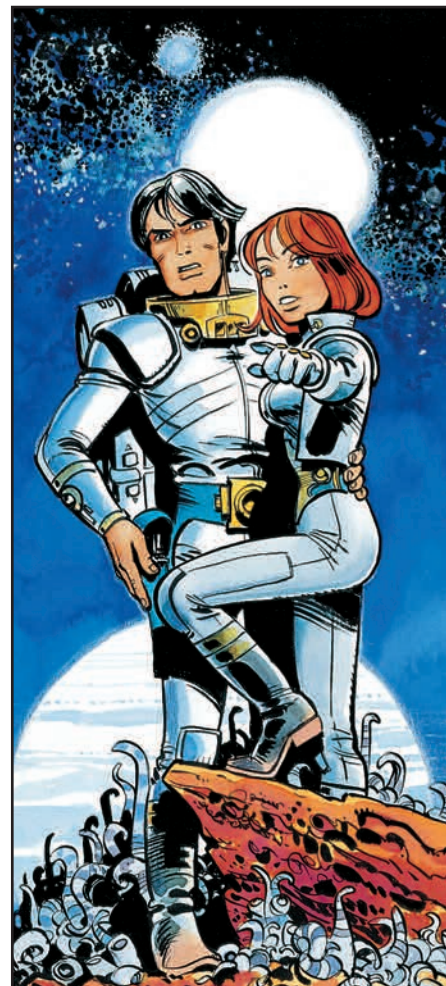


VALERIAN AND LAURELINE

THE LAND WITHOUT STARS

J.-C. MÉZIÈRES AND P. CHRISTIN
COLOUR WORK: E. TRANLÉ



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SOMEWHERE ON THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY... THE SMALL SOLAR SYSTEM OF UKBAR MARKS THE LIMIT OF THE EXPLORED UNIVERSE. BEYOND IT IS THE BLACK, OPPRESSIVE EMPTINESS OF SPACE.

ON THE FOUR PLANETS THAT ORBIT THEIR WARM STAR, A FEW HUNDRED TERRAN COLONISTS HAVE JUST BUILT THEIR NEW HOMES. PIONEERS, LOST THOUSANDS OF LIGHT-YEARS AWAY FROM THE HOME WORLD...

... THE LAST PRESENCE STILL CONNECTING THEM TO DISTANT EARTH IS ALMOST GONE. THE OFFICIAL SPACESHIP OF THE SPATIO-TEMPORAL SERVICE, AFTER ACCOMPANYING THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY AND HELPING THEM SETTLE, HAS BEGUN ITS FAREWELL TOUR...

ABOARD IT, TWO YOUNG AGENTS SENT BY GALAXY, CAPITAL OF THE TERRAN EMPIRE: **VALERIAN AND LAURELINE.**



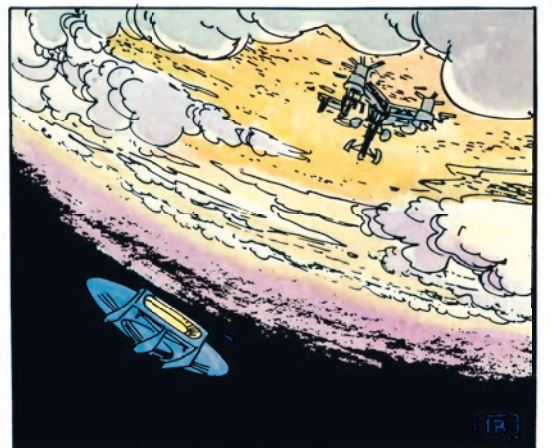
VALERIAN?... WE'RE NEARING UKBAR I. I TRUST YOU KNOW YOUR SPEECH BY HEART?

