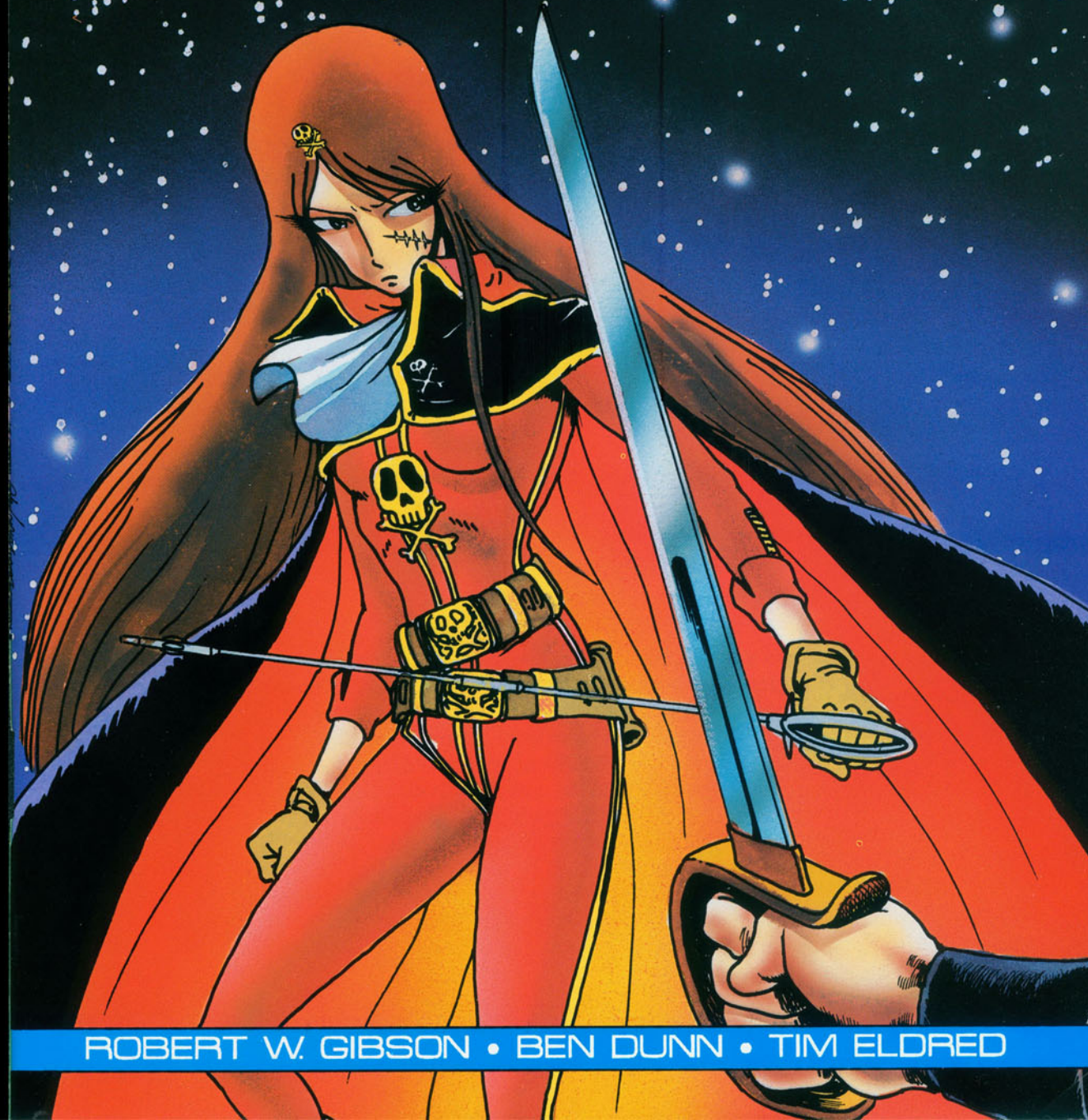


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**THE PIRATE QUEEN**

# EMERALDAS



ROBERT W. GIBSON • BEN DUNN • TIM ELDRED



LEIJI MATSUMOTO'S

# ETERNAL WANDERER EMERALDAS

**ROBERT W. GIBSON**  
Writer

**BEN DUNN**  
Layouts

**TIM ELDRED**  
Finished Art

**PATRICK OWSLEY**  
Lettering

**BEN DUNN**  
Cover

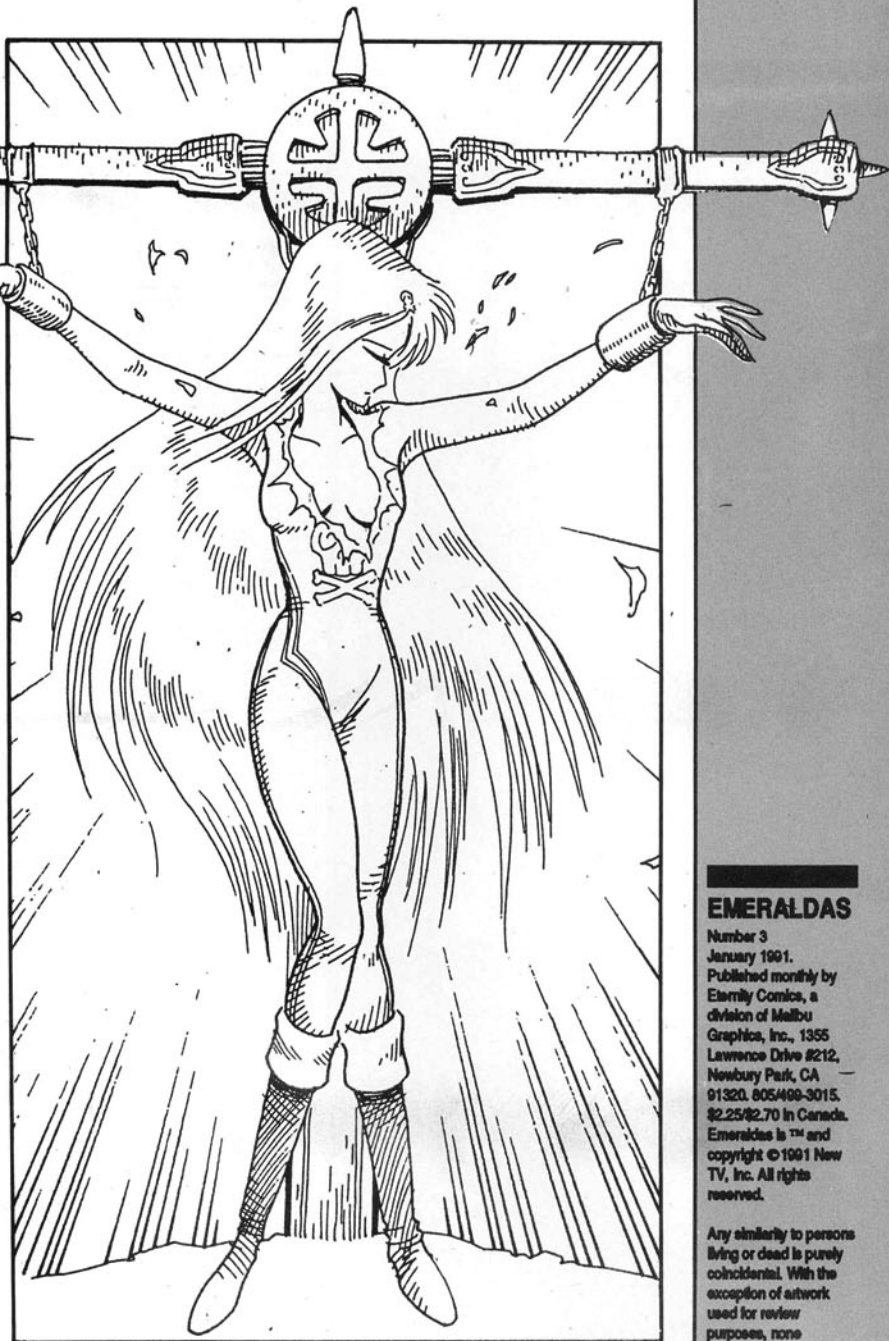
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Cover Coloring

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In the 30th century, the Illumidas—a war-mongering race who live only for conquest—control a vast empire comprised of a majority of the known universe. Earth and all its colonies have been enslaved. Mankind has been crushed beneath their oppressive heel. But some have chosen to take the daring path rebellion. Such is Emeraldas: a solitary figure fighting against insurmountable odds; refusing to succumb to the Illumidas tyranny.

Outlawed by the Illumidas government, Emeraldas fights a difficult and lonely battle, but she will die before surrendering, for where there is a strong heart, there is hope.

