



LARGO WINCH
PHILIPPE FRANCO JEAN VAN HAMME

CROSSING PATHS



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PHILIPPE FRANCO • JEAN VAN HAMME

MOORE STREET,
CHELSEA, LONDON.

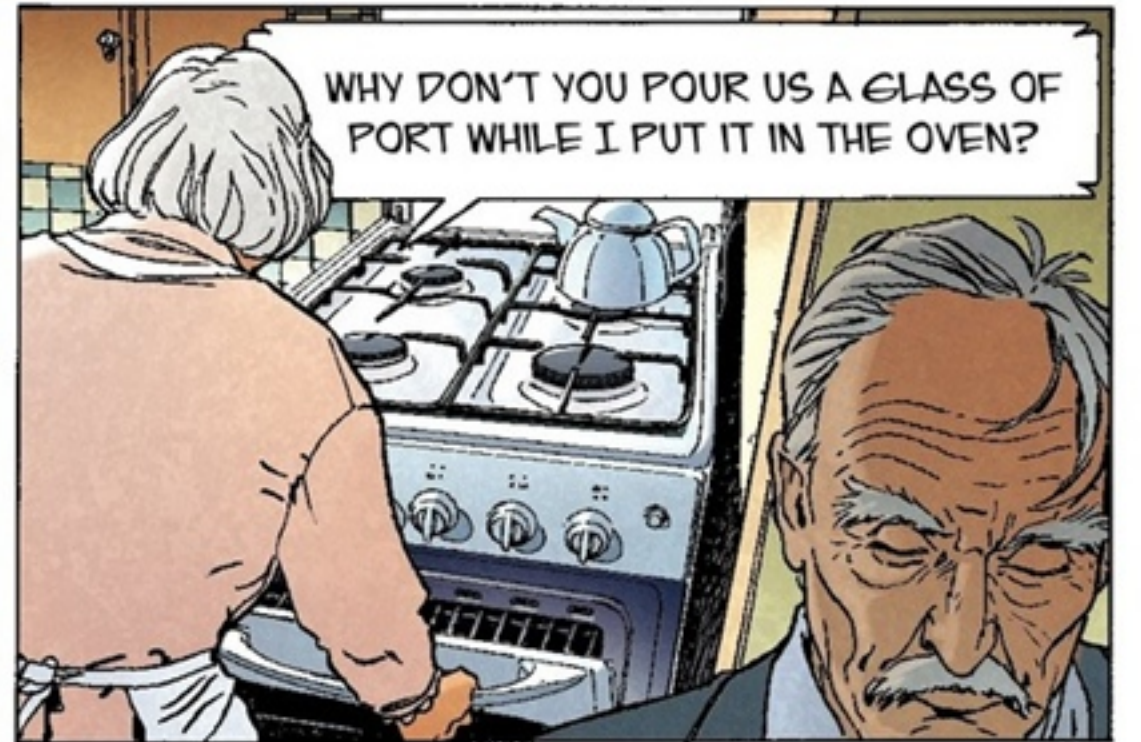


THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY RABBIT, SO
I BOUGHT SOME VENISON INSTEAD.

THAT'LL DO JUST
FINE, DARLING.



WHY DON'T YOU POUR US A GLASS OF
PORT WHILE I PUT IT IN THE OVEN?



I HOPE YOU PAID
THE GAS BILL.

THEY WERE
HERE YESTERDAY
TO READ THE
METER.





*ARSEHOLE



I OWE YOU ONE. MY BEST JEWELLERY IS IN THIS BAG.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE POLICE?



TO SPEND AN HOUR FILLING IN FORMS? NO, THANKS! THAT PUNK'LL BE IN ENOUGH TROUBLE WHEN HIS GIRLFRIEND ASKS HIM WHO DOUSED HIM IN LADIES' PERFUME.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

LONDON.



GREAT — ME TOO. BUSINESS OR ECONOMY?

ECONOMY, OF COURSE.



THIS IS OUR GATE. GIVE ME YOUR BOARDING PASS — I'LL SEE IF I CAN GET YOU UPGRADED.

ARE YOU CRAZY? IT'S HORRIBLY EXPENSIVE. AND THE FLIGHT IS BARELY MORE THAN TWO HOURS.

