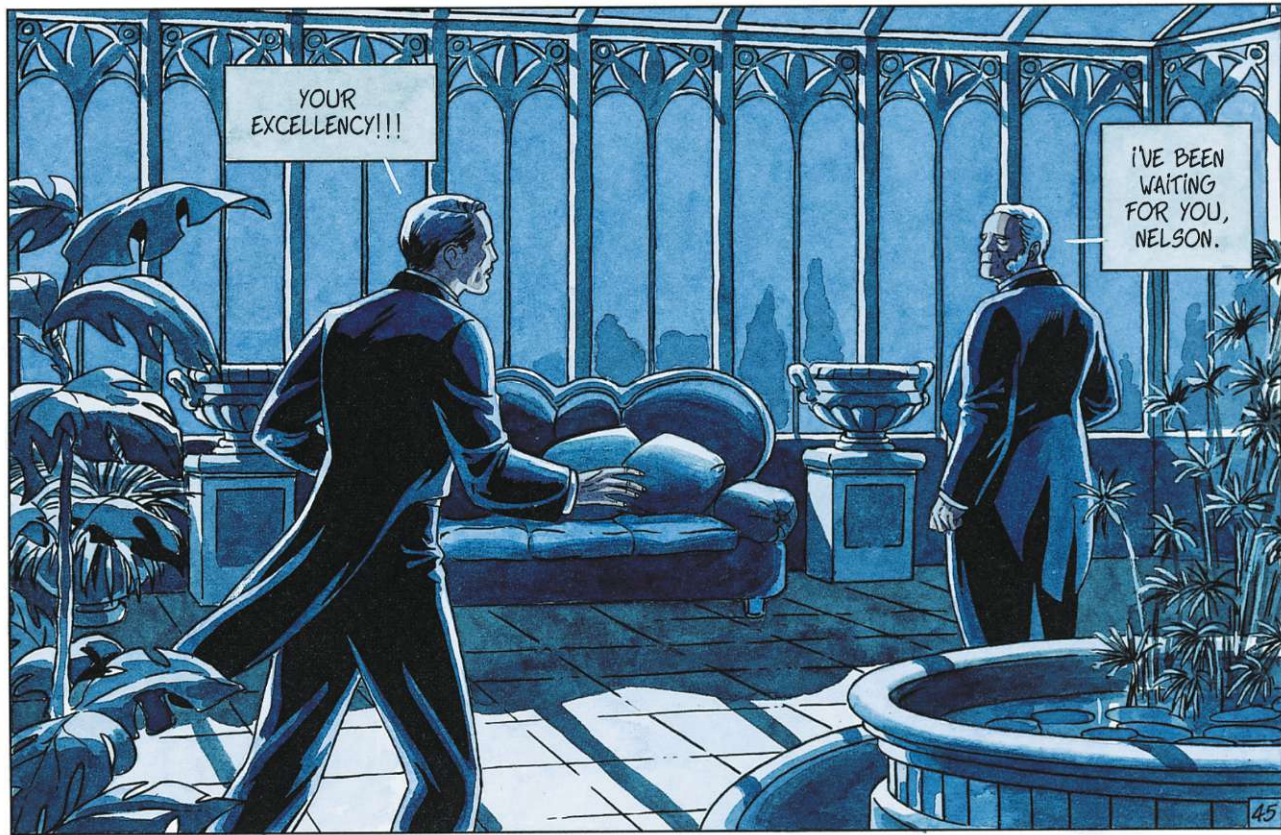
LORD NELSON...



SIR HAWKINGS SENDS YOU  
THIS DOCUMENT...HE AWAITS  
YOU ON THE VERANDA.  
HE SAYS YOU WILL  
UNDERSTAND WHY.



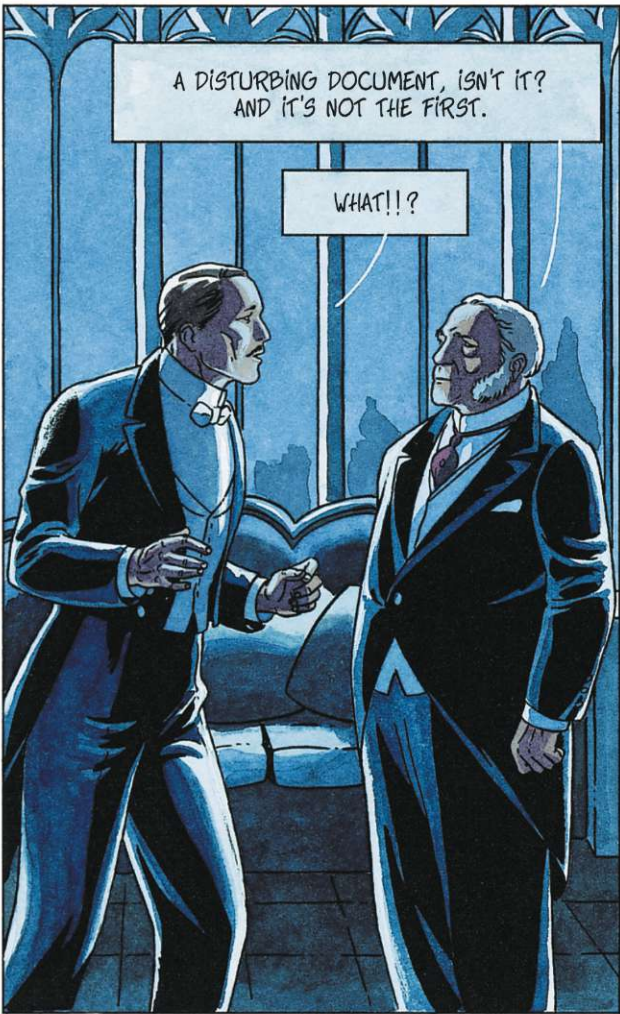
!!!



