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THE PIRATE QUEEN

# EMERALDAS



ROBERT W. GIBSON • BEN DUNN • TIM ELDRED

LEIJI MATSUMOTO'S

# ETERNAL WANDERER EMERALDAS

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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

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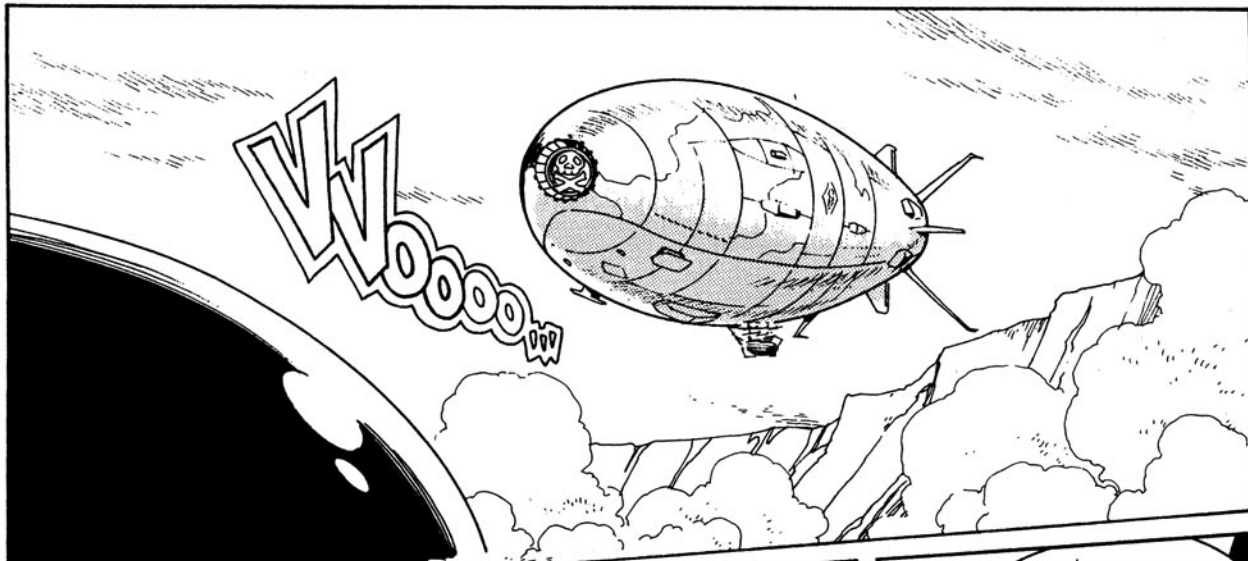
# ETERNAL WANDERER EMERALDAS

the CHILDREN of EDEN - PT. 4<sup>000</sup>

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

# 'CONFRONTATIONS'





CAPTAIN, SCANS SHOW BARRADAS HAS SHIFTED ALL REMAINING ENERGY TO MAINTAINING LIFE SUPPORT.

TOTAL SHUTDOWN WILL OCCUR IN LESS THAN 12 HOURS.

YOU CAN'T JUST LET FATHER DIE!

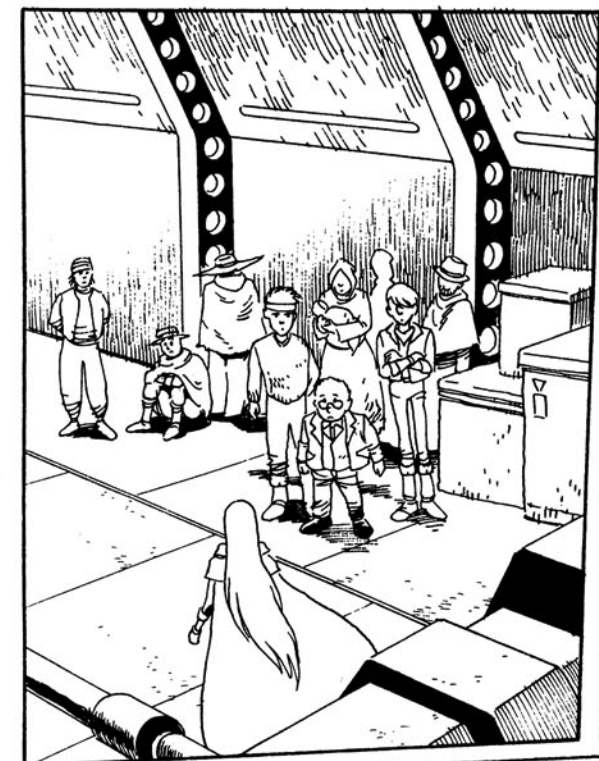
THAT WAS NEVER MY INTENT, MIANTIR.

YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WATCH HIM SUFFER.

HAVE THE REFUGEES FROM JINRAI'S SHIP BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE DOCKING BAY ALONG WITH BARRADAS' SUPPLIES?

YES, SIR.

I AM GOING TO SEE YOUR FATHER. YOU CAN REMAIN HERE IF YOU WISH.



EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO OUR WIVES AND CHILDREN IN HEARTHAVEN.

I MUST FIRST SEE TO MY BUSINESS WITH BARRADAS.

CAPTAIN, WE STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH BARRADAS, BUT SCANS SHOW A BREACH IN THE SOUTHERN BULKHEAD.

THEN WE WILL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE. TELL ROWENA TO MOVE THE SHIP TO THE BREACH AND HAVE SEVEN WARRIORS ASSEMBLED HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

YES SIR.

WE WILL BE DELAYED WHILE...

I HEARD DO YOU THINK JINRAI'S MEN--

NO. THEY WOULD NOT HAVE THE COURAGE.

