

WARREN  
MAGAZINE



EERIE  
#111

# EERIE

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JUNE 1980

DEATH,  
DESTRUCTION  
AND  
SACRIFICIAL  
VIRGINS...

MIND BOGLING  
ADVENTURE  
BEGINS ON  
PAGE 45



# STAR WARS

## ELECTRONIC GAME COMPUTER AND RADIO CONTROLLED SAND CRAWLER

### STAR WARS ELECTRONIC ACTION BATTLE COMPUTER

**STAR WARS ELECTRONIC BATTLE COMMAND** An exciting new intergalactic electronic combat game which allows you to simulate the battle actions from Star Wars. From the simple to the complex, from one to three players, this new electronic game allows for any level of play! Simulate interstellar dogfights, simulate all the elements of hyperspace action such as the landing on Magma, being trapped in a black hole and having your force units drained. Then contend with the hidden wrinkles of hyperspace that can bounce you into other sectors of the universe! For hours of combat thrills play against your friends or the machine itself! Uses 6 AA batteries or a special adapter not included! #26197/\$49.95



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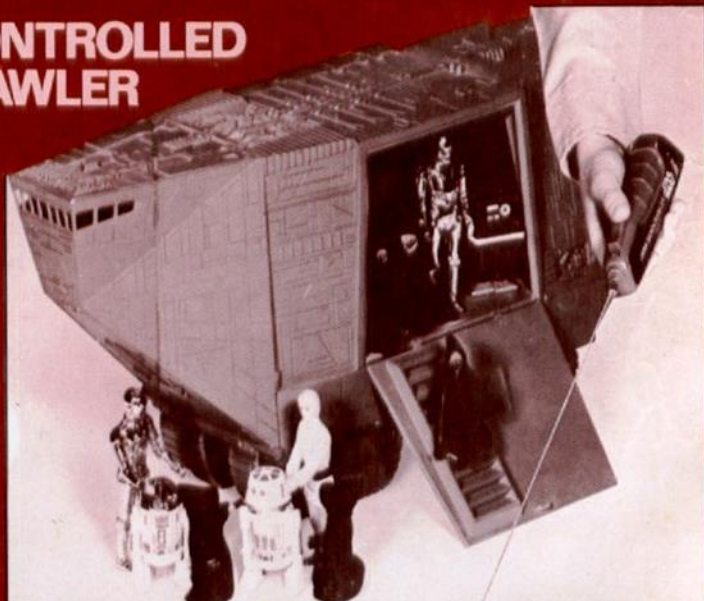
Use the radio control box to help Jawas escape Stormtrooper



Set up Jawas and R2-D2 at the "control" panels.



Elevator lifts R2-D2 and other STAR WARS figures into Sand Crawler.



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# EERIE

JUNE 1980

NUMBER 111

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## BLOOD ON BLACK SATIN 5

Satanic evil has slept undisturbed for two hundred years in the quaint English village of Middlesex. But now the warlock Simon Whately has returned from the dead ready to unleash Satan's minions on the world. Only one thing is needed before hell breaks loose: the sacrifice of Heather McKinnon on All Hallows Eve!



## MOTO, PSYCHO-COP 17

Ah so! Mr. Moto, psycho-cop from honorable FBI, on the trail of dastardly psycho film producer who wants to start interstellar war. Conundrums run rampant and so do alien Cygnians as an underground psycho-film factory churns out films of hate! Can Moto nip this menace in the bud or will Earth face an interstellar war?



## SAMURAI: THE MESSENGER 25

The Young Master returns! Having escaped from the death squads of the ninja Lord Yagyu twice, the young Master and Princess Yuki continue their journey through medieval Japan. Lord Yagyu's death squads won't give up and the Young Master is being stalked by the Great Lord's messenger!



## MAC TAVISH 33

Poor Mac Tavish! Spider Andromeda is mad at him, Rainbow Mining is still trying to make a meal out of Rara Avis and Ida Lizer, the servicing machine, isn't sure she/it wants to become human and marry Mac! And if that weren't enough, every Rara Avan is after Mac for the alleged murder of Spider by the Zodiac Marines!



## HAXTUR 45

Haxtur is trapped in a land beyond death with no hope of return to Earth. If that weren't bad enough, he has somehow managed to anger the local gods! Even hell hath no fury like a god spurned! All the natives were afraid of it. What was the secret of its power? Only one thing was as clear as crystal . . . Beware of Glahb!

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# DEAR COUSIN EERIE



EERIE #109 was one of the finest issues in many moons! With his third great insect painting, **Kirk Reinert** has managed to establish himself as one of **Warren's** major finds. It would be nice though, if just once he would paint a cover not featuring a bug!

If for nothing else this issue would be memorable for the opening episode of "Blood On Black Satin" by **Doug Moench** and **Paul Gulacy**. Judging from this installment it may turn out to be one of the greatest EERIE epics of all time. It has been a long time since **Doug Moench** has been represented in the pages of any **Warren** magazine. Perhaps he has been saving himself up for this one. And **Paul Gulacy's** art is nothing short of stupendous. I'll be eagerly looking forward to the rest of this series.

The fifth episode of "Beastworld" wasn't much in itself. But that doesn't mean that **Bruce Jones** wasn't setting us up for a slam-bang ending. There were a few hints that he is preparing a real zinger for the finale. We'll see. Meanwhile there was more of **Pablo Marcos' art** to admire.

"Race of the Damned" was the weakest story of the issue. The whole idea was just too silly to be taken seriously. **Buz Valtz' art** work is nice as long as he doesn't draw people.

Now the **Samurai** story "Fugue State" was more like it. Author **Larry Hama** does a better job of integrating flashbacks into his stories than I have seen in quite some time. The result is much more dramatic than if the plot had been allowed to proceed in a straight chronological manner. **Val Mayerik's art** was once again stunning. It was the most effective use of wash I have encountered in comics. Each episode is a visual nirvana.

The latest in the **MacTavish** series, "The End of the Game," was also good. Co-scripters **Alabaster Redzone** and **Alex Southern** managed to keep it moving, and I would never complain about **Moreno Casares' art**. The only fault that I can find with this series is that sometimes there is too great a gap between episodes, so occasionally one will forget threads of the plotline.

If you can keep future issues of EERIE up to this level, I will be more than a satisfied customer!

**BRIAN CADEN**  
Cincinnati, Oh.

I picked up EERIE #109, which was the first EERIE I have looked at in three years, because the cover caught my eye. The preying mantis by **Kirk Reinert** was very striking.

The story "Blood On Black Satin" was also quite good. Once I finished the story I could hardly wait to read the sequel. The script by **Doug Moench** was a genuine cliffhanger, and the art by **Paul Gulacy**, superb.

The remaining stories within issue #109 were real attention holders, as well. It was a book in which you put a little horror, combined with the supernatural and threw in a lot of adventure. It was a perfect combination!

**ANTHONY PATE**  
Laurinburg, N.C.

I remember a long time ago I read EERIE. And then for a longer time I didn't read it (shame on me). When I did start picking up EERIE again the stories simply didn't seem to be as good. I thought this was because I was older and perhaps my tastes had changed.

Nonetheless, I recently bought some back issues to see why the magazine wasn't as good as it once was. I also wanted to collect some of those beautifully haunting covers of old.

I discovered that the inside art was not as illustrative yesteryear as it is today. But it was more frightening. The stories, however, were better then, and the covers were the best of all.

It seems that in recent years science fiction has completely replaced horror. Why may I ask?

**PAUL TUBBS**  
Green Pond, Ala.

As everyone knows, science fiction has been extremely popular the last several years, Paul. We've just been giving EERIE readers the type of story they've requested!

## Dear Cousin Eerie,

c/o Warren Publishing Co.  
445 East 32nd Street  
New York, NY 10016

I just started reading EERIE again, and I think that the latest issues are excellent.

I enjoyed the artwork of **Paul Gulacy** in "Blood On Black Satin" in EERIE #109, and I like the **Samurai** series. I think that the artwork and the story are perfect.

Keep up the good work!

**JIMMY BERYDAS**  
Covington, Ky.

EERIE #109 was the first issue of EERIE I have ever purchased, even though I'm a regular reader of one of the other **Warren** magazines: **VAMPIRELLA**.

I usually don't pay much attention to the names of writers or artists, but being something of an artist myself, I couldn't help but notice the fantastic art on the story "Blood On Black Satin" by **Paul Gulacy**.

Could you tell me if the art was done all in pencil?

**DOUG BISHOP**  
Little Rock, Ark.

**Paul's** exquisite artwork is produced with a special ink called lamp-black, Doug. It can be found in any good art store!

EERIE #109 was one of the better issues to see print in a long time. It started off with a very fine cover of a preying mantis by **Kirk Reinert**. His drawing of the insect was sheer perfection. But I'm afraid that his rendering of women in distress simply can't compete with past cover artists such as **San Julian**.

"Blood On Black Satin" was the best story in the issue because of the excellent and very realistic artwork of **Paul Gulacy**, and a good, understandable story by **Doug Moench**. I can't wait for the next episode.

"Beastworld" was good as usual. But I have the feeling that the story could have ended a couple of episodes ago. Let's cut the stretching and end this story before I lose interest!

The latest **Samurai** installment, "Fugue State," was the first episode of this series that I have read. I've always hated martial arts epics, but the artwork on this one was so good that I was impelled to read it. I must admit that it was a rather good story. I'm eagerly awaiting the next episode.

As for **MacTavish**, I can honestly say that this is the worst story ever to appear in a **Warren** magazine. The artwork of **Moreno Casares** is amateurish, boring and just plain bad! The story plods along issue after issue, putting everyone to sleep. Please get rid of this horrendous series as soon as possible. Even blank pages would be better than this nonsensical crap.

**ALAN NORDMARK**  
Dalton, Pa.



# Blood on Black Saffin

MALCOLM AVERY'S *STORY* WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A PLAYFUL PIECE ABOUT THE ALL HALLOWS EVE FESTIVAL IN A QUANT, TIME LOST TOWN BOUND BY *SUPERSTITIONS* AND BLOODY HAUNTINGS. TRUE, THERE'D BEEN THE "DRUID SLAYING" OF A YOUNG WOMAN WITHIN THE TOWN. BUT THEN, *MURDERS* OCCUR EVERYWHERE!

