

A TROLLISH TALES

IT HAS BEEN A TIME OF STRIFE AND PAIN BUT NOW, A NEW DAY DAWNS! A PERIOD OF PEACE HAS SET ITS LIGHT BLUE CLOAK UPON OUR HEROES' SHOULDERS.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME WEAR THIS LIFE BETTER THAN OTHERS!

THE SCENE: MAMA ALPHA'S CABARET, UPON A WORLD CALLED SIRUS X, ONCE KNOWN AS HOMEWORLD!
THE CHARACTERS: MAMA ALPHA, PIP THE TROLL AND THE GOLDEN BEING NAMED ADAM WARLOCK!



HEY, ADAM, WHAT'S WRONG?

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WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO DOWN?

WE'VE BEATEN YOUR OTHER SELF AND WORST ENEMY, THE **MAGUS!** HIS UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH WILL NEVER BE, AND WE'RE BOTH ALIVE! EVERYTHING'S JUST JAKE!

THE ONLY THING WORTH WORRYING ABOUT IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO PAY FOR ALL THE OTHER ASSORTED VICES WE'VE INDULGED IN THESE LAST FOUR DAYS!

IF ONLY IT WERE TRULY THAT SIMPLE, PIP!



TRUE, WE'VE ABORTED THE **MAGUS'S** EXISTENCE AND NEGATED ANY EFFECT HE MIGHT HAVE HAD UPON THE UNIVERSE! YET I RECALL ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED AND HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY IT.

DURING THE PAST DAYS THAT HAVE NO LONGER EVER OCCURRED, I HAVE SEEN DEATH AND SORROW; GONE SLIGHTLY MAD; STOLEN AND STILL CARRY WITHIN ME THE SOULS OF SCORES OF WARRIORS AND MURDERED MY FUTURE SELF.

THESE ARE EVENTS I HAVE EXPERIENCED, YET WHICH NEVER HAPPENED. SUCH A CONCEPT IS TRULY MADDENING! AM I A MADMAN, KILLER AND SOUL THIEF? OR AM I YET THE SIMPLE FOOL I WAS MERE DAYS AGO?



I CAN NO LONGER REMAIN IN THIS... PLACE.

I MUST FIND THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS THAT GNAW AT MY SANITY...



... AND I'LL NOT FIND THEM HERE.



BUT PERHAPS OUT THERE...

YES, OUT AMONG THE STARS IS WHERE I SHALL FIND THE TRANQUILITY NEEDED TO SOLVE THE MYRIAD RIDDLES OF LIFE!

FOR NOT BEING THE ISSUE OF WOMAN, I CANNOT FIND THE SERENITY TO THINK SUCH THOUGHTS AMONG THE MADNESS OF MEN.

FOR I AM ONE APART!



I AM THE **WARLOCK!**

QUESTIONS... WHOSE ANSWERS MUST BE DENIED US UNTIL A FUTURE TIME, FOR AS THIS ISSUE'S TITLE IMPLIES, THIS IS A TALE NOT OF WARLOCKS, BUT RATHER, OF TROLLS!

MORE SPECIFICALLY, ABOUT A RATHER IRATE TROLL BACK AT MAMA ALPHA'S!

DID YOU SEE THAT?

THAT CREEP JUST UP AND DESERTED ME-- AFTER ALL THE TIMES I'VE SAVED HIS LIFE!

... AND ME HOPING TO SETTLE THE TAB FOR ALL THE DEBAUCHING I'VE BEEN UP TO WITH ONE OF ADAM'S GOLD WRIST BANDS!

PIP, HONEY, CALM DOWN.

OOOPS! I FORGOT MAMA WAS HERE, WHICH WASN'T AN EASY THING TO DO, SEEING AS HOW I WAS SITTING ON TOP OF HER!

TIME TO THINK AND TALK FAST!

MY FRIEND NEEDS ME!

I MUST GO!

NONSENSE. YOUR PAL WILL BE OKAY.

BESIDES, YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO LEAVE, DO YOU? ESPECIALLY AFTER LAST NIGHT...?

WELL, ah... I... I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SPEAK ABOUT THAT! YOU SEE, I WAS KIND OF UNDER THE INFLUENCE LAST NIGHT AND ALL THOSE THINGS I SAID...

WHAT?

EXPLAIN... MY EYE!! YOU WERE PLANNING TO TAKE CRUEL ADVANTAGE OF MY GENTLE NATURE--!! AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT!!

MAMA, IF YOU'D JUST LET ME EXPLAIN...

I AM DIFFERENT. I'M A TROLL! HEY?!

YEAH, A TROLL WHO'S ABOUT TO LOSE AN EAR IF HE DON'T ACT QUICKLY!

HATE TO WASTE GOOD LIQUOR THIS WAY, BUT...

WHAT?!

HEY, LADY, THAT WAS A THREE-CREDIT DRINK YOUR PET APE JUST KICKED IN MY FACE! HE SHOULD BE ON A LEASH!

"PET APE"!! ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM TALK OF YOUR 'BELOVED' IN SUCH A MANNER?

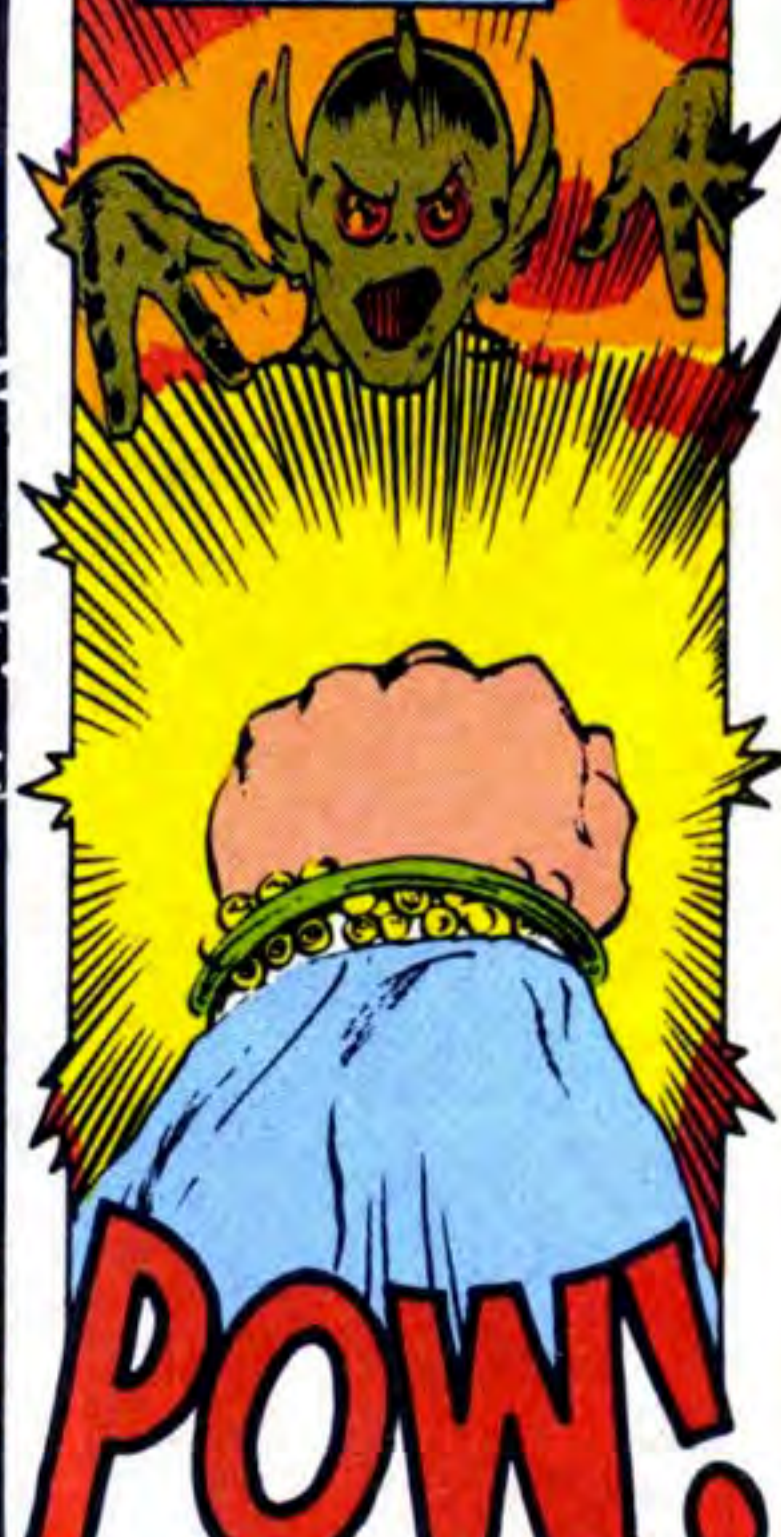
BUTT OUT, RUBE! WE'RE HAVING A PRIVATE LITTLE LOVERS' SCRAP AND WANT NO INTERFERENCE!

