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# SAVAGE<sup>®</sup> DRAGON

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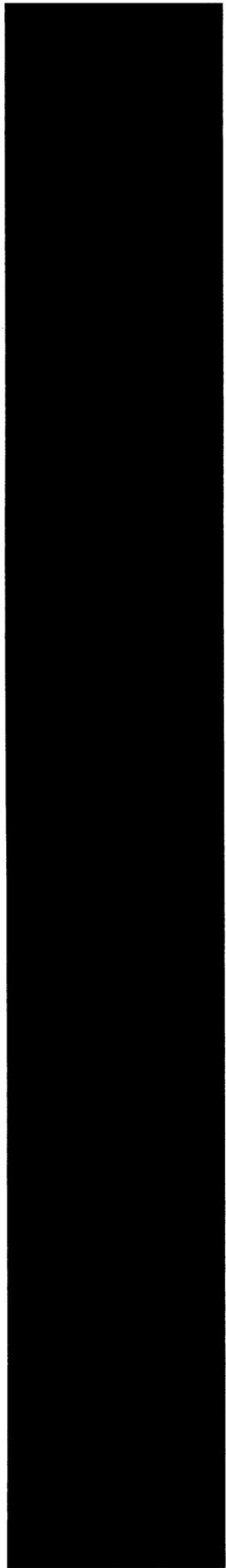
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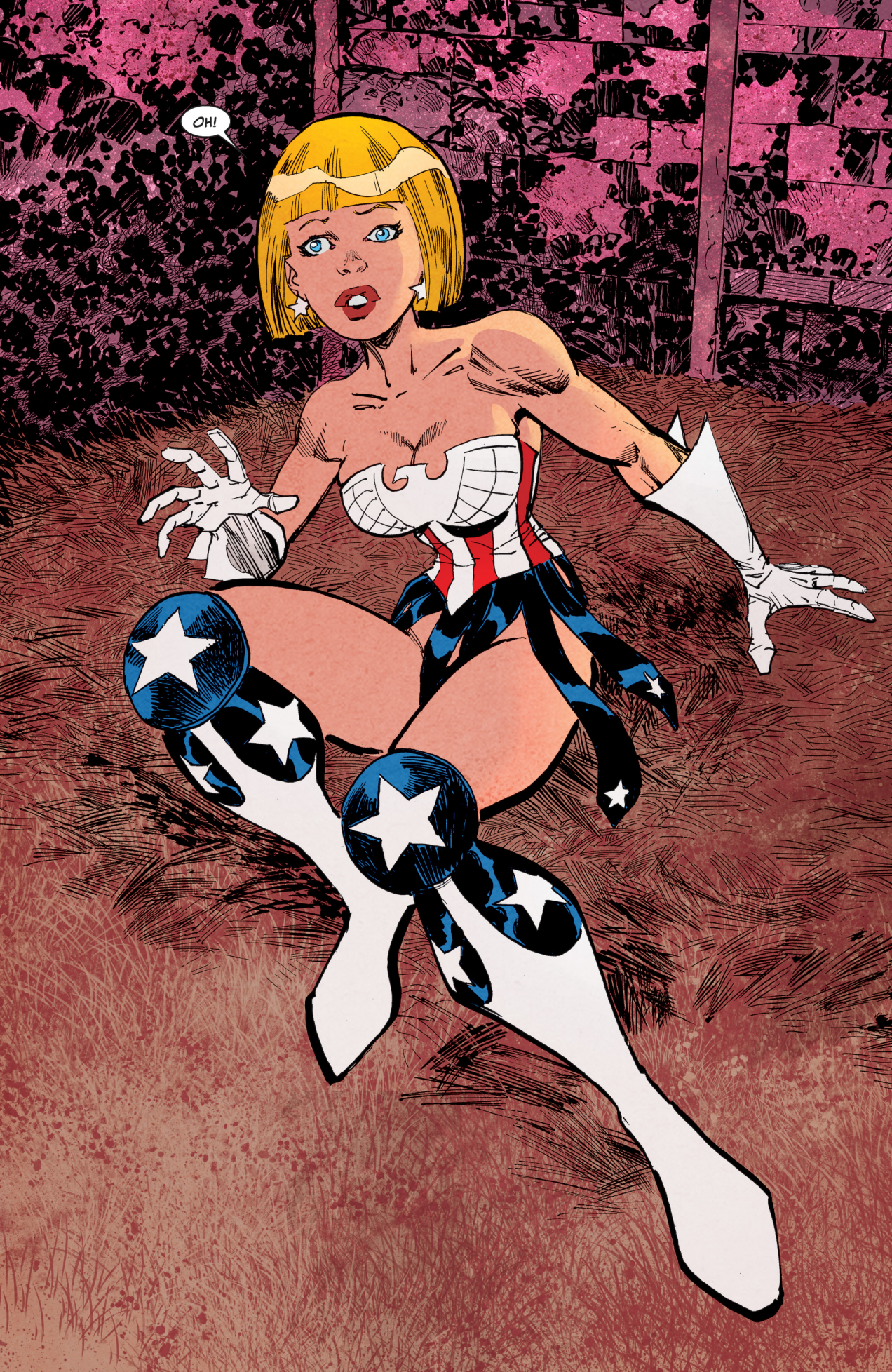
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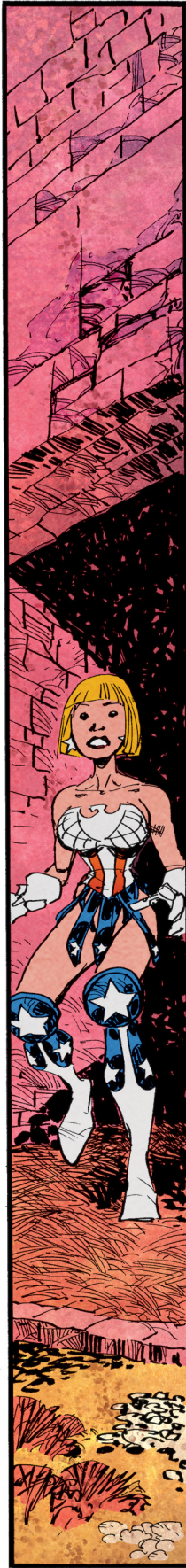
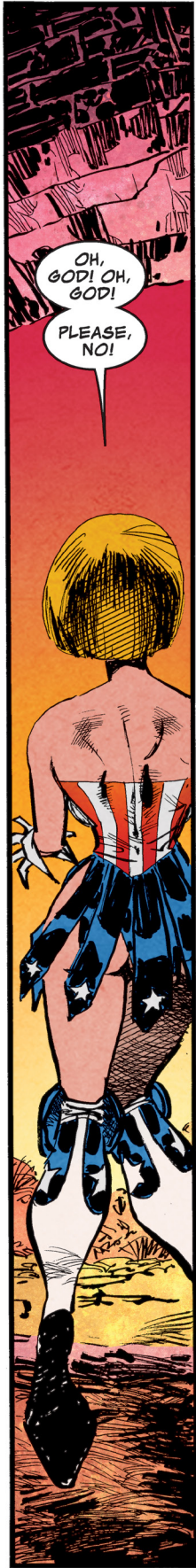
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OH!







DRAGON--  
GOOD NEWS...

WORD  
JUST CAME  
DOWN FROM  
UPSTAIRS.



AS HIS  
LAST OFFICIAL  
ACT, YOU WERE  
PARDONED BY  
PRESIDENT  
OBAMA.

YOU  
ARE FREE  
TO GO.



SERIOUSLY??

WHAT  
ABOUT THAT  
INCIDENT WITH  
URASS?



ALL HAS BEEN FORGIVEN.  
ON MY OWN BEHALF, I MUST  
SAY IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR  
TO HAVE HAD YOU IN THIS  
FACILITY.

YOU SAVED  
THE WORLD,  
MAN.

I DON'T THINK  
ANYBODY ON STAFF  
EVER FELT THAT YOU  
REALLY BELONGED  
HERE.

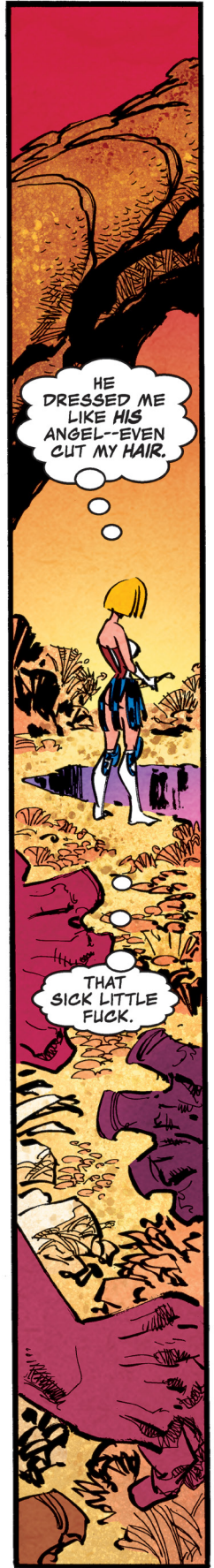
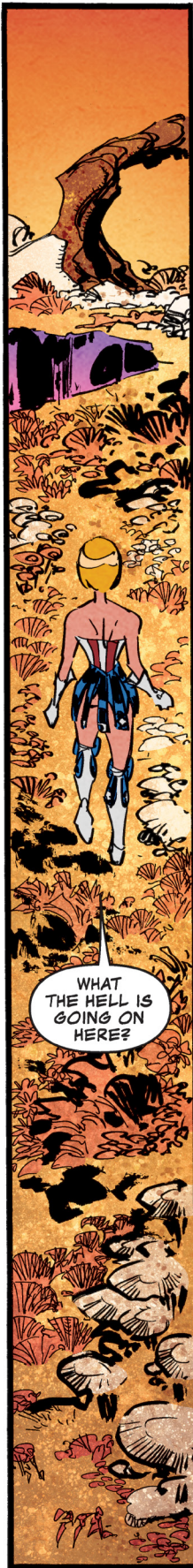
THIS IS  
GOING TO TAKE  
A WHILE TO  
PROCESS.



THOSE WERE THE CLOTHES  
YOU HAD ON WHEN YOU WERE  
ARRESTED.

