

NOW, FEN-FIENDS AND OTHER UNNATURAL CREATURES...COME WITH US TO A GARBAGE-LITTERED SLUM IN A MAJOR EASTERN CITY...AND MEET A FEARSOME FEMALE WITH A HEART OF GOLD...OR TINFOIL ANYWAY...A MACABRE MISS WITH--

# The soft, sweet! LIPS of HELL!



A STILL NIGHT ALONG THE WHARFS...  
A PLACE WHERE FEAR AND DANGER  
LURK IN EACH WISP OF FOG...

...A TIME FOR PREYING...

AWRIGHT,  
LADY, HOLD IT  
RIGHT THERE!

SURE,  
HANDSOME!





I DON'T WANT NO SWEET-TALK! WHAT I WANT IS THAT PURSE-- AN' QUICK!

PUT AWAY THE PIG-STICKER, BIG BOY! YOU CAN HAVE THE PURSE-- AND A LITTLE KISS, TOO, IF YOU WANT IT!

YOU AIN'T NO RAQUEL WELCH... BUT THEN, I AIN'T NO PAUL NEWMAN, EITHER! MIGHT AS WELL TAKE YOU UP ON IT!



ENJOY YOURSELF, BIG BOY?

IT IS DONE, AS IT HAS BEEN DONE SO OFTEN BEFORE... A MAN PERISHES IN ONE FINAL, HIDEOUS PAROXYSM OF PLEASURE... AND AN AGED WOMAN SUDDENLY FILLS WITH YOUTH AND OVERWHELMING LOVELINESS...

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS SHE HAS ROAMED THE EARTH, USING HER BEAUTY AS A LURE-- AND SUCKING LIFE FORCE FROM THE LIPS OF HER CONQUESTS...

HER NAME IS KIJA-- AND SHE IS A **SUCCUBUS!**



PARDON ME, MISS... I CAN'T HELP NOTICIN' YOUR DRESS IS TORN! YOU IN ANY TROUBLE?

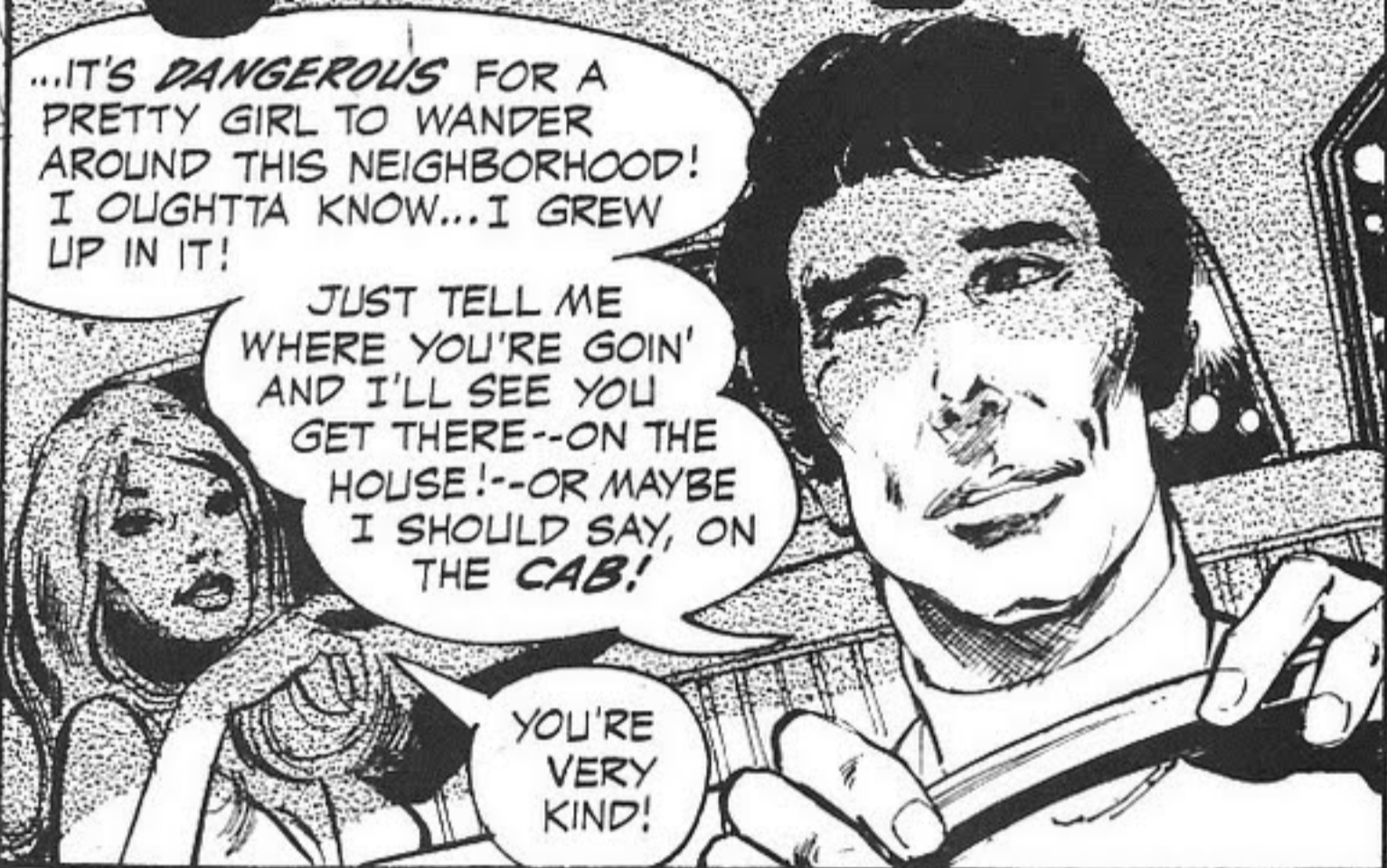
MAYBE YOU BETTER HOP IN, ANYHOW! NO CHARGE...

NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE, THANKS!

...IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A PRETTY GIRL TO WANDER AROUND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! I OUGHTTA KNOW... I GREW UP IN IT!

JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOIN' AND I'LL SEE YOU GET THERE-- ON THE HOUSE!-- OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY, ON THE CAB!

YOU'RE VERY KIND!



KIJA OBSERVES THE DRIVER... HE IS STRONG, VITAL... HE COULD PROVIDE MUCH NOURISHMENT... BUT SHE IS SATIATED! SO SHE CONTENTS HERSELF WITH DIRECTING HIM TO THE ROOMING HOUSE WHERE SHE CURRENTLY RESIDES...



HERE WE ARE! UH... BY THE WAY! MY NAME'S MICK POLLARD!

I'M KIJA... SMITH!

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M BEIN' PUSHY... BUT I GOT A COUPLEA TICKETS TO THE FIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT! I WONDER IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO!

WHY, CERTAINLY, MR. POLLARD!

GREAT! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN-THIRTY!



THERE'S SOMETHING... SWEET... ABOUT MR. POLLARD!-- SOMETHING GALLANT!



BUT ALSO SOMETHING VERY, VERY... NOURISHING!





A DAY, MOST OF A NIGHT, AND A FIGHT LATER...

I'D MUCH RATHER GO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN BE... ALONE!

MICK--! IS THAT YOU?

NEXT FRIDAY

THE BOSS WANTS YOU TO LOOSE... IN THE SECOND MINUTE OF THE FOURTH ROUND! TAKE A DIVE AND YOU'LL BE A GRAND RICHER...

DIDJA SEE THOSE BLIMS, KIJIA? A COUPLE LADIES DOIN' A WALTZ! C'MON... I'M GONNA BLY YOU A STEAK!

YEAH... I FIGHT SEMI-PRO! IF I DO GOOD NEXT WEEK, I'LL BE ABLE TO GO IT FULL TIME!

