

GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™

JASON

QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN FLEECE

A
GREEK
MYTH

JEFF LIMKE • TIM SEELEY



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GREEK
MYTH



**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™**

**STORY BY
JEFF LIMKE**

**PENCILS BY
TIM SEELEY**

**INKS BY
BARBARA SCHULZ**

**BASED ON
THE HEROIC POEM
BY APOLLONIUS
OF RHODES**

EUROPE

ITALY

MEDITERRANEAN SEA



JASON

QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN FLEECE



GRAPHIC UNIVERSE™ • MINNEAPOLIS

THE LEGEND OF JASON AND THE OTHER GREEK HEROES ABOARD THE *Argo* AND THEIR QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN FLEECE MAY HAVE ORIGINATED AS A STORY TOLD ABOUT THE FIRST GREAT SAILING SHIPS BUILT BY THE ANCIENT GREEKS. THE LEGEND AS IT IS TOLD TODAY WAS FIRST WRITTEN IN ABOUT 280 B.C. BY APOLLONIUS OF RHODES, A LIBRARIAN AT THE GREAT LIBRARY IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT. THE AUTHOR ALSO BASED THIS VERSION ON THE RETELLINGS IN *BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY*, *MYTHOLOGY* BY EDITH HAMILTON, AND *THE FRIENDLY GUIDE TO MYTHOLOGY* BY NANCY HATHAWAY. DAVID MULROY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE ENSURED HISTORICAL AND VISUAL ACCURACY.

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THE CLASHING ROCKS

MY NAME IS JASON, AND I SHOULD
BE THE RULER OF IOLCUS.

MY FATHER, AESON, HAD THE THRONE TAKEN AWAY FROM
HIM BY HIS BROTHER PELIAS. MY FATHER HID ME FROM
THE EVIL PELIAS, AND I WAS RAISED BY A CENTAUR, HALF
MAN, HALF HORSE, NAMED CHIRON. CHIRON TAUGHT ME
WELL WHO I WAS AND WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.

WHEN I ARRIVED IN IOLCUS TO
CLAIM MY BIRTHRIGHT, MY UNCLE
DIDN'T GIVE THE THRONE TO ME.
HE SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT MY
CLAIM TO THE THRONE ONLY IF I
BROUGHT HIM THE FLEECE OF THE
GOLDEN RAM OF COLCHIS.

HE SAID BRINGING THE GOLDEN
FLEECE TO IOLCUS WOULD GRANT
HIM PEACE FROM THE GHOST OF
PHRIXUS, WHO HAUNTED HIM
NIGHTLY. AND THE ADVENTURE
WOULD BRING TO ME GREAT
GLORY.





I BUILT A GREAT SHIP AND NAMED IT THE ARGO, AND I GATHERED ALL THE HEROES I COULD FIND TO JOIN ME ON IT.

WE ARGONAUTS TRAVELED FAR ON OUR SEARCH AND HAD MANY ADVENTURES.

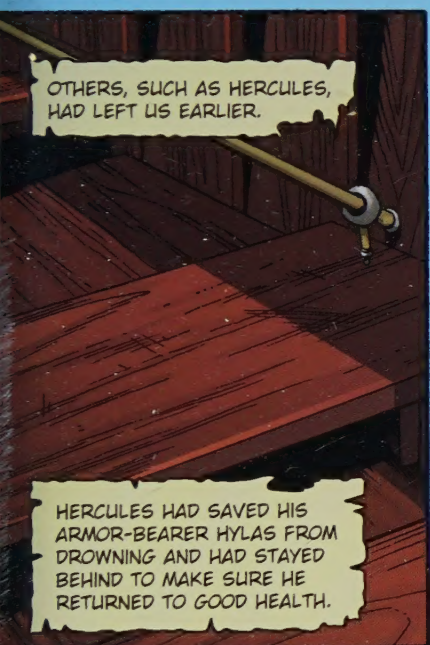


THE HEROES INCLUDED NOBLE AND VIRTUOUS PELEUS WHO WAS GIVEN A SEA GODDESS TO WED,

AND ZETES AND CALAIS THE SONS OF BOREAS, THE NORTH WIND.



BLIND PHINEUS, WHOM THE HEROES SAVED FROM STARVATION, RODE WITH US AS WELL.



OTHERS, SUCH AS HERCULES, HAD LEFT US EARLIER.

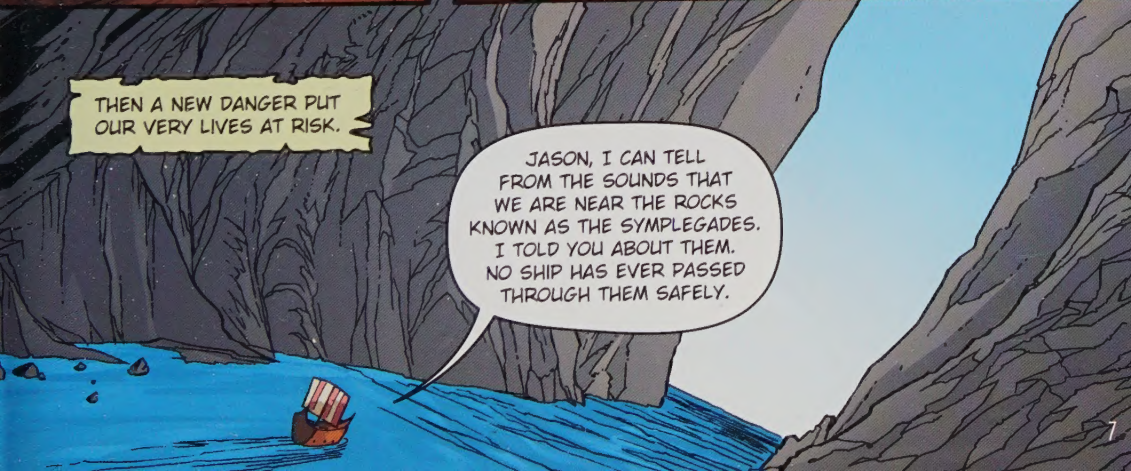
HERCULES HAD SAVED HIS ARMOR-BEARER HYLAS FROM DROWNING AND HAD STAYED BEHIND TO MAKE SURE HE RETURNED TO GOOD HEALTH.



THE TWINS, CASTOR AND POLLUX, BROUGHT THEIR YOUTHFUL ENERGY, WHILE ORPHEUS BROUGHT HIS LYRE TO KEEP US ENTERTAINED.



THEN A NEW DANGER PUT OUR VERY LIVES AT RISK.

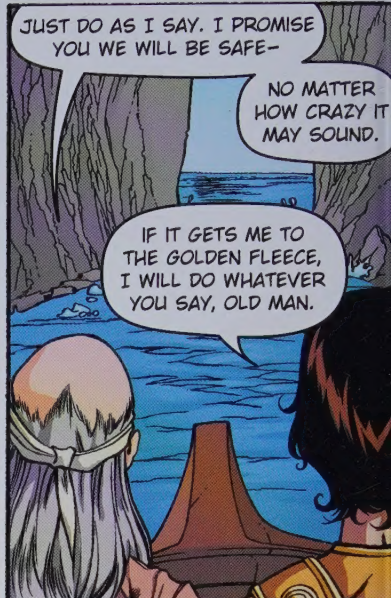


JASON, I CAN TELL FROM THE SOUNDS THAT WE ARE NEAR THE ROCKS KNOWN AS THE SYMPLEGADES. I TOLD YOU ABOUT THEM. NO SHIP HAS EVER PASSED THROUGH THEM SAFELY.



YOU'RE SURE, PHINEUS?
THEY LOOK RATHER
ORDINARY TO ME.

ORDINARY? THOSE
ROCKS WILL CRASH
TOGETHER AND CRUSH
WHATEVER TRIES TO
GO BETWEEN THEM.



JUST DO AS I SAY. I PROMISE
YOU WE WILL BE SAFE-

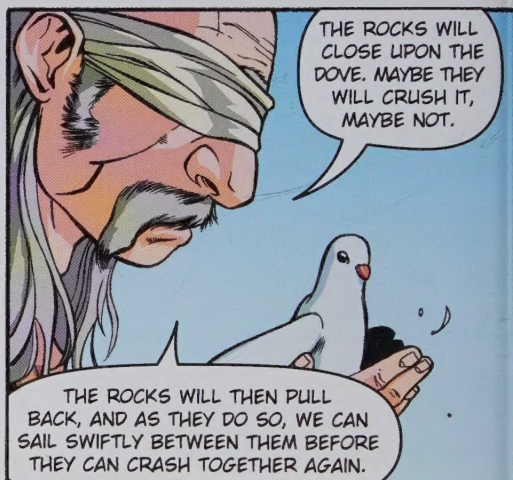
NO MATTER
HOW CRAZY IT
MAY SOUND.

IF IT GETS ME TO
THE GOLDEN FLEECE,
I WILL DO WHATEVER
YOU SAY, OLD MAN.



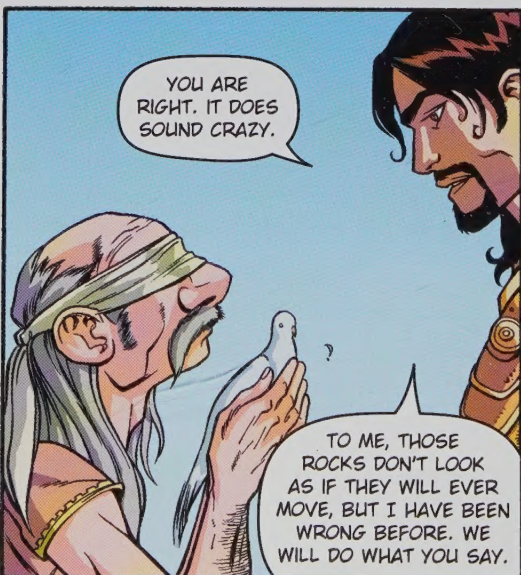
THE MEN MUST ROW AS
HARD AS THEY CAN. WE
MUST BE MOVING AS
FAST AS POSSIBLE.

WHEN WE ARE
ALMOST TO THE ROCKS,
I WILL RELEASE THIS
DOVE, AND IT WILL FLY
AHEAD OF US.



THE ROCKS WILL
CLOSE UPON THE
DOVE. MAYBE THEY
WILL CRUSH IT,
MAYBE NOT.

THE ROCKS WILL THEN PULL
BACK, AND AS THEY DO SO, WE CAN
SAIL SWIFTLY BETWEEN THEM
BEFORE THEY CAN CRASH TOGETHER AGAIN.



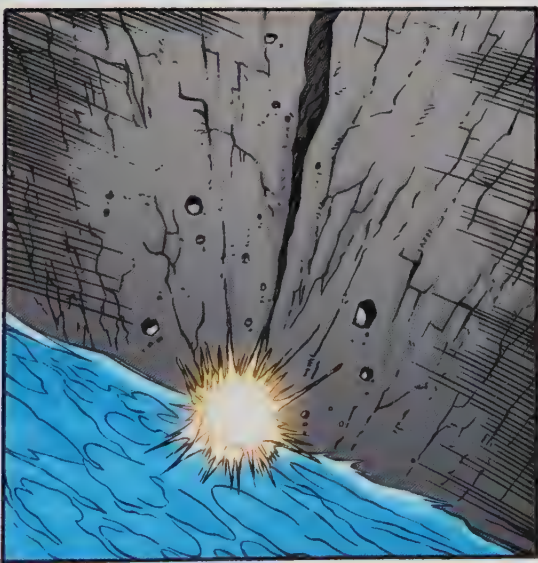
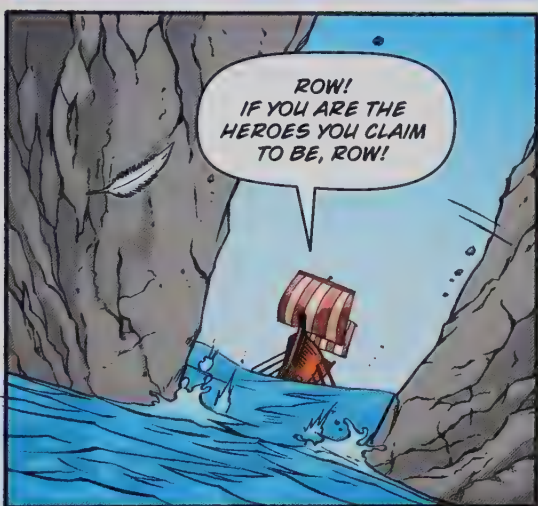
YOU ARE
RIGHT. IT DOES
SOUND CRAZY.

