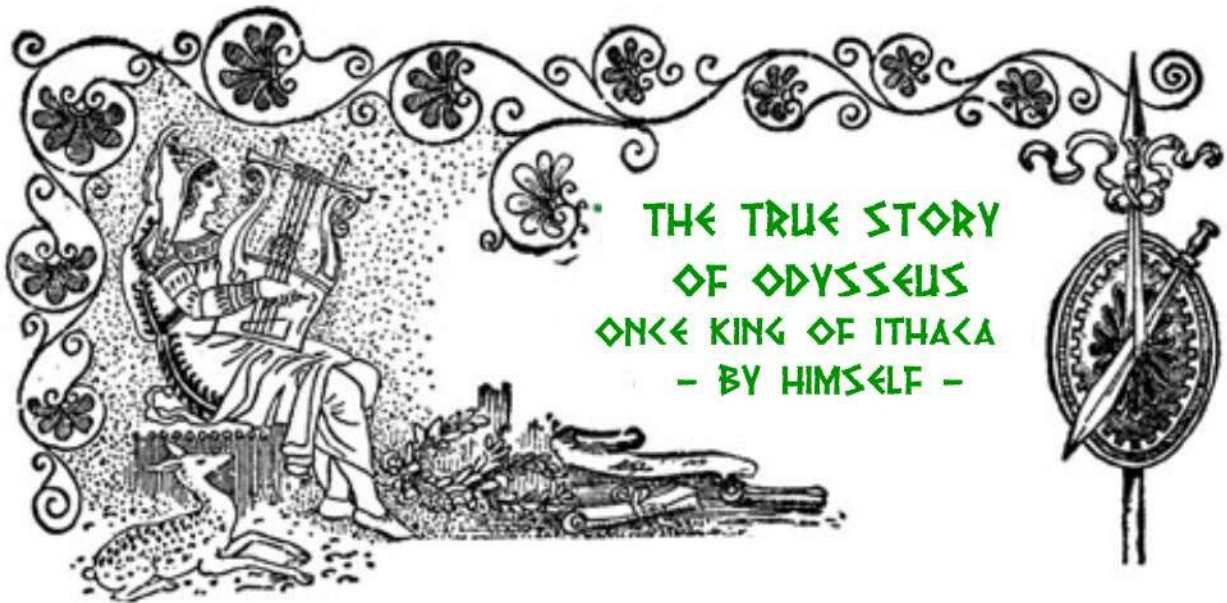


THE TRUE STORY OF ODYSSEUS, ONCE KING OF ITHACA
- BY HIMSELF -

----- BOOK 9 -----
SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE







| | | |
|---------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| BOOK 1 | | THE EVENTS IN TROY |
| BOOK 2 | | IN THE LAND OF LOTUS-EATERS |
| BOOK 3 | | ON THE ISLAND OF THE CYCLOPS |
| BOOK 4 | | THE FLOATING ISLAND OF AEOLUS |
| BOOK 5 | | IN THE LAND OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS |
| BOOK 6 | | ON THE ISLAND OF CIRCE |
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| BOOK 8 | | ON THE ISLAND OF THE SIRENS |
| BOOK 9 | | SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE |
| BOOK 10 | | ON THE ISLAND OF HELIOS |
| BOOK 11 | | ON THE ISLAND OF CALYPSO |
| BOOK 12 | | ON THE ISLAND OF THE PHACACIANS |
| BOOK 13 | | THE RETURN TO ITHACA |
| BOOK 14 | | HELEN |

SCRIPT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY PANKO



MIDNIGHT PUBLISHING

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Homer, "The Odyssey", xii 73-79

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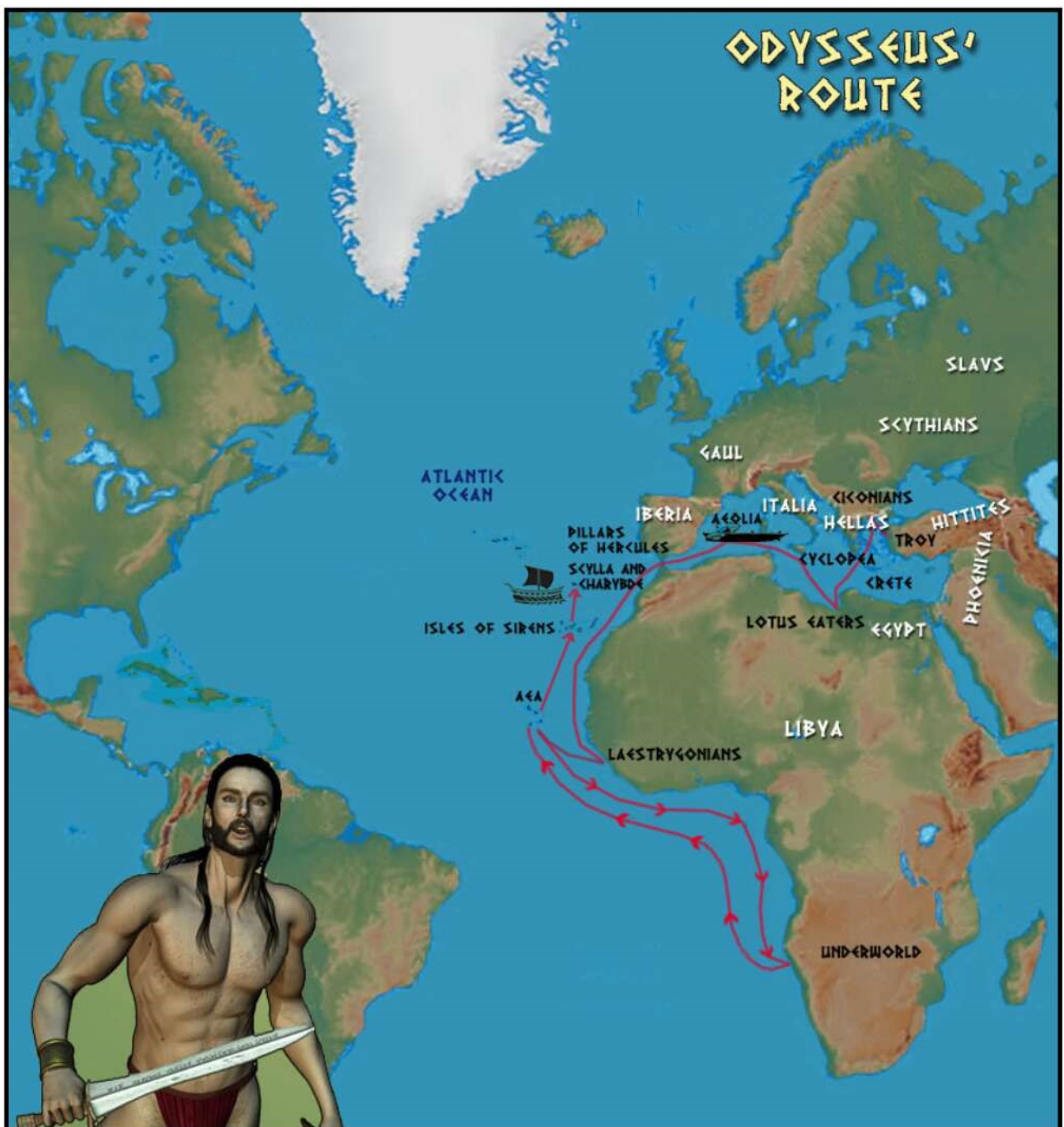


BOOK 9

SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE

WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE FAVOURABLE WINDS FOR OTHERWISE A DOZEN MEN WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAN THE SHIP. IT WAS ALSO FORTUNATE THAT THE SKY WAS HEAVILY OVERCAST FOR THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS PROVIDING THUS AN IDEAL COVER AGAINST THE AERIAL SEARCH PARTIES WHO COULD BE HEARD FLYING INCESSANTLY ABOVE OUR HEADS.

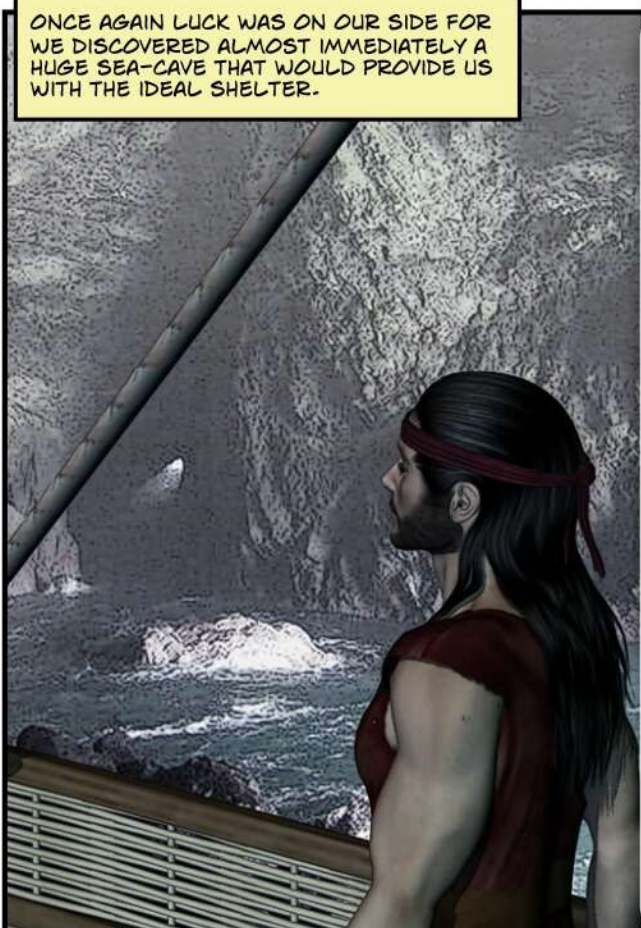
AS THE SUN WAS SETTING ON THE FOURTH DAY WE CAME INTO VIEW OF THE DARK SHAPE OF THE ISLAND WHERE SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE KEPT THEIR WATCH.



