

# PROLOGUE:

THIS IS THE CITY:  
LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA, AT  
TWILIGHT.

NIGHT COMES...  
AND WITH IT,  
THE RITUAL  
EXODUS FROM  
THE CITY.

ON THE FREEWAYS -- THE MASSIVE  
EIGHT-LANE ROADS THAT TIE THE  
CITY TO ITS SUBURBS -- TRAFFIC  
CRAWLS, BUMPER-TO-BUMPER.

THE WORKDAY IS OVER,  
AND THE SMOG HANGS  
OVER L.A. LIKE A SHROUD.

AND THE SIDEWALKS, TOO, TEEM  
WITH HOMEWARD-BOUND CITIZENS--

--AND SOME WHO  
CANNOT LEAVE  
JUST YET...

PA NG

...LIKE  
THIS GIRL,  
THIS  
BARBARA  
CLARK.

THAT  
SHOPPING  
EXCURSION  
TOOK  
LONGER  
THAN I  
THOUGHT.

IT'S PAST  
EIGHT  
O'CLOCK.

THE PARKING ATTENDANT HAS  
LONG SINCE GONE HOME, AND  
BARBARA'S IS THE ONLY CAR THAT  
REMAINS.

SO THIS  
GIRL FEELS  
VERY...  
ALONE.

AS SHE FUMBLES FOR HER  
KEYS, A CURIOUS CHILL  
RUNS UP HER SPINE...!

A CHILL BORN  
NOT OF  
COLD... BUT OF  
DREAD.

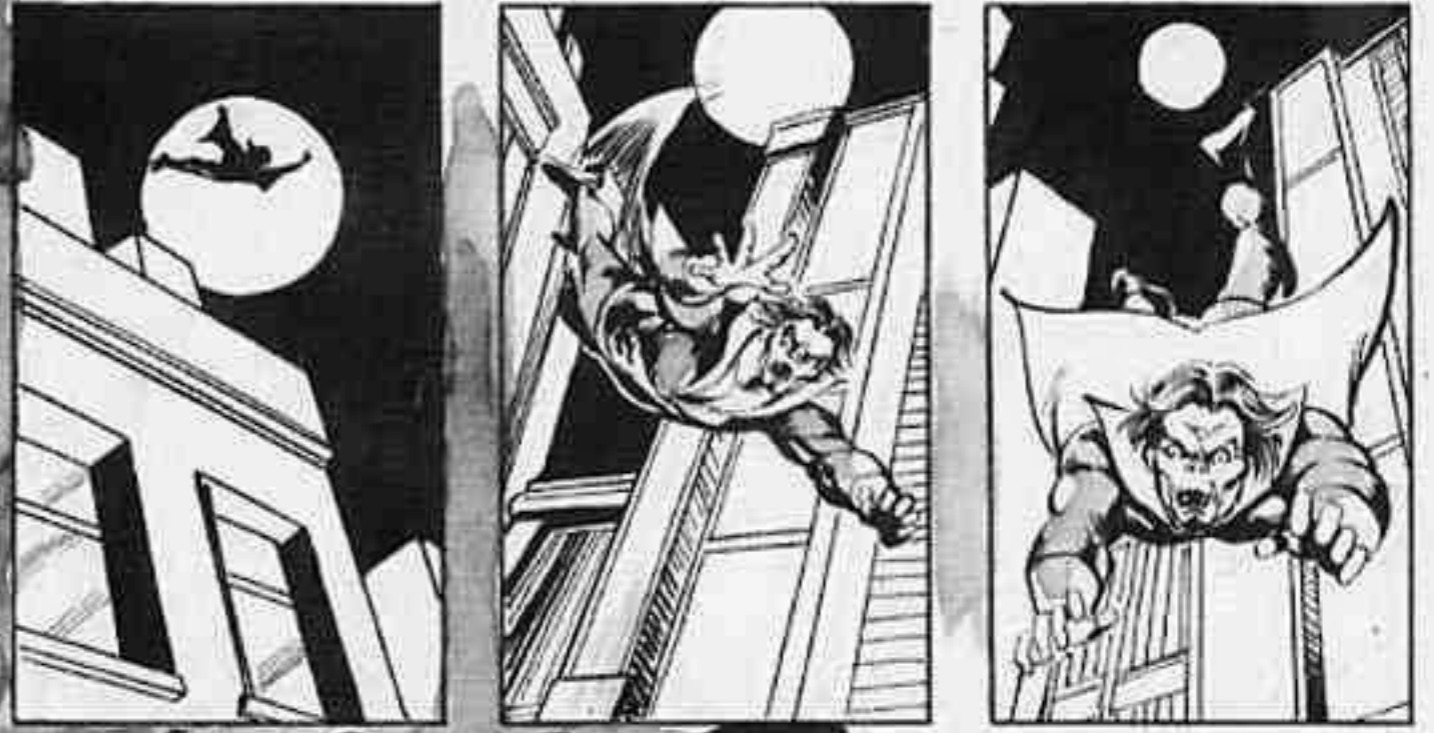
IT IS  
THEN  
THAT A  
STRANGE  
SOUND  
REACHES  
HER EARS.

WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

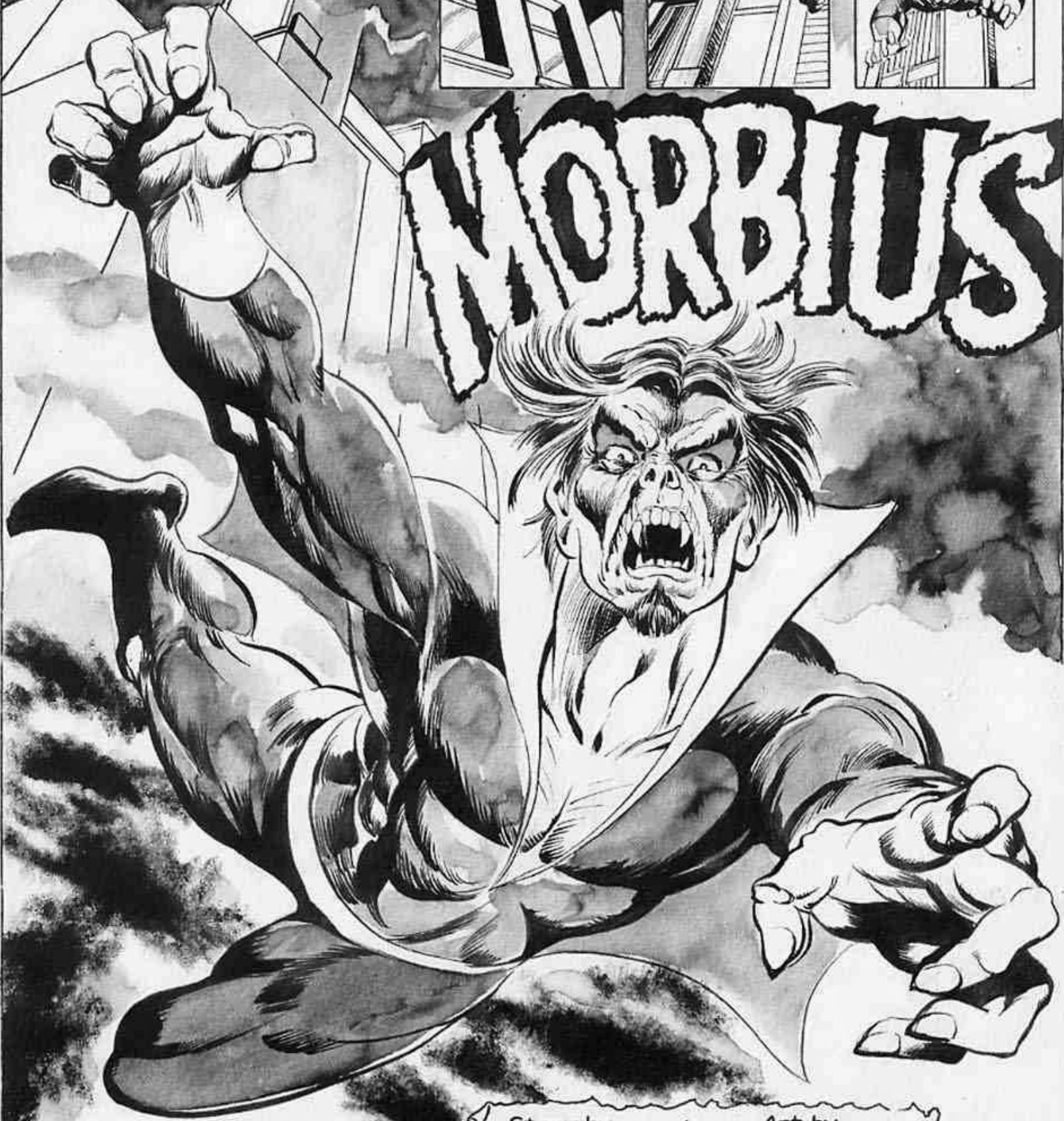
SHE WHIRLS--  
GLANCES UPWARD--

--AND  
HER  
FACE  
FREEZES  
WITH  
FEAR!

