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ATARI FORCE™



ALL-NEW ACTION WITH COMICS' GREATEST SCIENCE FICTION TEAM!

Meanwhile...

BY KAREN BERGER

I'm sure you people won't believe it. In fact, I find it very hard to believe, myself, and I'm the one with the hard experience. But I'll let you judge for yourselves. The story goes like this:

One gloomy, rainy Monday morning in early November, a clock radio alarm goes off. I rub my sleepy eyes, curse the cheerful disc jockeys, and put my pillow over my head. Sleep, sleep, I just want to sleep! Please, let it be the wrong time, please! It can't be Monday morning already! The next thing I know it's not. I open my eyes, and it's twelve noon, and the weatherman's saying it's a beautiful sunny Tuesday, one of the ten best days of the year. I must be dreaming. I have to be. After all, every morning I go through the same routine. My radio goes off, I curse the deejays (boy, if they only knew what people said about them in the morning!), fall back to sleep for an hour, have bizarre dreams, wake up late, and then rush like a lunatic to work. But this time, it's different. This is no dream. I'm wide awake. Really. And it's Tuesday. Whatever birds exist in N.Y.C. are chirping, the garbage trucks are droning, and my upstairs neighbor is vacuuming. "Well, maybe it's me," I say to myself. "You know how wrapped up you get in work that you sometimes forget what day it is. Yeah, that's true. Maybe I'm not dreaming, and besides, it's 12:00, there's still time to get to work before Len and Andy."

I take a quick shower, throw on some clothes, and dash out the door. I just catch the M5 bus on my corner, get a seat (now I know I'm dreaming), and twelve traffic-free minutes later, I debark right in front of 666 Fifth Avenue, the home of the beast himself. I head upstairs. No one says anything unusual to me, so, playing dumb, I go to my office, and figure I'll take the day as it comes.

Then the strangest thing happens. Art Director, Richard Bruning, stops by and says, "Great *Meanwhile...* column, Karen. The copy just came back from the typesetter, so all we need is your signature at the bottom." "Huh, *Meanwhile...* column?" I say. "But I haven't written that yet. I've been driving myself crazy trying to think of a fascinating subject, and I've been at a loss." But Richard is gone, and this column is on my desk. It reads like this:

Hi, there, everyone. Karen Berger, here, next in line in this monthly *Meanwhile...* merry-go-round. For those of you who don't know who I am (and, if not, you should be ashamed of yourselves), I'll fill you in.

I've been working at DC Comics for just over six years now, and for the past three years I've been a full-time editor, currently producing such titles as *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*, *SWAMP THING*, *AMETHYST*, *LEGIONNAIRES THREE* mini-series, *TALES OF THE LEGION*, the all-new *WONDER WOMAN*, and a couple of hot titles in development. Before I entered into the comforting madness that a creative job offers, I was part of another kind of insanity, in a position called Editorial Coordinator. For two and a half years I

supervised the deadlines on all of DC's books, baby-sat editors and other artistic beings, juggled schedules and free-lancers (you should've seen my act, and that was before my obsessive exercise days), and generally ran around like a crazy person. Back at the very beginning, when I was but a wee lass right out of Brooklyn College, I was Paul Levitz's assistant. Little did I know then, that someday I'd be editing a book that he writes: the *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*.

Just a mere three months ago, the writer of Legion lore himself regaled you all with tales of mystery surrounding Sensor Girl's identity. But that enigma is just one of many interesting developments happening in the *LEGION*. Even as we speak, a new Fatal Five is being formed, with the Emerald Empress ('natch) at the helm, the Persuader, her axe-wielding right-hand man, by her side, plus three malevolent new members. They'll be making life quite hard for the Legionnaires, and if that's not enough, next month's "Dead End" will be the spawning ground for the Legion's annual multipart suspenseful epic. This year's saga features the return of Universo, one of the galaxy's foremost criminal minds, who's already been sowing the seeds of his destructive plan throughout recent stories. (I'm not telling where, of course!)

Everyone still following me? Good, 'cause more Legion excitement abounds in *LEGIONNAIRES THREE*, a four-part mini-series (the second issue's on sale now), and for those of you who aren't regular readers of the universe's most fantastic futuristic family, you can pick up *TALES OF THE LEGION*, the monthly title that reprints stories originally appearing in last year's Deluxe book. And lest I forget, we also have this summer's exciting Annual, featuring the one and only Darkseid, in the much-anticipated sequel to the "The Curse."

That just about wraps up my segment in this rotating *Meanwhile...* soapbox spot. Thanks for listening, people, and all together, now ... "Long Live the Legion!"

And that's what the column says. Well, to be honest, I really don't remember writing it. Maybe someone who looks like me did me a favor (we're all supposed to have doubles, right?) and submitted the column to Richard when I wasn't looking. Or ... maybe I have a fairy godmother, or maybe this isn't a dream (I never liked Mondays anyway), or if this is a dream, be nice to me, let me think that the *Meanwhile...* column is done, and don't wake me up!

Karen

DC CHECKLIST DELUXE

□ VIGILANTE #28

Introducing...the new Vigilante! Who is he and why has he taken on the costume? And how does Adrian Chase react? Painted cover by Bill Sienkiewicz.

□ OUTSIDERS #6

A new villain invades Outsiders HQ and the team learns: nothing can stop the Duke of Oill! Also: "Outsiders at the Bat!" something to see to be believed!

□ OMEGA MEN #37

On Kuraq, a plague of two-dimensional killers threatens Tigor, Harpis, and Oho-Besh! Plus a "Vega" tale. Painted cover by Shawn McManus.

□ LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #21

A new Fatal Five in the making and the mystery behind Sensor Girl mounts! Plus, a Quislet solo story—oh, boy!

□ SHADOW OF THE BATMAN #5

Batman takes his grief out on Gotham's criminals and then must take control in time for the new Clayface! Final issue with a new wraparound cover by Marshall Rogers.

□ INFINITY, INC. #25

As the Infinitors debate adding new members, Carcharo strikes! 28 pages of nonstop action by Roy Thomas & Todd McFarlane.

□ NEW TEEN TITANS #19

Nightwing refuses to follow the other Titans and goes off on his own. Is this the end of the New Teen Titans? Painted cover by George Pérez.

□ DC CHALLENGE #6

It's Albert Einstein to the rescue throughout time—guest starring Silent Knight, Rip Hunter, Batman, Adam Strange, Deadman & everyone else!



HER NAME IS
ERIN BIA SINGH
O'ROURKE...

CODENAME:

Dart

SHE HAS BEEN CALLED MANY THINGS
IN HER SHORT LIFE...

...MERCENARY... KILLER...
LIBERATOR... WARRIOR.

SHE HAS BEEN ALL
THESE THINGS...

...THOUGH SHE NEVER ASKED TO BE
ANYTHING SAVE A WOMAN... BUT FATE
HAS A WAY OF HANDING SUCH PEOPLE
INESCAPABLE DESTINIES THAT THEY
CAN DO NOTHING BUT FOLLOW, NO
MATTER WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD.

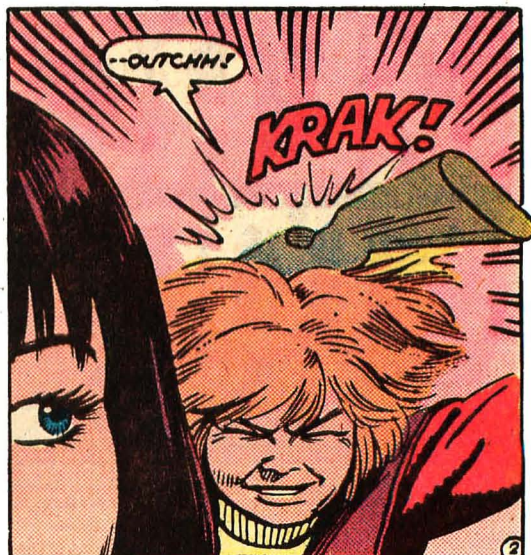
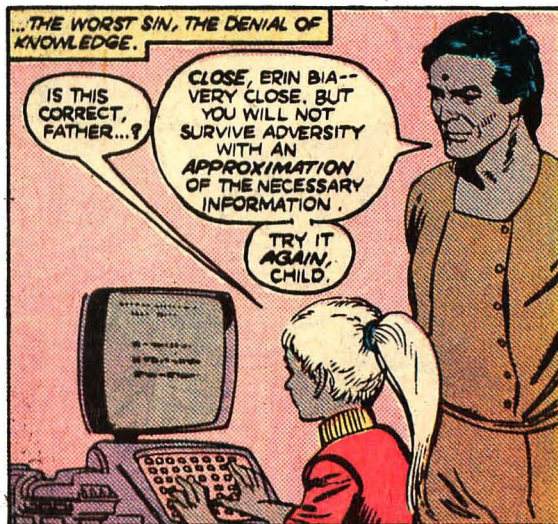
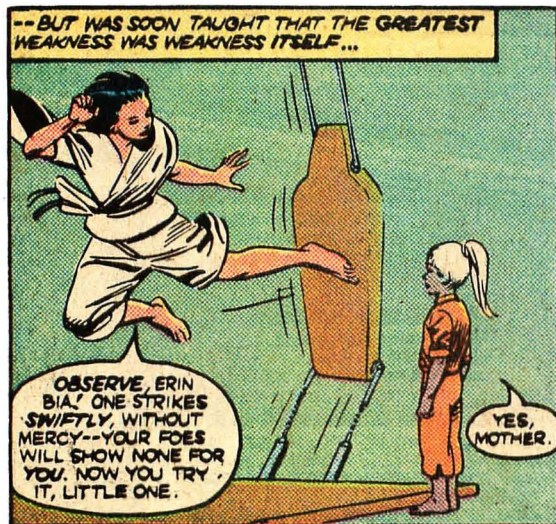
THIS, THEN, IS DART'S STORY...

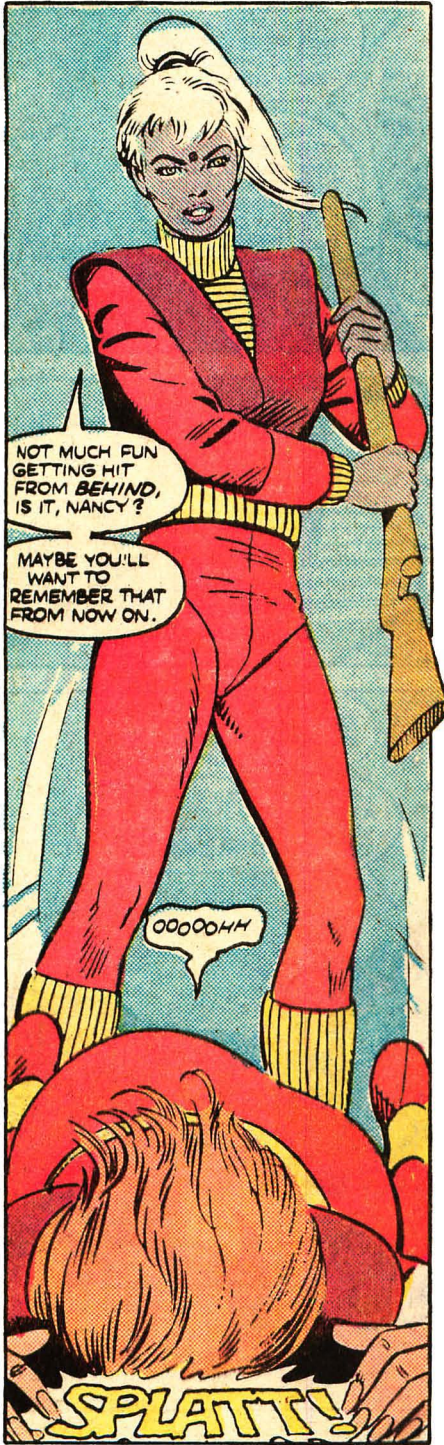
A MERCENARY'S STORY

ANDREW HELFER
PAUL KUPPERBERG
MARSHALL ROGERS
RICARDO VILLAGRAN
DAVID COOY WEISS
TOM ZIUKO
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

SCRIPT/EDITOR
SCRIPTER
PENCILLER
INKER
LETTERER
COLORIST
PLOT/EDITOR

I-177



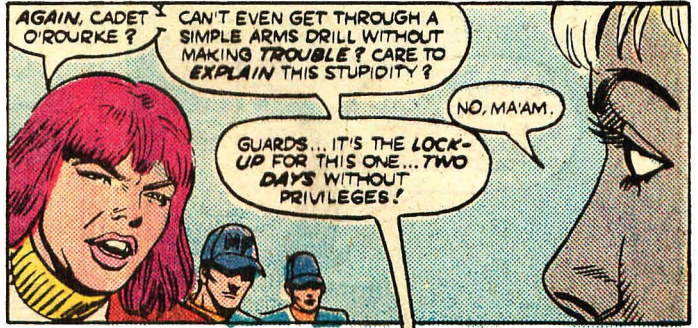


NOT MUCH FUN GETTING HIT FROM BEHIND, IS IT, NANCY?

MAYBE YOU'LL WANT TO REMEMBER THAT FROM NOW ON.

OOOOHH

SPLATT!



AGAIN, CADET O'ROURKE?

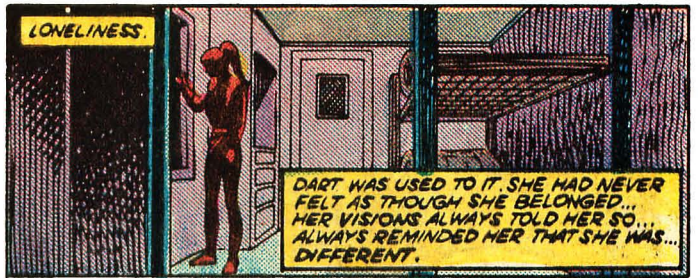
CAN'T EVEN GET THROUGH A SIMPLE ARMS DRILL WITHOUT MAKING TROUBLE? CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS STUPIDITY?

NO, MA'AM.

GUARDS... IT'S THE LOCK-UP FOR THIS ONE... TWO DAYS WITHOUT PRIVILEGES!

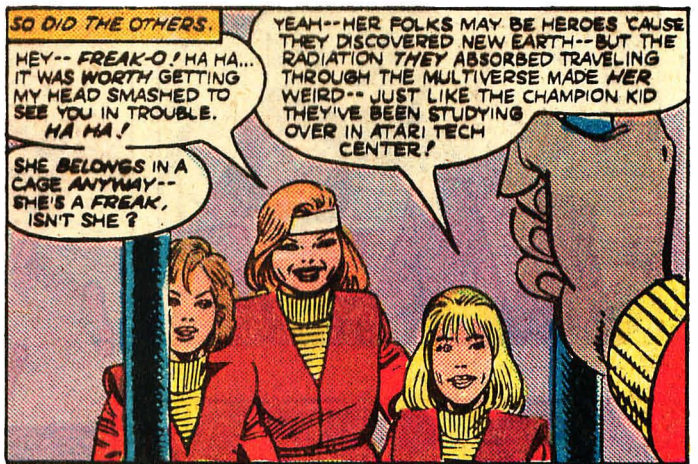


MAYBE A LITTLE DEPRIVATION'LL TEACH YOU DISCIPLINE.



LOVELINESS.

DART WAS USED TO IT. SHE HAD NEVER FELT AS THOUGH SHE BELONGED... HER VISIONS ALWAYS TOLD HER SO... ALWAYS REMINDED HER THAT SHE WAS... DIFFERENT.



SO DID THE OTHERS.

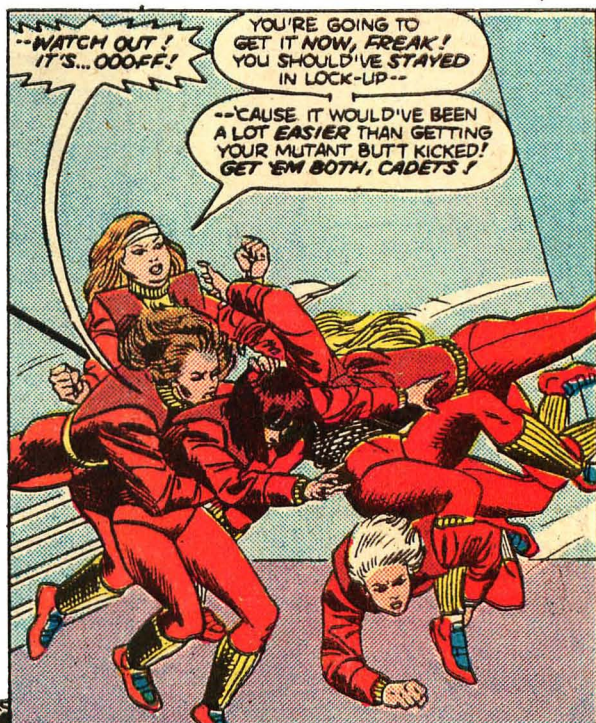
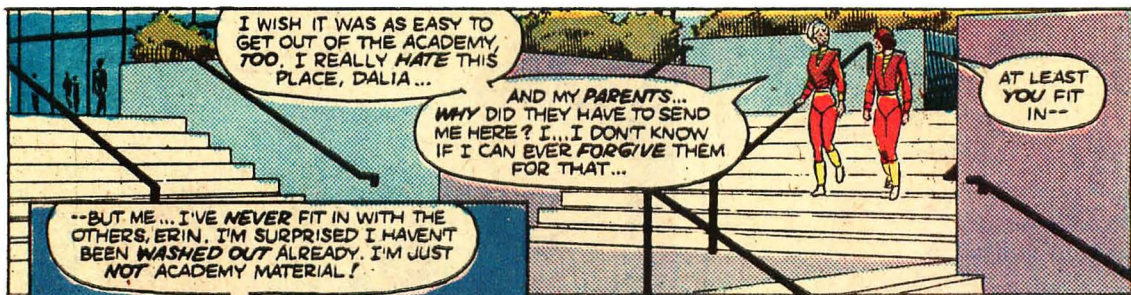
HEY-- FREAK-O! HA HA... IT WAS WORTH GETTING MY HEAD SMASHED TO SEE YOU IN TROUBLE. HA HA!

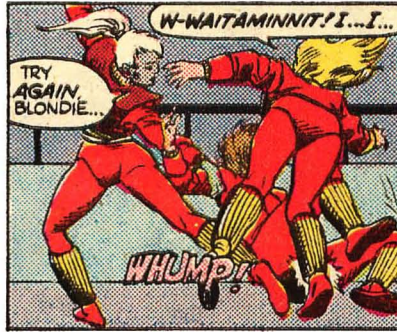
SHE BELONGS IN A CAGE ANYWAY-- SHE'S A FREAK, ISN'T SHE?

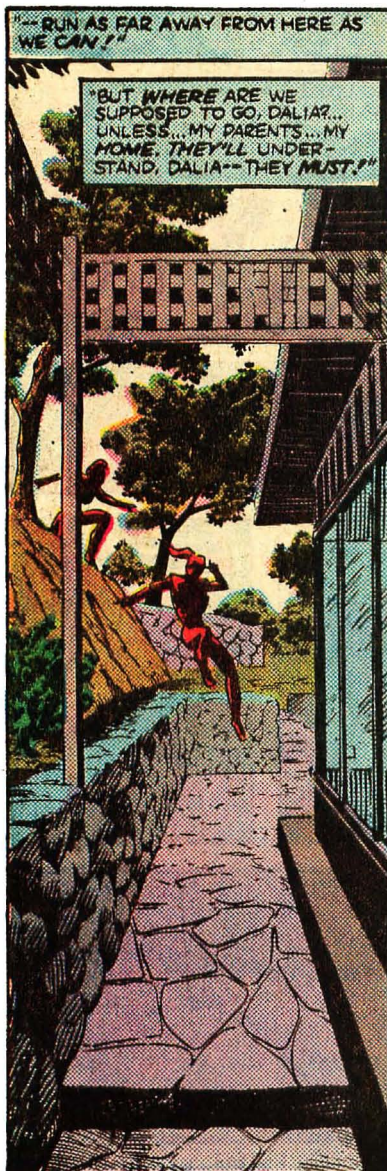
YEAH--HER FOLKS MAY BE HEROES CAUSE THEY DISCOVERED NEW EARTH--BUT THE RADIATION THEY ABSORBED TRAVELING THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE MADE HER WEIRD-- JUST LIKE THE CHAMPION KID THEY'VE BEEN STUDYING OVER IN ATARI TECH CENTER!



WAKE UP, ERIN BIA-- YOU'VE GOT COMPANY, GIRL!







"--RUN AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS WE CAN!"

"BUT WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO, DALIA?... UNLESS... MY PARENTS... MY MOMIE. THEY'LL UNDERSTAND, DALIA--THEY MUST!"

M-MOTHER... FATHER...? IT'S ME, ERIN. I'M IN... IN...

TROUBLE. YES, DARLING, WE KNOW. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

ATARI SECURITY INFORMED US RIGHT AFTER THE...THE INCIDENT, ERIN. THIS GENTLEMAN IS OWED THEM--

MR. HUNTER.

I'VE BEEN SENT HERE TO BRING YOU TWO BACK, GIRL. IT'S NOT A JOB I RELISH... YOUR PARENTS ARE FRIENDS OF MINE, FRIENDS OF ALL NEW EARTH.

I PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE CHILD.

THESE ARE THE COORDINATES OF PLANET SANGFROID.