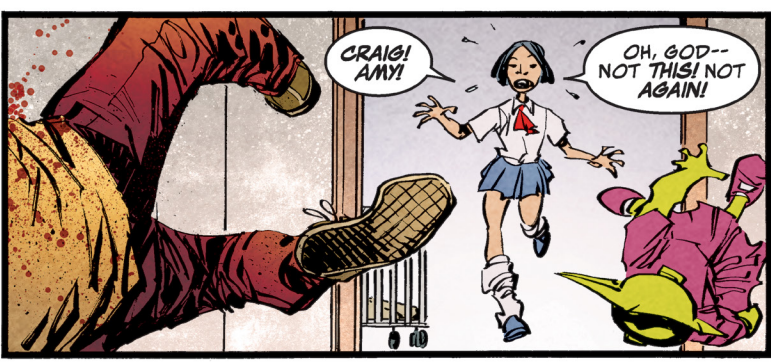
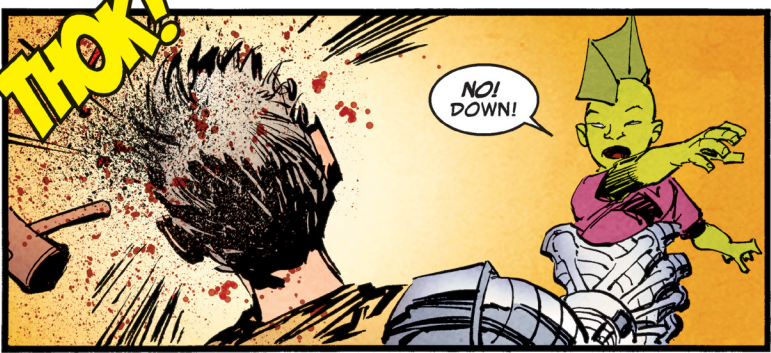
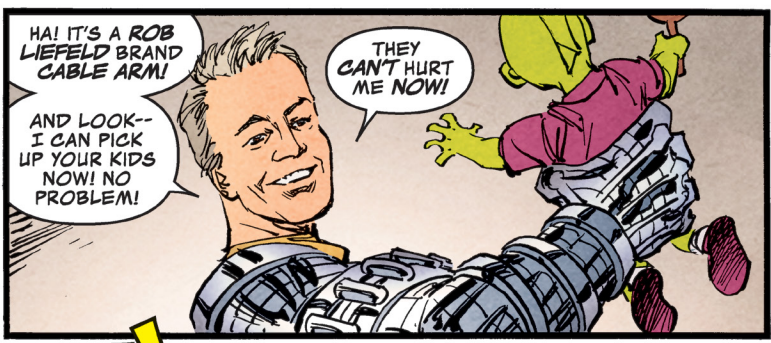
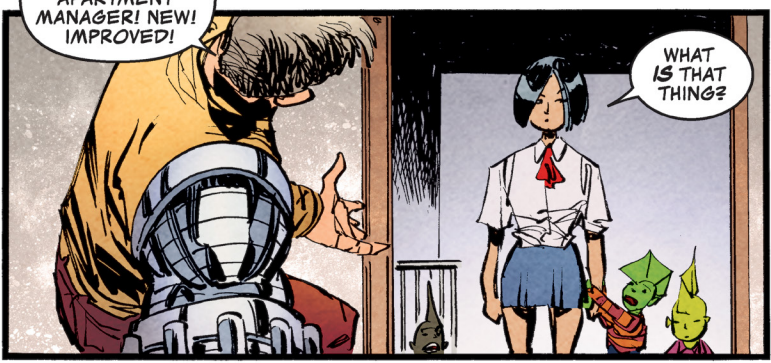
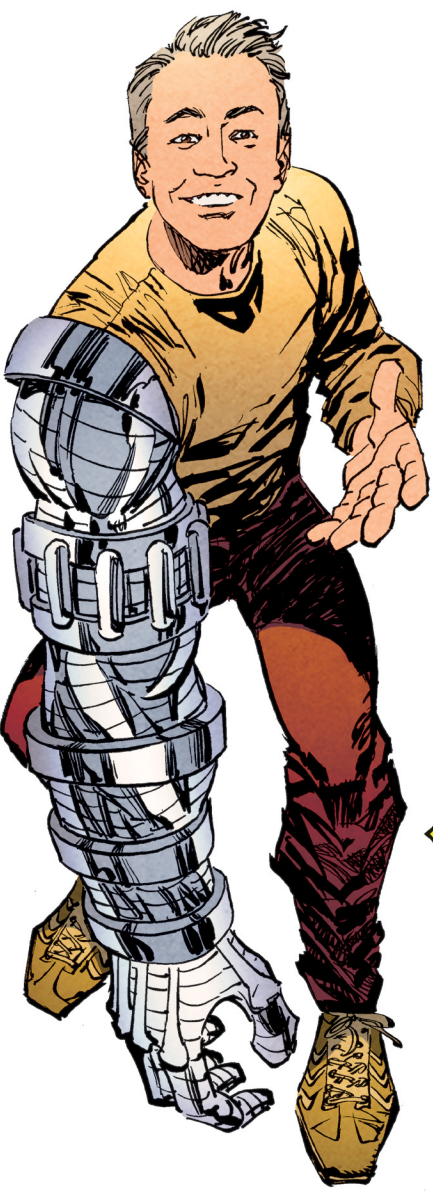
YEAH.

DROPPED A  
FEW POUNDS  
SINCE THEN.



HEY, HEY, HEY!  
LOOK WHO'S BACK  
AND BETTER  
THAN EVER!

IT'S  
NEIGHBOR  
CRAIG!





WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!



HEY, DAD!

HEARD THE GOOD NEWS AND COULDN'T WAIT TO GET OVER HERE!



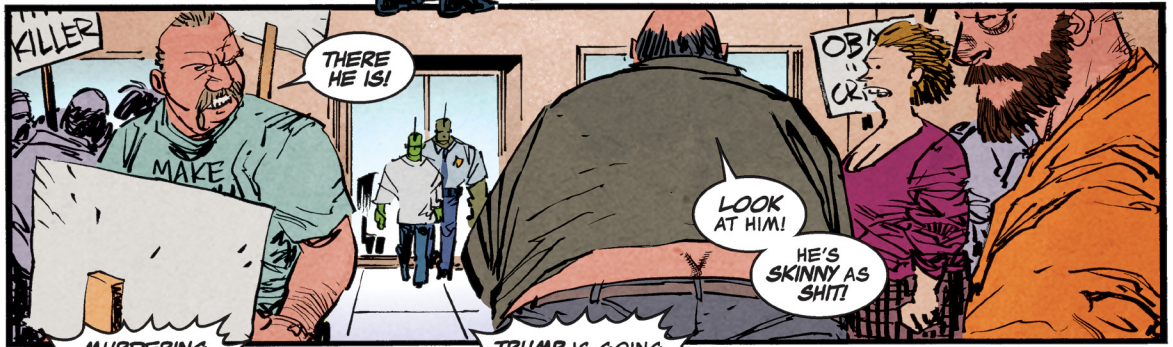
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MALCOLM.

SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE THIS HAS BEEN HARDER ON YOU THAN IT'S BEEN ON ME.

I'M JUST GLAD IT'S ALL OVER.

I TOLD MAXINE WE'D BE HAVING COMPANY OVER FOR DINNER.

SHE'S GOING TO FREAK OUT WHEN SHE SEES YOU!



KILLER

THERE HE IS!

OBAMA

LOOK AT HIM!

HE'S SKINNY AS SHIT!

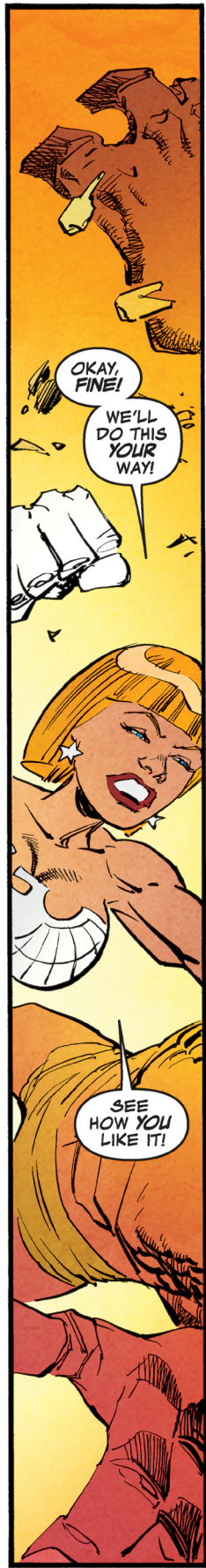
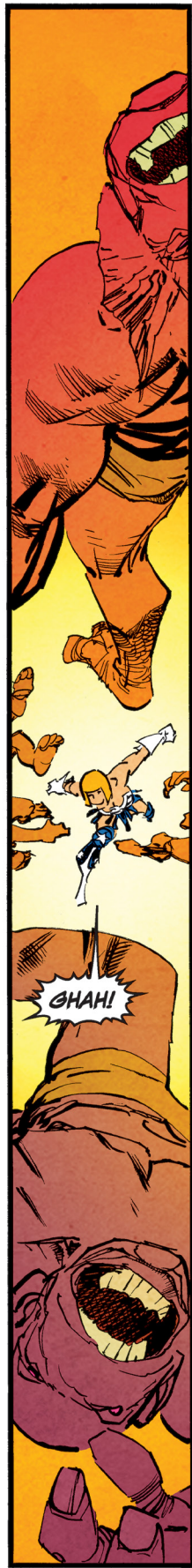
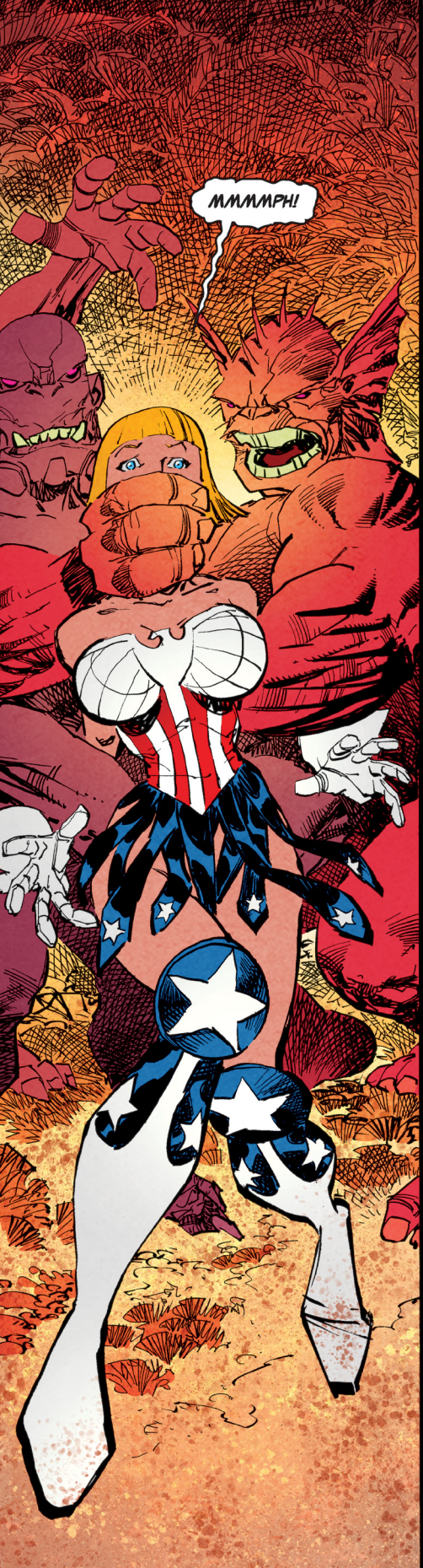


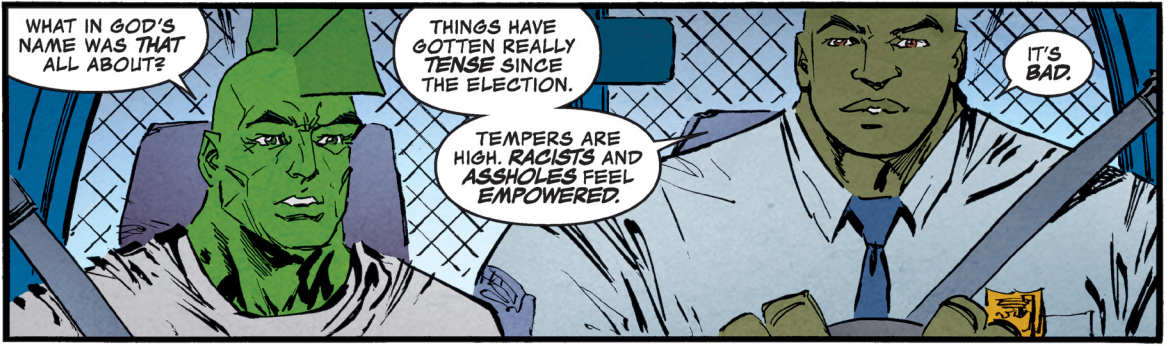
MURDERING FREAK! FUCKING GODDAMNED ALIEN FREAK!

