

OR
CREEPY

15

A WARREN MAGAZINE 40¢

CREEPY

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JUNE
NO. 15



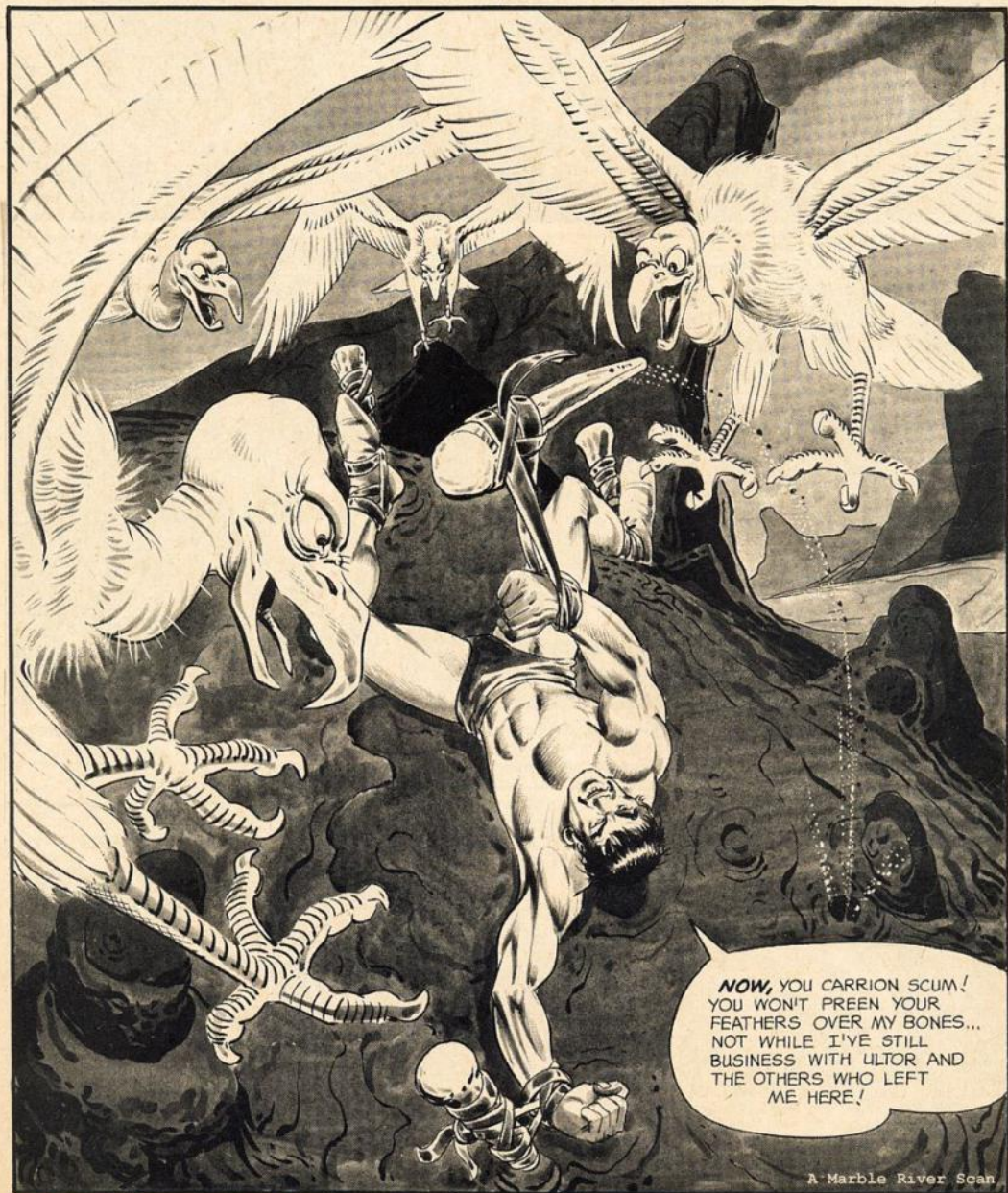
**Monstrous menace from
THE TERROR BEYOND TIME!**



READY FOR SOME FIENDISH FANTASY, FANATICS? BACK WE GO TO A DARK AGE BEYOND
RECORDED HISTORY WHERE EMERGING CIVILIZATION MINGLES WITH SORCERY AND HORROR, AND
THE ONLY THING A MAN CAN COUNT ON IS HIS SWORD... AS YOU'LL SEE WHEN WE VISIT THE...

CITY OF DOOM!

THEY HAD LEFT THANE STAKED OUT TO DIE ON THE BLACK SAND OF THE VOLCANIC WASTELAND, BAIT FOR THE
BEAKS AND TALONS OF THE GREAT ALBINO VULTURES WHICH HUNT THERE... FORGETTING THAT STAKE AND
THONG ARE A POOR MATCH FOR BARBARIAN TEMPER AND STRENGTH, WARRIOR WILL AND DETERMINATION...



NOW, YOU CARRION SCUM!
YOU WON'T PREEN YOUR
FEATHERS OVER MY BONES...
NOT WHILE I'VE STILL
BUSINESS WITH ULTOR AND
THE OTHERS WHO LEFT
ME HERE!

A Marble River Scan

A TORRENT OF RAGE
AT HIS FORMER ASSOCI-
ATES, VENTED ITSELF ON
THE ATTACKING BIRDS...



UNTIL THE ATTACK WAS ENDED...



JOGGING AT A STEADY PACE, THANE STRUCK OUT ACROSS THE ROLLING HILLS AND GULLEYS OF ASHEN BARRENNESS, CONFIDENT OF CATCHING THE SCYTHIAN PARTY BEFORE NIGHTFALL...

THE BARBARIAN'S HARD GREY EYES DARTED TO AN OBJECT THRUSTING OUT OF THE DARK SAND...

THANE GRIPPED THE COLD STIFF FINGERS AND PULLED HARD, EXPECTING TO UNEARTH THE BODY BELOW...

TRAIL ENDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS RAVINE... DID ULTOR'S LADS SUDDENLY GET SMART OR---

EVEN SCYTHIANS AREN'T THAT SLOPPY! SOMEONE'S DONE A HURRIED JOB OF COVERING UP... LET'S SEE WHO THEY'RE HIDING...

BY THOTH!



THANE KICKED AT THE SAND, ENLARGING THE HOLE WHERE HE'D REMOVED HIS GRUESOME DISCOVERY...



HE DUG FURTHER, WIDENING THE AREA...



THE BARBARIAN WHIRLED AS A LITHE FIGURE SCRAMBLED DOWN THE RAVINE WALL TOWARD HIM...



AN ITCH FOR REVENGE TEASED THANE'S SWORD ARM... HE FOLLOWED THE GIRL OUT OF THE RAVINE, AND OVER A RISE OF BLACK ASHEN SAND...



CAUTIOUSLY THEY ADVANCED TO THE SPRAWLING STRUCTURE RISING OUT OF THE DARK WASTELAND...

NO WONDER ULTOR'S BAND GNAWS AT YOUR CITY'S ENTRAILS! IT'S AN OPEN INVITATION... NOT EVEN A GATE!

THE DESERT YIELDS FEW VISITORS...THOSE THAT COME, WE DO NOT WISH TO TURN AWAY...



IT'S TOO QUIET, SCYTHIANS HAVE LITTLE STEALTH. SOMETHING'S WRON---
LIVIA!

GONE! AND HALF A DOZEN PASSAGES SHE MIGHT HAVE TAKEN!



EVERY NERVE TINGLING, THANE CREPT ALONG THE THE WINDING PASSAGE...

THESE WALLS ARE QUEER TO THE TOUCH... MADE OF NO MORTAR I KNOW! EVEN IN THE SHADOWS THERE'S A WARMTH TO THEM...

AND A DIRECTION TO THESE STREETS... THEY LEAD **DOWN** BUT TO...**WHAT?**



LIVIA LEAD THANE FORWARD...THE STREETS WERE NARROW, TWISTING AND CURVING THROUGH ARCHES AND PASSAGeways IN A CONTINUOUS FLOW...

NOW YOU'RE PAYING FOR YOUR TRUST! YOUR **KADITH** IS STRANGE, PRIESTESS... I'M SURPRISED THAT ONE-EYED ROGUE AND HIS BAND OF JACKALS COULD MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THIS MAZE...



SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE WAS A SHUFFLING OR RUNNING. THANE PLUNGED THROUGH THE NEAREST ARCH TO THE SOUND, RACING ALONG WINDING STREETS AND LINKING CORRIDORS...

CURSE ME FOR A HOT-HEADED FOOL! ONE WAY LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER... THAT DOE-EYED WENCH HAS PUT ME IN A NEAT TRAP!



THOTH'S BLOOD!



DROOLING AND GRUNTING WITH A FERVOR MORE OF ANIMALS THAN MEN, THE WILD-EYED HORDE SWEEPED FORWARD... INTO A WHIRLWIND OF FLASHING STEEL CREATED BY THE GIANT BARBARIAN!

