



TO SAVE MANKIND, THEY BECAME THE...

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THE
ACTION
IS!



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"THE SUMMONING"

CHAPTER
FOUR

EYES!

THE THAMES, LONDON, ENGLAND...

DAMN IT, MAN--
WHOEVER THEY ARE,
THEY'RE AFTER
US!

CAINE?
DO YOU HEAR
ME, CAINE?

CAINE?

Viiiip

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Viiiip

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GOT ONE!

IN THE LEG.
NOT GOOD
ENOUGH.

OUR
MASTERS
WANT THEM
DEAD!

BAM

BAM

EVEN IN THE DARKNESS
JACK GOLD CAN SEE
THEIR EYES, GLOWING
LIKE HELL-BORN
SERPENTS, MOVING IN
CLOSER, CLOSER FOR
THEIR KILL.

SHUT UP
AND THEY
WILL BE!

JUST KEEP
THIS DAMN BOAT
STEADY.

viiip

GOLD IS SCARED
AS HE GRABS
DONOVAN CAINE'S
SHIRT AND FORCES
HIM TO THE
RIVER'S BOTTOM

THEY'LL
ESCAPE, GOLD
THINKS. THEY
HAVE TO!

GOLD CURSES THE BARON AS HIS
STOMACH KNOTS AND AS HIS FEET
GRAB HOLD OF A TIRE DROPPED HERE
WHO-KNOWS-HOW-MANY YEARS AGO.



AND HE WISHES HE COULD CRY,
BUT TEARS WILL NOT COME.



THE THOUGHT OF BEING A HERO HAS NEVER ENTERED INTO JACK'S MIND. THE CONCEPT OF SELF-SACRIFICE IS ALIEN TO HIM. YET...

...FROM THE RIVER'S FLOOR HE GRABS A SHARP ROCK AND CUTS A GASH IN DONOVAN CAINE'S LEG.



BLOOD? THEN I GOT HIM, JUST LIKE I SAID I WOULD.



WE DID OUR JOB, NOW LET'S GET MOVING.

THE WHOLE OF SCOTLAND YARD WILL BE STREAMING DOWN HERE ANY MINUTE NOW.

THE SHADOWS SHIFT AS JACK COUNTS SLOWLY TO TEN...



THEN...

PLAHHHHH! GOD!
KAF KAF

CAINE?
YOU ALL RIGHT?

I-IT HURTS
...HURTS SO BAD.

POTOMAC
PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL,
OUTSIDE
WASHINGTON,
D.C....



...DR.
RABIN?

I HAVE
A HOSPITAL
TO RUN.

I TOLD YOU
BEFORE, DETECTIVE
SHORT, I CANNOT
WASTE TIME TRYING
TO EXPLAIN AWAY
SOME BIZARRE
MURDER.



THE MURDER
IS MY PROBLEM,
DOCTOR. I'M HERE
FOR A DIFFERENT
MATTER...

...ONE WHICH
MAY CONCERN
YOU. A PATIENT
OF YOURS...
VANESSA VAN
HELSING.

WHAT
ABOUT
VANESSA?

YOU WANT
A KIDNAPPER,
DETECTIVE,
WINTERS IS
YOUR MAN.

THE BARON!
HE'S BEHIND THIS.
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T
HAVE ...

SHE WAS
KIDNAPPED.

WINTERS?
BARON?



HE CALLS
HIMSELF BARON
WINTERS, BUT I
DON'T KNOW IF
THAT IS HIS
REAL NAME.

HE'S A LIAR, A THIEF
AND A CON MAN. HE'S
ALSO VANESSA'S
LEGAL GUARDIAN.

IF YOU WISH
HIS ADDRESS SO
YOU CAN ARREST
HIM, SEE MY HEAD
NURSE. SHE'LL
GLADLY GIVE IT
TO YOU.

IS
THAT
ALL?



ONE
THING MORE,
DOCTOR.

I'VE HEARD MISS VAN
HELSING HAD SEVERAL
FITS LATELY.

SEIZURES,

SEIZURES. DO YOU
HAVE ANY RECORD ON WHEN
SHE HAD THEM? DAYS AND TIME?

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THE HEAD NURSE
WILL **GIVE YOU**
THAT AS WELL.

AND NOW,
DETECTIVE SHORT,
IF YOU'LL **FORGIVE**
ME, I AM BUSY.

ELIOT SHORT SIGHS AS HE **SLUMPS** INTO HIS FRAYED CUSHION CHAIR. THE PAPERS BEFORE HIM ARE CAREFULLY ARRANGED IN PILES. OUTSIDE, THE FIRST SHIFT **LEAVES** FOR THE NIGHT, THE SECOND SHIFT BEGINS WORK. INSIDE, SHORT **SHUFFLES** THE PAPERS, MARKS HIS CARDS, CHECKS HIS CHARTS. THE **FACTS** HAVE BEEN CLEAR FROM THE FIRST, BUT **UNDERSTANDING** THEM, **EVALUATING** THEM, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, **ACCEPTING** THEM, IS SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER...



HOW'S IT GOING,
ELIOT?

CRAZY.

YEAH?
HOW SO?

THE TIMES
VAN HELSING HAD
HER SEIZURES **CORRELATE**
PERFECTLY WITH THOSE
STRANGE APPARITIONS
ALL OVER TOWN.

THE **GREATEST**
DAMAGE WAS DONE
DURING HER
KIDNAPPING.

THE TIMING'S
TOO PERFECT TO BE
COINCIDENTAL.



SO? WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN?

DAMNED
IF I KNOW.

BUT I'M
GOING TO
FIND
OUT.

SOMEWHERE IN **ENGLAND**, VANESSA VAN HELSING
WEEPS IN DARKNESS.



SHE IS
ALONE.

THERE ARE NO
SOUNDS OTHER THAN
HER OWN SOBBING...

NO LIGHT.

NO FOOD.

NOTHING.
NOTHING BUT
LONELINESS..



...SINCE
HER
BEATING.

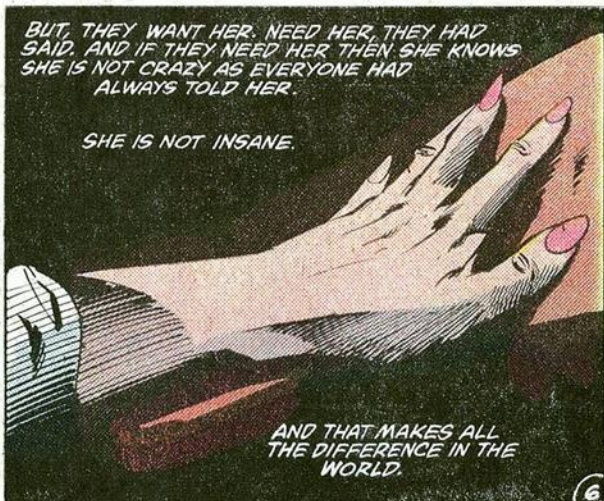
SHE IS ALMOST OUT OF TEARS. SHE HAS
ALMOST LOST HER DETERMINATION.



SHE HAS
ALMOST
LOST HOPE.



ALMOST.



BUT, THEY WANT HER. NEED HER, THEY HAD
SAID. AND IF THEY NEED HER THEN SHE KNOWS
SHE IS NOT CRAZY AS EVERYONE HAD
ALWAYS TOLD HER.

SHE IS NOT INSANE.

AND THAT MAKES ALL
THE DIFFERENCE IN THE
WORLD.

THE RUSSIAN
EMBASSY,
SOMEWHERE
IN ENGLAND...

WHY DID YOU
BRING THE GIRL
HERE OF ALL
PLACES?

