

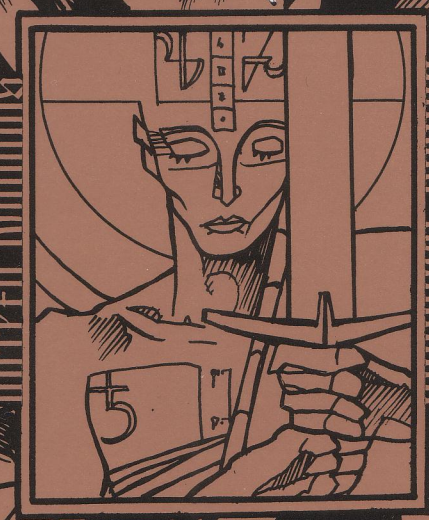


May 2011

Volume 10

Angel

P a n d o r a m i c u m



5

4

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Engel

P a n d o r a m i c u m

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THERE IS A STORY
CUMULUS TOLD ME

IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE FIRST DEITY,
THE CREATOR, WHO SAID, "I AM."

HE HAD BARELY SPOKEN THE
WORDS WHEN HE FELT FEAR.



HE THOUGHT, "WHAT AM I
AFRAID OF? I AM, AND
THIS IS ALL THERE IS."



THE REASON WAS THAT HE
WAS LONELY AND WISHED
THERE WAS ANOTHER.

THUS, THE GOD
FELT A CRAVING.



HE SWELLED AND
PARTED AND BECAME
MAN AND WOMAN.



THEY CREATED THE
WORLD FOR HIM.

THEN I ASKED CUMULUS, "WHAT
DOES THAT STORY MEAN?"



HE LOOKED AT ME FOR A LONG
TIME. "FEAR WAS THE FIRST
EXPERIENCE," HE FINALLY SAID.

"FEAR WAS THE FIRST EMOTION."

THE RAGUELITES' HIMMEL, ONE OF
THE LARGE CASTLES OF THE ANGELS.



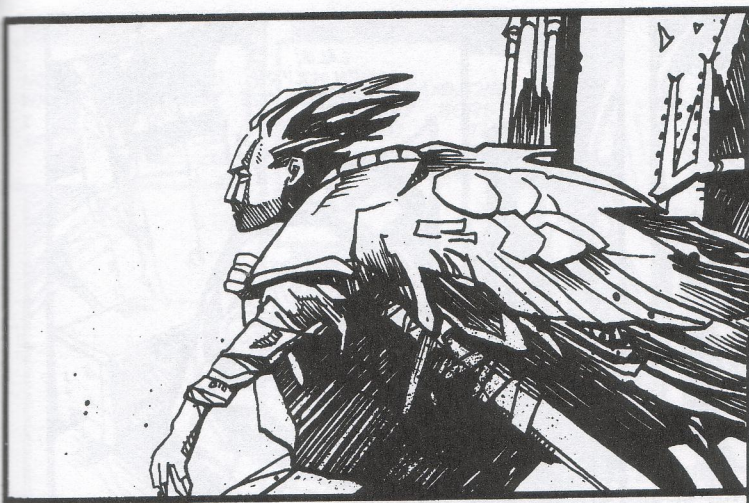
MY NAME IS LÂLE.
I AM FOURTEEN.



STILL A CHILD,
CUMULUS SAYS.



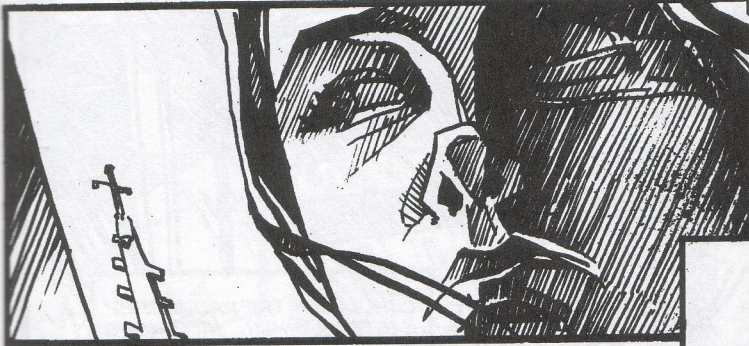
I KICKED HIS
HOLY BUTT FOR IT.



RAVEN KNOWS THAT I AM HERE. BUT HE WON'T SHOW IT. SMALL WONDER; IN THE BEGINNING, HE DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME. AND HE'S IGNORED ME SINCE LAST WE TALKED... HOW MANY? FOUR YEARS AGO?

OLDER BROTHERS CAN BE DAMN MEAN. AND BITTER.

THE BOUNTY RIDERS CAME TO OUR VILLAGE FIVE YEARS AGO. THEY TOOK RAVEN AND A FEW OTHER BOYS TO THE HIMMEL. MY FATHER PUT ON HIS TALISMAN, WENT THROUGH THE DOOR AND NEVER RETURNED. MY MOTHER DIED FROM GRIEF. ONLY I REMAINED.



SO I WENT TO THE HIMMEL. THE GUARDIANS THOUGHT I WAS ONE OF THE SCULLIONS. I WENT IN AND HAVEN'T LEFT THE CASTLE SINCE. NO ONE KNOWS THAT I AM HERE. NO ONE EXCEPT FOR CUMULUS AND RAVEN.

IT IS WARM, IN SPITE OF THE WIND. IT COMES FROM THE WEST, BUT IT CANNOT CHASE THE HEAT OF THE INFERNO. THEY WILL SOON START HARVESTING THE CABBAGE IN THE CASTLE GARDENS.



MYRIEL...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

THE INFERNO WILL PASS
THE HIMMEL. NO ONE
WILL BE HURT.



THAT'S NOT IT. IT IS
SO... BIG. BIGGER
THAN EVERYTHING
THAT'S OURS.



WHY IS
LUCIFER'S TOOL
MIGHTIER THAN
THE LORD'S
TOOLS?



NOT MIGHTIER.
MORE CRUEL.
THAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE.



KADIEL FORMS AN
ASSAULT DETACHMENT.
HE WANTS YOU TO BE
PART OF IT!

HE ASKED
FOR ME?

EXPLICITLY.



CABBAGE IN AUTUMN. AND
SUDDENLY, EVERYONE
WANTS TO BE A HERO.

BLOCKHEADS.



AT SOME POINT, HE HAS TO TALK TO ME. HE OWES ME AS MUCH.



AT SOME POINT...



LÂLE!
WHEN YOU'RE
ANGRY, YOU ARE
HARD TO MISS.



DO YOU THINK
THE INFERNO WILL
TOUCH US?

CUMULUS IS THE RAGUELITES'
CARTOGRAPHER. HE KNOWS
MORE ABOUT THE FIRES THAN
ANYBODY ELSE.

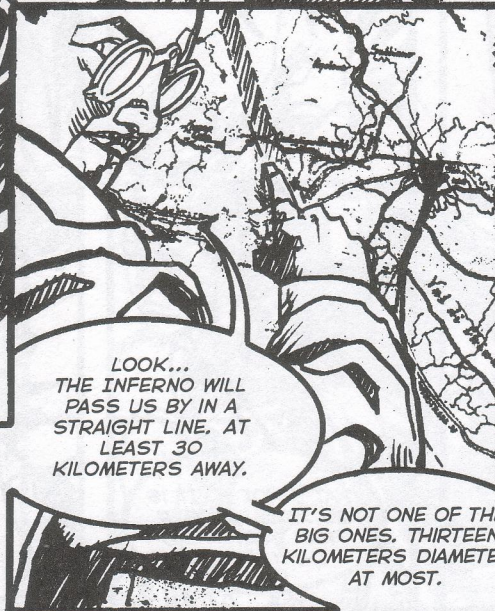
AND ABOUT GIRLS HIDING
IN VENTILATION TUBES AND
LARDERS.



WHO
TALKS SUCH
NONSENSE?



WELL, EVERYONE!
EVERYONE IN THE
CASTLE IS
SCARED.

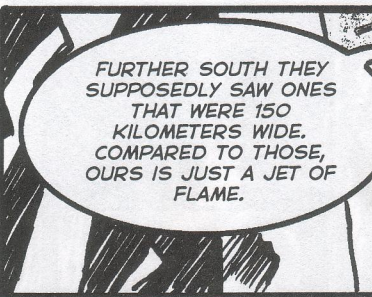


LOOK...
THE INFERNO WILL
PASS US BY IN A
STRAIGHT LINE. AT
LEAST 30
KILOMETERS AWAY.

IT'S NOT ONE OF THE
BIG ONES. THIRTEEN
KILOMETERS DIAMETER
AT MOST.



THIRTEEN
KILOMETERS?
THAT'S PRETTY
BIG!



FURTHER SOUTH THEY
SUPPOSEDLY SAW ONES
THAT WERE 150
KILOMETERS WIDE.
COMPARED TO THOSE,
OURS IS JUST A JET OF
FLAME.



CUMULUS IS THE WISEST MAN I
KNOW. HE LIVES FOR HIS MAPS.
I DON'T THINK HE EVER LOVED
ANYTHING MORE THAN THEM.

NO ONE KNOWS
WHEN THE FIRST
IN F E R N O
APPEARED.

CUMULUS SAYS, ONE
DAY THEY BURST
THROUGH THE
POLAR CAPS AND
MELTED THE ICE.

THEN, MANY
LANDS WERE
FLOODED.

SINCE THEN, THE
INFERNOS HAVE
CRUISED THE WORLD
LIKE GIANT TWISTERS
MADE OF FLAMES
AND HEAT.

SOME ARE QUICK,
OTHERS ARE SLOW.
THERE ARE NO RULES,
NO REGULATIONS.
YOU CAN FEEL THE
HEAT FROM AFAR,
LIKE A SPRING DAWN
AT FIRST. FLOWERS
BLOOM - AND WITHER
WITHIN DAYS. FRUIT
RIPENS - AND ROTS
ON THE BRANCH.

THE INFERNOS ARE
THE TOOLS OF THE
ADVERSARY, THE
ANCIENT LORD OF
THE FLIES. THEY
OBEY HIM, IT IS SAID,
AS HIS MOBILE HELL
ON EARTH.