## EMERALDAS

Number 3  
January 1991.  
Published monthly by  
Eternity Comics, a  
division of Malibu  
Graphics, Inc., 1355  
Lawrence Drive #212,  
Newbury Park, CA  
91320. 805/409-3015.  
\$2.25/\$2.70 in Canada.  
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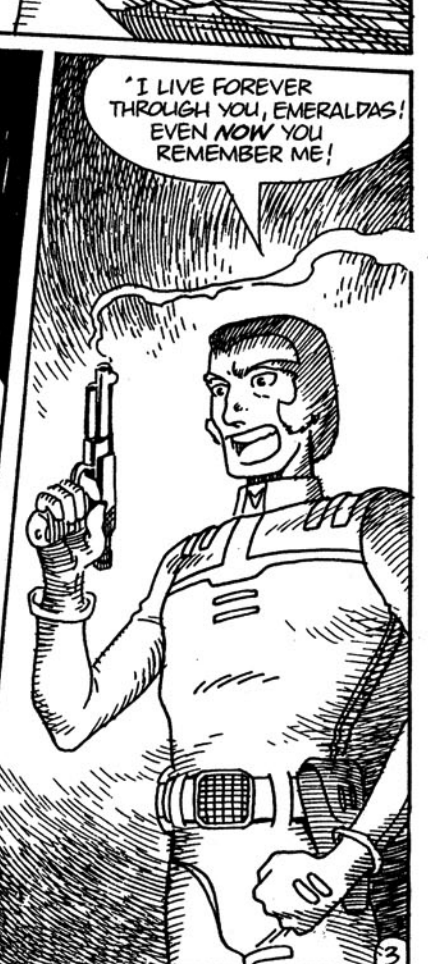
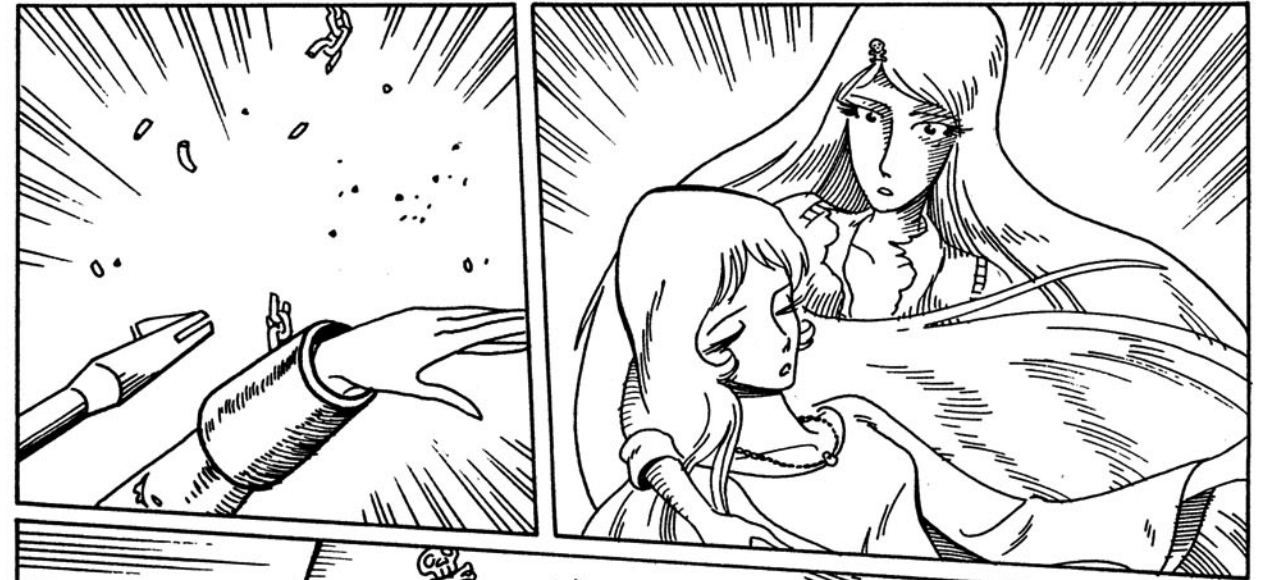
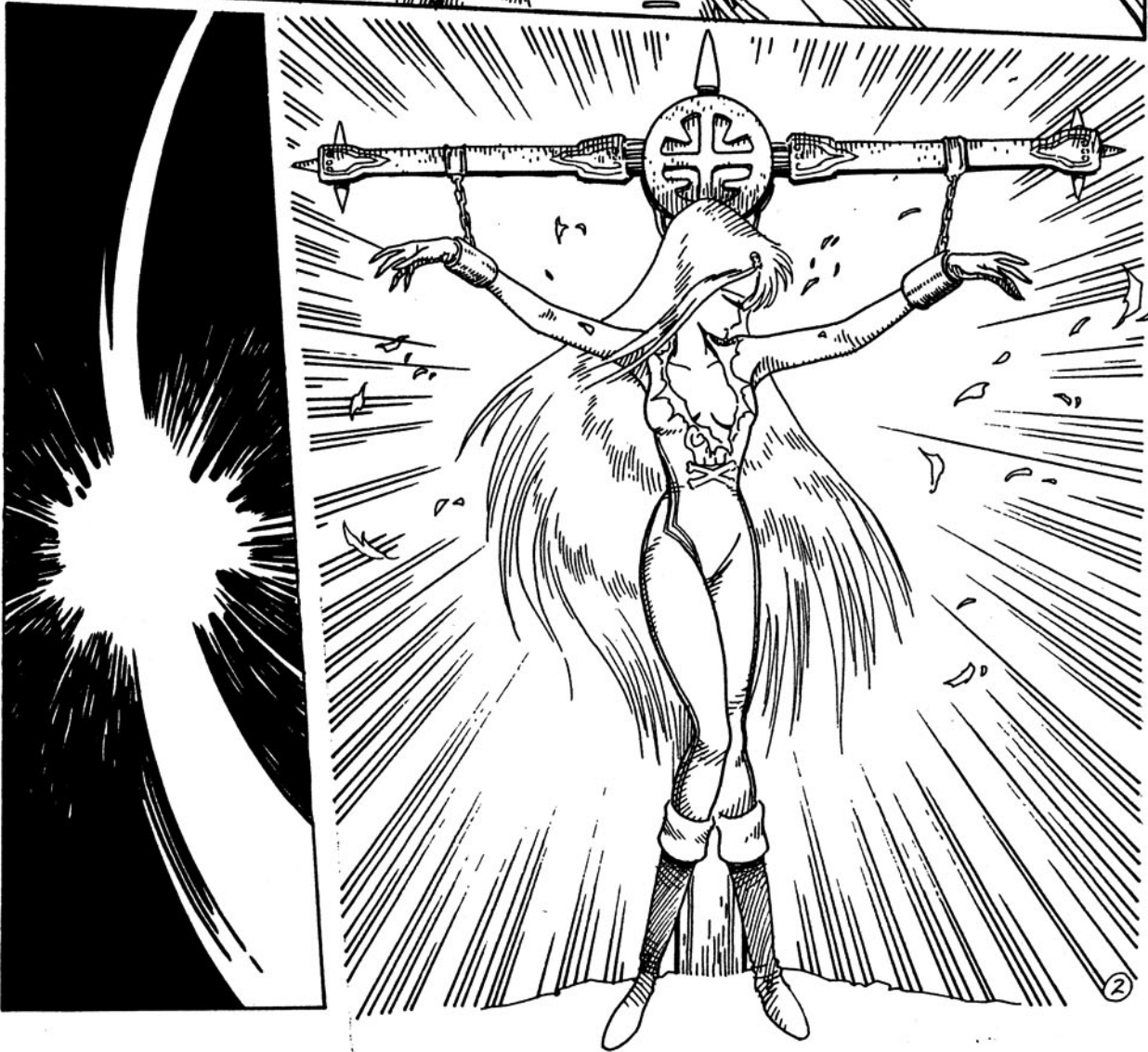
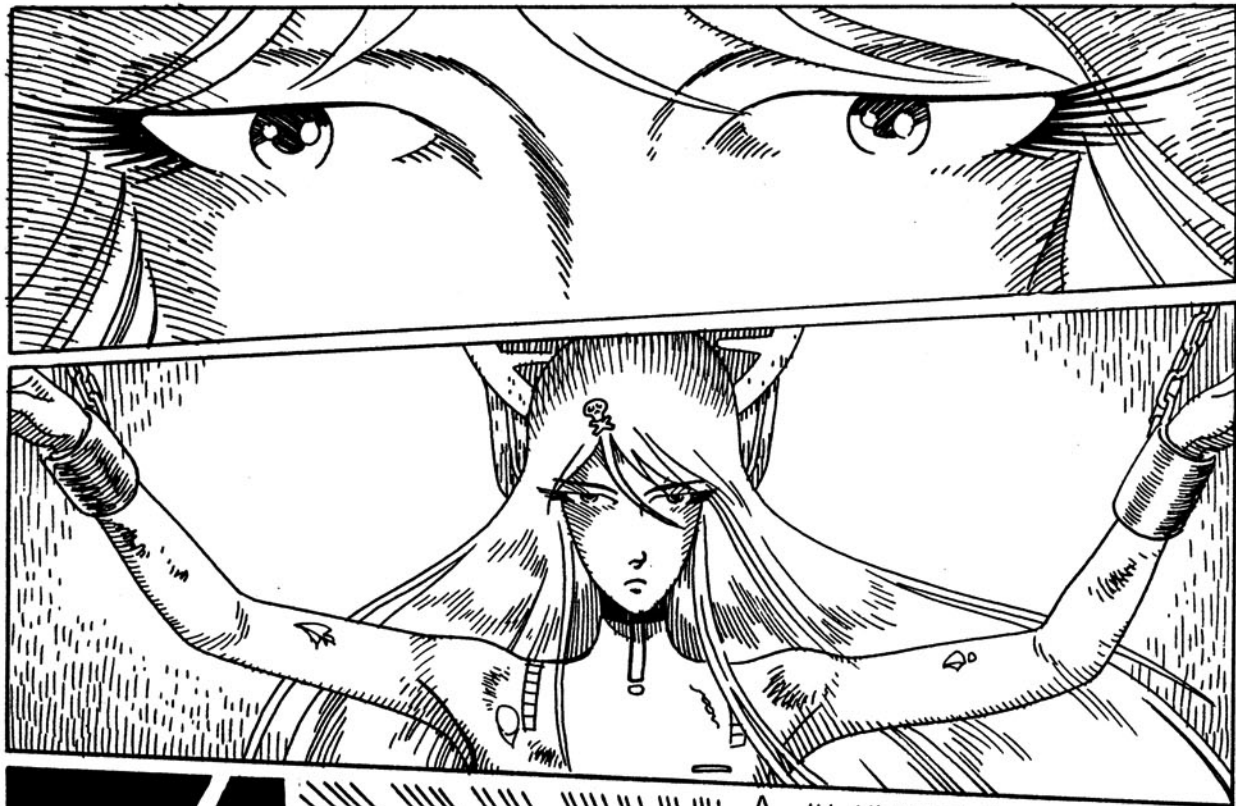
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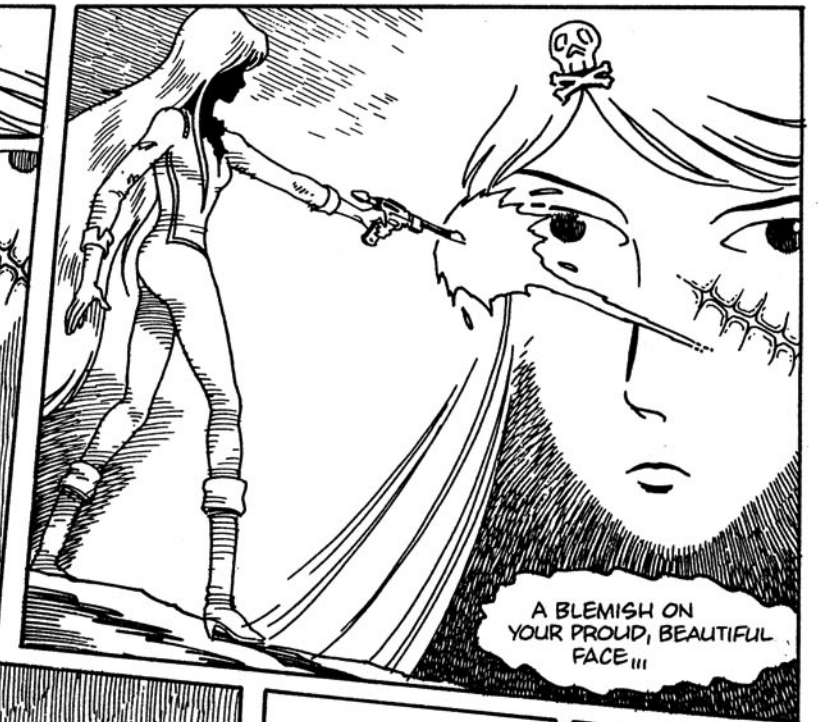
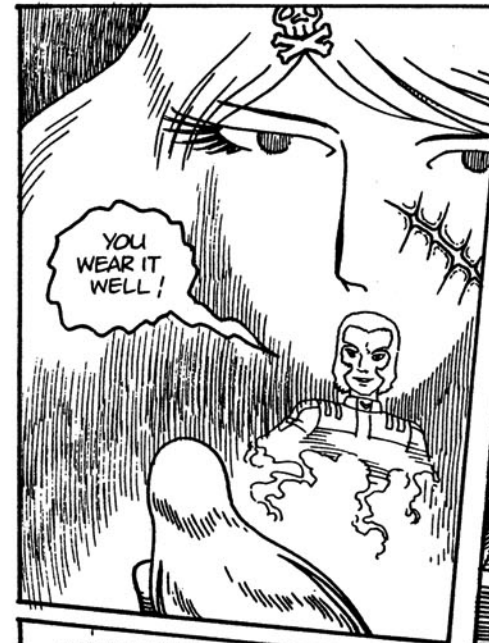
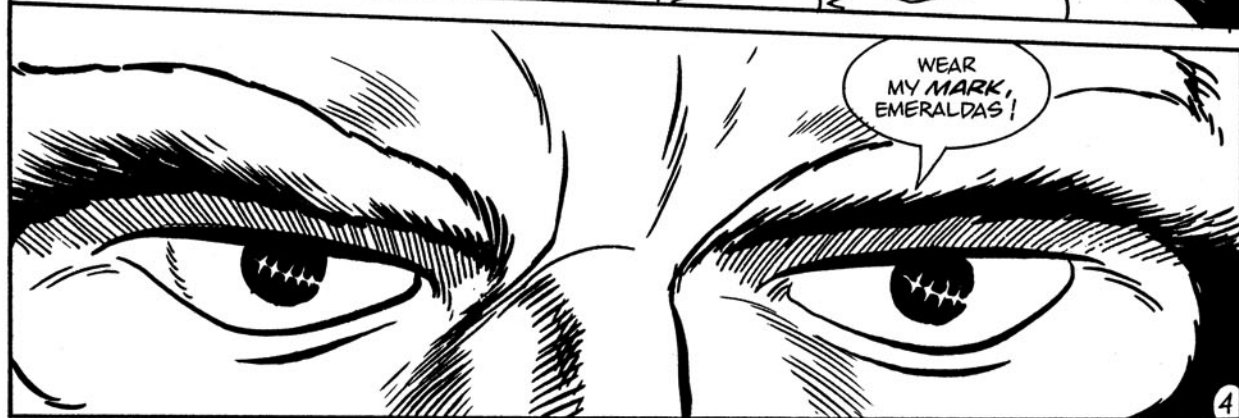
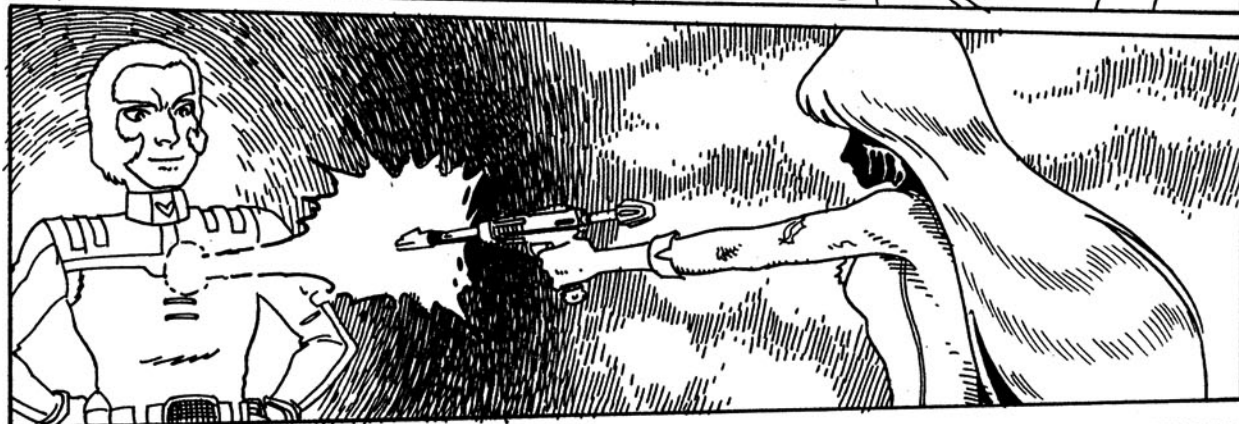
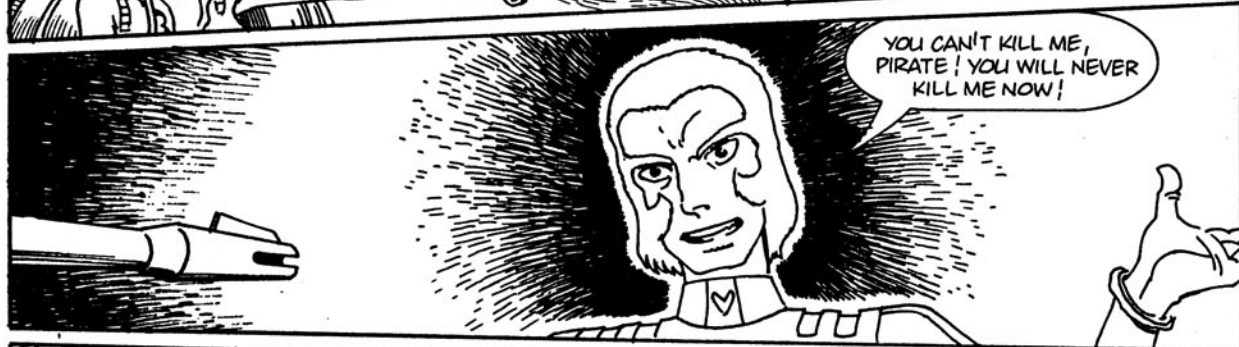
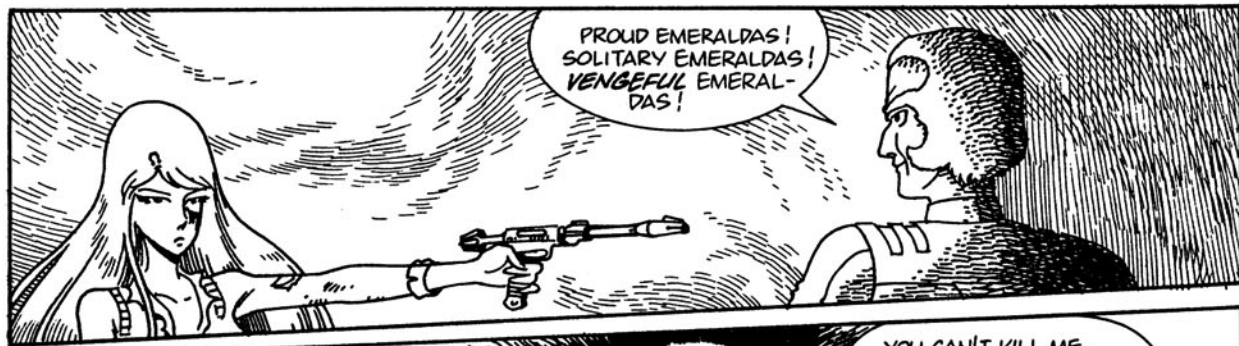
# ETERNAL WANDERER QUEEN EMERALDAS SCARS

