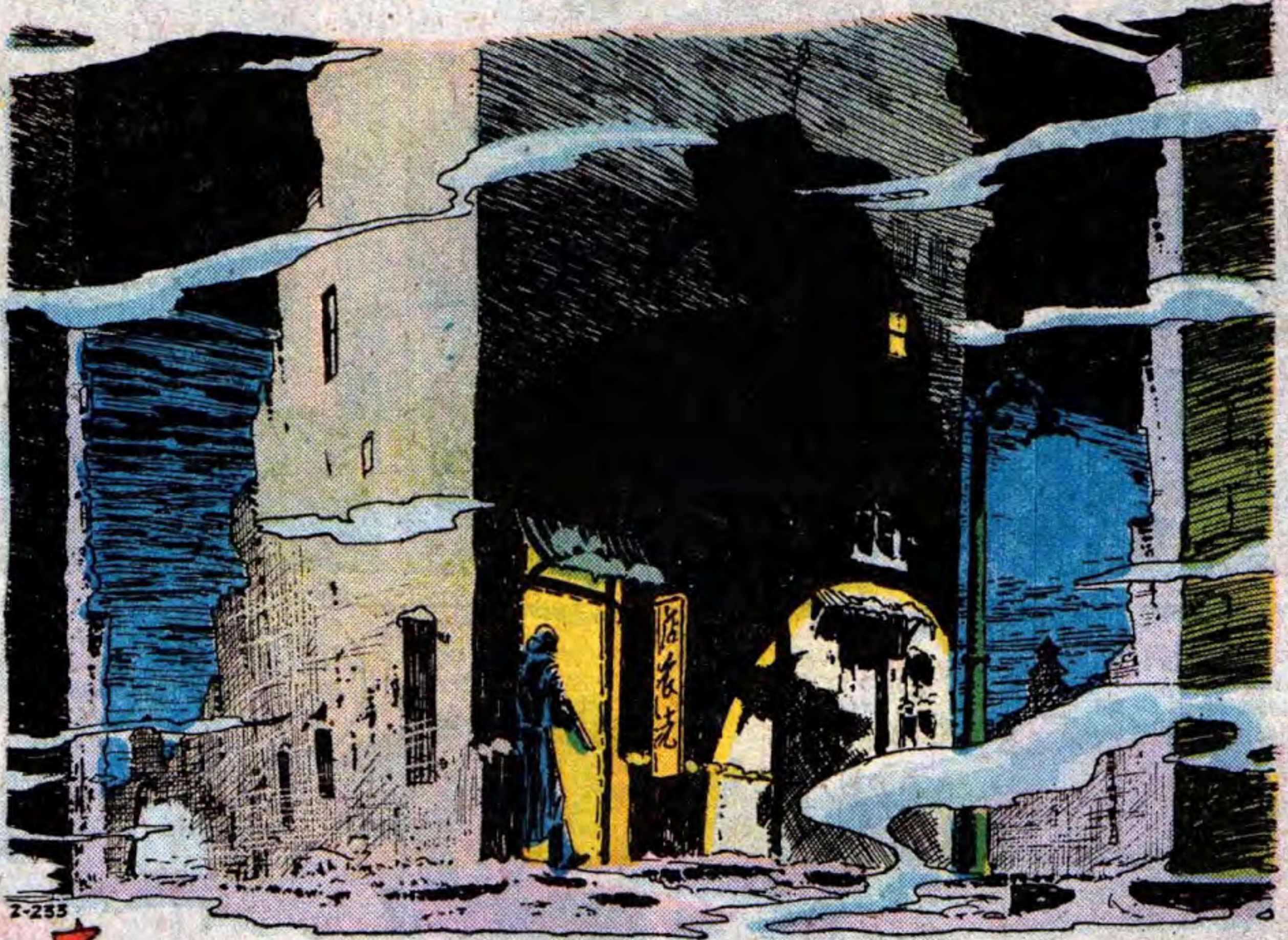


CHINATOWN

IT IS ONE OF THOSE WINTER NIGHTS WHEN THE SKY FALLS LIKE A SHROUD TO COVER THE SLEEPING CITY... TENDRILS OF FOG COLD AS SKELETON'S FINGERS TOUCH ALL AND THERE IS A MUFFLED STILLNESS BROKEN ONLY BY DISTANT MOANS... BODING OF **EVIL** GRIPS MANHATTAN THIS CHILL HOUR...



THE WINDING STREET IS **DESERTED** EXCEPT FOR A HUSKY MAN WITH THE MARK OF **VIOLENCE** ON HIS FACE AND A DEADLY **WEAPON** CRADLED IN HIS ARMS, STANDING AS A **SENTRY** IN FRONT OF A DIMLY LIT DOORWAY, UNAWARE OF THE FIGURE MATERIALIZING FROM THE MISTS OF THE SHADOWS...

NIGHT OF THE NINJA

DENNY O'NEIL and MICHAEL WM. KALUTA
RACONTEURS

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HEY, BOSS!
WAIT A
MINNIT!

YOU WERE
TOLD TO KEEP
WATCH,
SHREVVY--



--WHY DO YOU
DISOBEY?

OUR MAN AT POLICE
HEADQUARTERS JUST
DELIVERED A MESSAGE!
A RAIDING PARTY'S
ON THE WAY HERE! I
FIGURED YOU'D WANNA
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
CHARGING INSIDE!

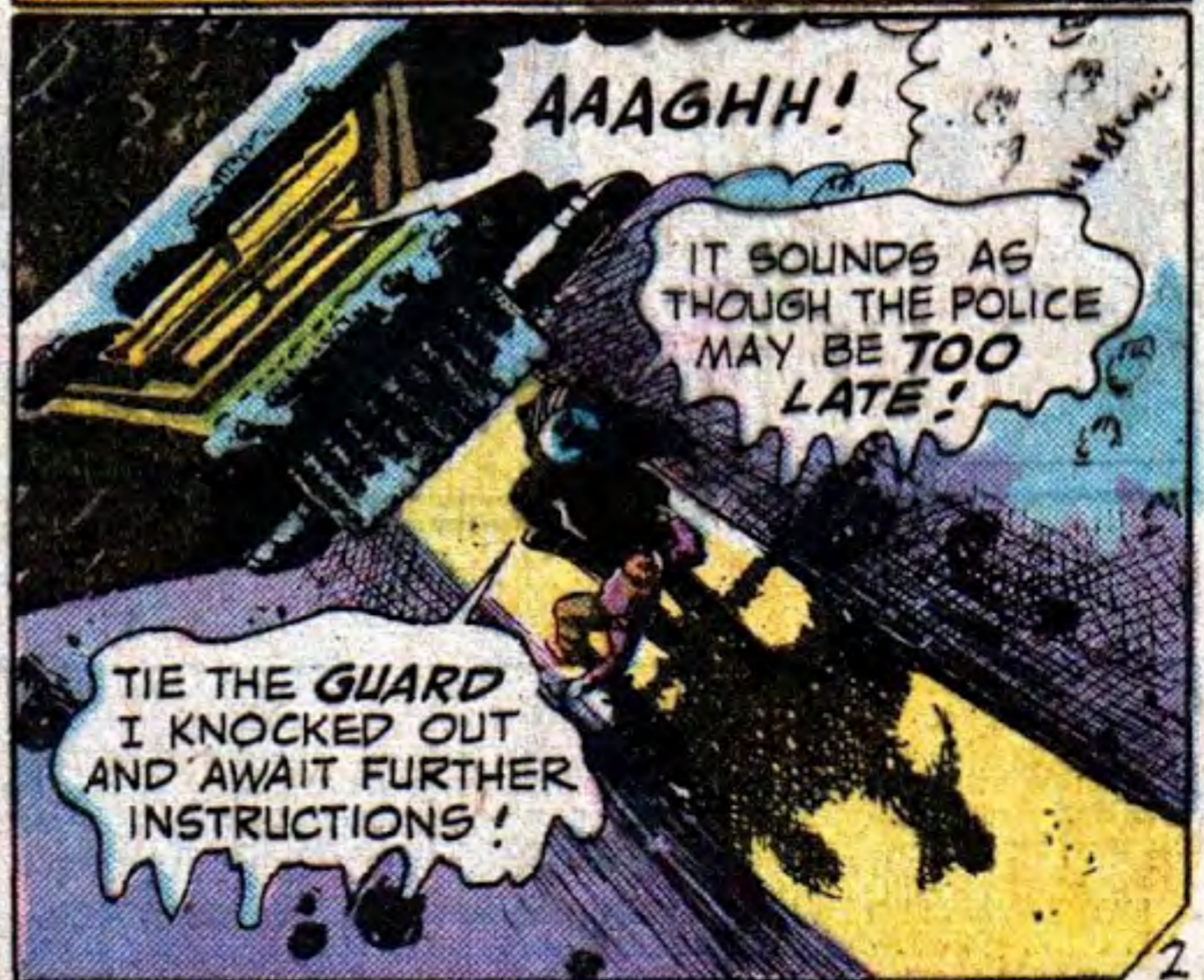
YOU MIGHT BE
TRAPPED!



I MIGHT INDEED!
YOU'VE DONE WELL TO
TELL ME, SHREVVY! I'LL
LET THE LAW HANDLE
THE MCMASTER MOB!

WE'LL WAIT AND
SNARE ANY WHO
ESCAPE THE
RAIDERS!

THEN-- A SCREAM SHRILLS INTO THE AIR...



AAAGHH!

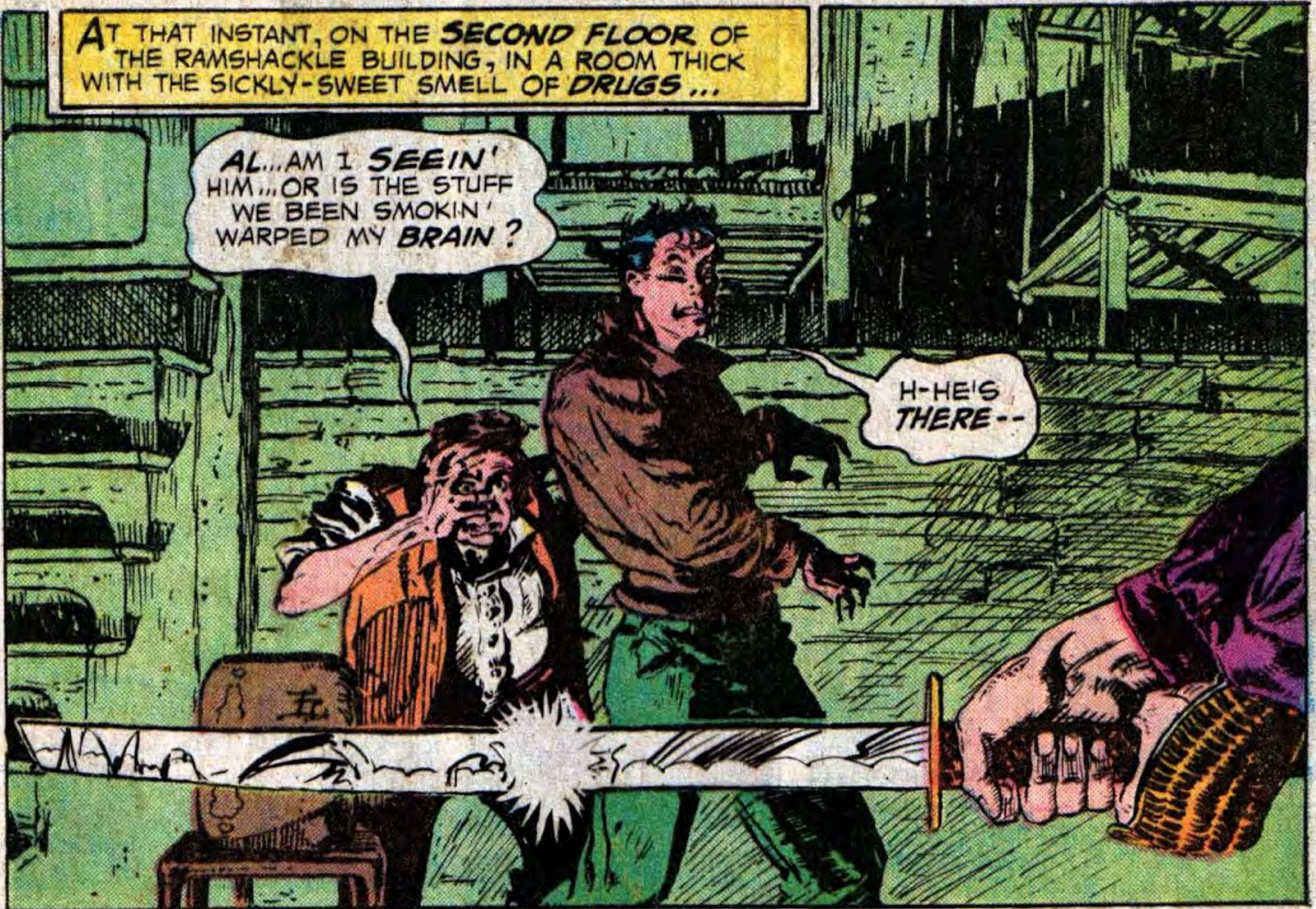
IT SOUNDS AS
THOUGH THE POLICE
MAY BE TOO
LATE!

