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Nightmares of the Rich and Famous

— John Shirley —

A sense of disjointed pendulous motion, and of being somewhere elevated, carried along by some undefined enormity, far over a cracked white concrete road. The concrete road was marked with stunningly ugly lumps of brown-black. I was confined up to my neck, my arms pinned down, only my head free to see the big white concrete road. Then a puce blur, the smell of flesh and grease, and something had clamped me about the neck and pulled me from the confinement which—I now saw, receding from it—was apparently a thick piece of blue canvas. I was breathless with the rocketing suddenness of the motion, and frightened by the scale of things around me, my own insignificance coming home to me in an agoraphobic rush. And then I was rushing toward a yellow-fenced pit, the reek of iron filings and decaying garbage; within the pit heaved a thing of moldy red terry cloth, mottled blue-white, dripping what might have been industrial solvent.... Bubbles swirling



with sickly rainbows trembled between the yellow pickets.... The circular fence folded in on itself, like the two sections of a bear trap coming together—and I was caught between them. It happened quickly, with a flood of sensation beyond pain, an outpouring

of sheer loss, as the teeth in that great mouth tore the front of my body away, torso and genitals, and my insides *fizzed* out, and it drank them down. With them went my physical sensations, my sense of inward self. All that remained was sight and hearing and objective observation. In consequence, there was no discomfort as the great pink clamps of the fingers crumpled me with a sound of squealing plastic and let me fall... falling through space... till I struck the white road, and bounced to my place beside the others: the other crumpled, inert, empty people, lying on the sidewalk beside the mounds of dog shit, unable to move, trying forever to read each other's labels.

John Shirley, at thirty-four, is the author of numerous novels of fantasy, horror, and science fiction, including the seminal cyberpunk novels *City Come A-Walkin'* and *Eclipse* (Questar Books). Franklin Watts will be bringing out his "twisted fantasy tour de force," *Splendid Chaos*, in February '88. He is currently writing an "urban fantasy" film for Ed Pressman Productions.

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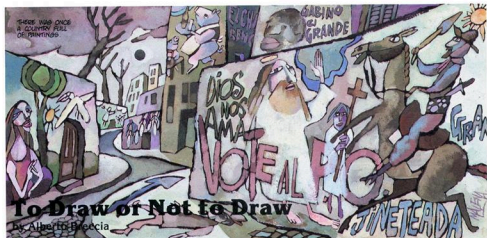
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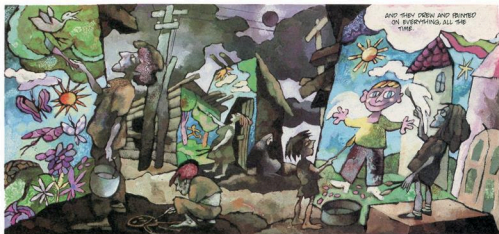
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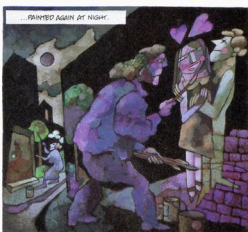


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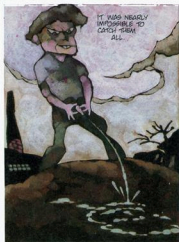
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IT REALLY WASN'T SO EASY.



IT WAS NEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO
CATCH THEM
ALL.

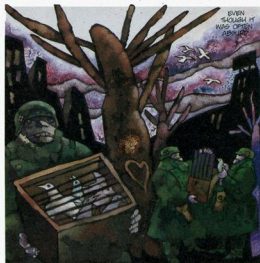


SO THE ADMIRAL, WHO DIDN'T KNOW
HOW TO DRAW, CAME UP WITH A
LITTLE SCHEME IN HIS INFLATED
HEAD...

STARTING WITH
TODAY, ALL THE OWNERS
OF PRINTED
SURFACES WILL BE
THROWN IN JAIL!



AND SO IT WAS...



EVEN
THOUGH IT
WAS OFTEN
ABUSED

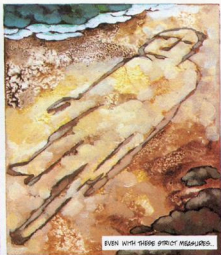


...AND VERY
DIFFICULT...

DIOS NOS
GUÍA



...TO FIND...



SO HE TRAINED A GROUP OF IMPLACABLE MEN.



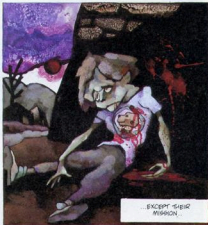
THEY WERE
BLIND...



TO EVERYTHING...



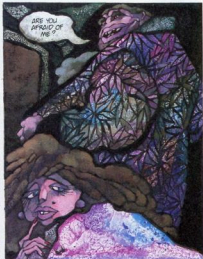
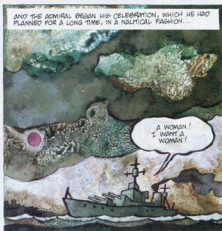
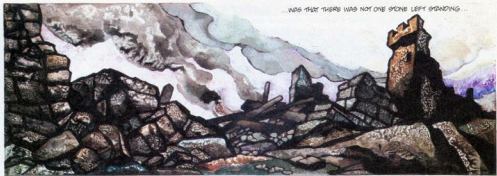
...EXCEPT THEIR
MISSION.



THE RESULT OF THE PAINTERS' SKILL, HOWEVER...

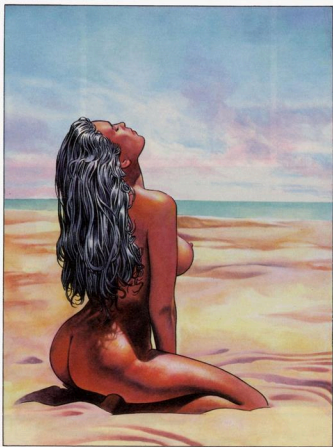


...WAS THAT THERE WAS NOT ONE STONE LEFT STANDING...





