



SOKAL

BINGONO

# PARADISE

## LA SAISON DES ORAGES

casterman White Birds |

SOKAL



BINGONO

# PARADISE

The Season of Storms

Mise en couleur de **JEAN-FRANÇOIS BRUCKNER**



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Dessin : Bingono

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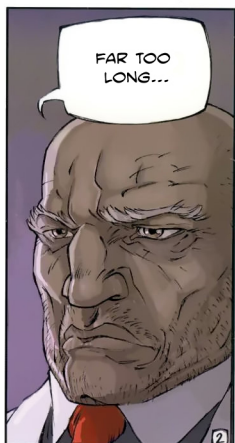
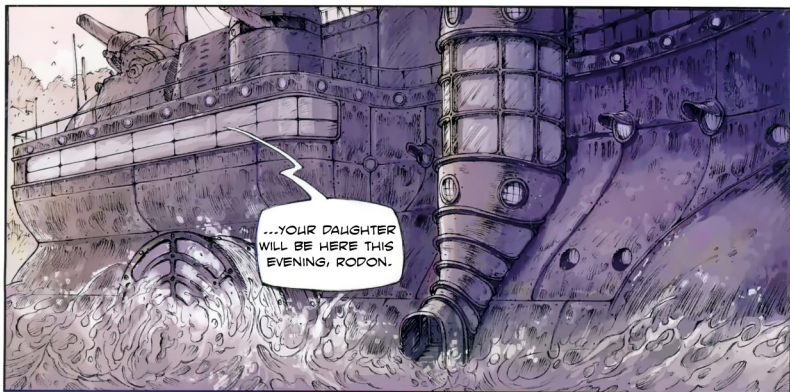


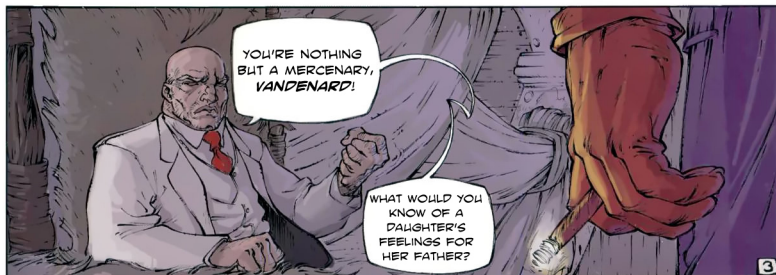
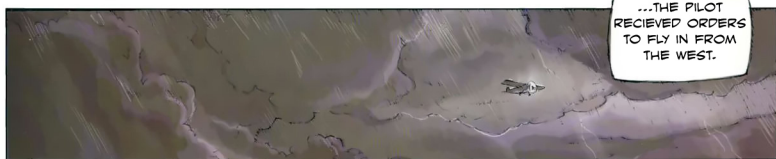
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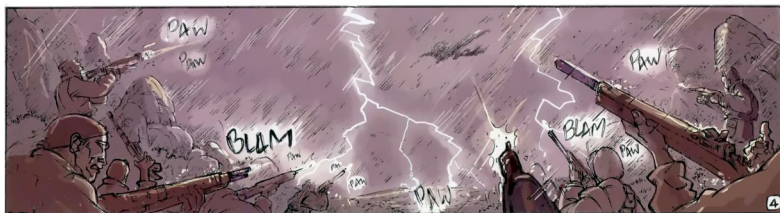
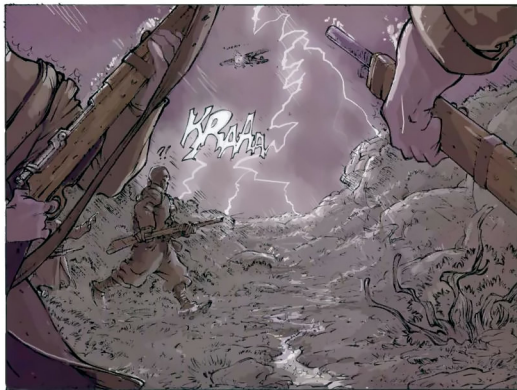
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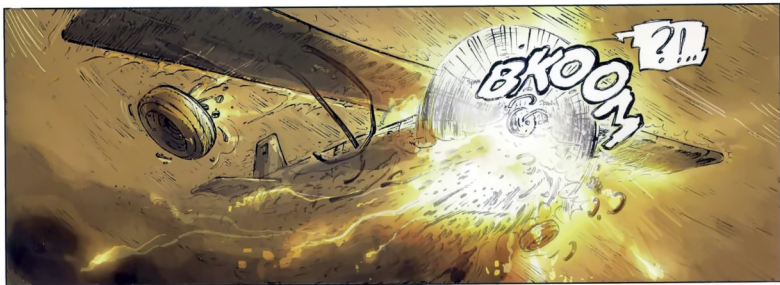




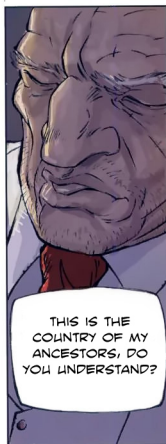




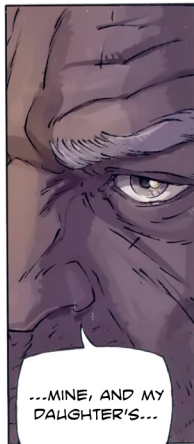




THE PEOPLE WILL TURN  
AGAINST THESE VULTURES  
WHO WAIT FOR ME TO  
FALL SO THAT THEY MAY  
RIP OPEN MY BELLY AND  
SEIZE THE COUNTRY...



THIS IS THE  
COUNTRY OF MY  
ANCESTORS, DO  
YOU UNDERSTAND?



