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Swordquest



WATERWORLD™

POWERS
OF
PRIME



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BEHOLD THEM, YE
LOVERS OF DERRING-
DO...YE PURVEYORS
OF HIGH
ADVENTURE...

...BEHOLD THESE
GOLD-HAIRED
TWINS WHO BUT
AN INSTANT AGO
PLUNGED HEAD-
LONG INTO A
GLEAMING, MYSTIC
CHALICE WHOSE
FINDING HAD MADE
WARRIORS OF
THEM BOTH.

BEHOLD THEM NOW,
CARRIED DOWN,
DOWN INTO THE
UNCHARTED DEPTHS
OF A WORLD
UNDER WAVE.

I--I CAN'T
BELIEVE MY
EYES!

IT'S JUST LIKE
THE IMAGE WE SAW--
IN THE BOTTOM OF
THE CHALICE--
BEFORE WE DIVED!

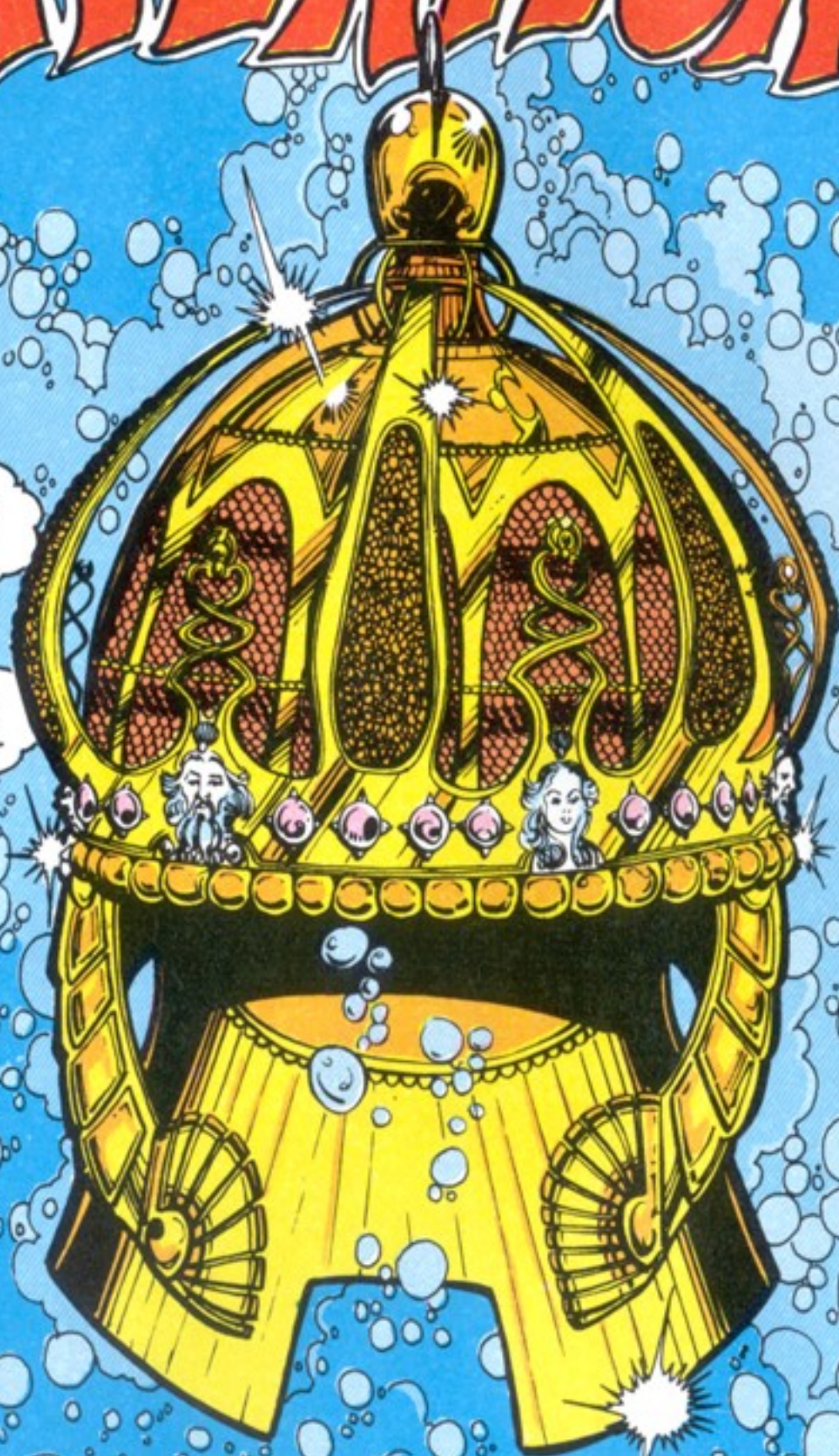
THEIR NAMES ARE TORR AND
TARRA, AND THEY HAVE JUST
ACCEPTED THE THIRD
CHALLENGE OF THEIR--

BOOK THREE

WATERWORLD

A CROWN--
AND IT'S NO
MIRAGE!

IT'S REAL--
AND IT'S
MAGNIFICENT!
IF WE CAN ONLY--



BUT, EVEN AS THE PLUMMETING SIBLINGS
RECOVER CONTROL OF THEIR LIMBS, AND
BEGIN TO ARC THEIR LITHE BODIES TOWARD
THE GLEAMING PRIZE --

--IT SHIMMERS BEYOND THEIR REACH WITH A FRUSTRATING--

WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
WHATEVER THAT THING WAS-- I
GUESS IT /ISN'T FOR THE
LIKES OF A COUPLE OF
THIEVES-TURNED-
WARRIORS!

POPP!

EACH OF THE OTHER
TWO WORLDS WE'VE
ENCOUNTERED & HAD
A SPECIAL TALISMAN,
WHICH WOULD HELP
US IF WE GRASPED IT.

THE CROWN
MUST BE
WATERWORLD'S!

* EARTHWORLD AND FIREWORLD--
ALSO AVAILABLE ON ATARI CARTRIDGES.

MY LUNGS--
THEY'RE ABOUT
TO BURST!
HUH?

NOW WHAT'S
TARRA
GESTURING
AT? IT
BETTER BE--

OH,
NO!

AS IF

WE DIDN'T
HAVE

ENOUGH
TROUBLE
ALREADY...

...WE'RE
CAUGHT IN
SOME KIND OF
WHIRLPOOL
SPOUT!

BORN OF THE
MYSTIC CHALICE,
THE GARGANTUAN
SPOT CARRIES THE
YOUTHFUL, FATE-
TOSSED PAIR HIGH,
HISH INTO THE
AIR--

-- ONLY TO DROP THEM AGAIN, SOME DISTANCE AWAY:

UGH!! LANDED AMID-- SOME
STRANGE KIND OF *SEAWEED*--
GETTING ALL TANGLED UP!

WONDER WHAT
KIND OF WORLD
THIS ONE'LL TURN
OUT TO BE--

-- IF WE EVER
STOP BEING *TOSSED*
AROUND LONG
ENOUGH TO TAKE
A LOOK AT IT!?

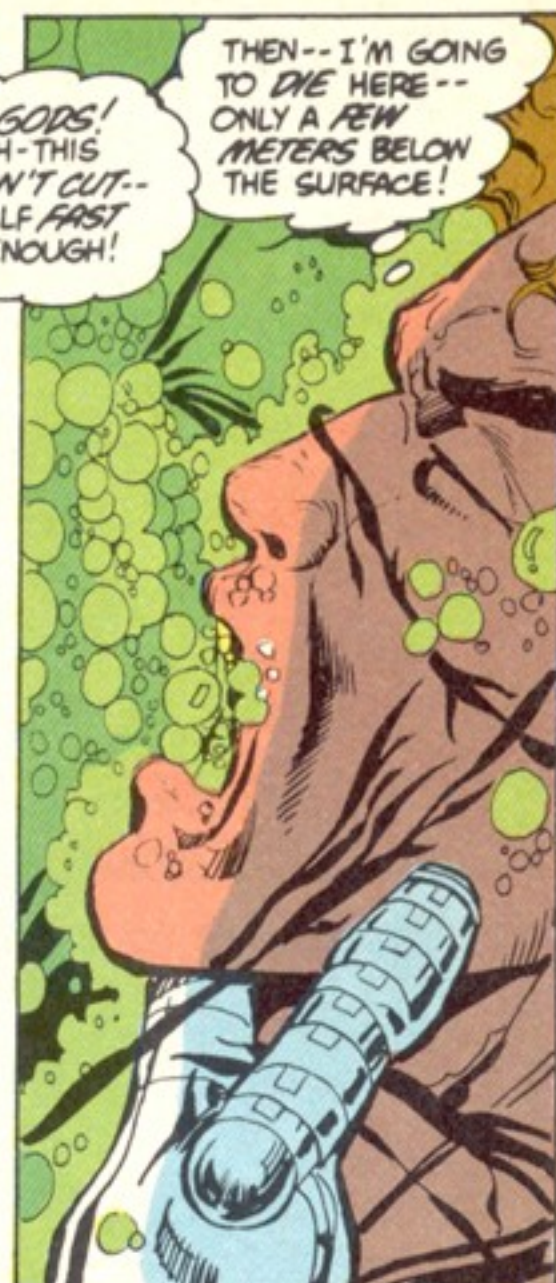
GOOD GIRL,
TARRA! *FREE* ALREADY--
FLOATING TOWARD
THE SURFACE-- AND
ANOTHER GULP OF
AIR!

MY ARMOR'S
LIGHT-
WEIGHT,
TOO, SO
I'LL JUST--

THEY'RE *HOLDING*
ME-- LIKE SOME
SORT OF *NET*!

HUH??

-- FAR ABOVE THE
ICE-FLECKED, WATER-
COVERED *SURFACE*
OF THIS EERIE NEW
WORLD THEY HAVE
NOT EVEN TIME TO
GLIMPSE--





AS IF THESE
TENTACLES--
AREN'T HOLDING
ME TIGHT ENOUGH--

--I SURE DON'T
LIKE THE LOOKS OF
THOSE THINGS
COMING AT--



MY ARMOR--
PROTECTED ME-- JUST
BARELY! MAYBE--
CRACKED A RIB OR
THREE--

THONK!



--BUT SINCE MY MAIL
SHIRT'S-- NOW ABOUT
AS MUCH PROTECTION--
AS A SHIELD OF WET
PARCHMENT--

--MIGHT AS WELL
GET RID OF IT--
AND USE THE EXTRA
SPEED I GAIN--



--TO STRIKE AT OLD SNAKY-LEGS--
FASTER THAN HE'D THINK I--

G-GOT HIM!
BUT--HIS GRIP--
SO TIGHT!

EVERYTHING--
GOING BLACK--!

IN ITS EXTREME AGONY, THE GIGANTIC OCTOPOD DOES WHAT TORR'S HUMAN MUSCLES AND PURLOINED DAGGER COULD NEVER HAVE DONE IN TIME:

IT RIPS THE RESTRAINING NET OF GATHERED SEAWEED ASUNDER, AS IF 'TWERE BUT A THING MADE OF STRANDS OF ROTTED GRASS...

...AND, MOMENTS LATER, OUT OF THE MAD WELTER OF SEAWEED AND SLAUGHTER...

...TWO SEPARATE OBJECTS, BOTH GLEAMING IN THEIR OWN WAYS, GO FLOATING UP...

... BECOMING ENTANGLED BY AN ERRANT FATE AS THEY RISE SLOWLY, INEXORABLY SURFACEWARD.



AS, ABOVE, WHERE ICY WINDS BLOW LIKE INVISIBLE MESSENGERS OF DEATH ACROSS A WORLD SEEMINGLY ALL BLUE AND WHITE...

TORR!

WHERE
ARE YOU,
TORR??

THE ONLY ANSWER IS THE
RENDING AND CRACKING
OF ICEBERGS, MUFFLED
BY DISTANCE AND MIST.