THE *MAIN* REASON MALCOLM HAD ACCEPTED THE ASSIGNMENT, WAS THE CHANCE TO SEE *HEATHER MCKINNON* ONCE AGAIN. AND THAT'S WHERE THE TROUBLE *BEGAN!* HEATHER'S UNCLE, *JOCK MCKINNON*, TOLD A HELLISH TALE OF THE TOWN'S *DEMONIC POSSESSION* IN 1780... SPEARHEADED BY THE WARLOCK *SIMON WHATELY*, WHO HAD BEEN HUNG TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THIS VERY NIGHT, AND NOW *WHATELY* HAD *RETURNED* TO MIDDLESEX, *JOCK* CLAIMED, AND AT MIDNIGHT THE SOULS OF HIS HANGED FOLLOWERS WOULD BE *RESURRECTED* TO POSSESS THE FLESH OF THE SPELLBOUND TOWNSPEOPLE.

AT FIRST IT WAS SHEER NONSENSE, OF COURSE. BUT IN THE LAST HOUR TOO MANY *INEXPLICABLE* EVENTS HAD TRANSPIRED: THE SPONTANEOUS *COMBUSTION* OF WHATELY'S TRIAL RECORDS, THE GHASTLY *MURDER* OF JOCK MCKINNON, THE *HORNED SKELETONS* IN THE COURTHOUSE CRYPT... AND THEN THE APPEARANCE OF *WHATELY* HIMSELF.



SHEER **TERROR** SWARMS DOWN THE  
ANCIENT STREET...



INSANE, SCREAMING,  
BLOOD-LUSTING  
TERROR...



OUT OF PLACE IN A SEEMINGLY  
**RATIONAL** TWENTIETH CENTURY  
WORLD!



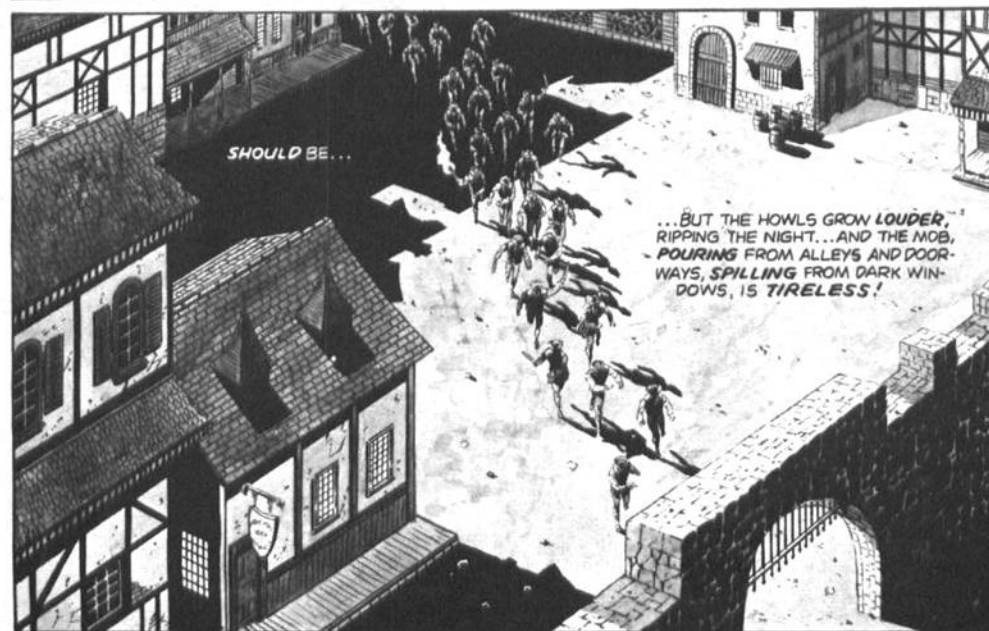
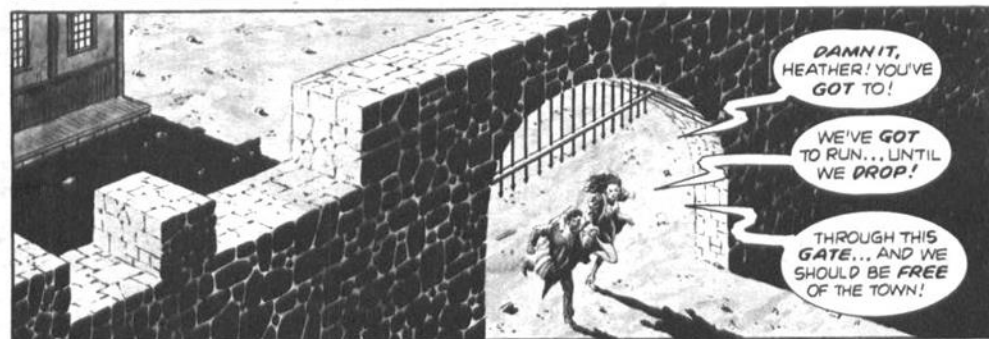
MY CAR!  
IT'S OUR ONLY  
CHANCE!



THE GLOW OF THE BRIGHT,  
ALMOST SUPERNATURAL  
**FLAMES** RIPS AT THESE  
FACES, COLD NUMBING **FEAR**  
WRENCHES THEIR VERY **SOULS!**  
**EVERYONE** IS THEIR ENEMY!  
THE NIGHT BELONGS TO THE  
**MURDEROUS**, WHO WHOOP  
AND HOWL LIKE A PACK OF  
BLOOD-THIRSTY HOUNDS!

AND THE SOUND OF THEIR  
PURSUIT GROWS **LOUDER...**  
**NEARER!**







AND THEN...

A SECOND GATE! TH-THERE'S NOWHERE TO TURN...NOWHERE TO RUN!



THE MOB IS UPON THEM LIKE RAVENOUS BEASTS!

NO! LET GO OF ME! MALCOLM... HELP ME!

BE STILL, WENCH! 'TIS ONLY YER BLOOD WE SEEK!



HELP ME!!

HER SHOULDER! IT'S THE MARK OF THE PENTAGRAM!

AMID THE FRENZY THE HAUNTING WORDS OF **JOCK MCKINNON** RING IN MALCOLM'S EARS! "THEY CALLED MELISSA STRIBLING'S DEATH A 'DRUID SLAYING' BECAUSE OF THE RITUAL BLOODLETTING. THEY SAID IT WAS THE WORK OF A MANIAC. BUT I'VE KNOWN BETTER FOR TWENTY YEARS..."



L-LEAVE HER...!



"...EVER SINCE I SAW THE CHILD'S BARED SHOULDER WITH THE MARK OF THE PENTAGRAM! SHE WAS FATED TO DIE NOT AT THE HANDS OF A MANIAC BUT TO BE SLAIN BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF!"

KRAK!

LEAVE HER... BE--!

THE PENTAGRAM IS THE LAST THING MALCOLM SEES, A DEAD MAN'S ECHOED WORDS THE LAST HE HEARS... AS HIS MIND EXPLODES WITH PAIN!



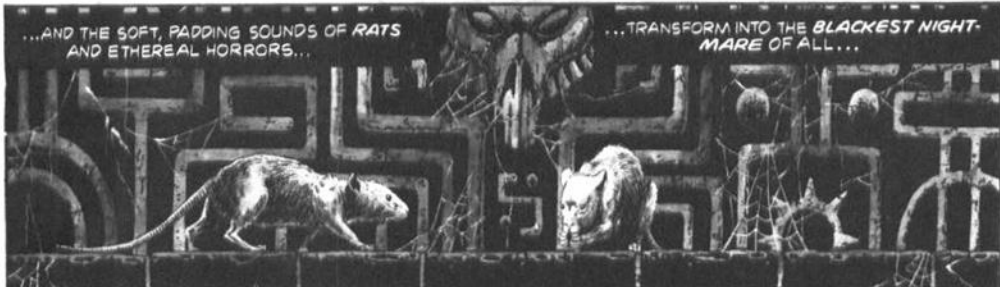
BLACKNESS TUGS AT HIS SOUL! HIS MIND SPINS IN HOPELESS, HELPLESS CONFUSION, AS A HAZE OF GARBLED VOICES AND STARK IMAGES WASH OVER HIM, FOULING HIS VERY BEING WITH THE NERVE-NUMBING STENCH OF EVIL!

FINALLY, AFTER A TIME UNKNOWN, THE NIGHTMARE FOG BEGINS TO DISPERSE...

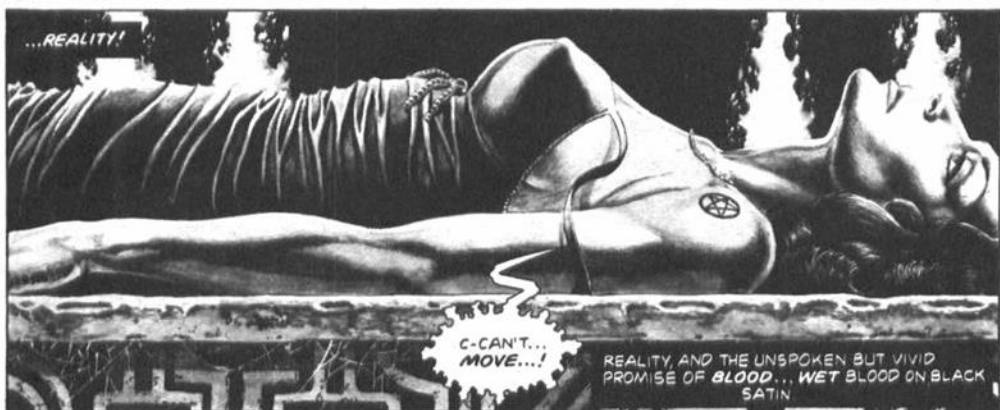


...AND THE SOFT, PADDING SOUNDS OF RATS  
AND ETHEREAL HORRORS...

...TRANSFORM INTO THE **BLACKEST NIGHT-  
MARE** OF ALL...