FOR IT IS THE SOUND OF WIND WHISTLING ON VINYL WINGS-- OF A HOLLOW-BONED MAN GLIDING ON THE SKY--! THE SOUND OF TERROR, OF IMPENDING DEATH, OF--



# MORBIUS



Story by STEVE GERBER \* Art by PABLO MARCOS

**MORBIUS! HE WHO HUNGERS AS NO MAN SHOULD HUNGER!**

**MORBIUS! HE WHO THRIVES ON BLOOD TORN FROM OTHERS' VEINS!**



IT IS... GOOD. GOOD. I AM SATISFIED.

THE BLOOD WARMS ME... BRINGS THE FEEL OF LIFE TO MY BONES.

AND YET...

MY GOD--! WHAT HAVE I DONE?! MY HUNGER IS APPEASED--  
BUT MY SOUL CRIES OUT IN TORMENT!



THE WOUND-- SO HIDEOUS! YET-- I INFLICTED IT!

MY LIPS DREW THE LIFE FROM HER-- MY JAWS RENT HER FLESH!

I AM A MURDERER-- WORSE, A MONSTER! I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK!  
I MUST GET AWAY!





MUST HIDE--  
WHERE NONE  
CAN SEE  
ME--!

-- WHERE I  
CANNOT  
SEE  
MYSELF!



HAVE I BROKEN  
FREE OF XAVIER  
AND HIS MUTANTS--  
TRAVELLED ACROSS  
A CONTINENT--



-- ONLY TO  
BECOME THIS?  
A MAD  
PREDATOR--!

A--  
VAMPIRE?



"IF ONLY I HAD LET  
MYSELF DIE-- NOT  
ATTEMPTED TO CURE  
THE BLOOD DISEASE  
THAT WAS EATING  
AWAY AT ME, KILLING  
ME--!\*

\* SPIDER-MAN  
#101.  
--R.T



"FOR IT WAS  
THAT ATTEMPT  
WHICH MADE ME  
WHAT I AM --

"-- AND COST POOR  
NIKOS HIS LIFE!

"MY CLOSEST  
FRIEND-- SLAIN  
BY THE MONSTER  
WHO ONCE WAS  
MICHAEL MORBIUS!



**M**ICHAEL MORBIUS-- GONE FROM NOBEL LAUREATE TO PRIZE FIEND-- FIGHTING ALL WHO STOOD BETWEEN HIM AND HIS LUST FOR BLOOD! THE LIZARD --- SPIDER-MAN-- EVEN MY EX-COLLEAGUE HANS JORGENSEN--!

**I** EVEN FORSOOK LOVE-- THE LOVE OF MARTINE-- MY DARLING MARTINE!"



**BUT NO MORE!**  
I HAVE COME HERE SEEKING HER-- AND SEEKING HELP!

**AND I SHALL FIND BOTH!**  
I SWEAR IT!



WAIT-- I DARE NOT WALK THE STREETS IN THIS GARB!

I MUST HAVE-- A DISGUISE OF SOME SORT.



FORTUNE IS WITH ME. SURELY IN THERE WILL BE WHAT I NEED.



FURIOUSLY, THE VAMPIRE RUMMAGES THROUGH THE BOX OF DISCARDED CLOTHING, UNTIL, ONE GARMENT FROM THE BOTTOM--!

AT LAST!

IT IS WORN-- AND ITS ODOR DOES NOT PLEASE ME-- BUT IT WILL SUFFICE FOR NOW.

--ALREADY BEGINNING TO SWARM WITH THE CITY'S NIGHTLIFE.



THUS, MORBIUS TAKES TO THE STREETS--



EYES DARTING FROM FACE TO FACE IN THE CROWD, HE WALKS ON, AIMLESSLY--

AND BEFORE LONG, HIS WANDERINGS FIND HIM ON THE SUNSET STRIP...



# SPECTRUM

goodies for your head

CURIOUS... MANY AMONG THE THRONG ARE AS ODDLY DRESSED AS I!



