



Swordquest

3



WATERWORLD™

POWERS
OF
PRIME



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BENDOLD THEM, YE
LOVERS OF DERRING--
DO...YE PURVEYORS
OF HIGH
ADVENTURE...

...BENDOLD THESE
GOLD-HAIRED
THINGS WHO BUT
AN INSTANT AGO
PLUNGED HEAD-
LONGS INTO A
GLEAMING, MYSTIC
CHALICE WHOSE
FINDING HAD MADE
HARRORS OF
THEM BOTH.

BENDOLD 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 *IMAGE* WE SAW--
IN THE BOTTOM OF
THE *CHALICE*--
BEFORE WE DROVE!

THEIR NAMES ARE *TORR* AND
TARRA. AND THEY HAVE JUST
ACCEPTED THE *THIRD*
CHALLENGE OF THEIR--

BOOK THREE

WATERWORLD

A CROWN--
AND IT'S A
MIRAGE!

IT'S REAL--
AND IT'S
MAGNIFICENT!
IF WE CAN ONLY--



BUT, EVEN AS THE PLUMMETING GIBBLINGS
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 *GRIMY*
MUST BE
WATERWORLD'S!

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

MY LIMBS--
THEY'RE ABOUT
TO *BURST!*
HUN?

NOW WHAT'S
TARRA
DISTURBING
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,
AWAY INTO THE
AIR --

-- ONLY TO DROP THEM AGAIN, SOME DISTANCE AWAY:

UHHH! LANDED AND-- SOME
STRANGE KIND OF SCUMMED--
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!?

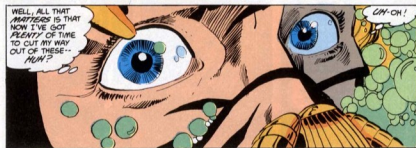
GOOD GIRL,
TARRA! FREE ALREADY--
FLORTING TOWARD
THE SURFACE--AND
ANOTHER GULP OF
AIR!

MY ARMOR'S
LIGHT-
WEIGHT,
TOO, SO
I'LL JUST--

THEY'RE ADDING
ME-- LIKE SOME
SORT OF NET!

MUN??

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



SOME DAYS
IT DOESN'T PAY
TO GET OUT OF
YOUR OWN
WORLD!





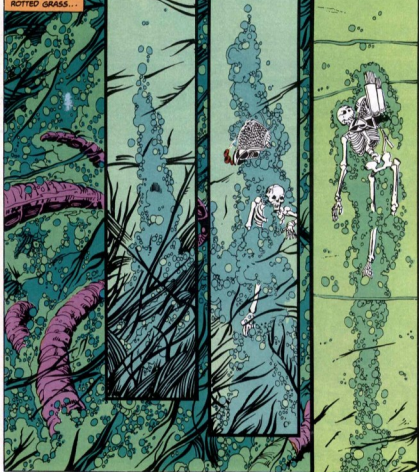
IN ITS EXTREME AGONY, THE GIGANTIC OCTOPUS DOES WHAT TORR'S HUMAN MUSCLES AND PURLOINED DAGGER COULD NEVER HAVE DONE IN TIME:

IT ~~AVES~~ 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, INEX-
ORABLY SURFACEWARD.



AS, ABOVE, WHERE ICY WINDS BLOW LIKE INVISIBLE MESSENGERS OF DEATH ACROSS A WORLD SEEMINGLY ALL BLUE AND WHITE...







... SHALL HIS GOLD-
TRESSED ~~THAT~~ BE
FAR BEHIND?

AH, MY ARMS! THE CHAMBER
OF REMEMBRANCE 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
MONEYED WORDS,
WIZARD!

WELL? HAVE
YOU DONE AS I
COMMANDED?

HAVE YOU FOUND
A WAY TO ~~DESTROY~~ THOSE
DANGEROUS WHELPS, ERE
THEY FIND THE ~~SACRED~~
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 HERE
THIEVES IN THE SHADOW
OF MY CASTLE,
DARKSPIRE--

BUT I CAN
LAY THE HAND OF
FORGETFULNESS
UPON THEM--
WHILST THEY LIE
IN THEIR CURRENT
WEAKENED STATE.

MY SPELL CAN
MAKE THEM FORGET
FAR MORE THAN
THAT, SIRE...

--AND NOW,
THEY HAVE
BECOME YOUTHFUL
MADDOGS,
INSTEAD?

