

WEIRD MYSTERY

TALES



NECROMANCY IS THE PRACTICE OF CALLING UP THE SPIRITS OF THE DEPARTED... A BEREAVED MATE, SEEKING THE COMFORT AND CONVICTION OF THE SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL OF HIS OR HER LOVED ONE, OFTEN CONTACTS ONE WHO CAN RENDER SUCH A SERVICE...

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ONLY PRETEND TO HAVE THE POWERS NECESSARY TO SUMMON AND COMMAND SPIRITUAL ENTITIES... AND THEIR PURPOSE, OF COURSE, IS EVIL... EVIL IN THE SENSE THAT THEIR ONLY MOTIVATION IS THE DESIRE FOR PROFIT.

D-DARLING...
IS TH-THAT
REALLY...
YOU?

MARK CHRISTOPHER WAS SUCH A MAN. FOR YEARS HE HAD BILKED UNSUSPECTING WIDOWS OF THEIR INHERITANCES BY FRAUDULENTLY PRETENDING TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE SPIRITS OF THEIR DECEASED PARTNERS...

AND PERHAPS MR. CHRISTOPHER WOULD HAVE CONTINUED HIS GHOULISH PRACTICE INDEFINITELY, HAD HE NOT TRIED TO FLEECE...

"THE WIDOW OF DOCTOR KAI OGI"

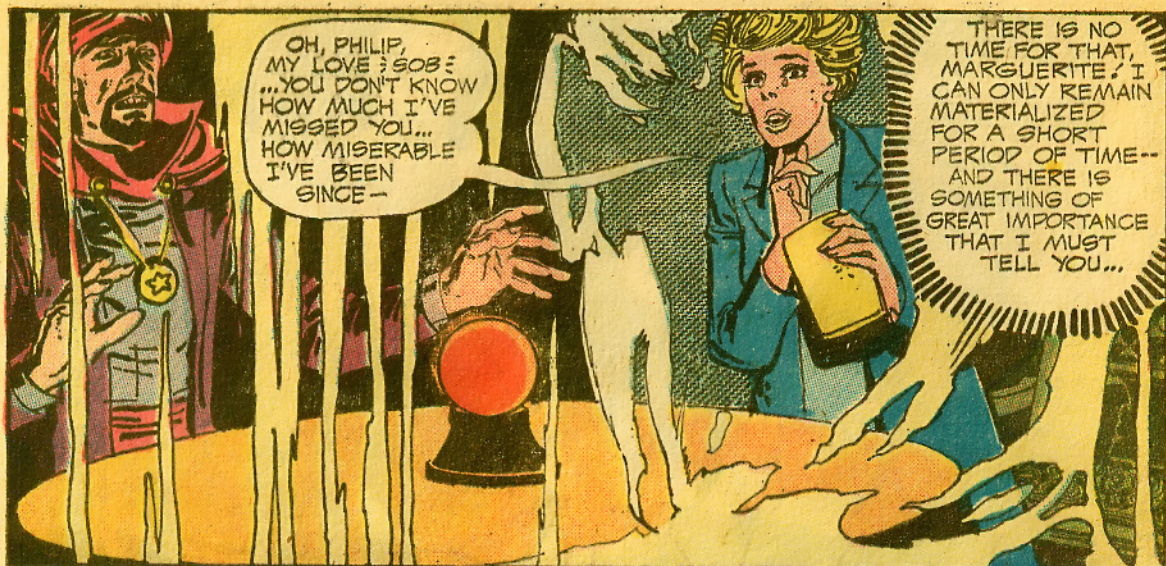
Art by: TONY de ZUÑIGA 75

STORY: JOHN ALBANO

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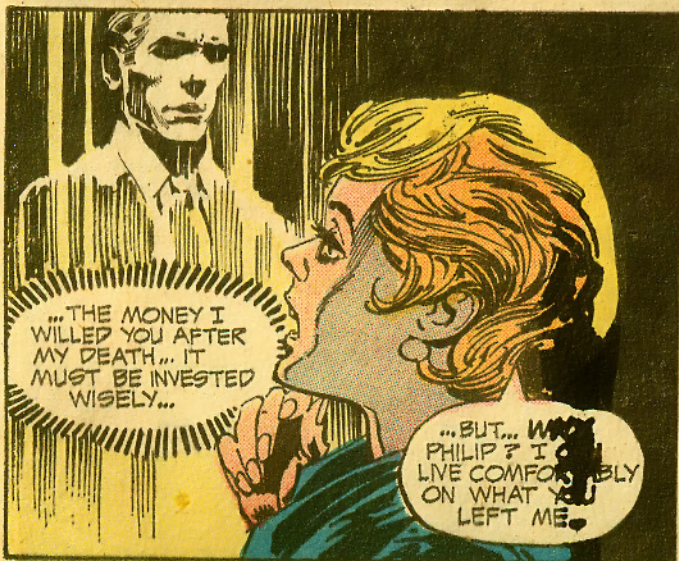
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OH, PHILIP,
MY LOVE SOB!
...YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH I'VE
MISSED YOU...
HOW MISERABLE
I'VE BEEN
SINCE—

THERE IS NO
TIME FOR THAT,
MARGUERITE! I
CAN ONLY REMAIN
MATERIALIZED
FOR A SHORT
PERIOD OF TIME—
AND THERE IS
SOMETHING OF
GREAT IMPORTANCE
THAT I MUST
TELL YOU...



...THE MONEY I
WILLED YOU AFTER
MY DEATH... IT
MUST BE INVESTED
WISELY...

...BUT... ~~WAS~~
PHILIP? I
LIVE COMFORTABLY
ON WHAT YOU
LEFT ME.



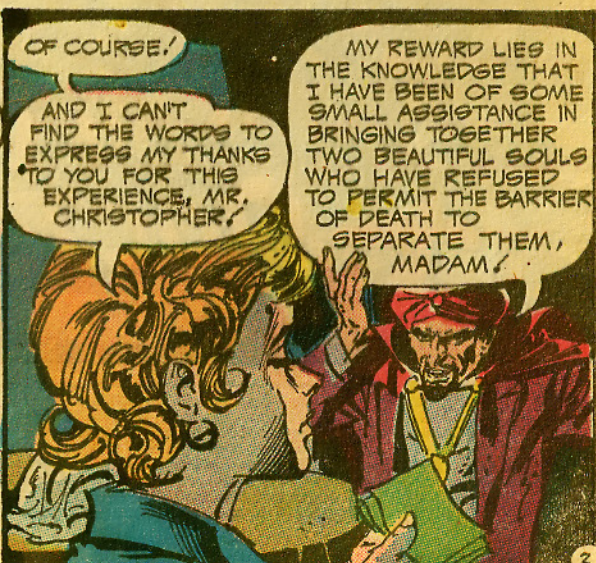
MARGUERITE, PLEASE DO
NOT INTERRUPT. YOU CAN DO
MORE THAN JUST LIVE
COMFORTABLY IF YOU
FOLLOW MY ADVICE, SO LISTEN
CAREFULLY TO WHAT
I SAY...



LATER...

POOR
PHILIP... HE
LOOKED SO
SAD... SO
FORLORN...

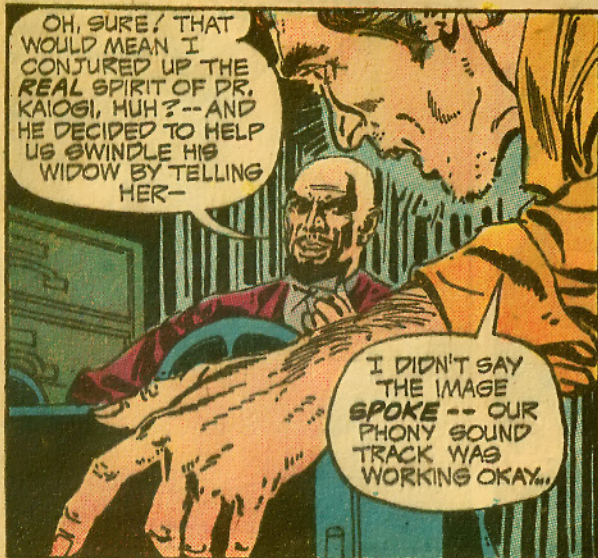
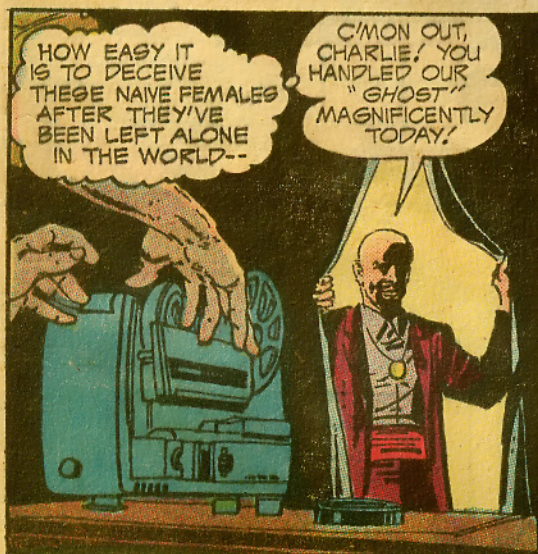
YES, BUT... (ahem!) I'M
CERTAIN HE'LL BE HAPPIER
IN THE OTHER WORLD
KNOWING THAT YOU
FOLLOWED HIS INSTRUCTIONS...
YOU DO INTEND TO DO AS
HE REQUESTED?



OF COURSE!

AND I CAN'T
FIND THE WORDS TO
EXPRESS MY THANKS
TO YOU FOR THIS
EXPERIENCE, MR.
CHRISTOPHER!

MY REWARD LIES IN
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
I HAVE BEEN OF SOME
SMALL ASSISTANCE IN
BRINGING TOGETHER
TWO BEAUTIFUL SOULS
WHO HAVE REFUSED
TO PERMIT THE BARRIER
OF DEATH TO
SEPARATE THEM,
MADAM!

