

DUFAUX ~ MARINI

RAPTORS

II



EuRope
COMICS

DUFAUX ~ MARINI

RAPTORS



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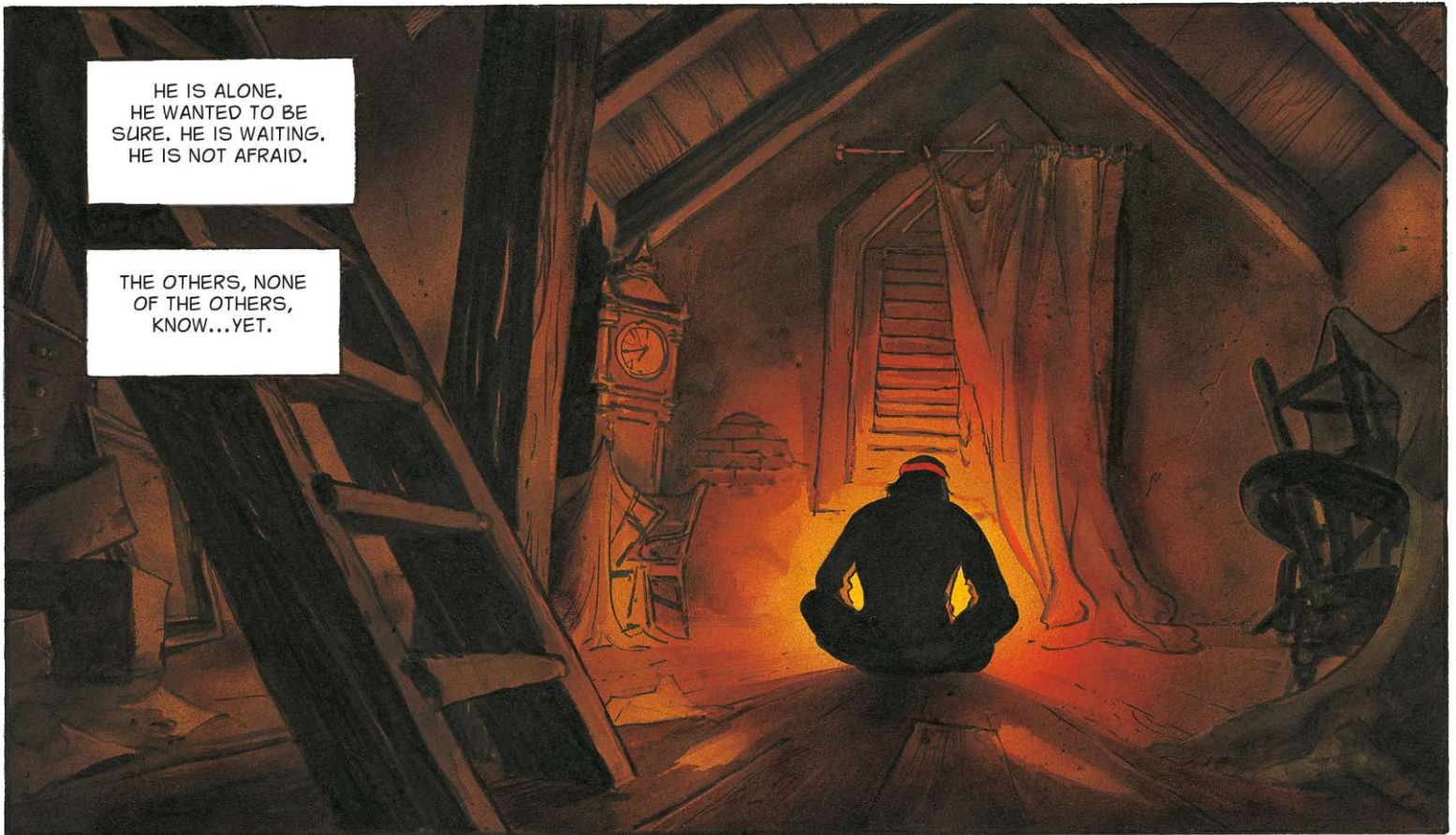
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DARGAUD
BENELUX



HE IS ALONE.
HE WANTED TO BE
SURE. HE IS WAITING.
HE IS NOT AFRAID.

THE OTHERS, NONE
OF THE OTHERS,
KNOW...YET.

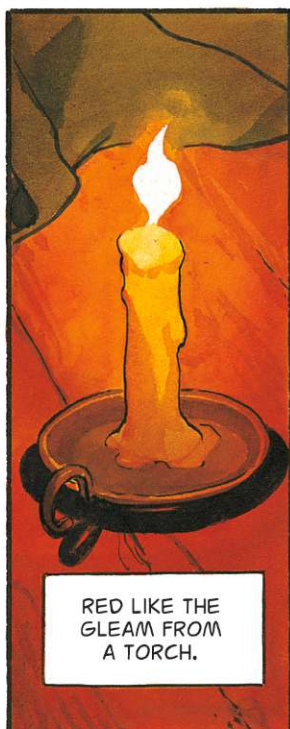


BUT HE HAS DOUBTS...
BEHIND THE DOORS OF
HIS PAST, THERE ARE
RUSTLINGS, MURMURS,
A QUICK MOVEMENT, THE
SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS
WALKING AWAY.

PERHAPS...
PERHAPS THE
TEARS OF
A CHILD.

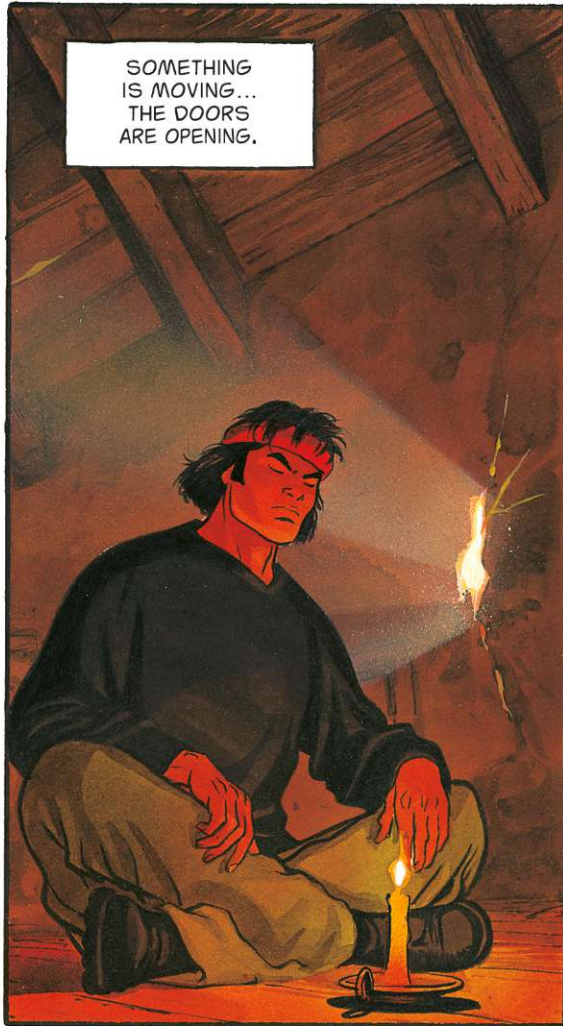
WAS HE THAT
CHILD? HE WANTS
TO KNOW. A FORCE
IS PUSHING HIM.
A FORCE WHICH HE
CAN NO LONGER
RESIST.

SO HE
CONCENTRATES.
HE FOCUSES
ON THE RED DOT
IN HIS HEAD.



RED LIKE THE
GLEAM FROM
A TORCH.

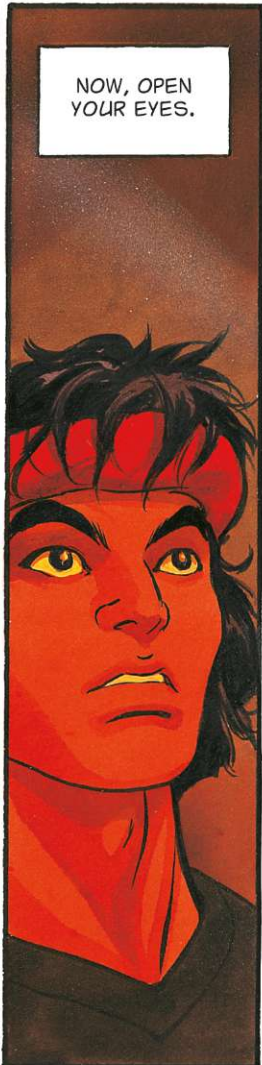
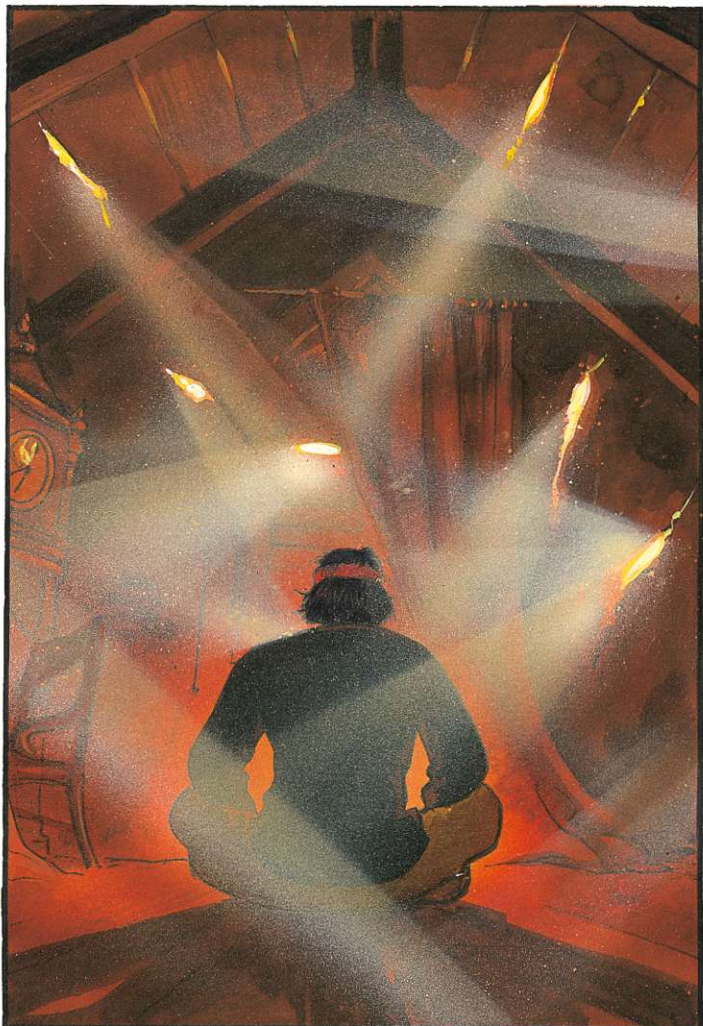




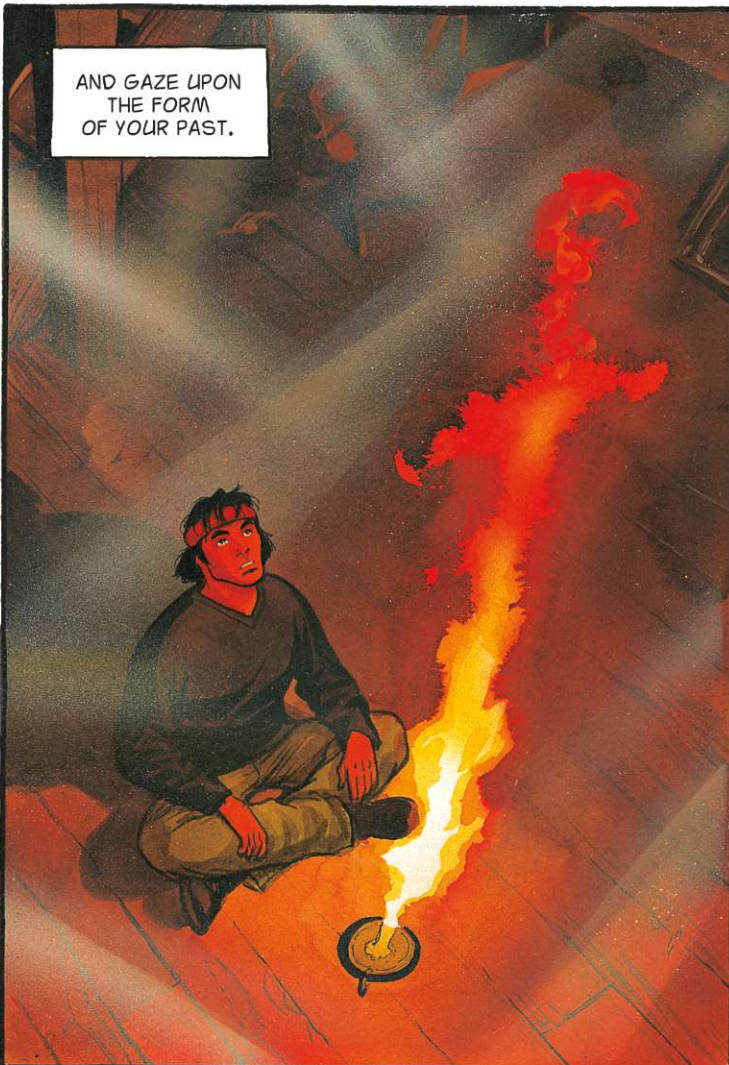
SOMETHING IS MOVING...
THE DOORS ARE OPENING.



BRIGHTER LIGHTS...
AND PAIN.



NOW, OPEN YOUR EYES.



AND GAZE UPON THE FORM OF YOUR PAST.



ALL OF YOU!!!



HEY!
ANYONE
THERE?

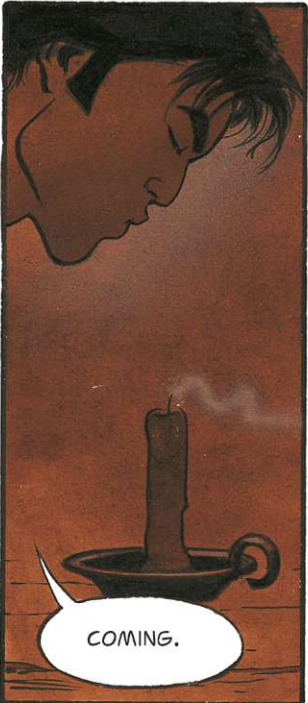


ONE
MINUTE!



THUD
THUD
THUD

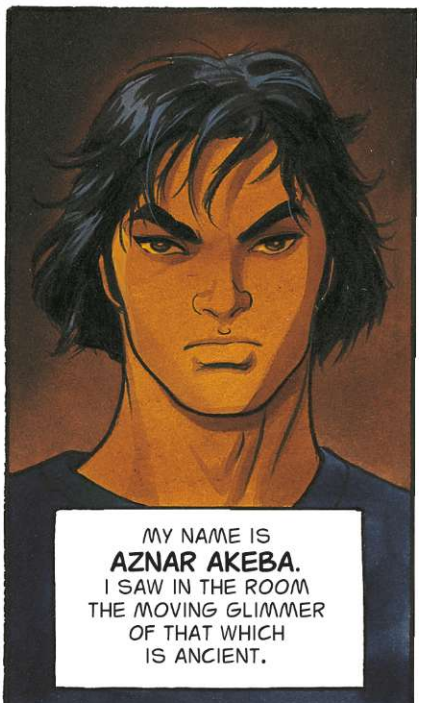
OPEN UP
FOR GOD'S
SAKE!



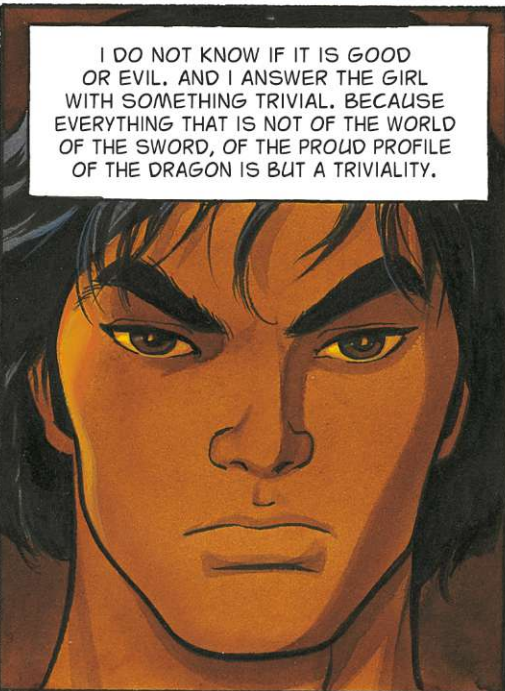
COMING.



YOU! BUT...
WHAT THE HELL ARE
YOU DOING THERE
IN THE DARK?!!



MY NAME IS
AZNAR AKEBA.
I SAW IN THE ROOM
THE MOVING GLIMMER
OF THAT WHICH
IS ANCIENT.



I DO NOT KNOW IF IT IS GOOD
OR EVIL. AND I ANSWER THE GIRL
WITH SOMETHING TRIVIAL. BECAUSE
EVERYTHING THAT IS NOT OF THE WORLD
OF THE SWORD, OF THE PROUD PROFILE
OF THE DRAGON IS BUT A TRIVIALITY.



I WANTED
TO WARN YOU...
RONALDO IS
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

MAYBE
YOU SHOULD
AVOID THE GYM
FOR A WHILE.

WHAT? HE
STILL DOESN'T
GET IT?



I KEEP TELLING HIM THAT IT'S OVER BETWEEN US, THAT YOU'VE COME INTO MY LIFE, BUT NOTHING WORKS.

HE STILL THINKS HE CAN WIN ME BACK.



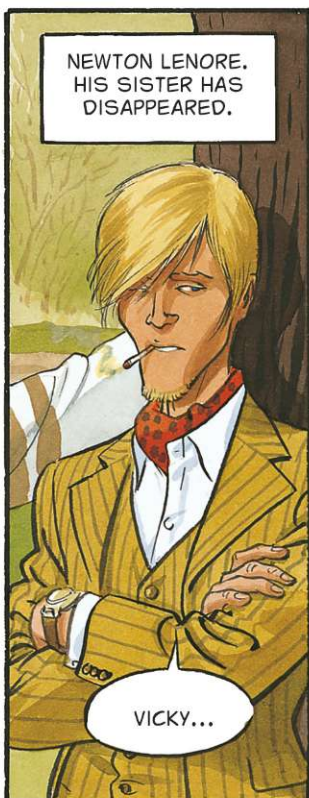
IT ALL SEEMS A BIT HEAVY TO ME. A BIT TROUBLESOME, DON'T YOU THINK?

BUT IT IS SERIOUS, AZNAR... I LOVE YOU...EVEN IF YOU THINK IT'S A BURDEN.



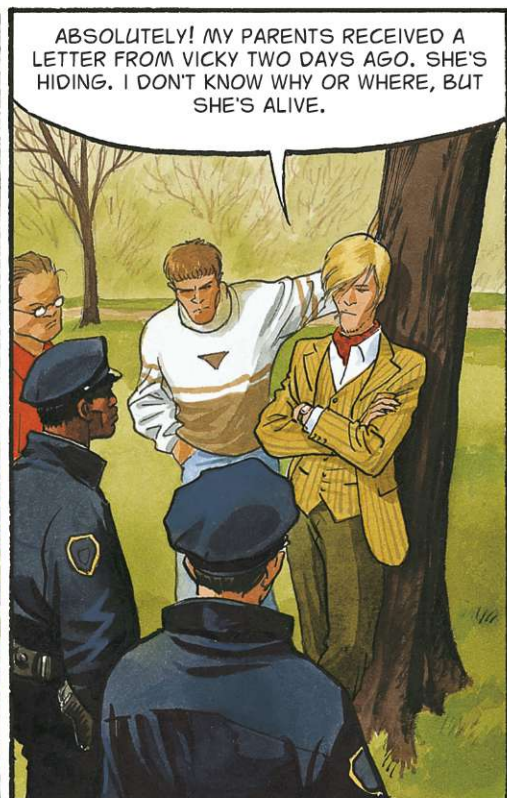
HEY! IT'S THE COPS! WHAT'S GOING ON?

AH! IT MUST BE FOR NEWTON!



NEWTON LENORE. HIS SISTER HAS DISAPPEARED.

VICKY...



ABSOLUTELY! MY PARENTS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM VICKY TWO DAYS AGO. SHE'S HIDING. I DON'T KNOW WHY OR WHERE, BUT SHE'S ALIVE.

