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SAVAGE 182

DRAGON



SAVAGE DRAGON

by 

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a churning urn of burning funk.

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YOU DON'T SUPPOSE ANYBODY SAW US, DO YOU?

DON'T BE SO JUMPY.

WE'RE FINE. WE JUST NEED A FEW MINUTES. THE WAITING IS OVER.

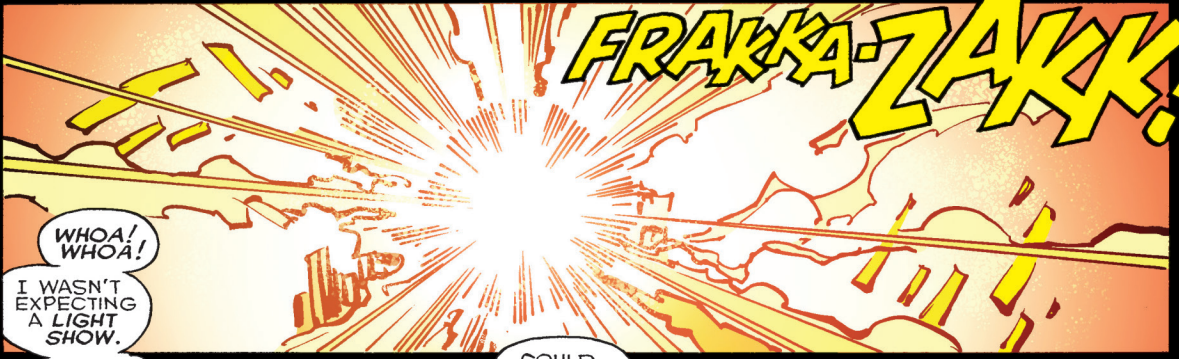
OKAY, IT'S JUST-- AFTER ALL THIS TIME-- IT WOULD SUCK TO HAVE IT ALL FALL APART NOW WHEN WE'RE SO CLOSE.



KEEP IT TOGETHER, KID.

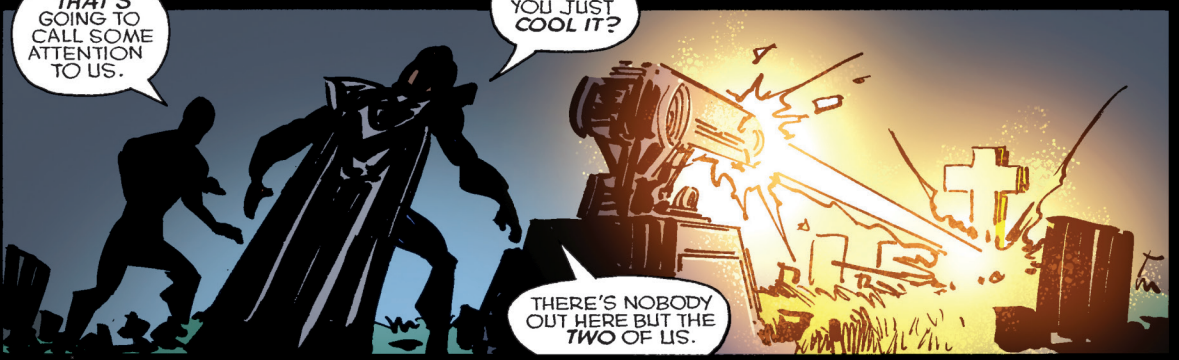
YOU'LL BE THROWING A BALL AROUND IN THE BACKYARD WITH YOUR OLD MAN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

KLIK



WHOA! WHOA! I WASN'T EXPECTING A LIGHT SHOW.

COULD YOU JUST COOL IT?



THAT'S GOING TO CALL SOME ATTENTION TO US.

THERE'S NOBODY OUT HERE BUT THE TWO OF US.

BE CAREFUL!

DAMN IT!

I *KNEW* THIS WOULD HAPPEN!





I AM CAREFUL!

THIS IS CAREFUL!

WRP!



THUNDER-HEAD!

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE!

I WONDERED WHERE YOU WANDERED OFF TO!

MALCOLM DRAGON!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THRAK!

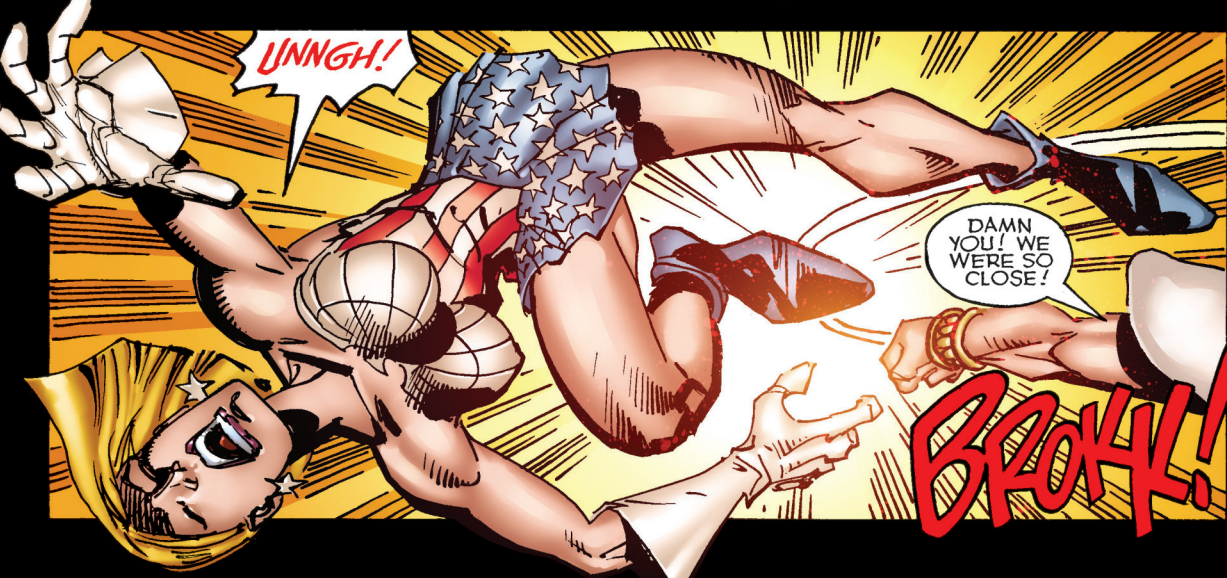
THE POLICE GIVE US A CALL WHENEVER SOMETHING COMES UP THAT THEY CAN'T HANDLE.

THEY SPOTTED YOU TWO ON THE WAY IN.



YOUR TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORSE!

FRAKKA-ZAKK!



UNNGH!

DAMN YOU! WE WERE SO CLOSE!

BROK!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE UP TO BUT I'M GUESSING IT'S NOT GOOD!



BWANNG!

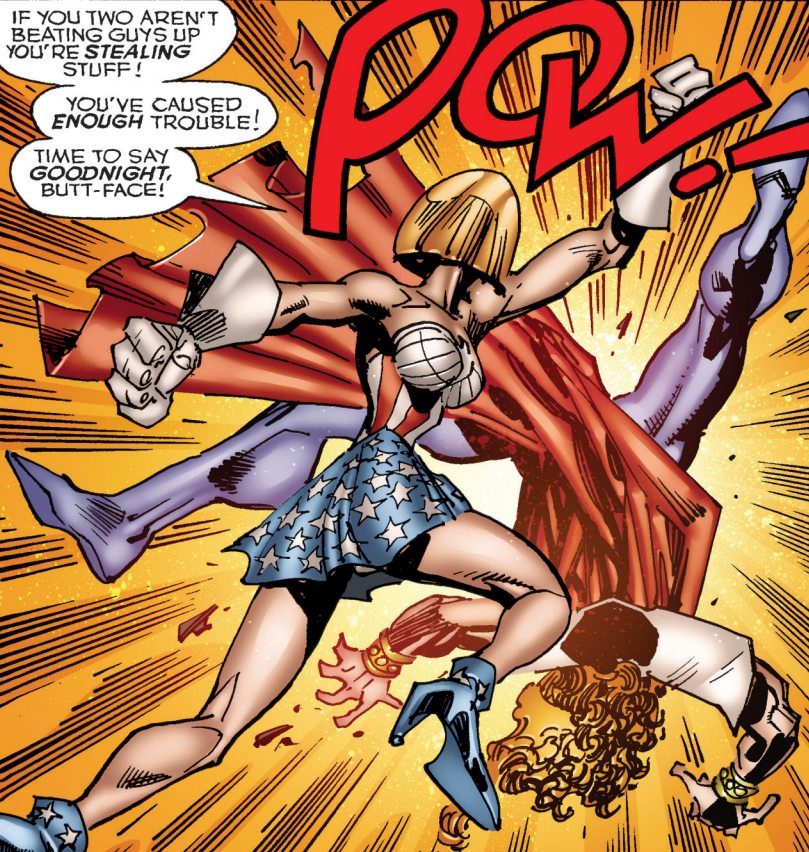
No!
THE REBORN DEVICE!
DAD!



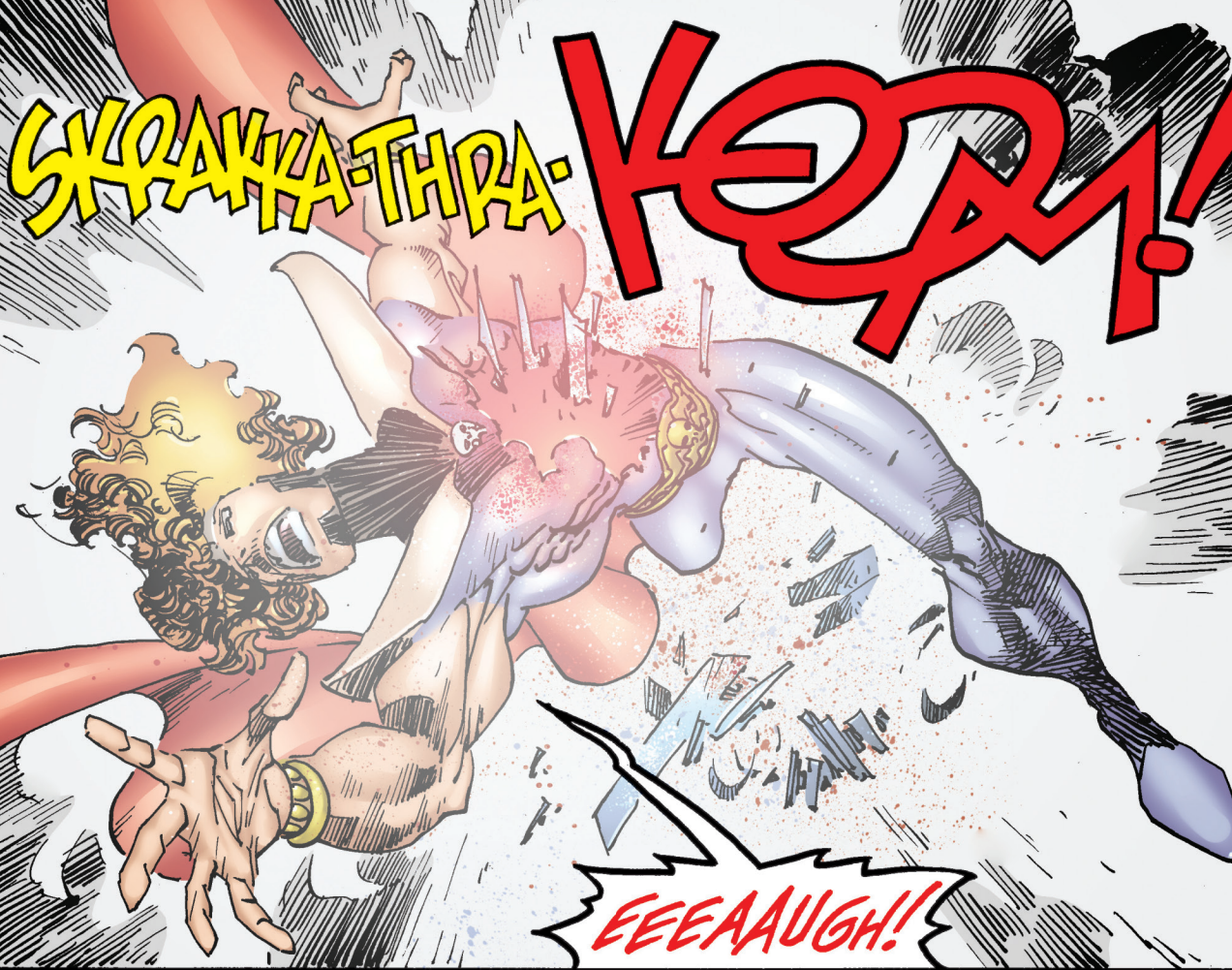
THAT MACHINE WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING MY DAD BACK FROM THE DEAD, YOU LITTLE IDIOT!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!



