

LEO

BETELGEUSE

5. THE OTHER



With the author's consent, and in order not to upset our more sensitive readers,
certain illustrations of this edition of *Betelgeuse* have been modified.
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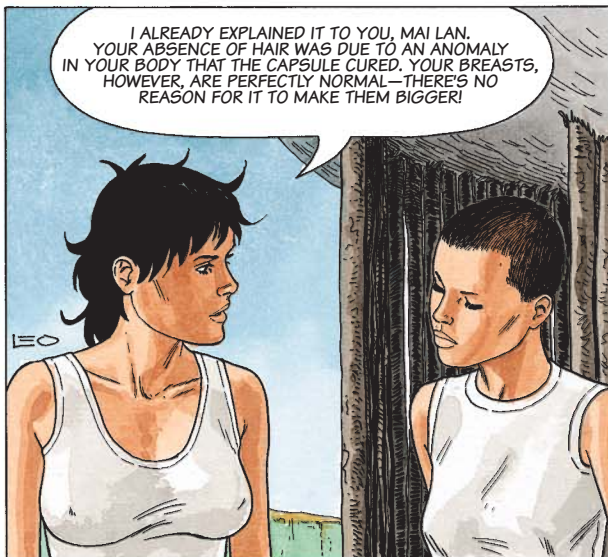
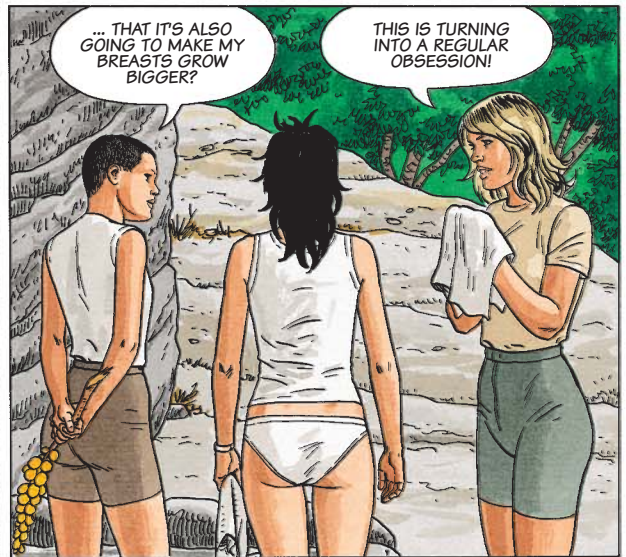
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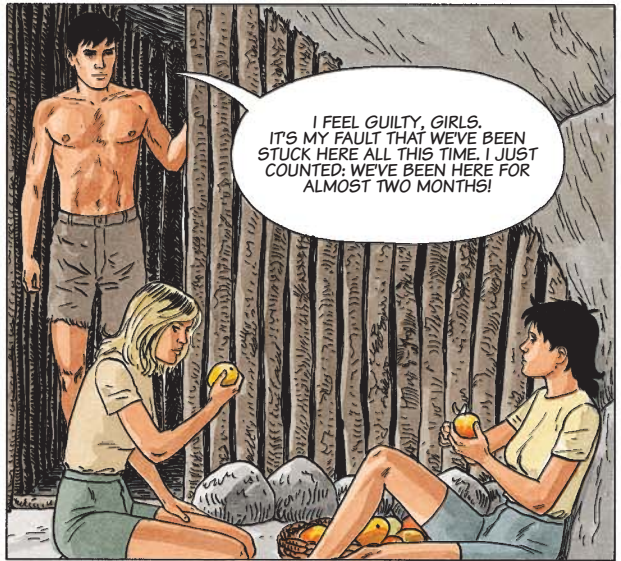




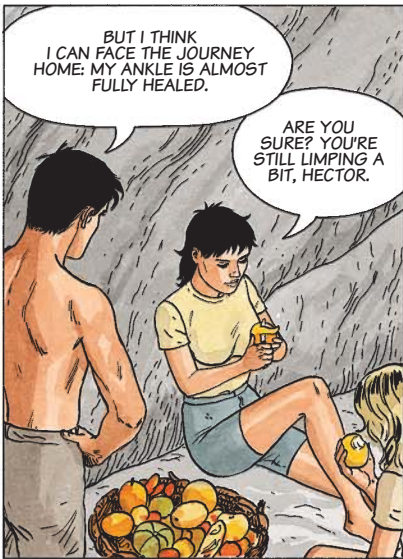


I'M SO SICK OF EATING FRUIT. MY KINGDOM FOR SOME BREAD AND BUTTER!