TO ME, THOSE
ROCKS DON'T LOOK
AS IF THEY WILL EVER
MOVE, BUT I HAVE BEEN
WRONG BEFORE. WE
WILL DO WHAT YOU SAY.



ROW! ROW
AS IF YOUR
LIFE DEPENDS
ON IT-

BECAUSE
IT DOES!



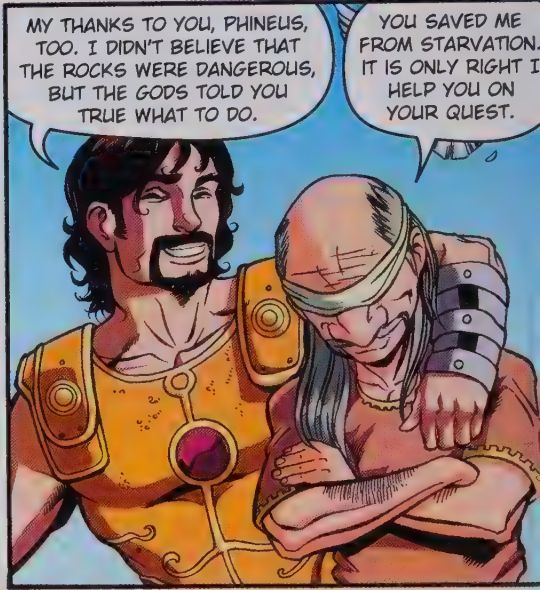


MY
THANKS,
ZEUS.



WE MADE
IT THROUGH
ALIVE.

AND THANKS
TO THE GODDESS
ATHENA. YOU TOLD
ME SHE GAVE YOU
PART OF THIS
SHIP.

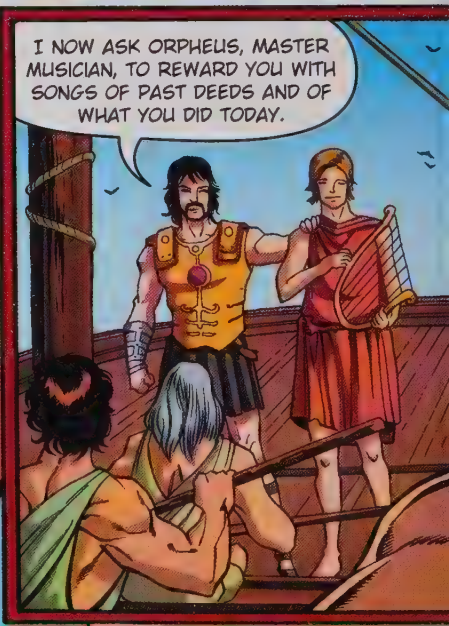


MY THANKS TO YOU, PHINEUS,
TOO. I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT
THE ROCKS WERE DANGEROUS,
BUT THE GODS TOLD YOU
TRUE WHAT TO DO.

YOU SAVED ME
FROM STARVATION.
IT IS ONLY RIGHT I
HELP YOU ON
YOUR QUEST.

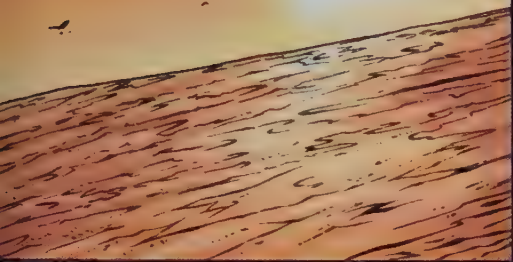


HEROES, YOU HAVE
ROWED HARD AND YOU
HAVE MY THANKS. THIS
PUTS US CLOSER TO
THE FLEECE.



I NOW ASK ORPHEUS, MASTER
MUSICIAN, TO REWARD YOU WITH
SONGS OF PAST DEEDS AND OF
WHAT YOU DID TODAY.

ORPHEUS PLAYED HIS LYRE ON INTO THE NIGHT. HIS TALES OF WONDER AND HEROISM, ENHANCED BY HIS MELODIOUS VOICE, CAPTIVATED US ALL.



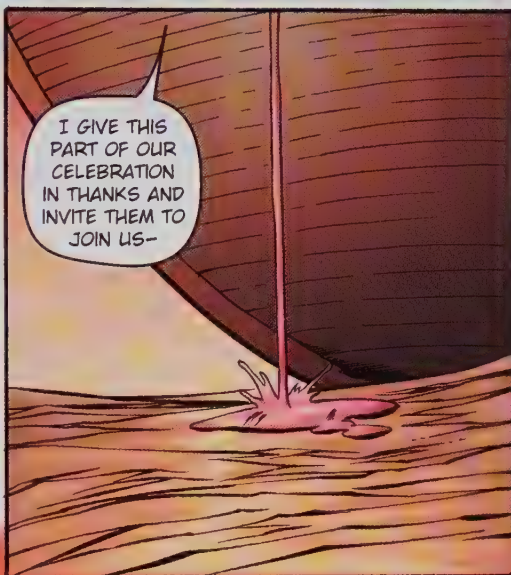
THE GODS HAD SUPPORTED US THUS FAR. I BELIEVED THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO AS LONG AS WE REMEMBERED TO HONOR THEM.



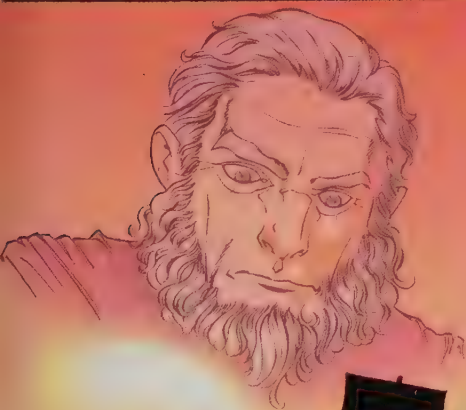
IN HONOR OF ZEUS, GOD OF THE SKY AND THUNDERBOLTS; HERA, HIS WIFE AND GODDESS OF THE HOME; AND POSEIDON, GOD OF THE WATERS WE SAILED UPON—

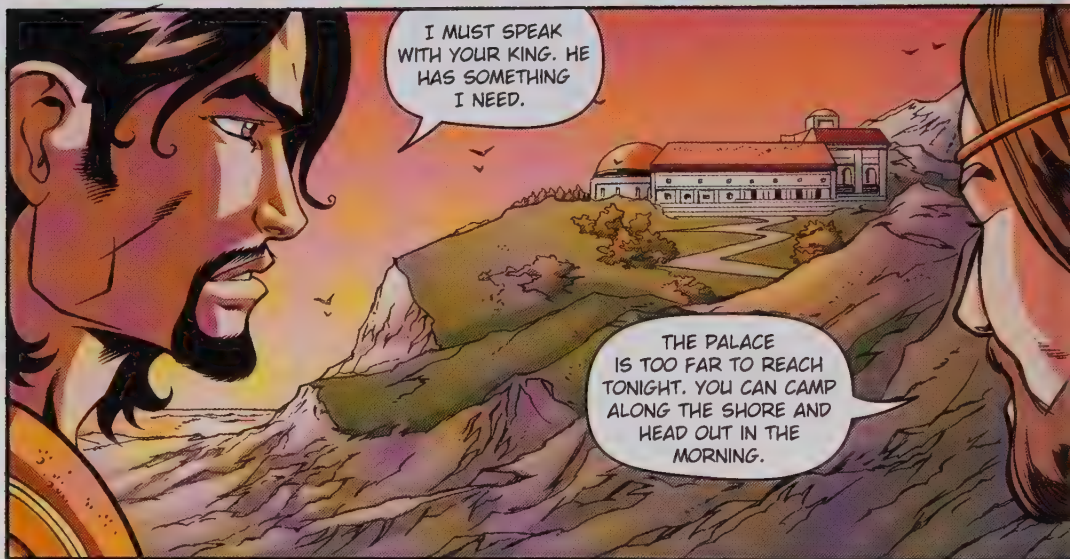
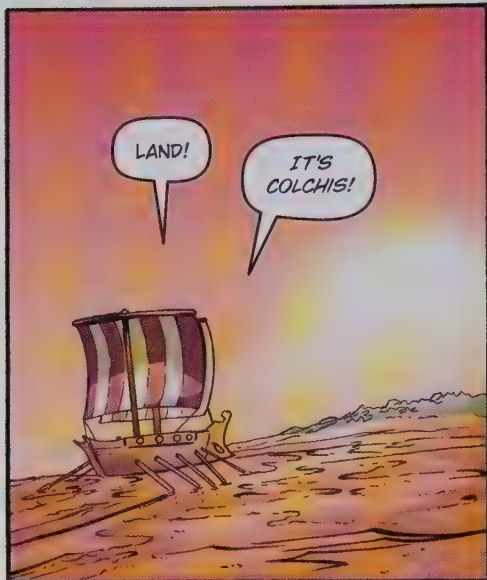


I GIVE THIS PART OF OUR CELEBRATION IN THANKS AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN US—

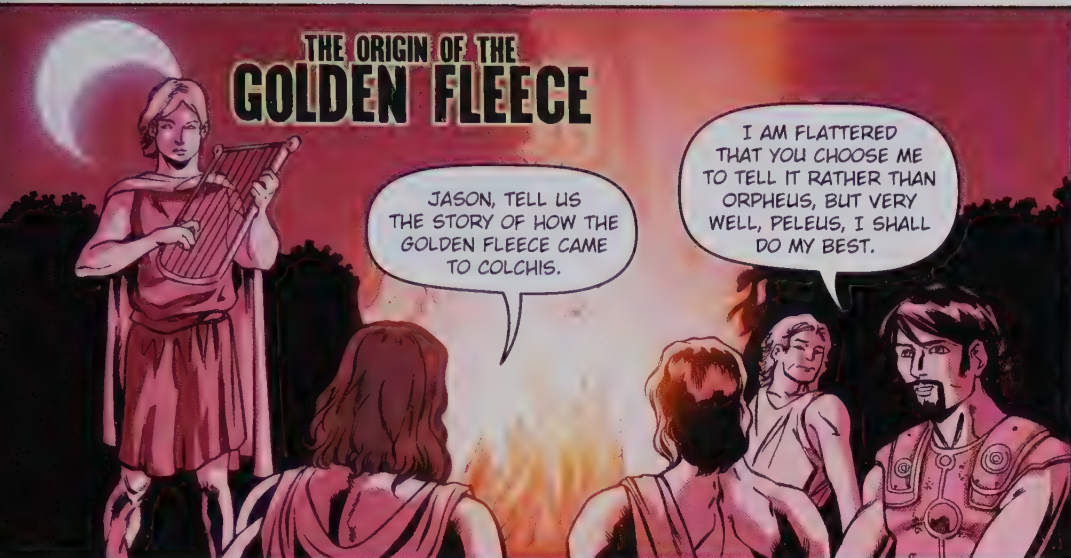


—AND ASK THEM TO TAKE US QUICKLY TO COLCHIS, HOME OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE.



