

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

WOODGOD!™

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS NO SOUND, SAVE THE DRY SHUFFLING OF HOOVES ACROSS A HEAT-BAKED STREET.

THERE WAS NO UNDERSTANDING, FOR CONCEPTS HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMED. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, FEELING.

PAIN, FOR INSTANCE. WHIMPERING, ANIMAL PAIN.



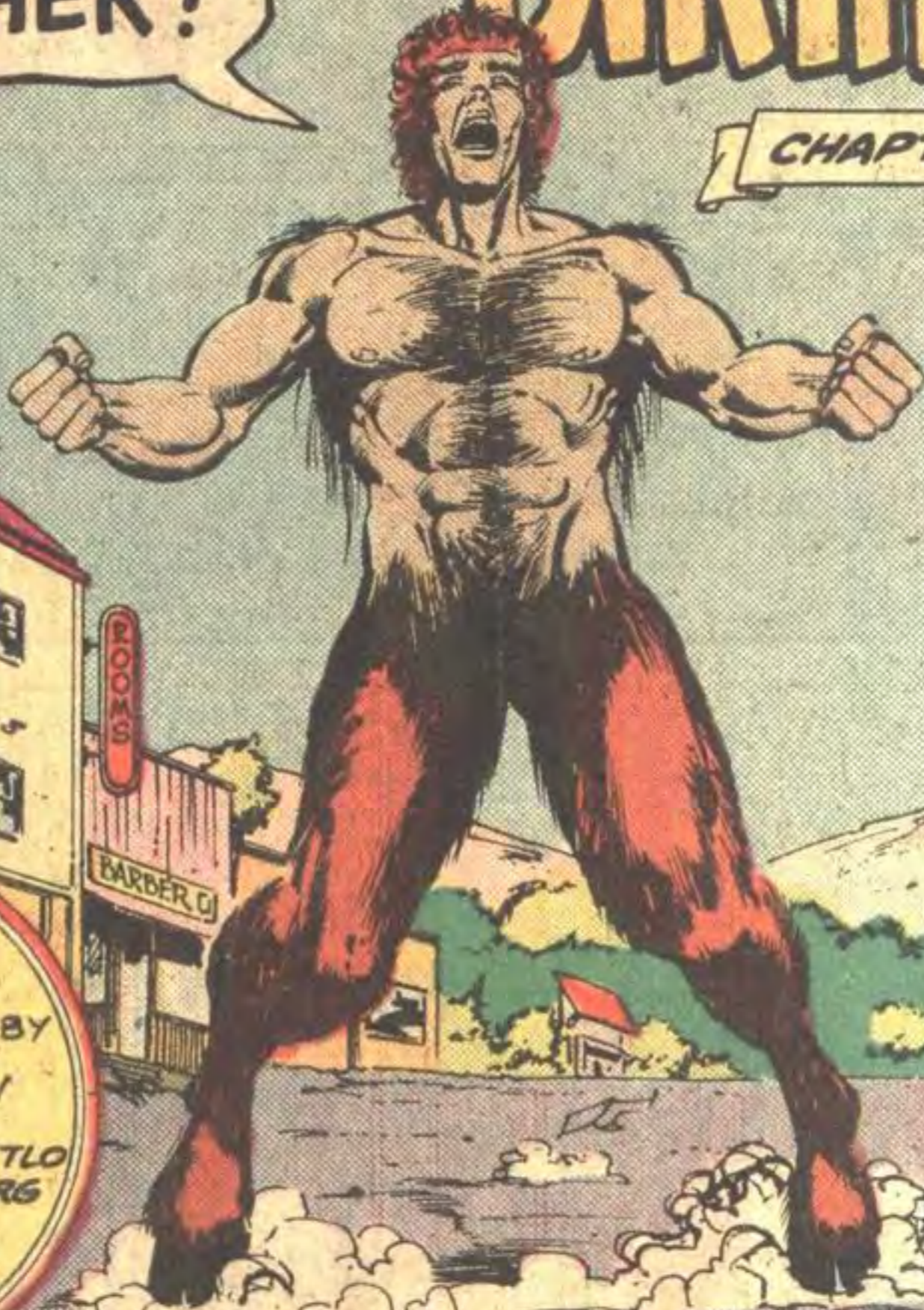
AND THERE WAS SCREAM...

...WOODGOD WAS ITS NAME!

FATHER!

BIRTHDAY!

CHAPTER ONE



CONCEIVED AND WRITTEN BY
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DRAWN BY KEITH GIFFEN INKED BY KLAUS JANSON
LETTERS, KAREN MANTLO
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JV150

SCREAM DIED OUT,
AND WOODGOD TURNED
HIS GAZE DOWN THE
ECHO-LESS ROAD.

NOTHING MOVED...
NO BREEZE STIRRED.
BUT THE SMELL WAS
THERE...

... THE SMELL OF
OTHERS.

WOODGOD
FOLLOWED
THE FAINT
ODOR, HOOVES
RAISING
DUST BEHIND
HIM...

OLIVIER
SWEET SHOP



... THEN TURNING...
AWKWARDLY,
CLUMSILY ABOUT AT
A SOUND HE HADN'T
MADE, A SOUND
COMING CLOSER.



A SOUND THAT WAS...
A MAN.



AND THE MAN
WAS LAUGHING.



'S FUNNY!
'S REALLY
FUNNY!