ROBERT W. GIBSON  
WRITER  
BEN DUNN  
BREAKDOWNS  
TIM ELDRED  
FINISHED ART  
PATRICK OWSLEY  
LETTERS  
CHRIS ULM  
EDITOR

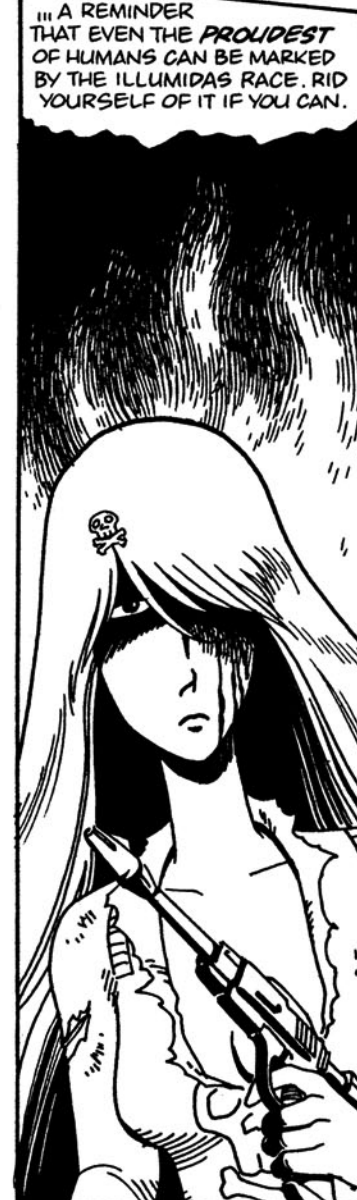




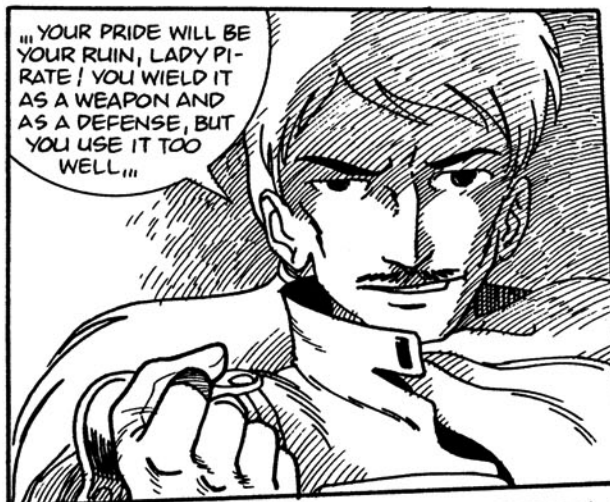




... A REMINDER  
THAT EVEN THE PROUDEST  
OF HUMANS CAN BE MARKED  
BY THE ILLUMIDAS RACE. RID  
YOURSELF OF IT IF YOU CAN.







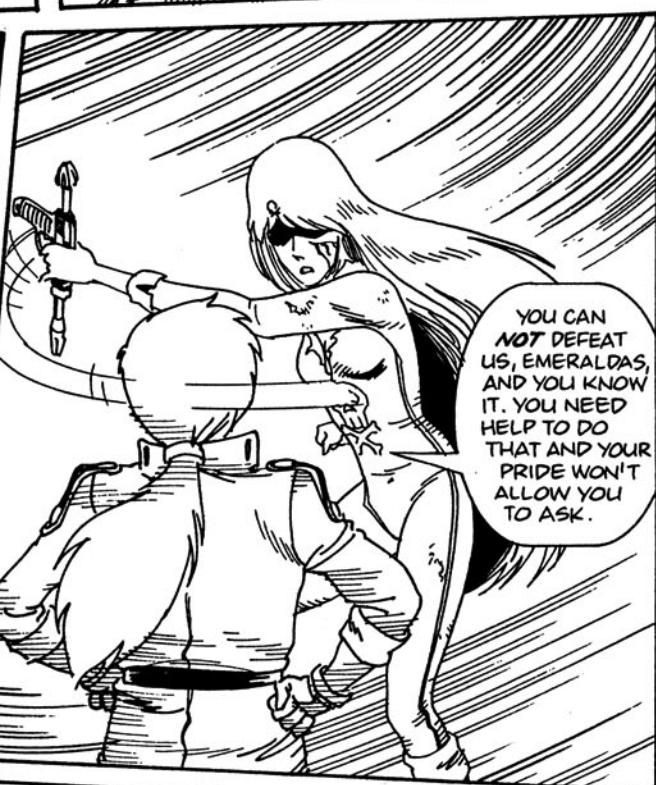
"YOUR PRIDE WILL BE YOUR RUIN, LADY PIRATE! YOU WIELD IT AS A WEAPON AND AS A DEFENSE, BUT YOU USE IT TOO WELL!"



"YOU ALWAYS WILL BE ALONE!"



"NO!"  
"YES!"



"YOU CAN NOT DEFEAT US, EMERALDAS, AND YOU KNOW IT. YOU NEED HELP TO DO THAT AND YOUR PRIDE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO ASK."



"WHAT HAS YOUR PRIDE GOTTEN YOU? YOU ARE ALONE IN A SEA OF STARS WITH METAL SERVANTS WHO CAN GIVE NEITHER YOU WARMTH NOR LOVE."



"YOU HAVE MADE YOUR CHOICES. YOU ARE ALONE, WILL ALWAYS BE ALONE, AND WILL DIE ALONE. BUT, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR PRIDE."



"DIE, DAMN YOU!"



"AH, THE PROUD PIRATE EMERALDAS. THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING, AND THAT YOU WOULD COME ALONE."



"DAMN YOU!"

