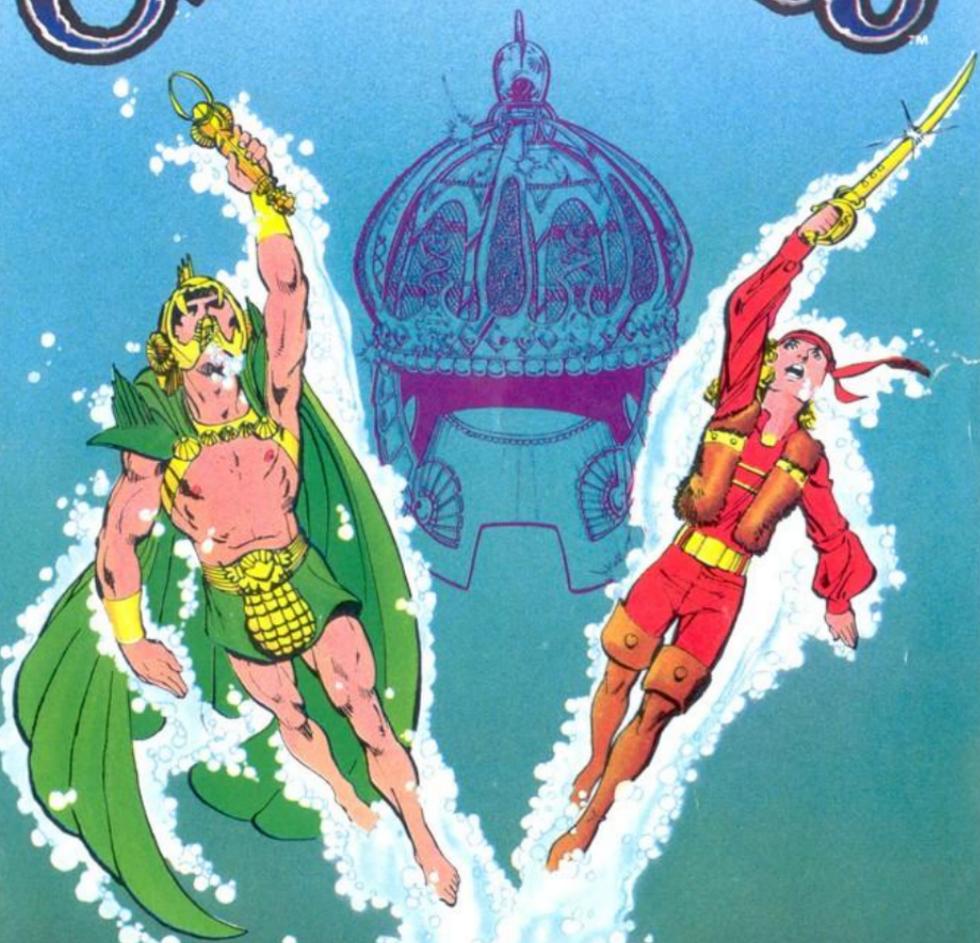




3

# 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  
HARRIDORS 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 *IMASE* WE SAW--  
IN THE BOTTOM OF  
THE *CHALICE*--  
BEFORE WE DIVED!

THEIR NAMES ARE ZORR 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 I HAD  
A SPECIAL TALISMAN,  
WHICH WOULD HELP  
US IF WE GRASPED IT.

THE CROWN  
MUST BE  
WATERWORLD'S!

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

MY LUMSS--  
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,  
HASH 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!

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

HUH??





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

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



**ARRGH**

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 THERE 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 THIN BE FAR BEHIND?

AH, MY KING! THE CHAMBER OF KONTZARO 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, DARKSFAIR--

BUT I CAN LAY THE HAND OF FORSETFULNESS 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, GIRE...

...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--

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:

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

"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:



UHMM...  
WHERE...?

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

HUH?  
WHAT'S THAT  
SUDDEN  
CHOMPING 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!



I DID IT! EITHER I'M THE GREATEST SWIMMER ANYBODY'S EVER SEEN-- OR AT LEAST THE LUCKIEST--

--OR ELSE--  
WAIT A SECOND!



JUST NOTICED--THOSE THINGS SEEM TO BE HOLDING BACK A BIT--

--AS IF THEY WEREN'T CHASING ME SO MUCH-- AS HERDING ME!