TAKE IT, ERIN, AND GO THERE. I KNOW A MAN NAMED DRAGO THERE WHO CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF TWO TALENTED SCRAPPERS LIKE YOURSELVES.

B-BUT SANGFROID IS HALFWAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE...?

THE ALTERNATIVE'S EVEN MORE INTIMIDATING. NOW GO, GIRL--BE OFF NEW EARTH BY 2400 HOURS OR ALL BETS ARE OFF.

THANK YOU, HUNTER. THANK YOU!

SANGFROID 7:

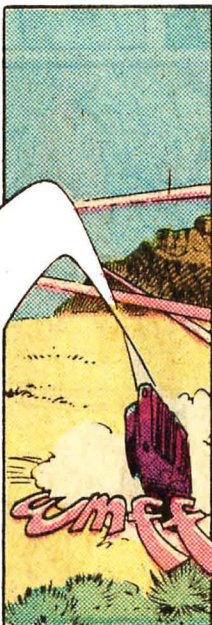
HE SAID HE WAS YOUR PARENTS' FRIEND, ERIN... BUT HE LIED TO US. HE SENT US TO A DEAD WORLD!

HE...HE WOULDN'T HAVE, DALIA. THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING HERE... SOMEWHERE. WE'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING UNTIL WE FIND IT!

YIKES!

LOOKS LIKE IT FOUND US... WHATEVER IT IS!

TAKE EVASIVE ACTION, DAL!



SOME EVASIVE ACTION! LORD-- WHERE'D THAT THING POP OUT FROM?

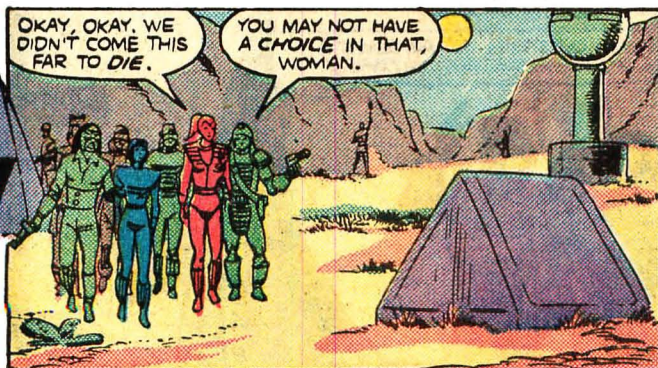
UHH--THE SAME PLACE THE REST OF THEM CAME FROM...



...WE'RE SURROUNDED!

EMPTY YOUR HANDS, WOMEN-- NOW!

AYE, WE GOT NO PROBLEMS WITH BLASTIN' YOU!



OKAY, OKAY, WE DIDN'T COME THIS FAR TO DIE.

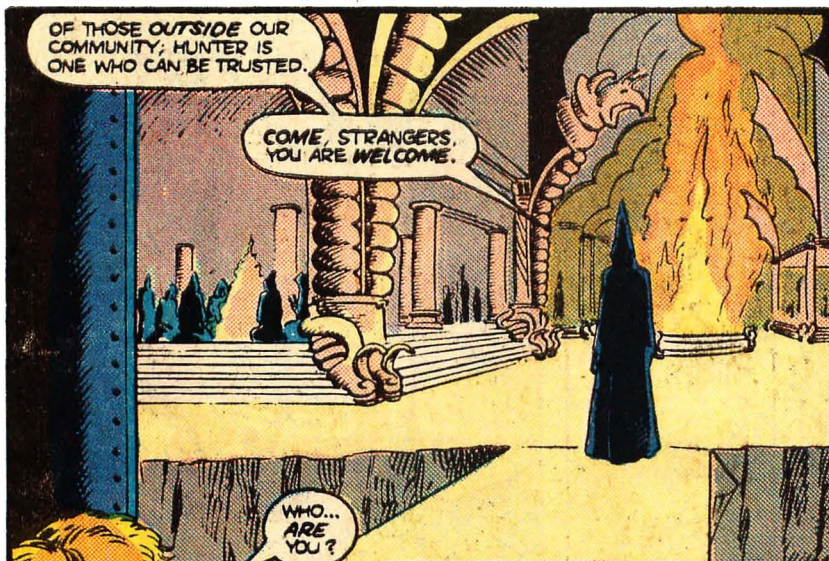
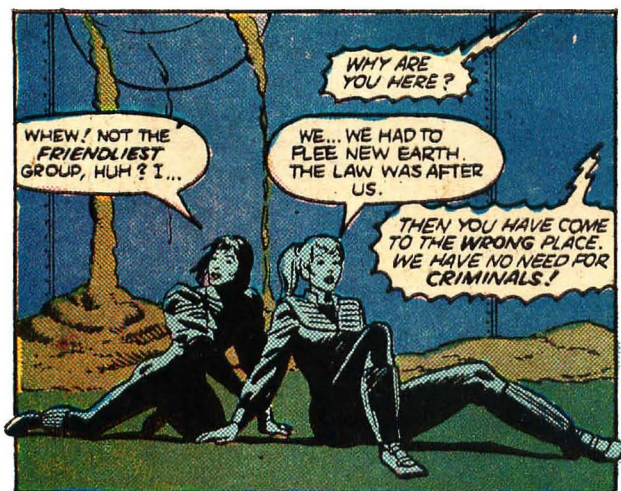
YOU MAY NOT HAVE A CHOICE IN THAT, WOMAN.

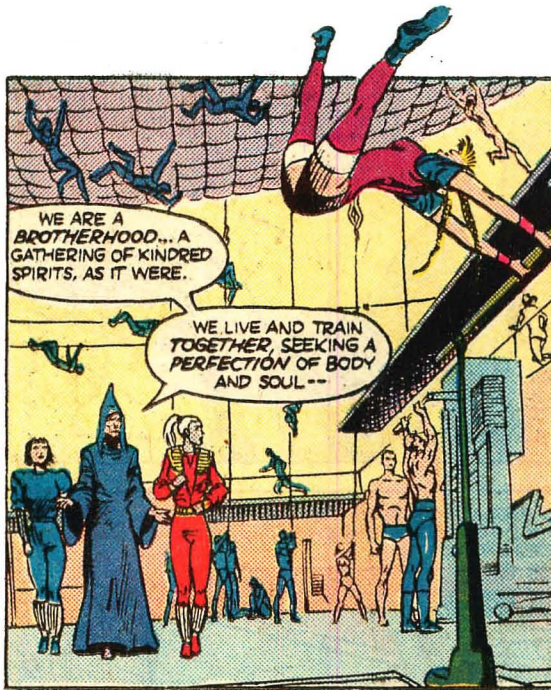


NOW, IN YOU GO!

HEY... WHAT'RE YOU...

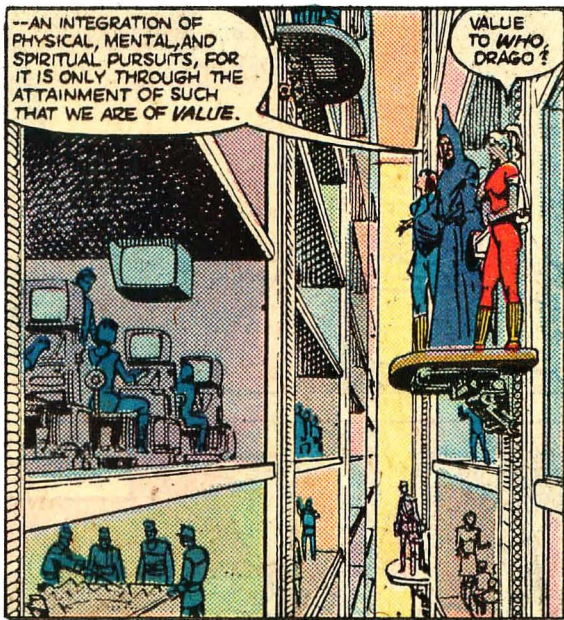






WE ARE A BROTHERHOOD... A GATHERING OF KINDRED SPIRITS, AS IT WERE.

WE LIVE AND TRAIN TOGETHER, SEEKING A PERFECTION OF BODY AND SOUL--



--AN INTEGRATION OF PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SPIRITUAL PURSUITS, FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE ATTAINMENT OF SUCH THAT WE ARE OF VALUE.

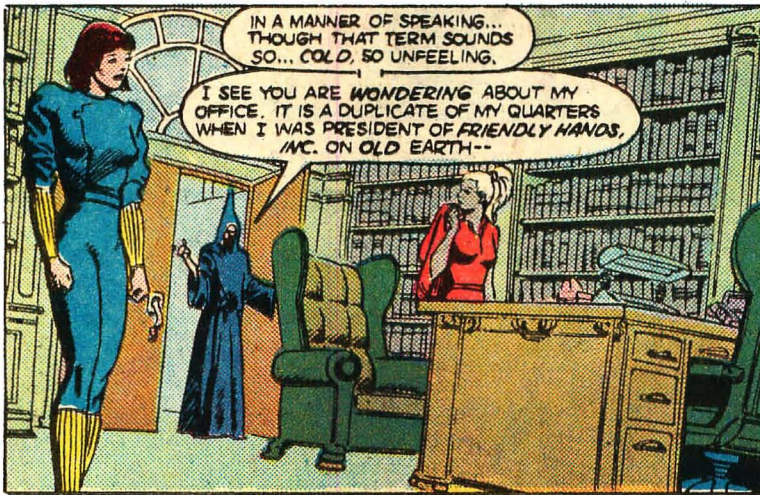
VALUE TO WHO, DRAGO?



TO WHOEVER IS IN NEED OF OUR RATHER UNIQUE SERVICES, GIRL.

BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS, OTHERWISE I DOUBT YOU WOULD HAVE JOURNEYED SO FAR SEEKING US OUT.

THEN YOU'RE THE MERCENARIES WE'VE HEARD ABOUT?



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING... THOUGH THAT TERM SOUNDS SO... COLD, SO UNFEELING.

I SEE YOU ARE WONDERING ABOUT MY OFFICE. IT IS A DUPLICATE OF MY QUARTERS WHEN I WAS PRESIDENT OF FRIENDLY HANDS, INC. ON OLD EARTH--



-- A COMPANY DEDICATED TO HELPING COUNTRIES IN NEED.

I HAVE CARRIED ON THAT WORK TO THIS DAY... ALBEIT ON A SLIGHTLY MORE UNIVERSAL SCALE. AND YOU, OF COURSE, WISH TO JOIN ME...?



WELL...

WHAT D'YOU THINK, ERIN?

I THINK-- WHERE DO WE SIGN, DRAGO?

WHY, ON THE DOTTED
LINE, OF COURSE...

THIS WAS THE
BARGAIN SEALED...

MERC FOR HIRE

MERC FOR HIRE

...AND TRAINING BEGUN THAT MADE THE HARSHTEST
OF THE ACADEMY'S TRIALS SEEM AS CHILD'S PLAY
TO THE TWO FORMER CADETS.

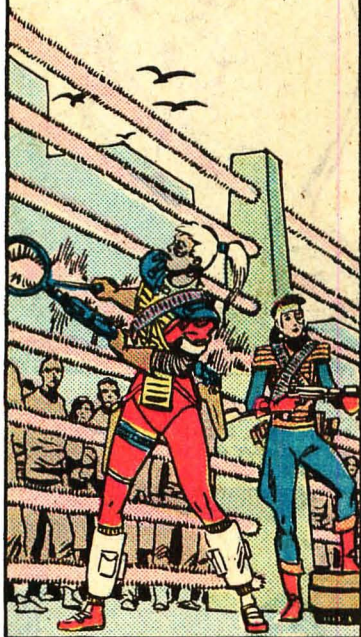
COMBAT OF EVERY STYLE WAS
DRILLED INTO THEM BY DAY.

STRATEGY AND PLANNING FOR EVERY
CONCEIVABLE TERRAIN AND
CONTINGENCY WAS TAUGHT THEM BY
NIGHT.

AND ONLY ONCE THE GRUELING, EXHAUSTING REGIMEN
OF KNOWLEDGE AND PHYSICAL PERFECTION WERE AS
SECOND NATURE TO THEM DID THE FIGHTING BEGIN!

THERE WAS EXHILARATION IN THEIR WORK.

THERE WAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WERE AMONG THE BEST IN THEIR FIELD...



...THAT THEY WERE PART OF A FINE AND NOBLE FIGHTING FORCE...



...AND THAT ALWAYS, THEY FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF RIGHT...

...DESTROYING THE TYRANNICAL AND DESPOTIC...

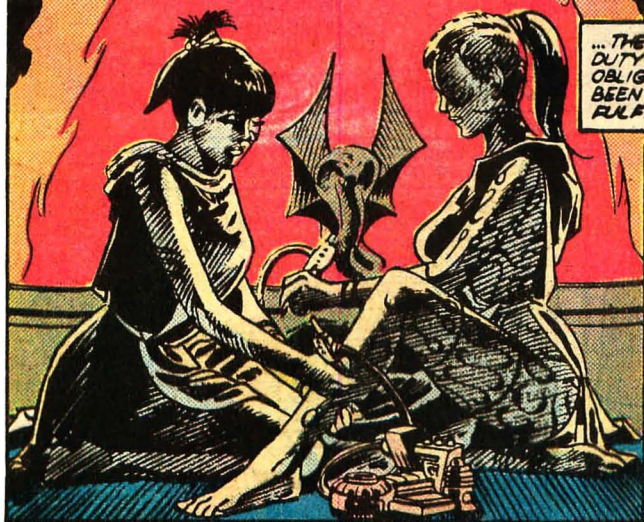
...LIBERATING THE OPPRESSED.

IT WAS A LIFE WORTH LIVING!



AND FOR EACH BATTLE WON, THERE CAME A REWARD BEYOND THE ACCOMPLISHMENT ITSELF.

THERE WAS THE CEREMONY... THE EXCHANGE OF LOVE AND RESPECT THAT EACH OF THE BROTHERHOOD HELD FOR ONE ANOTHER IN THE ADDITION OF A MARK...



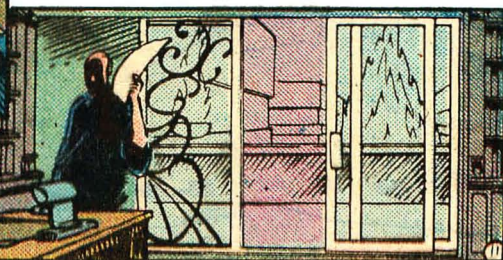
...THE SIGN THAT DUTY AND OBLIGATION HAD BEEN FAITHFULLY FULFILLED.

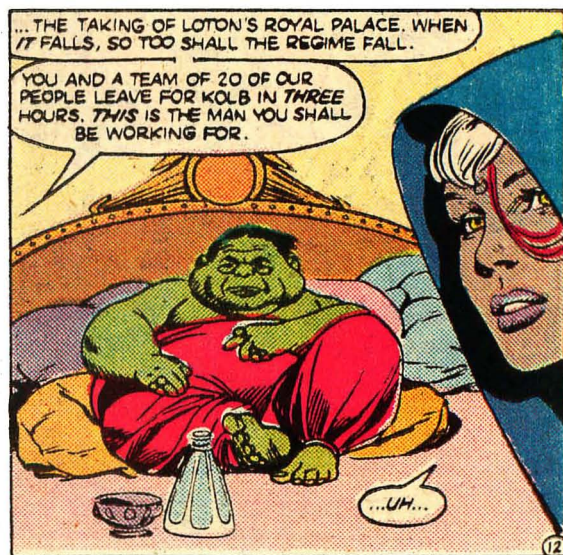
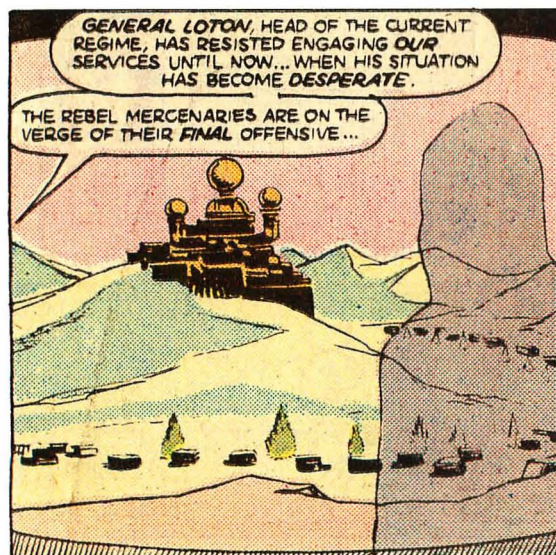
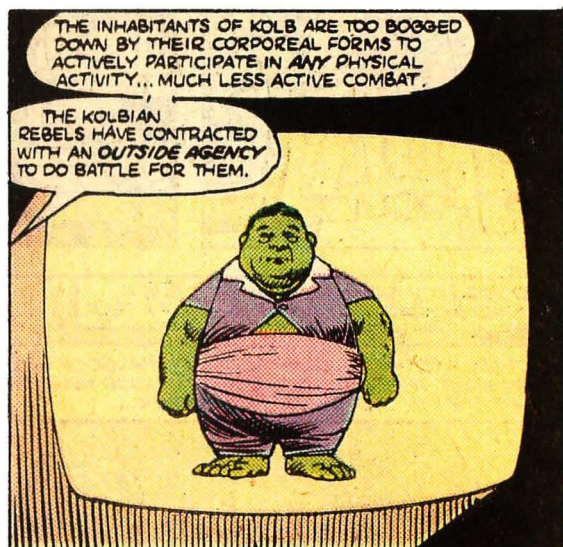
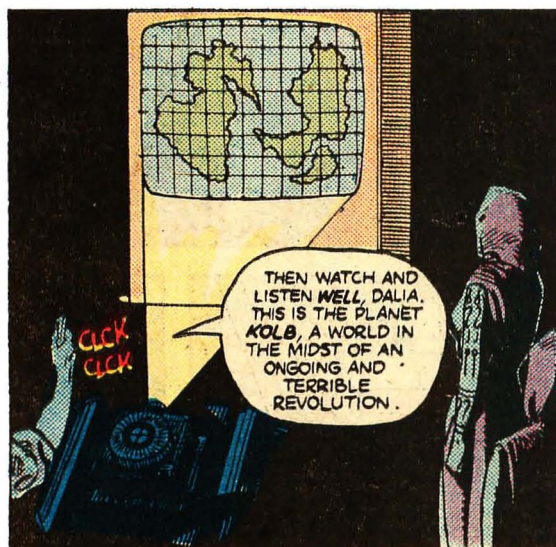
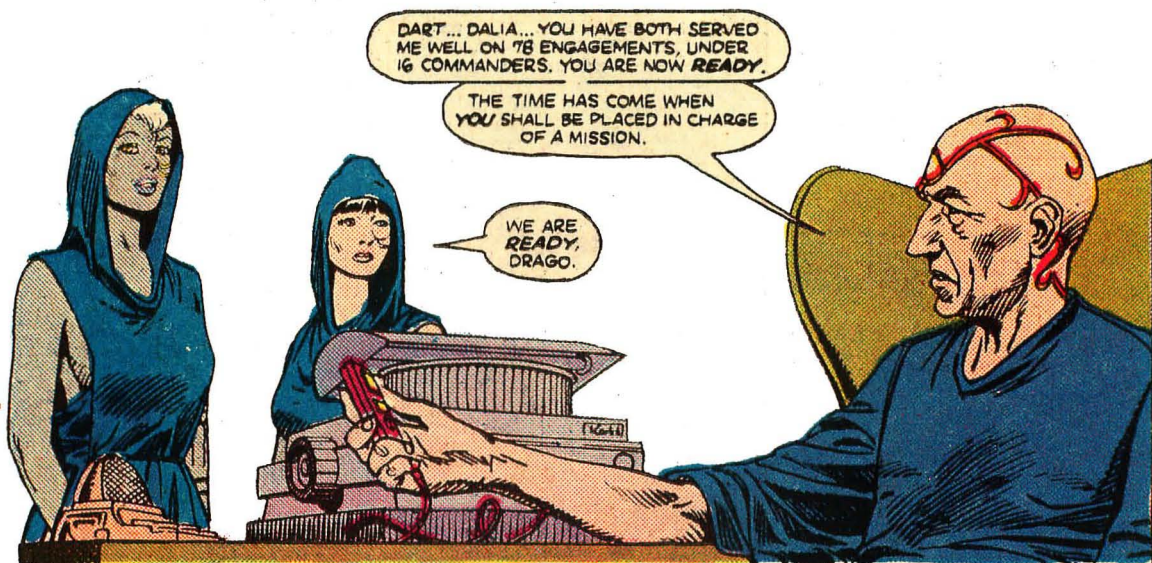