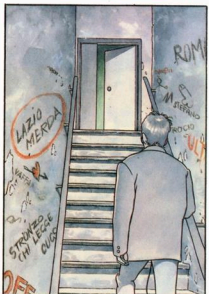
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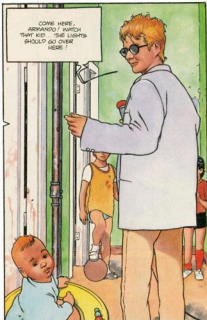


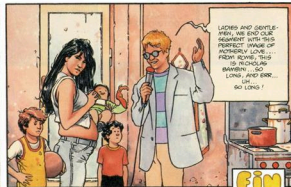
A WULF SPECIAL REPORT

DO YOU KNOW ME? FOR MANY YEARS I WAS YOUR IDEAL WOMAN; MY SENSUALITY CHARMED HUNDREDS OF MEN WHO MELTED AT THE SIGHT OF MY VOLUPTUOUS CURVES. I WAS THE PROTOTYPE OF A WILD, YET COMFORTING BEAUTY.

STICOMORO







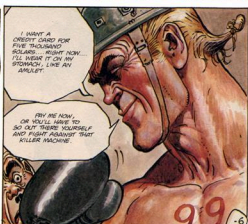


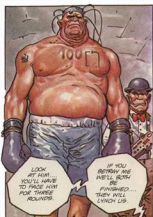


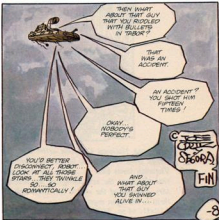
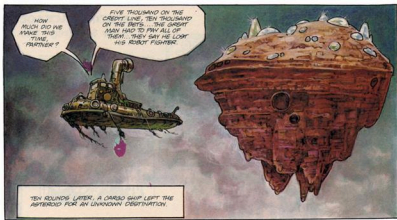
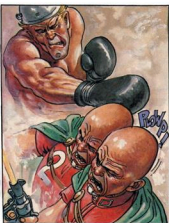












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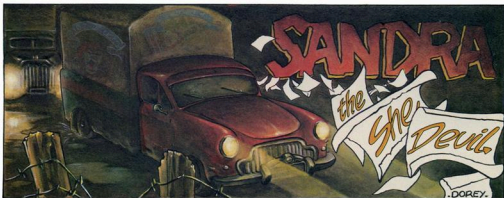
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THE SMALL FAIR HAD CRISS-CROSSED THE COUNTRY FOR MANY YEARS...



IT FEATURED TRADITIONAL ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS "HIT AND WIN"...



THE LARGEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD, AND HER DENTIES...

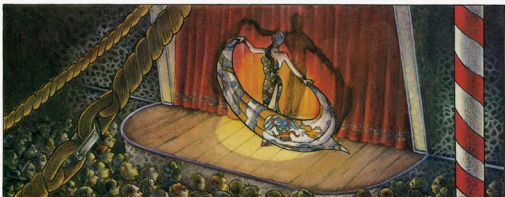


THE GUILLOTINE 'DOOM MAN'. ALL THESE WERE MUCH APPRECIATED...



BUT FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE MOST POPULAR ATTRACTION HAD BEEN THE SHE-DEVIL.





THE SLOW AND STUDIED GESTURES WITH WHICH SHE UNDERESSED HERSELF AROUSED THE SPECTATORS...



HER PERFECT WHITE BODY MADE THEM TREMBLE WITH DESIRE...



TENSION REACHED ITS PEAK AS SHE TOOK OFF HER MASK, WITH THE SAME STUDIED SLOWNESS...



THE CROWD WOULD TAKE A STEP BACK, EYES WIDE WITH HORROR AS THEY CAUGHT SIGHT OF HER FACE.



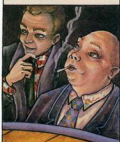
MANY, REPULSED BUT FASCINATED AT THE SAME TIME, COULD NOT TAKE THEIR EYES OFF HER.



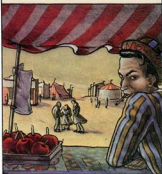
OTHERS RAN TO THE DOOR TRYING TO FORGET THE NIGHTMARISH VISION.



A RARE FEW STUDIED THE WOMAN WITH DESIRE IN THEIR EYES.



THAT DAY, THE RAIN AND THE WIND HAD DISBURGED MANY FROM ATTENDING... MOST OF THE BOOTHS WERE CLOSED.



BUT THE SHE-DEVIL'S REPUTATION WAS STRONGER THAN THE BAD WEATHER, AND A GROUP OF SPECTATORS HAD ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE HER BOOTH.



BEFORE EVERY SHOW, SANDRA LIKES TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE THROUGH THE CURTAIN.



AS IF TO MEASURE THE PULSE OF THE CROWD SHE WILL SHORTLY CHARM AND TERRIFY...



AFTER HAVING PERFORMED IN SO MANY DIFFERENT CITIES, SHE HAD LOST ALL HOPE OF SEEING THOSE THREE FACES AGAIN...



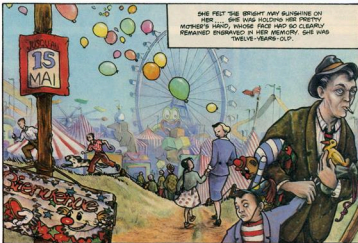
BUT FATE HAD FINALLY DELIVERED THEM TO HER...



SEEING THEM TOOK HER BACK TEN YEARS, AND ONCE AGAIN SHE FOUND HERSELF ON THAT FATEFUL DAY IN WHICH SHE HAD BECOME THE SHE-DEVIL!



SHE FELT THE BRIGHT MAY SUNSHINE ON HER... SHE WAS HOLDING HER PRETTY MOTHER'S HAND, WHOSE FACE HAD SO CLEARLY REMAINED ENGRAVED IN HER MEMORY, SHE WAS TWELVE-YEARS-OLD.