...**REALITY!**



C-CAN'T...  
**MOVE...!**

REALITY, AND THE UNSPOKEN BUT VIVID  
PROMISE OF **BLOOD**... WET BLOOD ON BLACK  
SATIN

HEAR ME,  
FOLLOWERS! **MIDNIGHT**  
APPROACHES...THE CULMINA-  
TION OF **ALL HALLOWS EVE**,  
AND THE MOMENT WHEN THE  
BLOOD-RED HARVEST MOON  
SHALL ALIGN WITH THE  
PORTAL TO THE **BEYOND!**

THE MOMENT  
TWO HUNDRED YEARS  
OF **FORCED SLUMBER** SHALL  
COME TO AN **END!** WHEN **HELL**  
SHALL AWAKEN AND RISE IN  
TRIUMPH! WHEN THE **BLOOD** OF  
SHE WHO IS MARKED SHALL BE  
**SPILLED**, FULFILLING OUR  
VENGEANCE AND OUR FULL  
AWAKENING...JUST AS THE  
BLOOD OF MELISSA STIRLING  
ENDED MY LONG  
TORMENT IN THE  
CRYPT!









THAT WAS FIVE! I'M LOSING TOO MUCH TIME--!



THEY'RE IN A FRENZY...POSSESSED ...AND THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM!



JOCK MCKINNON WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A SPELL OF EVIL OVER THE ENTIRE TOWN! THEY'RE ALL CAUGHT UP IN IT!

GET AWAY FROM ME, DAMN YOU!



LEGS ACHING... LUNGS BURNING... C-CAN'T GO ON! BUT I'VE GOT TO...F-FOR HEATHER!



HEY! THERE'S THE STRANGER!

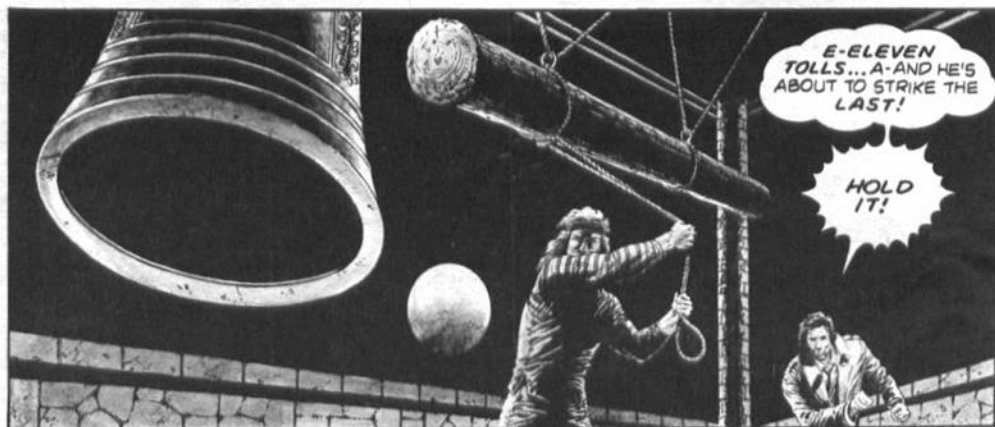
YOU THERE! COME JOIN US! BE ONE WITH US! IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT!



THE NINTH ONE!

STOP! THE REAL FUN STARTS AT MIDNIGHT!









AND IN HER MIND: THE IMAGE OF A COLD  
DAGGER FLASHES! BLOOD RED SPARKS  
SPLATTER THE NIGHT AIR, AND A SCREAM  
OF UTTER TERROR  
CURDLES WITHIN  
HER THROAT!



TH- THEY CAN'T  
WIN! EVIL CAN'T  
WIN!!

K-RRAAK!!



BUT THE TWELFTH STROKE HAS SOUNDED! THE  
ECHOING VIBRATION HAS REACHED THE HONED  
EDGES OF AN ANCIENT BLADE. THE VITAL BLOOD  
HAS BEEN SPILLED!

THE FRENZIED EFFORT... IS A FAILURE....!



AND THE PARTY IS **SPOILED!** THE PARTY BEGUN AND INTERRUPTED TWO HUNDRED YEARS PAST, NOW RESUMED WITH AN **EXPLOSION OF EVIL** SEALED IN STONE FOR TWO CENTURIES!

**EVIL HAS WON!** AND THE INNOCENT CELEBRANTS CANNOT HOPE TO FLEE FROM THE INEVITABLE DEATH THAT WILL RENDER THEIR MASQUERADE **PERMANENT!**





HERE  
NOW!



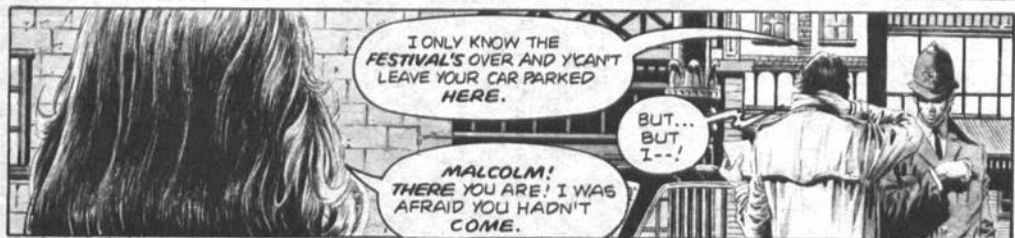
UP AND AT 'EM, SIR!  
THE PARTY'S OVER! IT'S TIME  
THIS TOWN WENT ABOUT ITS  
NORMAL BUSINESS.

UHHNN...!?



WH-WHAT--? THE  
TOWN...IT...IT'S **NORMAL**?  
**NOTHING**...HAPPENED? I...I  
NEVER LEFT THE INN? **DRUNK**  
...THE WHOLE TIME? JUST A  
**DREAM**...OR **DRUGS** IN  
THE **ALE**--?

I  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW,  
SIR.



I ONLY KNOW THE  
FESTIVAL'S OVER AND Y'CAN'T  
LEAVE YOUR CAR PARKED  
HERE.

BUT...  
BUT  
I--!

**MALCOLM!**  
THERE YOU ARE! I WAS  
AFRAID YOU HADN'T  
COME.



WHAT--?  
**YOU!** BUT...  
BUT IT **CAN'T**  
**BE!** YOU'RE  
DE--!

I MEAN...  
ARE YOU SAYING  
I DIDN'T **SEE** YOU  
LAST NIGHT...  
**AT ALL?**



THIS IS THE  
**FIRST TIME** I'VE  
SEEN YOU HERE,  
HEATHER?

OF **COURSE** IT IS, MALCOLM.  
YOU MAY HAVE SEEN **SOME**  
GIRL LAST NIGHT! BUT YOU  
CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEE **ME**.  
WERE YOU TOO **DRUNK**  
TO NOTICE?

I JUST SAID  
GOODBYE TO HIM...  
PROBABLY FOR THE  
**LAST TIME**, I'M  
AFRAID, THE POOR  
OLD MAN...!

NO, I... I  
DON'T--! YOUR  
UNCLE! WHAT ABOUT  
YOUR **UNCLE**,  
HEATHER?!





BUT COME ALONG, MALCOLM! AT LEAST YOU CAN DRIVE ME BACK TO LONDON. DID YOU GET ANYTHING FOR YOUR STORY?

I...  
I'M NOT  
SURE...!



THEY'RE  
LEAVING?

YES.

THEN...IT  
WAS A GOOD  
NIGHT.

YES. ALL  
IN ALL, AN EX-  
TREMELY GOOD  
NIGHT...ONE TO RE-  
MEMBER FOR A  
VERY LONG TIME.



EVEN SO, I THINK  
WE SHOULD HOLD *ANOTHER*  
FESTIVAL...TONIGHT! A  
*SMALLER* ONE, OF COURSE.  
JUST A LITTLE CELEBRATION IN  
HONOR OF OUR FIRST EMISSARY'S  
DEPARTURE. THE FIRST OF *MANY*,  
TO BE SURE, WHO WILL BE  
SPREADING OUR VERY  
SPECIAL EXPORT.



OH, AND BY THE  
WAY...TAKE MY PORTRAIT  
OUT AND *BURN* IT. IT WAS  
NEVER A GOOD LIKENESS  
ANYWAY. BESIDES, NOW WE  
HAVE *PHOTOGRAPHY*,  
DON'T WE?

I SUPPOSE IT WILL  
TAKE *SOME* GETTING USED  
TO. BUT I THINK I'M GOING  
TO *ENJOY* IT HERE.

I HOPE OUR  
EMISSARY WILL  
AGREE...!



THEN IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.  
EVIL *DIDN'T* WIN. IT...IT WAS  
JUST A CRAZY *DRUNK DREAM*  
OR--!

MALCOLM, WHEN  
WE GET BACK TO LONDON,  
LET'S GO STRAIGHT TO  
*MY* PLACE.



I'VE GOT  
A NEW BLACK  
SATIN OUTFIT,  
YOU SEE...

...AND  
I FEEL  
POSITIVELY...  
*WICKED!*

"THE FOG WAS THICKER THAN I'D EVER SEEN IT BEFORE. A MOIST, ICY CURTAIN FLUTTERED PAST ME AND I STRODE THROUGH IT WITH ALL THE CONFIDENCE OF A WOUNDED FAWN! IT WAS A CURTAIN HIDING THE **KILLERS** WHO WAITED FOR ME. A CURTAIN PARTING FOR THE FINAL ACT IN THIS MELODRAMA OF **DEATH**."

"MY NAME? **MOTO!** GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDSON OF THE FAMOUS ORIENTAL SLEUTH. AND I KNEW MY ANCESTORS WERE **DEPENDENT** ON ME. I DARED NOT **FAIL!**"



"THEY HAD THE **GIRL!** SHE WAS THE **BAIT!** A SWEET, INNOCENT KID WHO HAD STUMBLERED INTO THEIR DEADLY PLOT. SHE WAS IN THEIR HANDS AND IT WAS UP TO **ME** TO PRY THEIR FINGERS LOOSE."



# MOTO PSYCHO COP

"MY TRAINED SENSES **DETECTED** THE **CYGNANS'** CLOSE PROXIMITY. I KNEW THEY WERE ARMED WITH **PISTOLS** WHILE I HAD ONLY MY **NAKED FISTS** AND MY KNOWLEDGE OF **KARAT-KUNG-FU**, THE DEADLIEST FORM OF COMBAT KNOWN TO MAN. **STILL**, THE BATTLE WOULD BE AN **EVEN MATCH!**"



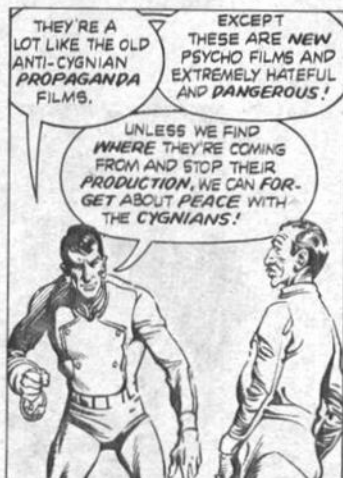


"SHE DESERVED MORE THAN **THIS**. LYING IN THE GUTTER, HER LUNGS **BLOWN** TO SHREDS BY THREE HOT CYGNIAN SLUGS.