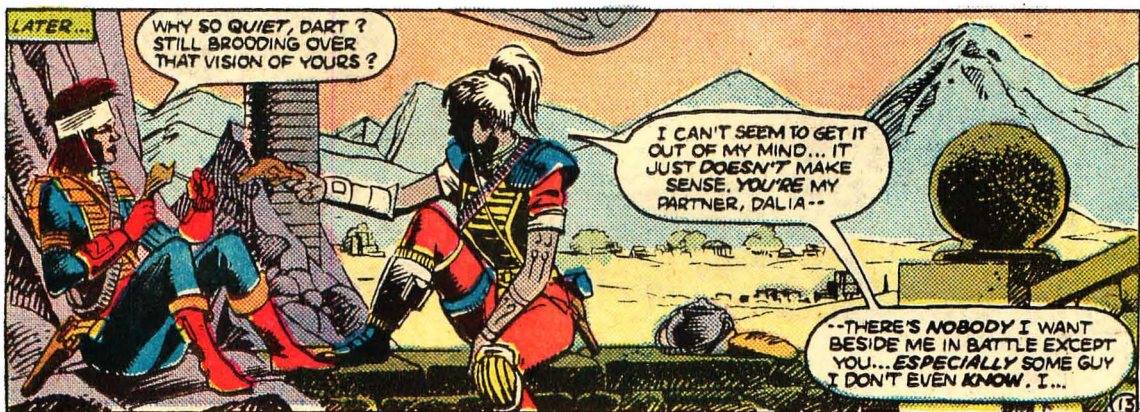
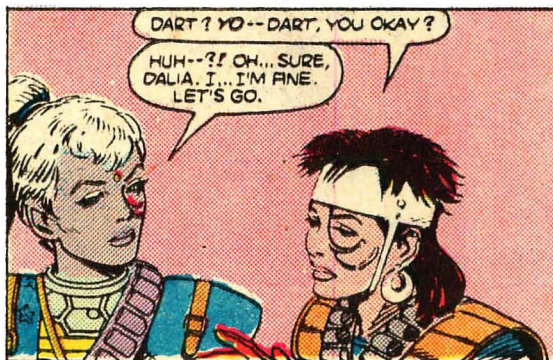
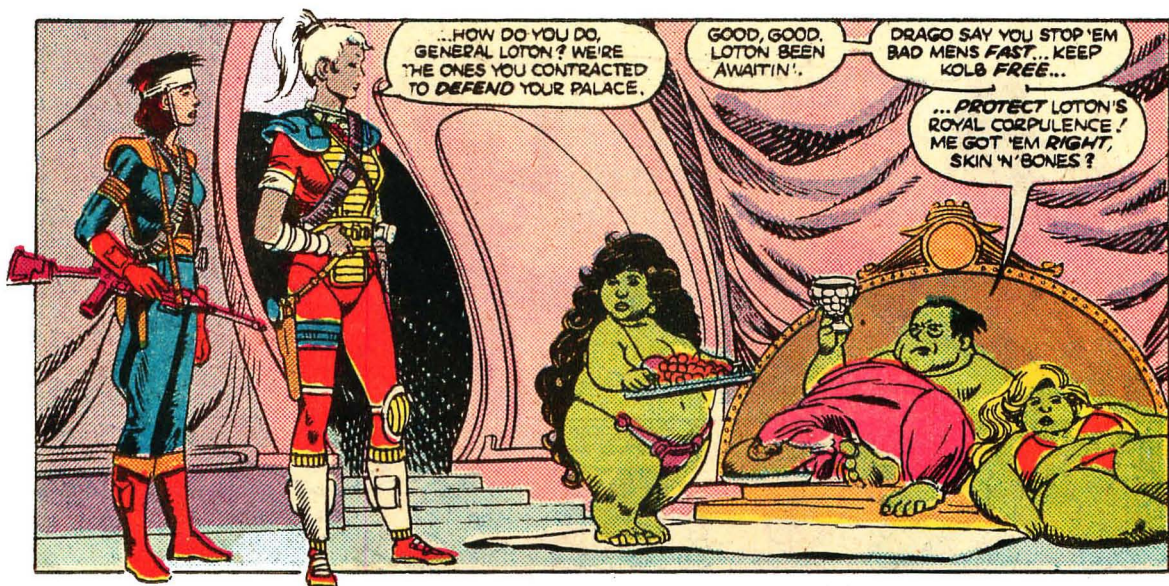
MMMM...

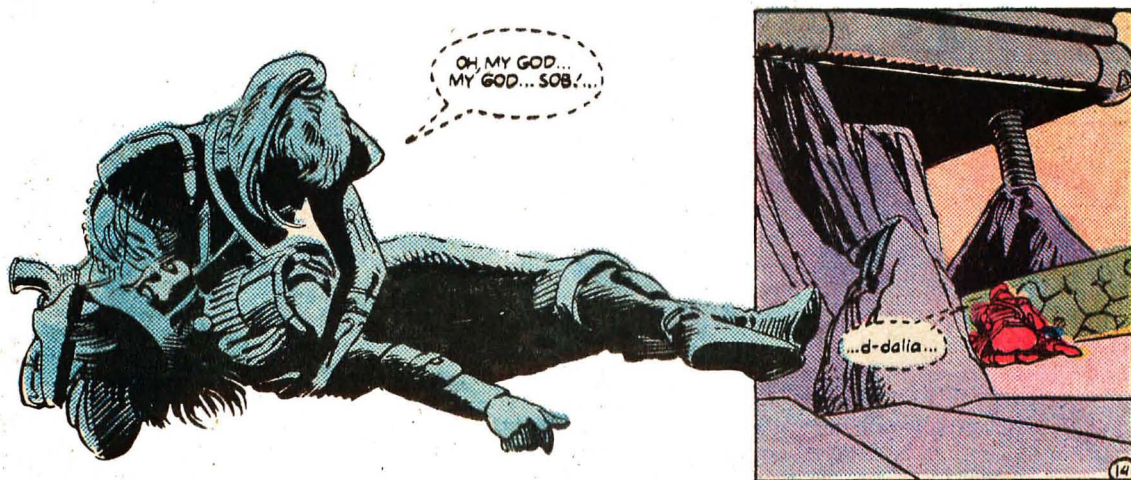
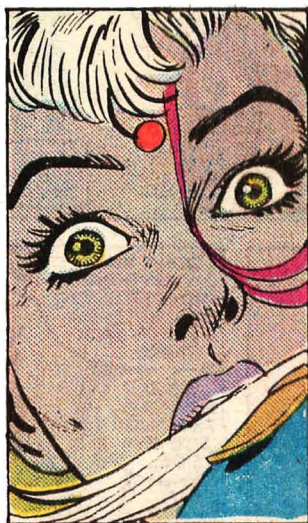


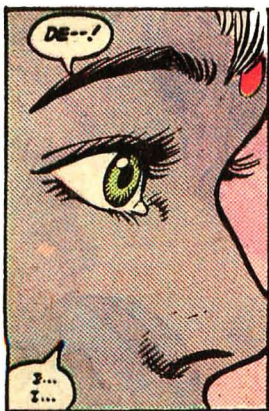
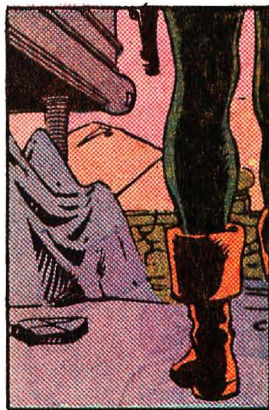
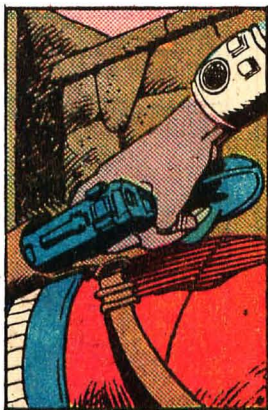
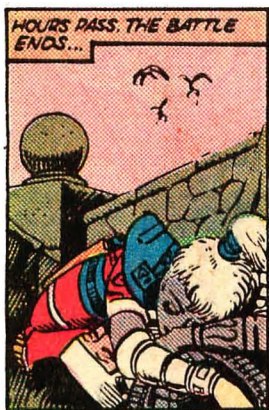
WHEN THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE CEREMONY, SEND DART AND DALIA TO ME. I HAVE A SPECIAL MISSION FOR THEM.

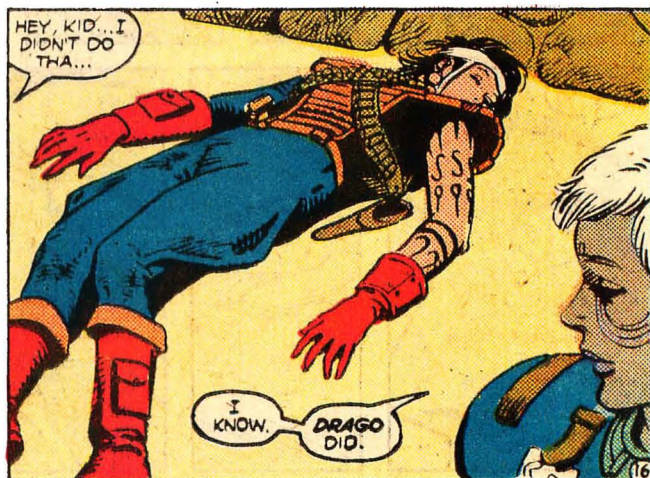
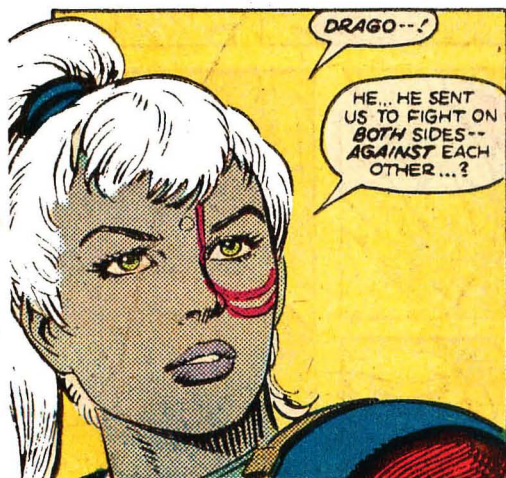


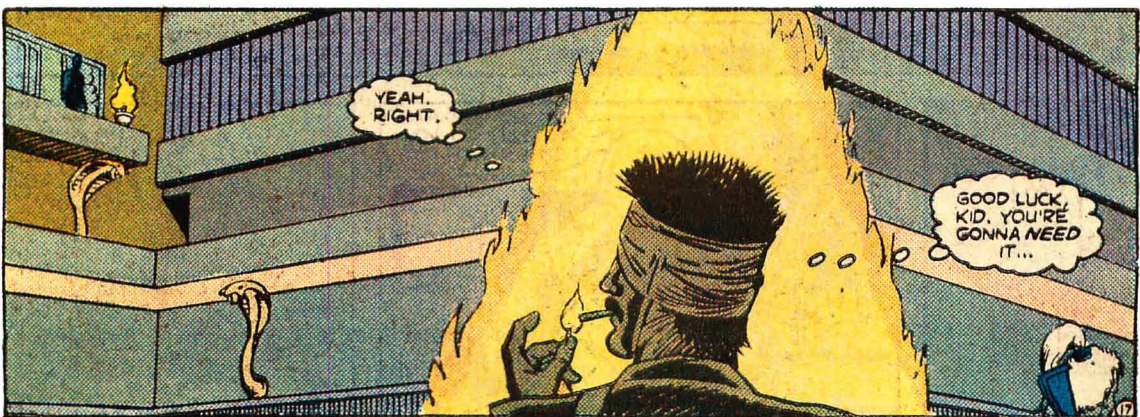
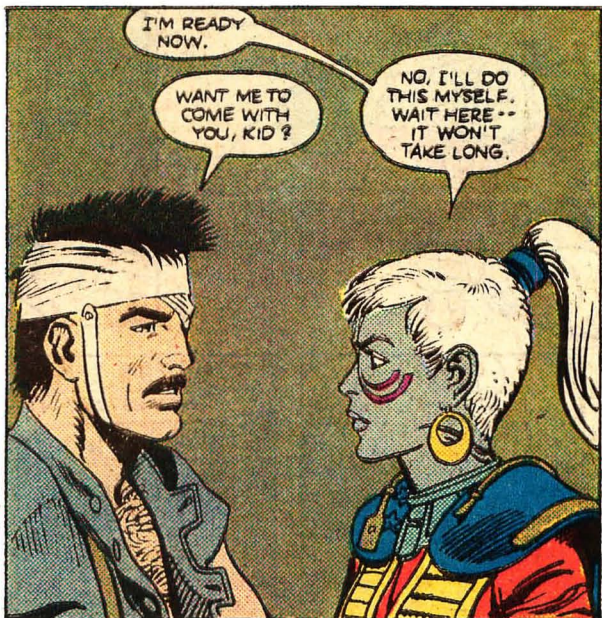
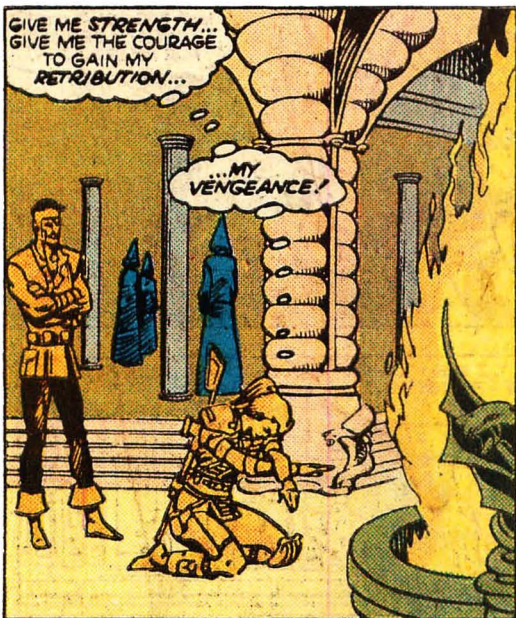
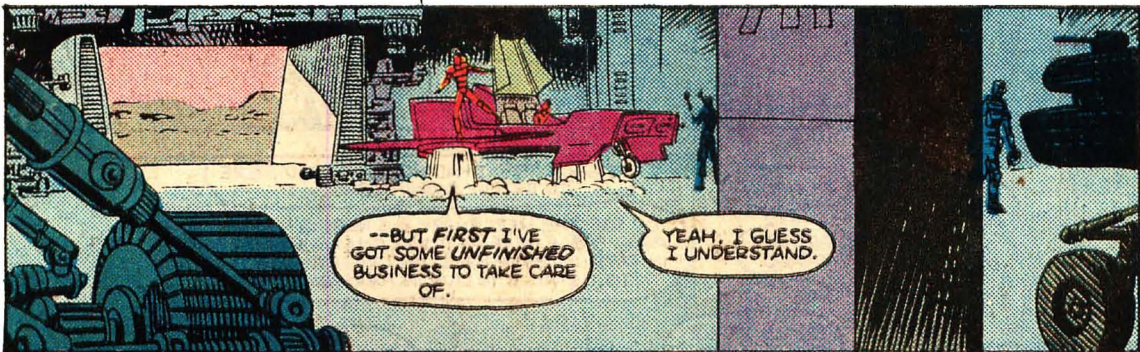
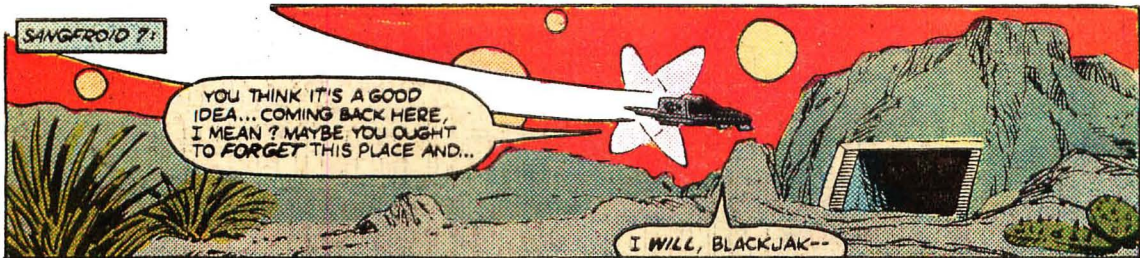


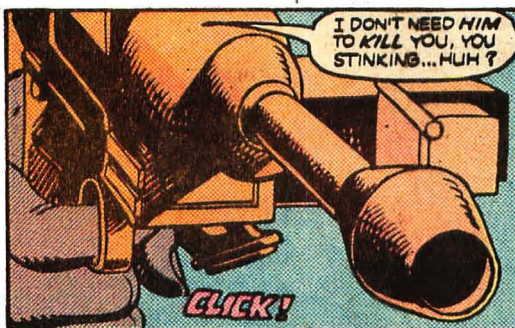
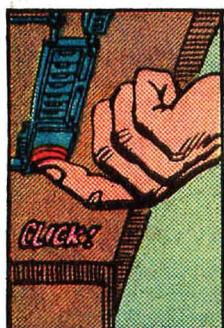
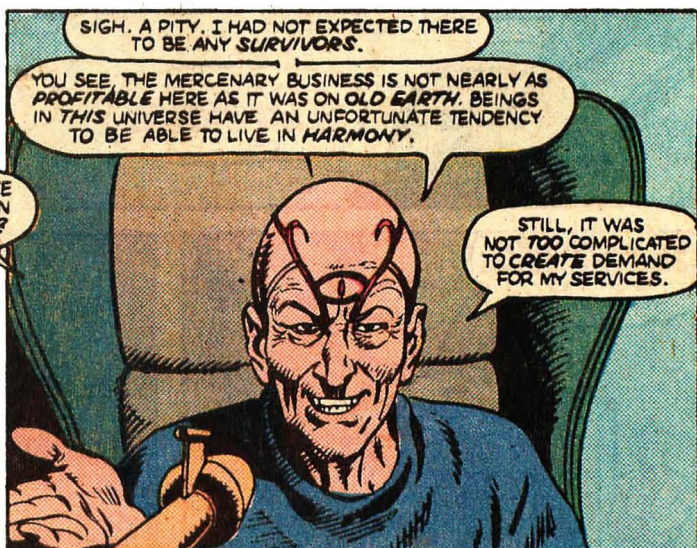
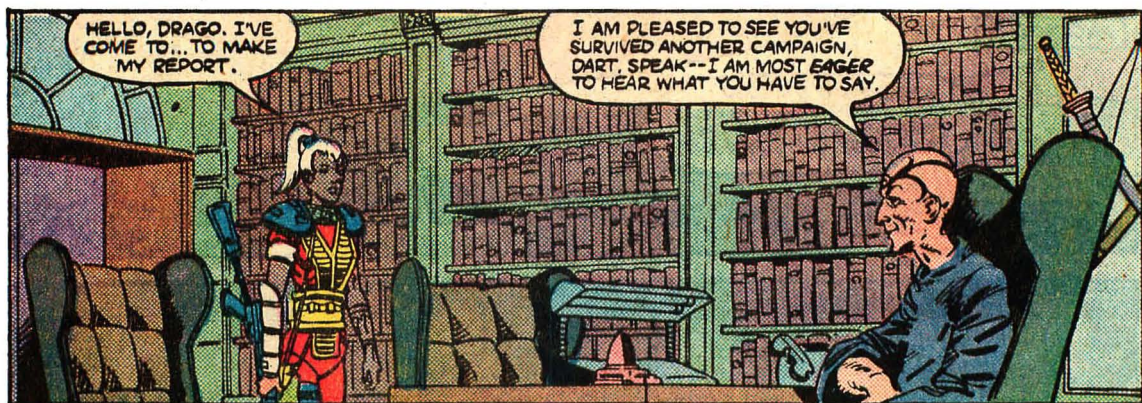


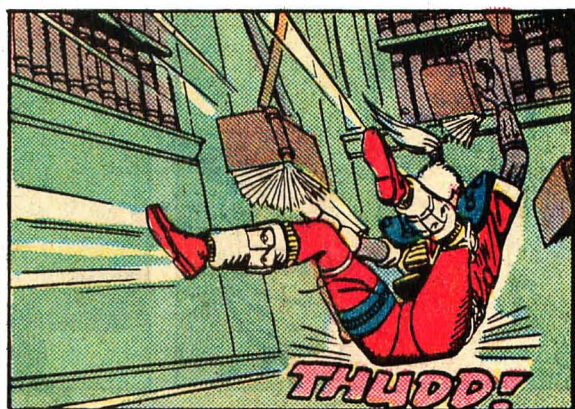
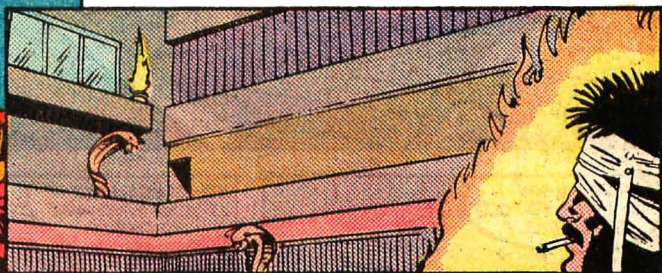


