

DUFAUX

JAMAR

GAME OF MASKS

1. THE STINGRAY



euRoPe
COMICS

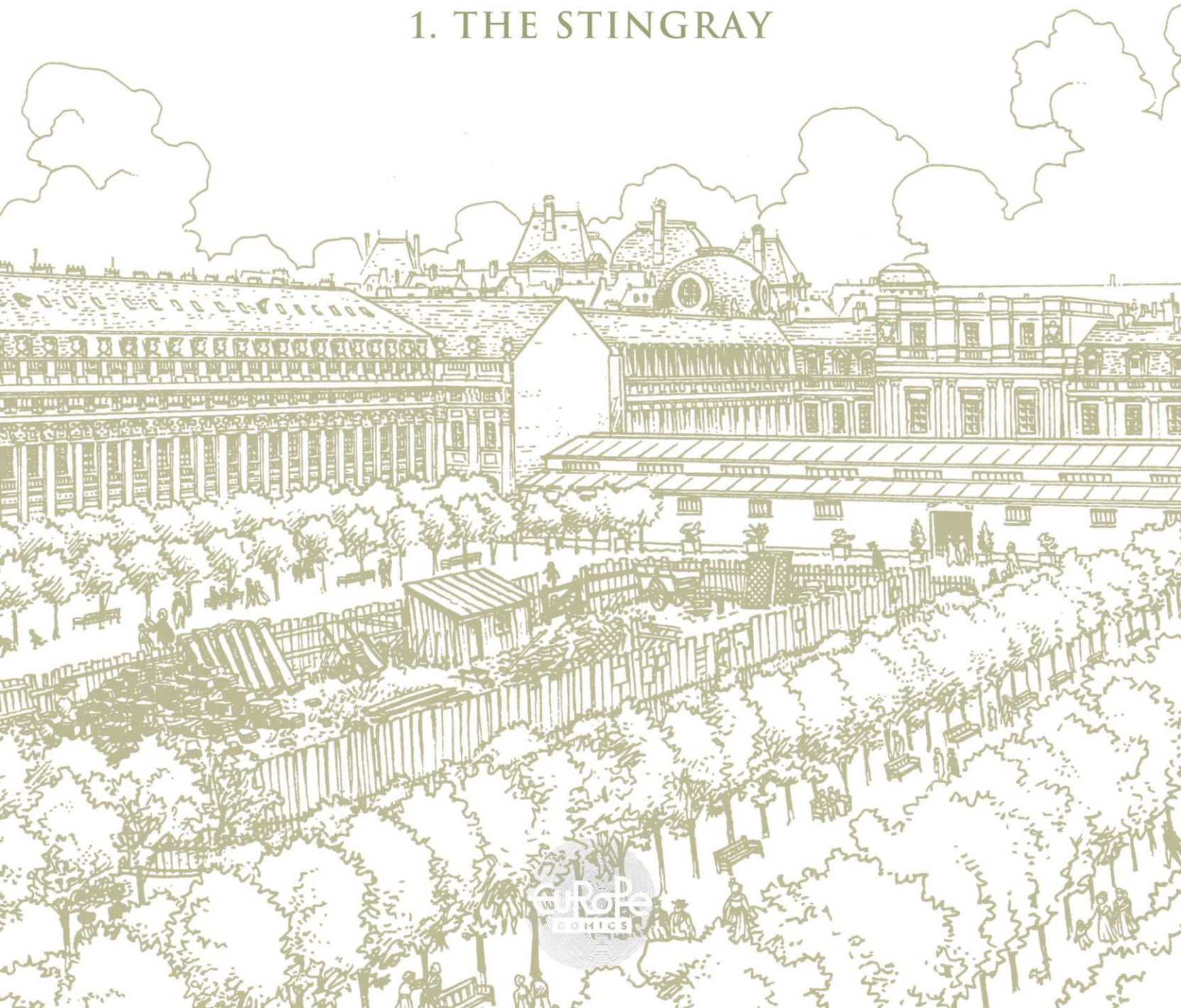
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COLORIST: M. JAMAR

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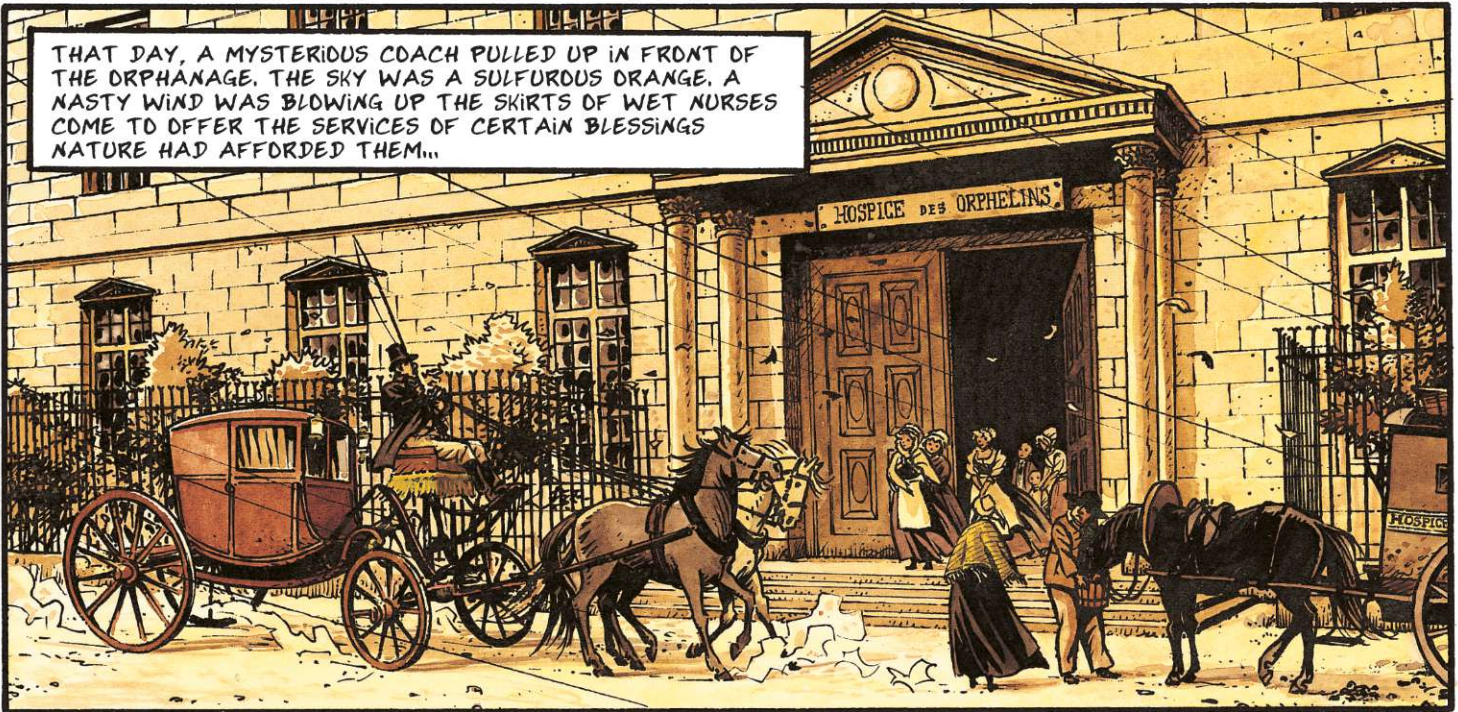
DARGAUD
BENELUX





PARIS, 1784. NECKER SUBMITS HIS RESIGNATION TO THE KING. MR. DE FLEURY IS APPOINTED CONTROLLER-GENERAL OF FINANCES. DIDEROT WRITES: "IS HE A GOOD MAN? A CRUEL MAN?" DAVID EXHIBITS HIS ART. A FIRE DESTROYS THE THÉÂTRE DU PALAIS-ROYAL. PARMENTIER PUBLISHES HIS TREATISE ON POTATO FARMING. BEAUVILLIERS AND VÉFOUR ARE THE RESTAURANTS IN VOGUE. LOUIS XVI REIGNS. DR HE'S LEARNING TO.

THAT DAY, A MYSTERIOUS COACH PULLED UP IN FRONT OF THE ORPHANAGE. THE SKY WAS A SULFUROUS ORANGE, A NASTY WIND WAS BLOWING UP THE SKIRTS OF WET NURSES COME TO OFFER THE SERVICES OF CERTAIN BLESSINGS NATURE HAD AFFORDED THEM...

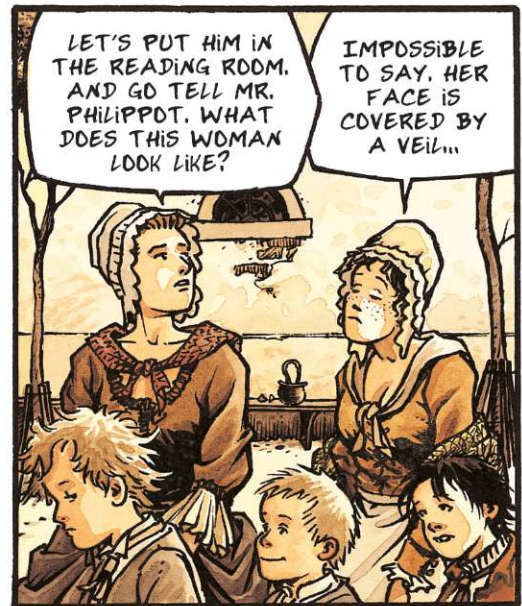


SHE'S HERE!
WE MUST GET
LITTLE CHARLES
READY!

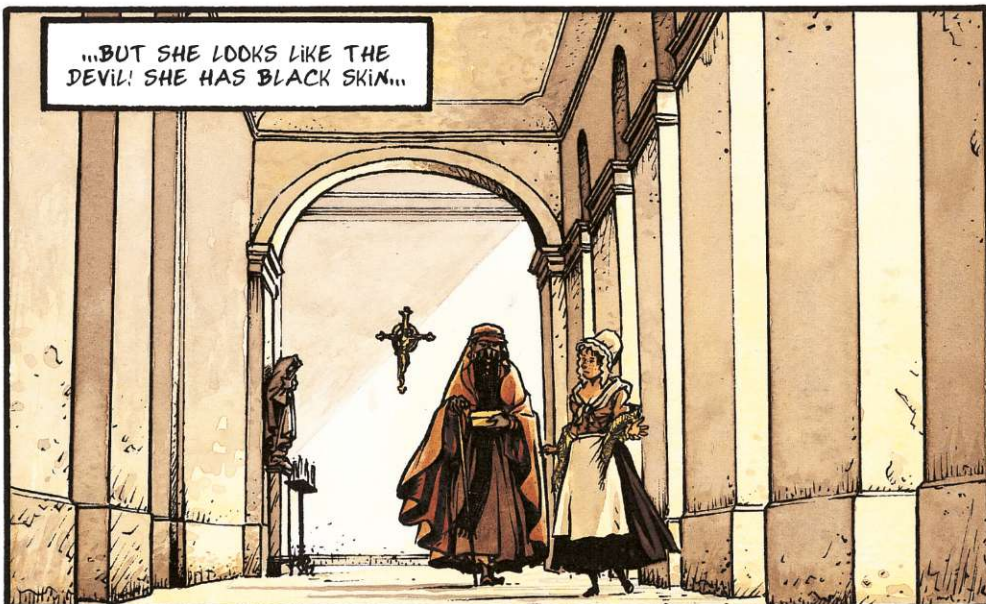


LET'S PUT HIM IN
THE READING ROOM,
AND GO TELL MR.
PHILIPPOT. WHAT
DOES THIS WOMAN
LOOK LIKE?

IMPOSSIBLE
TO SAY. HER
FACE IS
COVERED BY
A VEIL...

