

HAUTIÈRE★RENO

AQUA BLUE

RETURN
TO THE SOURCE



DEL COURT

MATURE
CONTENT

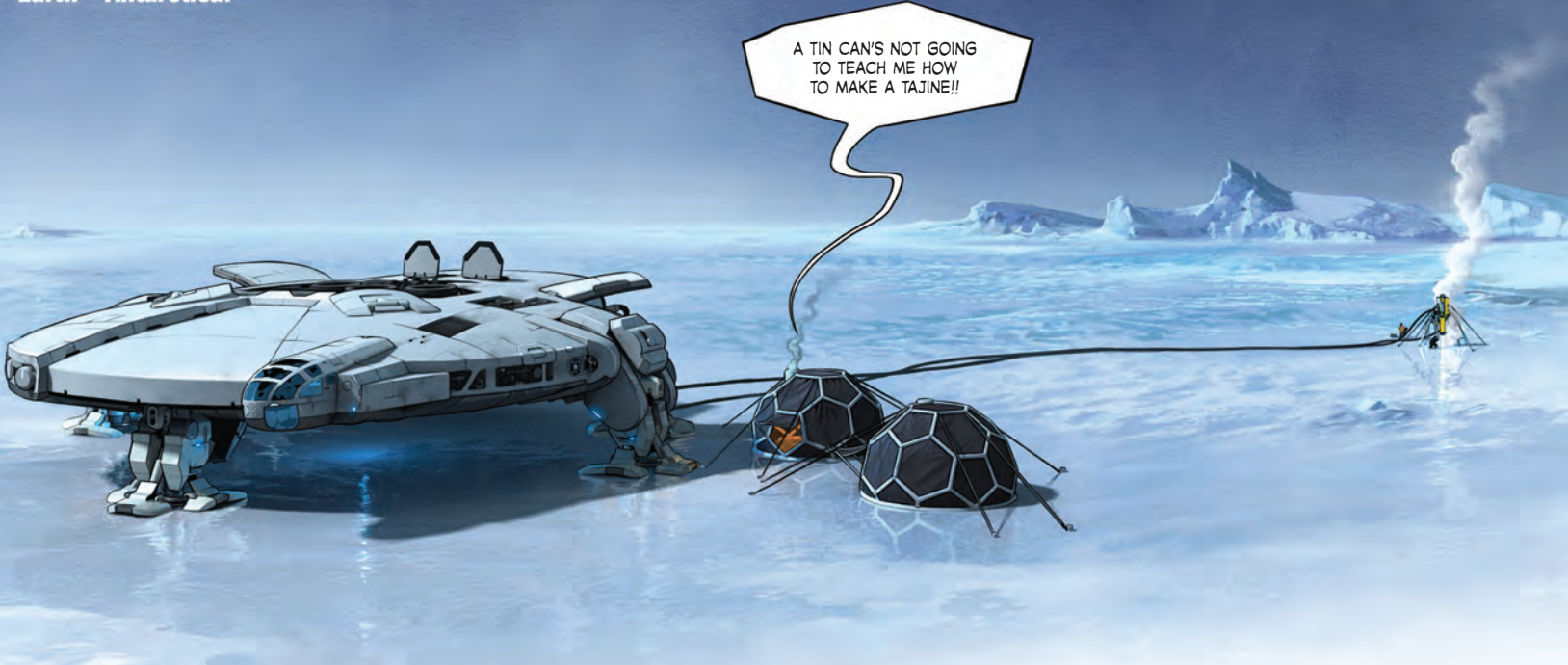


AQUABLUÉ

I2. RETURN TO THE SOURCE

Story Régis HAUTIERE

Art and color RENO





NO. BUT, IF WE GO BY THE BATHYMETRIC SOUNDER'S MEASUREMENTS, WE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY REACHED IT...

THE THICKNESS OF THE ICE MUST HAVE INTERFERED WITH MEASURING.



1664 METERS...

BEYOND 1,000 METERS, THE SOUNDER DOES START TO LOSE PRECISION. AND WE'RE ALREADY AT 1664 METERS.



