

Tiberius

Morag



Illustration 131: A decent women never went anywhere without her handbag and of course an umbrella in case of rain.

Morag Brown cursed the day Zane Cameron ever joined the law service for she had forced herself to see to his burns and stay until help arrived.

Remember dear friends Zane had been shot down from the sky.

She also went to say something nice over Dracon, like here was a true friend of Tiberius and remember the spot where he lay and come back to erect a head stone human fashion, which she knew would be hopeless because:

"This place is like blooming Alice and Wonderland, I hate you colour orange," she muttered vengefully at the sand.

Now Zane looked at her understanding, he had tried loving Morag when Morgan had displaced her from Tiberius's bed but had failed.

They were *opposites*.

Now he rarely sought comfort in her arms as the snake women were beautiful and welcoming.

They also fitted in with his new image of the space frontier.

He was after all, Yellow Star Bird.

And she knew which didn't do Morag's moods any good.

"Help me," Dracon startled her.

To her a corpse had just spoken and she felt all nerves want to scream like a dentist's drill had hit.

And not to help matters Belenos raised its head out of the sand next to her.

"Stop prancing about Morag the bird will not eat you," he advised coughing.

Now you well ask yourselves why was Dracon still alive; well this was something 40000 A.D. and he had no need to stick needles in his leg but to merely put dissolving oils into his mouth, and wounds would close, not internally close.

The healing would come with stem cell implants into the wounded tissue. Why he needed to be taken to a field hospital or back to Tagget City where human mining doctors would work on him.....*but he was in the wilderness!*

And time for celebrating was coming as their first snake medical parishioners were nearing graduation.

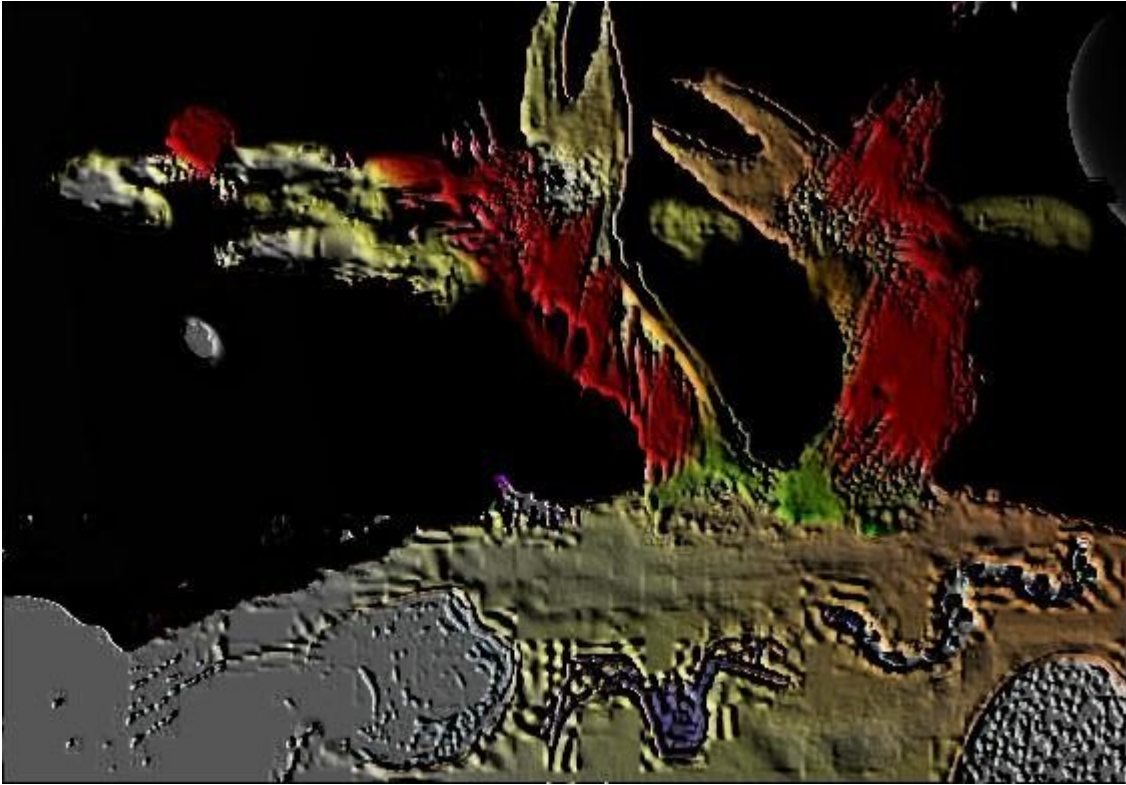


Illustration 132: Just their heads emerged from the soft sand that was full of creepy crawlies.

