


NEW FORMAT
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1
1989
US \$2.00
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THE LEGEND OF

AQUAMAN



GIFFEN • FLEMING • SWAN • SHANOWER

PUBLISHERIAL

JENETTE • KAHN

Of all the books we publish, none has such a loyal fan following as **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**. The Legion debuted in 1958 and immediately readers were taken with the heroic and muscular young men, the independent and nubile young women. Of course there was action, but interaction, the relationship of the characters to each other, was essential to each story. In the beginning, Legion headquarters was even called "The Clubhouse" and, as L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 assistant editor Art Young points out, interest in the Legion is to this day like a club.

Karen Berger, who has been **THE LEGION** editor for seven years, suggests another reason for Legion fanaticism: "The characters have grown up with the readers," she explains. "Originally the Legionnaires were about 15 to 18. Now some of them are as old as their late twenties." In addition, she notes that for the many readers who embrace the ongoing camaraderie of the Legionnaires, "it's a built-in social life."

Does that mean that L.E.G.I.O.N. '89, a **LEGION** spin-off book plotted by Keith Gillen, with dialogue by Alan Grant, drawn by Barry Kitson, and inked by Mark McKenna, is a sure-fire success? Only time will tell, but the comic has all the ingredients needed to be a best-seller. The book comes out of **INVASION** and features characters who are precursors of the Legionnaires in the 30th Century. Keith hastens to point out, however, that L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 has very much its own story and characters.

How did the comic book come about? Karen, L.E.G.I.O.N. '89's editor, says the idea was Keith's. "Keith is always looking for ways to come up with characters, particularly those in the DC Universe. **THE LEGION** is one of his real loves in comics, and this was his way of working out his **LEGION** passion."

Initially, L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 will be different from **THE LEGION** in at least one key area. The Legionnaires were always noted for their sense of bonhomie. But, as Art points out, "The characters in the new book are really thrown together under adverse circumstances. They meet in a space prison during **INVASION!** and escape together. Otherwise, they don't have much in common and no reason to want to stay together as a team."

L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 is headed by Vril Dox and this immediately separates L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 from most team books. Vril Dox is, as Art says, "a manipulative egomaniac." Vril Dox was raised by computers and as such never learned compassion or humanity. He is a firm believer that the ends justify the means and there are almost no lengths to which he'll not go to achieve his ends.

This character flaw in Vril Dox leads to some interesting storylines. The other characters at first stay with Vril Dox because his goal of ending the tyranny on Colu is a just one. When

they realize that, notwithstanding his goal, Vril Dox is devious and conniving and often out of control, they stay together to keep him in check. Ultimately in L.E.G.I.O.N. '89, Dox's inhumanity will be challenged.

Perhaps most important to **LEGION** fans is the fact that Vril Dox is an ancestor of Brainiac 5. He has no powers but, as Keith notes, "his massive intellect and keen strategic sense more than compensates."

Garryn Bek is a member of the team led by Vril Dox. He was a narcotics officer on his planet, a corrupt and drug-infested world similar in its position in the interplanetary realm to Colombia's here on Earth. "He's a thorn in Vril Dox's side," says Art, "and gives him the hardest time. He's the voice of reason" — "The foil," chimes in Karen.

The greatest similarity that L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 has to the Legion is in the character of Lyrrisa, the ancestor of Shadow Lass. Coming from a line of hereditary champions on Talok VIII, Lyrrisa is noble and heroic, ethical and truly altruistic. According to Keith, she disapproves of Dox's methods but approves wholeheartedly of his goal to form an organization to replace the now defunct Green Lantern Corps.

Also in L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 is Strala, an ancestor of Blok. He originally seemed to be made of granite but a light in issue 4 reveals that he is actually crystalline. He is "by nature easy-going," notes Keith, "the most soft-spoken of the group. He is very idealistic and also naive."

The most reckless of Vril Dox's group is Stealth, a hermaphroditic humanoid life-form whose past is a mystery. Nonetheless, she'll turn out to be the strongest and deadliest of the group in terms of powers. Whereas Lyrrisa has the power to block out light, Stealth has the power to nullify sound. Together, Lyrrisa and Stealth are a formidable pair.

There is also the Durlan, who feels no need for a name because, as Keith opines, "Durlans know who they are." The Durlan owes a debt of honor to Vril Dox and lives by it. And there are other characters who will join as well, like Lobo and other resident DC aliens.

The core group will always be visible, but the team will evolve and grow into a large galactic police force. There will eventually be a *Hill Street Blues* sense to the book—complete with a daily roll call. The tone of the book will be more serious than **JUSTICE LEAGUE** and have a harder edge than **LEGION**. And what do we have to look forward to? An action-oriented team book with finely honed characterizations that will fill the void left by the defunct Green Lantern Corps. And after a year or two? From Keith—who has more ideas per minute than any other single living human being—a crossover: **JLI**, **JLE**, **THE LEGION** and L.E.G.I.O.N. '89. Keep tuned.

—Jenette

BE SURE TO PICK UP
L.E.G.I.O.N. '89
ON SALE NOW!

DC LIST

THIS WEEK

THE LEGEND OF AQUAMAN 1

Keith Giffan, Robert Loren Fleming, Curt Swan, and Eric Shanower offer up the detailed history of one of our longest running heroes! ◆◆

BLASTERS SPECIAL 1

They gained powers they didn't ask for during **INVASION!**—now they must come to grips with them while battling The Spider Guild. ●

DDC SAVAGE 8

It's Savage vs. Savage, as the story of the Mind Molder continues . . . and the ranks of Doc's assistants is dramatically changed. ●◆

JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL 26

A programmed Blue Beetle is out to kill Maxwell Lord—but what does this have to do with The Huntress? ●

CHECKMATE! 15

The Janus Directive begins here as Amanda Waller blows Checkmate's secret just as a Knight puts his life on the line in New York. ◆◆

FIRESTORM 85

Major changes for the Nuclear Man as Firestorm gets a new costume—and a new identity in "Soul of Fire." ●

FLASH 26

Jerry, Tina, and Mason have tracked Flash to Swainsville . . . but there's nothing there except a crater. ●

THE HUNTRESS 2

With the death of Helena's father, the tense balance of mob power is disrupted. And now, The Huntress must track her family's killer. ●

MANNHUNTER 13

Manhunter's back to his usual job—but if he's such a good bounty hunter, why does one woman seem to be eluding him? ●

WONDER WOMAN 30

It's a final showdown between Diana and the Cheetah, as the quest for the magic lasso concludes. ●

YOUNG ALL-STARS 25

Can the first Atomic Bomb be detonated . . . In 1942? The final showdown between Axis America and Baron Blitzkrieg! ◆◆

NAYWIRE 9

An all-out battle ensues when The Combine's man breaks into a Federal Reserve Bank to attract Haywire. ◆◆▲

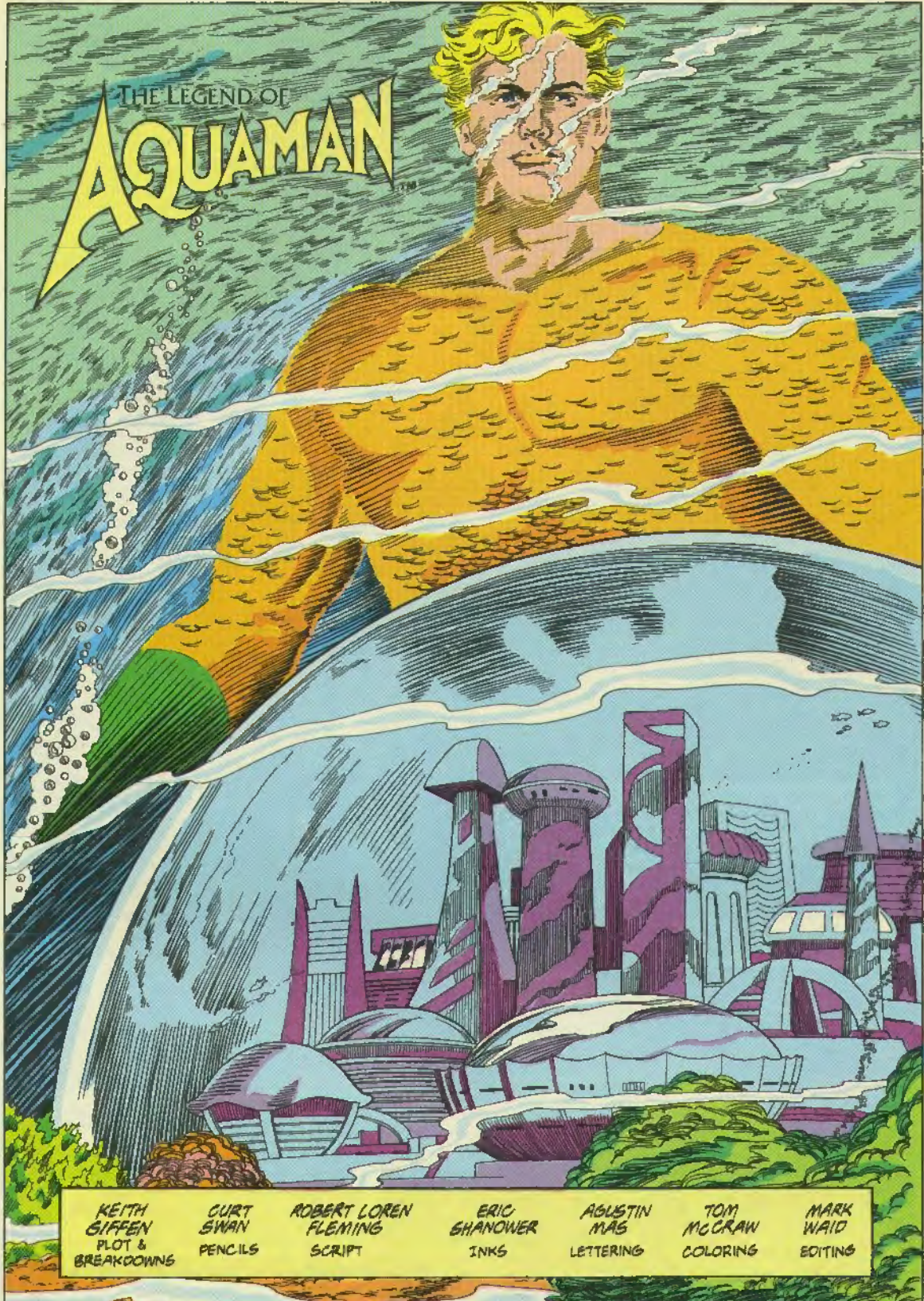
L E G E N D

- Standard Format
- ◆ New Format
- ◆ Deluxe Format
- ▶ Available at Select Outlets
- ★ Prestige Format
- Graphic Novel
- Collected Edition
- ▲ Suggested for Mature Readers

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER, DC COMICS

THE LEGEND OF

AQUAMAN™



KEITH
GIFFEN
PLOT &
BREAKDOWNS

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PENCILS

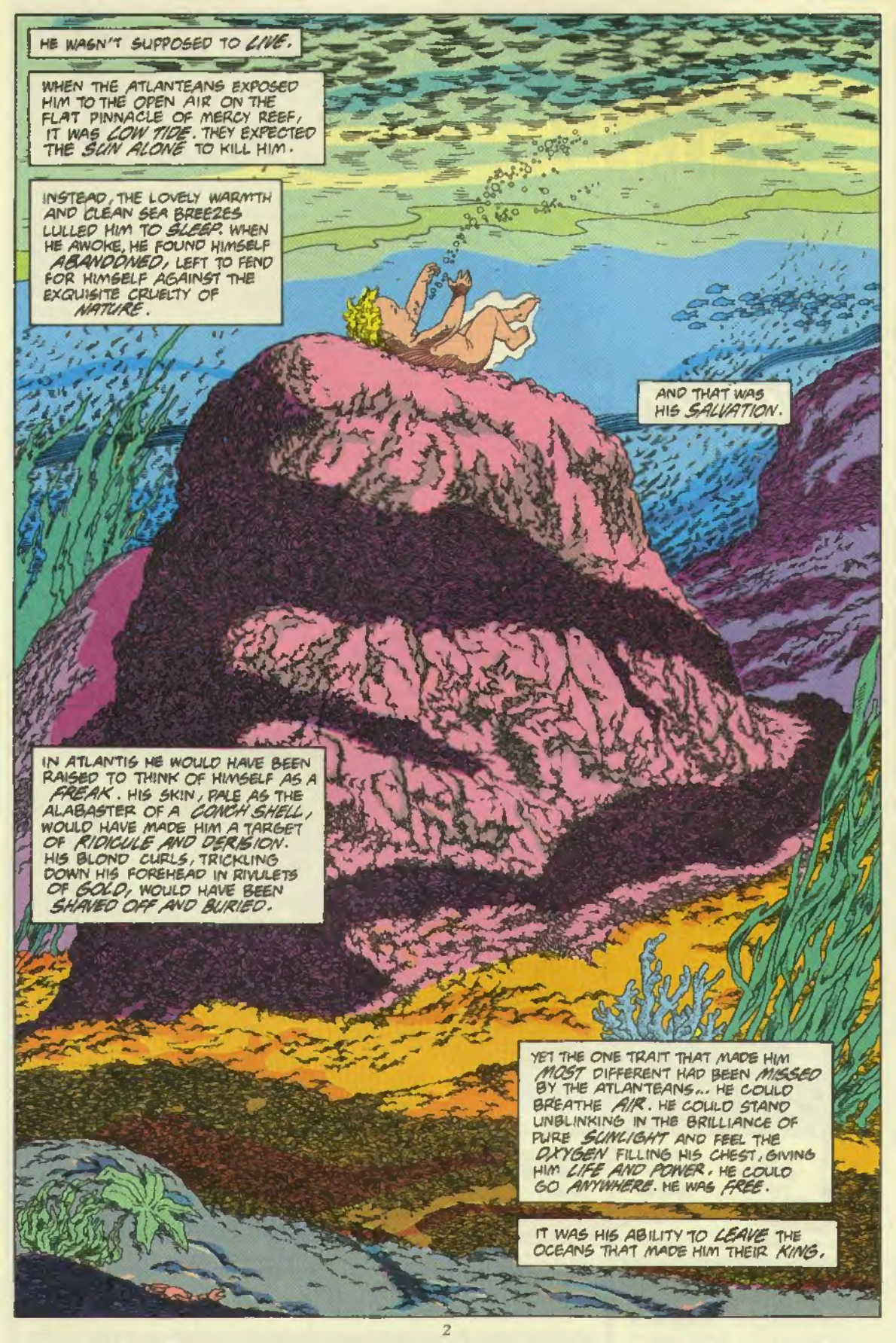
ROBERT LOREN
FLEMING
SCRIPT

ERIC
SHANOWER
INKS

AGUSTIN
MAS
LETTERING

TOM
MCCRAW
COLORING

MARK
WAID
EDITING



HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO LIVE.

WHEN THE ATLANTEANS EXPOSED HIM TO THE OPEN AIR ON THE FLAT PINNACLE OF MERCY REEF, IT WAS LOW TIDE. THEY EXPECTED THE SUN ALONE TO KILL HIM.

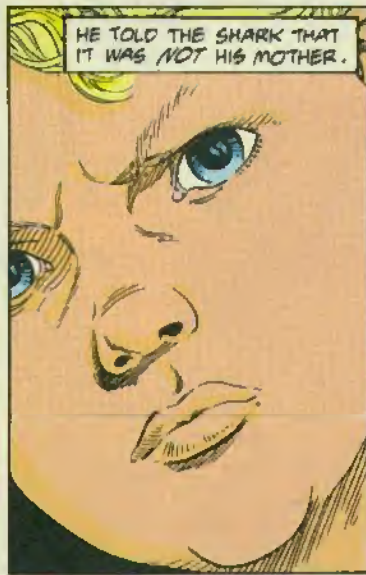
INSTEAD, THE LOVELY WARMTH AND CLEAN SEA BREEZES LULLED HIM TO SLEEP. WHEN HE AWOKE, HE FOUND HIMSELF ABANDONED, LEFT TO FEND FOR HIMSELF AGAINST THE EXQUISITE CRUELTY OF NATURE.

AND THAT WAS HIS SALVATION.

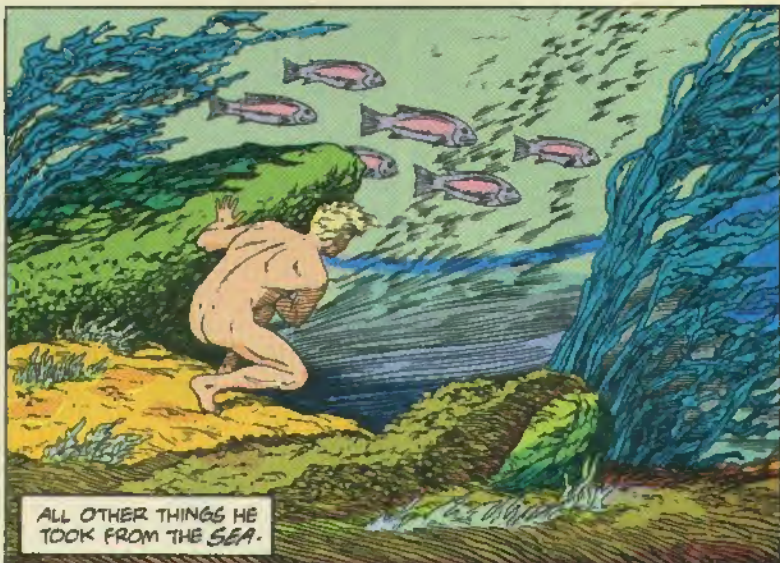
IN ATLANTIS HE WOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED TO THINK OF HIMSELF AS A FREAK. HIS SKIN, PALE AS THE ALABASTER OF A CONCH SHELL, WOULD HAVE MADE HIM A TARGET OF RIDICULE AND DERISION. HIS BLOND CURLS, TRICKLING DOWN HIS FOREHEAD IN RIVULETS OF GOLD, WOULD HAVE BEEN SHAVED OFF AND BURIED.

