

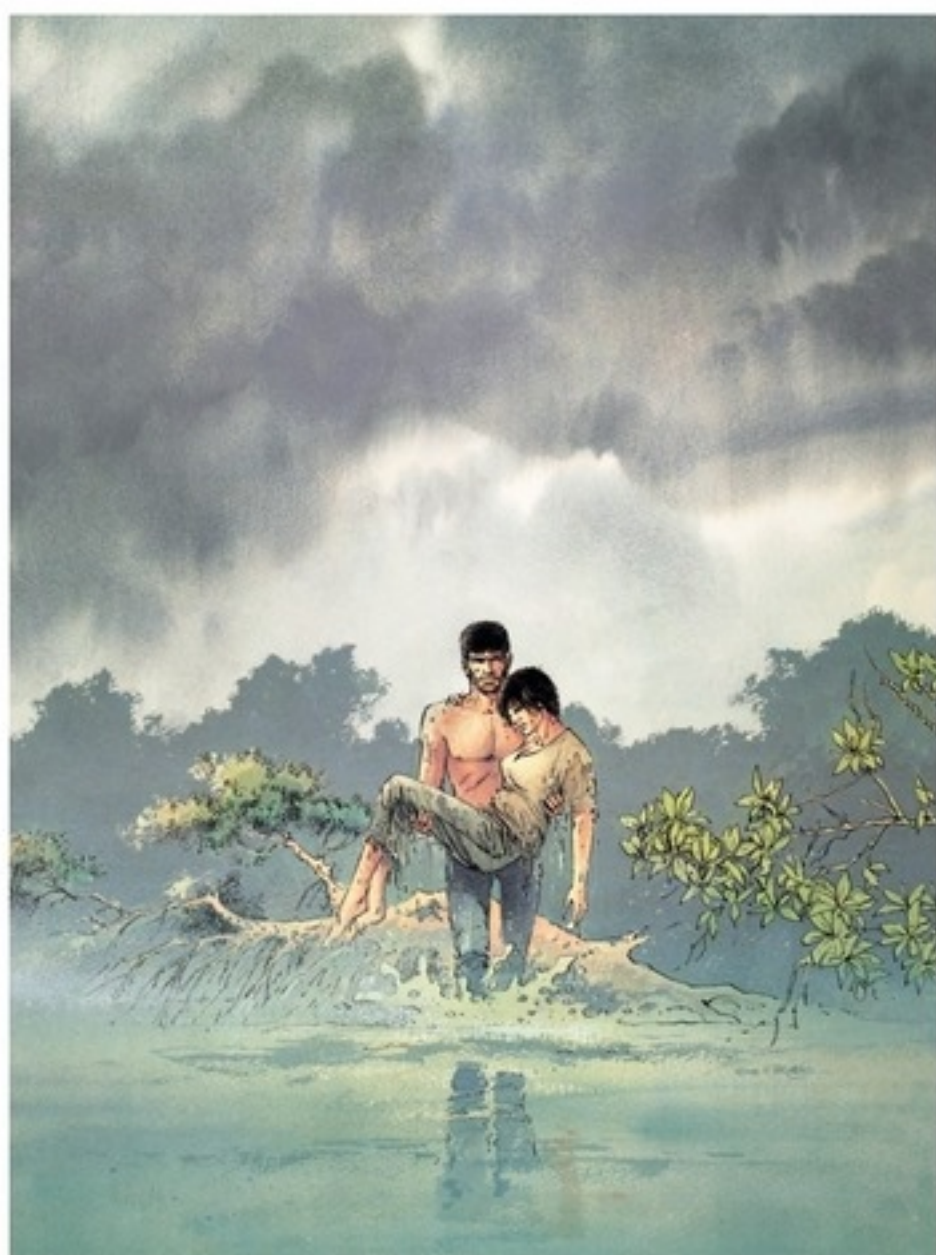
W. VANCE

XIII

J. VAN HAMME

FOR MARIA





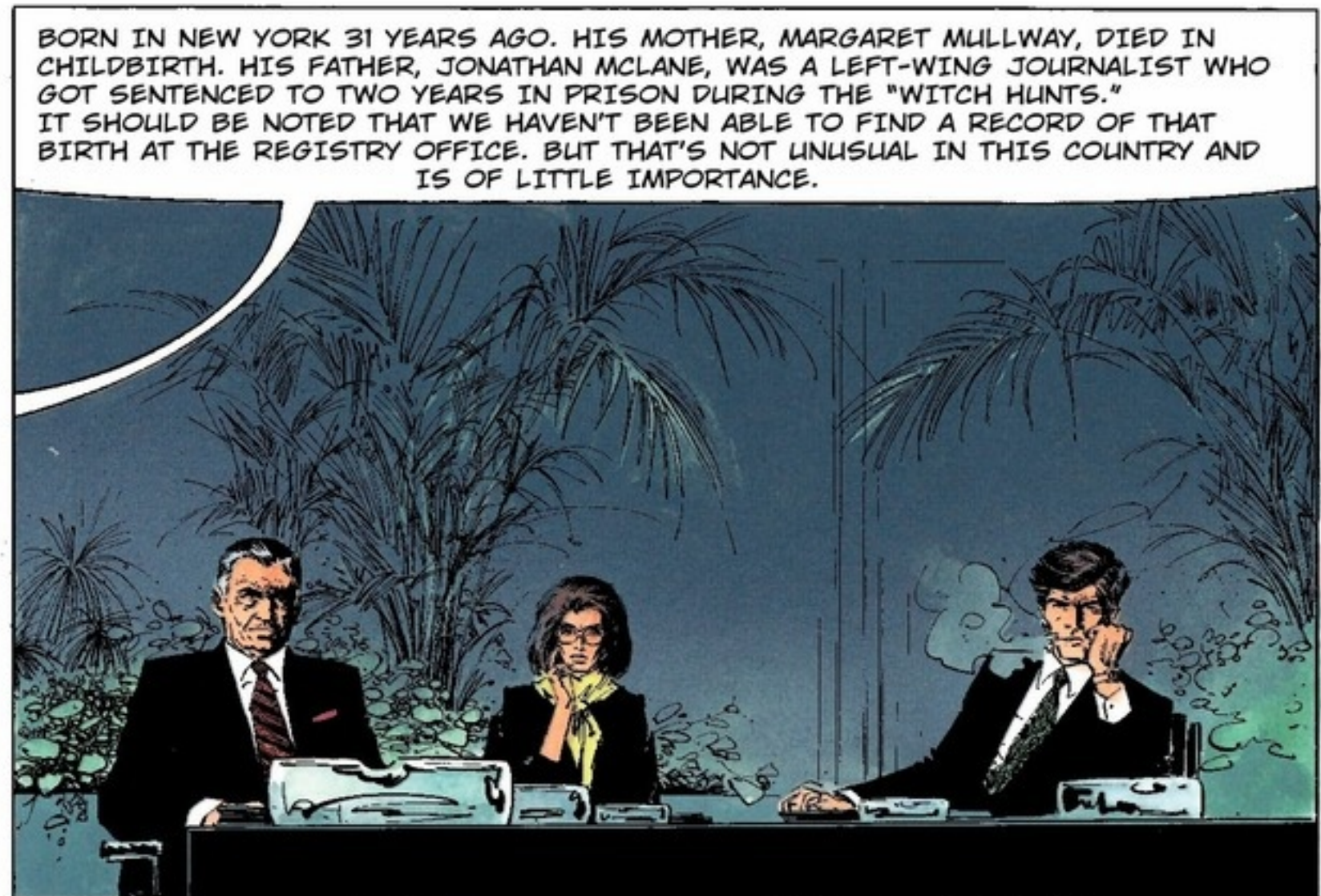
W. VANCE - J. VAN HAMME

**FOR
MARIA**

XIII

Colour work: PETRA

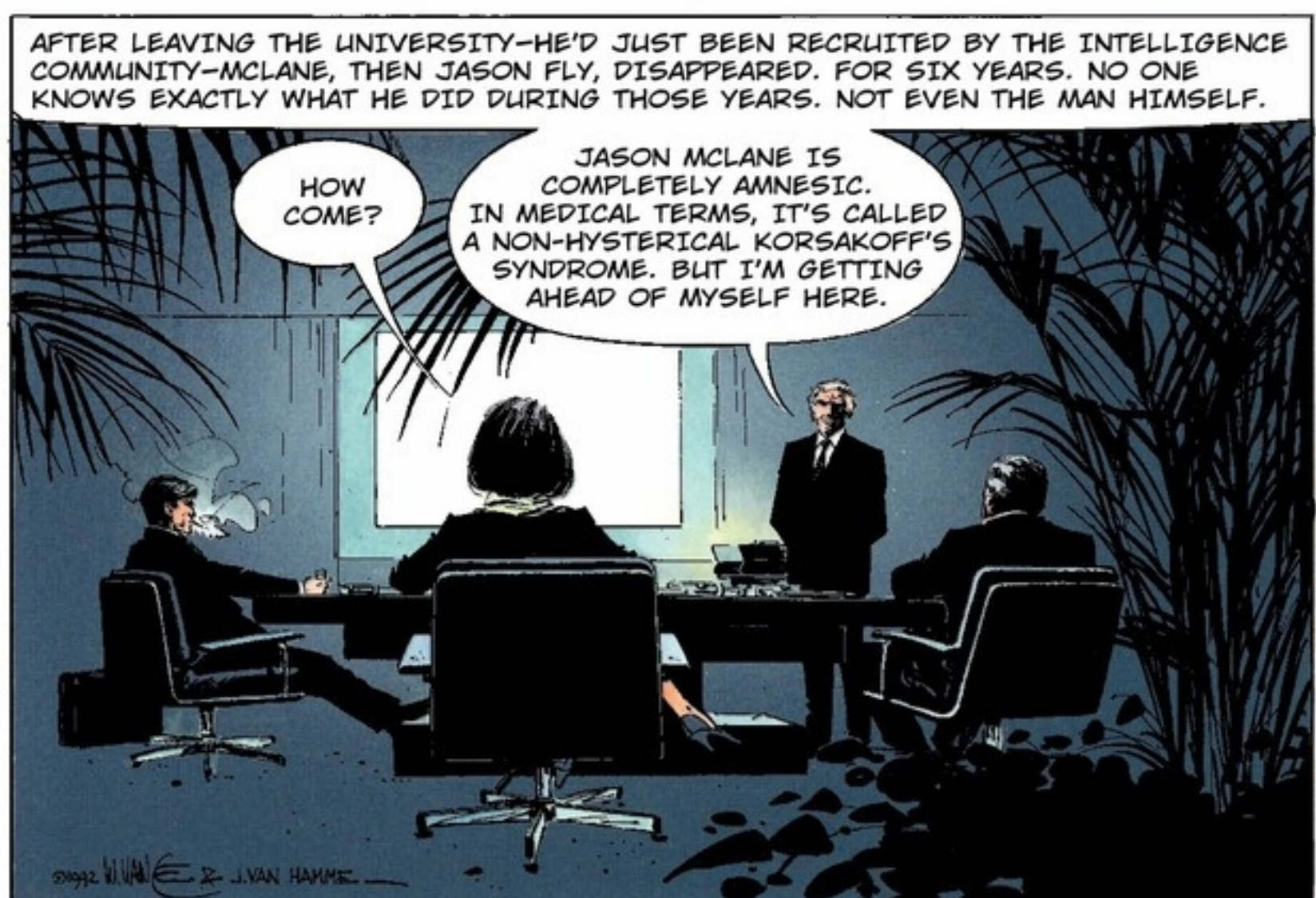