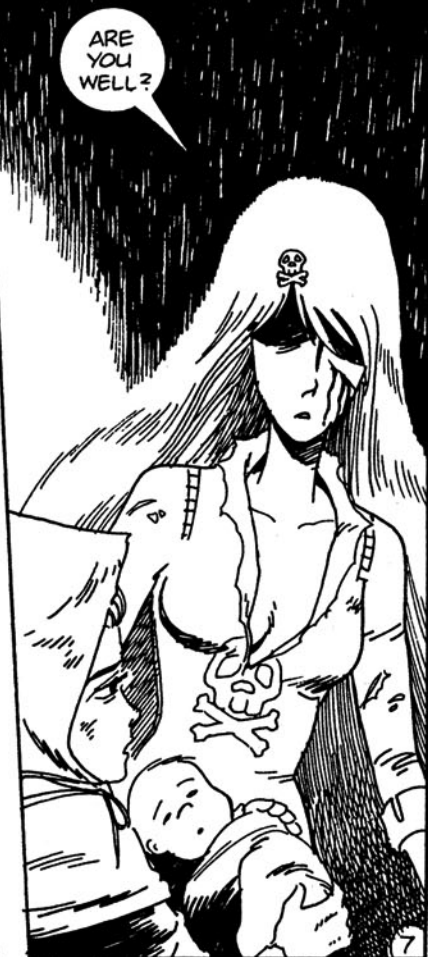
"A LONE PIRATE WITH A GUN, EH? JUST LIKE ALL OF THE REST. YOU WANT TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE WITH A GUN."



"IT IS NOT ENOUGH, WOMAN. NOT EVEN FOR YOU. ESPECIALLY NOT FOR YOU."

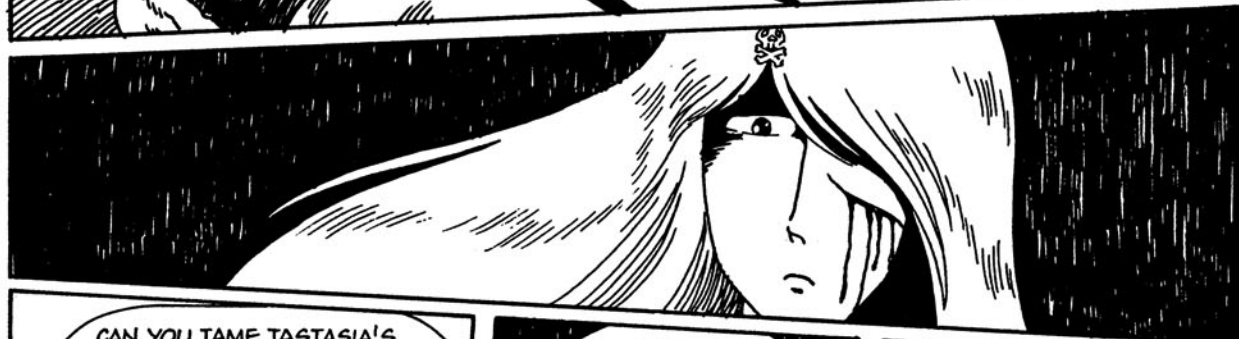
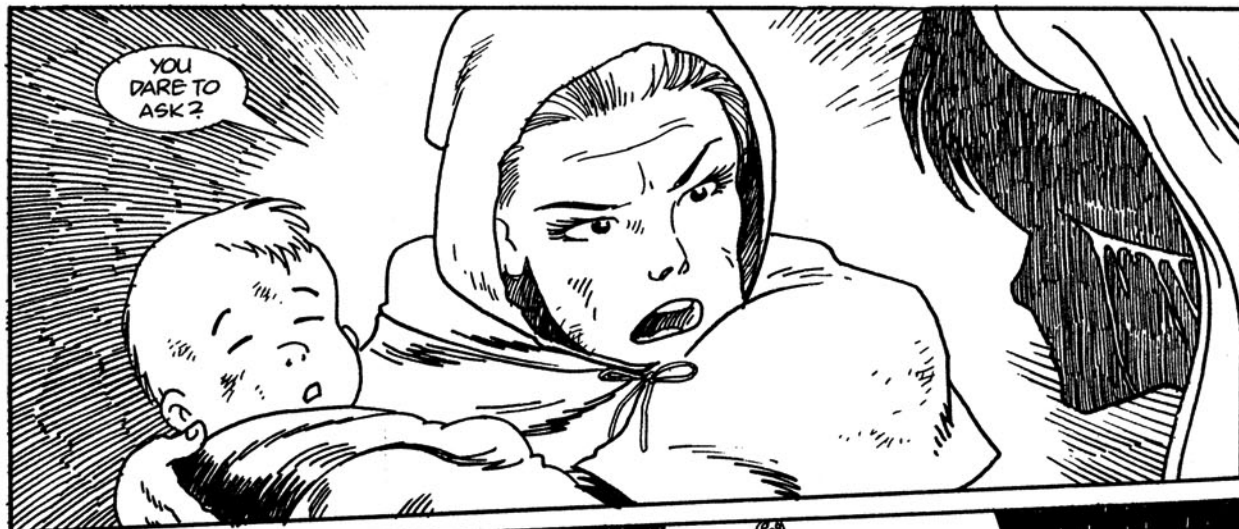


"HA! HA! HA!"

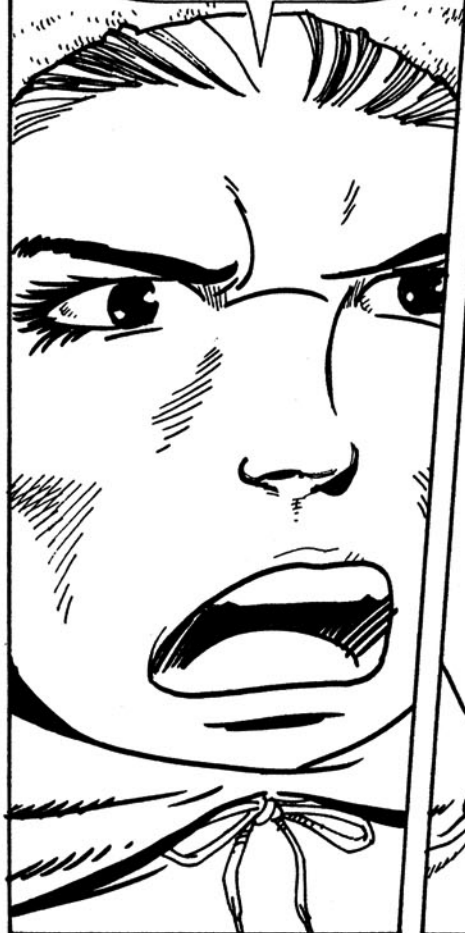


"ARE YOU WELL?"

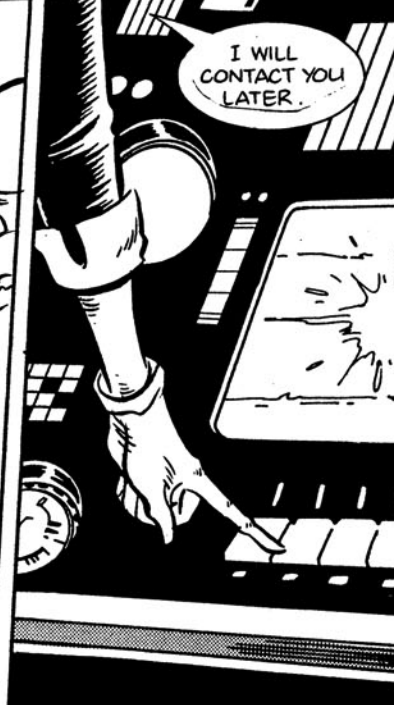
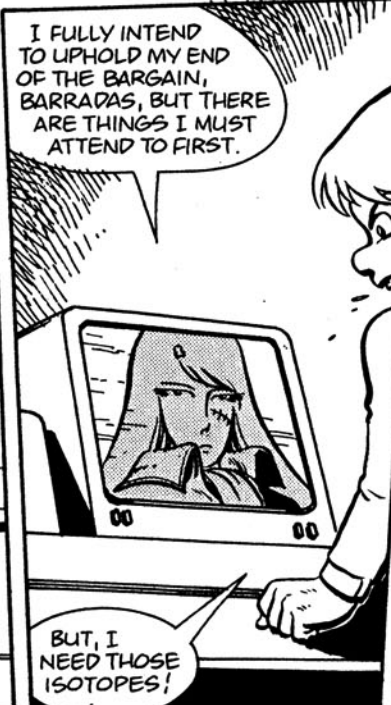
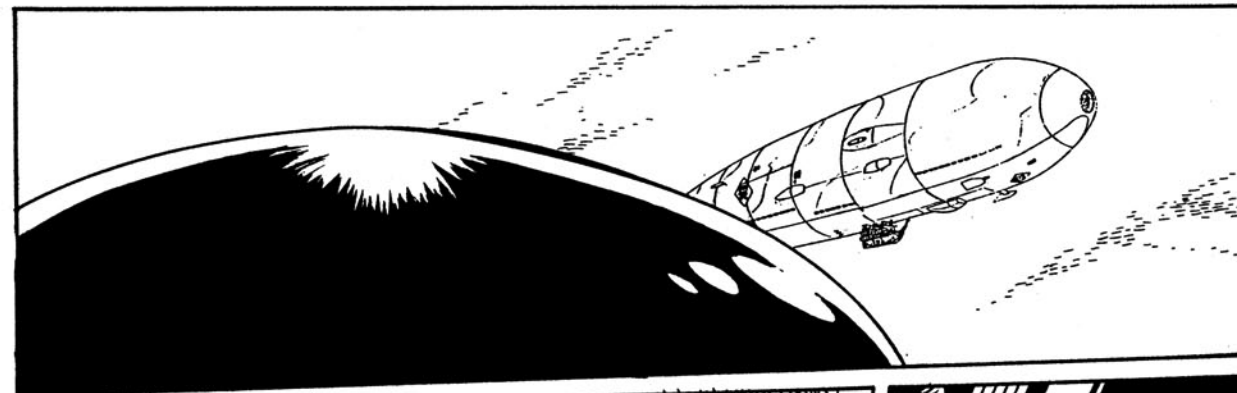
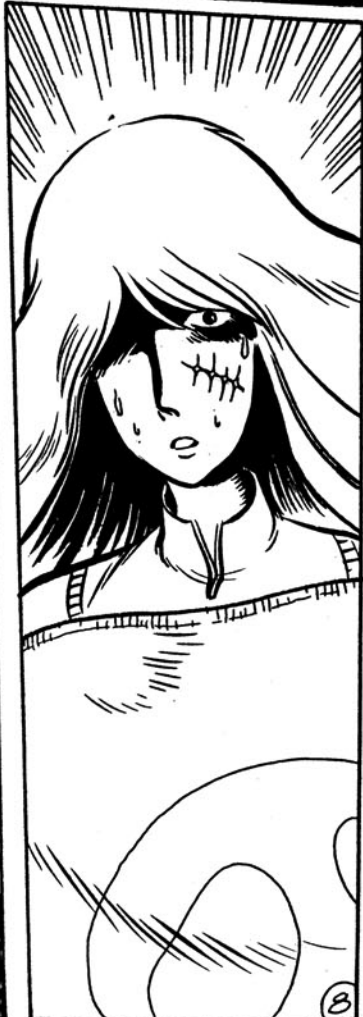
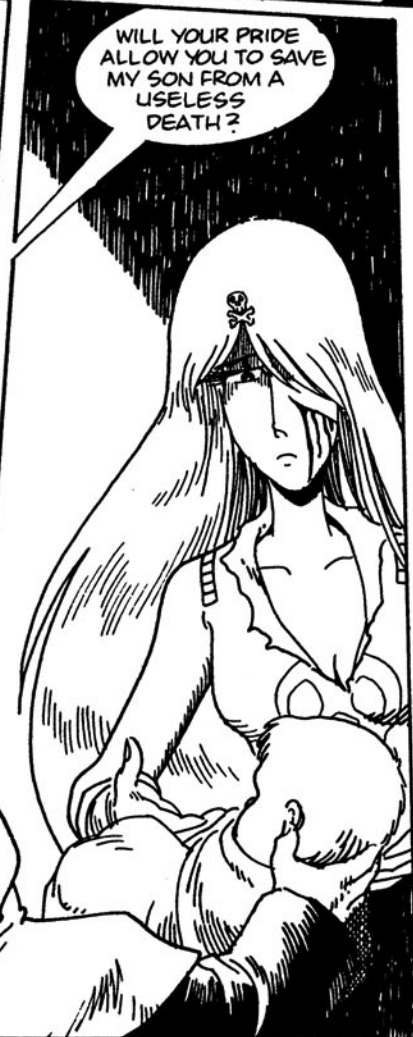




CAN YOU TAME TASTASIA'S SUN WITH YOUR PISTOL? WILL YOUR ROBOTS FILL OUR LAKES AND RIVERS?



