

WARREN
MAGAZINE



EERIE
#85
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EERIE

PDC

AUG. 1977



**BISHOP DANE AND
MANNERS FIGHT
TIME TO SAVE
THE ROOK!**

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EERIE®

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When Charlton Publications was forced to close down their comic production department, they left a few funny animals without a home. Guess who's giving them one. Right! One of the top super hero companies.

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John Apple had the power and determination to wipe mankind off the face of the Earth. The only question in his mind was, should he? The answer came from an unexpected source and it said that this was the last chance!

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Wildcat was a hasbeen fighter. The years had robbed him of his strength, dignity and his beloved wife. Now Death had arrived for his daughter. Each person meets Death according to his way of life. So to Wildcat, Death was a boxer!

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Ramon Blackstar was a soldier for hire in the Galactic War. He was fighting for the Corporation, fleeing from the Starrisites, when he met Rowena. They fled together till they encountered Ramon Blackstar and Rowena.

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PEAGREEN BOAT: DUTCHMAN

The Owl and the Pussycat hadn't had a decent meal in months when along sailed the Dutchman to provide for their needs. Then the Scavengers grounded the Dutchman and time had come to repay their savior.

Dear Cousin Eerie...


The lead story in EERIE #83 "The Day Before Tomorrow" was magnificent. Please keep The Rook series long. I find many of your better series are cut too short.

Although "Scalywag" was gone, "Hard John Apple" took its place which was a pleasant surprise. I remember him from CREEPY #64 and never expected him to become a regular EERIE character.

"Gaffer" was a letdown, but "Presto the Besto" was enjoyable to say the least!

Please, let's see more Rich Corben. His air-brush technique is terrific! I can't wait for the time-travel conclusion promised for EERIE #87!

STEVE SCHULMAN
Ontario, Canada

 Look in EERIE #86, Steve. You'll find a spectacular all-Corben special issue!

Issue #83 of EERIE was a landscape of sorts. It went right to my heart with two series about my favorite subjects... time travel (Rook) and after-the-bomb (Hard John).

Hard John hasn't lost his adventurism in its two-or-year absence. The first story, "An Angel Shy of Hell" has always been a favorite of mine and Rook's second appearance is indicative of a series that should do very well. Not since "Hunter" have I looked forward to a series!

JEFFREY KILIAN
Offutt AFB, Neb.

Art-wise, EERIE #83 was a connoisseur's delight!

Louis Bermejo's illustrations for The Rook, while not his best, are beautiful nonetheless and his storytelling is clear, crisp and exciting.

Jose Ortiz' work on "Kansas City Bomber" is masterful, his finest since the early days of VAMPIRELLA. His rendition of Hard John Apple retains the flavor of the original Rich Corben version, while at the same time, is distinctly his own.

The highlight of the issue, however, was Leo Duranona's work on "Temptation." Simple, at times almost cartoonish, it nonetheless was brilliantly graphic and added a great deal to the off-beat atmosphere of the story.

The Carmine Infantino/Dick Giordano offering was a bit of a let-down, but only by comparison with the rest of the book. In any other magazine, it probably would have looked terrific.

Keep issues like this coming!

STEVE TRACY
Louisville, Ky.

Congratulations to Enrich for his fine cover on EERIE #83. Like the Rook series itself, the cover combines past, present, and future in a manner that seems perfectly natural and not the least anachronistic. My only complaint was the lack of background detail. The interior contents were equally impressive.

BILLY FRANKS
Chicago, Ill.

Even considering their length, I felt a bit short-changed because EERIE #83 contained only four stories! They were, for the most part, satisfying ones, but still... four stories?!!

"The Day Before Tomorrow" was a somewhat typical science-fiction story, closer to traditional space opera than the previous installment had been. Budd Lewis is generally a good writer, but here he fell below standard, bringing little new to the series, and ignoring most of the possibilities and avenues open to such a unique character and concept in favor of the safe "comic-book" approach.

I am also a bit annoyed that he chose such stereotyped characterizations for his heroes and villains instead of the complex, more human portrayals which Warren, and Lewis himself, handled so well in the past.

The art by Luis Bermejo made up for it, though. Beautiful! He was able to preserve much of the emotional range that the dialogue lacked.

"Kansas City Bomber," on the other hand, certainly did not suffer from banality. Jim Stenstrum has introduced a witty and inventive series that, like Bill DuBay's "Oogie" adventures, combines speculative adventure fiction with a sardonic humor, and isn't afraid to be different. Jose Ortiz added much with his superb artwork.

"Temptation" was a lot of fun. Something about Leo Duranona's artwork really caught my eye and held my attention, and the story by Roger McKenzie brought back a "classical" approach to horror. I could almost picture Mark Twain telling this story to an audience of friends.

"Presto the Besto" is such a terrific name for a series that I was able to overlook many of the more familiar, even mediocre, aspects of the story. (I wonder if any story could have lived up to the expectations that title gave me.) Jim Stenstrum's dialogue is weak, but his flamboyant writing style helped this one along considerably.

GARY BURROWS
Joplin, Mo.

EERIE #83 was a masterpiece, and a bold new direction for the magazine!

New direction? Well, for one thing, there were no monsters, unlike the old days when its pages were filled with the likes of The Mummy, The Werewolf, and It, the Dead Thing! There was little horror, unlike the even older days when EERIE was little more than a carbon copy of CREEPY.

What was there? Plenty of suspense, action, and adventure, a lot of imagination, a pinch of SF, and some of the best stories and art ever printed! This is the kind of stuff that we readers sorely want and which most companies are afraid to try!

ANTHONY LEEDS
Albuquerque, N.M.

The Rook is becoming a very interesting feature. In EERIE #82, it seemed like just another science-fiction feature but now I'm intrigued!


I liked the way Budd Lewis twisted the storyline to tell what happened to Restin Dane before he dropped off his ancestor to Rook Castle. And it seems the showdown between the Rook and Gat Hawkin will take place next issue. I hope it won't be delayed, the way some of your other serials have.

"Hard John Apple" is another series that will go far. It is a humorous reflection of ourselves. What good will it do to rule the world if there's nobody to rule?

"Gaffer" was also good, but once in a while should be enough for this series. What can Gat possibly do with his three wishes that hasn't been done long ago by others.

"Presto the Besto" was humorous, but should've been in CREEPY as it was obviously a one shot. The space should have been filled with one of your many unfinished serials.

MAURICE HUFNAGEL
Warren, Mich.

 In the past, Maurice, there have been unavoidable scheduling problems involving the series. We now hope that most of these difficulties have been resolved and that, beginning with EERIE #87 (the issue to follow our all-Corben special EERIE #86), you'll be able to read the series without having to wait several issues for the continuing adventures of your favorite characters.

EERIE #87 will bring you The Rook, Gaffer and Tomb-spawn; begin a trilogy concerning Scalywag; and introduce a two-part chiller by Bruce Jones called "Boiling Point!"

And it will, of course, contain the long awaited conclusion to the Corben/Jones Time Travel Trilogy!

After a uniquely excellent issue (#81) and a more typically mediocre issue (#82), EERIE #83 seems to be bottling out. Despite the best efforts of all the talented people involved, the issue didn't make it.

Let's start with "The Rook." It seems this series is being groomed as a possible semi-permanent lead feature for EERIE. If so, major surgery is needed. While Bill DuBay's first episode was okay, Budd Lewis' "The Day Before Tomorrow" had little to recommend it. In 20 pages there are gunfights, saloon girls, alien robots, time tapes and a teleporter... and none of it makes sense.

I'm for making a series open-minded but enough is enough! There are too many ideas and plot devices without explanation.

Take the "experimental teleporter" for instance. It is never so much as hinted at in eighteen pages and it's sudden appearance is too convenient.

The same carelessness applies to the characters themselves. Both Restin Dane and Gat Hawkin are a bit too blasé about the marvels they encounter. They should be dumbfounded once in a while.

Perhaps the best suggestion I can make about the series is to give it back to Dube and let him reduce it to some kind of order.

The other major disaster is "Hard John Apple's Nuclear Hit Parade." "An Angel Shy of Hell" was a grim parable about fratricidal conflict and the type of person who ultimately profits from it. There's not a trace of this in the latest story. Moreover, as befitting a continuing character, Hard John has been prettied up. In the original story he was a homicidal psychopath. Now he has become a lovable eccentric, complete with a wry sense of humor. I guess we'll have to start calling him Soft John!

Roger McKenzie's "Gaffer" had its points, but it's difficult to imagine where he could go with it. It could be interesting to watch. Meanwhile I have one suggestion: cut down on the dialect. A little of this goes a long way and overuse almost killed "Temptation." Otherwise, I'm withholding judgement for now.

As for Jim Stenstrum's other offering, "Presto the Besto," the less said the better. Just too much silliness.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.

**DEAR COUSIN
EERIE**

c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

SO, YA USELESS
HEAPA TIN...YOU WANNA
BE A GUNSLINGER!?

The ROOK™

OH, MASTER BISHOP,
I...I...COULDN'T..!

WELL YA COME TO
THE **RIGHT** MAN TO
TEACH YA!

LESSON **ONE**:
DON'T NEVER DRAW
ON ME!

COUNT TO THREE
AN I'LL SHOW YA
WHAT I **MEAN**!

YOU AIN'T GONNA
HURT ME, TIN MAN!
JUST **DO** IT!

Y-YES
SIR...!

ONE...

...TWO..!

BRAM!
BLAM!

BRAM!

NOW **THAT'S** HOW
YOU STAY ALIVE IN
THE OLD WEST!

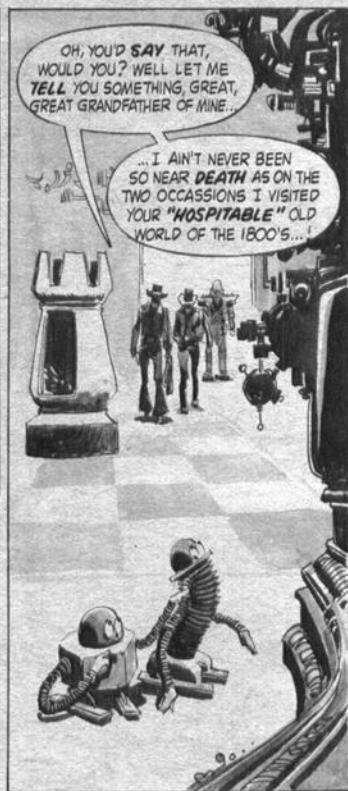
BEGGING YOUR
PARDON, SIR...!
THAT'S HOW **YOU**
STAY ALIVE IN
THE OLD WEST!

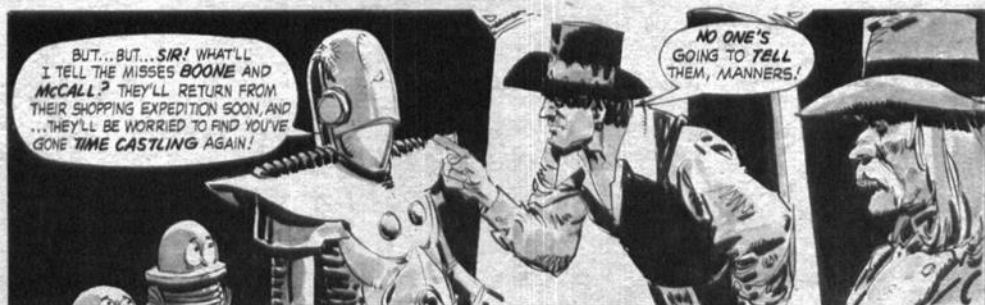
I CAN'T SAY
THAT IT DOES MUCH
FOR **ME**!