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GET PLENTY OF INTERFERENCE UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT MY DRINK!

WELL, IF YOU INSIST.

I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO...

...THIS!



LOOK WHAT THAT TUB OF QUEDOUGH LARD DID TO OUR PAL!

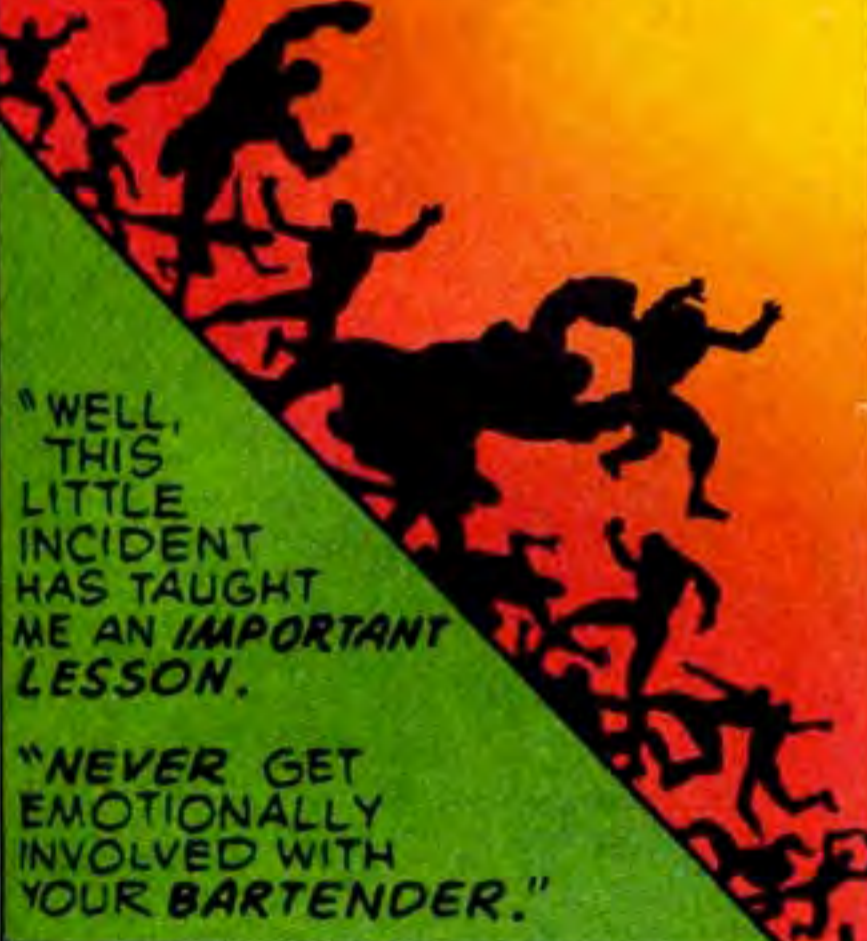
NO ONE TREATS US DELPHI DEVILS LIKE THAT!

WANT TO BET YOUR TEETH ON THAT, ONE EYE?!

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON MAMA'S KEEN INTELLECT AND EVEN TEMPER TO SAVE ME FROM HER OWN SAVAGE WRATH.



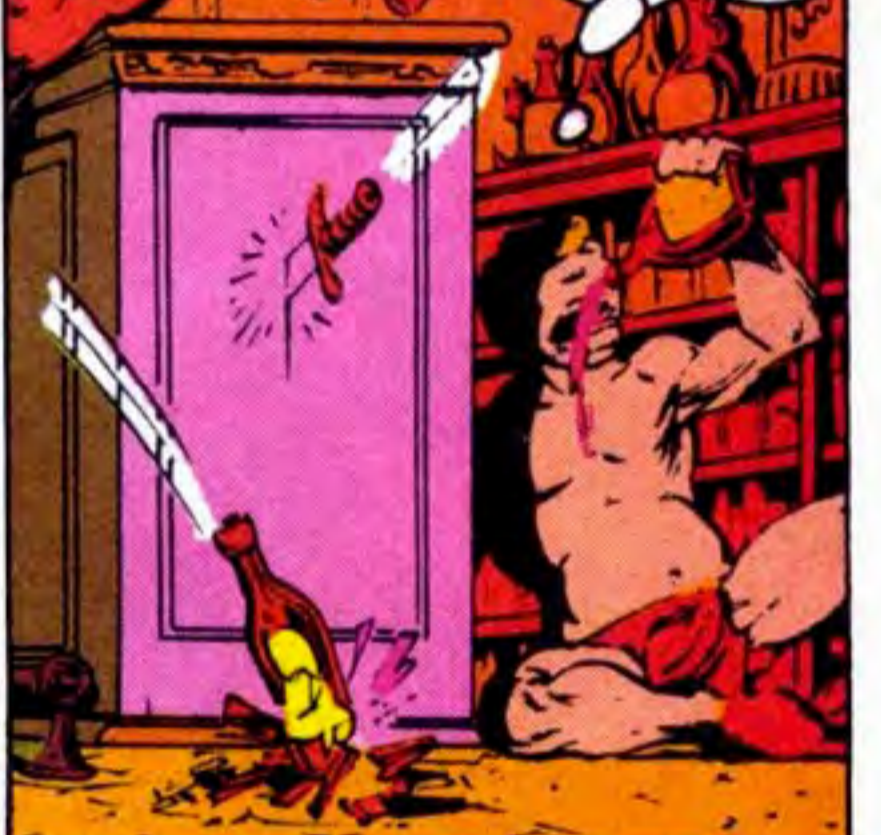
"LOOKS LIKE THE ENTIRE BAR HAS DECIDED TO JOIN THE FUN! FIGURES! TONIGHT'S FLOOR SHOW STINKS!"



"WELL, THIS LITTLE INCIDENT HAS TAUGHT ME AN IMPORTANT LESSON."

"NEVER GET EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED WITH YOUR BARTENDER."

I REMEMBER WHEN THIS USED TO BE A CLASS PLACE TO GET PLOWED AT! GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LET JUST ANY KIND OF RIFF-RAFF IN!



BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT A SMALL ANTI-GRAVITY CRAFT, WHICH IS DESTINED TO AFFECT THE LIFE OF OUR UNSCRUPULOUS HERO, COMES TO A HALT OUTSIDE THE CABARET!



DRIVER, STOP! PERHAPS HERE I'LL FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!

FOR NEARLY AN HOUR THE BAR-ROOM BRAWL CONTINUES, ITS INTENSITY RISING AND FALLING IN SPORADIC INTERVALS, UNTIL...



...THE DIN FINALLY DIES COMPLETELY! THE DEATHLIKE SILENCE THAT FOLLOWS IS UNNERVING, GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT ALL WITHIN HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THE TAVERN'S MAD LITTLE MINI-WAR!



BUT AT LAST, THE CABARET'S DOORS BURST OPEN AND A LONE FIGURE (OBVIOUSLY THE VICTOR) STRIDES CONFIDENTLY OUT INTO THE DARK STREETS!



GUESS I SHOWED THEM!



GOOD EVENING, WARRIOR, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR APPARENT VICTORY AND WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT, IF POSSIBLE!

THAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED, PROVIDING --

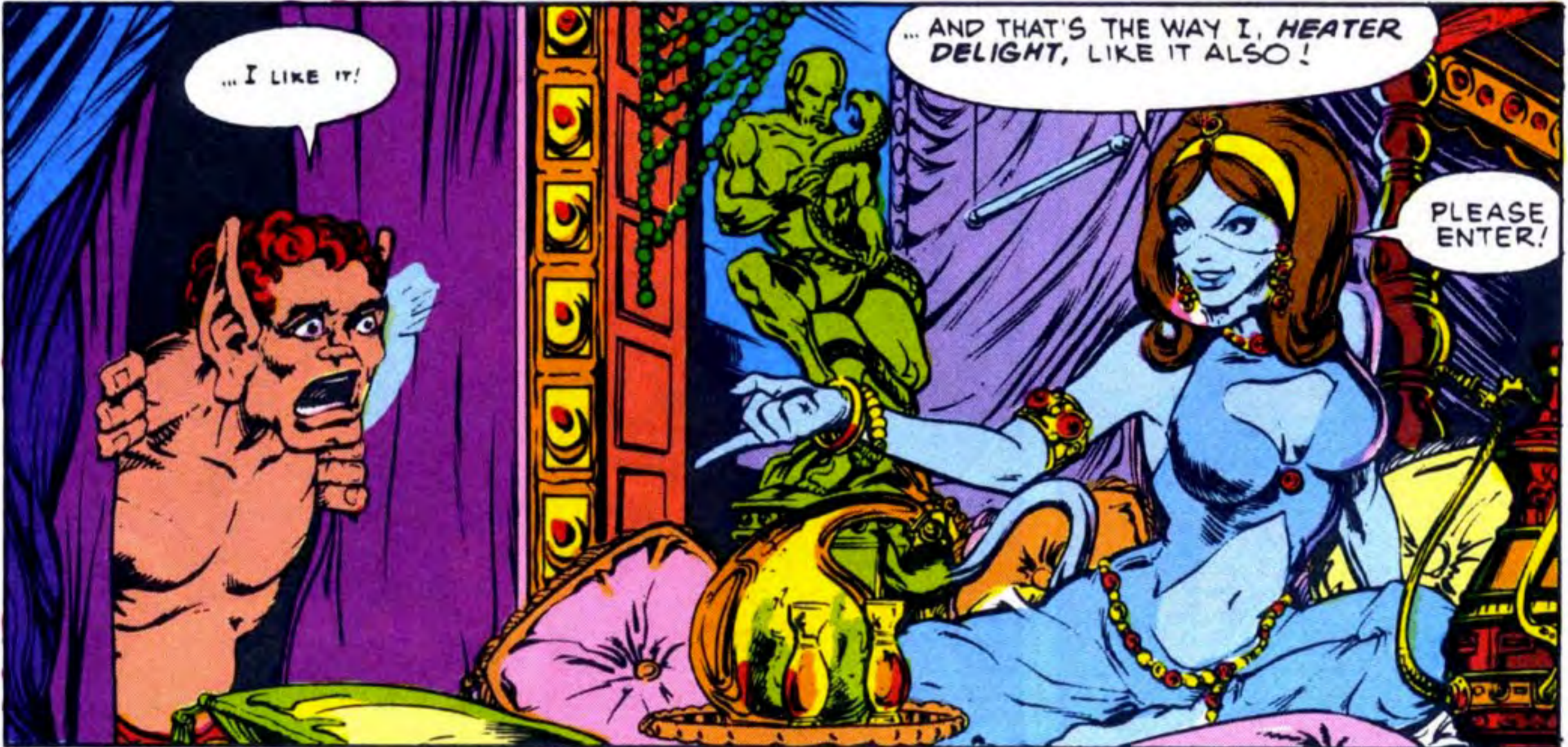


-- I APPROVE OF WHAT I SEE ONCE I PEEL BACK THESE DRAPES AND GET A LOOK AT YOUR MUG!

FOR PIP THE KILLER TROLL ONLY TALKS TO PEOPLE HE CAN LOOK STRAIGHT IN THE EYE!

FACE TO FACE!

THAT'S THE WAY...



... I LIKE IT!

... AND THAT'S THE WAY I, HEATER DELIGHT, LIKE IT ALSO!

PLEASE ENTER!



HOLY HEART FAILURE! THIS IS A PLEASURE CRUISER! ONE OF THOSE FANTASY MOBILES THAT ALL DEGENERATES DREAM OF...

... BUT ONLY THE RICH ONES EVER GET A CRACK AT!



ARE YOU GOING TO STAY OUT THERE ALL NIGHT OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME FOR...

... A LITTLE RIDE!



I'LL COME!



PIP OL' BOY, WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T WAKE UP!



NICE PLACE YOU GOT HERE. BET YOUR RENT'S OUTRAGEOUS!

EXTREMELY! IN FACT, THAT'S WHY I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

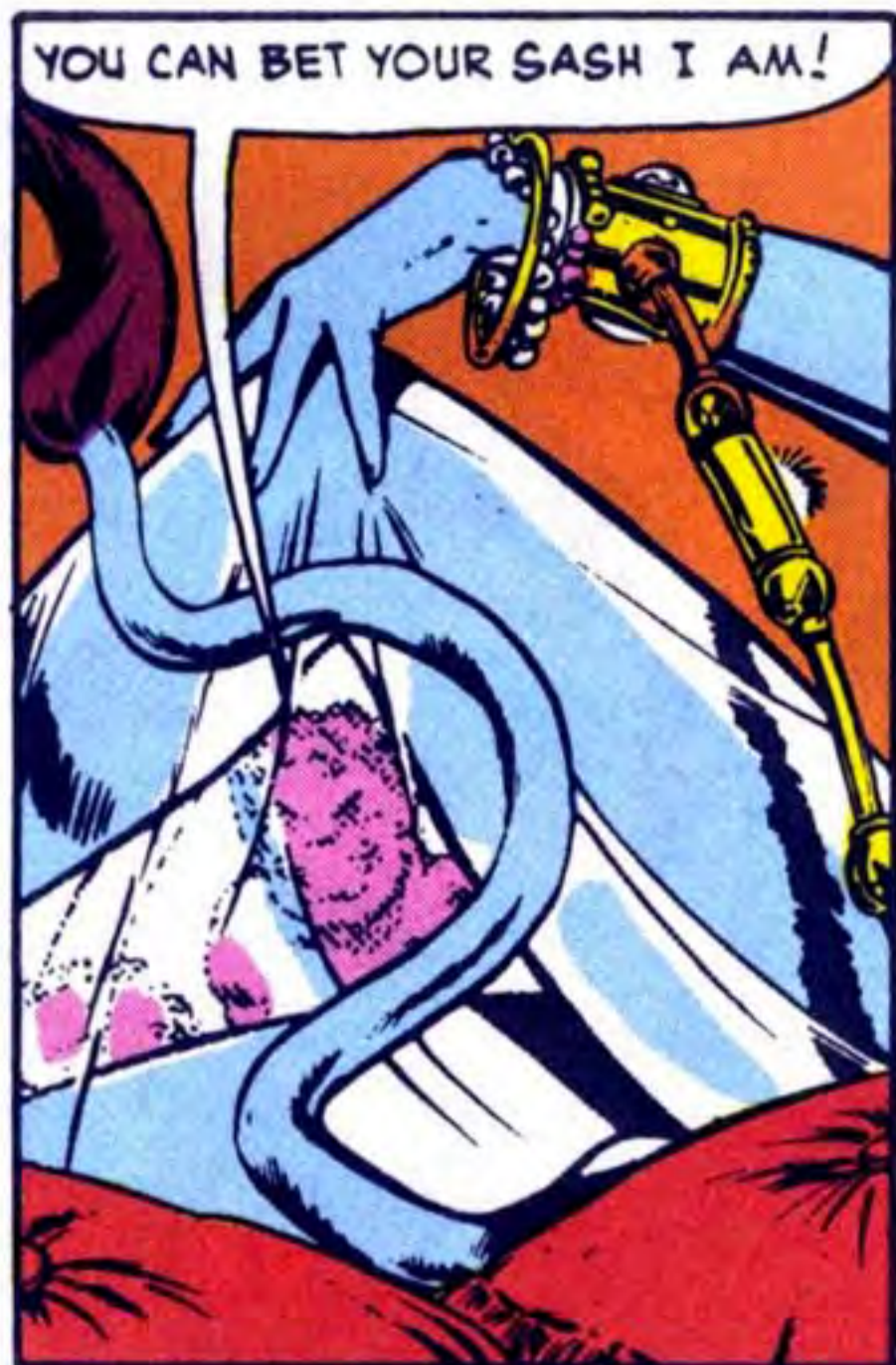
I'VE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.



PROPOSITION?!

I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN AMONG MEN, A DOER OF DEEDS, A TRUE CHAMPION!

ARE YOU SUCH A MAN?



YOU CAN BET YOUR SASH I AM!



BUT A MAN OF YOUR STATURE... SURELY...

Oh, SIZE HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. YOU SEE, I'M A TROLL.

ARE ALL TROLLS BORN AS POWERFUL AS YOURSELF?

LADY, TROLLS AREN'T BORN! THEY'RE MADE!



"I, MYSELF, USED TO BE A HUMAN, ONE PRINCE GOFERN OF LAXIDAZIA... TWO-HUNDRED-SIXTIETH IN LINE FOR THE THRONE OF MY WORLD!"



"BEING A SUPERIOR PRODUCT OF SELECTIVE INBREEDING, I DECIDED TO OCCUPY MY LIFE IN THE NOBLE CALLING OF PAINTING. STARSAPES!"

"BUT I WAS SOON TO DISCOVER WHAT AN EMPTY EXISTENCE I LED. ON ONE OF MY 'PAINTING ODYSSEYS,' I STUMBLED UPON AN ENCAMPMENT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF OUR REALM!"

"THE CAMP'S OCCUPANTS PROVED TO BE TROLLS, AND THE ANSWER TO A LIFELONG SEARCH FOR INTELLECT ON THE SAME LEVEL AND WAVELENGTH AS MY OWN. IN OTHER WORDS: FRIENDS!"

"THEY INVITED ME TO GORGE WITH THEM THAT NIGHT! NEVER HAD I BEEN TREATED TO SUCH A GOURMET DELIGHT AS THE LIKES OF THEIR DARK STEW!"



"NEVER HAD I DRUNK WITH SUCH GUSTO!"



"NEVER HAD I DANCED WITH SUCH ABANDON!"



"NEVER HAD I PASSED OUT SO DISGRACEFULLY!"