I KNOW THOSE SHARP TEETH AND THE STENCH OF DEATH UPON THEM! THESE MIGHT ONCE HAVE BEEN MEN, BUT NOW THEY'RE **FEASTERS ON FLESH!**

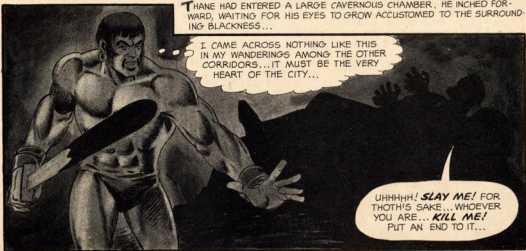


THE GHOULISH ATTACKERS SWARMED AROUND HIM! UNABLE TO DRAW BACK, THANE CHARGED FORWARD HEWING A SWATH THROUGH THEIR MIDST, UNTIL HE COULD RUN FREELY DOWN THE LARGE DARK PASSAGE FROM WHICH THEY HAD COME, LEAVING ENOUGH DEAD OR WOUNDED TO HAMPER IMMEDIATE PURSUIT!



THANE HAD ENTERED A LARGE CAVERNOUS CHAMBER. HE INCHED FORWARD, WAITING FOR HIS EYES TO GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THE SURROUNDING BLACKNESS...

I CAME ACROSS NOTHING LIKE THIS IN MY WANDERINGS AMONG THE OTHER CORRIDORS...IT MUST BE THE VERY HEART OF THE CITY...



UHHHHH! **SLAY ME!** FOR THOTH'S SAKE... WHOEVER YOU ARE... **KILL ME!** PUT AN END TO IT...



I **KNOW** THAT VOICE...
THAT GUTTURAL WHINE!
ULTOR! I FEARED THE
GHOULISH CITIZENS OF
KADITH HAD ROBBED ME OF
THIS MOMENT...THAT YOU MIGHT
BE DEAD...

THANE! YOU
BARBARIAN SCUM...
I WISH I WERE!
TAKE YOUR
REVENGE...
QUICKLY!
KILL ME!



IN GOOD TIME, **ULTOR**,
OLD COMRADE...FIRST
TELL ME OF THE PLUNDER!
WHERE IS IT? WHAT HAVE
THEY DONE WITH IT?

FORGET THE PLUNDER,
YOU FOOL! **MAKE**
AN END TO ME!
YOU'VE LITTLE
ENOUGH TIME TILL
YOU WIND UP
SAME AS ME!

TORCHLIGHT SUDDENLY
ILLUMINATED THE CHAM-
BER, AND EVEN **THANE'S**
HARDENED WARRIOR'S
MIND REELED AT THE
VISION BEFORE HIM,
OF THE LEECHLIKE
MASS OF WRITHING
FLESH SUCKLING AT
THE SHRIeking
SCYTHIAN'S LIFEBLOOD,
AS **LIVIA'S** VOICE
ECHOED ABOUT HIM...



HE SPEAKS TRUE, MY
BRAVE BARBARIAN! YOU'RE
TRAPPED HERE EVEN AS
I LEAD HIS BAND INTO
AMBUSH IN THE RAVINE!
WHEN HIS BLOOD EBBS,
YOURS SHALL REPLACE IT!



ULTOR'S CARCASS SHALL BE A FEAST FOR THE
SERVANTS OF **KADITH!** AS WAS HIS MENS', AS
WILL YOURS! AND YOUR BLOOD WILL FEED THE
LIVING ALTAR, THE MIGHTY HEART...

UNTIL IT COURSES
THROUGH THE VERY
WALLS OF AROUND
US, AS HAS THE
BLOOD OF OTHERS
FOR CENTURIES!



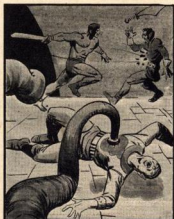
...NOURISHING THE VERY
STRUCTURE OF **KADITH**...
MIGHTY KADITH,
WHOSE WALLS ARE FLESH!
MIGHTY KADITH, THE
LIVING CITY!

DEMON PRIESTESS!
A STROKE FOR
ULTOR, AND THE
NEXT FOR **YOU!**

ULTOR MOANED AS DEATH MERCIFULLY CLAIMED HIM, AND SUDDENLY THE CHAMBER WAS PLUNGED INTO BLACKNESS BEFORE THANE COULD CHARGE THE MOCKING PRIESTESS...



ALL THOUGHTS VANISHED, AND IN THE DARKNESS, THANE BECAME A KILLING MACHINE! BLOOD FLOWED FREELY AND THE EVER THIRSTING TENTACLES OF KADITH'S HEART SNAKED THROUGH THE CHAMBER FALLING ON WOUNDED AND DEAD...



AN ORGY OF BLOODLUST DROVE THE GREAT LIVING ENTITY THAT WAS KADITH MAD! ANY TOUCHED BY BLOOD PERISHED, AND ANY IN THE SWORDPLAY WERE TOUCHED!





As the flashing blade sliced downward, Thane turned to the side, and the priestess of Kadith fell forward, carried by the violence of her own movement toward the gleaming dagger point now twisted in her hand...



The sound of terrible screams followed Thane as he moved further and further from the dark chamber and its horrors, determinedly edging through the maze of streets and corridors by trial and error until black sand was beneath his feet and the living walls of Kadith behind him...



A CONVULSIVE SHUDDER SHOOK THE VERY WALLS OF THE CHAMBER, THE TENTACLE STIFFENED, AND THANE WAS WRUNCHED AWAY FROM THE DEEP BURIED SWORD, SENT TUMBLING INTO THE DARK...



BLASPHEMOUS BARBARIAN! MY DAGGER WILL CARVE THE WAY FOR KADITH'S ARMS!

Thane leaped for the curved entrance to the chamber, allowing himself one quick glance backward where the recovering heart once more sent slithering feelers toward fresh blood...



THAT'S WHAT KADITH GETS FOR SETTING UP IN SUCH A LOUSY LOCATION... A CITY SHOULD BE MORE IN THE MAINSTREAM, OR IN ITS CASE, **BLOOD-STREAM!** OH WELL, SINCE WE'VE **ALREADY** COVERED THE **HEART** OF THE MATTER, LET'S EXTEND A TENTACLE INTO MY NEXT YARN!





JOIN ME HERE IN THE *GRIZZLY GRANDSTAND*, SPORTS FIENDS, THE BIG GAME IS ABOUT TO START AND I WANT ALL YOU *JOLTING GYMNASTS* IN THERE ROOTING FOR...

ADAM LINK, CHAMPION ATHLETE!

UNDERWORLD BOSS HARVEY BRIGG AND HIS HENCHMEN HAD TRAPPED ME, DESTROYED MY ARMS AND LEGS AND THEN HAD FIENDISHLY STARTED HEATING MY SKULL CASE WITH A BLOWTORCH. MY IRIDIUM-SPONGE BRAIN WAS IN DANGER OF MELTING! MY MIND WHIRLING, I IMAGINED I SAW EVE, THOUGH I KNEW SHE WAS IN JAIL...



ADAM, WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO YOU?

EEYAAAAH!
THE OTHER ROBOT!

HOW COULD EVE BE HERE? SHE'S CHAINED IN A CELL! TERRIBLE HEAT...
GASP!.. ELECTRONIC PAIN...

A Marble River Scan

ART BY JOE ORLANDO/SCRIPT BY EANDO BINDER FROM HIS ORIGINAL STORY

I PICKED UP YOUR AGONIZED THOUGHTS THROUGH RADIO-TELEPATHY CONTACT, ADAM. SO I BROKE MY CHAINS, WRENCHED THE CELL DOOR OFF AND RAN HERE AT EXPRESS-TRAIN SPEED!



BUT... BUT ADAM DOESN'T ANSWER... OR MOVE! **YOU KILLED HIM, YOU HUMAN FIENDS!**



REVENGE!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

MY LOCOMOTOR CENTER IS HEAT-WARPED AND I CAN'T SPEAK OR MOVE! EVE WILL MANGLE THEM... MISTAKENLY... AND BE HUNTED DOWN AS A KILLER. **EVE... DON'T...**



EVEN THE POLICE COULD NOT STOP EVE... BRIGG KNEW THAT!

BUT SIRENS HAD BEEN WAILING AND THE POLICE BURST IN...

S-SAVE ME FROM THIS METAL MONSTER! I'LL CONFESS... ONLY DON'T LET HER GET ME!



HARVEY BRIGG WAS INDICTED AND EVENTUALLY CONVICTED. LATER, OUR FRIENDS TOM LINK, JACK HALL AND KAY HELPED US CELEBRATE IN OUR OZARK HIDEAWAY. EVE WAS BACK TO HER NORMAL-SIZED ROBOT BODY AND HAD BUILT NEW ARMS AND LEGS FOR ME. ONLY ONE THING MARRIED OUR JOY...

I TELL YOU, ADAM, I WAS **NOT** OUT OF MY SENSES. I WAS ONLY TRYING TO SCARE A CONFESSION OUT OF HARVEY BRIGG!

A LIKELY STORY, EVE! YOU WERE GOING BERSERK!

EVE IS INNOCENT OF THE DEERING-PUCCELLI KILLINGS... MY GANG DID THEM!

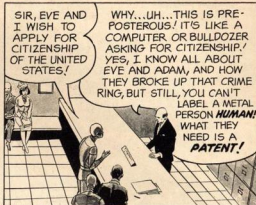


EVE! MY VOICE CAME BACK... I'M ALIVE! LET HIM GO! ALL WE WANTED WAS HIS CONFESSION.