IN A HUNDRED METERS OR SO, WE'LL TOUCH THE CONTINENT'S SOIL LAYER.

WELL... LET'S HOPE THAT WE FIND WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR, THEN.



LET'S HOPE THAT THE STROMBOLI'S BATTERIES HOLD UP, ABOVE ALL ELSE.... THE LONGER WE STRETCH OUT THE PLASMA RAY, THE MORE ENERGY THE DRILL EATS UP

THE AUXILIARY RESERVES ARE ALREADY NEARLY EMPTY... IF WE KEEP GOING...



WE'RE GOING TO FIND OURSELVES OUT OF...



WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DID THE DRILL STOP?

BECAUSE IT'S COME ACROSS SOMETHING IN ITS WAY. THE PROBES INDICATE A LARGE QUANTITY OF METAL.

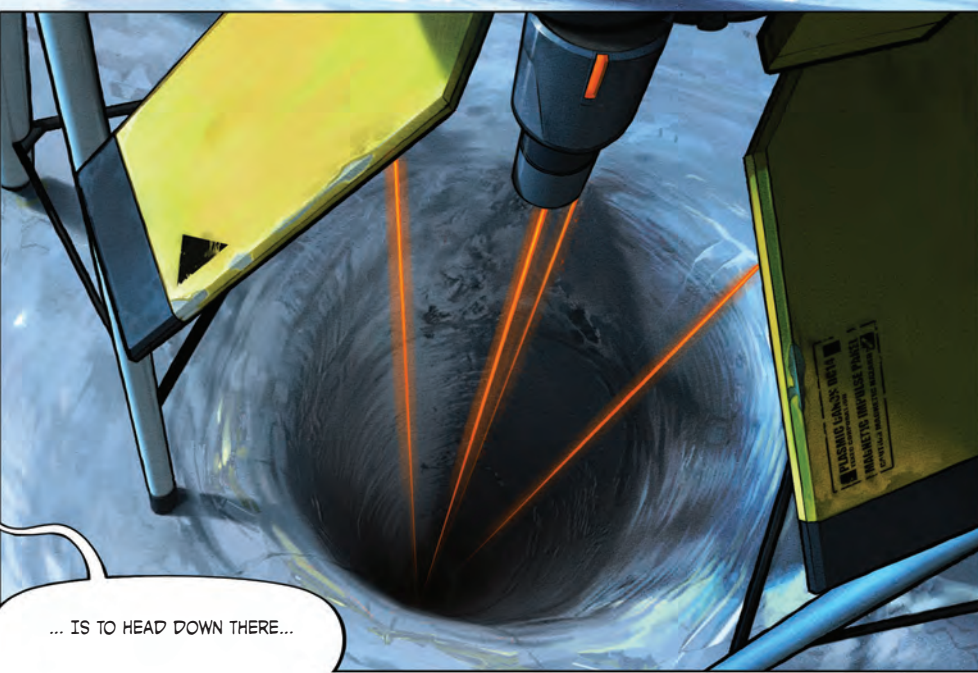


METAL? SO... IS THIS IT?! DID WE FIND IT?!



MAYBE...

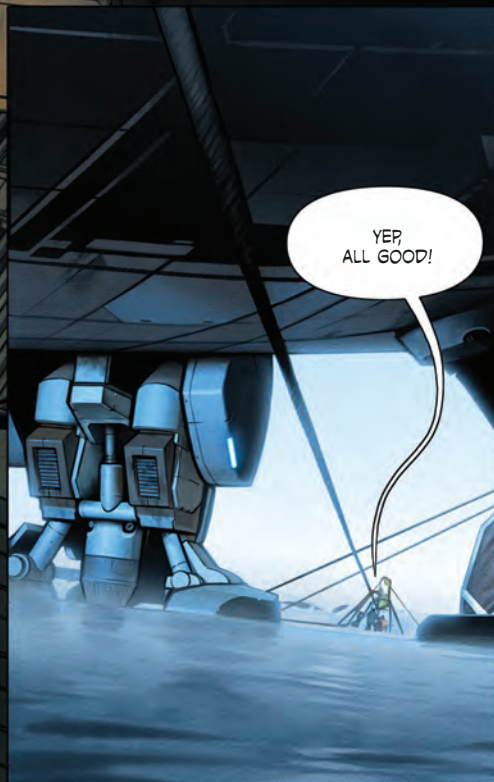
... THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT...



