

VENTURE

NO. 2

1973

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FRANK CIROCCO



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1973



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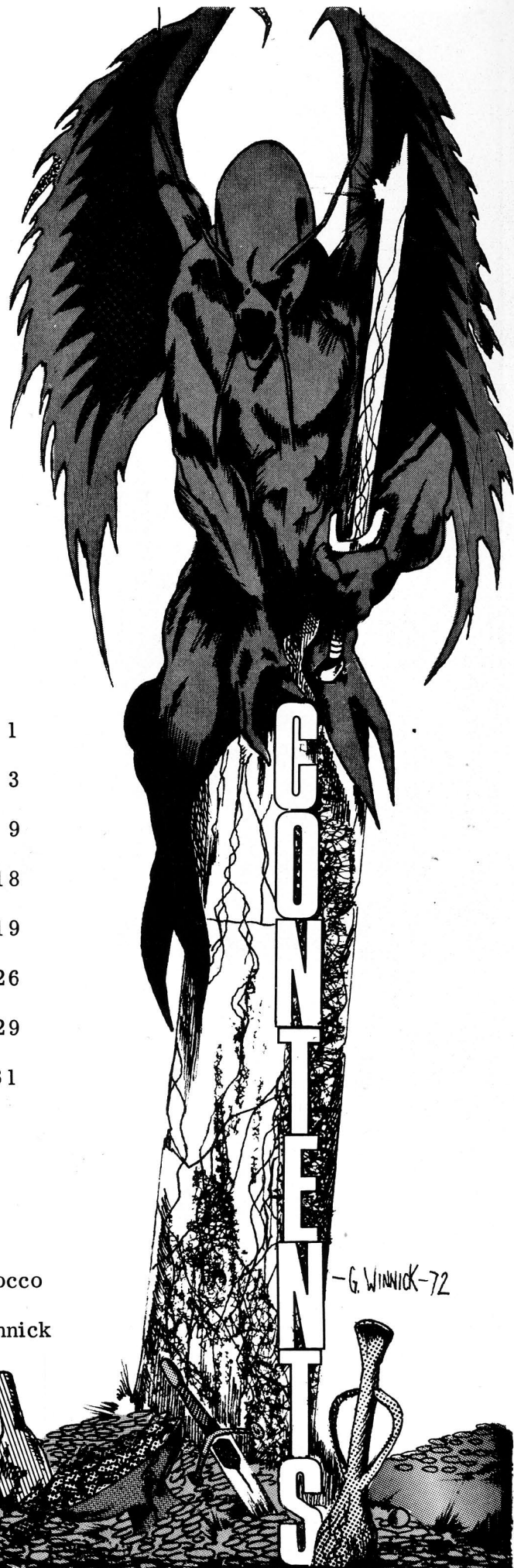
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Connie Palmer
Jana Walz
and Bob Hyman

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FRONT COVER by.....Frank Cirocco

BACK COVER by.....Gary Winnick

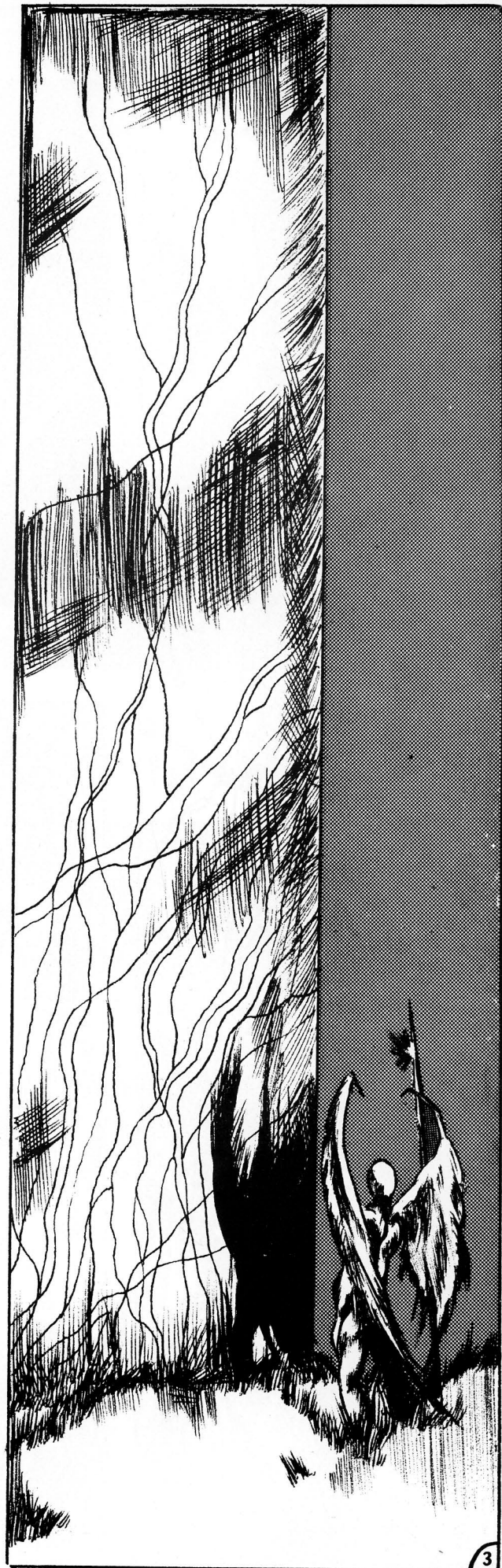




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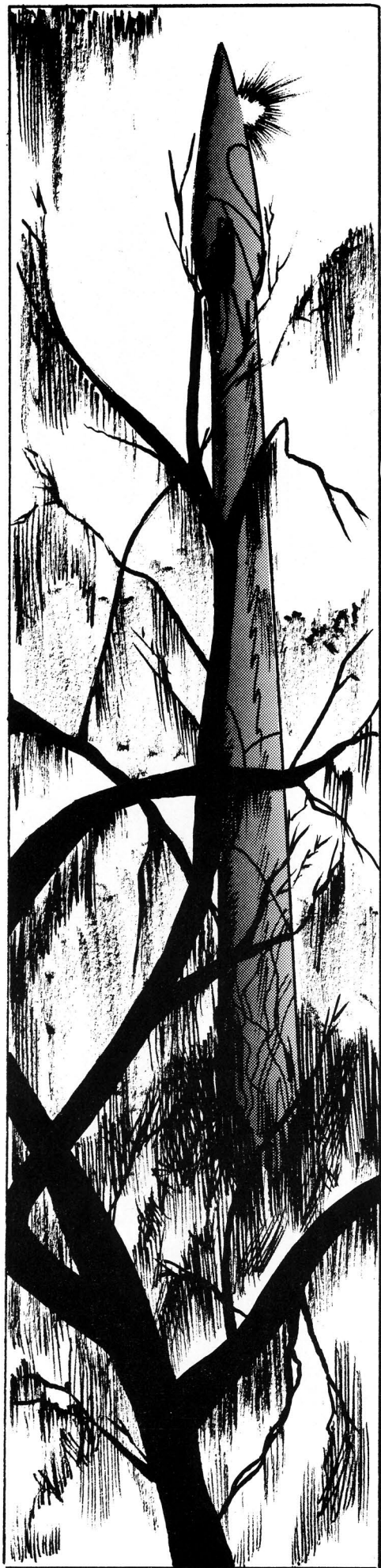


THE
PLANET EARTH
HAS UNDERGONE
MANY CHANGES.
NOW ADMIT THE
BLASTED FUTURE
SURFACE, NEW
LIFE GROWS AND
THRIVES, SCIENCE
HAS BEEN SUPP-
LANTED BY MAGIC,
A WORLD INHABIT-
ED BY DEMONS,
MONSTERS, AND
SEMI-MEN. ONE
SUCH IS VETERIX
THE WINGED MAN.
AS HE FORAGES,
HE COMES UPON A
STRANGE LOOMING
STRUCTURE, OF
AN UNKNOWN
MATERIAL...



THE
WIZARD'S
TOWER

STORY AND ART BY
GARY WINNICK - 1973

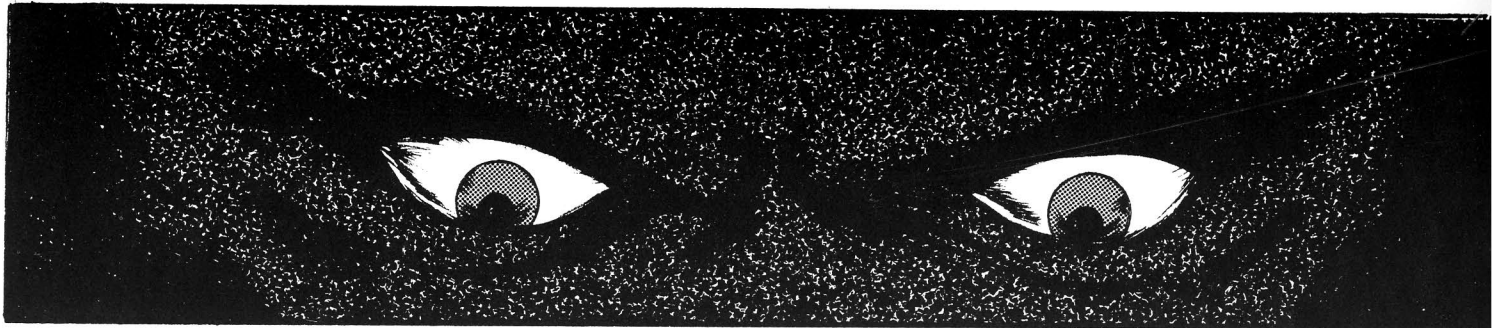


AS VETERIX OBSERVES
THE TOWER,



HE IN TURN IS
OBSERVED...





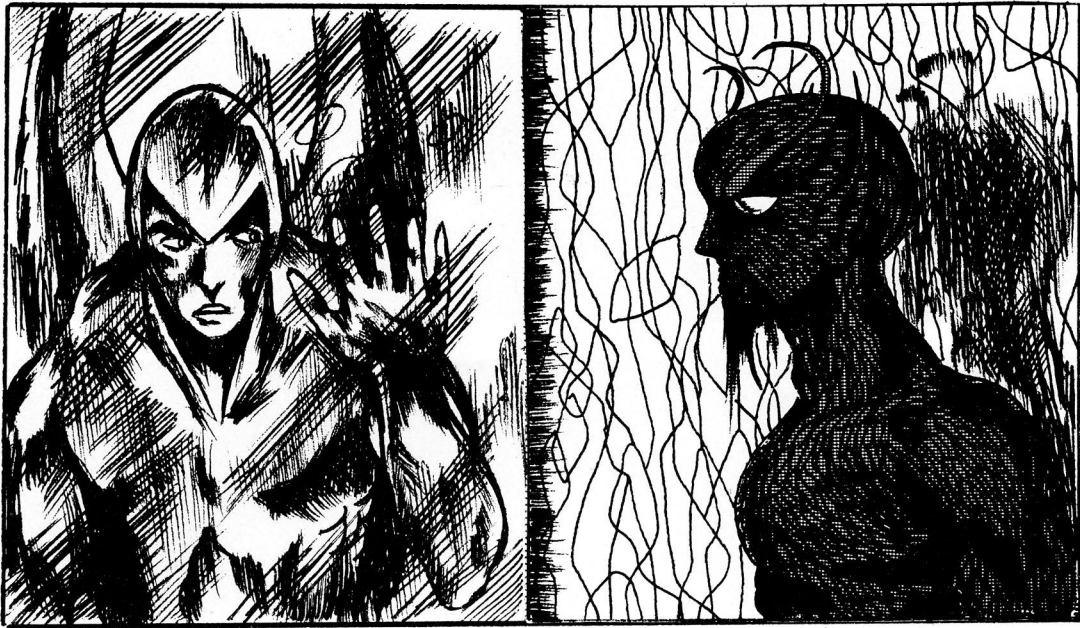
MOVING AROUND
THE BASE OF THE
TOWER, VETERIX
FINDS AN
OPENING,

...AND
ENTERS...



