

It is December... New Year's Eve... and when most would be jostled in a Times Square crowd awaiting 1976, Doctor Strange instead stands alone on a wondrous windswept world... stranded in his new awesome, faceless incarnation... alone but for the sound of his own voice shouting—

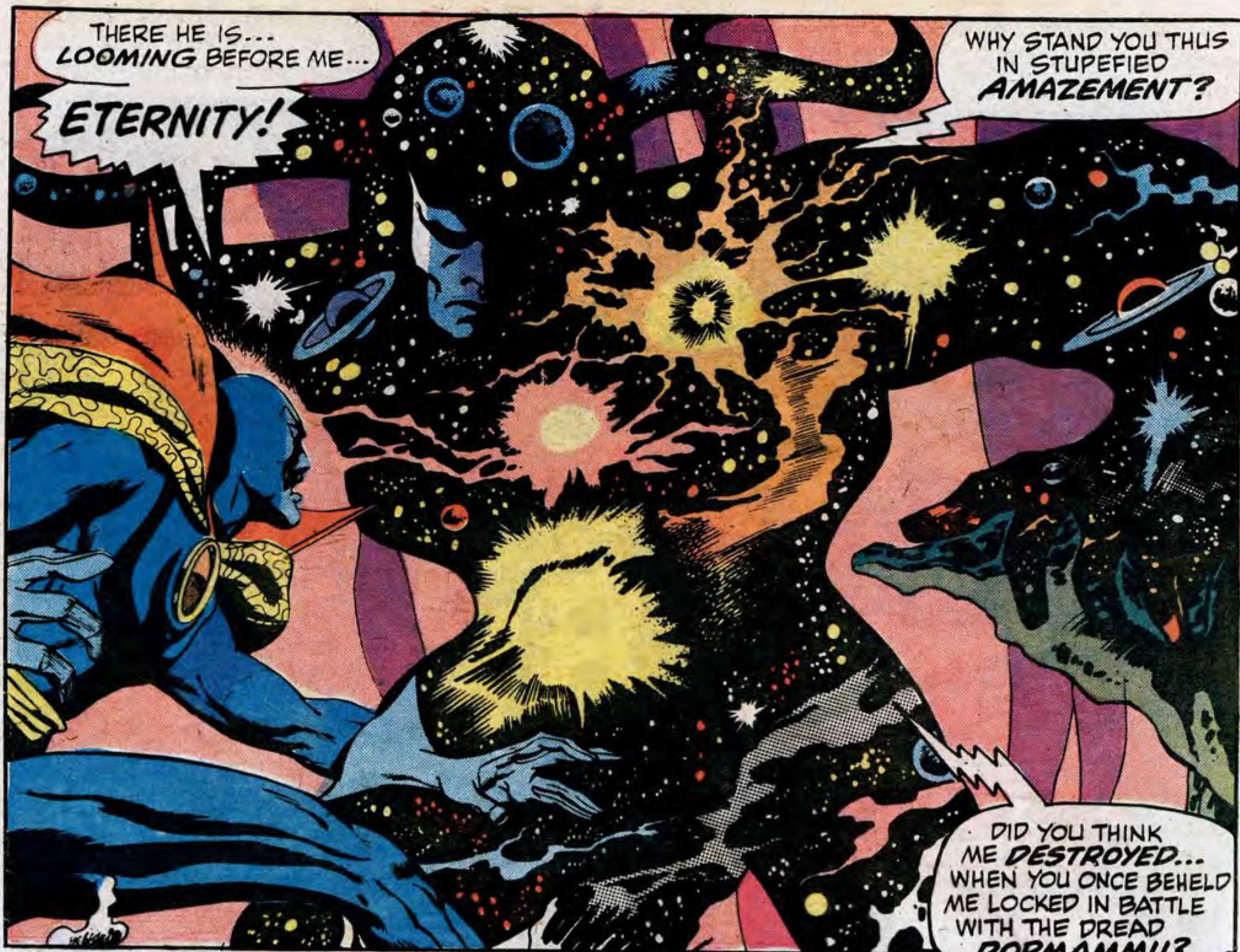


CAN'T REMEMBER  
*WHERE* I AM...  
OR HOW I *CAME*  
TO THIS BANEFUL,  
BARREN *WASTE-*  
*LAND!*

I KNOW ONLY THAT I  
MUST *SEEK OUT* THE  
LONG-LOST BEING  
CALLED *ETERNITY...*

OR ELSE...*THE*  
*EARTH SHALL*  
*PERISH!!*

A MASTERWORK OF THE MACABRE BY:  
**STAN ROY GENE**  
**LEE THOMAS COLAN**  
EDITOR WRITER ARTIST  
INKED AND EMBELLISHED BY:  
**TOM PALMER**  
LETTERED AND RELISHED BY:  
**SAM ROSEN**



THERE HE IS...  
LOOMING BEFORE ME...

WHY STAND YOU THUS  
IN STUPEFIED  
AMAZEMENT?

**ETERNITY!**

DID YOU THINK  
ME *DESTROYED*...  
WHEN YOU ONCE BEHELD  
ME LOCKED IN BATTLE  
WITH THE DREAD  
*DORMAMMU*?



WAIT!  
SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENING  
TO HIM...!

**THE ONE  
CALLED  
NIGHTMARE!!**

HE'S  
*CHANGING*...  
UNDERGOING  
SOME DREAD  
*METAMOR-*  
*PHOSIS!*

INSTEAD OF *ETERNITY*,  
BEFORE ME NOW STANDS  
THE DREAD FORM OF...

THEN, THIS LAND OF MISTS AND SHADOWS IS A MERE **DREAM WORLD!**

I HAVE BUT TO **AWAKEN,** AND I'LL HAVE CROSSED ONCE MORE THE BOUNDARY TO **REALITY...AND SAFETY!**

