



**T**HE STORY OF THE HERO TWINS, HUNAHPU AND XBALANQUE, IS ONE OF MANY EXCITING TALES FOUND IN THE COLLECTION OF MAYAN STORIES KNOWN AS THE *POPOL VUH*. AUTHOR DAN JOLLEY CONSULTED SEVERAL TRANSLATIONS OF THE *POPOL VUH* TO CREATE THIS EXCITING AND FUNNY BOOK. TO CREATE AUTHENTIC COSTUMING AND SETTING, ARTIST DAVID WITT REVIEWED NUMEROUS BOOKS EXPLORING MAYAN HISTORY, ART, AND ARCHITECTURE. FINALLY, MESOAMERICAN FOLKLORE EXPERT JOHN BIERHORST REVIEWED THE STORY AND THE ARTWORK TO ENSURE ITS AUTHENTICITY AND RESPECT FOR THE MAYAN TRADITION.

STORY BY DAN JOLLEY

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Graphic Universe™  
A division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.  
241 First Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.

Website address [www.lernerbooks.com](http://www.lernerbooks.com)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Jolley, Dan.

The hero twins : against the lords of death : a  
Mayan myth / story by Dan Jolley ; pencils and inks  
by David Witt.

p. cm. — (Graphic myths and legends)

Includes index.

ISBN-13 978-0-8225-7467-8 (Hk. bkg.; alk. paper)

1. Mayas—Folklore. 2. Maya mythology. 3.

Mayas—Games—Juvenile literature. 4. Popol vuh. I.

Witt, David, ill. II. Title.