GRANDFATHER,
ARE YOU **BULLYING**
MY MANSERVANT
AGAIN?

BULLYING
AIN'T THE WORD,
GRANDSON! I BEEN
GIVIN' THAT TALKIN' SCRAP
FILE A LESSON IN THE
FINE ARTA **KILLIN'**!

FROM WHAT I
SEENA THIS MODERN
WORLD OF YOURS, THERE'S
NO TELLIN' **WHEN** HE'S
GONNA NEED ALL I CAN
LEARN HIM!





THE TIME IS 1857. THE PLACE...THE VERY **SAME** SPOT HE STOOD MOMENTS AGO...MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS **EARLIER**...IN THE HEART OF THE ARIZONA DESERT.

CAN'T GET USED TO THE AWESOME SENSATION OF TRAVELLING THROUGH **TIME**!

IT'S SO...
EERIE!

WONDER IF I'LL EVER LEARN ALL THERE IS TO DISCOVER ABOUT **TIME CASTLING**?

STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I'M CAUGHT IN A TIME FRAGMENT WHEN IT **ENDS**.

WILL I CEASE TO **EXIST**? WILL THERE BE **ANOTHER** FRAGMENT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE FIRST? OR...WILL SOMETHING FAR MORE **FRIGHTENING** OCCUR?

ALL I KNOW IS...I DON'T WANT TO **FIND OUT**! NOT JUST YET, ANYWAY!

I **DO** KNOW THAT I'D BETTER BE **OUT** OF THIS TIME FRAGMENT WITHIN FIFTY-SEVEN MINUTES! MY **PINOMETER** INDICATES **THAT'S** WHEN IT **ENDS**!

I'VE INSTALLED A SOLAR CELL WITHIN MY BELT BUCKLE WHICH WILL GLOW **RED** WHEN MY TIME IS NEARLY UP! THAT'LL BE MY TWO MINUTE SIGNAL TO GET MY **DERRIERE** BACK HOME...AND **QUICK**!

HMMM! THIS IS **ANOTHER** THING I CAN'T GET OVER...MY DUMB **LUCK** IN STUMBLING ON THIS OLD **MINE SHAFT**, WHERE AN ALIEN RACE KEPT ITS STOREHOUSE OF SCIENTIFIC **WONDERS**!

CURIUSER AND **CURIUSER**!

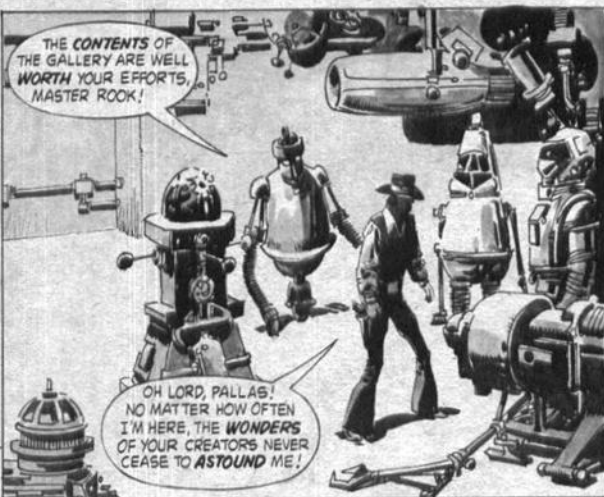
STRANGE HOW I "ACCIDENTALLY" SELECTED THIS SPOT TO BUILD MY **ROCK CASTLE**...MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM **NOW**!

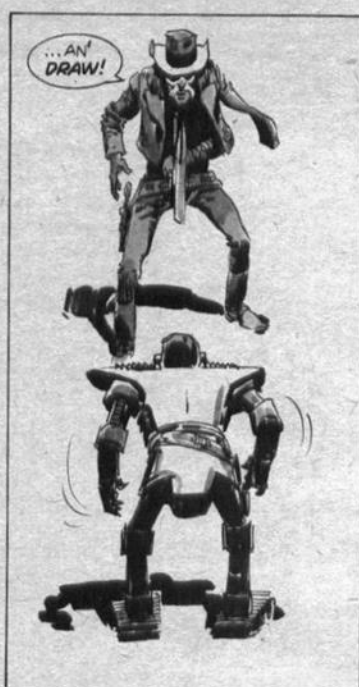
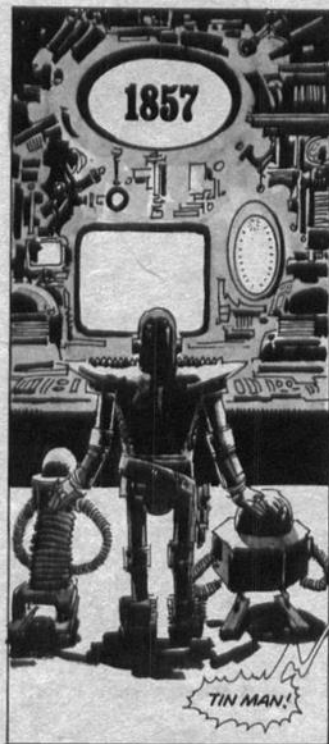
WHO ENTERS THE LAIR OF MY **MASTER**?

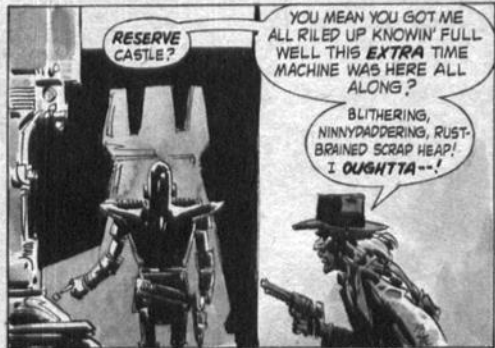
SENTINEL!
IT'S **ME**!

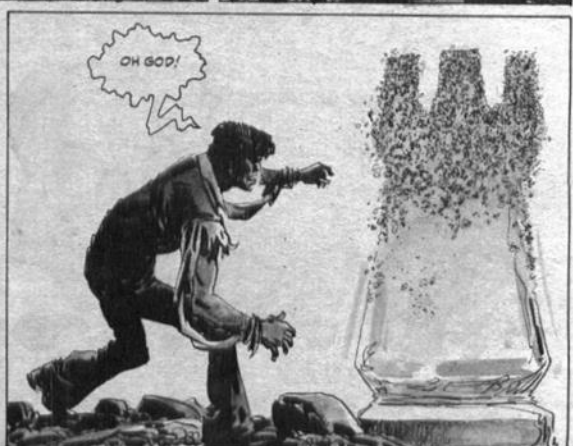
MASTER! MASTER ROOK!
YOU'RE **RETURNED!** YOU'RE **SAFE!**

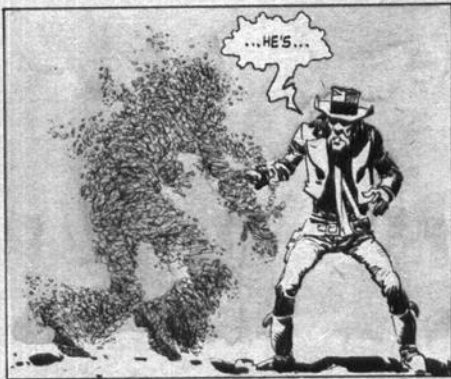
THAT I **AM**, **SENTINEL!**
I CAME BACK TO EXAMINE THE SCIENCES OF YOUR **PREVIOUS** **MASTERS**!



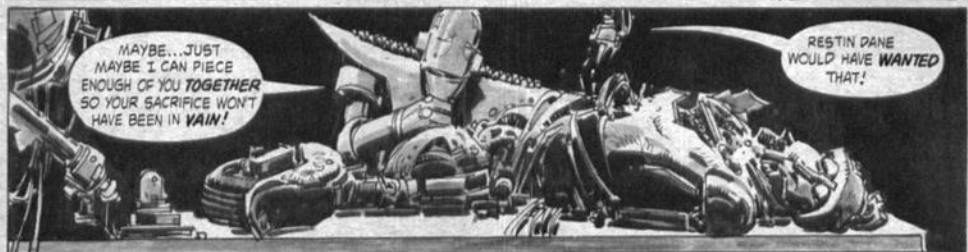
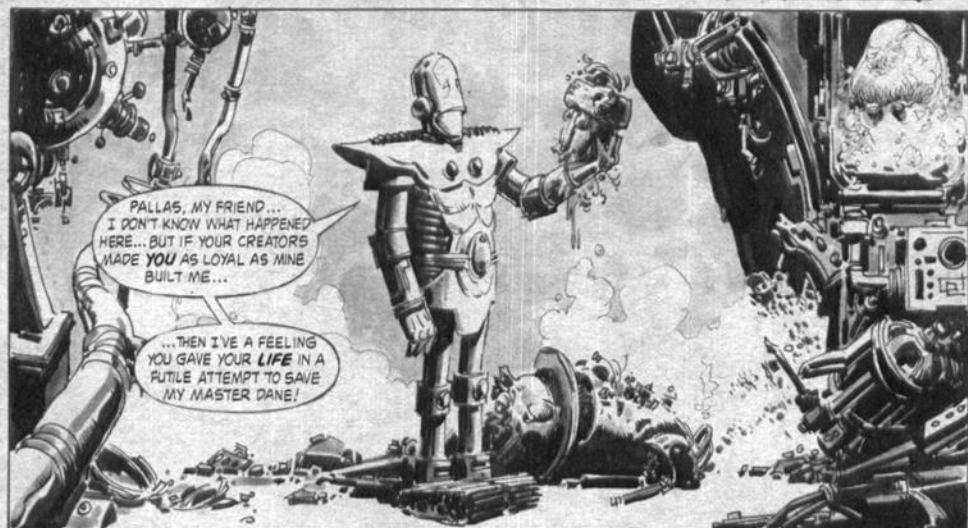


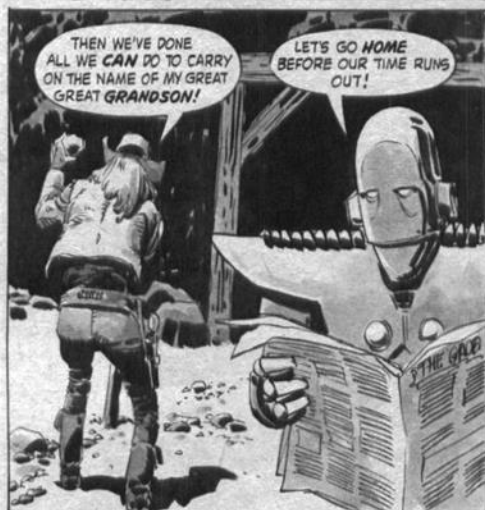














THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

Every time I try to write this item, I break out in uncontrollable laughter, but here it is anyway: Marvel Comics Group will begin publishing *Yogi Bear*, *The Flintstones*, *Scooby Doo* and *Dyno Mutt* sometime in the near future. No kidding.

