



PANDORA'S BOX

VOLUME 4
GREED

Drawing
**ERIK
JUSZEZAK**

Script
ALCANTE

Colour work
USAGI

MIDAS

King of Phrygia (modern Turkey), immensely rich, he received from the god Dionysus the gift of turning everything he touched to gold. He discovered, to his horror, that it condemned him to die of starvation and thirst, as all his food and drink also turned to gold as soon as he touched it. He had no choice but to beg Dionysus to take back the gift. So, the divinity sent him to bathe in the river Pactolus, which ever since has carried gold nuggets...

Pandora's Box

Of Pride, like Narcissus, you will pay the heavy price.
Of Sloth, like Paris, you will succumb to the slow venom.
Of Gluttony, like Theseus, you will know the foul torment.
Of Lust, like Orpheus, you will bite the bitter fruit.
Of Greed, like Midas, you will learn the hard law.
Of Envy, like Prometheus, you will suffer the eternal punishment.
Of Wrath, like Pandora, you will be the fatal instrument.

Finally, at the very end,
Your soul seven times destroyed,
Only hope will remain,
To live and rise again.

Thus spoke the Oracle
When the box was opened
And its savage spice
Into the world had spread.

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NEW YORK, MIDAS INVESTMENT FUND (MIF) BUILDING

MRS SEGAL, WOULD YOU PLEASE CALL MR SOYIS?

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

JOHN! TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?...

GOOD EVENING, DON! I'M CALLING YOU ABOUT TOMORROW. WE HAD A GOLF GAME PLANNED...

... UNFORTUNATELY, THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE ENTIRE REGION IS PRETTY BAD.

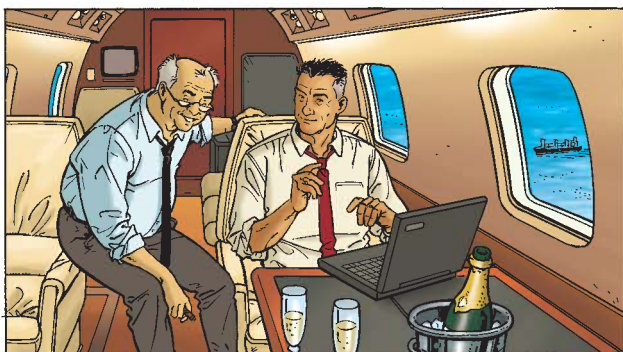
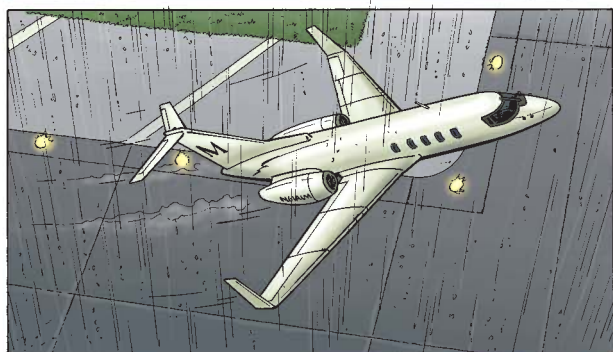
YES, IT'S A REAL PITY...

SO, HERE'S WHAT I HAVE IN MIND...

