

**SPECIAL
SUPERHEROES
ISSUE!**

**WARREN
MAGAZINE**

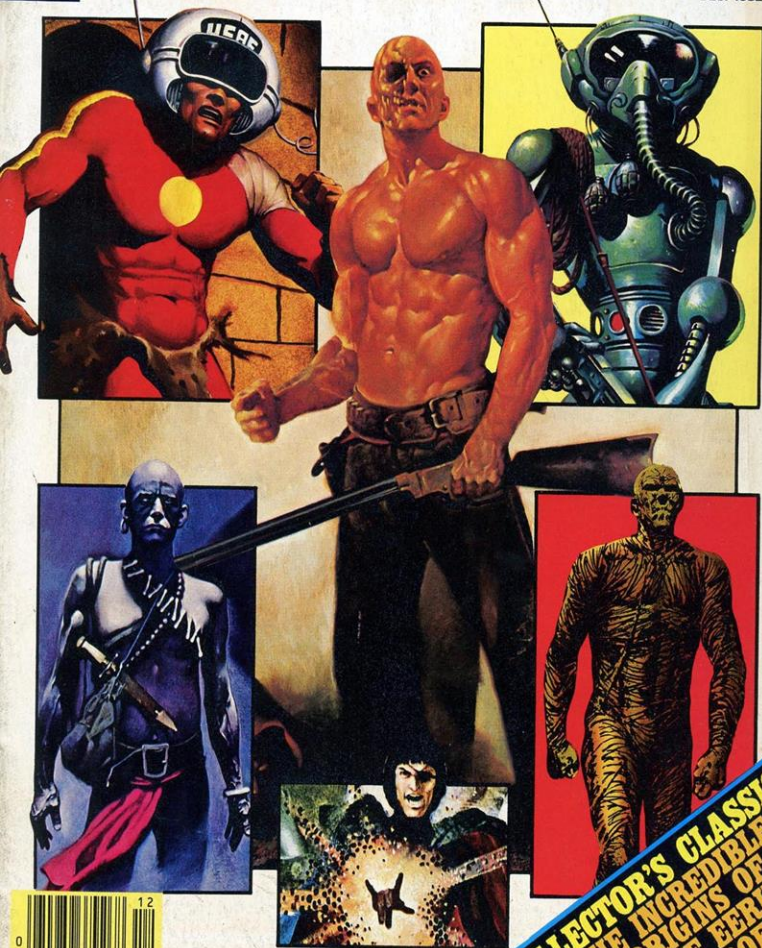
No. 137

EERIE

\$2.25

WPS 37926

DEC. 1982



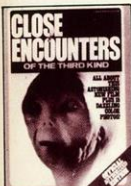
**COLLECTOR'S CLASSIC!
THE INCREDIBLE
ORIGINS OF
THE EERIE
HEROES!**

12

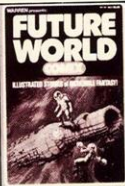


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WARREN SPECIAL ISSUE MAGAZINES



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS The magazine of the movie filled with facts, photos (color & B&W), features and effects! 8 1/2" x 11" 72 pages! CE—\$2.50



FUTURE WORLD COMIX A fabulous 8 1/2" x 11", 72 page comic book featuring 8 spectacular tales by Corben, Torrents, Maroto and others! FW—\$2.50



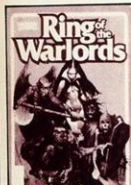
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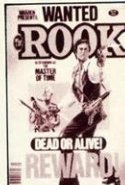
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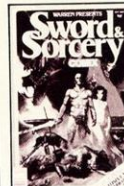
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EERIE

DECEMBER 1982

NUMBER 137

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EERIE'S EARFUL 4
Cousin Eerie has all the news that's fit to misprint, including a blow-by-blown account of the Warren-Marvel softball game!



DARKLON 5
Darklon had chosen the gentle path of life...books, mysticism, and women! But a war and his father's peril led him astray!



EXTERMINATOR 15
I'm Peter Orwell...or at least I used to be before they wrapped my brain in a machine, one built for a single purpose...to kill!



THE MUMMY 23
His mind was lifted and fused into the body of a creature of absolute power, an ancient golem of dark menace and vengeance!



COFFIN 35
Staked out over an anthill, broiled by the sun! In the desert, everything is dying! Coffin wants so much to die...but he can not!



EERIE'S HEROES 46
We've been promising you a new age of Eerie heroes, but before we leap into the future, let's re-examine our illustrious past!



HUNTER 49
The Demon Wars! Swords singing through the air, hacking scale and skin! A training ground for a boy to become a killer!



THE SPOOK 61
Spook likes midnight...that was when he died! Spook hates men! When Spook hates something, there is a grave awaiting it!

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EERIE'S EXCITING EARFUL

Cousin Eerie commends you on a sound investment—buying this mag and getting six sensational origin tales in one issue! But there are other great Warren bargains on sale! Like 1994 #28, with the final episode of *Diana Jacklighter*! A new Don McGregor epic in *CREEPY* #143! And more!



EERIE HEROES ORIGIN ISSUE!

We didn't realize how fondly our readers remembered the many super-hero series we ran in the early '70's! But following *EERIE* #130, which starred the most popular characters ever to appear in the magazine, we were besieged with requests for more...more...more! Plans are being made to bring back some of these heroes in team-up tales, and possibly even series of their own. But for now, the December *EERIE* (#137) features the origins of...*Hunter*! *Exterminator One*! *Darldon the Mystic*! *Spook! Coffin*! And the *Mummy*! We're talking Jim Starlin, Doug Moench, Esteban Maroto, Jose Ortiz, and like that! There's also a complete index to the above-named heroes, and other surprises! The Warren age of super-heroes is about to explode...trust us! And if you want to know who's who and how they got that way, *EERIE* #137 is a must!



COMING COLOR SECTIONS!

All right...we know the monthly wait to find out what the new *EERIE* color section will be is driving you nuts! Issue #138 features "Granny Gutman and the Limbo Men" by Rich Margopoulos and Fred Carrillo! The *Crimson Trident*, *Foxfire*, and *Talus* will turn the super-hero world on its ear...if *Granny* doesn't cane them to death first! Slated for the following issue is "The Infinity Force" by Bill DuBay and Rudy Nebres! We like both introductory episodes so much, we're going to alternate the two series in our color section—until something we like better pushes them out! (Talk about 'no room at the inn'!)



DIANA JACKLIGHTER ENDS!

With compulsive completionists like us, you've got to enjoy a good series while it lasts—it's not going to be around forever! The December issue of 1994 (#28) features the final episode of *Diana Jacklighter*, *Manhuntress*! The rookie space warden finally tracks down the last of her runaway convicts...and learns the shattering truth about the mission that's occupied her these many months! If you've followed the *Bruce Jones*, *Dan Hallessey* and *Esteban Maroto* series from its beginning, we promise: you're going to be surprised! (Heck...we'd terminate *Vampirolla* if we could think of an ending this good!) It goes on sale October 19...for adults only, that is!



27-PAGE MCGREGOR EPIC!

If you've been eating up the new Don McGregor mindbenders we've brought out in recent months (like "Sweetwater Nessie," appearing in *VAMPI*), get ready for a double dose of *Man!* The November *CREEPY* (#143) features chapter two of the horror-western "Moral Blood"...plus the long-awaited extraterrestrial epic, "The Spectator who Wept for Children"! In the same issue is an original sequel to H.G. Wells' "The Invisible Man," drawn by Alex Nino (or should that be...not drawn by Alex Nino)? One thing is sure...*CREEPY* #143 will be invisible if you don't get to the stand soon after October 12!

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE SERIES?

So you think comic books can't be serious, huh? We spoke with Rich Margopoulos concerning this special *EERIE* HEROES issue, and he gave us the following insight into the creation of his character *Hunter*...specifically, his decision to give the mutant killer a helmet. In addition to the need to cover *Hunter*'s copper-colored skin, *Rich* was influenced by a saying of Jean-Paul Sartre's: "Whenever two people's eyes meet, one averts his gaze. The one thus dominates the other, and reduces him to the level of an object." Pretty heavy stuff, huh? Now, if we could just get old Jean-Paul to try his hand at comics....!



WARREN STRIKES OUT!

We've got to admit...reading every month in the *Marvel Comics* fan page about their softball team's exploits made us jealous! We wanted to write about our softball team, too! So we formed one, and challenged our publishing rivals! As for the result...well, does it matter? Does it really? Isn't sportsmanship what it's all about? Let's talk instead about the way Bill DuBay hung in at third base even after the fourth ground ball off his forehead. How Bill Mohalley bravely withstood the opposition's demand that he get at least every other pitch within ten feet of home plate. How Tim Moriarty reached into his own pocket for a ball to chase several of the fly balls hit over his head. Not to mention the heroism of Richard Hecht, Roy Armitage, and David Allikas! So, we ask you...does the score really matter? Well, since they'll probably tell you anyway, it was 20-1. But there's next year! And we'll beat those guys...if we have to put Reggie Jackson, Pete Rose and Carl Yastrzemski on our production staff!

COMING WARREN MAGAZINES

VAMPI #110: Enjoy "A Feast of Fear" by Margopoulos & Gonzalez! Plus Alex Toth's *Torpedo!* Jeremy! The Queen of Souls by DuBay and Maroto! *Nightwind* by Auralone! And a *Vampi* extra... "Tales of Lost Drakulon" by DuBay and Mayo! ON SALE OCTOBER 5!

CREEPY #143: It's here! Don McGregor and Isidro Mone's 27-page flying saucer phantasmagoria: "The Spectator who Wept for Children!" Plus part 2 of "Moral Blood" by McGregor & Al Sanchez! Alex Nino's "The Invisible Man"! And more! ON SALE OCTOBER 12!

FAMOUS MONSTERS #189: "E.T.!" "Friday the 13th, Part III!" "Incubus!" Part 2 of our "Alphabest of Horror" and John Carradine features! And all our regular departments! More heart-rending horror than you can shake a bloody stump at! ON SALE OCTOBER 12!

1994 #28: Sizzling sci-fi for adults only! Featuring the final episode of *Diana Jacklighter* by Jones, Hallessey & Maroto! Ghita by Frank Thorne! Angel by DuBay & Nebres! "Too Many Termmarrows" by Moriarty & Catani! Sigmund Pavlov! ON SALE OCTOBER 19!

GOBLIN #4: Funnier than *TIME*! More thrilling than *FAMILY CIRCLE*! It's the latest *GOBLIN*...featuring the *Micro-Buccaners*, the *Hobgoblin*, the *Troll Patrol* in a color comic book insert, and more tales from the most demented minds in comics! ON SALE OCTOBER 26!

DARKLON the MYSTIC...

...IS HIS NAME.
BEFORE HIM
FLOATS THE CITY
OF HIS BIRTH...
NEBULOR.

NEBULOR, THE FABLED
CAPITOL OF NEBULARIA,
THE HOME OF STAR-
CONQUERING WIZARDS
AND WARRIORS.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT
HAS BEEN MANY YEARS
SINCE THIS MYSTIC HAS
BEHELD HIS WONDERFUL
HOME, THE SIGHT OF IT RE-
KINDLES PAINFUL MEMORIES.

FOR THEY ARE
RECOLLECTIONS
OF PRIDE, BATTLE,
PASSION,
TRAGEDY, AND...

THE PRICE

Author and Illustrator: JIM STARLIN

YET RECENT
EVENTS HAVE
FORCED ME
TO RETURN.

OF LATE I
HAVE BEEN
PLAGUED BY
ASSASSINS.

ASSASSINING
ALLEGEDLY
HIRED BY
KAVAR
DARKHOLD,
MY FATHER.

CAN THE YEARS HAVE CHANGED HIM,
THAT HE'D BE CAPABLE OF SUCH
ACTIONS?

I PRAY
NOT.

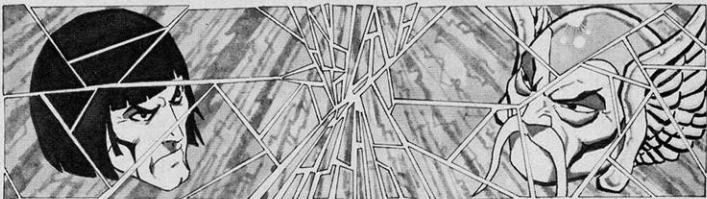
HE WAS THE KAVAR OF NEBULARIA, HIS
WAS THE HAND THAT RULED THE
THOUSAND PLANETS OF THE REALM. HE
WAS THE ULTIMATE PRODUCT OF A DOZEN
CENTURIES' EXPERIENCE IN TYRANNY
AND WARFARE.

DARKLON WAS THE SON
OF WHICH THE KAVAR
WAS ASHAMED.

THOUGH OF THE SAME
BLOOD, NO TWO MEN
COULD HAVE BEEN MORE
DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED
TO THE OTHERS LIFESTYLE.

AS A WARRIOR BORN, DARKHOLD
WAS CRUSHED WHEN HIS
OFFSPRING FOUND MORE JOY IN
BOOKS, MYSTICISM, WOMEN
AND THE GENTLER PATHS
OF LIFE, THAN IN THE
MANLY ART OF WAR.

THESE DIFFERENCES WERE THE SEEDS OF ALIENATION WHICH MATURED INTO MISTRUST AND ULTIMATELY GREW TO BE HATRED. EVENTUALLY, SILENT, CONTEMPTUOUS SCOWLS WERE THE ONLY COMMUNICATION TO PASS BETWEEN FATHER AND SON.



THE ONLY THING THAT KEPT THE FATHER FROM EXILING HIS SON WAS A STRONG SENSE OF TRADITION AND FAMILY LINE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN TIME...

SO IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE WHEN TARUS BLACKLORE CAME TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RULING NEBULARIA.

FOR DARKHOLD KNEW NOTHING OF THE PLOTS AND INTRIGUES THAT TOOK PLACE AT NIGHT.

SO BECAUSE THEY DID, PRINCE DARKLON'S SLEEP WAS SHATTERED ONE NIGHT BY THE DREADFUL SOUND OF LASERS FIRING, SWORDS CLASHING AND MEN DYING.

BLACKLORE PROVED TO HAVE A KEEN AND ARROGANT MIND, JUST THE TYPE DARKHOLD FELT WAS NEEDED TO HELP RULE THE REALM.

BLACKLORE TOOK GREAT CARE THAT THE KING NEVER SAW THE DARKER SIDE OF HIS NATURE.

NEBULARIA'S MONARCH NEVER LEARNED OF TARUS' CONVICTION THAT THE REALM WOULD FALL ONCE THE KAVAR'S WEAK SON, DARKLON, TOOK THE THRONE.

TO AVOID THAT HAPPENING, BLACKLORE ADVOCATED A NEW RESUME IMMEDIATELY.

DARKHOLD NEVER HEARD OF THIS BUT MANY DID AND MANY OF THOSE BELIEVED.

