

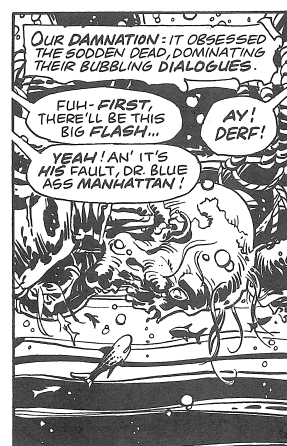


COME ON, THE PLACE IS LIT UP, THEY COULD STILL BE HERE...



THEY BETTER BE! STEVE, YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU KNEW DREIBERG WAS THIS OWL-MAN AND YOU NEVER...

I MADE A MISTAKE, THOUGHT A WARNING WOULD BE ENOUGH. HELL, I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS PLANNING HIS PAL'S ESCAPE...



OUR DAMNATION: IT OBSESSED THE SODDEN DEAD, DOMINATING THEIR BUBBLING DIALOGUES.

FUH-FIRST, THERE'LL BE THIS BIG FLASH...

YEAH! AN' IT'S HIS FAULT, DR. BLUE ASS MANHATTAN!

AV! DERF!



THEY SPOKE OF A HEAVEN, WHERE ONCE WE'LL LIVE AND DIED, SENTENCED FOR OUR SINS TO THIS PANDEMONIUM WE CALL THE WORLD.

...AND THEN THERE'S THIS TERRIBLE NOISE...

AY, DERF, ON THE RADIO YOU HEAR WHAT WENT DOWN?

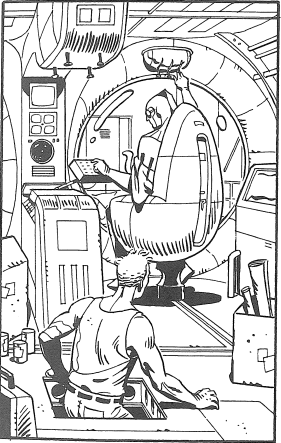


I HEARD ABOUT THE RIOT...

...AND, OH THE FASTEST WIND...

OLD NEWS. SOME SUPER DUFFERS SPRUNG THAT BLOT-FACE GUY.

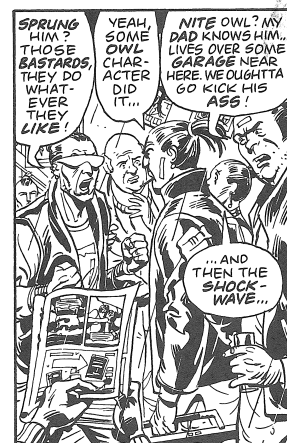
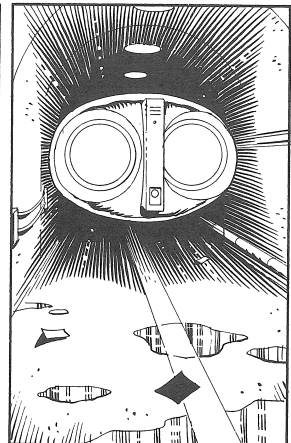
J'ULY LIFE IS HELL AND DEATH'S ROUGH HAND OUR ONLY DELIVERANCE



DOWN THOSE STAIRS! I KNEW HE HAD SOMETHING HIDDEN BACK THERE FROM HIS ATTITUDE...

STEVE, IF THOSE GUYS AREN'T DOWN THERE, YOU BETTER START THINKING ABOUT THE CAPTAIN'S ATTITUDE.

IT AIN'T GONNA BE SWEETNESS AND LIGHT.



SPRING HIM? YEAH, SOME OWL BASTARDS, THEY DO WHAT-EVER THEY WANT TO LIKE!

NITE OWL? MY DAD KNOWS HIM... LIVES OVER SOME GARAGE NEAR HERE WE OUGHTTA GO KICK HIS ASS!

...AND THEN THE SHOCK-WAVE...



YEAH! KICK ASS! GREAT CONCEPT. I SAY RUN WITH IT, GIVE HIM HELL...

