

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE **LEGION of MONSTERS!**™

ONCE YOU WERE A MAN, A CHEMIST NAMED TED SALLIS, UNTIL A TOP-SECRET EXPERIMENT WENT AWRY... AND YOU CHANGED.



NOW YOU ARE A SHAMBLING, MIND-LESS MOCKERY OF YOUR FORMER SELF, A CREATURE OF THE SWAMP-OOZE THAT IS YOUR HOME... YOU ARE THE MAN-THING!



YOU ARE JOHNNY BLAZE, ONCE A SPAWN OF SATAN. NOW YOU ARE FREE OF HIM...

...BUT YOU STILL POSSESS SATAN-SPAWNED SUPERNATURAL POWERS.



YOU ARE THE GHOST RIDER!

THE FULL MOON PAINTS EERIE SHADOWS ACROSS YOUR CHALK-WHITE FLESH, MICHAEL MORBIUS. ONCE YOU WERE A RENOWNED BIO-CHEMIST DYING OF AN UNKNOWN BLOOD-DISEASE AND SEARCHING FOR A CURE.

YOU FOUND IT.



AND NOW YOU'RE THE LIVING VAMPIRE BECAUSE OF IT!

THE SAME MOON HIGHLIGHTS FUR AND FROTHING PANGS, AND YOU WHO MEN CALL JACK RUSSELL FIND YOURSELF BAYING AT THE GOLDEN ORB ABOVE YOU.



BAYING OUT YOUR SOUL AT THE GLEAMING CATALYST THAT HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOU FROM MAN TO MAN-BEAST...

...THE WEREWOLF BY NIGHT!

AND THIS NIGHT, YOU ALL FOLLOW A COURSE TOWARDS A DESTINY SO STRANGE THAT IT COULD ONLY BEGIN IN...

... LOS ANGELES, NESTLED IN THE BOWL OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, A CONCRETE SCAB BENEATH THE DESERT SKY. A SKY THAT, EVEN ON A CLEAR DAY, IS BLOTTED AND SMEARED BY THE GREY-BROWN FALL OF AUTOMOBILE POLLUTANTS THAT HANG HEAVY AND STILL ...

... AND STRANGELY AT PEACE.

UNTIL ...

OH MY GOD!
IT'S HAPPENING
AGAIN!

EARTHQUAKE!!

IT-- IT'S
JUST LIKE THAT
AWFUL MOVIE!

LADY ... FOR YOU
I GOT NEWS--

--THIS AIN'T
NO MOVIE!!


IT COMES WITHOUT WARNING, RIPPING THE PAVEMENT FROM THE EARTH IT COVERS, PEELING IT BACK LIKE THE SKIN OFF AN ORANGE.

RRUMBLEEE
SKREEEE

TOSSING IT INTO THE NIGHT AIR WHERE IT MEETS WITH FALLING BUILDINGS AND TOPPLING FREEWAYS...

BILL MANTLO • FRANK ROBBINS
WRITER ARTIST

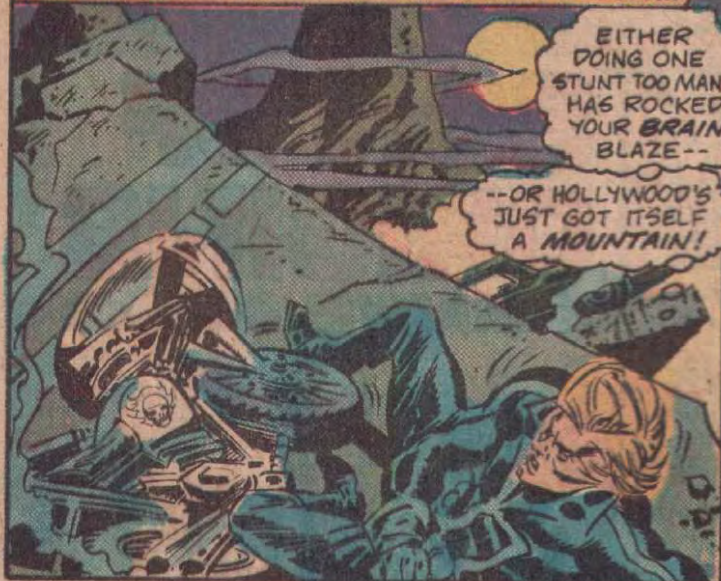
STEVE GAN • INKER
KAREN MANTLO • LETTERER
JANICE COHEN • COLORIST
MARY WOLFMAN
VIZIER & EDITOR



... AND, THRU THE HAZE THAT IS
THIS CITY'S SKY, APPEARS A
VISION OF UNHOLY TERROR AS
HURT AND FRIGHTENED PEOPLE
STARE, UNABLE TO BELIEVE THE
MESSAGE TRANSMITTED BY THEIR
SENSES... UNABLE TO ACCEPT
THAT...

**THERE'S A MOUNTAIN
ON SUNSET
BOULEVARD!**

AND... CAUGHT BY THE UNEXPECTED DETOUR...



EITHER DOING ONE STUNT TOO MANY HAS ROCKED YOUR BRAIN, BLAZE--

--OR HOLLYWOOD'S JUST GOT ITSELF A MOUNTAIN!



THE FLICK I WAS GOING TO CATCH CAN WAIT!

UP AN' AT 'EM, SKULL-CYCLE--



--THIS IS ONE NIGHTMARE I'VE GOTTA SEE CLOSE UP BEFORE I DIGEST MY DINNER AND IT DISAPPEARS!

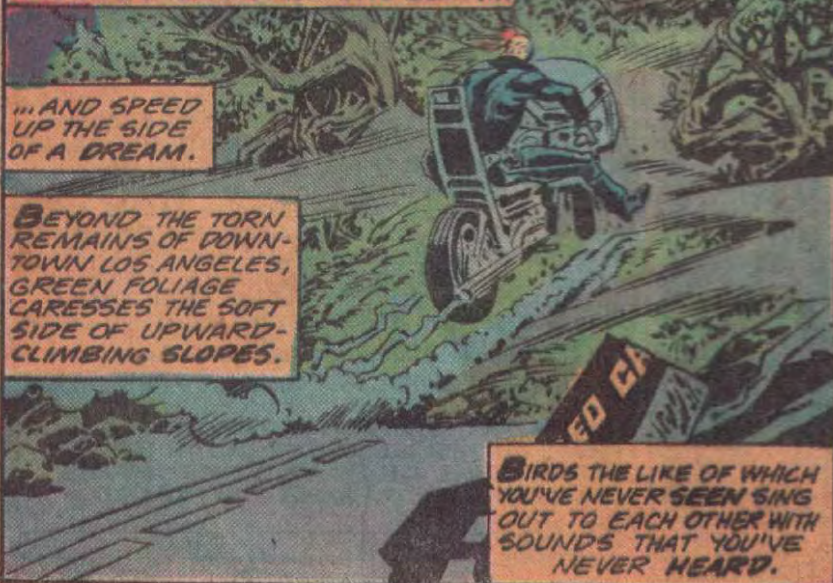


MY HEAD--TINGLING! DANGER MUST BE PRESENT!