THEY'RE GONE
ALL OF 'EM! AN'
I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHAT'S LEFT!

AN' YOU
WANNA KNOW
WHY? 'CAUSE
I WAS DRUNK
WHEN THEY
DID IT!

STINKIN'
SPONGE-
DRUNK!

WORDS, QUESTIONS,
CONCEPTS. IS HE...

...FATHER?

CRIPES! WHAT IN
BLAZES ARE YOU??
SUMPIN' OUT OF A
BOTTLE?

DON'TCHA KNOW
BETTER'N TO GO AN
SHAKE SOMEBODY
UP LIKE THAT?

FATHER...?



FATHER??
NOT A
CHANCE,
UGLY!

I DONE A LOT
O' MEAN THINGS
IN MY TIME --

-- BUT BEIN'
FATHER TO A
CRITTER LIKE
YOU SURE AIN'T
ONE OF 'EM!



GET OUTTA HERE,
YUH DAMNED
MONSTER!

ROCK GIVES RISE TO SCREAM... SCREAM TO PAIN...

...AND PAIN GIVES WAY TO UNDERSTANDING.

YOU ARE MERELY MAN... LIKE OTHER MEN!

YOUR WAYS ARE THE WAYS OF PAIN!

YOU ARE NOT MY FATHER!

NO! GET BACK, CRITTER! STAY AWAY FROM--



SKRAASSSHHH



SCREAM CONSUMES THE MAN AS GLASS EATS AT HIS FLESH... TRANSPARENT LANCES DRINK HIS BLOOD...



...AND MAN IS STILL.

MAN WAS NOT MY FATHER... BUT ANOTHER! LIKE THE REST!

I MUST FIND FATHER! HE WILL KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO!



MY FATHER WILL HELP ME!

FOLLOW WOODGOD, DOWN THE SILENT STREET...



... INTO DREAMS.



OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT.



FLOATING... FLICKERING...

... OPENING... FORMING...



... HIS FACE... HIS VOICE...

HE'S WAKING UP, ELLEN!

HE'S AWAKE!!



AWAKE AWAKE AWAKE AWAKE

HELLO... SON.



HOW DO YOU FEEL?

FEEL?

YES. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DO YOU FEEL PAIN OR...



HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, DAVID! EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE ENGINEERED HIM FOR EARLY-SPEECH--

--HE'LL STILL HAVE TO LEARN COMPREHENSION!

AND HE WILL LEARN IT! HE WILL UNDERSTAND! ALREADY HIS BRAIN CELL COUNT HAS TRIPLED... AND HE'S ONLY FIVE MINUTES OLD!

JUST LOOK INTO HIS EYES! HE'S REGISTERING EVERY WORD I'M SAYING! MATCHING MY LIP MOVEMENT SO HE CAN FORM THE WORDS HIMSELF!



I-- I FEEL SILLY SAYING THIS, DAVID... BUT HE IS ONLY A BABY--

--AND I THINK HE SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP!

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE, ELLEN! I ... FORGOT!



-- HIS INCREDIBLY FAST META-GROWTH WOULD NEVER ALLOW SLEEP TO COME NATURALLY!

NOT YET, AT ANY RATE!

SO SLEEP, MY SON! SLEEP!

JUST LET ME ADMINISTER THIS TRANQUILIZER--



AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DREAMS.



THAT'S IT, SON!
WALK! WALK!
TO ME!

LOOK AT HIM, ELLEN! IN
JUST TWO DAYS, HE'S WALKING!
HE SHOWS FULL COORDINATION!
TOTAL GRASP OF HOW TO MOVE
THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENT!

JUST
LOOK AT
HIM!

I'M LOOKING, DAVID!



MOTHER?

YES...
SON?



I CAN... WALK,
MOTHER!

IT FEELS
GOOD!



HOW WILL HE
REACT WHEN THE
BANDAGES ARE
REMOVED, DAVID?

WILL HE
STILL FEEL
'GOOD' WHEN HE
LEARNS THAT HE'S
...DIFFERENT?



HE WON'T REALIZE
THAT, ELLEN! AT THIS
POINT HE'S LIKE AN
INFANT! EVERYTHING
IS NEW TO HIM...
EVERYTHING IS
STRANGE!



IF MUFF LOOKS DIFFERENT
THAN US TO HIM, IT'S NOT
BECAUSE DOGS ARE INFERIOR
TO PEOPLE...

... IT'S JUST BECAUSE
THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE!



WE'LL JUST
LET HIM GROW
HIS OWN WAY!
LET HIM
PLAY!

THERE'S NO REASON
THAT HE SHOULD EVER
KNOW THAT HE WAS
BORN OF A CLONE-
GRAFT... A COMBI-
NATION OF HUMAN
AND ANIMAL
GENES!

"WE'LL JUST LET HIM
ALONE AND SEE WHAT
HAPPENS! WATCH THE
BEAST-BOY BECOME
A WOODGOD!

DREAMS.



MUFF?



NO, YOU ARE NOT MUFF! YOU ARE JUST A DOG!

NOT ALL DOGS ARE THE SAME!



SCREAM STARTS WITHIN HIM... ECHOED IN THE MADNESS OF THE SLAVERING ANIMAL.



SCREAM SCREAMS OUT AS FOAM-FLECKED TEETH BITE DEEP INTO THE SKIN/MUSCLE OF HIS ARM...