...EVEN IF THEY
MANAGE TO ~~SWIM~~
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--

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

THEY'LL FORGET NOT
ONLY THEIR *SWORDQUEST*,
BUT ALL THAT HAS
TRANSPARED IN THEIR
YOUNG LIVES, UNTIL
THIS MOMENT!...

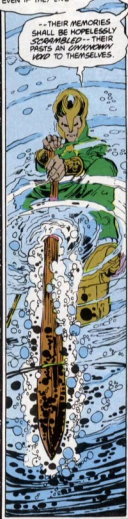
"OBSERVE, KING TYRANNUS, AS THE
MEMORIES ARE WASHED AWAY IN
THE WATERS OF OBLIVION:

"FIRST, THEIR TWIN BIRTH--
DAUGHTERS OF YOUR NIGHTST
WARRIOR AND HIS LADY...

* ... AS WELL AS
YOUR RAISE, 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 MENTARR
AND MENTARRA FOR ADVICE,
AS THEY DID TO GUIDE THEM
FIRST THROUGH EARTHWORLD...



"... OR NOW, RECENTLY, THEY INVADDED 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:

UMMM...
WHERE...?

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

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT
CHURNING IN
THE WATER--?

SOMETHING...

YEEOWW!
SOME KIND OF GIANT
SHARK-LIKE 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!

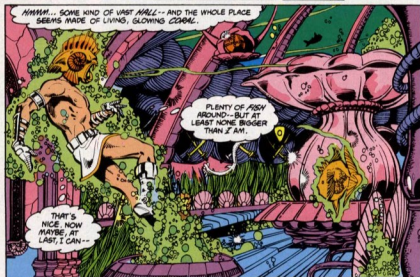
AND ME
WITHOUT SO
MUCH AS A
SHARP
OBJECT TO
CALL MY
OWN!

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!





--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?



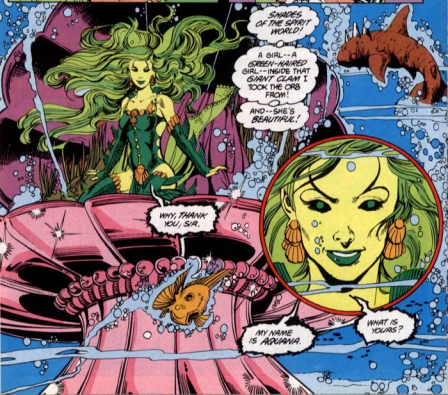
THAT
GIANT PEARL,
OR WHATEVER
IT IS--INSIDE
THAT BIG
CLAM--



--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!





BUT-- I SEE YOU
DO NOT KNOW
YOUR NAME, HOW
STRANGE!

MY ORB,
IF YOU
PLEASE?

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, I DON'T--
HEY, YOU'RE
RIGHT!

I DON'T
REMEMBER
IT--

--OR MUCH OF
ANYTHING
ELSE!

WHAT'S
MORE-- I SEEM
TO BE TALKING!
BUT HOW,
DOWN HERE--?

THAT STILL DOESN'T
TELL ME WHO I AM.

I SHALL CALL YOU AQUON.

IS THAT NOT
A FINE NAME?

EXQUISITE!
BUT WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK IT'S
MINE?

WHAT MAKES YOU
BELIEVE IT IS NOT?

NOT
TALKING.
THINKING.

TELEPATHY IS
MUCH MORE USEFUL
UNDERWATER THAN
SPEECH.

YOU AWAKENED
ME FROM THE
PRISON IN WHICH
KONJURO PLACED
ME, EONS AGO.

KONJURO?!
THAT NAME--HAS
A FAMILIAR RING,
SOMEHOW.

A MOST EVIL WIZARD
OF THE OUTWORLDS--
WHO LAID WASTE MY
KINGDOM WITH HIS MAGIC,
IN THOSE DAYS WHEN I
RULED AQUALANIA.

WE WILL BE ABLE
TO FIGHT HIM, IF
STILL HE LIVES,
ONCE WE FIND THE
CROWN OF LIFE--



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!

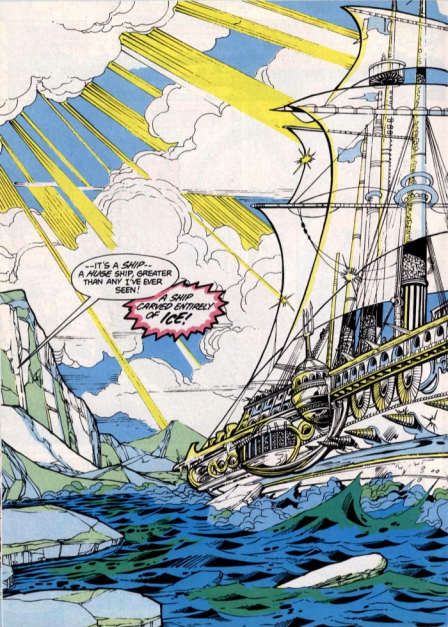
UWWWWH--!