NOT THAT I DARE STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT WHICH.



ANYWAY, MAYBE THEY WON'T FOLLOW ME--



--IN HERE!



HMMMM... SOME KIND OF VAST HALL-- AND THE WHOLE PLACE SEEMS MADE OF LIVING, GLOWING CORAL.

PLENTY OF FISH AROUND-- BUT AT LEAST NONE BIGGER THAN I AM.

THAT'S NICE, NOW MAYBE, AT LAST, I CAN--



--RELAX.

WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT LINE OF THOUGHT!



THOSE  
CROSSED  
SWORDS--  
THEY MAY  
BE MY ONLY  
CHANCE!



NO GOOD!  
THEY WON'T  
COME LOOSE!

NOW  
WHAT?



THAT  
GIANT PEARL,  
OR WHATEVER  
IT IS-- INSIDE  
THAT BIG  
CLAM--



--MAYBE I CAN HURL  
IT DOWN THE THROAT  
OF ONE OF THOSE  
SHARKS--

--THEN  
GET  
AWAY WHILE IT'S  
CHOKING!

NOT LIKELY,  
I KNOW--BUT  
OTHERWISE,  
THIS IS THE END  
OF THE ROAD!



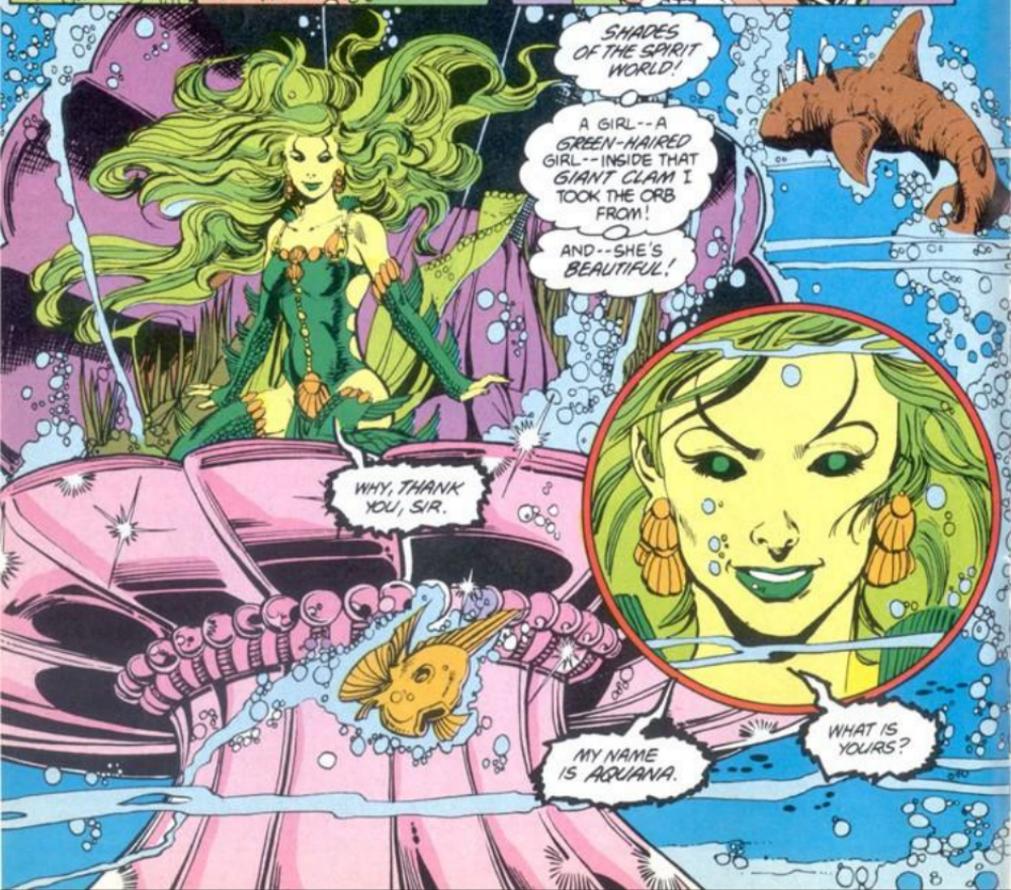
BY THE GODS! THEY'VE STOPPED SHORT!

