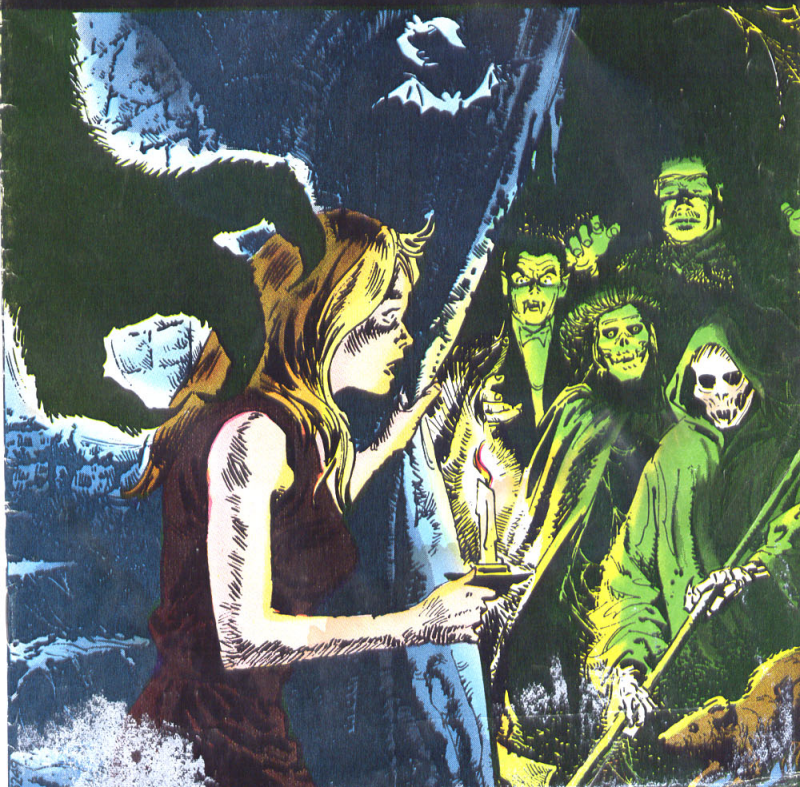


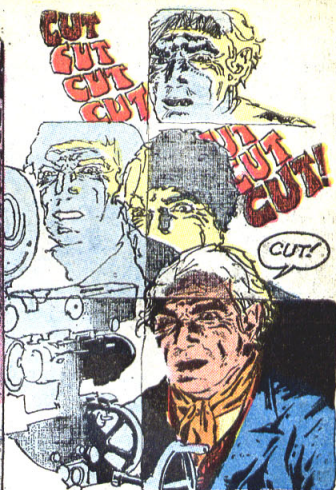


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NO. 8
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WEIRD MYSTERY

TALES





WHAT IS REAL? WHAT--UNREAL? CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FACT AND FANTASY? BETWEEN YOUR SLEEPING AND WAKING MOMENTS? WE ARE ALL PLAYERS ON A STAGE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW HIS PART WILL END... UNTIL THE DREAD DIRECTOR DECIDES THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE...

FINAL TAKE!

STORY IDEA
MICHAEL PELLOWSKY

SCRIPT
ROBERT KANIGHER

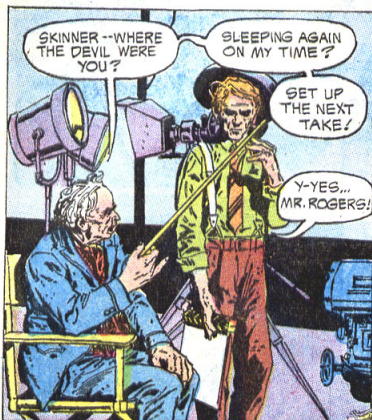
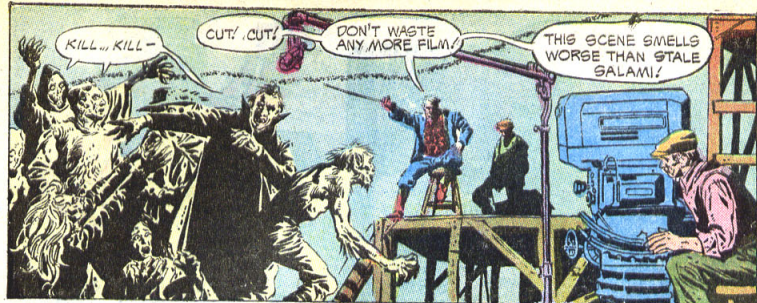
EDITOR
JOE ORLANDO

