

VAMPIRE

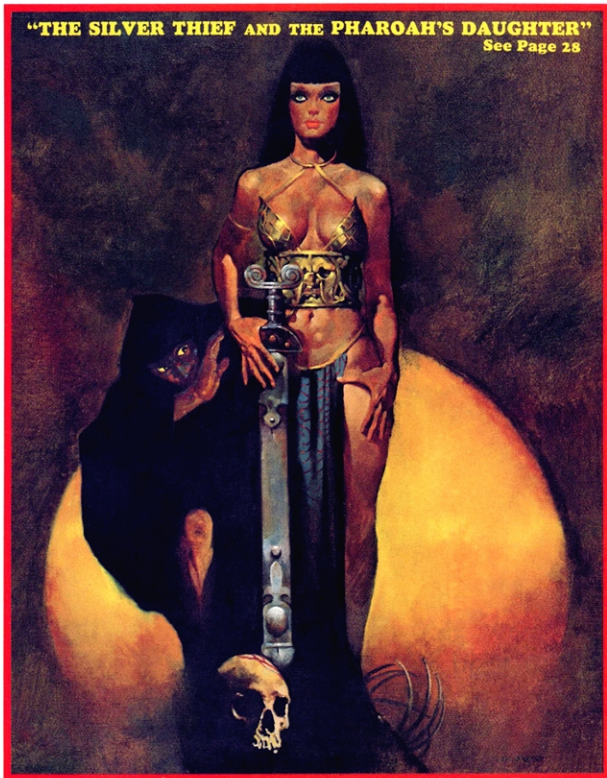
#13

SEPT. 1971

VAMPIRELLA

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"THE SILVER THIEF AND THE PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER"
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VAMPIRELLA

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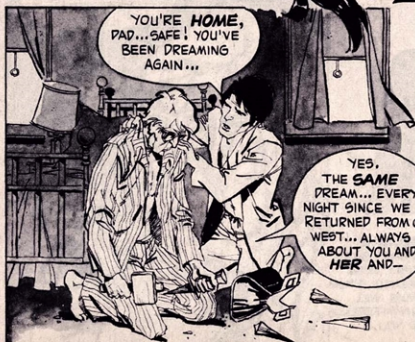
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PROLOGUE: WHAT ROOM IS THIS... WHAT PLACE IS THIS? THE STENCH OF MUSTINESS AND DECAY HANGS HEAVY HERE... AS DOES THE AURA OF MADNESS! FOR HERE A MAN LOOKS WITH BLIND EYES AND SEES HIS SON LOCKED IN THE EMBRACE OF ONE WHO SHOULD BE DEAD... SEES HIS SON LOST TO THE STRANGE CHARMS OF THE GIRL CALLED...

VAMPIRELLA





THE TRUTH JUST
WON'T STAY HIDDEN
FROM A MAN WITH
PSYCHIC VISION...

ADAM, YOU BROUGHT
ME BACK HERE TO NEW
ENGLAND, TO THE UNIVERSITY...
DELIBERATELY LETTING
ME THINK SHE'D BEEN
KILLED ?!

DAD, I **HAD**
TO! UNTIL I COULD
TALK WITH YOU,
MAKE YOU
UNDERSTAND...

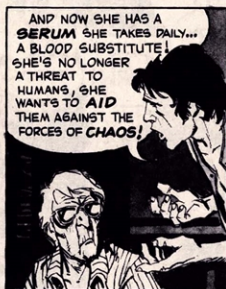
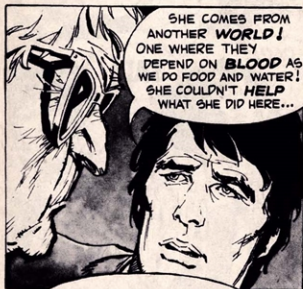
SHE **ISN'T** A
VAMPIRE... NOT AS
WE KNOW THEM!
NOT ONE OF THOSE
FESTERING, EVIL
THINGS VAN
HELINGS HAVE
ALWAYS FOUGHT!



SHE COMES FROM
ANOTHER **WORLD!**
ONE WHERE THEY
DEPEND ON **BLOOD** AS
WE DO FOOD AND WATER!
SHE COULDN'T **HELP**
WHAT SHE DID HERE...

AND NOW SHE HAS A
SERUM SHE TAKES DAILY...
A BLOOD SUBSTITUTE!
SHE'S NO LONGER
A THREAT TO
HUMANS, SHE
WANTS TO **AID**
THEM AGAINST THE
FORCES OF **CHAOS!**

HOW MUCH AID
WOULD SHE BE IF
SHE **MISSED**
TAKING THIS
SERUM, ADAM?



WOULDN'T SHE BECOME
JUST AS MUCH A BLOOD-LUSTING
MONSTER AS **ANY** CREATURE WE'VE
HUNTED? AS SHE ALMOST
DID AT WADE'S HOUSE... *
AS SHE **WAS** WHEN SHE
KILLED YOUR **UNCLE** ?!

... LEAST OF
ALL THAT I THINK
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE
WITH HER!



I **BELIEVE**
IN HER, DAD! BUT
OBVIOUSLY NONE
OF MY REASONS FOR
BELIEVING WILL
MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE
TO YOU...

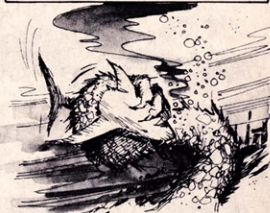
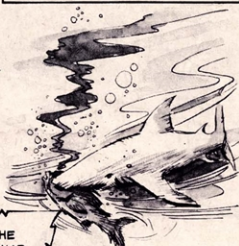
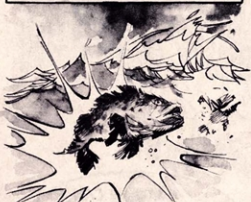


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IN THE COSMOS, MOTION IS CONSTANT. DIFFERENT PLANES OF EXISTENCE, MULTI-VARIOUS DIMENSIONS, SHIFT AND MOVE. AND WHERE THERE IS MOTION, THERE IS FRICTION...

SO TWO WORLDS MAY MEET, TOUCH, AND SOMETIMES FUSE. SO TWO ALIEN AREAS OF REALITY MAY OVERLAP, CONMINGLE, FOR AN INSTANT, AN ETERNITY, A TIME...

AND WITHIN THE NARROW SPHERE OF THIS JOINING, CREATURES FROM ONE MAY REACH OUT TO THOSE OF THE OTHER... SO THAT PLACE CALLED THE NETHER-VOID HAS COME TO EARTH!



DEMOGORGAN WAITS. ONE OF THE SEVEN DEMON SERVANTS OF THE MAD GOD CHAOS RETURNED BY COSMIC ACCIDENT FROM THE PLACE OF BANISHMENT...



DEMOGORGAN WAITS. FINDING AMUSEMENT IN THE SLAYING OF SWIMMING CREATURES, REMEMBERING A TIME BEYOND HISTORY WHEN THIS EARTH WAS NEARLY WON FOR THE FORCES OF CHAOS...

DEMOGORGAN WAITS. WAITS FOR THE ONE SENT FORTH, THE ONE WHO CAN MOVE BEYOND THIS AREA OF CONFINEMENT. WAITS. AND HUNGERS.

THE LURKER IN THE DEEP!

EVENING ON THE GULF OF MEXICO. MUSIC FROM THE YACHT CLUB OF A TEXAS CITY DRIFTS OUT OVER THE WATER. A MOTOR LAUNCH CHUGS TO A HALT; A PASSENGER CLIMBS TO THE MARINA DOCK...

OH, WOW!
WHO IS
THAT? HE'S
BEAUTIFUL!

MAYBE WE CAN
MEET HIM! THEY SAY HE'S
COLLECTING PEOPLE, FOR A
CRUISE... HE SEES SOMEONE
HE FINDS INTERESTING OR
AMUSING AND JUST INVITES
THEM! WOULDN'T THAT
BE GROOVY!

THAT'S
JOHNNY TRITON,
THE PLAYBOY! HE
OWNS THAT GREAT
BIG YACHT OUT IN
THE HARBOR!

HE'S RICH,
TOO? I'D SWIMMILES
TO MEET SOMEONE WHO
LOOKED LIKE THAT EVEN
IF HE ONLY OWNED A
ROWBOAT!

WELL, HE CERTAINLY
ISN'T LOOKING OUR WAY!
WHY DOES HE WANT TO GO
TO THE YACHT CLUB,
TONIGHT? THEY STILL
HAVE THAT PUMP
MAGIC ACT!

MY GAWD,
I'VE SEEN
BETTER'N THIS ON
THE TED MACK
SHOW! MEBBE IT'S
TIME THIS CLUB
GOT A NEW
ENTERTAINMENT
COMMITTEE!

LAST NIGHT!
THE
GREAT!
PENDRAGON!
AND
INTRODUCING:
VAMPIRELA!

NOW JUST
YOU WAIT A
MINUTE,
RUDY...



NOW **THAT'S**
ENTERTAINMENT!

RUDY,
OL' HOGG,
WAIT'LL YOU
SEE WHAT
SHE **DOES!**

AND NOW,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, FOR
OUR **FINALE**,
MAY I PRESENT MY
NEW ASSISTANT...