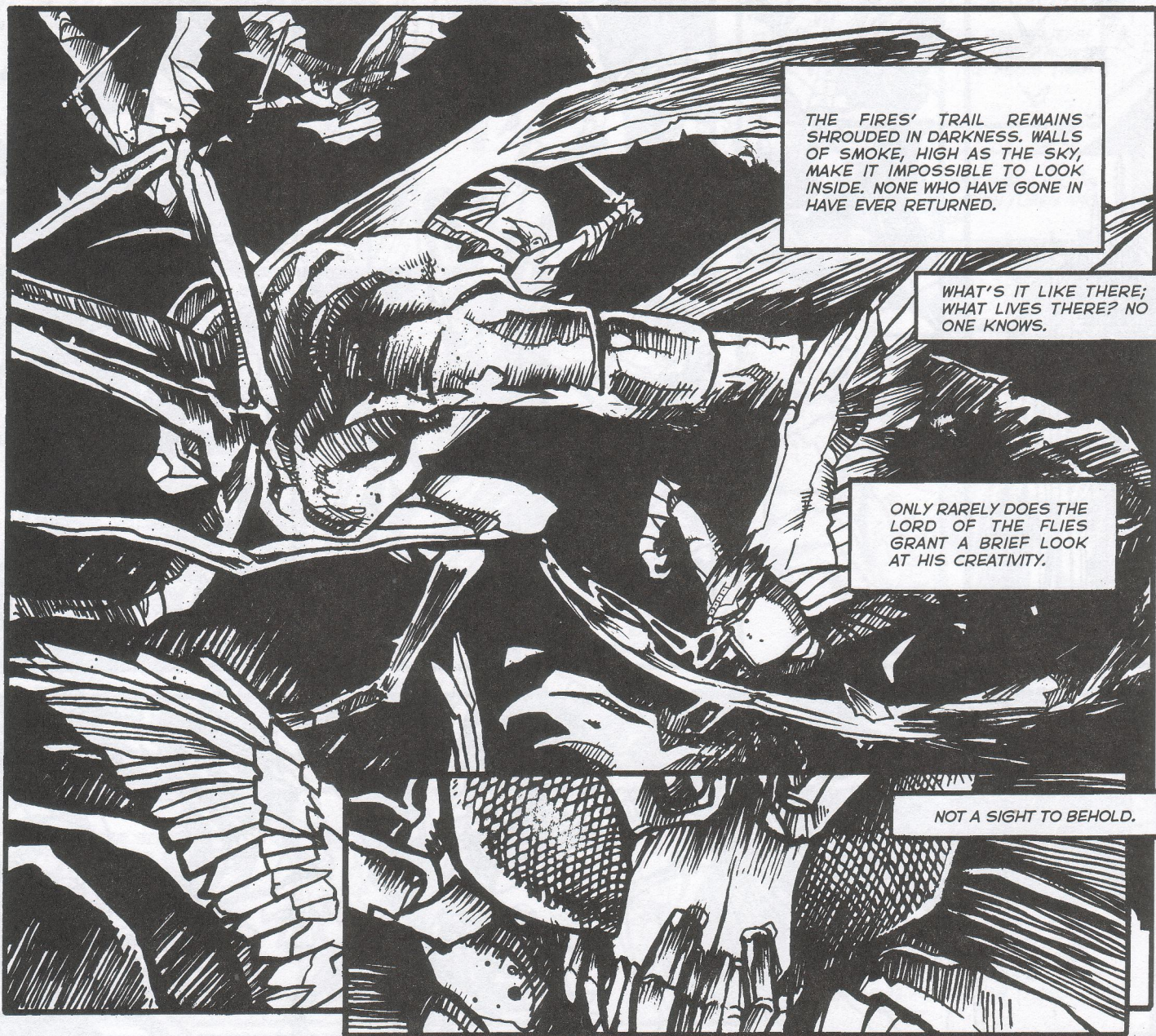
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS NOT ALL.



DREAMSEED!



CREATURES FROM THE
BURNT LAND, THE BLACK
CORRIDOR OF SMOKE AND
DESTRUCTION THAT LIES IN
THE INFERNOS' WAKE.



THE FIRES' TRAIL REMAINS
SHROUDED IN DARKNESS. WALLS
OF SMOKE, HIGH AS THE SKY,
MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK
INSIDE. NONE WHO HAVE GONE IN
HAVE EVER RETURNED.

WHAT'S IT LIKE THERE;
WHAT LIVES THERE? NO
ONE KNOWS.

ONLY RARELY DOES THE
LORD OF THE FLIES
GRANT A BRIEF LOOK
AT HIS CREATIVITY.

NOT A SIGHT TO BEHOLD.

THE DREAMSEED IS THE LORD OF THE FLIES' ARMY. THOSE WHO GAZE LONG ENOUGH INTO THE SMOKE OF THE BURNT LANDS THINK THEY CAN SEE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF THESE CREATURES WRITHING WITHIN.

BUT MAYBE THAT'S JUST AN ILLUSION. LIKE THE FACES WE SEE IN CLOUDS.

UGLY FACES.

DEADLY FACES.





WHERE TO,
STRANGER?



I HAVE A MESSAGE
FOR THE
RAGUELITES' AB.



GIVE IT TO US, THEN.
WE WILL MAKE SURE
THAT IT IS PASSED ON
TO HIS EMINENCE.

I AM NO ERRAND
BOY, TEMPLAR. I
WILL BRING THE
MESSAGE TO THE
AB PERSONALLY.

WITHOUT HIS
PERMISSION, WE
CANNOT—



YOU WILL LET
ME PASS.



WE WILL LET
YOU PASS.

LET THE
MAN PASS!

ALL THE HIMMEL KNOWS
WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

I SAW MY BROTHER
CARRY MYRIEL HOME IN
HIS ARMS. THEY LAID HIM
OUT IN ONE OF THE
CHAPELS AND DRAPED A
CLOTH OVER HIS
SHOULDERS.

ALL ARE AFRAID OF THE
FIRE. BUT UNTIL THIS
AFTERNOON, NOT MANY
WERE CONCERNED ABOUT
THE DREAMSEED.

"TOO FAR AWAY," THEY
ALWAYS SAID. BUT NOW,
GOD'S ARMY PREPARES
FOR WAR....

I HAVE TO TALK TO
RAVEN. HE NEEDS
ME NOW MORE THAN
EVER BEFORE, EVEN
IF HE DOESN'T
REALIZE IT.

AND I NEED HIM.

NO ONE DARES IMAGINE
WHAT WILL HAPPEN
WHEN THE DREAMSEED
ATTACKS THE HIMMEL.

I USED TO
THINK OLDER
BROTHERS
WERE A
NUISANCE.
TODAY I ONLY
WISH HE'D
FINALLY
ACCEPT ME.

AND IF THERE
REALLY WILL
BE A WAR
AGAINST THE
DREAMSEED,
THIS MIGHT
BE THE LAST
CHANCE FOR
HIM TO DO
SO.

THE AB'S CHAMBER. HE HAS A VISITOR.

MAYBE I CAN EAVESDROP HERE
TO FIND OUT WHAT IS TO COME.

YOUR IGNORANCE WILL
NOT BE YOUR DOWNFALL
ALONE, AB GUNDAR!

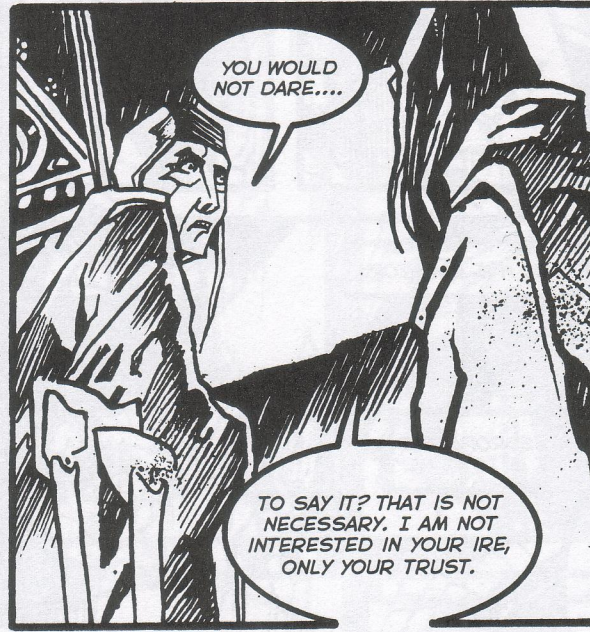
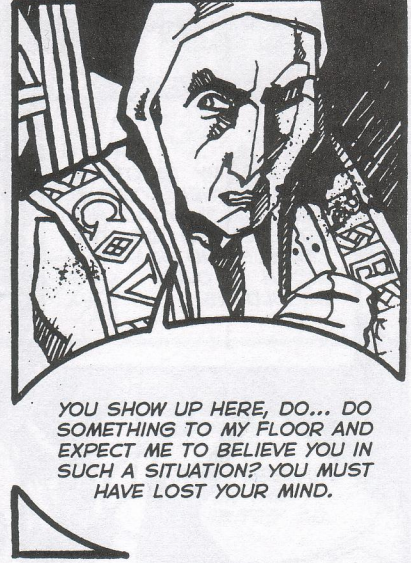
THE DREAMSEED
WOULDN'T
DARE....

THE DREAMSEED,
VENERABLE AB, IS NOT
GUIDING THE
INFERNO. YOUR TRUE
ENEMY IS SOMEONE
ELSE.

I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE
AND WHAT YOU—

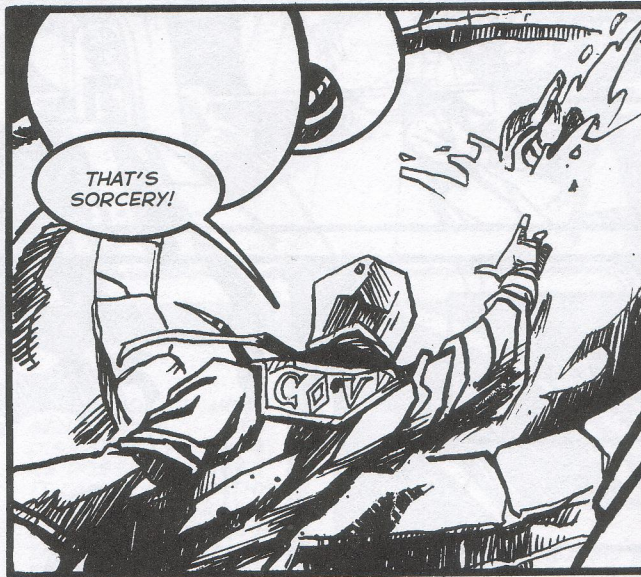
THERE IS NO TIME FOR
THIS NOW, AB. AT THIS
VERY MOMENT, THE
INFERNO CHANGES ITS
COURSE.

