



**UNICO**

**AWAKENING**



Based on the manga created by  
**OSAMU TEZUKA**

123  
**UNICO**  
**AWAKENING**

Written by  
**SAMUEL SATTIN**

Illustrated by  
**GURIHIRU**



An imprint of

 **SCHOLASTIC**

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Samuel Sattin, and Gurihiru (Chifuyu Sasaki and Naoko Kawano)

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For Kate,  
and all her magic  
— S.S.



## UNICO

A brave young unicorn



## ZEPHYRUS, OR THE WEST WIND

A servant of Venus and  
protector of Unico



## PSYCHE

The Goddess of Souls



## GRANNY

A kindly old woman  
who shelters Chloe and Unico



## CHLOE

A watch cat and  
friend of Unico



## TOAST

A cat who befriends  
Unico and Chloe





## SPHINX

A creature part lion and part human and the mother of Marusu

## MARUSU

Sphinx's young daughter



## BYRON

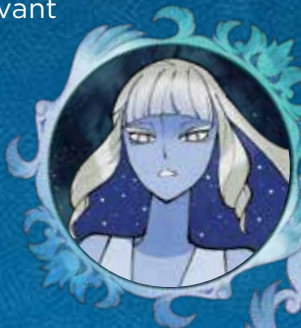
A big-game hunter and collector

## SIRENS

Minions who spy for Venus

## NIGHT WIND

A loyal servant of Venus



## VENUS

The evil Goddess of Love and Beauty and ruler of the heavens





# PROLOGUE





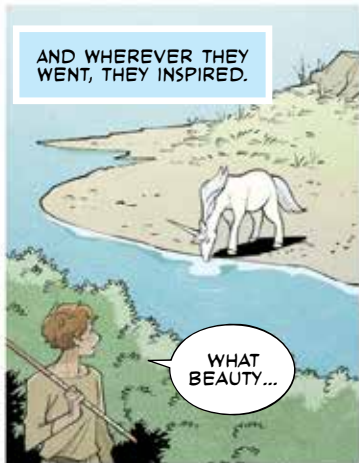
WHEN HUMANS  
WERE YOUNG AND  
THE GODS WERE  
BECOMING OLDER...

A CREATURE WAS  
FORMED FROM  
LIFE'S SECRET  
UNDERCURRENTS.

THE  
UNICORN.

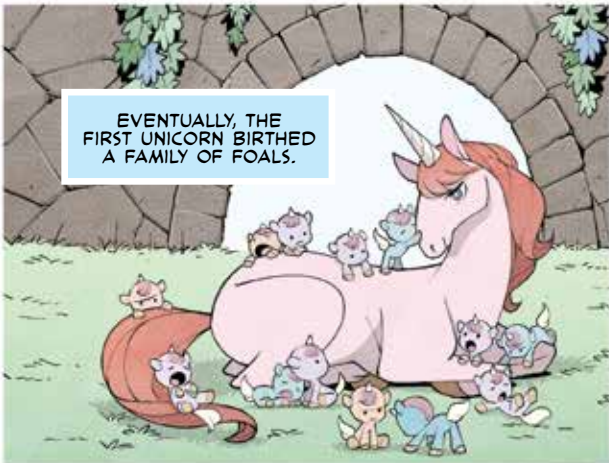


UNLIKE OTHER DIVINE BEINGS, THE UNICORN COULD TRAVEL TO THE LANDS OF BOTH GODS AND MORTALS.



AND WHEREVER THEY WENT, THEY INSPIRED.

WHAT BEAUTY...



EVENTUALLY, THE FIRST UNICORN BIRTHED A FAMILY OF FOALS.



MOST WERE TIMID, AND PREFERRED ONLY THE COMPANY OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.



BUT ONE WAS PECULIAR, BOTH BRAVE AND CURIOUS.



HIS CURIOSITY  
BROUGHT HIM  
TO AN ANCIENT  
GARDEN.



ITS KEEPER,  
THE KINDLY  
GODDESS  
PSYCHE, GREW  
BLOOMS  
THAT SPREAD  
INSPIRATION  
LIKE POLLEN  
ON THE WIND.



WHO  
ARE YOU,  
LITTLE  
ONE?

MY  
MOTHER  
CALLS ME  
UNICO.