HE KNEW IN AN INSTANT WHAT IT MEANT.


HE SPRANG FROM HIS BED AND RACED TO THE GREAT HALL...

THE FATHER FOUND A SUBSTITUTE SON.

A SON WHO WOULD SHARE THE JOYS DARKHOLD FOUND IN HUNTING, BATTLE, AND A TROJAN LIFESTYLE.

THE KAVAR WAS WELL PLEASED WITH HIS NEW SON.

IN TURN, ONLY A PROMISE MADE A DYING MOTHER KEPT THE SON FROM ABANDONING NEBULARIA.

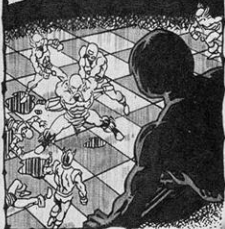


"WHERE HE FOUND HIS FATHER
AND MONARCH LOCKED IN LONE
COMBAT WITH A SCORE OF REBELS.

"DARKHOLD WAS AWESOME
TO BEHOLD. A DOZEN
CORPSES LAY AT HIS FEET.
BLOOD POURED FROM HALF
AS MANY WOUNDS, YET
STILL HE FOUGHT ON...

"UNTIL AN
UNEXPECTED
BLOW LAID
HIM LOW.

"THEY CHAINED THAT PROUD
GIANT AND BEGAN TO DRAG
HIM TO THE CASTLE DUNGEON
WHEN FATE DECIDED THAT
DARKHOLD SHOULD GLANCE UP
AT THE BALCONY WHERE HIS
SON STOOD, EYES LOCKED.



"DARKLON
THEN
TURNED AND
DID THE ONLY
THING HE
KNEW HIM-
SELF CAPABLE
OF DOING.

"STORMY WERE
THE KAVAR'S
THOUGHTS
THAT NIGHT.



"HE FLED
FROM THE
CASTLE
AND CITY.



THE PRINCE SOON FOUND HIMSELF OUTSIDE THE DOMICILE OF XIM-TARR, HIS GUIDE IN THE WAYS OF DARK ENLIGHTENMENT.

SAY NOTHING, I ALREADY KNOW YOU COME TO ME FOR THE MIGHT TO SHATTER YOUR FATHER'S ENEMIES.

SORROWFULLY, I MUST TELL YOU I CANNOT GRANT YOU SUCH POWER.

I KNOW OF ONLY ONE BEING WHO CAN.

MAY THE STARS PROTECT YOU... THE DARK NAMELESS ONE ALONE CAN AID YOU NOW.

SO IT PASSED THAT TWO NIGHTS LATER DARKLON STOOD BEFORE THE ENTRANCE OF THE DREAD CAVERN OF THE SCREAMING SKULL, THE TEMPLE OF THE DARK NAMELESS ONE.

THE NAMELESS ONE, WHOSE WORSHIP HAD BEEN BANNED ON NEBULARIA FOR CENTURIES BECAUSE OF THE GOD'S BLACK NATURE AND DEMANDS.

NAMELESS ONE, HEAR ME!

DARKLON OF NEBULOR WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU.

WILL YOU GRANT ME AN AUDIENCE?

THE NAMELESS ONE'S REPLY WAS SWIFT AND...



"...IN THE FORM OF A TRIO OF CRIMSON-EYED DEMONS THIRSTING FOR THE PRINCE'S BLOOD.

"DARKLON HAD CURSED AND SUFFERED THROUGH THE MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTIONS HIS FATHER FORCED UPON HIM AS A YOUTH.

"NOW HE BLESSED THEM AND PROVED THOSE LESSONS NOT WASTED.

"THE BATTLE WAS SHORT.

"SECONDS AFTER IT STARTED, DARKLON PEERED DOWN UPON THE TRAIL OF LIFELESS DEMONS HE HAD CREATED.

"THE ABSENCE OF NEW ASSAILANTS HE TOOK TO BE AN INDICATION THAT HIS AUDIENCE HAD BEEN GRANTED.

"SO HE ENTERED THE VILE DOMAIN OF THE DARK NAMELESS ONE.

THE PRINCE
FOLLOWED A
NARROW STAIR-
CASE THAT
SEEMED TO
DESCEND INTO
THE VERY BOWELS
OF THE PLANET
AND...

...EVENTUALLY FOUND
HIMSELF IN A VAST
THRONE ROOM FACING
THE NAMELESS ONE.

"ONE LOOK AT
THIS DARK
DEITY CONFIRMED
AS TRUTH ALL THE
NIGHTMARISH
TALES DARKLON
HAD HEARD OF
THIS DEMON KING,
BUT HAD WRITTEN
OFF AS OLD
WIVES' TALES.

TO SEE THE
NAMELESS ONE
WAS TO KNOW
HIM CAPABLE OF
ANYTHING.

SPEAK,
PRINCE
DARKLON OF
NEBULARIA!

WHAT BRINGS
THE DESCENDANT
OF MY OLD ENEMY,
KAVAR DARKHOLD,
TO MY COURT?

AS YOU
WELL KNOW,
I CRAVE
A BOON
OF YOU!

I SEEK THE
POWER
TO SMITE
DOWN MY
ENEMIES!

POWER... I HAD HOPED FOR SOMETHING MORE ORIGINAL FROM A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

BUT TELL ME, AFTER YOU'VE GAINED YOUR VENGEANCE, DO YOU INTEND TO USE THIS MIGHT FOR GOOD OR EVIL?

AS STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, CONSIDERING WHERE I SEEK IT, I PLAN TO USE MY SKILLS FOR GOOD.

FINE. I'VE FOUND GOOD INTENTIONS TO BE A GREATER DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THAN THE BLACKEST HEART.

YOU SEE, DESTRUCTION IS WHAT I RELISH MOST, SO I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH...

...FOR A PRICE.

AID ME AND ALL THAT IS MINE TO GIVE IS YOURS.

SO BE IT.

PREPARE THE INITIATE.

ARE YOU PREPARED... TO PAY THE COST OF POWER?

BLACK TALONS RIPPED AT AND SIEZED THE YOUNG PRINCE AND PULLED HIM INTO THE DARKNESS.

HE FOUND HIMSELF FORCED UPON A CRACKED AND BLOOD-STAINED BLOCK, OR ALTAR.

THE LAST SENSATIONS HE EXPERIENCED WERE THE SIGHT OF AN AXE-WIELDING DEMON AND...

...THE SOUND OF HIS OWN PANIC.



THE INITIATE
HAS BEEN FREED
OF THE BURDENS
OF LIFE.

PREPARE
FOR HIS
BAPTISM
INTO THE
ORDER!

SO IT ENDED, HIS FATHER
IMPRISONED, A USURPER SITTING
ON HIS THRONE, HIMSELF MURDERED
AND HIS SOUL IN THE HANDS OF
A DEPRAVED GOD.

FROM THESE
ASHES A
PHOENIX
WOULD RISE.



I, **DARKLON THE MYSTIC**,
WOULD BE THAT
LEGENDARY BIRD.

YES, I WOULD
RISE WITH **POWER**
AS MY LIFE, BUT
DAMNATION
AS MY FATE.

END

thus ends Chapter One

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EXTERMINATOR ONE:

IT'S FEBRUARY, 2014. THIS IS NEW YORK CITY. AND I'M *PETER ORWELL*...OR AT LEAST I USED TO BE BEFORE THEY TOOK AWAY MY *BODY* AND WRAPPED MY BRAIN IN A *TIN CAN*. NOW I'M A *MACHINE*, BUILT FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE...*TO KILL!* FOR MY OWN *SANITY*, I HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING MYSELF OF THESE THINGS OVER AND OVER.

Four hundred
Washington Ave.
Felt, Exterminator
One. We have
arrived.

...THEN, I CAN'T EVEN BE SURE
I AM SANE ANY LONGER.

LOOK AT ME...A WALKING,
TALKING, THINKING
RECYCLED *EDSEL!*

I'M A *PUPPET*, CONTROLLED BY A
COMPUTER THAT WINDS ME UP...

...PULLS MY STRINGS...

...AND MAKES
ME MOVE!

Disembark
vehicle.
Switch on silent
alert.

YEAH...THE COMPUTER! GEORGE! MY CONSTANT
COMPANION. MY *ALTER-EGO*. HIS BODY'S A
BLOCK AND HALF LONG, AND A HUNDRED AND
FIFTY MILES AWAY.

BUT HIS "MIND" IS STUCK RIGHT IN HERE WITH
ME. HE MOVES MY LEGS, WORKS MY ARMS
...AND TONIGHT, HE'LL MAKE ME *KILL!*

Double check
armament.
Switch
off safety.
Mission
is a Go.

AND THERE'S NOT A DAMN THING I
CAN DO ABOUT IT! IT'S LIKE A *NIGHT-
MARE*...BUT IT'S *REAL*...AND IT'S
HAPPENING TO ME!

Author: **BILL DuBAY**/Illustrator: **PAUL NEARY**

I WAS A MAN... JUST ONE SHORT MONTH AGO... A WHOLE HUMAN BEING...

...JUST LIKE THAT DOORMAN-GUARD!

Alert, Alert. Biological obstruction dead ahead. Range 05.22 meters.

BUT IT STARTED MORE THAN A MONTH AGO...! IT STARTED WITH A DAMNED POPULATION CONTROL LAW!

THE BILL PASSED WITH JUST ONE VOTE OVER THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED!

IN ESSENCE, IT STATES THAT COUPLES MUST BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT GENETICALLY MATCHED TO REPRODUCE!

Recommendation: Shut burst to right temporals. 0.02 second variance. Switching to manual. Fire at will.

THAT'S A LAUGH. YOU SWITCH ME INTO MANUAL AND LET ME POINT MY GUN ANYWHERE I WANT... EXCEPT MY OWN HEAD! SOME MANUAL CONTROL.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, GEORGE... I WOULDN'T TAKE MY OWN 'LIFE' EVEN IF I COULD...

Proceed with operation. Resent nomenclature "George."

DAMNED COMPUTER, ALWAYS MONITORING MY THOUGHTS! THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T KILL MYSELF IF I WANTED TO!

BUT THEN, I DON'T WANT TO DIE. I STILL HAVE TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR. I STILL HAVE SUSAN ... MY WIFE...

PETER, WHAT WILL WE DO? WHAT IF THEY WON'T LET US HAVE CHILDREN?

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH US, BABY! WE'RE GENETICALLY FIT.

THE GARAGE... JUST AS I REMEMBERED IT FROM THE BRIEFING. DIRTY AND LONELY AS EVER.

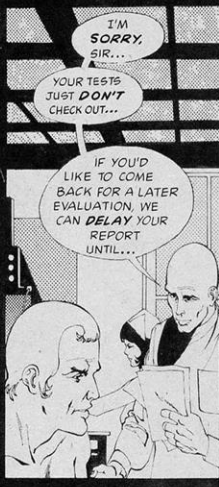
Commence second stage. GTM70 available. Wire GTM70 for diversionary explosion.

WONDER WHOSE **HOT WHEELS** THESE ARE? POOR FELLA'S GONNA WONDER HOW THEY GOT **MELTED DOWN** IN THE MORNING.

Sar timer 0.00 seconds delay.



THAT'S WHAT THEY LAID ON ME IN THE BEGINNING TOO... **DELAYS.**



NOW TO RUN LIKE **HELL** BEFORE THAT THING GOES **OFF...**

COME ON, GEORGE... WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO LAG BEHIND.

Attempts at humor are distasteful. Also unnecessary.



AS WE USED TO SAY IN THE ARMY... WATCH OUT FOR YOUR **RUMP, GEORGE...**

Timer to activate in 0.03, 0.02 seconds. Devotion. Oiva. Oiva.



YEAH... WE **USED** TO SAY A LOT OF THINGS...



THAT'LL BRING THE **GUARDS** RUNNING...WHICH'LL LEAVE THE WAY **FREE** AND **CLEAR** FOR ME!

Proceed to stage three: elimination of elevator mobility. Shut down silent alert.



ONCE I CUT THE ELECTRICITY ON THE ELEVATORS...THE ENTIRE BUILDING'LL BE **IMMOBILIZED**.

Severed wires. Proceed to yellow terminal. Green follows.

I KNOW THE PLAN, **COMPUTER**. I DON'T NEED YOU **TELLING** ME WHAT TO DO.

I DON'T NEED ANY UN-**FEELING GOVERNMENT** TELLING ME WHAT TO DO.

WE'LL HAVE THE **BABY** WE WANT, **SUSAN**...

...NO MATTER **WHAT** **UNCLE SAM** HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT!

OHHH...

PETER...!

THERE! NOW NO ONE CAN GET **IN** OR **OUT** OF THE BUILDING.

MY **VICTIM** IS **TRAPPED!**

Force elevator shaft. Commence ascent for final elimination.

ELIMINATION... **ELIMINATE**... **KILL!** THOSE ARE YOUR FAVORITE WORDS, AREN'T THEY, **MACHINE?**

Emotion is unnecessary...but anticipated since this is our first assignment.

YEAH, MY **FIRST**.

OUR **FIRST**, PETER...

THIS WILL BE OUR **FIRST BABY**.

OHHH PETER, I **LOVE** YOU SO...

YOU REALLY PICKED A **DOOZY** FOR THE FIRST ONE, DIDN'T YOU, **GEORGE**.

Human computer assassination

YEAH! THEY REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE ME **PAY!**

...THERE YOU GO USING ONE OF THOSE WORDS AGAIN...
TERMINATE! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOUR VOCABULARY IS LIMITED TO TWENTY-THREE TEN SYLLABLE WORDS.

Prime directive states it is imperative to eliminate genetic imperfections in an overpopulated society.

SCREW THE PRIME DIRECTIVE, GEORGE.

BUT PETER, WHAT IF THEY **CATCH** US?

WHAT WILL THEY DO TO US... TO THE **BABY?**

WHAT **CAN** THEY DO SWEET-HEART... **KILL** US?

AT LEAST THIS COUNTRY HASN'T DEGENERATED TO **THAT!**

OH, IF THE VOTERS ONLY KNEW WHAT WE WERE UP TO **TONIGHT, GEORGE!**

Eliminator One protocol remains priority classified. Essential "voters" not know of existence.

YEAH, I KNOW. WE'RE **TOP SECRET, GEORGE!** ITS AGAINST THE **LAW** TO **KILL** PEOPLE... BUT IMPERFECT HUMANITY MUST BE **ELIMINATED** SOMEHOW...

...SO HERE WE ARE. NUMERO UNO ON UNCLE SAMMY'S HIT PARADE.

Distraction above immobile elevator. Force entry level twelve.

THIS IS **IT, BABY!** HANG IN THERE AND BRING US HOME A LITTLE CHAMP!

OHhh... PETER...THE PAIN...OHhh!

I'M JUST BEGINNING TO SEE WHY THEY NEEDED A **ROBOT'S** BODY FOR THIS JOB!