**AY, MORTAL... BUT DO SO SWIFTLY!**

FOR, THE TIME IS AT HAND WHEN THERE SHALL **BE NO MORE BOUNDARY 'TWIXT FACT AND PHANTASM!**

AND IN THAT HOUR... **YOUR WORLD SHALL DIE!**

**THAT YOU SHALL KNOW ANON!**

BUT, **WHY...** AND HOW DOES YOUR HIDDEN PLAN CONCERN THE LONG-VANISHED **ETERNITY??**

FOR **NOW,** IT SUITS MY PURPOSE THAT YOU SHOULD... **AWAKEN!**

THEN, YOU CONFRONTED ME THUS, IN A DREAM, ONLY TO **MOCK ME!**

**NO!**

I'LL **NOT** BE BANISHED FROM YOUR SIGHT, AT YOUR SLIGHTEST **WHIM!**

**I SHALL NOT AWAKEN!**

I WON'T AWAKEN!

I WON'T!

YOU MUST... YOU MUST...!

YOU MUST WAKE UP, MASTER!

FEAR NOT... YOU WERE ONLY HAVING A NIGHTMARE!

AH, DEVOTED WONG... MOST LOYAL OF SERVITORS!

IF YOU BUT KNEW HOW I ENVY YOU... YOU TO WHOM NIGHTMARE IS ONLY AN EMPTY WORD!

...IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE!

SOON, CHIMES AND SNOW TOGETHER SHALL HERALD IN ANOTHER YEAR!

WHILE, TO DR. STRANGE, HE IS A LIVING, EVIL ENTITY... WHO CHOOSES TO TAUNT ME!

BUT... WHY TONIGHT??

WHAT? OH... IT'S YOU, WONG!

YES, I... SUPPOSE IT WAS... JUST A NIGHTMARE...!

AND YOU, MASTER, SHALL WELCOME IT... BESIDE THE LOVELY CLEA!

THEN, AS WONG DEPARTS...

...WHICH IS YOUR SUBTLE WAY OF REMINDING ME THAT I HAVE A DATE WITH HER...

A DATE I'D HAVE MISSED, IF NOT FOR MY FAITHFUL HUMAN ALARM CLOCK!

I DID INDEED SLEEP THE DAY AWAY...

