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212

SAVAGE DRAGON



SAVAGE DRAGON®

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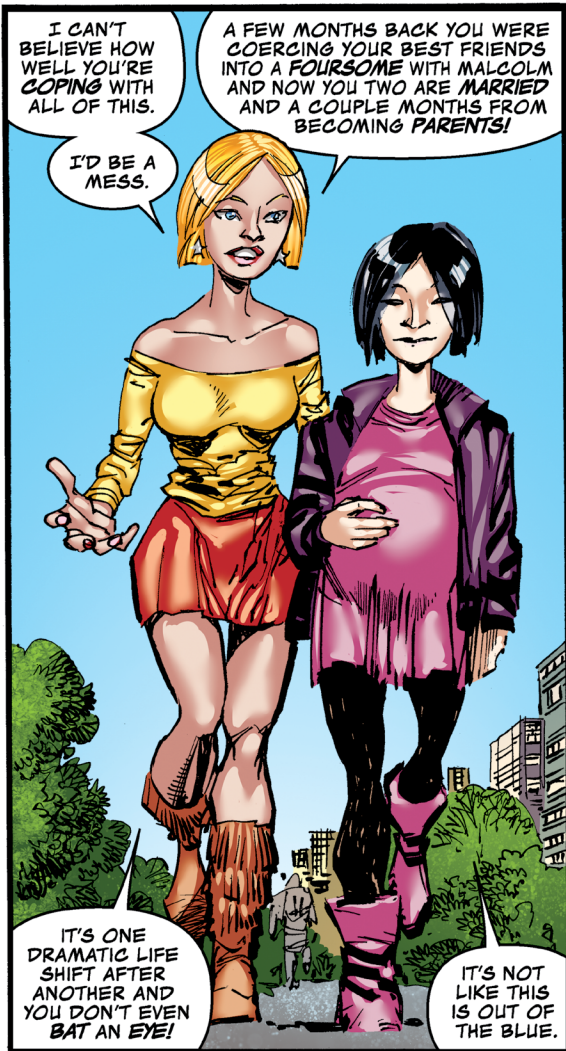


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I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WELL YOU'RE COPING WITH ALL OF THIS.

A FEW MONTHS BACK YOU WERE COERCING YOUR BEST FRIENDS INTO A **FOUR SOME** WITH MALCOLM AND NOW YOU TWO ARE MARRIED AND A COUPLE MONTHS FROM BECOMING PARENTS!

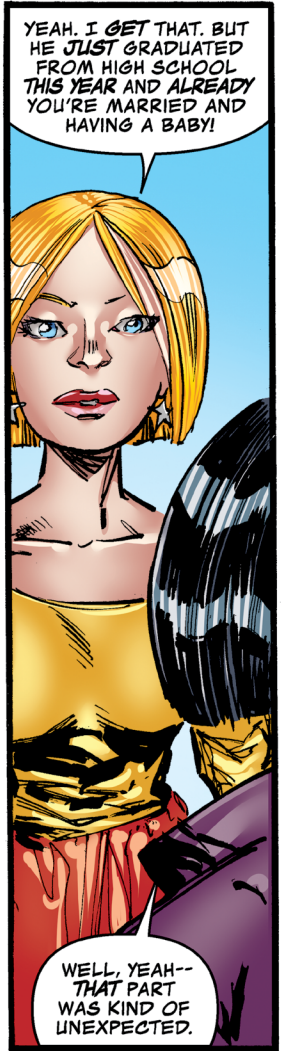
I'D BE A MESS.

IT'S ONE DRAMATIC LIFE SHIFT AFTER ANOTHER AND YOU DON'T EVEN BAT AN EYE!

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS OUT OF THE BLUE.

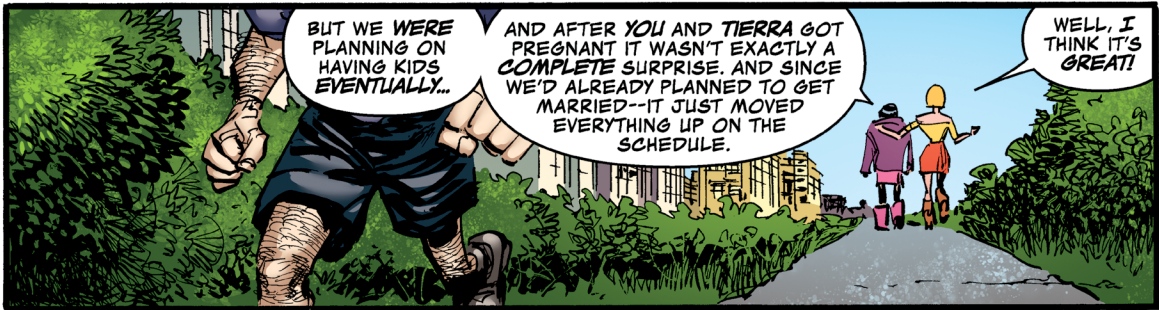


MALCOLM PROPOSED TO ME WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.



YEAH. I GET THAT. BUT HE JUST GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL THIS YEAR AND ALREADY YOU'RE MARRIED AND HAVING A BABY!

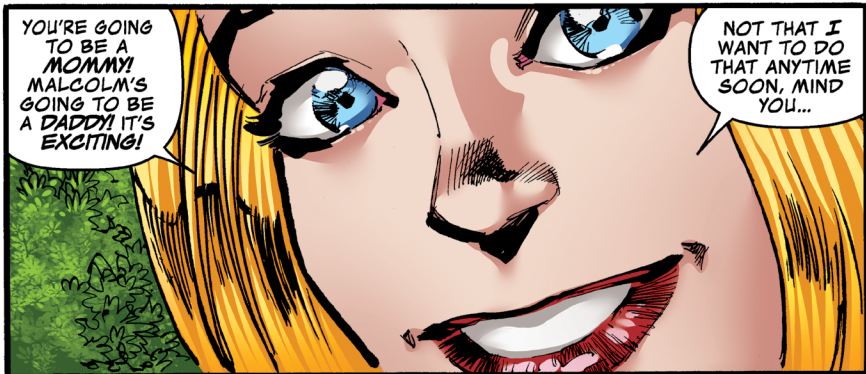
WELL, YEAH-- THAT PART WAS KIND OF UNEXPECTED.



BUT WE WERE PLANNING ON HAVING KIDS EVENTUALLY...

AND AFTER YOU AND TIERRA GOT PREGNANT IT WASN'T EXACTLY A COMPLETE SURPRISE. AND SINCE WE'D ALREADY PLANNED TO GET MARRIED--IT JUST MOVED EVERYTHING UP ON THE SCHEDULE.

WELL, I THINK IT'S GREAT!



YOU'RE GOING TO BE A MOMMY! MALCOLM'S GOING TO BE A DADDY! IT'S EXCITING!

NOT THAT I WANT TO DO THAT ANYTIME SOON, MIND YOU...

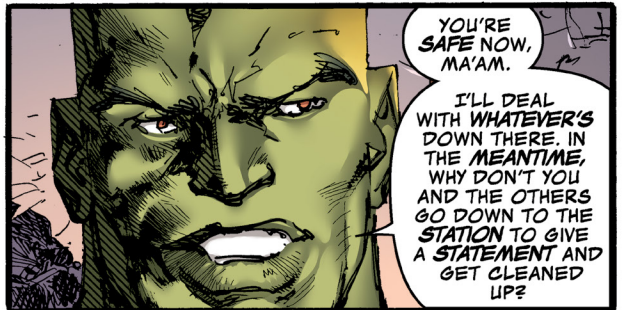
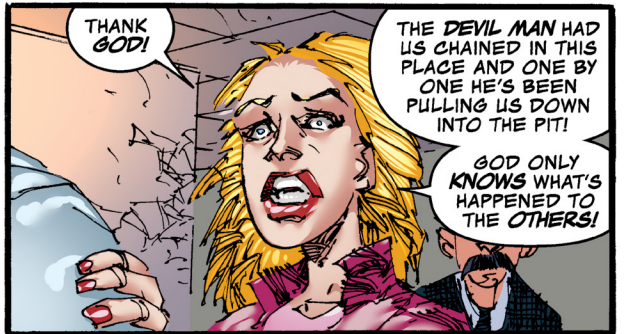
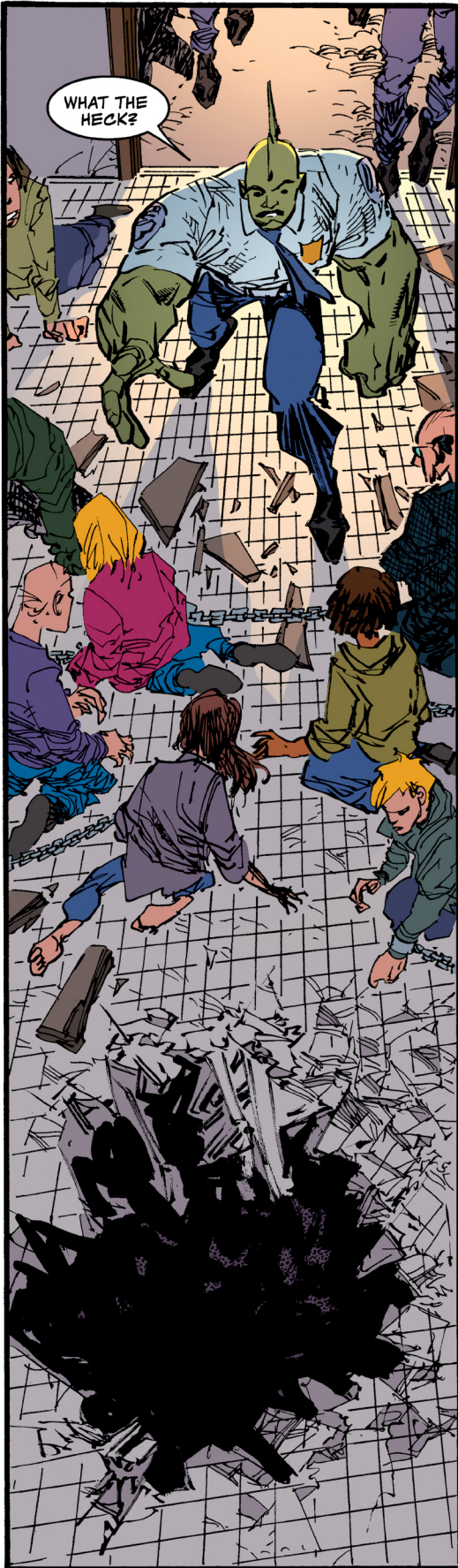


YEAH...

ABOUT THAT...



FREEZE!

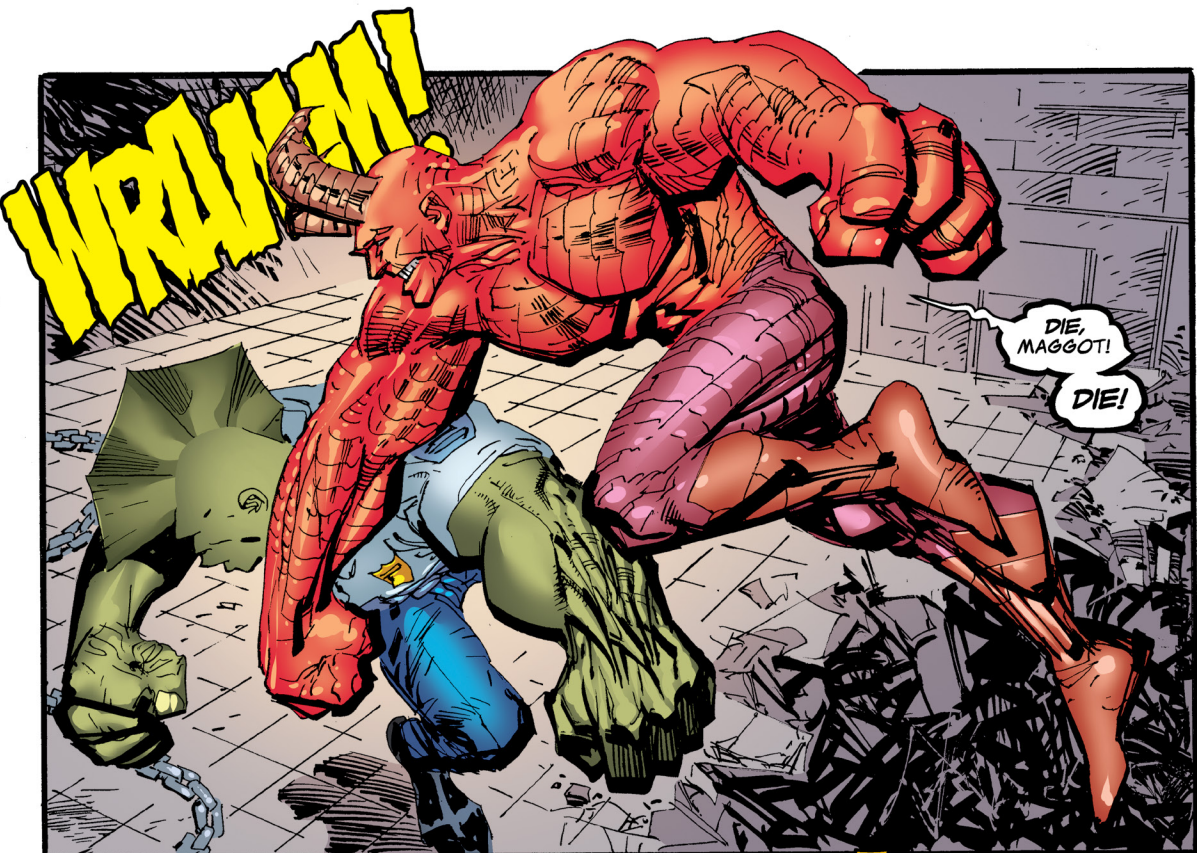


YOU'LL
DIE FOR THAT,
MAGGOT!

