



CREATURETM

FROM THE
BLACK LAGOON





1954, THE AMAZON.

Dr. MAIA!

Dr. MAIA, COME QUICK!

WHAT IS IT, Dr. MAIA?



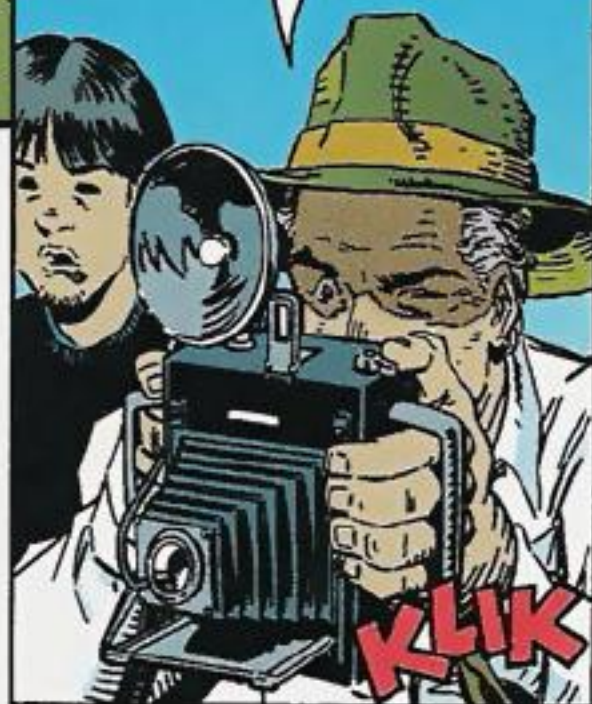
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I DON'T KNOW, LUIS. I HAVE **NEVER** SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!

IT'S IMPORTANT?



YES, I THINK IT IS. **VERY** IMPORTANT!



WE WILL TAKE ONE MORE PICTURE. THEN WE WILL DIG IT OUT.

KLIK



LUIS, I'M GOING TO MORAJÓ BAY, TO THE INSTITUTE. YOU TWO ARE TO WAIT HERE IN THE CAMP.



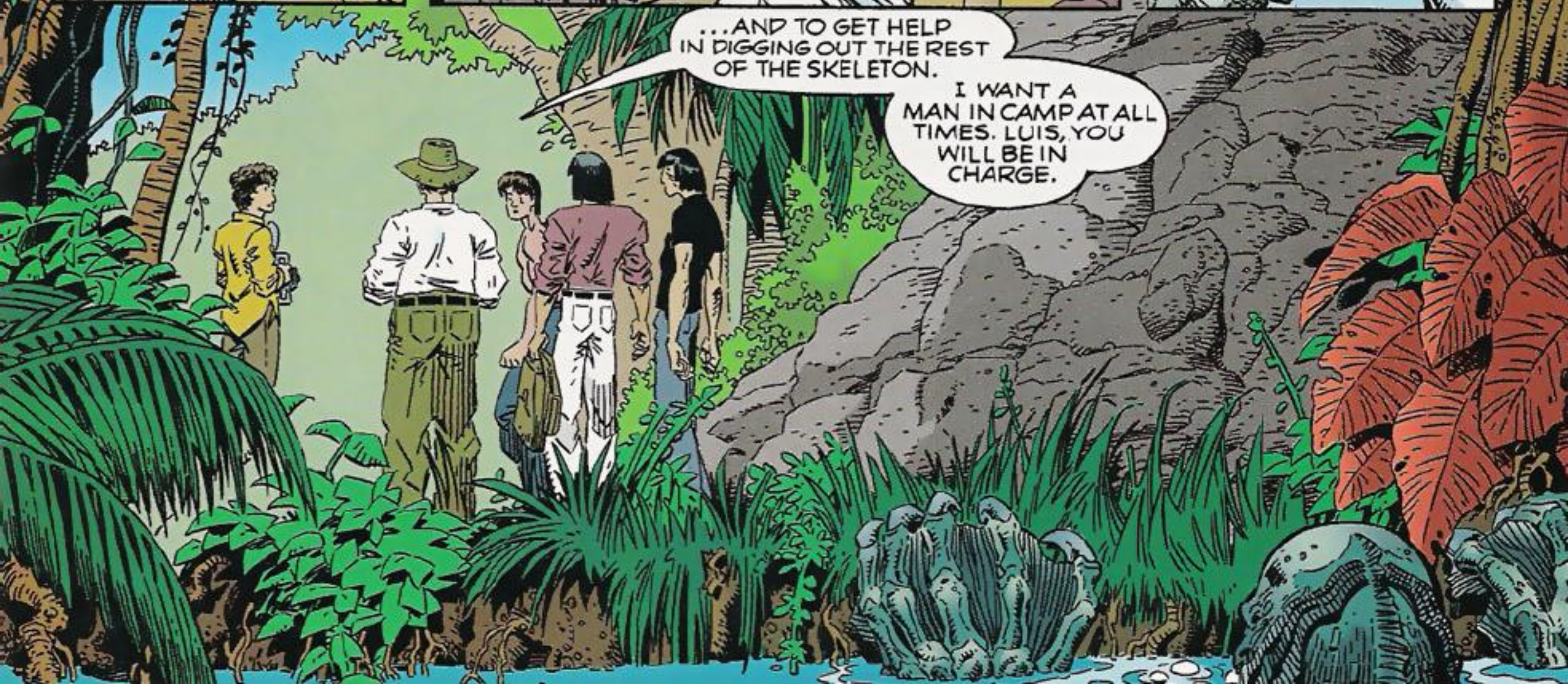
YOU BE GONE LONG?

LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS...



...AND TO GET HELP IN DIGGING OUT THE REST OF THE SKELETON.

I WANT A MAN IN CAMP AT ALL TIMES. LUIS, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE.





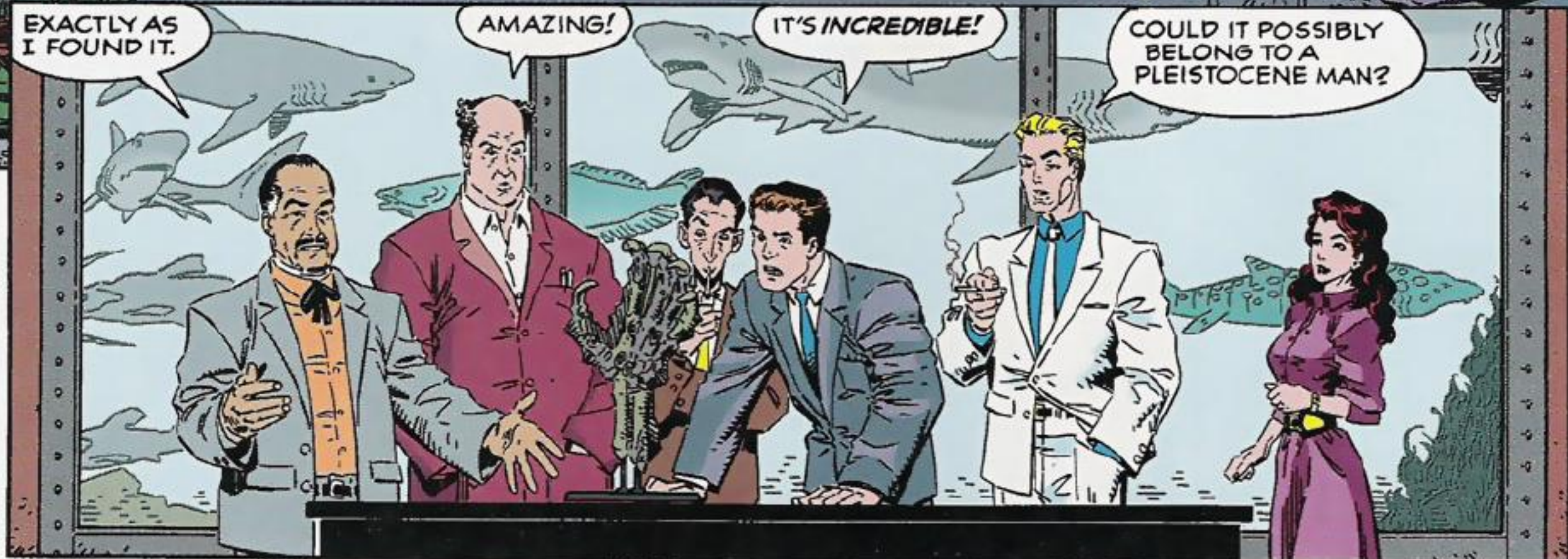
HERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN.

EXACTLY AS I FOUND IT.

AMAZING!

IT'S INCREDIBLE!

COULD IT POSSIBLY BELONG TO A PLEISTOCENE MAN?



WELL, THE CHANCES ARE MUCH GREATER THAT THAT HAND BELONGED TO AN AMPHIBIAN, MARK. ONE THAT SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN THE WATER.

WELL, THEN HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE FINGERS? OBVIOUSLY FOR LAND USE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK Dr. MANTOSE?

WE CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING... WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS VERY POWERFUL. YOU SAY YOU HAVE HOPES OF FINDING THE REST OF THE FOSSIL?



AS SOON AS I GET A SUITABLE EXPEDITION TOGETHER.

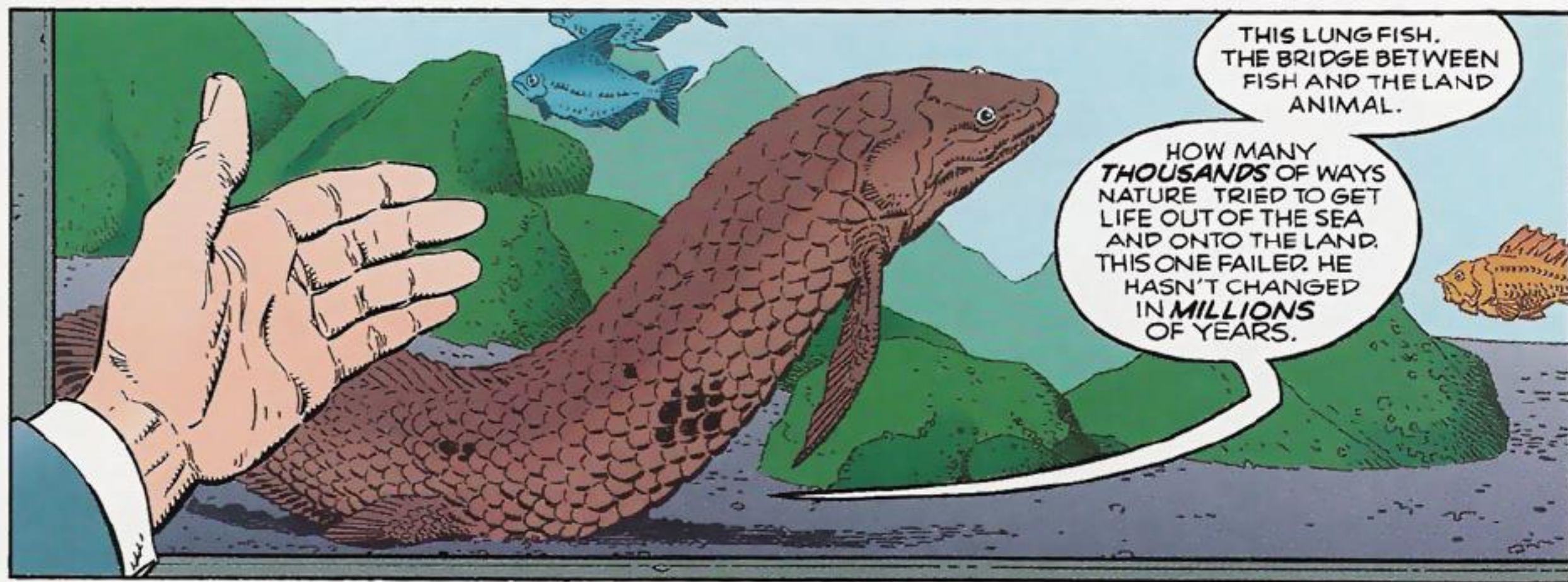
WELL, WHY DON'T *WE* MAKE UP THE EXPEDITION? WE'RE HERE NOW, AND AFTER ALL, IT *DOES* COME UNDER THE HEADING OF OUR WORK, DOESN'T IT, DAVID?



IT CERTAINLY DOES. MORE AND MORE WE'RE LEARNING THE MEANING AND VALUE OF MARINE RESEARCH.

LOOK, OVER HERE.





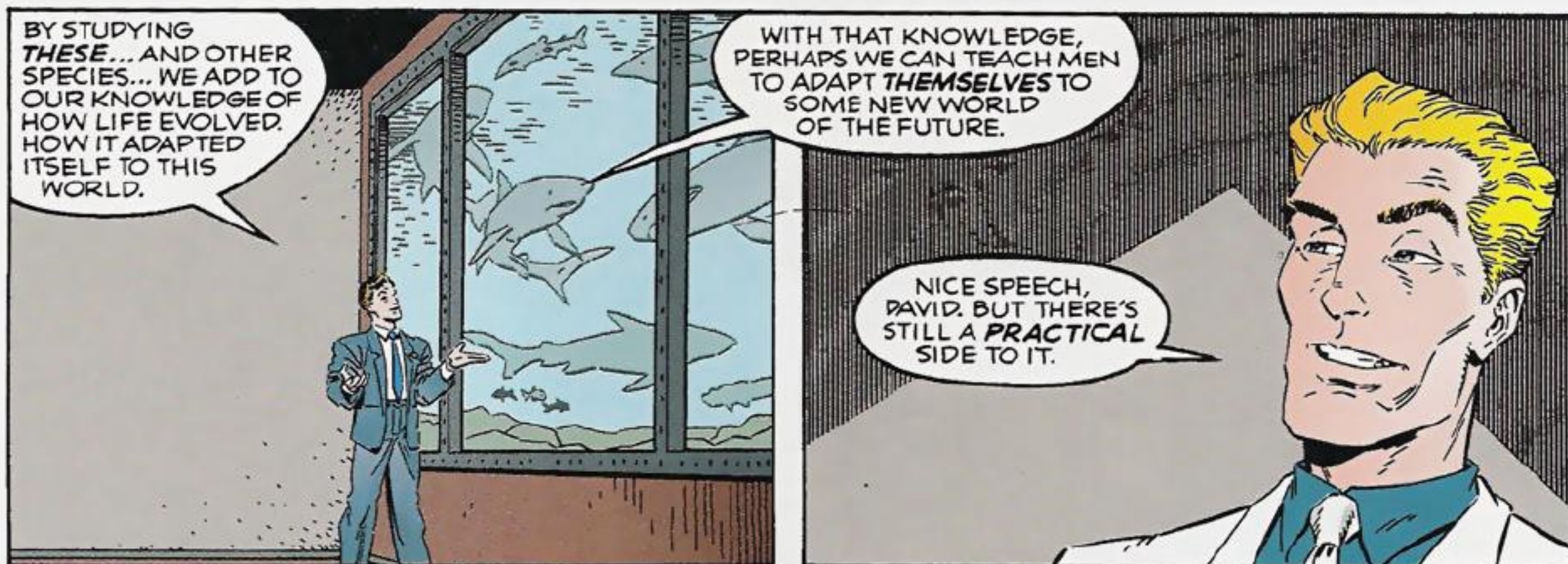
THIS LUNG FISH.
THE BRIDGE BETWEEN
FISH AND THE LAND
ANIMAL.

HOW MANY
THOUSANDS OF WAYS
NATURE TRIED TO GET
LIFE OUT OF THE SEA
AND ONTO THE LAND.
THIS ONE FAILED. HE
HASN'T CHANGED
IN **MILLIONS**
OF YEARS.



BUT
HERE.

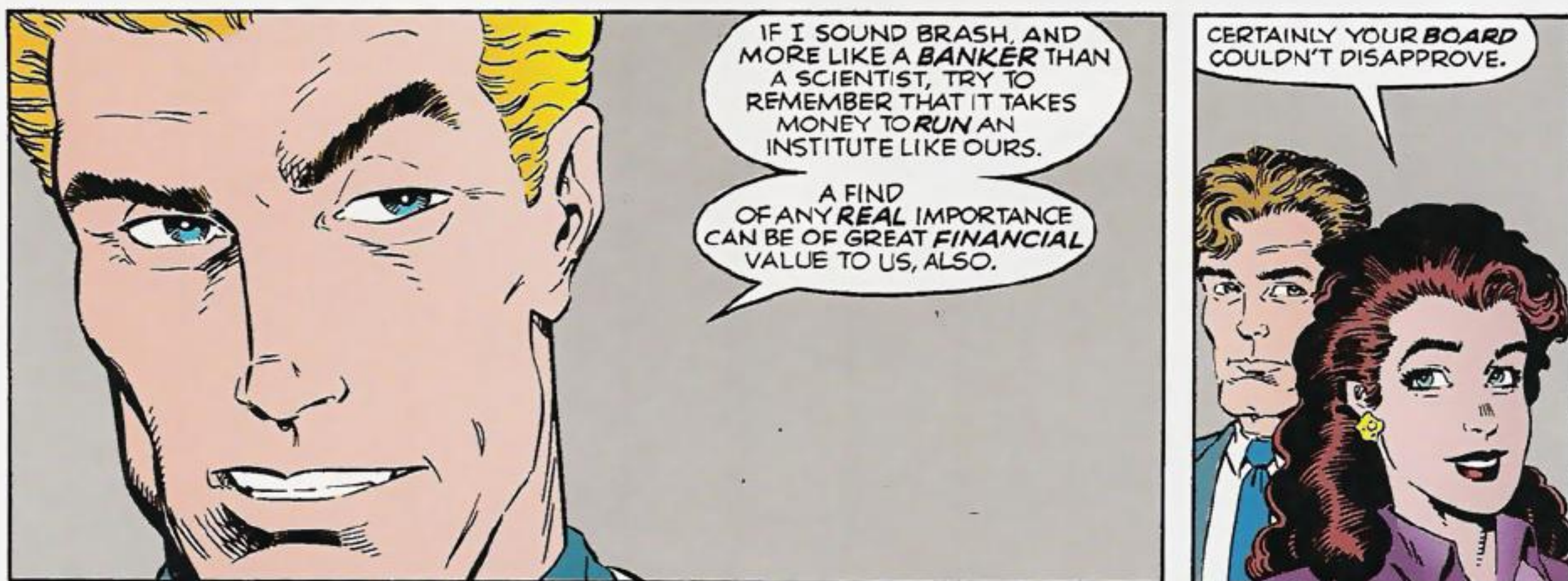
HERE WE HAVE A CLUE TO AN
ANSWER. SOMEDAY SPACE-
SHIPS WILL BE TRAVELING FROM
EARTH TO OTHER PLANETS. HOW
ARE HUMAN BEINGS GOING TO
SURVIVE ON THOSE PLANETS?
THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE
DIFFERENT...THE PRESSURES
WILL BE DIFFERENT.



BY STUDYING
THESE... AND OTHER
SPECIES... WE ADD TO
OUR KNOWLEDGE OF
HOW LIFE EVOLVED.
HOW IT ADAPTED
ITSELF TO THIS
WORLD.

WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE,
PERHAPS WE CAN TEACH MEN
TO ADAPT **THEMSELVES** TO
SOME NEW WORLD
OF THE FUTURE.

NICE SPEECH,
DAVID. BUT THERE'S
STILL A **PRACTICAL**
SIDE TO IT.



IF I SOUND BRASH, AND
MORE LIKE A **BANKER** THAN
A SCIENTIST, TRY TO
REMEMBER THAT IT TAKES
MONEY TO **RUN** AN
INSTITUTE LIKE OURS.

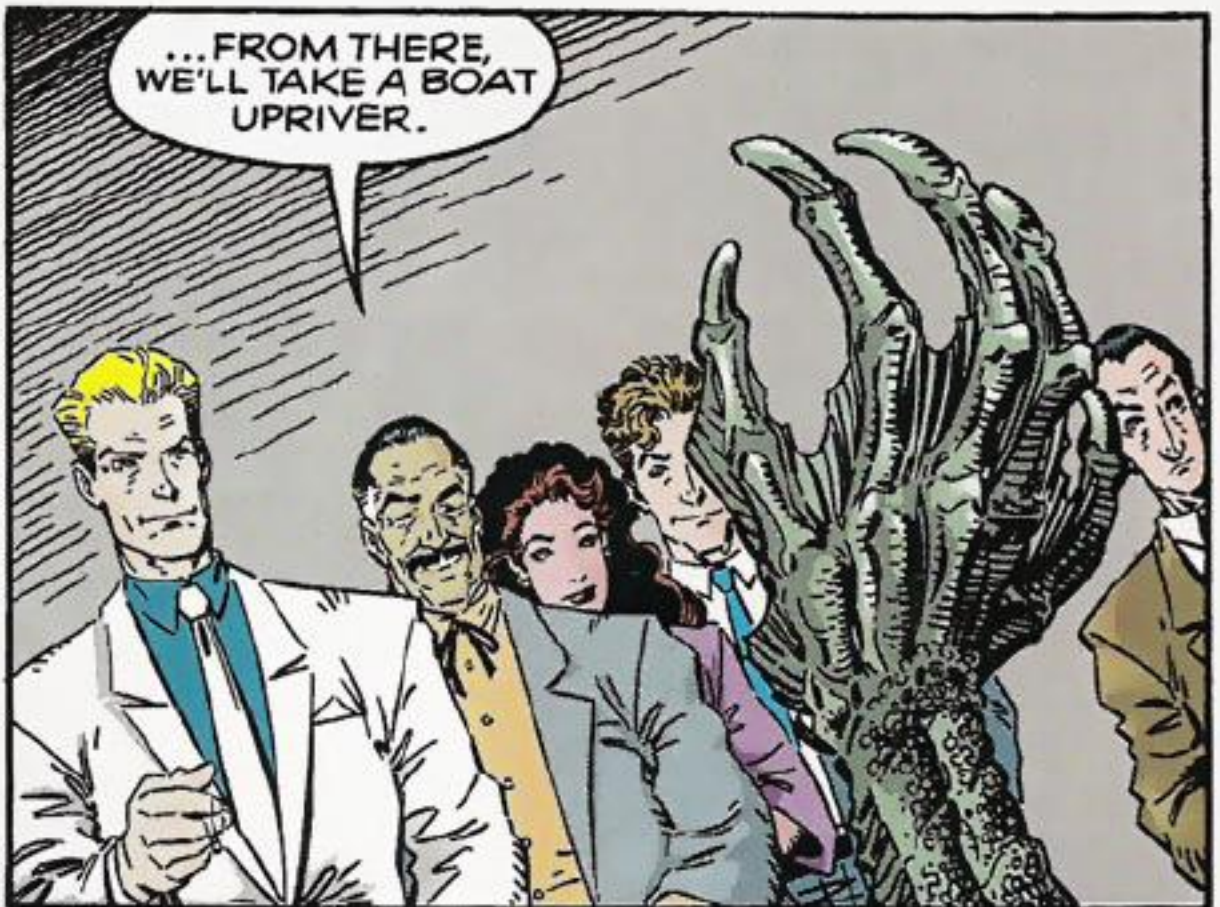
A FIND
OF ANY **REAL** IMPORTANCE
CAN BE OF GREAT **FINANCIAL**
VALUE TO US, ALSO.

CERTAINLY YOUR **BOARD**
COULDN'T DISAPPROVE.

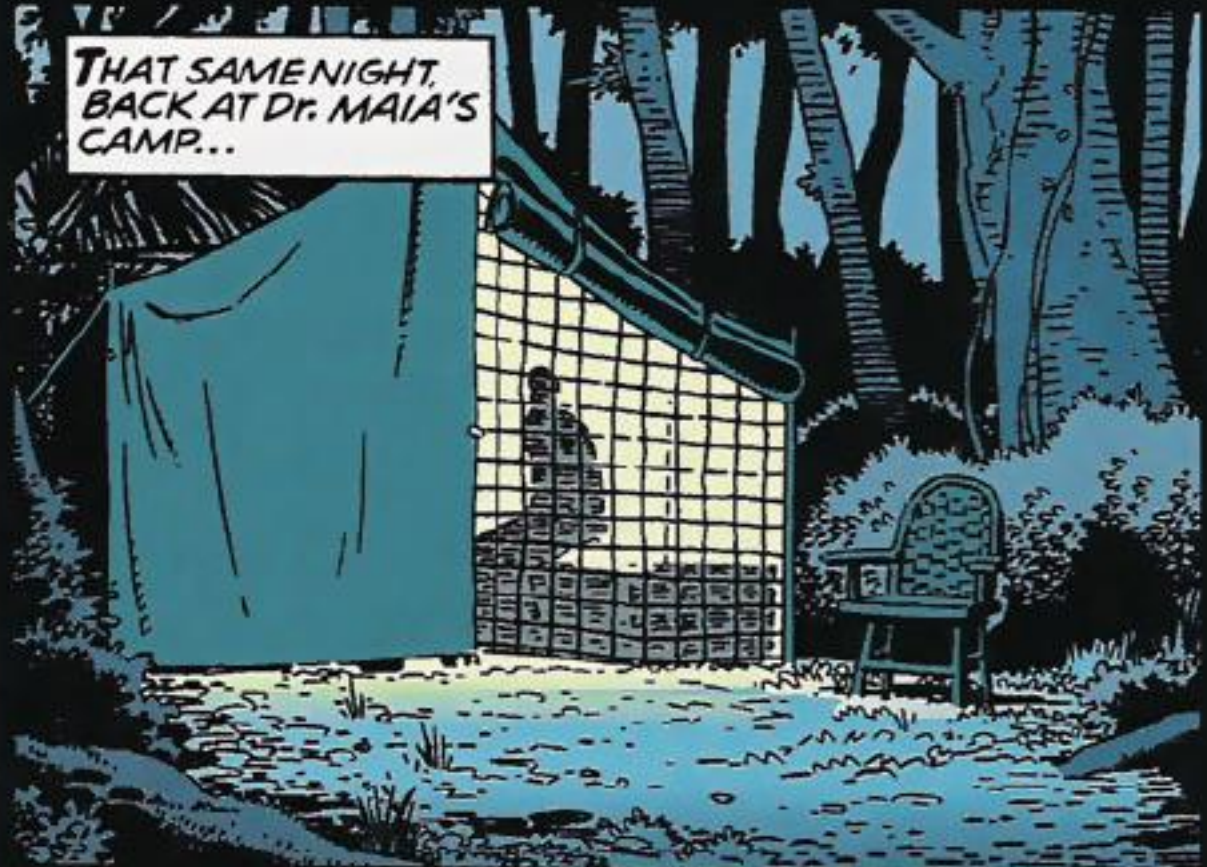


Dr. MAIA, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF AN EXPEDITION.

GOOD! WE'LL LEAVE FOR MANOUSE IN THE MORNING...



...FROM THERE, WE'LL TAKE A BOAT UP RIVER.



THAT SAME NIGHT, BACK AT Dr. MAIA'S CAMP...



GARONK! GRONK

WHAT'S THAT?



NO!