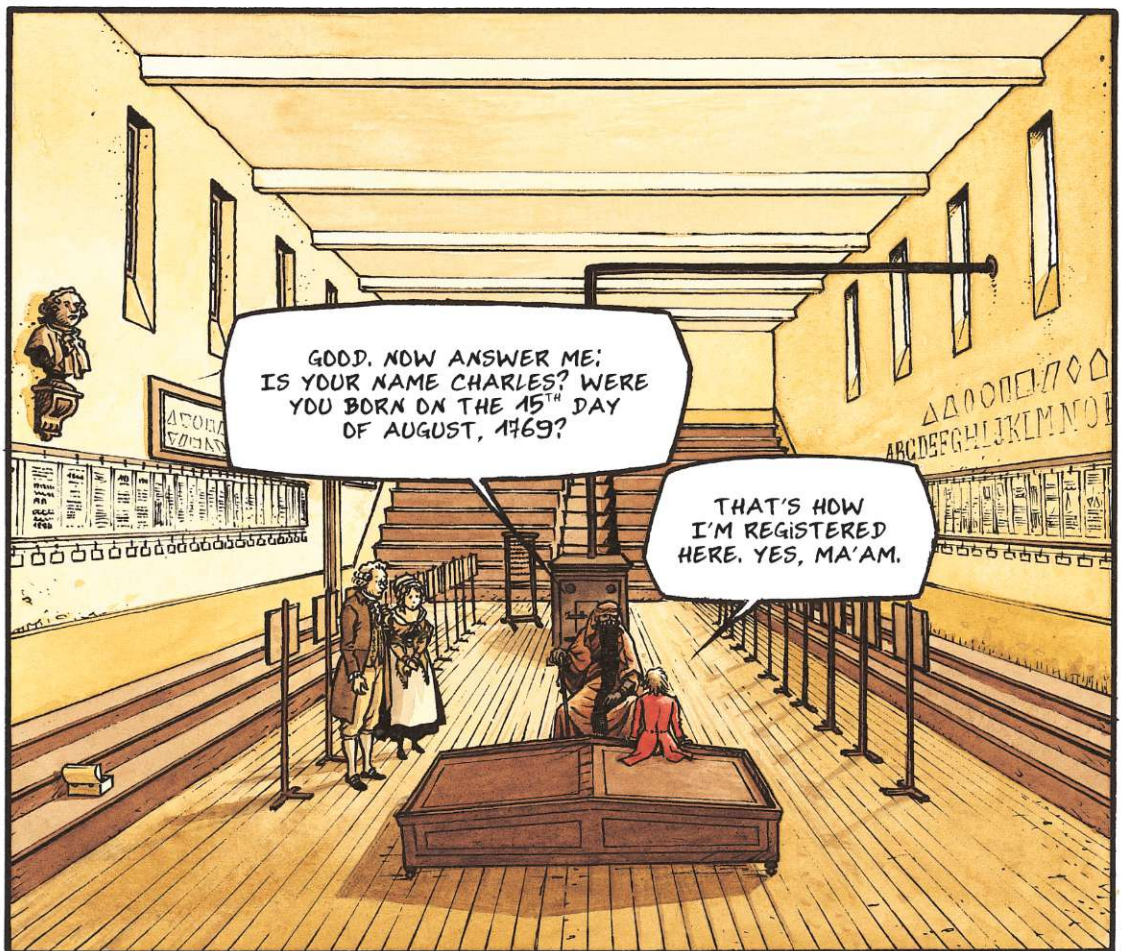


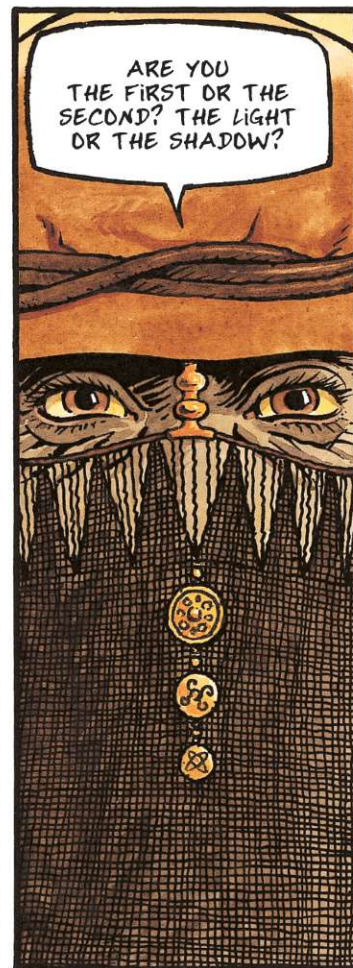
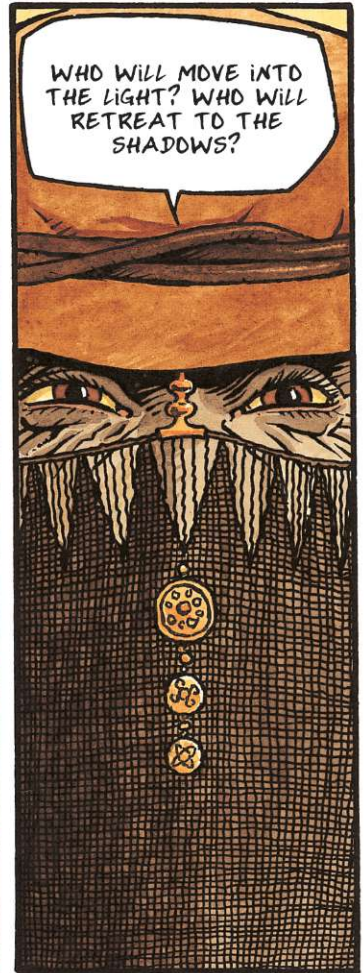
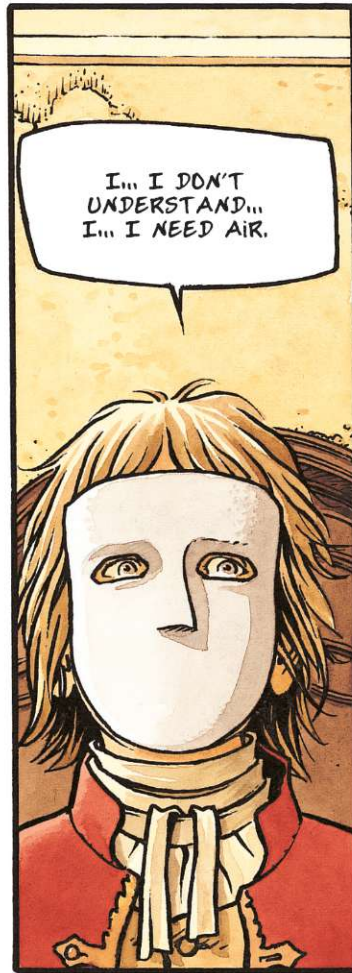
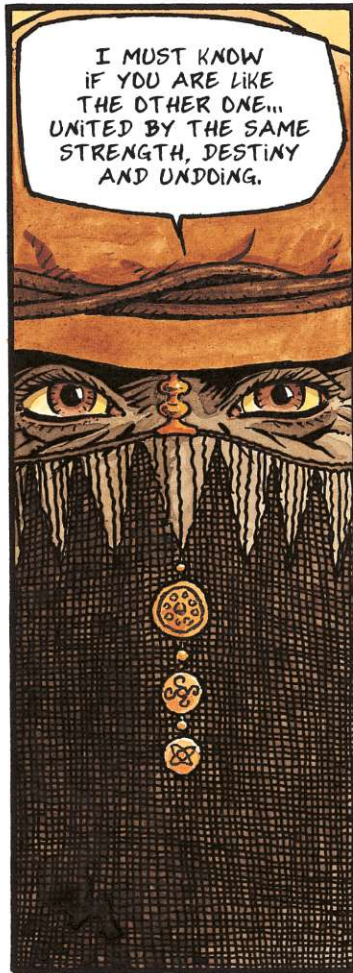
...BUT SHE LOOKS LIKE THE
DEVIL! SHE HAS BLACK SKIN...



...AND SHE'S CARRYING
A BOX.









TAKE THAT ABOMINATION OFF HIM!!

IT'S NO USE.



NOBODY CAN DO THAT. EVEN I CAN'T. IT MUST COME FROM THE CHILD, AND ONLY THE CHILD.



THINK OF AN ANIMAL. IF IT'S THE RIGHT ONE, THE MASK WILL FALL OFF ON ITS OWN.

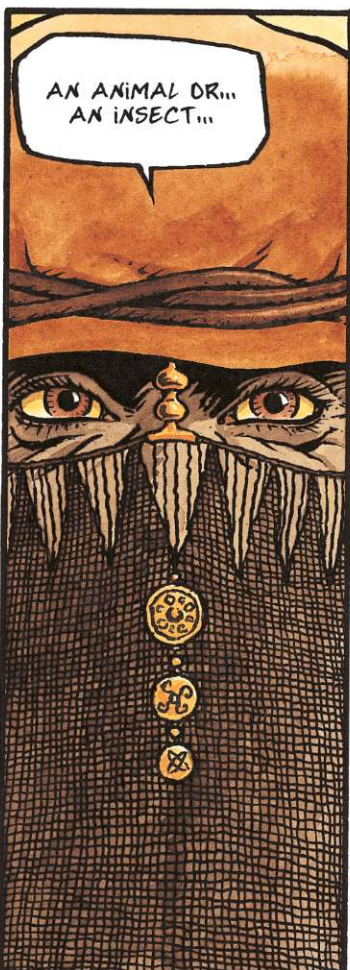
AN ANIMAL?



LIKE... A TIGER? OR... A LION? A CAT?



A WHALE? A CAMEL? A SEAL?



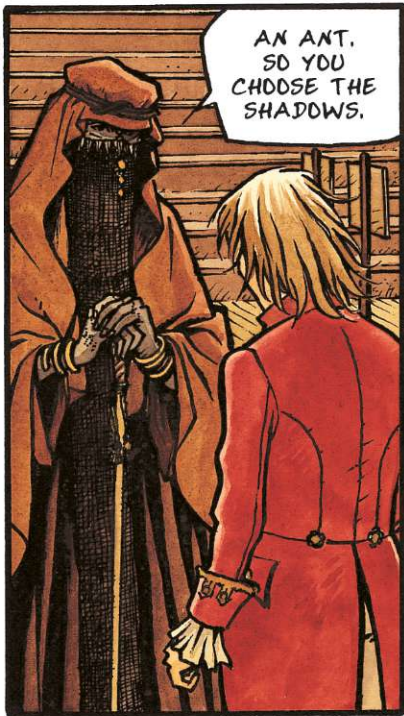
AN ANIMAL OR... AN INSECT...



AN INSECT?!! A... AN ANT?



CC-ONGGG



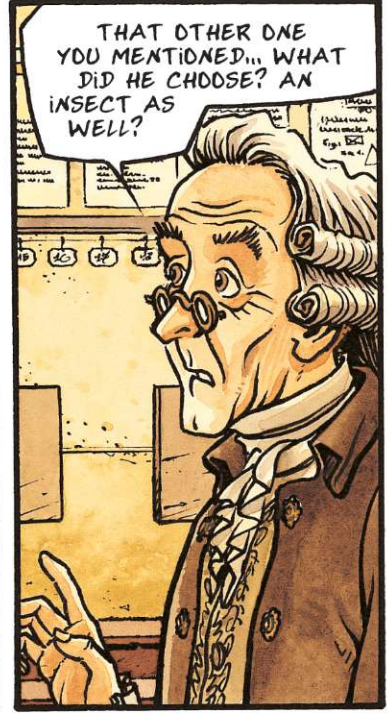
AN ANT,
SO YOU
CHOOSE THE
SHADOWS.



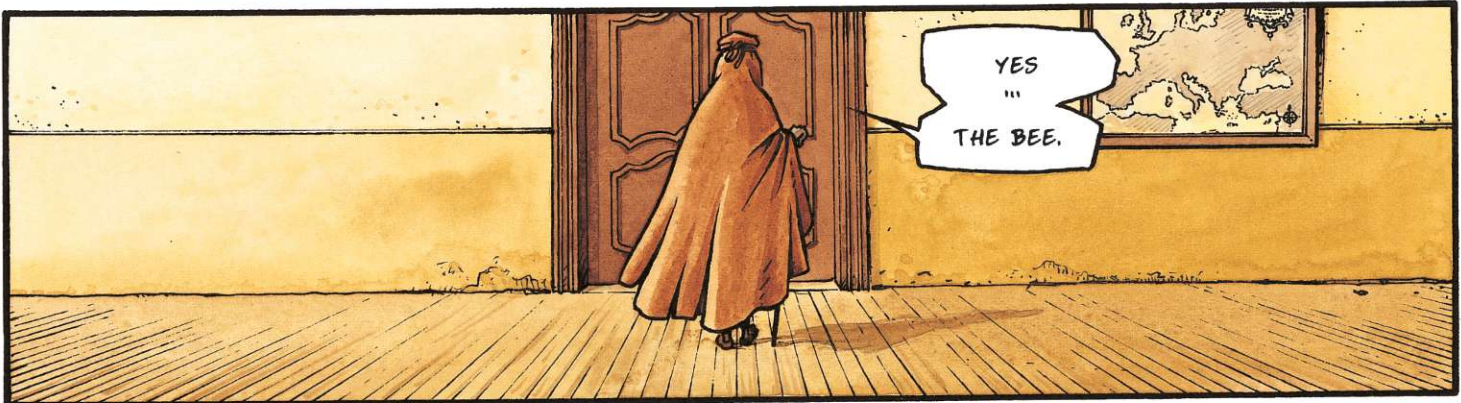
BUT SURELY
I'VE JUST
LEFT THE
SHADOWS?



PICK UP THE MASK.
IT'S YOURS.



THAT OTHER ONE
YOU MENTIONED... WHAT
DID HE CHOOSE? AN
INSECT AS
WELL?



YES
...
THE BEE.



I'M NOT
SORRY TO
SEE HER LEAVE.
SHE MADE MY
SKIN CRAWL.

INDEED, BUT WE
RELY ON HER GENEROSITY.
HER DONATIONS TO THE
CHILDREN'S HOME ARE
SIZEABLE.



POOR CHARLES!
I HOPE WHAT SHE
SAID HASN'T UPSET
HIM TOO MUCH...



I AM...
AN ANT.

PARIS, 1802. ON AUGUST 4 (16 THERMIDOR YEAR X), THE SENATE PROCLAIMS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE CONSUL FOR LIFE. HIS POWERS ARE INCREASED. FOUCHÉ, WHO OPPOSED HIS NOMINATION, RESIGNS FROM THE MINISTRY OF POLICE. PREFECT OF POLICE DUBOIS AND POLICE DIRECTOR DESMARETS REPLACE HIM. CHATEAUBRIAND'S "THE GENIUS OF CHRISTIANITY" IS PUBLISHED. ELBA ISLAND AND PIEDMONT ARE ANNEXED. THE LAND REGISTER IS CREATED.





ARE... ARE YOU QUITE SURE...

...THAT THE CHILDREN ARE YOURS? ABSOLUTELY! THE EVIDENCE IS BEYOND ANY DOUBT!