... IS TO HEAD DOWN THERE...



IS IT TIGHT ENOUGH?



YEP,
ALL GOOD!



RIGHT, THE CABLE
MIGHT BE SHORT BY A
COUPLE DOZEN METERS.
YOU WILL HAVE TO
COMPLETE YOUR DESCENT
ON YOUR OWN, FROM
THAT POINT.

DON'T BE CARELESS!
KLK. SEEING THE THICKNESS
OF THE ICE, WHATEVER IS AT
THE BOTTOM OF THIS HOLE
HAS BEEN THERE FOR MORE
THAN 200,000 YEARS. SO
IT WON'T FLY AWAY.



HEAD DOWN
SLOWLY, AND
CHECK YOUR
FOOTING.
BRZZ.

YEAH, WELL...
DON'T TAKE TOO
LONG, Y'KNOW!



I JUST PUT THE POTATOES IN
THE TAJINE. THEY CAN'T TURN
INTO A PURÉE.

BE CAREFUL, AND
PREVENT PURÉE.
GOTCHA...

CARLO.
YOU COPY?



I'M READY. YOU CAN
PAY THE ROPE OUT.

OK!

HERE WE
GO...



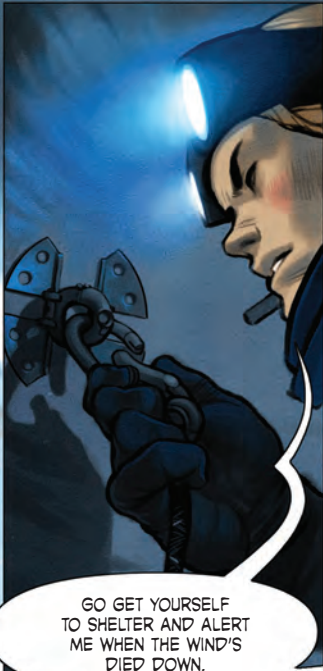
GO ON,
ACCELERATE
A BIT!



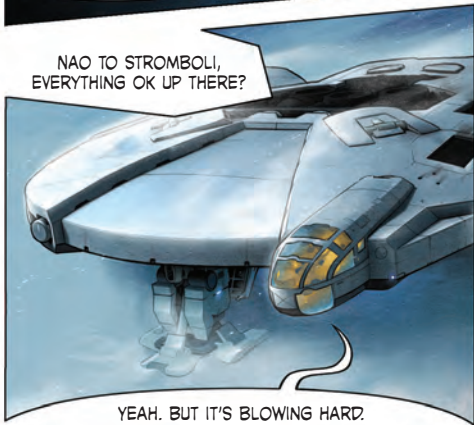


THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION! I'VE JUST STARTED RAPPELLING DOWN.

I'M NOT AT RISK OF ANYTHING, WHERE I AM.

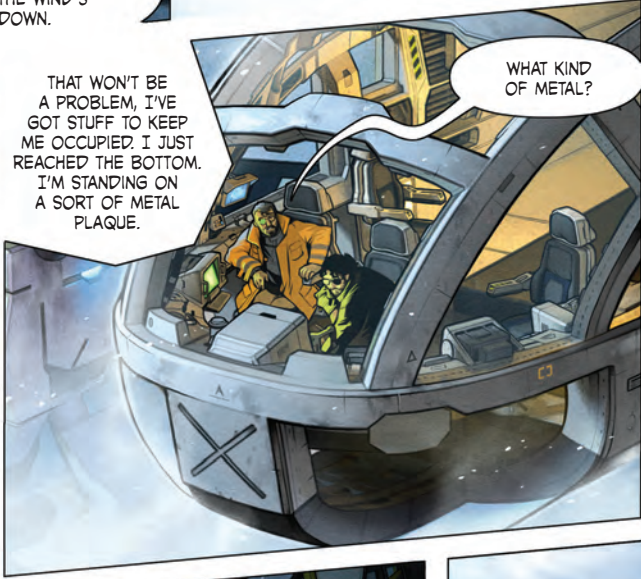


GO GET YOURSELF TO SHELTER AND ALERT ME WHEN THE WIND'S DIED DOWN.