"NOR HAD I EVER AWAKENED TO FIND MYSELF BOTH HUNG OVER AND MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSFORMED INTO A TROLL TO BOOT!"



"I'VE SINCE LEARNED THAT IF YOU RUN WITH TROLLS LONG ENOUGH..."

... YOU'RE DESTINED TO BECOME ONE YOURSELF!

A WEEK LATER, I WAS KICKED OUT OF THE LAXIDAZIAN COURT, FOR DECADENCE-- AND HERE I NOW STAND!

WHAT AN AMAZING STORY!



YOU SOUND JUST LIKE THE TYPE OF MAN I WANT FOR THIS LITTLE JOB I NEED DONE!

LITTLE JOB?

OH, IT'S NOTHING VERY DIFFICULT, JUST A MATTER OF CUTTING A WIRE...



... A WIRE THAT HOLDS ME PRISONER TO THIS PLEASURE CRUISER!



ON THAT OMINOUS NOTE, I, THE EDITOR OF MARVEL COMICS, BELIEVE IT'S TIME THE MAIN CHARACTER AND NAMESAKE OF THIS BOOK PUT IN ANOTHER TOKEN APPEARANCE. -- MARY.

OK! OK!-- JIM.



MY SOUL LONGED FOR THE SOLITUDE AND THE FULL EMPTINESS THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND HERE, AMONG THE STARS!

HERE I SHALL UNRAVEL THE TWISTED THING MY LIFE HAS BECOME!

YET, WHERE TO BEGIN?





FIRST, I BELIEVE IT IS TIME I ADMITTED MY OWN ALIEN, YET DEFINITE HUMANITY, FOR THE MAGUS HAS SHOWN THAT I CAST SHADOWS EVEN AS I REFLECT LIGHT.

I AM NO GOD! I WIELD POWER, YET, AM STILL ONLY A MAN.

LIKE ALL MEN, I HAVE PROBLEMS—POWERFUL PROBLEMS, YET, STILL TROUBLES I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE AS A MAN.

OR CAN I? FOR UNLIKE MOST MEN, I KNOW I'VE ONLY SHORT MONTHS LEFT TO LIVE.

CAN I HOPE, IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD, TO GAIN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THIS VAMPIRE SOUL GEM I AM FORCED TO WEAR...

... OR, MUST I CARRY THE SOULS OF HUNDREDS OF DOOMED WRETCHES TO THE GRAVE WITH ME?

YET, HOW CAN I HOPE TO MASTER THIS GEM WHEN I CANNOT EVEN COME TO TERMS WITH MY OWN MAD THOUGHTS?

FOR WITHIN MY OWN FEVERED MIND RESTS THE KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORIES OF THOSE WHOSE SOULS I HAVE STOLEN... AND MY OTHER SELF THAT NEVER EXISTED, THE MAGUS.

WHO KNOWS WHAT EFFECT THIS SHALL HAVE UPON MY TROUBLED BRAIN, FOR THE MULTIPLE REALITIES I NOW PERCEIVE MAY COMPLETELY DISABLE ME.

IF THAT HAPPENS... I AM LOST!

FOR IF I COME TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN NO LONGER TRUST MY OWN SENSES, WHAT HOPE DO... WHAT?!



NO!!

DO I BEGIN TO LOSE CONTROL ALREADY?



NO, IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?



THE STARS ARE DIS-APPEARING!



VANISHING STARS?! SORRY, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY ENTIRELY! ONE YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT ISSUE TO LEARN ABOUT!



MEANWHILE, LET'S RETURN TO THIS ISSUE'S TRUE STAR, WHO IS ABOUT TO FALL INTO AN INTERESTING- ENOUGH SITUATION TO FILL OUT THIS MONTH'S COMIC.

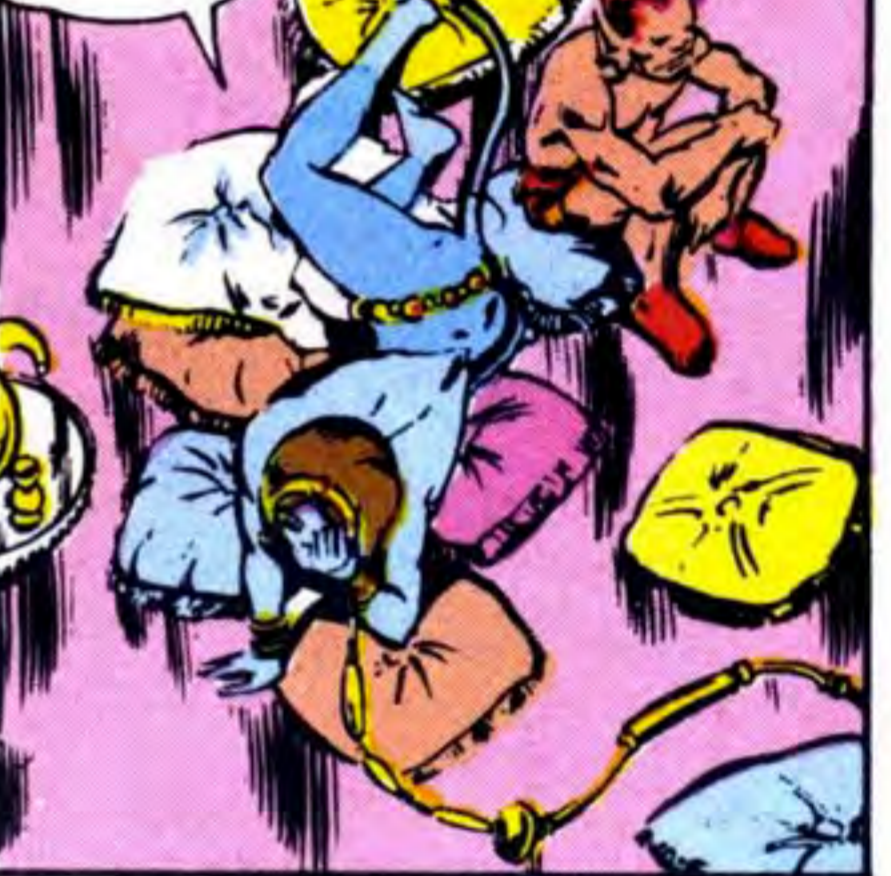
THAT'S RIGHT -- I'M A SLAVE TO THIS PLEASURE CRUISER -- OR RATHER, TO ITS OWNER, PRO-BOSCIS!



OH YEAH?

DO YOU THINK I CHOSE TO LEAD THIS SORT OF LIFE?

I WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY AND FORCED INTO THIS WORK!



OH YEAH?

I REALIZE A PLEA TO RESCUE ME FROM BONDAGE FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE ALONE IS LUDICROUS, BECAUSE HUMAN BONDAGE IS STILL QUITE LEGAL IN THIS SPACE-SECTOR!



SO, INSTEAD, I OFFER TO REWARD YOU FOR FREEING ME IN A MANNER THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH OF US MUTUALLY AND DERIVE FOR YOU...



...UNBELIEVABLE PLEASURE!



OH YEAH?

PLEASURE, huh? WELL, I THINK YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL.



NOW, JUST DROP ME OFF AT THE NEAREST...



...ELECTRONICS SHOP!

THAT'S WHERE I'LL FIND A SET OF WIRE CUTTERS TO CLIP YOU FREE WITH!



WHICH MAY PROVE MORE EASILY SAID THAN DONE, SEEING AS HOW THIS YEAR'S LOIN CLOTHS DIDN'T COME EQUIPPED WITH POCKETS OR CASH TO CARRY IN THEM!

I GUESS A BIT OF SUBTLE THIEVERY IS NOW CALLED FOR.



SUBTLE IS RIGHT -- I DON'T WANT ANY HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH THAT SIZE 18 BONE-CRUSHER!



WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, HE'S GOT THE WIRE SNIPS JAMMED IN HIS BACK POCKET!

THIS REQUIRES DESPERATE MEASURES!

Ah-HAH! GOT IT!



FIRST I'LL JUST RIP THE CORD LOOSE FROM THIS LAMP!...



...THEN CAREFULLY CONNECT THE BROKEN END UP TO OL' CHROME DOME'S STOOL...



... PLUG HIM IN, AND WATCH THE PYROTECHNICS!



ZAT!

HMMM. NOT BAD!

YEOW!



iiiiiiiii = FA HA-ITTA!!!



THANKS, BALDY!