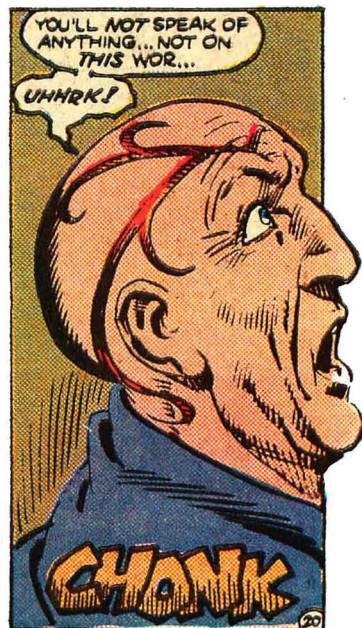
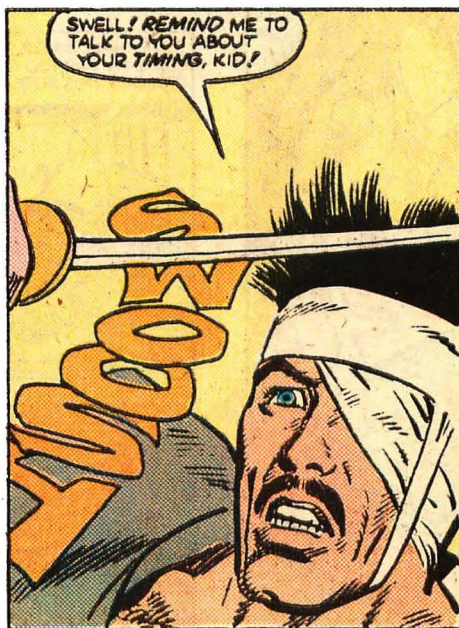
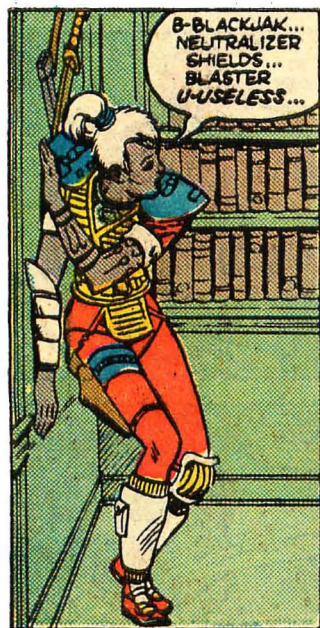
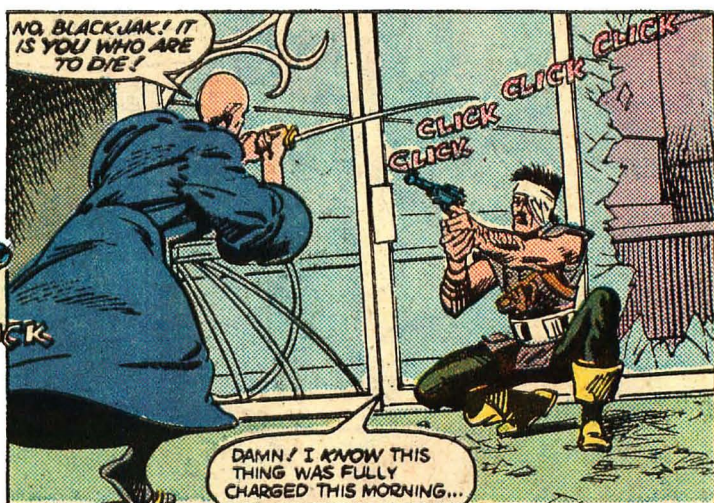


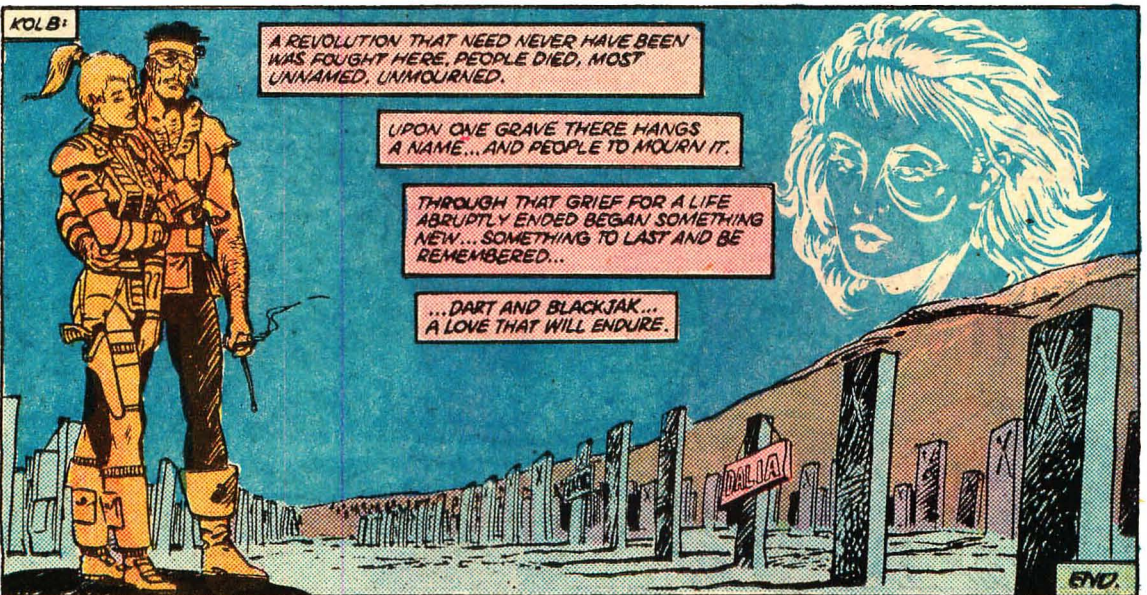
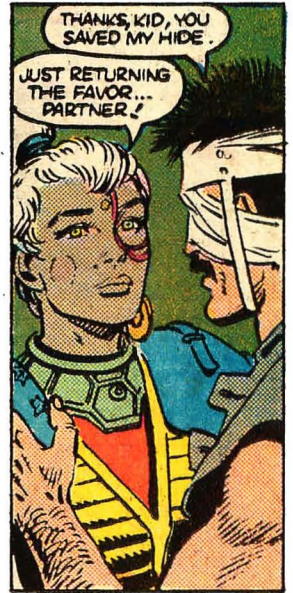
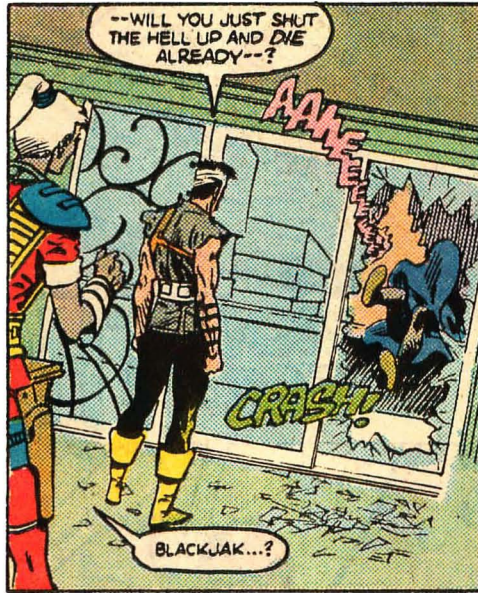
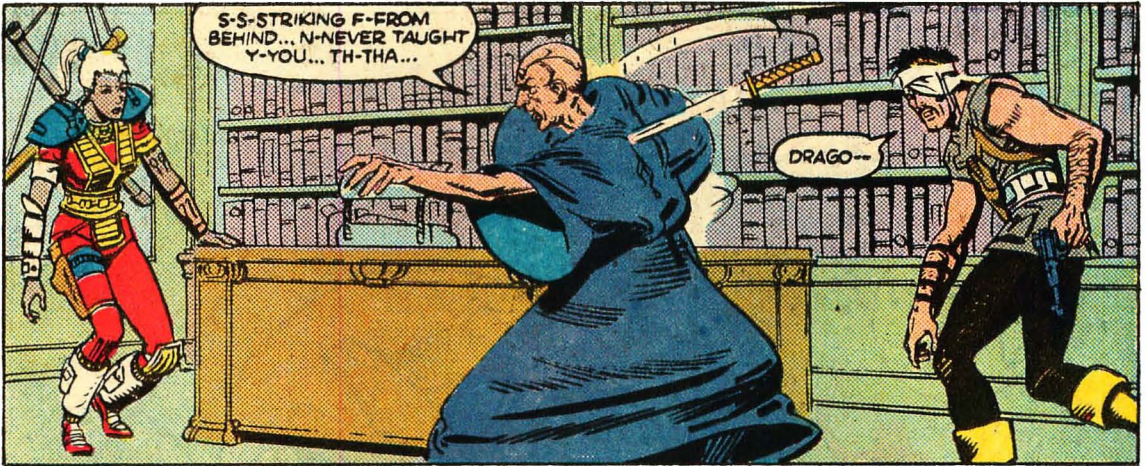




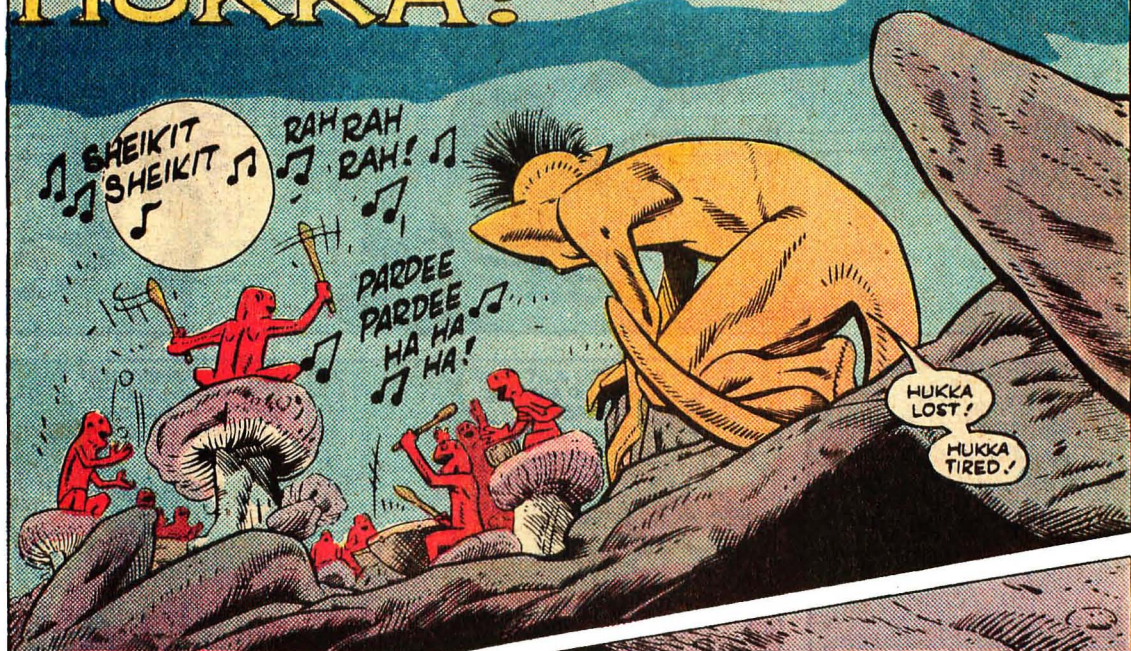






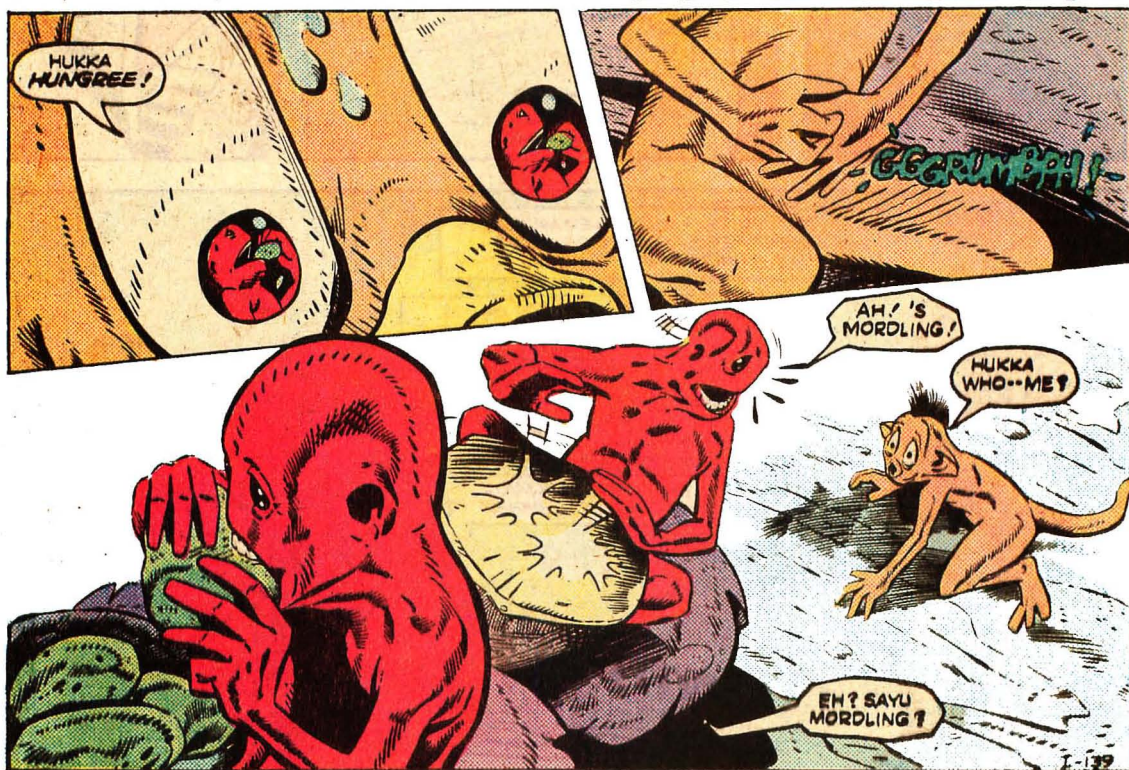


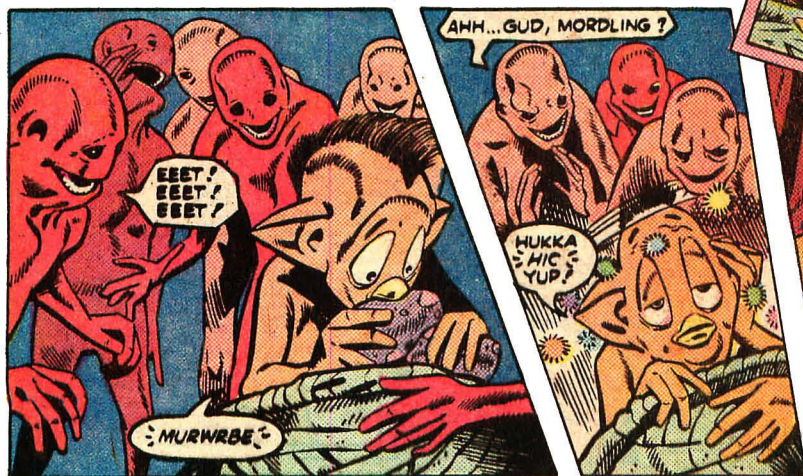
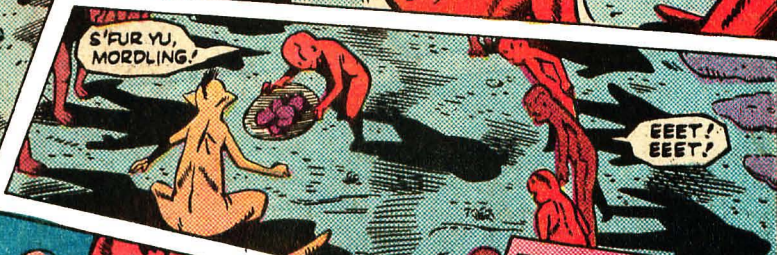
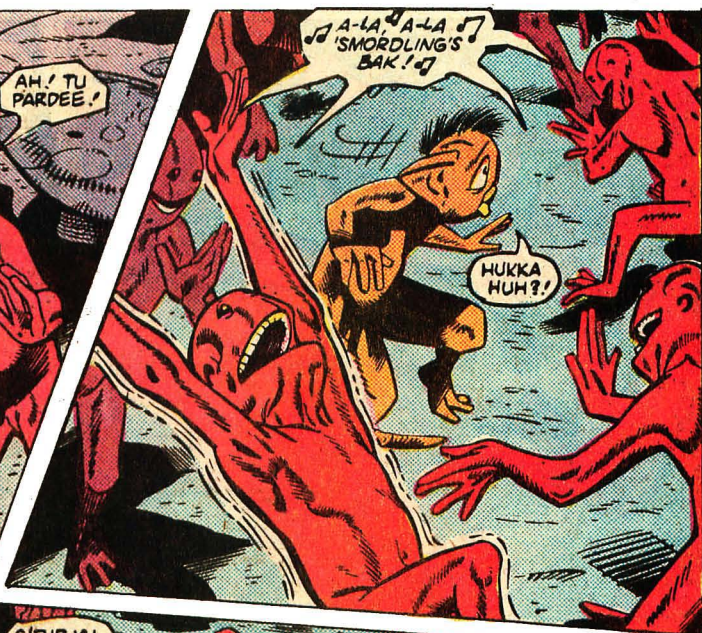
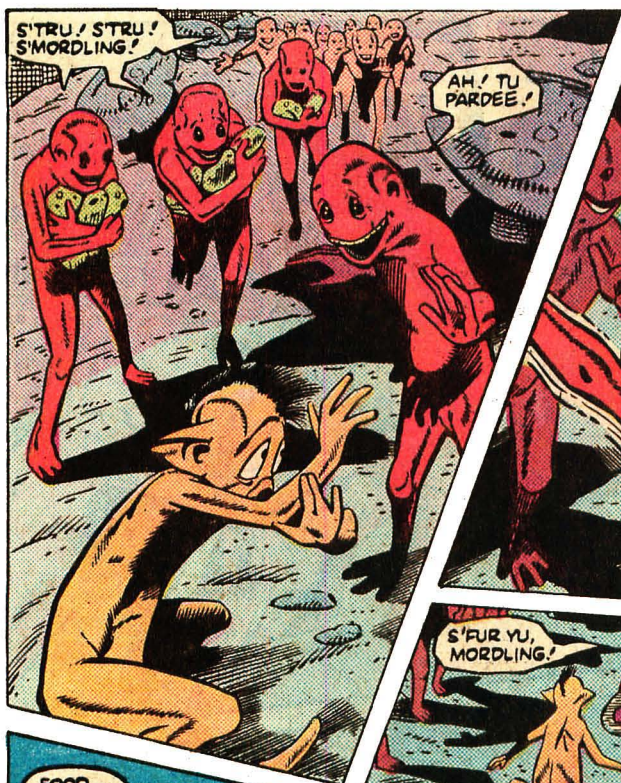
THE ADVENTURES OF THE HUKKA!