IF YOU TWO AREN'T BEATING GUYS UP YOU'RE STEALING STUFF!
YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE!
TIME TO SAY GOODNIGHT, BUTT-FACE!



POW!







WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?



IT'S OVER.

ALL OF IT-- OVER!

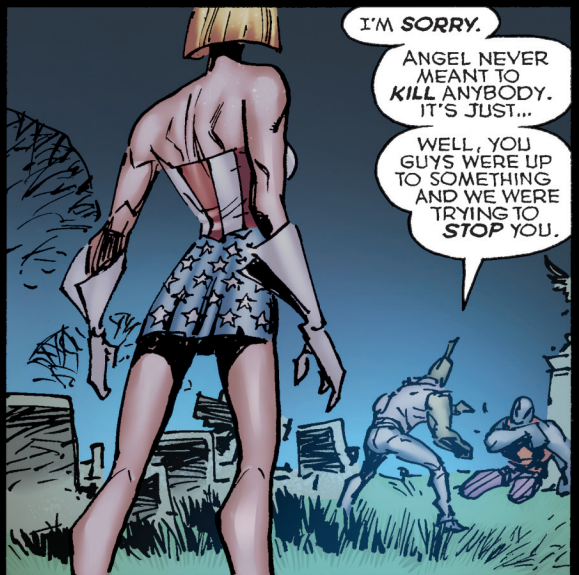
IT'S OVER.



WARGOD IS DEAD AND...

AND DAD...

DAD IS NEVER COMING BACK!



I'M SORRY.

ANGEL NEVER MEANT TO KILL ANYBODY. IT'S JUST...

WELL, YOU GUYS WERE UP TO SOMETHING AND WE WERE TRYING TO STOP YOU.



I'M...

I'M REALLY SORRY.

I CAN'T CATCH A GODDAMNED BREAK.

YOUR OLD MAN KILLED MY DAD. WARGOD SAID HE COULD HELP BRING HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD USING TECHNOLOGY STOLEN FROM PROJECT: BORN AGAIN.

NOW HE'S DEAD AND THE REBORN DEVICE IS DESTROYED.

DAD'S DEAD, SOLAR MAN KILLED MY MOM, AND NOW WARGOD...



WAIT--

SOLAR MAN KILLED YOUR MOM?



THEN--
YOUR MOM IS
RAPTURE!
SAME AS
MINE!

AND THAT
EXPLAINS
ALL THE
LIGHTNING
EFFECTS.
WE'RE
BROTHERS!



MALCOLM...?



WE'RE
BROTHERS!
WELL,
KIND OF,
AT
LEAST.

MY MOM WAS A
DIFFERENT VERSION
OF YOUR MOM
BUT STILL...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I
LOST MY JOB. I WAS GOING TO
GET KICKED OUT OF MY APART-
MENT. I WAS DESPERATE
AND WARGOD...

JUST GO,
OKAY?
I'M NOT
GOING TO
TAKE YOU
IN, ALL
RIGHT?

GET
YOUR LIFE
TOGETHER
AND DON'T
MAKE ME
REGRET
THIS--!



MALCOLM,
WHAT ARE
YOU--?



HE'S
GETTING
AWAY!

I DON'T THINK
THUNDER-HEAD
IS A BAD GUY.
HE'S JUST HAD
SOME BAD LUCK,
THAT'S ALL.

IF WE TAKE HIM IN HE'LL HAVE A CRIMINAL
RECORD AND HE MAY NEVER STRAIGHTEN
UP. MAYBE IF WE LET HIM GO THERE'S A
CHANCE HE COULD GET IT TOGETHER.

AFTER ALL HE'S BEEN THROUGH... I'M
WILLING TO GIVE HIM THAT CHANCE.



OVERLORD IS OUT TO DESTROY THE VICIOUS CIRCLE!

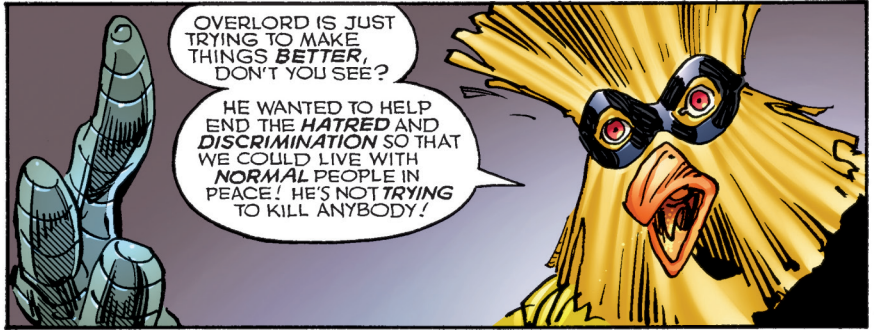


YOU'VE SEEN THE HEADLINES! WE'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED-- YOU-- EYE!

WE KEEP MESSING WITH THAT OVERLORD CAT AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO GO THE BIG A-WAY!

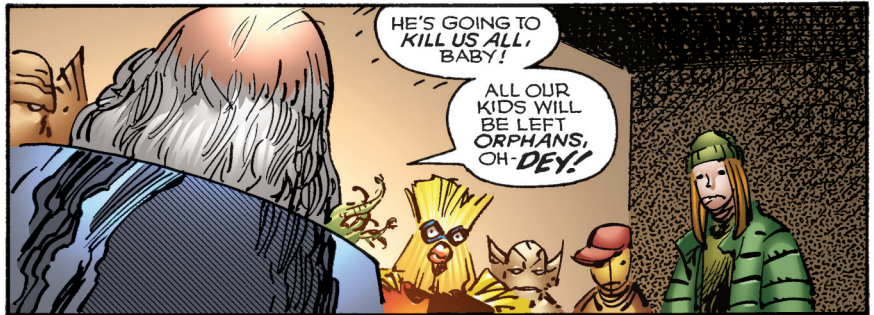
HE MUST BE STOPPED! HE MUST BE KILLED!

NO! NOT THAT!



OVERLORD IS JUST TRYING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER, DON'T YOU SEE?

HE WANTED TO HELP END THE HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION SO THAT WE COULD LIVE WITH NORMAL PEOPLE IN PEACE! HE'S NOT TRYING TO KILL ANYBODY!



HE'S GOING TO KILL US ALL, BABY!

ALL OUR KIDS WILL BE LEFT ORPHANS, OH-DEY!



DUNG SPEAKS FOR MOST OF US, POWERHOUSE. OVERLORD MAY HAVE YOU CONVINCED THAT HE'S GOT OUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART BUT THE REALITY IS-- HE'S LEFT A TRAIL OF BODIES A MILE LONG.

NOW-- ARE YOU WITH US-- OR HIM?

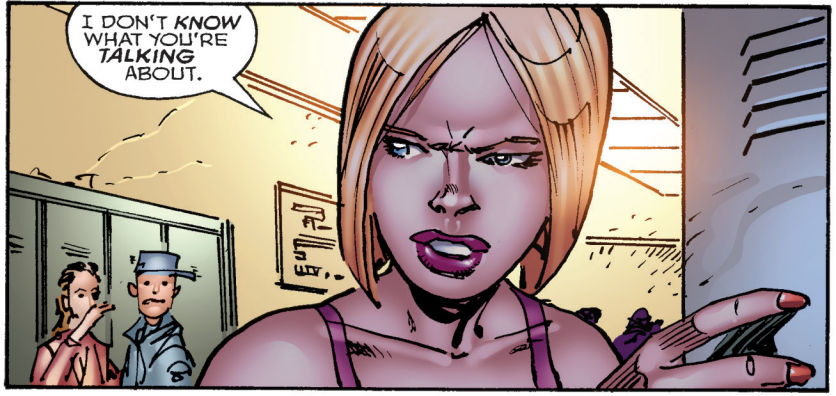
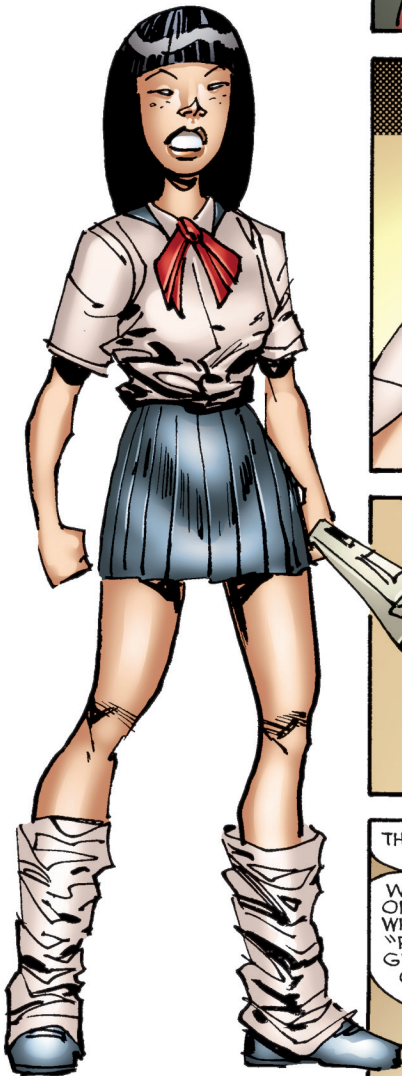


I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT.