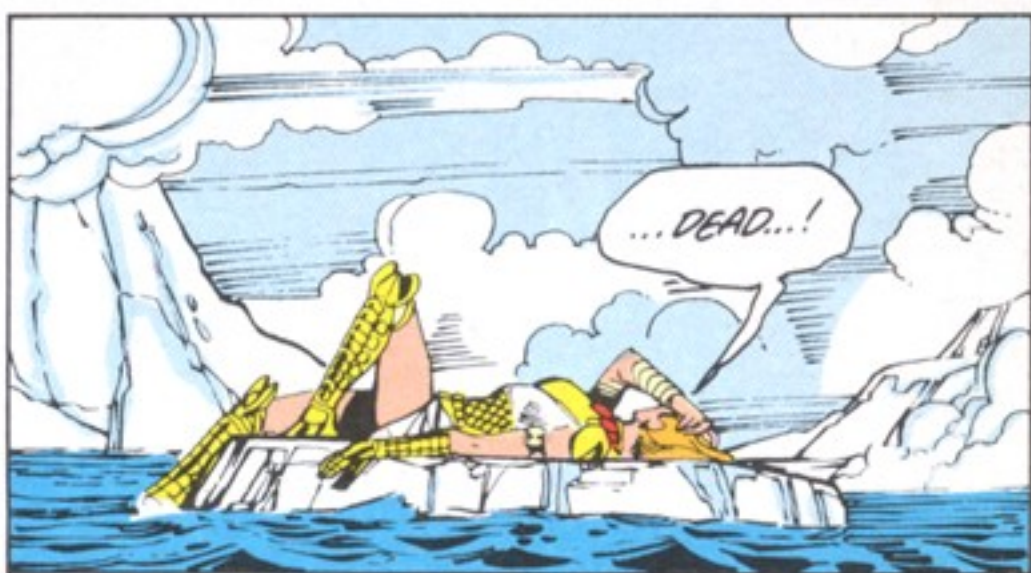
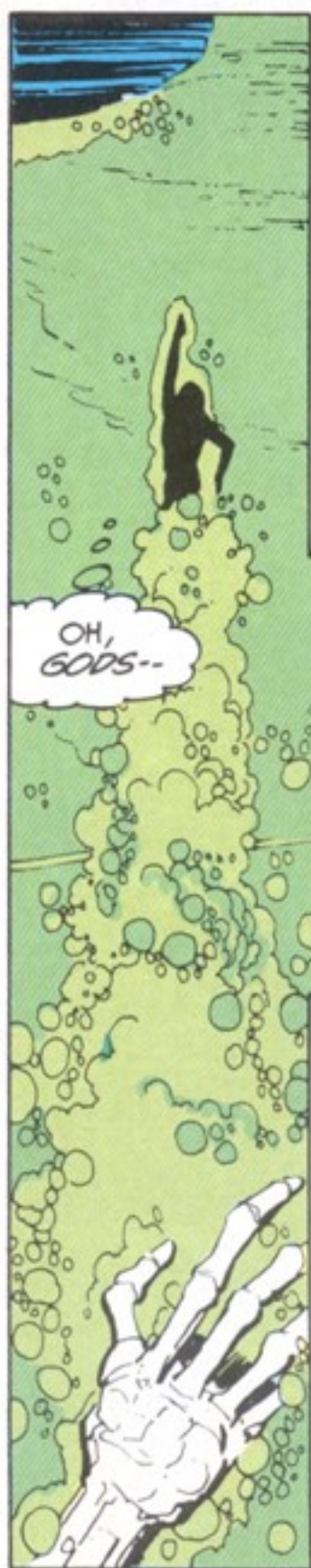
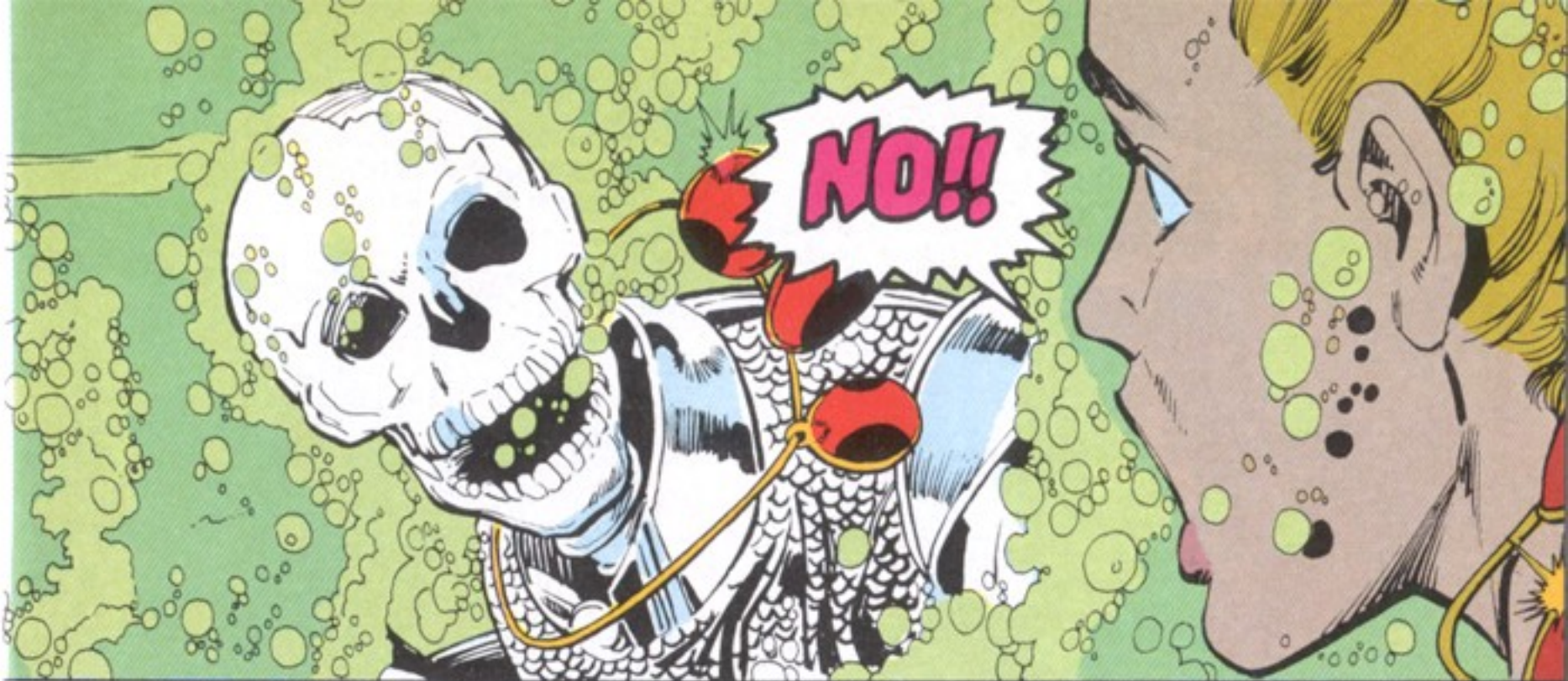
H-HE DIDN'T COME UP!
THAT MEANS-- EVEN
THOUGH IT'S EVEN COLD
ENOUGH UP HERE TO
MAKE ICICLES OUT OF
A DRAGON'S BREATH--


--I'VE GOT
TO GO BACK
AFTER HIM!

SO
MURKY!
CAN'T--

WAIT!
SOMETHING--
ASCENDING
FROM BELOW--!

TORR...?

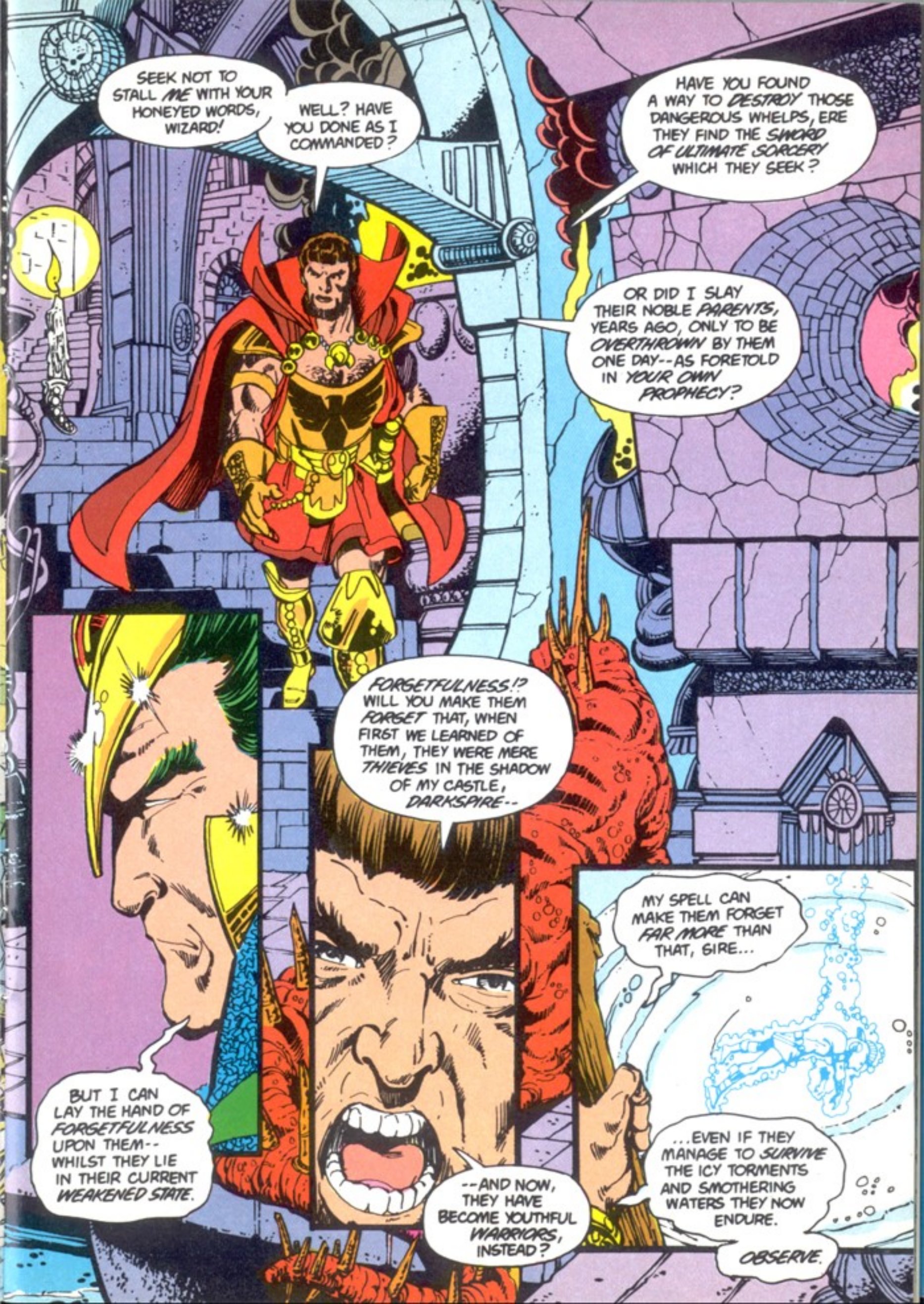




... SHALL HIS GOLD-
TRESSED TWIN BE
FAR BEHIND ?

AH, MY KING! THE CHAMBER
OF KONTURO IS HONORED
BY YOUR MOST GRACIOUS
PRESENCE.

EVEN MY MAGIC
CANNOT TOUCH
THEM DIRECTLY
FROM AFAR,
O TYRANNUS.



SEEK NOT TO
STALL *ME* WITH YOUR
HONEYED WORDS,
WIZARD!

WELL? HAVE
YOU DONE AS I
COMMANDED?

HAVE YOU FOUND
A WAY TO *DESTROY* THOSE
DANGEROUS WHELPS, ERE
THEY FIND THE *SWORD*
OF ULTIMATE *SORCERY*
WHICH THEY SEEK?

OR DID I SLAY
THEIR NOBLE *PARENTS*,
YEARS AGO, ONLY TO BE
OVERTHROWN BY THEM
ONE DAY--AS FORETOLD
IN *YOUR OWN*
PROPHECY?

FORGETFULNESS!?
WILL YOU MAKE THEM
FORGET THAT, WHEN
FIRST WE LEARNED OF
THEM, THEY WERE MERE
THIEVES IN THE SHADOW
OF MY CASTLE,
DARKSPIRE--

BUT I CAN
LAY THE HAND OF
FORGETFULNESS
UPON THEM--
WHILST THEY LIE
IN THEIR CURRENT
WEAKENED STATE.

--AND NOW,
THEY HAVE
BECOME *YOUTHFUL*
WARRIORS,
INSTEAD?