PA437.P8J67 2008

398.2'089744—dc22

2007025897

Manufactured in the United States of America

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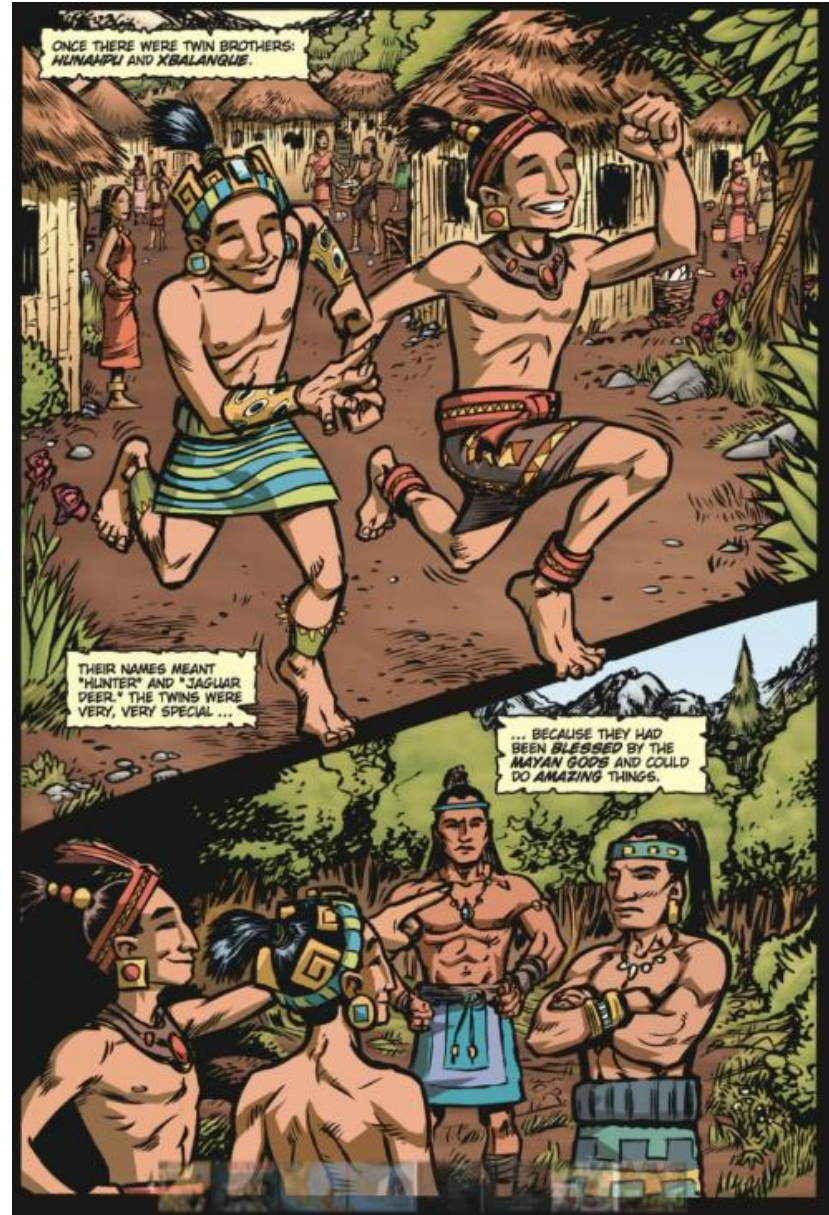
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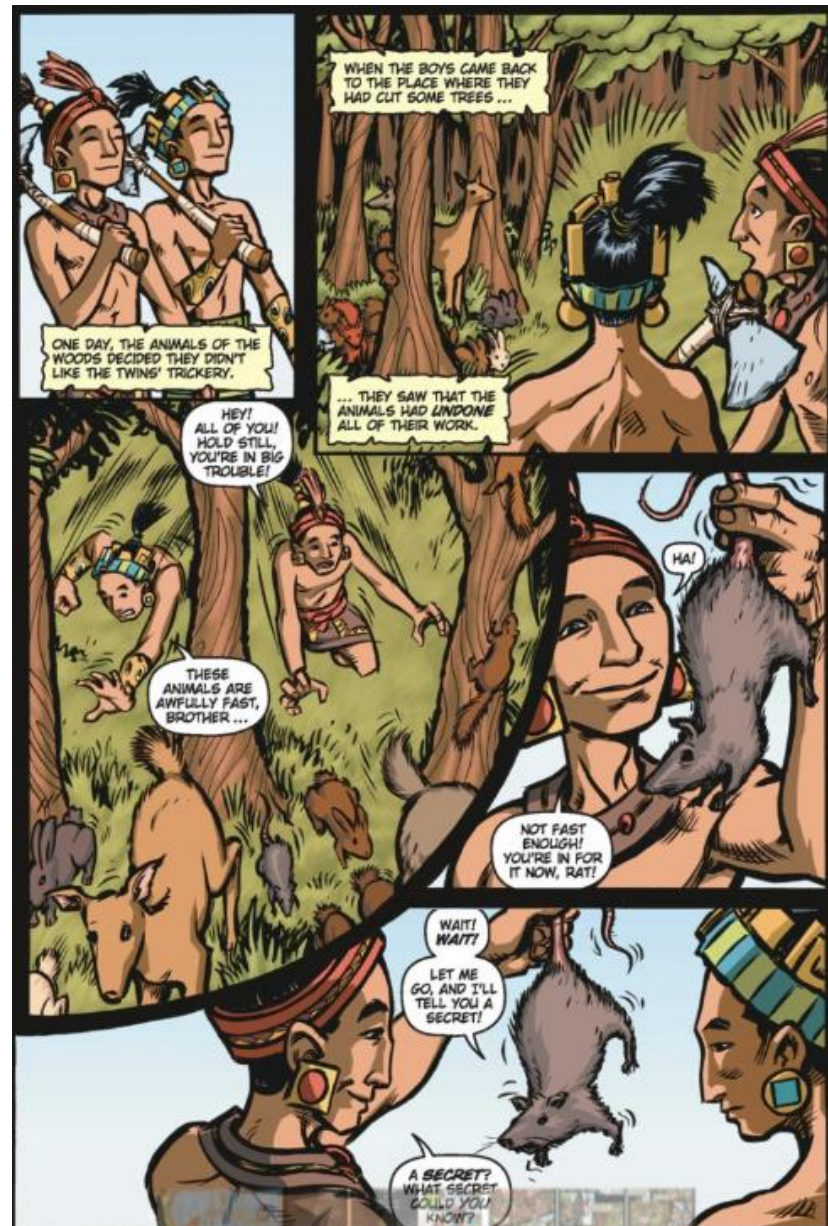