A WEEK LATER, ALONG WITH JACK HALL, WE WERE IN THE CITIZENSHIP BUREAU...



AND SO, AT THE NEXT INDIANAPOLIS RACING CLASSIC...



THEN AS I CAME UP BEHIND THE PACK...

A CAR OVERTURNED... DRIVER SPILLED
ONTO THE TRACK... NO HUMAN DRIVER
COULD AVOID RUNNING OVER HIM!

SCREEEECH!

...BUT I WRENCHED THE
WHEEL HARD ENOUGH!
ONLY TWO TIRES BLOWN
OUT... A SHORT PIT STOP
TO CHANGE THEM, AND I'D
STILL WIN THE RACE!

AFTER THE RACE...

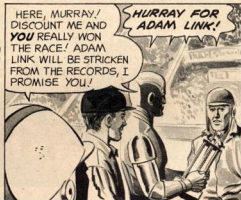
THE WINNER BY FIVE
LAPS ... **ADAM LINK!**

IT'S UNFAIR! HOW
COULD WE WIN AGAINST
A **MACHINE?** IT WAS AN
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONTEST!

OH, OH! THIS
IS BAD... THE
OPPOSITE RE-
ACTION FROM
WHAT WE
WANTED!

HERE, MURRAY!
DISCOUNT ME AND
YOU REALLY WON
THE RACE! ADAM
LINK WILL BE STRICKEN
FROM THE RECORDS, I
PROMISE YOU!

**HURRAY FOR
ADAM LINK!**



LATER...

YOUR GESTURE
WON THE DAY, ADAM! LOOK,
PEOPLE ARE ON YOUR SIDE!



EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE COLUMN-
IST, BART OLIVER, WHO SEEMS
AGAINST ME. LISTEN-- "WHY
DID ADAM LINK EVEN USE A
RACING CAR? HE COULD HAVE
RUN AROUND THE TRACK HIM-
SELF AND WON! RACING **MA-
CHINES** AGAINST HUMAN IS THE
OPPOSITE OF SPORTSMANSHIP
... WHEN THE MACHINE CAN'T
LOSE!



NEXT JACK ENTERED ME IN
THE BOWLING CONGRESS...

THREE PERFECT GAMES IN
A ROW! **ADAM LINK** IS THE
WORLD'S BOWLING CHAMP!
YOU MUST HAVE
PRACTICED
HARD!

PRACTICED?
THE FIRST TIME
I EVER THREW A
BOWLING BALL WAS
TONIGHT!



LATER, A SHADY CHARACTER APPROACHED ME AND...

PSSST, LINK! WE COULD BOTH MAKE A LOTTA DOUGH IF YOU'D **THROW** THE NEXT CONTEST... HOW ABOUT IT?

WHY, YOU...



THE HEADLINES THAT NIGHT WERE HEART-WARMING...



JACK, HE DENIES I'M HUMAN IN MY FEELINGS! HE SAYS, ADAM LINK CLAIMS TO HAVE HUMAN FEELINGS BUT HE **ISN'T** HUMAN... HE TURNED DOWN A BIG BRIBE!

YOU TIN IDIOT! THAT'S ONLY A **JOKE!** HE'S REALLY PRAISING YOU!



A ROBOT WILL NEVER CHEAT, YOU SCOUNDREL!

HEY, THAT'S JIM BRODY... RUNS A BIG GAMBLING RING! GOOD THING YOU REFUSED TO DEAL WITH HIM, ADAM!



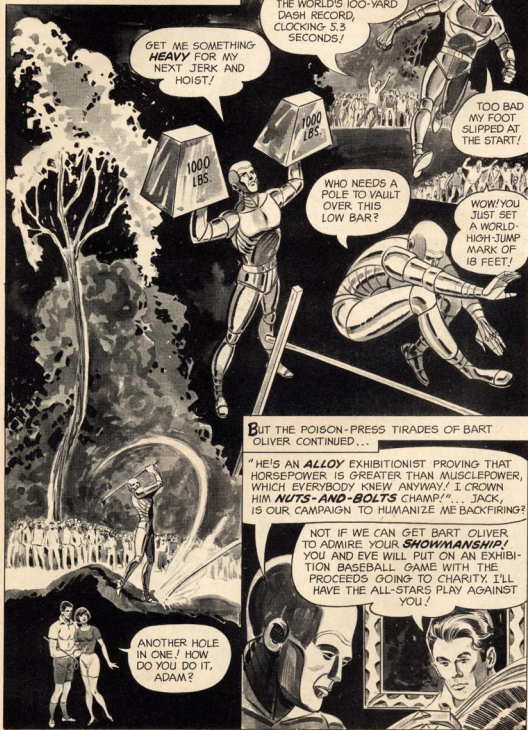
BUT BART OLIVER AGAIN AGAIN PUT A SINISTER TWIST TO IT...

"WHAT A CHEAP WAY FOR ADAM LINK TO TRY TO SHOW HE HAS INTEGRITY! THE WHOLE EPISODE WAS PROBABLY DREAMED UP BY HIS PRESS AGENT!"

WHY, THAT BIG-MOUTHED BABOON... HE MEANS **ME!** ADAM, HE'S A TOUGH CUSTOMER TO WIN ON OUR SIDE, BUT HE'S IMPORTANT. HIS COLUMN IS READ NATION-WIDE!



JACK CONTINUED BOOKING ME IN SPORTS CONTESTS, HOPING MY ATHLETIC ABILITIES WOULD WIN PEOPLE'S ADMIRATION...



GET ME SOMETHING
HEAVY FOR MY
NEXT JERK AND
HOIST!

ADAM LINK BROKE
THE WORLD'S 100-YARD
DASH RECORD,
CLOCKING 5.3
SECONDS!

TOO BAD
MY FOOT
SLIPPED AT
THE START!

WHO NEEDS A
POLE TO VAULT
OVER THIS
LOW BAR?

WOW! YOU
JUST SET
A WORLD-
HIGH-JUMP
MARK OF
18 FEET!

BUT THE POISON-PRESS TIRADES OF BART OLIVER CONTINUED...

"HE'S AN **ALLOY** EXHIBITIONIST PROVING THAT HORSEPOWER IS GREATER THAN MUSCLEPOWER, WHICH EVERYBODY KNEW ANYWAY! I CROWN HIM **NUTS-AND-BOLTS** CHAMP!"... JACK, IS OUR CAMPAIGN TO HUMANIZE ME BACKFIRING?

NOT IF WE CAN GET BART OLIVER TO ADMIRE YOUR **SHOWMANSHIP!** YOU AND EVE WILL PUT ON AN EXHIBITION BASEBALL GAME WITH THE PROCEEDS GOING TO CHARITY. I'LL HAVE THE ALL-STARS PLAY AGAINST YOU!

ANOTHER HOLE
IN ONE! HOW
DO YOU DO IT,
ADAM?

LATER, AT THE GAME, IT WAS MY TURN TO BAT...

YIPES! A HOME RUN ON THE FIRST PITCH! THAT BALL IS GOING TO ORBIT!



EVE DID IT MORE SUBTLY...

SHE HIT A SINGLE!

WHY DID YOU THROW IT TO ME ON FIRST? SHE'S ALREADY HEADING FOR HOME!



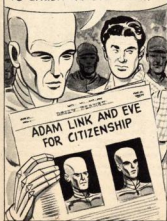
AFTER OUR VICTORY, A FIGURE WITH BURNING EYES AND A CYNICAL LEER APPROACHED US...

BART OLIVER, THE COLUMNIST! COME TO RAKE US OVER THE COALS AGAIN? WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST ADAM LINK?

NOTHING ... EXCEPT I DON'T WANT **ROBOT** CITIZENS AROUND! IF ADAM LINK BECOMES A CITIZEN, HE'LL MAKE MORE **ROBOT** CITIZENS AND SOMEDAY THEY'LL **OUTVOTE** THE HUMANS! THAT'S THE DANGER!



RIDICULOUS! AND I THINK YOU'VE LOST OUT TRYING TO CRUSH MY DREAMS...



DESPITE YOUR POISON PEN, PEOPLE ARE **WITH US**! MY FONDEST DREAM IS COMING TRUE! EVE AND I WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE HUMANS AS THEIR EQUALS AND THEIR FRIEND!

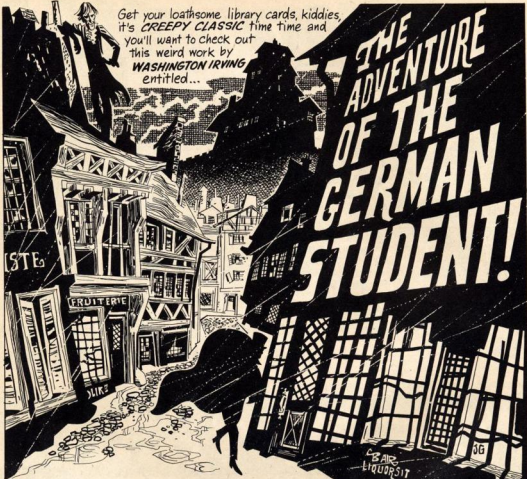


LOOKS LIKE THE **BEAST** BALL GAME SERVED ITS PURPOSE, BUT WITH OUR **MECHANICAL MARVEL**, WHO CAN BE CERTAIN WHAT'S AHEAD IN THE **FEARFUL FUTURE**??