MY SPELL CAN
MAKE THEM *FORGET*
FAR *MORE* THAN
THAT, SIRE...

...EVEN IF THEY
MANAGE TO *SURVIVE*
THE ICY *TORMENTS*
AND *SMOTHERING*
WATERS THEY NOW
ENDURE.

OBSERVE.

I BUT *STIR* MINE
ENCHANTED CAULDRON
WITH THE WAND OF
WONDERMENT-- AND
EVEN IF THEY LIVE--

--THEIR MEMORIES
SHALL BE HOPELESSLY
SCRAMBLED-- THEIR
PASTS AN UNKNOWN
VOID TO THEMSELVES.

THEY'LL FORGET NOT
ONLY THEIR *SWORDQUEST*,
BUT *ALL THAT HAS*
TRANSPIRED IN THEIR
YOUNG LIVES, UNTIL
THIS MOMENT!...

"OBSERVE, KING TYRANNUS, AS THE
MEMORIES ARE WASHED AWAY IN
THE WATERS OF OBLIVION:

"FIRST, THEIR TWIN BIRTH--
DAUGHTERS OF YOUR MIGHTIEST
WARRIOR AND HIS LADY...

"... AS WELL AS
YOUR RAGE, AT
LEARNING OF THEIR
VERY EXISTENCE, IN
FULFILLMENT OF THE
PROPHECY

"THEY'LL FORGET THEY EVER
LEARNED HOW YOU HAD THEIR
FATHER SLAIN-- OR HOW
THEIR MOTHER LEAPED TO HER
DEATH, AFTER GIVING YOU
OVER SECRETLY TO THE CARE
OF A MASTER THIEF AND
HIS WIFE...

"THEY'LL NOT REMEMBER THEY
COULD CALL UPON THE
MYSTERIOUS FIGURES MENTORR
AND MENTARRA FOR ADVICE,
AS THEY DID TO GUIDE THEM
FIRST THROUGH EARTHWORLD..."

"... OR HOW, RECENTLY, THEY INVADED MY GREAT TOWER, THEN FLED INTO THE FIRST OF FOUR NETHERWORLDS IN SEARCH OF THE 'SWORD SHINING BRIGHTLY AS SUMMER'S SUN...'



"...WHICH THEY MAY OBTAIN ONLY BY FIRST WINNING CERTAIN OTHER OBJECTS OF POWER.



"PROVIDED, OF COURSE, THAT THEIR ARCHRIVAL HERMINUS THE THIEF DOES NOT GET THEM FIRST!"



"AND, IF THE EVIL GODS ARE WITH US, THEY WILL FIND THEIR FINAL DOOM IN THE SPHERE CALLED... WATERWORLD!"

"... THEN AMID THE SCORCHING DANGERS OF FIREWORLD.



NEXT MOMENT, ABOVE THE WATER, TEARS FADE FROM TARRA'S EYES--AS SHE FORGETS THE VERY ONE FOR WHOM THEY WERE SHED--

--WHILE, BENEATH THE DECEPTIVELY PLACID SURFACE:

UHHN...
WHERE...?

THANK THE GODS--
I'M ALIVE! THANKS
TO THIS MASK, I'M
STILL BREATHING! I--

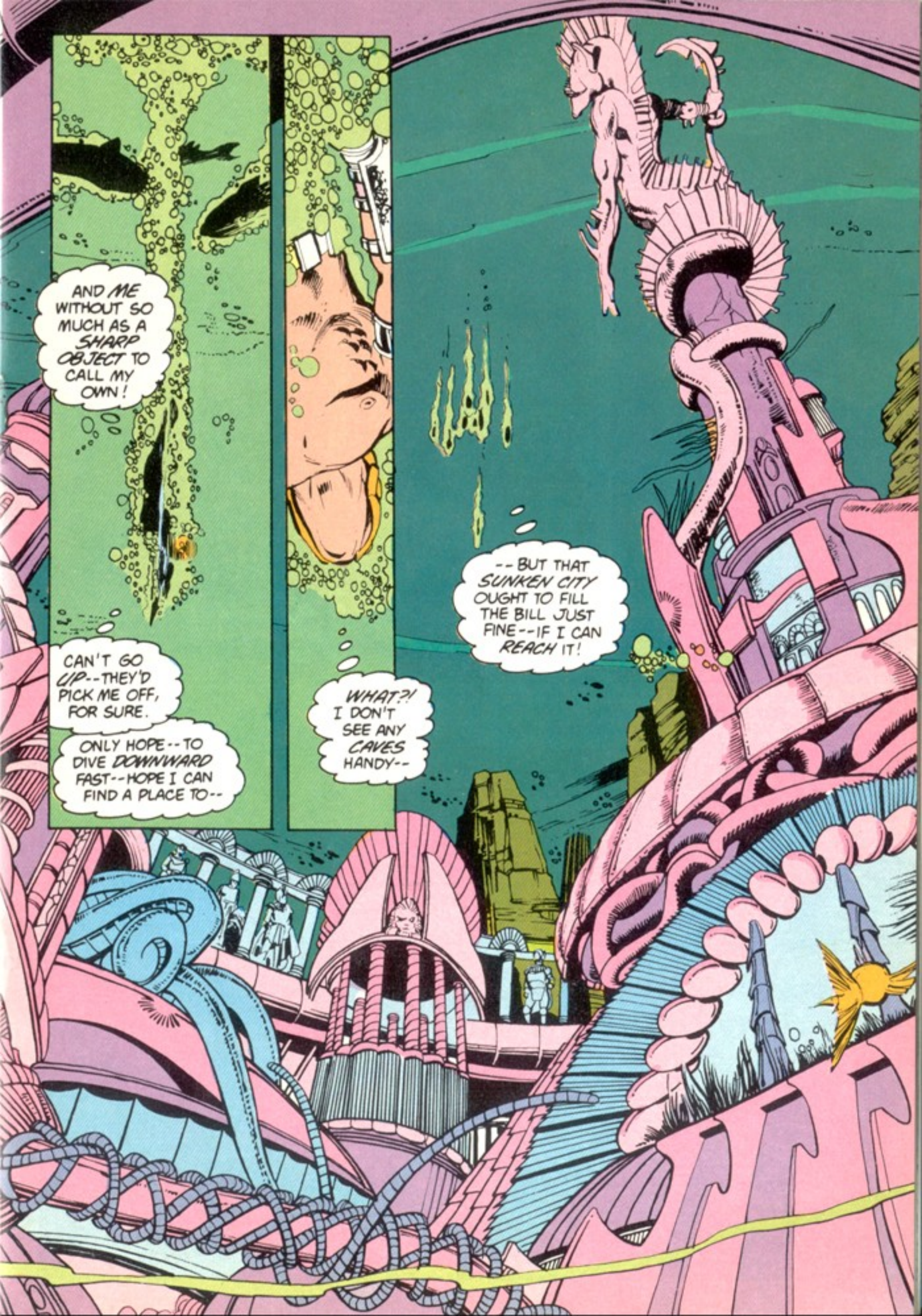
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT
SUDDEN
CHURNING IN
THE WATER--?

SOMETHING...

YEEOWW!
SOME KIND OF GIANT
SHARKLIKE FISH!
IT--

NO! THERE
ARE SEVERAL
OF THEM--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY'VE ALL DECIDED I'M
THE MAIN PART OF A
ONE-COURSE MEAL!



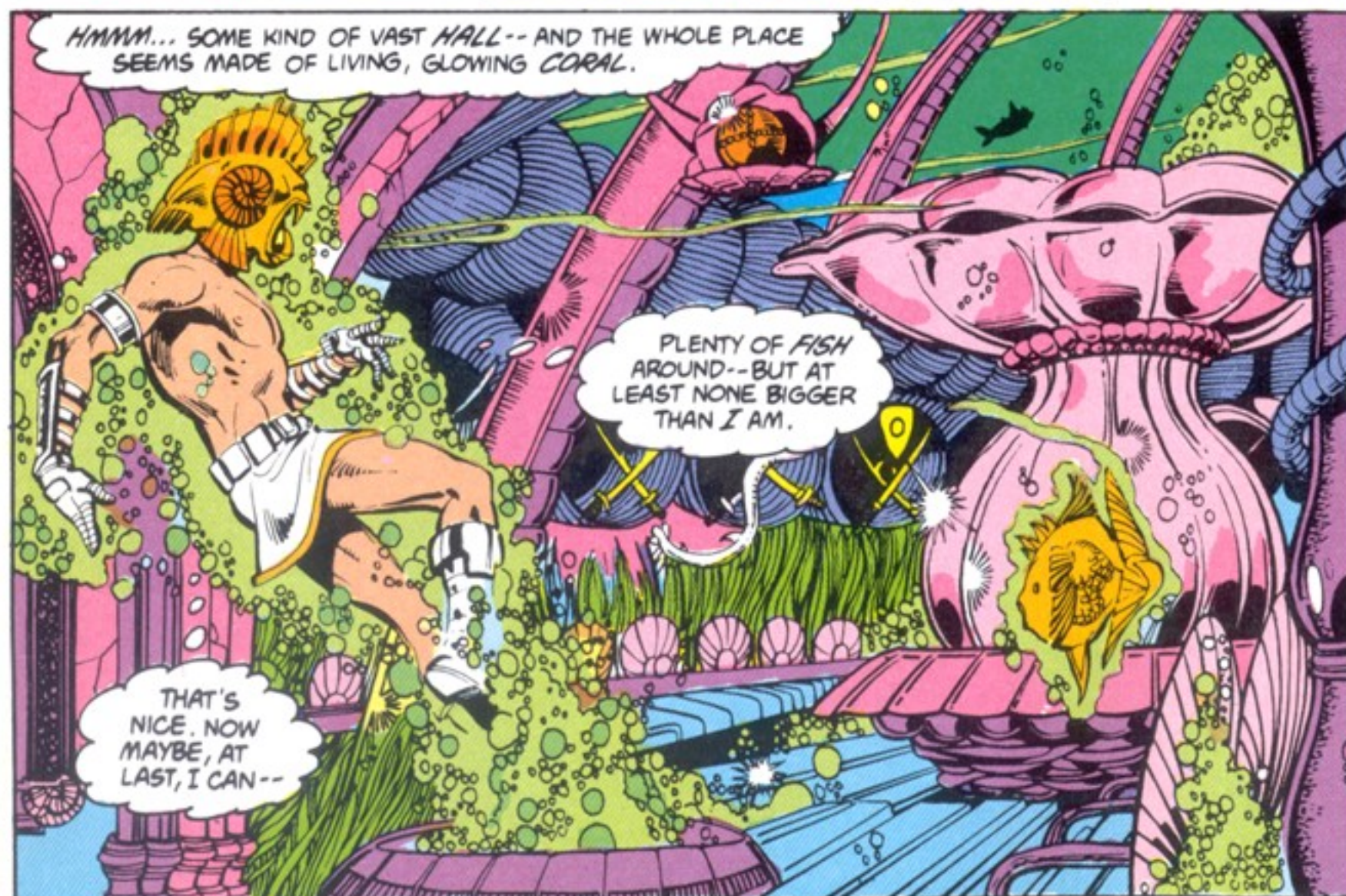
AND ME
WITHOUT SO
MUCH AS A
SHARP
OBJECT TO
CALL MY
OWN!