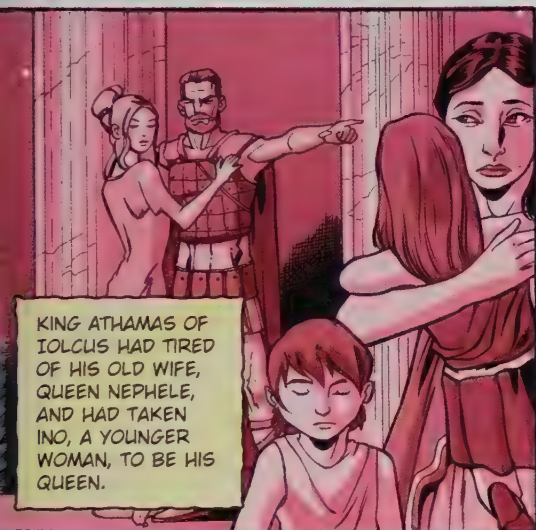


THE ORIGIN OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE

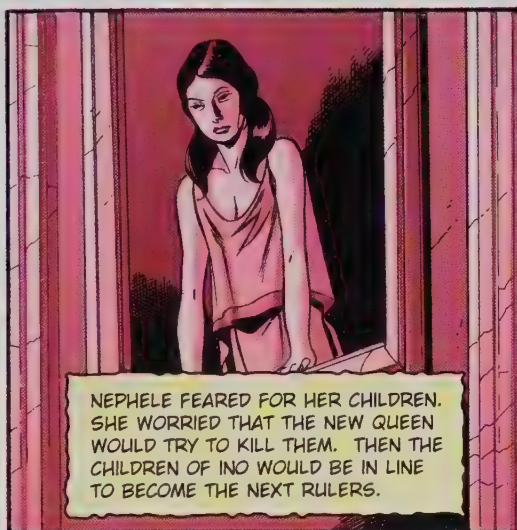


JASON, TELL US
THE STORY OF HOW THE
GOLDEN FLEECE CAME
TO COLCHIS.

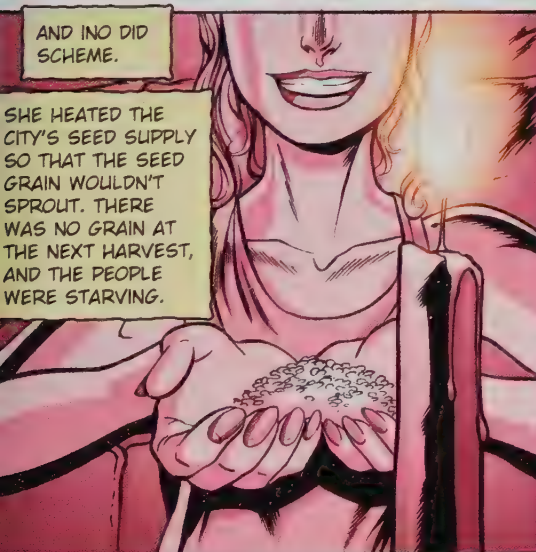
I AM FLATTERED
THAT YOU CHOOSE ME
TO TELL IT RATHER THAN
ORPHEUS, BUT VERY
WELL, PELEUS, I SHALL
DO MY BEST.



KING ATHAMAS OF
IOLCUS HAD TIRED
OF HIS OLD WIFE,
QUEEN NEPHELE,
AND HAD TAKEN
INO, A YOUNGER
WOMAN, TO BE HIS
QUEEN.



NEPHELE FEARED FOR HER CHILDREN.
SHE WORRIED THAT THE NEW QUEEN
WOULD TRY TO KILL THEM. THEN THE
CHILDREN OF INO WOULD BE IN LINE
TO BECOME THE NEXT RULERS.



AND INO DID
SCHEME.

SHE HEATED THE
CITY'S SEED SUPPLY
SO THAT THE SEED
GRAIN WOULDN'T
SPROUT. THERE
WAS NO GRAIN AT
THE NEXT HARVEST,
AND THE PEOPLE
WERE STARVING.



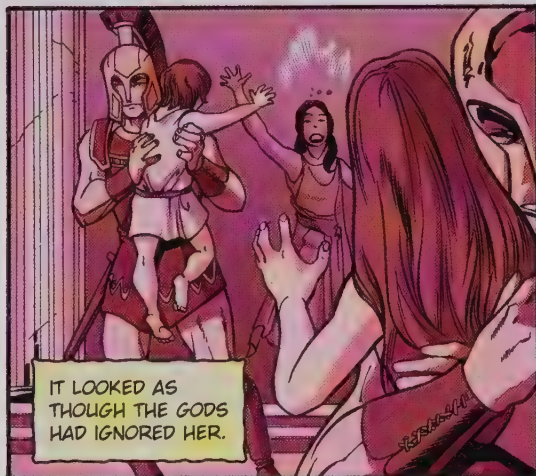
THEN SHE LIED
TO ATHAMAS.

SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD TALKED
TO A FORTUNE-TELLER WHO TOLD
HER HOW TO CURE THE FAMINE.

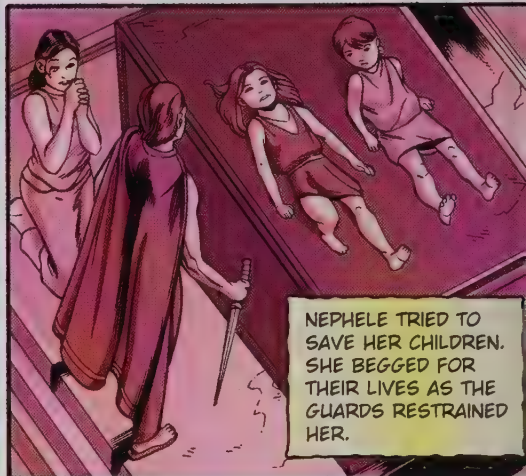
SHE TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE TO SACRIFICE HIS CHILDREN BY NEPHELE TO ZEUS AND HERA.



NEPHELE PRAYED TO THE GODS TO PROTECT HER AND HER CHILDREN.



IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE GODS HAD IGNORED HER.



NEPHELE TRIED TO SAVE HER CHILDREN. SHE BEGGED FOR THEIR LIVES AS THE GUARDS RESTRAINED HER.

THE BOY, PHRIXUS, AND THE GIRL, HELLE, GIGGLED AS THEY LOOKED UP AT THEIR FATHER. THEY THOUGHT HE WAS PLAYING SOME SORT OF GAME.



THEY WERE WRONG. DISTRAUGHT, NEPHELE CALLED OUT ONCE MORE TO THE GODS TO SAVE HER CHILDREN.



THE GODS HAD
HEARD HER.

ZEUS SENT
A GOLDEN
RAM TO
SAVE THE
CHILDREN.



THE RAM FLEW OFF TOWARD A PLACE
WHERE THE CHILDREN WOULD BE SAFE.



HELLE BECAME SO EXCITED, SHE
LOST HER GRIP AND FELL INTO THE
SEA BELOW. THE GODS CALLED
THE PLACE WHERE SHE LANDED
THE HELLESPONT IN HER HONOR.

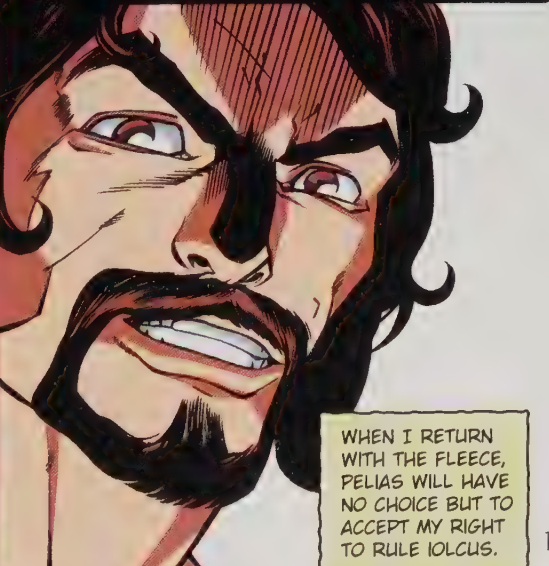
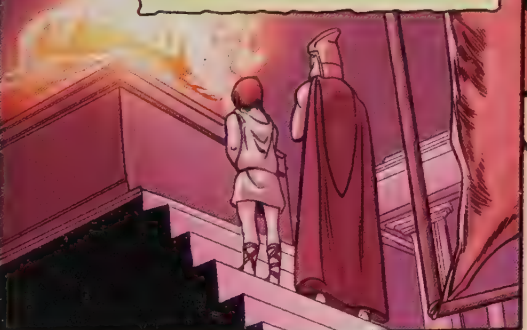


THE RAM FINALLY
LANDED HERE IN
COLCHIS.



KING AEETES AND PHRIXUS SHEARED THE
RAM OF ITS GOLDEN FLEECE BEFORE
PHRIXUS OFFERED THE ANIMAL TO ZEUS
IN THANKS FOR HIS SAFE ARRIVAL.

PHRIXUS THEN MARRIED AEETES'
SISTER CHALCIOPE, AND THEY HAD
FIVE CHILDREN TOGETHER.



WHEN I RETURN
WITH THE FLEECE,
PELIAS WILL HAVE
NO CHOICE BUT TO
ACCEPT MY RIGHT
TO RULE IOLCUS.

THE KING OF COLCHIS

DURING THE NIGHT, HERA CAME TO ME IN A DREAM. SHE SAID SHE WOULD HELP ME TO GET INSIDE THE PALACE SAFELY. I WAS TO TAKE WITH ME THE SONS OF PHRIXUS, WHOM WE HAD RESCUED; TWO OF MY CHOSEN HEROES; CASTOR AND POLLUX; NOBLE PELEUS, AND THE STORYTELLER ORPHEUS.

THAT MORNING ALL I could THINK OF WAS MEETING WITH THE KING, TAKING THE FLEECE, AND RETURNING HOME.

IN COLCHIS THE MEN ARE NOT BURIED WHEN THEY DIE, BUT INSTEAD THEY ARE WRAPPED IN CLOTHS AND HUNG FROM THE TREES.

IT WOULD BE A LIE TO SAY THE BODIES WERE NOT A FRIGHTFUL SIGHT. I WISH HERA HAD ALLOWED ME TO BRING MORE OF MY HEROES.

PRAISE HERA, WE ARE HERE.

YOUR MOTHER LIVES IN A VERY NICE PLACE. ONLY THE GODS COULD HAVE PROVIDED SUCH MAGNIFICENT THINGS, PHRONTIS.

YES, HEPHAESTUS, THE GODS' BLACKSMITH, GAVE THEM TO OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER.

HALT!
WHO GOES THERE?





THE BOYS' SHIP HAD RUN AGROUND AFTER THE HELMSMAN WAS STRUCK BY A FEATHER.



FLYING ABOVE THEM WERE THE TERRIBLE BIRDS FROM THE ISLAND OF ARES.



THE BIRDS DEFEND THEMSELVES BY LOOSENING FEATHERS FROM THEIR BODIES AND LETTING THEM DROP.

THE POINT OF THE QUILL IS AS SHARP AS A SPEAR AND JUST AS DEADLY.



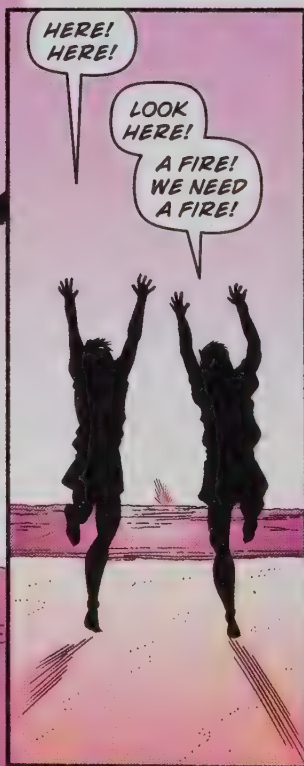
MELAS! THERE! DO YOU SEE IT?

IT'S AN ILLUSION OFF THE WATER, PHRONTIS.