WILL YOUR PRIDE ALLOW YOU TO SAVE MY SON FROM A USELESS DEATH?







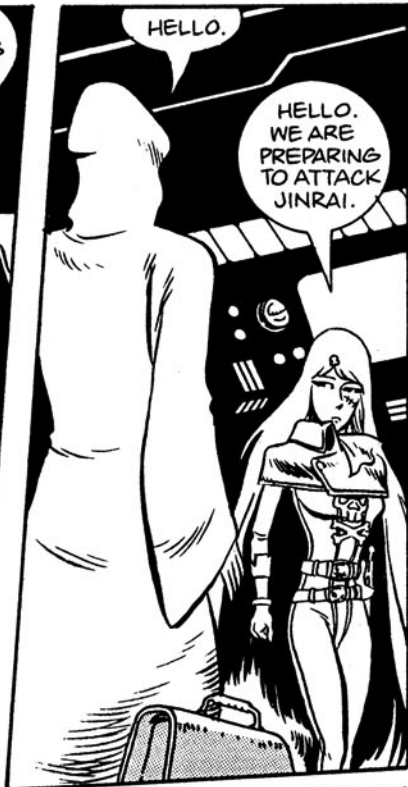
HAVE THE SCOUTS I SENT OUT LOCATED JINRAI'S VESSEL YET?

NOT AS YET, BUT SINCE HIS MEN ATTACKED HEARTHAVEN BY SKY SLED AND THE RANGE ON THOSE ARE SOMEWHAT LIMITED, I EXPECT WE SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING SHORTLY.



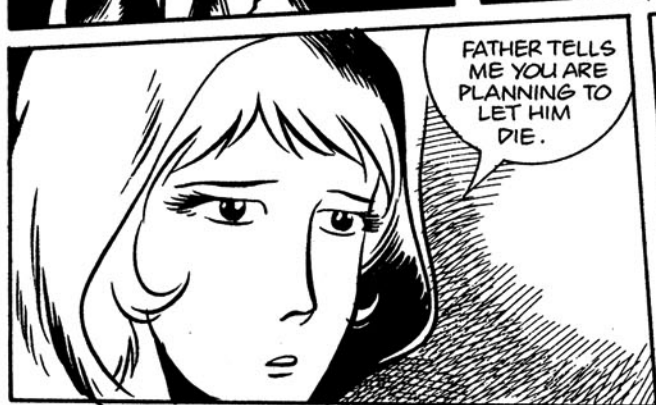
CAPTAIN, LADY MIANTIR REQUESTS PERMISSION TO ENTER THE BRIDGE.

GRANTED.



HELLO.

HELLO. WE ARE PREPARING TO ATTACK JINRAI.



FATHER TELLS ME YOU ARE PLANNING TO LET HIM DIE.



HE DIED MANY YEARS AGO, MIANTIR. I THINK YOU KNOW THAT.

BUT IT ALL SEEMS SO HEARTLESS... SO INHUMAN.

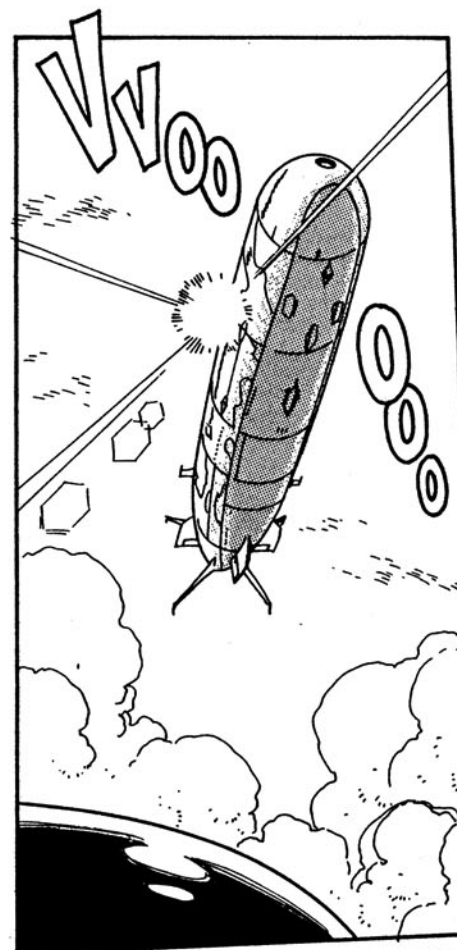


I HAVE MY REASONS.



THEN I ASK YOU TO RETURN ME TO DUNLION BEFORE YOU ATTACK JINRAI. I WISH TO BE WITH JUDE IF HE WILL HAVE ME BACK.

VERY WELL. WE LEAVE AT ONCE.



I SHARE YOUR CONCERN, TRISTEN, BUT THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THEM NOW. IT IS A TWO HOUR JOURNEY BY SKY SLEDS AND ANY BATTLE WOULD BE OVER LONG BEFORE THEN.



WE MUST THINK OF THE FIGHT AT HAND. THE FUTURE OF OUR WHOLE PLANET MAY WELL DEPEND ON WHAT WE DO HERE NOW.

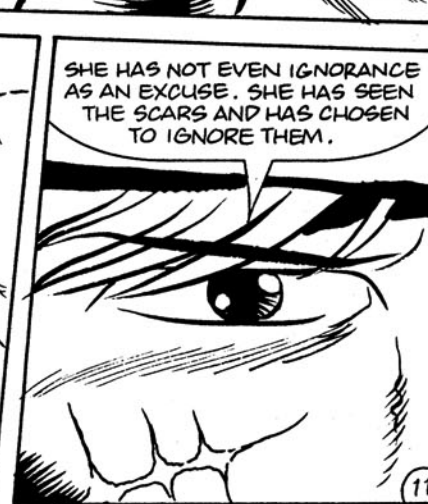
I SUPPOSE YOU ARE RIGHT.



OF COURSE. BARRADAS' MUST BE MADE TO SEE THE TRUTH. IF FORCE IS WHAT IT TAKES...



AND LADY MIANTIR...?

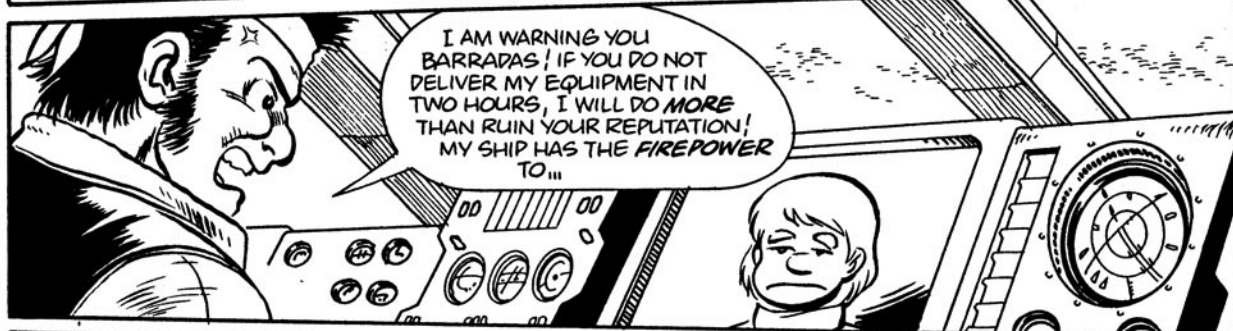
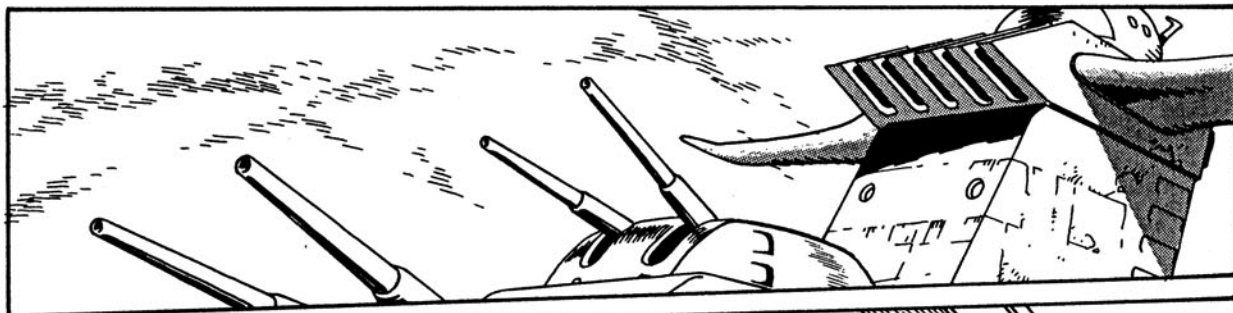


SHE HAS NOT EVEN IGNORANCE AS AN EXCUSE. SHE HAS SEEN THE SCARS AND HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE THEM.



I AM WORRIED, JUDE. THE PIRATE SHIP HAS DEPARTED IN THE DIRECTION OF DUNLION.





I AM WARNING YOU BARRADAS! IF YOU DO NOT DELIVER MY EQUIPMENT IN TWO HOURS, I WILL DO MORE THAN RUIN YOUR REPUTATION! MY SHIP HAS THE FIREPOWER TO...



SAVE YOUR TIRED THREATS, PIRATE. THAT DAMNED PIRATE EMERALDAS HAS ALREADY ROBBED ME OF THE ONLY THINGS I CARE ABOUT.



EMERALDAS?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

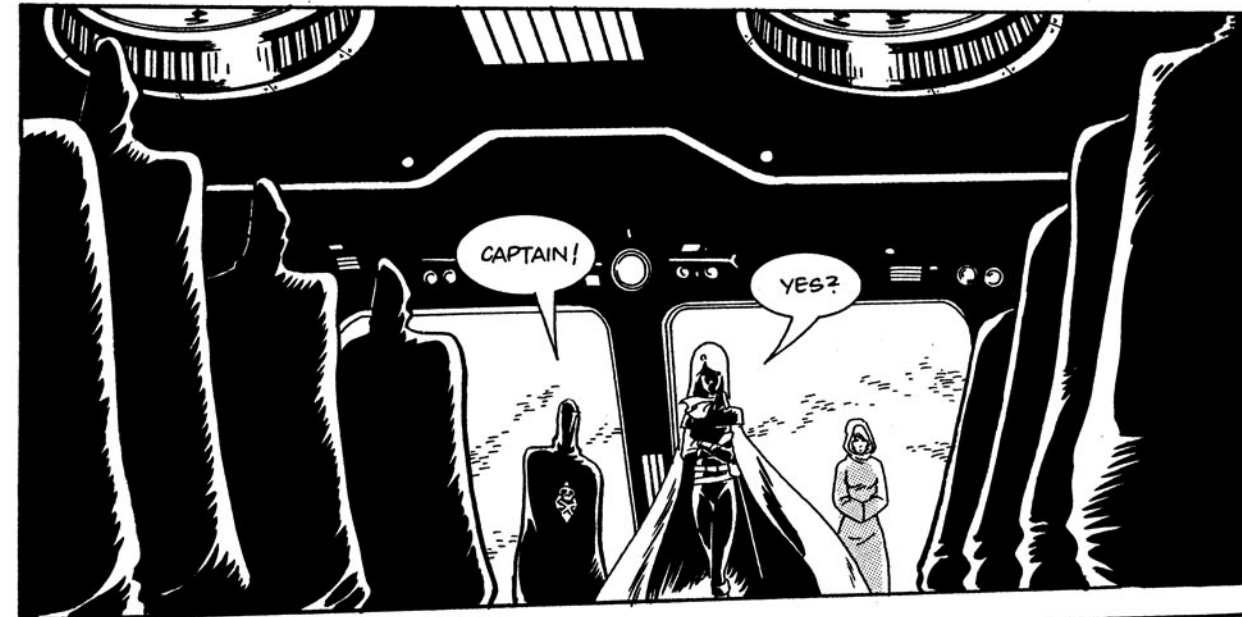


EMERALDAS?!