TRUMP IS GOING TO DEPORT YOU MOTHERFUCKERS! NO ALIENS!

WHOA! WHOA! SIMMER DOWN!

SIGH: HERE WE GO...!





WHAT IN GOD'S NAME WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

THINGS HAVE GOTTEN REALLY TENSE SINCE THE ELECTION.

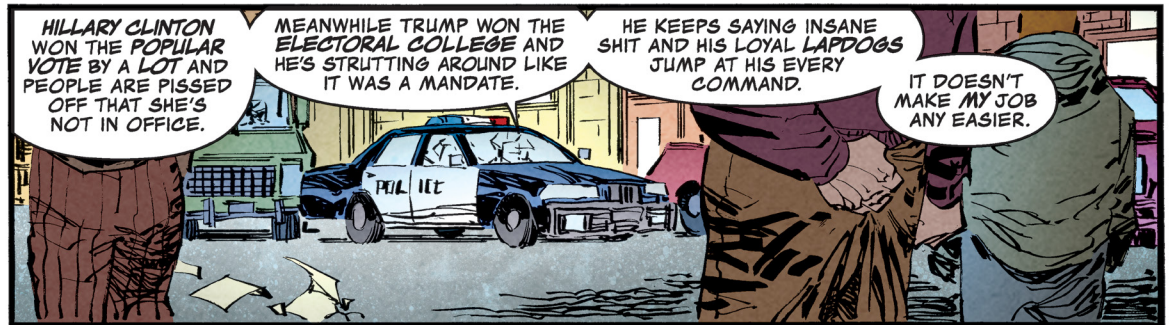
IT'S BAD.

TEMPERS ARE HIGH. RACISTS AND ASSHOLES FEEL EMPOWERED.



I WAS SAFER IN JAIL.

IT'S GOTTEN REALLY CRAZY. PEOPLE ARE PROTESTING. PEOPLE ARE ANGRY.



HILLARY CLINTON WON THE POPULAR VOTE BY A LOT AND PEOPLE ARE PISSED OFF THAT SHE'S NOT IN OFFICE.

MEANWHILE TRUMP WON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND HE'S STRUTTING AROUND LIKE IT WAS A MANDATE.

HE KEEPS SAYING INSANE SHIT AND HIS LOYAL LAPDOGS JUMP AT HIS EVERY COMMAND.

IT DOESN'T MAKE MY JOB ANY EASIER.



AND, BECAUSE TRUMP OPPOSED OBAMA, ALL OF THE RACIST PRICKS HAVE DECIDED HE'S JUST LIKE THEY ARE!

THEY'VE TAKEN TO BEING OPENLY HOSTILE TO ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY DO.

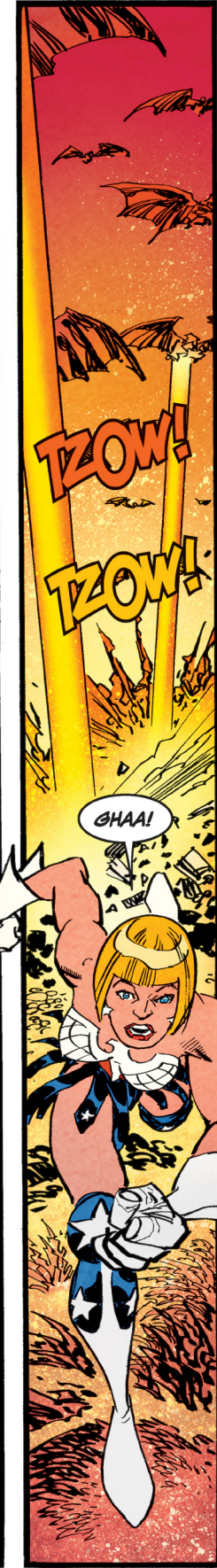
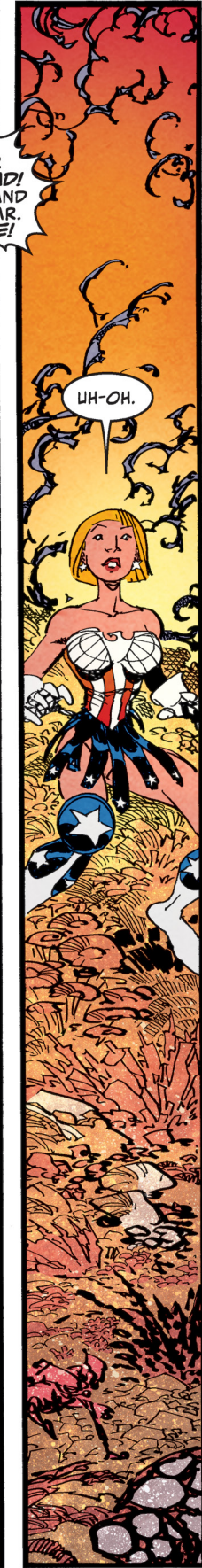
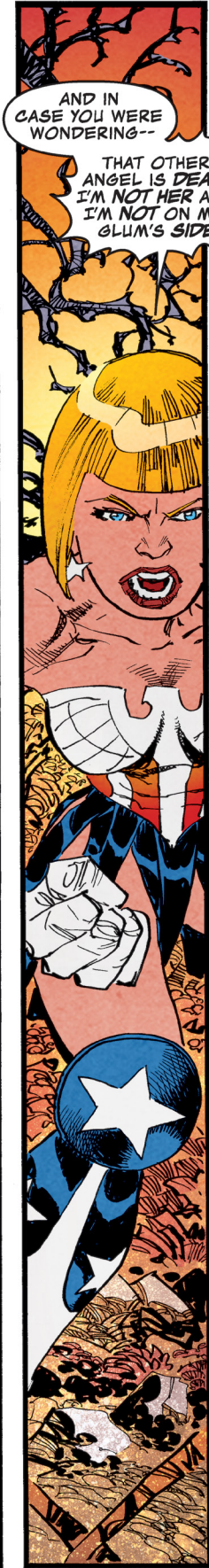
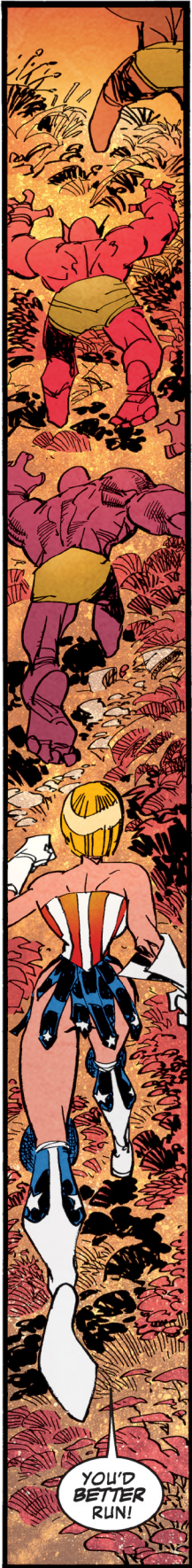
WHICH ISN'T TO SAY ALL OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE BAD BUT...



YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT.

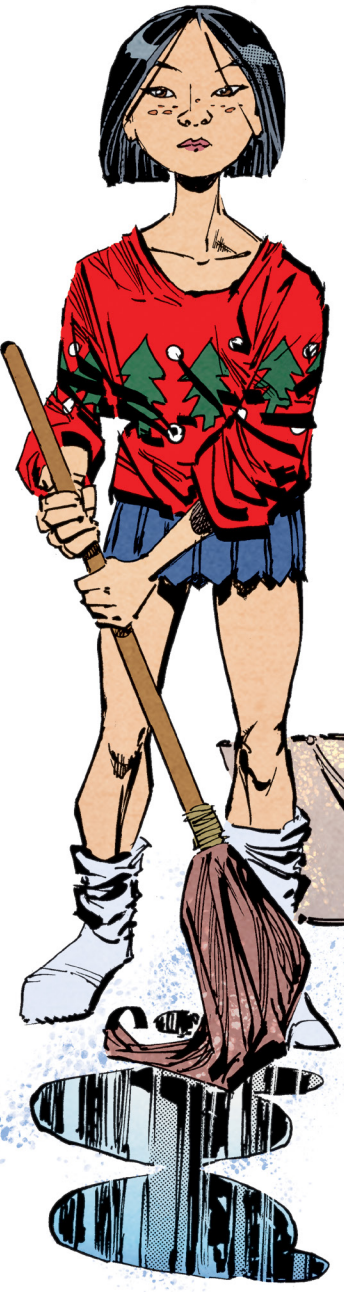
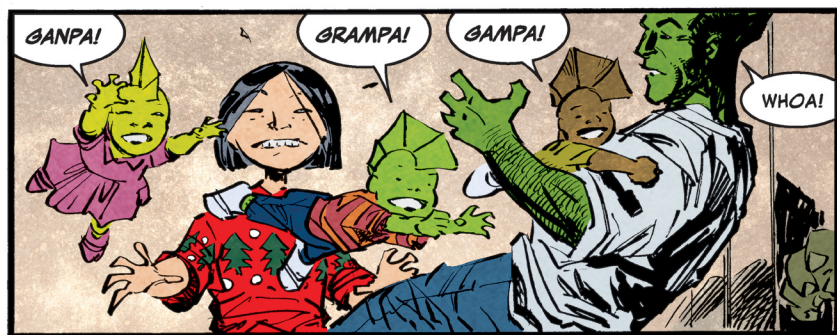
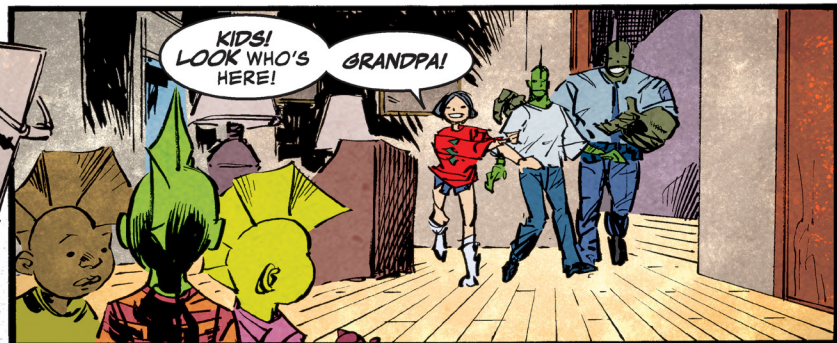
FUN TIMES.