... AND A NICE, HOT CUP OF COFFEE!



I FEEL GUILTY, GIRLS. IT'S MY FAULT THAT WE'VE BEEN STUCK HERE ALL THIS TIME. I JUST COUNTED: WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS!

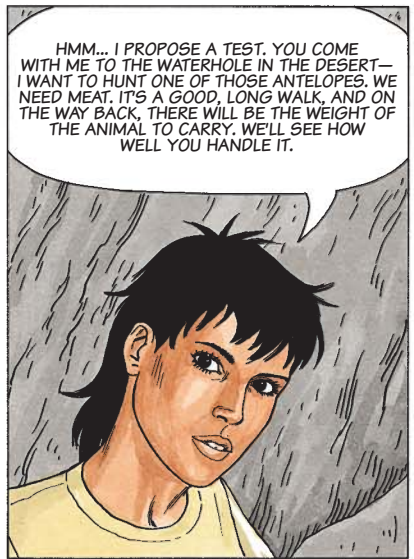


BUT I THINK I CAN FACE THE JOURNEY HOME. MY ANKLE IS ALMOST FULLY HEALED.

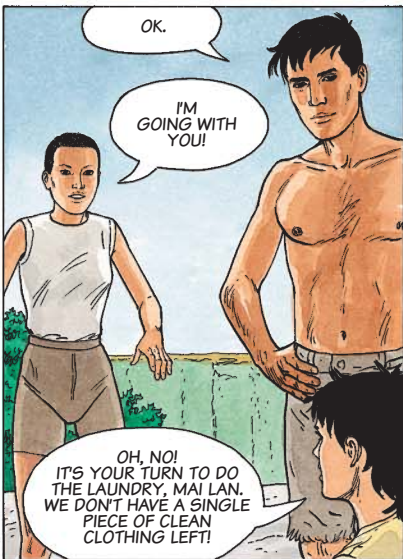
ARE YOU SURE? YOU'RE STILL LIMPING A BIT, HECTOR.



BUT IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE. I THINK WALKING WILL HELP ME HEAL FASTER.



HMM... I PROPOSE A TEST. YOU COME WITH ME TO THE WATERHOLE IN THE DESERT—I WANT TO HUNT ONE OF THOSE ANTELOPES. WE NEED MEAT. IT'S A GOOD, LONG WALK, AND ON THE WAY BACK, THERE WILL BE THE WEIGHT OF THE ANIMAL TO CARRY. WE'LL SEE HOW WELL YOU HANDLE IT.



OK.

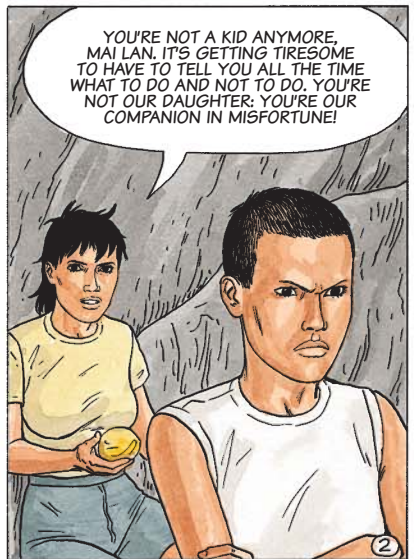
I'M GOING WITH YOU!

OH, NO! IT'S YOUR TURN TO DO THE LAUNDRY, MAI LAN. WE DON'T HAVE A SINGLE PIECE OF CLEAN CLOTHING LEFT!