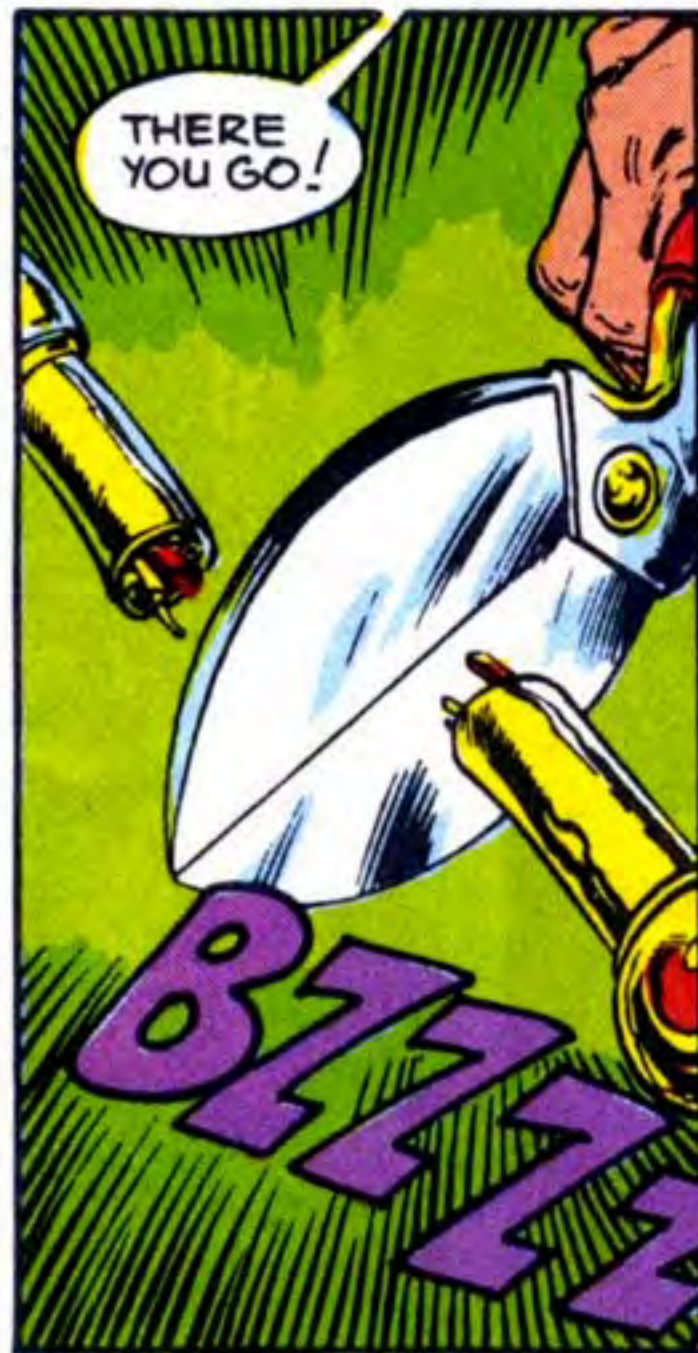
IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU!

A SHORT TIME LATER,
AT A DESERTED SPOT
OUTSIDE THE MAIN CITY...



OH, PLEASE HURRY!

WELL,
HOLD
STILL,
BLAST
YA!



THERE
YOU GO!



FREE,
FREE
AT LAST!

HEY!

ZZZZZZZ CRACK!



WHAT'S THAT
BUZZING?

OH, DIDN'T
I MENTION
THE ALARM?

NO, YOU
DIDN'T!
WHO DOES...

... IT SIGNAL? WHY
PRO-BOSCIS...



... OF COURSE!
AND THAT'S
PROBABLY
HIM NOW!

YES, HE KNOWS HOW
TO TELEPORT!



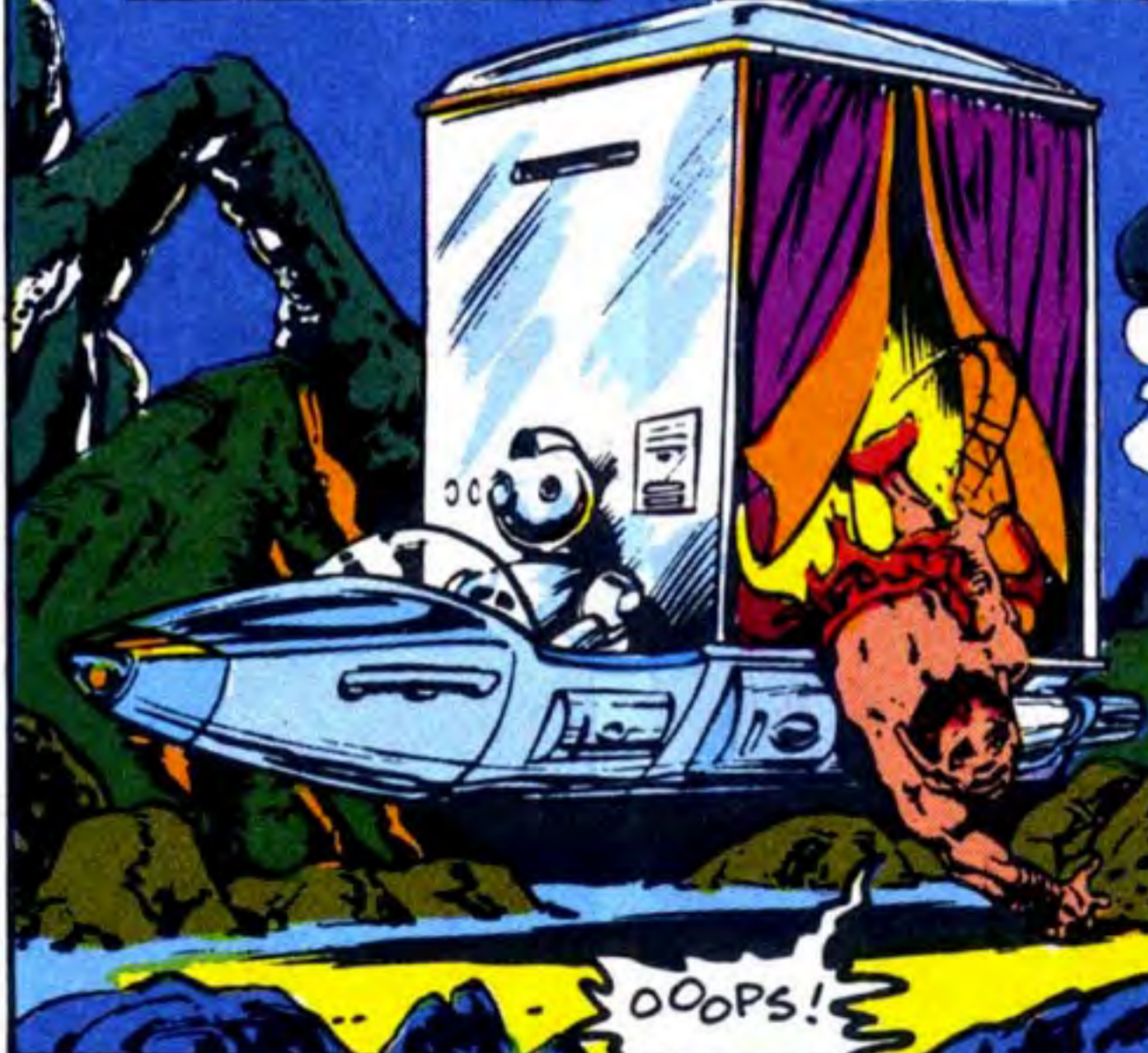
GREAT, JUST GREAT!
WELL, LET'S TAKE A
LOOK AT THIS
PRO-BOXKIT!

DAMN, JUST
AS I FIGURED,
HE'S MORE
THAN THREE
FEET TALL!

THIS IS GOING
TO BE ROUGH!



WHO DARES TAMPER
WITH THE PROPERTY
OF PRO-BOSCIS
THE PROCURER?



OOOPS!



WELL... MY NAME'S PIP,
BUT I THINK IF WE
JUST TALK THIS OUT...

THERE WILL BE NO TALK!
YOU HAVE TRIED TO
ROB ME, LITTLE ONE!

THE PENALTY
FOR SUCH AN
INDISCRETION IS
DEATH!



YET, I SUSPECT YOU WERE TRICKED
INTO THIS AFFAIR BY HEATER...



... SO I SHALL SLAY
YOU QUICKLY AND **ARGG!**



OH, DON'T
RUSH ON MY
ACCOUNT!

TAKE AS
LONG AS YOU
WANT TO KILL
ME... TEN, TWENTY,
EVEN 100 YEARS
IF YOU LIKE!