SHE **DESERVED** MORE, BUT ALL I COULD OFFER HER NOW WAS..."







THE BOW *BARKS* WITH AN ALMOST-HUMAN NASAL *TWANG!* AND IT FLIES STRAIGHT AND TRUE... EMBEDDING ITSELF DEEP INTO THE WINGED MONSTER'S JUGULAR!

THE PRINCESS *SCREAMS* AS SHE PLUNGES INTO THE SEA.



FANTASTIC!  
I HAVE NEVER  
WITNESSED SUCH ACCURACY  
BEFORE, CAPTAIN!

FISH THE PRINCESS  
OUT OF THE WATER, THEN  
BRING HER TO MY CABIN!

PRINCESS! YOU  
ARE MORE LOVELY THAN  
I EVER IMAGINED. IT IS  
AN HONOR TO HAVE  
RESCUED YOU--!

CAN THE  
PURPLE PROSE,  
MOTO, I'M  
PSYCHO-AGENT  
BRUNELDA!

I'VE BEEN  
WORKING ON THIS  
CASE OUT OF THE  
AGENCY'S L.A.  
OFFICE.

I HAVEN'T MUCH  
TIME, SO LISTEN  
CLOSELY! I DON'T KNOW  
WHO'S BEHIND THE  
FILMING OF THESE PSYCHO  
FANTASIES. BUT I DO  
KNOW WHERE THEY'RE  
BEING MADE...IN  
SANSOM'S STUDIO!

WHAT?!



CHECK OUT  
LOT TWENTY! THEY  
SHOULD BE FILMING  
RIGHT NOW!

THAT'S *SOME*  
LEAD YOU'VE GIVEN  
ME, BRUNELDA. WE'LL  
BUST UP THIS RING  
YET!



HOW CAN  
I EVER  
THANK  
YOU?

SUDDENLY, THE CABIN DOOR  
BURSTS INWARDS. AND A  
SLIME-GREEN GROATIE  
STANDS MENACINGLY BEFORE  
THE PSYCHO COP!

ON YOUR FEET,  
EARTHIAN SCUM!  
WE'VE TAKEN OVER  
THIS SHIP NOW!

GOOD LORD!  
A CYGNIAN!







IT IS A **SMALL** DEATH, REALLY. ONLY AN **INFINTESIMAL** SEGMENT OF MOTO'S **MIND** IS AFFECTED. IT IS A DREAM WHICH HAS ENDED **BADLY**. NOT UNCOMMON, CERTAINLY... AND DEFINITELY NOT A **DISASTER**!



YET TO MOTO, IT IS **FAILURE!** AND **FAILURE** IS A **SHAME** HE CAN NOT **BEAR**... NOT BEFORE HIS INSCRUTABLE, INFALLIBLE **ANCESTORS**!



THEY HAD **ALWAYS** BEEN WITH HIM **GUIDING, WATCHING**. AND HE HAD **FAILED** THEM!

TO MOTO, IT IS HIS **END**!



BUT ON LOT TWENTY OF **SANSOM'S PYSCHO-STORIES STUDIOS**...

"THE SUN BEAT DOWN WITHOUT MERCY PARCHING THE DESERT FLOWERS TO DUST, EVEN THE WATER TROUGHS WERE EMPTY, STEAMING IN THE DRY ARIZONA AIR! THE TOWN WAS **QUIET**, **TOO QUIET**, EVEN ON A HOT DAY LIKE THIS, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN **SOMEONE** ABOUT."



"I DIDN'T GET IT. THE GANG I WAS TRACKING SHOULD HAVE PASSED **THROUGH** HERE, THEN AGAIN ... MAYBE THEY WERE STILL IN **TOWN!**"







AND ALL THIS TIME THE **REAL MOTO** NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS STARRING IN THE VERY STORIES HE WAS TRYING TO STOP!

WE PROVIDED THE STORIES AND HE PROVIDED THE HERO...!

WITH RE-NEWED CONFLICTS A CERTAINTY MY WAR MACHINE FACTORIES WILL BEGIN TO MAKE MONEY AGAIN!



I'LL BE A RICH, RICH MAN ...THANKS TO MR. MOTO!



AS THEY RAISE THEIR GLASSES TO DRINK A TOAST, A WELL-PLACED BULLET SHATTERS THEIR NERVES!



YOU PAINT A PRETTY SCENARIO, SANSOM! FORTUNATELY FOR US ALL...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT!

YOU! YOU'RE NOT AN ACTOR! YOU'RE A PSYCHO-AGENT!



YOU GOT IT, PARD! AND I HAVE YOUR RECORDED CONFESSION COMPLETE WITH THE DETAILS ON HOW YOU MURDERED AGENT MOTO!

Y-YOUR RESEMBLANCE TO MOTO IS UNCANNY. ARE YOU A RELATIVE OF HIS?

HA! HA! HA! AS YOU PEOPLE SAY... ALL OF US AMERICANIZED ORIENTALS LOOK ALIKE TO YOU!



BUT I AM THE DESCENDANT OF ANOTHER FAMOUS ORIENTAL GUMSHOE.

MY NAME IS CHAN, NUMBER 202 SON!

end




















HOWEVER, I'VE  
**CHANGED** MY MIND.  
I HAVE DECIDED **NOT**  
TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE.  
THE TWO SHALL **LIVE!**

**IMPOSSIBLE!**



**IMPOSSIBLE?**

YOU ARE  
**HONOR BOUND**  
TO DELIVER THE  
MESSAGE, JUST AS  
• THE **YOUNG MASTER**  
IS HONOR BOUND TO  
**SLAY** THE GIRL  
ONCE ORDERED  
TO DO SO!

VERY TRUE,  
OH MASTER OF THE  
POISON SWORD! BUT  
THERE IS NOTHING  
IN MY CODE OF  
HONOR...

... TO PREVENT  
ME FROM **FIRST**  
ATTEMPTING TO **SLAY**  
ALL WITHIN THE  
SYNDICATE OF  
TWENTY!



HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!





SHOOOOO!

THOK!



end



THE FINAL CHAPTER. LIKE THE LUCKLESS GOOSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG, THE DISCOVERY OF THE PRICELESS IMMORTALITY ELEMENT, POLYPRISMITE, HAS BROUGHT ONLY DEATH AND DISASTER TO THE TINY PLANET RARA AVIS. BEHIND THE TURMOIL IS AN EARTHMAN, GORGO, HEAD OF RAINBOW MINING, WHO, BY DIKT OF DOUBLE-CROSS, CORRUPTION, AND ASSASSINATION, MEANS TO TAKE OVER THE PLANET AT ANY AND ALL COSTS.

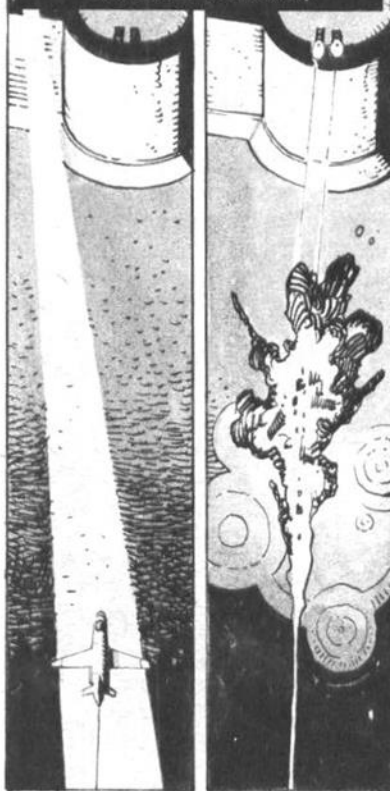
ONLY SPIDER ANDROMEDA, FRIEND AND FORMER PARTNER OF MAC TAVISH AND LEADER OF THE REBELLION FORCES, HAS STOOD BETWEEN GORGO AND HIS TAKEOVER OF RARA AVIS. BUT THE YEARS OF FIGHTING HAVE TAKEN A GRIEVOUS TOLL ON SPIDER, PUSHING HIM TO THE BRINK OF INSANITY.

FINALLY, WITH MAC'S RELUCTANT AID, SPIDER AND HIS ROBOT REVOLUTIONARIES MAKE A LAST DITCH ASSAULT ON GORGO, AND THE ZODIAC MARINES BROUGHT IN TO CRUSH THE REBELLION. IT FAILS SPECTACULARLY... SO MUCH SO THAT SPIDER, TRULY MAD BY NOW, BLAMES MAC FOR THE DISASTER, AND VOWS A TERRIBLE REVENGE.

NOW A HOVERCRAFT OF MYSTERIOUS ORIGIN SKIMS RAPIDLY ABOVE THE RESERVOIR LAKE, HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF RAINBOW MINING, IN THE SUPERSTRUCTURE KNOWN AS... OASIS.

**mac  
Tavish**  
50  
MILLION  
SPACEMEN  
CAN'T BE  
WRONG

SUDDENLY, A SEARCHLIGHT FINDS THE HOVERCRAFT, AND IT IS INSTANTLY FIRED UPON. THE CRAFT IS HIT, AND EXPLODES VIOLENTLY.



ON THE LAKE SURFACE, ONLY PARTICLES REMAIN OF THE HOVERCRAFT. NO SURVIVORS HERE!



BUT BELOW THE SURFACE, UNDER-WATER, THE PILOT OF THE CRAFT PASSES FORWARD AIDED BY A JET-PAK!



AS HE APPROACHES THE SUPERSTRUCTURE, HE JETS UP OUT OF THE WATER, FOLLOWING THE SIDE OF THE RAIN-BOW BUILDING.



HE SCOUTS ABOVE THE WALL FOR A SHORT TIME, BUT KNOWS WHERE HE IS GOING. HE HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE.



THEN, AT A PARTICULAR ALTITUDE, HE LANDS ON A TERRACE, UNSTRAPPING HIS JETPACK, AND DRAWING HIS MULTI-APPLICATION REVOLVER...