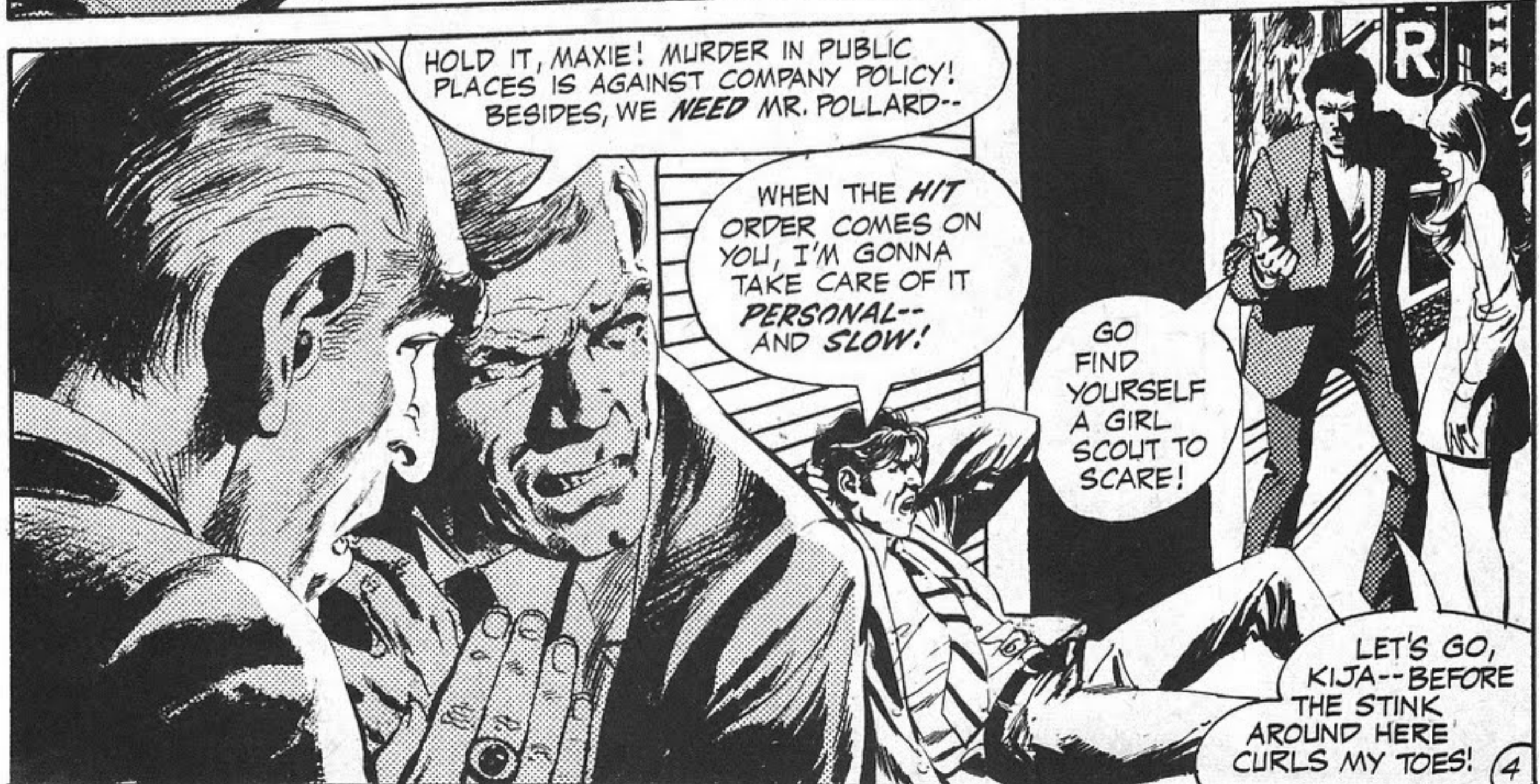
DON'T COUNT ON THAT, KID!

...WIN AND YOU'LL STILL TAKE A DIVE-- TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER, WEARING LEAD TRUNKS!

LOOKS LIKE YOUR BOYFRIEND AIN'T GOT MUCH FUTURE, DOLL! WHYN'T YOU TEAM UP WITH A GUY WHAT DOES-- LIKE ME, F'RINSTANCE!?

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER--! I MEAN...

NOW!



HOLD IT, MAXIE! MURDER IN PUBLIC PLACES IS AGAINST COMPANY POLICY! BESIDES, WE NEED MR. POLLARD--

WHEN THE HIT ORDER COMES ON YOU, I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF IT PERSONAL-- AND SLOW!

GO FIND YOURSELF A GIRL SCOUT TO SCARE!

LET'S GO, KIJIA-- BEFORE THE STINK AROUND HERE CURLS MY TOES!



AND, LATER...