ARE YOU
AWARE OF ALL
THE TROUBLE
IT MIGHT
CAUSE?

WE HAD NO CHOICE. MOSCOW WOULD NOT
LIKE IT IF WE BROUGHT THE **WRONG**
GIRL.

BUT YOU
TESTED HER
ALREADY.

THEY WANT TO
TEST HER.

BESIDES, THE
AMBASSADOR
IS ON VACATION IN
MONACO. HE WILL
NOT BE PART OF THIS
AND HE WILL NOT
NEED TO LEARN
WE WERE
HERE.

YOUR
POSITION
WILL BE
SAFE.

I JUST DO NOT
LIKE MOSCOW'S ATTENTION
DRAWN HERE, THAT IS
ALL.

OH, WELL,
DO YOUR
JOB AND BE
DONE WITH
IT.

WE'VE
ALREADY
BEGUN.

PLEASE MEET OUR
SPECIALIST FROM THE GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC--



--HERR
ZAKARIJ
ZADOK.

GOOD DAY,
HERR GARGARIN.

LIHHH,
GOOD DAY,
UH, HERR
ZADOK.

I TRUST
YOU'LL ENJOY
YOUR STAY
HERE.



I VILL NOT. I DO
NOT PREFER TO LEAVE
MY HOME.

AND I DO NOT
PREFER THE COMPANY
OF... PEOPLE.

WHERE
IS MY
SUBJECT?



UM, SHE, ER--
SHE'S IN THERE,
HERR ZADOK.

THERE!



DARKNESS EVERYWHERE.
THICK. STIFLING.

PAINFUL.



THEN...

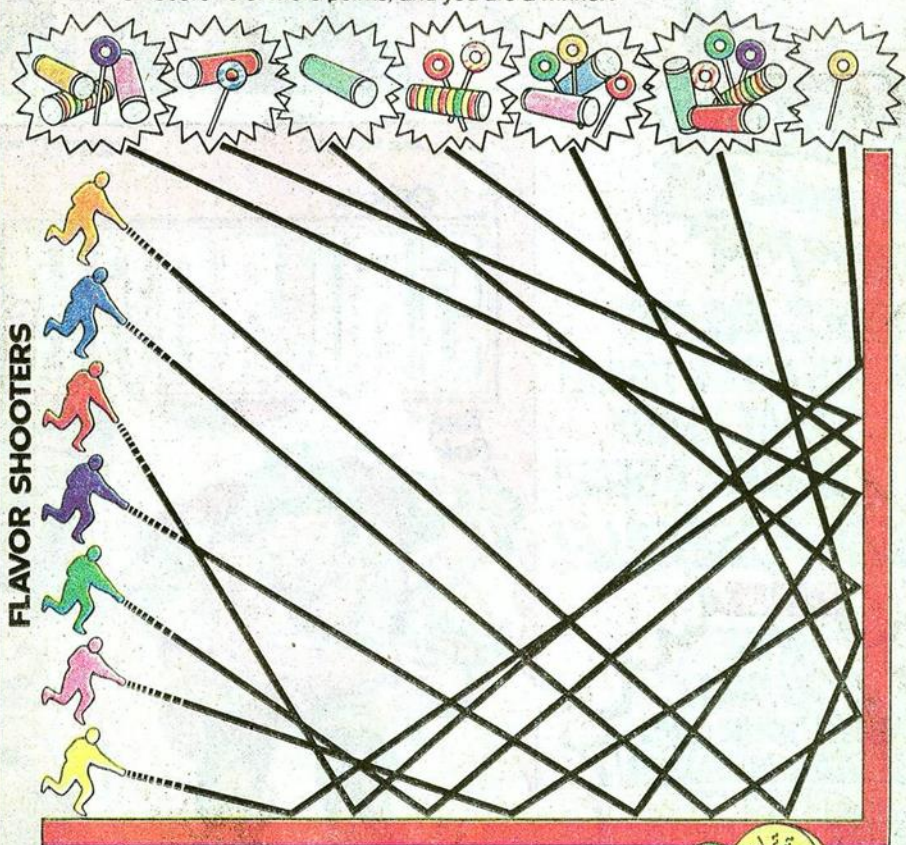
HER HEART BEATS
FASTER NOW. HER CHEST
THROBS WITH PAINFUL
ANTICIPATION.

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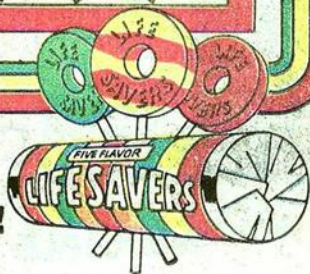
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WH-WHO IS
IT? WHO'S THERE?
WILL SOMEONE PLEASE
TELL ME WHY I WAS
BROUGHT HERE?

SILENCE.

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO BEAT
ME AGAIN,
ARE YOU?

I'LL TELL YOU
WHATEVER YOU
WANT TO KNOW. I
REALLY WILL. JUST
DON'T HURT ME
LIKE THAT AGAIN.

PLEASE.

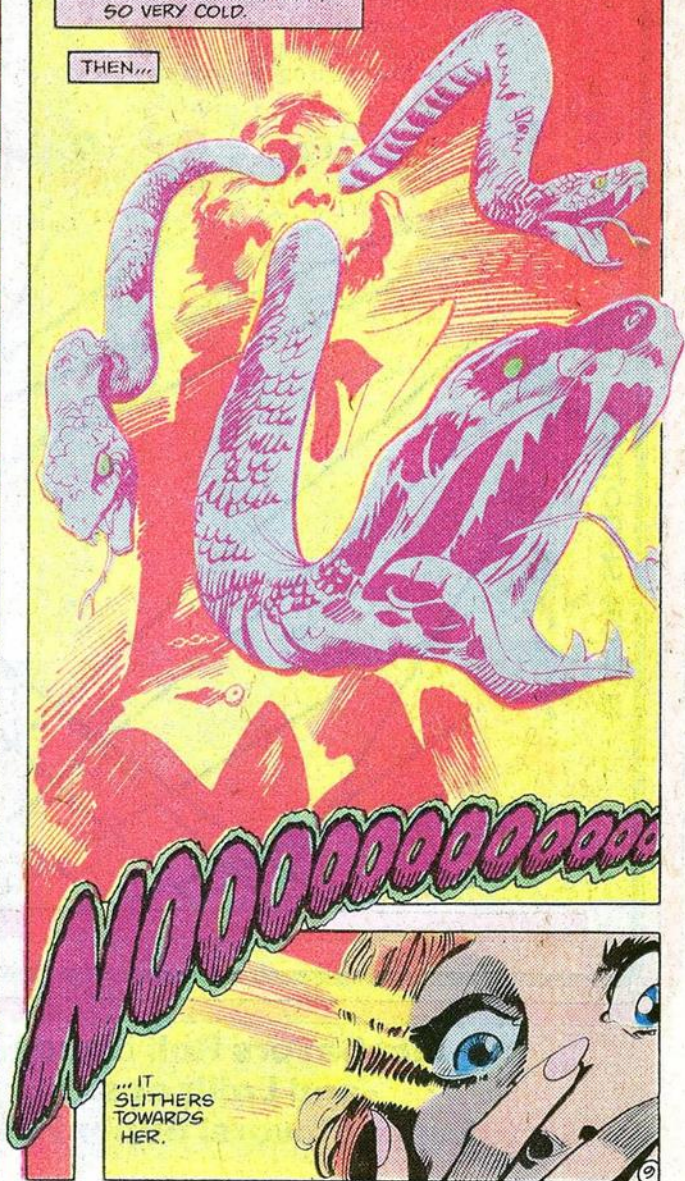
WHO
ARE
YOU?