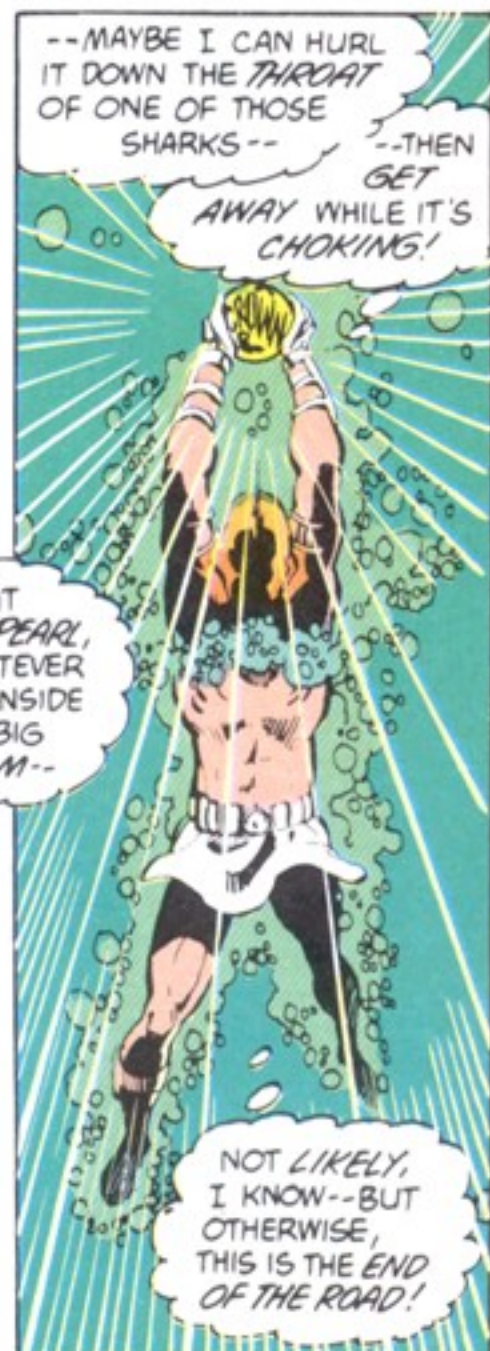
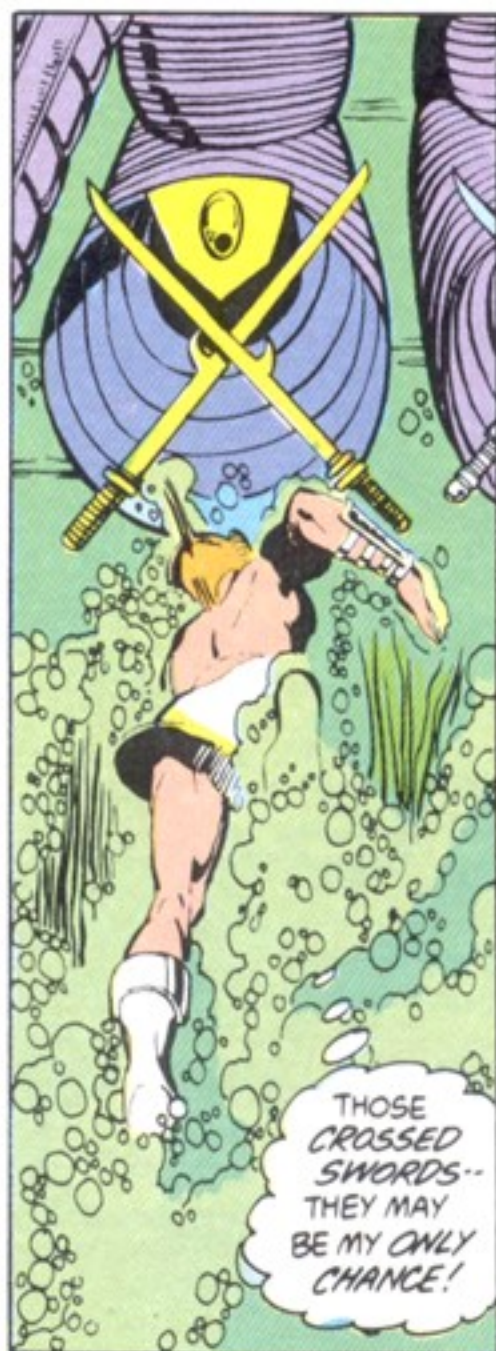
CAN'T GO
UP--THEY'D
PICK ME OFF,
FOR SURE.

ONLY HOPE--TO
DIVE *DOWNWARD*
FAST--HOPE I CAN
FIND A PLACE TO--

WHAT?!
I DON'T
SEE ANY
CAVES
HANDY--

-- BUT THAT
SUNKEN CITY
OUGHT TO FILL
THE BILL JUST
FINE--IF I CAN
REACH IT!







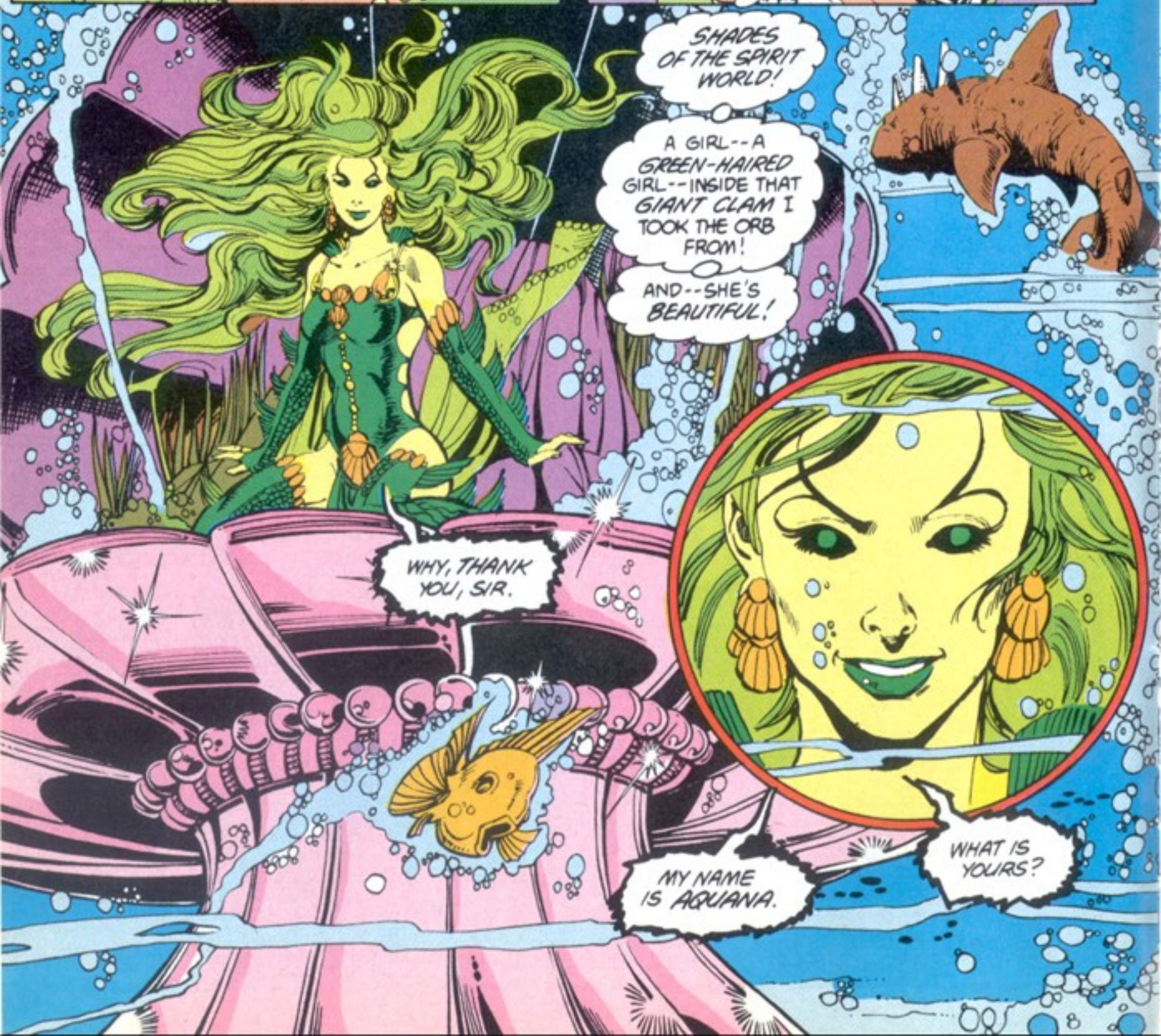
BY THE GODS! THEY'VE
STOPPED SHORT!

IT'S THE
PEARL! IT
MUST BE!



NOT MERELY THE ORB,
MY HANDSOME YOUNG FRIEND...
ONLY PARTLY.

MUH??



SHADES
OF THE SPIRIT
WORLD!

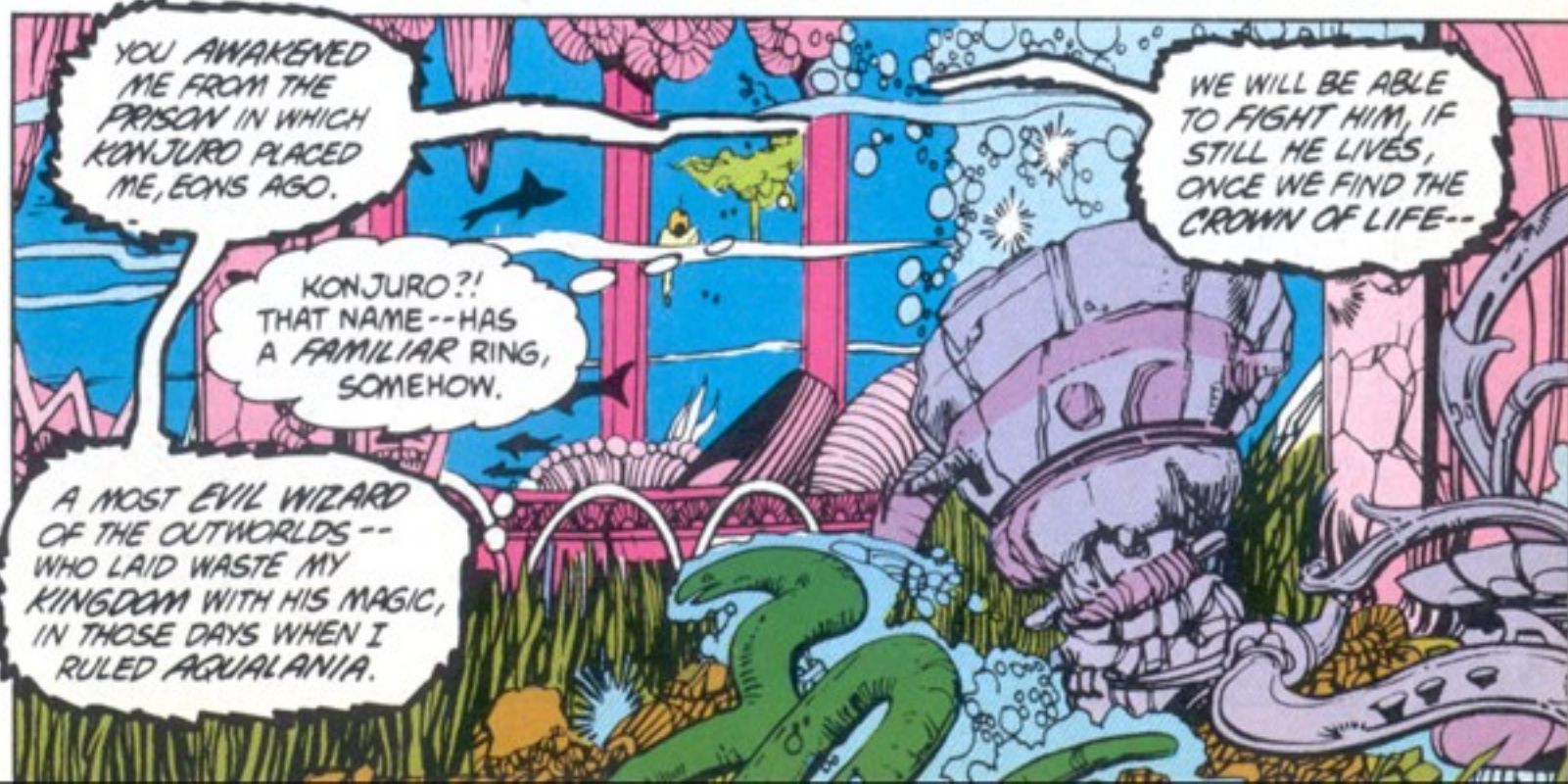
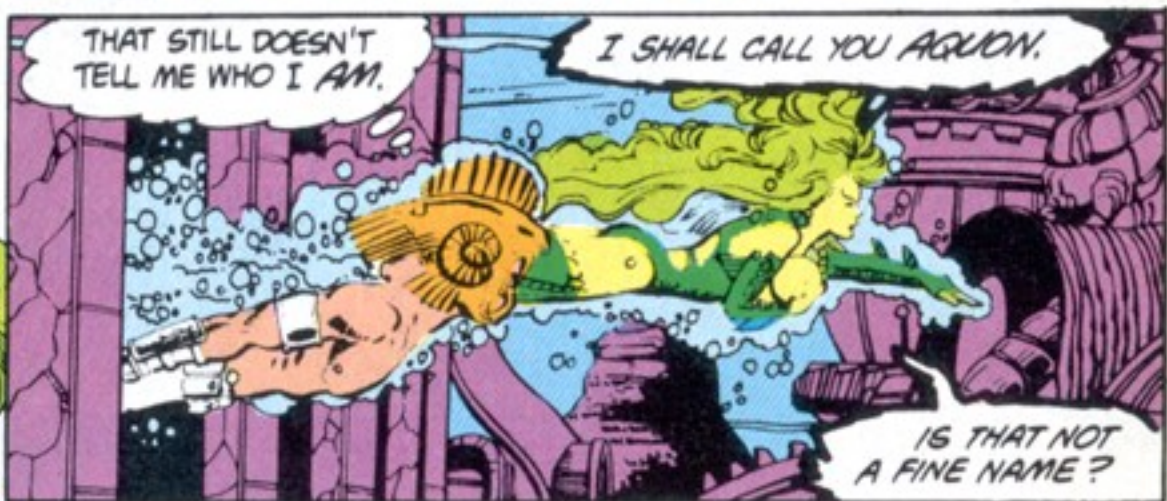
A GIRL-- A
GREEN-HAIRED
GIRL-- INSIDE THAT
GIANT CLAM I
TOOK THE ORB
FROM!