TIE THE GUARD
I KNOCKED OUT
AND AWAIT FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS!

AT THAT INSTANT, ON THE **SECOND FLOOR** OF THE RAMSHACKLE BUILDING, IN A ROOM THICK WITH THE SICKLY-SWEET SMELL OF **DRUGS** ...

AL...AM I **SEEIN'** HIM...OR IS THE STUFF WE BEEN SMOKIN' **WARPED** MY **BRAIN**?

H-HE'S **THERE--**



--AN' HE'S **KILLED MANNY!**

MY MITTS ARE LIKE **SAUSAGES**... CAN'T GET MY **GAT!**

YOU WON'T **NEED IT--**



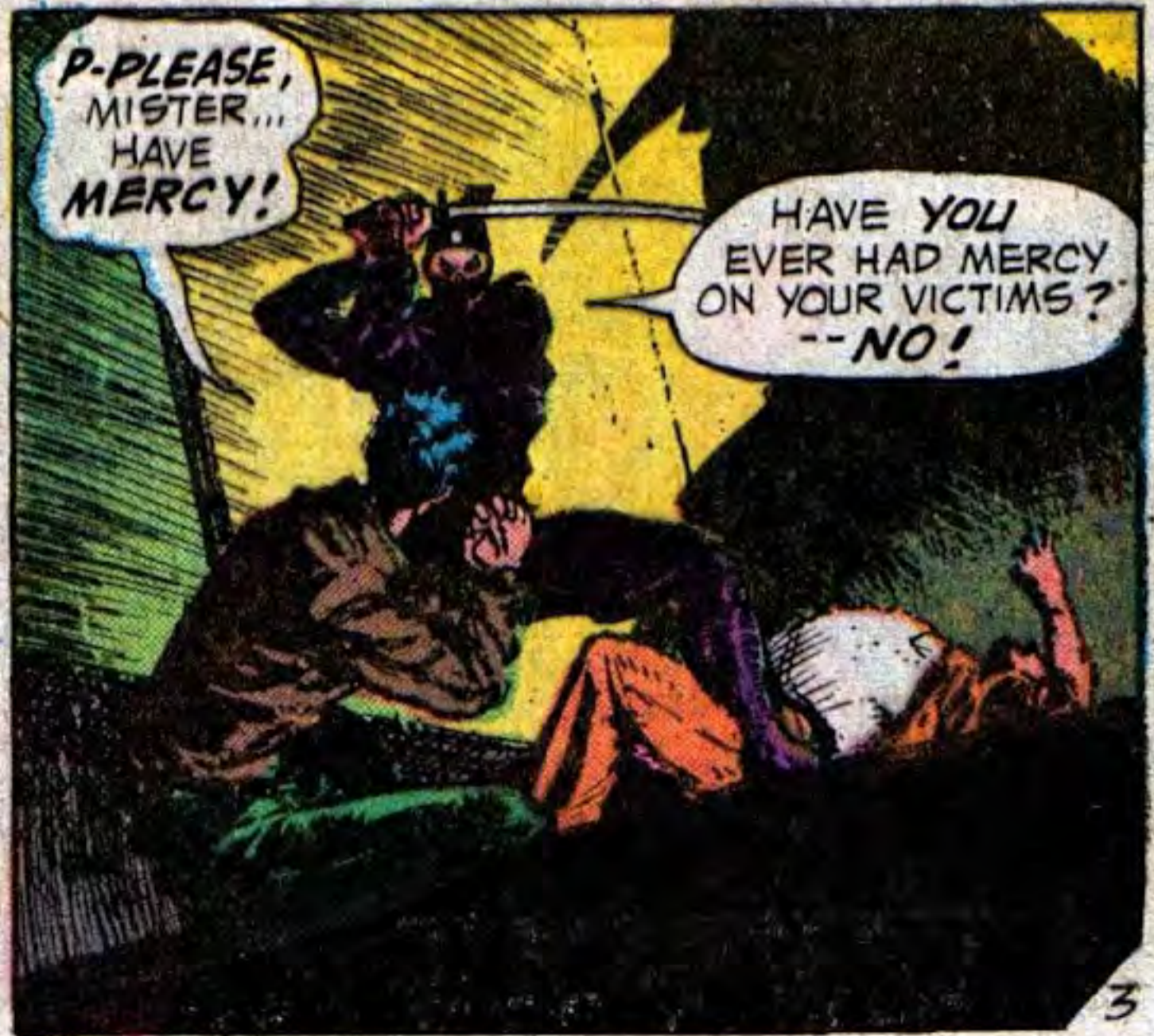
--IN **HELL!**

UGGHH



P-PLEASE, MISTER... **HAVE MERCY!**

HAVE YOU **EVER HAD MERCY** ON YOUR **VICTIMS?** --**NO!**



BUT, BEFORE THE BLADE CAN DESCEND, AN AUTOMATIC SPITS --



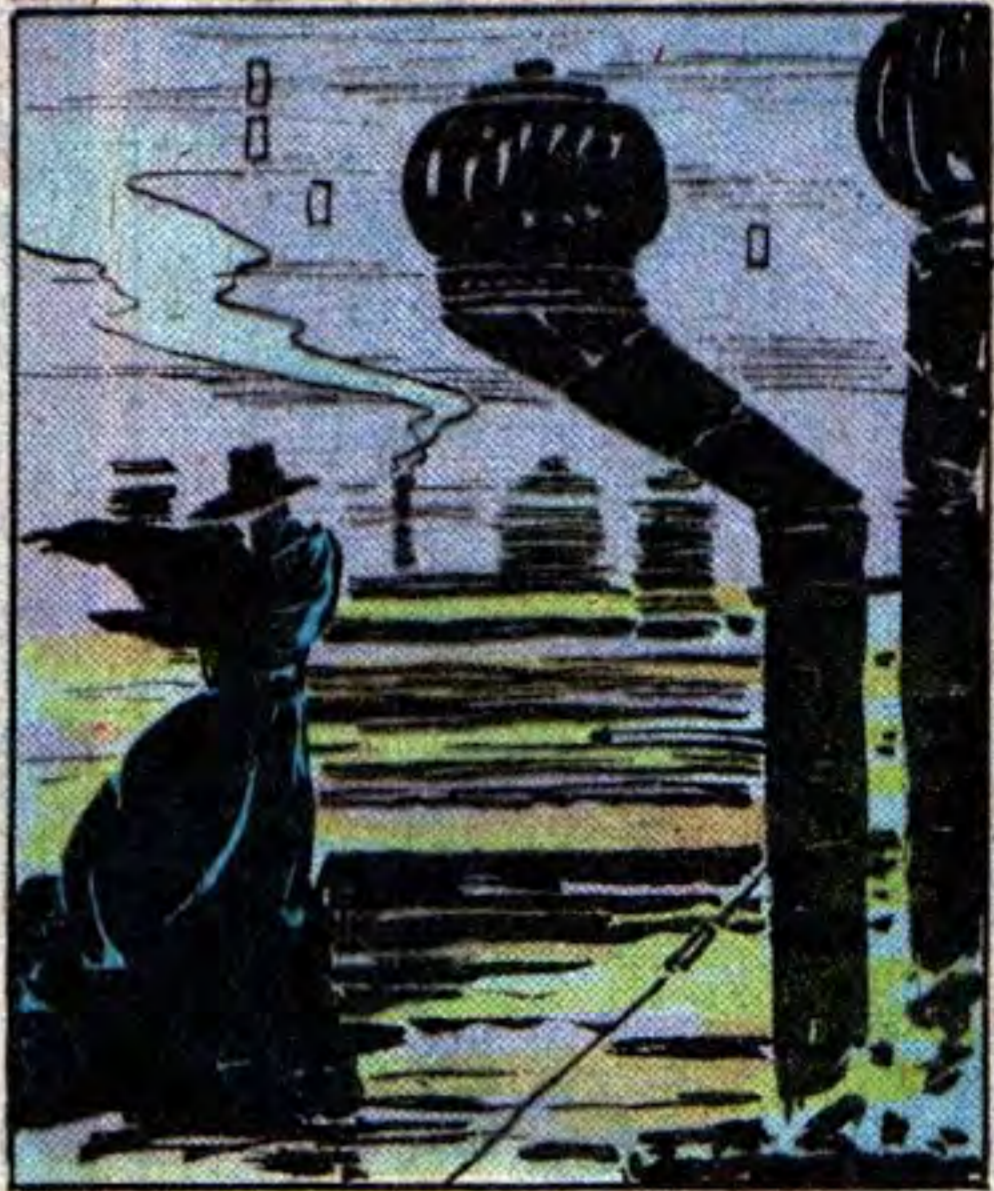
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FATHER!



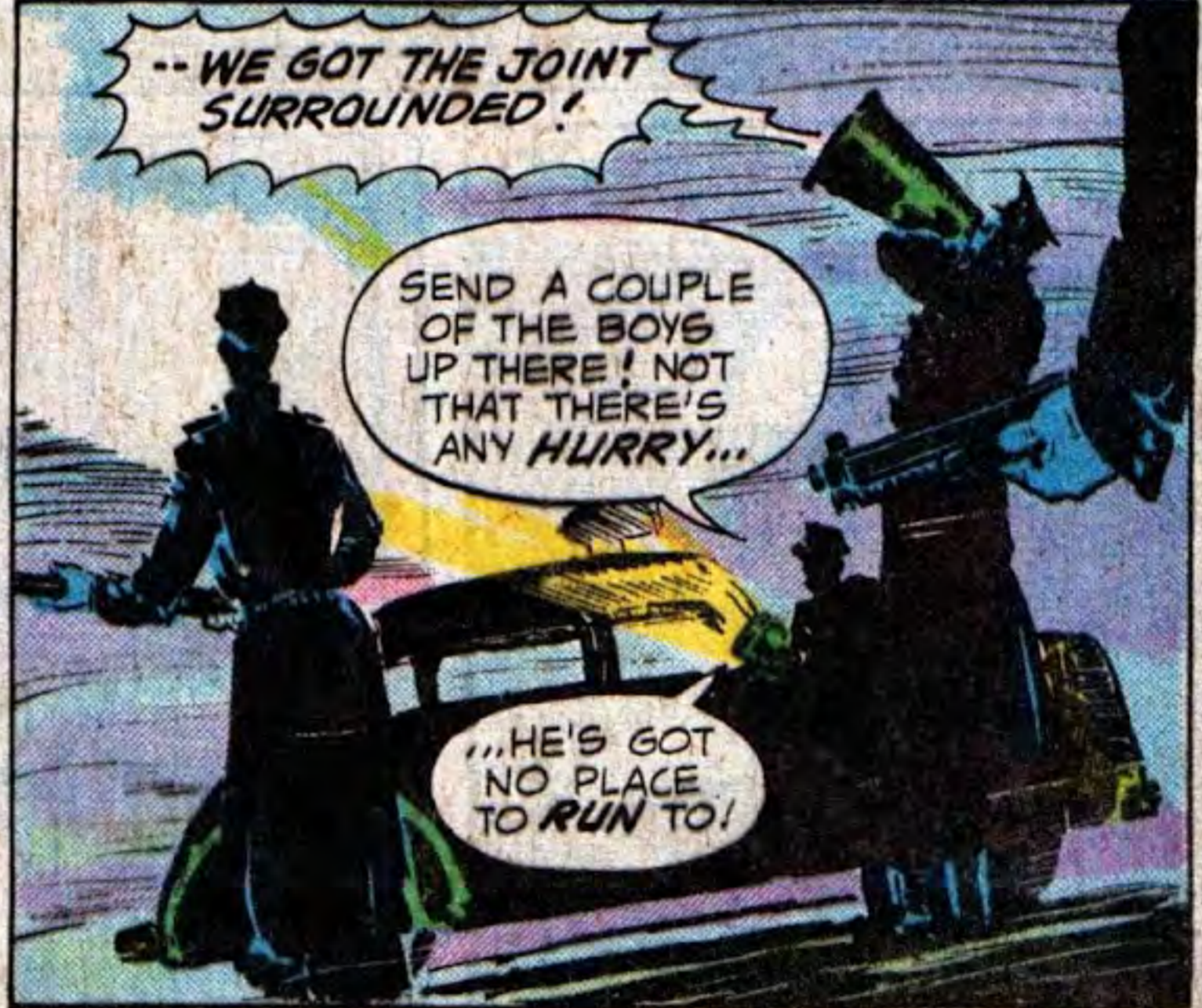
HOWEVER, THE CLOAKED AVENGER FINDS THE ROOF EMPTY! FOR A HALF MINUTE HE STANDS, SURVEYING THE SCENE!!!



