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# WEIRD MYSTERY

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THE ISLAND WAS A LAST DESPERATE HAVEN FOR CREATURES TOO HIDEOUS TO LIVE AMONG MEN/ BUT NOT EVEN THE WOMAN WHO DESTROYED THEIR SANCTUARY COULD HAVE GUESSED THE HORROR THAT AWAITED HER ON THIS...

SCRIPT:  
JACK OLECK  
ART:  
ABE OCAMPO  
EDITOR:  
JOE ORLANDO

# ISLAND OF THE DAMNED



GONE—ALL OF THEM. MAY GOD FORGIVE ME. I WAS THEIR ONLY HOPE, AND I'VE DRIVEN THEM AWAY. ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW, IRENA?

SATISFIED? YOU UGLY FOOL! I GOT RID OF THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE IN MY WAY. BUT ONLY ONE THING WILL SATISFY ME—WHEN YOU ARE DEAD!

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IT COULD ONLY HAVE HAPPENED WHEN IT DID. IN A TIME WHEN MEN TREMBLED IN THE FACE OF THE BIZZARE. AS EVEN CORVIO THE GYPSY TREMBLED ON THAT FIRST DAY.

THAT? THAT IS THE MAN YOU MEAN TO MARRY? IRENA, YOU'RE MAD! YOU TEMPT THE DEVIL!

THE DEVIL?



SINCE WHEN HAVE WE GYPSIES FEARED THE DEVIL, CORVIO? ARE YOU AFRAID, THEN?



AFRAID? YES! I AM! YOU SPOKE OF GOLD! BUT YOU NEVER SAID THAT YOU MEANT TO TAKE IT FROM THE COUNT PHILLIPE! LOOK AT HIM! LOOK--



NO! YOU LOOK-- LOOK AT THE SHOPKEEPERS! THEY FEAR HIM, TOO! BUT THEY STILL BOW AND SCRAPE! WHY? FOR GOLD, CORVIO! GOLD!







IF NOT FOR HIS GOLD HE AND HIS FREAKS WOULD BE STONED BY THOSE SUPERSTITIOUS SHOPKEEPERS! INSTEAD THEY LIVE IN LUXURY ON THAT ISLAND OF HIS. I MEAN TO GO TO THAT ISLAND! AND I MEAN TO HAVE THAT GOLD!



AND YET, THE GYPSY WAS AFRAID, IN THE YEAR 1789 WHO WAS NOT AFRAID OF FREAKS, OF NATURE'S MISTAKES? BUT...

YOU MEAN TO-- NO! IRENA, THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT THIS ISLAND! HE'S MADE IT A REFUGE FOR EVERY HORROR IN FRANCE! NO ONE WILL GO NEAR IT!

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL FOOLS! I KNOW THE STORIES! BUT I'M NOT A COWARD EVEN IF YOU ARE!



A COWARD? ME? YOU DARE CALL ME A COWARD? CORVIO FEARS NOTHING!

THEN CORVIO, LISTEN TO ME! I TOLD YOU! I HAVE A PLAN! RICHES, CORVIO, RICHES- AND ME! YOU CAN HAVE BOTH! BUT YOU MUST DECIDE!



THE GYPSY WAS A GREEDY WOMAN, A HARD WOMAN, A WOMAN WHO KNEW HOW TO SHAME A MAN.

YOU--YOU'RE INSANE! THAT PLACE- IT'S AN ISLAND OF LOST SOULS! BUT IF THERE'S NO OTHER WAY- ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO AS YOU SAY. I ONLY PRAY THAT NEITHER OF US EVER REGRETS IT!



AND SO, SHE WON. SO THAT AFTERWARD, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF WAITING FOR A DAY WHEN COLD RAIN FELL AND THE WIND HOWLED A DIRGE...

REMEMBER! ON THE DAY I BRING THE COUNT TO THE VILLAGE IT WILL BE BECAUSE WE ARE TO BE MARRIED! WAIT FOR THAT DAY, CORVIO! THEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.





I KNOW, BUT-  
IRENA, GIVE UP THIS  
MADNESS! I BEG YOU--

AND LIVE A GYPSY'S  
LIFE FOREVER? NO! MY  
FORTUNE IS HERE! NOW,  
GO! ONE OF THE COUNT'S  
SENTRIES IS COMING! GO!



ANOTHER WOMAN, A  
WOMAN LESS GREEDY,  
MIGHT HAVE FELT FEAR  
THAT NIGHT. BUT THIS  
WOMAN WAS DEADLY--  
DEADLY AS THE BLADE  
OF A DAGGER...



HER FEAR WAS  
ONLY A PRETENSE,  
LATER. BUT WHO  
WAS TO KNOW  
THAT?

WHAT-WHERE--  
WHO-WHO ARE YOU?  
MONSTERS! YOU'RE  
ALL MONSTERS--  
STAY AWAY FROM  
ME! STAY AWAY!

AH, SO  
YOU ARE AWAKE  
AT LAST. BUT-  
GENTLY, MAMSELLE,  
GENTLY. YOU ARE  
IN NO DANGER. I  
AM COUNT PHILLIPE  
LAMARRE. NO ONE  
WILL HARM YOU.



BUT HOW  
DID YOU COME  
HERE? WHY?

BECAUSE OF  
THE MEN!  
STRANGERS! THEY  
CAME TO OUR  
CAMP! THEY  
WANTED TO KILL  
US! THEY SAID  
ALL GYPSIES ARE  
WITCHES! BUT I  
RAN AWAY!



I SWAM HERE  
SINCE I REMEMBERED  
THEY SAY THAT YOU  
HELP THOSE THAT THE  
WORLD HATES! THEY--  
OH, PLEASE! DON'T  
SEND ME BACK! THEY'LL  
KILL ME!

NO ONE  
WILL KILL YOU,  
MAMSELLE. I  
KNOW HOW CRUEL  
THE WORLD CAN  
BE! YOU'RE SAFE  
HERE. ONE OF MY  
SERVANTS WILL  
SEE TO YOUR  
NEEDS--



SAFE? BUT THOSE--  
THOSE HORRIBLE  
CREATURES-- THEY-  
THEY FRIGHTEN ME!  
DON'T LEAVE ME!  
STAY WITH ME!  
PLEASE!

ME? YOU WANT  
ME TO STAY WITH  
YOU? YOU FIND  
MY SERVANTS  
TERRIFYING AND  
YET YOU DO NOT  
FEAR ME? YOU  
DO NOT FIND ME-  
REPULSIVE?



NO, YOU-YOU'RE NOT  
LIKE THEM. YOU'RE  
KIND-- YOU'RE NOT  
REPULSIVE! NOT TO  
ME! STAY! PLEASE,  
SAY YOU WILL!