I COULD ENDURE NO MORE THOUGH DREADING SUCH A BLACK, BREATH-LESS END, I LEFT FEET FIRST INTO HORROR...

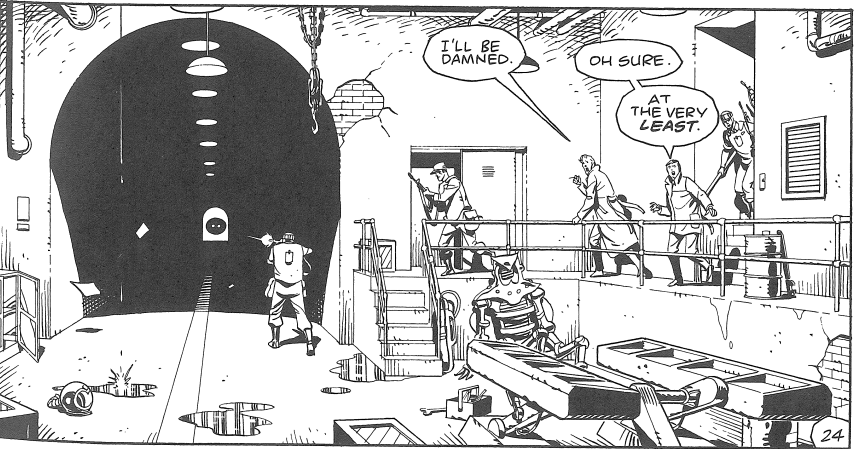
...THE SKY, BURNING...



FEET FIRST INTO COLD AND DANK MORTALITY.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, TAKE IT SOME PLACE ELSE, YOU GODDAMN KATIE HEADS. WHO NEEDS IT? MOBS IN THE STREET, GUYS RUELIN'...

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!



I'LL BE DAMNED.

OH SURE.

AT THE VERY LEAST.