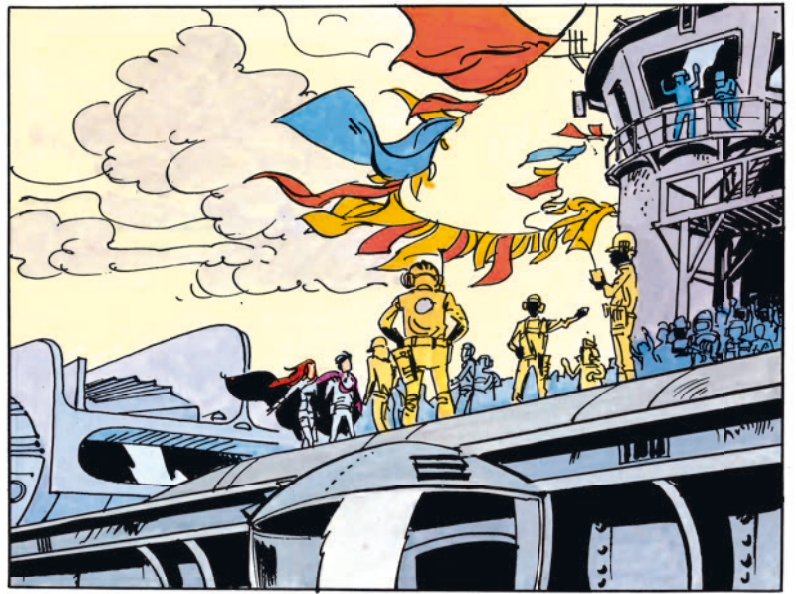
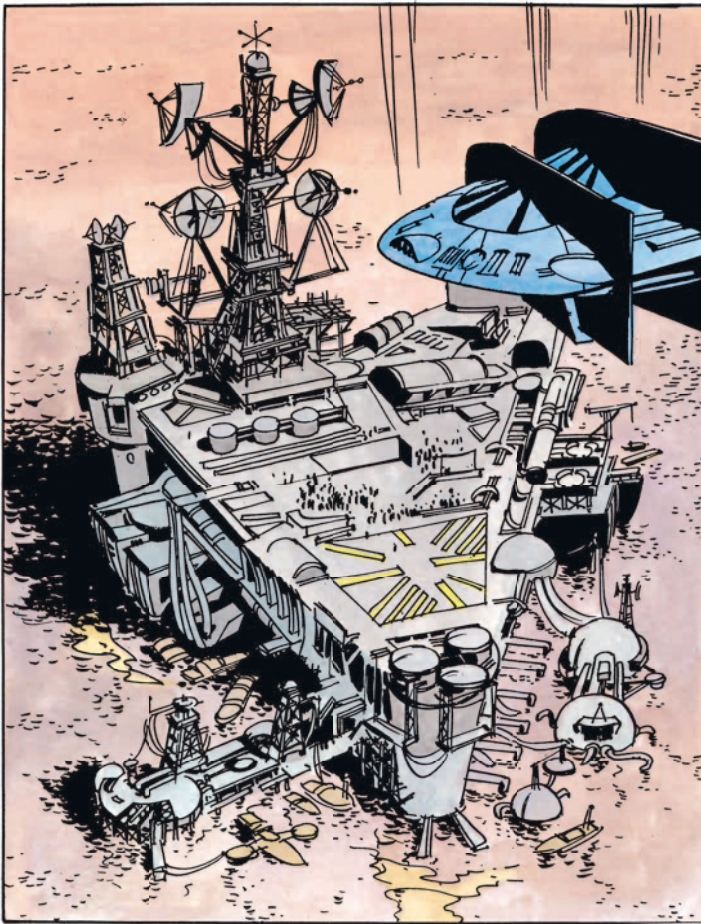
DON'T WORRY... I'VE BEEN OVER IT A DOZEN TIMES. WE HAVE TO DO THINGS RIGHT... I MEAN, THE POOR GUYS WON'T BE SEEING ANOTHER TERRAN SHIP FOR MANY YEARS...



OH, THEY DON'T SEEM TOO WORRIED BY THAT! THEY'RE WELL EQUIPPED AND SHOULD DO QUITE FINE HERE.

LET'S HOPE SO... GO GET READY WHILE I PREPARE THE APPROACH TO THE SPACEPORT...