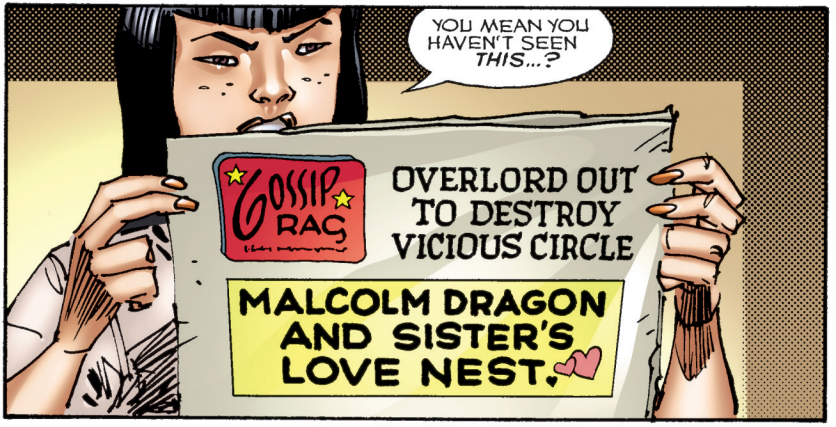
HOW COULD YOU DO IT, ANGEL?

YOUR OWN BROTHER!

HOW COULD YOU?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THIS...?

Gossip Rag

OVERLORD OUT TO DESTROY VICIOUS CIRCLE

MALCOLM DRAGON AND SISTER'S LOVE NEST.



THIS IS...

THIS IS...

THIS NEVER HAPPENED!

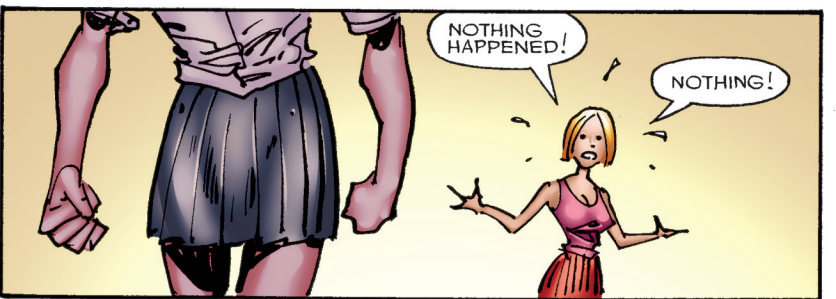
IT-- IT'S NOT TRUE! NONE OF IT IS TRUE!



THOSE PICTURES TELL ANOTHER STORY!

WHAT'S GOING ON THERE AND WHAT ARE THE OTHER "PICTURES" SO GRAPHIC EVEN WE CAN'T PRINT THEM?

MALCOLM WAS HURT BUT WE NEVER--



NOTHING HAPPENED!

NOTHING!



GOD IS DEAD!



GOD IS DEAD-- BUT HE CAN NEVER TRULY DIE!

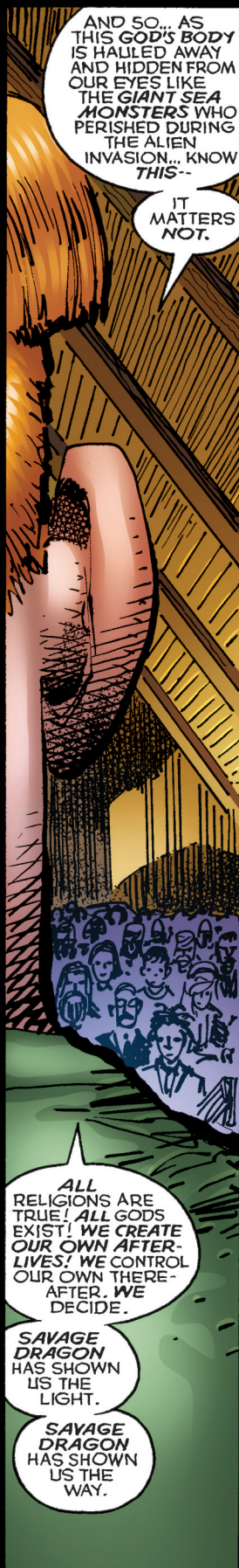
FOR YOU SEE-- WE MAKE OUR OWN GOD.

WE DECIDE ON OUR OWN AFTERLIFE.

SAVAGE DRAGON TALKED TO GOD.

SAVAGE DRAGON WAS TOLD THE ANSWER! HERE, AT THE CHURCH OF SAVAGE DRAGON-- WE KNOW THE TRUTH!

THERE IS NO ONE GOD. NO SINGLE ANSWER TO ETERNAL QUESTIONS!



AND SO... AS THIS GOD'S BODY IS HALLED AWAY AND HIDDEN FROM OUR EYES LIKE THE GIANT SEA MONSTERS WHO PERISHED DURING THE ALIEN INVASION... KNOW THIS--

IT MATTERS NOT.

ALL RELIGIONS ARE TRUE! ALL GODS EXIST! WE CREATE OUR OWN AFTERLIVES! WE CONTROL OUR OWN THEREAFTER. WE DECIDE.

SAVAGE DRAGON HAS SHOWN US THE LIGHT.

SAVAGE DRAGON HAS SHOWN US THE WAY.



AND THOUGH SAVAGE DRAGON IS NO LONGER WITH US, KNOW YOU THIS--

HIS IS THE WISDOM THAT GUIDES US. HE HAS SHOWN US THE LIGHT. AND THAT LIGHT WILL NOT DIM, EVEN WITH THE PASSING OF THIS ALMIGHTY DEITY!

GOD CAN NEVER TRULY DIE AS LONG AS WE BELIEVE!

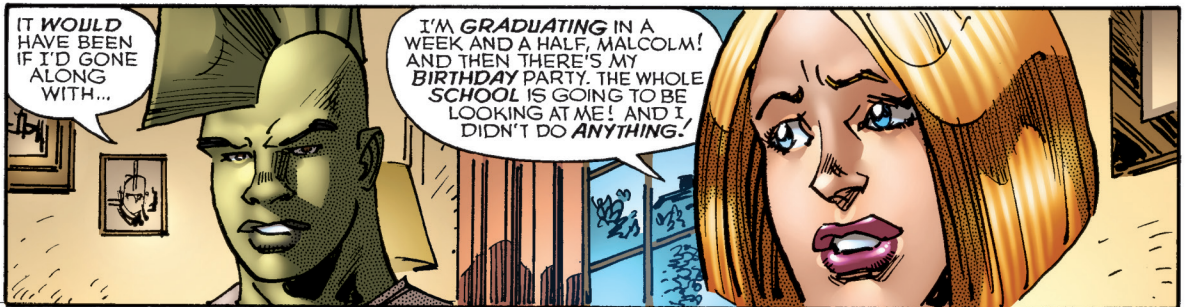


I DID WHAT NOW?



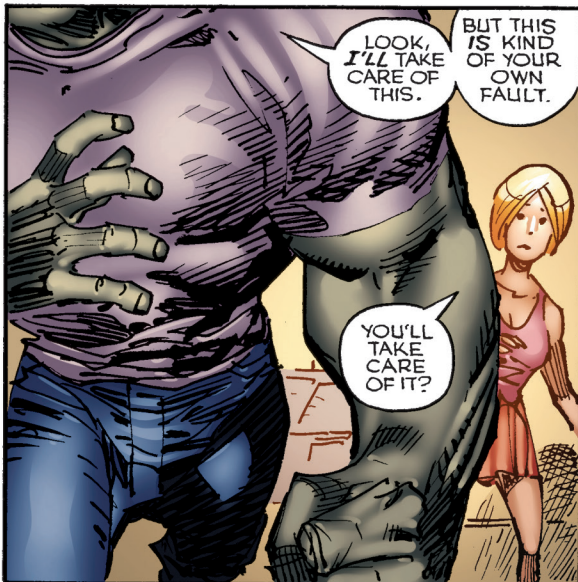
YEAH... THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

EVERYBODY AT SCHOOL THINKS IT'S TRUE!



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF I'D GONE ALONG WITH...

I'M GRADUATING IN A WEEK AND A HALF, MALCOLM! AND THEN THERE'S MY BIRTHDAY PARTY. THE WHOLE SCHOOL IS GOING TO BE LOOKING AT ME! AND I, DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!



LOOK, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS. BUT THIS IS KIND OF YOUR OWN FAULT.

YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF IT?

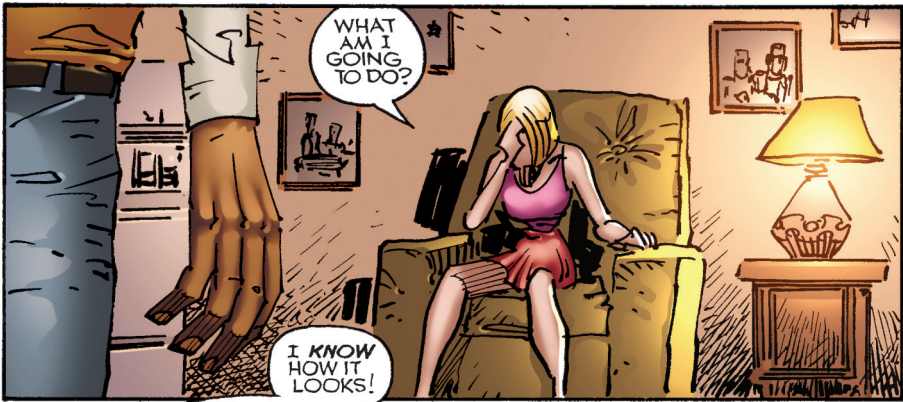
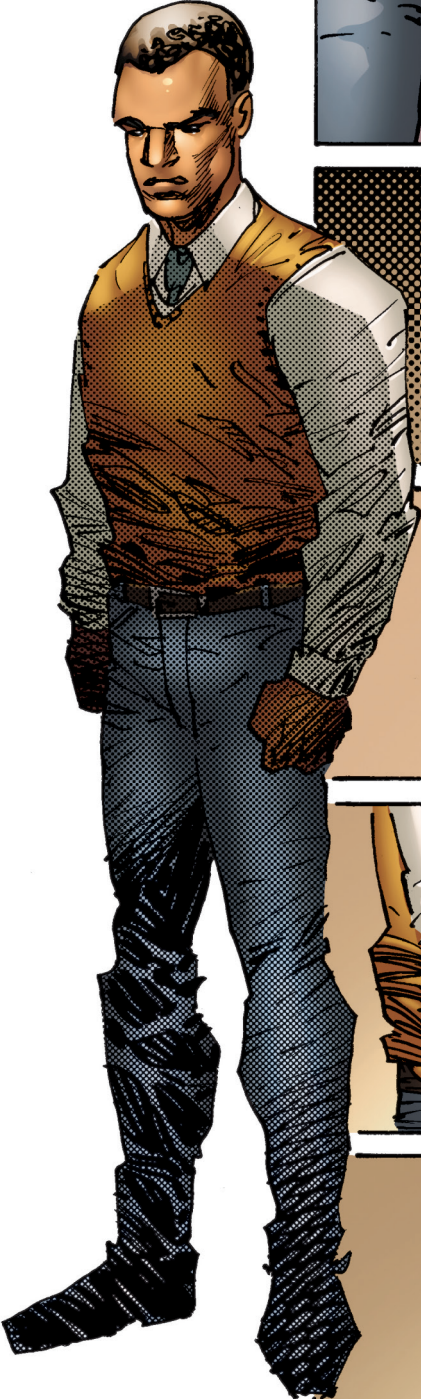


I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

IN THE MEANTIME...