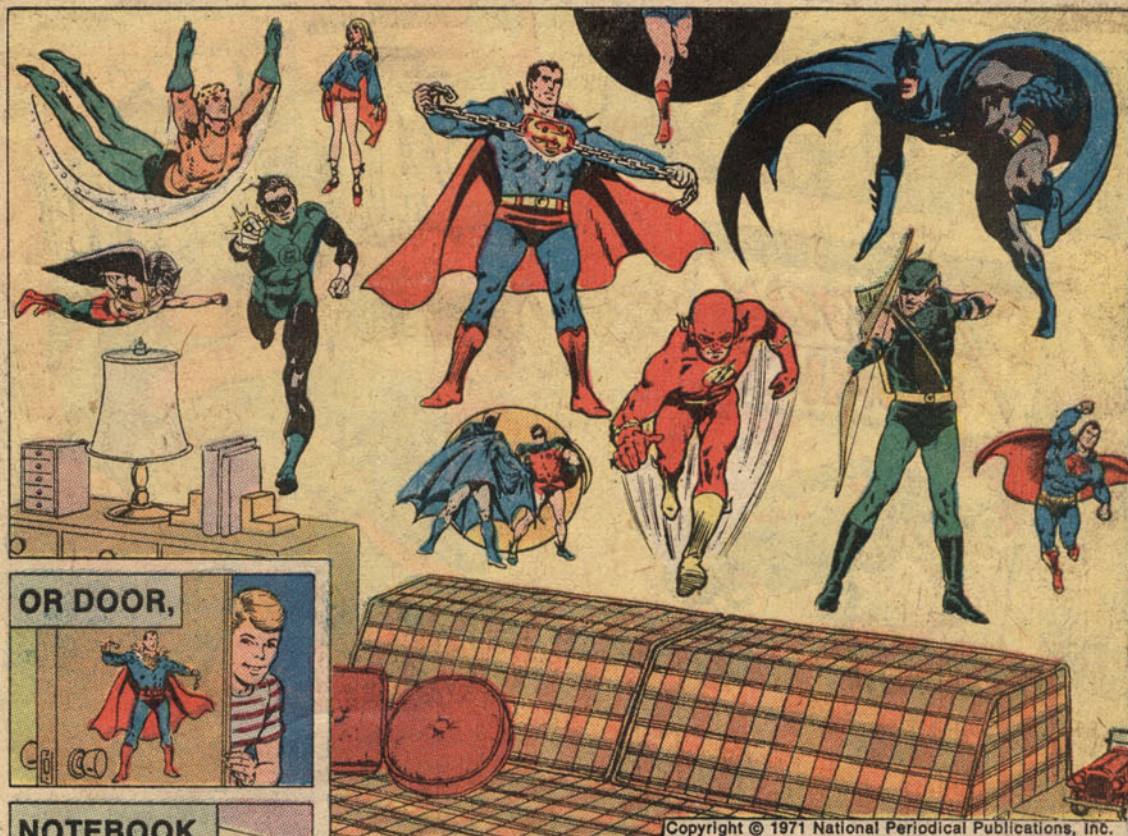
IF YOU WISH IT-VERY  
WELL, THEN, MAMSELLE.  
NO WOMAN HAS EVER  
ASKED ME THAT BEFORE.  
ESPECIALLY NOT--A  
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.  
I WILL STAY.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



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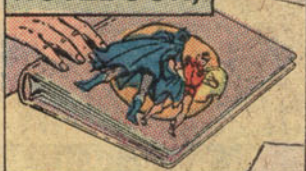


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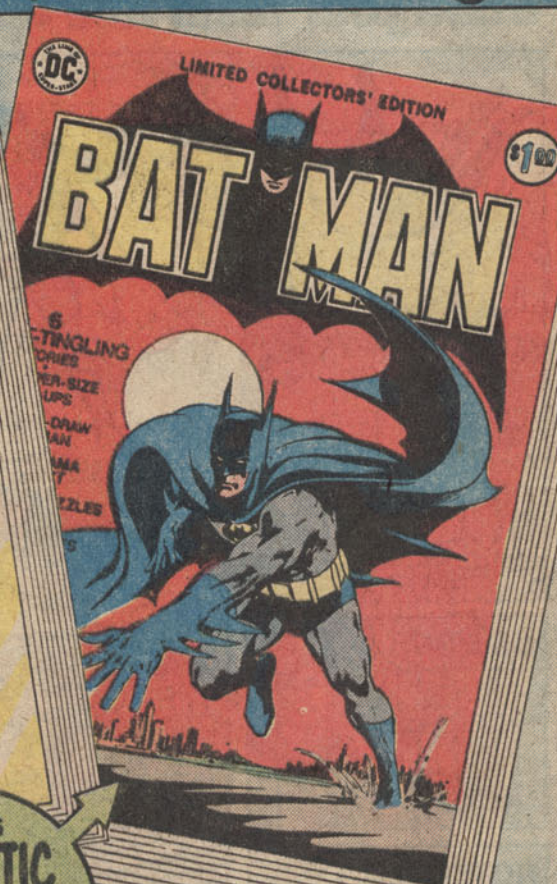
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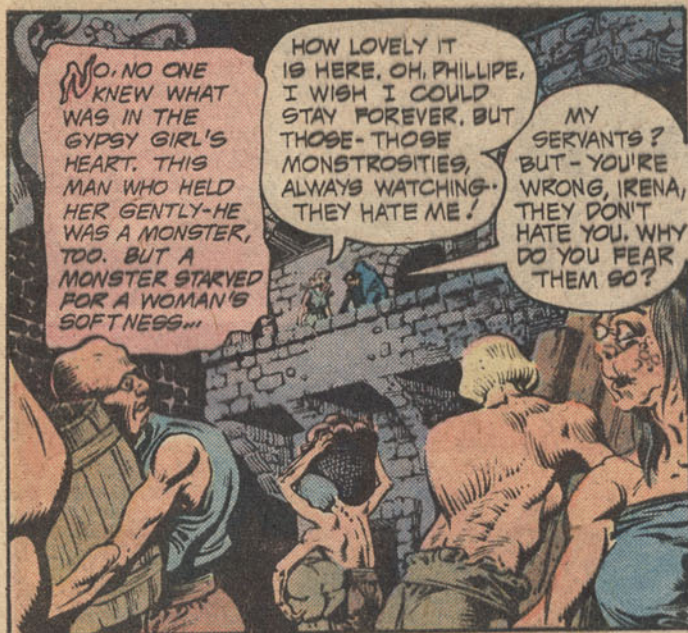
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NO, NO ONE KNEW WHAT WAS IN THE GYPSY GIRL'S HEART. THIS MAN WHO HELD HER GENTLY-HE WAS A MONSTER, TOO. BUT A MONSTER STAYED FOR A WOMAN'S SOFTNESS...

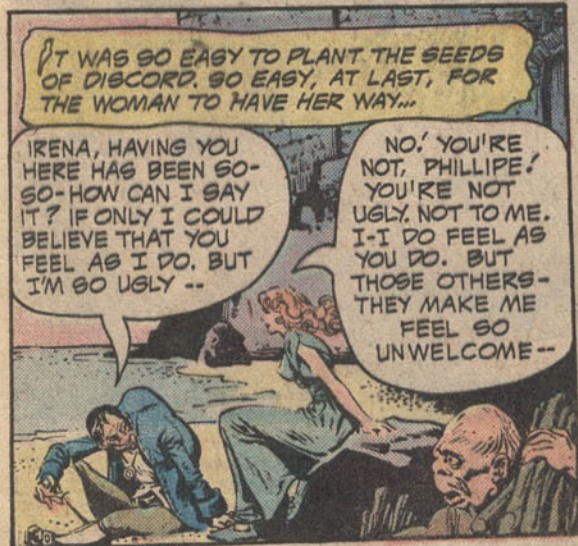
HOW LOVELY IT IS HERE, OH, PHILLIPE, I WISH I COULD STAY FOREVER. BUT THOSE-THOSE MONSTROSITIES, ALWAYS WATCHING- THEY HATE ME!

MY SERVANTS? BUT- YOU'RE WRONG, IRENA, THEY DON'T HATE YOU. WHY DO YOU FEAR THEM SO?



I-I JUST CAN'T HELP IT. BUT-PHILLIPE, FORGIVE ME. I'M SPOILING YOUR DAY. LET'S-LET'S JUST FORGET IT AND GO FOR A WALK ALONG THE BEACH. WILL YOU COME?

WITH YOU? I'D GO ANYWHERE WITH YOU, IRENA. DON'T YOU- KNOW THAT?



IT WAS SO EASY TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF DISCORD. SO EASY, AT LAST, FOR THE WOMAN TO HAVE HER WAY...

IRENA, HAVING YOU HERE HAS BEEN SO-SO-HOW CAN I SAY IT? IF ONLY I COULD BELIEVE THAT YOU FEEL AS I DO. BUT I'M SO UGLY --

NO, YOU'RE NOT, PHILLIPE! YOU'RE NOT UGLY, NOT TO ME. I-I DO FEEL AS YOU DO. BUT THOSE OTHERS- THEY MAKE ME FEEL SO UNWELCOME --



I WANT TO LOVE YOU, BUT I CAN'T! NOT WITH THOSE MONSTERS WATCHING ME- ALWAYS WATCHING! PHILLIPE, SEND THEM AWAY FOR ME!