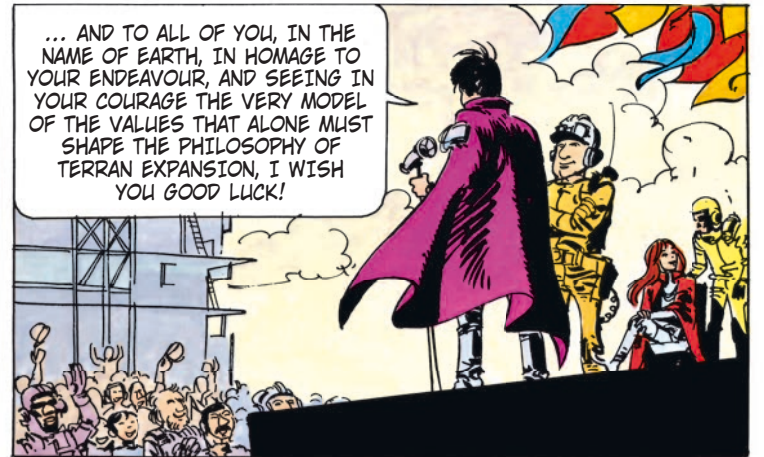
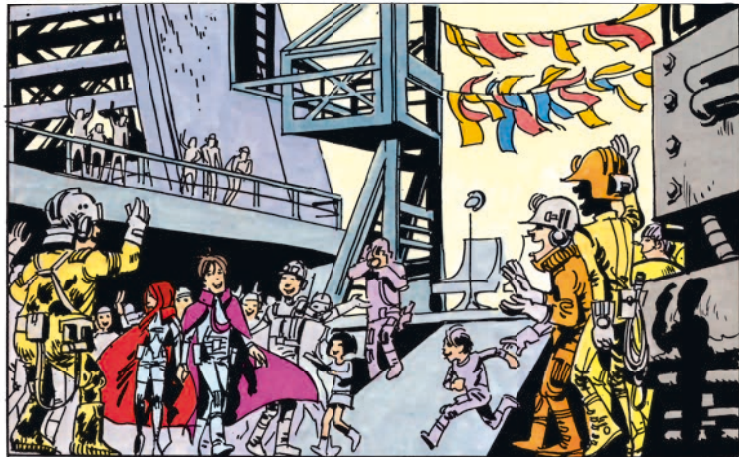
WE'RE GLAD TO WELCOME YOU HERE ONE LAST TIME. YOUR HELP WAS INVALUABLE ...



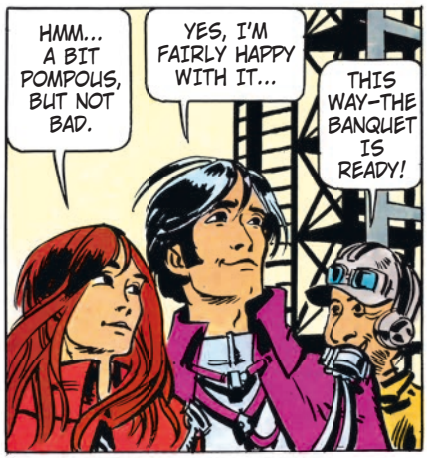
EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOUR SPEECH ...

WELL, LET'S GO, THEN. I'M JUST GOING TO IMPROVISE, YOU KNOW...

2A



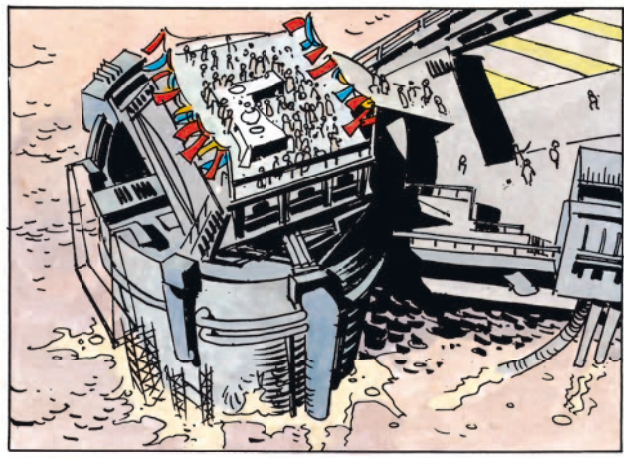
... AND TO ALL OF YOU, IN THE NAME OF EARTH, IN HOMAGE TO YOUR ENDEAVOUR, AND SEEING IN YOUR COURAGE THE VERY MODEL OF THE VALUES THAT ALONE MUST SHAPE THE PHILOSOPHY OF TERRAN EXPANSION, I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!



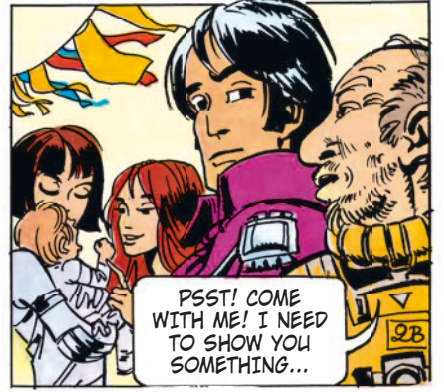
HMM... A BIT POMPUS, BUT NOT BAD.