SUDDENLY, A BRIGHT BEAM OF LIGHT STABS AT HIM, AND...



BETTER SURRENDER, FELLA--



-- WE GOT THE JOINT SURROUNDED!

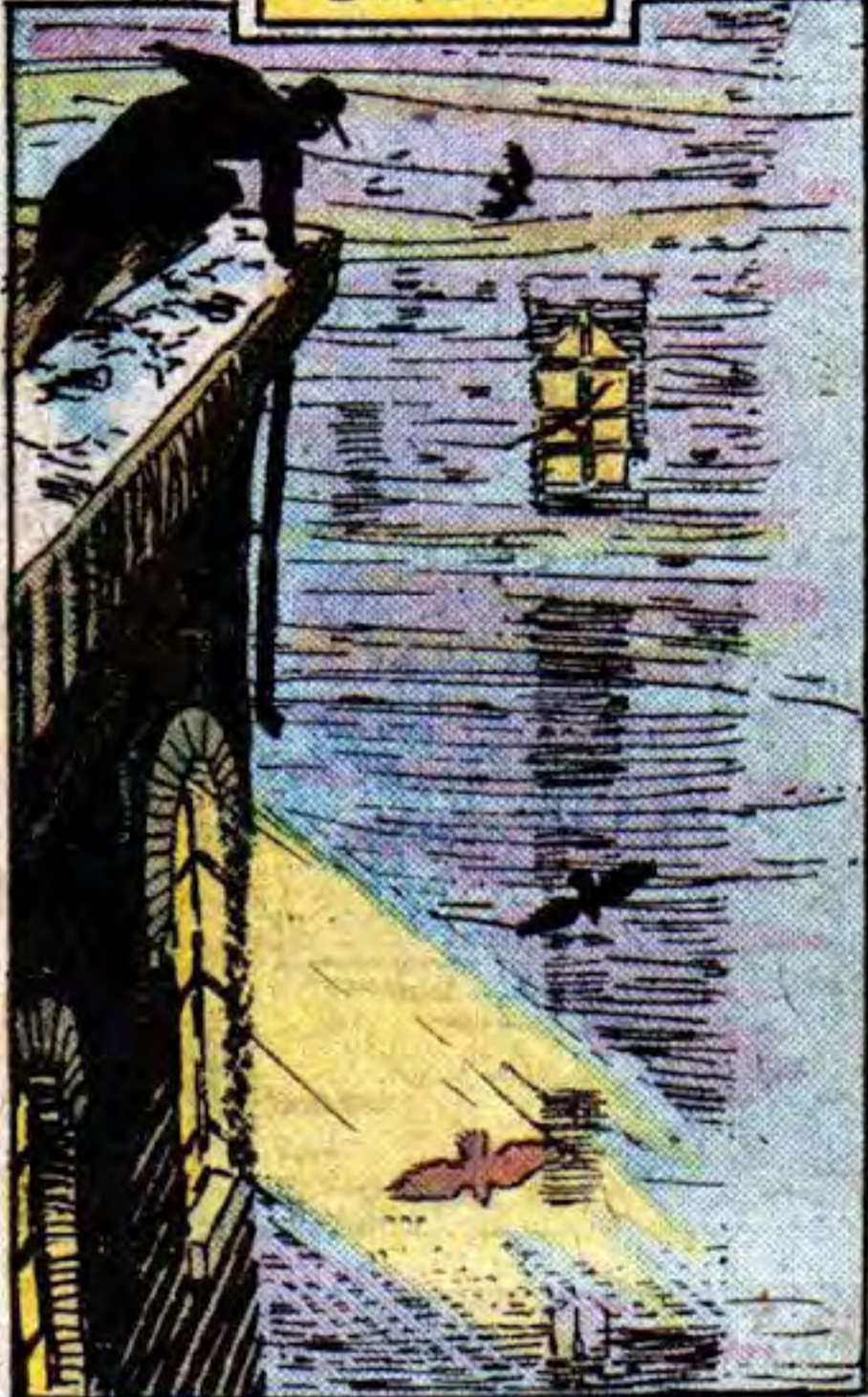
SEND A COUPLE OF THE BOYS UP THERE! NOT THAT THERE'S ANY HURRY...

...HE'S GOT NO PLACE TO RUN TO!

WHIRLING, THE SHADOW RACES ACROSS THE TAR--



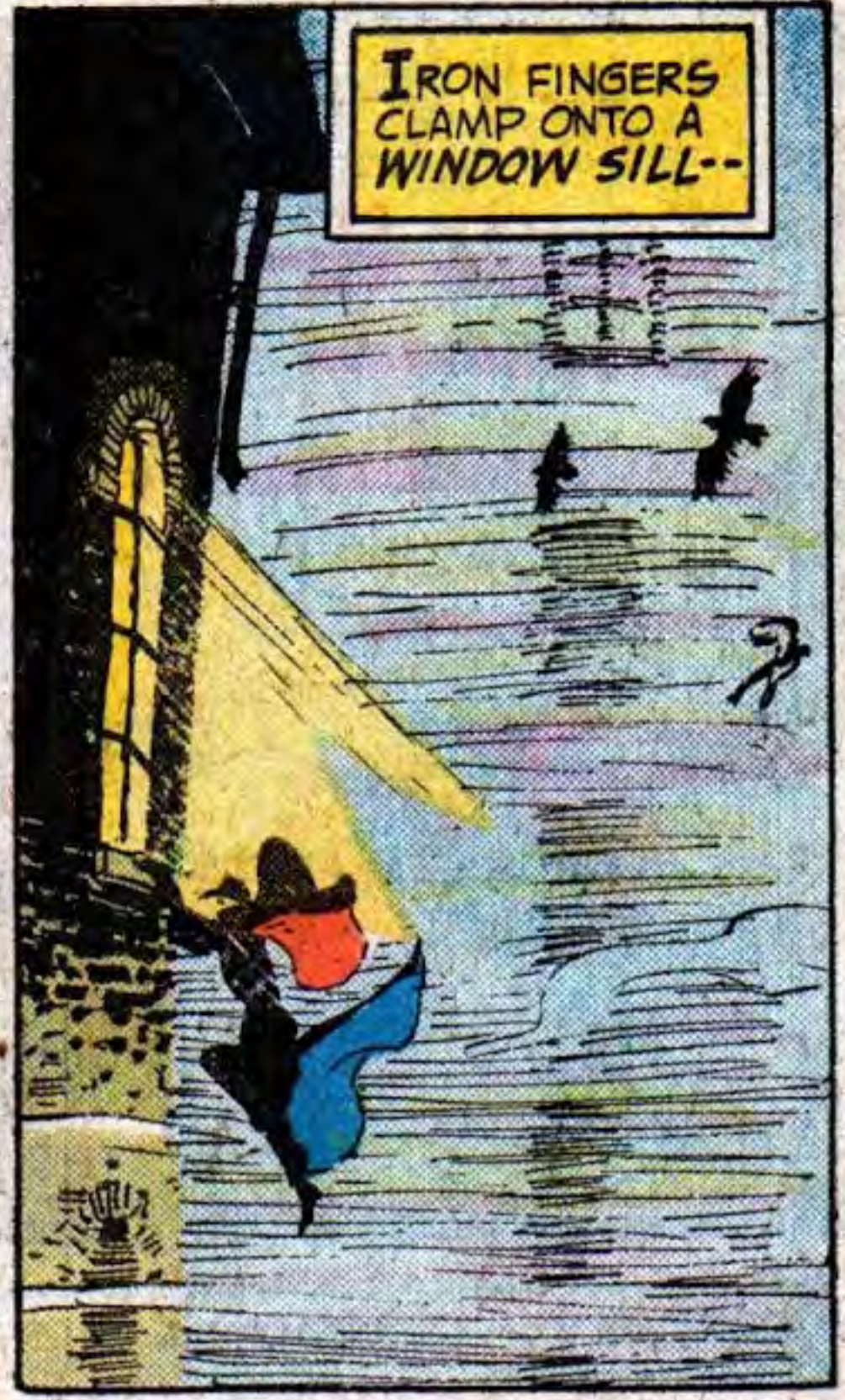
CALMLY, HE PEERS AT AN ALLEY FULLY SIXTY FEET BELOW--



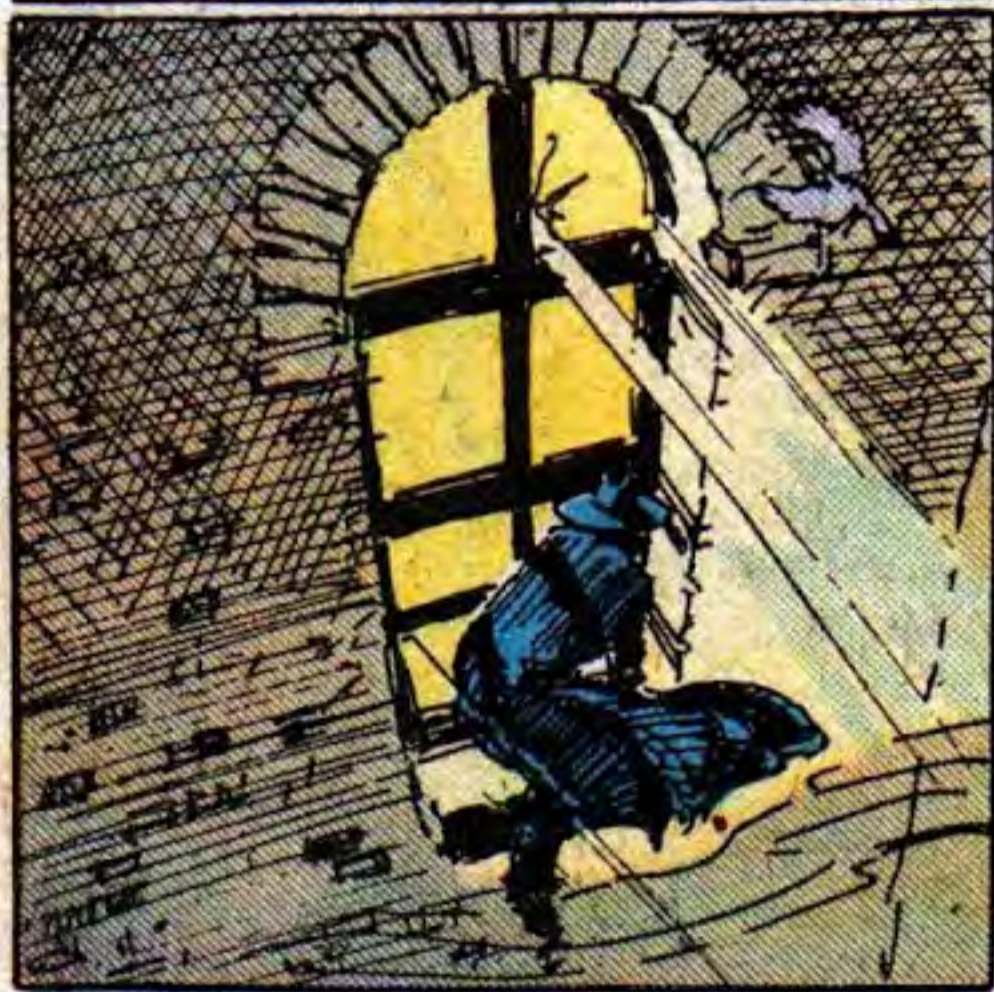
--AND DROPS!