ALL TOO SOON, THE SPIRIT OF THEIR OUTING CHANGED. HER MOTHER WENT UP TO A STRANGER... SHE ASKED HIM FOR A LIGHT WITH A WONDERFUL SMILE...



A VERY FRIENDLY CONVERSATION STARTED... HE ENDED UP INVITING HER TO HAVE A DRINK WITH HIM AT THE LIQUOR BOOTH...



SANDRA DECIDED TO TRY AND HAVE FUN, THOUGH SHE WAS REALLY VERY SAD SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO STAY WITH HER MOTHER WHOM SHE SAW SO SELDOM.

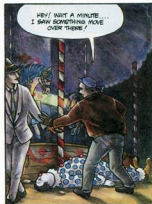
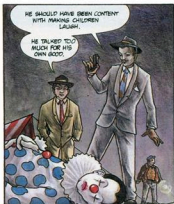
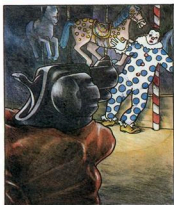
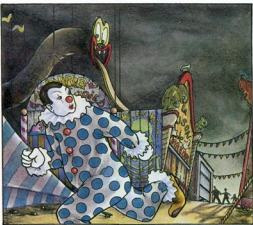


WHEN THE MERRY-GO-ROUND FINALLY STOPPED SHE FOUND HERSELF ALL ALONE... THE FAIRGROUNDS WERE NEARLY DESERTED... THE NIGHT HAD FALLEN AND ALL THE BOOTHS WERE CLOSED.

SHIVERING WITH COLD, SHE
WAITED FOR HER MOTHER. FOR
WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY,
SHE FINALLY FELT ARLBER,
EXHAUSTED.



IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT SHE
WAS WOKEN BY THE SOUND OF
SOMEONE RUNNING AT GREAT
SPEED ON THE GRAVEL....





AFTER WHAT SEEMED LIKE A LONG TIME, SHE BEGAN TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS. SHE FELT HERSELF ROCKED BY THE REGULAR RHYTHM OF AN ENGINE. THE BRIEF MOMENTS OF LUCIDITY WERE INTERSPERSED WITH LONG PERIODS OF ABSOLUTE DARKNESS...



WHEN SHE FINALLY BEGAN TO SEE AGAIN, SHE MADE OUT LEO'S GROTESQUE FACE. HE SOOTHED HER FEARS WITH KINDNESS... AND HE BECAME THE FATHER SHE NEVER KNEW.



HE HAD BEEN A FAMOUS SURGEON ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO, AND ALL AT ONCE HE HAD LOST HIS REPUTATION AND HIS LEFT HAND DURING A FIGHT OUTSIDE OF A CASINO... HE HAD TO LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND... SINCE THEN HE HAD DEVOTED HIS SKILLS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE FAIR.



HE SAVED SANDRA'S LIFE, BUT, WITH ALL HIS TALENT, HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GIVE HER A HUMAN FACE.



...THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO, AND NOW A SMILE HOVERED OVER SANDRA'S FACE.



MOMENTS AFTER THE SHOW...

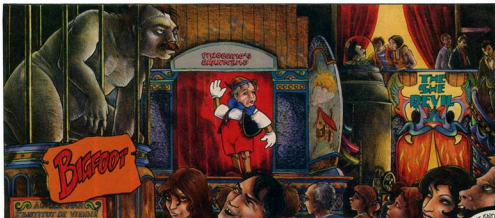
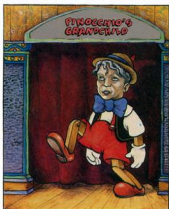
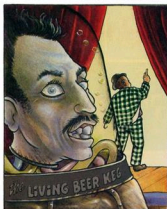


GENTLEMEN, I SEE THAT YOU ENJOYED THE SHOW... THE YOUNG LADY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU FOR...



...A DRINK... SHE NOTICED YOU IN THE AUDIENCE.





THE CONVENT
OF SAINT
SERVILIO, IN
VENICE.
FRIDAY, JULY
17TH, 1573



WHAT REASON WOULD
VERONESE HAVE TO PRANT
THE GUARDS DRESSED IN
SERVIAN STYLE OTHER
THAN SHOW HIS
SUPPORT OF
LUTHER'S HERESY?



AND WHAT
IS THE MEANING OF
THAT MAN AND 'SOME DOGS
OVER THERE WITH
BLOOD TRICKLING DOWN
FROM THEIR NOSES?



... AND THAT MAN WHO
PICKS HIS TEETH WITH A FORK,
AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN
SIMILAR TRIVIAL ACTS? THEY
SURELY ARE THERE TO
RIDICULE THE HOLY
EUCARIST!



LET PAOLO
VERONESE, THE PRINTER,
LEAD IN FRONT OF THE
INQUISITION TRIBUNAL.

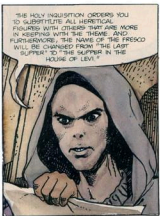


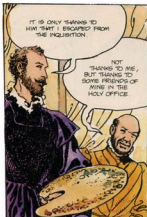
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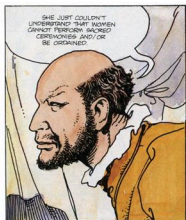
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JULY 18TH

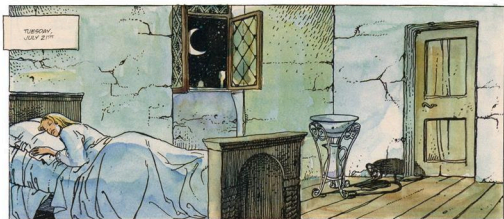
NOW
ENTERING IS THE
PRINTER PAOLO CALZARI,
ALSO KNOWN AS
VERONESE, FROM
VERONA.