AAAAAAEIGH

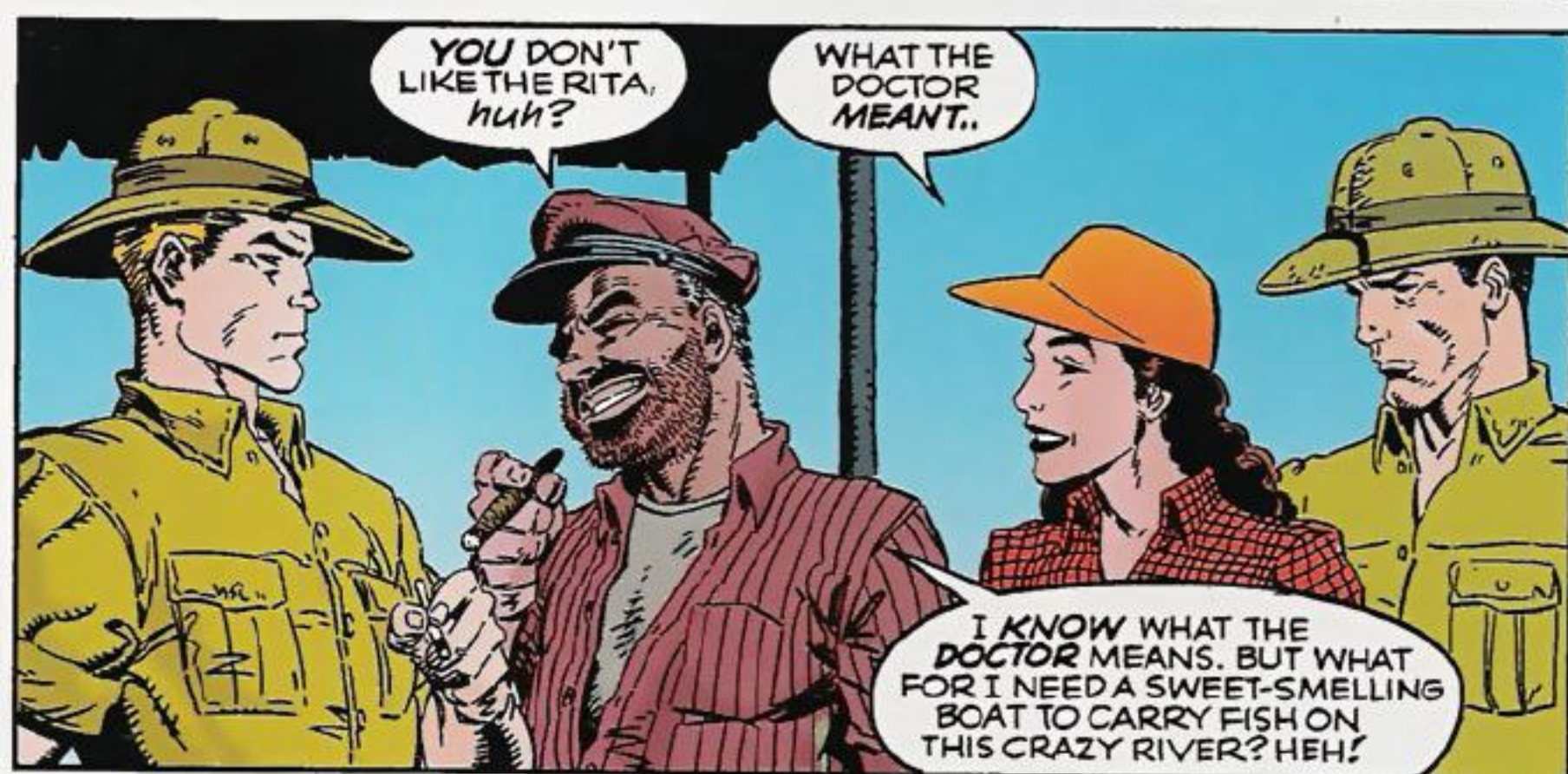
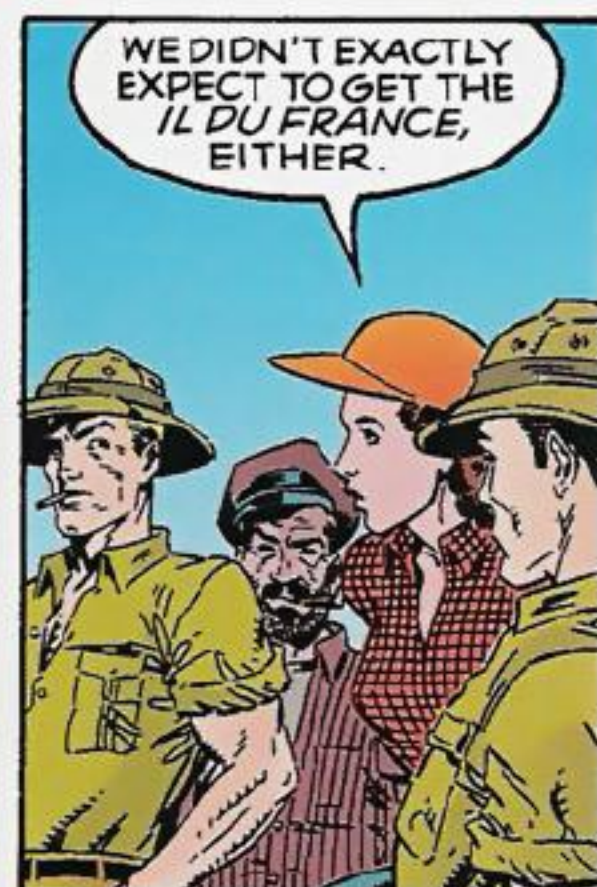
CRASH
CRACK

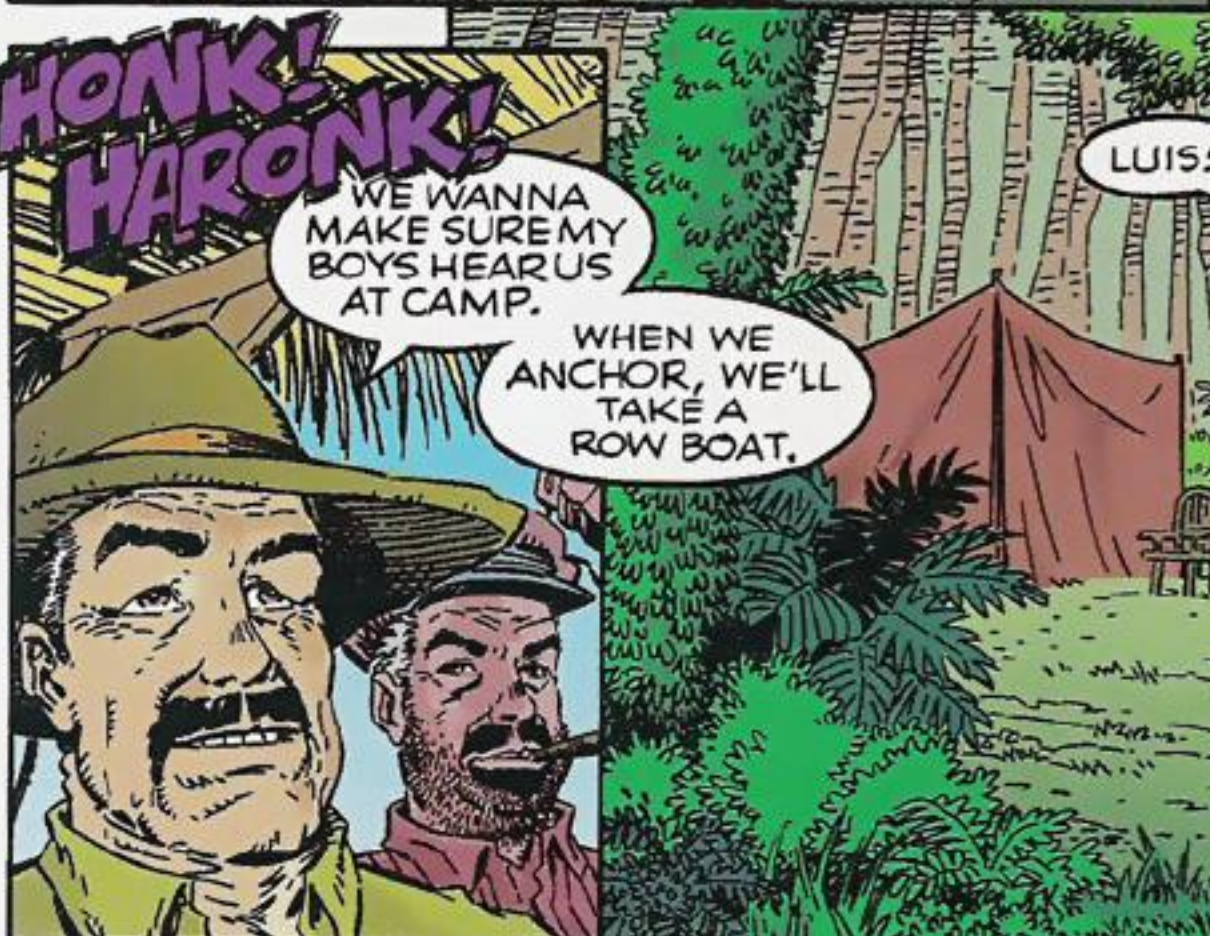
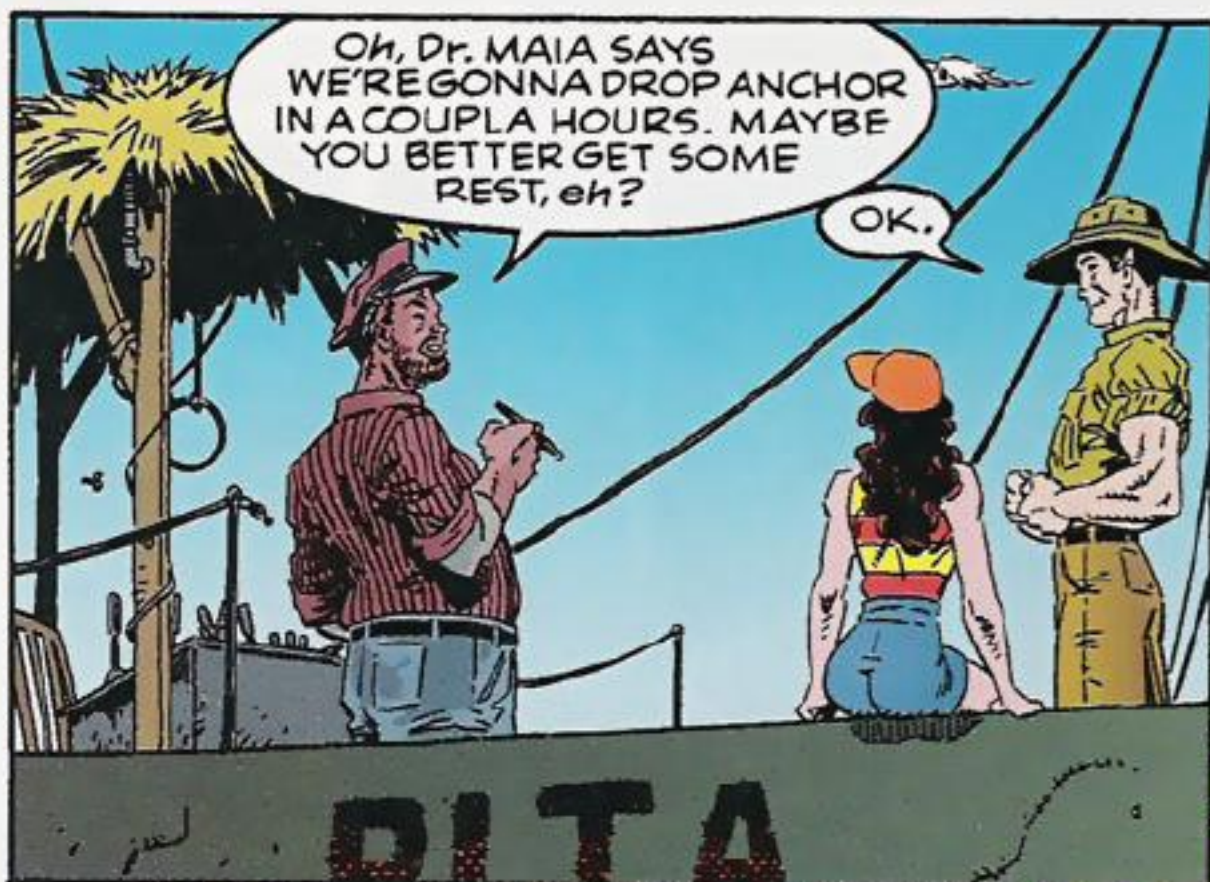
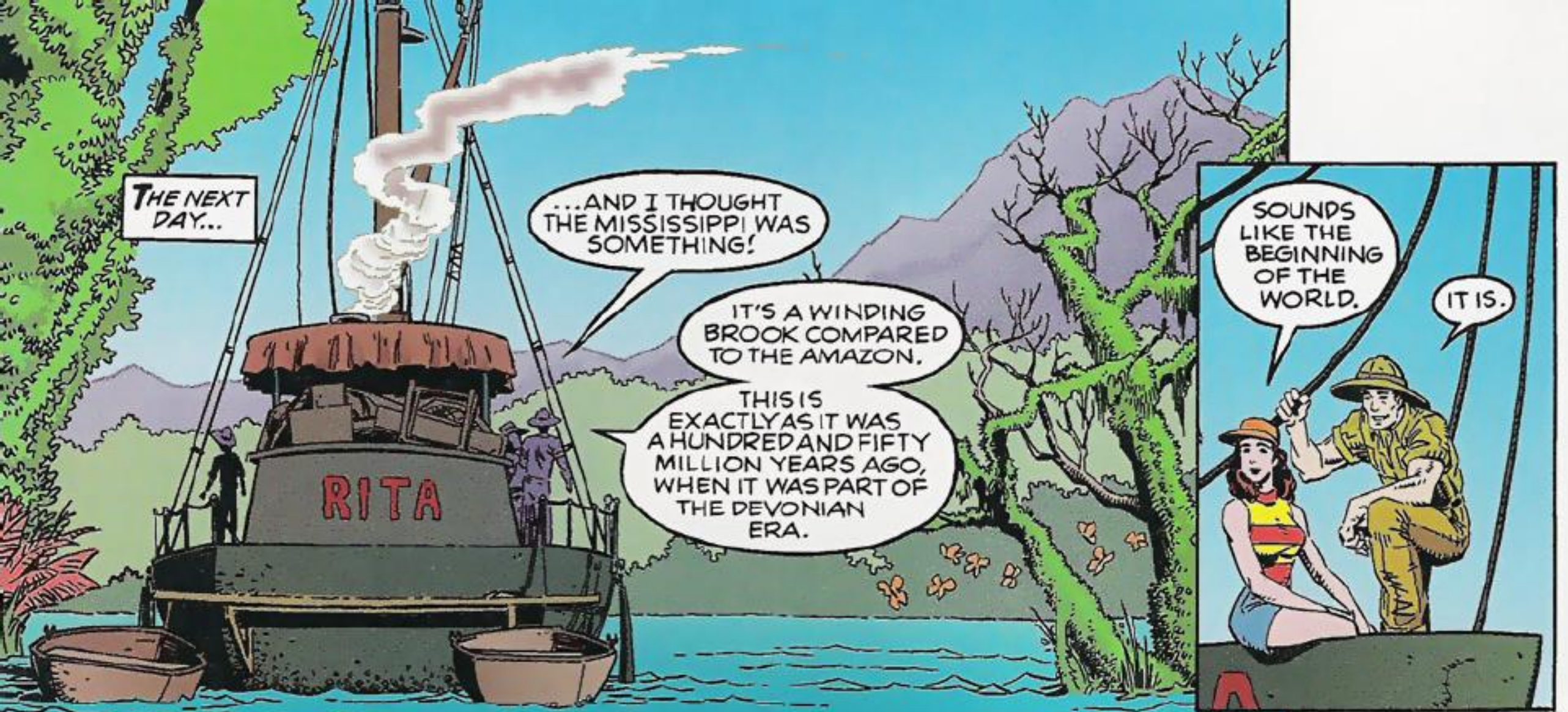


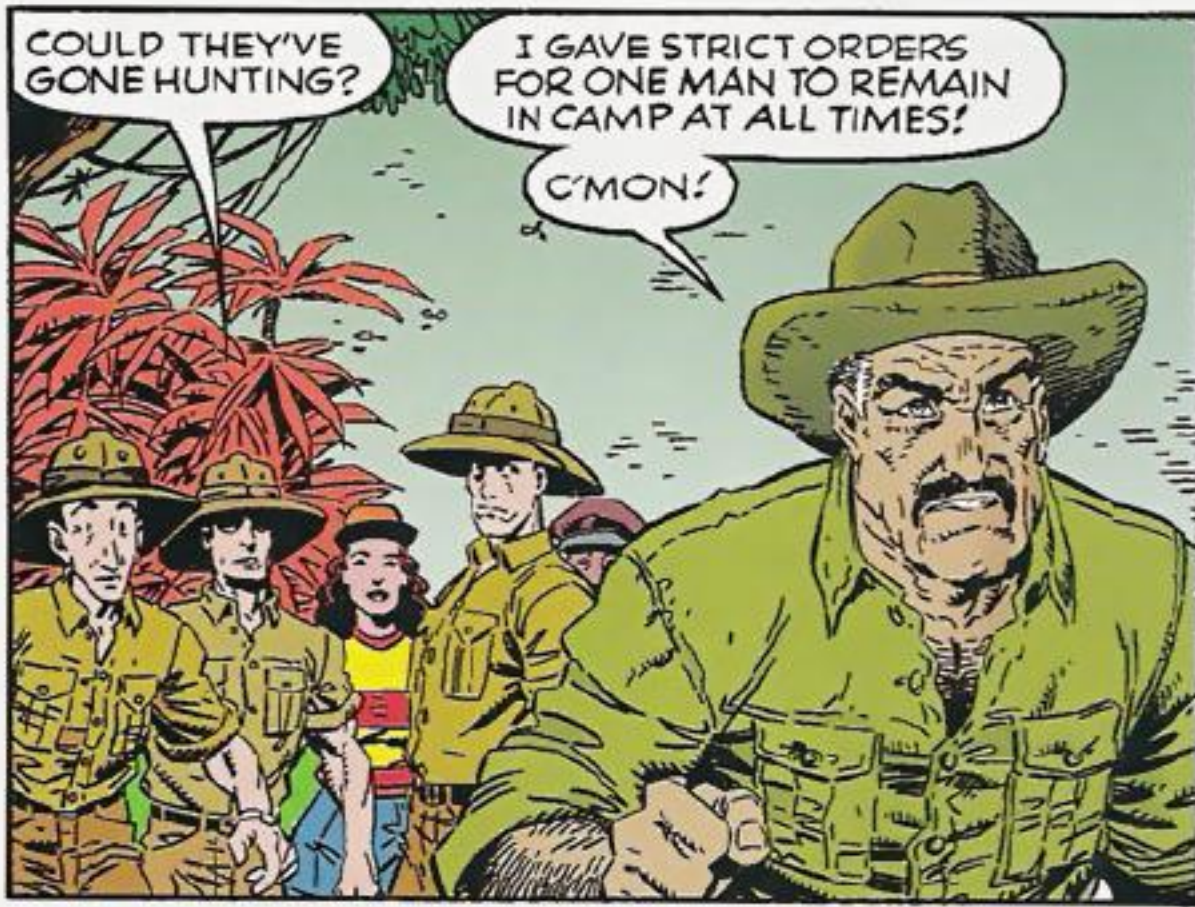
SOME DAYS LATER.

IT'S SO HOT HERE.

IT'LL GET HOTTER!









A WORLD-SHAKING FIND, ALL RIGHT.

EIGHT DAYS!

ALL WE DIG UP ARE ENOUGH STONES TO PAVE A ROAD.



YOU HAD ENOUGH, MARK, OR DO WE KEEP ON DIGGING?

I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I'VE HAD ENOUGH!



WE'VE FAILED! THAT'S ALL PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND!



CARL, HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THIS TRIBUTARY EMPTIES INTO?

MY BOYS USED TO TELL ME THERE'S A LAGOON AT THE END OF IT.



WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

I WAS JUST THINKING...



...COULD BE THAT SOMETIME IN THE PAST, PART OF THIS BANK BROKE AWAY AND FELL INTO THE RIVER HERE.



OVER HUNDREDS OF YEARS, PERHAPS OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS, THE CURRENT WOULD BREAK IT UP. IF THERE IS A DEAD-END TO THIS TRIBUTARY, THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND THE FRAGMENTS.

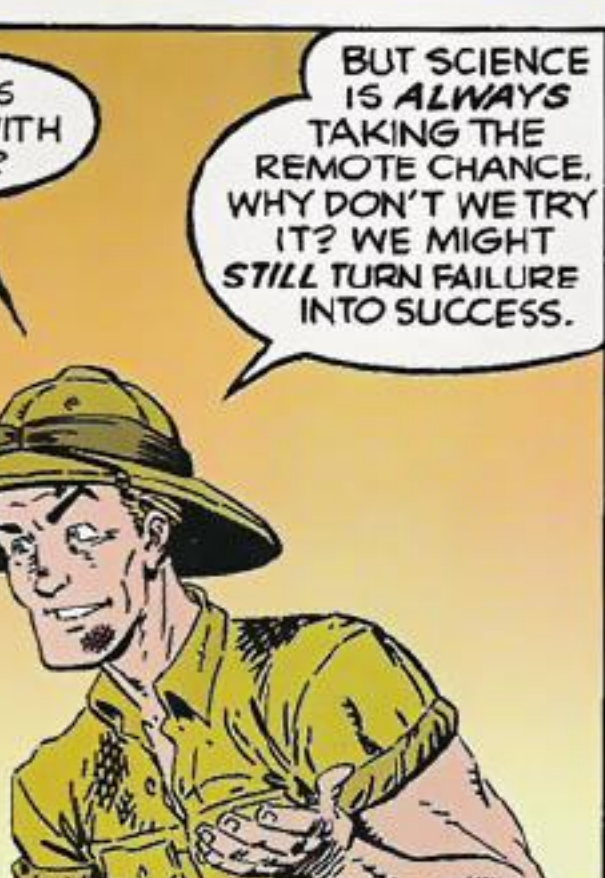
WE MIGHT EVEN FIND THE REST OF YOUR FOSSIL!



A THEORY!

EVEN IF DAVID'S THEORY IS CORRECT, THE CHANCES OF FINDING ANYTHING ARE REMOTE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?



BUT SCIENCE IS ALWAYS TAKING THE REMOTE CHANCE. WHY DON'T WE TRY IT? WE MIGHT STILL TURN FAILURE INTO SUCCESS.

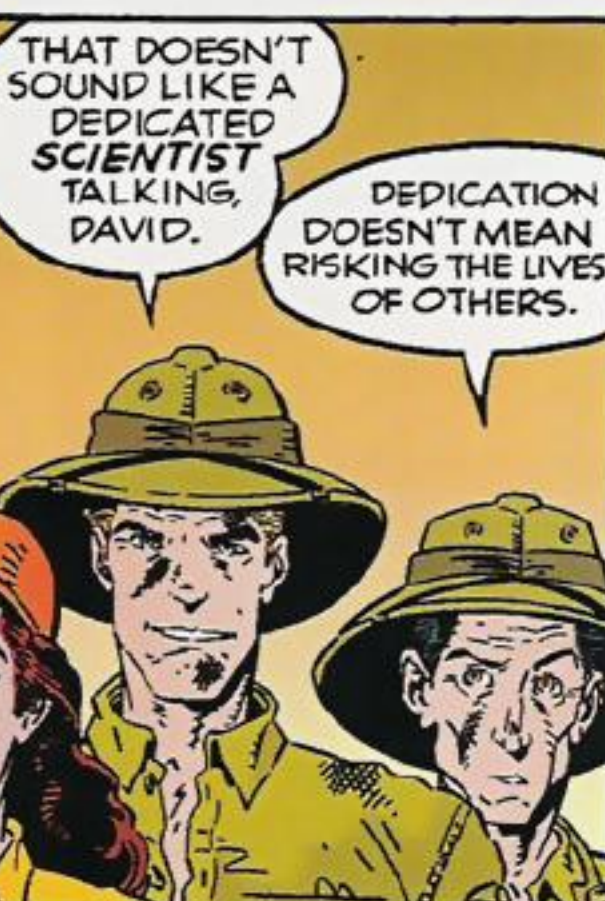


WELL, THERE'S JUST ONE THING, MARK. GOING INTO UNEXPLORED TERRITORY WITH A WOMAN.

I'M NOT AFRAID, DAVID. AND... AND WE'VE COME THIS FAR.



YEAH, I KNOW, BUT... I KEEP REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED TO CARL'S MEN.



THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A DEDICATED SCIENTIST TALKING, DAVID.

DEDICATION DOESN'T MEAN RISKING THE LIVES OF OTHERS.



Oh, I'VE ALWAYS FOUND KAY WAS ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

BUT WE KNOW
NOTHING ABOUT
THIS LAGOON.

I CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS PLACE. MY BOYS CALL
IT "THE BLACK LAGOON." "THE
PARADISE."

HA. ONLY
THEY SAY,
NOBODY HAS
EVER COME
BACK TO
PROVE
IT.
HA-HA-HA

WE'LL
DO IT!

Huh?

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

AH!
OH,
DAVID!

Heh! Heh! SORRY!
I DIDN'T MEANT TO
STARTLE YOU.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT MADE ME
DO THAT!

THAT HOWLING
OUT THERE DOESN'T
HELP ANY.

Ah...THOSE
ARE BUHREEBA
MONKEYS.

YOU
SORRY NOW
THAT WE
CAME?

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND THE
SPECIES VERY
WELL.

WELL, GIVE ME TIME. I-I THOUGHT
I WAS DOING WELL, CONSIDERING
THAT WE'VE ONLY BEEN TOGETHER
FOR SIX MONTHS.

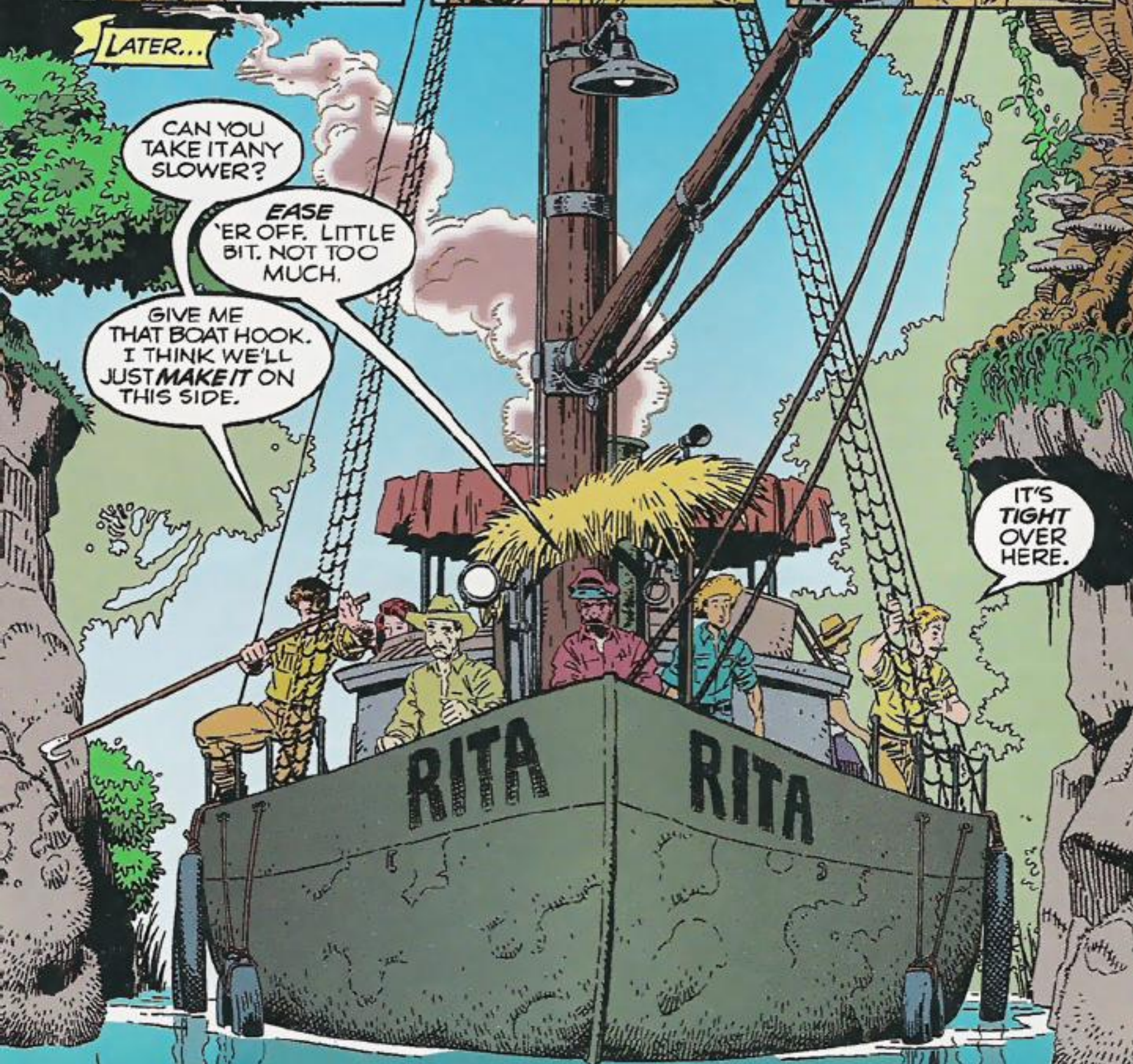
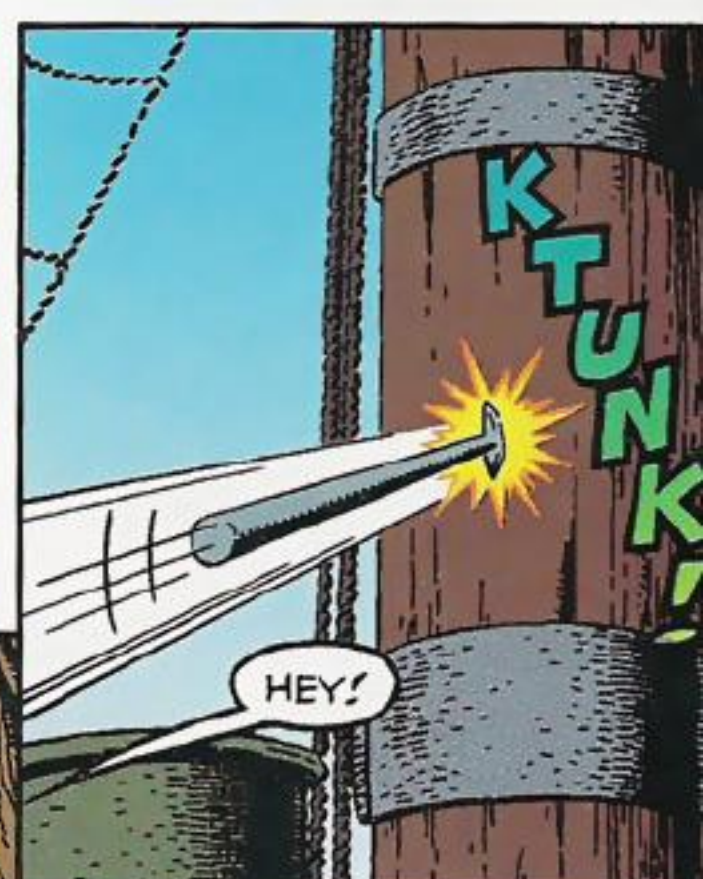
HOW MUCH
TIME DO YOU THINK
YOU'LL NEED?

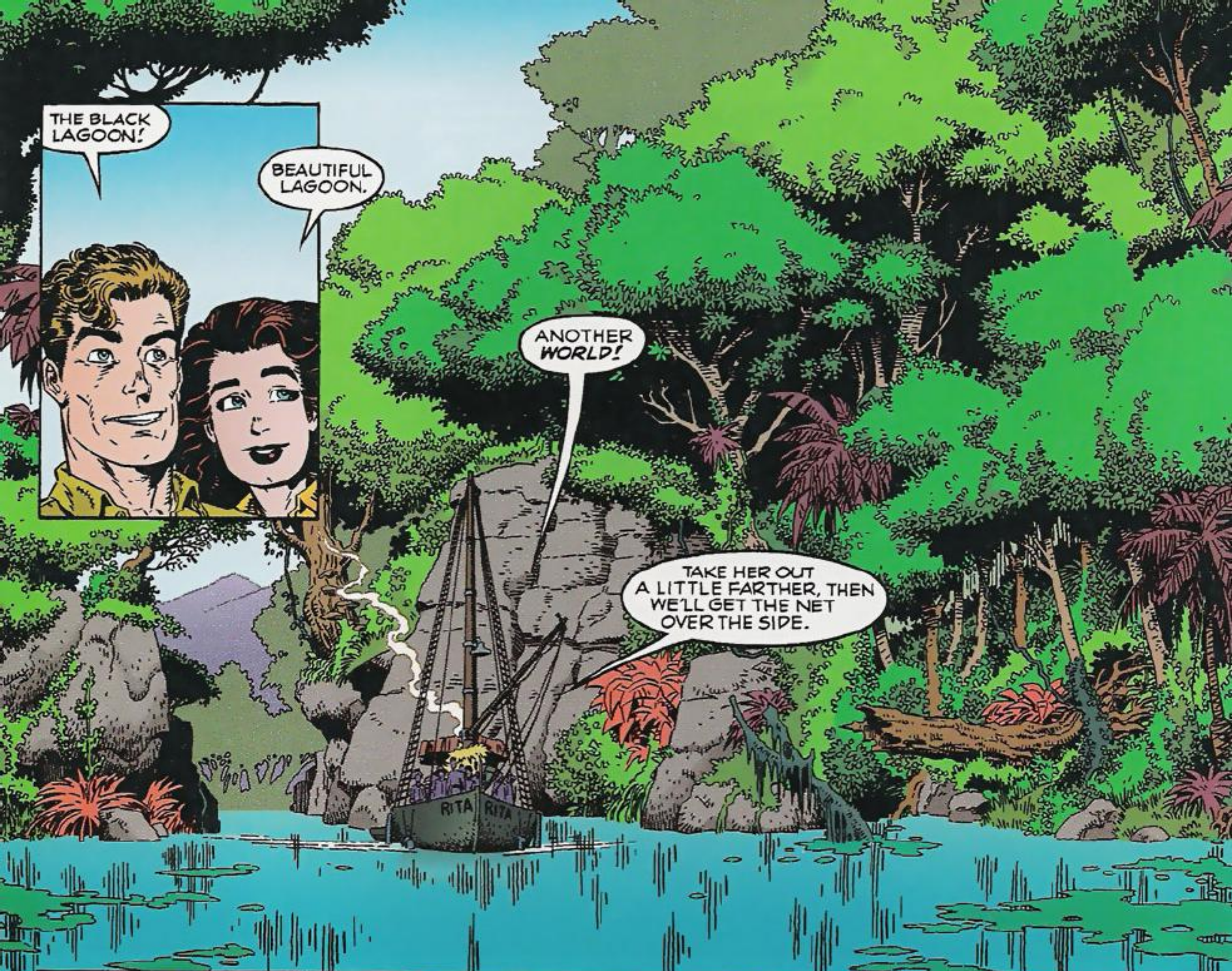
FROM
WHERE I'M
SITTING,
I'D SAY...
A
LIFETIME!