I'LL KILL
YOU!



WHOA!



WRAMM!

DIE, MAGGOT!
DIE!



I'LL PASS!

WROPP!



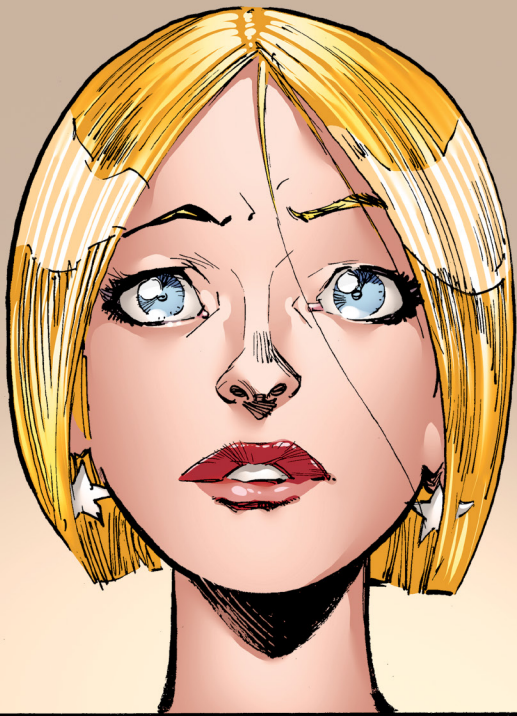
THOOM!



WRA-WRAMM!

WHAT ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
DEMONOID?
SATAN'S LITTLE HELPER?

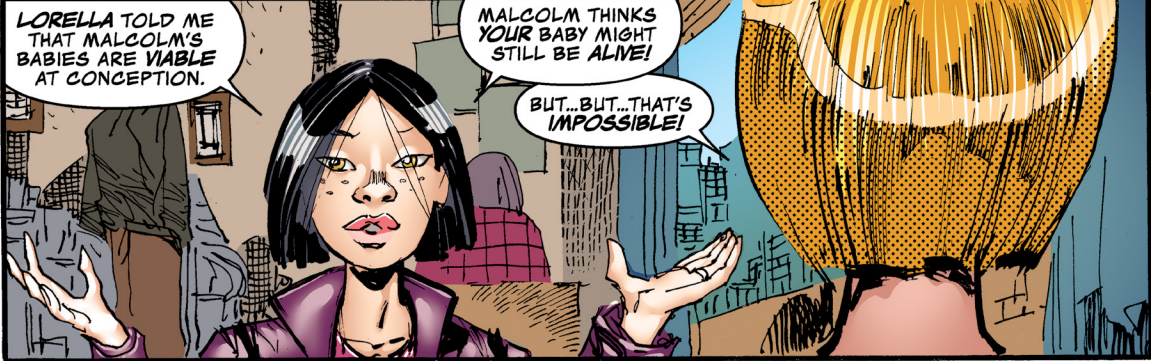
WHAT?



LORELLA TOLD ME THAT MALCOLM'S BABIES ARE VIABLE AT CONCEPTION.

MALCOLM THINKS YOUR BABY MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE!

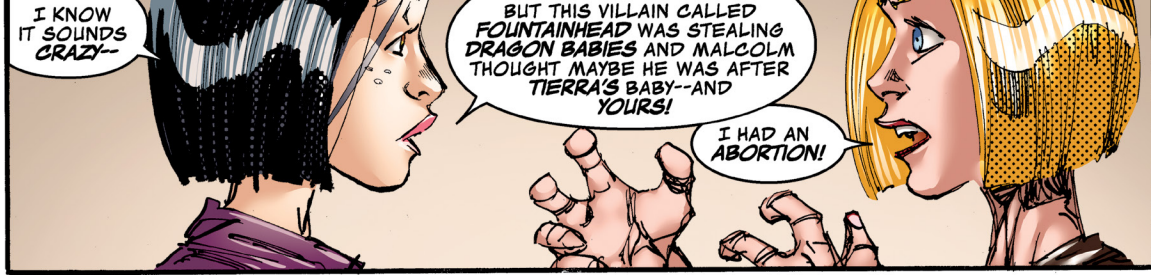
BUT...BUT...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY--

BUT THIS VILLAIN CALLED FOUNTAINHEAD WAS STEALING DRAGON BABIES AND MALCOLM THOUGHT MAYBE HE WAS AFTER TIERRA'S BABY--AND YOURS!

I HAD AN ABORTION!

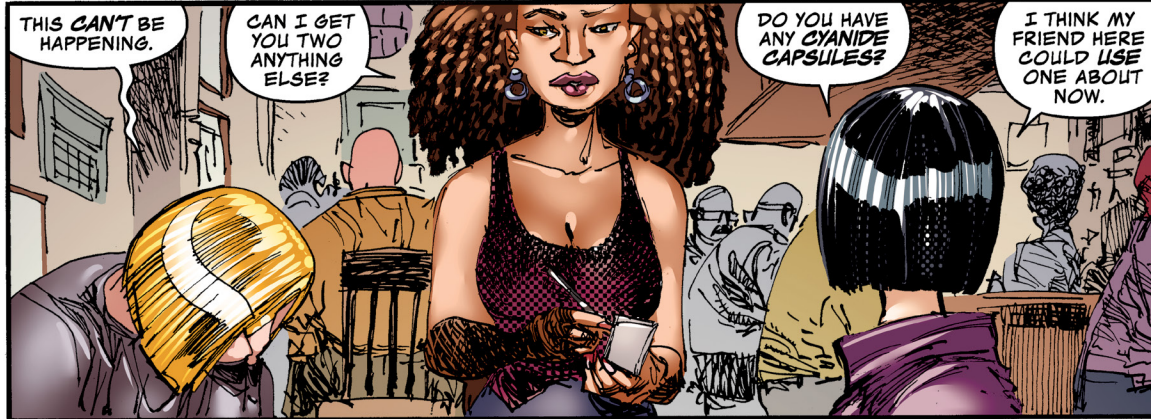


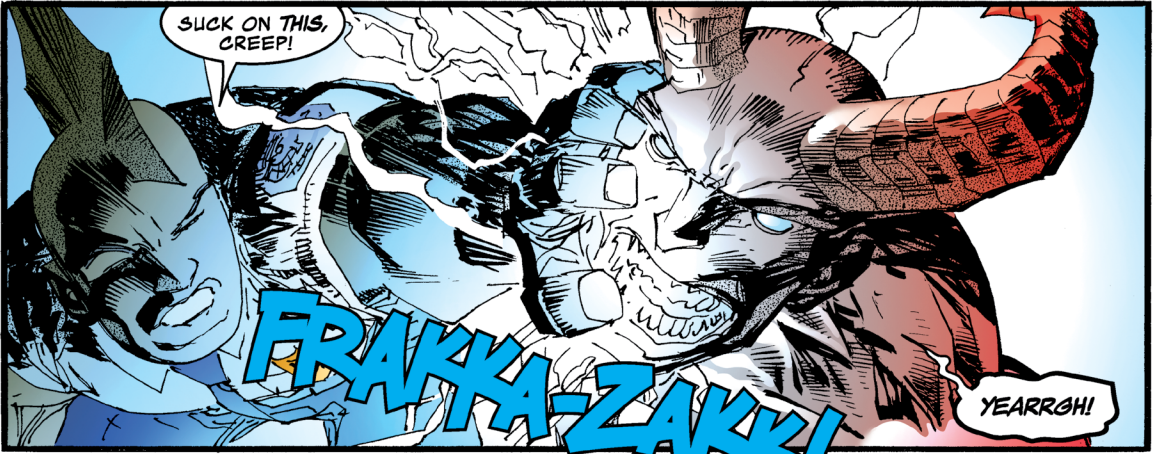
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

CAN I GET YOU TWO ANYTHING ELSE?

DO YOU HAVE ANY CYANIDE CAPSULES?

I THINK MY FRIEND HERE COULD USE ONE ABOUT NOW.

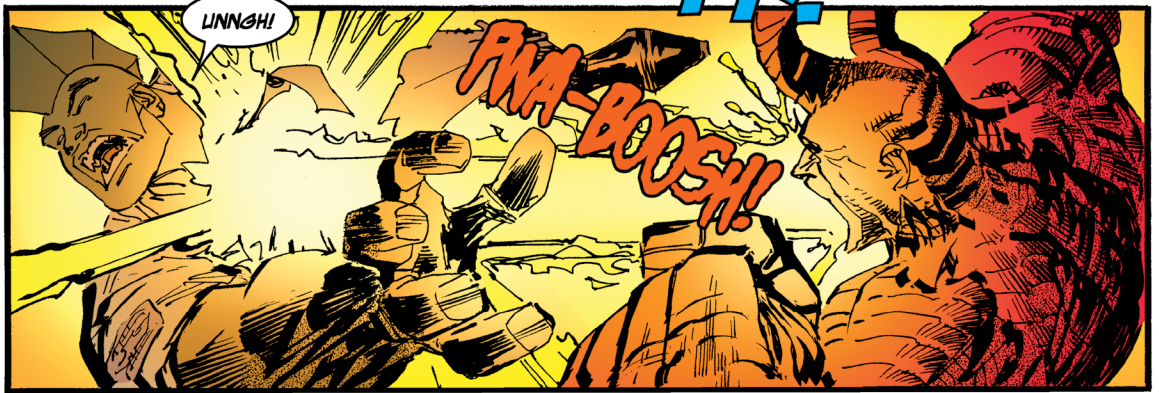




SUCK ON THIS, CREEP!

FRAKKA-ZAKK!

YEARRGH!



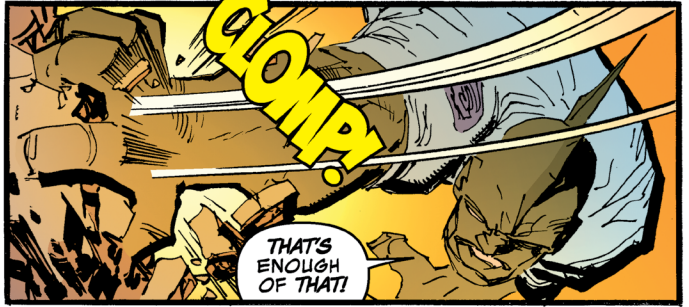
UNNGH!

PWA-BOOSH!



JESUS!

DIE, MAGGOT!



CLONP!

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT!



IF YOU WON'T COME PEACEFULLY--

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS THE HARD WAY--!

YOU'LL DO NOTHING, MAGGOT-- BUT DIE!



NOT NOW--!



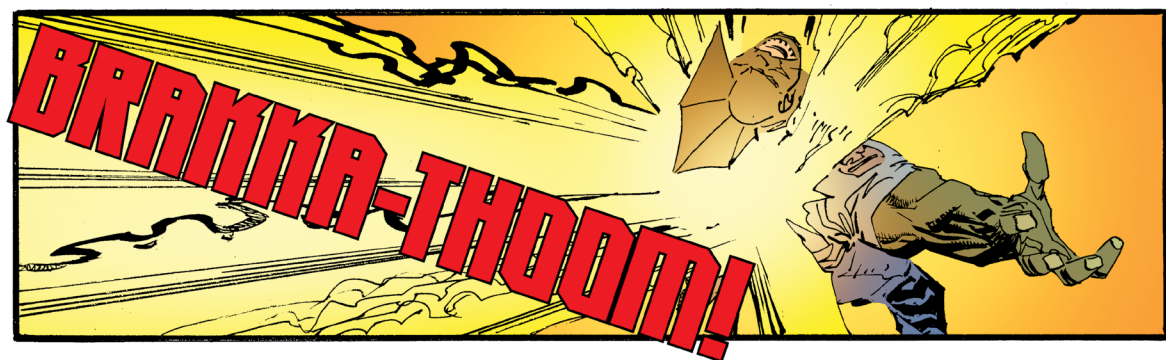
NOT EVER!



ONLY ONE OF US IS WALKING AWAY FROM THIS ONE, PAL--



AND IT WON'T BE YOU!