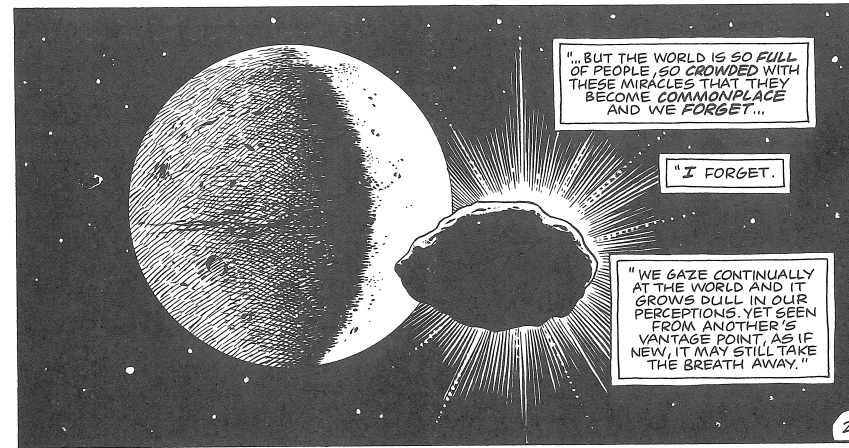
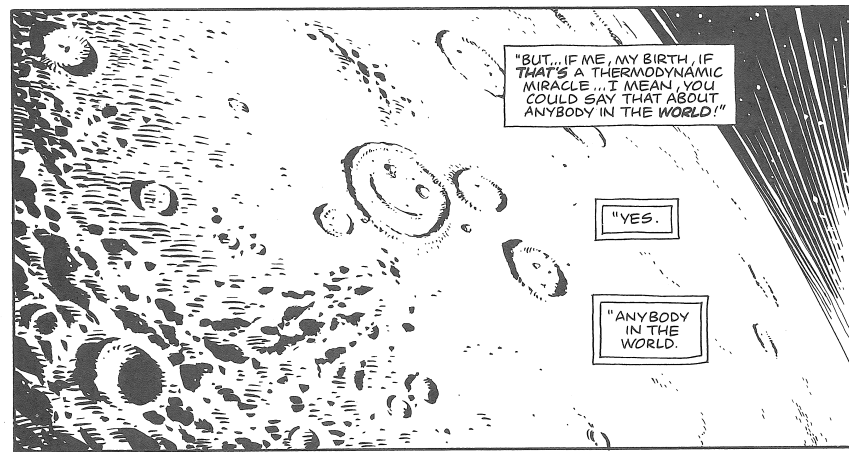
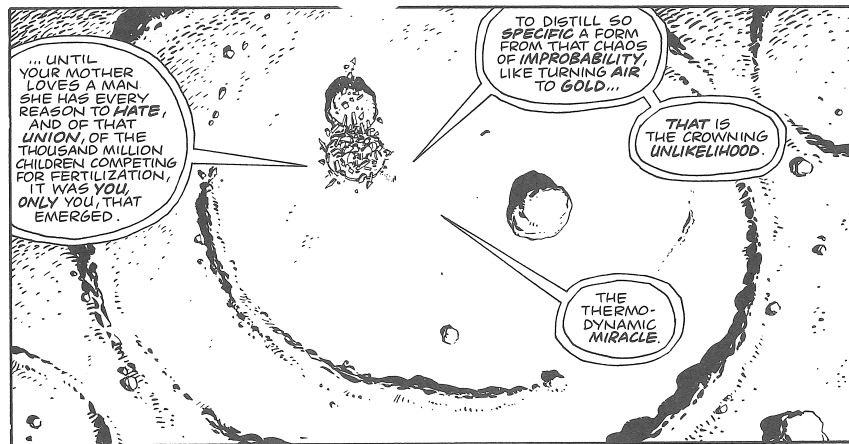
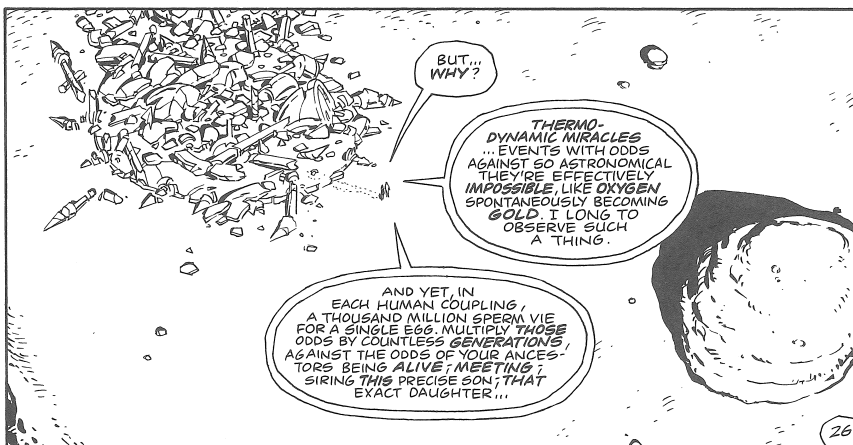
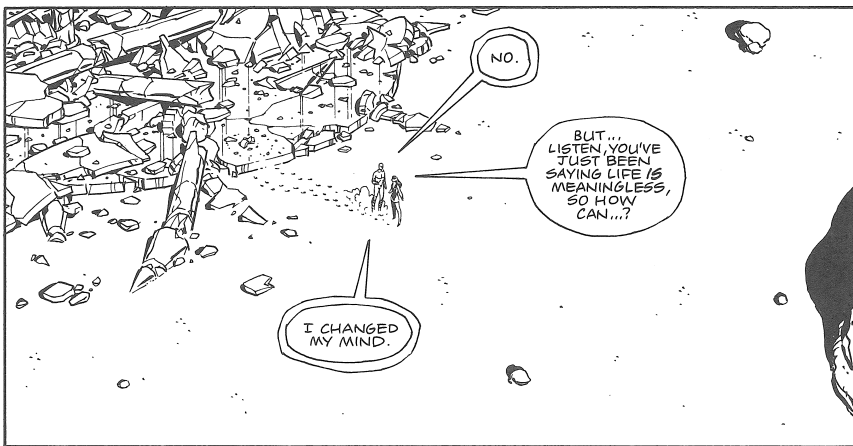
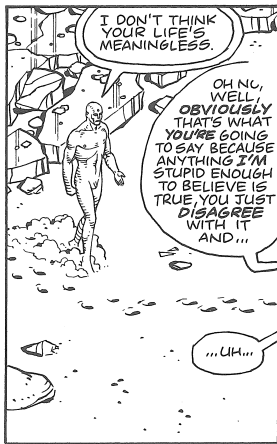