Anyway Morag was throwing stones at the Sun Bird Belenos and Dracon. The bird and Dracon had risen out of hell to torment her further, in fact Tagget was hell.

Worse was to come, Hagar's head was with Zane and he held it up to examine it for hurt.

So she threw stones at it, hitting the plastic box it rested in upon pink fungus.

And did she not break the plastic so the outside air blew in and with it a single viral pollen spore puffed away.

Lo at once Hagar knew he was ill and twisted his lips in anticipated pain.

Zane had no option but to put the box down and try and wrestle with Morag.

“I am cursed of hell, hated by all, no one loves me,” Morag bemoaned her position.

Belenos and her own Sun Bird had not seen a human or snakes perform like her so and became amused, just as well for Morag after throwing stones!

“No one hates you Morag, you are brave, you could have fled to the others but chose to stay to help,” Dracon panted.

And it took much time to soothe the human woman.

Still no one said they loved her.

And she got the attention she wanted though.

Then, “Judas Priest,” Zane postulated as ants had crawled in the crack on the plastic box thanks to Morag’s stone.

And it took Zane a further ten minutes to flick them off Hagar’s face.

Poor Hagar, *a megalomaniac king should not deserve such treatment.*

Lo Morag was pleased Hagar was suffering, he was taking from her pain; he could have it all and brightened as an ant hung from the tip of his black forked snake tongue.

Now Morag tidied her hair and straightened her clothes and then with some first aid boxes clasped onto Dracon’s army belt bandaged up his wounds, and Dracon seeing her looking mournfully east where our army was said, “Sweet heart east is that way,” and pointed west.

To follow Tiberius.

What Dracon did was wrong, he had no right to put her life at risk over his friendship for Tiberius; but he was Dracon Polanski a rogue whose mother was tenth generation Glaswegian.

He was also a man who couldn't walk.

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Illustration 133: A nuclear dump, the land Morag found herself in. Straight away one sees why Morag brought an umbrella.

Also it was the eight suns that made Morag lost. She was truly an Earthling used to one sun and four compass points.

Well she took Dracon's advice and strapped him to the back of the Sun Bird Belenos and led them towards Philos and Tiberius **not home**.

If Zane knew he kept numb...and can be called 'cad.'

And after two hours of Morag following army litter she knew she had been wrong to trust Dracon.....poor Morag?

What an idiot after interrogating him on the screens.

“I hope this army is Harkos's and Morgan,” but in her heart she knew and drank water and gave Dracon a look that could kill.

And when Zane looked guiltily at Dracon her fears were confirmed that Zane and Dracon were *bums*.

Of Course Dracon would never leave Tiberius; Dracon would die for the general.

Oh did she wish she had a friend like that.

A lover like that?

Which made her feel glad to be away from Wayne the woman beater and compared to anyone here was not a man.

So they travelled on passing an abandoned imported Nissan Bugbot which was a human mining six legged land crawler for crossing rough terrain. Its thirty man crew skeletons with spears sticking out of them.

Morag looked the other way.

And ten miles on they passed their snake attackers who had died of massive radiation exposure when they cracked open the Nissan's batteries: remember these were copper age warriors who had thought the brass enclosed boxes contained *yummy gold*.

But had died in a radioactive blast.

That had been more than sixty years ago.

Now some gold gophers and their food, red and white striped cacti and bugs had come back under the yellow white clouds, nothing else lived apart from new grains of orange sand.

The Medic whose name we know as Dr. Tommy Woo, graduate of Princeton, Earth, Sino American colonist from Venus and as a child a great reader of space comics and history.