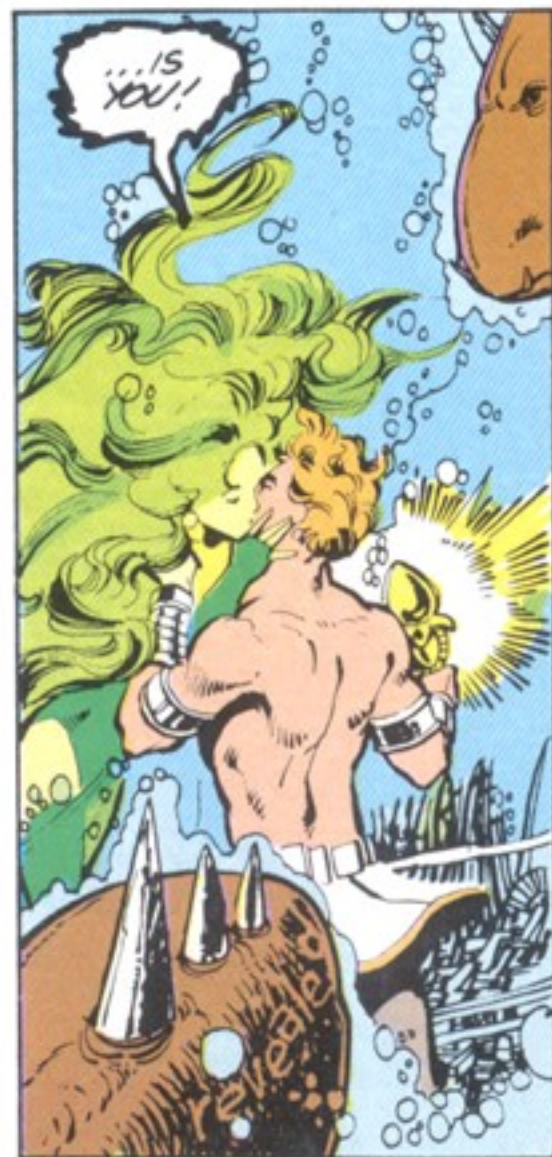
AND-- SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL!

WHY, THANK
YOU, SIR.

MY NAME
IS AQUANA.

WHAT IS
YOURS?





ABOVE, A SECOND YOUTHFUL FIGURE WAKES, TREMBLING WITH COLD.

SHE KNOWS NOT HER NAME, OR HOW SHE CAME TO BE HERE.

BUT, FOR THE MOMENT, THAT MATTERS LITTLE...

...AS SHE SUDDENLY FEELS THE VERY SEA BUCKLE AND ROIL BENEATH HER...

WHAT--?

...THEN COME ALIVE, A THOUSAND TONS OF ERUPTING, SENTIENT MASS!

WHROOSH!

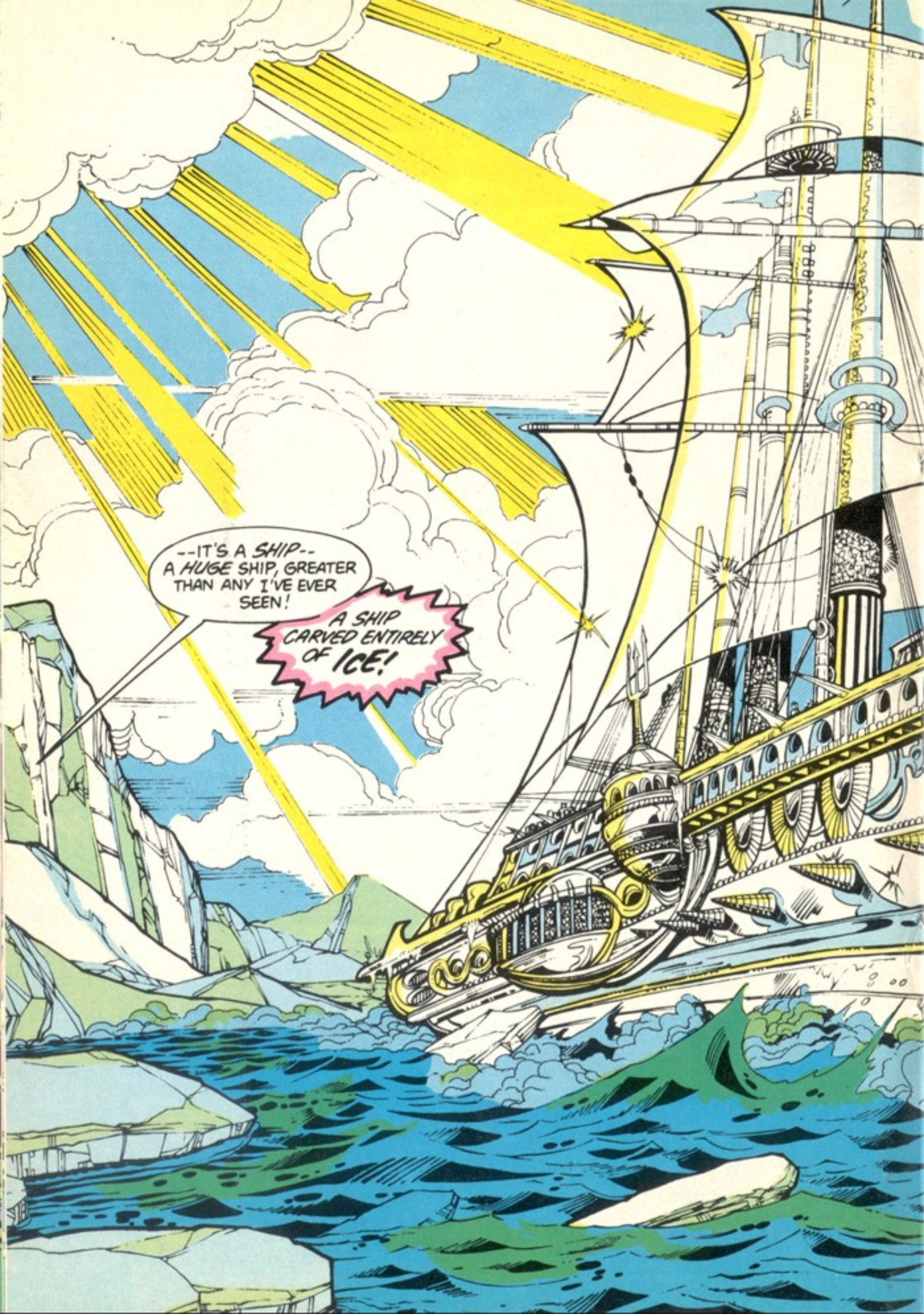
UNNNHH--!

YET, EVEN AS SHE FLOUNDERS AMID THE ICY BRINE, THE *BEHEMOTH*-- AND MORE OF ITS HUGE KIND-- PASS HER BY AS IF SHE WERE NO MORE THAN A PIECE OF INSIGNIFICANT FLOTSAM.

-- SOMETHING THEY HAVE *REASON* TO FEAR:

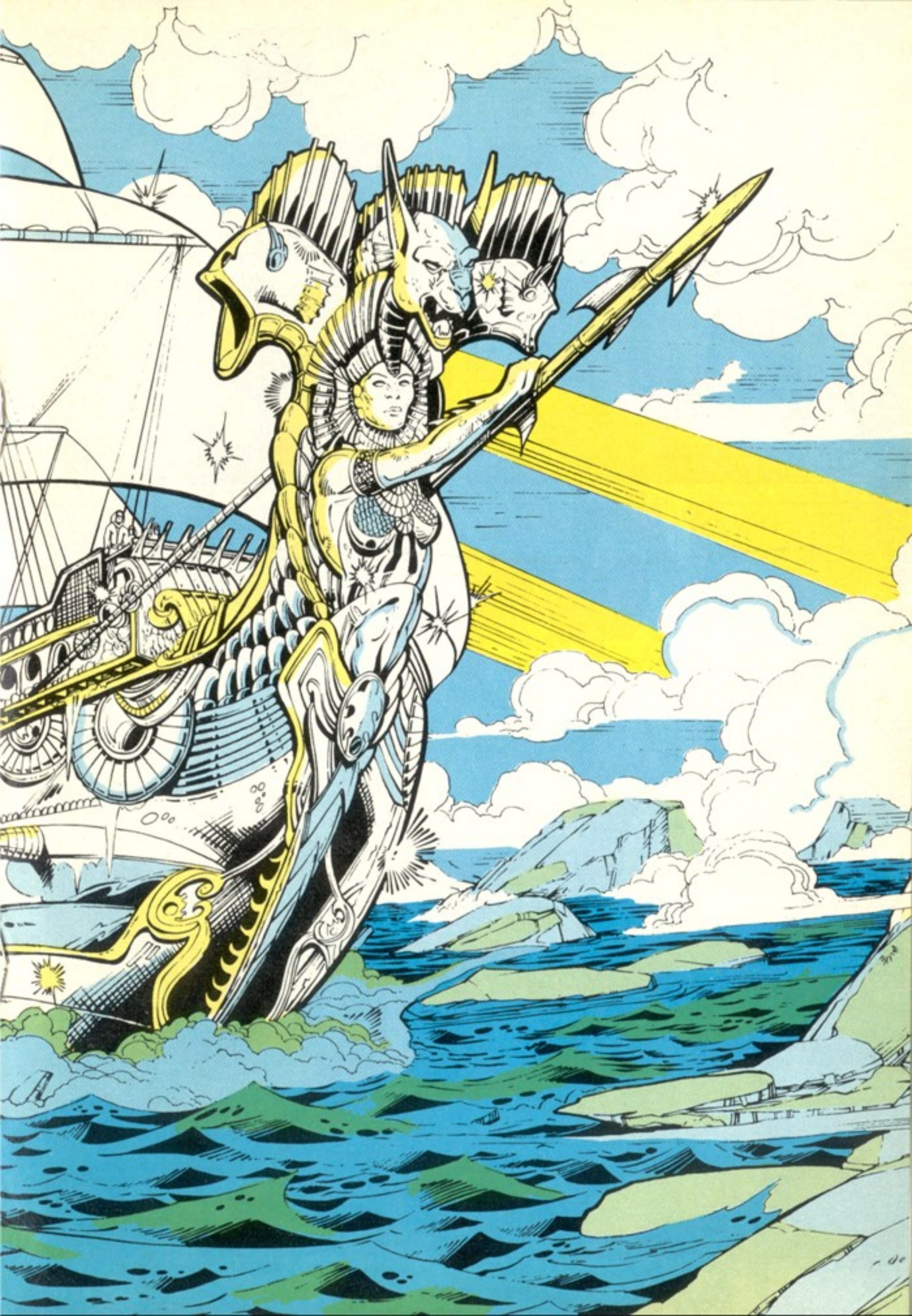
THEY ARE *FLEEING* SOMETHING -- SOMETHING THEY *FEAR* --

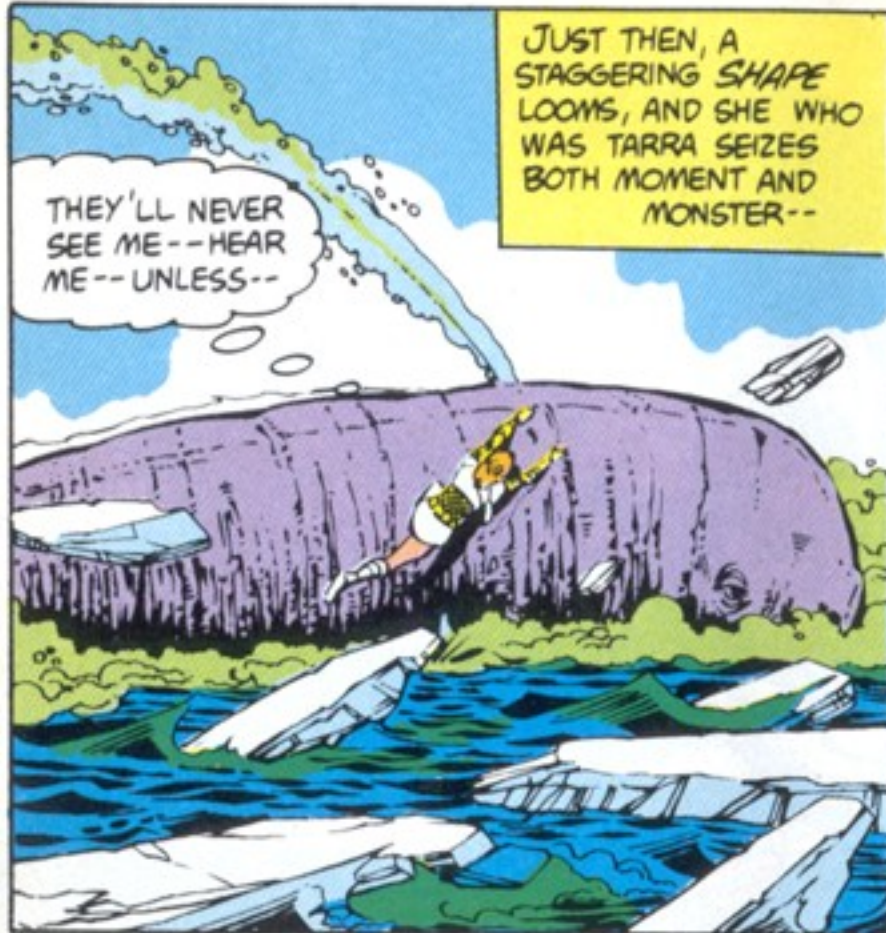
GODS OF MY FATHERS--



--IT'S A SHIP--
A HUGE SHIP, GREATER
THAN ANY I'VE EVER
SEEN!

A SHIP
CARVED ENTIRELY
OF ICE!





THEY'LL NEVER
SEE ME--HEAR
ME--UNLESS--

JUST THEN, A
STAGGERING *SHAPE*
LOOMS, AND SHE WHO
WAS *TARRA* SEIZES
BOTH MOMENT AND
MONSTER--



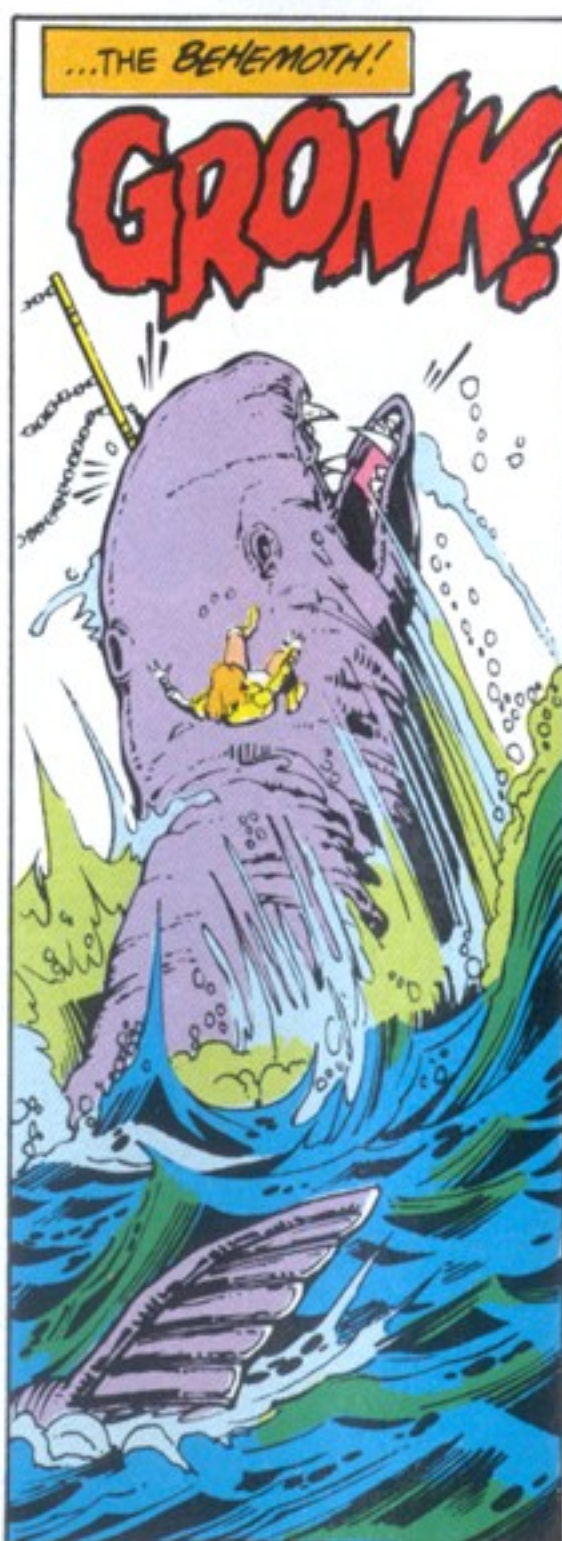
--HOLDING
FAST FOR
DEAREST *LIFE*
ITSELF.

IF--IF
ONLY SOMEONE
ON BOARD--
SEES ME--!



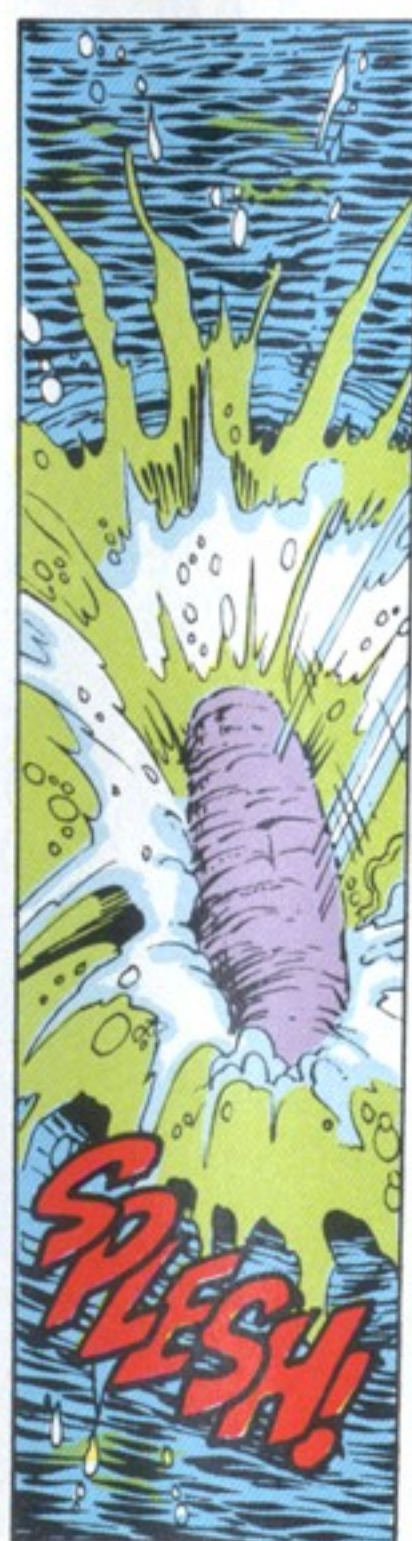
PERHAPS THEY SEE HER;
PERHAPS NOT.

BUT THEY
DO SEE...



...THE *BEHEMOTH*!

GRONK!



SPLASH!



WHERE--?

OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY WHO-- OR EVEN WHAT?!

OUT OF THE
POLAR SEA A PRETTY
FISH HAILED WE,
EH, WORT?

AYE, SKABB...
BUT METHINKS
WE'LL NOT THROW
HER BACK.

NO, HER
KEEP WE.
HERE COME,
LITTLE
WENCHIE!

LISTEN,
YOU APES
IN SHIP'S
CLOTHING--

KEEP
AWAY
FROM ME--



--OR I'LL DEAL
HARSHLY
WITH YOU BOTH!

LOOKS TO ME
LIKE YOU ALREADY
HAVE, LASS.

BONK!

OOOOF--!



AND WHO MIGHT
YOU BE, OLD CROW
IN THE NEST?

SWOOP DOWN
HERE, AND I'LL
SLICE OFF YOUR
BEAK!



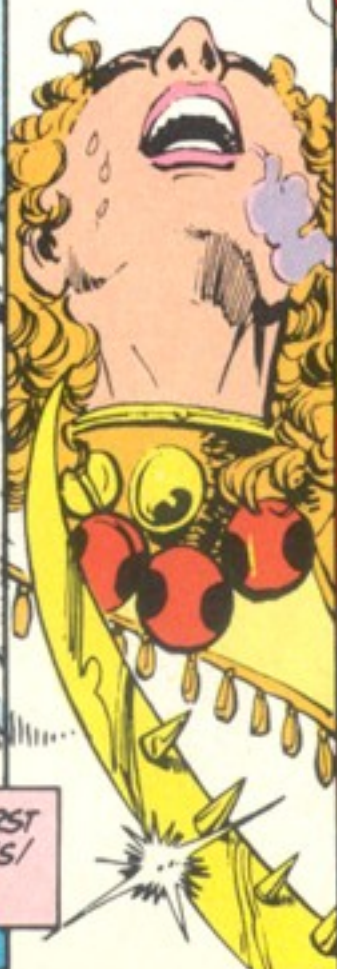
WHY, DON'T YOU
KNOW ME IN MY
PIRATE GEAR,
GIRL?

HERMINUS?! IT'S
NOT A NAME I
KNOW, FELLOW--
BUT THEN, WHY
SHOULD I--

--WHEN I
KNOW NOT MY
OWN?

EH? YOU
DON'T KNOW--?

HOLD IT
THERE! I'LL
BE RIGHT
DOWN!



HERMINUS
IS USED TO
MAKING A FAR
STRONGER
IMPRESSION
ON FOLKS
THAN THAT. *

* IN OUR FIRST
TWO GAMES/
ISSUES.



YOU'D BEST HURRY, HERMINUS--

SO!



--OR YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME SHARK'S
MEAT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT TO JAW
WITH HER!

AYE! DOWN
WORT AND
SKABB, WILL
SHE?



OVER THE SIDE WITH--HUH?