...MINE, AND MY  
DAUGHTER'S...









AH! YOU'RE  
AWAKE  
TODAY!  
THAT'S GOOD!



...I  
...I DON'T  
REMEMBER.



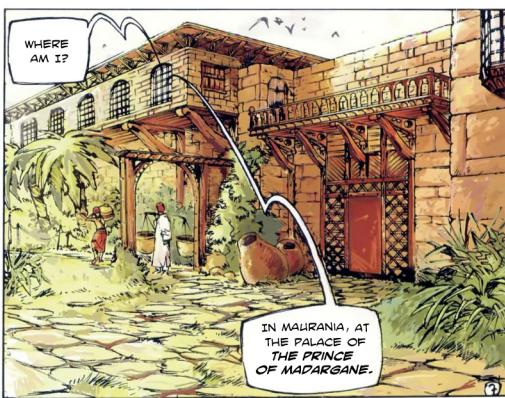
HERE! YOUR  
BACKPACK! YOU  
WERE HOLDING IT  
WHEN WE FOUND  
YOU IN THE  
DESERT...



I'M AICHA...  
I'M A SERVANT IN  
THIS PALACE. WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?



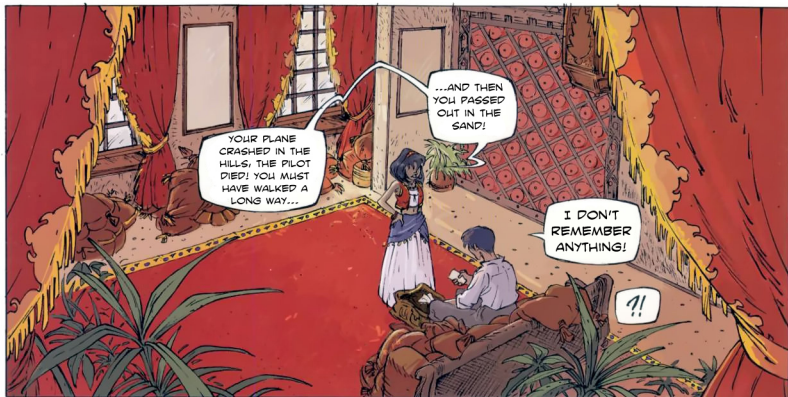
THE BEDUINS BROUGHT  
YOU TO THE DOCTOR, THEY  
TOOK CARE OF YOU. THEN,  
WE BROUGHT YOU HERE,  
TO THE PALACE!

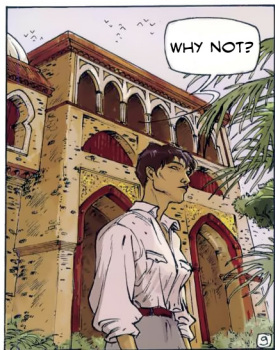
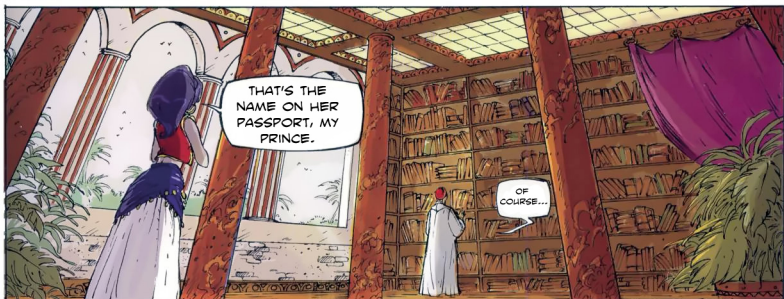
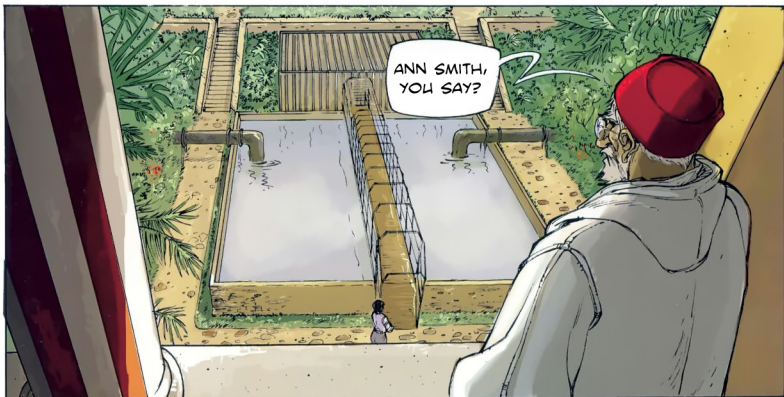


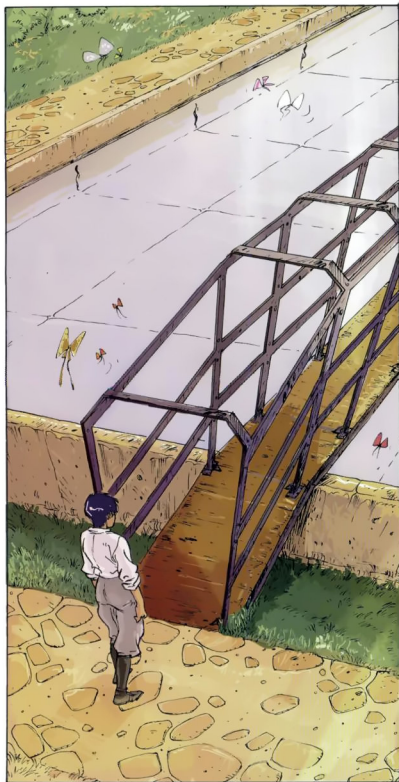
WHERE  
AM I?