THAT'S THE
RIGHT ANSWER.

ROAR!

WE MIGHT
NOT EVEN HAVE
A LIFETIME.





THE BLACK LAGOON!

BEAUTIFUL LAGOON.

ANOTHER WORLD!

TAKE HER OUT A LITTLE FARTHER, THEN WE'LL GET THE NET OVER THE SIDE.

YOU EXPECT TO CATCH A FISH?

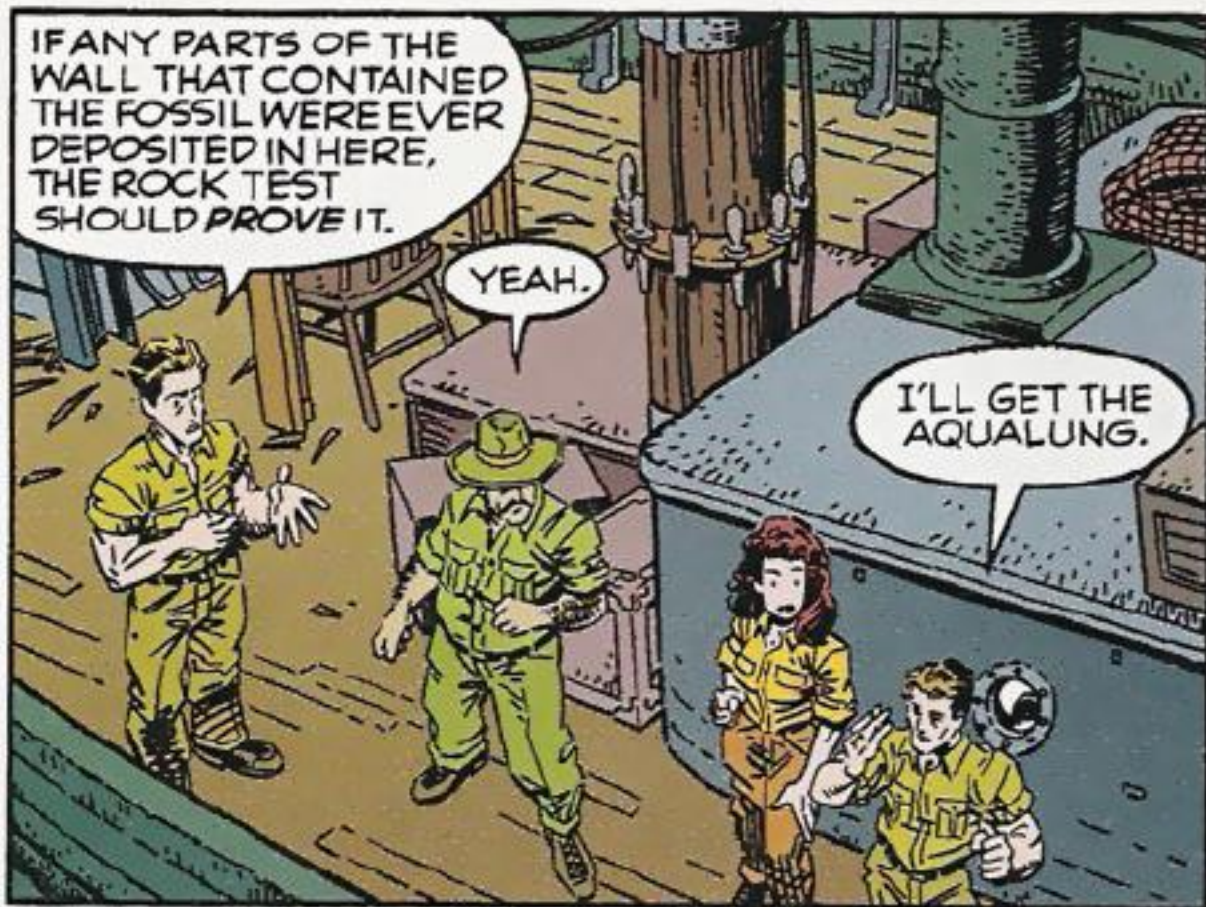
WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL FIND OUT WHAT SPECIES ARE HERE.

WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT SPECIES OF FISH ARE HERE. WE'RE AFTER THE REST OF THAT FOSSIL, REMEMBER?

I NEED SOME ROCKS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE LAGOON FOR A TEST.

BUT WE JUST GOT HERE.

WELL, WHY WASTE TIME?



IF ANY PARTS OF THE WALL THAT CONTAINED THE FOSSIL WERE EVER DEPOSITED IN HERE, THE ROCK TEST SHOULD PROVE IT.

YEAH.

I'LL GET THE AQUALUNG.

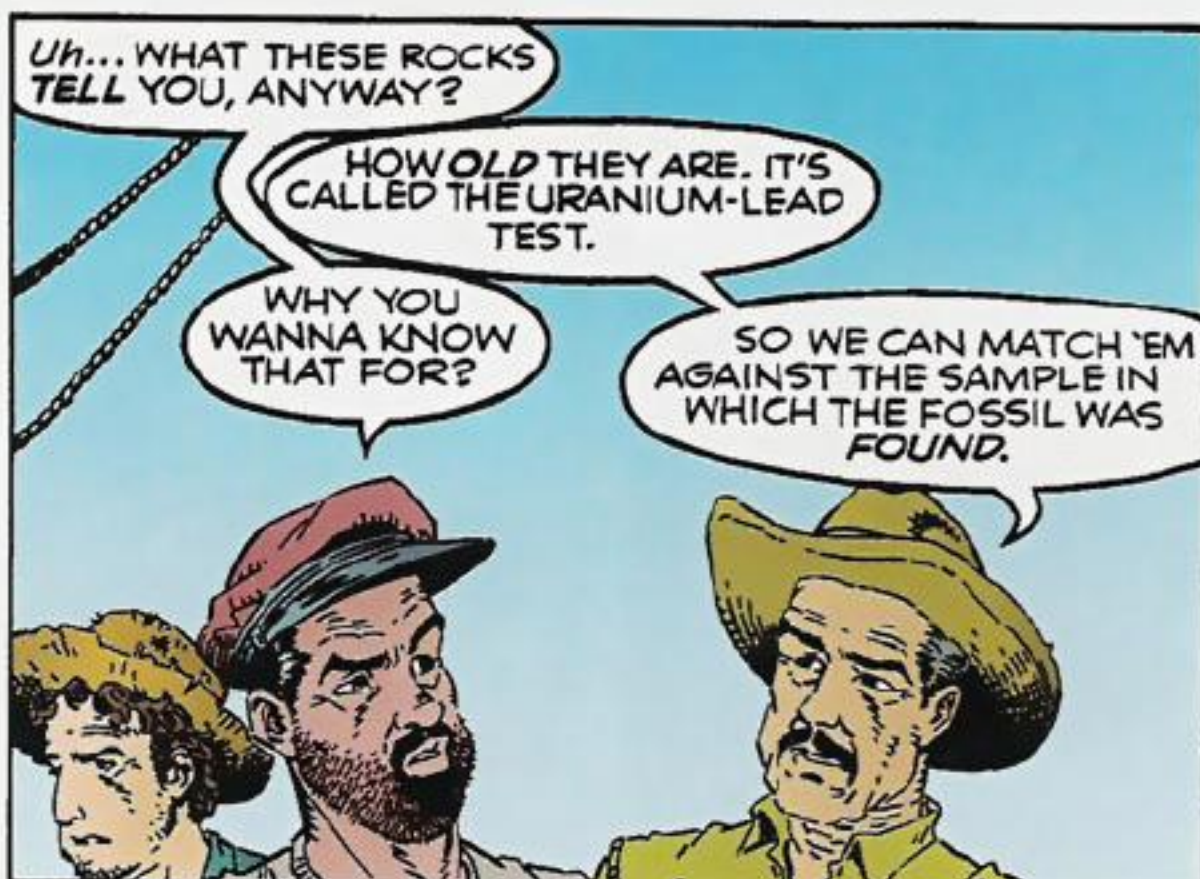
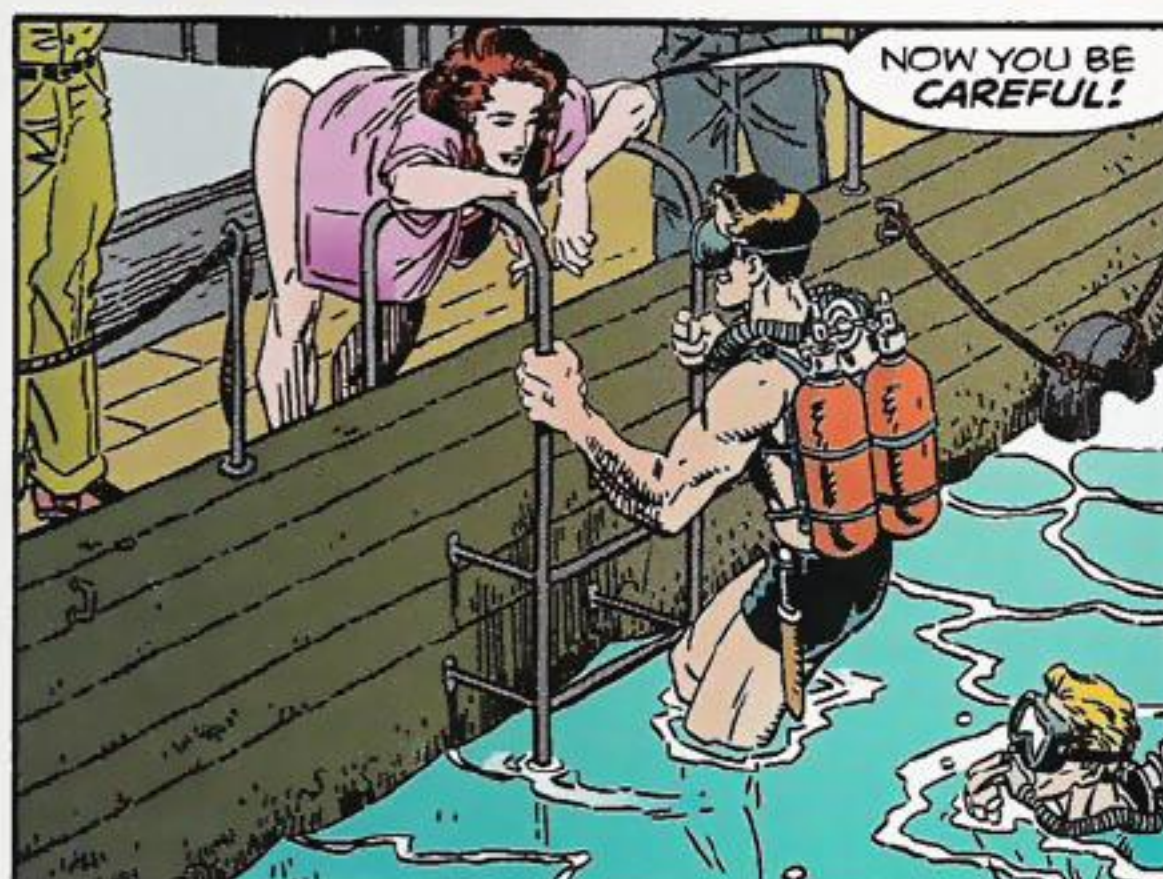
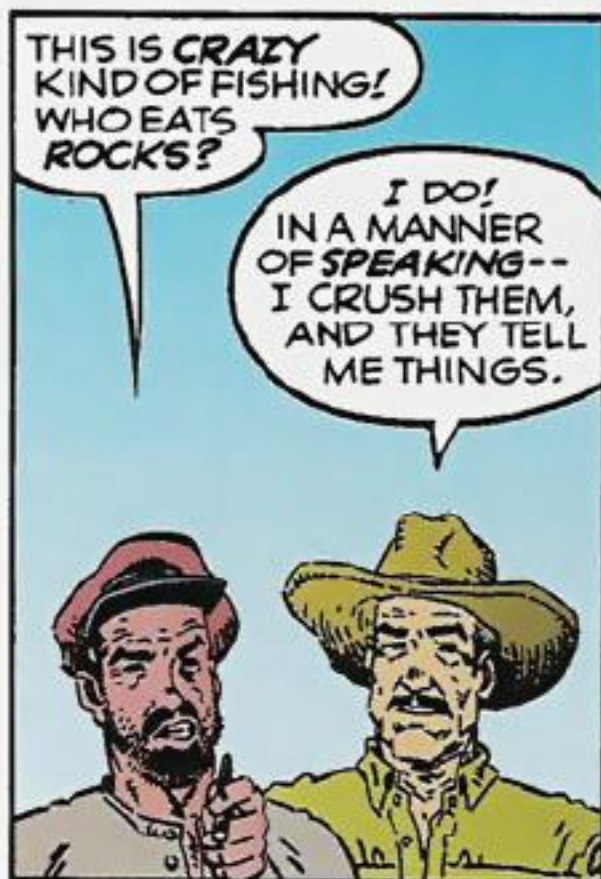


YOU BE CAREFUL, DAVID! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S DOWN THERE!



I HOPE YOU'RE AFRAID FOR ME, TOO, KAY.

OF COURSE, MARK.





HEY, THEY'RE UP!

HEY, HOW LONG THEY HAVE TO WAIT THERE?

DEPENDS ON HOW FAR DOWN THEY WENT.



WELL, HOW WAS IT DOWN THERE, huh?

Oh, FINE.

C'MON, I'LL HELP YOU OFF WITH THIS EQUIPMENT.

GOOD.



CARL, I GOT YOUR SAMPLES.

GOOD. LET ME HAVE THEM.

THANK YOU, DAVID.



AND THIS... IS SOMETHING FOR YOU.

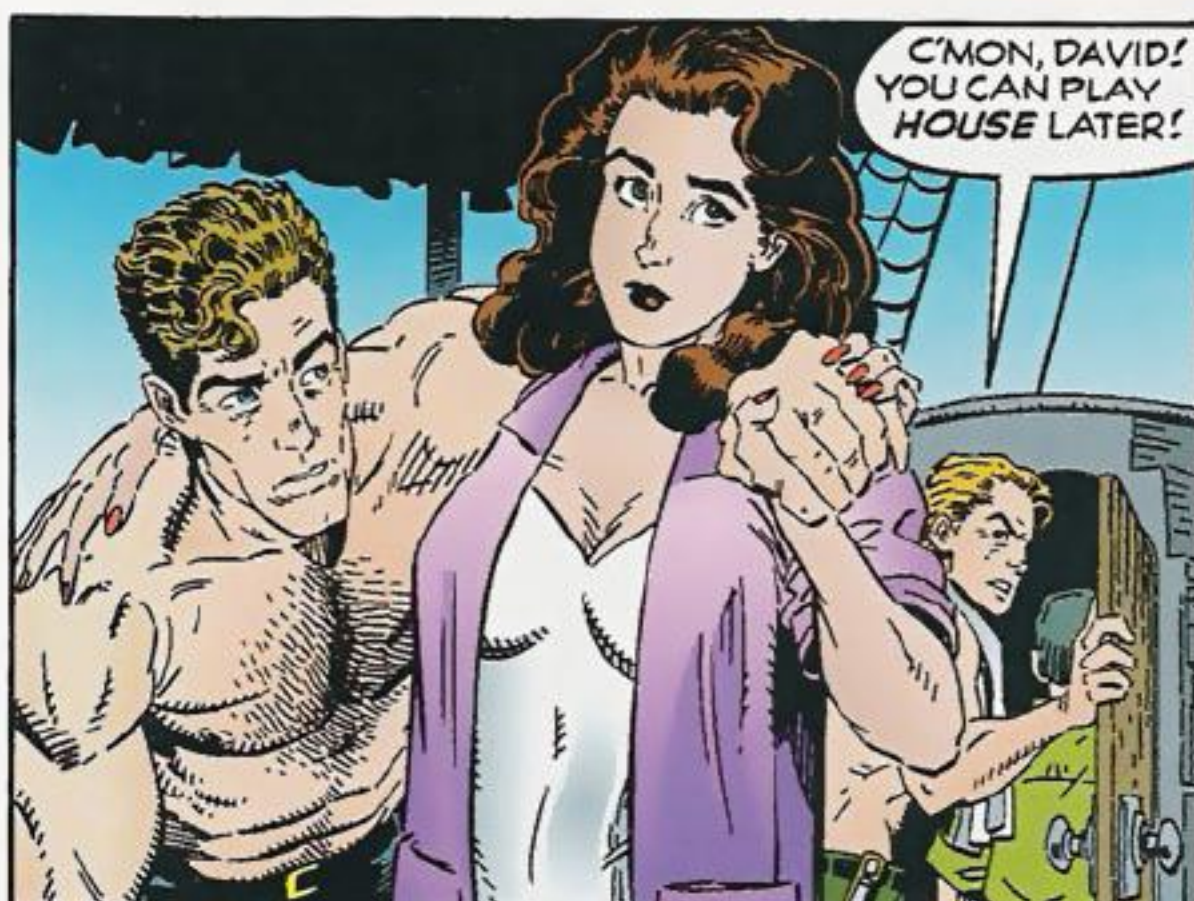
OH... WELL. THANK YOU. THEY'RE VERY PRETTY.



LET'S TEST THEM RIGHT AWAY!

WILL YOU HELP ME, DOCTOR?

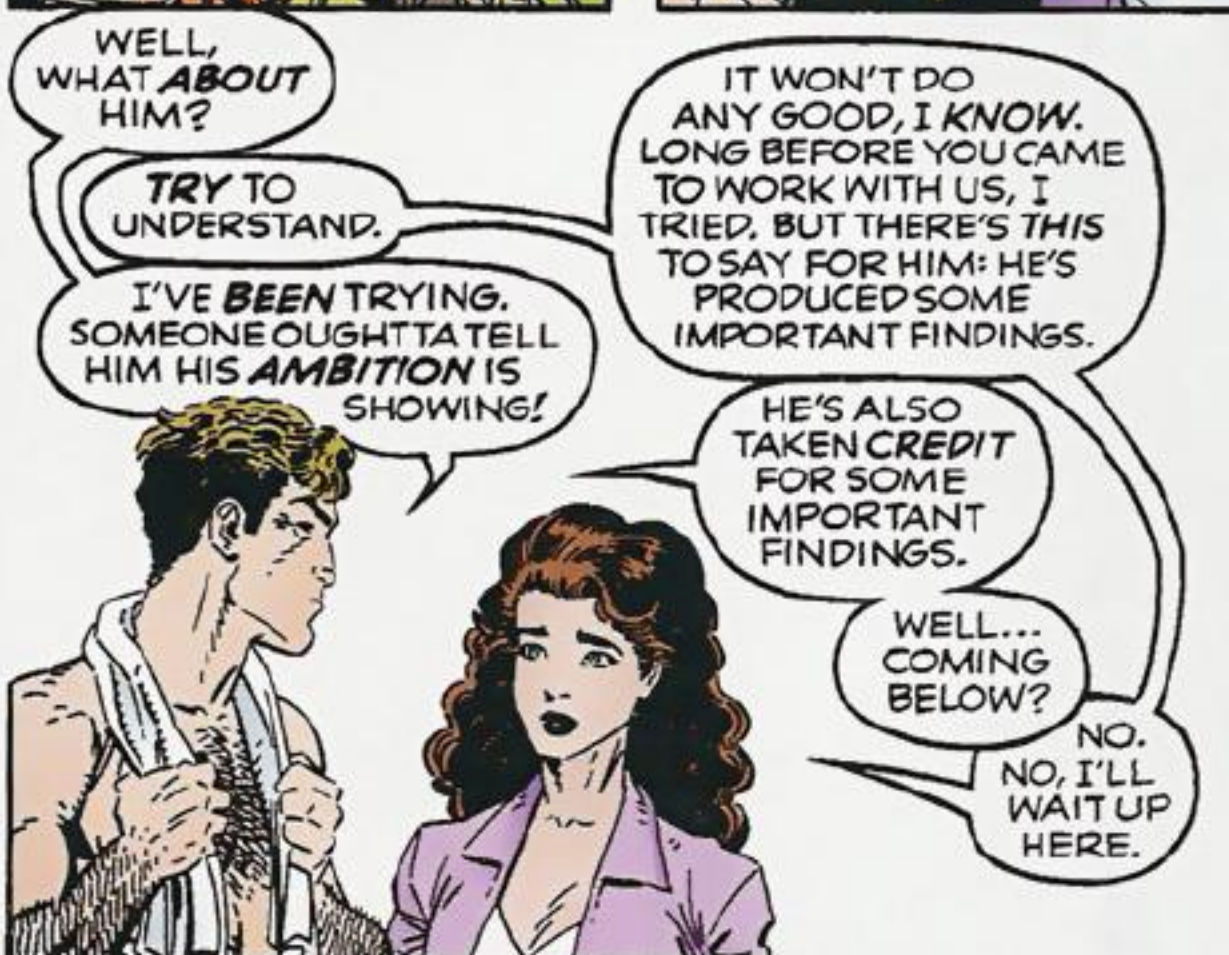
BE GLAD TO.



C'MON, DAVID! YOU CAN PLAY HOUSE LATER!



DAVID. ABOUT MARK...



WELL, WHAT ABOUT HIM?

TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

I'VE BEEN TRYING. SOMEONE OUGHTTA TELL HIM HIS AMBITION IS SHOWING!

IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD, I KNOW. LONG BEFORE YOU CAME TO WORK WITH US, I TRIED. BUT THERE'S THIS TO SAY FOR HIM: HE'S PRODUCED SOME IMPORTANT FINDINGS.

HE'S ALSO TAKEN CREDIT FOR SOME IMPORTANT FINDINGS.

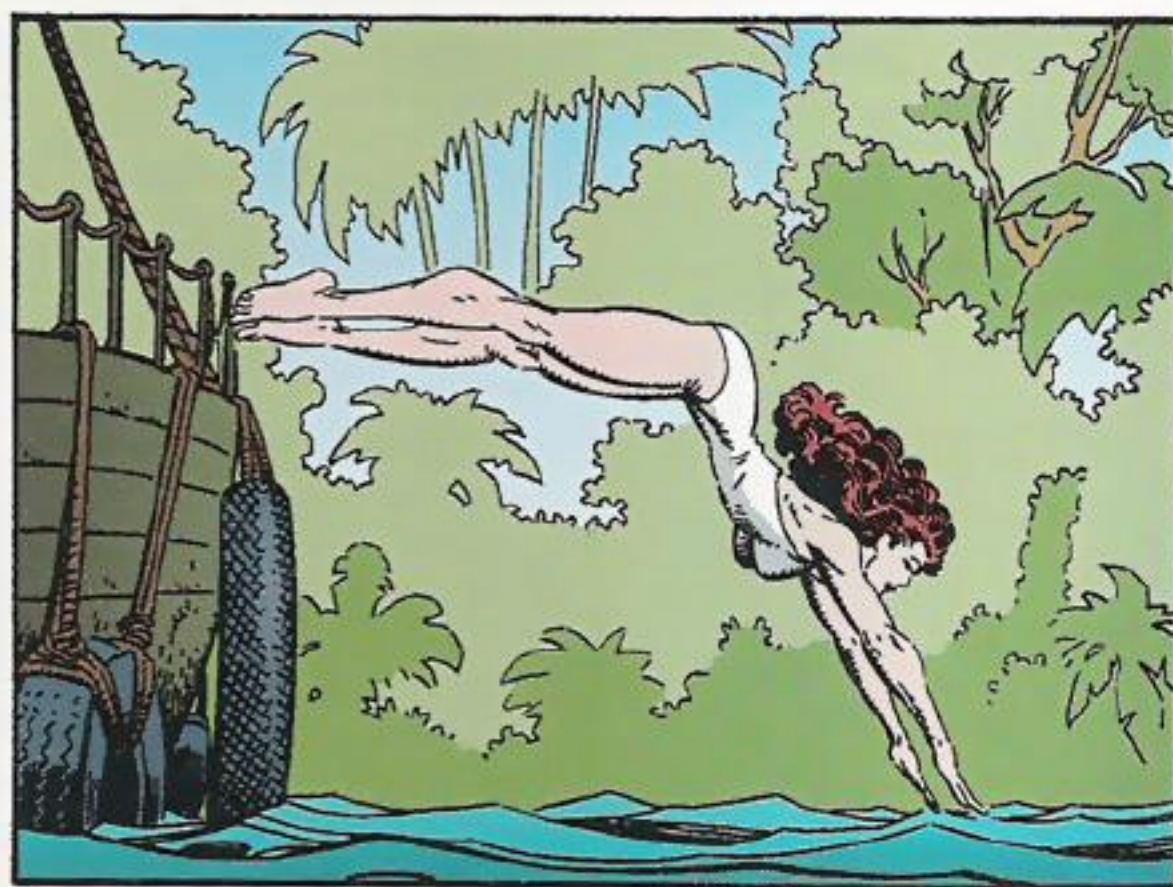
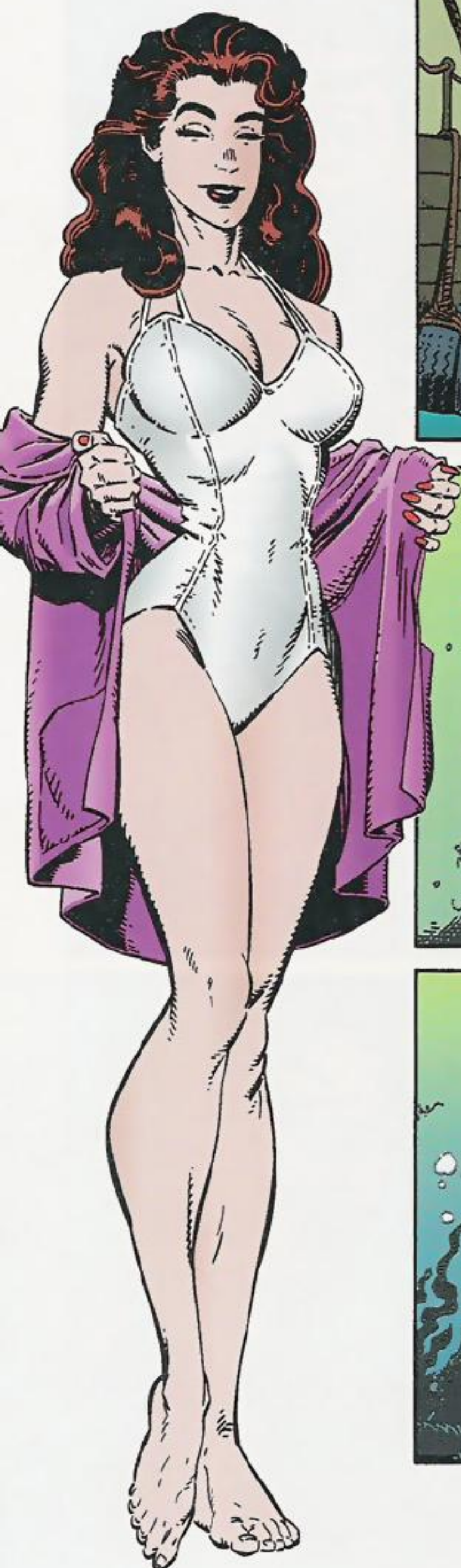
WELL... COMING BELOW?

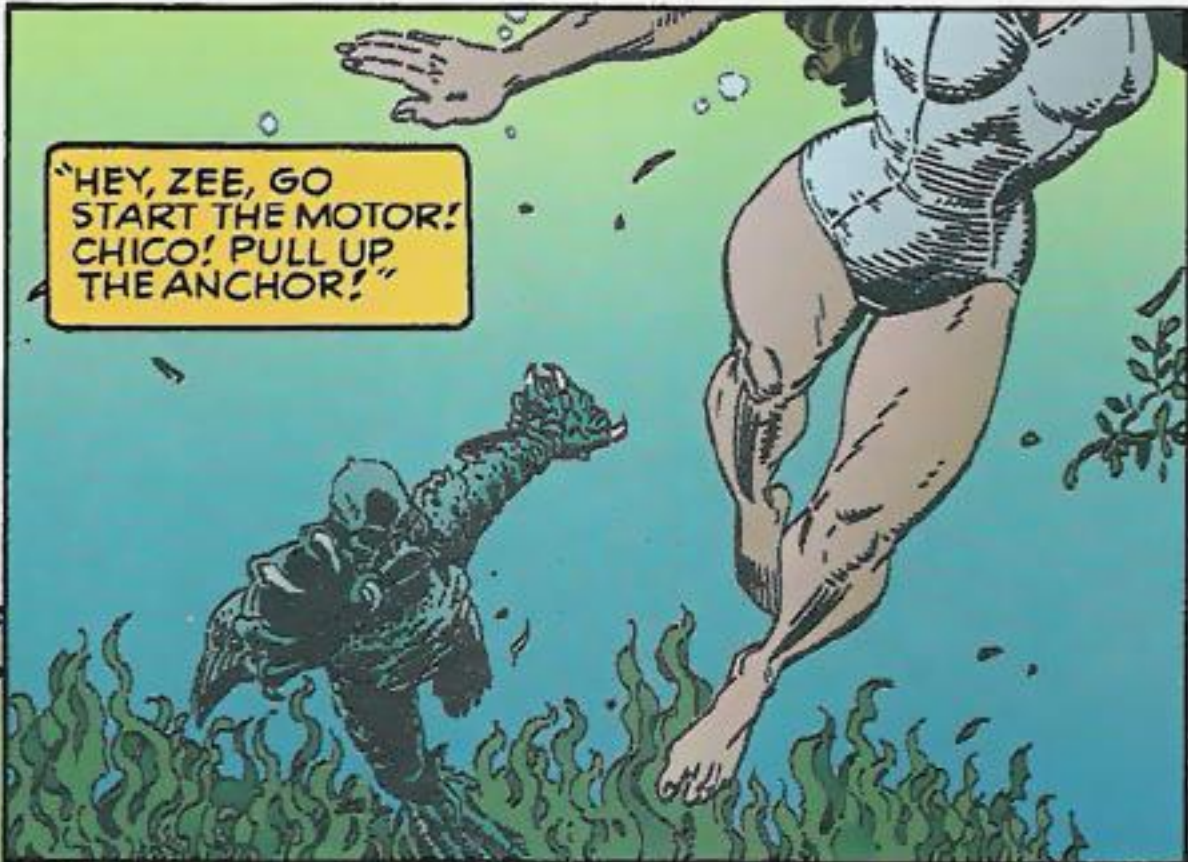
NO. NO, I'LL WAIT UP HERE.