YOU WILL KNOW SOON ENOUGH. IF YOU SURVIVE, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEG HER FOR THE PARTS YOU NEED.



DAMN YOU BARRADAS!!!



CAPTAIN!

YES?



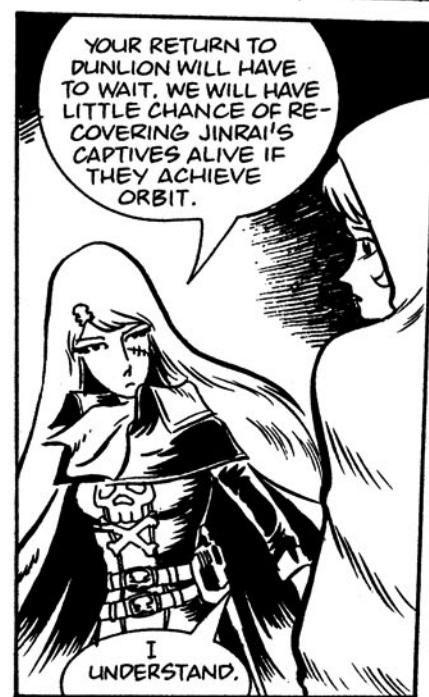
SCOUTS LELA AND RUMIKO HAVE LOCATED JINRAI'S SHIP. IT IS APPROXIMATELY 30 KILOMETERS WEST OF OUR PRESENT LOCATION.

THEY APPEAR TO BE PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE.



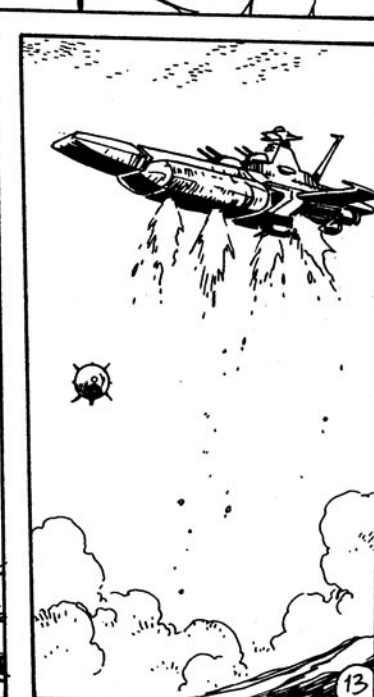
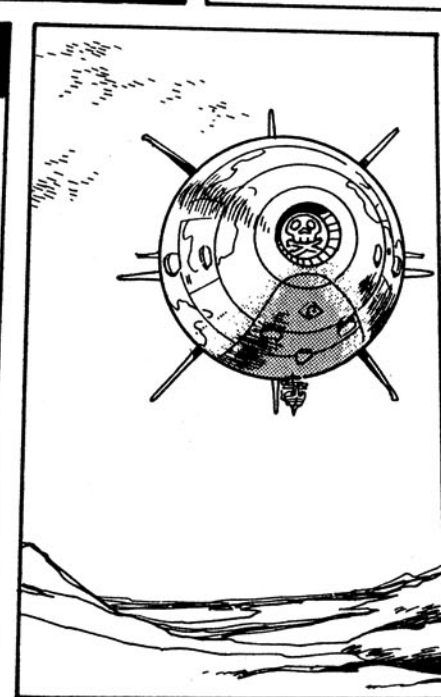
CHANGE COURSE TO INTERCEPT! RAISE SHIELDS AND SOUND ALARMS!

ADVISE ALL SCOUTS TO RETURN AT ONCE!

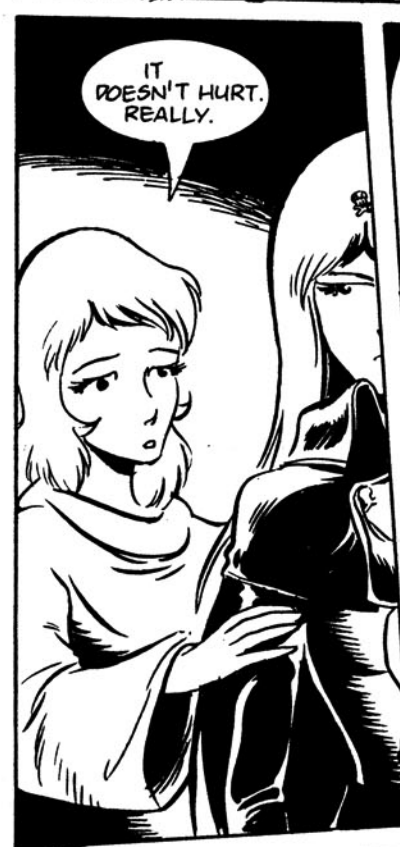
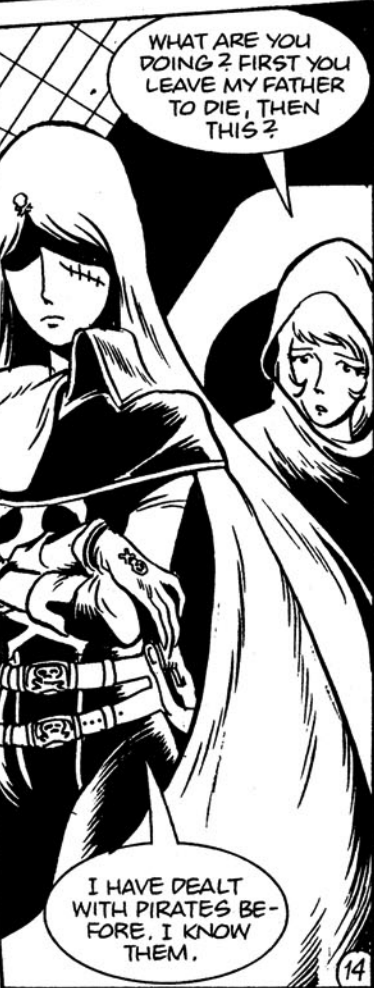


YOUR RETURN TO DUNLION WILL HAVE TO WAIT. WE WILL HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF RECOVERING JINRAI'S CAPTIVES ALIVE IF THEY ACHIEVE ORBIT.

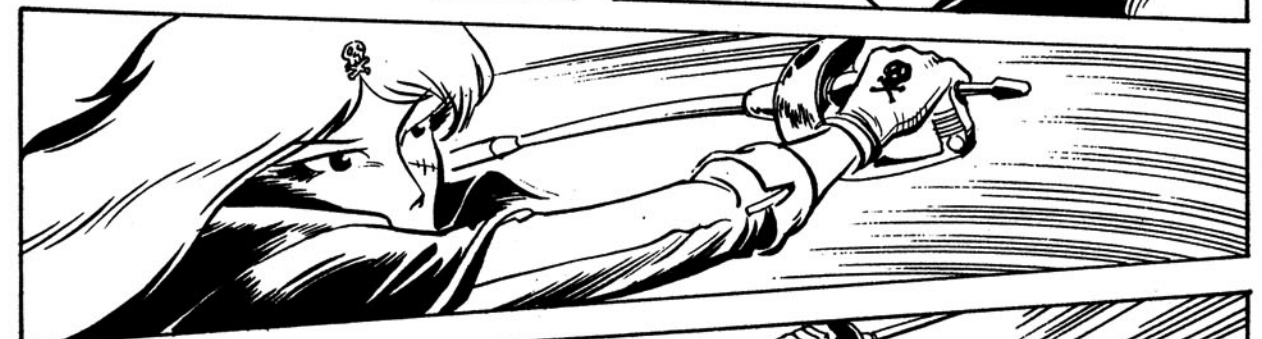
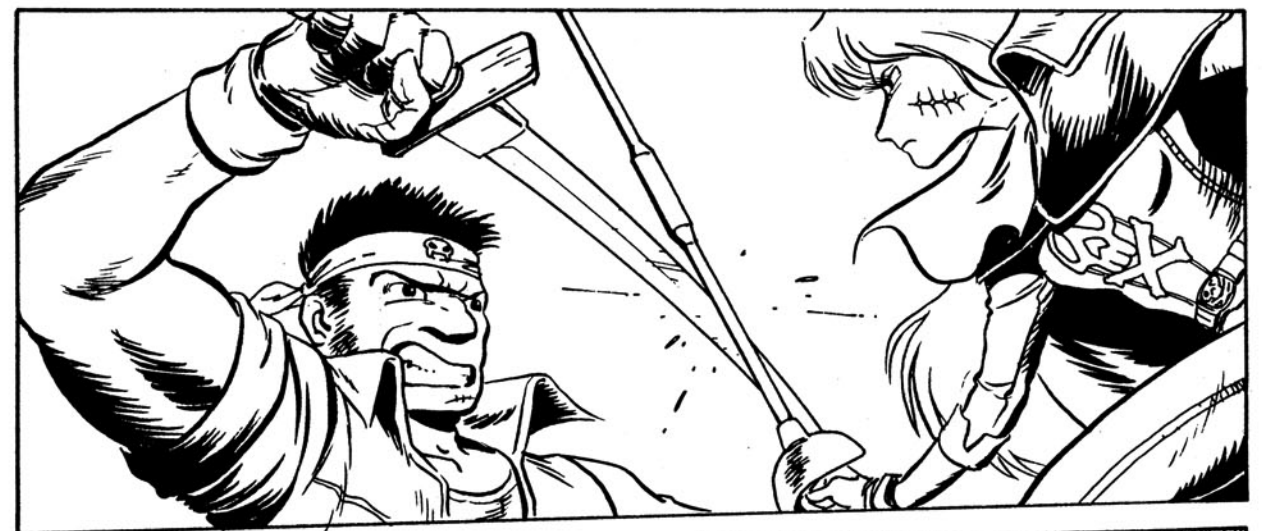
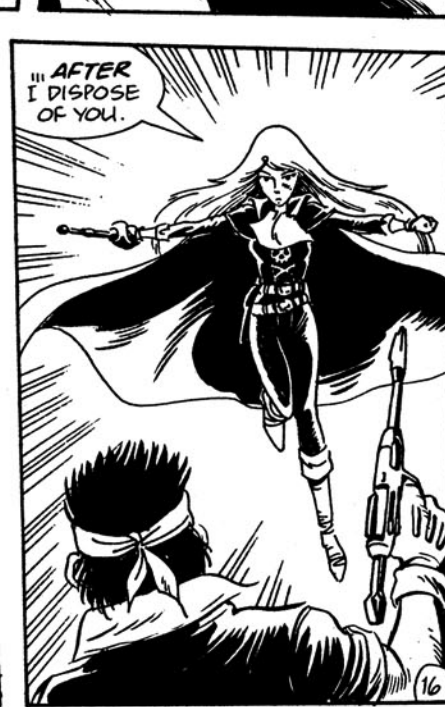
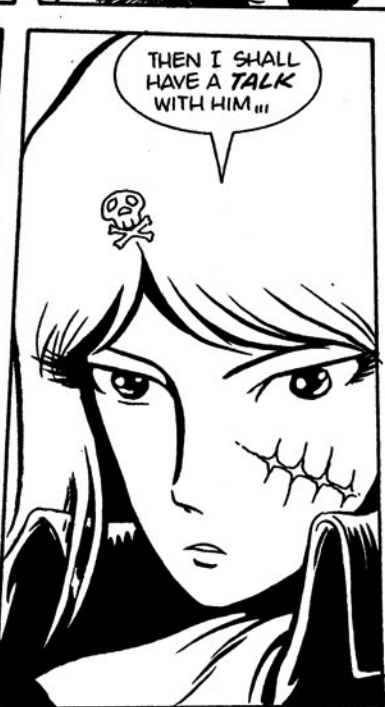
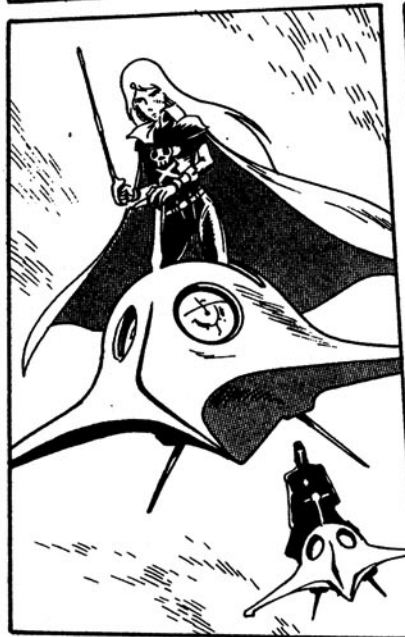
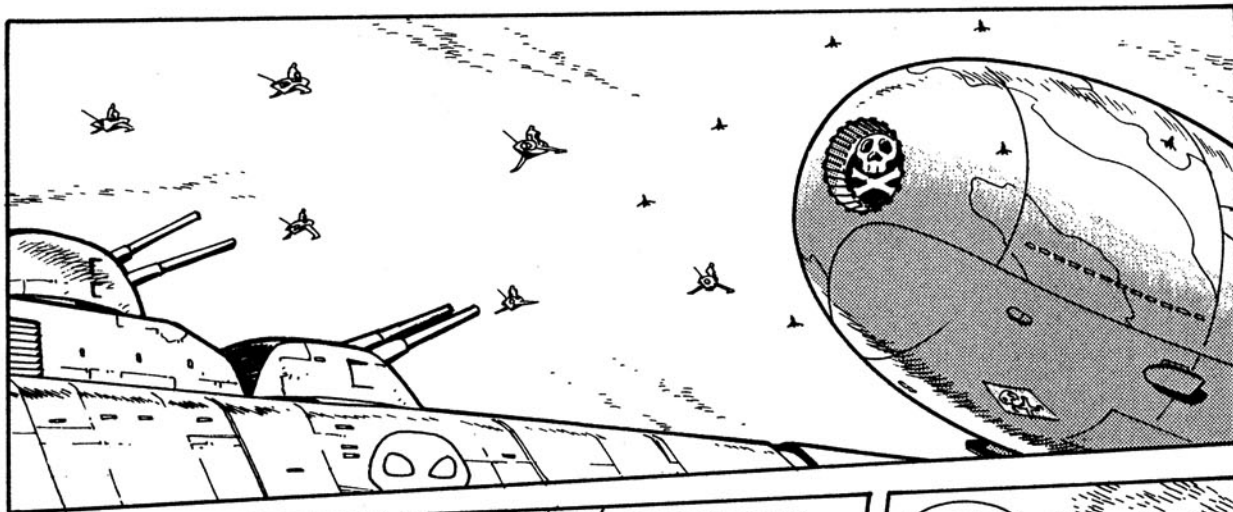
I UNDERSTAND.