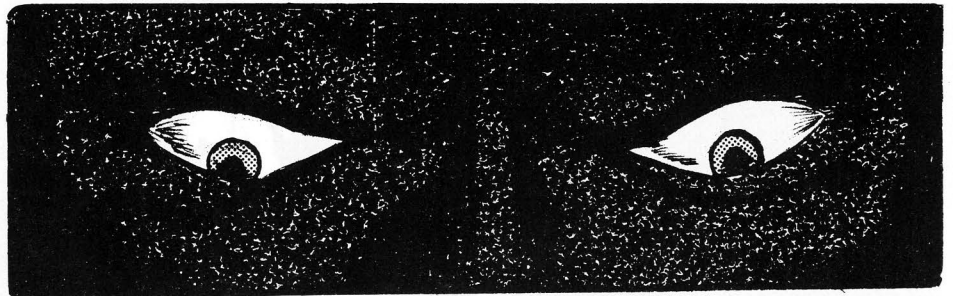
AND SUDDENLY THE
CHAMBER IS ILLUMINATED,
AND HE SEES SIGHTS THAT
STAGGER HIS IMAGINATION





CASE UPON CASE, ROW UPON ROW, OF STRANGE UNMOVING CREATURES...

... AND SOME NOT SO STRANGE.

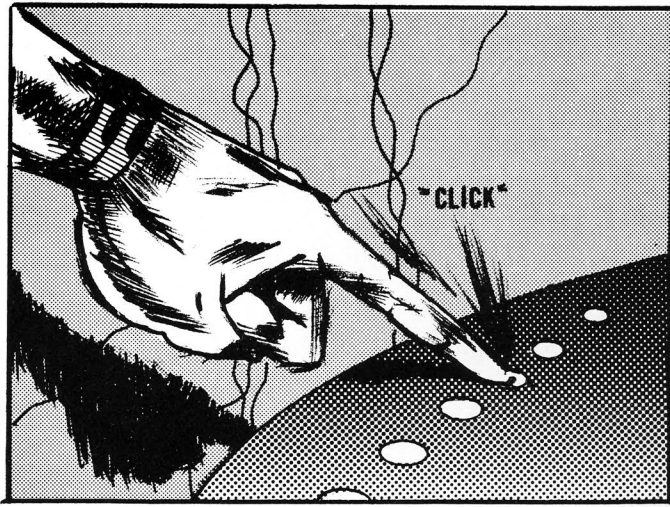


SUDDENLY FROM BEHIND VETERIX, THERE IS A LOUD METALLIC SOUND...



CLANG!

THE HUGE DOOR THRU WHICH HE HAD ENTERED HAS BEEN CLOSED.



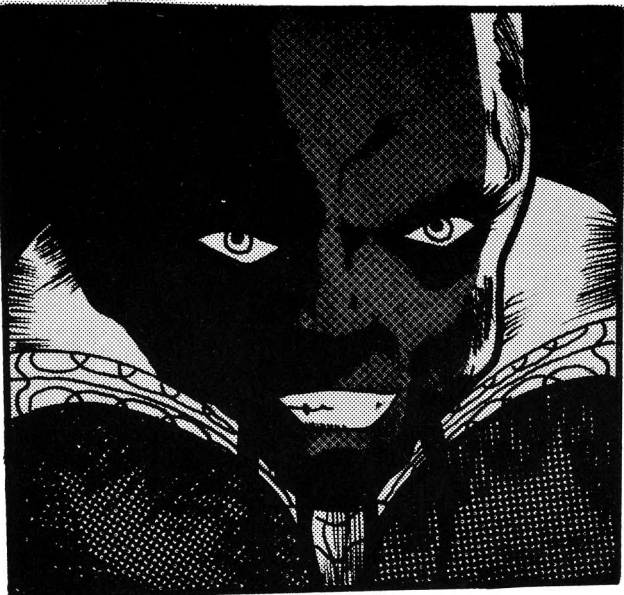
AND FROM CONCEALED VENTS ABOUT HIM, JET CLOUDS OF VILE PARALIZING FUMES..



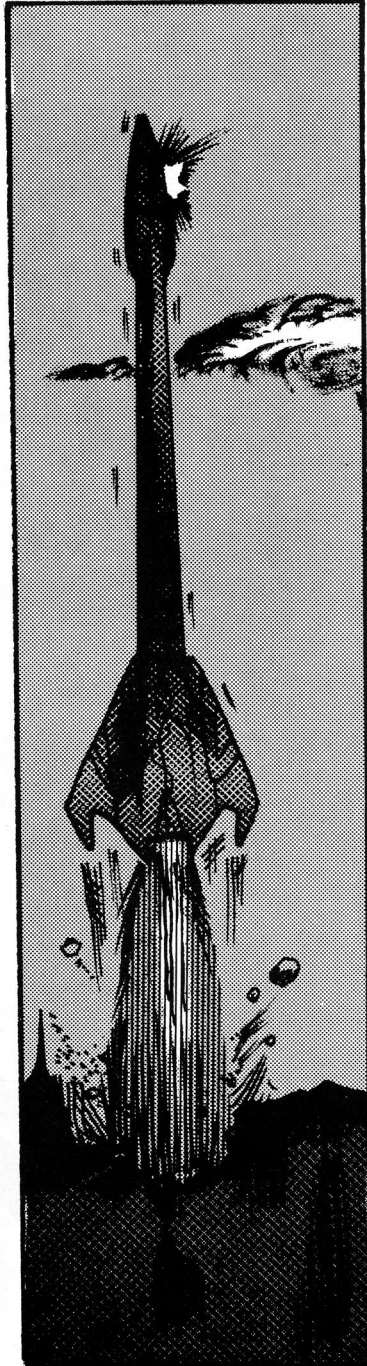
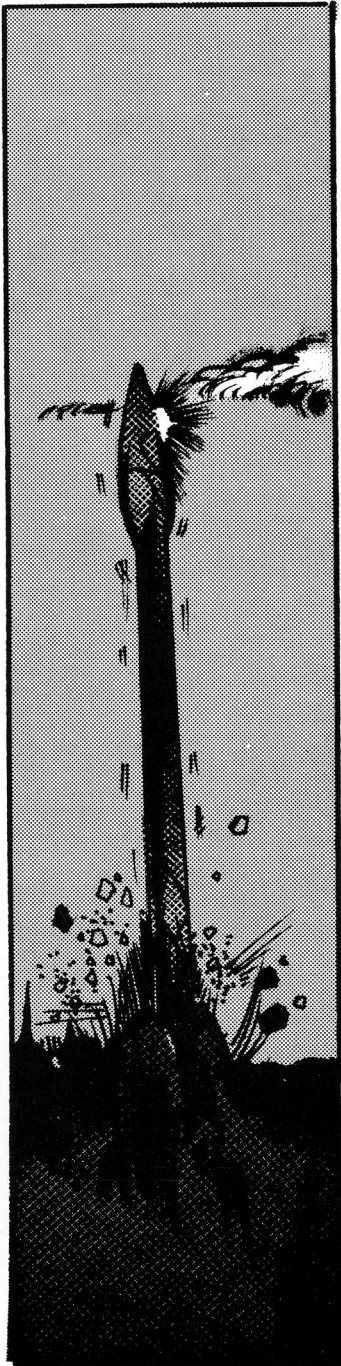
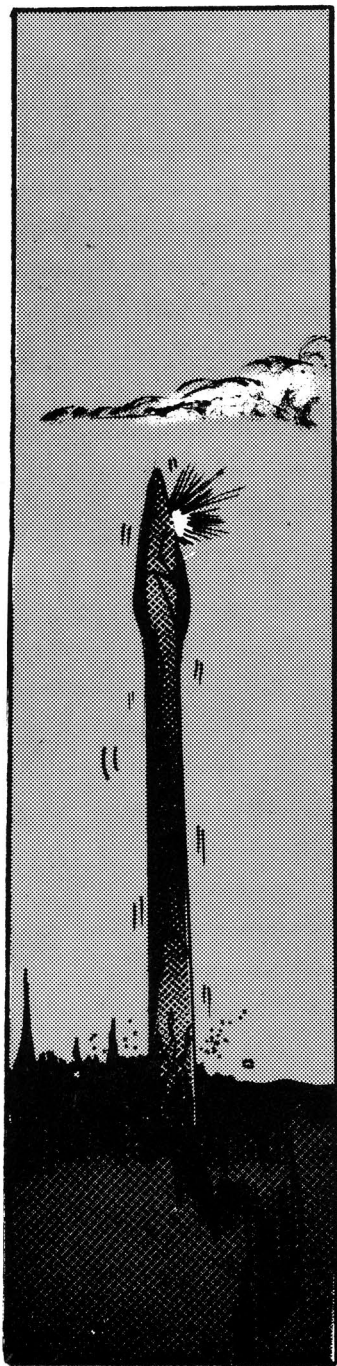
POWERFUL WINGS BEAT, IN ATTEMPT TO RISE ABOVE THE SPEWING GAS..



THE COLLECTOR SMILED, AND LOOKED AT HIS NEWEST ACQUISITION, MAGNIFICENT...



TIME TO GO HOME...



END

PROLOGUE

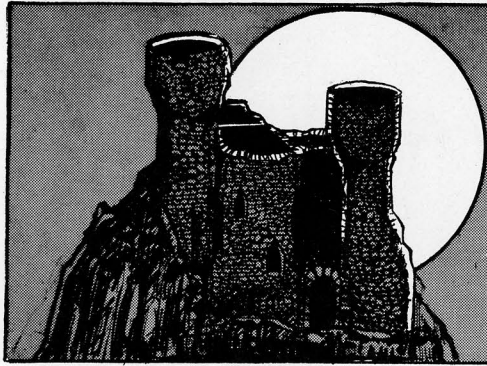
Heather had labored for years. The white witch tediously manipulated her brainchild to be fulfilled with the miraculous spark of life. For six attempts, the sorceress failed to call a living, breathing being into this world...

The spell was cast for the seventh time and the elements nurtured a being of metallic tissue from the womb of the universe and thus was born...

