



SWAMP
THING

SWAMP THING

THE
VERY BEST
25¢

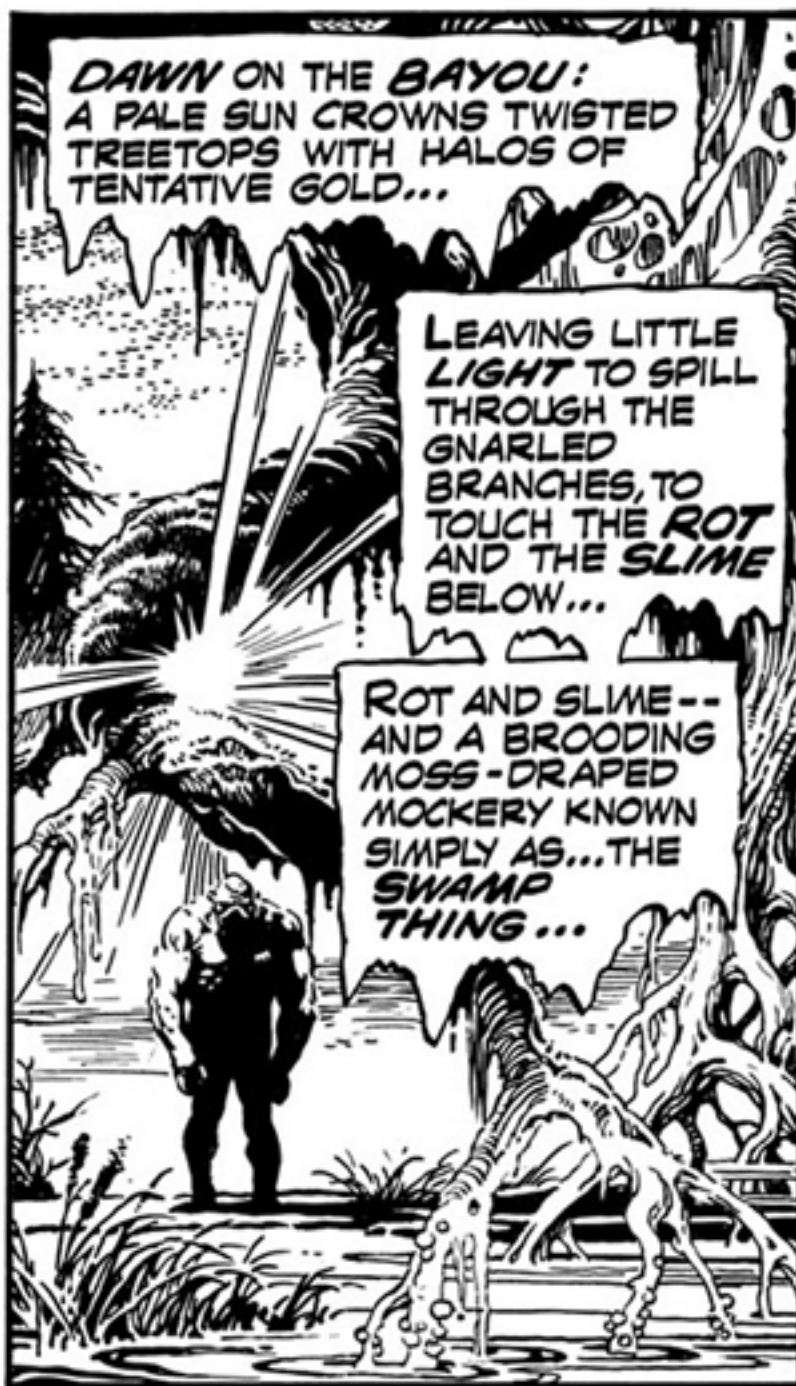
NO. 14
FEB.
30686

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



J-3730

RV



DAWN ON THE BAYOU:
A PALE SUN CROWNS TWISTED
TREETOPS WITH HALOS OF
TENTATIVE GOLD...

LEAVING LITTLE
LIGHT TO SPILL
THROUGH THE
GNARLED
BRANCHES, TO
TOUCH THE **ROT**
AND THE **SLIME**
BELOW...

ROT AND SLIME --
AND A BROODING
MOSS-DRAPED
MOCKERY KNOWN
SIMPLY AS...THE
SWAMP
THING...



HOME AGAIN...!
IT'S STRANGE...AFTER
A LIFETIME OF WHITE
SMOCKS AND GLEAMING
LABORATORIES...TO
CALL THIS OVERGROWN
CESSPOOL OF A
SWAMP...HOME...

IT MIGHT EVEN
BE FUNNY...IF IT
WASN'T...SO
REAL...



SUDDENLY, THE ONCE-MAN'S BITTER
THOUGHTS **SHATTER**, AS...

