

BEYOND THE WINDY ISLES

IN MARACAIBO, IN VENEZUELA, WHERE NOW STANDS AN ULTRAMODERN SUPERMARKET, THERE ONCE WAS A SHOP FULL OF STRANGE, EVEN DISTURBING, OBJECTS...



WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME, COLOMBIA?

COME IN, STEINER!

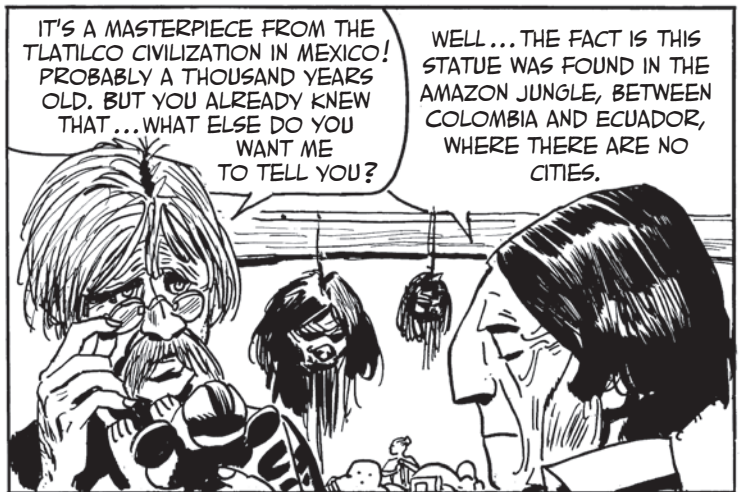
WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND THIS TIME?

YOU'RE AN AUTHORITY IN THIS FIELD. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS FIGURINE?

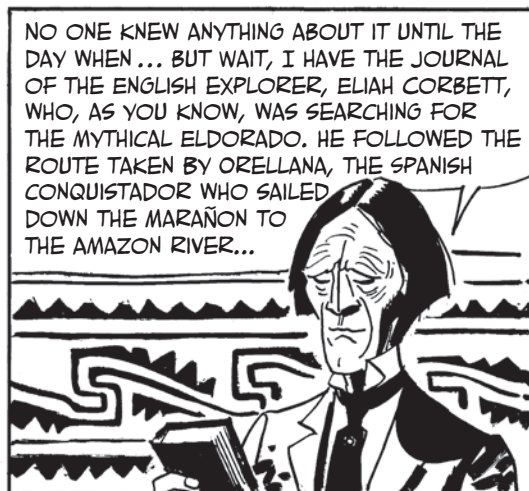


IT'S A MASTERPIECE FROM THE TLATILCO CIVILIZATION IN MEXICO! PROBABLY A THOUSAND YEARS OLD. BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT...WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?

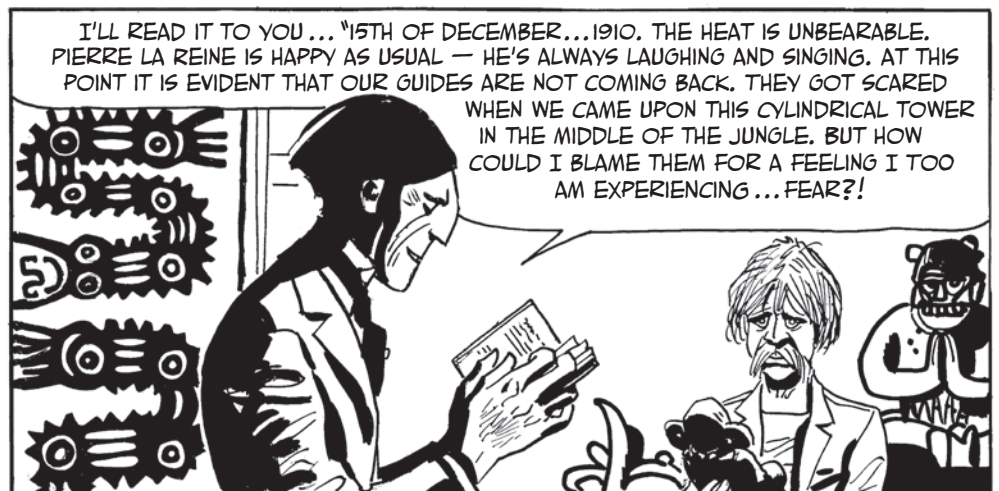
WELL...THE FACT IS THIS STATUE WAS FOUND IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE, BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR, WHERE THERE ARE NO CITIES.



NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT IT UNTIL THE DAY WHEN... BUT WAIT, I HAVE THE JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH EXPLORER, ELIAH CORBETT, WHO, AS YOU KNOW, WAS SEARCHING FOR THE MYTHICAL EL Dorado. HE FOLLOWED THE ROUTE TAKEN BY ORELLANA, THE SPANISH CONQUISTADOR WHO SAILED DOWN THE MARAÑON TO THE AMAZON RIVER...



I'LL READ IT TO YOU... "15TH OF DECEMBER...1910. THE HEAT IS UNBEARABLE. PIERRE LA REINE IS HAPPY AS USUAL — HE'S ALWAYS LAUGHING AND SINGING. AT THIS POINT IT IS EVIDENT THAT OUR GUIDES ARE NOT COMING BACK. THEY GOT SCARED WHEN WE CAME UPON THIS CYLINDRICAL TOWER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNGLE. BUT HOW COULD I BLAME THEM FOR A FEELING I TOO AM EXPERIENCING...FEAR?!"



"YES...FEAR!...I HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH A CYLINDRICAL CONSTRUCTION ANYWHERE IN THE AMERICAS. THE ONLY PLACE I'VE SEEN ONE WAS IN MESOPOTAMIA. BUT HERE IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE... IT'S AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY!"



THEN HE GOES DIRECTLY FROM THE 15TH TO THE 25TH OR 26TH OF DECEMBER... " ...ONLY TODAY CAN I MANAGE TO WRITE AGAIN AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE DATE...THE INDIANS KILLED PIERRE LA REINE, WHO MOCKED THEM UNTIL THE LAST INSTANT OF HIS LIFE...