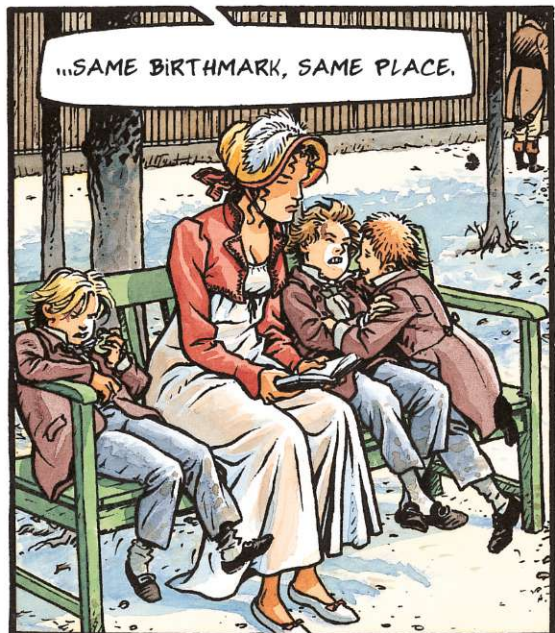


BURGUNDY-COLORED BIRTHMARK ON YOUR RIGHT TEMPLE...

WHAT ABOUT IT?



THERE THEY ARE. OBSERVE THOSE KIDS, SIR...



...SAME BIRTHMARK, SAME PLACE.



GODD GOD... IT WOULD APPEAR... YES, IT IS HER.



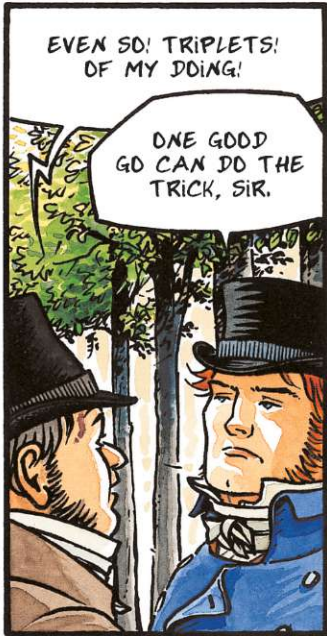
MY ADELE! SHE'S BARELY AGED AT ALL.



SHE WAS 16, SIR, WHEN I MET HER. I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME. TEMPORARY MADNESS, I SUPPOSE. AND... YOU'RE SAYING ONE NIGHT WAS ALL IT TOOK...



YES, SIR! THAT IS ALL IT TAKES TO SEW GOOD, SOLID SEEDS. SEE HOW STURDY THEY LOOK.



EVEN SO! TRIPLETS! OF MY DOING!

ONE GOOD GO CAN DO THE TRICK, SIR.



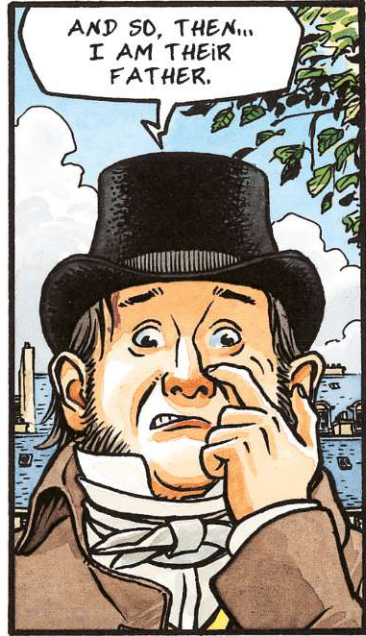
STILL... THAT'S QUITE AN EFFORT... AND I'VE GOT A BAD BACK.

THE ESSENCE... THE ESSENCE... I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF THAT IN THOSE DAYS.

STILL LESS, SIR. STILL LESS.

ONE'S ESSENCE DOESN'T PASS THROUGH THE BACK.

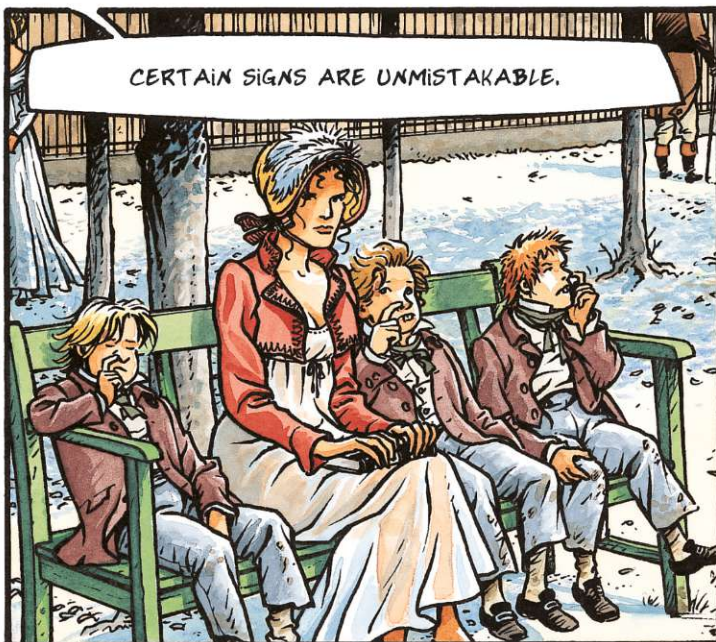
WHEREAS NOW...



AND SO, THEN... I AM THEIR FATHER.



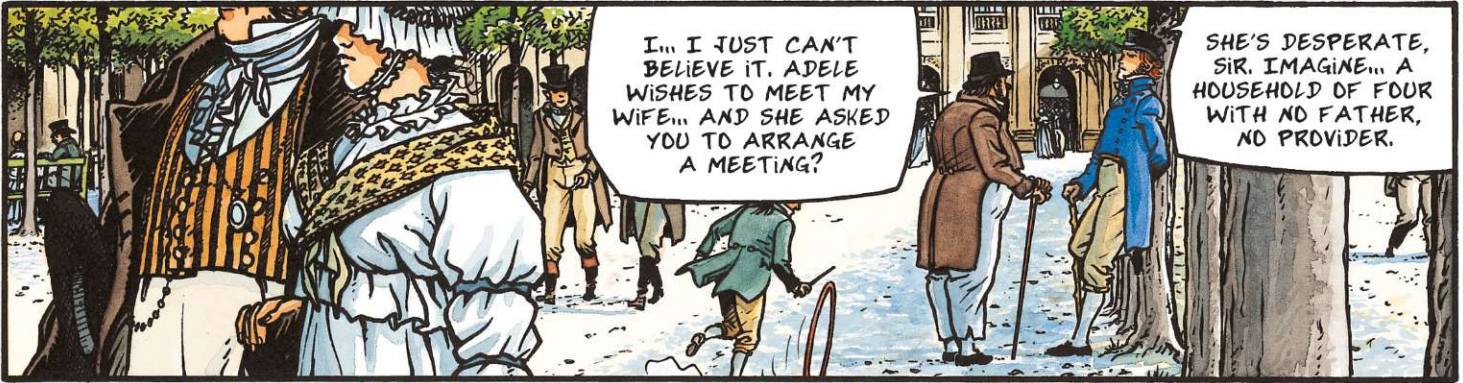
I BELIEVE YOU ARE.



CERTAIN SIGNS ARE UNMISTAKABLE.



WELL, SIR, WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?



I... I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT. ADELE WISHES TO MEET MY WIFE... AND SHE ASKED YOU TO ARRANGE A MEETING?

SHE'S DESPERATE, SIR. IMAGINE... A HOUSEHOLD OF FOUR WITH NO FATHER, NO PROVIDER.



I NATURALLY SUSPECTED BLACKMAIL, AN ATTEMPT TO BESMIRCH YOUR HONORABLE NAME, SO I OPTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU FIRST.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, SIR! YOU DID THE RIGHT THING!

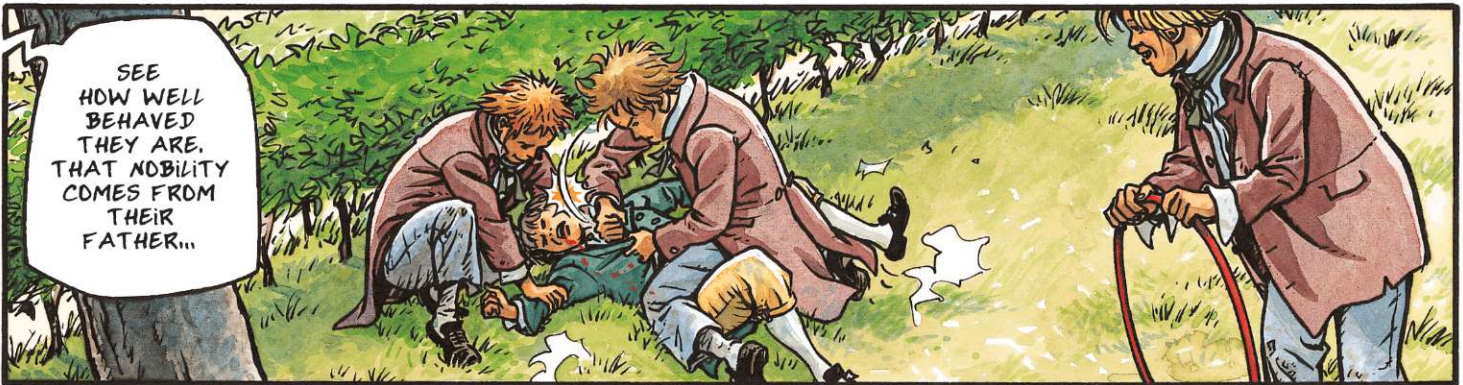


HOW MUCH, SIR, FOR THEM TO FORGET, AND... ER... MOVE ON?

HEAVENS! THAT'S LIKELY TO BE QUITE A SUM...



CHILDREN ARE COSTLY... AND THEY WILL NEED A DECENT EDUCATION.



SEE HOW WELL BEHAVED THEY ARE. THAT NOBILITY COMES FROM THEIR FATHER...



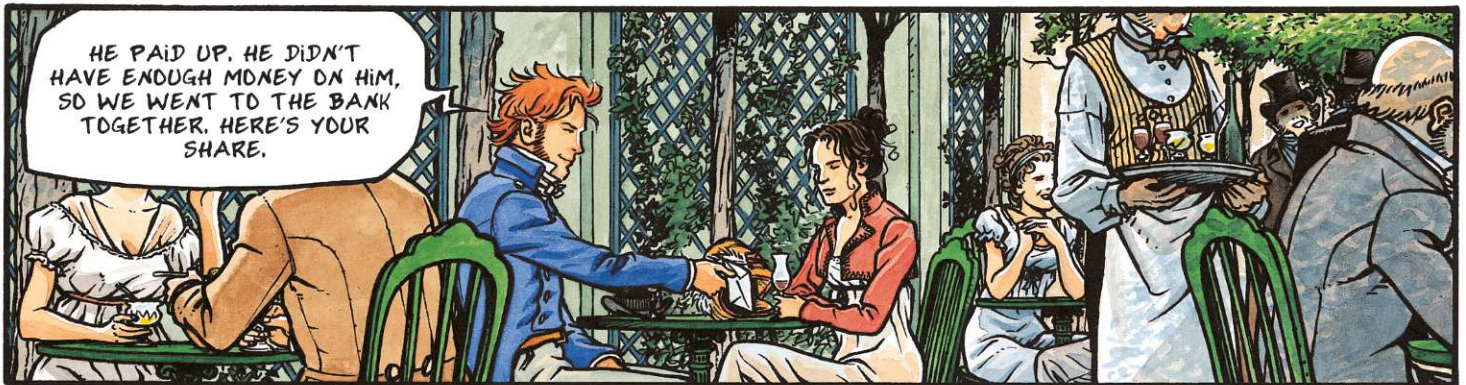
...IT DESERVES HIS SUPPORT.