SEND THEM AWAY? NO, IRENA, I CAN'T! THIS IS THEIR HOME. IF I SENT THEM AWAY THEY'D BE HUNTED DOWN LIKE ANIMALS, DESTROYED.



I'D BE SIGNING THEIR DEATH WARRANTS. I CAN'T, IRENA, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. BUT I CAN'T DO THAT. IT WOULD BE HEARTLESS.

AND WHAT ABOUT MY HEART, PHILLIPE? I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY. I CAN'T STAY HERE. NOT- WITH THEM.



AND IF I SENT THEM AWAY? COULD YOU MARRY-A FREAK, IRENA? YOU SEE ONLY MY JEWELS, MY FINE COAT. BUT IF YOU REALLY SAW ME --

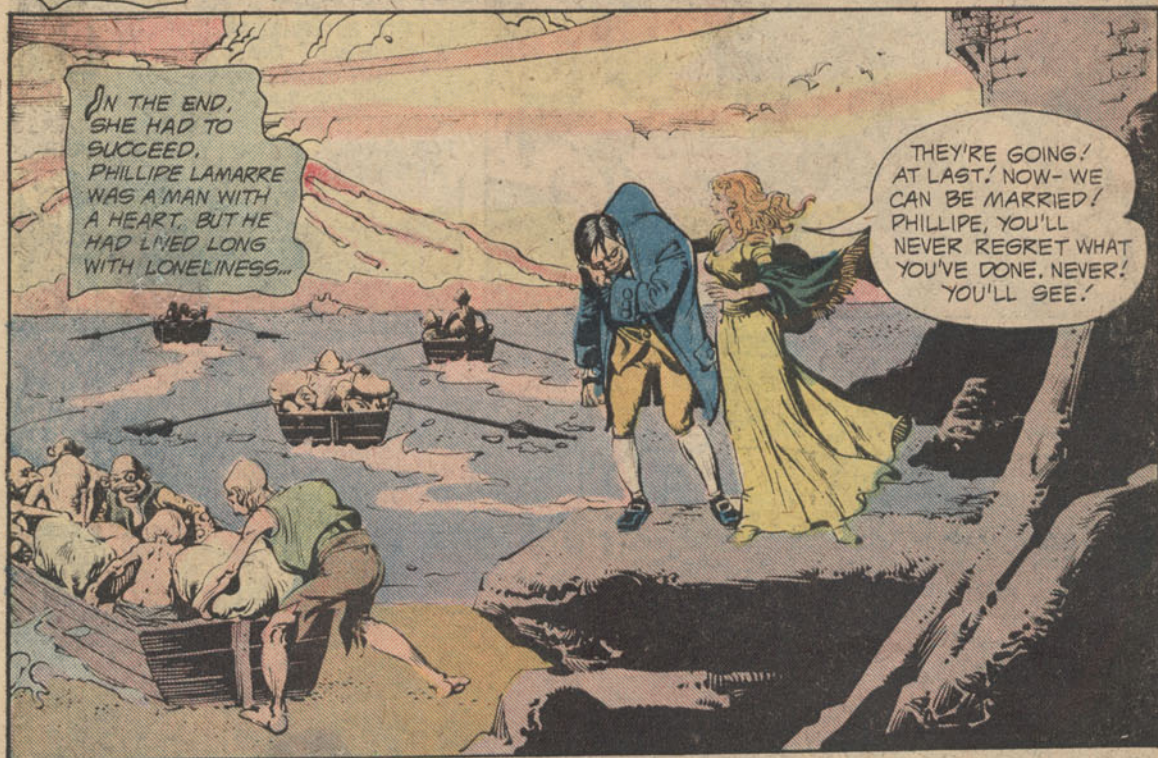
I HAVE! AND I DON'T CARE! NOTHING ABOUT YOU COULD EVER BE HORRIBLE TO ME. NOTHING! BUT-PHILLIPE, IT HAS TO BE MY WAY. THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE!





NO CHOICE! HOW THOSE TORTURED PHILLIPE AFTERWARD, AND THE GYPSY WOMAN KNEW-BUT WHAT WAS HIS AGONY TO HER?

SOON, PHILLIPE, SOON! YOU HESITATE, BUT SOONER OR LATER- YOU'LL DO AS I ASK. AND WHEN YOU DO- I'LL HAVE YOUR GOLD! EVERY COIN!



IN THE END, SHE HAD TO SUCCEED. PHILLIPE LAMARRE WAS A MAN WITH A HEART, BUT HE HAD LIVED LONG WITH LONELINESS...

THEY'RE GOING! AT LAST, NOW- WE CAN BE MARRIED! PHILLIPE, YOU'LL NEVER REGRET WHAT YOU'VE DONE, NEVER! YOU'LL SEE!



IN THE END, SHE DID SUCCEED, AND ONLY ONE THING REMAINED TO BE DONE, THEN...

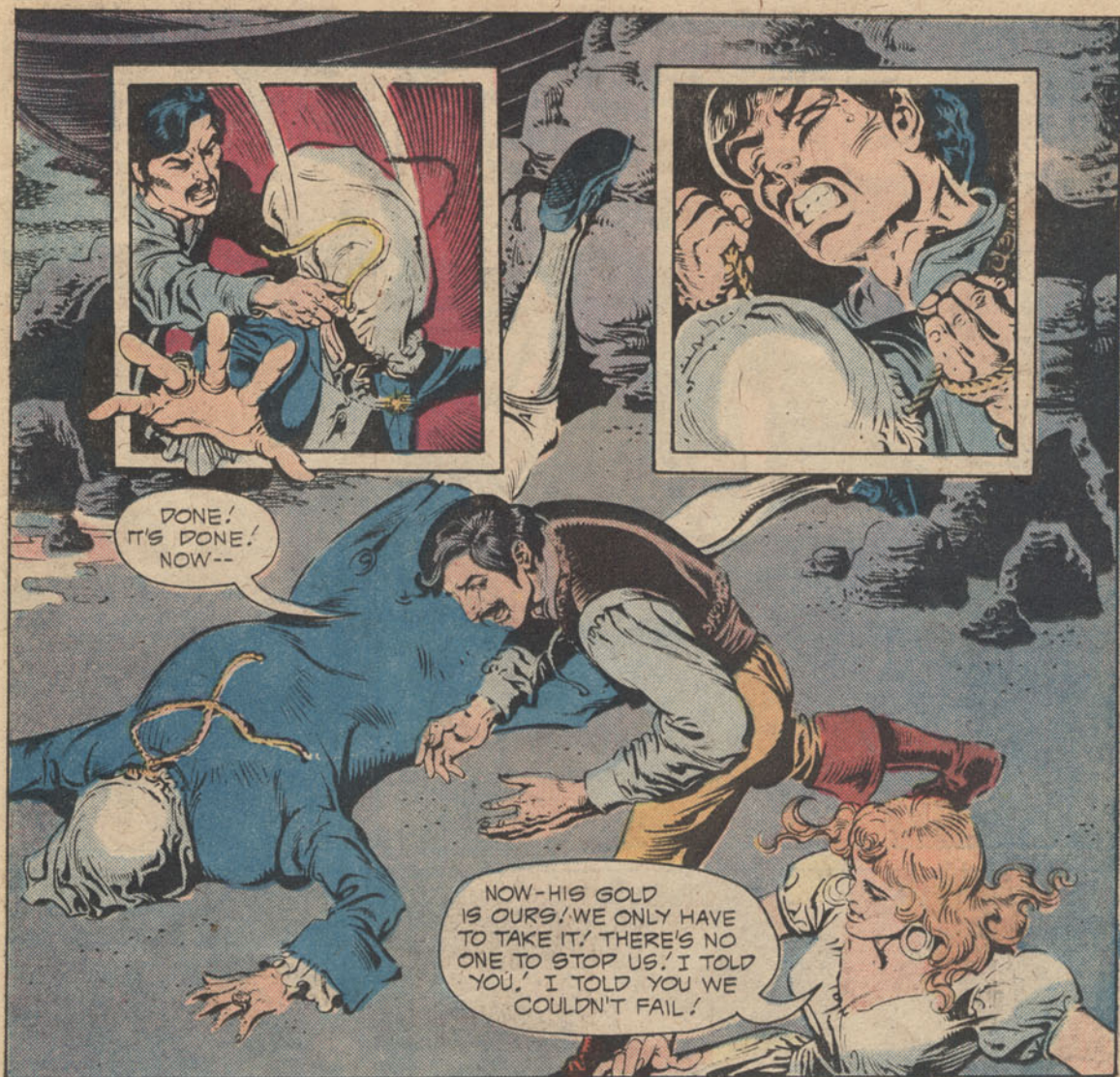


IT WAS A HAPPY MAN WHO BROUGHT HIS BRIDE BACK TO HIS ISLAND. A MAN WHO SPOKE HIS TENDERNESS - AND DID NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS FOR THE LAST TIME...