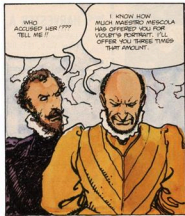
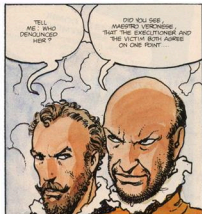
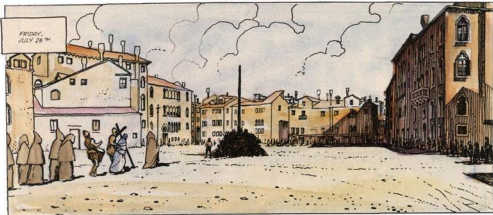












THE END



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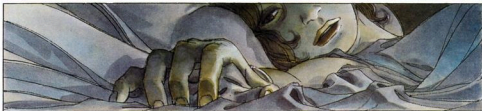
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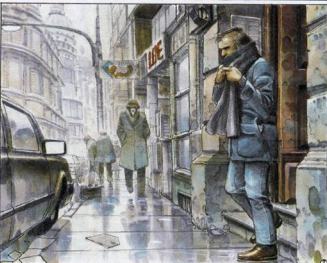
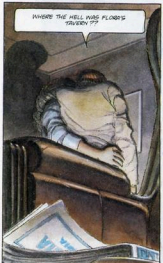
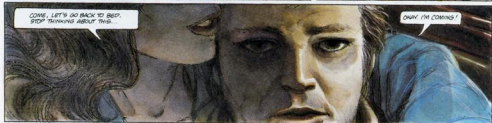
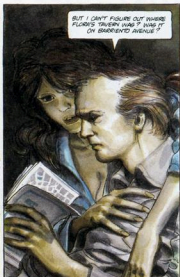
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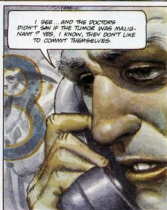
THE NAKED BRANCH

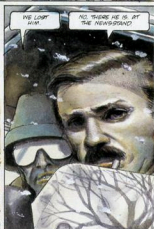
by Juan Gimenez and
Felipe Hernandez Cava

Article 13: Everyone has the right to leave any country including his own, and to return to his country.















LISTEN TO THAT... NOW HE'S
DESCRIBING LANN STREET.



LET'S GO WHEN
THEY FIND HIM. I DON'T
THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO
TELL ANYONE ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED.



FLORENCE'S TAVERN.

JUST AROUND THE CORNER, ON LANN STREET.



FLORENCE'S TAVERN.

WHAT ARE YOU
STILL DOING HERE?
ARE YOU ORZEV?



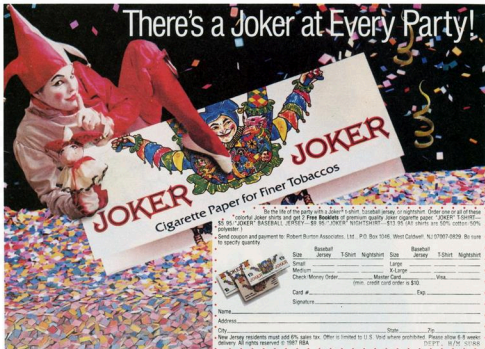
...AND ABOVE IT... MY HOUSE.



...MY HOUSE.



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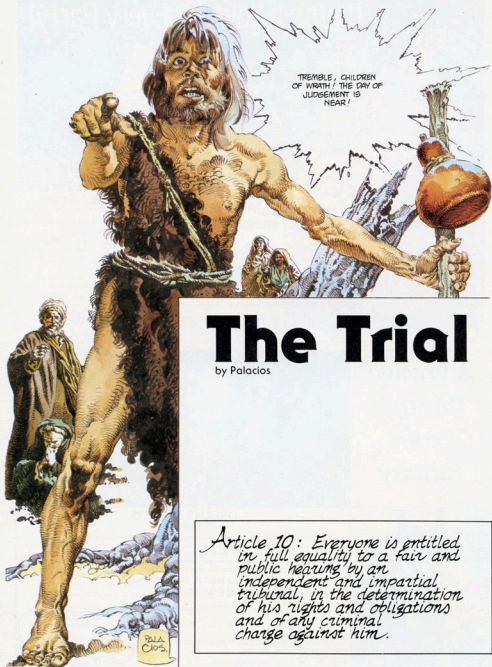
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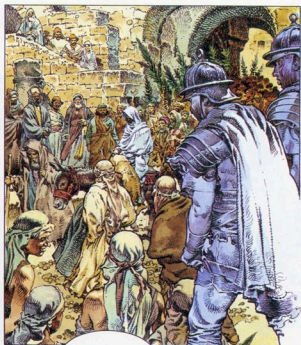
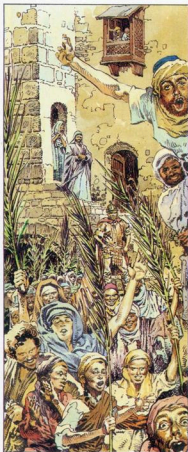
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The Trial

by Palacios

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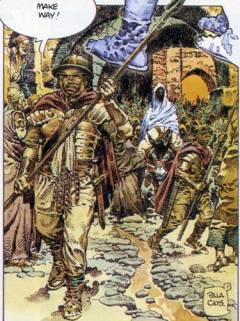


MAKE
WAY!

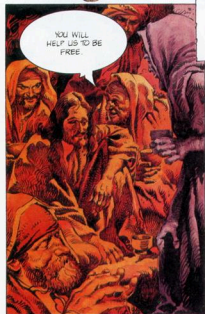
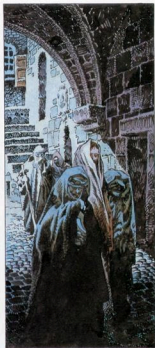
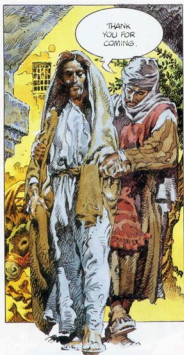


HE LOOKS
LIKE A GOOD
MAN.

THEY'RE GOING
TO DRAG HIM OFF
HIS MULE. LET'S
GO!