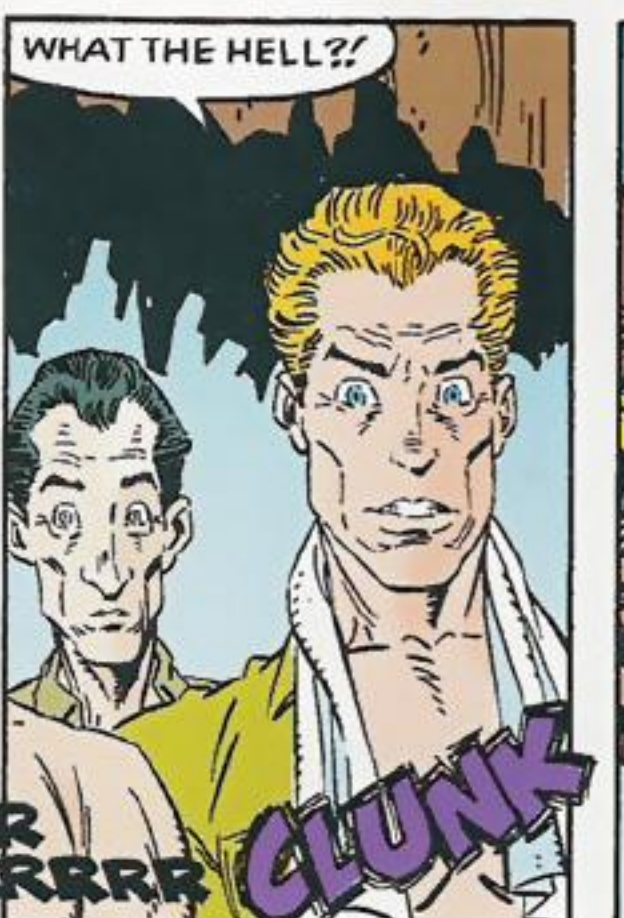
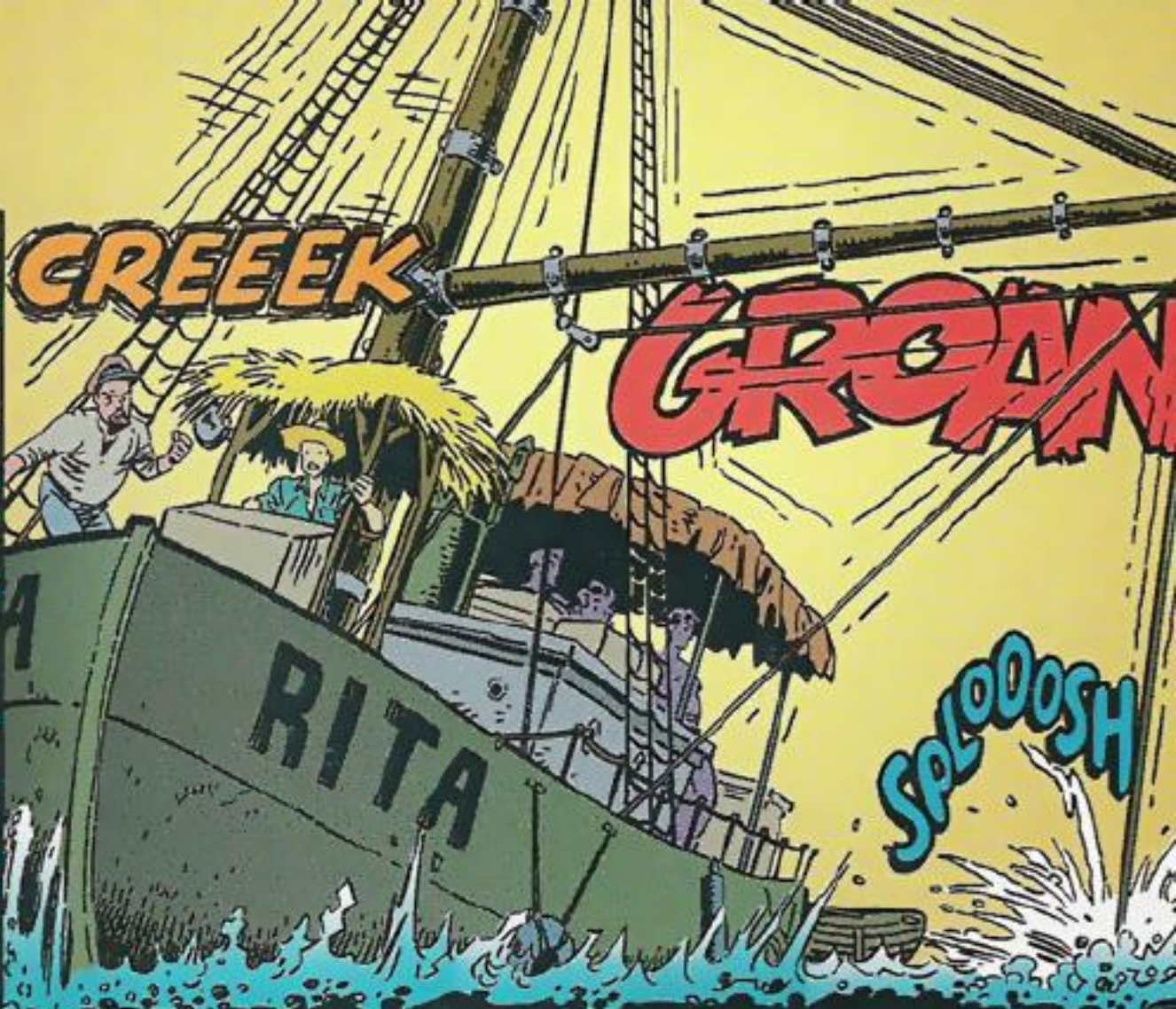


HEY... WHAT WAS IT LIKE DOWN THERE?

LIKE ANOTHER WORLD.









WHO SAID
IT *WAS* A FISH? THE
NET COULD'VE HOOKED
ONTO SOME UNDER-
WATER ROCK!

WAIT A
MINUTE! IT WAS
NO ROCK THAT LEFT
THIS IN THE
NET!



I JUST FINISHED A ROCK
ANALYSIS, AND YOU WERE
RIGHT, DAVID--SOME OF
THE LIMESTONE DEPOSIT
WHERE I FOUND THE
FOSSIL IS ON THE
BOTTOM OF THIS
LAGOON.



A SHORT TIME LATER,
DAVID AND MARK
PREPARE TO RE-ENTER
THE LAGOON.



LUCAS...
PUT THAT OVER THE
SIDE FOR ME,
WILLYA?

WHATEVER THE
SPECIES MIGHT BE,
IF YOU LET IT ALONE,
IT WON'T *BOTHER*
YOU.

YEAH...MAYBE.

BUT IF YOU'RE
WRONG, THIS HARPOON
WILL CORRECT ANY
MISTAKES.

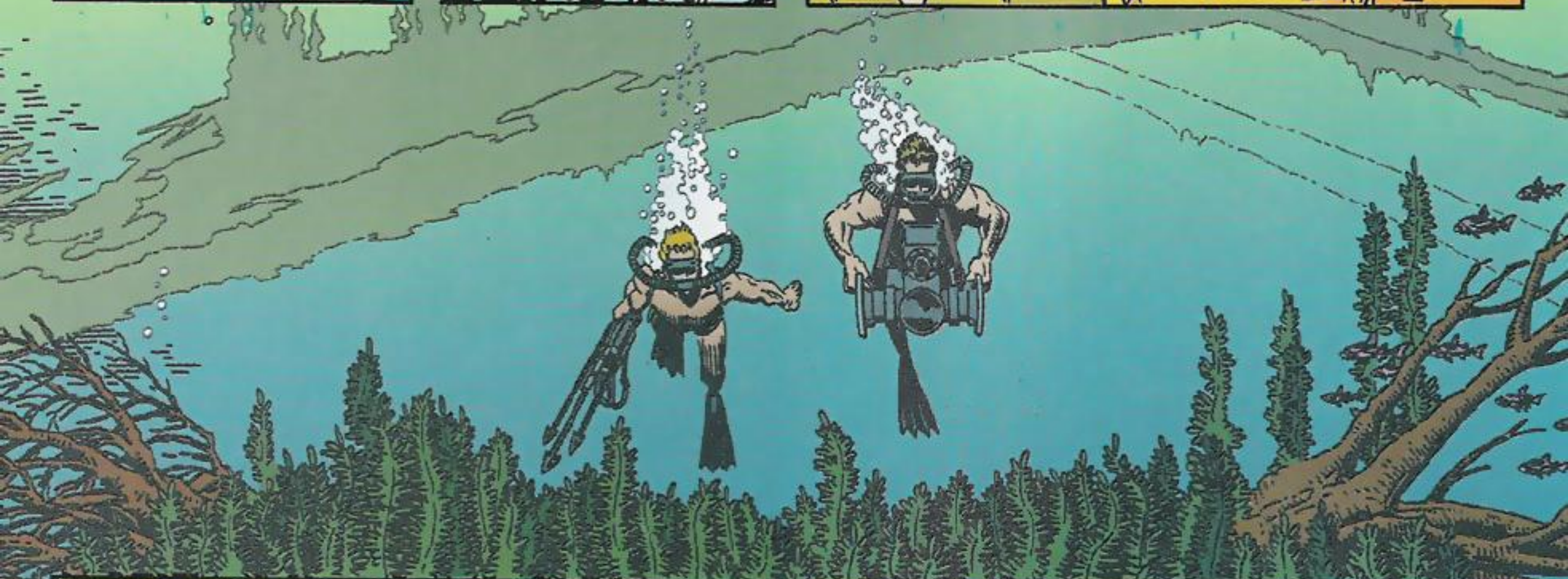
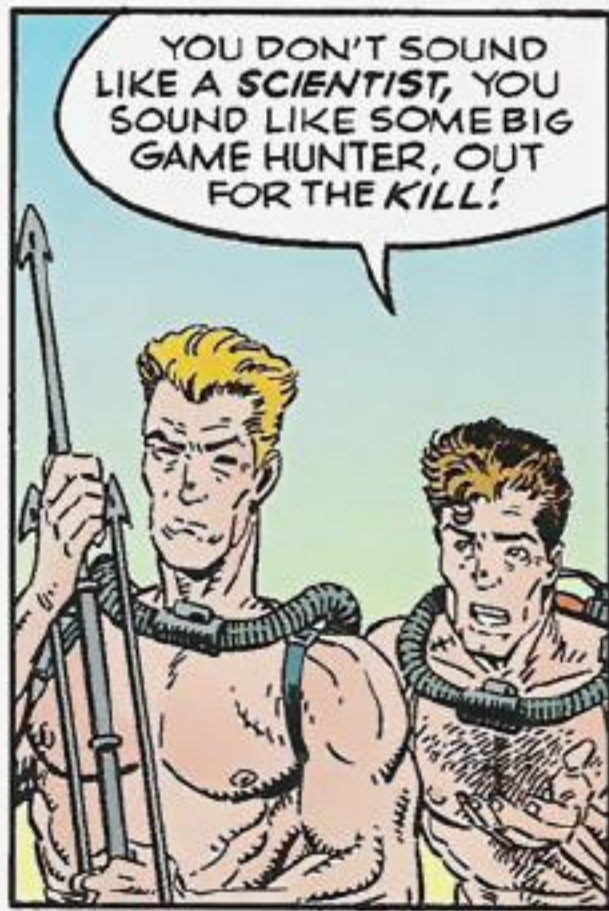


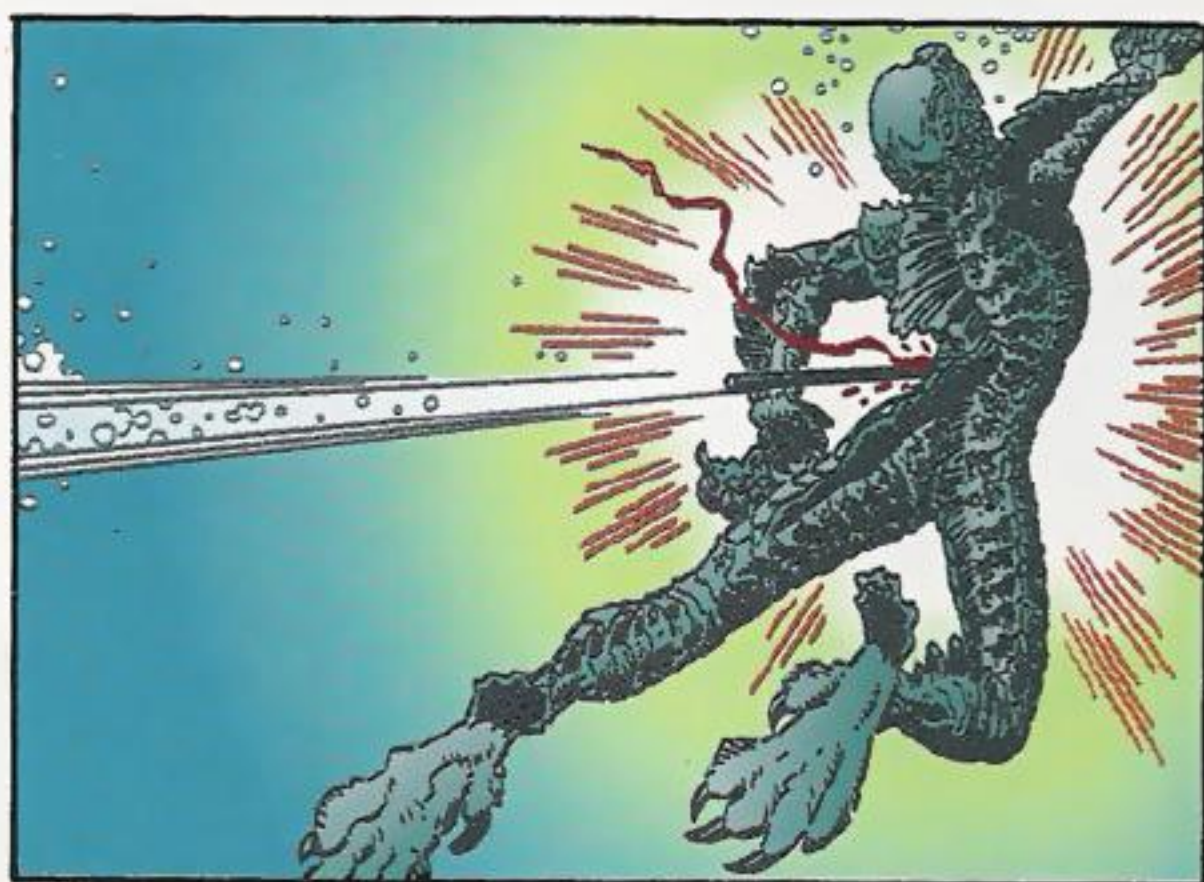
MARK, WE'RE AFTER
PHOTOGRAPHS FOR
STUDY, NOT TROPHIES.
THIS... THIS THING
ALIVE AND IN ITS
NATURAL HABITAT
IS *VALUABLE*
TO US.

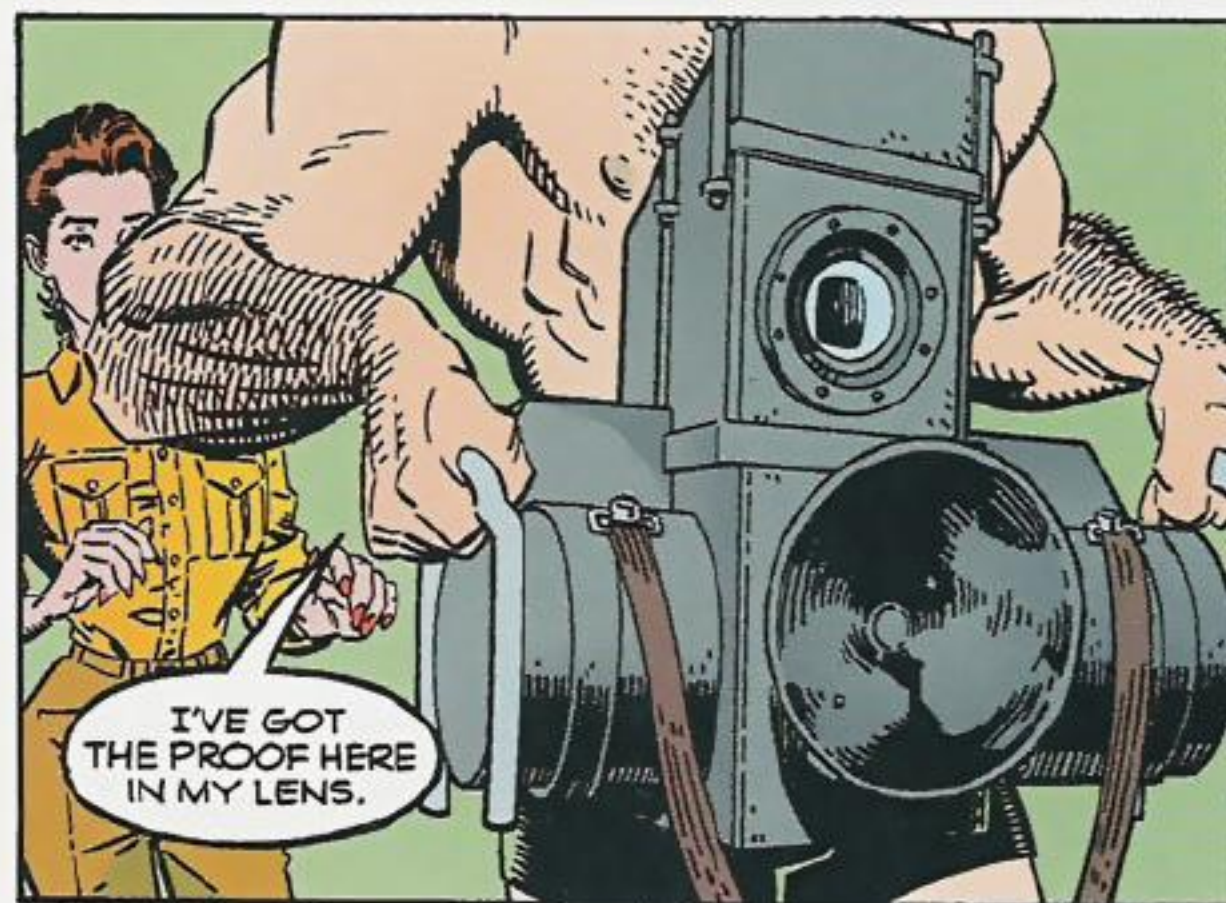
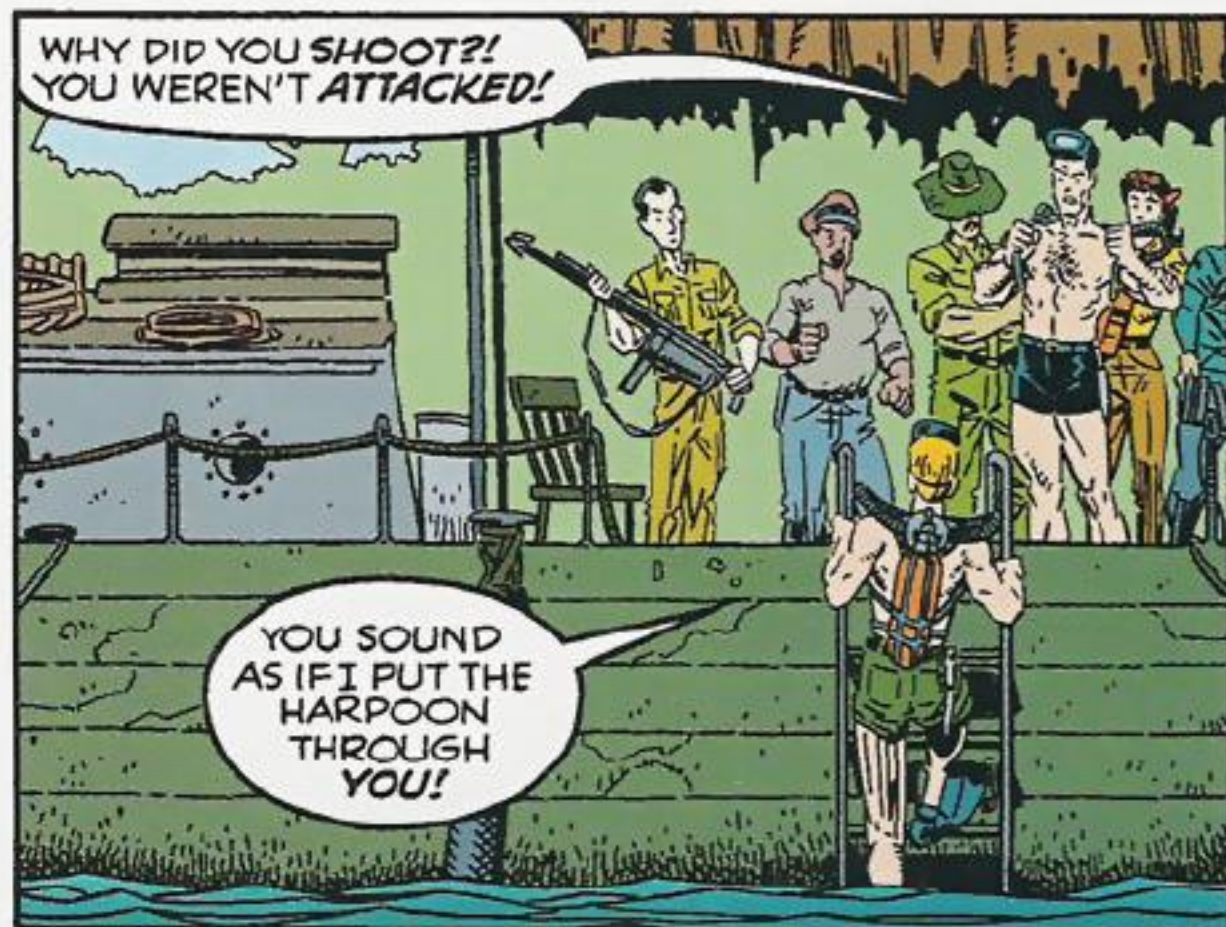


WELL, WHY SETTLE
FOR A PHOTO, WHEN
WE CAN GET THE
REAL THING?











WELL... THIS IS NO **LEGEND**--AS YOU'LL SOON SEE FOR YOURSELF!

WHAT ABOUT THE **KOMONGO**? SCIENCE HADN'T HEARD ABOUT IT UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO. AND THE **KOMONGO** LIVED WAY BACK IN THE **DEVONIAN AGE**.

INTERESTING THAT THE FOSSIL I FOUND WAS OUT OF THE SAME PERIOD.



THE **KOMONGO** WAS A **FISH** THAT BREATHED **AIR**.

Ooooh...



WHAT DOES THAT **PROVE**?

NOTHING... EXCEPT THAT THE **KOMONGO FISH**, WHICH HAS **LUNGS**, EXISTS **TODAY**. RIGHT HERE IN THE **AMAZON**. IT HASN'T CHANGED IN **ALL** THESE **MILLIONS OF YEARS**!



THAT STILL DOESN'T **PROVE** THE POSSIBILITY OF A **GILLMAN**!

IF THE **EVOLUTION** OF THAT SPECIES COULD REACH A **DEAD END** WAY BACK THEN AND STILL **SURVIVE**, WHY COULDN'T ANOTHER?

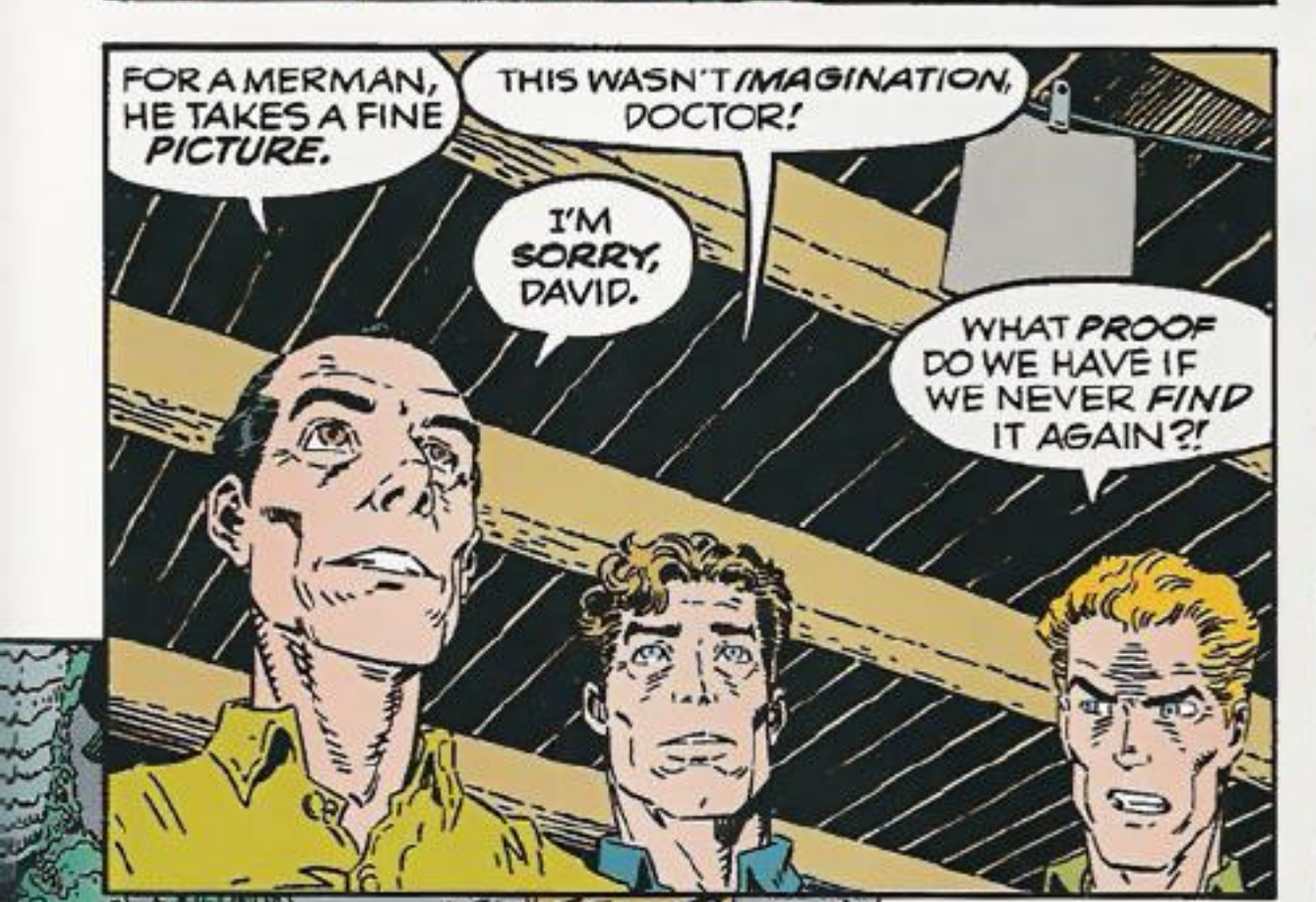


KLIK

THEN, WHERE IS HE?



I WAS **SURE** I HAD HIM IN MY **FINDER**!



FOR A **MERMAN**, HE TAKES A **FINE PICTURE**.

THIS WASN'T **IMAGINATION**, DOCTOR!

I'M **SORRY**, DAVID.

WHAT **PROOF** DO WE HAVE IF WE NEVER **FIND** IT AGAIN?!



IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME, WE COULD'VE **TAKEN** IT! **DEAD OR ALIVE**, WHAT'S THE **DIFFERENCE**??!



AAAAAA

CRASH





DO YOU SUPPOSE IT REMEMBERS MARK'S **ATTACK**... AND SEEKS **REVENGE**?

I **WELCOME** IT!