YET THE ONE TRAIT THAT MADE HIM MOST DIFFERENT HAD BEEN MISSED BY THE ATLANTEANS... HE COULD BREATHE AIR. HE COULD STAND UNBLINKING IN THE BRILLIANCE OF PURE SUNLIGHT AND FEEL THE OXYGEN FILLING HIS CHEST, GIVING HIM LIFE AND POWER. HE COULD GO ANYWHERE. HE WAS FREE.

IT WAS HIS ABILITY TO LEAVE THE OCEANS THAT MADE HIM THEIR KINGS.



THE CRIB MEMORY OF HER
FACE WAS ALL HE KEPT FROM
HIS TIME IN ATLANTIS.



ALL OTHER THINGS HE
TOOK FROM THE SEA.



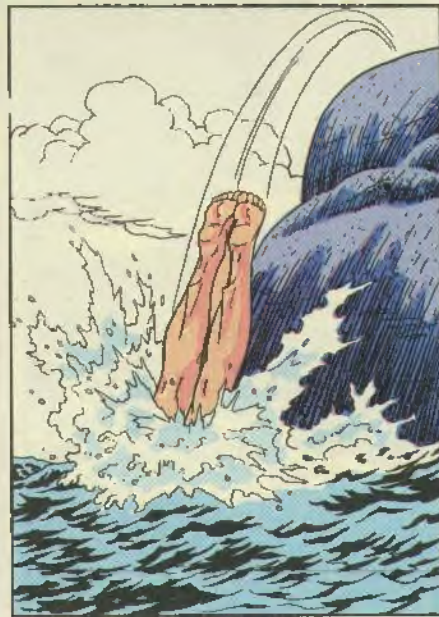
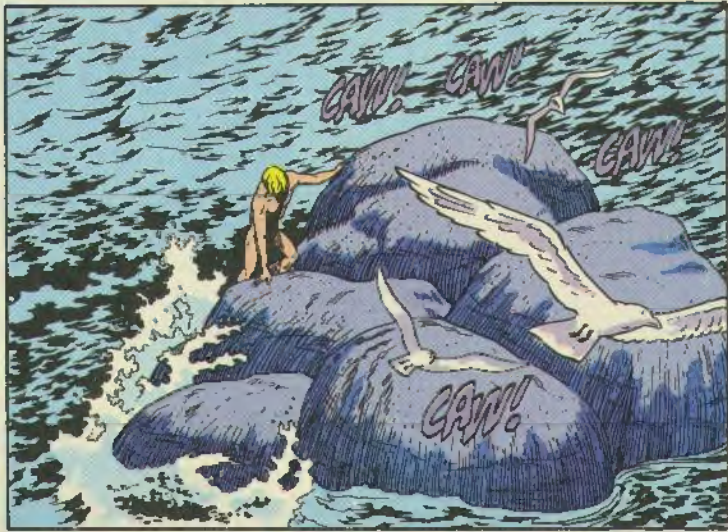
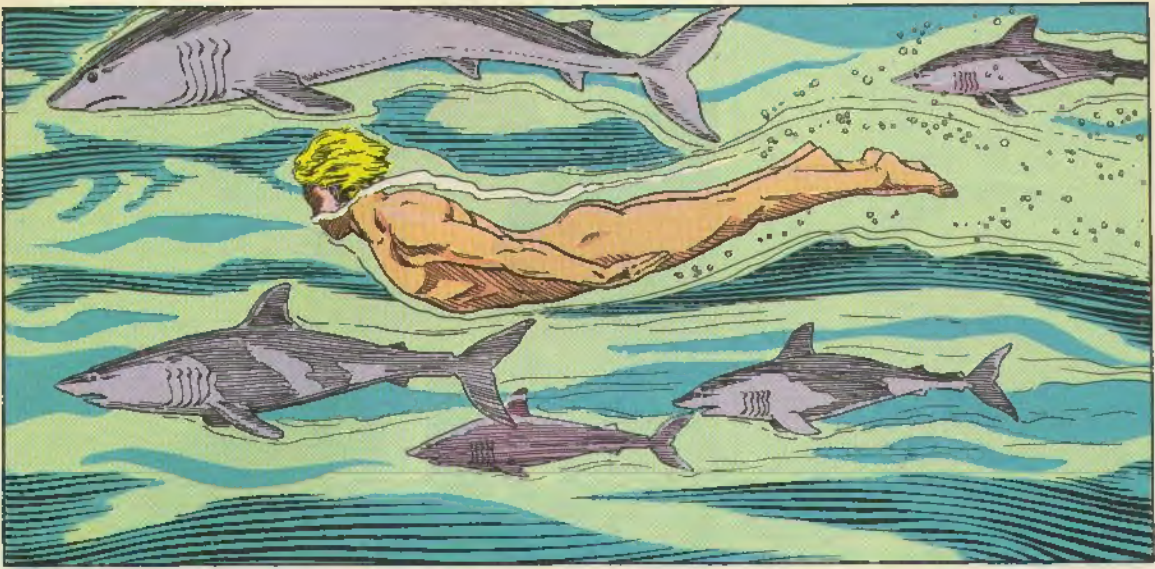
KILLING ONLY WHAT HE
COULD CATCH, HE OFTEN
WENT HUNGRY.

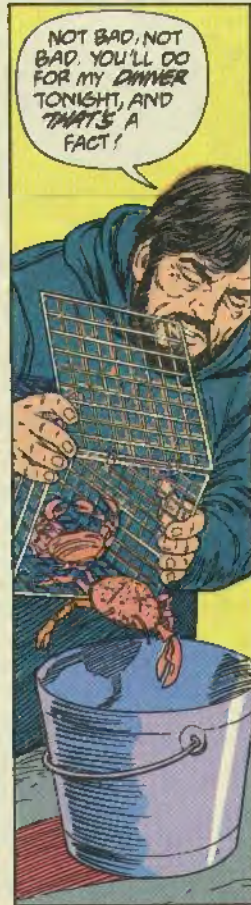


THE FISH OBEYED ALL
OF HIS COMMANDS, BUT
HE COULDN'T BRING
HIMSELF TO DEMAND OF
THEM SELF-SACRIFICE.

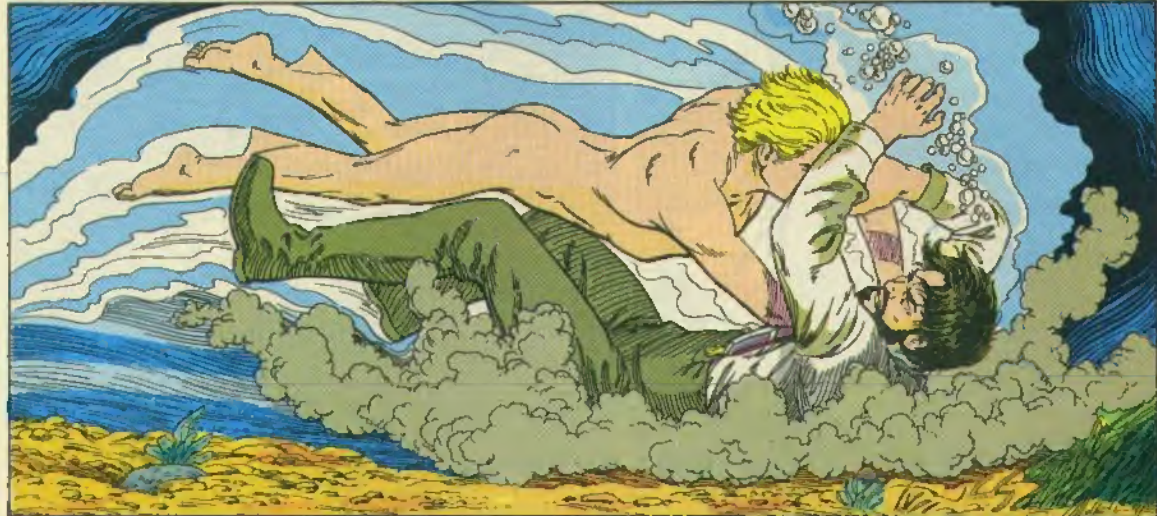


HE WAS THE TRUE
SON OF THE LAW
OF SURVIVAL AND
WOULD NOT BETRAY
IT.









THE
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BULLET BOY

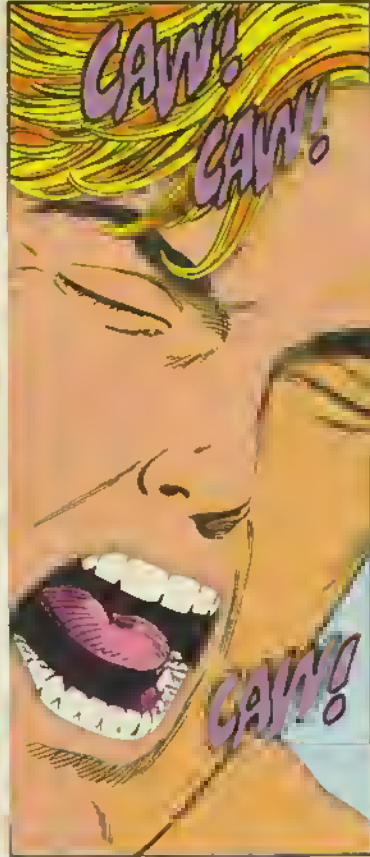
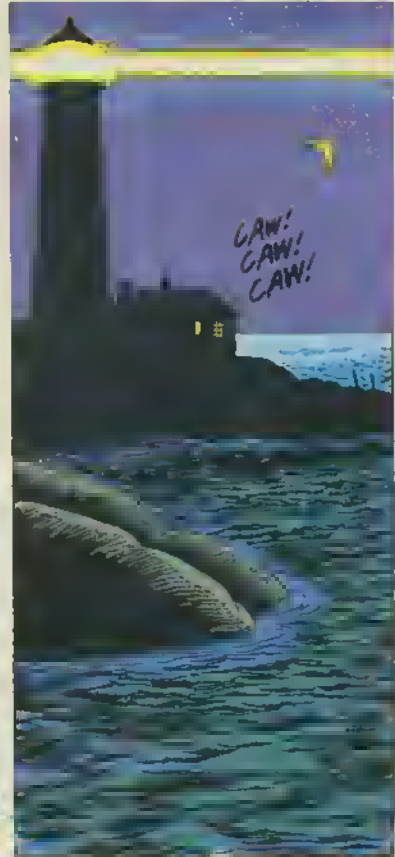
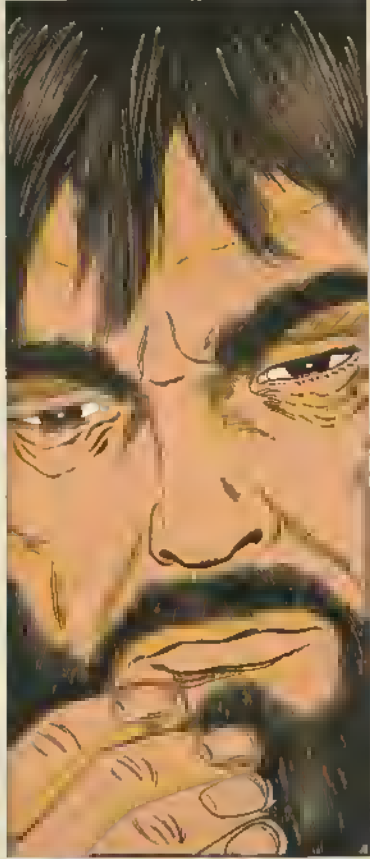
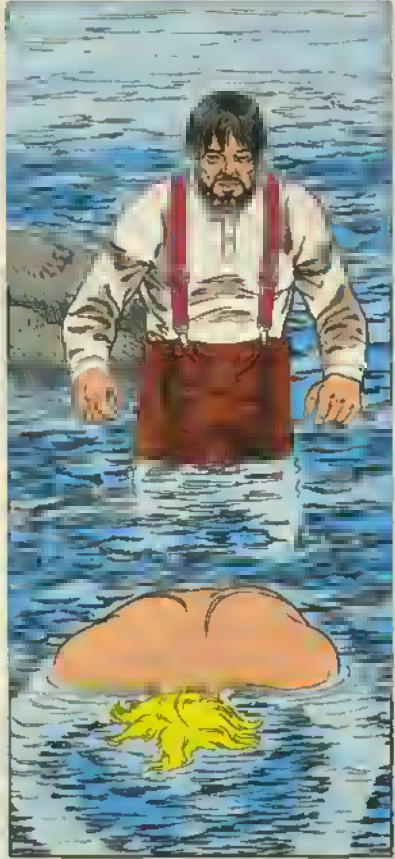
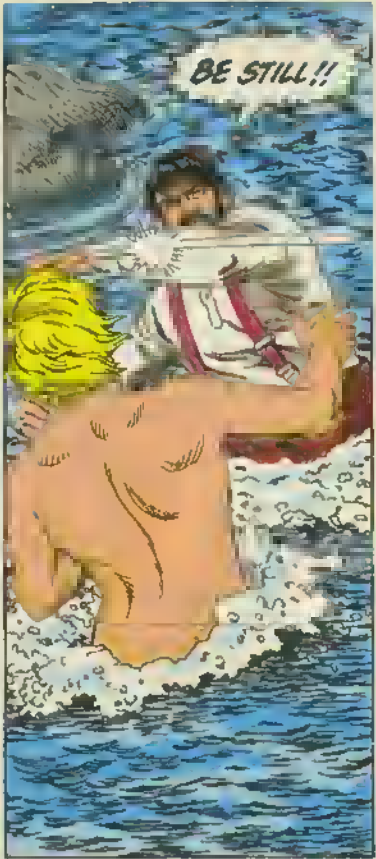


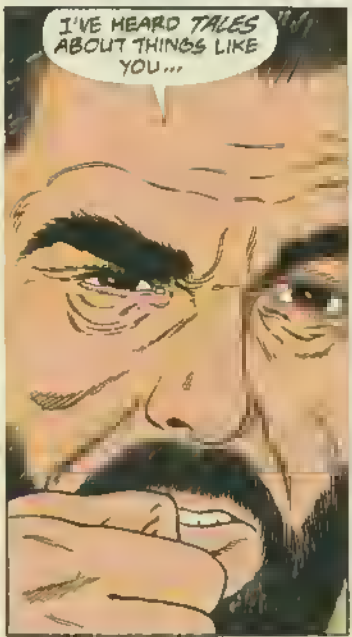
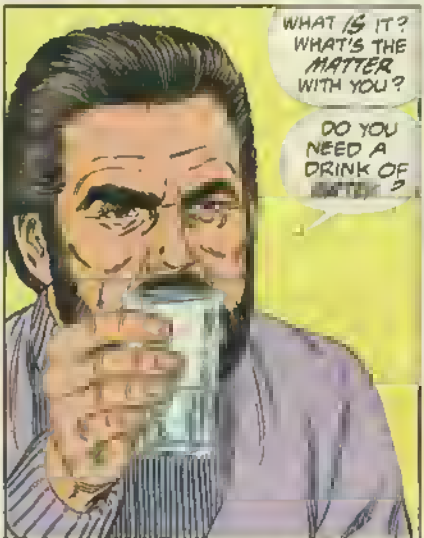
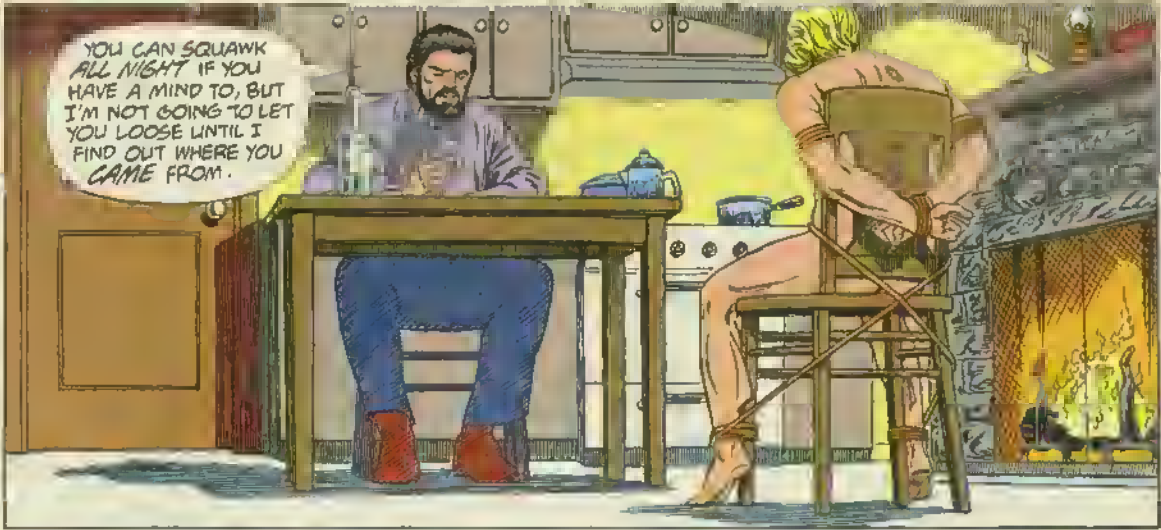
BULLET BOYS

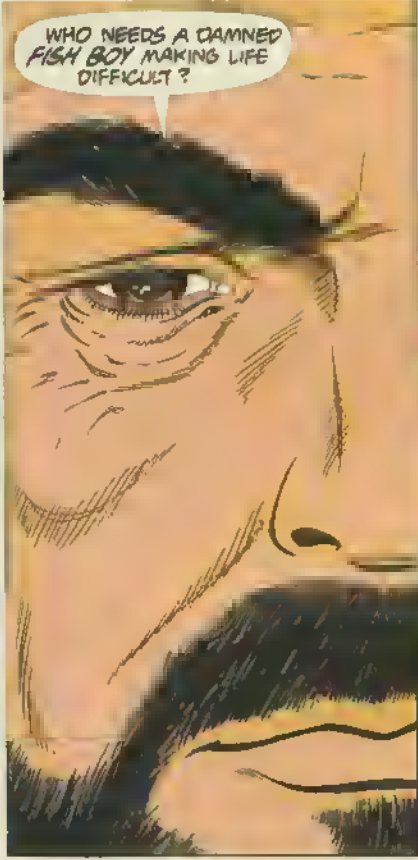
PRODUCED BY TED TEMPLEMAN ♀ FEATURING ♀ "SMOOTH UP"

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NEWS
FROM

Questar

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

THE SAGA CONTINUES IN PAPERBACK! CYTEEN: THE REBIRTH From Hugo Award-winning Author C.J. Cherryh

published as a single hardcover, CYTEEN is now being released as a Questar paperback trilogy.

