

THE SUN TURNED CRIMSON AS THE HARD-FOUGHT BATTLE RAGED... AS STARR THE SLAYER STRUCK BLOW AFTER BLOW TO SAVE THE CITY HE RULED FROM THE SCARLET BEHEMOTH WHICH MENACED IT! AND ON THE PURPLE PLAIN ABOVE MANY-TOWERED ZARDATH, THE EVIL WIZARD TRULL RECITED HIS MOST POTENT SPELLS... FOR, THIS DAY WOULD MARK THE FINAL ENCOUNTER OF...

THE SWORD AND THE SORCERERS!

BY ALL THE GODS OF THE GREAT ABYSS!

MY MIGHTIEST BLOWS HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE FIRE-BREATHING MAN-DRAGON CONJURED UP BY TRULL!

YET, I MUST FIGHT ON... FOR THE CITY OF ZARDATH!

IF YOU YOU CAN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, FRIEND, JUST KEEP READING! SO SAY:

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EDITOR WRITER ARTIST

JEAN IZZO, LETTERER

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SUDDENLY, AMIDST
A BLAZING
BLINDING FLASH
OF LIGHT--

WHAT
UNSPEAKABLE
MADNESS
IS THIS?

THE MAN-
DRAGON HAS
VANISHED!!

AND--
IN ITS
PLACE--



YES, YOU BRAINLESS
OUTLANDER... TRULL THE WIZARD
NOW STANDS IN THE MONSTER'S
PLACE!

SO, SPEAK NO MORE TO ME
OF YOUR "MIGHTIEST BLOWS"
-- FOR THEY ARE AS NOTHING
BESIDE MY OWN POWERS!

JUST AS
YOU ARE
NOTHING BUT
A MOTE OF
DUST... WHICH
I CAN NOW
DESTROY!



MAY THE
NIGHT-SHADES
PROTECT ME!

THE
MAN-
DRAGON
APPEARS ANEW...
FAR LARGER
THAN BEFORE...
HOLDING ME IN
A GRIP OF
IRON!



WHAT
MERE
HUMAN
CAN
WITHSTAND
SUCH
WIZARDRY?

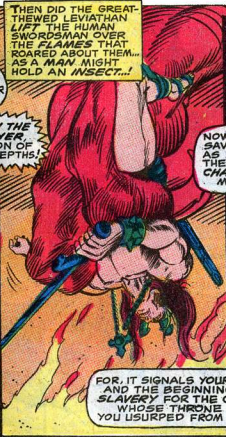
NONE, DEAR STARR...
AND CERTAINLY NOT
SOME BARBARIAN
BORN SUCH AS YOU!

NOW THE PEOPLE
OF ANCIENT ZARDATH
WILL KNOW WHO THEIR
TRUE RULER SHOULD
BE!



SLAY THE
SLAYER,
DEMON OF
THE DEPTHS!

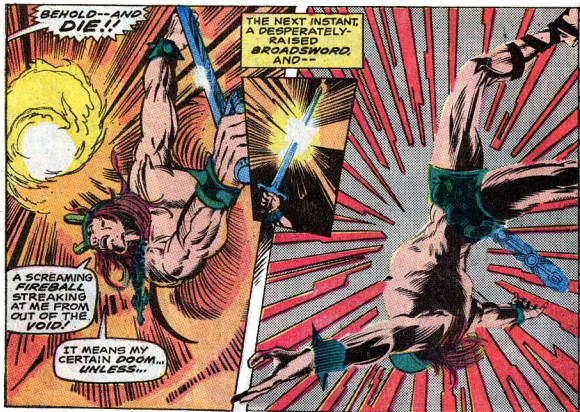
THEN DID THE GREAT-
THEWED LEVIATHAN
LIFT THE HUMAN
SWORDSMAN OVER
THE FLAMES THAT
ROARED ABOUT THEM...
AS A MAN MIGHT
HOLD AN INSECT...!



NOW BEHOLD,
SAVAGE, AS
AS I FORM
THE SIGN OF
CHAOS ABOVE
MY HEAD!



FOR, IT SIGNALS YOUR END...
AND THE BEGINNING OF
SLAVERY FOR THE CITY
WHOSE THRONE
YOU USURPED FROM TRULL!

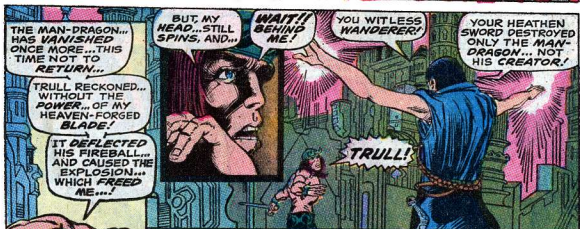


BEHOLD--AND
DIE!!

THE NEXT INSTANT,
A DESPERATELY-
RAISED
BROADSWORD,
AND--

A SCREAMING
FIREBALL
STREAKING
AT ME FROM
OUT OF THE
VOID!

