

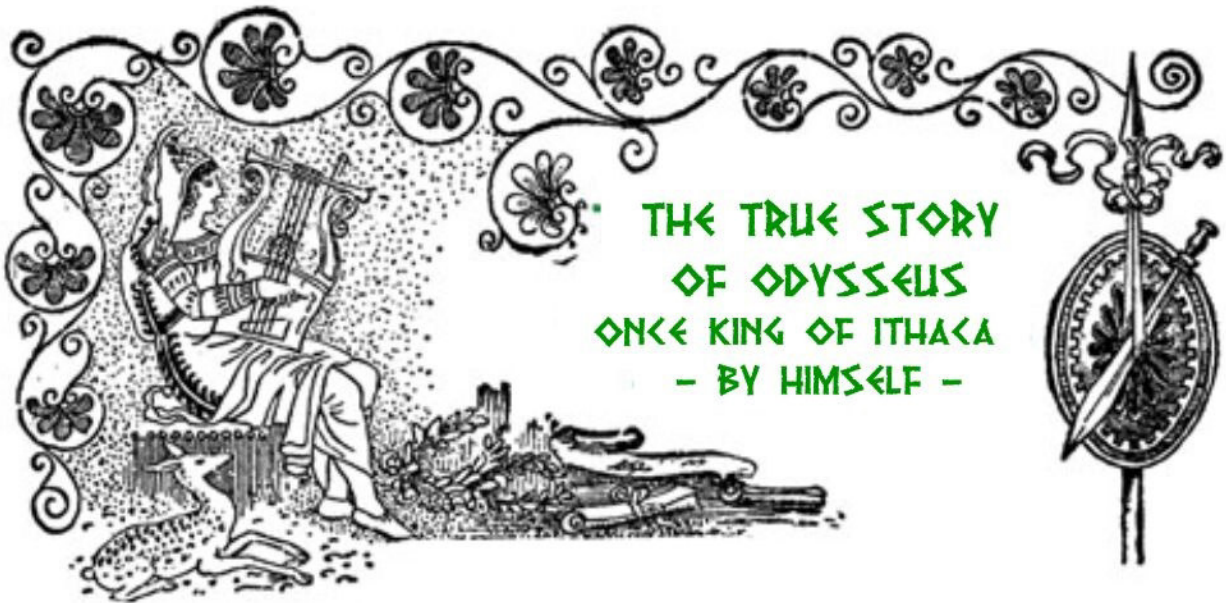
THE TRUE STORY OF ODYSSEUS, ONCE KING OF ITHACA
- BY HIMSELF -

----- BOOK 11 -----
ON THE ISLAND OF CALYPSO



Panko





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

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
BOOK 7	.....	IN THE UNDERWORLD
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

ΕΝΘ' ΑΛΛΟΙ ΜΕΝ ΠΑΝΤΕΣ, ΟΣΟΙ ΦΥΤΟΝ ΑΙΠΤΥΝ ΟΛΕΘΡΟΝ,
ΟΙΚΟΙ ΕΣΑΝ, ΠΟΛΕΜΟΝ ΤΕ ΠΕΦΕΥΓΟΤΕΣ ΗΔΕ ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑΝ
ΤΟΝ Δ' ΟΙΟΝ ΝΟΣΤΟΥ ΚΕΧΡΗΜΕΝΟΝ ΗΔΕ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΟΣ
ΝΥΜΦΗ ΠΟΤΝΙ' ΕΡΥΚΕ ΚΑΛΥΨΩ ΔΙΑ ΘΕΑΩΝ
ΕΝ ΣΠΕΣΣΙ ΓΛΑΦΥΡΟΙΣΙ, ΛΙΛΑΙΟΜΕΝΗ ΠΟΣΙΝ ΕΙΝΑΙ.

Homer, "The Odyssey", i 11-15

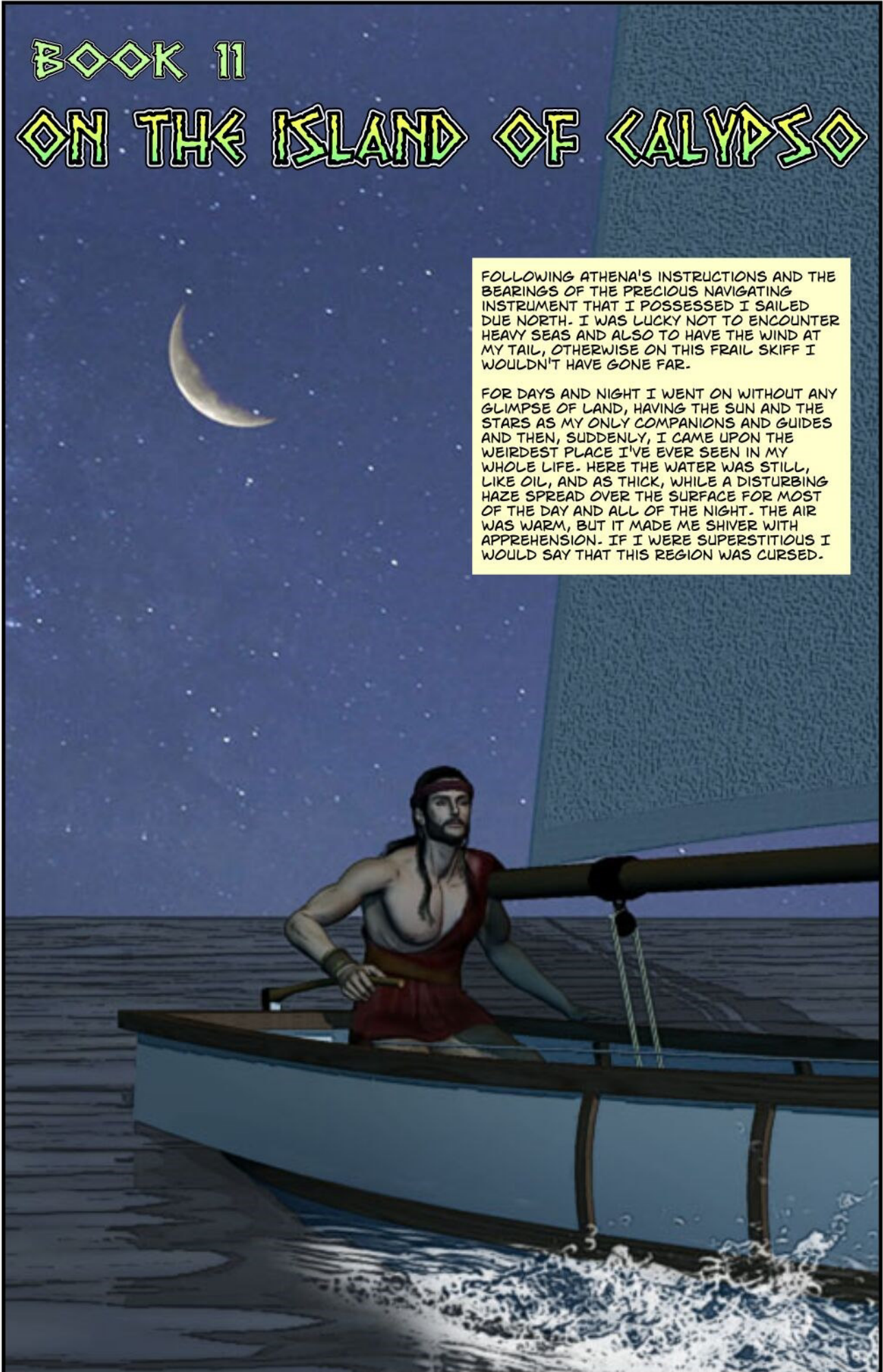
© 2013, Panos Coliopoulos
P.O. Box 26
Hydra 18040
Greece
email: panflynn@otenet.gr



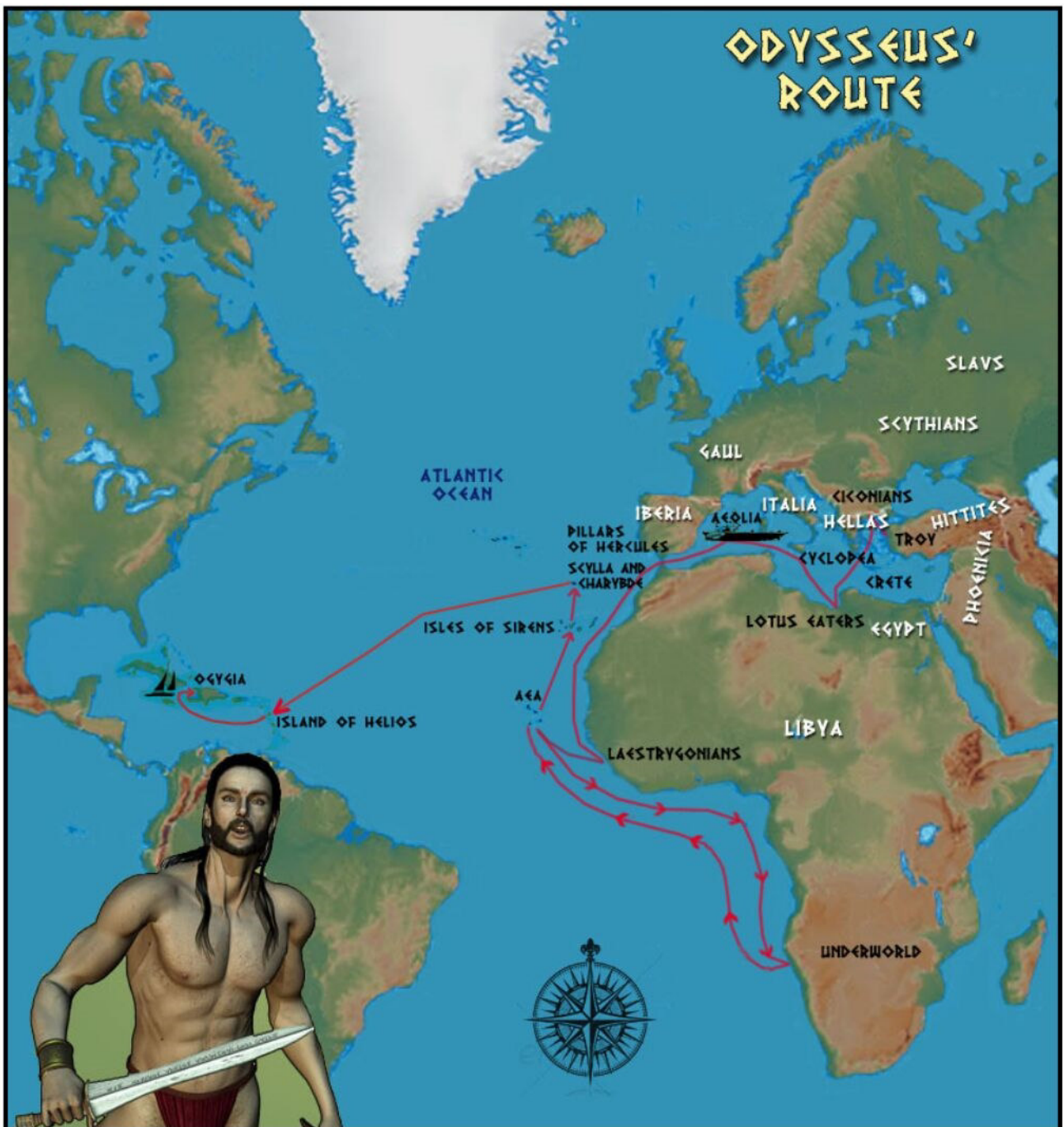
BOOK 11 ON THE ISLAND OF CALYPSO

FOLLOWING ATHENA'S INSTRUCTIONS AND THE BEARINGS OF THE PRECIOUS NAVIGATING INSTRUMENT THAT I POSSESSED I SAILED DUE NORTH. I WAS LUCKY NOT TO ENCOUNTER HEAVY SEAS AND ALSO TO HAVE THE WIND AT MY TAIL, OTHERWISE ON THIS FRAIL SKIFF I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR.