IT NOW HEADS
STRAIGHT FOR
YOUR CASTLE.





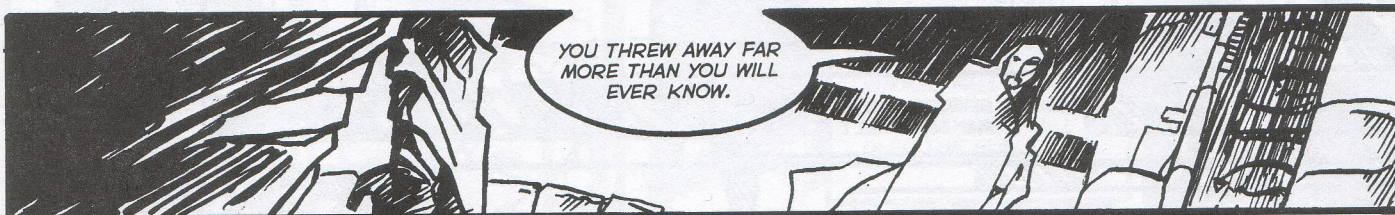
YOU DARE
CARRY SUCH
BLASPHEMY
INTO A HOUSE
OF THE LORD!



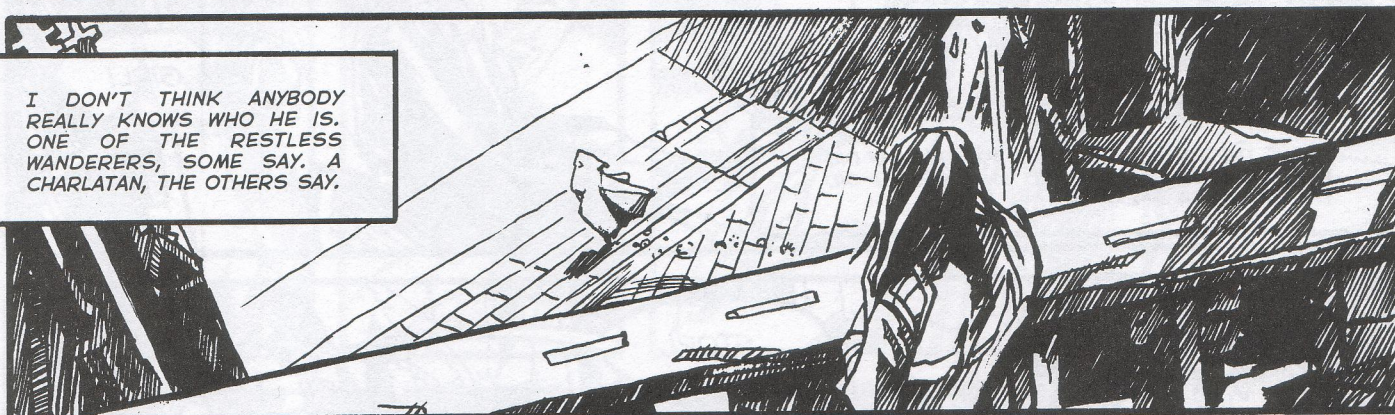
THAT'S
SORCERY!



YOU'RE A
FOOL, AB
GUNDAR.



YOU THREW AWAY FAR
MORE THAN YOU WILL
EVER KNOW.



I DON'T THINK ANYBODY
REALLY KNOWS WHO HE IS.
ONE OF THE RESTLESS
WANDERERS, SOME SAY. A
CHARLATAN, THE OTHERS SAY.

EVERYWHERE HE
WALKS, PETRIFIED
MUSSELS AND SNAIL-
SHELLS AND BONES
RISE FROM THE
GROUND.



SOMEONE CALLED IT A
STONY SPRING. THE
TERM FITS QUITE WELL,
SOMEHOW. THE PAST
BLOOMS AS IF AFTER A
LONG, LONG WINTER.

IF ANYBODY
KNOWS WHAT
THAT MEANS, IT
IS CUMULUS!
SOMETIMES I
THINK HE
KNOWS
EVERYTHING.
WELL, AT LEAST
MORE THAN ALL
OTHERS.



MORE THAN
AB GUNDAR.



LOOKS LIKE THE AB HAS
ALREADY SUMMONED HIM.
SOMETIMES CUMULUS
REACTS A LITTLE... UMM...
FORCEFULLY TO CERTAIN
NEWS.



RAVEN!

NO ONE THERE. ALL ANGELS ARE EITHER
ON PATROL OR IN BRIEFINGS.

THE ANGELS' QUARTERS ARE
GUARDED. IF I CAN MEET HIM
ANYWHERE, IT IS HERE.

THE WANDERER WAS RIGHT. IT
HAS CHANGED COURSE.

SECRETLY, WE ALL
MAY HAVE FELT IT.

YOU HAVE TO TREAT DESTINY LIKE YOUR BODY,
CUMULUS ONCE SAID. ENJOY IT WHILE IT'S GOOD.
BE PATIENT WHILE IT'S BAD. AND ONLY APPLY CURES
IN UTMOST EMERGENCIES.

BUT IF THE PANDORAMICUM IS A CURE, WHY DID
THE AB THROW IT AWAY? AND WHAT SECRET DID
THE WANDERER SPEAK OF?

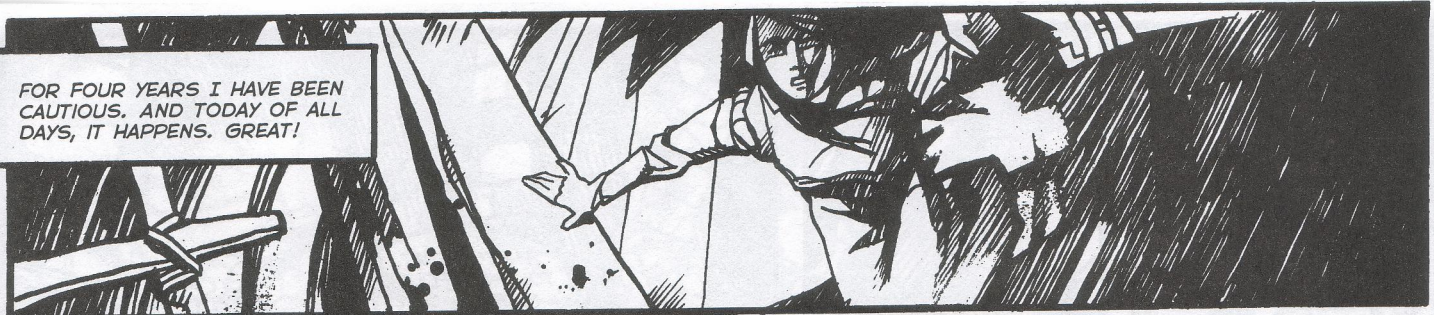
HEY, GIRL!

STOP!

DAMAE! CALL
THE GUARDS!

BUT
SHE'S JUST A
CHILD...

THAT WAS
AN ORDER!



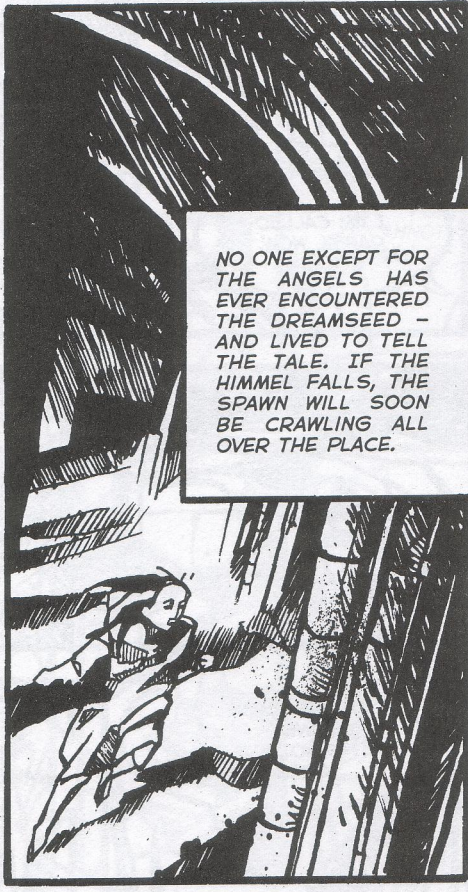
FOR FOUR YEARS I HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS. AND TODAY OF ALL DAYS, IT HAPPENS. GREAT!



BUT WHO KNOWS, MAYBE ALL OF THIS IS UNIMPORTANT NOW. IF THEY HAVE ALREADY STARTED EVACUATING THE HIMMEL, THEY'LL SURELY LOSE INTEREST IN ME SOON.



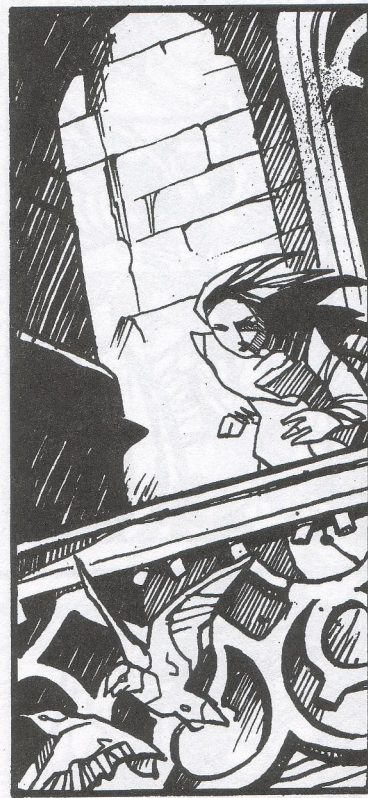
IT WOULD BE MOST SENSIBLE TO DISAPPEAR AS FAST AS POSSIBLE ANYWAY. IT CANNOT BE HEALTHY TO HANG AROUND HERE WHEN THE INFERNO REACHES THE CASTLE.



NO ONE EXCEPT FOR THE ANGELS HAS EVER ENCOUNTERED THE DREAMSEED - AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE. IF THE HIMMEL FALLS, THE SPAWN WILL SOON BE CRAWLING ALL OVER THE PLACE.