YOUR  
EXCELLENCY!!!

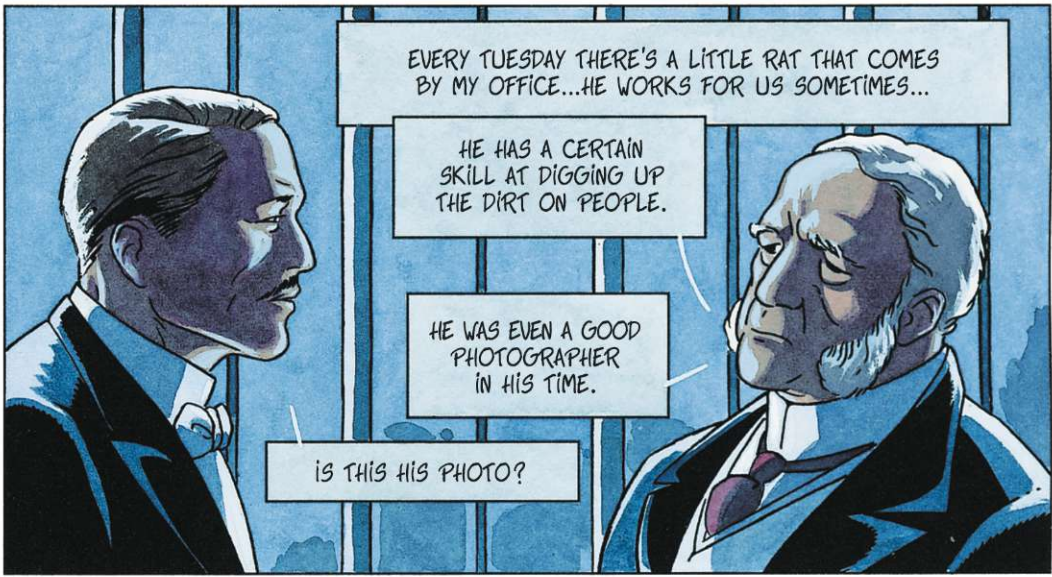
I'VE BEEN  
WAITING  
FOR YOU,  
NELSON.





A DISTURBING DOCUMENT, ISN'T IT?  
AND IT'S NOT THE FIRST.

WHAT!!?

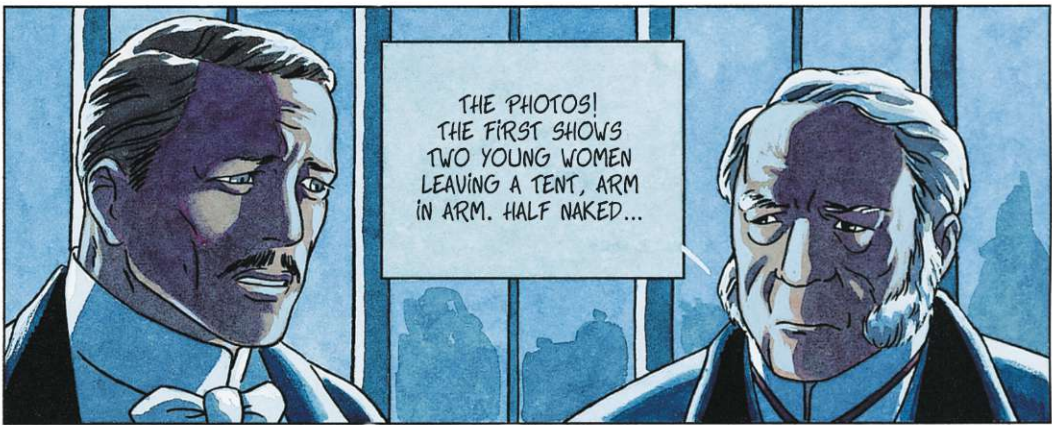


EVERY TUESDAY THERE'S A LITTLE RAT THAT COMES  
BY MY OFFICE...HE WORKS FOR US SOMETIMES...

HE HAS A CERTAIN  
SKILL AT DIGGING UP  
THE DIRT ON PEOPLE.

HE WAS EVEN A GOOD  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
IN HIS TIME.

IS THIS HIS PHOTO?



THE PHOTOS!  
THE FIRST SHOWS  
TWO YOUNG WOMEN  
LEAVING A TENT, ARM  
IN ARM. HALF NAKED...



THE ONE YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS  
DEPICTS THE INSPECTION OF A NEW  
ARRIVAL IN THE HAREM OF THE BLACK  
SULTAN...I BELIEVE YOU KNOW HER...