AND SO, EXIT JOHNNY BLAZE--!

AND ENTER-- GHOST RIDER!

YOU KICK YOUR CYCLE INTO GEAR...



...AND SPEED UP THE SIDE OF A DREAM.

BEYOND THE TORN REMAINS OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, GREEN FOLIAGE CARESSES THE SOFT SIDE OF UPWARD-CLIMBING SLOPES.

BIRDS THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU'VE NEVER SEEN SING OUT TO EACH OTHER WITH SOUNDS THAT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD.



WELCOME, JOHNNY BLAZE TO PARADISE!

WHO IN--?

YOU HAVE FLOWN FOR MANY NIGHTS, MICHAEL MORBIUS... TRYING TO OUTFLY YOUR MEMORIES.

MARTINE... BOSTON... SIMON STROUD... ALL HAUNT THE PERIPHERY OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS WITH REMEMBRANCES...*

... BUT ALL ARE LOST AS THE RUSH OF THE BLOOD-HUNGER SCREAMS THROUGH YOUR AGONIZED MIND, UNTIL YOU SEE...

AT LAST! THAT SHADOWED FORM ON THE ROOFTOP!

HE WILL SATIATE THE LUST THAT CLAWS AT ME!

*SEE FEAR # 31--MARV

HIS WILL BE THE BLOOD THAT EASES THE TORMENT IN MY SOUL!

HIS WILL BE THE DEATH THIS NIGHT SO THAT I MAY GO ON LIVING!

LIVING THE LIFE OF A VAMPIRE-- THE CURSE OF A LIVING DEATH!

I THIRST!!

RAHRRRR

BUT IT IS NOT PRECISELY A MAN THAT TURNS ITS SNARLING VISAGE UP TO THE NIGHT...

LORD, MAN! YOU'RE THE--

--WEREWOLF!!*

ARRRRR

TALONS RAKE MOON-WHITE FLESH...

*MORB AND WOLFIE MET ONCE BEFORE IN G.S. WEREWOLF #4, REMEMBER?--MARV.



ROWRRR

... AND TWO CREATURES OF DARKNESS FACE EACH OTHER ACROSS A STAR-BATHED ROOF...

MONSTER OR MAN, MORBIUS MUST HAVE YOUR BLOOD, CREATURE--



BUT SUDDENLY...

TREMORS! OF COURSE! I'M IN LOS ANGELES!



THEY'VE SUBSIDED! BUT HOW-- NO EARTHQUAKE ENDS SO ABRUPTLY!

AND THE CAUSE OF IT STANDS BEFORE ME! YET IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!



A MOUNTAIN HAS REARED ITSELF IN THE HEART OF A CITY--

POURRR

-- BUT HAS DONE NO MORE THAN SHAKE UP A FEW SQUARE BLOCKS!

SUCH THINGS DO NOT HAPPEN!

YOU BEGIN YOUR CLIMB UP TOWARDS THE CLOUD-ENSHROUDED PEAK... THE SCIENTIST WITHIN YOU STILL GOADED BY THE IRREPRESSIBLE CURIOSITY THAT MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE!

THE WEREWOLF FOLLOWS... THOUGH WHAT MAY DRAW SUCH A BEAST YOU CANNOT TELL.



THERE IS LIFE AMONGST THE STAGNATION OF THE SWAMPS THIS NIGHT. LIFE UNHEEDFUL OF OTHER LIFE. LIFE SHUT OFF FROM LIFE.

HUMAN LIFE.

GONNA CATCH ME A BIG ONE!



GONNA BREAK A RECORD! MAKE THOSE GUYS BACK AT THE B & O BAR CHOKER ON THEIR BEERS! GONNA--

HEY! A STRIKE!



FEEL HER PULL!! THAT HOOK MUST BE TEARIN' HER LIP OFF!

YOU DRAW CLOSE TO IT, LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME.



SENSING THE ESSENCE, PERHAPS, OF WHAT YOU ONCE WERE...

OH-- OMIGOD! GET BACK! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

I LANDED THIS BABY AND THERE AIN'T NO ONE GONNA TAKE HER AWAY FROM ME!

...WHAT YOU ARE NO LONGER!



NOT EVEN A WALKIN' HUNK O' SWAMP!

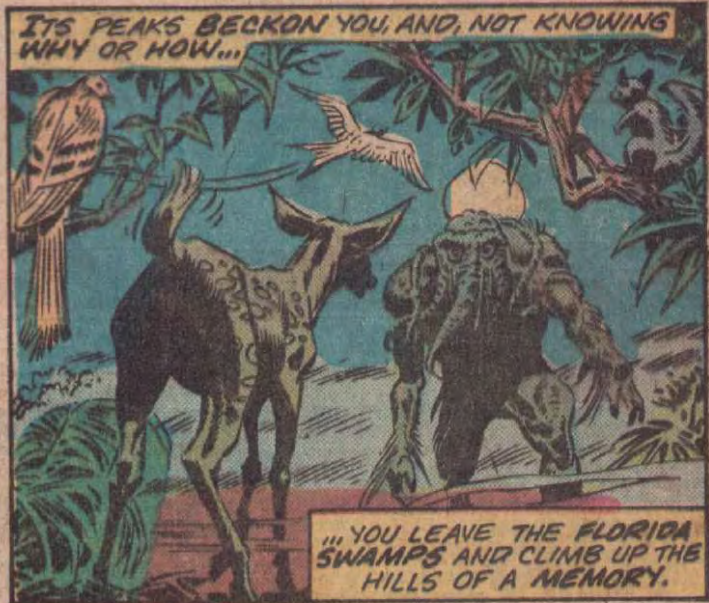
YOU ARE AMAZED. HE KNEW YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE...

... ONLY THERE WAS NO FEAR IN HIM! HIS PETTY CONCERNS HAD TAKEN OVER HIS MIND TO THE POINT WHERE YOU WERE JUST A MOMENTARY ANNOYANCE... A DISTURBANCE IN HIS MORE IMPORTANT RITUAL OF FISHING.



THE AIR SHIMMERS ABOUT THE MUCK THAT IS YOUR BODY.