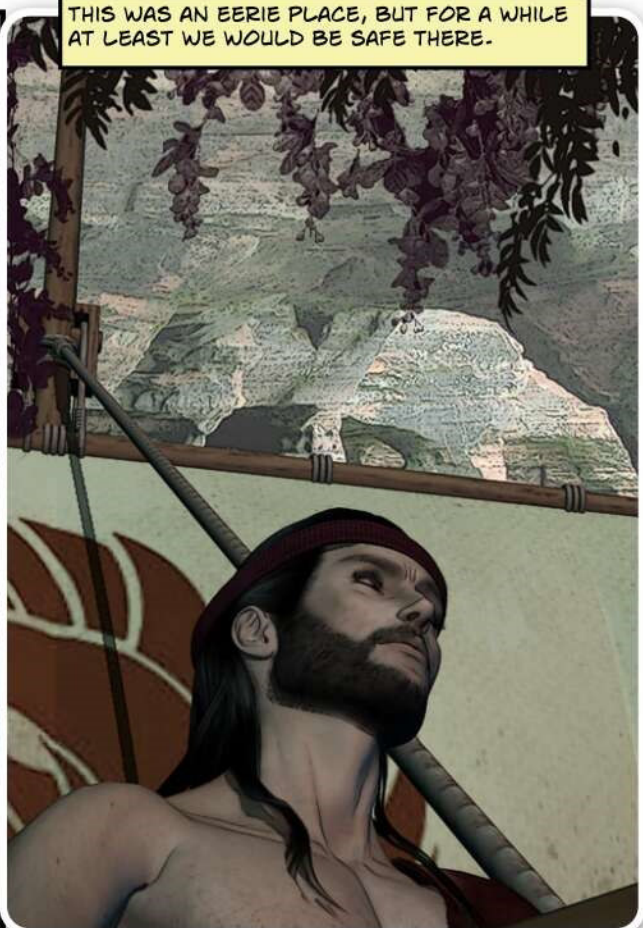
NIGHT WAS FALLING WHEN WE FINALLY REACHED THE SOUTHERN ROCKY CLIFFS OF THIS FORBIDDING PLACE.



ONCE AGAIN LUCK WAS ON OUR SIDE FOR WE DISCOVERED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY A HUGE SEA-CAVE THAT WOULD PROVIDE US WITH THE IDEAL SHELTER.



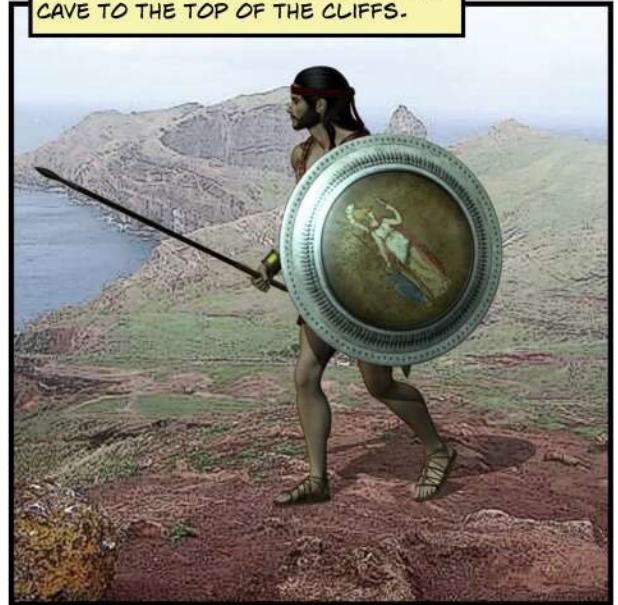
THIS WAS AN EERIE PLACE, BUT FOR A WHILE AT LEAST WE WOULD BE SAFE THERE.



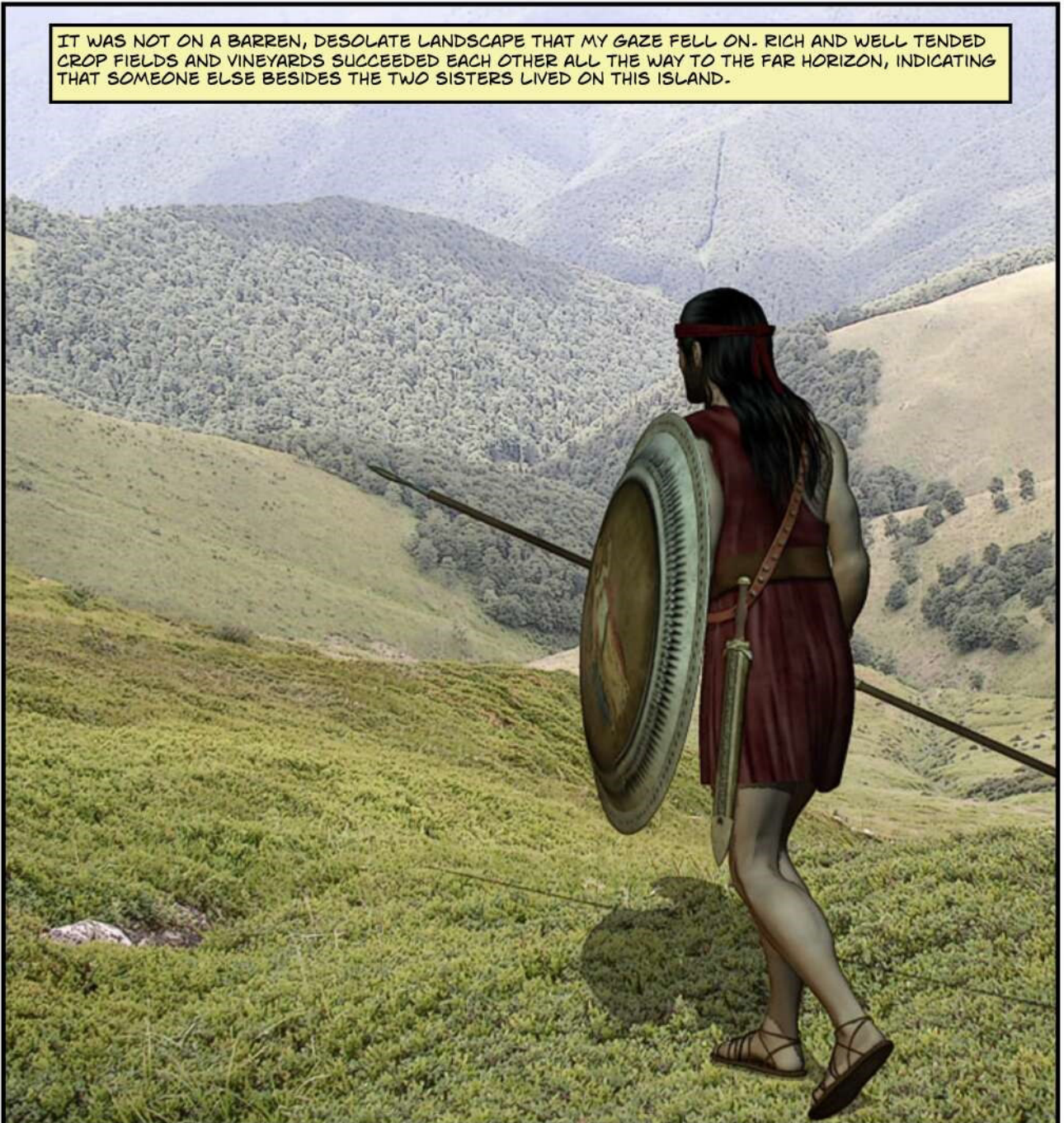
AFTER A DREADFUL NIGHT SPENT IN THE WET AND GLOOMY CAVE I WENT ON A FIRST RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ISLAND.



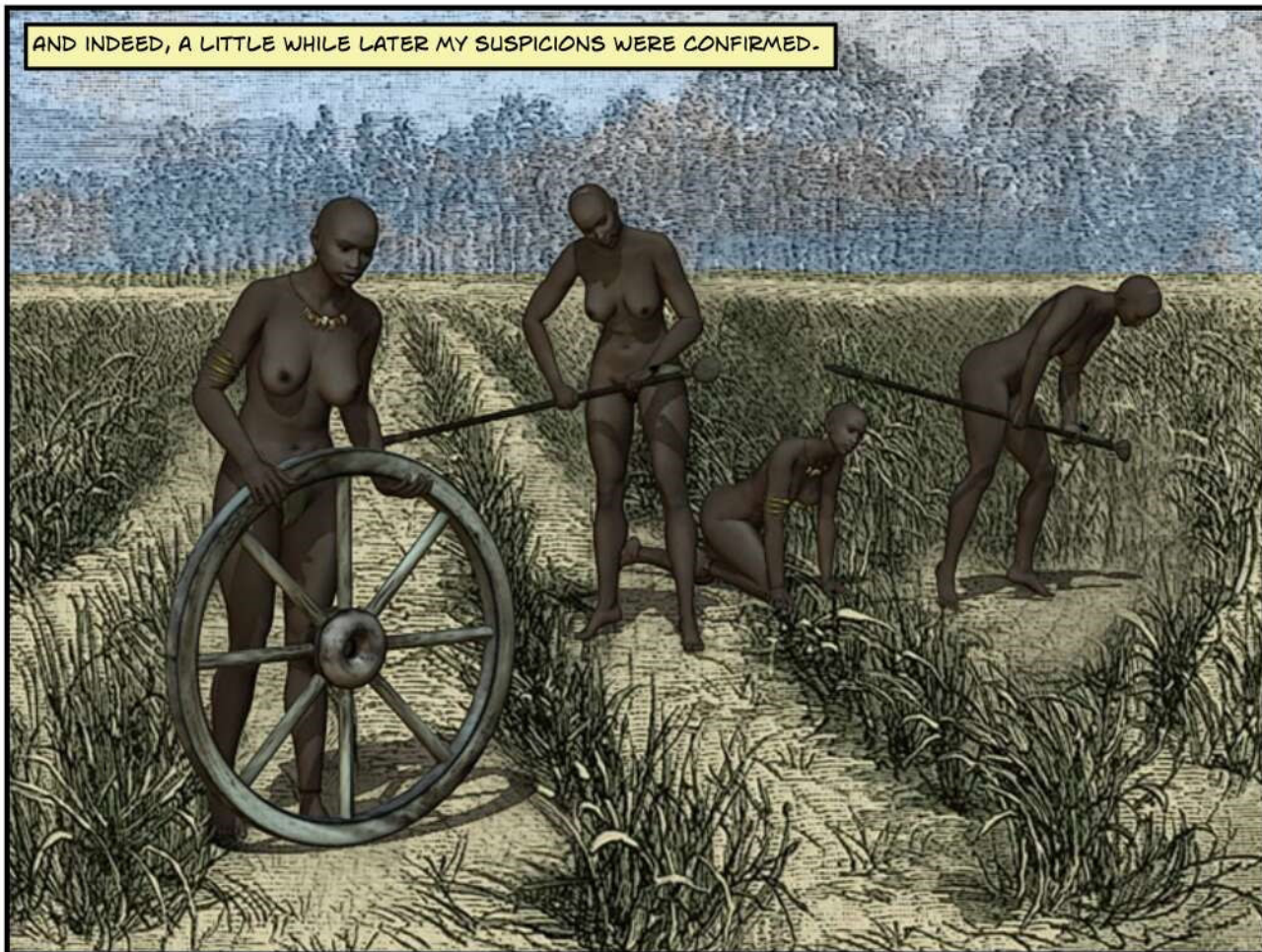
I FOUND A PATH LEADING FROM THE CAVE TO THE TOP OF THE CLIFFS.