WE'RE HOME! IRENA, IF ONLY I COULD TELL YOU WHAT THIS MOMENT MEANS TO ME. I'VE DREAMED SO LONG OF BEING LIKE OTHER MEN, OF BEING LOVED--











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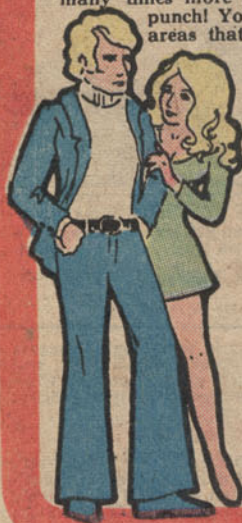
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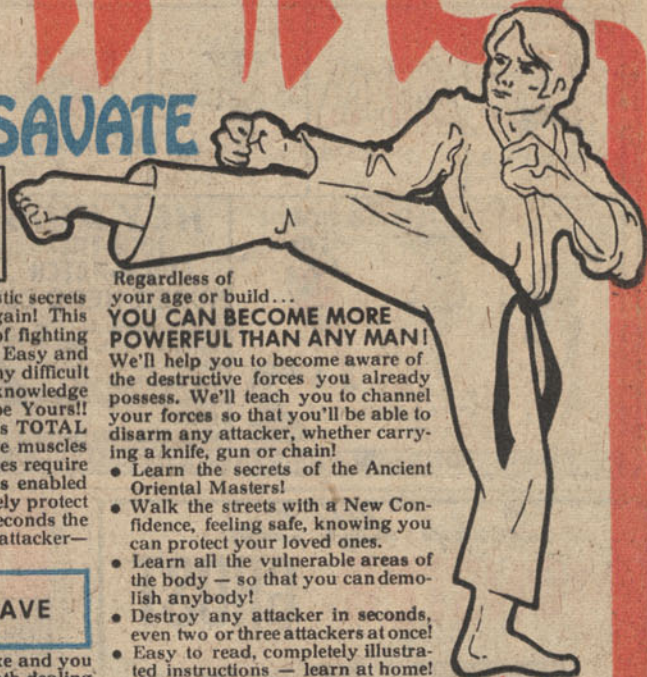
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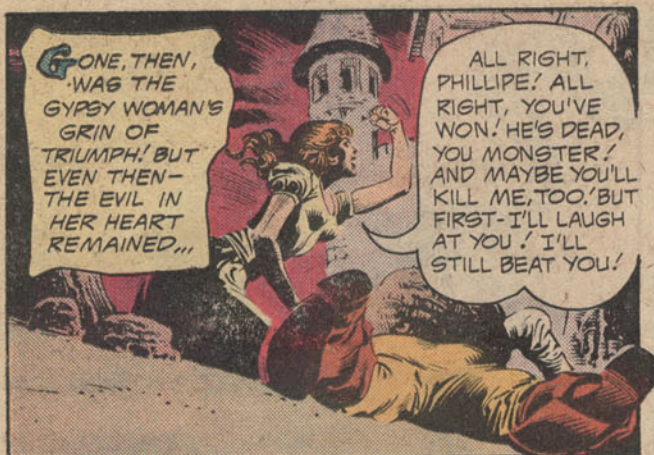
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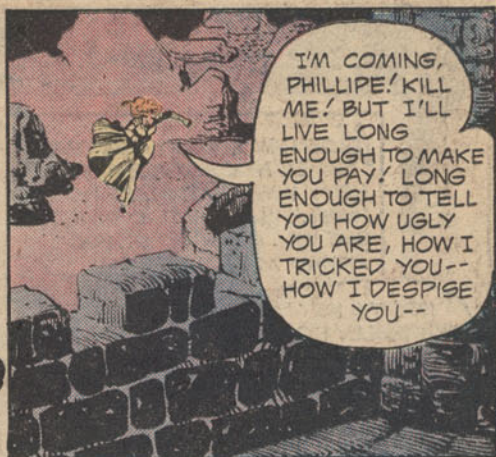
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GONE, THEN, WAS THE GYPSY WOMAN'S GRIN OF TRIUMPH! BUT EVEN THEN—THE EVIL IN HER HEART REMAINED...

ALL RIGHT, PHILLIPE! ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE WON! HE'S DEAD, YOU MONSTER! AND MAYBE YOU'LL KILL ME, TOO! BUT FIRST—I'LL LAUGH AT YOU! I'LL STILL BEAT YOU!



I'M COMING, PHILLIPE! KILL ME! BUT I'LL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU PAY! LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU HOW UGLY YOU ARE, HOW I TRICKED YOU-- HOW I DESPISE YOU--

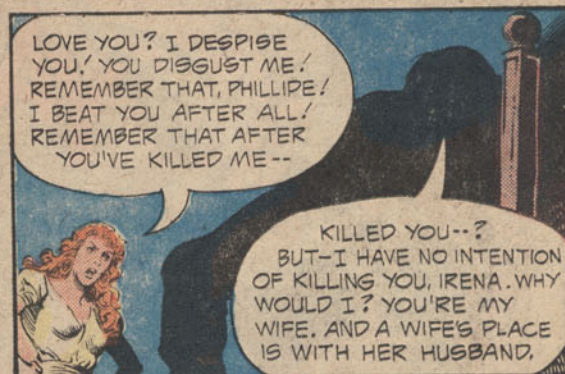


COME IN, IRENA, COME IN. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. I KNEW THAT YOUR UGLY SOUL WOULD BRING YOU HERE AFTER YOU MADE CERTAIN THAT YOUR LOVER WAS DEAD.

PHILLIPE! YOU—WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

JUST FOR AN INSTANT, THERE WAS FEAR IN THE GYPSY WOMAN'S HEART. BUT—ONLY FOR AN INSTANT...

DEVIL! MONSTER! FREAK! GO ON! KILL ME! GO ON! BUT YOU'LL NEVER ENJOY YOUR VICTORY! I'LL SEE TO THAT BY TELLING YOU THE TRUTH! BY TELLING YOU HOW I'VE BEEN LAUGHING AT YOU!

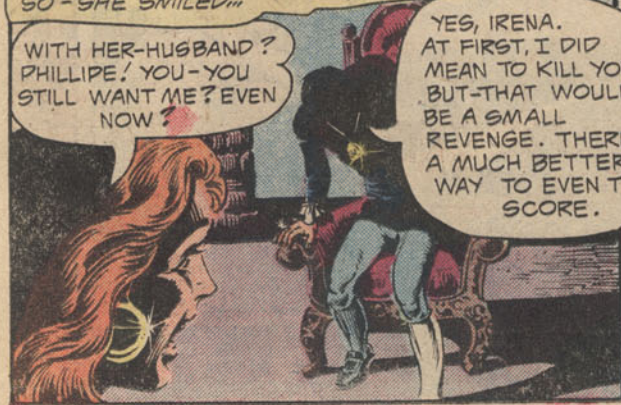


LOVE YOU? I DESPISE YOU! YOU DISGUST ME! REMEMBER THAT, PHILLIPE! I BEAT YOU AFTER ALL! REMEMBER THAT AFTER YOU'VE KILLED ME--

KILLED YOU--? BUT—I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING YOU, IRENA. WHY WOULD I? YOU'RE MY WIFE. AND A WIFE'S PLACE IS WITH HER HUSBAND.

