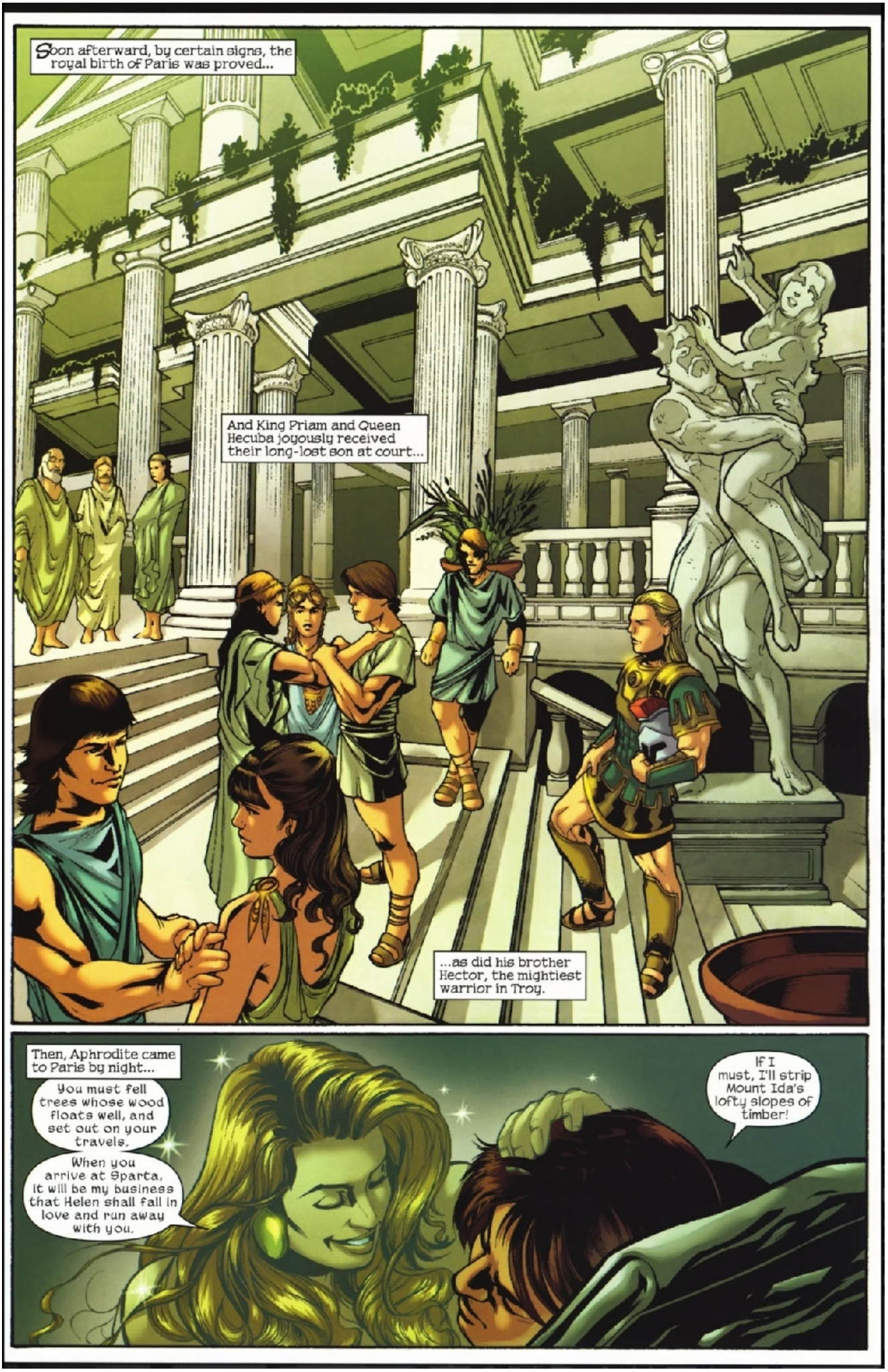
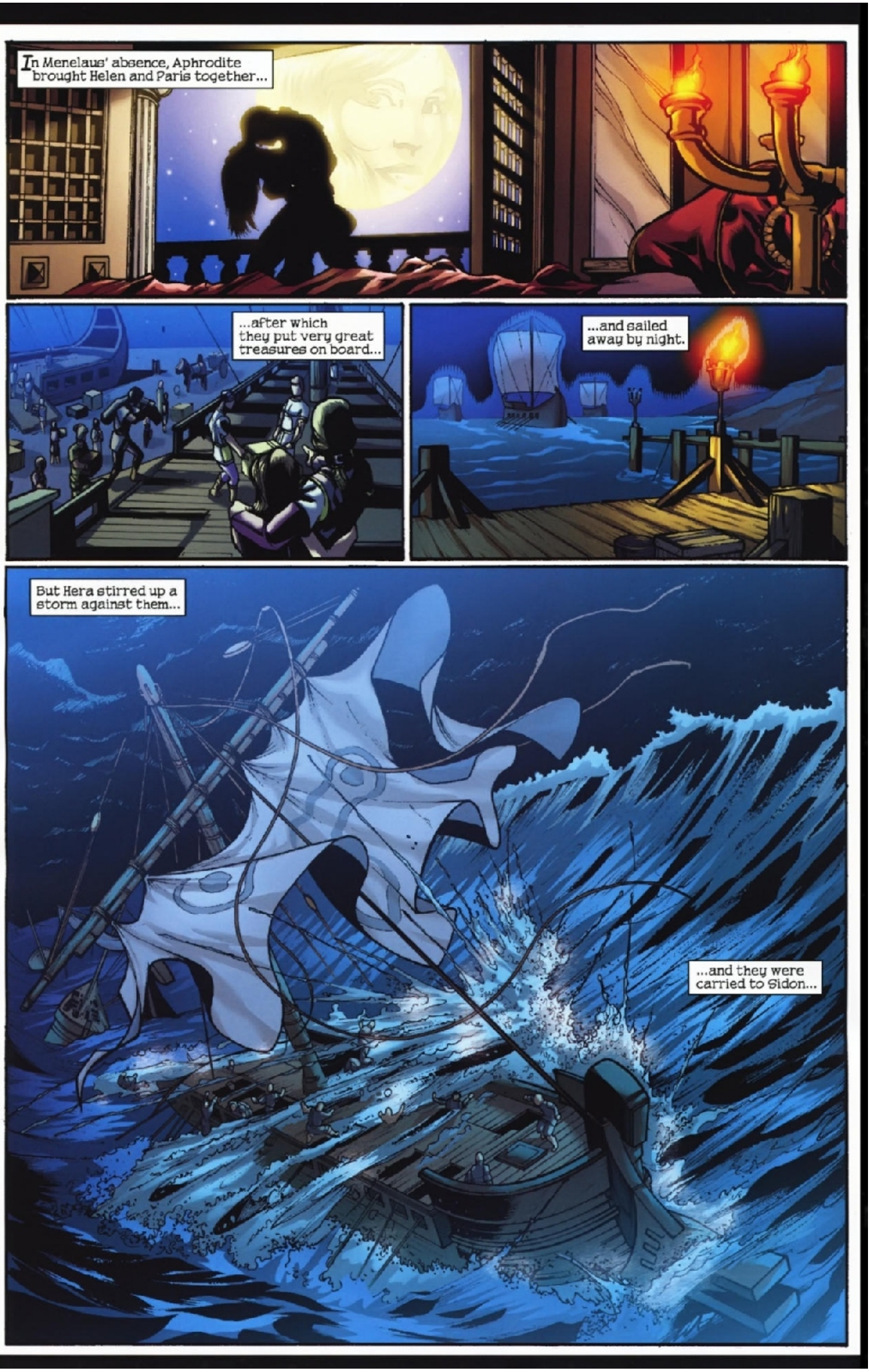