KIJA... I WANT YOU TO KNOW I AIN'T GONNA TAKE THAT DIVE! MAYBE A MONTH AGO, I WOULD'A...

YOU'RE SWEET, MICK!-- THE SWEETEST MAN I'VE EVER MET!

...BUT NOW... WELL, I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU THINKIN' BAD OF ME! I'M GONNA WIN-- FOR YOU!

MY... GOOD... GOSH! WHEN WE KISSED, I FELT SOMETHIN' LIKE A MILLION VOLTS OF... OF LIFE...

GOODNIGHT, MICK!

THAT'S NEVER-- NEVER HAPPENED! NOT IN A THOUSAND YEARS! INSTEAD OF TAKING THE VITAL FORCE... I GAVE IT!



I SIMPLY DON'T... UNDERSTAND! I GAVE IT... AND I FELT WONDERFUL!

HEY THERE, MISSY! I GOT THE NEW SEARS, ROEBUCK CATALOG TADAY! YA WANNA SEE? HUH... DO YA? PLEEZE!!



I'D LOVE TO!



I'LL POUR US SOME ELDERBERRY WINE AN'...

HE'S POSITIVELY REPULSIVE! BUT A MEAL'S A MEAL...



MY MANAGER SAYS IN SIX MONTHS I'LL HAVE A SHOT AT THE **CHAMP!** HE SAYS I'M GOIN' STRAIGHT TO THE **TOP--**

--ONLY IT WON'T MEAN **NOTHIN'** UNLESS YOU'RE ALONGSIDE ME!

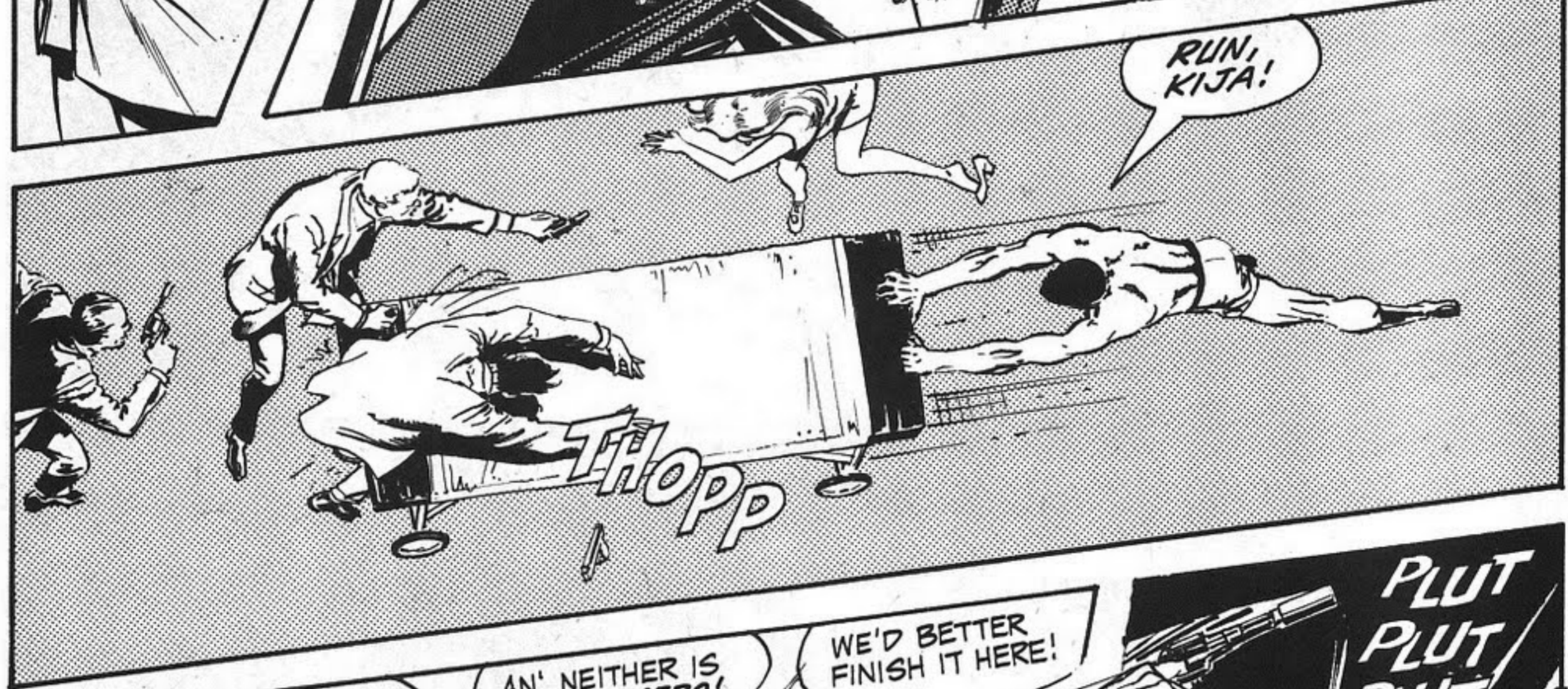
BUT YOU DON'T **KNOW** ME, MICK! ANYTHING **ABOUT** WHAT I'VE BEEN...