...THE
LOVELY AND
MYSTERIOUS...
VAMPIRELLA!

WHAT D'YA SAY,
RUDY? BETCHA NEVER
SAW ANYTHIN' LIKE
THAT ON TED
MACK!

HELL, I FIGGERED
SHE WAS GONNA **DANCE!**
WHY, EVERYBODY KNOWS THEY DO
THAT KINDA STUNT WITH **MIRRORS...**
OR TRAPDOORS...OR SUM' THIN'...!

MOMENTS LATER, BACKSTAGE...

EXCUSE MY BACK,
MY DEAR, BUT I FIND THE
SIGHT OF **REAL MAGIC**
BEING PERFORMED
MOST UNSETTLING!

A CARRY-OVER
FROM MY
EXPERIENCE WITH
ASMODEUS,
I SUSPECT! X

* **VAMPIRELLA** # 11

YOU'RE AN **ANGEL** FOR TAKING ME IN, PENDRAGON! EVEN THOUGH ADAM VAN HELSING'S APPARENTLY PERSUADED HIS FATHER **NOT** TO PURSUE ME, BEING A **FUGITIVE** WAS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER...

BUT I OWE YOU MY **LIFE**, DEAR CHILD! BESIDES... YOU'VE DONE **WONDERS** FOR MY ACT! NOW, FORGIVE ME WHILE I DO SOME **WONDERS** FOR MY **OPENING NIGHT JITTERS**...!

PENDRAGON, IT'S **NOT** OPENING NIGHT...

A NIGGLING **DETAIL**, MY DEAR... THE **WONDERS** PERFORMED ARE IN NO WAY **LESSENED**!

UNFORTUNATELY, **NEITHER** ARE THE **JITTERS**! IT'S PROBABLY THAT DAMN **BOOK**, **VAMPIRELLA**... EVEN IN **OUR** HANDS, I DON'T LIKE IT!

I'VE VOWED TO BATTLE THE CULT OF CHAOS... AND POSSESSING THE **CRIMSON CHRONICLES** IS ESSENTIAL TO DO THAT!

THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN SPELLS AND INCANTATIONS... IT'S A **LINK** TO THE CULT... ALMOST SEEMS TO HAVE AN **AURA** THAT **ATTRACTS** THOSE WHO WORSHIP CHAOS!

THAT CHARACTERISTIC SOMEHOW FAILS TO **CHEER** ME... BUT THEN WE PENDRAGONS HAVE NEVER BEEN FAMOUS FOR OUR **COURAGE**! OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER!

YOU'LL SURELY BE REMEMBERED AS THE FIRST PERSON TO HIRE AN **EXTRATERRESTRIAL** AS AN ASSISTANT!

WHICH NO DOUBT PUTS ME IN TROUBLE WITH **MAGICIANS LOCAL #399**!

BUT FIRST WE MUST FACE A MUCH LESS **ESOTERIC** AND FAR MORE **FREQUENT** PROBLEM IN YOUR NEWLY CHOSEN TRADE, MY DEAR... **UNEMPLOYMENT**!

PERHAPS I CAN BE OF HELP!

I NEED SHIPBOARD ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE **CRUISE** I'M PLANNING. THE NAME IS **JOHNNY TRITON**!

AND THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

ISN'T **MIDNIGHT** RATHER AN ODD HOUR FOR SAILING, PENDRAGON...? JOHNNY TRITON SEEMS AS **ECCENTRIC** AS HE IS ATTRACTIVE!

FRANKLY, MY DEAR, I HAVE A SPECTACULAR **DISTRUST** OF SHIPS NO MATTER WHEN THEY SAIL... GOES HAND IN HAND WITH MY INABILITY TO **SWIM**!

HOWEVER, I FIND THE **MONEY** OFFERED BY MR. T. AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE CUT OF HIS FEATURES!



YOU'D THINK HE'D HIRE A FEW MORE **CREWMEN**, ALL I'VE SEEN SO FAR ARE **PASSENGERS**! BUT OUR TRUNK SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN HERE ALL RIGHT... MY SUPPLY OF **SERUM** IS INTACT AND--

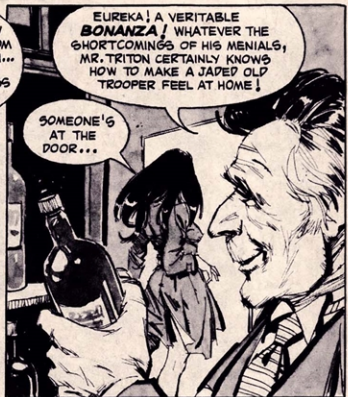
THAT'S ODD! THERE'S **SALTWATER** PUDDLED ON IT!

PROBABLY SPRAY FROM THE LAUNCH... NOTICED IT ON MY THINGS TOO!



EUREKA! A VERITABLE **BONANZA**! WHATEVER THE SHORTCOMINGS OF HIS MENIALS, MR. TRITON CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A JADED OLD TROOPER FEEL AT HOME!

SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR...



MR. TRITON... INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM... FOR A LATE SNACK... IF YOUR PACKING IS FINISHED...



THE PURPOSE OF THE WELL-STOCKED LIQUOR CABINET BECOMES CLEAR... TO DROWN THE MEMORY OF THE STEWARD'S VOICE! MOST GRUESOME SOUND I'VE HEARD SINCE **INNER-SANCTUM** WENT OFF THE AIR AND--WHAT IS IT, MY DEAR...?

SEA-WEED...

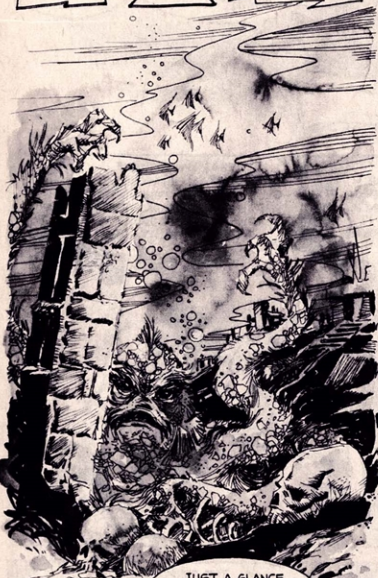


IN THE WINE-DARK OCEAN DEPTHS, DEMOGORGAN GROWS RESTLESS, EVEN ANXIOUS, FOR THE RETURN OF THE ONE SENT FORTH. SWIMMING THINGS NOW AVOID THESE WATERS. THERE IS ONLY THE STILLNESS, AND THE WAITING. SOON... SOON...

THE SECOND SUNSET FALLS ON JOHNNY TRITON'S YACHT IN ITS JOURNEY... VOICES AND LAUGHTER OF HIS GUESTS CARRY OUT ONTO THE CALM WATERS...

SO FAR IT'S BEEN **FABULOUS!** BUT YOU'D THINK TRITON WOULD CRACK DOWN ON HIS CREW... THEY BARELY MAKE AN APPEARANCE ALL DAY!

I FEAR THERE'S ONLY **ONE** THING OUR HANDSOME HOST NOTICES... THE **LADY MAGICIAN!**



YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, VAMPIRELLA... ALL I'VE EVER WANTED!

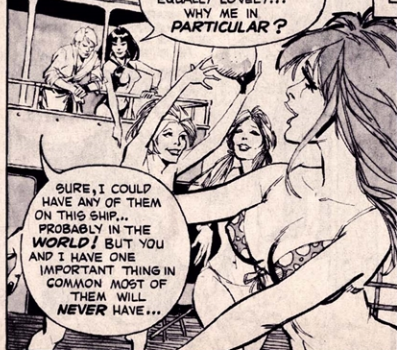
I KNEW IT FROM THE MOMENT YOU FIRST STEPPED INTO THE SPOTLIGHT THERE AT THE YACHT CLUB...

WHY ME, JOHNNY...?



JUST A GLANCE WOULD BRING YOU ANY OF THOSE WOMEN, ALL EQUALLY LOVELY... WHY ME IN PARTICULAR?

SURE, I COULD HAVE ANY OF THEM ON THIS SHIP... PROBABLY IN THE **WORLD!** BUT YOU AND I HAVE ONE IMPORTANT THING IN COMMON MOST OF THEM WILL **NEVER** HAVE...



THE MARK OF CHAOS!

OF COURSE! ARE YOU **REALLY** SURPRISED? SURELY YOU MUST HAVE **SENSED** IT ABOUT ME...



WITH AN URGENT MOVEMENT, TRITON TUGS VAMPIRELLA TOWARD HIS CABIN...

...I FELT IT ABOUT, YOU VAMPIRELLA! THE STRANGENESS, THE APARTNESS, THE SUPERIORITY THAT SETS YOU ABOVE ORDINARY PEOPLE!

OF COURSE I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING UNTIL I HAD PROOF! THEN ONE OF MY CREWMEN FOUND THIS AMONG YOUR THINGS... YOU'RE ONE OF US DARLING!

