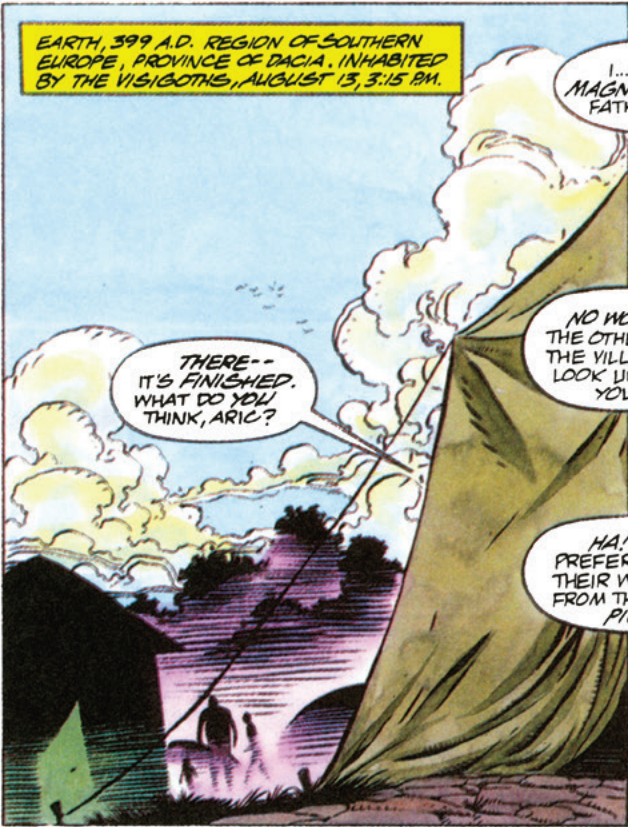


EARTH, 399 A.D. REGION OF SOUTHERN EUROPE, PROVINCE OF DACIA. INHABITED BY THE VISIGOTHS, AUGUST 13, 3:15 PM.



THERE-- IT'S FINISHED. WHAT DO YOU THINK, ARIC?

NO WONDER THE OTHERS IN THE VILLAGE LOOK UP TO YOU.

HA! THEY PREFER TO STEAL THEIR WEAPONS FROM THE ROMAN PIGS.



I...IT'S MAGNIFICENT, FATHER!



I LEARNED THE ART OF SWORD-MAKING SO OUR PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE RELIANT ON STOLEN PLUNDER TO KILL OUR ENEMIES.

THIS IS HONEST STEEL, BOY. I MADE IT FOR YOUR UNCLE ALARIC.

ONE DAY, WHEN YOU REACH MANHOOD I WILL MAKE A BLADE FOR YOU, MY SON.



I'D LIKE THAT, FATHER. I'LL BE A GREAT WARRIOR AND MAKE YOU PROUD. I--



HELLLLL!!

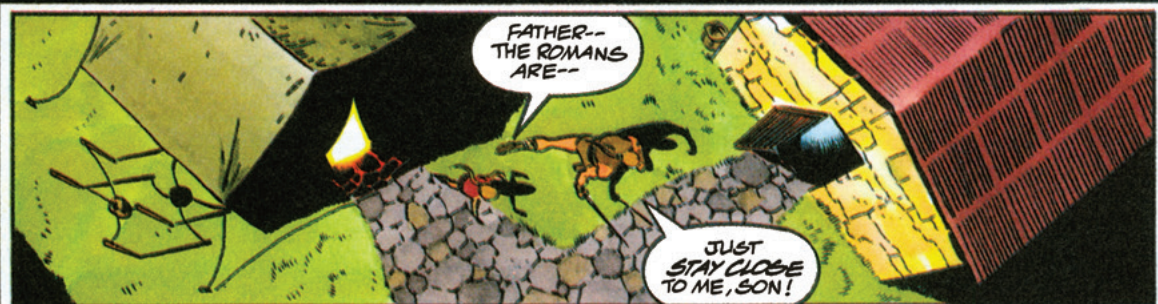
INGA!

MOTHER?!