NO, LOOK CLOSER—



MELAS! THEY SEE IT TOO!



HERE! HERE!

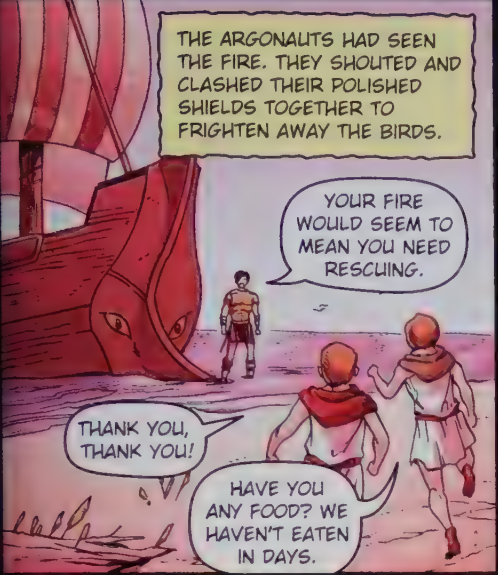
LOOK HERE!

A FIRE! WE NEED A FIRE!



PRAY TO HERA AND ZEUS THAT THEY SEE IT.

PRAY TO POSEIDON TO LET THEM COME THIS WAY.



THE ARGONAUTS HAD SEEN THE FIRE. THEY SHOUTED AND CLASHED THEIR POLISHED SHIELDS TOGETHER TO FRIGHTEN AWAY THE BIRDS.

YOUR FIRE WOULD SEEM TO MEAN YOU NEED RESCUING.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

HAVE YOU ANY FOOD? WE HAVEN'T EATEN IN DAYS.



AROUND THE FIRE, JASON TOLD HIS TALE.

... AND SO, AIDED BY ZEUS, HERA, AND ATHENA, WE SEEK COLCHIS.

I'M GOING TO TELL HIM.

YOU'RE SURE?

IT MIGHT BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET OFF HERE.

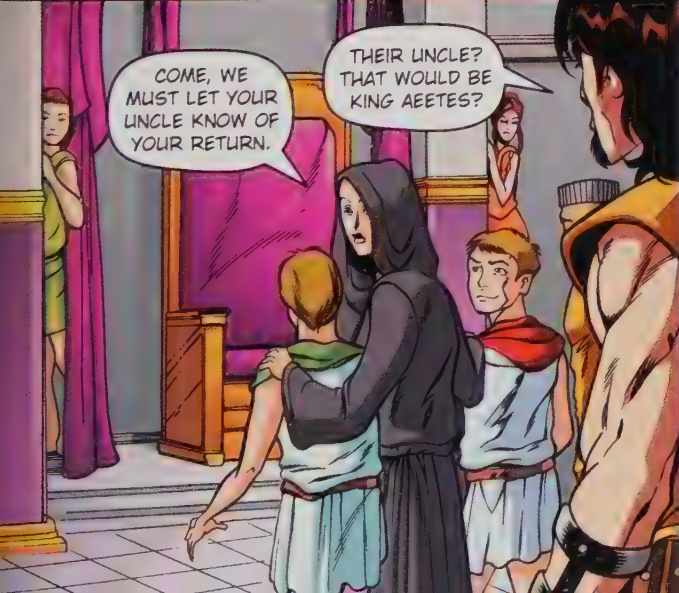


JASON, I AM MELAS, SON OF CHALCLOPE AND-

-PHRIXUS, HE WHO BROUGHT THE GOLDEN FLEECE TO COLCHIS.

IF YOU HELP US, WE SHALL HELP YOU GET THE FLEECE FROM OUR EVIL UNCLE.

AND AFTER THAT, IT WAS SIMPLE TO SAIL HERE WITH THEIR AID.



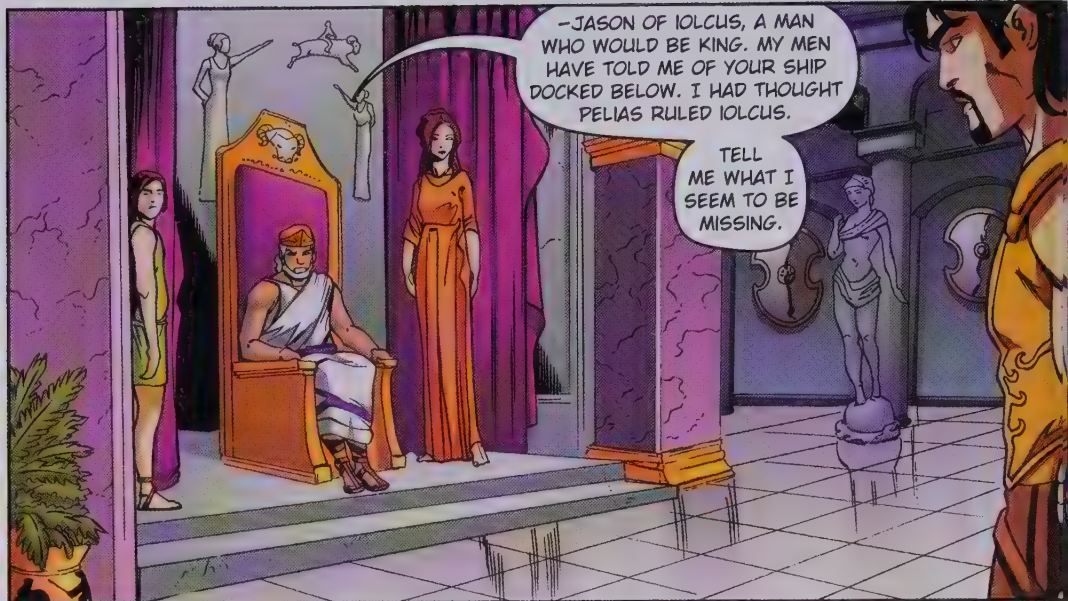
COME, WE MUST LET YOUR UNCLE KNOW OF YOUR RETURN.

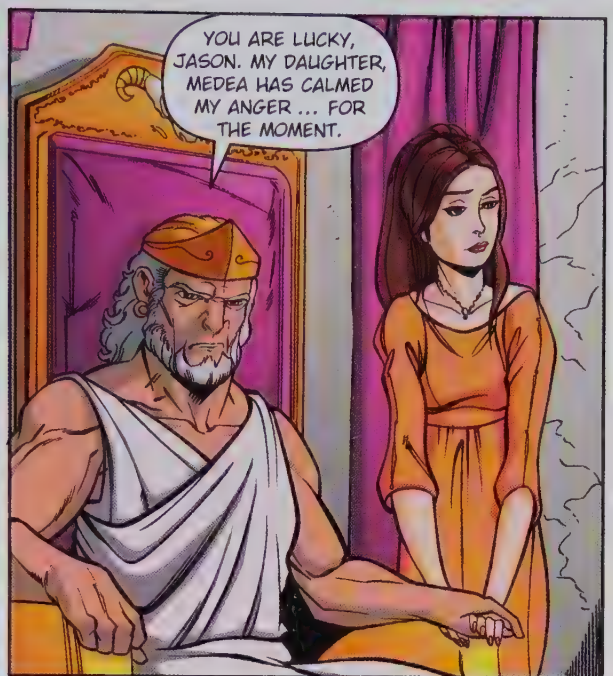
THEIR UNCLE? THAT WOULD BE KING AEETES?

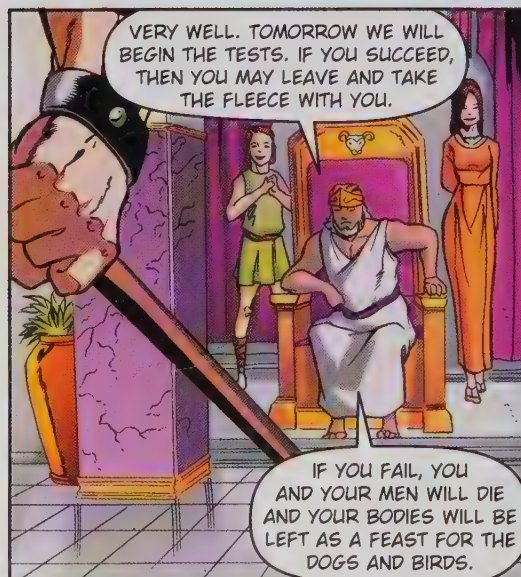
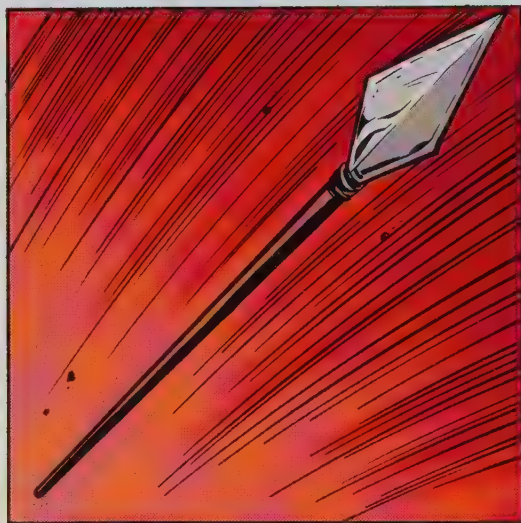


YES, I AM. AND SISTER CHALCLOPE, I RECOGNIZE YOUR SONS.