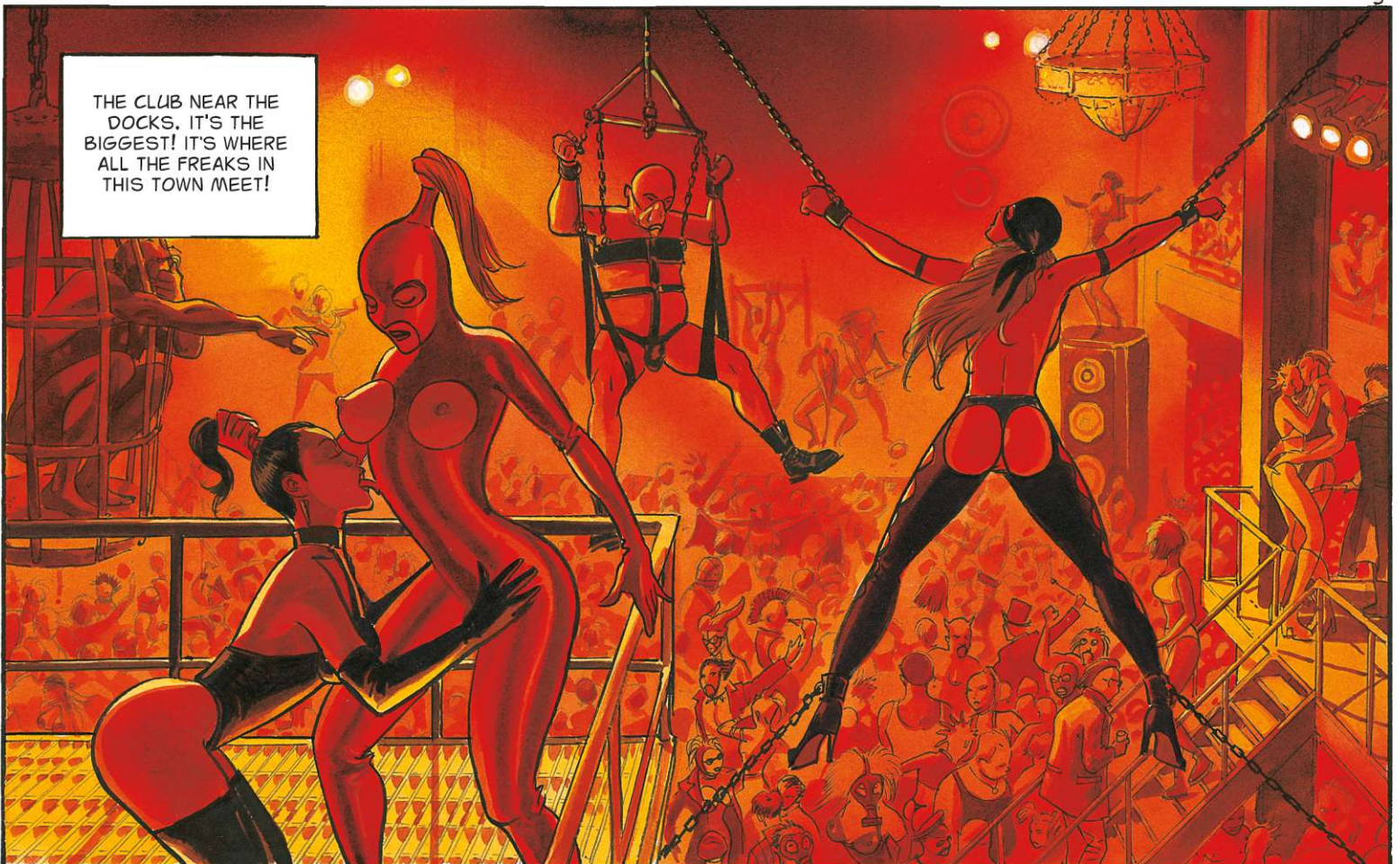


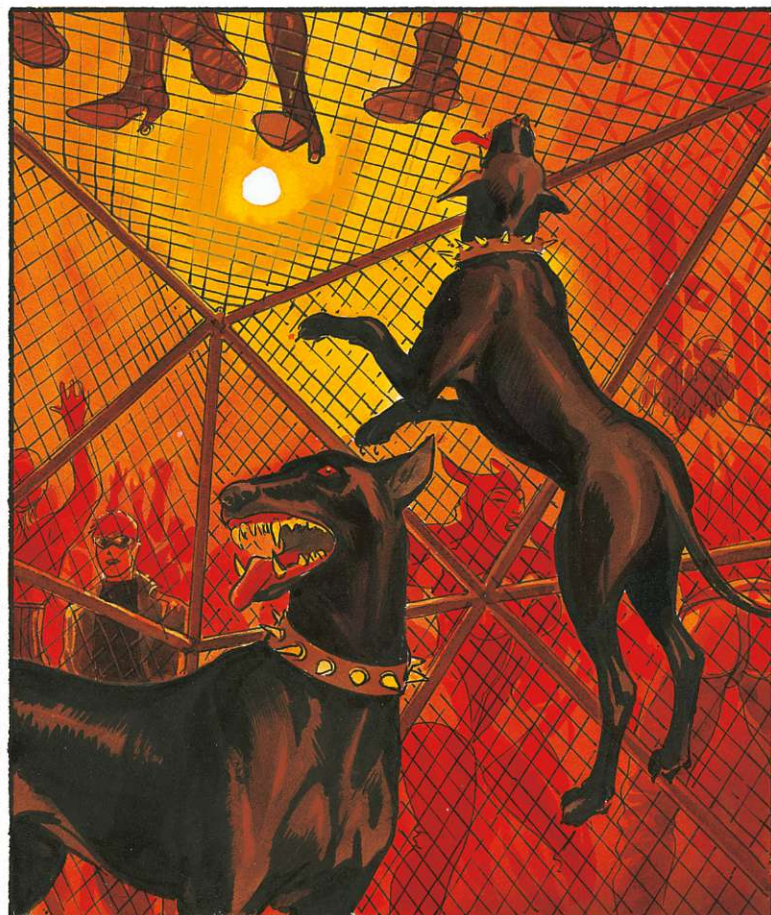
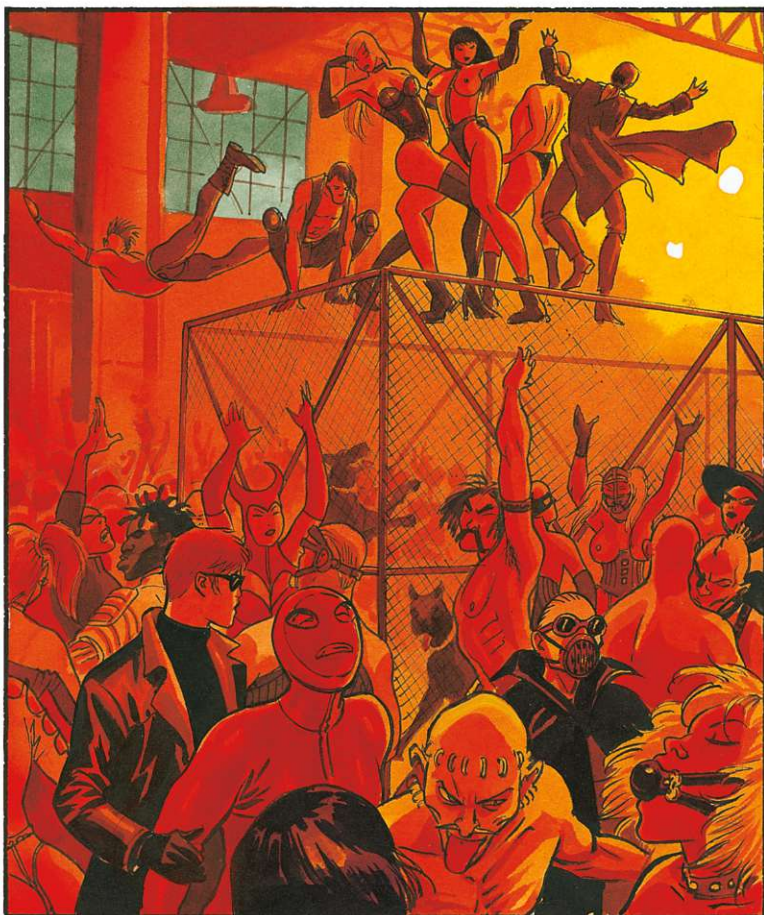
WE NEED THAT LETTER. CAN YOU NOTIFY YOUR PARENTS?

I'LL TALK TO THEM. WE'RE LIKE YOU, OFFICER...



...WE REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO VICKY.



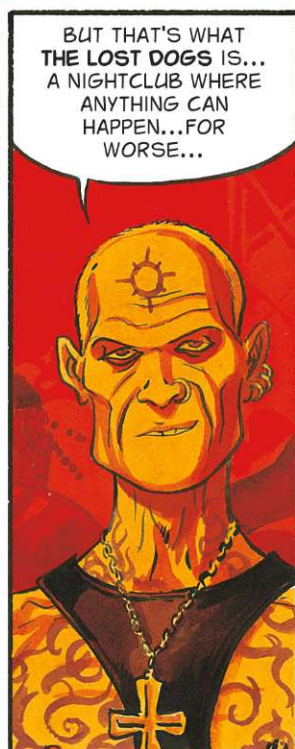


YOU FEEL LIKE DANCING OVER THOSE BASTARDS?

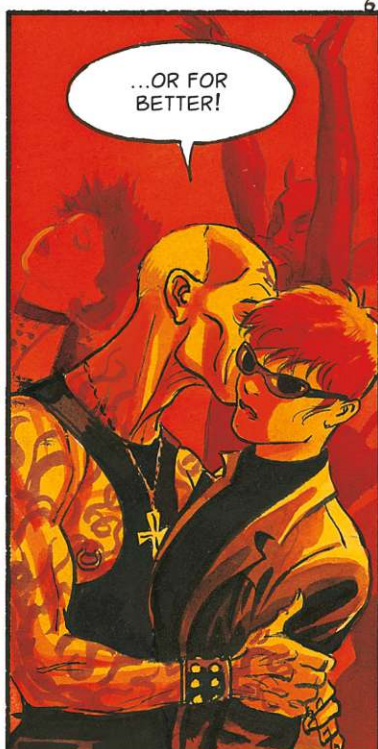


ISN'T IT DANGEROUS?

YEAH. LAST TIME, ONE OF THOSE MUTTS STARTED GNAWING ON MY BUDDY'S LEG. THEY CAN JUMP PRETTY HIGH SOMETIMES.



BUT THAT'S WHAT THE LOST DOGS IS... A NIGHTCLUB WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...FOR WORSE...



...OR FOR BETTER!



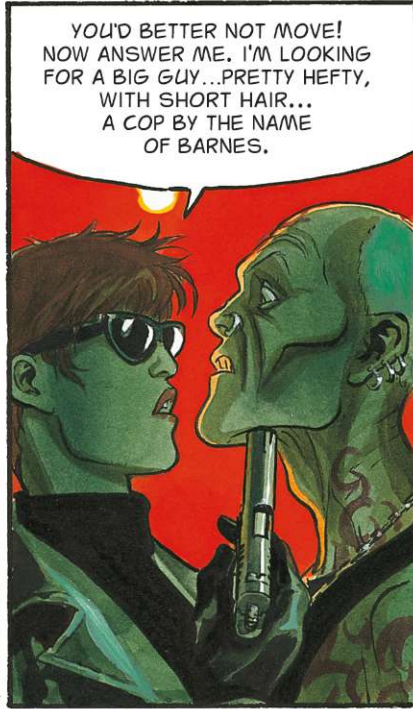
I PREFER FOR BETTER, BUT SOMEWHERE A BIT MORE PRIVATE. COME ON.



COME HERE. HOLD ME CLOSE.



AND NOW, YOU LISTEN GOOD, ASSHOLE.



YOU'D BETTER NOT MOVE! NOW ANSWER ME. I'M LOOKING FOR A BIG GUY...PRETTY HEFTY, WITH SHORT HAIR... A COP BY THE NAME OF BARNES.



BARNES? YEAH, HE COMES HERE A LOT. HE WAS HERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.



WITH A BLUE-HAIRED GIRL. HE WAS HOLDING HER PRETTY CLOSE.

WE SHOULD HEAD ON UP, DON'T YOU THINK?

IF YOU WANT.

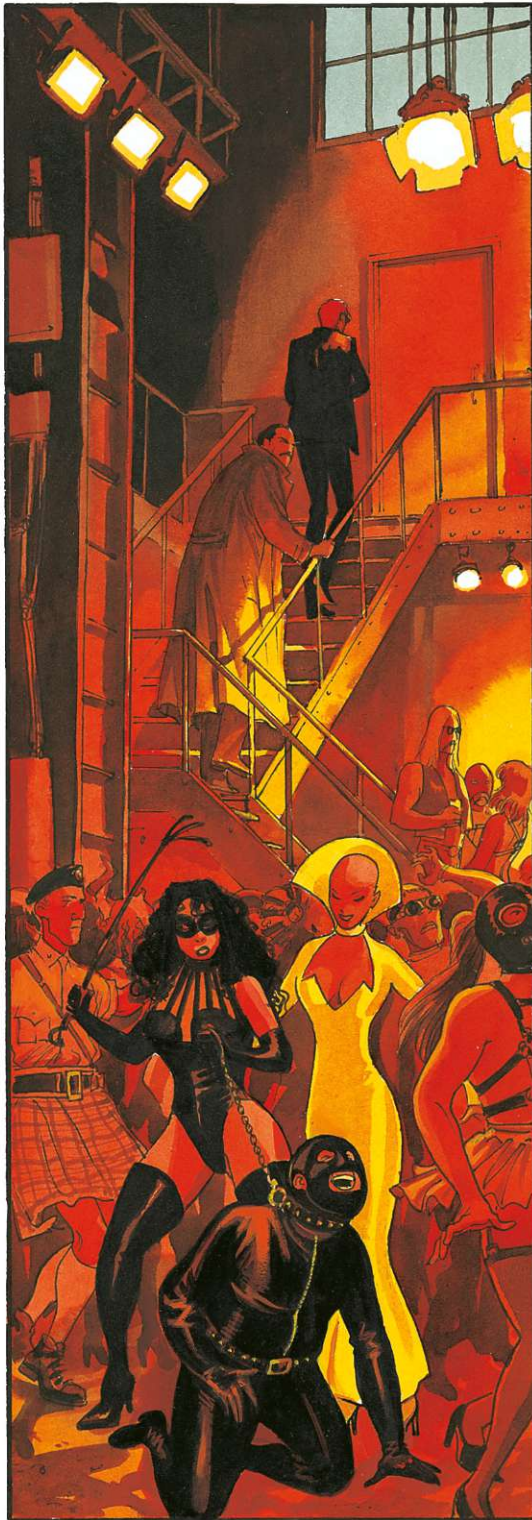


NOT TOO BUSY, SPIAGGI?

HUH??

I THINK I KNOW WHERE HE IS. LET'S GO!

OH!??





COME HERE. GOOD BOY...COME GET A LITTLE BIT OF THIS!



YEAH... YOU LIKE THAT, HUH, BUDDY? COME ON, BOY... EAT UP.



WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?

SOME MACAROONS. SPECIALLY PREPARED BY MY MOTHER.



UHH...SHE ALWAYS SLIPS A FEW INTO MY POCKETS.

HA! MAMA'S BOYS! YOU'RE ALL THE SAME!



ALL RIGHT, LENORE, STOP MAKING FUN! NOW'S NOT THE TIME.

BUT I'M NOT MAKING FUN... IT'S ACTUALLY RATHER SWEET.



SHIT!



WHAT!? WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT...IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T COME IN.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! GET OUT OF THE WAY!



OH !!!



THE BLUE-HAIRED GIRL!



??



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

WHAT?



THE FRIDGE?

THERE'S HUMAN FLESH INSIDE, LENORE... ALL DIFFERENT PARTS.

CLACK

10



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SHIT!!! THE GIRL...THEY SLAUGHTERED HER LIKE A SHEEP...LIKE A SHEEP, SPIAGGI!

THEY... WHO ARE "THEY"? YOU THINK IT WAS BARNES?

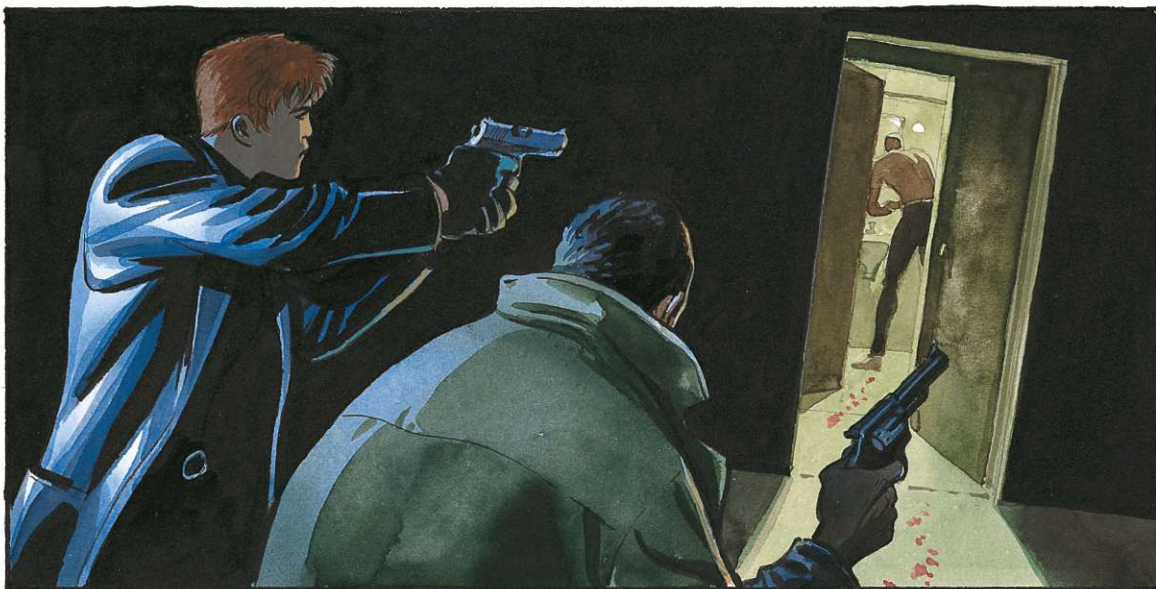
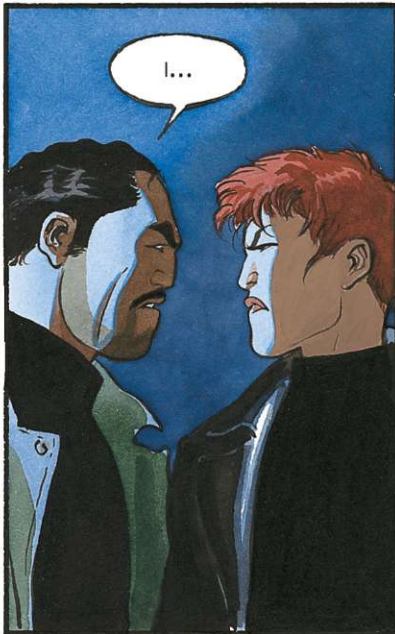


BARNES! NO... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! I...I SLEPT NEXT TO HIM FOR SO MANY NIGHTS.



YOU CHOOSE YOUR LOVERS POORLY, LENORE.

OH REALLY!? YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN YOU? I BET YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SAID NO!











WHO ARE YOU?

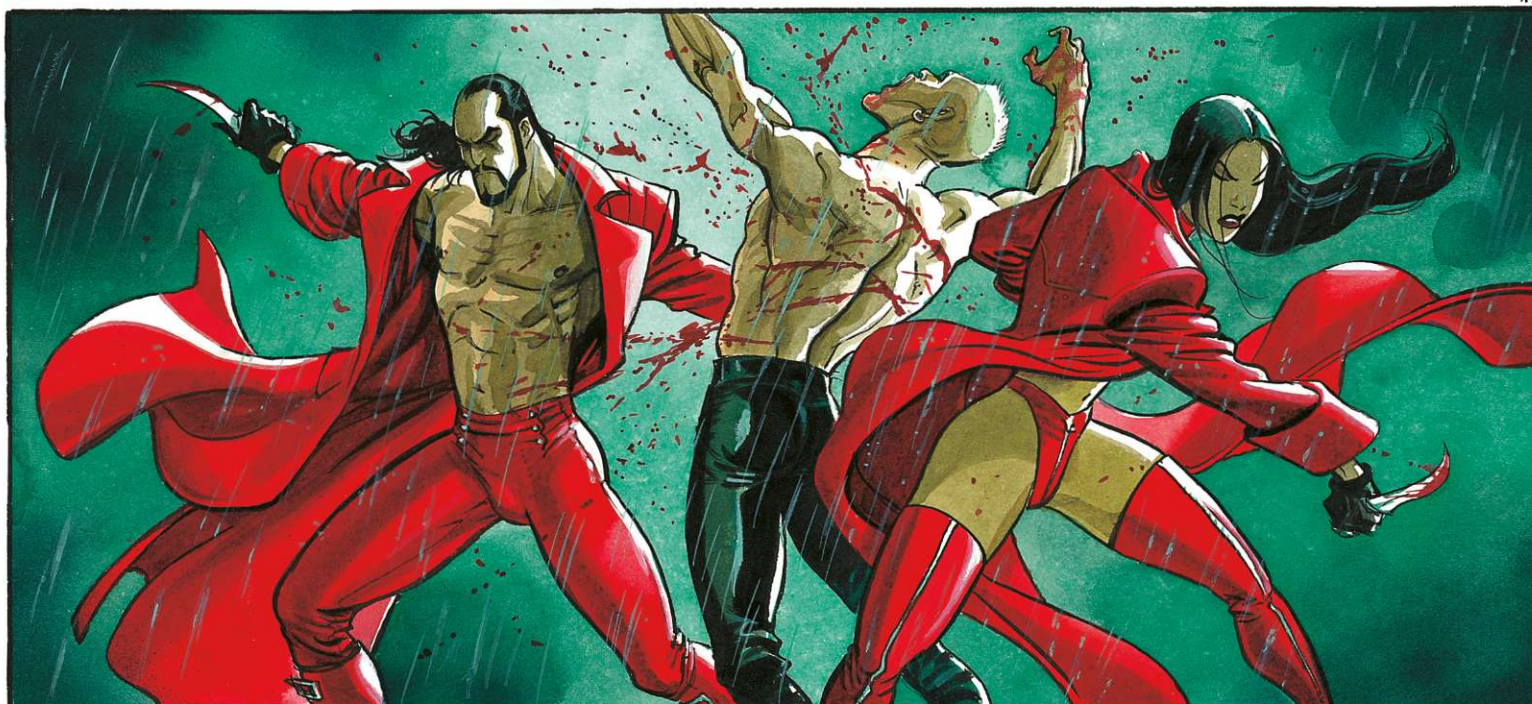
A MEMORY. AN OLD GLIMMER...



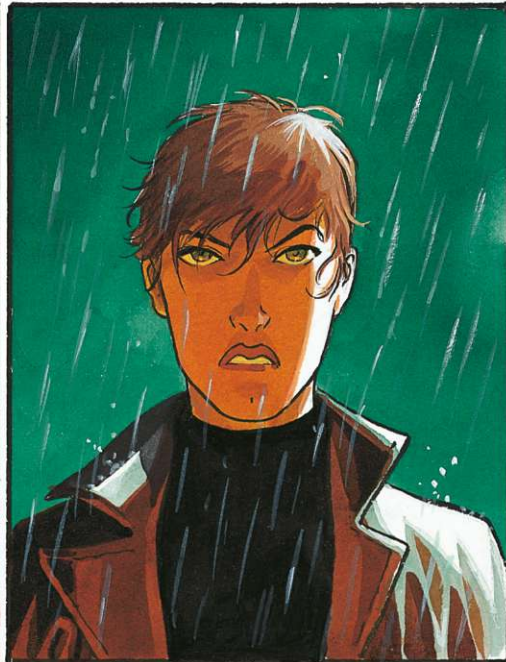
...FLASHING OFF THE BLADE OF A KNIFE.