OH, MY
GOD! WHY ARE
YOU STARING
AT ME LIKE
THAT?

SILENT, HIS EYES GLOW WITH A
MADNESS VANESSA IS ALL-TOO-
FAMILIAR WITH. THEY SEEM TO
PULSATE AND THROB WITH THE
VERY ESSENCE OF LIFE ITSELF.

THE DARK ROOM IS BATHED IN
SCARLET. IT BECOMES COLD,
SO VERY COLD.

THEN...



...IT
SLITHERS
TOWARDS
HER.

TOUCH: VISCIOUS FEELERS CRAWL ACROSS
HER FLESH DRIPPING PUSS-LIKE OOZE
WHEREVER THEY MOVE.

**THE FEELERS ENTWINE
HER, GRAB HER, LIFT HER
INTO THE OVERPOWERING
BLACKNESS.**

SHE IS SICK.



**KNIFE-LIKE FANGS RIP
THROUGH HER CLOTHING,
CUT INTO HER FACE AND
CHEST AND LEGS. WARM
BLOOD SEEPS FROM
HER OPEN WOUNDS.**

SHE SCREAMS.

**SMELL: CORDITE
AND SULPHUR
OVERWHELM HER.**

**SOUND: SCREECHING, LIKE
NAILS ACROSS A BOARD,
ASSAILS HER. UNDERNEATH
THAT, THROBBING; HEAVY,
DULL, UNENDING, GROWING
LOWER...LOUDER...LOUDER...**

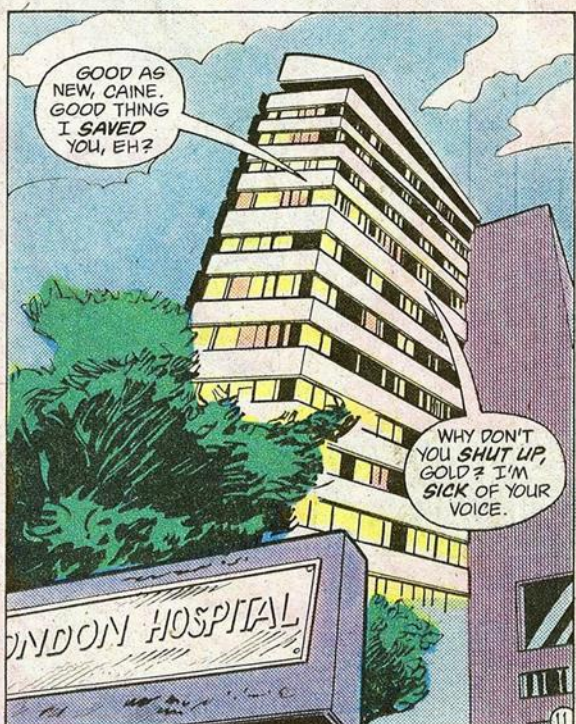
AND AGAIN SHE SCREAMS.

OUTSIDE THE ROOM...



**LONDON
HOSPITAL:**

JACK GOLD LEANS AGAINST THE WALL AS THE DOCTOR COMPLETES HER STITCHING OF DONOVAN'S LEG. "THEY'LL DISSOLVE ON THEIR OWN," SHE SAYS AS SHE WRAPS GAUZE AROUND HIS WOUND.





YOU STILL HAVE THAT BOOK?

C'MON, MAN, YOU STILL WANNA GO AFTER THOSE GOONGS? AFTER WHAT THEY DID?

THEY MAY HAVE KILLED MY WIFE, GOLD.

I WANT THEM!



WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS, IF THIS BOOK WAS PRINTED IN THE TWENTIES, HOW COME THERE'S A PICTURE OF VANESSA ON ITS FRONTISPECE?

AND WHO'S THE PICTURE OF THAT GUY? HE LOOKS STRANGE.



HIS NAME IS WOLF MESSING, PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL RUSSIAN PSYCHICS.

BUT IT'S A PICTURE OF HIM TAKEN IN THE 1960'S. HOW DID IT GET INTO A BOOK PRINTED SIXTY YEARS AGO?



WOLF MESSING

ONLY THE RICH CAN LIVE IN GEORGETOWN. VICTORIAN MANORS AND ELEGANT TOWNHOUSES DOT ITS WINDING, BRICK-PAVED STREETS. AND, ON ONE PARTICULAR STREET, AT THE END OF A CURVING CUL-DE-SAC...

I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE LAW, DETECTIVE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR RECORD SAYS, WINTERS.



WELL, I'VE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF.

BARON WINTERS? IS THAT YOUR REAL NAME, OR A STAGE NAME?

YOU KNOW, DETECTIVE SHORT, I'VE USED IT SO LONG I FORGET.

ALAS, WITH ADVANCED AGE COMES A TRAGIC MEMORY LOSS, DON'T YOU AGREE?



YOU'RE EVERY BIT THE CHARACTER THEY SAID YOU WERE.

AND OH, HOW I REVEL IN IT. NOW THEN, YOU'RE HERE ABOUT POOR VANESSA'S KIDNAPPING.

SHE IS BEING TAKEN TO THE SOVIET UNION, I BELIEVE. YOU'RE FROM THERE, AREN'T YOU, BARON?



BUT I FLED DURING THE REVOLUTION. AND I HAD ONLY LIVED THERE A VERY FEW YEARS.



IGNORING THE AGE IMPROBABILITY OF THAT BEING TRUE, WE'LL PROCEED.

YOU'RE ALSO VANESSA'S LEGAL GUARDIAN, AREN'T YOU?



I BECAME SUCH WHEN SHE TURNS TWENTY-ONE. YES.

WHY DO YOU ASK ME THESE QUESTIONS? AM I A SUSPECT IN HER KIDNAPPING?

LET ME WARN YOU, DETECTIVE SHORT, I DO NOT ENJOY TALKING ABOUT MYSELF.

I HAVE A VERY EUROPEAN AND VICTORIAN NEED FOR PRIVACY.

PLAINLY, BARON WINTERG IS LINEASY. UNCOMFORTABLY, HE SHIFTS IN HIS CHAIR...

...AND, IMPERCEPTIBLY, THE SMALL DRAWING ROOM HE IS IN, AND THE COLONIAL FURNITURE WITHIN...

... SEEM TO SHIFT WITH HIS MOOD.

BUT...

YOU KEEP THIS ROOM RATHER **STUFFY**, DON'T YOU, BARON. LET'S GO INTO YOUR GARDEN TO TALK, EH?

NO, SHORT-- STOP!

DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR!

WHY ARE YOU PANICKING SO?

CLICK

YOU'D THINK YOU WERE HIDING **BONES** OUT THERE.

VANESSA'S?

NO BONES, DETECTIVE SHORT. JUST A SCENE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED BEFORE.

LORD!

YOU HAVE TRAINED YOURSELF TO SEE **PATTERNS**. YOU THINK IN TERMS QUITE **LOGICAL**. BUT WHAT IS OUT THERE IS NOT AT ALL LOGICAL.

INDEED, IT SHOULD BE ALL BUT **IMPOSSIBLE**.



OUT OF MY WAY, WINTERS...
I SAW SOMETHING OUT HERE AND -- WHAT IN HELL--?



JACK GOLD NERVOUSLY PACES THEIR CLUTTERED HOTEL ROOM, POPPING ONE CIGARETTE INTO HIS MOUTH AFTER ANOTHER. HE REMEMBERS ANNE SARCASTICALLY COMMENTING ON HIS SMOKING; *ADULT PACIFIERS*, SHE SAID. MAYBE THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS HE DIDN'T *PROTEST* WHEN SHE LEFT AND FILED FOR DIVORCE.