IT WAS NOT ON A BARREN, DESOLATE LANDSCAPE THAT MY GAZE FELL ON. RICH AND WELL TENDED CROP FIELDS AND VINEYARDS SUCCEEDED EACH OTHER ALL THE WAY TO THE FAR HORIZON, INDICATING THAT SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES THE TWO SISTERS LIVED ON THIS ISLAND.



AND INDEED, A LITTLE WHILE LATER MY SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED.



AND TO MY RIGHT, ON THE SUMMIT OF THE HILL I SAW THE DARK SHAPE OF THE CONTROL STATION OF THE GODS -WHATEVER THAT MEANT.



I WAS REFLECTING ON WHAT I SHOULD DO NEXT...



WHEN A ROUGH VOICE CAME FROM SOMEWHERE BEHIND ME.



YOU,
THERE!...

I TURNED AND...

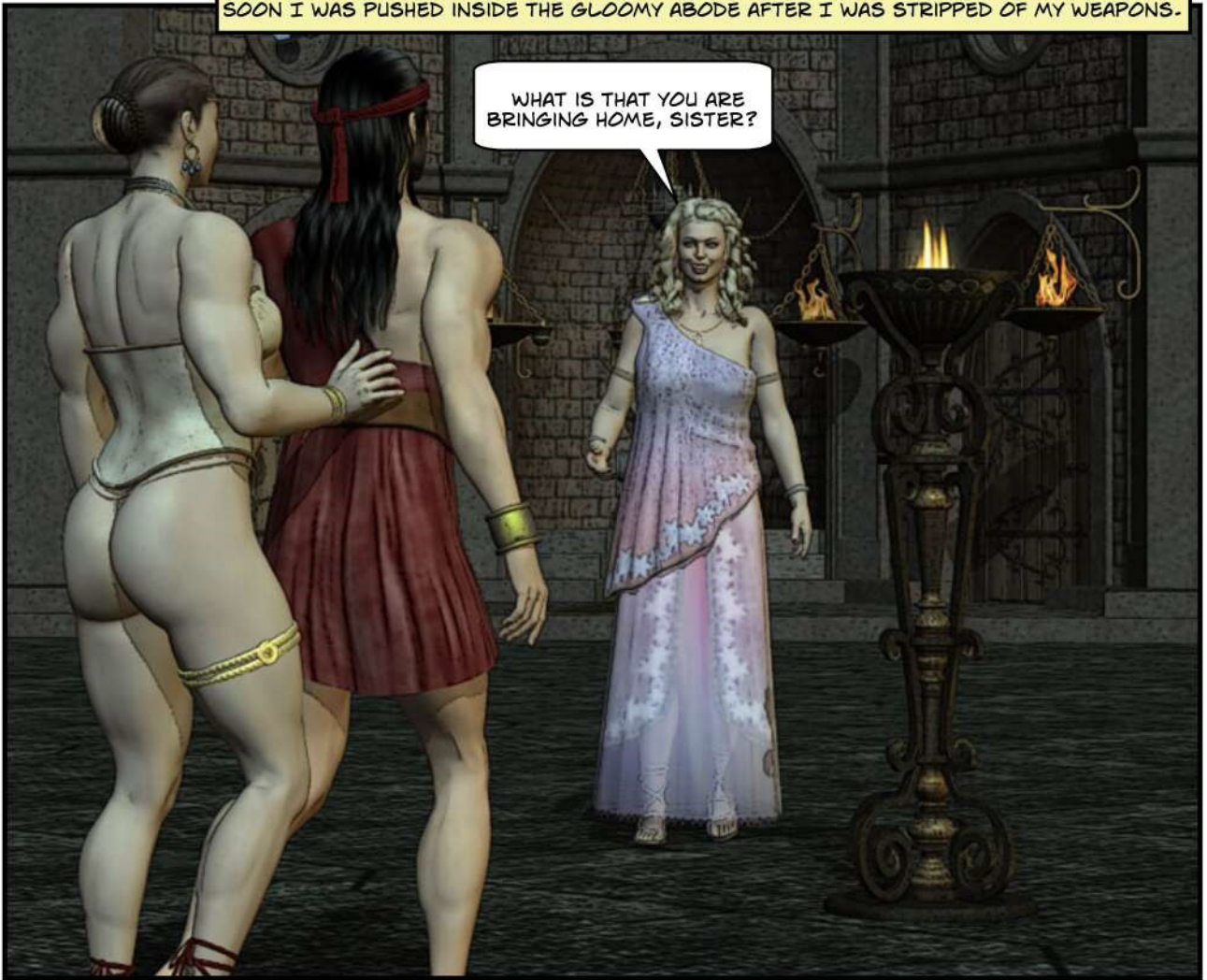


WHO ARE YOU?



SOON I WAS PUSHED INSIDE THE GLOOMY ABODE AFTER I WAS STRIPPED OF MY WEAPONS.

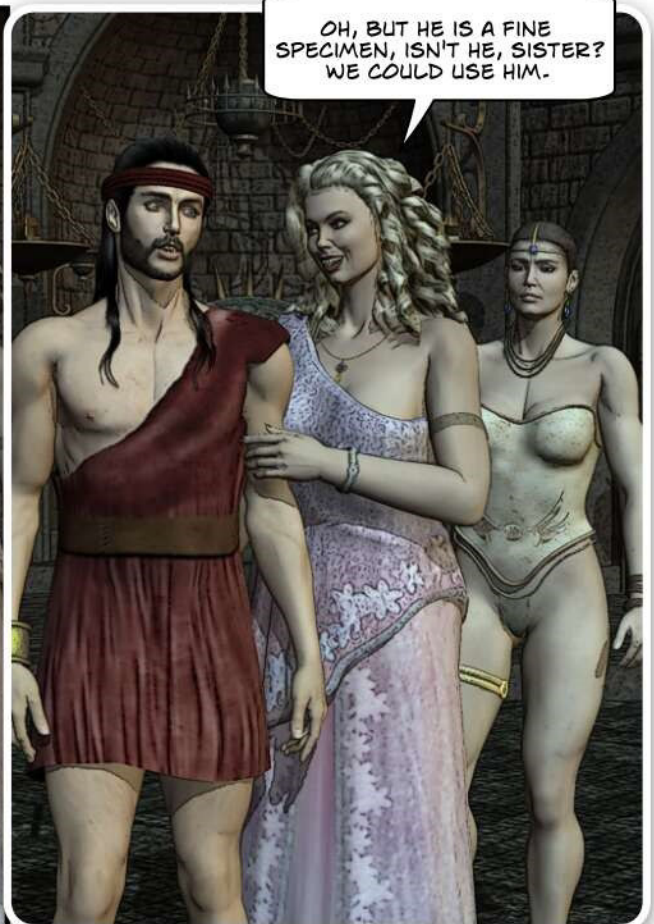
WHAT IS THAT YOU ARE BRINGING HOME, SISTER?



HE SAYS THAT HE IS A PHOENICIAN SAILOR FROM A SHIPWRECK.



OH, BUT HE IS A FINE SPECIMEN, ISN'T HE, SISTER? WE COULD USE HIM.





DON'T GET YOUR HOPES TOO HIGH, YOU HORNY SLUT. WE MUST NOTIFY COMMAND CENTRE.



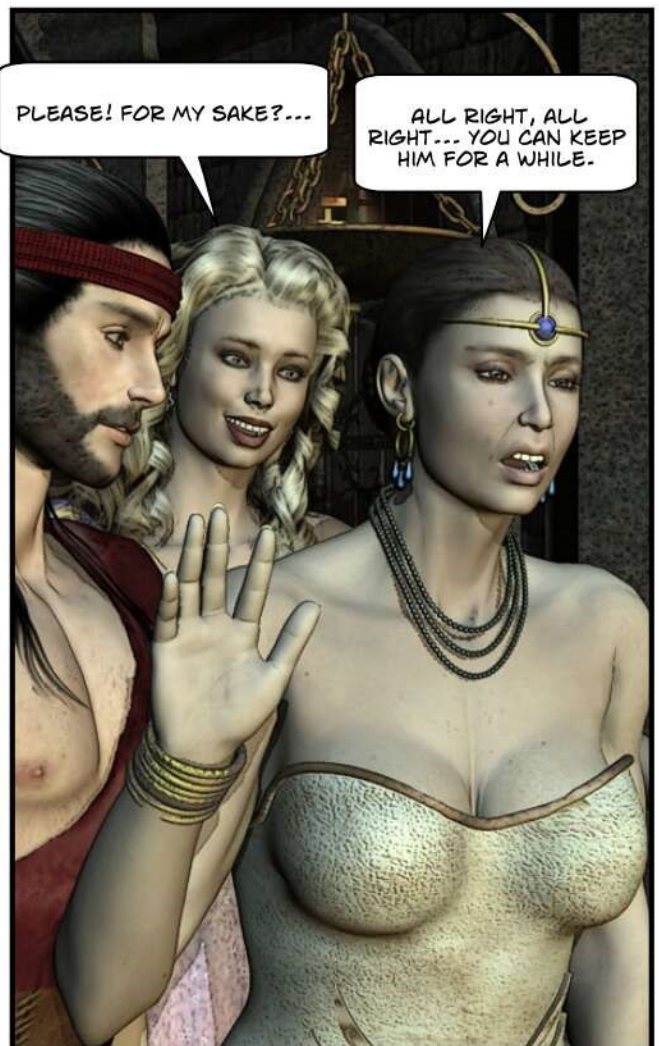
OH, NO! THEY'LL COME AND TAKE HIM AWAY, AS THEY ALWAYS DO, THOSE KILLJOYS.