IN MAHURANIA, AT  
THE PALACE OF  
THE PRINCE  
OF MADARGANE.

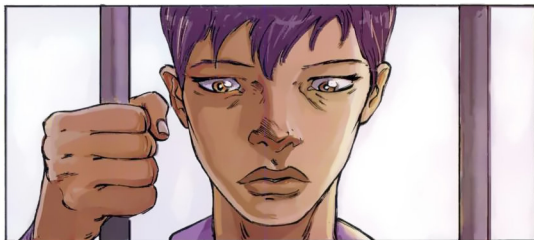
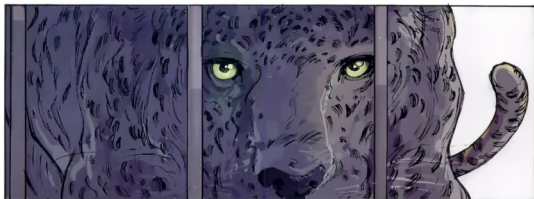






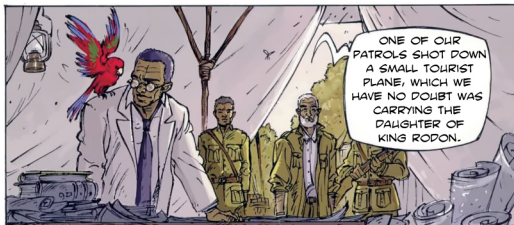
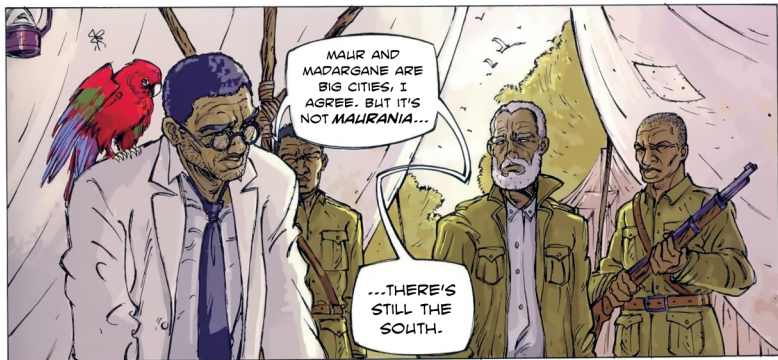


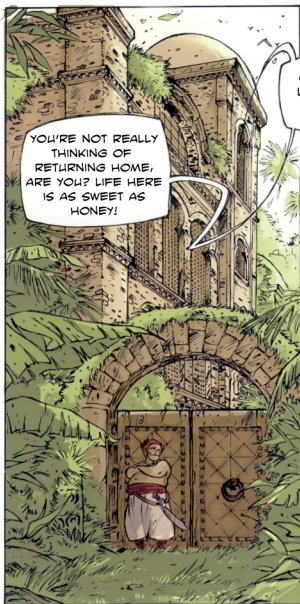
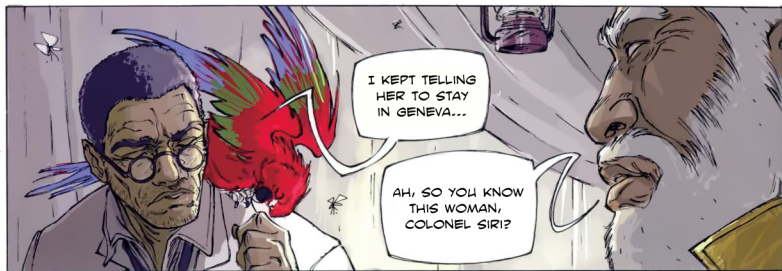




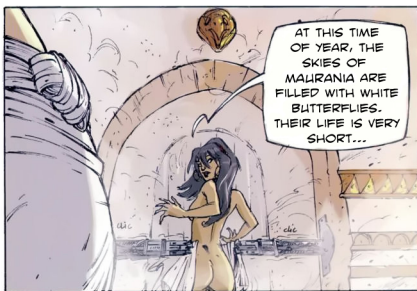












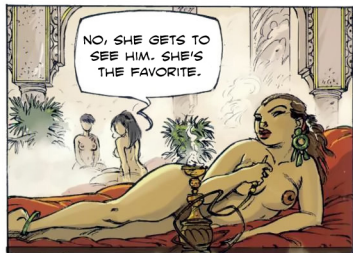


MANY PEOPLE ARE SICK AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. THEY COME DOWN WITH FEVER, SOME EVEN GO BLIND FOR SEVERAL DAYS.



HERE IN MADARGANE, IT'S CALLED "BUTTERFLY FEVER."

AND THE PRINCE WON'T SEE ANYONE WHILE HE'S SICK, AND THAT'S IT?



NO, SHE GETS TO SEE HIM. SHE'S THE FAVORITE.



SHE'S THE ONLY ONE THE APARTMENT GUARD WILL LET PAST WHEN THE PRINCE IS SICK.



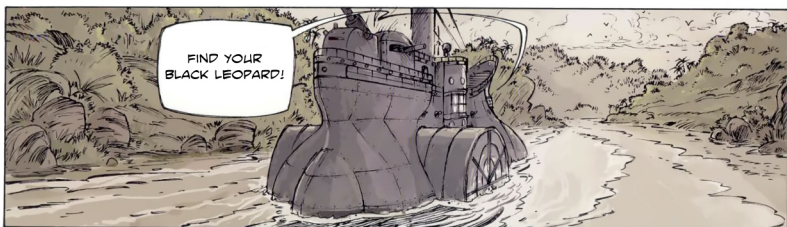
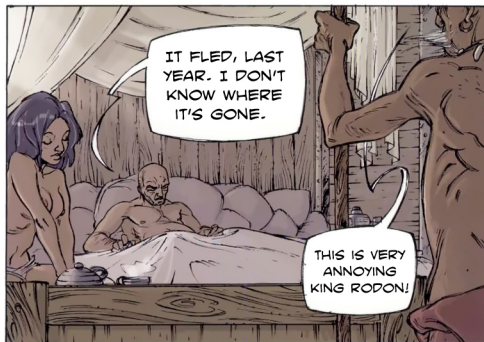
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS STEAM. LET'S GO.