BY
CHATTERING
AWAY LIKE
SOME DAMNED
MONKEY?

YEAH. I LOVED HER, FROM THE MOMENT I
FIRST SAW HER IN MY CLASSROOM.

TELL YOU, SHE SHOT
TO HELL THE *STUDENT/
TEACHER* RELATION-
SHIP.



SO SHE *CHANGED* HER
MAJOR, MOVED IN WITH ME,
WE GOT *MARRIED* AND
WE HAD *LARRY*.

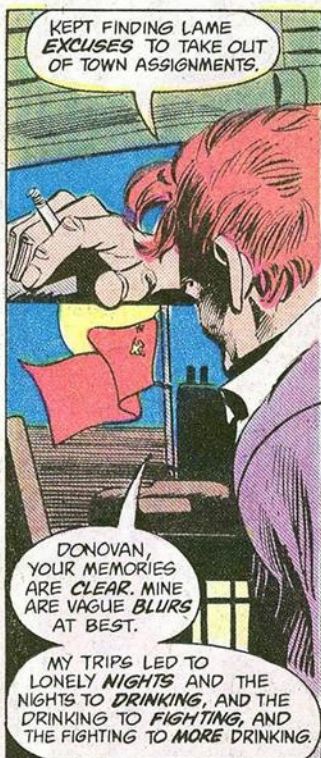
SMART AS A
WHIP, LARRY...
ALREADY WORKING
WITH HIS
COMPUTERS.

HE'S *ALL* I
HAVE LEFT OF HER,
GOLD. HIM AND MY
MEMORIES.



AT LEAST YOU *HAVE*
MEMORIES. Y'KNOW IT'S
FUNNY, BUT I DON'T
THINK I EVER REALLY
LOVED ANNIE.

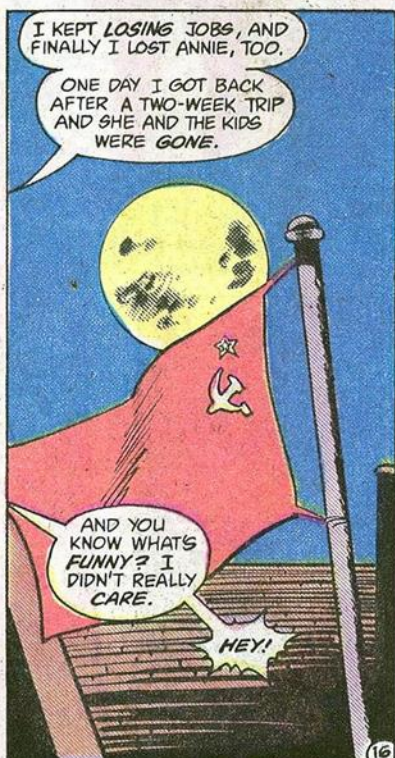
I WAS
TOO *GUNG-HO*
INTO MAKING
ME THE 1970'S
JACK ANDERSON
TO *COMMIT*
TO EITHER
HER OR THE
KIDS.



KEPT FINDING LAME
EXCUSES TO TAKE OUT
OF TOWN ASSIGNMENTS.

DONOVAN,
YOUR MEMORIES
ARE *CLEAR*. MINE
ARE *VAGUE BLURS*
AT BEST.

MY TRIPS LED TO
LONELY *NIGHTS* AND THE
NIGHTS TO *DRINKING*, AND THE
DRINKING TO *FIGHTING*, AND
THE FIGHTING TO *MORE DRINKING*.



I KEPT *LOSING* JOBS, AND
FINALLY I LOST ANNIE, TOO.

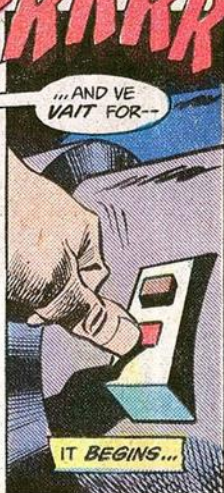
ONE DAY I GOT BACK
AFTER A TWO-WEEK TRIP
AND SHE AND THE KIDS
WERE *GONE*.

AND YOU
KNOW WHAT'S
FUNNY? I
DIDN'T REALLY
CARE.

HEY!



THE ROOM IS DARK AND COLD, AND VANESSA SQUIRMS FROM THE CHILL OF THE METAL ELECTRODES STRAPPED TO HER CHEST AND ARMS AND LEGS. SHE IS FRIGHTENED, NOT BECAUSE OF HER CAPTIVITY HERE, BUT BECAUSE OF THOSE EYES... THOSE DARK, HELLISH, SNAKE-LIKE EYES!



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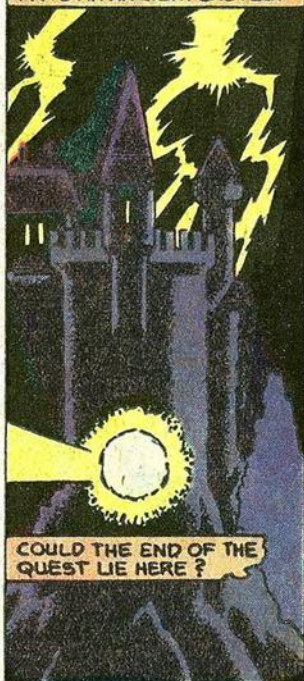


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SGT. ROCK

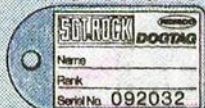
IS ON THE MOVE IN 82!



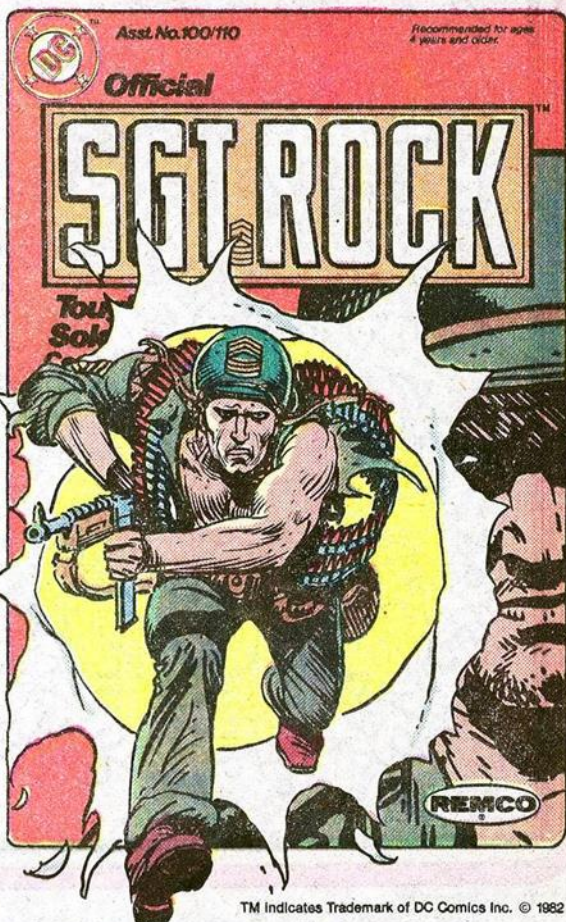
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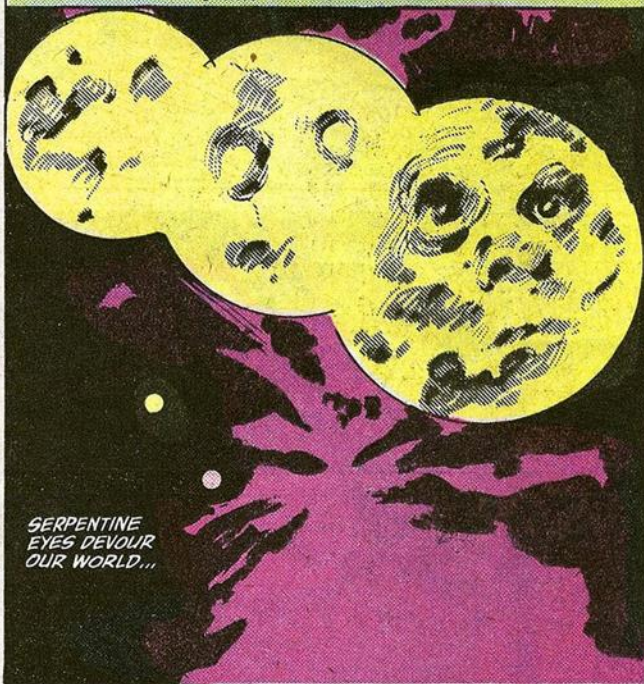
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IN THE DARKNESS APPEARS A SILVER MOON WHOSE WHITE FIRE SHINES THROUGH THE FLICKERING STARLIGHT.