?!
A KID...!
RUNNING
LIKE HELL
ITSELF...WAS
AT HIS
HEELS...!

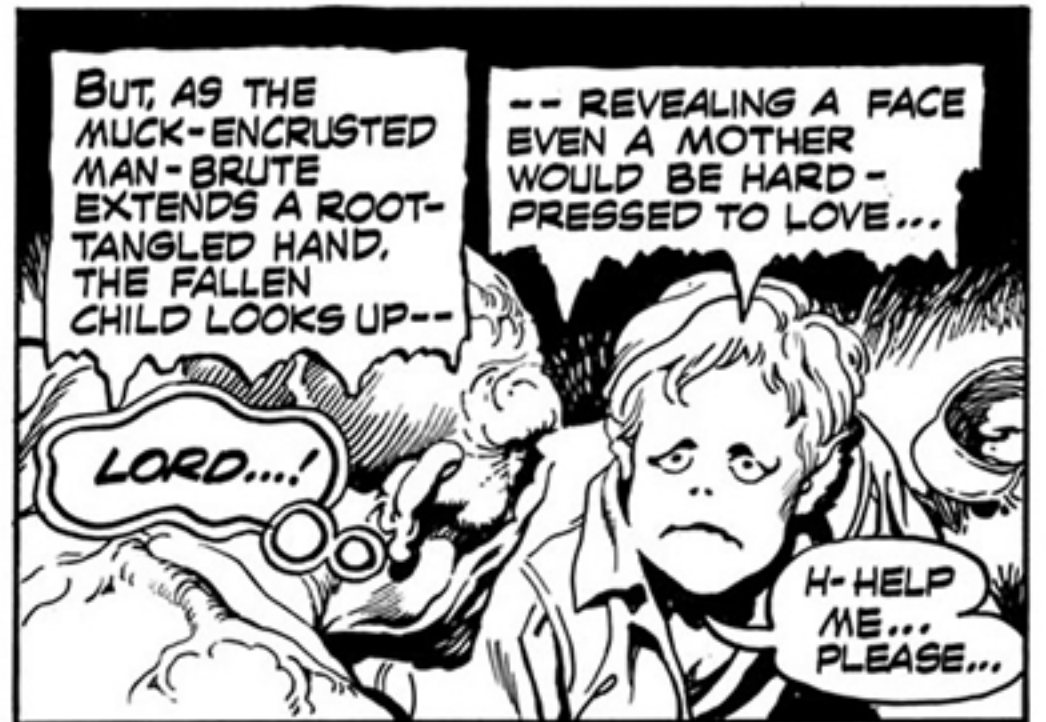
H-HELP!
DELTA!
JEREMY!
S-SAVE--



--MEE UNGH!

DON'T
KNOW... WHO
DELTA AND
JEREMY
ARE...

BUT SINCE
THEY DON'T SEEM
TO BE...**HANDY**
AT THE MOMENT...
MAYBE I
SHOULD...



BUT, AS THE
MUCK-ENCRUSTED
MAN-BRUTE
EXTENDS A ROOT-
TANGLED HAND,
THE FALLEN
CHILD LOOKS UP--

-- REVEALING A FACE
EVEN A MOTHER
WOULD BE HARD-
PRESSED TO LOVE...

LORD...!

H-HELP
ME... PLEASE...



BUT BEFORE THE SWAMP THING CAN
REACT TO THE STRANGE CHILD'S PLEA...

LOOK!
THERE
HE IS!

AN' HE'S
CONJURED UP
ANOTHER O' THEM
MONSTERS!

TAIN'T
NO MATTER!
WE KIN KILL
US **TWO**
UGLIES EASY
AS **ONE!**

IT IS SAID THAT NATURE IS CRUEL. BUT NATURE SPAWNS NO ANIMAL MORE VICIOUS, NO CREATURE MORE VILE, THAN THAT MINDLESS FLOCK OF HUMANITY CALLED... A MOB.

THIS, THE SWAMP THING KNOWS WELL...

JUST AS HE KNOWS HE MUST SOMEHOW PROTECT THE WHIMPERING CHILD-THING THIS MOB SEEKS TO DESTROY...

CUT THE BIG 'UN DOWN TO SIZE FIRST, BOYS! WE CAN TAKE CARE O' THE LITTLE FREAK LATER!

DON'T KNOW... WHAT THAT KID'S DONE... BUT I GET THE FEELING THESE GOOD CITIZENS... JUST DON'T LIKE HIS LOOKS...