BUT THE **BRAIN?** SURELY **YOUR** STUNNING PERSONALITY WOULD HAVE SUITED THIS HULK, GEORGE.

Precisely the calculation computed. Human instionilities overmuled us, however.

WELL I'LL **BE...**! SO NOW IT COMES **OUT...** YOU DON'T WANT ME ANYMORE THAN I WANT YOU!

Proceed with operation. Please resist output of irrational mental energy.



A **GIRL!** CONGRATULATE ME...I'M THE FATHER OF A BEAUTIFUL BABY **GIRL!**

PETER ORWELL?

YOU'RE UNDER **ARREST!**



DAMN **RIGHT** IT'S EMOTION, COMPUTER! I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GO **THROUGH** WITH THIS...

Mission must be completed. Commence final ascent.



I'VE NEVER **KILLED** BEFORE.

PETER ORWELL, THIS COURT FINDS YOU **GUILTY!**

YOU ARE SENTENCED TO **LIFE IMPRISONMENT!**

NO! NO!



LOOK, COMPUTER, MY **THOUGHTS** ARE ALL I HAVE **LEFT...** SO DON'T TELL ME WHAT I CAN OR CAN'T **THINK** NOW!

Your temperament changes rapidly. Is this due to emotional release?



HOW CAN THEY EXPECT ME TO **DO** THIS?

IT'S **INSANE!**

Computer override will take over should you fail. Automatic control may be switched on for minimum results.



NO! YOU WILL NOT OVERRIDE MY CONTROL, COMPUTER! THE KILL IS MINE! I MUST MAKE IT AS HUMANE...AS COMFORTABLE AS I CAN.

THAT IS WHY MY HUMAN BRAIN IS IN THIS SHELL...AND NOT YOUR ANALYTICAL, LOGICAL MACHINE CIRCUITRY.

Machinery is efficient. Biological units submit to temperment. Computer assassinations guarantees best results.



YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR OVER FOUR YEARS, ORWELL. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A CHANCE AT GETTING OUT?

ARE YOU KIDDING, WARDEN?

WHO DO I HAVE TO KILL?

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ORWELL, THAT ISN'T VERY FUNNY.



I WON'T HAVE THAT, MACHINE! THIS KILL IS MINE...ALL MINE! IF YOU INTERFERE...I'LL TEAR YOUR --

Threats are inefficient. We are one. We will always be one. Alert. Target vests 09.76 meters ahead. Suggest rapid blast disarm.



YOU EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIM, HIGGINS?

EVERYTHING! HE AGREED TO THE WORKS!

SEEMS A SHAME, THOUGH...TO DO THIS TO A MAN!

HE'S A CRIMINAL, DOCTOR... REMEMBER THAT.



THEY TOLD ME...EXPLAINED TO ME HOW YOU WOULD KILL, COMPUTER...DIRECTLY, QUICKLY, AND LOGICALLY. YOU WOULD TAKE CONTROL OF THIS METAL BODY AND HAVE ME RIP A MAN TO PIECES.



Correct. Switch on silent alert for final phase of operation. Proceed to victims habitat.

DON'T GET IN MY WAY, COMPUTER. I DON'T NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

NOW SWITCH ME TO MANUAL.

click. Manual is go. Female is asleep. All systems check.



OH...SHE'S BEAUTIFUL. OH, GOD, SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

E-EVERYTHING'S JUST AS IT
WAS...I...I CAN'T GO
THROUGH WITH IT...I...I...

Proceed.
Proceed.
Proceed.

a
b
c
d
e

THIS IS *INSANITY!* GODDAMN
MADMEN...SHE'S NEVER
HARMED ANYONE IN HER
SHORT, SWEET LIFE!

SHE CAN'T DIE!
SHE CAN'T!

Proceed.
Proceed...
automatic
control set to
activate in
0.04 seconds.

IT'S SO
DARK, DADDY
...AND YOU'RE
SO COLD.

I'M...I'M
TIRED,
DADDY...

VERY
GOOD,
PETER.

YOU'VE
LEARNED
MUCH,
SOON YOU
CAN BEGIN
YOUR FIRST
MISSION.

DRIVE THE
BLADE UPWARDS
THROUGH THE
BASE OF THE
SKULL. IT'S QUICKER
...LESS PAINFUL
TO THE VICTIM.

THIS IS YOUR
FIRST ASSIGNMENT,
PETER...

YOUR
OWN LITTLE
GIRL!

SHE'S
GENETICALLY
IMPERFECT AND
MUST BE
EXTERMINATED!

THIS FIRST
MISSION IS A
TEST FOR YOU,
PETER! YOU CAN MAKE
IT EASY ON YOURSELF
AND YOUR DAUGHTER
...OR WE CAN DO
IT THE HARD
WAY.

I... I CAN'T DO THIS... THIS...
IS *INSANITY!*

D-DADDY,
IS THAT
YOU...?

MOMMY
TOLD ME
YOU'D COME
HOME *SOME-*
DAY!

Proceed.
Proceed.
Computer
override. Stand
by for
automatic
control in
0.10 seconds.

OH, GOD,
SHE'S SO
INNOCENT.

OH, GOD... SAVE ME FROM
THIS MADNESS... HELP ME...
HELP ME...

CLOSE YOUR
EYES, MY LITTLE
ONE... SLEEP... THIS
PILLOW WILL
HELP YOU!

SLEEP
FOREVER... THE
WORLD YOU WAKE
TO WILL BE MUCH
CLEANER... MUCH
Purer... THAN
THIS ONE.

GOODBYE,
MY BEAU-
TIFUL BABY
GIRL,
GOODBYE...

Mission
accomplished.
Exterminator One.
Congratulations...
click...
congratulations...
click...
congratulations

OH, DEAR
GOD... HELP ME
...PLEASE, PLEASE
...HELP ME...

PROLOGUE

THE ATTEMPT... HIS ATTEMPT! HE TRIES TO SLIP BY YOU... BUT NO! THERE SHALL BE NO ESCAPE!



YOUR POWERFUL BANDAGED HAND EASILY ENDS HIS FLIGHT. THEN, THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF RECOGNITION! YOU **KNOW** HIM!



THIS NAME IS DOUG. YOU MET HIM WHEN YOUR MIND WAS IN YOUR TRUE BODY. HE IS **HER** BROTHER! YOU PIANCE'S BROTHER!

YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO HARM HIM! NOT HER BROTHER! STILL, HE HEARD THE GIRL YOU JUST KILLED CALL YOU 'JEROME'. PERHAPS THEN, HE HAS PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER. PERHAPS HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE!



YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM TO PROTECT YOURSELF. YOU ARE SOMEWHAT SADDENED BY WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO. YET ALL THE WHILE THE OTHER MIND WITHIN THIS NEW POWERFUL BODY OF YOURS IS LAUGHING, ISN'T IT? IT IS TRULY ENJOYING THIS DISPLAY OF ABSOLUTE POWER!



THE PEOPLE HERE IN THIS SLUM ARE USED TO HEARING SCREAMS AND CRASHING SOUNDS... AND NO ONE BOTHERS TO LOOK OUT HIS WINDOW... NO ONE CARES TO FIND OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED.



NO ONE SEES YOU AS YOU NOW ESCAPE INTO THE WAITING DARKNESS!

THE MUMMY WALKS

MOVEMENT—SHAMBLING THROUGH MIDNIGHT STREETS. MOVEMENT—RETURNING TO A DARKENED MUSEUM. YOUR GOAL: A MOMENTARY TERMINATION OF ALL THAT IS PHYSICAL AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF MENTAL FLOW, THE TRANSFERENCE, THOUGHTS, IMAGES, KNOWLEDGE AND EMOTIONS CONVEYED FROM ONE SURFACE TO ANOTHER. SEPARATION, TRANSITION, REINSTATEMENT. THE RETURN OF THE MIND TO ITS RIGHTFUL BODY.



YOUR MIND—NOW IT IS BACK WHERE IT BELONGS, YET THE INFLUENCES OF THAT OTHER MIND LINGER ON—THAT ANCIENT MIND THAT STILL LIVES IN THAT DECAYING BUT POWERFUL BODY. WITH ITS HELP YOU HAVE REALIZED POWER...AND YOU KNOW NOW THAT WHAT IS "RIGHT" IS ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

THE MIND WITHIN



NOW, THERE IS AGAIN MOVEMENT...

WHEW! BEING WITH- IN THAT MUMMY MAY HAVE HELPED ME REALIZE ALL THAT I AM... ALL THAT I CAN BE!

BUT STILL, ITS A TIRING EXPERIENCE! CAN HARDLY THINK STRAIGHT! NEED SOME SLEEP!



AND YOU WALK THROUGH THE MUSEUM AS DUST DANCES IN THE BEAMS FROM THE NOW RISING SUN...

...WORKING THAT CUMBERSOME BODY! AND KEEP- ING THAT OTHER MIND IN CHECK! SO THAT I CONTROL IT, RATHER THAN IT CONTROLLING ME!

...ALL SO EXHAUSTING!



BOSTON IN THE EARLY 1900'S. MORNING. LOOK OUT UPON THE MORNING PEOPLE, JEROME CURRY—LOOK AT THEM AS YOU PACE THROUGH THESE FILTHY STREETS, HEADING TOWARD YOUR HOME, MILKMEN, MAKING THEIR MORNING ROUNDS, DRUNKS, PASSED OUT IN DOORWAYS, THIEVES, LURKING IN ALLEYWAYS, LADIES OF THE EVENING, LOOKING FOR THAT LAST CUSTOMER, THEY ARE LOWLY PEOPLE. ALL LOWLY PEOPLE!



YOU WERE ONCE A LOWLY PERSON YOURSELF. WEREN'T YOU, JEROME CURRY? YOU ONCE MINGLED WITH THESE PEOPLE, AND CONSIDERED THEM YOUR EQUAL. BUT EVEN THEN YOU HAD THE DESIRE TO BE SOMETHING **MORE**, DIDN'T YOU?



SO YOU STUDIED...STUDIED NEARLY EVERYTHING—SEARCHING...FINALLY BECOMING FASCINATED BY EGYPTOLOGY...YEARNING FOR THE POWER THAT THE EGYPTIAN PHAROHS POSSESSED...



AND ULTIMATELY, YOU EVEN TRAVEL TO EGYPT ITSELF...WHERE THE AMULET—THE ALL IMPORTANT AMULET—CAME INTO YOUR POSSESSION...

THE EGYPTIANS BELIEVED THAT THIS **TRINKET** COULD ENABLE ONE TO TRANSFER HIS MIND INTO THE BODY OF ANY PROPERLY PRESERVED MUMMY!

A MYTH, PERHAPS... BUT YOU PLANNED TO PUT IT TO THE TEST- SOON! YOU RETURNED TO THE STATES, THEN, DIDN'T YOU?... AND YOU TOOK A JOB IN THE MUSEUM... EAGER TO TEST THE AMULET...



AND FINALLY YOUR CHANCE CAME! THE NIGHT OF THE FIRST TRANSFERENCE. THE FEELING OF EXPANSION-YOUR MIND LIFTED, CARRIED ACROSS EMPTY AIR, FUSED INTO THE BODY OF A CREATURE OF ABSOLUTE POWER, COUPLED WITH ANOTHER MIND, AN ANCIENT MIND THAT KNEW ALL THAT YOU WISHED TO KNOW.

FACES, APPEARING BEFORE YOUR EYES, THE SUDDEN REALIZATION OF WHAT IT WAS THAT FOR SOME TIME HAD MADE YOU FEEL LESS THAN A MAN. FACES: MOLLY, LILLY AND OTHERS WHOSE NAMES YOU HAD FORGOTTEN, WOMEN, NO, **TRAMPS**... LOWLY WOMEN WHO HAD SPURNED YOUR ADVANCES.



WHEN YOU TOO HAD BEEN LOWLY YOU HAD ACCEPTED THEIR PUT-DOWNS. BUT NOW YOU HAD POWER- THE ABILITY TO DO! CAPACITY TO ACT!



THE OTHER MIND TELLING YOU WHAT YOU HAD TO DO- FOR YOUR OWN GOOD- IN ORDER TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF- BELIEVE IN **ONLY** YOURSELF! AND YES! YOU AGREED WITH IT, DIDN'T YOU?



THESE WOMEN WOULD PAY FOR TREATING YOU AS SOMETHING EVEN LOWER THAN THEM, THROUGH THEM YOU WOULD PROVE YOUR SUPERIORITY, YOUR AUTHORITY, YOUR DOMINION.



MOLLY WAS THE FIRST! AND AS YOU STOOD OVER THE LIFELESS BODIES OF HER AND THE ALE-SOPPED MAN, SHE HAD CHOSEN FOR THE NIGHT YOU FELT REBORN—NOW **YOU** WERE IN CONTROL. FROM NOW ON, **YOU** WOULD CONTROL YOUR OWN DESTINY.



SUZANNE HINDLEY—THE WOMAN YOU HAD MET DAYS EARLIER. **SHE** WAS NO TRAMP. YET, AT FIRST, YOU HAD BEEN AFRAID THAT SHE TOO WOULD SPURN YOU. HADN'T YOU? BUT NOW...



JEROME!
A RING!
OH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

NOW, YOU FEARED NOTHING. NOW, YOU KNEW THAT SHE WOULD BE WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE. FOR, IF SHE EVER ASKED YOU TO STOP SEEING HER, HER LIFE WOULD END. YOU WOULD SEE TO THAT. NOW YOU HAD THE POWER. AND YOU HAD THE RIGHT.



YET THERE WAS STILL WORK TO BE DONE; YEARS OF MISTAKES TO CORRECT! AND THAT NEXT NIGHT, YOU AGAIN TRANSFERRED...



LILLY WAS NEXT! YOU BROKE INTO HER ROOM AND CRUSHED OUT HER WORTHLESS LIFE! REMEMBER HOW WONDERFUL IT FELT—EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN KILLING MOLLY? REMEMBER THE TINGLE OF EXCITEMENT THAT PASSED THROUGH YOUR ENTIRE BEING AS HER NECK SNAPPED AND THAT SMALL STREAM OF BLOOD TRICKLED OUT OF THE CORNER OF HER MOUTH?

AND, AS FOR THE
MAN SHE WAS WITH...

FOOL!
HE WON'T
GET PAST
ME!

WHA-?
IT'S DOUG!
SUZANNE'S
BROTHER!



HE HEARD
LILLY CALL OUT
MY NAME
WHEN I FORCED
MY THOUGHTS
INTO HER
MIND!

I HAVE
TO DO
THIS!