UNICO...



A  
PERFECT  
NAME.



UNICO  
AND PSYCHE  
DELIGHTED IN  
EACH OTHER'S  
COMPANY.



AS THEIR FRIENDSHIP GREW,  
THEY UNKNOWINGLY CREATED  
A FORCE WHICH HARNESSSED  
LIFE'S SECRET UNDERCURRENT.



HUMANS WERE  
OVERCOME  
AND INSPIRED  
BY ITS POWER.



INCREDIBLE.  
HOW DID YOU  
THINK OF IT?

I DON'T  
KNOW.

WHAT A  
WONDER...



BUT IN THE HEAVENS,  
VENUS, LONG REVERED  
AS THE GODDESS OF  
LOVE AND BEAUTY...

BECAME  
JEALOUS OF  
WHAT SHE SAW.



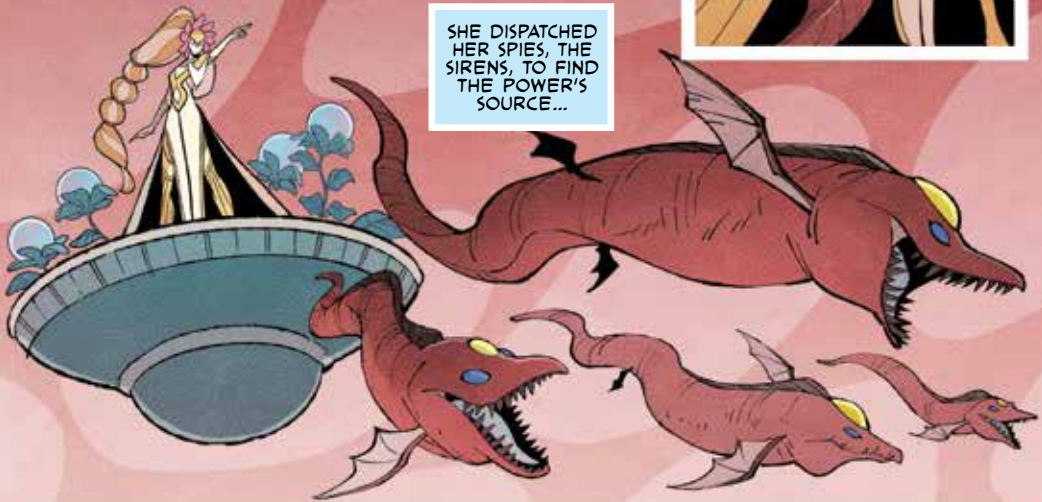
WHAT IS THIS...HORRIBLE POWER?



TO SEE HER SUBJECTS INSPIRED BY SOMETHING OTHER THAN HERSELF FILLED VENUS WITH RAGE.



SHE DISPATCHED HER SPIES, THE SIRENS, TO FIND THE POWER'S SOURCE...

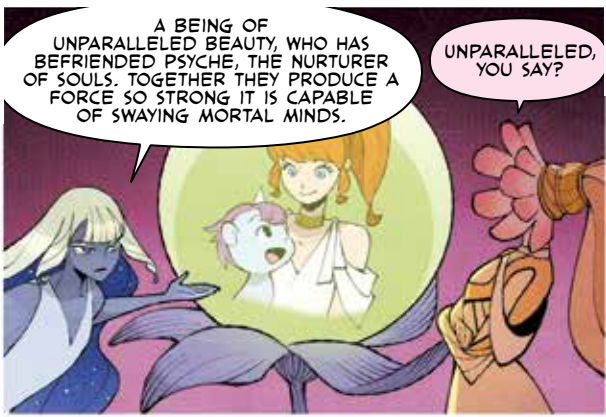


ALONG WITH HER MOST LOYAL SERVANT, THE NIGHT WIND.





IT'S A UNICORN, MY GODDESS.



A BEING OF UNPARALLELED BEAUTY, WHO HAS BEFRIENDED PSYCHE, THE NURTURER OF SOULS. TOGETHER THEY PRODUCE A FORCE SO STRONG IT IS CAPABLE OF SWAYING MORTAL MINDS.

UNPARALLELED, YOU SAY?