THE ONLY QUESTION IS: WHOM SHOULD I RATHER FLEE?



HI, BIG BROTHER.

HE NEVER LIKED IT WHEN I CALLED HIM THAT.



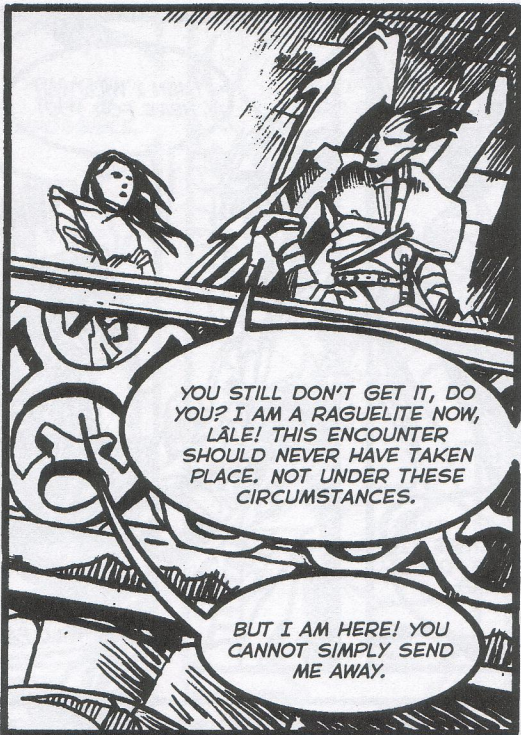
I SHOULD THROW YOU FROM THE BATTLEMENTS.





IT STARTED ALL OVER AGAIN. THE DOUBTS, THE SELF-RECRIMINATIONS, THE LONELINESS.

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO BE LONELY.



YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? I AM A RAGUELITE NOW, LÂLE! THIS ENCOUNTER SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN PLACE. NOT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT I AM HERE! YOU CANNOT SIMPLY SEND ME AWAY.



WHY HAVE YOU COME? I CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU. CANNOT TAKE CARE OF YOU.



I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THIS CASTLE FOR MORE THAN FOUR YEARS. I NEVER ASKED YOU FOR ANYTHING - I ONLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU. I HAVE LEARNED TO GET BY ON MY OWN.



YOU WERE JEALOUS.

JEALOUS?

BECAUSE THE BOUNTY RIDERS TOOK ME, NOT YOU.



I AM SUPPOSED TO BE JEALOUS - OF THIS? ... GOOD LORD, RAVEN.



I SAW WHAT THEY DO TO YOU. HOW DESIRABLE DO YOU THINK THIS IS FOR SOMEONE WHO HASN'T BEEN BRAINWASHED?



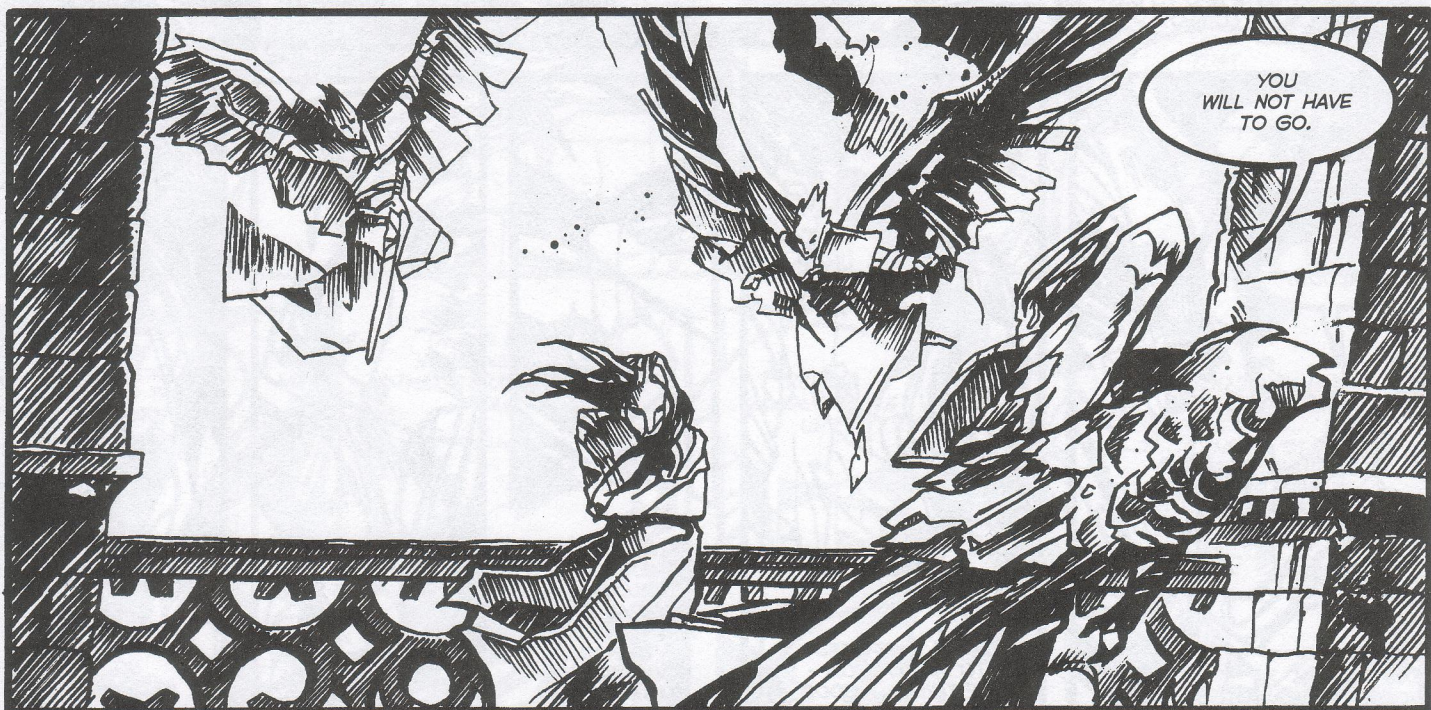
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.



NO, PROBABLY NOT.



THE INFERNO APPROACHES EVER FASTER.





TAKE ME
BACK
IMMEDIATELY!



YOU KNOW
THAT IS
IMPOSSIBLE.



WHAT DO YOU
CARE IF I LIVE
OR DIE?

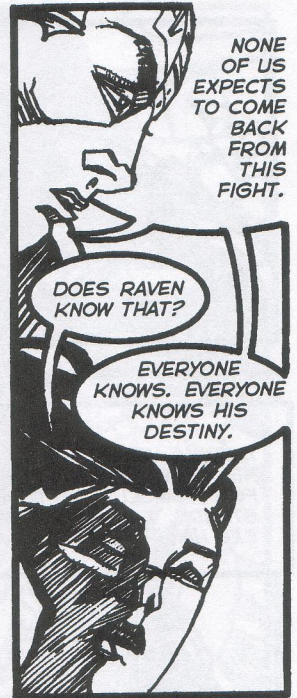
WE ARE
ANGELS. WE
HELP.

OH, SURE.



IN
BATTLE,
WE WILL
SACRIFICE
OUR LIVES
FOR PEOPLE
LIKE YOU.

SACRIFICE?
BUT -



NONE
OF US
EXPECTS
TO COME
BACK
FROM
THIS
FIGHT.

DOES RAVEN
KNOW THAT?

EVERYONE
KNOWS. EVERYONE
KNOWS HIS
DESTINY.



BUT...
YOU CANNOT
SIMPLY MARCH TO
CERTAIN DOOM.

WE ARE ANGELS.
WE SERVE THE LORD IN
EVERY CONCEIVABLE
WAY.

BUT YOUR DEATH
SERVES NOBODY!



NO ONE
EXPECTS YOU
TO
UNDERSTAND
THIS.



GO WITH THE
OTHERS. YOU'LL
BE SAFE IN THE
SOUTH.



TAKE
ME BACK TO
RAVEN!



WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?



LÄLE.



FAREWELL, LÄLE.
GOOD LUCK!



WAIT!



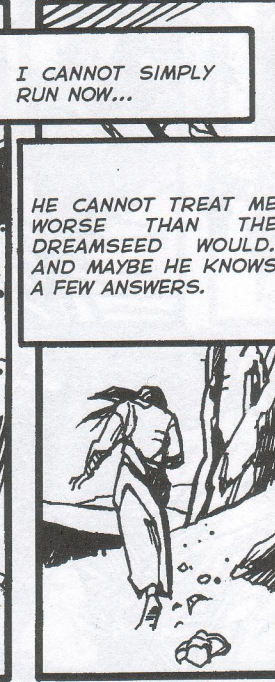
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW. I MANAGED TO CREEP INTO THE HIMMEL ONCE, BUT A SECOND TIME? AND NOT ONE DAY BEFORE A WAR ERUPTS!



THERE'S NO ONE WHO WOULD HELP ME. NO ONE EXCEPT FOR CUMULUS. AND AS IT STANDS, I PROBABLY WON'T SEE HIM AGAIN.



BUT MAYBE THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE.



I CANNOT SIMPLY RUN NOW...

HE CANNOT TREAT ME WORSE THAN THE DREAMSEED WOULD. AND MAYBE HE KNOWS A FEW ANSWERS.



CUMULUS SAYS I TEND TO BE OVERCONFIDENT.

WE'LL SEE.

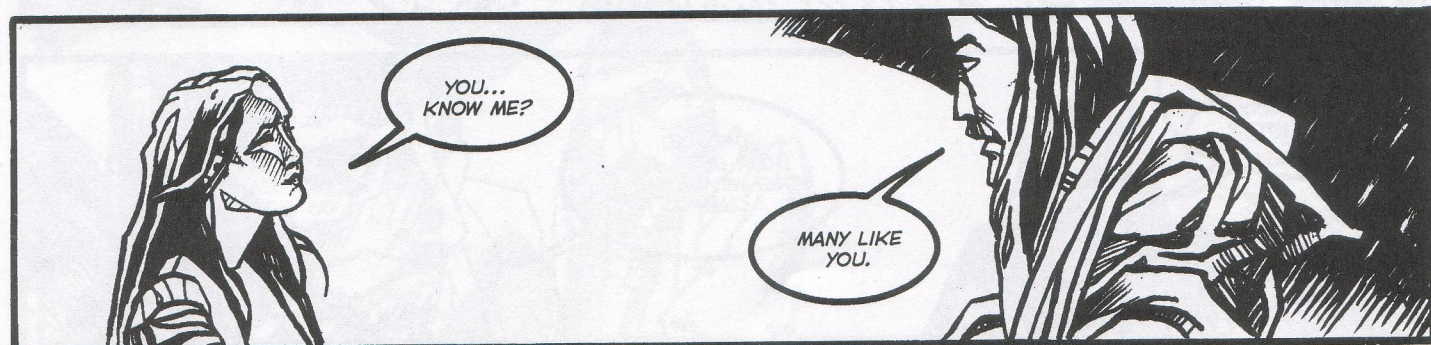


WHATEVER IT IS - IT SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE.



