

Bird man

Captured

“”Kenala had nothing to do but love his Lord’s boy, Verica and although he had been brow beaten by Boudicca to call the lad Arthur, the boy would always be Verica to him and every other Bird man and woman.

He had not been sent to the dungeons below the Temple of Skulls as Boudicca had pointed out to Queen Cartimandua that he was the boy’s companion.

“A retired warrior, too slow and unfit to fight the wild beasts of the arena,” he remembered Boudicca plead his case and was grateful. He needed the MASTER PILL of the humans but doubted if he could ever afford it.

“Kenala the strong warrior reduced to a male nanny?” Queen Cartimandua chided; it hurt him by the gods it took great effort not to huff and puff that he was still able to fight in the arena with his companions.

“His meat being old and tough would offend the beasts there,” Cartimandua had joked.

He had too stay close to Verica; he had made a promise to Mingo Drum.

So a male nanny he was!

And noticed the extra guards and the boy told him daddy was in the swamps. This made Kenala very excited as the prospect of escape.

When the time came, he would show them he was Kenala Color Sergeant, the best the army of Vercingetorix had ever seen and had.

And escape would present itself to Kenala as Mingo Drum Vercingetorix had recovered enough to plan it for them.

Bird man

If it was the only the boy he could fly in quick and get out but because of the others he could not do that. He did not know the lovers Bran Llyr and Branwan were dead either.

HE WOULD FREE THEM ALL AND THAT WAS HIS PLAN.

He needed to look like a Gododdin warrior which meant wearing a lion cloth, a necklace of swamp dragon teeth and this did not mean a dive into a lagoon to wrestle and kill one armed only with a long knife.

The Bird civilisation was advanced.

He merely stole and slaughtered juvenile from one of the many swamp dragon farms about. Their skins were in high demand throughout the human and Madrawt empires.

He had his necklace.

And using brown berries from the swamp lily he dyed his hair a rich black and put it in pigtails.

Now leaving Old Rag on the outskirts of Torrs City he entered a busy corridor that would lead him under the estuary. The corridor flowed with Gododdin and the produce of their mosquito infested swamps.

Not that they lacked the means to exterminate the disease carrying insects, but that they encouraged them to breed and fill the swamp airs.

One of the Gododdin natural lines of defense.

Of course the Gododdin had developed resistance to the diseases or there did be no mosquitoes; *Bird people were not entirely backward.*

And the Madrawt soldiers who advanced in their chemical suits found the quick sands of the swamps more terrifying than the dragons and Gododdin warriors.

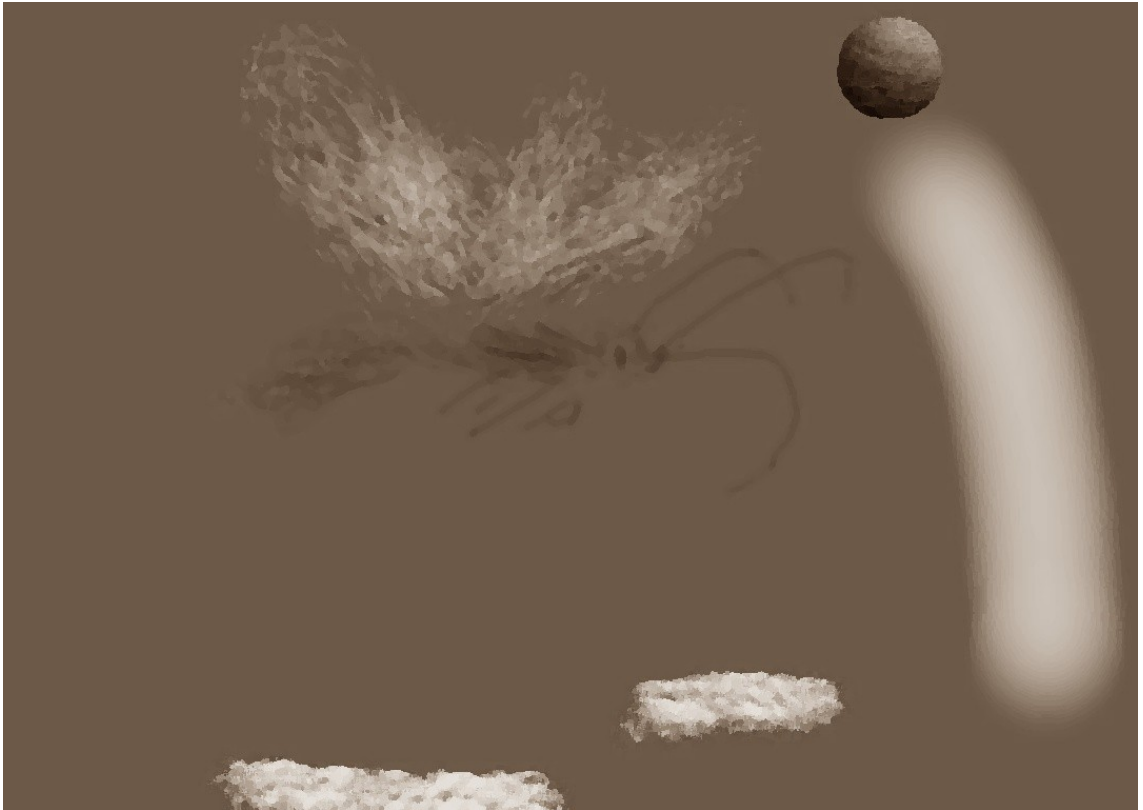


Illustration 68: Bite suck breed get the paraffin squirted onto the swamp

And would assembly in their areas and unzip to refresh from dehydration and heat and the mosquitoes would already be there, waiting to bite and spread disease.

Ah, they died in their thousands.

Boils the size of golf balls.

The runs.

Bleeding from places.

Dehydration.

The shakes.

Diseases deliberately manufactured by the Gododdin tailor made for their

Bird man

enemies.

Such an unhealthy place could not house the City of Torrs the Madrawt High Command did believe.

And left Torrs alone and went elsewhere in search of Bird men.

So it was: Mingo noticed the high blank glass planes, the mirrors and picture writing scrolls on the corridor walls and wondered who was looking at him behind these two way crystal planes?

So he sent out a picture of himself to Baldy, but this method of communicating with wild beasts was sloppy as Mingo's mental picture went out to many minds, exciting all whose received them.

Especially the beasts in cages and swamps.

"Go and fetch Mingo," Queen Cartimandua said to her war chiefs assembled behind her.

"Remember, Tzu Strath would like him alive to kill him personally," Tribune Henry his representative here reminded her. And again Tzu Strath had sent his trusted friend to save his daughter.

"This is my city, if I want his head on a stake in a market I will," she said coldly, but she noted mentally Tzu Strath's wishes. She wanted the shipment of a thousand breast plates and laser rifles.

Tzu Strath knew his history lessons well, divide and rule.

THERE WOULD BE NO UNITED BIRD NATION TO OPPOSE HIM.

Only a lonely tough grizzled old bird called Mingo Drum Vercingetorix ready for the broiling.

Bird man

And Tzu Strath was hopeful that a deal could be obtained as each had something to offer the other.

And a mosquito bit a soldier accompanying Tribune Henry.

“Bring me back Mingo, I promised him death,” Henry remembered Tzu saying.

“A great pity I would rather have him won as an ally, loyal to our cause than Queen Cartimandua the pirate queen,” Henry had countered and Tzu knew he spoke the truth; but he hated Mingo *and that was that*.

Anyway how does one get Mingo Drum Vercingetorix to the human way of thinking?

He had hoped Arthur would have been the key to it.

Bring the boy up human so Mingo could see the times had changed, the wind does not stay still. But no, Mingo calls the boy Verica to confuse and mess up the lad.

Remind the boy he had beast blood and he was a Bird man not human.

Therefore Mingo had sealed his own fate, Vercingetorix would be a legend, and they could build a statue to him many thousands of years from now when all were citizens of the empire.

Mingo’s blood was on his own hands.

And in another part of the Temple of Skulls Reeman Black Hair waited for an audience with Queen Cartimandua. He had come with a gift of weapons for Ce-Ra knew like Tzu Strath, inter tribal warfare must continue.

And the slaughter of the birds would continue till like the Dodo, were extinct.

“Then only one enemy left, Tzu,” Ce-Ra to Reeman Black Hair who understood.

Humans and Madrawts knew how to deal with them.

Bird man

And Reeman Black Hair did not see two tiny disease bearing mosquitoes fly in and bite his escorts, sucking up their blood, mingling it there with another's blood, letting it all mix.

Soon a another enemy would emerge on Tara 6 (Maponos);
DISEASE.

And Mingo at last found his faithful friend Baldy the Maponosian Elephant with two proboscises.

"My friend," Mingo sending a picture of himself hugging and patting Baldy. Why the elephant rubbed its bald head against the bars of its cage for a scratch.

Mingo slid the latch.

"Well well well, who do we have here?"

Making Mingo turn and see he was surrounded by Gododdin warriors and their warrior priests.

"It's daddy, daddy is coming," Little Arthur shouted running up to his mother to pull her to the veranda.

Kenala Color Sergeant followed with Little Drum who had been fitted with a collar.

It was gem encrusted to remind the little pet it was a valued household object and nothing more, a Ming vase to be smashed.

But the ape was barely house trained and should have a diaper on?

"A gift to Mingo's friends," Queen Cartimandua had said and Little Drum had trembled as the collar had been snapped about her neck as it would detonate if she tried to escape and from that moment decided to be on her best behavior.

Bird man

A collar, never had she been treated like this, humiliating and heart breaking; she knew she was different, just like Old Rag and Baldy knew they were not Bird people, but been accepted into the Bird Man Nation as members of that nation, *and now a collar?*

And what she didn't know was that Queen Cartimandua would detonate the collar one day when she became bored of Little Drum's maid like antics as she sought favor and LIFE. When she had been given her freedom and was flying over the swamps on her way home, savoring flight.

No mess to clean up.

Swamp dragons and others would appreciate Little Drum's drum sticks.

And Kenala knew his Lord Mingo Drum needed him but he had sworn to protect Verica, so clenched his fingers till they suffered from cramp.

Now Mingo had given Baldy a picture of where Old Rag was waiting and as stated others got the picture, Goddodin warriors and dropped a net on our Bird man king. And Mingo ordered his beast friend to flee leaving a manacled Mingo to be dragged to face his old lover Queen Cartimandua.

And the elephant Baldy did not suffer from guilt; like Color Sergeant Kenala, it was full beast, had been sent a picture by Mingo that he would rejoin him later and Old Rag in the swamp forests. Mingo Drum Vercingetorix had every confidence in himself that he could escape with his people imprisoned here.

*

High above in the hanging veranda of the Temple of Skulls Queen Cartimandua peered through the potted plants and trailing vines.

“You spurned my love long ago, now I have you and I will give you the pain of a

Bird man

broken heart back,” she mused thinking it amusing, she was a woman he had spurned, and hell knows no fury like that.

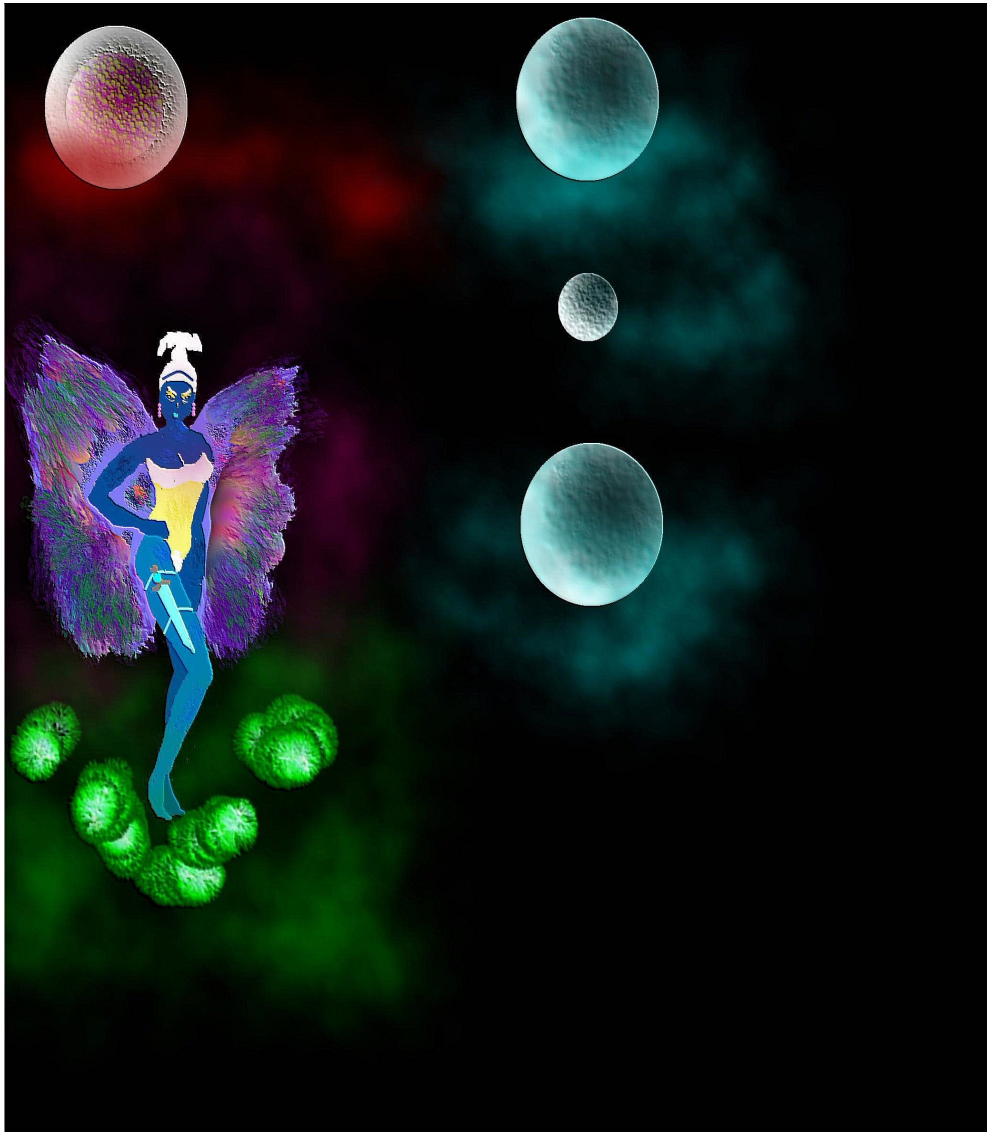


Illustration 69: The queen had darkness in her so her thoughts were cruel.

It was said by writers like Vern Lukas (Lorn Lukas) that Mingo loved Boudicca deeply but knew he was a Bird man, a beast, an ape with wings and as such knew his place as the noble savage so refused to pursue his love for the human woman.

It was also stated by Vern Lucas that Boudicca loved him and was afraid to declare it that she loved a BEAST! She was of imperial descent, the daughter of the most

Bird man

powerful War Lord known, Tzu Strath. Her position demanded she marry one from her own ranking, not a commoner or *a a a beast with wings; a bird that went chirp chirp tweet tweet!*

But Mingo was of rank, he also was a king, but unfortunately a king of a doomed culture.

“What games of love I could play,” Queen Cartimandua whispered to the black night as the stars twinkled above competing for attention.

But her attention was on herself as she imagined herself in Mingo’s embrace, allowing the man to believe he had conquered her and stolen her love again; then she would plant a dagger in his back and watch him stagger about dying not believing she could kill the man she had just loved with all her heart.

And she would cut out the heart and throw it to the swamp below.

And Mingo Drum Vercingetorix stood there now ragged and worn, drained of strength, his recent wounds showing from his encounter with Tzu and the wadi.

Briefly a touch of pity and concern flashed in her dark eyes for this man she would not admit she loved.

Hate comes from being spurned and is a cousin of love.

The difficulty is switching from hate to love for it easy to go from love to hate, any fool can do that!

Poor Mingo never realised this, that everything she did was directed towards gaining his attention. He also never knew that a child had been born from their brief union.

When man and women lie together it is usual for a child to come from that union, films are something else! Children we are told come from cabbages.

Bird man

At sixteen their child had been sent to join the Manticore Legion; it had been Cartimandua's plan to have Mingo notice and love the boy as a father or friend would.

As one warrior of great ability would to another warrior of strength.

But he had been killed in a Madrawt raid; a mortar had landed when they had been sitting eating.

And the boy died knowing who his father was.

No heroics, no chance to die in his father's arms and tell Mingo that he was really his son from his union with Cartimandua and a cabbage!

And had been buried with the rest of the Bird men warriors in a common grave with a menhir slab with their names chiseled in gold erected to remember them.

And human explorers had stumbled upon it, smashed the head stone up to get the gold and left.

Because of the wars Mingo had never got about to getting another menhir, and became just one of many Bird men graves, unmarked, forgotten, to be plowed over one day by human/alien farmers.

But Queen Cartimandua to give her justice found that grave and marked it annually with a pilgrimage by leaving flowers there.

She was a mother, she had spent nine months and labor to bring the lad into the world. Perhaps if men had to bear children, they would not be so ready to take another's son or daughter?

Did not Vern Lukas write that there had been a war, The Trojan War that had been fought over a woman? Thousands died in the effort to let one man couple with a woman!

There are many fish in the sea, humans are crazy.

Bird man

Such is life.

Now Mingo broke his unblinking gaze with a smile as he remembered the nights they had lain together united as one flying over Lake Moon Swan, so called for the pink swans of Maponos gathered here at night to eat shrimp that swam after moonbeams; silly daft crustaceans.

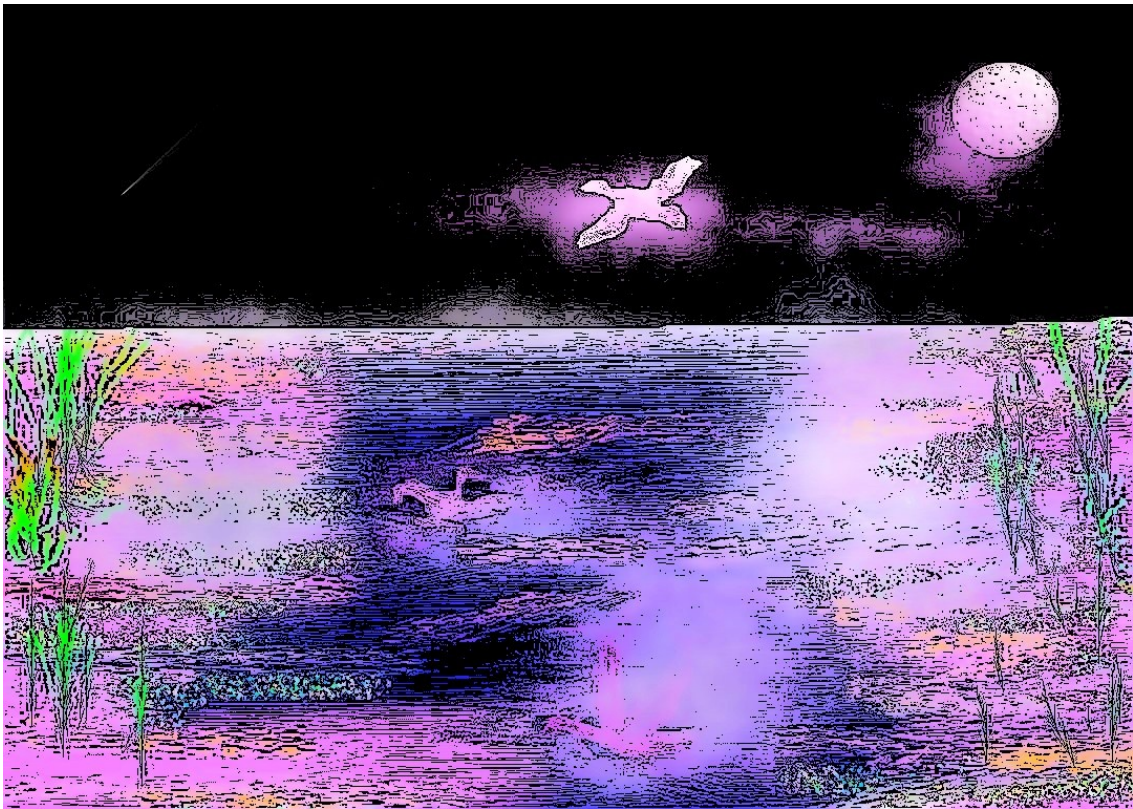


Illustration 70: Pink swans startled the moon light made for nights such as that.

But when one is festering with wounds one sees things more clearly: Boudicca had born him his only living heir. Verica or Little Arthur as she called him. A human name a reminder to him that she regarded him lower than a beast.

So what was he? A Bird man king, some centipede that had crawled out of a crack in a rotten wood trunk.

Why couldn't Boudicca love him for who he was?

Bird man

Was he lower than an alien?

Did he plan this road before he was born to be her soul mate?

And Queen Cartimandua saw the rising turmoil and hurt in his eyes and knew whom he was thinking off, a dangerous thing Mingo Drum Vercingetorix especially in front of she who you had scorned and had power of life and death on you?

“I do not have the power to give you my domains for the life of my son and friends for I only hold these lands in trust for my peoples,” He said to Cartimandua.

“Even if you had given me your lands your people would have elected a new High King,” she replied, “they hate me.”

Mingo grinned, she still had her wits about her, what he been attracted to her in the past for her cunning was more famous than the winged red fox.

“I want your life for theirs,” Cartimandua for her own hurt had surfaced and deep down she regretted it for she knew what his answer would be.

“Let them free and I will surrender my physical body to you,” and this was the reply she knew she would get and his valour attracted her to him.

Why Panic started to rise in Cartimandua for she did love him still, or the memory of that love was still about.

“Then you will die,” she agreed and did not know where the words came from.

Mingo smiled, he hated this world and sought release and feared nothing but the purple sky falling upon his head and drowning when the sea would cover his lands.

“My debts are clear; I will bring none with me into the spirit world. My gods will welcome me,” he spoke calmly for his belief in the purple opening into the spirit world was so strong; and besides as long as he still breathed there was always hope he could escape with his friends.

Bird man

“And she will die with you,” Queen Cartimandua, “and I will bring up your boy as my own, a Gododdin.”

“Then there will be hope for your tribe if he lives amongst you,” insulting her unworthiness.

“The day after the end of the month when the moon is full, you will die.”

She did not know she wanted him dead so much for even her courtiers were taken aback, surely she must have loved Vercingetorix something out of this world.

“Tzu Strath has my sword,” he smiled back.

“Then you will surely die in shame Bird man.”

And he smiled again remembering no shaman priests had foretold that the purple suns would fall upon his head, he would live.

Now Queen Cartimandua slapped his face several times in an attempt to rid her memory of that smile; a smile had helped steal her heart in the first place.

When she failed she had him chained in a chair for safety and then bade her guards leave them alone.”

Now Vern Lukas takes the story over:

“What man. Human or alien can stop his bodily functions when his body is molested by a creature whose flesh is beautiful and pleasing to look upon?

And Cartimandua knowing he was chained took Mingo Drum Vercingetorix against his will, till the love he still bore her rose up and she no longer took the warrior beast king against his will; for he was indeed a beast of the field and air needing to propagate his line.

And his vow of chastity was broken and the

Bird man

gods who favor love would not punish him for life is not about holding back your genes so badly needed in the gene pool by a vow, but to add color and diversity and create many roads to our Heavenly home.

And the knowledge he had broken his chastity vow would like a poison creep into his soul.

Did Cartimandua know about the vow, why the exploits of Mingo Drum Vercingetorix were put into films in humans worlds?

And Bird woman are different from human women for like many beasts can store what has been given them till fertile, and she fell pregnant when that occasion did happen.

A trait from some primitive ancestor or perhaps not so primitive.

And their cells became new life and a new spirit being entered the physical world of Maonos (Tara 6).

And a boy started to live in her tummy, and now she was the equal of that human slug belonging to the race of Delia, Boudicca.

Mingo Drum could die now; the son in her would be a great warrior and king of all Bird people and drive the hated aliens off Planet Maonos.

He would slaughter to his gods all the humans, aliens, Madrawts and the enemies of Cartimandua.

And she named the boy in her tummy

Cuchulain.

What Mingo told me.