AFTER MY DUAL ADVENTURE WITH THE BLACK KNIGHT... AND WITH THE AVENGERS!



I MUST KEEP MY APPOINTMENT WITH **CLEA**, WHO IS **NEW** TO OUR WORLD!

BUT, I DON'T DARE OVERLOOK THE **THREAT** MADE BY NIGHTMARE...THE **MENACE** OF HIS EVERY MANNERISM!

THUS, I SHALL WEAR THE GARB OF THE **SORCERER SUPREME!**

TONIGHT, I PRAY THERE WILL BE **NO MASTER** OF THE MYSTIC ARTS...

BUT ONLY... **A MAN IN LOVE!**



AND ALL PRAYERS ARE **ANSWERED**, STEPHEN STRANGE... BUT TO SOME, THE ANSWER IS... **NO!**

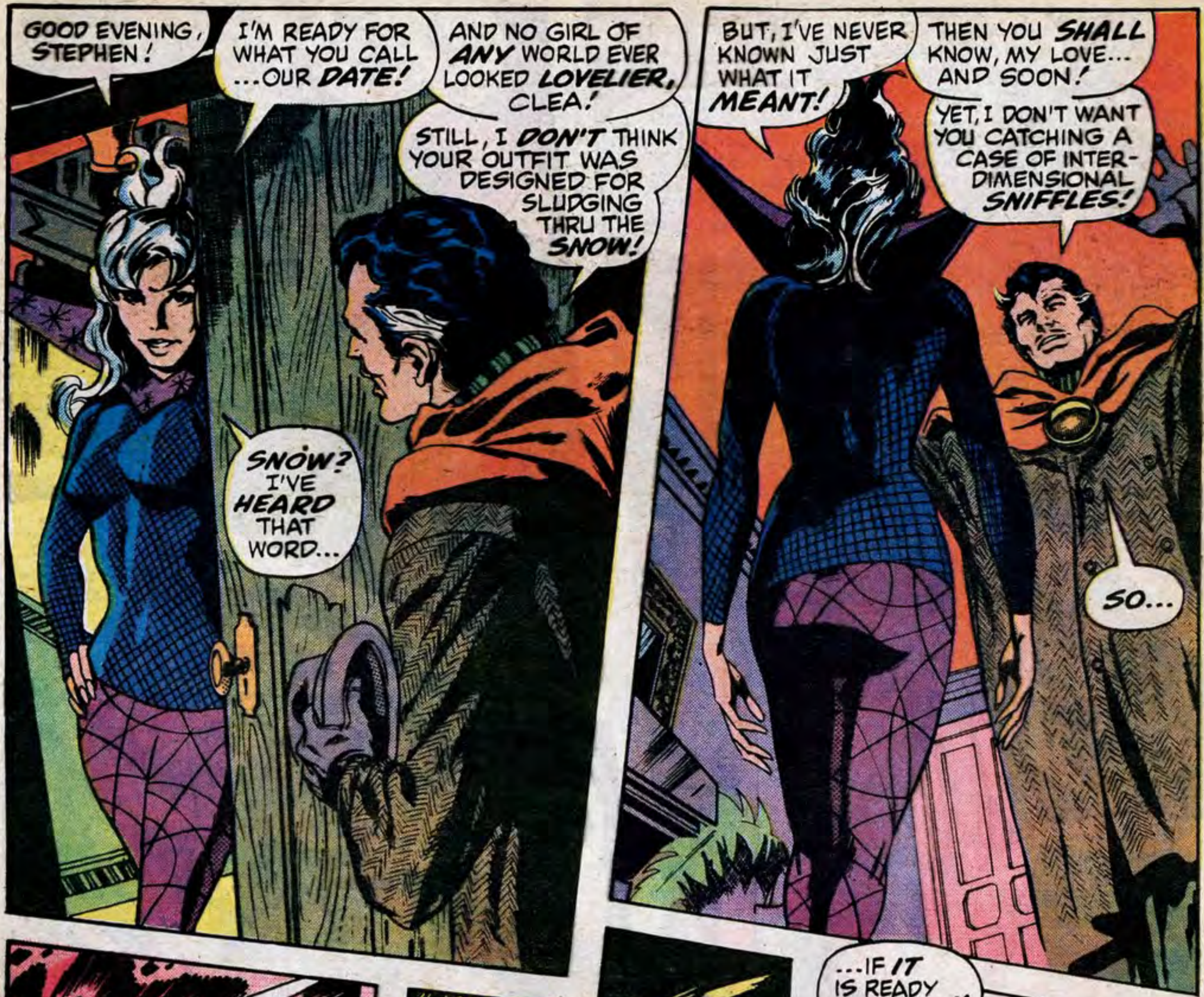


STILL, LEST **CLEA SENSE** MY DARK SECRET...

AND IT DAMPEN THE **REVELRY** OF THE MOMENT

LET HER... AND ALL **OTHERS...** BEHOLD ME SOMEWHAT **DIFFERENTLY...!**





GOOD EVENING, STEPHEN!

I'M READY FOR WHAT YOU CALL ...OUR DATE!

AND NO GIRL OF ANY WORLD EVER LOOKED LOVELIER, CLEA!

STILL, I DON'T THINK YOUR OUTFIT WAS DESIGNED FOR SLUDGING THRU THE SNOW!

BUT, I'VE NEVER KNOWN JUST WHAT IT MEANT!

THEN YOU SHALL KNOW, MY LOVE... AND SOON!

YET, I DON'T WANT YOU CATCHING A CASE OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL SNIFFLES!

SNOW? I'VE HEARD THAT WORD...

SO...



A SIMPLE SPELL...

OH!!