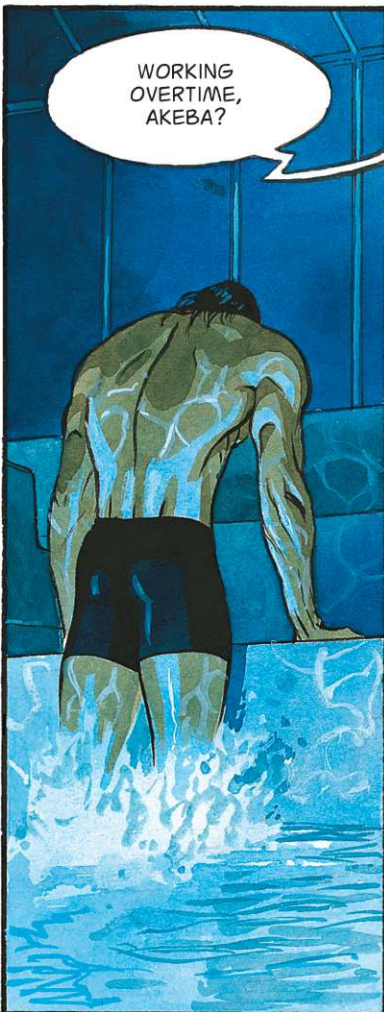


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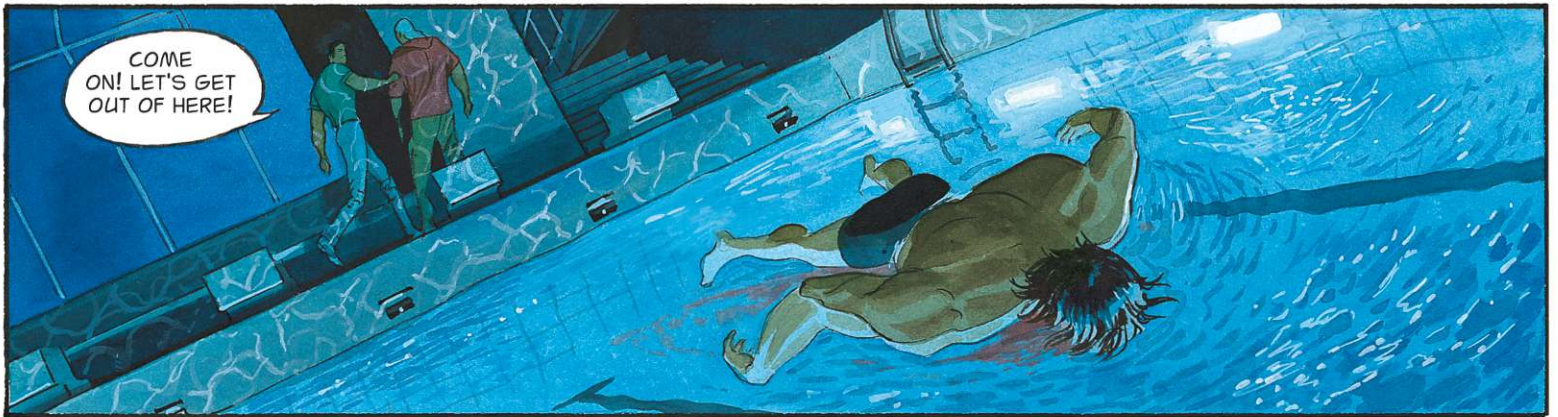
HEY! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT! HE'S LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

NO... WAIT.



IT SUCKS... BUT WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT... A STUPID ACCIDENT.

!!



COME ON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



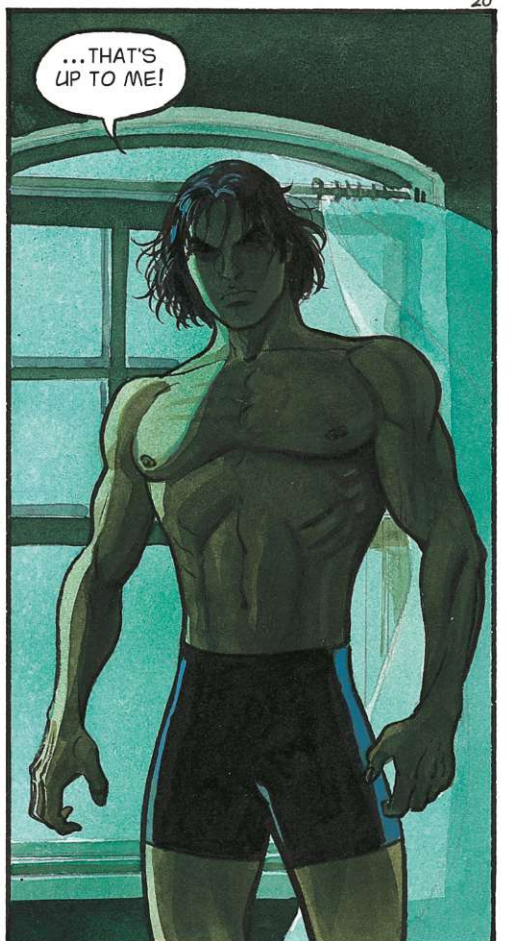
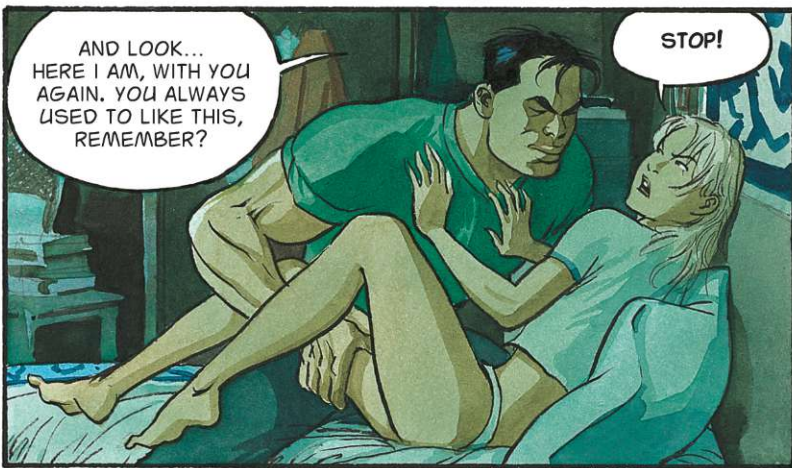
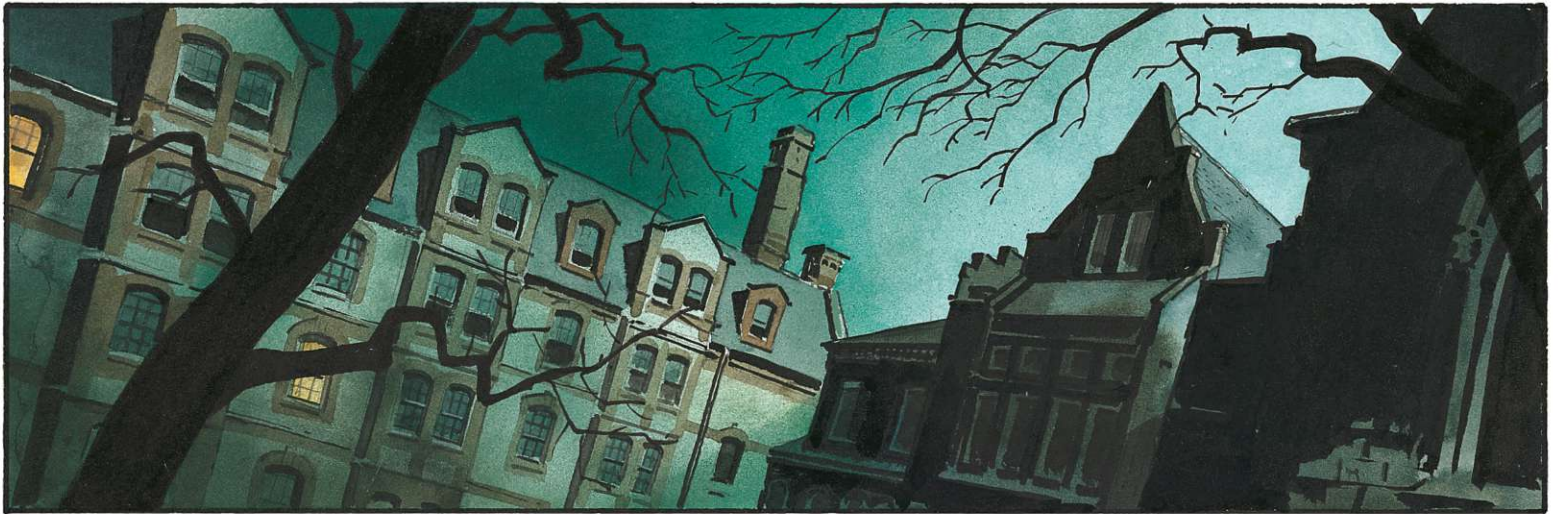
6 MINUTES

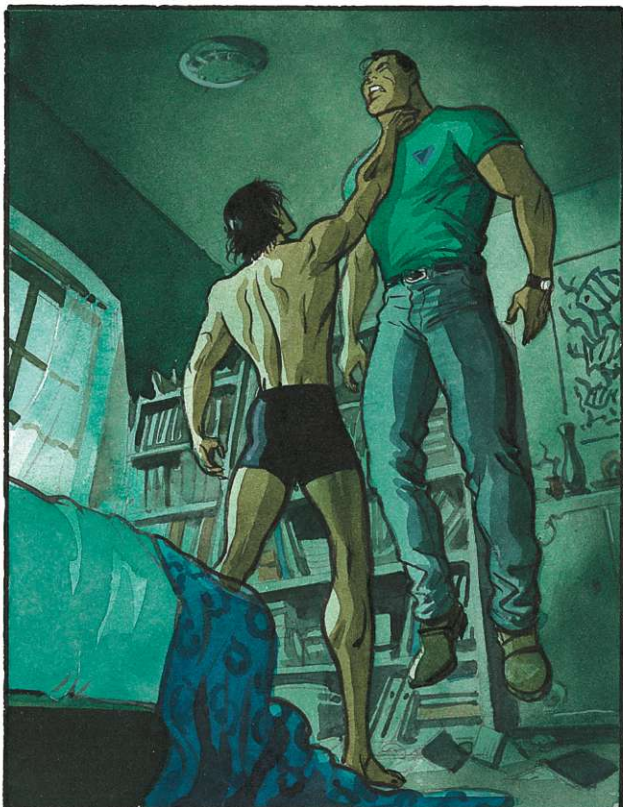


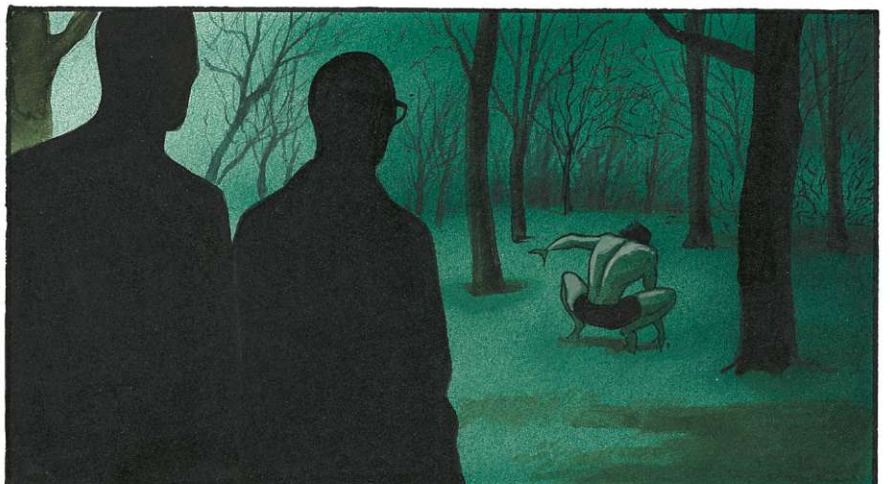
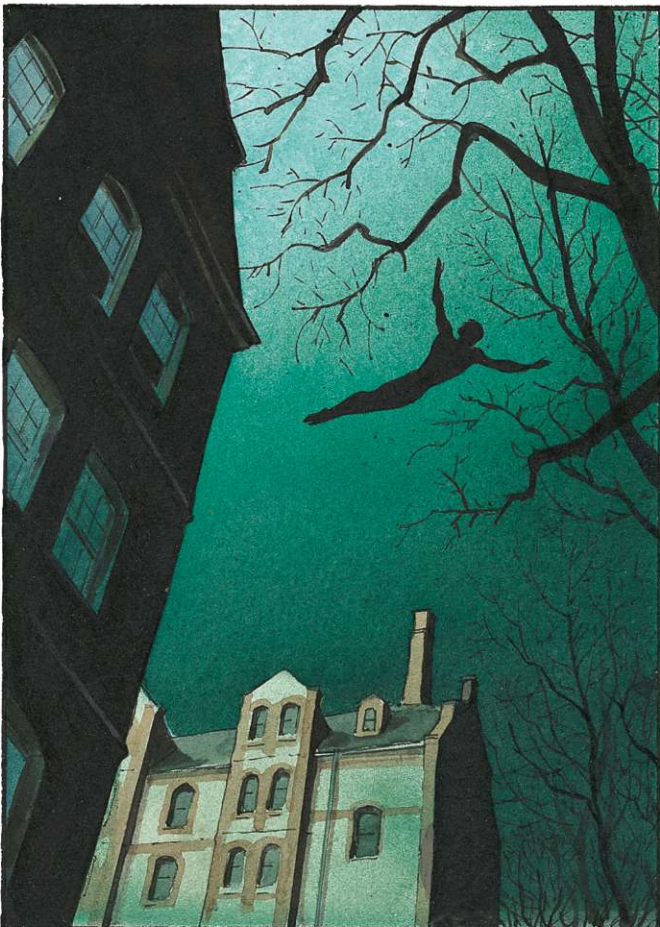
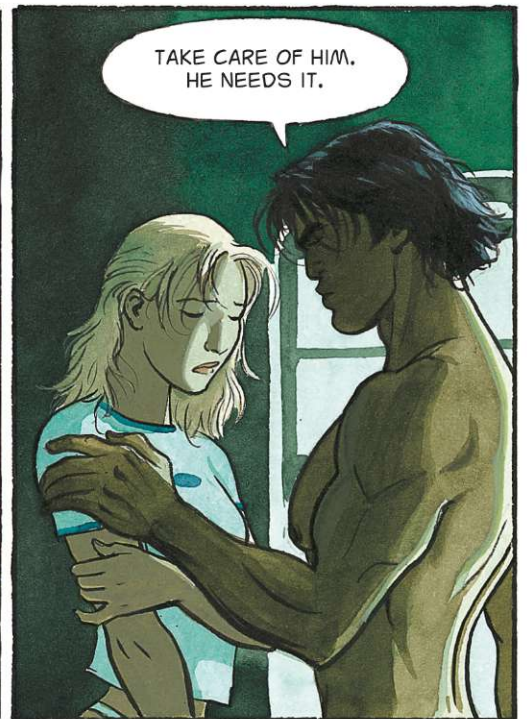
9 MINUTES

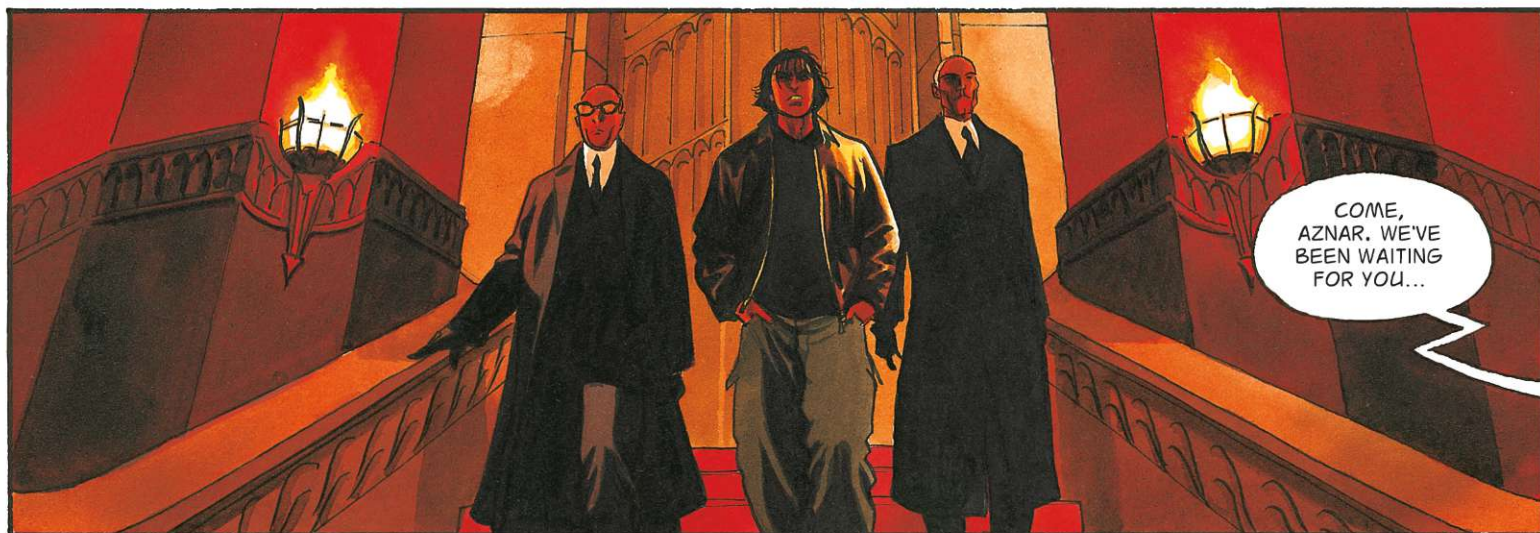


16 MINUTES! THAT'S ENOUGH, AZNAR AKEBA! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!!











OIL AND FIRE WILL CONSUME THE REMAINS OF A LONG LIFE... A VERY LONG LIFE.



BROKEN. DESTROYED. BECAUSE WE WERE NOT WORTHY.

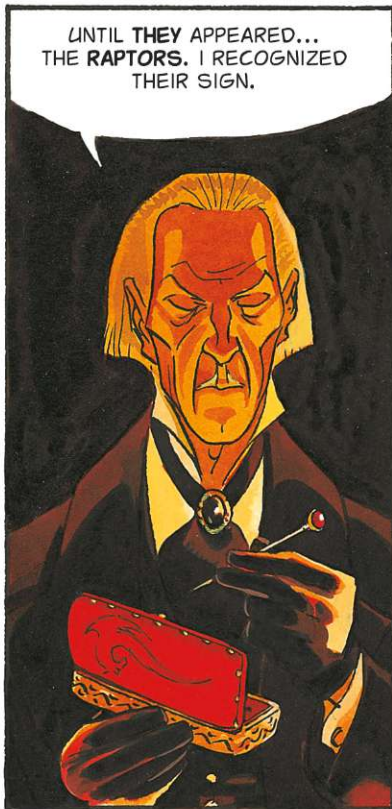
WORTHY OF WHAT?



OF OUR PAST. OF WHAT WE REPRESENTED IN THE MEMORY OF MANKIND—THEIR FEAR. AND HOW RIGHT THEY WERE TO BE AFRAID!



WE WERE POWERFUL, PITILESS, INVINCIBLE!



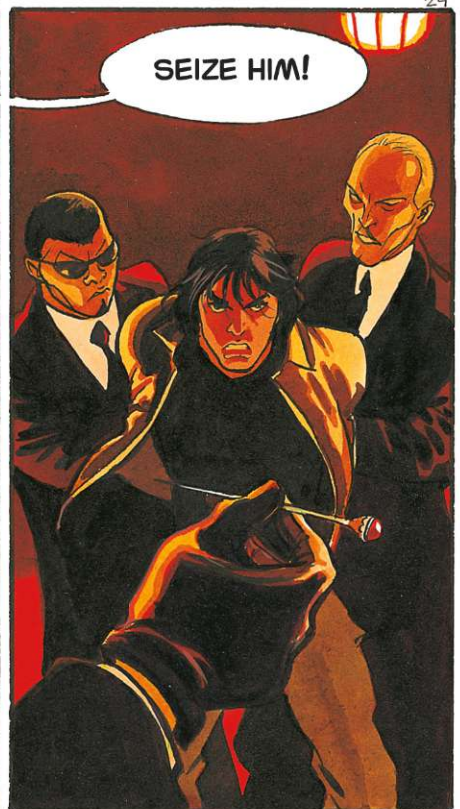
UNTIL THEY APPEARED... THE RAPTORS. I RECOGNIZED THEIR SIGN.



AND YOU CERTAINLY RESEMBLE THEM...

ME!

YES, YOU... BUT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE.



SEIZE HIM!



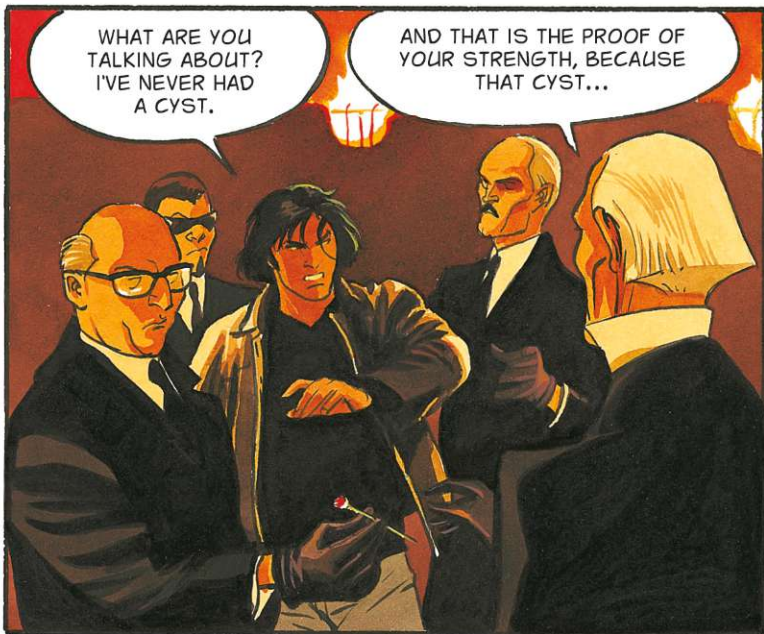
THE CYST BEHIND HIS EAR...
IF IT'S THERE, PIERCE IT!



NOTHING.
HE'S NOT
LIKE US.

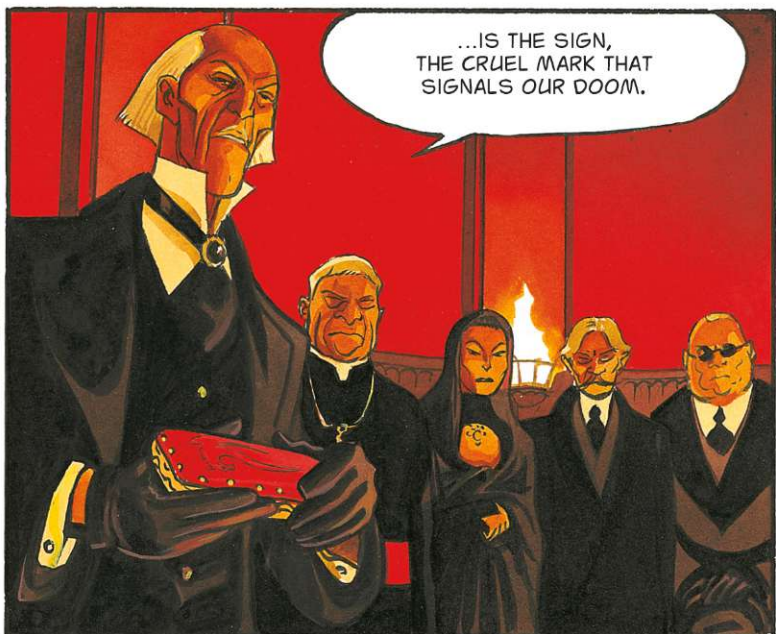


AH!



WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
I'VE NEVER HAD
A CYST.

AND THAT IS THE PROOF OF
YOUR STRENGTH, BECAUSE
THAT CYST...



...IS THE SIGN,
THE CRUEL MARK THAT
SIGNALS OUR DOOM.



YOU SEE, WE LOST OUR TASTE FOR
BLOOD. AND OUR STRENGTH HAS LEFT US.
OUR REIGN IS OVER.



ALL OF US,
WE BECAME CORRUPTED
BY THIS CIVILIZATION THAT
WE FIRST DISDAINED.
THIS CIVILIZATION THAT
EVEN SICKENED US.

WE DONNED THE RAGS OF THIS CIVILIZATION, TOOK ON ITS RITES, ITS CUSTOMS, UNTIL THOSE CUSTOMS ERASED FROM OUR FLESH, FROM OUR MEMORY, THE GLORIOUS TIMES OF OUR PAST. THE AGE WHEN WE FIRST SET OUT TO CONQUER THE WORLD. FOR, WITH EACH WOUND, EACH BITE INFLECTED UPON THE ENEMY, WE GAINED AN ALLY...



...AND OUR FORCES GREW AND GREW. AND THEN, ONE DAY, CAME THE MOMENT OF CHOOSING... A CRUCIAL CHOICE THAT WOULD DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF OUR RACE.



LONG AGO, IN A DRY, BLOOD-COLORED REGION OF THE EARTH, AN IMPORTANT MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE CASTLE OF ESPARAGUAS. ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL LORDS OF THE COUNTRY WERE TO GATHER AROUND THE MASTER OF US ALL...



DON MIGUEL Y CERTA. HE WANTED TO ADDRESS HIS PEERS IN ORDER TO DELIVER THEM A MESSAGE. SOMETHING UNHEARD OF, GROUNDBREAKING, SOMETHING THAT WOULD CHANGE THE THREAD OF OUR DESTINY. DON MIGUEL SPOKE AT GREAT LENGTH...



...AND EVERYONE LISTENED TO HIM ATTENTIVELY. PRINCES OF THE SWORD, OF THE JUDICIARY, OF THE CHURCH. THE GLEAM OF ARMOR, THE DARKNESS OF MONKS' HABITS, EVERYONE WITH THE TASTE OF BLOOD ON THEIR LIPS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS ACTED FOR THE SAME CAUSE: OUR IMMEDIATE PLEASURE, BRINGING CHAOS TO THE SYSTEMS ESTABLISHED BY THE HUMANS. FOR CENTURIES, BROTHERS HAVE BEEN WON TO OUR CAUSE FROM ALL LEVELS OF THE POPULATION, FROM THE MOST HUMBLE TO THE MOST POWERFUL.



THE WORLD BELONGS TO US BECAUSE WE POSSESS THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD. AND THIS, ONLY IMMORTALITY COULD BRING US. THIS IMMORTALITY THAT WE CONQUERED WITH BLOOD, THE IMMORTALITY THAT WE SHARE BY BLOOD.



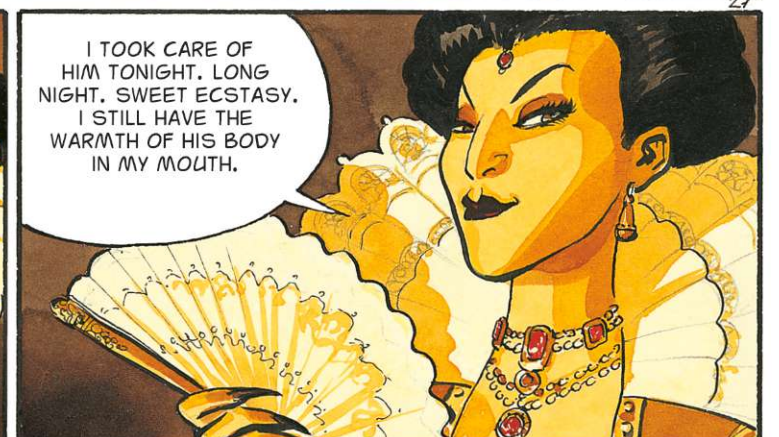
NOBODY HAS BEEN ABLE TO RESIST US. THE CHURCH TRIED, BUT IT CAME OVER TO OUR SIDE, FOR IT UNDERSTOOD WHERE POWER WAS TO BE FOUND, THE TRUE POWER THAT CONSISTS OF BREAKING EVERY WILL OTHER THAN OUR OWN.



NOW I SPEAK OF ORDER! WE CAN LEAD THIS COUNTRY—THE ENTIRE WORLD—AS WE WISH. ALL OF THE IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE KINGDOM ARE IN OUR HANDS. THE ONLY ONE LEFT FOR US IS THE KING HIMSELF.



I TOOK CARE OF HIM TONIGHT. LONG NIGHT. SWEET ECSTASY. I STILL HAVE THE WARMTH OF HIS BODY IN MY MOUTH.



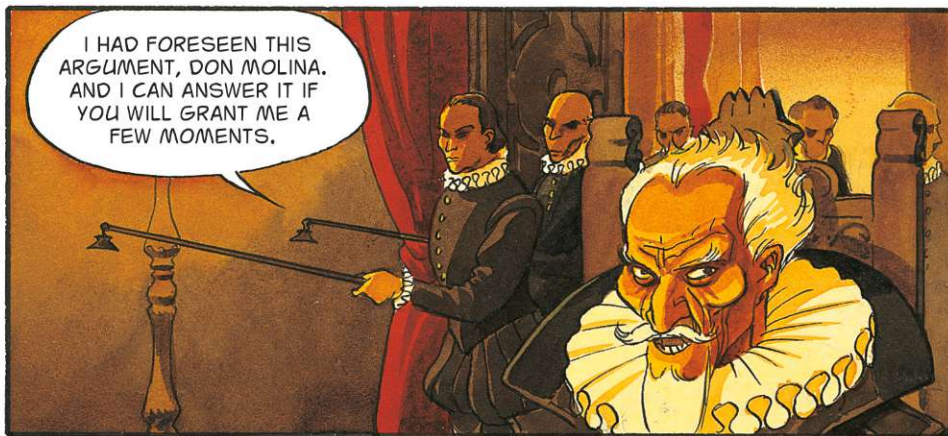


SO? WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? THE WORLD BELONGS TO US! LET US DICTATE ITS LAWS! LET US RE-ESTABLISH ORDER—OUR ORDER. LET US FORGET MURDER, THE ECSTASY OF BLOOD, THE FURY OF DESTRUCTION.

WE CAN DO BETTER, MUCH BETTER. WE CAN MAKE OUR MARK ON HISTORY, STAMPING OUR SEAL UPON IT!



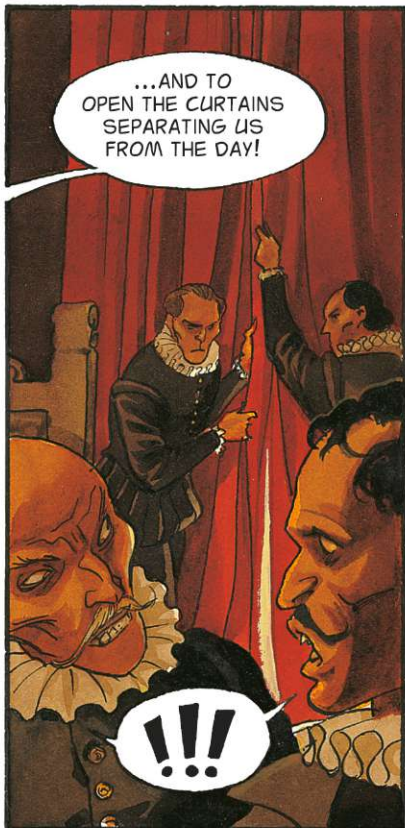
ORDER! BUT THAT WOULD MEAN FORGETTING WHO WE ARE! OF WHAT IMPORTANCE TO ME ARE THE TRAPPINGS OF POWER IF, AT NIGHT, I CANNOT GO ON THE HUNT AND KILL WHOMEVER I PLEASE! WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE SHADOW. POWER IS EXERTED IN THE DAYLIGHT, TOO, AND DURING THE DAY, WE'RE ASLEEP!



I HAD FORESEEN THIS ARGUMENT, DON MOLINA. AND I CAN ANSWER IT IF YOU WILL GRANT ME A FEW MOMENTS.



IT'S TIME TO PUT OUT THE CANDLES...



...AND TO OPEN THE CURTAINS SEPARATING US FROM THE DAY!

!!!



HAVE NO FEAR!



WE HAVE CHANGED! THE LIGHT WANTS US, NOW!

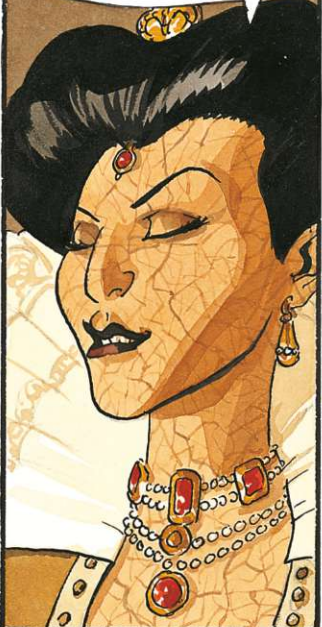
LET US BECOME THE MASTERS OF THE DAY AS WE ALREADY WERE THAT OF THE NIGHT. THIS IS WHAT I PROPOSE TO YOU, MY BRETHREN. LET US OCCUPY THOSE POSITIONS THAT RUN THIS VAST WORLD. LET US OFFER TO IT OUR UNCHANGING BEAUTY!



I AM WITH DON MIGUEL. LET THERE BE A CHARTER ESTABLISHED. IT WILL GIVE TO EACH HIS JUST PLACE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF OUR BLOOD.



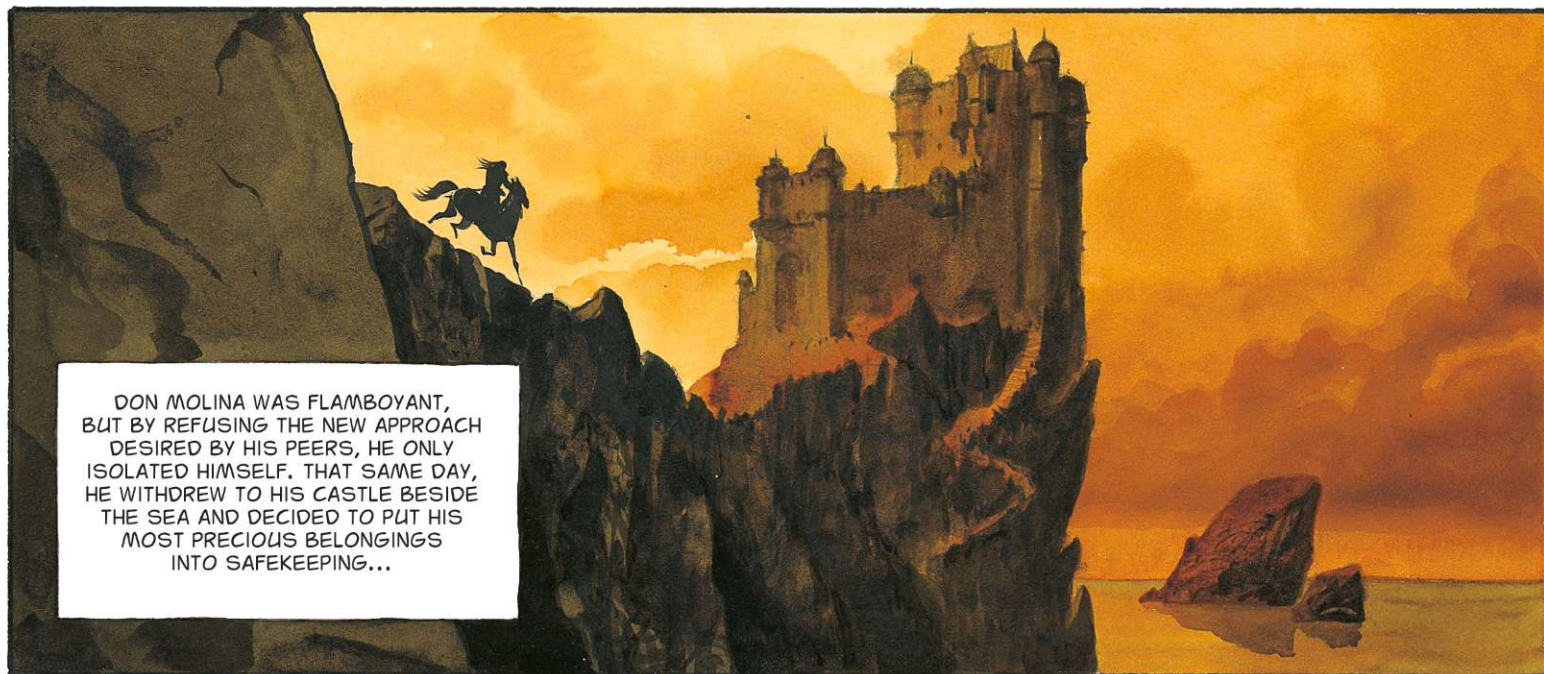
INSTEAD OF GAME, THE HUMANS WILL BECOME OUR SERVANTS? BAH! WHY NOT? SO LONG AS THEY BEST SERVE OUR INTERESTS.



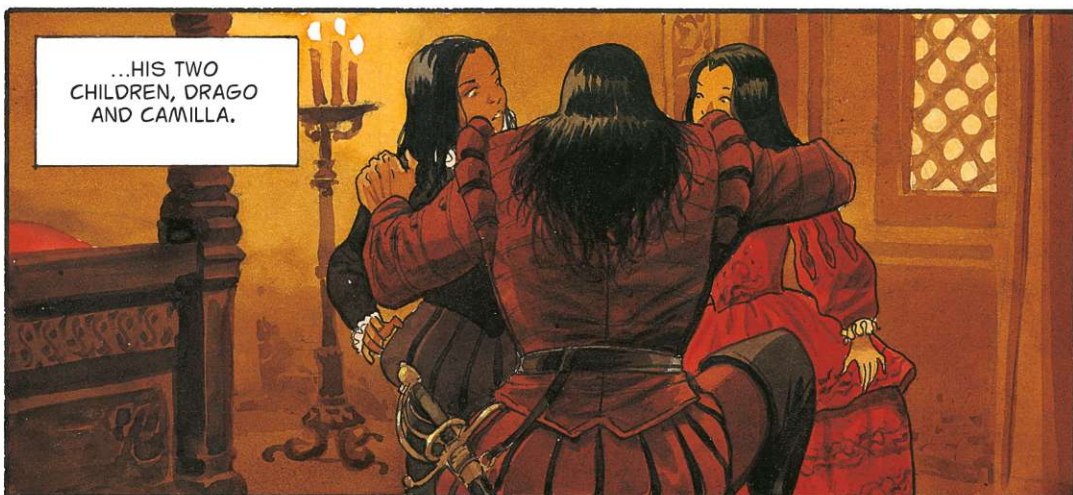
I REFUSE!
IT IS MADNESS TO WANT TO CHANGE OUR DESTINY! MY LINEAGE IS CARNAGE. AND THUS IT SHALL REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF TIME!



WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, KNOW THAT MY NIGHTS WILL ALWAYS BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN YOUR DAYS!



DON MOLINA WAS FLAMBOYANT, BUT BY REFUSING THE NEW APPROACH DESIRED BY HIS PEERS, HE ONLY ISOLATED HIMSELF. THAT SAME DAY, HE WITHDREW TO HIS CASTLE BESIDE THE SEA AND DECIDED TO PUT HIS MOST PRECIOUS BELONGINGS INTO SAFEKEEPING...



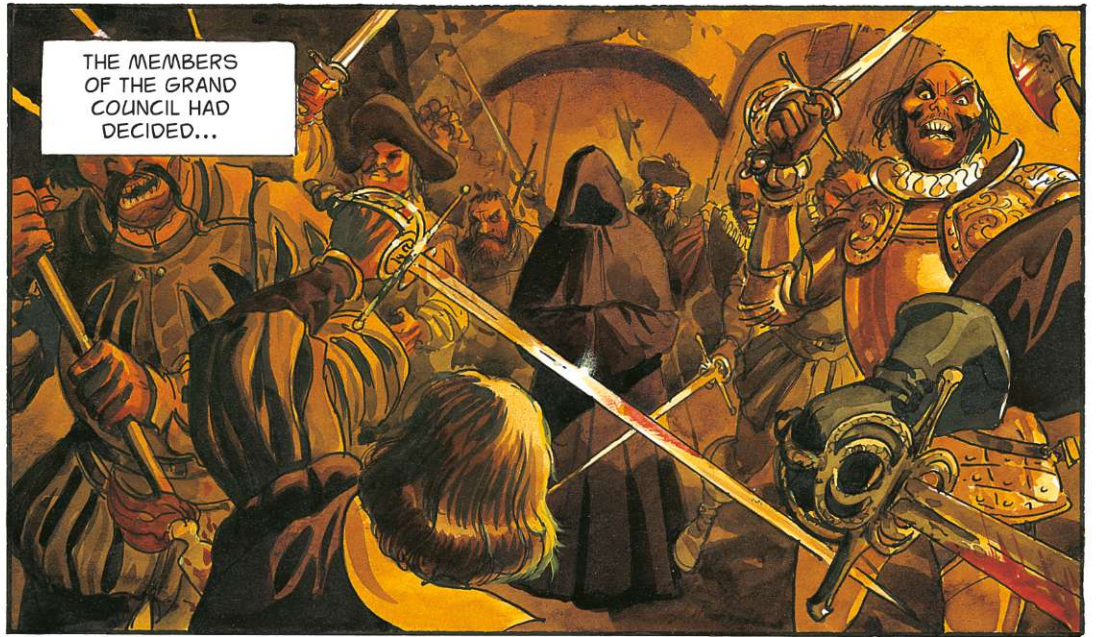
...HIS TWO CHILDREN, DRAGO AND CAMILLA.



A WISE PRECAUTION, FOR THAT NIGHT, THE WHITE SAILS OF DOZENS OF FELUCCAS TORE THROUGH THE NIGHT TOWARD THE CASTLE WITH A CLEAR MISSION...



...TO EXTERMINATE EVERY LAST INHABITANT.



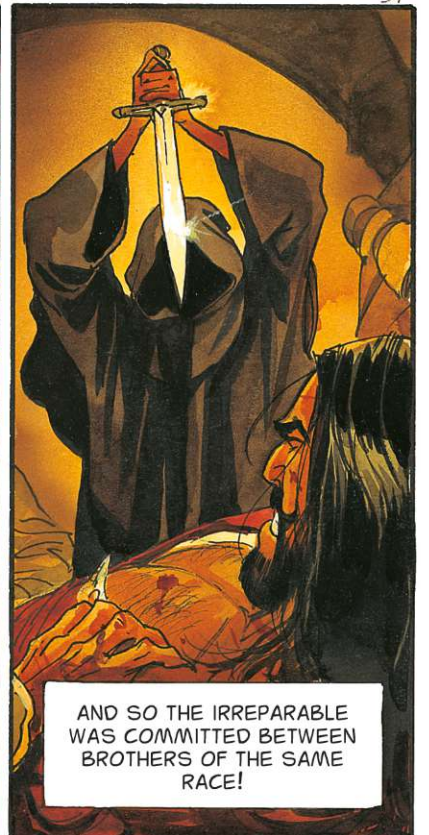
THE MEMBERS
OF THE GRAND
COUNCIL HAD
DECIDED...



...THAT
NO ONE—NO
ONE—COULD
STAND IN
THEIR WAY...



...NOT EVEN
ONE OF THEIR
OWN!



AND SO THE IRREPARABLE
WAS COMMITTED BETWEEN
BROTHERS OF THE SAME
RACE!



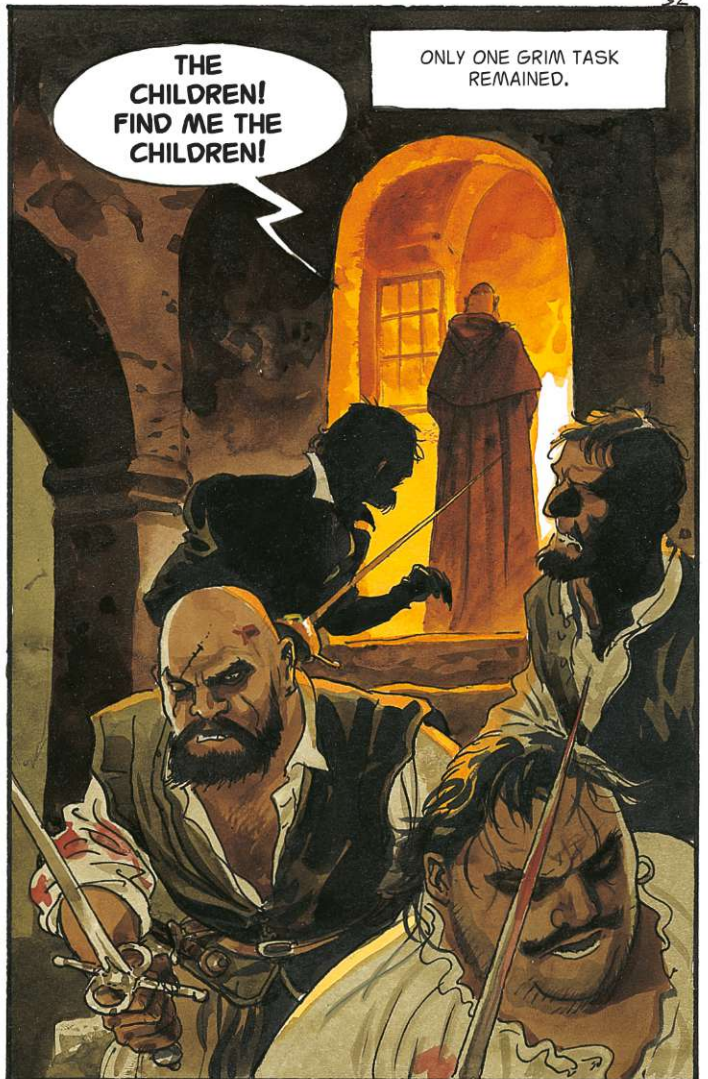
AAAARRR!
 DAMN YOU! BE CURSED!
 ONE DAY YOUR KINGDOM
 WILL BE DOOMED...
 FOREVER...
FOREVER!!!