...A COMPANION OF CHAOS! JUST AS I'VE BEEN SINCE THAT DAY YEARS AGO... THE DAY THE TANKER EXPLODED! THE TANKER I SERVED UPON AS A LOWLY SEAMAN...

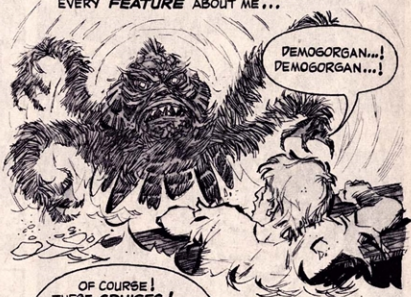


I SURVIVED... ONLY TO FACE CERTAIN DEATH FROM THE SUN AND SEA, DRIFTING HOPELESSLY, DELIRIOUSLY. LIKE ALL DYING MEN, I PRAYED... PRAYED TO A HALF-REMEMBERED NAME I'D HEARD FROM SAILORS OLD AND WISE IN LORE FEARFULLY FORGOTTEN BY MOST MEN!

AND SOMETHING HEAVED UP OUT OF THE DEPTHS, SOMETHING SMELLING OF SEA AND SLIME... A MONSTROUS SHADOW BEFORE MY SUN-BLIND EYES! FOR A LONG TIME IT STARED, AS THOUGH STUDYING EVERY PORE, EVERY FEATURE ABOUT ME...



GREAT DEMORGAN, DESTROYER FROM THE DEPTHS! SAVE ME... SAVE ME AND I SHALL SERVE YOU... SERVE YOU...



DEMORGAN!!! DEMORGAN!!!



DEMORGAN HEARD ME... SAVED ME... AND GAVE ME EVERYTHING, VAMPIRELLA! A SHIP'S STOKER WHO'D NEVER HAD ANYTHING BUT A FACE WOMEN LIKED... EVERYTHING!

EVERYTHING BUT SOMEONE LIKE YOU! AND NOW I'VE EVEN GOT THAT-

BUT WHAT DID IT COST, JOHNNY? DEALING WITH CHAOS THERE'S ALWAYS A COST!

OF COURSE! THESE CRUISES! DEMORGAN HAS NEEDS... HUNGERS... I FULFILL THEM WITH THESE CRUISES! BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE SAFE WITH ME! JUST STAY HERE IN THE CABIN... DON'T GO OUT ON DECK...



PENDRAGON!



BUT VAMPIRELLA'S CRIES DO NOT REACH
THE MAIN DECK...AND IF THEY DID, WOULD
ONLY BE LOST IN THE TERRIBLE
STILLNESS THAT HAS SETTLED THERE!



THE WAITING IS ENDED. **DEMOGORGAN**
HAS COME TO THE SHIP OF JOHNNY TRITON...



NOW VAMPIRELLA MOVES WITH REFLEXES
HONED ON A PLANET BEYOND THE STARS WE
KNOW...

... MOVES WITH STRENGTH AND PURPOSE
BRED ON HER DOOMED AND DISTANT HOME
CALLED DRAKULON!



NOW THE SHIP OF JOHNNY TRITON SEEMS TO MELT AND DIE. PAINT CRACKS AND GIVES WAY BEFORE RIVULETS OF RUST AND CORROSION. RAILINGS BUCKLE AND BEND. BULKHEADS BURST FROM THEIR OWN ROTTENESS, AND THE DEVOURING SEA POURS IN...

AND AS THE GREAT SHIP CRUMPLES, WHITHERS AND DRAWS INTO ITSELF, A BALLOON PUNCTURED AND COLLAPSING, SO AT LAST ARE THE FLEETINGLY GLIMPSED CREW FINALLY AND FULLY SEEN...



MAN AND MACHINE RETURNING TO THEIR ORIGINS...!



THE SHIP! NOTHING BUT THE RUSTED, ROTTED-OUT HULK OF... OF AN OLD TANKER...!

THE CREW WERE SKELETONS... CORPSES... DREDGED UP FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR...! DEMOGORGAN'S MAGIC!

AND VAMPIRELLA KNOWS TRITON'S STUMBLING WORDS, HIS PLEADING VOICE, ARE DIRECTED NOT TO HER... BUT THE AWESOME THING WHICH NOW SEIZES HIM!

NOW IT'S ALL BEING TAKEN BACK! EVERYTHING GIVEN ME...! BUT WHY? WHY?! I DID ALL I WAS SUPPOSED TO...!

WHY SHOULD ONE GIRL MAKE A DIFFERENCE? WHAT DID I DO WRONG? WHAT DID I DO WRONG?!

AAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!



IN THE DARK, RUSHING OCEAN WATERS,
THERE IS NO ONE TO **ANSWER** JOHNNY
TRITON! NO ONE TO SUGGEST WHY ONE
LOST, UNCOMMONLY **HANDSOME** SAILOR
SHOULD **ALONE** HAVE RECEIVED SUCH
FAVORS...

NO ONE TO POINT OUT THAT
EVEN MIGHTY, AWESOME DEMONS
ARE STILL EITHER MALE OR
FEMALE...

...AND THAT DEMOGORGAN
IS A **FAITHFUL**, BUT EXTREMELY
JEALOUS MISTRESS!

...EXCEPT **TWO!**

PENDRAGON!
THIS **RAFT...**!
WHERE DID
YOU--?

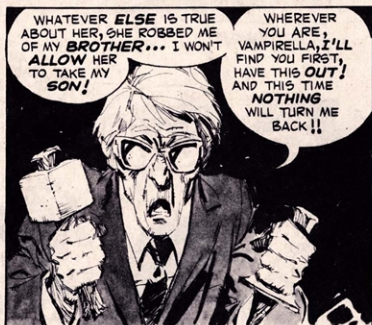
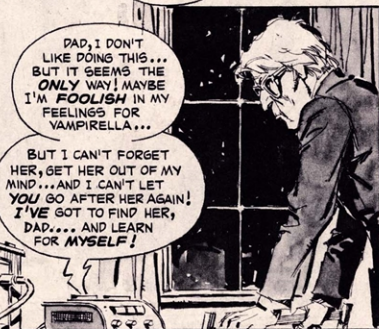
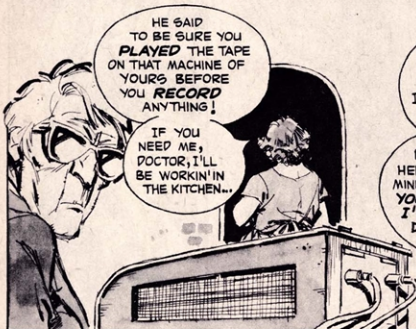
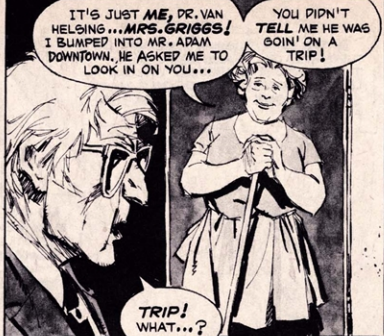
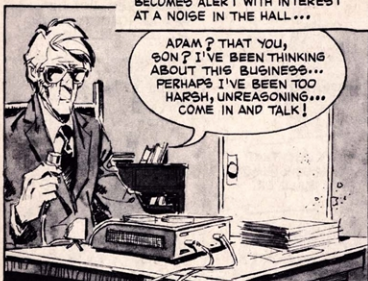
ANY GOOD
MAGICIAN TRIES
TO HAVE AT LEAST
ONE TRICK TO
SUIT THE OCCASION,
MY DEAR...

...AND,
AS YOU MAY
RECALL, I
DISTRUST
SHIPS!

AND IN THE WAKE OF
CHAOS' SERVANT AND
HER ILL-CHOSEN LOVER,
ALL ELSE FOLLOWS...

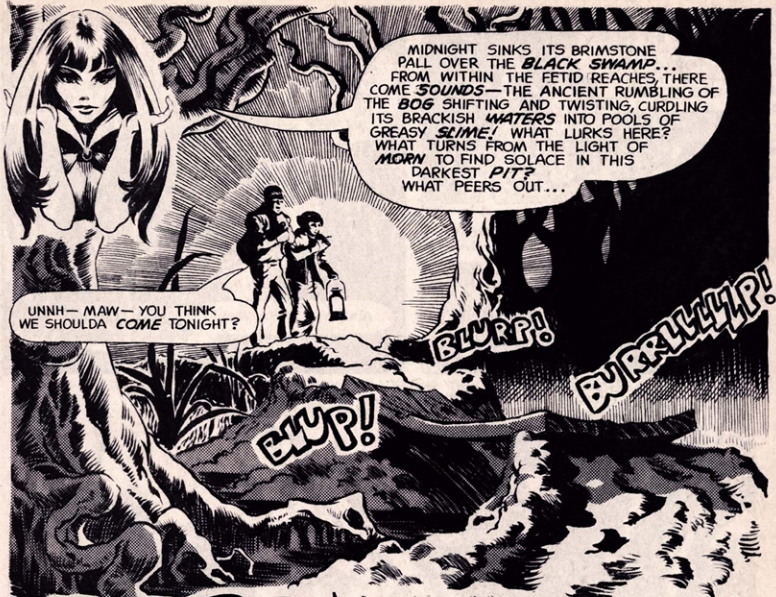


EPICLOGUE: IN HIS STUDY AT NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY, CONRAD VAN HELSING BROODS OVER HIS WORK, THEN BECOMES ALERT WITH INTEREST AT A NOISE IN THE HALL...