FOR DAYS AND NIGHT I WENT ON WITHOUT ANY GLIMPSE OF LAND, HAVING THE SUN AND THE STARS AS MY ONLY COMPANIONS AND GUIDES AND THEN, SUDDENLY, I CAME UPON THE WEIRDEST PLACE I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY WHOLE LIFE. HERE THE WATER WAS STILL, LIKE OIL, AND AS THICK, WHILE A DISTURBING HAZE SPREAD OVER THE SURFACE FOR MOST OF THE DAY AND ALL OF THE NIGHT. THE AIR WAS WARM, BUT IT MADE ME SHIVER WITH APPREHENSION. IF I WERE SUPERSTITIOUS I WOULD SAY THAT THIS REGION WAS CURSED.



FROM TIME TO TIME, AT NIGHT, A BRIGHT FLYING DISK WOULD CROSS THE STARLIT SKY AND PLUNGE -YES, LITERALLY PLUNGE- INTO THE DARK WATERS OF THE SEA. I'D NEVER SEEN, IN ALL MY TRAVELS, SO MUCH ACTIVITY BY THE AIRCRAFT OF THE GODS AND THIS DID LITTLE TO UPLIFT MY MORALE. FOR I KNEW ONLY TOO WELL BY NOW THAT WHEREVER THESE PEOPLE WENT TROUBLE FOLLOWED.



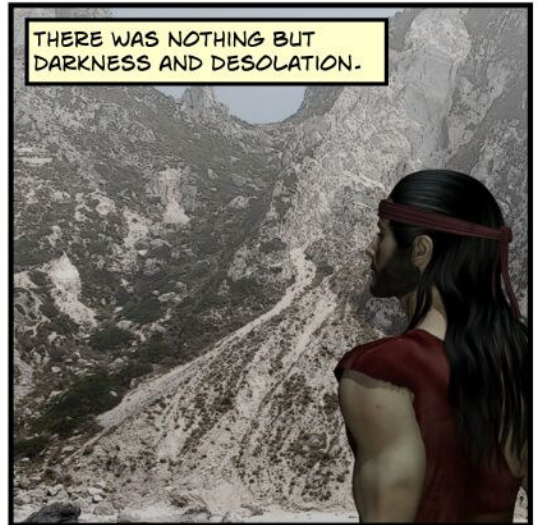
AT LONG LAST A DARK SHAPE OF AN ISLAND CAME INTO VIEW SPROUTING OUT OF THE FOG LIKE A DEMON OUT OF A WITCH'S CAULDRON AND I KNEW THAT I HAD REACHED MY DESTINATION -OGYGIA-



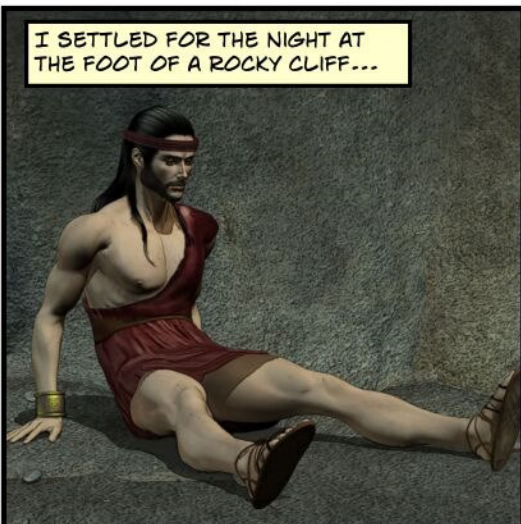
I DRAGGED THE BOAT ASHORE AND LOOKED AROUND IN PUZZLEMENT.



THERE WAS NOTHING BUT DARKNESS AND DESOLATION.



I SETTLED FOR THE NIGHT AT THE FOOT OF A ROCKY CLIFF...



...WONDERING WHAT LAY AHEAD FOR ME.



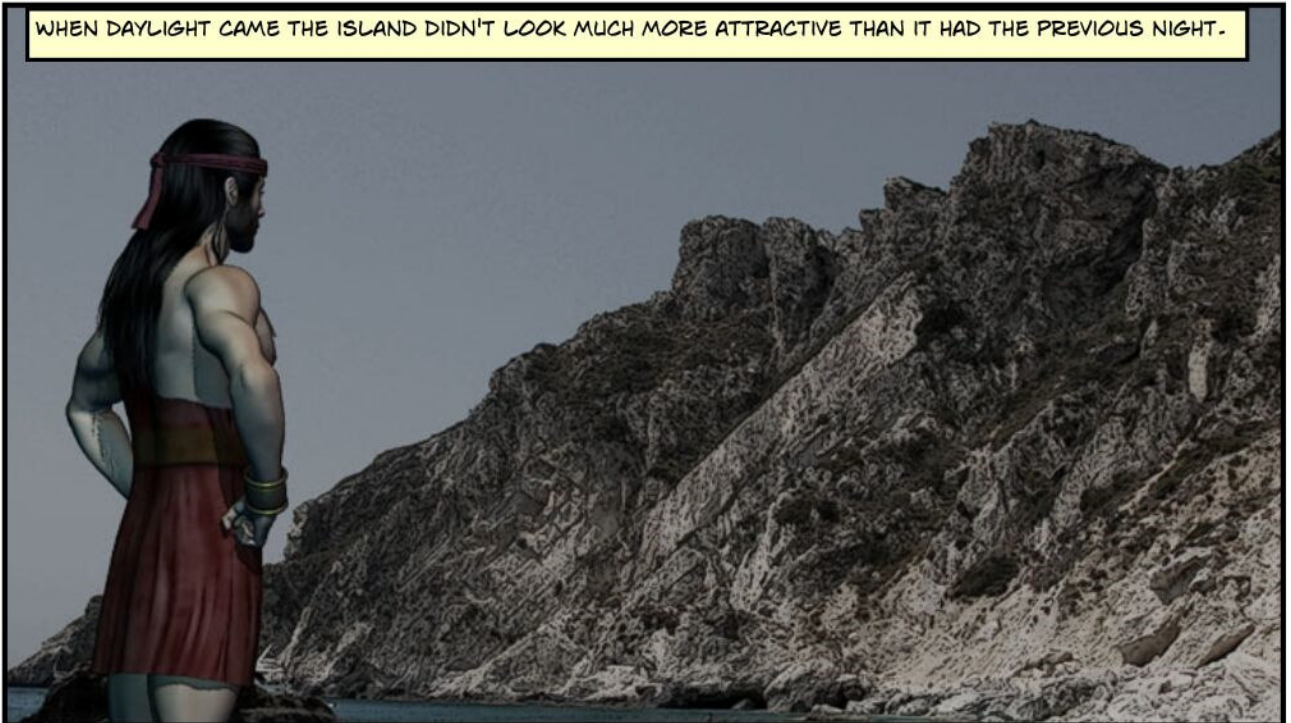
I WAS WOKEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BY THE DISTANT HOWLING OF A LONE WOLF.



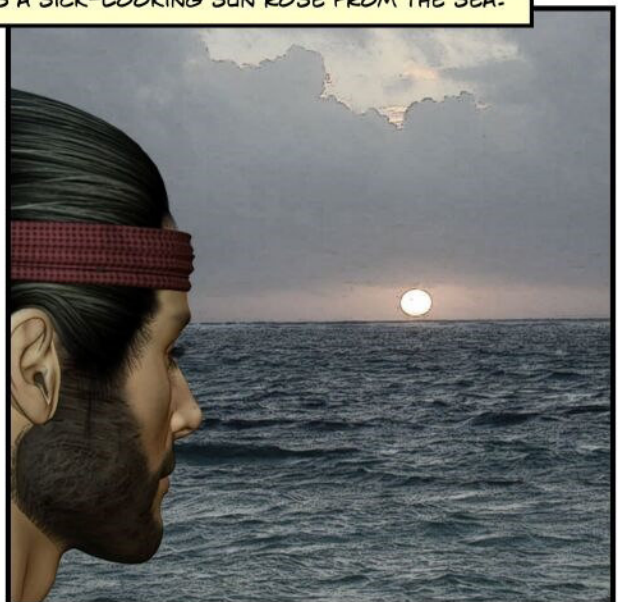
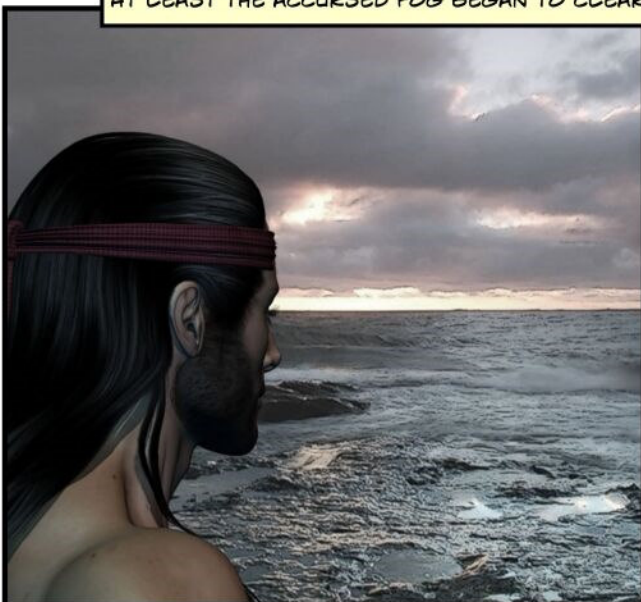
WOLVES! ON A TROPICAL ISLAND?!!!



WHEN DAYLIGHT CAME THE ISLAND DIDN'T LOOK MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN IT HAD THE PREVIOUS NIGHT.



