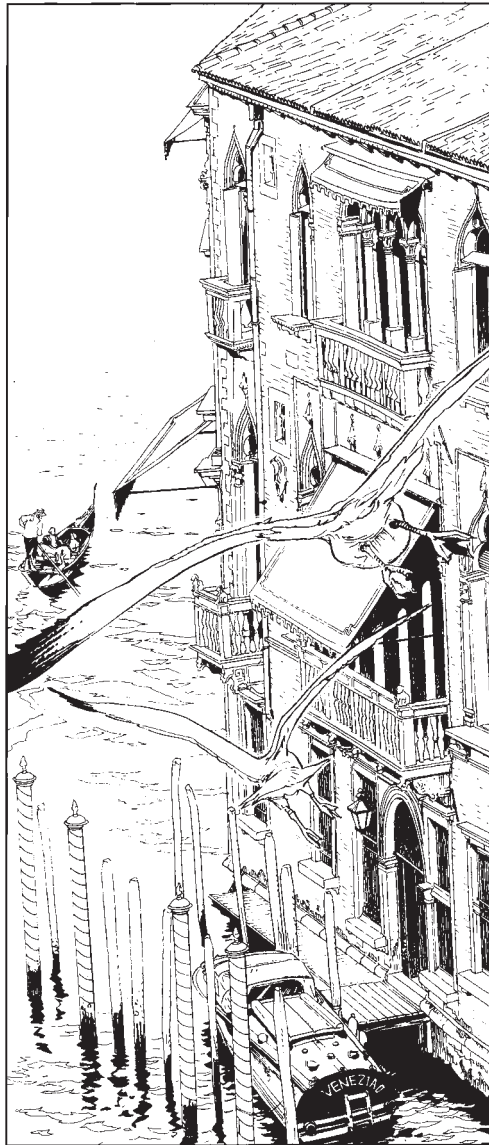


SEE VENICE...



PHILIPPE FRANCO • JEAN VAN HAMME

With the authors' consent, and in order not to upset our more sensitive readers,
certain illustrations of this edition of *Largo Winch* have been modified.
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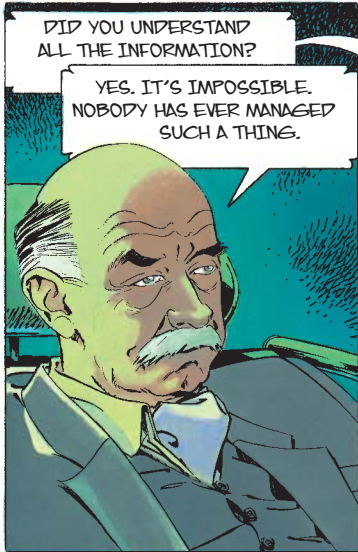
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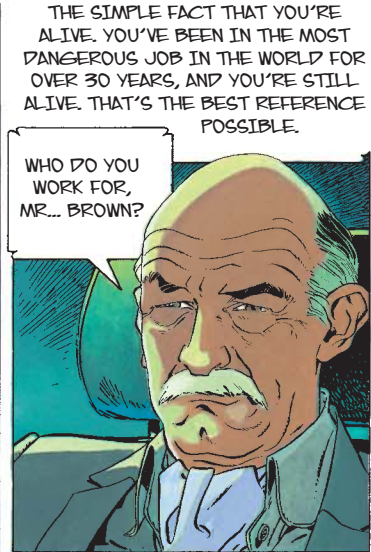
DID YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THE INFORMATION?

YES. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. NOBODY HAS EVER MANAGED SUCH A THING.



YOU. YOU CAN MANAGE IT, MR HAYNES. YOU'RE NUMBER ONE IN YOUR PROFESSION.

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?



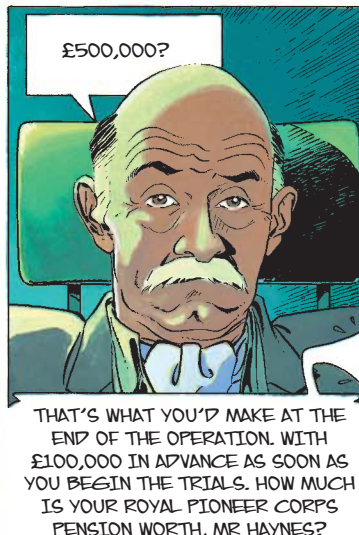
WHO DO YOU WORK FOR, MR... BROWN?

THE SIMPLE FACT THAT YOU'RE ALIVE. YOU'VE BEEN IN THE MOST DANGEROUS JOB IN THE WORLD FOR OVER 30 YEARS, AND YOU'RE STILL ALIVE. THAT'S THE BEST REFERENCE POSSIBLE.



THE CIA? THE RUSSIANS? THE IRANIANS?

THIS ISN'T ABOUT POLITICS, MR HAYNES; IT'S PRIVATE BUSINESS. FOR £500,000 STERLING, YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT *WHO* IS EMPLOYING YOU.



£500,000?