... AND YOU'LL BE READY FOR TIMES SQUARE...



...IF IT IS READY FOR YOU!!

A NEW COAT... EVEN A HAT... FORMED FROM THE VERY AIR!

ONLY ONE GIRL IN A COSMOS HAS SUCH A SUITOR AS YOU, DEAR STEPHEN!



THEN, LET'S JOIN THE HAPPY REVELERS BELOW...

BEFORE IT'S TOO WARM FOR YOU TO WEAR THAT COAT!

MANY PEOPLE ON MY WORLD, TOO, HAVE NEVER SEEN IT!

...WHILE MANY OTHERS WISH THEY HADN'T!

IT'S LIKE RAIN...

BUT COLDER... SOFTER...!

AND HERE I AM WITHOUT SO MUCH AS AN UMBRELLA!

UMBRELLA? YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOU'RE OUT WITH A DEMON SORCERER!

A SIMPLE MAGICAL PASS... AND NOT SO MUCH AS A SNOW-FLAKE WILL MUSS YOUR MAKEUP!

I... LIKE THIS... "SNOW"!!



WHAT? DON'T YOU DARE, STEPHEN STRANGE!

EH?



THAT'S IT, DARLING...  
THE **ALLIED CHEMICAL**  
TOWER!

IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES,  
ITS **CHIMES** WILL SIGNAL  
THE END OF AN **OLD YEAR**  
...AND THE BIRTH OF A  
**NEW!**

PERHAPS  
IT SEEMS  
**ABSURD** TO  
ONE FROM  
ANOTHER  
**WORLD,**  
BUT...

Allied  
Chemical

NOT AT  
**ALL,** MY  
LOVE!

**FAITH AND  
HOPE** ARE  
NOT ALONE THE  
PROPERTY OF  
**EARTH,**  
YOU KNOW!

IF ONLY I  
COULD FORGET  
THAT **DREAM**  
I HAD, I...