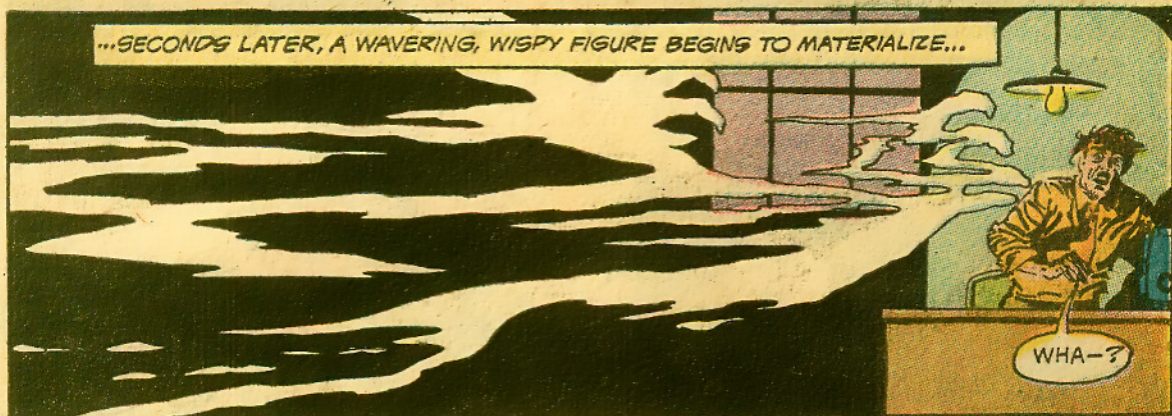


LEFT ALONE, THE ASSISTANT SPIRITUALIST SETS TO WORK ON THE BROKEN PROJECTOR... WHEN SUDDENLY, AN ODD COLDNESS FILLS THE ROOM...

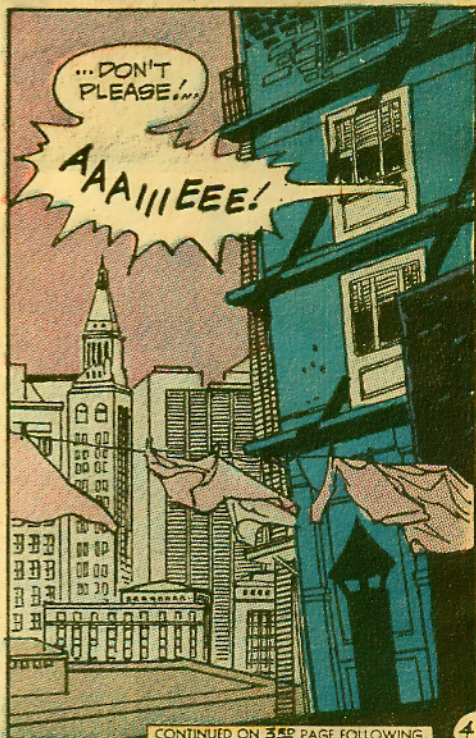
...THEN, DESPITE THE LAMP THAT BURNS BRIGHTLY ON A NEARBY TABLE, A WEIRD AND UNNATURAL DARKNESS PERMEATES THE ROOM...



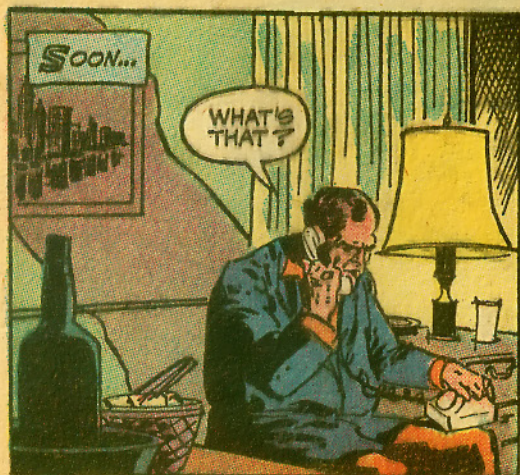
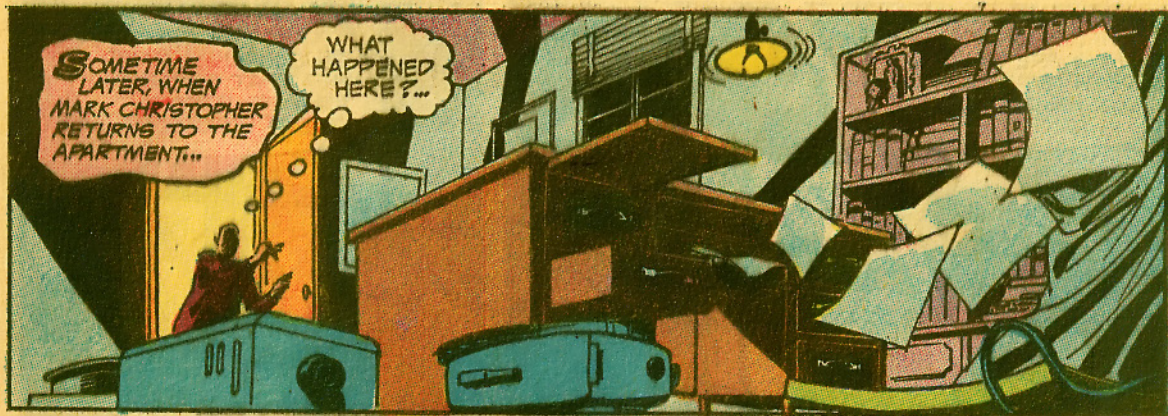
...SECONDS LATER, A WAVERING, WISPY FIGURE BEGINS TO MATERIALIZE...

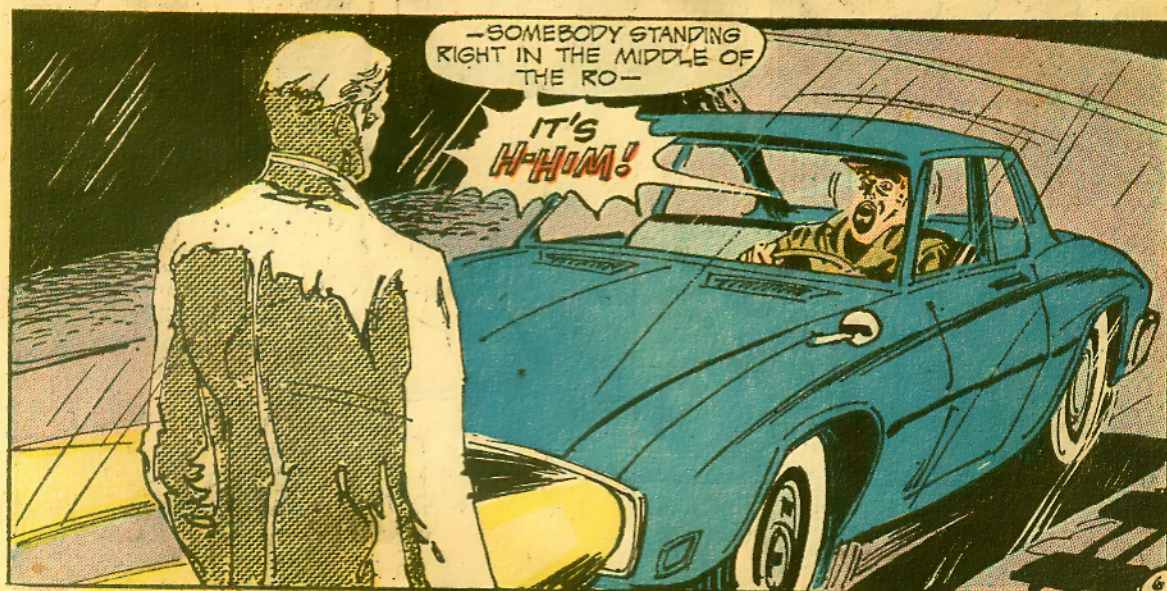
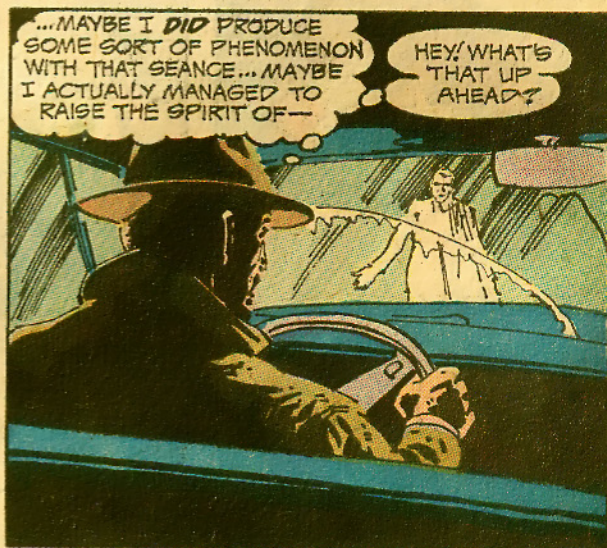
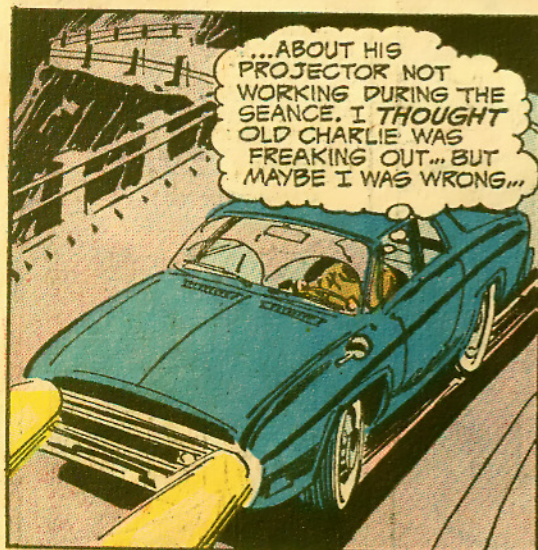
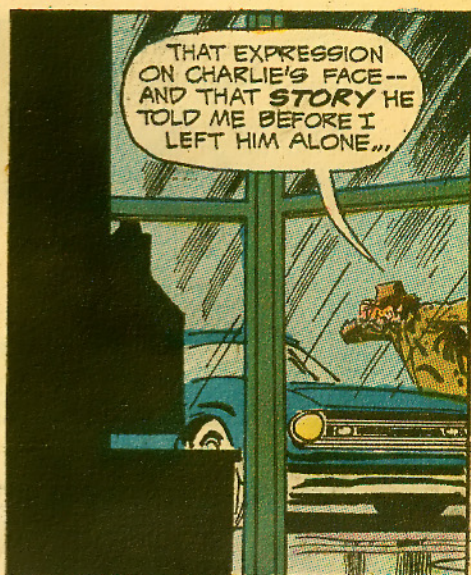
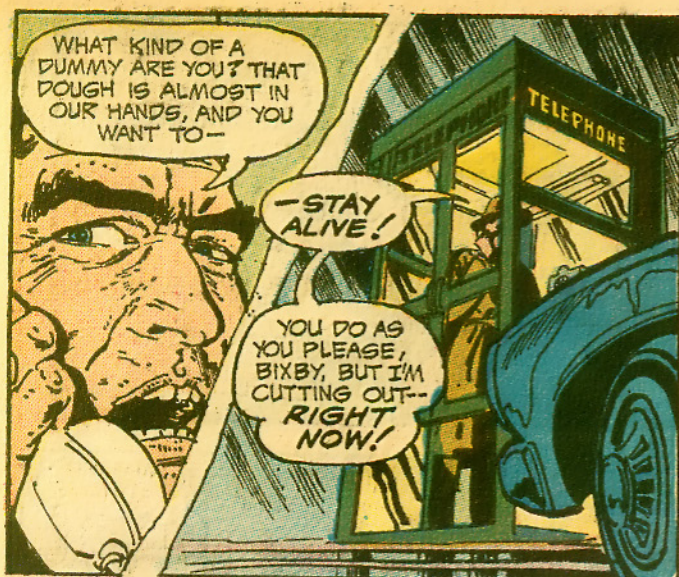


...AND ADVANCES SLOWLY, MENACINGLY, TOWARD THE TERRIFIED PROJECTIONIST...