IT'S THE PEARL! IT MUST BE!



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

MUH??



SHADES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!

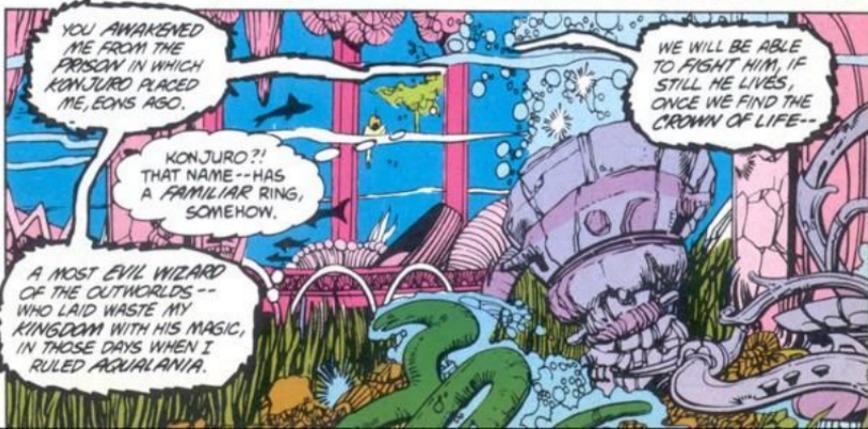
A GIRL--A GREEN-HAIRED GIRL--INSIDE THAT GIANT CLAM I TOOK THE ORB FROM!

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!**

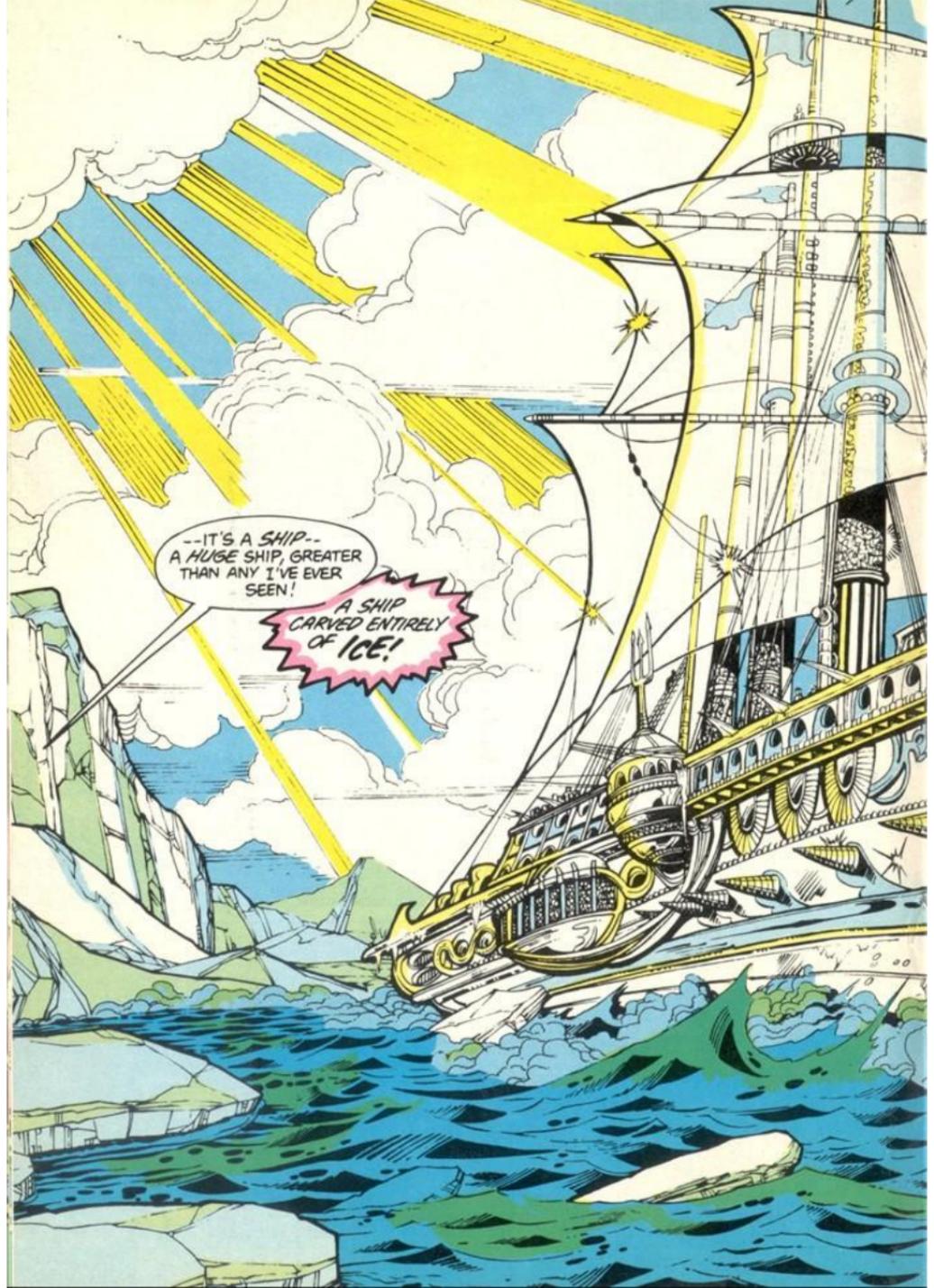
UHHHHH--!