OVERCONFIDENT?

PAH!

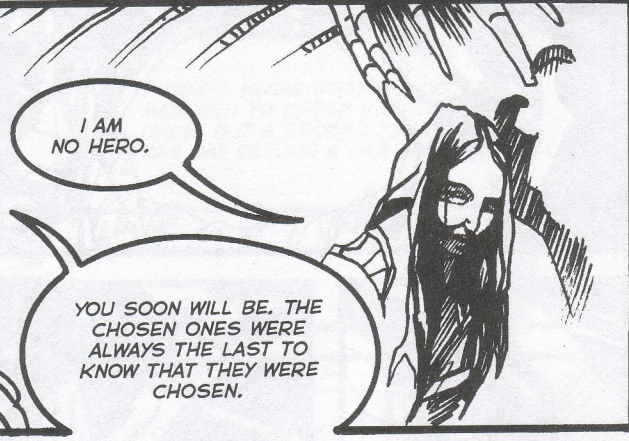




WHAT DO
YOU MEAN - MANY
LIKE ME?



HEROES.



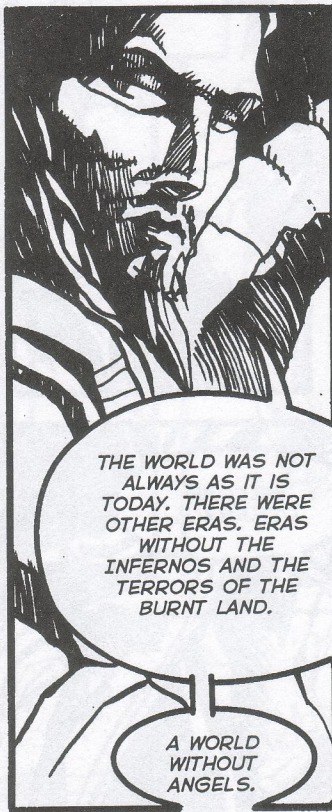
I AM
NO HERO.

YOU SOON WILL BE. THE
CHOSEN ONES WERE
ALWAYS THE LAST TO
KNOW THAT THEY WERE
CHOSEN.



BUT THAT IS -

LISTEN.
AND THEN
DECIDE.



THE WORLD WAS NOT
ALWAYS AS IT IS
TODAY. THERE WERE
OTHER ERAS. ERAS
WITHOUT THE
INFERNOS AND THE
TERRORS OF THE
BURNT LAND.

A WORLD
WITHOUT
ANGELS.

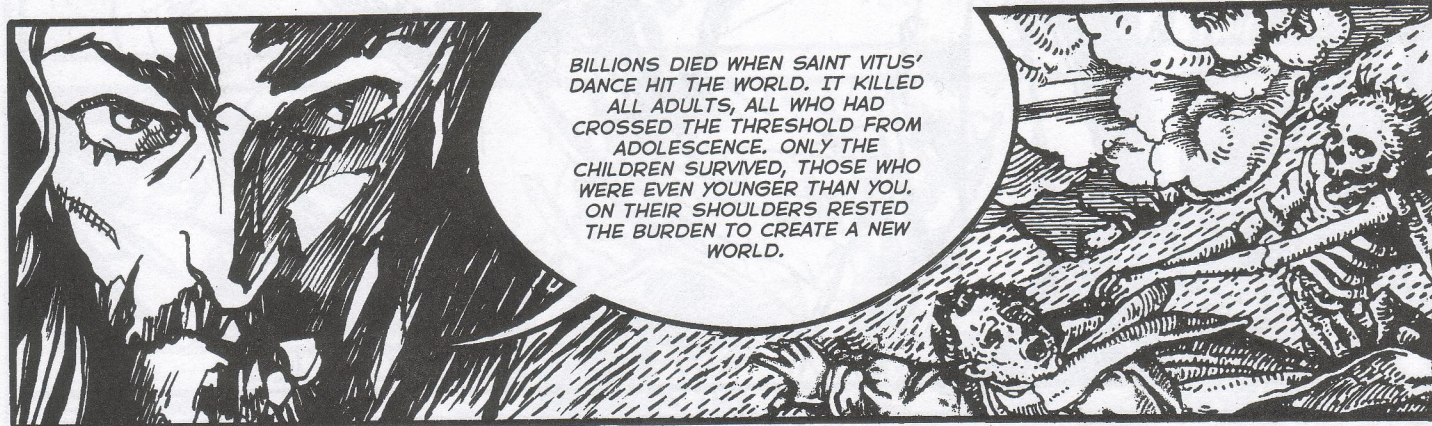


BUT
THERE ALWAYS
WERE ANGELS.

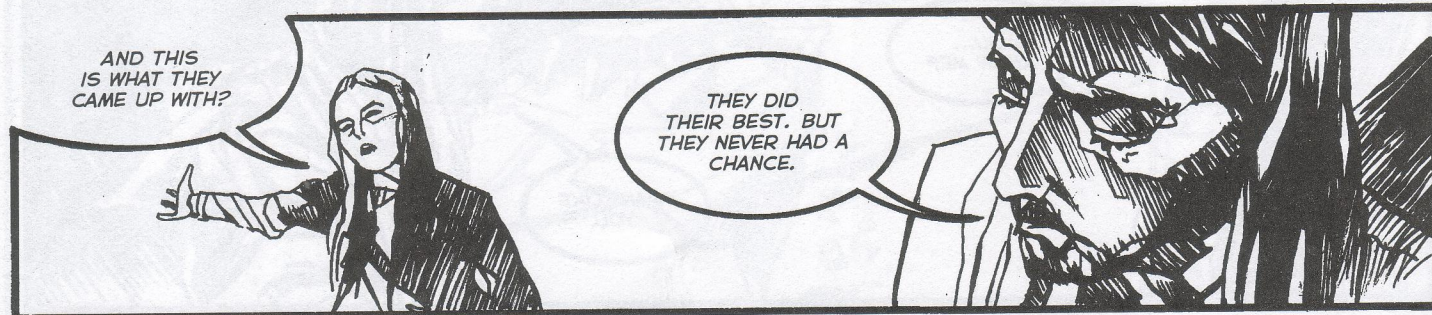
NOT IN THE ERAS
BEFORE THE GREAT
SAINT VITUS' DANCE.



WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN?



BILLIONS DIED WHEN SAINT VITUS'
DANCE HIT THE WORLD. IT KILLED
ALL ADULTS, ALL WHO HAD
CROSSED THE THRESHOLD FROM
ADOLESCENCE. ONLY THE
CHILDREN SURVIVED, THOSE WHO
WERE EVEN YOUNGER THAN YOU.
ON THEIR SHOULDERS RESTED
THE BURDEN TO CREATE A NEW
WORLD.



AND THIS
IS WHAT THEY
CAME UP WITH?

THEY DID
THEIR BEST. BUT
THEY NEVER HAD A
CHANCE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

SAINT VITUS' DANCE DIED DOWN AS SOON AS IT HAD BEGUN. BUT SOON PEOPLE NOTICED THAT THE OCEANS ROSE AND THAT STRANGE LIGHTS ILLUMINATED THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SKIES. THE INFERNOS ROSE FROM WITHIN THE POLES, MELTED THE GIANT ICE MASSES AND STARTED MEANDERING ACROSS THE WORLD.



THEY REALLY CAME FROM WITHIN THE EARTH?

YES, FROM WITHIN THE EARTH.
AND FROM WITHIN A MAD MIND.

WITHIN A FEW DAYS, THE OCEANS FLOODED THE COASTAL AREAS. AGAIN, MILLIONS DIED.

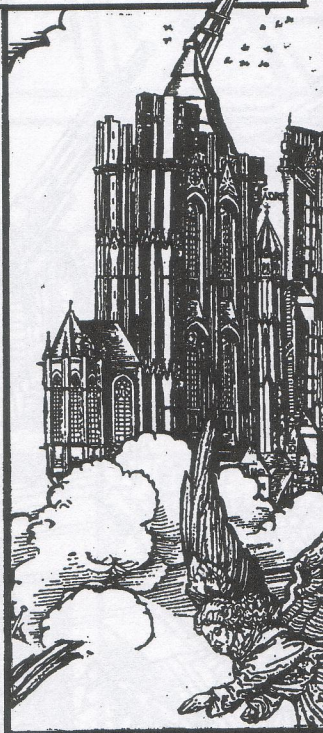


BUT THE REST RETREATED INTO THE WORLD'S HIGHEST BUILDINGS...

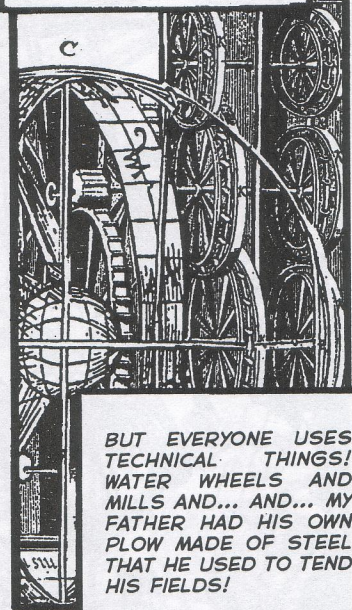
... AND CREATED A CULT OF CHILDREN.



THE ANGELS' CASTLES WERE FOUNDED, AND WITH THEM THE SIX GREAT ORDERS - MICHAELITES, GABRIELITES, RAPHAELITES, URIELITES AND RAGUELITES.



EVERY ORDER HAD ITS OWN JOB, ITS OWN WEAKNESSES AND ABILITIES. THE RAGUELITES THAT YOUR BROTHER BELONGS TO BECAME THE KEEPERS OF THE PAST, HEIRS TO ALL THINGS TECHNICAL FROM THE TIME BEFORE SAINT VITUS' DANCE.