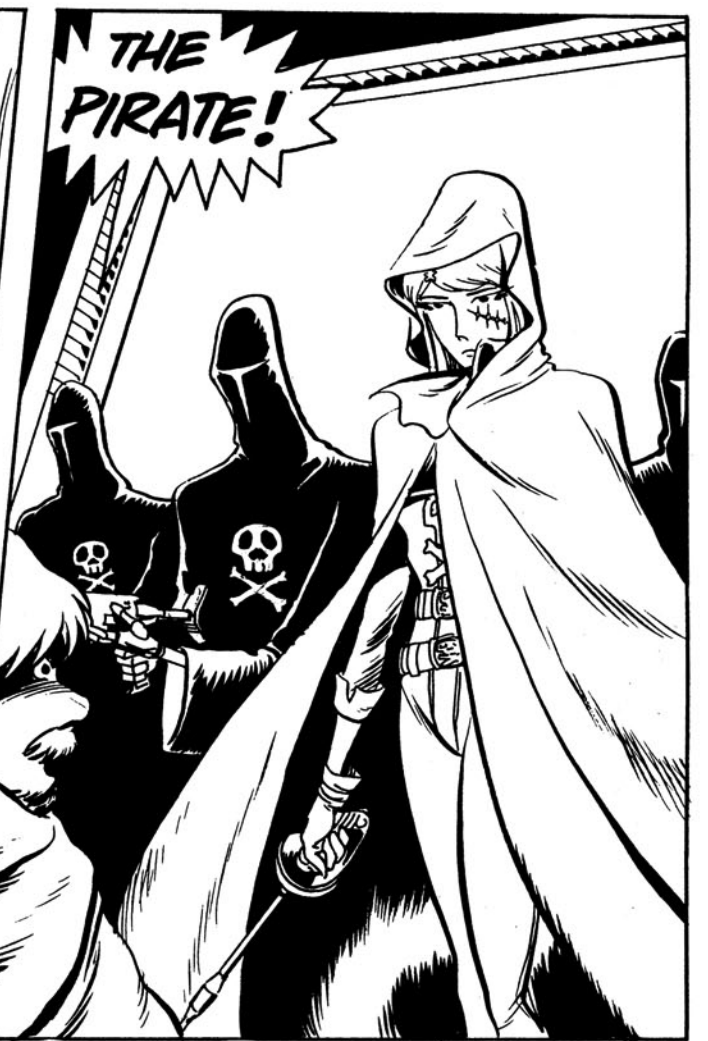
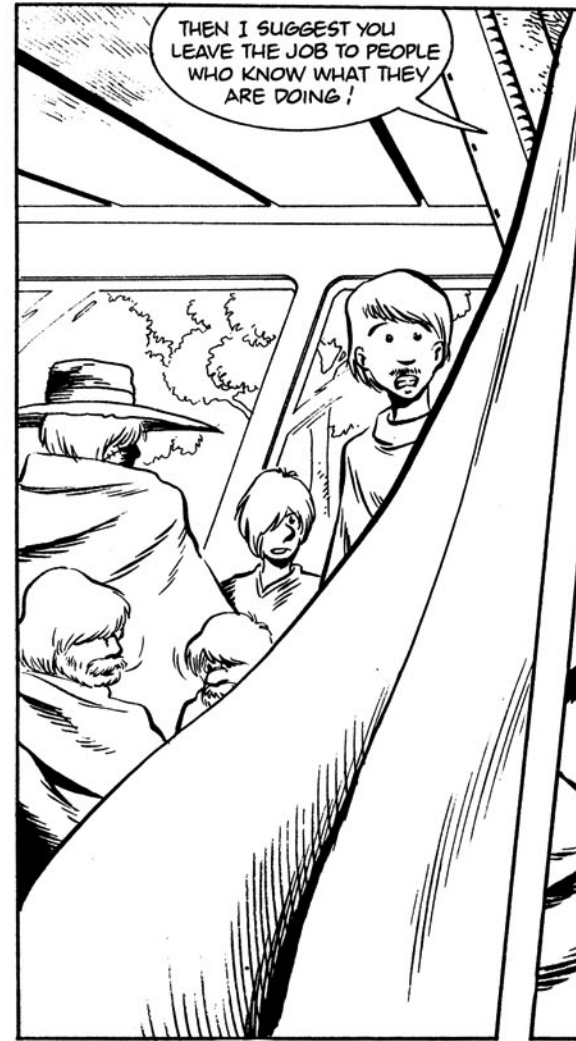
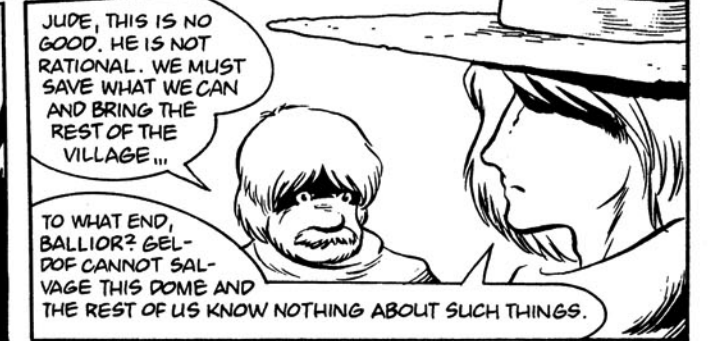
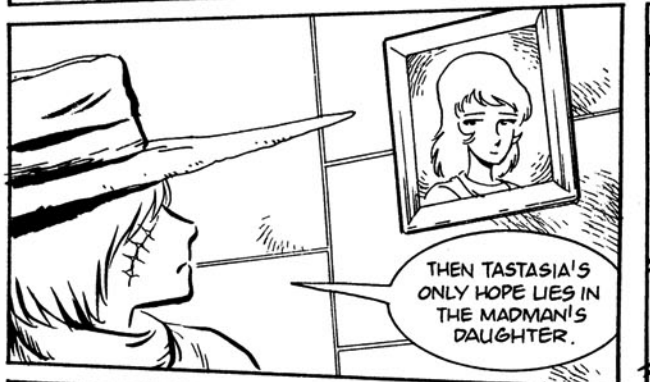
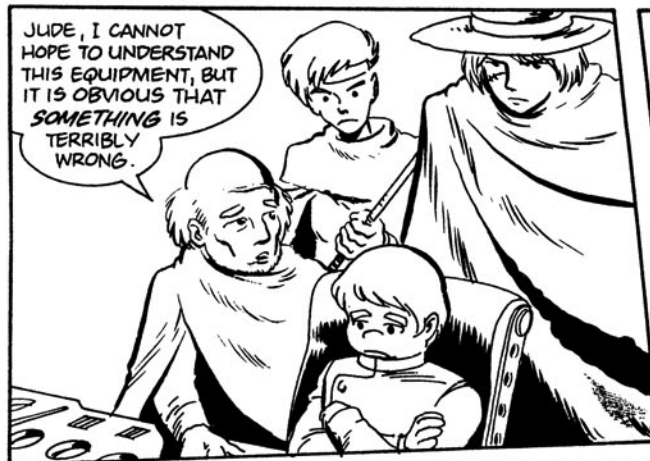
THEN WHO?

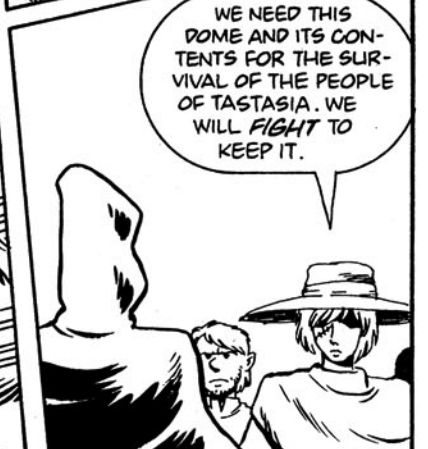
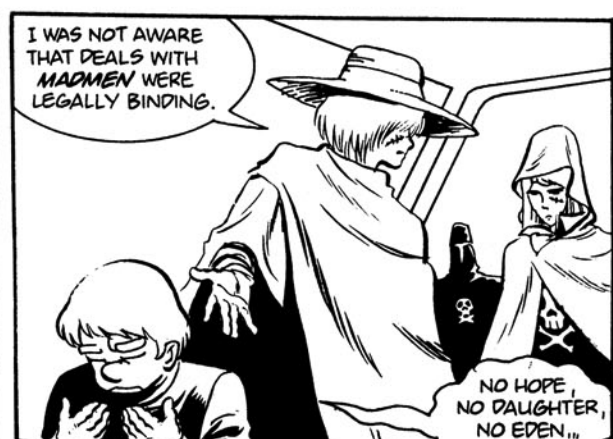
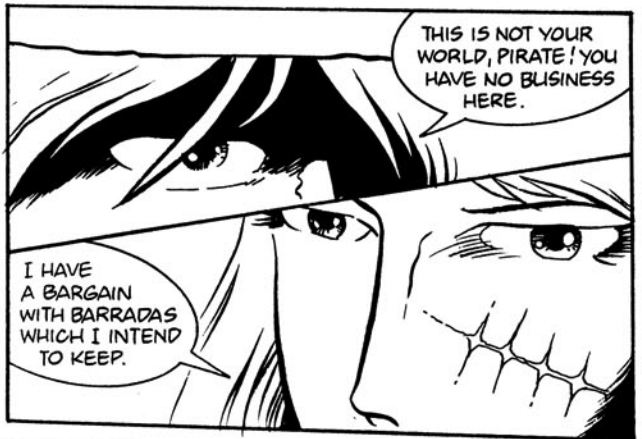
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME.

IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING SENSE OF DESPERATION IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF TASTASIA. I FELT IT EVEN IN THE CAVERN PEOPLE.

BUT COULD ANY OF THEM ACCOMPLISH THIS?

ONE MAN COULD.







WITHOUT BARRADAS AND HIS KNOWLEDGE, THIS DOME IS NOTHING BUT USELESS METAL AND DIRT, YET YOU WOULD STILL FIGHT FOR IT?

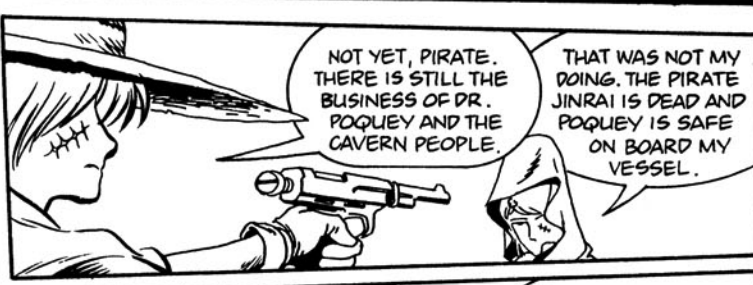


BARRADAS DID NOT GAIN HIS KNOWLEDGE OVERNIGHT. LIVING, AS WE HAVE, IN THE WASTES OF TASTASIA, WE HAVE LEARNED TO ADAPT. IT WILL TAKE TIME, BUT WE ARE A PATIENT PEOPLE.



THE POINT IS MOOT. THIS PLACE BELONGS TO BARRADAS AND HIS DAUGHTER. YOU CAN FIGHT THEM FOR IT.