YOU TURN TO FACE THE MOUNTAIN THAT WAS NOT THERE A MOMENT BEFORE.



ITS PEAKS BECKON YOU, AND, NOT KNOWING WHY OR HOW...

... YOU LEAVE THE FLORIDA SWAMPS AND CLIMB UP THE HILLS OF A MEMORY.



A MEMORY SHARED BY OTHERS.

WONDER HEAPS ITSELF UPON WONDER!

I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH FLORA! SUCH FAUNA! ALL ARE FAMILIAR-- YET STRANGELY... CHANGED!



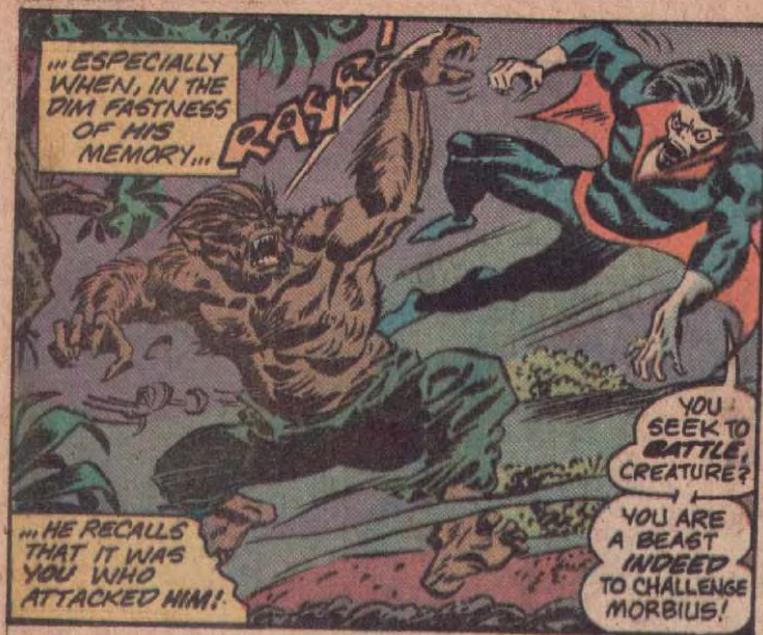
I MUST EXPLORE FURTHER!

FAREWELL CREATURE! MORBIUS WILL NOT DRAIN YOU THIS NIGHT!



RAHR!

BUT THE WEREWOLF IS NOT SO EASILY FORGOTTEN...



... ESPECIALLY WHEN, IN THE DIM FASTNESS OF HIS MEMORY...

RAWR!

... HE RECALLS THAT IT WAS YOU WHO ATTACKED HIM!

YOU SEEK TO BATTLE, CREATURE?

YOU ARE A BEAST INDEED TO CHALLENGE MORBIUS!



BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOU!

THERE! YET ANOTHER PIECE OF THIS PUZZLE!



IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF MOTORCYCLE! ABANDONED!



ROWRR!

ITS ENGINE IS STILL WARM, CREATURE!

HE WHO RODE IT CANNOT BE FAR OFF!



WHAT--? IN THE FOREST!

WHAT MANNER OF PLACE IS THIS THAT SPAWNS SUCH NIGHTMARES?

BUT THE DREAM IS NOT YET OVER.



WELCOME, MY FRIENDS...

GOOD LORD!

RRRR



... I AM HE WHO
IS CALLED THE
STARSEED!

I BID YOU
WELCOME!

THE ROARING SILENT
SCREAM OF INTER-
STELLAR SPACE RUSHES
THROUGH THE SENSES
OF THESE ONCE-MEN
... SENSES ROOTED
FIRMLY TO THE EARTH.

THE GLOW OF A LIFETIME OF
SUNS BLAZES ABOUT THE
GLEAMING FIGURE AND HIS
REARING, GOLDEN MOUNT.

YOU STARE... YOU FOUR WHO CLAIM
HUMANITY... AT THIS VISION
OF UTTER ALIEN-NESS...

... AND THE HORROR OF IT IS THAT
... WHETHER IN MEMORIES OR IN
DREAMS FORGOTTEN ...

... YOU KNOW WHO THIS
STAR-SPAWNED VISAGE IS!

LORD HELP YOU...
BUT YOU KNOW
HIM AND CAN'T
REMEMBER NOW!

WHO--?



HAVE I NOT
SAID IT,
MY BROTHERS?

I AM HE
WHO WAS LOST
AND IS FOUND!

I AM THE
STARSEED!



I-- I KNOW
YOU! LIKE A DREAM
I USED TO HAVE AS
A KID!

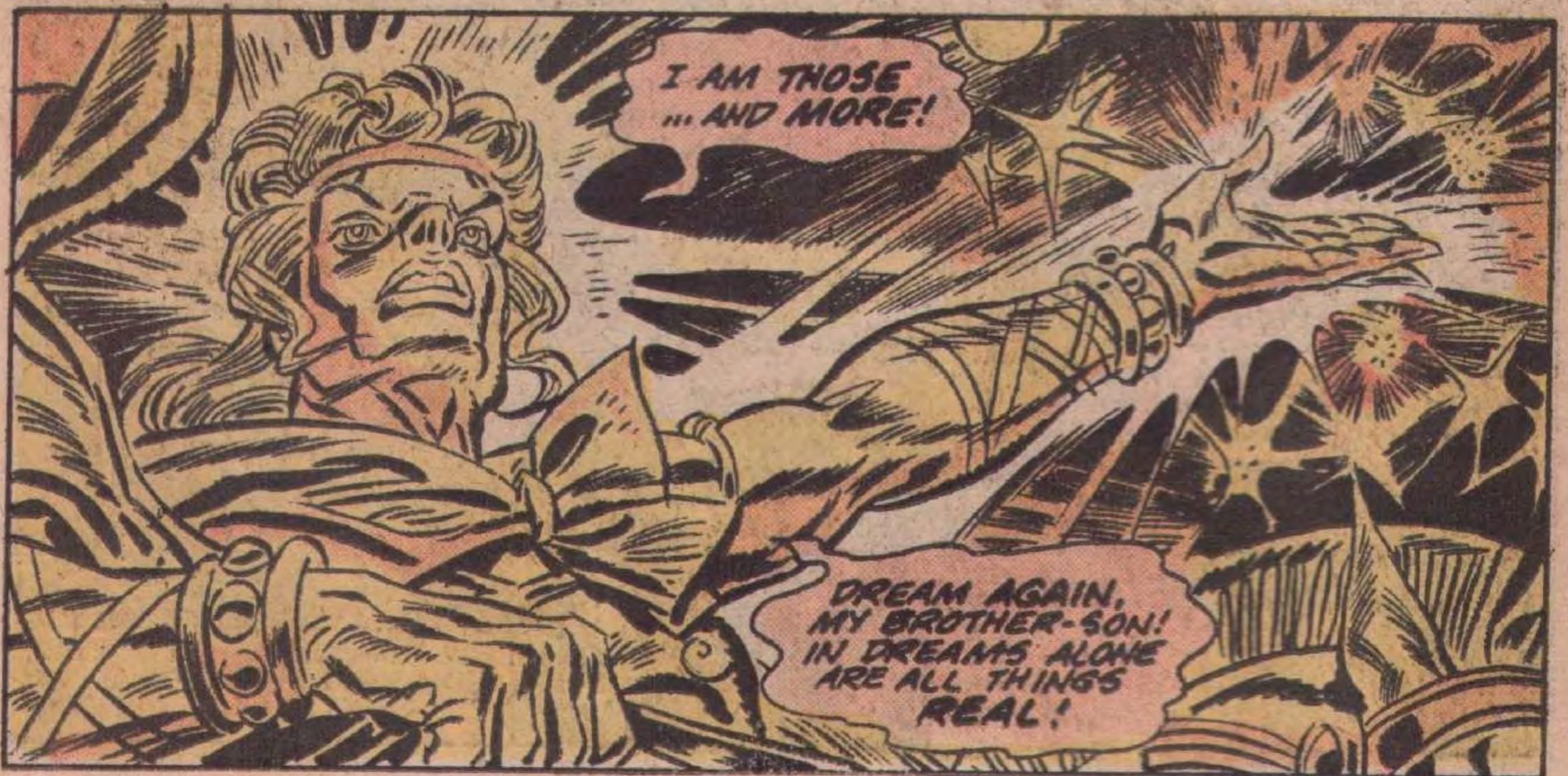
A DREAM
OF ANGELS,
ALL IN
GOLD!