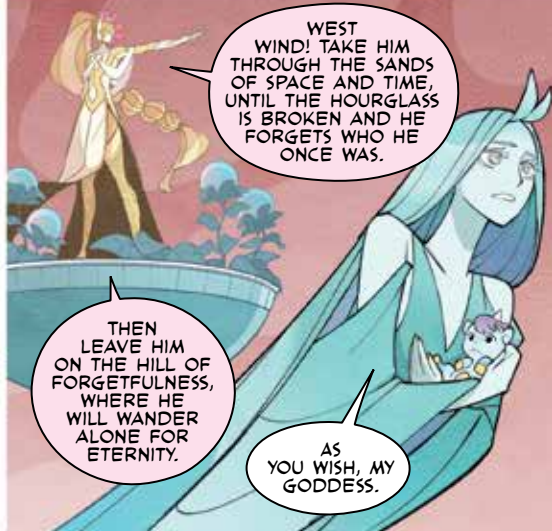
THIS MUST BE STOPPED. BRING ME THE WEST WIND.



WITH SIMPLE BAIT, THE GODDESS'S MINIONS LURED UNICO FROM THE GARDEN.



WHO... WHO ARE YOU?



WEST WIND! TAKE HIM THROUGH THE SANDS OF SPACE AND TIME, UNTIL THE HOURGLASS IS BROKEN AND HE FORGETS WHO HE ONCE WAS.

THEN LEAVE HIM ON THE HILL OF FORGETFULNESS, WHERE HE WILL WANDER ALONE FOR ETERNITY.

AS YOU WISH, MY GODDESS.



THE WEST WIND DEPARTED  
WITH UNICO ASLEEP IN THE WARM  
FOLDS OF HER SPECTRAL GOWN.

UNICO?  
UNICO?!

SHE SAILED ACROSS  
SPACE AND TIME,  
UNTIL CENTURIES  
MERGED INTO EONS.

BUT WHEN SHE  
REACHED THE HILL  
OF FORGETFULNESS,  
SHE PASSED IT BY AND  
CONTINUED ON INTO  
THE MORTAL REALM.

SHE'D TAKEN PITY ON UNICO,  
AND ALTHOUGH SHE THOUGHT  
HERSELF UNABLE TO DISOBEY  
VENUS, SHE CAME UP WITH A PLAN.

I WILL  
FREE HIM  
HERE AND LET  
HIM WANDER.  
WHEN HIS  
POWERS AWAKEN,  
I WILL TAKE HIM  
AGAIN THROUGH  
THE SANDS OF  
SPACE AND  
TIME SO THAT  
HE FORGETS  
ALL HE'S  
BEEN...


AND SO  
MY GODDESS WILL  
NOT LEARN OF MY  
DISOBEDIENCE.



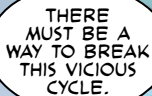
THE WEST WIND REPEATED THIS PROCESS, OVER AND OVER.



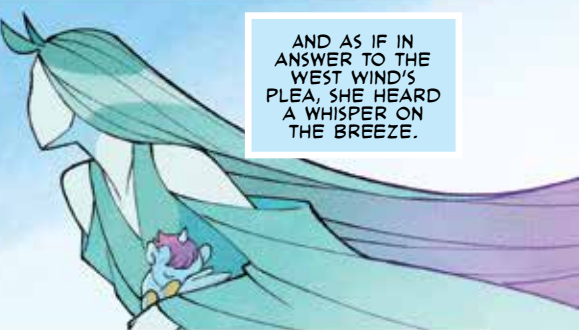
UNICO BEFRIENDED OTHERS AND CHANGED THEIR LIVES, ONLY TO FORGET THEM.



WITH TIME, WHAT STARTED AS KINDNESS BEGAN TO SEEM LIKE CRUELTY.




THERE MUST BE A WAY TO BREAK THIS VICIOUS CYCLE.




AND AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE WEST WIND'S PLEA, SHE HEARD A WHISPER ON THE BREEZE.



There is a way



SHE SET UNICO DOWN AND FOLLOWED THAT WHISPER, LEAVING HIM, SHE HOPED, ONE FINAL TIME.



AND WHEN HE WOKE, AS IF FROM A DREAM, HE SAID, AS HE HAD SO MANY TIMES BEFORE...



...WHERE AM I?