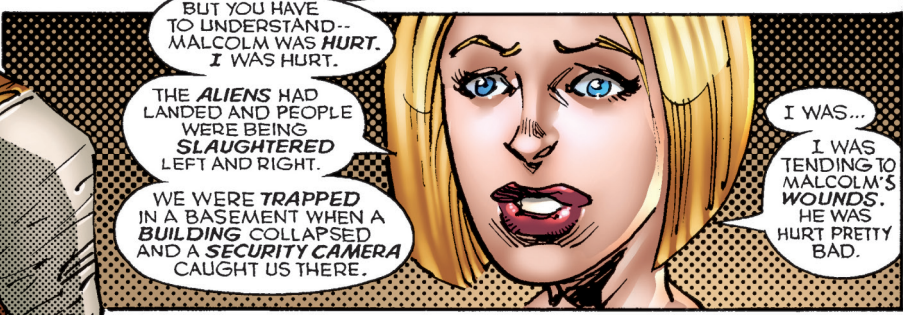
YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO THE GUY WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR BOYFRIEND.

OF COURSE I BELIEVE YOU.



WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

I KNOW HOW IT LOOKS!

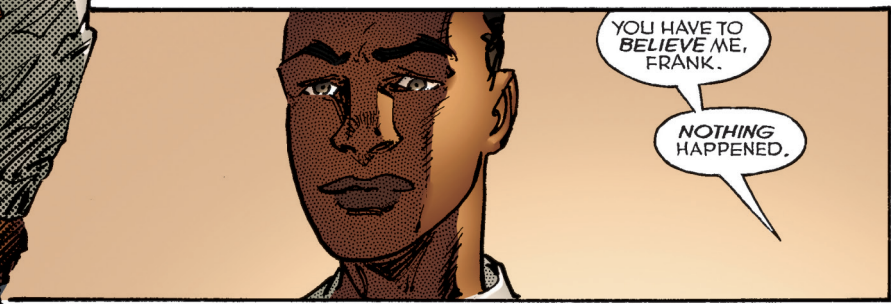


BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND-- MALCOLM WAS HURT. I WAS HURT.

THE ALIENS HAD LANDED AND PEOPLE WERE BEING SLAUGHTERED LEFT AND RIGHT.

WE WERE TRAPPED IN A BASEMENT WHEN A BUILDING COLLAPSED AND A SECURITY CAMERA CAUGHT US THERE.

I WAS... I WAS TENDING TO MALCOLM'S WOUNDS. HE WAS HURT PRETTY BAD.



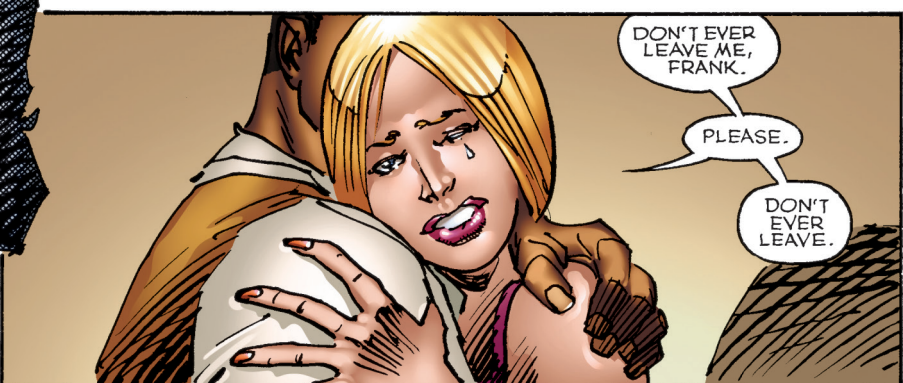
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME, FRANK.

NOTHING HAPPENED.



A LOT OF PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD. I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU DID DO SOMETHING.

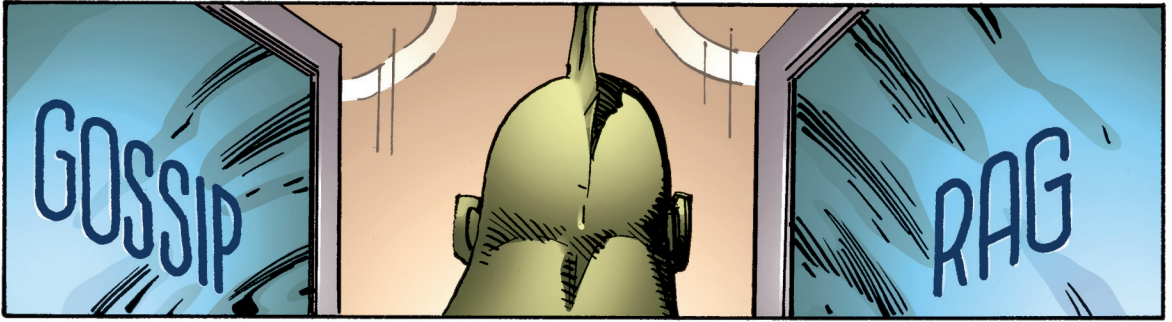
BUT... I BELIEVE YOU.



DON'T EVER LEAVE ME, FRANK.

PLEASE.

DON'T EVER LEAVE.





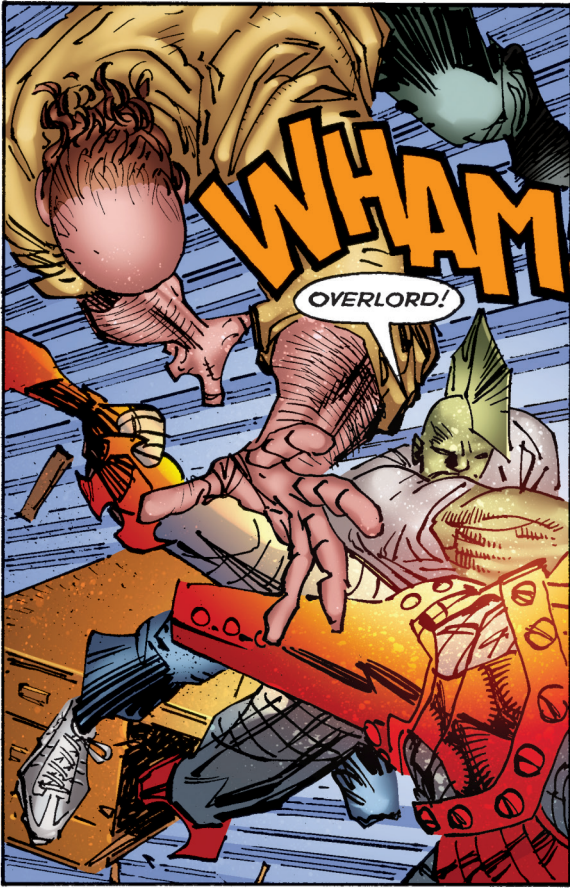
STILL YOUR
LYING TONGUE,
YOU SNIVELING
WRETCH!

YOU CAN'T
TALK YOUR
WAY OUT OF
THIS ONE!

HOLY--!

OVERLORD!

=KAKK!=-



WHAM!

OVERLORD!



YOU TRIED TO KILL MY DAD! YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!

I WAS DEFENDING MYSELF!

NOW BACK OFF!

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA TALK WILLARD HERE OUT OF PLAYING FAST AND LOOSE WITH THE TRUTH!

FRA-WHOSH!



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ANYBODY--

--NOT EVER AGAIN!

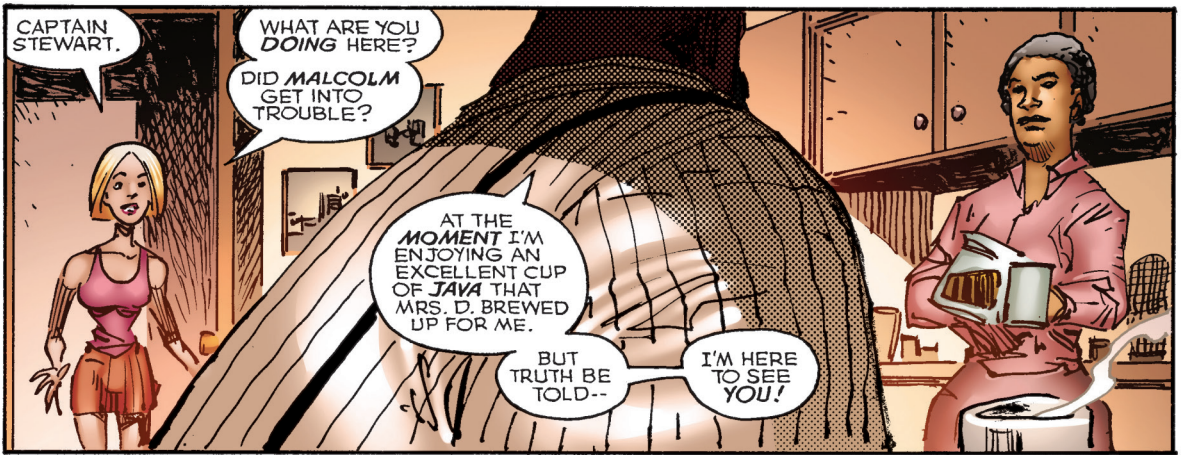
SKRON!



KID--

THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE--!

WRAMM!



CAPTAIN STEWART.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DID MALCOLM GET INTO TROUBLE?

AT THE MOMENT I'M ENJOYING AN EXCELLENT CUP OF JAVA THAT MRS. D. BREWED UP FOR ME.

BUT TRUTH BE TOLD--

I'M HERE TO SEE YOU!



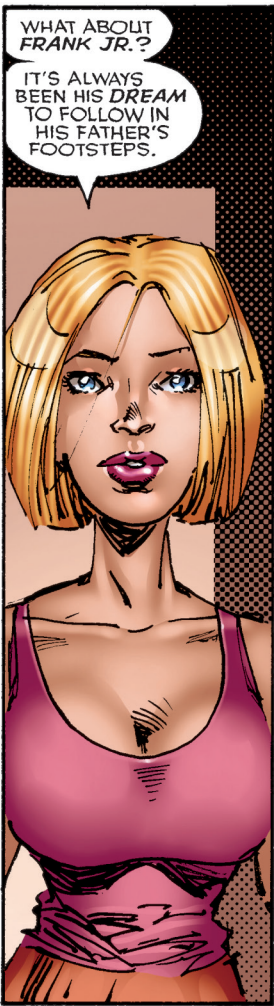
COME AUGUST 22ND, YOU'LL BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.

AND I'M HERE TO SEE IF YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE PERSUADED INTO SIGNING UP WITH THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

NOW, UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES YOU'D BE A FEW YEARS SHY OF THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT BUT CHICAGO'S A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ANIMAL-- ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO PARANORMALS LIKE YOURSELF.

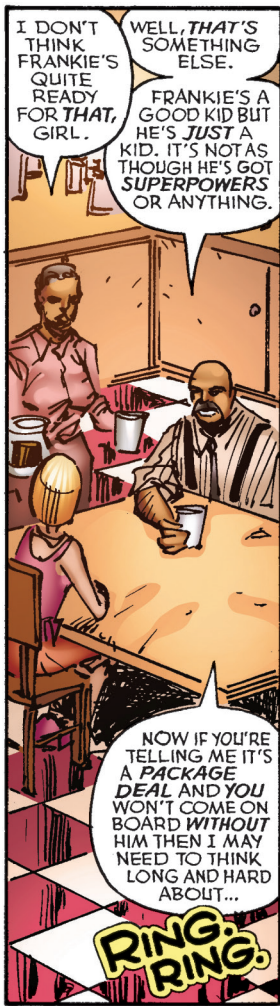
YOUR STEPDAD WAS A STAR PLAYER.

