

THE ADVENTURES OF PIE

written by MICHAEL O'DONOGHUE-drawn by FRANK SPRINGER









WEAR THE HIANG SHANG WATERFRONT, WHERE ONLY FOOLS AND LEPERS VENTURE OUT PAST SUNDOWN, A FURTIVE FIGURE MOVES ALMOST IMPERCEPTIVELY
THROUGH THE THICK YELLOW FOG THAT RISES OFF THE
CANTON HARBOR LIKE VISIBLE DESPAIR.







AS IF BY MAGIC, THE RAUCOUS LAUGHTER DIES AWAY AND A GHASTIY PALL SETTLES OVER THE CROWD. WITH A PREAPFUL MOAN, A CONCERTINA PROPS UNNOTICED TO THE FLOOR...



WITHOUT HESITATION, HE CROSSES THE HUSHED ROOM AND FLINGS HIS BURDEN ON THE BAR



EVEN THE MOST HARDENED FAIL TO STIFLE A SHIVER OF APPREHENSION, EVEN THE MOST JAPED AVOID HIS GLANCE ... FOR THE MAN HAS THE EYES OF ONE WHO HAS SEEN TOO MUCH ... AND FORGOTTEN TOO LITTLE ..



FLASHING A COLD SMILE THAT SPARKS A THOUSAND NAMELESS FEARS, HE UTTERS BUT A SINGLE WORD.



THE CHURNING FOG ...





THEN TOPPLES FORWARD INTO THE SAWDUST HIS FEATURES HIDEOUSLY CONTORTED. THE CAUSE CENCE WAS SIMPLER THAN FIRST SUS-PECTED, STEM-FROM A MOON-STONE-STUDDED DAGGER THAT IS BURIED TO THE HILT SLIGHTLY BELOW HIS LEFT SHOULDER BLADE ...







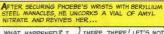


THIS JUST CAME FOR YOU AT ROARING SAM'S! IT WAS FLUNG ON THE BAR BY A STRANGER WHO HAD THE EYES OF ONE WHO HAS SEEN TOO MUCH ... AND PORGOTTEN TOO LITTLE!

> STOP ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT BEFORE DEPARTING DID HE NOT UTTER BUT A SINGLE WORD AND WAS NOT THAT WORD "XJHOOMJEP"?!



THE UNKEMPT RESIDENT DRAGS THE SACK INSIDE AND DUMPS ITS CONTENTS, THE LIMP BODY OF AN UNCOMMONLY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, ON THE RUG...





WHAT HAPPENED? I THERE, THERE! LET'S NOT WAS ABOUT TO BE MOLESTED BY SOME SORT OF GIANT LIZARD AND THEM I DON'T REMEMBER ANY MORE! OF A REFINED AND I MUST HAVE BLACKED SENSITIVE ARTIST; THAT IS TO SAY, ME!















ON YOU, I SHALL CREATE MY CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT, A WORK OF UNPARALLELED MAGNIFICENCE WHICH IT, HAVE BEEN PLANNING SINCE MY STUDENT DAY'S IN SIENA! UNTIL NOW, I'D NEVER ROUND A "FORM" WORTHY OF MY CONCEPTION! FOR YEARS, I HAVE HAD TO GET BY WITH SECOND-RATE MATERIALS—HOCKERS OUT OF HONG KONG, AGING RED CROSS NURSES, SCHOOLGRIES WITH RICKETS, AND THE LIKE! BUT YOU, MY PEAR, ARE FLAWLESS! WITH SUCH A BODY, I WILL RISE TO NEW HEIGHTS AND WIN AT LAST THE KUDOS AND PLAUDITS OF THE





ON ME? YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW ON ME? PERHAPS I CAN ALLAY YOUR MISSIVINGS BY BRIEFLY PESCRIBING THE COMPOSITION I HAVE IN MIND—YOUR FACE WILL BE A \$77/L-L/FF PELICITELY BALANCING A CLAY PIPE, A PECK OF TAROT CARDS, A BOWL OF TAMSERINES AND A DEAD GROUSE; YOUR. NECK WILL BE GIVEN TO KELLGIOUS SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE ANUNCIATION," "THE MARTYRDOM OF ST, SEBASTIAN" AND THE OLD RIGGED CROSS" TO NAME BUT A FEW; "THE DEFENESTRATION OF PRAGUE (JILY 30, MIS)," "ATTACK OF THE VISIGOTHS UNDER ALARIC II" AND "THE DEMISE OF WARREN HARDING" ARE JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS OF HISTORICAL SUBMIFICANCE WHICH GRACE YOUR BACK; YOUR SHOULDERS AND BREASTS WILL BE COVERED WITH SCENES OF PAGAM WYTHOLOGY WHICH I WON'T GO INTO AT