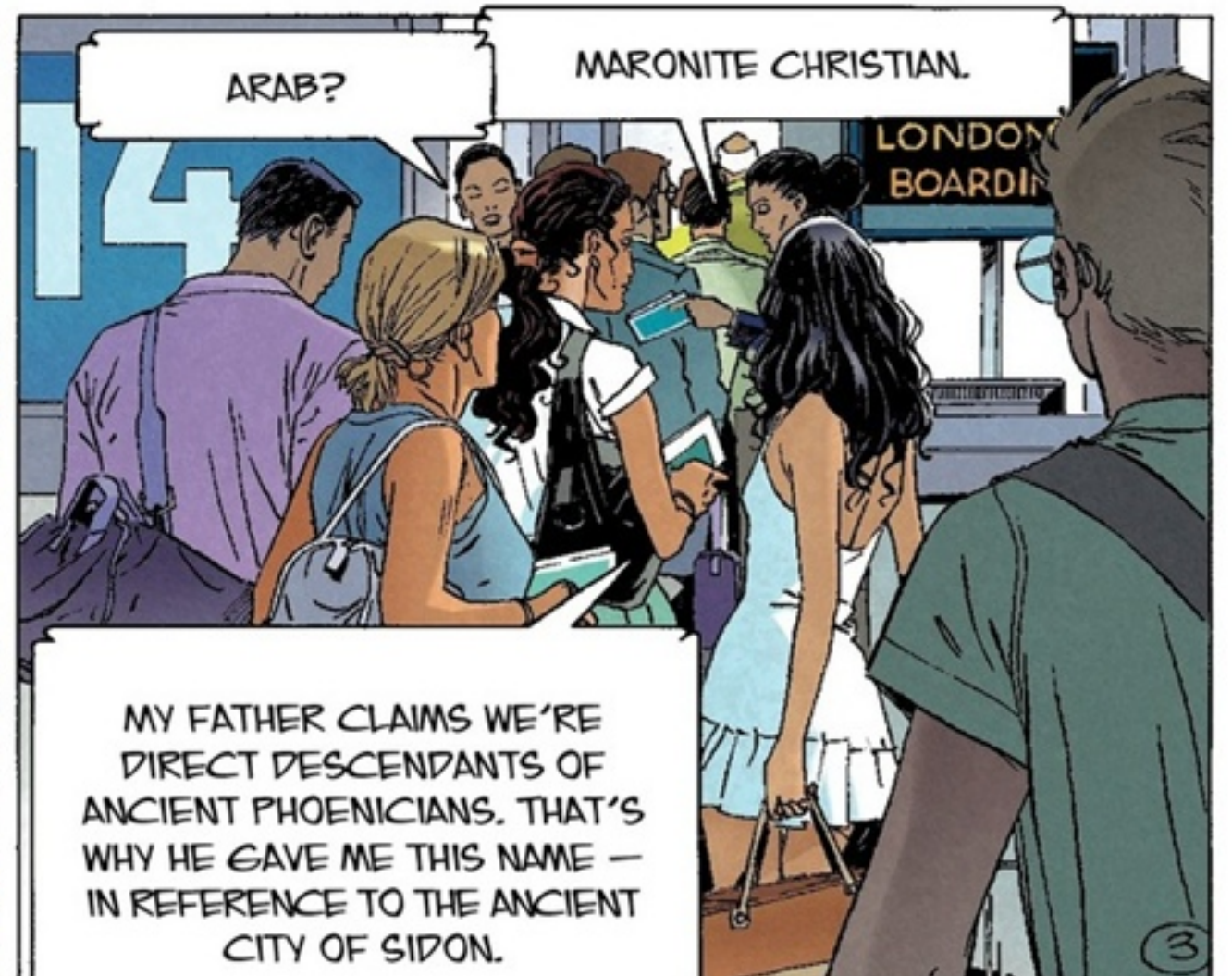


IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO. AND I WANT TO TRAVEL WITH YOU. DON'T MOVE — I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



THERE, ALL SORTED. I'M DOMENICA. AND YOU?

SAIDEE. I... I'M FROM LEBANON.



ARAB?

MARONITE CHRISTIAN.

MY FATHER CLAIMS WE'RE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF ANCIENT PHOENICIANS. THAT'S WHY HE GAVE ME THIS NAME — IN REFERENCE TO THE ANCIENT CITY OF SIDON.



I DID SECRETARIAL STUDIES AND ACCOUNTING, AND I'M SPENDING A YEAR IN LONDON TO GET SOME EXPERIENCE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY THERE?



NO, I'LL BE STAYING WITH A HOST FAMILY. I HOPE THEY'RE NICE. I HEAR ENGLISH PEOPLE ARE VERY UPTIGHT.

NOT ALL OF THEM, SAIDEE.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, PRETTY AS YOU ARE, YOU'LL HAVE TO WATCH YOURSELF. BIG CITIES SUCH AS LONDON CAN BE A JUNGLE FOR DEFENCELESS LITTLE BIRDS.

I'LL BE CAREFUL.



WHAT ABOUT YOU? TRAVELLING ON BUSINESS?

IN A WAY.

I'M A SCULPTOR, AND A MAJOR LONDON GALLERY IS EXHIBITING MY WORK. THE PREVIEW IS TOMORROW NIGHT.

HERE'S AN INVITATION. WILL YOU COME?



I'M SURE IT'LL BE VERY POSH. I DON'T KNOW IF...

DON'T BE SILLY... YOU COULD WEAR A BIN BAG AND STILL OUTSHINE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN OF LONDON'S JET SET.



SUCH COMFORT. IT'S... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE TRAVELLED BY PLANE.

AS FOR ME, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE FLOWN WITH THIS COMPANY. BUT I SORT OF KNOW THE OWNER...