In Part I: *The Betrayal*, a vicious conspiracy turned the home of assassinated leader Ariane Emory into a city-sized psychology lab that performs experiments on human subjects.

Now, in Part II: *The Rebirth*, Ariane's frozen body falls victim to this vast tyrannical experiment. Her enemies are attempting to raise an Ariane as powerful as the first, yet subservient to their wishes. But Ariane's clone—as headstrong as the original—has other plans.

Cover art by Don Maitz 0-445-20454-0/\$3.95
(In Canada: 0-445-20455-9/\$4.95)

*Released in February 1989:
CYTEEN: *The Betrayal* 0-445-20452-4/\$3.95
(In Canada: 0-445-20453-2/\$4.95)
*Coming in April 1989:
CYTEEN: *The Vindication*
At Bookstores Everywhere

Also this month: MEN LIKE RATS

A fascinating, fast-action science fiction novel from Robert Chilson, author of *As the Curtain Falls* and *The Shores of Kansas*.

Men and women live like rats in the corridors and pantries of gigantic conquering aliens. They scavenge incomprehensible goods, avoid traps set for them, and fight off the mutated human beings sent to exterminate them.

But when they uncover a horrifying alien plan, a ragtag group of survivors must wage a desperate battle to save humanity's future.



Cover art by Barclay Shaw
0-445-20764-7/\$4.95

(In Canada:
0-445-20764-7/\$4.95)
At Bookstores Everywhere



From C. J. Cherryh, author of *Downbelow Station* and *Chanur's Homecoming*, comes *The Rebirth*—part two of her critically acclaimed epic CYTEEN. Originally

A WORD FROM Brian Thomsen



When it comes to world-building, one must keep in mind the perspective of both the character and the reader.

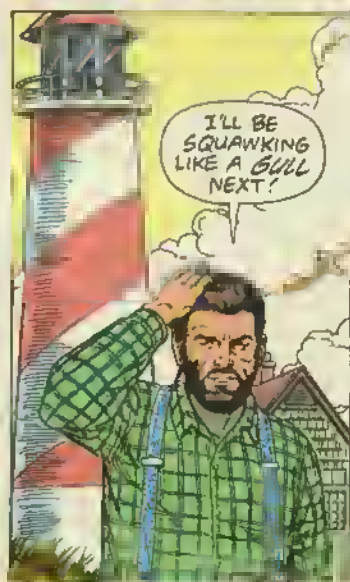
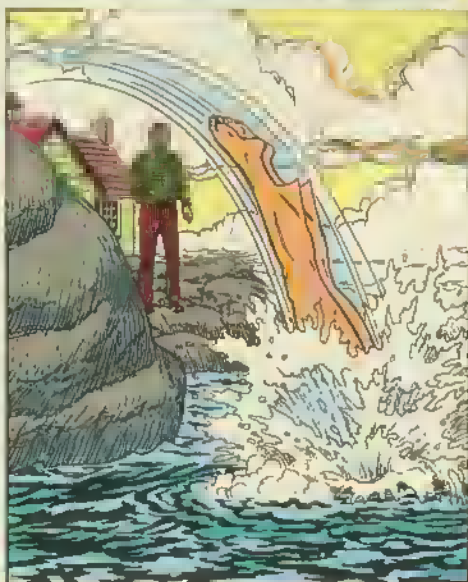
If the reader has been treated to the background of a story with its origin or backstory, all is well and good. But when the story starts in a new world, as in *The Monsters* by Robert Sheckley or *Nightfall* by Isaac Asimov?

Such is the case with *MEN LIKE RATS*. Man has lost his dominion over

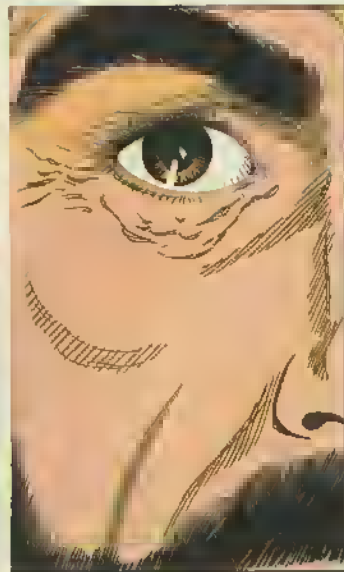
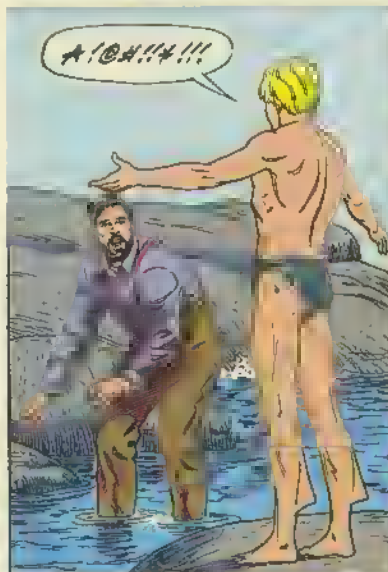
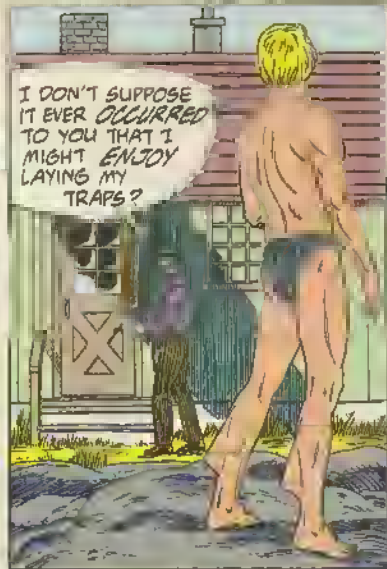
the world, and how he lost it to some superior beings is unknown. What is important is that man is reduced to a scavenger race in a world ruled by aliens. It is existence from a different perspective, and all part of world-building.

When you see me around, ask me about the author of *Revolt on Alpha C* (it was written 35 years ago).

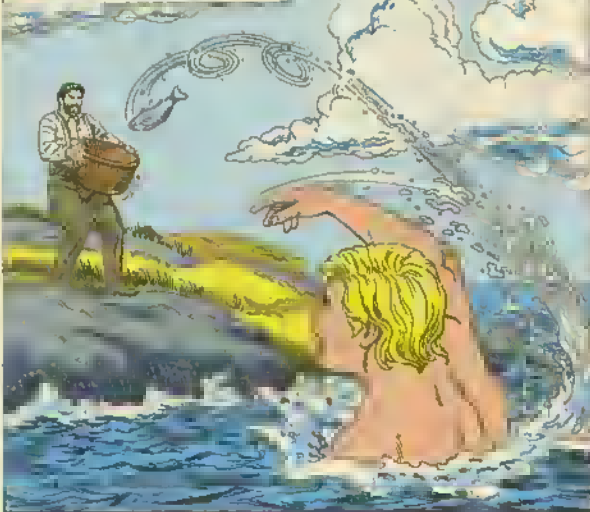
HOWEVER, THE VERY
NEXT MORNING...



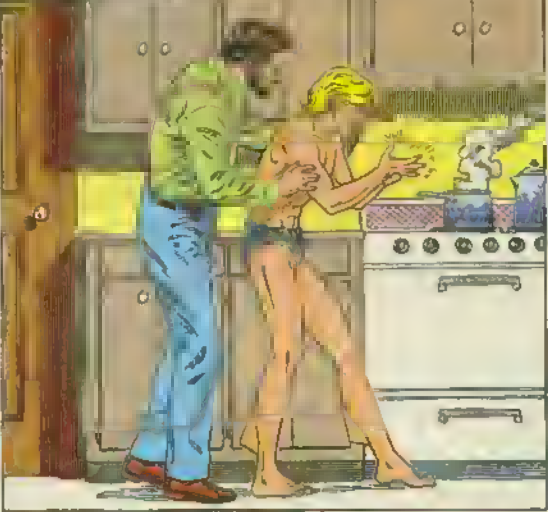
AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...



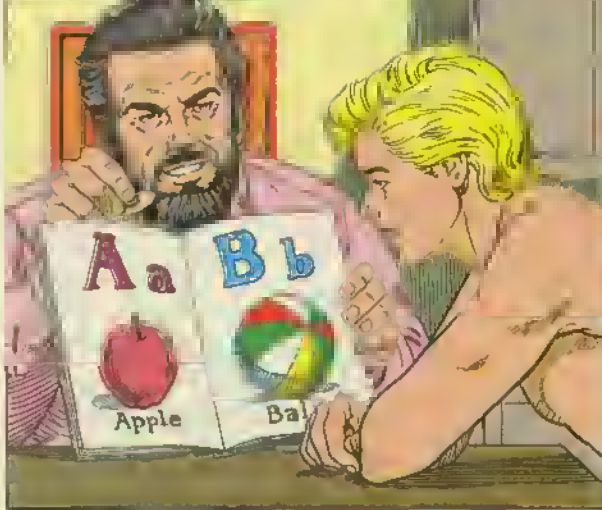
FROM THAT MOMENT THEY WERE *INSEPARABLE*.



THEY BECAME LIKE FATHER AND SON...



TEACHER AND PUPIL...



THEY BECAME FRIENDS.

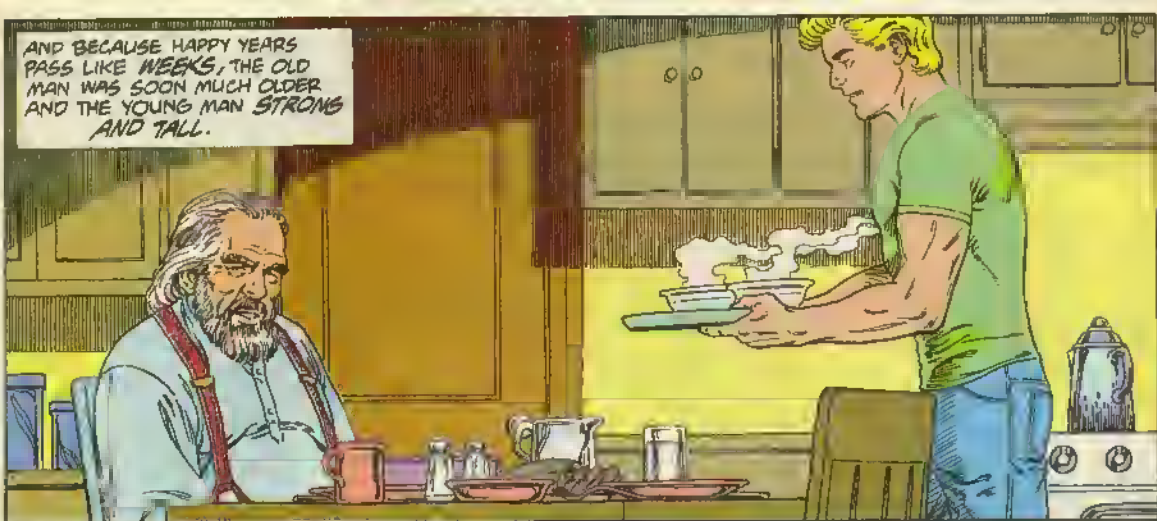


THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER FOUND IN HIS YOUNG COMPANION THE ONE THING THAT HAD *ELUDED* HIM IN EVERYTHING HE DID.

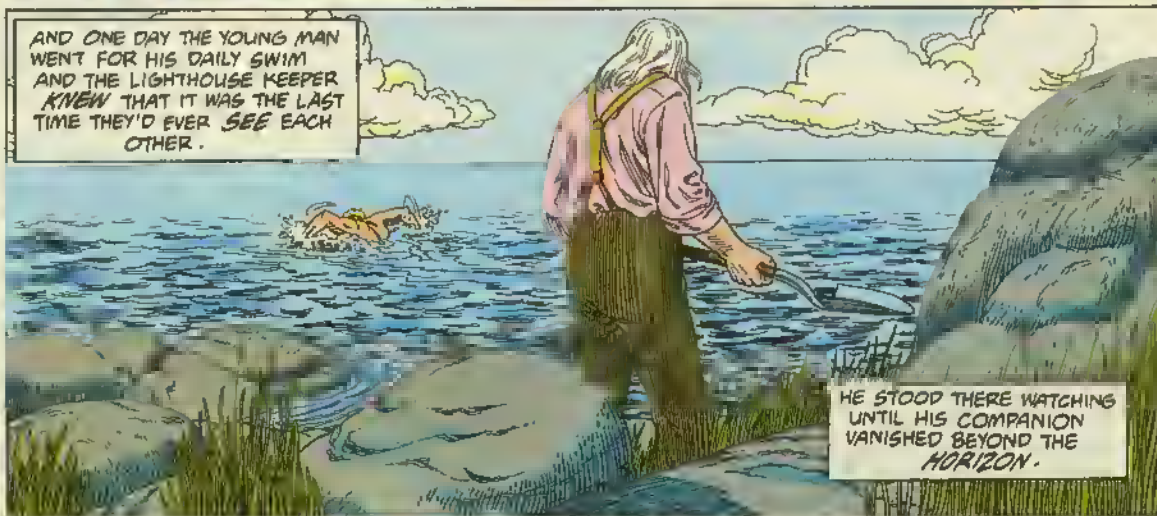


HE FOUND *HAPPINESS*

AND BECAUSE HAPPY YEARS
PASS LIKE WEEKS, THE OLD
MAN WAS SOON MUCH OLDER
AND THE YOUNG MAN STRONG
AND TALL.



AND ONE DAY THE YOUNG MAN
WENT FOR HIS DAILY SWIM
AND THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER
KNEW THAT IT WAS THE LAST
TIME THEY'D EVER SEE EACH
OTHER.



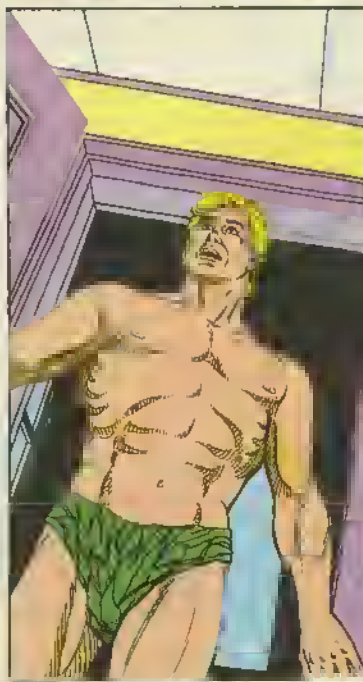
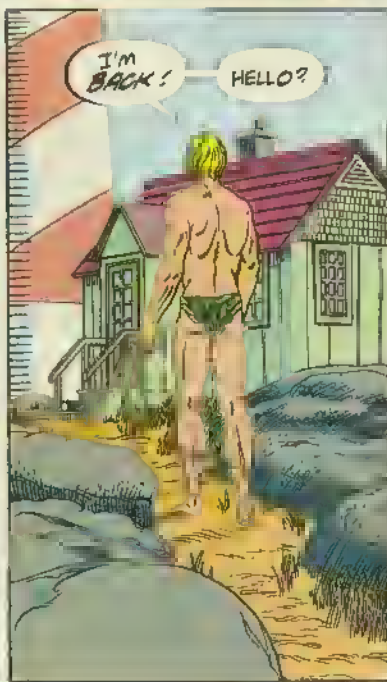
HE STOOD THERE WATCHING
UNTIL HIS COMPANION
VANISHED BEYOND THE
HORIZON.