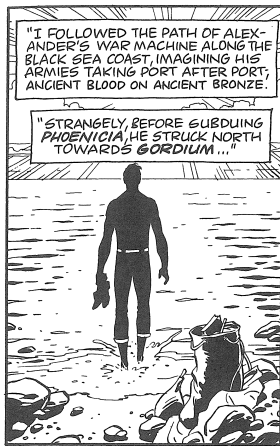
Oh how the ghost of you clings...

Nostalgia by EIDT

W! 85 BUICKS! NOW!

24 Cigarettes
SING
KATIE'S HEAD
VIGILANTE
RIOT: FIVE
HEAD





"I FOLLOWED THE PATH OF ALEXANDER'S WAR MACHINE ALONG THE BLACK SEA COAST, IMAGINING HIS ARMIES TAKING PORT AFTER PORT, ANCIENT BLOOD ON ANCIENT BRONZE."

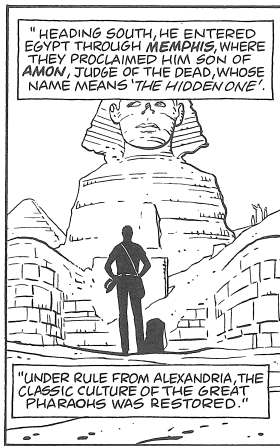
"STRANGELY, BEFORE SUBDUING PHOENICIA, HE STRUCK NORTH TOWARDS GORDIUM..."



"...PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE CHALLENGE IT PRESENTED: THE ANCIENT WORLD'S GREATEST PUZZLE WAS THERE, A KNOT THAT COULDN'T BE UNTIED."

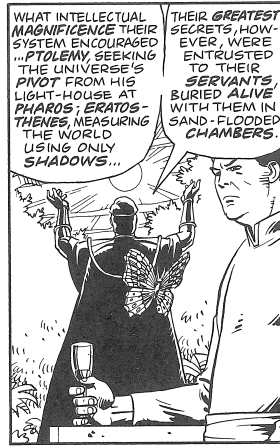
ALEXANDER CUT IT IN TWO WITH HIS SWORD.

LATERAL THINKING, YOU SEE, CENTURIES AHEAD OF HIS TIME.



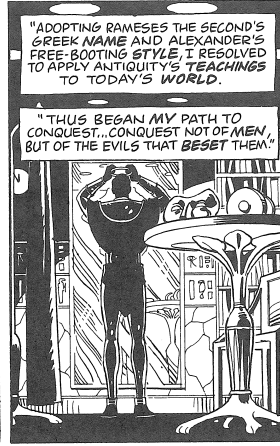
"HEADING SOUTH, HE ENTERED EGYPT THROUGH MEMPHIS, WHERE THEY PROCLAIMED HIM SON OF AMON, JUDGE OF THE DEAD, WHOSE NAME MEANS 'THE HIDDEN ONE'."

"UNDER RULE FROM ALEXANDRIA, THE CLASSIC CULTURE OF THE GREAT PHARAOHS WAS RESTORED."



WHAT INTELLECTUAL MAGNIFICENCE THEIR SYSTEM ENCOURAGED...PTOLEMY SEEKING THE UNIVERSE'S PIVOT FROM HIS LIGHT-HOUSE AT PHAROS, ERATOSTHENE, MEASURING THE WORLD USING ONLY SHADOWS...

THEIR GREATEST SECRETS, HOWEVER, WERE ENTICED TO THEIR SERVANTS, BURIED ALIVE WITH THEM IN SAND-FLOODED CHAMBERS.