ART
TONY de ZUNIGA

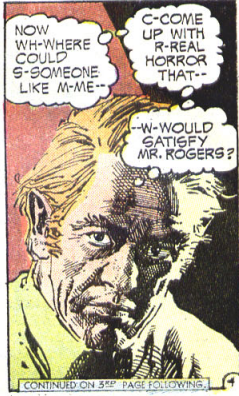
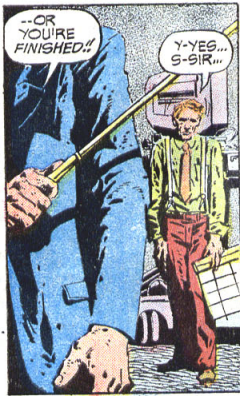
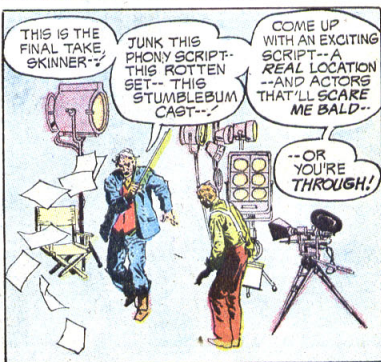
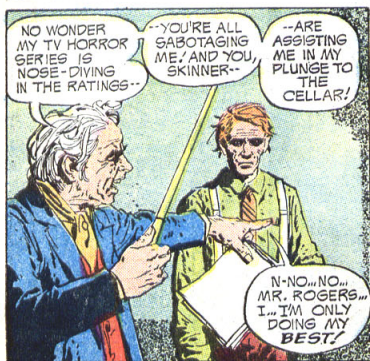
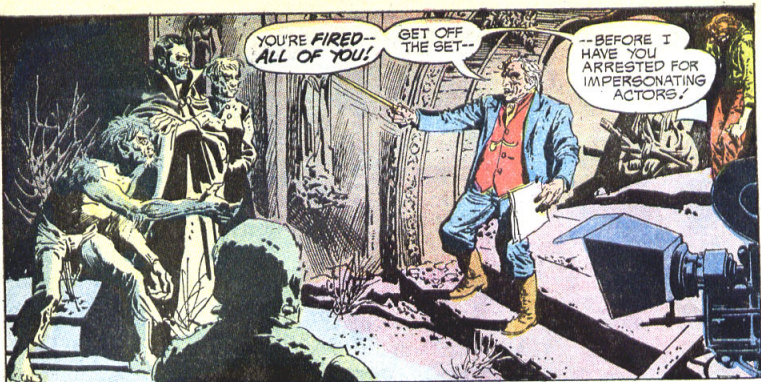
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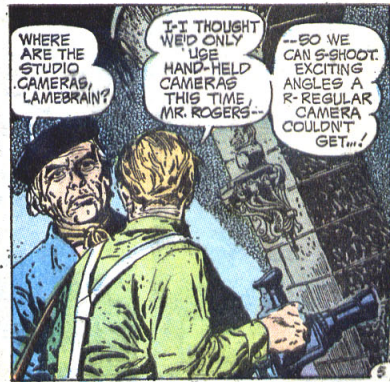
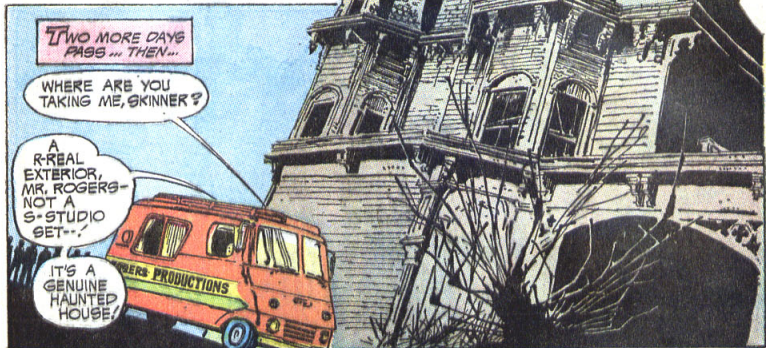
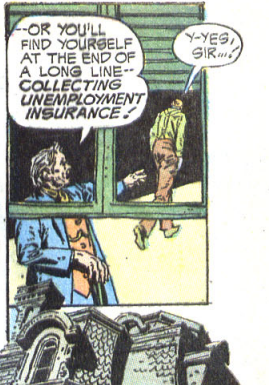
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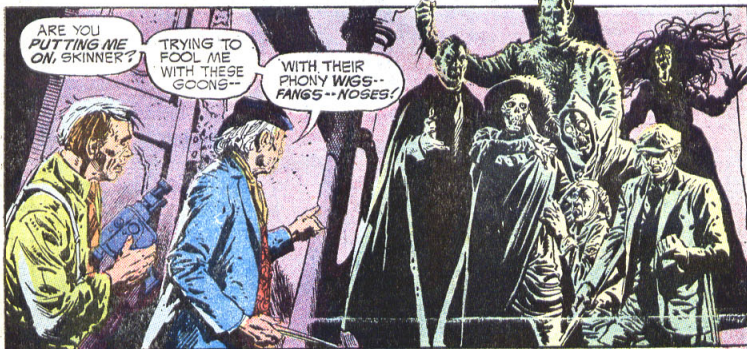
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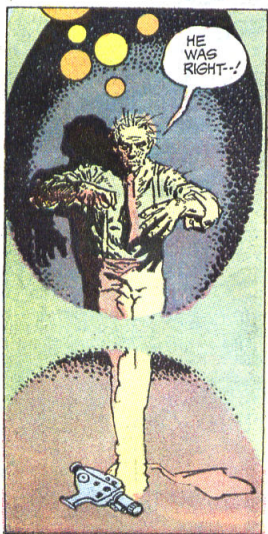
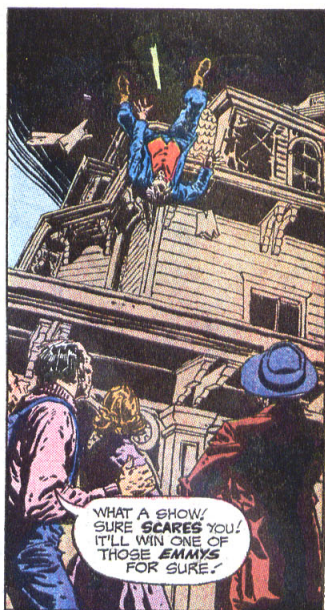