///
///
GODD GOD
///
///

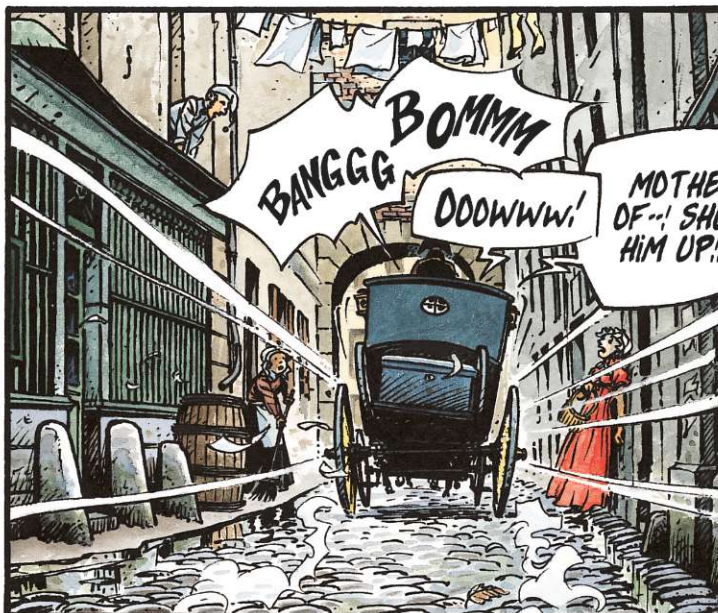


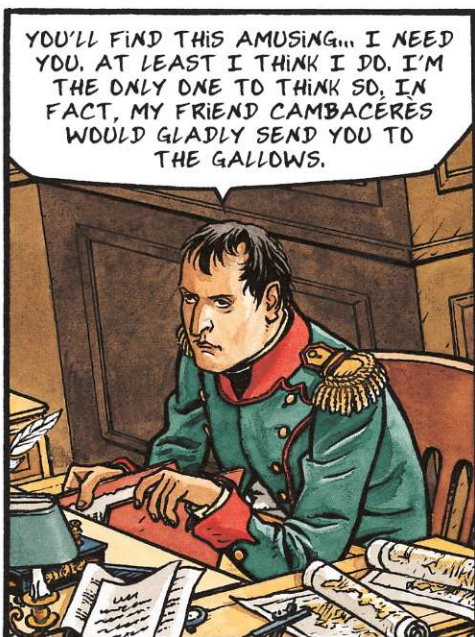
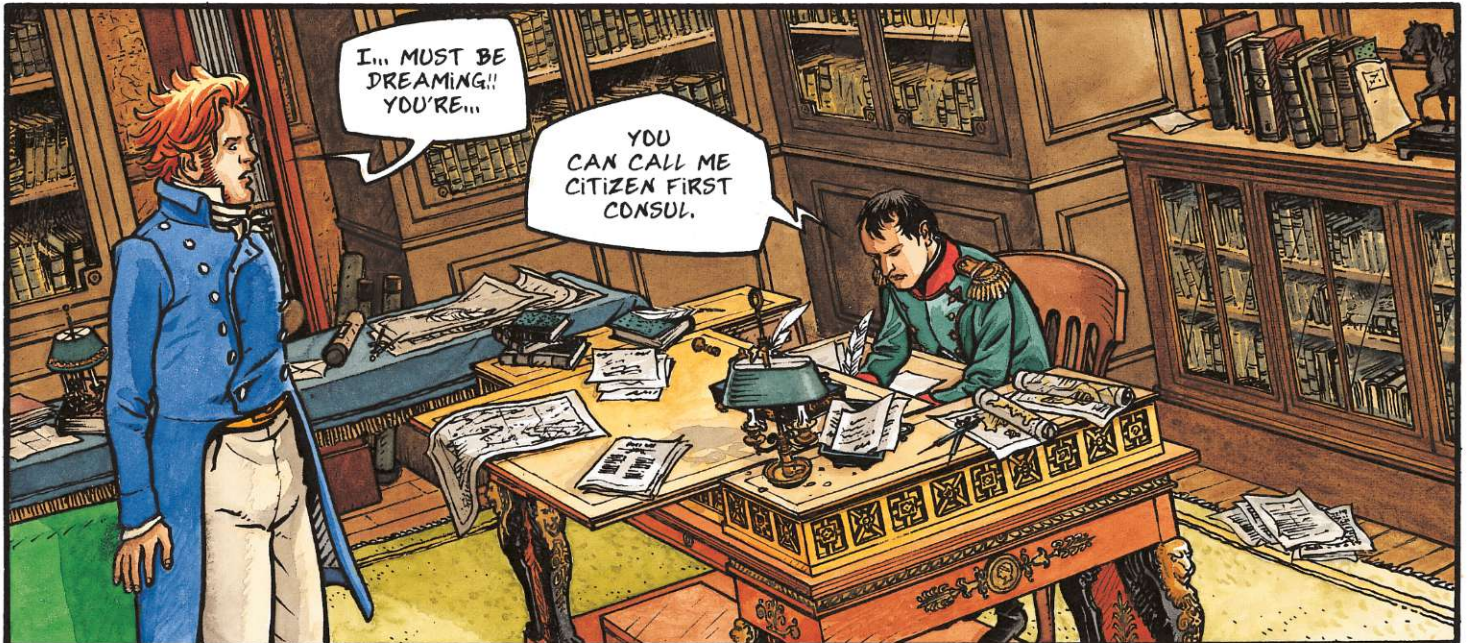
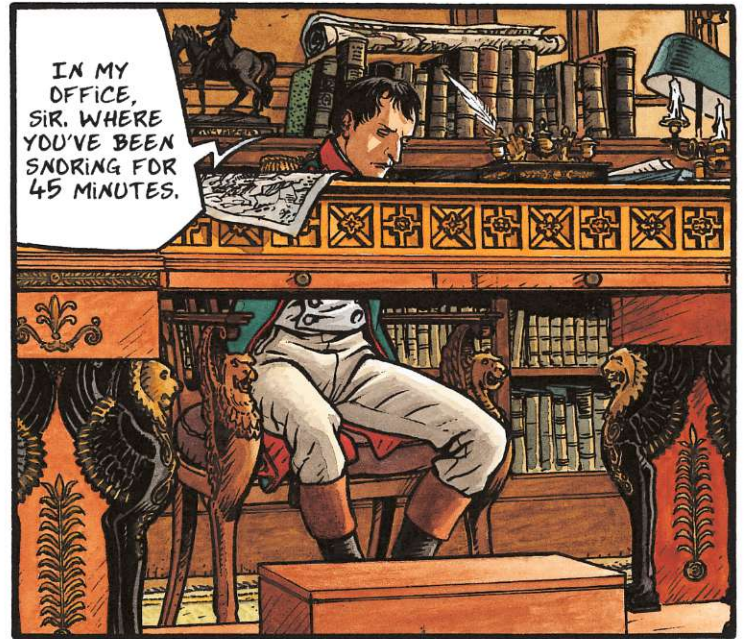
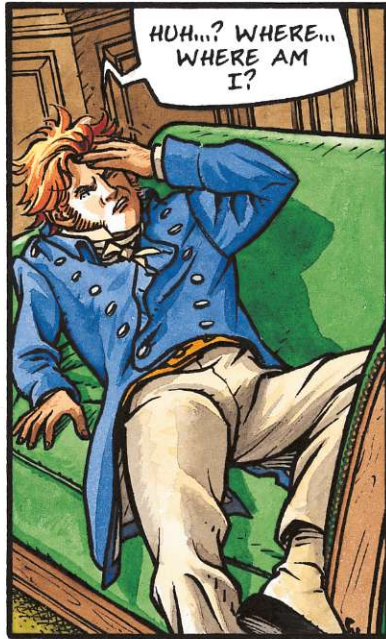
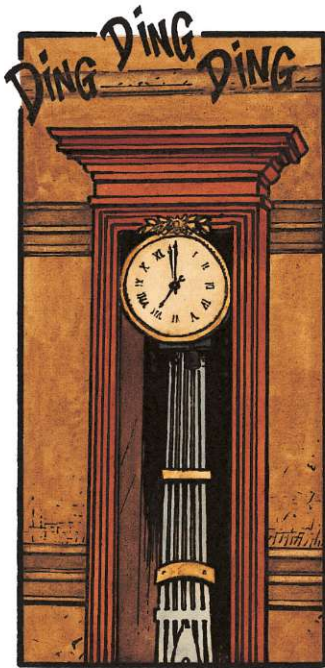
SO MUCH MONEY! HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY THINK--

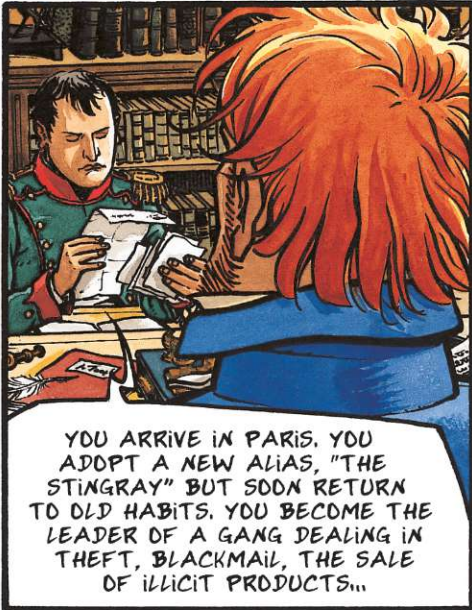
WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT, SIR, IS SCANDAL.



M.







YOU ARRIVE IN PARIS. YOU ADOPT A NEW ALIAS, "THE STINGRAY" BUT SOON RETURN TO OLD HABITS. YOU BECOME THE LEADER OF A GANG DEALING IN THEFT, BLACKMAIL, THE SALE OF ILLICIT PRODUCTS...



WHAT ARE THESE "ILLICIT PRODUCTS"?

ER, WELL... PILLS... LIKE FURAX, FOR EXAMPLE.



FURAX?

IT REVITALIZES THE BODY'S CORE FUNCTIONS... THE... UH... LIBIDO... I HAD SOME ON ME, BUT YOUR MEN CLEANED ME OUT.



I HOPE THEY DIDN'T TAKE ALL OF THEM. BECAUSE...



AHEM... WE DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THAT, BUT WE DID FIND THIS. THERE IS A LOT OF MONEY IN THIS ENVELOPE.

!!



ILLEGALLY OBTAINED, I'LL WAGER.

NOT AT ALL, CITIZEN CONSUL. AN INHERITANCE.



THIS SUM WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR A SMALL FAVOR. I NEED YOU TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WAS STOLEN FROM ME.

OH? HERE?



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT THE COMPARTMENT CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY MANIPULATING THE BOX IN CERTAIN WAYS, WHICH LEAVES US A LITTLE TIME.

BUT... WHY ARE YOU TELLING ALL THIS TO ME? YOU HAVE YOUR MINISTER OF POLICE, MONSIEUR FOUCHÉ...

MONSIEUR FOUCHÉ IS NO LONGER WITH US. PREFECT DUBOIS HAS REPLACED HIM. AS FOR THE MATTER AT HAND... WELL, IT'S OF A PRIVATE NATURE. I DON'T WISH FOR THOSE GENTLEMEN TO POKE THEIR NOSE, OR ANYTHING ELSE, IN IT.

YOU KNOW THE UNDERBELLY OF THIS CITY BETTER THAN ANYONE. OPAL FOUND SAFE HAVEN THERE. FIND HER, RETURN MY CASE TO ME, AND FORTUNE AWAITS YOU. BUT IF YOU FAIL ME...

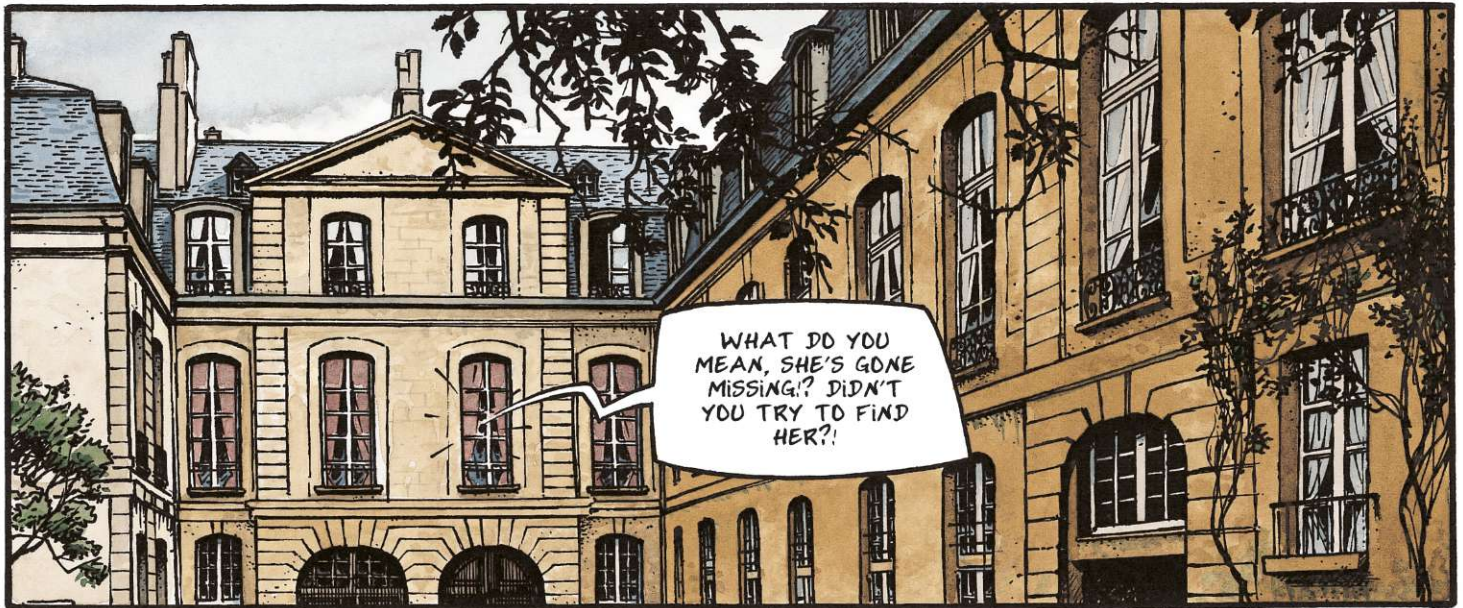
...I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE LOCKED UP FOR GOOD.

I'M PUTTING ONE OF MY SECRETARIES, MR. LECANET, AT YOUR DISPOSAL. HE'LL KEEP ME POSTED ON THE PROGRESS OF YOUR INVESTIGATION. NOW GO, AND WORK QUICKLY!

DING
DING
DING

SHOW THE GENTLEMAN OUT. AND USE THE SERVICE HALLWAY. MR. LECANET IS EXPECTING HIM THERE.

WELL, THEY'VE GOT YOU OVER A BARREL NOW! BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN HE'S LETTING ON.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SHE'S GONE MISSING!? DIDN'T YOU TRY TO FIND HER?!



I HAVE NO LEVERAGE, WHEN IT'S A POLICE OFFICER, THE GIRLS END UP TALKING, BUT WE'RE WORKING OUTSIDE THE LAW HERE.

WE'RE NOBODIES NOW. NO ONE WANTS TO SPEAK TO US.



WHICH MAKES THINGS A LITTLE DIFFICULT!