YOU KNOW THE RULES.



COME ON, SIS!... WE COULD DO THIS LATER.

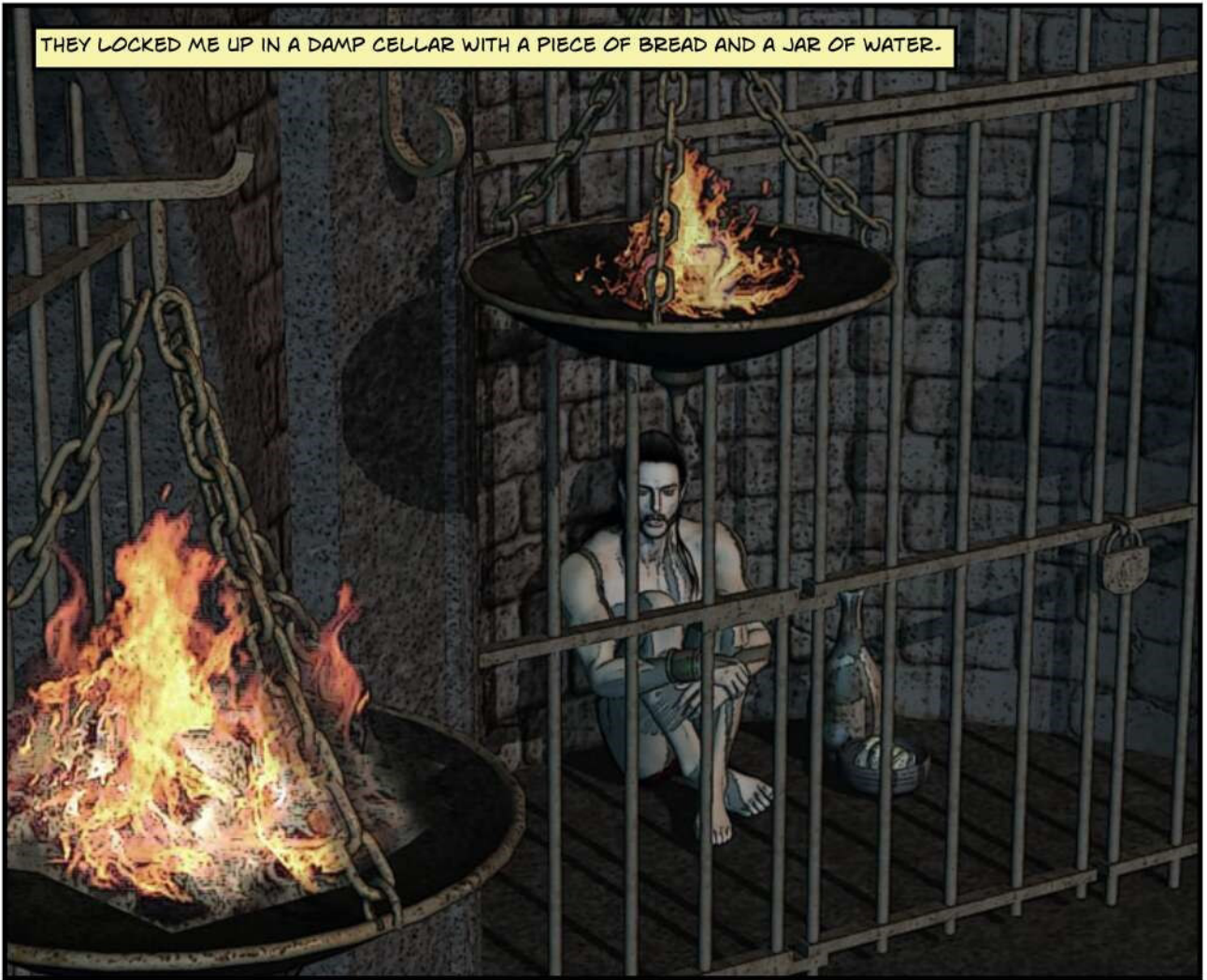
I DON'T KNOW...



PLEASE! FOR MY SAKE?...

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... YOU CAN KEEP HIM FOR A WHILE.

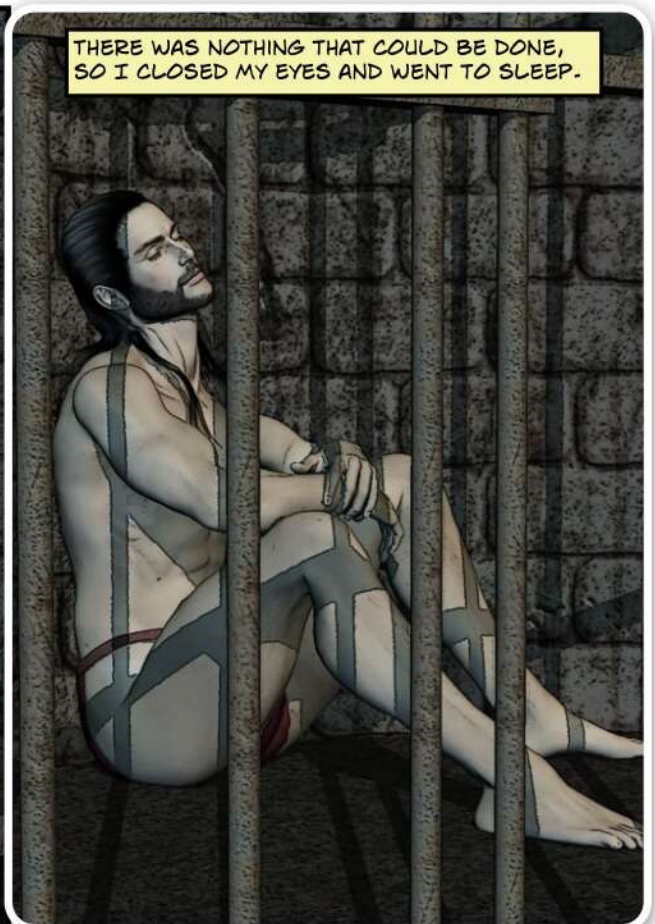
THEY LOCKED ME UP IN A DAMP CELLAR WITH A PIECE OF BREAD AND A JAR OF WATER.

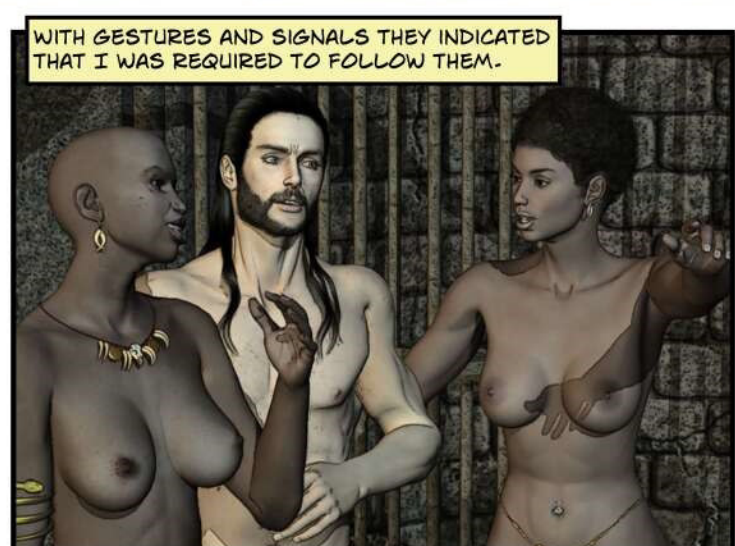
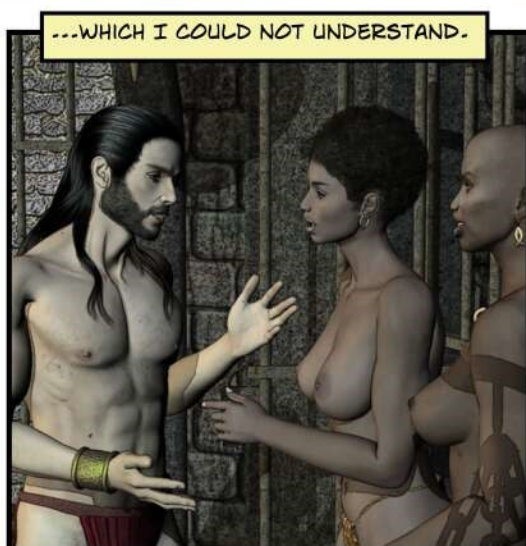
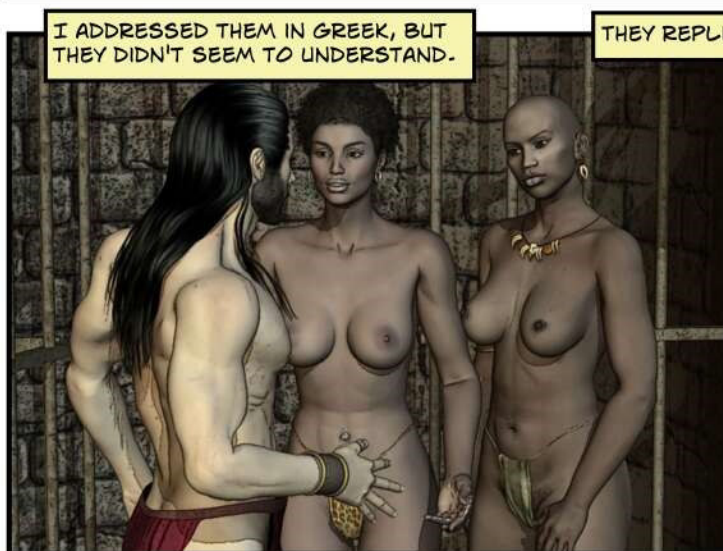


SO MUCH FOR
HIDING...



THERE WAS NOTHING THAT COULD BE DONE,
SO I CLOSED MY EYES AND WENT TO SLEEP.