"ADOPTING RAMESES THE SECOND'S GREEK NAME AND ALEXANDER'S FREE-BOOTING STYLE, I RESOLVED TO APPLY ANTIQUITY'S TEACHINGS TO TODAY'S WORLD."

"THUS BEGAN MY PATH TO CONQUEST...CONQUEST NOT OF MEN, BUT OF THE EVILS THAT BESET THEM."



TODAY, THAT CONQUEST BECOMES ASSURED, IN WHICH YOUR UNQUESTIONING ASSISTANCE HAS PROVEN INVALUABLE.

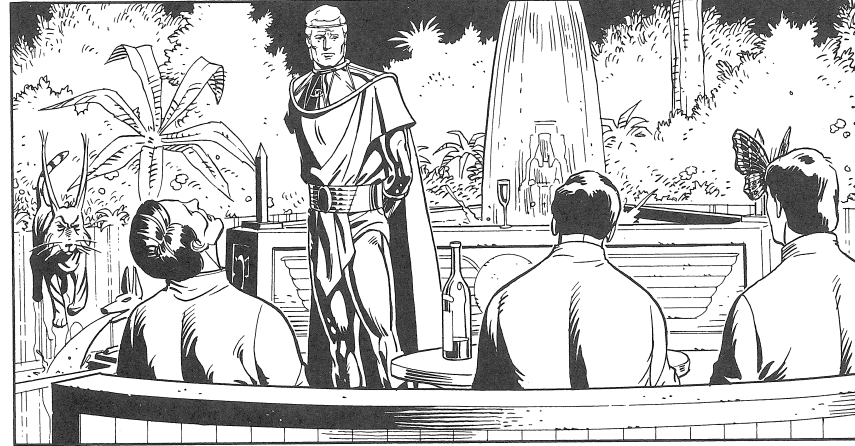
DO YOU COMPREHEND THE TRIUMPH TO WHICH YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED, THE SECRET GLORY THAT IT AFFORDS?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY SHAME AT SO INADEQUATE A REWARD?



I FOLLOWED HIM THROUGH BABYLON, UP THROUGH KABUL TO SAMARKHAND, THEN DOWN THE INDUS, WHERE HE FIRST MET ELEPHANTS-OF-WAR.

WHERE HE'D TURNED BACK TO QUELL DISSENT AT HOME, I TRAVELLED ON THROUGH CHINA AND TIBET, GATHERING MARTIAL WISDOM AS I WENT.



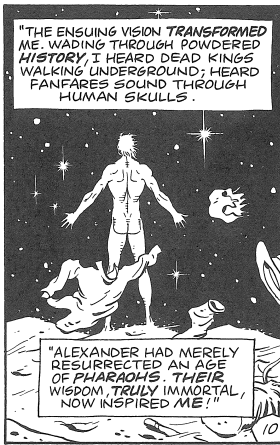
"ALEXANDER RETURNED TO BABYLON TO DIE OF AN INFECTION, AGED THIRTY-THREE, AMONGST ITS RUINED ZIGGURATS, I SAW AT LAST HIS FAILINGS..."

"HE'D NOT UNITED ALL THE WORLD, NOR BUILT A UNITY THAT WOULD SURVIVE HIM."



DISILLUSIONED BUT DETERMINED TO COMPLETE MY ODYSSEY, I FOLLOWED HIS CORPSE TO ITS RESTING PLACE IN ALEXANDRIA.

THE NIGHT BEFORE RETURNING TO AMERICA, I WANDERED INTO THE DESERT AND ATE A BALL OF HASHISH I'D BEEN GIVEN IN TIBET.



"THE ENSUING VISION TRANSFORMED ME, WADING THROUGH POWDERED HISTORY, I HEARD DEAD KINGS WALKING UNDERGROUND, HEARD FANFARES SOUND THROUGH HUMAN SKULLS."

"ALEXANDER HAD MERELY RESURRECTED AN AGE OF PHARAOHS. THEIR WISDOM, TRULY IMMORTAL, NOW INSPIRED ME!"