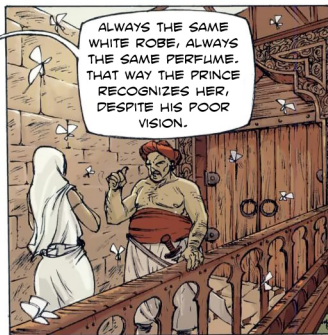
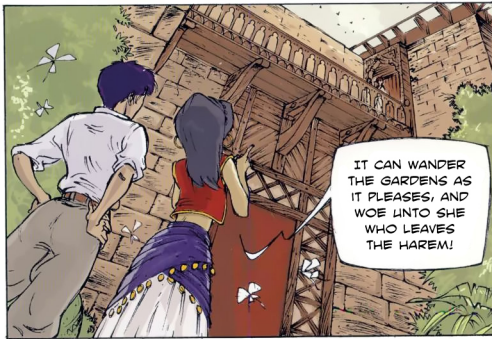


SOMETIMES THE WHITE MEN SAY THAT, IF YOU LIVE IN AFRICA, IT'S BETTER TO NOT HAVE A STOMACH AT ALL...

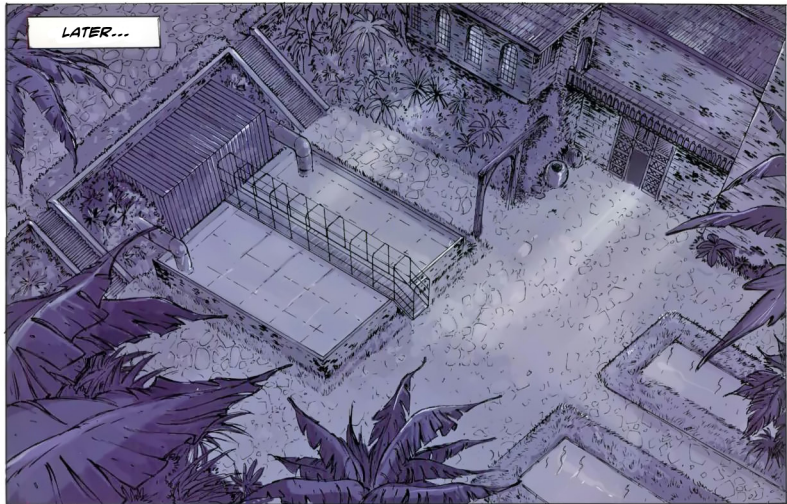




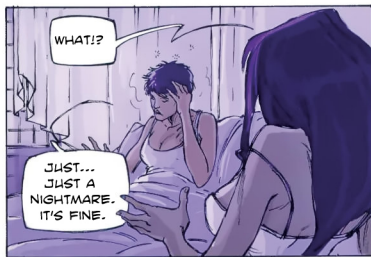




LATER...







FURTHER NORTH...

IN GENEVA, SHE AND I  
WOULD MEET FREQUENTLY  
AT GATHERINGS FOR  
MAHRANIANS IN EXILE.

THEY WERE POLITICAL  
MEETINGS... WE WERE  
PREPARING FOR THE  
REVOLUTION THAT  
MARCHES ON TODAY.

AT FIRST, OF  
COURSE, WE  
DIDN'T TRUST HER.  
SHE IS RODON'S  
DAUGHTER, AFTER  
ALL...

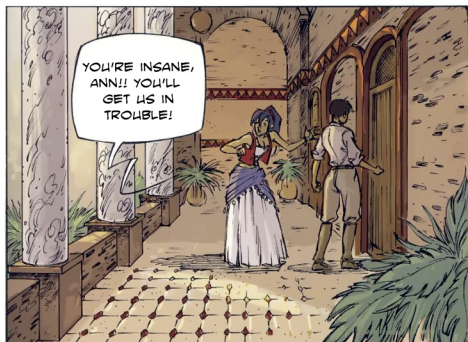
BUT SHE NEVER HAD  
ANY CONTACT WITH HER  
FATHER. HER MOTHER  
HAD TAKEN HER AWAY  
FROM THAT MONSTER  
TO EUROPE AT ONLY  
10 YEARS OLD.

...AND KAREEN NEVER  
MISSED A CHANCE  
TO RENOUNCE THE  
CORRUPT REGIME OF  
THE FATHER. MALKIA  
USED TO SAY SHE  
COULD NEVER ERASE  
HIM FROM HER MIND...

...THAT SHE FELT  
PARTLY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE UNHAPPINESS  
THAT OVERWHELMS  
MAHRANIA. SHE  
WANTED TO FIX HER  
FATHER'S CRIMES.

I BELIEVE  
SHE WAS  
SINCERE.

SO NOW, WHY  
IS SHE  
TRYING TO GET  
BACK TO HIM?



YOU'RE INSANE,  
ANN!! YOU'LL  
GET HS IN  
TROUBLE!



SHUSH!



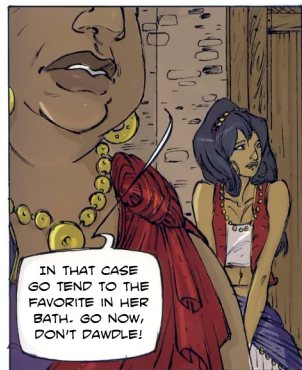
AICHA, WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING HERE  
BY THE  
FAVORITE'S  
DOOR?