ISADAO-7

ART AND STORY: FRANK CIROCCO

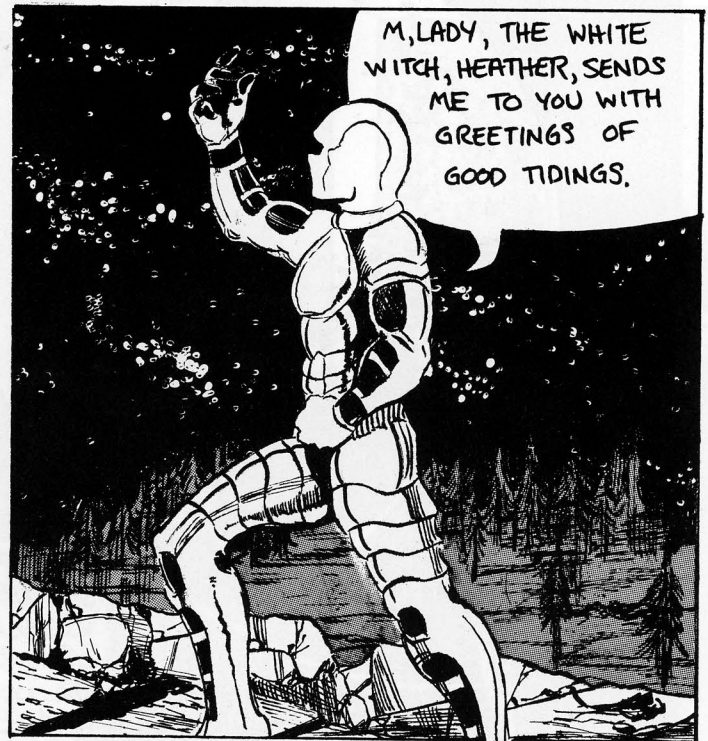
YOUR JOURNEY IS OVER. YOU HAVE REACHED THE DESTINATION YOU WERE SENT TO FIND: A GREAT STRUCTURE MADE OF RARE IVORY. THE CASTLE RISES MAJESTICALLY OUT OF THE PINED WOODLANDS BELOW ITS NOBLE GAZE. MANY HAVE VISITED THIS EDIFICE OVER THE AGES, BUT NOW THERE IS ONLY ONE THAT DWELLS AT...



IVORY TOWERS

Chapter one

GAZING UP TO THE FIGURE IN THE TOWER, YOU ASK, "ARE YOU, DRAZIW, THE WIZARD OF THESE TOWERS?", AND THE CLOAKED FIGURE REPLIES...

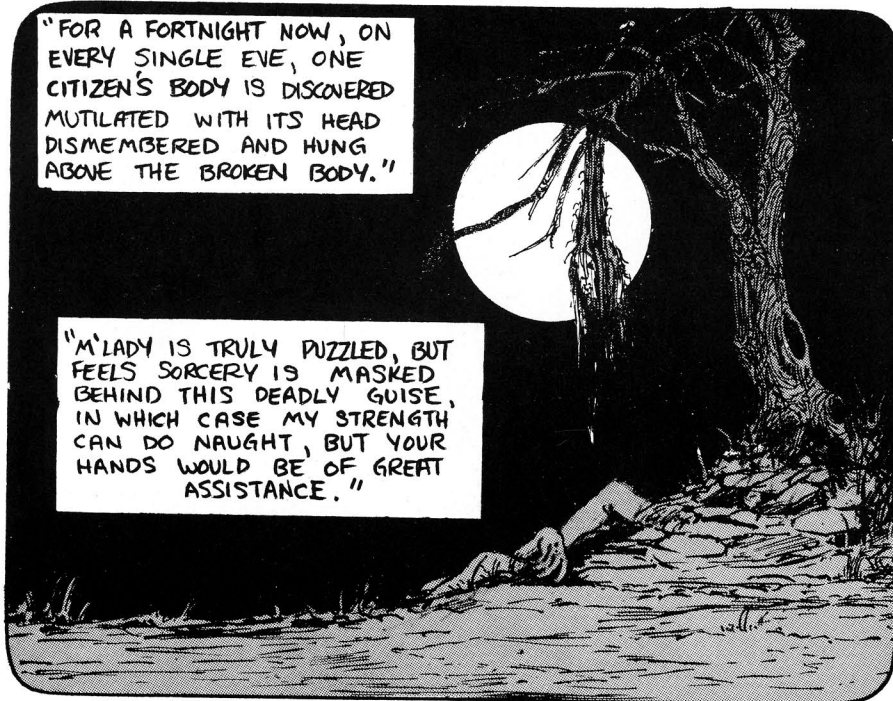




THIS WAY, MY SON. TELL ME, WHAT DOES LADY HEATHER HAVE TO ASK OF AN OLD, WORN-OUT WIZARD LIKE ME?

SIR, YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF.

YOUR NAME IS FABLED THROUGHOUT THIS GREAT LAND, AND THIS IS WHY M'LADY NEEDS YOUR AID TONIGHT.

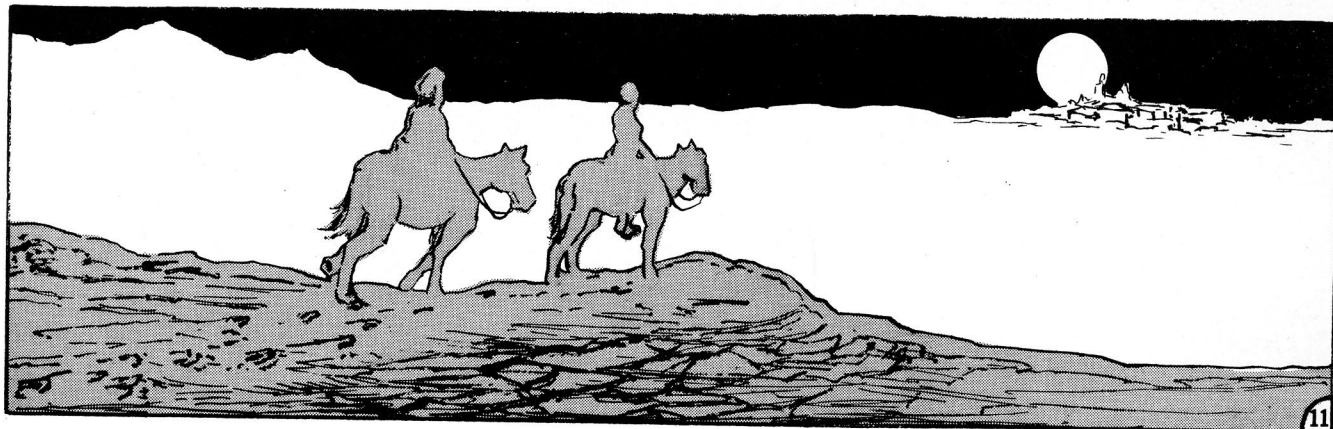


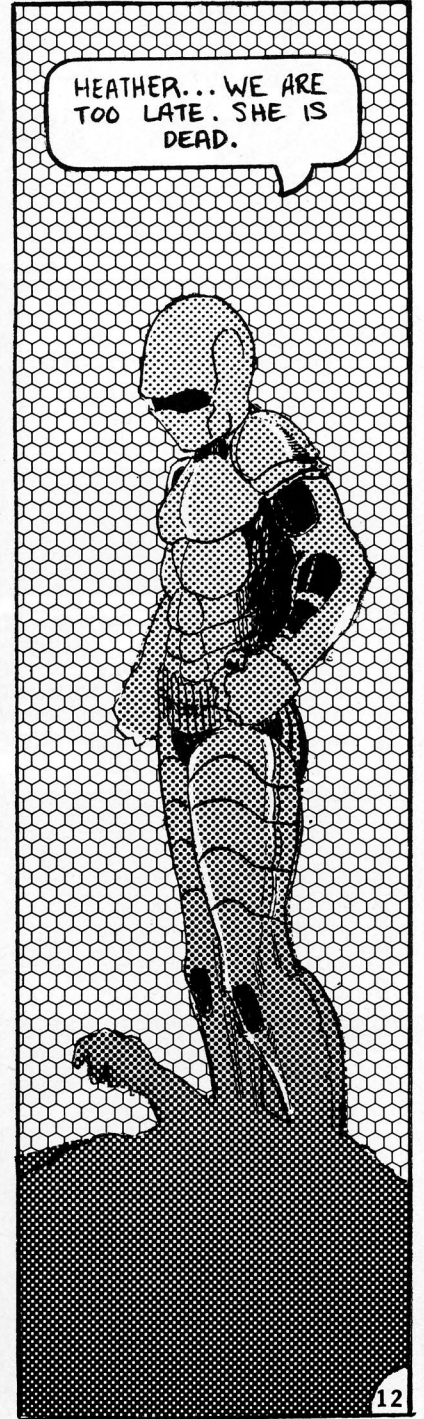
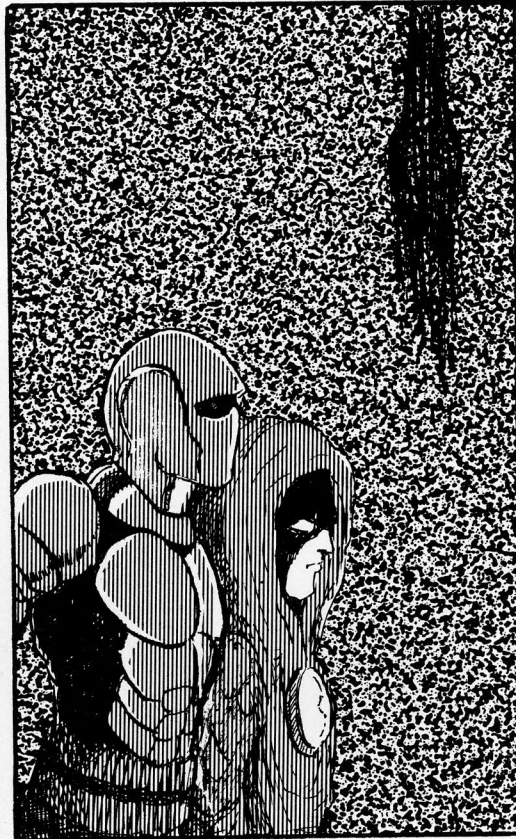
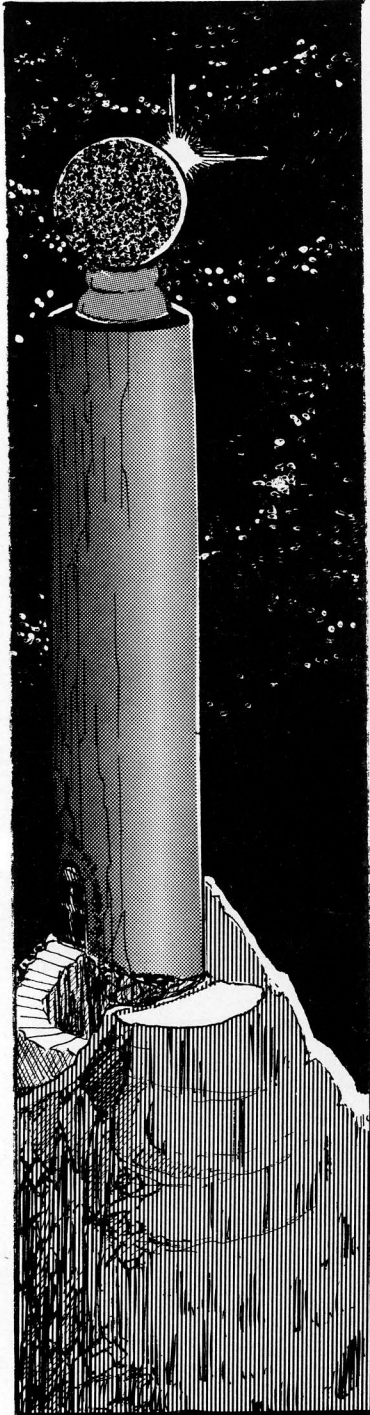
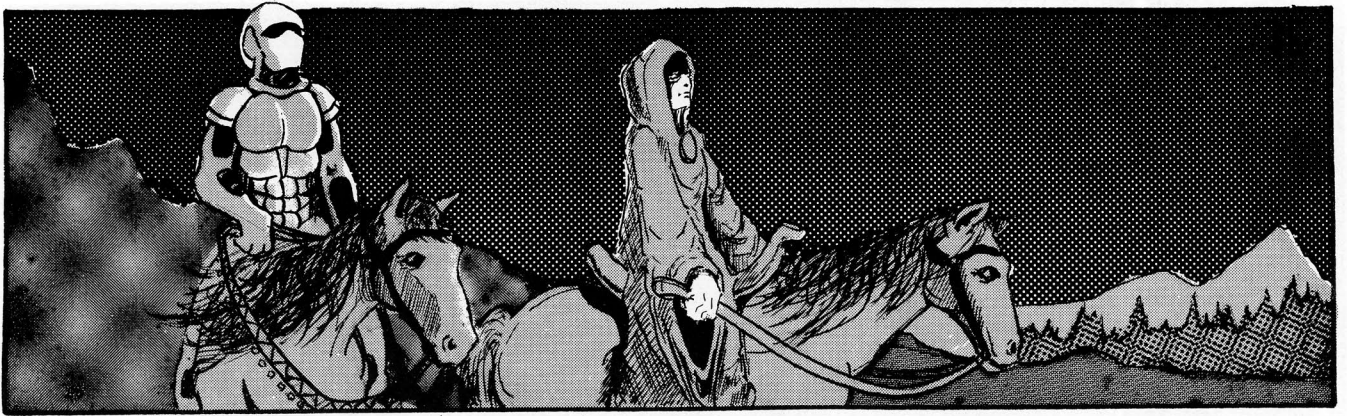
"FOR A FORTNIGHT NOW, ON EVERY SINGLE EVE, ONE CITIZEN'S BODY IS DISCOVERED MUTILATED WITH ITS HEAD DISMEMBERED AND HUNG ABOVE THE BROKEN BODY."