THIS TIME; YOUR MIDRIFF AND LOINS WILL BE DONE IN LANDSCAPES — PICTURESQUE WINDMILLS AND THE LIKE; YOUR BUTTOCKS WILL BE DEVOTED TO LYPRICAL THEMES SUCH AS "FORTTUDE SLAYING AVARICE WITH THE LANCE OF SAGACITY", DANCING SILESIAN WEAVERS AND OTHER RUSTYC MOTHES WILL ENHANCE YOUR LEGS; STUDIES OF SONGBIRDS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN LINTED STATES WILL RUN UP YOUR ARMS ENDING WITH A FLOURISH OF FLORAL FURGREE WORK IN YOUR ARMPITS! I HAVEN'T YET DECIPED WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR FEET OR YOUR EARS! IN ANY CASE, THE WHOLE THING SHALL BE SET OFF BY THIS STURRING MOTTO EMBLAZONED ON A FLOWING BANNER; "BORN TO LOSE!"





THE DISHEVELED TATTOOER PREPARES TO MAKE THE INITIAL STROKE. WITH HIS VIBRATING SILVER NEEDLE ON THE FETTERED FEMALE'S UNBLEMISHED SKIN WHEN THE ROOM IS SUPPENLY PLUNGED INTO PARKNESS...



I'VE BEEN SOMEWHAT TARDY IN PAYING MY BILL AT M.G. & E.-MACAO GAS AND ELECTRIC — AND IT APPEARS AS IF THEY'VE JUST DISCONNECTED MY SERVICE! QUITE FRANKLY, IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR IGNORING THEIR THIRD WARNING PRINTED ON SPECIAL RED RICE PAPER, BUT AS ARE MOST CREATIVE PERSONS, I'M IMPRACTICAL, PREFERRING TO BUILD CASTLES IN THE AIR RATHER THAN FACE UP TO HARD REALITIES OF LIFE ITSELF! NO MATTER! I'LL SWITCH TO MY MANUALLY-OPERATED NEEDLE AND USE A FLASHLIGHT!













THE 9:03 FROM HAMAMATSUCHO STATION ROUNDS THE BEND, BEARING DOWN ON THE TRUSSED INNOCENT AT A BREATHTAKING IGO K.P. H. EVEN IF THERE WERE SOMEONE WILLING TO HELP HER; EVEN IF A WHOLE CONTINISENT OF BOY SCOUTS WERE AT THE READY, IT WOULD BE TOO LATE, BEFORE THEY COULD REACH HER, PHOEBE ZEIT-GEIST WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN RAW HAMBURGER.



PERHAPS IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, THAT PHOEBE SHOULD PIE HERE AND NOW RATHER THAN LINE OUT HER DAYS UNCERTAIN OF WHETHER OR NOT SHE WAS MOLESTED BY SOME SORT OF GIANT LIZARD. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS "ONE TRACK BIND," THE NEXT PUES TUVERTUNE SPISODE IN "TWE APVENTURES OF PROSES EXT-GEST,"



Episode XI One Track Bind

T APPEARS AS IF THE THREE FATES SPINNING THE WEB OF LIFE HAVE DROPPED ANOTHER ONE OF PHOEBE'S STITCHES, IN FACT, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE RUN OUT

OF YARN. LASHED TO A RAILWAY TRESTLE, SCANT INCHES FROM UTTER DESTRUCTION UNDER THE WHIRLING WHEELS OF A STREAMLINED LOCO-MOTIVE BARRELING DOWN THE SINGLE TRACK AT TREMENDOUS SPEED, PHOEBE CRIES A CRY REPOLENT WITH ANGUISH, ECHOING NOT MERELY HER OWN PLIGHT BUT THE PLIGHT OF ALL UNFORTUNATES EVER FACED WITH INEXORABLE DOOM:

THE ADVENTURES OF PHOEBE ZET-

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THE STREETS ARE EMPTY, NO ONE HEEDS OR EVEN HEARS HOEBE'S LAMENT, DISCOUNTING, OF COURSE, A SHABBY PHOBE'S LAMINENT, DISCUSIONING, OF COURSE, A SHADOW BUIND BEGGAR WITH TAPPING CANE AND RATTLING CUP WHOSE BEARING ON OUR TALE CAN SURELY BE NOTHING MORE THAN A MACABRE SHADOW AGAINST A FLEETING BACKGROUND ON WHICH TO RING DOWN THE FINAL CURTAIN OF AN INEVITABLE TRAGEDY ...