NAO TO STROMBOLI, EVERYTHING OK UP THERE?

YEAH. BUT IT'S BLOWING HARD. THE WIND HAS PICKED UP TO OVER 125 MPH, AND IT KEEPS GETTING STRONGER. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET YOU BACK UP RIGHT NOW.



THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM, I'VE GOT STUFF TO KEEP ME OCCUPIED. I JUST REACHED THE BOTTOM. I'M STANDING ON A SORT OF METAL PLAQUE.

WHAT KIND OF METAL?



I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY RESISTANT, AND WITH A THICK SHIELD. I WON'T MANAGE TO PIERCE IT WITH MY EQUIPMENT.



I'M ENLARGING THE BASE OF THE WELL WITH A WELDING TORCH.

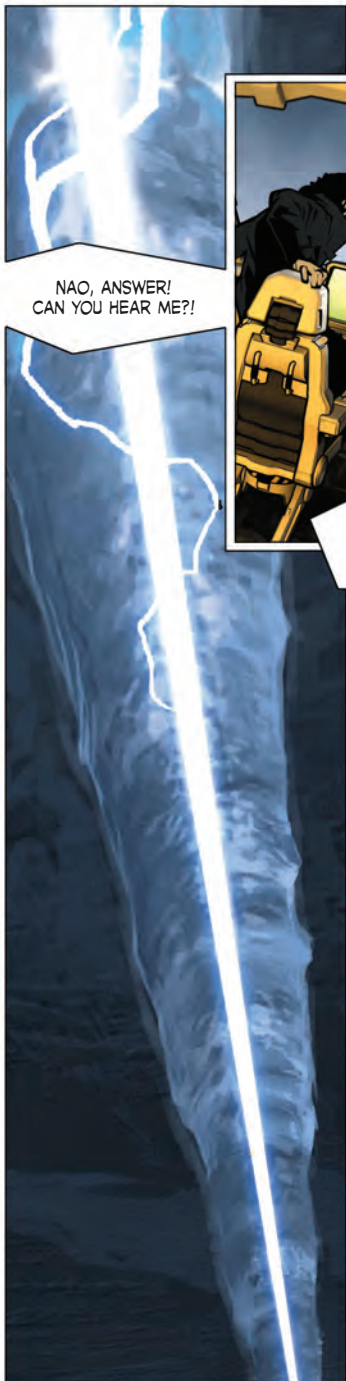


WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK, I'LL FIND AN OPENING...



... BEFORE THE BATTERY DIES.





BECAUSE THE DISTRIBUTION UNIT'S OUT OF ORDER!

HOW LONG HAVE I SAID TO TRASH THAT FLYING PIECE OF SHIT!

THE STROMBOLI ISN'T A PIECE OF SHIT! OF SHIT! AND IT DOESN'T JUST DO STUFF ON ITS OWN!



STROMBOLI TO NAO, DO YOU COPY?

YEAH. I...



NAO?

EVERYTHING OKAY... ?



Aquablue – Several months later...



I'VE HAD ENOUGH!



IT'LL BE EIGHT MONTHS SINCE HE LEFT!

C'MON, C'MON...