WHY ARE YOU  
NOT WITH THE  
STRANGER?

THAT'S  
YOUR  
JOB!

SHE'S SLEEPING,  
MISTRESS. SHE'S  
STILL QUITE TIRED  
AFTER HER  
ACCIDENT.



IN THAT CASE  
GO TEND TO THE  
FAVORITE IN HER  
BATH. GO NOW,  
DON'T DAWDL!

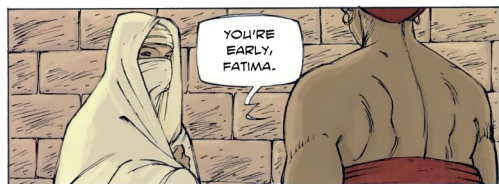
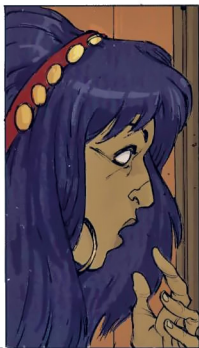
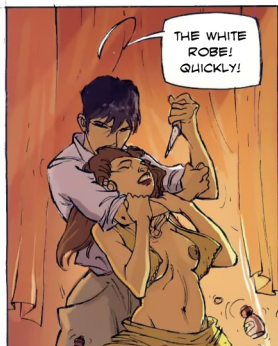


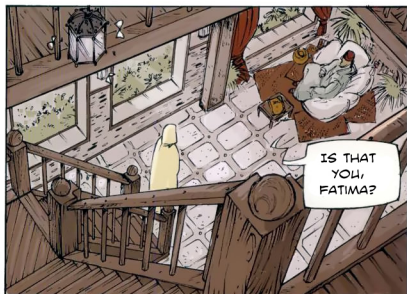
AICHA,  
IS THAT  
YOU?



MMMF!









ANN SMITH IS  
THE NAME  
ON MY  
PASSPORT.



A COINCIDENCE,  
I HAVE NO  
DOUBT. IT'S A  
VERY COMMON  
NAME.



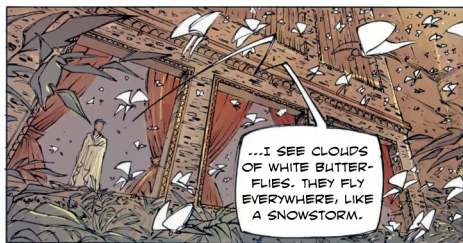
TELL ME...  
WHAT DO YOU  
SEE FROM THIS  
WINDOW, ANN?

7  
c 100



THERE'S ALSO  
THAT BLACK  
LEOPARD...  
TURNING IN ITS  
CAGE.

I WANT TO  
TELL YOU A  
STORY, ANN.



...I SEE CLOUDS  
OF WHITE BUTTER-  
FLIES. THEY FLY  
EVERYWHERE, LIKE  
A SNOWSTORM.



A STORY?




IT'S ABOUT THE  
LEOPARD. THEY TELL  
ME YOU'VE BEEN  
SPENDING A LOT  
OF TIME WITH IT.

WHERE DID  
IT COME  
FROM?




IT IS LIKE YOU...  
WE DON'T KNOW  
ANYTHING OF  
ITS HISTORY.





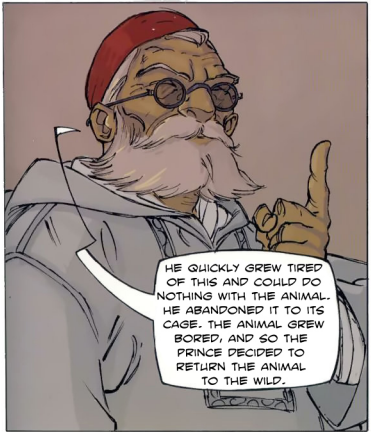
SOME TIME AGO IT WAS SOLD TO A PRINCE I KNOW. HE WANTED TO TRAIN THE BEAST TO HUNT GAZELLE IN THE DESERT. BUT THE LEOPARD HAD ALREADY SEEN TOO MANY THINGS IN ITS LIFE.

...FAR TOO MANY THINGS. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT TO FOLLOW A TRAINER'S COMMANDS.

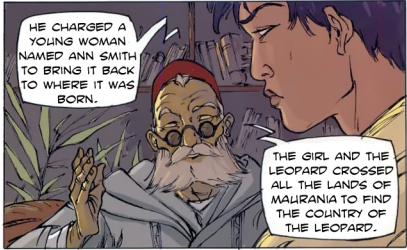


AND SO, THE LEOPARD SHOWED HARDLY ANY INTEREST IN LONG HUNTS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. IT'S A HUNTER OF SHADOW AND DARKNESS.

AH, ALTHOUGH EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IN AFRICA, THE PRINCE SEEMED IGNORANT OF THESE THINGS.



HE QUICKLY GREW TIRED OF THIS AND COULD DO NOTHING WITH THE ANIMAL. HE ABANDONED IT TO ITS CAGE. THE ANIMAL GREW BORED, AND SO THE PRINCE DECIDED TO RETURN THE ANIMAL TO THE WILD.



HE CHARGED A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED ANN SMITH TO BRING IT BACK TO WHERE IT WAS BORN.

THE GIRL AND THE LEOPARD CROSSED ALL THE LANDS OF MAURANIA TO FIND THE COUNTRY OF THE LEOPARD.



AND?  
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

IT'S A NICE STORY.



AH, SO YOU'LL DO IT!

I NEVER SAID THAT! IT'S A LONG WAY, AND THAT LEOPARD IS NOT A TRAVELLING COMPANION. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A LEOPARD!