...MAC TAVISH... ENTERS THE BUILDING.





FROM THE SHADOWS, GORGIO'S AIDE COMES FORTH, TURNING THE CHAIR WITH GORGIO IN IT AND AROUND TO TAVISH. GORGIO SITS STILL, BUT HIS EYES LOOK UP TO TAVISH IN A PITYABLE EXPRESSION.



NOW, GORGIO! IT ALL ENDS HERE AND NOW.

STOP!  
TAVISH!  
PLEASE STOP!



HE'S PARALYZED. YOU SEE, CAN'T TALK CAN'T MOVE. THE EXPLOSION DURING THE ATTACK SNAPPED HIS NECK. HE CAN'T HURT YOU ANYMORE.



PLEASE... WE'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT. JUST DON'T HURT US.

HERE, PURE POLYPRISMITE. ALMOST A KILOGRAM OF IT. WITH THIS YOU CAN LIVE HUNDREDS OF YEARS... BECOME VIRTUALLY IMMORTAL.

THIS...STUFF! WHY IS EVERYBODY TRYING TO GIVE ME THIS STUFF!? DON'T YOU SUPPOSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT IMMORTALITY??



MONEY, THEN! NAME YOUR PRICE!

I HAVE MONEY. I WANT GORGIO!

I BEG YOU, TAVISH, TELL ME WHAT TO DO!



GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS. HOW DID GORGIO KNOW ABOUT SPIDER'S ATTACK?

GORGIO WAS PREPARED FOR A POSSIBLE ATTACK BY SPIDER, BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT MIGHT COME FROM. THE TRACER YOU TRIED TO PLANT SOLVED THAT.

SPIDER USED THE TRACER TO LOCATE GORGIO, BUT NEGLECTED TO REALIZE WE COULD USE THAT SAME TRACER TO FIND HIS LOCATION. HIS SQUADRON FLEW RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS.



SHORTLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION, GORGO MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD CRUSHED THE REBELLION. BUT IF HE WAS PARALYZED IN THAT EXPLOSION, AS YOU SAY, HOW WAS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE?

I ACT FOR GORGO NOW. WITH MAKEUP AND TECHNICAL TRICKERY, I MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE BOARD ORDERED ME TO DO IT, SO THAT RARA AVIS WILL REMAIN UNDER THEIR CONTROL.



MAKING YOU THE SURROGATE MOB BOSS. DO I KILL YOU NOW?



THERE ARE NO VILLAINS HERE FOR YOU TO KILL. GORGO, ME, THE ENTIRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES... WE ARE ALL JUST EMPLOYEES OF THE EARTHEN STOCKHOLDERS, WHO DEMAND TO SEE A PROFIT COME THE QUARTERLY BALANCE SHEET.

YOU FOOL, TAVISH! YOU BLIND FOOL!

IF YOU KNOCK OUT ONE OF US, OR A DOZEN, IT MEANS NOTHING! WE WILL BE INSTANTLY REPLACED.

EARTH... THAT IS THE ENEMY, TAVISH. STOCKHOLDERS... BANKS AND BUSINESSES AND CHURCHES AND CHARITIES... MEN AND WOMEN AND KIDS WITH TRUST FUNDS. THEY'VE BEEN THE ENEMY ALL ALONG.



SADLY, MAC NODS, UNDERSTANDING, AND HOLSTERS HIS WEAPON.

YOU'LL RELEASE MY SHIP?



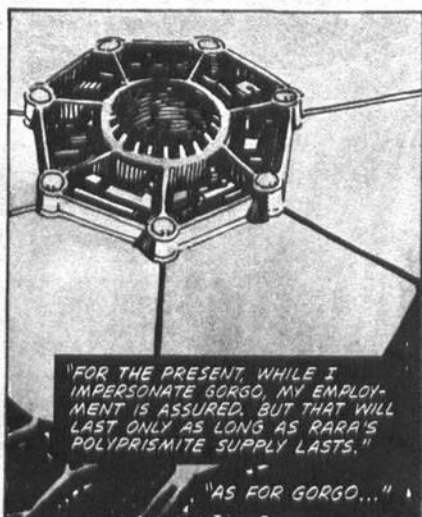
THAT IS BEING DONE AS WE SPEAK.

THE ZODIAC MARINES ARE LEAVING, TOO. BUT THAT WILL BE A TEMPORARY RESPIRE.

EARTH IS WILLING TO SHED ANY AMOUNT OF BLOOD IN ITS SEARCH FOR POLYPRISMITE. RARA AVIS AND SPIDER ANDROMEDA, ARE BUT THE BEGINNING OF A LONG, LONG LINE OF CASUALTIES.



AND WHAT BECOMES OF YOU, AND GORGO?



"FOR THE PRESENT, WHILE I IMPERSONATE GORGO, MY EMPLOYMENT IS ASSURED. BUT THAT WILL LAST ONLY AS LONG AS RARA'S POLYPRISMITE SUPPLY LASTS."

"AS FOR GORGO..."





"...A MONTH AGO HE COMPLETED THE ENTIRE IMMORTALITY TREATMENT."

"UNLESS HE ARRANGES FOR SOMEONE TO KILL HIM, HE WILL REMAIN IN THIS PARALYZED STATE..."

"...FOREVER."

THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE POPULAR SOCIAL SPOT, THE RARE BIRD, MAC BRINGS HIS LOVER, IDA LIZER, UP TO THE MOMENT.



AND SO SPIDER'S OWN TRACER DEVICE LED THE ZODIAC SQUADRON TO HIM! YOU DIDN'T BETRAY HIM, MAC, AND NOW YOU HAVE THE PROOF!

YEAH, I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL SPIDER. BOY, IS HE GOING TO FEEL LIKE A DOPE.

MAC KNOWS THAT THE WOMAN HE WALKS WITH IS MERELY AN ILLUSION, CREATED BY ONE OF A SERIES OF SERVICING MACHINES ON THE PLANET, BUT THIS MAKES IDA NO LESS REAL TO HIM.

HE HAS, IN FACT, FALLEN HEAD-OVER-HEELS IN LOVE WITH THE LADY.

AND AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO DELVIS, TO SEE IF THE MIRACLE MEN SPIDER SPOKE OF CAN MAKE YOU HUMAN. THEN WE'LL GET MARRIED GOOD AND PROPER-LIKE!

AND SPIDER CAN BE BEST MAN!

OH, MAC, IT SOUNDS SO WONDERFUL, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... FUNCTIONING ONLY TO SERVICE SPACEMEN...

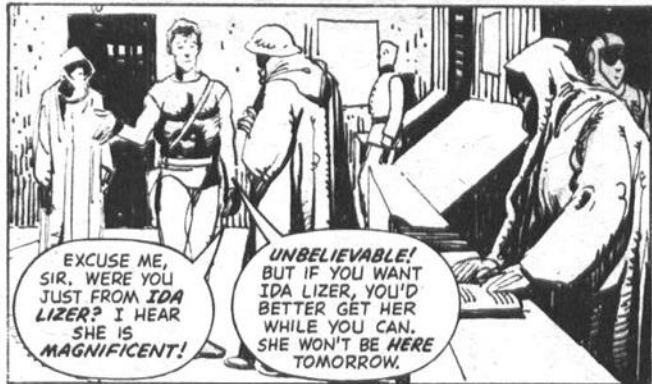
IT SEEMS SO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.

WE'RE NEARING THE FINISH LINE NOW, BABY. BY TOMORROW, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY TO DELVIS.

THE ONLY PROBLEM I FORESEE AT ALL WILL BE MY MOTHER. SHE DOESN'T APPROVE OF MIXED MARRIAGES.

MOMENTS LATER, MAC IS OUT OF THE MACHINE AND ON HIS WAY TO TELL SPIDER THE GOOD NEWS. AS HE GOES, HE PASSES VARIOUS ALIEN SPACERS IN THE RECEPTION AREA.

ONE ALIEN, SWATHED IN DESERT ROBES, TAKES SPECIAL NOTICE OF MAC.



EXCUSE ME, SIR, WERE YOU JUST FROM **IDA LIZER**? I HEAR SHE IS **MAGNIFICENT!**

**UNBELIEVABLE!** BUT IF YOU WANT **IDA LIZER**, YOU'D BETTER GET HER WHILE YOU CAN. SHE WON'T BE HERE TOMORROW.

THE ALIEN BOWS, THANKING MAC IN A THICK GUTTERAL TONGUE, AND WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR.



THE FACE AND THE VOICE OF THE ALIEN SEEM FAMILIAR TO MAC, BUT HE CANNOT IMAGINE FROM WHERE. ONLY WHEN IT IS TOO LATE DOES IT DAWN ON HIM!



**NO!**



**SPIDER! STOP!** YOUR FIGHT IS WITH **ME!!**



AND WITHIN THE MACHINE...

WELCOME, STRANGER. ARE YOU **NEW** TO OUR WORLD?



DON'T YOU **RECOGNIZE** ME, **IDA**?

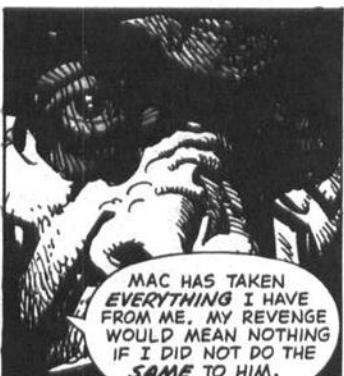
**S-SPIDER?!**



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR **HAIR**, **SPIDER**? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE **BALDING** HA! HA!

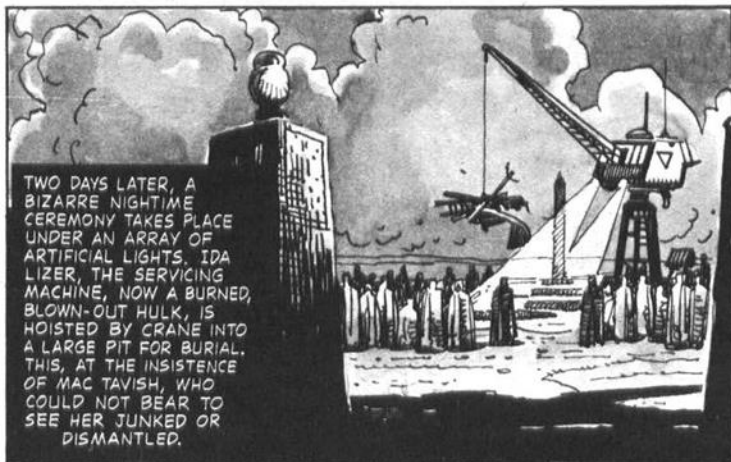


IT IS A **RITUAL** ON MY HOMEWORLD. WHEN A WARRIOR FEELS HE HAS GROWN USELESS TO HIS TRIBE, HE CUTS OFF BODY HAIR AND WONDERS ONTO THE ICE TO DIE.