Soon afterward, by certain signs, the royal birth of Paris was proved...
And King Priam and Queen Hecuba joyously received their long-lost son at court...
...as did his brother Hector, the mightiest warrior in Troy.
Then, Aphrodite came to Paris by night...
You must fell trees whose wood floats well, and set out on your travels.
When you arrive at Sparta, it will be my business that Helen shall fall in love and run away with you.
If I must, I'll strip Mount Ida's lofty slopes of timber!

While the ships were being built, his newfound brother Helenus approached him...
Paris...as children, my twin sister Cassandra and I fell asleep in the temple, and the sacred serpents licked our ears.
From that hour, we have both possessed the power of prophecy.
If you accept Aphrodite's gift, you will bring ruin on Troy.
I'll have the bride promised to me!
And finally came Cassandra...
Once, our mother dreamed you would be a firebrand...a torch.
Why all this rush to fetch home fire and slaughter?
The flames you prophesy are real--
But it is only in my heart that I feel a raging fire!
Once, Cassandra had spurned the lust of the archer god Apollo...
From that day, he decreed that no one would believe her prophecies.
Thus, with noble Aeneas by his side, Paris set out upon the sea...
...and, making use of favorable winds, soon approached the Grecian coast.

King Menelaus made him welcome...
You are our guest, Trojan. I'll show you whatever in Sparta is worthy to be seen!
Yet there was nothing else but Helen's much-praised charms by which the eyes of Paris could be held.
Features like those were Aphrodite's own, when she had come to be judged.
In the course of a feast, the smitten prince gave gifts to Helen...
Beauty like yours should enjoy rich adornment without end.
Afterward, Menelaus set sail to Crete, where he had been summoned by his grandsire...
Furnish our guest with all that he requires until he departs.


In Menelaus' absence, Aphrodite brought Helen and Paris together...
...after which they put very great treasures on board...
...and sailed away by night.
But Hera stirred up a storm against them...
...and they were carried to Sidon...

...where Paris took the city.
Then he came with Helen to Ilium in three days, enjoying a favorable wind and calm sea.
But Iris, messenger of Zeus, soon informed Menelaus of what had happened at his palace...
You could find no time more suited for you to see the realms of Crete?
You entrusted your wife to care for your guest...and she did not neglect the injunction of her absent lord.
Menelaus returned home... and sought out his brother, Agamemnon, king of Mycenae...
Aye, Menelaus-- we'll gather the leaders of all Achaea--
--then sail to Troy and demand the surrender of Helen and the treasure!
If they refuse, we will assault their city!

Menelaus, Agamemnon, and Palamedes, son of the Euboian king, sailed first to Ithaca...
We will remind Odysseus to honor the oath he made to Helen's father, years ago.
I see his wife Penelope...and their infant son, Telemachus...
You seek Odysseus, my lords?
As you see, he is busy ploughing our fields.
Ploughing, yes...
...but with an ass and an ox yoked together!
And--he flings salt, not seeds, over his shoulder as he goes!
Odysseus! Don't you recognize us?
He has gone mad!
Odysseus had been warned by an oracle...
If you go to Troy, you will not return until the twentieth year...
...and then, alone and destitute.

Give me the infant!
If he is truly as mad as he seems--
--he will plough the boy under!
Whoooooa!
You are no more mad than I am, Odysseus.
I--will sail with you, Agamemnon.
If only Paris' ship had sunk, I would not be doomed to lie alone, forsaken!