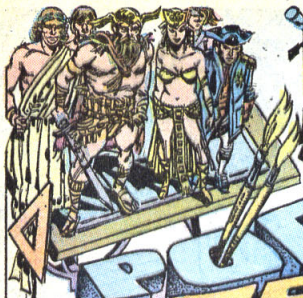












THE PORTRAITS THAT JOHN CLEMENS CREATED SEEMED ALMOST TO BE ALIVE! IN FACT, SOME OF THEM WERE ALIVE! HIS WIFE SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT BEFORE HER GREED DROVE HIM TO REVEAL HIS MASTERPIECE! BECAUSE TO HER, **THAT** PARTICULAR PORTRAIT WAS A...

PORTRAIT OF TERROR

JOHN!
I KNEW
IT!

I KNEW HE WAS
UNFAITHFUL!

WHO
IS
SHE?

SHE
LOOKS LIKE--
LIKE SOMEONE
WHO MIGHT
HAVE LIVED
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
AGO!

BUT THAT
WOMAN--HOW
DID SHE GET
HERE?

ART: BERNARD BAILY
SCRIPT: JACK OLECK

J-3058

AT THE START, MYRA CLEMENS FELT NO FEAR! ONLY RAGE! AND THAT WAS A PITY! BECAUSE IF SHE HAD BEEN LESS OF A SHREW, SHE MIGHT NEVER HAVE LEARNED THE TRUTH!

JOHN!
JOHN, OPEN
THIS DOOR!

I KNOW
THERE'S A
WOMAN IN
THERE!

OPEN IT,
OR YOU'LL
REGRET
IT!

I WARN
YOU!

MYRA CLEMENS WAS BEAUTIFUL! BUT SHE HAD THE INSTINCTS OF A COBRA! AND SO SHE DID LEARN THE WEIRD, UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH!

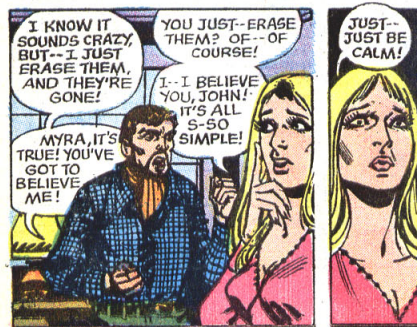
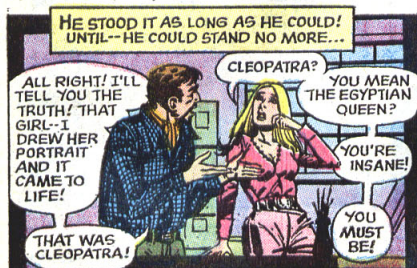
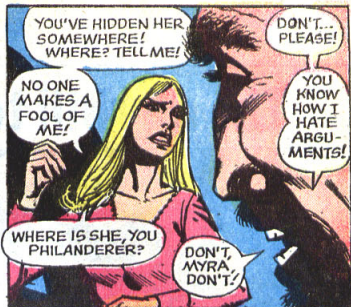
MYRA,
WHAT IS
IT?

WRONG! YOU
KNOW WHAT'S
WRONG, YOU
CHEAT!

HOW DARE
YOU BRING
ANOTHER
WOMAN INTO
MY HOUSE?

WHERE
IS SHE?

WHAT'S
WRONG?



WHAT HAPPENED THEN WAS IMPOSSIBLE! MYRA WAS TREMBLING! WHO WOULDN'T HAVE TREMBLED? SHE WANTED ONLY TO ESCAPE! BUT INSTEAD...

THERE! NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

THAT'S ATTLILA THE HUN--A MAN WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR SIXTEEN CENTURIES!

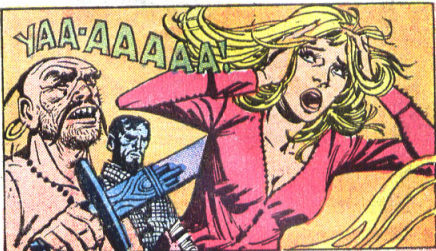
LOOK BEHIND YOU, MYRA!

LOOK! AND THEN TELL ME I'M INSANE!

MYRA DID AS HER HUSBAND ORDERED. SHE THOUGHT HIM MAD! BUT JOHN CLEMENS WAS NOT MAD...

NO!

NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T BE!



THEN MYRA CLEMENS FLED! AND, IN TIME, HER HUSBAND CAME TO COMFORT HER! ONLY--BY THEN--SHE HAD FORGOTTEN HER FEAR...

MYRA, DON'T CRY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID ANY MORE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I ERASED HIM!

I'M SORRY I FRIGHTENED YOU! DON'T CRY!

I'M NOT CRYING, JOHN! AND I'M NOT FRIGHTENED ANY LONGER!

I WAS, BUT NOW--

NOW--JOHN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?

RICH?

I'VE BEEN THINKING! THIS--THIS GIFT OF YOURS!

IT CAN GIVE US ANYTHING WE WANT! WE CAN BE RICH!