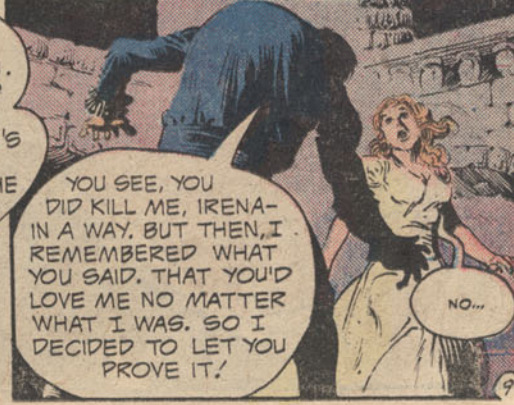
ONE INSTANT—AND THEN THE GYPSY WOMAN COULD EXULT AGAIN. THE FOOL! OH, THE FOOL! DESPITE EVERYTHING—HE LOVED HER STILL! AND SO—SHE SMILED...

SHE SMILED—TRIUMPHANT—AND THEN SHE STOPPED SMILING. SHE TRIED TO SCREAM—AND COULD NOT...



WITH HER HUSBAND? PHILLIPE! YOU—YOU STILL WANT ME? EVEN NOW?

YES, IRENA. AT FIRST, I DID MEAN TO KILL YOU. BUT—THAT WOULD BE A SMALL REVENGE. THERE'S A MUCH BETTER WAY TO EVEN THE SCORE.



YOU SEE, YOU DID KILL ME, IRENA—IN A WAY. BUT THEN, I REMEMBERED WHAT YOU SAID. THAT YOU'D LOVE ME NO MATTER WHAT I WAS. SO I DECIDED TO LET YOU PROVE IT!

NO...



HOW CAN A WOMAN SCREAM—  
WHEN HER HORROR CHOKES  
HER? WHEN SHE STARES AT THE  
UNBELIEVABLE AND KNOWS THAT  
SHE WILL SOON GO STARK,  
RAVING MAD?

NO! IT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE! NO  
MAN CAN HAVE--

NO? BUT-A  
MAN CAN, IRENA.  
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED  
THAT WE'D STILL HAVE  
OUR HONEYMOON. I  
DON'T KNOW HOW LONG  
I CAN LIVE LIKE THIS,  
BUT-THAT WILL BE A  
MORE FITTING REVENGE  
THAN DEATH!

DON'T  
YOU AGREE,  
LOVER?

YAAAAA

WHAT A PITY!-- I  
GUESS THAT IRENA  
DOESN'T BELIEVE IN  
THE OLD SAYING "TWO  
HEADS ARE BETTER  
THAN ONE!"



THE END.





I've got to get rid of that dumb Destiny! When my lease on the Sinister House expired, I moved over here and took over a chunk of his territory—and what happens? The fool doesn't even have enough sense to get upset—he just goes out and mails me a Valentine! I'm glad you readers are smarter. After a long, hard issue of sharing my hostile duties with that dummy I'm glad to get to your letters. . . .

Dear Destiny.

After reading Weird Mystery #9 two things spurred me into writing—the great comic (of course), and what was written at the bottom of the letters page. I do not want to be cursed with the most horrible of fates, so I made sure I wrote a good letter.

The first story, "Vampires' Gold," was fair, but the art was great. Jopdolan is really good.

"Checkmate" was the highlight of the issue. After the squire was killed by the dark horse I sat and tried to figure out how the story would end and what twist you would use to make it a fit story for Weird Mystery Tales. I couldn't think of anything. After reading the ending I knew that it had to be the best story in the issue.

You know something—I was right. Two things made me dislike the story "Evil Power." 1. I disliked the art. 2. You didn't introduce the last story. Who was that hack, Eve, anyway? She doesn't belong in your comic and if she wants a comic she shouldn't get yours. You should turn her into a toad before she takes over your comic.

By the way, Destiny, what is the fate of Weird Mystery Tales? Will it go monthly?

Elliot Hudes, Ontario, Canada

*This is Eve here, kiddie, and that should give you a VERY good idea of the future of Weird Mystery Tales. I'm going to be right here with Destiny until I can take over this mag all for myself, and leave Destiny out in the cold with his Cosmic Log, the eternal collection of terribly told tales.*

Dear Destiny.

No doubt about it, your book really makes the trash, the "3 Musketeers" (Cain, Abel, & Eve) put out look sick!

This Luis Dominguez guy is really terrific. I've seen his covers on other DC mystery mags, but the one on Weird

Mystery #9 was by far his best work. It seemed a bit on the humorous side, but I kinda liked that. Keep this guy busy.

I like the first story best, because it involved some of the "classic" monsters (vampires, werewolves, mummies, etc.). More monsters of this kind, please.

As far as the art goes, I love all three of the guys you had this time, especially Redondo.

Um . . . I noticed that dummy from the Sinister House, Eve, snuck a story in the back of your book and said something about taking over the whole show. No! Don't let her! Fight back! You're everybody's Destiny!

Duffy Ricardo, Morristown, Indiana  
*Frankly, you sound a bit like a classic monster yourself. Are you sure that you called me a dummy? It really could be harmful to your health! The only smart thing you said in your whole letter was that I should keep Luis Dominguez busy. If you'll take a look at this issue's cover, you'll see that I'm doing just that!*

Dear Destiny.

I see the handwriting on the wall . . . the Wheel of Fortune has been spun . . . the stars and planets are in precise alignment . . . the book of fate is open . . . Destiny is to meet his inevitable doom! Welcome, Eve! Tough luck, Destiny, but don't worry, we won't miss you. I'll admit that everything you did wasn't wrong . . . you selected two very good stories for Weird Mystery Tales #9 (Eve selected the other one—also an excellent choice) and you used remarkably good judgement to publish my well-written letter at the top of the letters page. Other than that you're nothing!!!

Paul Edwards, North Bellmore, New York  
*FINALLY, an intelligent letter-writer who knows who the right host is for Weird Mystery. The rest of my readers better wise up and catch on to who the new boss is here, or you might end up as the only letter-writer in my columns!*

Dear Destiny.

Get that old hag, Eve, out of Weird Mystery! She ruined "Evil Power" with her stupid comments, and she must have been the guiding goof-off behind that awful cover. I advise you to go back to covers without the story titles on them . . . this one was the worst Weird Mystery cover here! It left a lot to be desired.

David Hillman, Gate City, Virginia  
*Another creep. Gee, why don't some of you kids write nice letters? I'd really like to receive them. Write in and tell Orlando who you'd like to see running Weird Mystery—me or Destiny. And if you don't vote for me . . . Send all letters to: THE COSMIC LOG/WITCH'S TALES, c/o Weird Mystery Tales, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.*

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...AND ANOTHER THING -- IF YOU HAD A BETTER JOB, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SPEND SO MUCH OF MY TIME DOING MEANINGLESS TASKS -- LIKE **WASHING DISHES**. WE'D BE ABLE TO AFFORD A **DISH WASHER**!



I'VE HAD IT!  
I'VE REALLY  
HAD IT!

YOU COULD GET A BETTER JOB, TOO, IF YOU'D JUST **TRY**. YOU COULD GET A **RAISE** IN YOUR PRESENT JOB IF ONLY YOU'D JUST **ASK** FOR ONE!



ALL SHE  
DOES IS  
COMPLAIN!  
COMPLAIN!  
COMPLAIN!

BUT YOU'RE AFRAID TO ASK FOR A **RAISE**, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE AFRAID TO DO ANYTHING WITH YOUR **RIDICULOUS** LIFE!



AFRAID?  
HA? I'LL  
SHOW  
HER!

I'LL BE  
BETTER  
OFF  
WITH HER  
DEAD!

# The CHILD IS THE FATHER OF THE MAN

SCRIPT: STEVE SKEATES / ART: Q. REDONDO

SO JOHN KILLED MARSHA, AND NOW HE IS BUSY CLEANING OFF THE WEAPON HE USED IN HIS DASTARDLY DEED...