**WAIT,  
DARLING!**

THE  
CLOCK'S  
SOUNDING  
THE **NEW  
YEAR!**

**LISTEN!**

**YES, LISTEN, STEPHEN  
STRANGE... TO THE BELL  
WHICH TOLLS FOR MERRI-  
MENT AND RESOUNDING  
HOPE...**

**BONG**



**LISTEN... AND TRY TO  
TELL YOURSELF THAT YOU  
DON'T HEAR THE SOUND OF  
HOLLOW, MOCKING LAUGHTER  
IN EACH GRIM, GREY ECHO....!**

**AMAZING!**  
STANDING HERE,  
ON THE THRESH-  
HOLD OF A **NEW  
YEAR...**

...AS IF THEY  
NEVER  
**HAPPENED!!**

IT'S AS IF ALL  
THOSE OTHERS...  
FILLED WITH THE  
**MORDOS, THE  
DORMAMMUS,  
THE NIGHTMARES...**



BUT THEN, THE FRIVOLITY OF A FLEETING MOMENT IS **FORGOTTEN--** AS THE TENTH AND ELEVENTH CHIMES RING THROUGH THE CRISP NIGHT AIR...

...AND SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF SNOW-SWEPT **NOTHINGNESS**, THE GASPING THROGS BEHOLD A **HIDEOUS, HORN-BEAKED FORM**, HURTLING FROM SOME LONG-DEAD EON INTO THE AWE-STRUCK PRESENT...

...TO **SNUFF** OUT ITS OWN BRIEF LIFE, LIKE SOME MAMMOTH, MESOZOIC **MOTH** ...HIGH ABOVE THE FEAR-STRICKEN MASSES...!!





THE MONSTER'S  
... DEAD!  
BUT... WHERE  
DID IT COME  
FROM?

AND... THE  
**DEBRIS!**  
IT KEEPS  
FALLING...!

IT'S NOT  
FROM THE  
TOWER!  
**LOOK!!**

A..A  
DINOSAUR...  
GLOWING...  
LIKE A THING  
AFIRE!

AND... IT'S  
SEVERAL  
STORIES  
HIGH!!

HOW...  
HOW??

BUT, HOWS AND WHYS NO LONGER MATTER... AS A GIANT BEHEMOTH, GREATER THAN ANY WHICH EVER ROAMED THE FOREST PRIMEVAL, NOW STALKS THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK... AND ALL FLEE BEFORE ITS ADVANCE...

...ALL SAVE ONE!!

BACK, CLEA... TO A SAFER PLACE!

YOUR MAGICAL POWERS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO COPE WITH... THAT!

CAN ANYTHING STOP IT?

IT'S SO HUGE... LIKE A MADDENING NIGHTMARE!

"HE"? I DON'T...

BUT, IF IT'S **THIS** THAT THE LORD OF DARKNESS WOULD BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE **REAL** AND THE **UNREAL**...

NIGHTMARE?

YES... THAT **MUST** BE THE ANSWER!

HE SHALL FIND THAT BRIDGE GUARDED BY... **DOCTOR STRANGE!**

NO TIME TO **EXPLAIN** NOW!

LET THIS **OCCULT AURA** PROTECT YOU... TILL I **RETURN!**

AND, MAY THE DEATHLESS **VISHANTI**... WATCH OVER YOU ... MY LOVE...!

NOW, LET  
THE WINDS OF  
WATOOMB  
HURL ME...

... INTO THE  
VERY FORE-  
FRONT OF MYSTIC  
MENACE!

HAH! AT  
LEAST, MY  
POWERS ARE  
NOT AFFECTED  
BY NIGHTMARE'S  
SPELLS!

LOOK!  
THAT MAN...  
HE APPEARED...  
OUT OF NOWHERE!

WHAT CAN  
THAT  
MATTER?

HE CAN'T  
SAVE US  
NOW... NO  
MAN CAN!

BUT, EVEN THE  
UNEARTHLY AURA  
ABOUT THOSE BEASTS  
SHALL NOT PROTECT  
THEM FROM

PERHAPS  
NOT THE  
MOST OF  
MEN...

MAY  
OSHTUR  
PRESERVE  
ME!

NO SOONER  
DOES ONE VANISH  
BENEATH MY MYSTIC  
BOLT...

THAN TWO  
MORE SPRING  
INTO EXISTENCE!

AND...  
THAT  
GIRL!

SHE'S FALLEN  
... BENEATH ONE  
MONSTER'S  
CLAWED FOOT!

OOOHH!

BUT, NO  
MERE  
PHYSICAL  
THREAT CAN  
HARM  
ONE...