JFK AIRPORT, THE NEXT MORNING

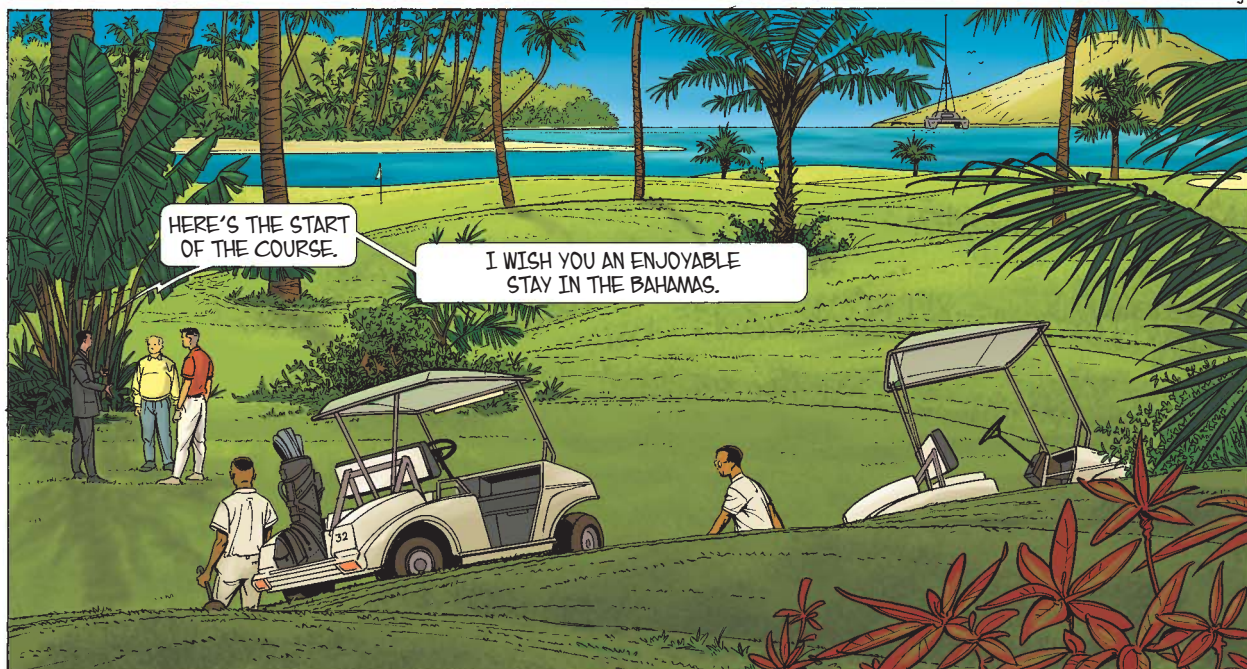
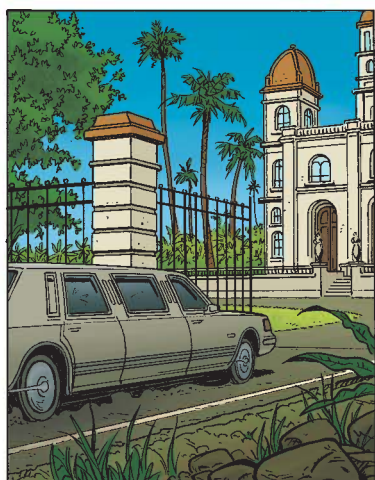
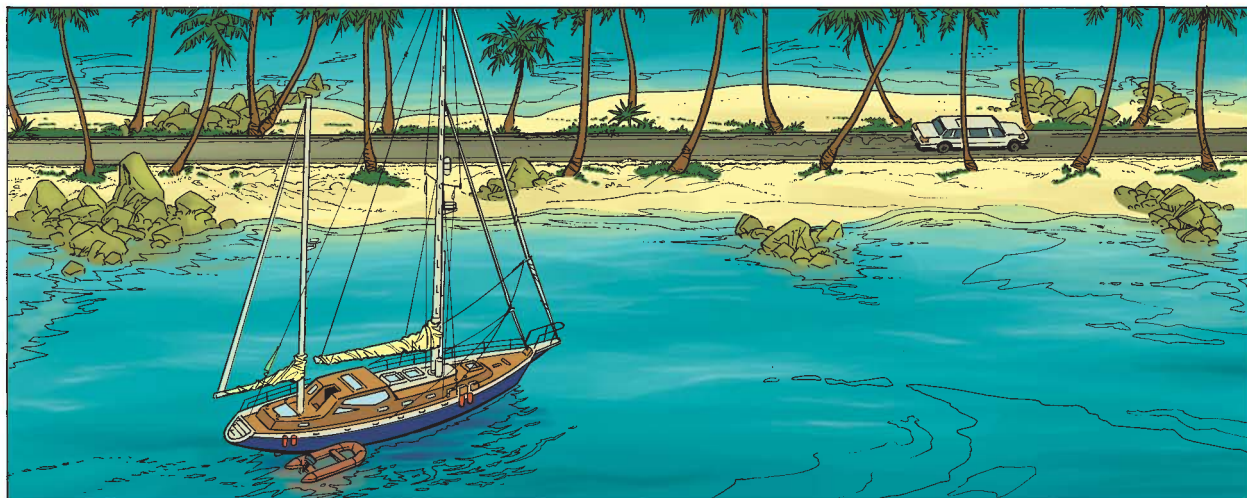
HORRIBLE WEATHER, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING! IT'S A GREAT IDEA YOU HAD THERE!