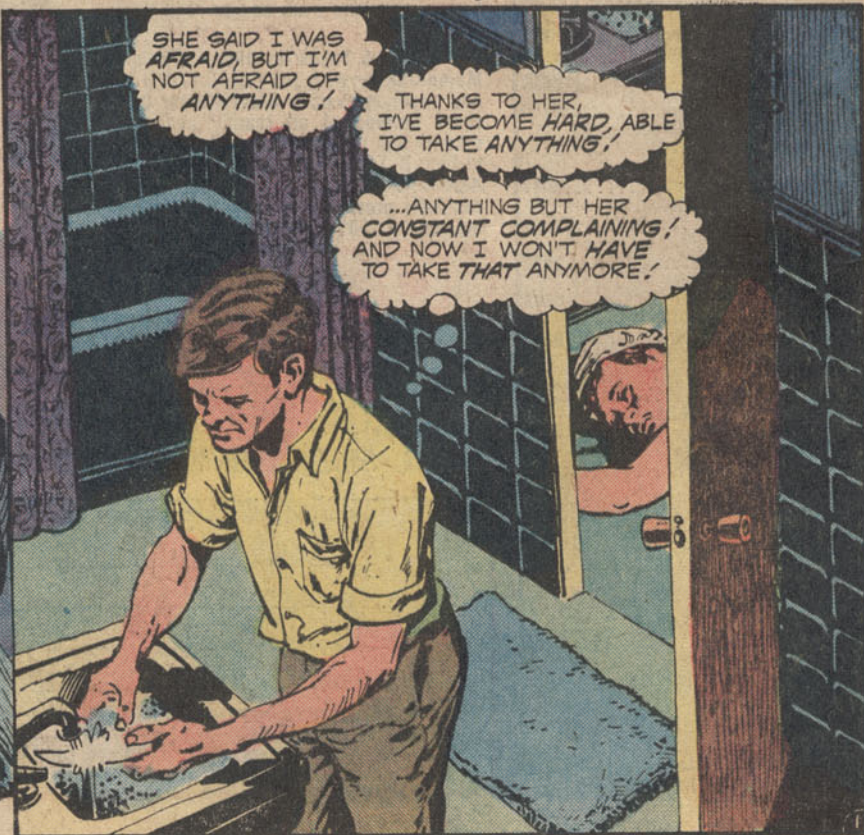


J. 3298

SHE SAID I WAS AFRAID, BUT I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!

THANKS TO HER, I'VE BECOME **HARD**, ABLE TO TAKE ANYTHING!

...ANYTHING BUT HER **CONSTANT COMPLAINING**! AND NOW I WON'T HAVE TO TAKE **THAT** ANYMORE!







MIGHT AS WELL  
CLOSE THE DOOR!  
DON'T LIKE LOOKING  
AT MARSHA'S BODY  
LYING THERE.

AND NOW, I DON'T  
HAVE TO DO ANYTHING  
I DON'T WANT TO DO!



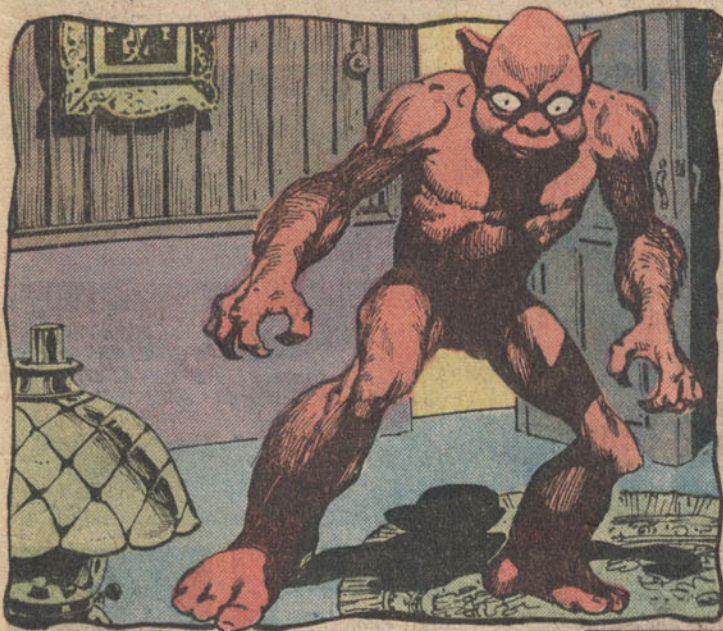
FUNNY! SPEAKING OF  
BEING AFRAID REMINDS  
ME OF WHEN I WAS  
A KID!

...BECAUSE BACK  
THEN, I WAS  
AFRAID--AFRAID  
OF ALL SORTS OF  
THINGS.



"...I WAS ESPECIALLY AFRAID  
WHenever I WASHED MY  
HANDS... BECAUSE, WITH THE  
WATER RUNNING, I COULDN'T  
HEAR ANYTHING THAT WAS  
GOING ON OUTSIDE THE  
BATHROOM..."

"...AND I USED TO IMAGINE ALL SORTS OF STRANGE THINGS  
HAPPENING THAT I COULDN'T HEAR... LIKE A HUGE, BUG-  
EYED MONSTER ENTERING THE HOUSE..."



"...AND CREEPING THROUGH THE  
HOUSE, HEADING FOR THE  
BATHROOM. AND EVEN IF  
SOMEONE HAD SHOUTED ABOUT  
THE MONSTER, I WOULDN'T HAVE  
HEARD IT, NOT WITH THE WAY THE  
WATER WAS RUNNING..."



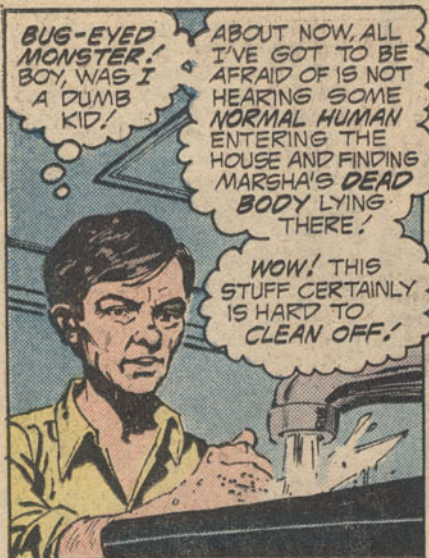
"SO, AFTER I HAD WASHED MY HANDS, I WAS  
AFRAID THAT THE MONSTER WAS WAITING  
RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR, TO BITE MY HEAD  
OFF IN ONE BONE-CRUNCHING CHOMP!"



BITE MY HEAD  
OFF! THAT'S  
A LAUGH!

WHAT I  
SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN AFRAID OF  
WAS THAT I'D  
MARRY A WOMAN  
WHO'D CONTINUALLY  
BITE MY HEAD  
OFF WITH  
COMPLAINT AFTER  
COMPLAINT...





ABOUT NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO BE AFRAID OF IS NOT HEARING SOME NORMAL HUMAN ENTERING THE HOUSE AND FINDING MARSHA'S DEAD BODY LYING THERE!

WOW! THIS STUFF CERTAINLY IS HARD TO CLEAN OFF!



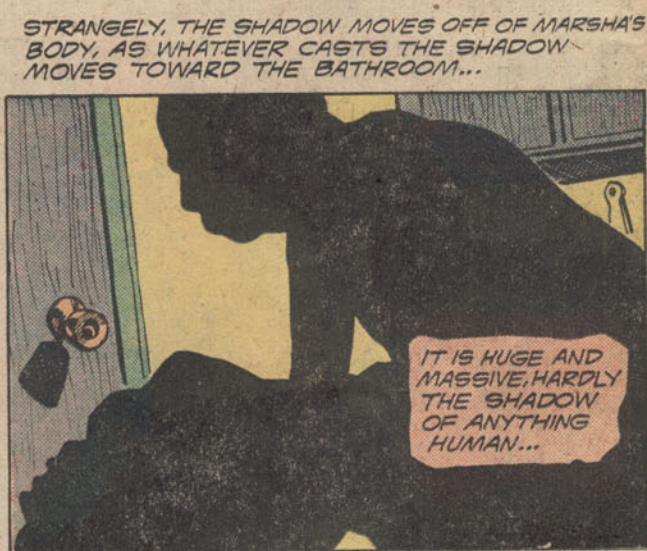
AND EVEN NOW, AS THOUGH TO GIVE REALITY TO THE ONLY THING JOHN HAS TO FEAR, THE DOOR TO THE HOUSE SLOWLY CREAKS OPEN!



AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, A SHADOW FALLS ACROSS THE BODY OF JOHN'S MURDERED WIFE...



IT'S A GOOD THING I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE OBNOXIOUS, OVERLY FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS WHO FEEL FREE TO WALK RIGHT INTO A MAN'S HOME WITHOUT EVEN KNOCKING!



STRANGELY, THE SHADOW MOVES OFF OF MARSHA'S BODY, AS WHATEVER CASTS THE SHADOW MOVES TOWARD THE BATHROOM...

IT IS HUGE AND MASSIVE, HARDLY THE SHADOW OF ANYTHING HUMAN...



WELL, THAT'S THAT!

NOW I'D BETTER GET ABOUT DISPOSING OF MARSHA'S BODY!



HOWEVER, AS HE STEPS OUT OF THE BATHROOM...

WH--?

NO! IT--IT CAN'T BE! TH--THOSE WERE JUST CHILDHOOD FEARS! THEY--THEY--



CHOMP!

THE END



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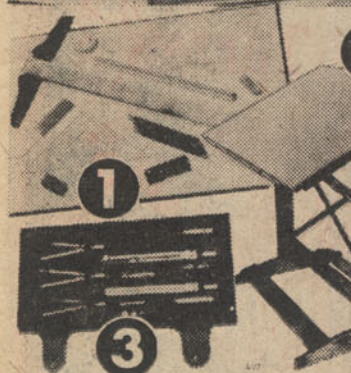
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MONEY--  
BILLS AND COINS  
CHANGING HANDS  
AGAIN AND AGAIN!  
MONEY SAVED  
AND MONEY STOLEN!  
IS THERE EVIL  
WITHIN MONEY  
ITSELF?

NO, DON'T  
ANSWER THAT QUESTION  
YET! WAIT UNTIL AFTER YOU'VE  
READ ABOUT...

THE FRIGHTENED OLD MAN NOW STANDS IN THE  
POLICE STATION, HAT IN HAND, TRYING HARD TO  
EXPLAIN... BUT NOT SUCCEEDING TOO WELL AT ALL...

I TELL YOU-- I  
DIDN'T KNOW NOTHING  
ABOUT ANY ROBBERY!  
I FOUND THE MONEY  
IN THE WRECKED CAR.  
THE PEOPLE WERE  
DEAD, SO I--

YEH, YEH,  
THAT'S YOUR  
STORY, BUT I  
DON'T BUY IT!

YOU  
WERE IN ON  
PLANNING THE  
ROBBERY! THAT'S  
HOW YOU KNEW  
THEY HAD THE MONEY!  
YOU USED YOUR  
TRUCK TO FORCE  
THEIR CAR OFF  
THE ROAD SO YOU  
COULD GET YOUR  
HANDS ON IT.

THAT MAKES  
IT MURDER,  
MISTER!

NO!  
NO!...

# the root of this EVIL CURSE

STORY BY STEVE SKEATES

ART BY *Elmer*

IT BEGAN AT 3:35 THAT AFTERNOON, IN A  
SMALL TOWN NEAR THE MEXICAN BORDER,  
AS MONEY--STACKS AND STACKS OF  
BIG BILLS--WAS PACKED INTO AN OLD  
AND BEATEN-UP SUITCASE...

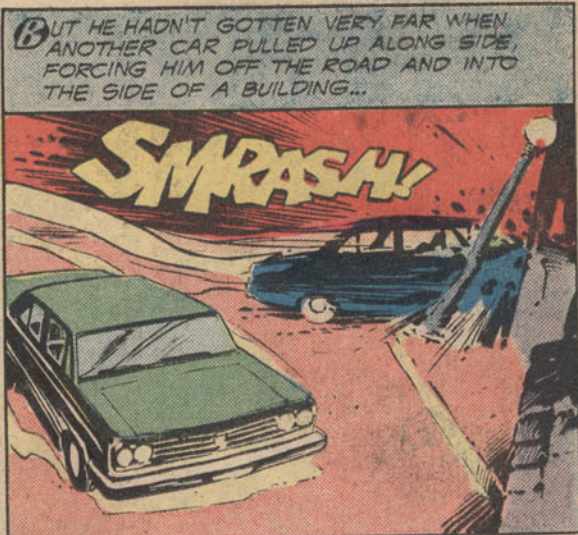


THERE!  
IT'S DONE!  
THERE'LL BE  
NO TURNING  
BACK NOW!

NOT THAT  
I WANT TO  
TURN BACK!

J-3/37





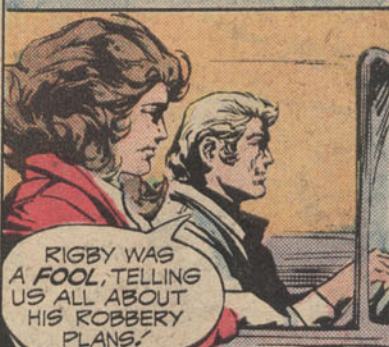


JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN,  
THERE WAS A RAPID  
CHANGE OF CARS...



BUT SOON AFTER  
TURNING ONTO  
THE MAIN ROAD  
LEADING TO  
MEXICO...

AND THEN THEY WERE ON  
THEIR WAY...

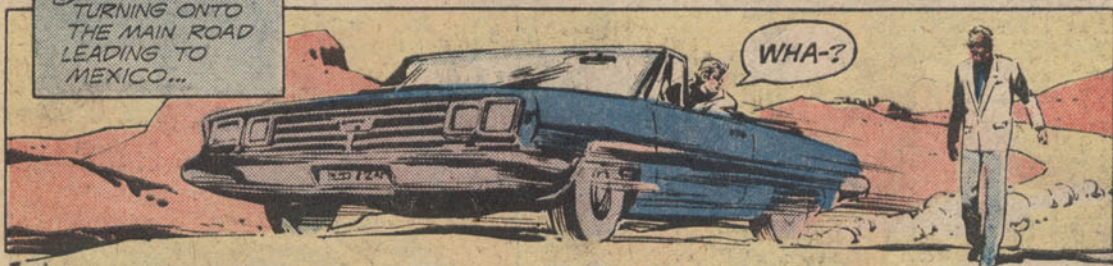


RIGBY WAS  
A FOOL, TELLING  
US ALL ABOUT  
HIS ROBBERY  
PLANS.

HE KNEW WE WOULDN'T RAT  
ON HIM, BUT HE SHOULD  
HAVE REALIZED THAT OUR  
LIVES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
AS MISERABLE AS HIS.



BUT NOW WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO BEGIN LIFE  
ANEW--WITH THE MONEY  
HE STOLE FOR US.



WHA-?

NO! IT  
CAN'T BE!



HUNH?  
WHAT  
CAN'T  
BE?

THAT MAN WE JUST PASSED --  
HE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE RIGBY--  
WALKING TO MEXICO!

AWW, C'MON! IT  
COULDN'T BE! IF RIGBY  
ISN'T DEAD, HE'S  
CERTAINLY TOO BANGED UP  
TO WALK ANYWHERE.



YEH, I KNOW!  
I KNOW!  
BUT STILL...

SILENCE DESCENDED. HE RETURNED TO  
THE BUSINESS AT HAND, CAREFUL NOT  
TO BECOME TOO ANXIOUS, CAREFUL NOT  
TO SPEED, AND BE STOPPED IN A SPEED  
TRAP. BUT THEN--



HUNH?

GOOD GRIEF!  
NOW WHAT?





LOOK! I'M SURE  
IT'S HIM THIS TIME!

HUNH?

AWW,  
C'MON...