From a strictly dollars and cents standpoint, Marvel's decision to publish these books—and the logistics for implementing it—makes perfect sense. Since Marvel's agreement with Hanna Barbera, the owners of the characters, calls only for Marvel to publish the books—they will have no control over the editorial content, thus will have no chance to destroy the titles—it seems to be a fairly profitable arrangement. It just that the thought of Marvel publishing these children's titles invariably triggers memories of the fan satirists of the 1960s who had field days lampooning the Marvel style by applying it to characters like Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Anyway, Marvel's agreement with Hanna Barbera calls for an initial bi-monthly schedule for the four books and increased frequency and additional HB-licensed books should sales be encouraging. Three of the books were being published by Charlton before it went out of business, but the fourth, *Dyno Mutt*, is apparently tied to a new Hanna Barbera television cartoon show scheduled for the fall.

All the editorial work will be supervised by 67-year-old Chase Craig, who retired as Gold Key's executive editor in 1975. Craig won't be working for Marvel per se, however, nor will he be employed by Hanna Barbera. He's set up a shop on the West Coast and will supervise the editing, writing and drawing of the strips as a package and then ship them off to Marvel for publishing.

Many of you dyed-in-the-wool superhero fans may not recognize Craig's name, but he's enjoyed a long and illustrious career in the funny animal and children's humor business. He's worked for Walter Lantz, the creator of Woody Woodpecker, Warner Bros., now Warner Communications, DC's parent company, and has written many titles in the Little Golden Book series. At Gold Key, he wrote thousands of adventure comics as well as *Looney Tunes*, *Bugs Bunny* and *Porky Pig*. He joined Gold Key as an editor in 1950, became managing editor, then executive editor and has handled everything from *Tarzan* to *Magnus*, *Robot Fighter* to the Disney characters.

As for the creative team, Mark Evanier has been scripting all of the books produced so far, but it seems likely that other writers will be added when he returns to television writing at the start of the new season. Dan Spiegel may be drawing *Scooby Doo*, while Roger Armstrong, a long-time children's comics illustrator, will be drawing *The Flintstones* and *Yogi Bear*.

Evanier, who worked for Craig at Gold Key before moving on to television writing, called Craig "the best editor I ever worked for, so when he called me, of course I began writing for him."

No one at Marvel headquarters in New York wanted to talk about the new line—"who really cares," sniffed one editor, obviously not realizing the books will probably be paying his salary before long—but it's understood that each title will have 19 pages of stories rather than Marvel's standard 17.

Still, there's something in me that's disappointed. How it would have warmed my fanfannish heart to see Marvel controlling the

titles and making Boo Boo, Yogi's sidekick, into a junkie, or watch them inject a little young lust into the Pebbles and Bam-Bam relationship. Stan Lee only knows what could have been done with a chap called Dyno Mutt. Maybe he could have been teamed with Howard the Duck and...

Here's a cutie for you. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the government's commerce watchdog, has ordered the Hudson Pharmaceutical Corp. to stop advertising Spider-Man brand children's vitamins.

The government action, which United Press International called "precedent-setting," is couched in the standard bureaucratic legalisms, but basically said Hudson's advertising of the drug was misleading because it suggested that taking vitamins would make you as strong as Spider-Man. Hudson, doing its best to be contrite, said it would pull the offending advertisements voluntarily.

Ice of them, don't you think, especially since they fought the action tooth-and-nail for two years and engaged in advertising practices one FTC commissioner claimed was "really disgusting hype aimed directly at children. I don't think I've ever seen anything as venal in all my years on the commission," he told me after the decision was announced.

And should you think this bureaucrat was doing his own little hype job by taking an extra blast at Hudson, consider this: when I was covering the FTC's hi-fi price-fixing investigation in 1975, he was the government official who told me—off the record, of course—that "no one minds a little price fixing here and there. No one minds a little gouging every now and then." In other words, he's not given to moral outrage very of-

ten.

Hudson, by the way, is owned by Cadence Industries, the conglomerate that owns Marvel comics.

SPEAKING OF HYPE...

If you've noticed a sharply increased amount of DC news in your favorite fanzine lately, credit it to the yeoman work of Mike Gold, the company's new public-relations man. Gold, who's also the man behind DC's telephone "hot line," has been busily churning out literally dozens of press releases about the most insignificant little occurrences at National. Every week brings another set of press releases, covering artist and writer changes, editorial readjustments and the whole gamut of boring, vapid and insignificant trivia fanzines eat up.

Gold, of course, seems a decent sort for a PR man and is just doing his job by grinding this stuff out. It's the fanzine editors that bug me. They all seem to be in the habit of reprinting his stuff verbatim, letting it all pass for "news" and go blissfully along without doing any checking or further investigating. Like any good flak, Gold isn't trotting out the bad news, only the good. In other words, under the guise of communicating with the fans, DC is once again attempting to lull everyone to sleep.

And Gold seems to go out of his way to play the ostrich. "I only worry about DCI (DC comics) and never get involved with WCI (Warner, the parent company)," he told me one day. He couldn't—or wouldn't—even tell me when Warner's annual stockholder's meeting was scheduled for, even though the date is a matter of public record, must be reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission and is printed on every copy of Warner's annual report.

HOME MOVIES SO GHOSTLY... YOU WILL BE ASTONISHED!

BLACK ROOM



The amazing Boris Karloff, one of the finest "horror" actors of all times, stars in this fabulous fright-flick... A silent wonder! Who are these two lovelies so terrified of? Could it be Mr. Karloff? What is the secret of the Black Room? A Black and White-200 Ft. Reel, in Regular & Super 8mm film. Order today! #2270/\$9.95.

DINOSAURUS



A real (living-breathing) cave man, Tyrannosaurus Rex and Brontosaurus are discovered by a hard hat. Doesn't he wish that he had never gotten involved? You bet! But in fact—He lives to tell his entire stupendous tale! A Black and White movie-horror-great... Don't miss this one! In Super 8mm film only. Order #2283/\$9.95.

MASTERS OF TERROR



Robert Lansing has the starring role in this terrifying-super home movie. He is a scientist with a problem—He uses his secret formula on himself—after reacting in a fit of jealousy! See what happens to him and everyone else who is involved with the turned-back-scientist! A fine Black & White film. Super 8 only #2284/\$9.95.

THE BLOB



Can you believe that the fantastic Steve McQueen stars in this horror picture? He certainly does! It is Mr. McQueen's best horror movie role. There is a suspicious gobbling, bobbling blob on the rampage! An interstellar jelly. A 200 ft. reel of terror and thrills! Super 8 only. A Black & White film sensation! #2285/\$9.95.

RADARMEN



This film surely is an overwhelming spectacle involving a crew of American Rocketmen! They battle off hordes of nuclear-armed invaders from—Where? You guessed it—the Moon! Watch them fight for their lives! A rare lumbous treat! (A NASA training film reject.) Available in Super 8 only. B&W—200 ft. reel. Buy now #2286/\$9.95.

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A very beautiful, deadly female spy from an Asiatic land uses the latest electronic equipment and devices to destroy people! She also uses her advantages to steal tremendous Atomic secrets! A highly interesting movie plot. A picture to start you thinking! Black and White, in Super 8 mm—200 foot reels only. #2287/\$9.95.

CAPTAIN MEPHISTO



Somewhere on a strange and mysterious isle a notoriously evil man uses atomic energy to transform himself... He decides to become a fierce, deadly pirate of 200 years gone by! What makes him decide on such a strange occupation? Purchase this exciting film and you'll find out! Black & White—Super 8mm only. Get #2288/\$9.95.

THE CLAW MONSTERS



A very strangely-warmed scientist—(isn't that the way most of them appear to be?) creates huge-horribly ugly Claw Monsters! He uses them in an attempt to ward off trespassers near his African diamond mine. Do these monsters do their job? Only one way to know for sure... Order Super 8 only Black & White #2290/\$9.95.

MASTER OF HORROR



Who else could it be but the one and only—Edgar Allan Poe! His stories of horror are beyond all-human belief! He is the master! This is a strange & weird shocker of a flick... The Old Master's soul really corrodes this one of a kind movie. This film is a definite must for all Poe freaks! B&W Super 8 only. #2291/\$9.95.

BATTLE IN OUTER SPACE



Astronauts, flying saucers from unknown planets, rockets and super-fire ray guns can all be seen and enjoyed in this exciting futuristic-fantasy space flick! Choose from: Super or regular 8-Color film #22046/\$19.95 or a Black and White version in Super or regular 8 mm film—200 ft. reel. #22049/\$9.95. Either is superb!

CURSE OF THE MUMMY'S TOMB



Be careful of this vicious fiend! This unusual creature is half bone... Half bandage... And all blood curdling terror! You must be strong to sit still while watching this terrifying flick! Do you dare buy it? Prove yourself! Choose either: Super or regular 8 Color #22050/\$19.95. Or in B&W in Super or regular 8. #22047/\$9.95.

THE VAMPIRE AND THE BALLERINA



This is one of the strangest of all the Vampire films that were ever produced! Here is the strange truth... The Undead infest not only one—but all of the finest houses in Europe! Believe it! The Old World will never be the same after these creatures are finished with it! 200 ft. reels in Super or regular 8. B&W #2275/\$9.95.

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE SPACE MONSTER



Frankenstein is a many faceted fellow... In this movie an Astro-robot created by an American scientist suffers mechanical damages and becomes Frankenstein-like! He is put to the challenge—The weird Space Monsters! Warning beware their stare! Who is the real hero? 200 ft. reel B&W. Super or regular 8. Buy #2280/\$9.95.

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE



Can this really be possible? What will be the outcome? A strange planet appears suddenly in Earth's telescopes and it is going to crash—smack into our planet Earth! The scientists must act fast this time—Everyone is in a mad-chaotic state! In super 8mm only—Black and White. Order #22014/\$9.95.

WAR OF THE WORLDS



An H.G. Wells' classic science-fiction thriller. This Black and White movie is a Hell-spawned tale of a grandiose Martian invasion! No science-fiction fan alive should miss this epic. From space... They are reaching for you! Order your 200 ft. reel today. Available in Super 8 mm film only. Hurry—waste no time! #22015/\$9.95.

Hard John's

NUCLEAR Hit Parade



SO WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE HOLY-COST HAS WIPED OUT MUCH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, DIVIDING THE SURVIVING POPULACE INTO DISTINCT AND FANATICAL RELIGIOUS SECTS.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE MASTER TERRORIST, **HEMLOCK ZINGER**, HAS SPENT THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS PITTING THE WORLD'S ARMIES AGAINST ONE MAN, **HARD JOHN APPLE**, ALL IN A GARGANTUAN EFFORT TO PRY FROM HIM THE LAST NUCLEAR MISSILES IN EXISTENCE.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT HARD JOHN'S PRISONER AND CONSTANT COMPANION, **TARARA BOOMDEYOV**, WAS THE **LOVER** OF **HEMLOCK ZINGER**, UNTIL ZINGER TRIED TO DISSECT JOHN AND TARARA IN HIS DUNGEON.

AND WE HAVE WITNESSED THE SAD DEATH OF THE **GENERAL**, HARD JOHN'S TRAINED ORANGUTAN, WHO DIED RESCUING JOHN AND TARARA FROM THE CLUTCHES OF **HEMLOCK ZINGER**.

MEANWHILE, THE PROTS, THE CATLICKS, THE RED THREATS, AND GOD-ONLY-KNOWS-WHO-ELSE ARE BEARING STEADILY DOWN ON KANSAS, HARD JOHN'S HOME TURF, COMING IN FROM ALL SIDES, UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE ALL ON A **COLLISION COURSE**.