YES.



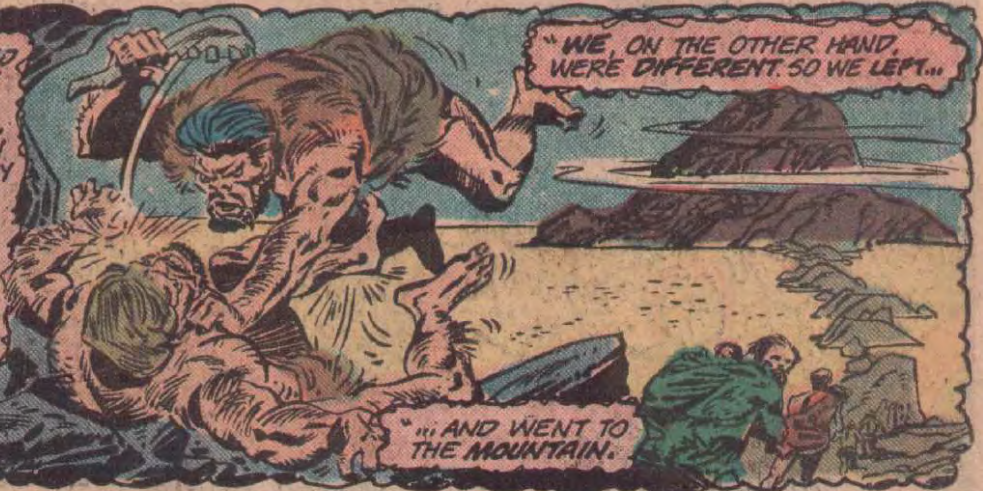
I AM THOSE
... AND MORE!

DREAM AGAIN,
MY BROTHER-SON!
IN DREAMS ALONE
ARE ALL THINGS
REAL!



THE DREAM, COINED IN THE TERMINOLOGY OF YOUR MINDS!
"ONCE UPON A TIME... LONG, LONG AGO, MAN WAS EXACTLY THE WAY HE IS NOW... A KILLER! KILLING FOR FOOD OR FOR SHELTER, FOR A MATE OR FOR FUN... MAN KILLED AND THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANY END TO IT.

"WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE DIFFERENT. SO WE LEFT..."



"... AND WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN.

"IT WAS A GOOD PLACE, THAT MOUNTAIN. PEACEFUL, QUIET... AND WE EVOLVED AND BUILT INTO IT ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME. WE WERE HAPPY... CONTENT UNTIL..."

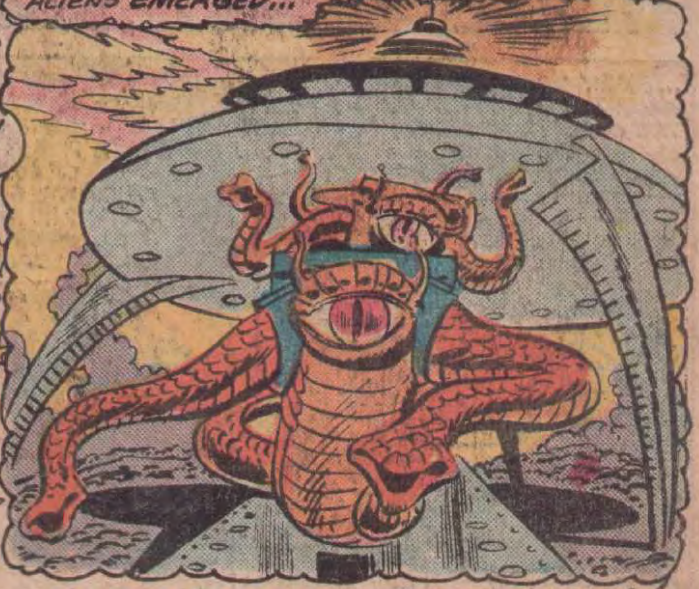
"WE WATCHED AS THE SHIP LANDED... AS THE PORTALS OPENED AND THE ALIENS EMERGED..."



JAARD!
LOOK!

I SEE IT, LARA!
IT IS A GLOWING THING IN THE SKY!

"IT WAS AN ALIEN STARSHIP, FROM FAR BEYOND THE RIM OF THE GALAXY.