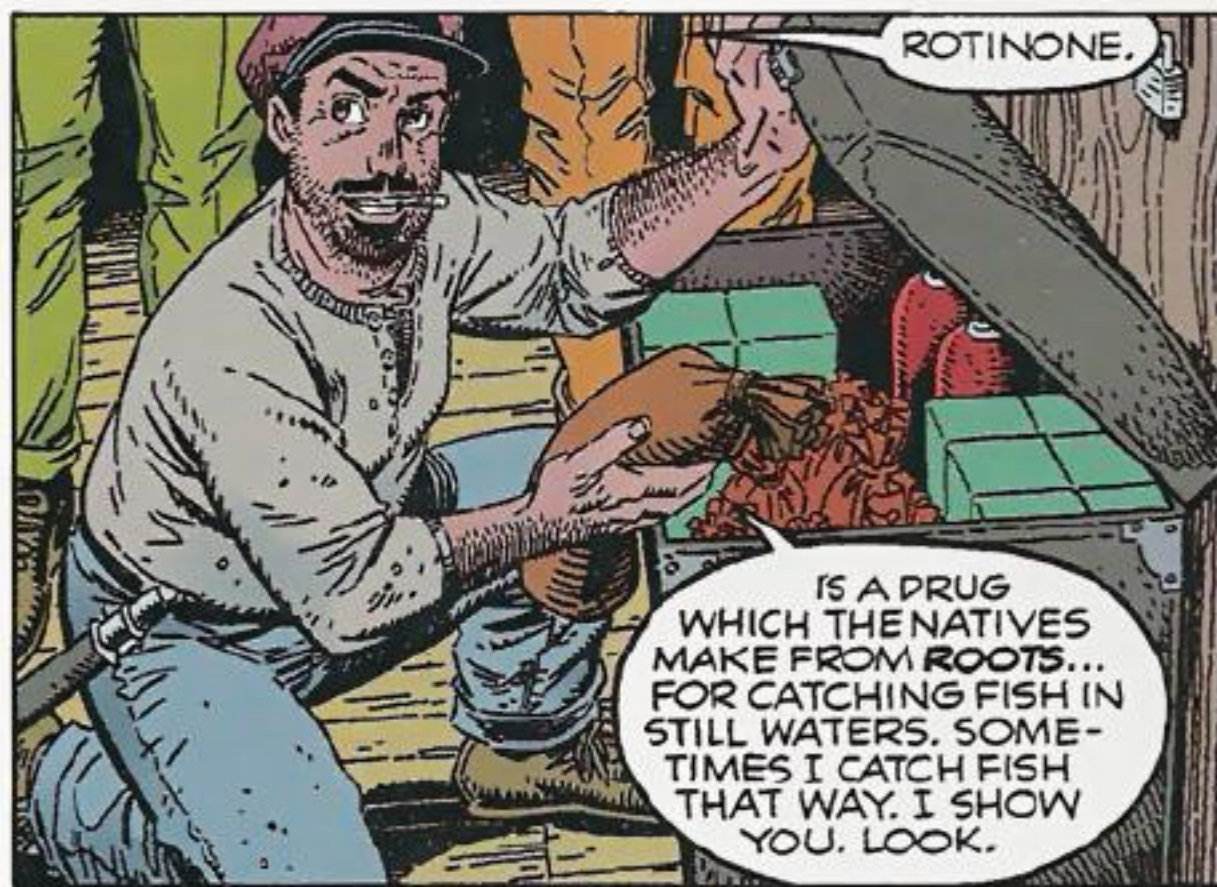


YOU'LL GET YOUR **WISH**, ALL RIGHT. I'VE GOT A **HUNCH** THIS... THIS CREATURE REMEMBERS THE PAST AND **MORE!** I DON'T WANT HIM CREEPING UP ON US WHILE WE'RE **SLEEPING!**



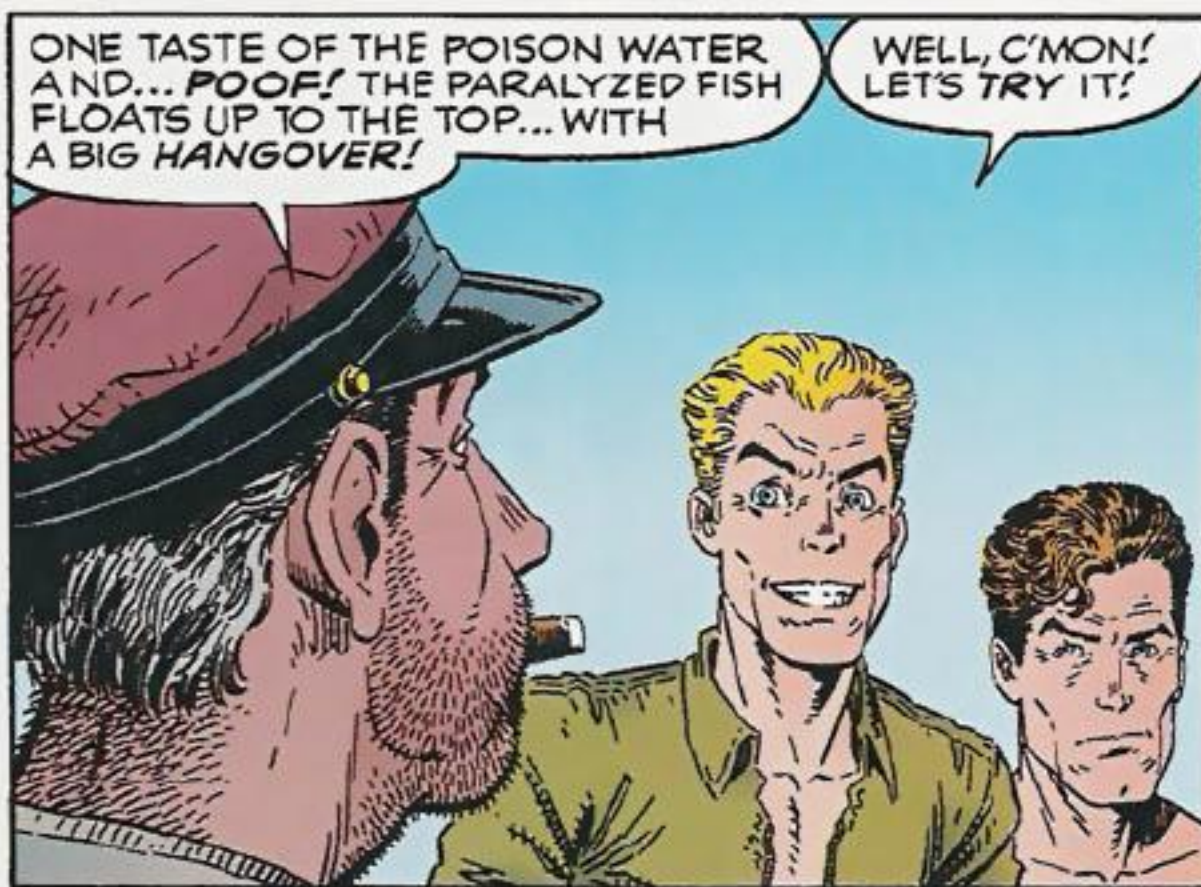
I KNOW A WAY TO BRING 'IM UP NOW.

Huh?



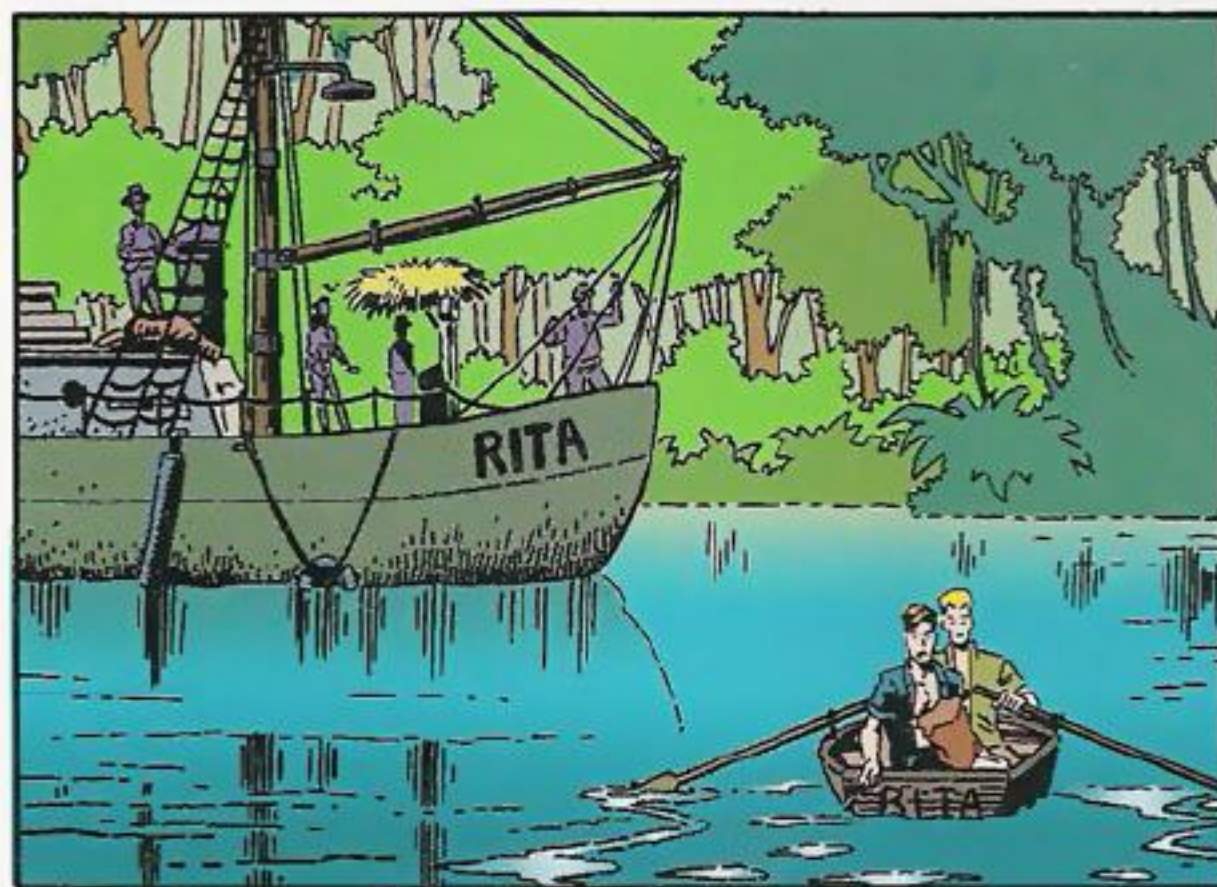
ROTINONE.

IS A DRUG WHICH THE NATIVES MAKE FROM **ROOTS**... FOR CATCHING FISH IN STILL WATERS. SOMETIMES I CATCH FISH THAT WAY. I SHOW YOU. LOOK.



ONE TASTE OF THE POISON WATER AND... **POOF!** THE PARALYZED FISH FLOATS UP TO THE TOP... WITH A BIG **HANGOVER!**

WELL, C'MON! LET'S TRY IT!



STILL NO SIGN?

NOTHING BUT THE **LITTLE ONES**, SO FAR.

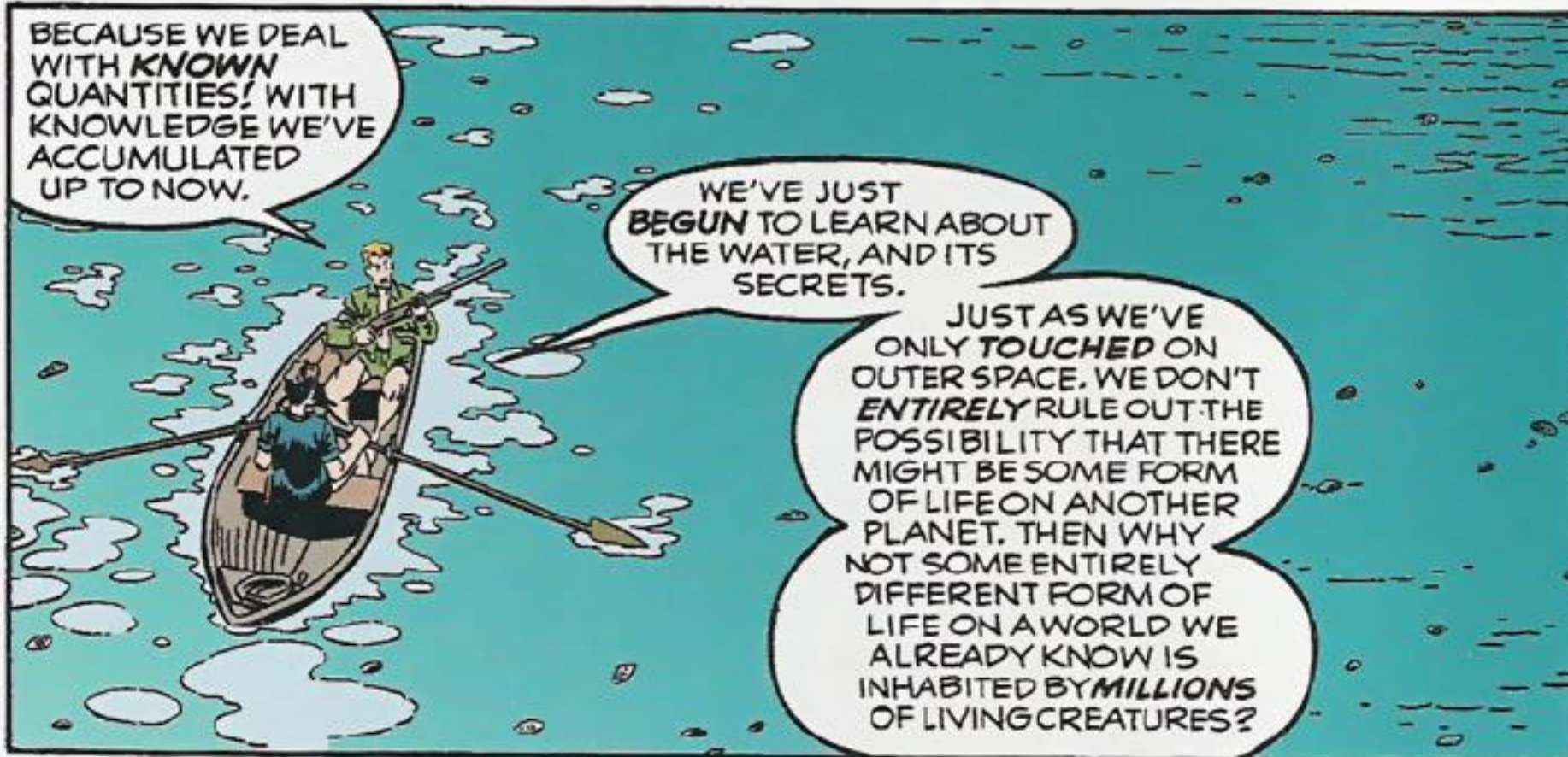
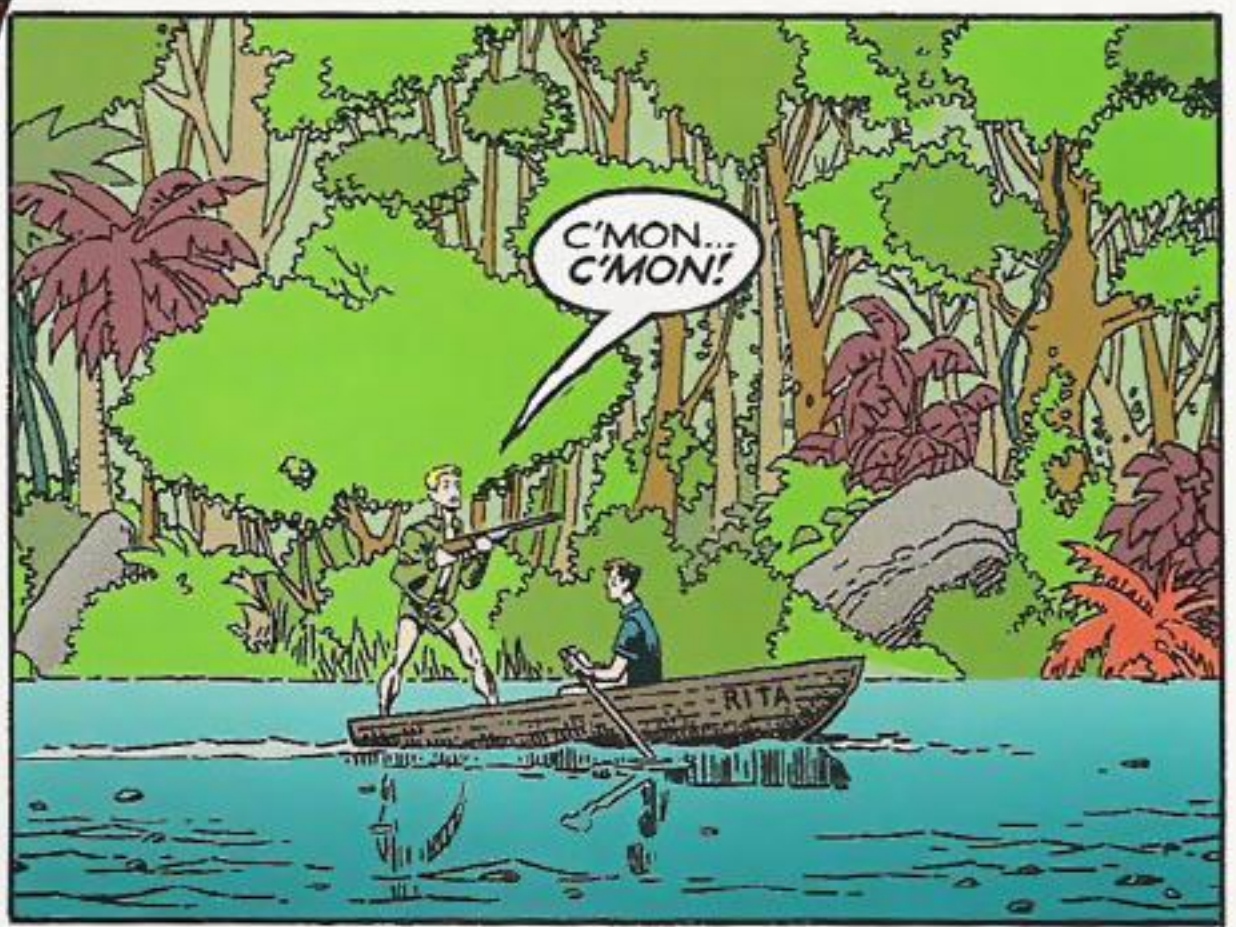
COULD BE HE'S DEAD FROM THE **WOUND**. THEN AGAIN, MAYBE THE ROTINONE ISN'T GOING **DEEP** ENOUGH.

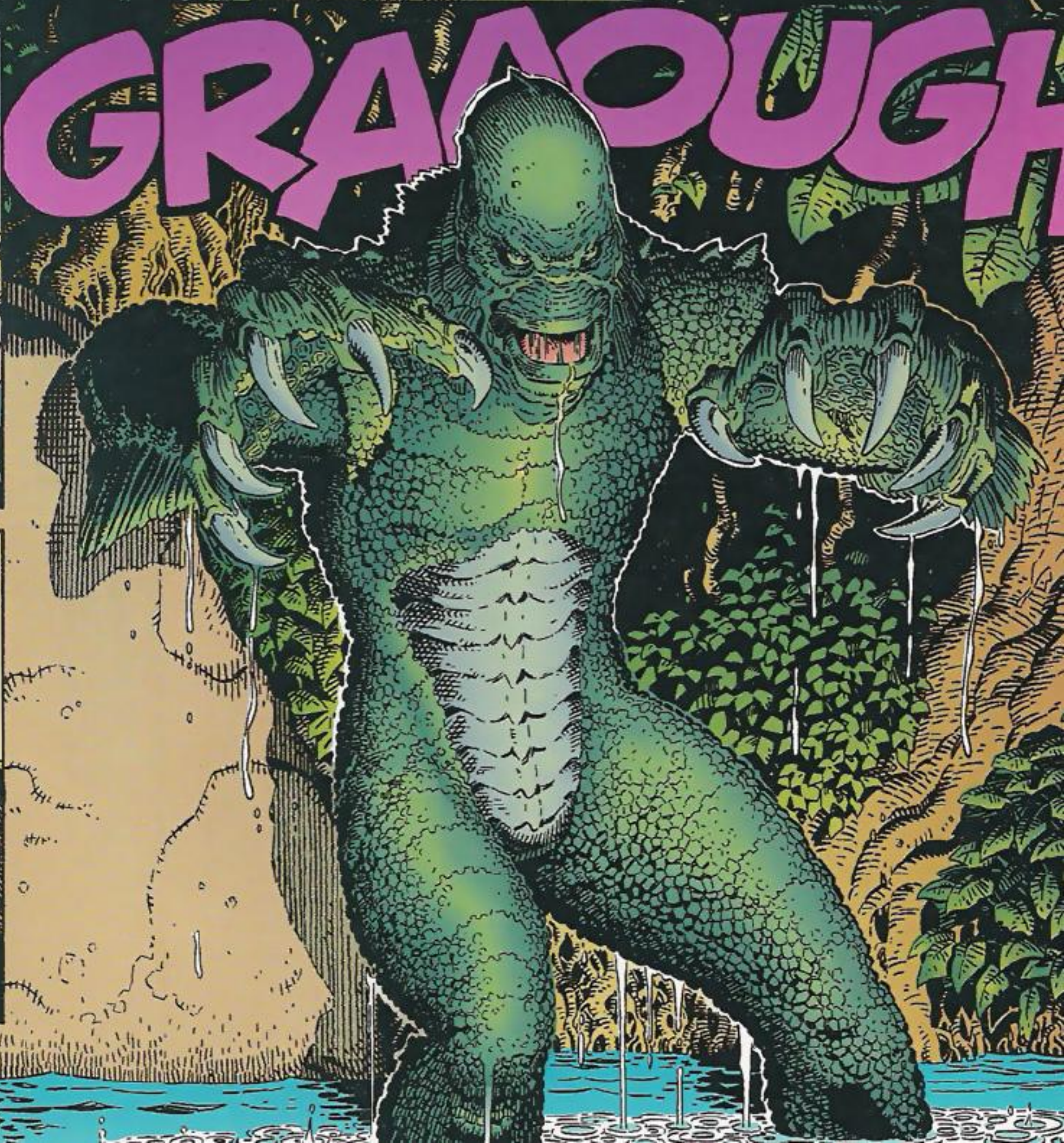
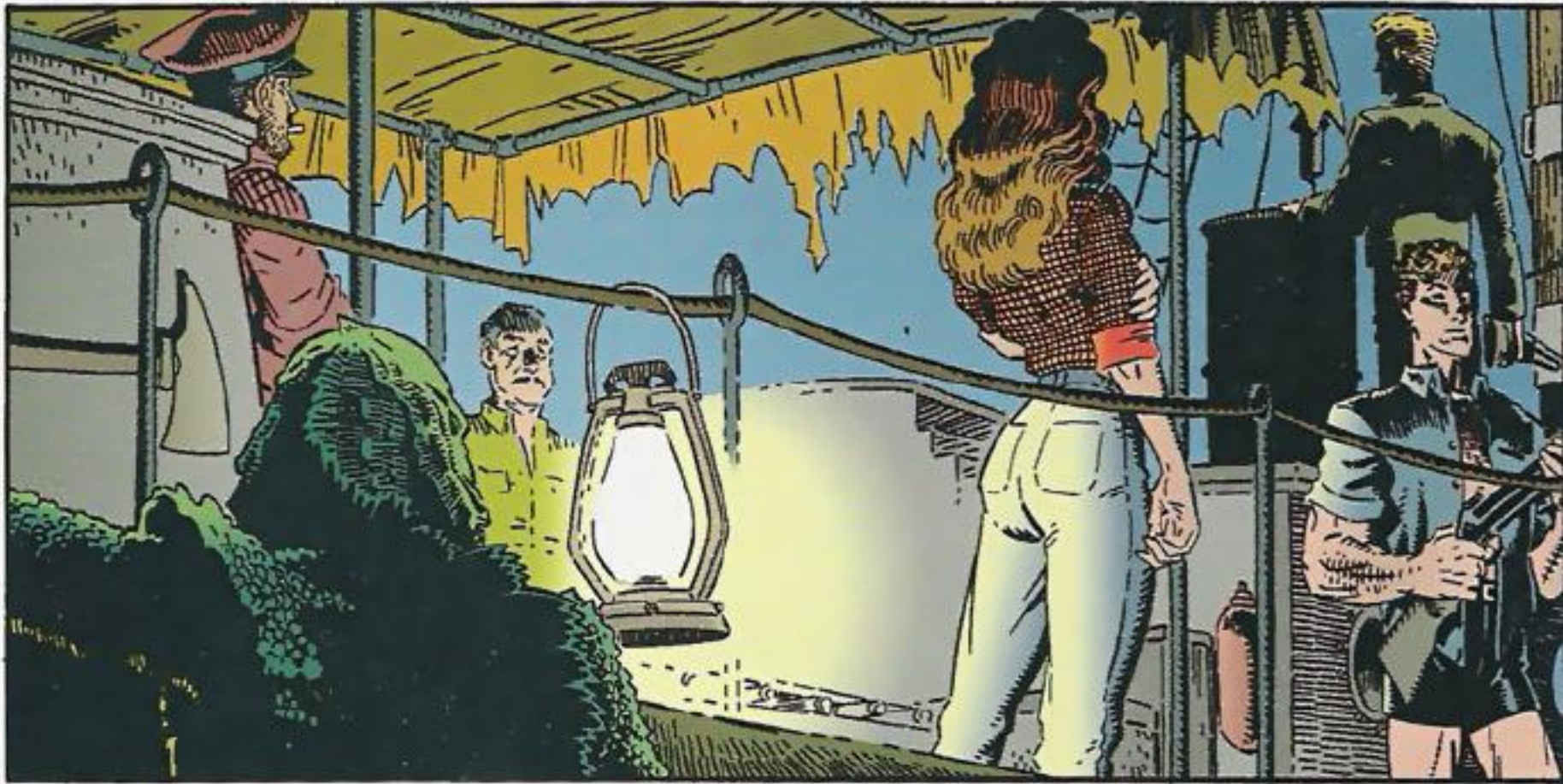


MAYBE WE SHOULD **FIX** THE ROTINONE TO SINK **DEEPER DOWN**, huh?

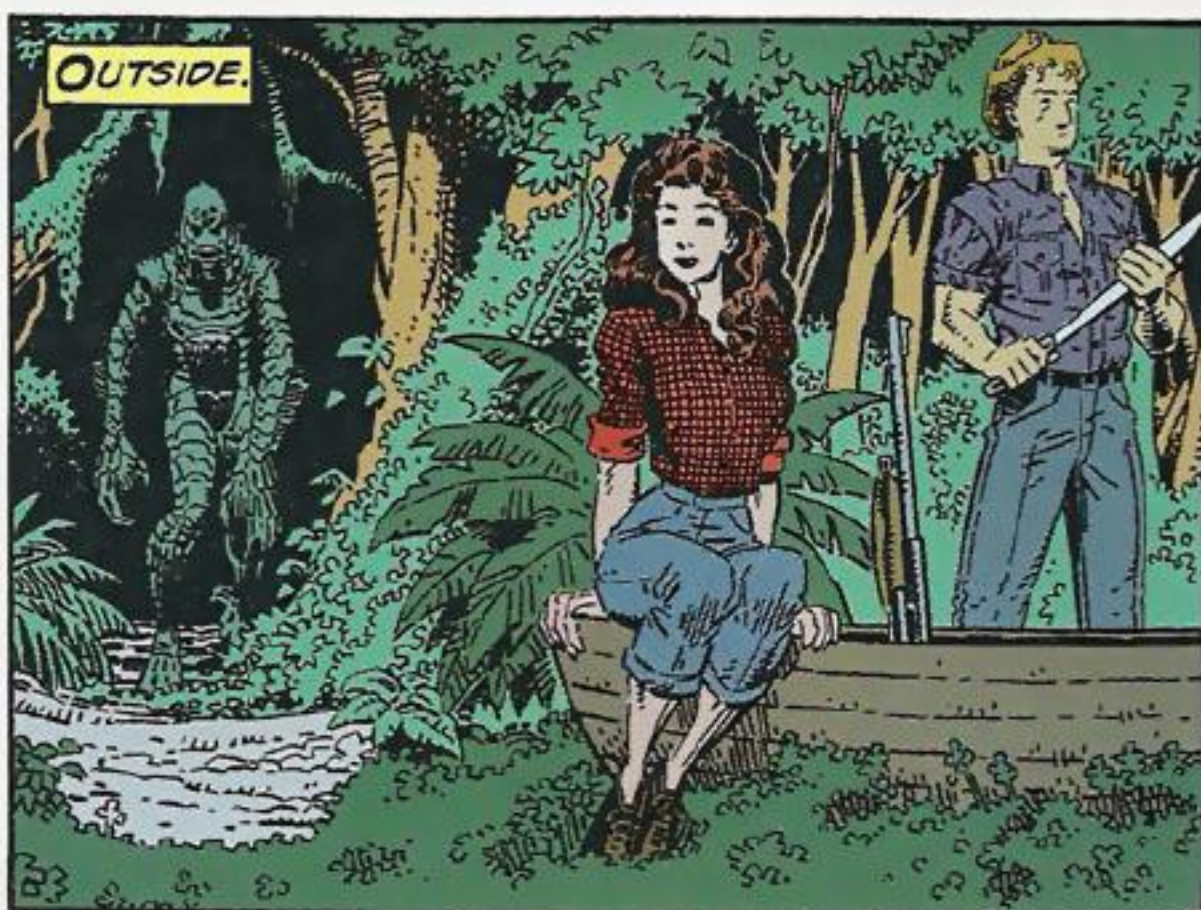
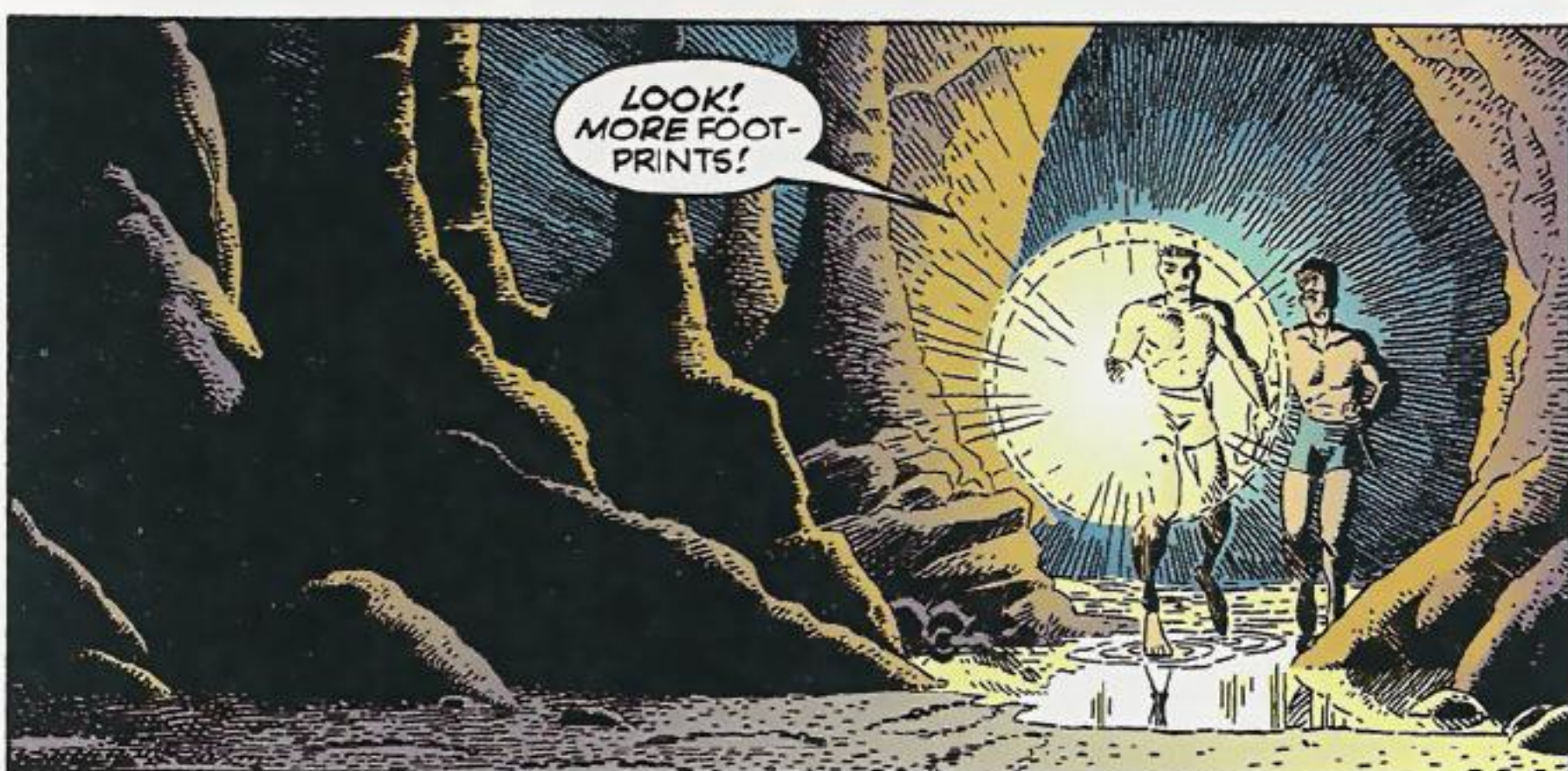
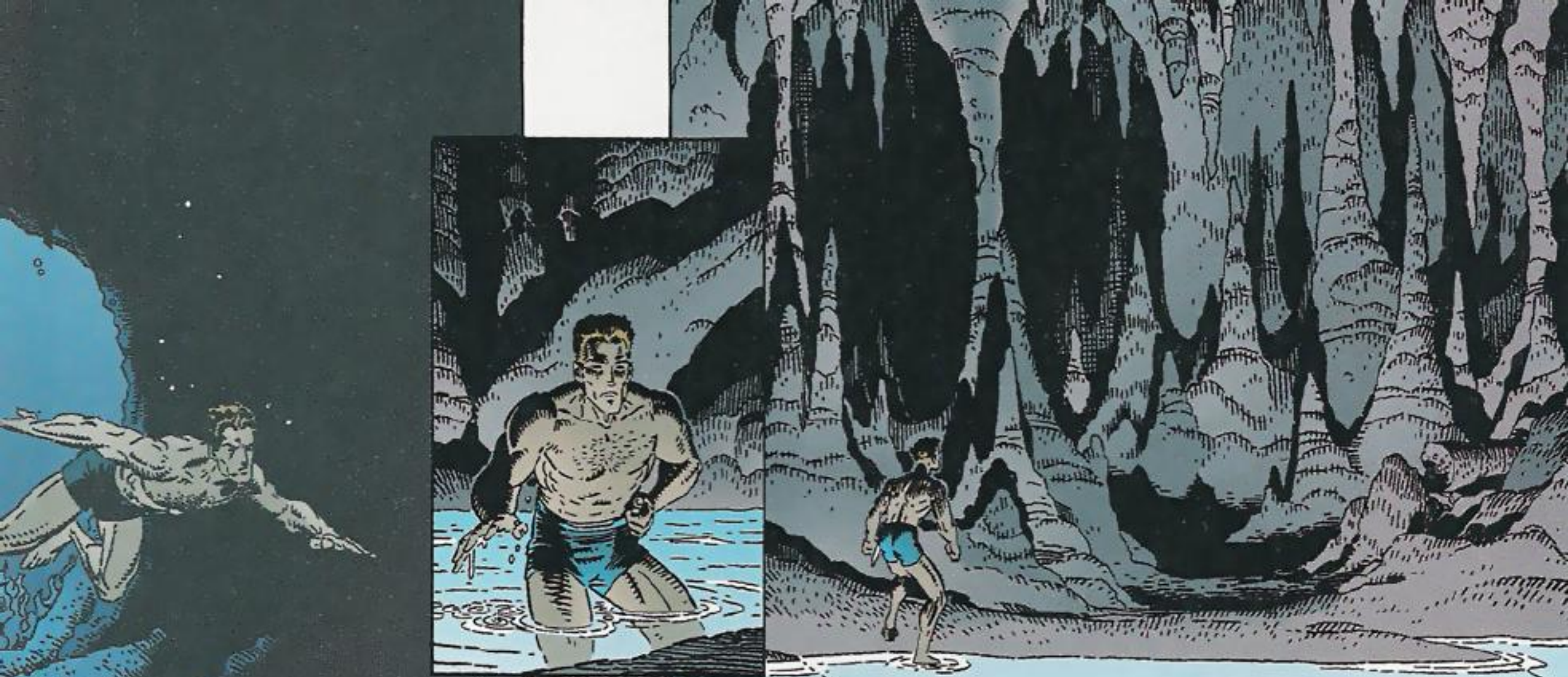
ANYTHING IS WORTH A TRY!