BUT EVERYONE USES TECHNICAL THINGS! WATER WHEELS AND MILLS AND... AND... MY FATHER HAD HIS OWN PLOW MADE OF STEEL THAT HE USED TO TEND HIS FIELDS!

WHAT THE RAGUELITES KEEP DEEP WITHIN THEIR CASTLES IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, LÂLE. IT IS BIGGER AND MORE DANGEROUS. IT MUST NEVER FALL TO THE ENEMY'S HANDS, NO MATTER THE COST.



THIS IS WHY YOU WENT TO SEE THE AB?





THE AB IS A FOOL. YOU'D NEVER GUESS HOW HE TRIES TO STOP THE INFERNO IN THIS VERY INSTANT.

THE RITUAL OF LIVE MUMMIFICATION WILL SHOW IF HE HAS MERCY ON US.



WE ALL THANK THE LORD FOR THESE THREE VOLUNTEERS.



LORD, OUR FATHER, SHOW YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANTS MERCY. THESE CHOSEN THREE WILL HEAD TO THEE, HALF IN THIS LIFE, HALF IN THE NEXT, TO BRING YOU OUR PLEA FOR LENIENCY.



START THE RITUAL.



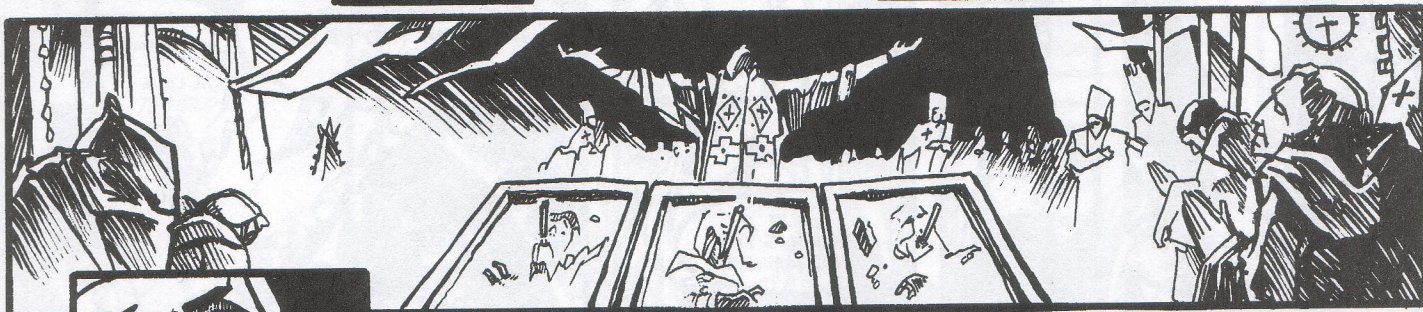
ADMINISTER THE CEDAR OIL TO THEM.
IT WILL DECOMPOSE THEIR ORGANS
AND SLOW DOWN THE PASSAGE FROM
THIS WORLD INTO THE NEXT ONE.



SEDATE THEM WITH SODIUM
CHLORIDE. IT WILL DRY THEIR
SKIN AND PREPARE THEM
FOR THE AFTERLIFE.



DRENCH THEM IN RESIN.
IT WILL KEEP THEIR BODY
IN THIS WORLD WHILE
THEIR SPIRIT FLEES INTO
THE ARMS OF THE LORD.



AND? HAS THE
LORD ACCEPTED
OUR SACRIFICE?



THE INFERNO STILL
APPROACHES.



ARE YOU SURE?
IS THE
MEASURING
CORRECT?



THE MEASURING
IS CORRECT. THERE
IS NO DOUBT.



THE LORD
HAS NOT GIVEN US
A FAVORABLE
HEARING.



THEN,
THERE IS ONLY
ONE WAY.



THERE
WILL BE A BATTLE,
WON'T THERE?

WAR IS INEVITABLE.
AB GUNDAR IS TOO
PROUD TO ORDER HIS
ANGELS TO FLEE.



BUT THAT IS
MURDER! HE KNOWS
THEY'LL DIE.

EVERYONE
KNOWS.

ANYWAY,
NO ONE CAN STOP
DESTINY, LÂLE.
NOT EVEN YOU.



YOU TOLD
ME I WAS
CHOSEN.

YOUR
DESTINY IS THE
PANDORAMICUM.

BUT THE AB
HAS THROWN IT
INTO THE WELL!

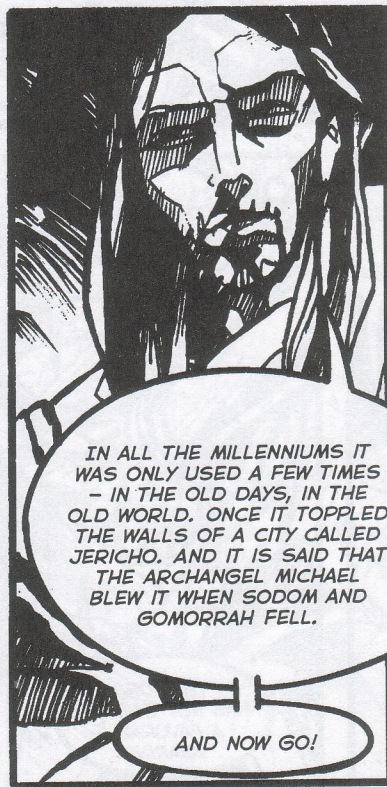
YOU WILL RECOVER IT. YOU
WILL FULFILL THE LEGEND
OF THE PANDORAMICUM
WHEN THE FIRE APPROACHES
THE CASTLE. THAT'S THE
ONLY WAY TO STOP THE
RAGUELITES' HERITANCE
FROM FALLING INTO THE
HANDS OF THE DREAMSEED.

BUT THEY COULDN'T USE
IT ANYWAY. THEY'RE ONLY
ANIMALS!

NO, THEY AREN'T! AND
THEIR MASTERS ARE CLEVER
STRATEGISTS. WITH THE OLD
TECHNICAL SCIENCE THE
DREAMSEED COULD CREATE
ITS OWN ANGELS. DARK,
DESTRUCTIVE ANGELS!



WHAT WILL THE
PANDORAMICUM
DO?



IN ALL THE MILLENNIUMS IT
WAS ONLY USED A FEW TIMES
- IN THE OLD DAYS, IN THE
OLD WORLD. ONCE IT TOPPLED
THE WALLS OF A CITY CALLED
JERICHO. AND IT IS SAID THAT
THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
BLEW IT WHEN SODOM AND
GOMORRAH FELL.

AND NOW GO!



BUT... I DON'T
KNOW HOW I -



GO!



I SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE,
AWAY FROM THE SEA, AWAY FROM
THE CASTLE, AWAY FROM ALL THIS
GODDAMN MADNESS.

BUT THAT'S THE WAY WE
HEROES ARE. BRAVE.
CLEVER. STUPID.

AND CYNICAL. ESPECIALLY CYNICAL.
THEY SAY THAT HELPS.

AND HOW
IT HELPS.

HEROES!

CHOSEN ONES!

SURE!



GOOD LORD!





RAVEN!
COME BACK!

PLEASE!

I DON'T WANT
TO LOSE YOU A
SECOND TIME.

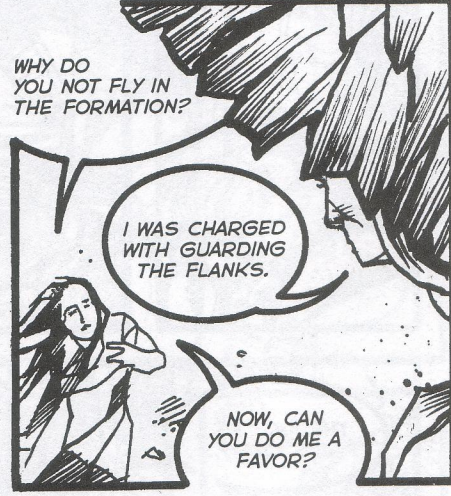


DAMAE!

DON'T MOURN
YOUR BROTHER,
LÂLE.

IT IS ALL SO...
HOPELESS.

YES,
MAYBE IT IS.



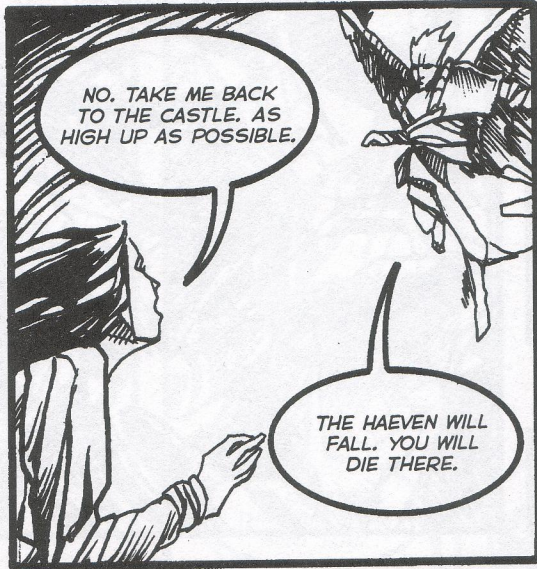
WHY DO
YOU NOT FLY IN
THE FORMATION?

I WAS CHARGED
WITH GUARDING
THE FLANKS.

NOW, CAN
YOU DO ME A
FAVOR?



I WILL NOT TAKE
YOU TO YOUR
BROTHER, LÂLE.



NO. TAKE ME BACK
TO THE CASTLE. AS
HIGH UP AS POSSIBLE.

THE HAEVEN WILL
FALL. YOU WILL
DIE THERE.



PLEASE!





I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DID THAT. WHAT ARE MAPS TO HIM ANYWAY?

MAYBE ALL THE WORLD. ALL HE KNOWS. HIS MIND ON PAPER.

IS THAT ANSWER ENOUGH?

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE HIM TO NOTICE ME?

I KNOW WHAT THAT IS. I HAVE SEEN AB GUNDAR USE ONE OF THEM. THAT WAS MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO.

REMEMBER, LÂLE, YOU ARE NOW A HERO.

VERY REASSURING.

I DON'T THINK HE HAS EVER TRIED SINCE.

WHAT...

WHO ARE YOU?