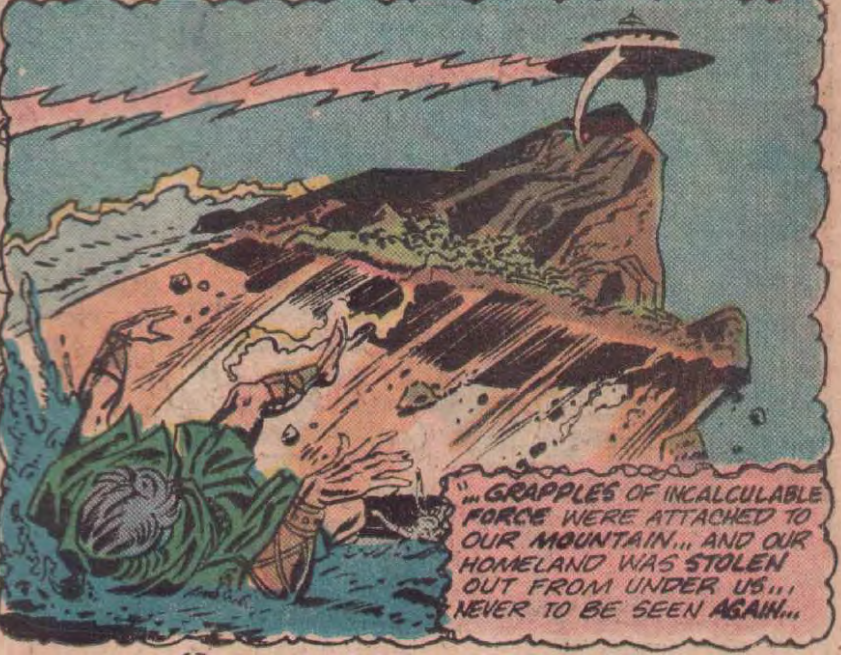


"... AND WE TRIED TO COMMUNICATE PEACEFULLY WITH THEM. BUT SUCH WAS NOT THEIR TEMPERMENT!"

"... AND, USING A SCIENCE FAR BEYOND ANY WE HAD EVER DREAMED OF..."



"WITHIN MOMENTS OUR LEADERS WERE DEAD..."



"... GRAPPLES OF INCALCULABLE FORCE WERE ATTACHED TO OUR MOUNTAIN... AND OUR HOMELAND WAS STOLEN OUT FROM UNDER US... NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN..."



...UNTIL NOW!
MANY OF US
LEFT EARTH
WITH OUR
MOUNTAIN...

...HIDDEN
IN CAVES
DEEP WITHIN
IT!



"WE WAITED AND, IN TIME, OVERCAME
THE ALIENS, AND UTILIZING THEIR OWN
FAR-ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY..."

...WE REGAINED OUR WORLD
AND TURNED IT BACK THROUGH
THE AEONS OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL
SPACE THAT IT HAD TRAVELED...



...BACK TO THE HERE
AND THE NOW! I AM
THE ONLY ONE LEFT
OF ALL MY PEOPLE...
AND NOW I AM HOME!



THAT'S JUST
PEACHY, FRIEND--
EXCEPT FOR ONE
SLIGHT MUDDLE!

YOU PARKED
YOUR MOUNTAIN
RIGHT SMACK
DAB IN THE MIDDLE
OF LOS ANGELES,
WHICH, WHILE IT AIN'T
MUCH TO GO ON ABOUT, IS
STILL HOME TO A HECKUVA
LOT OF PEOPLE!

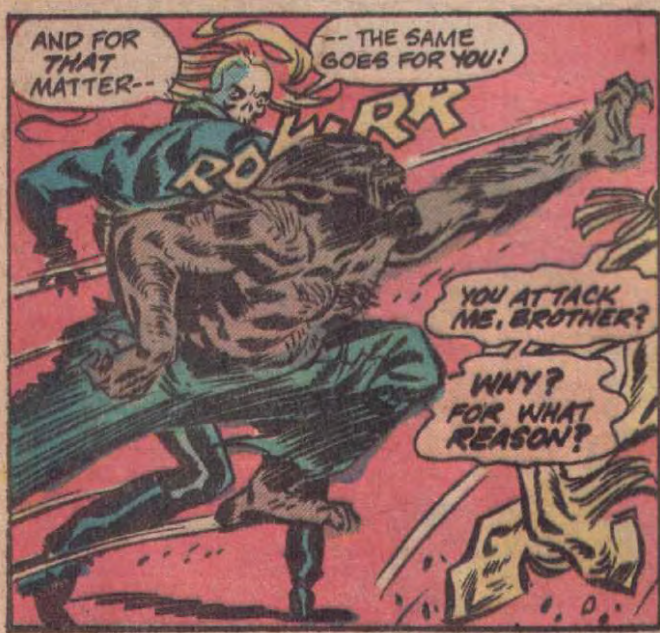
I MERELY RETURNED TO
THE PLACE WE OCCUPIED
MILLIONS OF CENTURIES
AGO, BROTHER.



THAT
PLACE IS
GONE! AGES
AGO!

THE EARTH HAS
CHANGED SINCE THEN!
CONTINENTS HAVE
SHIFTED FROM YOUR
TIME!

HUH?
WHO THE
HECK ARE
YOU??



AND FOR
THAT
MATTER--

-- THE SAME
GOES FOR YOU!

ROARR

YOU ATTACK
ME, BROTHER?

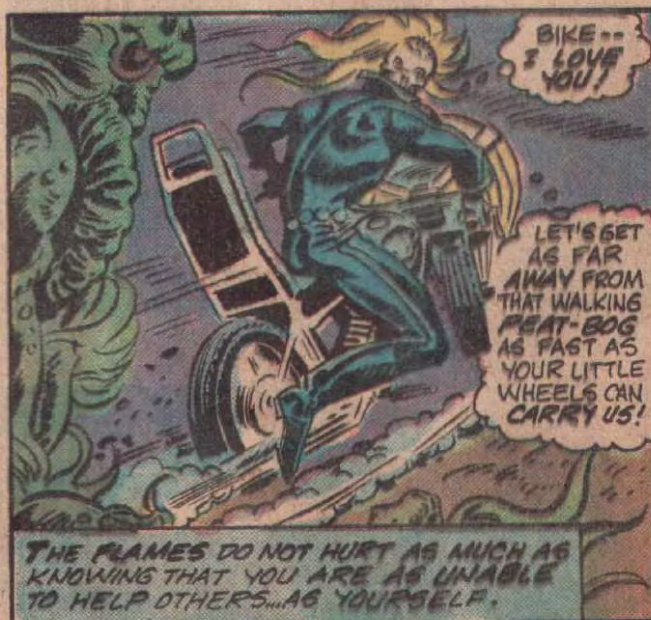
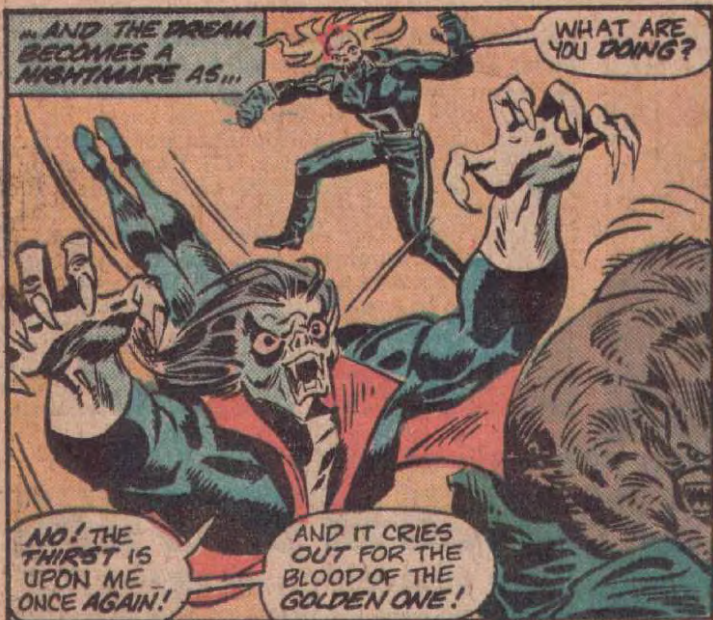
WHY?
FOR WHAT
REASON?