MY BUSINESS HERE IS FINISHED.



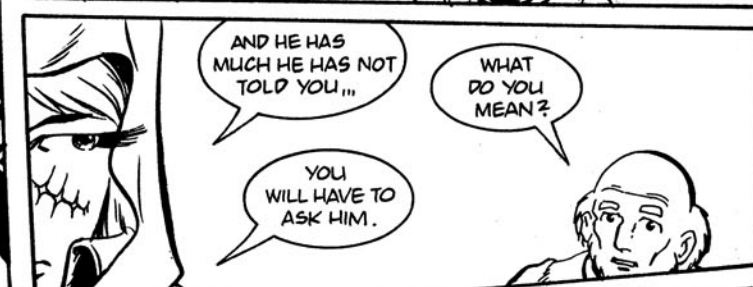
NOT YET, PIRATE. THERE IS STILL THE BUSINESS OF DR. POQUEY AND THE CAVERN PEOPLE.

THAT WAS NOT MY DOING. THE PIRATE JINRAI IS DEAD AND POQUEY IS SAFE ON BOARD MY VESSEL.



WHAT!?

THIS IS GOOD NEWS INDEED! POQUEY IS A LEARNED MAN...



AND HE HAS MUCH HE HAS NOT TOLD YOU...

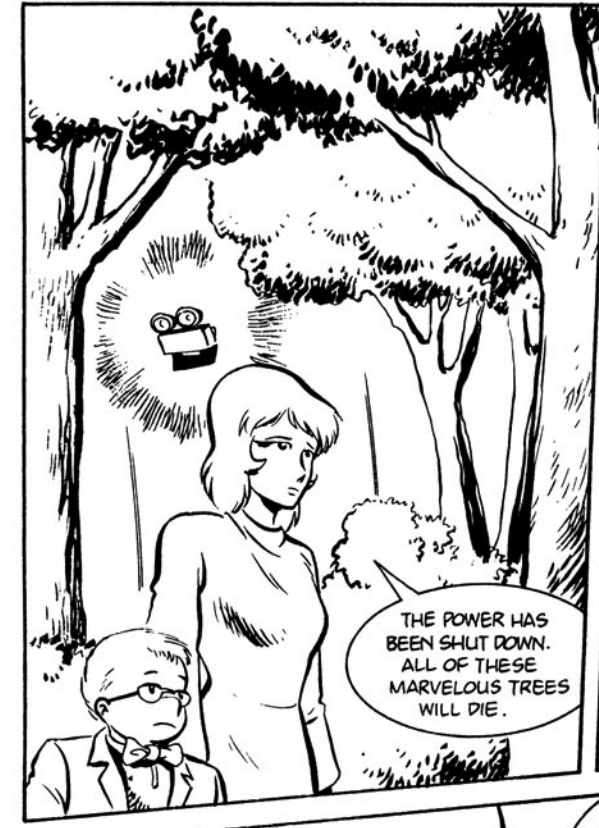
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK HIM.



REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT NOT LETTING PRECONCEPTIONS OBSCURE OUR REASONING?

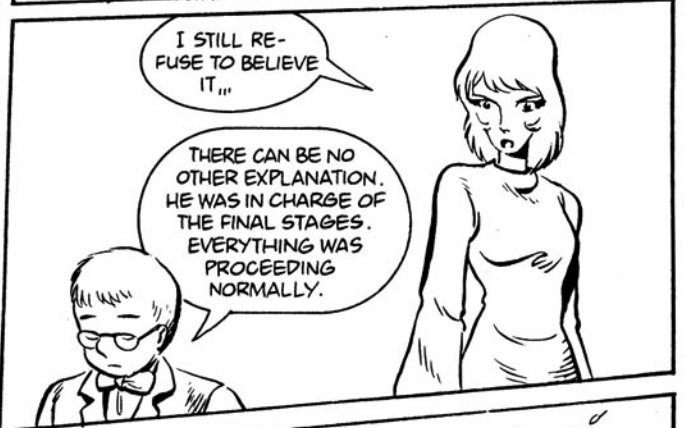
WE WILL SEE...



THE POWER HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN. ALL OF THESE MARVELOUS TREES WILL DIE.



ALL OF "EDEN" COULD HAVE BEEN LIKE THIS IF NOT FOR...



I STILL REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT...

THERE CAN BE NO OTHER EXPLANATION. HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FINAL STAGES. EVERYTHING WAS PROCEEDING NORMALLY.



LISTEN, MIANTIR, EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES. UNFORTUNATELY, WHERE SCIENCE IS CONCERNED, THE GRANDER THE PROJECT, THE MORE CATASTROPHIC THE ERROR. IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN INTENTIONAL.



HE IS ALIVE, BUT HE IS NOT WELL.

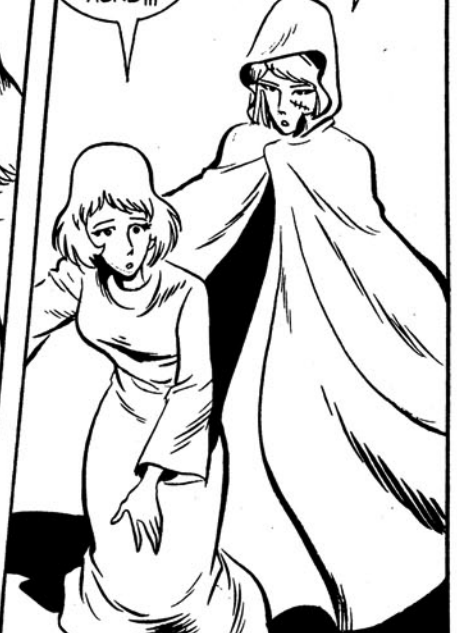
WHAT?!

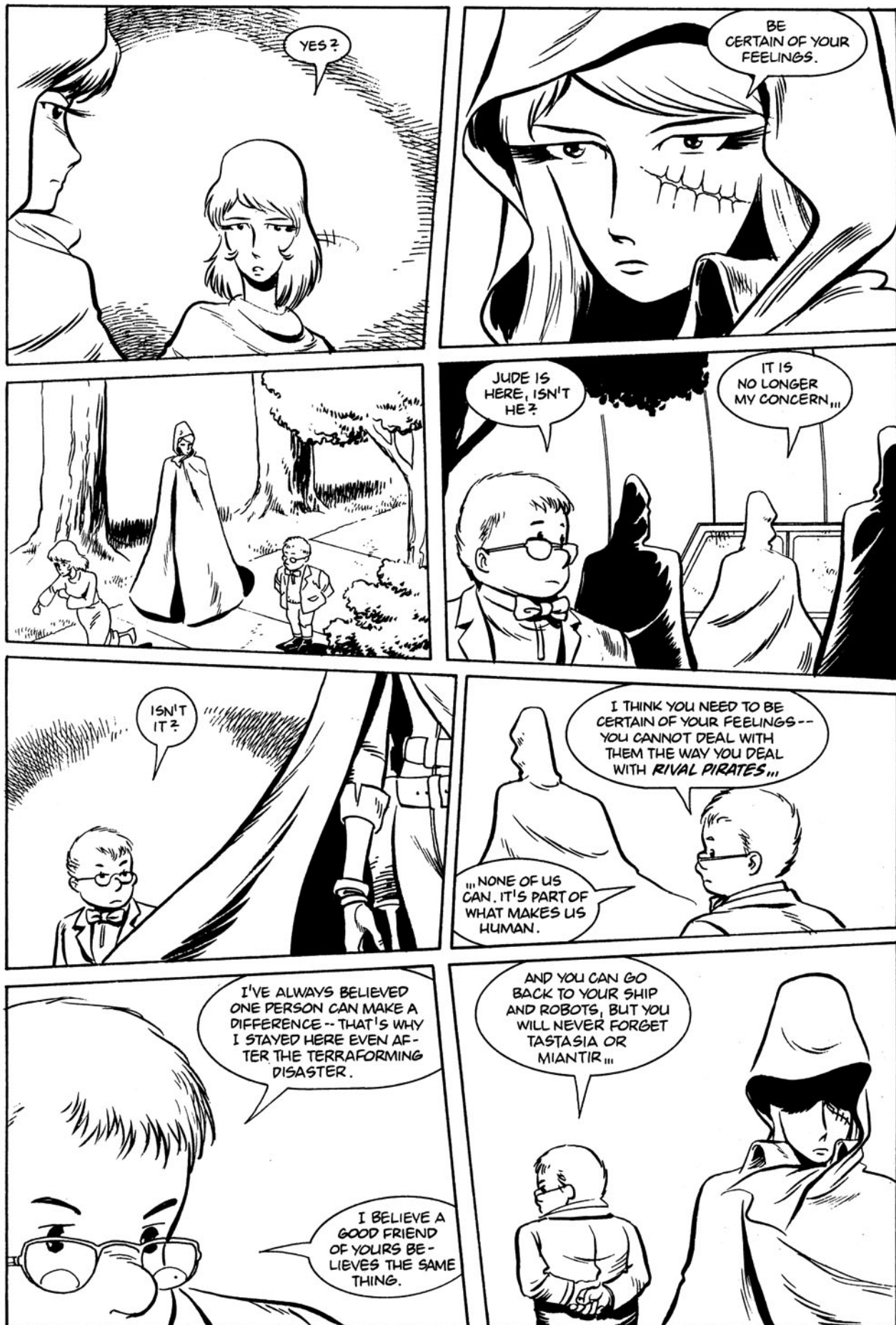
I... I MUST GO TO HIM... IF JUDE IS HERE...

WAIT!



EMERALDAS! IS FATHER...?







THIS IS MIANTIR! YOU WILL LAY DOWN THAT WEAPON AT ONCE!

YES MA'AM.

MUCH BETTER. YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY MALFUNCTIONING. CEASE ALL FUNCTIONS IMMEDIATELY.

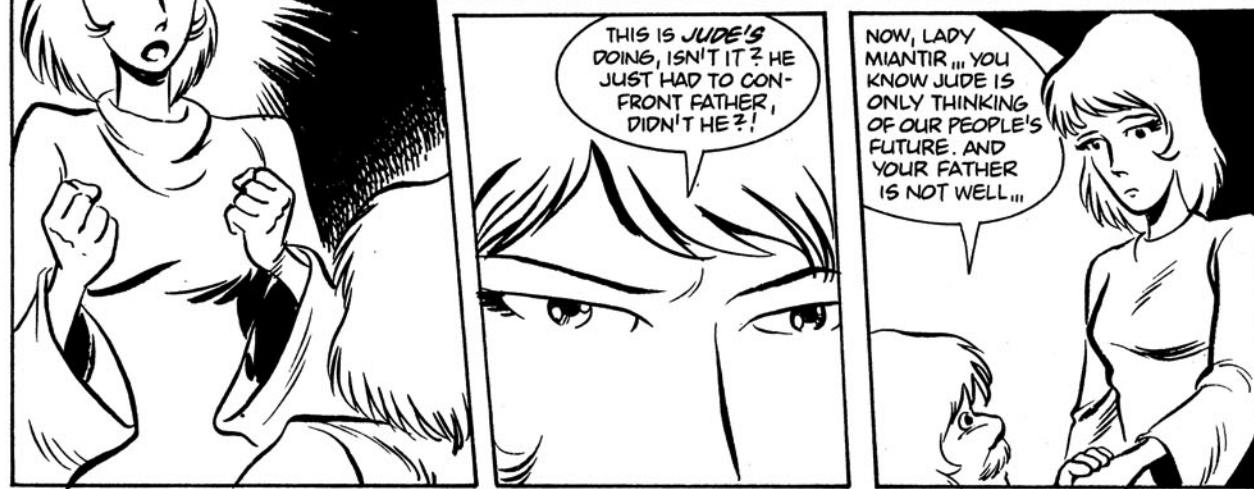


WHAT IS HAPPENING?

YOUR FATHER IS NOT WELL. HE HAS LOCKED HIMSELF IN ONE OF HIS CONTROL ROOMS AND IS THREATENING TO DESTROY THE DOME!



I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHY WOULD HE...



THIS IS JUDE'S DOING, ISN'T IT? HE JUST HAD TO CONFRONT FATHER, DIDN'T HE?!

NOW, LADY MIANTIR... YOU KNOW JUDE IS ONLY THINKING OF OUR PEOPLE'S FUTURE. AND YOUR FATHER IS NOT WELL...



I THINK, TRISTEN, THAT I HAVE NEVER FELT SO USELESS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT FEELING. SHOULD WE FOLLOW HER OR LOOK FOR EMERALDAS?

EMERALDAS WILL ONLY COME IF IT SUITS HER.

DR. POQUEY!!!?

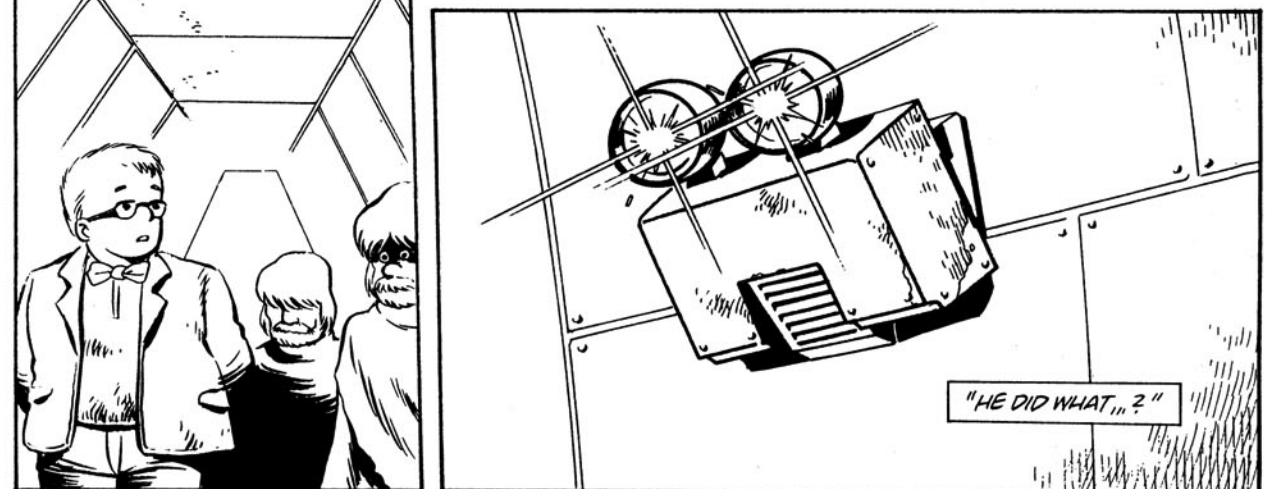


I SUGGEST THAT WE GET EMERALDAS' SUPPLIES TO BARRADAS SO HE CAN REACTIVATE THE SYSTEMS WHICH ARE SHUT DOWN. IF WE DELAY MUCH LONGER, THE DOME MAY NOT BE SALVAGEABLE.

SUPPLIES?

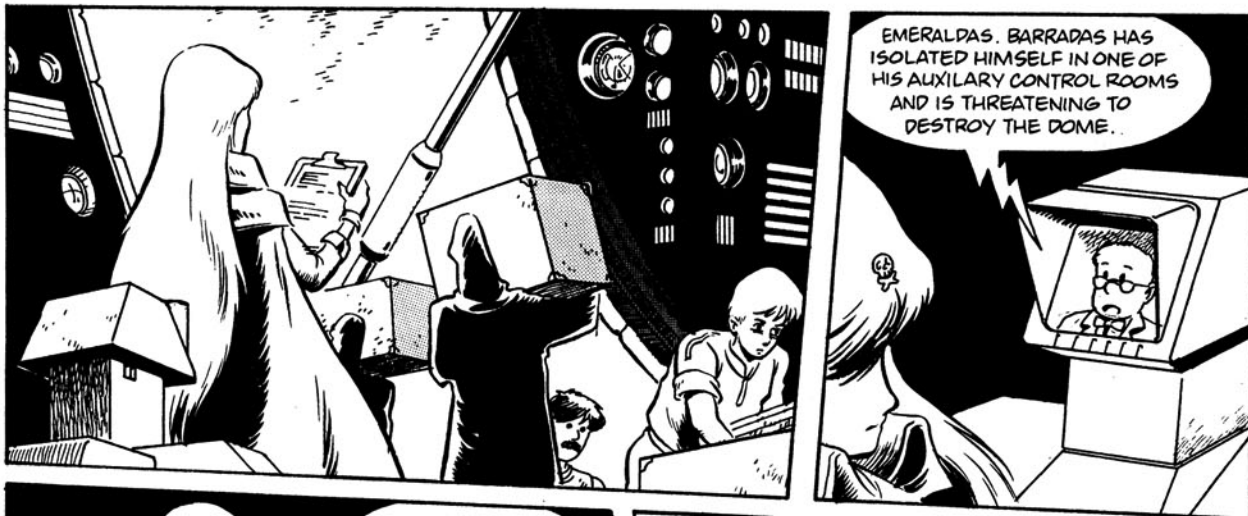
I AM AS CONFUSED AS YOU...