...AND SCREAM GOES MINDLESSLY BERSERK AS ANIMAL TAKES OVER...



...HANDS REACHING UP TO GRIP... TO TWIST...

...SCREAM SCREAMING OUT AGAIN AS ANIMAL BREAKS ANIMAL...



SNAP



...AND IT IS OVER EXCEPT FOR SCREAM.



FATHER!



THE ORIGIN OF SCREAM. THREE DAYS OLD.

FATHER? IS THAT ME?



YES, SON... THAT IS INDEED YOU.



HOW DO YOU LIKE YOURSELF?

HE'S WONDERFUL, DAVID. HIS GROWTH-RATE HAS LEVELLED OFF--



-- BUT HIS MIND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF STOPPING ITS ACCELERATION!

HE'S EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED FOR... AND MORE!

SWEET LORDY!



I TOL' THE BOYS THESE HERE SCIENTISTS WAS UP TO SUMPIN'...



"MAKIN' MONSTERS," I SAYS! "TOYIN' WITH THE ALMIGHTY!"

LET'S SEE WHO LAUGHS NOW!



I KNOW WHERE TO FIND 'EM! AT THE BAR... LIKE ALWAYS!

MEAN-DRUNK AN' JEST SPOILIN' FOR A FIGHT!



I TELL YUH, MASON... I SEEN IT WITH MUH OWN EYES! BIG AS LIFE AN' TWICE AS UGLY!

AN' THAT THERE EGG-HEAD FROM THE GOV'MENT INSTITUTE WAS JEST A COOIN' OVAH THE THING LIKE IT WAS A BABY!

HOW MUCH SAUCE YOU NIP 'FORE YOU SAW THIS HERE THING, DAVIS?



YOU LAUGH AT HIM, FRED MASON! GO ON!

BUT THEN YOU 'MEMBER 'BOUT THEM SHEEP THAT JEST UP AN' DIED ON US LAST YEAR WHEN THE GOV'MENT PEOPLE SPILLED SOME O' THAT NERVE GAS THEY WAS WORKIN' ON!

HEY! WILLS HAS GOT A POINT THERE!



ALL RIGHT! I SAY WE STOP IT RIGHT NOW!

YOU BOYS WITH ME?

YOU JUST WAIT TILL WE GET OUR RIFLES AN' YOU'LL SEE WHO'S WITH YOU, MASON!

FINE! WE'LL ALL DRIVE UP THERE NICE'N QUIET, AN' IF WHAT DAVIS SAYS IS SO--



-- THEN WE'RE GONNA KILL US A MONSTER!!



MOTHER? SOUNDS?

YES! I HEAR THEM TOO!

NOW WHO COULD IT BE? THE LAB KNOWS ENOUGH TO CALL BEFORE COMING UP TO THE HOUSE...

I'D BETTER CHECK!



GET OFF MY PROPERTY--

--AND GO TO BLAZES!



WHO-- WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WE WANT THE FREAK, EGGHEAD!

JEST HAND 'IM OVER AN' WE'LL LEAVE YOU BE!



WHOO-EEE! LOOKS LIKE THE BOY'S GOT SOME SPUNK IN 'IM!



TOO BAD I GOTTA TAKE IT OUTTA HIM!

TRAMM

UUNNRRRH!

GET 'IM, BOYS!



SCREAM DREW WOODGOD OUT... AND THOUGH IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE'D EVER HEARD IT...

... SOMETHING IN HIM KNEW WHAT SCREAM WAS.

FATHER?! I HEARD...

HOLEE CRUD! WILLYA LOOK AT THAT THING?



BLAM

DAVIS WAS RIGHT! IT IS A MONSTER!

SCREAM AND PAIN... A CONCEPT JOINED IN AN INSTANT...



NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM? HE'S MY HUSBAND!

SORRY TO HEAR THAT MA'AM! A PRETTY LADY LIKE YOU SHOULD'A HAD HERSELF A REAL MAN!

... A CONCEPT JOINED TO SILENCE AS VISION IS STAINED THE COLOR OF BLOOD.

VATS O' STUFF! THE EGGHEAD MUSTA COUNTED ON MAKIN' EVEN MORE O' THEM FREAKS!

DAVID!

DAVID!!

LOOKEE HERE! LOOK AT WHAT I FOUND!

THEY STARE AT THE SWIRLING PURPLE-PINK MANIFESTATION OF SCRE™ M ... HIS FATHER'S WORK ... AND THEY KNOW NOT WHAT TO MAKE OF IT. SCREAM DOMINATES THEM ... THEY ARE RULED BY FEAR.

SOMETHIN' STINKS IN HERE, BOYS!



SOMETHIN' THAT AIN'T CLEAN! THAT AIN'T GOT NO RIGHT TA EXIST!