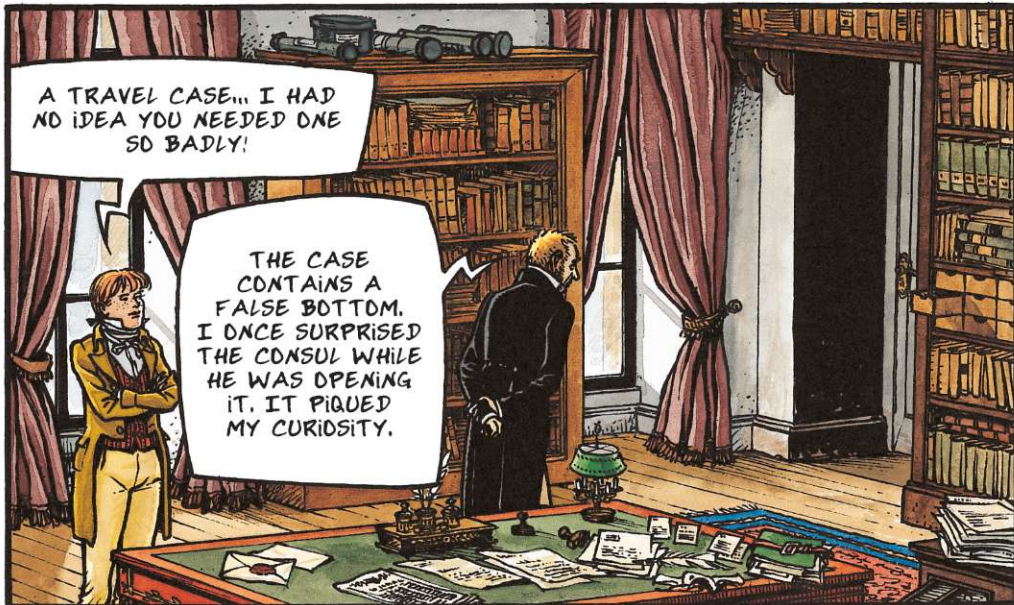
THIS IS INFURIATING! TO THINK THE CONSUL APPOINTED THAT MORDON IN MY PLACE! AN ASS IN SILK BREECHES WHOSE BRAYING HE MISTAKES FOR THOUGHT!



PERHAPS, BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I'M DOING MY BEST WITH WHAT I'VE GOT, WHICH ISN'T MUCH.

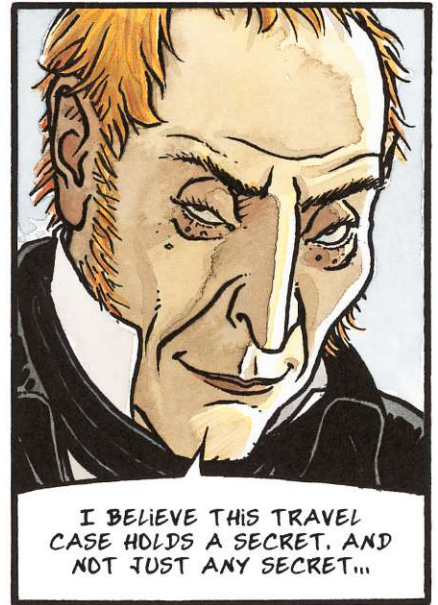


THAT GIRL... OPAL.
YES, OPAL. I PAID HER A LOT TO BRING ME AN OBJECT THAT INTRIGUES ME. I NEED THAT OBJECT.



A TRAVEL CASE... I HAD NO IDEA YOU NEEDED ONE SO BADLY!

THE CASE CONTAINS A FALSE BOTTOM. I ONCE SURPRISED THE CONSUL WHILE HE WAS OPENING IT. IT PIQUED MY CURIOSITY.



I BELIEVE THIS TRAVEL CASE HOLDS A SECRET. AND NOT JUST ANY SECRET...



...A STATE SECRET! WHICH IS WHY I'M COUNTING ON YOUR DISCRETION AND YOUR INGENUITY. NO ONE MUST KNOW--



YES, YES, HE ALREADY TOLD ME ALL THAT! WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME?

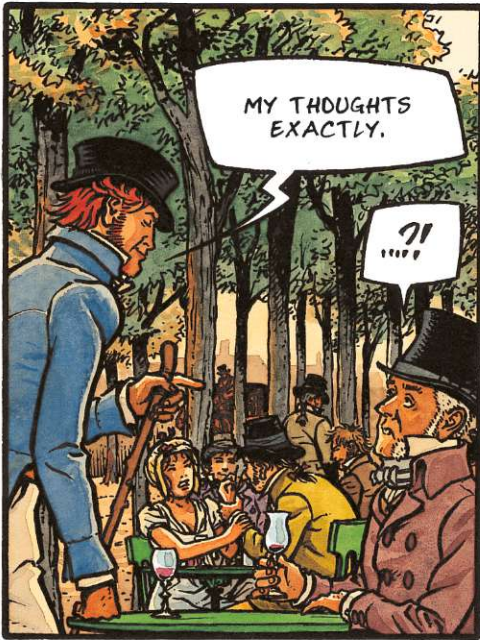
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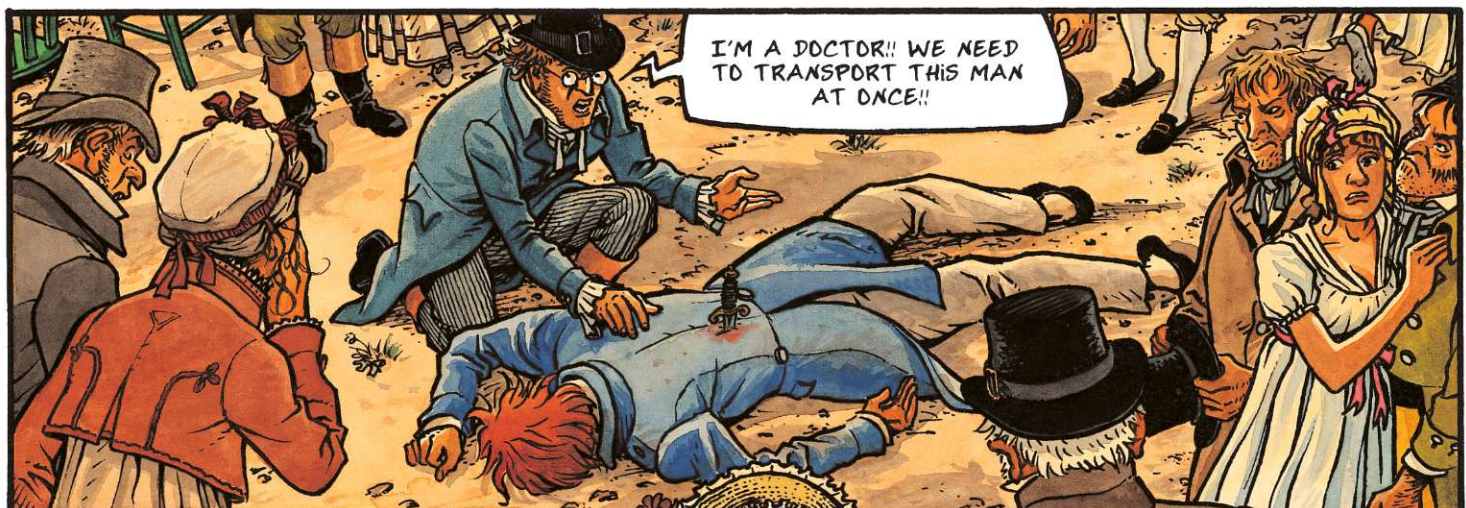
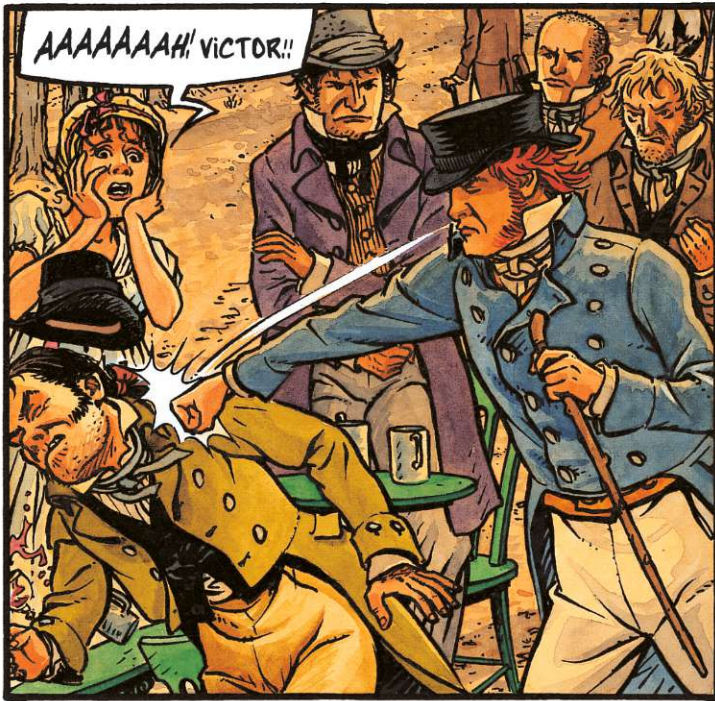


I DON'T HAVE ONE, SIR! "MONSIEUR LECANET" IS ENOUGH. IF YOU WANT TO BE MORE INFORMAL, SIMPLY CALL ME "MONSIEUR."



AND NOW, I SUGGEST WE FINISH HERE. IT'S TIME TO ACT.









MIGHT HAVE EVEN BEEN A LITTLE TOO CONVINCING! VICTOR, YOUR BLADE GOT CAUGHT BEFORE RETRACTING. DON'T PRESS SO HARD NEXT TIME!



MY HERO! YOU'RE SO DASHING!

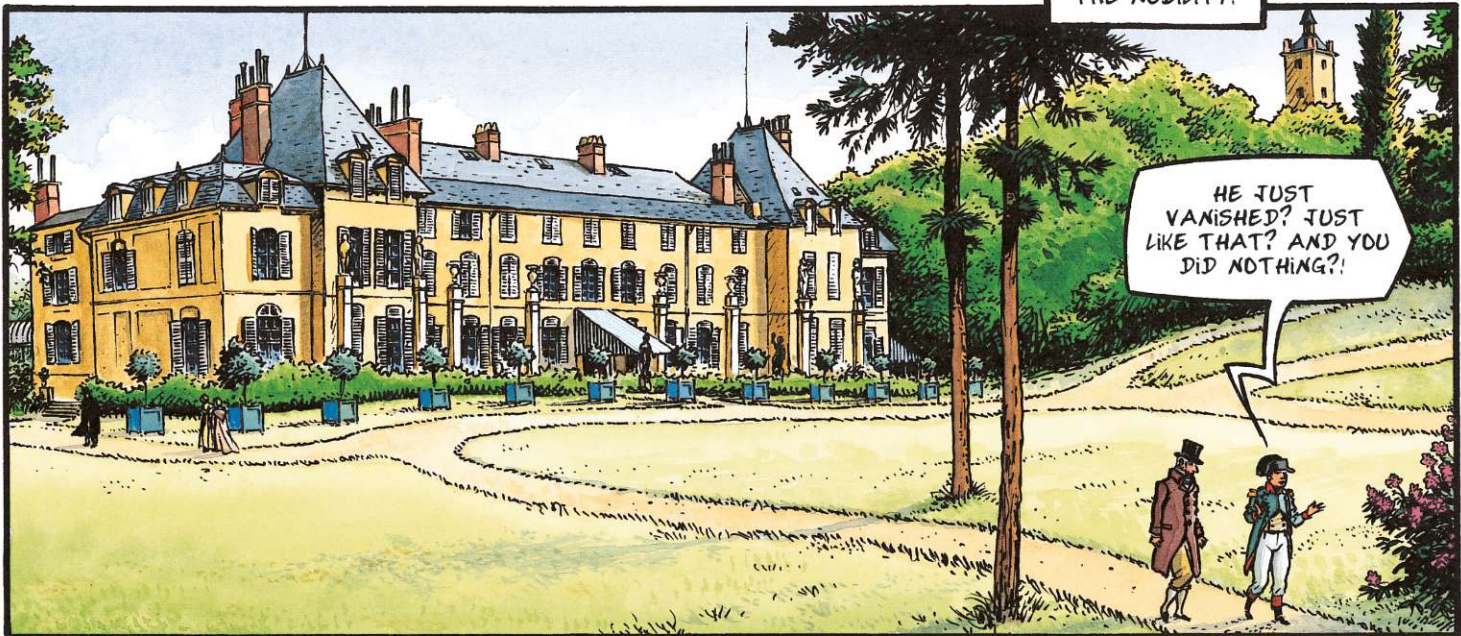
DAMN RIGHT! NO LIMP DICKS IN MY FAMILY! MY GRANDPA DIED AT 102, STILL SALIVATING. 'COURSE, THAT WAS FROM RABIES.



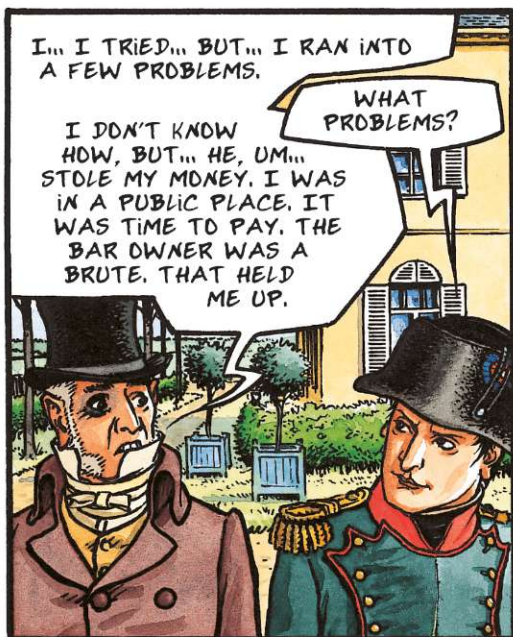
PORTAL, THERE'S A GIRL WE NEED TO FIND. GOES BY THE NAME OF OPAL. SHE WORKS FOR THE NOBS...

BEG YOUR PARDON?

THE NOBILITY!



HE JUST VANISHED? JUST LIKE THAT? AND YOU DID NOTHING?!



I... I TRIED... BUT... I RAN INTO A FEW PROBLEMS.