Get your loathsome library cards, kiddies,
it's **CREEPY CLASSIC** time and
you'll want to check out
this weird work by
WASHINGTON IRVING
entitled...

THE ADVENTURE OF THE GERMAN STUDENT!



THE LIGHTNING GLEAMED AND LOUD CLAPS OF THUNDER RATTLED
THROUGH THE LOFTY NARROW STREETS OF PARIS'S OLD SECTION...A
CLOAKED FIGURE BENT INTO THE LASHING TORRENT, SCURRYING OVER THE
PUDDLED COBBLESTONE TOWARD THE SOLITARY GLOW OF A TAVERN LIGHT...

GOOD EVENING, MONSIEUR!
A TERRIBLE STORM...I HOPE
YOU DIDN'T COME FAR!

NOT FAR...ONLY
UP THE STREET.
A COGNAC, PLEASE!



A Marble River Scan

UP THE STREET? BUT THE
ONLY THING UP THE
STREET IS THE...THE...

...**THE
ASYLUM!**



FORGIVE MY CURIOSITY,
MONSIEUR, BUT WHAT
POSSESSES A MAN TO
VISIT THE MADHOUSE ON
A NIGHT SUCH AS THIS?

WHAT *POSSESSES*
A MAN...?



WHY DO YOU ASK
THAT? WHAT DO
YOU KNOW OF
POSSESSION
OF MEN?



N-NOTHING, MONSIEUR
... A CHANCE CHOICE
OF WORDS... I---

NOTHING? THEN PER-
HAPS YOU MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN A STORY
I HEARD TONIGHT...



I'M A MEDICAL EXAMINER. OFFICIAL
DUTIES BROUGHT ME TO THE ASYLUM...
THAT'S WHERE I LEARNED ABOUT A YOUNG
GERMAN... A STUDENT... *GOTTFRIED
WOLFGANG...*



A YOUNG MAN OF GOOD FAMILY, HE STUDIED FOR SOME TIME AT GOTTINGEN, BUT BEING OF AN
IMAGINATIVE AND OVERWROUGHT CHARACTER, HE WANDERED INTO WILD AND SPECULATIVE DOCTRINES
...EVENTUALLY TAKING UP THE NOTION THAT THERE WAS AN EVIL INFLUENCE HANGING OVER HIM; AN EVIL
SPIRIT SEEKING TO ENSNARE HIM AND ENSURE HIS PERDITION...

HIS FRIENDS DISCOVERED THE MENTAL MALADY PREYING UPON HIM AND DETERMINED THE BEST CURE WAS TO FINISH HIS STUDIES AMID THE SPLENDORS AND GAITIES OF PARIS...BUT WOLFGANG ARRIVED AT THE OUT-BREAK OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE SCENES OF BLOOD WHICH FOLLOWED SHOCKED HIS SENSITIVE NATURE, DISGUSTED HIM WITH SOCIETY AND THE WORLD...



HE RETREATED TO GLOOMY INTROSPECTION AND PURSUING HIS MORBID THEORIES IN THE GREAT PARIS LIBRARIES, QUESTING AFTER FOOD FOR HIS UNHEALTHY APPETITE, BECOMING A LITERARY GHOUL FEEDING IN THE CHARNEL HOUSE OF DEAD LITERATURE...



TOO SHY TO APPROACH GIRLS, HIS ARDENT NATURE THRUST A LOVELY, BUT HAUNTING VISION UPON HIM... A FACE OF TRANSCENDENT BEAUTY THAT FILLED HIS DREAMS OVER AND OVER... A SHADOW WHICH BECAME ONE OF THESE FIXED IDEAS THAT HAUNT THE MINDS OF MELANCHOLY MEN AND IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR MADNESS!

SUCH WAS GOTTFRIED WOLFGANG'S SITUATION WHEN, LATE ONE STORMY NIGHT, HE WAS RETURNING HOME THROUGH SOME OF THE GLOOMY OLD STREETS OF THE MARAIS, AN ANCIENT PART OF THE CITY...



HIS HEART SICKENED WITHIN HIM, AND WOLFGANG WAS TURNING SHUDDERING FROM THE HORRIBLE ENGINE, WHEN HE GLIMPSED A SHADOWY FORM COWERING AT THE FOOT OF THE STEPS WHICH LED UP TO THE SCAFFOLD...



LIGHTNING QUIVERED ABOUT THE PINNACLES OF THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS AND SHED FLICKERING GLEAMS OVER THE SQUARE... WOLFGANG STOPPED SHORT IN HORROR AT FINDING HIMSELF CLOSE TO THE GUILLOTINE. IT WAS THE HEIGHT OF TERROR AND THE DREADFUL INSTRUMENT OF DEATH STOOD EVER READY...

NOT EVEN THE RAIN CAN WASH AWAY THE STAINS OF TODAY'S CARNAGE... **GOTT!** AND STILL IT WAITS FOR TOMORROW'S FRESH VICTIMS...

A SUCCESSION OF VIVID LIGHTNING FLASHES REVEALED THE CROUCHING FORM MORE CLEARLY AS WOLFGANG STUMBLED FORWARD IN WONDER... THE BRIGHT GLARE ILLUMINATED THE UPRaised FACE, THE VERY FACE WHICH HAUNTED HIM IN HIS DREAMS... WILD-EYED, PALE AND DISCONSOLATE, BUT RAVISHINGLY BEAUTIFUL!



GOTTFRIED KNEW THESE WERE TERRIBLE TIMES...
THE GUILLOTINE LEFT MANY MOURNERS...MANY
DESOLATE AND ALONE...

YOUR PARDON, MISS... IS... IS
THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO
FOR YOU?

DO? IT'S TOO
LATE FOR ANY-
THING TO BE
DONE!

IT'S SUCH A LATE HOUR,
THE STORM SO TERRIBLE...
AREN'T THERE FRIENDS I
CAN TAKE YOU TO?

T-THIS... HAS
LEFT ME NO
FRIENDS ON
EARTH!

THE HEART OF THE STUDENT MELTED AT HER WORDS...

B-BUT... YOU
MUST HAVE
A HOME...

I HAVE NOTHING!
THE ONLY PLACE
LEFT ME IS THE
GRAVE!

YOU MUST LET ME OFFER
SHELTER; MYSELF AS A
DEVOTED FRIEND... I AM
FRIENDLESS MYSELF, A
STRANGER IN PARIS
...ALL I HAVE IS AT
YOUR DISPOSAL!

THERE WAS AN HONEST EARNESTNESS IN THE YOUNG MAN'S MANNER THAT HAD ITS EFFECT. THE HOME-
LESS GIRL CONFIDED HERSELF IMPLICITLY TO THE PROTECTION OF THE STUDENT, AND WOLFGANG CON-
DUCTED HIS CHARGE THROUGH THE ANCIENT STREETS, PAST THE SORBONNE... TO THE GREAT DINGY
HOTEL WHERE HE LIVED...

I MUST APOLOGIZE... IT IS QUITE
SMALL, WITHOUT ELEGANCE... NATURALLY,
IT IS MY INTENTION TO MOVE OUT, LEAVE
IT FOR YOU AND... AND...



THE GIRL'S PRESENCE OVERWHELMED HIM, SEEMED TO PUT A SPELL ON HIS THOUGHTS AND SENSES... IN THE INFATUATION OF THE MOMENT, WOLFGANG AVOwed HIS PASSION FOR HER, TOLD THE STORY OF HIS MYSTERIOUS DREAM, AND HOW SHE POSSESSED HIS HEART BEFORE HE HAD EVEN SEEN HER...

WHY SHOULD WE SEPARATE? YOU'VE NO HOME, NO FAMILY... LET **ME** BE EVERYTHING... I'LL PLEDGE MYSELF TO YOU...

I... I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME, GOTTFRIED... IT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!

FOREVER?

FOREVER!

...THEN I AM YOURS!

THE NEXT MORNING WOLFGANG LEFT THE GIRL SLEEPING AND SALLIED FORTH AT AN EARLY HOUR TO SEEK MORE SPACIOUS APARTMENTS SUITABLE TO THE NEW SITUATION. HE RETURNED TO FIND HER IN AN UNEASY POSTURE, HER FACE PALLID AND GHASTLY...

DARLING? **DARLING?** OH, NO... **NOOOOOOO!**

...IN A WORD, SHE WAS A CORPSE!



AS THE OFFICER IN CHARGE ENTERED THE ROOM, HE STARTED BACK ON BEHOLDING THE CORPSE...



MON DIEU! HOW
DID THIS WOMAN
COME HERE?

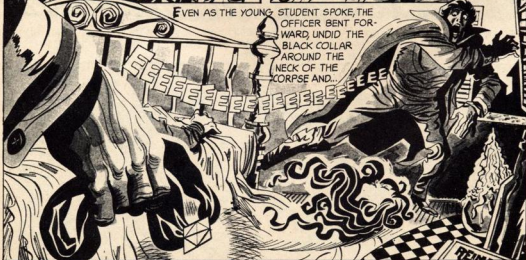
YOU...YOU
KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT
HER?