IRON FINGERS CLAMP ONTO A WINDOW SILL--



--AND A LITHE BODY SWINGS UPWARD TO A DOUBTFUL SAFETY!



MAN, WE'RE GONNA BE PROMOTED FOR SURE! HELPIN' NAB THE McMASTER GANG--

--TO SAY NOTHIN' OF THAT SHADOW GUY! WE GOT 'IM CORNERED!

WITHIN MINUTES...



WHERE TO, BOSS?

CIRCLE THE BLOCK, SHREVVY!



THE SHADOW'S WORK IS TEMPORARILY DONE!



BUT LAMONT CRANSTON IS CURIOUS!



A QUICK CHANGE OF CLOTHING AND A SHORT DRIVE, AND ...

LOOK, SHREVVY-- MY FRIEND, G. OYLE PROUD!

I SAY THIS CITY HAS BECOME A CESSPOOL OF LAWLESSNESS AND I MEAN TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!



--SURROUNDED BY REPORTERS... AS USUAL, EH, PROUD?

AH... LAMONT CRANSTON! I WAS JUST TELLING THESE CHAPS WHAT I PROPOSE TO DO WHEN I'M ELECTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY!



GANGSTERS GOING TO DOPE DENS LIKE THE ONE IN THAT BUILDING... VIGILANTES LIKE THE SHADOW... INTOLERABLE!

MY FIRST STEP WILL BE TO ELIMINATE THE DRUG TRAFFIC! I'VE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO THE FAR EAST--

--WHERE THE DRUGS COME FROM! I'VE INVESTIGATED... AND I HAVE A PLAN FOR CHOKING OFF THIS INSIDIOUS ACTIVITY!

YOU'LL TALK IT TO DEATH, MR. PROUD?



AH... MY ERSTWHILE OPPONENT IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION-- BARTLETT MOGEN... THE PRESENT DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

A MAN WHO HAS DISGRACED THE OFFICE HE NOW HOLDS BY HIS SOFT ATTITUDE TO CRIME!

MY ATTITUDE MAY BE SOFT--

--BUT NOT MY HEAD... WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN YOUNG REFORMERS!

IF YOU GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS CARE TO JOIN ME, WE'LL WET THE WHISTLE AND DISCUSS THE YANKEES' CHANCES TO WIN THE PENNANT!



THERE GOES EVERYTHING THAT'S **WRONG** WITH OUR CITY, LAMONT! HE'S **OLD, LAZY...** AND **CORRUPT!**



COULD **BE**, OLD CHAP! WHAT SAY WE DISCUSS IT **TOMORROW** AT THE CLUB? I'M **FRIGHTFULLY** TIRED --



SLEEP **TIGHT**, LAMONT!

--I'VE BEEN UP SINCE **NOON!**



YA **REALLY** GONNA CATCH SOME SHUT-EYE, BOSS?

OF **COURSE** NOT, SHREVVY!-- TO **HEADQUARTERS!**

ARRIVING AT A SUITE SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK, THE SHADOW QUICKLY RELATES THE EVENING'S EVENTS TO HIS LOYAL **TEAM--**



JUDGING FROM HIS **COSTUME** AND **WEAPONS**, I'D SAY THE KILLER I MET IS A **NINJA!**



WEREN'T THEY **SPIES** IN ANCIENT JAPAN?

YES... **EXTREMELY** SKILLED IN **STEALTH** AND **ASSASSINATION!** RIGHT, SHADOW?

PRECISELY, MARGO! I **STUDIED** WITH A NINJA MASTER YEARS AGO! I LEARNED **MUCH** FROM HIM!

ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THOSE ARTS COULD BE A **FORMIDABLE** OPPONENT!



THEREFORE... **ATTENTION** TO **ORDERS!**



BURBANK...TELEPHONE
OUR UNDERWORLD
CONTACTS! WE'LL PAY
HANDSOMELY FOR
ANY PERTINENT
INFORMATION!



MARGO... YOU'LL
QUESTION THE CHINESE
GIRL WHOSE FATHER
WAS SLAIN IN THE
MORNING!



HARRY... YOU'LL
STAND BY!



OKAY... BUT YOU'RE
MAKING A CERTAIN
MISS MIGHTY
UNHAPPY! I PROMISED
THE DAY TO **HER!**

SHE'LL
LIVE,
TIGER!



HEY, CHIEF! ONE THING'S
BOTHERING ME! WHY ARE
WE TRYING TO **NAIL** THIS
NINJA? YOU SAID HE
SMASHED THE **MCMASTER**
CREW... JUST LIKE **YOU**
WERE GOING TO!

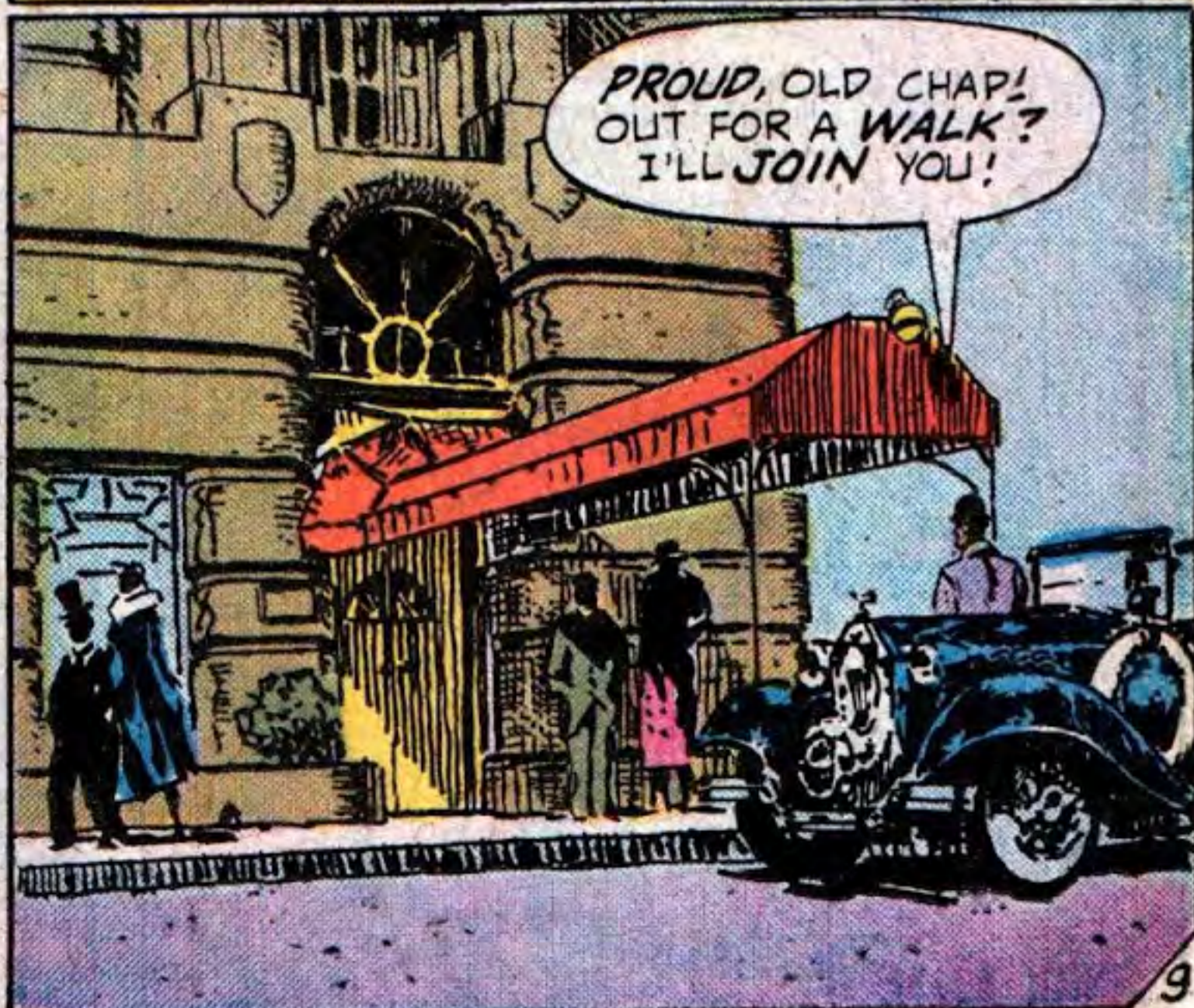


SOUNDS LIKE
HE'S ON **OUR**
SIDE!

MY **INSTINCT** SAYS
HE **ISN'T**, HARRY!
DO YOU CARE TO
QUARREL WITH
MY **INSTINCT**?

LEAVE ME
NOW! I MUST
THINK!

AT EXACTLY TWELVE THE FOLLOWING DAY,
LAMONT CRANSTON ARRIVES AT THE
EXCLUSIVE **COBALT CLUB** AND GREETSS --



PROUD, OLD CHAP!
OUT FOR A **WALK**?
I'LL **JOIN** YOU!

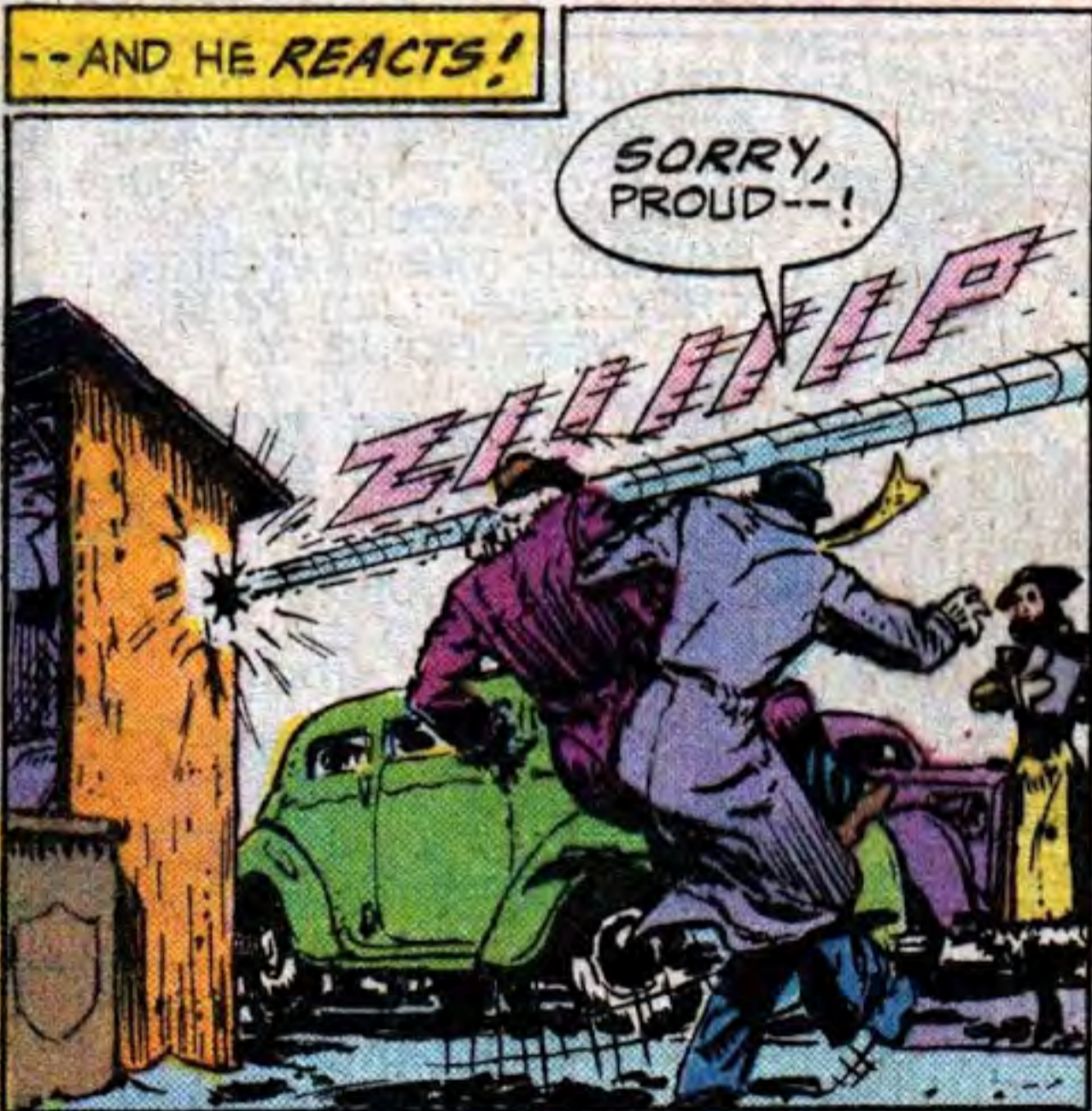


I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GIVE YOU THIS CHECK-- A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION!