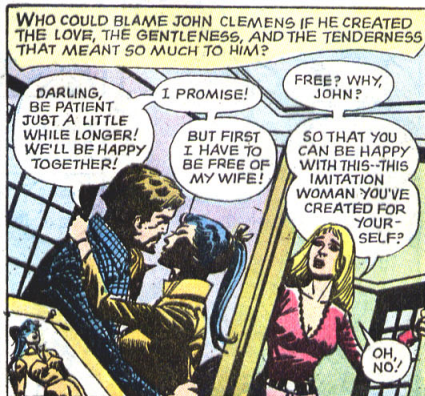
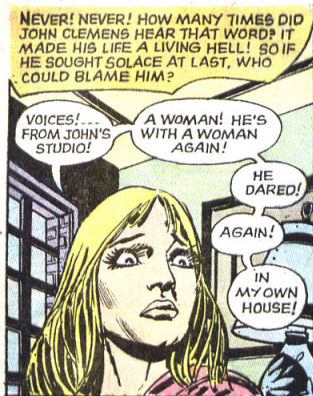
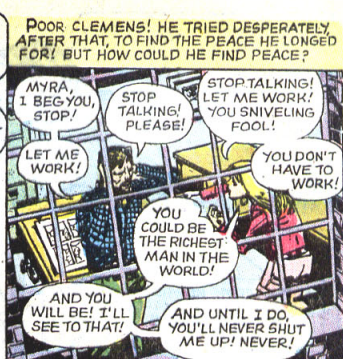
YES! DON'T YOU SEE?

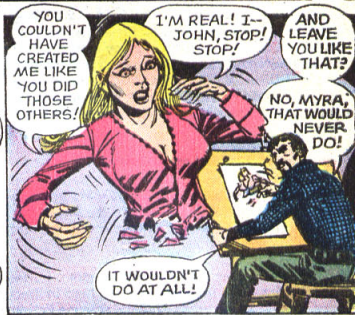
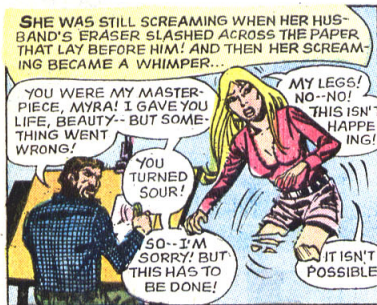
YOU CAN DRAW A PORTRAIT OF MIDAS AND HIS GOLD! OR OF CROESUS!

WE CAN MAKE THEM PAY TO STAY ALIVE!

NO! THAT WOULD BE EVIL!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D THINK OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT!





DIRECT CURRENTS

At long last—the story that the fans of war mags have been breathlessly waiting for—"The Return!" Sgt. Rock's round-the-world odyssey is finally over, and he's rejoining Easy Company in the **November** issue of **OUR ARMY AT WAR** (#262), exploding on your newsstand in the first week of August! **Battle bonus:** another adventure of the crew of the **U.S.S. Stevens!**

In the annual **Justice League-Justice Society** classic, the mighty super-heroes must battle Nazi hordes who have taken over **Earth-X!** It's going to be "Thirteen Against The Earth" in the **December** **JUSTICE LEAGUE** (#108), coming your way the first week of August.

It's time for a new brand of excitement . . . introducing **Ironwolf**, the most unusual hero in literature. It's a saga of swords, sorcery, science-fiction and everything else under the sun, set in a far-off time when the Earth has been sold to a group of aliens. Don't miss this new series by Denny (The Shadow) O'Neil and Howie (Fafhrd & The Gray Mouser) Chaykin, premiering in the **December** issue of **WEIRD WORLDS**, on sale the first week in August.

The thrills range from military to voodoo magic in the **November** issue of **GHOSTS** (#20), on sale the first week in August with these terror tales: "The Haunting Hussar Of West Point," "The Specter In The Snow," "The Howl Of The Black Phantom" and the mystifying story of "The Skulls Of Pak Island" . . . all true tales of the weird and supernatural world of Ghosts!

There's only one magazine that gives you one hundred pages of thrills, and this month **DC SUPER-SPECTACULAR** focuses on **THE FLASH** for its **November** issue (#22)! All of your favorite super-speed stars are there: **The Flash and Kid Flash** (on the trail of "The Secret Of The Three Super-Weapons"), **Johnny Quick** (in a story from 1948!), **The Elongated Man** (solving the "Riddle Of The Sleepytime Taxi"), and the Golden Age Flash in a 40-page classic from the Golden Age of Comics—"The Campaign Against The Flash!" Get ready for this one in the second week of August.



When you make a "Pledge To Satan" you have to be very careful . . . otherwise you might end up like the star of the new Shelly Mayer-Nestor Rendon terror tale in the **November** issue of **HOUSE OF MYSTERY** (#219), on sale the second week in August.

Jim Corrigan was a detective on an ordinary metropolitan police force until he was killed by gangster Gat Benson. Then he rose from a watery grave to become the most powerful nemesis of evil this world has ever known. Read the full story of how he became **The Spectre** in the **December** issue of the magazine of **SECRET ORIGINS** (#5), on sale the second week in August.

One of **Gus Gray's** old Olympic competitors returns to haunt him as the crew of the **Haunted Tank** encounter "An Enemy From Yesterday" in the **November** issue of **G.L. COMBAT** (#166), on sale the second week in August.

The **SWAMP THING's** on the move again in his **December** issue (#7)! He's on the trail of the Conclave, and this time it leads him to the quiet of Metropolis of Gotham City . . . just in time for "The Night Of The Bat" a new Wein & Wrightson triumph, on sale the second week in August.