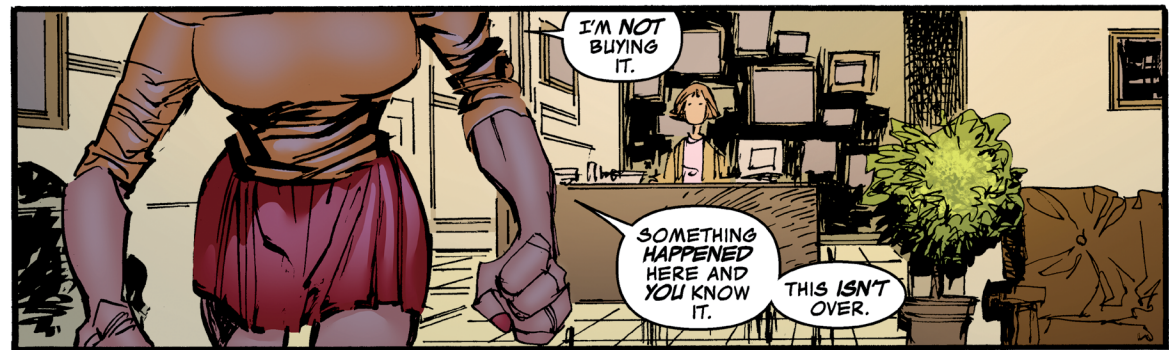
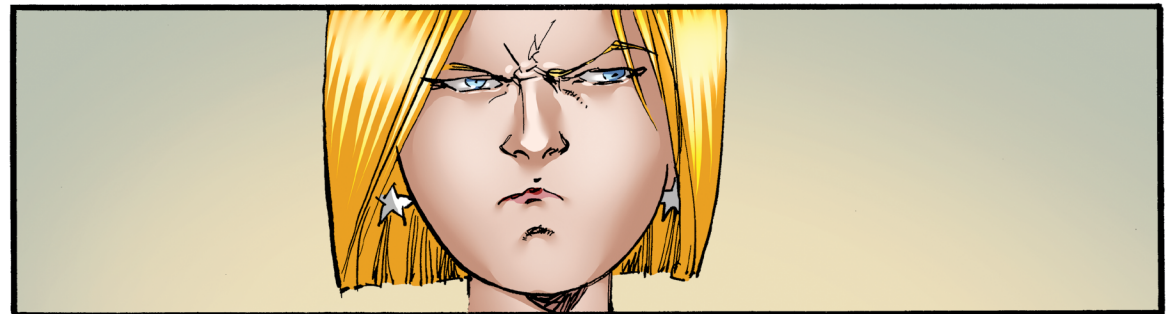
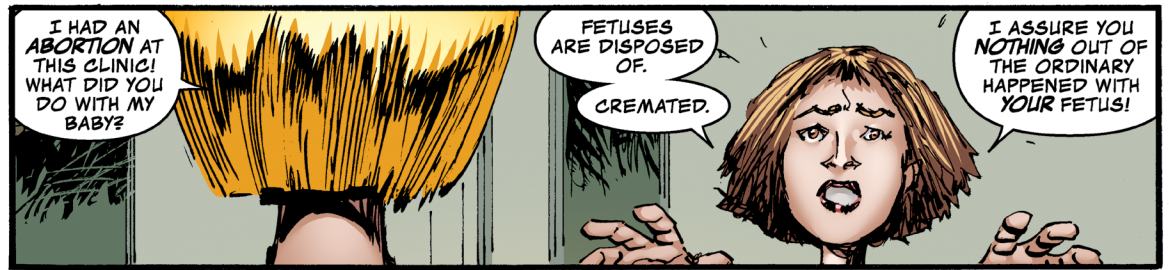
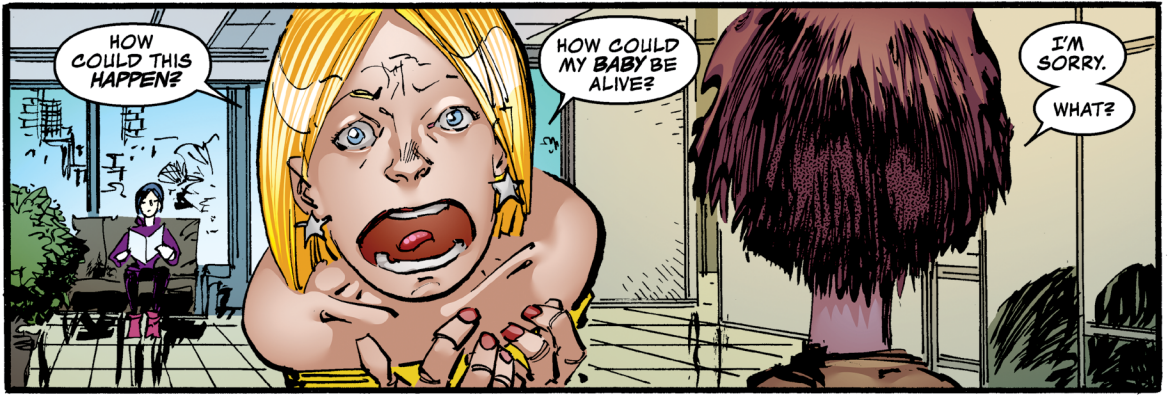


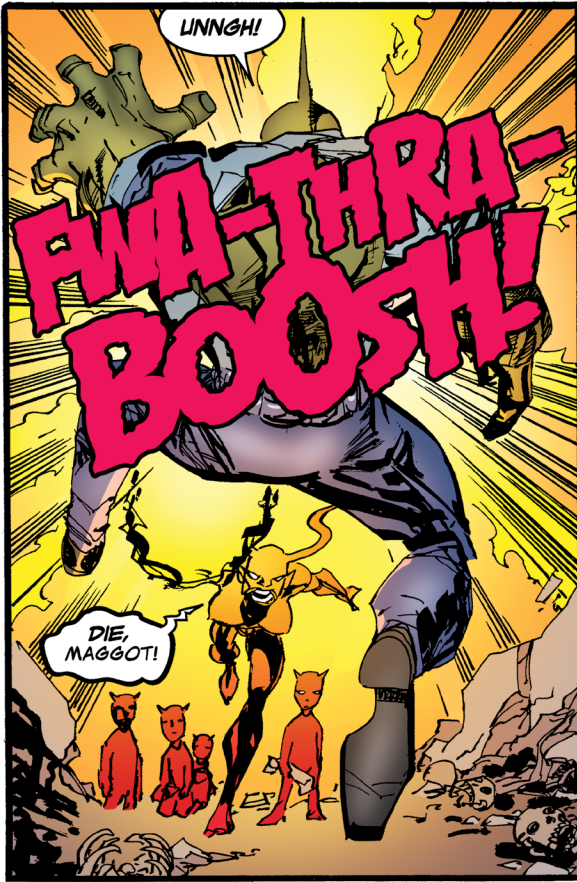


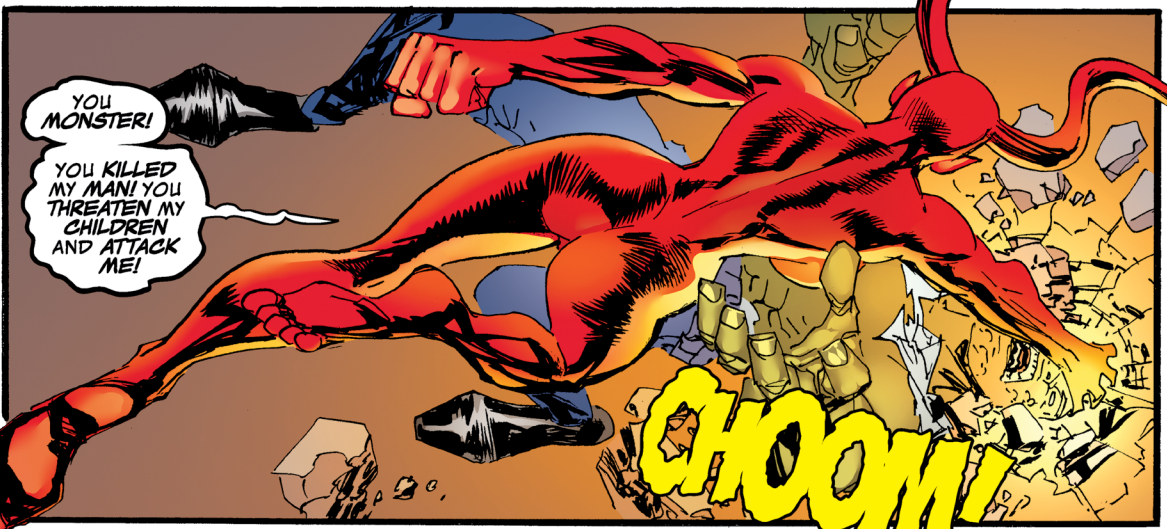
YOU
KILLED
HIM!

YOU
KILLED MY
HUSBAND!

OH,
GEEZ!

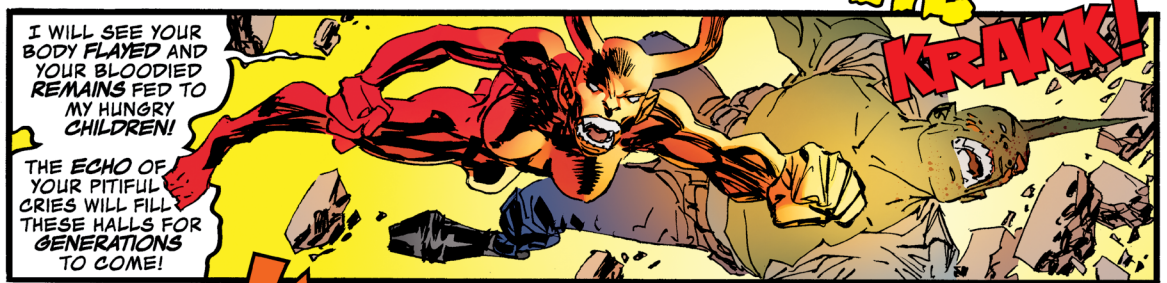






YOU MONSTER!
YOU KILLED MY MAN! YOU THREATEN MY CHILDREN AND ATTACK ME!

CHOOM!



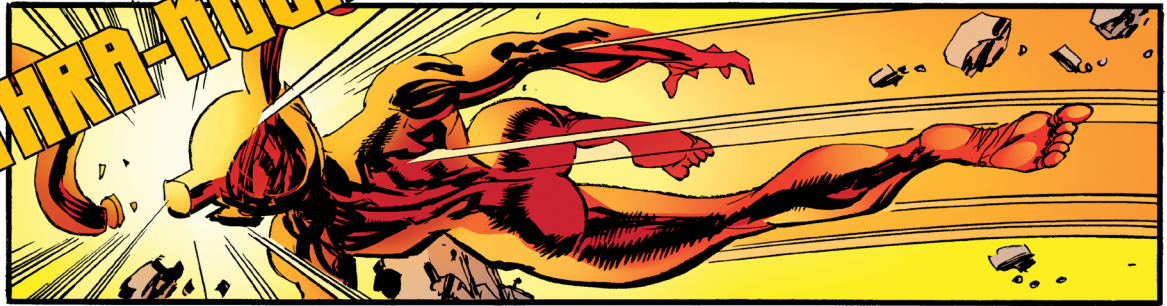
I WILL SEE YOUR BODY FLAYED AND YOUR BLOODIED REMAINS FED TO MY HUNGRY CHILDREN!
THE ECHO OF YOUR PITIFUL CRIES WILL FILL THESE HALLS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

KRAKK!

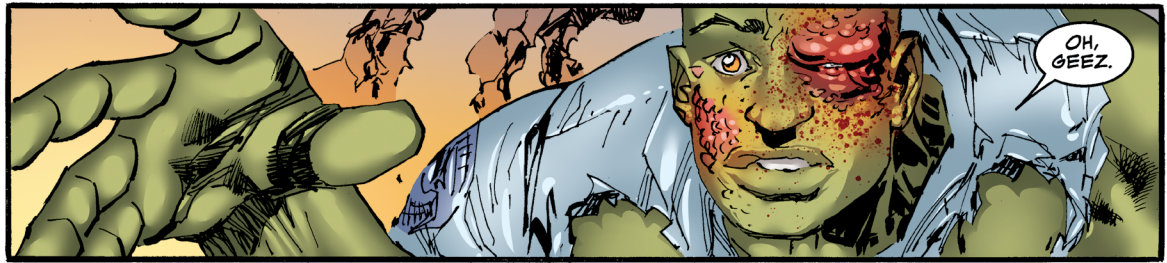


KROPP!

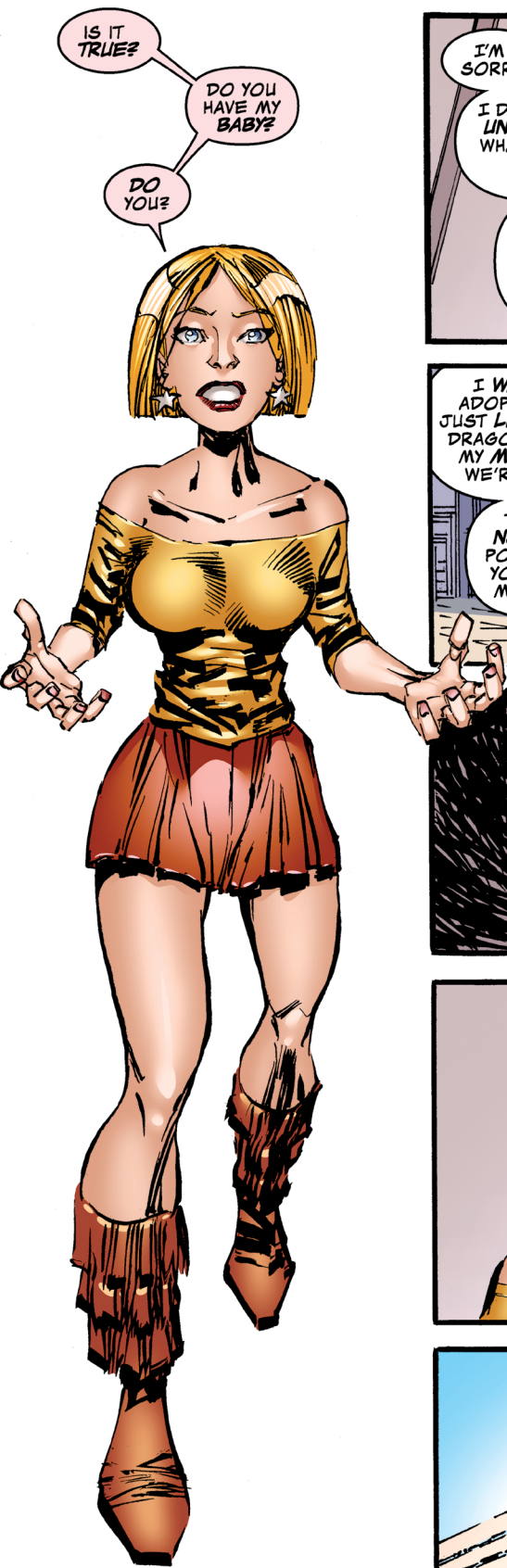
OKAY, THAT WAS A BIT OF AN OVERSTATEMENT.