WE **WARNED** YOU, POLLARD! GET DRESSED! WE GOT A CAR WAITING AT THE BACK ENTRANCE!

YER GOIN' FER THAT **SWIM** WE PROMISED YA...

AN' THE **BROAD'S** COMIN', TOO! IT'S A SHAME... BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE NO **WITNESSES!**

DON'T **KNOW--** AND DON'T **CARE--!**



**RUN, KIJA!**

**THOPP**



SHE AIN'T **RUNNIN'** NOPLACE...

AN' NEITHER IS THE **HERO!**

WE'D BETTER **FINISH** IT HERE!

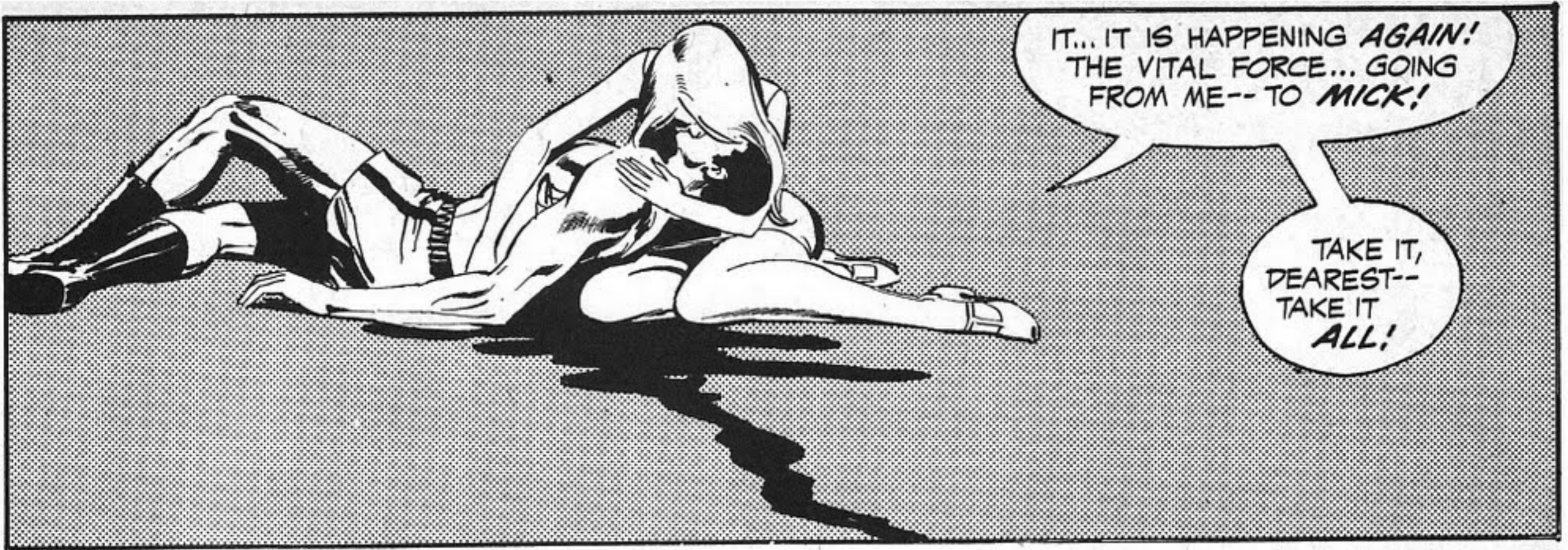
**PLUT PLUT PLUT PLUT**

**BOOM**









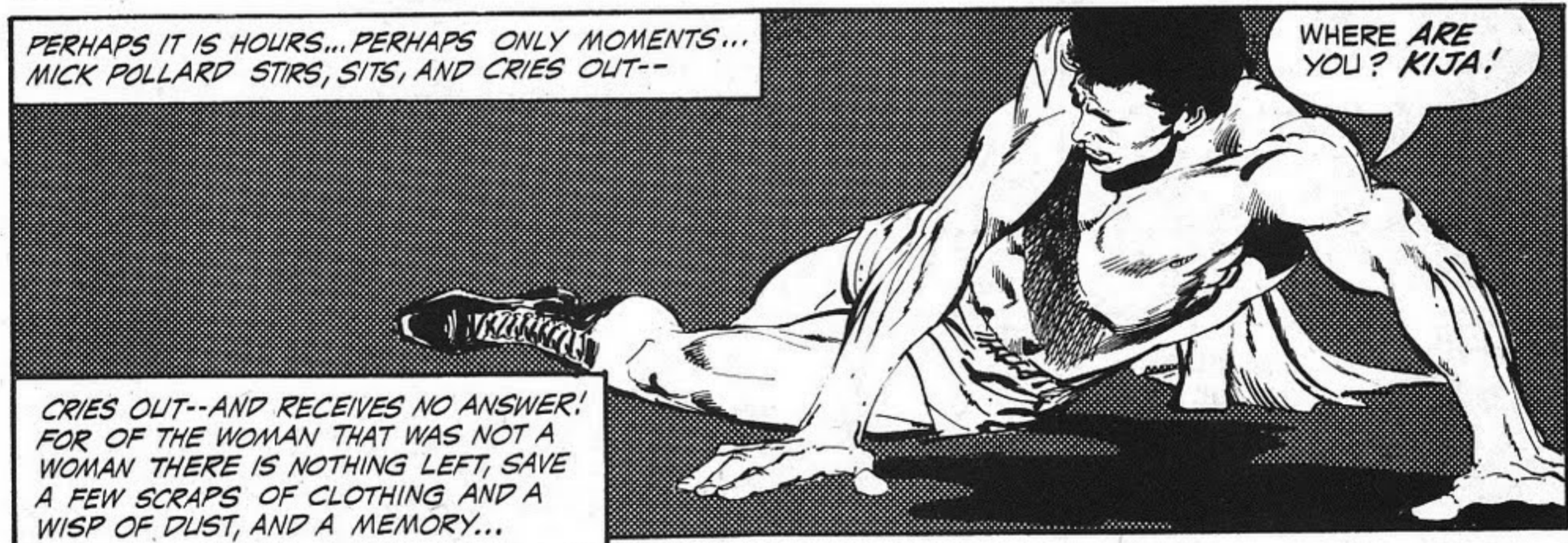
IT... IT IS HAPPENING AGAIN!  
THE VITAL FORCE... GOING  
FROM ME-- TO MICK!

TAKE IT,  
DEAREST--  
TAKE IT  
ALL!



ALL...

...ALL...



PERHAPS IT IS HOURS... PERHAPS ONLY MOMENTS...  
MICK POLLARD STIRS, SITS, AND CRIES OUT--

WHERE ARE  
YOU? KIIJA!

CRIES OUT--AND RECEIVES NO ANSWER!  
FOR OF THE WOMAN THAT WAS NOT A  
WOMAN THERE IS NOTHING LEFT, SAVE  
A FEW SCRAPS OF CLOTHING AND A  
WISP OF DUST, AND A MEMORY...



TOO BAD ABOUT OUR MESMERIZED MISSY TAKING A  
POWDER! IT'S SURE NO FUN GETTING *DUSTED* OFF  
THAT WAY! OH WELL, COULD BE THAT DISINTERGRATED  
DAMSEL WILL GET WHAT SHE WANTED AFTER ALL.  
MAYBE SHE OUGHT TO *ASH* HER  
BOYFRIEND ABOUT IT. SNIGGLE...

The  
End 10