AT LEAST THE ACCURSED FOG BEGAN TO CLEAR AS A SICK-LOOKING SUN ROSE FROM THE SEA.



THEN I SPOTTED THE HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF.

THIS MUST BE
CALYPSO'S PLACE.



A NARROW PATH THROUGH THE ROCKS
LED UP THERE... I FOLLOWED IT.



AND THUS, A LITTLE WHILE LATER, I WAS STANDING
AT THE LARGE VERANDA, NOT SURE OF WHAT I
SHOULD DO NEXT.



I CALLED BUT RECEIVING NO REPLY IN I WENT.



IT WAS A DARK, GLOOMY PLACE.



I WENT TO THE LARGE WINDOWS TO DRAW THE CURTAINS, TO LET SOME SUNLIGHT IN.



BUT A FIRM VOICE STOPPED ME IN MY TRACKS.

DON'T TOUCH THESE DRAPES. I CAN'T STAND DAYLIGHT.



A MOST EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN STOOD AT THE FAR END OF THE ROOM.



YOU MUST BE ODYSSEUS. ATHENA FOREWARNED ME OF YOUR ARRIVAL.



I DIDN'T BOTHER TO ASK HER HOW. BY NOW I WAS GETTING USED TO THE WAYS OF THE GODS.

YES, I AM ODYSSEUS, MY LADY.



YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, HAVEN'T YOU?

SHE DIDN'T WAIT FOR A REPLY.



YOU MUST BE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY.

MY SERVANTS WILL SEE THAT YOU HAVE ALL YOU NEED.



I NEED TO RETIRE NOW... I'M TIRED. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.



THANK YOU, MY LADY.



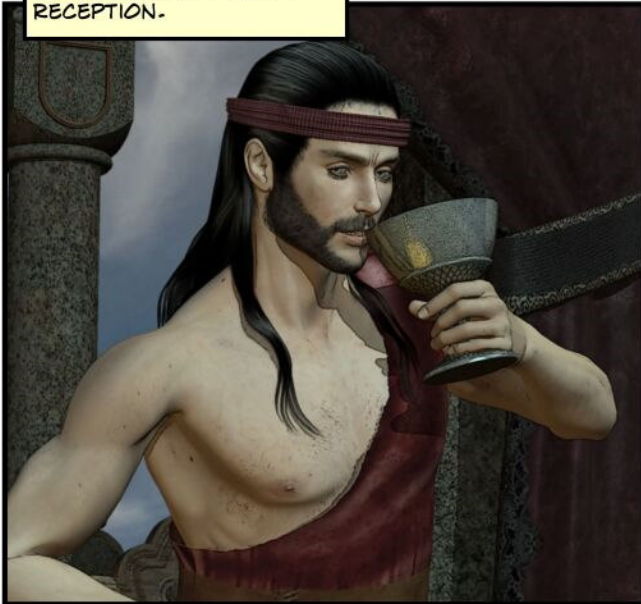
EAT, DRINK AND REST. WE'LL TALK AGAIN THIS EVENING.



TWO SERVANT GIRLS
BROUGHT IN FOOD AND
WINE AND VANISHED AS
SOON AS I WAS SERVED.



I WAS TIRED AND HUNGRY,
BUT ABOVE ALL PUZZLED
BY THIS RATHER ABRUPT
RECEPTION.



AS SOON AS I FINISHED MY
MEAL I LAY ON A COUCH...



...AND I DRIFTED QUICKLY INTO OBLIVION.



WHAT A WEIRD
PLACE! AND WHAT A
WEIRD WOMAN!



WHEN I WOKE UP THE SUN WAS SETTING.



WOULD THE MASTER LIKE TO TAKE A BATH NOW?

A VERY GOOD IDEA!



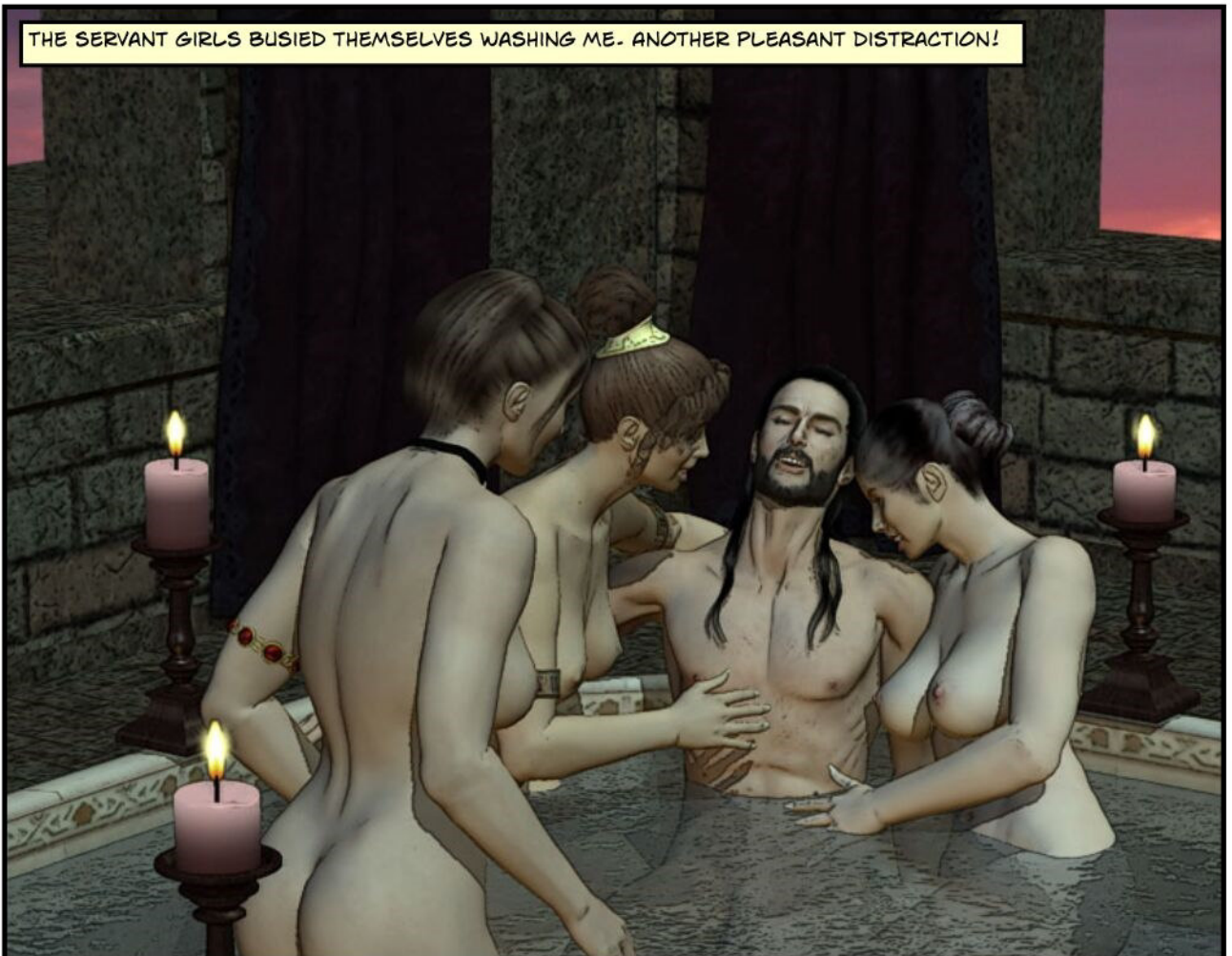
SHE LED THE WAY INTO A BATHROOM LIT BY CANDLES.



I LET MYSELF SLIDE INTO THE PERFUMED WATER AND IT FELT LIKE HEAVEN.



THE SERVANT GIRLS BUSIED THEMSELVES WASHING ME. ANOTHER PLEASANT DISTRACTION!





I BEGAN TO RELAX, ABANDONING MYSELF TO THE CARE OF THE GIRLS...



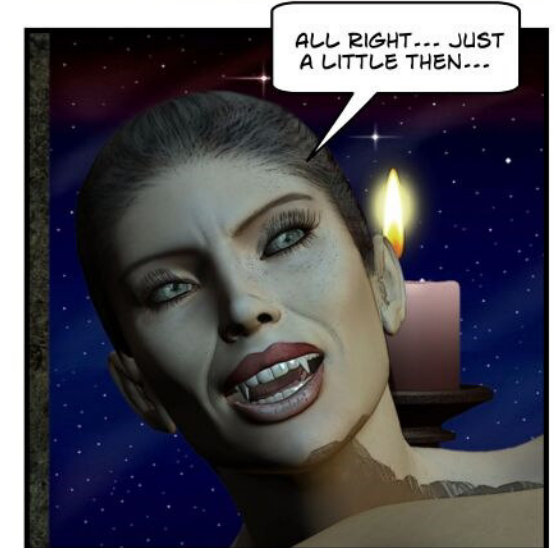
SHALL WE?...
JUST A LITTLE?...



THE MISTRESS
FORBIDS IT.

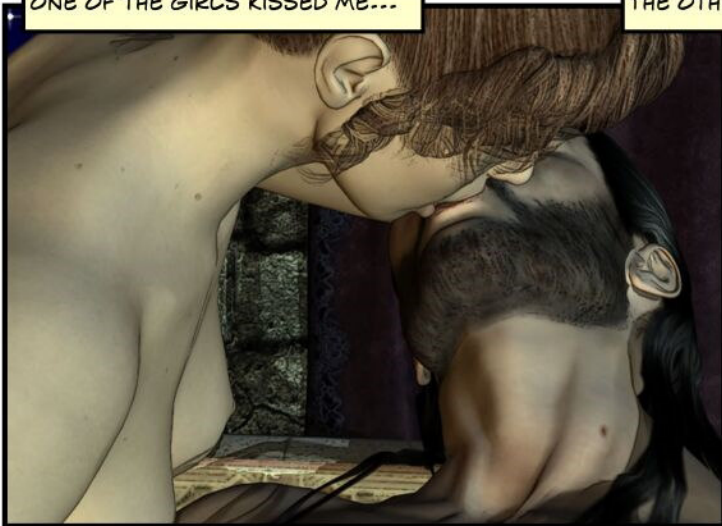


BECAUSE SHE IS
SELFISH.



ALL RIGHT... JUST
A LITTLE THEN...

ONE OF THE GIRLS KISSED ME...



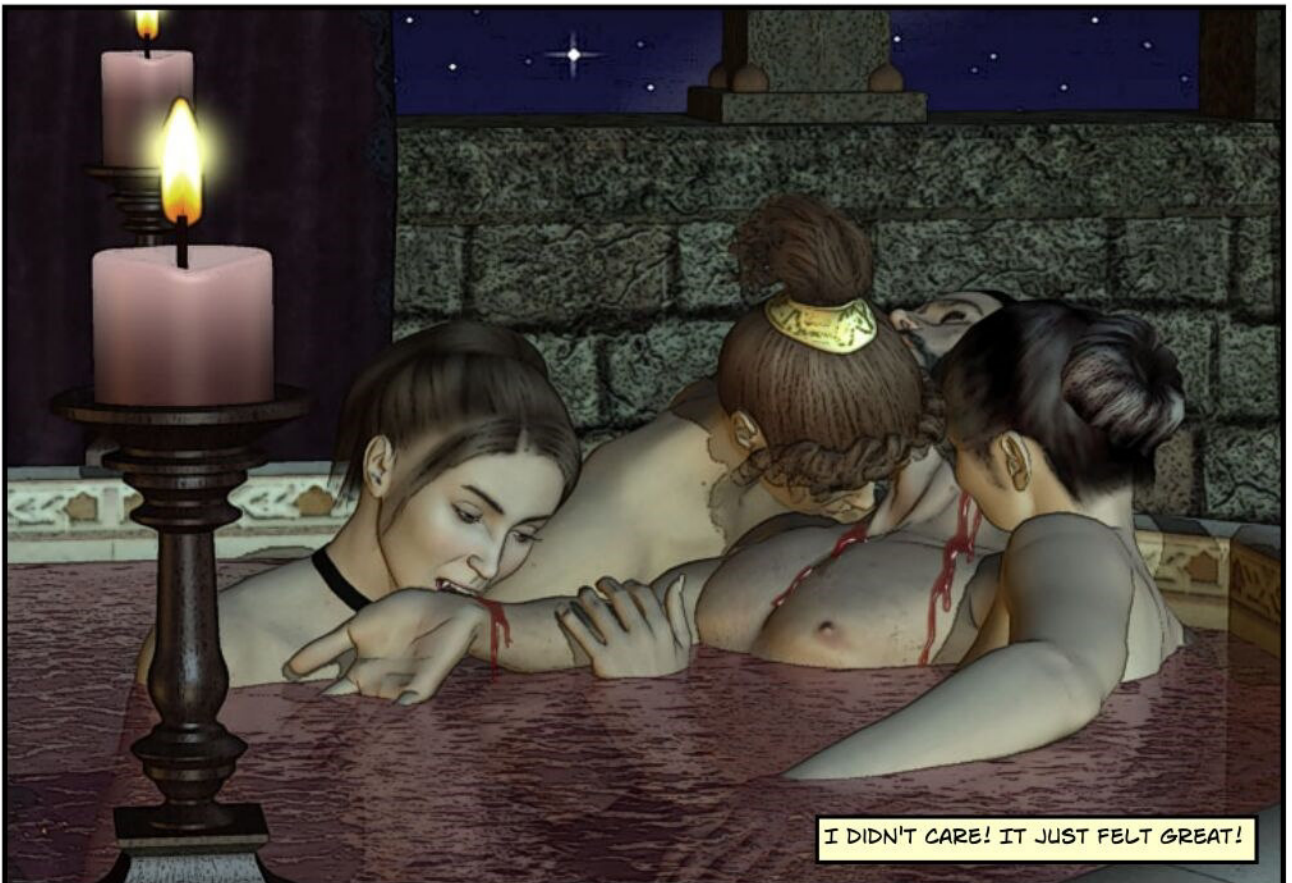
THE OTHERS GATHERED THEMSELVES CLOSER...



I FELT A PLEASANT PRICKLING ON THE SIDE OF MY NECK...



ANOTHER ONE ON MY WRIST...



I DIDN'T CARE! IT JUST FELT GREAT!

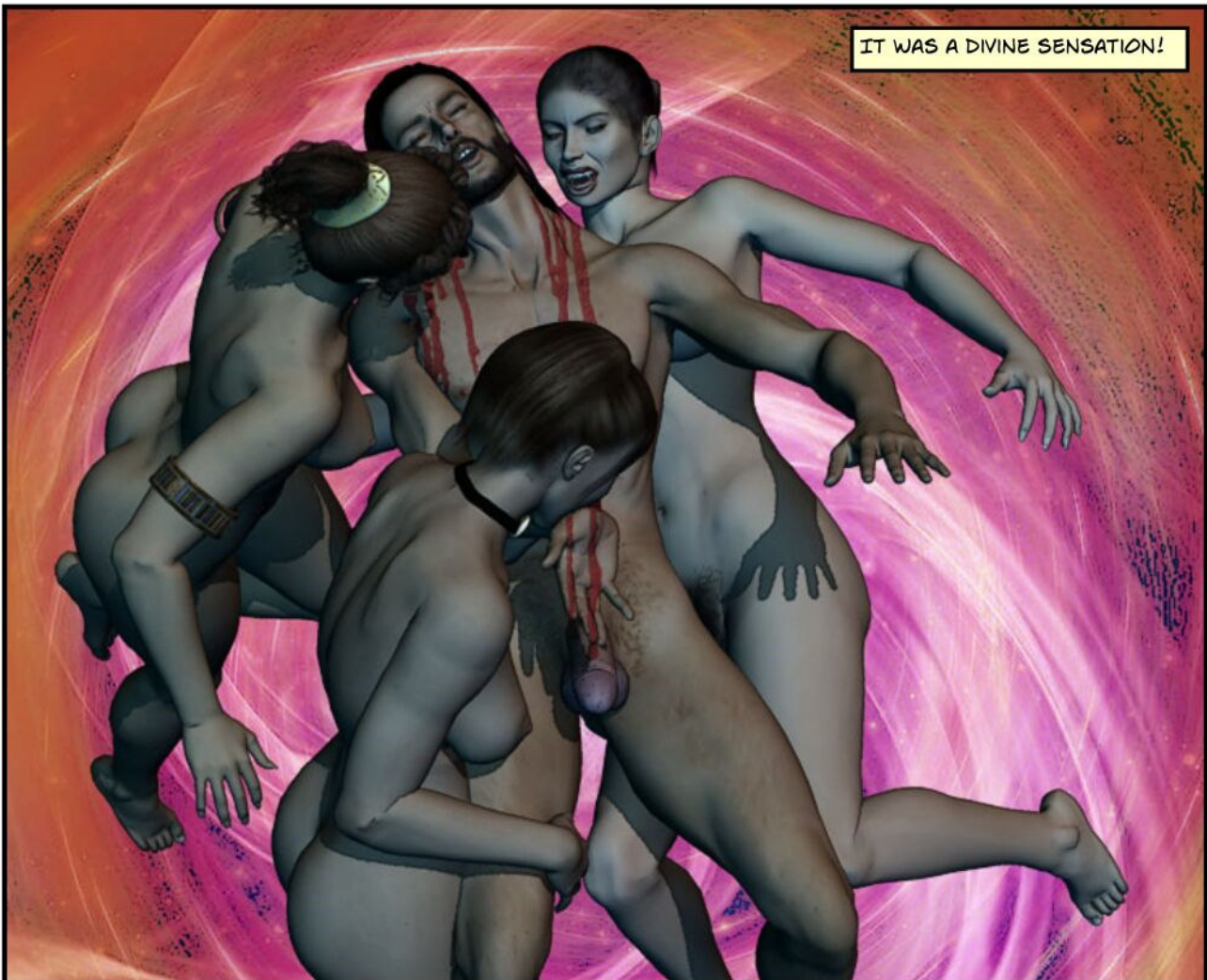
I BEGAN TO DRIFT FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY, INTO A SEA OF PLEASURE.



QUICKLY LOSING TRACK OF TIME AND SPACE...



IT WAS A DIVINE SENSATION!



I HEARD THE SHARP SHOUT AS IF IN A DREAM.

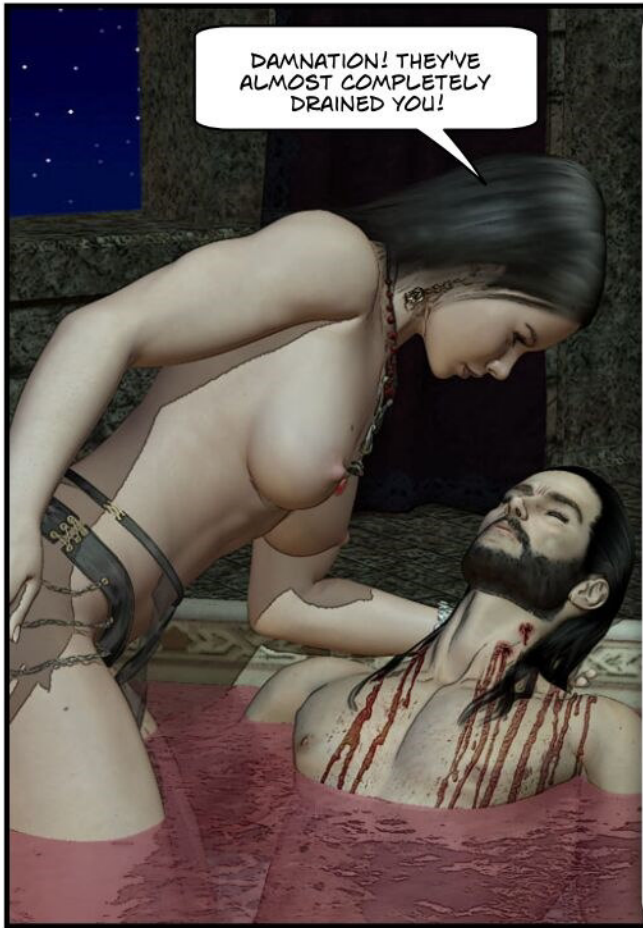
**MISERABLE
CREATURES!
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE!**

NOTHING, MISTRESS.
JUST TASTING A
LITTLE...

**OUT! OUT OF
HERE, STUPID
WENCHES!**

SHE THEN JUMPED INTO THE BATH TAKING
ME IN HER ARMS WITH AN URGENCY THAT
I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND.

BY ZEUS!...



DAMNATION! THEY'VE ALMOST COMPLETELY DRAINED YOU!



I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE!



I SAW HER OPENING THE VEIN AT HER NECK WITH A STROKE OF HER SHARP, LONG NAIL.



DRINK! DRINK DEEPLY. THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE.



I OBEYED, IN A DREAM LIKE STATE, DRINKING THE GODDESS'S OFFERED BLOOD... UNTIL... I REMEMBER NO MORE... FOR I SLID INTO OBLIVION.

I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND FOUND MYSELF LAYING IN BED NEXT TO CALYPSO.



THANK HEAVENS, YOU SURVIVED!



WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?



THEY ALMOST DRAINED YOU OF ALL YOUR BLOOD.



WHY WOULD THEY DO A THING LIKE THAT?





ONLY GHOULS BEHAVE LIKE THAT.

THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE. YOU HELLENES CALL THEM EMPUSAE.

BLOOD DRINKING CREATURES!



THEY'LL BE PUNISHED.

I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT YOU MADE ME DRINK YOUR BLOOD.

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOU.



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'M A GODDESS, REMEMBER?



ATHENA WARNED ME THAT YOU WERE STRANGE...

SHE WAS CORRECT. SLEEP NOW. WE'LL TALK TOMORROW.

I WOKE UP LATE IN THE MORNING AND WENT DOWN TO THE BIG ROOM WHERE I FOUND CALYPSO LOOKING OUT TO THE SEA BEHIND THE HEAVY DRAPES.



YOU LOOK REFRESHED, ODYSSEUS.

THANKS TO YOUR CARE, CALYPSO.

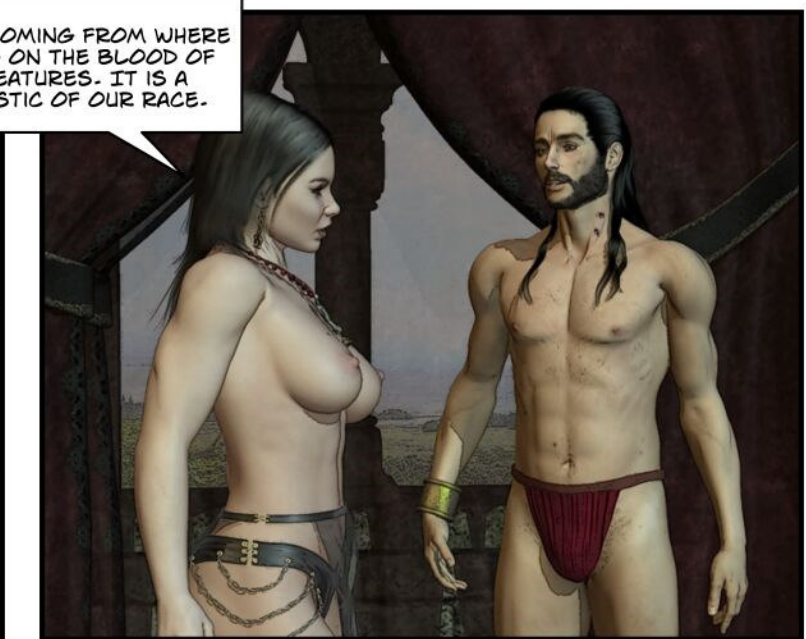
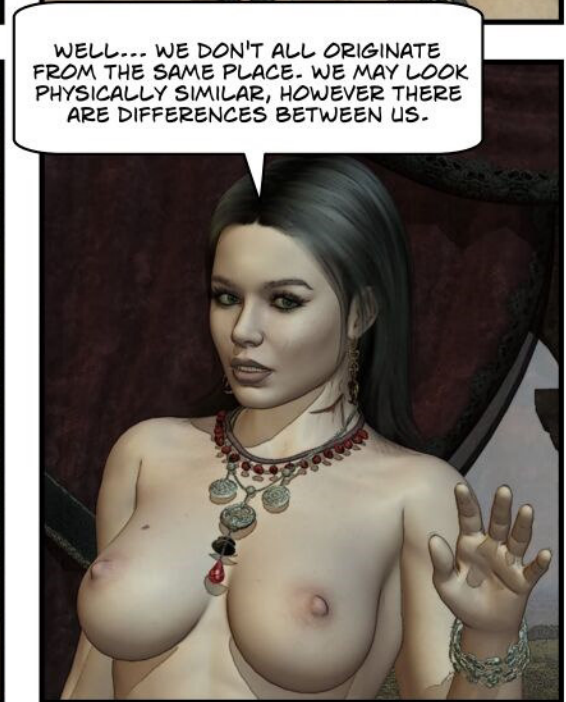


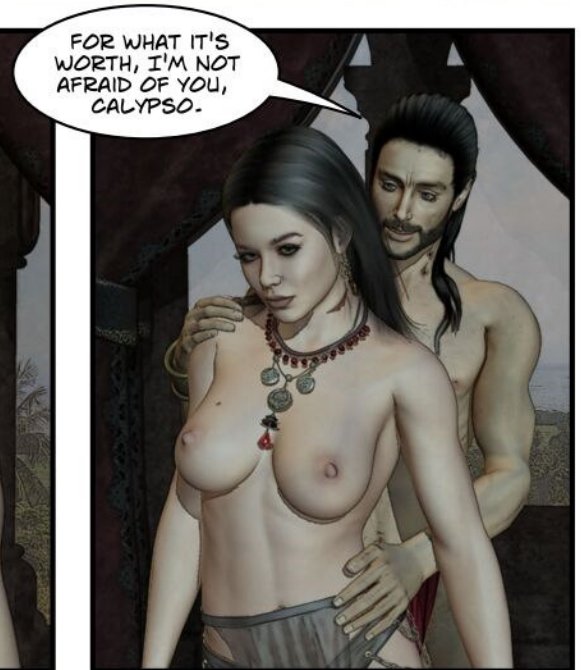
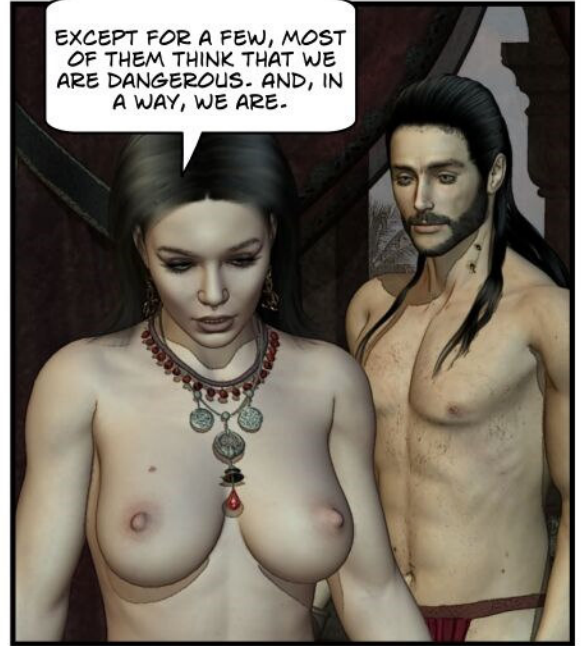
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

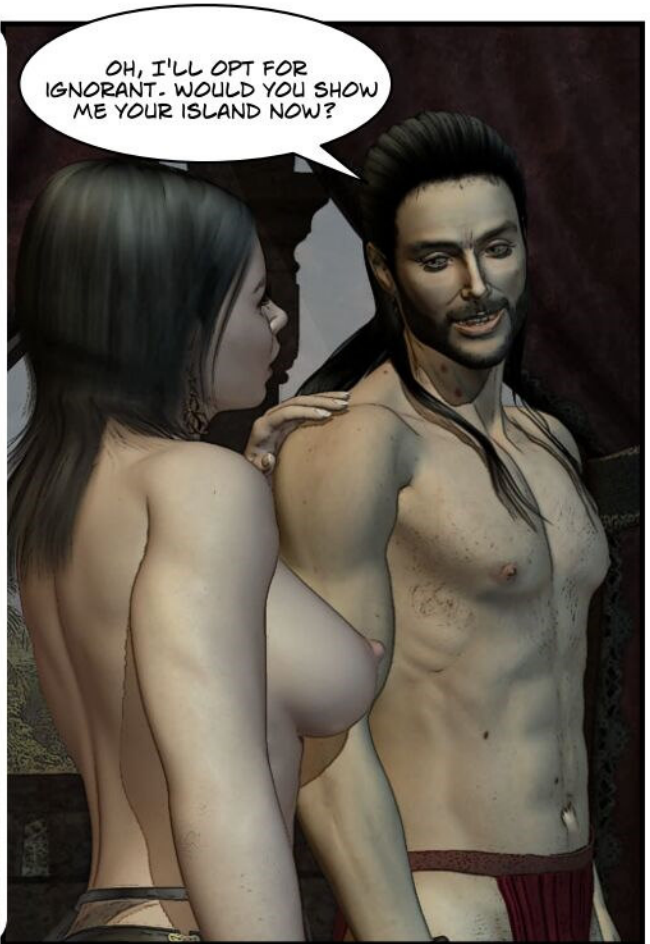
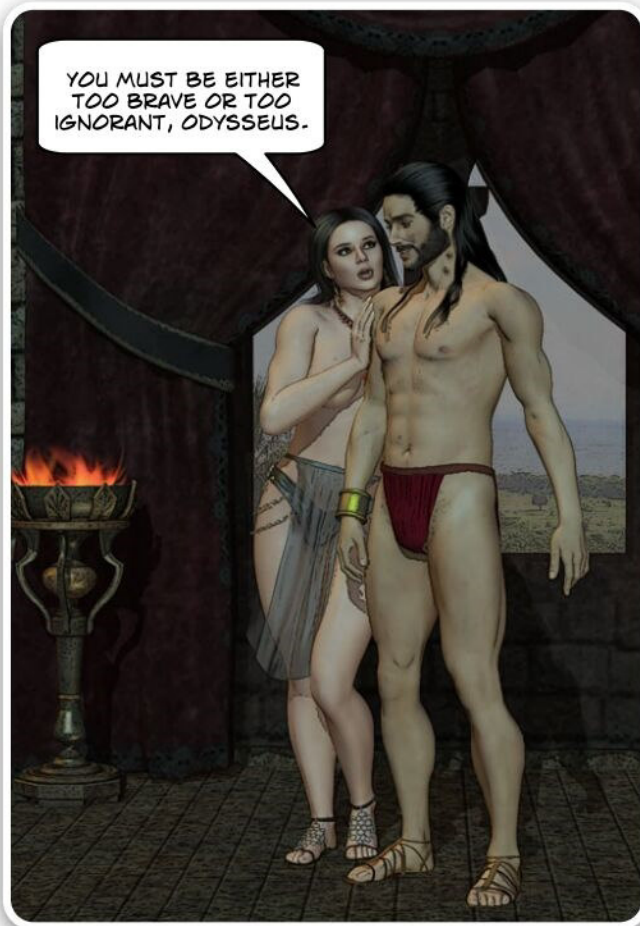
CAN YOU NOW TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?











THE SKY WAS OVERCAST THAT DAY AND YET SHE COVERED HER HEAD WITH A SHAWL.

I CAN'T STAND DIRECT LIGHT...



DON'T YOU EVER COME OUT OF YOUR HOUSE?

OH, YES, BUT SELDOM BY DAY.



AND YET, THIS IS AN INTERESTING ISLAND.



AN INTERESTING PRISON.



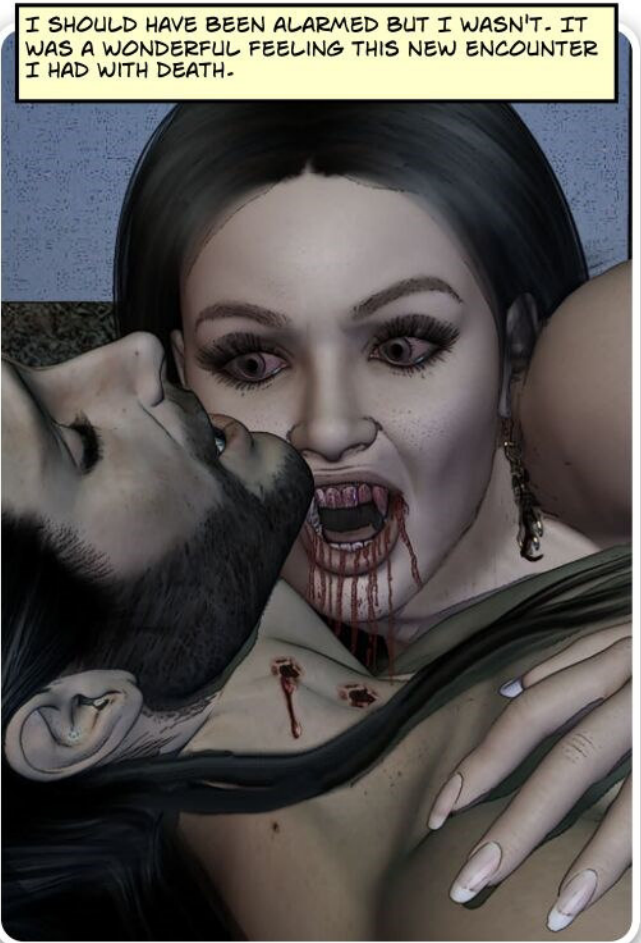
THERE WAS GENUINE SADNESS IN HER VOICE.



THAT SAME NIGHT I TOOK HER IN MY ARMS AND LOVED HER WITH THE PASSION OF A MAN WHO HAS BEEN SEPARATED FROM HIS BELOVED FOR A LONG TIME.



SUDDENLY, AT THE PEAK OF HER PAROXYSM I FELT HER SHARP CANINES ON MY JUGULAR VEIN.



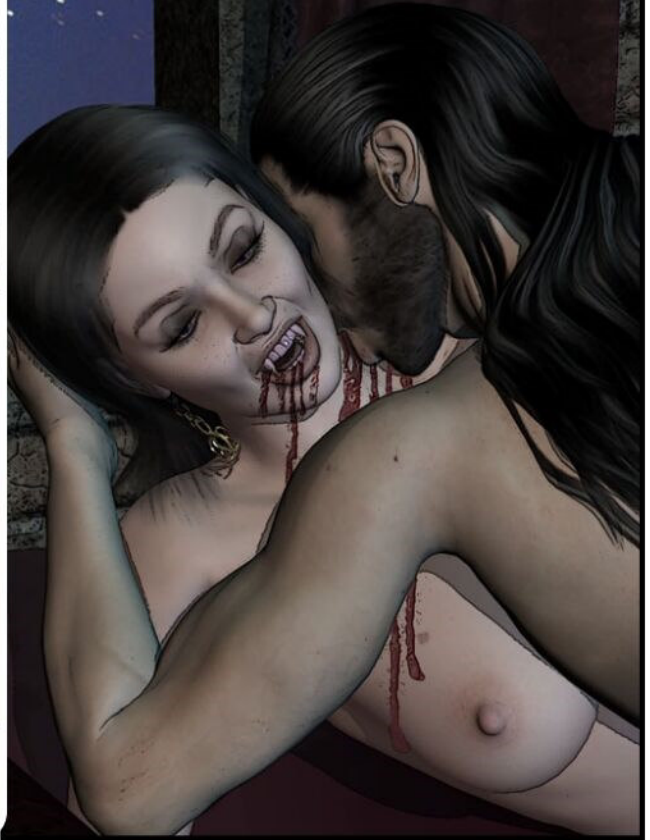
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALARMED BUT I WASN'T. IT WAS A WONDERFUL FEELING THIS NEW ENCOUNTER I HAD WITH DEATH.

SHE STOPPED AFTER A WHILE. AND ONCE MORE, WITH HER FINGERNAIL SHE OPENED HER OWN VEIN.

DRINK UP, MY LOVE. DRINK IMMORTALITY THROUGH MY BLOOD.



AND ONCE AGAIN I OBEYED.



IT WAS LIKE AN INITIATION CEREMONY, HORRIBLE AND SACRED AT THE SAME TIME THAT WAS TYING US TOGETHER... FOR ETERNITY.



TIME PASSED IN A KIND OF CRIMSON HAZE AND WE WERE BECOMING MORE ATTACHED TO EACH OTHER WITH EVERY DAY AND NIGHT THAT WE SPENT TOGETHER.



I NOTICED THAT MY DIET HAD CHANGED. THE FOOD AND DRINKS I WAS SERVED I HAD NEVER TASTED BEFORE.



I'M TURNING YOU INTO A GOD.

A GOD OR A GHOUL?



DOES IT MATTER? YOU ARE BECOMING IMMORTAL.



I DON'T CARE. ALL I WANT IS TO BE WITH YOU.



IT WAS A STRANGE LIFE, YET FULL OF EXCITEMENT.



SOMETIMES CALYPSO'S SERVANT GIRLS WOULD JOIN OUR BLOODY RITES.



AND THEN THE PLEASURE WAS ALMOST UNBEARABLE.



FROM TIME TO TIME THE FOUR OF THEM WOULD DISAPPEAR. AND WHEN THEY RESURFACED THE NEXT DAY THEY LOOKED STRANGELY REJUVENATED.



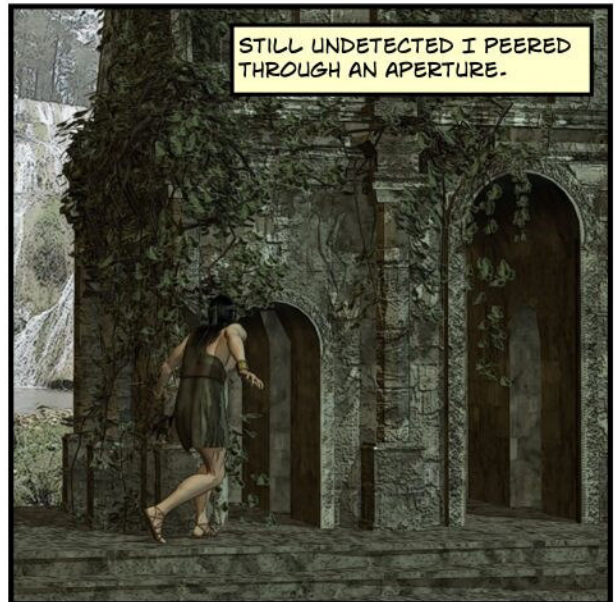
ONCE I FOLLOWED THEM, OUT OF CURIOSITY.



THE PAVILION WAS LOST AMONGST THE LUXURIOUS VEGETATION.



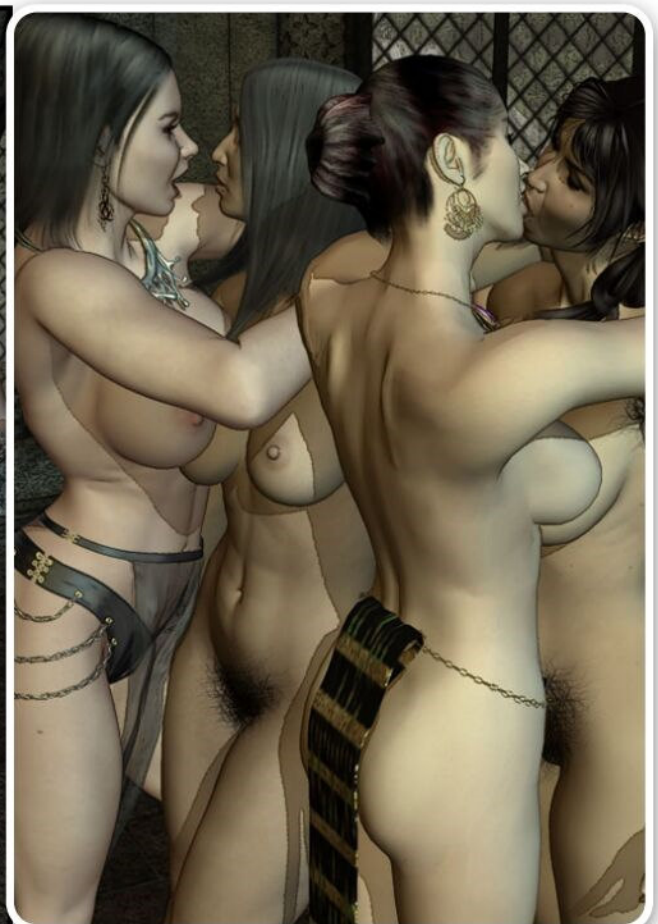
STILL UNDETECTED I PEERED THROUGH AN APERTURE.



THE FOUR NATIVE GIRLS WERE SHAKING WITH TERROR.



THEN, THE GHOULS TOOK A GIRL EACH.



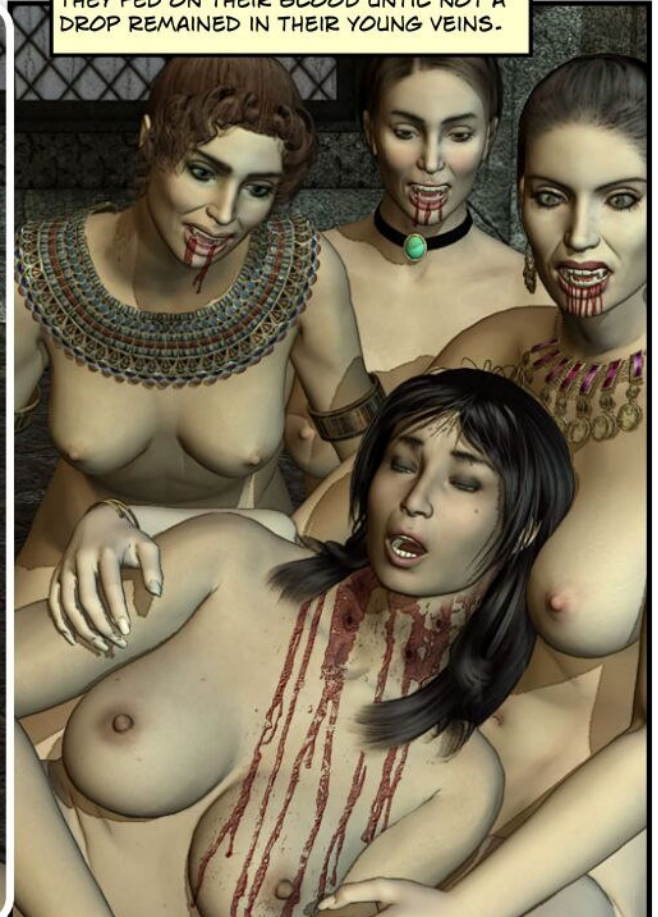
THEN THEY MADE PASSIONATE LOVE TO THEM.