LISTEN, DR. POQUEY, I THINK WE NEED TO TALK.

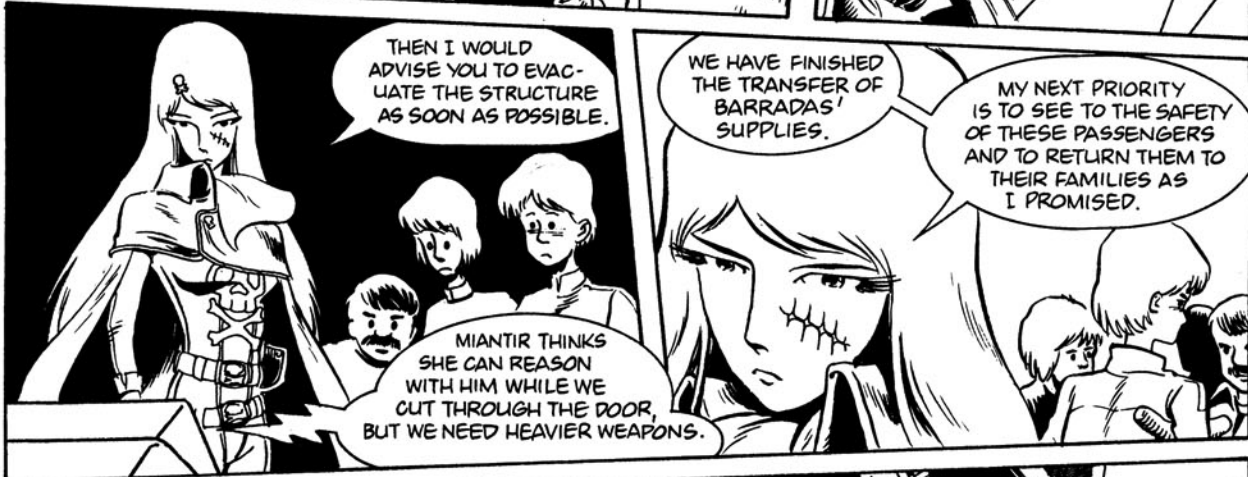


"HE DID WHAT...?"





EMERALDAS. BARRADAS HAS ISOLATED HIMSELF IN ONE OF HIS AUXILIARY CONTROL ROOMS AND IS THREATENING TO DESTROY THE DOME.

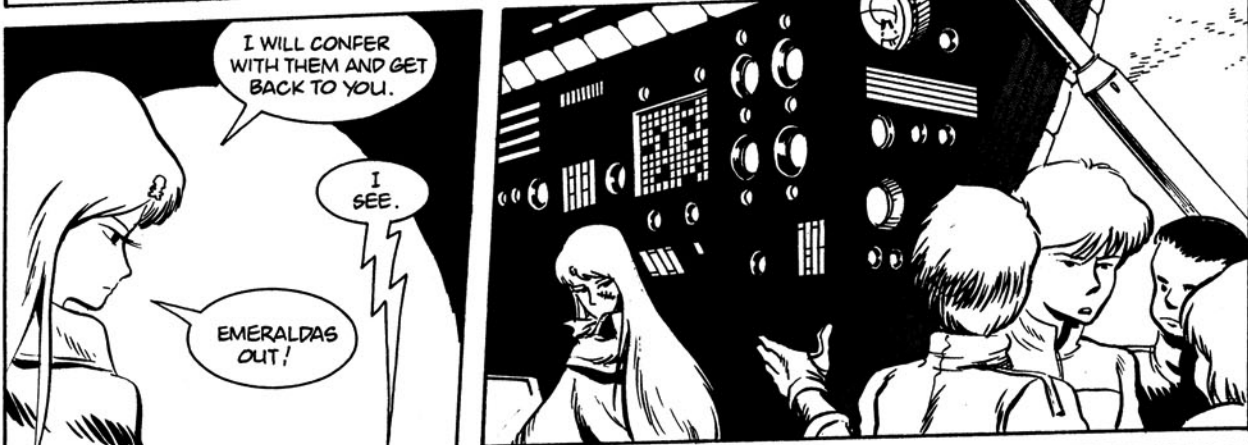


THEN I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO EVACUATE THE STRUCTURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE HAVE FINISHED THE TRANSFER OF BARRADAS' SUPPLIES.

MY NEXT PRIORITY IS TO SEE TO THE SAFETY OF THESE PASSENGERS AND TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR FAMILIES AS I PROMISED.

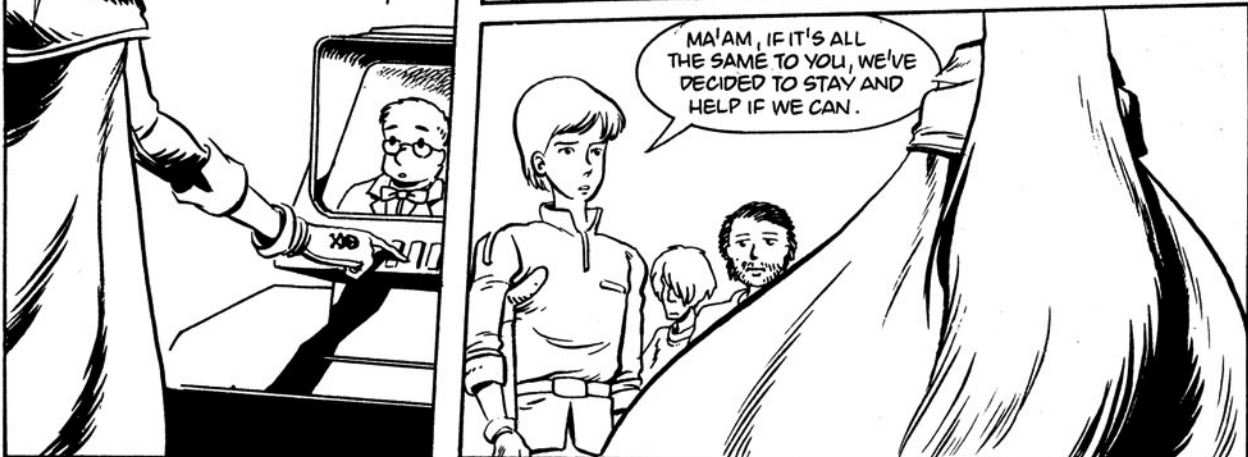
MIANTIR THINKS SHE CAN REASON WITH HIM WHILE WE CUT THROUGH THE DOOR, BUT WE NEED HEAVIER WEAPONS.



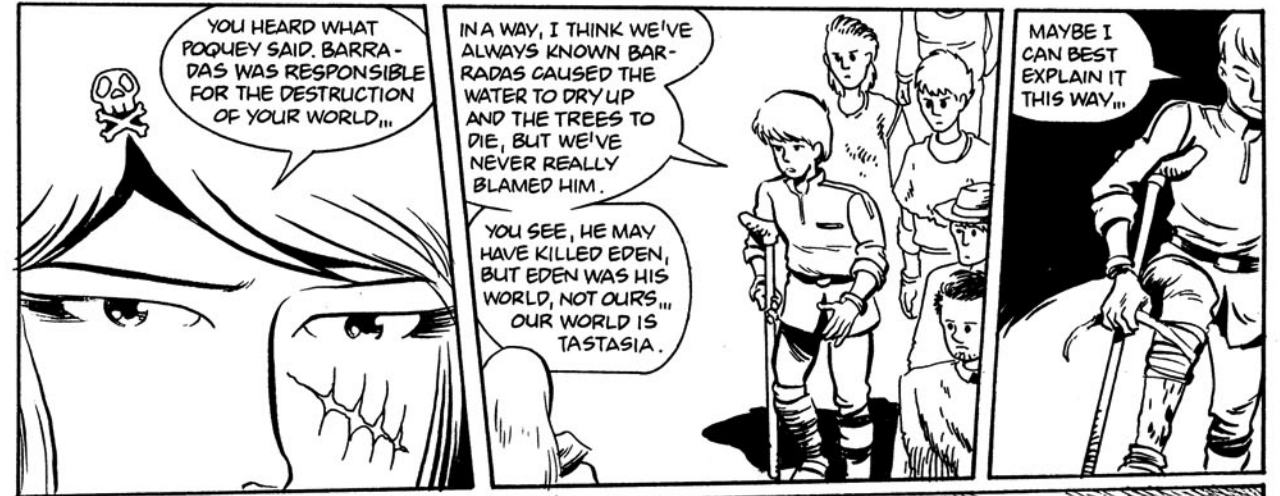
I WILL CONFER WITH THEM AND GET BACK TO YOU.