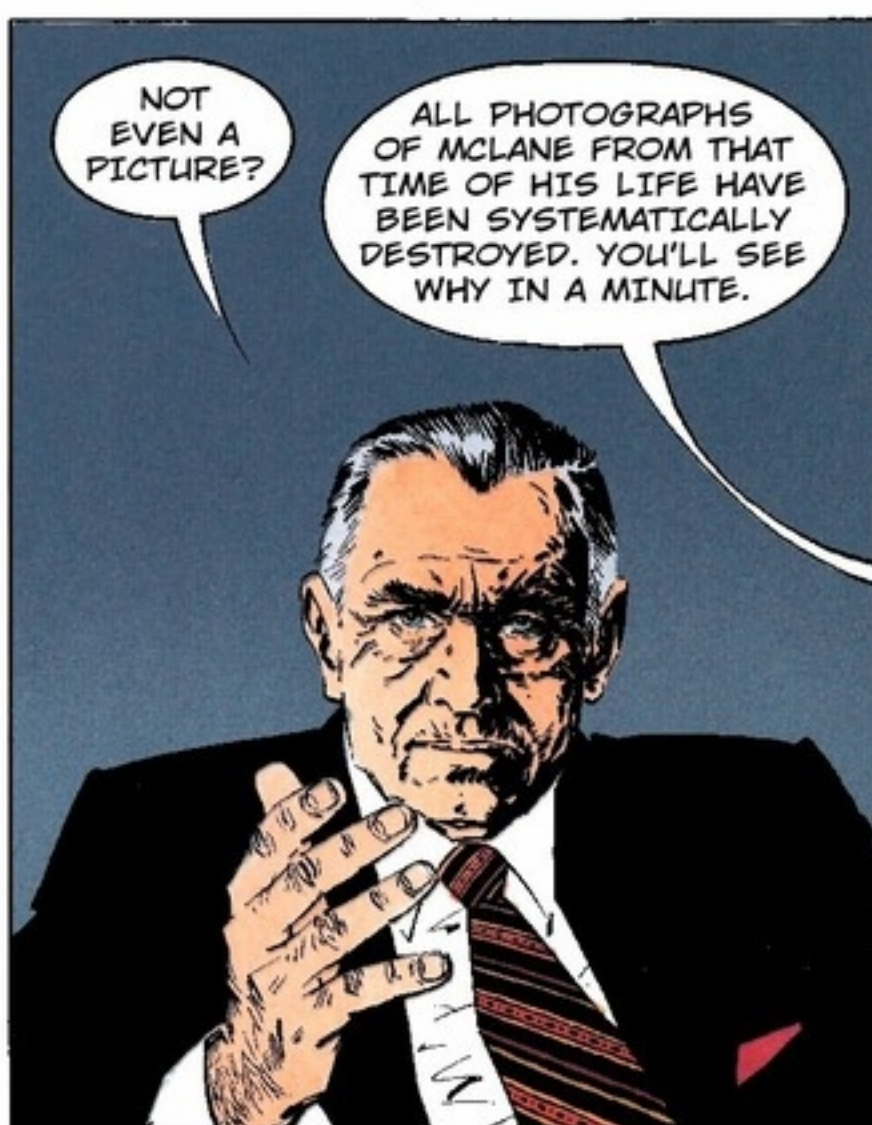
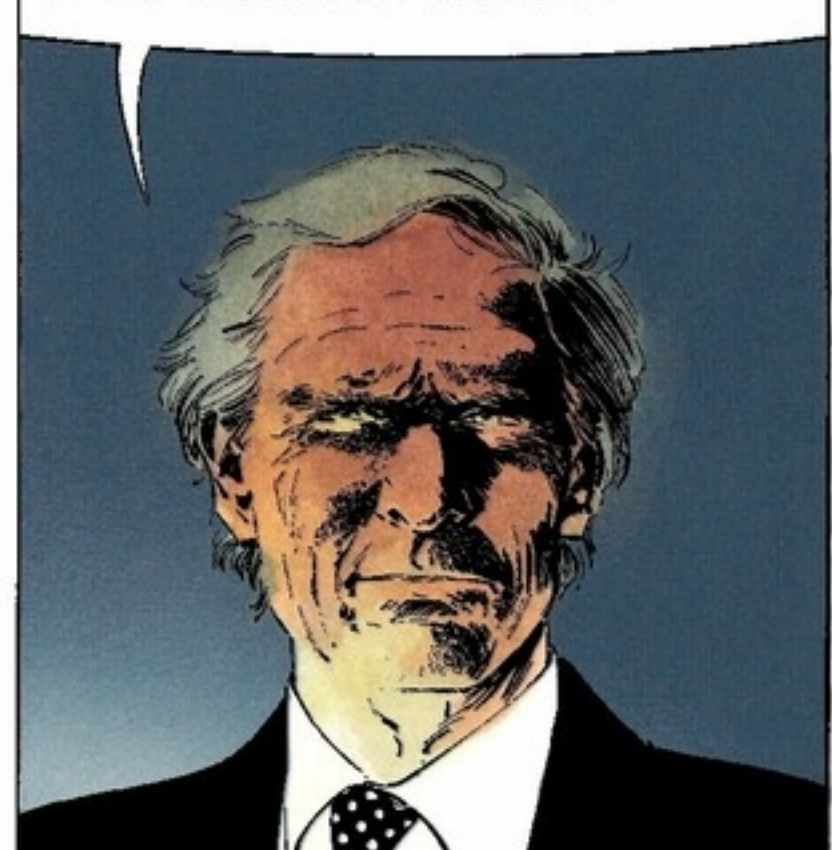
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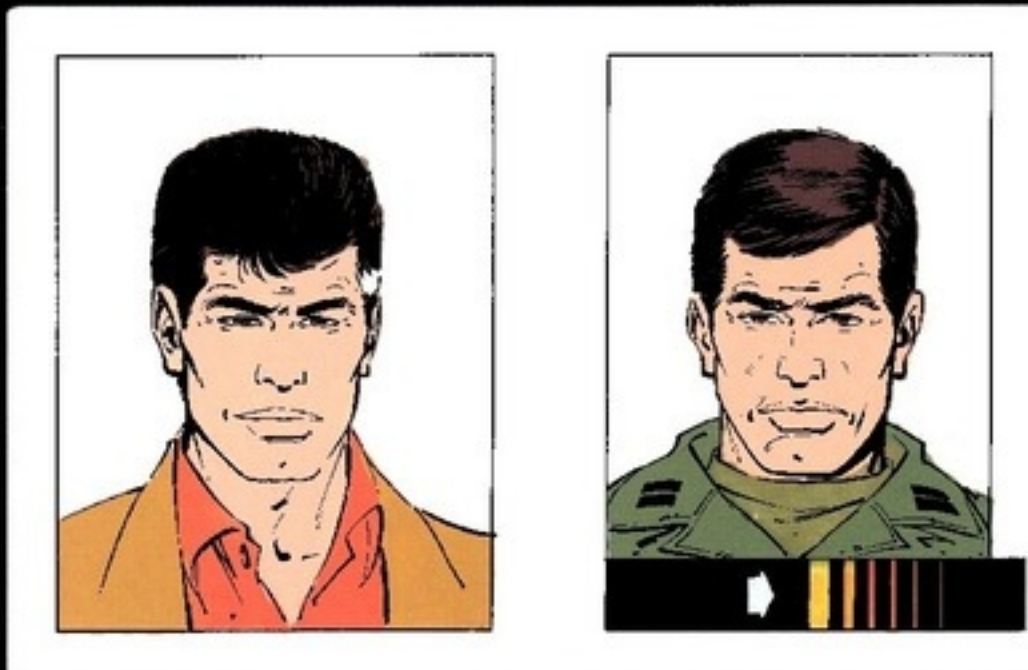
WHEN HE CAME OUT OF PRISON, THE FATHER ASSUMED THE NAME OF JONATHAN FLY, TOOK HIS THREE-YEAR-OLD SON AND WENT TO LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN IN THE ROCKIES, GREEN FALLS. THERE, HE WORKED FOR THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER UNTIL HIS DEATH IN A HOUSE FIRE. IT WAS LATER REVEALED THAT HE'D BEEN MURDERED BY THE KU KLUX KLAN. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WAS UNDER THE NAME OF FLY THAT YOUNG JASON WAS GIVEN TO THE CARE OF ST ANDREW ORPHANAGE.