MEVERTHELESS, IN AN ASTOUND ING TURN OF EVENTS, THE SUPPOSED "BEGGAR" FLINGS OFF HIS DISGUISE RE-VEALING HIMSELF TO BE NONE OTHER THAN --



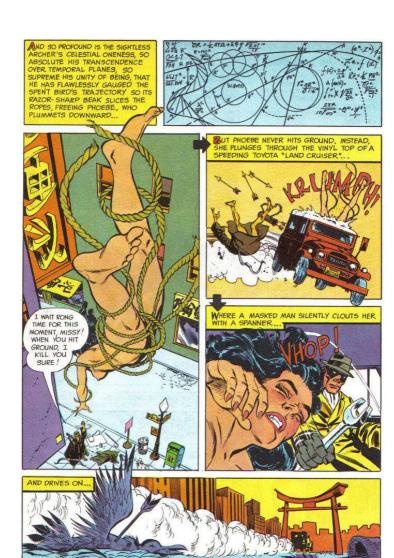
WASTING NO TIME, HE STRAIGHT AN ARROW WITH INTENT TO SEVER PHOEBE'S BONDS





THAT IS TO SAY, TO THE AVERAGE UNENLIGHTENED OBSERVER, HE MISSES. ACTUALLY, THE ARROW IMPALES A NEARBY YANG BIRD.





AT THAT YERY MOMENT, ON A SLEAZY LE HAVRE SIDESTREET, A BATTERED CITROEN 2-CV PULLS INTO A GARAGE-STREWN ALLEY THAT ADJOINS A DOWN-AT- THE- HEELS RETREAD AND USED TIRE OUTLET, AND THE DRIVER, LEAN, SWARTHY HANDSOME DESPITE THE COUNTLESS SCARS AQUILINE FEATURES STEPS OUT ...



HE CASUALLY REACHES INTO THE POCKET OF HIS CUSTOM-TAILORED SCALAMANDRE SILK SUIT AND REMOVES A CRUMPLED PACK OF GAULOISES "DISQUE BLEU", NOTING, WITH MILD IRRITATION, THAT ONLY ONE CIGARETTE REMAINS, WHICH HE LIGHTS, PROPPING THE EMPTY PACKAGE ON THE COBBLED PAYMENT.





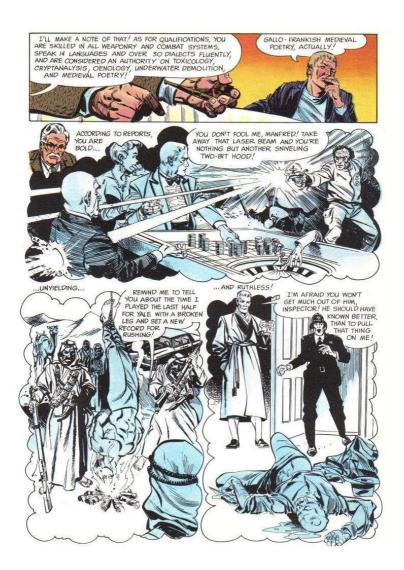














INSTRUCTIONS. WE HAVE REASON TO I BELIEVE THAT A MISS PHOEBE ZEIT-GEIST IS IN TROUBLE! RESOUE HER! USE ANY MEANS YOU CARE TO, BEARING IN MIND, NATURALLY, THAT WE DO NOT OFFICIALLY EXIST AND ARE POWERLESS TO INTERVENE IN YOUR BEHALF! DISMISSED.





WITHIN SECONDS, THE BODY, THE CAR, HAVE VAN-ISHED. NOTHING REMAINS TO SHOW THAT HE WAS EVER THERE...NOTHINGS...SAVE FOR A CRUMPLED PACK OF GAULOISES "PISQUE BLEU" THAT, ALL TOO SOON, IS KICKED BY A STUMBLING CLOCHARD INTO THE GUTTER...



"AS LEAVES ON THE TREES, SUCH IS THE LIFE OF MAN." -- HOMER

Episode XII





Episode XI LETHAL WOMEN

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THIS IS THE BAND

OF INCREDIBLE

LESBIANS!

WHEN PHOEBE REVIVES, SHE IS DISMAYED TO FIND HERSELF LOCKED IN A CAGE ON THE ROCK-BOUND COAST OF EASTERN NEW ZEALAND, ENCIRCLED BY UNUSUAL FEMALES



THE BLOB PRINCESS, AN ELEVEN-HUNDRED POUND PUERTO-RICAN WEARING A RUBBER PEISONOIR CINCHED BY A DIAMOND SPANGLED GARRISON BELT, PROCEEDS TO INTRODUCE THE SUNDRY MEMBERS OF HER







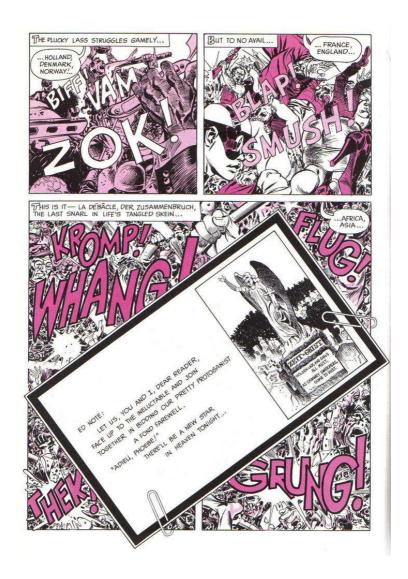


















WITTY REPARTEE.