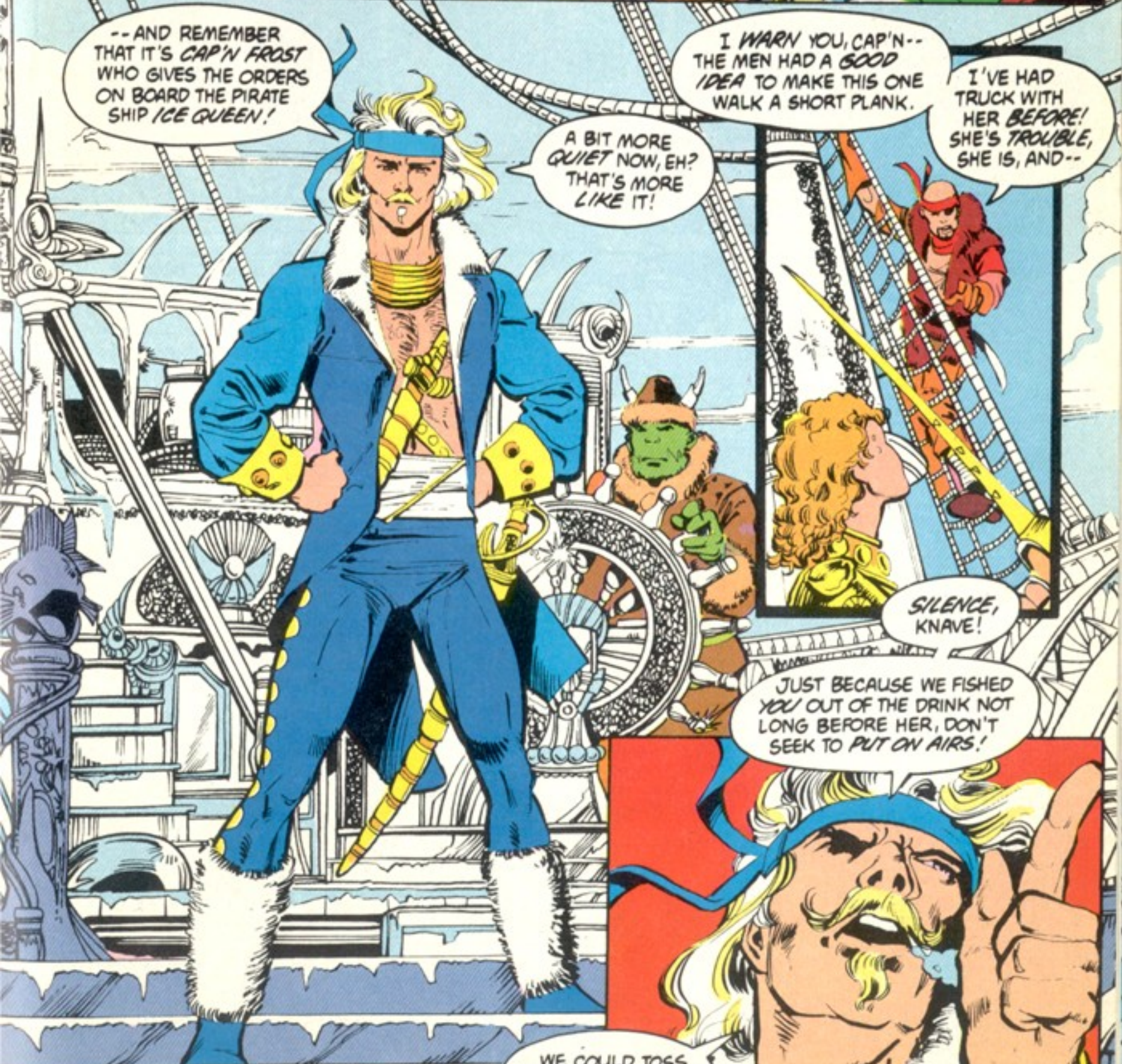
IT'S SOME OF YOU SCUM WHO'LL BE TICKLING THE SHARKS' BELLIES FROM THE INSIDE, IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR TREAD--

-- AND REMEMBER THAT IT'S CAP'N FROST WHO GIVES THE ORDERS ON BOARD THE PIRATE SHIP ICE QUEEN!

I WARN YOU, CAP'N-- THE MEN HAD A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE THIS ONE WALK A SHORT PLANK.

I'VE HAD TRUCK WITH HER BEFORE! SHE'S TROUBLE, SHE IS, AND--

A BIT MORE QUIET NOW, EH? THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!



SILENCE, KNAVE!

JUST BECAUSE WE FISHED YOU OUT OF THE DRINK NOT LONG BEFORE HER, DON'T SEEK TO PUT ON AIRS!

WE COULD TOSS YOU BACK AGAIN, JUST FOR YOUR INSOLENCE.





NOW, WHO ARE YOU, GIRL? DO YOU CLAIM TO COME FROM A WORLD OF FIRE, AS HERMINUS DOES?

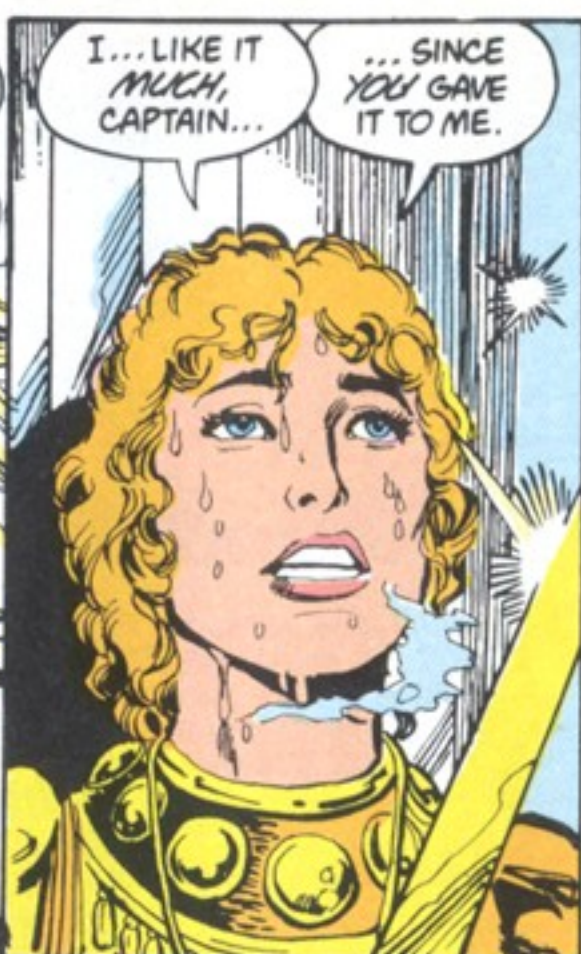
I--I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM--OR WHO I AM, I FEAR.

HMMM... A LASS WITH NEITHER HOME NOR NAME, AND HANDY WITH A BLADE, TO BOOT!



WELL, SINCE YOU'VE NO NAME OF YOUR OWN, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE.

HOW LIKE YOU--DAWN-HAIR?



I... LIKE IT MUCH, CAPTAIN...

... SINCE YOU GAVE IT TO ME.



LATER...

I GUESS STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, LASS, THAN PEOPLE WHO DROP FROM THE SKY... OR RIDE THE BACKS OF THE SNOW-WHALES.



'TIS SAID, AFTER ALL, THIS AGE OF ICE WAS THRUST UPON OUR WORLD BY A WIZARD NAMED KONJURO.

THOSE ABOVE AND BELOW THE WAVES WERE ONE PEOPLE THEN... BUT NOW THEY DO NOT EVEN SPEAK THE SAME TONGUE.



NOW, SLOWLY, THE ICE IS BREAKING UP, BUT-- WELL, NOW!

YOU WEAR THAT GEAR LIKE A CORSAIR BORN, DAWN-HAIR.

MY THANKS, CAPTAIN.

I WISH I KNEW IF I WERE OF THIS WORLD, EITHER OF YOUR KIND, OR OF THOSE YOU CALL THE... UH...

THE AQUALANIANS. BUT YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THAT SCATTERED, BARBAROUS, WATER-BREATHING RACE.



I GUESS NOT... YET WHY DO YOU KILL THE SNOW-WHALES, AND STRIP THEIR BONES BARE?

BECAUSE THEY WOULD SERVE THE AQUALANIANS, IF EVER THEY UNITED AGAINST US...



...AND I AM DETERMINED IT BE AN AIR-BREATHER... MYSELF... WHO'LL RULE THIS WATERY WORLD.

ALL WILL OBEY ME, WHEN I'VE FOUND THE ELUSIVE CROWN OF LIFE I SEEK, DAWN-HAIR.

AND WHEN I DO, WHOEVER YOU MAY TRULY BE...



...I MAY JUST FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF A QUEEN WITH HAIR LIKE THE RISING SUN.



CURSE CAP'N FROST!

YET, WITHOUT HIS SHIP, I'D HAVE FROZEN EVEN BEFORE I DROWNED.



HOW CAN I FIND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY UPON THIS MAD, LANDLESS WORLD...

-- WHEN SHE WHO MIGHT LEAD ME TO IT KNOWS NOT HER VERY NAME?



AND WHERE'S HER CHURLISH BROTHER, I WONDER?!

AS HERMINUS MUSES THE BONES OF THE SLAUGHTERED SNOW-WHALE ARE CAST OVER THE SHIP'S SIDE...



...TO GLEAM PHOSPHORESCENTLY AMID DARKLING DEPTHS.

AND SOON,
BACK IN A SUB-
SEA CASTLE
OF CORAL AND
SHELL...

WITH MY MEMORY GONE, I'M NOT CERTAIN,
AQUANA... BUT ISN'T THAT THE TYPE OF
THING A *MAN* USUALLY SAYS TO A *WOMAN*...

WHAT MATTERS
IS WHICH OF
US IS--

...ESPECIALLY TO
ONE LIKE YOU?

WHAT'S WRONG??

THE SNOW-
WHALES! DON'T
YOU HEAR THEIR
CRY?

I HEAR--
SOMETHING.
SOMETHING
PIERCING--
YET SAD--!

YOU
LOOK
LOVELY!

THAT IS THE
DEATH-SONG OF
THE SNOW-WHALES--
THE OLDEST ALLIED
RACE OF
AQUALANIA.

ONE OF THEIR NUMBER
HAS BEEN BASELY SLAIN--
BY MEN WHO SAIL THE
SEAS ABOVE!

COME! KONJURO FORETOLD
A WAR 'TWIXT AIR-BREATHER
AND OUR PEOPLE, THE DAY HE
RAISED A MAGICAL WALL OF
ICE BETWEEN US--

--AND IF HIS PROPHECY IS
COMING TRUE-- 'T WILL
BE A WAR THAT WILL LEAVE
NO ONE LIVING ABOVE THE
ALL-CONQUERING WAVES!

NIGHT STILL LIES LIKE A HEAVY SHROUD UPON A WORLD DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF...



CAPTAIN...?

NO, HE'S STILL ASLEEP... EXHAUSTED FROM THE DAY'S LABORS, AND HIS CROWN-QUEST.

YET, I HEARD... SOMETHING.



BEST HAVE A LOOK....!



HERMINUS!?

YOU!

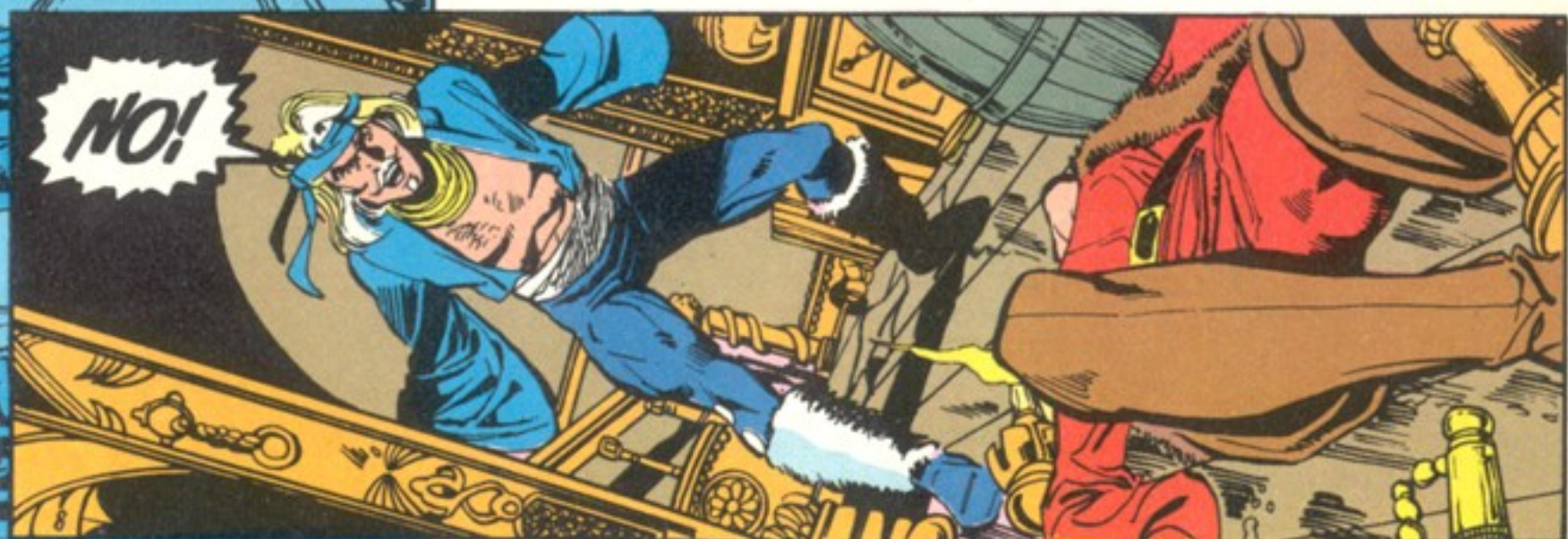


DAWN-HAIR? I WAS... DREAMING. YOU WERE PULLED, WRESTED FROM MY ARMS... BY A SKELETAL FIGURE THAT...

