

CANDIRU



by Siproites



8-Apr-1978. My name is Dr. Isaac Brown. I have been studying what may be the last unknown tribe of Africa. The Chebos' language is similar to the Dogon, but their customs are different from any other primitive people I have ever encountered.

I have thoroughly documented every aspect of the Chebos' lives, but there is one secret ritual the tribe elders refuse to allow me to witness.

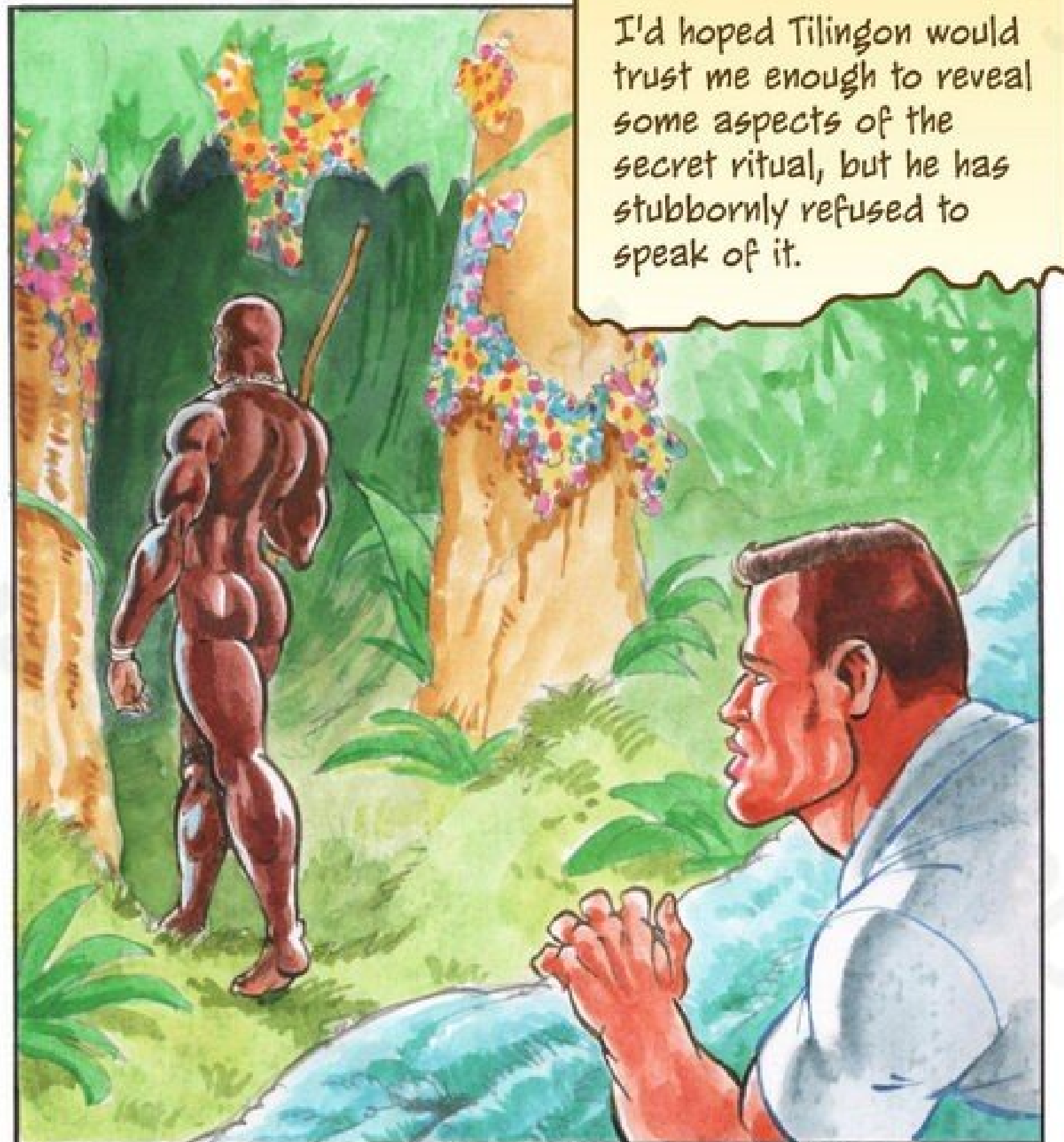
HELLO,
DR. BROWN.

GOOD
MORNING,
TILINGON.



I have managed to befriend Tilingon, an inquisitive young warrior who has reached the age where he is expected to take a wife.

I'd hoped Tilingon would trust me enough to reveal some aspects of the secret ritual, but he has stubbornly refused to speak of it.



I have even tried spying on my subjects, but each time without success. It's almost as if they know when I'm watching.





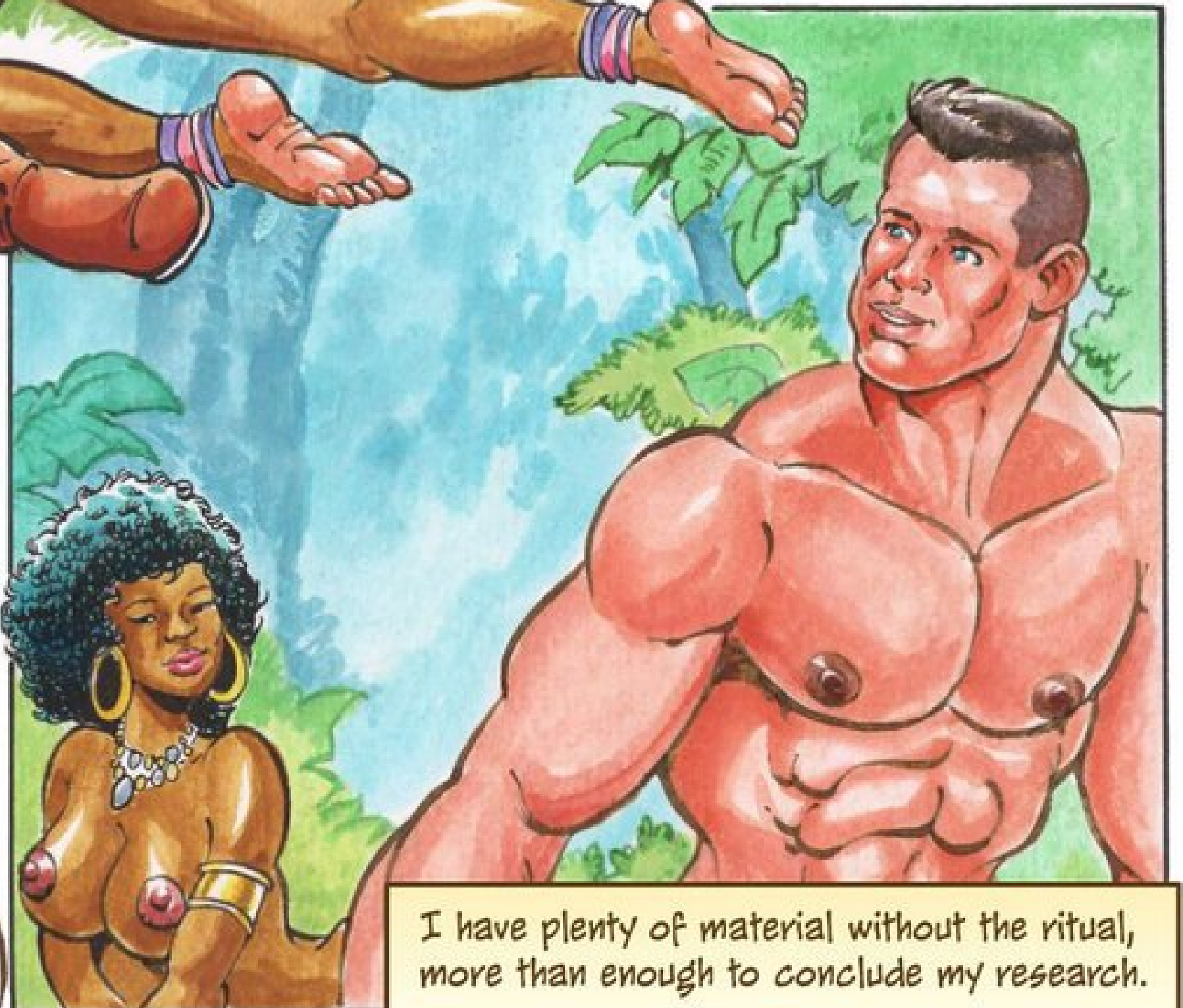
Their customs truly are different from any of the neighboring tribes.

In some aspects, they are closer to the primitive people of the South Pacific.



Their women, for instance, freely have sexual relations with all the men in the village until they choose to marry.

As pleasurable as these past weeks have been, I know it is time to abandon my quest to learn the Chebos' every secret.



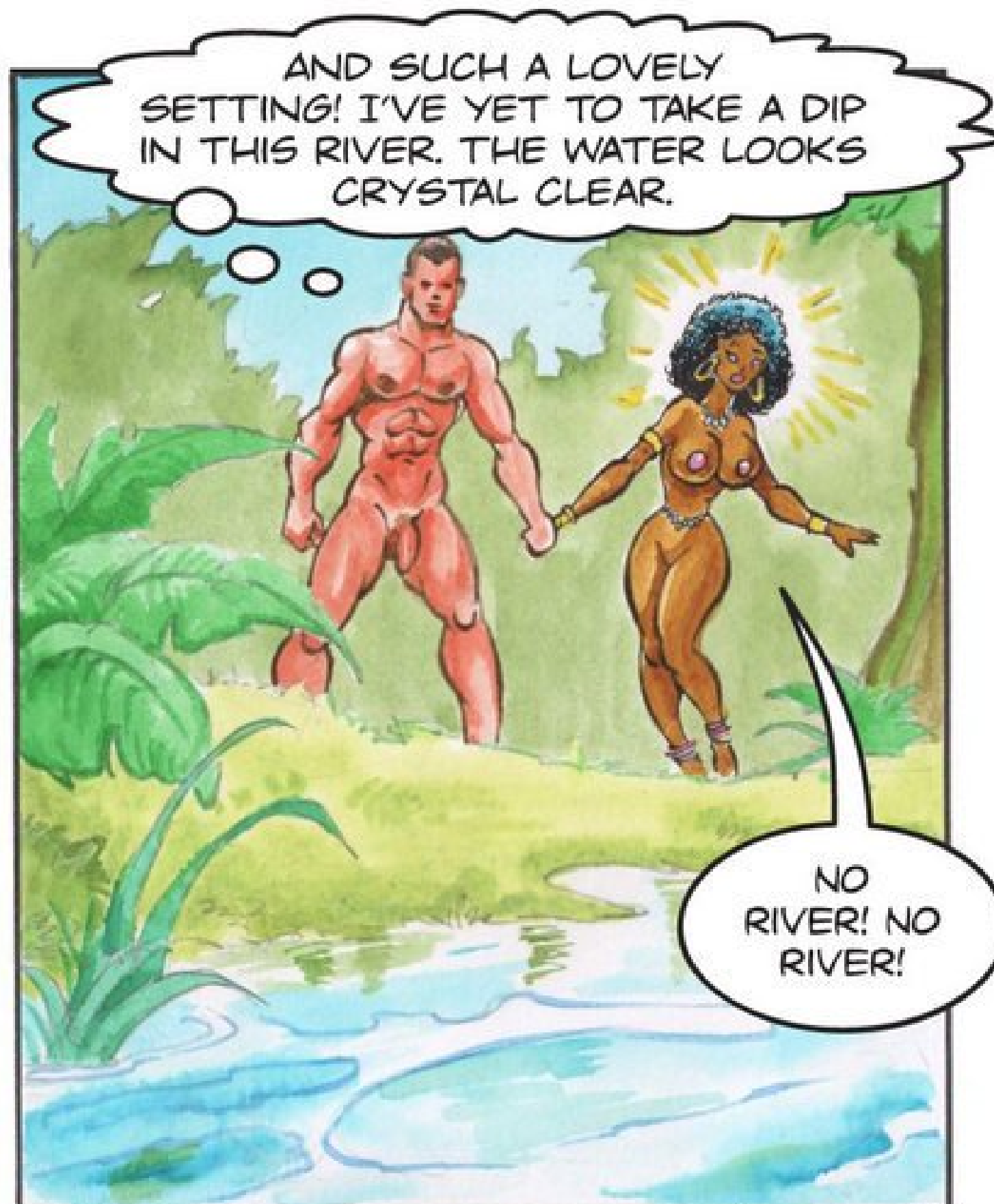
I have plenty of material without the ritual, more than enough to conclude my research.

My paper on the Chebos will make headlines. Or, at the very least, rattle the cages of my smug colleagues at the University.



I'M GOING TO MISS THESE IMPULSIVE, GENTLE PEOPLE.

AND SUCH A LOVELY SETTING! I'VE YET TO TAKE A DIP IN THIS RIVER. THE WATER LOOKS CRYSTAL CLEAR.



NO RIVER! NO RIVER!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, M'WAHILA? I ONLY WANT TO REFRESH MYSELF BY BATHING IN THE RIVER!



NO, NO! CANDIRU! CANDIRU!

CANDIRU! CANDIRU!

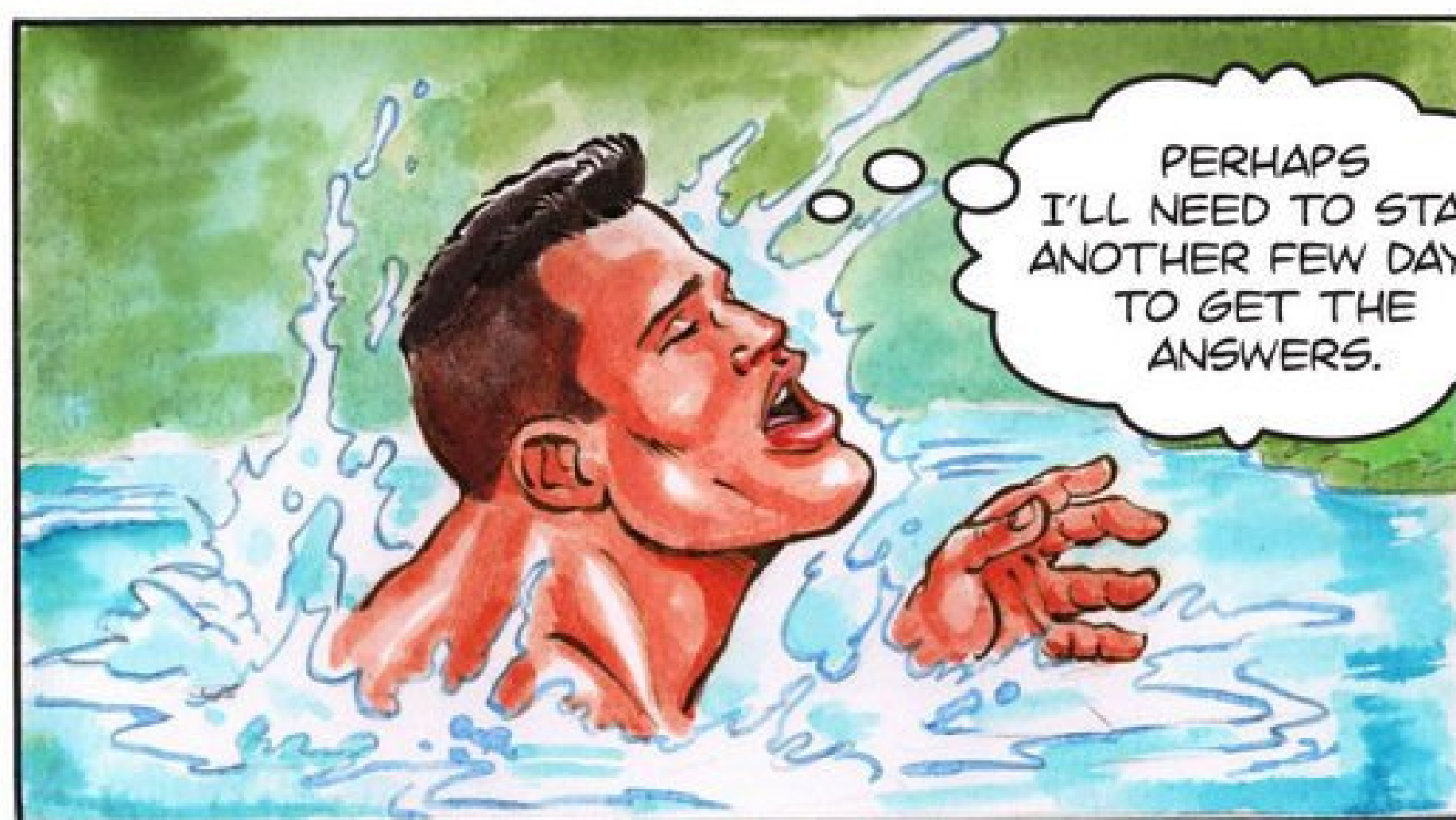


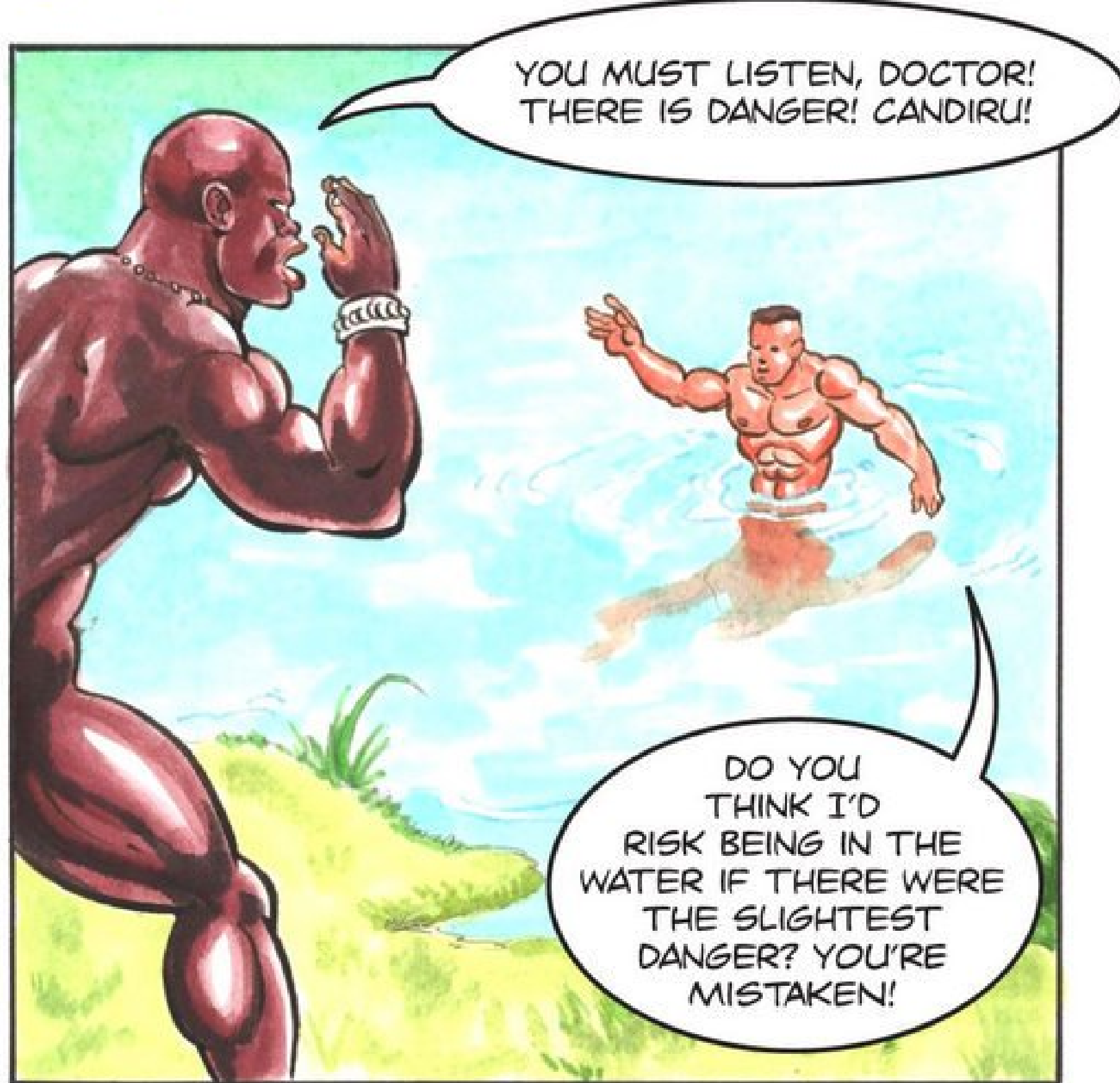
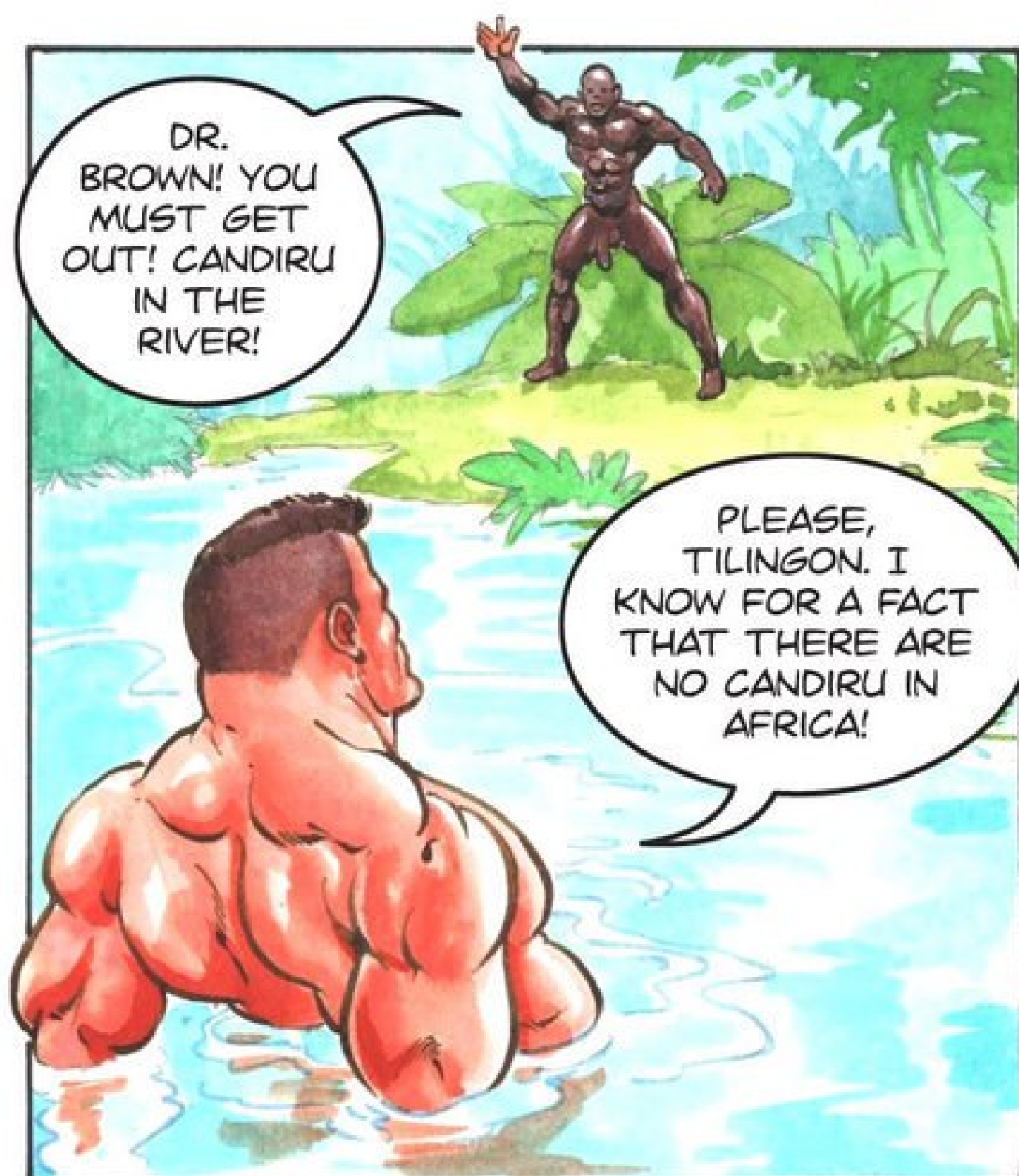
GOOD LORD. HAVE I UNDERESTIMATED THE SUPERSTITIOUS NATURE OF THE CHEBOS?

AND HOW DOES M'WAHILA KNOW OF CANDIRU? THAT FISH ONLY EXISTS IN SOUTH AMERICA!



PERHAPS I'LL NEED TO STAY ANOTHER FEW DAYS TO GET THE ANSWERS.





I'VE
GOT TO GET
THE CANDIRU OUT
BEFORE IT ANCHORS
ITSELF INSIDE
ME!



I
CAN FEEL
IT GOING
DEEPER...
GASP...



THE CANDIRU IS
SUPPOSED TO DRINK
MY BLOOD, GORGE ON MY
TISSUE. BUT THIS... THIS
FEELS LIKE SOMETHING
ELSE ENTIRELY!



OH LORD...
THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING!

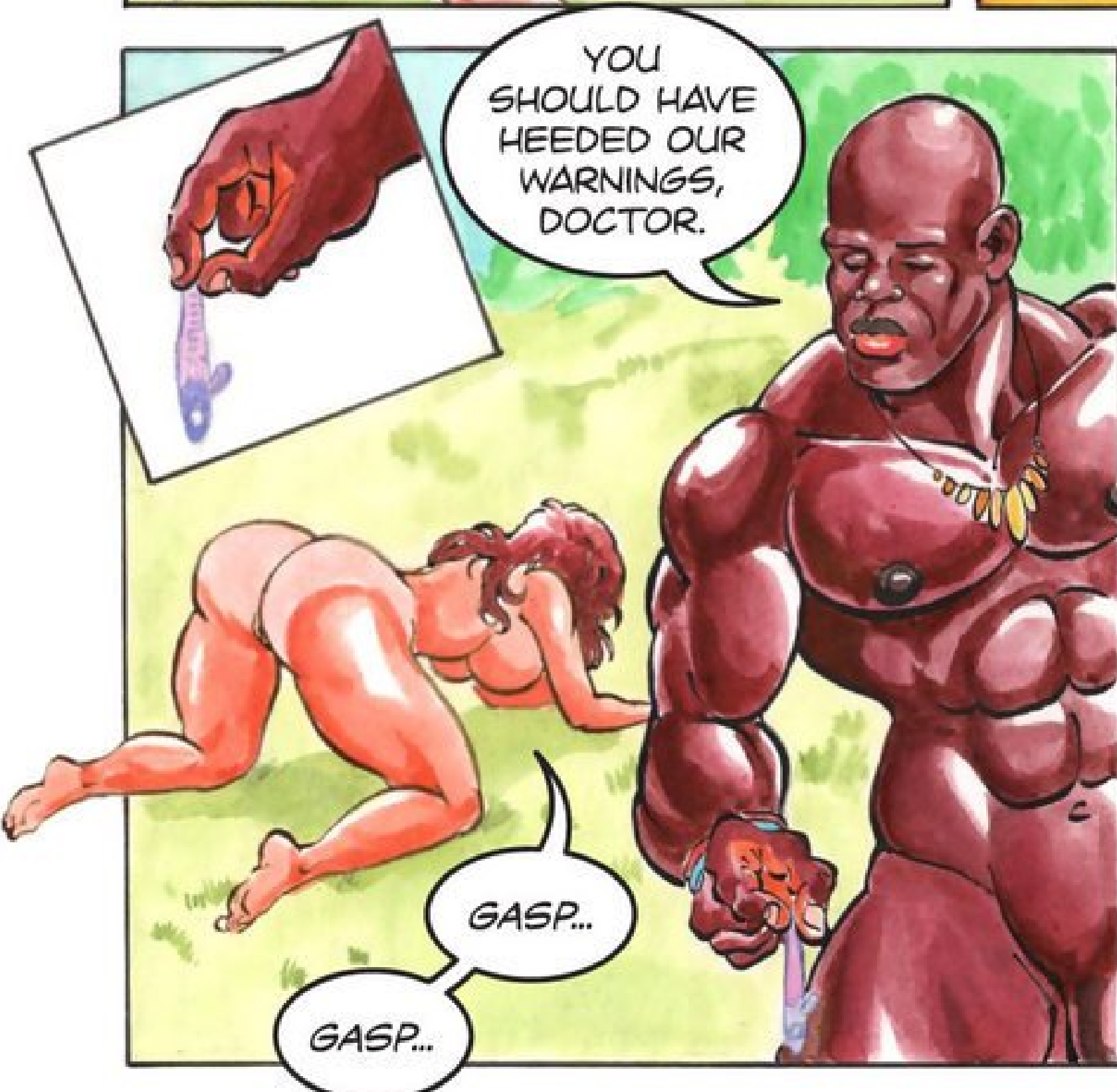


IT'S AS
IF THE BEASTLY
FISH IS... IS
SOMEHOW ALTERING
MY VERY BEING.



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
SCIENTIFICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE!





WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TILINGON? PLEASE. I NEED HELP. WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?



OH... THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THEY CARRY OUT THEIR SECRET RITUAL.



GOOD. A SHAMAN. HE'S GOING TO HELP ME, RIGHT?



TILINGON, YOUR PEOPLE HAVE SURELY DEALT WITH THESE CANDIRU BEFORE. DO YOU HAVE A RITUAL THAT CAN CURE ME?



WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? TILINGON?!?





YOU'RE MY FRIEND. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.



PLEASE, TILINGON. I'M NOT A WOMAN!

YOU'RE TOO TENSE, DR. BROWN. THERE'S NO REASON TO BE FRIGHTENED.



LET ME MAKE THIS EASIER FOR YOU.



NO!

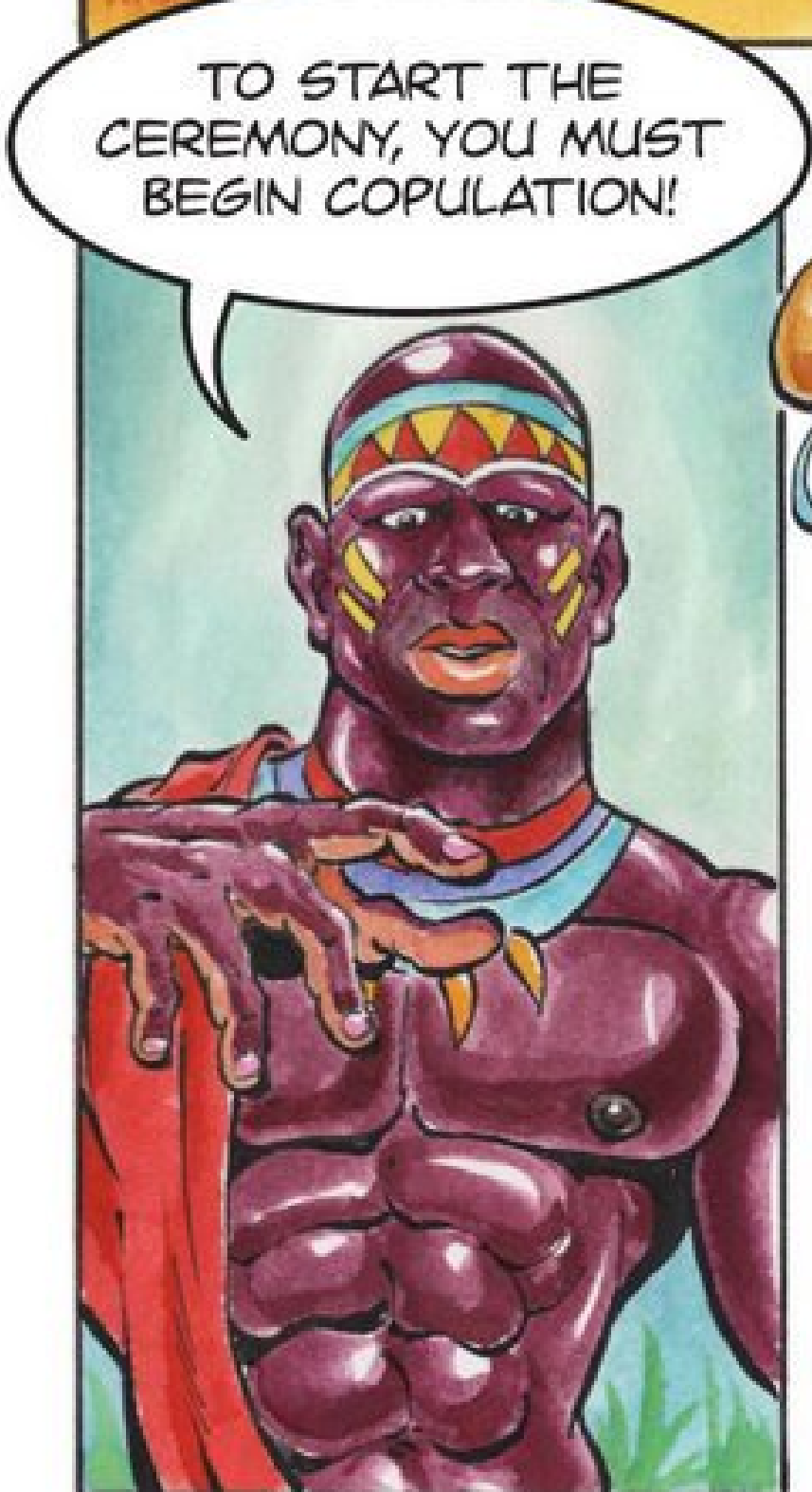
AAAYY....

UUNNHHH...



YOU SEE? NOW YOU ARE READY!

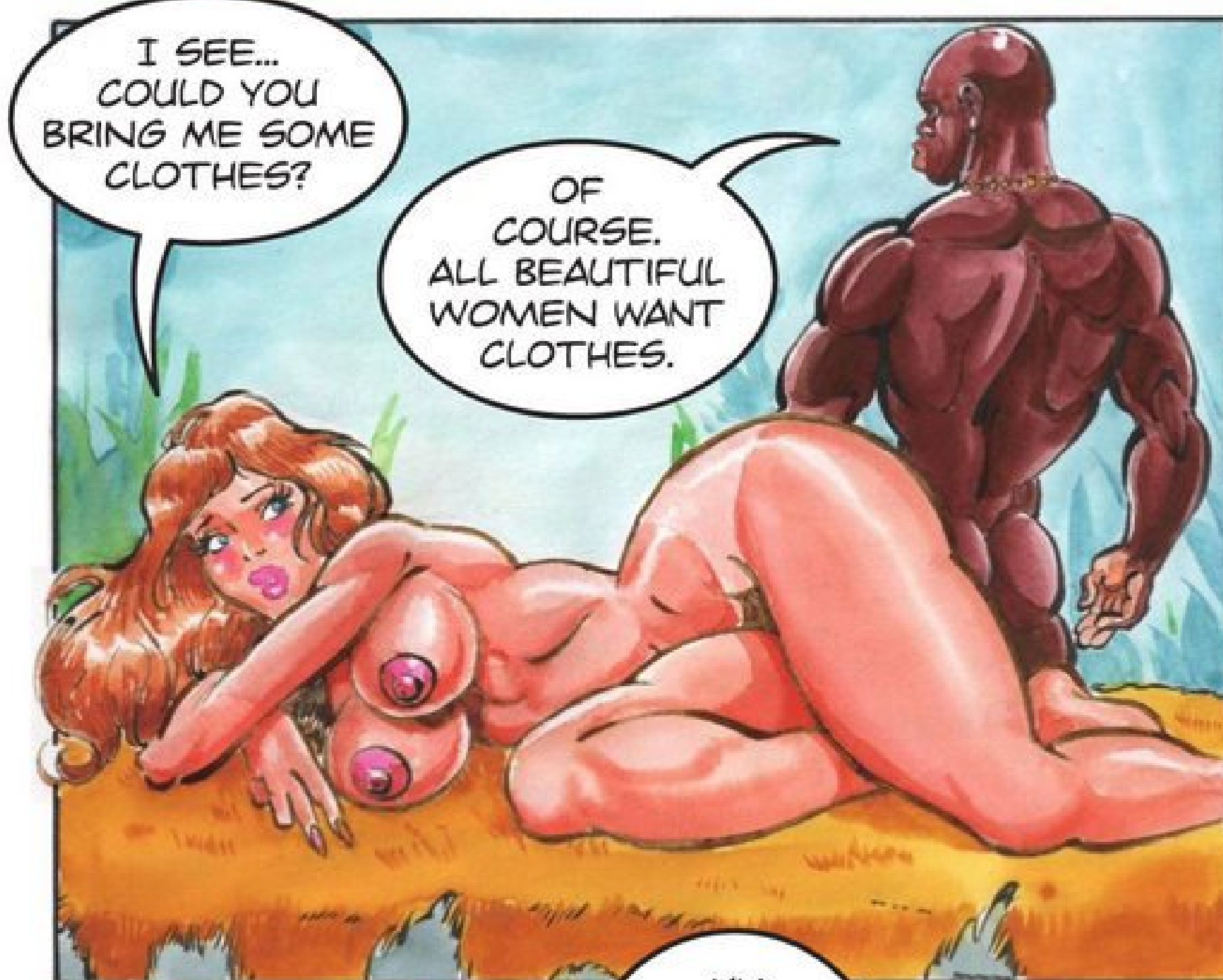
BUT, TILINGON! I... I'M NOT...



TO START THE CEREMONY, YOU MUST BEGIN COPULATION!



PLEASE DON'T! OH... I... I FEEL YOU INSIDE ME. AHHHH...



23-Jun-1978. This is the final report of Dr. Isaac Brown. I've discovered a new species in the genera known as Candiru. The dastardly fish in the family Trichomycteridae absorbs all the testosterone of a human male in a matter of seconds.

Precisely how it causes a rapid transformation in the human body is a puzzle yet to be solved. Discovering the answer is something that, I confess, no longer intrigues me.

Since I've been living intimately with the Chebos, I find myself focusing all my energy on learning their customs.



Wives submit to their husband's will, and are expected to obey him in everything.

I've considered returning to civilization, but I have no desire to be probed like a lab rat in order to prove my identity.

But I've been lucky. My man is very loving.

I've decided instead to end my career as an anthropologist and start my life as a woman.

Perhaps I will make one final study, exploring the sexual mores of the Chebos...