THREE HOURS LATER...







SO, ANY NEW PROJECTS IN MIND?

WELL, ACTUALLY... I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!



ARE YOU INTO FINANCE?

ME!? NOT AT ALL, WHY?

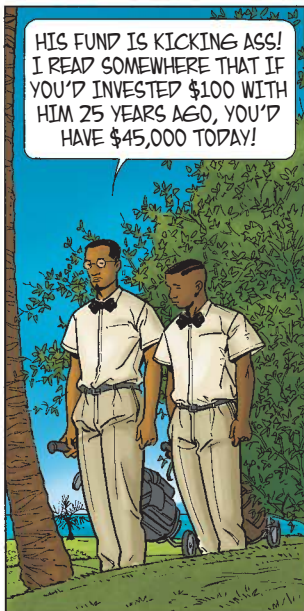
FIGURES. YOU'D HAVE RECOGNISED THEM, OTHERWISE.



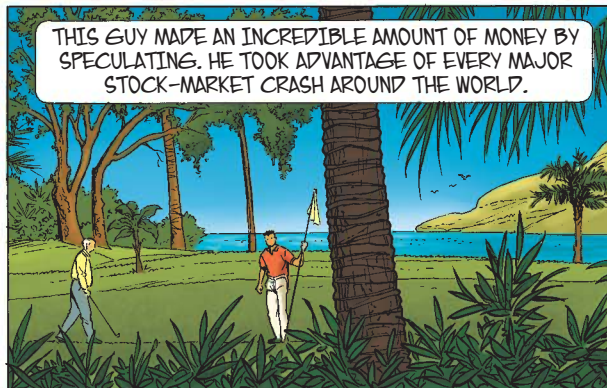
THE OLDER ONE IS DON SOYIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SILENA BANK. THE OTHER ONE'S JOHN MIDAS. HE WAS SOYIS'S STUDENT IN COLLEGE. NOW, THEY OFTEN PAIR UP ON BIG DEALS.



MIDAS WAS BARELY 30 WHEN HE CREATED THE "MIDAS INVESTMENT FUND." IT'S A COMPANY THAT TRADES IN EVERY FINANCIAL TOOL AVAILABLE: STOCKS, BONDS, CURRENCIES, DERIVATIVES, ETC....



HIS FUND IS KICKING ASS! I READ SOMEWHERE THAT IF YOU'D INVESTED \$100 WITH HIM 25 YEARS AGO, YOU'D HAVE \$45,000 TODAY!



THIS GUY MADE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF MONEY BY SPECULATING. HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF EVERY MAJOR STOCK-MARKET CRASH AROUND THE WORLD.



HIS PERSONAL WEALTH IS ESTIMATED AT SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS. HE'S ONE OF THE TOP 10 RICHEST PEOPLE IN THE USA.



THEY CALL HIM THE KING OF WALL STREET! A LIVING LEGEND IN HIS FIELD!



... THE EMPEROR OF SPECULATORS!



HOW COME YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

HOW DO YOU THINK? I PLAY THE MARKET—I'M STARTING TO, ANYWAY...



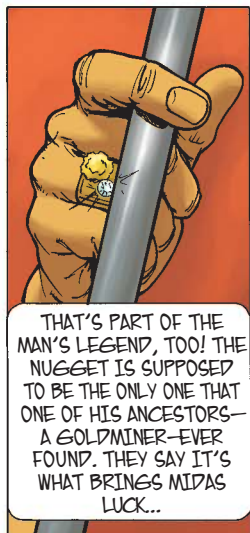
... I DON'T PLAN ON BEING A "BOY" ALL MY LIFE... SOMEDAY, SOMEONE ELSE WILL BE MY CADDIE!

YEAH, RIGHT!