NOW BEGINS AN ANGRY RACE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON... A RACE WITH PERHAPS THE STRANGEST PRIZE OF ALL... THE LIFE OF THE GIRL FROM DRAKULON!

THE END...



MIDNIGHT SINKS ITS BRIMSTONE
PALL OVER THE **BLACK SWAMP**...
FROM WITHIN THE FETID REACHES, THERE
COME **SOUNDS**—THE ANCIENT RUMBLING OF
THE **BOG** SHIFTING AND TWISTING, CURDLING
ITS BRACKISH **WATERS** INTO POOLS OF
GREASY **SLIME**! WHAT LURKS HERE?
WHAT TURNS FROM THE LIGHT OF
MORN TO FIND SOLACE IN THIS
DARKEST **PIT**?
WHAT PEERS OUT...

UNNH—MAW—YOU THINK
WE SHOULD **COME** TONIGHT?

FROM DEATH'S DARK CORNER!



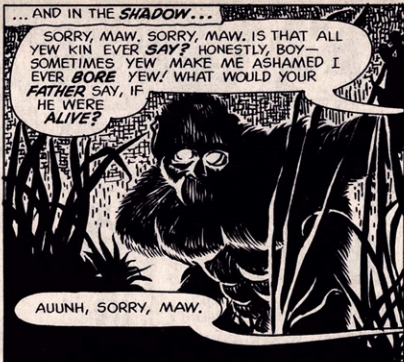
QUIET, YOU BLITHERING
FOOL! THERE MUST EVER
BE **SILENCE** WHEN
APPROACHING YON
SWAMP!

UNNH—SORRY, MAW, SORRY. I—
UNNH—I JUST KEEP THINKIN'
BOUT THE **KILLIN'S**... EVERYBODY
IN TOWN'S TALKIN' BOUT THE
KILLIN'S—UNNH—THIS SURE IS
GETTIN' **HEAVY**, MAW! AWARE
WE AWLMOST **THERE**?



ONLY A BIT MORE,
DENIVEIR—JUST A
BIT MORE! THERE'S
NO RUSH, NOW, IS
THERE, *SONNY*?

AWWH, MAW. I
WUZ JUS *WONDERIN'*
IS ALL. SORRY, MAW.



... AND IN THE *SHADOW*...

SORRY, MAW. SORRY, MAW. IS THAT ALL
YEW KIN EVER *SAY*? HONESTLY, BOY—
SOMETIMES YEW MAKE ME ASHAMED I
EVER *BORE* YEW! WHAT WOULD YOUR
FATHER SAY, IF
HE WERE
ALIVE?

AUUNH, SORRY, MAW.



SOMEWHERE, SUNLIGHT SHINES! SOMEWHERE, BIRDS SING THE
GLORIES OF A NEW *DAWN*! SOMEWHERE, *SANITY* REIGNS!
BUT HERE... HERE THE NORM IS *MADNESS*!



THERE! THERE—DO
YOU SEE IT, BOY?
DO YOU SEE THE
LIGHT?

I CAN'T SEE
NUTHIN', MAW! JUS
COLD AND DARK!



LIKE A *BEACON*, SON—
A LONE, FLICKERING *BUSH*
FIRE, CALLING TO US! DON'T
YOU FEEL IT? DON'T YOU
FEEL THE *PULL*, TUGGING
YOU TO IT?

AWWWHH, MAW...



YOU'RE SO **UNLIKE** YOUR FATHER, SON -- SO VERY **UNLIKE** HIM! HE WAS STRONG, LIKE YOU -- BUT THERE WAS **MORE** TO HIS STRENGTH! THERE WAS A **QUALITY** TO HIM! BUT-- YOU CAN'T **UNDERSTAND** THAT, CAN YOU?

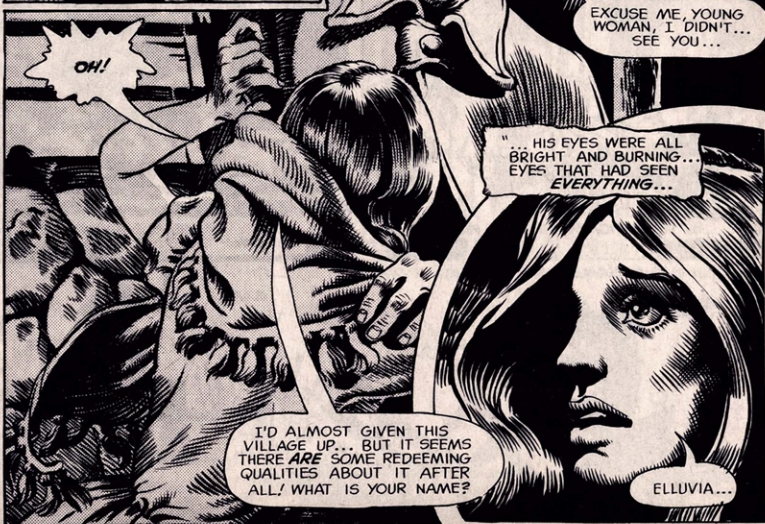


YOU JUST CAN'T **UNDERSTAND**...

"I WAS A YOUNG GIRL WHEN I FIRST **MET** YOUR FATHER! HE WAS A **STRANGER** IN OUR **VILLAGE**!... BUT WHEN I **SAW** HIM, IT WAS AS THOUGH I'D **KNOWN** HIM ALL MY **LIFE**...



...**DARK!** MOTHER WILL HAVE MY HEAD-- AND WITH **GOOD REASON!** I MUST **HURRY!**



OH!

EXCUSE ME, YOUNG WOMAN, I DIDN'T... SEE YOU...

"... HIS EYES WERE ALL **BRIGHT AND BURNING**... EYES THAT HAD SEEN **EVERYTHING**...

I'D ALMOST GIVEN THIS VILLAGE UP... BUT IT SEEMS THERE **ARE** SOME REDEEMING QUALITIES ABOUT IT AFTER ALL! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

ELLUVIA...

"... AND WHEN HE TOUCHED ME... A THOUSAND *EELS* SQUIRMED BENEATH MY SKIN..."

ELLUVIA—A FAIR NAME FOR A FAIR FACE. YOU MAY CALL ME *GARN*. I WAS BUT PASSING THROUGH...

...BUT NOW, I SEE THAT I MAY YET *STAY* AWHILE...

"... IT WAS A COURTSHIP SEEMINGLY SANCTIONED BY THE *DEVIL!* MY HEART WAS TORN FROM ME, CAST AWAY INTO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF *HELL* BY YOUR FATHER'S *CHARMS*..."

I... I NEVER *FELT* THIS WAY BEFORE, *GARN*. IT'S AS THOUGH MY *SOUL* WERE CLASPED IN A STEEL *VISE!*

THEY SAY THE *GODS* KNOW LOVE, MY DARLING—WHAT *THEY* FEEL CAN BE NO BETTER THAN *THIS!*

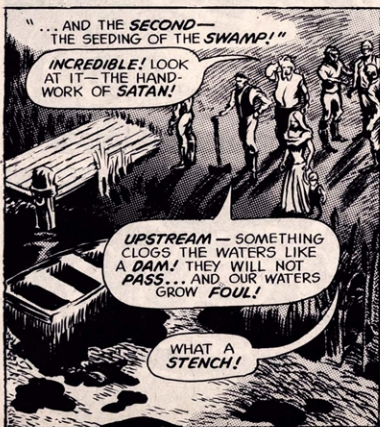
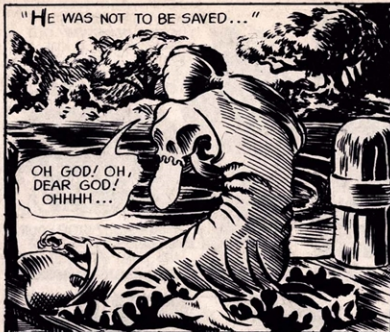
"... WITHIN A MONTH, WE WERE *WED*..."

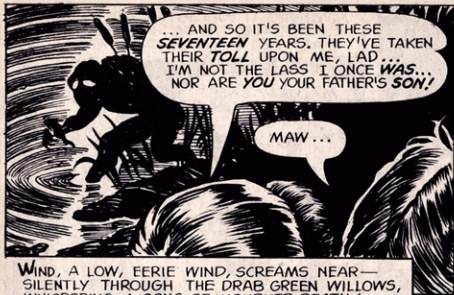
"... WITHIN THE YEAR, I HAD MY FIRST AND ONLY CHILD..."

"... AND IN THAT *SAME* YEAR, YOUR FATHER *DIED!*"

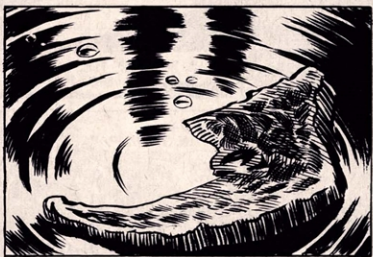
CRACK!