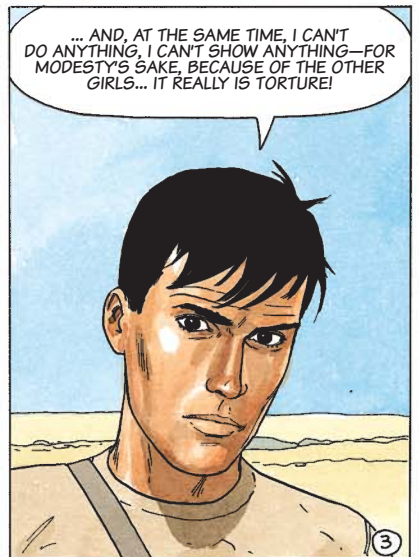
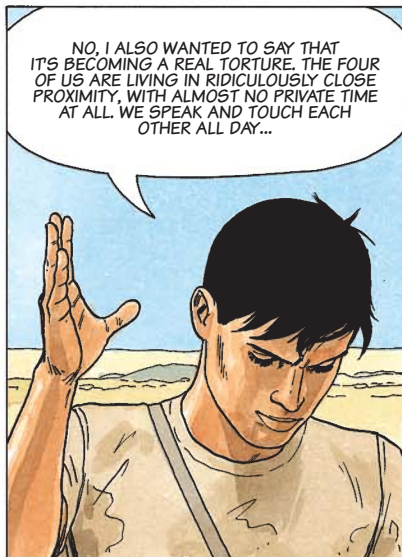
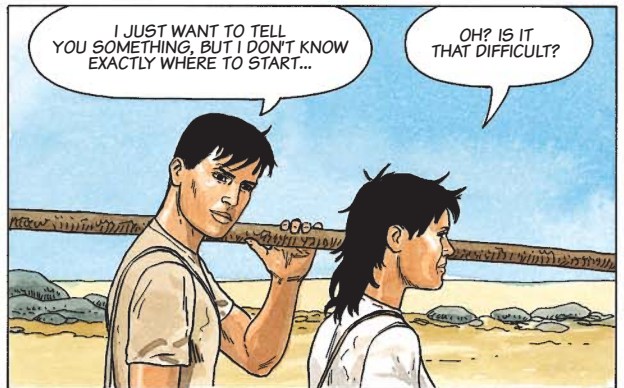
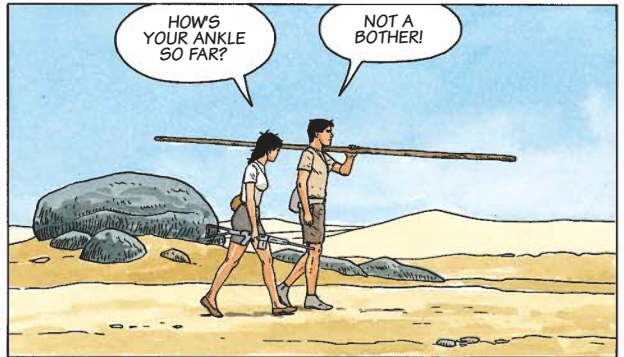
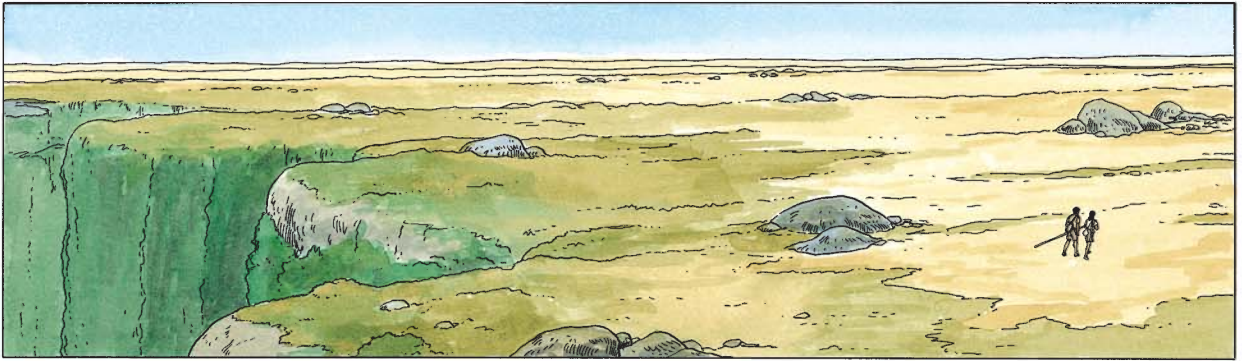


I'LL WASH WHEN WE GET BACK.

NO CAN DO, SWEETIE. YOU'RE ALSO SUPPOSED TO HELP ME WITH THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.



YOU'RE NOT A KID ANYMORE, MAI LAN. IT'S GETTING TIRESOME TO HAVE TO TELL YOU ALL THE TIME WHAT TO DO AND NOT TO DO. YOU'RE NOT OUR DAUGHTER; YOU'RE OUR COMPANION IN MISFORTUNE!



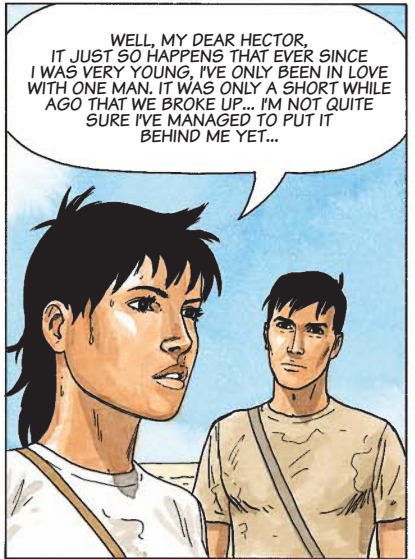


HEY! YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING?!