WHAT PROBLEMS?

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT... HE, UM... STOLE MY MONEY. I WAS IN A PUBLIC PLACE. IT WAS TIME TO PAY. THE BAR OWNER WAS A BRUTE. THAT HELD ME UP.

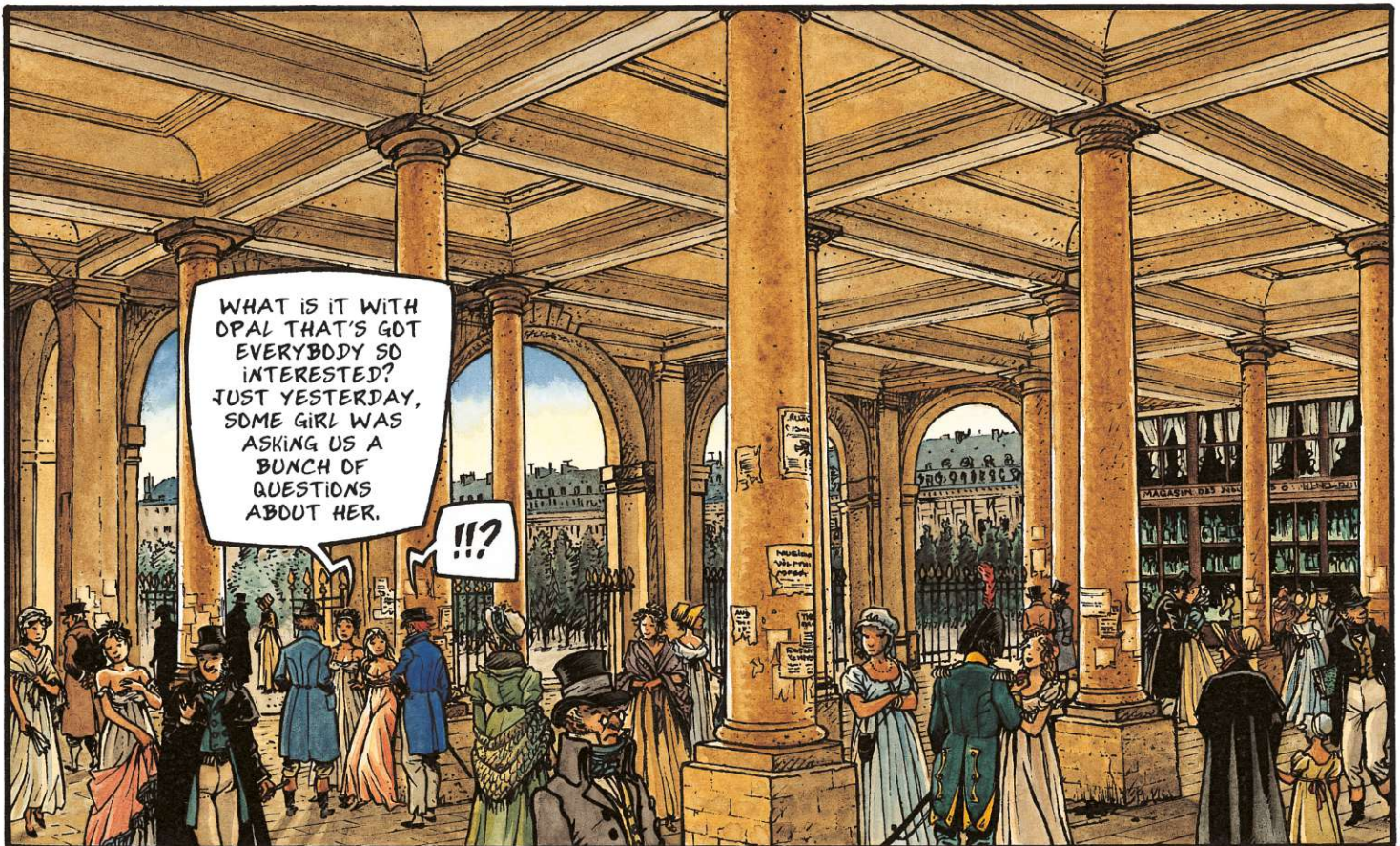
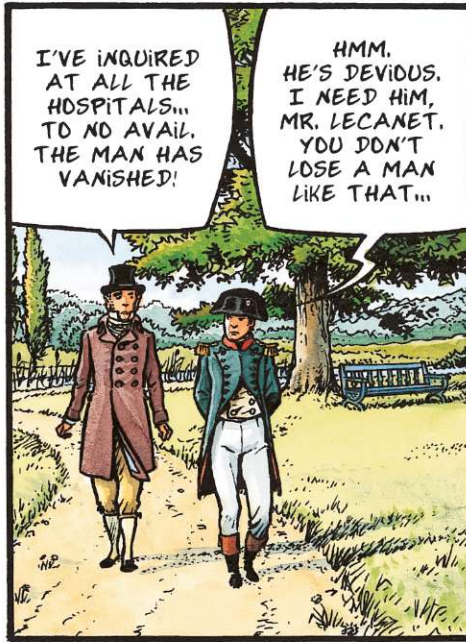


HE STOLE YOUR MONEY?

MY MONEY, MY PAPERS, EVERYTHING! THAT MAN HAS NO RESPECT, CITIZEN CONSUL!



HA HA HA! THAT'S JUST TOO FUNNY!





A GIRL?

WE'LL LOOK INTO IT.

WAS SHE WITH THE POLICE?

NAH, WE WOULDA KNOWN, BUT GERMAINE WAS WALKING PAST-



WHO'S GERMAINE?

YOU DON'T KNOW HER? BIG GERMAINE THAT RUINED LITTLE CHAUDIEU, A DUKE... AND WHO SUFFOCATED BIG FAT LENDIR...

...BETWEEN HER THIGHS.



ANYWAY, SO GERMAINE, WELL SHE SAYS THE GIRL USED TO WORK FOR THE BEANPOLE.



SHOOT, WHAT WAS THAT GUY'S NAME AGAIN? LOUCHE... MOUCHE...

FOUCHÉ!

HMM. THIS COMPLICATES THINGS.

THAT'S IT! THE BIG HAIRY LUMP, THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO CALL HIM. HEH HEH. SOUNDS LIKE HE'S AFTER YOUR GAL OPAL TOO.



DID OPAL HAVE A PROCURER?

SURE SHE DID! BUT WE DIDN'T TELL THE GIRL THAT.

WE ONLY REALLY OPEN UP TO PRETTY BOYS LIKE FRANÇOIS, HERE.

I'M FLATTERED, MADEMOISELLE, TRULY. NOW WHO IS HER PROCURER?



AH... SUCH A SHAME!
OPAL COULD'VE DONE
A LOT BETTER. BUT
SHE FELL FOR THIS
BRUTE... AMADED,
THAT'S HIS NAME.
HE PUTS ON SHOWS
IN THE FORMER
QUARTERMASTERS'
STATION.



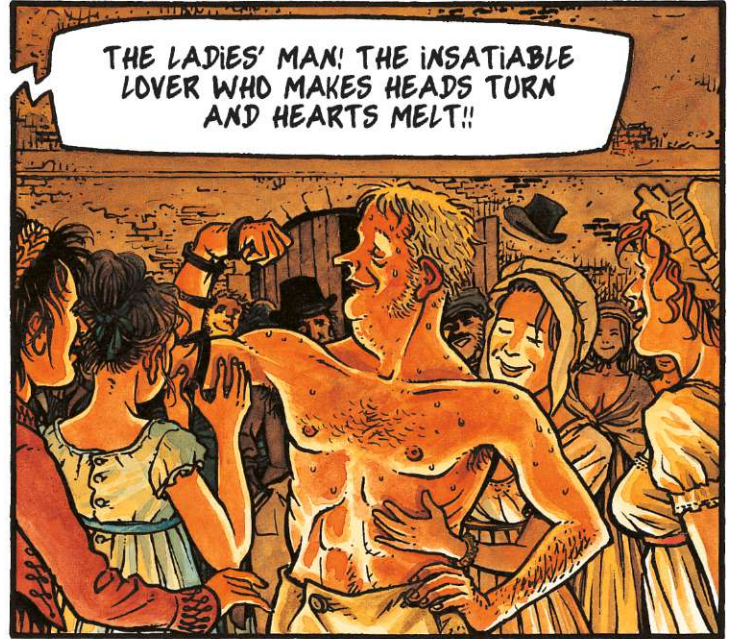
LET IT
SPROUT!
ONE BODY
DOWN,
ONE!



AND SATURN WINS FOR THE SECOND TIME!



WHO'S NEXT? WHO'S CRAZY ENOUGH TO GO UP AGAINST THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE SATURN!



THE LADIES' MAN! THE INSATIABLE LOVER WHO MAKES HEADS TURN AND HEARTS MELT!!



LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE RUN OUT OF VOLUNTEERS, AMADED!

JUST WAIT. SOME MEN GET TURNED ON BY ALL THE BLOOD!



I ASKED AROUND. THAT TALL GUY SITTING ON THE STAGE, THERE, THAT'S AMADED.

GREAT.



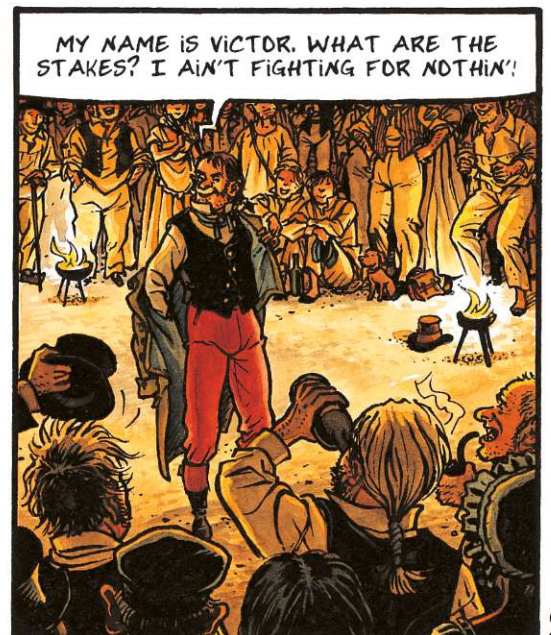
VICTOR, YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THIS?

THE GINGER, THERE? I'LL FLATTEN HIM LIKE A CREPE!



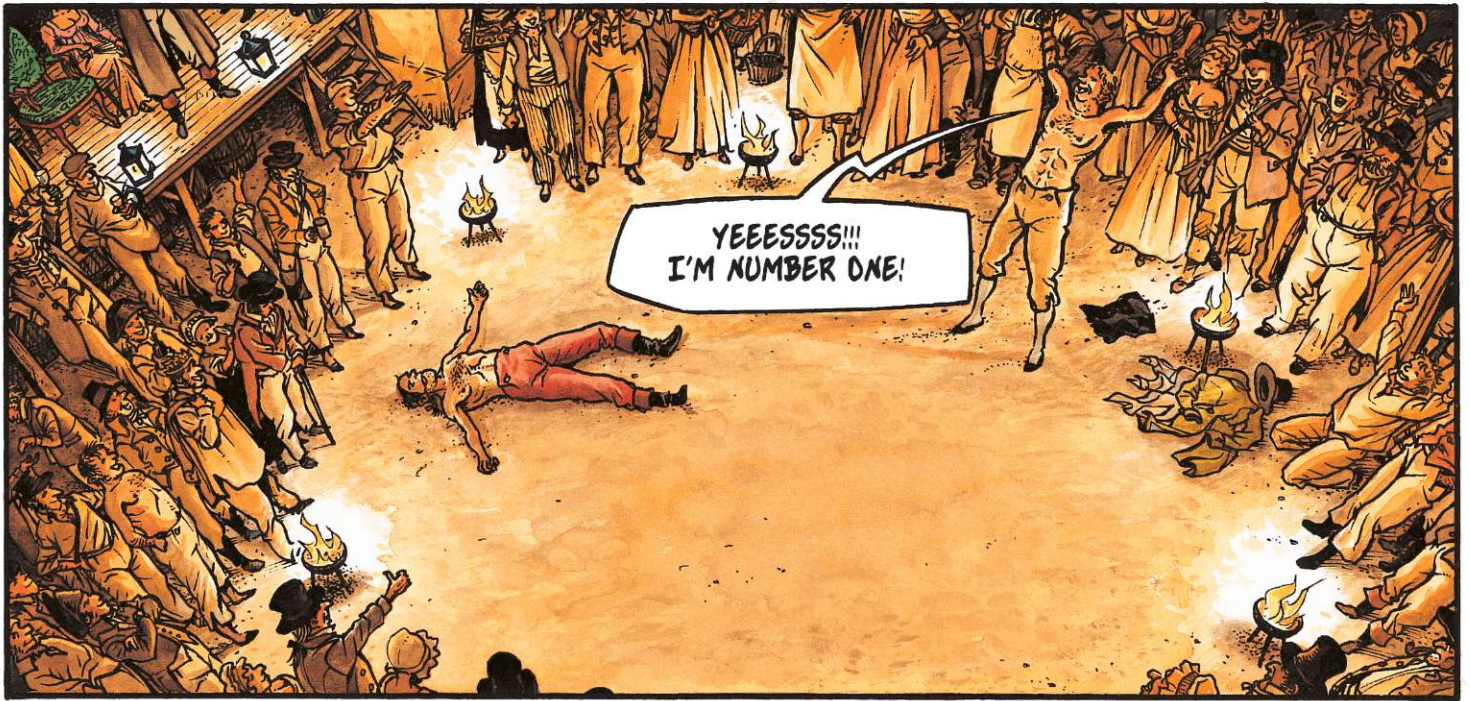
WE GOT AN AMATEUR!!

I KNEW IT! WHERE IS HE?