ACCEPTED WITH GRATITUDE, CRANSTON!

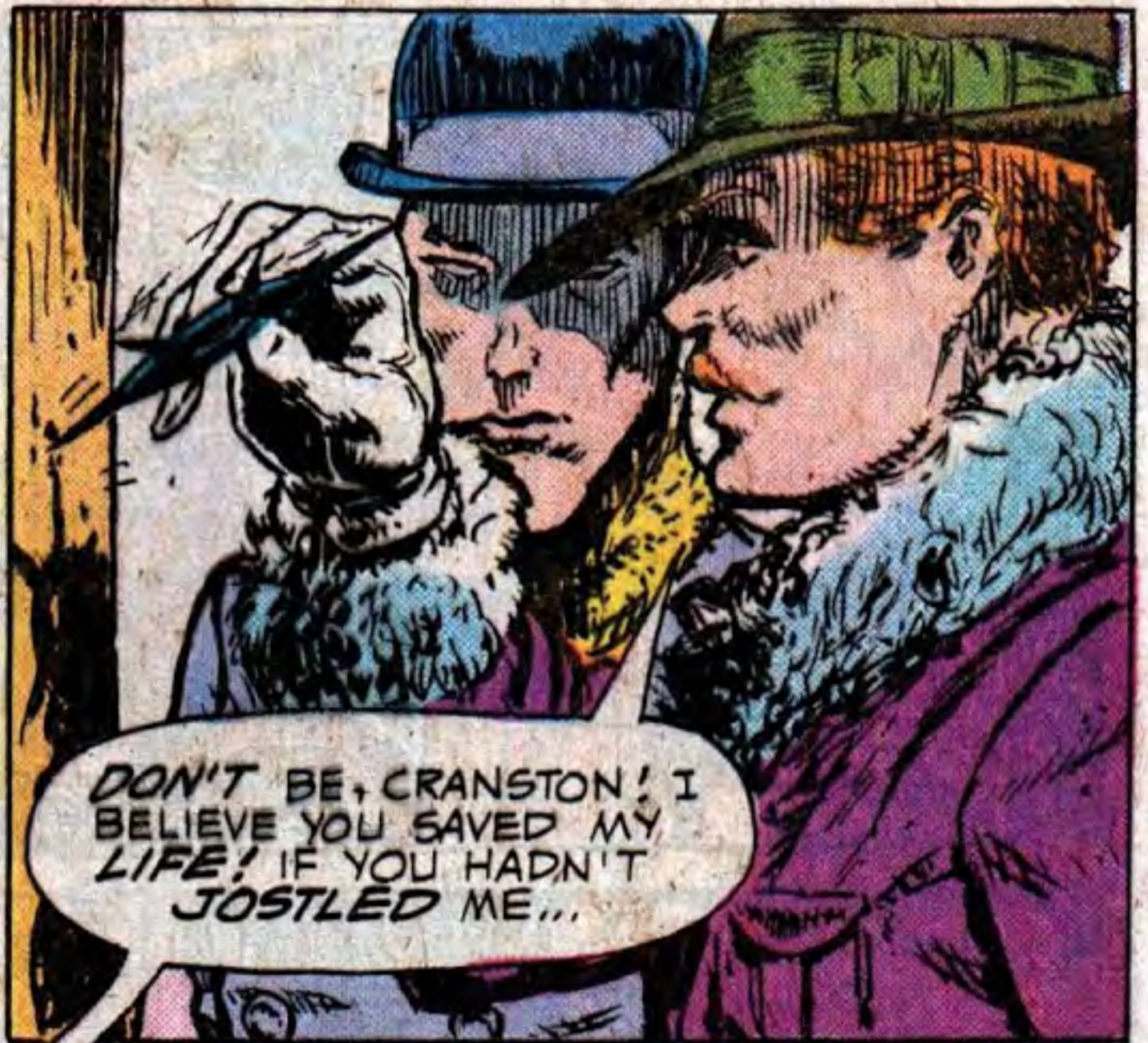


AT THAT INSTANT, FROM THE CORNER OF HIS EYE, THE DISGUISED AVENGER SEES SOMETHING GLEAMING ... SPINNING --

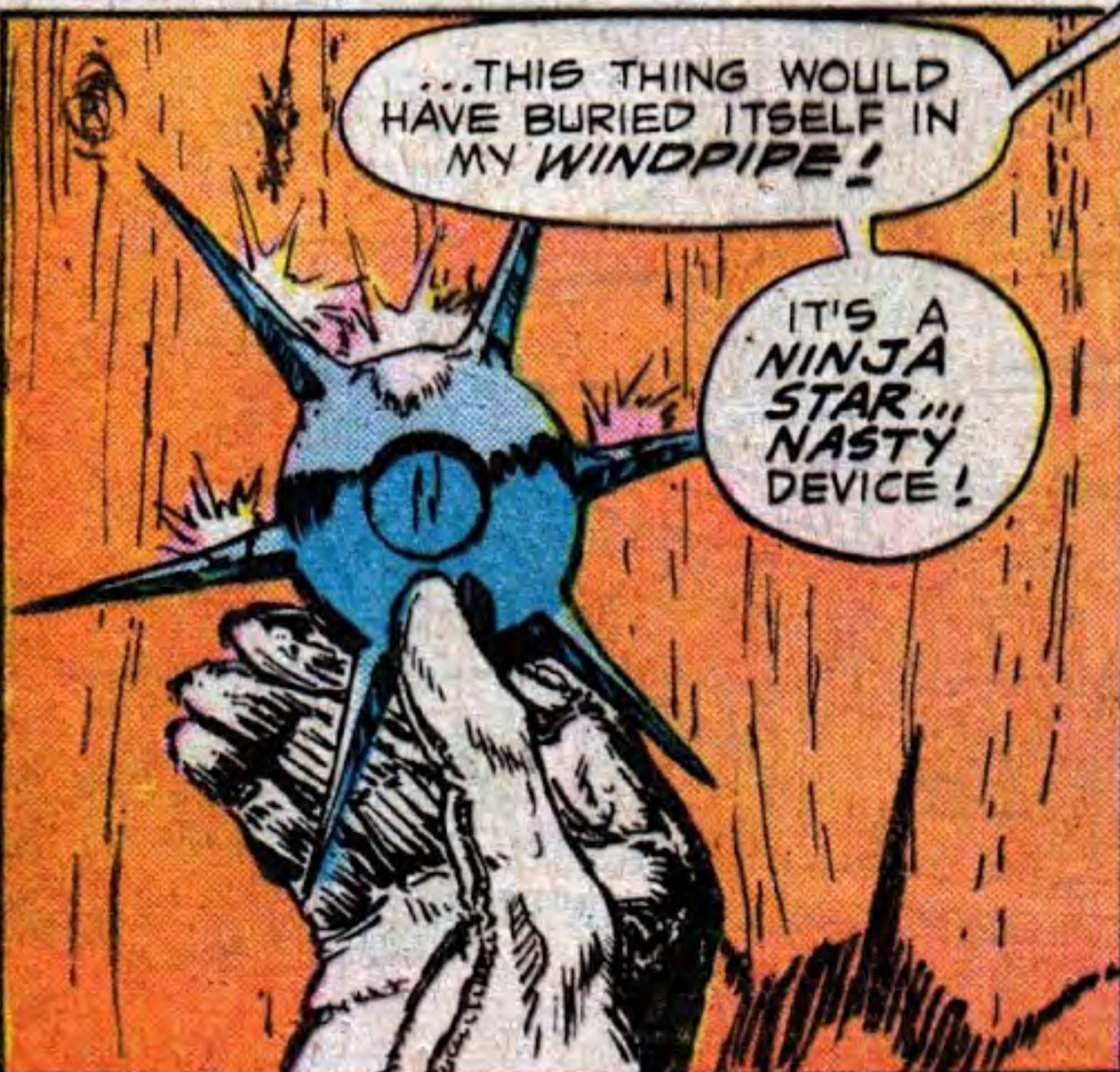


-- AND HE REACTS!

SORRY, PROUD--!



DON'T BE, CRANSTON! I BELIEVE YOU SAVED MY LIFE! IF YOU HADN'T JOSTLED ME...



...THIS THING WOULD HAVE BURIED ITSELF IN MY WINDPIPE!

IT'S A NINJA STAR ... NASTY DEVICE!



NO POSSIBILITY OF TELLING WHO THREW IT! -- NOT WITH THE STREET SO MOBBED!

EXACTLY, CRANSTON! IT COULD HAVE COME FROM ANYWHERE!