YET, EVEN AS SHE FLOUNDERS AMID THE ICY BRINE, THE *BENEMOTH*-- 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!

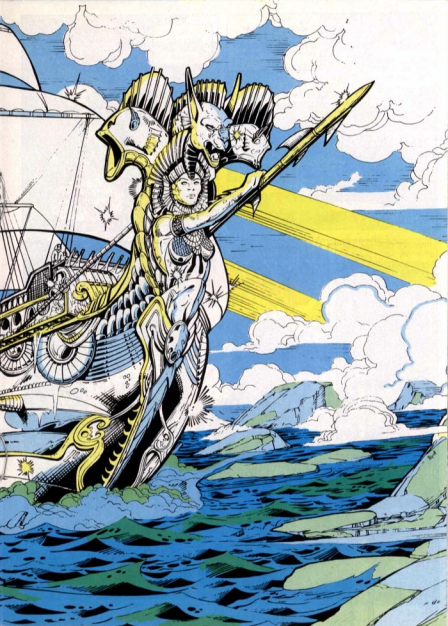
THEY ARE FLEEING SOMETHING-- SOMETHING THEY FEAR--

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 **SHARP**
LOOMS, AND SHE WHO
WAS **TARRA** SEIZES
BOTH **MOMENT** AND
MONSTER--



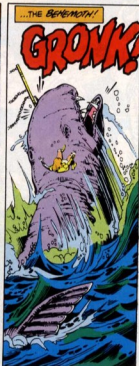
--HOLDING
FAST FOR
DEAREST **LIFE**
ITSELF.

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 *WIND*-- OR EVEN *WANT* ?!

OUT OF THE
POLAR SEA A *PRETTY*
FISH MAILED 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--

KRAK

KEEP
AWAY
FROM ME--



--OR I'LL DEAL
HARSHLY
WITH YOU BOTH!

LOOKS TO ME
LIKE YOU ALREADY
HAVE, LASS.

BONK!

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!

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

* IN OUR FIRST
TWO GAMES/
ISSUES.



YOU'D BEST HURRY, HERMINUS--

SO!



--OR YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME SHARK'S
MEAT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT TO JAW
WITH HER!

AYE! DOWN
HEART AND
SHARKS, WILL
SHE?



OVER THE SIDE WITH--MUN?

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 ARST
WHO GIVES THE ORDERS
ON BOARD THE PIRATE
SHIP ICE QUEEN!

I HATE 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--

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

SILENCE,
KNAVE!

JUST BECAUSE WE FISHED
YOU OUT OF THE DRINK NOT
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.

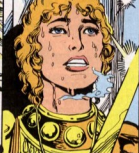
HEMM... A LASS WITH NEITHER NAME NOR NAME, AND HANDY WITH A BLADE, TO BOOT!

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 SNAW-WHALES.

'TIS SAID, AFTER ALL, THIS AGE OF ICE WAS THRUST UPON OUR WORLD BY A WIZARD NAMED ARKWARD.

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.



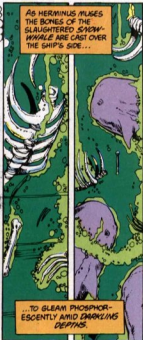
HOW CAN I FIND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORcery UPON THIS MAO, LANDLESS WORLD...

-- 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 GLEAN PHOSPHORESCENTLY 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! I DON'T
YOU HEAR THEIR
CRY?

I HEAR--
SOMETHING
PIERCING--
YET SAD--!

YOU
LOOK
LOVELY!

THAT IS THE
DEATH-SONG 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! KOWJURO FORETOLD
A WAR 'TWIXT AIR-BREATHERS
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!



UNNNH



DAWN-HAIR? I WAS... DREAMING. YOU WERE PULLED, WRESTED FROM MY ARMS... BY A SKELETAL FIGURE THAT...

DAWN-HAIR? WHERE--?



NO!

WHAT HAPPENED, GIRL? WE
DOZED FROM ALL MY BABBLE,
AND WHEN I WOKE--

HERMINUS--
I SAW HIM BY
THE LIGHT OF MY
CANDLE! HE--



I'LL CARRY OUT MY
THREATS TO FEED HIM
TO THE FISHES
FOR THIS! BUT WHY--?