AND WE COULD SURE AS WELL USE ANOTHER DRAGON ON THE FORCE.



WHAT ABOUT FRANK JR.?

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HIS DREAM TO FOLLOW IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.



I DON'T THINK FRANKIE'S QUITE READY FOR THAT, GIRL.

WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

FRANKIE'S A GOOD KID BUT HE'S JUST A KID. IT'S NOT AS THOUGH HE'S GOT SUPERPOWERS OR ANYTHING.

NOW IF YOU'RE TELLING ME IT'S A PACKAGE DEAL AND YOU WON'T COME ON BOARD WITHOUT HIM THEN I MAY NEED TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT...

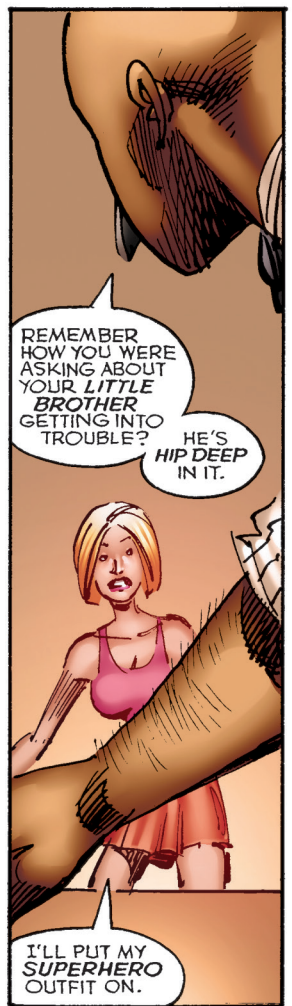
RING. RING.



HELLO.
LISTEN, BARRY, I'M KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF--

WHAT?!

I'M ON MY WAY.



REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER GETTING INTO TROUBLE?

HE'S HIP DEEP IN IT.

I'LL PUT MY SUPERHERO OUTFIT ON.

BOOM!

UNNGH!

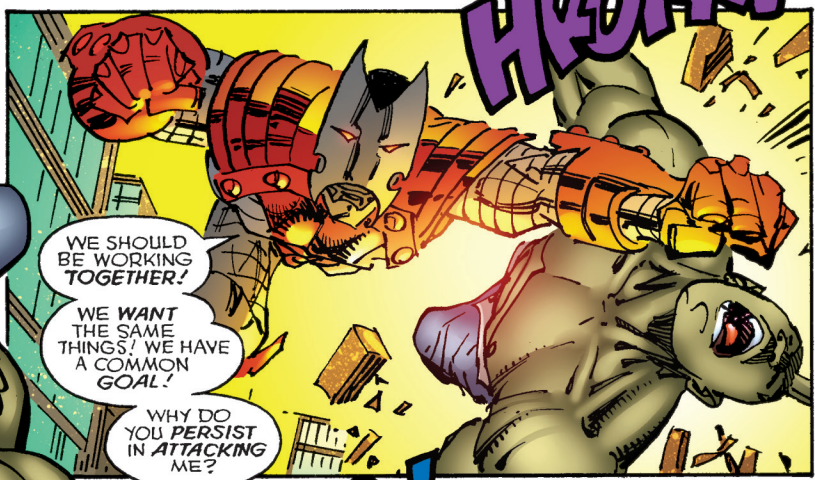


I DON'T GET IT!

THAT PARASITE HAS BEEN SMEARING YOU JUST AS MUCH AS HE HAS ME!

YOU SHOULD BE HELPING ME TAKE HIM DOWN A PEG OR TWO, NOT GETTING IN THE WAY!

CRASH!



WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER!

WE WANT THE SAME THINGS! WE HAVE A COMMON GOAL!

WHY DO YOU PERSIST IN ATTACKING ME?

BWANG!



WHY?

I'M NOT LIKE YOU!



I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU!

YOU'RE A MURDERER -- AND I'LL NEVER STOP COMING AFTER YOU!

NEVER!

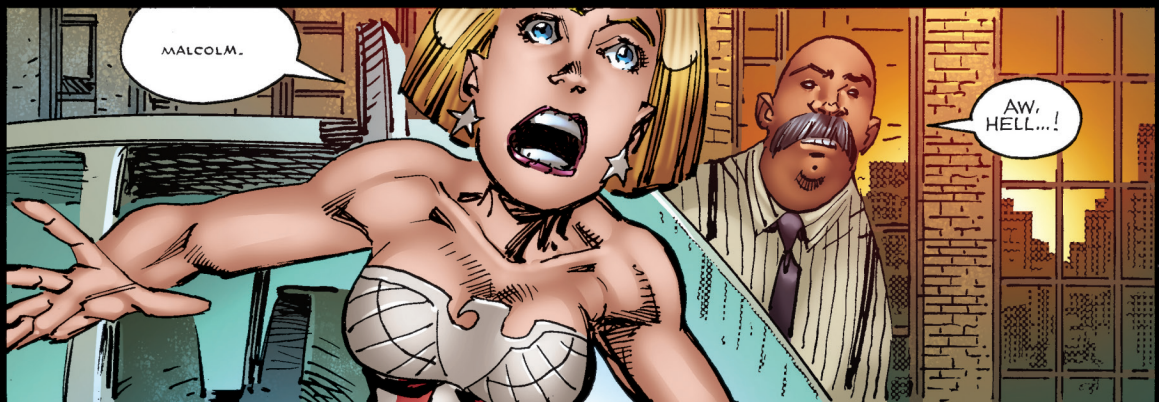


STAY
BACK,
YOU
FOOL!

STAY
BACK!

SKRA
WA

BOOSH!



MALCOLM.

AW,
HELL...!

FINADDICTS!

Send letters to:
2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at www.savagedragon.com

Hey, welcome to Savage Dragon #182 and what do you know...actual letters (I'm not sure what happened last time)! Let's see what you had to say about Savage Dragon #180, shall we...?

Hey Erik,

Thanks to issue 180 I've decided to remove the cobwebs from my fingers and hit the keyboard to send a letter your way. Issue 180 knocked the socks right off my feet, and I'm going to give you a fair warning that there are compliments a plenty heading in your direction.

Where in the world do I even start? Holy Moley Batman! The art was some of your best in the entire run! From the Overlord pile-up, to AllGod smoldering some Tyrreanese, this issue had some top notch art. Throw in some great coloring, and you easily have one of the best looking books on the stands. Loved the pages you devoted to Thor, Herakles, Mako, Overlord, and SuperPatriot as you really showed us how bad-ass these character really are when the chips are down.

I've been on board with Savage Dragon for quite some time and I really felt this issue was a comic an old time reader would get a kick out of. For starters AllGod to the rescue! Hell, this is his third rescue along with issues 46 and 54. I thought this behemoth would be a character that would never be taken down, so consider me shocked when he was blown to pieces. Still, it had to be done otherwise there would be an opening for this to happen again and I think three rescues qualifies you to get blown up!

So Rex built himself a robotic penis? I guess it's logical, but it's something you try not to think about. Kind of like a sex scene with The Thing. Still, it was a well written scene and Horrius's comment was priceless. Also, glad to see Malcolm pass up on Angels offer. Malcolm is able to hold everything together as Angel slowly falls apart. Quite the contrast and really wondering what direction these two are heading towards.

Also, you can't go wrong with Dragon committing genocide against some really pissed off aliens. Reminds me of issue 37 as an enlarged Dragon stepped on the Martians as if they were tiny insects with a grin plastered on his face. What can I say? The man knows how to take care of alien threats.

A letter from me wouldn't be complete without a few questions!

1. Where in the world are Chaos & Control? Last we saw of them was back in 148 where Chaos kicked everyone's ass. Any chance the odd duo are coming back soon?

2. Will Mako be given a pardon for his past deeds for helping out the world in a time of need or is he still on the most wanted list?

3. I take it that the relationship between The Gods and the people of Earth is about to take a turn for the worst with AllGod dead?

Well there ya go. 180 issues and I feel like things are just warming up. Thanks for giving us a great read month after month and thanks for killing Babyface. Everyone can sleep a bit better knowing that the threat of Babyface has finally been taken care of.

Sincerely,

Benny Hasa
San Jose, CA

1: *There's always a chance. The problem with having a cast this large is that even cool characters have to wait their turn.*

2: *We'll see.*

3: *I don't think it's going to help, certainly.*

Erik,

Thank you for another fine helping of your fantastic mag!!! While this issue (180) brought some closure to the "Invasion" storyline, I was happy to see that Malcolm and Angel did not commit to "doing the deed" as she requested. However, it was also very sad to see Wally go. I hope that he will be rebuilt for some more Vanguard/Dragon/Wally team-ups in the future!!!

I have a few questions for you:

1) Will Ethrian ever make an appearance in the main storyline?

2) How about Supreme?

3) In re-reading the Savage Dragon series, I have lost count as to how many alternate earths our heroes have been a part of thus far. Is it three?

4) Any hints on the identity of the current Overlord?

Keep up the great work!!!!

Jonesy
Phoenix, AZ

1: *Not any time soon.*

2: *He was in #180--for a panel. Does that count?*

3: *We've really not seen much of a few of them. In #99 we touched on one. Earlier on we found out that Darkworld was one and counting the earth when the series started and the one currently--so, that's four.*

4: *You'll find out next issue...? That good enough?*

Erik,

I am old enough to have been reading Savage Dragon from the beginning. And for many years, an important part of the entertainment was the letters pages.

Note that I said "was." Unfortunately, for several months now it has been unreadable. It isn't because the letters or responses are less desirable. But it seems that you write out every letter and response you want included, then hit a magic button to shrink it to the designated page limit. Or maybe it is lettering by Pym Particles. I saw the fonts shrinkage a while back, but in 2012 it passed into the land of the blurry, so I no longer try.

Yes, I am getting older. While my distance vision was recently tested as normal with reading magnification, yet with glasses in place I strain to make out the words in the letters column. And beside, your viewing shouldn't be restricted to those with perfect corrected vision.

It isn't just Savage Dragon. I've noticed a similar letter shrinkage in other Image titles. But Dragon takes the lead in making it impossible to read.

Well, at least I can still read the stories. . . .

Herb Rotfeld
Auburn, Alabama

Yeah, the letters column from #180 really should have been two pages instead of one. I'll try to keep it legible in the future.

Hey Erik,

SD 180, I think I say this every time I write in, but instant classic. Every time I see the Krylan's ship it becomes one of my favorite issues automatically, I love the backgrounds of their ship. With that being said though, I'm still not feeling the new Dragon outfit. Maybe I just don't know good stuff when I see or hear it though, I've read too many '90s X-Men comics. Anyway at the end of the issue you apologized for being late. Don't be. You put out a great book that entertains and inspires people around the world EVERY MONTH. So what if you're late occasionally, and besides, you made up for it with all those great splash pages. My absolute favorite part of the issue? ALLGOD. I haven't read SD 51-143 (I know I know, horrible) but if he is a brand new creation. Bring him back sometime. He was so great. Truly a classic Erik Larsen creation. As always keep up the amazing work, you out do yourself every month and I love it.