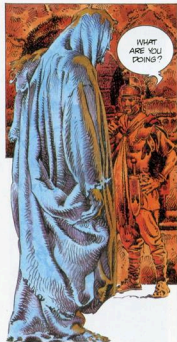
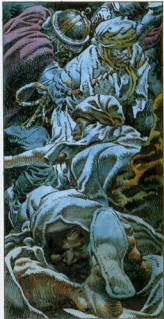
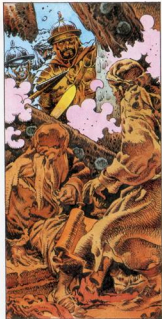


1
BILLY
COPS



ROTTEN
APPLES,
AGAIN
AND
AGAIN.





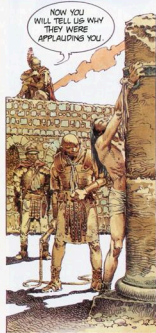
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

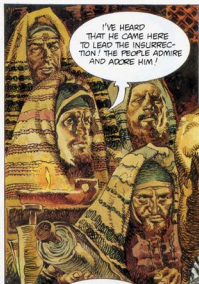


I'M
ONLY PASSING
THROUGH

THAT'S
RIGHT. I SAW
HIM COME IN...

TAKE HIM
AWAY WITH THE
OTHERS. THE
JUDGES WILL
DECIDE....





I'VE HEARD
THAT HE CAME HERE
TO LEAD THE INSURREC-
TION! THE PEOPLE ADMIRE
AND ADORE HIM!



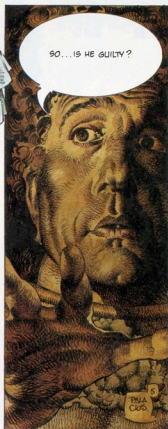
THE TRUTH IS
THAT HE DOESN'T
SEEM CAPABLE OF
HURTING A FLY...



...IT'S HIS
IDEAS... THEY
CAN KILL
YOU...

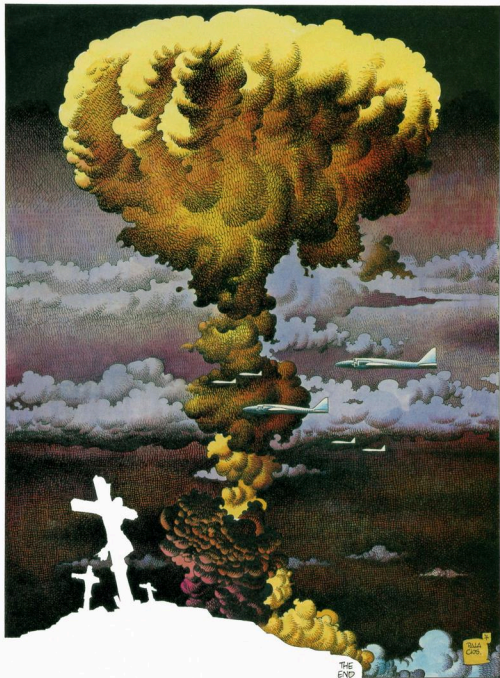


YOU
AND YOUR PETTY
INTRIGUES!

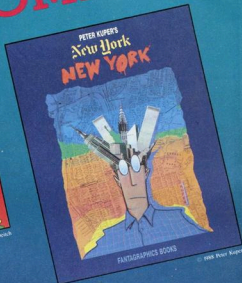
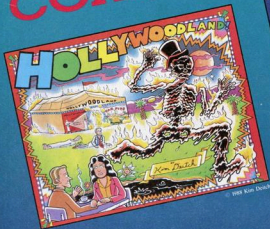


SO... IS HE GUILTY?





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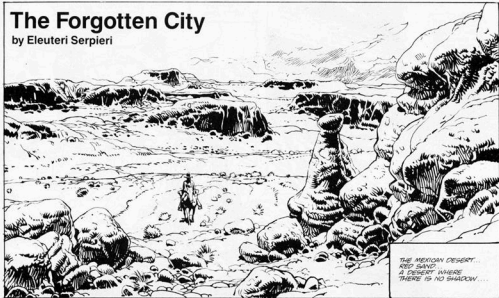
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The Forgotten City

by Eleuteri Serpieri



THE MEXICAN DESERT...
RED SAND...
A DESERT WHERE
THERE IS NO SHADOW...

BERYE WALLEY RIDES ALONG THE SETTING SUN. HIS MOUTH
IS COVERED BY A HANDKERCHIEF... HIS HAND, DAMP WITH
SWEAT IS HOLDING THE REINS...



THERE MUST BE SOMEPLACE WHERE I CAN STOP
FOR A WHILE! DAMN, I'VE REALLY GOTTEN MYSELF
INTO A MESS!





I SHOULDN'T HAVE
DONE IT... OLD RAY
WOULD HAVE
BEEN A GREAT
HELP RIGHT NOW...
HE KNEW THIS
PLACE...



BUT
ONLY BECAUSE
I MADE A BET
WITH MYSELF... I
DARED MYSELF TO DO
IT, AND NOW I
DON'T REALLY
CARE...



BUT HE DIDN'T
WANT TO COME...

I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH, BERNIE... THE
GOLD, I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT IT.
I WANTED TO FIND IT,
THAT'S
TRUE...



I'M OLD,
AND IN MY SINGLE LIFE
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN
RICH....

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING,
YOU OLD
LUNATIC...



WHAT ARE YOU
THINKING ABOUT... NOW
THAT WE'VE REACHED OUR
GOAL... YOU'RE GOING TO
PULL BACK?

YOU'VE
HEARD ME
PERFECTLY, BERNIE...
I DON'T NEED THAT
GOLD, AND THAT'S
THAT.

ARE YOU CRAZY? I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE IT UP SO EARLY.... I'LL TAKE THAT BEASTLY AMULET YOU KEEP AROUND YOUR NECK.... I'LL KEEP ON GOING UNTIL THE VERY END.