HARD JOHN'S DILEMMA: RELEASE THE MISSILES AND DESTROY THIS CORRUPTED WORLD, OR SURRENDER THE MISSILES TO **HEMLOCK ZINGER**, WHO WOULD USE THEM TO FORCE THE WORLD INTO BONDAGE.

WHATEVER DECISION HARD JOHN MAKES, IT MUST BE MADE QUICKLY. FOR IN LESS THAN SIX HOURS, ALL THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD WILL CRUSH IN ON THE MISSILE BASE CALLED **HARD JOHN'S NUCLEAR HIT PARADE**.



LIKE IT?

I THINK IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I'VE EVER **SEEN**.

I THINK IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN **KANSAS**. THE LAST OF THE MAGNIFICENT **OAKS**.

GONNA NUKE MANKIND RIGHT OUTA MY HAIR



WE ARE OF A
KIND, THIS TREE AND I.
THE LAST OF A BREED. WE
GROW IN A LAND OF ROCK,
AND SAND, AND STAND FIRM
IN THE VIOLENCE OF THE
GALE.



BUT THERE'S ONE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.
THIS OAK OFFERS **HOPE**...IT
HOLDS THE PROMISE THAT WE CAN
LIVE AND PROSPER UNDER EVEN
THE CRUELEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHILE ALL
I HAVE TO
OFFER...IS
DEATH!

JOHN!

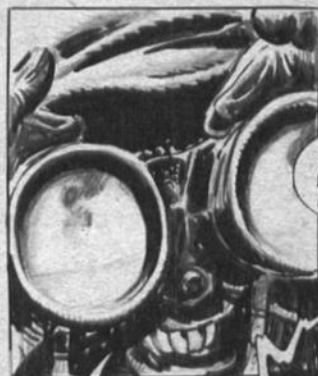


LET IT BURN.
RATHER THIS THAN
LETTING IT BE BLASTED
TO TOOTHPICKS BY A MIS-
SILE. MORE DIGNIFIED THIS
WAY. THE TREE UNDERSTANDS
WHAT I DO.

JUMP IN. THERE'S
ONE LAST PLACE I
HAVE TO GO.



BUT AS HARD JOHN AND TARARA BOOMDEYOON DRIVE AWAY,
THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE BEING RECORDED AND LOGGED.



SMOKE, SIR!
ABOUT FIVE
MILES AHEAD!

GIVE ME
THOSE
GLASSES.



THAT'S THE NAMELESS
REGION. NOTHING BUT SCALD-
ING DESERT. NOBODY IN HIS
RIGHT MIND GOES THERE.

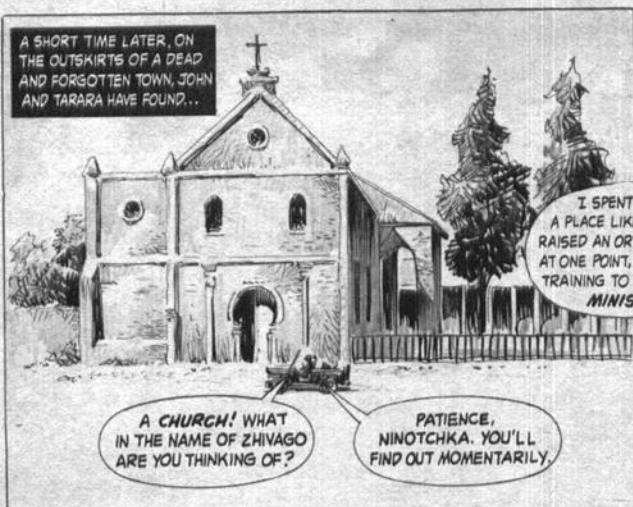
IT'S
HARD JOHN.
ALL RIGHT.



CALL UP
THE ARMIES.
WE'RE GOING
AFTER HIM.

AT ONCE,
MASTER ZINGER!

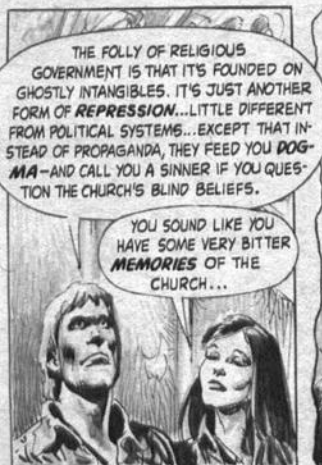
A SHORT TIME LATER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A DEAD AND FORGOTTEN TOWN, JOHN AND TARARA HAVE FOUND...



I SPENT MY YOUTH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. I WAS RAISED AN ORTHODOX **CATLICK** AT ONE POINT, I WAS EVEN TRAINING TO JOIN THE **MINISTRY**.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I SAW THE LIGHT.



YOU'RE NOT READING WITH EVERYBODY ELSE, MR. APPLE.

I WAS READING AT MY OWN PACE, PERFECT.



THE BOOK DEMANDS THAT THE CLASS WILL READ TOGETHER. ARE YOU SO MUCH SMARTER THAN THE **BOOK** THAT YOU MUST READ AHEAD OF US?

NO.



LOUDER, SO THE CLASS CAN HEAR.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN THE **BOOK**?

NO.



ARE YOU??

YES!!





NO. NO BITTER MEMORIES. IT'S ALL PART OF THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?

ANYWAY, I ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY FROM MINISTRY SCHOOL, AND JOINED THE PROT ARMY WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN.

IT WAS THE FIRST PLACE I'D EVER BEEN HAPPY. JUST ME AND A GUN. NOTHING GHOSTLY ABOUT THAT...I COULD ALWAYS BELIEVE IN A GOOD RIFLE.



BUT HERE I AM... RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED. ALL THAT'S CHANGED IS I NOW HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY MANKIND.

DO SOMETHING FOR ME. GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES.

WHAT?

I HAVE THE MISSILES, AND I'M READY TO LAUNCH THEM.

IF I DO, IT'S THE END OF CIVILIZATION...WHICH, CONSIDERING ITS PRESENT STATE, WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A LOSS ANYWAY.



NOW DO THIS WITH YOUR HANDS...INTERLOCKING YOUR FINGERS. AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING. JUST LISTEN.

BUT WHAT ARE WE --?

JUST LISTEN.



OUR FATHER, WHO ART HEAVEN...I WONDER IF YOU'D LEND ME AN EAR FOR A MOMENT.

YOU KNOW, YOU'VE PUT ME IN A KINDA TICKLISH SITUATION HERE. I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING...I REALLY DO...BUT FELLA, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL YOU WANT ME TO DO!



IF I DON'T, HEMLOCK ZINGER WILL TAKE THE MISSILES FROM ME, AND THROW EVERY NATION ON EARTH INTO SLAVERY.



NOW I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A PLAN BEHIND THIS SCREWY SITUATION, BUT I'VE GOTTA HAVE YOUR HELP. IT'S QUICKLY BECOMING TOO LATE.

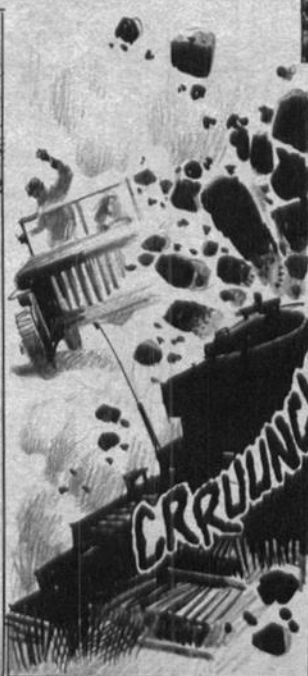
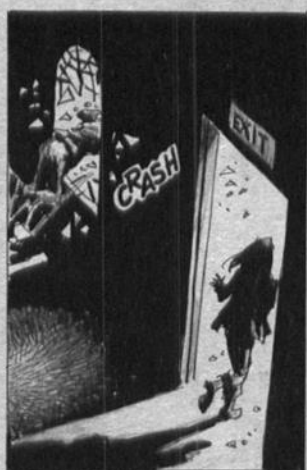
I'M BEGGING YOU...COME TO ME, MAN. APPEAR BEFORE ME NOW. TELL ME WHY I SHOULDN'T NUKE MANKIND RIGHT OUTA MY HAIR!

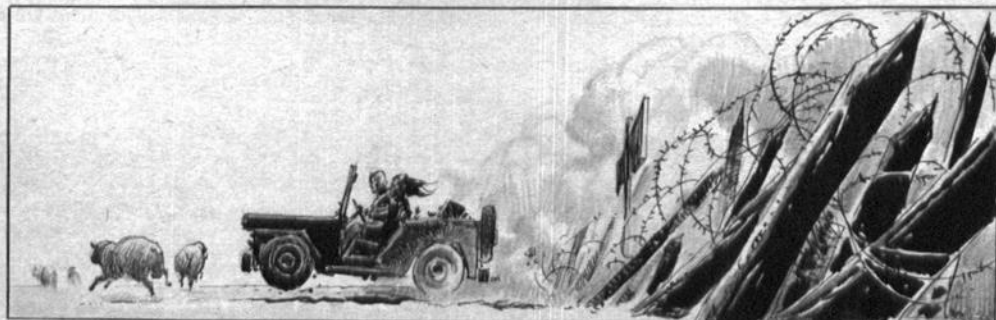


NOTHING.

OKAY, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW. LET'S BLOW THIS JOINT.







TIME IS SHORT. I FIGURE WE HAVE AN HOUR BEFORE ZINGER AND HIS ARMIES GET HERE.

I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND ACT AS LOOKOUT. WATCH THE HORIZON. AS SOON AS YOU SEE *ANYTHING* YOU MAKE A BEELINE TO THE LAUNCH ROOM, ALL RIGHT?

YES... RIGHT.

BECAUSE WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO TURN THE OTHER LAUNCHING KEY. WILL YOU BE THERE?

YES...JOHN...I WILL. I...I...

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

NOTHING. A SENSE OF DREAD.

LISTEN. I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I WOULD RATHER SEE TOMORROW THAN NOT.

I WISH IT COULD BE SO, BUT UNDER ZINGER'S RULE, I WOULD BE FRIGHTENED TO LEARN WHAT EACH TOMORROW HELD FOR ME.

FOR ALL OF US.

I'VE KINDA GOTTEN USED TO YOU HANGING AROUND. I'VE ALREADY LOST ONE FRIEND...I DON'T FANCY THE IDEA OF LOSING THE LAST FRIEND I'VE GOT.

SO TELL ME NOW. TELL ME WHATEVER I DO IS ALL RIGHT WITH YOU. TELL ME THAT YOU TRUST ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

I DO. I TRUST YOU, JOHN.

OKAY. I'LL SEE YOU DOWN BELOW THEN.



OH!

HELLO, TARARA. WE SAW THE BACK DOOR OPEN, SO WE LET OURSELVES IN.



HARD JOHN IS TOO LATE, MY DARLING. IN MINUTES THIS BASE WILL BE OVERRUN BY MY ARMIES, AND THESE MISSILES WILL BELONG TO **ME!**

WHERE IS HE, TARARA? IS HE BELOW IN THE CONTROL ROOM NOW?



THANK YOU, DARLING TARARA. YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME **EXACTLY** WHERE TO FIND HIM.



BUNKER DOOR IS LOCKED TIGHT, MASTER ZINGER. WE CAN'T GET IN.