*Til next time,

John Lactorazza

Unfortunately, Savage Dragon #180 will be AllGod's last appearance. He's dead.

Hi Erik,

I've written to you in the past about how awesome I found Gary Carlson's backup stories to be, especially Vanguard. I know he's the co creator and all but that guy has killed off Wally. Gary is DEAD to me now.

Oh and what hit AllGod? Only two planes are seen flying away but I'm doubting he was hit by anything nuclear if people weren't blinded seeing his body fall apart. I know that you have had gods die in this comic but I would think the joint manifestation of every big deity could handle more than what most humans could toss out. Come to think of it, why did AllGod intervene for this attack and not for Martians, Mr. Glum, Kurr's mass extinction. Sebastian Khan's crazy reign or even George W. Bush?

Loving where you're going with this. Dragon's getting a little more ornery. I think his voluntary genocide of the Tyrreans couldn't have come to him very easily but he's done it before, especially to the Martians. He has to get worked up to hate a species but when he does, he's brutal.

Also digging Supreme. How are you and Cory diving the art chores there? I know you work very loose on Dragon and fix up your inks. I imagine you'll have to work a little tighter on Supreme.

Keep 'em coming, even if they're a little late,

John-Paul Gorgoroso
Elizabeth, NJ

The deal with AllGod is that he was depleted. All of the vast energy of the top elder gods was expended in a huge effort to eradicate the invading aliens forces. Left weakened and vulnerable, his usually formidable self was an easy target for the armed forces. It's not really so much that those missiles were so powerful--it's that AllGod was so weak.

Hi Erik,

I don't want to eat up a bunch of your time with this comment/question...but I also want to take a moment to explain where I'm coming from before I get to my point:

I've been a HUGE fan of your work going back to your Doom Patrol days in the late '80s. I've bought nearly all books you've worked on (many of them exclusively for your art and/or writing), including Savage Dragon. Unfortunately, back around the time of Savage Dragon #76, I was in the midst of completing my BA and needed to cut expenses wherever I could. Savage Dragon was one of nearly 75% of my regular monthly comic purchases I stopped buying for the sake of my education--and, certainly, one of the most difficult cuts I made. Years later, probably around issue #115, I contemplated starting up Savage Dragon again...but had difficulty finding issues #76 to the then-current issue, so decided against it. It seemed to me, especially the longer I waited, buying the individual issues was not the solution for me.

Which brings me to my point:

I've waited and waited in the hope you would decide to release all the Savage Dragon series (including the extended limited series) in some sort of comprehensive (color!) collections. I know many issues have been collected in black-and-white volumes, and many story lines have had trade paperback editions...but if I wanted the entire series--which I do want--I would be limited to the hunting down individual issues...which, even given internet shopping options, I just don't have the time for these days. Also, now that I have two young children, I just don't have as much room for loads of comic boxes--books I can put on a shelf seem much more manageable.

So, I just wanted to ask--perhaps, plead--when/if you might release Savage Dragon in complete, chronological, color volumes??

Thanks for your time,
Randall Boszhardt
San Francisco, CA

I'd like that as well but it's a long run and it includes a lot of issues. It can't happen overnight.

Erik,

First off I would like to say thank you for still running a letters page. Many comics these days have got out of the habit of doing so and it makes me wonder...do they really give a gosh darn what the fans think? Or are they just trying to appease their shareholders?

Also, congrats on 20 years (both in image and the book.) I bet you're pretty proud, needless to say. What has been the most difficult in getting the book, as well as the company, to this landmark?

As far as issue 180 is concerned, the cover is my second favorite to date (second issue 1 in the full series, in which I mentally erase the mustache.) Malcolm looks just like his daddy.

Nice opening. The full pages were awesome, it made me long for another entirely full page comic (hint, hint). I felt it ironic that the boy says "our race is a peaceful people." Obviously the dipstick hasn't seen the emperor in action, now has he? However, this could explain why Dragon became a good guy when becoming evil would have been much easier and profitable. But if the race isn't violent, why was emperor Dragon such a blatant bastard?

A few questions:

1.) What happened to Cutthroat?

2.) Why in heavens name have I seen thought balloons in these pages? (could it be that we now know Dragon's origin, there's no point in that extra layer of mystery?)

3.) Who is that Josh guy and what does he do?

4.) Will there ever be a kids' Savage Dragon comic?

5.) If answered no, why? (this is a cheap trick since I have noticed you give one word answers a lot)

Sorry for rambling,
MC Timmy Wheeler
Creator of SALVIA
By the way you should print more fan art.

1: *Cutthroat died in #155.*

2: *There are times when they really are the best option. It's one of the tools I have at my disposal. It's something we can do in comics that is awkward in TV or film and I see no good reason not to use it when it's effective.*

3: *Josh Eichorn was my lackey, years ago. He wanted a credit in the book and I gave it to him. The credit has outlasted him.*

4: *This is the kids' comic. Kids don't need to be talked down to or have their hands held. If I were 10-years old I'd go ape-\$\$!+ for this book.*

5: *There really isn't enough of an audience to support a second book. But I think this one is good for readers of all ages.*

Oh, and one more thing...you should send more fan art.

-Erik Larsen

NEXT: OVERLORD UNMASKED!

And hey, don't forget to keep reading this book for more big-time funnybook fun! This time out--a blast from the past--the very first Vanguard story!

Question of the Month

"I love horror comics! My fav's when I was a kid were *House of Mystery*, *House of Secrets*, *Unexpected*, *Ghosts*, *Weird War Tales* and my favorite of all time- *The Witching Hour!* Usually consisting of a short digestible story with an ending that defines the word IRONY. Nowadays *Mind Mgmt* and *The Walking Dead*, to name two, fill the void pretty well!"

Raffi Iacono
TPVC KILL

"WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HORROR COMIC?"

"*ECHOS* by Joshua Fialkov. I'm not a big horror guy at all (if I watch *AMERICAN HORROR STORY* before going to bed, forget about pleasant dreams), but because Josh is a pal and I'd heard so much about it, I gave it a whirl. I can deal with (and enjoy) psychological thrillers and tracking down a killer, but what I found in these pages...it still freaks me out. *ECHOS* will do just that after you read it—echo in your mind until it settles in a deep dark corner..."

Jim McCann
MIND THE GAP

"My favourite horror comic is "*Museum of Terror*," a collection of work by Junji Ito. I can't pick just one of his short stories! They're all bizarre, wildly inventive combinations of gore and psychological horror. Ito can draw the hell out of monsters and diced-up corpses, but it's his twisted human faces that really make these comics terrifying."

Finna Staples
SAGA

"I like Junji Ito's *Izumaki*. I feel like horror has got to be one of the hardest things to do well in comics. It's so impressive how Ito takes a small town's obsession with spirals and keeps it interesting and terrifying over hundreds of pages."

Brandon Graham
KING CITY, PROPHECY

OCTOBER 2012

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the word

EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

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He's one of Image Comics' founding fathers and the guiding light behind Top Cow Productions, but first and foremost, Marc Silvestri is one of comics' most accomplished artists. In addition to his Image work, he's drawn everything from *Conan* to *X-Men* – and he's the co-creator of *Witchblade* and *The Darkness* – but this month, he's celebrating his, Image's, and Top Cow's 20th anniversaries by returning to his roots on the all-new *Cyber Force*!

What are you working on right now?
A total redo of *CYBER FORCE*. And because of that I'm having more fun than anyone I know.

What's the best part of your job?
Being able to redo *CYBER FORCE* and knowing that nobody can tell me that I can't. And the reason I can do this is because it's Image damnit.

What's the worst part of your job?
Nothing worth mentioning. All the awesome cancels out any complaints.

How did you first discover comics?
My cousin was/is a huge collector. When I was a kid I'd hang out at his house and check out all the cool Kirby, Wrightson, and Buscema shit.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
Not having fun.

What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?
I had a fan tell me that reading my comics got him through a time in his life that was so bad he had lost hope. He got better, got a job, and married. He then introduced me to his son and told me they read comics together.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
Frank Frazetta, John Buscema, and Bernie Wrightson.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
The Darkness, *Here Comes Tomorrow* with Grant Morrison, and what we've done with the new *CYBER FORCE*! That's a single thing, right?

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
I LOVE 'So You Think You Can Dance'.

What was the last comic book you bought?
Snyder and Capullo's *BATMAN*.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?
Charlie Sheen, just so I'd know what it feels like to be a complete A-hole.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
My wife Bridget and my dogs Monkey and Pickles.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
An ivy plant in my office to which I added fake extensions (don't ask for more clarification).

What makes you laugh?
My wife and dogs, *South Park*, and internet trolls.

What is one of your favorite places?
The IMAX theater at Universal Studios.

What music are you listening to these days?
Down-tempo chill while I'm working. Otherwise it's alternative rock.

What is your favorite film of all time?
Forbidden Planet / *Alien* / *Dr. Strangelove*.

Who is your best friend?
Bridget / Monkey / Pickles.

What is the best advice you've ever received?
Do what makes you happy and regardless of the level of success, you have already succeeded.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
When my wife went in for a biopsy. Conversely, when all the tests came back negative it was one of my happiest moments.

Name someone you really admire.
Anderson Cooper, guy seems legit.

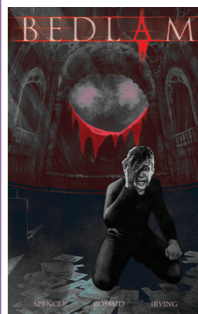
What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
The continued and well-deserved rise of Image Comics. Image's success and everything it stands for benefits anyone that truly loves the medium.

CYBER FORCE #1



Carin Taylor, codenamed Velocity, has escaped from the CDI controlled Millennium City and is desperately trying to find the one man she believes can help her prevent the end of the world. When she runs a group of other CDI escapees, will they help her... or turn their backs? Thanks to the support of fans through Kickstarter and participating comic shops, you can get the first FIVE issues of *CYBER FORCE* at no cost.

BEDLAM #1



Fillmore Press was once Madder Red, a homicidal maniac and criminal overlord who terrorized the town of Bedlam for years. Then he got better. This is what happens next. A double-sized introduction to a blood-soaked cityscape of murder, mayhem, and mystery by NICK SPENCER (DORNING GLORIES, THIEF OF THIEVES) and DAILEY ROSSMAN (DREBEL BLOOD, GREEN WAKE!)

MACGYVER: FUGITIVE GAUNTLET #1 (OF 5)



Welcome to the long-awaited return of MacGyver – co-written by his creator! When an old friend calls for help, Mac becomes involved in a web of industrial espionage, murder and a white-knuckle pursuit across the globe with a million dollar hit on his head! Can he live long enough to save the world – or has his luck finally run out?

NON-HUMANS #1 (of 4)

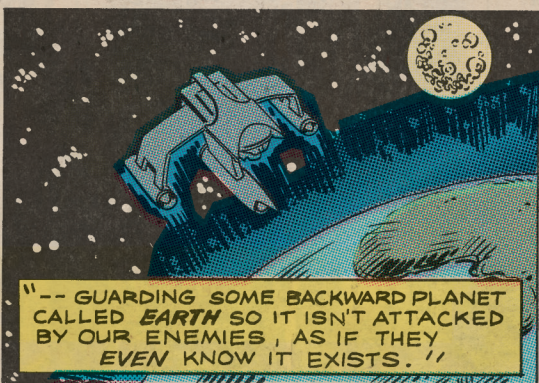


Los Angeles, 2041 – It's twenty-six years after a NASA probe brought back a strange disease causing many of our familiar toy-like objects to come to life. This is a new world order where cute and fearsome creatures fight for their right to exist in a world that fears them – Blade Runner meets Toy Story.