THRA-HOOOM!



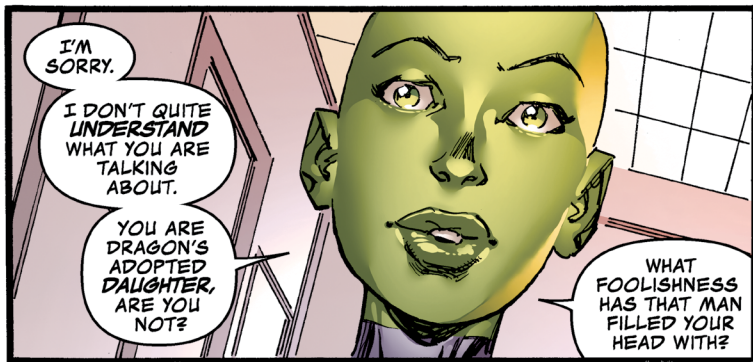
OH, GEEZ.



IS IT TRUE??

DO YOU HAVE MY BABY??

DO YOU??

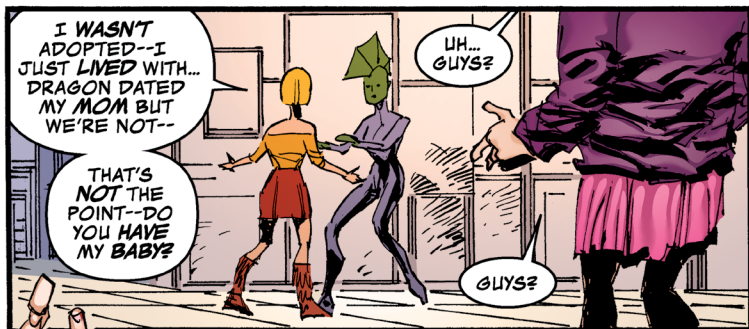


I'M SORRY.

I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.

YOU ARE DRAGON'S ADOPTED DAUGHTER, ARE YOU NOT?

WHAT FOOLISHNESS HAS THAT MAN FILLED YOUR HEAD WITH?

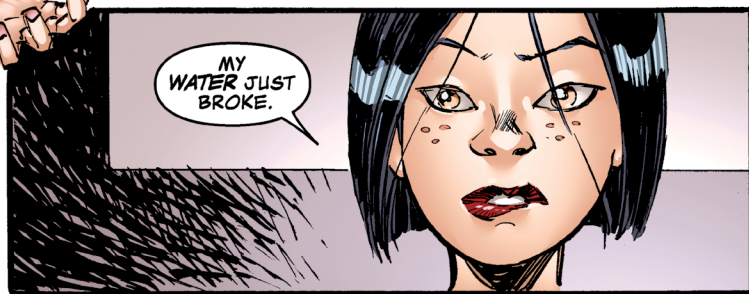


I WASN'T ADOPTED--I JUST LIVED WITH... DRAGON DATED MY MOM BUT WE'RE NOT--

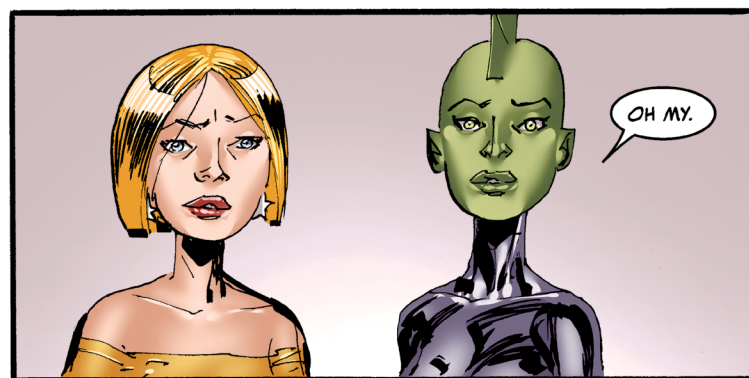
THAT'S NOT THE POINT--DO YOU HAVE MY BABY??

UH... GUYS??

GUYS??



MY WATER JUST BROKE.

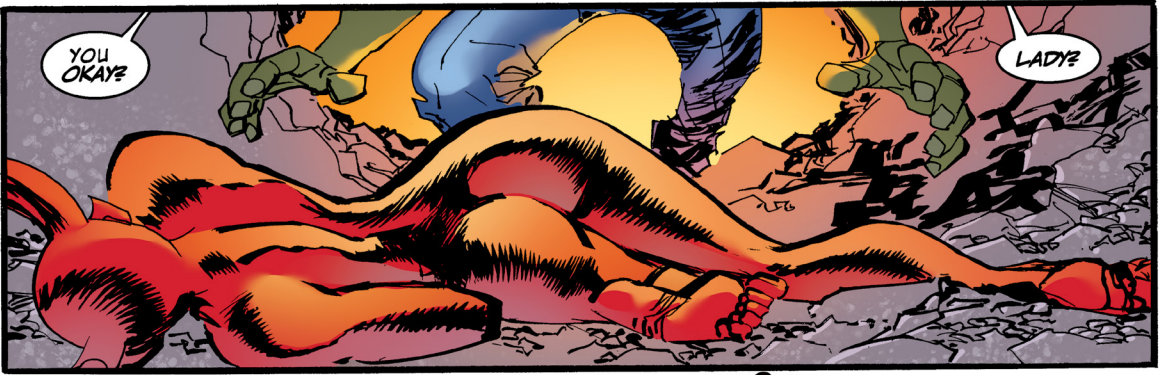


OH MY.



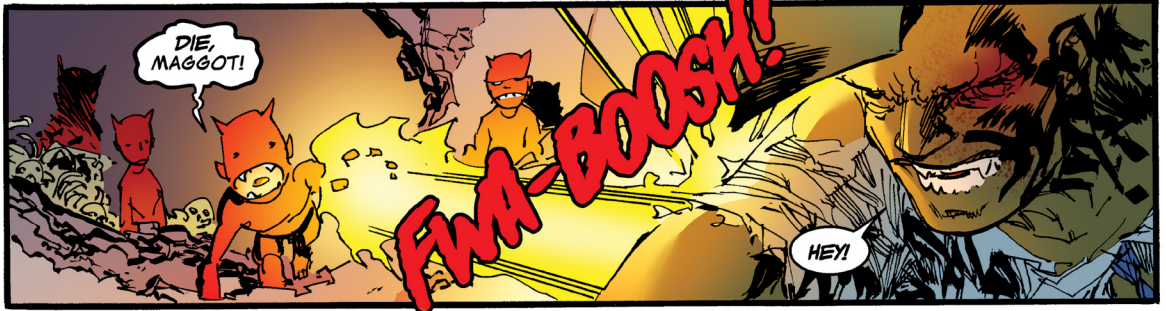
SO...

I GUESS I SHOULD JUST HAVE MY BABY HERE THEN?



YOU OKAY?

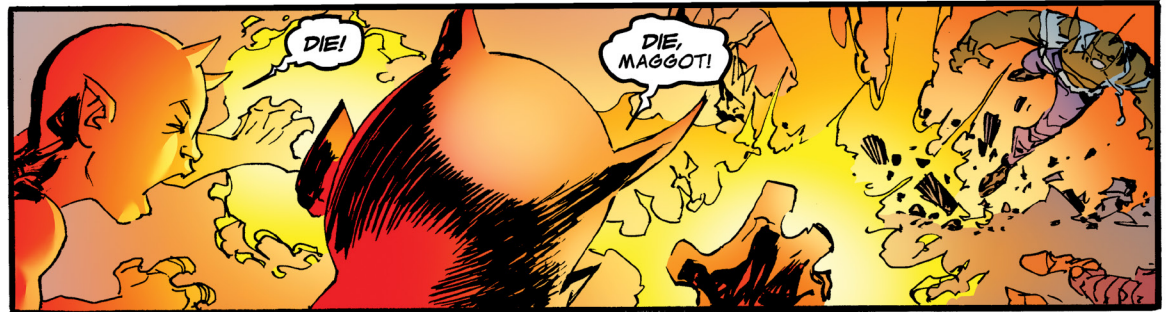
LADY?



DIE, MAGGOT!

FWA-BOOSH!

HEY!



DIE!

DIE, MAGGOT!



I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR MOTHER-- IF THAT IS YOUR MOTHER!

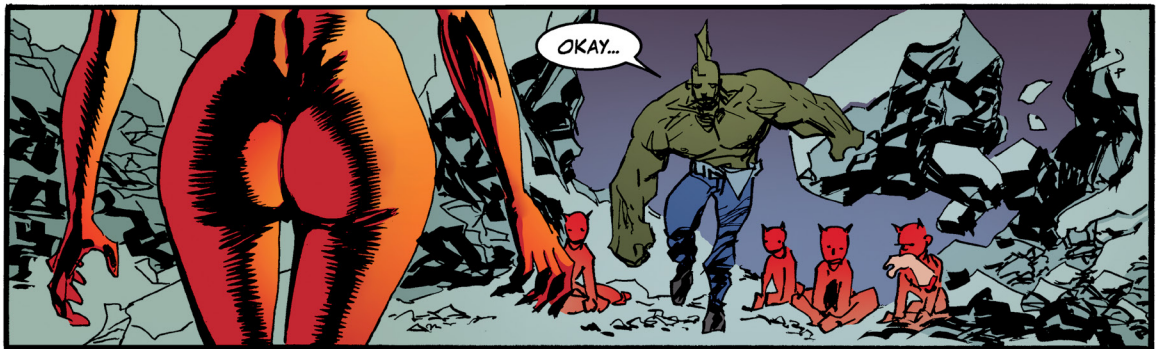
I WAS JUST DEFENDING MYSELF!



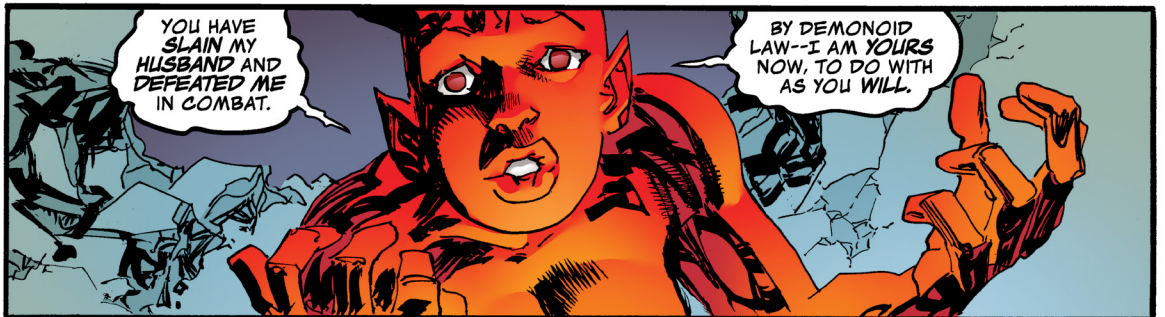
GOD DAMN IT--!



STOP! DON'T KILL THEM!



OKAY...

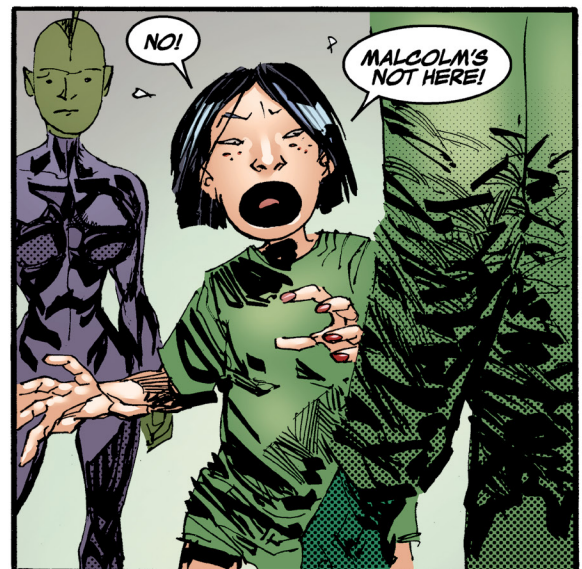
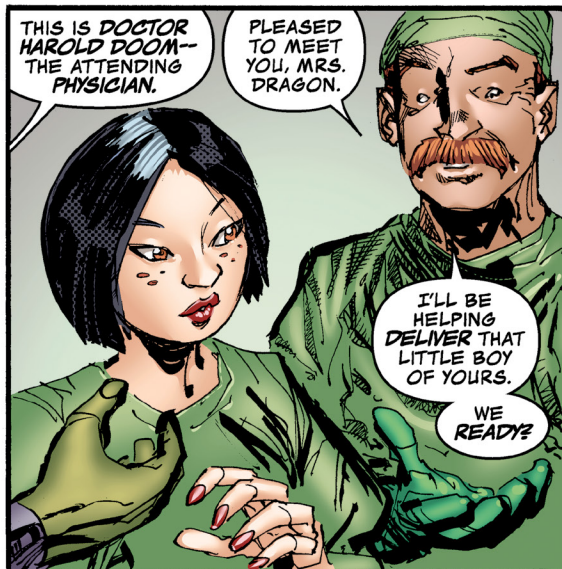
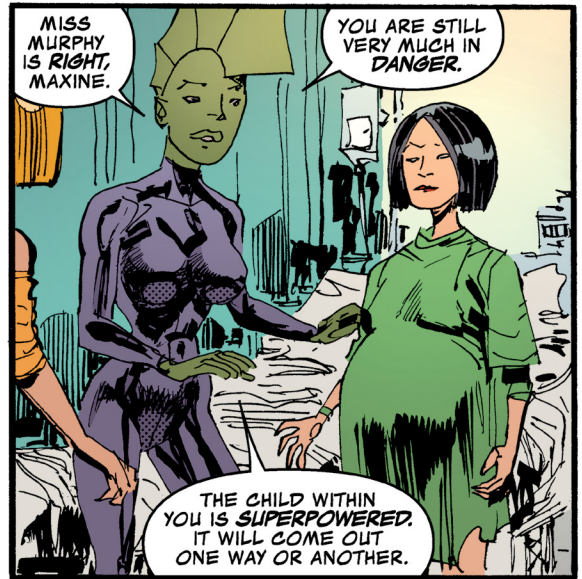
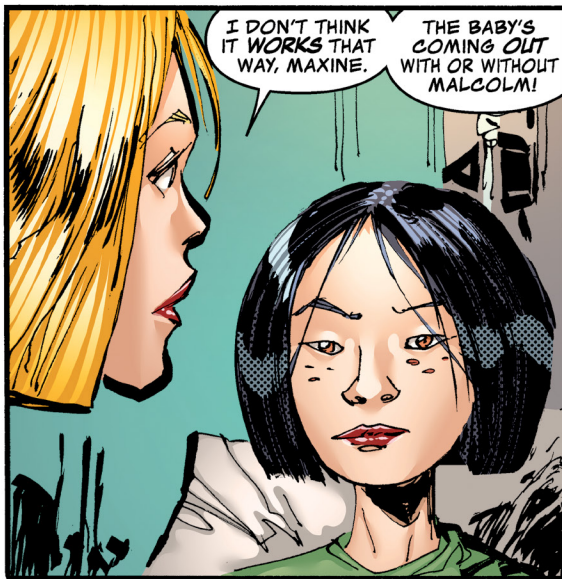
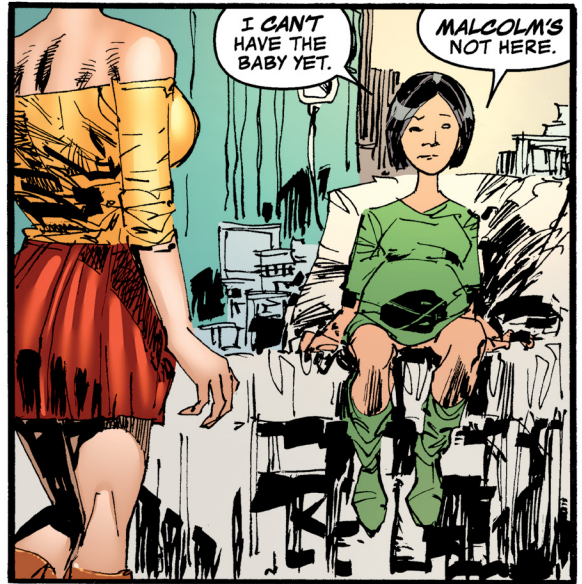
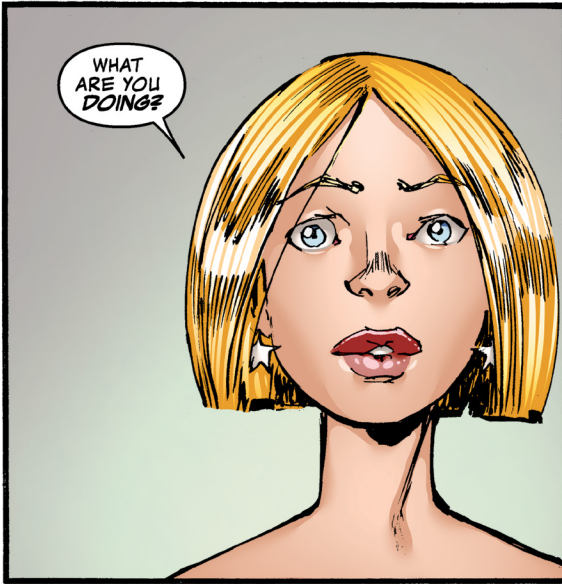


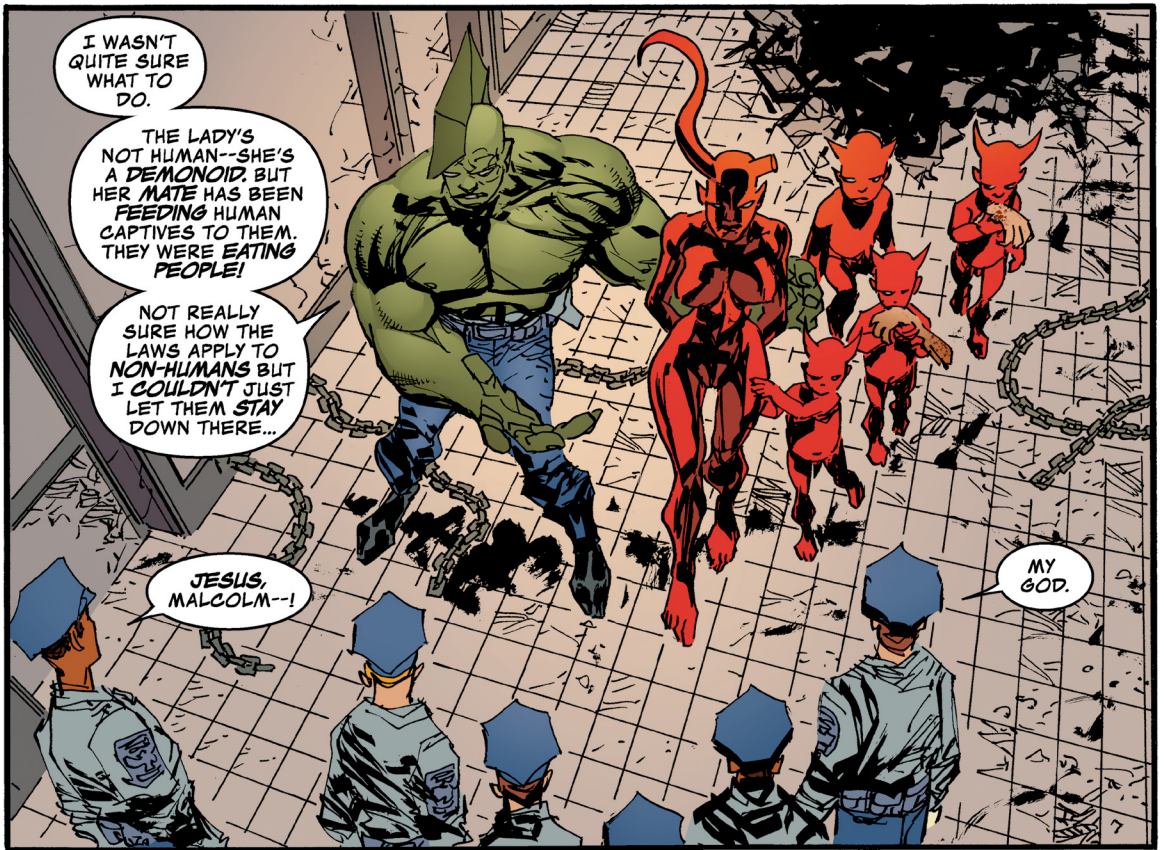
YOU HAVE SLAIN MY HUSBAND AND DEFEATED ME IN COMBAT.

BY DEMONOID LAW--I AM YOURS NOW, TO DO WITH AS YOU WILL.



OKAY, NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE.





I WASN'T QUITE SURE WHAT TO DO.

THE LADY'S NOT HUMAN--SHE'S A DEMONOID. BUT HER MATE HAS BEEN FEEDING HUMAN CAPTIVES TO THEM. THEY WERE EATING PEOPLE!

NOT REALLY SURE HOW THE LAWS APPLY TO NON-HUMANS BUT I COULDN'T JUST LET THEM STAY DOWN THERE...

JESUS, MALCOLM--!

MY GOD.



AND WHERE IS HER MATE?

HE'S DEAD.
WE GOT INTO IT DOWN THERE AND THAT WAS THE END OF THAT.

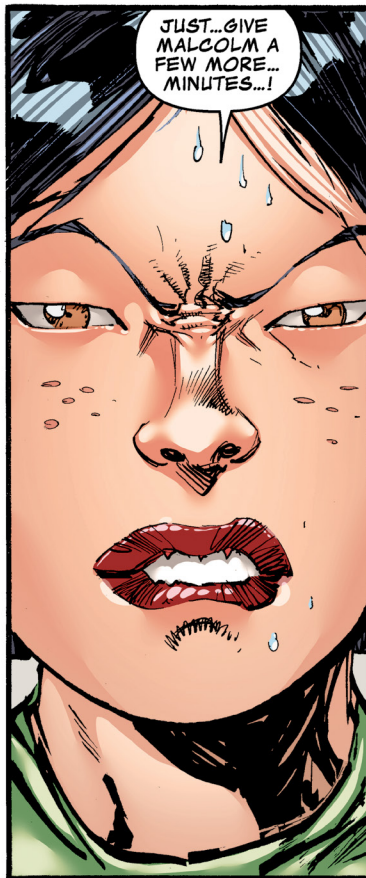
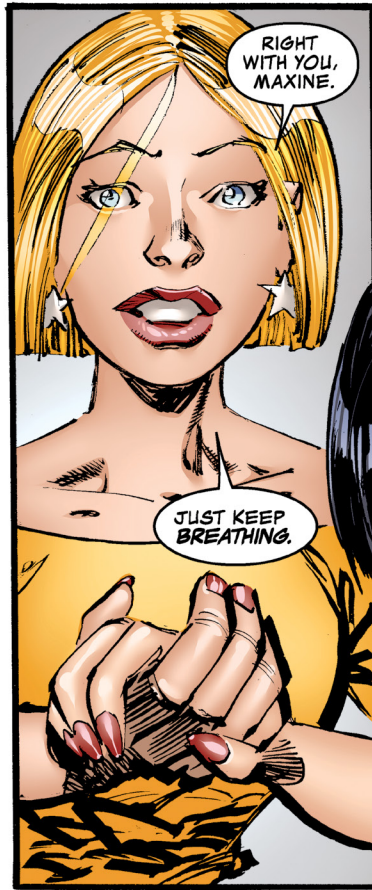
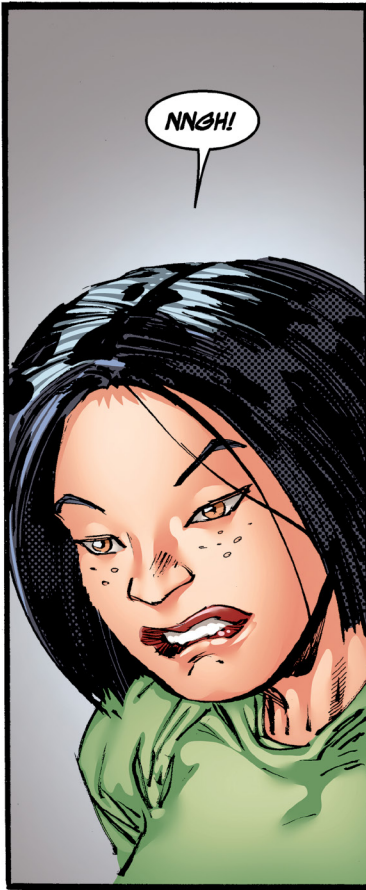


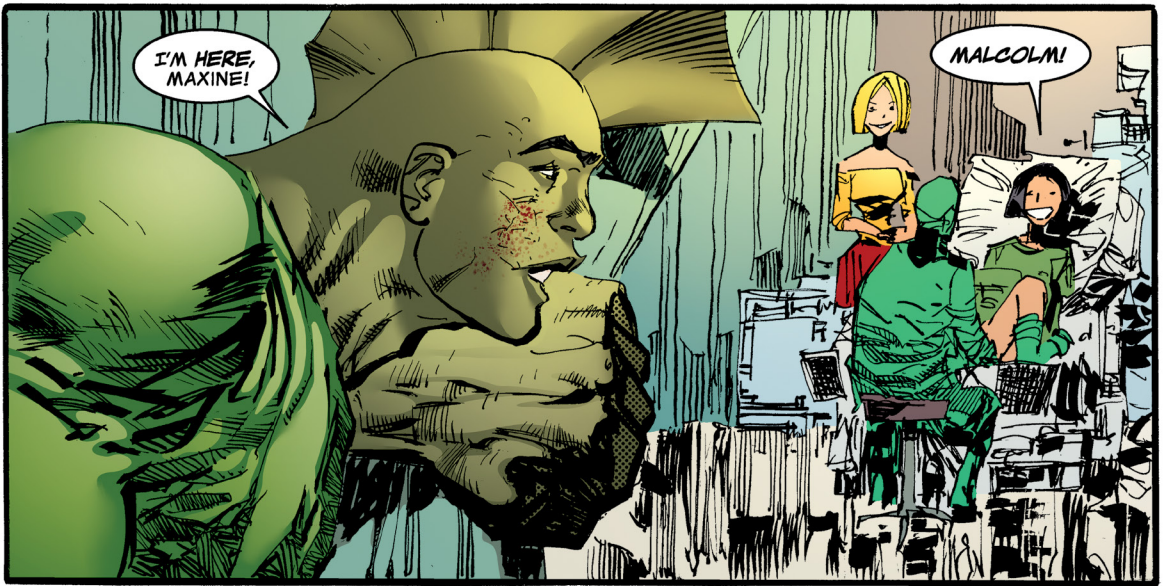
IN ANY CASE--SHE'S SWORN TO DO WHAT I TELL HER--AND TAKING HER AND THE KIDS INTO CUSTODY SEEMS LIKE THE BEST OPTION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

YOU NEED TO GET OVER TO THE HEISLER CENTER. YOUR WIFE IS ABOUT READY TO DELIVER YOUR BABY!







e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at www.savagedragon.com

It occurs to me that I don't mention enough that there's an outstanding *Savage Dragon* Wiki out there, which is packed with all kinds of valuable information. It's a comprehensive guide to all things *Savage Dragon*. Check it out at: <http://savagedragonwiki.wikispaces.com/>

You won't be sorry.

Still plugging away at *Spawn* in addition to *Savage Dragon* so if you can't get enough of what I do here--there's more to be had.

Okay--on to your letters:

Erik,

#209 had me hooked from the opening panel. I can always rely on you to create something I've never seen in a comic before! From an epic storyline to a single frame like that. And as everyone was saying on your forums, the page turning surprise later on was just perfectly executed (both in art and writing). I did not see it coming and while it was brutal as hell I cannot wait to see where it goes next. You set that up well sir.

If there does end up being a *Savage Dragon* Artist's Edition like those from IDW, I am torn between a classic *Dragon* tale or a recent one. Especially since those were drawn at very different sizes, I have no idea how it would work but I want it. Ideally I would love to see both -- in pure pencils at the size you drew them -- is it even possible to make a hardcover that large, or with varying page sizes? Usually they tell complete stories, but not special event issues, so maybe there are some two or three issue tales from both eras which could more or less stand alone, or better yet connect father and son.

Take care,

Dan Gibson

There are no "pure pencils" as everything I do is completely inked. As far as collecting both old and new art in one edition--the page size shifts would make for a pretty bumpy ride. Some issues were drawn standard sized--recent ones were drawn twice up and a few pages here and there were drawn somewhere in the middle. I think it would need to be one or the other. Either all large sized art or all standard-sized art. The new art-size is literally twice the size of the old art.

Hey Erik,

Savage Dragon #209 just hit me like a ton of bricks. My heading was spinning and I was seeing stars floats around my head for a few seconds. An issue that starts off peacefully, but then takes a drastic turn that most wouldn't see coming. That's how you role with *Savage Dragon* and honestly, I'm not the one to complain as that's why I read the book.

The parallels to the wedding in issue#62 are to be made, but unlike the wedding in #62 this one went down without a hitch. Malcolm and Maxine married? Check! Priest giving us the good 'ole nonsensical rant? Check! Thunder-Head looking like a bad-ass by not doing anything at all? Check! Baby bursting out of the womb and dragging its mom through the dark part of Chicago? Oh yeah, that gets a check too! This one had it all. Drama, love, and womb escapes. Can't say the issue didn't have it all if there wasn't a womb escape.

I'm really happy to see Malcolm and Maxine actually experiencing what I would consider a luxury in this book. True happiness, however fleeting it might be. I hope it lasts. In a book that has had one tragedy after another, it would be nice if one couple made through it all. Sure there are couples like William and Rita, Rock and Widow, but I mean a couple that is the foundation of the book. *Dragon* didn't have any luck, but hopefully Malcolm will.

Well I can't write a letter with a few questions!

1. Dart hasn't been doing much for the last few issues, and even then she hasn't been slicing it up. Will she be slicing up underlings anytime soon?

2. Chaos & Control. Chaos being the only villain from the previous world still alive from the previous world. Will they show up anytime soon?

3. Will the Gods be coming back anytime soon? I do miss me some Zeek.

4. Will Thunder-Head being taking a more active role in the book? I don't think we have seen him do much in terms of fighting besides issues 171 and 182. This guy looks like an ass kicker, so hopefully we see him in action soon.

No new characters to name this time, so I think that's it for the questions. In an age where I feel like I'm becoming more and more

frustrated with the shenanigans of Marvel and DC, it's nice that we have *Image* comics and of course *Savage Dragon*. You have really hit a stride with your last few issues, which is quite perplexing as you have been doing this book for 209 issues! You're hitting another stride at 209 issues? What's going on!? Either way, I'm constantly impressed and I look forward to more issues soon.

Sincerely,

Benny Hasa

San Jose, CA

1: She'll be back. She was in so many consecutive issues for a while that I thought she had worn out their welcome.

2: I dunno. Maybe.

3: No plans, really.

4: He'll be around. It's Malcolm's book though.

Erik,

I don't have much time to write these days, but issue 209 seems like a great occasion to MAKE time. Malcolm's marriage to Maxine is such a milestone, and it made for a fairly standout issue.

Your twice-up page dimensions seem to be benefiting your inks. After years of struggling to come up with an apt comparison, I've finally hit on "like Jack Kirby inked by Bill Watterson" as my summation of your art for the uninitiated. That description is quite applicable to 209, with your storytelling and cartoon vocabulary lacking the usual bombast of action packed fistfights to lean on. The genteel subject matter shows that your line-work is just as capable of handling more ordinary, real life fare.

Story-wise, I love how you milked your track record of unpredictable plot twists to build tension. The callback to *Dragon* and Jennifer's wedding on page 7 made me squirm just the slightest as I turned to page 8, because all us longtime readers know how THAT one panned out. That anxiety only served to underline the joy of the occasion, and that was a highlight of the issue.

Aside from all the tidy exposition, pages 17-19 was one of the more powerful sequences of late; *Savage Dragon*, indeed. You'd already given Tierra a touch of sympathy when she sent the Gossip Rag packing, but here her anguish is fully realized. Throwing a third *Dragon* baby in the mix with Malcolm and Maxine's kid - along with that Dark *Dragon* progeny that's lurking somewhere out there - makes for some very compelling third generation material indeed. It's just more proof how unique your real-time approach is, and how without *Image's* existence, such a feat would be nigh impossible. I can only hope that fandom-at-large will someday come to realize the coup you've pulled off on that front.

So, stellar issue, sir. I'm immensely excited to see how this all plays out, and with your turn on *Spawn* coming out in tandem, it sure is a great time to be an Erik Larsen fan. Thanks for keeping it up. There are still those of us out here who appreciate and champion what you do.

Justin Crouse

I have a confession to make--outside of the first page, *Savage Dragon* #210 wasn't drawn twice-up! Because of all the traveling I had to do when I was working on that issue I had to draw the book somewhat smaller to fit pages into my suitcase. But thank you for your kind compliments, regardless.

Hey Erik,

Wow. That was quite an issue there. An interesting exercise in contrasts which I assume was the intention. So, while Malcolm is having one of the greatest days of his life, Tierra is laying on a dark deserted street dying in a pool of her own blood while their newborn progeny is crawling out into the great unknown. That's some heavy stuff. I can't help but feel an enormous amount of sympathy for Tierra, but I don't really understand her motivations. Why did she back off of pushing the pregnancy issue with Malcolm if she really was pregnant? Why didn't she believe Malcolm when he told her the dangers of carrying his child? I'm not sure what her grand master plan was. Maybe she just wasn't very bright.

Also, a quick question. If Malcolm is so "fertile", why did *Dragon* never have any issues with unintended pregnancies? He was probably more promiscuous than Malcolm back in his heyday.

Lastly, an observation/comment. I know this book moves at a breakneck pace by design and pretty much doesn't slow down for anything. However, every once in awhile that approach comes across as detrimental. Actually, detrimental is too strong a word. More accurately, sometimes details are glossed over that I feel would be

beneficial to me as a reader and would create a richer, more cohesive world. For example, Maxine has a contraption to protect her from the baby, but I have no idea where it came from or even a basic understanding of how it works. It isn't necessary, but as I was reading it I felt as if I missed something. Then again, I don't know what you would have cut to fit an explanation in which I suppose is the challenge.

Drew Woodworth

Yeah, I get that and generally I try to fill in stuff like that. There was an explanation which ended up getting written out for some reason in one of my frantic late night revisions. I didn't notice the oversight until the book was in print but I've pulled it back into play.

Hey Erik,

I just wanted to drop you a quick line to let you know I really enjoyed *Savage Dragon* #209. I was wondering if we were going to see any unwanted wedding guests and was pleased to see that you didn't go down that road. I think at this point it has become a bit clichéd and it was a nice change of pace to see a superhero wedding go off without a hitch. It was really great seeing Alex at the wedding, even if it was only for a few panels. She's looking good! Life away from Chicago must be treating her right. I was also happy to see Thunderhead in attendance and that Maxine's friend took an interest in him. Even if it was only in a purely platonic sense it's nice to see that there are people out there who will give him a chance and not judge him based on how he looks. And if it turns out to be more than platonic, well then great for Kevin! The only downside to the wedding is that Dragon couldn't be there. It's understandable, but I'm sure Malcolm missed him at least as much as I did.

Now, this issue may not have had any unexpected guests, but you still managed to throw in some unexpected moments. Just when you had me thinking this would be a nice, quiet character piece, BAM! You throw those 3 pages of Tierra at us! I definitely wasn't expecting that, and your execution of the scene was brilliant. It's another great example of your mastery of the left-hand page surprise. On top of that, you actually made me feeling sorry for Tierra, which is not something I would ever have expected to happen. You really have to wonder why she didn't take Malcolm's advice about the pregnancy though. Was she in such denial that she thought she could have the baby safely and win Malcolm back? I guess we'll never know.

All in all, another great issue. You really seem to have hit your stride with Malcolm as the lead of the book, and I really look forward to reading *Savage Dragon* each and every month. And it really does seem to be coming out every month lately, so kudos on that too.

That's it for now. See you next month!

Andrew d'Entremont
New York, NY

We may never know Tierra's thought process. I suspect it was something along the line of Rapture's, when she gave birth to Malcolm, all those years ago. She was simply determined to show his father that it undeniably was his kid, after all. Not necessarily the smartest move but not everybody thinks these things through terrible well. Sometimes it's hard to imagine that anything bad could ever happen to you--even when you do something foolish.

Greetings Erik,

I just finished my second reading of 209. It's a very heartfelt issue! It hits close to home for me. Two major things directly run parallel to events in my life in 2015. The first is the wedding. I got married on May 17th of 2015 to my beautiful wife Katy. It was one of the best days of my life! The second event is the pregnancy. My wife and I had our first child this year, our baby girl Janey Frances Jewel! It means so much to me to see the last *Savage Dragon* issue of the year having these particular coincidental events transpiring within its revered pages. Over the past years, *Savage Dragon* has become a sanctuary to me. I have found solace in you and your co-creators' work more times than I can count. Watching your creation grow and blossom for decades has given me hope and inspiration that I will most definitely share with my daughter when the time comes. Erik, your book means the world to me and I hope my little Janey enjoys it as much as I do. Take care. I look forward to the next issue.

Sincerely,
Rick Snyder
Greenwood, IN

Congratulations and congratulations again!

Hey Erik

First time writing, and I'm a new reader from the jolly isle of the UK (I was a toddler when TSD began)

I just wanted to say, I've recently got into this series in a big way and I'm glad there's so much to catch up on to sustain my current obsession with it. I love your work, your art, your stories, your humor. The combination of action and drama and compelling characters is

quickly making your book my favorite.

But also, you've really lit a fire in me recently. I've been inspired by you an awful lot. I'm just a wanna be comic artist- you know how it is, been doodling these things since I was a kid. I've never made a living off my art, and I don't know if I ever will, but I have something of a new resolve to make *something*, even if it's self-published. So I wanted to thank you for that, just for doing what you do, because you're awesome. Maybe I'll be able to catch you at a con some time if you come round these parts in the future, would love to shake your hand!

Thanks again.

-Lu Owen

Well, cool! Glad to hear it.

Erik,

Judging by the playful cover to SD #210, Malcolm and Maxine may be lost, but they definitely found trouble. That tends to happen when surrounded by sentient Tiki statues with an evil agenda.

I'm reminded of Jack Kirby's fascination with the Stone Men of Easter Island -- hence the cover to *Journey Into Mystery* #83 (revisited in *Thor* #318), inspired by his reading of the book *Kon-Tiki*, by Thor Heyerdahl. Interestingly, Kirby never cared much for inking his own work, and rarely did -- in stark contrast to your indelible inking interests -- a must, considering how loose your pencils usually are... more like layouts. (I'm sure the pencils you impart to Todd McFarlane via SPAWN are far more polished, comparatively speaking.)

Whereas what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas, the even tenor of Chi-Town trouble which plagues Malcolm seems to follow him around -- emotional baggage, indeed. As if that vigilant evil eye from his in-laws isn't bad enough, now Malcolm's gotta contend with a Hawaiian honeymoon curse, no less. Geez, Louise! Luckily he caught a break this issue that didn't require the mending of any broken bones.

Good thing Maxine has that handy-dandy watch to bail her out of trouble. Even more importantly, thanks to that protective prenatal doodad she got from Lorella, Maxine can hopefully give birth, while giving a wide berth to the paroxysmal pain of parturition we saw with Tierra. Depicting her so alone, so "alienated," in such a gore-galore fashion last issue really broke my heart (albeit to a lesser degree than her ruptured abdomen). Seeing her at the end of her tether like that definitely struck a commiserative... chord. (Just where was her newborn off to in such a hurry, I wonder.) I'm reminded of a quote from Thomas Merton: "Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice."

All things considered, at least Tierra was spared a fate similar to that of Mother Mayhem (loved her) and her rambunctious, boisterous brood (who I always thought of as Glum's uglier eccentric aunt). That being said, thank goodness Maxine's stay on this island in no way paralleled what befell the original Dart back in SD #112, when she was a "kept" woman on a deserted island thanks to a lovelorn Mako. If you're a hot blonde in SD, chances are you're screwed. Then again, nobody's really safe -- such is the nature of the beast that is SAVAGE DRAGON.

Malcolm had an easy go of things this time around, but his cakewalk down the wedding aisle was one thing -- trying to have his wedding cake and eat it, too (nom, nom, nom), however, is in direct opposition to the gaping, all-consuming maw known as Chicago. I don't know what I liked more this issue... seeing you draw such lush vegetation for a change, Maxine's short and sassy haircut, or just how darn cute Malcolm's toe-toed tootsies really are. (The way you swiped from yourself with SD pg.11/SPAWN pg.1 was pretty cool.) The bad: The Gossip Rag knows! Oh, no!

Sincerely,

Sotiris Gravas

P.S. To think that SD #190, featuring another fine Fosco back-up (similar to this ish), was highlighted by a happy Tierra... giving birth to Laila. How sad. (That hilarious back-up this issue also had me in tears.)

The Gossip Rag knows that Tierra is dead--and that something came out of her. What they don't know (for sure) is what was inside of her. They can only speculate.

Heya, Erik,

Just finished the latest issue. In my opinion, this is the one that finally cements Malcolm as the lead in this book. It feels like pretty much every bit of the Old Man's story is wrapped up and from here on out Malcolm will be spending time putting out his own fires. I'm sure every once in a while, some old bastard or another will crop up, "sins of the father visited on the son"-style, but for the most part, Mal has enough on his own plate to keep him plenty busy, and that's perfect!

By the way, no slight meant to anybody involved, but the artwork the last five or six issues has been much improved over previous issues. Cleaner, brighter without being garish. Kudos to you, Erik, Nikos and Mike! Keep 'em coming! See you all next time, I am PRAYING for a knock-down, drag-out all fight issue between Malcolm's baby and Jim Henson's Muppet Babies! Oh, man, that guy would gut those kids,

AND, Barbara Billingsley, easy-peasy!
David C Bewsey

Something tells me that crossover is not going to happen.

Hi Erik,

Considering the number of multiple realities and alternate timelines that have become a staple for superhero comics, I think you should consider bringing Paul Dragon (from Megaton) into the Savage Dragon series. This might be a way to keep a Savage Dragon front and center if both Dragon and Malcolm were to have events that would take them out of the series temporarily. I have to admit, I have a gap in my reading so I'm not sure if you did anything with this before, but I thought it might be a fun way of bringing things full circle and making those early stories part of the modern continuity. Thanks for your time.

Todd Novak
Madison, WI

That would just add another level of confusion and ultimately--I don't have much to say with the character that I haven't already said with the Dragon. Using him would be redundant, confusing and pointless. So, I'm afraid I'm going to have to pass. I have used Flash Mercury. He, at least, is different enough to add something different to the mix. The only thing Paul Dragon has is a weird looking thing on his head that I never could draw very well.

Hi Erik

re : #210

So, a "relatively" light issue all up. Well.... compared to the recent invasion of Dimension-X. Favorite moments were:

1. The morgue scene on page 5 with Frank grimacing as he says "Not that I know of..." to the question of whether Tierra was seeing anyone with powers. Obviously he's connected the dots but is keeping mum at this stage. Nice to see this sub-plot getting some panel space. (Still gagging from last month's scene of that newborn dragging Tierra by the umbilical ...<shudder>>)

2. Malcolm and Maxine discussing potential baby names. Adolf? <snort>

3. The last page on the beach. Glad to see Malcolm and Maxine get some real R&R, thoughts of motherhood, the Gossip Rag headline and "that" guy running through the panel.

Least favorite moments:

a. The sheer amount of panel space given to the mute Rock Gods.

b. Virago's subsequent, almost cameo type, role and the ease with which she was dispatched.

c. The lettering balloon on the cover. Personally I've never liked word balloons on a cover and this one, in particular, seemed superfluous.

Art-wise, a solid issue and I quite liked the page that you'd duplicated from/with Spawn (chase scene). Thanks for the heads up on Facebook about that. much respect

Paul Rogers

There's no truth to that or any rumor. The book will continue until I'm good and sick of it and I'm nowhere near that point. And speaking of books--have you given Spawn a look lately? 'Cause I'm doing double duty on this book and that.

Erik,

Another fine issue of Savage Dragon. Aside from the morgue scene of Tierra's corpse, this was a well needed light hearted issue. I loved the whole Monster Island situation that Malcolm and Maxine found themselves in. I hope that this location gets explored in future issues. The fun banter between the newlyweds was great too. They're such a cute couple.

The backup story was great! It was a pleasure to see Powerhouse back in action. He has always been a favorite character of mine and I would love to see more of him again. Having a backup story has the potential to give greater depth to all the characters within it because they won't have to fight the main Savage Dragon story for space.

I love Funnies and it should continue each issue. It is a nice way to finish an issue. Until next time. Thanks for another action packed tale Erik!

Sincerely,
Rick Snyder
Greenwood, IN

You're quite welcome!

Dear Mr. Larsen,

I have recently been reading Savage Dragon from two different points in the series, from issue 7 on via trade paper backs and Issue 193. I wanted to both read the older stuff and know where the current story is (193 seemed like a good point because of the "new beginning" headline.). Reading from issue 7 as well because I had

purchased the first 11 books already. Although I do own some Savage Dragon books from my past comic book hobby, from when I was a fan before. However, the purpose is to praise the book and your fantastic ability. I really love reading the story from the two different points. I do however actually like Malcolm's story more (possibly because I don't have a biased to Dragon Sr.) not that I don't love the older stuff, because I do. I want to say though that I can see the progression in your art and writing. I think Savage Dragon is easily head and shoulders above everything else out there. As a big Spawn fan, I used to think Greg Capullo was the best artist ever. But after taking a second look at Savage Dragon, it is easily better. Not to mention the fact that you write, pencil and ink it, which is a very impressive feat in its own right. Please, do not stop this book anytime soon. You have made a very big fan. And I apologize if my writing is not all that great. I am just a blue collar guy.

Derek Green

I'm wearing a blue collar shirt right now! That's nothing to apologize for!

As far as Greg Capullo goes--I have to agree. The guy is a tremendous talent and I feel like I'm walking in his shoes a bit working on Spawn with Todd McFarlane. Those are some big shoes to fill. Word has it that Greg is returning to Image comics to work on a book with Mark Millar and I couldn't be happier to welcome him back to the fold!

Dear Mr. Larsen

I am emailing today for a couple of different reasons. One being that my vacation ends tomorrow and I go back to work, so I wanted to fit another fan letter in. My Savage Dragon reading binge has been an absolute blast, to say the least. Your art has opened my eyes and given me a new hobby that I truly enjoy. I am currently in the trade paper back "Talk With God" and it is fantastic. I have also read from 193 to 210 for the current story. Personally I like the current story better, but that isn't a bad thing. Malcolm Dragon is my all time favorite character. I like to think of as Zesus with the lightning powers, I just love it. I dream of seeing him putting a whooping on Spider-Man or Superboy (similar age group).

Also though, I wanted to praise Vanguard again as well. After reading the back story in issues 196 to 202 (I think it is, sorry if that's incorrect), I went out got all the Vanguard issues I could find. I really love the one shot and Strange Visitors. Although I think they all are very good. I think the art in Strange Visitors is so amazing. Once again dreaming of Vanguard duking it out with Martian Manhunter and putting it to him. But I just think his design is so bad ass. Maybe lose the red underwear part and just make that blue, give him a red utility belt and some red side thigh pads, for the two tone color look. But just a suggestion, because regardless I think he looks great. Ethereal Warriors looks so great too. I didn't mind the black and white at all. I noticed that you did the inks in that Mr. Larsen and is looks awesome. That's the way I picture Vanguard is from that book. I really hope you do more of him in the future at least in the main book of Dragon. I think he can be an awesome cast member at the very least. But if he gets a shot at a mini-series I promise ill support it. Ill buy 3 copies every month and even donate !!!! No matter what though I love Savage Dragon. It's easily my favorite comic book of all time. You have a permanent fan here.

Huge fan
Derek Green

That's tremendous. I'm a big fan of Vanguard myself and I look forward to the day when I can bring him back into the book and continue telling his adventures!

Thanks for writing and giving me some much valued feedback. Without guys like you taking the time to send off an occasional missive these pages would get mighty lonely!

-Erik Larsen

NEXT: It's baby time!

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

F U N N I E S

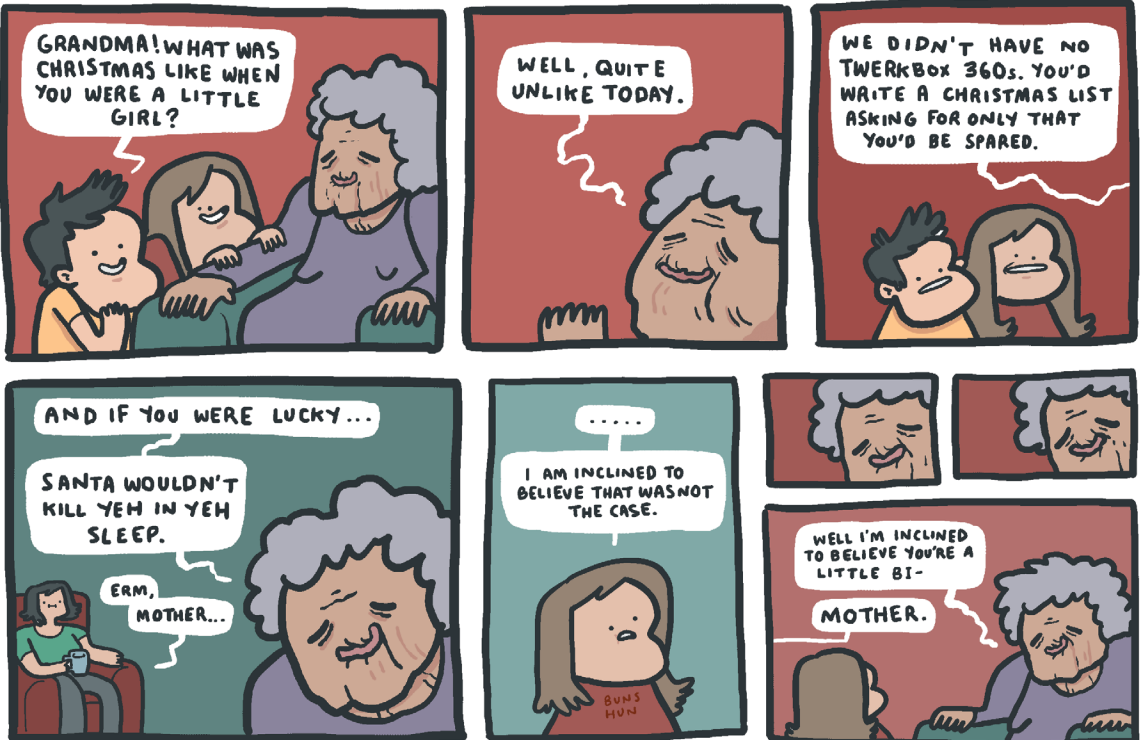
OUR PAL THUNDER-HEAD

by Simon Mallette St-Pierre



HECK IF I KNOW COMICS

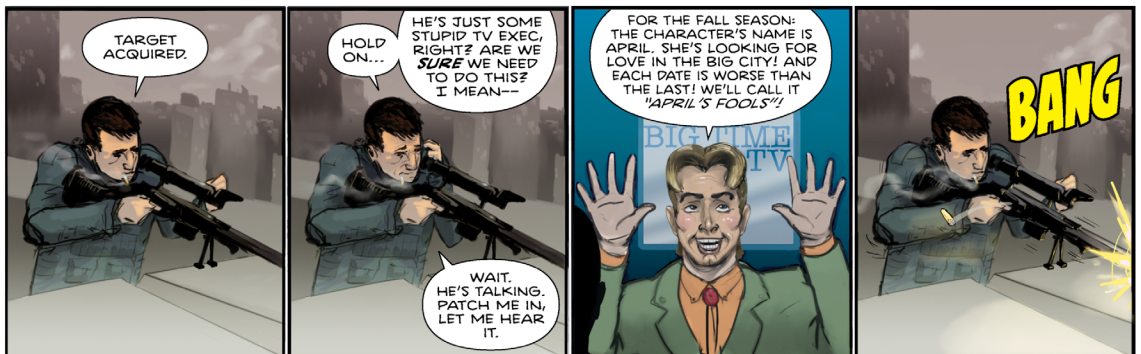
by Charlie Higson



heck-if-i-know-comics.com

GOSH IS DEAD

by T.B. Kunker



HACK O'HARA

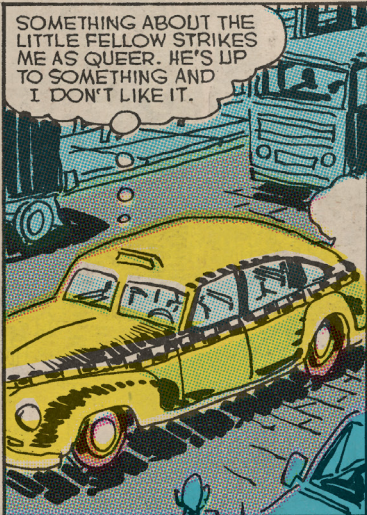
Another day, another fare for husky, heroic Hack O'Hara.

I WANT TO GO TO THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING.