I KNOW NOT
THE WHY,
CAPTAIN--
BUT AT LEAST
I KNOW THE
HOW.



HE STRUCK
THE GLANCING
BLOW--WITH
THIS SILVERY
SKATE!



THEN BE GLAD YOUR
BANDANNA AND FULL
HEAD OF HAIR
PROTECTED YOU,
LASS--FOR THESE
ARE VERY SPECIAL
SKATES.

IF HERMINUS WANTED
THEM, PERHAPS HE
TOO SEEKS THE
CROWN OF LIFE,
JUST AS I--



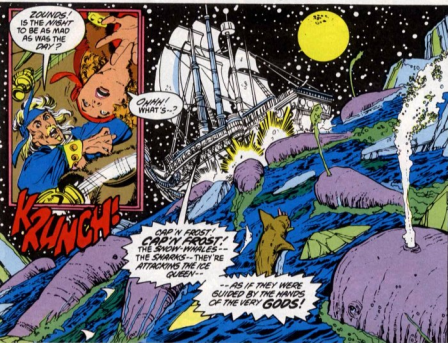
ZOUNDS!
IS THE NIGHT
TO BE AS MAD
AS WAS THE
DAY?

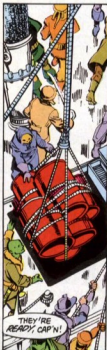
OWHH!
WHAT'S--?

KRUNCH!

CAP'N FROST!
CAP'N FROST!
THE SNOW-WHALES--
THE SHARKS--THEY'RE
ATTACKING THE ICE
QUEEN--

--AS IF THEY WERE
GUIDED BY THE HANDS
OF THE VERY GODS!





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

MUST YOU LASH
OUT SO BLOODY
AGAINST--?

KEEP A CIVIL
TEMPER 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--

HSSSS
YAAA

THERE'S YOUR
ANSWER, BOYS!

A SPOUT OF
BOILING-HOT
WATER--SHOOTING
RIGHT THROUGH
THE HULL!

BUT WHAT
IN ALL THE SEAS
COULD HAVE--?

MAY THE
GODS TAKE
PITY
FOR 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 GIGANTIC
HEAD!

ARMIES! LEAVE
OFF YOUR MAD QUEST FOR
THE CROWN OF LIFE,
WHICH IS MINE BY RIGHTS--



--OR ELSE
KNOW THAT AGRANA
HAS RETURNED AT
LAST, TO DESTROY
YOU ALL!



AGRANA?! IF YOU
BE THAT FAIRY-TALE
QUEEN, BEST SCRAMPER
YOURSELF--AND BRING
YOUR MACHIN TO MEEL
WITH YOU!

I'LL BRING
YOU NAUGHT
BUT-- THIS!



ONCE MORE, IT'S NOT FLAME
WHICH SPUTS FROM THE DRAGON'S
MOUTH, 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 SILVER
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 ROBE!



MAYBE I *AM* A FIRST-CLASS FOOL AT THAT-- *WHATEVER* I AM!

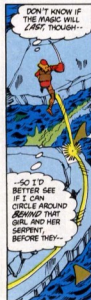
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF I COULD *STAND UP* ON THESE THINGS OR NOT--

-- AND NOW I'M A TARGET FOR THOSE *SNAKE-HEADED* SHARKS!



BUT-- THESE *SHARKS*! 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 FLEE TO FLEE.



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!

UW- OH! SOMEONE *ATOP* THAT *WHALE*-- AND HE'S *SPIITED* 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 SCARVES INTO THE
CORSAIR CRAFT--



--WITH
DEVASTATING
RESULTS:

THWAM

AARGH--!



**CAPTAIN
FROST!**



HE'S HURT--
AYE, HURT BAD!

AND HERE
COMES THE NEAR-
SPRAWING
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!

WE'LL SAY, 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 GROWNUP--

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 WHEELS 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!

**RYE! 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
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 RE-
COVERED CAPTAIN FROST
WATCHES, KNOWING HIS
CREW WILL MURDER IF
HE OPPOSE
THEM NOW...



...AND A HALF-
DAZED AQUANA
STARES HER ALL UPON
HER NEWFOUND
LOVE'S SUPERIORITY
TO A MERE GIRL...



...AND HERMINUS
STUFFS RETRIEVED
SPOILS 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 --

-- DOES SOME SMALL
PART OF THE MIND OF
EACH RECOGNIZE
THE OTHER?