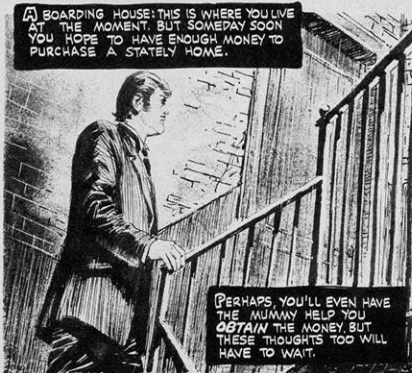
NOW, MEMORIES DISSOLVE AND PRESENT
CONSIDERATIONS CRASH-POUND
UPON YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS:

HMMPH!
SUZANNE'S REALLY
GOING TO BE UP-
SET ABOUT HER
BROTHER'S DEATH!
AND IT'S GOING TO
BE UP TO ME
TO COMFORT
HER!

BUT THAT'LL
COME LATER!
IT'LL BE SOME
TIME BEFORE THE
BODY IS FOUND!
AND RIGHT NOW,
I NEED SOME
SLEEP!



A BOARDING HOUSE: THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE
AT THE MOMENT. BUT SOMEDAY SOON
YOU HOPE TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO
PURCHASE A STATELY HOME.



PERHAPS, YOU'LL EVEN HAVE
THE MUMMY HELP YOU
OBTAIN THE MONEY, BUT
THESE THOUGHTS TOO WILL
HAVE TO WAIT.

THE SUN RISES AND SETS SEVERAL TIMES...AND NOW YOU
ARE AT A BURIAL, WATCHING A MAN YOU KILLED BEING
PLACED IN THE GROUND...AND PROVIDING A SHOULDER FOR
HIS SISTER TO CRY UPON.



AT FIRST, YOU FELT A BIT OF REMORSE FOR
WHAT YOU DID, BUT NOW YOU FEEL A
SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT INSTEAD, AS
YOU REALIZE THAT HER BROTHER'S DEATH
HAS CAUSED SUZANNE TO CLING CLOSER
TO YOU THAN EVER BEFORE!

THE RIDE BACK HOME... TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE. ASK YOURSELF - WHAT IS THE COLOR OF HER SADNESS, OF THE TEARS THAT ARE SPILLED UPON YOUR LAPEL?



WHAT IS THE MOLECULAR MAKE-UP OF THE EMOTION THAT CAUSES HER TO GRAB YOUR HAND... AND PULL YOU ALONG WITH HER, PAST THE ROOM WHERE HER FATHER GRIEVES, UP THE STAIRS, TO HER ROOM?



YES, WHAT IS THIS EMOTION? IS IT SIMPLY A DESIRE TO ESCAPE - TO FLEE FROM THE TORMENT, FROM HER SADNESS? OR IS IT **MORE?**



COME, PLEASE! COMFORT ME! HELP ME FORGET!



SHE PULLS YOU... YOU FALL DOWN BESIDE HER... YOUR HANDS INSTINCTIVELY REACHING FOR HER NECK!



THEN...

HUNK? WHAT AM I DOING?

JEROME, YOU'RE HURTING ME!

THE DESIRE TO KILL IS IN YOU NOW, ISN'T IT? BUT WHY, NOW? THEN YOU REALIZE THE LAST TWO TIMES YOU WERE WITH A WOMAN, ALBEIT YOU WERE IN ANOTHER BODY, YOU KILLED HER, THAT'S WHY!



S-SORRY, DEAR!

BUT NO! NOT SUZANNE! NOT THE GIRL YOU WISH TO ONE DAY MARRY!

STILL THE DESIRE TO KILL REMAINS, AND LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE MUSEUM...



A WOMAN LIKE MOLLY... LIKE LILLY!

THAT'S WHAT MY VICTIM MUST BE!

NOW YOU AGAIN INHABIT THIS
DECAYING, FETID THING—THIS
INSTRUMENT OF YOUR
PERSONAL GROWTH...



NEVER REALIZED
MY DESIRE
TO KILL— TO
PROVE MY
POWER—WOULD
BECOME SO
STRONG!

IT'S ALMOST
FRIGHTENING!

DISSOLVE, FADE
IN ELSEWHERE, AS
SOME OF THE
"LOWLY" PEOPLE—
THOSE YOU
PREVIOUSLY PER-
CEIVED THERE
IN THE VICINITY
OF THE MUSEUM
—ALSO MAKE
THEIR MOVE...
THIEVES,
BREAKING INTO
THE MUSEUM!

...GRIEPPING
SILENTLY UP
UPON YOUR
BODY, UNAWARE
THAT IT IS
UNOCCUPIED...
UNAWARE THAT
IT CAN NOT
HEAR OR SEE...
BELIEVING YOU
ARE ASLEEP...

AGAIN YOU SHAMBLE THROUGH
DARKENED, NEARLY DESERTED
STREETS...

BUT SO
WHAT? WHY
WORRY ABOUT
IT?

MY LIFE HAS
CHANGED!
NOW I CAN DO
WHATEVER
I DESIRE!

AH!
THAT ONE
THERE!



AND...

KLONK!



OKAY; HE'S
UNCONSCIOUS.
I'LL HOLD
ONTO THIS
BAUBLE!

THE REST
OF YOU LOOK
AROUND. PICK
UP ANYTHING
THAT LOOKS
VALUABLE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO A MAN NAMED MICHAEL
HARDING— IS IT NOW GOING TO HAPPEN
TO YOU AS WELL?



SO—THRILL TO HER SCREAM AS IT
FADES INTO A SPUTTERING GURGling
SOUND... AND RELISH THE UPCOMING
SILENCE, AS HER BODY GOES LIMB...
BEAUTY BEYOND MERE SUBMISSION!



**MOVEMENT—OFF INTO
THE WAITING DARKNESS
THEY RACE...**



**THE AFTERMATH: THE
EXHILARATING CALM
THAT FOLLOWS A
STORM OF ACTIVITY.
THE HIGH TRANQUILITY
THAT IS THERE AFTER
THE SPLASH OF
SPENT EMOTIONS.
ACCOMPLISHMENT
AND EXHAUSTION.
RETURNING—
WISHING NOW ONLY
TO REST, UNAWARE
OF WHAT HAS
HAPPENED IN
YOUR ABSENCE.**



SO RE-ENTER
THE MUSEUM,
JEROME CURRY—
AND RECOIL IN
SHOCK AS YOU
NOTICE OBJECTS
MISSING AND
SEE YOUR
BODY LYING
ON THE COLD
STONE FLOOR!



YOUR BODY—THANK GOD IT
HASN'T BEEN HARMED.
BUT THE AMULET! GOOD
GOD, WHERE IS THE
AMULET?



SEARCH WITH
CUMBERSOME
HANDS—LOOK
FOR THE AMULET
—THE ALL
IMPORTANT
TRINKET THAT
MUST BE ABOUT
THE BODY IF
THE TRANS-
FERENCE IS
TO BE MADE!



NO! YOU CAN'T FIND IT!

SEARCH! SEARCH EVERYWHERE!
SEARCH IN VAN! AND LISTEN
AS THE LAUGHTER OF THE OTHER
MIND BEGINS! LISTEN TO ITS
THOUGHTS—NOW YOU ARE TRAP-
PED FOREVER IN THIS BODY, JUST
AS I AM TRAPPED!—THAT IS
WHAT IT IS SAYING!

BUT NO! YOU CAN'T BE TRAP-
PED! YOU CAN'T! YOU DON'T
WANT ONLY POWER! YOU
WANT A LIFE AS WELL! YOU
WANT A MARRIAGE...A HOME!
YOU WANT A HUMAN LIFE!
SO, SEARCH! SEARCH!

RACE OUT OF THE MUSEUM...RACE
AIMLESSLY...AND TRY TO SCREAM...
TRY TO DROWN OUT THE CONTINUING
INSANE LAUGHTER...BUT YOU CAN'T
SCREAM OUTWARDLY, CAN YOU?
YOU CAN ONLY SCREAM INSIDE YOUR
MIND!

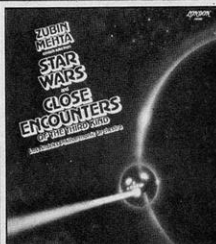


BUT IT CAN'T BE FOUND
CAN IT? AND THE LAUGH-
TER CONTINUES!



WHAT WILL YOU
DO NOW
CREATURE?
WHAT WILL
YOU DO NOW?

COLLECTABLES OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND



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UFOs—ALL SHAPES & SIZES
UFOs—PEAK MONTHS, PEAK HOURS
UFOs—SEEN BY 15 MILLION AMERICANS

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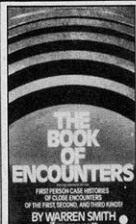


DEVILS TOWER IRON-ON

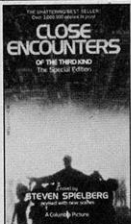
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Ghost in the Invisible Bikini! Reptiles! Batman visits a Monster Village! #1710 MONSTER WORLD #10 \$3.25

NOTE! ALL COPIES ARE MAILED IN A STURDY ENVELOPE!

ARIZONA. HELL'S SUMMER. 1889. AND THERE'S
NOTHING IN THE DESERT...BUT **DEATH!**

DEATH BY HEAT IS THE SENTENCE. **EXECUTION** IS
IN PROGRESS. THE WHOLE DAMNED **DESERT** IS **DYING!**
EVERY DAY. EVERY MINUTE. BROILING. BOILING. BLISTERING.
AND BEING SUCKED DRY BY THE BLAST FURNACE OVERHEAD.

EVERYTHING OUT THERE IS DYING OF EXPOSURE, EVEN
THE ROCKS. EVERYTHING'S DYING...EXCEPT **HIM.**

STAKED OUT OVER AN ANT BED. BEING **EATEN**
ALIVE AND **ROASTED** BY THE SUN. AND **EVERY-**
THING'S DYING BUT **HIM!**

THE LIVING DEAD-MAN... COFFIN!

THE MAN **NEEDS** TO DIE...**WANTS** TO DIE...



DEATH WISH!

...BUT HE CAN'T!



HOPELESSNESS. PAIN WITHOUT END.
SUCH EXQUISITE PAIN AS WOULD
NEED BRING **DEATH** FOR ULTIMATE
FULLFILLMENT, STIRS DEEP WITHIN
THE MAN'S SOUL...BRINGING
PHYSICAL **STRENGTH** BEYOND
THE WORLD OF THE LIVING...



...TO MAKE HIM **RISE!**



MAKES HIM TEAR AWAY HIS
TORMENTORS...



...AND COME **BACK** FROM OUT
OF THE PIT OF DEATH'S LOST
HOPE...



...TO GO AMONGST THE **LIVING!**



WRACKING PAIN.
CEASELESS PAIN.
EXPLODING
GALAXIES OF
INTRICATE **TORMENT**
PULL WEAK LEGS
FROM UNDER HIM...



...YET HE RISES
TO WALK...TO
STUMBLE...FALLING
AGAIN TO **RISE...**



...TO FIND THE
HEALING COOL
OF **NIGHT...**



...AND THE
ONES WHO
LEFT HIM
HERE!



THE DESERT NIGHT BRINGS SOOTHING *SANCTUARY*.



CHILLY WATER HEALS AT THE MAN'S Gaping WOUNDS. THEN, RIDING THE SILENT ARIZONA WIND...*VOICES?*



FEVERED AND TORN, HE PULLS HIMSELF FROM THE POOL. DISTANT GHOSTLY VOICES *LURE* HIM UP A SANDY KNOLL.



THERE! IT'S *THEM!* THE ONES WHO LEFT HIM TO *DIE!*



HIS REELING SENSES *POUND* WITHIN HIM. - AND THOUGH DEATH HAS MERCILESSLY *ELUDED* HIM...IT COMES TO *FILL* HIS HEART.

THROUGH A BURNING HAZE HE **RE-MEMBERED...** THE TWO BRAVES HOLDING HIM, **DRIVING THE STAKES,** CRUELLY BINDING HIM.



AND THE OLD MEDICINE MAN, CHANTING, CURSING HIM! LIKE BIRDS OF PREY.

BUT NOW, HE WAS THE **EAGLE** AND THEY...



...THE PREY!



A VIOLENT DAY HAS FOUND A VIOLENT NIGHT, WHITE MAN!

YOU...GUT SUCKING OLD MAGGOT ...I'M GOING TO MAKE YOUR DEATH SLOW...PAINFUL!

...JUST AS MY WOULD-BE DEATH IS PAINFUL!





STAY BACK,
CURSED ONE!

GO FOR IT,
YOU SLIME...!

...IT'LL MAKE
MY REVENGE
THAT MUCH...



NOW YOU FILTH...NOW YOU'RE
GONNA DIE...JUST LIKE YOU LEFT
ME TO DIE! ANTS EATING
OUT MY EYES, TEARING
OFF MY FACE...!

WON'T BE NOTHING
COMPARED TO THE
WAY I'M GONNA
KILL YOU...!

HOLD, WHITE MAN!
BEFORE YOU MURDER
ME, LIKE YOU MURDERED
MY PEOPLE, I MUST
TELL YOU...OF YOUR
FATE!



TALK...I WANT TO
HEAR A DEAD INDIAN'S
CURSE!

I KNOW NOT
WHO YOU ARE, OR WHY
YOU KILLED MY TRIBE...



...BUT YOU WILL FOREVER
FEEL YOUR SHAME. YOU WILL
FOREVER WALK THIS EARTH
REMEMBERING THE CRIME
COMMITTED AGAINST INNOCENT
PEOPLE.

YOU SHALL NOT FIND THE
FORGETFULNESS OF DEATH.
YOU WILL REMEMBER.

I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO
BE ASHAMED OF, OLD MAN...
NOTHING TO DESERVE THIS,
EXCEPT KILLING MURDERERS.



WHITE MAN...YOU MUST
REMEMBER! YOU MUST
REMEMBER EVERYTHING,
OR YOUR DAMNATION
WILL MEAN NOTHING.
REMEMBER...
REMEMBER...

LIKE A HAWK, THE TORMENTED
MAN'S MEMORY FLEW BACK TO
THE **STAGECOACH**...



HE **REMEMBERED!** HE WAS A SALESMAN
TRAVELING WEST...SELLING SHARPS
RIFLES TO THE ARMY. THERE WAS THE
STAGE...THE WOMEN ABOARD...



...THE INNOCENT **FEMALES**.
MEMORY BEGAN TO PRICK
AT HIM.

INSIDE THE COACH HE CHATTED
LIGHTLY WITH THE WOMEN,
TELLING OF HIS WONDERFUL
RIFLE...THE HISTORY OF THE
PLAINS INDIANS HE'D READ.

THE STAGE CARRIED THEM
WEST.



SUDDENLY
**DEATH AND
TERROR** FELL
UPON THE
TRAVELERS...
OUT OF THE SUN.