... WHOM  
THE SHIELD  
OF THE  
SERAPHIM  
SURROUNDS!

YET, WHY THIS  
FORM OF ATTACK  
BY NIGHTMARE...  
IF INDEED IT IS HE!

WHAT HAS HE  
TO GAIN, WITH  
MERE RANDOM  
DESTRUCTI..?!

DEATH!  
DEATH TO THE  
INFIDELS!

VIKINGS...  
SUCH AS  
ROAMED  
THESE  
SHORES  
AGES  
AGO!

AND  
SAVAGES...  
FROM YET  
ANOTHER  
TIME AND  
PLACE!

WHAT'S  
THAT?

THEN,  
THERE IS NO  
MOMENT TO  
WASTE ON MERE  
SPECULATION..!

I WILL NOT HARM THEM  
IF I CAN... FOR THEY ARE  
ONLY HELPLESS PAWNS  
OF SOME DARKSOME  
KING!

BUT...

BY HOGGOTH'S GRIM  
CLAN...  
BY VALTORR'S  
DREAD CLIME...

LET ARMS  
AND THEIR MAN  
NOW FADE FROM  
THIS TIME!!

IT... ISN'T  
POSSIBLE!

HE JUST  
SPOKE... AND THEY  
VANISHED!

WE  
BETTER  
JUST BE GLAD  
THEY DID!

I'M  
BETTIN'  
THEY'D HAVE  
LAUGHED  
AT OUR  
BULLETS!

HOLD  
IT!

SOMETHING  
ELSE IS  
HAPPENING....!

NIGHTMARE!

THEN, STEPHEN STRANGE,  
YOU BREATHE A SINGLE  
WORD... AND IN THAT  
WORD, SUM UP THE FEARS  
AND SHADOWS WHICH HAVE  
PLAGUED MAN SINCE TIME  
OUT OF MIND... THE NAME  
OF...



AY,  
MORTAL  
FOOL!