THAT'S WHAT YOU'D MAKE AT THE END OF THE OPERATION. WITH £100,000 IN ADVANCE AS SOON AS YOU BEGIN THE TRIALS. HOW MUCH IS YOUR ROYAL PIONEER CORPS PENSION WORTH, MR HAYNES?



THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, MR BROWN!

IT'S WORTH £10,678 PER YEAR, AFTER TAXES AND FEES. THAT'S NOT MUCH

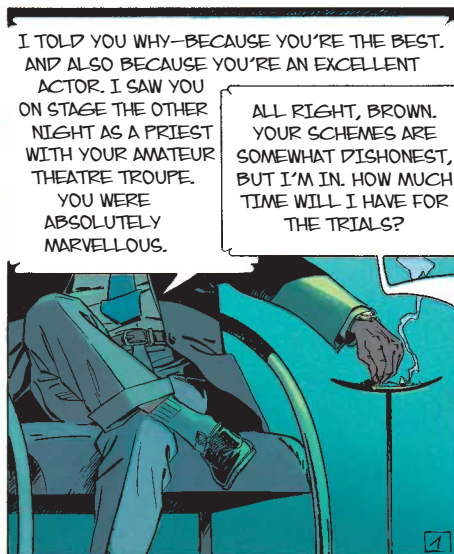
FOR A MAN WHO RISKED HIS LIFE IN HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE SO MANY TIMES, WOULDN'T YOU SAY? WITH WHAT I'M OFFERING YOU, YOU'LL FINALLY ENJOY THE PLEASURE OF COMFORT THAT YOU DESERVE.



YOUR NAME ISN'T BROWN, OF COURSE.

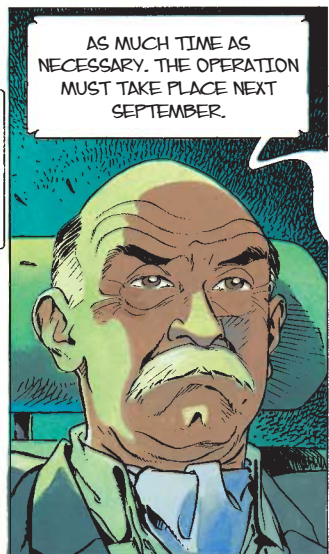
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?

IT DOESN'T. WHY ME?



I TOLD YOU WHY—BECAUSE YOU'RE THE BEST. AND ALSO BECAUSE YOU'RE AN EXCELLENT ACTOR. I SAW YOU ON STAGE THE OTHER NIGHT AS A PRIEST WITH YOUR AMATEUR THEATRE TROUPE. YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY MARVELLOUS.

ALL RIGHT, BROWN. YOUR SCHEMES ARE SOMEWHAT DISHONEST, BUT I'M IN. HOW MUCH TIME WILL I HAVE FOR THE TRIALS?



AS MUCH TIME AS NECESSARY. THE OPERATION MUST TAKE PLACE NEXT SEPTEMBER.

VENICE, SUNDAY
THE 13TH OF
SEPTEMBER,
3 0' CLOCK IN
THE MORNING



THERE!
!

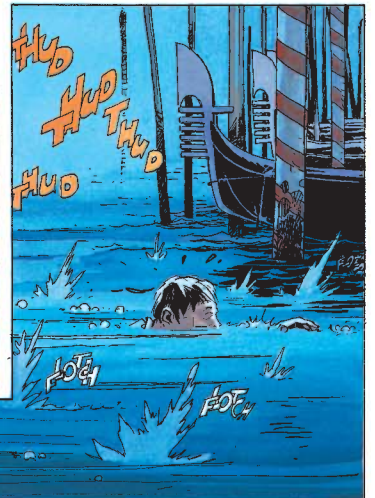




SHIT! WHERE'D THAT DAMNED RITAL GO?



THERE HE IS!!



THUD THUD THUD THUD

POW POW



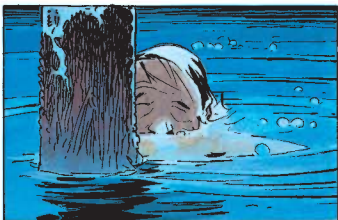
AHHH



YOU SEE HIM?