His studies were paid by his mother's life insurance, and yes he took her frozen remains with him to Tagget.

She was after all his mummy.

Which explained why he had this thing about older women? He found pleasure in *having them gloat over his young body.*

But with today's genetic medicine no one was sure how old your partner was?

And he always ended up experimenting upon them.....it was cheaper than testing viruses and cures in a lab; and he built a library of frozen cubes and under M.....
.....you did find Mary, Michelle, Mummy.

And some he never asked to participate and some he did and all trusted him because he told them he loved them and just bedded them.

Perhaps they should have asked if he loved them he would not be risk them taking part in his live experiments.

But where as Zane wanted to be a super hero, Tommy Woo wanted to be a super villain.

And chose Emperor as it was one better than king, which meant Tiberius was his vassal. HE EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT HIMSELF AS god WOO.

And chosen Tagget because it had a backward population he could impress with his wonders.

And landed west and through Hagar obtained maps and with his off worlder fighters and miracles, he took the Emerald City as his own: Ino's holy city.

And here would listen to the Bison Warriors chant as they marched upon neighboring cantons conquering them.

"We have a god as emperor, we are lucky.

He is generous, he chose bison men," words from children minds knowing nothing of electronics and antibiotics, just that they had Emperor Woo expanding bison territories.

And feared him.

But would kill him as soon as defeats came. There is no better sacrifice to Ceugant Dana than a god.

Lo bison men knew they were better off in this respect than the sun warriors under Tiberius; *who was only the dragon.*

In this respect Tiberius and Tommy Woo shared a common fate.....turkeys fattened for the great feast.

And Woo filled his green Emerald City with modern wonders and used the conquered peoples as slaves.

They filled his laboratory cages like spider monkeys and behaved similarly, coupling and masturbating for their minds had become cages too; and daily their world was

washed down with a hose.

They could thank Woo's mama, she was in a freezer near them.

Behold so vast was Tagget Planet it was called different names by the cantons. So bison men told Emperor Woo Tagget was Sun Planet, after the eight suns.

But humans visited Tagget Canton first and Hagar told them Tagget was the name of their world so it stuck.

Hagar was right; his world was the eastern sphere, separated from other cantons by a rift valley that ran from pole to pole.

Tiberius and Woo if they intended uniting Tagget or Sun Planet had a real task!

May the evil one loose.

"Gad, where the hell are we?" Morag looking down upon a rift valley a mile wide and from hence a red river could be seen at the bottom.

As a thin red line.

"I am going down to look," Zane.

GREEN

Now Belenos the sun bird crooned something, but so far only Tiberius apart from Harkos had mastered the species tongue.

A pity for it had said 'Emerald City and maybe not a pity for Zane relying on his boyish eagerness to confront worlds would have gone down faster.

So would Dracon.....Tiberius might be down there.

It was the way of their life forces.

"Wait, a bridge," Dracon pointing.

Morag was relieved, it was a long way down to fly; everything looked so small down there, it was very off putting.



Illustration 134: Would artists beckon when Tagget was civilized?

Sure enough there was a bridge, an engineering wonder, blue grass stalks twisted together with humpback leather under an inverted V roof.

The wonder was it must have been a mile long and taken many lives to build. Lo instead of metal girders it was held up by orange leather balloons along the way.

Balloons and had Woo's face on them, but at that moment in time it could have been a Virgin Intergalactic Add for we had not seen Woo then the Megalomaniac.

But it was some sight for yellow clouds drifted amongst them.

And we three decided to investigate the green houses at either end.

It was a mistake.

Sun warriors.

GREEN

Although common to our planet, there were many variations of them. There common factor after years of isolation being the idea of getting to heaven by dying at the hands of an enemy.

These bridge guards were bison men descended from the first sun warriors who marched this way with their families and priestesses.

Or perhaps marched out from here to populate the rest of Tagget?

No one knew, archaeologists and anthropologists were found amongst the humans. Only Harkos had started with his maps to produce voluminous books on the history of the planet.

Lo Bison men prided themselves with their strength, courage, leadership and bull bison qualities.