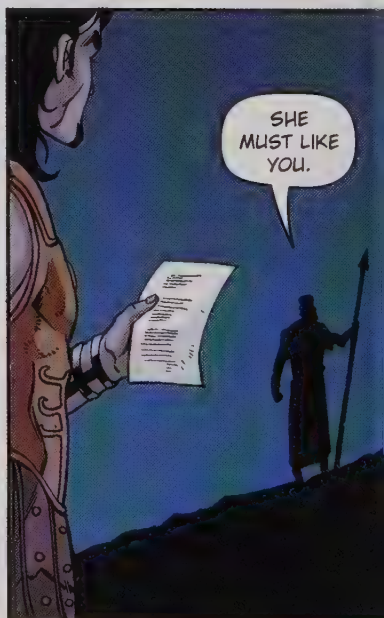
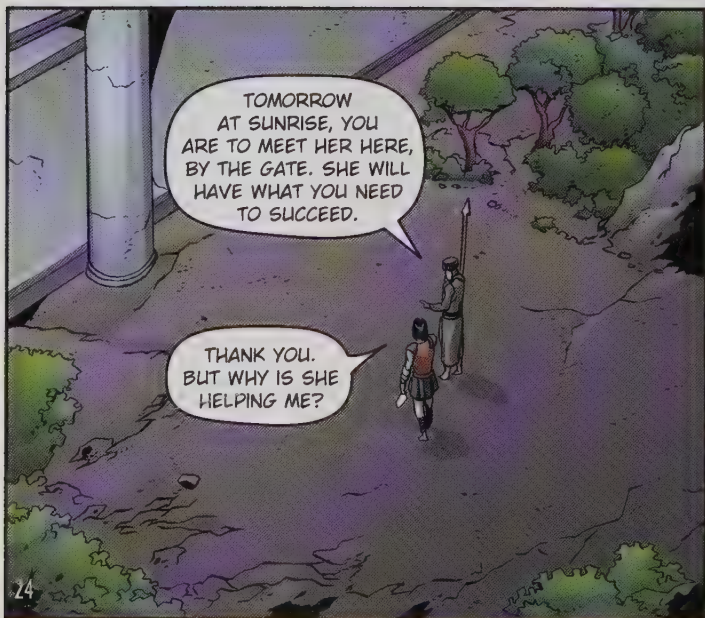
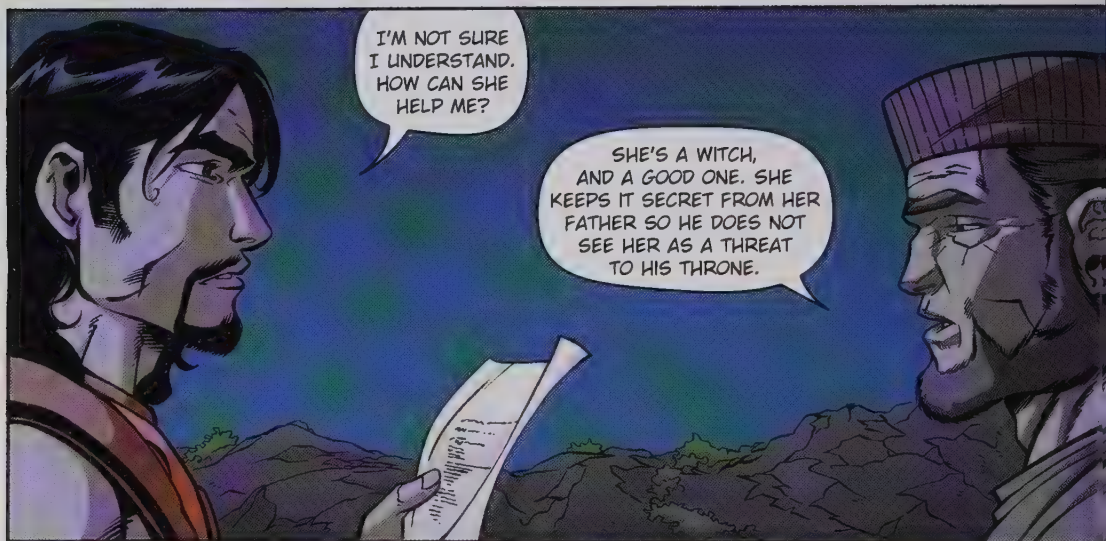
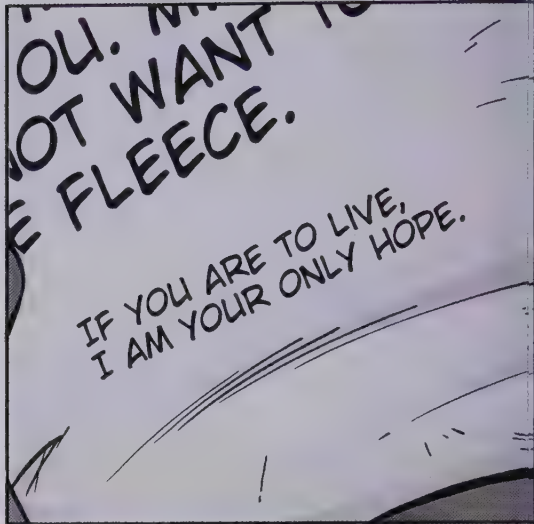
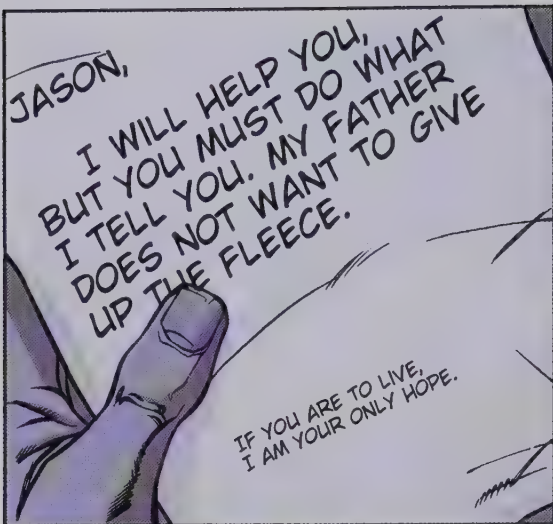
AND ONE OF THE MEN BEHIND YOU, I MUST ASSUME IS-













YOU ARE
A HANDSOME
ONE, AREN'T
YOU?

TIME TO WAKE,
SLEEPYHEAD, IF YOU
WANT TO GET THAT
FLEECE.



WHA!
HUH!



I'M NOT
SURE HOW
YOU WOULD BE
ABLE TO DO ANYTHING
BY YOURSELF. A
PERSON LESS
HONORABLE THAN
I AM COULD HAVE
SLAIN YOU JUST
NOW.

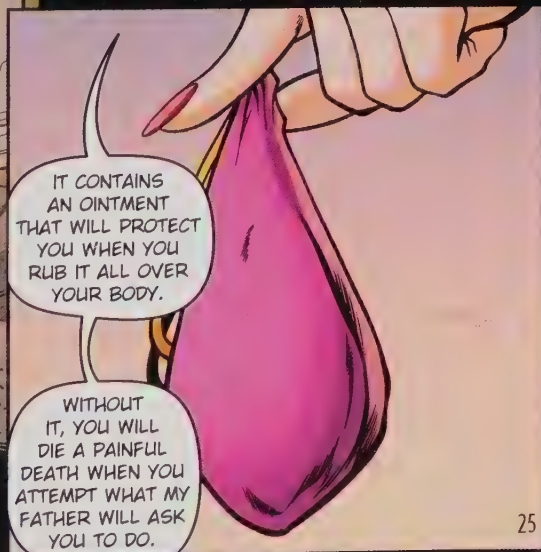
ARE
YOU SURE
YOU'RE THE
MAN TO DO
THIS?

YOU SAW ME EARLIER. YOU
KNOW WHAT I CAN DO.

YOU BETTER HOPE
SO OR ELSE WHAT
I HOLD HERE WILL
BE USELESS.

AND WHAT DOES
THE PROUD PRINCESS
HOLD IN THE BAG.

MAGIC.



IT CONTAINS
AN OINTMENT
THAT WILL PROTECT
YOU WHEN YOU
RUB IT ALL OVER
YOUR BODY.

WITHOUT
IT, YOU WILL
DIE A PAINFUL
DEATH WHEN YOU
ATTEMPT WHAT MY
FATHER WILL ASK
YOU TO DO.



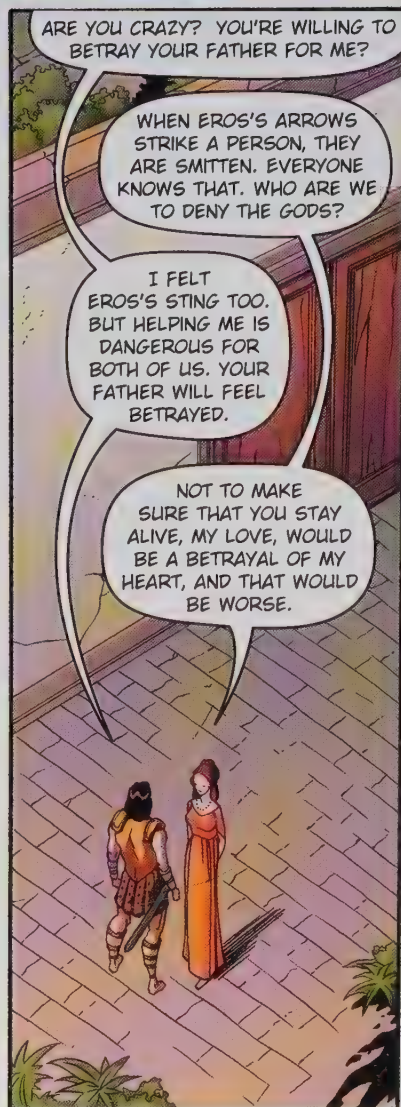
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL. BUT WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

YOU'RE THE FIRST PRINCE TO EVER COME FOR THE FLEECE. MY BROTHER THINKS YOU ARE THE GREATEST HERO HE'S EVER SEEN.

HE THINKS YOU'RE SPECIAL.



SO DO I.



ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU'RE WILLING TO BETRAY YOUR FATHER FOR ME?

WHEN EROS'S ARROWS STRIKE A PERSON, THEY ARE SMITTEN. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT. WHO ARE WE TO DENY THE GODS?

I FELT EROS'S STING TOO. BUT HELPING ME IS DANGEROUS FOR BOTH OF US. YOUR FATHER WILL FEEL BETRAYED.

NOT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU STAY ALIVE, MY LOVE, WOULD BE A BETRAYAL OF MY HEART, AND THAT WOULD BE WORSE.



WHEN I GET THE FLEECE, THEN PERHAPS I CAN TALK TO YOUR FATHER ABOUT TAKING YOU TO IOLCUS.

YES?

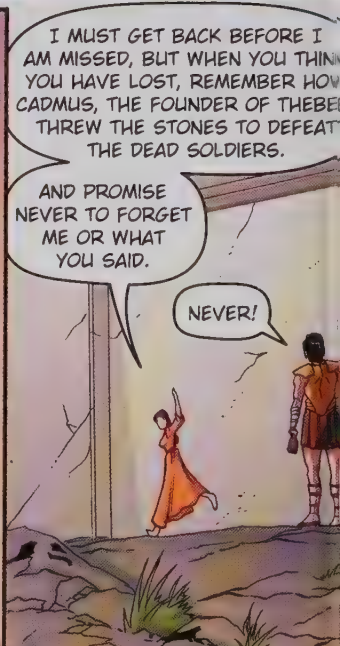


EROS DID STRIKE BOTH OF US AND ...

... I COULD ASK YOUR FATHER FOR YOUR HAND AND THEN ...

AND?

YES!!



I MUST GET BACK BEFORE I AM MISSED, BUT WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE LOST, REMEMBER HOW CADMUS, THE FOUNDER OF THEBE, THREW THE STONES TO DEFEAT THE DEAD SOLDIERS.

AND PROMISE NEVER TO FORGET ME OR WHAT YOU SAID.

NEVER!

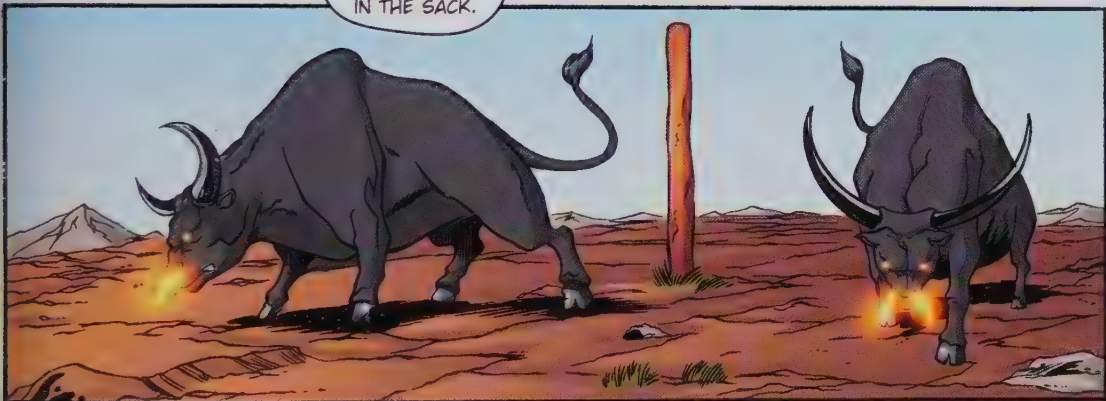
REALLY, IT'S A SIMPLE TASK, JASON OF IOLCUS. I MYSELF HAVE DONE IT MANY TIMES. YOU, A FOREIGNER, HAVE A DISADVANTAGE, BUT IF YOU ARE TRULY WORTHY, YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH THE TASK QUITE EASILY.

IF NOT?... WELL, LET'S NOT SPEAK OF SUCH UNPLEASANTNESS. LEAVE YOUR SWORD HERE, YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT.

JUST TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO, AND LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

YOKING THE BULLS

SIMPLY YOKE THE BULLS, PLOW THE FIELD, AND PLANT THE SEEDS THAT ARE IN THE SACK.



THIS SHOULD BE FUN.

YES, FATHER, IT SHOULD.



GROWING UP WITH A CENTAUR
AS MY TEACHER, I LEARNED
MANY THINGS THAT MOST ROYAL
CHILDREN WOULD HAVE MISSED.