GARN!





WIND, A LOW, EERIE WIND, SCREAMS NEAR—
SILENTLY THROUGH THE DRAB GREEN WILLOWS,
WHISPERING A SONG OF MOURNED DEATH!





...MANY YEARS, TO WIPE THE PAIN FROM YOUR MIND, FORGETFULNESS OF THAT DAY YOU GAVE BIRTH TO GARN'S CHILD...

...FORGETFULNESS OF THE HORROR YOU FELT WHEN YOU SAW THE MONSTER THAT WAS YOUR SON...



...THE CHILD YOU'VE BEEN FEEDING THESE SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE CHILD MATURED INTO HIS TRUE FATHER'S IMAGE, THE CHILD WHO THESE DAYS SEEKS ITS OWN FOOD...



...EVEN AS IT SEEKS REVENGE FOR THOSE YEARS OF ABANDONMENT!

MADNESS COMES IN MANY FORMS. TO SOME, IN A BOLT OF INSANITY-- TO OTHERS, IN THE ELIXIR OF FORGETFULNESS. MANY YEARS, ELLUVIA...



...FORGETFULNESS OF THE MURDER OF YOUR HUSBAND IN VENGEANCE FOR THE BEAST HE FORCED UPON YOU, OF THE KIDNAPPING... OF THE ABANDONING OF YOUR TRUE CHILD TO THE WILDS OF THE SWAMP...





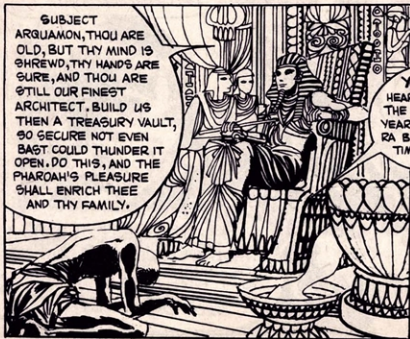
IN ANCIENT EGYPT, TIME SLIDES ALONG AS SLOWLY AS THE FUNERAL BARGE CARRYING THE REMAINS OF **RAMSES I** DOWN THE RIVER NILE. LIFE HERE COUNTS FOR NOTHING; ONE PASSES THROUGH IT BRIEFLY PREY TO POISONS, SICKNESS, TREACHERY, MURDER, AND THE WHIMS OF UNCOUNTABLE GODS, BOTH GOOD AND EVIL; THEN IN A WINK IT IS OVER, AND **DEATH... IS FOREVER.** DEATH IS EVERYTHING, LIKE ALL EGYPTIANS, THE OLD KING RAMSES SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE BUILDING AND FURNISHING HIS TOMB. AND TO IT HE FLOATS NOW, STILL, SERENE, AND QUIET—AS HE WILL BE FOREVERMORE.



THE SILVER THIEF AND THE PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER

RAMSES HAS LEFT HIS SON, HOWEVER, A VAST INHERITANCE OF CONQUEST, AND **EMPIRE** THAT STRETCHES FROM DUSKY KUISH IN THE SOUTH TO FAR PERSIA IN THE NORTH. AS UNIMAGINABLE TREASURES POUR INTO MEMPHIS ON OXEN, CAMELS, AND ELEPHANTS, **RAMSES II** SEEKS TO SECURE HIS RICHES.

SUBJECT
ARQUAMON, THOU ARE
OLD, BUT THY MIND IS
SHREWD, THY HANDS ARE
SURE, AND THOU ARE
STILL OUR FINEST
ARCHITECT. BUILD US
THEN A TREASURY VAULT,
SO SECURE NOT EVEN
BAST COULD THUNDER IT
OPEN. DO THIS, AND THE
PHAROAH'S PLEASURE
SHALL ENRICH THEE
AND THY FAMILY.



YOUR SLAVE
HEARS, O SON OF
THE SUN, AND
YEARNS TO OBEY, IF
RA BUT LEAVES HIM
TIME ON EARTH
TO.

BUT HEED ME,
OLD MAN! IF EVER A TOKEN,
SO MUCH AS A **SHECKEL**, IS
STOLEN FROM THIS VAULT WHILE YOU
YET LIVE, THY SPIRIT SHALL BE
RIVEN SHREIKING FROM THY FLESH,
AND THY BODY STRUNG UP, FOOD FOR
THE CROW. UNEMBALMED, YOUR
SOUL PERFORCE SHALL WONDER
IN ALLEYS OF MADNESS
FOREVER.



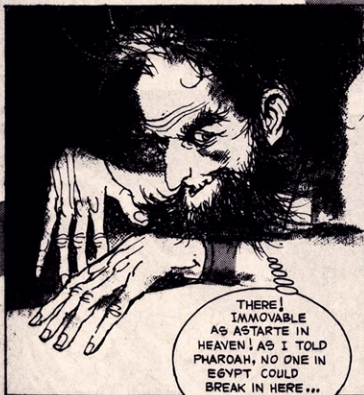
MY LORD, THESE
OLD HANDS HAVE BEEN
BULLIED BY TOO MUCH MONEY
IN MY LONG LIFE. THY TREASURY
SHALL BE BUILT INTO THE CITY
WALL ITSELF, WITH STONE
AND MORTAR, AND NO ONE
IN EGYPT SHALL ENTER
IT WITHOUT THE
KING'S SEAL.



WITH HIS OWN HANDS OLD ARGUAMON BUILT RAMSES' NEW
TREASURY, STRAINING HIS OLD MUSCLES HIS ANCIENT
JOINTS ACHING, HE FORMED IT BLOCK BY BLOCK AND LAID
IT TRUE...

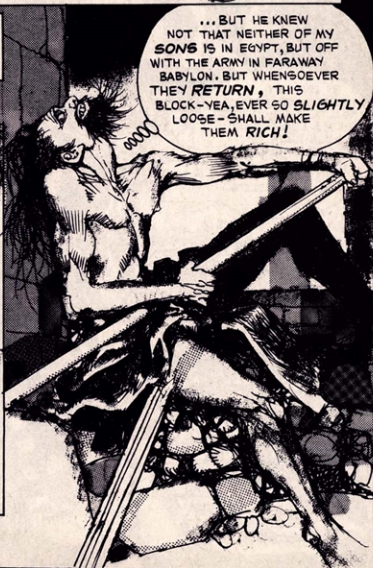


WITH STEADY HANDS HE MORTARED THE NEW WALL,
MAKING IT STRONG AND SAFE AS HE KNEW HOW,
AFTER A LIFETIME OF MASONRY...



THERE!
IMMOVABLE
AS ASTARTE IN
HEAVEN! AS I TOLD
PHAROAH, NO ONE IN
EGYPT COULD
BREAK IN HERE...

...BUT HE KNEW
NOT THAT NEITHER OF MY
SONS IS IN EGYPT, BUT OFF
WITH THE ARMY IN FARAWAY
BABYLON. BUT WHENSOEVER
THEY RETURN, THIS
BLOCK-YEA, EVER SO SLIGHTLY
LOOSE - SHALL MAKE
THEM RICH!



YEARS YET PASSED, DURING WHICH PHAROAH PROSPERED AND ARGUAMON KEPT HIS SILENCE. AT LENGTH, THOUGH, AS THE TIME AT LAST DREW NEAR...



KEPHYR, ALCOM, MY SONS—COME HITHER, I WOULD PASS A WORD WITH THEE BEFORE MY DEATH—RAFT BEACHES FOR ME.

...AND NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING. BE SLY, LADS, AND TAKE CARE. NOW LEAVE ME—I WOULD BE ALONE WHEN AT LAST I FEEL THE CLAWS OF THE REAPER-HAWK.

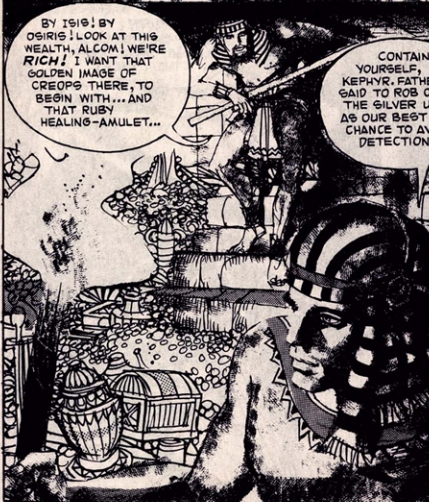


THUS OLD ARGUAMON'S BODY WAS NO SOONER SAFE AT THE EMBALMER'S, BEGINNING ITS SEVENTY-DAY PURIFICATION TREATMENT, THAN HIS SONS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE TREASURY HE HAD BUILT, YEARS BEFORE.



BY ISIS! BY OSIRIS! LOOK AT THIS WEALTH, ALCOM! WE'RE RICH! I WANT THAT GOLDEN IMAGE OF CREOPS THERE, TO BEGIN WITH... AND THAT RUBY HEALING-AMULET...

CONTAIN YOURSELF, KEPHYR. FATHER SAID TO ROB ONLY THE SILVER URNS, AS OUR BEST CHANCE TO AVOID DETECTION.