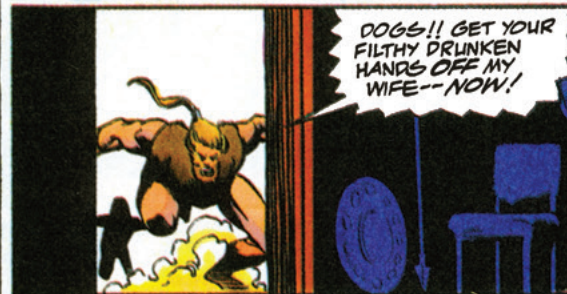
BURN EVERYTHING, CENTURIONS!

DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE OF THOSE BARBARIANS ESCAPE!



FATHER-- THE ROMANS ARE--

JUST STAY CLOSE TO ME, SON!



DOGS!! GET YOUR FILTHY DRUNKEN HANDS OFF MY WIFE-- NOW!



ROLF!!



MARCUS-- KILL THAT SAVAGE WOULD YOU?! I'M NOT DONE WITH HIS WOMAN YET!



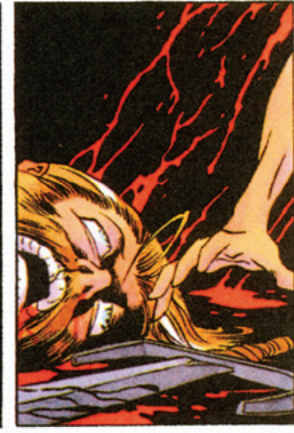
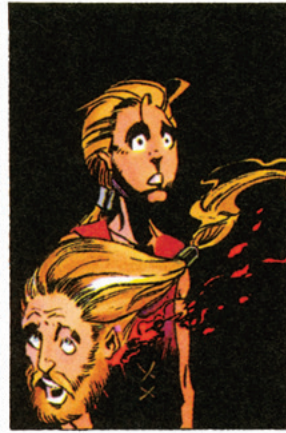
YOU'RE DONE NOW!



MOTHER!!!

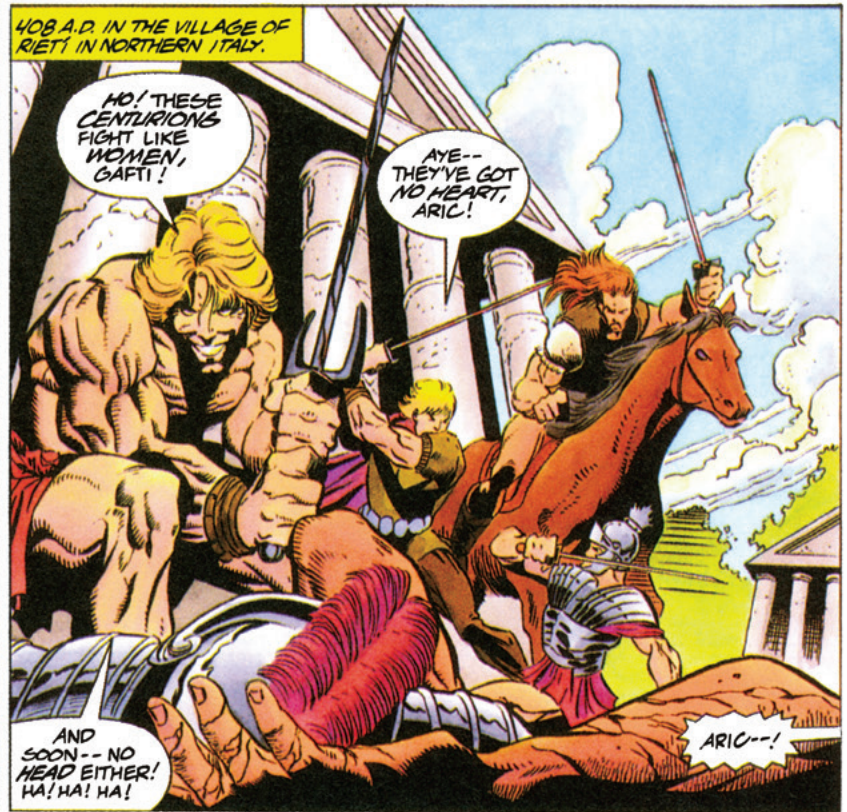


DIE, YOU ROMAN BUTCHER!