Their common diet was.....black.....decayed bison meat.

So we find bison men are nothing more than evolved or devolved sun warriors.

Why Morag cursed the day she put her life in the hands of male fools.....

Why Dracon cursed the day he put his life in the hands of a woman.....also the sun warriors for disabling him, the stupid Sun Birds themselves, the planet and the day he met Tiberius Grant.

Why someone vomited, the specks below were tiny and the bridge swayed and the clouds were misty that left dew drops on you.

The someone was Morag, the only sensible one.

Her stomach contents flew in Zane's face who disgusted fell off and clung to Belenos's claws.



Illustration 135: Wearing a mask with undies was no protection against modern bazookas?

Now Sun Birds are not affected by the temperatures. Here at least the myths were true, they could withstand the great heat of the eight suns,

But none of them got far,

For suddenly,

Nets shot from caverns.

Like fish caught.

Feathers flew, Dracon moaned and passed out.

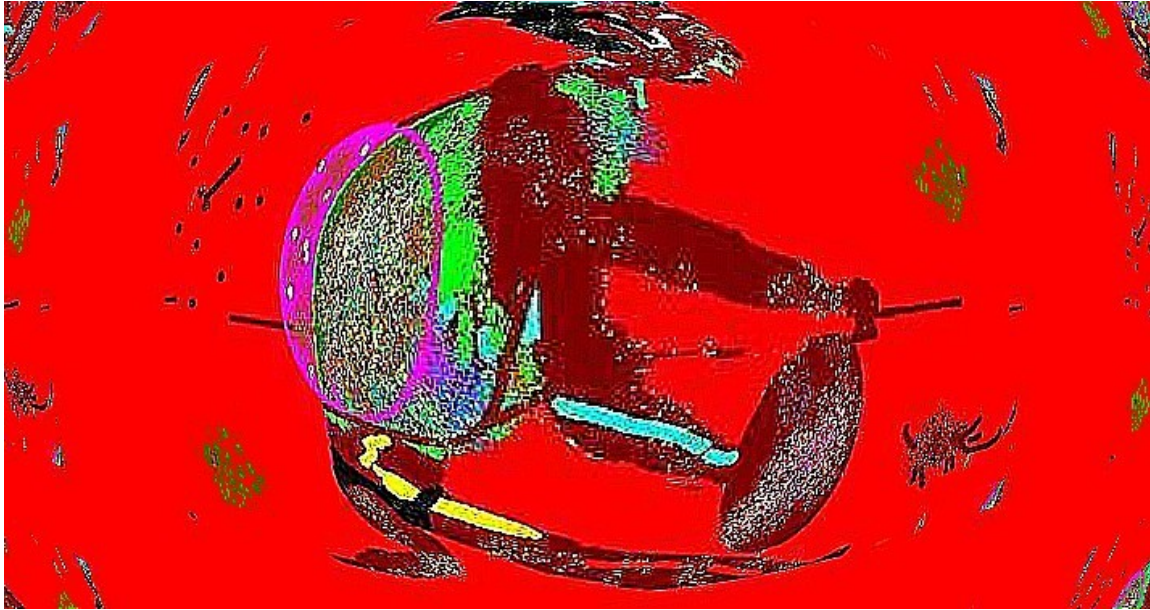


Illustration 136: Turtle shell made good turtle soup.

Now Zane tried to be the hero and drew his pistol but dropped it as he struggled with the nets, and a good thing too he was in a net *as he had let go of Belenos's claws.*

Then the net ripped and Zane better hold something quick.

Oh my he fell hurtling

down, with sanity returning as he saw himself melted in that red river; larva. Sanity was telling him he should have stayed on earth.

But another net caught him....*lucky man.*

Yes one of Morag's lucky idiots.

So never saw his pistol explode with heat a quarter of a mile down.

And Morag saw the hidden faces on top of the turtle shells and allowed her depression, her stoic acceptances of living on Tagget overcome her, and it calmed her down....for she wanted to faint.

She wasn't all that bad; in fact she might become a super hero like Zane given proper training and comic books to read.

In fact all had changed.

Tagget or Sun Planet or whatever it was called
did that to you.

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