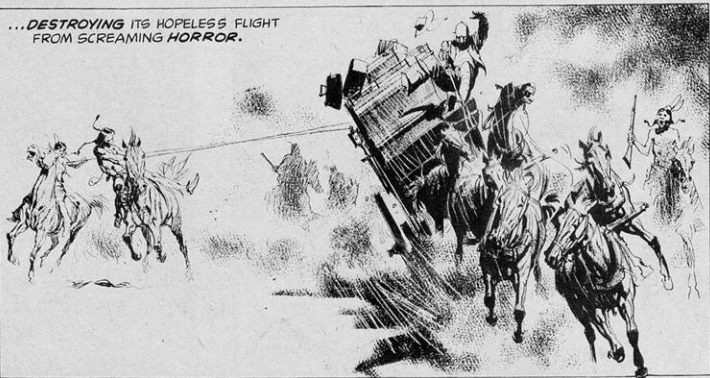
BLOOD MADDENED
SAVAGES!

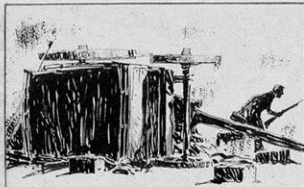


THE SMALL WAR PARTY
RODE DOWN THE
HELPLESS COACH...



...**DESTROYING** ITS HOPELESS FLIGHT
FROM SCREAMING HORROR.





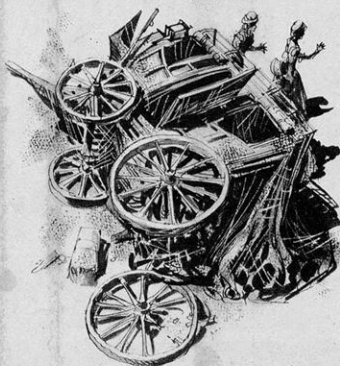
THE INDIANS CHASED THE HORSES...A MOMENT OF **HOPE**, OF **ESCAPE**...A MOMENT TO STAY AND **DIE** OR TO RUN AND **LIVE**. THE CHOICE WAS **SIMPLE**!

THE CRIES OF THE WOMEN BURNED INTO HIS SOUL AS HE SNATCHED HIS RIFLE AND HIS SACHEL AND **FLED**, TERROR STRICKEN... TO THE HIDDEN SAFETY OF THE **HILLS**!

THERE WAS NO FEELING OF **COWARDICE**...NO FEELING OF PERSECUTION FOR ABANDONING THE WOMEN. ONLY THE HEART POUNDING GRIP OF **DREAD**...AND A YEARNING TO **LIVE**!



FROM AFAR, HE WATCHED THE WOMEN **PULL** THEMSELVES FROM THE WRECKAGE.



FROM AFAR HE WATCHED THE SAVAGES **SURROUND** THE EASY PREY...

...AND CLAIM THEIR GRIM **REWARD**!



THE RED VULTURES HAD FINISHED
THEIR **BLOOD SPORT**.



AND HE FINISHED
THE **REST**. THEN
FOLLOWED HOOF-
PRINTS, WEST.

A WRETCHED NIGHT PASSED AS THE
EASTERNER FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF
THE BUTCHERS. SUNRISE FOUND HIM IN
THE ROCKS ABOVE A QUIET **VILLAGE!**



REMEMBERING THE
DYING, BLOOD
BUBBLING PLEAS OF
THE WOMEN...HE
PUT THE DEADLY
SHARPS RIFLE TO THE
TEST OF **VENGEANCE**.



FIVE...



...TEN



THIRTEEN...



...ALL BUT **THREE** DIED. THE THREE WHO
STOPPED HIS MASACRE OF REVENGE.

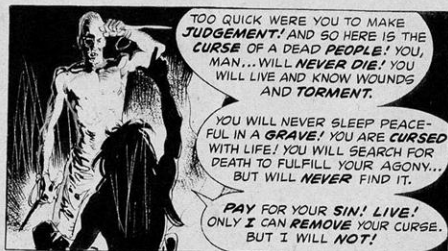


THE THREE WHO LEFT HIM
STAKED IN THE SUN TO REFLECT
UPON HIS **CRIME!**



YOU **MURDERED** AN **INNOCENT** TRIBE, WHITE MAN! **WOMEN, CHILDREN, THE OLD AND SICK!**

THE BLUE COATS TOOK OUR BRAVES TO PRISON LONG AGO! THOSE THAT KILLED THE WHITE WOMEN WERE NOT OF OUR TRIBE!



TOO QUICK WERE YOU TO MAKE **JUDGEMENT!** AND SO HERE IS THE **CURSE OF A DEAD PEOPLE!** YOU, MAN... WILL **NEVER DIE!** YOU WILL LIVE AND KNOW WOUNDS AND **TORMENT.**

YOU WILL **NEVER SLEEP PEACEFUL** IN A **GRAVE!** YOU ARE **CURSED** WITH LIFE! YOU WILL SEARCH FOR DEATH TO FULFILL YOUR AGONY... BUT WILL **NEVER** FIND IT.

PAY FOR YOUR SIN! LIVE! ONLY **I** CAN REMOVE YOUR CURSE. BUT I WILL **NOT!**



ONLY WHEN YOU HAVE LEARNED TO **LIVE AND RESPECT LIFE...** WILL YOU BE **FREED.** NOW GO! AND **LIVE!**



HOLY JEEZAS! THIS OL' BOY'S STILL **ALIVE!**



FOUND UNCONSCIOUS IN THE DESERT, THE **EASTER** WAS CARRIED TO AN OUTPOST AND DELIVERED TO THE POST PHYSICIAN.



I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS FELLA IS, BUT HE'S A **LIVING DEAD MAN!**



I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AS WOUNDED AS THIS LIVE MORE'N A **FEW HOURS.** ALL THIS MAN NEEDS NOW IS A **COFFIN!**

I'VE DONE **ALL** I CAN. LET HIM SLEEP. NATURE'LL TAKE ITS **COURSE.**

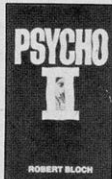
MERCIFUL SLEEP ENGULFED THE WALKING DEAD MAN. BUT SLEEP IS ONLY A PEACEFUL ISLAND OF DEATH...DOOMED TO BE INTERRUPTED BY...



MOTION PICTURE PAPERBACKS



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EERIE'S GREATEST HEROES!

If you're talking super-heroes, you're probably not talking Warren Publishing! We've never been big on the purple-suited super-folks who are the bread-and-butter of the comics industry.

Just the same, beginning with the debut of **Dax the Warrior** in issue #39, **EERIE** has serialized the adventures of well over 20 characters who broadly fit the definition of super-hero. Six of the most popular are featured in this special issue, and their **EERIE** appearances are listed below. Among the others:

Schreck, a hook-handed reporter, battled a world of radiation-spawned werewolves in issues #53-55.

Child, a misshapen creature built of spare human parts by a lonely, childless widower, ran in issues #57, 58, and 60 (and featured some of **Richard Corben's** most memorable interior color work).

Hunter II continued his long-dead namesake's battle against demon mutants in issues #67, 68, and 70-73.

Of course, the **Rook** premiered in **EERIE** #82 and appeared in every non-reprint issue through #105, making him indisputably the most popular **EERIE** hero of all! Following a several-year sojourn in his own book, he returned to these pages with **EERIE** #132.

And the list goes on. But why didn't the characters?

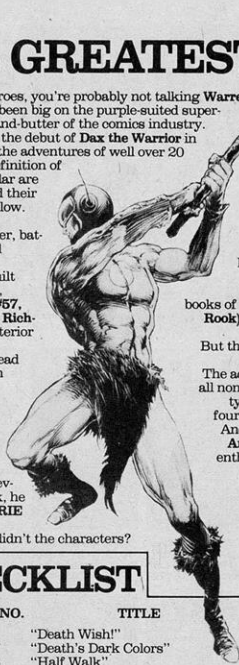
Far more often than not, that was the plan. Most of our heroes were conceived as men with a mission—their adventures inextricably linked with a particular purpose. It didn't make sense to, for example, continue chronicling the adventures of **Hunter** past the death of the last demon on earth. In other cases, we went as far as we felt we should with a particular character.

Most important, though, was the problem of space. We continually came up with new characters we wanted to try out. Not being in a position to spin heroes off into books of their own (with the single exception of the **Rook**), that meant that the old constantly had to make way for the new.

But the old and the new are going to live side-by-side in the new **EERIE**!

The addition of our comic book insert section (in all non-reprint issues of **EERIE**) cried out for the type of character who would use it to its full four-color potential...the costumed super-hero! And producing such features as the **Fighting Armenian** and **Starlad** has gotten up our enthusiasm to delve deeper into this previously untapped genre! (And till you've been tapped by us, brother, you haven't been tapped!)

New super-hero series are going to be very much a part of **EERIE** in months to come, both in our color section and elsewhere in the magazine! But read on for news about the big plans we have for the **EERIE** heroes of yesteryear!



HERO CHECKLIST

HERO	ISSUE NO.	TITLE	WRITER	ARTIST
COFFIN	61	"Death Wish!"	Budd Lewis	Jose Ortiz
	67	"Death's Dark Colors"	Budd Lewis	Jose Ortiz
	68	"Half Walk"	Budd Lewis	Jose Ortiz
	70	"The Final Sunrise"	Budd Lewis	Jose Ortiz
DARKLON	76	"Beware Darklon the Mystic!"	Jim Starlin	Jim Starlin
	79	"The Price!"	Jim Starlin	Jim Starlin
	80	"Retribution"	Jim Starlin	Jim Starlin
	84	"He Who Waits in Shadow!"	Jim Starlin	Jim Starlin
	100	"Duel"	Jim Starlin	Jim Starlin
EXTERMINATOR ONE	121	"Ashes to Ashes"	Rich Margopoulos	Al Sanchez
	60	"Exterminator One"	Bill DuBay	Paul Neary
	63	"Exterminator One"	Bill DuBay	Paul Neary
	64	"Exterminator One"	Bill DuBay	Paul Neary
HUNTER	52	"Hunter"	Rich Margopoulos	Paul Neary
	53	"Hunter"	Rich Margopoulos	Paul Neary
	54	"Hunter"	Rich Margopoulos	Paul Neary
	55	"Hunter"	Budd Lewis	Paul Neary
	56	"Hunter"	Bill DuBay	Paul Neary
	57	"Hunter"	Bill DuBay	Paul Neary
	69	All-Hunter reprint issue		
	121	"Ashes to Ashes"	Rich Margopoulos	Al Sanchez
THE MUMMY	52	"Ghoulish Encounter"	Steve Skeates	Jaime Brocal
	53	"Enter: Mr. Hyde"	Steve Skeates	Jaime Brocal
	54	"Stranger in a Village of the Insane"	Steve Skeates	Jaime Brocal
	56	"There Was a Were-Mummy"	Steve Skeates	Martin Salvador
THE SPOOK	61	"A Battle of Bandaged Beasts"	Steve Skeates	Joaquin Blazquez
	62	"Death Be Proud!"	Steve Skeates	Joaquin Blazquez
	63	"Insanity!"	Steve Skeates	Joaquin Blazquez
	78	All-Mummy reprint issue		
	57	"Stridespider Sponge-Rot"	Doug Moench	Esteban Maroto
	58	"Knucklebones to Fever Twitch"	Doug Moench	Leopold Sanchez
	62	"Crackermeyer's Churchyard"	Budd Lewis	Leopold Sanchez
	63	"Stumpful of Granddaddies!"	Budd Lewis	Leopold Sanchez
	64	"The Caul"	Budd Lewis	Leopold Sanchez



THE GREAT SUPER-HERO JAMBOREE!

If the revival of the 1970's **EERIE** heroes signaled by this issue was inspired by any one event in recent **Warren** history, that event was **EERIE #130!** In that book-length tale masterminded by **Rich Margopoulos** (to whom we're indebted for valuable research help on these pages), the Oriental arch-fiend **Ten Ichi** used his crystal of the ages to summon the most powerful beings of earth's past and future to do his bidding! They included

Hunter, Exterminator One, Schreck, Child, Dax—and briefly (when the first five overcame **Ten Ichi's** hypnotic influence), **Darklon, Coffin, the Spook, Hunter II, and Mac Tavish.** On the side of the angels were **Vampirella, Pantha, the Rook, Adam and Conrad Van Helsing, Richard Harris, and Pie.** All of the illustrations on these two pages are from that 54-page epic (drawn in its entirety by **E.R. Cruz**, with a cover by **Rich Fastner & Steve Larson**).

TEAM-UP TALES!

Up until **EERIE #130**, team-ups of our characters had been rare. For one thing, most of our characters have been loners by nature. Many have existed in different eras—**Dax** in the distant past, **Hunter, Exterminator One, Hunter II**, and others in different future eras. Then too, most of them weren't around around long enough for us to branch them out into team-up adventures.

There were exceptions. **Hunter II** fought alongside the last of the exterminator robots for the duration of his series, battling the goblins overrunning a devastated earth. The end of the **Hunter** saga saw the demon-killer teaming with an aged **Schreck** against **Hunter's** father, the demon **Ofphal**.

We tinkered with the team-up format in a couple of more recent issues: **EERIE #120**, teaming **Bishop Dane** and **Dax**, and **#121**, joining a rejuvenated **Hunter** and **Darklon**.

But if team-ups were never big...why talk about them? Because they're going to figure big in **EERIE's** future!

With all the new series coming out, we don't have room to bring back too many of the old-wave heroes. Teaming them up allows us to present two or more in the space otherwise occupied by one. And of course, teaming our heroes up opens a whole new range of dramatic possibilities.

Already on the drawing board is a new **Hunter II-Exterminator** adventure by **David Allikas** and **E.R. Cruz!** What's next? You tell us! Keep in mind such time-traversing devices as the **Rook's** time castle and **Ten Ichi's** crystal of the ages for bringing heroes of different eras together.

Now aren't you glad you bought this magazine? It'll acquaint you with six super-heroes that you can consider for team-up ideas! So get those creative minds working overtime...we're counting on you!