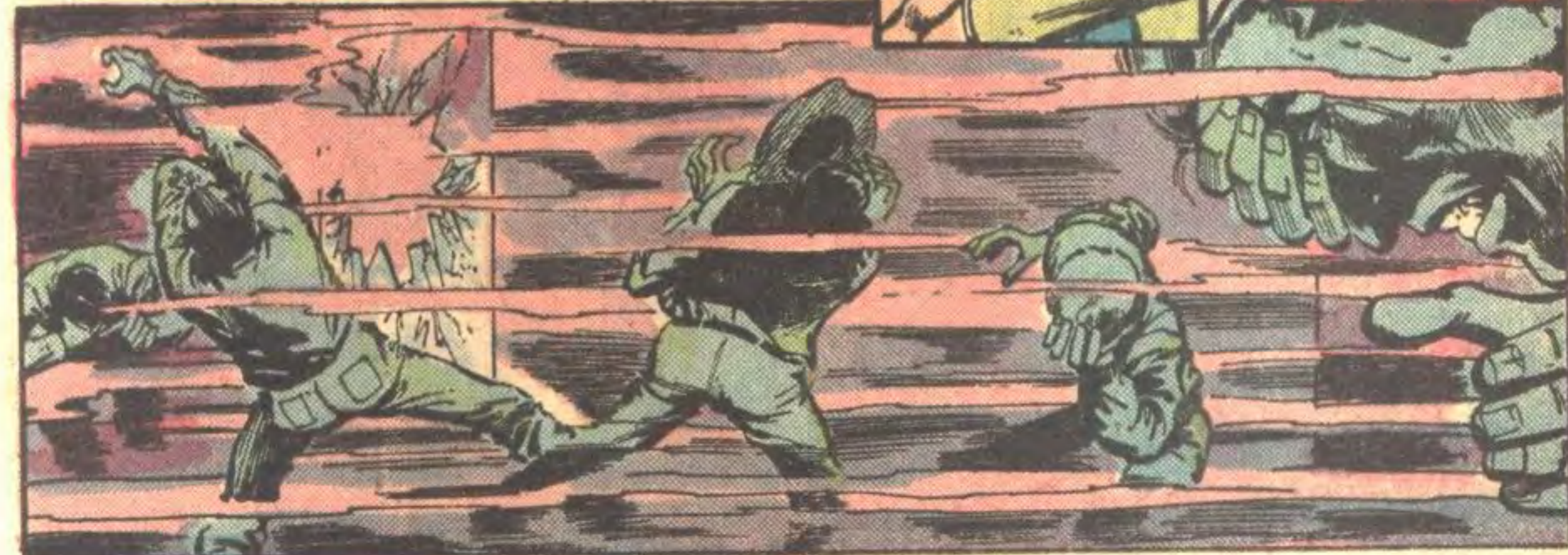
SOMETHIN' EVIL!

STOP, YOU MADMAN! THAT'S NERVE-GAS IN THAT CANISTER!

YOU'LL KILL US ALL--

SCREAM.

FLASH





SCREAM WAS GONE...



... LOST IN THE FOLDS OF NIGHT, WOODGOD AWOKE ... TO SILENCE.

FATHER?



FATHER!!



SILENCE HAD NO ANSWER ... AND WOODGOD LEFT. THE PURPLE MIST HUNG HEAVY ABOUT HIM ... AND HE NEVER SAW WHAT LAY BENEATH IT ... GROWING COLDER ON THE GROUND.



SCREAM ENVELOPED HIM...

... MADE HIM RUN BLINDLY THROUGH THE FOREST OF THE BLIND...



... RUN LIVING THROUGH THE WATERS OF THE DEAD.

SCREAM DROVE HIM ... DOWN ONTO THE STREETS OF MAN.

FATHER!



AND SCREAM ANSWERED HIM MOCKINGLY ... BY NOT ANSWERING AT ALL.

THE DOG WAS DEAD NOW ... HIS SPINE BENT BACK BEHIND HIM.



PART OF WOODGOD CRIED.

PART OF HIM DID NOT.

AND THEN THE CRYING WAS OVER.



I REMEMBER NOW!



MAN KILLED MY FATHER!

MAN KILLED MY MOTHER!

I WILL FIND MAN--



-- AND I WILL KILL HIM!

MAN.

THE MAN DID NOT MOVE... AND THE SOUND THAT PERVADED THE ROOM MADE NO SENSE AT ALL. WOODGOD HAD NEVER HEARD MUSIC... AND THE FACT THAT IT PLAYED TO SILENCE UPSET HIM.



MAN! FACE ME, MAN!

I WILL KILL YOU!



BUT THE MAN STILL DID NOT MOVE, AND WOODGOD SENSED, AS PRENATAL MEMORIES PLAYED-BACK THROUGH HIS MIND...



... THAT THE MAN WAS ALREADY DEAD...

TWUNK



WATER...?

PURPLE WATER ...THE COLOR OF THE MIST...



... THE COLOR OF THE DUST THAT SETTLED OVER THE TOWN.

IT IS CALLED WATER. I WILL DRINK--

THE COLOR OF DEATH.



SCREAM LAUGHED WILDLY IN HIS EARS... DRIVING HIM FROM FEAR TO PANIC.

DRIVING HIM OUT...

... INTO THE PURPLE DUST OF DEATH.

"WHAT IN HOLY BLAZES IS THAT??"

"HOLD THAT SLIDE, BRENNER! I SAID, HOLD IT, BLAST YOU!"



"YES, SIR!"

DAVID PACE AND HIS WIFE, ELLEN, WERE WORKING, IN ABSENTIA FROM VERTIGO BASE, ON THE NERVE-GAS WE'D BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SYNTHESIZE!

THAT PURPLE MIST, GENTLEMEN, IS THAT GAS! INSTANTANEOUS! FATAL!

WHAT RELEASED IT, GENTLEMEN?

WHAT???