YES, I'M FAIRLY HAPPY WITH IT...

THIS WAY-THE BANQUET IS READY!

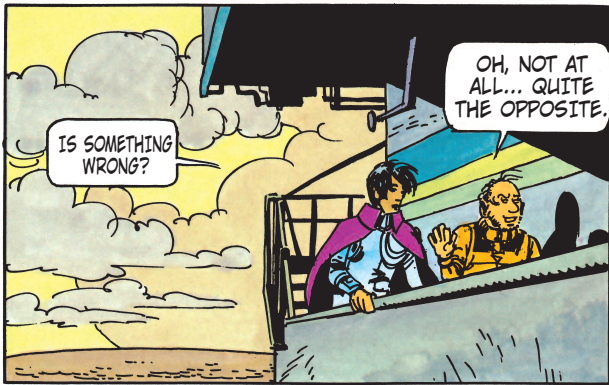


SUDDENLY, AMIDST THE LIVELY CHATTER OF THE MERRY REVELLERS...



PSST! COME WITH ME! I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING...

2B

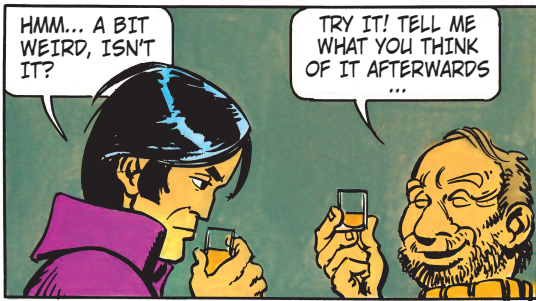


IS SOMETHING WRONG?

OH, NOT AT ALL... QUITE THE OPPOSITE.



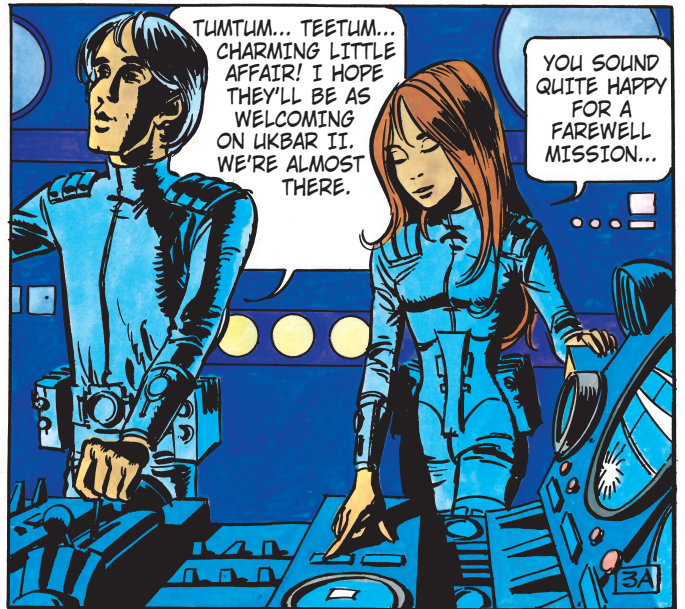
I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF THE FIRST ALCOHOL DISTILLED ON UKBAR I. MADE FROM ALGAE!



HMM... A BIT WEIRD, ISN'T IT?

TRY IT! TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF IT AFTERWARDS ...

A BIT LATER, IN SPACE...