I KNOW, MONSIEUR,
SHE WAS
GUILLOTINED
YESTERDAY!

NO... NO...
IT CAN'T
B...

EVEN AS THE YOUNG STUDENT SPOKE, THE OFFICER BENT FORWARD, UNDOED THE BLACK COLLAR AROUND THE NECK OF THE CORPSE AND...



THEY TRIED TO SOOTHE HIM, BUT IN VAIN. HE WAS POSSESSED WITH THE FRIGHTFUL BELIEF THAT AN EVIL SPIRIT HAD REANIMATED THE DEAD BODY TO ENSNARE HIM... A BELIEF WHICH PERSISTED INTO THE MAD HOUSE!

THE FIEND! THE FIEND HAS GAINED **POSSESSION** OF ME! I'M LOST FOREVER!



SURELY, MONSIEUR, AN EDUCATED MAN LIKE YOURSELF DOES NOT BELIEVE SUCH A TALE... OBVIOUSLY THE STUDENT IN HIS MADNESS ROBBED A GRAVE TO OBTAIN THE CORPSE!...

PERHAPS, WE SHALL NEVER KNOW. I WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE GOTTFRIED WOLFGANG DIED TONIGHT. I MADE OUT THE CERTIFICATE...

AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES...?

HEART FAILURE, DEAD WHEN THE STAFF FOUND HIM IN HIS SOLITARY CELL. HE'D BEEN SCREAMING ALL EVENING, MORE VIOLENTLY THAN USUAL. INSISTED THEY SAVE HIM FROM BEING POSSESSED, TAKEN BY THE FIEND!

HIS OWN MAD FEARS BURST HIS HEART, SO I WOULD THINK... NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EH, MONSIEUR EXAMINER?

PRACTICALLY NOTHING... ONLY THIS BESIDE HIS CORPSE!



WELL, NO MATTER WHAT POSSESSED YOUNG WOLFGANG TO GET INVOLVED, HE'S SHOULD BE FLATTERED TO HAVE A GIRL LOSE HER HEAD OVER HIM THAT WAY! NOW YOU BETTER **HEAD** FOR MY NEXT NAUSEATING NOVELETTE.





HELLO, OUT THERE! HEE! READY FOR ANOTHER RING-A-DING GO-ROUND? HEE, HEE! THEN WAVE GOOD-BYE TO YOUR FRIENDS AND LET'S BE OFF, FOR WE TRAVEL NOW TO EUROPE, TO A CITY OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS WHERE WE WATCH A MAN TEMPT FATE, ON...

the RIVER!



SOUFLION, GREECE...
A CITY LONG SINCE LOST IN
THE RAVAGES OF TIME. IN
THE DARKNESS OF ITS
SHADOWS HUDDLE FEARS
AND SUPERSTITIONS
COUNTLESS YEARS OLD, NOR
HAS ANY BY-GONE ERA TRULY
LOST ITS HOLD ON THE MINDS OF
THOSE LIVING HERE TODAY. FOR
TODAY THERE IS STILL SQUALOR
AND CRUELTY, LUST AND GREED,
VIOLENCE AND DEATH... AND THE
DEEPENING NIGHT STILL ECHOS
WITH THE HURRYING FOOTSTEPS
OF THE DOOMED!

Johnny Craig
A Marble River Scene

WAIT, STEFAN, WAIT!
THIS IS MADNESS!
WE WILL NEVER
MAKE IT! THE GOLD...
IT IS TOO HEAVY!
IT SLOWS US
DOWN!

RUN, YOU YOUNG PUP!
RUN! WE **HAVE** TO MAKE
IT! WITH THIS GOLD, ALL
OUR DREAMS WILL BE
ANSWERED... ONCE WE
CROSS THE RIVER EVROS!
RUN!

I AM
EXHAUSTED! AND
THE POLICE ARE CLOSE
BEHIND, STEFAN! LET
US LEAVE THIS GOLD
AND SAVE
OURSELVES!

NEVER! I HAVE
SUFFERED TOO MANY YEARS
TO LOSE THESE RICHES NOW!
TOO MANY YEARS HAVE I
WAITED AND HUNGERED
AND PLANNED FOR SUCH
A MOMENT AS THIS!

PLANNED, YOU
SAY? **PFAN!** A STUPID
PLAN! AND I WAS STUPID
TO THROW IN WITH YOU!
WHY WAS I SO WEAK TO
THINK YOU KNEW WHAT
YOU WERE DOING?

WE HAVE
THE GOLD, NO?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER
HOW MANY I KILLED,
WHEN JUST A LITTLE
FURTHER... THE BOAT
IS WAITING, IS IT
NOT?

YES, THE BOAT
IS WAITING (GASP!)
BUT I DO NOT THINK
I CAN REACH IT! I
BEG YOU, STEFAN!
LET US FORGET THIS
WICKED GOLD!

ENOUGH! I SHOULD
HAVE GUESSED YOU DID
NOT HAVE THE COURAGE!
I HAND YOU A FORTUNE
AND YOU CRY LIKE
A BABY!

YOU HAND ME A HANGMAN'S
NOOSE! (GASP!) YOU SAID
THIS WOULD BE EASY! YOU
SAID THERE WOULD BE NO
KILLING! I DON'T WANT TO
DIE FOR WHAT YOU DID!
I DON'T WANT THIS GOLD!
(GASP!)

BE QUIET! SEE!
THE RIVER IS
JUST AHEAD!
HURRY!

NO, NO! IT IS NO GOOD! THE GODS ARE AGAINST US! THEY WILL NEVER ALLOW US TO CROSS THE RIVER SAFELY! NOT WITH THIS GOLD! I'LL CARRY IT NO FURTHER!

COME, I SAY! THE BOAT LIES JUST AHEAD! DON'T JUST **STAND THERE!** **HURRY!**



NO...NO...I CAN RUN NO MORE... I'LL SWIM FROM HERE...OUR ONLY CHANCE!

YOU COWARD! YOU'LL NOT GET OFF THAT EASY!



HALT!

BLASTED POLICE! NEARER THAN I THOUGHT! WELL, THEY'LL NOT CATCH ME! ONCE OUT IN THE DARKNESS OF THE RIVER, I'LL LOSE THEM!

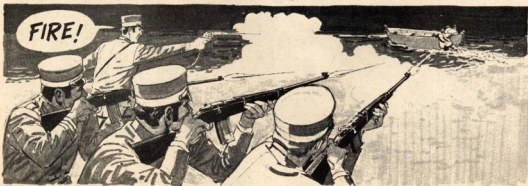


HALT, OR WE'LL SHOOT!

GO AHEAD AND SHOOT! ANOTHER MOMENT AND I'LL BE AWAY! I'VE WAITED ALL MY LIFE FOR THIS CHANCE! NONE CAN TAKE IT FROM ME!



FIRE!





@@!!Wah!!@@!
ALL I NEEDED WAS
ANOTHER MINUTE! NOW
I'VE LOST THE GOLD!
AND IF I SHOW MY
HEAD ABOVE WATER,
THEY'LL KILL ME!
GOT TO STAY UNDER!

DESPERATELY, STEFAN
HELD HIS BREATH AND
SWAM FOR LONG,
ENDLESS MOMENTS.
HE STAYED UNDER THE
BLACK MANTLE OF
WATER, STROKING
FURIOUSLY TO ADD
DISTANCE UNTIL, HIS
HEAD REELING, HIS
LUNGS ACHING WITH
FIERY PAIN, A SOFT,
GENTLE, NUMBING
BLACKNESS SETTLED
UPON HIM...



MOMENTARILY, HIS HEAD QUIETLY BROKE THE SURFACE
OF THE WATER, CLOSE TO SHORE, AND HIS SENSES
AWAKENED ANEW...

(GASP!)
ALMOST HAD IT
THAT TIME! (GASP!)
FAR ENOUGH AWAY
NOW! STAY HIDDEN...
(GASP!) GET MY
STRENGTH BACK!



AHHR-RR-R! THEY HAVE THE BOAT...AND THE GOLD!
AND...AND THEY'RE CARRYING PAUL'S BODY... SOON
THEY'LL BE SEARCHING FOR MINE...THEY SURELY
MUST THINK ME DEAD! HA! SOMEONE SHOULD
TELL THEM WHAT TERRIBLE SHOTS THEY ARE!



AH! THEY'RE LEAVING! THEY'RE CERTAIN I AM DEAD... AND I AM CERTAIN THEY WILL SOON RETURN... TO DRAG THE RIVER FOR MY BODY! I MUST BE WELL AWAY FROM HERE BY THEN!



BLAST! THEIR BULLETS HAVE SUNK THE BOAT! NOW I AM IN A FIX!

...RIVER IS TOO WIDE TO SWIM... I'M TOO TIRED! BUT I **MUST** GET ACROSS... DON'T SEE ANY BOATS... WAIT! WHAT'S THAT I HEAR?



...FROM OUT IN THE RIVER... SOUNDS LIKE... YES! THERE! COMING OUT OF THE FOG! A MAN IN A BOAT. HA! WHO SAID THE GODS WERE AGAINST ME?