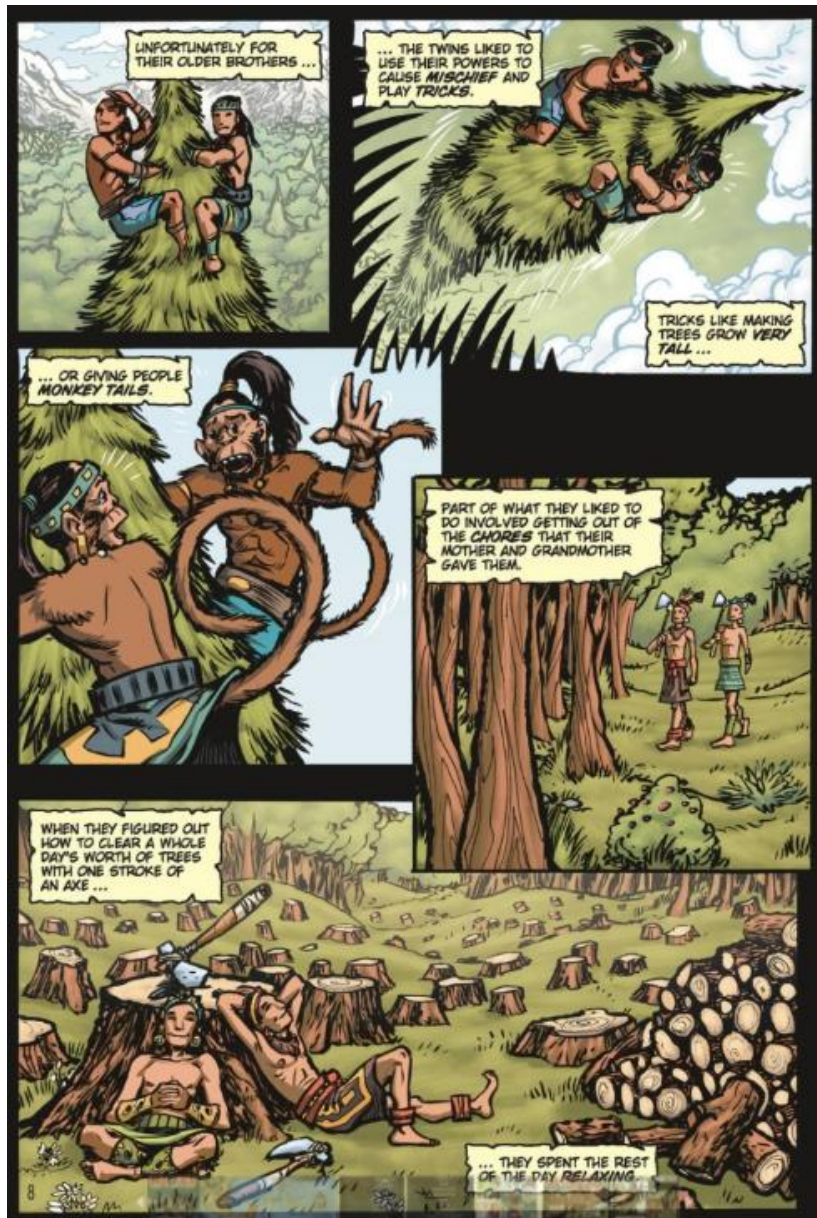
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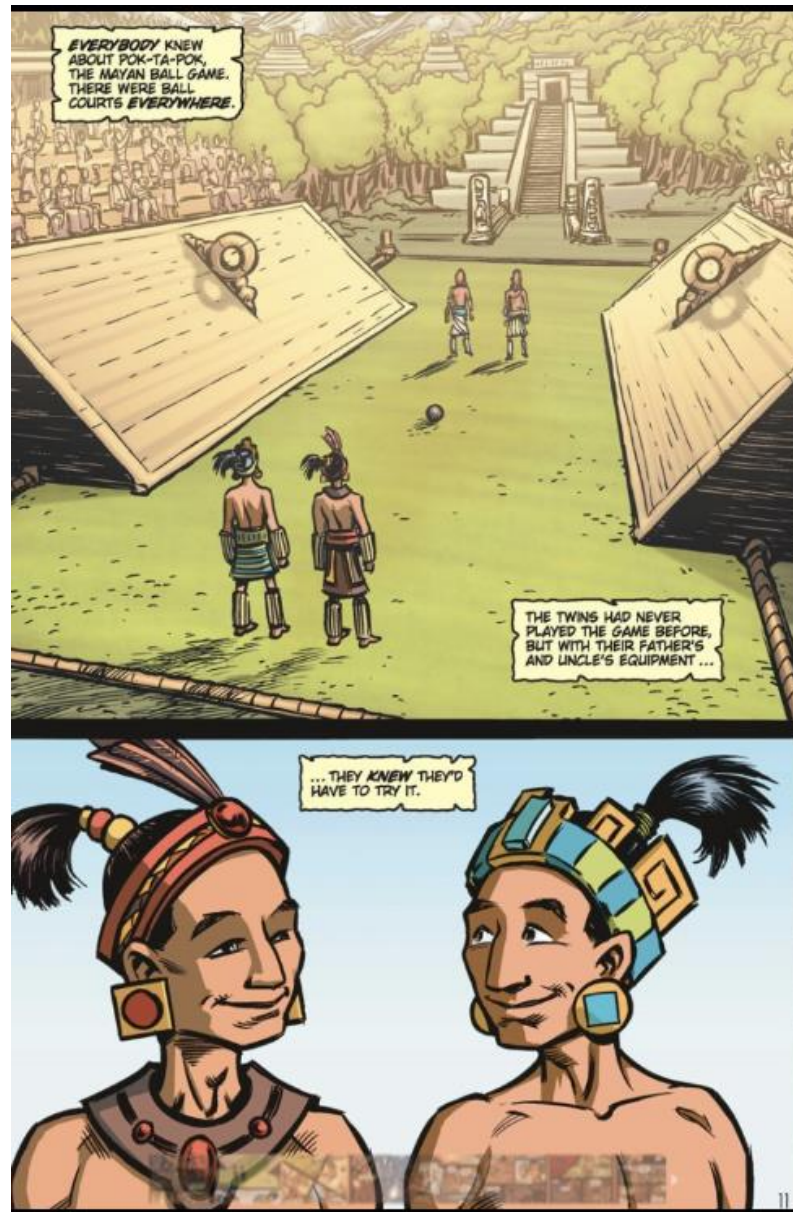




