

12,000 YEARS AGO:

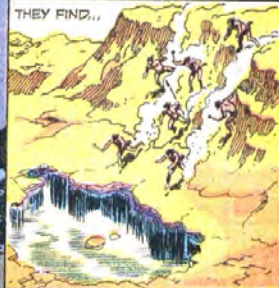
THE SUN BEATS DOWN UNMERCIFULLY AS 7 WEARY MEN TRUDGE SLOWLY ACROSS THE DESERT SANDS OF AFRICA. THEY HAVE BEEN WITHOUT WATER FOR MORE DAYS THAN THEY WANT TO REMEMBER, AND NOW THE SUN IS ALMOST DIRECTLY OVERHEAD. THEY LOOK FOR SHELTER BUT ALL THEY SEE IS AN ENDLESS OCEAN OF SAND... ALL THEY THINK ABOUT IS DYING...



UNTIL...



THEY FIND...



THE POOL...




STORY: LEN WEIN--
MARY WOLFMAN
ART: RUSS HEATH
ED: JOE KUBERT




1943 AD.

7 HAGGARD G.I.'S HAVE WANDERED THE BLISTERING SAHARA SANDS AIMLESSLY FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN SEARCH OF WATER, UNTIL...



THE THIRST OF MANY DAYS IS SOON FORGOTTEN AS THEY LANGUISH IN THE WATER--THE REFRESHING WATER--THE COOL WATER--FOR THE POOL BELONGS TO THEM...



...AS IT HAD BELONGED TO OTHERS A LONG TIME AGO...



OTHERS WHO DRANK AND SWAM AND PLAYED AND LAUGHED...AND THEY WONDERED HOW THEY DIED.

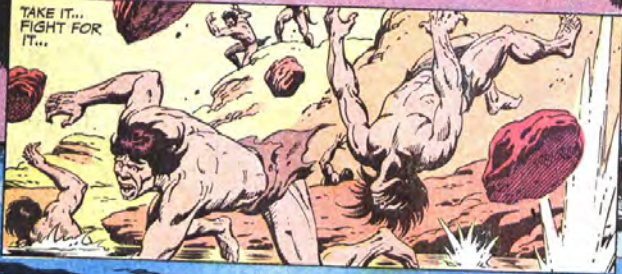


ABOVE THEM, HUNGRY EYES PEER FROM A WEATHERED FACE; PARCHED LIPS THAT HAVE TASTED ONLY THE DRY DESERT SANDS YEARN FOR THE SALVATION SEEN BELOW! *THE POOL MUST BE THEIRS.*

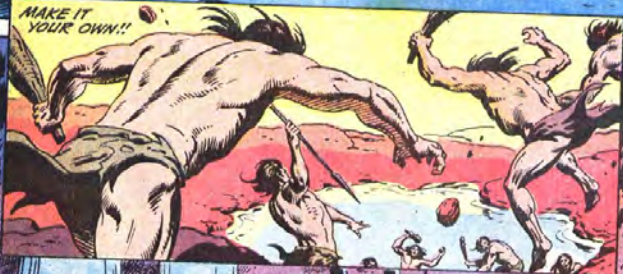
AND WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING... THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO GET IT...

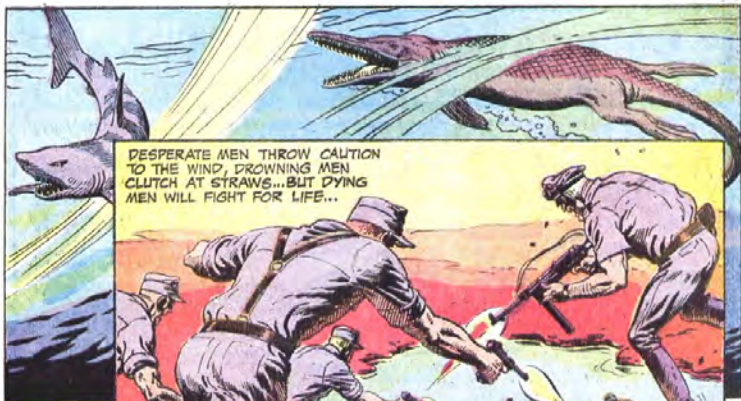


TAKE IT... FIGHT FOR IT...



MAKE IT YOUR OWN!!





DESPERATE MEN THROW CAUTION
TO THE WIND, DROWNING MEN
CLUTCH AT STRAWS...BUT DYING
MEN WILL FIGHT FOR LIFE...



AND SO THEY FIGHT
FOR THE POOL...



BUT EVERY PRIZE
HAS IT'S PRICE...



THE SOUNDS OF
WAR ECHO IN
THE POOL...



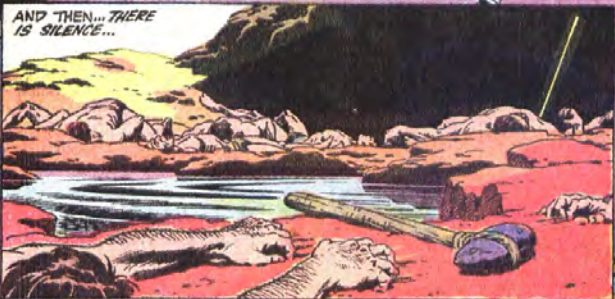
...STONE
ON STONE...

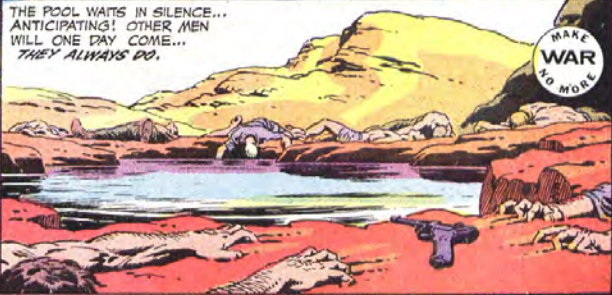
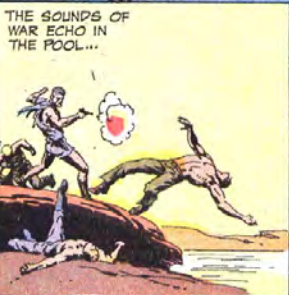


...FLESH ON
FLESH...



AND THEN... THERE
IS SILENCE...





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