GET SOME ROPE THEN. WE'LL GO DOWN THE SILOS.



ONCE I'M DOWN, HAVE YOUR MEN FOLLOW ME IN THE OTHER SILOS, AND THEN AWAIT MY ORDERS. I WANT NO MISTAKES AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME. UNDERSTOOD?

UNDERSTOOD, MASTER ZINGER!



WHILE BELOW IN THE CONTROL ROOM...

WHERE IS THAT GIRL? WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME?

A SHADOW... SOMEBODY WORKING THEIR WAY TOWARD ME.



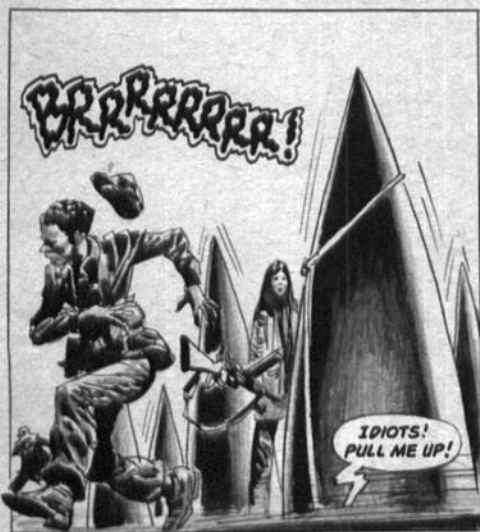
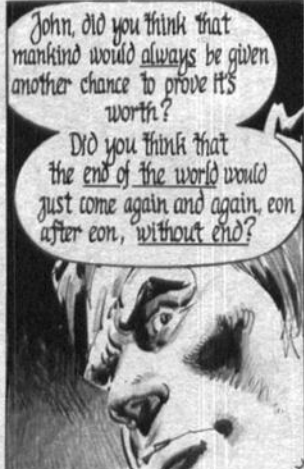
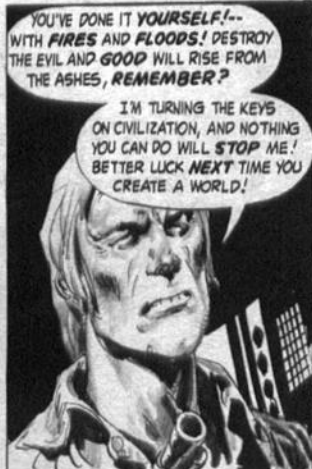
YOU!



WE'VE WAITED SO LONG... SO MANY YEARS. BUT YOU WOULDN'T COME WHEN WE NEEDED YOU MOST.

NOW WE'RE CORRUPTED BEYOND ALL HOPE. DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE LET US **BECOME?**

Would you destroy everything, John?





HOW DID YOU LAUNCH THE MISSILES WITHOUT ME?!

IT WAS OUT OF MY HANDS.

BRRRRROOM

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

I SAID IT WAS...OH, NEVER MIND.



THEY'RE ALL OUT OF SIGHT. WILL WE SEE ANY OF THE BLASTS?

NOT LIKELY. I SENT ALL THE MISSILES ON A COURSE TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, WHERE THEY'LL SINK HARMLESSLY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.

ALL BUT THIS ONE. IN A MINUTE THIS BABY WILL SHOOT STRAIGHT UP AND COME DOWN RIGHT WHERE I'M STANDING NOW.



THINK OF IT. ALL OF THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD ARE RIGHT HERE. AND IN A FEW MOMENTS THEY WON'T EXIST.

NO MORE ARMIES. NO MORE WAR. NOT FOR QUITE AWHILE, ANYWAY.

I WONDER IF HE KNEW WHAT I WAS REALLY UP TO.

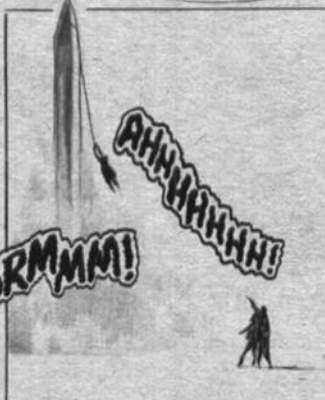


BUT YOU KNOW, THE ONE THING THAT I'M STILL SORE ABOUT IS THAT I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HEMLOCK ZINGER GET WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM.

ZINGER? I THINK I CAN ARRANGE THAT.

BRR BRROM

HUH?



AHHHHHHH!

BRMMM!



LADY, YOU JUST HAVE MADE MY WHOLE DAY!

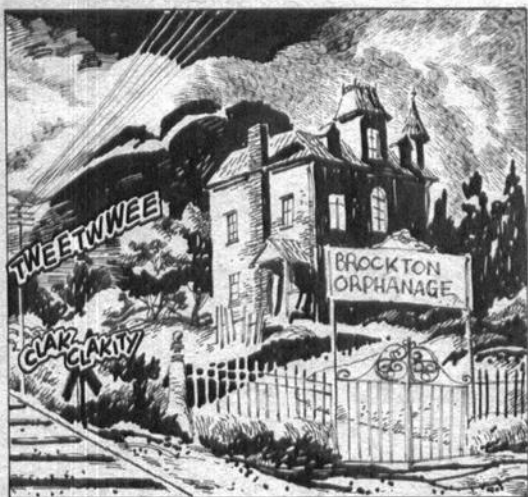
GIVE US A KISS, TARARA.

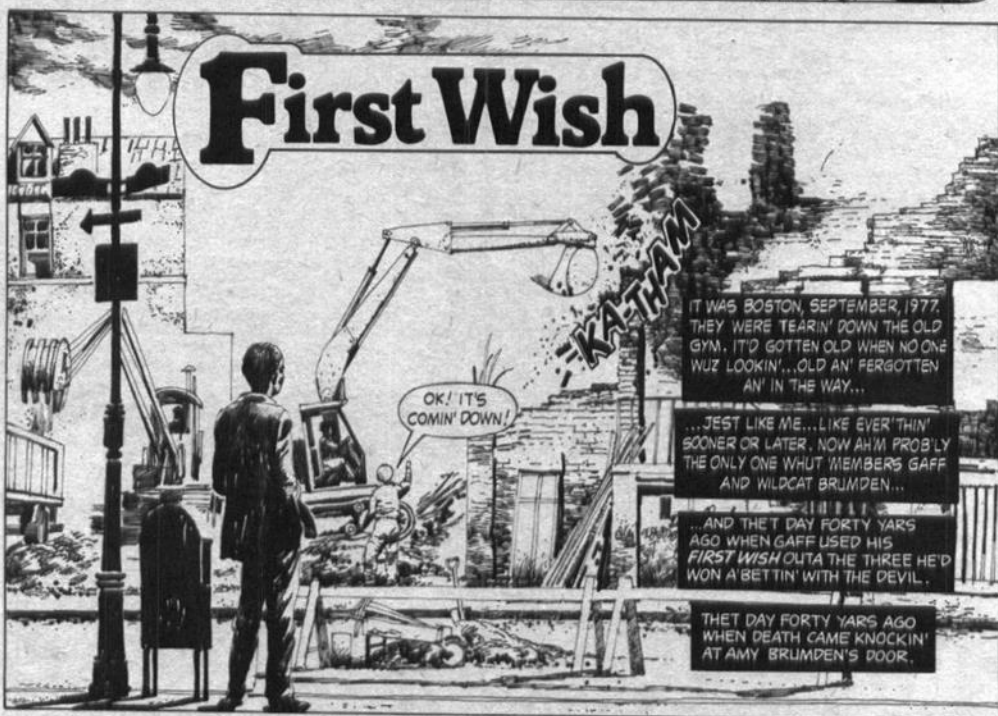
AND MEN WILL SAY: "HERE WAS LAID TO REST THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD, AND FOR A LONG TIME AFTERWARD, THERE WAS NO WAR."

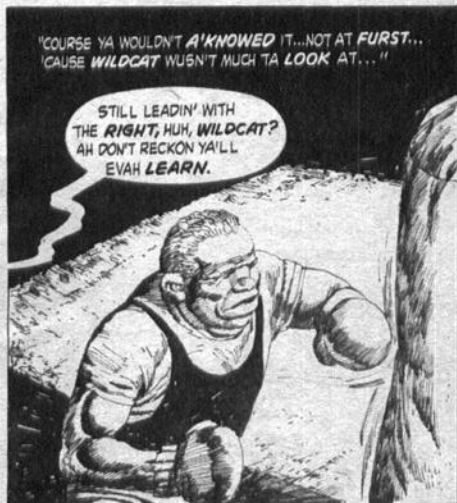
"AND IN A TIME WHEN THE EARTH HAD NEARLY BEEN DEVoured BY HELL, IT WAS MAN'S GOOD FORTUNE THAT TWO PEOPLE, AT LEAST, STAYED SHY OF IT."



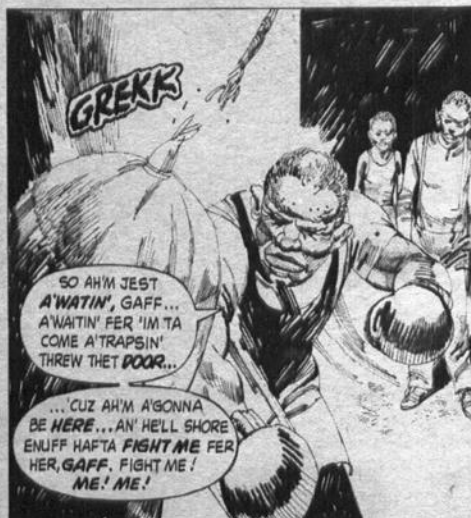
GAFFER

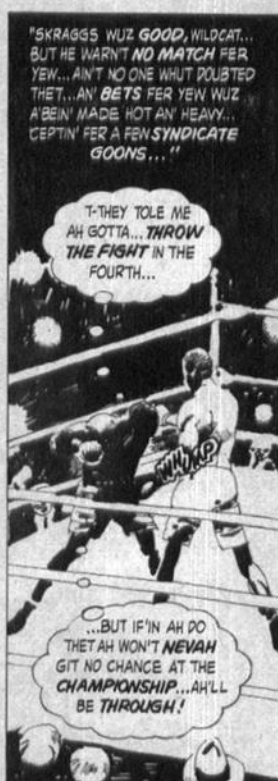






"...AN' SHE WUZ'A DYIN'... AN' THET WUZ TEARIN' WILDCAT PLUMB IN TWO."





"AH'D NEVAH SEEN **NOTHIN'** LIKE IT,
WILDCAT. AH COULD HARDLY SEE YER
HANDS A'MOVIN' THAR IN THE RING."

AH WON'T
QUIT...AH
WON'T...

"YEW WUZ JEST LIKE SOME SORTA
MACHINE...A FIGHTIN' MACHINE...

...BOXIN'S
ALL AH KNOWS...
WITHOUT MUH
CAREER AH'M
A NOTHIN'! A
NOTHIN'!

"YEW WUZ THE **BEST**, **WILDCAT**...YEW
SHORELY WUZ..."

AN' A MAN'S
GOTTA HAVE HIS **PRIDE**...
MIGHT AS WELL BE **DEAD'S**
NOT TA HAVE THET.



"AH THINK YEW **KNOWED** ALL
ALONG WHUT WUZ A'GONNA
HAPPEN..."