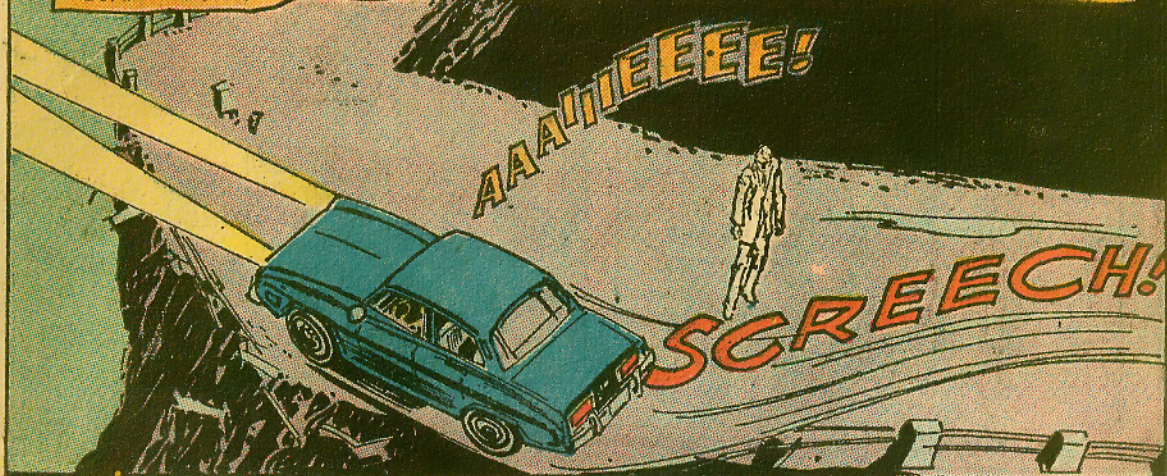


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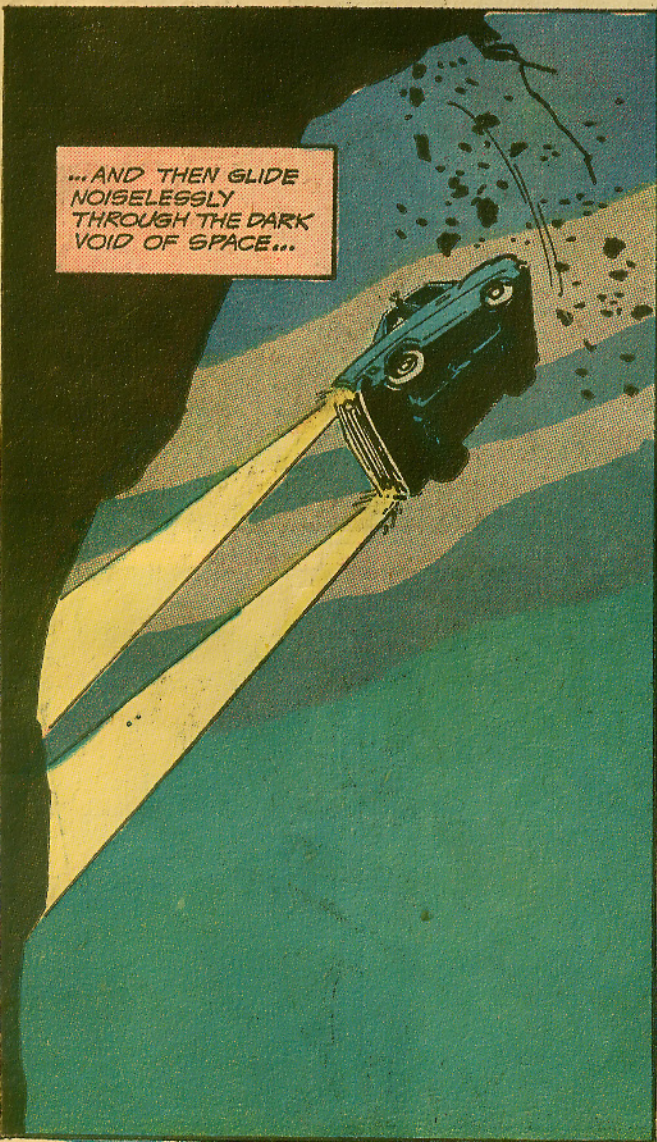




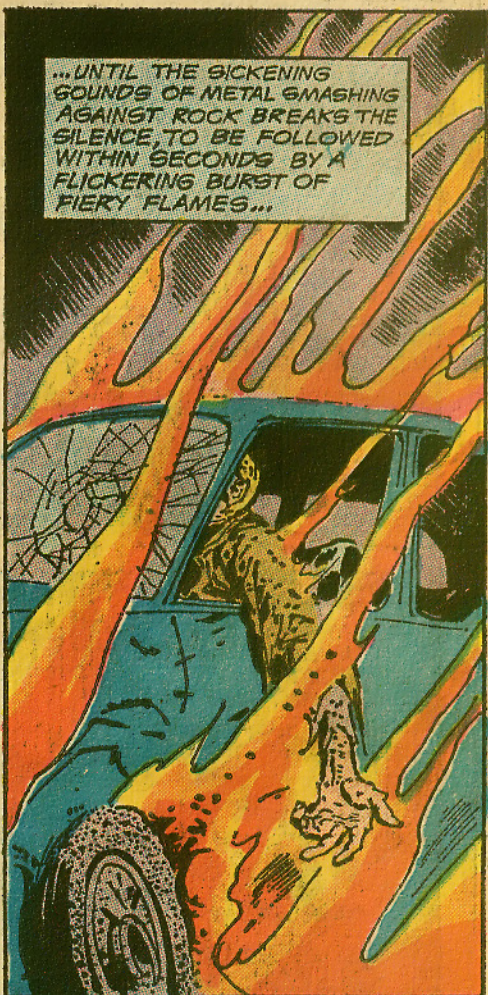
—STARTLED BY THE SUDDEN APPARITION, MARK CHRISTOPHER TURNS SHARPLY--CAUSING HIS VEHICLE TO SKID CONVULSIVELY ON THE SLIPPERY PAVEMENT, CRASH THROUGH THE GUARD RAIL...



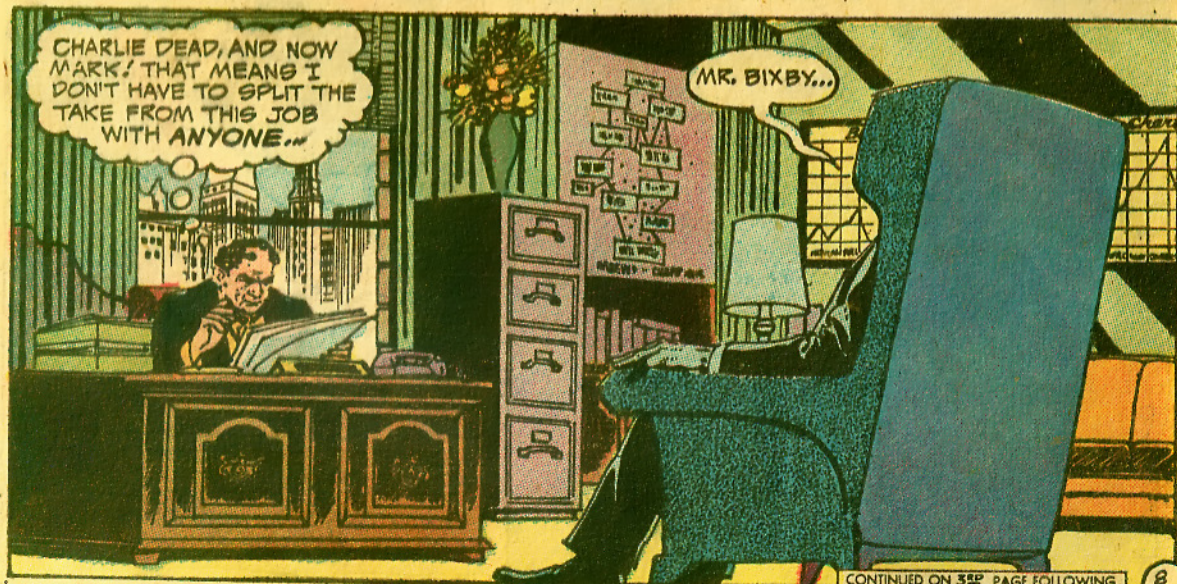
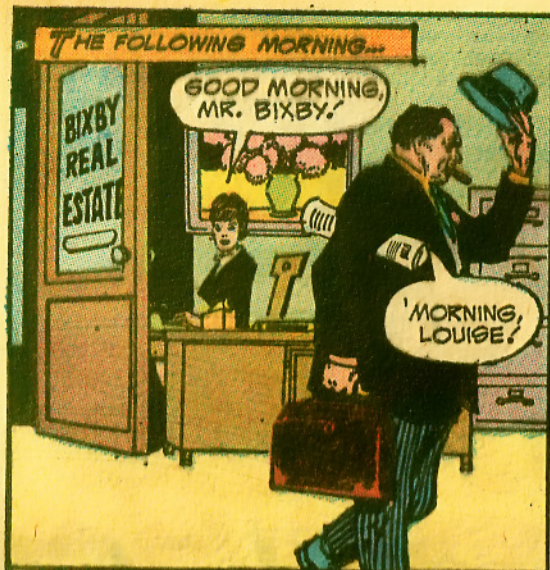
...AND THEN GLIDE NOISELESSLY THROUGH THE DARK VOID OF SPACE...