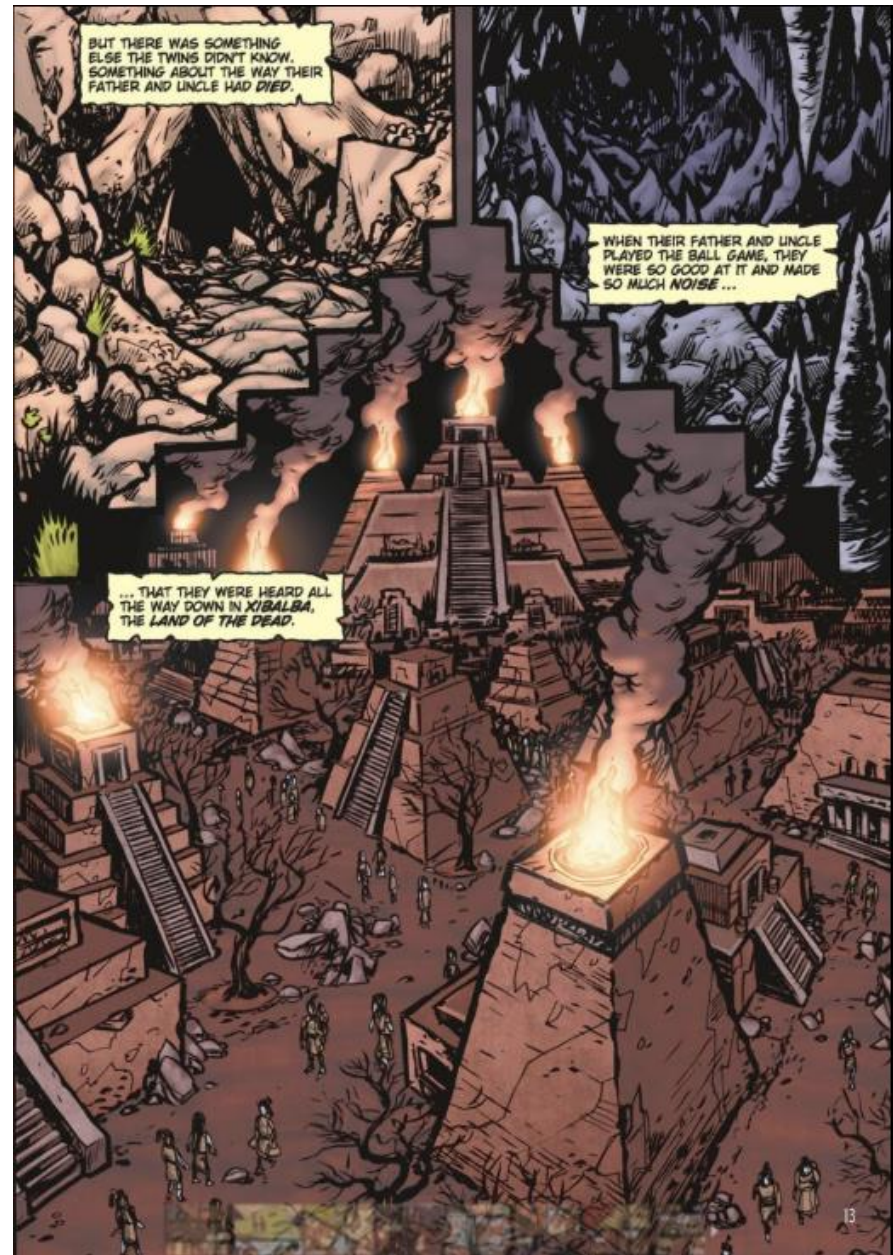














# THE LORDS OF XIBALBA



THE LORDS OF XIBALBA HATED THE NOISE OF THE GAME.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, THEY SUMMONED THE TWINS' FATHER AND UNCLE TO XIBALBA, TRICKED AND HUMILIATED THEM, AND THEN KILLED THEM.