"M'LADY IS TRULY PUZZLED, BUT FEELS SORCERY IS MASKED BEHIND THIS DEADLY GUISE, IN WHICH CASE MY STRENGTH CAN DO NAUGHT, BUT YOUR HANDS WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE."



SAY NO MORE. WE RIDE TO LADY HEATHER TONIGHT.





THE UNDEAD

CHAPTER TWO

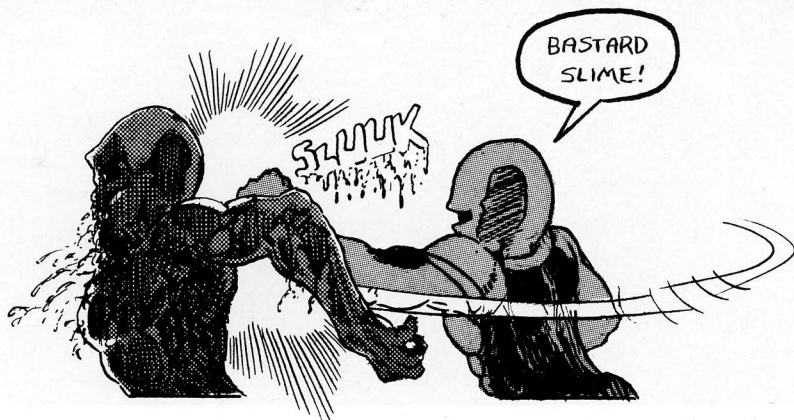
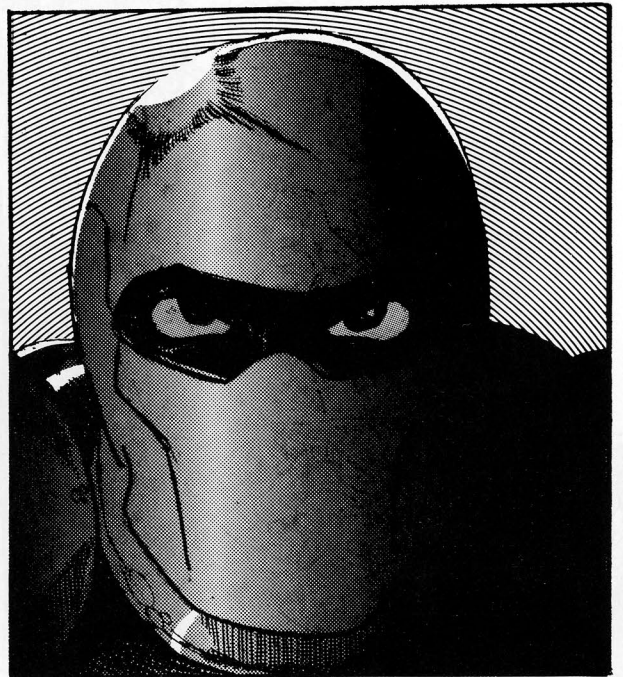
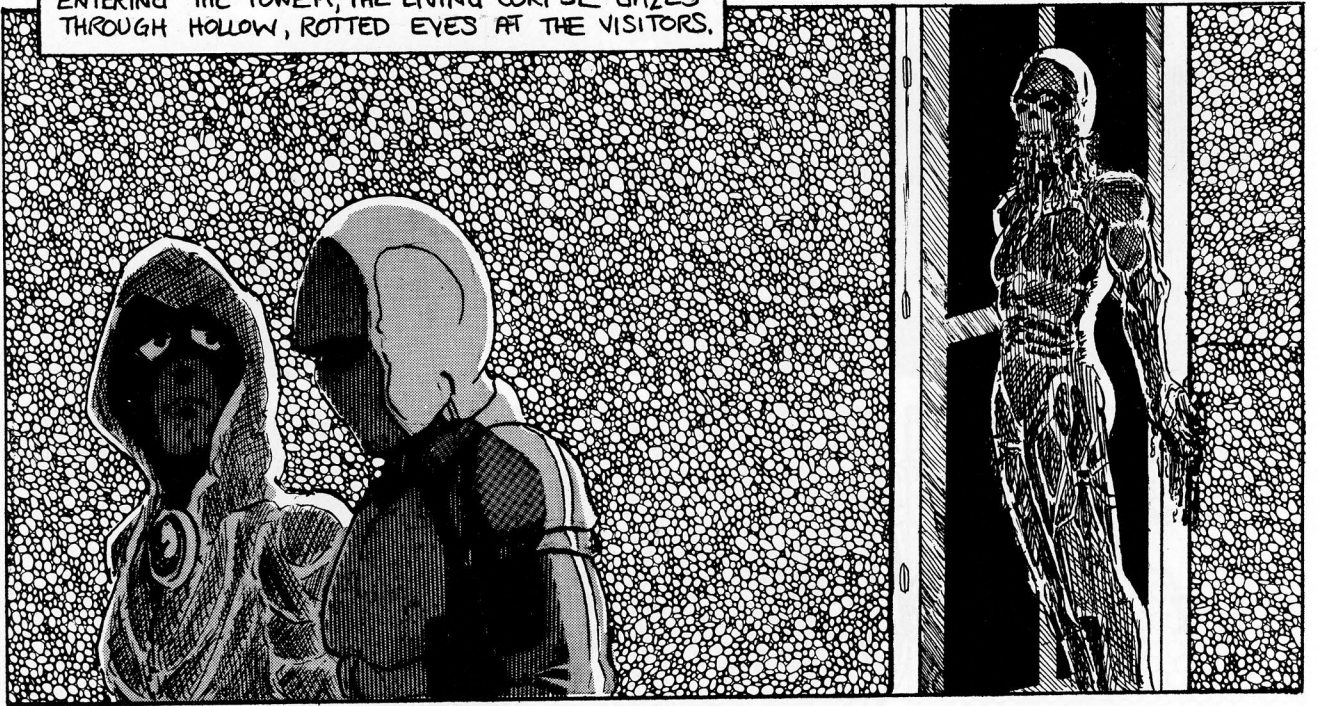


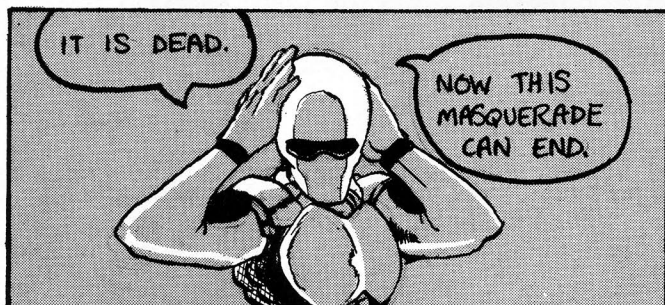
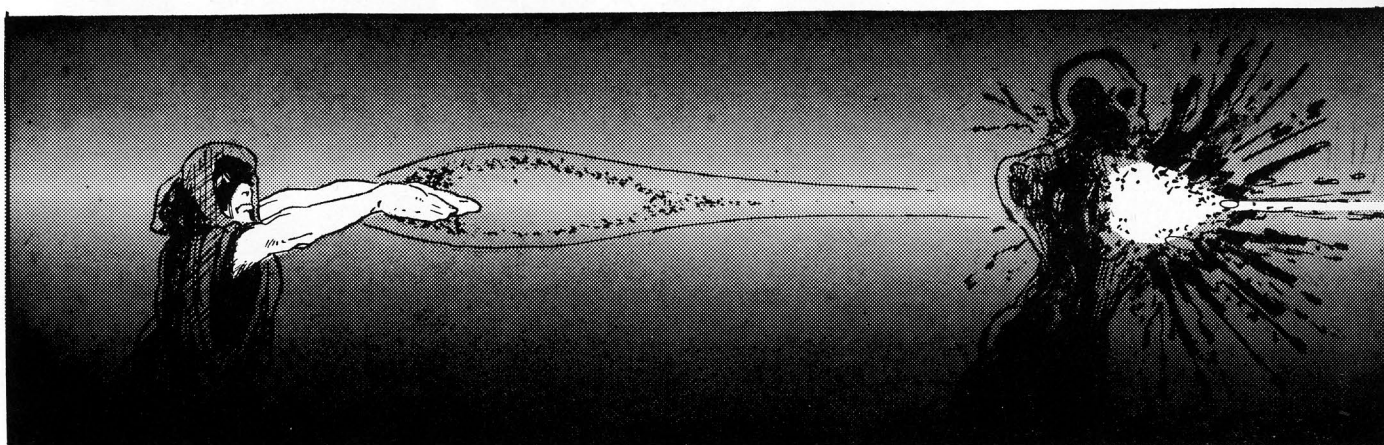
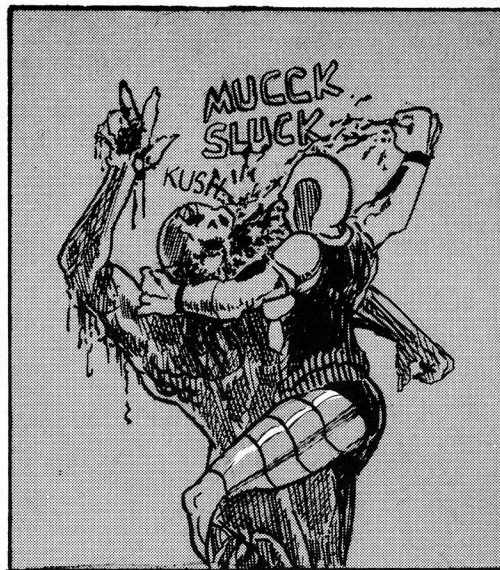
THE SMELL OF ROTTING FLESH FILTERS THROUGH THE COLD, NIGHT AIR OUTSIDE OF THE PILLAR.