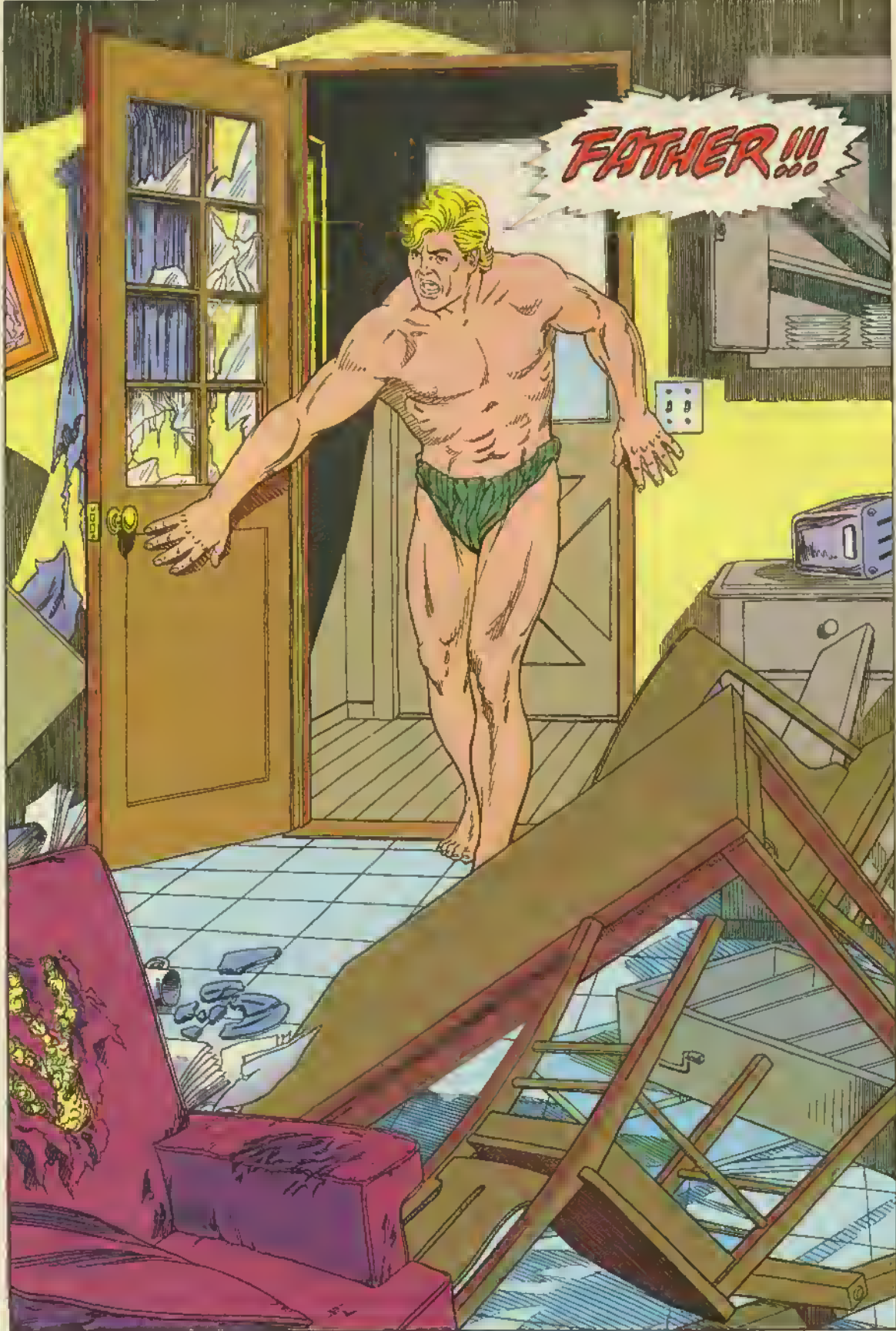
THEN HE WENT
INSIDE AND WAITED FOR WHAT
HE KNEW WOULD
HAPPEN.



I'M
BACK!

HELLO?





Bear son,

I believe that this will be my last entry in the journal, which is why I am hiding it in our secret place. For two weeks now I have been seeing creatures in the waters surrounding the island, and ~~you know~~ they showed themselves openly.

They are the stuff of legends, true fish but with the limbs of man, and their purpose here is clear. They are watching you son. You are related to them in some way that I cannot understand. Once they have gauged your strength and abilities they will try to capture or kill you; ~~of this I am~~ certain.

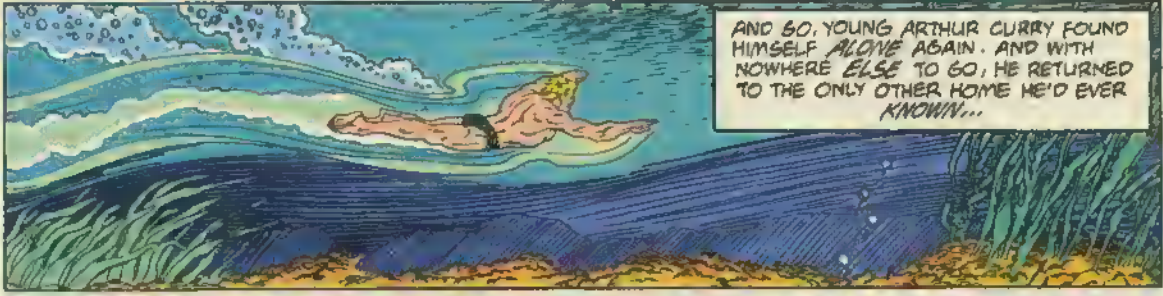
Now I am out of the way. I apologize for cheating you of the opportunity to defeat me against them. I felt that my presence would impair your ability to fight successfully. In fact, I would rather that you not fight at all. Escape while you can. Forget about me and ~~as if I am~~ as ~~if I am~~ as ~~if I am~~ as you.

Well, who am I kidding? You are of the sea and could never run from it. You will always triumph over any foe and do your old father proud. But just in case you should ever wish to leave the world of my people, I give you as a parting gift the one thing you lack—a name. You can have mine.

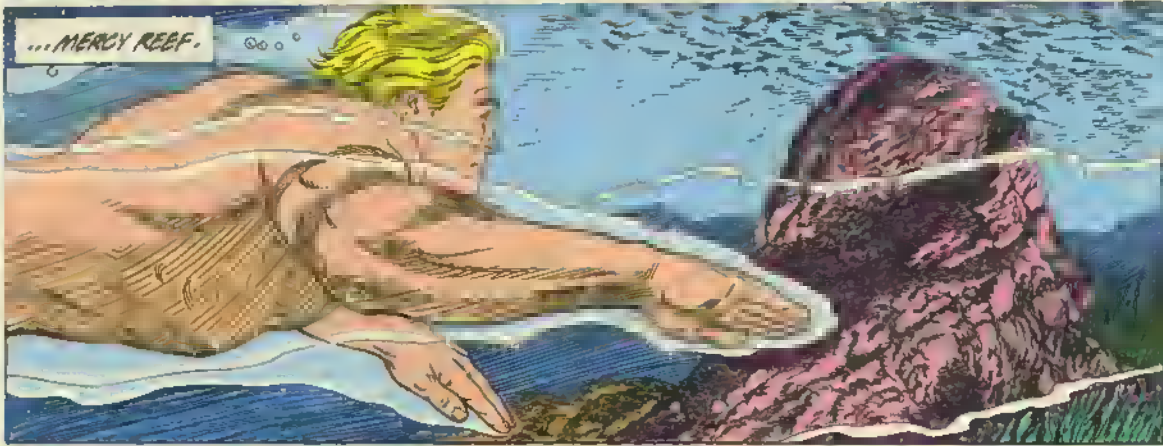
With love,

Arthur
Curry

JOURNAL



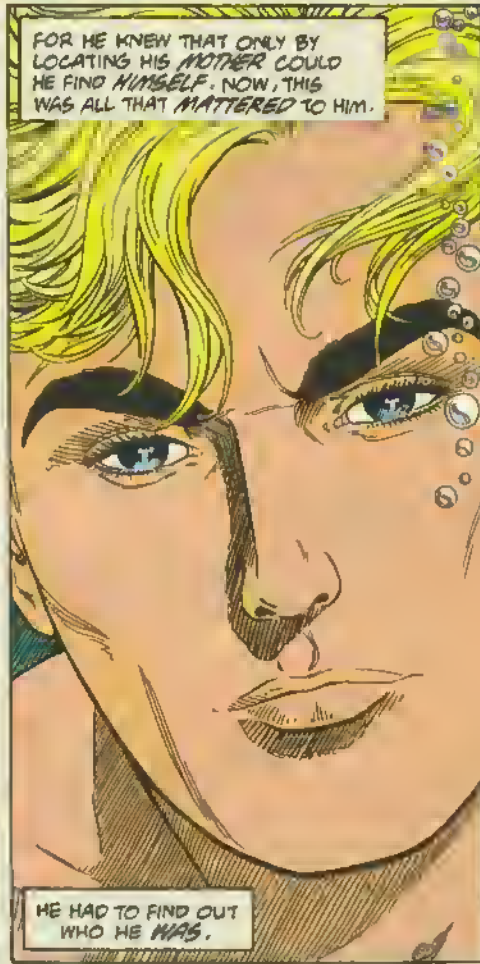
AND SO, YOUNG ARTHUR CURRY FOUND HIMSELF ALONE AGAIN. AND WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, HE RETURNED TO THE ONLY OTHER HOME HE'D EVER KNOWN...



...MERCY REEF.



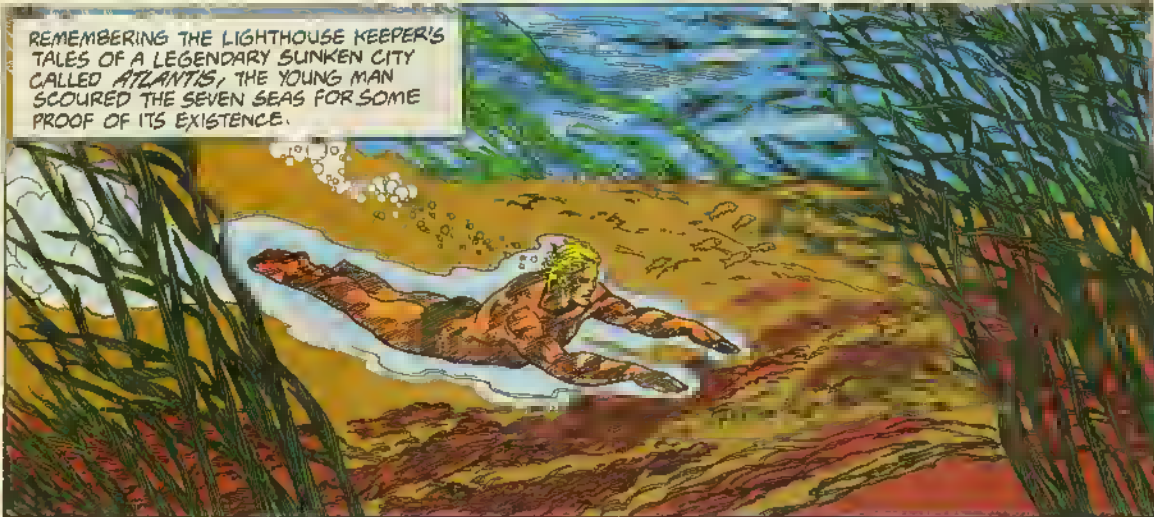
THERE HE SAT FOR MANY DAYS, THINKING OF A FACE WHICH WAS A CRIB MEMORY AND WONDERING HOW TO FIND HER.



FOR HE KNEW THAT ONLY BY LOCATING HIS MOTHER COULD HE FIND HIMSELF. NOW, THIS WAS ALL THAT MATTERED TO HIM.

HE HAD TO FIND OUT WHO HE WAS.

REMEMBERING THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S TALES OF A LEGENDARY SUNKEN CITY CALLED ATLANTIS, THE YOUNG MAN SCoured THE SEVEN SEAS FOR SOME PROOF OF ITS EXISTENCE.



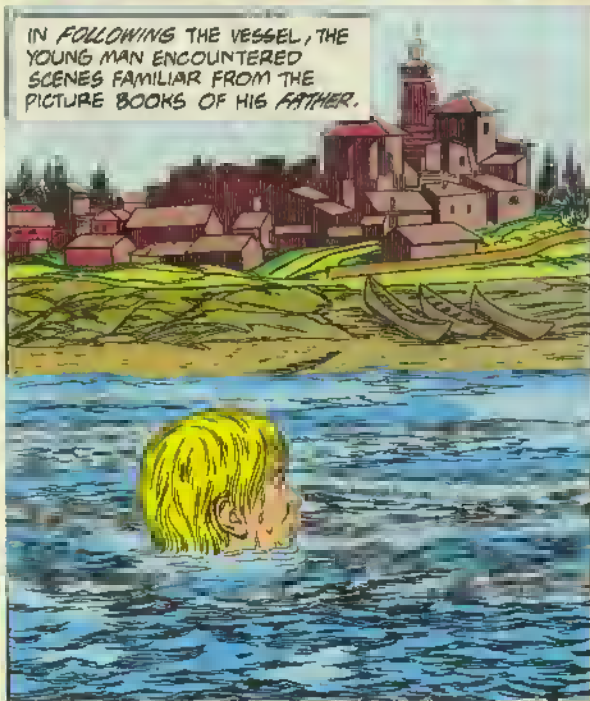
HE COULD NO LONGER BRING HIMSELF TO FEED ON THE FISH, SO HE WAS FORCED TO TAKE SUSTENANCE FROM KELP... WHICH GREW AND LIVED, BUT WITH WHICH HE SHARED NO PSYCHIC CONNECTION.



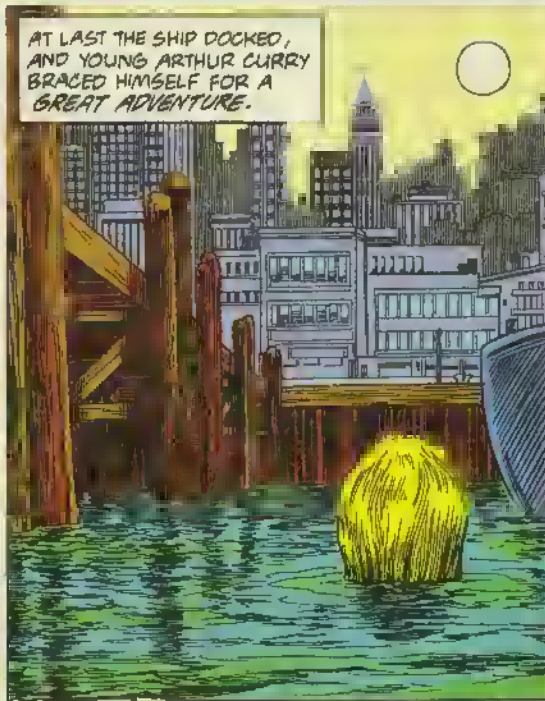
THEN ONE DAY, A MIGHTY SHIP APPEARED.



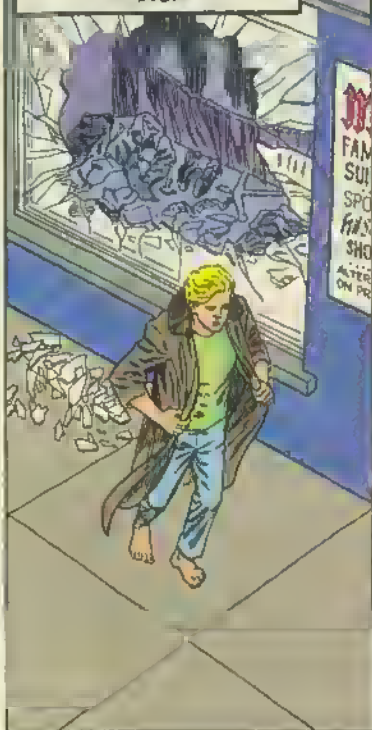
IN FOLLOWING THE VESSEL, THE YOUNG MAN ENCOUNTERED SCENES FAMILIAR FROM THE PICTURE BOOKS OF HIS FATHER.



AT LAST THE SHIP DOCKED, AND YOUNG ARTHUR CURRY BRACED HIMSELF FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE.



QUICKLY LOCATING NATIVE ATTIRE, HE VENTURED FORTH DISGUISED AS AN ORDINARY SURFACE DWELLER.



HE DID SOME SIGHTSEEING.



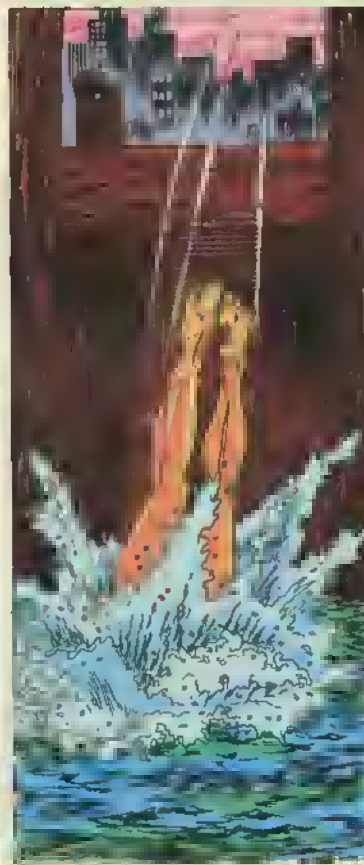
HE SAMPLED THE LOCAL CULINARY FARE.



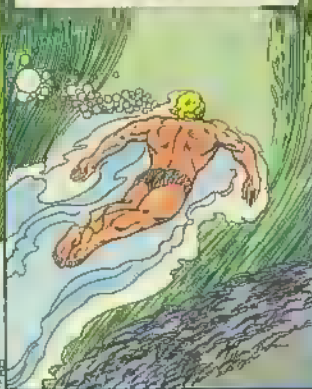
HE EXPERIENCED NEW YORK CITY HOSPITALITY.



AND AFTER DINNER, HE TOOK IN A SHOW.