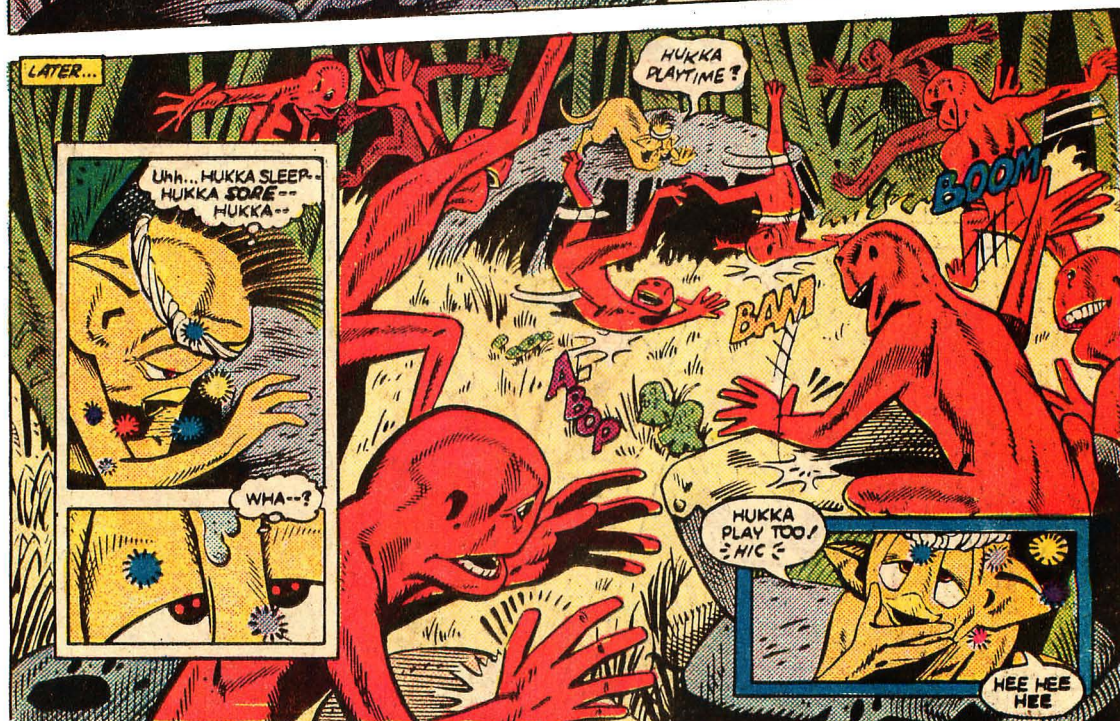
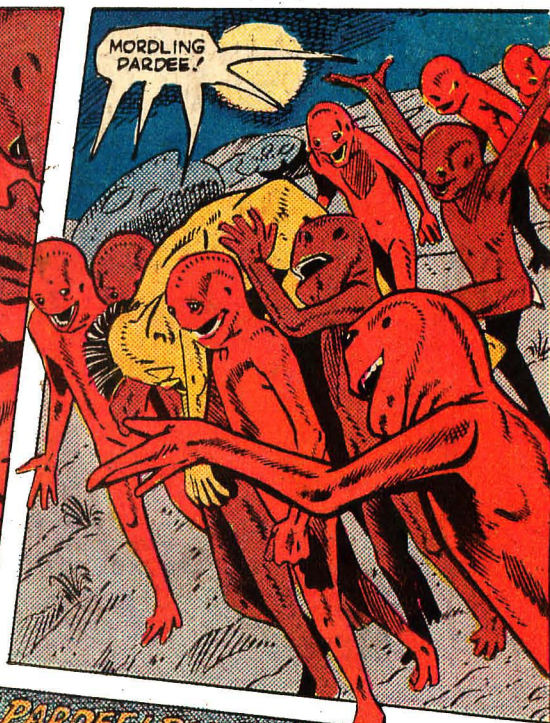
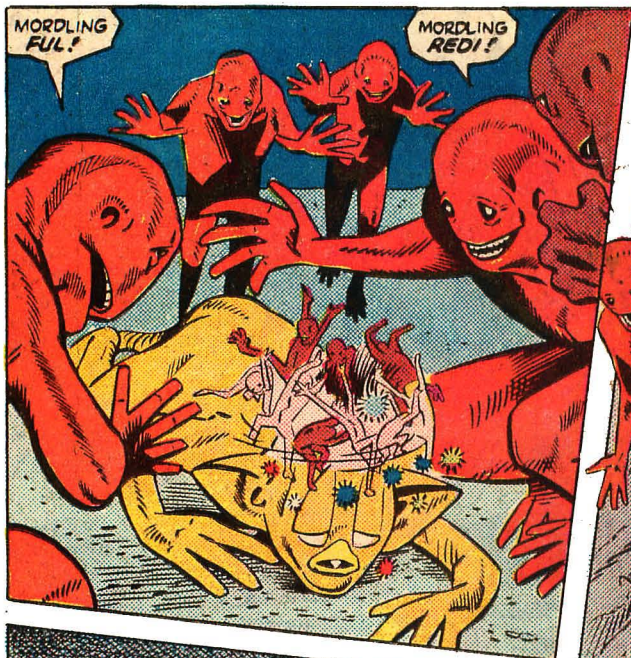


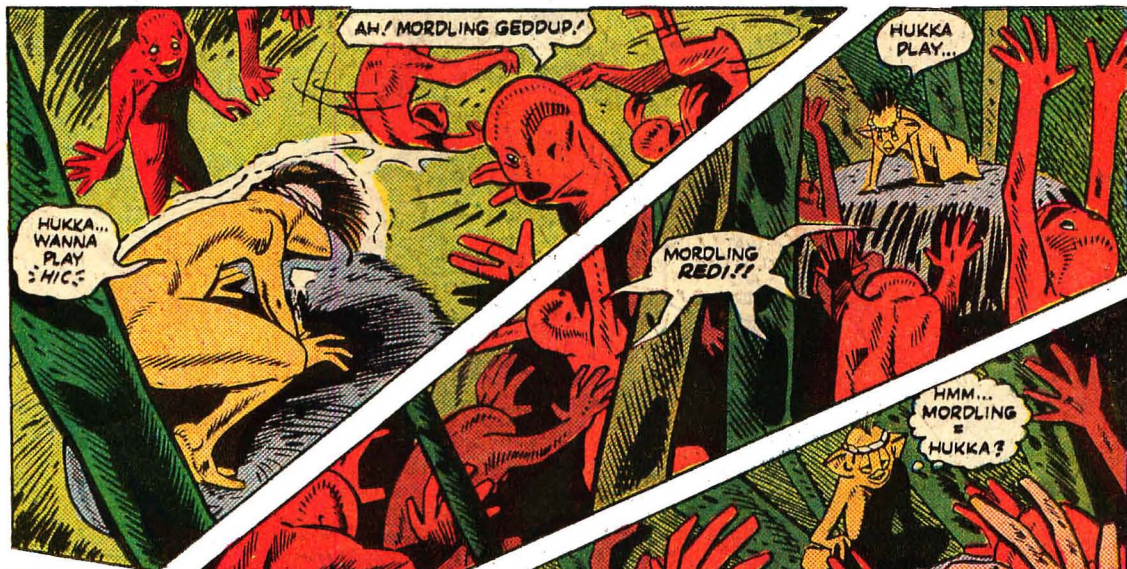
PAUL KUPPERBERG: WRITER
TRISTAN SHANE: PENCILLER
JOE DELBEATO: INKER
DAVID CODY WEISS: LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO: COLORIST
ANDY HELFER: EDITOR

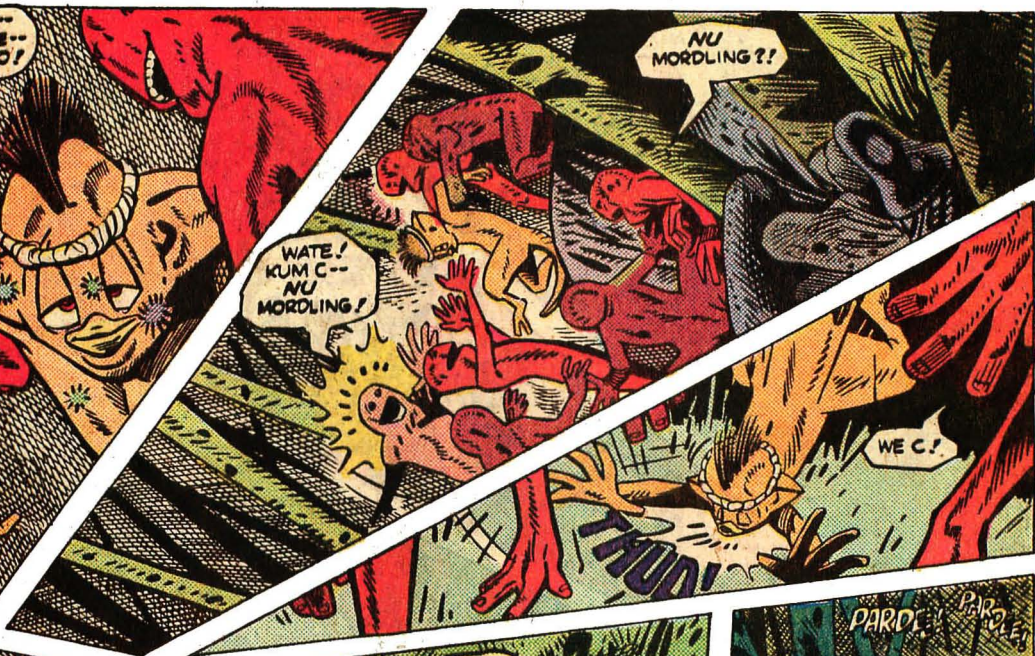
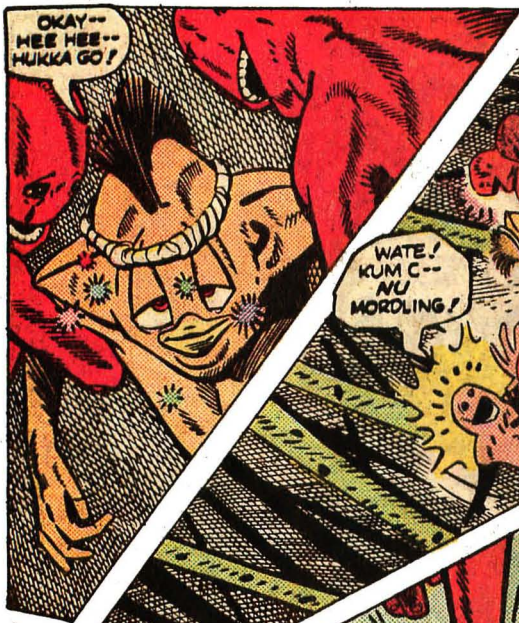
FOOD FOR THOUGHT!





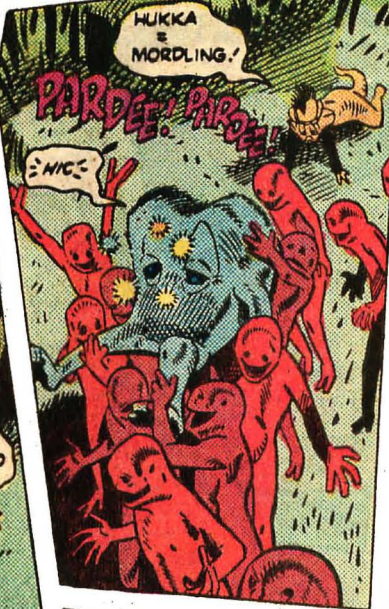


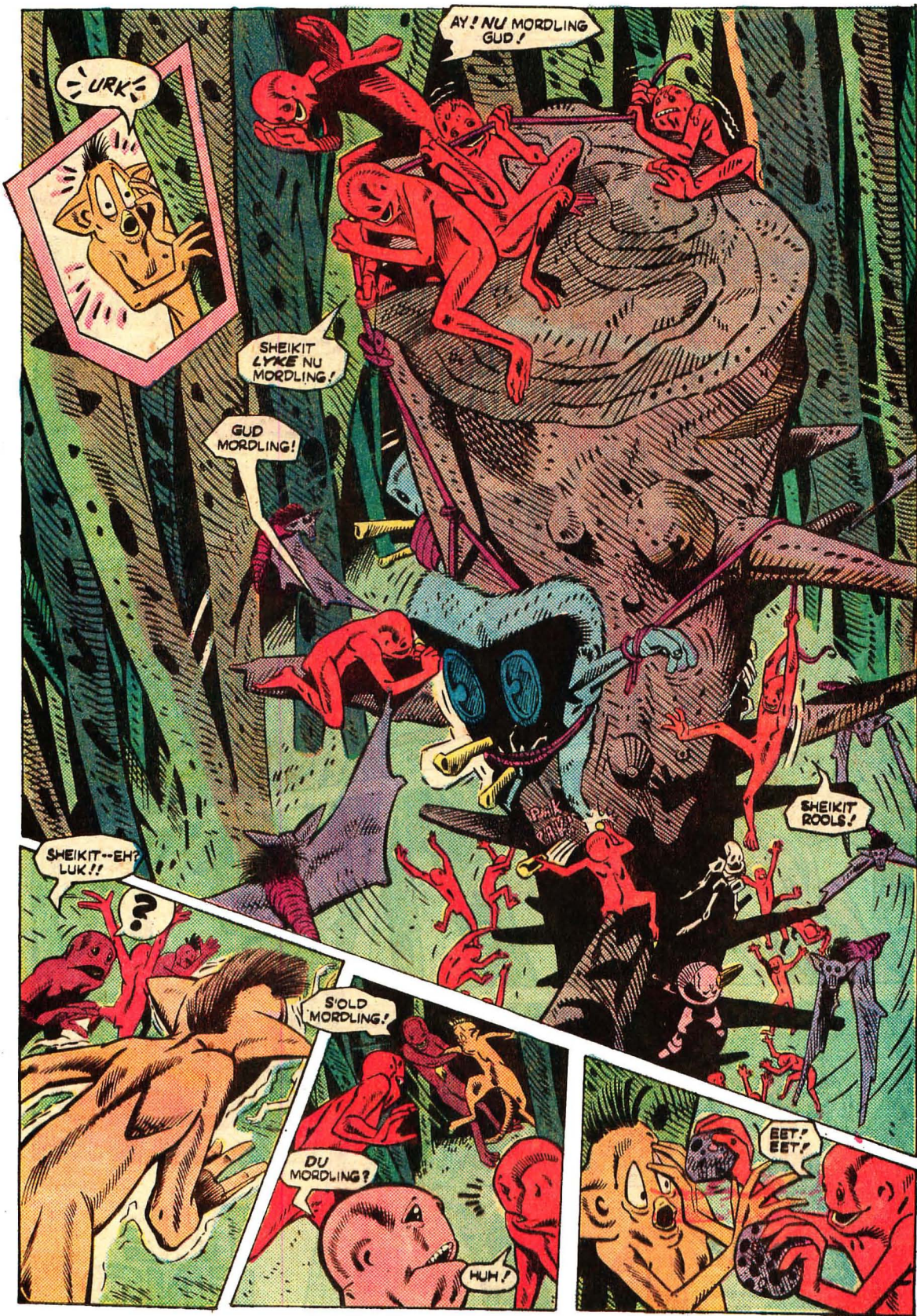


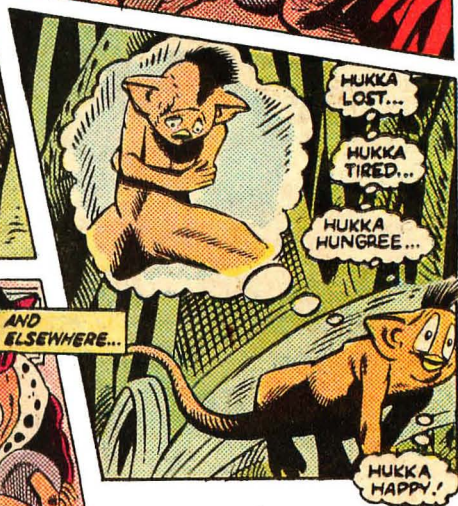
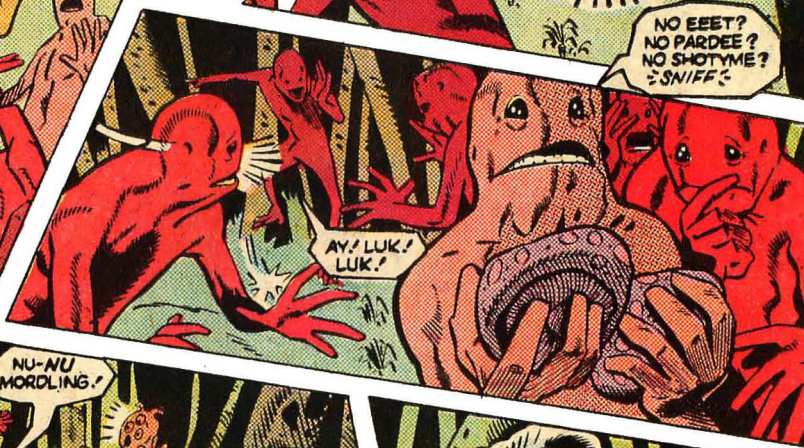
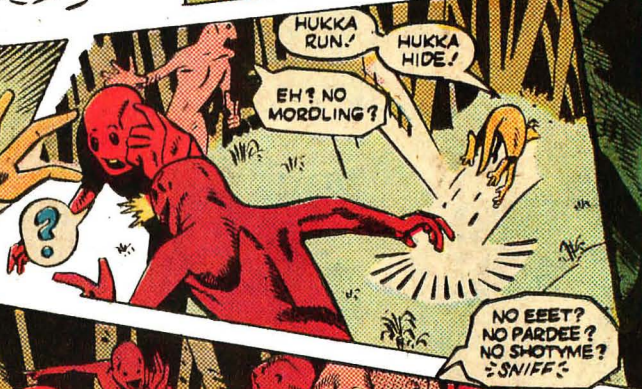
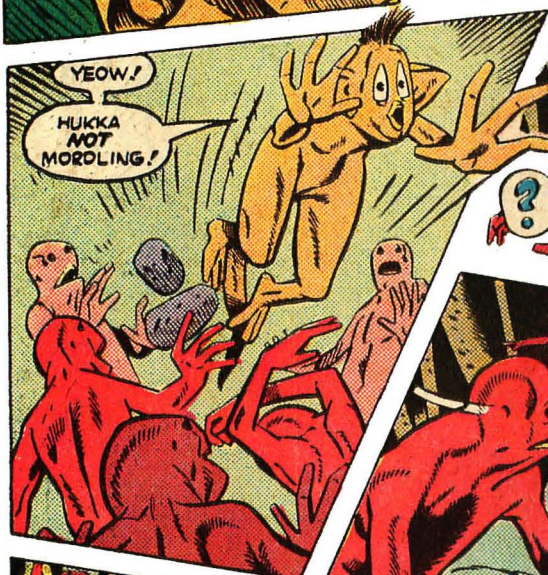
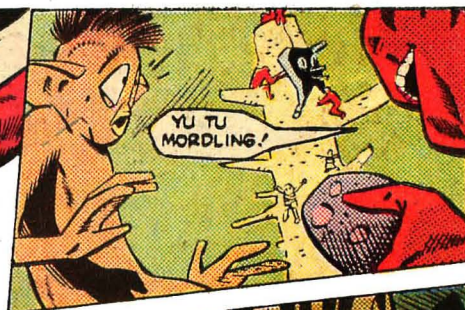
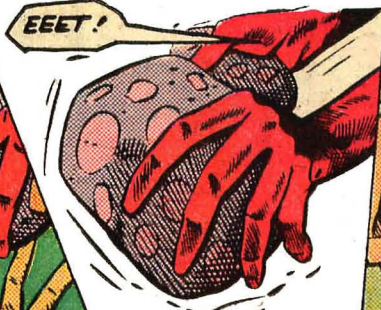
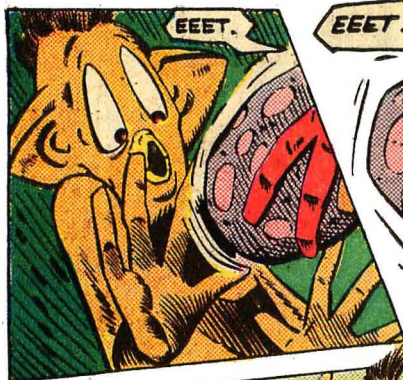


WATE!
KUM C--
NU
MORDLING!

WE C.!







THE
END

HIS NAME IS PAKRAT. ONCE HE WAS MERELY AN INFAMOUS PROFESSIONAL THIEF. THEN A TWIST OF FATE TURNED HIM INTO A WORLD-HOPPING ADVENTURER.

NOW HE CAN ONLY DREAM ABOUT THE SIMPLE LIFE-- THE SAFE LIFE-- THE LIFE HE LED BEFORE FATE CAST HIM INTO THE RANKS OF A GROUP KNOWN TO US AS THE--

ATARI FORCE

YAAAK!

THAT WAS NO NIGHTMARE--

--THE SHIP'S BEEN HIT!

SECOND SKIN!

DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN	JAMES FRY	KYLE BAKER
STORY	PENCILS	INKS
DAVID CODY WEISS	TOM ZIUKO	ANDY HELPER
LETTERS	COLORS	EDITOR



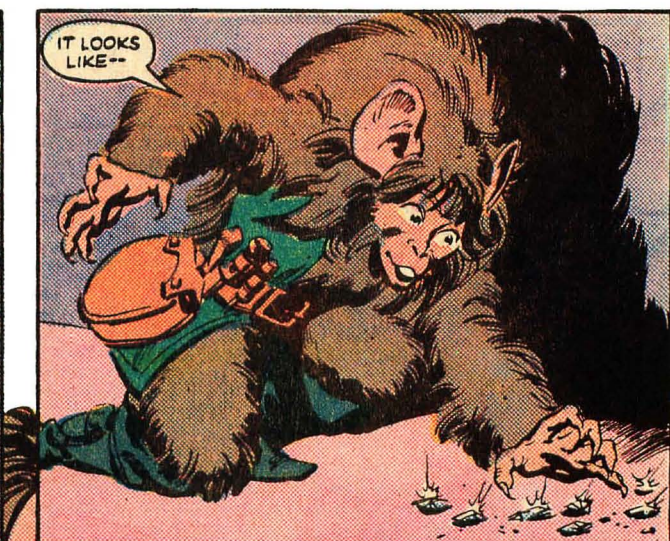
EVERYBODY--
WAKE UP!

GRAB YOUR
GEAR AND MAN
THE LIFEBOATS!

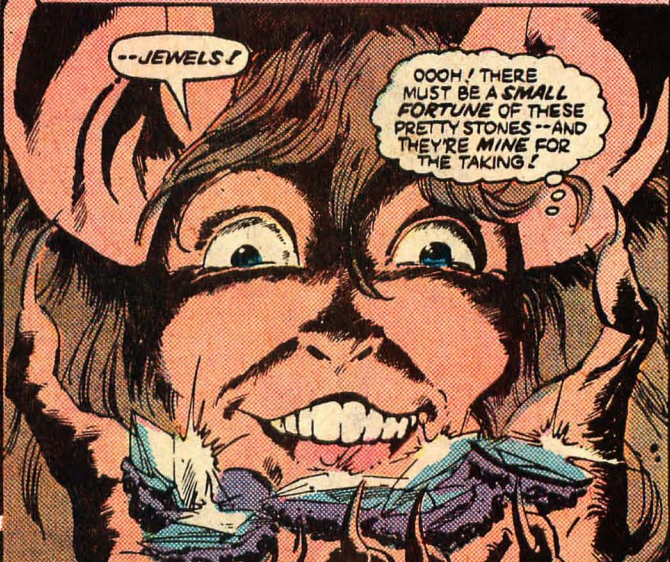
WOMEN
AND MARKIANS
FIR--

HEY! THE
SHAKING'S
STOPPED,
AND--

EH, WHAT'S
THAT GLITTERING
STUFF?



IT LOOKS
LIKE--



--JEWELS!

OOOH! THERE
MUST BE A SMALL
FORTUNE OF THESE
PRETTY STONES--AND
THEY'RE MINE FOR
THE TAKING!