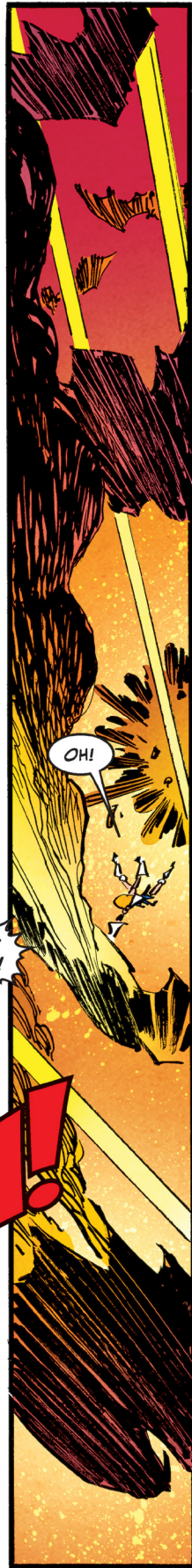
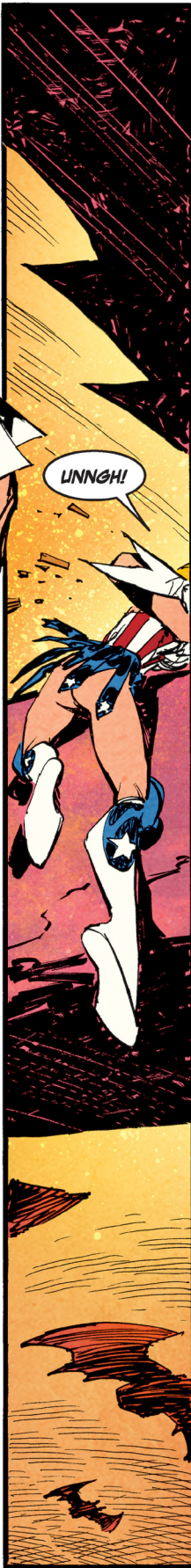
HOW'RE THE WIFE AND KIDS GETTING ALONG?

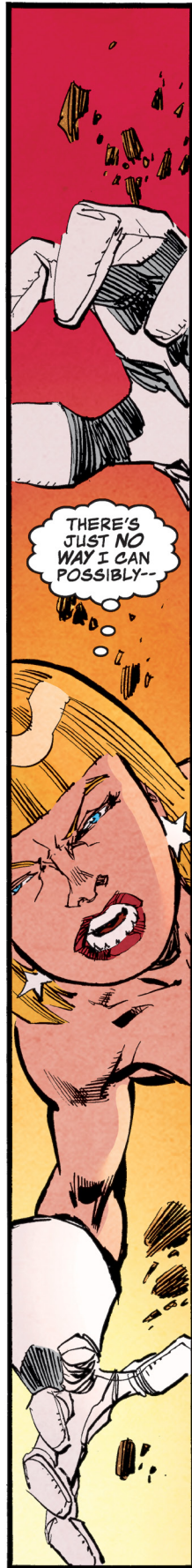
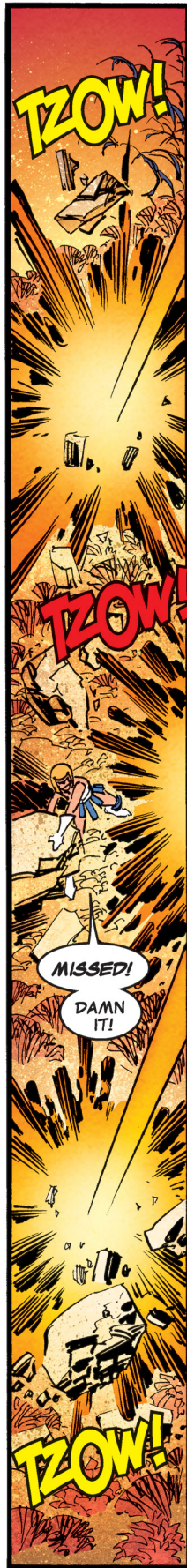
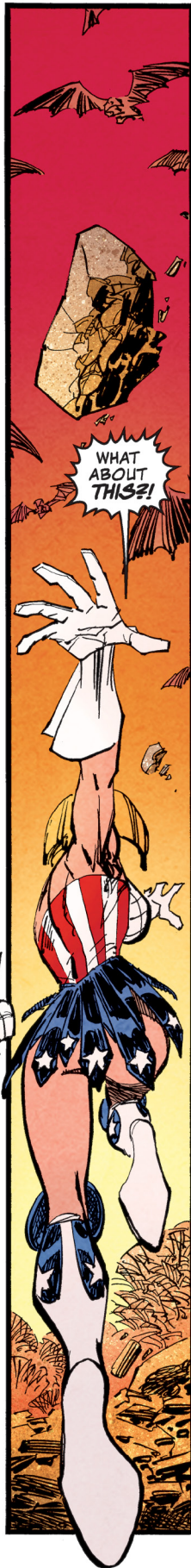


SORRY ABOUT THE MESS.

ANGEL WAS A NO-SHOW-- AGAIN.







# THRA-CHOOM!

IT'S ME, MY SWEET!

MR. GLUM HAS RETURNED!

I'VE COME TO RESCUE YOU AND SAVE THE DAY!





GANPAI!  
GANPAI!  
GANPAI!

THESE SUPERPOWERED  
KIDS MUST BE IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH,  
MAXINE.

HOW THE  
HECK DO YOU  
MANAGE?



I  
DON'T!

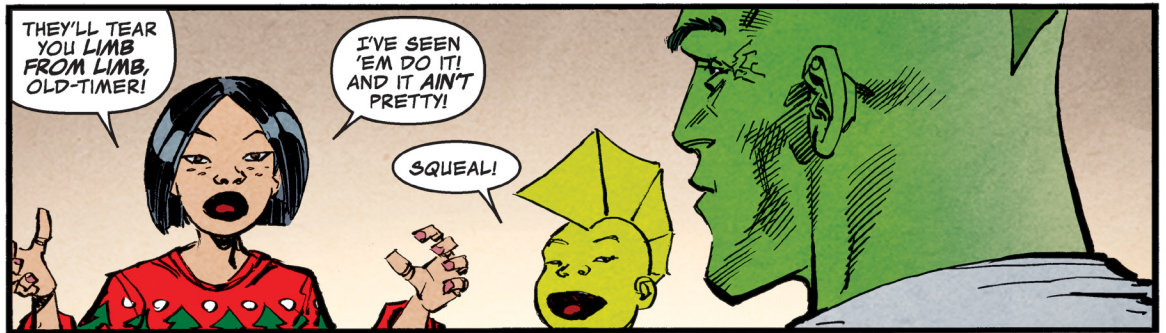
I'M GOING  
COMPLETELY  
OUT OF MY  
MIND!

ANGEL USED TO  
PITCH IN AND HELP--  
BUT SHE'S VANISHED  
WITHOUT A TRACE! AND  
KEVIN HAS A NEW JOB,  
SO I'M ON MY OWN  
FAR MORE THAN IS  
PRACTICAL OR  
HEALTHY!

BUT I  
GET TO PLAY  
MOMMY, SO--  
WHOOPEE!

IF YOU NEED  
HELP WATCHING  
THE KIDS--I'D  
BE UP FOR IT.

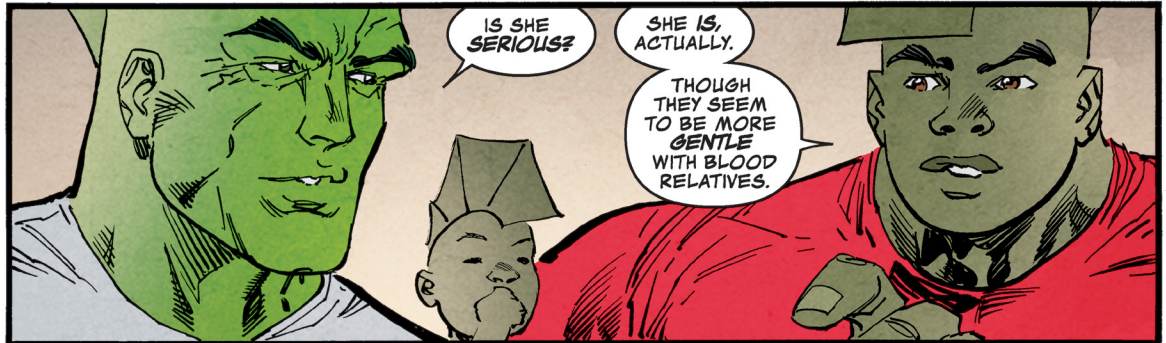
MY  
SCHEDULE  
IS WIDE  
OPEN.



THEY'LL TEAR  
YOU LIMB  
FROM LIMB,  
OLD-TIMER!

I'VE SEEN  
'EM DO IT!  
AND IT AIN'T  
PRETTY!

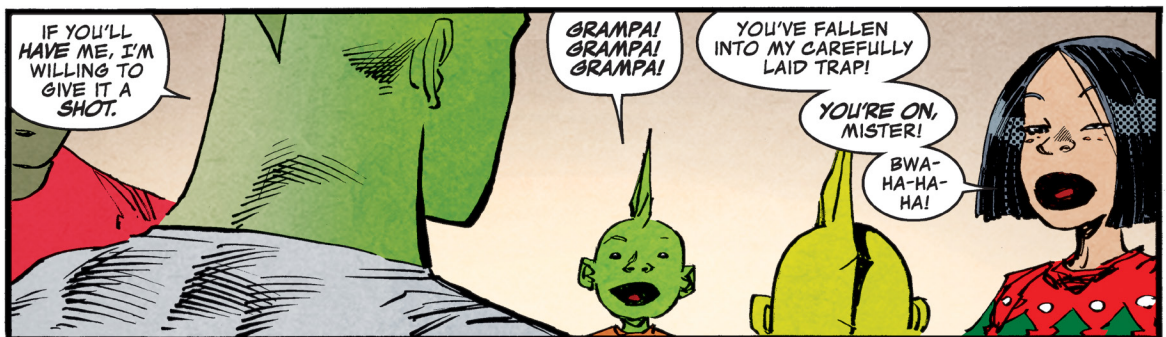
SQUEAL!