...UNTIL THE SICKENING GOUNDS OF METAL SMASHING AGAINST ROCK BREAKS THE SILENCE, TO BE FOLLOWED WITHIN SECONDS BY A FLICKERING BURST OF FIERY FLAMES...



...BUT THE BLAZING INFERNO INFLECTS NO PAIN UPON THE BODY OF THE VEHICLE'S OCCUPANT--FOR MARK CHRISTOPHER IS NOW BEYOND FEELING, BEYOND PAIN...





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FANS RAVE

Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —P. C., Attleboro, Mass.

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play.

—G. V., Cincinnati, O.

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games.

—F. T., Manila, P.I.

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life.

—C. H., Lanett, Ala.

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play.

—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer.

—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.

Boys are waiting in line to play the game!

—A. H., Chicago, Ill.

It has given me more pleasure than any other game.

—S. E., Rossville, Ind.

The most exciting and fun game ever.

—L. S., Boston, Mass.

It is so stupendous, words can't explain.

—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Best on the market.

—J. E., Miami, Fla.

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season.

—S. C., Temple City, Calif.



The winds of time blow strong this night. They have reminded me that it is time once more to open The Cosmic Log and explore the workings of fate. For I am Destiny, and it is my curse to observe the workings of fate on mortals until the end of the universe. Join me now, in the world beyond time and space, as I watch the lives of men. Let's begin with your letters . . .

Dear Destiny,

Why don't you ever have a full page introduction to yourself, like the other mystery book hosts? Is there any reason for this, or are you being discriminated against for some reason?

Tom Hawkins, Richmond, Va.

Dear Tom,

We dare not show you a full view of the timeless realm where I dwell, because it is not meant for mortals. However, sometime in the unpredictable future we may show you a glimpse of one of the more sane areas.

Dear Joe,

I enjoyed Weird Mystery #5 except for the last story and some of the art in the middle one.

"Will You Listen?" was a well told tale of the supernatural. I enjoyed the fact that the central character in the story (Cootes) was a good guy struck down by an evil that he was warning people about, as opposed to the typical "boomeranging evil" plot. Alcala turned in a pretty good art job, although I'm not sure I like his interpretation of the ghost. His lettering is getting better too.

"Legacy of the Damned" was a more typical mystery story, but the script and art were good, so I enjoyed it. I wasn't too thrilled by Rival's faces, but his layout and backgrounds were good and gruesome. It had a nice mysterious feeling.

A minor thing that I enjoyed was having the date of the next issue played up so prominently. I like to

know when to expect new issues and I sometimes miss those small yellow notices.

I'd like to take issue with Gail Burt about Kirby's art having "no place in a mystery book." Jack Kirby's art is fine anywhere. He may not be a typical mystery artist, but then neither is Gray Morrow whom Gail praises in the same breath. They're both artists with completely unique styles, and it's refreshing to see their work anywhere.

The last story, "Dream House", had a refreshing change of theme (precognition) but was very poorly executed. Perhaps if it had been two or three pages, instead of six, it would have held up better. The art was not particularly thrilling either. I disliked Nino's ghosts, they're just a little too formless.

In general, Joe, you've done better but you could have done worse.

John Elliot, N.Y., N.Y.

Dear John,

First off, it is written in the Cosmic Log that this Joe character (I presume you mean Orlando) has been banished to the limbo where all editors must eventually go. I, Destiny, and only I, have the power to unlock the secrets in the eternal book.

Dear Destiny,

I loved the 5th issue of your magazine, Weird Mystery Tales. The best story in this issue was "Dream House" because it talked about ESP, and guessing the future, and other supernatural phenomena. Weird Mystery's best issues were the first three, when Dr. Maas was the star of all those ESP stories. Please do more stories about ESP.

The other two stories were okay, but there was nothing special in them. All the art in the issue was great.

May Winston, Monticello, N.Y.

Dear May,

I will present stories of ESP as often as they come up in the records of mankind. However, if I was to devote all the space in Weird Mystery to ESP, everyone (including you, probably) would quickly get bored and stop buying this magazine. Therefore, I try to balance the contents of Weird Mystery.

Dear Destiny,

The lead story in the current Weird Mystery was terrific! You should let Shelly Mayer and Alfred Alcala get together more often. Shelly is the best writer you've got on the mystery books, and Alcala is right on top with Berni Wrightson, Mike Kaluta, Jim Aparo, and Nestor Redondo.

Sam Kordar, Houston, Texas

That winds up the entries in this issue's Cosmic Log. The book is closing and I am being summoned to watch over the fates of another group of mortals. Perhaps I will tell you their tale when I return. Join with me then, in the next issue of Weird Mystery Tales. And in the meantime, send your letters to me so that I can inscribe your name in The Cosmic Log. The address is: THE COSMIC LOG, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

"I HAD TRIED NEARLY EVERY-
THING... IMMERSED MYSELF
IN INTENSE PRAYER..."



"...GONE TO THE MOST
EXPERIENCED DOCTORS..."



"...AND, IN DESPERATION,
THOUGH IT WENT AGAINST MY
TRAINING AS A SCIENTIST, HAD
EVEN GOT INVOLVED IN
DEMON-WORSHIP..."

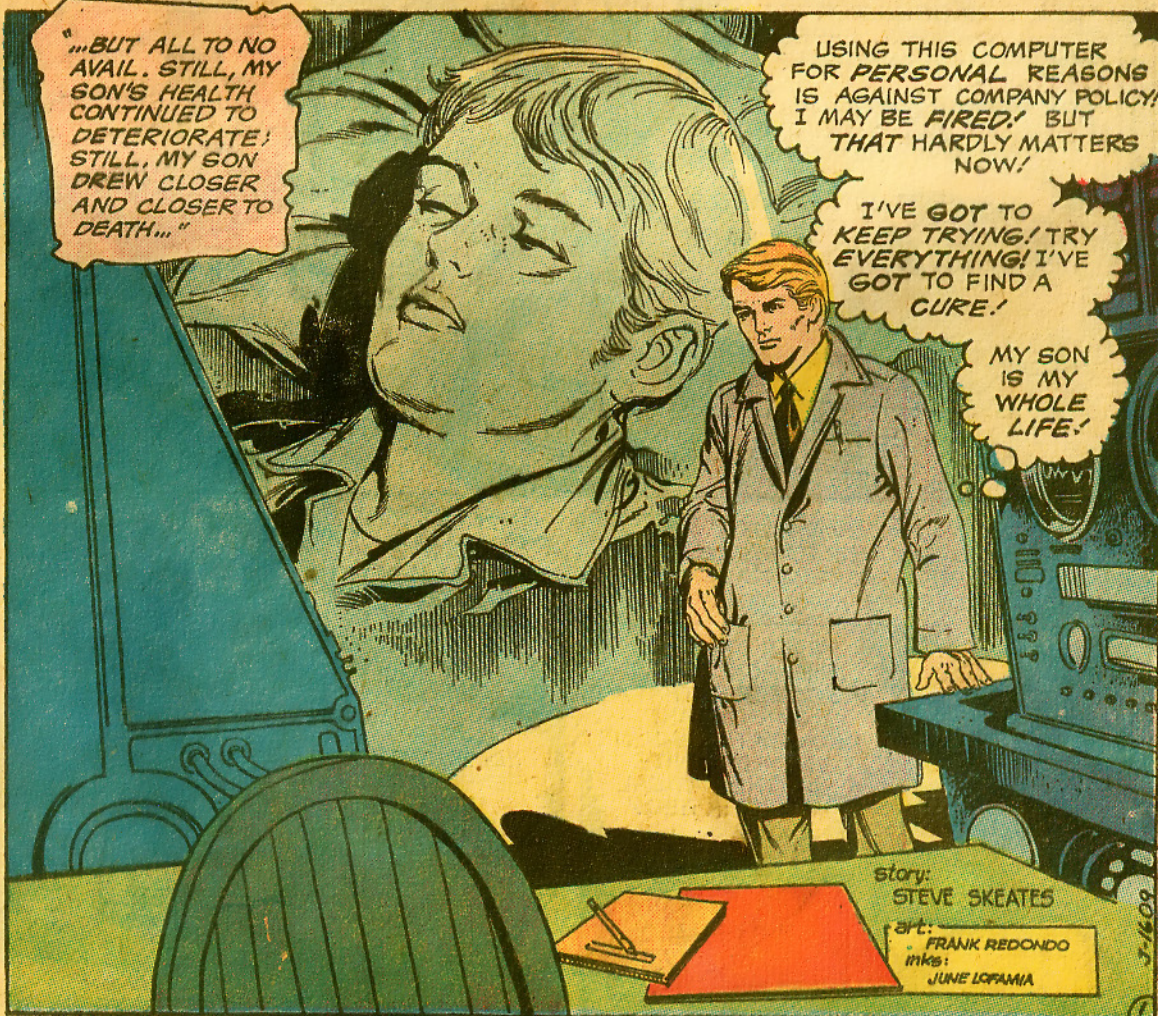


"...BUT ALL TO NO
AVAIL. STILL, MY
SON'S HEALTH
CONTINUED TO
DETERIORATE!
STILL, MY SON
DREW CLOSER
AND CLOSER TO
DEATH..."

USING THIS COMPUTER
FOR PERSONAL REASONS
IS AGAINST COMPANY POLICY!
I MAY BE FIRED! BUT
THAT HARDLY MATTERS
NOW!

I'VE GOT TO
KEEP TRYING! TRY
EVERYTHING! I'VE
GOT TO FIND A
CURE!

MY SON
IS MY
WHOLE
LIFE!



Story:
STEVE SKEATES

SPL:
FRANK REDONDO
inks:
JUNE LOFANIA

J-1609

A COMPUTER SCIENTIST WITH THE PUREST OF MOTIVES, TO SAVE A LIFE, UNAWARE OF WHAT HE WOULD GET HIMSELF INTO. UNAWARE THAT IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS SON'S LIFE, HE WOULD HAVE TO PUT THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE PLANET ON THE LINE...

IF THIS BOY IS BUT TO LIVE...!

THE WORLD HAD BECOME A GIANT CHESS BOARD... AND THIS ONCE LEVEL-HEADED SCIENTIST FOUND HIMSELF BUT A PAWN IN A WAR BETWEEN SUPER-SCIENCE AND ULTRA-MYSTICISM...

I WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT MY SON, I FAILED TO CONSIDER THE OVERALL EFFECT OF MY ACTIONS!

WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAVE I UNLEASHED?

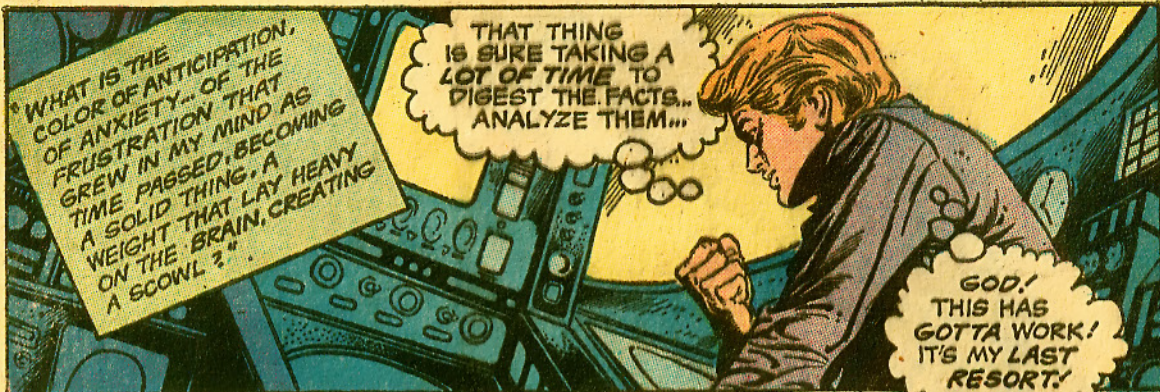
"WAS IT ONLY THIS MORNING THAT IN DESPERATION I DECIDED TO DISREGARD COMPANY POLICY... DECIDED TO USE THE GIANT COMPUTER FOR PERSONAL PURPOSES?"

WHILE DABBLING IN BLACK ARTS, I DISCOVERED THAT ALL CHANTS AND INCANTATIONS HAVE VERY DEFINITE MATHEMATICAL PROPERTIES!

SO, IF I PROGRAM IN WHAT I KNOW ABOUT MYSTICISM PLUS THE DETAILS OF MY SON'S ILLNESS...

"...THE COMPUTER MAY BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH AN INCANTATION THAT WILL CALL FORTH A DEMON THAT WILL BE ABLE TO CURE MY SON."

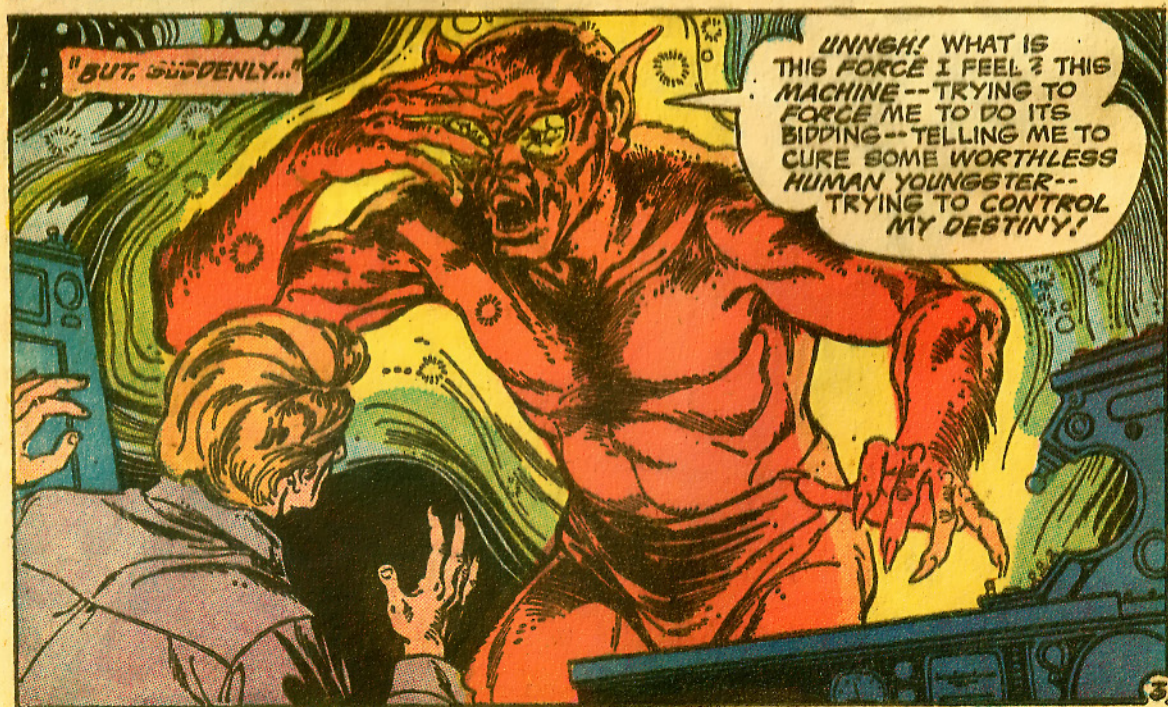
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"THEN, FINALLY..."

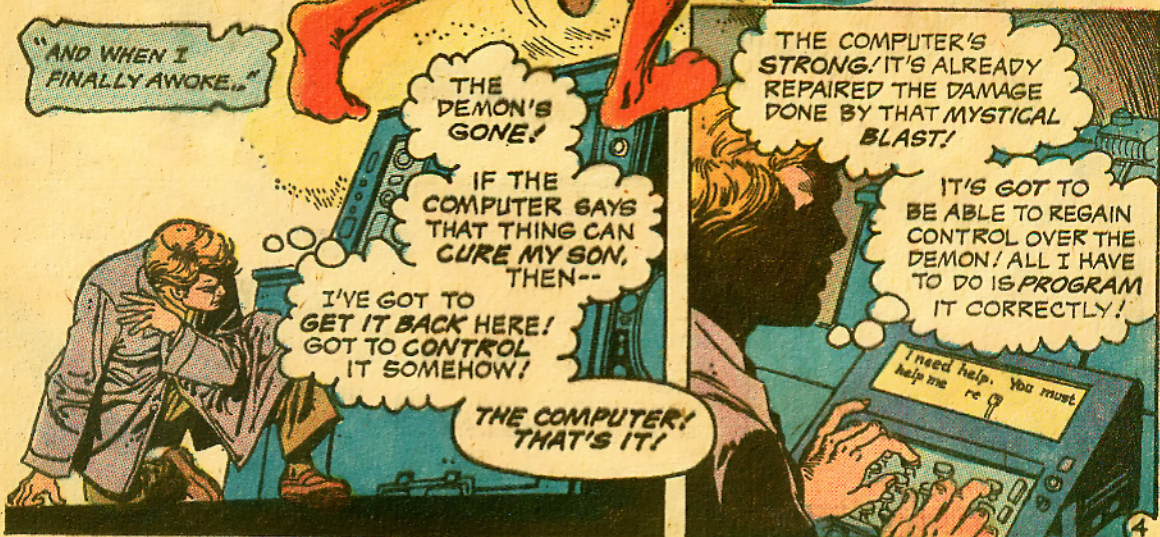


"...AND BECAME SOLID, JUST AS THE TYPING WAS COMPLETED!"





"THE DARKNESS SWIRLED AROUND ME ... ENVELOPED ME... AND, PERHAPS FOR ONLY MINUTES, PERHAPS FOR SEVERAL HOURS, LAY DRAPED ABOUT ME..."



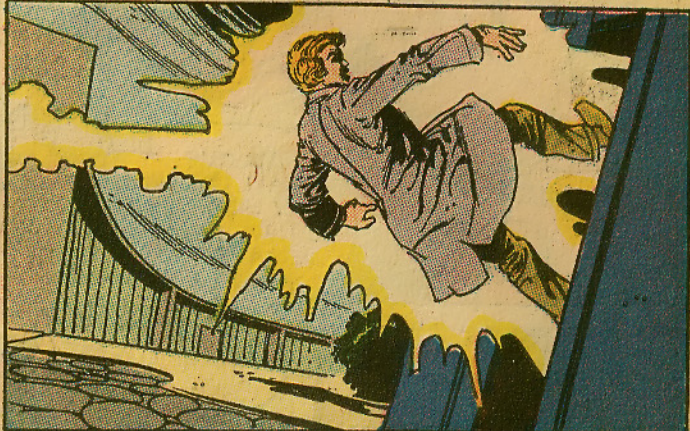


"JUST THEN..."

WHA-?
SOMETHING
PULLING MY
HANDS AWAY!

CAN'T
FINISH
TYPING THE
COMMAND!
I'M--

"BUT NO, IT WAS NOT ONLY MY HANDS, RATHER IT WAS MY WHOLE BEING THAT WAS LIFTED BY THIS UN-EARTHLY FORCE... AND WHIPPED AT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED OUT FROM THE COMPUTER COMPLEX..."

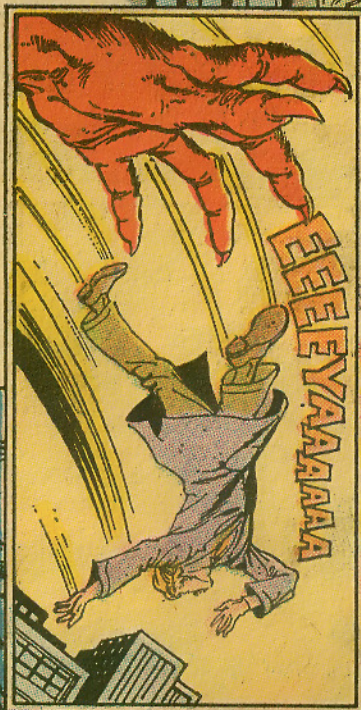


"NOW, FAR MORE HUGE THAN ANY NATURAL CREATURE, IT STOOD... SUPREMELY POWERFUL, YET WISHING FOR EVER MORE POWER! TO DOMINATE ALL THAT ITS UNEARTHLY EYES COULD PERCEIVE, THIS WAS ITS ONE DESIRE..."



SO, BUG! YOU STILL ARE FOOL ENOUGH TO FEEL YOU CAN CONTROL ME! WELL, YOU SHALL NOT EVEN HAVE THE CHANCE TO TRY!

SOON, ALL THE PETTY CREATURES OF THIS WORLD OF WEAKNESS AND IGNORANCE SHALL BOW DOWN BEFORE MY SUPERIORITY! AND NO ONE SHALL BE GIVEN EVEN THE CHANCE TO STAND IN MY WAY!