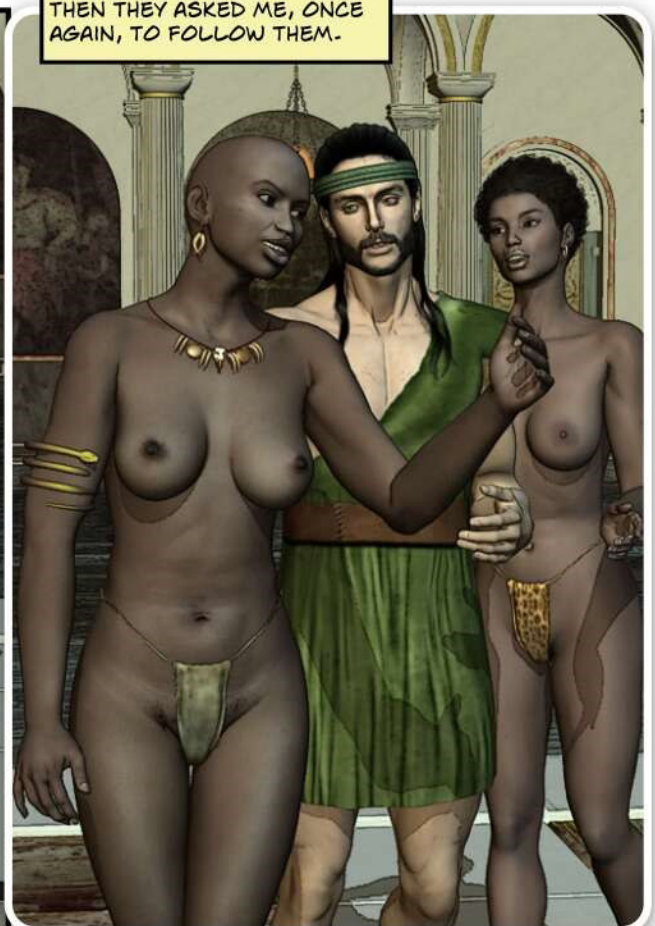
THEY BROUGHT ME UPSTAIRS WHERE THEY GAVE ME A BATH...



...AND FRESH CLOTHES TO WEAR.



THEN THEY ASKED ME, ONCE AGAIN, TO FOLLOW THEM.



THE TWO SISTERS WERE WAITING IN A COMFORTABLE AND SPARINGLY FURNISHED ROOM.



FOOD AND WINE WAS SERVED AND CHARYBDE
ASKED ME TO TELL THEM MY STORY.

NOT MUCH TO TELL, MY
LADY. MY SHIP SANK IN A
TERRIBLE STORM.



I WAS LUCKY TO
SWIM TO THIS
ISLAND.



HA HA HA! "LUCKY"
HE SAYS!



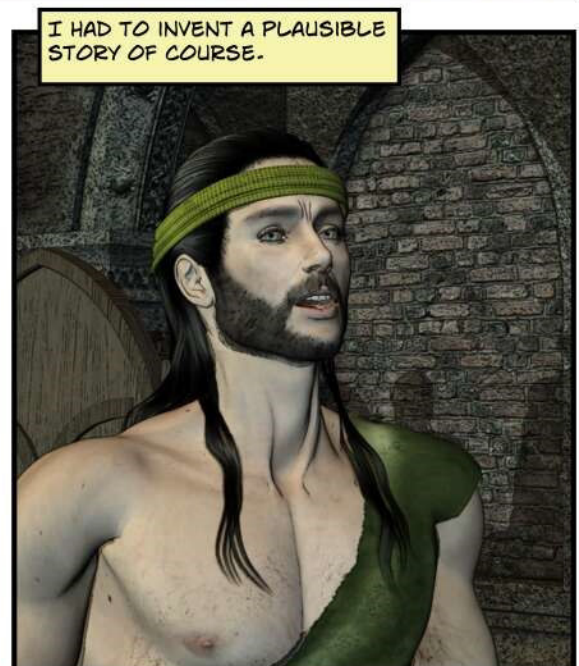
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA
WHERE YOU ARE?

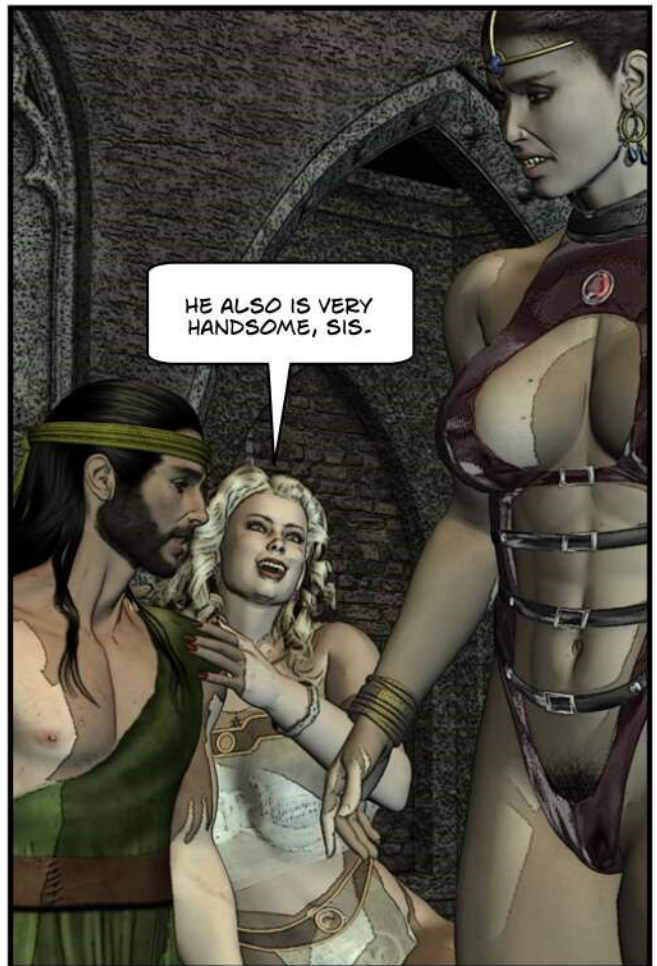


I'M IN A PLACE WHERE
TWO WONDERFUL WOMEN
RESIDE.









CHARYBDE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME IN MEANINGLESS COURTSHIP, GETTING STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.



AS FOR ME I TRIED HARD NOT TO DISAPPOINT HER EXPECTATIONS.



LATER THAT NIGHT...

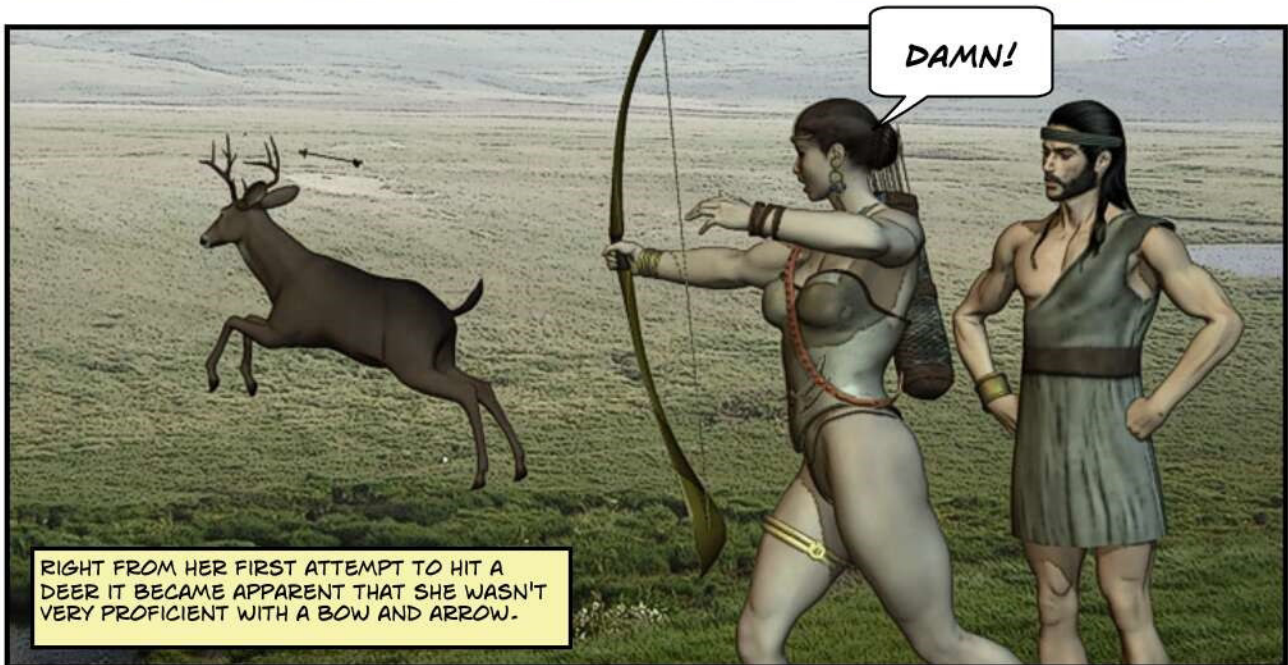
I HAVEN'T HAD A MAN LIKE YOU FOR A LONG TIME!

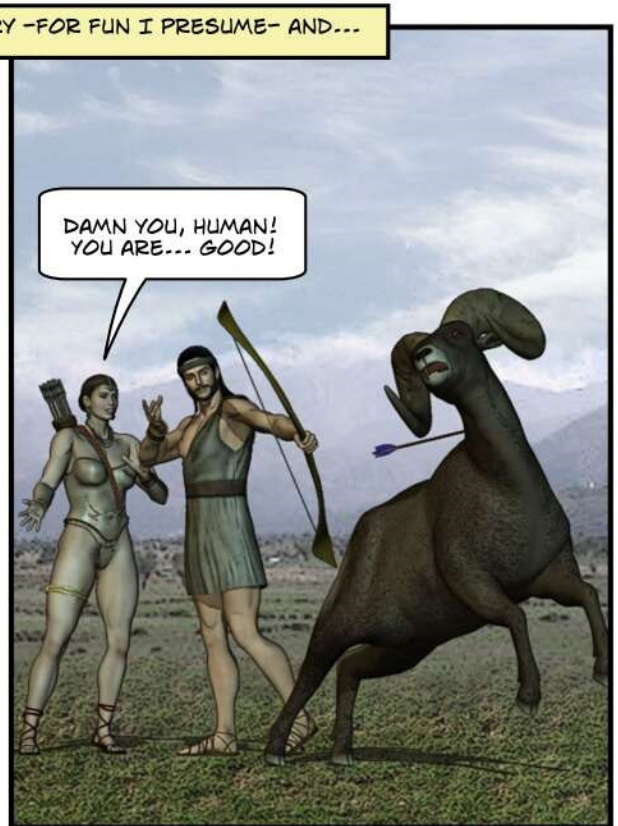
YOU'LL BE STAYING WITH ME.