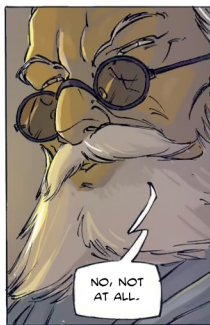
NONETHELESS,  
IT IS ON YOUR WAY  
BACK TO EUROPE.  
THE NORTH HAS  
BECOME TOO  
DANGEROUS DUE  
TO THE  
REBELLION.



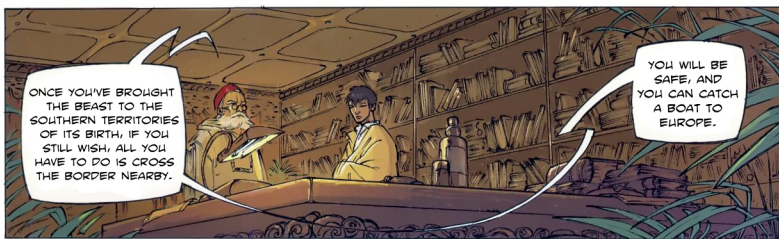
...AND THE  
LEOPARD IS  
VERY SPECIAL,  
YOU KNOW.



YOU HAVEN'T TOLD  
ME THE WHOLE  
STORY OF THIS  
ANIMAL, HAVE YOU?

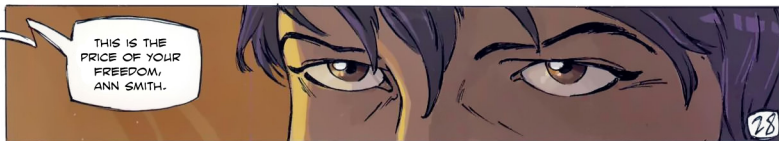


NO, NOT  
AT ALL.



ONCE YOU'VE BROUGHT  
THE BEAST TO THE  
SOUTHERN TERRITORIES  
OF ITS BIRTH, IF YOU  
STILL WISH, ALL YOU  
HAVE TO DO IS CROSS  
THE BORDER NEARBY.

YOU WILL BE  
SAFE, AND  
YOU CAN CATCH  
A BOAT TO  
EUROPE.



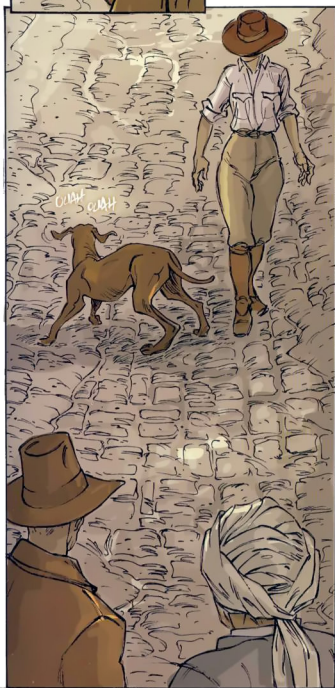
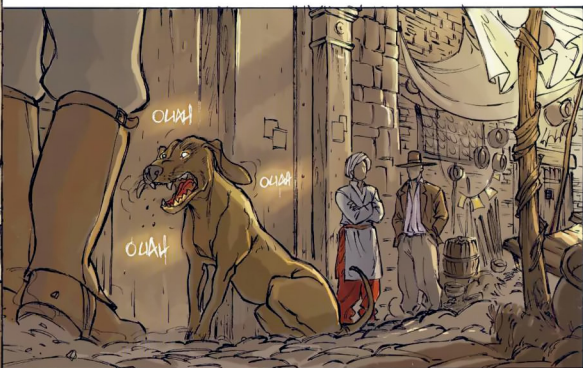
THIS IS THE  
PRICE OF YOUR  
FREEDOM,  
ANN SMITH.

MADARGANE...