OF COURSE, THE WANDERER SENT YOU.

DAMN FLIES.



IT MAKES NO SENSE. FOUR YEARS
OF SECRETLY WATCHING THE
ANGELS TRAIN WAS NOT HELPFUL AS
FAR AS DIPLOMACY GOES.



ANGELS LEARN OTHER THINGS.



MORE USEFUL THINGS.



NO! I AM NOT
ONE OF THEM.



I CANNOT DO
SUCH A THING.



NOT ME.



IT WORKS! JUST LIKE
THAT OTHER TIME. THAT'S
WHAT THE WANDERER
MUST HAVE REFERRED TO
WHEN HE TALKED OF THE
OLD TECHNICAL SCIENCE.

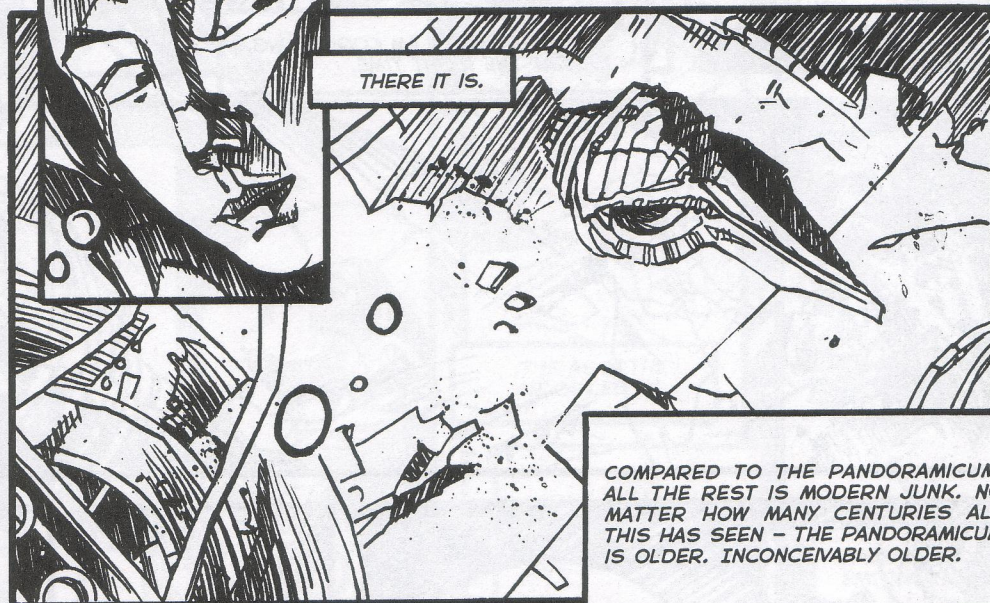


THE RAGUELITES' SECRET.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT IS
IMPRESSIVE.

AND DAMN BIG.



THERE IT IS.



COMPARED TO THE PANDORAMICUM,
ALL THE REST IS MODERN JUNK. NO
MATTER HOW MANY CENTURIES ALL
THIS HAS SEEN - THE PANDORAMICUM
IS OLDER. INCONCEIVABLY OLDER.

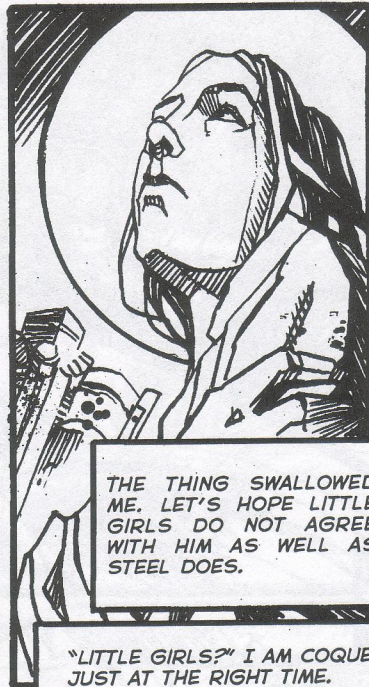


WHAT... ?





THAT HURT.



THE THING SWALLOWED ME. LET'S HOPE LITTLE GIRLS DO NOT AGREE WITH HIM AS WELL AS STEEL DOES.

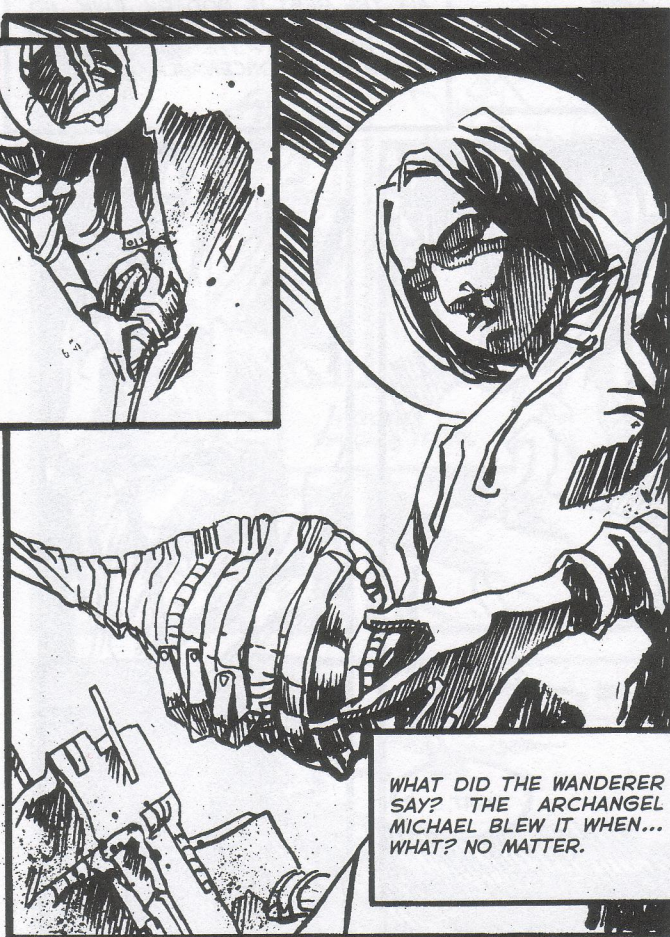
"LITTLE GIRLS?" I AM COQUETTING. JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME.



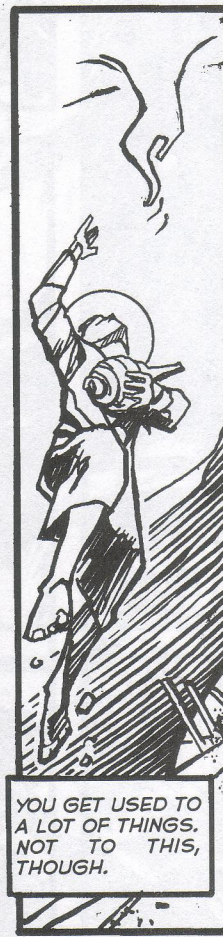
MY GUARDIAN ANGEL - HE'S GONE.



I WONDER IF THE INFERNO IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BURN ALL THIS DOWN HERE, TOO.



WHAT DID THE WANDERER SAY? THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL BLEW IT WHEN... WHAT? NO MATTER.



YOU GET USED TO A LOT OF THINGS. NOT TO THIS, THOUGH.



IT BURNS AND ITCHES. AND IT CAUSES STITCHES IN THE SIDE, HEAVEN KNOWS WHY.

SO THAT IS WHAT MUSTN'T FALL
INTO THE DREAMSEED'S
HANDS. NOTHING BUT A HEAP
OF STEEL JUNK.

DARK ANGELS, THE
WANDERER SAID.
DREAMSEED
ANGELS. AS IF THE
WHOLE ANGEL CULT
WASN'T ALREADY
INHUMAN ENOUGH
IN ITSELF.

IT IS AS IF THE
AB CALLED ME.

"COME, LÄLE. USE
THE PANDORAMI-
CUM, AND SOON WE
WILL MEET AGAIN."

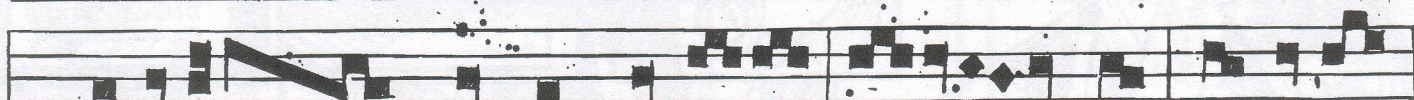
THANKS FOR THE
ENCOURAGEMENT.

FIRELIGHT

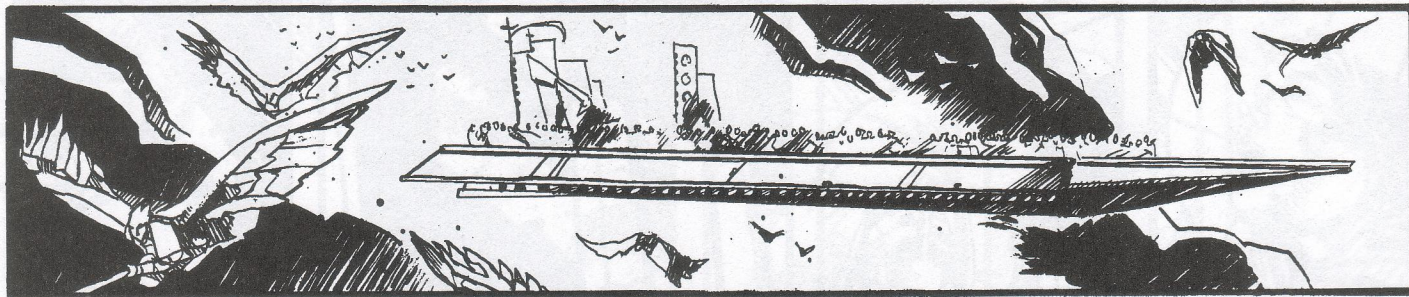
NOT MUCH
TIME LEFT.

OFF WITH IT!

OH NO!