YOU'LL NEVER GET THAT GOLD, BROTHER... NEVER!

IF YOU SAY IT ONE MORE TIME OLD MAN, I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

YOU'LL NEVER GET IT! STOP...

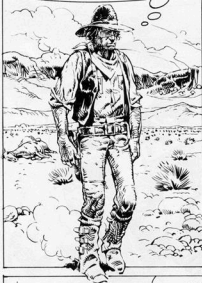
A CURSE ON YOU... SO TO HELL OLD MAN!

THE HORSE, OUT OF BREATH, COLLAPSES.

THAT'S IT FOR YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT... I'VE ABOUT HAD IT ALSO...

THEN I GRABBED THE AMULET FROM HIS NECK... IT HAD A MAP OF WHERE THE GOLD OF THE AGT INDIANS WAS BURIED. I'VE INHERE BOTH GOING TO LOOK FOR THE OLD INDIAN WHO HAD THE OTHER PART OF THE MAP...

I HAVE TO KEEP ON GOING... THE ABANDONED CITY
CANNOT BE TOO FAR FROM HERE....



THERE'S THE ROCK THAT'S
ON THE MAP... THE CITY
MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN
THOSE MOUNTAINS.



I'LL GET THERE. I MUST. THERE'S
BOUND TO BE SOME WATER IN AMONG
THOSE ROCKS... I'VE GOT TO
GET THERE....



I KNOW
YOU'RE HUNGRY,
MY FRIENDS,
BUT I WON'T BE
YOUR DINNER...



ONE MORE STEP, AND BERNIE FALLS
TO THE GROUND...

HE FEELS HIS EYES ON
FIRE, HIS MOUTH COM-
PLETELY DRY. HE CAN
STILL UTTER A FEW
WORDS, MECHANICALLY...

YOU
WOULDN'T GET
ME...



HE GOES UP
TO BEND
AND
POSSIBLE HIM
WITH HIS
STICK...



THEN, WITH SURPRISING EASE, HE PLAYS HIM
ON HIS SHOULDERS...



FROM BEHIND THE ROCKS, AN OLD MAN,
MOTIONLESS,
LOOKS ON.



HE KNOWS THE PLACE AND
TAKES A PATH THAT
LEADS TO THE
FORGOTTEN
CITY OF
THE HOPÍ
INDIANS.













THE GOLD... THE GOLD
IS COMPLETELY MESTED
...IT'S BOILING.



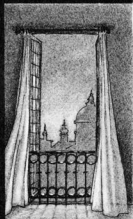


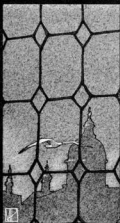




The Discreet Charm of Being Aesthetic

by Miguel Artel Prado







PERHAPS MY CHANGES ARE ONLY A QUESTION OF ESTHETIC, OF THE SAME SENSE OF ESTHETICS THAT DICTATES OUR CHOICE OF CLOTHES, THE MEASURES WE ASK, THE MOODS WE USE, OUR MOODS AND FEELINGS, OUR OUTLOOK... IT EVEN TELLS US HOW TO LOVE.



I CANNOT TAKE IT ANYMORE. I'M LEAVING YOU, DARLING. I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE. I'M LEAVING THIS CITY BEFORE I BECOME JUST ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DRAWING.



WHY I LOOK AT IT?

YES... I PAINTED IT FOR YOU, IT'S A GIFT.



A PARTING GIFT.



WE KNEW THIS WAS COMING, DIDN'T WE?



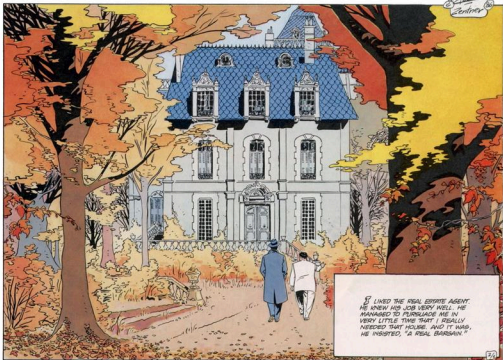
I MUST GO NOW. I STILL HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO.



WHEN I FINALLY LEFT CEYLON WITH MY HOARD OF PRECIOUS STONES, I WAS A RICH GUY. TIRED OF ROAMING AROUND THE WORLD, NO MORE REMOTE ISLANDS FOR ME, I SAID TO MYSELF AND SO I DECIDED TO BUY A HOUSE IN PARIS.



CUPID'S SIN



I LIKED THE REAL ESTATE AGENT. HE KNEW HIS JOB VERY WELL. HE MANAGED TO PURSUADE ME IN VERY LITTLE TIME THAT I REALLY NEEDED THAT HOUSE. AND IT WAS, HE INSISTED, "A REAL BARGAIN."



IT WOULD COST YOU DOUBLE THE AMOUNT IF IT WERE NOT FOR THAT RUINOUS RUMOR.

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE WE MAKE THE DEAL.



YOU MUST BE AWARE THAT OUR SOCIETY IS VERY... HOW CAN I PUT IT? ...HIGHER MORAL STANDARDS.



THERE ARE THINGS WHICH ARE SEVERELY CONDEMNED, SOMETIMES WITH GOOD REASON... INCEST, FOR EXAMPLE.



I'M TALKING ABOUT THE HEIRS TO THE COUNT OF C. GERTRUDE WAS A YEAR YOUNGER THAN HER BROTHER. THEY SELDOM LEFT THIS HOUSE, OR THIS GARDEN... IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO... YOU UNDERSTAND...



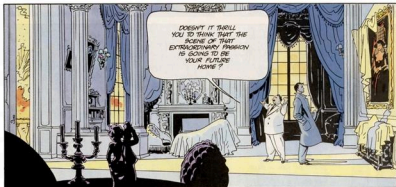
CAN WE REALLY CONDEMN THEM? ... THEY SAY SHE WAS A REAL BEAUTY... YOU'LL SEE HER PORTRAIT INSIDE.