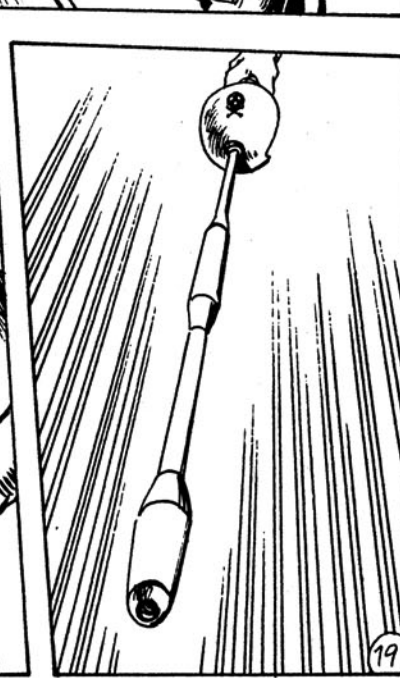
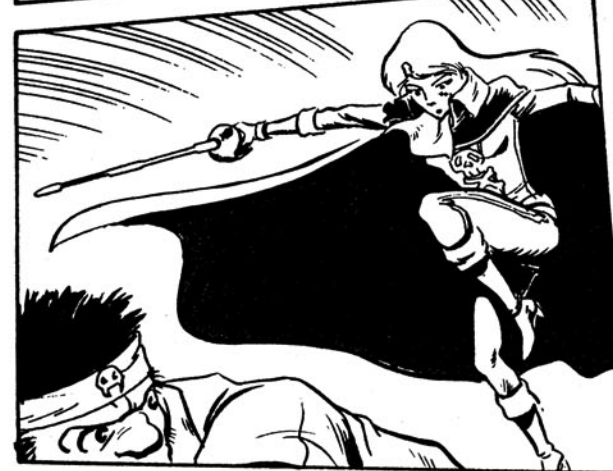
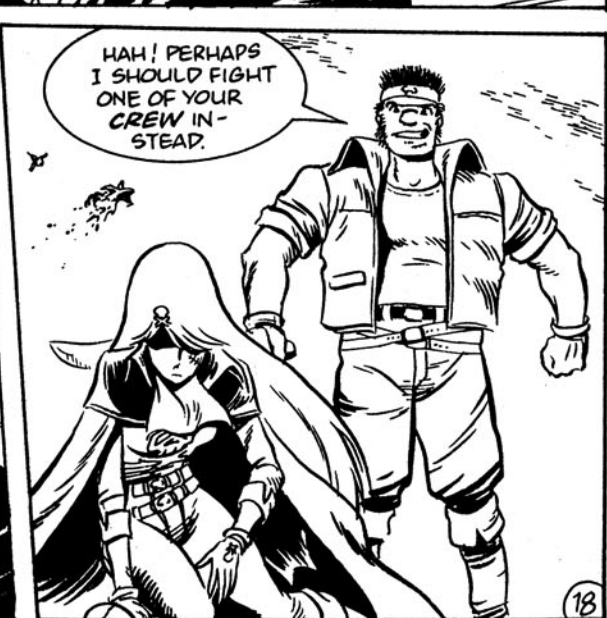
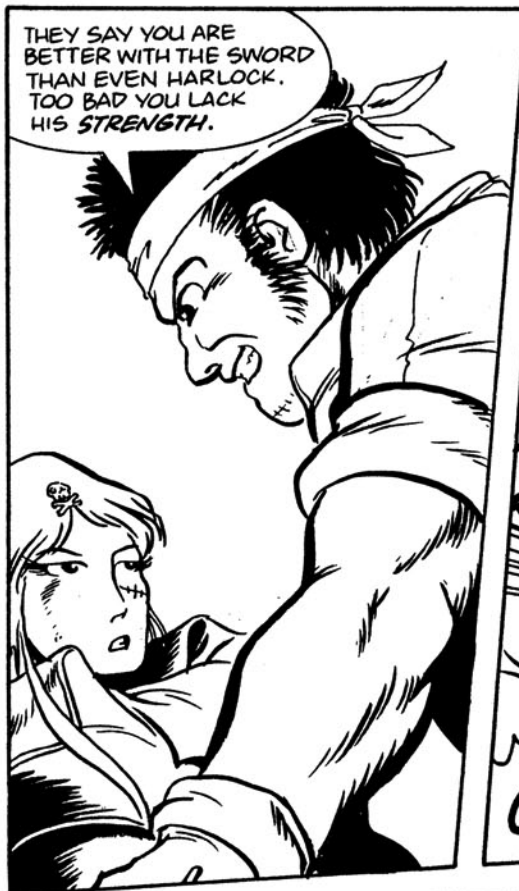




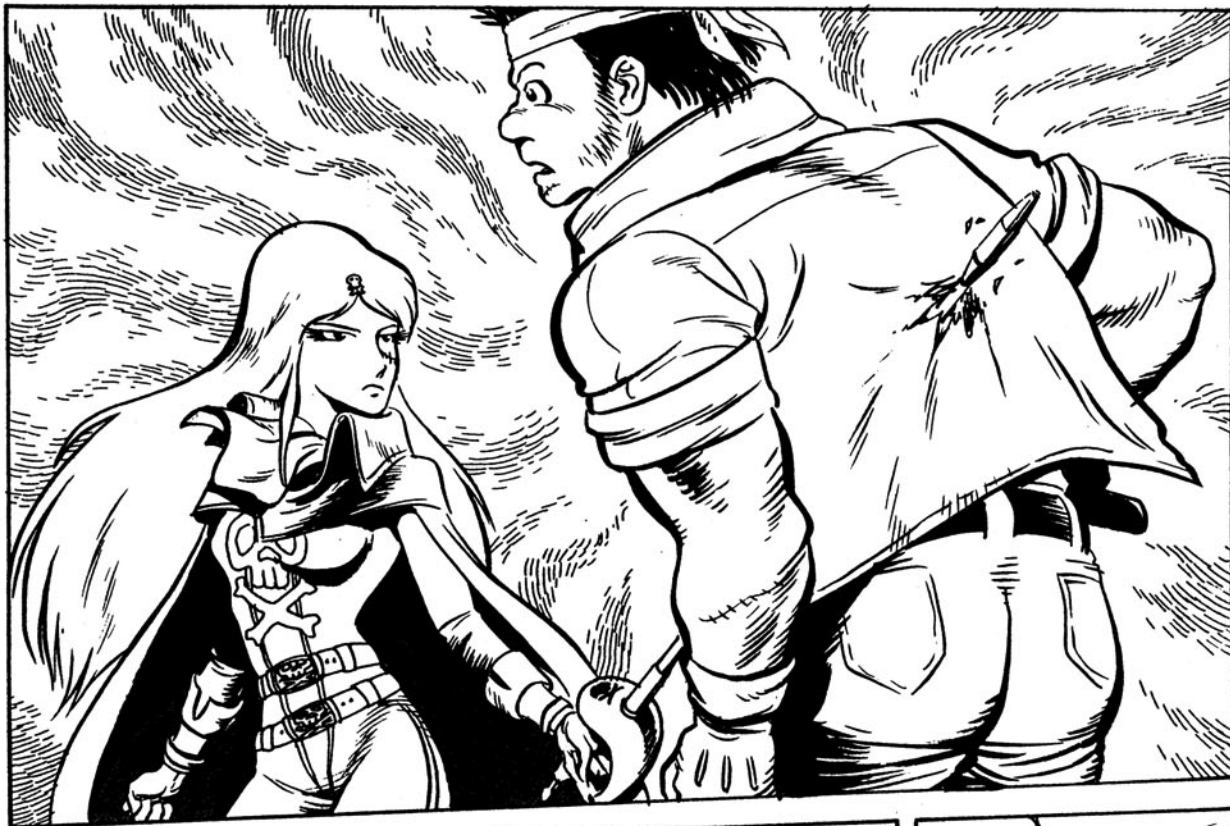












IT LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY LEAVE THIS CURSED PLACE, EH?