IT MEANS MY
CERTAIN DOOM...
UNLESS...



THE MAN-DRAGON...
HAS VANISHED
ONCE MORE... THIS
TIME NOT TO
RETURN...

TRULL RECKONED...
WITHOUT THE
POWER... OF MY
HEAVEN-FORGED
BLADE!

IT DEFLECTED HIS
FIREBALL...
AND CAUSED THE
EXPLOSION...
WHICH FREED
ME...

BUT MY
HEAD... STILL
SPINS, AND...

WAIT!!
BEHIND
ME!

YOU WITLESS
WANDERER!

YOUR HEATHEN
SWORD DESTROYED
ONLY THE MAN-
DRAGON... NOT
HIS CREATOR!

TRULL!



THEN, EVEN AS
BLACKNESS
OVERCAME THE
BARBARIAN'S
STUNNED
SENSES... EVEN
AS TRULL
CAST HIS MOST
DEADLY
SPELL...

...STARR
THE
SLAYER
HURLED HIS
BROADSWORD
ONE LAST,
LETHAL
TIME...!



NO!
NOOO!!

WH--? I'M
AWAKE
AGAIN,
THANK
THE LORD!

AND-- I'VE
GOT A PLOT-
FOR MY
NEXT
STORY!

BUT THE
STRAIN! I
CAN'T TAKE
THE STRAIN
ANY
LONGER--!

H'LO,
WHITNEY?

LEN CARSON
HERE!

YEAH, I'VE DREAMED UP ANOTHER
STARR THE SLAYER CLASSIC
FOR THAT RAG YOU CALL A
MAGAZINE!

BUT, I JUST CALLED
TO SAY YOU WON'T
LIKE THE ENDING...

'CAUSE I'M
GONNA KILL
OFF THAT
SWORD-SWINGIN'
SLOB!



WADDAYA
MEAN, I CAN'T
DO THAT??

I'M THE
AUTHOR,
BABY, I CAN
DO ANYTHING
I WANT TO!

YOU JUST
PUBLISH
'EM AND
LET ME
WRITE
'EM, HUH?



HE HUNG UP
ON ME!

COULD BE I
JUST KNOCKED
OFF THE BEST
MEAL TICKET
A WRITER EVER
HAD!



A FEW HOURS OF
FRANTIC TYPING
LATER...

WELL, I
MIGHT AS
WELL MAIL
IN MY SWORD-
AND-SORCERY
SWAN
SONG!



EVENING,
MR. CARSON!

STILL WRITING
THOSE STORIES
YOU CLAIM COME
TO YOU IN
YOUR DREAMS?

JUST FINISHED
MY
LAST
ONE, O'NEAL!

THE DOC SAYS
THEY GET ME
TOO UPTIGHT!

ULCERS...
THE WHOLE
MAGILLA!



SORRY TO HEAR THAT!

I READ ONE
OF 'EM THE
OTHER DAY!

YEAH...
GOOD
ENOUGH TO
KNOCK ME
OUTTA
MY
GOURD!

ANOTHER
NIGHTMARE
LIKE
TONIGHT'S
...AND I'D
GO
BANANAS!



I GOT KIND OF ATTACHED TO OL' STARR, THOUGH!

FUNNY... I CAN'T HELP FEELING A BIT LIKE A--

MURDERER!!

WHAT??
WHO IN THE DEVIL--?

PERHAPS YOU CAN SEE ME BETTER IF I STEP INTO THE LIGHT, VILLAIN!

YOU--STARR!



BUT-- I CREATED YOU-- GAVE YOU LIFE--!

YOU'RE NOT REAL!!

NO, EVIL ONE?

THEN, STAND YOU STILL... FOR A PHANTOM BLADE CAN SCARCELY HARM YOU.

AYE, ASSASSIN... IT IS STARR THE SLAYER WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU.

HE WHOM YOU MEAN TO DESTROY-- BUT WHO SHALL SLAY YOU INSTEAD!

BUT SOON, YOU SHALL DODGE MY BITING SWORD NO LONGER -- --AND THEN--

HAN! I SEE YOU HAVE NOT COURAGE TO TEST YOUR FINE WORDS, WIZARD!

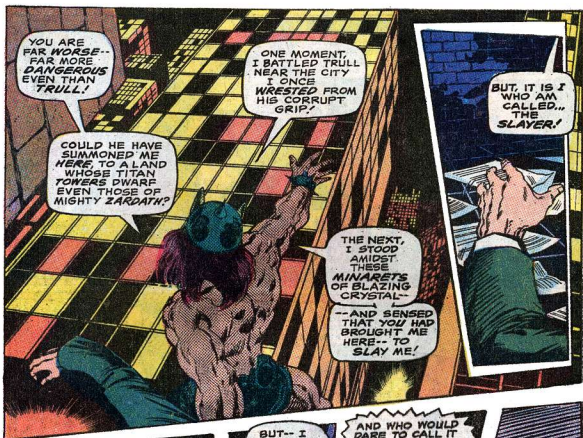


W-WAIT! YOU CALLED ME WIZARD!