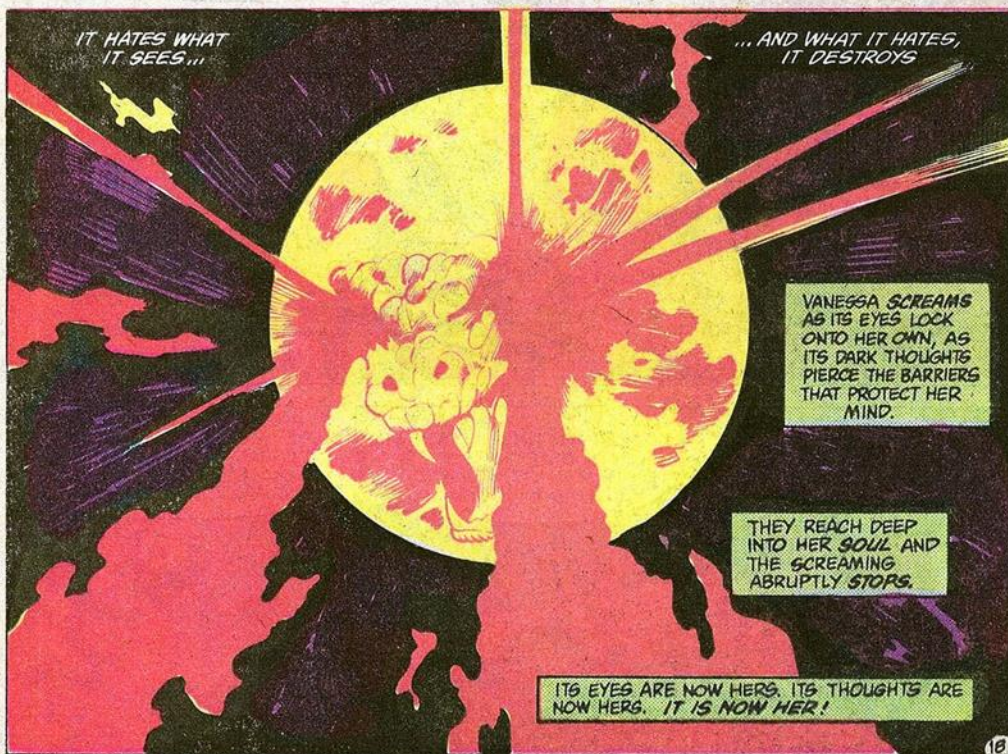
THE SHIMMERING ORB SEEMS TO GROW AND AS IT GROWS LARGER, FORMS THE VERY FACE WHICH HAS STARED DOWN UPON MANKIND SINCE THE DAWN OF FIRST THOUGHT.



SERPENTINE EYES DEVOUR OUR WORLD...

IT HATES WHAT IT SEES...

... AND WHAT IT HATES, IT DESTROYS



VANESSA SCREAMS AS ITS EYES LOCK ONTO HER OWN, AS ITS DARK THOUGHTS PIERCE THE BARRIERS THAT PROTECT HER MIND.

THEY REACH DEEP INTO HER SOUL AND THE SCREAMING ABRUPTLY STOPS.

ITS EYES ARE NOW HERS. ITS THOUGHTS ARE NOW HERS. IT IS NOW HER!

SOMEWHERE
ON A DESOLATE
ROAD...

...CAN'T FOLLOW YOU,
CAINE... IF DEMONS DON'T
EXIST, HOW COULD VANESSA
CREATE ONE? AND FROM WHAT?

YOU ARE THICK,
GOLD. REMEMBER, MY
STUDENTS WERE PLUGGED
INTO THE SAME COMPUTER
VANESSA WAS.

THEY FED THE IMAGE OF
SATAN INTO THE COMPUTER,
AND THE COMPUTER
AMPLIFIED THAT IMAGE
AND FED IT INTO
VANESSA.

I EXPLAINED BEFORE.
VANESSA'S A PSYCHIC BATTERY
ABSORBING AND CONVERTING
THE ENERGY WE CALL "EVIL"
INTO A PHYSICAL
REALITY.

SHE TOLD ME SHE
WAS ATTACKED BY A
RIVER OF BLOOD.
SHE CAUSED
THAT?

INADVERTENTLY.
SHE WAS PICKING UP MY
STUDENTS' ENERGY WAVES
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS
NOWHERE NEAR THEM.

SHE ALSO
MANIFESTED THEIR
EARLY DEMON
CEREMONIES INTO
THOSE CREATURES
WHICH APPEARED
THROUGHOUT
GEORGETOWN.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL? IF THE
RUSSIANS CAN HARNESS HER PSYCHIC POWERS,
IF THEY COULD CHANNEL HER POWERS--

--VANESSA COULD
UNWITTINGLY DESTROY
A WORLD! THAT'S HOW
POWERFUL HER MIND
IS.

AND CAN YOU IMAGINE SHE'S
BEEN LIVING WITH THE PAINS SHE
UNKNOWNLY HAS ABSORBED.
LIVING WITH THE HORROR
FESTERING WITHIN HER.

AT ANY POINT SHE COULD
PSYCHICALLY EXPLODE, AND
I SWEAR THAT WHEN SHE DOES,
HELL WILL SEEM LIKE
PARADISE BY COMPARISON.

GREAT GOD
IN HEAVEN.

BILLIOWING STREAMERS OF INCANDESCENT
FURY HURL DOWNWARD FROM THE HEAVENS
AS IF FROM SOME WRATH-BEGOTTEN GOD.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH
PERISHED THIS WAY,
BURNING IN ITS OWN
EVIL LUSTS. PLAGUE-
RIDDEN ANCIENT EGYPT
SUFFERED THIS WAY,
SWEEPED OVER BY A TIDE
OF THEIR OWN DARK
HATES. AND HELL WAS
BORN THIS WAY, CREATED
FROM THAT SINISTER
PRIMAL ATOM THAT
PAINFULLY PULSATES
WITHIN ALL.

EXCEPT...

...THE FIERY RAIN WHICH SCORCHES AND CONSUMES
ALL IT WASHES OVER COMES NOT FROM THE EYES
OF SOME CREATOR OR DESTROYER...

...BUT FROM ONE
FRAGILE, FRIGHTENED
YOUNG WOMAN JUST
FOUR DAYS SHY OF
TURNING TWENTY-ONE.