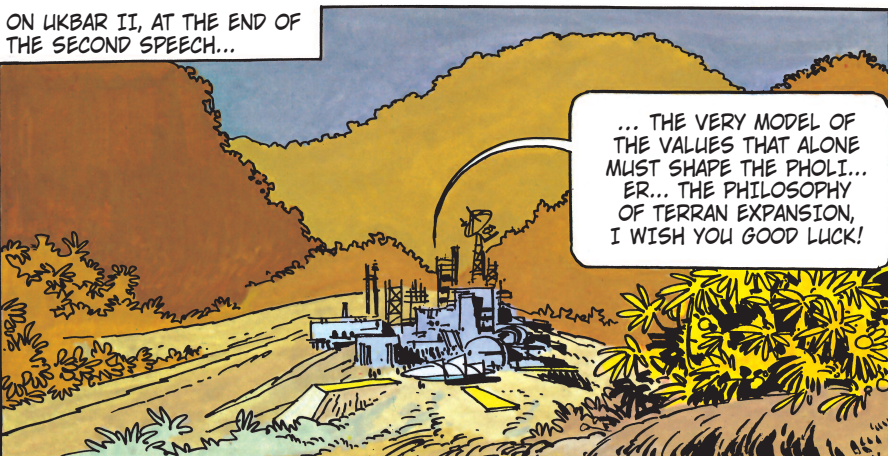
TUMTUM... TEETUM... CHARMING LITTLE AFFAIR! I HOPE THEY'LL BE AS WELCOMING ON UKBAR II. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

YOU SOUND QUITE HAPPY FOR A FAREWELL MISSION...



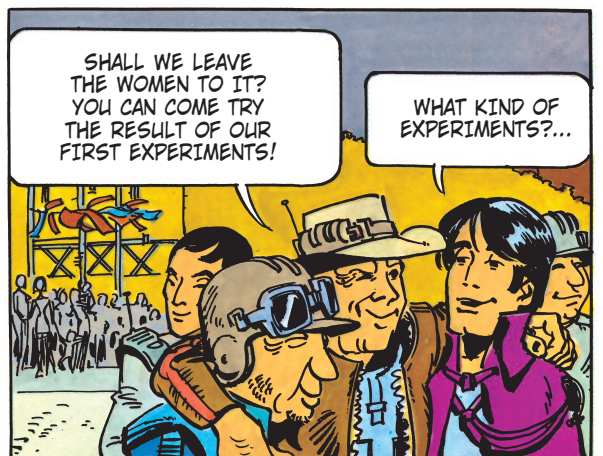
QUITE TASTY, ACTUALLY!!

ANOTHER TASTE BEFORE YOU GO, THEN?



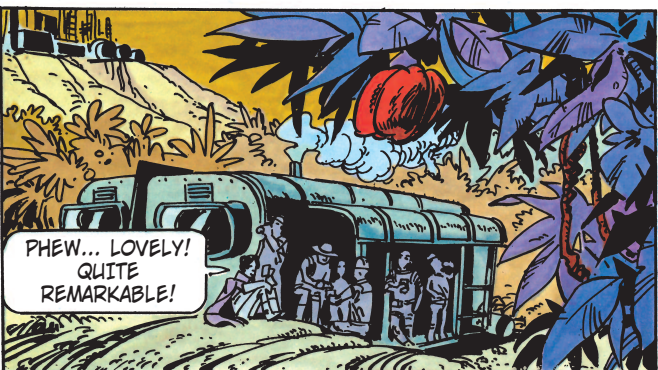
ON UKBAR II, AT THE END OF THE SECOND SPEECH...

... THE VERY MODEL OF THE VALUES THAT ALONE MUST SHAPE THE PHOLI... ER... THE PHILOSOPHY OF TERRAN EXPANSION, I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!

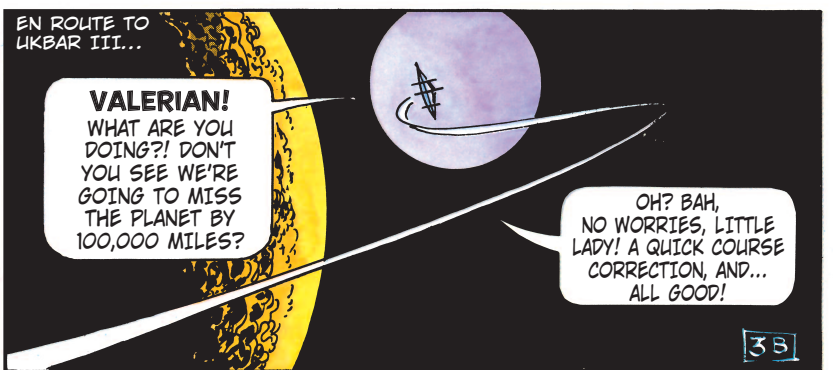


SHALL WE LEAVE THE WOMEN TO IT? YOU CAN COME TRY THE RESULT OF OUR FIRST EXPERIMENTS!

WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTS?...



PHEW... LOVELY! QUITE REMARKABLE!