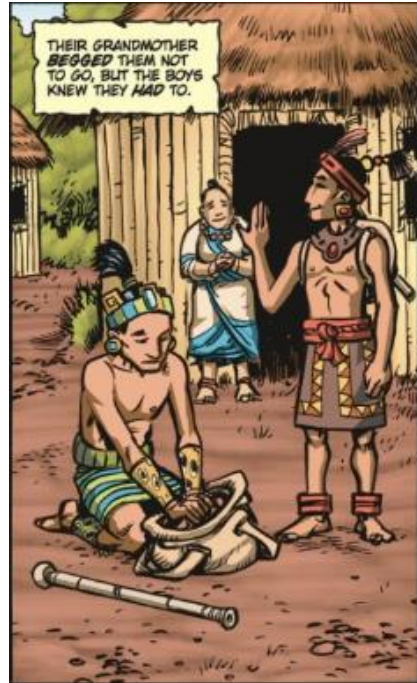
WHEN THE LORDS HEARD THE TWINS PLAYING, THEY GREW ANGRY ONCE MORE.

I THOUGHT WE HAD PUT AN END TO THIS NUISANCE.

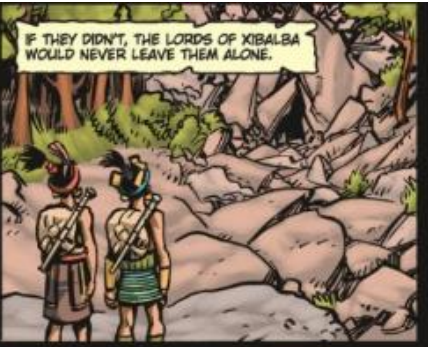
DO NOT WORRY. WE SHALL SUMMON THESE BOYS TO PLAY FOR US.

AND THEY SHALL FALL TO OUR TRICKERY, JUST AS THEIR FATHER AND UNCLE DID BEFORE THEM.

SO THE LORDS OF XIBALBA SENT AN OWL WITH A MESSAGE FOR HUNTER AND JAGUAR DEER, INVITING THEM TO COME TO PLAY IN THE UNDERWORLD.



THEIR GRANDMOTHER BEGGED THEM NOT TO GO, BUT THE BOYS KNEW THEY HAD TO.



IF THEY DIDN'T, THE LORDS OF XIBALBA WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEM ALONE.



ALSO, THEY KNEW THE LORDS WOULD TRY TO DEFEAT THEM WITH LIES AND PUZZLES AND TRICKERY.



AND THE TWINS KNEW A THING OR TWO ABOUT TRICKS THEMSELVES.



THE WAY TO XIBALBA WAS NOT THAT LONG, BUT IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS. FIRST, THEY HAD TO CROSS THE RIVER OF BLACK HAWKS ...









# DARK HOUSE

...By spending one night in Dark House.



IT'S VERY SIMPLE. YOU MUST KEEP THE DARKNESS AWAY ... BUT YOU MUST NOT LET THIS TORCH OR THESE CIGARS BURN ALL THE WAY DOWN.

SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, YOU FAIL THE TEST.



WE SHALL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING ... IF YOU SUCCEED.

HMM. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK WE SHOULD ASK SOME OF OUR FRIENDS FOR HELP.



FIRST THE TORCH ... JUST IN CASE THEY'RE WATCHING.

I THINK THE FEATHERS ARE A NICE TOUCH, DON'T YOU?

DEFINITELY. BUT NOT AS NICE A TOUCH AS OUR LITTLE FIREFLY HELPERS.

THERE. THAT'S PLENTY OF LIGHT, I'D SAY.