MAC HAS TAKEN **EVERYTHING** I HAVE FROM ME. MY REVENGE WOULD MEAN NOTHING IF I DID NOT DO THE **SAME** TO HIM.





TWO DAYS LATER, A BIZARRE NIGHTTIME CEREMONY TAKES PLACE UNDER AN ARRAY OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS. IDA LIZER, THE SERVICING MACHINE, NOW A BURNED, BLOWN-OUT HULK, IS HOISTED BY CRANE INTO A LARGE PIT FOR BURIAL. THIS, AT THE INSISTENCE OF MAC TAVISH, WHO COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE HER JUNKED OR DISMANTLED.



SHE WAS THE ONLY INNOCENT IN THIS WHOLE VERY SORDID AFFAIR!

WE WILL BEGIN REBUILDING HER AT ONCE. SHE WAS LIKE... AN INSTITUTION TO US.



YOU CAN BUILD ANOTHER SERVICING MACHINE, BUT IT WON'T BE IDA. SHE WAS **IRREPLACEABLE... IRREPARABLE.** YOU COULD MORE EASILY RECREATE A **HUMAN... OR A RARA!**

WE **DO** HAVE THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING. IT WILL TAKE **YEARS** TO BUILD, AND **MORE YEARS** BEFORE THIS NEW MACHINE RESEMBLES THE "GIRL" YOU KNEW. BUT IT'S NOT **IMPOSSIBLE** MR. TAVISH.



**ONE HUNDRED YEARS.**

THAT'S HOW LONG IT TOOK IDA'S PERSONALITY TO COMPLETELY DEVELOP. IT MAY AS WELL BE AN ETERNITY.

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, ANYWAY, COUNCILMAN.



THE PIT IS COVERED AND THE PEOPLE FILTER AWAY, EXCEPT FOR MAC, WHO STANDS BEFORE THE LARGE LUCITE MONUMENT, A WREATH OF FLOWERS IN HIS HAND.

THERE IS NO WAY I CAN APOLOGIZE, IDA... FOR **SPIDER** OR FOR MYSELF.

SPIDER DID WHAT HIS PECULIAR CODE OF HONOR REQUIRED HIM TO DO. I UNDERSTAND THAT. THOUGH I CANNOT SAY I HATE HIM ANY **LESS** FOR IT.

BUT I AM THE ONE WHO WOULD NOT LET YOU LIVE OUT YOUR EXISTENCE AS A **MACHINE**, AS YOU BEGGED ME TO DO, INSISTING INSTEAD THAT YOU FASHION **HUMANITY... AND LOVE...** FROM YOUR WIRES AND COILS.

THIS MADE YOU IN THE END **NEITHER** HUMAN NOR MACHINE, AND THAT IS THE **REAL** TRAGEDY HERE, FOR WHICH I WILL BE ETERNALLY **SORRY.**





FORGIVE  
US, IDA... IF  
YOU CAN.

LET THERE BE  
NO MORE DELUSIONS,  
GENTLEMEN. YOUR  
WORLD IS **DOOMED**  
YOU MUST DECIDE  
NOW TO ESCAPE, OR  
DIE **FUTILELY**, AS  
SPIDER ANDROMEDA  
DID.



TO EXPEDITE  
MATTERS, I  
HAVE PLACED IN  
A CENTRAL ACCOUNT  
ALL THE NECESSARY  
FUNDS TO **EVACUATE**  
AND **RELOCATE** THE  
PEOPLE OF RARA  
AVIS. I ASK ONLY  
THAT YOU **USE**  
THIS MONEY... AND  
**USE IT**  
**IMMEDIATELY.**



WE THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR  
**ENORMOUSLY**  
GENEROUS GIFT,  
MR. TAVISH. BUT  
WE REGRET WE  
CANNOT ACCEPT  
YOUR CHARITY.

MANY OF OUR  
PEOPLE BLAME **YOU**  
FOR SPIDER'S DEATH.  
WE MUST GIVE YOU  
SOMETHING FOR YOUR  
MONEY IN **RETURN.**

THIS IS ALL WE CAN  
OFFER YOU. PLEASE TAKE  
IT AND GO. YOU ARE NOT  
A HERO **HERE**, MAC TAVISH.



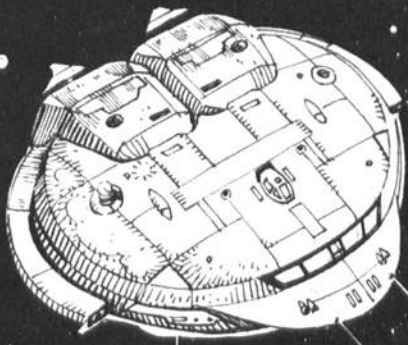
HOURS LATER, MAC BOARDS A SHUTTLE  
BACK TO THE REMOTE OUTPOST WHERE  
HIS SHIP IS DOCKED. DAZED, EXHAUSTED,  
HE DOES NOT NOTICE UNTIL THEY ARE  
UNDERWAY THAT MOST OF THE OTHER  
PASSENGERS ARE **ZODIAC SOLDIERS**,  
PROBABLY MANY OF THE SAME ONES MAC  
AND SPIDER HAD FOUGHT.

THEY ARE ALL YOUNG MEN, TALKING,  
LAUGHING AMONG THEMSELVES. THEY  
DO NOT RECOGNIZE MAC; AREN'T  
INTERESTED IN HIM. THE IRONY DOES  
NOT ESCAPE MAC, WHO SIGHS DEEPLY,  
THEN TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO THE  
WINDOW.



FOR AWHILE, MAC  
WATCHES THE FAINT  
BLUE TWINKLE, THEN  
LIES BACK IN HIS  
PILLOW. HE IS ASLEEP  
BEFORE RARA AVIS IS  
GONE FROM VIEW.

THE SUNFISHER, DRIFTING IN SPACE, FAR FROM RARA AVIS, FAR FROM ANY PLANET OR STAR.



COMPUTER:  
OPEN A LINE  
TO EARTH.

THIS IS A  
TOP-PRIORITY  
EMERGENCY  
MESSAGE TO  
THE WORLD  
CABINET.

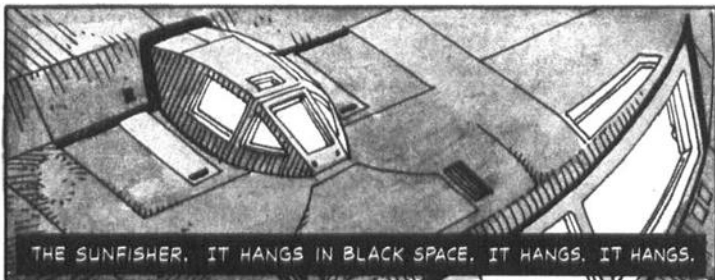
THIS IS THE  
WORLD CABINET.  
*IDENTIFY*  
YOURSELF,  
PLEASE.

THIS IS *MAC TAVISH*.  
I AM HERE INFORMING YOU  
THAT IN 6 HOURS AND... 31  
MINUTES, I WILL *RAM THE*  
*EARTH* WITH A NEUTRONIUM-9  
DEEP SPACE CRAFT. I WILL  
STRIKE THE EARTH AT NEAR-  
LIGHT SPEED, WHICH WILL  
EFFECTIVELY *OBLITERATE*  
THE ENTIRE PLANET.

I AM RADIOING  
SUGGESTIONS FOR  
TOTAL EVACUATION AT  
THIS TIME TO ALL  
REGIONAL TRAFFIC  
COMPUTERS. PLEASE  
DO NOT DELAY  
INFORMING YOUR  
HEADS OF STATE.

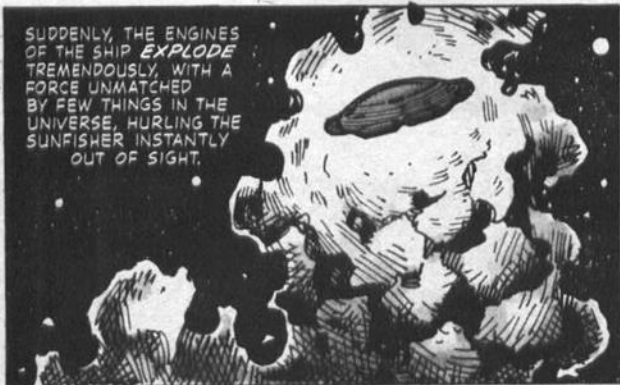
THIS IS *NOT*  
A BLUFF. I GIVE  
YOU FAIR  
WARNING!

MAC CUTS THE RADIO LINK JUST AS  
OUTRAGED SCREAMS COME OVER IT. IN  
THE WORLD CABINET COMMUNICATIONS  
ROOM, ALL OPINIONS ARE HEARD.

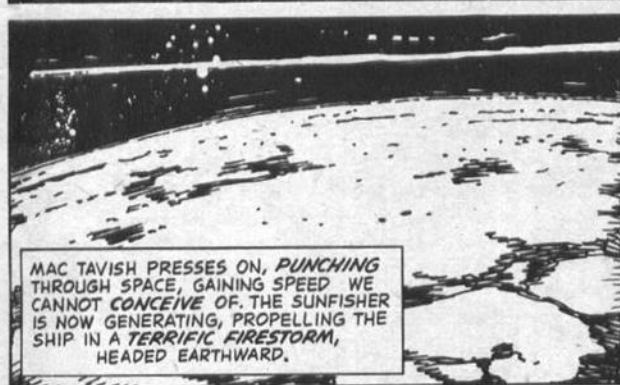
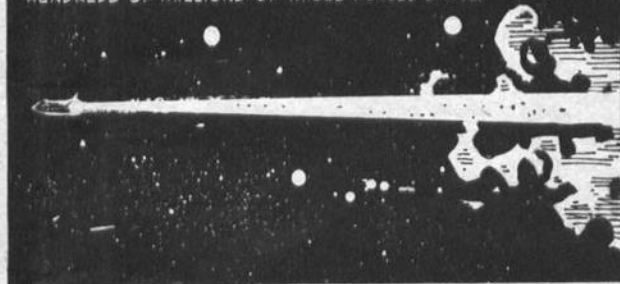


THE SUNFISHER. IT HANGS IN BLACK SPACE. IT HANGS. IT HANGS.