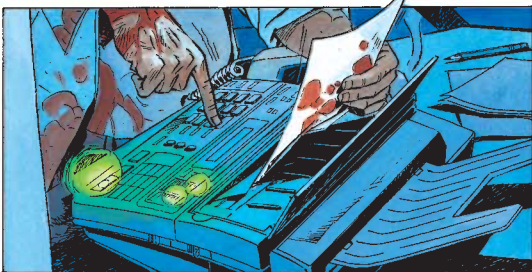
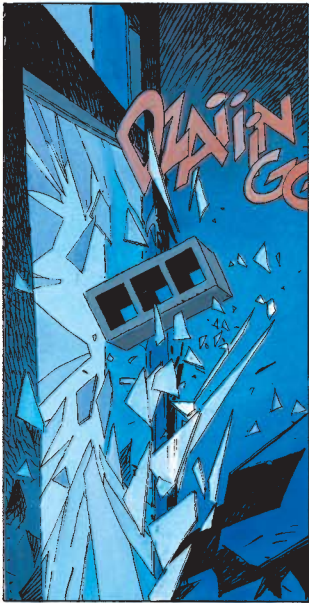
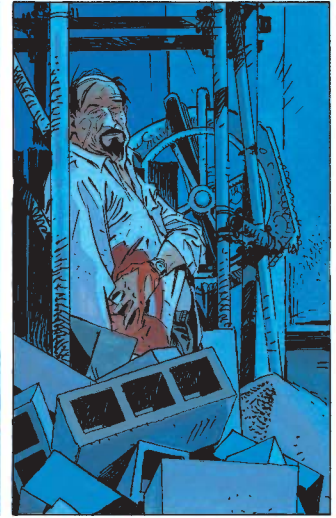
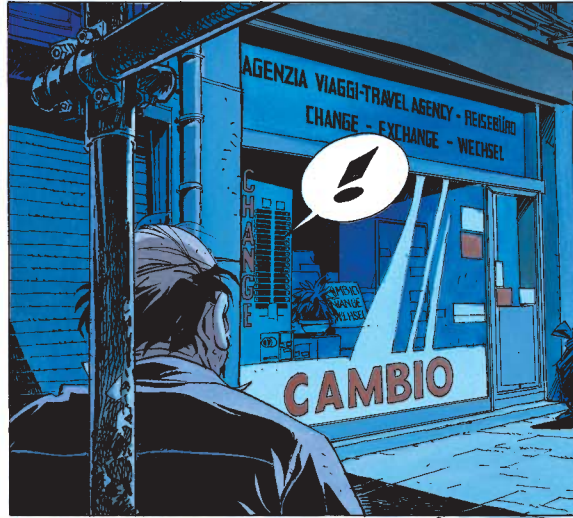
NO, HE MUST HAVE GONE UNDER.

DON'T TAKE ANY RISKS. YOU TWO, TAKE THE RIALTO BRIDGE. WE'LL GO OVER THE DELL'ACADEMIA BRIDGE.



SECOND STREET ON THE LEFT... SAN GIORGIO HOTEL... IF I CAN JUST...







THIS TIME HE'S HAD IT.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE NOW. THAT DAMNED ALARM WILL HAVE THIS PLACE CRAWLING WITH COPS IN TWO MINUTES.

**THE FAX!
LOOK AT THE FAX!**



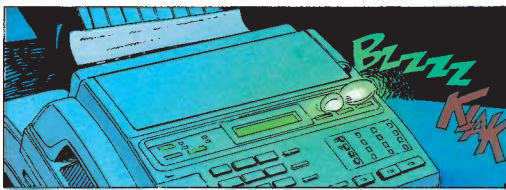
SHIT...! THAT SCUM SENT A FAX!!

I'LL GO!



TOO LATE...

LUGHHHH ...



DOUBLE SHIT! WE HAVE TO SHOW THIS TO THE BOSS. WE'RE GONNA BE TOAST, BOYS!

SCRAM, NOW! THE COPS!



PARIS, SUNDAY THE 13TH OF SEPTEMBER, 11 AM

VENICE IS QUIETER IN SEPTEMBER.

IT'S THE BEST SEASON TO GO THERE. WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME, LARGO?

I TOLD YOU ALREADY, CHARITY: I HAVE TO BE IN NEW YORK TOMORROW AT LUNCHTIME.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING ABOUT THE GROUP'S OIL DIVISION.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING!...

WHY DID YOU TAKE ON THAT CURSED GROUP, LARGO? YOU WERE FREE BEFORE. YOU TRAVELLED AS YOU PLEASUED, WHEN AND HOW YOU WANTED TO. BUT NOW YOU'VE BECOME AN OLD MAN BEFORE 30, CRUSHED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HIS BILLIONS, HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMPORTANCE.

THANKS FOR THE OLD MAN COMMENT.

AM I WRONG?

IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, CHARITY.

THE MONEY DOESN'T COME INTO IT, EVEN IF I BENEFIT FROM IT. I SUPPOSE IT'S LOVE OF A CHALLENGE: UNDERSTANDING AND MASTERING THE GIANTIC MECHANISMS THAT MAKE UP A TRUST LIKE THE W GROUP.

YOUR CHALLENGE LOOKS A DAMN SIGHT MORE LIKE A TRAP TO ME, DARLING. A TRAP THAT'S SNAPPED SHUT AROUND YOU. SNAP, INTO THE TRAP, THE GREAT ADVENTURER!

WELL, IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, HERE'S THE NUMBER OF THE FRIEND WHOSE HOUSE I'M STAYING AT. DOMENICA LEONE... SHE'S A SCULPTOR. WE WENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL TOGETHER IN LAUSANNE.

YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKELY THAT...

HUSH NOW. WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE HANDSOME BILLIONAIRE TO FLY OFF TO HIS SAD FATE, DO WE HAVE TIME TO MAYBE STOP BY THE HOTEL, HMM?...

JACOPO? IT'S VITALE. SHE'LL BE STAYING WITH A CERTAIN DOMENICA LEONE, A SCULPTOR. NO, I DON'T KNOW THE ADDRESS, BUT SHE SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND...