

DON'T BE SHY, LOVER!  
EVERYONE KNOWS, RON TRACEY,  
THAT YOU'RE TOPS IN YOUR PROFESSION...  
A COLD-BLOODED CON MAN WHO HAS  
SHATTERED A DOZEN LIVES. THIS MOMENT  
IS YOUR REWARD, YOUR HOUR OF TRIUMPH!  
FOR YOU ALONE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO  
BECOME...

# DEATH'S BRIDE GROOM!



COME, OUR GUESTS  
AWAIT US AT THE WEDDING  
FEAST! HOW I'VE LONGED  
FOR THIS MOMENT,  
MY DARLING!

NO!  
LET ME  
GO!!

APRIL, 1965, IN  
THE SOHO DISTRICT  
OF LONDON, A BROKEN  
LIFE CAME TO A CRUEL  
END...



POOR LITTLE BIRD!  
HER TROUBLES ARE  
OVER!

SWALLOWED A WHOLE  
BOTTLE OF BARBITURATES...  
AND THIS NOTE TELLS  
WHY!



THIS RAT PROMISED TO MARRY HER, AND THEN TOOK OFF WITH HER LIFE'S SAVINGS!

I KNOW THAT TOFF! HE'S RON TRACEY, A THIRD-RATE ACTOR FROM THE STATES! HE BILKED A FEW OTHERS THE SAME WAY!

I'LL WAGER HE AND HIS CRONY, CY HORNE, WILL BE VISITING LONDON'S FINEST GAMBLING CLUBS INSIDE THE NEXT WEEK OR SO!

WE'LL BE WATCHING FOR THEM!

BUT, WITH THE INSTINCTS OF A HUNTED WOLF, THE SWINDLER HAD FLED...



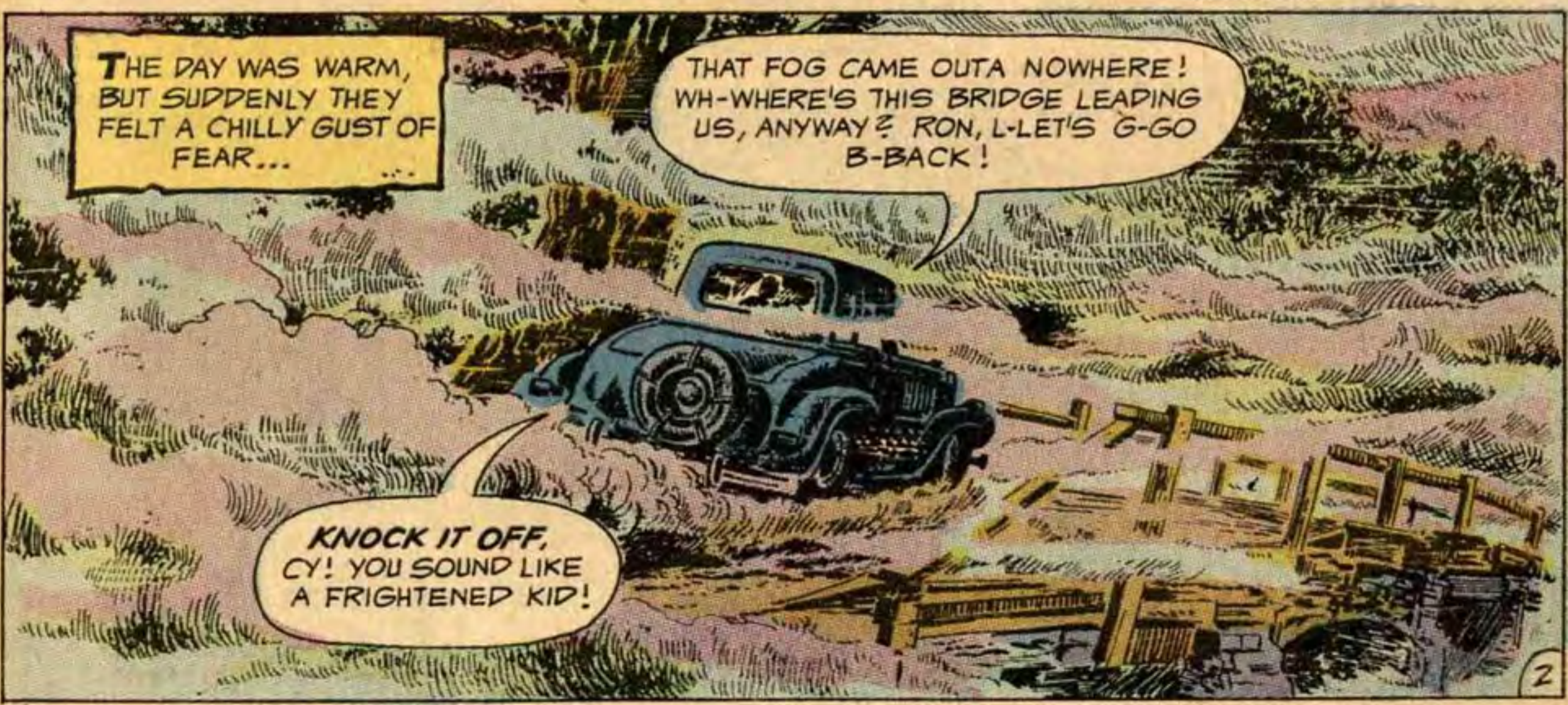
RON, YOU CLEARED £1,000 ON THAT LAST CAPER, SO WHY ARE WE HIDING OUT HERE IN THE STICKS?

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW THE C.I.P. MUST BE SEARCHING FOR US IN EVERY NIGHTSPOT IN LONDON!



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! WE SHOULD BE AT HAMPTON BY NOW... THE VILLAGE I PLANNED TO HIDE IN!

IT MIGHT BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT BRIDGE JUST AHEAD... STRANGE, THOUGH, THERE'S NO BRIDGE ON THIS ROAD MAP!

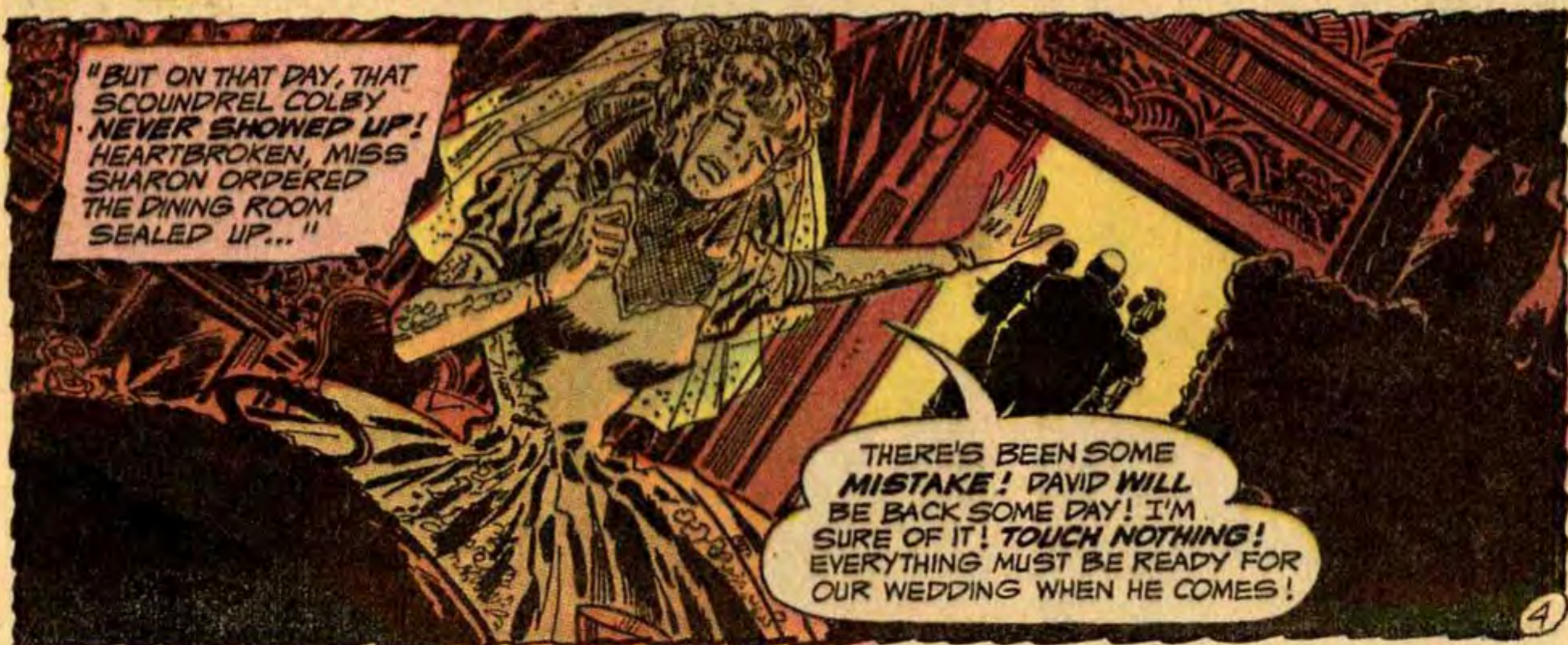
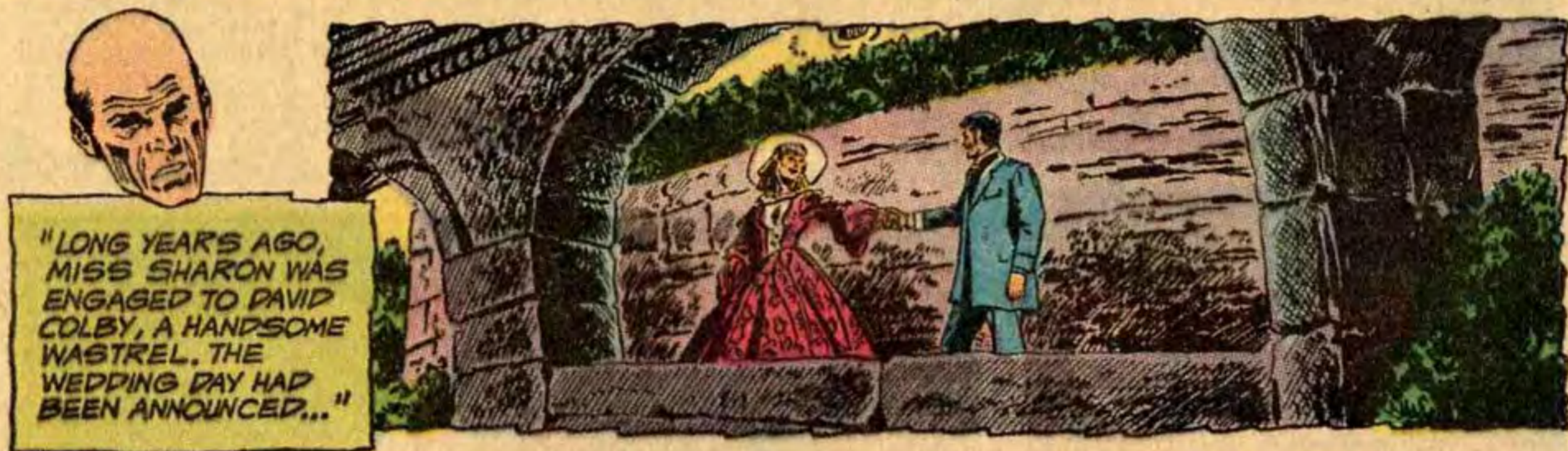


THE DAY WAS WARM, BUT SUDDENLY THEY FELT A CHILLY GUST OF FEAR...

THAT FOG CAME OUTA NOWHERE! WH-WHERE'S THIS BRIDGE LEADING US, ANYWAY? RON, L-LET'S G-GO B-BACK!

KNOCK IT OFF, CY! YOU SOUND LIKE A FRIGHTENED KID!







POOR MISS SHARON! SHE'S NEVER FORGOTTEN DAVID COLBY!

SEE... SHE STILL KEEPS HIS PORTRAIT IN THIS GUEST ROOM WHERE HE USED TO STAY... EXCUSE ME, I MUST LEAVE NOW!



WOW! THAT FACE... THAT SMILE... THOSE EYES! YOU'RE A DEAD RINGER FOR HIM, RON! NO WONDER THAT DAME THOUGHT YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR!

AND SHE'S STILL WAITING FOR HIM! SUPPOSE THIS CHARACTER DID COME BACK?



YEAH, LONGER SIDE-BURNS... MUSTACHE... A SLIGHT CHANGE IN COSTUME AND I COULD PASS FOR COLBY!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, RON! I DON'T LIKE IT! THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THIS SHARON DEAN!



THINK BIG, BABY! SHE'S A PERFECT PIGEON... WAITING TO BE PLUCKED! IF I MARRY HER, I'D HAVE THIS MANSION AND ALL THE DOUGH THAT GOES WITH IT! WE'D BE SET FOR LIFE!



NEXT MORNING, THE SPIDER BEGAN TO SPIN HIS WEB...

MISS SHARON-- YOU WERE SO KIND, SO GENEROUS! MAY I CALL ON YOU AGAIN?

I'D BE DELIGHTED, MR. TRACEY!



SUDDENLY, CYRUS HORNE FELT THE ICY FINGERS OF FEAR GRIP HIS HEART...

GASP! THAT REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR! IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE RON'S TALKING TO A BLURRED SHADOW! EITHER SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THAT GLASS OR...

NO! THIS IS CRAZY! I MUST BE HAVING HALLUCINATIONS!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



BUT SOON AFTERWARD, CY WITNESSED ANOTHER DREAD PORTENT...

YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT MIRROR? TAKE A LOOK AT THAT MANSION... IT'S DISSOLVING INTO THIN AIR!

AW, IT'S JUST SOME TRICK OF THE FOG AND MIST! IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SCARE ME AWAY FROM THAT DAME, FORGET IT!



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, RON BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN...

THAT'S TWICE YOU BROUGHT ME FLOWERS THIS WEEK, MR. TRACEY!

NOT MR. TRACEY, SHARON! YOU MUST CALL ME RON!



AND HIS APPEARANCE BEGAN TO ALTER...

DAVID... ER, I MEAN, RON! I MET YOU ONLY WEEKS AGO, YET I FEEL I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR YEARS!

SHARON, I ALWAYS FELT A STRONG ATTRACTION FOR YOU, TOO!



MEANWHILE, CY'S ANXIETY BECAME A MANIA...

BUT YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE DEAN MANSION... IT'S ABOUT SEVEN MILES SOUTH OF HERE!

I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH! IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO STAY AWAY FROM!



BUT CY'S WARNINGS FELL ON DEAF EARS! NEXT MORNING...

RON, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT THAT DEAN PLACE. THE YOKELS HERE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT MUCH, BUT--

YOU FOOL! I DON'T WANT ANY GOSSIP TO QUEER THIS DEAL, UNDERSTAND!? I'M GOING TO PROPOSE TO SHARON THIS AFTERNOON!



SHARON... I CAN'T HIDE IT ANY LONGER! I LOVE YOU! I WANT TO MARRY YOU!

OH, DAVID... I MEAN, RON! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE WAITED... HOW MUCH I'VE WANTED YOU TO ASK ME!



IT WAS RON'S MOMENT OF TRIUMPH! HE HAD PLAYED HIS PART TO THE HILT!

SHARON, DARLING! WHEN WILL THAT HAPPY DAY BE?

THIS COMING WEEK, DEAREST! EVERYTHING IS READY! I'LL SEND OUT THE INVITATIONS TOMORROW!



AND AS THE CONSPIRATORS LEFT...

IT'S ALL SET, BABY! I'VE GOT THAT KOOK SO BRAIN-WASHED, SHE DOESN'T KNOW IF SHE'S MARRYING ME OR DAVID COLBY...

BUT WE'RE GETTING MARRIED NEXT WEEK!



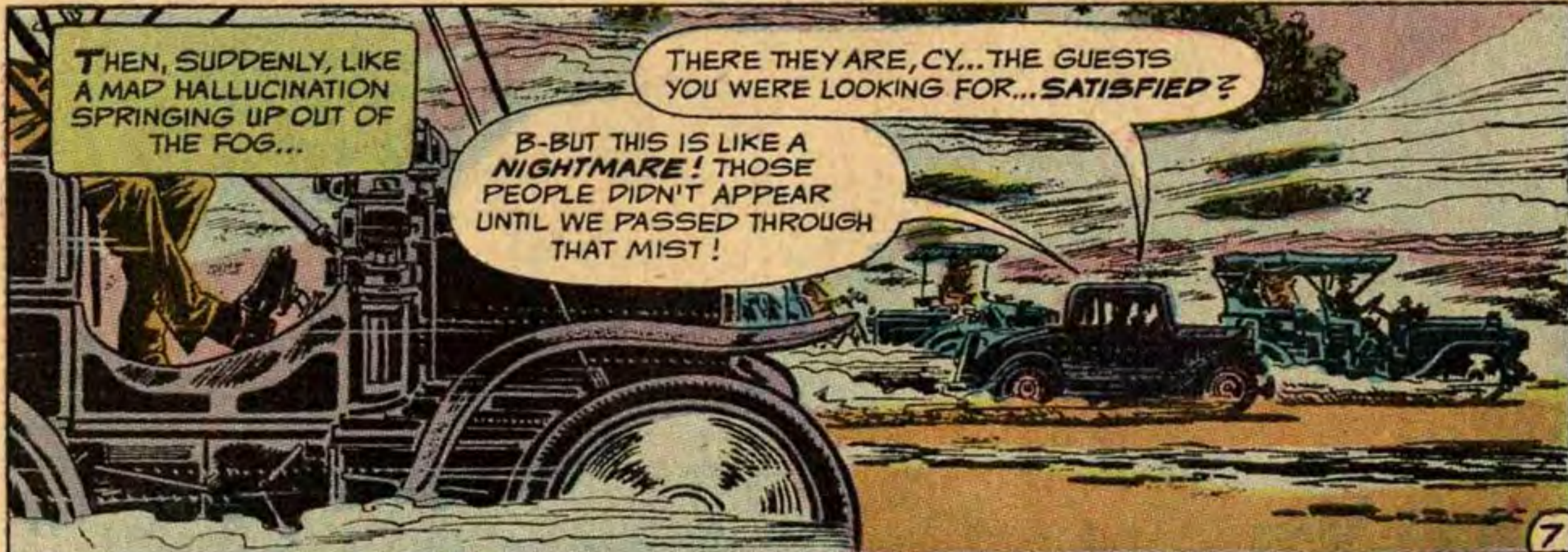
I'VE GOT IT MADE! IN A FEW DAYS IT'LL ALL BE MINE... THE DEAN MONEY, THE ESTATE, THE MANSION ... **EVERYTHING!**

BUT ON THE APPOINTED DAY, CY HORNE'S HEART SHRIVELED WITH DREAD...



THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY GOING ON! THE DEAN PLACE IS JUST OVER THAT BRIDGE! THIS ROAD SHOULD BE CROWDED WITH WEDDING GUESTS... **BUT THERE'S NO TRAFFIC!**

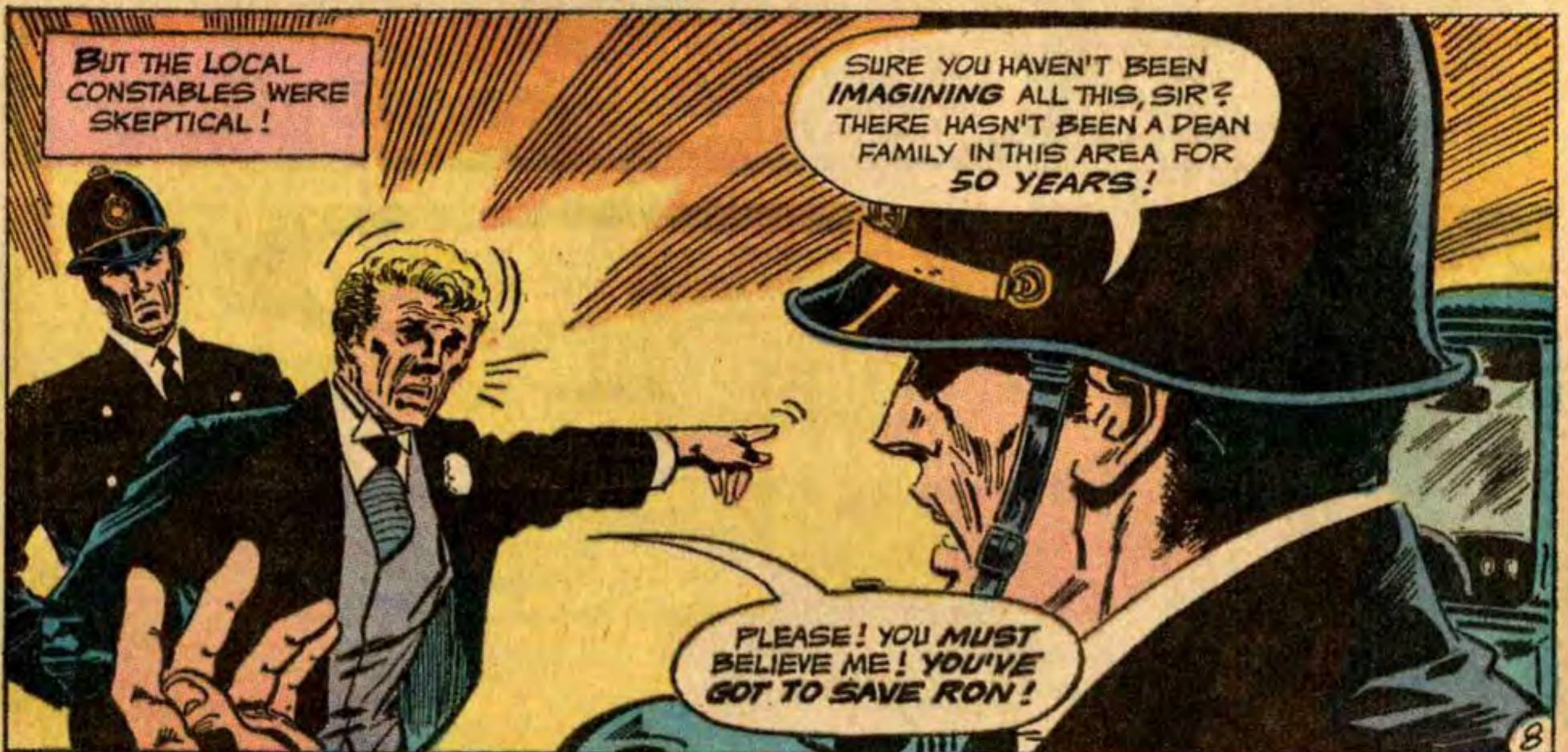
RELAX, OLD BUDDY! JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE MONEY WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOON!



THEN, SUDDENLY, LIKE A MAD HALLUCINATION SPRINGING UP OUT OF THE FOG...

B-BUT THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE! THOSE PEOPLE DIDN'T APPEAR UNTIL WE PASSED THROUGH THAT MIST!

THERE THEY ARE, CY... THE GUESTS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR... **SATISFIED?**







**BUT WHEN, AT LAST, THEY RETURNED TO THE MANSION...**

**THERE'S THE DEAN ESTATE... OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT! IT'S BEEN A RUIN FOR HALF A CENTURY!**

**NO! I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!**



**SHEER TERROR BEAT AT THE FUNDAMENTS OF HIS BRAIN!**

**I TELL YOU THIS IS WHERE I SAW THEM, ONLY AN HOUR AGO... DOZENS OF GUESTS COMING TO THE WEDDING!**

**I CAN PROVE IT!**



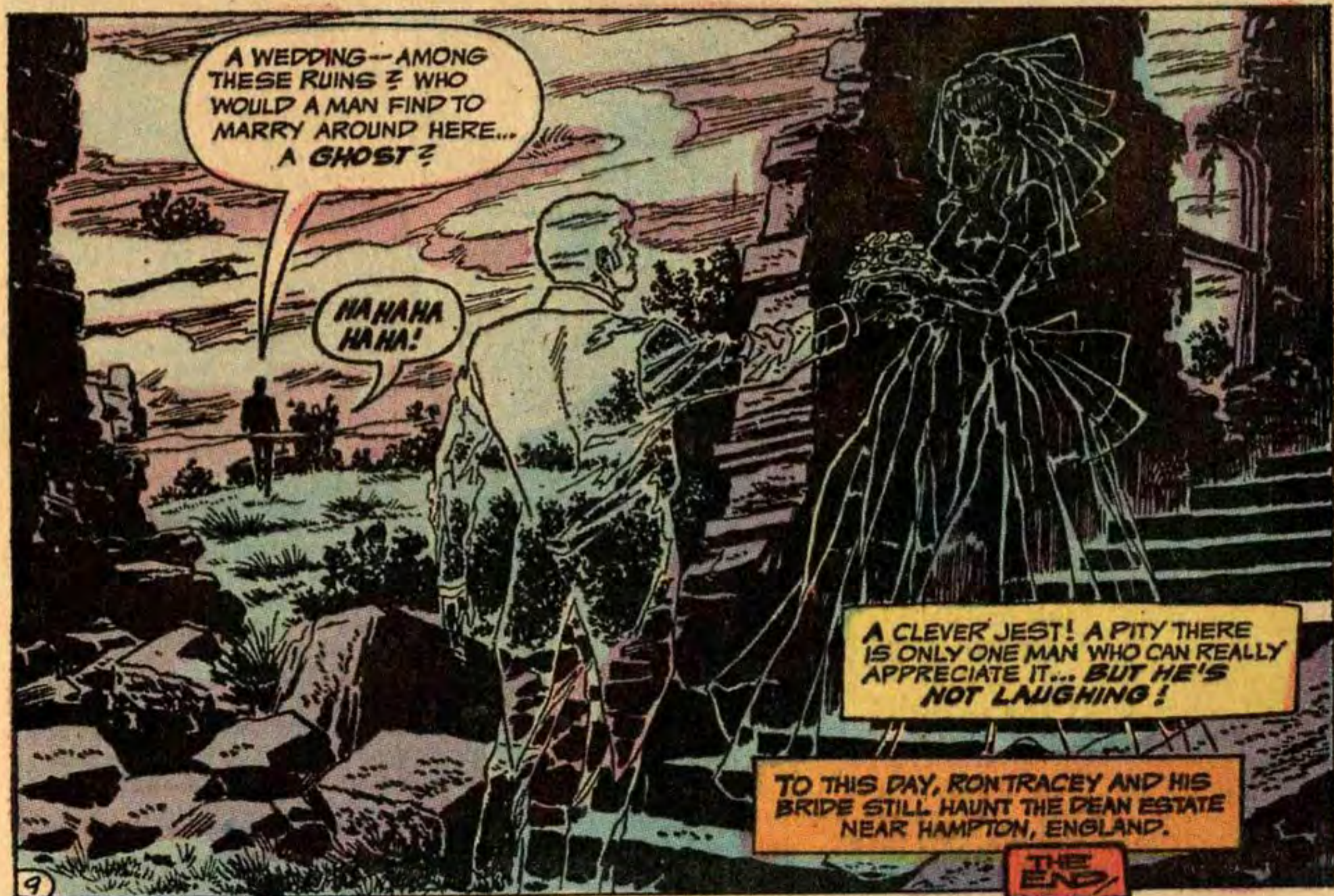
**THERE IT IS-- MY PROOF! THE MINIATURE BRIDE AND GROOM I SAW ON THAT WEDDING CAKE I TOLD YOU ABOUT!**



**POOR DEVIL! HE REALLY THINKS THIS BIT OF CARVED PLASTER PROVES HIS WILD STORY!**

**TAKE HIM AWAY!**

**LET ME GO! I'VE GOT TO FIND RON!**



**A WEDDING-- AMONG THESE RUINS? WHO WOULD A MAN FIND TO MARRY AROUND HERE... A GHOST?**

**HAHAHA HANA!**

**A CLEVER JEST! A PITY THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN REALLY APPRECIATE IT... BUT HE'S NOT LAUGHING!**

**TO THIS DAY, RON TRACEY AND HIS BRIDE STILL HAUNT THE DEAN ESTATE NEAR HAMPTON, ENGLAND.**

**THE END**