HE STUDIED AT U.C. BOULDER, LEAVING IT AT 22 WITH A MASTER'S IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND A B.A. IN ART HISTORY. WE HAVE PRACTICALLY NO INFORMATION ON THAT TIME PERIOD, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS QUITE THE ATHLETE AND BELONGED TO THE UNIVERSITY SKI TEAM.



SIX YEARS LATER, ADMIRAL HEIDEGER—THEN HEAD OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE—MANAGED TO GET HIS HANDS ON OUR MAN. PRESIDENT SHERIDAN HAD JUST BEEN ASSASSINATED, AND HEIDEGER CHANGED MCLANE'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE SO THAT HE COULD ASSUME THE IDENTITY OF THE KILLER—ONE CAPTAIN STEVE ROWLAND. THE OBVIOUS GOAL WAS TO EXPOSE THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSPIRACY WHO WERE INTENDING TO SEIZE POWER IN THE UNITED STATES.



IT WAS DURING THAT MISSION THAT MCLANE RECEIVED HIS HEAD INJURY AND BECAME AN AMNESIAC. BUT IN SPITE OF THIS HANDICAP, HE SUCCEEDED—AFTER SOME ADVENTURES I WON'T GO INTO NOW—IN UNRAVELLING THE PLOT AND IDENTIFYING THE CONSPIRATORS.