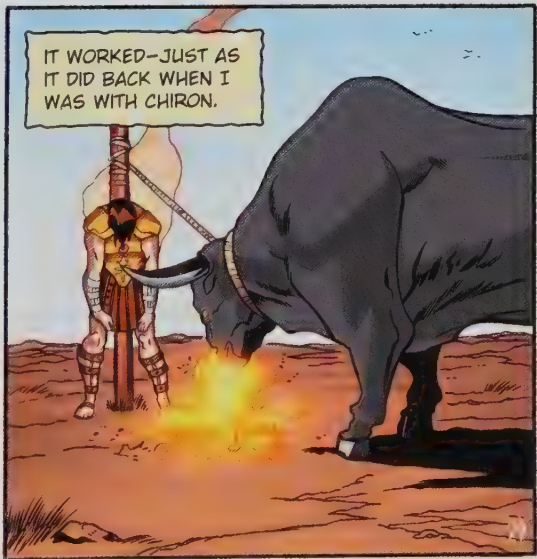
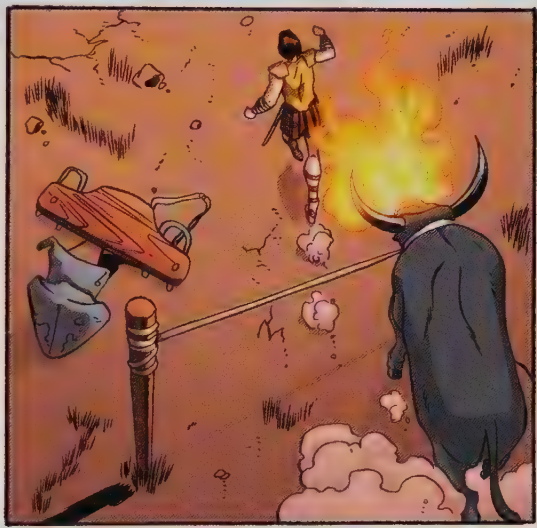
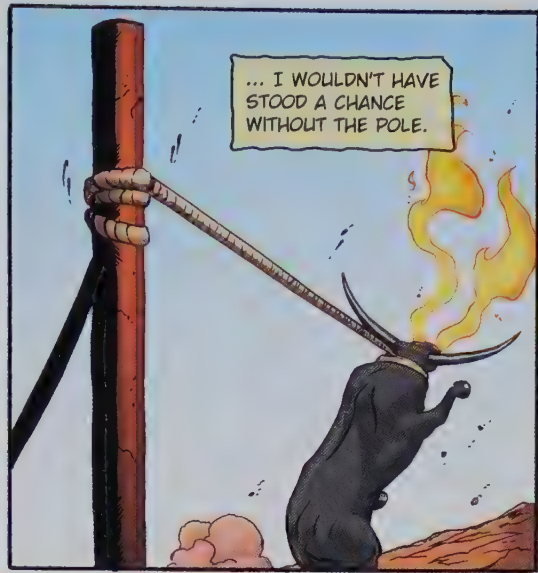
MOST PRINCES ARE
WELL TRAINED TO BE
SOLDIERS. I WAS TOO.

BUT MOST AREN'T
TRAINED IN HOW TO
CAPTURE FARM ANIMALS.

I WAS.

BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT
THIS WAS A BIT DIFFERENT
THAN TENDING SHEEP AND
GOATS ON A MOUNTAINSIDE.

YAH!
BULL!



THE SECOND BULL WAS AS EASY TO YOKE AS THE FIRST. WITH MEDEA'S OINTMENT, THE FLAMES TICKLED RATHER THAN BURNED. WITHOUT THAT OINTMENT, I WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN A CHARRED BODY.

THE BULLS ARE YOKE, KING AEETES.

IS THIS THE FIELD I'M TO PLOW AND SEED?

YOU WERE RIGHT, MEDEA. HE WAS GREAT.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE ELSE YOKE THE BULLS ALONE BEFORE.

QUIET. THAT IS NOT HOW A PRINCE SHOULD SPEAK. IF HE SUCCEEDS, HE COULD TAKE THIS KINGDOM AS HIS OWN, AND THEN WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE?

YES, FATHER. I UNDERSTAND.

HAVING PLOWED AND SEEDED BEFORE, I KNEW
WHAT TO EXPECT, NOT LIKE YOKING THOSE BULLS.

THAT HAD SCARED ME,
BUT WITH MEDEA'S
OINTMENT, IT WENT WELL.

SOWING THE FIELDS

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS
TAKE A HANDFUL OF
SEEDS AND SPRINKLE
THEM INTO THE
FURROW LEFT BY THE
PLOW.

THIS WAS
TOO EASY.

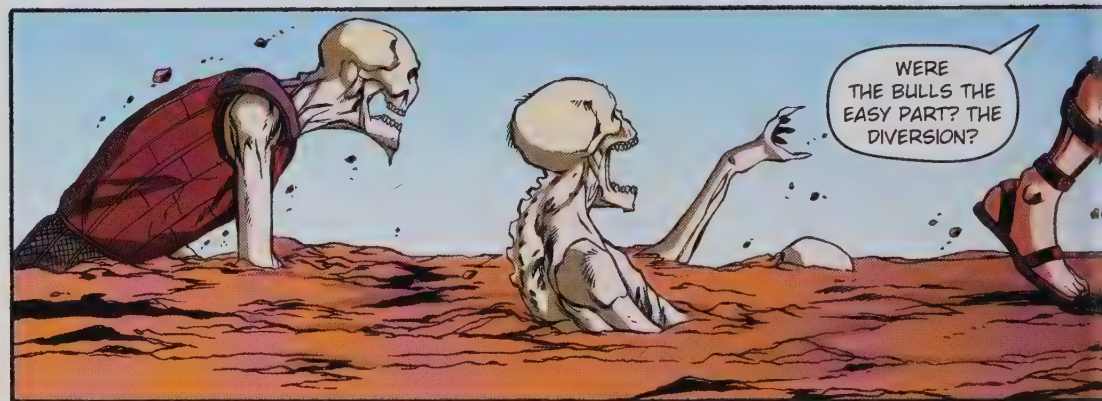
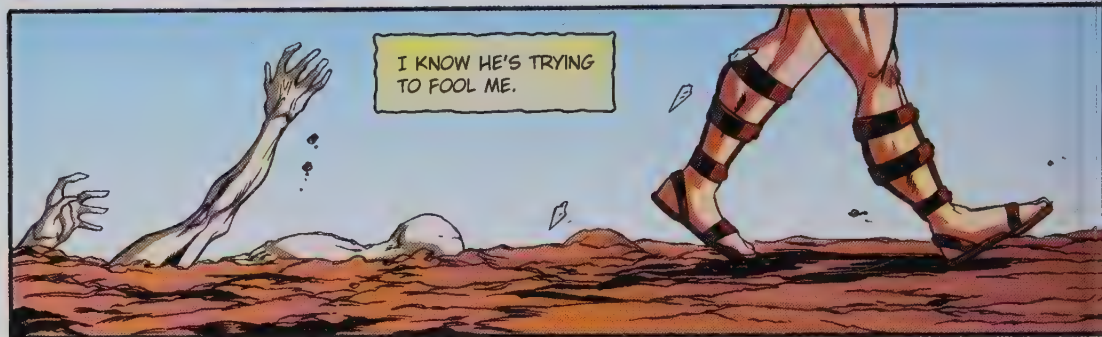
THE SEEDS WERE
BIG. BIGGER THAN
ANY I KNEW ABOUT.

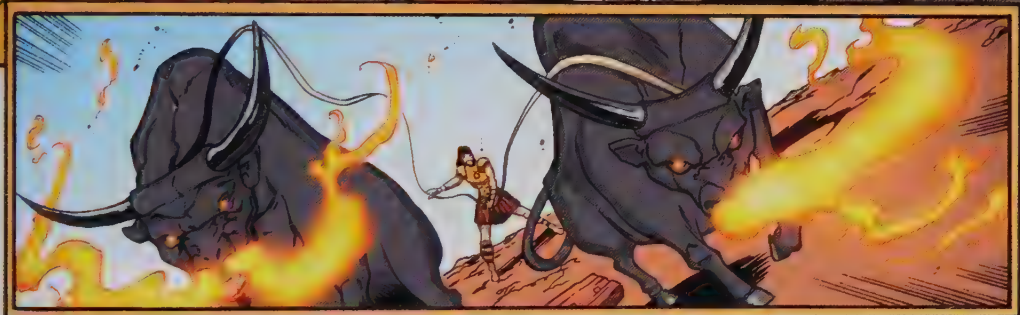
WHAT
IS THIS?

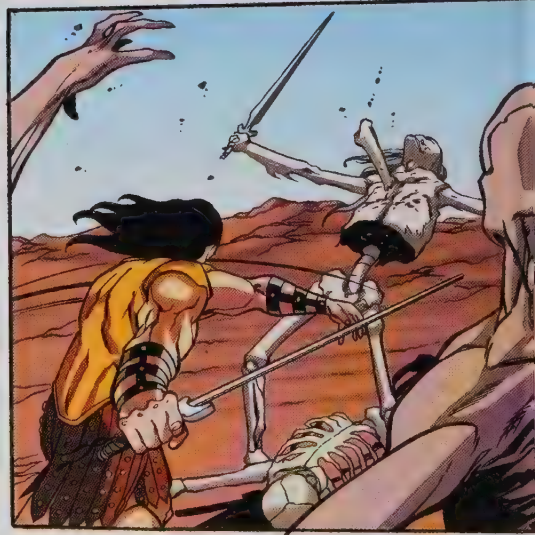
WHAT KIND OF
SEEDS ARE
THESE?

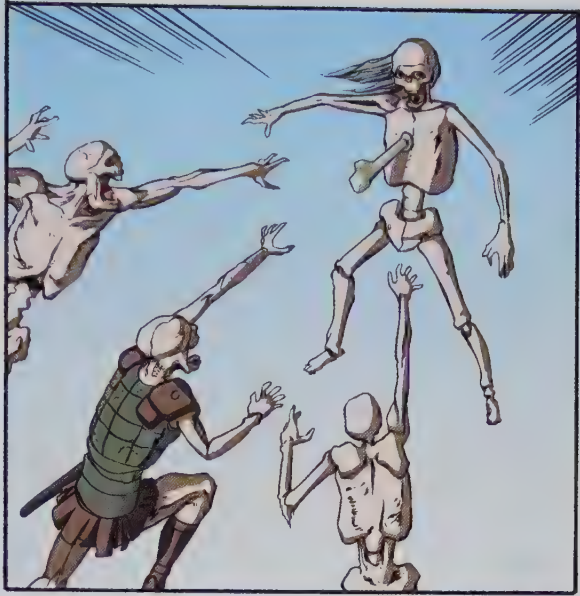
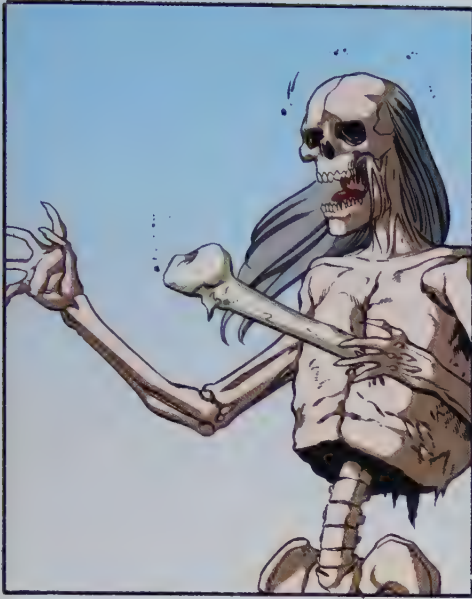
WHAT ARE
THESE? WHAT DO
THEY GROW?