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:

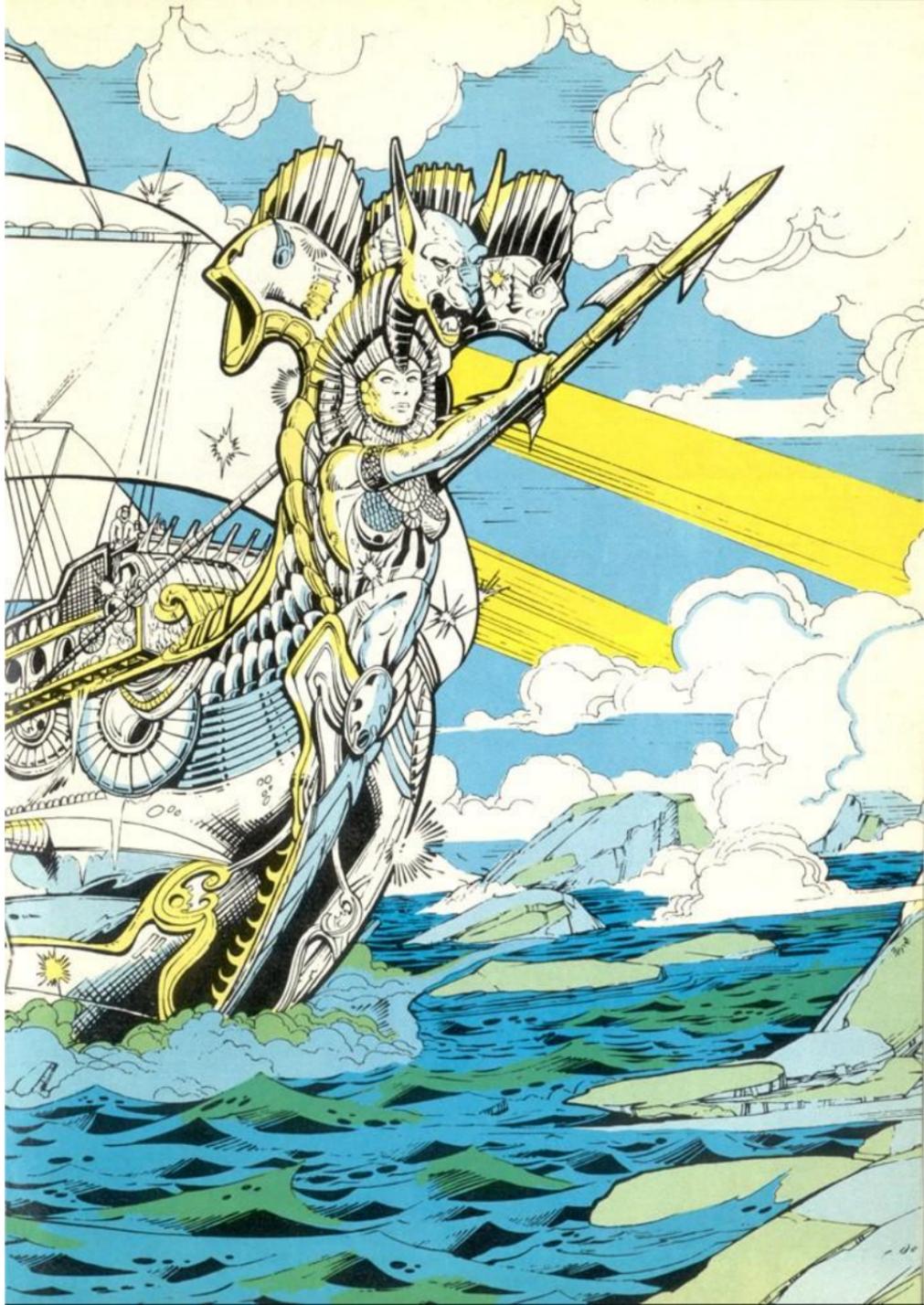
THEY ARE FLEEING SOMETHING -- SOMETHING THEY FEAR --

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...

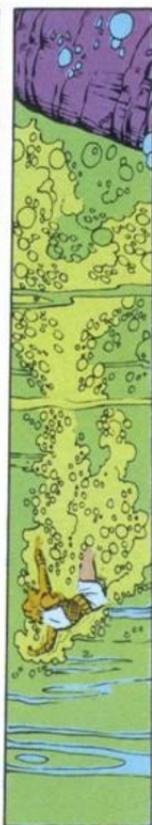


...THE BEHEMOTH!

**GRONK!**



**SPLASH!**



WHERE--?

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

OUT OF THE POLAR SEA A PRETTY FISH HAULED 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.

COOOF--!



AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE, OLD GROW 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!



YOU'D BEST HURRY, HERMINUS--

SO!



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

\* IN OUR FIRST TWO GAMES/ ISSUES.



--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--MUM?

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!

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

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--

SILENCE, KNAVE!

JUST BECAUSE WE FISHED YOU OUT OF THE DRINK 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.

HMMMM... 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 ROKJURO.

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 PHOSPHOR-ESCENTLY 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-SONGS 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 'TWTX 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... SOMETHINGS.