WHEN YOU DECIDE, YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO CONTACT ME
AT **MAMA ALPHA'S!**

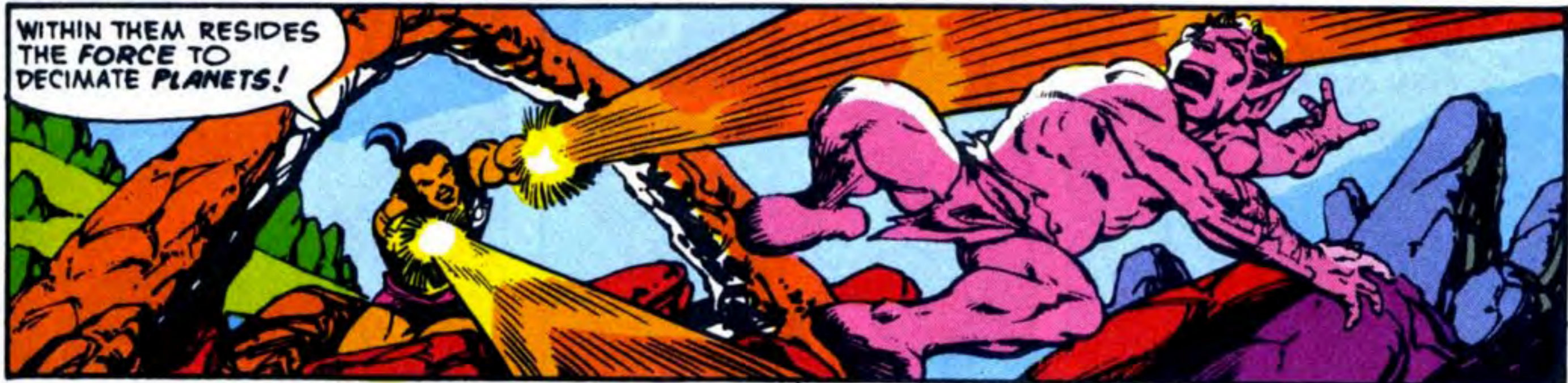
I THINK YOU'D
GET A KICK OUT
OF MEETING MOM!



IF NOT A KICK, I HOPE YOU AT LEAST
GET A PUNCH OR MAYBE A GOOD BITE!

FOOL!
DO YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
ESCAPE
ME...

... WHILE I
POSSESS THESE
POWERFUL RINGS
OF VICE!



WITHIN THEM RESIDES THE FORCE TO DECIMATE PLANETS!



... AND FRENCH FRY TROLLS TOO, I'LL BET!

LUCKILY, WE TROLLS HAVE PROVEN TO BE AN AGILE, IF NOT EXCEPTIONALLY BRIGHT, LOT!

MEANWHILE, THE CAUSE OF THIS BATTLE IS SHOWING A DEFINITE LACK OF INTEREST IN ITS RESULTS!

COULD IT BE SHE HOPES TO SPOT A CERTAIN...



... MYSTERIOUS FIGURE THAT STANDS IN SHADOW A FEW HUNDRED FEET AWAY?



I DO NOT LIKE THIS.

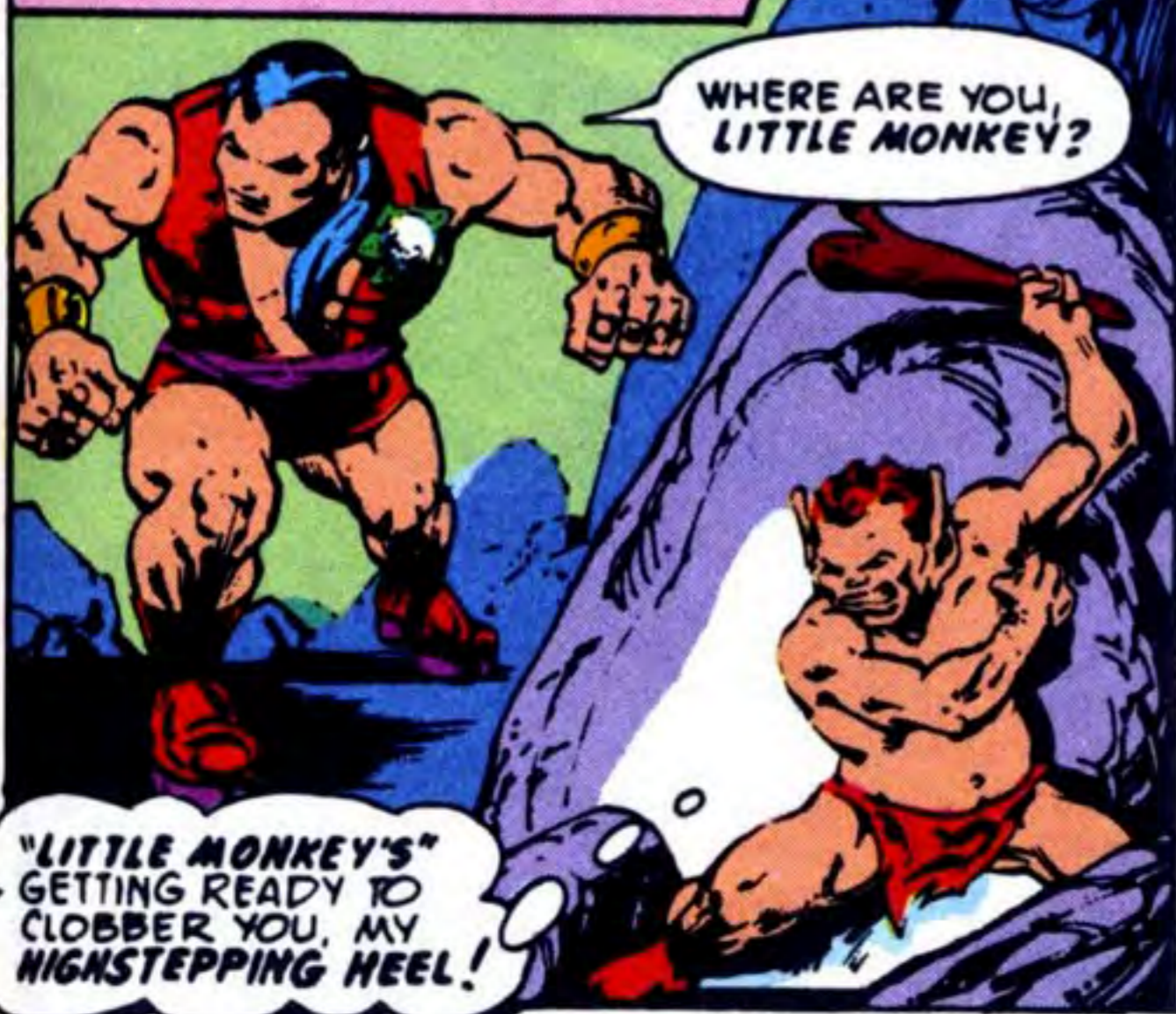
IT'S NOT MY WAY TO ALLOW OTHERS TO FIGHT MY BATTLES FOR ME!

BUT I'VE LITTLE CHOICE THIS TIME, SO I MUST CONTENT MYSELF FOR NOW WITH JUST WATCHING AND...



-- WAITING FOR THE PROPER MOMENT TO EXERCISE MY PRESENCE!

"WHO," YOU ASK? AN EXCELLENT QUESTION, DEAR READER, WITH A SUPERB ANSWER THAT WILL SHORTLY BE REVEALED TO YOU! FIRST, WE'LL CHECK OUT HOW PIP IS DOING!



WHERE ARE YOU, LITTLE MONKEY?

"LITTLE MONKEY'S" GETTING READY TO CLOBBER YOU, MY HIGHSTEPPING HEEL!





HOLY GOOSH! I GAVE HIS KNEECAP MY WORST, AND HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT!



PIP, OL' BOY, IT'S TIME TO EXERCISE THAT WELL-KNOWN BETTER PART OF VALOR, NAMELY...