HE MOVES CLOSER TO THE WEATHERED WALLS OF THE TOWER AS HIS ASCENT COMES TO AN END. THE MASSIVE WOODEN DOORS LIE STRAIGHT BEFORE HIM... LEFT OPEN.

CIRCO
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ENTERING THE TOWER, THE LIVING CORPSE GAZES THROUGH HOLLOW, ROTTED EYES AT THE VISITORS.





"you see, I had tried to conjure a living being on my own for some time. Six times I had attempted.

"Then on the seventh attempt, I succeeded..."



"...sort of."

"The being I had created was straight from the dregs of Hell. I needed your help and thought you would come faster if you knew that "LADY HEATHER" was in danger. So I donned the battle armor and for a night, became ISSAC-7 myself..."



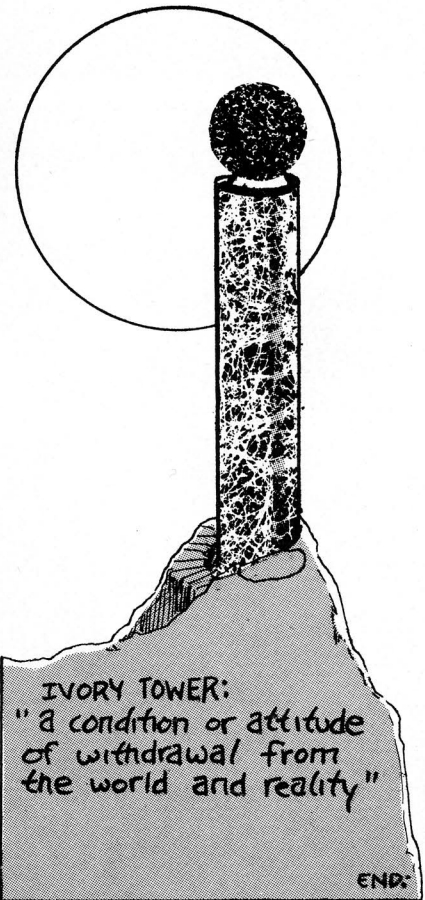
BUT THE BODY OF THE GIRL WE SAW EARLIER...?

AH, THE POOR THING WAS MY HANDMAIDEN. I'M AFRAID SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CHARADE... ISSAC MUST HAVE SLAIN HER AS I WENT FOR YOUR AID.



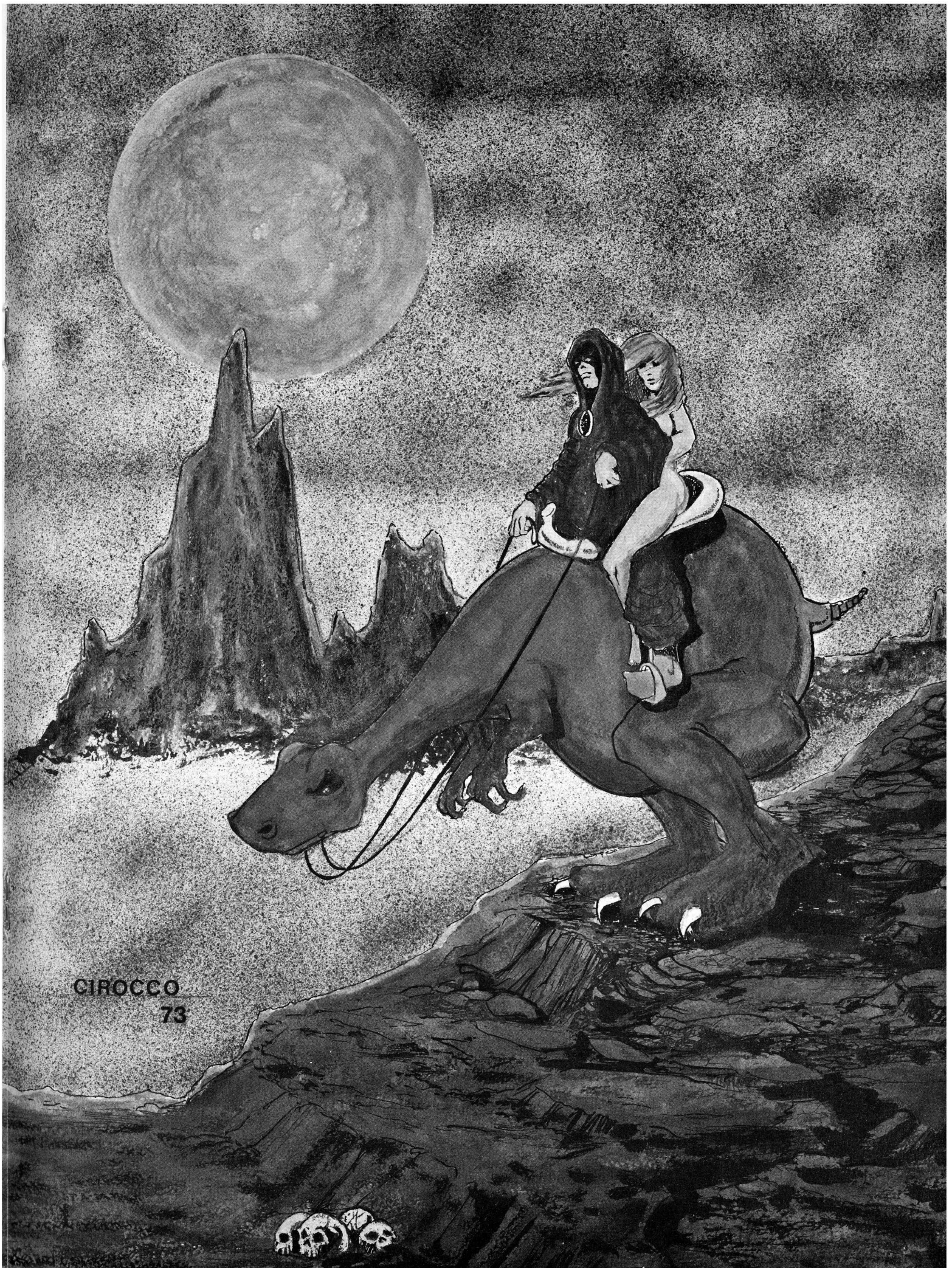
SPEAKING OF YOUR AID, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STAY THE NIGHT?

TIS THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR A MAIDEN IN DISTRESS.



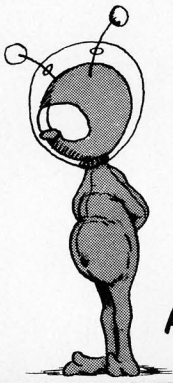
IVORY TOWER: "a condition or attitude of withdrawal from the world and reality"

END

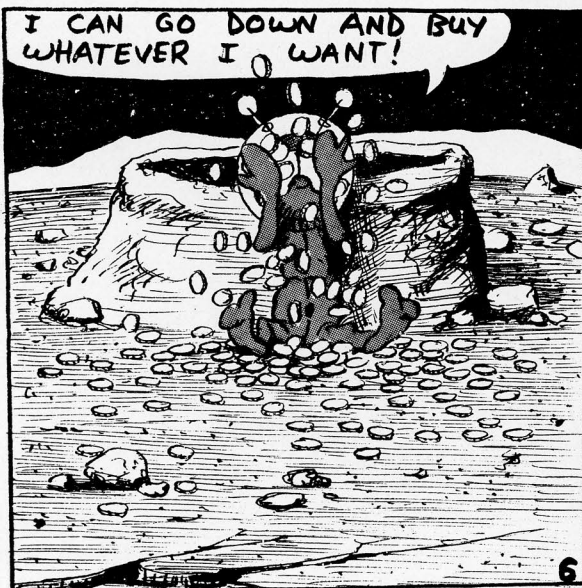
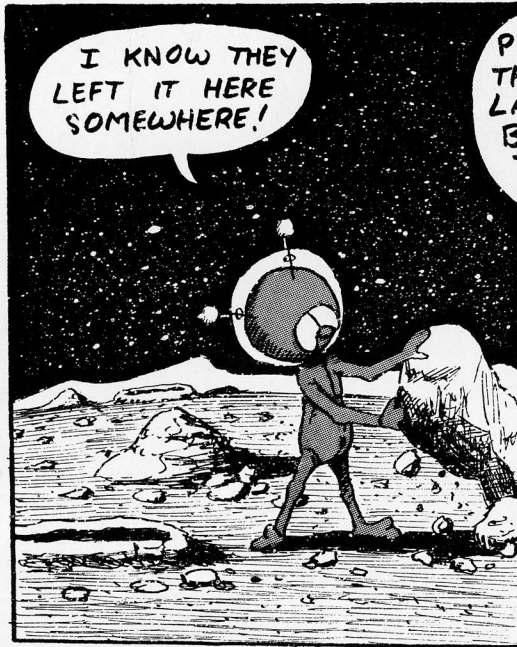


GIROCCO
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GRIMMILEY'S TALES



STORY
&
ART
by:
BRENT
ANDERSON



GOD of the MISTS

STORY AND ART
BY GARY WINNICK
-1973

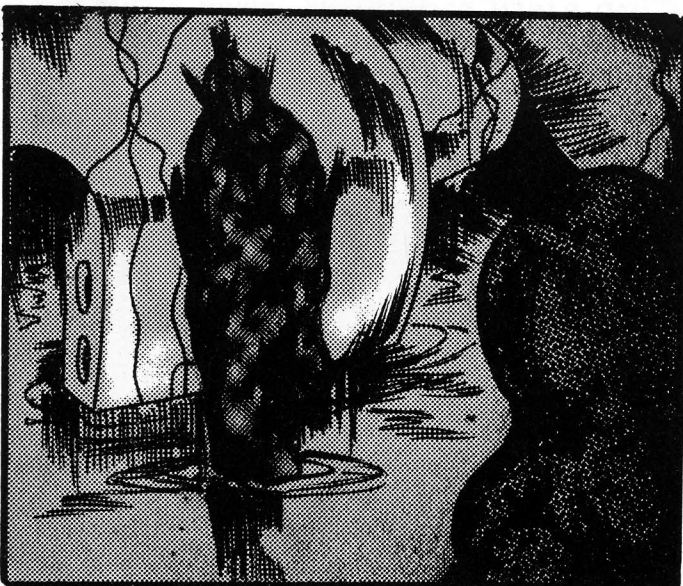


ASGOATHES, WAS OLD. HE WAS THE LAST OF HIS RACE, ONCE THEY HAD BEEN A MIGHTY CIVILIZATION. A HUGE TEEMING CITY, HAD RISEN FROM THESE MURKY SWAMPS, THEY HAD REACHED FOR THE STARS, AND CONQUERED, BUT THEY SPREAD THEIR POWER TOO THIN, AND THE STARS HAD STRUCK BACK. NOW HE WAS ALONE, AND WEARY.