OH, DAVID! DAVID!



WE'VE GOT HIM!



WE'VE GOT HIM!

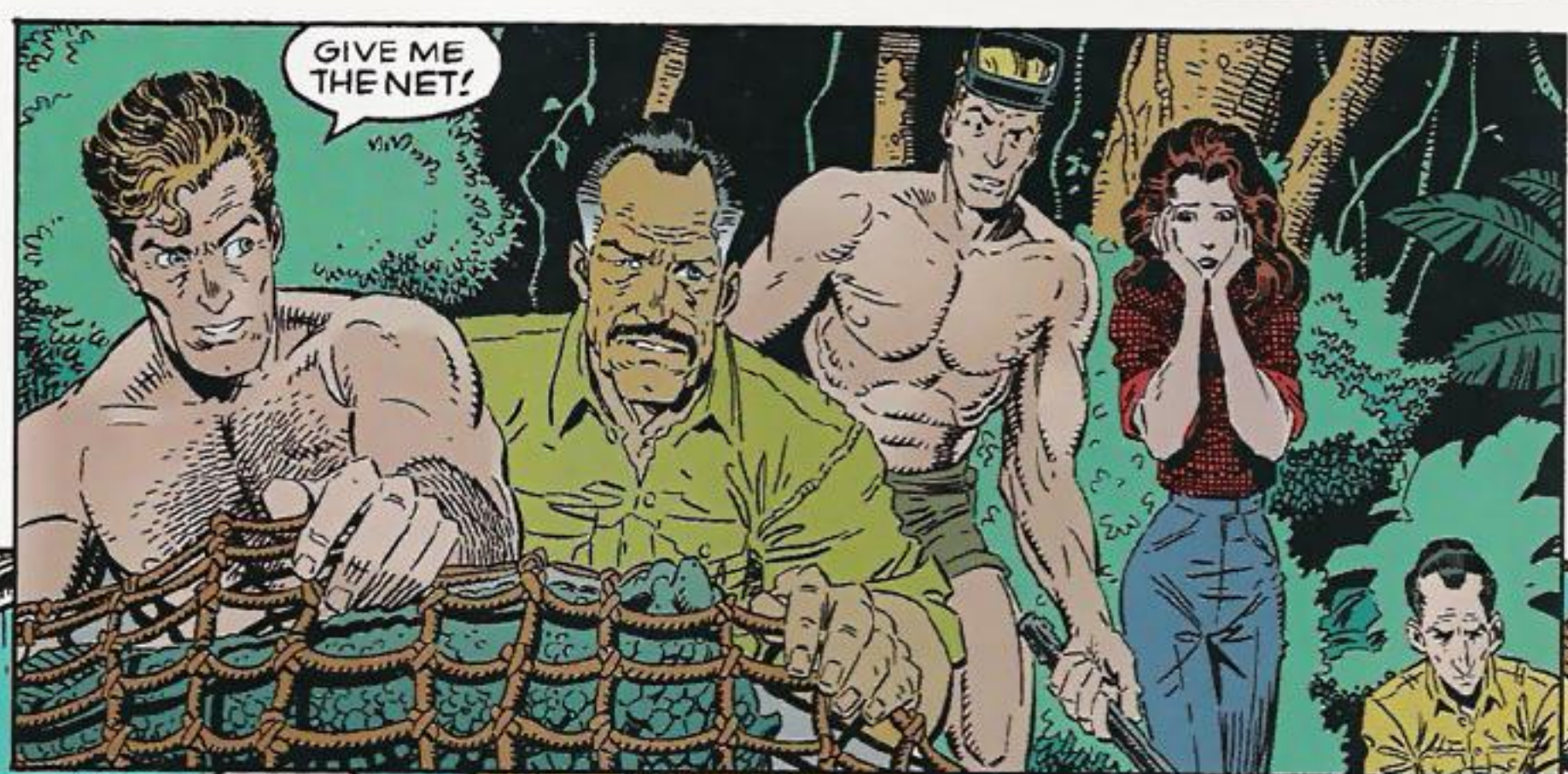


WUNK
WUNK



DON'T KILL HIM!

WHAT HAPPENED?



GIVE ME THE NET!



HOW IS HE?

HE'S DEAD.



THAT'S THE LAST ONE.

WILL HE LIVE?

I DON'T KNOW.

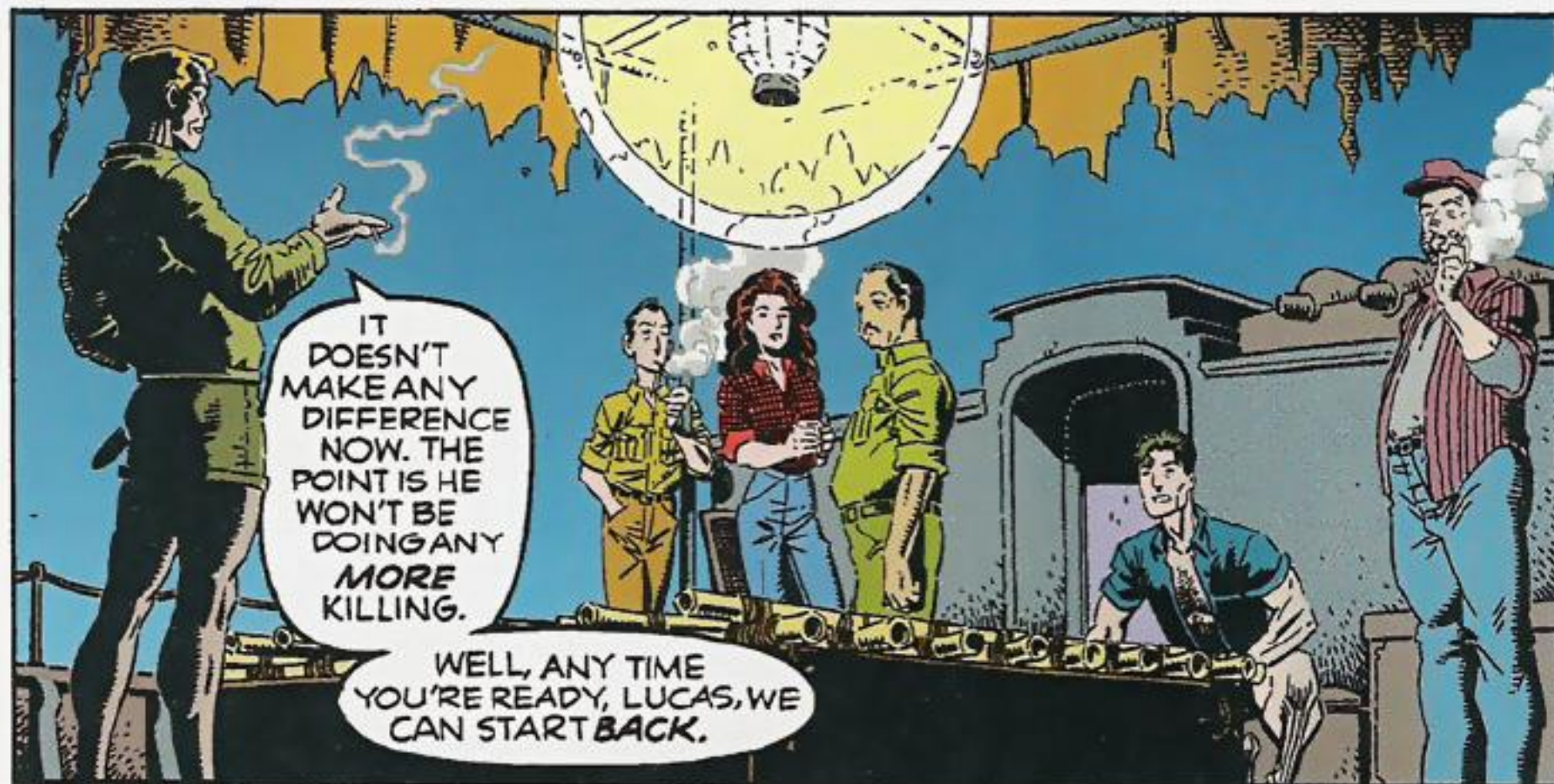


DEPENDS ON WHETHER HE CAN SURVIVE BOTH THE ROTINONE AND BEING OUT OF THE WATER SO LONG.



YOU SOUND AS THOUGH YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. WHY? HE COULD'VE KILLED YOU JUST AS EASY.

BUT HE DIDN'T.



IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE NOW. THE POINT IS HE WON'T BE DOING ANY MORE KILLING.

WELL, ANY TIME YOU'RE READY, LUCAS, WE CAN START BACK.

MARK, WE'RE NOT FINISHED HERE, YET. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A STUDY OF THAT GROTTO. WE'VE GOT TO COLLECT PHOTOGRAPHS.



I'VE GOT ALL THE PROOF I NEED! GET GOING, LUCAS!



MARK, WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL WE'VE FINISHED OUR WORK!



ALL RIGHT, DAVID. IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER. Oh, DOCTOR, WOULD YOU MIND STAYING BEHIND AND KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR PRIZE?

OF COURSE NOT, Dr. WILLIAMS.



WHILE DAVID, MARK AND Dr. MAIA EXPLORE THE CREATURE'S LAIR, Dr. THOMPSON WATCHES OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS GILLMAN.



ZZZZ



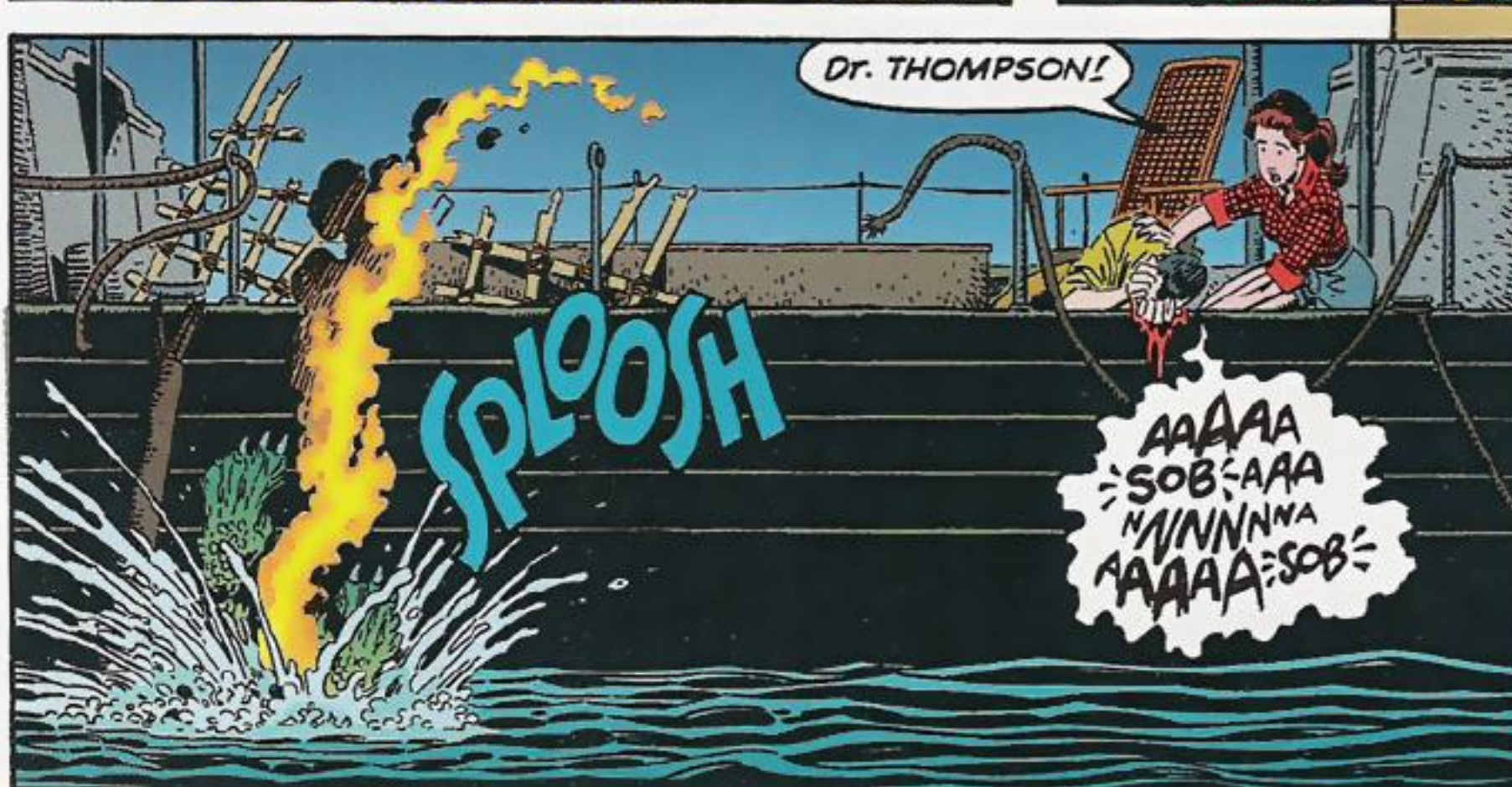
CLAK

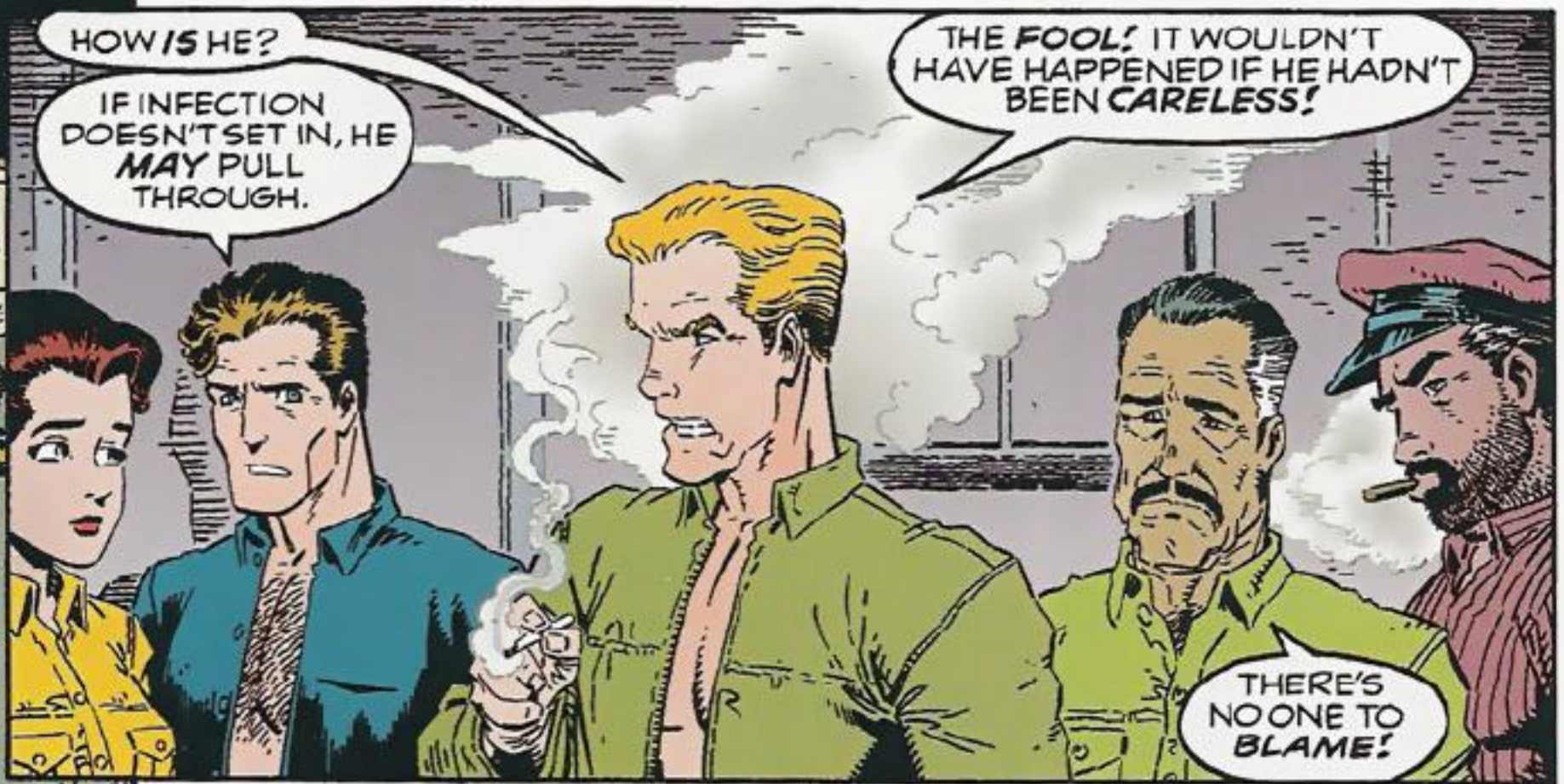
KLUNK



HI!







HOW IS HE?

IF INFECTION DOESN'T SET IN, HE MAY PULL THROUGH.

THE FOOL! IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF HE HADN'T BEEN CARELESS!

THERE'S NO ONE TO BLAME!

FOUR MEN DEAD SO FAR... IF HE DIES, WHAT A USELESS WASTE OF EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY.

NOBODY MEANT IT TO HAPPEN, DAVID.

MARK, I'M FORGETTING OUT OF THIS LAGOON JUST AS FAST AS WE CAN.

WITHOUT TAKING WHAT WE CAME FOR?

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT WITH MONSTERS! WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED FOR IT! WE CAME HERE TO FIND FOSSILS!

LATER... LATER WE CAN COME BACK WITH A PROPERLY EQUIPPED EXPEDITION! BE REASONABLE!

REASONABLE?!

OH, WHAT ELSE COULD I EXPECT? BUT YOU, CARL, IT MEANS AS MUCH TO YOU!

YOU'RE DRIVING YOURSELF TOO HARD... AND THE REST OF US ALONG WITH YOU.

WE'RE STAYING UNTIL WE GET 'IM!

OR UNTIL SOMEBODY ELSE GETS KILLED!

NO WE'RE NOT!



LUCAS, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE JUST AS FAST AS WE CAN!

OKAY.

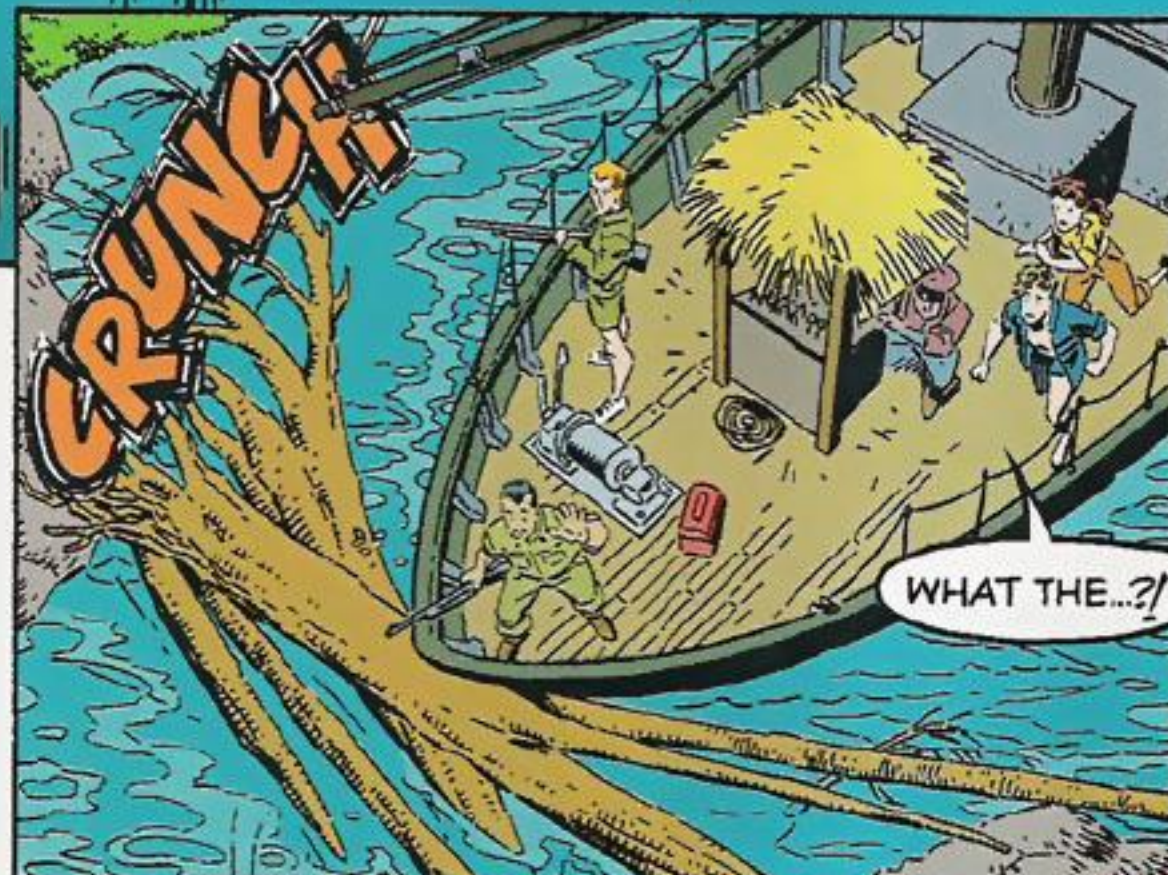


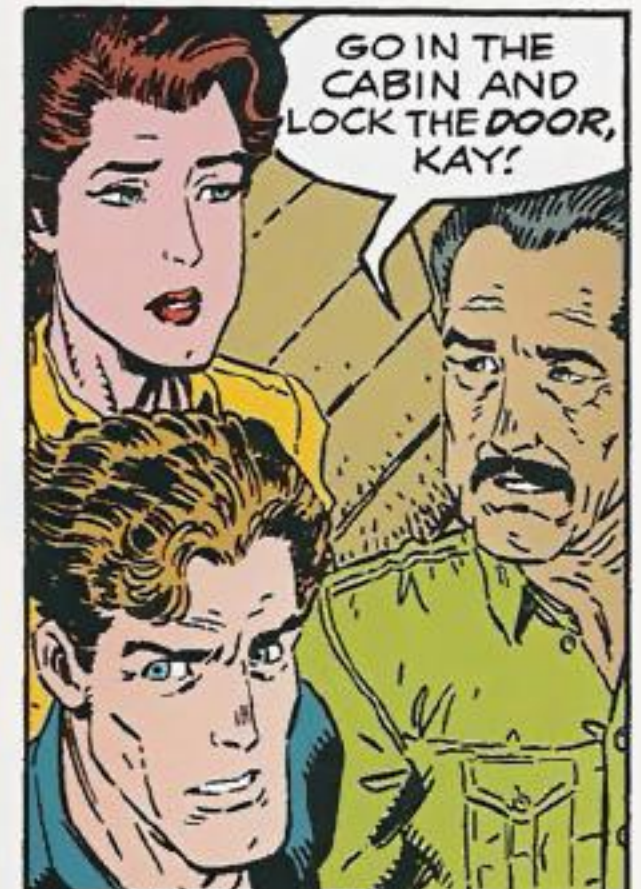
I'LL MAKE THE DECISIONS AROUND HERE.