I KNEW MY LUCK
WAS GONNA CHANGE!
IT HAD TO! JUST
WAIT'LL I--

UH-OH! HERE
COME THE OTHERS!
I'D BETTER STOW
THESE BABIES
BEFORE--

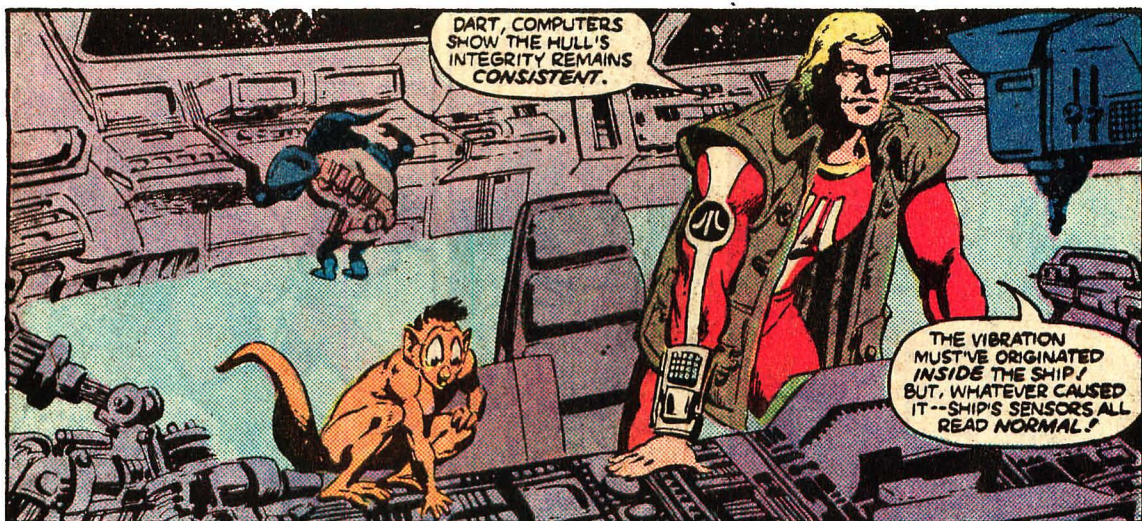


PAKRAT, EVERYTHING
SECURE HERE?

YEAH--I GUESS SO!
ER-- I JUST WOKE
UP!

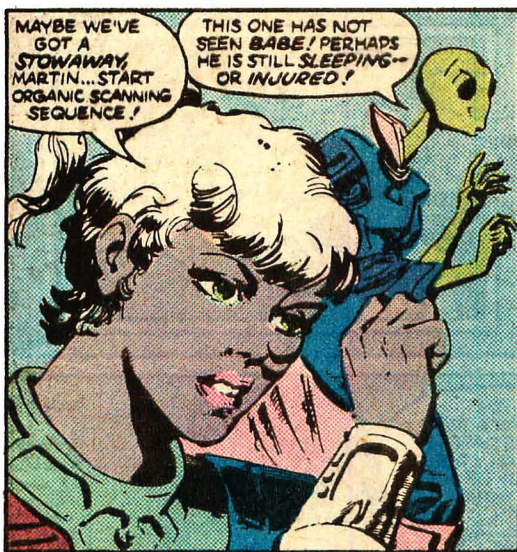
SO DID WE!
SOMETHING PRETTY
POWERFUL JUST ROCKED
SCANNER ONE!

MARTIN, WHAT
ARE THE SHIP'S
MONITORS
REPORTING?



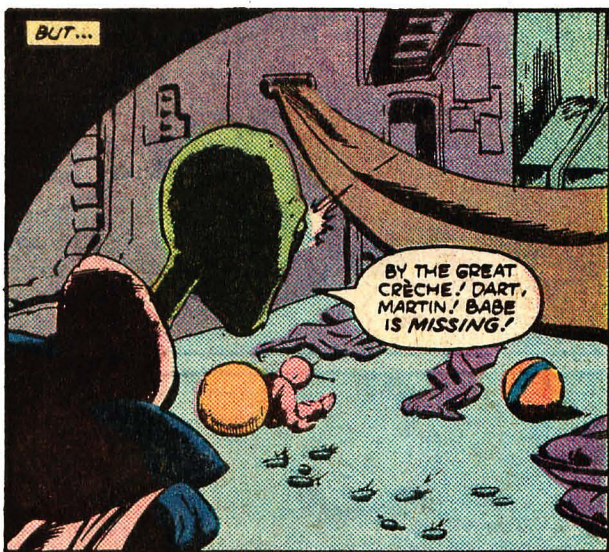
DART, COMPUTERS SHOW THE HULL'S INTEGRITY REMAINS CONSISTENT.

THE VIBRATION MUST'VE ORIGINATED INSIDE THE SHIP! BUT, WHATEVER CAUSED IT--SHIP'S SENSORS ALL READ NORMAL!



MAYBE WE'VE GOT A STOWAWAY, MARTIN...START ORGANIC SCANNING SEQUENCE!

THIS ONE HAS NOT SEEN BABE! PERHAPS HE IS STILL SLEEPING--OR INJURED!



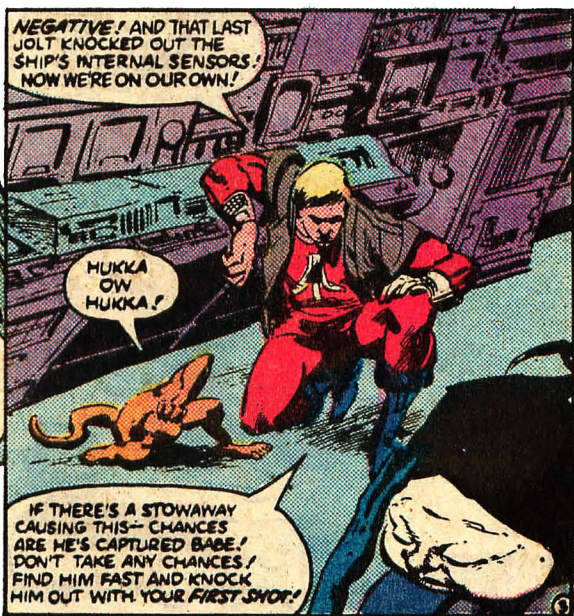
BUT...

BY THE GREAT CRÈCHE! DART, MARTIN! BABE IS MISSING!



YAAAK!

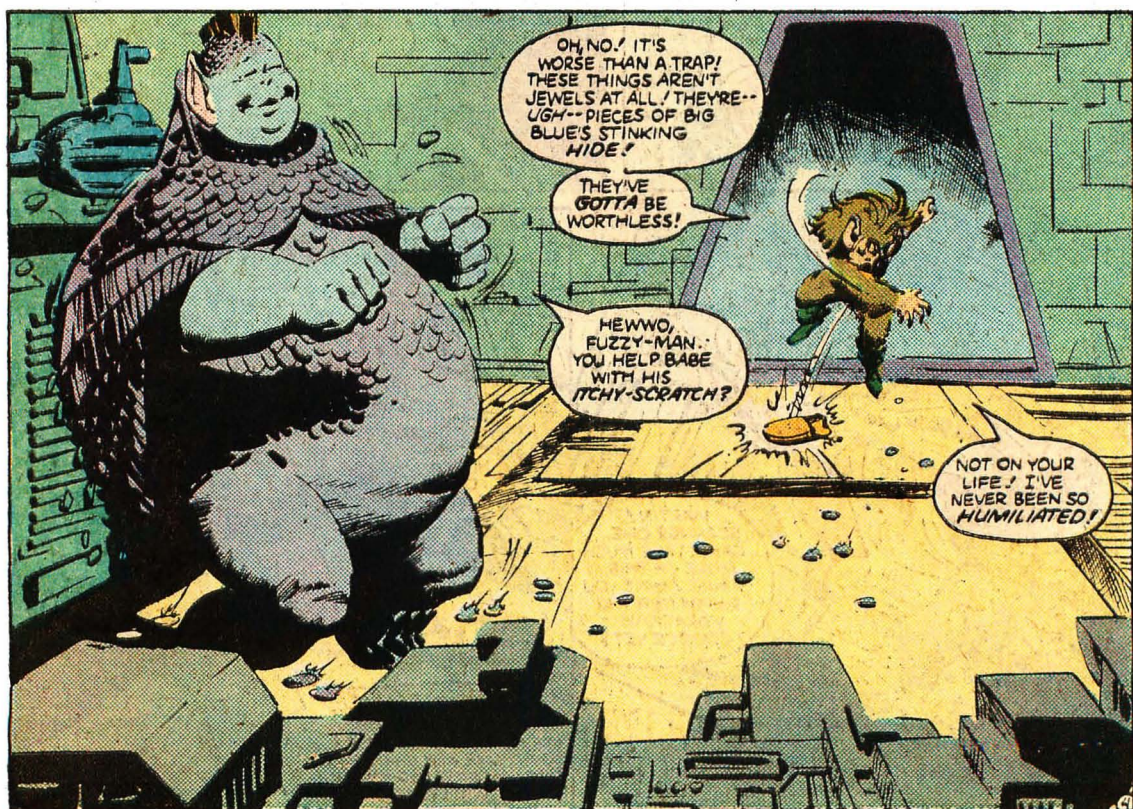
MARTIN! SCANNER ONE CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS ABUSE! HAVE YOU PINPOINTED THE VIBRATIONS' SOURCE YET?

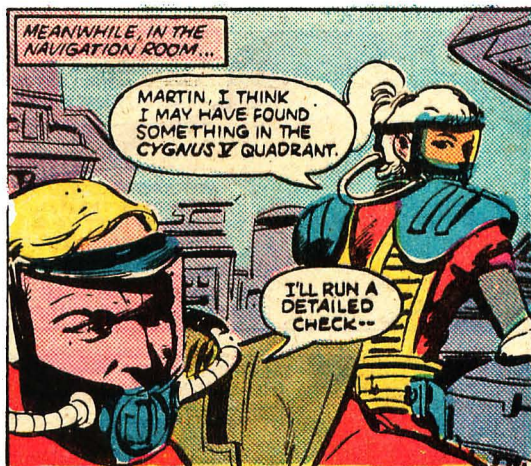


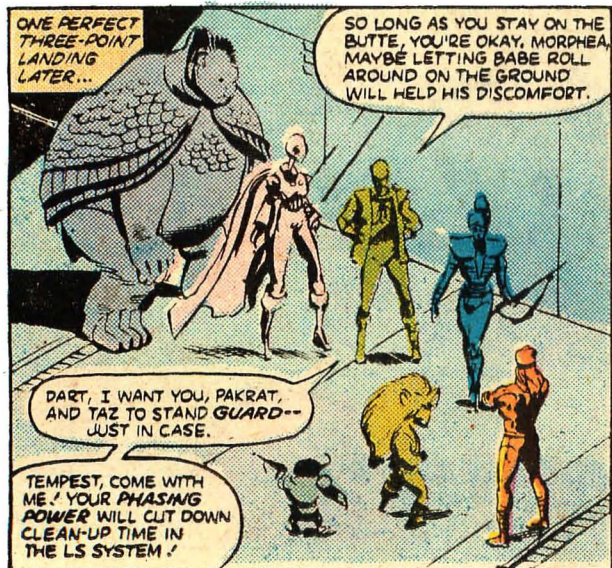
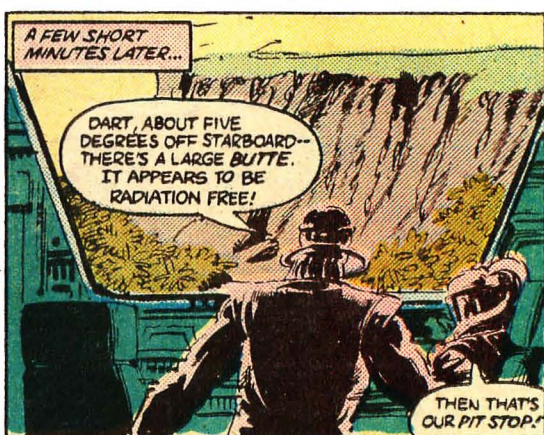
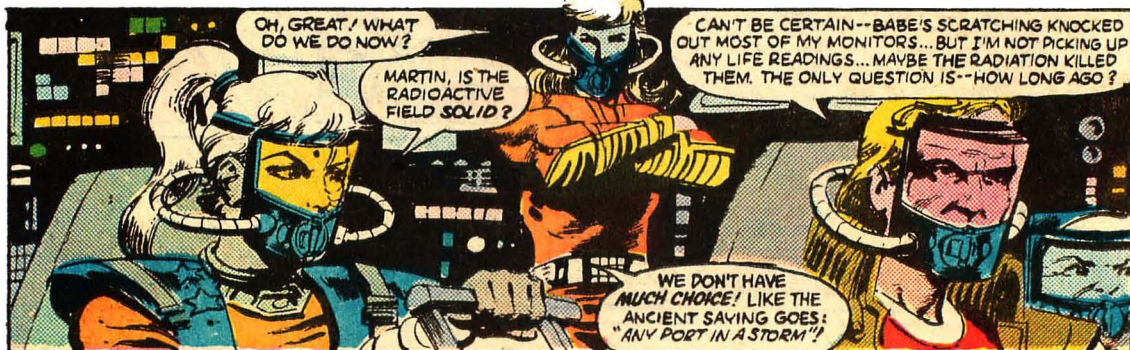
NEGATIVE! AND THAT LAST JOLT KNOCKED OUT THE SHIP'S INTERNAL SENSORS! NOW WE'RE ON OUR OWN!

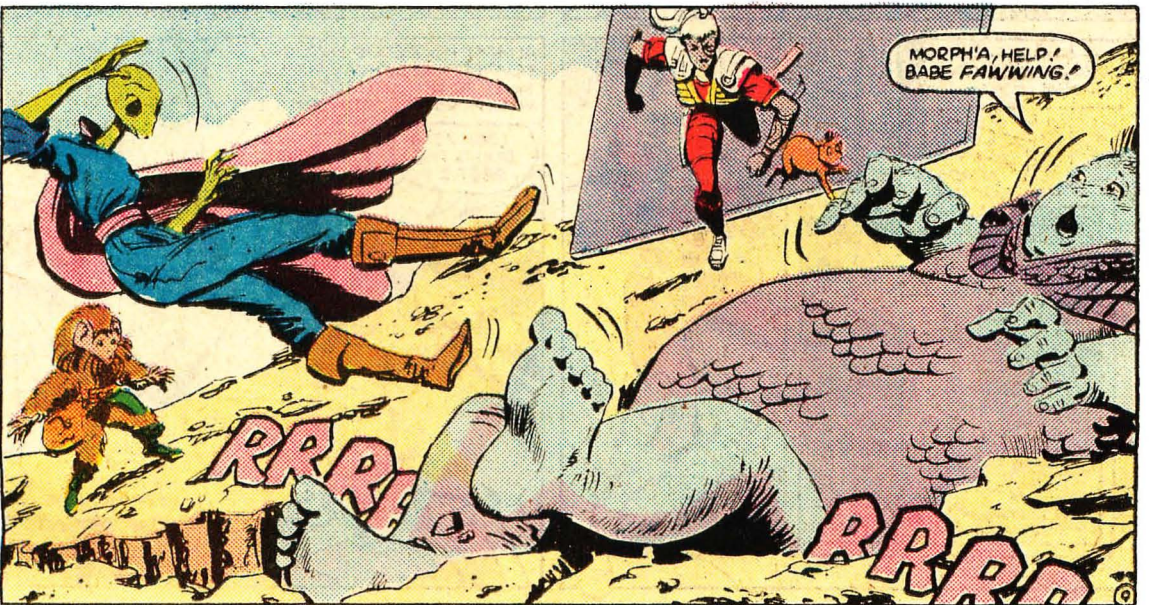
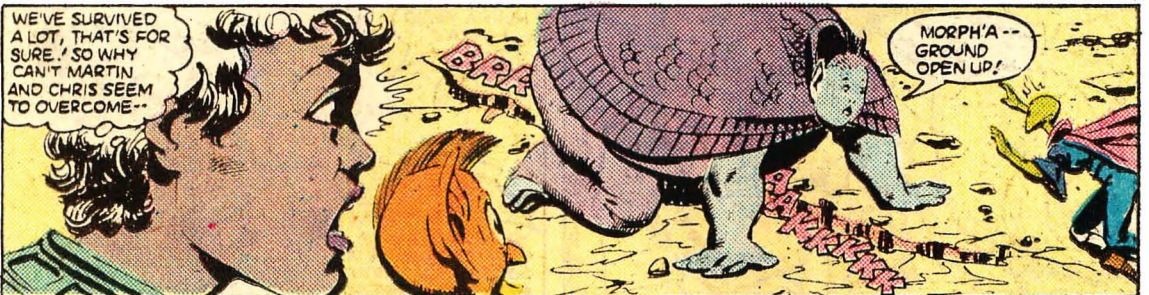
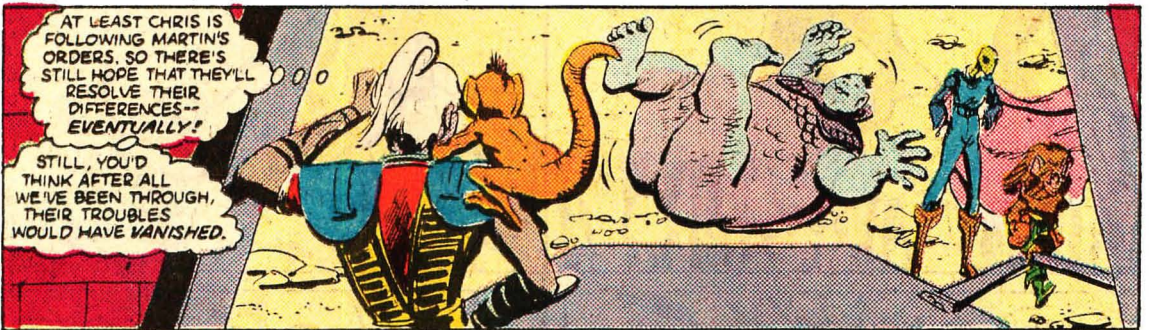
HUKKA OW HUKKA!

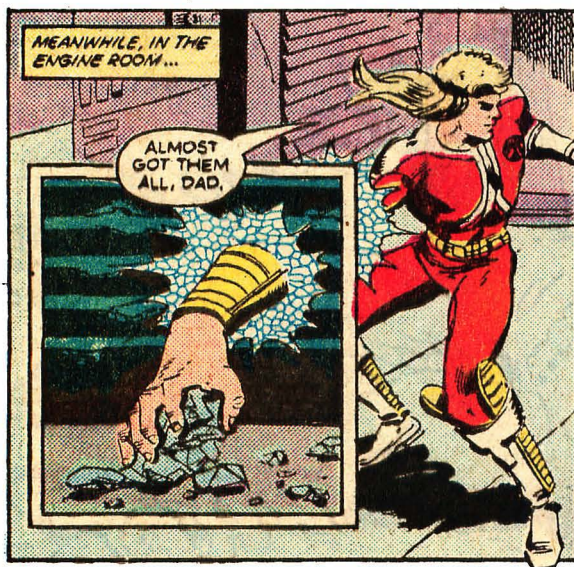
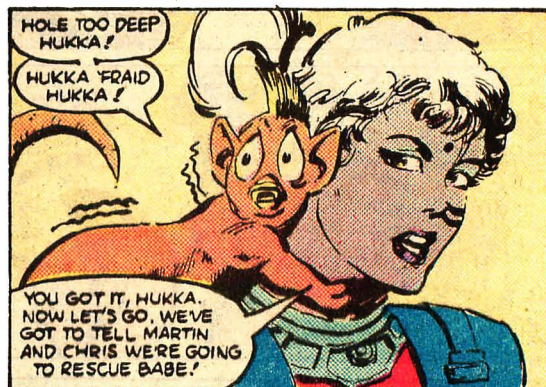
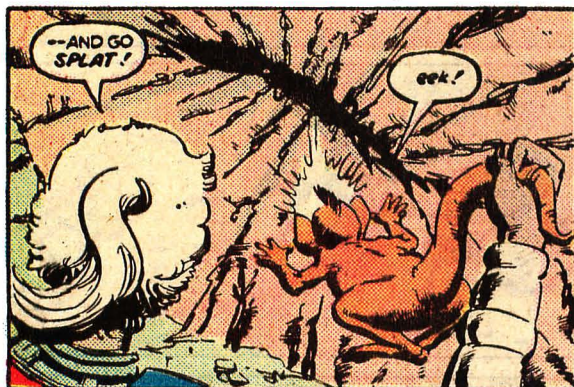
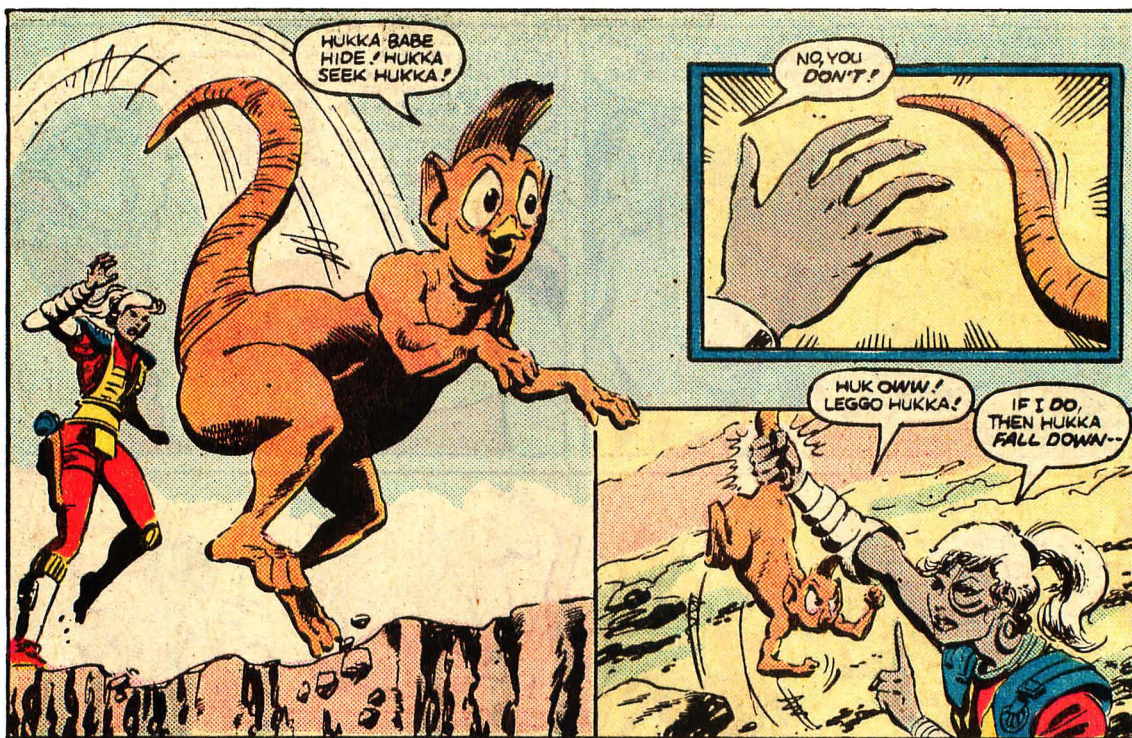
IF THERE'S A STOWAWAY CAUSING THIS-- CHANCES ARE HE'S CAPTURED BABE! DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! FIND HIM FAST AND KNOCK HIM OUT WITH YOUR FIRST SHOT!