IT SEEMS THAT THEY LIVED THROUGH SEVERAL YEARS OF FORTHSEEN AND SECRET LOVE, WITH THE HELP OF SOME OLD SERVANTS... THE COUNT AND COUNTESS WERE ALWAYS TRAVELING...

I LIVED THE STORY, AND I LIVED THE WAY THE AGENT WAS TELLING IT. OF COURSE, I STILL COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE HOUSE HAD LOST ITS VALUE. I HAD YET TO HEAR THE END.

SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL... VERY BEAUTIFUL...



DOESN'T IT THRILL YOU TO THINK THAT THE SCENE OF THAT EXTRAORDINARY PASSION IS GOING TO BE YOUR FUTURE HOME?

YES, OF COURSE. BUT WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID IT ALL END?



IN A VERY TRAGIC WAY, NATURALLY. THEIR PARENTS FOUND OUT... AND TRELL AND LOVE SELDOM GO TOGETHER, SIR.



THE YOUNG MAN WAS SENT TO THE COLONIES, IN THE PACIFIC. THE COUNTRY HAD A BREAKDOWN. GERTILUCE, POOR GERTILUCE... COULDN'T STAND THE LONELINESS.

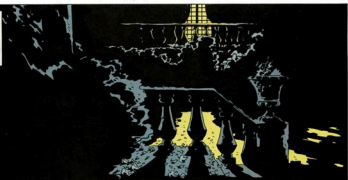


BUT YOU TOLD ME OF RUMORS, OF SUPERSTITION...



AH, YES, I NEARLY FORGOT... THEY SAY THAT GERTILUCE'S GHOST LIVES IN THIS HOUSE. SHE'S WAITING FOR HER BROTHER... I MEAN, HER LOVER... TO COME BACK.

55 I HAVE NEVER BEEN SUPERSTITIOUS, AND I LIKED THE HOUSE, WITH OR WITHOUT THE RUMORS. WITHOUT GIVING IT ANYMORE THOUGHT, I BOUGHT IT.



I WILL HAVE TO GET A COOK, AND A GARDENER... AND THE WALLS COULD STAND SOME PAINTING.

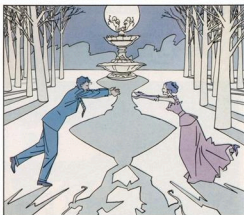


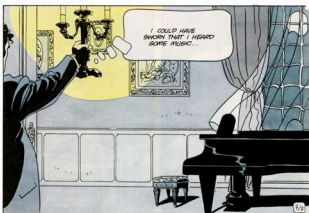
YOUR HEALTH, GENTLEMAN.

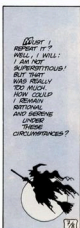


I FELL
FAST ASLEEP
AND GERTRUDE'S
VOLUNTUOUS
IMAGE
CAME
INTO MY
DREAMS.









I HAD
START WARD
MY HOUSE,
AND I DIDN'T
WANT TO
SHARE IT WITH
ANYBODY,
NEAR DID I
WANT TO
BE SCARED
OUT OF MY
WITH GHOSTS
DON'T EXIST,
BUT,
IF NECESSARY,
I WAS
READY TO
CONFRONT
ANY
NUMBER
OF THEM.



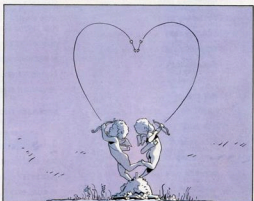
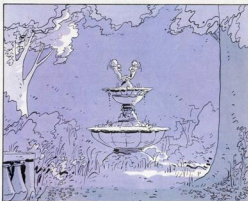
I
REMEMBERED
THAT I HAD
READ IN
HORROR
STORIES
THAT GHOSTS
PREFER TO
HIDE UP IN
THE ATTIC. I
HEADED MY
(THE TRUTH
MUST BE SAID)
TREMBLING
LEGS
TOWARDS
THAT
PART OF
THE HOUSE.



GERMILONE !!



I SAY IT FOR THE VERY
LAST TIME: I'M NOT SUPER-
STITIOUS! BUT I'LL NEVER
SET FOOT IN THAT CURSED
HOUSE AGAIN.



I'M SO GLAD HE
LEFT... NOW I CAN WAIT IN
PEACE, FOR MY LOVE TO
COME BACK TO ME.



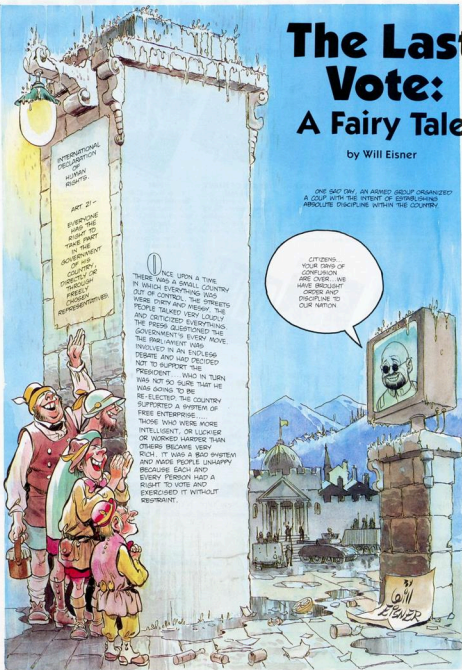
The Last Vote: A Fairy Tale

by Will Eisner

ONE SAD DAY, AN ARMED GROUP ORGANIZED A COUP WITH THE INTENT OF ESTABLISHING ABSOLUTE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

CITIZENS...
YOUR DAYS OF
CONFUSION
ARE OVER... WE
HAVE BROUGHT
ORDER AND
DISCIPLINE TO
OUR NATION.