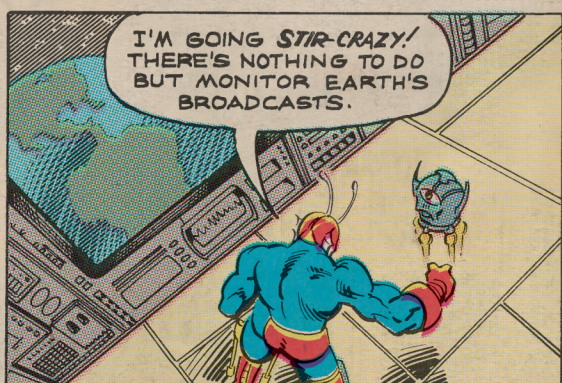


I'M BORED, WALLY!

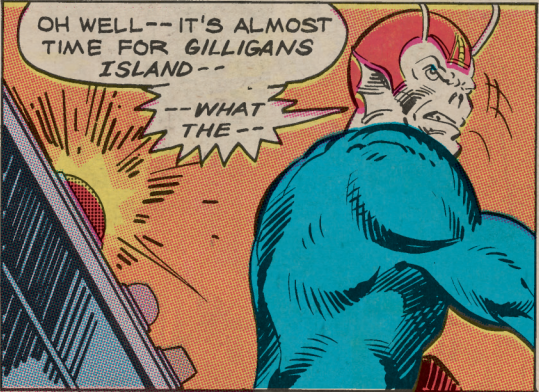
MY PLANET IS ENGAGED IN A GALACTIC WAR, HUNDREDS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY AND I'M STUCK HERE. PLAYING BABY-SITTER!--



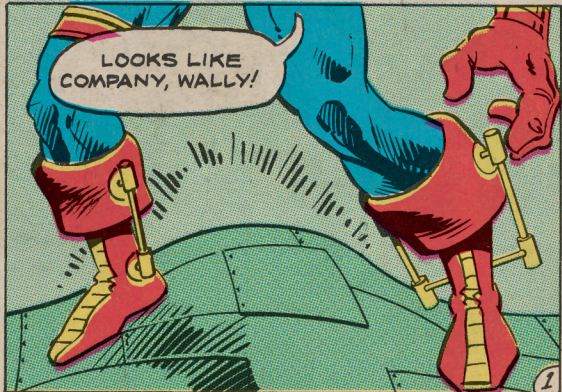
"-- GUARDING SOME BACKWARD PLANET CALLED EARTH SO IT ISN'T ATTACKED BY OUR ENEMIES, AS IF THEY EVEN KNOW IT EXISTS."



I'M GOING STIR-CRAZY! THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT MONITOR EARTH'S BROADCASTS.



OH WELL-- IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR GILLIGANS ISLAND--
--WHAT THE--



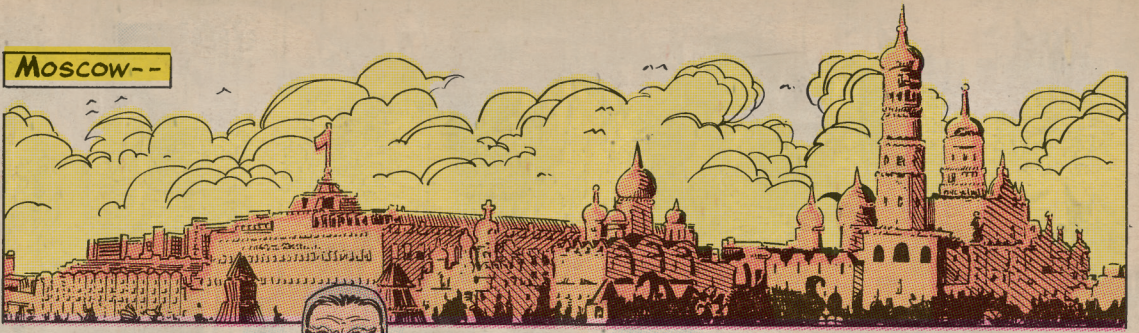
LOOKS LIKE COMPANY, WALLY!

AND IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE THE
WELCOME WAGON, VAN!



STORY & CONCEPT	ART & PLOT
GARY CARLSON	ERIK LARSEN
INKS	LETTERS
SAM	CHRIS
DE LA ROSA	ECKER

MOSCOW--



THE ROBOT IS TRANSMITTING?*

DA, COMRADE COLONEL!

DATA VERIFIES IDENTITY OF THE OCCUPANT AS AN ALIEN BEING!

*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN

IMPOSSIBLE! THE AMERICANS MUST BE JAMMING OUR SIGNAL.

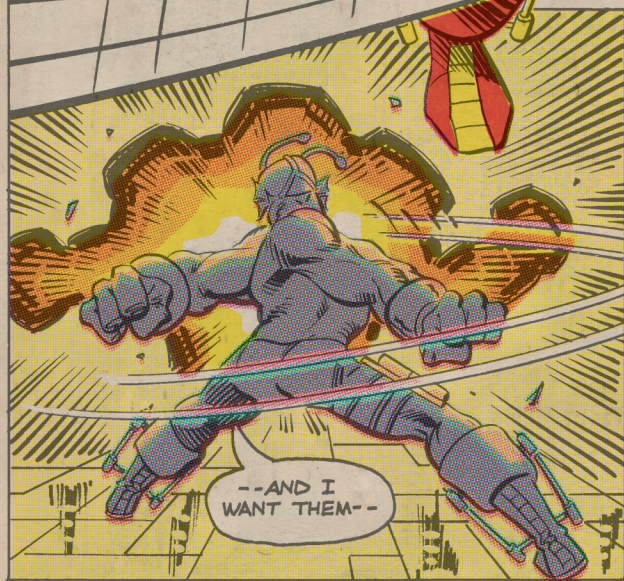
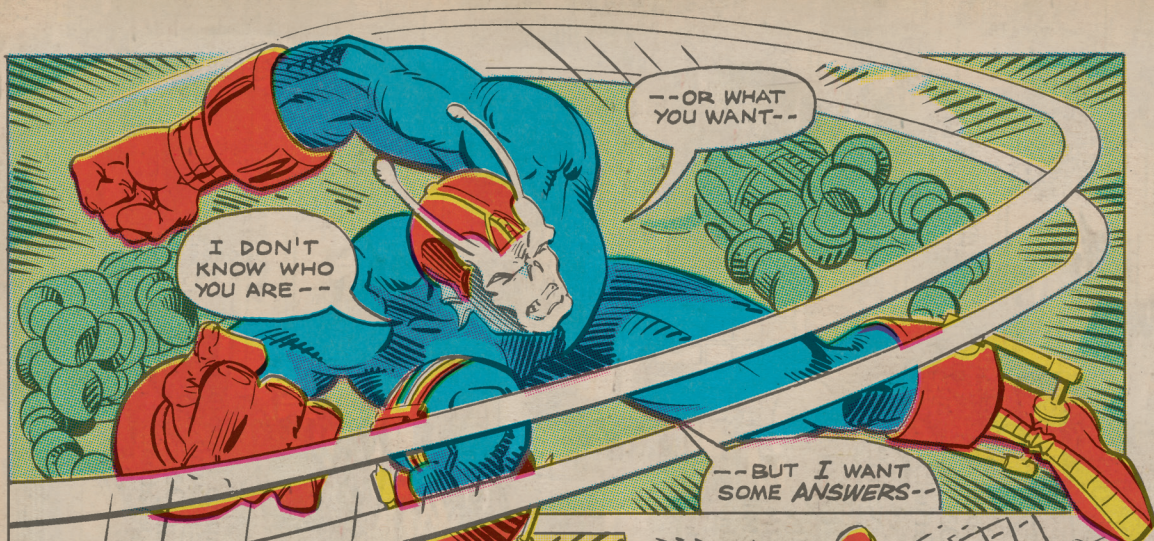
THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT TO BE AN ALIEN VESSEL, COMRADE COLONEL?

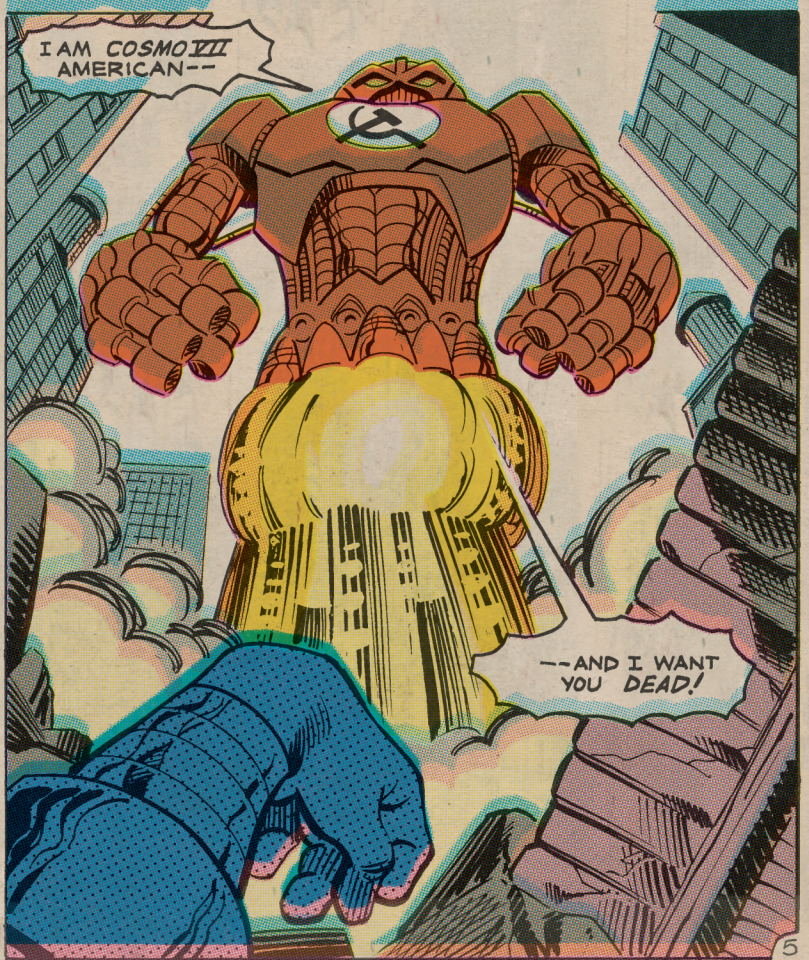
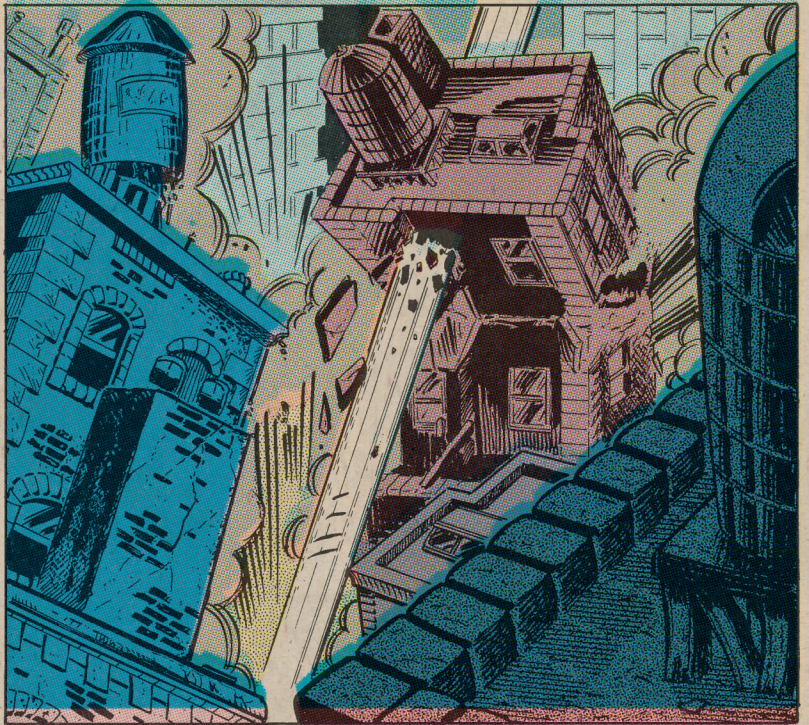
NO!