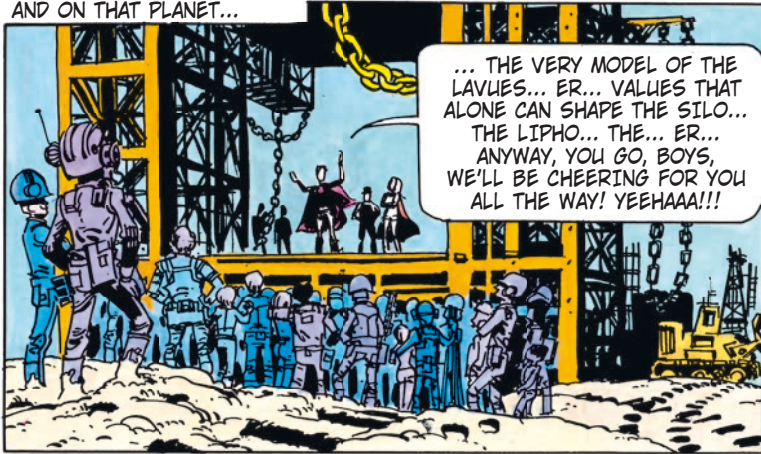


EN ROUTE TO UKBAR III...

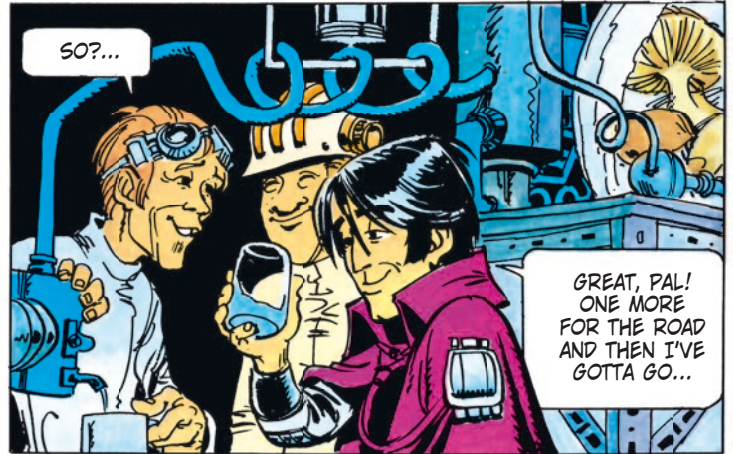
VALERIAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! DON'T YOU SEE WE'RE GOING TO MISS THE PLANET BY 100,000 MILES?

OH? BAH, NO WORRIES, LITTLE LADY! A QUICK COURSE CORRECTION, AND... ALL GOOD!

AND ON THAT PLANET...



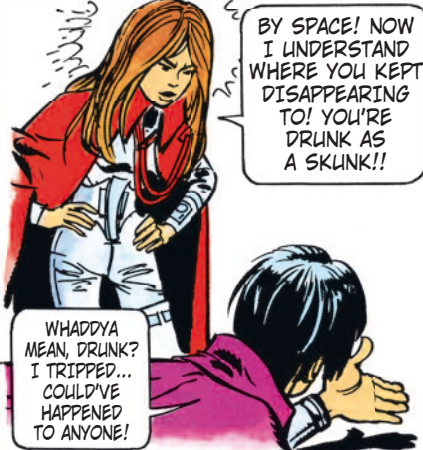
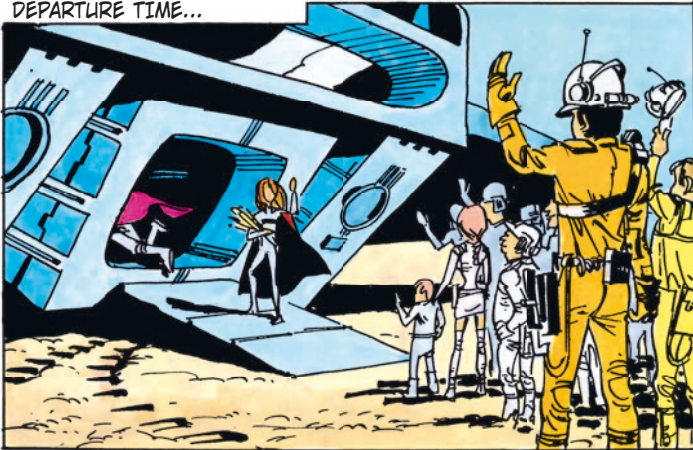
... THE VERY MODEL OF THE LAVUES... ER... VALUES THAT ALONE CAN SHAPE THE SILO... THE LIPHO... THE... ER... ANYWAY, YOU GO, BOYS, WE'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU ALL THE WAY! YEEHAAA!!