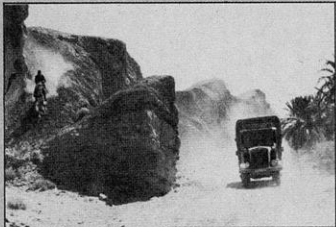
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK ACTION PLAYSETS FROM THE MOVIE

WELL OF SOULS PLAYSET

Relive the mystery and terror of the final moments before Indiana Jones and Marion Ravenwood find the Ark of the Covenant! Playset includes break-through wall with corpses on one side, ancient hieroglyphics on the other; a hook, a rope and two torches to aid in their escape; a mummy and 12 snakes to prevent it; and pokes to help them carry the beautifully detailed, vacuum-metalized Ark from the altar! Action figures not included. #26344—\$14.90



MAP ROOM Includes poseable Indiana Jones figure in Arab disguise, fast-draw action arm, fabric rope, gun and shoulder bag, modeled map room floor. Staff of Ra, see-through medallion, tripod and transit, rope and hook, pick, book! All you need to reenact the stirring map room scene from the movie! #26343/\$9.90



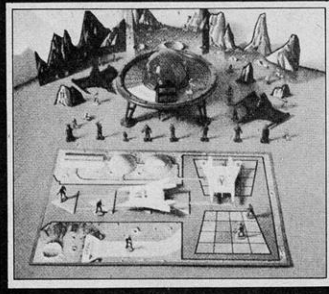
DESERT CHASE This smaller-scale playset is a huge desert scene, including Indy on horseback chasing the truck caravan, exterior of the Well of Souls, Nazi airplane, railroad tracks, oil tanks, hills, foliage, many figures, and much more! Enough to recreate most of the movie...but why stop there? #24265/\$10.75

"BUCK ROGERS" GALACTIC PLAY SET

Blast off to the 25th century with this fantastic play set! Includes a giant domed space station where you can stage a battle between Buck's forces and the attacking aliens! If that gets crowded, there's the huge landing strip where your Starfighters and Draconian Marauders can butt heads! Colorful diorama background of hills and craters simulates an actual planetscape! #26146—\$8.50

OVER 35 EXCITING PLAY PIECES, INCLUDING:

- Space Station
- 2 Draconian Marauders
- 2 Starfighters
- Detailed figures of Buck, Wilma, Tigerman, Draco, Twiki, Kane, Huer, Ardala
- 8 Space Commandos
- 10 Aliens
- Diorama setup
- Landing strip



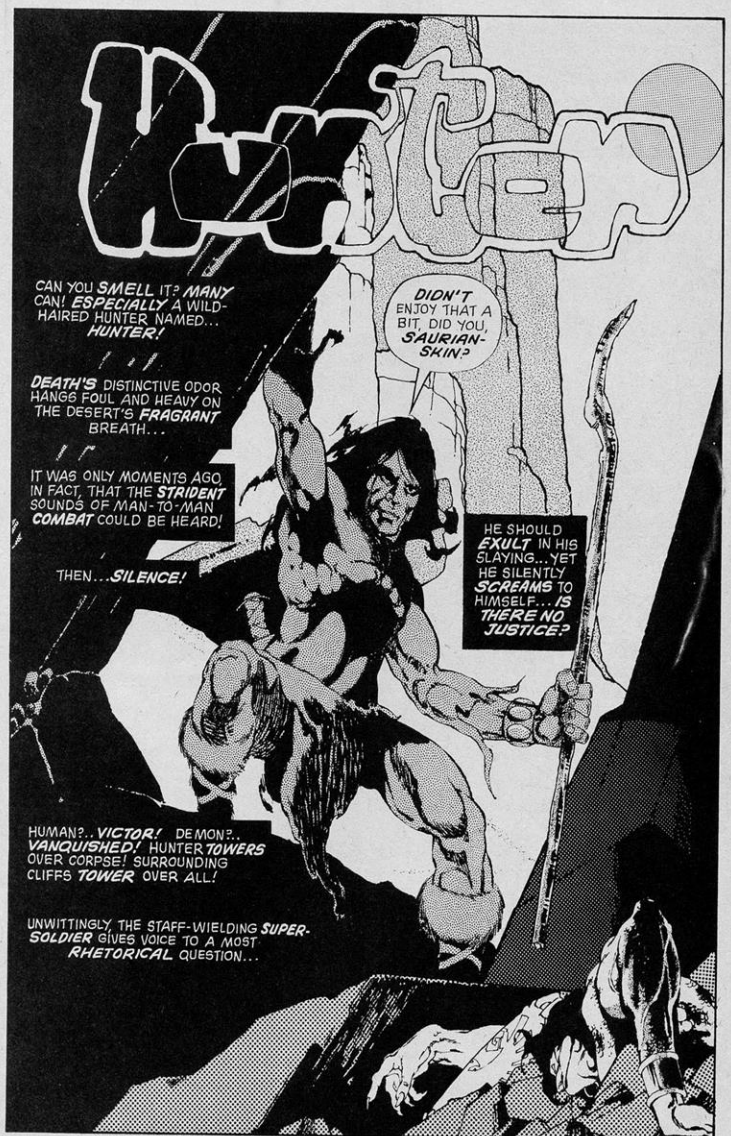
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS MODEL KITS!

ORC WAR ACTION SCENE A team of adventurers assault the evil Warlock's castle! Almost 30 figures including dwarf warriors, witch, Orcs, monsters! Preformed 12 x 18" base includes castle foundation, moat, mountains, battlements! Combine with Dungeon Invaders to form huge scene! #24261/\$10.75

DUNGEON INVADERS ACTION SCENE Adventurers seek to steal the wizard's treasure chests! They're guarded by a dragon and a zombie...not to mention the shrieker and the carrion worm! The 12 x 15" pre-formed base simulates an actual gaming situation! #24262/\$10.75



Wolf



CAN YOU **SMELL** IT? **MANY**
CAN! **ESPECIALLY** A WILD-
HAired HUNTER NAMED...
HUNTER!

DEATH'S DISTINCTIVE ODOR
HANGS FOUL AND HEAVY ON
THE DESERT'S **FRAGRANT**
BREATH...

IT WAS ONLY MOMENTS AGO,
IN FACT, THAT THE **STRIDENT**
SOUNDS OF MAN-TO-MAN
COMBAT COULD BE HEARD!

THEN...**SILENCE!**

DIDN'T
ENJOY THAT A
BIT, DID YOU,
**SAURIAN-
SKIN?**

HE SHOULD
EXULT IN HIS
SLAYING...YET
HE SILENTLY
SCREAMS TO
HIMSELF...**IS
THERE NO
JUSTICE?**

HUMAN?...**VICTOR!** DEMON?...
VANQUISHED! HUNTER **TOWERS**
OVER CORPSE! SURROUNDING
CLIFFS **TOWER** OVER ALL!

UNWITTINGLY, THE STAFF-WIELDING **SUPER-
SOLDIER** GIVES VOICE TO A MOST
RHETORICAL QUESTION...

WINGED THINGS THAT HARDLY QUALIFY AS *BIRDS*... WHEEL ABOVE THE *Craggy* HEIGHTS!

BUT THEY ARE BEYOND HUNTER'S NOTICE... AS A RIPTIDE OF *MEMORIES* SUDDENLY CRUSHES THE *EX-SCOUT* EARTHWARD!

2001 A.D.! IT WAS THE TURN OF THE *CENTURY*... AND *WAR* CAME WITH IT!

SCHWOODM!

ANNIHILATION CAME SWIFT IN THE FORM OF SHRIEKING *N-BOMBS*...

...AND *SLOW* AS BILLOWING *CLOUDS* OF DEADLY FALL-OUT SWEEP THE *SKY*!

WHILE *MANKIND* COLLECTIVELY TOTTERED ON THE *EVE* OF *DESTRUCTION*... A NEW *THREAT* MADE ITSELF KNOWN!

LET US FOLLOW HIS TURBULENT *STREAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS*, AND GO BACK...

INTENSE RADIATION IN THE *BLAST-ZONES* GENETICALLY CHANGED *HUMANS* INTO SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING *OTHER* THAN HUMAN...

...BACK... ...TO THE *DARKEST* OF ALL *BEGINNINGS*!

THEY BECAME *MUTANTS*... AND THEY *CHANGED*...

...CHANGING TO WHAT EVENTUALLY EARNED THEM THE NAME "*DEMON*" BY THE *SUPERSTITIOUS* REMNANTS OF *MANKIND*!

OBSERVE THESE *THREE*, WITH METALLIC SCALES *GLITTERING* OPULENTLY UNDER A COLD MOON... *SWAYING* IN THE EUPHORIC GRIP OF A *MIND-MERGE*!

MUTANT *MENTAL-FORCE* IS GENERATED AND QUICKLY *BUILDS* UPON ITSELF... *POWER* TO *IGNITE*... TO *LEVITATE*...

...OR *POWER* TO DO... *THIS*!

ESPER ENERGY IS *UNLEASHED* AT A FLEEING HUMAN IN THE GUISE OF A FLICKERING *BRAIN-BLAST*...

...A *LETHAL* LASH OF *THOUGHT-WAVES* THAT SUCCEEDS IN STOPPING THE RUNNER BY *EXPLODING* HIS MIND INTO... *NOTHINGNESS*!

KR-KR-ZZZT!

TWO SUCH DIVERSE
CULTURES AS **MUTANT**
AND **HUMAN** COULD
NOT LONG ENDURE
SIDE-BY-SIDE...

AND SO, AS IF
DECREED BY
THE GODS, **BLOOD**
AGAIN FLOWED
AFTER A BRIEF
50-YEAR
DISCOVERY
PERIOD... WITH
THE INCEPTION
OF...

...THE DEMON WARS!

REPTILIAN HORDES SURGED FROM THEIR
ATOM-SCORCHED **HOT SPOTS...** ONLY
TO **DASH** THEMSELVES AGAINST THE
RAZOR-BEAKED **BORDER CAVALRY!**

WITNESS... SWORDS **SINGING** THROUGH THE AIR...
RINGING AGAINST STEEL... **RIPPING** AND **HACKING** BOTH
SCALE AND **SKIN!!** PARROT-JAWS **CLACKING INSANELY**,
ADDING TO THE **SCREAMS** OF THE DEAD, DAMNED AND DYING!

BUT AWAY FROM THE
RAGING CONFLICT IN
AN ADJACENT VALLEY...

...IN THE **FOREST-HEMMED** FARMHOUSE
OF **JAMES** AND **ELIZABETH HUNTER...**

WITNESS...
SLAUGHTER!

...WHERE A **HOUND'S** FRANTIC
YELPS SEEK TO DEFEND THIS
RUSTIC SETTING!

SOMETHING'S
WRONG, JIM! BUTCHIE'S
BARKING UP A FIT!

I'LL GET MY
CUDGEL!

BLASTED
DROUGHT MUST
BE FORCING **GOD-**
KNOWS-WHAT
DOWN FROM THE
HILLS AGAIN!

THEN **THREE**
EVENTS
OCCURRED
ALMOST
SIMULTAN-
EOUSLY...

THE **PURPLISH** ARC OF A **ZEE BEAM** SPOKE ONCE!

INK-DARK SHADOWS DETACHED
THEMSELVES FROM THE NIGHT!

AROO! WOOF-WOOF!

AND THE
FAITHFUL
CANINE
TERMED
"BUTCHIE"
DEPARTED
THIS **BRAVE**
NEW
WORLD!

ZZZZZ-ZAP!

Y-Y-YELP!

I TRUST YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS **ZEE GUN**
CAN DO, HUMAN... OR MUST
I GIVE A **SECOND**
DEMONSTRATION?

BUT HOW **THOUGHT-
LESS!** PROPER **DECORUM**
DICTATES A FORMAL
INTRODUCTION!

I AM
**GENERAL
OPPHAL!**
AND I SEEK
ESCAPE!

MY REGIMENTS HAVE BEEN **DEFEATED...**
MY **ARMY** IS DEAD. BUT MY DEFEAT WILL NOT
BE TOTAL! YOU WILL GIVE ME **FRESH MOUNTS!**

WHAT? HELP YOU?
THE **DEVIL'S** OWN
SPAWN AGAINST MY
OWN KIND?

No!

A **TERSE** COMMAND FROM **GENERAL
OPPHAL** AND **JAMES HUNTER**
PROTECTING **BOTH** THE **HOUSE** THAT WAS HIS...

SOMEHOW,
HUMAN, I
KNEW THAT
WOULD BE
YOUR
ANSWER...

JIM!!

...AND THE **WOMAN**
HE SO DEARLY **LOVED!**

BUT, THE **HUSBAND'S** FATE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE **MERCIFUL**
... AS THE **WIFE** FOUND HER TIME IN **HELL** JUST **COMMENCING!**

CLAWED HANDS **PUSHED** AND **SHOVED**
AND **PRODDED.** ELIZABETH'S TUNIC WAS
ROUGHLY **PLUCKED** AWAY... LOST AMID
THE STUNNED **CONFUSION...**

...REVEALING **FEMALE** PERFECTION
NAKED IN THE FIRELIGHT, A **GODDESS**
BESET, RADIATING UNSPEAKABLE
LOVELINESS...

FATE **RESIGNED** ITSELF FOR THE
STRUGGLING **VICTIM**, AS THE DEMONS
CRUDELY **ANIMALISTICALLY** THRUST
THEMSELVES UPON HER... ENACTING
A **PARODY** OF HUMAN **LOVE-MAKING...**

...THAT SEEMED TO GO ON AND ON, **TOR-
TURINGLY**, WITH NO **CONCEIVABLE** END...



AHH! YOU
YIELD MUCH
PLEASURE!

BUT, DON'T
AVERT YOUR GAZE AS
I SPEAK, WENCH!

IT IS
IMPOLITE!

BUT NO MATTER! TIME
NECESSITATES I MUST **DEPART**
...AND LINK FORCES WITH COL.
PLITH'S **NORTHERN RESERVES!**

FAREWELL,
MY **LUCKY**
LADY!

FOR AN **UNKNOWN**
TIME, THE WOMAN
UPON THE RUMPLED
SHEET-SKINS
DARED NOT **STIR**...

YET, SHE BORE THE NAME OF **HUNTER**, DID SHE
NOT? A **BODY** MAY BE **RAPED**... BUT NOT THE **SOUL**!

ELIZABETH **LIVED**
...AND BY **LIVING**
...**ENDURED!**

...WHILE THE **SEASONS**,
AS ALWAYS, **PASSED ON**...

...AS THE ROOM
ABOUT HER
FILLED WITH
EMPTINESS...

SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN
A BROKEN PERSON AFTER
ALL THOSE **YEARS**... IF
NOT FOR A SMALL SPARK
OF **GOODNESS**...

...AN **UNTAMABLE**
HALF-BREED SON...
HER **DEMON-**
CONCEIVED CHILD...

DEMIAN?

I KNOW YOU'RE
HIDING SOMEWH...
OH, YOU **STARTLED**
ME FOR A SECOND!

WHY CAN'T
YOU **PLAY** AT
HOME... INSTEAD
OF THESE **FOR-**
SAKEN HILLS?

IT'S **STRANGE**,
MOTHER... BUT I
FEEL **SAFER** UP
HERE THAN BACK
BY THE **FARM!**

IT'S...KINDA FUNNY...
LIKE A **TINGLING FEEL-**
ING IN MY **STOMACH!**

IT TOOK **TIME**, BUT EVENTUALLY ELIZABETH REALIZED THAT A CHANGE WAS OVERTAKING HER SON... THAT THE **DEMON HALF** OF HER CHILD WAS **SURFACING**.

THE SOCIAL SHIFT IN HER SON WAS **HARD** TO ACCEPT... EVEN **HARDER** THAN THE **SOCIAL STIGMA** OF DISCRIMINATION... ATTACHED TO ALL WHO **DARED** TO BE **DIFFERENT!**

THEY'RE COMING BACK, MOTHER... JUST LIKE THE **LAST TIME!**

WE SHOULD FEEL **SORRY** FOR THEM, **DEMIAN!** THEY FEAR AND HURT **EVERYTHING** THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND!