THET WUZ
SOME--

--FIGHT, NIGGAH...
YA WUZ SUPPOSED TA
TAKE A **DIVE**, KNOW
WHUT I MEAN, **BOAH?**

"...THET THEY'D BE A'COMIN' FER
YA..."

OH, LORDY...
'CHOKE'...!

GIT THE HELL OUTA
HERE, GAFF...GO'WAN, **BEAT**
IT...AN' DON'T LOOK BACK,
SON!

YA COST US A LOTTA
MONEY TANTH...AN' WE
AIM TA GIT **EVEN**...KNOW WHUT
I MEAN, NIGGAH? OR MEBBE
YER TOO **STUPID** TA FOLLER
ORDERS...

"...AH **WISHED** NOW AH'D A'DONE WHUT YA
SAID, **PARTNUH** BUT AH JEST COULDN'T
LEAVE YA THAR...NOT AGAINST THEM
SYNDICATE **GORILLAS**..."

...ALL YA HAD TA DO
WUZ **THROW** THAT FIGHT...
AN' WHEN WE'RE THROUGH
WID YA, YA'LL DAMN SHORE
WISH YA HAD!



"AH HATES TA ADMIT IT, JAMIE,
BUT AH'M 'FRAD AH WUSN'T
MUCH HELP."

"GAFF... 'GROANNN'...
AH TOLE YA... TA RUN...N-NOW
JEST LOOKIT YA!"

"AH WUZ PURTTY LUCKY... BUT IT WERE MONTHS A'FORE
WILDCAT WUZ ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL..."

"LE'ME HELP
YA, WILDCAT."

"...AN' THEY'D TOOK *EVER'THIN'* BY THE TWE THEY WUZ
THROUGH WITH 'IM, JAMIE."

"DAMMIT! GIT AWAY
FRUM ME! AH DON'T
NEED YEW...AH DON'T
NEED NOBUDY...AH'M
THE CHAMP!"

"J-THE...
CHAMP...
UNGHH--!"

"DAMN!
DAMN!
DAMN!"

"...BUT HE WUZ *STRONG*... BOUT THE STRONGEST PERSON
AH'VE *EVAH* KNOWED...AN' *PEG*...WAHL SHE WUZ *A'HELL*
OF A *WIFE*...!"

"P-PEG...GAFF...MEBBE
YA'D BETTER HELP ME...BUT
JEST THIS ONCT...YA HEAR?
JEST THIS ONCT...!"



AN' THET'S 'BOUT IT,
JAMIE... SHARTLY AFTER
THET AH GOT THE **WANDER-
LUST** AN' SOMEHOW THE YARS
JEST SEEMED TA PUT A LOT'A
MILES... AN' A LOT'A TIME
'TWEEN US...!

MMM--!
AH'M
TIRED...



AMY WUZ **TWELVE** WHEN **PEG**
DIED... THET WUZ... LE/ME **CON-
JUGATE** ON THET FER A **SECENT**...
THET WUZ 'BOUT **FIFTEEN** YARS AGO...
THE LAS' TIME AH **SEED** 'IM, 'TILL
TADAY..."

S-SHE WUZ A... A
GOOD WOMAN, GAFF...
I-I LOVED HER SO.



...AN' NOW AMY'S
RIGHT **SICKLY... DYIN'**;
WILDCAT SAID... IT SHORE
DONT SEEM **FAIR** FER SO
MUCH **GRIEF** TA PILE IT-
SELF UP SO DANGED HIGH
'BOUT ONE **PERSON**... IT
SHORELY DONT'!



I... GAFF!
LISSSEN!

OOOHHOOHOO

ZZZZZZ



DANG IT, JAMIE! T-THET'S
HIM... IT HAS TA BE...!

O-DEATH!



C'MON, JAMIE... WE
GOTTA **HURRY**! AN' LET
WILDCAT **SLEEP**...

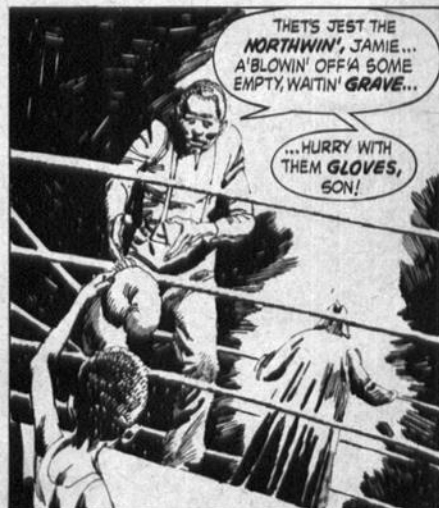
...CUZ THIS'S
OUR FIGHT, NOW!



HOLD IT RIGHT **THAR**,
MISTER! AH KNOWS WHO YA
'S... AN' AH KNOWS YA AIN'T
WELCOME HERE!

JAMIE... GIT ME
A PAIR'A **GLOVES**,
SON.

W-WHY'S IT S-50
COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN,
GAFF?





AH...AH NEVAH HAD
THE **CHANCE** TA FIGHT
FER THE **CHAMPIONSHIP**
AFORE...BUT NOW...NOW...



...AH GAINT
AFFORD TA LOSE!

SMACK!



"IT WUZ A BRUTAL, BRUTAL **FIGHT**... BUT **WILDCAT** NEVAH
HAD A **CHANCE**..."

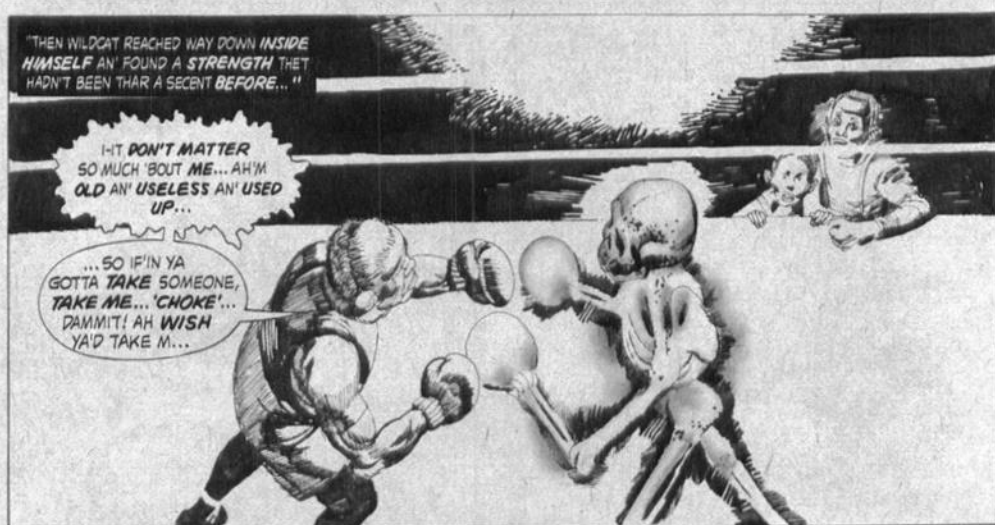
A-AH WON'T GIVE
UP...AH WON'T! AH'M THE
CHAMP...AN' TA SAVE MUH
AMY AH'LL FIGHT YA...
'WHEEZE'...FEREVAN!



"...LEASTWAYS NOT 'TILL GAFF WENT AN' **MADE HIS WISH**..."

GAFF--! YA GOTTA
HURRY! WILDCAT'S HAD
IT, IF'N YA DON'T!

HUSH, BOAH...
THIS HERE'S A RIGHT
COMPLICATED
WISH!



"THEN WILDCAT REACHED WAY DOWN INSIDE
HIMSELF AN' FOUND A **STRENGTH** THEY
HADN'T BEEN THAR A SECENT **BEFORE**..."

I-T **DON'T MATTER**
SO MUCH 'BOUT ME...AH'M
OLD AN' **USELESS** AN' USED
UP...

...SO IF'N YA
GOTTA **TAKE** SOMEONE,
TAKE ME... '**CHOKE**'...
DAMMIT! AH **WISH**
YA'D TAKE M...



AH *BLINKED* AN' *DEATH* WUZ *SUDDENLY GONE*... JEST LIKE HE'D *NEVAH* BEEN THAR AT ALL. AN' AMY RUSHED IN THE RING TO HER *POPPA*... AN' AH'D *SWARE* SHE DIDN'T LOOK *SICK* NO MORE TA ME."



"...SO *WILDCAT* GOT HIS *WISH*, TOO, THANKS TA *GAFF*..."

"...AN' AH RECKON HE DIED *HAPPY*, AFTER ALL... CUZ HE'D JEST *WON* THE MOST IMPORTANT *FIGHT* OF HIS *LIFE*."



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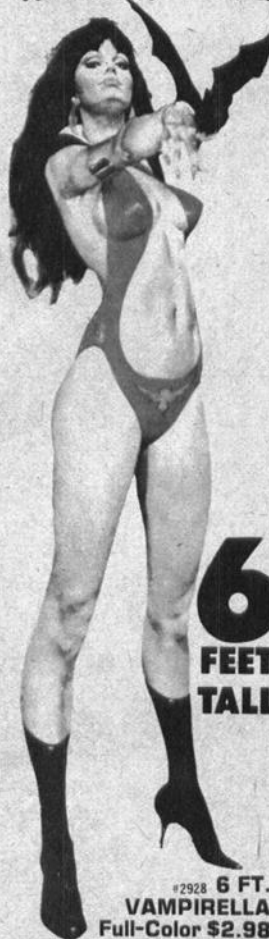


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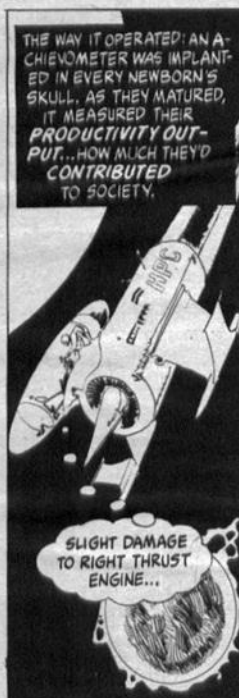
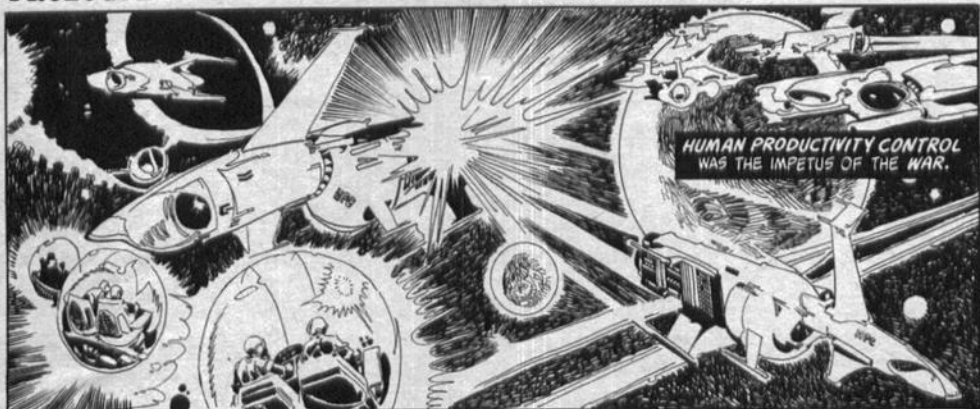
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PROLOGUE





BLACKSTAR & THE NIGHT HUNTRESS

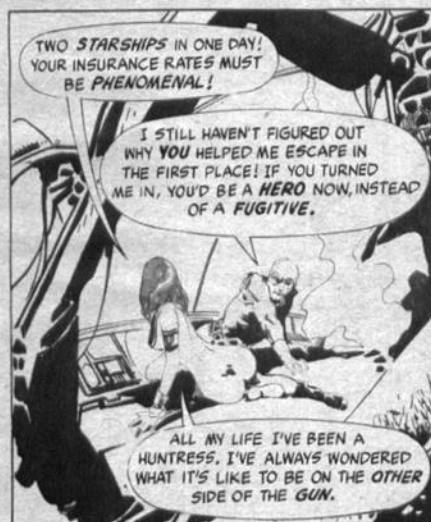






A 'BLACK HOLE' CREATED BY A COLLAPSING STAR, ITS GRAVITATIONAL PULL IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SUCK UP EVEN RAYS OF LIGHT. ONLY BY SHIFTING INTO HYPERSPACE ARE THE PURSUERS ABLE TO AVOID ITS SUCTION.