AS FOR DON
 MOLINA'S WIFE...



SHE CHOSE
 TO SET HERSELF
 ALIGHT INSTEAD!

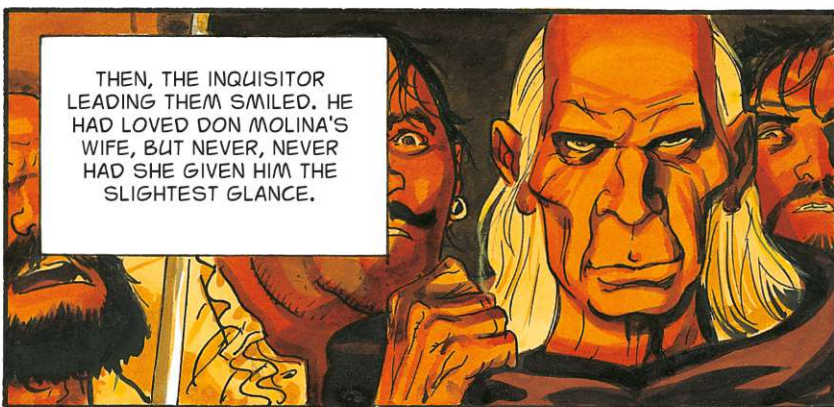


**THE
 CHILDREN!
 FIND ME THE
 CHILDREN!**

ONLY ONE GRIM TASK
 REMAINED.

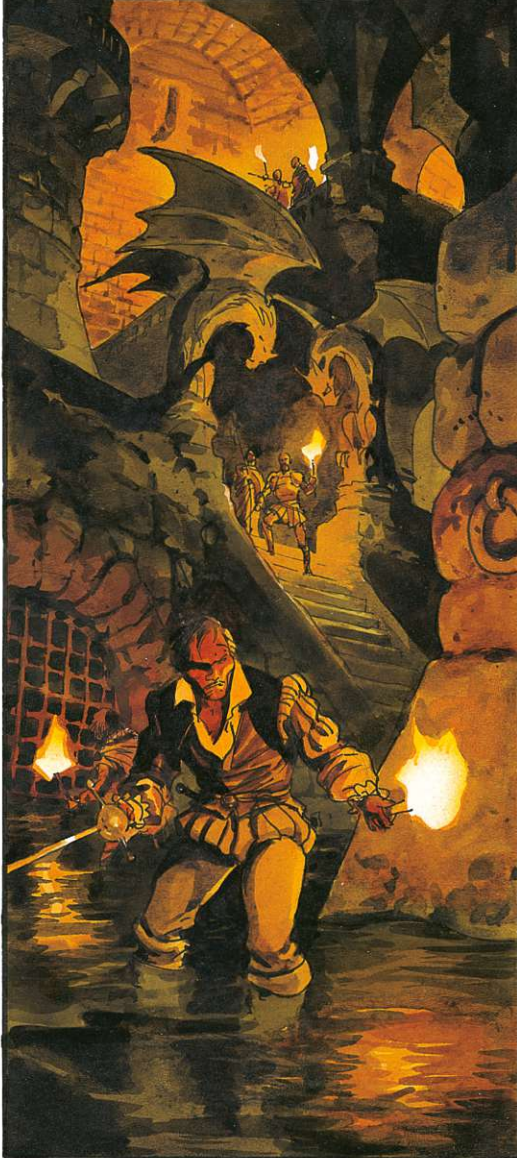


SHE LET OUT SUCH
 A CRY THAT THE
 SOLDIERS DREW
 BACK IN FEAR.



THEN, THE INQUISITOR
 LEADING THEM SMILED. HE
 HAD LOVED DON MOLINA'S
 WIFE, BUT NEVER, NEVER
 HAD SHE GIVEN HIM THE
 SLIGHTEST GLANCE.

THE SOLDIERS SEARCHED THE CASTLE IN VAIN. THE CHILDREN WERE NOT TO BE FOUND.



ALL THAT WAS TAKEN WAS A PORTRAIT OF DON MOLINA'S WIFE.

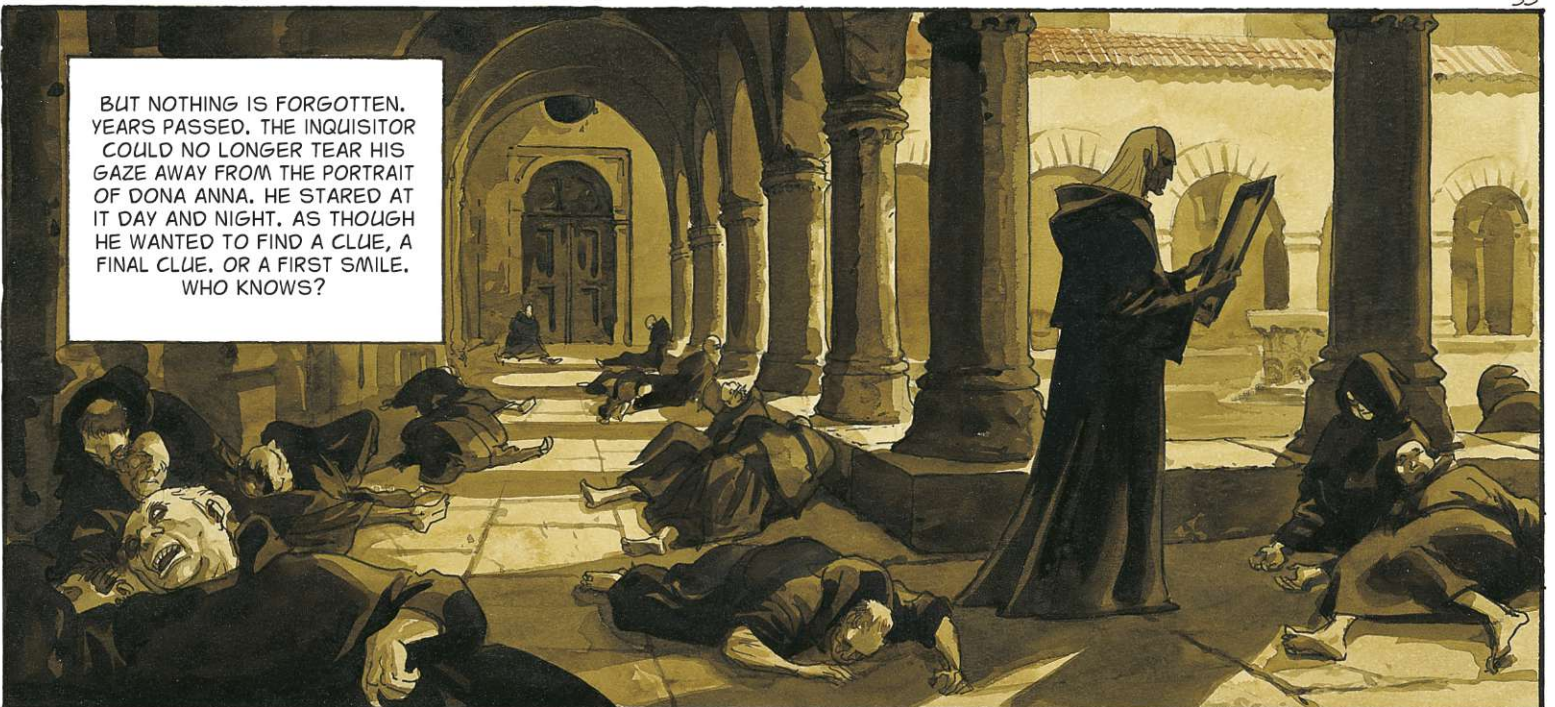


DONA ANNA...



AND THE REMAINDER WAS GIVEN OVER TO THE FLAMES, CAST INTO OBLIVION.

BUT NOTHING IS FORGOTTEN. YEARS PASSED. THE INQUISITOR COULD NO LONGER TEAR HIS GAZE AWAY FROM THE PORTRAIT OF DONA ANNA. HE STARED AT IT DAY AND NIGHT. AS THOUGH HE WANTED TO FIND A CLUE, A FINAL CLUE. OR A FIRST SMILE. WHO KNOWS?

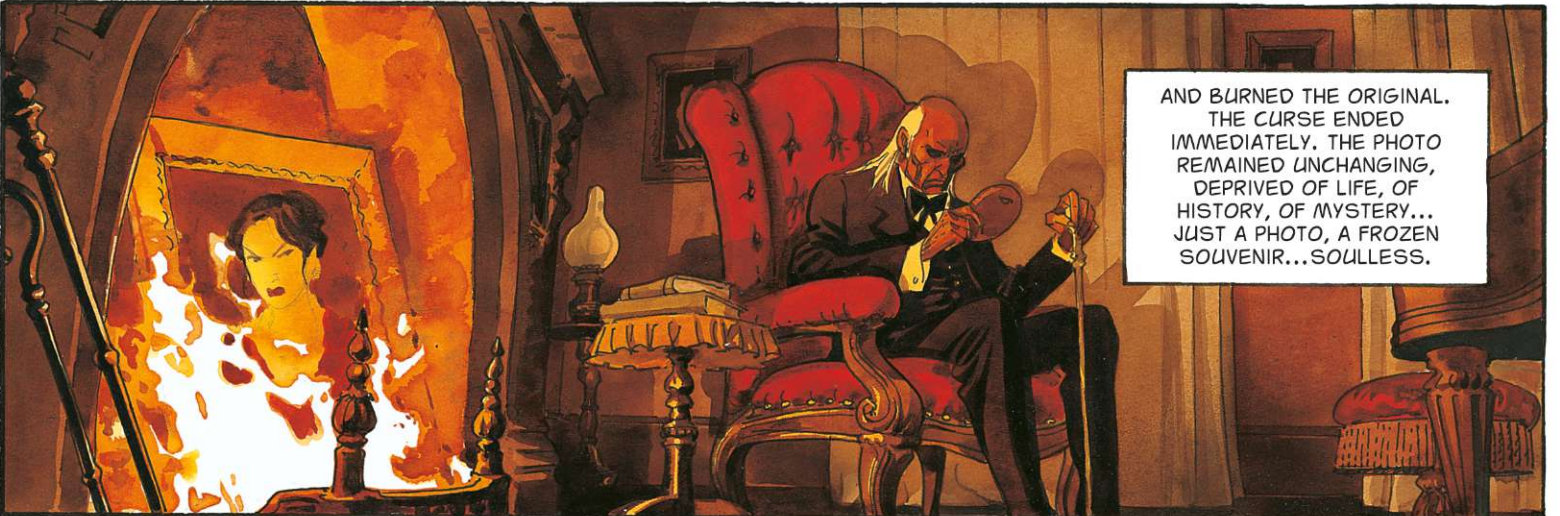




AND THE WIFE OF DON MOLINA FOLLOWED HIM THROUGH TIME, EACH TIME CHANGING COSTUMES, ALONG WITH THE PASSING ERAS. BUT NEVER WAS THERE THE SHADOW OF A SMILE...NEVER!



UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THE INQUISITOR SOUGHT TO RID HIMSELF OF THIS OBSESSION. THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPHY SHOPS HAD JUST APPEARED. HE HAD A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PORTRAIT TAKEN.

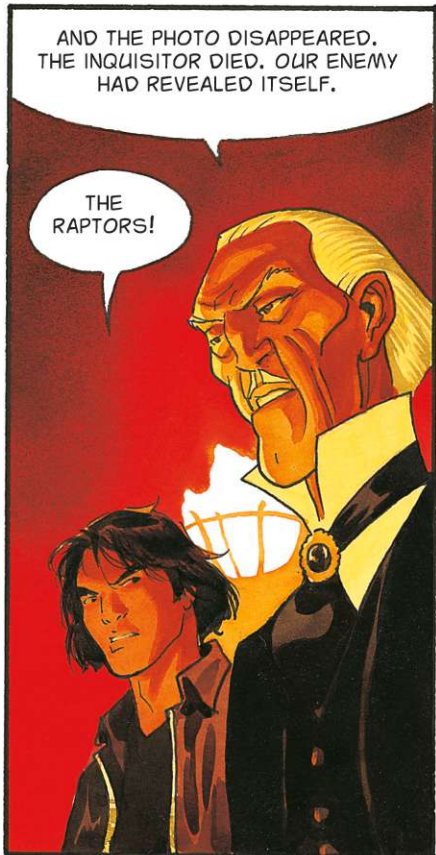


AND BURNED THE ORIGINAL. THE CURSE ENDED IMMEDIATELY. THE PHOTO REMAINED UNCHANGING, DEPRIVED OF LIFE, OF HISTORY, OF MYSTERY... JUST A PHOTO, A FROZEN SOUVENIR...SOULLESS.



AND THEN ONE DAY, SOMEONE KNOCKED ON THE INQUISITOR'S DOOR.

TAP
TAP
TAP



AND THE PHOTO DISAPPEARED. THE INQUISITOR DIED. OUR ENEMY HAD REVEALED ITSELF.

THE RAPTORS!



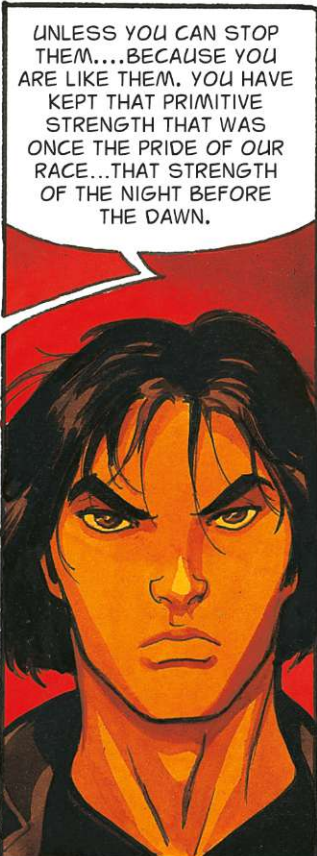
PRECISELY! THEY WILL STRIKE WITHOUT PITY...



...NOT STOPPING UNTIL THEY HAVE EXTERMINATED US ALL... TODAY, CHASSAM MALEKIAN...



TOMORROW... WHO KNOWS? ONE OF US PROBABLY...



UNLESS YOU CAN STOP THEM... BECAUSE YOU ARE LIKE THEM. YOU HAVE KEPT THAT PRIMITIVE STRENGTH THAT WAS ONCE THE PRIDE OF OUR RACE... THAT STRENGTH OF THE NIGHT BEFORE THE DAWN.



DON MOLINA WAS RIGHT... OUR KINGDOM COULD END. CERTAINLY, OUR GOAL HAS BEEN ATTAINED. WE BECAME THE MASTERS OF THE WORLD, THE SOLE DEPOSITORIES OF ITS MEMORY, OF THE PAST CENTURIES, BUT WE ARE PAYING FOR IT DEARLY.

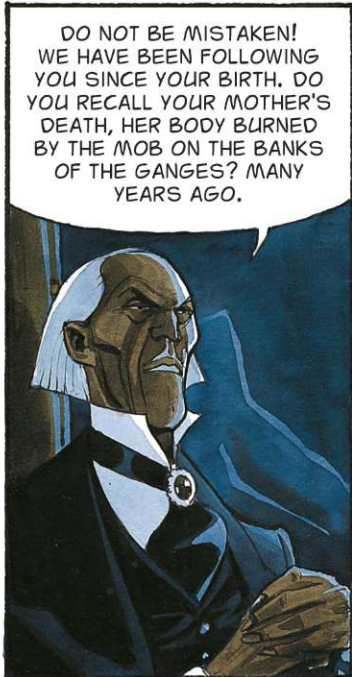


SLOWLY, OUR POWERS HAVE FADED. NOT VERY LONG AGO WE WERE IMMORTAL, BUT THE CURSE TOOK THE FORM OF A CYST, OF A STIGMATA THAT GNAWS AT OUR BRAINS... WE BEGAN TO RESEMBLE THE HUMANS, THAT VAST HERD THAT SERVES US. WHEN WE LIE DOWN NOW, IT IS TO DIE.



AND OUR DEGENERATION IS ACCELERATING. WE ARE HAVING TO STRUGGLE ON TWO FRONTS. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, WE KNOW DOUBT.

AND YOU'RE COUNTING ON ME TO HELP YOU? WITH WHAT? I'M NOTHING TO YOU!



DO NOT BE MISTAKEN! WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU SINCE YOUR BIRTH. DO YOU RECALL YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH, HER BODY BURNED BY THE MOB ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGES? MANY YEARS AGO.



WH...WHAT? YOU KNOW!?



YOUR MOTHER WAS LIVING IN THE DIREST DESTITUTION. YET WE FOUND THIS NEXT TO HER BED.



THIS OBJECT IS DESTINED FOR YOU, I BELIEVE.

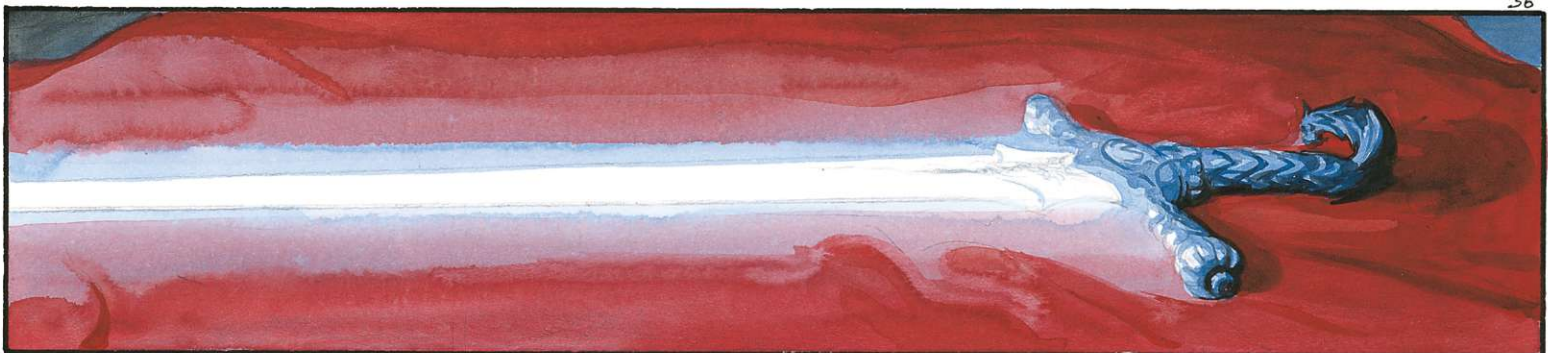


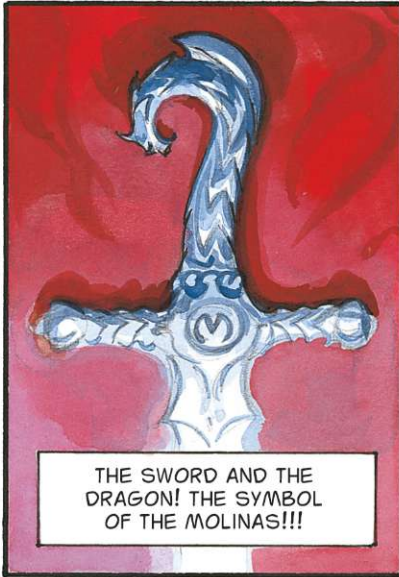
YOU...SO YOU CAME BEFORE THE MOB PILLAGED THE HOUSE?

WE ALWAYS GET THE FIRST HELPING, YOUNG MAN!



OH!







YOUR HEART...SUDDENLY BEATING? FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOREVER.

YOU TOO?



I'M NOT USED TO IT. IT'S INFURIATING ME. I CAN FEEL IT POUNDING IN MY HEAD.

YOU MUSTN'T LISTEN TO IT. WE NO LONGER HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO.



DRAGO...WHAT...WHAT IF WE ABANDONED ALL THIS? THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM NOW. FOR NOW, THEY COVER THE ENTIRE WORLD.

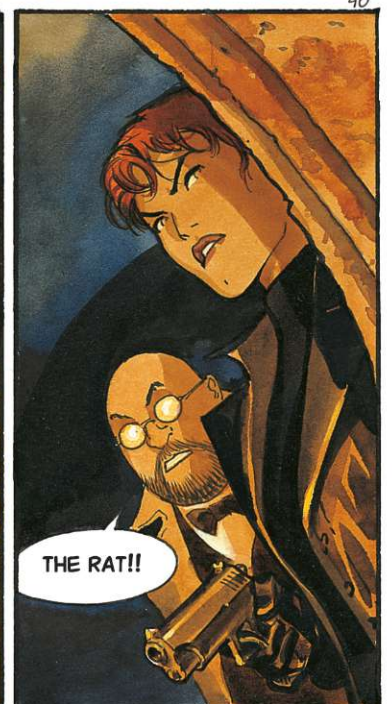
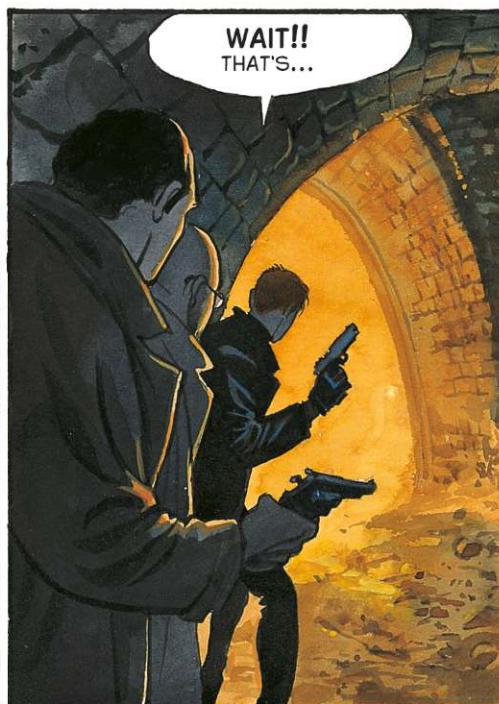
THE ENTIRE WORLD DOESN'T INTEREST ME. THE ONE I'M LOOKING FOR IS HERE, IN THIS CITY.