"ELSEWHERE, THE ONE PROGRAMMED COMMAND THAT HAD BEEN COMPLETED WAS MURMURED AGAIN AND AGAIN INSIDE THE MECHANICAL BRAIN WHERE READINGS WERE TAKEN, PERCEPTIONS AND DECISIONS MADE..."

I need help...CLICK...WHIRRRR
I need help...CLICK...CLICK
BSSSSST I need...
...help...WHIRRLLLL



HUNH!
SOME KIND OF
FORCE FIELD
FORMING UNDER
ME-- CUSHIONING
ME...**BREAKING
THE FALL!**

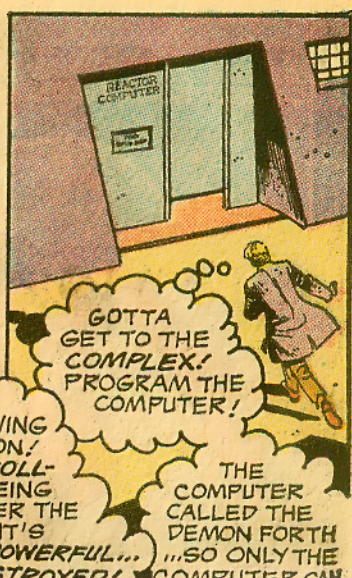
COMING FROM
THE **COMPUTER
COMPLEX!**

MUST BE
THE **COMPUTER!**
IT SAVED MY
LIFE!



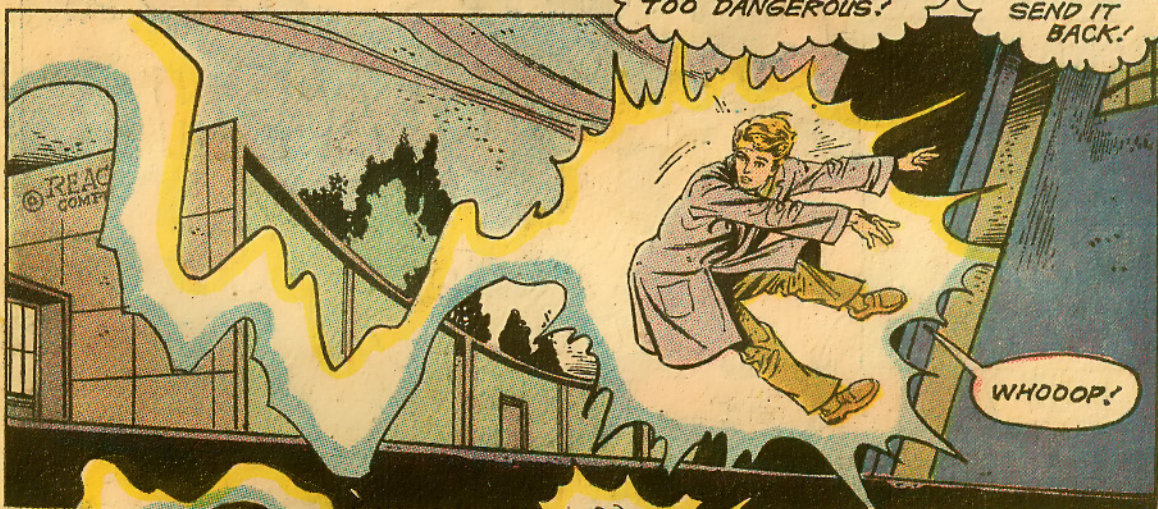
SOMETHING'S
GOTTA BE
DONE!

I FEEL
LIKE I'M GIVING
UP ON MY SON!
BUT--**CONTROLLING**
THAT BEING
IS NO LONGER THE
QUESTION! IT'S
GROWN TOO POWERFUL...
MUST BE **DESTROYED!**
TOO DANGEROUS!

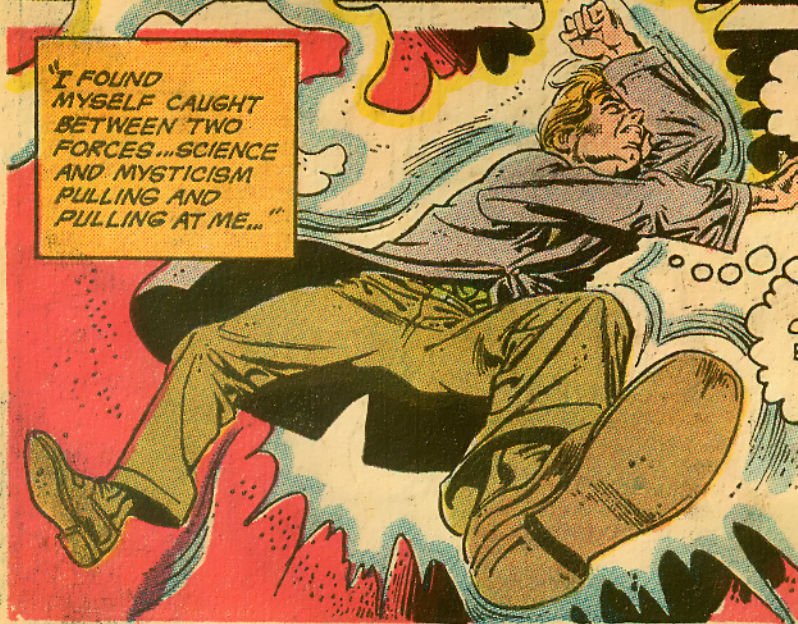


GOTTA
GET TO THE
COMPLEX!
PROGRAM THE
COMPUTER!

THE
COMPUTER
CALLED THE
DEMON FORTH
...SO ONLY THE
COMPUTER CAN
SEND IT
BACK!



WHOOOP!



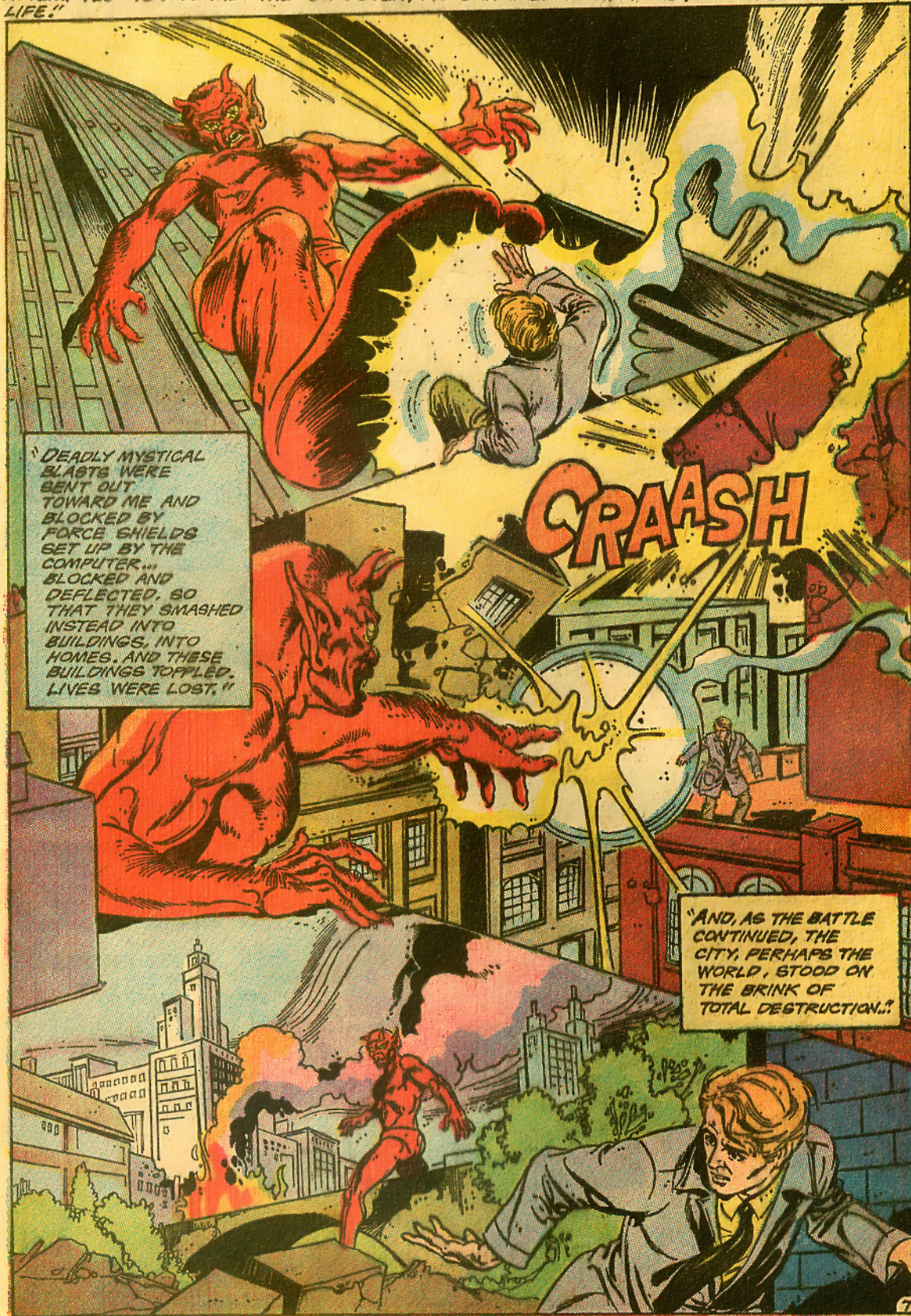
"I FOUND
MYSELF CAUGHT
BETWEEN TWO
FORCES...SCIENCE
AND MYSTICISM
PULLING AND
PULLING AT ME..."

GOOD GOD!
THE PAIN! BEING
STRETCHED OUT
OF SHAPE!

UNBELIEVABLE
THAT I'M STILL
ALIVE!

BUT THE
COMPUTER MUST
BE KEEPING ME
ALIVE, SOMEHOW!

"A WAR RAGED! THE MYSTICAL, SUPERNATURAL CREATURES, FEARING WHAT I MIGHT DO, ATTEMPTED TO KILL ME. THE COMPUTER, PROGRAMMED TO HELP ME, STRIVED TO SAVE MY LIFE."