SUDDENLY, THE ENGINES OF THE SHIP **EXPLODE** TREMENDOUSLY, WITH A FORCE UNMATCHED BY FEW THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE, HURLING THE SUNFISHER INSTANTLY OUT OF SIGHT.



FROM A DISTANCE, ONLY THE ENORMOUS FIRE OF THE ENGINE'S EXHAUST CAN BE SEEN, GREATER THAN A **THOUSAND COMETS**, EXTENDING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MILES ACROSS SPACE.



MAC TAVISH PRESSES ON, **PUNCHING** THROUGH SPACE, GAINING SPEED WE CANNOT **CONCEIVE** OF. THE SUNFISHER IS NOW GENERATING, PROPELLING THE SHIP IN A **TERRIFIC FIRESTORM**, HEADED EARTHWARD.

AS EARTH COMES INTO VIEW, THE SUNFISHER'S TERRIBLE ENGINES PUSH IT EVER **FASTER**, UNTIL IT HAS NEARLY REACHED THE **SPEED OF LIGHT**.



TIME... AND CHOICES... HAVE **RUN OUT** FOR THE PLANET EARTH.



ON EARTH, THEIR MONITORS CAN BARELY KEEP UP WITH THE OBJECT, THOUGH LISTED **UFO**, IT OCCURS TO EVERYONE ALL AT ONCE THAT IT IS **MAC TAVISH**. THEY'RE TRACKING.

BACK ON EARTH, **MORE** CALCULATIONS ARE MADE, MUCH TO THE HORROR OF EVERYONE. THEIR MESSAGES TO TAVISH GROW **FRANTIC**.



YOU ARE ON A **COLLISION COURSE** WITH EARTH! ALTER YOUR **HEADING IMMEDIATELY!**  
TAVISH, **RESPOND!!**

WHAT ABOUT YOUR **DEEP SPACE GUNS?**

NO GOOD. HE'S JUMPING IN AND OUT OF **HYPER-SPACE**. WE CAN'T GET A **FIX** ON HIM!

A LAST MINUTE DECISION IS MADE. **NO** EVACUATION OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.



WITH SO LITTLE TIME IT WOULD ONLY SUCCEED IN CREATING **GLOBAL PANIC**. ONLY TIME LEFT TO GET THE WORLD'S **LEADERS** AND **TOP BRASS** OFF THE PLANET.



AND AS THE SUNFISHER APPROACHES EARTH, IT THROWS OFF DOZENS AND DOZENS OF TINY ESCAPE CRAFT, FILLED WITH HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE WORLD CABINET, BUT IN A FEW MOMENTS MORE IT WON'T MATTER...THE CATA-  
CLYSMIC COLLISION WILL DESTROY  
*THEM* AS WELL.

THEN...AT THE LAST  
IMPOSSIBLE SECOND...



NO, WAIT!  
HE'S VEERING OFF!  
HE'S SKIMMING  
PAST US!!



SUNFISHER: YOU  
ARE IN VIOLATION OF  
GALACTIC TRAFFIC LAWS!  
YOU WILL *SURRENDER*  
YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY  
TO THE NEAREST POLICE  
OUTPOST FOR--!

NEXT TO MAC, THE SMALL CASE GIVEN BY THE  
RARA COUNCIL SITS OPEN, AND WITHIN IT ARE 12  
VIALS OF *POLYPRISMITE*, COMPRISING THE ENTIRE  
IMMORTALITY TREATMENT.



MAC DOESN'T *WANT* IMMORTALITY, IS TERRIFIED  
AT THE PROSPECT OF LIFE WITHOUT END, BUT HE  
IS WILLING TO CHANCE ITS POTENTIALLY DISAS-  
TROUS PITFALLS, TO SUFFER ITS UNCEASING BORE-  
DOM, TO ENDURE *100 YEARS AND MORE*, FOR  
THE CHANCE TO REJOIN HIS LOVER. MAC RAISES  
A VIAL AS IF IN TOAST, AND DRINKS THE FIRST  
OF THEM.





HIS NAME IS **HAXTUR**. HE KNOWS LITTLE MORE THAN. HE REMEMBERS A TIME, **EONS AGO**, WHEN HE WAS A **WARRIOR**... A **MERCENARY**, FIGHTING WARS FOR **MONEY** WHILE CLOSING HIS EYES TO **PRINCIPLES** AND **DEATHS**.

HE RECALLS **PAIN**. EXCRUCIATING PAIN... AND THE GREAT ALL-ENCOMPASSING, **SMOTHERING BLACKNESS!**

AND HE RECALLS WAKING IN **THIS** WORLD... WHERE THE IMPOSSIBLE IS PROBABLE... AND LIFE IS **CHEAPER** THAN A **MERCENARY'S DREAM**.



# HAXTUR

## Beware of Glahb













FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE *HOURS* THE SHOCK-RIDDED MAN SITS ON THE BANK, STARING BLANKLY AS THE CALM, RESTFUL WATERS, THE GIRL, THE BEAST, IT ALL HAPPENED SO *QUICKLY* IT SEEMS LIKE LITTLE MORE THAN A *DREAM*!

MAY THE GODS HAVE *MERCY* UPON YOUR SOUL!



STILL WEAK, SICKENED TO THE CORE OF HIS VERY BEING, HAXTUR TURNS *AWAY* FROM THE RANCID SCENE OR INNUMERABLE EXECUTIONS. COLD EYES OBSERVE HIS EVERY MOVE.

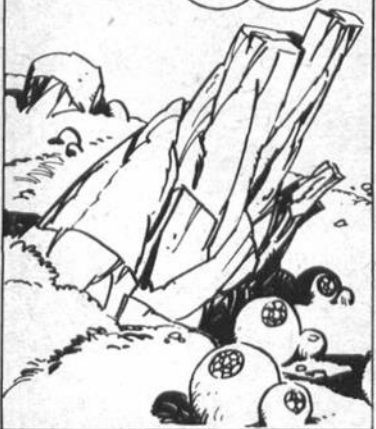


HAXTUR **TRUDGES** THROUGH THE HUMID SWAMPLAND, TRYING TO **FORGET**. THE SWAMP ENDS, TRANSFORMING MIRACULOUSLY INTO ROLLING GREEN HILLS. THE HILLS FORM INTO MOUNTAINS. AND ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE NEAREST MOUNTAINS, LAY A TORRID STRETCH OF BARREN, ROCKY TERRAIN.



THIS LAND...! SO VARIED! SO RICH! YET, SO FULL OF DEATH!

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE I SEEN NEEDLESSLY **SLAIN** HERE? AND I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW **WHERE** HERE IS!



HELLO, FRIENDS!

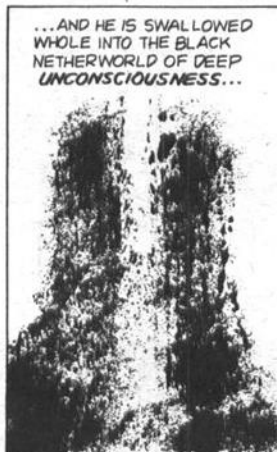


CAN YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF THIS LAND! I SEEM TO HAVE--!



BEFORE HAXTUR CAN FINISH HIS SENTENCE, THE TRAVELLER DRAWS HIS **BROADSWORD** AND ANGRILY GESTURES FOR HIS WIFE TO CLIMB ABOARD THE WAGON.

HEY! YOU CAN TRUST ME! I JUST NEED TO KNOW **WHERE**--!





WHEN AT LAST HE OPENS HIS EYES, HE FINDS HIMSELF IN A FAR GREATER HELL THAN HE COULD EVER HAVE *IMAGINED*.



M-MY HEAD...!  
W-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO CHAIN ME LIKE SOME KIND OF ANIMAL?



RIGHT?  
WHO HAS A BETTER RIGHT, HEATHEN? I AM YAHTEL, MINISTER OF THE LORD'S MOUNTAIN!



AND YOU HAVE DARED TO *DEFILE* THE HOLY MOUNTAIN WITH USELESS HUMAN *UTTERANCES*. NONE, SAVE THE HIGH MINISTER HIMSELF MAY *SPEAK* WITHIN THE CREATOR'S SACRED DOMAIN!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



SILENCE, FOOL! DO NOT TRY TO *EVASU* YOUR DESTINY! I *CONTROL* YOU WITH MY DIVINE ABILITIES! I CAN *CRUSH* YOU AT WILL!

I...I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO *SEE* WHAT YOU MEAN!



YOU MUST SUFFER THE *TORMENT* RESERVED FOR THOSE WHO *VIOLATE* THE LORD'S TRANQUILLITY!

JEEZUS! THIS LAND IS CRAWLING WITH CRAZIES!



FOLLOW ME, WITLING! *OPPOSE* ME AND YOU WILL WISH YOU WERE DEAD!

LEAD ON, MASSAH!



YOU MUST ENTER THE  
HEART OF THE SACRED  
MOUNTAIN, DISBELIEVER. THERE  
YOU WILL **BEG** THE CREATOR'S  
FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR VILE  
TRANSGRESSIONS AGAINST  
HIS PEACE!

IF HE IS IN GOOD  
SPIRITS, HE WILL LET YOU  
LIVE. IF NOT--!



C-CAN'T HELP  
MYSELF. MY MIND SAYS,  
"RUN...GET THE HELL OUT  
OF HERE!" BUT MY LEGS  
AREN'T LISTENING!



IT'S AS THOUGH  
THAT MAD PRIEST HAS  
SOME KIND OF HYPNOTIC  
CONTROL OVER ME! AND  
APPARENTLY I'M NOT  
THE FIRST!



IMPOSSIBLE  
TO GET OUT OF HERE!  
AND WHAT'S **THAT**...?  
SOUNDS LIKE  
**WHISPERING!**

IT'S GETTING  
LOUDER!



GOOD GOD! THE  
NOISE...! GROWING  
IN INTENSITY!  
DEAFENING!