THEY ARE
DRAGON'S TEETH.
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO
WAIT AND SEE WHAT
WE HARVEST.





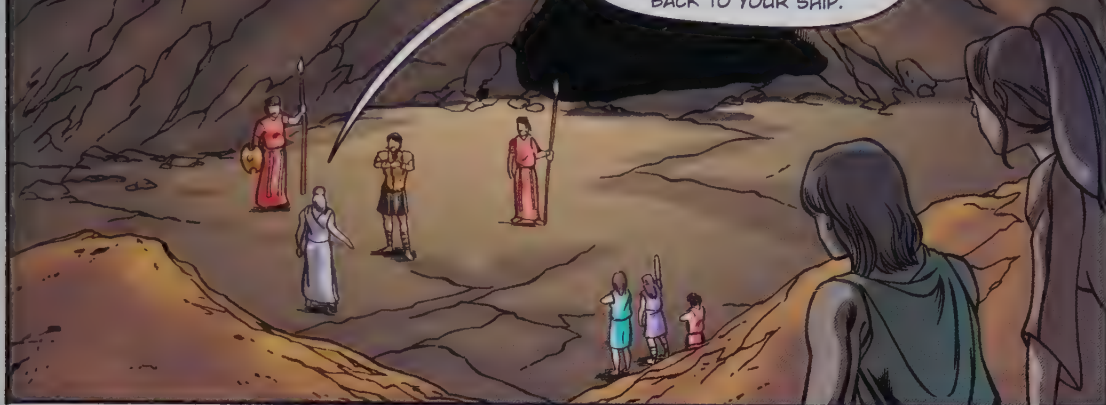






THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLEECE

WITHIN IS THE FLEECE, AS I PROMISED. MERELY GO INSIDE AND TAKE IT, AS I PROMISED YOU COULD. YOUR MEN ARE HERE TO SAFEGUARD YOUR PASSAGE BACK TO YOUR SHIP.



THAT'S IT? NOTHING MORE?
IT CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE.

THAT'S IT. GO IN, GET THE FLEECE, WALK OUT WITH IT, GET ON YOUR SHIP, AND GO HOME.

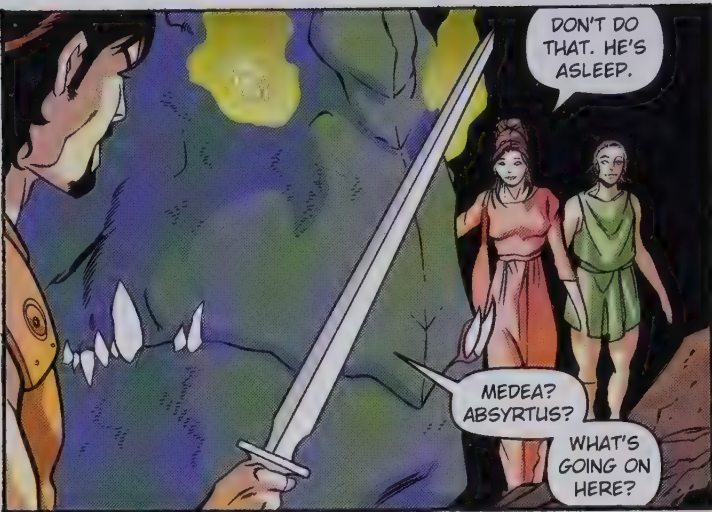


CONGRATULATIONS, JASON OF IOLCUS, YOU HAVE WHAT YOU DESERVE.



BY ZEUS'S CHILDREN!





DON'T DO THAT. HE'S ASLEEP.

MEDEA?
ABSYRTUS?

WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?



I PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
I'M A WITCH, REMEMBER.
IT'S WHAT I DO.

BUT ... YOU?
ABSYRTUS?

I TOLD
YOU. HE THINKS
YOU'RE THE
GREATEST HERO
TO EVER COME
HERE.



AND ME?

WELL, I
DECIDED I
COULDN'T WAIT
UNTIL YOU GOT
BACK TO IOLCUS.
THAT WOULD TAKE
SUCH A LONG
TIME. I'D GO
CRAZY.



SO I'M GOING BACK WITH
YOU NOW THAT YOU HAVE
THE FLEECE.

BUT YOU'RE PART OF
THE ROYAL FAMILY
OF COLCHIS.

SO?

AND I
CAN'T JUST RUN
FROM HERE TO
THE SHIP.

YES,
YOU CAN.



NOW GRAB IT. WE HAVE TO
HURRY BEFORE FATHER KNOWS
WHAT'S HAPPENING.

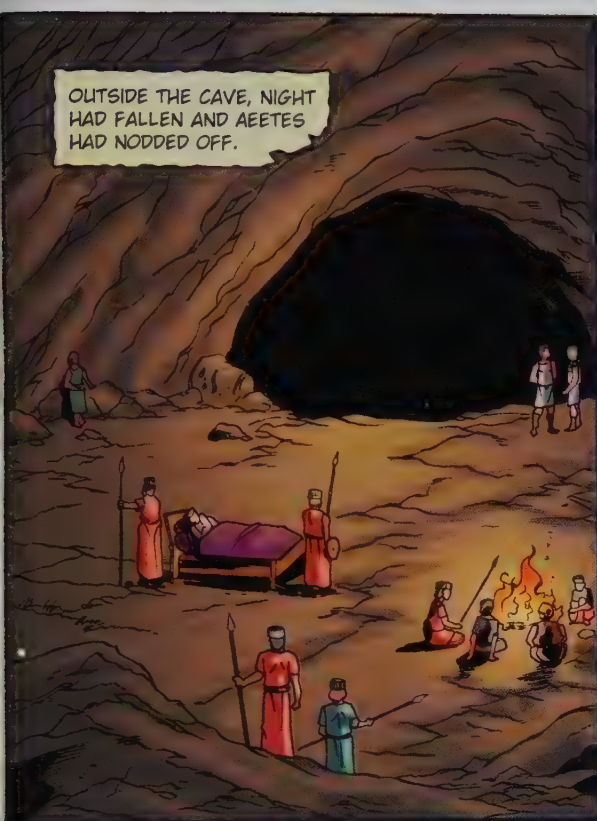
WE CAN
REACH THE BOAT
BEFORE HE CAN
DO ANYTHING.

WE?



ME.
YOU.
ABSYRTUS.

OUTSIDE THE CAVE, NIGHT
HAD FALLEN AND AEETES
HAD NODDED OFF.



ARGONAUTS!
TO THE SHIP!



THE
FLEECE!
MEDEA!
ABSYRTUS!

STOP
THEM AT ALL
COSTS!

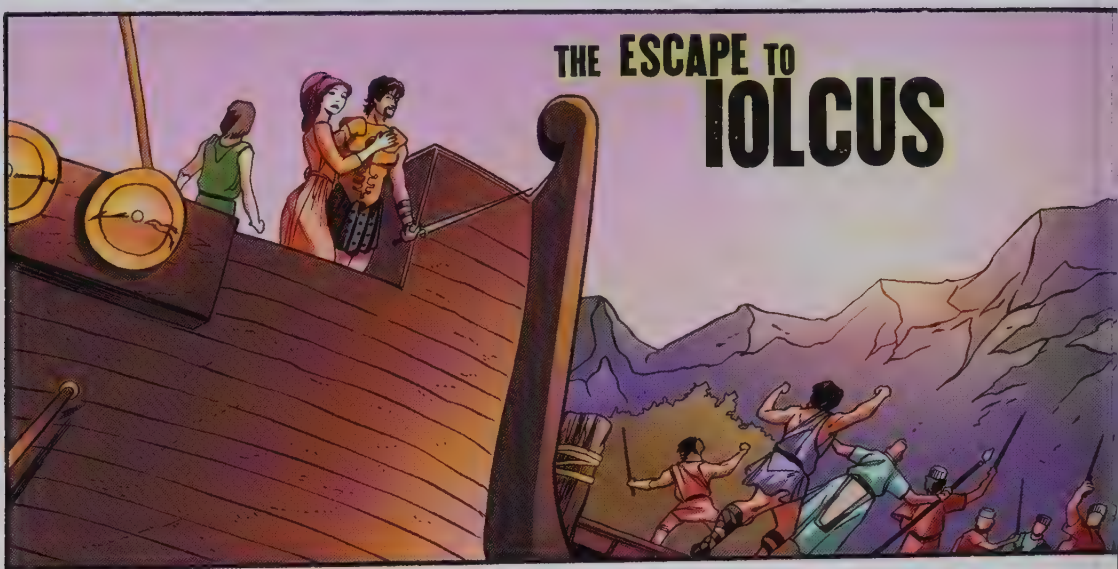


GET THE
FLEECE!

THEY'VE
KIDNAPPED THE
PRINCE AND
PRINCESS!



THE ESCAPE TO IOLCUS



AFTER
THEM!



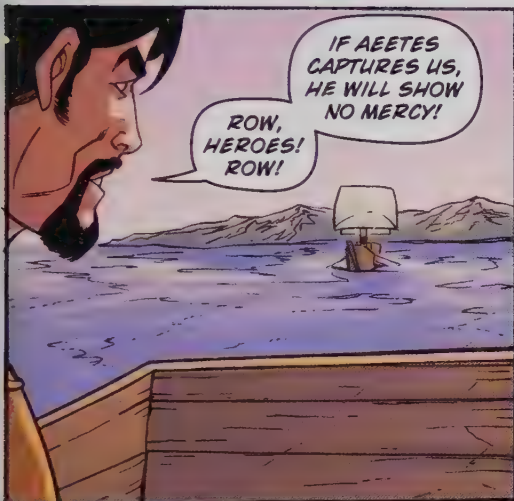
BY HADES, THEY'RE
USING THE SAME
WIND.

AYE, AND THEIR
SHIP IS FASTER. IT'S
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
UNTIL THEY CATCH UP
TO US.



IF AEETES
CAPTURES US,
HE WILL SHOW
NO MERCY!

ROW,
HEROES!
ROW!



HE WILL FEED US TO THE
SWINE, WON'T HE?

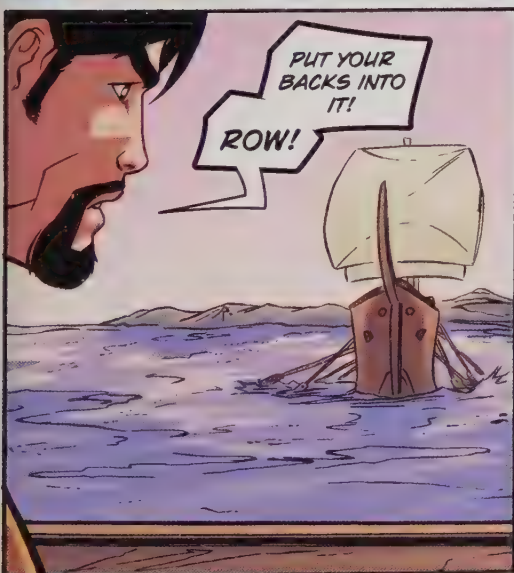
WE WILL
MAKE IT, LOVE. YOU
TRUSTED ME BEFORE.
YOU CAN TRUST
ME AGAIN.

I WILL
NOT LET HIM
CAPTURE US.