SO MUCH THE WORSE IF SCYLLA OBJECTS.



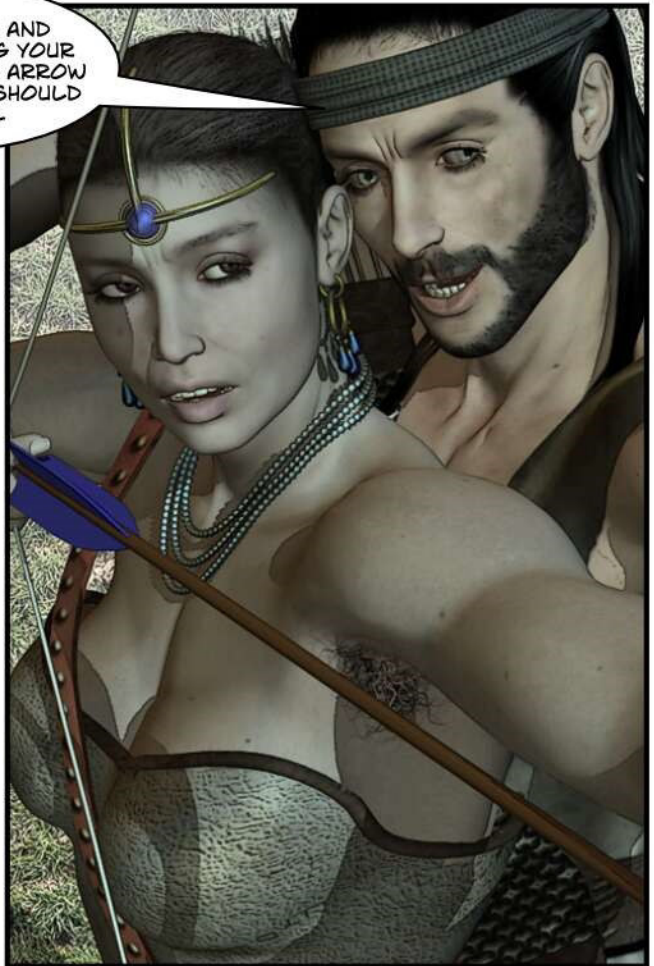
THEN, ONE DAY SCYLLA DECIDED TO TAKE ME ALONG ON A HUNT.







NOW, TAKE AIM AND VISUALISE HITTING YOUR TARGET. YOU, THE ARROW AND THE TARGET SHOULD BE AS ONE.



I SENSED HER BREATHING SUDDENLY CHANGING AND I REALISED THAT I HAD INADVERTENTLY HIT UPON A SENSITIVE CHORD. A FEMININE CHORD.



I DELIBERATELY BROUGHT MY CHEEK AGAINST HERS AND I FELT HER SHIVERING.

SHE ABRUPTLY DETACHED
HERSELF FROM MY EMBRACE.

ALL RIGHT... I
DO GET THE
GENERAL IDEA.



SHE CAST ME AN EMBARRASSED LOOK.



AND THEN... BRISKLY...

LET'S GO HOME.



ENOUGH HUNTING
FOR ONE DAY.



SHOULDN'T YOUR
"DOG" PICK UP THE
GAME?



DON'T BE STUPID.
I'LL SEND THE
SLAVES IN LATER.



WE WALKED IN SILENCE UNTIL WE REACHED A BROOK WHERE WE STOPPED TO DRINK WATER.



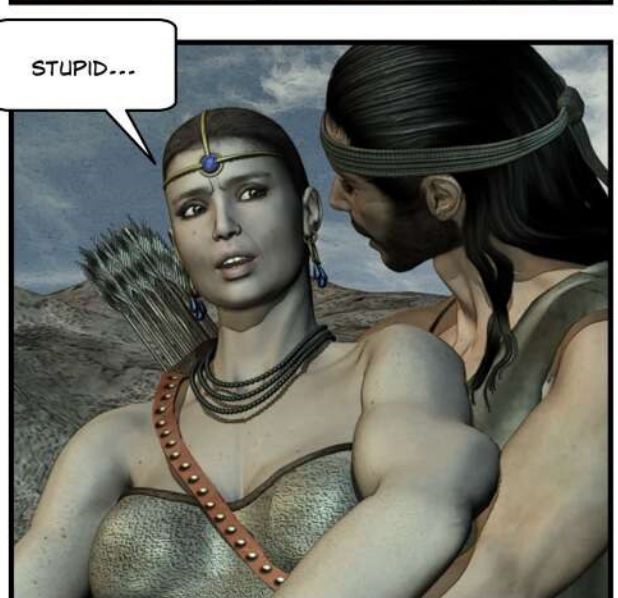
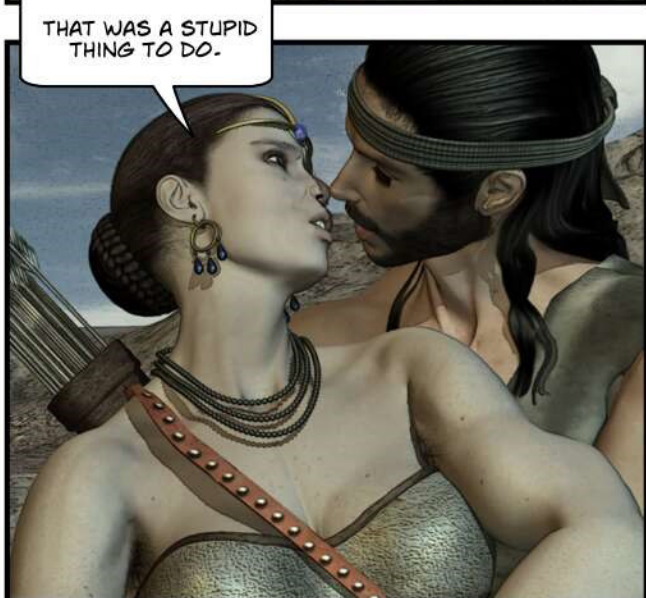
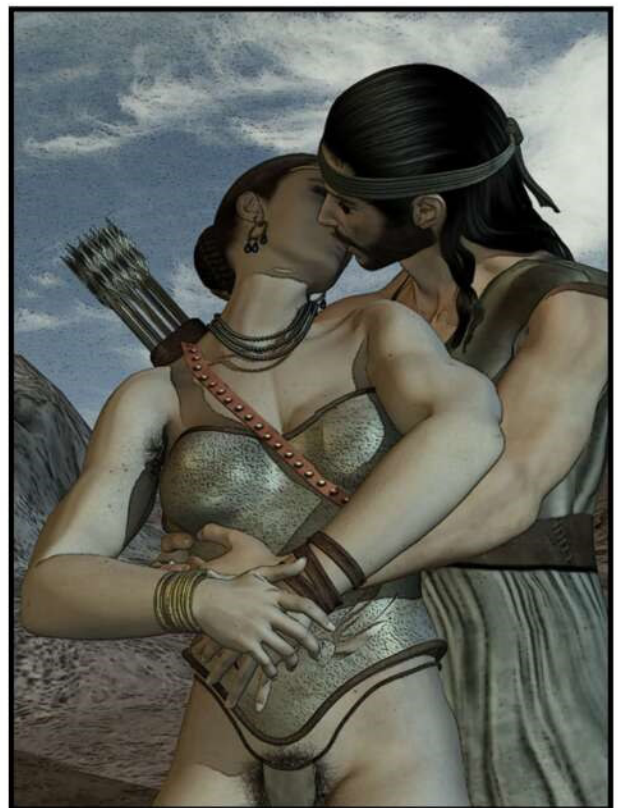
I KNEW IT WAS DANGEROUS,
BUT I HAD TO TAKE A RISK.

SCYLLA...



WHAT?





MAYBE SHE WAS RIGHT, BUT
THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIME TO
PONDER UPON THAT....



...LATER...



...MUCH LATER.



THE SITUATION CHANGED FROM THAT MOMENT ONWARDS. AND NOW, ONCE AGAIN, I WAS LIVING TWO LIVES: ONE WITH CHARYBDE...



...AND ANOTHER ONE WITH SCYLLA.



UNTIL THE DAY THAT
CHARYBDE FOUND OUT
WHAT WAS GOING ON.



AND MY TWO LIVES FUSED BACK INTO ONE AGAIN.



THERE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A HAPPIER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE THREE OF US.





FROM
ODYSSEUS'
NOTEBOOK

IMAGINATION IS THE BEST KNOWN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE HELLENIC TRIBES OF MY HOMELAND. IMAGINATION AND A TASTE FOR THE SUPERNATURAL HELPED THEM TO COME UP WITH VIVID IMAGES OF A WORLD THAT WAS FANTASTIC ENOUGH WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM COMPULSIVE STORY-TELLERS.

SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE HAD NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THE TERRIBLE MONSTERS AS DEPICTED IN THE HELLENIC TALES - NO MORE THAN THE SIRENS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE BLOODTHIRSTY HALF-HUMAN, HALF-BIRD CREATURES OF THE MYTH. SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE COULD EVEN BE CONSIDERED AS ATTRACTIVE - IN THEIR OWN ROUGH AND UNPOLISHED WAY.

THEY BELONGED TO THE RACE THAT WE CAME TO KNOW AS "GODS"; TWO OUT OF A MULTITUDE OF RANK-AND-FILE ENTITIES WHO WERE ENTRUSTED BY THE HIGHER PLACED ONES WITH SPECIFIC DUTIES - IN THIS CASE WITH THE MANNING OF THIS ISLAND OUTPOST.