BUT, IT WAS TRULL WHO WAS YOUR MAGICAL ENEMY-- NOT I!



LIAR!



YOU ARE FAR WORSE-- FAR MORE DANGEROUS EVEN THAN TRULL!

ONE MOMENT, I BATTLED TRULL NEAR THE CITY I ONCE WRESTED FROM HIS CORRUPT GRIP!

BUT, IT IS I WHO AM CALLED... THE SLAYER!

COULD HE HAVE SUMMONED ME HERE, TO A LAND WHOSE TITAN TOWERS DWARF EVEN THOSE OF MIGHTY ZARDATH?

THE NEXT, I STOOD AMIDST THESE MINARETS OF BLAZING CRYSTAL--

--AND SENSED THAT YOU HAD BROUGHT ME HERE-- TO SLAY ME!

NO! I-- I DREAMED YOU UP, I TELL YOU!
LOOK, LOOK AT THIS PAPER!

BAH! YOUR STRANGE SYMBOLS MEAN NOTHING TO STARR!

AND NOW-- PREPARE TO DIE, ASSASSIN!

BUT-- I CREATED YOU-- AND I MADE YOU-- A HERO!

YOU CAN'T JUST MURDER ME-- IN COLD BLOOD!

AND WHO WOULD DARE TO CALL IT MURDER, WIZARD--

--WHEN I KILL ONLY TO SAVE MY OWN LIFE??



Trull
his incant
lich glowed in
to speak forbidden
Trull's eyes stare
unconscious barbar
word: SLAY

in a
horror at t
At the tou
e crashed d

Starr
the slayer wo

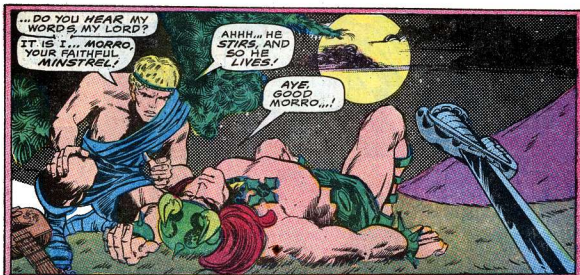
Starr the slayer wo

Starr the slayer wo

Starr the slayer wo

Starr the slayer wo

Starr the slayer wo



... DO YOU HEAR MY WORDS, MY LORD?

IT IS I... MORRO, YOUR FAITHFUL MINSTREL!

AHHH... HE STIRS, AND SO HE LIVES!

AYE, GOOD MORRO...!



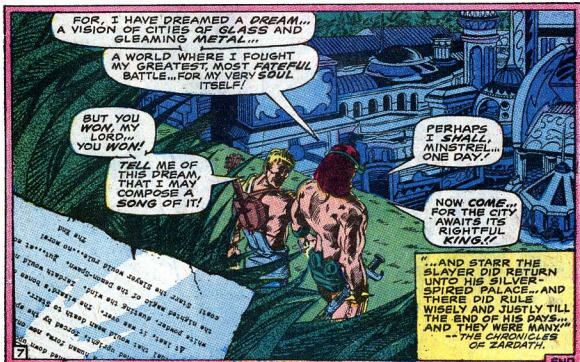
BUT... HOW DID I RETURN HERE...

... WHEN, MERE MOMENTS AGO, I SLEW MY MOST DEADLY FOE... IN A STRANGE AND FAR-OFF LAND?

YAY, MY LORD! YOU HAVE LAIN HERE THESE LONG MINUTES PAST...

... WHILE THE EVIL TRULL LIES DEAD, IMPALED, UPON THIS VERY PLAIN!

IT WAS NOT OF TRULL THAT I SPOKE, FAITHFUL ONE!



FOR, I HAVE DREAMED A DREAM... A VISION OF CITIES OF GLASS AND GLEAMING METAL...

A WORLD WHERE I FOUGHT MY GREATEST, MOST FATEFUL BATTLE... FOR MY VERY SOUL ITSELF!

BUT YOU WON, MY LORD... YOU WON!

TELL ME OF THIS DREAM, THAT I MAY COMPOSE A SONG OF IT!

PERHAPS I SHALL, MINSTREL... ONE DAY!

NOW COME... FOR THE CITY AWAITS ITS RIGHTFUL KING!!

... AND STARR THE SLAYER DID RETURN INTO HIS SILVER-SPIRED PALACE... AND THERE DID RULE WISELY AND JUSTLY TILL THE END OF HIS DAYS... AND THEY WERE MANY...
-- THE CHRONICLES OF ZARDATH.