WE'VE HAF REACHED INTO
HER SUBCONSCIOUS, FREED
HER MIND FROM ALL
RESTRAINTS.

SHE HATES EFERYTHING ABOUT
HERSELF, AND VAT SHE HATES SHE
VILL DESTROY.

GOOD GOD!
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?

THEN STOP
HER, YOU FOOL.
GIVE HER THE
TRANQUILIZER.

NO! NO! WE
MUST PUSH HER
EFEN FURTHER.
THIS IS RAW POWER
UNLEASHED.

NEFER
HAF I SEEN
ITS LIKE
BEFORE. IT IS
FASCINATING...
IT IS... IS...

IT IS A
MIRACLE, I
TELL YOU. A
MIRA--

AARRGHHH

WOOSH

GET
OUT OF
HERE!

N-NO...
WE MUST
BRING THE
GIRL.

THOSE
ARE OUR
ORDERS!

GO, TAKE GARGARIN
WITH YOU. RUN. I WILL
BRING THE GIRL.

HURRY... HURRY...
RUN BEFORE IT IS TOO
LATE. RUN!

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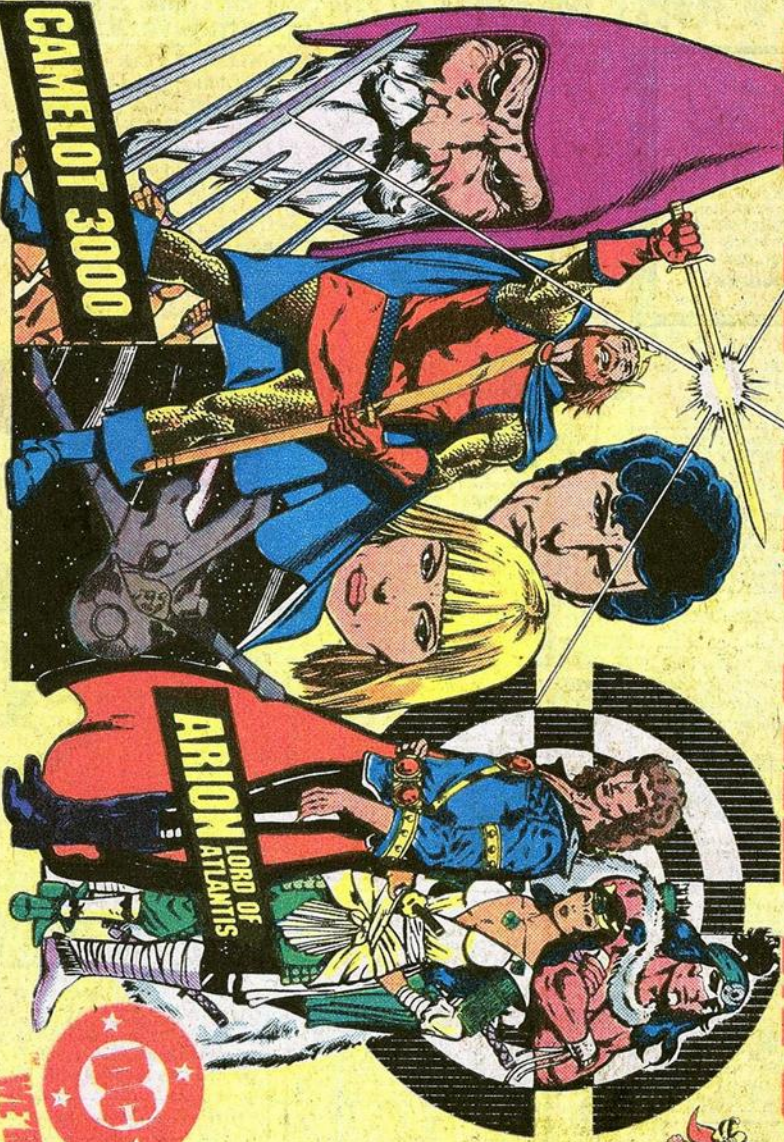
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BLACKHAWK



**THE NEW DC
WE'RE ON THE MOVE
IN '82**



**ARION
LORD OF
ATLANTIS**

CAMELOT 3000



EEEEEEIiAARGH

WITH THE ARROGANCE OF
SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY,
HEEDLESS OF ANY
DANGERS HE MIGHT CAUSE...

...OF ANY SUFFERING HE
MIGHT CREATE...

...OF ANY PAIN HE
MIGHT INFLICT--

--ZAKARIJ ZADOK HAS
UNLEASHED THE DEMON
THAT DWELLS WITHIN THE
YOUNG WOMAN'S MIND.

FOR AN ALL-TOO-
BRIEF MOMENT HE
REVEALS IN HIS
SUCCESS.

AND THEN
HE PAYS
THE PRICE.

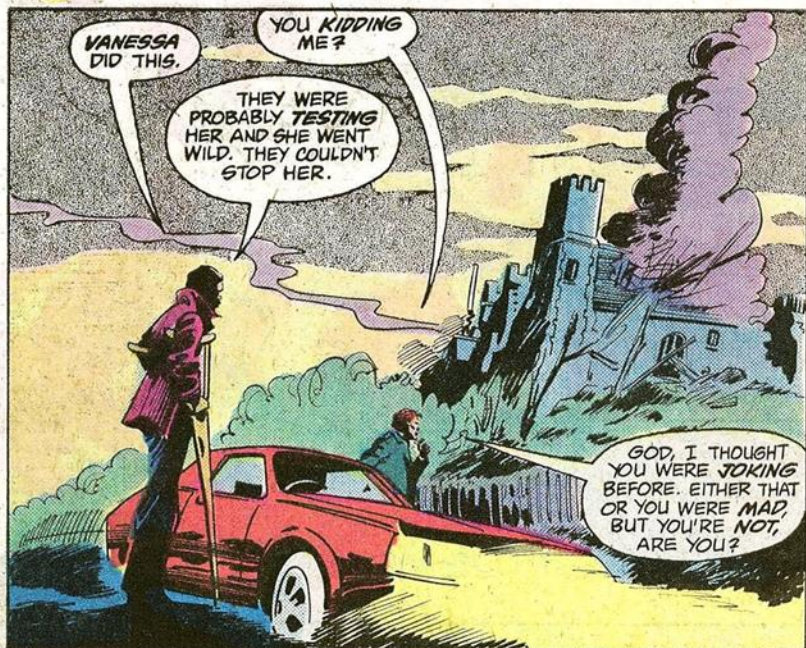
EVERYTHING IS DESTROYED!
WHAT DO I TELL THE POLICE?
WHAT DO I TELL THE
AMBASSADOR?

WHAT
DO I
SAY?

YOU
ARE THE
DIPLOMAT.
YOU FIGURE
IT OUT.

WE HAVE
THE RIGHT GIRL.
SHE IS OUR
ONLY CONCERN.

SOMETIME
LATER...



NIGHT FORCES

L-1166



Dear Readers;

Mail reaction to THE NIGHT FORCE has been fantastic. Never in my wildest imaginings could I have expected a so-called 'mystery' comic to garner such an out-pouring of emotion. Because of this, and because I want to print letters on both our preview and first issue, I'll keep my comments down to a minimum.

Dear Marv and Gene;

THE NIGHT FORCE is going to be one of the best comics around if it's anything like its preview. Gene has added a mystical finesse to his art and he made this story incredible to look at. Marv has done a tremendous job with Raven on THE NEW TEEN TITANS and I hope some of that kind of characterization will be included in THE NIGHT FORCE. Thank you all for a job well done.