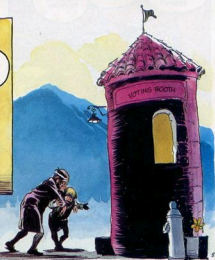
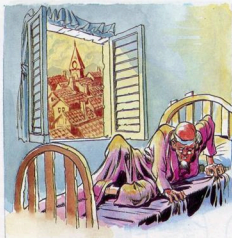
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A SMALL COUNTRY IN WHICH EVERYTHING WAS OUT OF CONTROL. THE STREETS WERE DIRTY AND MESSY. THE PEOPLE TALKED VERY LOUDLY AND CRITICIZED EVERYTHING. THE PRESS QUESTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S EVERY MOVE. THE PARLIAMENT WAS INVOLVED IN AN ENDLESS DEBATE AND HAD DECIDED NOT TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT... WHO IN TURN WAS NOT SO SURE THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE RE-ELECTED. THE COUNTRY SUPPORTED A SYSTEM OF FREE ENTERPRISE... THOSE WHO WERE MORE INTELLIGENT, OR LUCKIER OR WORKED HARDER THAN OTHERS BECAME VERY RICH. IT WAS A BAD SYSTEM BECAUSE EACH AND EVERY PERSON HAD A RIGHT TO VOTE AND EXERCISED IT WITHOUT RESTRAINT.

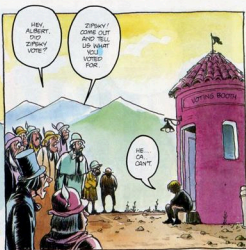


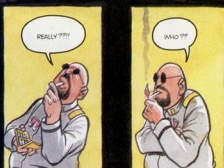














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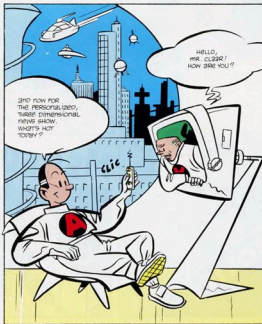
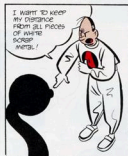
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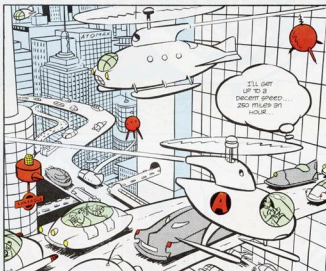
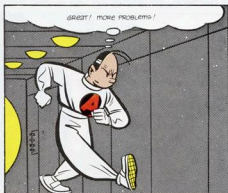
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	Wolverine			
	Punisher			
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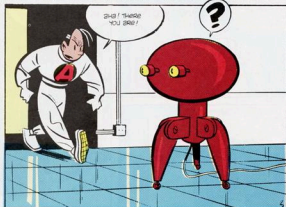
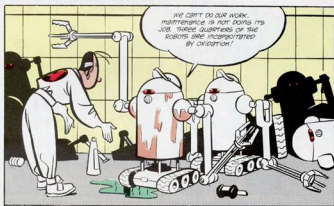
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ADOLPHUS CLAAR

by Yves Chaland



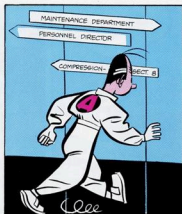
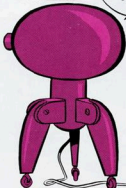




ARE YOU THE ONE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THIS STATE OF CHAOS?

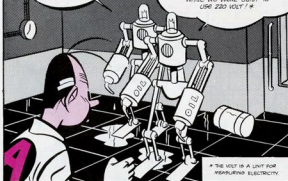


NO! I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! IT'S
THE MAINTENANCE ROBOTS WHO ARE ON
STRIKE!



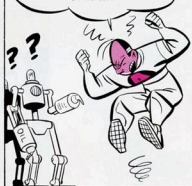
YES, INDEED, WE ARE ON STRIKE! AND
IT'S FOR A VERY GOOD
REASON...

...THE GENERATOR PROVIDES
US WITH 110 VOLT ENERGY
WHILE WE WERE BUILT TO
USE 220 VOLT! *



* THE VOLT IS A UNIT FOR
MEASURING ELECTRICITY.

AARGHHHH! THESE ROBOTS WILL
DRIVE ME CRAZY!



A CUP OF
COFFEE WILL
CALM MY
NERVES...

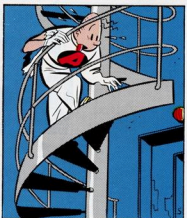
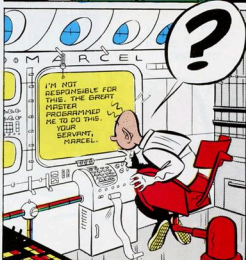
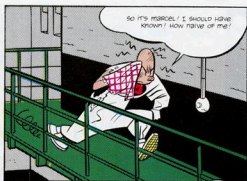
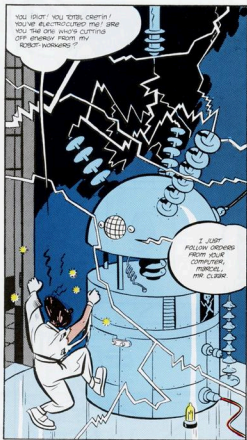


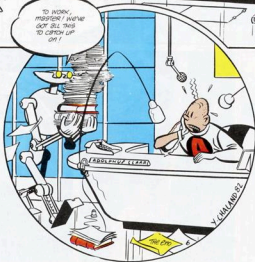
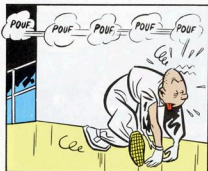
I'VE JOINED MY COLLEAGUES'
STRIKE AS A
SIGN OF
SOLIDARITY.



LET'S GO TO THE ELECTRIC
GENERATOR. HE'S THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MY
PROBLEMS.







America's Leading Magazine of Humor and Satire

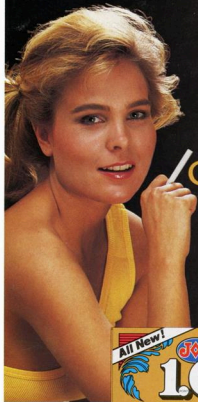


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