I DON'T LIKE THIS, KEPHYR! MAYBE THE OLD MAN WAS DELERIOUS...

HOO! THIS IS IT! IT MOVES!



LOOK AT THAT! WE'LL NEVER WORK AGAIN! WE CAN BUY A PALACE AND A HUNDRED SLAVES. WE'LL HAVE THE BIGGEST FUNERALS SINCE CHEOPS.

MOTHER, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT. FATHER BUILT A VAULT BIG ENOUGH FOR THE WEALTH OF SEVEN KINGDOMS, AND PHAROAH'S FILLED IT TO THE BRIM!

BUT FOR ALL HIS WEALTH, PHAROAH WAS A PARSIMONIOUS RULER. IT TOOK NOT MANY MORE READS ON HIS SILVER URNS BEFORE...

PHEQUES, THOU ART CHANCELLOR OF OUR EXCHEQUER. DURING THE MOON OF THE IBIS THIRTY TALENTS WERE DEPOSITED IN THE SILVER URNS. YET NOW, HALF THROUGH THE MOON OF THE SERPENT, WE FIND OURSELVES TEN TALENTS WANTING. WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU EAT IT, FAT FOOL?

MY-MY LORD! SCION OF THE NILE, I-I AM AT A LOSS TO ACCOUNT... SURELY SOME MISTAKE... HOLINESS, THE DOOR-SEAL HAS NOT BEEN BROKEN, I SWEAR! THE GUARDS REPORT NOTHING. PERHAPS IF YOU COUNTED AGAIN...

COUNT AGAIN! IDIOT, TOMORROW WE SHALL COUNT ONE MORE HEAD ON A SPIKE BY THE CITY GATES, AND IT SHALL BE THINE! TAKE THE FAT FOOL TO THE HEADSMAN, GUARDS!

OH, AND JUST IN CASE HE TELLS THE TRUTH, MEN-WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH HIM, RETURN HERE AND SET UP A TRAP THAT SLAYS NOT, BUT KEEPS THE VICTIM FAST. MEANWHILE, I GO TO RAISE THE TAXES TO AFFRAY THE TREASURY'S LOSS.

BROTHER, I LIKE THIS LESS EACH TIME WE MAKE A RAID. PHAROAH'S RAISED THE TAXES, THAT MAY MEAN HE'S SUSPICIOUS.

THAT MAY BE SO, BUT THIS LAST RAID GIVES US ENOUGH TO HIRE A GALLEY AND FLEE FOR GREECE, WITH A GENEROUS BOOTY. THE WOMEN THERE I HEAR HAVE YELLOW HAIR, AND THEIR THIGHS...

SNAP!

AOW! ALCOM, I'VE BEEN SEIZED! I'M CAUGHT!



A TRAP!
BUT WHY A MERE
WRIST-CATCHER,
AND NOT A
FATAL DEADFALL,
OR A FALLING
BLADE...

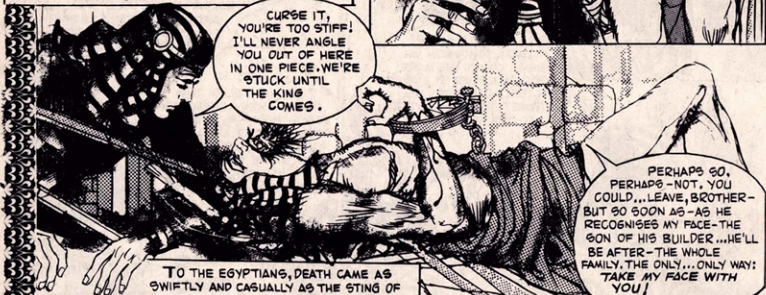
ALCOM,
MY ARM...IT
KNOTS...AND
MY LEGS,
I CAN'T
MOVE!

BUT THE PHAROAH'S MAGE WAS WELL-VERSED IN
LORE OF POISONS...



AH, THE BLADE
WAS SMEARED WITH
CURARE, LIKE THE
WAR-ARROWS OF
KUSH!

BUT-BUT WEAKENED
CURARE... I CAN STILL...
IF I TRY... MOVE MY LIPS.
I STILL LIVE, BUT... HELP
ME OUT-OF HERE,
ALCOM!

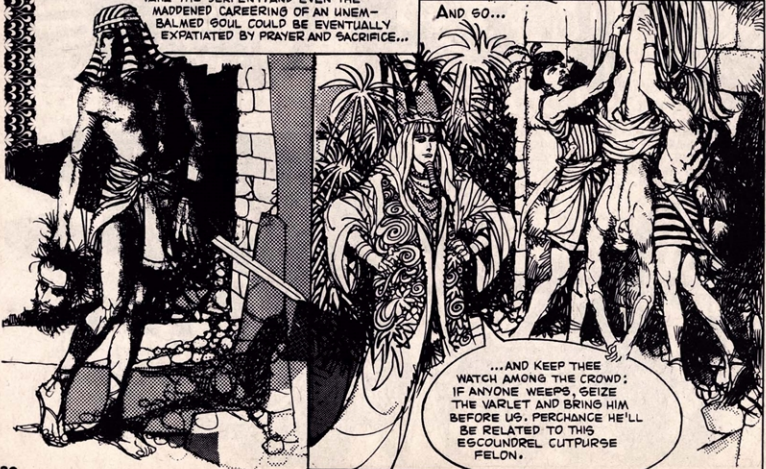


CURSE IT,
YOU'RE TOO STIFF!
I'LL NEVER ANGLE
YOU OUT OF HERE
IN ONE PIECE. WE'RE
STUCK UNTIL
THE KING
COMES.

TO THE EGYPTIANS, DEATH CAME AS
SWIFTLY AND CASUALLY AS THE STING OF
VAHA THE SERPENT, AND EVEN THE
MADDENED CAREERING OF AN UNEM-
BALMED SOUL COULD BE EVENTUALLY
EXPATIATED BY PRAYER AND SACRIFICE...

PERHAPS SO.
PERHAPS-NOT. YOU
COULD... LEAVE, BROTHER-
BUT SO SOON AS HE
RECOGNISES MY FACE-THE
SON OF HIS BUILDER... HE'LL
BE AFTER-THE WHOLE
FAMILY. THE ONLY... ONLY WAY:
TAKE MY FACE WITH
YOU!

AND SO...



...AND KEEP THEE
WATCH AMONG THE CROWD;
IF ANYONE WEEPS, SEIZE
THE VARLET AND BRING HIM
BEFORE US. PERCHANCE HE'LL
BE RELATED TO THIS
EGGCOUNDEL CUTPURSE
FELON.

THIS- IS THE WAY YOU TREAT YOUR MOTHER!? 'WE'LL BE RICH,' YOU SAID! 'WE'LL GO TO GREECE! A COMFORT IN YOUR AGE! 'A COMFORT THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE?

I HAVE ONE LESS SON! POOR KEPHYR HEADLESS, AND NOT EVEN EMBALMED! WITHOUT A TOMB, HE WALKS AMONG GIBBERING FIENDS AND SCREAMING DEMONS THROUGH QUICKSAND AND HURRICANE! ALCOM, I WANT THAT BODY FOR THE EMBALMERS!

MOTHER, BE REASONABLE.

IF I DON'T GET THAT BODY, I TELL THE KING EVERYTHING. MY SON WILL BE PROPERLY LAID OUT, OR WE'LL ALL HANG AND WONDER WITH HIM! THIS I SWEAR BY KOTH THE HIPPO-GODDESS.

LEND ME TIME, MOTHER. I MUST THINK ON IT...

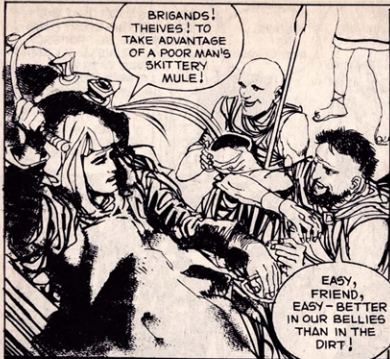
NEXT DAY...

GEE! HAW! ENOUGH OF YOUR SILLINESS, MULE! GET A MOVE ON! MAYBE A CRACK ON THE RUMP'LL MOVE YOU!

CRACK!

WHOA! BY THE BREASTS OF NEPHERTITI, DOWN, YOU ROGE!

FLOOSH!



AND NIGHT IN EGYPT FALLS
LIKE THE BEAT OF A STICK ON
SOME VAST BLACK DRUM...

AND AT NIGHT...



...WHO KNOWS WHAT
DEVILTRY IS COMMITTED?

**LOST THE
BODY?!!** BY HORUS,
I'LL HAVE THY HIDES! FORTY
LASHES APEICE, AND HARDTACK FOR
A WEEK! BY THE WAR-CHARIOT OF
RA, WHAT FOOLS LET A THEIF STEAL
A CORPSE FROM
UNDER THEIR
GODDEN
NOSES?