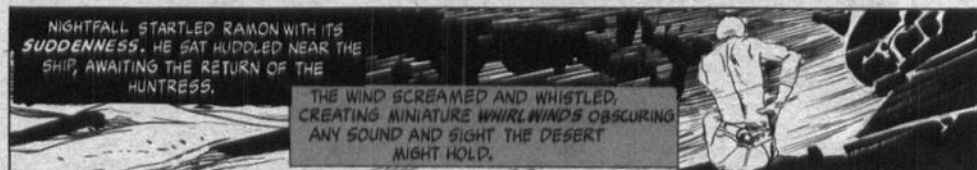
THEY WATCHED IN IRONIC SATISFACTION AS BLACKSTAR AND THE NIGHT HUNTRESS VANISHED INTO THE COSMIC INKWELL...





WAIT, THERE'S SOMETHING!
IT'S ALIEN BUT IT MIGHT BE GOOD
TO EAT. WE'LL TRACK IT. IT MAY
LEAD US TO LARGER GAME...
OR A WATER HOLE.

YOU TRACK IT, WITH
MY LEG IN THIS CONDITION,
I COULDN'T CATCH A JAR
OF SPILLED MOLASSES.



NIGHTFALL STARTLED RAMON WITH ITS
SUDDENNESS. HE SAT Huddled NEAR THE
SHIP, AWAITING THE RETURN OF THE
HUNTRESS.

THE WIND SCREAMED AND WHISTLED,
CREATING MINIATURE WHIRLWINDS OBSCURING
ANY SOUND AND SIGHT. THE DESERT
MIGHT HOLD.



SUDDENLY...

DO NOT MOVE,
INTERLOPER! YOU ARE
POACHING ON ROYAL
PROPERTY! SEIZE
HIM, MEN!

RAMON BLACKSTAR COULD SEE
THEY WERE TOO MANY FOR HIM. HE OFFERED
THE MOST TOKEN OF STRUGGLES
BEFORE HE WAS CARTED AWAY.

AS BLACKSTAR PUZZLED OVER THE
FACT THAT HIS CAPTORS SPOKE HIS
LANGUAGE, ROWENA
CONTEMPLATED HIS DISAPPEARANCE.



THE TRAIL'S
OBSCURED BY THE
SANDSTORM, BUT
WITH THE AID OF MY TRUSTY
THERMATIC NIGHT-
TRACKING DEVICE...

... (WHICH A GOOD
PROFESSIONAL HUNTRESS
ALWAYS CARRIES) I
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO OVERTAKE THEM.



LATER, AS SHE TOPPED THE RISE ...

A CITADEL, ENCLOSED
IN A FORCEFIELD. THEY
PASS THROUGH LIKE
WRAITHS... I ONLY AN
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
COULD CREATE A
WEATHER DOME LIKE
THAT. LUCKILY I'VE
SEEN SIMILAR
TYPES.

SINCE I DON'T HAVE
A MECHANICAL KEY TO
GET ME IN, I'LL HAVE TO
RESCUE RAMON IN A
LESS SUBTLE FASHION...

...BY BLASTING AWAY
ONE OF THE BATTERIES
THAT KEEP THE
FIELD OPERATIVE.

KZZZZZ
SSSSST

A SECTION OF THE
CITADEL (PERFECTLY
CIRCULAR, WITH A TWO
FOOT RADIUS) GLOWED
RED, THEN YELLOW, THEN
WHITE, AND FINALLY
WAS REPLACED BY A
HOLE. THEN ALL
HELL BROKE LOOSE.



WHEN THE MOTLEY BAND IS
PROPERLY DISPOSED OF...

WHAT DID YOU MEAN
KIDNAPPERS?

OUR CITADEL HAS
BEEN WARING WITH THE
DOMED CITY FOR EONS.

YOUR ARRIVAL WAS
PREDICTED BY OUR PROPHETS
GENERATIONS AGO AND EVEN
OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE WAITED
EAGERLY FOR YOU!

BUT THE DOMED
CITY KNEW OF OUR HIGH
COUNCIL'S EXPECTATIONS
AND WERE DETERMINED
TO THWART THEM. YOU
WILL GO BEFORE THE COUNCIL
SOON AND WILL BE TOLD
ALL.

Y-YOU ARE THE
HIGH COUNCIL?
INCREDIBLE! YOU
COULD ALMOST
BE... US!

WE ARE YOU... AT LEAST AN
ALTERNATE YOU. RECENTLY OUR
TECHNOLOGY CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE
OF A DEMENSIONAL WARP, BINDING
OUR REALITIES.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND;
WHAT IS THIS
ALTERNATE
REALITY?

THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU
SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE BUT
HOW CAN WE BOTH EXIST IN
THE SAME REALITY?

WE CAN DO MORE THAN
THAT. IN ANTICIPATION OF
YOUR COMING, OUR SCIENTISTS
DEVELOPED A MACHINE
CAPABLE OF MERGING OUR
DIVIDED NATURES INTO A
UNIFIED SELF.

AN EXISTENCE
PARALLEL TO YOUR
OWN. WE ARE
A PRODUCT OF
THE CHOICES YOU
DID NOT MAKE.
YOU ARE THE
OTHER PATH WE
MIGHT HAVE
TAKEN BUT
NEVER DID.

IMAGINE! THE FIRST HUMANS
TO BE NOT ONLY WHAT THEY
ARE, BUT WHAT THEY MIGHT
HAVE BEEN AS WELL!

THE FIRST STEP IN A NEW COSMIC EVOLUTION IS
TAKEN... A JOURNEY TO THE HEIGHTS OF AWARE-
NESS. TWO IDENTICAL YET OPPOSITE NATURES
FORGE INTO ONE COMPLETE BEING... THE
SCIENTIFIC REINCARNATION
OF ADAM AND EVE.

FOSTER PARENTS OF A NEW SPECIES OF
MAN? FREAKS, POSSESSED BY A DUAL
SOUL, IN CONSTANT
CONFLICT WITH ITSELF?

THEY AWAKEN, AWARE THAT THEY'RE
DIFFERENT; SOMETHING MORE, YET
SOMETHING LESS THAN THEY ONCE WERE.



THEIR DESTINY IS UNCERTAIN,
BUT THEY'VE BOTH FOUND
SOMETHING THEY'VE SPENT
A LIFETIME SEARCHING FOR...
THEMSELVES. FOR THE MOMENT,
THEY ARE CONTENT.

THE PEA GREEN BOAT DUTCHMAN

Shipper of the Pea Green Boat, all there, making this entry.

We have lost track of time since our adventures in the Deep Sea Tomb. The little food we'd found there kept us alive for a little while at least.

Eric isn't doing so well. Dysentery from stagnant water and short rations has left him weak. I don't know how much longer he can last.

A week ago I struck a rusted piece of iron hook through my calf. I think I have Tetanus.

So little is left in this post holocaust world...and only the very strong and fit can survive. I'm afraid Pussycat and I are neither.



There were those of course who were fit... bands of scavengers eager to prey on the weak.



Eric and I had defeated them sort before. But we were stronger then. God helps us if we had to face scavengers now.



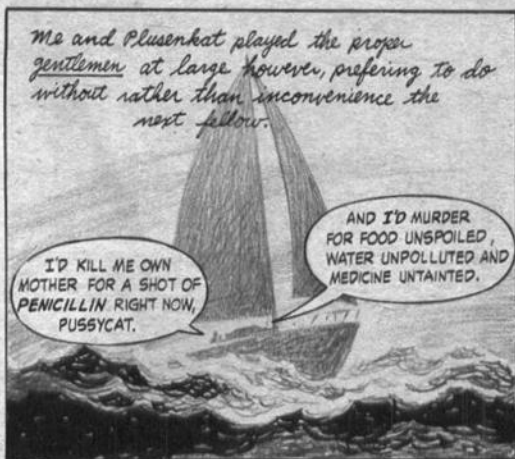


The world had become a violent place filled with violent men...

...all bent on survival, and many of them not squeamish about how they survived.



IT'S ALL OURS NOW, BOY. THANKS FOR BRINGING IT TO US!



Me and Plusenkat played the proper gentlemen at large however, preferring to do without rather than inconvenience the next fellow.

AND I'D MURDER FOR FOOD UNSPOILED, WATER UNPOLLUTED AND MEDICINE UNTAINTED.

I'D KILL ME OWN MOTHER FOR A SHOT OF PENICILLIN. RIGHT NOW, PUSSYCAT.



WHEN I WAS KID, I'D WATCH AN OLD WINO... URINE SOAKED...VILE...PICK-ING RANCID SCRAPS FROM A GARBAGE CAN.

AND I VOWED I'D WORK HARD ALL MY LIFE AND NEVER END UP LIKE THAT TERRIBLE MAN.

NOW THE WHOLE WORLD'S A GARBAGE CAN...WITH PRECIOUS FEW RANCID SCRAPS.



PUSSYCAT! LOOK THERE! TWO POINTS OFF THE STARBOARD BEAM! **LIGHTS!**

RUNNING LIGHTS!



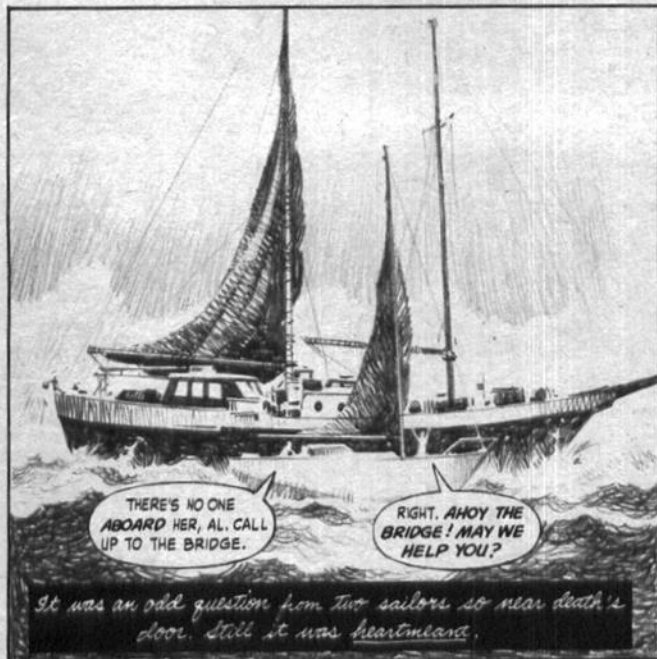
BY GOD! A SHIP!