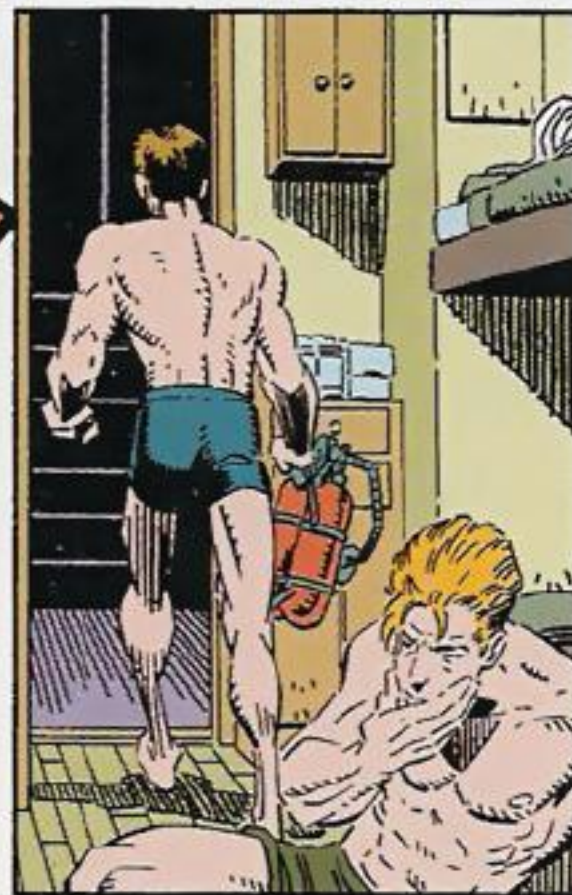
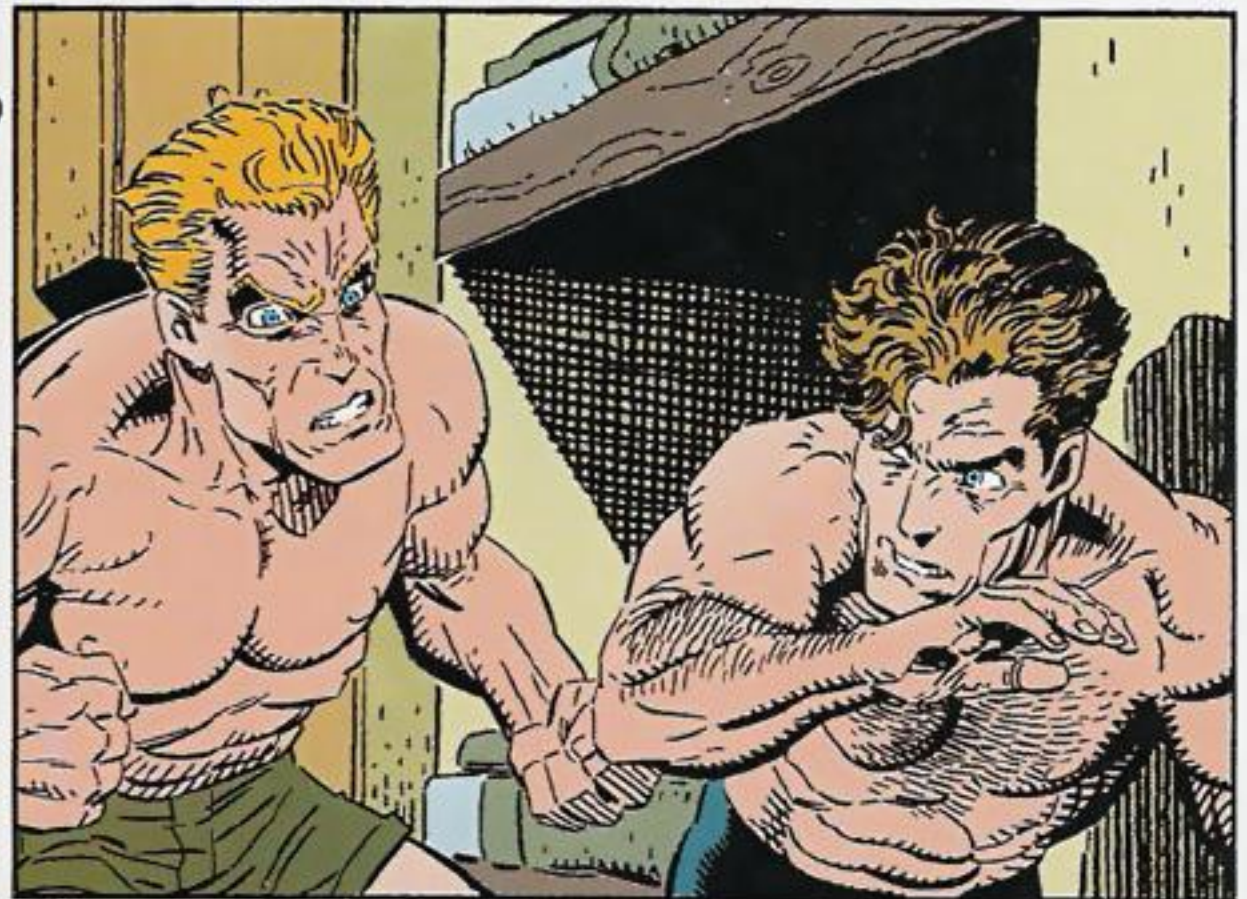
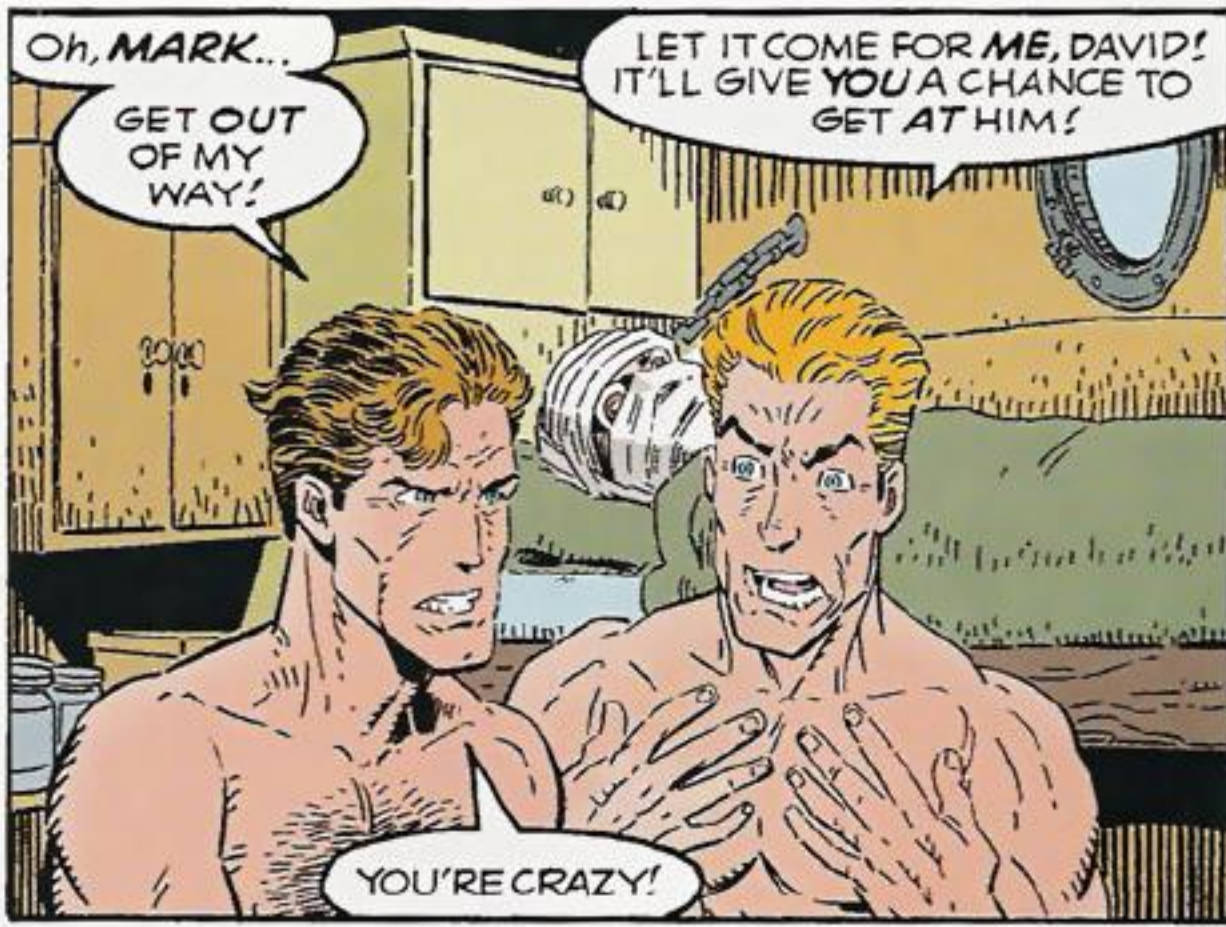
NO.

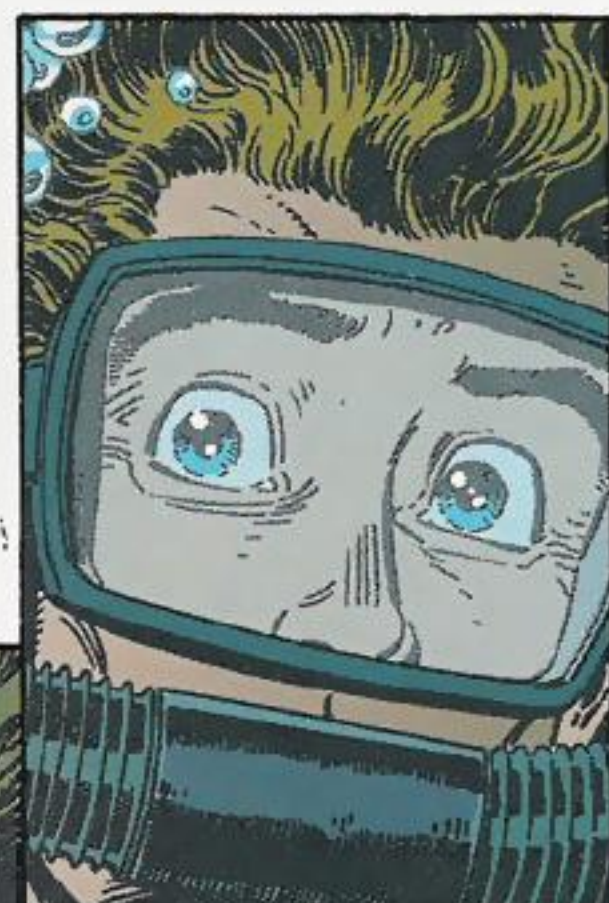


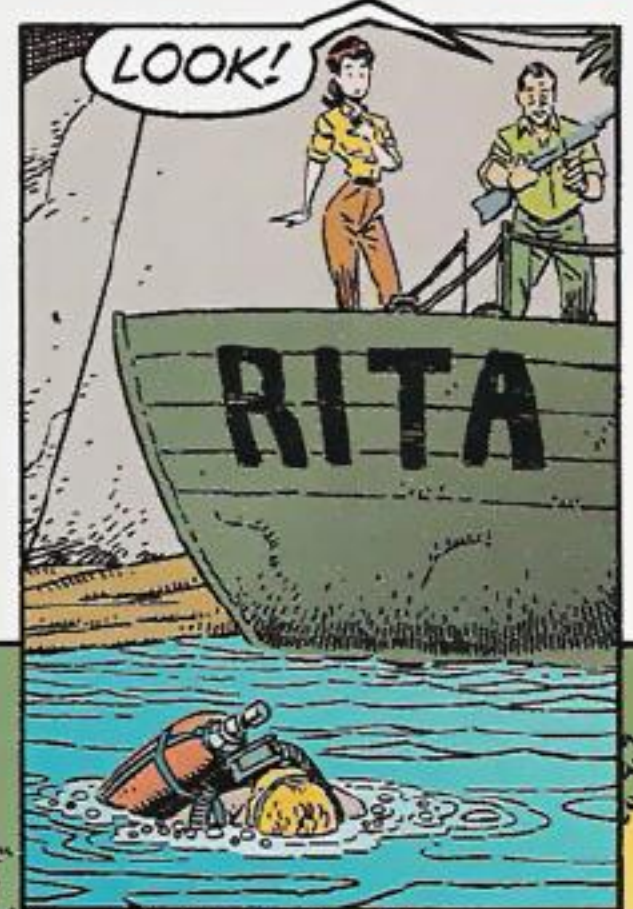
BUT YOU ARE WRONG, MR. WILLIAMS. ON THE WATER, THE CAPTAIN MAKES THE DECISIONS.

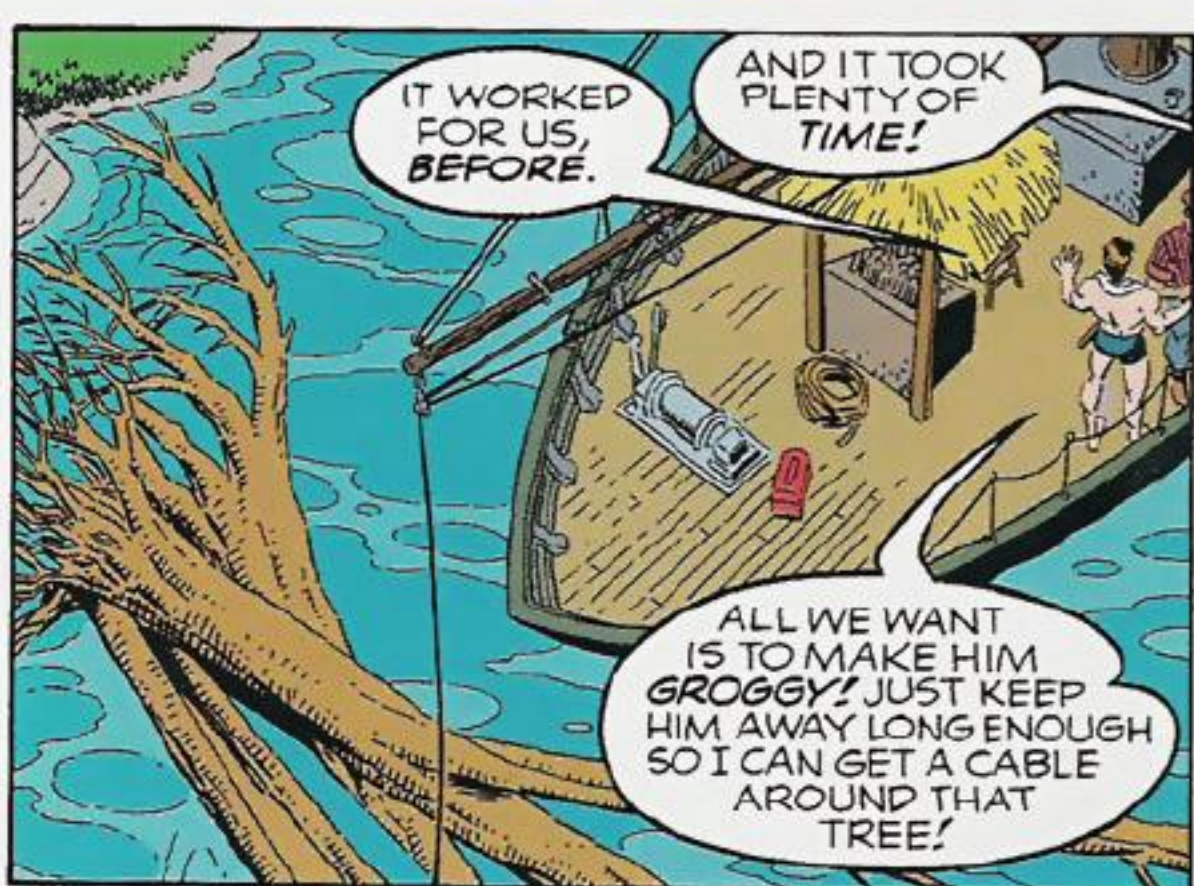
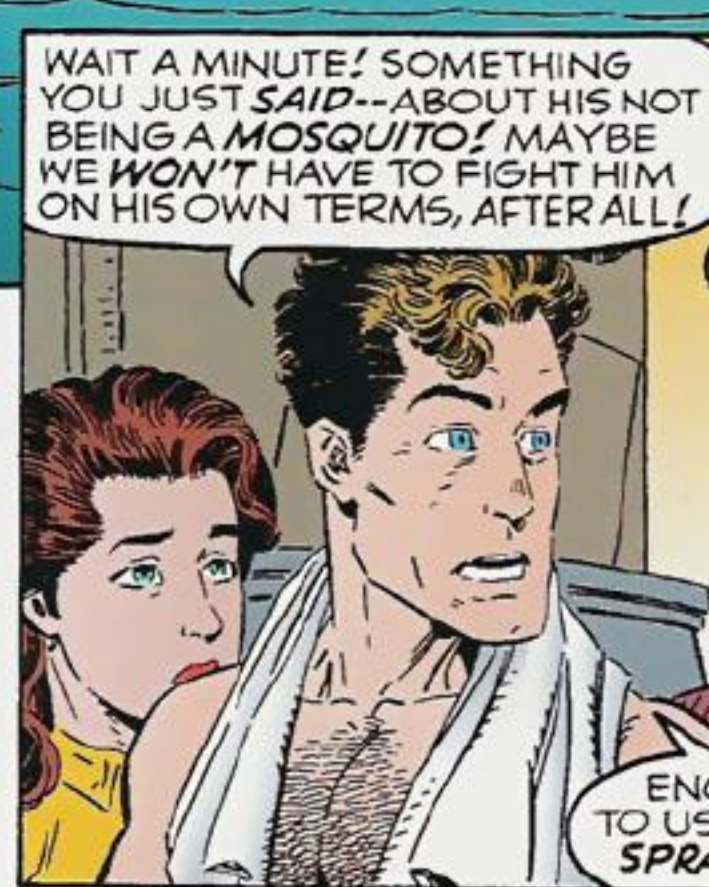
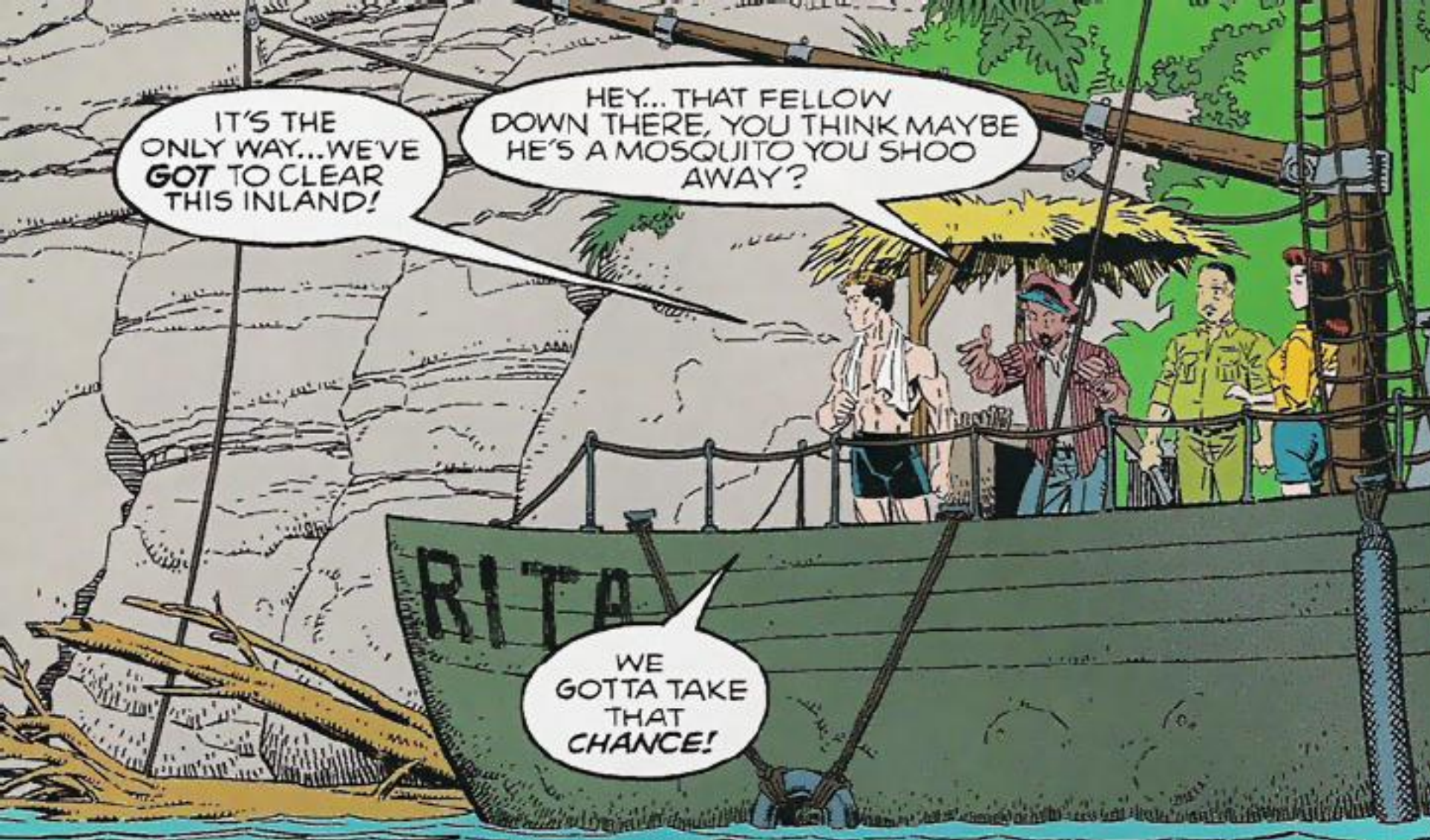


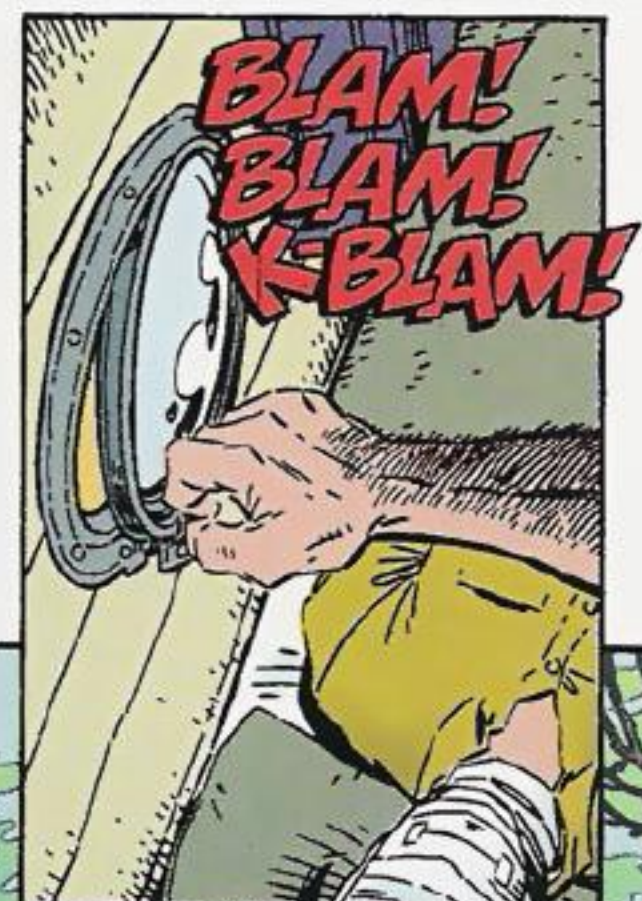


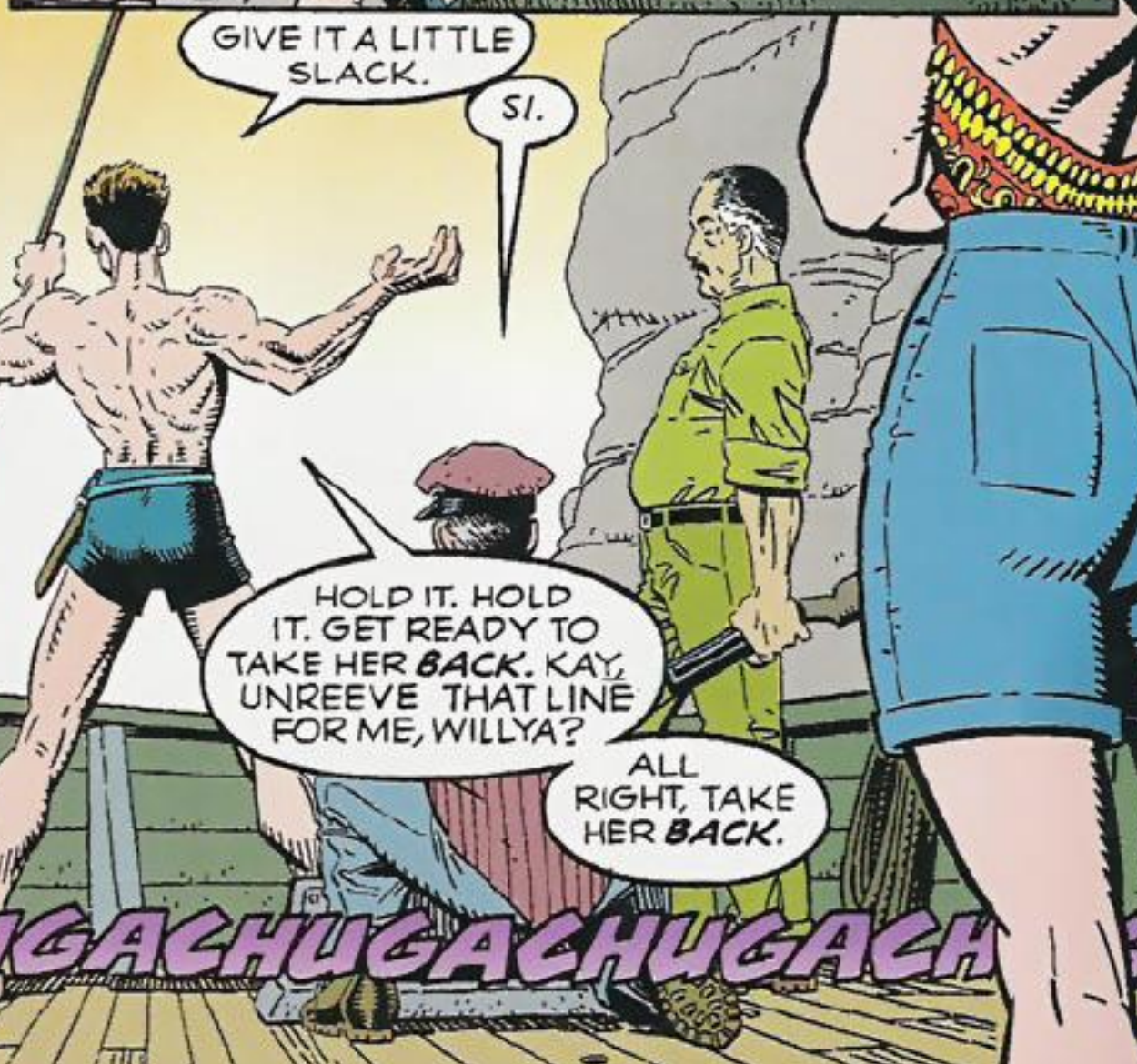
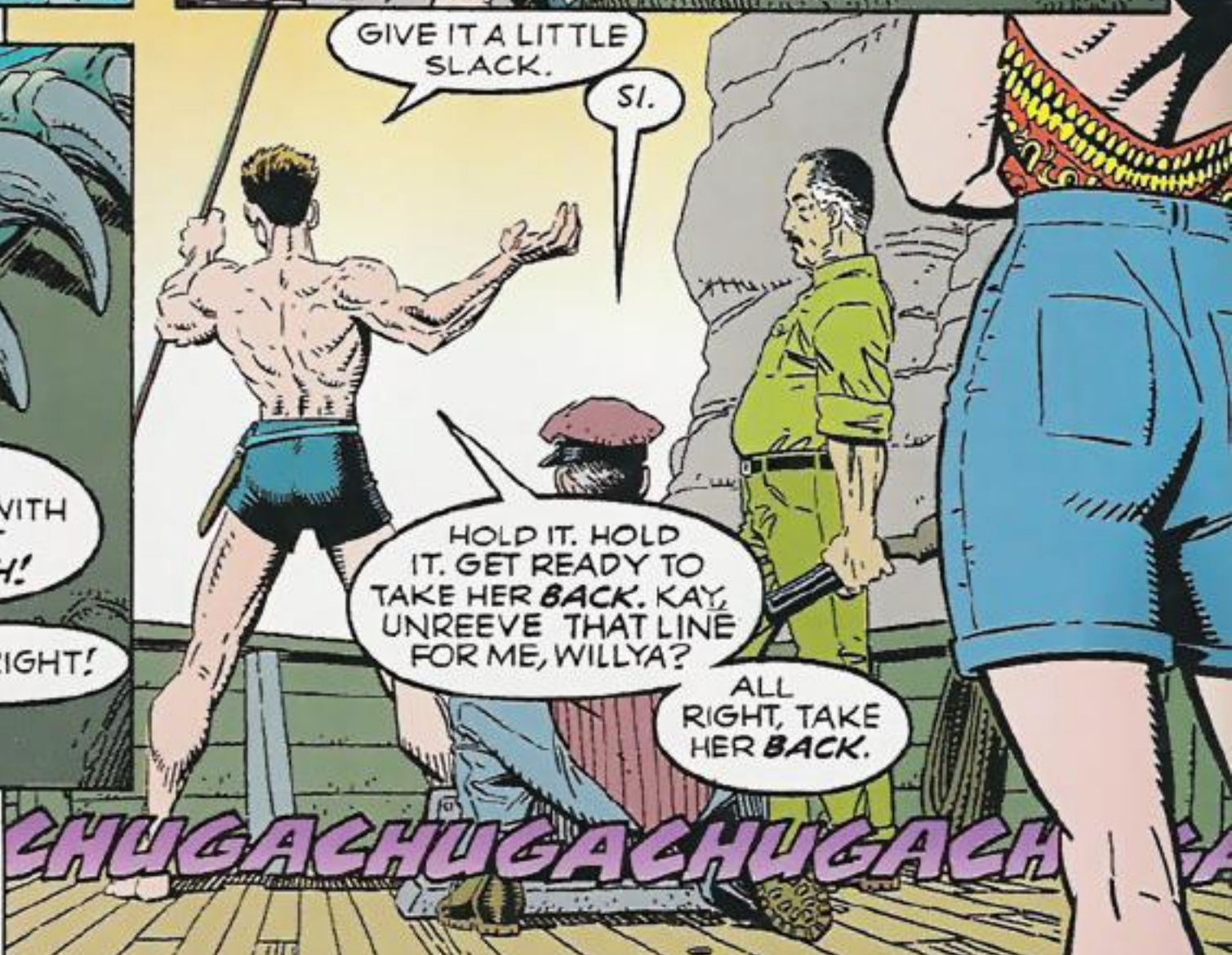
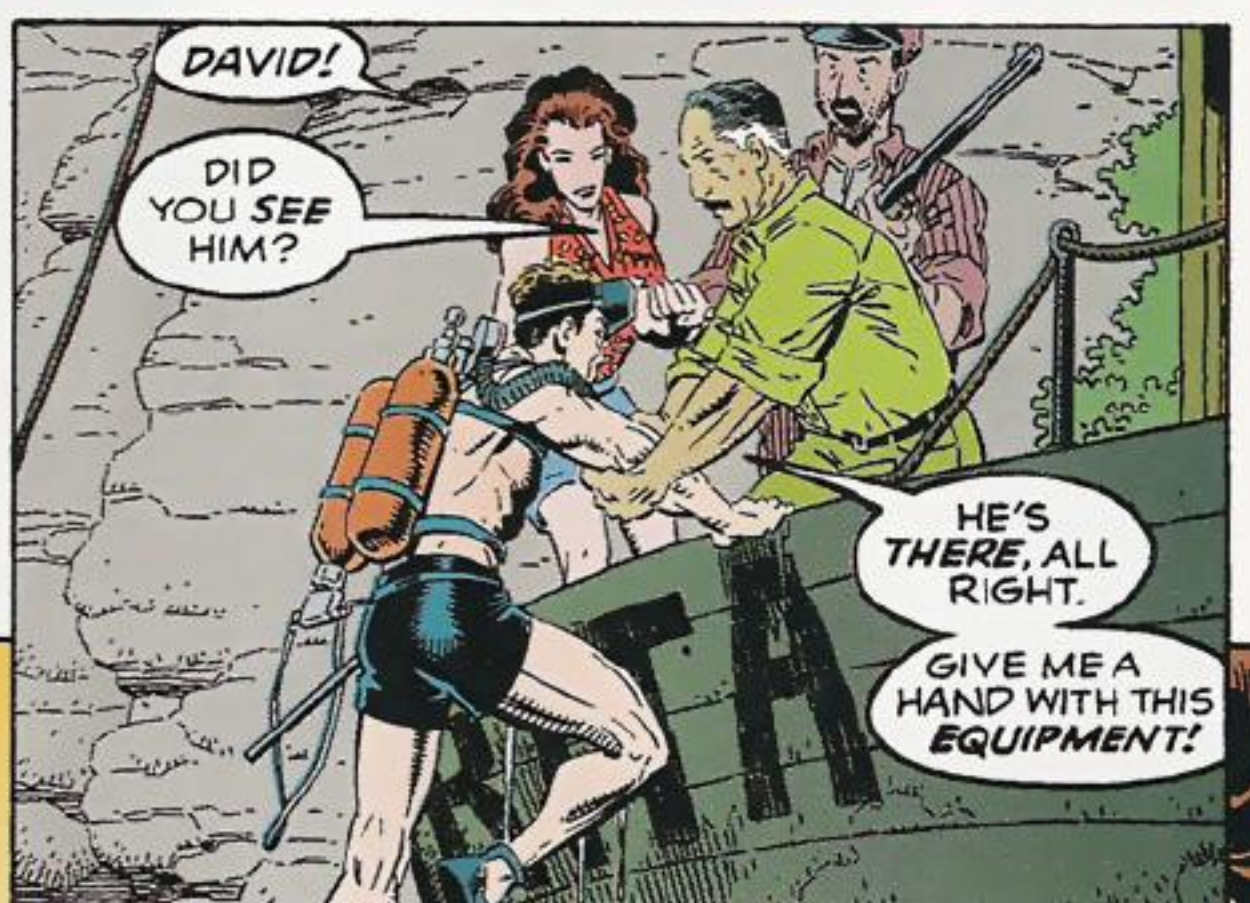
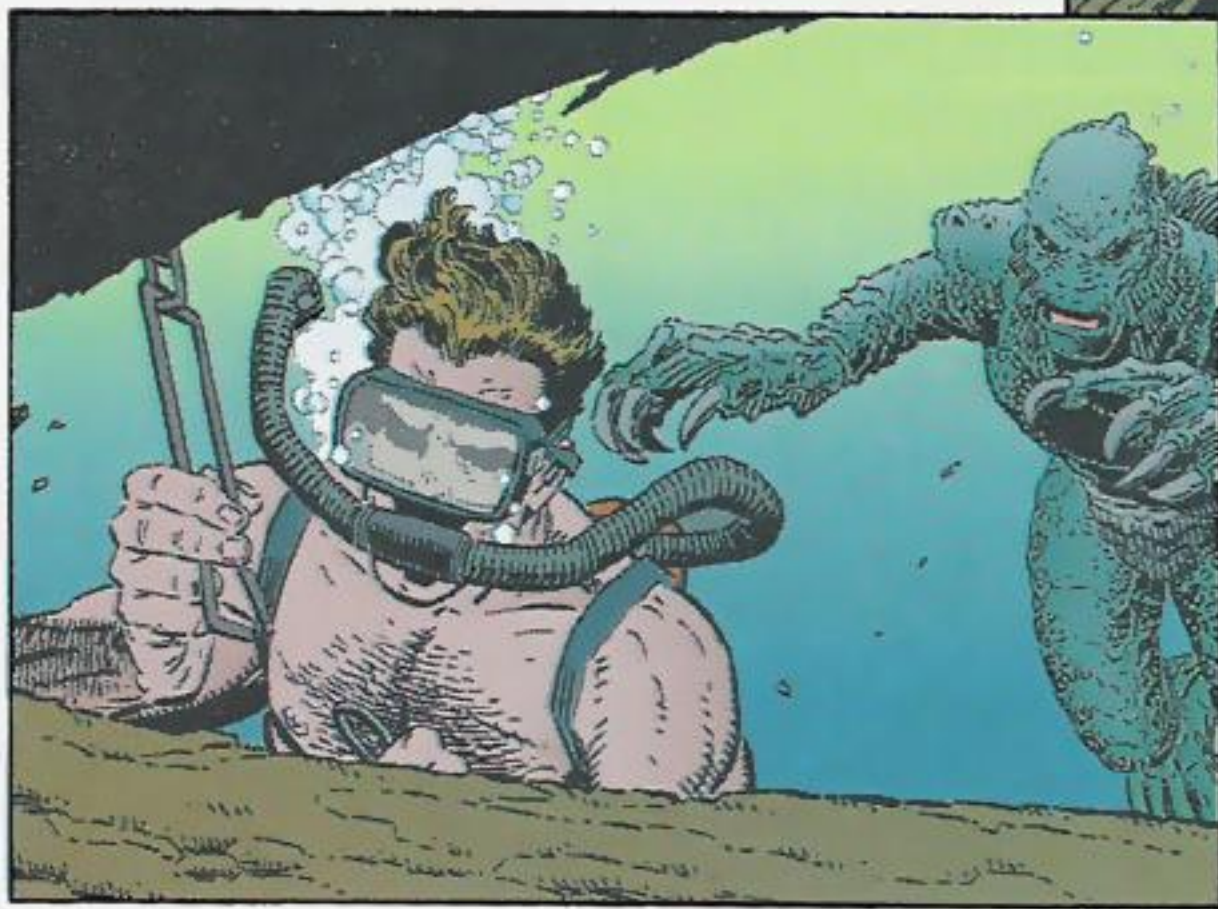