IS SHE  
SERIOUS?

SHE IS,  
ACTUALLY.

THOUGH  
THEY SEEM  
TO BE MORE  
GENTLE  
WITH BLOOD  
RELATIVES.



IF YOU'LL  
HAVE ME, I'M  
WILLING TO  
GIVE IT A  
SHOT.

GRAMPA!  
GRAMPA!  
GRAMPA!

YOU'VE FALLEN  
INTO MY CAREFULLY  
LAID TRAP!

YOU'RE ON,  
MISTER!

BWA-  
HA-HA-  
HA!



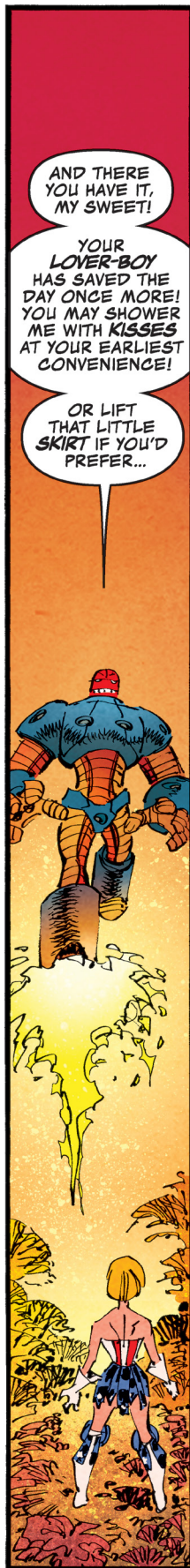
DIE!  
DIE! DIE,  
YOU FILTHY  
VERMIN!



THERE  
WE GO!

THAT'S  
WHAT I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT!

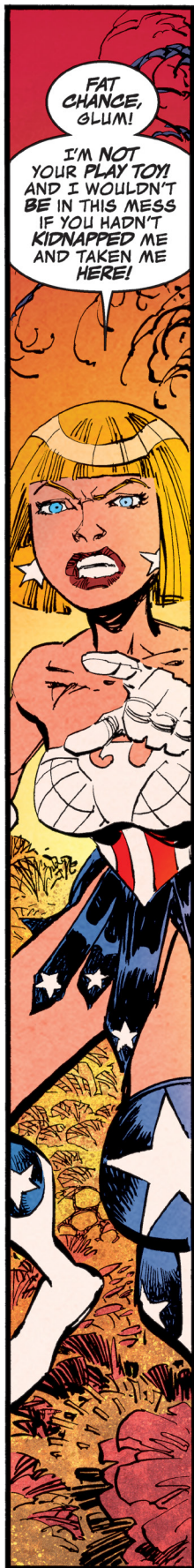
THAT'S THE  
STUFF!



AND THERE  
YOU HAVE IT,  
MY SWEET!

YOUR  
LOVER-BOY  
HAS SAVED THE  
DAY ONCE MORE!  
YOU MAY SHOWER  
ME WITH KISSES  
AT YOUR EARLIEST  
CONVENIENCE!

OR LIFT  
THAT LITTLE  
SKIRT IF YOU'D  
PREFER...



FAT  
CHANCE,  
GLUM!

I'M NOT  
YOUR PLAY TOY!  
AND I WOULDN'T  
BE IN THIS MESS  
IF YOU HADN'T  
KIDNAPPED ME  
AND TAKEN ME  
HERE!



YOU  
WOUND ME, MY  
SUGARPLUM!

T'WAS NOT  
MY INTENTION  
TO PUT YOU  
IN HARM'S  
WAY--

ONLY TO  
RETURN YOU  
TO YOUR  
RIGHTFUL  
THRONE!



YOU CAN SHOVE YOUR STUPID THRONE UP YOUR CANDY-COLORED ASS, GLUM!

I'M NOT YOUR ANGEL.

I WAS NEVER YOUR ANGEL!

AND I WILL NEVER BE YOUR ANGEL!



PLEASE, DEAR...BE REASONABLE!

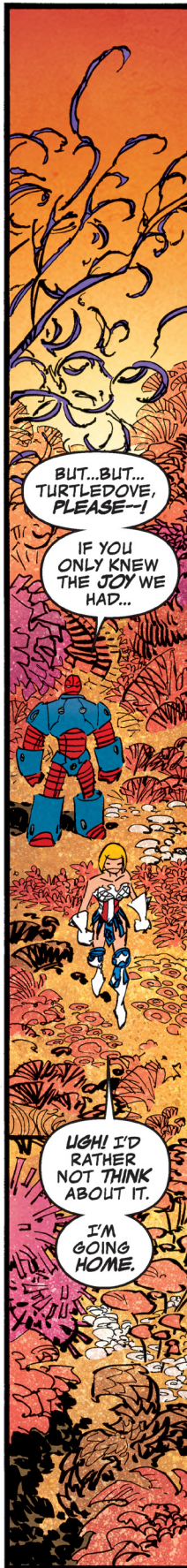
YOU WERE PERFECTLY HAPPY BEFORE!

SURELY WE CAN REKINDLE OUR--



THAT WASN'T ME, GLUM! THAT WAS A VERSION OF ME FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING HER PLACE!

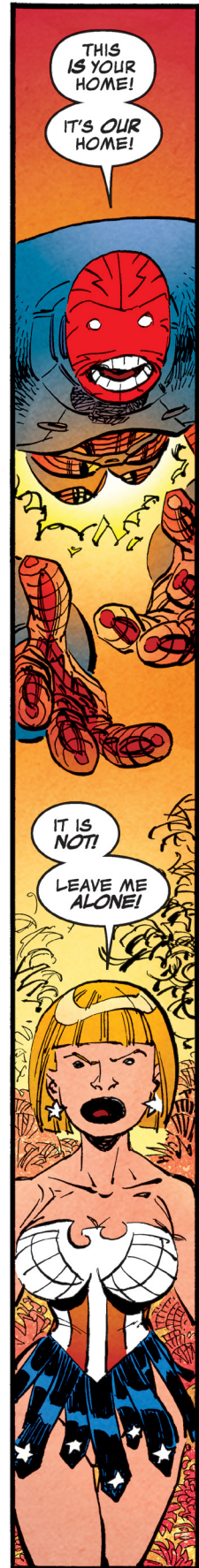


BUT...BUT... TURTLEDOVE, PLEASE--!

IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE JOY WE HAD...

UGH! I'D RATHER NOT THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M GOING HOME.

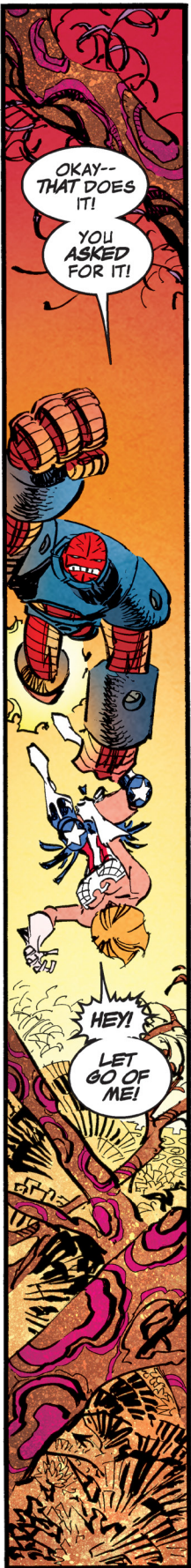


THIS IS YOUR HOME!

IT'S OUR HOME!

IT IS NOT!

LEAVE ME ALONE!



OKAY--  
THAT DOES  
IT!  
YOU  
ASKED  
FOR IT!

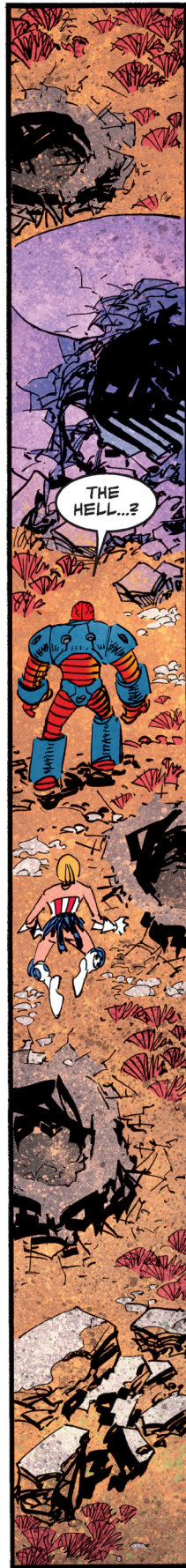
HEY!  
LET  
GO OF  
ME!



I HAVE  
SOMETHING  
TO SHOW  
YOU!

SOMETHING  
THAT WILL  
CONVINCE  
YOU,  
ONCE AND FOR  
ALL, THAT YOU  
BELONG HERE--  
WITH ME!

PUT  
ME  
DOWN!

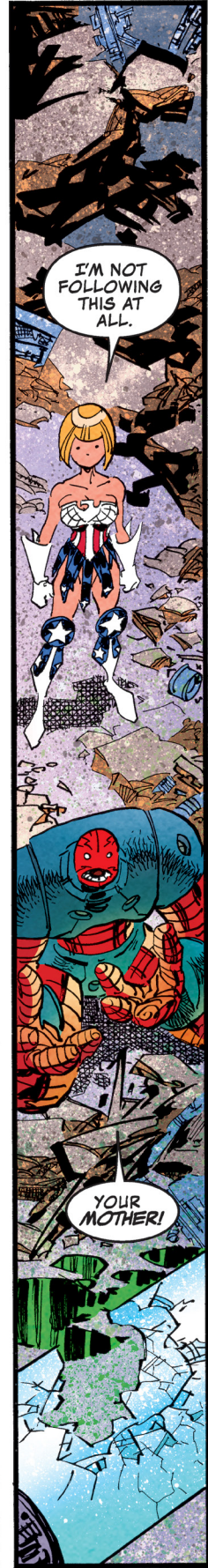


THE  
HELL...?



WHAT  
IS  
IT?

OH, NO!  
NO!



I'M NOT  
FOLLOWING  
THIS AT  
ALL.

YOUR  
MOTHER!



"MY MOTHER" WHAT?

SHE WAS HERE IN THIS TUBE!