DING

DING

DING

PIRATES?...OR FOOLS AS DAMNED AS WE?



THERE'S NO ONE
ABOARD HER, AL. CALL
UP TO THE BRIDGE.

RIGHT. AHoy THE
BRIDGE! MAY WE
HELP YOU?

*It was an odd question from two sailors so near death's
door. Still it was heartwarming.*



MAYBE WE CAN
FIND SOMEONE ALIVE
IF WE BOARD HER, EH?

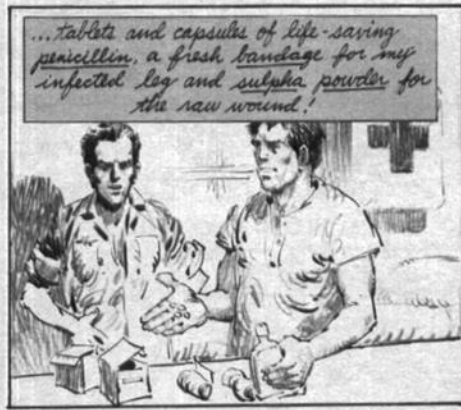
WE CAN
TRY.



PLATES STILL SET
IN THE CREW MESS.

BETTER YET...AND
STRANGER...A HOT POT
OF MULLIGAN STEW, FRESH
AND SAVORY! HOW ABOUT
THAT!?

*No one alive did
we find. But there
was a friend at work.
Threats, hot food
and places set...*



*...tablets and capsules of life-saving
penicillin, a fresh bandage for my
infected leg and sulphur powder for
the raw wound!*

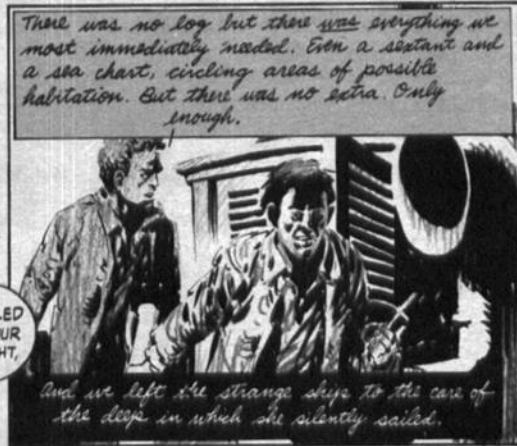


*There was even a change of clothes in the
captain's cabin. We accepted all grate-
fully, then searched for the ship's log.*

IF WE CAN FIND
THE LOG, WE'LL BE ABLE
TO NOTIFY THE PORT SHE
SAILED FROM...IN CASE
ANYBODY'S WONDERING.

IN CASE THERE'S
STILL A PORT SHE SAILED
FROM. BUT...STILL...YOUR
HEART IS IN THE THOUGHT,
SKIPPER.

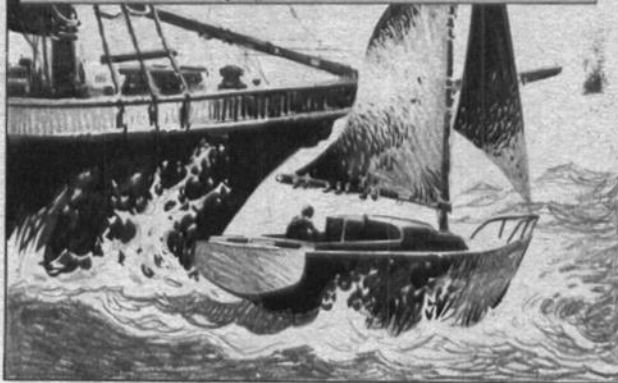
I'M SURE CAPTAIN
AND CREW WOULD HAVE
APPRECIATED YOUR EFFORTS



*There was no log but there was everything we
most immediately needed. Even a sextant and
a sea chart, circling areas of possible
habitation. But there was no extra. Only
enough.*

*And we left the strange ship to the care of
the deep in which she silently sailed.*

With full bellies and treated with healing medicines, we rallied enough strength to batten down. Heavy seas were bringing foul weather.



SEAS! TOO ROUGH!
TEARING ME OFF MY HAND-
HOLDS! THIS MAY BE IT!



LAND! IF WE COULD
GET TO LAND! INLET COVES!
TOO LATE FOR THAT! JUST
PRAY!!

Then we saw it. Light. A light-
house... a signal... hope!

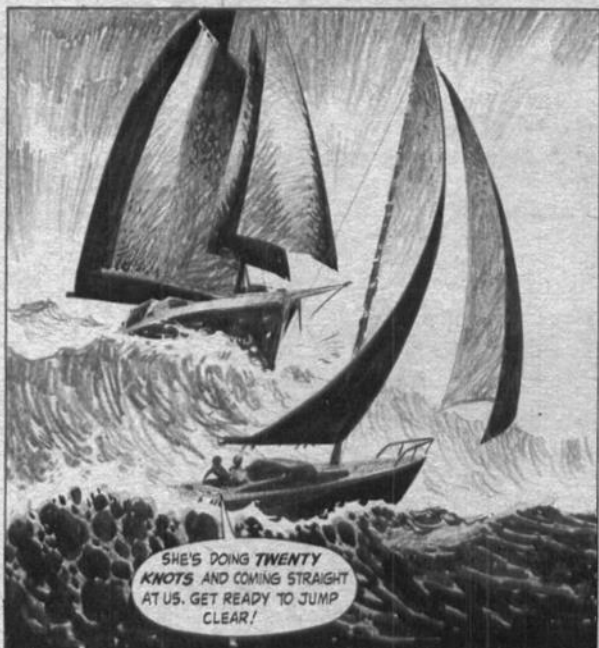


THANK GOD! A LIGHT
ON SHORE! MAKE FOR THE
LIGHT!



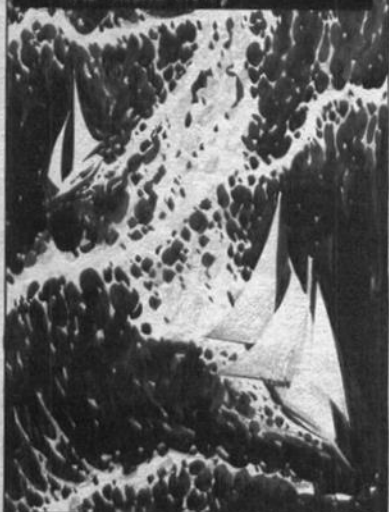
AL! THERE!
ASTERN! A SHIP,
COMING UP HARD
ON US!

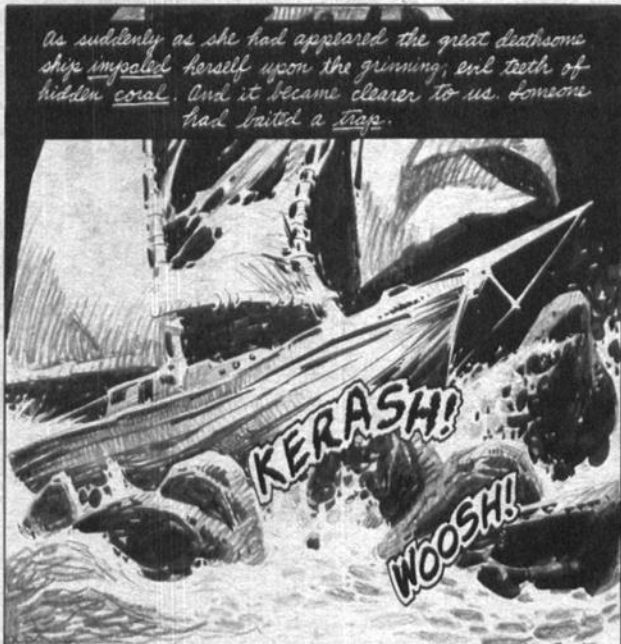
IN THE NAME OF...
IT'S THE GHOST SHIP...
THE LOST SHIP WE FOUND!
BEARING DOWN RIGHT
ATOP US!

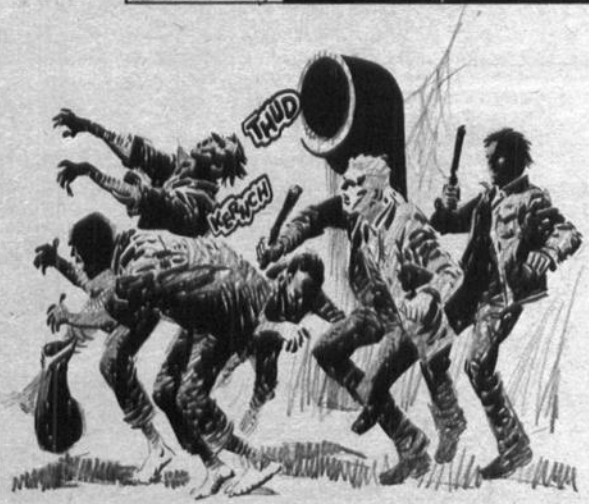


SHE'S DOING TWENTY
KNOTS AND COMING STRAIGHT
AT US. GET READY TO JUMP
CLEAR!

But the silent ship did not mean
to ram us. She merely picked up
the sea green boat in her wake
and gently pushed her aside as
she raced on by.













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I'LL EAT ANYTHING SWEAT AND T-SHIRT



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BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN



Elsa Lanchester and (your favorite monster) Boris Karloff are the incredible starring actors in this very famous horror flick! Frightening and humorous, with the right touches of both whimsy and the Gothic macabre. You'll enjoy this follow up to the original "Frankenstein." Super or Regular 8—Black and White. Order yours! #2228/\$9.95

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We are not in Transylvania but rather in the mystified land of Egypt. Here is where the bandaged ghouls hang out... Dead and buried for who knows how long? But is the Mummy actually dead—or is he in fact—breathing through those bandages? Come a bit closer and see for yourself! B&W in Super and regular 8mm. #2229/\$9.95

FRANKENSTEIN MUST BE DESTROYED



Are you ready for this one? It's all new and all too frightening! The most horrifying "Frankenstein" movie ever filmed! See the most fiendish monster ever conceived! You can view this film in the privacy of your own home... and scream to your heart's content. Super and regular 8 film in Black and White. Order #2234/\$9.95

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This daring movie was one of the most elusive of all the major horror films of the early 1930's. With its great visual style, this film stresses shadowy effects, sharp and angular images. Don't end up in this weird Dr.'s laboratory... You might never get out! Be sure to order Super or regular 8 film. Black & White #2272/\$9.95

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The three headed beast comes face to face to face... with Godzilla, Rodan and Mothra! They are called upon to defend their home planet from the fire breathing baddie from beyond the Stratosphere. Action-packed scenes! Don't dare miss this fantasy movie! Super or regular 8mm. Black and White. Order now! #2282/\$9.95

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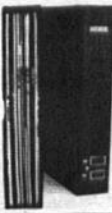


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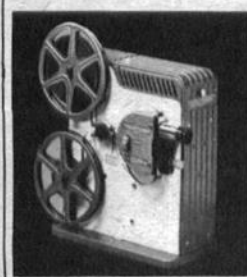
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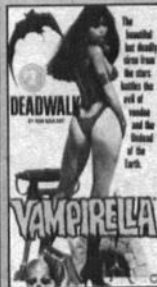
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