I SEE.

EMERALDAS OUT!



MA'AM, IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, WE'VE DECIDED TO STAY AND HELP IF WE CAN.

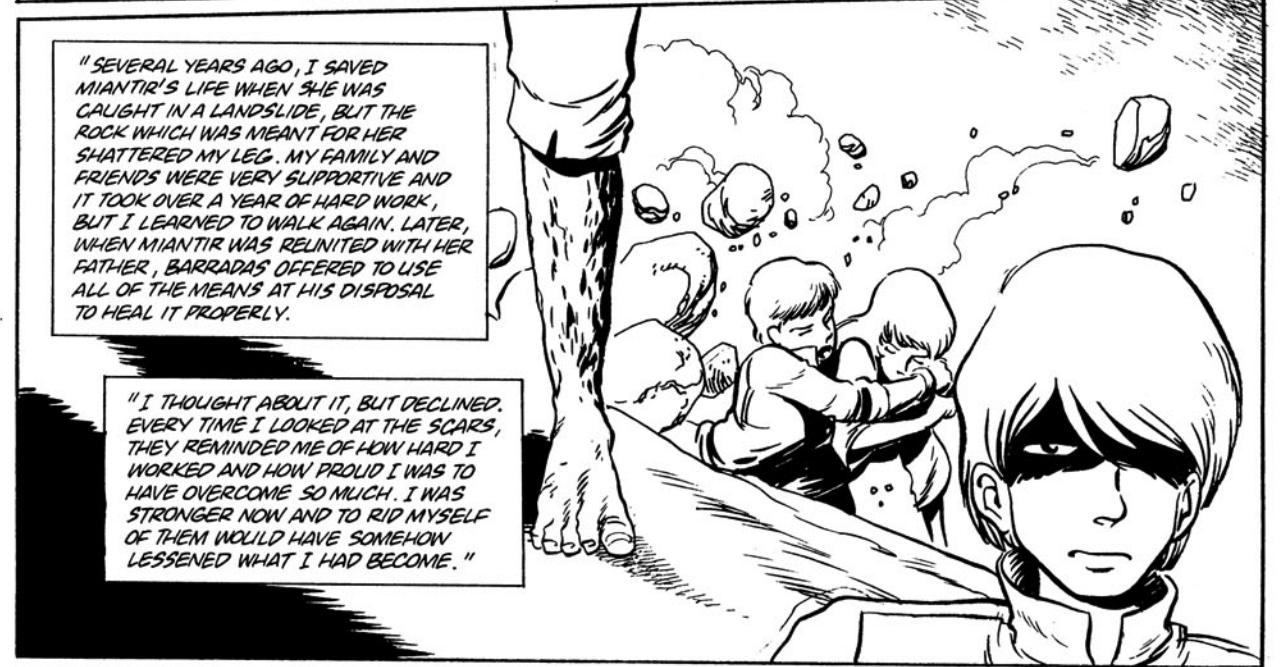


YOU HEARD WHAT POQUEY SAID. BARRADAS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR WORLD...

IN A WAY, I THINK WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN BARRADAS CAUSED THE WATER TO DRY UP AND THE TREES TO DIE, BUT WE'VE NEVER REALLY BLAMED HIM.

YOU SEE, HE MAY HAVE KILLED EDEN, BUT EDEN WAS HIS WORLD, NOT OURS... OUR WORLD IS TASTASIA.

MAYBE I CAN BEST EXPLAIN IT THIS WAY...



"SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I SAVED MIANTIR'S LIFE WHEN SHE WAS CAUGHT IN A LANDSLIDE, BUT THE ROCK WHICH WAS MEANT FOR HER SHATTERED MY LEG. MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE VERY SUPPORTIVE AND IT TOOK OVER A YEAR OF HARD WORK, BUT I LEARNED TO WALK AGAIN. LATER, WHEN MIANTIR WAS RELUNITED WITH HER FATHER, BARRADAS OFFERED TO USE ALL OF THE MEANS AT HIS DISPOSAL TO HEAL IT PROPERLY.

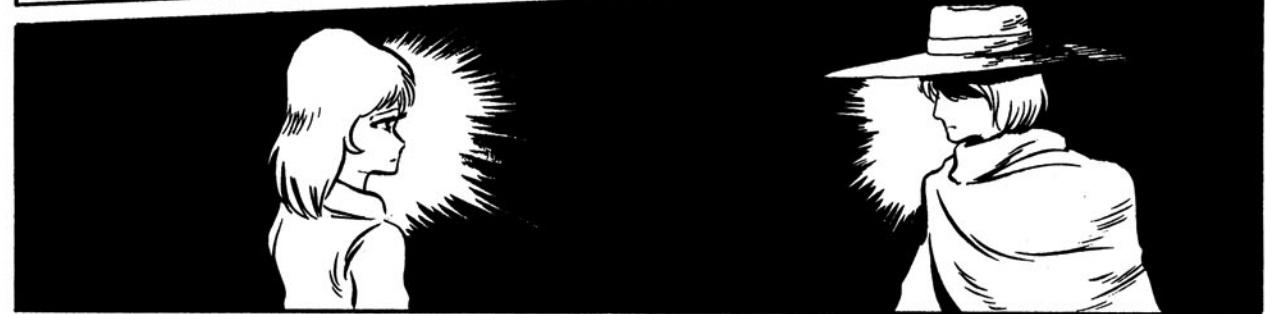
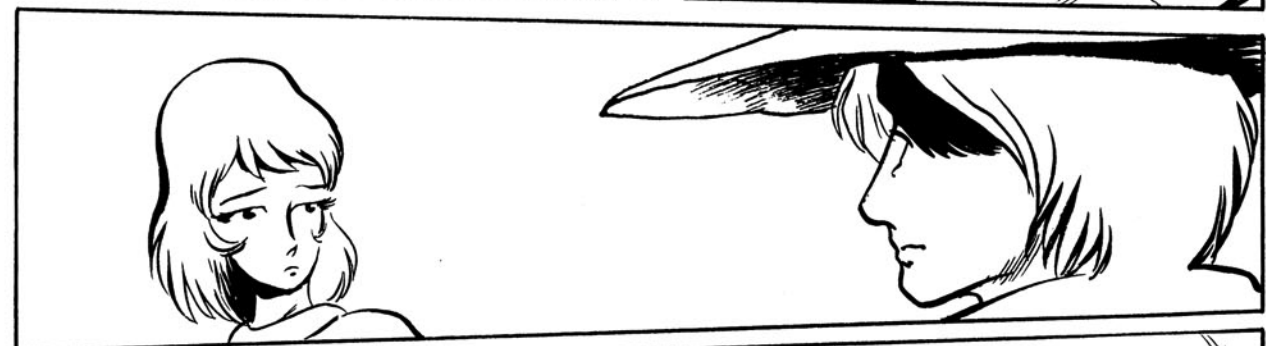
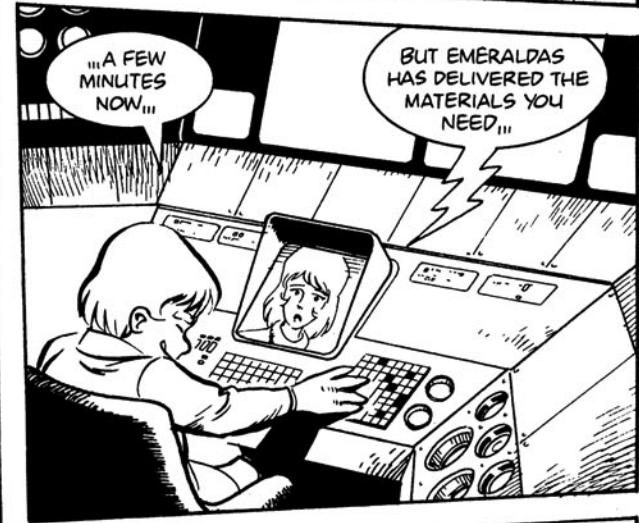
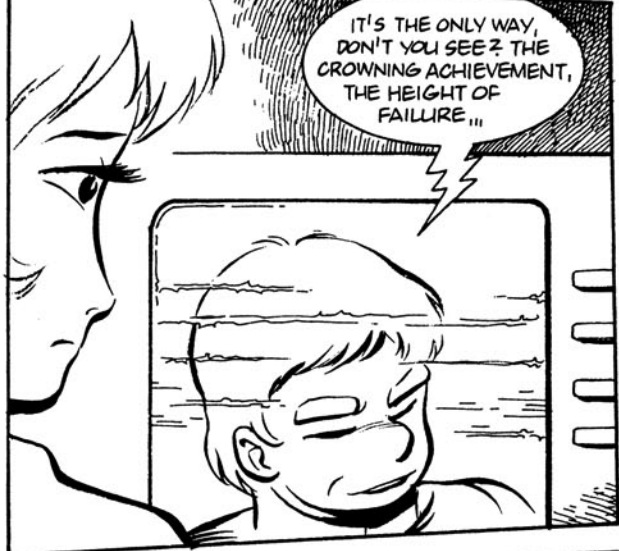
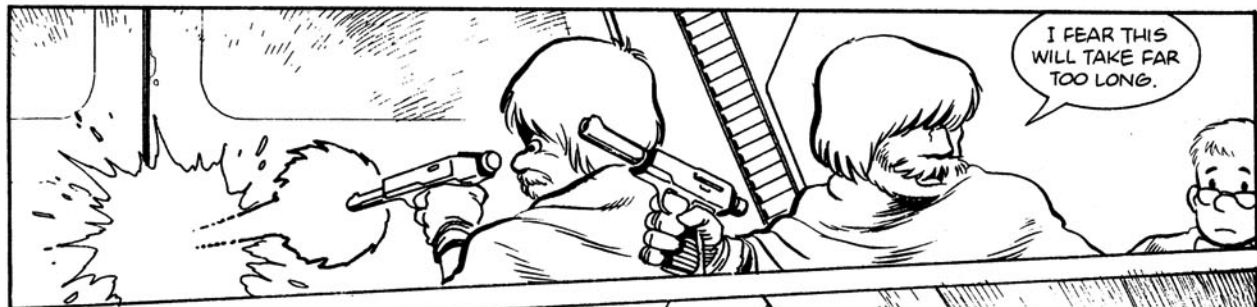
"I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT DECLINED. EVERY TIME I LOOKED AT THE SCARS, THEY REMINDED ME OF HOW HARD I WORKED AND HOW PROUD I WAS TO HAVE OVERCOME SO MUCH. I WAS STRONGER NOW AND TO RID MYSELF OF THEM WOULD HAVE SOMEHOW LESSENED WHAT I HAD BECOME."