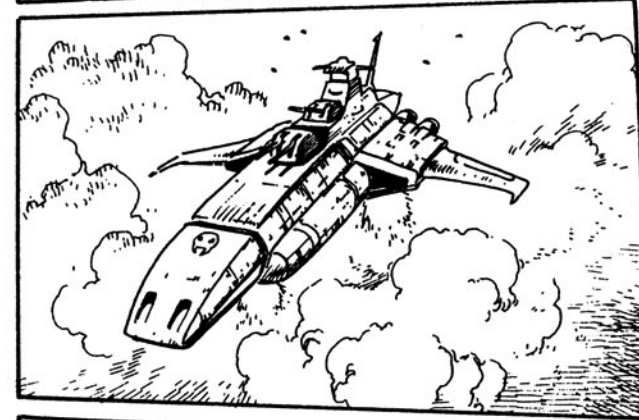


YOU WEAR YOUR SCARS BETTER THAN ANY OF US, EMERALDAS.

YOU KEEP THEM BURIED AWAY... BUT SOMEDAY...



RELEASE YOUR CAPTIVES AND I WILL LET YOU LEAVE.



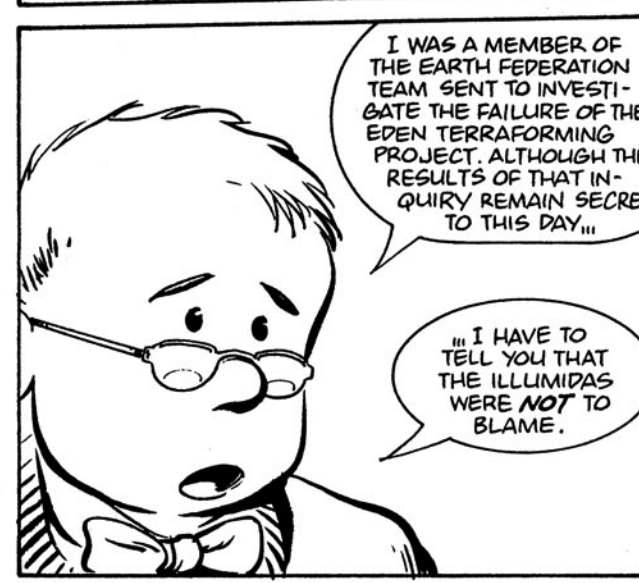
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I FEEL HORRIBLE. THEY KILLED ALL OF THE CAVERN PEOPLE JUST TO CAPTURE ME.



WHEN THEY FOUND I COULD NOT HELP THEM REPAIR THEIR SHIP, THEY TRIED TO USE ME AS A BARGAINING TOOL TO GET YOUR FATHER TO HELP.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



I WAS A MEMBER OF THE EARTH FEDERATION TEAM SENT TO INVESTIGATE THE FAILURE OF THE EDEN TERRAFORMING PROJECT. ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS OF THAT INQUIRY REMAIN SECRET TO THIS DAY...

... I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THE ILLUMIDAS WERE NOT TO BLAME.

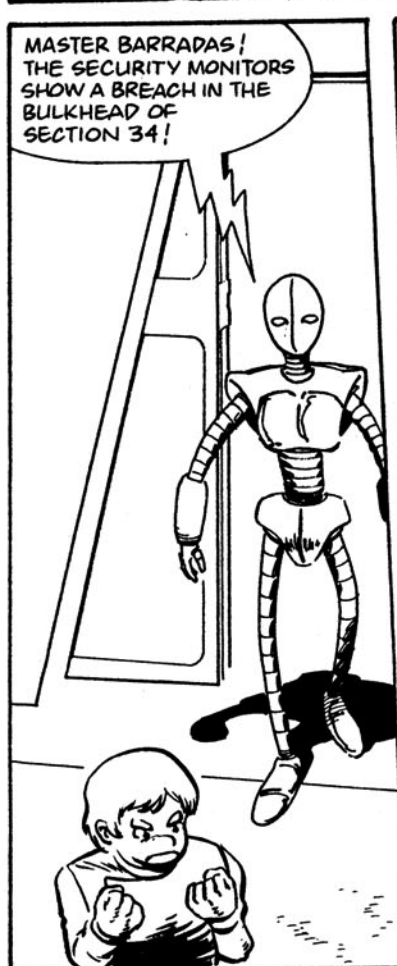
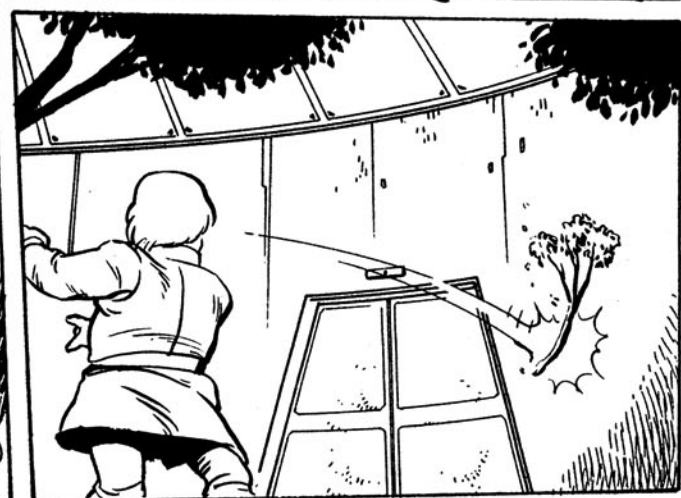
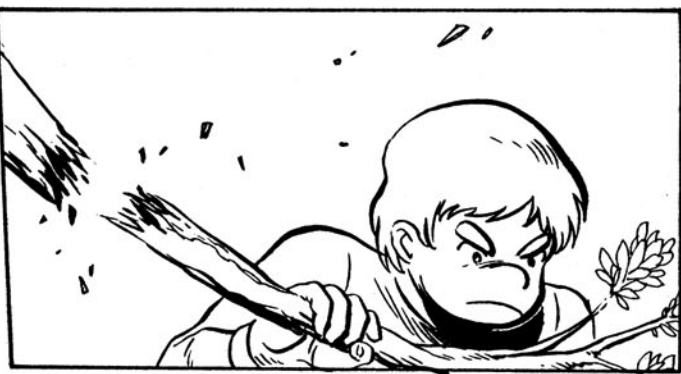


NO!

I AM SORRY.







MASTER BARRADAS!  
THE SECURITY MONITORS  
SHOW A BREACH IN THE  
BULKHEAD OF  
SECTION 34!



SO,  
GO FIX  
IT.

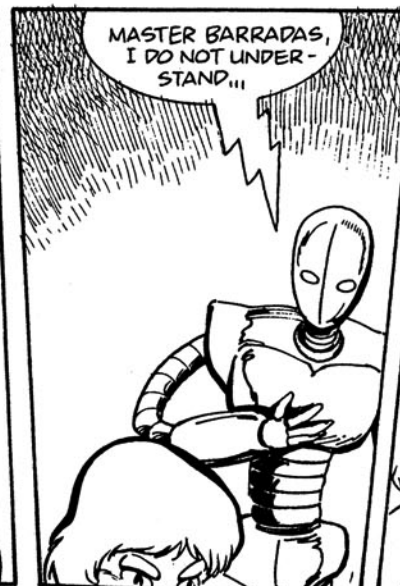
SEVERAL UNITS  
HAVE BEEN DE-  
PLOYED TO THE  
AREA, BUT THE  
POWER TO THAT  
SECTION HAS  
BEEN SHUT OFF.



MIANTIR USED TO MAKE CAKES  
FROM THE DIRT IN THIS ROOM.  
SHE'D BRING WATER FROM THE  
WATERFALL, MAKE HER CAKES  
AND BRING THEM TO ME FOR  
US TO SHARE.



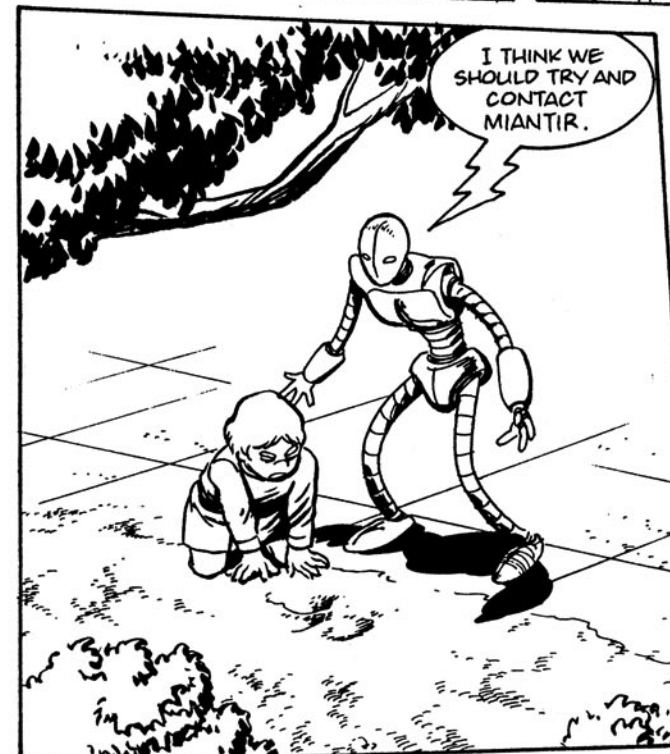
OF COURSE, WITH-  
OUT WATER, ALL THIS  
IS JUST DIRT AND DIRT  
IS PRETTY USELESS  
UNLESS YOU HAVE  
SOMEONE TO  
SHARE IT WITH!!!



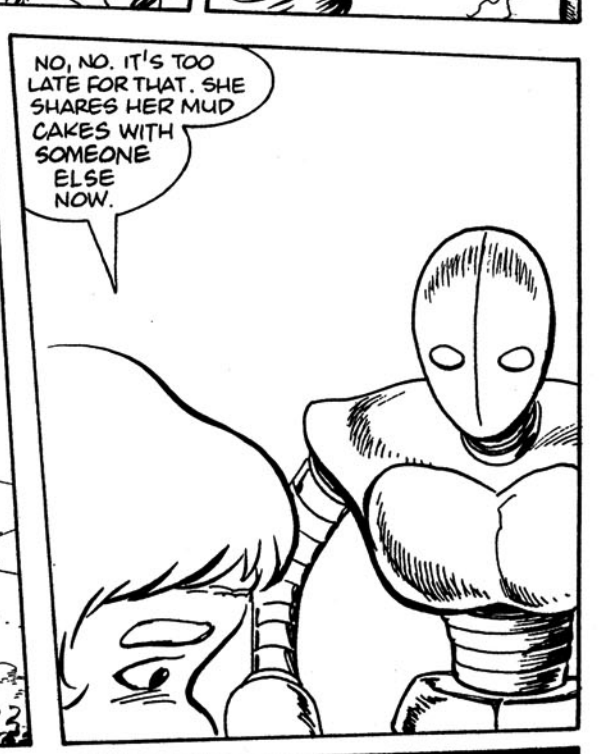
MASTER BARRADAS,  
I DO NOT UNDER-  
STAND!!!



OF COURSE YOU  
DON'T UNDERSTAND!  
YOU NEVER HAD  
FEELINGS BE-  
FORE YOU GOT  
YOUR ARMOR!



I THINK WE  
SHOULD TRY AND  
CONTACT  
MIANTIR.



NO, NO. IT'S TOO  
LATE FOR THAT. SHE  
SHARES HER MUD  
CAKES WITH  
SOMEONE  
ELSE  
NOW.