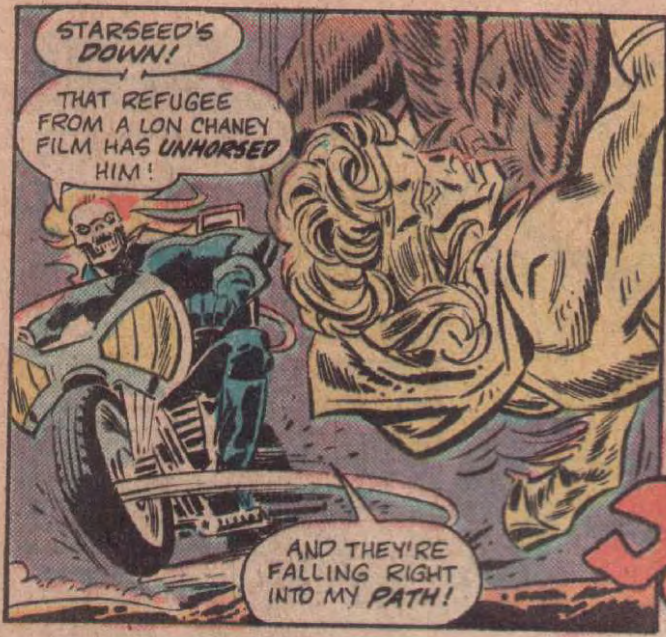


RRR

RAAR

UNFORTUNATELY, IF THERES ONE THING
A WEREWOLF DOESN'T NEED... IT'S A
REASON, THE GOLDEN STEED SCREAMS...





STARSEED'S DOWN!

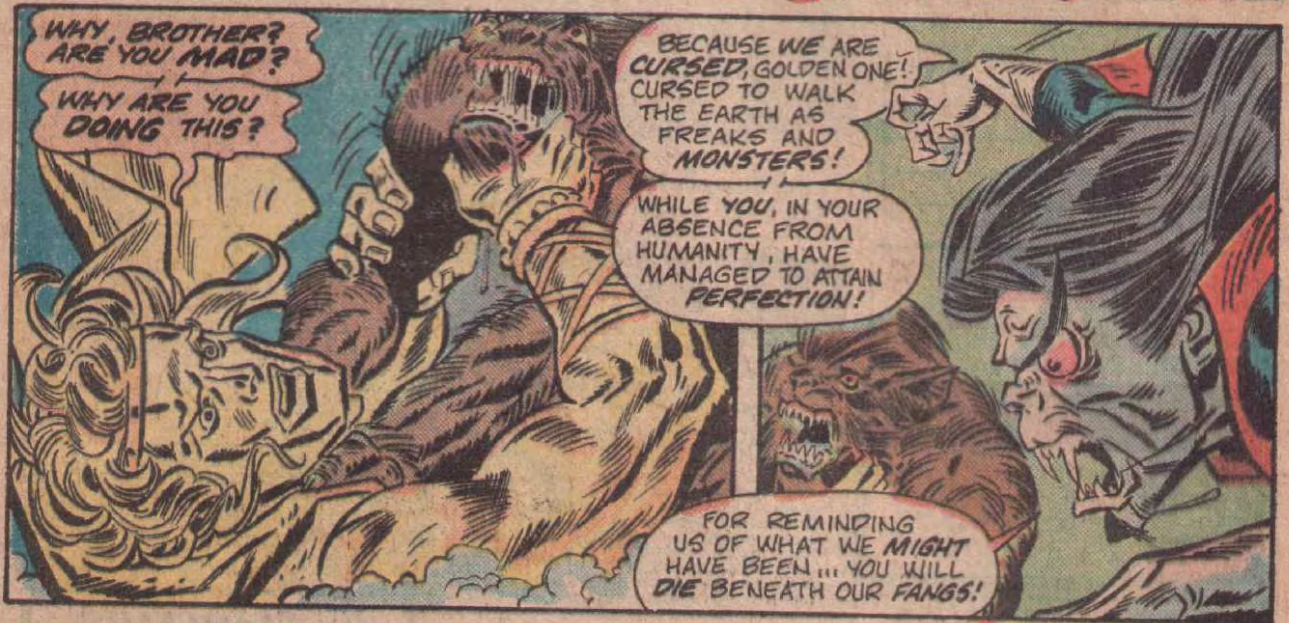
THAT REFUGEE FROM A LON CHANEY FILM HAS UNHORSED HIM!

AND THEY'RE FALLING RIGHT INTO MY PATH!



MADE IT! VEERED OFF JUST IN TIME TO AVOID HITTING THEM BOTH!

SCREEEE



WHY, BROTHER? ARE YOU MAD?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

BECAUSE WE ARE CURSED, GOLDEN ONE! CURSED TO WALK THE EARTH AS FREAKS AND MONSTERS!

WHILE YOU, IN YOUR ABSENCE FROM HUMANITY, HAVE MANAGED TO ATTAIN PERFECTION!

FOR REMINDING US OF WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ... YOU WILL DIE BENEATH OUR FANGS!



NO, BLAST YOU!
NO!!