THERE ARE SIGNS OF VIOLENCE AT THE FACE FARM, MAJOR--



"-- AND THE BODIES OF A NUMBER OF THE TOWNS-PEOPLE WERE SCATTERED ABOUT THE YARD!"

"THE TOWN OF LIBERTY ITSELF IS ALSO LIFE-LESS. THE GAS SPREAD QUICKLY!"



"IT WAS MEANT TO SPREAD QUICKLY, CAPTAIN! THAT WAS PACE'S JOB... TO SEE THAT IT DID!"

STATUS REPORT! WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

AS THE SATELLITE-SLIDES SHOW MAJOR TREMENS--

I CAN SEE WHAT THEY SHOW, CAPTAIN BRENNER! AND NONE OF IT MAKES ANY SENSE!



LIGHTS! ALL RIGHT!... WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THE TOP!

"YES, SIR. ANIMALS AS FAR AS FIFTEEN MILES AWAY WERE DESTROYED IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, AND--"



-- AND PACE HIMSELF IS DEAD!



I'D SAY HE SUCCEEDED AT HIS JOB A BIT TOO WELL!

MAYBE NOT, SIR. SOMETHING IS STILL ALIVE DOWN IN LIBERTY!



YES, SOMETHING!

AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHO--



--OR WHAT THAT THING IS!



PUT THE BASE ON FULL ALERT, BRENNER! SEE THAT ARMS ARE ISSUED TO ALL PERSONNEL!

I'M GOING TO TAKE A DETAIL DOWN INTO LIBERTY--

-- AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT WENT WRONG AND WHAT THAT-- THAT THING HAD TO DO WITH IT!

WHAT IF WE GET A CALL FROM WASHINGTON IN YOUR ABSENCE, MAJOR TREMENS?

TELL THEM TO GO HANG, CAPTAIN BRENNER!

FLOATER BAY 3

NOT A WORD OF THIS IS TO GET OUT! IS THAT CLEAR, GENTLEMEN?

QUITE A GAME YOU'RE PLAYING, DEL! HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MUZZLE THIS THING?

UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS, DOC!

YES SIR.

ONCE I KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST, WASHINGTON'LL GET A FULL REPORT!

WELL, THEY'RE YOUR STARS, MAJOR!

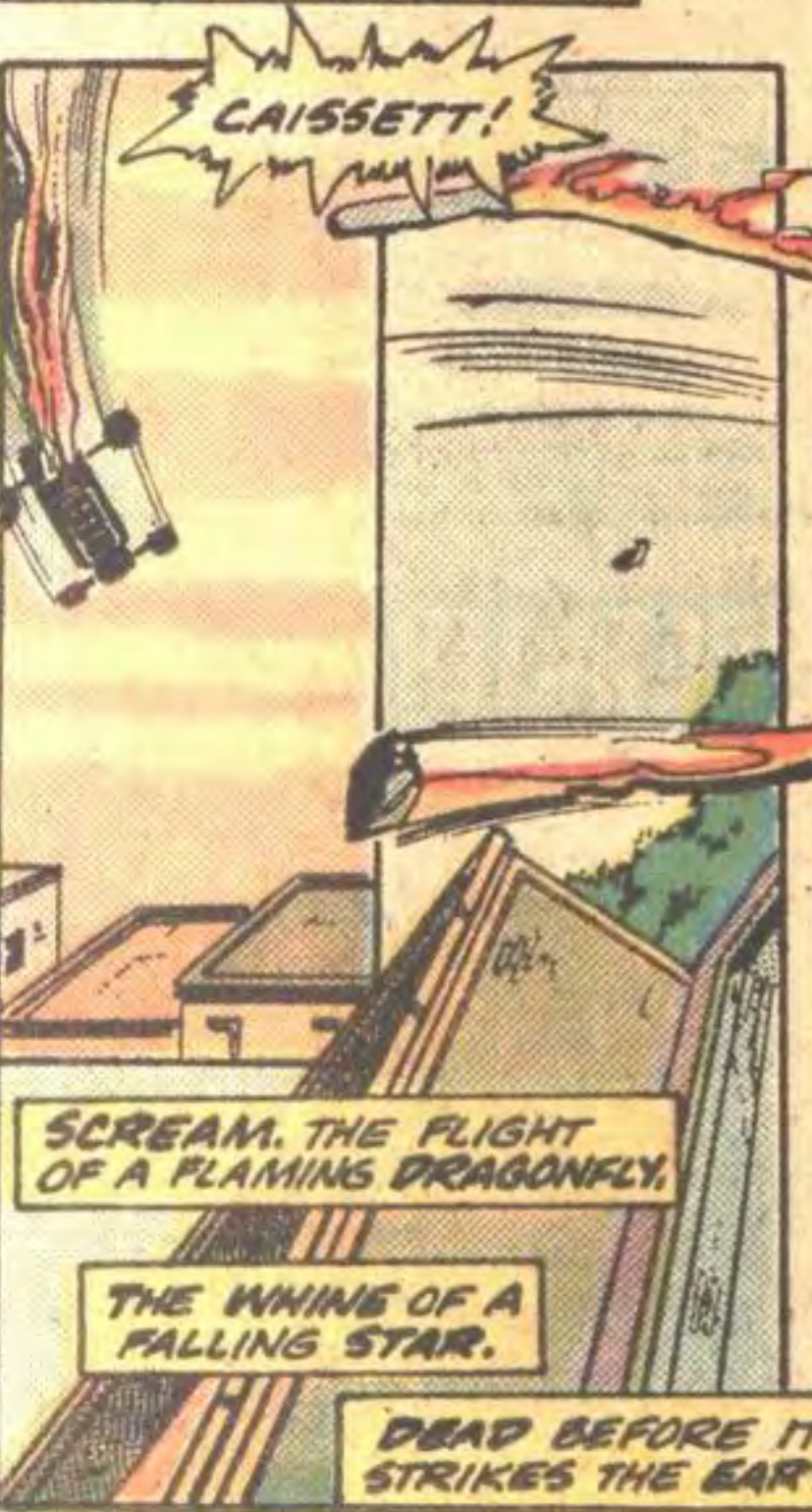
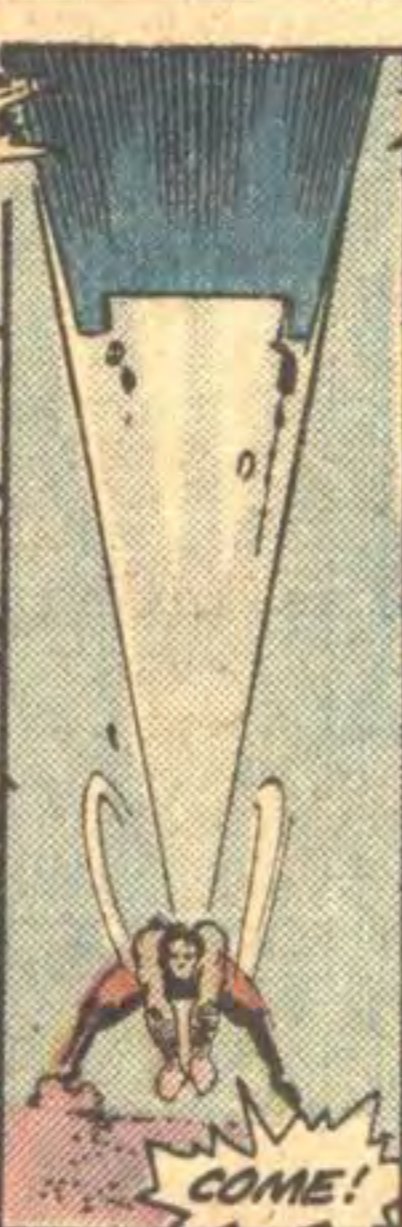
GO TO BLAZES, DOC... AND QUIT TRYING TO BE A BACK-SEAT PILOT!