DON'T MAKE A SOUND, OLD MAN! I NEED YOU TO TAKE ME ACROSS THE RIVER... QUIETLY, AND QUICKLY!

BUT THAT IS WHY I AM HERE! TO FERRY PEOPLE ACROSS THE RIVER! SILENCE I CAN GIVE YOU, BUT SPEED... NO. THE RIVER IS TOO WIDE AND TOO DEEP TO CROSS SWIFTLY, AND THE YEARS HAVE TIRED MY ARMS!



NEVER MIND! JUST HURRY AS FAST AS YOU CAN! IF I WEREN'T SO TIRED, I'D ROW MYSELF!

AS YOU WISH... BUT WHY DO YOU HURRY SO? IT IS INDEED STRANGE!

STRANGE, IS IT? YOU FOOLISH OLD MAN!
IF YOU BUT KNEW HOW MANY I HAVE KILLED
THIS NIGHT! IF YOU BUT KNEW WHOM YOU
WERE CARRYING CROSS THIS RIVER TO SAFETY,
YOUR ARMS WOULD CHURN LIKE WINDMILLS,
TO BE RID OF ME THE SOONER! AH...THE
FOG IS THICK...IF GODS THERE BE, THEY
HAVE INDEED GIVEN ME ASSISTANCE BY IT!



HOW SILENT AND WONDERFULLY PEACEFUL,
THIS RIVER JOURNEY...BUT SMALL REWARD
FOR SUCH A NIGHT! GOOD THING I DON'T
BELIEVE IN THE GODS, FOR THEY WOULD
SURELY PUNISH ME, INSTEAD OF HIDING
ME FROM MY PERSUERS!



EH? DO I SEE A FAR SHORE?
YES...BUT...BUT IT DOES NOT
SEEM FAMILIAR. BOATMAN!
HAVE WE DRIFTED FAR
DOWNSTREAM? I DO NOT
RECOGNIZE THE SHORE!

NAV, WE HAVE NOT
DRIFTED. THERE IS
NO CURRENT IN
THIS RIVER TO
TAKE US FROM
OUR COURSE.



I HAVE TROD THE BANKS OF THIS
RIVER FOR MANY YEARS, YET I DO
NOT KNOW THIS STRANGE LANDING!
WIERD...UNREAL! WHAT PLACE IS
THIS? WHERE ARE WE?

CAN IT BE
YOU REALLY
DO NOT
KNOW??



DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT I
AM CHARON, FERRYMAN IN
THE UNDERWORLD? TOGETHER
WE HAVE CROSSED THE
RIVER STYX! MY FRIEND...
YOU ARE IN THE LAND
OF THE **DEAD!**



YOU SEE, GANG, IN GREEK
MYTHOLOGY, THIS KOOK CHARON
HAD THE JOB OF TAKING THE
NEWLY DEAD PEOPLE ACROSS
THE RIVER STYX INTO THE LAND
OF THE HEREAFTER! SO
HEREAFTER, WHENEVER YOU
CROSS A RIVER, GO BY WAY
OF A BRIDGE! ANYWAY, IT
SEEMS THOSE POLICEMEN
WEREN'T SUCH BAD SHOTS
AFTER ALL! THEY COULDN'T
HIT THE SIDE OF A BARN... BUT
THE BACK OF A STEFAN... WOW!



DON'T GET
HASTY, GANG!
STYX 'N
STONES, AND
ALL THAT JAZZ!
HEE, HEE!

The
End



COME CLOSER, RABID READERS, AS I DELVE INTO MY TERROR TEXT FOR SOME MONSTERS OF MYTHOLOGY TO BE CHRONICLED IN THIS WRITHING ROUND OF...

CREEPY'S LOATHSOME LORE!

THE CHIMERA, A FIRE BREATHING MONSTER THAT TERRORIZED ANCIENT GREECE. THE FOREPART OF ITS BODY A COMPOUND OF LION AND GOAT, AND THE HINDPART A SERPENT, THE CREATURE WAS INVINCIBLE UNTIL BELLEROPHON, FIGHTING FROM THE WINGED STEED PEGASUS, ASSAILED IT WITH ARROWS!




A Marble River Scan

GRENDL, FLESH EATING OGRE, BELIEVED A DESCENDENT OF CAIN, WHO NIGHTLY RAGED FROM HIS SWAMP LAIR TO PREY ON THE DANISH WARRIORS OF KING HROTHGAR. THE HALF-HUMAN MONSTER MET HIS MATCH IN THE WARRIOR PRINCE BEOWULF, WHO, IN BARE-HANDED COMBAT, WRENCHED OFF THE CREATURE'S ARM, MORTALLY WOUNDING HIM!



FAFNER, A GIANT WHO TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A DRAGON, CAPABLE OF SPEWING VENOM THAT CORRODES FLESH AND BONE, TO GUARD THE STOLEN TREASURE OF THE NIBELUNGS. ONLY THE FEARLESS SIEGFRIED ARMED WITH THE MIGHTY SWORD OF HIS GRANDFATHER, GERMAN GOD WOTAN, WAS ABLE TO DESTROY THE REPTILIAN BEHEMOTH!





FOLLOW ME, FEAR FANCIERS...WE'RE GOING DEEP WITHIN AN ABANDONED MINESHAFT IN THE SOUTHWEST...ALTHOUGH ABANDONED IS A MISLEADING WORD, BECAUSE FROM HERE IT'S NOT SUCH A LONG STEP UNTIL WE'RE FACE TO FACE WITH...

The Terror Beyond Time!

YOU'RE HALF INDIAN TERHUNE, NOT HALF-GOAT! WAIT'LL THE OTHERS CATCH UP...IF WEYMOUTH WENT DOWN WITH THIS SLIDE, YOU WON'T HELP BY FALLING ON TOP OF HIM.

A LONG TIME AGO THERE WAS A SILVER BOOM, EVERYBODY WITH A SHOVEL WAS DIGGING FOR IT. THE SILVER'S GONE NOW, BUT THE MOUNTAINS ARE HONEY-COMBED WITH MINESHAFTS TO PROVE IT WAS THERE ONCE. WHY PROFESSOR NILES WEYMOUTH WANTED TO GO WANDERING AROUND THROUGH THEM NOBODY KNEW, BUT WHEN HE DIDN'T COME BACK, EVERYBODY DECIDED TO FIND OUT...AND AS DEPUTY SHERIFF, I WAS RIGHT AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK...

JUST HOLD THE LIGHT STEADY, MONTE... I THINK I SEE SOMETHING OVER THERE!

A Marble River Scan

ART BY NEAL ADAMS/SCRIPT BY ARCHIE GOODWIN



BETTER GET BACK UP, JIM...THAT'S LOOSE STUFF YOU'RE ON...CAP DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING... COULD BE OLD...

COULD BE, BUT IT'S NEW... HAS INITIALS IN IT... "N.W."!

THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO KNOW...IT'S GONNA TAKE MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO DO MORE. C'MON BACK, JIM...

IF HE'S DOWN THERE, HE COULD BE ALIVE...HURT! LONG AS I'VE GONE THIS FAR, I BETTER TAKE A LOOK...

BEHIND THE FLASHLIGHT'S GLARE, MONTE MUTTERED AND SWORE TO HIMSELF. I WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING FUNNY, BUT IT NEVER GOT OUT AS THE LITTLE BIT OF WORLD I HAD HOLD OF BEGAN TO GO TO PIECES...**FAST!**

FOR A TIME I JUST LAY THERE, UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH THE RINGING IN MY EARS FROM MONTE'S SHOUTS SOMEWHERE ABOVE ME. SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERED ME...IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PITCH BLACK, BUT IT WASN'T...

JIM! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? JIM?!

LIGHT...SOME KIND OF GLOW FROM UP AHEAD.

I BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARD THE LIGHT MEANING TO ANSWER MONTE JUST AS SOON AS I KNEW WHAT IT WAS...BUT SOMEHOW, IT WAS FURTHER AWAY THAN I EXPECTED...

JIM! FOR GOD'S SAKE, ANSWER ME IF YOU CAN...JIM!!

NOTHING MAN-MADE TOO BRIGHT FOR PHOSPHORUS...

UNTIL, BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I WAS
IN THE MIDDLE OF IT...BATHED AND
SURROUNDED BY BRILLIANCE...



THE OVERWHELMING GLOW BECAME A SWIRL-
ING VORTEX PULLING ME, DRAWING ME, FURTHER
AND FURTHER, DEEPER AND DEEPER...



THEN IT WAS
ALL OVER...
AND JUST
BEGINNING!



T-THIS IS *INSANE*...
IT CAN'T *BE!* THERE'S
NO WAY...

HAS TO BE SOME
EXPLANATION...THE
FALL MUST HAVE DONE
SOMETHING TO M...
WHAT TH..!



OH, GOD!



POSSIBLY, IT WAS LUCK, PROBABLY IT WAS TRAINING... MY SENSES MIGHT'VE LEFT ME, BUT MY REFLEXES HADN'T...



THE LEATHER WINGED HORROR RENT THE AIR WITH A NIGHTMARE SCREECH, AND DROPPED LIKE STONE...

