

REVIEW OF *THE METABARONS*

Lemme hit you with some facts and logic:

- *fact*: spaceships are controlled by joysticks
- *fact*: joysticks are phallic
- *indisputable conclusion*: the MANLIEST way to pilot a spaceship is with your PELVIS ¹

Some of the *other* stuff the protagonists of this book do is a little over-the-top, though. /s

...look, I'm not denying Jodorowsky's creativity. Every page is a whole new fever dream. But the sexism is just too much. One character affirms that their "deepest desire" is "to rise above the feminine body that holds [their] masculine mind"². There's a plot arc about another character being so badass that he can get a woman to love him even though he murdered her beloved father. Most women in the story exist to be sexual prizes and/or to be fridged or exterminated³. And, of course, to show us their boobs. Even the sentient space-lice have boobs.

At one point the metabaron is referred to as "the symbol of ultimate masculinity"⁴. Masculinity appears to consist mostly of killing stuff and not having emotions. Or at least, not expressing emotions by any means other than killing stuff. Oh, and performing acts of gratuitous self-mutilation to demonstrate one's willpower.

I don't recommend reading this, but I might actually like to see it made into a movie some day, as a sort of monument to sheer absurdity.

On the bright side, Gimenez's artwork is often fantastic. He was especially good at drawing space scenes. He was not so good at drawing babies.



1. That happens not once but *twice*. First, a castrated metabaron plugs the joystick straight into his, uh, socket, declaring: “my instinct will guide this ship” (p. 79). Then, nearly 200 pages later: “Aghnar, like his father before him, connected the control stick to his groin” (p. 259). Is this satire? Am I being pranked?
2. p. 392
3. One of the main groups of baddies is called “whore-priestesses”.
4. p. 424

Posted 2024-10-03 by Jacob Williams on brokensandals.net. If you have feedback, [email me!](mailto:jacob@brokensandals.net)