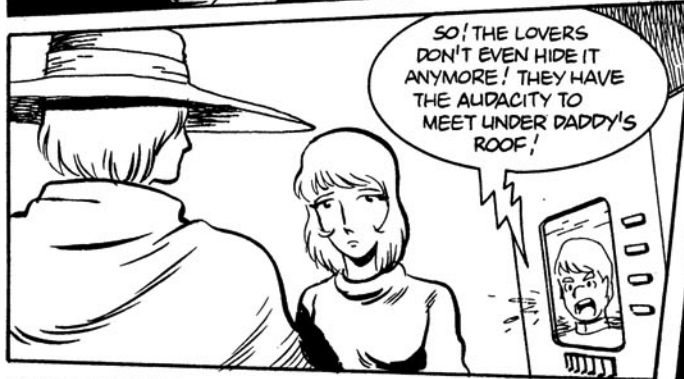
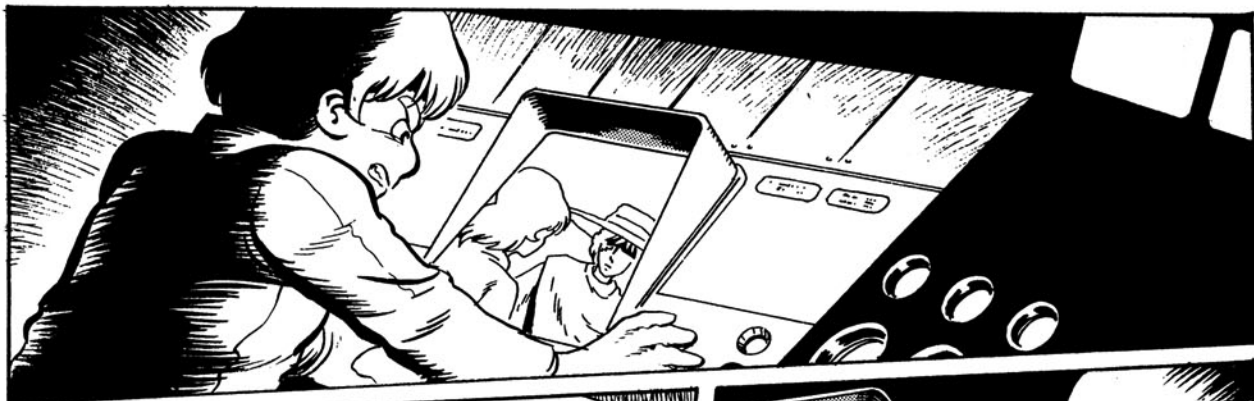


MOST OF US LOOK UPON TASTASIA THE SAME WAY. SHE HAS BEEN HARSH ON US, BUT HAS STRENGTHENED US, MADE US MORE COMPASSIONATE, AND WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

WE DO NOT BLAME BARRADAS AND WE WISH NO HARM TO COME TO EITHER HIM OR HIS DAUGHTER...

"DO YOU UNDERSTAND...?"

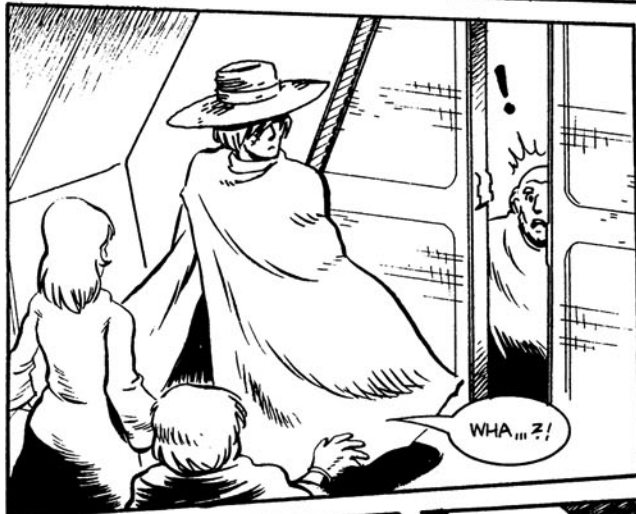




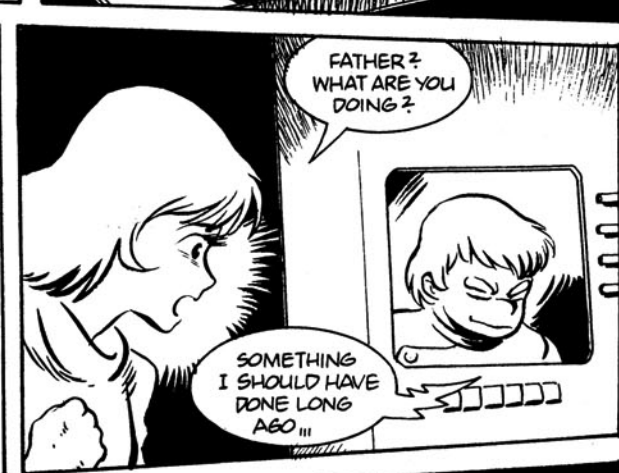
SO! THE LOVERS DON'T EVEN HIDE IT ANYMORE! THEY HAVE THE AUDACITY TO MEET UNDER DADDY'S ROOF!



ENJOY EACH OTHER WHILE YOU CAN!



WHA...?!



FATHER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE LONG AGO...



WE WILL ALL DIE TOGETHER. A FINE ENDING TO THE TRAGEDY OF EDEN, I MUST SAY...

THEY WILL NOT REMEMBER BARRADAS AS SOMEONE WHO DID NOT CORRECT HIS MISTAKES...



FATHER?!!!

HE HAS CUT THE AIR SUPPLY!

YOU ARE MAD, OLD MAN!