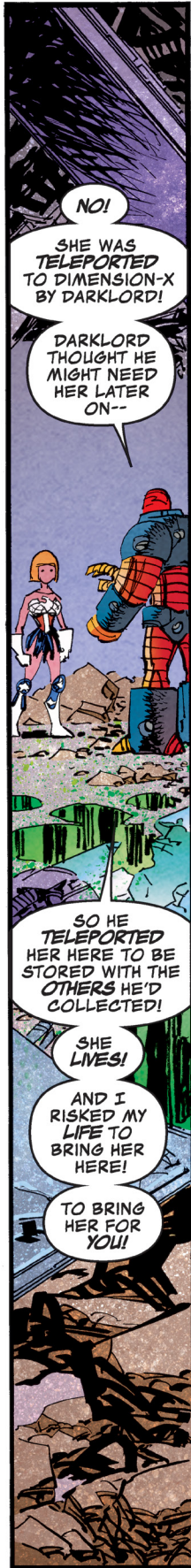
YOUR ACTUAL MOTHER FROM YOUR REALITY! SHE WAS HERE! DARKLORD DIDN'T KILL HER!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MY MOTHER'S DEAD!

SHE DIED WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL!



NO!

SHE WAS TELEPORTED TO DIMENSION-X BY DARKLORD!

DARKLORD THOUGHT HE MIGHT NEED HER LATER ON--

SO HE TELEPORTED HER HERE TO BE STORED WITH THE OTHERS HE'D COLLECTED!

SHE LIVES!

AND I RISKED MY LIFE TO BRING HER HERE!

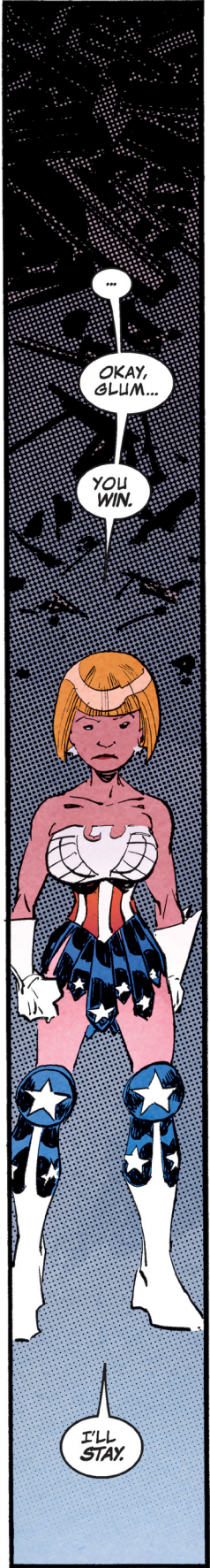
TO BRING HER FOR YOU!



YOU MUST STAY! TOGETHER WE WILL FIND HER!

TOGETHER WE WILL RESTORE YOUR WORLD ONCE MORE--

--AND GIVE YOU BACK THE LIFE YOU ONCE HAD!

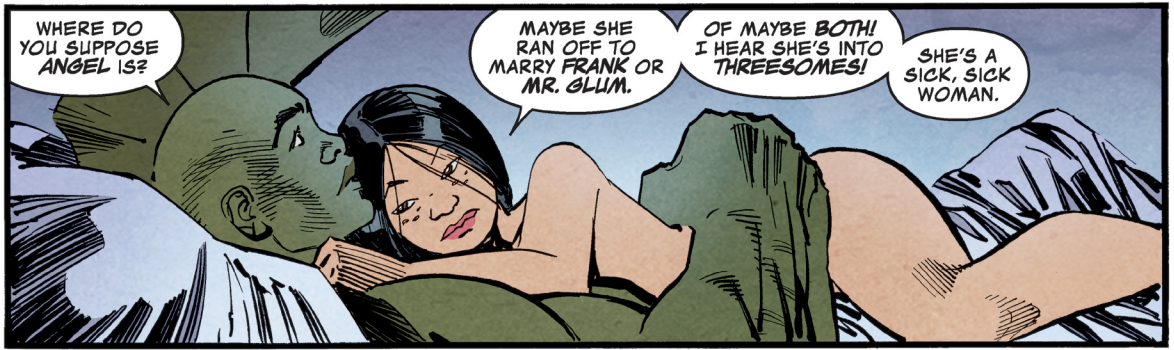


...

OKAY, GLUM...

YOU WIN.

I'LL STAY.



WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE ANGEL IS?

MAYBE SHE RAN OFF TO MARRY FRANK OR MR. GLUM.

OF MAYBE BOTH! I HEAR SHE'S INTO THREESOMES!

SHE'S A SICK, SICK WOMAN.

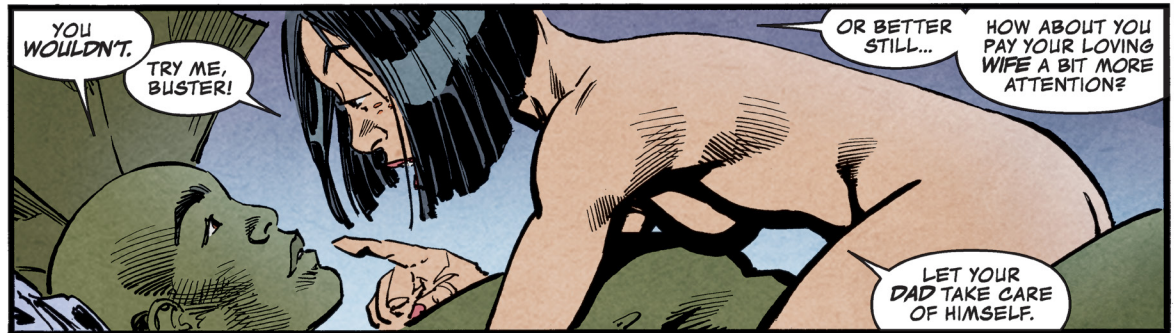


I STILL CAN'T GET OVER DAD GETTING PARDONED LIKE THAT.

I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING ON HIS FIRST NIGHT OUT AS A FREE MAN?

DON'T EXPECT ME TO KEEP MY HANDS OFF OF HIM IF HE'S OVER HERE BABYSITTING THE KIDS.

A WOMAN'S GOT NEEDS, YOU KNOW.



YOU WOULDN'T.

TRY ME, BUSTER!

OR BETTER STILL...

HOW ABOUT YOU PAY YOUR LOVING WIFE A BIT MORE ATTENTION?

LET YOUR DAD TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.



MMMPH!

KNOWING YOUR OLD MAN AND HIS STERLING REPUTATION--

I'M SURE HE'S OFF HAVING A GRAND OL' TIME!



e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at [www.savagedragon.com](http://www.savagedragon.com)

Geez, man--here we are in the 220's. I don't know why this seems like such a big deal to me but damn, that just seems unbelievable. When I started out this book I had no idea I'd make it this far. So...yay, me.

Hey Erik,

Issue 218 was one of the most unique issues of Savage Dragon. In a book that has had all splash pages, each panel representing a day, each page having one less panel, etc., that's saying a lot. The issue brought the human element which can easily go missing within a superhero comic book. Despite it all, characters can still die from diseases and conditions that plague our every day lives.

When I put this issue down, I had areal uncomfortable feeling despite me enjoying the hell out of it. I'm not sure if was seeing Donald Trump and his itty bitty hands while fully drenched in a spray tan from the abyss on the final page, or was it despite Malcolm's best effort in helping Maxine's dad, he still failed? This was a heavy issue to take in, but that's one of the reasons why I loved it. It felt a bit too close to home, but it makes the world you have created with these characters much more real. Also, I honestly believe it was your best written issue in your comic book writing career, and you have my applause on that front.

Also really loved the aspect of Malcolm meeting up with a bunch of characters from the past. Amy Belcher getting a few lines is way overdue as she is probably one of the most developed characters in the book's history. She even was the star of it for a few issues. From PJ, Larry Bradford, all the way to Dragon, it was a nice time to catch up. I honestly wouldn't mind if you did something similar every year or so. It really helps flesh out the characters and it sets a nice tone for build up. Still love how much you have built up Malcolm, Angel, and especially Maxine in the last 20 issues. I remember not liking Maxine initially, but I now find her the character I want to see the most of. She's pretty awesome.

It's question time!

- Was there a particular reason why you went with a non action sort of issue? It really felt like you enjoyed doing the issue, because it showed on the quality of the writing.

- Will we get an update on Melvin Bellco? He kind of became this unstoppable musclebound monster who could even survive his head getting cut off, and then he vanished.

- So will we see who is running the VC now that Dart is in prison? I can't see them following her anymore since she's killed so many of them. Still, with fear I guess she could still control them?

- What's the history of the Tales of the Siberian Snowtroppers? Reminded me a lot of your Herculean stuff which I love. Hope we get more of this kind of stuff printed in pages of Savage Dragon.

Issue 218 was simply stellar and you have me wanting more yet again. Can't wait for Glum's trial next issue, but from the sounds of the 220 solicits he might pull a fast

one out of getting found guilty. If anyone needs to die for their misdeeds, it's this guy. Speaking of characters deaths, thank you for ridding the world of Washout in 215! That guy needed to go 20 years ago, but better late than never. Either way, bring on 219.

Sincerely,

Benny Hasa  
San Jose, CA

**Doing a non-action issue was yet another way of challenging myself. I'd wanted to do a "day in the life" type story for quite a while and this seemed like a chance to do that. Sometimes the artist wins the battle for control of a story and sometimes the writer does. In this case it was the writer who took the reins. There were no fights and no splashes or double-page spreads. It was time for the writer to shine. The art took a backseat.**

**Melvin Bellco will be back.**

**We'll see who's running the Vicious Circle in Dart's absence shortly.**

**Tales of the Siberian Snowtroppers was something I drew for Robin Snyder more than 30 years ago; it saw print for the first time in color in *Savage Dragon* #218. I was surprised by how well it aged.**

Erik,

Savage Dragon 218 was an example of masterful writing and masterful cartooning. I loved it. Malcolm has saved Maxine and so many others in seemingly impossible situations before, so why not try to find a way to cure cancer? But even with all that power, and all those sci-fi and magical options available, sometimes the only thing you can do is be there to support your loved ones through a tough time. It was a moving story, very well-paced, and some great examples of subtle beauty in your art. Page 16 panel 3, page 17 final panel, and heck, all of page 19 speak volumes. Not that you need to hear this again and again, but nice work.

And "Tales of the Siberian Snowtroppers #1"... excellent!

Aaron Eppy  
Devens, MA

**I don't need to hear it again and again but it sure is nice to hear it again and again. Thanks for that.**

Erik,

Season's greetings. The snow's really coming down hard out there. Speaking of which... I'm a grown man who was actually afraid to thumb thru SD #218, thanks to that misleading cover. Luckily, it was only a metaphorical representation of life's many pitfalls -- akin to Mad Men's intro where Don Draper's shown plummeting to his death. You know, I still tend to get Gwen Stacy PTSD flashbacks now and again. Not fun.

What WAS fun/pun was that "wee paws for station identification" line. I thought you hated bad puns?