AND AT THE MOMENT OF THE HIGHEST PEAK OF PLEASURE...




THEY FED ON THEIR BLOOD UNTIL NOT A DROP REMAINED IN THEIR YOUNG VEINS.



FROM ODYSSEUS' NOTEBOOK



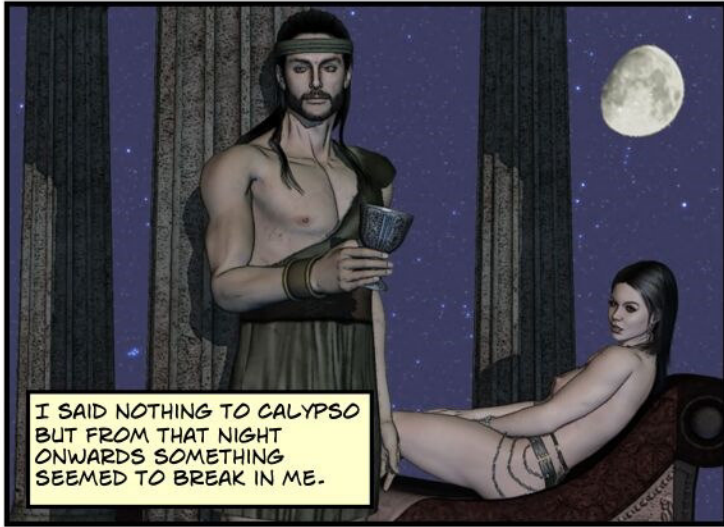
OF ALL PLACES THAT I HAVE VISITED SINCE OUR DEPARTURE FROM TROY THIS ISLAND IS PERHAPS THE STRANGEST. SITUATED AMONG THE MULTITUDE OF TROPICAL ISLANDS THAT ONE FINDS ACROSS THE OCEAN, AT A STONE'S THROW FROM THE LARGE CONTINENT OF THE WEST, IT IS THE GLOOMIEST PLACE IN THIS AREA. THE NATIVES OF THE NEARBY ISLANDS AND OF THE CONTINENT AVOID IT AND ONLY SEND THOSE CONDEMNED FOR CRIMES AND FAULTS AGAINST SOCIETY THERE PLUS A NUMBER OF YOUNG GIRLS AT EACH FULL MOON, FOLLOWING AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THEIR ELDERS AND CALYPSO, IN ORDER TO PREVENT HER MISSIONS FROM RAIDING THEIR COUNTRIES IN SEARCH OF VICTIMS.



CALYPSO AND HER FOUR SERVANTS ARE INDEED GHOULS, "EMPUSAE", AS WE, ACHAEANS, CALL THEM AND THEY LIVE OFF THE BLOOD OF HUMANS, PREFERABLY THAT OF YOUNG GIRLS. THEIR VICTIMS DO NOT DIE IN THE SENSE THAT WE UNDERSTAND DEATH. INSTEAD THEY BECOME MINDLESS CREATURES THAT ROAM THE ACCURSED ISLAND AT NIGHT IN SEARCH OF ANIMALS THAT WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH BLOOD, WHICH IS AN ELEMENT NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THEM IN THIS HALF-LIFE CONDITION.

YES, THIS IS A NIGHTMARISH PLACE AND IT IS NO WONDER THAT EVEN THE GODS AVOID IT. AND YET, I HAD FALLEN FOR CALYPSO IN A STRANGE SORT OF A WAY AND THERE WERE TIMES THAT I TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF MAKING THIS MY PERMANENT HOME.





I SAID NOTHING TO CALYPSO BUT FROM THAT NIGHT ONWARDS SOMETHING SEEMED TO BREAK IN ME.



I STARTED TO REALISE THAT THIS WASN'T A WAY TO SPEND ONE'S LIFE.



EVEN IF IMMORTALITY CAME AS A SPECIAL BONUS.



MORE AND MORE OFTEN I SOUGHT TO STAY ALONE.



UNDER PRETEXT OF HUNTING. ANYTHING TO GET AWAY FROM THE GLOOMY HOUSEHOLD.

IT WAS ON ONE SUCH DAY THAT I CAME ACROSS HER.

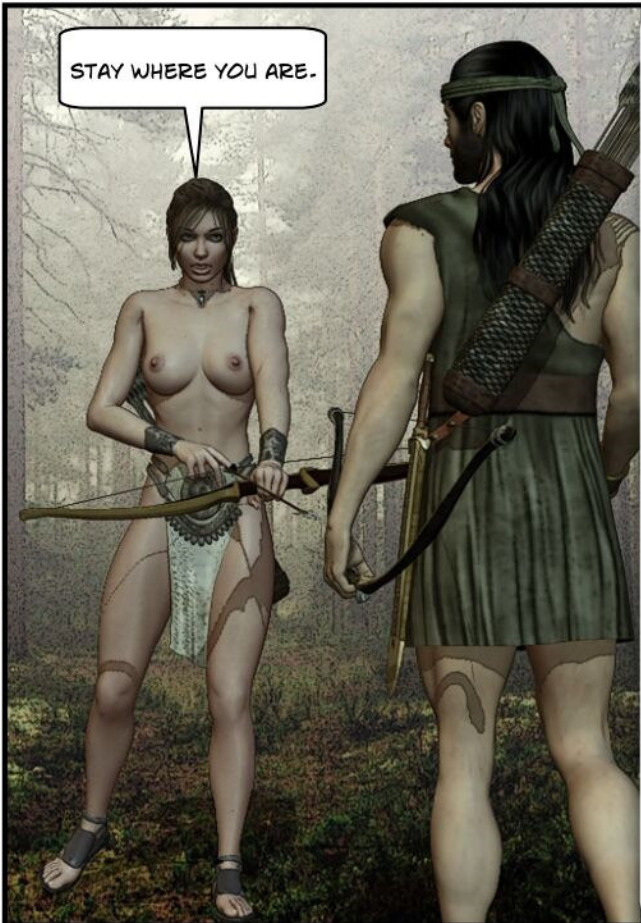
AN EXCELLENT SHOT!



I MEAN NO HARM TO YOU, GIRL.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE.

ARE YOU... ONE OF "THEM"?





I AM ARTEMIS --IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING.



I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED FROM YOUR ABRUPT MANNERS.



DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, HUMAN. I CAN STRIKE YOU DEAD ON THE SPOT, YOU KNOW.



YOU COULD, BUT YOU WON'T.

OH?... AND WHY NOT?





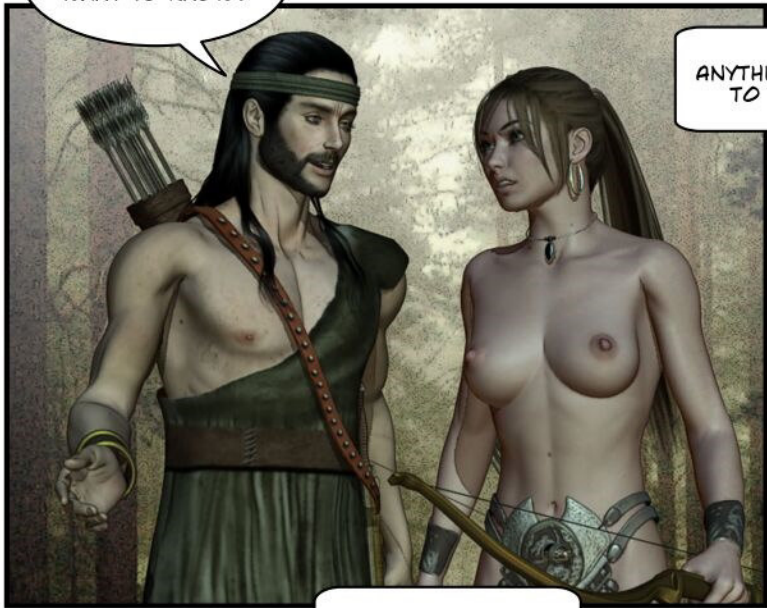
BECAUSE YOU ARE CURIOUS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ME.

I SAW HER SMILING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

YOU ARE RIGHT. I MUST ADMIT THAT I AM CURIOUS.



WHAT IS THAT YOU WANT TO KNOW?



ANYTHING YOU CARE TO TELL ME.



THE BARDS ARE ALREADY SINGING ALL SORTS OF TALL TALES ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES.

ALL RIGHT THEN. I'LL GIVE YOU A TRUE ACCOUNT OF MY TRIBULATIONS.



WE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY TOGETHER, WALKING AND TALKING LIKE GOOD, OLD FRIENDS.



YOU KNOW... I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO PLEASANT EITHER.

AND WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR HER TO LEAVE...



YOU KNOW... I DIDN'T EXPECT TO HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME ON THIS TRIP...



YOU KNOW... I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO PLEASANT EITHER.