YOU NEVER COULD FLY A 'FLOATER'!

SCREAM AGAIN...OF PLASMA-JETS...



GLINTING IN THE MIDDAY SUN LIKE ANGELS... SILVER SCREAM OF FLIGHT. DRAGONFLIES...?



SCREAM. THE FLIGHT OF A FLAMING DRAGONFLY.

THE WHINE OF A FALLING STAR.

DEAD BEFORE IT STRIKES THE EARTH.

MORE? DO YOU WANT MORE, MAN?

READY YOUR MORTARS, FLOATER 2!

PRIMED AND READIED, MAJOR! SKIMMING IN LOW TO GET A GOOD SHOT!

THERE IT IS! STANDING RIGHT SMACK IN FRONT OF--

FLOATER 2! FLOATER 2! ANSWER... ANSWER... IT-- IT'S GRABBED ONTO US!



FLIPPING US OVER!

DEAR GOD! THE FLOATER'S COMING DOWN ON TOP OF--



FLOATER 1 IS... SILENT, DEL!

I HEARD IT, DOC! I HEARD IT!

NO MORE SCREAM, MAN!

NO MORE PAIN!

I WILL KILL YOU, MAN!

I WILL KILL YOU!





OPEN UP ON IT, DOC! BLAST THAT FREAKING THING!

PTOOM
PTOOM



AGAIN? AGAIN?!

I DID NOT ASK FOR THIS, MAN!

PTOOM

YOU GAVE THE SCREAM TO WOOD. GOD! YOU!



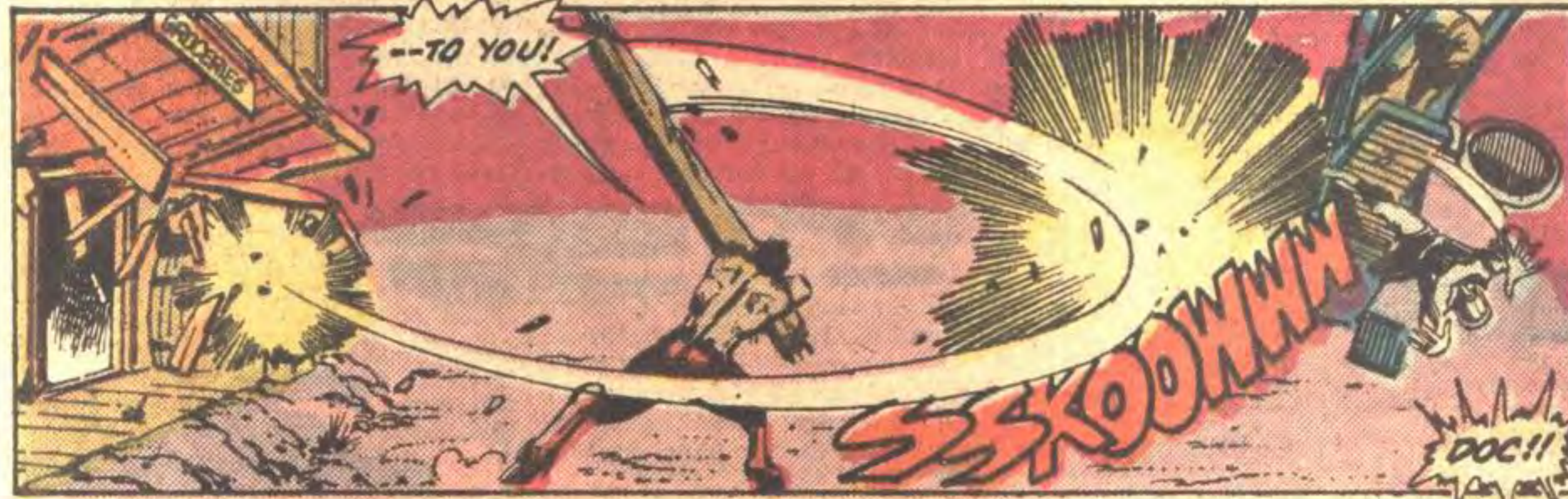
IT-- IT CAN TALK, DOC!!