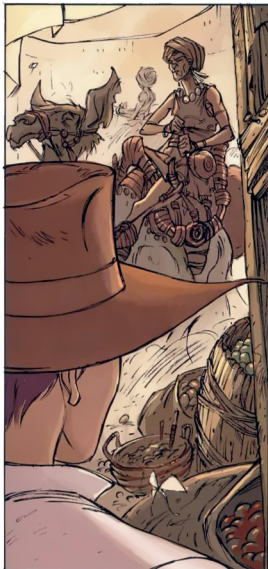




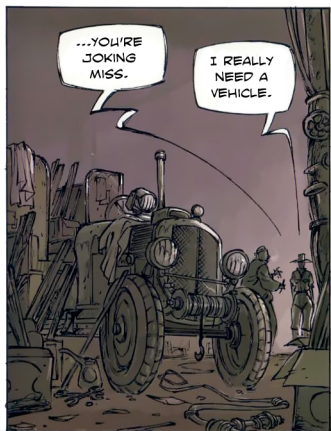






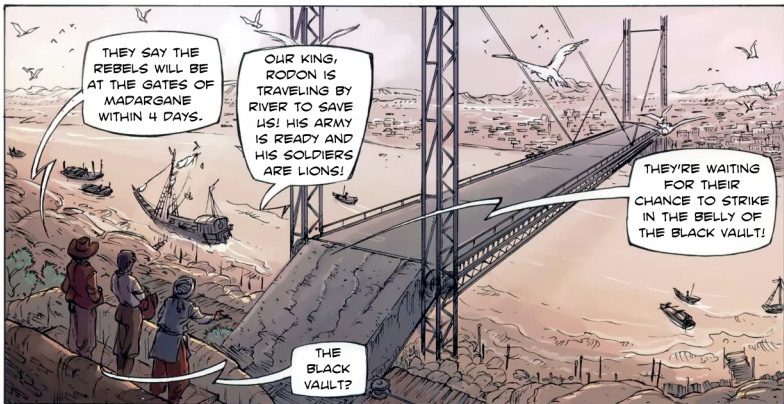










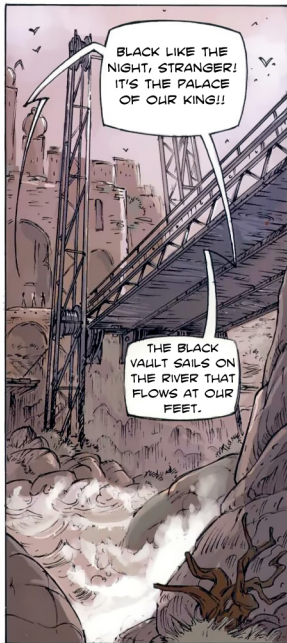


THEY SAY THE  
REBELS WILL BE  
AT THE GATES OF  
MADARGANE  
WITHIN 4 DAYS.

OUR KING,  
RODON IS  
TRAVELING BY  
RIVER TO SAVE  
US! HIS ARMY  
IS READY AND  
HIS SOLDIERS  
ARE LIONS!

THEY'RE WAITING  
FOR THEIR  
CHANCE TO STRIKE  
IN THE BELLY OF  
THE BLACK VAULT!

THE  
BLACK  
VAULT?



BLACK LIKE THE  
NIGHT, STRANGER!  
IT'S THE PALACE  
OF OUR KING!!

THE BLACK  
VAULT SAILS ON  
THE RIVER THAT  
FLOWS AT OUR  
FEET.



IT TRAVELS UP AND DOWN  
ITS COURSE WITHOUT  
PAUSE. THIS RIVER  
CROSSES ALL OF  
MAURANIA LIKE A SNAKE!  
THAT'S HOW RODON  
WATCHES OVER HIS  
PEOPLE!


HM...  
THAT'S  
CONVENIENT.




IT'S A HUGE BOAT.  
REMEMBER STRANGER,  
ALL BRIDGES THAT  
CROSS THE RIVER CAN  
RAISE TO LET IT PASS.




IT'S AN INVINCIBLE CITADEL!  
A POWERFUL DESTROYER  
COVERED IN CANNONS THAT  
THE KING CAN USE TO DAM  
THE RIVER TO BLOCK ANY  
INVADER'S ROUTE AND  
PROTECT MAURANIA!



THEY SAY THE  
BLACK VAULT  
HIDES ALL THE  
RICHES OF  
MAURANIA IN ITS  
HOLD.




YOU SHOULDN'T  
SAY THAT! THAT'S  
OUR KING! OUR  
KING HAS NEVER  
STOLEN FROM US!

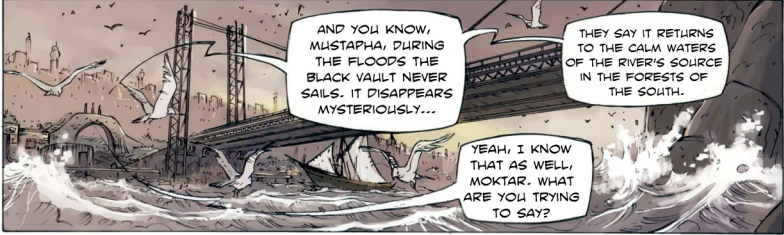


HM, FOR HOW  
LONG, THOUGH?  
SOON IT WILL BE  
THE STORMY  
SEASON.

YES? AND  
THEN? EVERY-  
ONE KNOWS  
THAT!




THE RIVER WILL  
TURN TO A  
TORRENT LIKE  
EVERY YEAR.



AND YOU KNOW,  
MUSTAPHA, DURING  
THE FLOODS THE  
BLACK VAULT NEVER  
SAILS. IT DISAPPEARS  
MYSTERIOUSLY...

THEY SAY IT RETURNS  
TO THE CALM WATERS  
OF THE RIVER'S SOURCE  
IN THE FORESTS OF  
THE SOUTH.

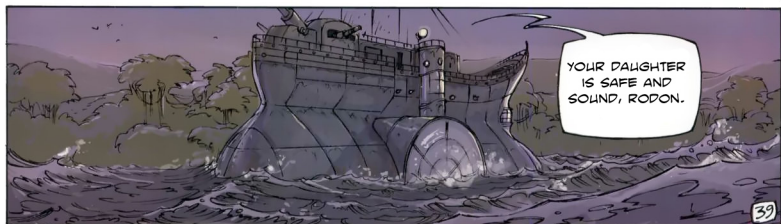
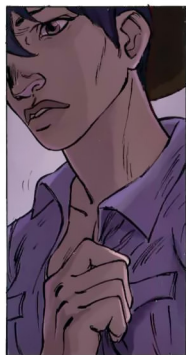
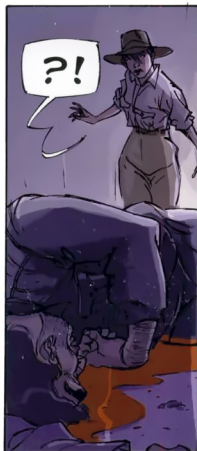
YEAH, I KNOW  
THAT AS WELL,  
MOKTAR. WHAT  
ARE YOU TRYING  
TO SAY?



IF THE RIVER'S  
FLOODED RODOON'S  
NOT COMING TO  
HELP US. HE'LL  
ABANDON HIS  
COUNTRY TO THE  
HANDS OF THE  
REBELS.

PSSH!  
DON'T BE  
SUCH A  
FATALIST!







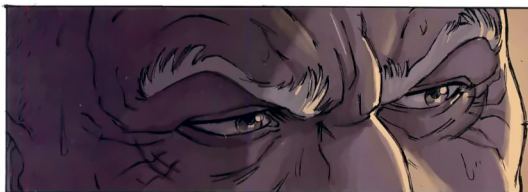
WE SAW HER ON  
THE STREETS OF  
MADARGANE.