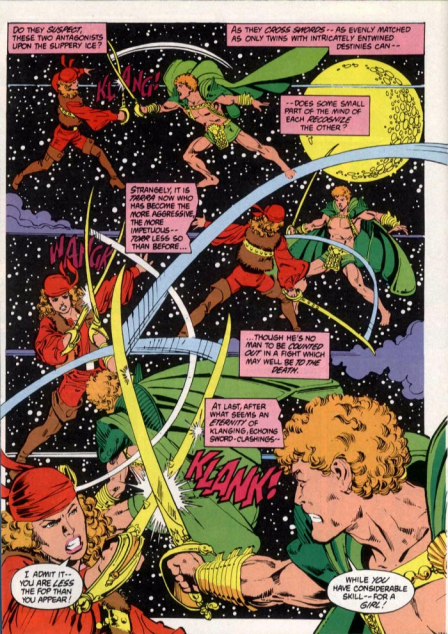
STRANGELY, IT IS
ZARBA NOW WHO
HAS BECOME THE
MORE AGGRESSIVE,
THE MORE
IMPETUOUS --
ZEMR LESS SO
THAN BEFORE...

...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
KLANKING, ECHOING
SWORD-CLASHINGS --

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 SORcery 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.

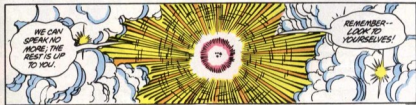
AND NOW WE ARE COME AGAIN-- BECAUSE, IN THE DARK RECESSES OF YOUR MINDS, YOU CALLED UPON US.

W-WE DID?!

AYE. BUT THIS TIME, LOOK NOT FOR MENTOR 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!

AND WHEN
THEY DO, AND
FACES SO
MUCH LIKE
THEIR OWN
PEER
WONDER-
INGLY BACK--



--VEILS OF
DARKNESS
ARE LIFTED
FROM THEIR
TROUBLED
MINDS.



TARRA--MY SISTER!

DEAR BROTHER--
I MIGHT HAVE
KILLED YOU!

OR I
YOU!



THAT METALLIC
TOUGH WHEN
SWORDS STRUCK
ICE--!

DAWN-HAIR!
LOOK TO
YOUR BLADE!



AQUANA! DO NOT
LET FROST'S
FANCY ONE
RETRIEVE WHAT
MUST LIE
BURIED
THERE!



NEVER FEAR,
AQUANA! WE'LL
DRAW IT OUT--

LOOK! IT'S
HALF A CROWN--
SO GLEAMINGLY
LOVELY--!



--TOGETHER!
SEE HOW THE
VERY ICE
MELTS, TORR!

AND I'VE
THE OTHER
HALF!

OUR BLADES
SOMEHOW FOUND
THE CROWN OF
LIFE--EVEN AS
THEY SLICED
IT IN TWAIN!





YOU'VE-- DESTROYED IT! A CROWN SOUGHT FOR UNREAL AGES-- AND BRINGING REAL POWER OVER THIS WORLD!

NOW-- 'TIS USELESS!



NO, NOT USELESS--



-- BUT MERELY SOMETHING TO BE SHARED!



ADAM AND DANNY ARE NO MORE-- BUT YOU'VE A WORLD TO RULE AND TO SAVE, AS THE GREAT FURY CONTINUES.

THERE IS WORLD ENOUGH FOR ALL-- BUT NOT FOR ONE ONLY!

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE! JOHN FORCES AND--



TORR-- LOOK UP!

WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

NOW THAT WE'VE GAINED THE THIRD TALISMAN, ON THIS THIRD WORLD--

--THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY APPEARS IN THE AIR--AWAKENING US WITH ITS NEARNESS, FOR ALL THAT WE CANNOT TOUCH IT!

NO! DO NOT TOUCH IT, WHELP!

I WAS THE MASTER THIEF WHO FIRST TRIED TO STEAL IT-- AND I'LL HAVE IT YET!

THE SWORD IS MINE!

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, NON JURO!

--THE SWORD IS GONE ONCE MORE!

TARA-- HOLD ON!

I AM!

--WITH EERIE RESULTS--

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

BLAST! COULDN'T REACH THOSE BRATS IN TIME TO--

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

WE ARE GOING PERSONALLY, YOU AND I--

THIS TIME, SUMMONING ALL THEIR ENERGIES GAINED AS MOMENTARY THIN ARROWHEADS OF WATERWORLD, TORR AND TARRA HAVE MANAGED TO GRASP ITS GLISTENING POMMEL--

--TO THE PLACE CALLED **AIRWORLD!**



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