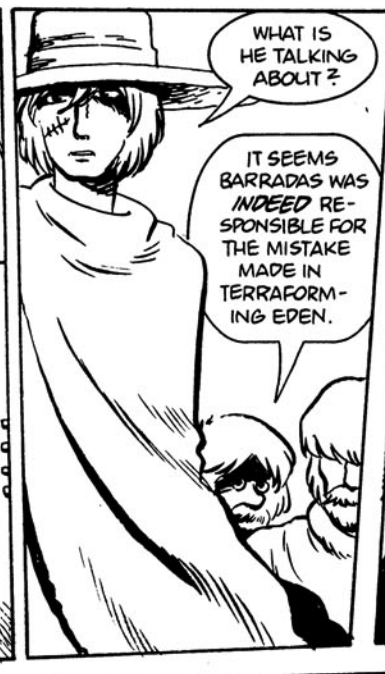


NO, NOT "MAD"!!! DEAD. IT JUST TOOK ME TOO LONG TO REALIZE IT.



GET YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT, BARRADAS! THERE IS NO REASON TO END THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE.

YOU CANNOT ATONE FOR ONE ERROR BY MAKING ANOTHER...



WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

IT SEEMS BARRADAS WAS INDEED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MISTAKE MADE IN TERRAFORMING EDEN.

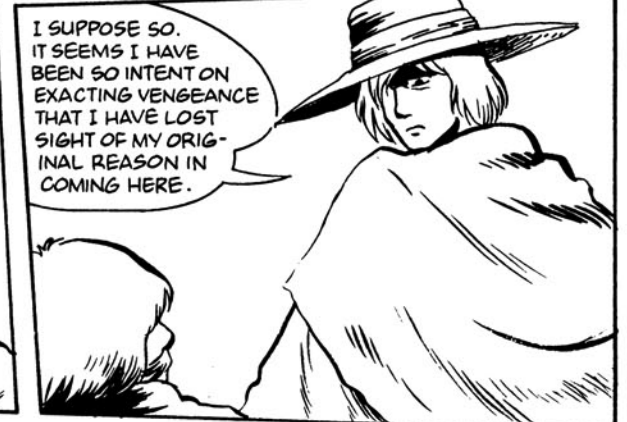


THEN, IN THE NAME OF ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SINCE, HE MUST PAY...



NO, JUDE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN TO BARRADAS TO KNOW THAT HE HAS PUNISHED HIMSELF ENOUGH.

THAT IS FAR WORSE THAN ANYTHING WE COULD DO.



I SUPPOSE SO. IT SEEMS I HAVE BEEN SO INTENT ON EXACTING VENGEANCE THAT I HAVE LOST SIGHT OF MY ORIGINAL REASON IN COMING HERE.



AS HAVE WE ALL. I THINK WE NEED TO THINK OF OUR PEOPLE NOW. IF WE DO MANAGE TO SAVE THE DOME, WE WILL NEED BARRADAS' AID...

OR MIANTIR'S...



MIANTIR...



THINK OF THE FUTURE OF TASTASIA, FATHER. ALL OF THE PEOPLE COULD DIE WITHOUT YOUR HELP.



I WANTED TO HELP, I REALLY DID. BUT I AM ONLY ONE MAN AND THE WHOLE PLANET IS DEAD. WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T FEED EVERYONE BY MYSELF...



BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE! THEY ARE STRONG PEOPLE...

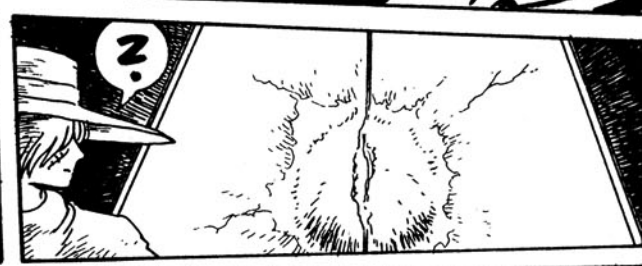
DON'T YOU SEE? I KILLED THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ALL HATE ME. THEY ALL WANT TO SEE ME DEAD...



THAT'S NOT TRUE, FATHER. THEY ARE FAIR. THEY WILL UNDERSTAND.



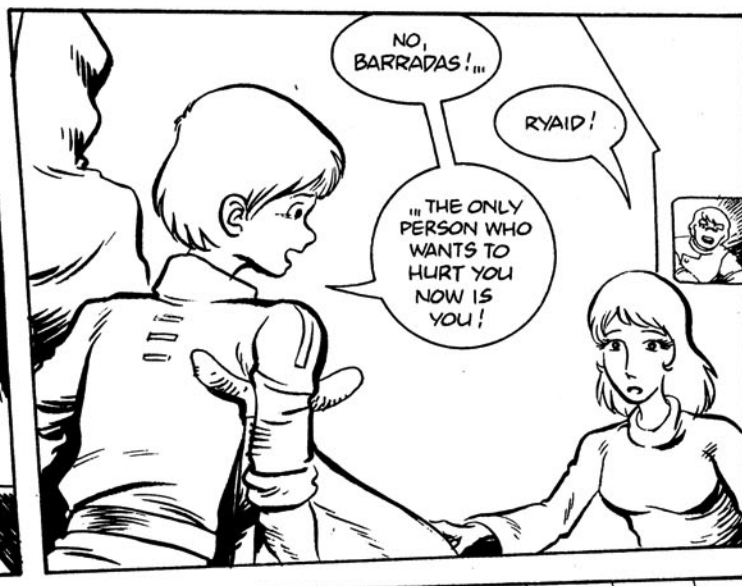
I... CAN'T BELIEVE THAT.



EMERALDAS?!



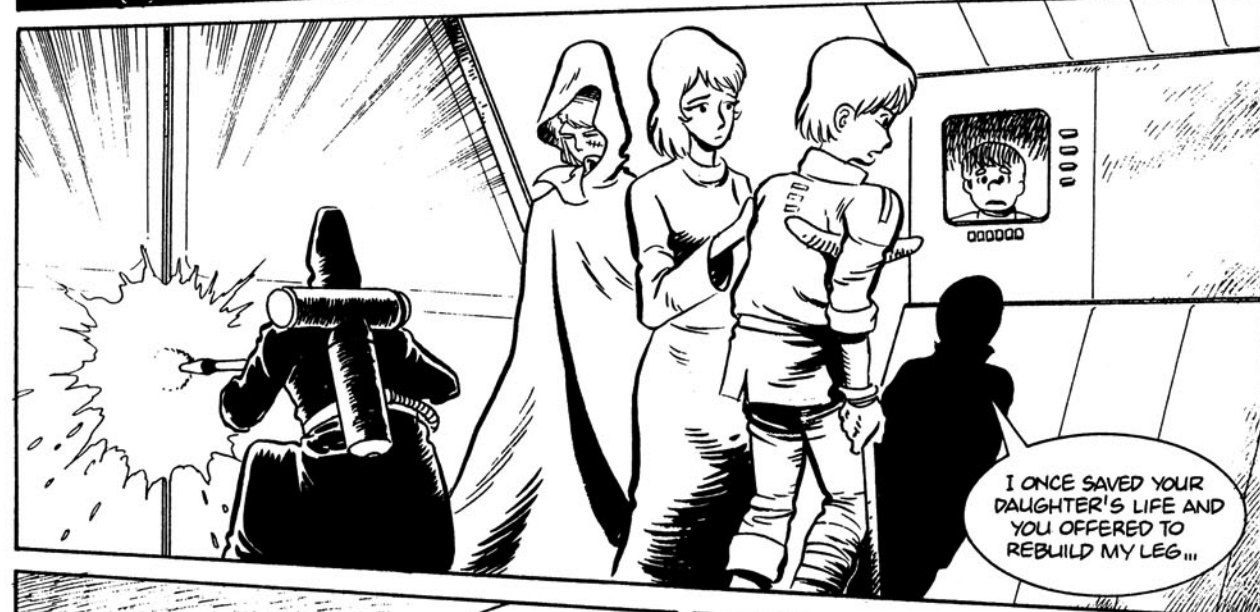
SEE! THEY COME TO KILL ME!



NO, BARRADAS!...

RYAID!

... THE ONLY PERSON WHO WANTS TO HURT YOU NOW IS YOU!



I ONCE SAVED YOUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE AND YOU OFFERED TO REBUILD MY LEG...



... IF WE WORK TOGETHER, PERHAPS REBUILDING A WORLD WOULD NOT BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