INCLUDING NUMBER II: CALVIN WAX, ADVISOR TO SHERIDAN'S SUCCESSOR AT THE WHITE HOUSE.



OF COURSE, THE STORY OF THIS FAILED COUP WAS CLASSIFIED AND HAS REMAINED UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. BUT THE INVESTIGATION WASN'T OVER YET. THE CONSPIRACY'S LEADER, NUMBER I, HAD SLIPPED THROUGH THE NET. AND SO, MCLANE WENT BACK TO WORK.



THE CURRENT PRESIDENT HIMSELF, WALTER SHERIDAN, ASKED HIM TO FIND OUT WHO HAD ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF HIS BROTHER. MCLANE FULFILLED HIS MISSION ONCE MORE, AND THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY COMMUNICATED THE RESULT TO THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE: THERE NEVER WAS A NUMBER I. HE WAS JUST A DECOY MADE UP BY CALVIN WAX, THE BETTER TO ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY ON THE OTHER CONSPIRATORS.



WHICH PUT A FINAL END TO THIS AFFAIR.



SO, THIS MCLANE'S BECOME A SORT OF SUPER-AGENT?

IN A WAY. EXCEPT HE DOESN'T WORK FOR ANY KNOWN AGENCY. I KNOW FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT HE EVEN REFUSED PRESIDENT SHERIDAN'S OFFER TO BECOME HIS PRIVATE ADVISOR. HE'S STRICTLY INDEPENDENT.



VERY WELL. BUT HOW CAN THAT MAN BE OF ANY USE TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION?

IN THAT HE IS A MAN WITHOUT A PAST. HE'S KEPT HIS ACQUIRED REFLEXES AND PART OF HIS COLLECTIVE MEMORY. BUT HE'S LOST ALL MEMORIES OF HIS OWN LIFE BEYOND THE LAST 30 MONTHS.



AND WHERE IS HE NOW?

ABROAD.

BUT OF COURSE, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM?

OF COURSE.



LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS. AFTER FINISHING COLLEGE, MCLANE DISAPPEARS FOR SIX YEARS. WHEN HE REAPPEARS, HE FIGHTS LIKE A HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONAL, CAN HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANY WEAPON AND **SPEAKS FLUENT SPANISH.**



LATIN AMERICA, THEN.

MORE THAN LIKELY. AND WHERE IS THE BEST WAR SCHOOL IN ALL OF LATIN AMERICA?



CUBA?

CUBA. THE SECRET TRAINING CENTRE OF THE SIERRA MAESTRA. BACK THEN, IT WAS RUN BY THE BEST SOVIET SPECIALISTS.



SO, WE COULD ASSUME THAT THIS MCLANE WAS TRAINED IN CUBA?

WE COULD, EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN. BUT THE IMPORTANT PART IS THAT MCLANE **CAN'T BE CERTAIN EITHER!**



NOW, LET'S LOOK AT THIS PICTURE YOU ALL KNOW. THE ONE THAT WAS WIDELY SHOWN IN THE PRESS THREE YEARS AGO. PRECISELY AT THE TIME WHEN MCLANE RESURFACED.



SAME HEIGHT, SAME BUILD, SAME AGE... AND ABOVE ALL, BEFORE HIS DEATH, THE SAME QUALITIES AS A MAN OF ACTION. I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT SUCH SIMILARITIES ARE ALMOST UNCANNY.