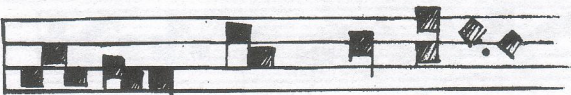
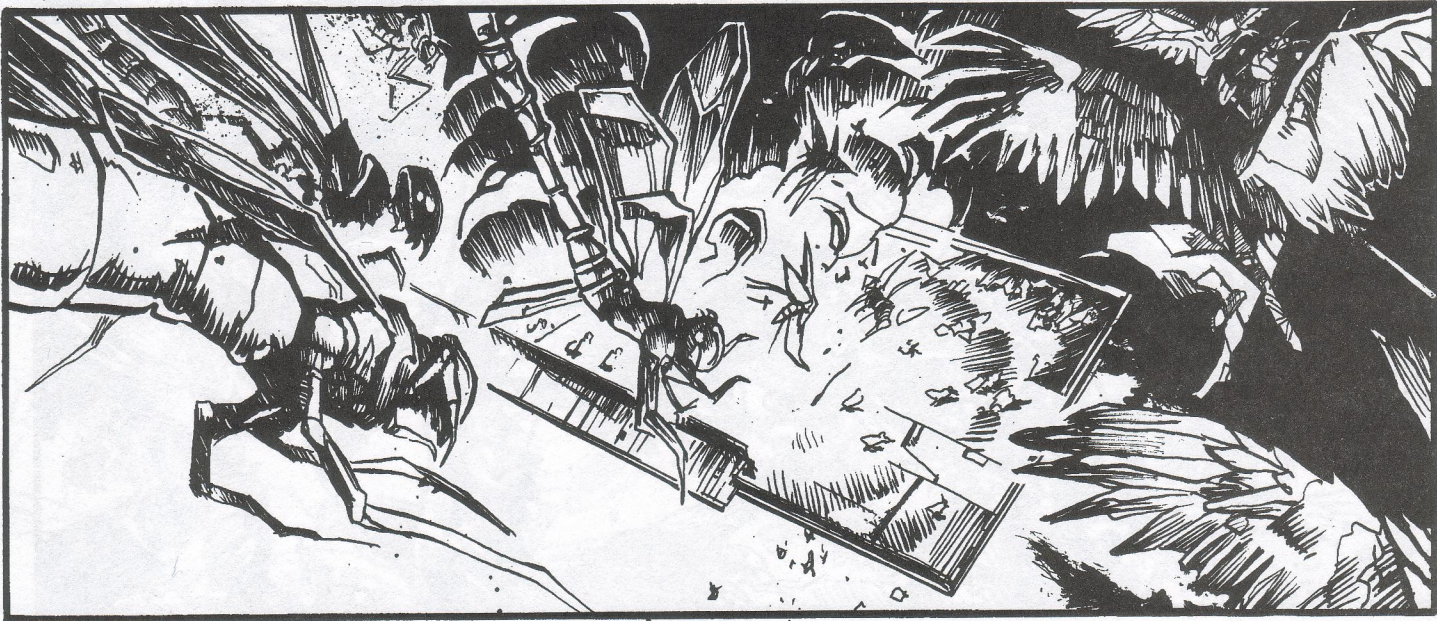
medita bor in mandatis tu is que dilexi





valde et levabo manus meas . . . ad mandata





tu a que di





SOON THE FIRE WILL
REACH THE CASTLE.



IT HAS BECOME HOT.

WHO RULED THAT
HEROES HAVE TO
DIE FOR THEIR
GOAL?



IT WOULD BE SO MUCH
SIMPLER TO LET GO.
WHO WANTS TO MAKE
SUCH CHOICES?



IT IS TEMPTING.

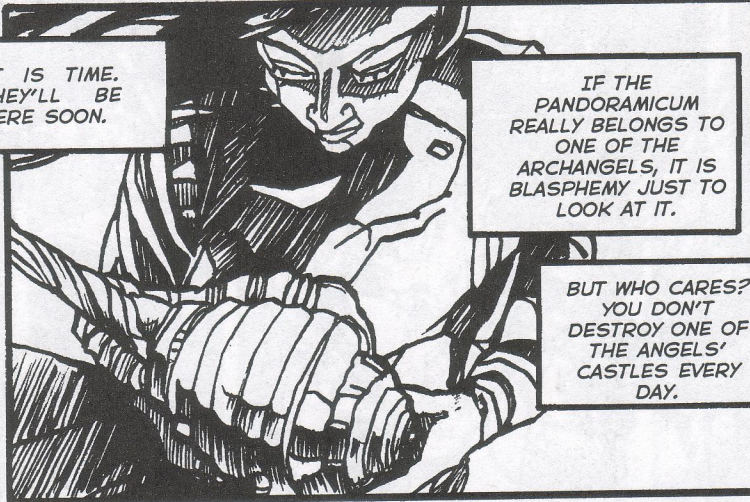
SO EASY...



LÂLE!



IT IS TIME.
THEY'LL BE
HERE SOON.



IF THE
PANDORAMICUM
REALLY BELONGS TO
ONE OF THE
ARCHANGELS, IT IS
BLASPHEMY JUST TO
LOOK AT IT.

BUT WHO CARES?
YOU DON'T
DESTROY ONE OF
THE ANGELS'
CASTLES EVERY
DAY.



IN HELL, THEY'LL
DANCE FOR JOY WHEN I
KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE
RAGUELITES' BOUNTY RIDERS
SHOWED UP IN OUR VILLAGE.
THAT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO. IF
THEY HADN'T TAKEN RAVEN AND
THE OTHERS, I WOULDN'T BE
HERE NOW.



I WOULDN'T HAVE TO
MAKE SUCH DECISIONS.



THESE BASTARDS!



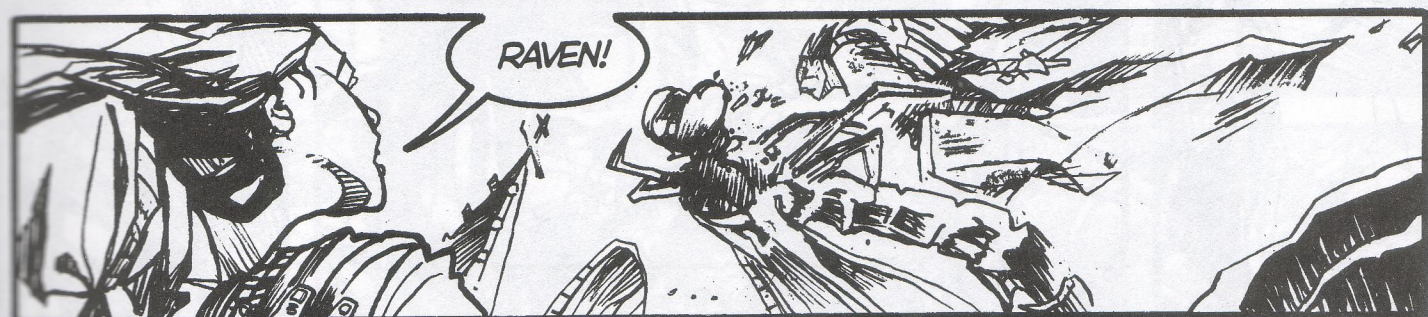
THEY NEVER
GAVE ME A
CHOICE.



NEVER...

... A ...

... CHOICE.











THE INFERNO BURNS THE
HIMMEL'S RUINS.

THEN IT
CONTINUES
SOUTH.



THERE'S A RITUAL FOR
AN ANGEL'S FUNERAL.

A CERTAIN WAY OF
SPREADING THE WINGS.



IT'S IMPORTANT, SO THAT
THEIR SOULS CAN SOAR
ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

RAVEN LOOKS DOWN
UPON ME FROM UP
THERE NOW.

I FIRMLY
BELIEVE THAT.



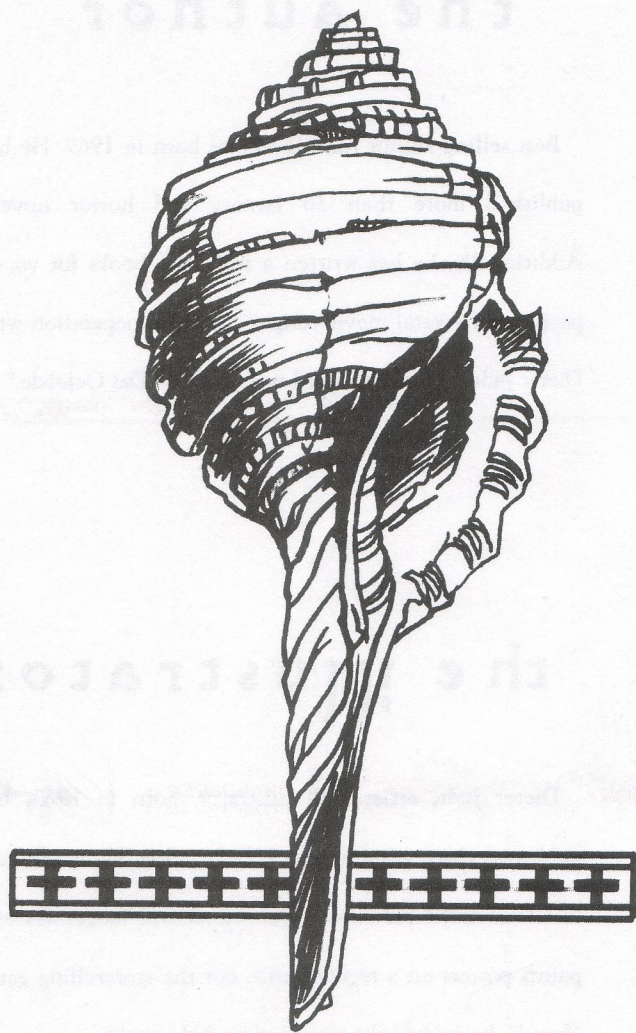
THE SKELETON
MUST BE
ANCIENT. THE
WANDERER'S
TRACKS HAVE
WASHED IT FROM
THE STONE.



IT MUST HAVE
RESTED DOWN
THERE SINCE
THE WORLD
WAS VERY
YOUNG.

WHEN REAL ANGELS
DOMINATED THE SKIES.





the author

Best selling author Kai Meyer was born in 1969. He has published more than 30 fantasy and horror novels. Additionally, he has written a series of books for young people and several movie scripts. His first cooperation with Dieter Judt was an illustrated novel called "Das Gelubde."

the illustrator

Dieter Judt, artist and illustrator, born in 1963, has published three graphic novels before this. He works as a freelance artist for several publishers and magazines and paints posters on a regular basis. For the storytelling game "Engel", he created the visuals of a whole world.

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