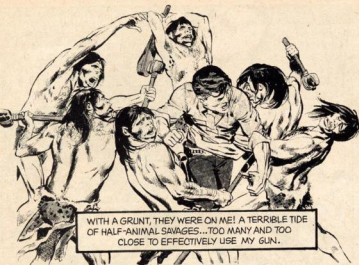


THE SPONGY FLOOR OF THE MARSH KEPT THE GARGOYLE BODY FROM CRUSHING ME, AND SHEER REVULSION GOT ME OUT FROM UNDER IT QUICKLY...



...OR SOMEWHERE!





WITH A GRUNT, THEY WERE ON ME! A TERRIBLE TIDE OF HALF-ANIMAL SAVAGES...TOO MANY AND TOO CLOSE TO EFFECTIVELY USE MY GUN.



...BUT NOT A CLUB!

THE TOUCH OF DAMP CLOTH TO MY HEAD BROUGHT ME AROUND BUT OPENING MY EYES PLACED A BURDEN ON MY SANITY...

WHO...? HOW DID YOU...?

I AM CALLED LENORE...LIKE THYSELF I AM A PRISONER OF THE HAIRY ONES...



WHERE ARE WE, LENORE? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

TO THE FIRST, I KNOW NOT SURELY, SAVE IT IS A PLACE MOST TERRIBLE! AS FOR MY HOME, IT IS ENGLAND...WOULD I BE THERE ONCE MORE!



I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!

YET BETTER HERE THAN THE CITY OF THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE! THOUGH THERE BE THOSE LIKE OURSELVES WHO CHOOSE OTHERWISE...




THERE'S A CITY? WITH OTHER PEOPLE LIKE OURSELVES?

ALIKE...BUT OF VARIOUS MANNER AND AGES UN-DREAMT OF...AS SURELY THOU ARE NOT OF MY TIME!

IF THERE ARE OTHERS, THERE MAY BE HOPE! A WAY OUT OF THIS NIGHTMARE...THE CITY, LENORE...WHERE IS IT?



THERE! YONDER DARK MOUNTAIN... HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN AS SUCH A BLASPHEMY SHOULD...I CHOOSE SLAVERY AMONG THESE BRUTES RATHER THAN ENDURE SERVING THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE...



I FELT A CHILL AS SHE SPOKE. FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION, LENORE OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT ONE EASILY FRIGHTENED...YET HER EYES GREW WIDE IN TERROR AS SHE STARED AT THE MOUNTAIN...

WHO...WHAT...IS THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE...?

I-I KNOW NOT CERTAINLY... I DID BUT ONCE FAINTLY GLIMPSE WITHIN ITS CHAMBER AND...

WHATEVER HORROR THE GIRL FROM THE MIDDLE AGES WAS ABOUT TO HINT AT WAS SUDDENLY OBLITERATED BY SCREAMS HERALDING DANGER MORE IMMEDIATE...

TYRANNOSAURS!



MY GUN! LENORE, WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME IN...DID THEY BRING MY GUN WITH ME?

GUN? THE WORD IS STRANGE...WHEN FIRST PLACED BEFORE ME, IN A DEATH LIKE GRIP YOU CLUTCHED AN OBJECT.

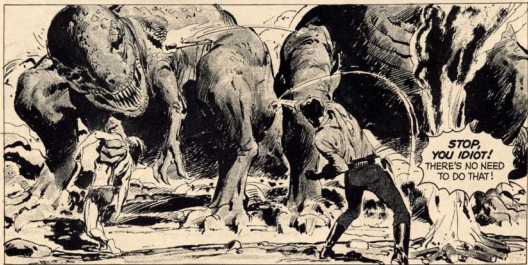
...THIS! IS IT A WEAPON?

IT WAS! IT'LL BE OF NO USE TO US UNTIL I CAN CLEAN IT.

THE CAVE'S TOO SHALLOW TO AVOID THEIR REACH...MAYBE THE FIRE WILL WORK.

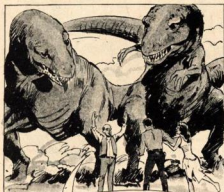


STAY BEHIND ME, LENORE!



STOP, YOU IDIOT! THERE'S NO NEED TO DO THAT!

EVEN AS I HEARD THE WORDS, I FOUND NO LOGICAL REASON TO BELIEVE THEM...BUT, MAYBE BECAUSE THEY WERE SPOKEN IN REGULAR AMERICANIZED ENGLISH, MAYBE BECAUSE I SAW THE TORCHES WEREN'T WORKING...
I STOPPED...



THESE AREN'T QUITE THE MONSTERS THEY APPEAR...THERE IS A WILL THAT CONTROLS THEM...THAT CONTROLS THIS ENTIRE WORLD.

TYRANOSAURS SO WELL CONTROLLED THEY **RAVAGE AN ENTIRE CAMP...**? YOU SURE **THEY** KNOW ABOUT THIS WILL...?



WAIT-A-MINUTE I **KNOW** YOU... YOU'RE...

MILES WEYMOUTH! I HARDLY EXPECTED ANYONE TO SEARCH FOR ME **THIS** FAR! BUT SINCE YOU'RE HERE, YOU MUST MEET **THE MASTER!**



FINDING YOU WAS MY JOB PROFESSOR...I JUST DIDN'T COUNT ON IT'S BEING SO INVOLVED! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?



THERE! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT...THAT'S WHAT THIS WHOLE PLACE IS ABOUT! YOU'D BEST COME WITH ME...

TO THE CITY... THE CITY IN THE MOUNTAIN...

NO! THOU MUST NOT! HE SERVES THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE. OF ALL IN THE CITY ONLY THIS ONE **SOUGHT** TO COME THERE. **DO NOT GO!**



WELL, WEYMOUTH...?



SERVE HIM?
OF COURSE I SERVE **THE MASTER**...EVERYTHING EVERYBODY THAT COMES HERE SERVES HIM...THOSE REPTILES ATTACK ON HIS COMMAND ...THESE PRIMITIVES DIED FOR NOT SERVING HIM WELL...

THIS IS HIS WORLD, HIS TIME!



HE SETS FORTH HIS GLOWING TRAPS, REAPING A HARVEST FROM ALL CENTURIES, ALL AGES...FROM THIS TIME OF HIS OWN MAKING HE WEAVES A WEB THROUGH ALL HISTORY...THOSE CAUGHT IN IT SERVE OR PERISH! I, THE GIRL, **YOU!**

THAT'S CRAZY, WEYMOUTH! STARK MADNESS! YOU'RE A PROFESSOR ...A MAN OF INTELLIGENCE...**USE IT!** HELP US GET OUT OF THIS INSANITY!

OUT? YES, I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT... **NOW!**



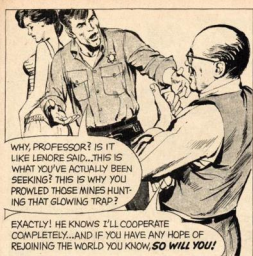
ONE MOMENT I WAS PULLING AT WEYMOUTH'S JACKET, THE NEXT THAT VORTEX FORCE WAS PULLING BOTH OF US...DRAWING, SPINNING, WHIRLING US, WITH THE SAME POWER THAT HAD THROWN ME INTO THE WHOLE NIGHTMARE TO BEGIN WITH...

IT ENDED MUCH SOONER THAN THE FIRST TIME, AND I WASN'T OUT OF ANYTHING...

W-WHERE ARE WE, WEYMOUTH? WAS THAT A SUMMONS FROM THAT...THING?

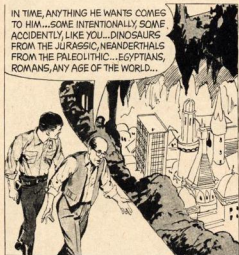
YOU FLATTER YOURSELF, TERHUINE...THIS HAS BEEN MY DOING! HE'S ALLOWED ME CERTAIN LIMITED USE OF SOME POWERS TO FURTHER HIS WILL...





WHY, PROFESSOR? IS IT LIKE LENORE SAID...THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE ACTUALLY BEEN SEEKING? THIS IS WHY YOU PROWLLED THOSE MINES HUNTING THAT GLOWING TRAP?

EXACTLY! HE KNOWS I'LL COOPERATE COMPLETELY...AND IF YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF REJOINING THE WORLD YOU KNOW, **SO WILL YOU!**



IN TIME, ANYTHING HE WANTS COMES TO HIM...SOME INTENTIONALLY, SOME ACCIDENTALLY, LIKE YOU...DINOSAURS FROM THE JURASSIC, NEANDERTHALS FROM THE PALEOLITHIC...EGYPTIANS, ROMANS, ANY AGE OF THE WORLD...



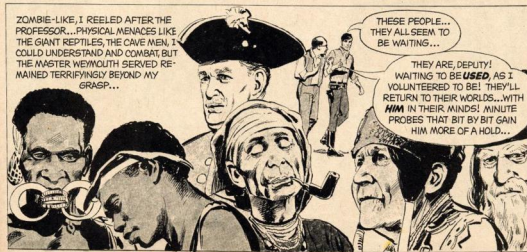
FOR YEARS I FOUND HINTS OF THIS PLACE... THIS TIME BEYOND TIME...REFERENCES IN OBSCURE VOLUMES OF THE FABLED CITY OF THE DARK MOUNTAIN...