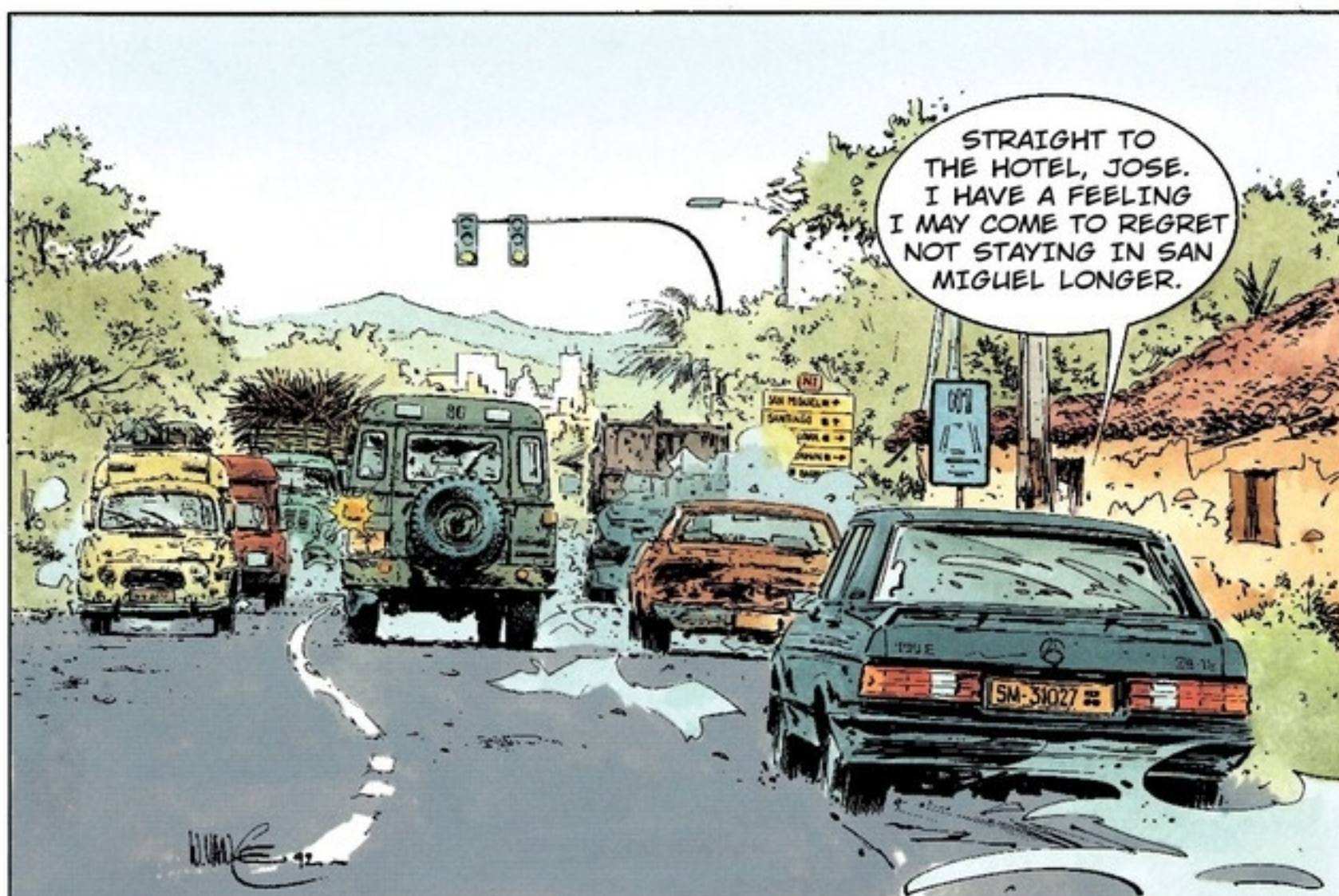


NOW, LADY, GENTLEMEN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY JASON MCLANE IS **PRECISELY THE MAN WE NEED?**