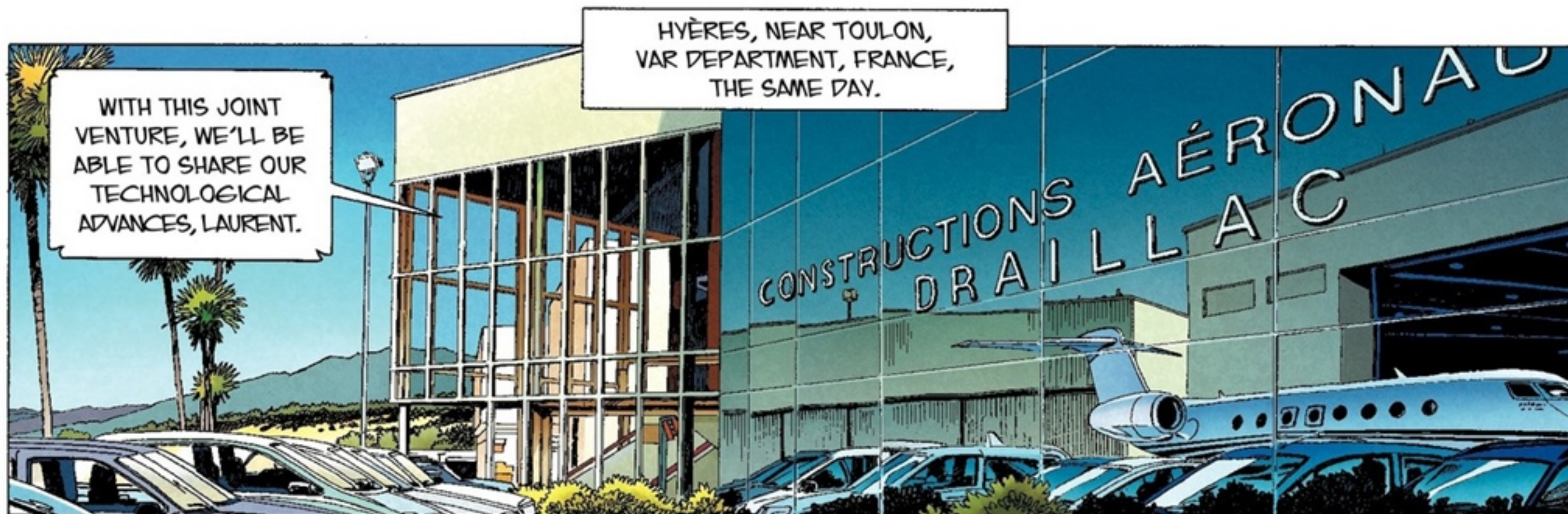
MR WINCH? YOU KNOW HIM? I SAW HIS PHOTO IN A MAGAZINE. HE'S RATHER HANDSOME, ISN'T HE?



HE'S MORE THAN THAT...



...LARGO'S GOT SOMETHING THAT OTHERS DON'T HAVE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT... I WONDER WHICH PART OF THE WORLD HE'S IN AT THIS MOMENT...



WITH THIS JOINT VENTURE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHARE OUR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, LAURENT.

HYÈRES, NEAR TOULON, VAR DEPARTMENT, FRANCE, THE SAME DAY.



IN PARTICULAR YOUR FAMOUS FUEL CELL...

WHICH IS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT. AS WELL AS THE MOWGLI III, OUR VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING BUSINESS JET. IN EXCHANGE, UNDER YOUR NAME, WE COULD PENETRATE THE CHINESE MARKET THAT'S BEEN CLOSED TO MY GROUP.*



I HEARD ABOUT THAT, BUT NOT THE REASON FOR IT.

IF WE BECOME ASSOCIATES, I'LL TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY ONE DAY.

*SEE THE WAY AND THE VIRTUE



YOU PIQUE MY INTEREST, LARGO. WHAT WITH ALL THE TALES I HEAR ABOUT YOU, I PICTURED YOU AS MORE OF AN ADVENTURER THAN A BUSINESSMAN.

YOUR OWN EXPLOITS IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST WERE SOMETHING ELSE TOO, LAURENT.* WE SHOULD GET ALONG FINE.

THERE'S ACTUALLY A CONDITION TO MY OFFER... ON TOP OF YOUR CURRENT DUTIES, I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE ON THE PRESIDENCY OF WINCH AERONAUTICS IN CHICAGO.



CHICAGO? I... YOU'RE TAKING ME BY SURPRISE, LARGO... I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT...



WHOOA...

IN A FEW DAYS, I'M CALLING FOR A 'BIG BOARD'* OF ALL MY PRESIDENTS. BE THERE — THAT WAY YOU CAN TEST THE WATERS.



*THE CHARACTER IS FROM 20 ANS APRÈS (20 YEARS LATER), BY VAN HAMME AND DANY

* GENERAL MEETING

LARGO WINCH (ENGLISH VERSION), TOME 15 : CROSSING PATHS

Sommaire

Corpus

Guide

Couverture

Page de titre

Sommaire

Texte