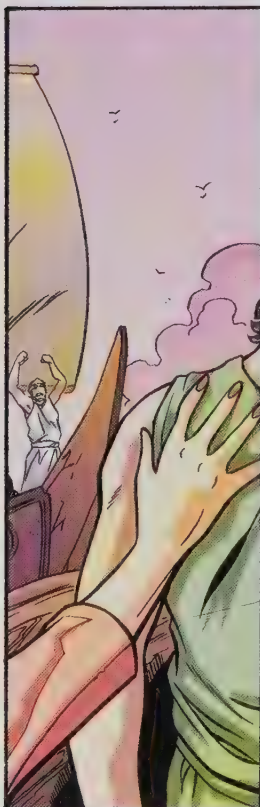
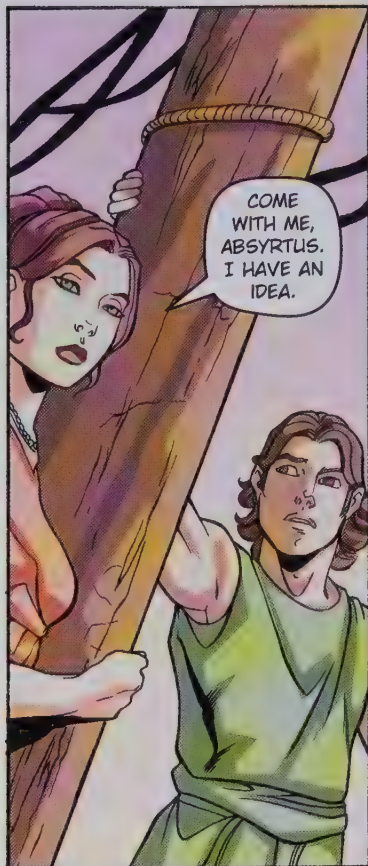
PUT YOUR
BACKS INTO
IT!

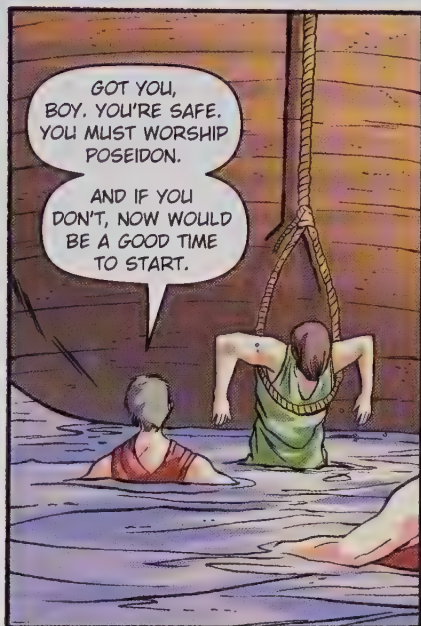
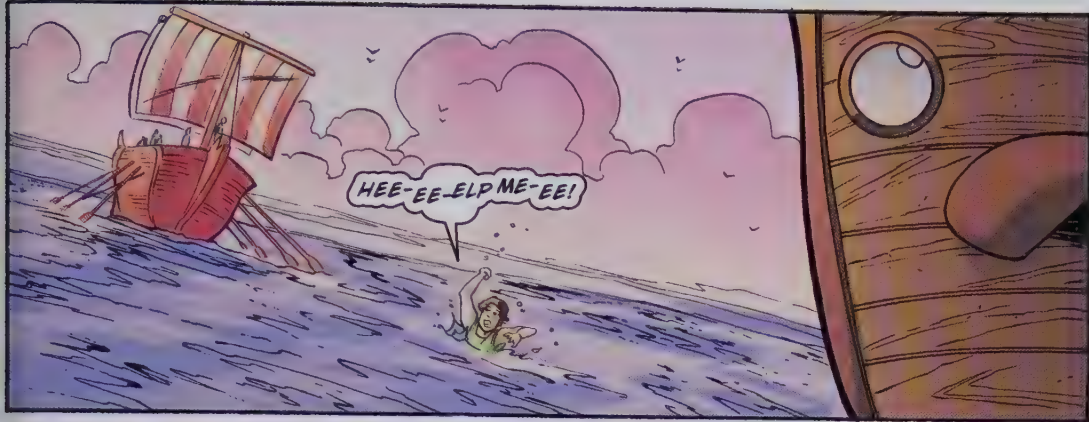
ROW!

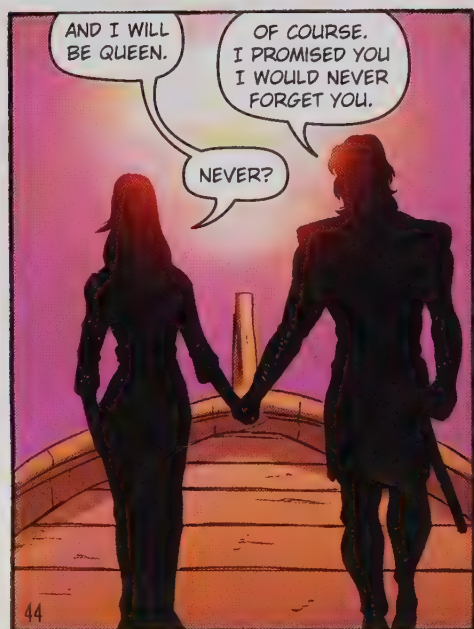
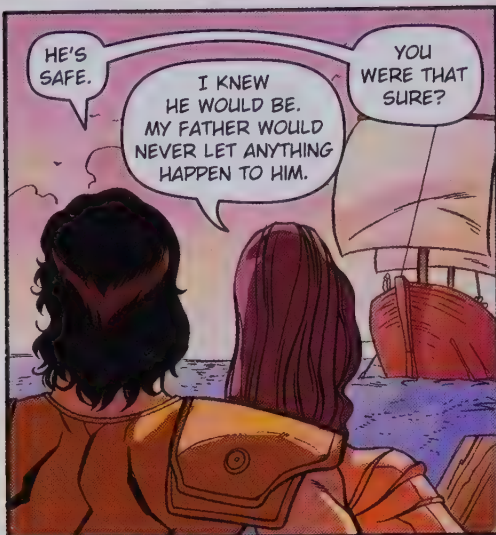


COME ON!
COME ON!











GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ABSYRTUS (ab-sir-tus): prince of Colchis

AEETES (ee-ee-teez): king of Colchis

AESON (eeb-sun): father of Jason; king of Iolcus

ARGO (ar-goh): Jason's ship

ARGONAUTS (ar-goh-nawtz): the heroes who sailed with Jason

ATHAMAS (ah-tham-as): a king of Iolcus

ATHENA (uh-thee-nuh): goddess of wisdom and war

BOREAS (bor-ay-us): the North Wind

CADMUS (kad-mus): founder of the Greek city of Thebes who planted the dragon teeth that grew into warriors

CALAIS (kal-ay-us): one of the twin sons of Boreas

CASTOR (kas-tor): one of the Greek hero twins

CHALCIOPE (kal-kee-oh-pee): Aeetes' daughter; wife of Phrixus

CHIRON (keer-un): the centaur (part horse, part man) who raised Jason

EROS (eh-rohs): god of love

HELLE (hel-lee): princess of Argos; daughter of Athamas and Nephele

HEPHAESTUS (heh-fes-tus): the blacksmith god

HERA (hehr-uh): wife of Zeus and goddess of the home

INO (ee-no): Athamas's second wife

JASON: hero who traveled to Colchis to retrieve the Golden Fleece

MEDEA (muh-dee-uh): princess of Colchis

MELAS (may-las): son of Phrixus and Chalciope

NEPHELE (neh-feh-lay): cast-off queen of Iolcus

ORPHEUS (or-fee-us): Greek hero and musician

PELEUS (pay-lay-us): famous hero; future father of Achilles

PELIAS (pay-lee-us): brother of Aeson; stole the throne of Iolcus

PHINEUS (fin-ee-us): a wise man

PHRIXUS (frik-sus): prince of Iolcus who was taken to Colchis by the Golden Ram

PHRONTIS (fron-tis): son of Phrixus and Chalciope

POLLUX (pobl-ux): one of the Greek hero twins

POSEIDON (po-sy-dun): god of the oceans and of earthquakes

SYMPLEGADES (simp-leg-uh-deez): massive rocks in the sea that crash together when ships try to pass

ZETES (zay-teez): one of the twin sons of Boreas

ZEUS (zoos): chief Greek god; the god of thunder and of the sky

FURTHER READING AND WEBSITE

Day, Nancy. *Tour Travel Guide to Ancient Greece*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2001. Day gives advice to tourists traveling back to ancient Greece, including places to visit, food to try, what to wear, and how to get around.

Hamilton, Edith. *Mythology*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1942. Hamilton's classical book retells the stories of Greek gods and heroes, as well as Roman and Norse myths.

Mythweb. <http://www.mythweb.com/index.html>. This site, with a searchable encyclopedia, provides readers with information on gods, goddesses, and places in Greek myth.

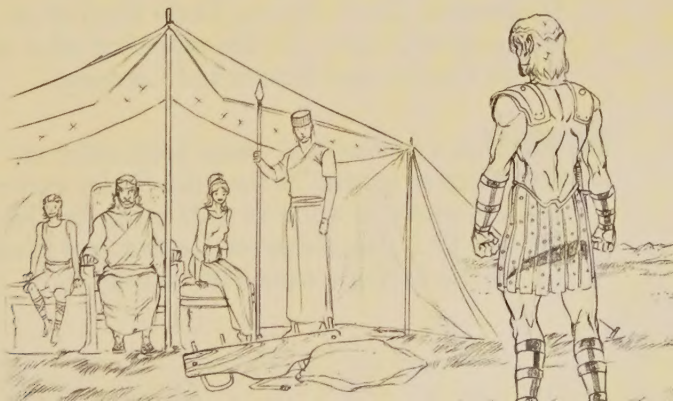
Riordan, James. *Jason and the Golden Fleece*. London: Frances Lincoln, 2005. This is a modern retelling of the adventures of Jason and the Argonauts in a picture-book format.

Zarabouka, Sofia. *Jason and the Golden Fleece: The Most Adventurous and Exciting Expedition of All the Ages*. Los Angeles: Getty Publications, 2004. This is an exciting and dramatic retelling of the legend with hauntingly eerie illustrations.

CREATING JASON: QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN FLEECE

The legend of Jason and the other Greek heroes aboard the *Argo* and their quest for the Golden Fleece may have originated as a story told about the first great sailing ships built by the ancient Greeks. The legend as it is told today was first written in about 280 B.C. by Apollonius of Rhodes, a librarian at the great library in Alexandria, Egypt. The author also based this version on the retellings in *Bulfinch's Mythology*, *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton, and *The Friendly Guide to Mythology* by Nancy Hathaway. David Mulroy of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ensured historical and visual accuracy.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ARTIST

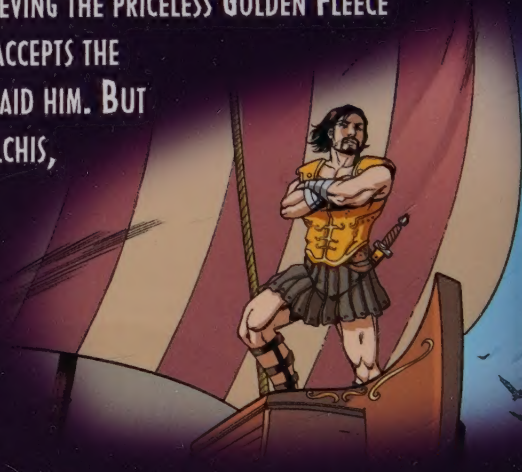
JEFF LIMKE was born and raised in North Dakota where he never braved an ocean adventure, fought skeletons, or stole a golden fleece. Jeff's books for the Graphic Myths and Legends series include *King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathe*d; *Isis & Osiris: To the Ends of the Earth*; and *Thor & Loki: In the Land of Giants*. He has published other stories with Caliber Comics, Arrow Comics, and Kenzer and Company.

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Jason

"MY NAME IS JASON AND I AM SUPPOSED TO BE THE RULER OF IOLCOS"

When Jason was a child, his uncle Pelias stole the throne and sent Jason into hiding. Now a young man, Jason returns to claim his birthright. But Pelias demands that Jason prove himself by retrieving the priceless Golden Fleece from the far-off land of Colchis. Jason accepts the challenge and gathers a ship of heroes to aid him. But what deadly trials has Aeetes, king of Colchis, set for Jason? And what plans does his beautiful daughter Medea have for the seeker of the Golden Fleece?



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