Here's the story of two Indian brothers—one the chief of his village, the other a scout for the U.S. Calvary—and how the gunfighter named **Jonah Hex** found out that "Blood Brothers" are often not what they seem to be. The **December** **WEIRD WESTERN TALES** (#20), on sale the second week in August, also features the story of the last six-gun duel of the fastest gun in the west!

A circus showman stealing the powers of the **Man of Steel** in order to entertain his audiences? . . . be sure to read the **November** issue of **SUPERMAN** (#269) for the surprising "Secret Of The Eighth Superman" . . . on sale the second week in August.

The last boy on Earth leaves his refuge at the Tracking Site to return to the battered world of **Earth A** (after **D** isaster) in the **November** issue of **KAMANDI** (#11), coming your way the second week in August from the magical mind of **Jack Kirby!**

They took away his *HOME*..
he's fighting a *UNIVERSE*
to get it back!

IRON-WOLF



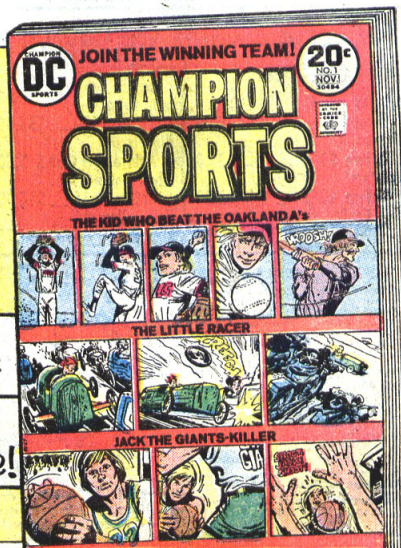
IRON-
WOLF


--featured in **WEIRD WORLDS...**
MUCH MORE THAN A COMIC BOOK!

**THE
SCORE-
BOARDS
DON'T
TELL ALL!**

There's	much	more
than	just	the score!


ON SALE NOW





ILLNESS HAS PLAGUED MANKIND SINCE THE BEGINNING... AND THOUGH LEGIONS OF MEDICAL RESEARCHERS, SURGEONS AND SPECIALISTS HAVE FOUGHT VALIANTLY TO CONTROL MANKIND'S DISEASES, MANY STILL PERSIST TO INVADE AND DESTROY... ONE IN PARTICULAR CONTINUES TO RESIST ALL CURES... A SICKNESS FOUND DEEP WITHIN THE HUMAN SOUL -- CALLED EVIL!

A SMALL MIDWESTERN TOWN IN THE YEAR 1873...



THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH, SHERIFF! THOSE TWO MEN KILLED MY DAUGHTER!!



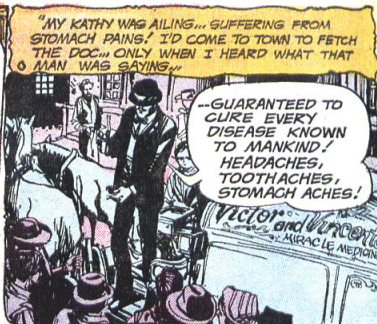
AN EVIL PAIR

SHERIFF JOHN ALBANO
ATTORNEY PATRICK



SIMMER DOWN, JED, AND START AT THE BEGINNING! WHAT TWO MEN ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

VICTOR AND VINCENT... THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLED, SHERIFF... SELLING A 'MIRACLE MEDICINE'...

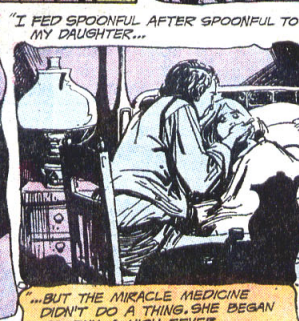


"MY KATHY WAS AILING... SUFFERING FROM STOMACH PAINS! I'D COME TO TOWN TO FETCH THE DOC... ONLY WHEN I HEARD WHAT THAT MAN WAS SAYING..."

...GUARANTEED TO CURE EVERY DISEASE KNOWN TO MANKIND! HEADACHES, TOOTHACHES, STOMACH ACHES!

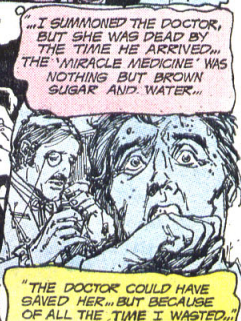


"LIKE A FOOL I BELIEVED THEIR LIES... I PURCHASED THREE BOTTLES AND RETURNED HOME WITH THEM..."



"I FED SPOONFUL AFTER SPOONFUL TO MY DAUGHTER..."

...BUT THE MIRACLE MEDICINE DIDN'T DO A THING. SHE BEGAN TO RUN A HIGH FEVER...



"I SUMMONED THE DOCTOR, BUT SHE WAS DEAD BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED... THE 'MIRACLE MEDICINE' WAS NOTHING BUT BROWN SUGAR AND WATER..."

"THE DOCTOR COULD HAVE SAVED HER... BUT BECAUSE OF ALL THE TIME I WASTED..."



THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DAUGHTER'S DEATH, SHERIFF! JUST AS IF THEY'D TAKEN A GUN AND--

WE'LL ARREST THEM RIGHT NOW, JED!



But...

GONE! THEY PULLED UP STAKES AND MADE TRACKS!