Bill Previdi
11 Emlhust Rd.
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Marv and Gene;

Dedication!

That is what you two, along with inker Tom Palmer, brought with you to Marvel Comics and *The Tomb Of Dracula* to those many years ago.

Dedication.

That is what both of you have reinstated in your so far brief yet highly productive tenure at DC. Marv's work on THE NEW TEEN TITANS has made that your company's #1 comic, and Gene's work on BATMAN has gotten me more than mildly interested in that mag again. Coupled together, you two are a Force to be reckoned with.

Dedication.

That is why I have looked forward to THE NIGHT FORCE, for I believe that this comic will lead the way for more novel and unique concepts in comic art. If Baron Winters, Jack Gold, Donovan Caine and Vanessa Van Helsing were just copies of Dracula's supporting cast, I would still buy your mag. But they aren't. And your dedication has inspired my own.

As expected, THE NIGHT FORCE is far more than a trite replica of your past glories; it is a new wave of wonderment and imagination.

Watch out, world. WOLFGANG AND COLAN ARE TOGETHER AGAIN!

Stu Kroll
28 Kettle Creek Rd.
Freehold, N.J. 07728

Dear Marv;

Three cheers for THE NIGHT FORCE!

My congratulations to you and Gene on an intriguing teaser to the series.

While I'm not overly fond of psychic/occult teams per se, you got me hooked by the end of the 15 page introduction of the characters.

The strength of Gene's pencilling and storytelling continues to thrill me. He remains, in my opinion, the finest non-superhero artist in the field. Between THE NIGHT FORCE and *Ragamuffins*, Gene now has two regular venues to show the

younger artists how to draw real people in real, everyday clothing (folds and all!). I would prefer, though, to see an inker more sensitive to Gene's shading techniques.

Let's hope THE NIGHT FORCE is a success. The field needs more non-super-hero comics, and if each venture outside the mainstream is as good as THE NIGHT FORCE, then the field may once again boast of a variety of styles and genres.

Dean Mullaney
81 Delaware St.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

Dean, for those of you who don't know, publishes the alternative comic magazine, Eclipse, as well as other comic-oriented magazines available only through direct comic book shops. Dean was also a regular letter writer to the old Tomb Of Dracula comics and an astute comics critic. Dean, I thank you for the comments, and I think you'll see how well Bob Smith's inks now mesh with Gene Colan's pencils. Gene's a difficult man to ink, but we honestly think Bob has met the challenge better than most of us could have hoped. Indeed, Gene just called Bob to tell him that he thinks Bob's renditions are the best he's ever seen.

Anyway, good luck on Eclipse. You're doing a good job. I hope it takes off.

Dear Marv and Gene;

Congratulations for making comic history! The potential scope of THE NIGHT FORCE is unequalled by anything I've ever seen in comics or comic. I'm only surprised that you didn't set a second precedent by becoming the first regular series from DC to go to direct sales only. If you find that you're being creatively limited by the comics code, then I hope this option is open to you.

I find myself unable to come up with a critical opinion with only your preview and first issue to go on. Right now I have nothing but raves on all counts. Therefore, I'll wait a month or two before saying anything more specific.

Andrew Laubacher
3858 Gaines Basin Rd.
Albion, N.Y. 14411

Andy, we had the option of going Direct Sales Only, but I turned it down. I wanted THE NIGHT FORCE to reach the widest audience possible. So far, with the exception of toning down on some language, the comics code has not rejected anything. If they do, we'll think of alternatives.

Dear Marv & Gene;

Just writing to congratulate you on your terrific new book, THE NIGHT FORCE. This is the first time I've ever written to a comic, but after reading THE NIGHT FORCE, I felt compelled to do so.

Gene Colan's art is great as usual, but your storyline is right down my alley. I love stories of the occult and have been hungering for more of the same since the demise of *The Tomb Of Dracula*.

This book has an atmosphere of its own that is great. The only other comics that seem to have this certain atmosphere are BATMAN and *Master of Kung Fu*. I never miss those books and now I'll add THE NIGHT FORCE to my list of elite comics.

Ron Sharon
217 10 Ave. South
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Dear Marv, Gene, Bob and anyone else responsible for this masterpiece:

It started with the most vibrant, exciting cover I've seen in years, and continued straight through with the moodiest, most beautiful art in existence. It began with a taut, unusual opening and grew into a gripping, finely scripted masterpiece. It was the first issue of **THE NIGHT FORCE**, and it was spectacular.

Thank you! I've been waiting for years for another quality "horror" comic and you people have me satisfied. The writing is excellent; there seems to be an intricate and intelligently planned framework on which to build an infinite number of fascinating plots, and on which to hang the existence of the book.

And the art! Gene Colan surpasses anybody and everybody in the comics field today. No one can bring across emotion like he can. The sheer terror in Vanessa Van Helsing's face, the sarcasm and skepticism in Jack Gold's features, the cool, aloof countenance of Baron Winters, the lustful passions of the scientists engaged in primal demonic rituals, the awesome evil demons of the sewers, the gentle concern of Jack Gold for Vanessa...I could go on forever, but I think that it's obvious that Gene poured heart and soul into this book.

THE NIGHT FORCE shows tremendous promise. The foundation you've laid in the first script affords enormous potential for interesting and exciting scripts, and the occult Mission Impossible flavor that you've given the book adds to the limitless possibilities.

May you have a long and happy run.

Peter Ivanick
43 Mark Lane
New City, N.Y. 10956

*Peter, Gene really is the best when it comes to showing emotions. I worked with him for more than eight years on the old **Dracula** comic and I love working with Gene now. There is something between the two of us that clicks and we both produce the best we possibly can.*

I'm very pleased that our intense involvement is appreciated.

Marv, Gene and Ross,

First of all, let me say that **THE NIGHT FORCE** is the first and only DC comic that has ever created an interest for me. When I first read about the idea of a comic book-cum-novel series, I was excited picturing plots that had more depth than were previously possible. So, I picked up the first issue and found out you are off to a flying start.

I take it the first novel is "The Summoning" and chapter one is "Genesis." Well, dandy. In creating a concept where no character is more important than the book as a whole, you have opened up doors closed for too long.

And do not knock the horror comic in the market today. It is my own opinion that anything well made will find an audience in today's more fan-oriented market. Of course, you and Gene's past on **Dracula** will not hurt. As for Gene—the last thing I saw him draw was some issues of **The Avengers** that was suffering from writing-in-transition (a common Marvel complaint these days) and he deserved better. With **THE NIGHT FORCE**, he is already hitting his stride again.

One other thing—I hope you do not reveal too much about the Baron's life. Leave him the mystery figure who ties in all the different novels. After only one issue, it is obvious that you have something good here. I am happy for you because this proves you do have a superhero or incredible powers to provide excellent visual and literary entertainment. Good luck.

Thomas Long
Rt. #3 Box 146
Edwardsville, IL 62025

*Thomas, if you like **THE NIGHT FORCE**, please don't hesitate to try some other of DC's new comics. DC has made a commitment to quality and we think it's starting to shine through.*

*Look at **THE NEW TEEN TITANS** (if you like my work), take a peek at **SWAMP THING**. Coming up real soon will be **CAMELOT 3000**, a great new series.*

*Also, take a look at what we're doing on some of our older books: Look at **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE COMICS**, especially if*

*you like Gene's work. See the big change in **WORLD'S FINEST COMICS**, it's bound to surprise you. Also, look at **SUPERMAN** and **ACTION COMICS**—I write **ACTION** and I'm very proud of what I've done there.*

DC is on the move and frankly I think the best is yet to come. In the meantime, I do hope that all of you will be back next issue. We have more surprises in store.