IT **WASN'T** SO MUCH THE FACT THAT HER SON WAS FORCED TO BE **ALONE** THAT SADDENED THE **STILL ATTRACTIVE WIDOW...**

...BUT **RATHER** ALL HIS GAMES CONSISTED OF **FIGHTING AND DEATH!**

FOR THE LAST TIME, **SINNER...STAY OUTTA TOWN!** AN' TAKE THAT CURSED **DEVIL CHILD** WIT'CHA!

DEATH, HOWEVER, HAD NEVER **TRULY** TOUCHED **DEMIAN** UNTIL THE NIGHT THE **MOTTLED POX** CLAIMED THE ONE HE CARED FOR MOST...

SHE WAS **DEAD!**

HE GAVE HER A **RESTING PLACE** NEXT TO A **FATHER** HE NEVER KNEW!

HE WANTED TO BE **BRAVE...** FIGHTING BACK THE TEARS THAT **GLEAMED** SO WETLY... BUT HE COULD **NOT...**

THE **TEARS** HE HAD FOUGHT AGAINST SO LONG **FINALLY** WELLED FORTH...

...FORCING HIM TO ESCAPE THE SOURCE OF HIS **AGONY...** AND FIND SOLACE IN THE DISTANT **HIGHLANDS!**

THE EBON NIGHT
DISCOVERED THE
ORPHAN UNDER
A SWOLLEN MOON
...HURLING FUTILE
CURSES AT THE
GODS FOR CREAT-
ING A WORLD OF
UNFAIRNESS!

HUNTER IS A MERE 15!

SPURNING **CIVILIZATION**,
THE HALF-BREED RETREATED
TO A MOUNTAIN CAVE...LIVING
OFF THE WILD WASTELAND!

HE FELT THE **UNIVERSE** TO BE **EVIL**
...AND BEING PART OF **REALITY**, FOUND
HIMSELF LIKEWISE **CORRUPT!**

HE MUST **FORGET** HIS
PAINFUL **PAST**, BURY IT
FAR AND **DEEP**... OR BE
STRICKEN WITH **MADNESS!**

...AND THE
HEAVENS,
IT IS SAID,
WEPT WITH
HIM!

BUT...HOW?

THE **QUESTION**
ANSWERED IT-
SELF...WITH THE
MUFFLED PATTERN OF
TALONS AND
SUBDUED
VOICES
ALERT FOR
UNEXPECTED
DANGER!

CAVALRY!

THAT'S THE
EASIEST WAY TO
GET **KILLED**...
SURPRISING US
LIKE THAT!

HO, LAD!

HMM! ISN'T EVERY
DAY SOMEONE WITH
DEMON'S BLOOD WANTS
TO SIGN ON!

AW, GIVE THE
KID A BREAK,
CAP'N! WE **HALF-
BREEDS** MAKE THE
BEST SCOUTS, AN'
YOU KNOW IT!

VERY WELL, **SGT.**
JAGGER! TRAIN HIM AS A
REPLACEMENT! HE'LL
BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

COULDN'T
BE HELPED, CAPTAIN!
I HAD TO STOP YOU THE
QUICKEST WAY I KNEW...
IN ORDER TO **VOLUNTEER!**

HEAR THAT,
KID? **YOU'RE IN!**

LEMME GIVE
YOU A BOOST UP!

MUCH DEBT TO
YOU, SARGEANT!

"DON'T GO **THANKIN'** ME YET!
ONCE THE **TRAINING** STARTS,
YOU'LL **HATE MY GUTS!**"

NOW DON'T
CHOKE UP ON THE
STAFF, KID! HOLD
IT LIKE THAT! **YEAH,**
THAT'S IT!

BLOCKED
ME... BUT, **NOT**
FOR LONG!

YOU MOVE SO
FAST... LIKE BEING
IN **MANY** PLACES AT
ONCE! LET'S TRY IT
AGAIN... OKAY,
SERGEANT?

WHACK!

CALL ME **JAGGER!**
BUT YOU'RE NOT **CON-**
CENTRATING... DEFENSES
ARE **WIDE OPEN!** SEE
WHAT I MEAN?

GIVE
UP?

NO! THAT'S
SOMETHING
I'VE DONE MY
ENTIRE LIFE...

WHUMP!

DAYS SLIPPED INTO WEEKS...
WEEKS LAPSED INTO MONTHS!

AND, AS THE ARDUOUS
TRAINING CONTINUED...
A **BARBARIAN-LIKE**
YOUTH BECAME A MAN!

...AND THE MAN,
ALAS, BECAME
KILLER!

...SOMETHING...
THAT'S STOPPING...
RIGHT NOW!

TIME FOR
YOUR **BAPTISM-**
OF-FIRE, KID!

WE'RE GOIN' ON A
FORAY TONIGHT... JUST
THE **TWO** OF US!

ACCORDIN'
TO THE LOCAL
NOMADS... THIS
STRATEGIC
PASS IS
UNGUARDED!

IT'S OUR
JOB TO MAKE
SURE IT IS! 'CAUSE
IF IT **AIN'T...** WE'LL
BE WALKIN'
SMACK INTO...

SOUNDS
... **UHHN...**
GOOD!

A TRAP!

SEARCHLIGHTS GOT US **NAILED...**
LIKE **WINGLESS FLIES** ON A WALL!

I'LL TAKE MY
STAND HERE, KID
...I'LL HOLD 'EM
OFF WHILE YOU
GET AWAY!

NO, **JAGGER!**
MY PLACE IS AT
YOUR SIDE!

HAH! THE SO-CALLED
COMMANDOS SQUAWK LIKE
SLOW-THINKING **CYCLOCHICKS!**

... MAKING
IT ALL THE
EASIER TO
SLAY THEM
WITH THIS
**CON-CRUSH-
ION**
GRENADE!

SSST!

**TIME... IN
LAYERED
INSTANTS!**

ONE...

...TWO...

...THREE...

**...AND
DEATH!**

**CAUGHT
THAT ONE...**
RIGHT IN THE
CHEST...

KRUMP!

**DON'T
TRY TO TAKE
THE TWO OF
'EM YOURSELF,
KID! IT'S
SUICIDE...**

...KID?

**BUT HEARING NO
LONGER MATTERED!
NOTHING DID...**

**... SAVE
EXPLOSIVE
ACTION...**

**... ACTION THAT
CAUSES A LENS
TO SHATTER...
AND A LIFE
TO FAIL!**

**ANOTHER
BOMB! BUT
I'LL MAKE YOU
DROP IT,
DEMON...**

... AND USE YOUR
**STILL-LIVING
BODY** AS A CUSHION
TO **ABSORB THE
BLAST!**

**BA-P-
KRUMP!**

LIKE A **MACHINE**,
HE ROSE...
JAGGER'S
SKILL
BRED INTO
EVERY
MOVE-
MENT!

LIKE A **ROBOT**,
HE SLEW, BUT
FOUND NO
ELATION IN
THE HEIGHT OF
BATTLE, ONLY
RESPITE FROM
A TORTURED
PAST!



YES, THESE ARE THE MEMORIES OF **DEMIAN HUNTER!** SOME ARE PIECED TOGETHER FROM **SCANNER-TAPES** FROM THE **OLD MUSEUMS**...OTHERS ARE GATHERED FROM **FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE**...

BUT **ALL** ARE
FRAUGHT WITH
A SENSE OF
TRAGEDY...

THE **DEMON WARS** ARE
LONG SINCE OVER. THERE
CAN BE NO **REAL VICTORY**
... NOT UNTIL THE HALF-
BREED **TRIUMPHS** OVER
HIMSELF!

AND THAT WILL **NEVER**
HAPPEN... FOR NO MAN
WISHES TO **CONFRONT**
THE **WICKEDNESS** THAT
DWELLS INSIDE US **ALL!**

PERHAPS **THAT**
IS WHY **HUNTER**
SO OFTEN ASKS
... **IS THERE NO**
JUSTICE?



... AND **NEVER**
REMAINS LONG
ENOUGH TO
RECEIVE AN
ANSWER.



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THE SPOOK

THE SPOOK... HE LIKES MIDNIGHT BEST, CAUSE SOME SAY THAT'S WHEN HE WAS BORN, AND OTHERS SAY THAT'S WHEN HE DIED. BUT MIDNIGHT SUITS SPOOK JUST FINE. HE SEES BEST THEN.

SPOOK DON'T TALK MUCH. BUT WHAT HE COULD TELL WOULD SHUT ALL OTHER MOUTHS FOR A LONG TIME. SINCE SPOOK IS TOO BUSY DOING, WE JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ALL THE NOISE FROM THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY DONE. BUT WE PUT UP WITH IT JUST FINE. BESIDES, THE SPOOK WILL GET AROUND TO DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT SOON ENOUGH.

SPOOK KNOWS ABOUT POWER... POWER OVER OTHERS... AND HE HATES IT. WHEN SPOOK HATES SOMETHING THERE'S A SURE GRAVE WAITING FOR IT. SPOOK, HE LAYS THAT POWER-OVER-OTHERS RIGHT INTO THE GRAVE, AND HE DOES IT WITH HIS OWN POWER OVER OTHERS. SPOOK WON'T SAY IF HE HATES HIMSELF, BUT HE'S KNOWN THE GRAVE.

SPOOK WAS SLICK AND SLIPPERY EVEN BEFORE HE DIED. NOW YOU JUST CAN'T STOP HIM. HE WAS STOPPED ONCE AND HE FIGURES THAT WAS ENOUGH! NOW IT'S HIS TURN, AND ONCE SPOOK GETS HIS TURN, AIN'T NOBODY ELSE WHO GETS THEIR TURN BACK. 'CAUSE SPOOK STOPS THEM. FLAT.



SPOOK LIKES WOMEN GOOD ENOUGH. HE LETS THEM TOUCH HIM. BUT NEVER INSIDE! Y' SEE, SPOOK STILL HURTS INSIDE AND MAYBE HE DON'T WANT WOMEN TO FEEL THAT HURT. AND THEN AGAIN MAYBE HE KNOWS THE HURT CAME FROM THE ONE TIME A WOMAN DID TOUCH HIM INSIDE. IT WASN'T NO GENTLE TOUCH... AND HE FIGURES ONCE FOR THAT WAS ENOUGH TOO....

STRIDESPIDER SPONGE-ROT



IT WAS YEARS AGO WHEN SPOOK HAD KNOWN LOVE! HER NAME WAS SARENA, AND HER BEAUTY WAS PARALLELED ONLY BY HER LEERING EVIL! THE WOMAN IS NOW OLD, HER FLESH NOT TOUCHED BY THE GRAVE THAT PRESERVES THE SPOOK! HER BEAUTY IS GONE... BUT HER EVIL IS GREATER THAN EVER!

SHE IS A **RITUALIST**... A HIGH **PRIESTESS** OF THE DARK **VOODOO** RITES. HER BARE FEET SILENTLY PAD FORWARD WITH THE FLUID AND GRACE OF A STALKING ANIMAL, IRREVERENTLY TRODDING THE GRAVES IN HER DIRECT PATH...

HER CARRIAGE IS REGALLY IMPERIOUS AND HER MANNER HAUGHTY... ALMOST **CONTEMPTUOUS** IN ITS UTTER DISRESPECT FOR THESE MOUNDED RESTING PLACES OF THE **DEAD**...

SHE DEFILES THESE MUTE GRAVES, NOT IN THE **CONVENTIONAL** MANNER...

... FOR SHE **PAUSES** AT EACH, PLACING HER FOOT **GENTLY** UPON THEM, PENETRATING THE EARTH WITH LANGUIDLY QUESTING TOES... SQUIRMING **DEEPER** AS IF TO CARESS THE VERY **SOULS** OF THESE GRAVES... AND A SUBTLE **TREMOR** COURSES THROUGH HER BODY.

AND, AS THOUGH BY SOME MYSTIC **TRANSFERENCE**, HER SMOLDERING **BEAUTY** AND HER **YOUTH** RETURN TO HER WITH EACH PASSED GRAVE... UNTIL, REACHING THE **SIMMERING FIRE**, SHE **GLOWS** WITH A VIBRANCY TRANSCENDING NORMAL RESOURCES.

SHE HALTS BEFORE THE FIRE, HER BODY FLEXED RIGID, A STATUE OF VIVID PAGAN **WANTONNESS**... AND THE DANCERS **CEASE** THEIR FRENZY, THE DRUMS SUBSIDE TO MURMURING **THROBS**!

EXPECTANCY HOVERS IN THE AIR LIKE A DARKLING CLOUD GATHERING THE FURY OF STORM. THE CREOLE WOMAN MAKES A SLIGHT, IMPATIENT GESTURE... AND THE DRUMS **INTENSIFY** IN RESPONSE!

SHE BEGINS HER WALK, A WALK OF PROUD **DEFIANCE** WHICH CIRCUMSCRIBES THE SHUDDERING FIRE... A SLOW STRUTTING WALK OF EROTICALLY SUBDUED CADENCE. HER HEAD IS TILTED UP, LIPS TIGHTLY POUTING, AND HER HIPS SWAY **IMPOSSIBLY** TO THE **EMPHATIC** TEMPO...



RIDGED MUSCLES RIPPLE UNDER THE TAUT SKIN OF HER BELLY AS SHE WRITHES IN A SINUOUS CHOREOGRAPHY OF **LUST**. HER BREASTS **HEAVE** TO EACH CALCULATED BEAT OF THE DRUM...!

HER LIPS ARE TAINTED WITH A SMILE OF LUBRICIOUS GLEE... **LEWD GLEE**...

...A GLEE WHICH ENDURES LONG MOMENTS AS THE WOMAN'S LITHE BODY **SHUDDERS** SPASMODICALLY, AND HER DANCE BECOMES AN UNRESTRAINED DISPLAY OF RANDOM **FURY**, FLAILING ARMS AND LURCHING **FRENZY**...!

AND THEN A **SNAKE** IS HURLED TOWARD HER **BERSERK** FORM...!

THE WOMAN **WELCOMES** THE SERPENT, SYMBOLIC OF **DIAMBALLA**, THE **SNAKE SPIRIT**...! SHE ALLOWS ITS TWINING LENGTH TO EMBRACE THE SINEWS OF HER ARM...!

AND STILL THE CONGREGATED VOODOOISTS GAPE IN **AWE** AT HER PERVERSED **GLORY** OF HER DANCE... AT HER SABLE SKIN GLAZED **MOLTEN** BY THE **FLAMES**...!

THE SERPENT, MOST POWERFUL OF THE **LOA**... THE VOODOO **SPIRITS**... TRAVELS DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE PRIESTESS' ARM... COILS HER BODY WITH SLITHERING CARESSES...

...AND IT IS THEN THAT A BREATHLESS GASP, A LOW **MOAN**, AND QUICKENING SOBS OF FOUL **ECSTASY** ISSUE FROM THE SULTRY DANCER'S FLACCID LIPS.