MY NAME IS VICTOR. WHAT ARE THE STAKES? I AIN'T FIGHTING FOR NOTHIN'!





YEESSSSS!!!
I'M NUMBER ONE!

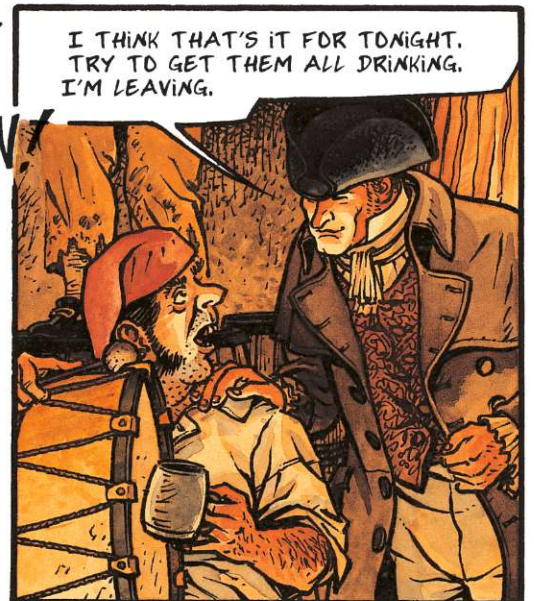


LET IT SPROUT!
ONE BODY DOWN, ONE!

BOONG



SATURN! SATURN!
SATURN! SATURN!



I THINK THAT'S IT FOR TONIGHT.
TRY TO GET THEM ALL DRINKING.
I'M LEAVING.



MY TURN!
WHO WANTS
TO BET ON
ME?

!?



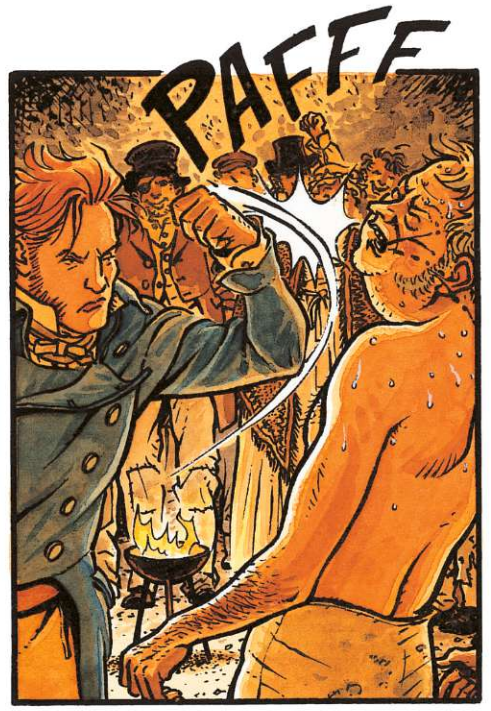
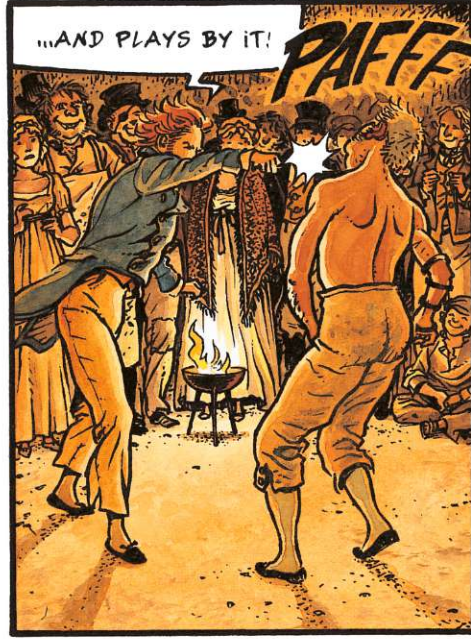
NOBODY?

!?

WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?



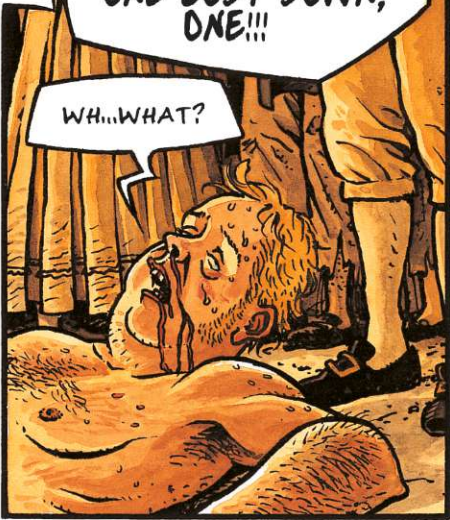
SOMEONE WHO'S
LEARNED THE
RULE...



BONG

LET IT SPROUT!
ONE BODY DOWN,
ONE!!!

WH...WHAT?



NICE MATCH. SHORT BUT INTENSE.
HOW MUCH WOULD BE FAIR
RECOMPENSE FOR YOUR EFFORTS?



I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY,
BUT I HEARD ABOUT THIS GIRL...
OPAL.

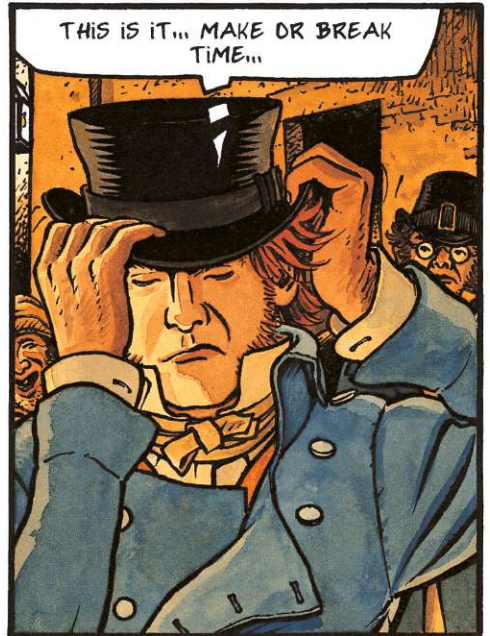
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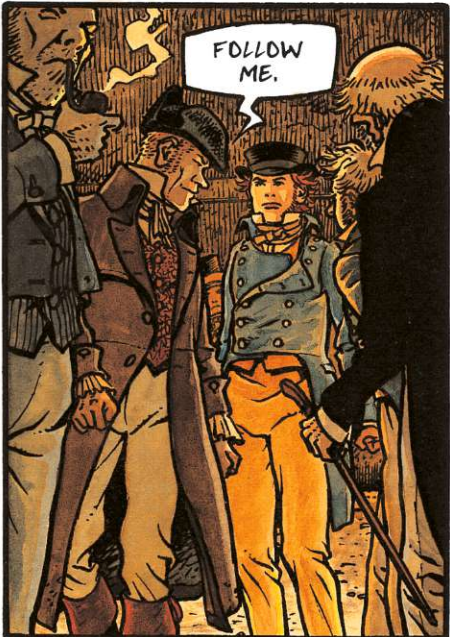
OPAL...



THIS IS IT... MAKE OR BREAK
TIME...



FOLLOW
ME.







SEND HER TO THE WHOREHOUSE AT PONT NEUF. THAT'S WHERE HALF OF PARIS SENDS ITS LEFTOVERS. SHE'LL SOON LEARN WHAT SHE'S GOOD FOR!



HA HA HA!!!



I...

YES?



NOTHING.



DID IT GO ALL RIGHT?

YOU WEREN'T THERE?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE COVERING ME!



I WAS! BUT... I RAN INTO A STRANGE CHARACTER. HE CAN'T BE FAR, ACTUALLY.



I'M GOING. KEEP WORKING THE ROOM UNTIL ALL THEIR POCKETS ARE EMPTY.



AMADEO!

!!



WAIT FOR ME HERE.



BY GOD! IT'S HIM!!



WHITE-IRON!



I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU IN SUCH ATTRACTIVE COMPANY, MY BOY. IS THAT DPAL'S REPLACEMENT?

ER... THEY'VE WORKED TOGETHER. WE'RE KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY!



I... DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?

I JUST ARRIVED. I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.



ME?

YES, YOU.

WHY?

TO WARN YOU...

FORGET ABOUT OPAL. SHE IS NO LONGER YOURS. SHE CROSSED A LINE.

WHAT... WHAT LINE?



THE ONE THAT SEPARATES THE QUESTION FROM THE ANSWER. SOMEONE STUCK HIS NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG. OPAL WAS DRAWN INTO HIS GAME. THERE'S NO WAY OUT.



NEED ANY POTS OR PANS?

NO... THANK YOU, THOUGH.



IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO SAY.



WHEW! WHAT A STRANGE MAN! HE GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS EVERY SINGLE TIME...

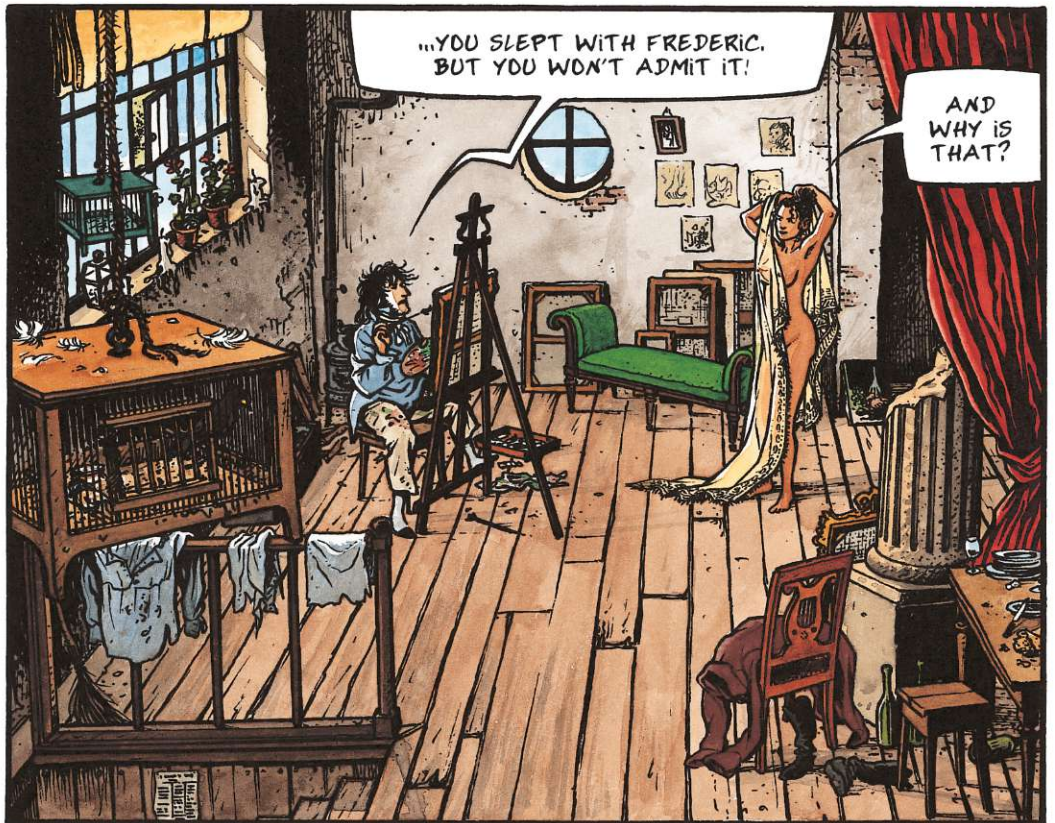


TELL ME, KITTY. YOU WOULD LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAD ANY NEWS ABOUT OPAL, WOULDN'T YOU?

||
||
YOU... ALREADY ASKED ME THAT...



...AND I SAID I HAD NO IDEA WHERE SHE IS.





CAN I GET DRESSED?

NO.



!!!

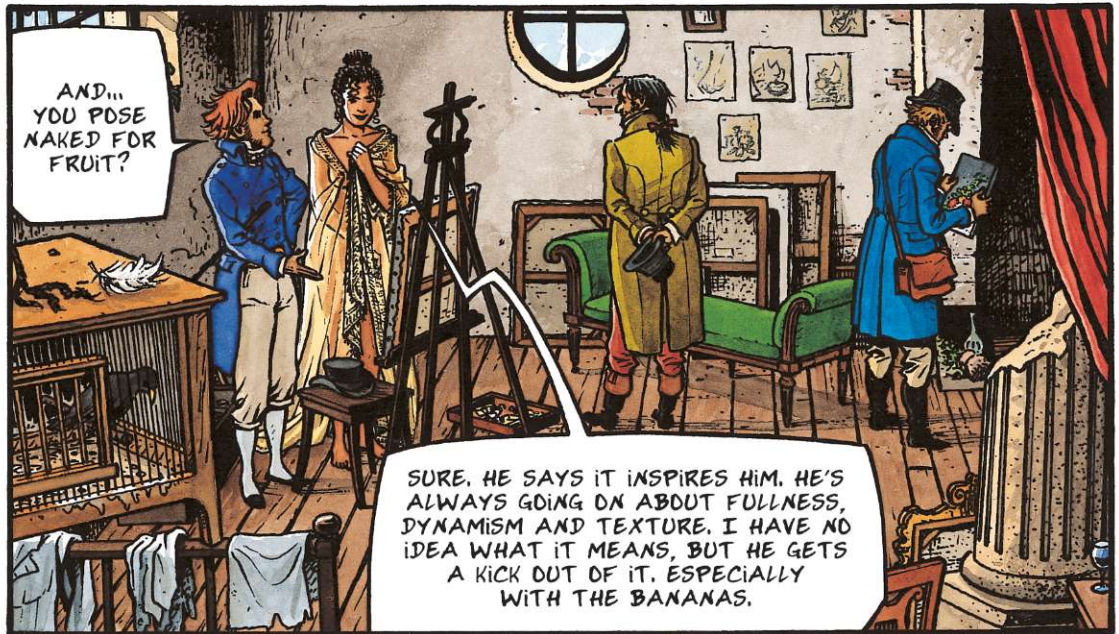


UM... HAVE YOU SEEN HIS WORK?