AND GOD ONLY KNOWS WHERE THEY WENT!

MEN LIKE THEM... MUST JUST BE BORN EVIL!



BORN? I DON'T BELIEVE ANY WOMAN GAVE BIRTH TO EITHER OF THEM... THOSE TWO DEMONS MUSTA BEEN CONCEIVED IN HELL!



THE FOLLOWING
MORNING... IN
ANOTHER TOWN...

STEP RIGHT UP,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND
PURCHASE THE MOST
MIRACULOUS CURE—ALL
MEDICINE EVER PERFECTED
BY MAN...

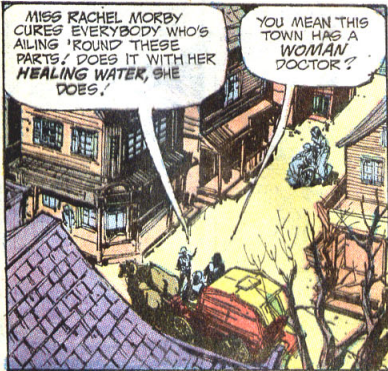
ALL RIGHT, OLD-TIMER, **MOVE
ALONG!** IF YOU LACK THE INTELLIGENCE
TO APPRECIATE THE WONDERS THAT
THIS MEDICINE CAN PERFORM, THEN
I'D ADVISE YOU TO--

DON'T GIT
SO TOUCHY, YOUNG
FELLER--AH DIDN'T
SAY YOUR
MEDICINE AIN'T
GENUINE!



MISS RACHEL MORBY
CURES EVERYBODY WHO'S
AILING 'ROUND THESE
PARTS! DOES IT WITH HER
HEALING WATER, SHE
DOES!

YOU MEAN THIS
TOWN HAS A
**WOMAN
DOCTOR?**



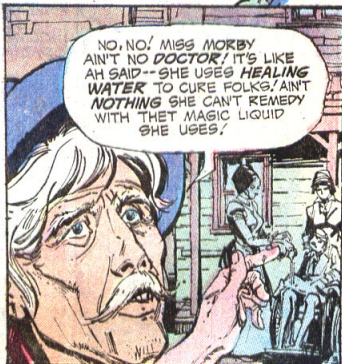
IT'S **GUARANTEED TO CURE
ANY AND EVERY ILLNESS...
HEADACHES, TOOTHACHES,
STOMACH...**

YOU'RE WASTIN'
YOUR TIME SELLIN'
THAT STUFF IN THIS
TOWN, MISTER!



ONLY THAR
JEST AIN'T
NOBODY IN THIS
TOWN 'THAT HAS
ANY **NEED**
FER IT!

HOWS
THAT AGAIN?



NO, NO! MISS MORBY
AIN'T NO **DOCTOR!** IT'S LIKE
AH SAID--SHE USES **HEALING
WATER** TO CURE FOLKS, AIN'T
NOTHING SHE CAN'T REMEDY
WITH THET **MAGIC LIQUID**
SHE USES!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE
GOT SOME COMPETITION, VICTOR!
THAT FEMALE'S GOT HER OWN
RACKET GOING WITH THE
SUCKERS IN THIS TOWN!

YEAH!
A PHONY HEALING-
WATER ACT! AND
THE CHUMPS
COME FLOCKING.

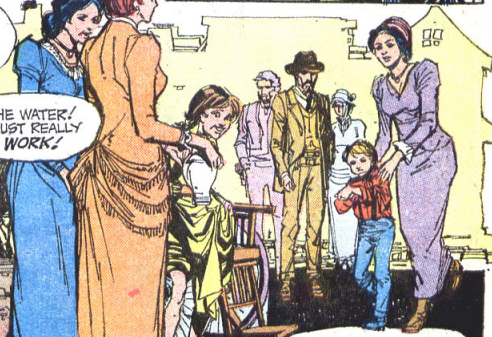


WHA-?

BLAZES!
I D-DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

OR AT LEAST I
WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT--
IF I HADN'T SEEN IT WITH MY
OWN EYES. THE CRIPPLE--
HE'S WALKING!

THE WATER!
IT MUST REALLY
WORK!



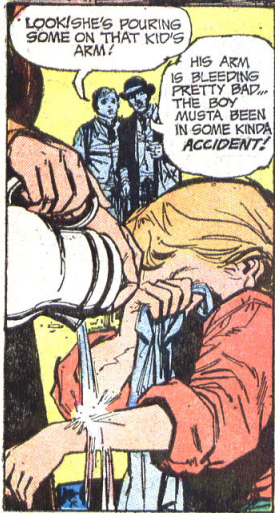
LOOK! SHE'S POURING
SOME ON THAT KID'S
ARM!

HIS ARM
IS BLEEDING
PRETTY BAD...
THE BOY
MUSTA BEEN
IN SOME KINDA
ACCIDENT!

THE CUT IN IT'S
GONE! COMPLETELY
DISAPPEARED!