An issue devoted to fighting cancer isn't your typical SD slugfest subject matter. I'm reminded of Captain Marvel who succumbed to similar circumstances. Yes, even a cosmic superhero can die from cancer. Superheroes can't always save themselves, or others, which speaks to Barry almost surviving his brush with death. Almost. I only ask that you dial down the death rate so as not to minimize the gravitas of loss.

It was interesting to see an upbeat Maxine become so emotionally vulnerable when coping with the weight of the world bearing down on her small shoulders. Having those crazy kids doesn't help matters any. It'll be cool to see how the triplets grow up and assert their individual identities. Perhaps someday they'll assist their superhero dad the way The Warriors Three do Thor.

FYI, even though doctors claim kids can't retain memories before the age of 2, I'm living proof that that's bunk. I enjoy many vivid memories of what I was seeing, as well as what I was THINKING, when only 6 months of age, if not earlier.

If you ask me, that "little Donald Trump hand" was just what the doctor ordered. Thank you for that. Let's just say that I commiserate with Malcolm's pain with respect to Trump winning the election. (I despise the man; sorry, not sorry.) I'm sure you ruffled a few pro-Trump feathers with that one. I'm all for nepotism as it relates to Malcolm taking over the book, no so much as it pertains to President-elect Trump's conflict of interest vis-à-vis his offspring.

Thank God the Cubbies won the World Series, otherwise this woulda been one depressing issue. Give my best to Papa Dragon; it's always nice to see an old friend.

Sincerely,

Sotiris Gravas

P.S. LOVED seeing that Thunder-Head black back cover, courtesy of Raven Perez, co-host of the Savage FINcast; it makes for a cool T-shirt.

P.P.S Please, make issue #225, celebrating SD and Image's 25 anniversary EXTRA special. (100 PAGES, wink, wink, nudge, nudge.)

The "wee paws for station identification" was an old joke my dad used to throw out from time to time. So, credit him for that.

Still mulling over the contents of *Savage Dragon* #225. But I will say this--those 100-page issues are a killer. Assembling that many pages is no easy task. At this point the best I can say is, "we'll just have to wait and see."

Erik,

Loved it, great job. I've both heard and can imagine the difficulty in crafting an issue with no action/fight scenes (well, aside from a baby ripping a grown man's arm clean off). Was that one of the challenges you sometimes issue yourself on purpose or was it just how the story unfolded in your head? You also managed to sneak in a lot of mythos exposition (how Freak Out and Dragon's blood work, etc.) without it feeling too clunky and detracting from the emotional content. Thanks,

Danny Vetter  
Hatteras, NC

**It was a part of the challenge. Mostly, I wanted to try and tell a smaller story. Fights are a gas to draw, but to be effective, they eat up a lot of space. By sidestepping that for an issue, I could tell a fuller story than I could with a fight scene taking up half the book.**

Erik,

While I have been reading I had fallen behind and missed getting a few issues of reviews in. So I'll just comment on 218.

The good.

Maxine feeling how she did echoes all of us who have lost or are losing loved ones to the evil C-word. Her and Malcolm's struggle to find answers was inspiring because they were doing all they could think of to find a cure. The struggle is real and thank you for doing that story that is going to touch many of your readers hearts because they know the real world pain Maxine and everyone felt.

The bad.

Not even your bad. My bad. When did She-Dragon get de-powered and why don't I remember it???

The 'ugly'

The extra funnies this issue were not my cup of tea... okay...with the exception of the panels in Tales of the Siberian SnowTroopers #2 where the guy mistakenly shoots his two buddies...those tickled my funny bone. The rest though weren't my cup of tea. But that's okay. There are numerous others out there that enjoyed it and I'm okay with that.

Fin fan and Friend,

Randy Hogan

P.s. thanks for including cubbies.

**Glad you enjoyed the Maxine drama. This was a tougher issue to write because it was more "real" in a way. Nice to see that worked out okay for you.**

**She-Dragon turned human back in Savage Dragon #154.**

**As far as the backups go--that's just the way it is sometimes. Not everything works for everybody. We're all different people with different senses of humor and sensibilities...and that's okay. I don't expect us to hit a home run every time we step up to bat.**

-Erik Larsen

**NEXT: Enter the Dragon**

**Hey, don't stop reading now--there's plenty of additional funnybook fun to be had in the pages that follow--!**

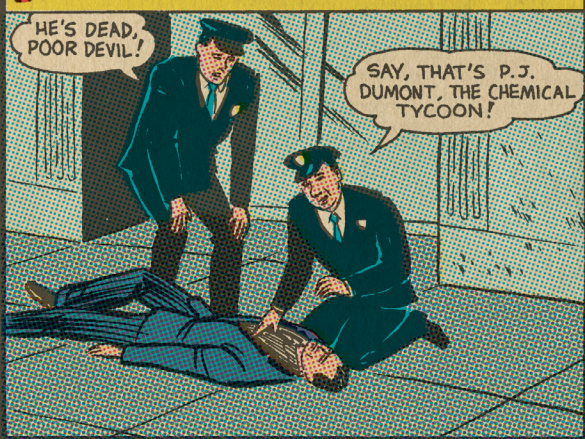
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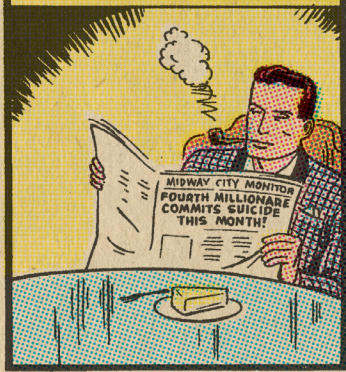
**E**ARLY ONE MORNING IN MIDWAY CITY—



**T**HE POLICE QUICKLY ARRIVE TO THE SCENE ...



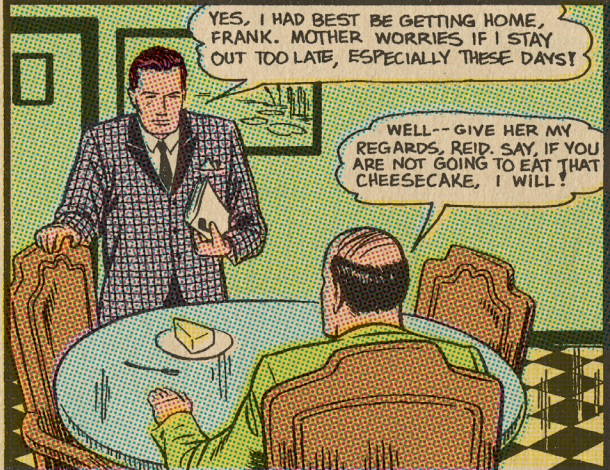
WHAT EVENING, WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIST REID RANDALL READS THE NEWSPAPER AFTER DINNER AT THE EXCLUSIVE FLAMINGO CLUB.



ENTER FRANK SPAULDING, EDITOR OF THE CITY'S TOP NEWSPAPER.



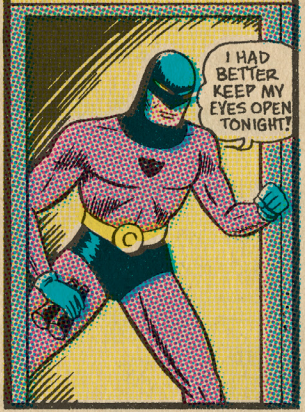
YES, AND LIKE THE OTHER SUICIDES, DUMONT'S WALL SAFE WAS EMPTY-- STOCKS, BONDS, AND MONEY ALL MISSING!



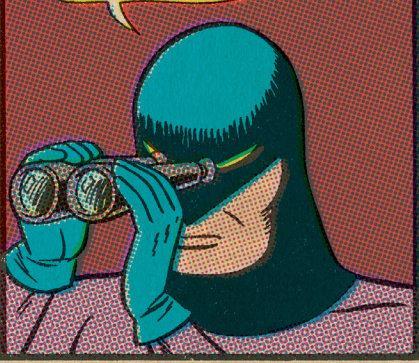
REID RANDALL ENTERS THE ELEVATOR--



- BUT IT IS THE "KNIGHT WATCHMAN" WHO EMERGES, NOT ON THE STREET BELOW, BUT ON THE ROOF!



ALL OF THE DEATHS TOOK PLACE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!



TIME PASSES, BUT THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN'S PATIENCE PAYS OFF AT LAST!

THAT MAN ACROSS THE STREET-- HE'S GOING TO JUMP!

THE "KNIGHT WATCHMAN" STIFFENS AS HE RECOGNIZES THE LATEST "JUMPER"-- FRANK SPAULDING!

A MIGHTY LEAP-- AND THE LASSO END OF A SILKEN ROPE SNAKES TOWARD A FLAGPOLE--

THE "KNIGHT WATCHMAN" SWINGS OUT INTO SPACE!

A MIRACULOUS CATCH!

TOUCH-DOWN!

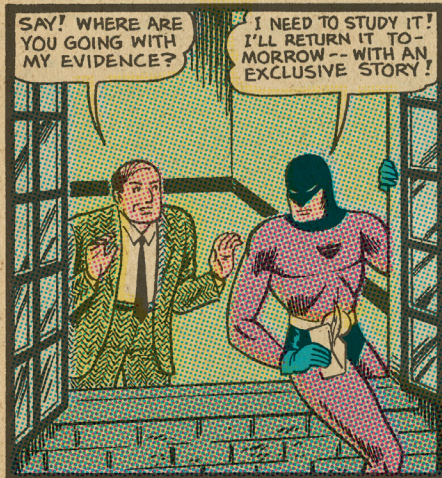
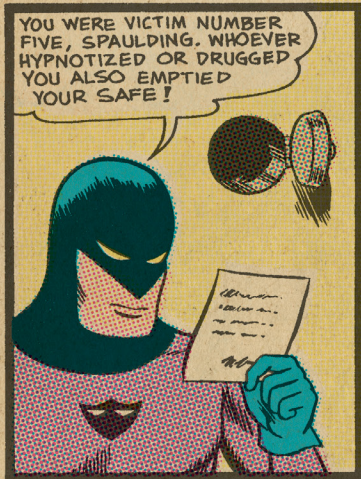
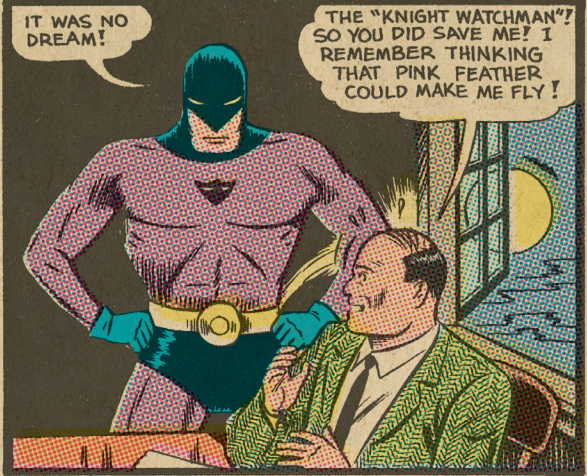
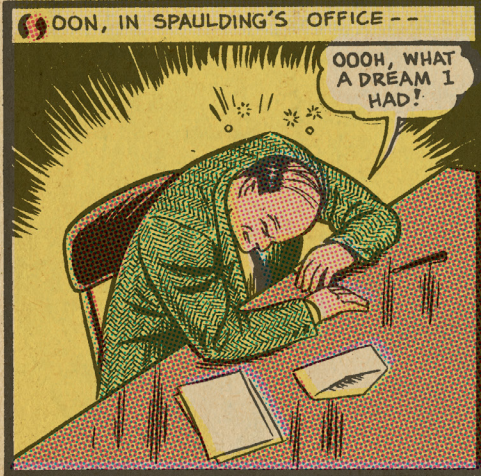
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT, SPAULDING?