YOU MUST GO  
THERE AND BRING  
HER BACK  
RIGHT AWAY.



THE REBELS WILL BE  
THERE BEFORE THE  
END OF THE WEEK.  
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.



DO WE NOT  
STILL HAVE  
FRIENDS  
THERE?



THE PRINCE OF  
MADARGANE SEEMS  
TO HAVE TAKEN YOUR  
DAUGHTER UNDER  
HIS PROTECTION.

THAT MAN  
HAS ALWAYS  
SEEMED LOYAL.

SO?



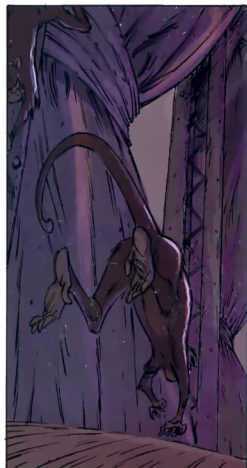
THE PRINCE  
ADVISED YOUR  
DAUGHTER TO  
LEAVE THE CITY  
AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.



YOU MUST GO  
MEET HER,  
RIGHT AWAY.



THERE'S A  
PROBLEM.









YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I'M AICHA'S BROTHER. THE SERVANT, FROM THE PALACE?



SO WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME EVEN THOUGH THE REBELS ORDERED MY CAPTURE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



THIS MECHANIC, HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO ME. HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO FIX CARS.



YOU'LL SEE. THIS BUCKET OF BOLTS IS GOING TO TICK LIKE A CLOCK!



THANK YOU.

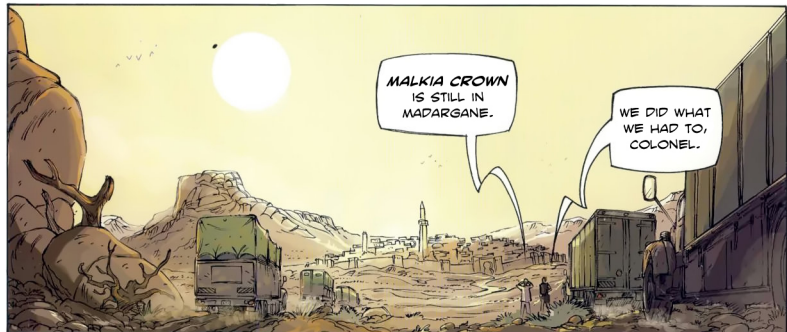


AFTER THAT, ANN, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE QUICKLY BECAUSE HERE IN MADARGANE THEY'RE TELLING STRANGE STORIES ABOUT YOU.

LIKE WHAT?

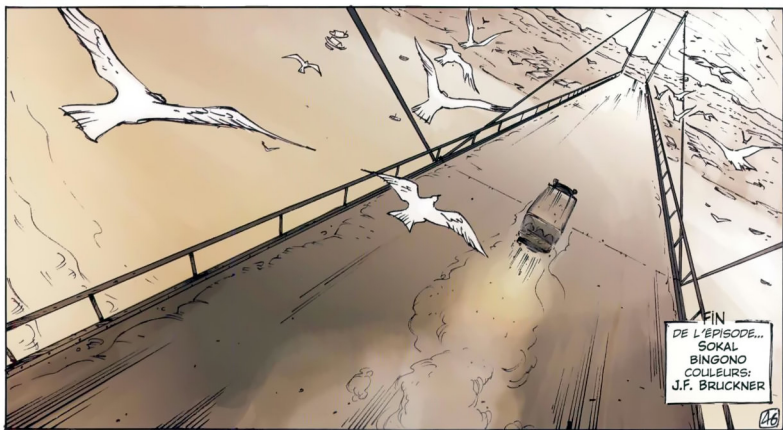
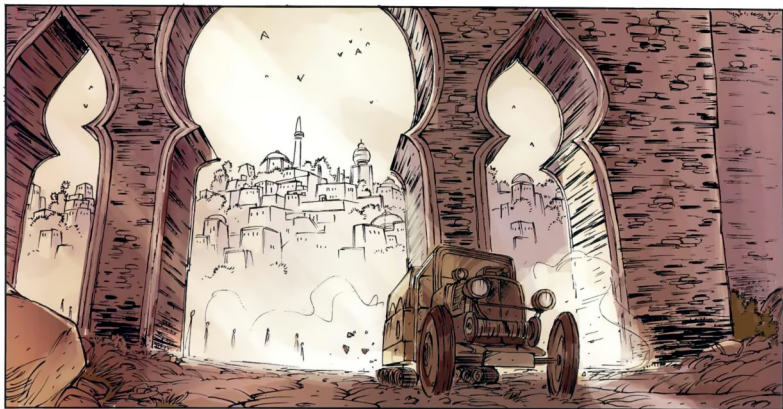
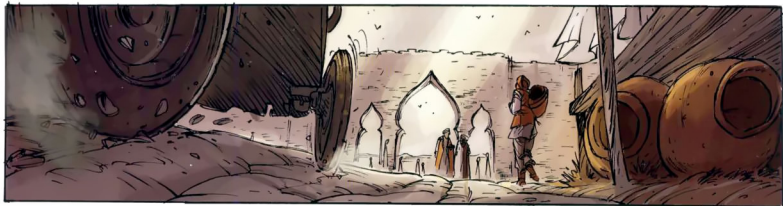


I'M A REVOLUTIONARY, ANN, BUT I THINK THAT HASSAN HAD REASONS TO WANT TO HELP YOU.











PLEASE DON'T  
SUE US!

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