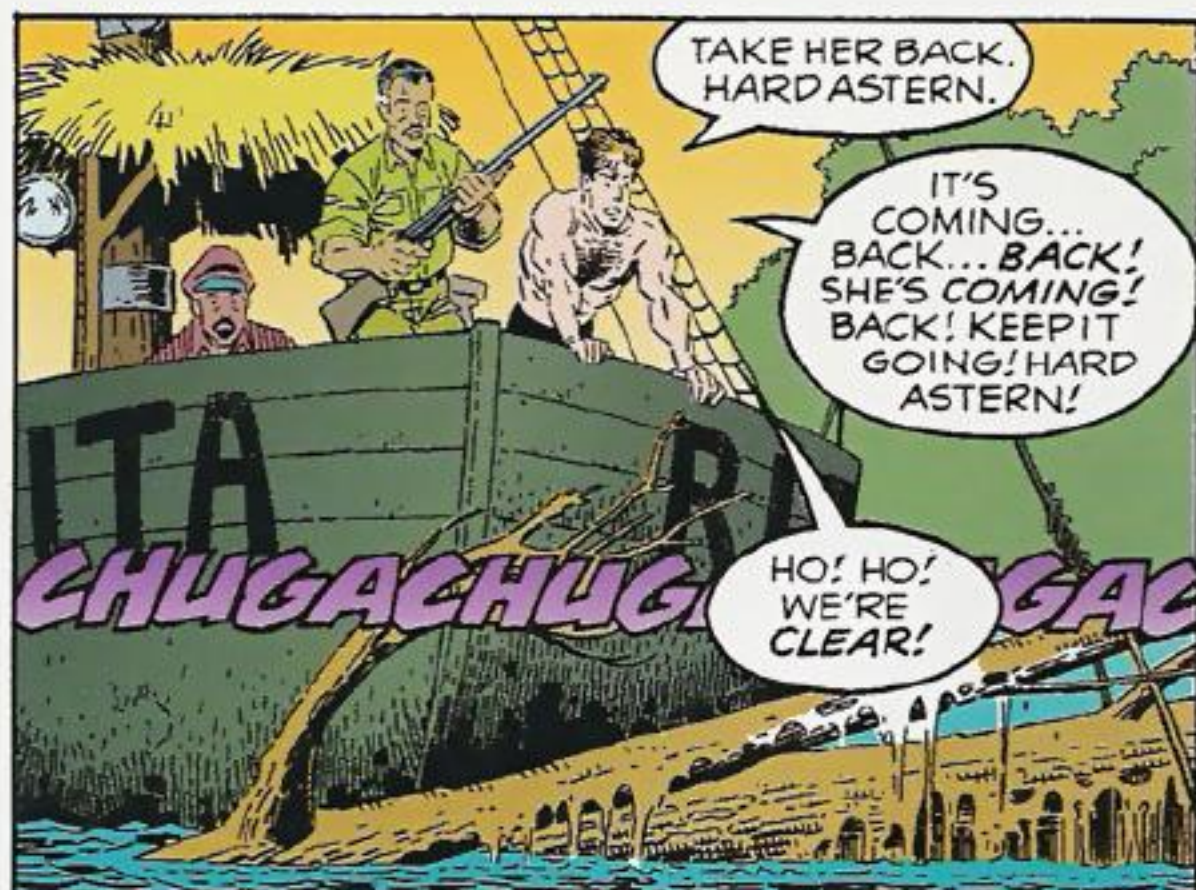


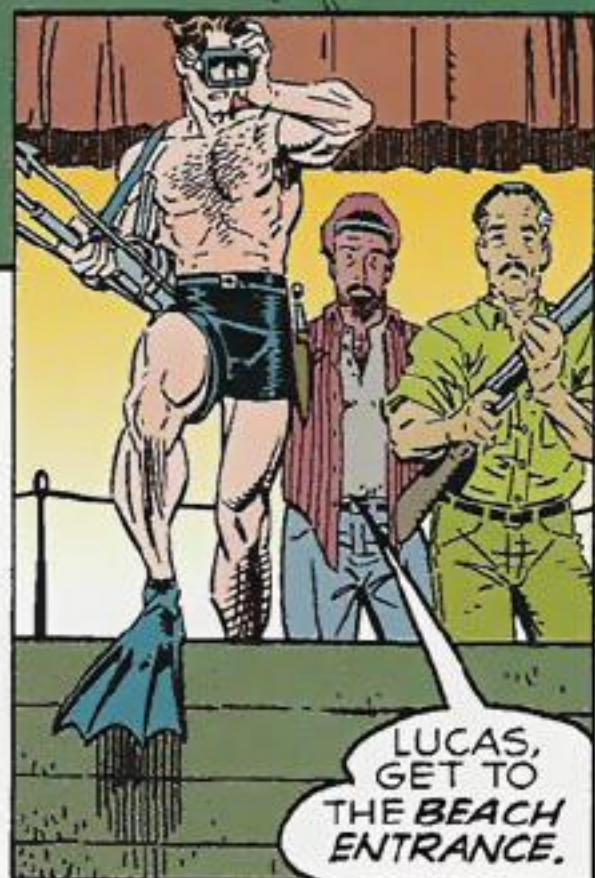


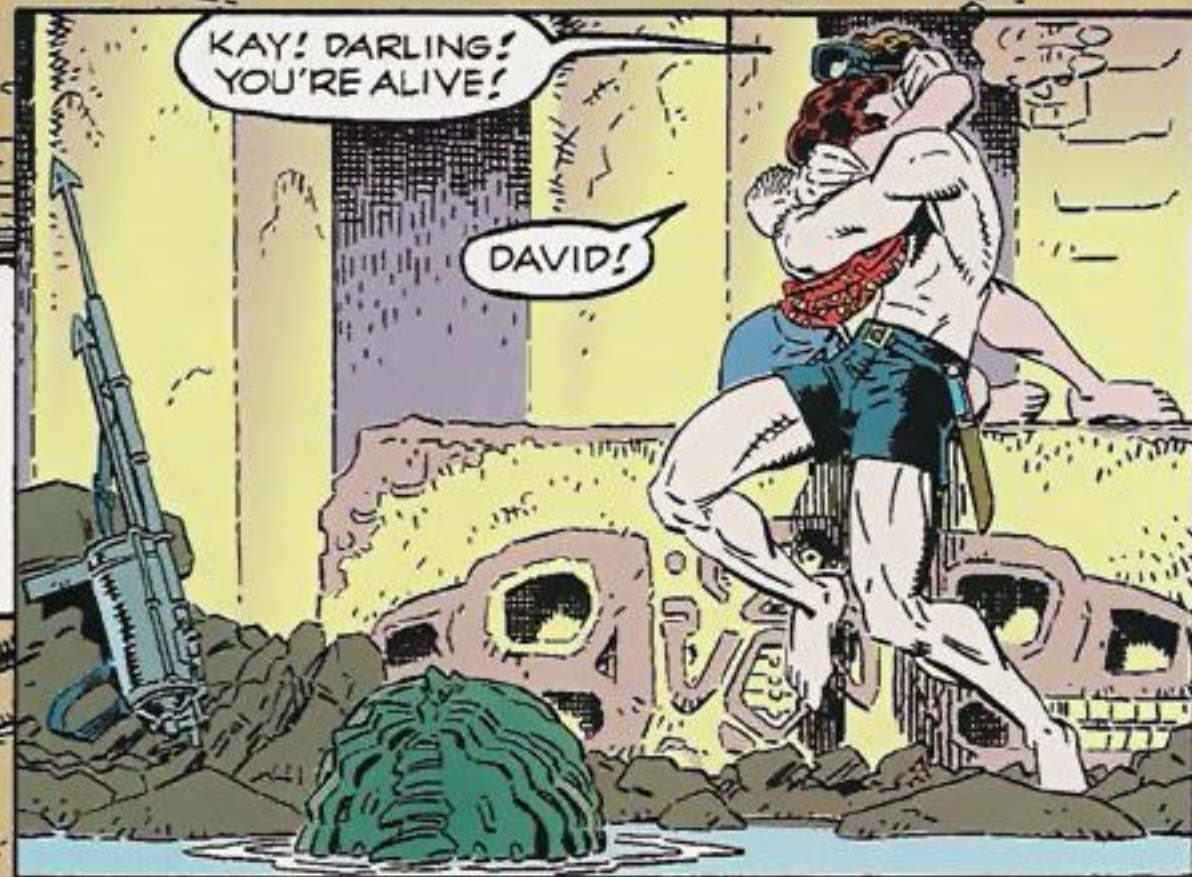
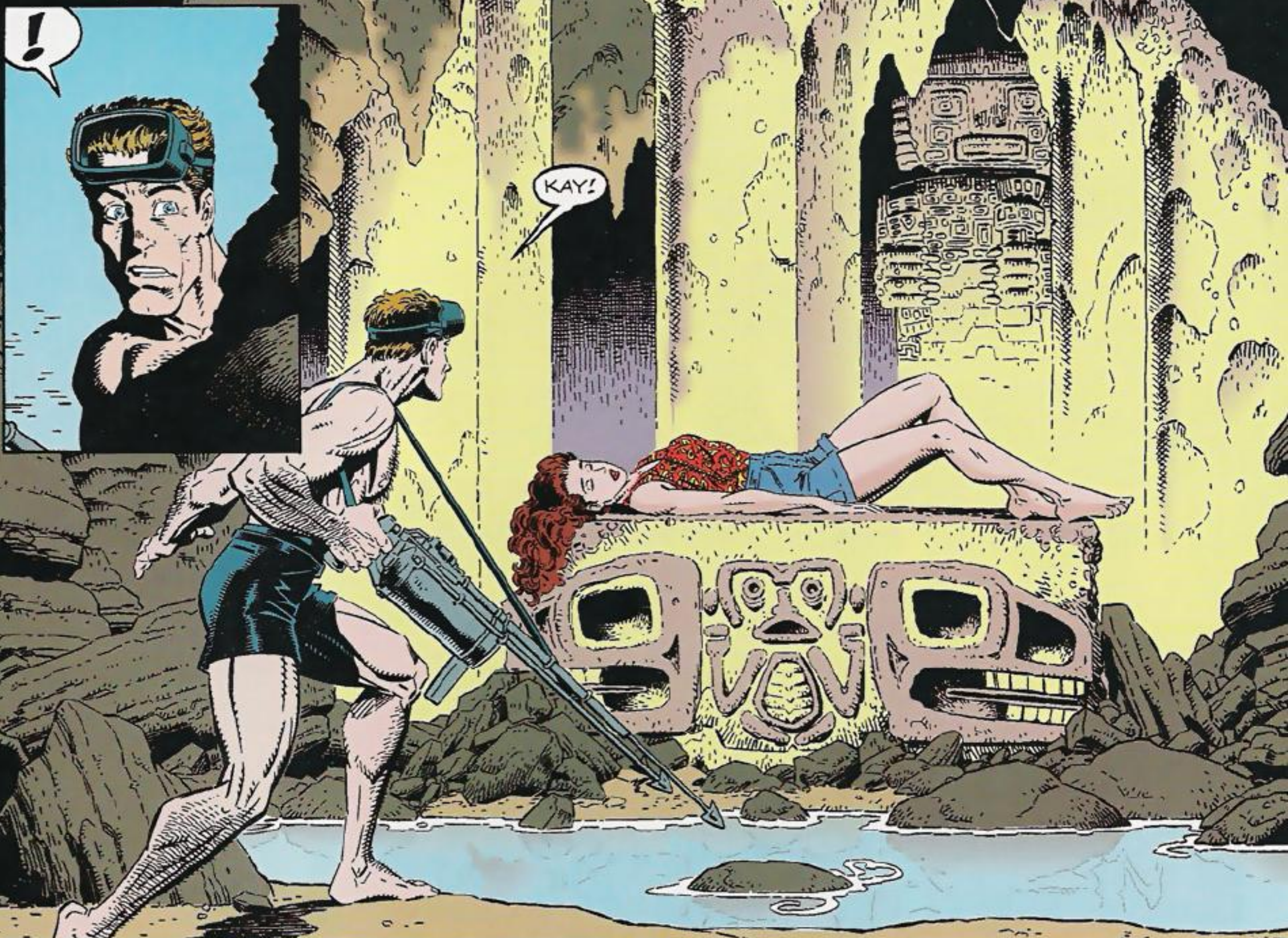


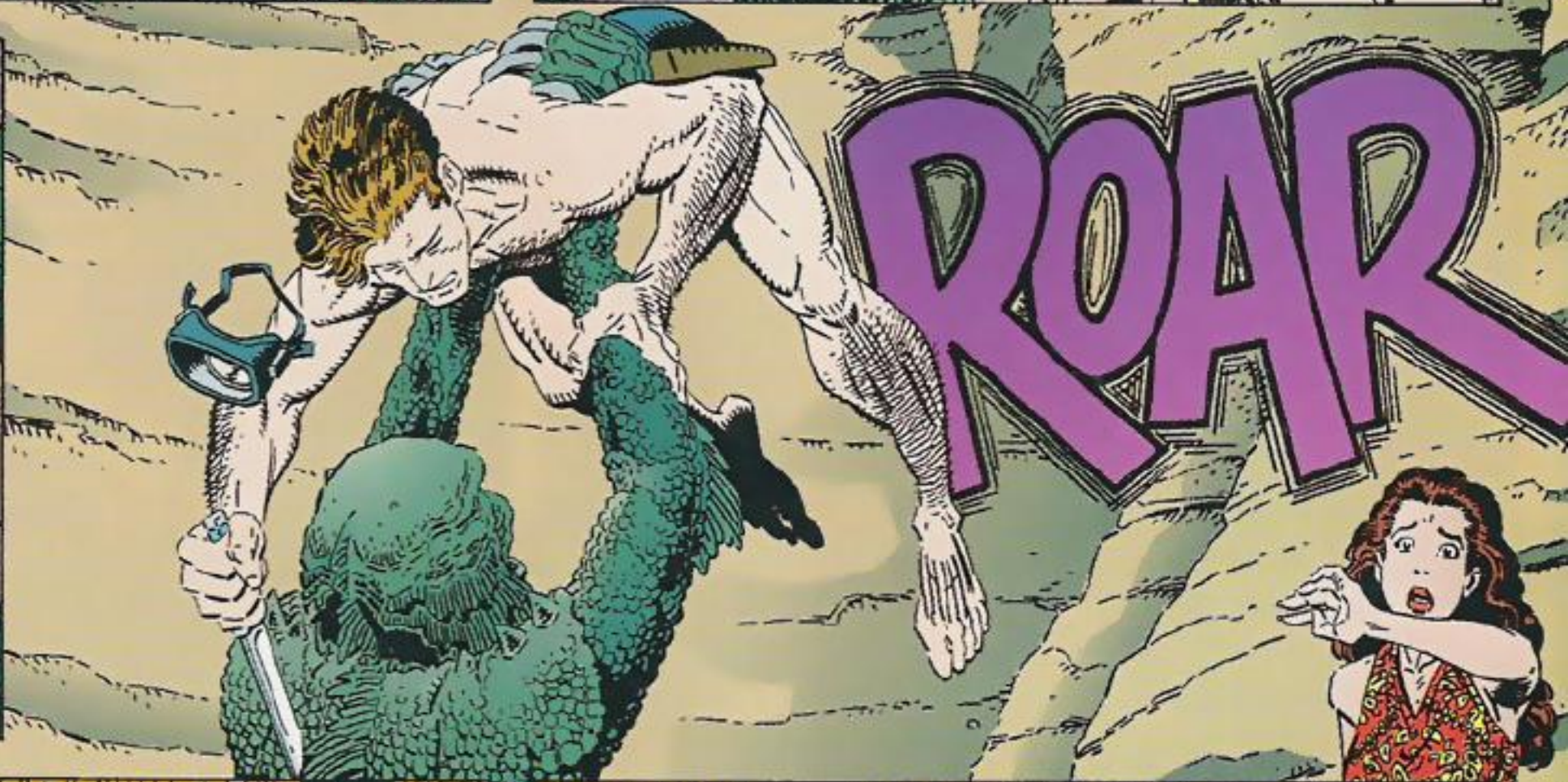
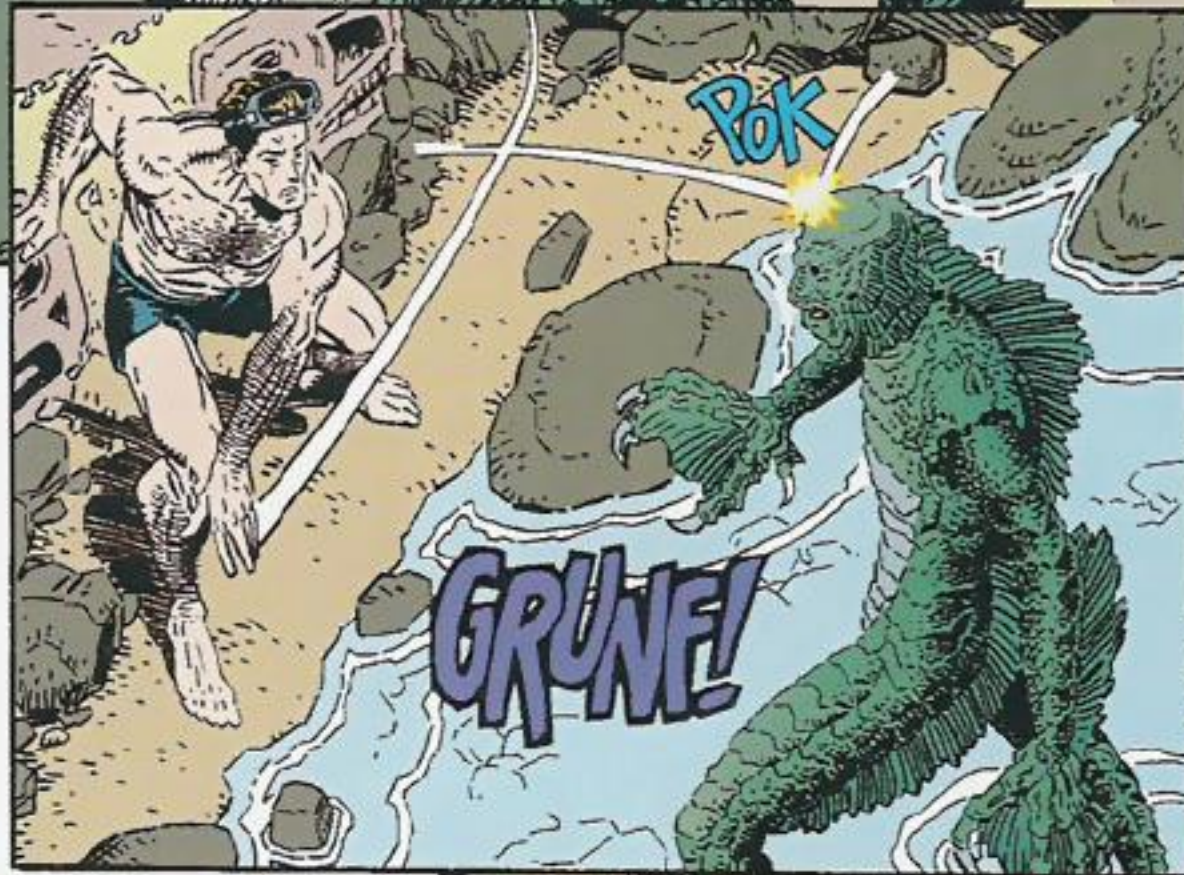
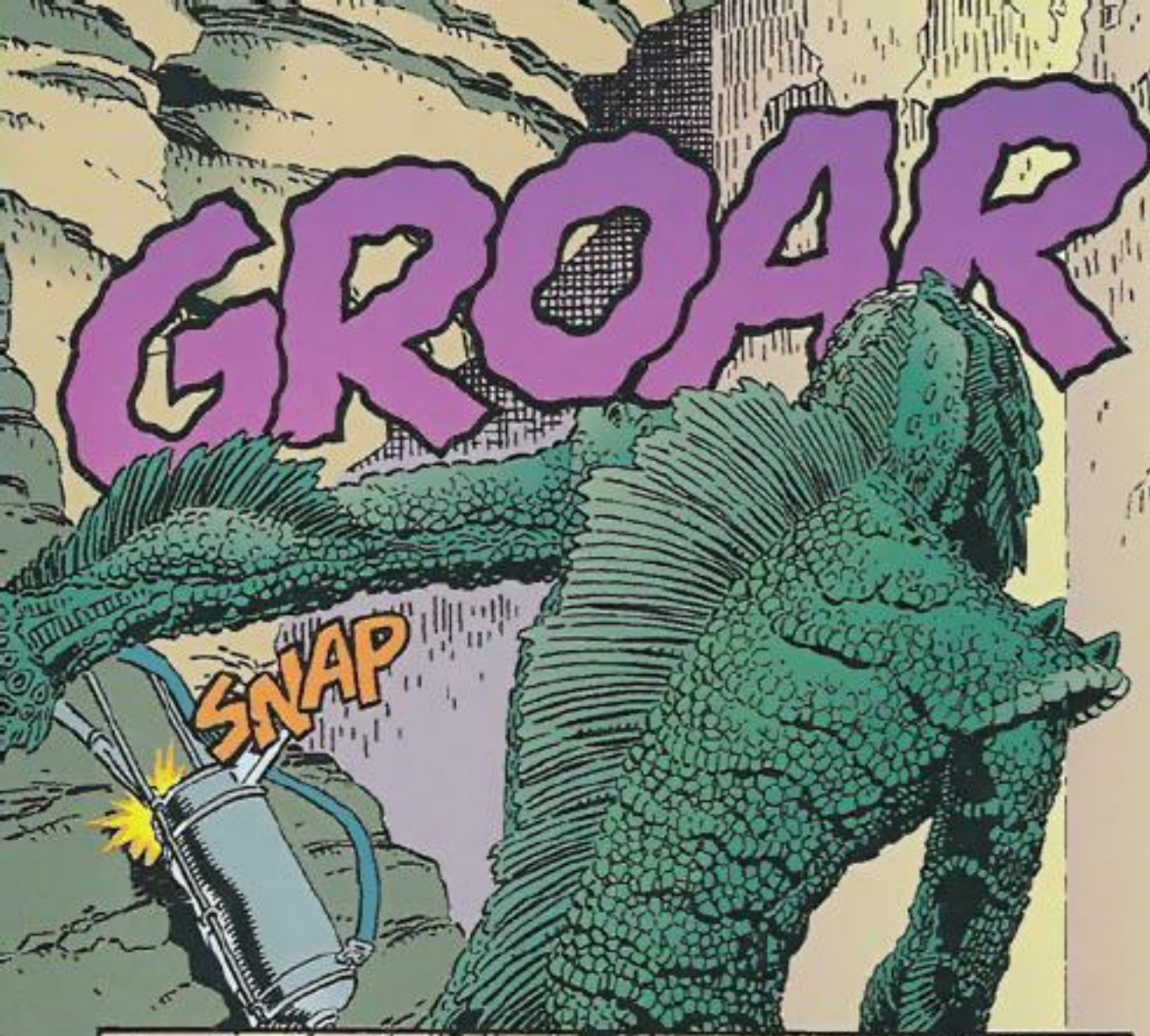


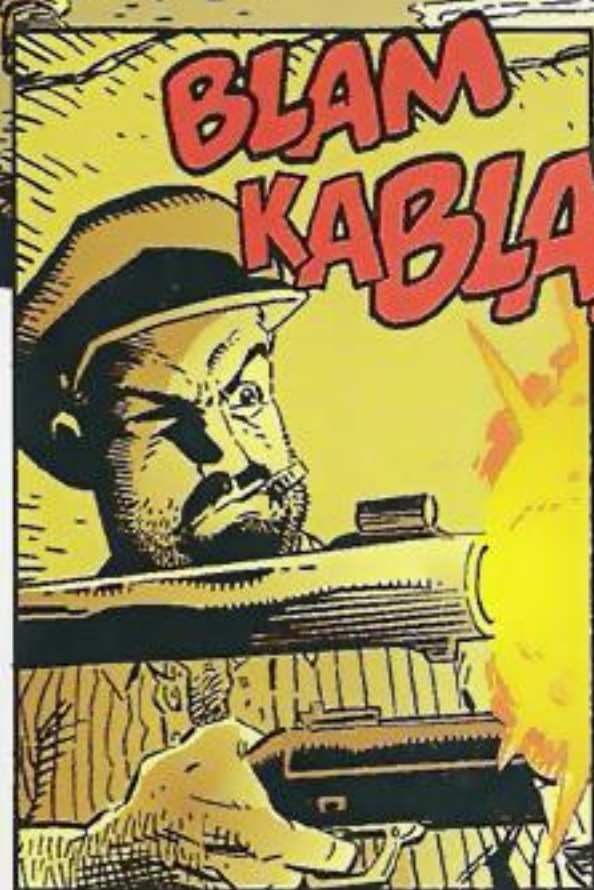














**THE
END**