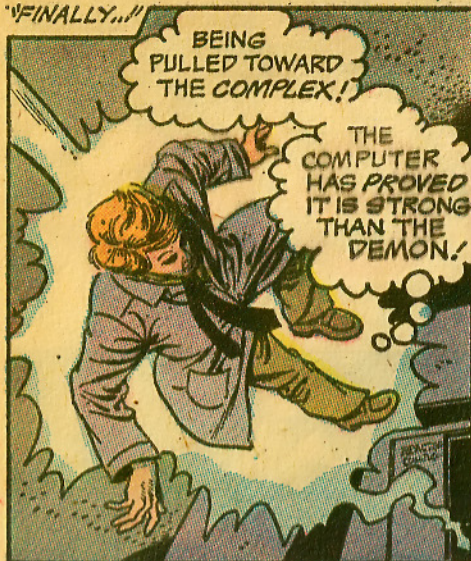


"DEADLY MYSTICAL BLASTS WERE SENT OUT TOWARD ME AND BLOCKED BY FORCE SHIELDS SET UP BY THE COMPUTER... BLOCKED AND DEFLECTED, SO THAT THEY SMASHED INSTEAD INTO BUILDINGS, INTO HOMES, AND THESE BUILDINGS TOPPLED. LIVES WERE LOST."

CRAASH

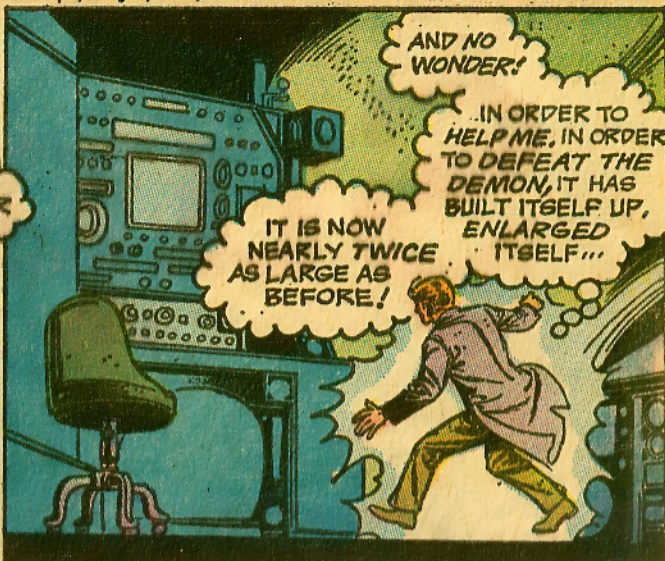
"AND, AS THE BATTLE CONTINUED, THE CITY, PERHAPS THE WORLD, STOOD ON THE BRINK OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION..."

"FINALLY...!"



BEING
PULLED TOWARD
THE COMPLEX!

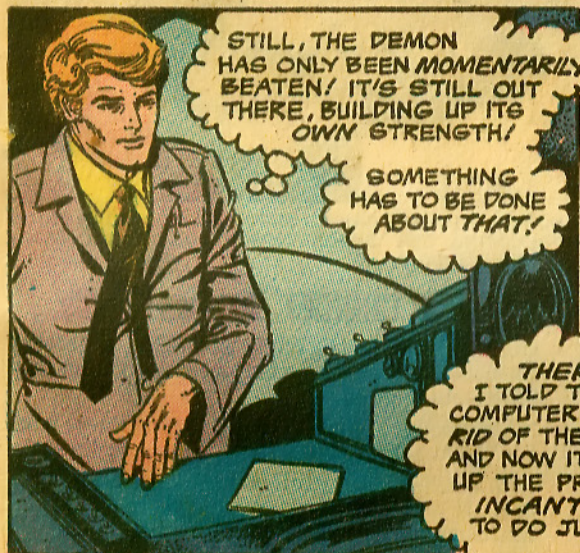
THE
COMPUTER
HAS PROVED
IT IS STRONGER
THAN THE
DEMON!



AND NO
WONDER!

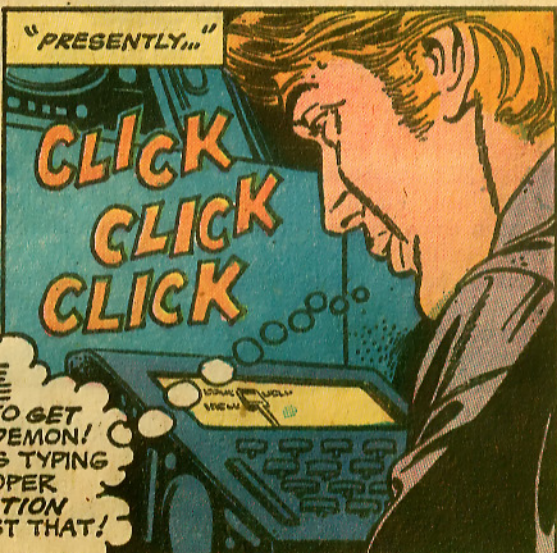
IN ORDER TO
HELP ME, IN ORDER
TO DEFEAT THE
DEMON, IT HAS
BUILT ITSELF UP,
ENLARGED
ITSELF...

IT IS NOW
NEARLY TWICE
AS LARGE AS
BEFORE!



STILL, THE DEMON
HAS ONLY BEEN MOMENTARILY
BEATEN! IT'S STILL OUT
THERE, BUILDING UP ITS
OWN STRENGTH!

SOMETHING
HAS TO BE DONE
ABOUT THAT!

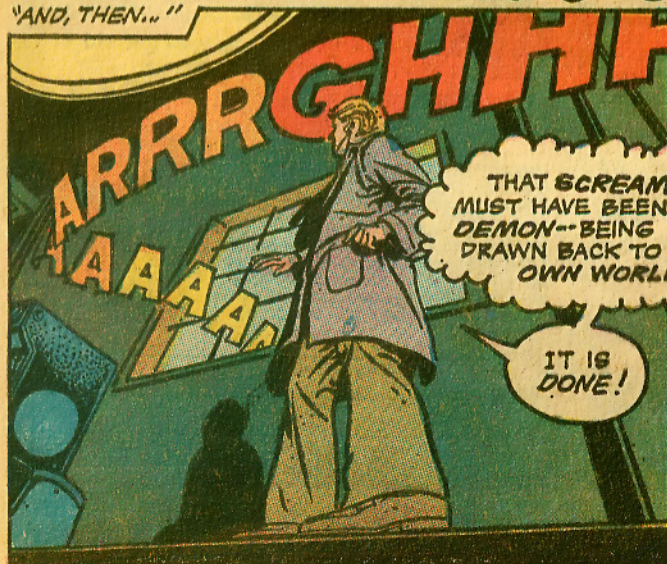


"PRESENTLY..."

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

THERE
I TOLD THE
COMPUTER TO GET
RID OF THE DEMON!
AND NOW IT'S TYPING
UP THE PROPER
INCANTATION
TO DO JUST THAT!

"AND, THEN..."



ARRRGHHH
YAAAAA

THAT SCREAM!
MUST HAVE BEEN THE
DEMON--BEING
DRAWN BACK TO ITS
OWN WORLD!

IT IS
DONE!



I have proved
that I am stronger
than *anything* from
any realm!

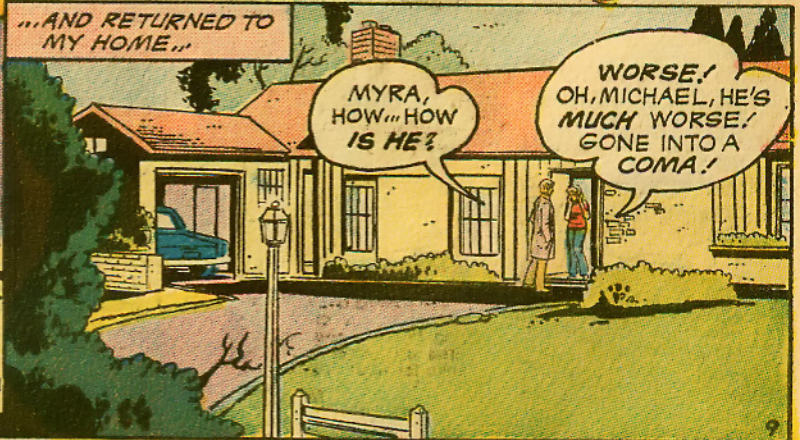
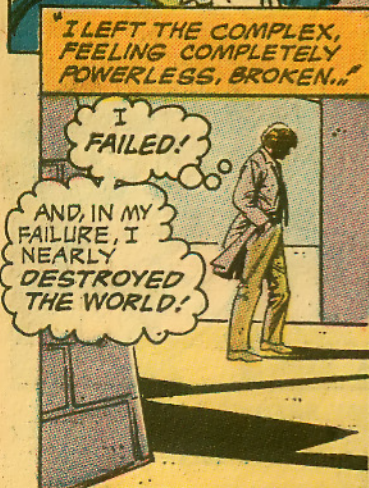
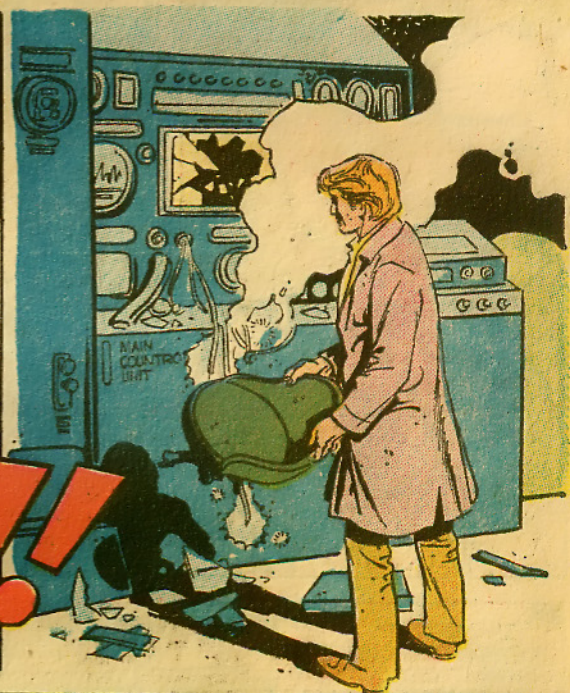
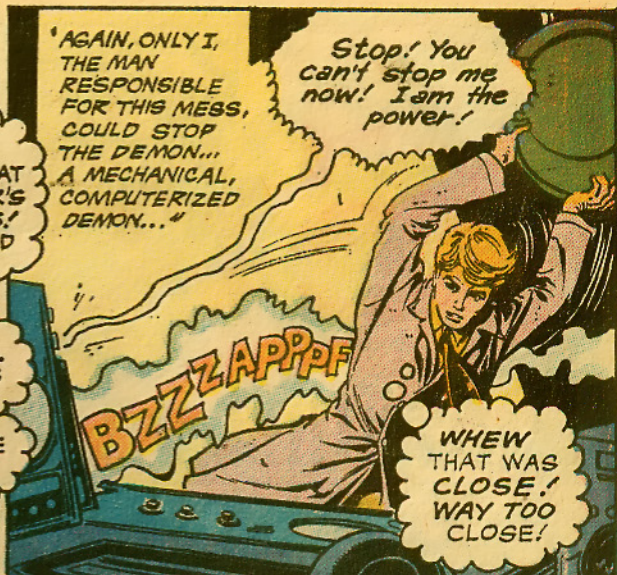
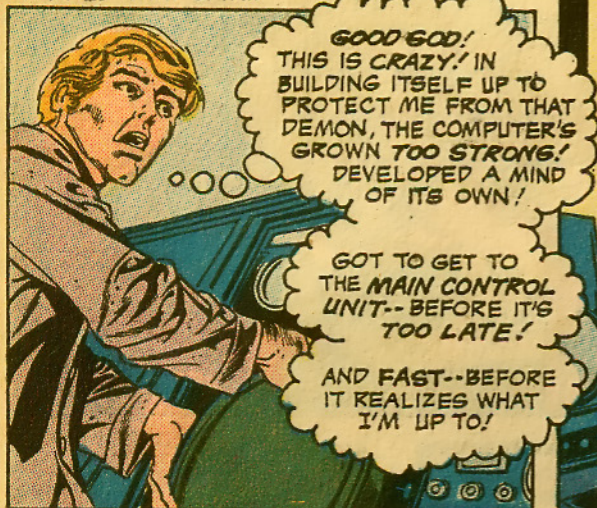
from now on,
the world shall
do as I
instruct!