EXCEPT FOR THE PUNY MANLING THINGS, THAT HAD EVOLVED, AND WHO WORSHIPPED HIM, AND THE ABANDONED STARSHIP OF HIS RACE, HE LIVED IN, AS THE MIST GOD. BUT HE REALLY DIDN'T CARE, BECAUSE HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT HAD BEEN LIKE BEFORE.



HOME...



...WAIT,
SOMEONE IS
HERE. IT IS
ONE OF THE
PUNY, HUMAN
THINGS, THAT
WORSHIP HIM.

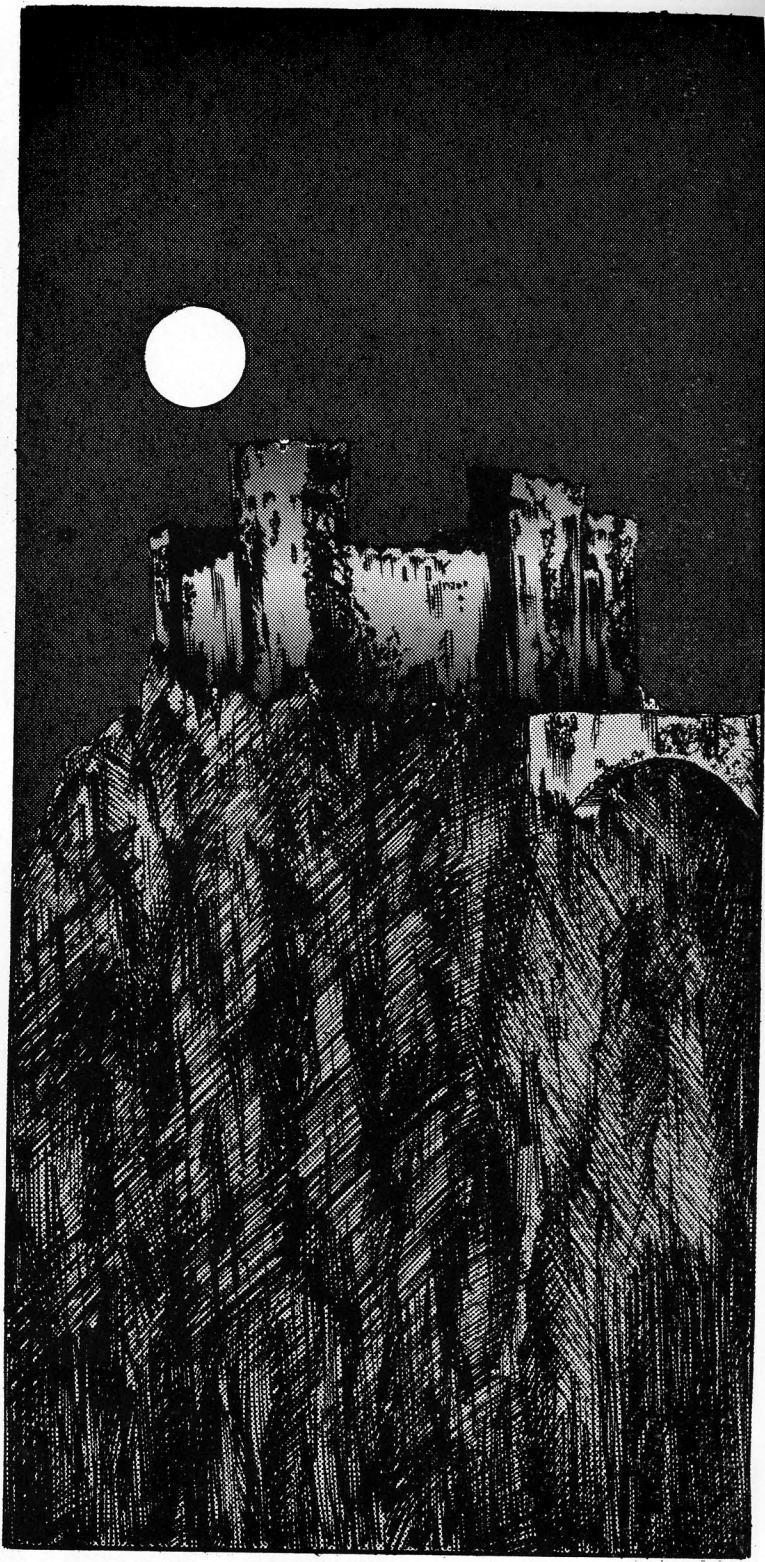


"OH GREAT ONE, YOU MUST
AID US. WE HAVE BEEN
INVADED BY BARBARIANS
FROM THE NORTH, THEY
HAVE TAKEN THE CASTLE.
I AM RYNILLA, THE
SEERESS, ONE OF YOUR
DEVOTED DISCIPLES, EVEN
THOUGH IT HAS BEEN
FORBIDDEN TO WORSHIP
PAGEN GODS."

YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND
THIS CREATURE'S WORDS
BUT FOR SOME REASON,
YOU ARE IMPELLED...



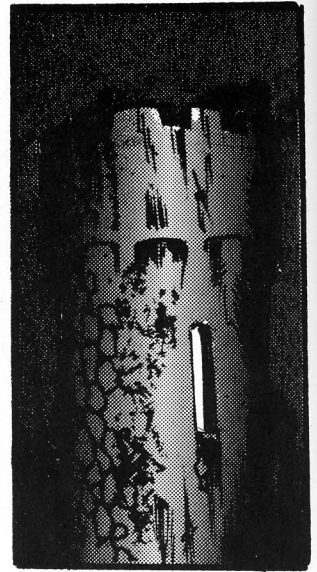
... TO FOLLOW.



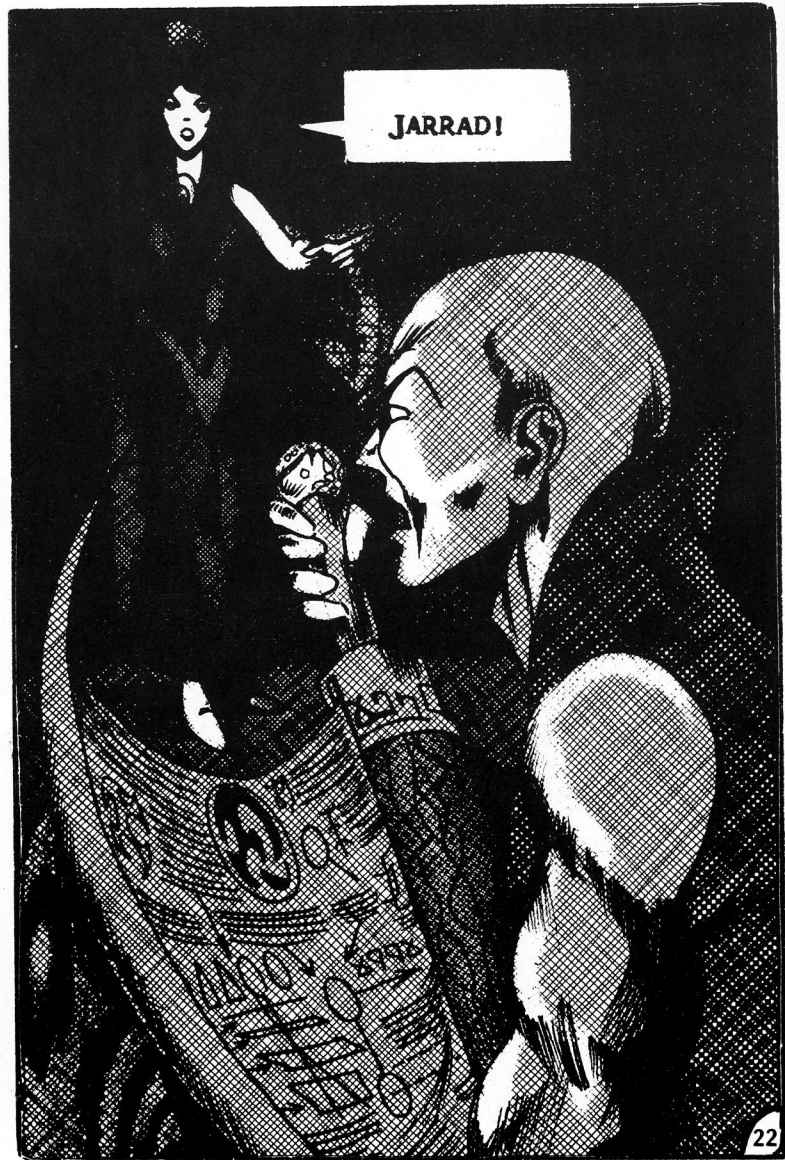
"I KNOW A SECRET WAY IN, THAT'S HOW I ESCAPED TO COME TO YOU"...

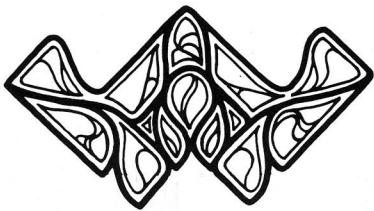
SO UP THE STAIRS YOU GO, THRU
ANOTHER PASSAGE, TO A DOORWAY.

YOU ENTER THE DIM
PASSAGE, AND AGAIN, THE
GIRL SPEAKS. "THIS STAIR-
CASE LEADS TO THE HIGHEST
TOWER, IT IS THERE THAT
JARRAD, THE SORCERER PRIEST,
LEADER OF THESE INVADERS,
NOW MAKES HIS QUARTERS HE
DERIVES HIS POWER FROM THE
AMULET ABOUT HIS NECK. YOU
MUST SLAY HIM, FOR NO MORTAL
CAN. WITHOUT HIS POWER, AND
LEADERSHIP, THE BARBARIANS
WILL FLEE."



SEATED BEYOND IS A STRANGE MAN
CREATURE STUDYING A SCROLL, THE
GIRL IS FIRST THRU THE PORTAL..





YOU MOVE
FORWARD TO THE
GIRL'S SIDE, TO
CONFRONT THE
SORCERER.