FIRST NAMES ONLY... I LIKE THAT. AND I'VE JUST HAD A FLASH, MORBIUS...

... ON HOW TO FIND THIS LOST LADY OF YOURS.

THERE'S A CRYSTAL-GAZER-- A MYSTIC-- I MET THROUGH THE CULT.

"MISSING PERSONS" IS HER SPECIALTY!



YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! AN OLD HAG WITH A BALL OF GLASS?!

I AM A SCIENTIST, GIRL! I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN SUCH NONSENSE--

--MUCH LESS PATRONIZE IT!



MORBIUS, THAT'S STUPID! EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE--

OR WE PART COMPANY HERE. DIG?

WHAT CAN YOU LOSE? I INSIST WE TRY!

THEN... I HAVE LITTLE CHOICE.



"YOU, CAROLYN, ARE THE ONLY BEING IN THIS CITY WHOM I CAN CALL 'FRIEND'. WHERE YOU LEAD--!"



THIS IS IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MADAME LAERA READER & ADVISOR

ODDLY DULL, FOR A MYSTIC.

SHE MAKES NO PRETENSIONS TO CLASS, AT ANY RATE.







**BUT, UPON ENTERING, MORBIUS STARTS--!**

I MAY YET BE TEMPTED TO... **RETRACT THAT ASSESSMENT.**

**MADAME LAERA!**  
HELLO--?

ISN'T IT **FANTASTIC?**

EXOTIC... IN THE MANNER OF A **CURIO SHOP.**

**AND NOW, MORBIUS STANDS ASTOUNDED-- FOR SHE WHO RESPONDS TO CAROLYN'S CALL IS NO... HAG.**



WHO WISHES **AUDIENCE WITH ME?**



**YOU... ARE MADAME LAERA?!**

MY FRIEND IS **LOOKING** FOR SOMEONE... A WOMAN.



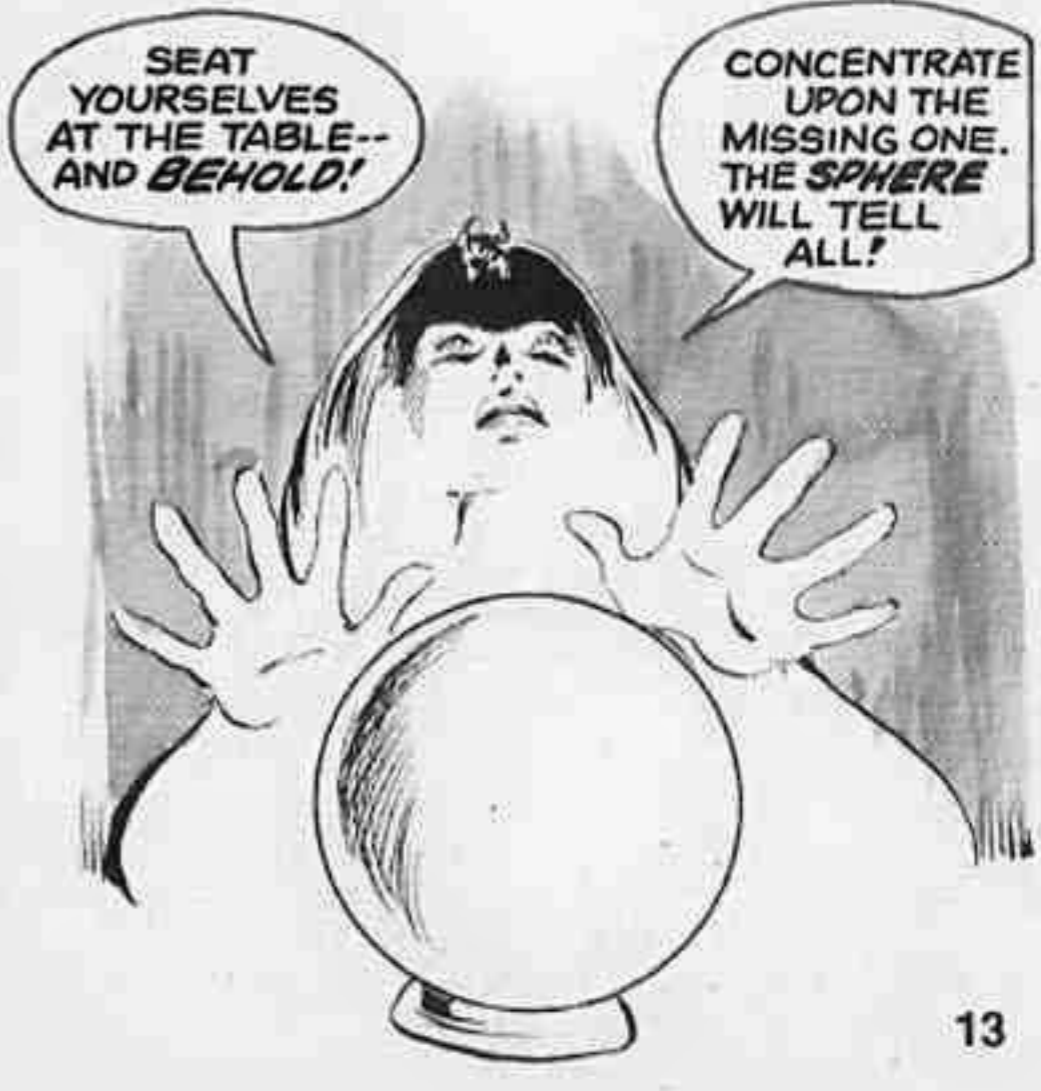
I TOLD HIM **YOU MIGHT** BE ABLE TO LOCATE HER. IS IT POSSIBLE?