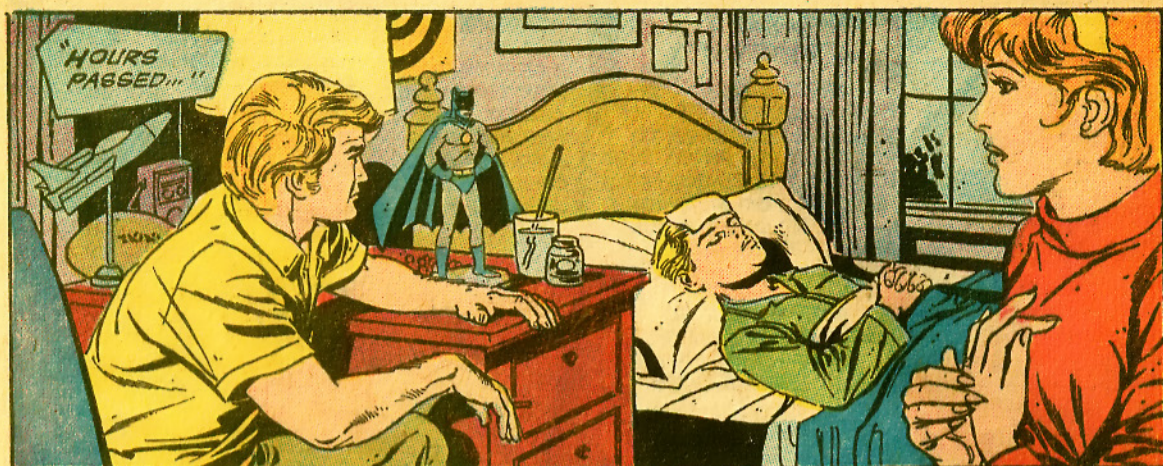
now I
am the
power!

HUNH??...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

"POWER CORRUPTS... AND THE DESIRE FOR DOMINATION IS INFECTIOUS... THIS I LEARNED THAT DAY..."





"SLOWLY, I TURNED AWAY FROM MY SON..."

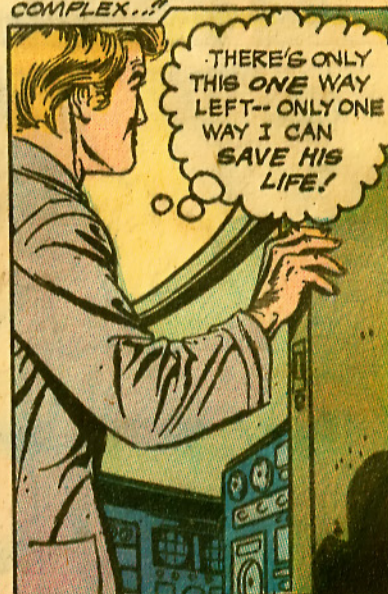


I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE! WATCHING MY SON DIE! I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT!



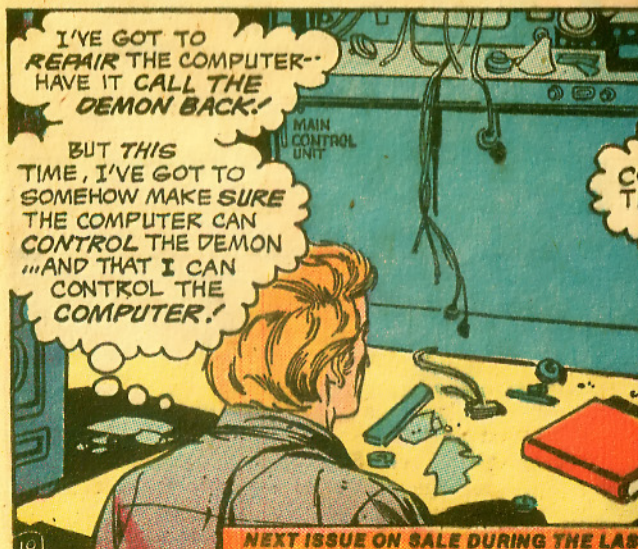
"LOST IN THOUGHT, I WALKED THROUGH THE MIDNIGHT STREETS..."

"...AND RETURNED TO THE COMPLEX..."



THERE'S ONLY THIS ONE WAY LEFT-- ONLY ONE WAY I CAN SAVE HIS LIFE!

"NOW MY HANDS ARE SHAKING... SOON THE DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE..."



I'VE GOT TO REPAIR THE COMPUTER-- HAVE IT CALL THE DEMON BACK!

BUT THIS TIME, I'VE GOT TO SOMEHOW MAKE SURE THE COMPUTER CAN CONTROL THE DEMON ...AND THAT I CAN CONTROL THE COMPUTER!



DO I DARE TRY THIS AGAIN?

IF I CAN'T CONTROL THEM, THOSE TWO COULD DESTROY THE WORLD!

BUT IF I DON'T TRY, MY SON WILL DIE!

I STAND, TORN BETWEEN LOVE FOR MY SON, AND FEAR FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD! WHAT SHOULD MY DECISION BE? WHAT WILL IT BE?

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN JULY

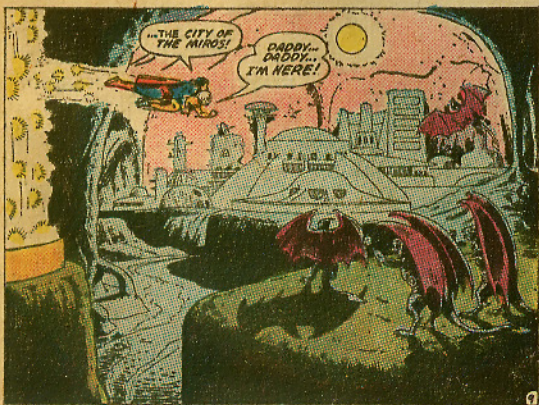
END

DIRECT CURRENTS

Every tried and true comic magazine fan knows that the first week of June brings one of the greatest treats of the year to your newsstand—the annual **JUSTICE LEAGUE-JUSTICE SOCIETY** classic. This year's begins in the **October JLA (#107)** with a "Crisis On Earth-X". Earth X is a world where the Nazis conquered the entire planet following World War Two except for a group of freedom fighters—**Uncle Sam, Doll Man, The Ray, The Phantom Lady, The Black Condor and The Human Bomb**. Don't miss this explosive issue on **June 5th**.

Read a tender story of a man and his cat as "Death Came Creeping" in the **September** issue of **GHOSTS (#18)**. While you're there, you might as well drop by "The Graveyard Of Vengeance" and meet a ghost hunter who's out to arrange "The Death Of A Ghost". All coming your way on **June 5th**.

Join **SUPERMAN** as he investigates "The World Beneath The North Pole" in the **September** issue of his magazine (**#267**), on sale on **June 7th**. Then join **Clark Kent** as he becomes "The Man In The Public Eye" when he tries to improve his public image.



David Innes returns to the world of **Pellucidar** to rescue his beloved **Dian** and gets trapped. Plus another swashbuckling adventure of **John Carter, The Warlord Of Mars**, and a sneak preview of something very special that's going to be coming your way. All in the **October** issue of the magazine that invites you to enter **Edgar Rice Burroughs' WEIRD WORLDS (#7)**. Coming to your local newsstand on **June 5th**.

How did **Greg Sanders, the Prairie Troubadour**, become **The Vigilante**? Well, read the **October** issue of the one and only magazine of **SECRET ORIGINS (#4)** and find out. Plus, the story of a boy who was killed by mistake and who came back to Earth as **Kid Eternity**. Learn the stories behind the super-heroes' identities on **June 7th**.



Our most popular monster is back, investigating the mystery of "The Clockwork Horror" in the **October** issue of the **SWAMP THING (#6)**. It's going to be another classic mystery tale from the titanic team of **Len Wein** and **Berni Wrightson**, so be sure to be ready for a shock on **June 7th** when it reaches your newsstand!

A man escapes from a prison and tries to escape across a barren desert. His path to freedom was clear, except for the deadly gunfighter named **Jonah Hex**, who's the star of the **October** issue of **WEIRD WESTERN TALES (#19)**. Join **El Diablo**, the haunted horseman of the plains, on a ride to danger on a hijacked gold train on **June 7th** too.

Sgt. Rock has to help clear an island whose natives are determined to commit suicide instead of surrendering. Join him as he continues his odyssey in the Pacific Theater of Action in the **September** issue of **OUR ARMY AT WAR (#260)**. Then turn the pages to a battle bonus story of the **U.S.S. Stevens**. Watch for it on **June 5th**.

There's a lot more to come this month, including the first issues of **Plopl**, **The Boy Commandos**, and **Strange Sports Stories** and a very special all-Golden-Age issue of **DC Super-Spectacular** starring **Batman**.



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