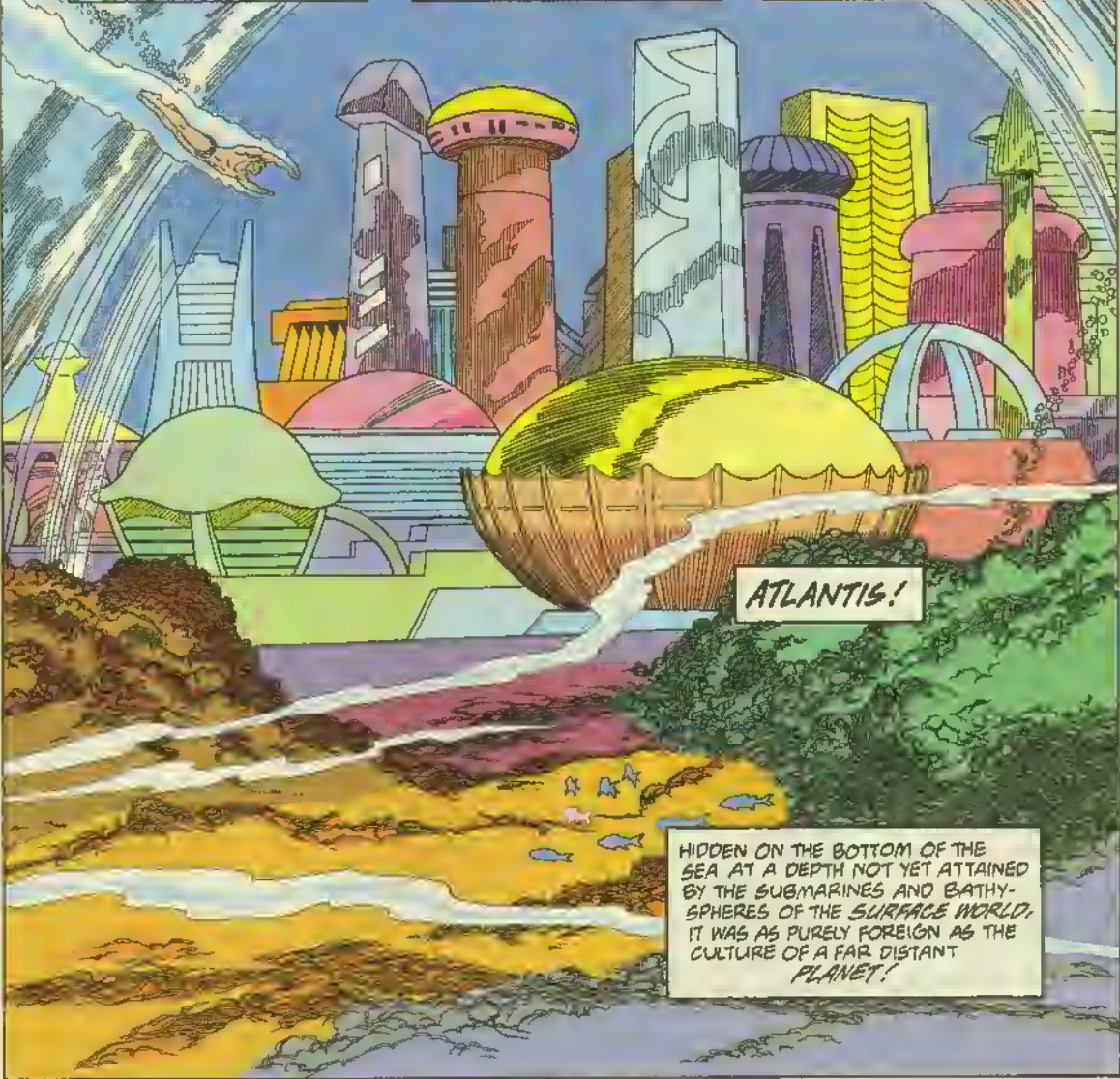
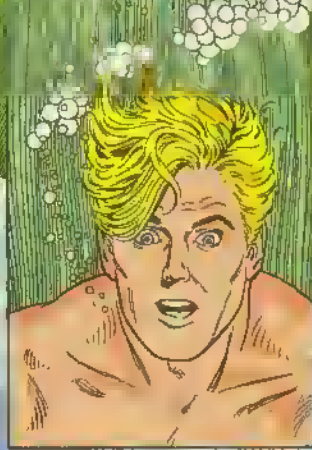
ONCE SAFELY AWAY FROM
CIVILIZED SOCIETY,
ARTHUR CURRY RESUMED
HIS SEARCH FOR HIS
BIRTHPLACE.



AND ONE DAY, QUITE
BY CHANCE...



...HE FOUND IT!



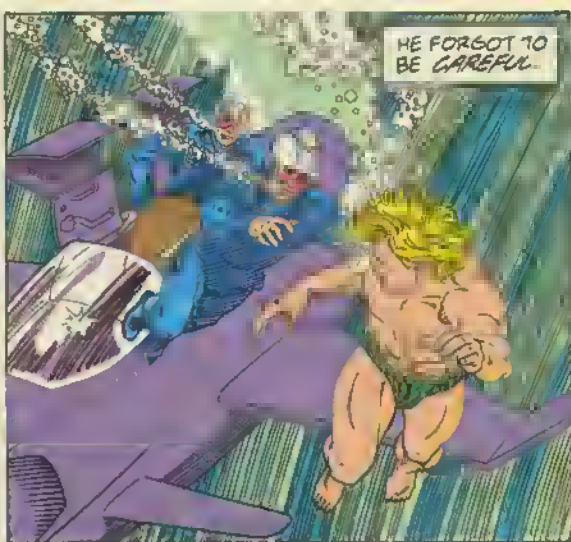
ATLANTIS!

HIDDEN ON THE BOTTOM OF THE
SEA AT A DEPTH NOT YET ATTAINED
BY THE SUBMARINES AND BATHY-
SPHERES OF THE SURFACE WORLD,
IT WAS AS PURELY FOREIGN AS THE
CULTURE OF A FAR DISTANT
PLANET!

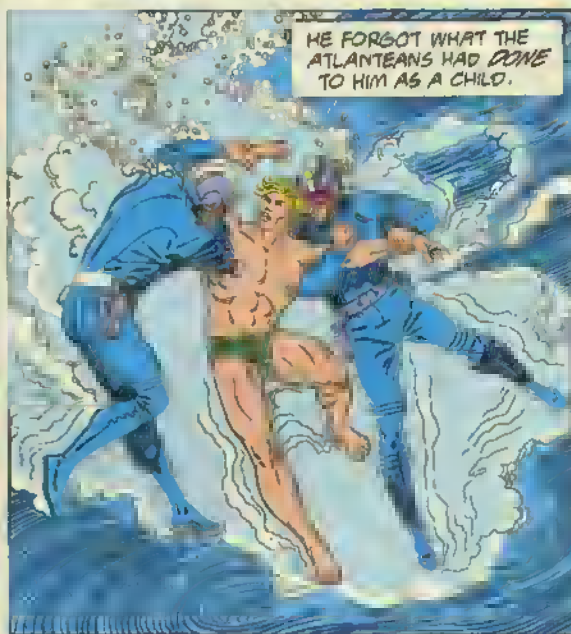
BUT TO YOUNG ARTHUR,
IT REPRESENTED THE
POSSIBILITY OF A HOME
HE'D NEVER KNOWN, AND
IN HIS EAGERNESS TO
KNOW MORE, HE FORGOT
WHAT HE'D ALREADY
LEARNED.



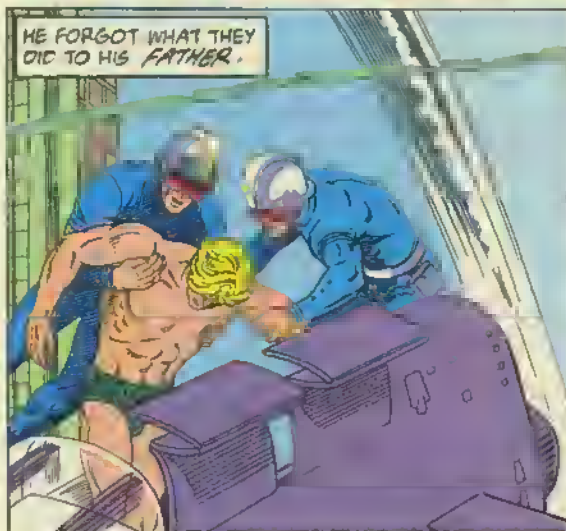
HE FORGOT TO
BE CAREFUL.



HE FORGOT WHAT THE
ATLANTEANS HAD DONE
TO HIM AS A CHILD.



HE FORGOT WHAT THEY
DID TO HIS FATHER.



AND HE FORGOT HIS TRUE
FATHER, THE LAW OF SURVIVAL!

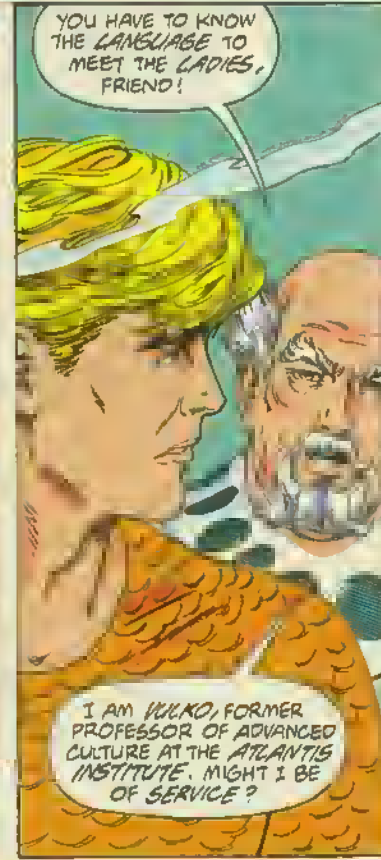
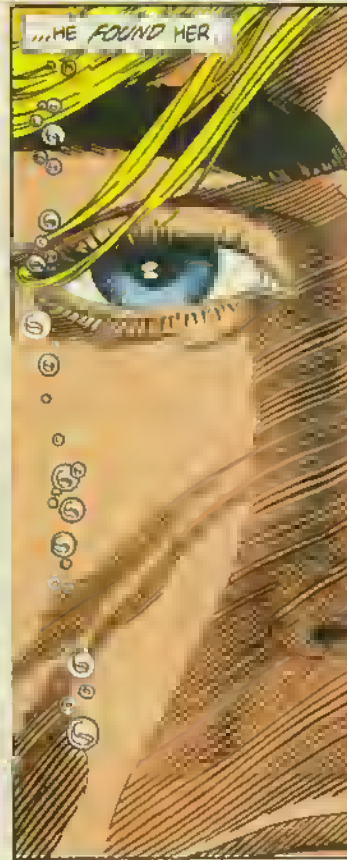
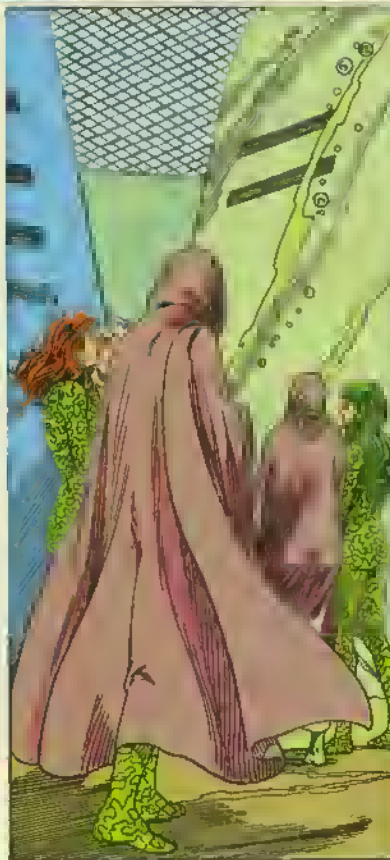
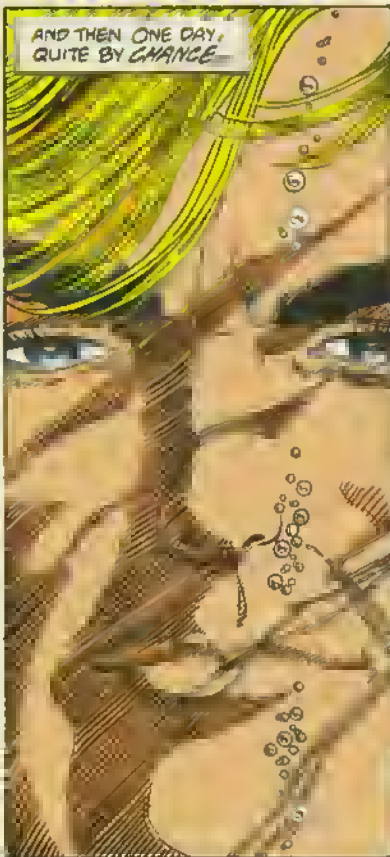


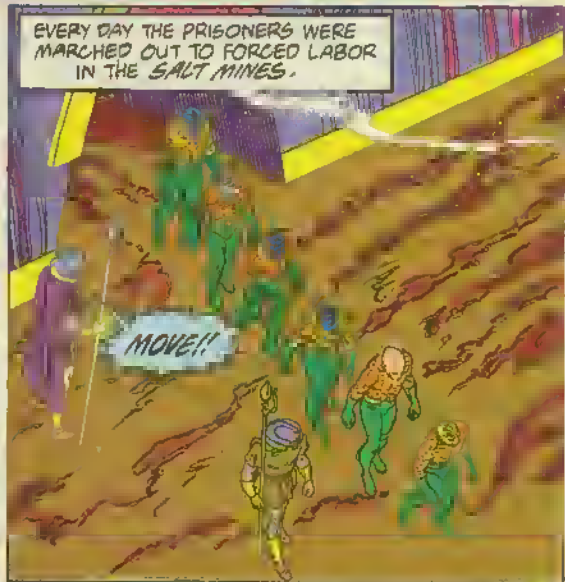
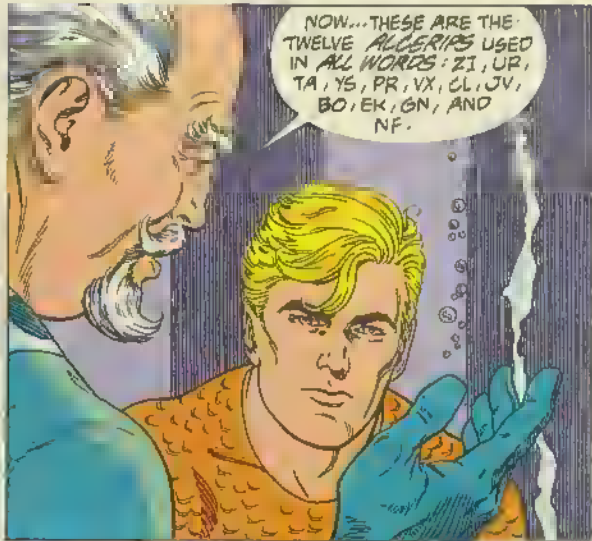
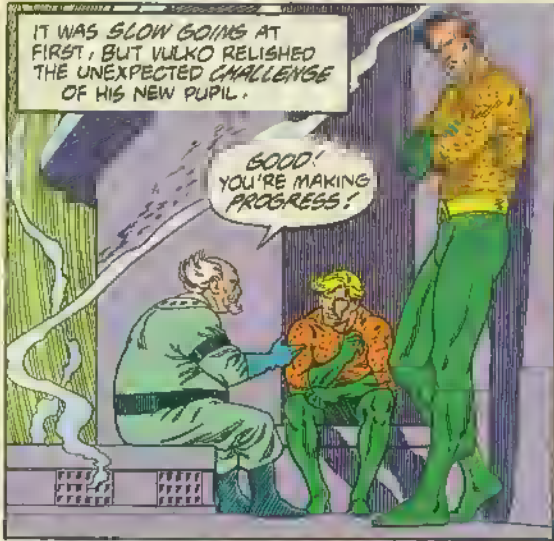
ARTHUR CURRY SPENT THE NEXT THREE YEARS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN THE PRISON FACILITY KNOWN AS **AQUARIUM**.

EVENTUALLY HE WAS RELEASED INTO THE **YARD...**

...WHERE HE SPENT ALL OF HIS FREE TIME STARING THROUGH THE FLEXIGLASS WALL AT THE **FEMALE ATLANTEANS...**

...LOOKING FOR HIS **MOTHER.**



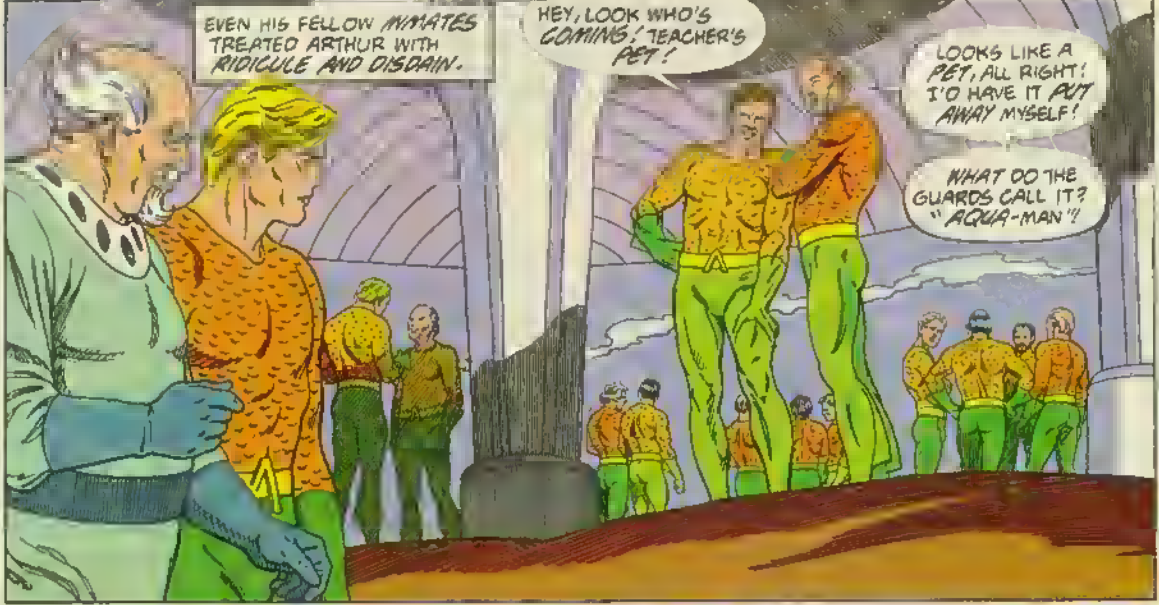


EVEN HIS FELLOW MINUTES
TREATED ARTHUR WITH
RIDICULE AND DISDAIN.

HEY, LOOK WHO'S
COMING! TEACHER'S
PET!