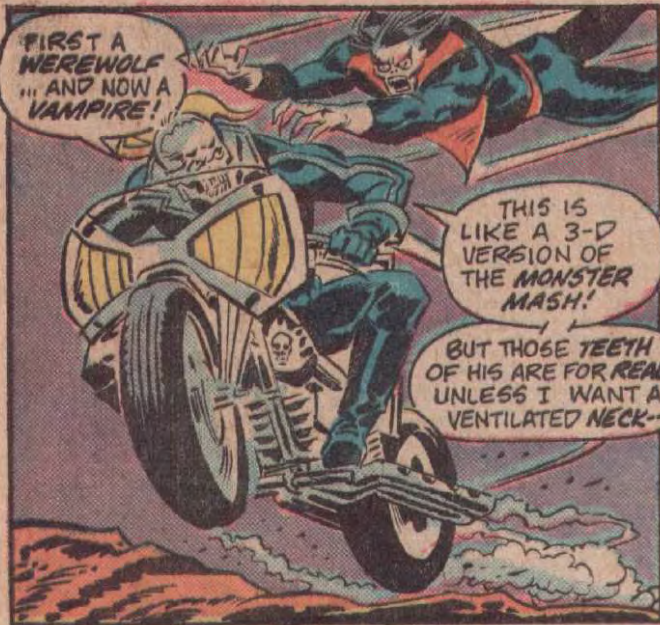
LEAVE HIM ALONE!



THE FLAMES SEAR ME!

THE GOLDEN ONE CAN WAIT, INTRUDER!

UNTIL I'VE SAMPLED THE BLOOD WITHIN YOUR VEINS!



FIRST A WEREWOLF ... AND NOW A VAMPIRE!

THIS IS LIKE A 3-D VERSION OF THE MONSTER MASH!

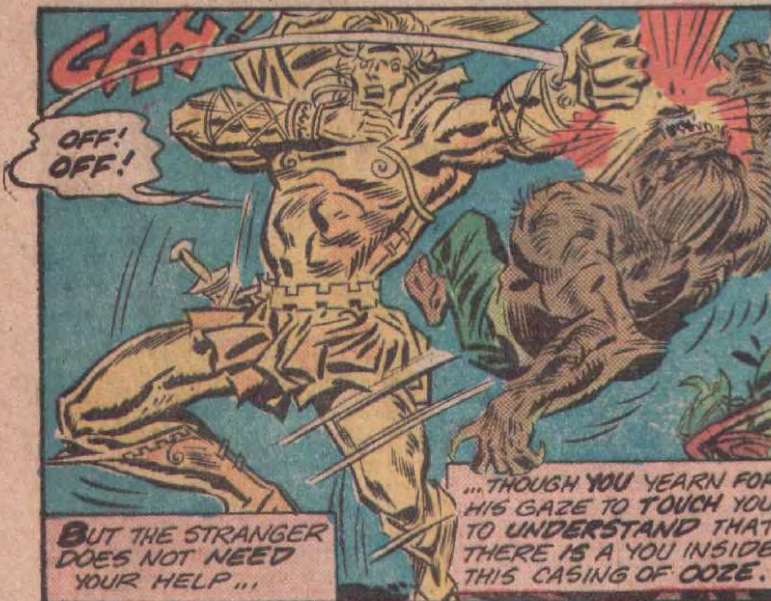
BUT THOSE TEETH OF HIS ARE FOR REAL, UNLESS I WANT A VENTILATED NECK--



"-- I'D BETTER DITCH THIS BIRD -- BUT FAST!"

THE MAN WHO IS A WOLF IS KILLING THE STRANGER.

YOU SEE THIS AND MOVE CLOSER ... TO HELP.



GAA!

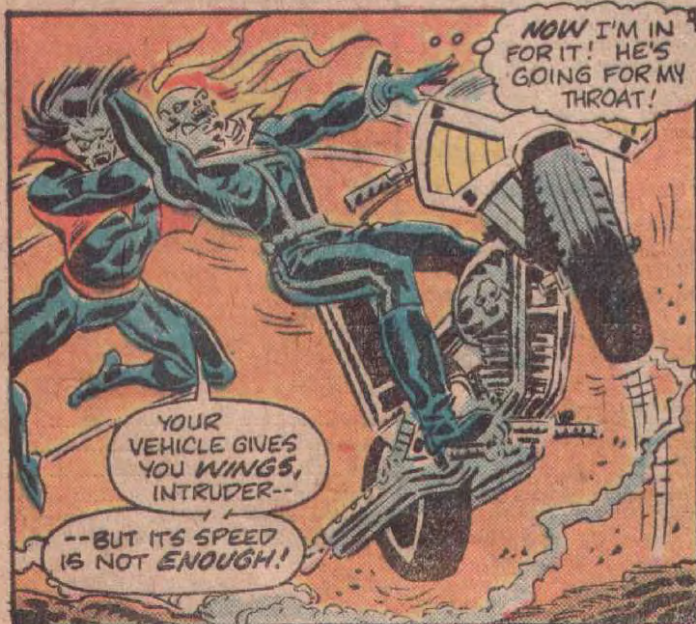
OFF! OFF!

BUT THE STRANGER DOES NOT NEED YOUR HELP ...

...THOUGH YOU YEARN FOR HIS GAZE TO TOUCH YOU... TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A YOU INSIDE THIS CASING OF OOZE.



YOU MOVE CLOSER STILL ...



NOW I'M IN FOR IT! HE'S GOING FOR MY THROAT!

YOUR VEHICLE GIVES YOU WINGS, INTRUDER--

--BUT ITS SPEED IS NOT ENOUGH!



... AND AGAIN YOU REACH OUT ... FOR UNDERSTANDING ...

I ... I HAVE SEEN HURT!?!

PAIN! IT IS STRANGE TO ME ... AND I FEAR IT!





BUT I AM PASSING
LIKE A DREAM.

I AM NOT HOME,
I KNOW THAT NOW!
THIS IS A PLACE OF PAIN
OF IMPERFECTION...
...I COULD HAVE MADE IT
OTHERWISE... COULD HAVE
GIVEN YOU HOPE!



I-- I'M
TED SALLIS
AGAIN!



AND ME!
I'M JACK
RUSSELL!

MY
SHAGGY
SIDE IS
GONE!

YES.



MY HANDS,
THEY ARE NO
LONGER
WHITE!

I'M
WHOLE
AGAIN!

YES.



AND I'M
NOT THE GHOST
RIDER ANYMORE!