FEW THINGS ARE **NOT...** WHEN ONE HAS **FAITH.**



AND **IF** ONE IS WILLING TO **PAY** FOR THEM.

AH... YOU **NOD.** EXCELLENT. LET US **BEGIN.**



**SEAT YOURSELVES AT THE TABLE-- AND BEHOLD!**

**CONCENTRATE UPON THE MISSING ONE. THE SPHERE WILL TELL ALL!**

AND SO, SHE BEGINS A  
MACABRE CHANT--

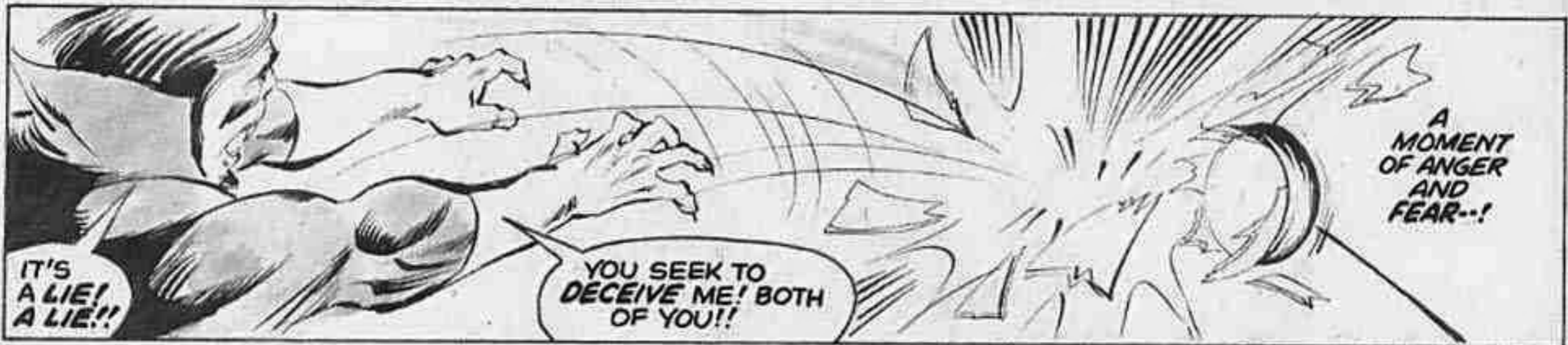


KATAMA  
OMERATA  
HALU  
ASSEM  
RABIS!



MARTINE--!  
DEAD!  
NO--IT  
CANNOT BE!

--AND MISTS BEGIN TO SWIRL WITHIN THE CRYSTAL, REVEALING:



IT'S  
A LIE!  
A LIE!!

YOU SEEK TO  
DECEIVE ME! BOTH  
OF YOU!!

A  
MOMENT  
OF ANGER  
AND  
FEAR--!



--AND OF  
GRIEVOUS  
CONSEQUENCE!  
FOR, THE  
MISTS  
WITHIN THE  
CRYSTAL--

--NOW BEGIN  
TO SWIRL  
WITHOUT--  
AND TAKE  
LOATHSOME  
FORM!



THICKLY-HIDED HANDS  
REACH OUT AND  
SEIZE THE VAMPIRE--!