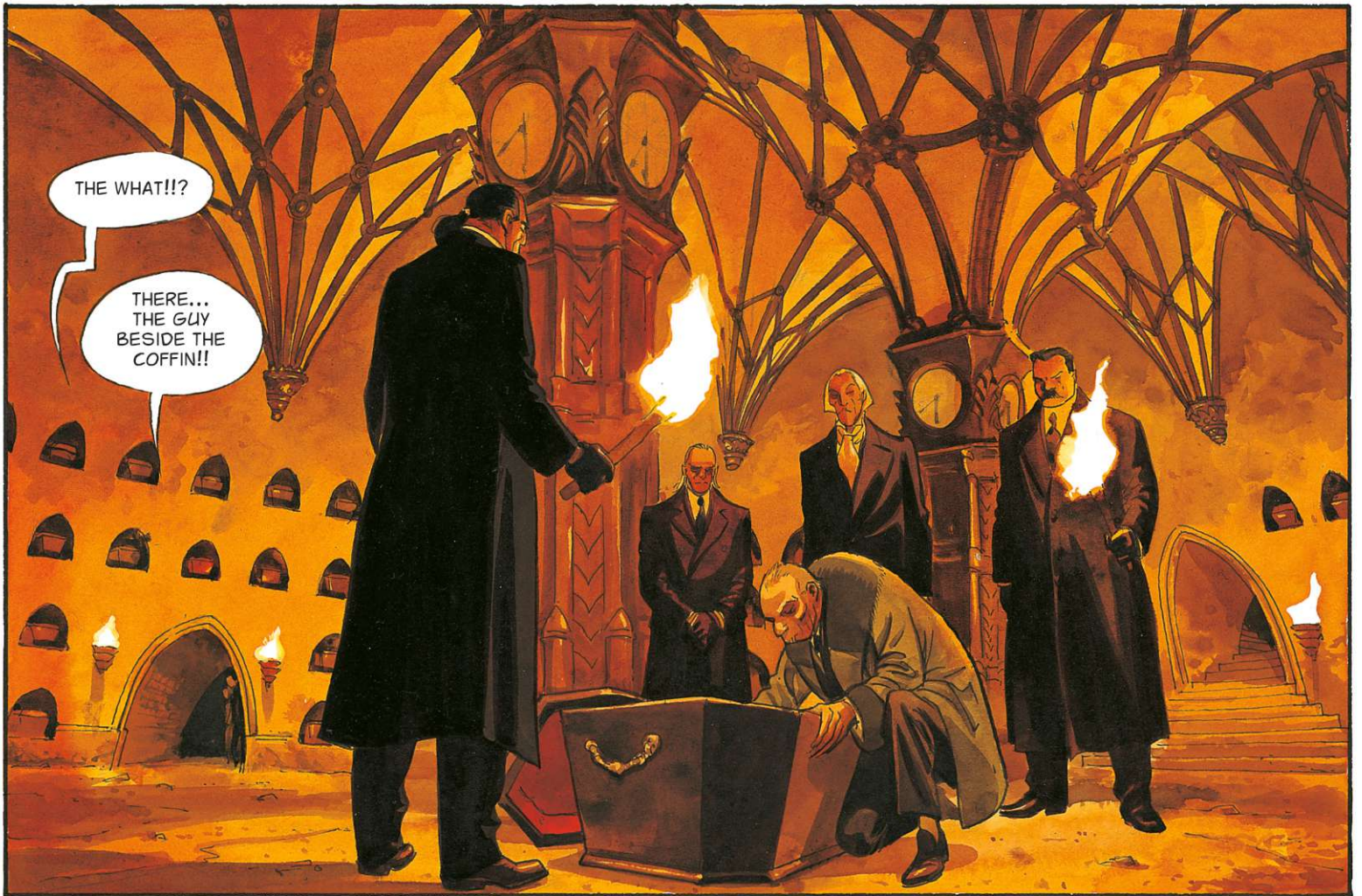


AND I SHALL FIND HIM!







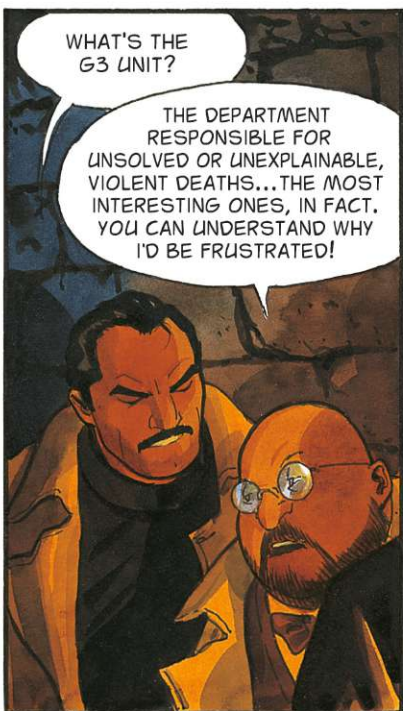


THE WHAT!!?

THERE...
THE GUY
BESIDE THE
COFFIN!!



HE WAS ONE OF MY ASSISTANTS
IN THE MORGUE. HE GOT A
PROMOTION. WITHOUT MY APPROVAL,
I MIGHT ADD. HE ALWAYS SEEMED TO
ME...HOW CAN I PUT IT...UNHEALTHY.
WELL, YOU KNOW, MORE THAN
NECESSARY. BUT SINCE THEN, YEAH,
HE'S BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE G3 UNIT.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING HERE?



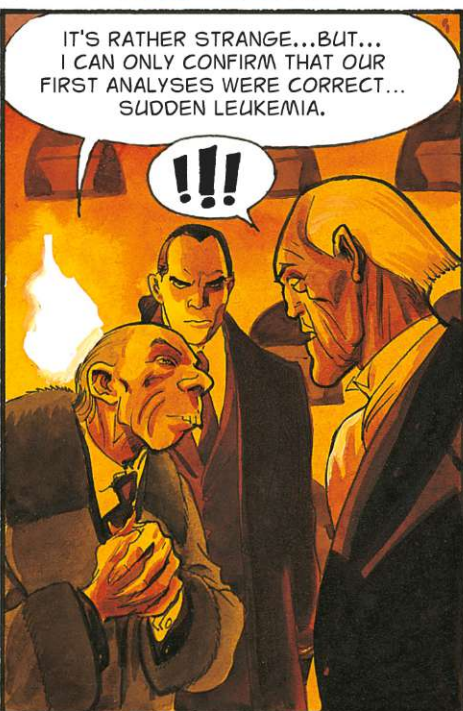
WHAT'S THE
G3 UNIT?

THE DEPARTMENT
RESPONSIBLE FOR
UNSOLVED OR UNEXPLAINABLE,
VIOLENT DEATHS...THE MOST
INTERESTING ONES, IN FACT.
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY
I'D BE FRUSTRATED!



THE TALL, SKINNY ONE
IS DO SANTO.

HMM...
IT'S GETTING
INTERESTING!

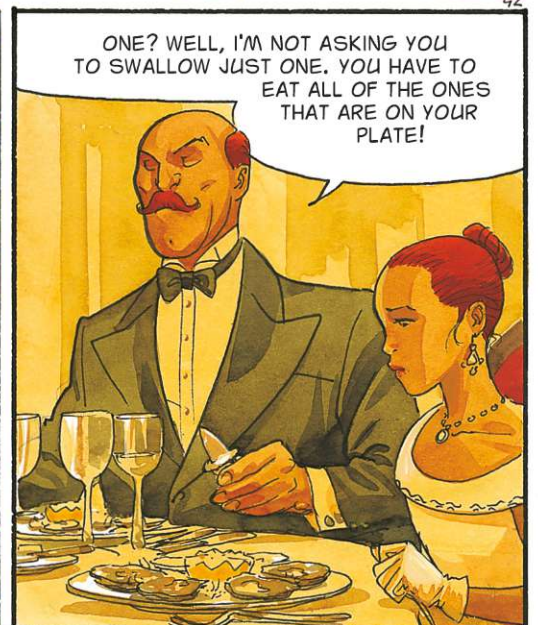
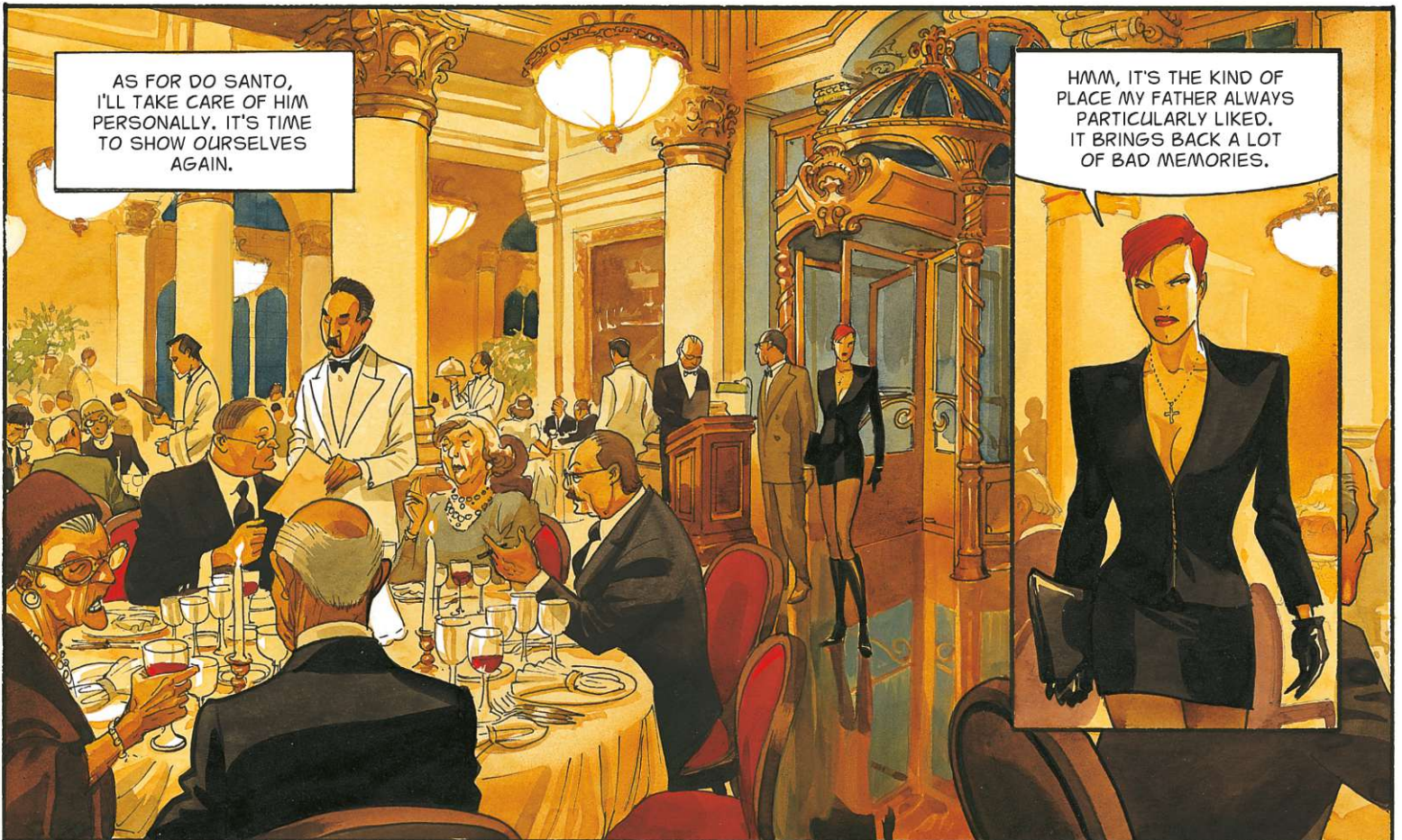


IT'S RATHER STRANGE...BUT...
I CAN ONLY CONFIRM THAT OUR
FIRST ANALYSES WERE CORRECT...
SUDDEN LEUKEMIA.

!!!



ONE OF OUR
OWN, DEAD FROM A
BLOOD DISEASE?!
IT'S...IT'S
UNTHINKABLE!





ALL SIX?!!



ALL SIX, VICKY!
AND NO ARGUMENTS!



DON'T YOU AGREE,
MARTHA?

COMPLETELY,
HENRY! YOU'RE RIGHT,
AS ALWAYS.

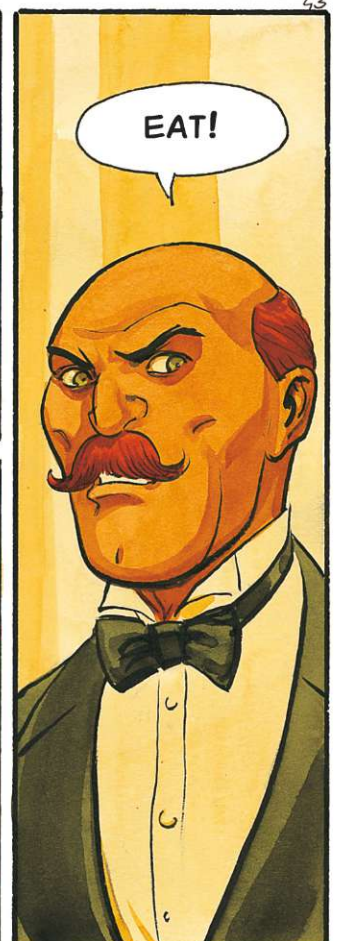


AND DON'T LOOK YOUR
FATHER IN THE EYES LIKE
THAT! A YOUNG LADY
WHO HAS BEEN RAISED
PROPERLY LOWERS HER
GAZE BEFORE ADULTS.

A YOUNG LADY WHO HAS BEEN RAISED PROPERLY DOES WHAT SHE IS TOLD. A YOUNG LADY WHO HAS BEEN RAISED PROPERLY DOES NOT ASK QUESTIONS. A YOUNG LADY WHO HAS BEEN RAISED PROPERLY EATS WHAT SHE IS GIVEN. SHE SITS UP PROPERLY, ELBOWS TO HER SIDES, BACK STRAIGHT. A YOUNG LADY WHO HAS BEEN RAISED PROPERLY WEARS A DRESS THAT CUTS INTO HER BACK. A YOUNG LADY WHO HAS BEEN RAISED PROPERLY DOES NOT KISS BOYS ON THE MOUTH. A YOUNG LADY WHO HAS BEEN RAISED PROPERLY...



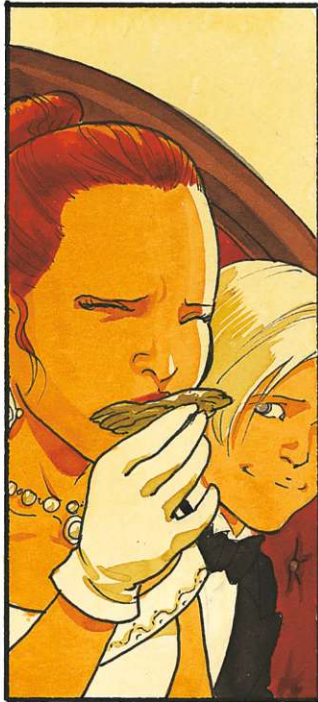
I LIKE
THE OYSTERS.
IN FACT I THINK
THEY'RE RATHER
GOOD.



EAT!



DADDY,
PLEASE...



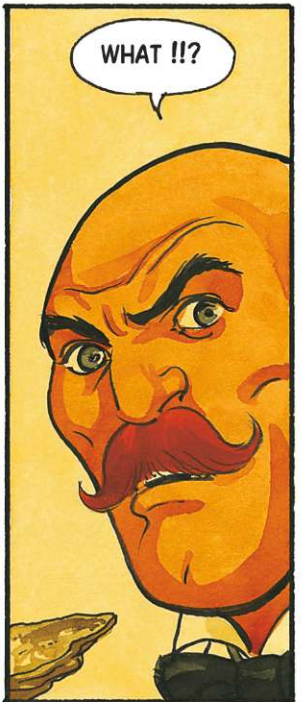
I...I DON'T FEEL VERY GOOD. I...I HAVE TO GO TO THE RESTROOM.



YOU'LL STAY IN YOUR SEAT, VICKY, AND YOU'LL CLEAR YOUR PLATE!



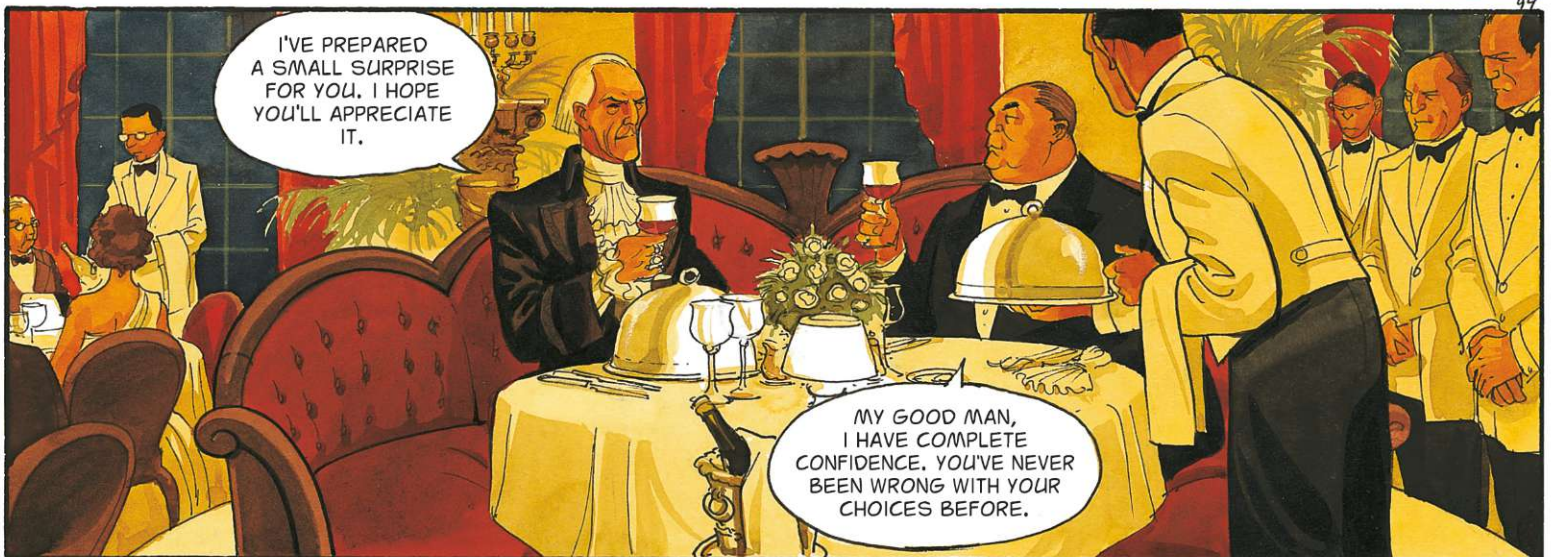
DADDY!



WHAT !!?

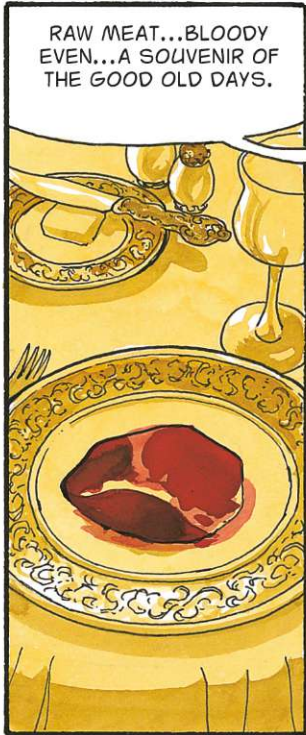


ANOTHER HUMILIATION!
YOUR FATHER WOULD NOT LET YOU GO TO THE RESTROOM. AT THE END OF THE MEAL, YOU CROSSED THE ENTIRE ROOM WITH YOUR SOILED DRESS... EVERYONE WAS LOOKING... YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT.



I'VE PREPARED A SMALL SURPRISE FOR YOU. I HOPE YOU'LL APPRECIATE IT.

MY GOOD MAN, I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN WRONG WITH YOUR CHOICES BEFORE.



RAW MEAT...BLOODY EVEN...A SOUVENIR OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS.



NOW IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF WE'RE STILL UP TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS.



I'M OKAY, AND YOU?

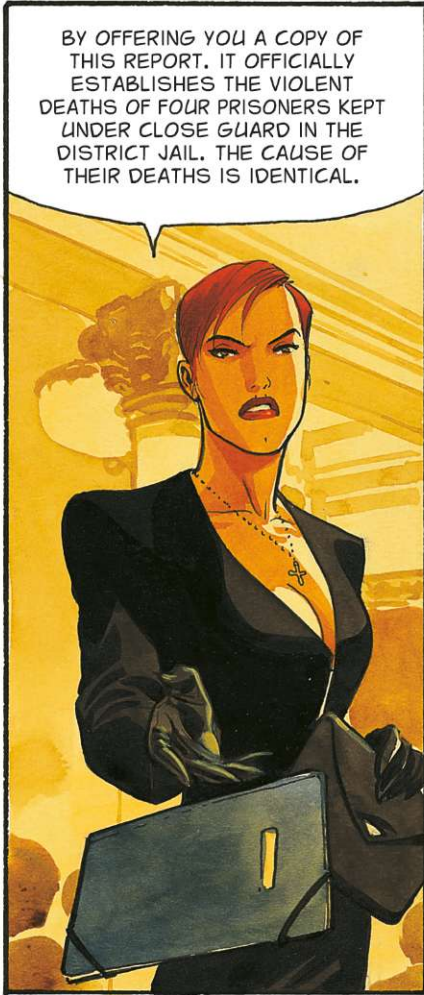


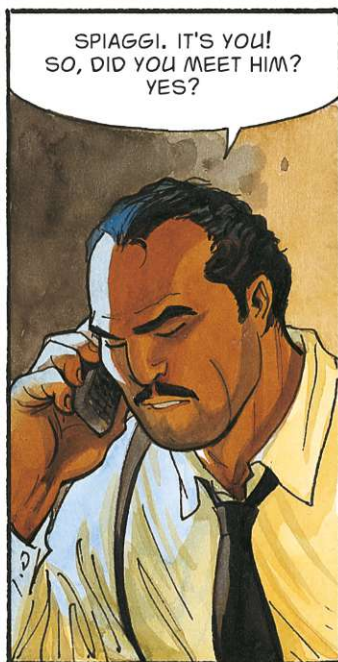
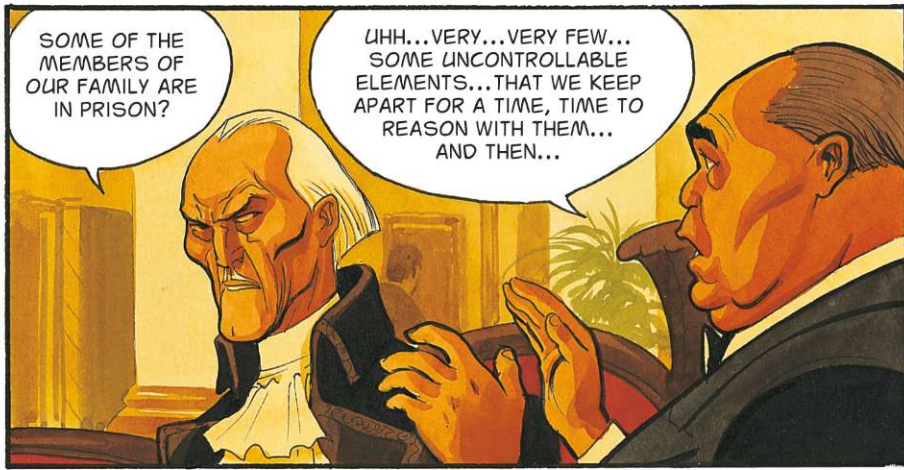
UHH...