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!

CAPTAIN FROST-- YOU'RE  
TEARING THOSE POOR,  
DUMB ANIMALS TO  
PIECES!

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--

HSS  
SS  
SS  
SS  
SS  
YAAA

THERE'S YOUR  
ANSWER, BOYS!

A SPROUT 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 GIANTIC  
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 GHARK 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 SCRAMS INTO THE  
CORSAIR CRAFT--

-- WITH  
DEVASTATING  
RESULTS:



**THWAM**

ARRGH--!



**CAPTAIN  
FROST!**



HE'S HURT--  
AYE, HURT BAD!

AND HERE  
COMES THE HEAT-  
SPREWING  
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 WHELP'S 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.

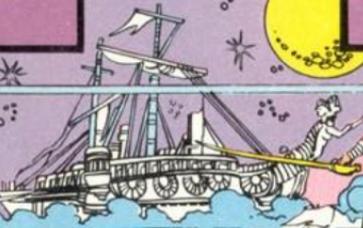


I'VE... LITTLE CHOICE.



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 RECOVERED 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--  
FEAR LESS SO  
THAN BEFORE...

**WALCK!**

...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  
KLANGING, 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 SORGERY 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.

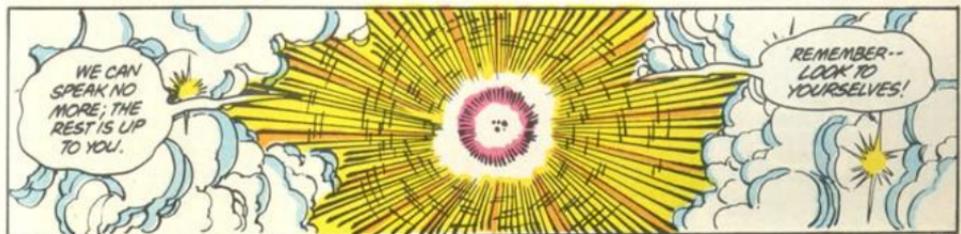
AND NOW WE ARE COME AGAIN-- BECAUSE, IN THE DARK RECESSES OF YOUR MINDS, YOU CALLED UPON US.