YOU... MUST...

DIE!



WAS IT YOU WHO PUT THAT VISION IN THE SPHERE?

I AM--NILRAC!  
I AM TO KILL!  
KILL IS NILRAC!



YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES,  
DEMON!

ANSWER  
ME! I  
DEMAND  
IT!



NILRAC IS NOT  
RIDDLES--OR VISIONS!

NILRAC IS  
TO KILL!

...TO  
KILL.

THEN, DID  
YOU KILL THE  
GIRL IN THE  
SPHERE?



THROW  
DEATH  
AT YOU!  
KILL!

YOU MUST  
TELL ME! I  
MUST KNOW!



NILRAC IS KILL--  
SEES ONLY KILL!

CAN'T YOU SEE--  
YOU'RE DRIVING  
ME MAD?!



SEE ONLY  
KILL--  
OTHERS, AND  
YOU!



KILL ME,  
THEN! BUT  
ANSWER--!



UHH--!  
HE SPITS  
FIRE!

UNTIL THIS MOMENT, MORBIUS HAS NOT TRULY BELIEVED THAT THIS FOE WAS ANY MORE A "DEMON" THAN HE.

BUT NOW, HE BACKS AWAY-- AFRAID! AND EVEN AS HE DOES, ANOTHER KIND OF HORROR COMES UPON HIM-- THIS ONE FROM WITHIN!



THE HUNGER-- THE BLOODLUST-- THAT MAKES OF HIM AN ANIMAL-- DRIVES ALL REASON FROM HIM! HE MUST HAVE BLOOD!

ANYONE'S BLOOD... ANY THING'S BLOOD!



WITH POWER BORN OF MADNESS, HE DIVES!

THE DEMON TOPPLES-- AND ON HIS FEATURES--

--FEAR WEAVES A HIDEOUS TAPESTRY!



NILRAC IS... TO BE KILLED!

I MUST DRINK THE WINE OF LIFE...!



LOOK NOW UPON A SIGHT NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY MAN: THE RAZOR-SHARP FANGS OF A BLOOD-CRAZED VAMPIRE--

-- SINKING SLOWLY-- DEEPLY...

... INTO THE ECTOPLASMIC UN-FLESH OF A DEMON!



NO!!

HE DIES-- BUT HE HAS NO BLOOD!

NO BLOOD!

HE BURSTS INTO FLAME-- WHILE I YET HUNGER!



BUT I MUST HAVE BLOOD-- ANYONE'S-- AT ANY COST!



YOURS! YOU MADE THE CRYSTAL LIE!

NO--NO! I SWEAR IT!

YOU SAW THE TRUTH!



DID I -- DID I?

THIS IS TRUTH, LAERA! THE HUNGER-- THE PAIN-- THE NECTAR!

MARTINE LIVES-- BUT YOU MUST DIE!





CAN HE REALLY BE--  
A VAMPIRE? IT'S  
MAD--FRIGHTENING--  
AND FASCINATING!

AGAIN I HAVE  
SLAIN FOR BLOOD!  
AGAIN!

CAROLYN...  
HELP ME!  
TAKE ME  
FROM THIS  
PLACE--!

BUT WHERE--  
WHERE-- CAN  
WE RUN?



TO  
MY  
PAD!  
HURRY!



AND SO, SOMETIME  
LATER, AT CAROLYN'S--  
MORBIUS TELLS ALL.

THEN-- YOU'RE  
FOR REAL?  
FAR OUT!

YOU  
FIND MY  
AFFLICTION...  
AMUSING?

DO YOU  
NOT SEE IN  
IT THE  
DANGER TO  
YOURSELF?



I DARE NOT  
RISK YOUR  
LIFE BY  
REMAINING  
HERE!



BUT... YOU  
CAN'T JUST  
LET YOURSELF  
RUN WILD...  
MURDERING  
PEOPLE--!

PLEASE--  
MY SOUL IS  
TORTURED  
ENOUGH--!

GOODBYE,  
CAROLYN.



I MUST  
GO... BEFORE  
DAWN.



THUS, MORNING FINDS  
MORBIUS ASLEEP ON  
THE ROACH-INFESTED  
FLOOR OF A DANK  
WAREHOUSE  
SUB-CELLAR...

... DREAMING OF  
THE NIGHTMARE  
HE WILL LIVE  
WHEN EVENING  
FALLS ONCE  
MORE.

FINIS