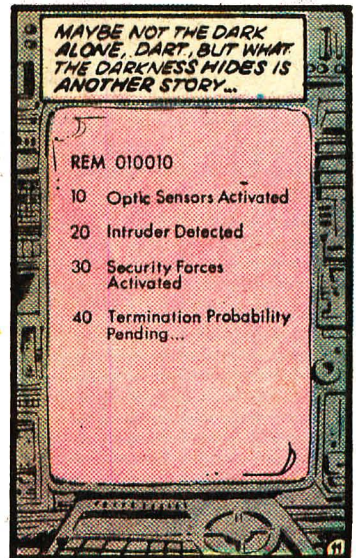
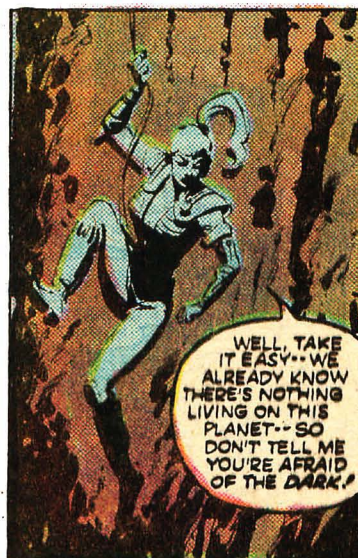
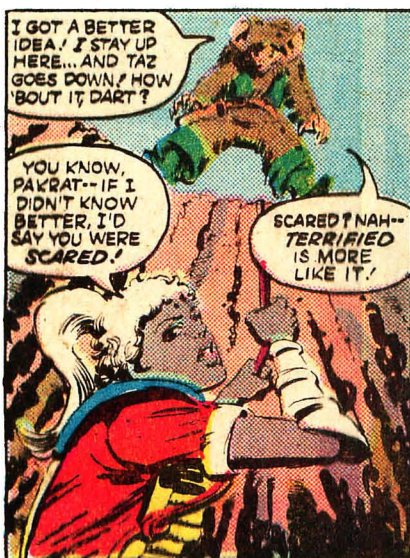
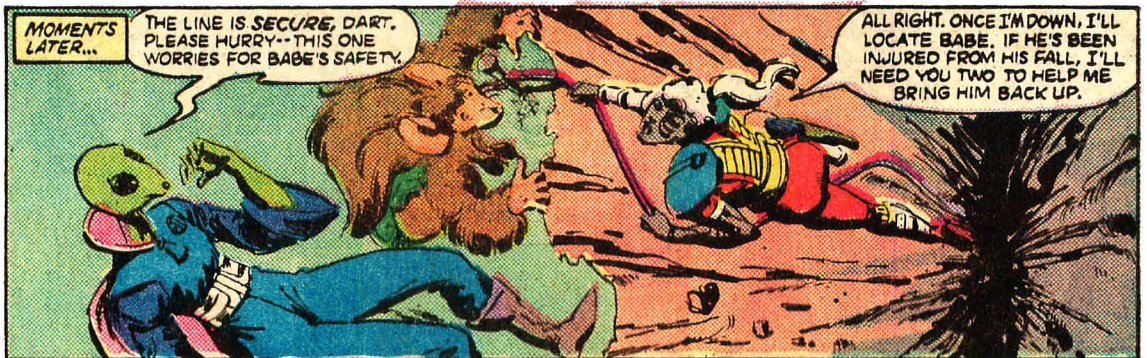


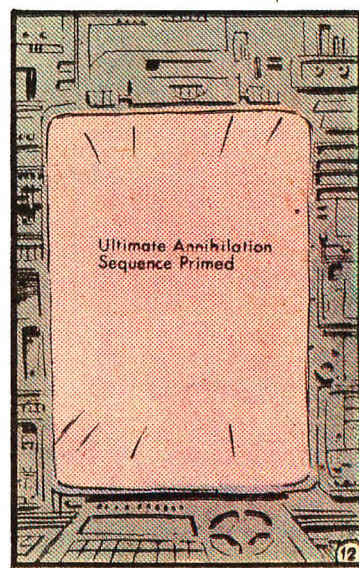
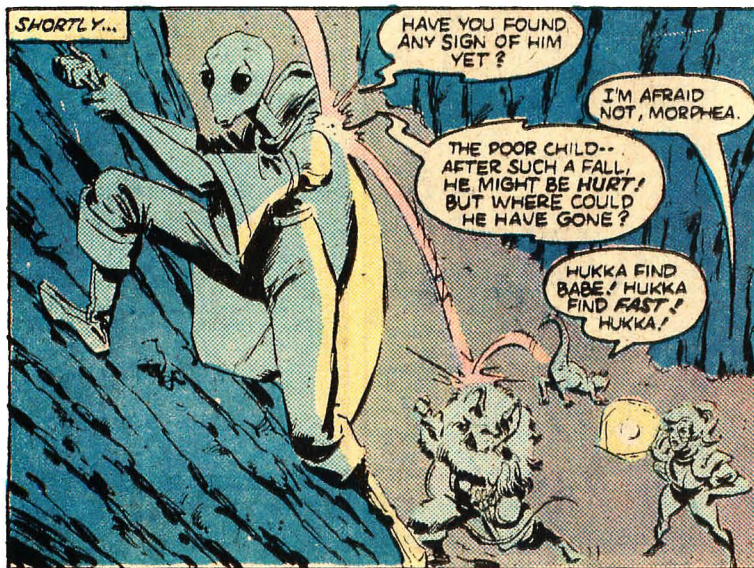
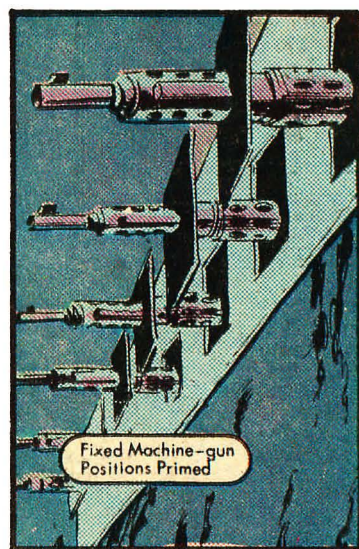
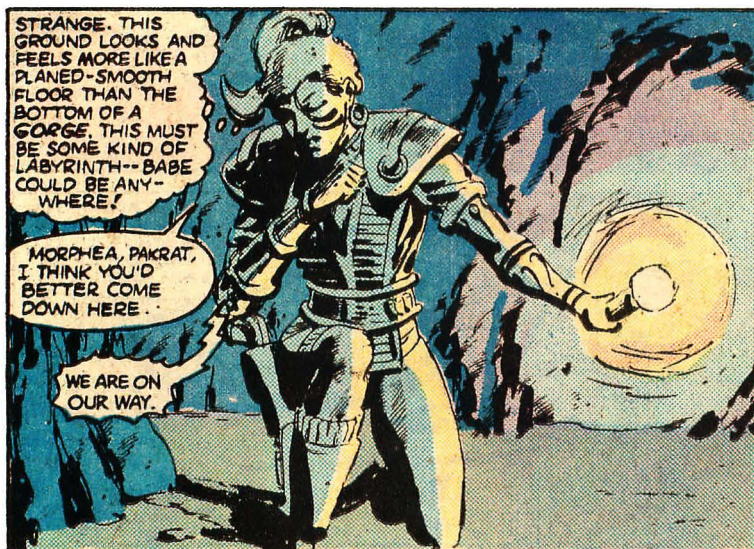
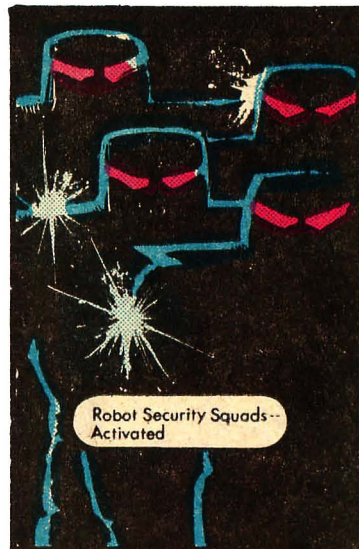
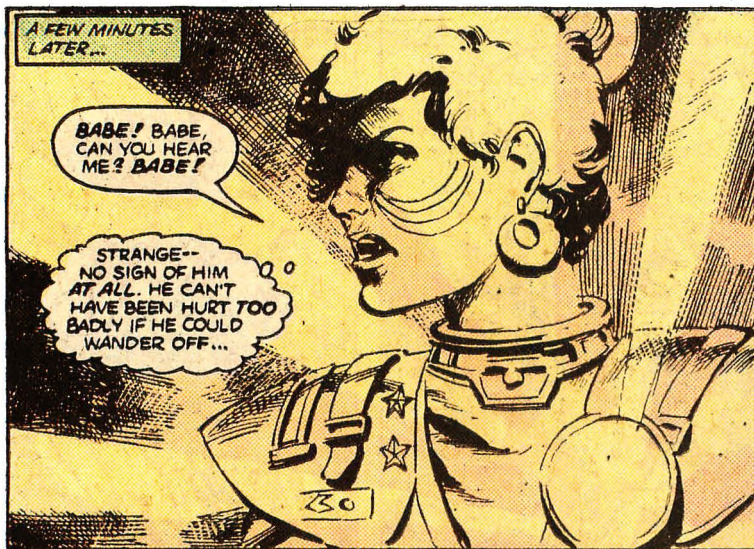












LOOK--UH--HUKKA SEEMS TO HAVE THIS SITUATION UNDER CONTROL--WHY DON'T I JUST MOSEY IT ON BACK UP TO THE SURFACE...

A THIEF LIKE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?

THIS PLACE IS DIFFERENT! IT SMELLS DEAD!

HUKKA FIND LIGHT!

NOW WHERE DID HE RUN OUT TO?

HUKKA! BABE! THIS ONE IS HERE! COME BACK!

THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS EGG-ITE HUNT! IT AIN'T WORTH IT! WHO KNOWS WHAT I COULD STEP INTO IN THIS DARKNESS--! I'M NOT TAKING ANOTHER STEP--

"--TILL SOMEONE TURNS ON THE LIGHTS!"

HUKKA FIND LIGHT! HUKKA GOT IT HUKKA!

YEEP!

JUMPIN' TIC MONGERS--!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT-- THIS PLACE WAS SO DARK-- WE DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT WE'VE WANDERED INTO SOME KIND OF HANGAR!

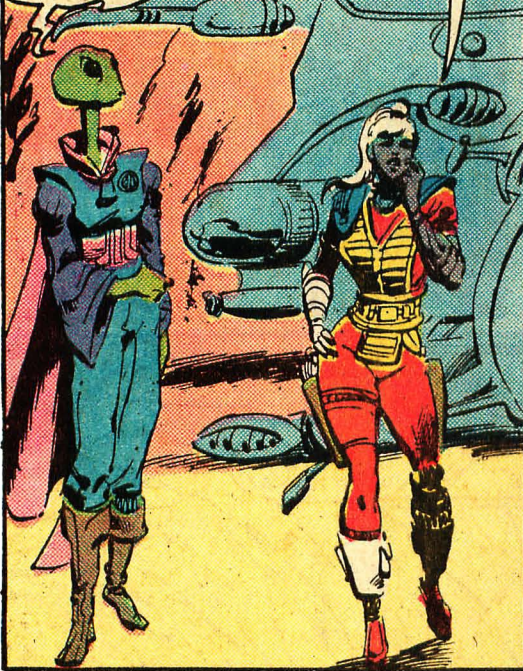
THIS ONE FEARS IT IS MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY THAT!

UHH, MORPHEA-- IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW IT-- THAT "DEVICE"-- IS A BOMB!

THAT DEVICE SUSPENDED FROM ABOVE-- POISED OVER A SEEMINGLY BOTTOMLESS PIT--

THIS IS INDEED DISTRESSING. THE DEVICE IS SO PRECARIOUSLY PERCHED-- IT MIGHT FALL AT ANY MOMENT--!

AND WE'VE GOT TO FIND BABE BEFORE IT DOES! WE'LL NEED SOME HELP TO SPEED UP THE SEARCH-- CHRIS' PHASING POWER WILL DO THE TRICK!



DART CALLING MARTIN-- COME IN, MARTIN!

DAMN! IT WAS WORKING JUST A MINUTE AGO! NOW NOTHING-- LIKE IT'S BEING JAMMED!

SCROOFEOW

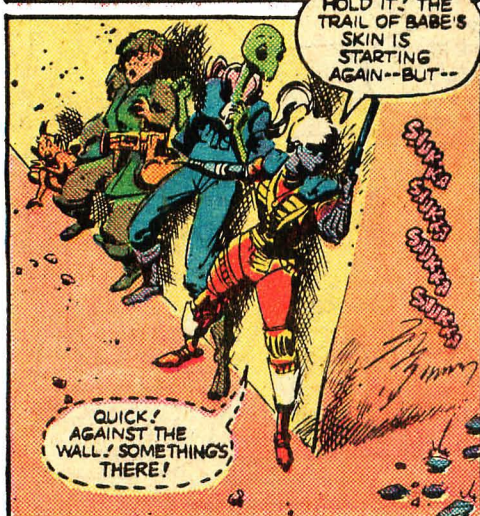
UNFORTUNATELY FOR DART, SHE'S RIGHT!

Radio Frequency Inhibitors
Intercepting Low Power Signals

Initiate Attack Sequence
Repulse Invaders



C'MON, GROUP-- IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON OUR OWN NOW!

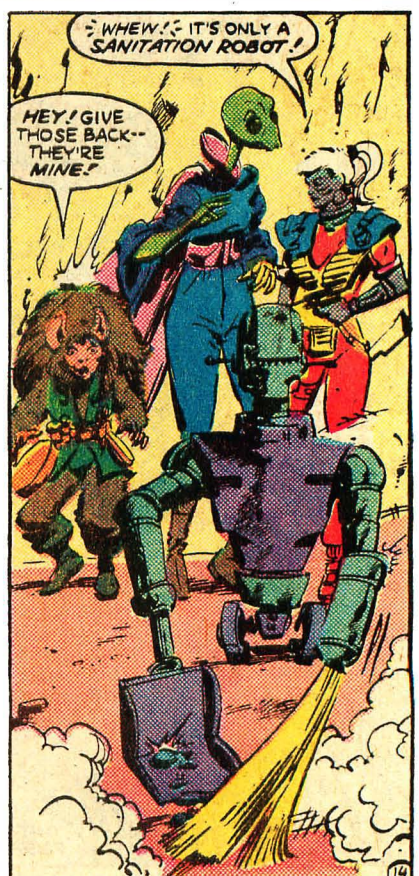


HOLD IT! THE TRAIL OF BABE'S SKIN IS STARTING AGAIN-- BUT--

QUICK! AGAINST THE WALL! SOMETHING'S THERE!

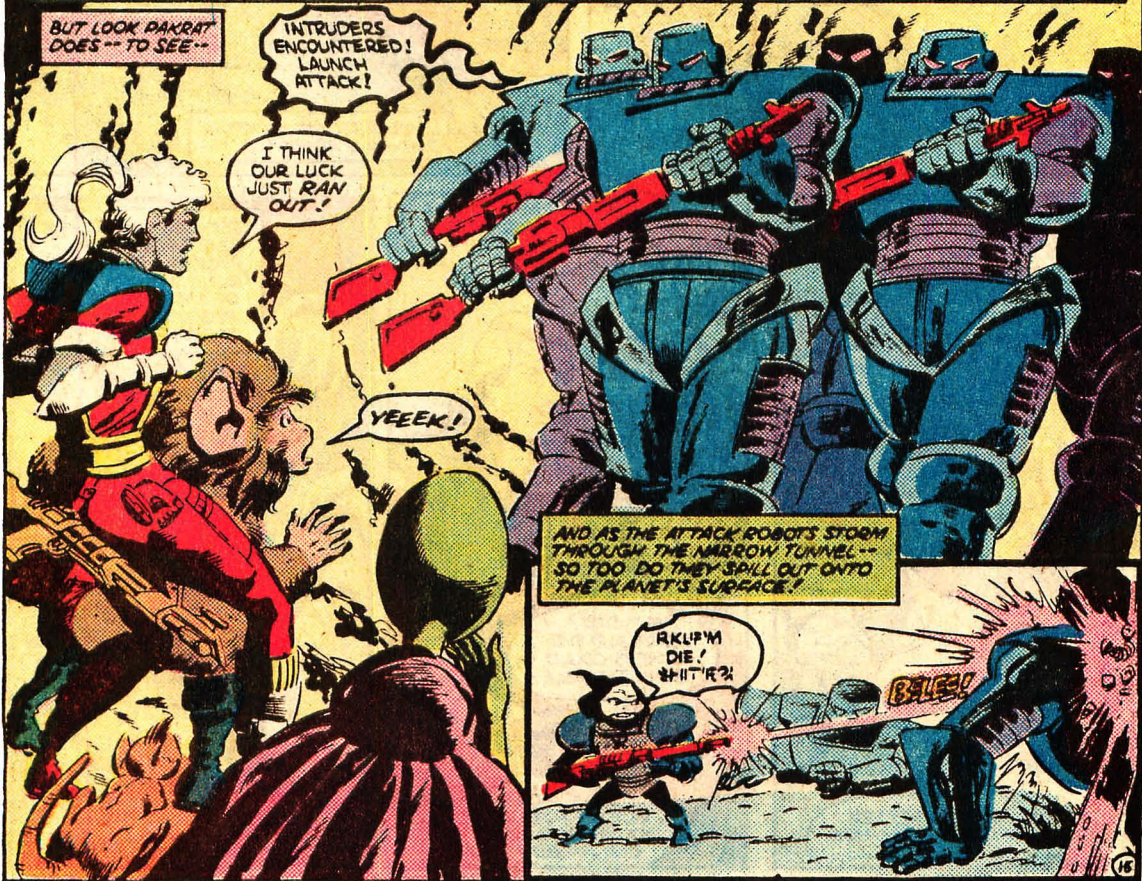
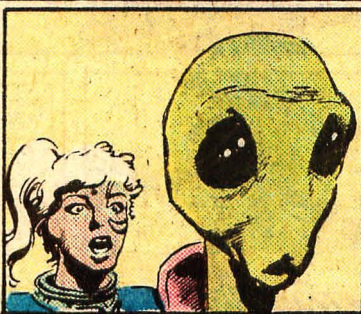
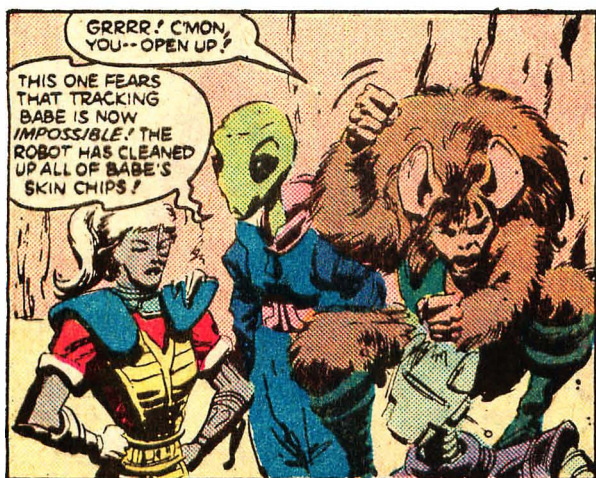