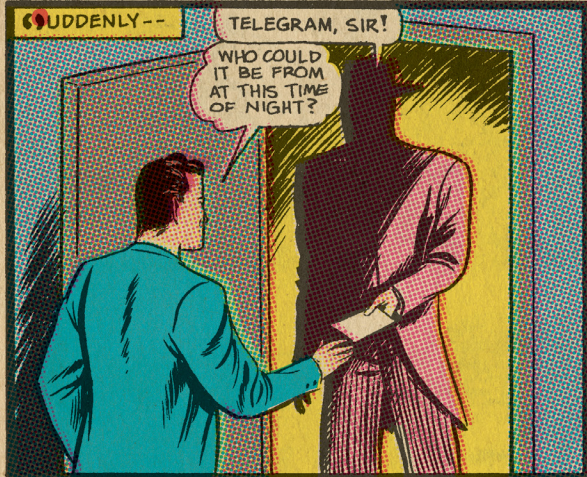
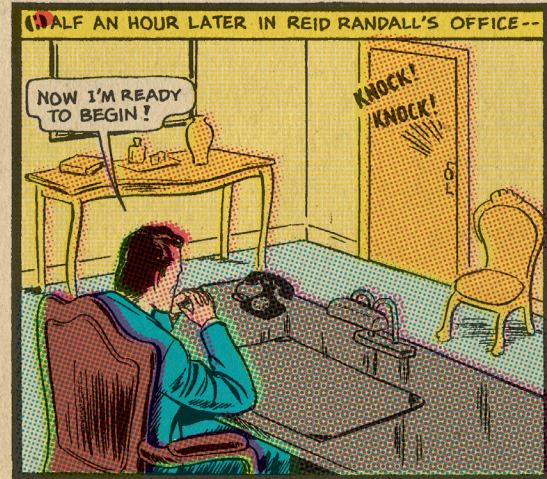
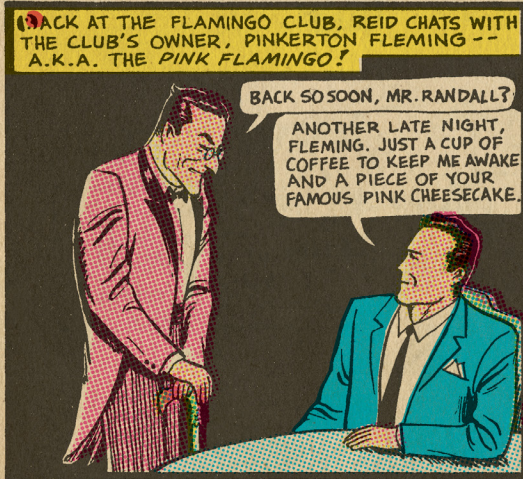
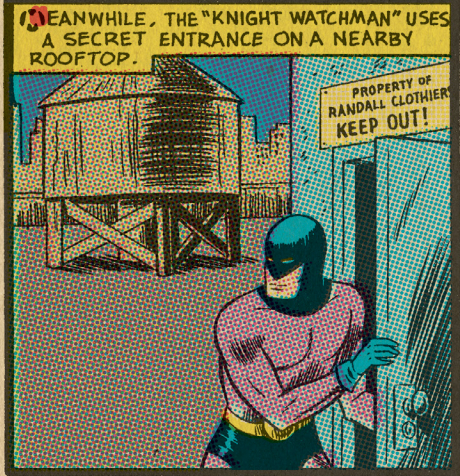
I'M FLYING! IT'S MY MAGIC FEATHER! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!

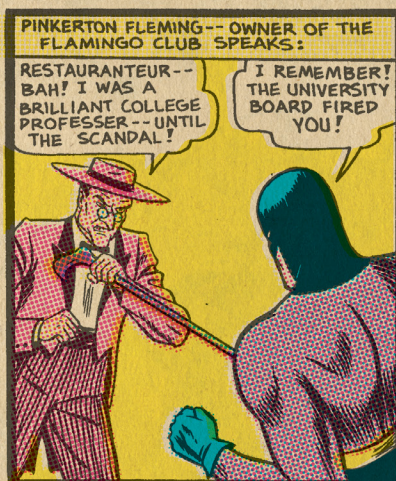
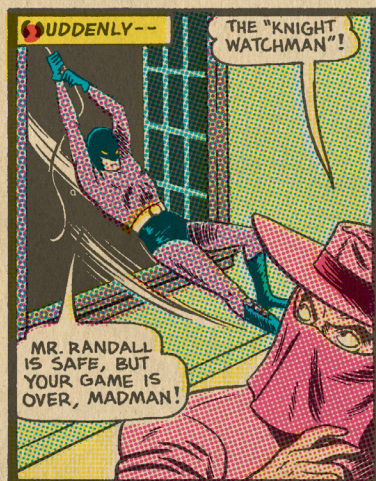
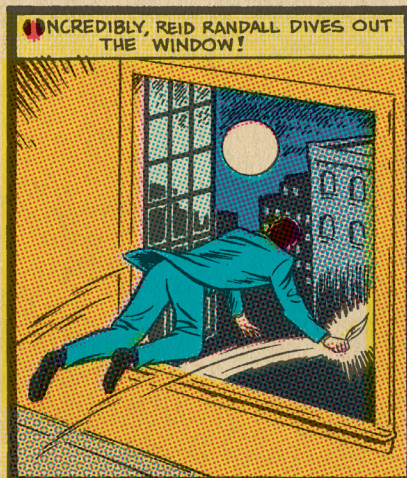
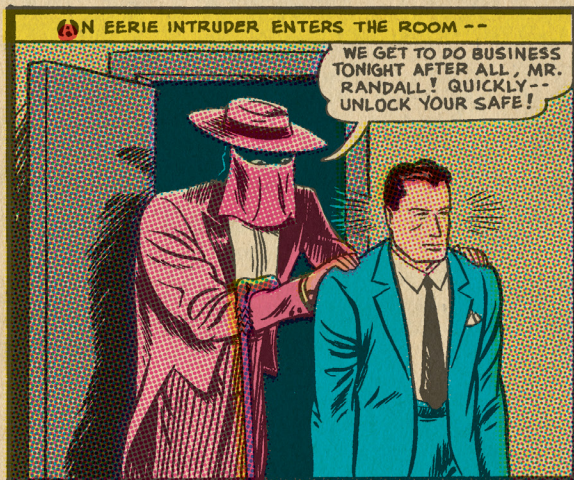
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

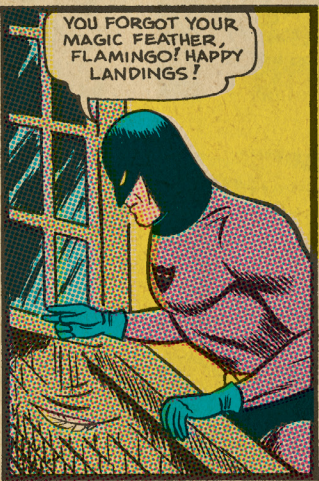
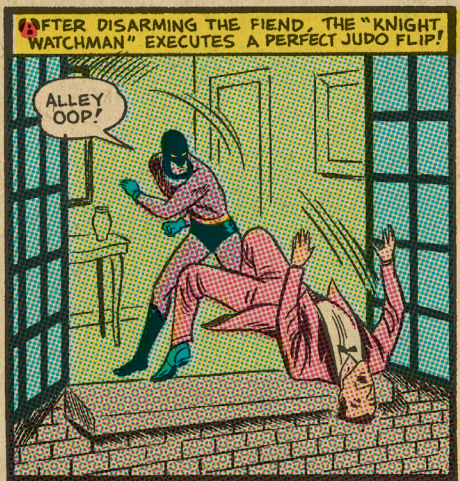
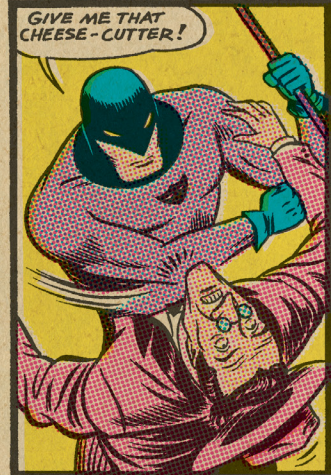
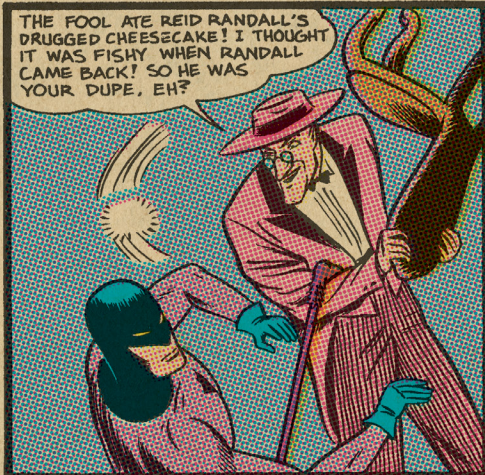
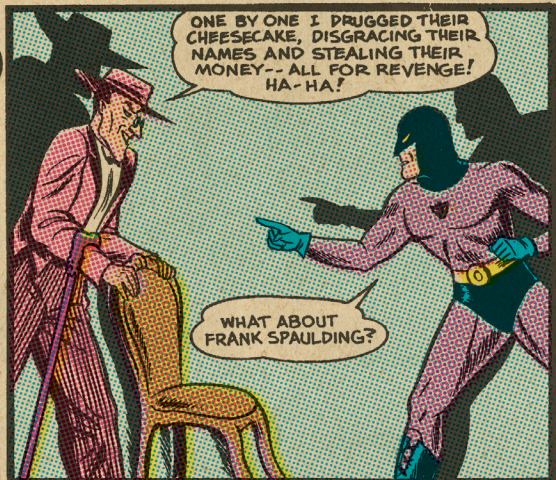
THE "KNIGHT WATCHMAN" CARRIES HIS PRISONER AS EASILY AS A BABY UP THE SHEER FACE OF THE BUILDING!

GOING UP!









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