JUST STOP IT, DEL! WE CAN ASK IT QUESTIONS LATER!

WHEN IT'S DEAD!

NOW WOODGOD WILL GIVE THE SCREAM--



--TO YOU!

SKOOOOWWW

DOC!!



IT'S ON ME, DEL! IT'S--

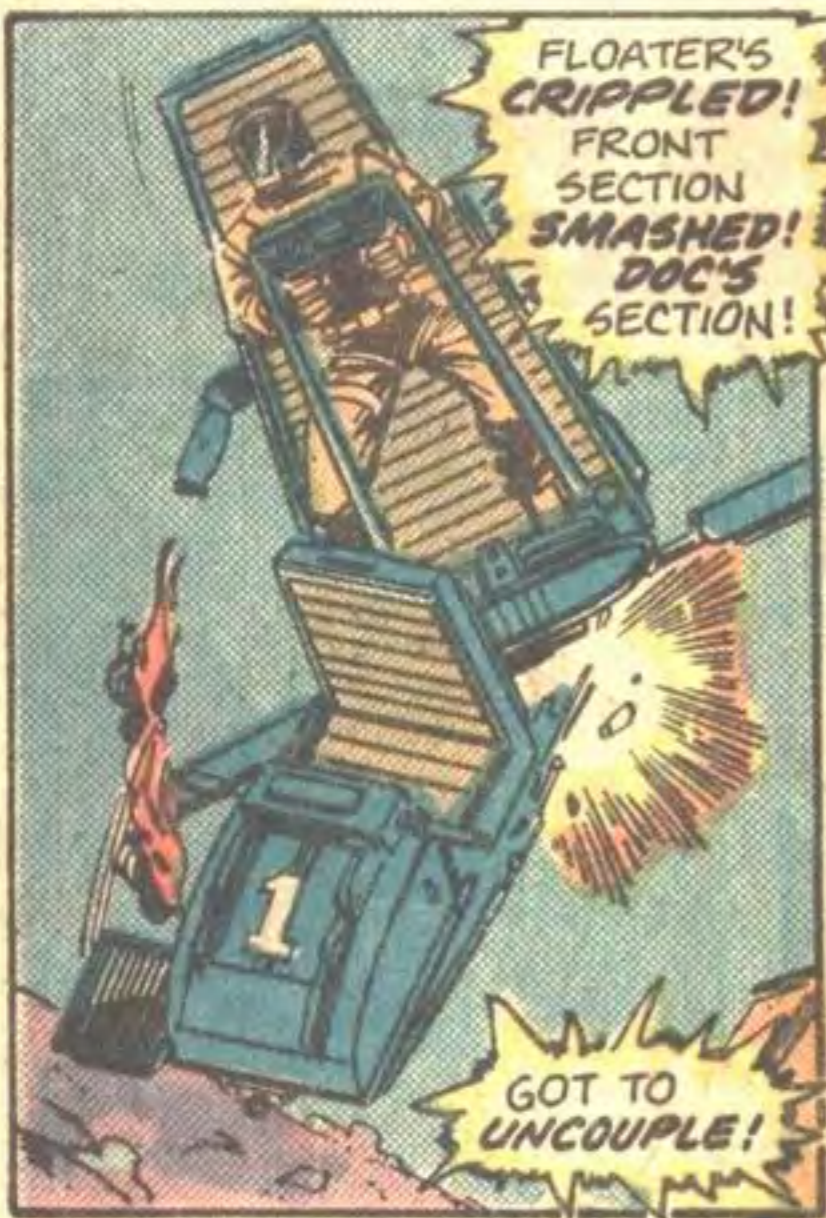


DOC!!

MAN IS BORN OF SCREAM... MAN DIES OF SCREAM!

GO TO SCREAM, MAN!

STRAMMM



FLOATER'S CRIPPLED!
FRONT SECTION SMASHED!
DOC'S SECTION!

GOT TO UNCOUPLE!



YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, MONSTER!

PLOW PLOW



THE SCREAM OF MORTAR-FIRE... KICKING THE FLOATER BACK WITH EACH BURST...