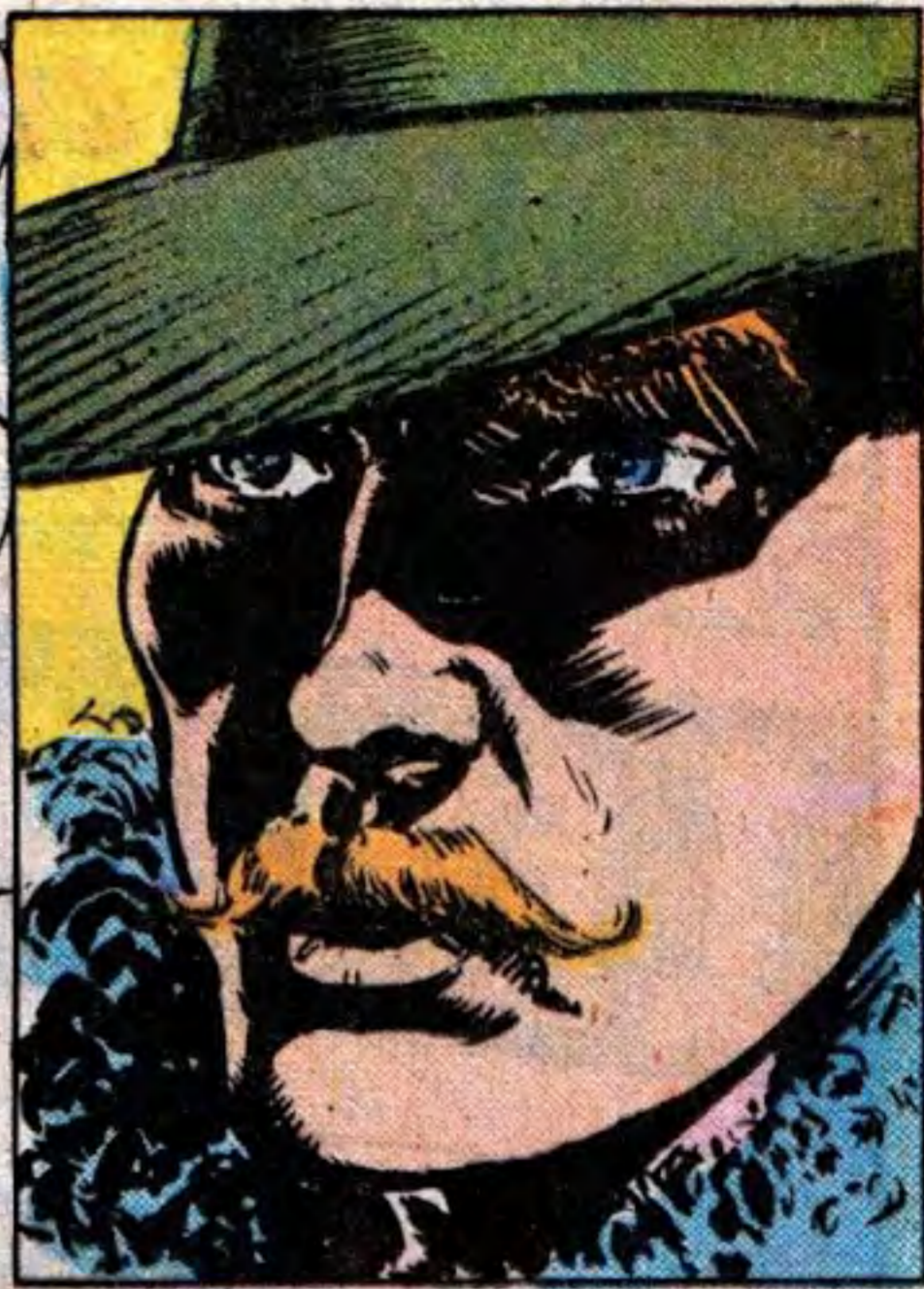


PROUD, DO ME A **FAVOR!**
LET ME PUT YOU UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF A FRIEND
OF MINE... **HARRY
VINCENT!**

YOU'RE TOO **VALUABLE**
A MAN TO LOSE TO A
KILLER!

I DON'T NEED
A **NURSEMAID...**

I WON'T TAKE **NO**
FOR AN ANSWER!



AN HOUR LATER, IN
CHINATOWN --



MISS...
MISS!

YOU
SPEAK
TO ME?

YES...I'D
LIKE TO ASK
YOU A FEW
QUESTIONS!



PLEASE
TO STEP
INSIDE--!



IT'S SO
DARK
IN HERE!

YOU WILL
NOT **NEED**
TO SEE!



WOK!
UNNGH!



YOU STRUCK HER BRUTALLY!*

SHE MEANT YOU NO HARM!

PERHAPS NOT, MY BROTHERS--

*NOTE: THIS DIALOGUE TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE!



--BUT I CANNOT TAKE THE CHANCE... NOT WHEN WE ARE NEAR TO ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION!

GUARD HER-- AND THE MONEY!



I AM TROUBLED, SISTER! THE MONEY-- IT IS NOT OURS! IT IS DIRTY MONEY... MADE FROM TRADING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS!

OUR FATHER REALIZED THAT, MY BROTHER--



--BUT WITHOUT IT, WE COULD NOT BRING OUR RELATIVES TO THIS COUNTRY!

THAT IS WHY OUR FATHER TOOK IT FROM... HIM!



I HAVE A TASK! WAIT FOR ME!

A DISTANT RUMBLE OF THUNDER HERALDS NIGHT, AND FLASHES OF LIGHTNING BLAZE BRIEFLY IN THE RAPIDLY DARKENING SKY!

WET BREEZES WHISTLE THROUGH THE CITY'S CANYONS AND RATTLE THE WINDOWS IN THIS MIDTOWN APARTMENT BUILDING...



...AND, INSIDE--

BLOWING UP A MEAN ONE OUT THERE, MR. PROUD!

I WISH YOU'D GO HOME, MR. VINCENT! I'M PERFECTLY SAFE!



YEAH, WELL... I'LL STICK AROUND ANYWAY!

YOU'RE AS STUBBORN AS CRANSTON!

HERE... YOU MAY AS WELL HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE!



I'LL BE IN MY STUDY, PREPARING A CAMPAIGN SPEECH!

GIVE 'EM HECK, MR. PROUD!



AGGH... ODD TASTE! --BITTER!



...FEEL FUNNY... DIZZY!

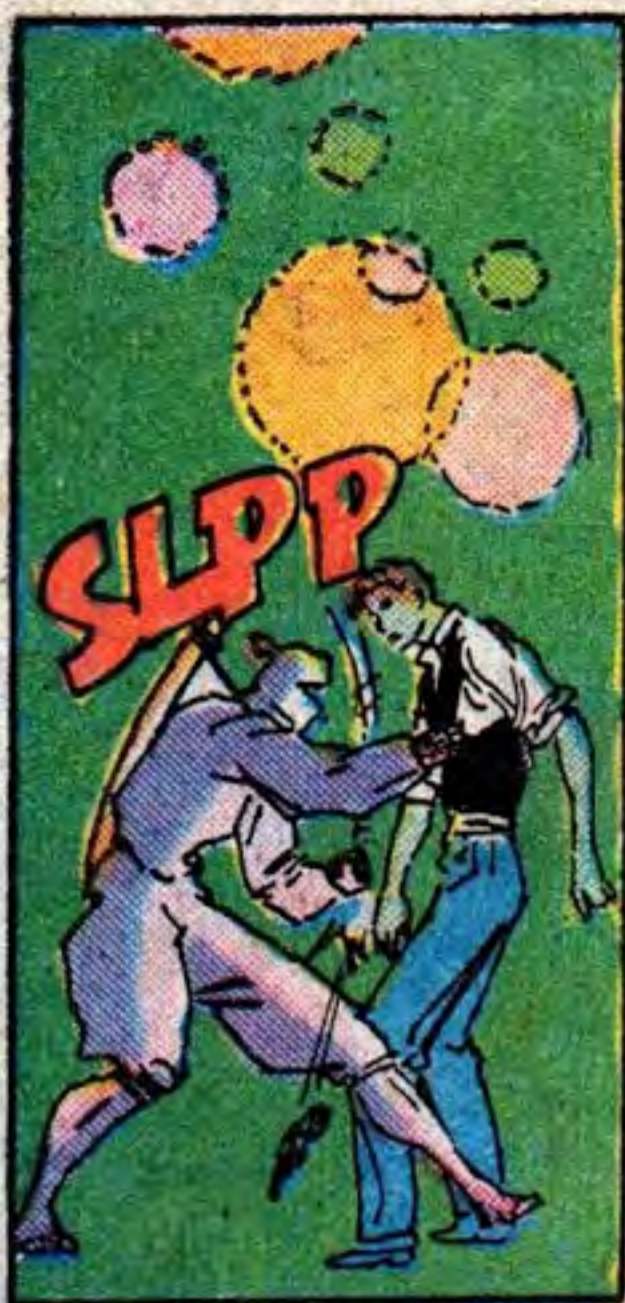


PROUD!-- PROUD! I'M SICK--



YOU! THE NINJA... GONNA BLOW YOU AWAY... IF I CAN RAISE MY GUN...



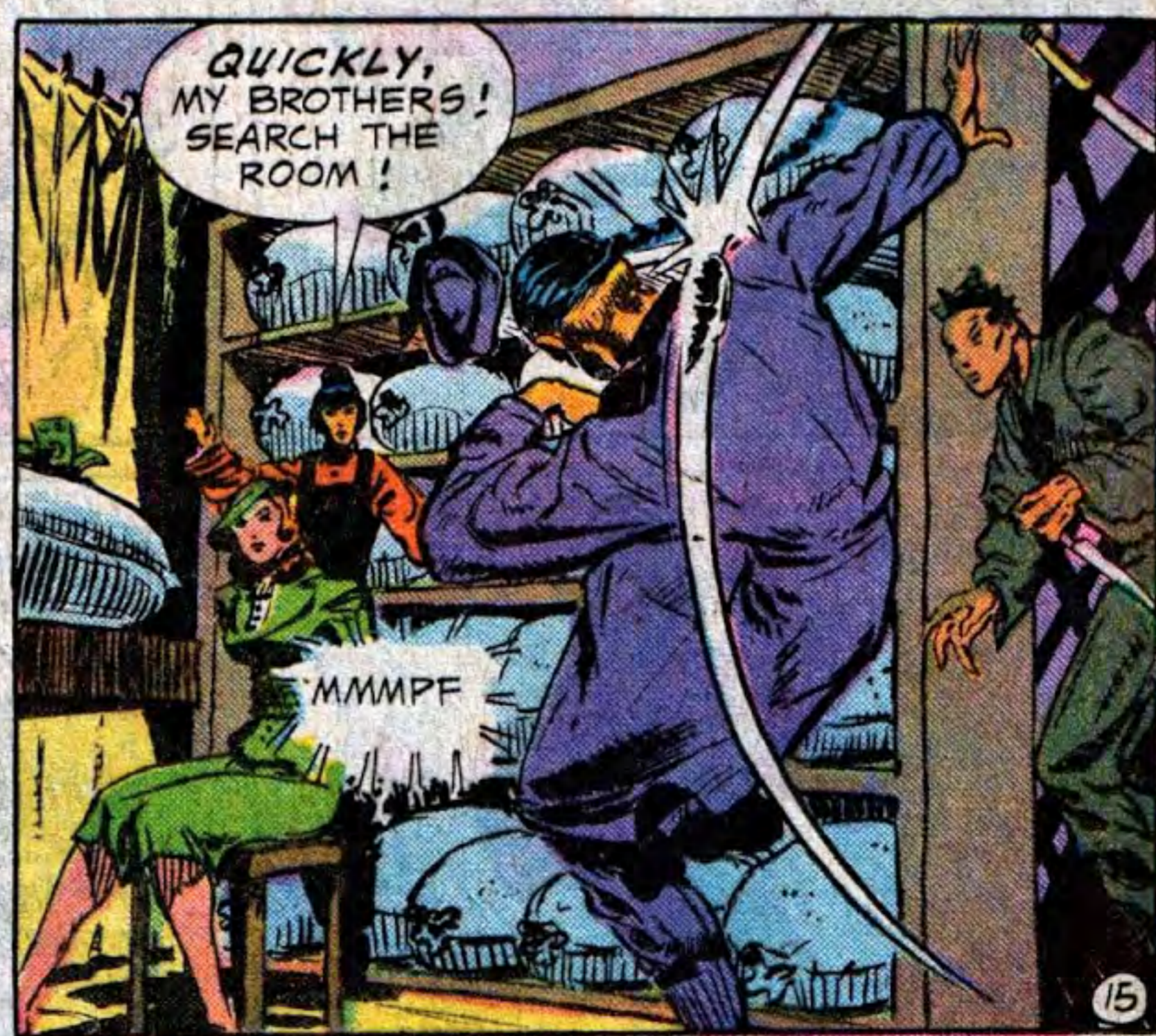


THROBBING, AGONIZING MINUTES PASS, AND THEN...



AT NINE, THE STORM FINALLY BREAKS! THE STREETS OF CHINATOWN ARE ABRUPTLY DESERTED AS THE GOOD CITIZENS SCURRY FOR SHELTER...







CHANG!!

HE HAS BEEN STRUCK DOWN--

BUT BY WHAT? BY WHOM?