I'TWAS NO THEIF,
PHAROAH. BUT A
MAGICIAN. HE CAST A
DROWSING- SPELL
IN OUR
BEARDS,
AND -



A MAGICIAN?
A SHREWD YOUTH, MORE
LIKELY, AND A FORMER
SOLDIER TO BOOT, BY THE
LOOKS OF IT. HOW TO TRAP
A SOLDIER? HMMM...
ONE BAITs THE TRAP WITH
SOMETHING
PRETTY...



DID YOU HEAR THE CRYER,
ALCOM? RAMSES HAS GONE,
GIBBERING MAD-HE'S PLACED
HIS DAUGHTER IN THE CITY'S
BIGGEST BROTHEL, AND
OFFERED HER TO ALL
CITIZENS
FREE!

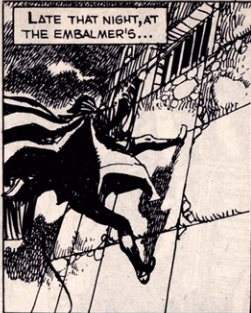
FREE?
CLIEOPS
SOLD HIS
DAUGHTER TO
RAISE MONEY FOR
HIS PYRAMID- YEA,
AND THE WENCH
EXACTED AN ADDITIONAL
TOLL TO BUILD
HER OWN- BUT
FOR A GOOD
PRICE, WHAT'S
ALL THIS
ABOUT?



THE ONLY TOLL IS THIS:
YOU MUST TELL HER **THE
MOST AWFUL THING
YOU'VE EVER DONE!**
I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HER
ABOUT THE TIME WE GOT
DRUNK AND PUT A BABY
CROCODILE IN THE FOUNTAIN
OF 1515 ON THE EVE OF
BAPTISM. YOU'RE COMING
TOO, OF
COURSE?



LATE THAT NIGHT, AT
THE EMBALMER'S...



POOR KEPHYR -
ALREADY MINUS A HEAD,
CHANCES ARE YOU WON'T
MUCH MISS AN ARM.



COMRADE
ALCOM, WHAT
WOULD **YOU** BE
DOING HERE? WHAT
DEEP DARK CRIME
LURKS IN **YOUR**
BACKGROUND?

I SPENT
ALL LAST NIGHT
FABRICATING A
GOOD ONE, FRIEND.
LET'S HOPE IT
WORKS.





...THE FIRST NIGHT WE TOOK ONLY SEVEN TALENTS APIECE, IT WAS ALL WE COULD CARRY, BUT AFTER MUCH EXERCISE, AND LIFTING OF WEIGHTS, OUR SECOND RAID NETTED US...



GUARDS!
LIGHTS!
TORCHES! HE'S CAUGHT!!



AND NOW IN PAYMENT, PRINCESS OF THE SUN, LET ME TELL YOU OF MY CRIMES. MY FATHER, NOW DEAD, WAS A GREAT ARCHITECT...



...DISGUISED AS A WINE MERCHANT, I RIGGED THE SPOUT ON ONE OF MY SKINS SO IT WOULD BREAK OPEN AS I PASSED THE GUARD BY KEPHYR'S BODY...



WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS? MY SON, NOT ONLY A FELON, BUT HE **ADMITS** IT TO THE **PRINCESS!**

HUSH! THE BOAT SHOULD BE READY, SO IF WE'RE QUIET- HOLD! WHAT'S THIS SIGN?



IT SAYS, 'BY ORDER OF THE PHAROAH, CLEMENCY IS HEREBY GIVEN THE SILVER THIEF. IF HE WILL BUT STEP FORWARD AND IDENTIFY HIMSELF, HE FURTHERMORE GETS THE **PRINCESS' HAND IN MARRIAGE AND HALF THE KINGDOM!**... IF HE BUT PROMISES TO BECOME THE KING'S NEW VIZIER...



YES, THE PHAROAH, SHREWD ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT ANY MAN AS CLEVER AS HIS SILVER THIEF DESERVED NOT DEATH BUT A HIGH GOVERNMENT POST, TOOK ALCON INTO HIS HOUSEHOLD. TOGETHER, THEY GREATLY ENRICHED THE DYNASTY, AND ADDED TO THE GLORY AND SPLENDOR THAT WAS EGYPT. AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER, UNTIL DEATH CAME TO CLAIM THEM.

JOSE M BEA



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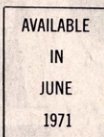
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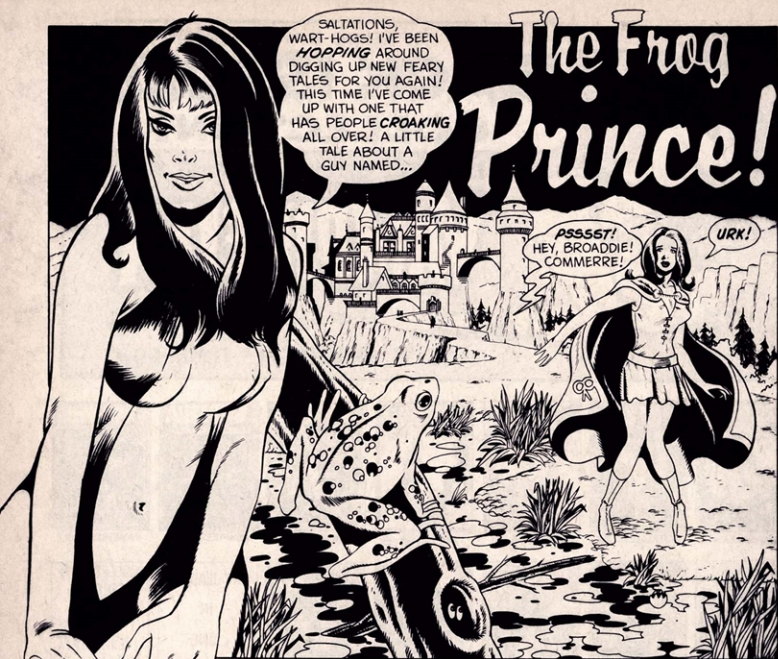
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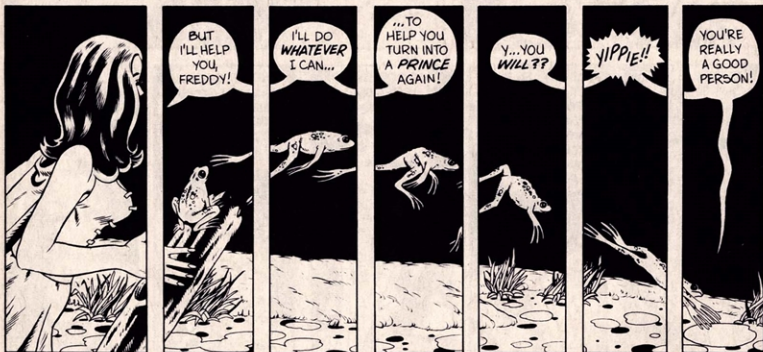
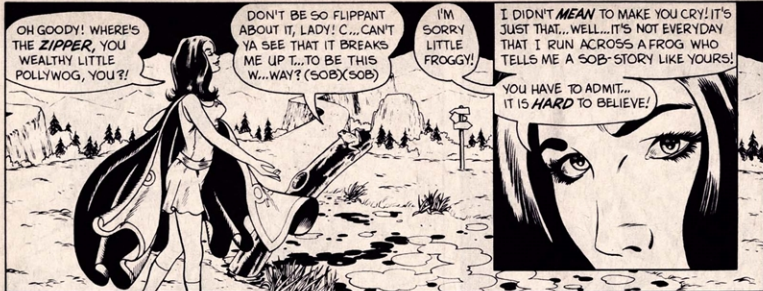
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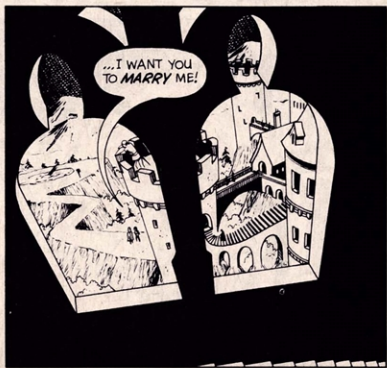
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FEED IT RAW BEEF! If there are no insects in your house, you can feed the traps tiny slivers of raw beef. The plant will thrive on such food. When there is no food for the traps, the plant will feed normally through its root system.

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HERE'S A 'LOVE STORY' FOR ALL YOU LOATHSOME ROMANTICS OUT THERE. BUT FIRST, A WORD OF CAUTION IS IN ORDER: BY FOURTEENTH CENTURY STANDARDS, BEAUTY WAS STRICTLY IN THE

eye of the beholder



AH—JUST LOOK AT THAT RAGGED CREATURE YONDER! OH—HAD I ONLY THOSE LONG GOLDEN TRESSSES, BUT WOULDN'T ALL THE FINE YOUNG HORSEMEN COME BEATING AT THE DOOR OF MY CHAMBER LATE AFTER SUNDOWN!



GARY KAUFMAN

YOU KNOW I DO TIRE AWFULLY OF MY UNGAINLY OLD MINISTERS! AND EVEN THEY, *EVEN THEY* ONLY VISIT ME, I THINK, BECAUSE I'M ABLE TO GRANT FAVORS OTHER THAN THOSE THEY MAKE PRETENSE OF SEEKING! OH—IF ONLY...