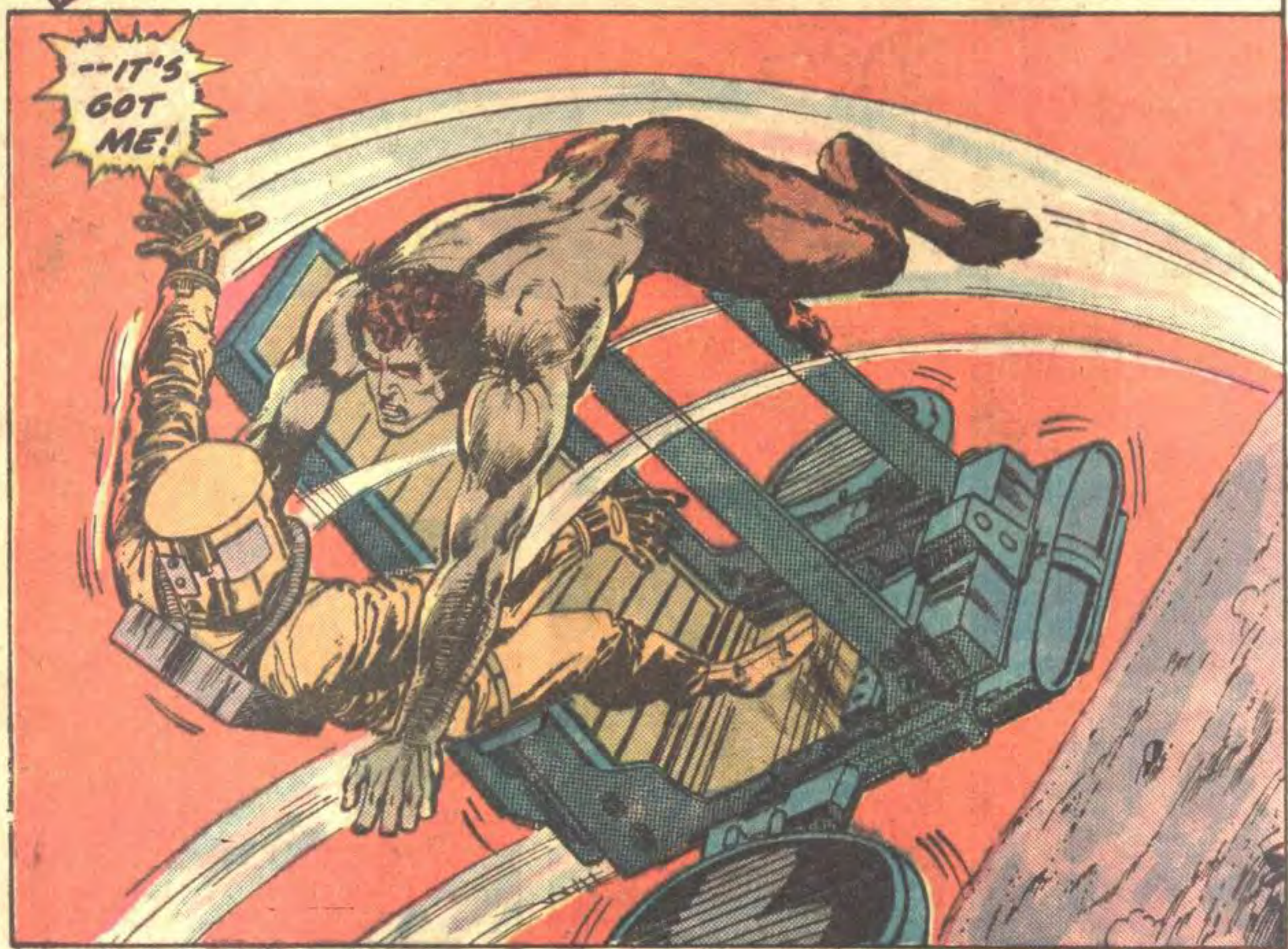
... RIPPING THE PURPLE DUST... TEARING BLOOD/MUSCLE/ BONE IN A SYMPHONY OF SCREAM.

ANIMAL.
ANIMAL.
ANIMAL.



SCREAM!

MORTARS DIDN'T STOP IT! IT--



--IT'S GOT ME!



SCREAM, MAN!

TASTE SCREAM!

DRINK SCREAM!

SCREAM!



IF IT SMASHES MY FACE-SHIELD I'M FINISHED!

GAS'LL GET ME BEFORE I CAN BLINK!



THIS IS PAIN, MAN! FRIEND TO SCREAM!

YOU BROUGHT PAIN!



YOU WILL HAVE PAIN BACK!



WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



I--



WHY DOESN'T THE GAS KILL YOU?

WHY ARE YOU ALIVE? WHAT IN GOD'S NAME COULD HAVE FATHERED A THING LIKE YOU?



I-- -- FATHER?

FATHER IS DEAD!



WHAT IN--? FATHER? HIS FATHER IS DEAD? OH MY GOD!

FACE!! YOU MADMAN!



MAN MEANS NOTHING!

SCREAM HAS TAKEN FATHER--

MADMAN--



-- SCREAM WILL TAKE WOODGOD!

-- YOU WERE MAD, PACE--



WE ARE ALL SCREAM!

-- AND THAT-- THAT THING IS GOING TO HAVE TO PAY FOR IT!

GOD HELP US ALL!

THE END?