ROMAN PIGS. I'LL KILL YOU ALL...



408 A.D. IN THE VILLAGE OF RIETI IN NORTHERN ITALY.

NO! THESE CENTURIONS FIGHT LIKE WOMEN, GAFTI!

AYE-- THEY'VE GOT NO HEART, ARIC!

AND SOON-- NO HEAD EITHER! HA! HA! HA!

ARIC--!



DISPATCH THOSE ROMANS AND BE DONE WITH IT!

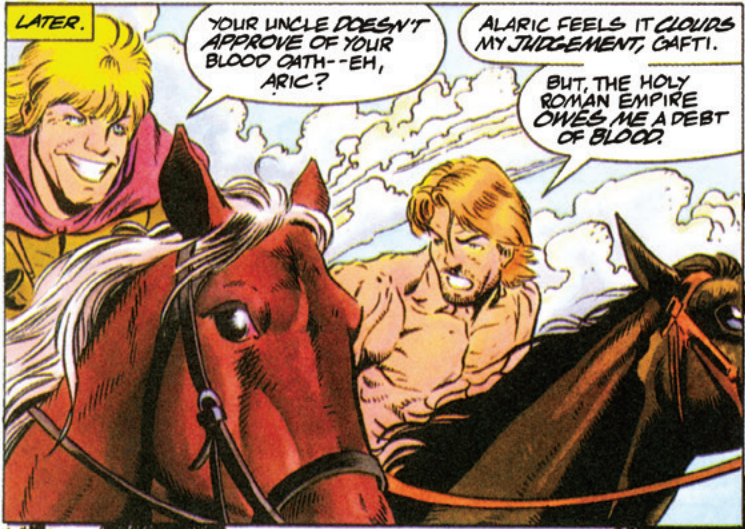


THIS IS A SUPPLY RAID--NOT ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO EXACT YOUR REVENGE.

TAKE WHAT WE NEED--AND PUT THE REST TO THE TORCH.

IT IS THE GOTH WAY.

AS YOU COMMAND, UNCLE ALARIC!



LATER.

YOUR UNCLE DOESN'T APPROVE OF YOUR BLOOD OATH--EH, ARIC?

ALARIC FEELS IT CLOUDS MY JUDGEMENT, GAFTI.

BUT, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE OWES ME A DEBT OF BLOOD.



AND...I WILL COLLECT ON IT.

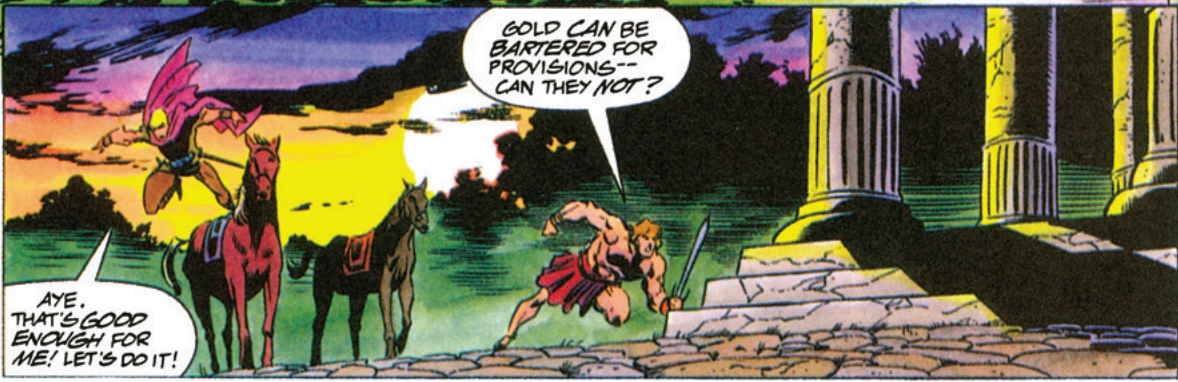
THAT, ALSO-- IS THE GOTH WAY!



GALFI--  
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK?

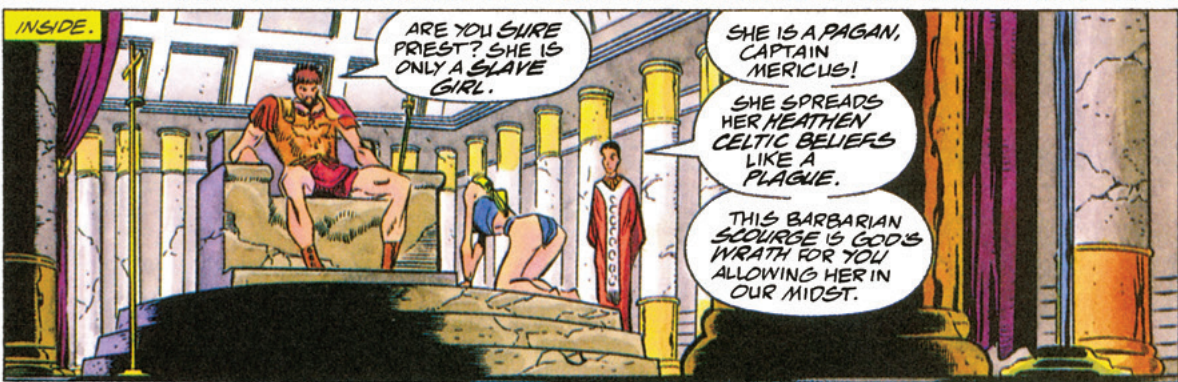
ROMAN TEMPLES  
HAVE TREASURES  
A PLenty, OLD  
FRIEND.

BUT ALARIC  
WANTS PROVISIONS  
AND WEAPONS--  
NOT GOLD.



GOLD CAN BE  
BARTERED FOR  
PROVISIONS--  
CAN THEY NOT?

AYE,  
THAT'S GOOD  
ENOUGH FOR  
ME! LET'S DO IT!



INSIDE.

ARE YOU SURE  
PRIEST? SHE IS  
ONLY A SLAVE  
GIRL.

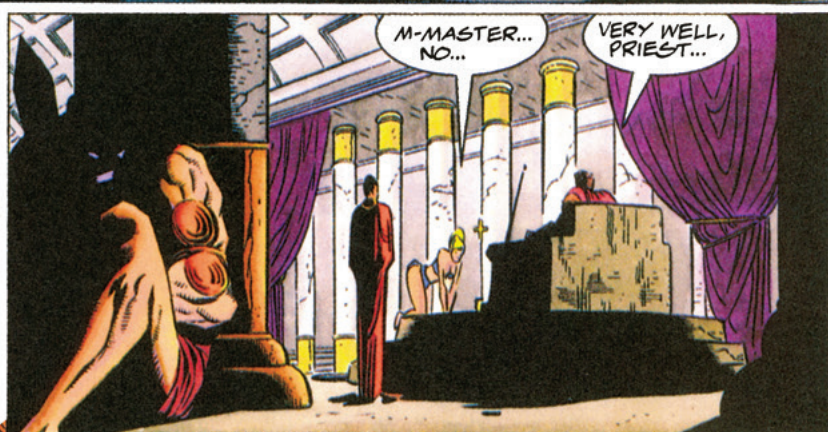
SHE IS A PAGAN,  
CAPTAIN  
MERICUS!

SHE SPREADS  
HER HEATHEN  
CELTIC BELIEFS  
LIKE A  
PLAGUE.

THIS BARBARIAN  
SCOURGE IS GOD'S  
WRATH FOR YOU  
ALLOWING HER IN  
OUR MIDST.



SHE MUST DIE--IF WE  
ARE TO BE CLEANS'D  
OF THIS VISIGOTH  
CURSE.



M-MASTER...  
NO...

VERY WELL,  
PRIEST...



IF IT IS  
THE WILL OF  
GOD--IT WILL  
BE DONE!

LUGH--  
SAVE ME!