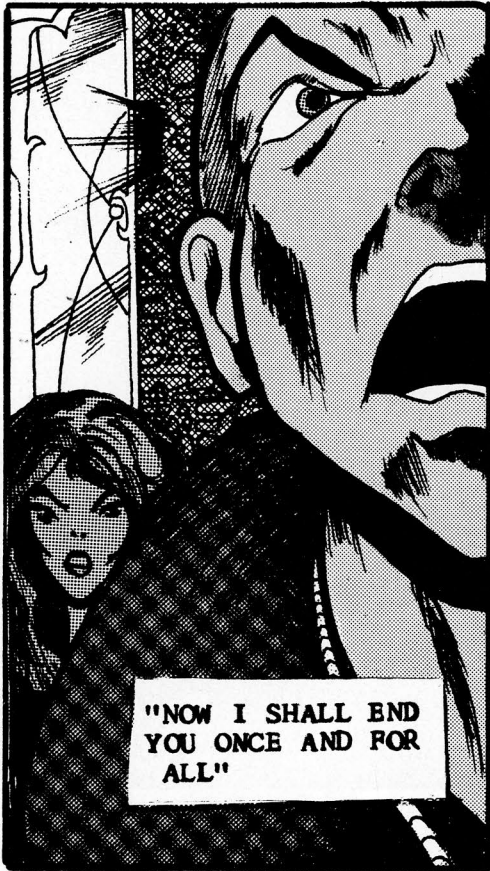
POWERLESS CHILD, YOU
DARE RETURN, AND BRING
THIS RELIC TO TRIFLE
WITH ME!



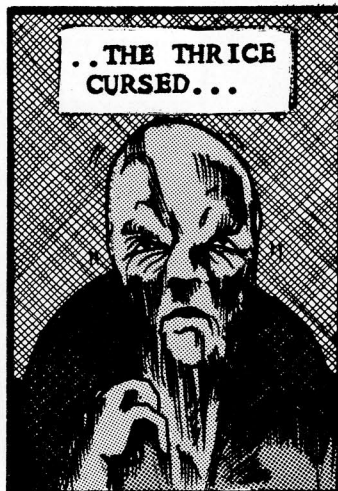
"THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY
THAT MY MYSTIC ENERGY
MAY EFFECT THE FORM YOU
WEAR, MONSTER.."



"TO CHANGE IT !"



BUT BEFORE JARRAD CAN ACT, THE GIRL RIPS THE AMULET FROM HIS NECK.

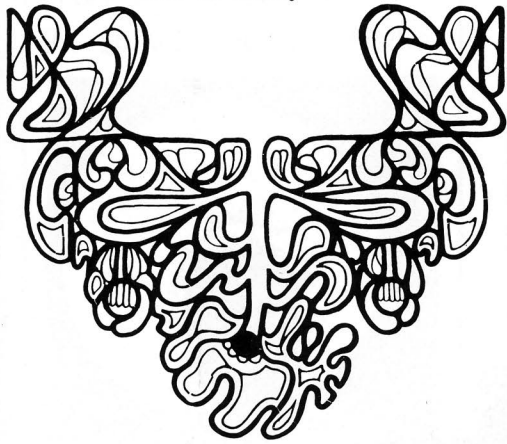




EPULOUE



WITH JARRAD DEAD, AND WITHOUT HIS MAGIC TO AID THEM, THE INVADERS HAVE FLED BACK TO THE NORTH. BUT MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED, ASGOATHES ONCE AN UNCARING GOD HAS BECOME A MAN.



ZIGGY

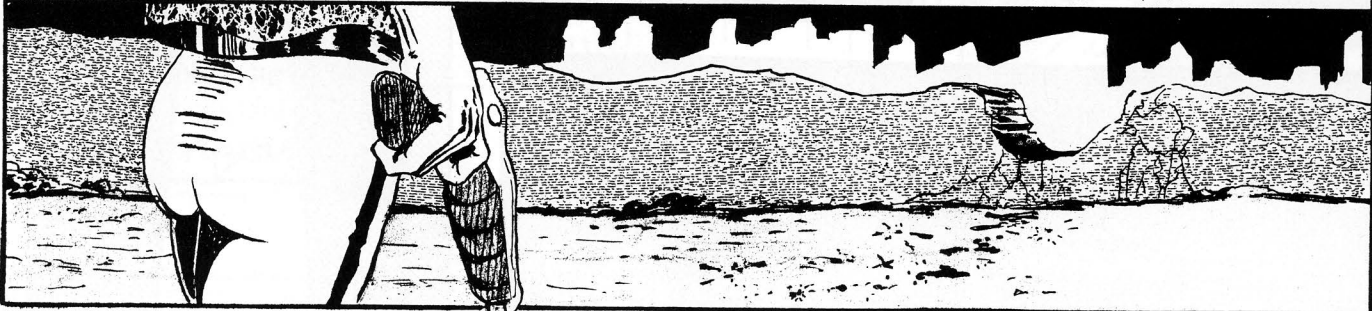


ART & STORY: FRANK CIRCOCCO

WHICH WAY DID HE GO, ZIGGY? WAS IT TO THE LEFT OR RIGHT?



THERE, ZIGGY!... GO LEFT... FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF BLOOD HE'S LEFT...



WE MUST CATCH HIM, MUSN'T WE, ZIGGY? HE CAN'T RUN FOREVER WITH THAT HOLE IN HIS BELLY CAN HE? HE MUST DIE SO WE WILL BE ALONE.

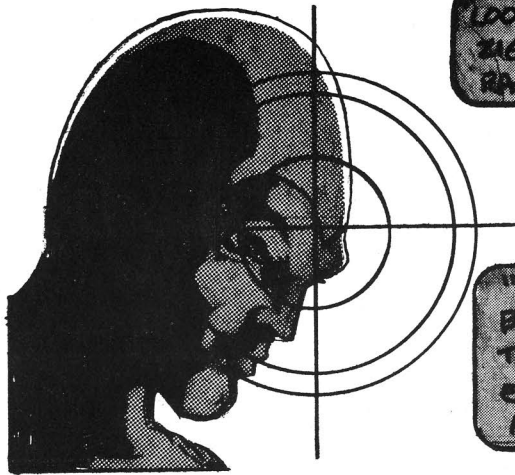


WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS OVER WITH SO WE CAN GO BACK HOME. HOME, ZIGGY, OH BOY, HOME. WHERE IS THE BASTARD.



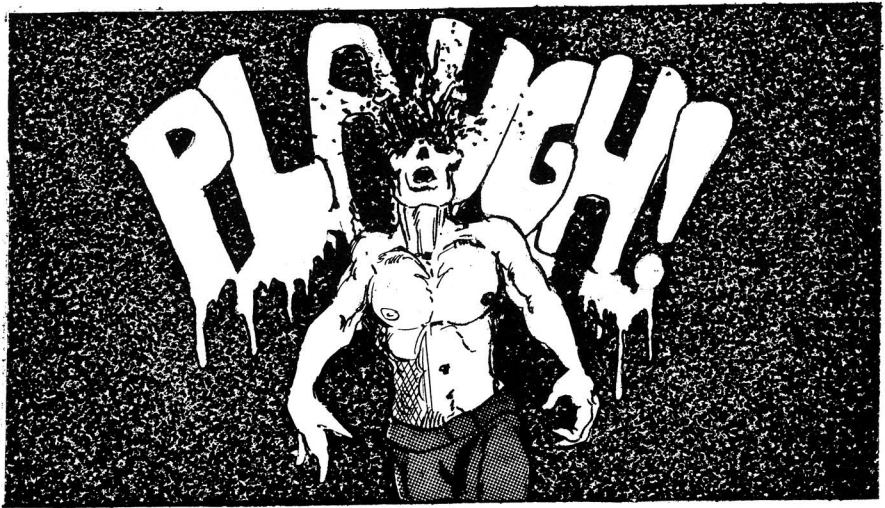
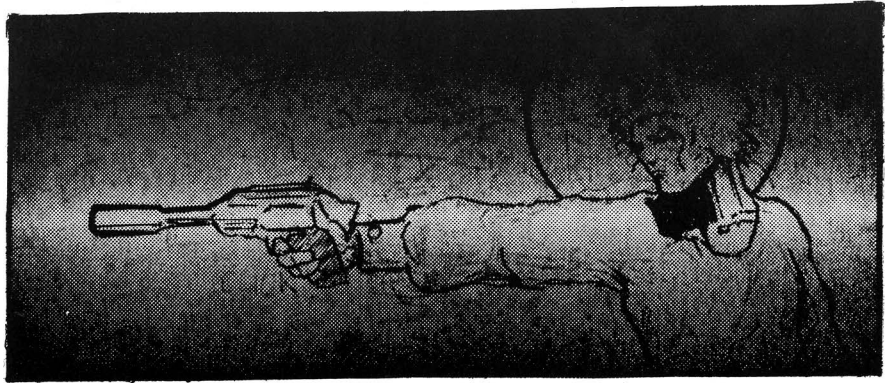
THERE. I CAN SENSE HIM JUST AHEAD, ZIGGY. JUST A LITTLE CLOSER AN' WE CAN GET 'IM...



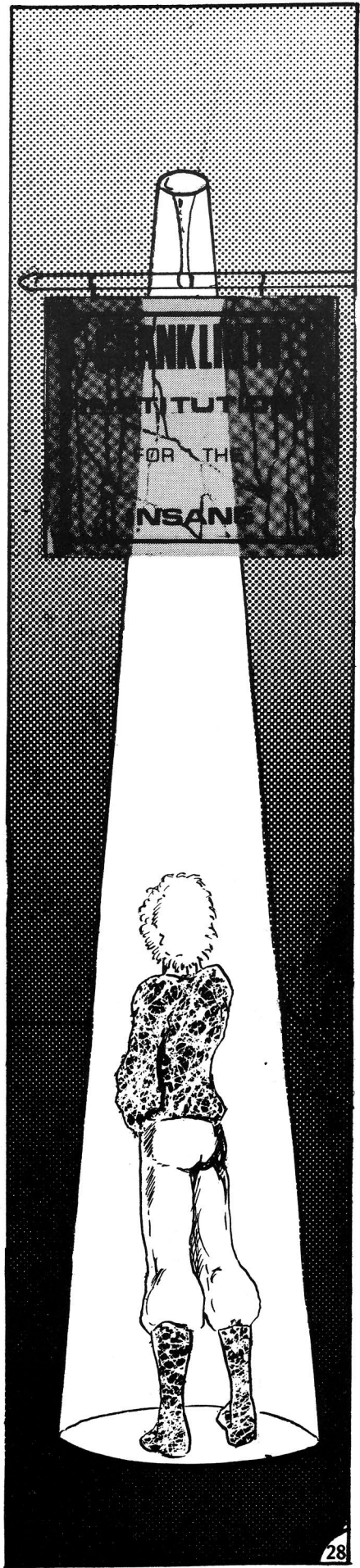


LOOK, HE THINKS HE'S SAFE, ZIGGY. HE CAN'T SEE US. NOW RAISE YOUR PISTOL, ZIGGY.

"HE'S THE LAST ONE, ZIGGY. BLAST THE LAST ONE OFF THE FACE OF THIS DEAD EARTH SO WE CAN BE ALONE... ALONE... FOREVER!"