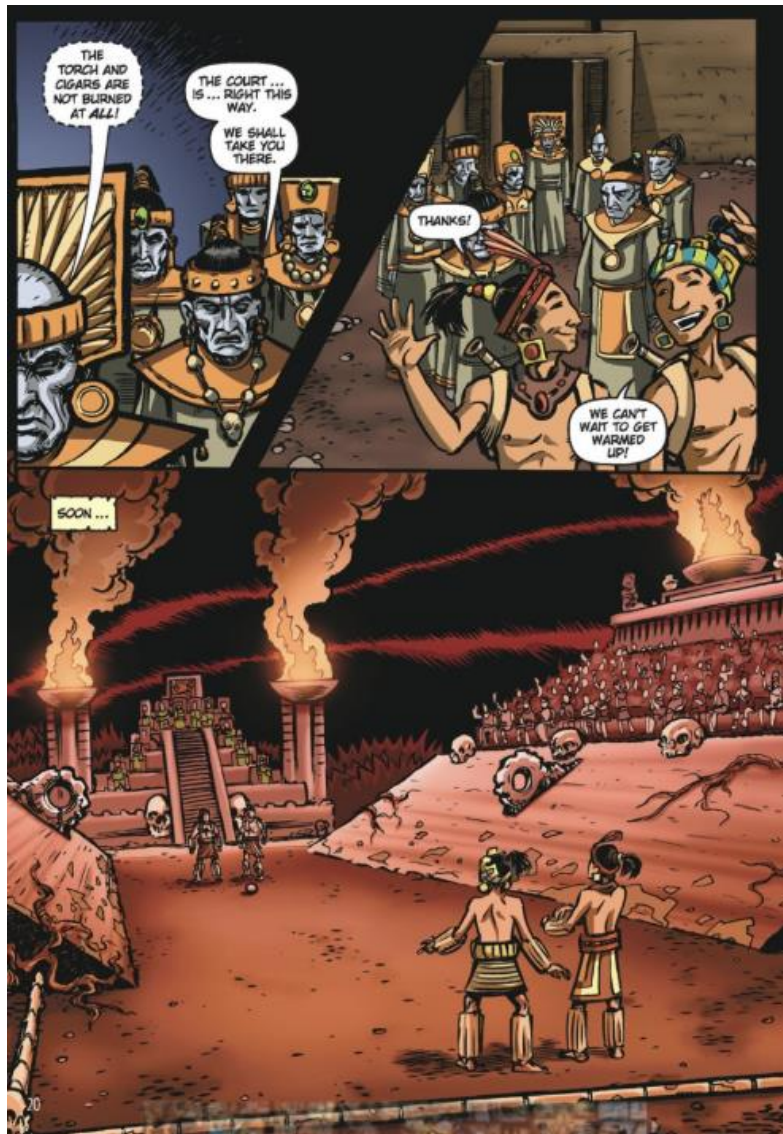
NEXT MORNING ...

COME OUT YOUNG ONES! COME OUT, AND FACE YOUR DEFEAT!

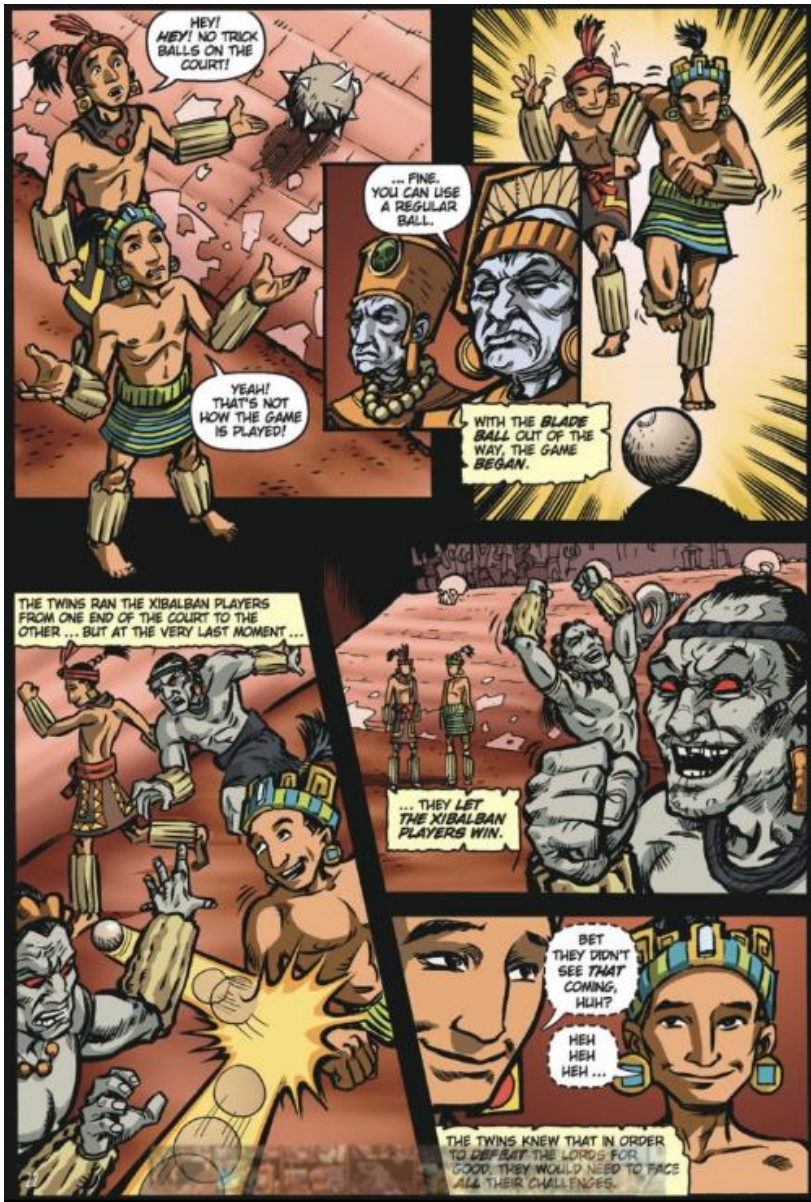
THAT'S A REALLY NICE HOUSE. THANKS FOR LETTING US STAY THERE!