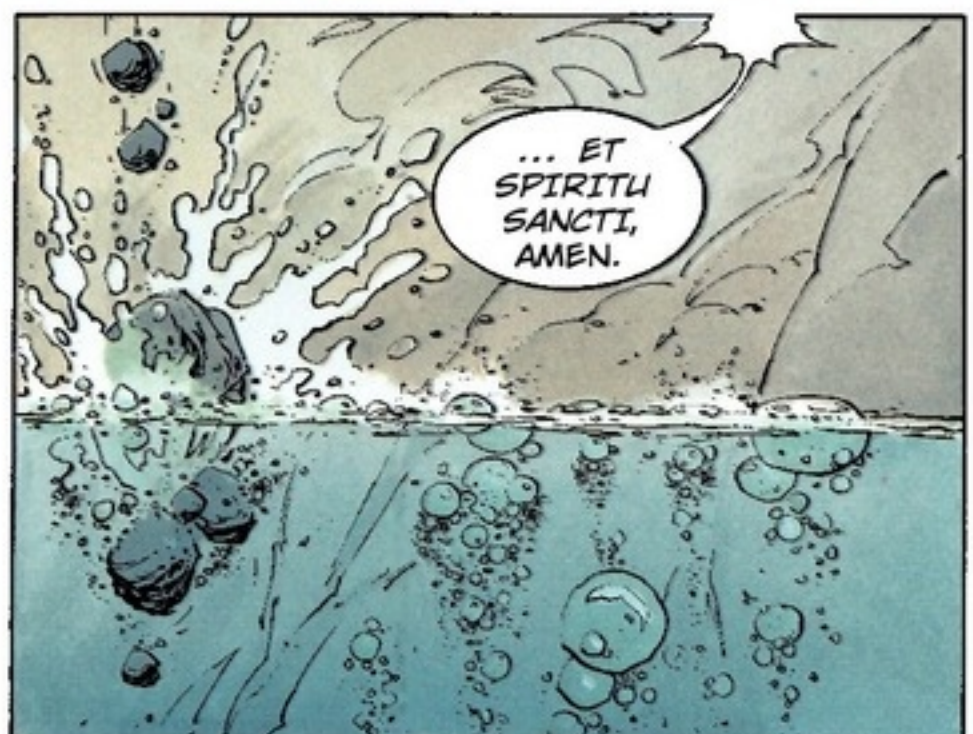
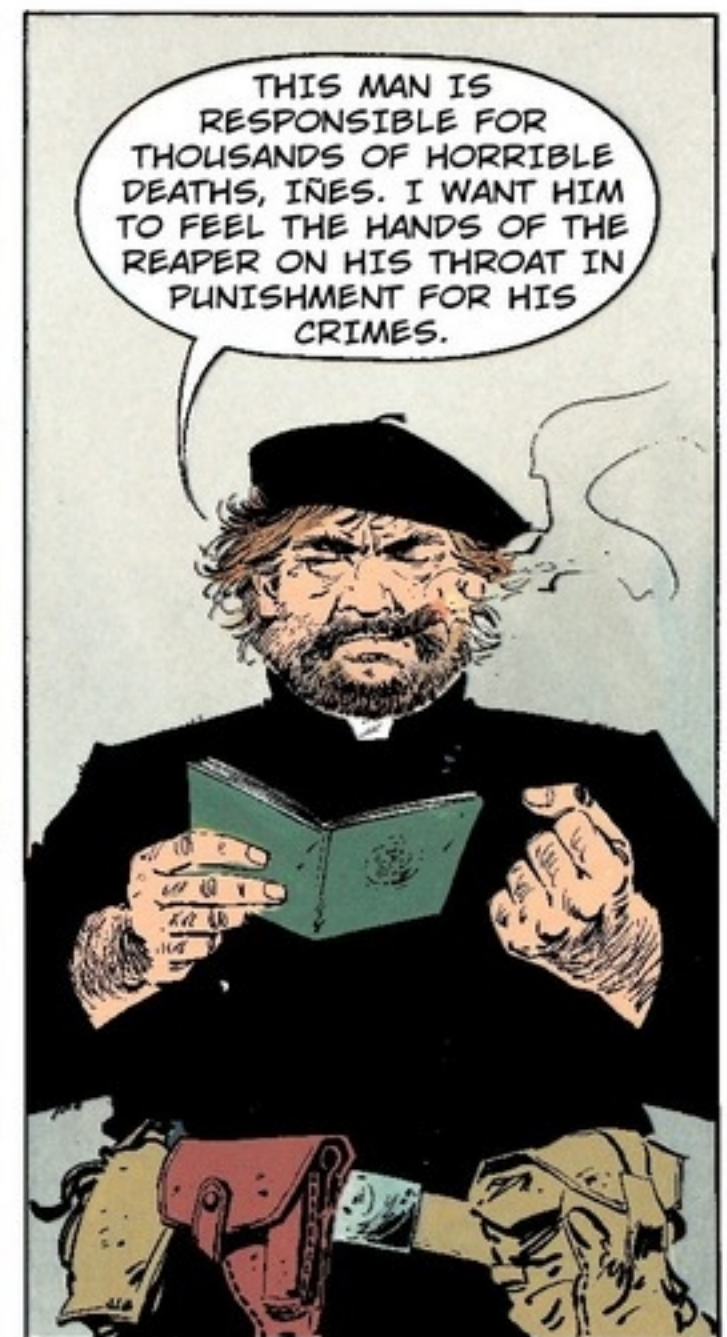


SAN MIGUEL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, A FEW WEEKS LATER...





*GOOD EVENING



Sommaire

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Guide

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- Sommaire
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