C-CAN'T MAKE  
OUT THE WORDS!  
IT...IT'S LIKE A  
BELLOWING GIANT!

YAH  
ATHA GIBOL  
ALEPH! SEPH!  
SEMI  
LEGLAN

IN DESPERATION, HAXTUR **RIPS** A TUNIC FROM ONE OF THE SPRAWLING BODIES UPON THE FLOOR. HE **WRAPS** HIS HEAD IN THE GARMENT, PRAYING THAT IT WILL **MUFFLE** THE BONE-NUMBING NOISE!

THIS IS WHAT'S MAKING THAT TERRIBLE SOUND! THE **LIGHT** SHINING THROUGH 'GOD'S EYES' UP THERE ARE MAKING THIS DIAPHRAM **VIBRATE!**



MAYBE **REFRACTING** THE LIGHT WILL **SILENCE** THESE SO-CALLED 'SACRED VOICES.'



I WAS **RIGHT!** THE DIN HAS **STOPPED!**

THE NOISE SEEMS TO HAVE **BROKEN** THE PRIEST'S HYPNOTIC CONTROL OVER ME, AS WELL... BUT I STILL HAVE THE PROBLEM OF GETTING **OUT** OF HERE!



UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THOUGH, RASPUTIN WILL BE CHARGING **IN** HERE ANY SECOND NOW... TO SEE WHAT I DID TO HIS 'GOD!'



**SACRILEGE!** WHY HAS THE SUPREME VOICE BEEN **EXTINGUISHED?** WHAT **FOUL** FORCE COMENDS THE LORD TO REMAIN **SILENT?**



TAIN'T **NOBODY**, HOLY MAN, BUT THAT LITTLE OLD GOD-MUFFLER ... **ME!**

**AGHHHHH!**

HOW DOES IT *FEEL*,  
MADMAN? IT'S *YOUR* TURN  
TO HEAR THE WORD OF YOUR  
ALMIGHTY *GOD!*

ONCE THE SUN'S RAYS  
COMING THROUGH THOSE PRISM-  
LIKE EYES *BURN* THE CLOTH  
COVERING, YOU'LL NOT ONLY *HEAR*  
YOUR CREATOR... BUT I'M SURE  
THAT, LIKE YOUR BRETHREN  
HERE, YOU'LL *MEET* HIM  
FACE-TO-FACE!

APN!  
RONM!

SO THE FINAL  
JUDGEMENT *BEGINS!*  
AND GOD DISCLOSES HIS  
HOLY SECRETS TO HIS  
HUMBLE, IF SLIGHTLY  
CRAZED, *SERVITOR!*



N-NO!  
YOU... YOU  
CAN NOT *DO*  
THIS! YOU CAN  
NOT *LEAVE*  
ME HERE!



GOOD LORD! THE  
MOUNTAIN'S *SHAKING!* GOD'S  
'SERMON' MUST BE GROWING  
IN INTENSITY!

THE  
VIBRATIONS ARE  
TEARING THE IDOL  
APART!

HAXTUR *RUNS*, CASTING A LAST, DIS-  
BELIEVING GLANCE OVER HIS SHOULDER  
AS THE DEITY *CRUMBLES* INTO A  
MASSIVE PILE OF DUSTY STONE DEBRIS!



THE 'GOD'  
IS *STILL* NOW,  
AND SO IS HIS  
TWISTED  
ACOLYTE!

CAN YOU EVER  
FORGIVE US, WARRIOR,  
FOR THE *SHAMEFUL*  
MANNER IN WHICH WE  
TREATED YOU?

FORGET IT,  
FRIEND. I PROBABLY  
WOULD HAVE ACTED  
THE *SAME* WAY.

GODS TEND TO CLOUD  
OUR *MINDS* AT TIMES, BUT  
IN THE END, WE ALL GET  
EXACTLY WHAT WE  
*DESERVE!*



# STAR WARS

## ELECTRONIC GAME COMPUTER AND RADIO CONTROLLED SAND CRAWLER

### STAR WARS ELECTRONIC ACTION BATTLE COMPUTER

**STAR WARS ELECTRONIC BATTLE COMMAND** An exciting new intergalactic electronic combat game which allows you to simulate the battle actions from Star Wars. From the simple to the complex, from one to three players, this new electronic game allows for any level of play! Simulate interstellar dogfights, simulate all the elements of hyperspace action such as the landing on Magma, being trapped in a black hole and having your force units drained. Then contend with the hidden wrinkles of hyperspace that can bounce you into other sectors of the universe! For hours of combat thrills play against your friends or the machine itself! Uses 6 AA batteries or a special adapter not included! #26197/\$49.95



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### RADIO CONTROLLED SAND CRAWLER



Use the radio control box to help Jawas escape Stormtroopers.



Set up Jawas and R2-D2 at the "control" panels.



Elevator lifts R2-D2 and other STAR WARS figures into Sand Crawler.



**RADIO CONTROLLED JAWAS SAND CRAWLER** A genuine working replica of the giant tank-like sand crawler the mysterious Jawas use to navigate Tatooine's deserts and seas. This 16" long behemoth on wheels is controlled by a two channel wireless radio that can operate as far away as 20 feet! The three working tread-like wheels permit the sand crawler to move in almost any direction. The roof hatch opens to reveal a detailed control room with enough footpads for several Jawas. A large side panel opens to become a step ramp into the interior of the moving fortress with plenty of room inside for the transporting of any Star Wars action figure. On the under carriage of the crawler is a manual elevator for lifting salvaged droids into the interior! Use your sand crawler, molded in highly detailed and durable brown plastic, to escape the ravaging hordes of Stormtroopers after R2-D2's secret message! Help Luke and Leia and Chewie and Han and all the other Star Wars action figure gang escape death! 2 nine volt batteries and 2 "D" batteries not included! #26196/\$49.95

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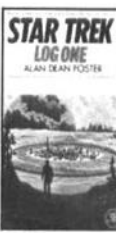
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**STAR TREK EIGHT** "The Man's Dead, Jim," McCoy said it, but about whom? "The Enemy Within," "Catpaw," & "Spock's Brain" among others. #21093/\$1.50



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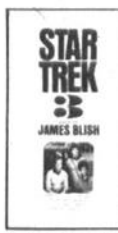
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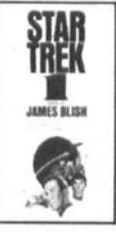
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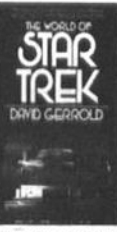
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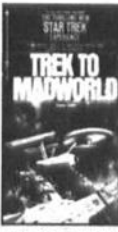
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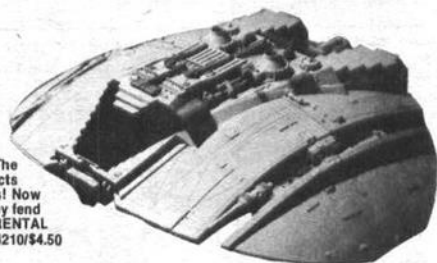
## GALACTICA KITS

### CYLON RAIDERS AND COLONIAL VIPERS

**They're Out of this World  
Easy to Assemble**

## CYLON RAIDER

Cylon raider model kit from the hit movie Battlestar Galactica! This easy to assemble model kit comes with display base, decals, is 11" long, has ray guns, solar energy panels, access hatches, stabilizers and working missile launchers for action packed adventures! The T.V. series that has the nation agog with the most advanced special effects on the airwaves is brought home to you in these dazzlingly detailed kits! Now you can follow the adventures of Adama, Starbuck and all the rest as they fend off the Cylon's in manta like spaceship. PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED #24210/\$4.50



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## ENTERPRISE SPACE SHUTTLE

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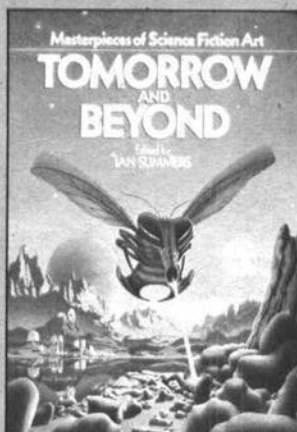
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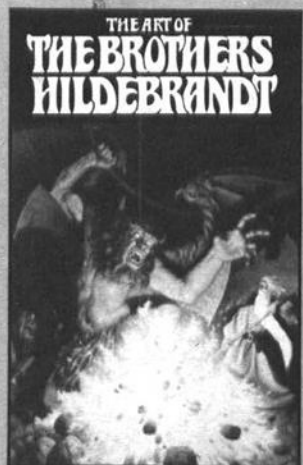
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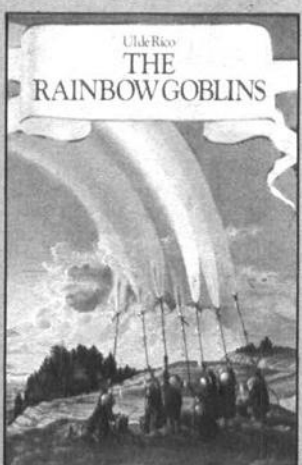
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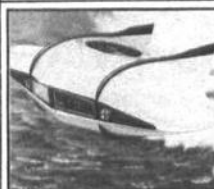
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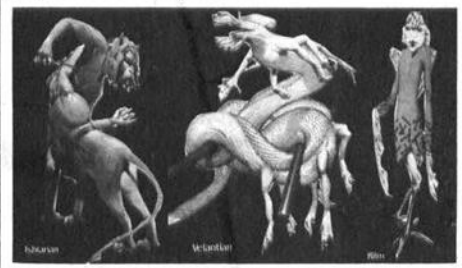
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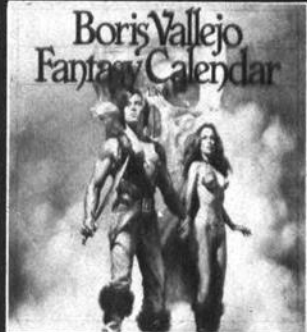
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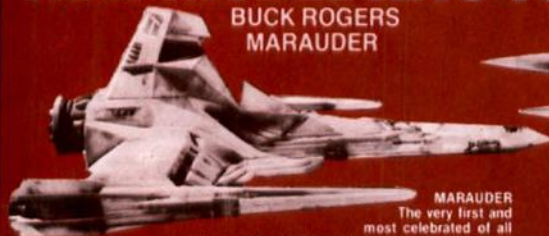
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