AND NOW, **OBSERVE...**  
AS I MOMENTARILY LIFT  
THE **VEIL** THAT SEPARATES  
**FACT AND FANTASY...**

TO **REVEAL...**

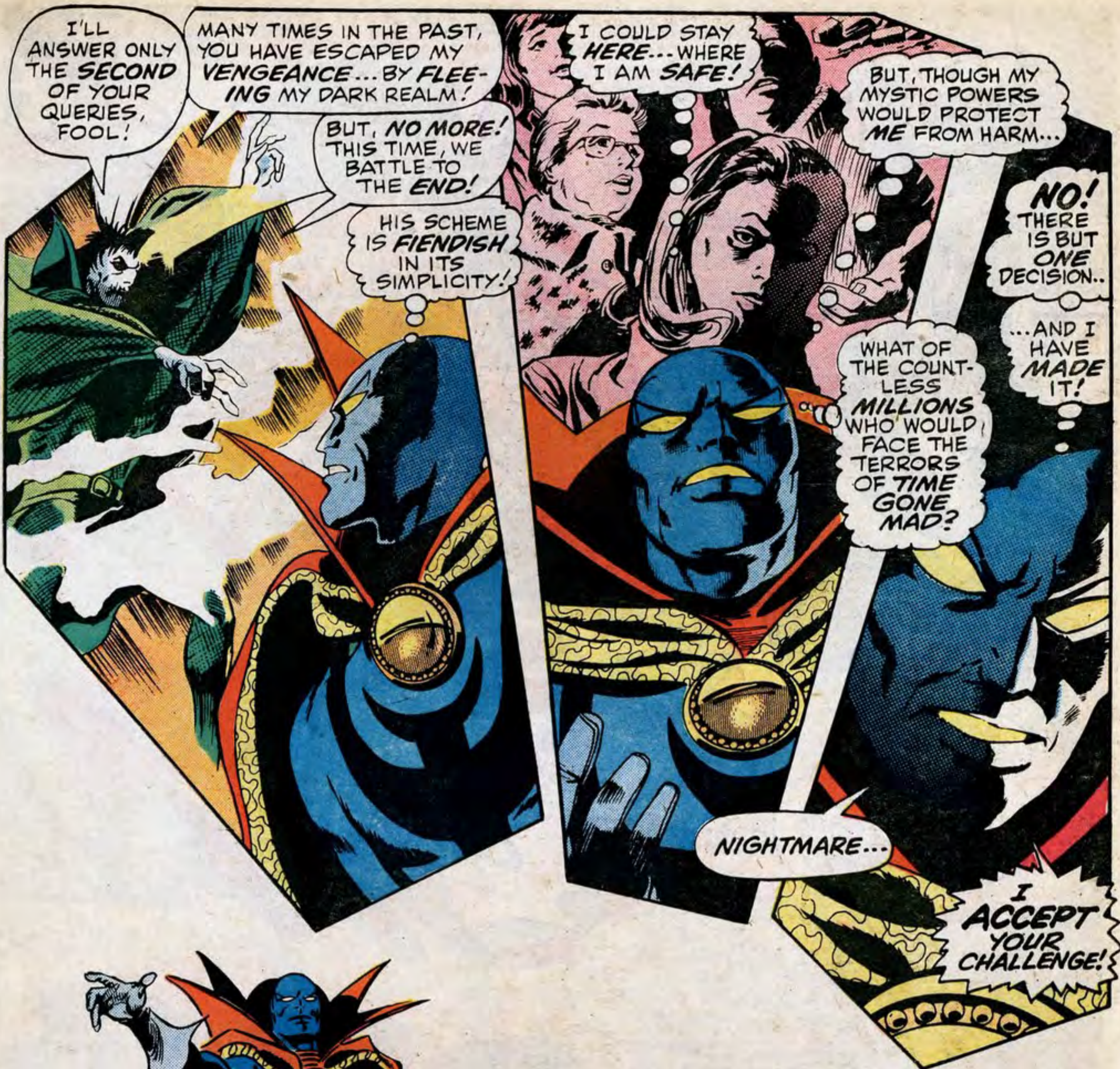
**ETERNITY!**

STANDING TALL...  
SILENT... **ENIGMATIC...**  
LIKE THAT WHICH HE  
**PERSONIFIES!**

BUT, HE IS  
**BOUND...** HELD  
BY BLINDING CHAINS  
OF PURE **COSMIC**  
**FORCE!**

AND, **BECAUSE**  
HE IS HELPLESS...  
**NIGHTMARE**  
COULD UNLEASH  
SUCH MONSTROUS  
**ANACHRONISMS**  
UPON A HELPLESS  
EARTH!

BUT, **HOW**  
DID YOU  
CAPTURE HIM,  
EVIL ONE...  
AND WHY DO  
YOU **TAUNT**  
ME WITH SUCH  
IMAGES?



I'LL ANSWER ONLY THE **SECOND** OF YOUR QUERIES, FOOL!

MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, YOU HAVE ESCAPED MY VENGEANCE... BY **FLEEING** MY DARK REALM!

I COULD STAY **HERE...** WHERE I AM **SAFE!**

BUT, THOUGH MY MYSTIC POWERS WOULD PROTECT **ME** FROM HARM...

BUT, **NO MORE!** THIS TIME, WE BATTLE TO THE **END!**

HIS SCHEME IS **FIENDISH** IN ITS SIMPLICITY!

**NO!** THERE IS BUT **ONE** DECISION..

...AND I HAVE **MADE** IT!

WHAT OF THE COUNT-**LESS MILLIONS** WHO WOULD FACE THE TERRORS OF **TIME GONE MAD?**

**NIGHTMARE...**

**I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!**



AS ALL TRUE BELIEVERS ALREADY KNOW, THE MENACE OF NIGHTMARE WAS ONCE MORE DEFEATED, AND AS ONE YEAR ENDED IN TERROR, THE NEXT BEGAN IN HOPE! IN THE NAME OF THE ETERNAL VISHANTI, THE WHOLE BLUSHING **MARVEL BULLPEN** WISHES YOU A **MERRY CHRISTMAS** AND A **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** MAY THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO EVER LIGHT YOUR WAY!