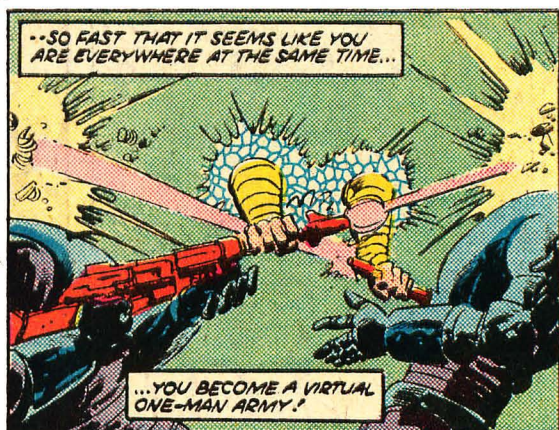
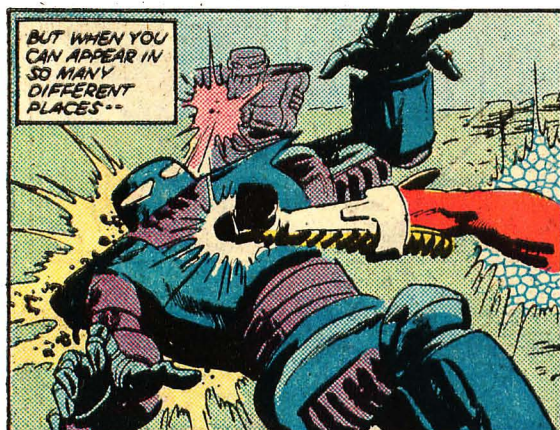
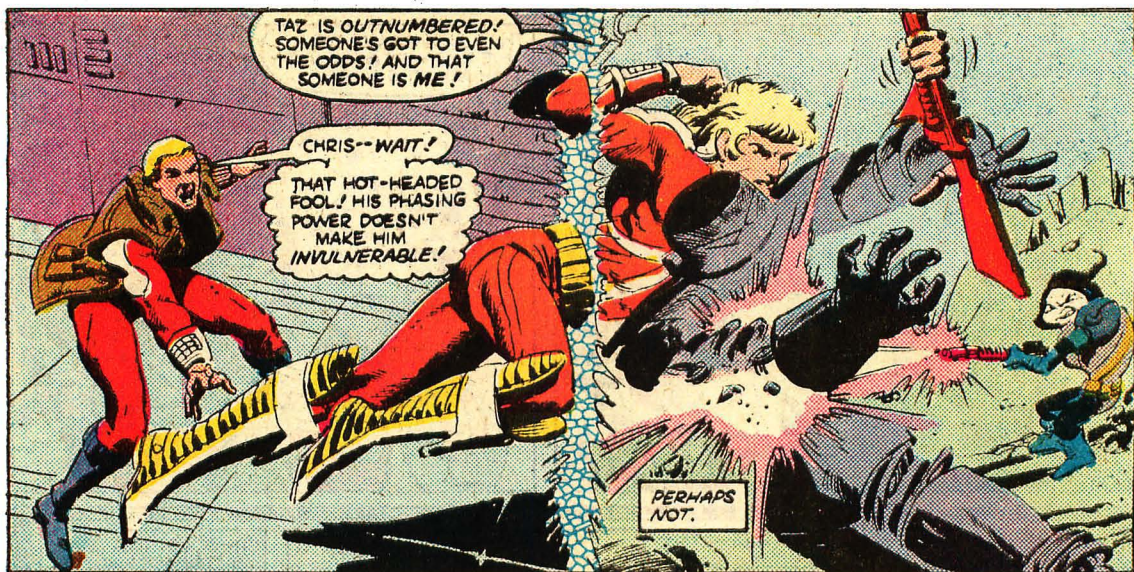
HANG TIGHT! HERE IT COMES--!

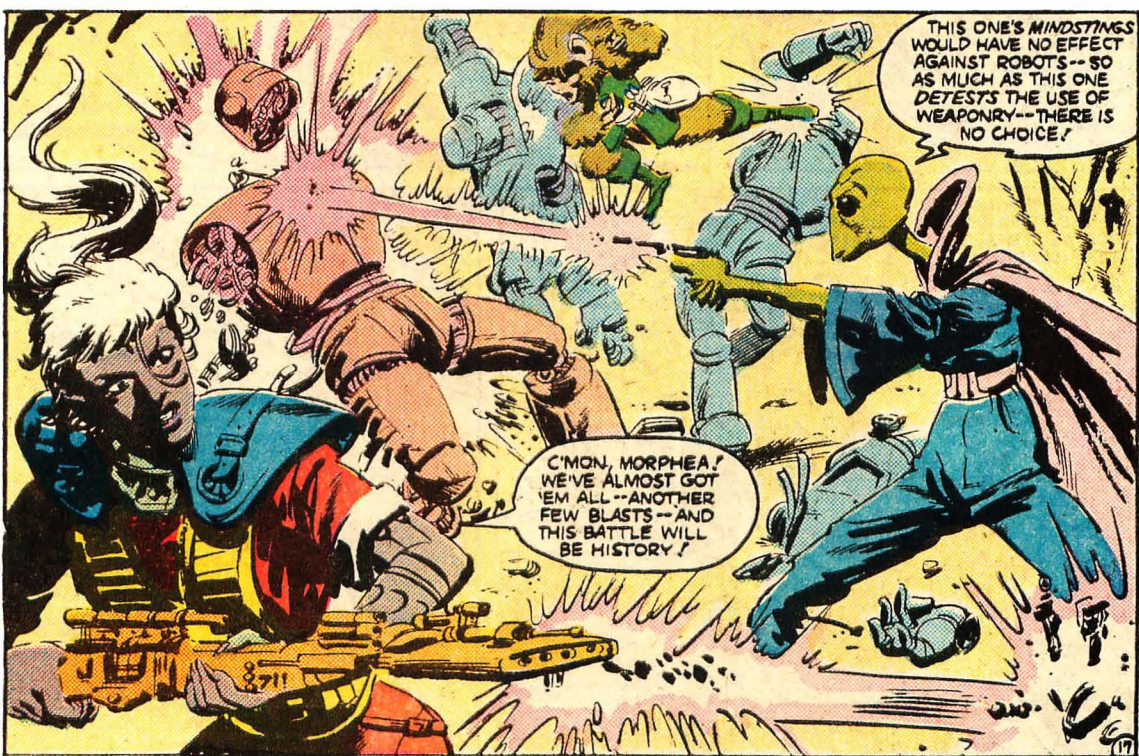
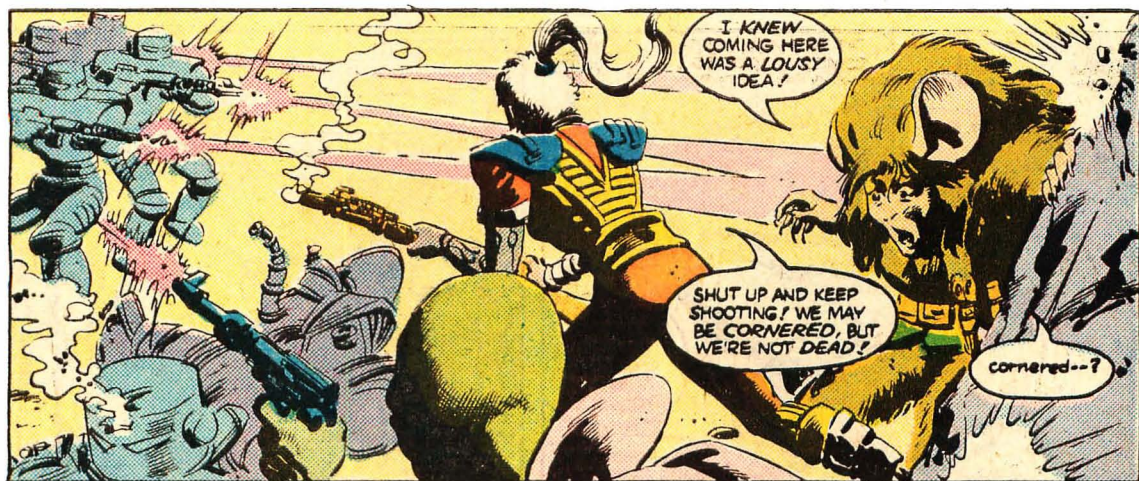


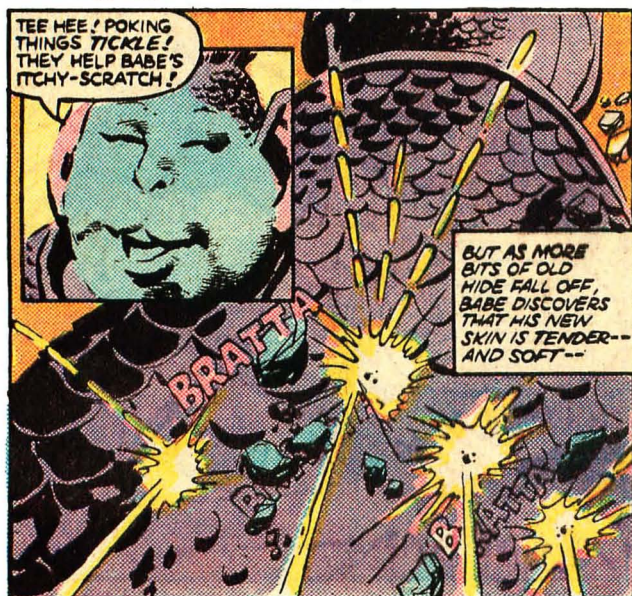
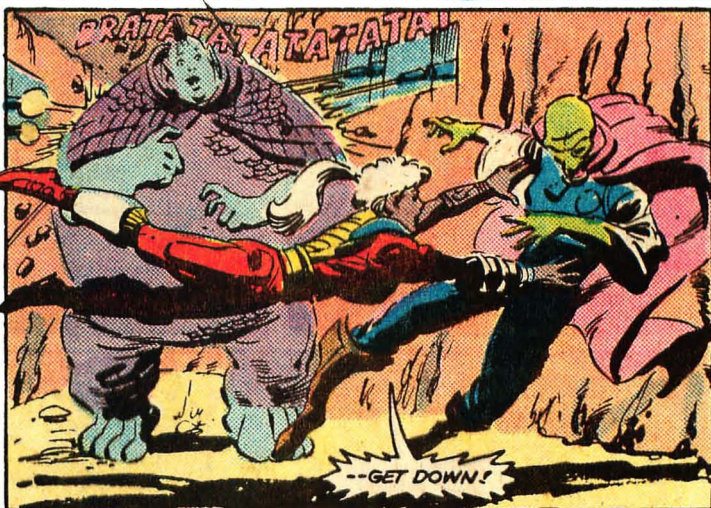
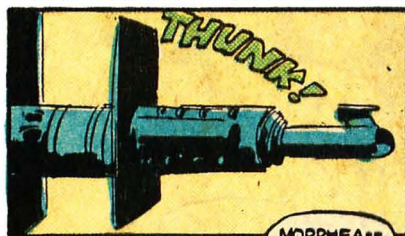
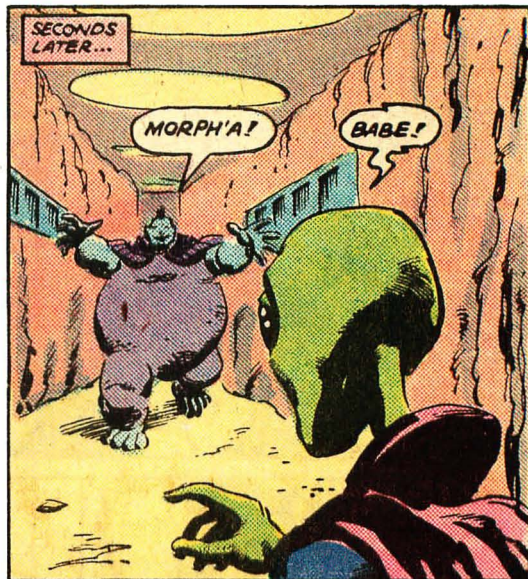
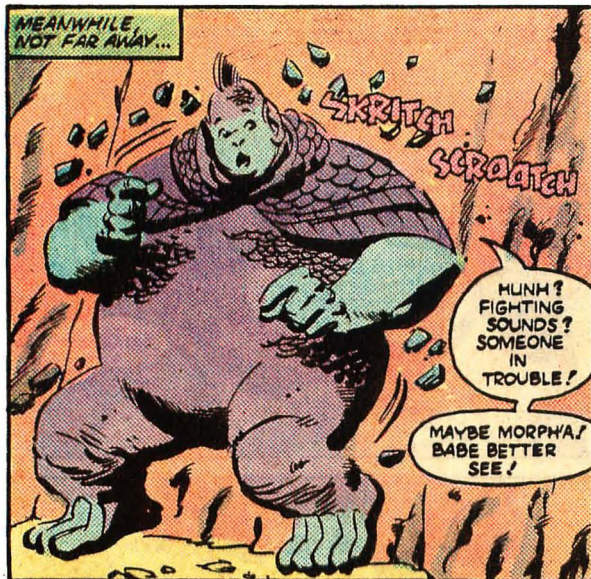
WHEW!-- IT'S ONLY A SANITATION ROBOT!

HEY! GIVE THOSE BACK-- THEY'RE MINE!









SUDDENLY...

POK POK POK

OOO! BALL TOY FOR BABE! THANK YOU, WALL!

MY VISION!

BABE! LET IT GO! IT'S A--

--BOMB!

KAWHOO

MORPH'A--?

BABE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MORPH'A, BABE'S HEAD SPINNY-- BUT ITCHY-SCRATCH ALL GONE!

UNG! GOOD! THEN YOU CAN HELP ME GET THIS BIG SKIN-GEM BACK TO THE SHIP!

SUDDENLY...

TIME FOR US TO GET OUT OF HERE, FOLKS-- AND FAST! THAT SOUNDS LIKE OUR LAST WARNING--BEFORE THE BIG BLOW-UP!

RIGHT! LET'S GO!

AAOOOGAAOO

DROP IT, PAKRAT!

HEY, WAITAMINNI—

WE DON'T HAVE A MINUTE! WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE SHIP—NOW!

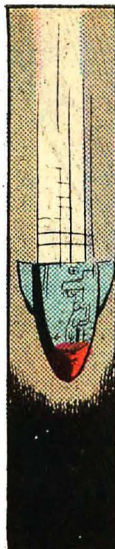
WOK!

19



YOU WANT TO BE AROUND WHEN THAT BOMB HITS BOTTOM? THEN HURRY!

TELL THE BIG BLUE LUG, I'M WAITING FOR HIM TO GET THE LEAD OUT!

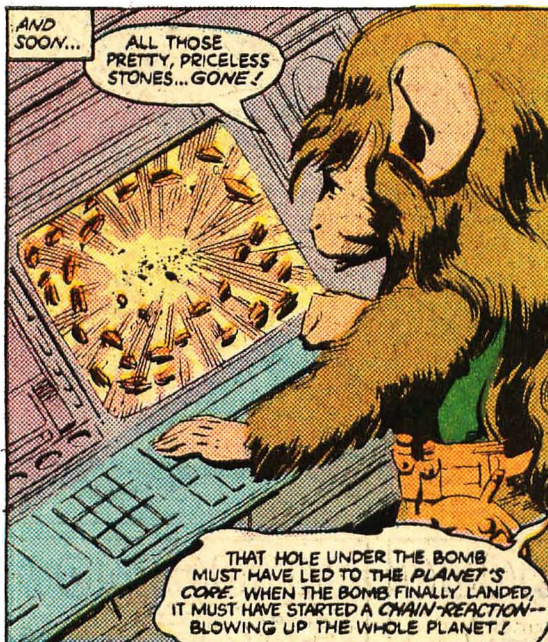


MARTIN--ARE THE ENGINES ON?

ALL SYSTEMS--INCLUDING THE LS SYSTEM--ARE GO!



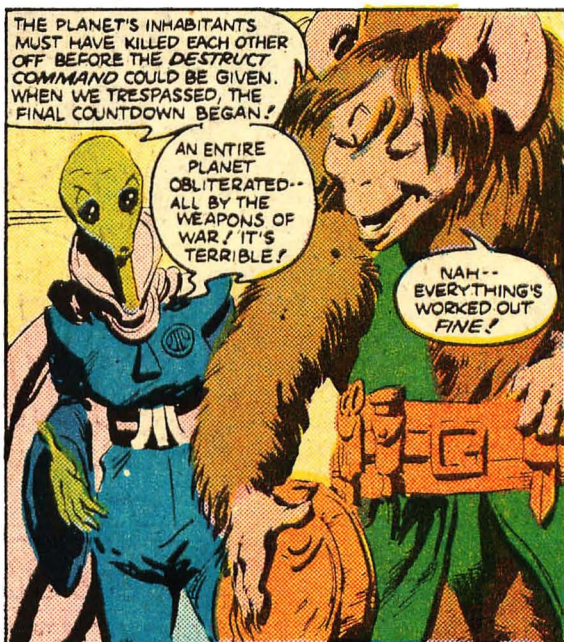
THEN LET'S CLEAR OUT!



AND SOON...

ALL THOSE PRETTY, PRICELESS STONES... GONE!

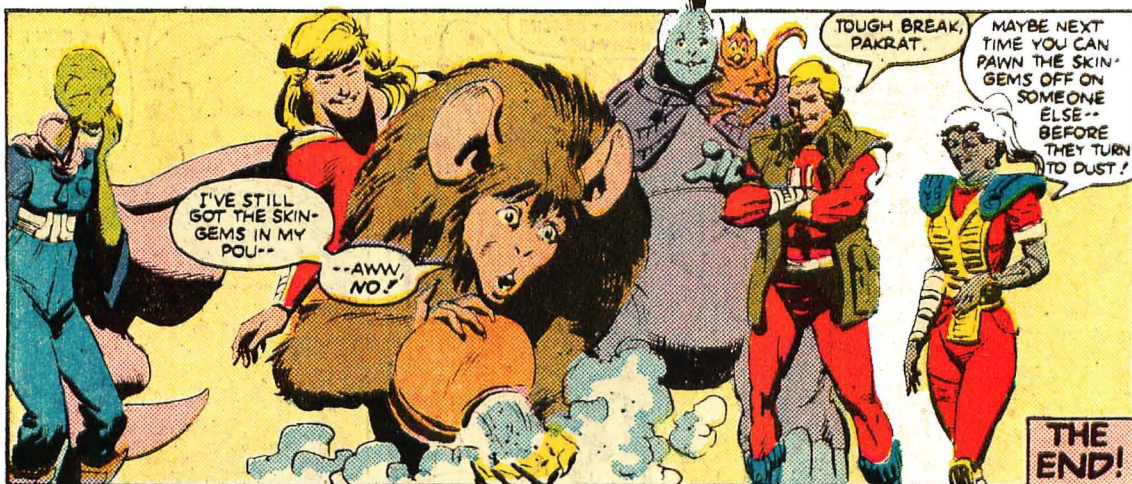
THAT HOLE UNDER THE BOMB MUST HAVE LED TO THE PLANET'S CORE. WHEN THE BOMB FINALLY LANDED, IT MUST HAVE STARTED A CHAIN-REACTION--BLOWING UP THE WHOLE PLANET!



THE PLANET'S INHABITANTS MUST HAVE KILLED EACH OTHER OFF BEFORE THE DESTRUCT COMMAND COULD BE GIVEN. WHEN WE TRESPASSED, THE FINAL COUNTDOWN BEGAN!

AN ENTIRE PLANET OBLITERATED--ALL BY THE WEAPONS OF WAR! IT'S TERRIBLE!

NAH--EVERYTHING'S WORKED OUT FINE!



I'VE STILL GOT THE SKIN-GEMS IN MY POU--

--AWW, NO!

TOUGH BREAK, PAKRAT.

MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU CAN PAWN THE SKIN-GEMS OFF ON SOMEONE ELSE--BEFORE THEY TURN TO DUST!

THE END!

SECRET ORIGINS REVEALED!



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First Issue exposes Golden Age Superman!

Next month Len Wein and Gil Kane bring you all the facts about The Blue Beetle—soon to star in his own series!

METROPOLIS, U.S.A. —
Daily Planet reporter Clark Kent has discovered shocking revelations concerning the origins of some of DC's most treasured characters and heroes. Kent disclosed the results of his year-long investigation to DC's Publisher and President, Jenette Kahn, in a meeting late yesterday. This morning a press conference was called by Executive Vice-President, Paul Levitz. Levitz admitted to a crowd of reporters that Kent's sleuthing was both significant and revealing. He then announced the publication of a new series by saying:

"*Secret Origins* is exactly that—a revelation of the beginnings of DC greats! For the premiere of this unprecedented, ongoing series, writer/editor Roy Thomas (*Infinity*,



*Blue Beetle** (#2) Inc., *All-Star Squadron*) will team up with renowned artists Wayne Boring and Jerry Ordway. The first issue will




Captain Marvel*
(#3)

feature, appropriately enough, the original Superman. The format of *Secret Origins* will be of special interest, as the odd-numbered issues will retell the origins of DC's Golden Age heroes in chronological order (for example, #3—Captain Marvel, #5—Crimson Avenger), and the even-numbered issues will retell the secrets behind the modern heroes. Also, comic fans will be excited to hear that each issue will be created by a different artistic team."



Firestorm* (#4)



CAN A
DEAD MAN
DIE AGAIN?

The end of a story
that never really ended.

DEADMAN

A four issue
mini-series.



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