BUT WHY NOT? MY DEAR COUNTESS, SHE IS AS MUCH YOUR PROPERTY AS THIS LAND! AND YOU CAN AFFORD AS MANY PHYSICIANS AS YOU WISH, SHOULD YOU CARE TO CARRY MATTERS FARTHER!



INDEED...
GIRL! COME HERE TO YOUR COUNTESS!
QUICKLY NOW! RUN!



THE GIRL RUNS, TRIPS, PICKS
HERSELF UP AND RUNS OVER,



FALLING ON HER KNEES BEFORE
THE COUNTESS, QUIVERING.

I- I'VE DONE NOTHING!
PLEASE! I AM BUT THE POOR
WIDOW OF A PEASANT!



RISE, GIRL, YOU'VE DONE
NOTHING! ...SO YOU ARE A
WIDOW! I, TOO, THE COUNTESS,
AM WITHOUT HUSBAND.



YOU SEE, I DO
UNDERSTAND YOUR
MISERY AND HUNGER.
THE HARDSHIPS...



HE DIED IN YOUR WARS!



HUSH! DO NOT BLASPHEME!
I, THE COUNTESS, UNDERSTAND YOUR GRIEF!
I'LL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THIS SQUALOR,
AWAY FROM THIS HARD LIFE!



I WILL TAKE YOU INTO MY
HOME! COME, CHILD! LEAVE
YOUR THINGS. I WILL TAKE
CARE OF YOUR NEEDS!



THE NEXT DAWN FOUND A CONTENTED COUNTESS.



SHE HAD CHOSEN THE LOYAL HUNTSMAN AS HER INSTRUMENT OF FATE.



THOUGH A PERFECTLY LOYAL SUBJECT OF THE COUNTESS...



GILES FOUND LOYALTY DIDN'T ENTER INTO CERTAIN MATTERS.



THAT EVENING GILES REPORTED HIS FAILURE.

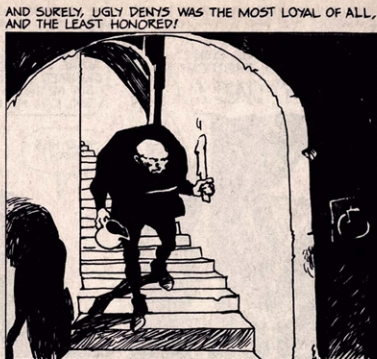


WHO THEN?
WHO CAN I TRUST?



AND TURNING TO DENYS THE DEFORMITY, SHE FOUND THE ANSWER.





AND DENYS VERY SELDOM FAILED!



THE COUNTESS WAS DELIGHTED WITH HER NEW GOLDEN GLORY...



AND THUS DISGUISED, SHE WANDERED ABOUT THE GROUNDS...



SHOWING HERSELF IN ALL THE PLACES WHERE YOUNG GENTLEMEN GATHERED!



WHEN THE COUNTESS RETURNED TO HER CHAMBERS SHE WAS DOWNCAST!



SHE WAS SOON COMFORTED WITH NEW HOPE! ...SMILING AGAIN!



AND THE RAGGED CREATURE FACED THE GREAT COUNTESS ONCE MORE...



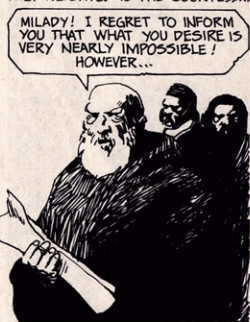
OPEN YOUR MOUTH, GIRL! LET'S SEE YOUR TEETH!
AHH— YES! WE MIGHT TRY THOSE TO BEGIN WITH!



PRESENTLY THE PORTLY AND AGED MEN OF MEDICINE ARRIVED.



FOLLOWING A LENGTHY CONFERENCE, THEY REPORTED TO THE COUNTESS...



AN OPERATION THIS EXTENSIVE HAS NEVER BEEN ATTEMPTED, BUT... WE THREE REPRESENT THE FOREMOST MINDS EVER TO BE ASSEMBLED, AND WE ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!



THIS SORRY BEAST IS MY SERVANT, DENYS! HE'LL LEAD YOU TO THE GIRL'S CELL.



THAT EVENING, WITHIN THE DARK, DAMP CELL, THE PHYSICIANS BEGAN THEIR GRIM WORK.



SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS TOOK PLACE IN THE CELL AND THE COUNTESS' CHAMBER...

CREATING A NEW, AND YOUNGER COUNTESS!

AFTER FIVE DAYS MILADY ADMIRER HER NEW FACE IN THE LOOKING GLASS...



NIGHT AND DAY THE OLD PHYSICIANS WORKED OVER THE COUNTESS' BED.



KNIVES AND SAWS CUT AND HACKED AS FOUNTAINS OF BLOOD FILLED BUCKETS!



THE CUTTING AND SPLICING AND FILING CONTINUED FOR MANY PAINFUL WEEKS...

BUT THE LOFTY GOAL WAS UNATTAINABLE!



BUT... I CAN SCARCELY WALK!
ONE LEG IS SHORTER THAN THE
OTHER! AND MY NECK! WHAT!
IS THIS A JOKE? WELL...





DON'T WORRY,
IT WILL BE FINE
WHEN IT HEALS!



I MUST SEE HOW MY
NEW FACE HAS HEALED!
MY GLASS... PLEASE!

NO! NO!
YOU MUSTN'T... I MEAN,
WE MUST GIVE YOU THE
PEASANT'S EYES... TO
BE COMPLETE!

THE FINAL OPERATION
PROCEEDED WITH CARE...



AND FAILED!



EVERYTHING IS DARK!
I CAN'T SEE...
I'VE BEEN DUPED!

THERE WAS SOME ACTIVITY IN THE CELL BELOW!
NEATLY PACKAGING THE REMAINS OF THE
PEASANT GIRL FOR INTERRING,
THE UNSUCCESSFUL MEN OF
MEDICINE DEPARTED
QUIETLY.



AS THE COUNTESS WEPT
BITTER TEARS, A HORRIBLY
DEFORMED FIGURE ENTERED.



WHO'S THERE?

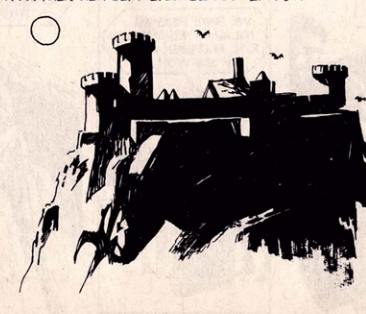
NO ONE YOU
WOULD KNOW,
DEAR LADY!

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME,
UGLY DENYS TOUCHED
HIS BELOVED COUNTESS.



YOU ARE THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I
HAVE EVER SEEN!

DELIGHTED, THE BLIND COUNTESS SMILED, LAY BACK,
AND WAS SOON IN ECSTASY!
.....THEN HER LEFT EYEBALL POPPED OUT.



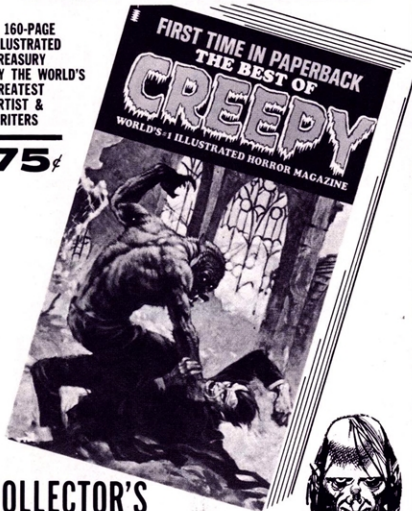
AREN'T LOVE STORIES
JUST GREAT, GANG?
I ONLY HOPE CLUMSY
DENYS DOESN'T
STEP ON THAT EYE!



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EASY WAY TO A TUFF SURFBOARD!

HEY! LOOK WHO'S RIDIN' THE BIG ONE... IN TANDEM! IT'S DAVE!

WHAT'S HAPPENING? LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE WAS A BOARDLESS NOODLE LIKE YOU AND ME!

WHAT GIVES, CUT-BUDDY? HOW'D YOU DIG UP THE COINS FOR THIS MEAN HUNK OF WOOD?

A CUSTOM JOB! AND I'M DOING WELL TO KEEP MYSELF IN SMOKE!

IF YOU THINK IT LOOKS GOOD, WANT'LL YOU TRY IT?

NOT NOW, DAD! TOO WINDED FROM THE SMOKE... I'D DO WELL TO PADDLE OUT THROUGH THE BREAKERS!

YOU'D DO WELL TO QUIT BURNING UP YOUR POCKET MONEY ON CIGARETTES! I DID AND BANKED THE CASH INSTEAD... YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT WHAT IT GOT ME!

...AND MAN, I NEVER GET WINDED NOW!

MAKES SENSE! I'D TRADE A SMOKER'S COUGH FOR A BOARD LIKE THAT! LET'S GIVE IT A TRY! MAYBE IN A FEW MONTHS...

SMOKING DOESN'T PAY!

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MORE A
YEAR!

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MORE A
YEAR!

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