DAWN-HAIR? WHERE--?



NO!



MUST YOU LASH
OUT SO BLOODY
AGAINST--?

KEEP A CIVIL
TONGUE IN YOUR
HEAD, GIRL! I'M
CAP'N ABOARD
THIS VESSEL.

I LOVE *NOT* KILLING
FOR ITS OWN SAKE,
BUT THIS IS *WAR* WITH
A *FOE UNSEEN*, AND
I'LL --

SUDDENLY--

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, BOYS!

A SPOUT OF
BOILING-HOT
WATER--SHOOTING
RIGHT THROUGH
THE HULL!

BUT WHAT
IN ALL THE SEAS
COULD HAVE--?

MAY THE
GODS TAKE
PITY
'PON US!

NO! IT--IT
CANNOT BE!

I'VE HEARD OF SUCH
A THING--IN TIME-LOST
LEGENDS-- BUT I NE'ER
DREAMED--!



HRARRRRR

'TIS THE
SERPENT
UNSPEAKABLE!

YET, FEARSOME THOUGH THE
SEA-SNAKE BE, THE NEXT MOMENT
ALL EYES ARE FASTENED *NOT* UPON
THE SKY-REACHING REPTILE ITSELF--

--BUT UPON THE LITHE AND LOVELY FORM
POISED DRAMATICALLY UPON ITS GIGANTIC
HEAD:

PIRATES! LEAVE
OFF YOUR MAD QUEST FOR
THE CROWN OF LIFE,
WHICH IS MINE BY RIGHTS--

--OR ELSE
KNOW THAT AQUANA
HAS RETURNED AT
LAST, TO DESTROY
YOU ALL!

AQUANA?! IF YOU
BE THAT FAIRY-TALE
QUEEN, BEST SURRENDER
YOURSELF--AND BRING
YOUR WORM TO HEEL
WITH YOU!

I'LL BRING
YOU NAUGHT
BUT--THIS!



ONCE MORE, IT'S NOT FLAME
WHICH SPOUTS FROM THE DRAGON'S
MAW, BUT VOLCANICALLY-HOT
LIQUID--



--YET A MAN MAY
BE SCALDED TO
DEATH AS EASILY
AS MERELY BURNED.

A BIT MORE OF THAT--
AND WE'LL HAVE
NEITHER MEN NOR
SHIP LEFT!

THE SILVERY
SKATES!
WHERE--?

I--I
LEFT
THEM IN
THE CABIN.



THEN DO WHAT YOU
CAN HERE, WHILE I
FETCH THEM!

IT'S FOLLY
FOR THE CAPTAIN
TO WASTE HIS LIFE IN
VAIN ASSAULT AGAINST
MAID AND MONSTER--



--WHEN THERE'S
ONE ABOARD
WHO OWES HER
VERY LIFE TO
HIM!

GODS! SHE'S
A BRAVE ONE--
FOR ALL THAT
SHE'S A FOOL!





MAYBE I AM A FIRST-CLASS FOOL AT THAT-- WHOEVER I AM!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF I COULD STAND UP ON THESE THINGS OR NOT--

-- AND NOW I'M A TARGET FOR THOSE SPIKE-HEADED SHARKS!



BUT--THESE SKATES! THEY MUST WORK BY PURE MAGIC!

RACING ALONG ON THEM IS AS EASY AS RUNNING! EVEN MANAGED TO DODGE THAT SHARK AS I LEAPED FROM FLOE TO FLOE.



DON'T KNOW IF THE MAGIC WILL LAST, THOUGH--

--SO I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND THAT GIRL AND HER SERPENT, BEFORE THEY--



YOU!

UH-OH! SOMEONE ATOP THAT WHALE--AND HE'S SPOTTED ME!



STAY RIGHT THERE-- AND PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD!

I KNOW JUST WHERE I'LL PUT IT--IF YOU COME DOWN HERE!



AYE, THAT I SHALL! BEFORE YOU DARE ATTACK EITHER QUEEN OR SERPENT--

--YOU FIRST MUST DEAL WITH AQUON!

AS, ABOVE THE
GLEAMING
DECKS NEARBY...

STRIKE,
SERPENT--
STRIKE!

LET THE SCUM
LEARN THE PEOPLE
OF THE DEEP WILL
NOT STAND IDLY BY
WHILE THE CROWN OF
LIFE IS PLUNDERED
BY PIRATES!



THERE ARE THINGS
YOU, AS WELL, MUST
LEARN, WOMAN-- AND
ONE OF THEM IS--



--NEVER
COME WITHIN
REACH OF A
DESPERATE
FOE!



AQUANA!

GRIEVE NOT
FOR HER! SHE'S
RIGHTLY
SERVED--FOR
ATTACKING
THE ICE
QUEEN--



THE PIRATE SHIP--
BEARING DOWN UPON
HER--!



SERPENT!
SAVE YOUR
MISTRESS!



PERHAPS THE GREAT
DRAGON UNDERSTANDS.

MORE
LIKELY, NOT.



YET, NEXT MOMENT, ITS VAST
BULK SLAMS INTO THE
CORSAIR CRAFT--

-- WITH
DEVASTATING
RESULTS:



THWAM

ARRRGH--!



CAPTAIN
FROST!



HE'S HURT--
AYE, HURT BAD!

AND HERE
COMES THE HEAT-
SPEWING
HELLSPAWN!

AYE, THE
SERPENT
OBEYS ME
NOW, THROUGH
AQUANA'S
SCEPTER.

I COULD HAVE IT
ATTACK YOU ANEW--
BUT SOMETHING
STAYS MY HAND.

MY LADY AQUANA
DESIRES THE
CROWN OF LIFE
HIDDEN NEARBY--
AS DOES YOUR
LEADER--BUT I
SAY THERE HAS
BEEN ENOUGH
OF KILLING.

LET US CEASE
THIS STRUGGLE--
AND SLAY NO
MORE!

WELL
SAID,
BOY.

THUS, SINCE AQUANA
CANNOT SPEAK FOR
HERSELF, JUST NOW...

YET IT'S NOT
FOR THE LIKES
OF US TO
DECIDE, IS IT?

...NOR CAN
CAPTAIN
FROST...

...IT'S LEFT UP TO THE
CHURLISH CREWMEN:

I CARE NAUGHT
FOR THAT CROWN.
LET'S DO AS THE
YOUTH SAYS!

'TIS AGREED,
THEN! WE'LL--

HEAR NOW
THE WORDS OF
HERMINUS!

I SAY--LET THOSE
TWO WHELPS DEAL
UPON THE ICE, WITH
SWORDS ALONE, AT
NO RISK TO US--

YES, LET'S
GO--WHILE I'VE
STILL ONE GOOD
EYE.

HOLD,
MY STURDY
LADS!

--WINNER
TAKE ALL!



IF THE LASS WINS, WE GET CROWN AND SCEPTER AND LORDSHIP EVEN OVER THE SERPENT-- WHILE IF THE LAD, HE WINS THE ICE QUEEN HERSELF!

WHAT SAY YOU?
YOU'VE SEEN THE
LASS FIGHT!

AYE! LET
THEM FIGHT!

AND EITHER WAY-- HERMINUS
SHALL COME OUT ON TOP!

THEN I,
TOO...
AGREE.

I'VE...
LITTLE
CHOICE.

BESIDES,
A PIRATE'S A
PIRATE...
FEMALE OR
NO!

I REJOICE
YOU SAID THAT--
FOR THERE'LL
BE NO MORE
QUARTER ASKED
THAN GIVEN.

WHILE I FIGHT
FOR AQUANA'S
LIFE AND
KINGDOM--NOT
FOR MYSELF
ALONE!

THUS, WHILE A RE-
COVERED CAP'N FROST
WATCHES, KNOWING HIS
CREW WILL MUTINY IF
HE OPPOSE
THEM NOW...

...AND A HALF-
DAZED AQUANA
STAKES HER ALL UPON
HER NEWFOUND
LOVE'S SUPERIORITY
TO A MERE GIRL...

...AND HERMINUS
STUFFS RETRIEVED
SKATES INTO HIS
AMPLE THIEF BAG...

...TWO SWORDS ARE RAISED
AGAINST THE COLD NIGHT SKY:

LET THE BATTLE
BEGIN!

DO THEY SUSPECT,
THESE TWO ANTAGONISTS
UPON THE SLIPPERY ICE?

AS THEY CROSS SWORDS -- AS EVENLY MATCHED
AS ONLY TWINS WITH INTRICATELY ENTWINED
DESTINIES CAN --

KLANK!

-- DOES SOME SMALL
PART OF THE MIND OF
EACH RECOGNIZE
THE OTHER?

STRANGELY, IT IS
TARRA NOW WHO
HAS BECOME THE
MORE AGGRESSIVE,
THE MORE
IMPETUOUS --
TARR LESS SO
THAN BEFORE...

WANG!

...THOUGH HE'S NO
MAN TO BE COUNTED
OUT IN A FIGHT WHICH
MAY WELL BE TO THE
DEATH.

AT LAST, AFTER
WHAT SEEMS AN
ETERNITY OF
KLANKING, ECHOING
SWORD-CLASHINGS--

KLANK!

I ADMIT IT--
YOU ARE LESS
THE FOP THAN
YOU APPEAR!

WHILE YOU
HAVE CONSIDERABLE
SKILL -- FOR A
GIRL!



HOLD! BEFORE WE CONTINUE, AND ONE OF US MUST DIE--

--LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO ASK OUR DEITIES FOR GUIDANCE.



YES, I-- THE SAME STIRRINGS I FEEL WITHIN MYSELF.

I'LL NOT STRIKE YOU WHILE YOU PRAY.

YET, EVEN AS FURROWED BROWS ARE KNIT FOR AN INSTANT'S CONCENTRATION--

WHAT SORCERY IS THIS, GIRL? SPECTRAL FIGURES-- APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE?!

THEY'RE NO DOING OF MINE, BOY. I KNOW THEM NOT.

AND YET, SOMEHOW-- I DO!

WE ARE THOSE WHO CAME TO YOU FIRST IN EARTHWORLD, THEN ON FIREWORLD.

AND NOW WE ARE COME AGAIN-- BECAUSE, IN THE DARK RECESSES OF YOUR MINDS, YOU CALLED UPON US.

W-WE DID!?

AYE. BUT THIS TIME, LOOK NOT FOR MENTARR AND MENTARRA TO GUIDE YOU... FOR YOU MUST BE YOUR OWN GUIDES.

MERELY LOOK AT THE ONE YOU WOULD SEEK TO SLAY AND YOU SHALL SEE YOURSELF!

EH? WHAT DO YOU--?

WE CAN SPEAK NO MORE; THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

REMEMBER-- LOOK TO YOURSELVES!

THEN, EVEN AS UNDERSEA QUEEN AND ICE CORSAIR LOOK DEEP INTO EACH OTHERS' EYES--

--AND EACH REALIZES THAT HALF A WORLD IS BETTER FAR THAN NONE--

--AND, INDEED, MAY EVEN BE BETTER THAN A WHOLE WORLD, RULED ALONE--

NOW AT LAST WE HAVE THEM IN A COSMIC CORNER--FOR THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO FLEE.

GOOD! THEN MAKE READY A SPELL, KONJURO!

--THE SWORD IS GONE ONCE MORE!

TARA-- HOLD ON!

I AM!

--WITH EERIE RESULTS:

WH--? CAUGHT-- IN THE UPDRAFT! I'M--

THREE WORLDS DOWN, O TYRANNUS... AND BUT ONE TO GO.

BLAST! COULDN'T REACH THOSE BRATS IN TIME TO--

WE ARE GOING PERSONALLY, YOU AND I--

THIS TIME, SUMMONING ALL THEIR ENERGIES GAINED AS MOMENTARY TWIN MONARCHS OF WATERWORLD, TORR AND TARRA HAVE MANAGED TO GRASP ITS GLISTENING POMMEL--

--TO THE PLACE CALLED **AIRWORLD!**



ATARI

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