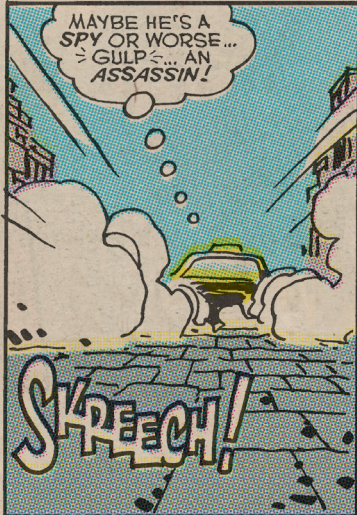
I WANT YOU TO STEP ON IT AND I DON'T WANT ANY BACKTALK OR CUTE REMARKS. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO CHAT SO JUST DO YOUR JOB AND GET ME WHERE I WANT TO GO.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

I GUESS THEY CAN'T ALL BE FRIENDLY.



SOMETHING ABOUT THE LITTLE FELLOW STRIKES ME AS QUEER. HE'S UP TO SOMETHING AND I DON'T LIKE IT.



MAYBE HE'S A SPY OR WORSE... GULP... AN ASSASSIN!

SKREECH!

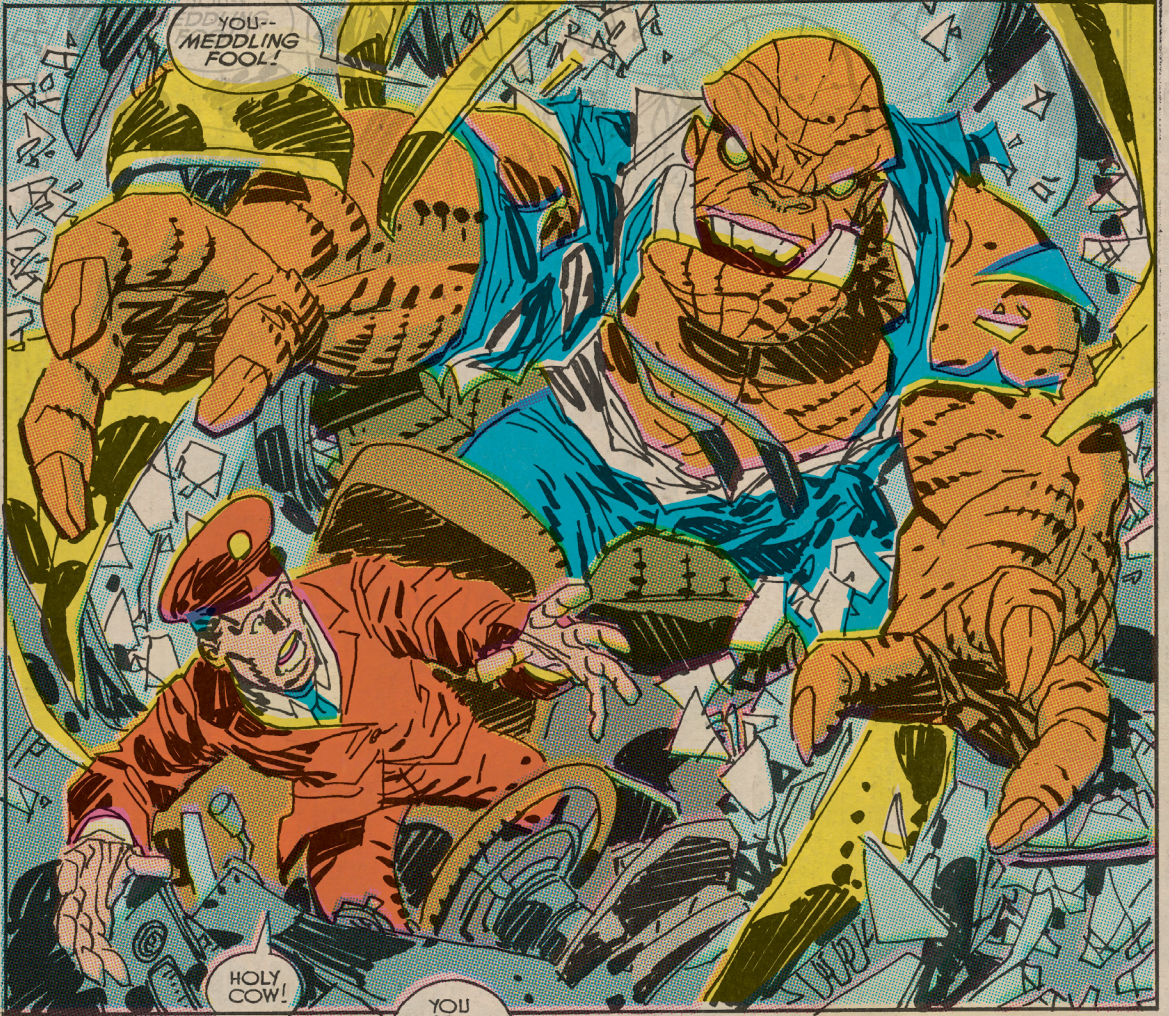


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, MISTER, BUT HACK O'HARA IS NOBODY'S STOOGIE! I'M NOT DRIVING ANOTHER FOOT UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!

HACK O'HARA!

IT CAN'T BE! OF ALL THE CABS IN NEW YORK-- I HAD TO STEP INTO YOURS!

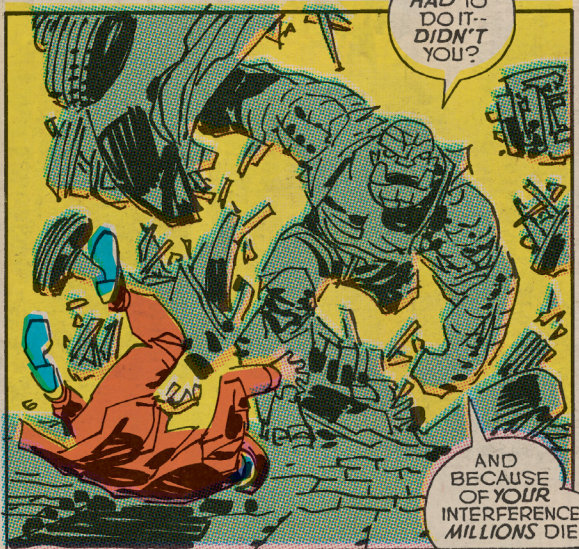
CRACK COMICS
CRACK COMICS



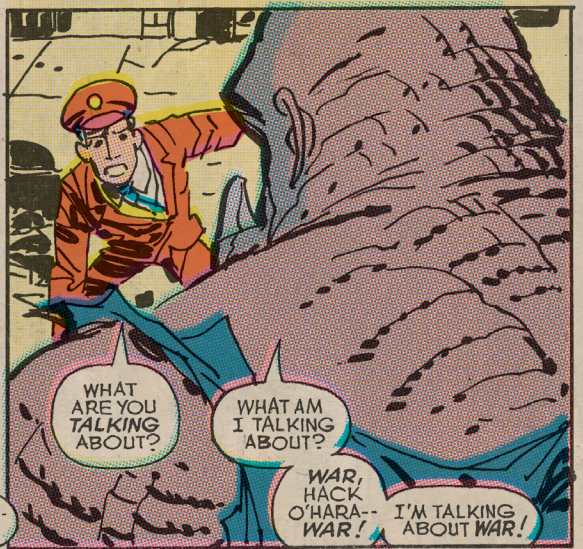
DE YOU--
MEDDLING
FOOL!

HOLY
COW!

YOU
HAD TO
DO IT--
DIDN'T
YOU?



AND
BECAUSE
OF YOUR
INTERFERENCE--
MILLIONS DIE!



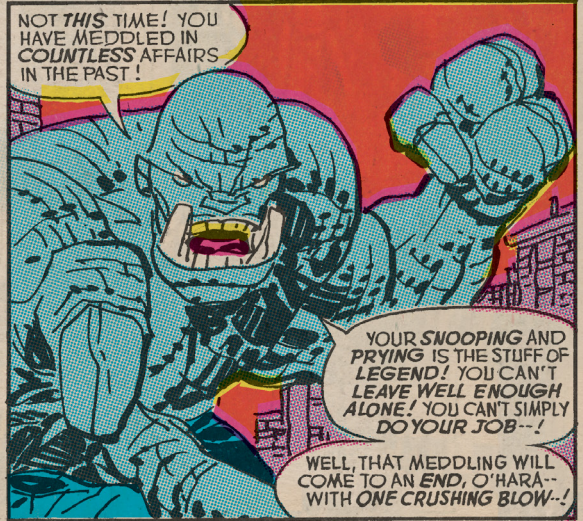
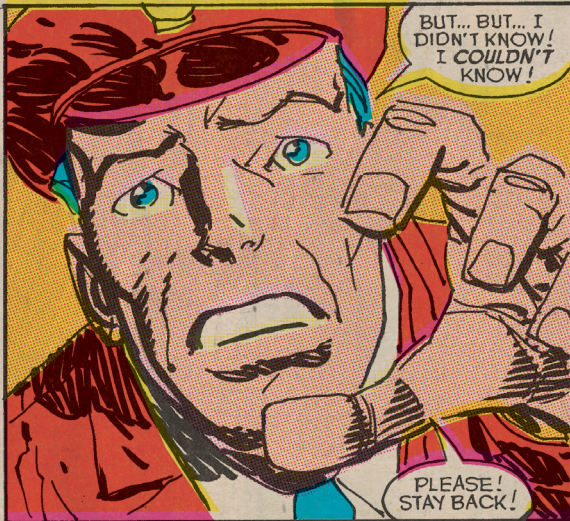
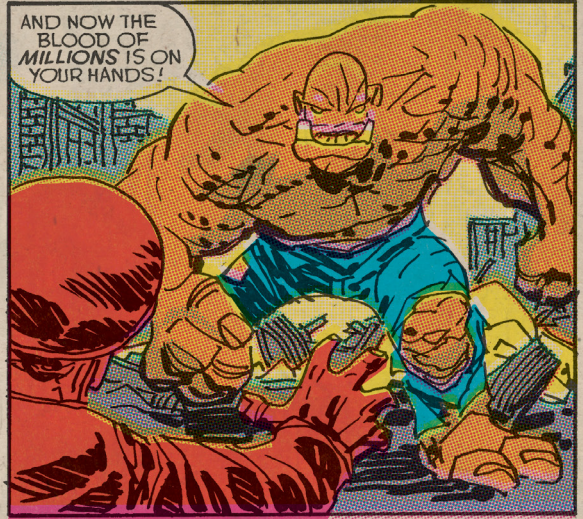
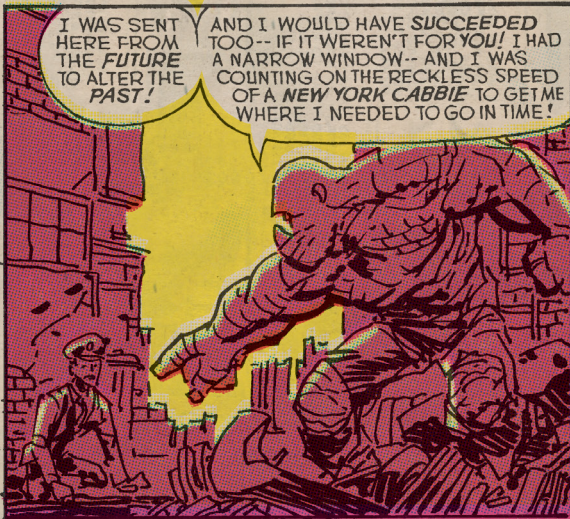
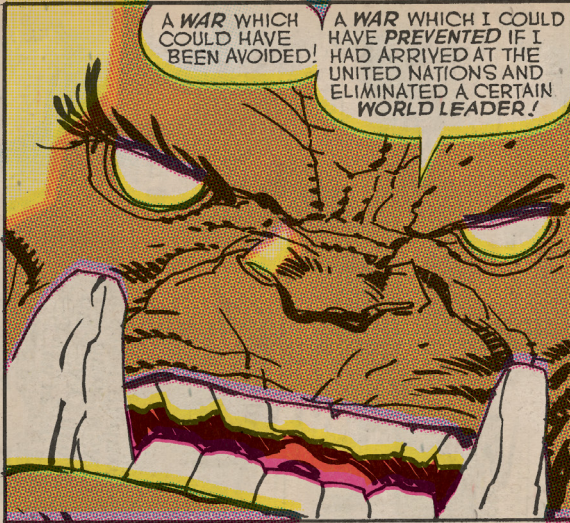
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

WHAT AM
I TALKING
ABOUT?

WAR,
HACK
O'HARA--
WAR!

I'M TALKING
ABOUT WAR!

CRACK COMICS



CRACK COMICS



CRACK COMICS

ROCK BRADDON OF THE SPACE LEGION!

I TRAILED THAKOOMBA FROM THE FUTURE!

THANKS TO YOUR INTERFERENCE, THAKOOMBA WAS STOPPED BEFORE HE COULD DO ANY REAL HARM!

BUT... BUT... THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT DIED...!

THEY WEREN'T "PEOPLE," HACK O'HARA--THEY WERE MONSTERS LIKE HIM--WHOSE ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD WAS THWARTED BY THE SPACE LEGION!

YOUR INTERFERENCE INSURES OUR VICTORY! FOR THAT YOU HAVE OUR ETERNAL GRATITUDE!

BUT... BUT... WHAT ABOUT MY CAB?

THAT MONSTER DESTROYED IT!

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT MY CAB?

SORRY, I CAN'T HELP YOU THERE.

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN DO.

THANKS AGAIN!

STARDUST

THE SUPER WIZARD



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