NOW ... WHERE'S THE BALL COURT?













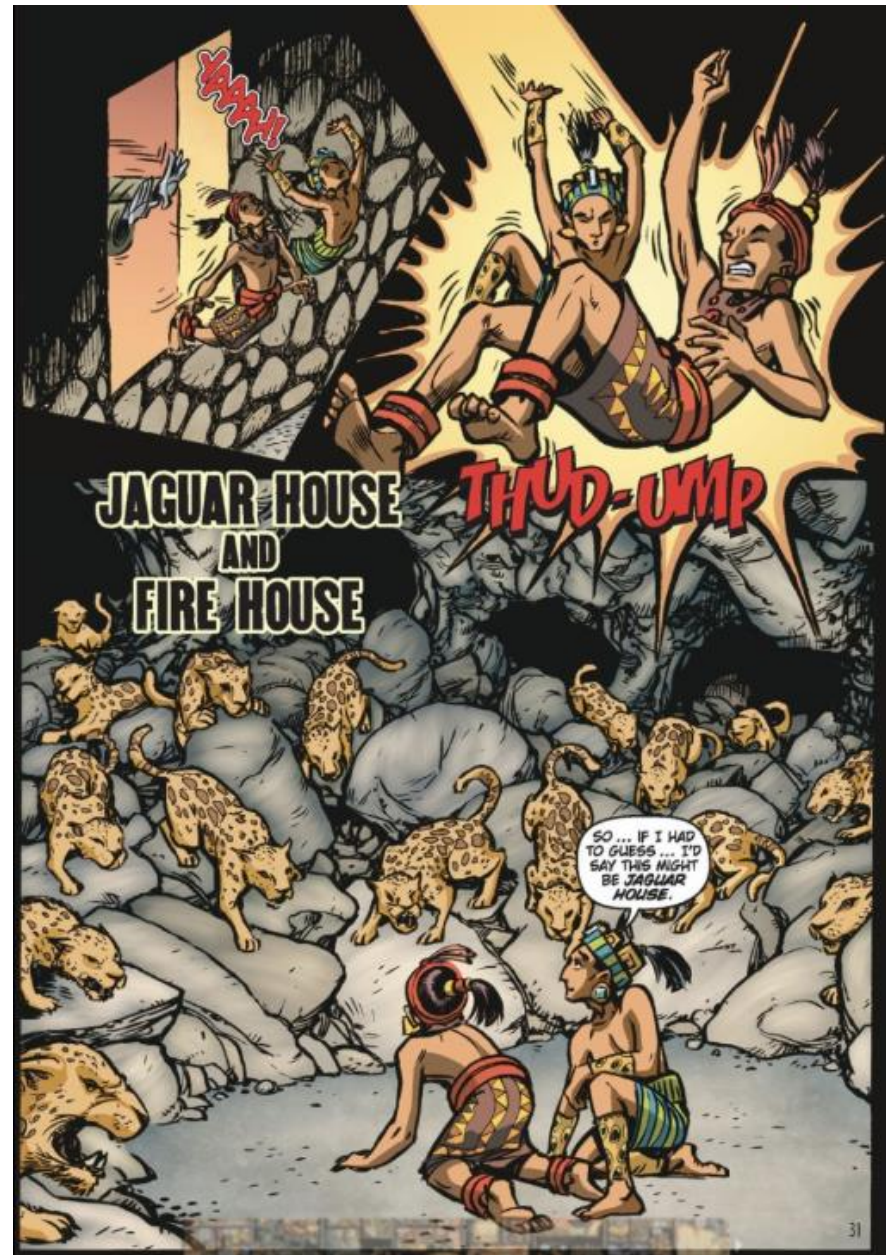
















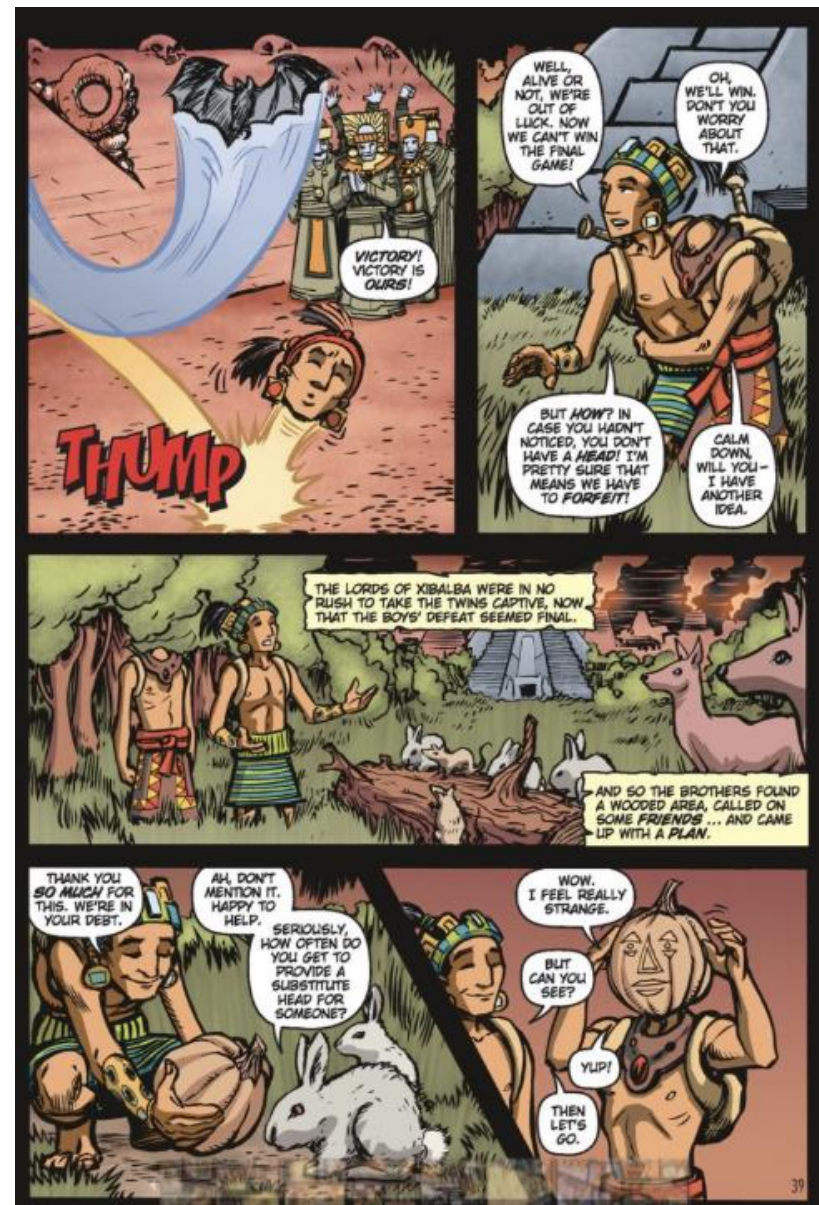


























## GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

**HUNAHPU** (hoo-nah-poo): the hero twin also known as Hunter

**POK-TA-POK** (pohk-ta-pohk): the ancient Mayan ball game

**POPOL VUH** (poh-pohl voo, or poh-pohl woo): an ancient Mayan text that includes the story of the Hero Twins as well as many other tales

**QUICHÉ MAYA** (kee-chay mah-yuh): a Mayan ethnic group, creators of the *Popol Vuh*

**XBALANQUE** (sh-bah-lahn-kay): the Hero Twin also known as Jaguar Deer

**XIBALBA** (shee-bahl-bah): the underworld of Mayan folklore

**XIBALBAN** (shee-bahl-bahn): someone who lives in Xibalba



original pencil sketch  
from page 4