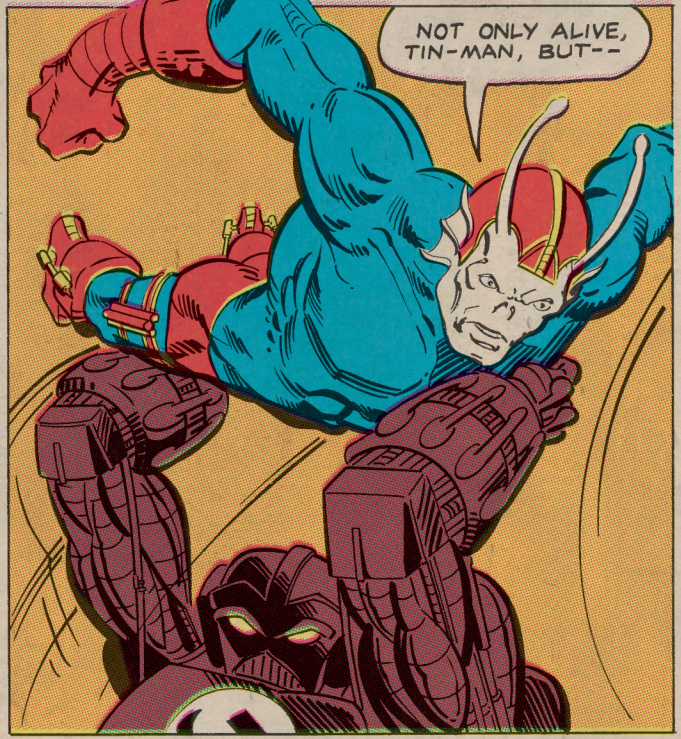
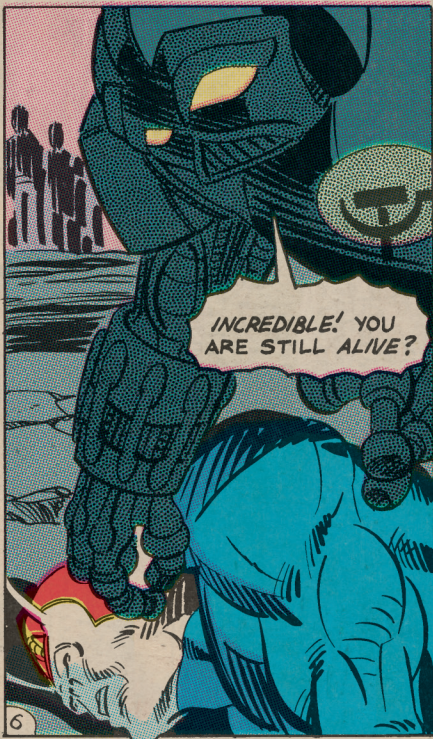
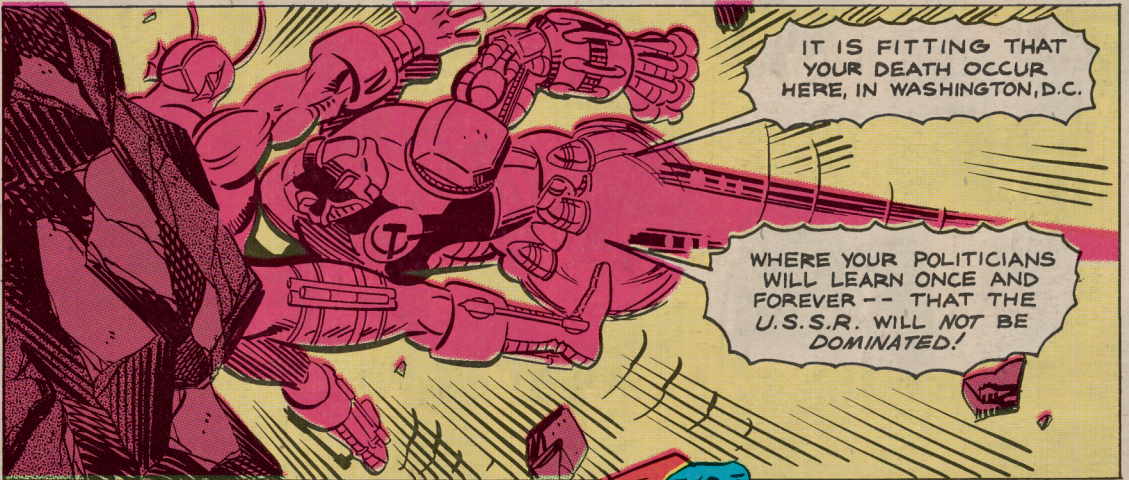
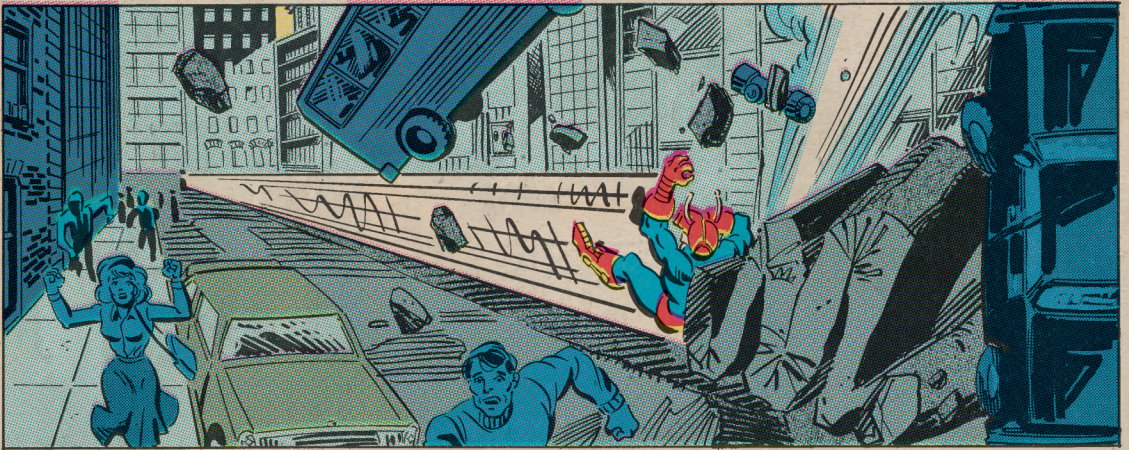
OUR EXPERTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE SPACE STATION IS PART OF THE AMERICAN ARMS BUILD-UP; AN OBVIOUS THREAT TO SOVIET SECURITY! THE COSMO-III ROBOT IS PURELY A DEFENSIVE WEAPON!

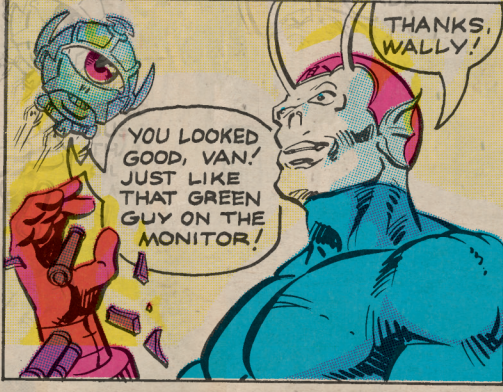
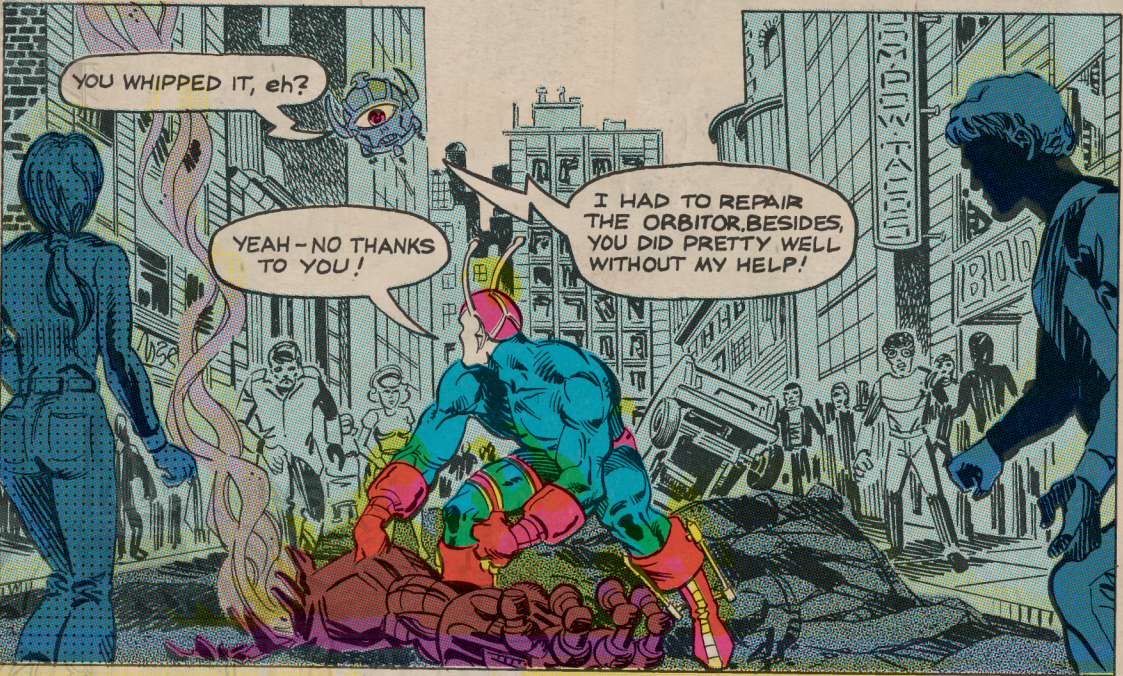
LMPH!

AWRIGHT TIN-MAN!











VANGUARD



ERIK
CARSON
AI GORDON
2-87

1ST
ISSUE