HIS PAINTING?



FRUIT. THAT'S HIS SPECIALTY. IS THERE A PROBLEM?



AND... YOU POSE NAKED FOR FRUIT?

SURE. HE SAYS IT INSPIRES HIM. HE'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT FULLNESS, DYNAMISM AND TEXTURE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS, BUT HE GETS A KICK OUT OF IT. ESPECIALLY WITH THE BANANAS.



YOU WANT ME TO POSE FOR YOU, TOO?



NO. WHAT WE WANT IS OPAL. AND YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

!!



RIGHT?

I...



YOU CAN'T TELL AMADED... HE'S VIOLENT. IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON OPAL, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO TO HER.



I DON'T DOUBT IT. AND YET YOU SHARE HIS BED...

HE PROTECTS ME. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.

WHY NOT? YOU'RE PRETTY.



I HAVE DARK SKIN. THAT'S A TURN-OFF, TO SOME.



KITTY... MY SKIN IS DARK TOO. AND WHITE. AND RED. AND YELLOW. ONLY MORONS FAIL TO SEE THAT.



SO WE'RE MORONS? WELL HE AIN'T YELLOW! I THINK I WOULD'VE NOTICED THAT!

IGNORE HIM. HE'S JUST TRYING TO SOUND INTERESTING TO IMPRESS THE GIRL.



YEAH! BUT HER SKIN IS DARK!



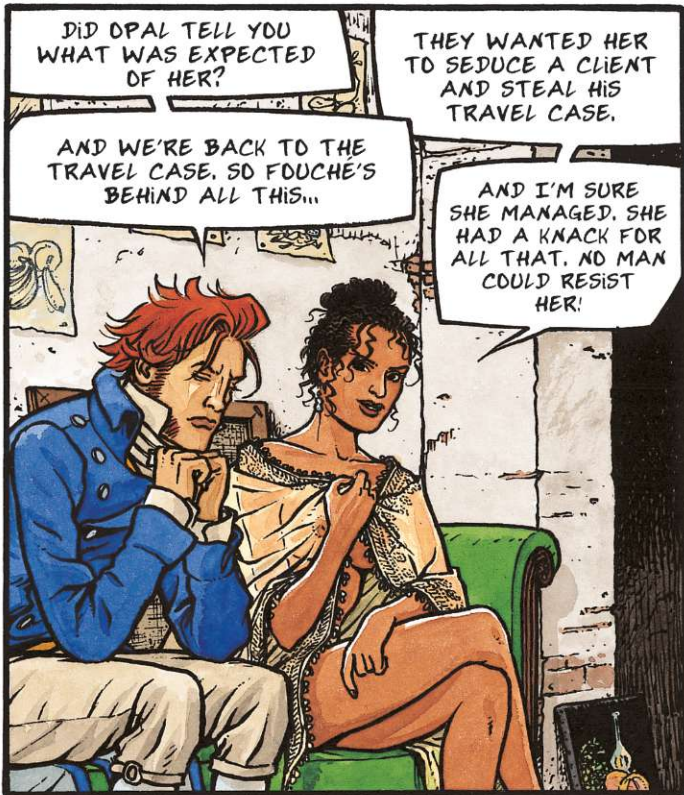
AMADED WASN'T STRAIGHT WITH YOU. HE HIRED OPAL OUT TO SOME GRANDEE. A TALL, SKINNY MAN... HAD A KIND OF RODENT LOOK ABOUT HIM...

I ONLY SAW HIM ONCE, BUT I HEAR HE'S AN IMPORTANT MAN.

FOUCHÉ!



IMPORTANT, MAYBE. DANGEROUS, DEFINITELY.



DID OPAL TELL YOU WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF HER?

AND WE'RE BACK TO THE TRAVEL CASE, SO FOUCHÉ'S BEHIND ALL THIS...

THEY WANTED HER TO SEDUCE A CLIENT AND STEAL HIS TRAVEL CASE.

AND I'M SURE SHE MANAGED, SHE HAD A KNACK FOR ALL THAT, NO MAN COULD RESIST HER!



SO FOUCHÉ HAS THE CASE?!

NO, AMADED CHECKED, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE IT IS EITHER.



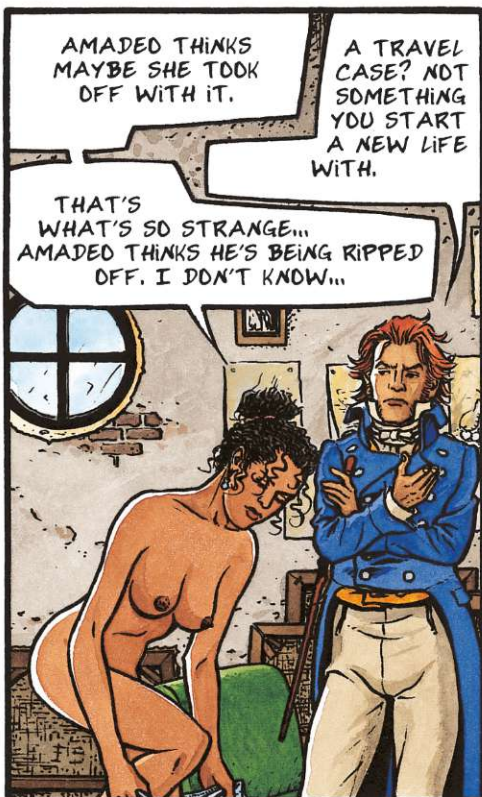
I'M COLD, I WANT TO PUT MY CLOTHES BACK ON.

GO AHEAD.



PLAFFE

WE'LL LOOK THE OTHER WAY.



AMADED THINKS MAYBE SHE TOOK OFF WITH IT.

A TRAVEL CASE? NOT SOMETHING YOU START A NEW LIFE WITH.

THAT'S WHAT'S SO STRANGE... AMADED THINKS HE'S BEING RIPPED OFF. I DON'T KNOW...



HMM, WHAT IF SHE DISCOVERED THE SECRET COMPARTMENT?



KITTY... OPAL WAS YOUR FRIEND, I THINK SHE'S IN GRAVE DANGER, DO YOU WANT TO HELP HER?

YES, BUT HOW?

BY TELLING ME WHAT YOU KEPT FROM THE OTHERS...



...WHERE SHE'S HIDING... THE NAME OF THE SAFE PLACE OPAL WOULD GO TO IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.



THIS IS IT.
MAISON MUSOT.

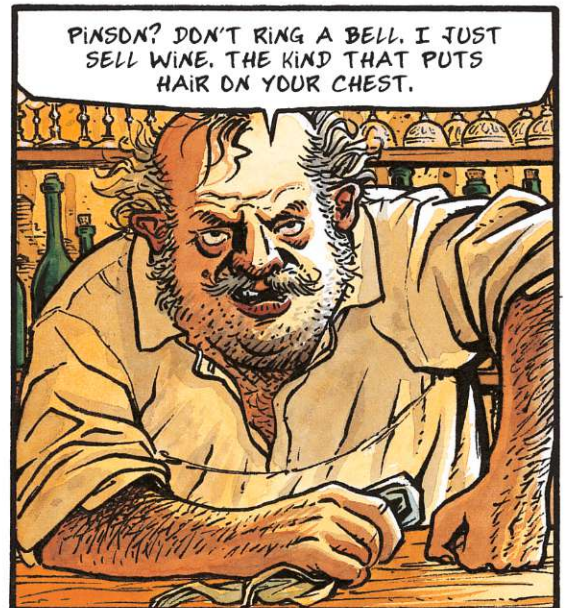


NOT VERY
POPULATED
AROUND HERE.

OH, THERE'S BOUND
TO BE A FEW PEOPLE
WHO MANAGED TO
ESCAPE OLD MAN
MUSOT'S ELIXIRS.



IF KITTY'S RIGHT,
OPAL KEEPS A ROOM
UPSTAIRS, UNDER THE
ALIAS MISS PINSON.



PINSON? DON'T RING A BELL, I JUST
SELL WINE. THE KIND THAT PUTS
HAIR ON YOUR CHEST.



UH-
HUH.

YOU, MY GOOD
MAN, ARE A
TONIC. I SHALL
DRINK SOME OF
YOUR WINE...



...BUT IN MISS PINSON'S
ROOM. THE DARLING GIRL
SOMETIMES ALLOWS ME
TO CALL IN ON HER.

UH-HUH.
I SEE.

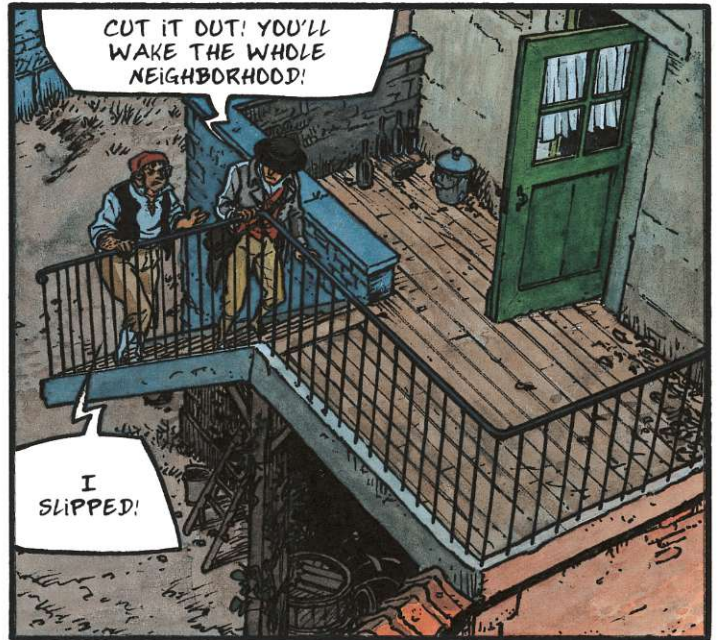


HMM.
SOMETHING
TELLS ME I
CAN TRUST
YOU.

MUST BE MY
GOOD LOOKS!



40.



41.



IS THE GRAVEDIGGER ON HIS WAY?

HE BETTER BE, WITH WHAT I'M PAYING HIM!

3
Eau
Liquor



LOOK... HE'S ALREADY HERE.



IT'S ABOUT TIME!



IT'S STARTING TO GIVE WAY UNDER THERE, I CAN HEAR CRACKING SOUNDS...

ON THREE! ONE... TWO...



...THREE!

THAT'S THE WAY!



WHAT I LIKE ABOUT COMMUNAL GRAVES IS THAT YOU CAN THROW IN ANYTHING! AIN'T NOBODY EVER AROUND TO CHECK.



PAAW



WHAT THE--?



DROP IT!



Ooow...



OK! THEY TOLD ME TO FILL 'ER UP...



WHEW! YEAH, IT IS CRACKING UNDER THERE!



...I'M FILLING 'ER UP!

!?



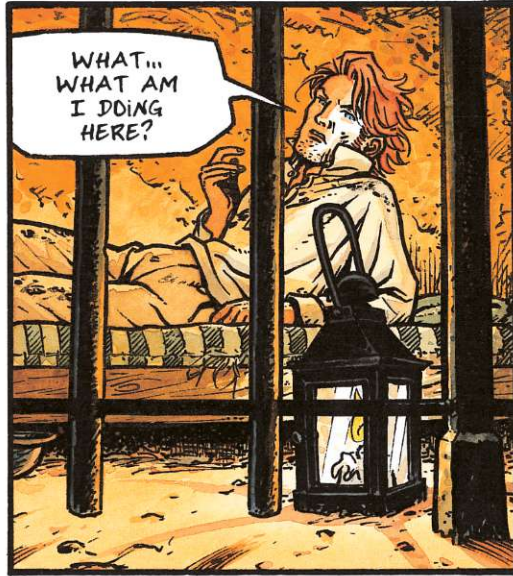
DAF

NICE ONE!

PARIS, AUGUST 1802. THE HODDLUM NAMED OUIDA HAS BURNED THE FEET MADE UP OF 17 TOES BELONGING TO THE GEMBIERS, A BOURGEOIS COUPLE THAT REFUSED TO GIVE UP THE LOCATION OF THEIR NEST EGG. GOAT-TURD, HIS BALLS ON FIRE, HAS JUST LEFT THE RICH MARE. OLD MAN BOQUET IS FINISHING UP HIS 23-VOLUME MASTERPIECE ENTITLED "THE ART OF PICKING BOLTS, LOCKS, DOORS AND WARTS." THE INFAMOUS CAFE LOQUET HAS SHUT ITS DOORS. ITS LAST PATRONS WENT BLIND AFTER INGESTING SOME OF MONSIEUR MUSOT'S MOST RECENT CONCOCTIONS. A FIRE HAS BURNED DOWN MADAM DUFOURNEAU'S BROTHEL. THE LAND REGISTER HAS BEEN CREATED. THE LOWER CLASS MUST PAY A TRIBUTE TO THE NEW LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD. WHO IS THIS NEW LORD?



45.



“DURING THE BEGINNING STAGES OF MY TIME
AT MALMAISON, THE PREMIER CONSUL SLEPT ASIDE
HIS WIFE AS ALL THE GOOD BOURGEOIS OF PARIS DO.
I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER OF ANY AMOROUS
INTRIGUE OCCURRING AT THE CHATEAU.”

Constant Wairy (1778/1845)
known as Constant, first valet of Bonaparte.

TO THIS I ADD:
- NOT UNTIL THE GAME OF MASKS!

Jean Dufaux