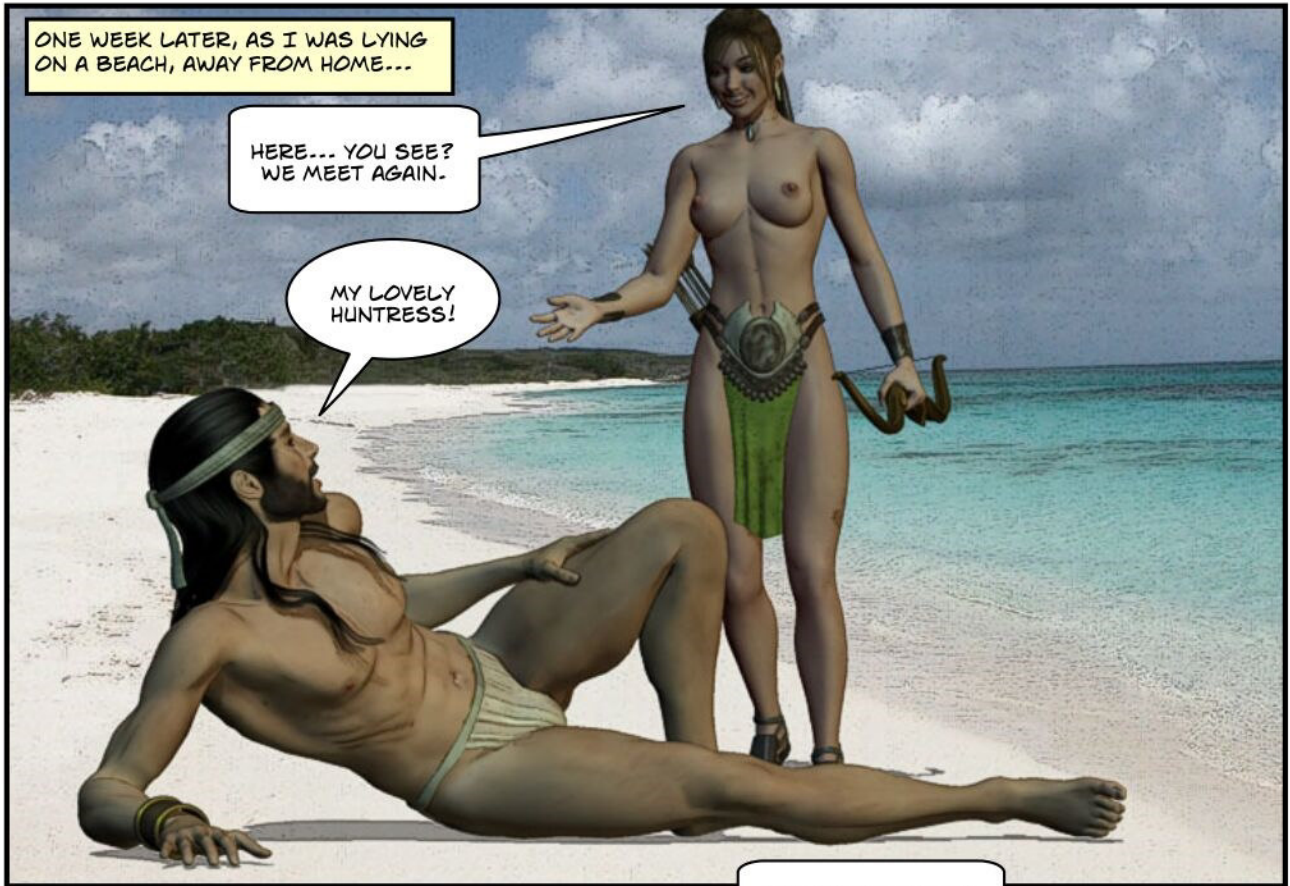


YOU MAKE ME LAUGH WHEN I SHOULD BE OFFENDED.



WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

I THINK SO...



ONE WEEK LATER, AS I WAS LYING ON A BEACH, AWAY FROM HOME...

HERE... YOU SEE? WE MEET AGAIN.

MY LOVELY HUNTRESS!



YOUR LOVELY HUNTRESS?!!!

MEANING... I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN.



YOU MUST BE PART OF A VERY SMALL MINORITY, YOU KNOW.

I DISAGREE.



DON'T BOTHER. PEOPLE DON'T LIKE ME AND I KNOW IT.

IF THAT IS TRUE, THEY ARE WRONG.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?



OH, JUST WHAT PEOPLE SAY... THAT YOU ARE ILL-TEMPERED, SELFISH, MOROSE, VENGEFUL...



THAT YOU LIKE HUNTING, HATE MEN, LOVE GIRLS...



HAVE NO FRIENDS, LIKE TO GO ALONE INTO FAR AWAY PLACES...



AH, YES... ALSO THAT YOU ARE IN THE HABIT OF KILLING BOYS WHO HAPPEN TO SEE YOU NAKED...



THEN I MUST KILL YOU ALSO, FOR I INTEND TO GO INTO THE WATER.

WE SWAM IN THE CLEAR WATERS AND DIVED AND PLAYED AROUND LIKE CHILDREN.



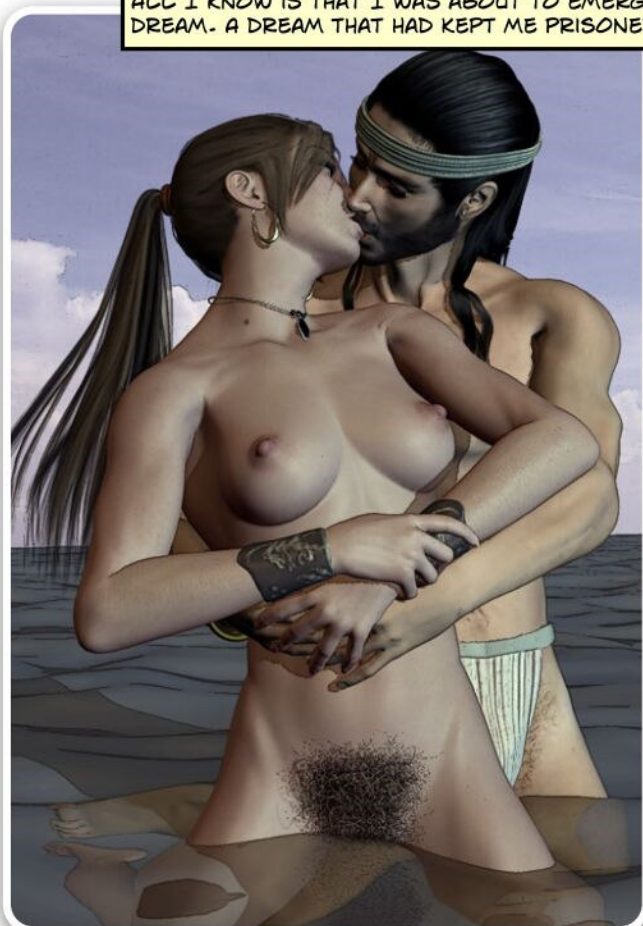
OUR LAUGHTER RANG TOTALLY OUT OF PLACE ON THIS SAD ISLAND.



I DON'T KNOW WHO KISSED WHOM FIRST.



ALL I KNOW IS THAT I WAS ABOUT TO EMERGE OUT OF A VERY BAD DREAM. A DREAM THAT HAD KEPT ME PRISONER FOR A VERY LONG TIME.



OUR LOVEMAKING HAD NOTHING OF THE AWFULNESS AND DARK INTENSITY OF MY UNION WITH CALYPSO.



SO MUCH FOR ME NOT LIKING MEN!

RUMOURS AREN'T ALWAYS TRUE, MY LOVELY ONE.





TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH I CAME CARRYING A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

FROM...?

YES, YOUR PRECIOUS ATHENA. SHE SAYS THAT YOU CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE ANY TIME YOU LIKE NOW. THAT ALL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.



WHERE SHOULD I GO?

HOW ABOUT HOME?



HOME...

YES. ATHENA SAYS THAT THERE ARE THINGS YOU SHOULD BE TAKING CARE OF OVER THERE.

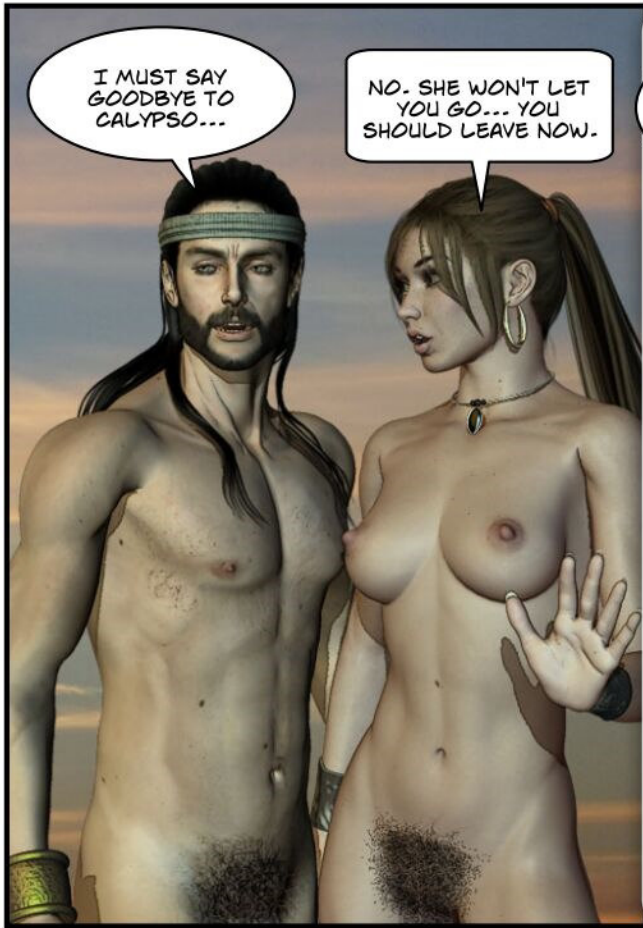


WHAT'S WRONG?... MY SON...?

SHE ONLY SAID THAT IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN.

HOW SHOULD I DO THAT?

YOUR BOAT WILL TAKE YOU ACROSS THE OCEAN, TO SCHERIA. WITH SOME LUCK... SHE'LL MEET YOU THERE.



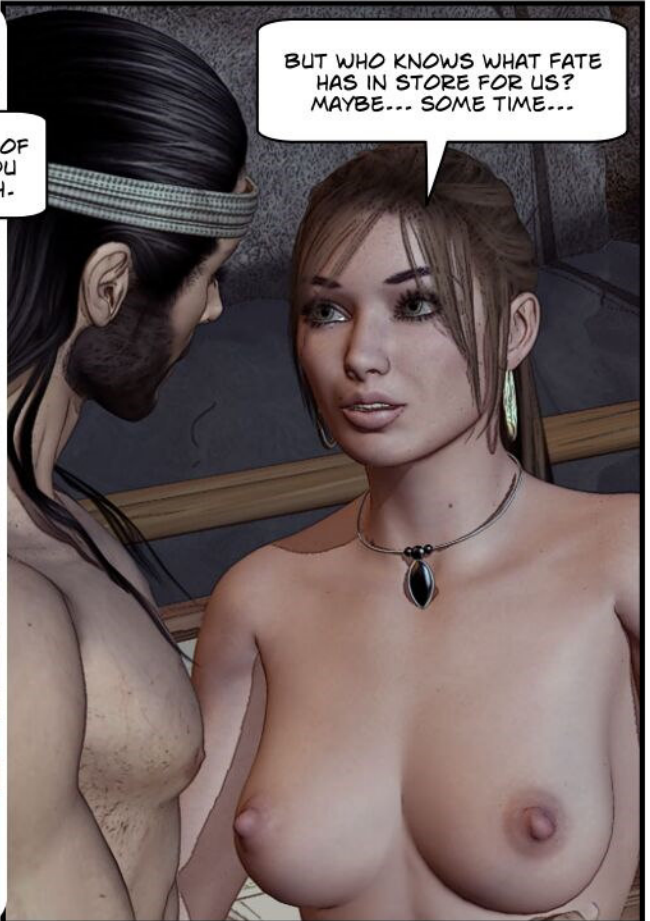


GO! NOW THAT THE WIND IS FAVOURABLE.



ARE WE GOING TO MEET AGAIN?

I BET YOU ASK THAT OF ALL GODDESSES YOU HAPPEN TO LAY WITH.



BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE FOR US? MAYBE... SOME TIME...

IT WAS WITH A KISS THAT I LEFT THIS STRANGE PLACE. A KISS THAT WOULD KEEP ME WARM THROUGHOUT THIS LONG AND PERILOUS CROSSING.