LOOKS LIKE A
PET, ALL RIGHT!
I'D HAVE IT PUT
AWAY MYSELF!

WHAT DO THE
GUARDS CALL IT?
"AQUA-MAN!"

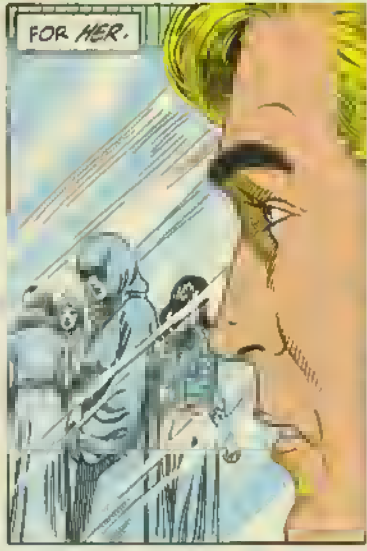


BUT HE IGNORED THEM
AND PERSEVERED.

NOW TRY
TO SAY IT
FASTER.



FOR HER.



SO THAT ONE DAY HE
COULD SPEAK TO HIS
MOTHER!



SAY, ISN'T SHE
A LITTLE OLD FOR
YOU, 'AQUA-MAN'?

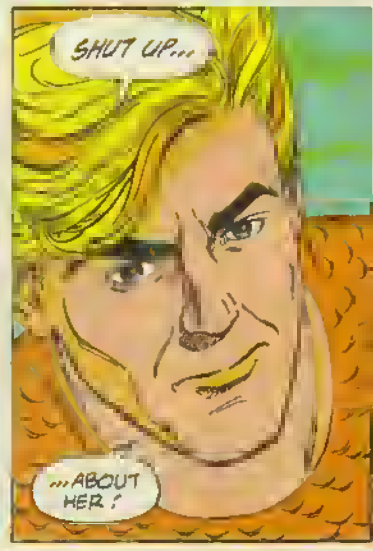


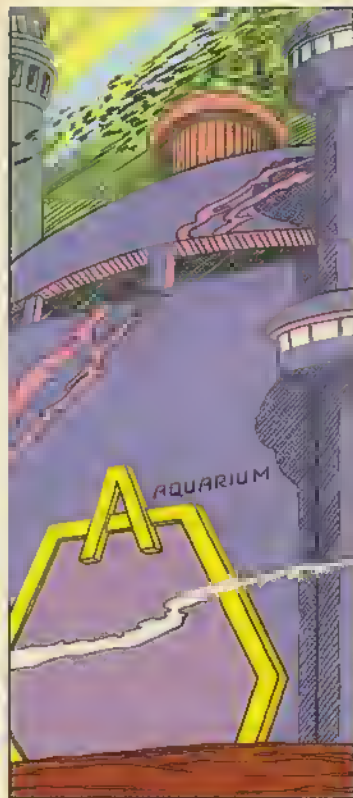
UHH!



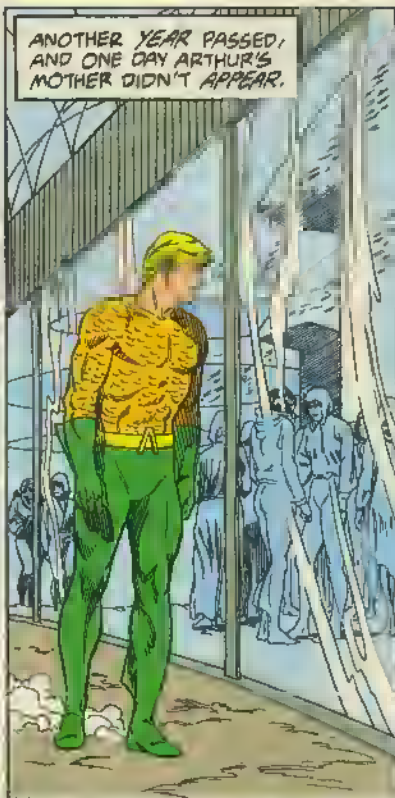
SHUT UP...

...ABOUT
HER!





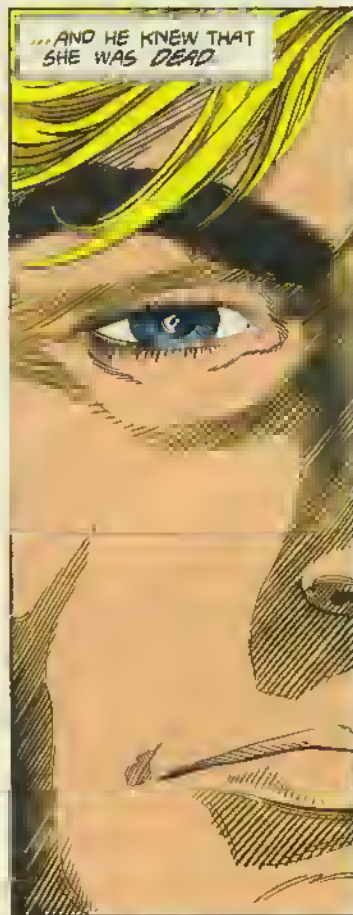
ANOTHER YEAR PASSED,
AND ONE DAY ARTHUR'S
MOTHER DIDN'T APPEAR.



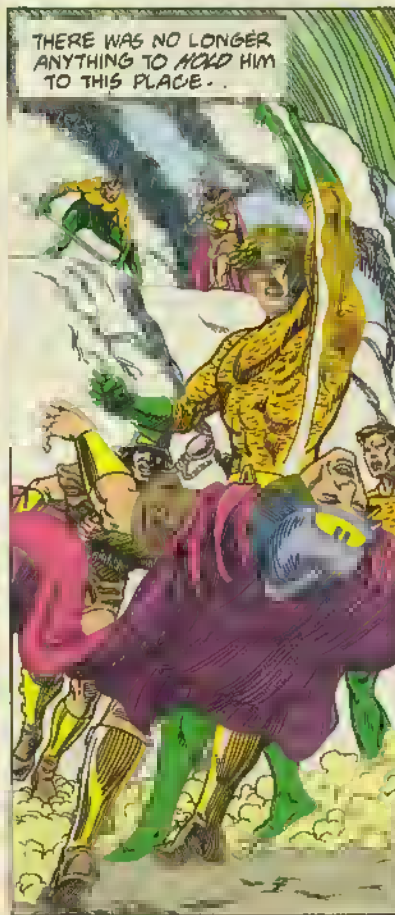
HE SAW THE
FUNERAL
CLOAKS ON
THE OTHER
INMATES...



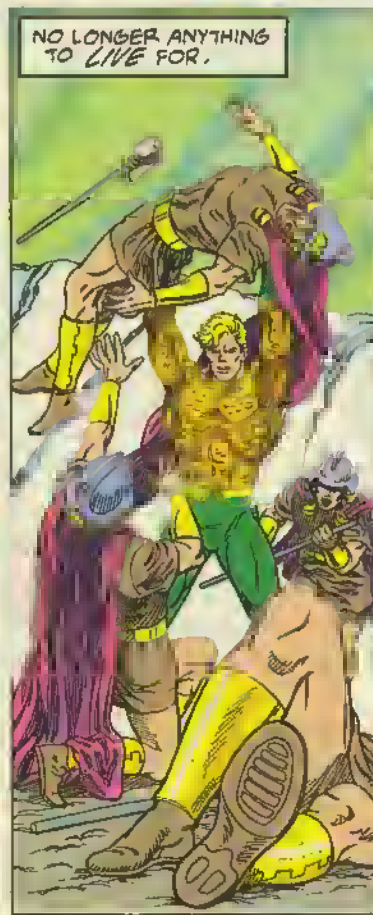
...AND HE KNEW THAT
SHE WAS DEAD.



THERE WAS NO LONGER
ANYTHING TO HOLD HIM
TO THIS PLACE..



NO LONGER ANYTHING
TO LIVE FOR.





I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

IF YOU COULD DO THIS... THEN WHY DID YOU REMAIN A PRISONER ALL THESE YEARS?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF...

...UNTIL TODAY.



YOU MUST LEAVE NOW! THERE WILL BE REINFORCEMENTS! THEY'LL KILL YOU!

VULKO...
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?



I CAN'T! I BELONG HERE... WITH MY PEOPLE!

BUT YOU... YOU BELONG TO THE SEAS!



GOODSPEED...

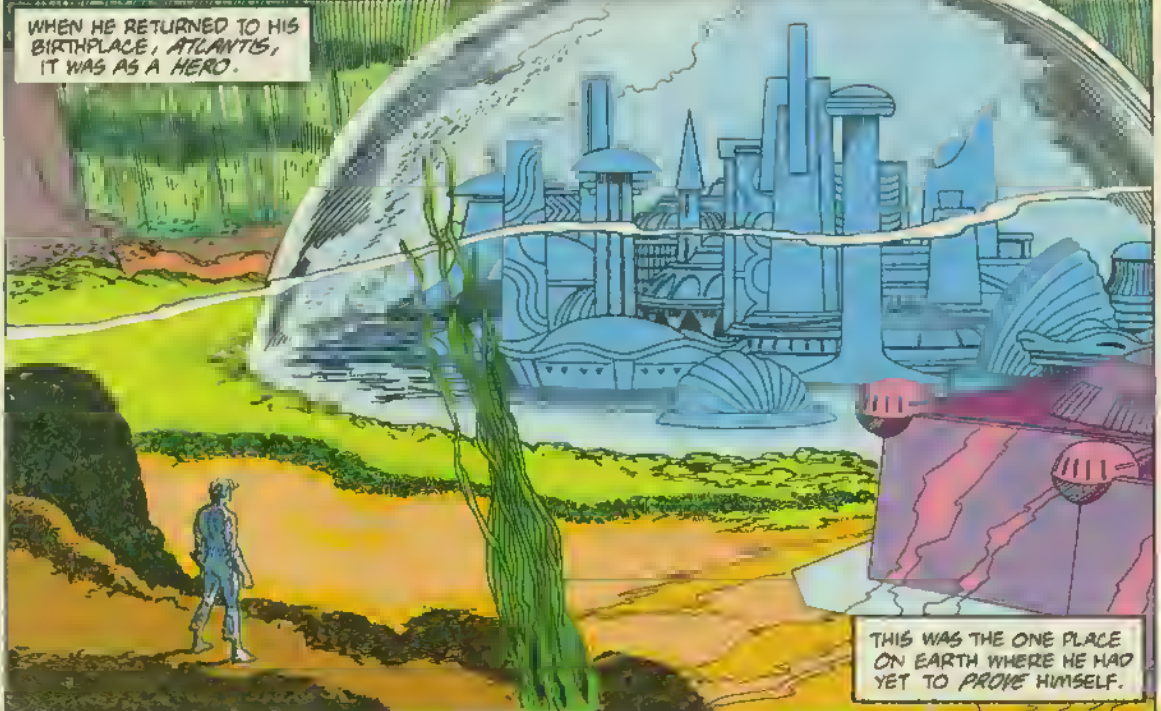
...AQUAMAN!

IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, AQUAMAN STRENGTHENED HIS CONTROL OVER ALL THE SEA'S CREATURES.



HE USED HIS NEWFOUND EXPERTISE TO FIGHT THOSE SURFACE DWELLERS WHO POLLUTED HIS KINGDOM.

HIS EXPLOITS EARNED HIM A REPUTATION THAT LED TO HIS INAUGURATION AS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.



WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS
BIRTHPLACE, ATLANTIS,
IT WAS AS A HERO.

THIS WAS THE ONE PLACE
ON EARTH WHERE HE HAD
YET TO PROVE HIMSELF.



HERE HE'D BEEN CONSIDERED A
FREAK AND MADE A COMMON
PRISONER.

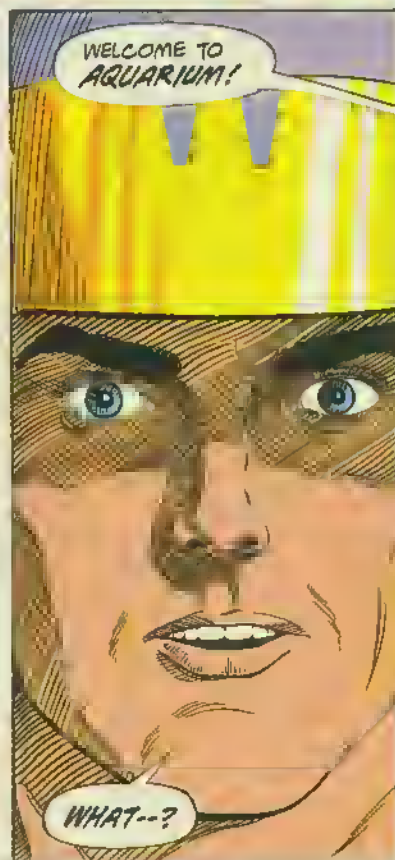
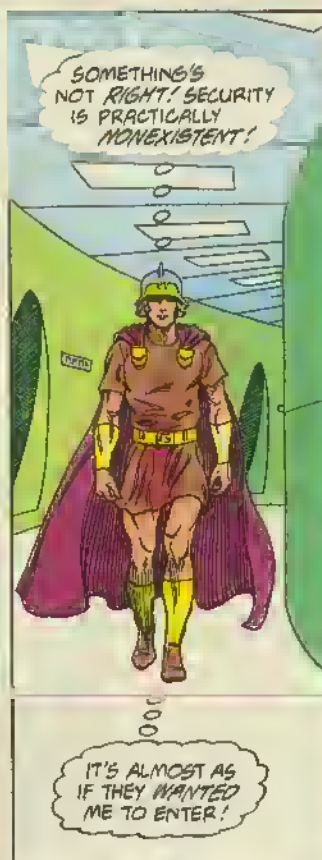
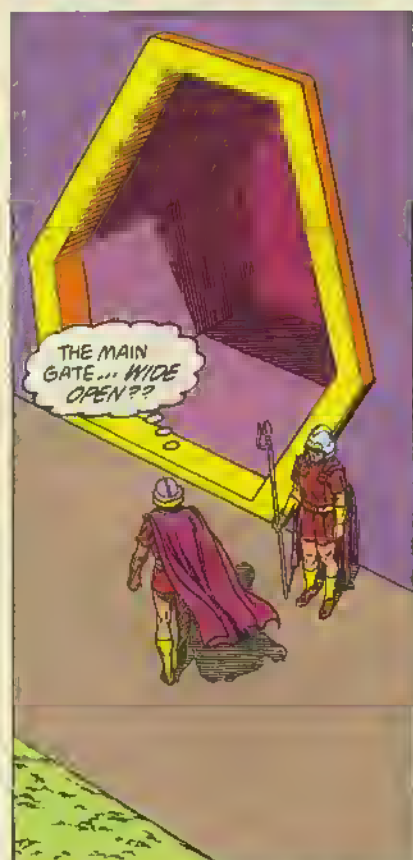
BUT TODAY THOSE
MEMORIES WOULD END.

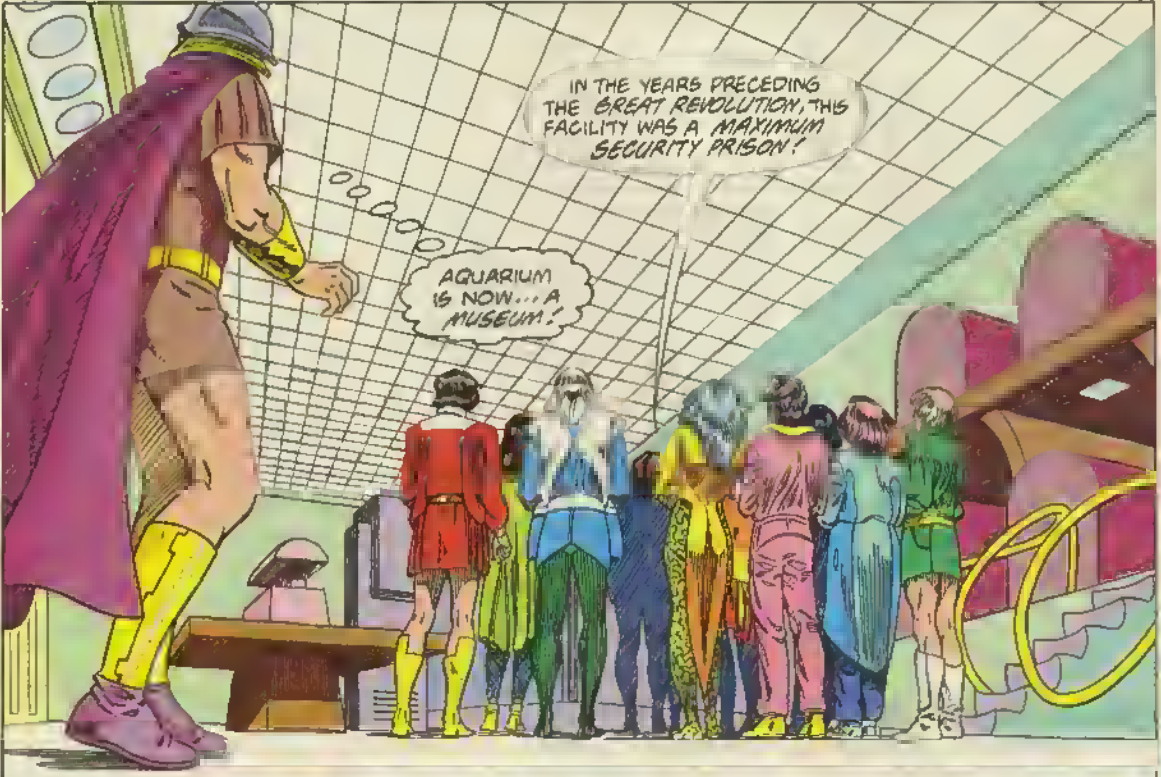


TODAY ALL PAST
DEBTS CAME DUE!