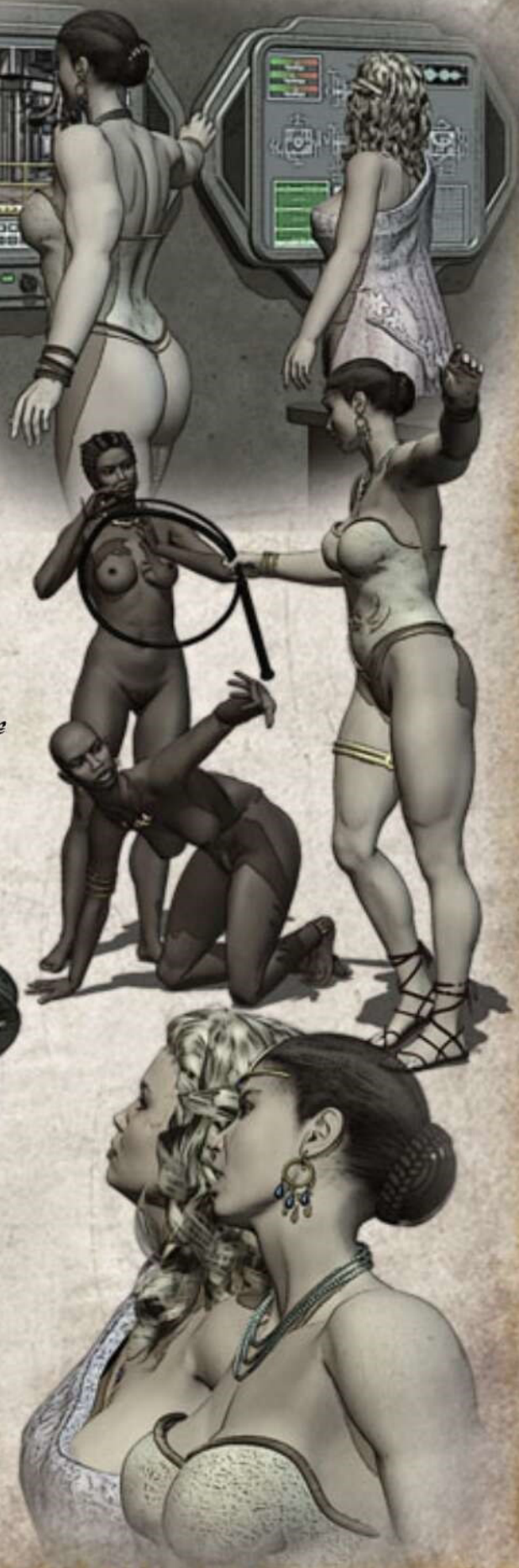


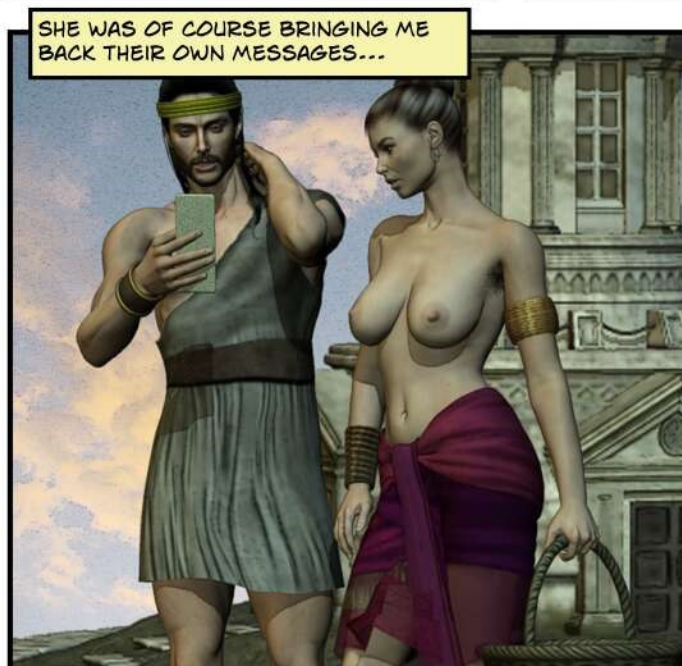
FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND THEIR JOB
CONSISTS IN OBSERVING AND
COLLECTING INFORMATION, WITH THE
HELP OF SOPHISTICATED MACHINERY, AND
TO RELAY IT SOMEHOW TO THE CENTRAL
COMMAND POST OF THE "GODS".

THEY LIVED IN TOTAL ISOLATION, BEING
IN CONTACT ONLY WITH THOSE HUMANS
THEY EMPLOYED TO CULTIVATE THEIR
FIELDS AND VINEYARDS, THUS MAKING
THEIR OUTPOST SELF-SUFFICIENT.

IT WAS ONLY ONCE A YEAR THAT THEY SAW
SOMEONE FROM THEIR OWN KIN FOLK, WHEN A
TEAM OF EXPERTS ARRIVED ON THE ISLAND TO
CARRY OUT MAINTENANCE WORK ON THEIR
EQUIPMENT.

SO, IT WAS UNSURPRISING THAT MY ARRIVAL HERE
CAUSED SUCH A SENSATION AMONG THEM.





THE TWO SISTERS WERE AS DIFFERENT IN CHARACTER AS THEY WERE IN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE. CHARYBDE WAS DEFINITELY THE MORE FEMININE, BUT ALSO THE MOST SELFISH AND CAPRICIOUS OF THE TWO.



SHE APPEARED TO BE INFATUATED WITH ME.



HOWEVER OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS VERY SUPERFICIAL...



...AS IT ONLY COVERED THE PHYSICAL ASPECT.



I FELT THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE FINE AS LONG AS HER PASSION LASTED.



IN OTHER WORDS I COULDN'T RELY ON HER FEELINGS.



WITH SCYLLA THOUGH I FELT THAT THINGS WERE QUITE DIFFERENT.



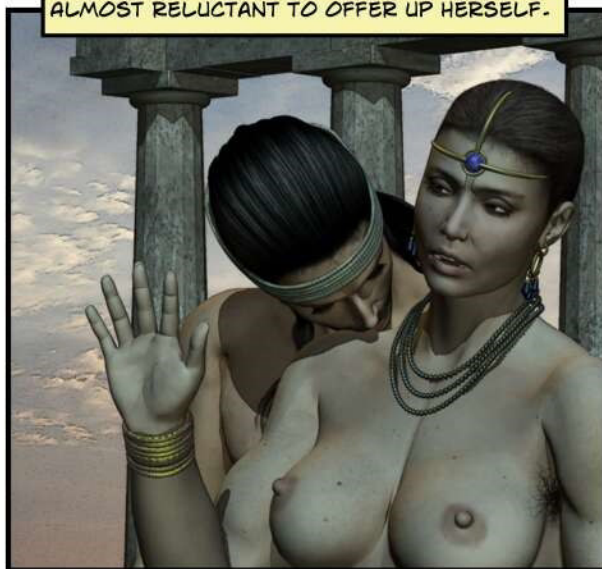
FOR IN SPITE OF HER ROUGH AND BUTCH APPEARANCE AND ABRUPT CHARACTER I COULD DETECT IN HER CERTAIN QUALITIES THAT HER SISTER LACKED.



SHE WAS RESERVED WITH ME.



ALMOST RELUCTANT TO OFFER UP HERSELF.



BUT I COULD SENSE FROM SMALL THINGS IN HER ATTITUDE...

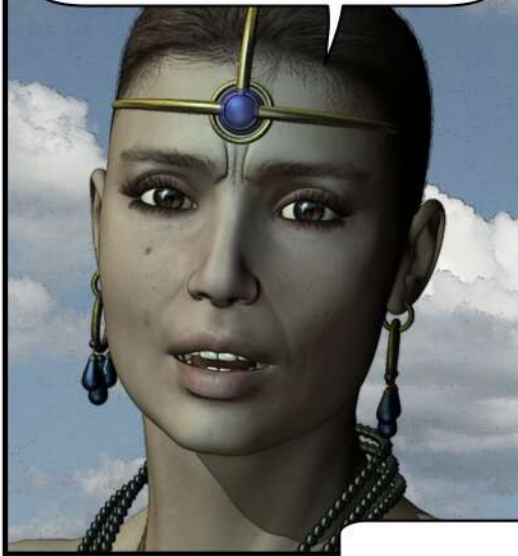


...THAT HER FEELINGS HAD MORE DEPTH THAN THOSE OF HER SISTER.





A MESSAGE CAME IN FROM CENTRAL
SOON AFTER YOU ARRIVED. I SAID
NOTHING TO CHARYBDE.



WHY ARE THEY
LOOKING FOR YOU?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



I FOUND MYSELF
ENTANGLED IN A FAMILY
QUARREL AMONG THE
GODS.

SOONER OR LATER
THEY'LL FIND YOU,
YOU KNOW.



ARE YOU GOING TO
TURN ME IN?

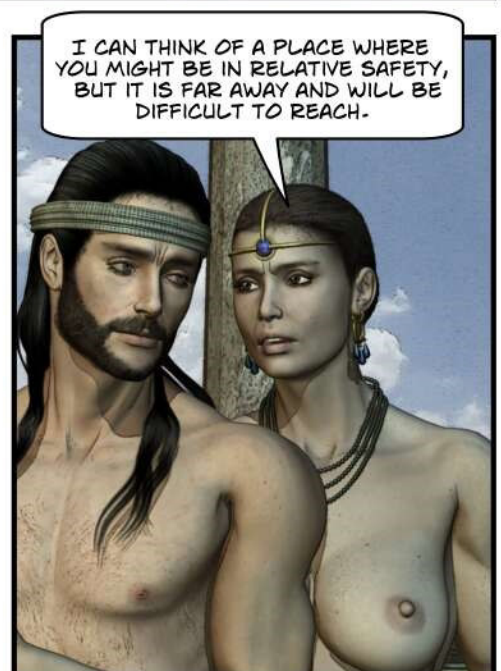


NO. I COULD'VE
DONE THIS BUT
I DIDN'T.



HOWEVER I CAN'T VOUCH FOR
CHARYBDE. I DON'T KNOW HOW
SHE'LL REACT WHEN SHE LEARNS
THAT YOU HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED.