A RESILIENT POLE OF SAPLING SINKS DEEPLY INTO UNSEEN, YIELDING **MUCK**... SMOOTHLY PROPELLING A MODEST SKIFF **FORWARD**...!

UPON THE GLIDING CRAFT STANDS A LEANLY MUSCLED **MAN**... A MAN WITH A MISSION, AND **MEMORIES**...



...MEMORIES OF SLEEP HARSHLY JANGLED
BY A SHRILL, STRIDENT VOICE...

DEAD MAN... WOULD YOU
SLEEP WHEN I BRING YOU
FORBODINGS OF
DEPRIVITY...?

...A VOICE WRAPPED IN SIBILANT
URGENCY... A VOICE BELONGING TO
JEESALA, A HIDEOUS OLD CRONE...!

...A MAD WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO
BE THE PURVEYOR OF INFINITE,
SPIRITUAL WISDOM.

IT IS NO BUSINESS OF MINE,
DEAD MAN, BUT IT MIGHT
INTEREST YOU THAT THE
SPIRITS OF THE DEAD
REPOSE IN **RESTLESS**
GRAVES THIS NIGHT.

EXPLAIN
YOURSELF,
OLD
WOMAN.

THERE IS A
WOMAN WHO
VAINLY PRETENDS
TO THE STATURE
OF A **VOODOO**
PRIESTESS! IN
TRUTH SHE IS A
PETTY **DABBLER**
IN THE DARK
FORCES.

BUT KNOW
THAT SHE **DOES**
WIELD **POWER**,
DEAD MAN. SHE
KNOWS THE
GRIS-GRIS, THE
FETISHES, THE
RITUALS...
PRIMITIVE
AS THEY BE.

SHE IS ARMED
WITH AMBITION
AND WRATH. HER
WRATH IS ONE YOU
HAVE FELT YOURSELF,
DEAD MAN... A
HATRED FOR THE
WHITES WHO
ENSLAVE BLACKS...!

AND HER AMBITION
IS **POWER**... THE
POWER TO **VENT**
HER WRATH, TO
EXERCISE HER
HATRED.

SHE HAS TRIED
TO FOMENT **REBELLION** AMONG THE
ENSLAVED ONES, BUT THEY ARE
COMPLACENT, AND WILL **NOT** FOLLOW
HER PATH OF VIOLENT **REVOLT**!

BUT SHE IS A **DETERMINED** WOMAN
AND HAS APPEALED TO THE RITES OF
VOODOO, THAT SHE MAY EXERT INFLUENCE
AND POWER OVER THE **DEAD**.

EVEN NOW SHE PREPARES THE RITE, CONSORTING WITH **DHAMBALLA** TO **RESURRECT** THE DEAD...

... A **HOST** OF THE **DEAD** WHICH SHE WILL LEAD INTO A MISSION OF **SLAUGHTER**. AND HER MACHINATIONS DO NOT STOP THERE, DEAD MAN...! SHE PLANS TO FORCE HER ZOMBIES TO **MURDER** BLACK SLAVES WHO WOULD NOT FOLLOW HER...!

AYE... SHE SEEKS TO SEND **ALL** THE **BLACKS** TO DEATH, THAT SHE MY LATER **RAISE** THEM FROM THE DEAD AS A VAST **ARMY** OF ZOMBIES UNDER **HER** COMMAND ALONE...!

WITH THIS **ARMY** SHE INTENDS TO **MASSACRE** THE **WHITES** SHE SO FERVENTLY **DETESTS**!

SO YOU SEE, DEAD MAN, WHILE SHE CLAIMS TO HATE THE **WHITES** FOR ENSLAVING THE **BLACKS**...

... IN TRUTH, SHE **HERSELF** WOULD ENSLAVE THE **BLACKS**... IN **LOYAL** **DEATH**, AS HER MINDLESS, SOUL-LESS ZOMBIES.



I **THOUGHT** YOU WOULD DESIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MATTER, DEAD MAN, AND ONCE INFORMED... **ACT** UPON THE KNOWLEDGE...!

NOW THAT I HAVE **APPRISED** YOU, IT IS HOPED THAT YOU WILL **REMEMBER**... AND **RETURN** THE FAVOR IN DUE TIME...!



THE MAN REMEMBERS THAT HE HAD NOT **ANSWERED**... AND HERE HIS MEMORIES **END**...!

HIS CONCENTRATION IS **BROKEN** BY THE REMOTE THUNDER OF RITUAL **DRUMS**...!



HE KNOWS THE **VOODOO** GRAVEYARD IS **NEAR**.

A SLICK GLOSS OF PERSPIRATION COVERS THE WOMAN'S BODY SHE PROSTRATES HERSELF UPON THE EARTH, TWISTING AND WRITHING IN THE THROES OF DESPERATE, INNER **PASSION**.

HER BODY **CHURNS** VIOLENTLY... **SPASMS** RIPPLE THROUGH HER CONTORTING FORM...

... AND THE DRUMS SCALE THE CRESCENDO OF **MADNESS** AS SHE **UNITES** WITH HER DEMON-LOVER, **DHAMBALLA**... WHOSE INTANGIBLE PRESENCE IS HINTED ONLY BY THE SYMBOLIC **SERPENT** COILING HER FEVER-THRASHED BODY...



IN HELL-LICKED **DEMENTIA** THE SCENE IS PLAYED... HER FLESH OFFERED IN UNKOLY SUBMISSION TO THE **SERPENT-SPIRIT**, AND AS IT IS **POSSESSED** A LIVID MASK OF EXCRUCIATING BLISS SEIZES HER FACE...

UNTIL SHE SHRIEKS IN ECSTATIC AGONY.

AAAAARGGGHHH! FHH!

A SHRIEK WHICH CHARGES THE AIR WITH AWAKENED **SORCERY**...

... A RAW-THROATED SHRIEK WHICH ELICITS THE ABRUPT DISPLACEMENT OF **SOIL** AND CAUSES GNARLED **HANDS** TO BURST FREE OF SMOTHERING **GRAVES**...

...THE GROPING HANDS OF **CORPSES**...

... FOLLOWED BY **BODIES** RIPE WITH THE STEAMING STENCH OF **DECAY**... INFESTED WITH BLOATED **WORMS**, FLESH FLAPPING IN GRUESOME **RAGGED TATTERS**...



ANIMATED CORPSES,
CORPSES INFUSED WITH A
GHASTLY SEMBLANCE
OF LIFE...

... **MOLDERING CORPSES**
WHICH LURCH UP THROUGH
STREAMING CASCADES OF
GRAVEDIRT...



... **GELID-EYED CADAVERS**
WHICH ARE BUT DEATH-
ROTTED **PARODIES** OF
LIFE...

... **ZOMBIES!**



ZOMBIES WHICH SHAMBLE
FORWARD ON DEATH-MIRED
LEGS, TO SLOWLY CONGREGATE
BEFORE THE VODOO FLAME.

THE PRIESTESS RISES, FLUSHED,
HAGGARD, HER HEAVING BODY
DEPLETED OF LUST, **EXHAUSTED.**

AND **STILL** THE CRAZED
DRUMMERS SOUND THEIR
FRENZY...



... **UNTIL...**



... **ONE OF THEM SLUMPS FORWARD,**
CHEST SPROUTING A GLITTER-EDGED
LENGTH OF SHARP **PAIN...**

THE **OTHERS** FALTER, THE CEREMONIAL
BEAT DRIBBLING INTO **SILENCE...** THE
SILENCE OF **CONFUSION...** AND
SHOCK.



SEETHING WITH **RAGE,** THE PRIESTESS **PIVOTS** TO THE **SOURCE** OF THE
HURLED BLADE... AND **FACES** A CROUCH, TENSED **DEVIL...**

YOU...? H-HOW
CAN IT BE... **Y-YOU'RE**
DEAD...!



SARENA...?
YOUNG... BEAUTIFUL...
JUST AS I REMEMBERED
HER... AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS...?

A BATED MOMENT OF SILENCE, SLICED BY CONVERGING **GLARES**. AND THEN THE PRIESTESS **SCREAMS...**

KILL!

KILL HIM!



BUT FEAR... AND **PANIC**... HAS INFECTED THE HANDFUL OF **LIVING** CULTISTS, LEAVING THEM **DEAF** TO THE HYSTERICAL COMMAND...

... AND THE RESURRECTED **DEAD** ARE **SLOW** TO RESPOND...

KILL HIM I SAY!

THE POWER OF **DHAMBALLA** COMMANDS YOU: **KILL HIM!**



BUT EVENTUALLY THEY **DO** RESPOND...

...IN A HORRID, ERRATIC **GAIT**, SHUFFLING FEET STRAINING THROUGH THE TORPOR OF **DEATH**...



SOMEWHERE NEARBY, A TOAD GRATES THE STILLNESS WITH ITS OBSCENE **MATING CALL**...

...A **SLASHING** DEMON WHO **HALTS** THE DEAD-THING'S STUMBLING FEET...

... AND THE FOREMOST ZOMBIE NEARS THE CROUCHED VISAGE OF A DEMON FROM **HELL**...

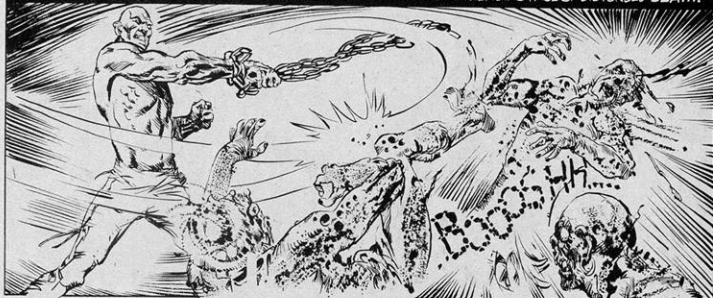


... AND HALTS, TOO, THE ENTIRE **FOREFRONT** OF THIS **BLASPHEMOUS MARCH!**



THEY CALL HIM *THE SPOOK*... A *LEGEND* WHO *SURGES*
 INTO THE SCRABBING RANKS OF ANIMATED CADAVERS...

...HIS WHIPPED CHAIN *PULPING* THE
 UNCOMPREHENDING FACE OF DISTURBED *DEATH*!



THE ZOMBIES ARE *LETHARGIC*...
 MINDS AND BODIES *SLOWED*... NO
 MATCH FOR THIS *LEGEND* CHARGED
 WITH DEVASTATING *SPEED* AND
 SUPPLE *AGILITY*...!

DECOMPOSED FLESH *EXPLODES*
 FROM *CHAIN-LASHED* BODIES...

...PUTRESCENT ICHOR SPURTS
 AND BUBBLES FROM PITIFUL
 CREATURES MEETING DEATH A
SECOND TIME...!

THE *LEGEND* IS A *FURY*... A
 WITHERING TEMPEST OF DEATH,
 AND THE WALKING CORPSES FALL
SWIFTLY BEFORE HIS ONSLAUGHT.

BUT *MANY* ARE THE NUMBER OF
 ZOMBIES TO STALK THIS HOT NIGHT,
 HELPLESS PUPPETS CONTROLLED
 BY A SINGLE DEPRAVED FORCE...



...AND AS FETID *DROVES* OF THE UNDEAD SWARM OVER THE MAN,
 SLIMING HIM WITH THE CORRUPTION OF THE GRAVE, THEIR CLAMMY HANDS
 GROPPING AND CLUTCHING FOR HIM...

...HE SENSES THAT ONLY *ONE*
 ACTION WILL *STOP* THEM...



...AND THAT ACTION FOCUSES ON...



...ELIMINATING...

NOOOOOOOO!



...THE SINGLE CONTROLLING
FORCE OF *DEPRAVITY*.

A SWIFT, POWERFUL KICK
SENDS THE VODOO SORCESS
INTO HELLISH FLAMES OF THE
RITUAL *BONFIRE*...!

EEEEEEEEEE!



THE GURGLING SHRIEK SUBSIDES TO AN AGONIZED MOAN,
MINGLED WITH THE BRITTLE SPUTTER OF *FLESH* EMBRACED IN
FLAME!

BILLIOWING SMOKE SMUDGES THE AIR ABOVE THE GRAVEYARD... AND
WHEN EVEN THE *MOAN* FINALLY CROONS TO SILENCE, THE
ZOMBIES CRUMPLE AS ONE...

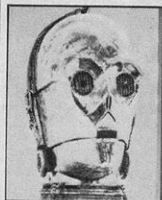


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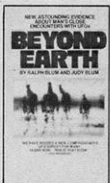
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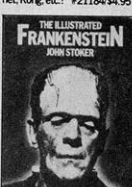
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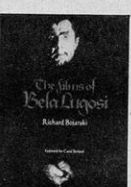
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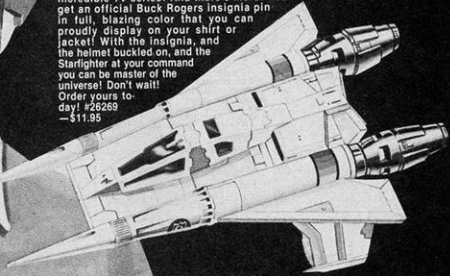


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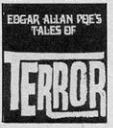
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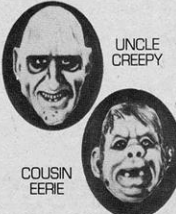
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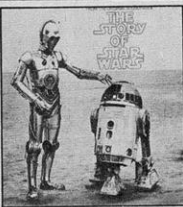


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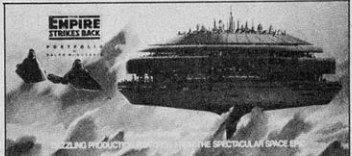
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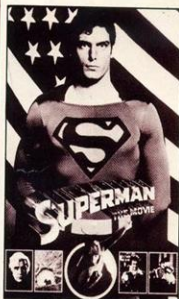


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SUPERMAN™

UP, UP and AWAY with SOME of SUPERMAN'S FAVORITE THINGS!

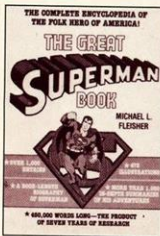
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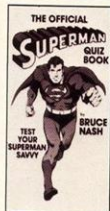
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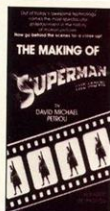
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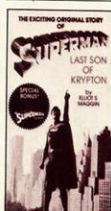
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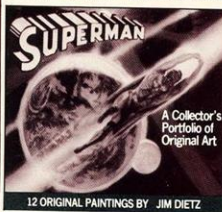
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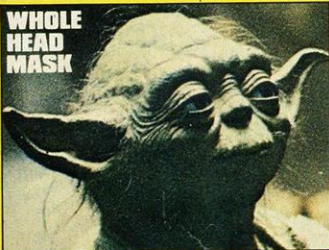
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