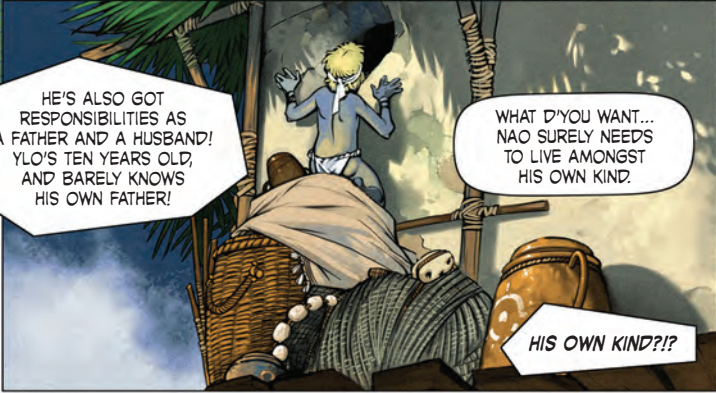
EIGHT MONTHS!!



AND THE LAST TIME HE STOPPED BY, HE ONLY STUCK AROUND FOR FIFTEEN DAYS!

YOU GOTTA SEE HIS POINT OF VIEW, MI-NUEE. HIS FOUNDATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM.

AND NOT JUST FOR HIM. SEVERAL ANIMAL SPECIES OWE HIM THEIR SURVIVAL. NAO HAS GOT BIG RESPONSIBILITIES.



HE'S ALSO GOT RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FATHER AND A HUSBAND! YLO'S TEN YEARS OLD, AND BARELY KNOWS HIS OWN FATHER!

WHAT D'YOU WANT... NAO SURELY NEEDS TO LIVE AMONGST HIS OWN KIND.

HIS OWN KIND?!



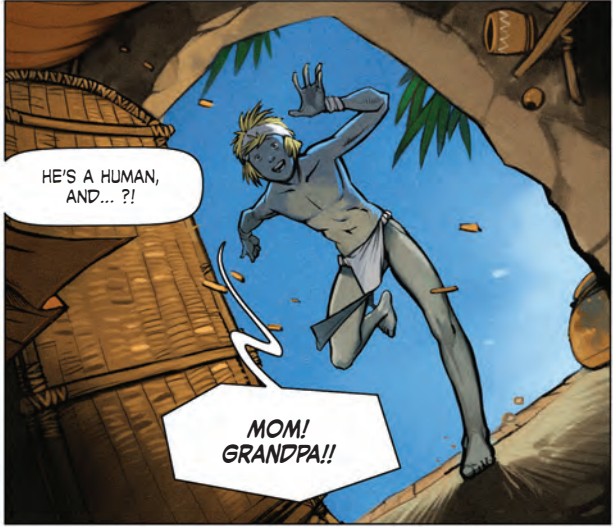
?

I MEAN, HIS PEOPLE...



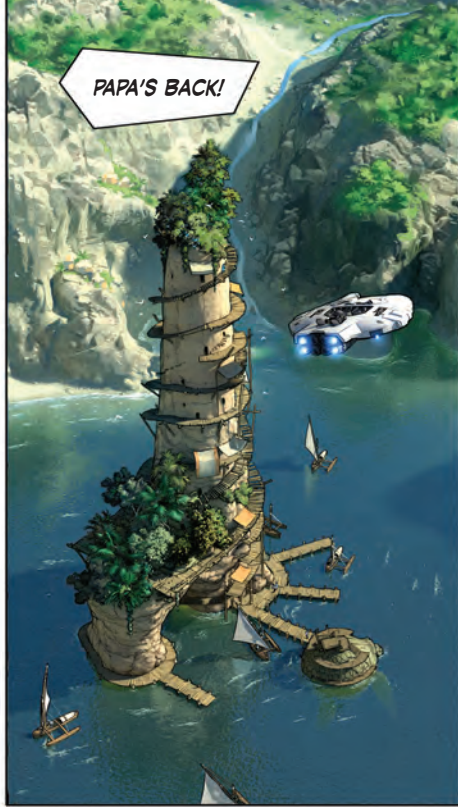
WE ARE HIS PEOPLE!!

HIS ADOPTIVE PEOPLE, YES, BUT YOU KNOW THAT NAO IS NOT AT ALL A MEMBER OF OUR RACE.



HE'S A HUMAN, AND... ?!

MOM! GRANDPA!!