HANG ON. ARE YOU TELLING ME GUYS LIKE THIS DON'T MAKE YOU ENVIOUS? YOU SHOULD SEE MIDAS'S RING!

A GOLD NUGGET AND A HUGE DIAMOND!



THAT'S PART OF THE MAN'S LEGEND, TOO! THE NUGGET IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONLY ONE THAT ONE OF HIS ANCESTORS—A GOLDMINER—EVER FOUND. THEY SAY IT'S WHAT BRINGS MIDAS LUCK...



HE STILL COULDN'T STOP HIMSELF FROM ADDING A DIAMOND WORTH A THOUSAND TIMES MORE... THE VALUE OF THAT RING IS MORE THAN WE'LL EARN IN OUR WHOLE LIFE.

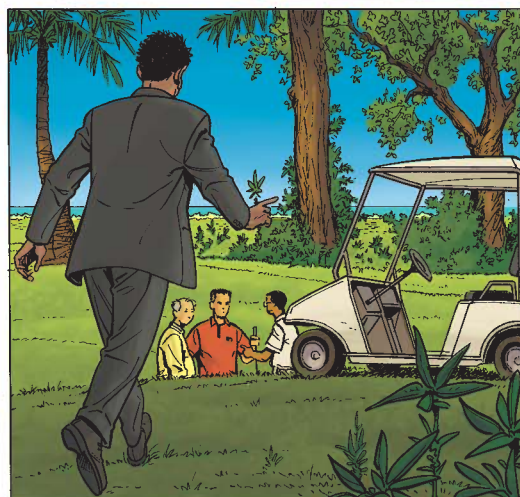
SO, ARE YOU WITH ME ON THIS DEAL?



HMMM... IT'S NOT THE SAFEST PLAN I'VE BEEN OFFERED. BUT IT'S WORTH THE RISK! I'M IN!



PERFECT!



EXCUSE ME, MR MIDAS...

I PLAY THE MARKET; YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO...?

MIGUEL! HOW DARE YOU?!!



I APOLOGISE FOR THIS, MR MIDAS, I'M REALLY...

DON'T WORRY—NO HARM DONE! SO, YOU'D LIKE A LITTLE ADVICE, THEN?



WELL, LISTEN CAREFULLY. IF I WERE YOU, I'D INVEST IN...



ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU SO MUCH, SIR!

A FEW MONTHS LATER. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1...

AMADOR MERALDO, 28, GRADUATED FROM YALE. SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE LONDON AND SINGAPORE STOCK MARKETS; ALL UNQUALIFIED SUCCESSSES. SPECIALISING IN HEDGE FUNDS...

THAT'S CORRECT, SIR.

WELL, YOU PASSED OUR SELECTION TESTS WITH THE SAME SUCCESS!

YOU'RE HIRED!

I KNOW HOW TO JUDGE PEOPLE—AND I CAN TELL YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME A LOT OF MONEY!

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR.

COME, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR NEW TEAM.

THIS IS OUR DEALING ROOM. YOU'LL BE SPENDING MOST OF YOUR TIME HERE.

PETER, GIVE HIM A QUICK TOUR. MEET ME AGAIN IN THE ROCKEFELLER ROOM IN 15 MINUTES!

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

ANYTHING THAT CAN BRING IN SOME MONEY! WE JUST MADE \$100 MILLION ON THE YEN!

MIDAS WAS CONVINCED THAT THE YEN WAS OVERVALUED. HE MADE A PROMISE TO SELL FORWARD \$2.5 BILLION WORTH OF YEN A WEEK LATER AND AT SLIGHTLY BELOW THE VALUE AT THE TIME OF THE AGREEMENT.

THE DIFFERENCE—\$100 MILLION—WENT INTO OUR POCKET. BINGO!

WHAT IF THE YEN HAD RISEN?

WE'D HAVE TAKEN A HIT, OF COURSE... BUT MIDAS IS NEVER WRONG!

THE MARKET JUMPED ON IT!

OVER THE WEEK, THE YEN DID INDEED DEVALUE BY 4%, JUST AS HE'D WAGERED. HE BOUGHT \$2.5 BILLION WORTH OF YEN AT THE NEW RATE AND SOLD THEM AT THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED RATE.

COME NOW; THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!