HE ARRANGES THEM, KNOWING SOME DAY, SOMETIME THEY'LL ATTRACT BELIEVERS...LIKE ME!



MY MIND WAS GROWING DRUNK ON WEYMOUTH'S RAVINGS, BUT IN THAT SETTING, AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED, WHO COULD DOUBT HIM...

AND MOST WHO COME TO HIM BECOME FINGERS TO REACH BACK INTO THE PATH OF TIME AND CLAW OUT MORE...HE EXISTS TO CONQUER AND CONTROL, AND IN THIS MANNER, ONE DAY, **HE WILL!**



ZOMBIE-LIKE, I REELED AFTER THE PROFESSOR...PHYSICAL MENACES LIKE THE GIANT REPTILES, THE CAVE MEN, I COULD UNDERSTAND AND COMBAT, BUT THE MASTER WEYMOUTH SERVED REMAINED TERRIFYINGLY BEYOND MY GRASP...

THESE PEOPLE... THEY ALL SEEM TO BE WAITING...

THEY ARE, DEPUTY! WAITING TO BE **USED**, AS I VOLUNTEERED TO BE! THEY'LL RETURN TO THEIR WORLDS...WITH **HIM** IN THEIR MINDS! MINUTE PROBES THAT BIT BY BIT GAIN HIM MORE OF A HOLD...



THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT!
THAT'S THE WAY I CAN ESCAPE
THIS PLACE...AS A HOST FOR... HIM!
WHAT IS HE, WEYMOUTH?
WHAT IS HE?

HE'S AN
EXISTENCE, TERHUNE,
A FACT...TO EACH
MAN DIFFERENT! TO
ME HE IS **POWER**,
FORCE, A MOVER
BEHIND LIFE...



LOOK ON HIM, DEPUTY
...SEE WHAT HE IS
YOURSELF!

OH, LORD!
OH, MY
GOD!

I LOOKED DOWN AND KNEW WHAT **HE** WAS TO ME. IF **EVIL** WAS
NOT AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT, IF IT WAS A **LIVING BEING...**
THEN I WOULD HAVE BEEN STARING IT IN THE FACE!



CAN...CAN
IT SEE US?

NOT NOW, HE IS
OCCUPIED! THE GLOW
MEANS AT SOMETIME,
AT SOME POINT IN
HISTORY, HE USES SOME-
ONE...PERHAPS NOW, HE
GUIDES AN ATTLA,
A NAPOLEON, A
HITLER...

AND SOON, IT WILL BE **ME!** I HUNGER FOR THE DESTINY **HIS** FORCE MAY GIVE ME...AFTER THAT, PERHAPS **YOU!** A DEPUTY SHERIFF, YOUNG, BRAVE...**HE** MAY GUIDE YOU INTO POLITICS, GOVERNMENT...

NO...

NO...

NO...

NO! I WON'T BE A PART OF ANYTHING WITH...**T-THAT!**



RUN! IT DOESN'T MATTER! **HE** DOESN'T CARE! THERE IS NO PLACE TO ESCAPE...ONE DAY YOU **MUST** COME TO HIM, OR PERISH IN HIS LAND! ETERNITIES ARE SECONDS TO HIM...**ONE DAY YOU'LL COME!**



I FLED FROM THE MOUNTAIN, MY EARS RINGING WITH WEYMOUTH'S TERRIBLE WORDS, MY EYES BURNING FROM THE SIGHT OF THAT WRITHING MASS OF OBSCENITY...

ONLY AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN DID MY MIND FREE ITSELF OF THE HORROR I'D JUST WITNESSED... A SCREAM CUT THROUGH TO ME...



EEEEEEEEEE

LENORE!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, LENORE! WHY DID YOU RISK CROSSING THE MARSH? WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY WHERE YOU'D BE SAFE?



NO WARRIOR SHOULD BE WITHOUT HIS WEAPON, NOR ALONE IN A PLACE SO EVIL!

LENORE...

UP HERE! HE CAN'T REACH US IN THE ROCKS!

LENORE AND I HAD BUT ONE MOMENT OF PEACE IN THAT LAND OF HORROR. WE MADE IT A LONG ONE...LATER, I RE-PAIRED THE PISTOL, PUTTING IT BACK INTO WORKING ORDER...

DARK THOUGHTS CREASE THY BROW, MY JAMES...THEY ARE THOUGHTS OF THE UNSPEAKABLE ONE...

IF IT DIES...IF IT **CAN** DIE, OR BE HURT...PERHAPS THOSE HELD HERE BY ITS WILL WOULD BE RELEASED...

THERE WAS NO MORE SAID THAN THAT. NO QUESTION OF MY NOT TRYING IT, NO QUESTION OF HER NOT ACCOMPANYING ME...

IF IT'S USING SOMEONE, IF IT'S OCCUPIED, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE...

BUT EVEN IF WE SUCCEED, WHAT THEN...? SHE'LL BE IN HER CENTURY AND I IN MINE.



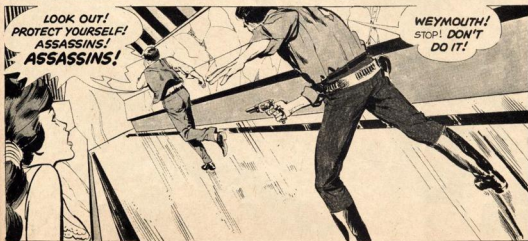
THIS IS ABSURD! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO...GO BACK YOU KNOW I HAVE THE POWER TO STOP YOU.

AND I HAVE THE POWER TO PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD BEFORE YOU CAN DO IT!

YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL, TERHUNE, TO TRY THIS...YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE NOBLE FOOLS WHO'LL SHOOT IF THREATENED... BUT WHAT IF I JUST TURN, AND RUN IN TO **HIM**?



I'LL STILL SHOOT, WEYMOUTH! TO DESTROY THAT THING, I'LL STILL SHOOT...



**LOOK OUT!
PROTECT YOURSELF!
ASSASSINS!
ASSASSINS!**

**WEYMOUTH!
STOP! DON'T
DO IT!**



I STARTED OUT TO SAVE HIM...
MAN I'M SUPPOSED TO SAVE
AND I **KILLED** HIM...

HASTE, MY LOVE!
**THOU MUST
ACT NOW!**



LENORE'S CRY BROUGHT ME TO MY KNEES. THE GLOW WAS FADING ON THE THING WEYMOUTH HAD WORSHIPED. ITS GREAT QUIVERING BULK TURNING A DARK ANGRY COLOR... EVEN AS I BEGAN FIRING, EMPTYING THE CHAMBER, A TERRIBLE FORCE LASHED OUT STRIKING AROUND US LIKE AN INVISIBLE RIPTIDE... THE VORTEX OPENED AGAIN, FOR THE LAST TIME, NOW A TREMENDOUS MAELSTROM, DASHING ME, CRUSHING ME AGAINST MY OWN TORTURED THOUGHTS AND FEARS, DRAGGING ME DOWN! YET THROUGH ITS FURY, ONE SMALL VOICE CAME TO ME... LENORE'S.

JAMES! MY JAMES! MY JAMES!



LET ME TELL YOU, O! BUDDY, WE NEARLY GAVE YOU UP FOR LOST! GLAD TO SEE YOU COMING AROUND... FIRST WE COULDN'T FIND YOU DOWN IN THAT MINE, THEN, YOU WERE JUST ABOUT A DEAD MAN WHEN WE DID!



WHAT ABOUT WEYMOUTH?

NOT A TRACE! IF HE'D BEEN DOWN THERE, WE'D HAVE FOUND HIM LOOKING FOR YOU...



NOW I GUESS YOU CAN SAY "I TOLD YOU SO..."

ANYBODY GOES TUMBLING DOWN A ROCK SLIDE SUPPOSEDLY LOOKING FOR SOME HALF-BAKED PROFESSOR...



...AND WINDS UP BESIDE SOMEONE LIKE THIS YOUNG LADY, **MUST** KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

LENORE!



UNTIL THIS MOMENT I THOUGHT I'D DREAMED IT ALL, BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE...HOW?!

MY THOUGHTS WERE NEVER OF THINGS PAST, NOR DAYS REMEMBERED, ONLY OF THEE, MY JAMES. IF THIS BE THE ANSWER, I KNOW NOT, AND IF I BE WITH THEE, I CARE NOT!



LATER THERE WERE MANY QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT LENORE AND A FEW ANSWERS TO BE GIVEN, BUT WE WERE HAPPY. AND ONLY IN QUIET MOMENTS ON GLOOMY DAYS, DO I WONDER ABOUT MY LAST SHOTS AND THE EFFECT THEY HAD, AND IF SOMEWHERE BEYOND TIME, EVIL STIRS AND GLOWING TRAPS PENETRATE CENTURIES TO WAIT FOR THOSE WHO SEEK THEM.

TIME NOW TO MOVE ON TOWARD OUR NEXT ISSUE AND... WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, FIRST YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT THAT LIGHT IS UP AHEAD? OKAY, BUT YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK IF YOU COME BACK IN A CENTURY WHEN WE'RE NOT PUBLISHING!



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