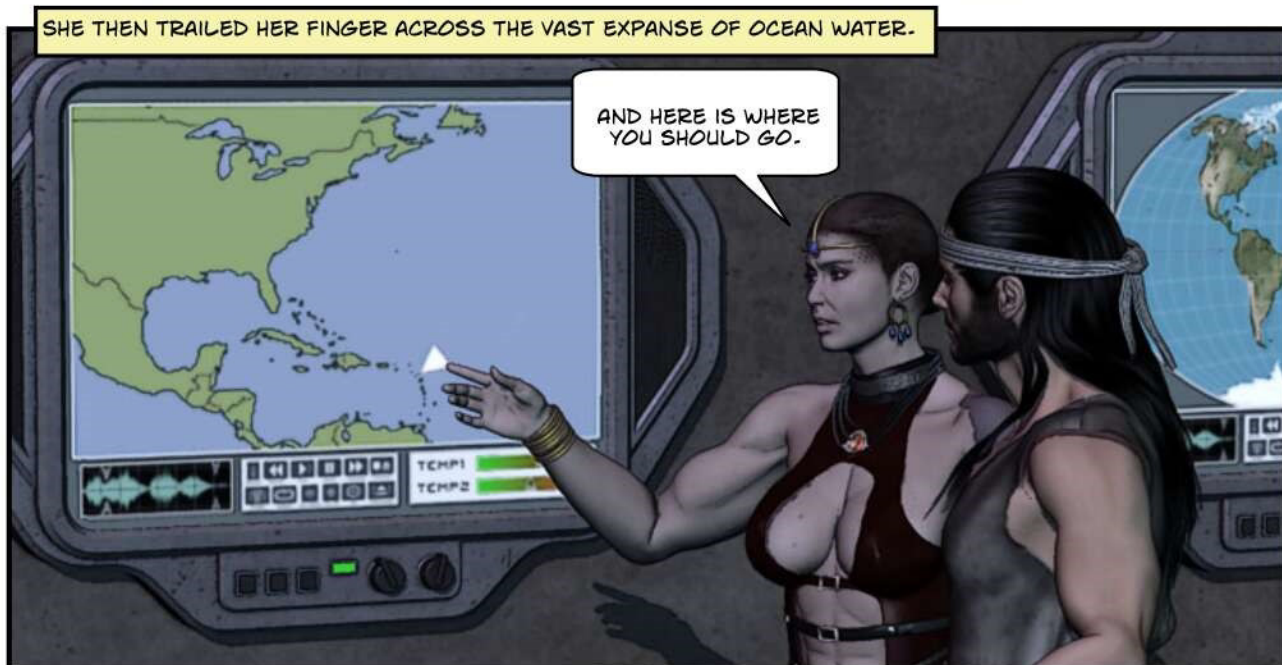


THE SAME NIGHT, AS SOON AS CHARYBDE FELL ASLEEP, SCYLLA TOOK ME UP TO THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE STATION. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SET FOOT THERE AND ONCE MORE I COULDN'T HELP BEING AMAZED BY THE SCIENCE THAT THESE ADVANCED PEOPLE POSSESSED.

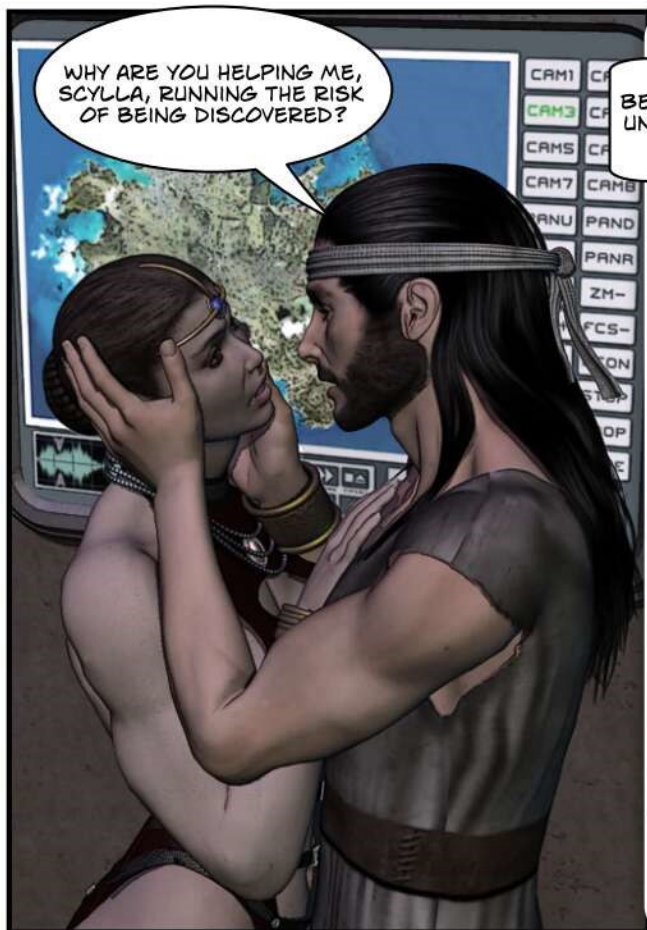


GREAT GODS! IS THIS OUR WORLD?

VAST, ISN'T IT?









HOW TOUCHING! HOW VERY TOUCHING!



SUDDENLY...

CHARYBDE!



OH, YES! I HEARD EVERYTHING.



SO... OUR LITTLE HUMAN LOVER IS WANTED. WHO WOULD EVER IMAGINE THAT?!!!

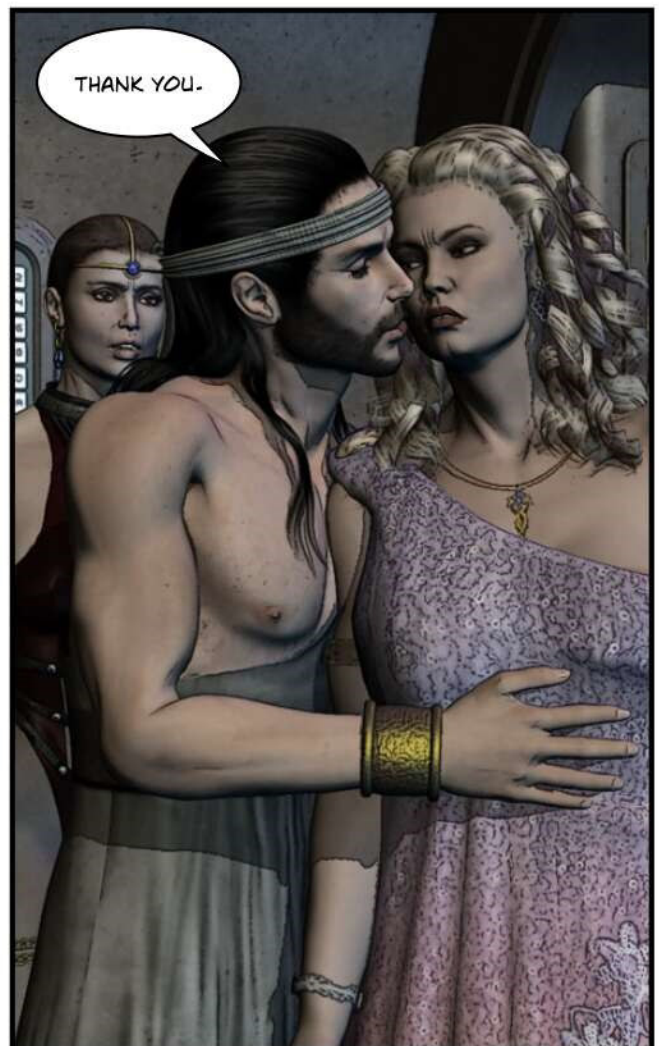
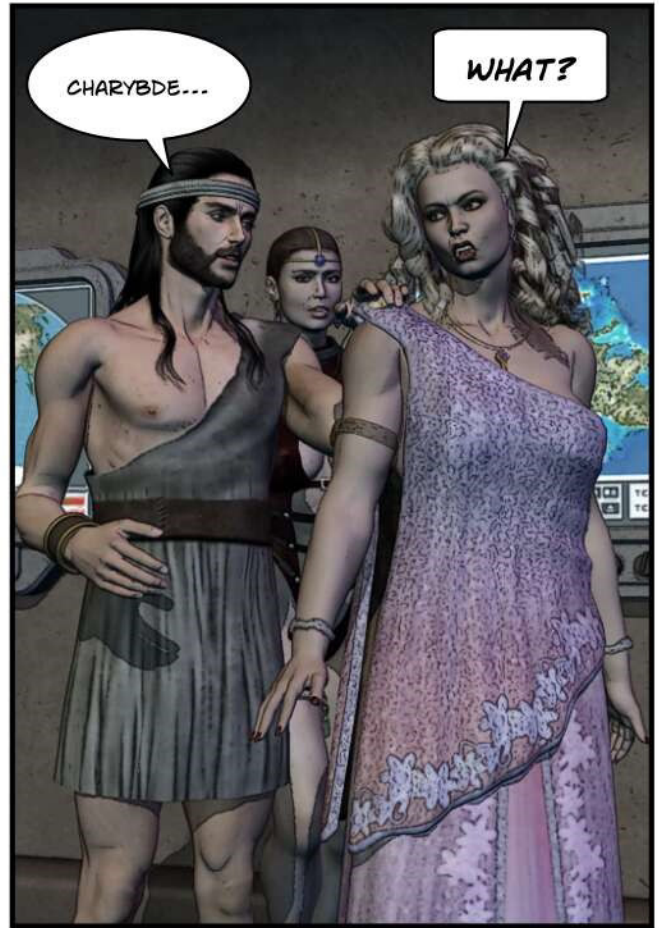



AND YOU, STUPID WOMAN, ARE READY TO RISK OUR SKIN TO SAVE HIM!



CHARYBDE, BE REASONABLE...





A comic book illustration. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red sleeveless dress and a gold bracelet, is seen from behind, standing on the wooden railing of a boat. She is looking towards a large, dark, rocky cliff. At the top of the cliff, two figures are standing: a woman in a purple dress and a man in a dark suit. They are both raising their right arms in a gesture of farewell. Behind them is a large, full, textured moon. A long wooden pole or mast extends diagonally from the top right towards the figures on the cliff. The sky is a pale blue-grey.

WE SAILED OUT OF THE ISLAND OF SCYLLA
AND CHARYBDE AS THE MOON WAS RISING.
MY LIFE WAS BECOMING AN ENDLESS
SUCCESSION OF GOODBYES.

END OF BOOK 9