PAPA'S BACK!



PAPA!!

YLO!



LOOK AT YOU,
ALMOST A MAN!



NAO...

MI-NUEE!



HAPPY TO SEE THAT
YOU REMEMBERED
US...

HOW LONG DO
YOU THINK YOU'LL
STAY IN AQUABLUE,
THIS TIME?

COME ON, MI-NUEE...
DON'T HASSLE HIM
ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW!
YOUR HUSBAND'S JUST
FINISHED A LONG
VOYAGE.



IT'S OKAY, MELKEIOK, SHE'S RIGHT.
I WASN'T TERRIBLY PRESENT THESE
PAST FEW YEARS. BUT IT'S
ALL GOING TO CHANGE.

REALLY??
ARE YOU COMING
TO LIVE WITH
US?!



I WON'T PROMISE
ANYTHING, BUT THAT'S POSSIBLE.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT
THE GRAND COUNCIL WILL
SAY TO THE QUESTION
I HAVE FOR THEM...

KINGS OF THE ISLANDS,
AMBASSADORS OF
THE THOUSAND TRIBES!

WE ARE GATHERED
HERE TODAY AT THE REQUEST
OF TUMU-NAO.

MANY OF YOU KNOW HIM. ALMOST
TWENTY YEARS AGO, HE HELPED US FIGHT OFF
THE MEN COMING FROM SPACE, WHO SOUGHT TO
TRANSFORM OUR WORLD IN TO AN ICY DESERT.

WE CHASED THESE MEN OUT, AND NAO
SPOKE TO THE GREAT LEADERS OF THEIR PEOPLE.
THEY CONSIDER OUR PLANET A SANCTUARY NOW,
AND COLONIZATION OF IT HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN
BY THEIR LAWS.

TODAY, TUMU-NAO HAS A REQUEST
TO PRESENT TO US. I WILL LET
HIM SPEAK.

THANK YOU, URUKHAPEL. BEFORE I PERFORM MY REQUEST, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND
YOU THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE AQUABLU WITHOUT THE HELP
OF THE ATALANS.

DLOOAL, THEIR REPRESENTATIVE,
HAS HONORED US TODAY WITH
HIS PRESENCE.

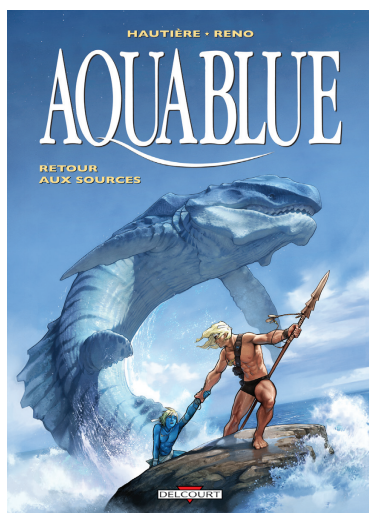
DURING OUR FIRST MEETING,
DLOOAL HAD TOLD ME
OF AN OLD LEGEND.

ACCORDING TO THIS LEGEND,
THE NATIVES OF AQUABLU HAD,
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO,
LANDED ON THE EARTH WITH
A PRIMITIVE SPACECRAFT.

WE HAVE FOUND
THAT SPACECRAFT.

AQUABLUE

Script THIERRY CAILLETEAU, RÉGIS HAUTIERE
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Nao, a representative of the blue people, lives on the planet Aquablue, determined to protect his people from attacks by other planets. But as a human being raised as a blue person, he must also fight the enemies of biodiversity, those seeking to dominate other living beings.

1st cycle (Vol. 1-5): Colonization war on Aquablue.

2nd cycle (Vol. 6-7): Nao finds out why his parents were killed.

3rd cycle (Vol. 8-9): First mission of the Aquablue Foundation.

4th cycle (Vol. 10-11): Nao takes on Marachna, priestess of the Spider God.

Vol. 12, new cycle: Led by a friend of Nao's, a humane scientific mission sets up on Aquablue, planning to study the origins of the flora and fauna of the blue planet.

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