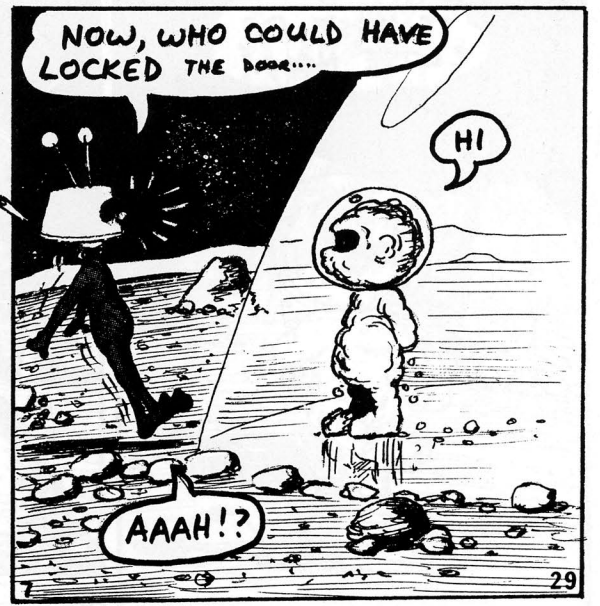
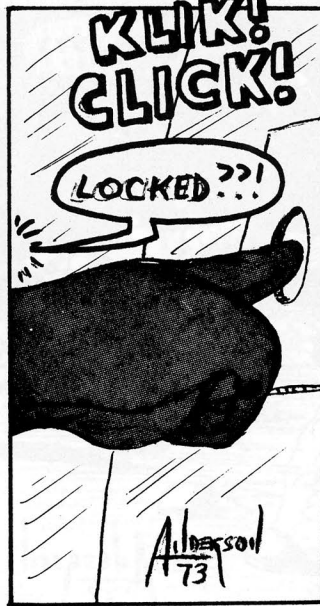
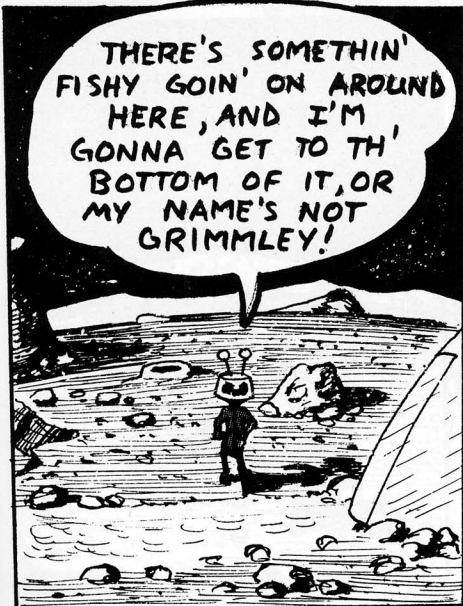
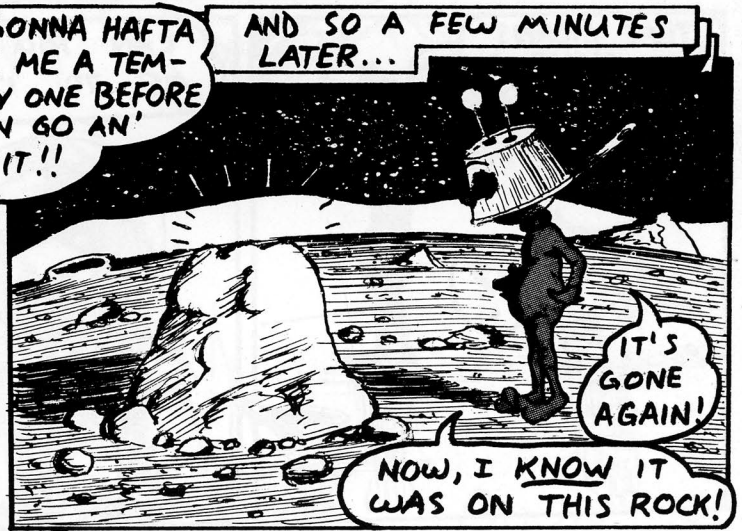
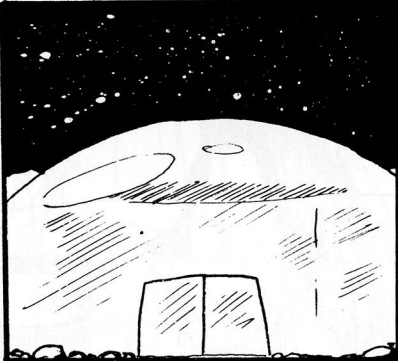
'WELL THAT DOES IT. WE BEAT ALL THE REST OF 'EM. WERE THE LAST MORTAL ON EARTH. LET'S GO HOME, KING.



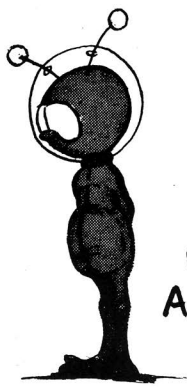
GRIMMLEY'S TALES



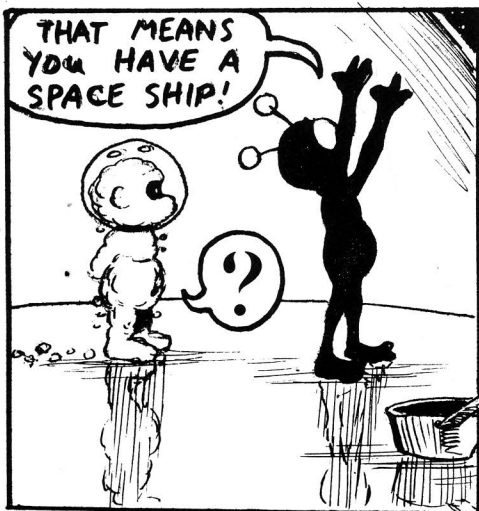
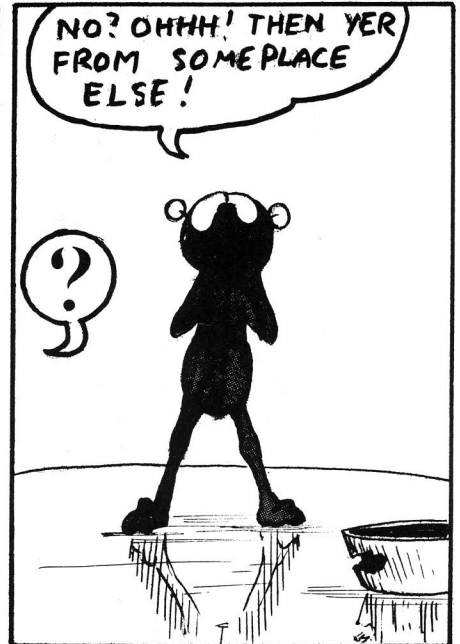
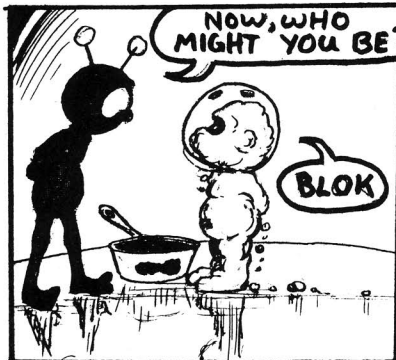
by:
BRENT
ANDERSON



Grimmley's Tales



by:
BRENT
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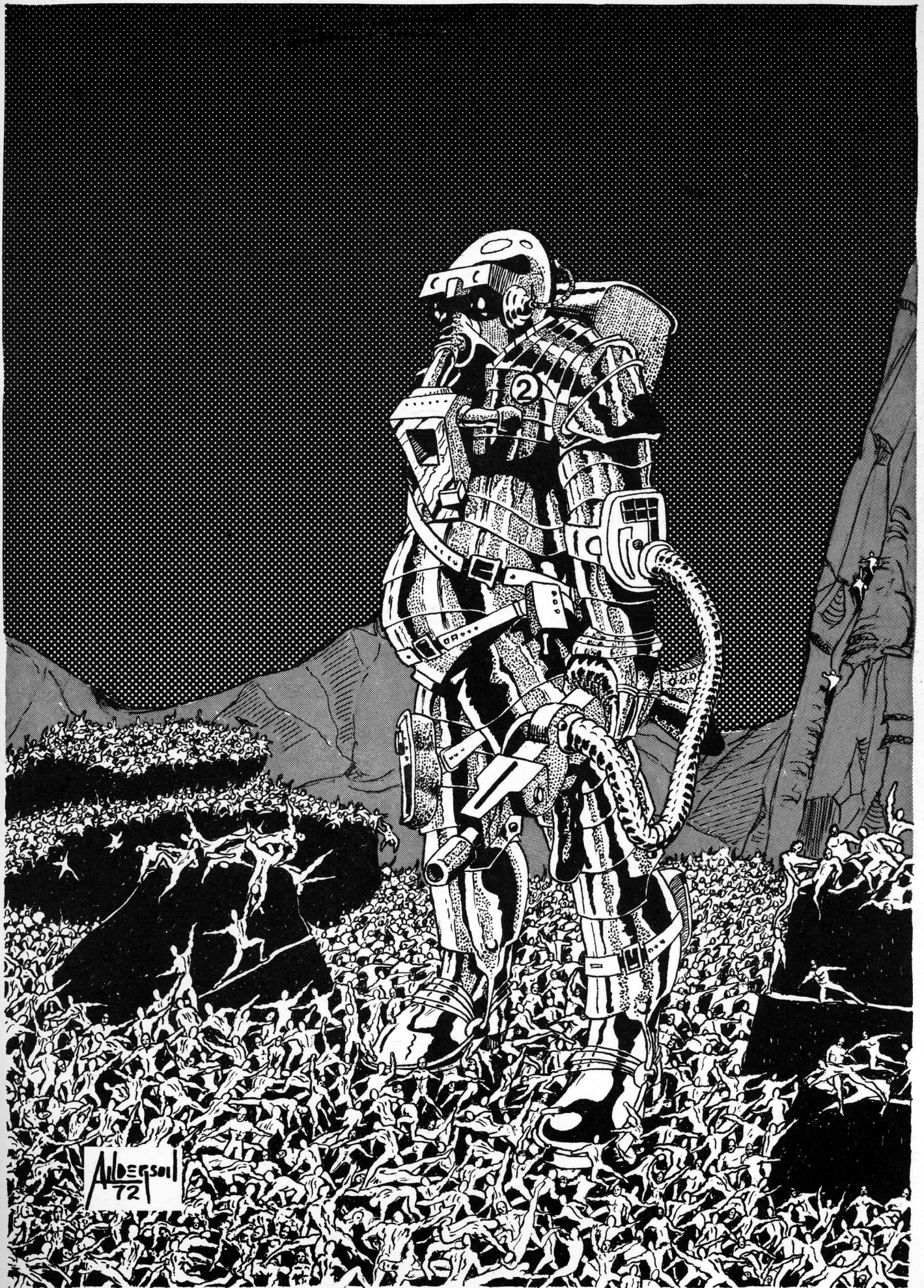




- GARY WINNICK - 1973

ALICE





ALBERSOIL
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