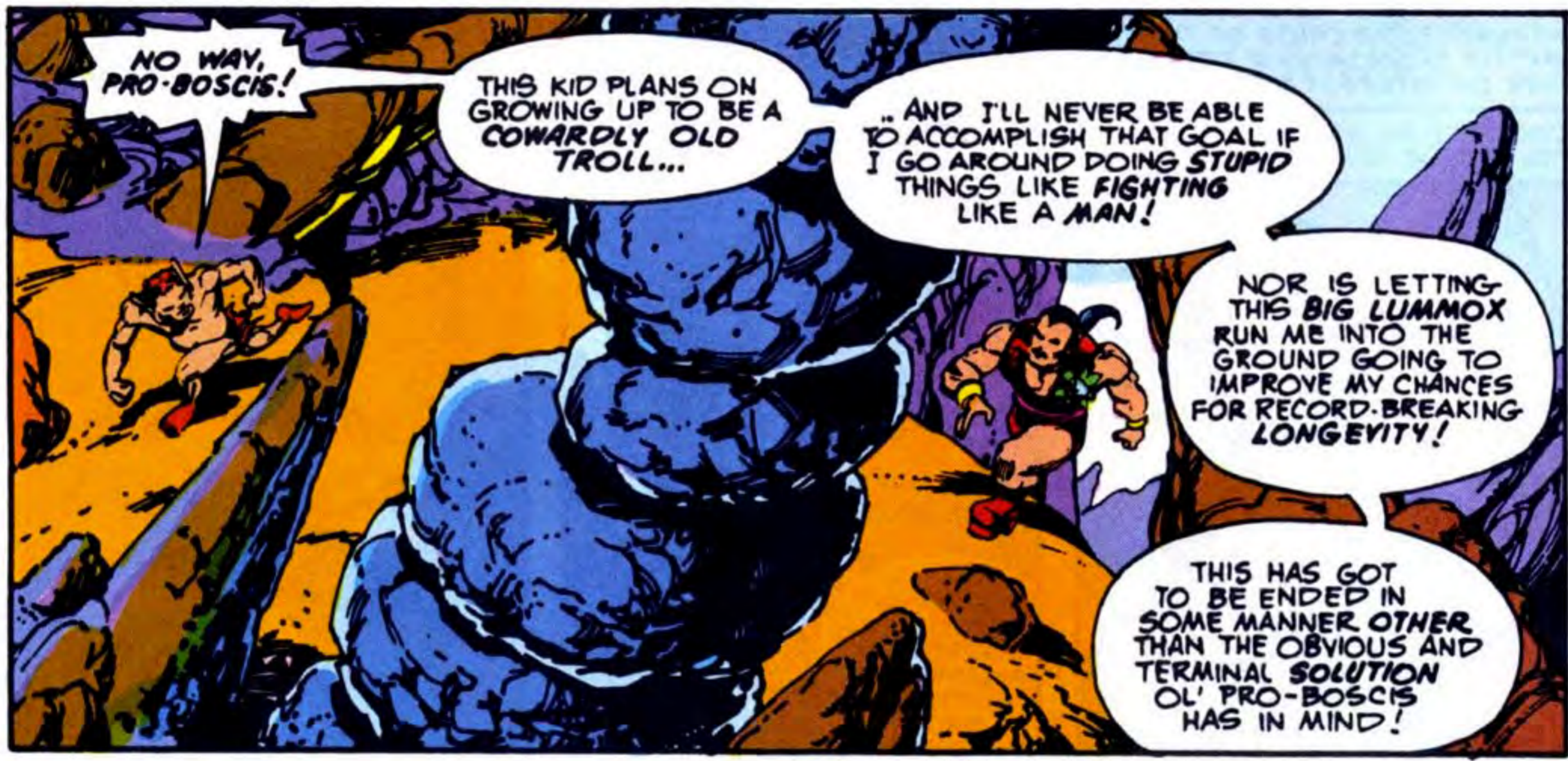
... FLEEING IN BLIND PANIC!

ah-HAH!

THERE YOU ARE!



COME BACK HERE AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN, YOU COWARDLY TROLL!



NO WAY, PRO-BOSCIS!

THIS KID PLANS ON GROWING UP TO BE A COWARDLY OLD TROLL...

.. AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL IF I GO AROUND DOING STUPID THINGS LIKE FIGHTING LIKE A MAN!

NOR IS LETTING THIS BIG LUMMOX RUN ME INTO THE GROUND GOING TO IMPROVE MY CHANCES FOR RECORD-BREAKING LONGEVITY!

THIS HAS GOT TO BE ENDED IN SOME MANNER OTHER THAN THE OBVIOUS AND TERMINAL SOLUTION OL' PRO-BOSCIS HAS IN MIND!



WAIT A MINUTE!



WELL, IF IT ISN'T SALVATION-- AND OLD, BUT STILL RELIABLE, CLICHE #137.

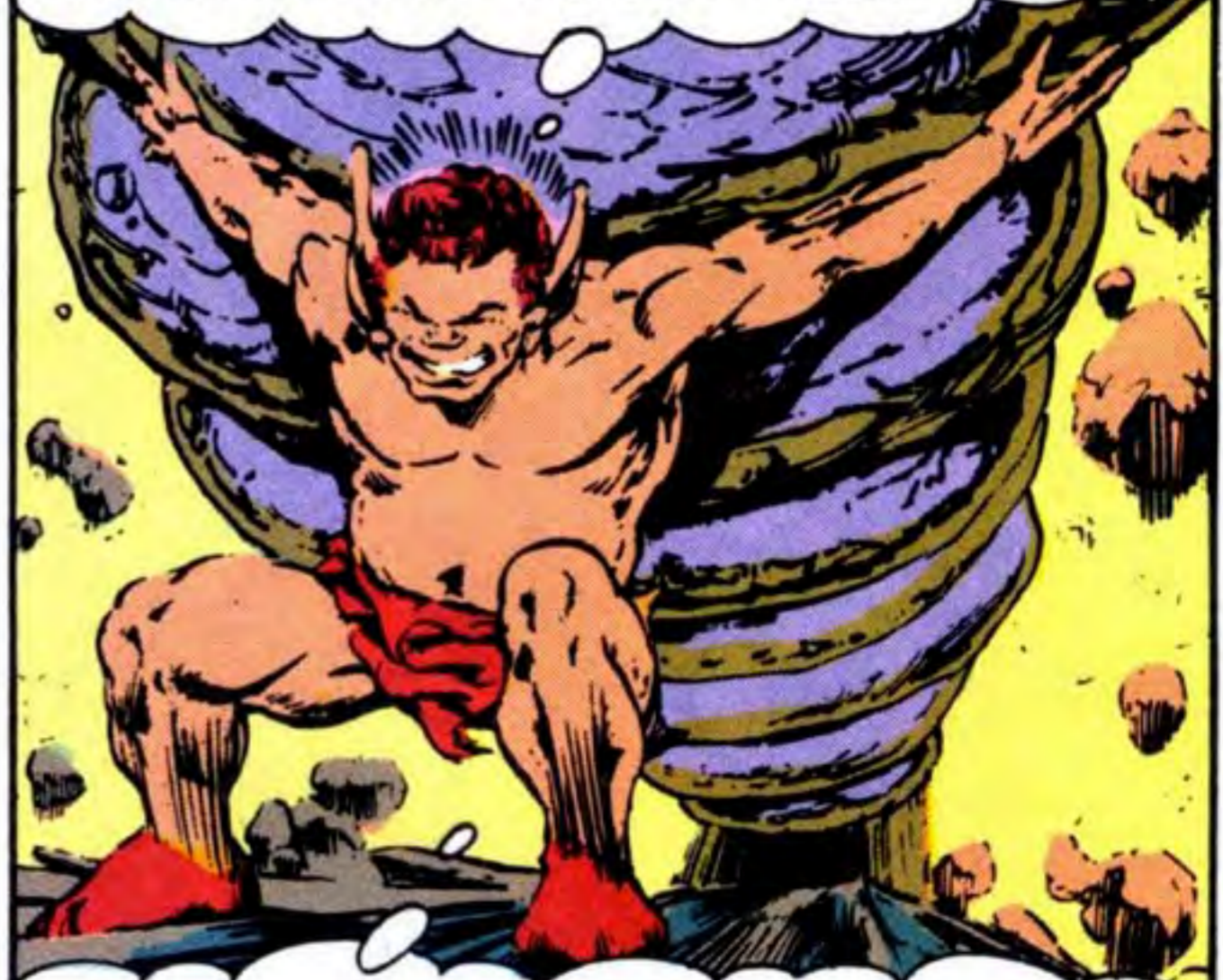
NOW IF I CAN JUST SCALE THIS CLIFF WALL BEFORE THAT GREASE-BALL ROUNDS THAT LAST CORNER...

... AND STOPS JUST WHERE I'D LIKE HIM TO!



BINGO!
EVERYTHING
LINES UP
PERFECTLY!

"SO THE MIGHTY TROLL BRACED HIS STURDY
FRAME BETWEEN THE CLIFF FACE ...