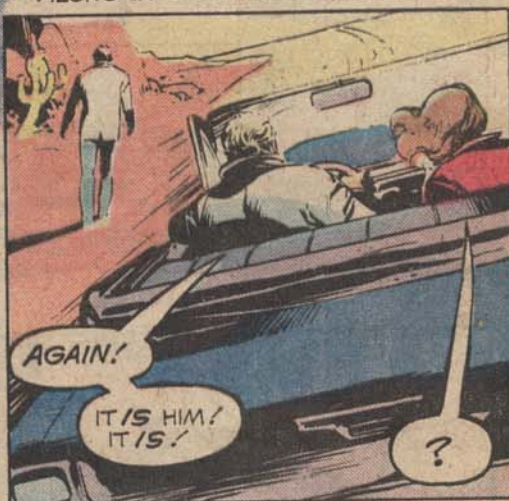
IT'S A COINCIDENCE!  
IT'S GOTTA BE.  
IT'S SOMEONE WHO  
JUST HAPPENS TO  
LOOK LIKE RIGBY.  
THAT'S ALL.

CAN'T EVEN BE  
THE SAME GUY  
YOU SAW BEFORE!  
HOW COULD HE  
HAVE GOTTEN  
PAST US?

YOU'RE JUST  
LETTING YOUR NERVES  
RUN AWAY WITH YOU.  
NOW, CALM DOWN!



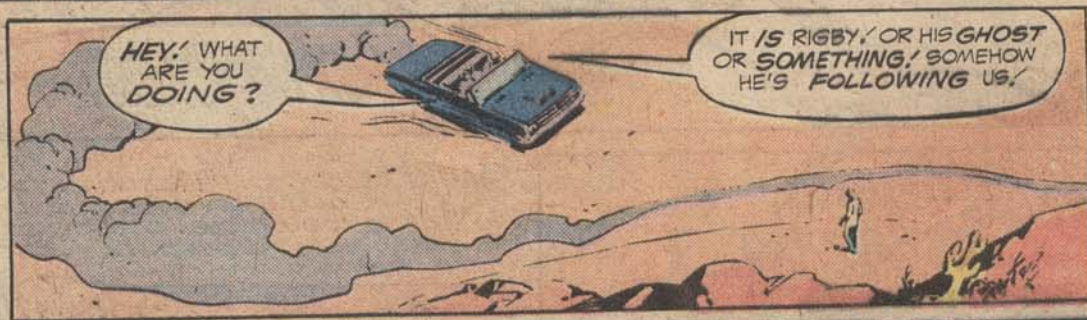
FUMING NOW, HE CONTINUED TO DRIVE  
ALONG IN SILENCE... UNTIL...



AGAIN!

IT IS HIM!  
IT IS!

?



HEY! WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

IT IS RIGBY, OR HIS GHOST  
OR SOMETHING, SOMEHOW  
HE'S FOLLOWING US!



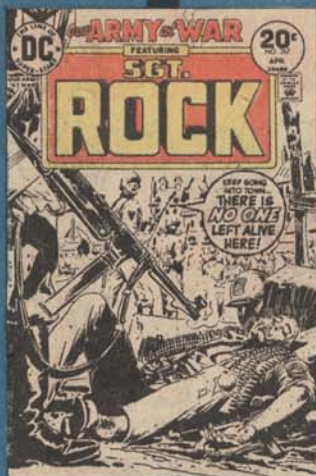
BUT I'M  
GOING TO PUT  
AN END TO THAT  
RIGHT NOW!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING



**Print Your  
Last Name  
Plainly Here**

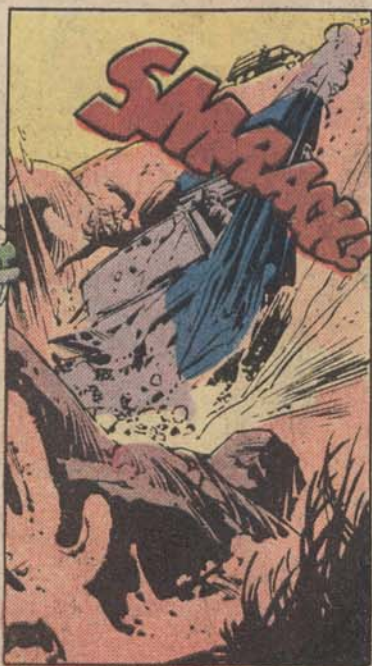
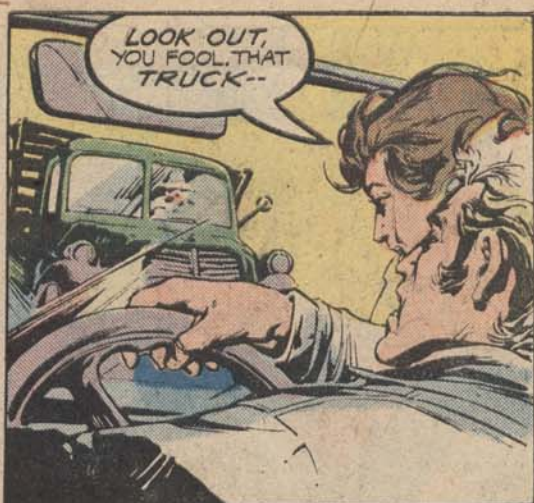




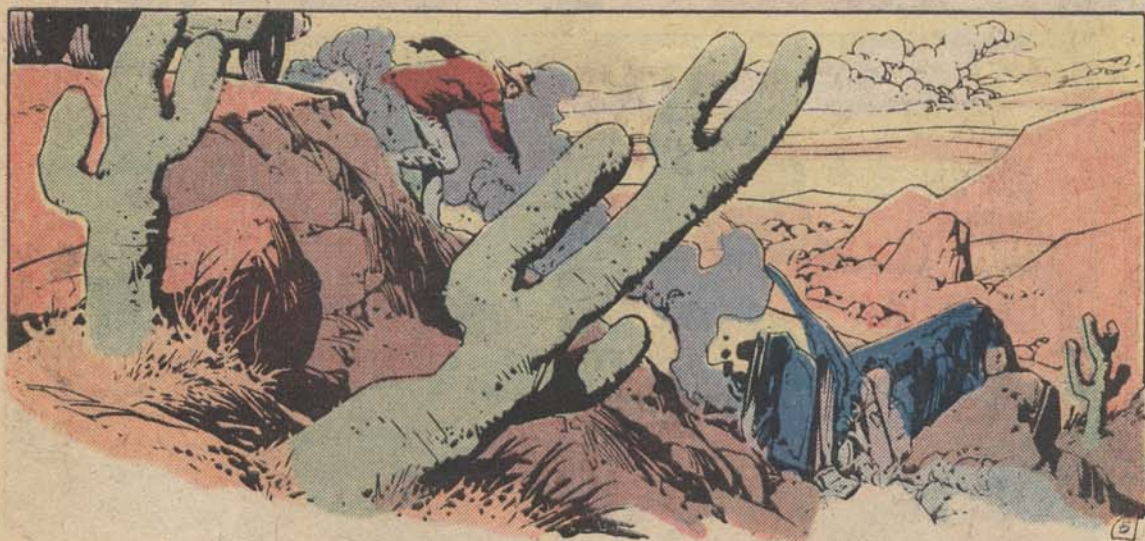
**THE MASKED MANHUNTER...**  
**WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE**  
**APPEARS IN**







AND, IN THE ANCIENT, BEAT-UP, PICK-UP TRUCK...







BUT THE OLD MAN WASN'T EVEN LOOKING AT THE TRAPPED YOUNG WOMAN. HIS EYES HAD SPRUNG OPEN WIDE, AS HE STARED LONGINGLY AT THE SUITCASE AND THE MONEY THAT WAS SPILLED OUT OF IT...



BUT HE SHOWED NO FURTHER CONCERN FOR THE YOUNG LADY. SHE WAS PROBABLY A LOUSY THIEF ANYWAY.



HOWEVER...



AND NOW...







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☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name

Address

Town

State  Zip Code



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New Jersey

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New Hampshire