TODAY I'LL SEE MY
OLD FRIEND VULKO
AGAIN... AND HELP
HIM FREE HIS
PEOPLE!





IN THE YEARS PRECEDING THE GREAT REVOLUTION, THIS FACILITY WAS A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON!

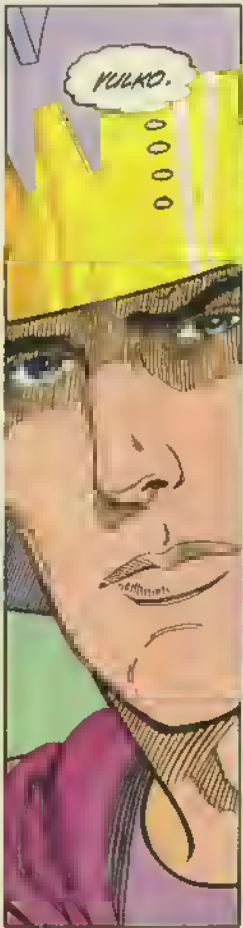
AQUARIUM IS NOW... A MUSEUM!



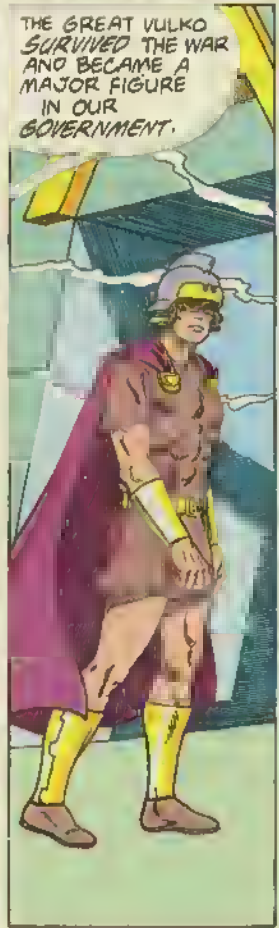
THIS IS THE VERY SPOT WHERE THE FAMOUS REVOLT BEGAN.



THE REPRESSIVE REGIME WAS TOPPLED BY THE MEN WHO FOUGHT HERE THAT DAY, LED BY A FORMER PROFESSOR WHOSE NAME IS FAMILIAR TO EVERY CITIZEN OF OUR NEW, FREE

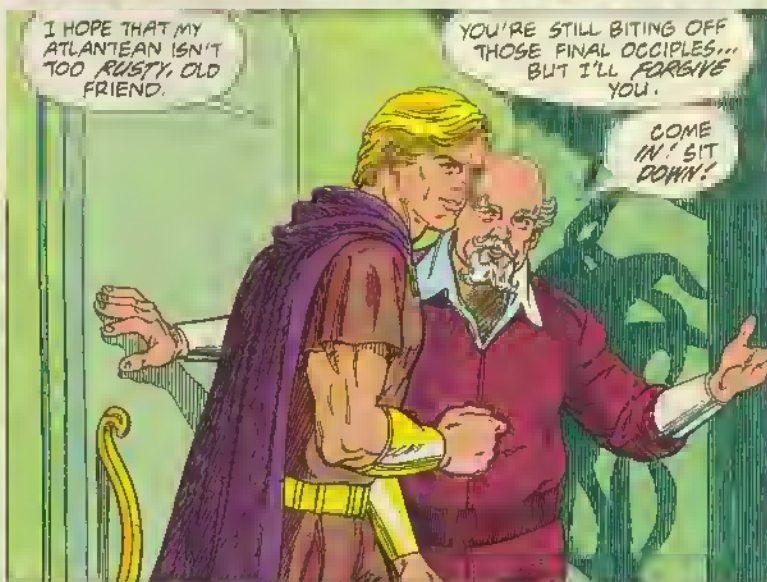
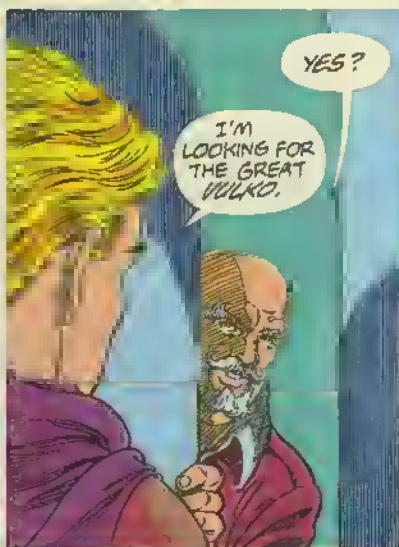


VULKO.



THE GREAT VULKO SURVIVED THE WAR AND BECAME A MAJOR FIGURE IN OUR GOVERNMENT.

AFTER MAKING MANY INQUIRIES, AQUAMAN AT LAST LOCATED THE HOME OF HIS FRIEND.



"A Killer of a Bio..."

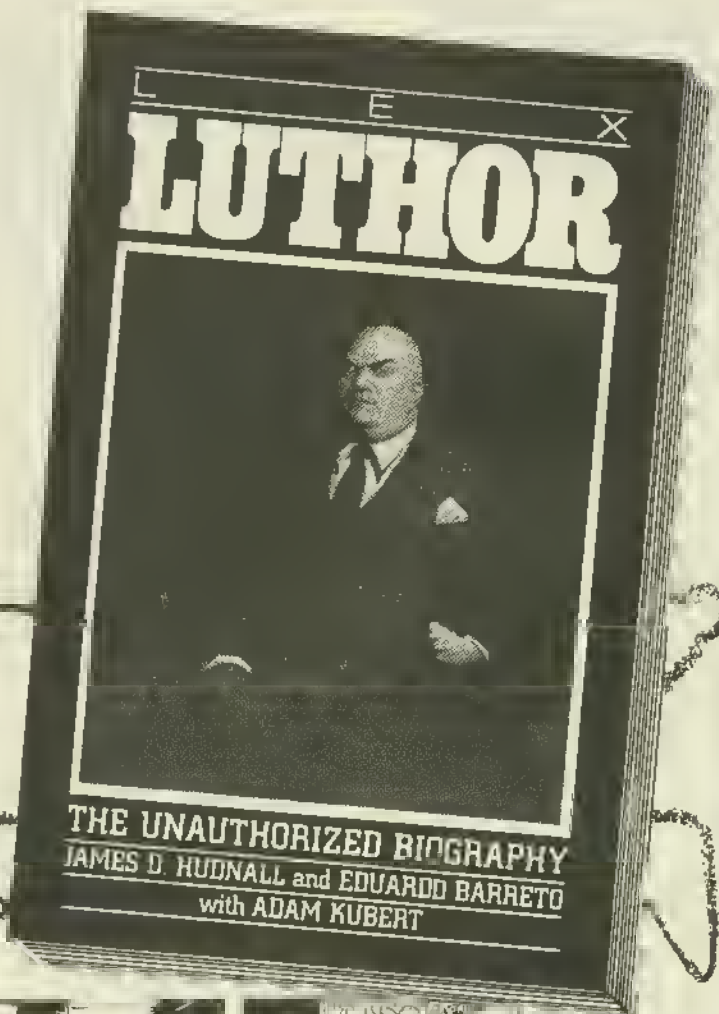
—Lois Lane, *Daily Planet*

"Powerful—Both
the Man and His
Story..."

—Carole Bennet
Boston Globe
Leader

"Frightening..."

—Toby Raynes
Metropolis Star
Book Review



Available
in May



A one issue
special
in DC's
Prestige Format

THE TWO FRIENDS SPENT THE NEXT FEW HOURS IN PLEASANT CONVERSATION.

SO NOW I'M A HERO AND A PERMANENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ALL BECAUSE I CAME UP WITH A PLAN AND GOT LUCKY.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU GOT BRAVE, TOO.

I OWE IT ALL TO THE EXAMPLE SET BY AQUAMAN! IT WAS YOUR ATTACK ON THE GUARDS THAT INSPIRED ME!

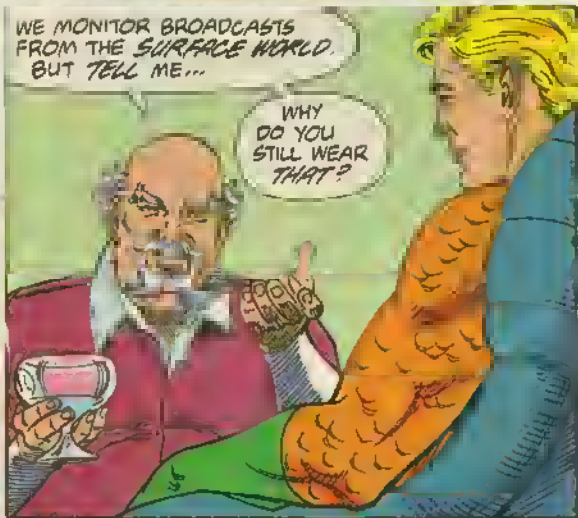


AND NOW YOU'VE BECOME AN INSPIRATION TO SO MANY OTHERS!

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

WE MONITOR BROADCASTS FROM THE SURFACE WORLD, BUT TELL ME...

WHY DO YOU STILL WEAR THAT?



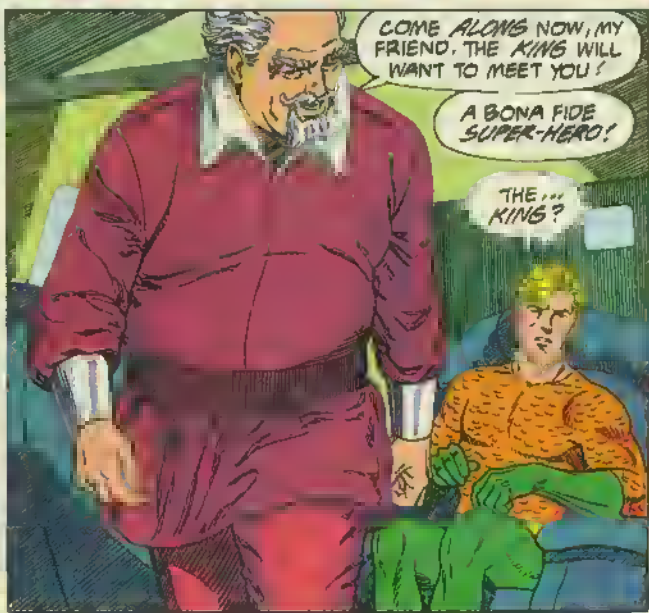
MY PRISON UNIFORM? AS A SYMBOL, I SUPPOSE. OR MAYBE JUST OUT OF SPITE. THE IRONY OF IT APPEALS TO ME.

YES, AND TO ME!

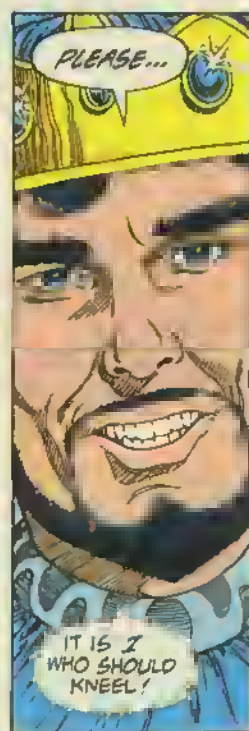
COME ALONG NOW, MY FRIEND. THE KING WILL WANT TO MEET YOU!

A BONA FIDE SUPER-HERO!

THE... KINGS?



SOON AQUAMAN FOUND
HIMSELF IN THE THRONE
ROOM OF A MAGNIFICENT
PALACE, PREPARING
FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH
ROYALTY.



WE HAVE HEARD TALES OF YOUR EXPLOITS! YOU CAN IMAGINE OUR PRIDE IN SUCH AN ILLUSTRIOUS NATIVE SON!



I MEAN NO DISRESPECT, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT I MAKE NO CLAIM TO AN ATLANTEAN HERITAGE. NOR AM I A SURFACE DWELLER. I FALL SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.



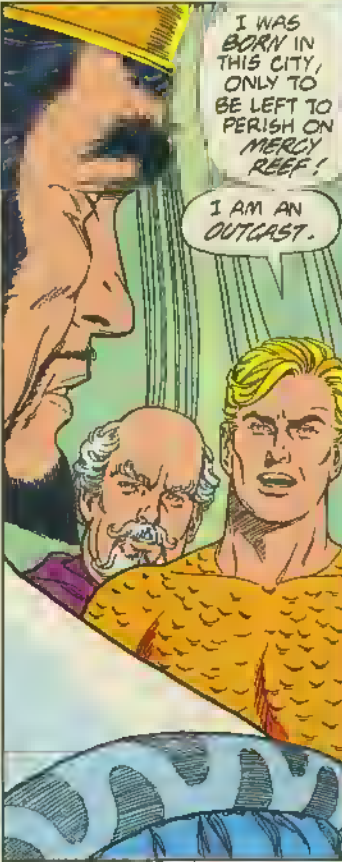
YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

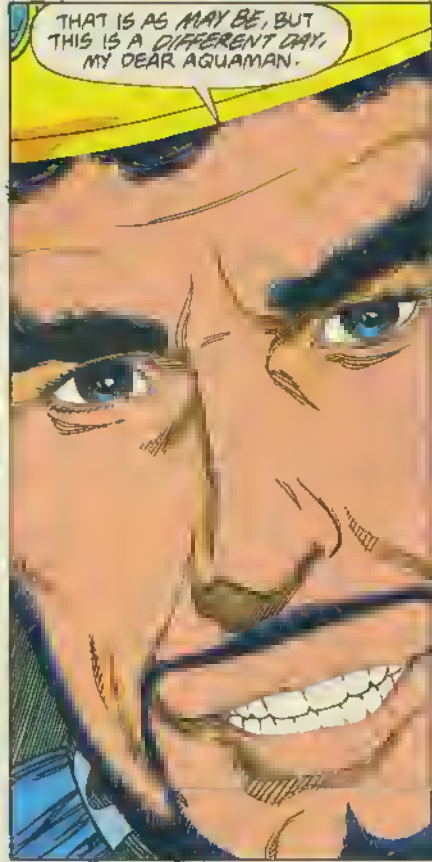


I WAS BORN IN THIS CITY, ONLY TO BE LEFT TO PERISH ON MERCY REEF!

I AM AN OUTCAST.



THAT IS AS MAY BE, BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT DAY, MY DEAR AQUAMAN.



I AM NOW KING OF ATLANTIS, AND IT IS MY DECREE THAT YOU BE ACCORDED THE PRIVILEGES OF FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL CITIZENSHIP!

SO BE IT!



Comics Buyer's Guide

Fan Awards for 1988

Welcome to the CBG Fan Awards. *Comics Buyer's Guide*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let you, the readers, decide which comic books deserve to be called "the best." Just fill out the ballot and send it to the address below.

1. Favorite Editor
2. Favorite Writer
3. Favorite Penciller
4. Favorite Inker
5. Favorite Colorist
6. Favorite Letterer
7. Favorite Cover Artist
8. Favorite Comic-Book Story
9. Favorite Comic Book
10. Favorite Limited Comic-Book Series
11. Favorite Original Graphic Novel or Album
12. Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel or Album
13. Favorite Character
14. Favorite Publication about Comics

Only material with a 1988 cover date can win. DC's 1988 issues dated "Holiday" or "Winter" are eligible. Votes for projects that did not have a 1988 publication date will not be counted.

Copy this ballot and give it to your friends, so they can vote, too. *Anyone who loves comics can vote* — but only vote once. If you vote more than once, all of your votes will be thrown out. Vote only in the categories you want, and ignore any you don't. *Comics Buyer's Guide* is not eligible for Category 14.