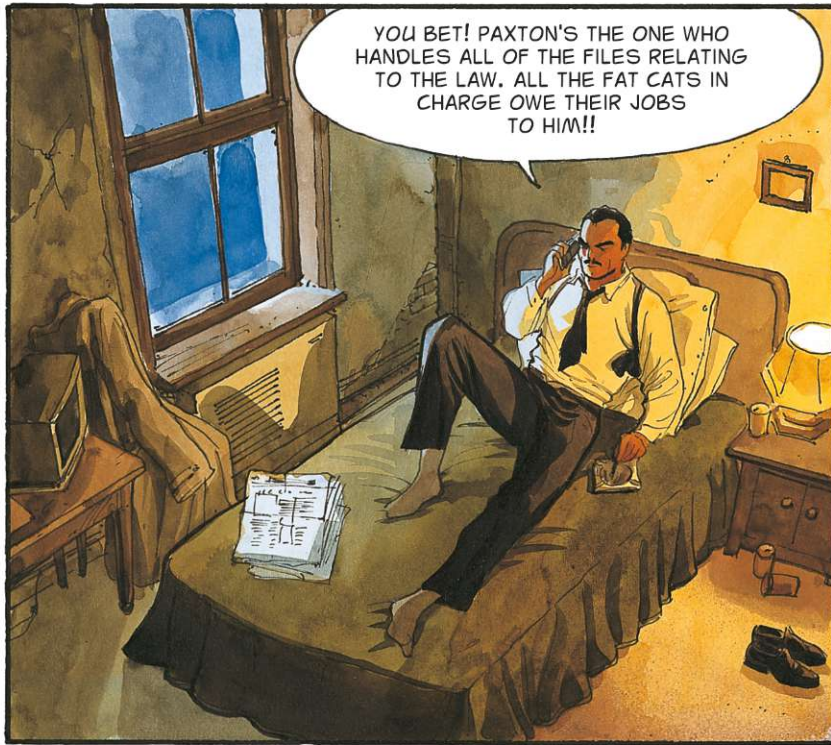


WHO ARE YOU, YOUNG LADY? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW ONE ANOTHER!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. I DO KNOW YOU, AND I'VE COME TO PROVE IT TO YOU.







YOU BET! PAXTON'S THE ONE WHO HANDLES ALL OF THE FILES RELATING TO THE LAW. ALL THE FAT CATS IN CHARGE OWE THEIR JOBS TO HIM!!



YEAH! HARDLY SURPRISING, THEN, THAT OUR SERVICES ARE COMPLETELY ROTTEN! WARN CARL, SPIAGGI. I PISSED OFF DO SANTO. HE'S GOING TO REACT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BOMB WILL GO OFF. I'M COUNTING ON YOU...OK.



BARTENDER, A DOUBLE DOG!
!!!



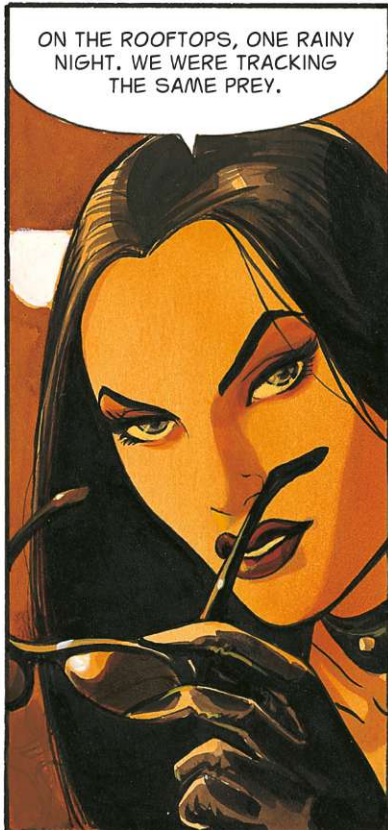
DON'T KNOW THAT ONE! MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE?

A BLOODY MARY, THEN.



CAN I OFFER YOU A DRINK?

NO, THANK YOU... HMM...HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

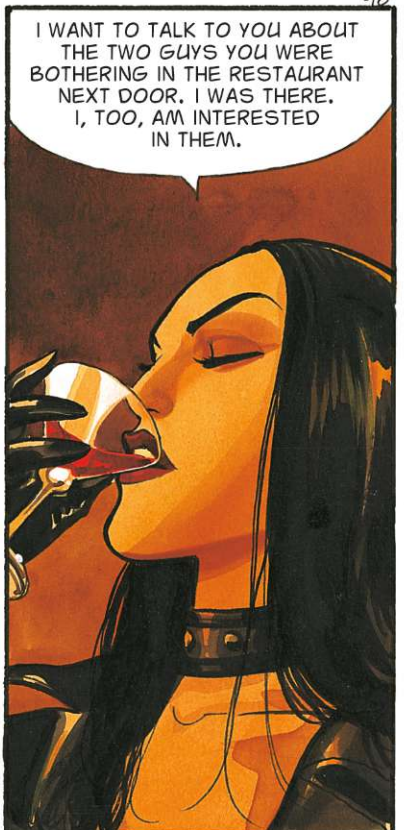


ON THE ROOFTOPS, ONE RAINY NIGHT. WE WERE TRACKING THE SAME PREY.



INDEED, IT SEEMS THAT THE HUNT IS STILL ON.

??



I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE TWO GUYS YOU WERE BOTHERING IN THE RESTAURANT NEXT DOOR. I WAS THERE. I, TOO, AM INTERESTED IN THEM.



IT WOULD BE STUPID TO FOLLOW THE SAME TRACKS. WE MIGHT GET IN EACH OTHER'S WAY. SO WHAT ARE YOUR MOTIVES? YOU'RE A COP?

I WAS. I STILL AM, NO DOUBT.



AND YOU?

ME! OH, AN OLD FAMILY STORY...LET'S SAY THAT I WAS THERE BEFORE YOU.



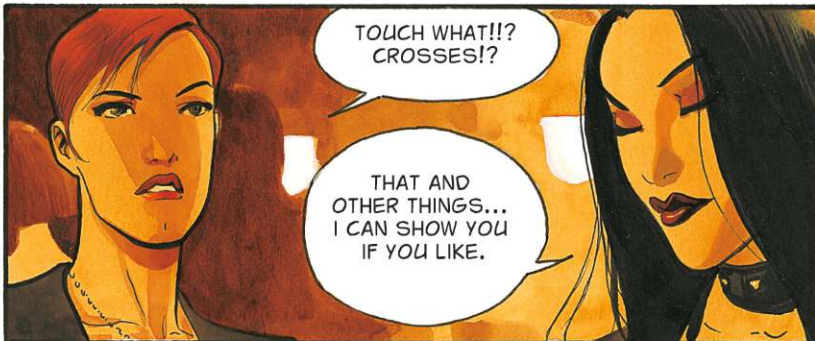
WHICH GIVES YOU PRECEDENCE?

OH! I TAKE PRECEDENCE, WHETHER IT MATTERS TO OTHERS OR NOT. WHAT YOU'RE WEARING ON YOUR NECK IS PRETTY.



THIS PENDANT? IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THE MOTHER OF A FRIEND.

A DEVOUT PERSON, I CAN TELL. TO THINK THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE COULDN'T TOUCH THEM.

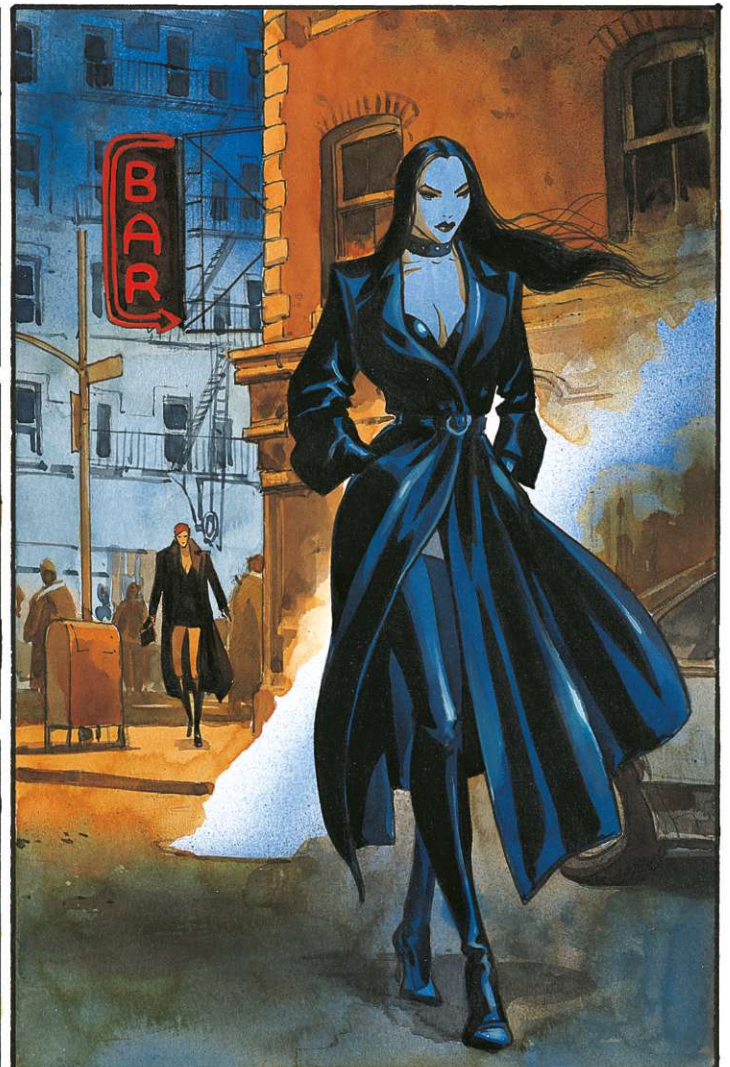


TOUCH WHAT!?!? CROSSES!?

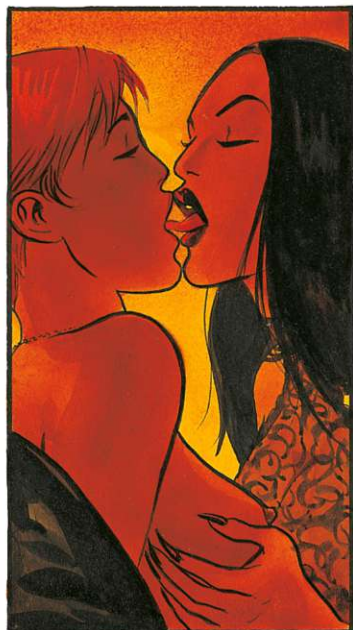
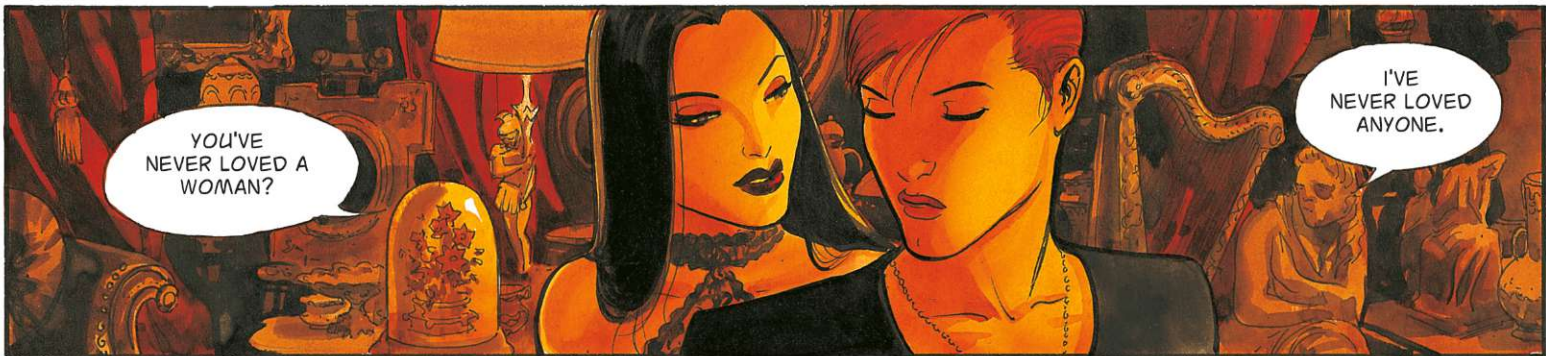
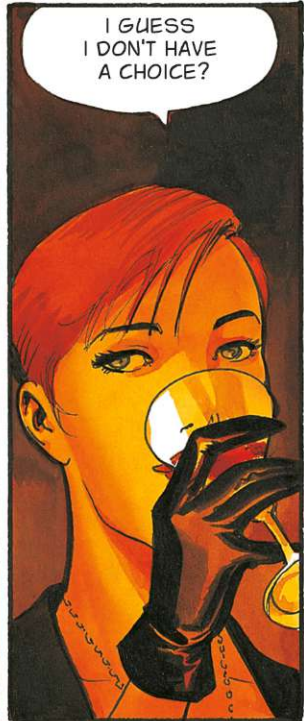
THAT AND OTHER THINGS... I CAN SHOW YOU IF YOU LIKE.

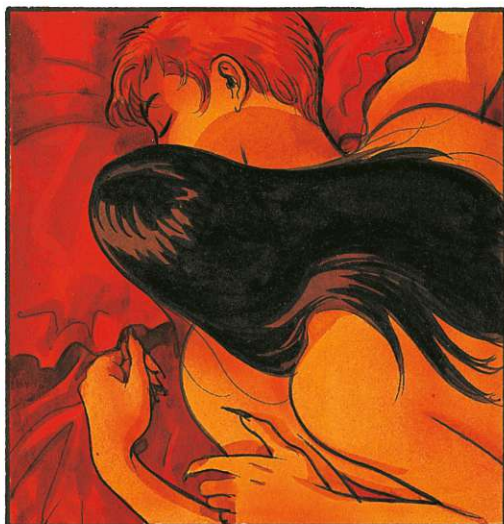
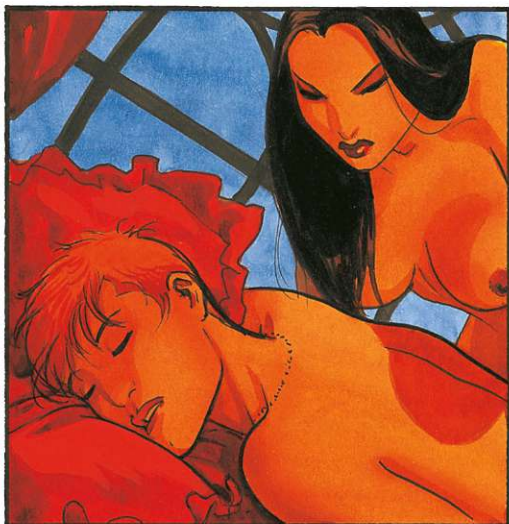
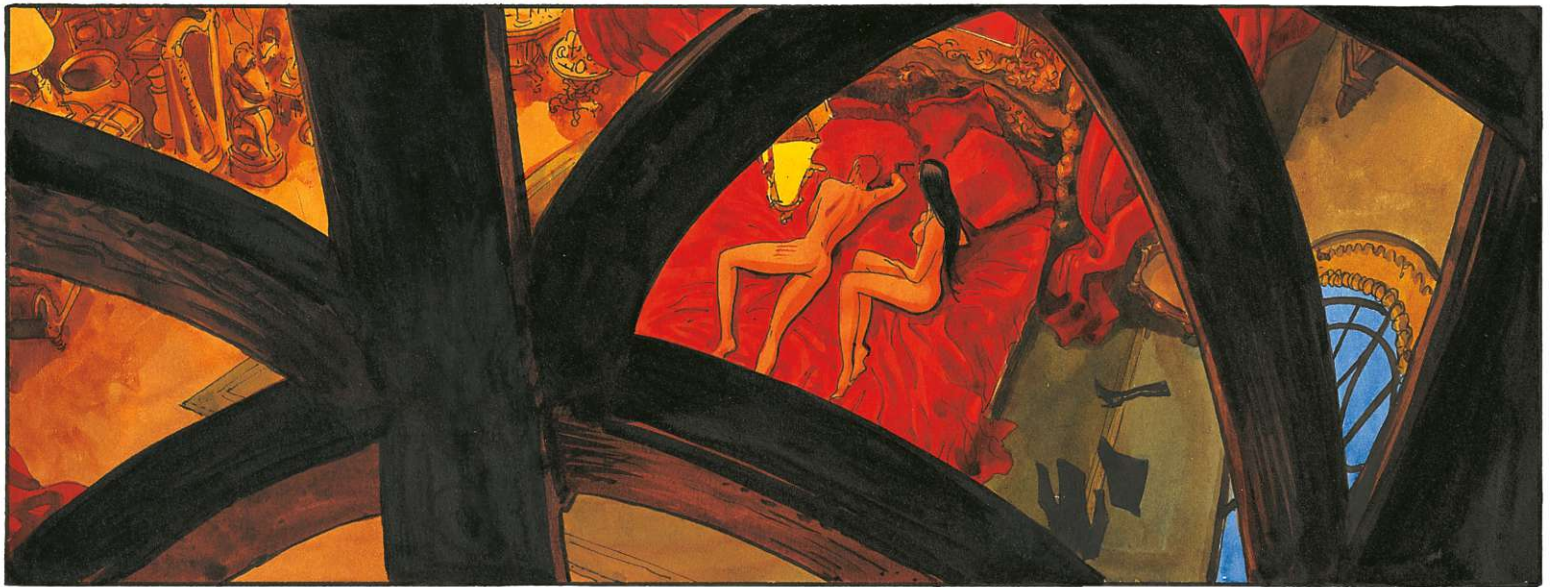


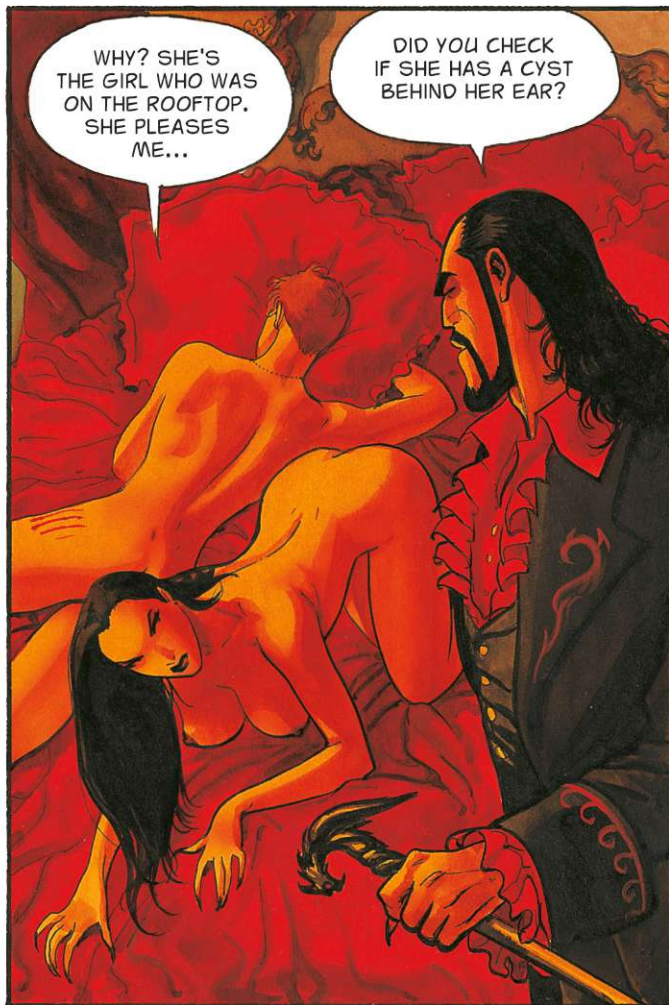
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW ME...IF YOU DARE.





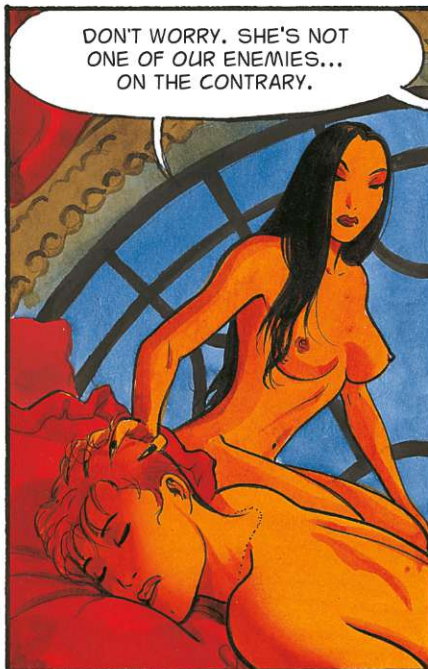




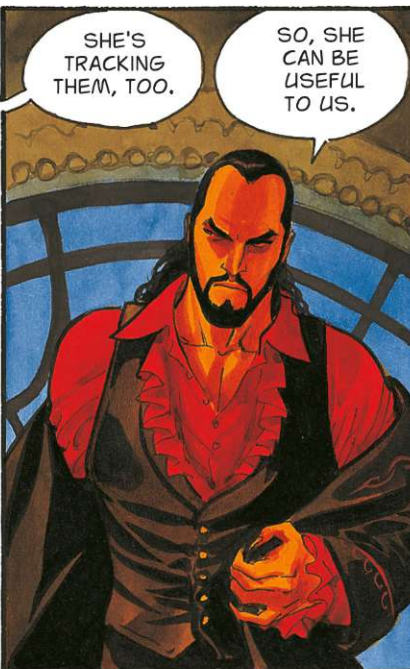


WHY? SHE'S THE GIRL WHO WAS ON THE ROOFTOP. SHE PLEASURES ME...

DID YOU CHECK IF SHE HAS A CYST BEHIND HER EAR?



DON'T WORRY. SHE'S NOT ONE OF OUR ENEMIES... ON THE CONTRARY.