Take care all.

—Marv Wolfman



ON SALE AUGUST 26TH

ACTION COMICS #537—With half of him still stranded in the Middle Ages, the Superman of the present is plagued by the appearance of a new villain—Jack Hammer, who can really tear things up! Mike W. Barr pens this story called "Half A Superman." Irv Novick pencils. Cover by Gil Kane. Plus: Aquaman by Rozakis and Saviuk.

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #35—The Boy of Steel must fight "The Yellow Peri Peril." By Bob Rozakis and Kurt Schaffenberger. DIAL H FOR HERO deals with the subject of "Who's Who Among Heroes and Villains." Plotted by E. Nelson Bridwell, dialogued by Rozakis, and drawn by Howard Bender and Joe Giella. Cover by Gil Kane.

DETECTIVE COMICS #520—Boss Thorne hires Dr. Thirteen to break the ghost of Hugo Strange. Meanwhile, the Batman gets the evidence he needs to nail Thorne—but his star witness is Deadshot, who wants to be released from prison in exchange for his testimony. "The Haunting of Boss Thorne" is by Gerry Conway and Don Newton, and concludes in **BATMAN #354** next month. The second feature is **BATGIRL**, and it's by Barbara J. Randall and Trevor Von Eeden. Cover by Jim Aparo.

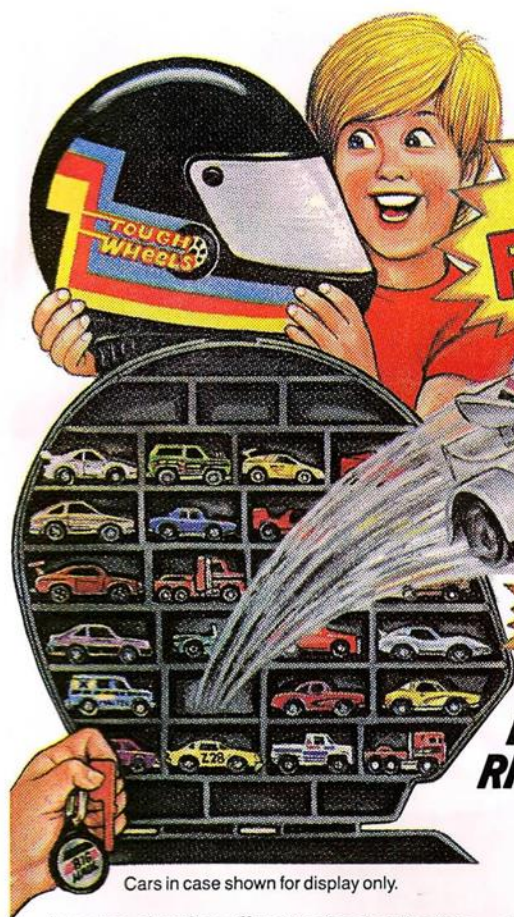
ALL-STAR SQUADRON #15—Part four of the annual JLA/JSA team-up. The menace of Degaton continues! By Roy Thomas, Adrian Gonzales and Jerry Ordway.

WEIRD WAR TALES #117—**THE CREATURE COMMANDOS** and **THE G.I. ROBOT** in the most bizarre war stories of all time.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #285—Beginning a multi-part story which changes the tone of the **WORLD'S FINEST** team-ups. A new logo heralds that this is indeed a Superman and Batman team-up book. Writer Cary Burkett has been given the freedom to stretch out stories, develop subplots and examine the characters of the Darknight Detective and the Man of Steel. As the story unfolds, Dr. Zodiac sends "animen"—half man, half animal—against the World's Finest Duo. Zatanna makes a guest appearance in this story pencilled by Rich Buckler.

SWAMP THING ANNUAL #1—A comic book adaptation of the Avco-Embassy film by Bruce Jones, Mark Texiera and Tony De Zuniga.

WARLORD ANNUAL #1—A DC best-seller in annual format for the first time! Morgan must protect a lady aristocrat and her lover-from-afar on their journey to her wedding and bridegroom-to-be. "Gateway to Doom" is a 41-page story written and pencilled by Mike Grell, inked by Bob Smith, and also features the return of Shikira, the cat lady. Cover by Grell.



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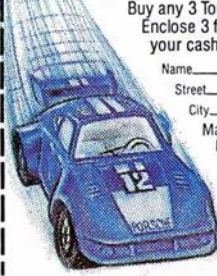


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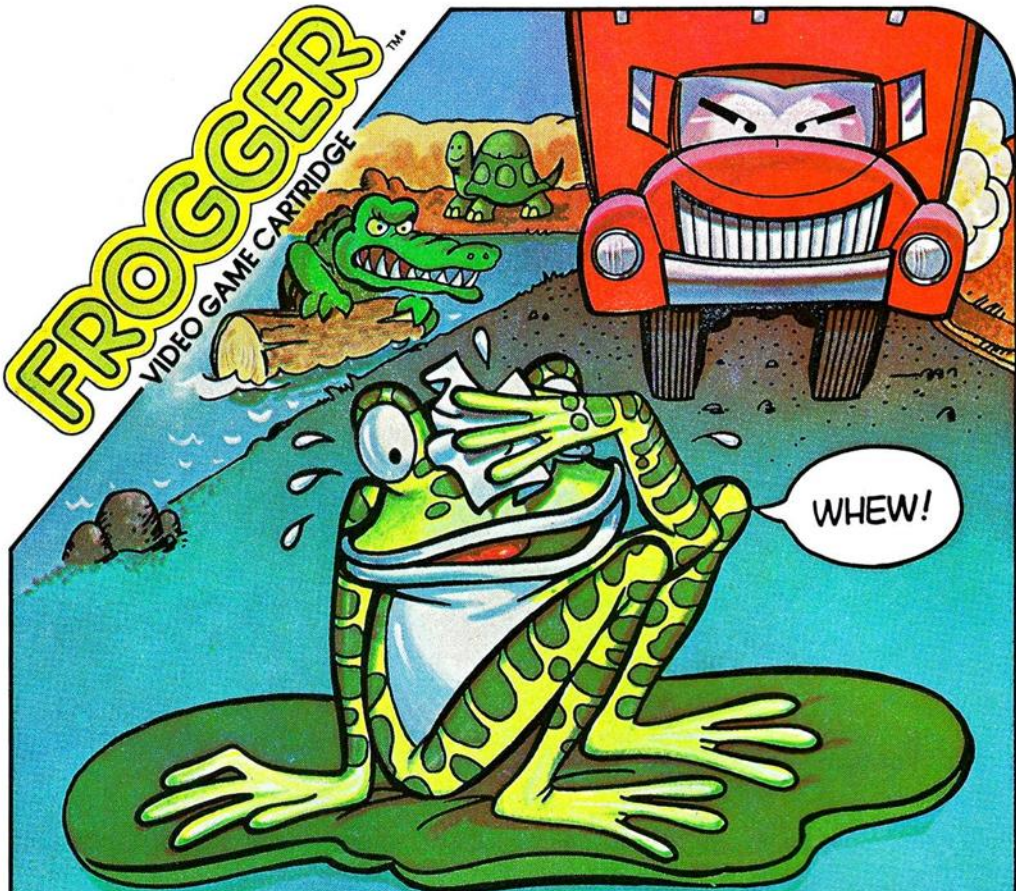
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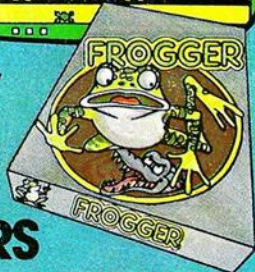
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