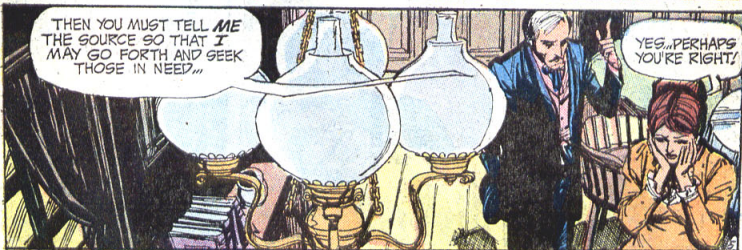
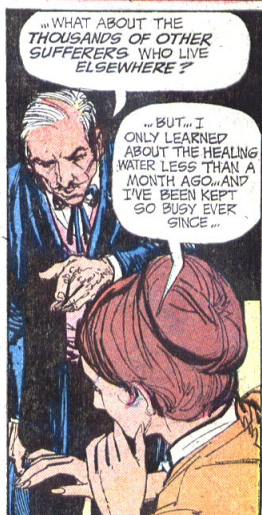
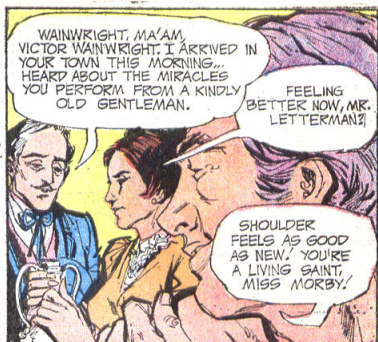
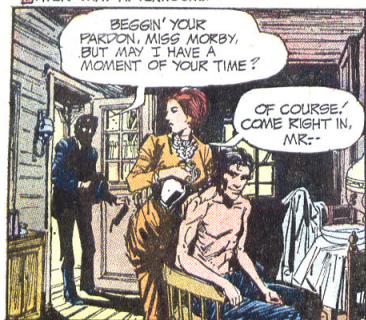
VICTOR...
WE'VE FINALLY
FOUND IT! A
WAY TO BECOME
RICH!

WITH THAT MAGIC
WATER, WE'D MAKE MILLIONS!
ONLY SUPPOSE THE GIRL
WON'T SHARE IT WITH US...
SUPPOSE SHE WON'T
TELL US WHERE SHE
GETS THE STUFF?

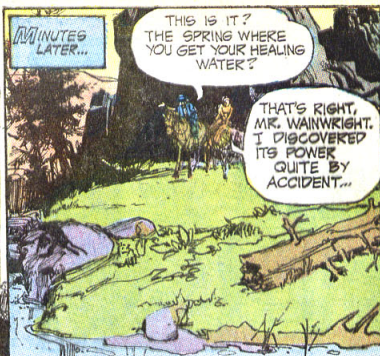


VINCENT, I AM
FULLY CONFIDENT THAT
I WILL LEARN THE
SOURCE OF MISS
MORBYS' STRANGE WATER
WITHIN A MATTER OF
HOURS!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...



CONTINUING TO PLEAD THAT THE HEALING WATER MUST BE USED TO BENEFIT ALL MANKIND, THE UNSCRUPULOUS VICTOR FINALLY ATTAINS HIS OBJECTIVE...



LATER...

WELL, VICTOR--
DID YOU FIND OUT
THE SOURCE OF
THAT HEALING
WATER?

OF
COURSE!

FANTASTIC!
THAT STUFF WILL
MAKE US RICH, PARTNER!
WE'LL LIVE LIKE KINGS!
WE'LL ONLY SELL IT TO
THE WEALTHY--
CHARGE THEM \$50,000
A TREATMENT!

I HAD TO
KILL THE GIRL...
BURY HER
BODY WHERE
NO ONE WILL
EVER FIND IT...

HEE-HEE!
I'D HAVE
EXPECTED
THAT... NO
SENSE IN
SPLITTING
WITH A
THIRD
PARTY, HUH,
VICTOR?

OR WITH
A SECOND
PARTY,
VINCENT!

UNNH!

"YOU"
FILTHY...
"DOUBLE-
CROSSING..."

NOTHING
PERSONAL, OLD
FRIEND... I JUST
FELT IT WAS TIME
WE DISSOLVED OUR
PARTNERSHIP...

YOU'RE
WRONG, VICTOR...
"WE'RE GOING
TO HELL"
TOGETHER!



"STABBED ME IN THE THROAT... WITH THAT BROKEN... BOTTLE... CAN'T TALK..."

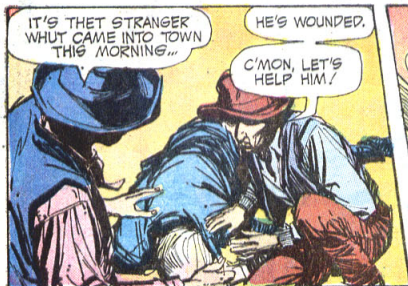


"...AND... TROUBLE BREATHING... MUST GET TO THAT... SPRING... HEALING WATER WILL SAVE... MY LIFE..."



"GETTING WEAK... LOSING... BLOOD... CAN'T GO ON..."

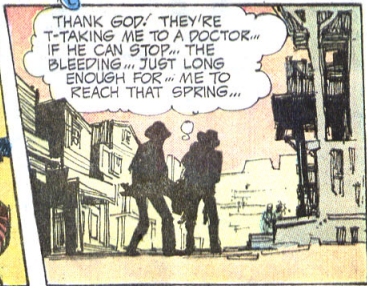
HEY, ROY! LOOKIT OVER THAR!



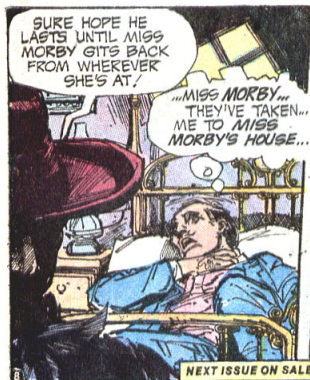
IT'S THET STRANGER WHUT CAME INTO TOWN THIS MORNING...