SO?...

GREAT, PAL! ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD AND THEN I'VE GOTTA GO...

DEPARTURE TIME...



BY SPACE! NOW I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU KEPT DISAPPEARING TO! YOU'RE DRUNK AS A SKUNK!!

WHADDYA MEAN, DRUNK? I TRIPPED... COULD'VE HAPPENED TO ANYONE!

FINALLY, ABOVE UKBAR IV...

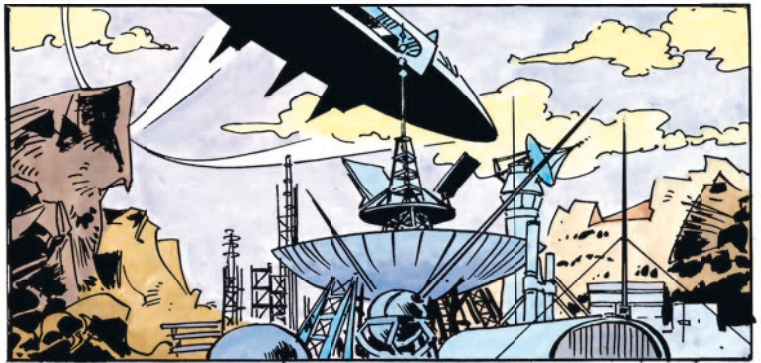


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VALERIAN, LET ME FLY THE SHIP! YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE FOOLS!!!

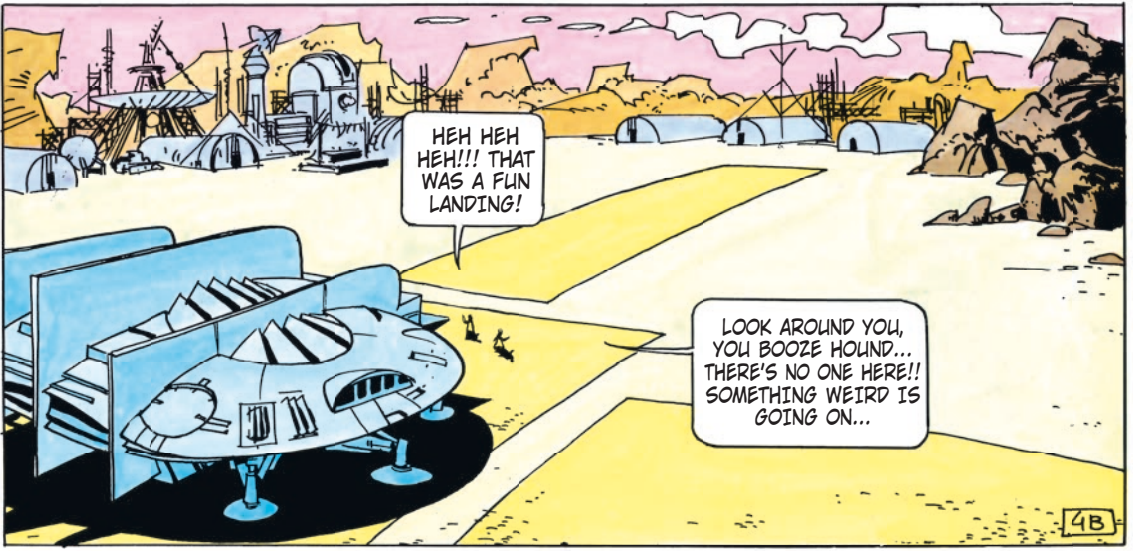
QUIET, WOMAN!!! FOR OUR LAST PLANET, I'M GONNA GIVE THEM THE KIND OF ACROBATIC LANDING THAT'LL MAKE IT INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS!!!



VALERIAN! WE'RE GOING TO HIT!!!

... HIT WHAT?...

CRIIINNGG



HEH HEH HEH!!! THAT WAS A FUN LANDING!

LOOK AROUND YOU, YOU BOOZE HOUND... THERE'S NO ONE HERE!! SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON...

4B