Every voter in the United States will get a *free copy of Comics Buyer's Guide* #817, dated July 14, 1989, unless you already have a current or expired subscription to CBG. That issue will carry the list of winners! Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that free copies of CBG can't be sent, unless your vote is accompanied by \$1.50 in U.S. funds, to cover handling and shipping.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by June 10, 1989, to:

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards
700 East State Street
Iola, Wisconsin 54990

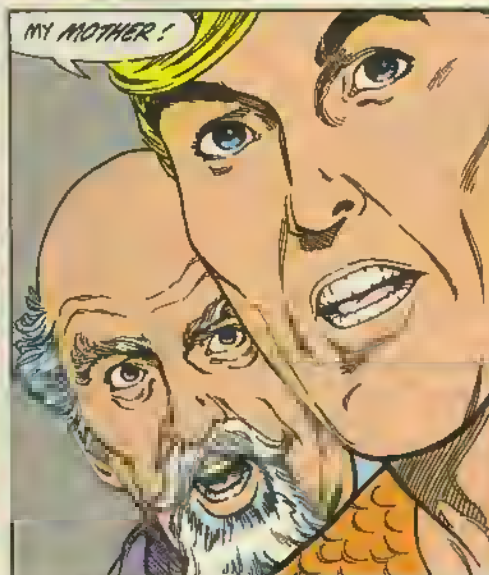
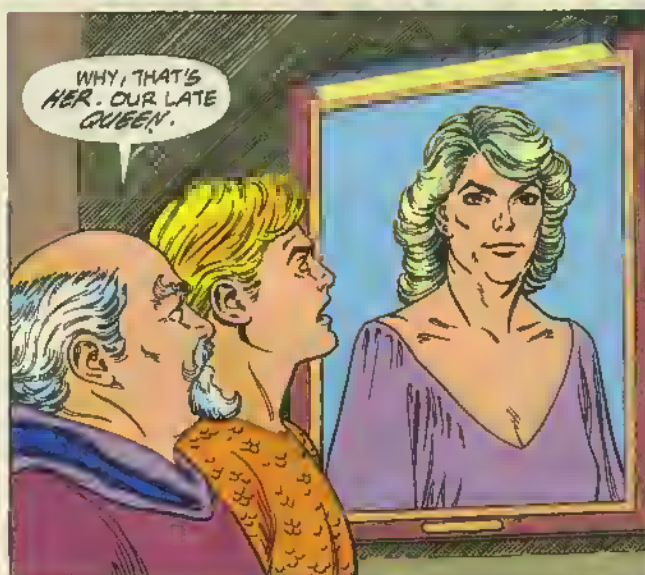
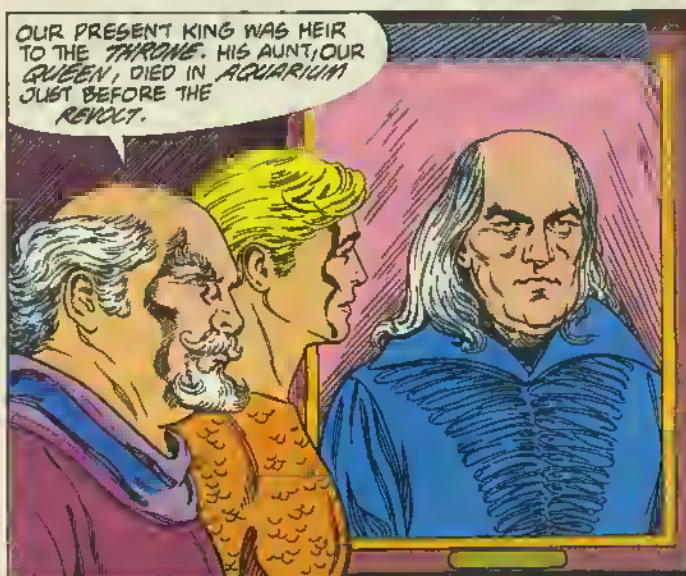
Name Male Female (circle one) Age

Street or Box

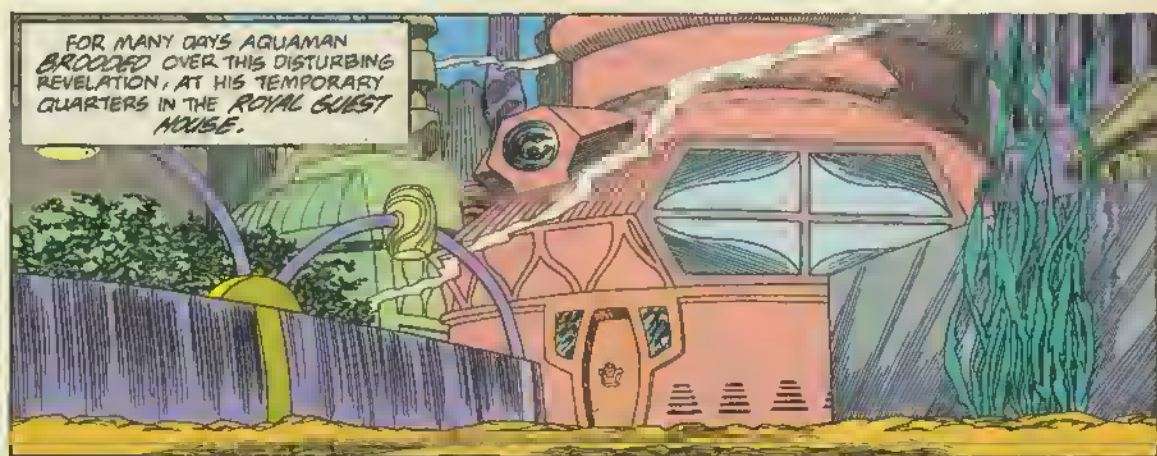
City, State, and ZIP

Please type or print your votes and information clearly.

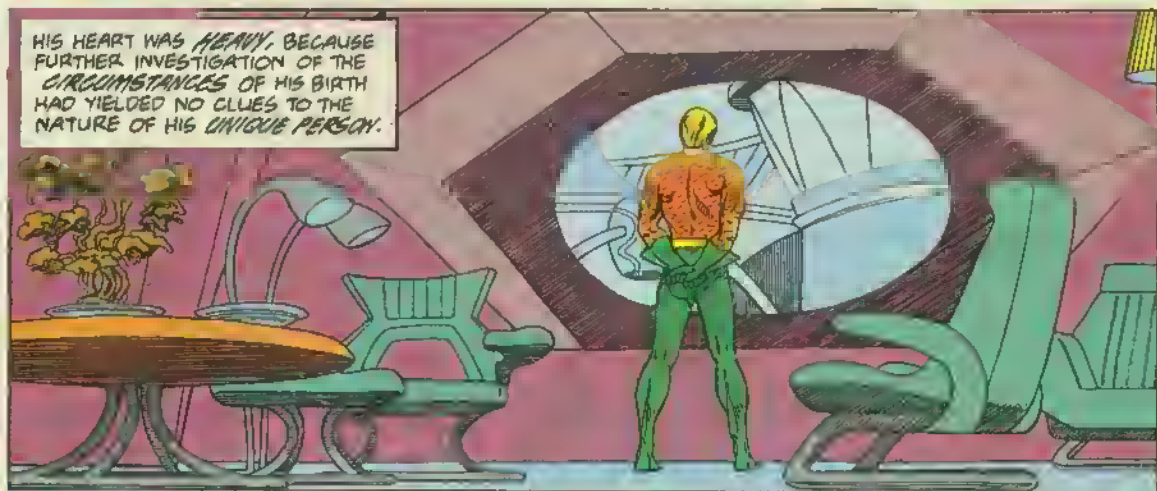
You need not cut or tear out this page in order to vote! Copies are acceptable and will be counted.



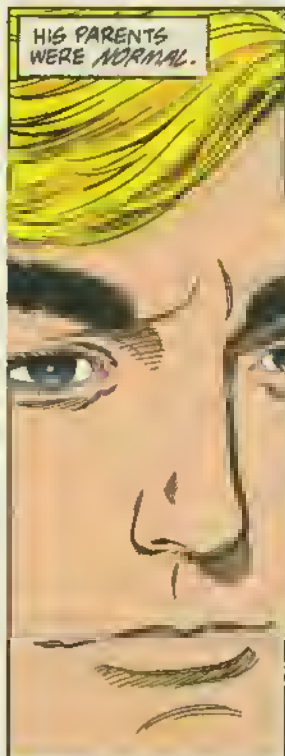
FOR MANY DAYS AQUAMAN
BROODED OVER THIS DISTURBING
REVELATION, AT HIS TEMPORARY
QUARTERS IN THE ROYAL GUEST
HOUSE.



HIS HEART WAS HEAVY, BECAUSE
FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS BIRTH
HAD YIELDED NO CLUES TO THE
NATURE OF HIS UNIQUE PERSON.



HIS PARENTS
WERE NORMAL.



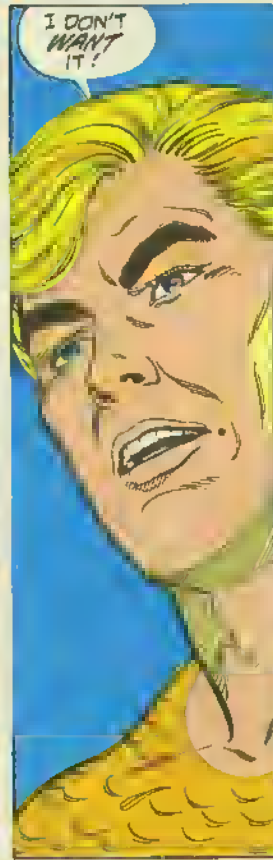
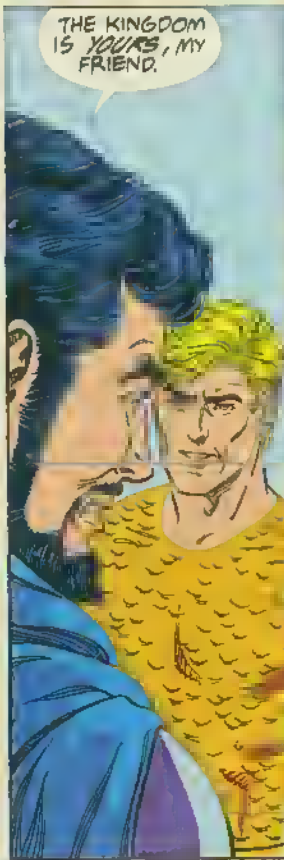
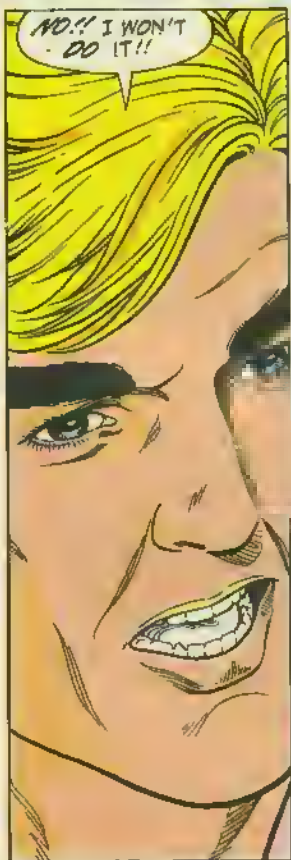
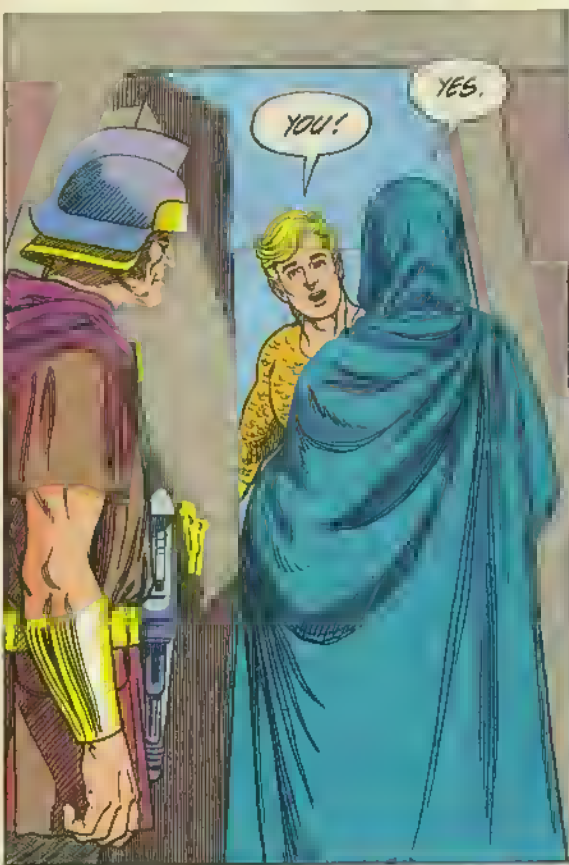
THE TRUTH OF HIS ORIGIN
REMAINED A MYSTERY.



BEEP

WHO--?





IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE KING ENLISTED **VILKO'S** HELP IN PERSUADING THE RELUCTANT MONARCH TO TAKE HIS PLACE ON THE THRONE OF ATLANTIS.

FORGET IT, **VILKO**.

I DON'T **BELONG** HERE, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? I'M NOT A TRUE **ATLANTIAN**! THAT'S WHY MY MOTHER ALLOWED ME TO BE ABANDONED ON **MERCY REEF**!

IS THAT WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU? I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW, MY FRIEND, THAT IT WAS **STANDARD PRACTICE** AT THE TIME OF YOUR BIRTH TO EXPOSE ANY DEFORMED CHILD... NO MATTER WHO THE PARENTS!

ARE YOU SAYING... THAT MY MOTHER HAD NO CHOICE?

I'M SAYING THAT SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW! SHE WAS TOLD YOU WERE A **CRIB DEATH**! YOU WERE SPIRITED AWAY IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT!

IT WAS DONE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MONARCHY, **AQUAMAN**. BUT NOW THAT GREAT WRONG CAN BE RIGHTED!

AS FOR YOUR MOTHER... SHE MOURNED YOU FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE! YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THAT WHEN YOU OBSERVED **AQUARIUM**!

THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE **AMENDS**, THEY WELCOME YOU WITH **OPEN ARMS** AND **FULL HEARTS**.

THINK HARD BEFORE YOU TURN THEM **DOWN**.

SHE THOUGHT IT WAS **CRIB DEATH**! THAT'S WHY SHE WAS SO SAD!

SHE WAS MISSING ME.



EPILOGUE

AQUAMAN CONTINUED TO SERVE IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, SAFEGUARDING THE WORLD OF HIS BELOVED FOSTER FATHER.

HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BOY WHO BECAME KNOWN AS AQUALAD WAS A PARTIAL REPAYMENT FOR THE KINDNESS HE'D BEEN SHOWN BY THE CRUSTY OLD LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER.

THE TWO BECAME FAST FRIENDS.

AND ON ONE PARTICULARLY SPLENDID DAY, AQUAMAN MET HIS QUEEN. MERA WAS A VISITOR FROM AN OTHER-DIMENSIONAL WATER WORLD. SHE SOON BECAME AQUAMAN'S BRIDE.

WITH VULKO AS HIS ADVISOR, HANDLING ALL THE DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OF GOVERNING THE KINGDOM, AQUAMAN'S LIFE WAS IDEAL.

THEN SOMETHING
HAPPENED WHICH
MADE IT EVEN
BETTER...

DA-DA
HIGH!

HIGH!

LOOK, MERA!
THE LITTLE KING
DELIVERS A
COMMAND!

HA HA
HA!



BUT HAPPY YEARS
PASS LIKE *WEEKS*.

AQUAMAN'S INFANT SON WAS
KILLED ON A BITTERLY
COLD DAY SHORTLY BEFORE
HIS *SECOND BIRTHDAY*. HE
WAS BURIED ON *MERCY REEF*.

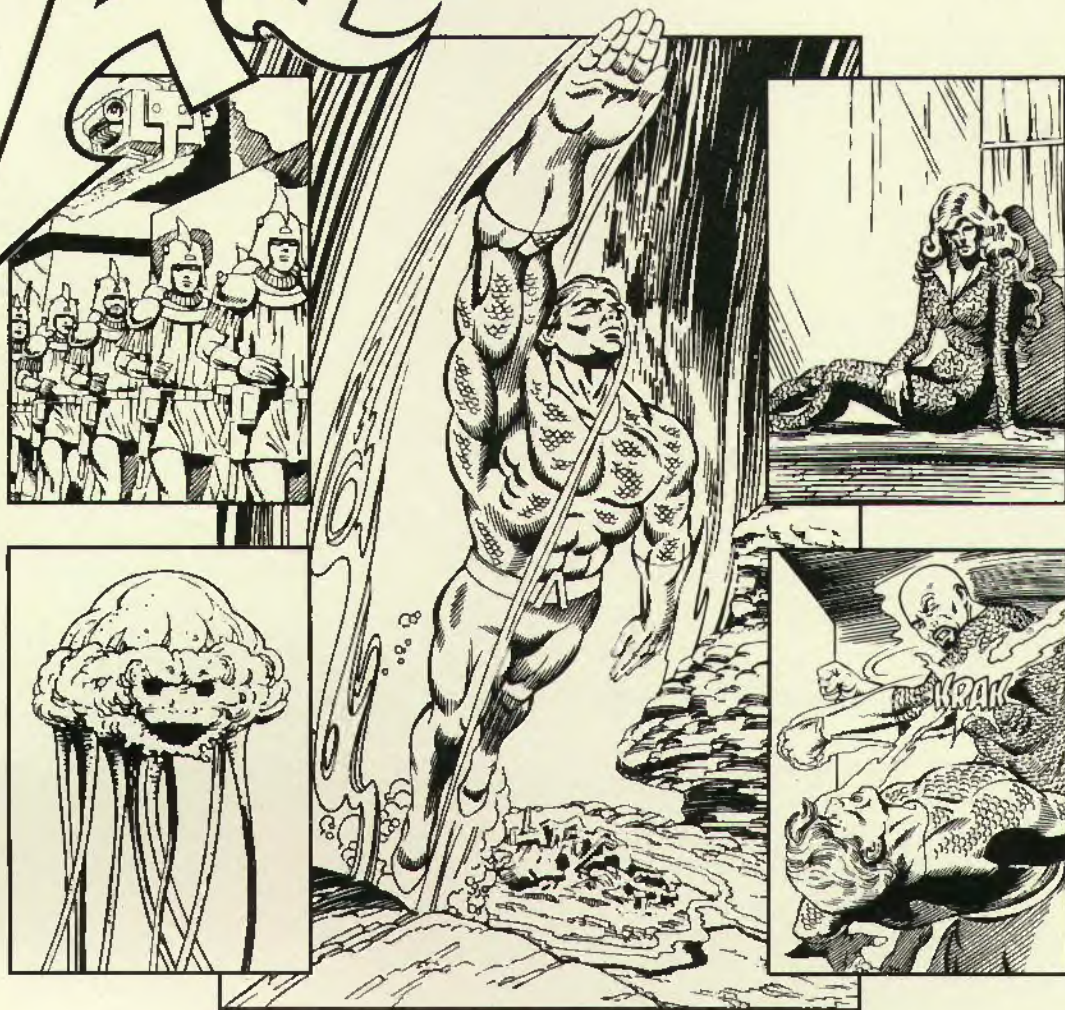
IN MEMORY
ARTHUR
CURRY
III

WITHOUT A WORD OR A TEAR,
AQUAMAN ABANDONED ALL
HE HELD *DEAR*. THERE WAS
NOTHING TO SAY, NOTHING
THAT COULD POSSIBLY
MATTER. ONLY *FLIGHT*
WAS LEFT TO HIM NOW.

THE COLD SEAS WELCOMED
THEIR *FAVORITE SON*.

Atlantis is being destroyed—
and there is only one man
who can save it!

AQUAMAN



The King of the Seven Seas™
returns for a five-part
mini-series in
Standard Format



Available in April

Written by Keith Giffen
and Robert Loren Fleming
Art by Curt Swan
and Al Vey



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DEEP TERROR.

TRY TO STAY CALM.

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COMING SOON