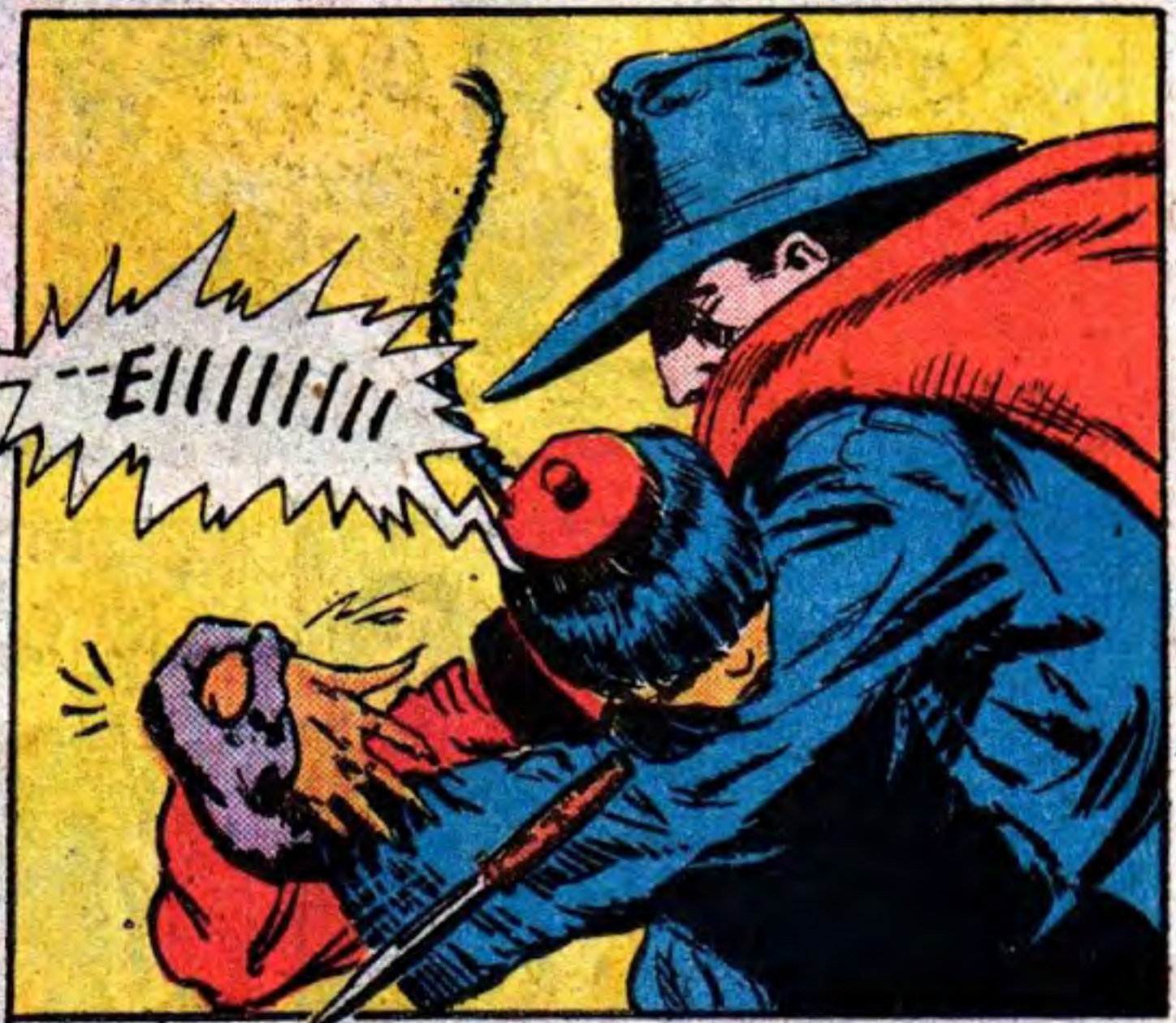


AGGMF



MEN CALL ME ...THE SHADOW!

YOU DIE, MEDDLER... DI--



EIIIIIIII



YOU BROKE MY WRIST!

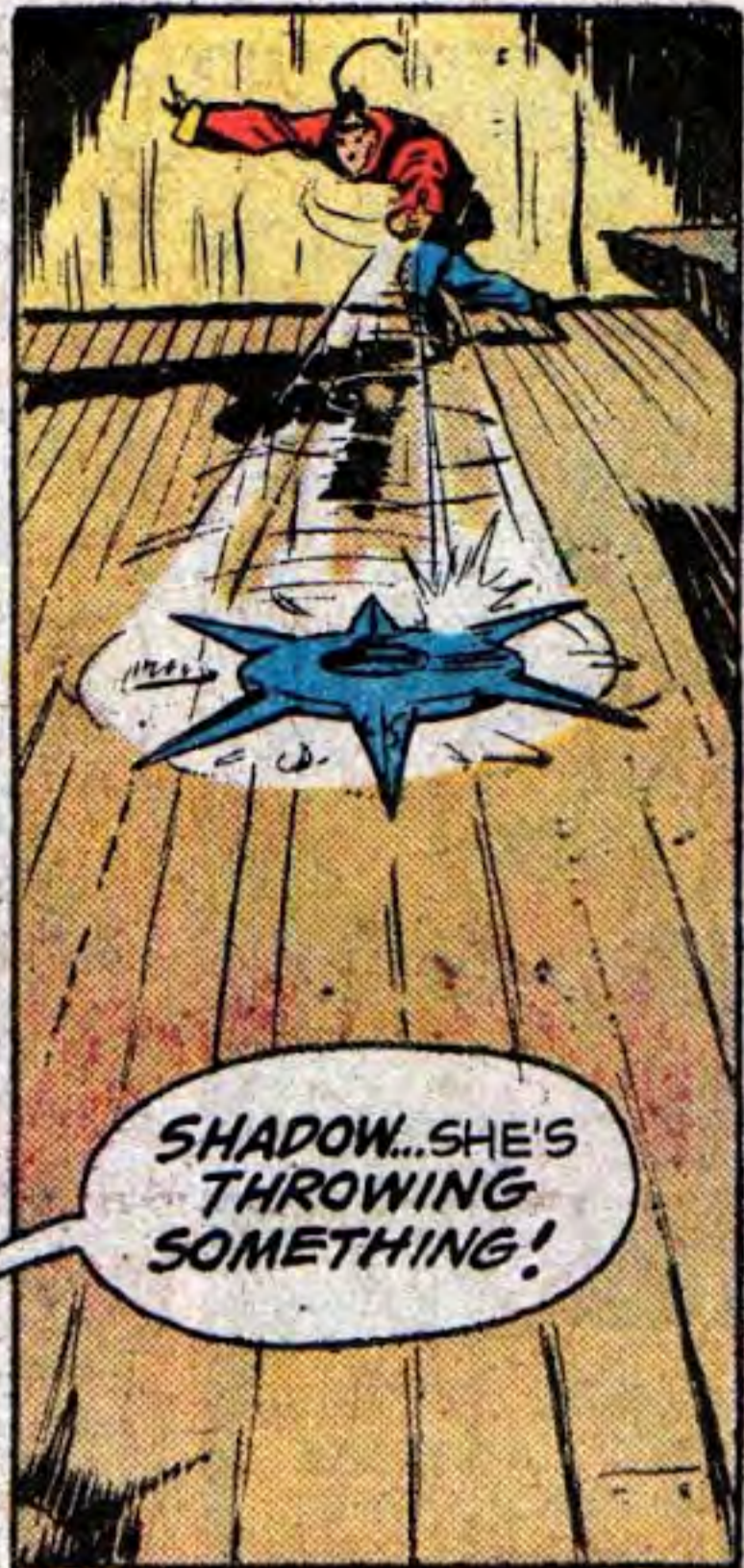
NO... MERELY PINCHED A NERVE! THE USE OF YOUR ARM WILL RETURN SHORTLY!

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE THE KNACK FOR ARRIVING IN THE PROVERBIAL NICK OF TIME, SHADOW!



YOU DIDN'T REPORT AS I DIRECTED! AND YOU ARE A LOYAL AGENT! THEREFORE, YOU HAD TO BE IN DANGER!

AND YOU CAME A-CHARGING! AT LEAST I CAN'T SAY YOU NEGLECT ME--EXACTLY!



SHADOW...SHE'S THROWING SOMETHING!



YES... AS SHE THREW A SIMILAR OBJECT AT PROUD--

CHING



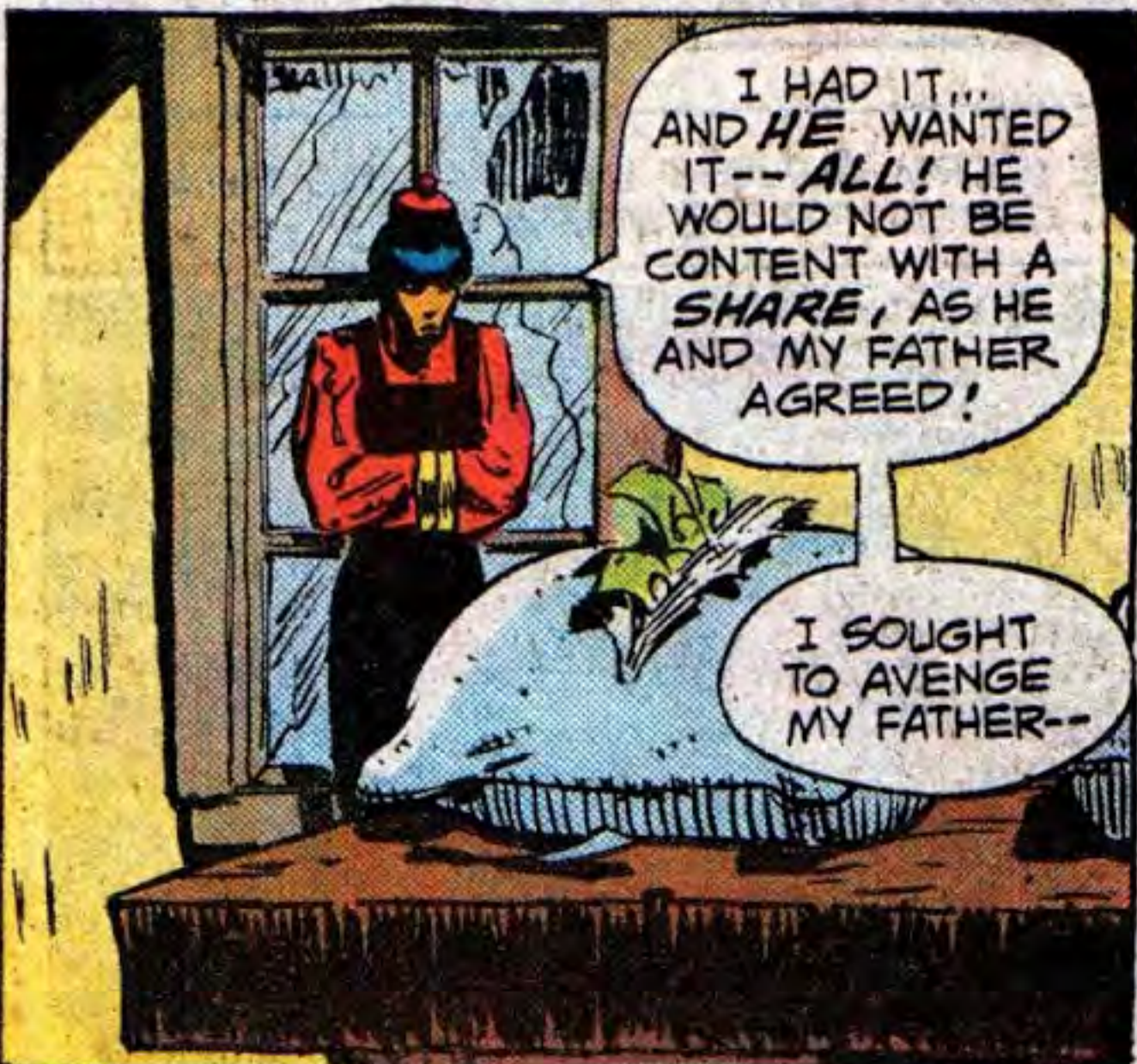
--A NINJA STAR!

THEN SHE'S THE NINJA?



NO! SHE IS SMALL... SHE WOULDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DRIVE A BROKEN SWORD INTO HER FATHER!

AND SHE HAD NO MOTIVE TO KILL HIM! SHE HAD THE MONEY!



I HAD IT... AND HE WANTED IT-- ALL! HE WOULD NOT BE CONTENT WITH A SHARE, AS HE AND MY FATHER AGREED!