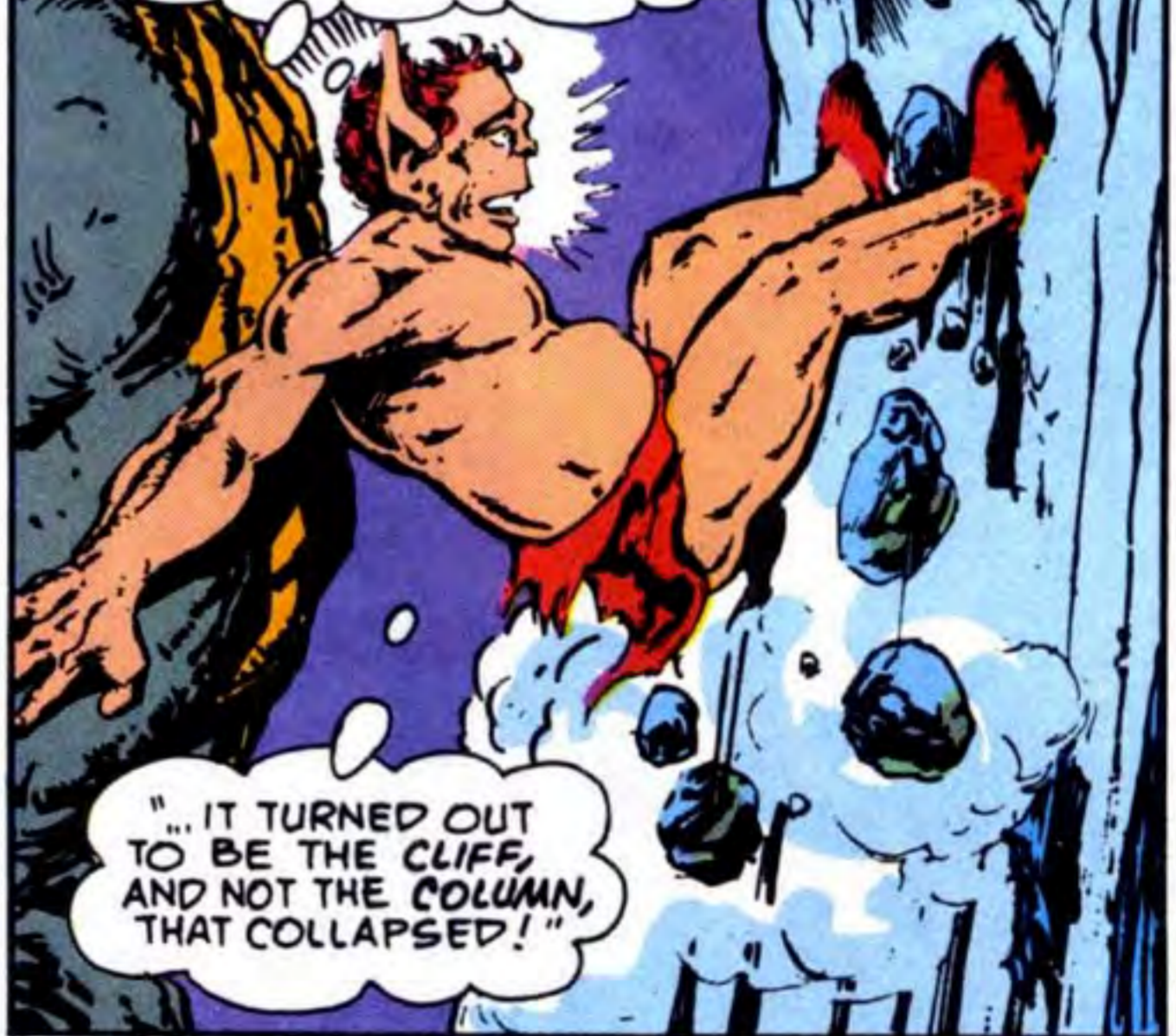


"... AND THE COLUMN OF PRECARIOUSLY BALANCED
BOULDERS THAT HE HOPED TO TOPPLE ONTO HIS FOE.

"WITH A HERCULEAN EFFORT HE PITTED HIS MASSIVE
SINEWS AGAINST THE UNYIELDING STONE!
STRAINING... STRAINING UNTIL...



"... MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE...

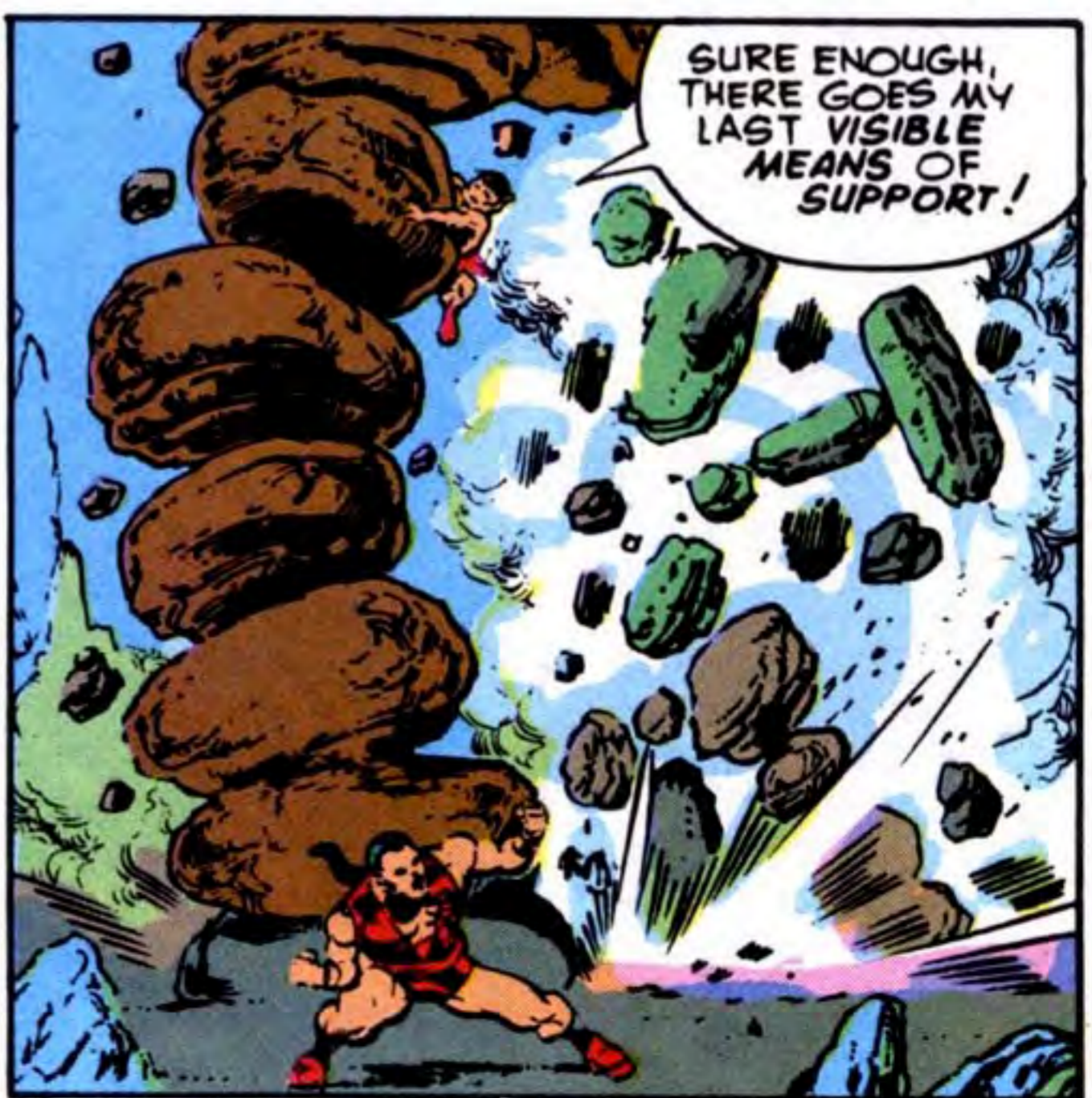


"... IT TURNED OUT
TO BE THE CLIFF,
AND NOT THE COLUMN,
THAT COLLAPSED!"

JUMPING
JAKOOMBAS!



THE WHOLE CLIFF
WALL IS CRASHING ON
DOWN AND I'VE A SICK
FEELING I KNOW WHAT'S
ABOUT TO FOLLOW!



SURE ENOUGH,
THERE GOES MY
LAST VISIBLE
MEANS OF
SUPPORT!



'BYE WORLD!

IT'S BEEN FUN!



LEAPING LEPROSY!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I'M...

...STILL ALIVE!

I'M SO GLAD!



I OWE YOU SO MUCH! WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS MY FEELINGS!

THAT REWARD YOU SPOKE OF EARLIER WILL BE ENOUGH, THANKS!

JUST LET ME REST A MOMENT...



BUT YOU CAN REST WITHIN YOUR REWARD! HERE IT COMES NOW!

I WISH TO GIVE YOU MY PLEASURE CRUISER, FOR I'M NOW OFFICIALLY OUT OF THE VICE BUSINESS!



WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK UPSET!

THAT ISN'T EXACTLY THE REWARD...

...I HAD IN MIND WHEN I STARTED THIS JOB!



REALLY? JUST WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?



Oh... NOTHING, REALLY!

AH! A TRUE HUMANITARIAN! FANTASTIC!

EROS! OH, BABY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!



I WAS SO WORRIED ♥♥♥ THAT SOMETHING HAD ♥♥♥ HAPPENED TO YOU ♥♥♥♥!

THIS IS DISGUSTING!



MY FRIEND, I THANK YOU FOR FREEING HEATER FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH I FEEL I WAS QUITE CAPABLE OF DOING THE SAME!

OH, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO CHANCE HAVING THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE OF HIS BRUISED!

YES, REALLY DISGUSTING!



BUT, ALAS, WE MUST QUICKLY DEPART, PIP, FOR THE STARS AND ROMANCE BECKON!

AGAIN, THANK YOU AND FAREWELL!

YES, 'BYE, PIP!

YEAH, 'BYE!



SOON AS I FIGURE THE MOST PAINFUL WAY TO DO IT I'M GONNA LOCATE AND KILL THEM TWO!

SNICK!



BUT IN THE MEANTIME, MORE URGENT MATTERS ARE DIGGING THEIR WAY FREE!



SO I THINK I'D BEST ACCEPT HEATER'S GENEROSITY AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE VOID...

...AND SAFETY!



SAY, I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE THIS HOOKAH?