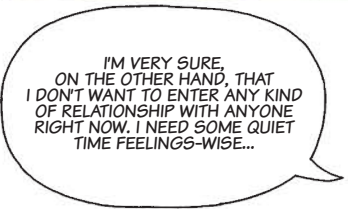


WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU TOO?

FOR EXAMPLE...



WELL, MY DEAR HECTOR, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT EVER SINCE I WAS VERY YOUNG, I'VE ONLY BEEN IN LOVE WITH ONE MAN. IT WAS ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO THAT WE BROKE UP... I'M NOT QUITE SURE I'VE MANAGED TO PUT IT BEHIND ME YET...

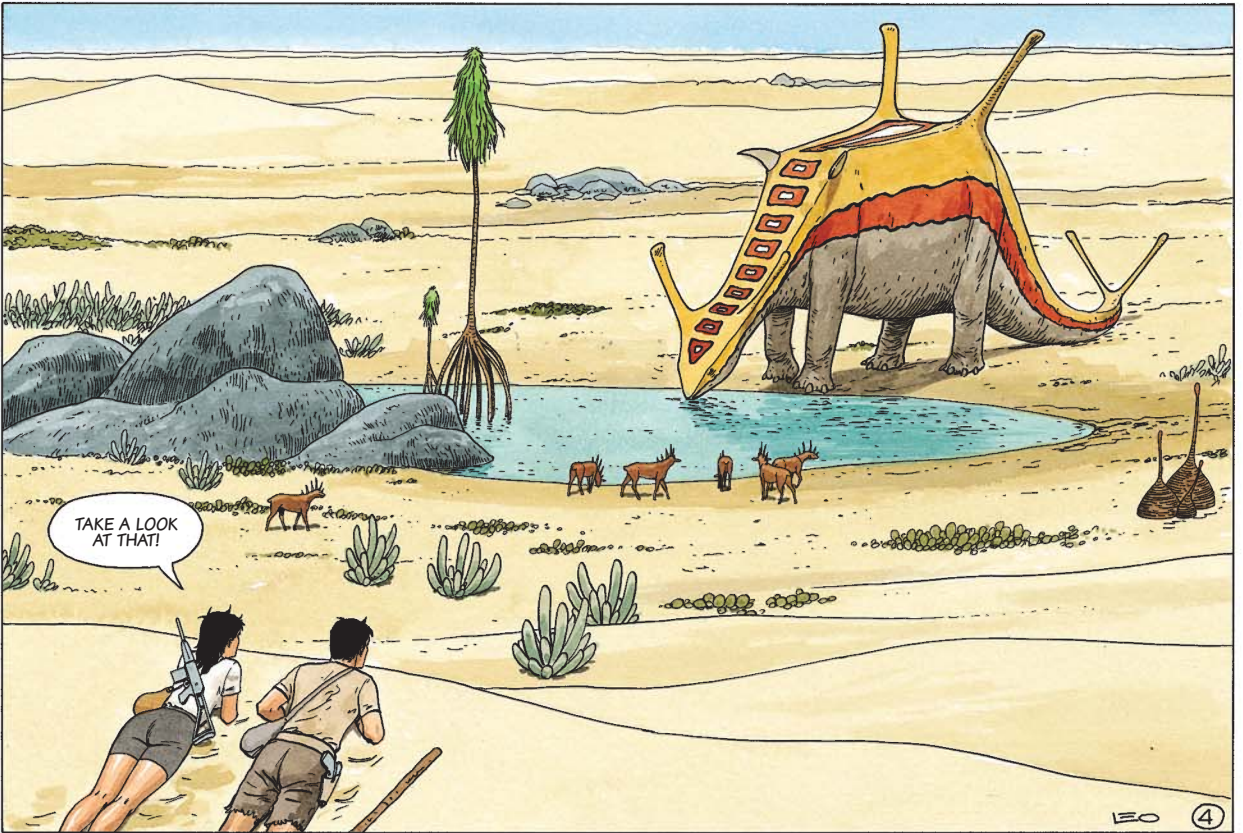


I'M VERY SURE, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT I DON'T WANT TO ENTER ANY KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH ANYONE RIGHT NOW. I NEED SOME QUIET TIME FEELINGS-WISE...



I UNDERSTAND... OK... NOW YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU, AND I WON'T BRING IT UP AGAIN. THE BALL'S IN YOUR COURT, ALL RIGHT?

ALL RIGHT.



TAKE A LOOK AT THAT!