I SOUGHT TO AVENGE MY FATHER--

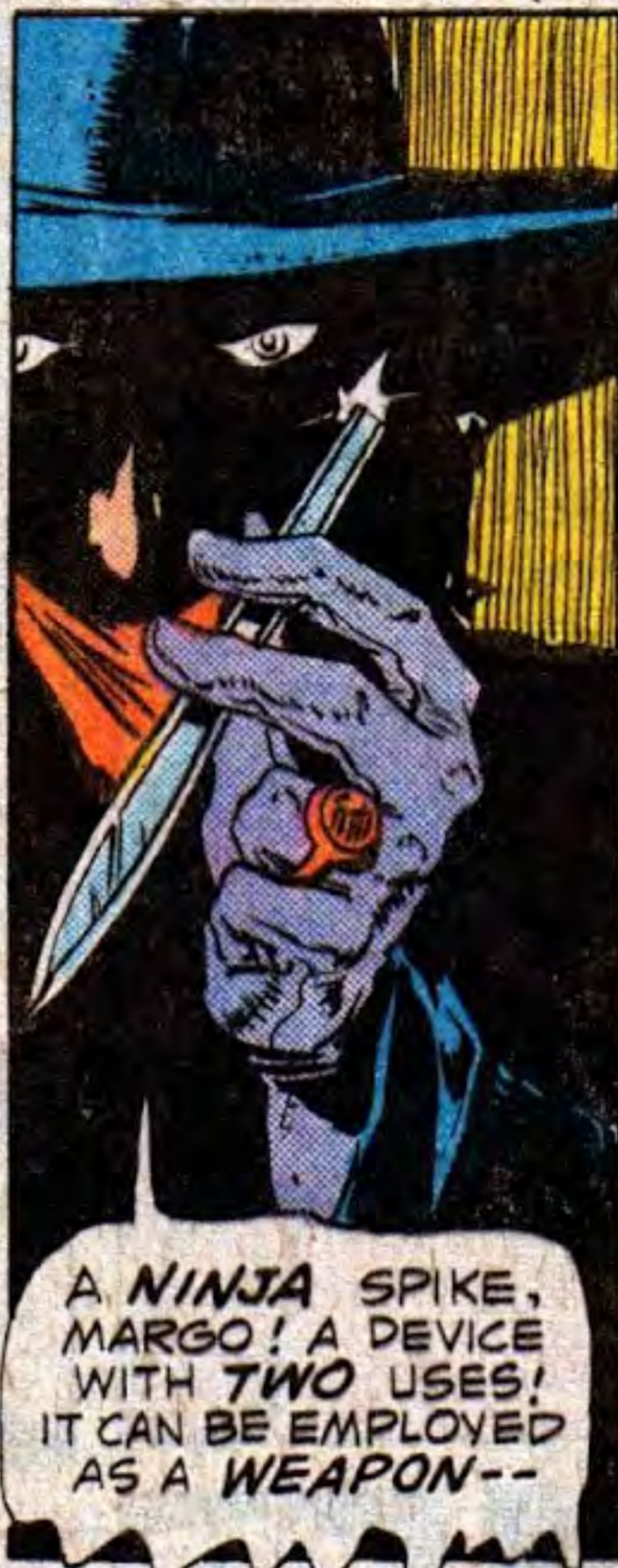


GHAH!

--AND TO FINISH MY FATHER'S WORK OF FREEING OUR PEOPLE...



SHE'S DEAD!
SOMEONE AT THE WINDOW THREW
A... WHAT IS
IT, SHADOW?



A NINJA SPIKE,
MARGO! A DEVICE
WITH TWO USES!
IT CAN BE EMPLOYED
AS A WEAPON--



--OR A PAIR OF THESE CAN BE
USED FOR CLIMBING--LIKE
MOUNTAINEER'S PITONS!

THAT IS HOW THE NINJA ELUDED
ME ON THE ROOF...WHILE I WAS
BUSY EVADING THE POLICE, HE
WENT DOWN THE FAR WALL!



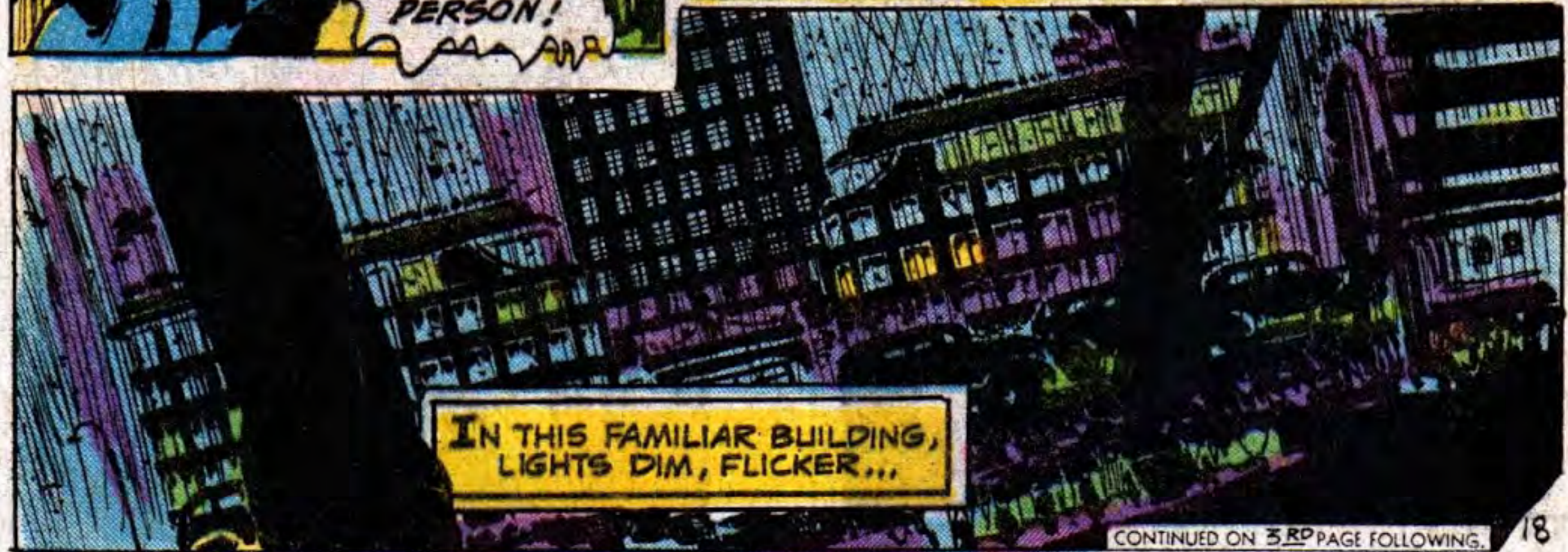
YOU SOUND AS
THOUGH YOU KNOW
HIS IDENTITY!

I DO, MARGO! I
GO TO DELIVER
HIS FILTHY LOOT
TO HIM--IN
PERSON!

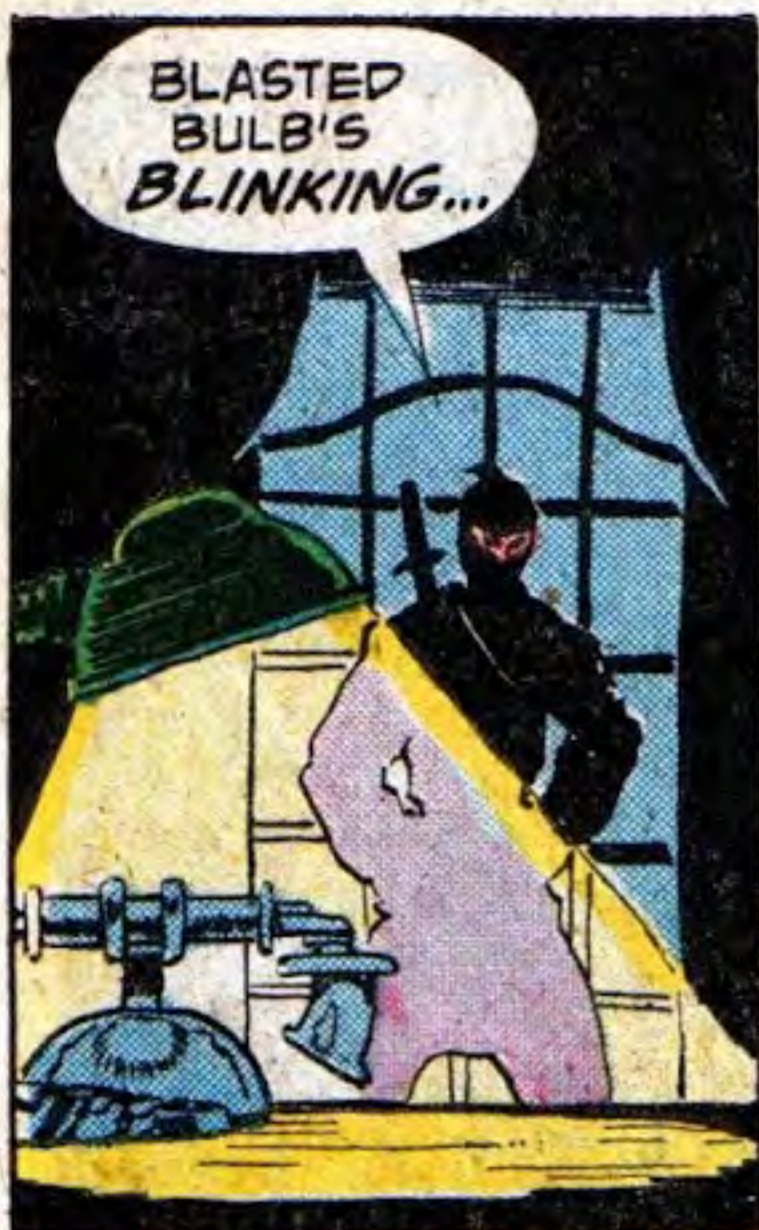


I DO NOT
THINK HE
WILL BE
HAPPY
TO SEE
ME!

NOW, THE STORM RAGES LIKE A LIVING BEING...
CRYING, CRYING FOR VENGEANCE!



IN THIS FAMILIAR BUILDING,
LIGHTS DIM, FLICKER...



BLASTED BULB'S BLINKING...



... THE LIGHTNING MUST BE INTERFERING WITH THE POWER LINES!



EH--? A BAG FULL OF CASH! WHERE'D IT COME FROM?



I PLACED IT THERE, NINJA!



YOU'RE... THE SHADOW?

YOU'RE SURPRISED?

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD CHEAT JUSTICE, NINJA-- OR SHOULD I SAY... PROUD?



YOU'VE GUESSED!

CERTAINLY!

YOU TOLD THE REPORTERS YOU'VE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE EAST, WHERE YOU COULD HAVE STUDIED NINJA ARTS--



--AND, INCIDENTALLY, ARRANGED FOR THE DRUGS TO BE SMUGGLED INTO THE UNITED STATES... WITH THE HELP OF THE MCMASTER GANG, NO DOUBT!

SHOW YOURSELF!



YOU GOT GREEDY! YOU MURDERED YOUR ACCOMPLICES HOPING TO KEEP THE PROFITS FOR YOURSELF! I INTERFERED... YOU FLED!

SHOW YOURSELF!

YOU GAVE HARRY VINCENT **KNOCK OUT** DROPS AND RETURNED TO **CHINATOWN...** TO PAY BACK THE GIRL WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU IN THE STREET AND SEARCH FOR THE **CASH...** AND AGAIN FOUND **ME!**



HERE, BY THE **WINDOW!** FACE ME... LIAR, **HYPOCRITE!** YOU'VE HIDDEN BEHIND THE MASK OF **LAW...** YOU PRETENDED YOU WISHED TO **SERVE...**



... INSTEAD, YOU WOULD HAVE USED THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO **CHEAT... STEAL...** TO BLOAT YOUR MONSTROUS **GREED!** YOU ARE THE **WORST** KIND OF **FILTH!**



YOU'RE **RIGHT!** BUT YOU WON'T **DO ANYTHING** ABOUT IT!



I'LL RAM MY **SWORD** THROUGH YOUR...

...**EMPTY CLOAK!**



THE **SHADOW** NEVER FAILS!