HE'S WOUNDED.

C'MON, LET'S HELP HIM!

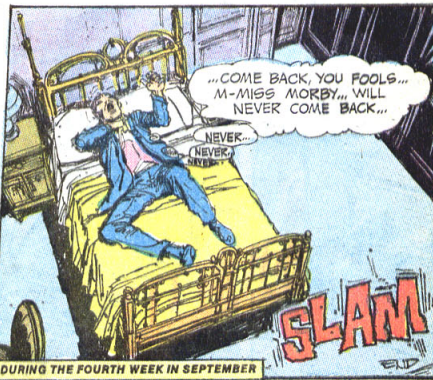


THANK GOD! THEY'RE T-TAKING ME TO A DOCTOR... IF HE CAN STOP... THE BLEEDING... JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR... ME TO REACH THAT SPRING...



SURE HOPE HE LASTS UNTIL MISS MORBY GETS BACK FROM WHEREVER SHE'S AT!

"...MISS MORBY... THEY'VE TAKEN... ME TO MISS MORBY'S HOUSE..."

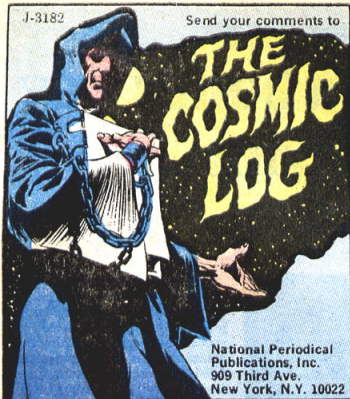


"...COME BACK, YOU FOOLS... M-MISS MORBY... WILL NEVER COME BACK..."

NEVER... NEVER...

SLAM

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN SEPTEMBER



Beware this path! If you don't want to learn your inevitable fate, skip this page and turn to a less terrifying tome! But if your curiosity outweighs your good sense, join me and explore the workings of fate . . . for I am Destiny, master of The Cosmic Log, and it is time for me to learn what cosmic mysteries lurk in your letters!

Dear Destiny:

The sixth issue of your new mag, *Weird Mystery Tales*, was pretty good. I really liked the stronger-than-usual dose of irony running through the stories.

"The Chosen One" was a good story, but it seemed to run a little too long. The art was fairly good; although those angular panels disturbed me in some places, it was a refreshing change.

"Even The Dead Shall Laugh" was a predictable story, but a good one. Nino's artistic style is good (but very weird) and his storytelling is getting better every month.

A short comment on "The Cosmic Log" feature: I thought that "The Hotel" was by Jim Starlin. I realize that your mystic book contains all the answers, but weren't you looking at the wrong question that time?

"Third Eye" was a typical terror tale, with the villain getting a justly deserved end. I wonder what happened to his cellmate?

One good feature of this issue was that you were getting into the action towards the end of each story. I enjoy seeing the host show up with a comment about the story's ending. The puns (as in "The Third Eye") have got to go . . . just keep it short and moralistic!

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

Dear John,

First off, I must compliment you on your astute evaluation of the case of Sparling vs. Starlin. The two names are so similar that I made a mistake

when I jotted down the credits of "The Hotel" in my *Cosmic Log*. Any further attempts to correct me will result in your doom, so beware! The only thing that saved you this time was the last paragraph of your letter, where you asked for more space devoted to my inspiring image. Next time nothing will save you!

Dear Editor:

I just bought *Weird Mystery Tales* #6 and enjoyed the issue immensely. I especially liked "Even The Dead Shall Laugh." The art and the hillbilly dialogue were superb, as was the surprise ending. No complaints about the other stories, except that I feel that you used too many dull colors in "The Third Eye." If brighter colors had been used the story would have been pleasanter.

I am having a little trouble getting some of your companion magazines, and would like to know what I can do about it. Thanks.

Barry Rosenstein, Brooklyn, New York

Dear Barry,

My *Cosmic Log* lists a very good means of getting every copy of every comic mag that you are interested in—subscribe. Subscription blanks are in many new DCs, and all new issues list their subscription price on the bottom of their first page. I'll look into your local situation in the meantime.

Dear Destiny, the keeper of The Cosmic Log:

The cover of #6 was fabulous. However, unlike your previous issues' stories, #6's didn't appeal to me at all. "The Chosen One" did not have any kind of surprise ending, plot, and in general it was dull. "Even The Dead Shall Laugh" was a better story, but reincarnation is nothing new. The art wasn't very good either. "Third Eye" was the best. I think John Jacobson should work on some more story ideas, this one was pretty good.

Hey, Destiny, why don't you have some solo adventures?

Keith Reed, Lewisburg, Ohio

Dear Keith,

All of the stories in *Weird Mystery Tales* are my adventures! I rarely interfere with the lives of mere mortals, and my other activities are far beyond your comprehension, so you have to settle for my appearances in WMT.

A quick consultation of *The Cosmic Log* indicates that John Jacobson is fated to write many more stories for DC before he enters the timeless land.

Where are your letters? There are blank pages in *The Cosmic Log* waiting for your comments! Send them to: The Cosmic Log, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and avoid the horrible fate of those who attempt to deny Destiny's will.