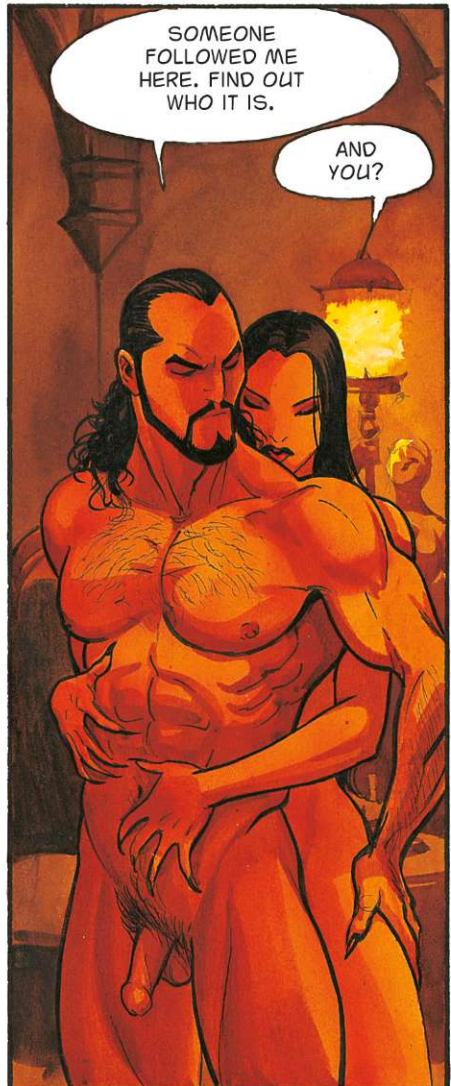
SHE'S TRACKING THEM, TOO.

SO, SHE CAN BE USEFUL TO US.



BUT YOU MUSTN'T MARK HER LIKE THAT. SHE WON'T MAKE IT. YOU DRUGGED HER?

YES.



SOMEONE FOLLOWED ME HERE. FIND OUT WHO IT IS.

AND YOU?



ME? I'M GOING TO NAIL HER TO OUR NIGHTS.



FINE! BUT DON'T FORGET THAT SHE BELONGS TO ME.





DON'T BE SURPRISED. YOU COULDN'T SEE ME.

!!?

SO DIE LIKE A BLIND MAN!

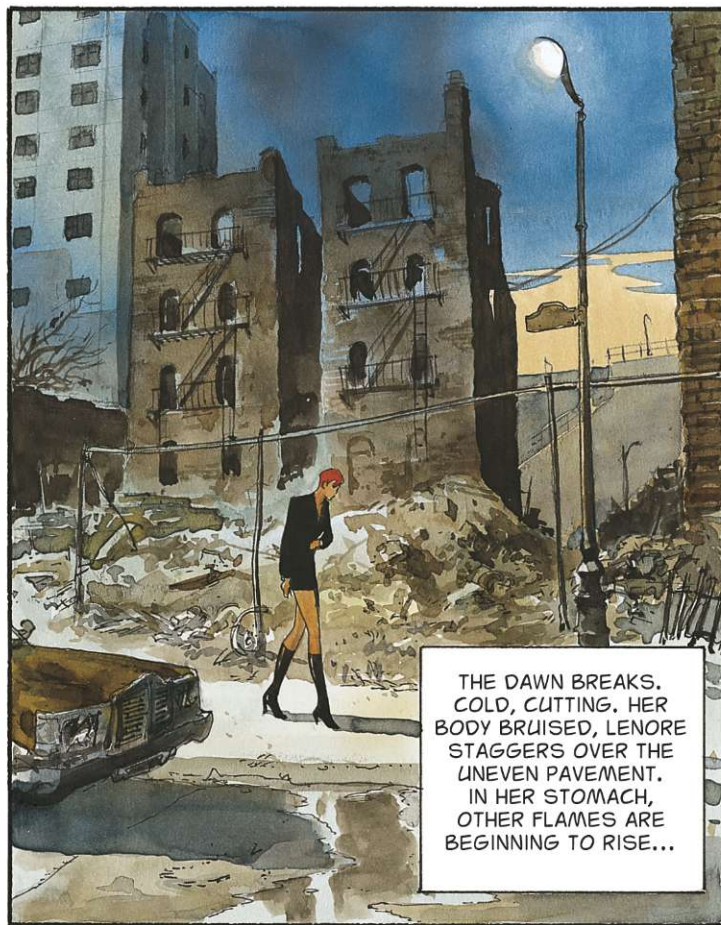
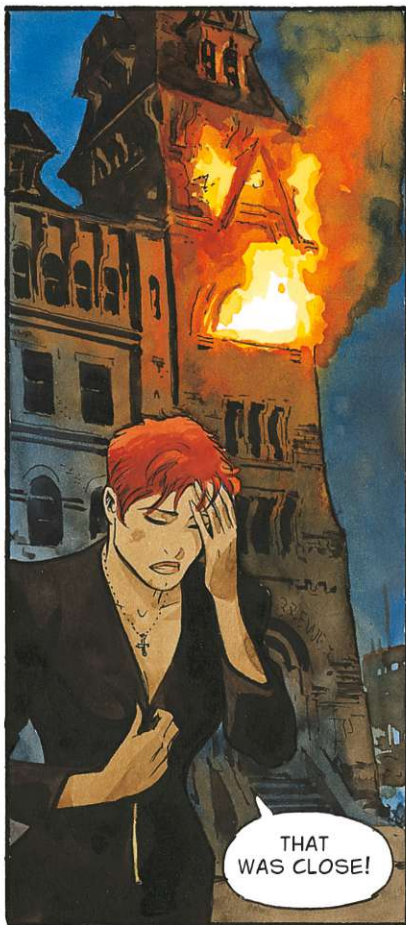
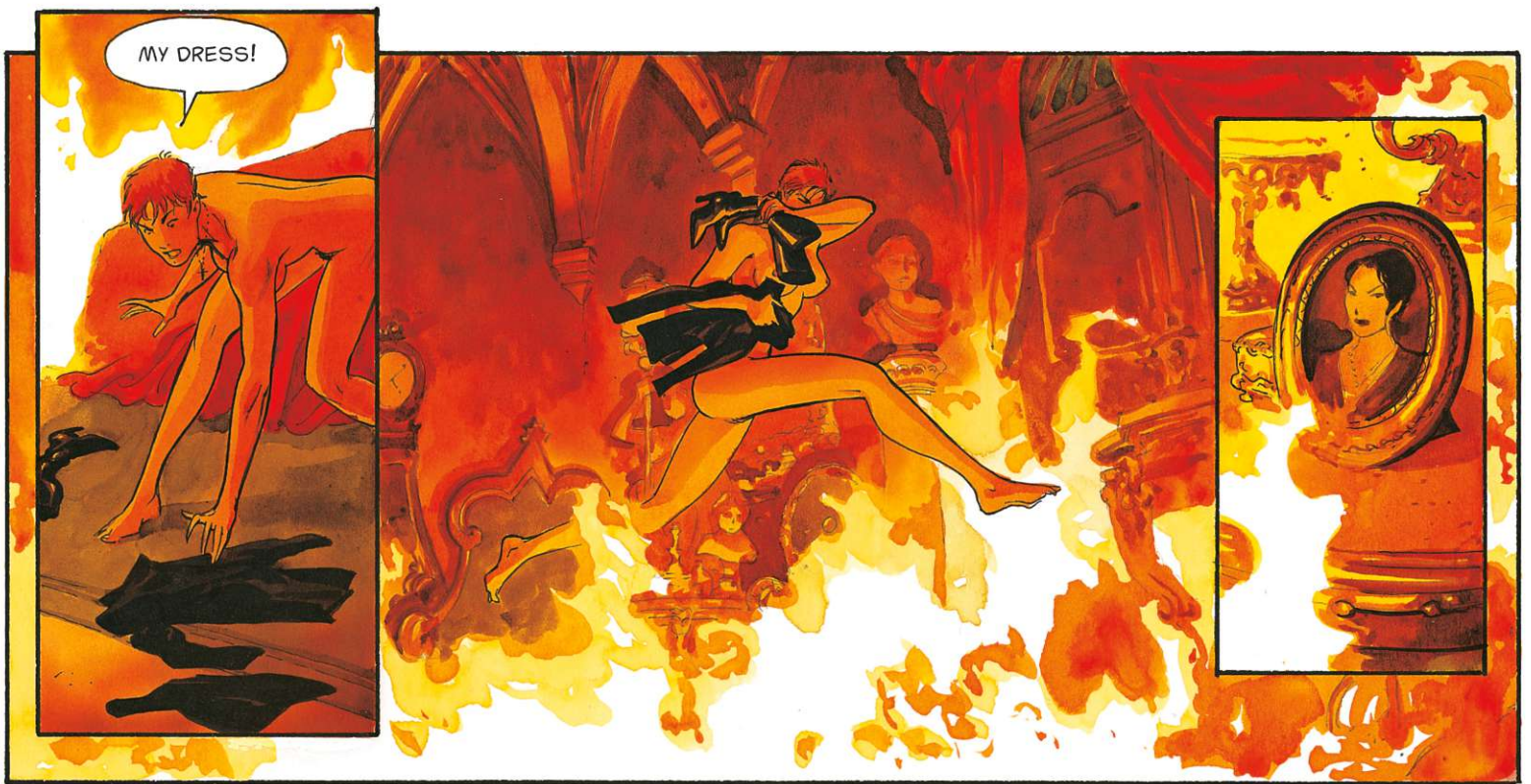
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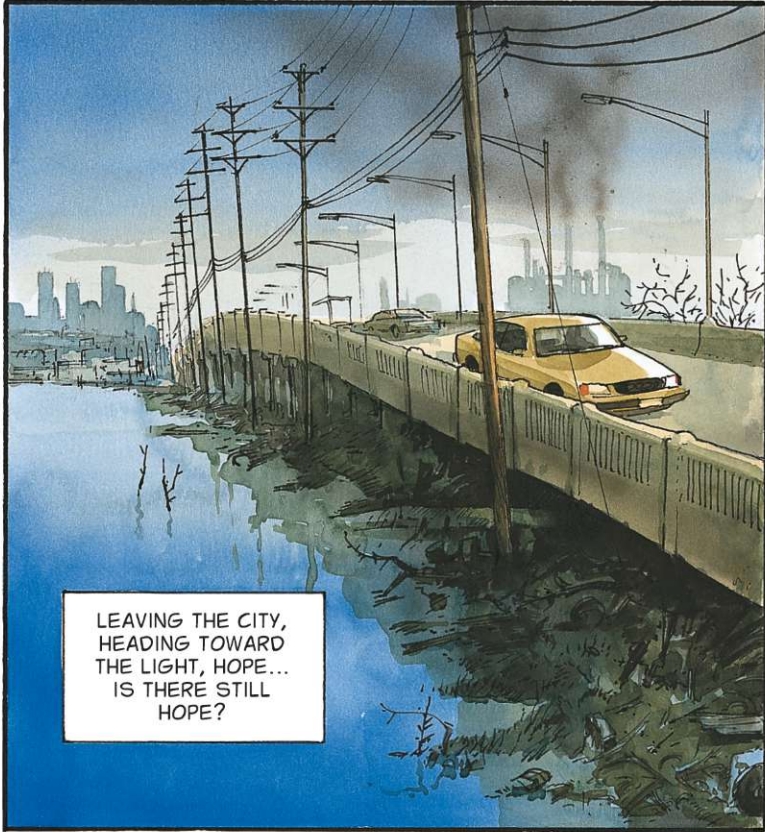
A COP. ONE OF THEIRS. THEY'RE ON OUR TRACKS.

WE CANNOT STAY HERE ANY LONGER.

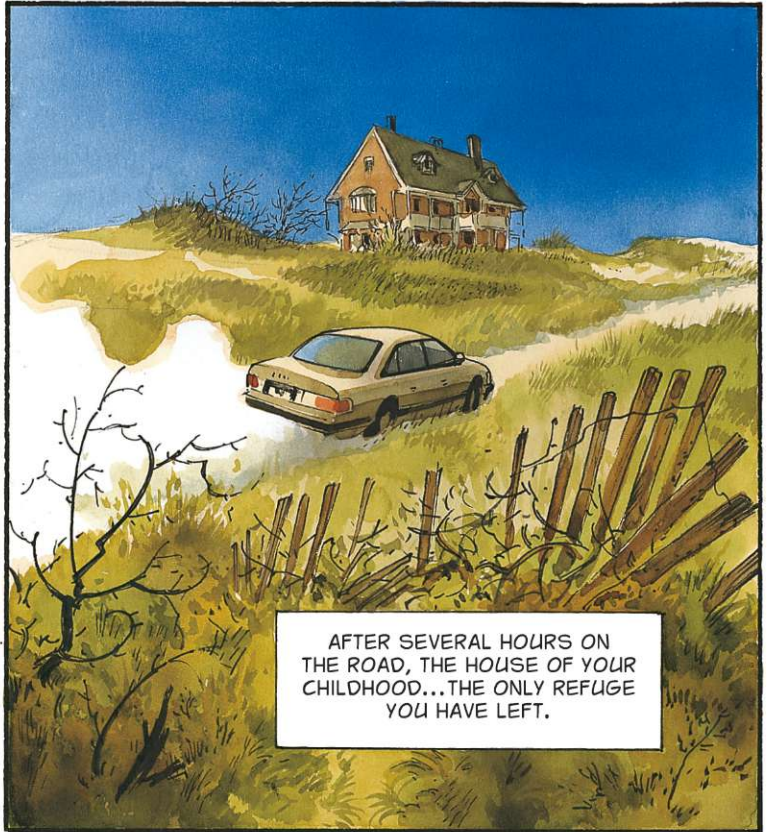


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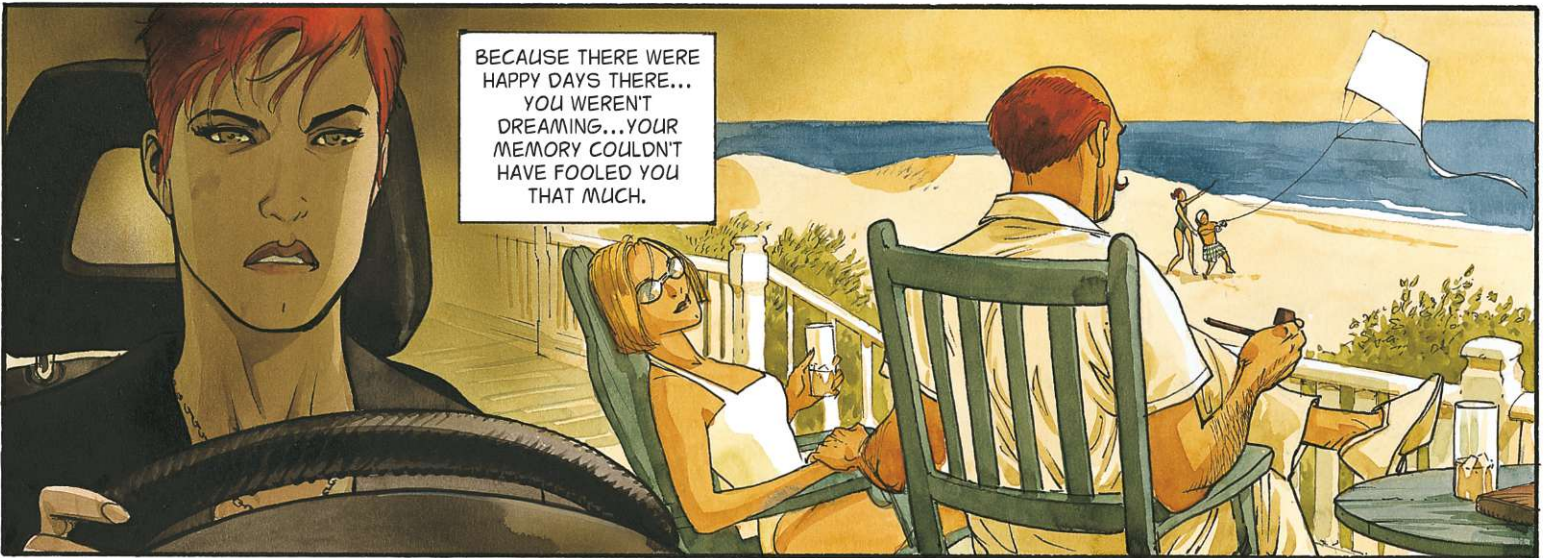




LEAVING THE CITY,
HEADING TOWARD
THE LIGHT, HOPE...
IS THERE STILL
HOPE?



AFTER SEVERAL HOURS ON
THE ROAD, THE HOUSE OF YOUR
CHILDHOOD...THE ONLY REFUGE
YOU HAVE LEFT.



BECAUSE THERE WERE
HAPPY DAYS THERE...
YOU WEREN'T
DREAMING...YOUR
MEMORY COULDN'T
HAVE FOOLED YOU
THAT MUCH.



SPIAGGI?



IT'S NOT
SPIAGGI.

?



NOT TOO DISAPPOINTED, I HOPE?



VICKY!!
NEWTON!!



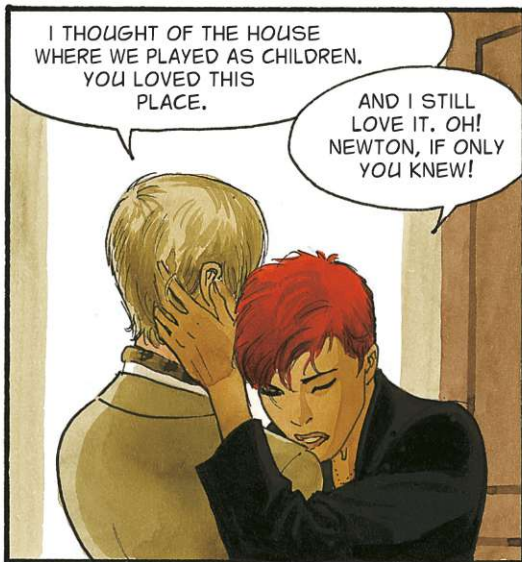
BUT...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, MY DEAR SISTER. EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR YOU.



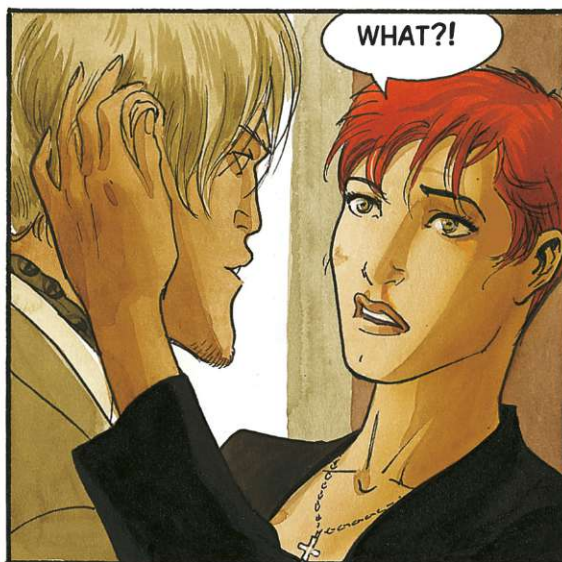
FATHER'S VERY WORRIED. YOU DISAPPEARED SO SUDDENLY, WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE. WE FEARED THE WORST.



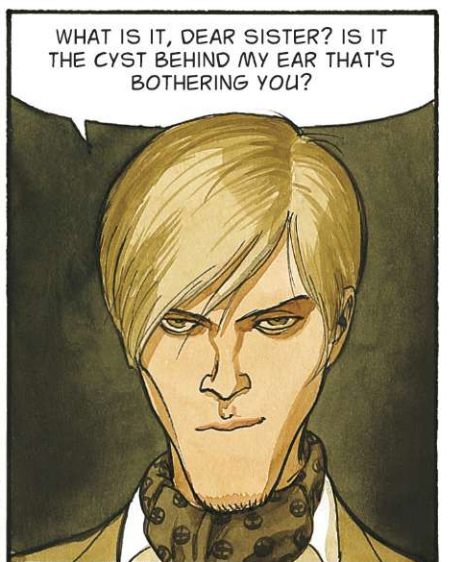
THE WORST HAS HAPPENED.



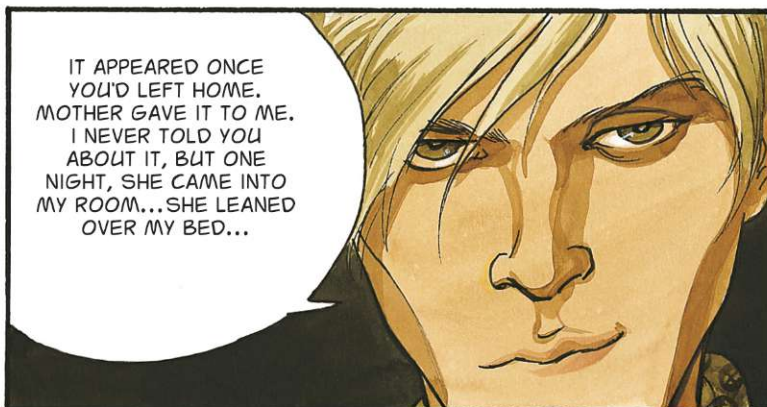
I THOUGHT OF THE HOUSE WHERE WE PLAYED AS CHILDREN. YOU LOVED THIS PLACE.
AND I STILL LOVE IT. OH! NEWTON, IF ONLY YOU KNEW!



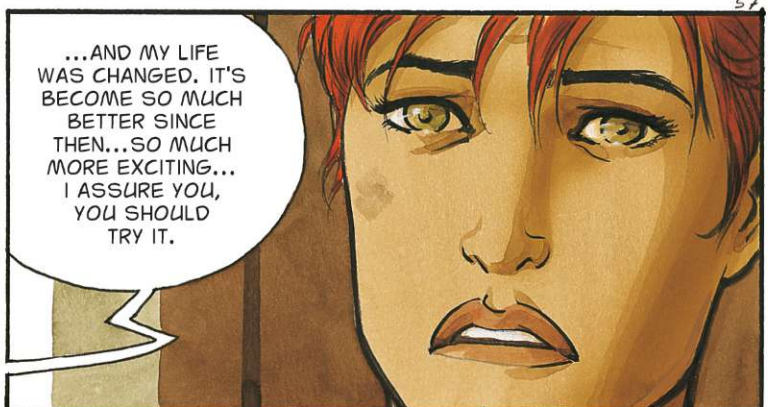
WHAT?!



WHAT IS IT, DEAR SISTER? IS IT THE CYST BEHIND MY EAR THAT'S BOTHERING YOU?



IT APPEARED ONCE YOU'D LEFT HOME. MOTHER GAVE IT TO ME. I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT IT, BUT ONE NIGHT, SHE CAME INTO MY ROOM...SHE LEANED OVER MY BED...



...AND MY LIFE WAS CHANGED. IT'S BECOME SO MUCH BETTER SINCE THEN...SO MUCH MORE EXCITING... I ASSURE YOU, YOU SHOULD TRY IT.





YOUR KINGDOM IS DOOMED

RAPTORS

DUFAUX

MARINI

H