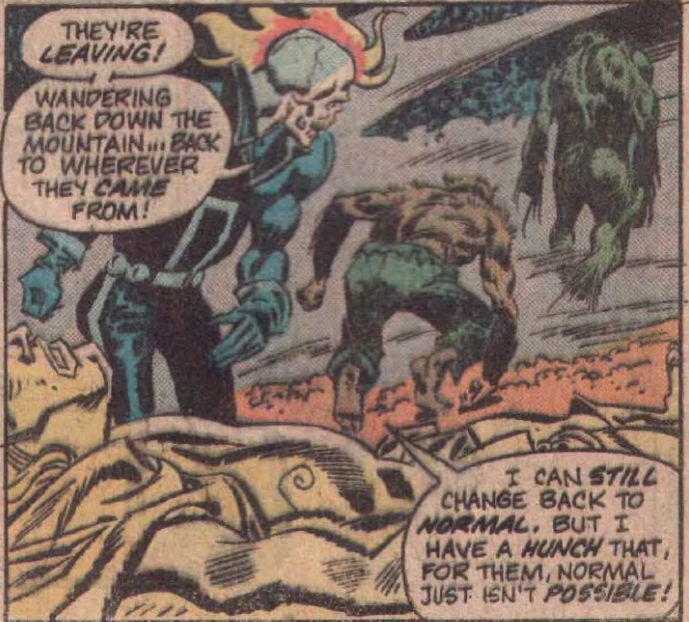
YOU'VE
CHANGED
ME!

YES.



BUT I AM
PASSING.

AND THE DREAM
CANNOT BE
MAINTAINED!



THEY'RE
LEAVING!

WANDERING
BACK DOWN THE
MOUNTAIN... BACK
TO WHEREVER
THEY CAME
FROM!

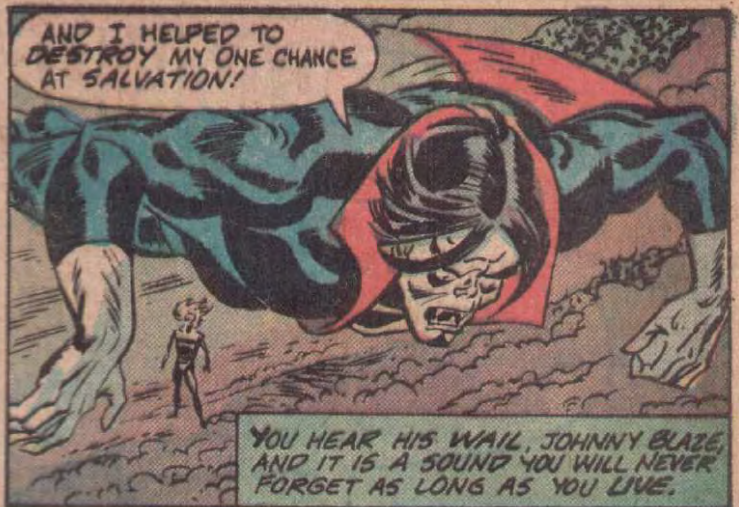
I CAN STILL
CHANGE BACK TO
NORMAL, BUT I
HAVE A HUNCH THAT,
FOR THEM, NORMAL
JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!



WHAT A BUMMER!

I--THEY'RE WHITE AGAIN!

I AM STILL CURSED!



AND I HELPED TO DESTROY MY ONE CHANCE AT SALVATION!

YOU HEAR HIS WAIL, JOHNNY BLAZE, AND IT IS A SOUND YOU WILL NEVER FORGET AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.



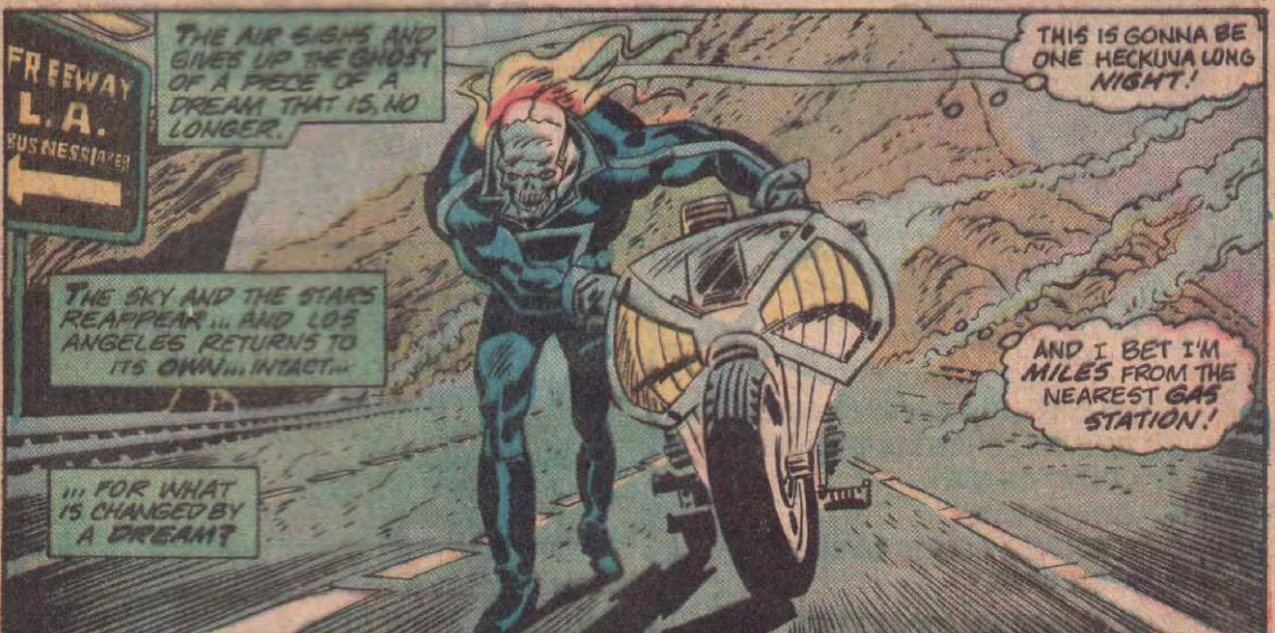
GO, BROTHER... YOU WHO TRIED TO SAVE ME FROM THAT WHICH IS REAL.

I-- ISN'T THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO?



NO! THE DREAM IS OVER! MY TIME AND PLACE MUST PASS AWAY WITH IT.

I AM GOING HOME.



FREWAY L.A. BUSINESS CENTER

THE AIR SINGS AND GIVES UP THE GHOST OF A PIECE OF A DREAM THAT IS, NO LONGER.

THE SKY AND THE STARS REAPPEAR... AND LOS ANGELES RETURNS TO ITS OWN... INTACT...

... FOR WHAT IS CHANGED BY A DREAM?

THIS IS GONNA BE ONE HECKUVA LONG NIGHT!

AND I BET I'M MILES FROM THE NEAREST GAS STATION!

NEXT IN THE DIM, DARK DAYS OF WWII THEY FIGHT FOR THE MOST PRIZED POSSESSION OF ALL. **THE LIBERTY LEGION!**