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!

TARRA--  
HOLD ON!

I AM!

--WITH EERIE RESULTS--

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

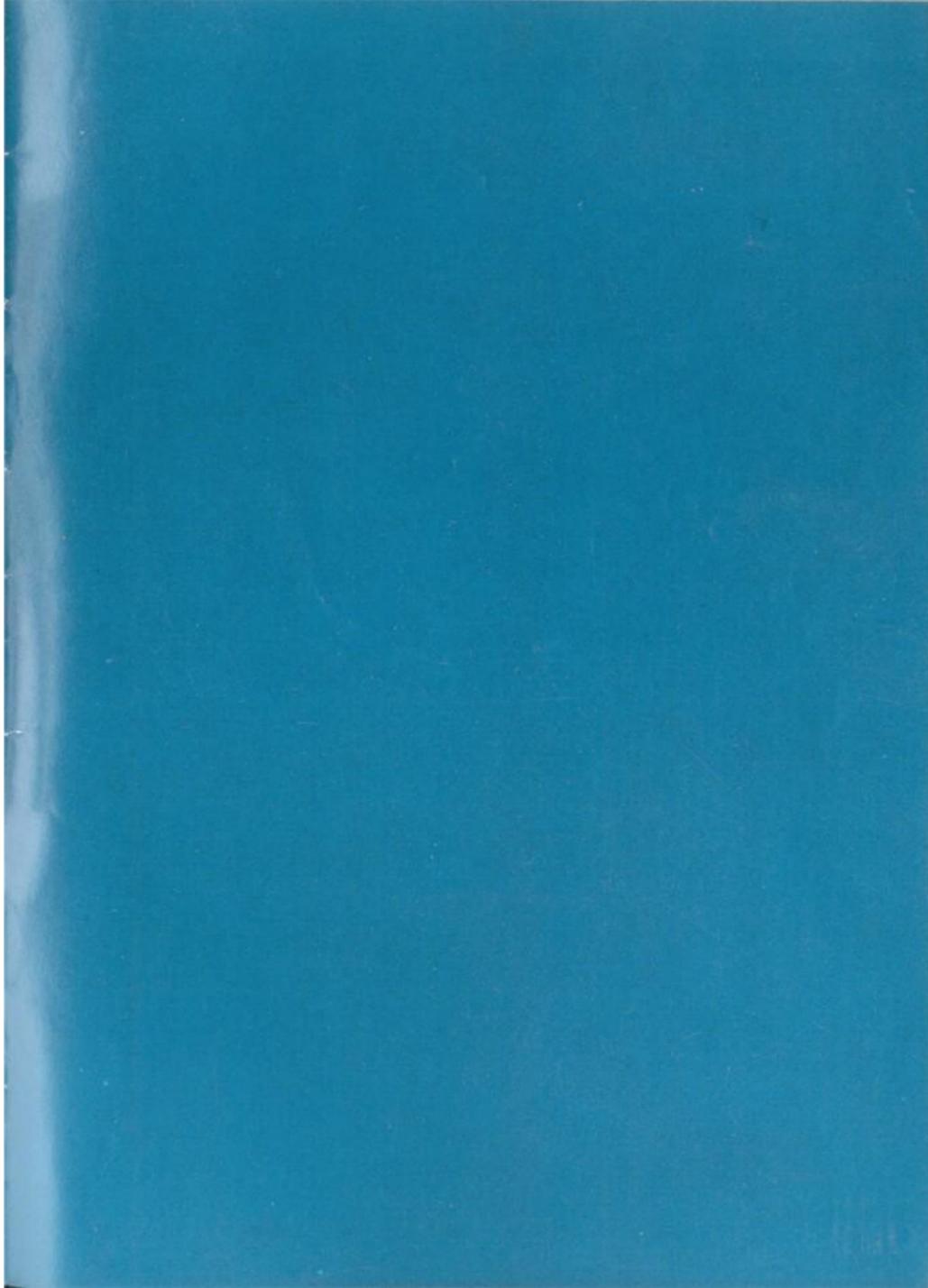
THREE WORLDS  
DOWN, O TYRANNUS...  
AND BUT ONE  
TO GO.

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!**





  
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