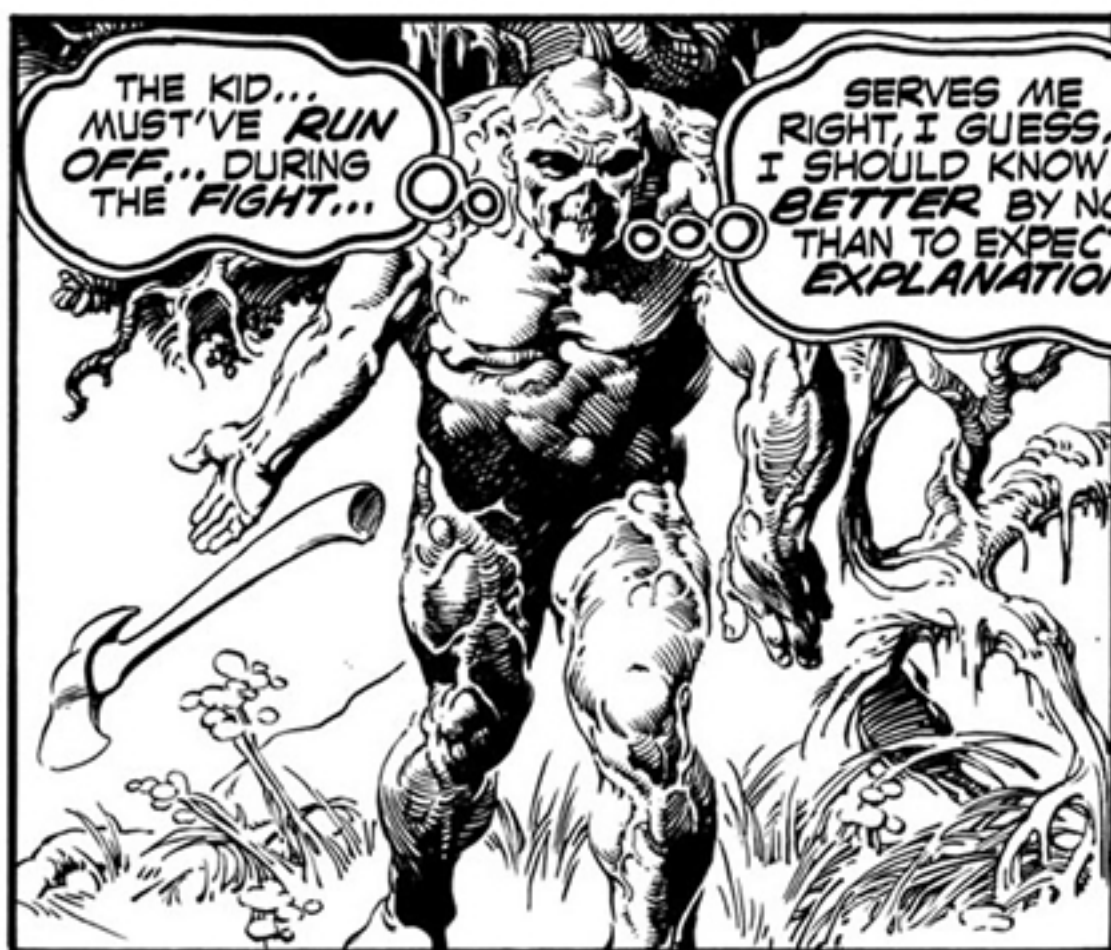
AND BEING SOMETHING LESS... THAN AN ADONIS MYSELF...

THAT KINDA MAKES ME... MAD...!

"THE TOMORROW CHILDREN"

A DAVID MICHELINIE-NESTOR REDONDO-JOE ORLANDO PRESENTATION
(WRITER) (ILLUSTRATOR) (EDITOR)





THE KID...
MUST'VE **RUN**
OFF... DURING
THE **FIGHT**...

SERVES ME
RIGHT, I GUESS...
I SHOULD KNOW
BETTER BY NOW...
THAN TO EXPECT
EXPLANATIONS...



THOUGH A
"THANK YOU"...
MIGHT BE
NICE... JUST
ONCE ...

BUT EVEN SELF-PITYING MONSTERS
ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR MOMENTS
OF PRIVACY--AND SO WE TAKE OUR
LEAVE OF THE SHAMBLING SWAMP
BEAST--



--AND MOVE TO
THE NEARBY
VILLAGE OF
PRELUDE,
LOUISIANA --

-- A ONCE-PEACEFUL
FISHING COMMUNITY
NOW MORE LIKE SOME
MEDIEVAL **BASTION**
LOCKED IN A DARK
AND FEARSOME **SIEGE**...



YOU'VE **SEEN**
THE KIND O' BEASTS
THEY GOT PROTECTIN'
'EM, MAYOR, WHAT
MORE DO YA
WANT ?



PROOF,
TAGGERT, WE
CAN'T KNOW FOR
SURE IT'S THE
WHEELER KIDS
BEHIND ALL
THIS !

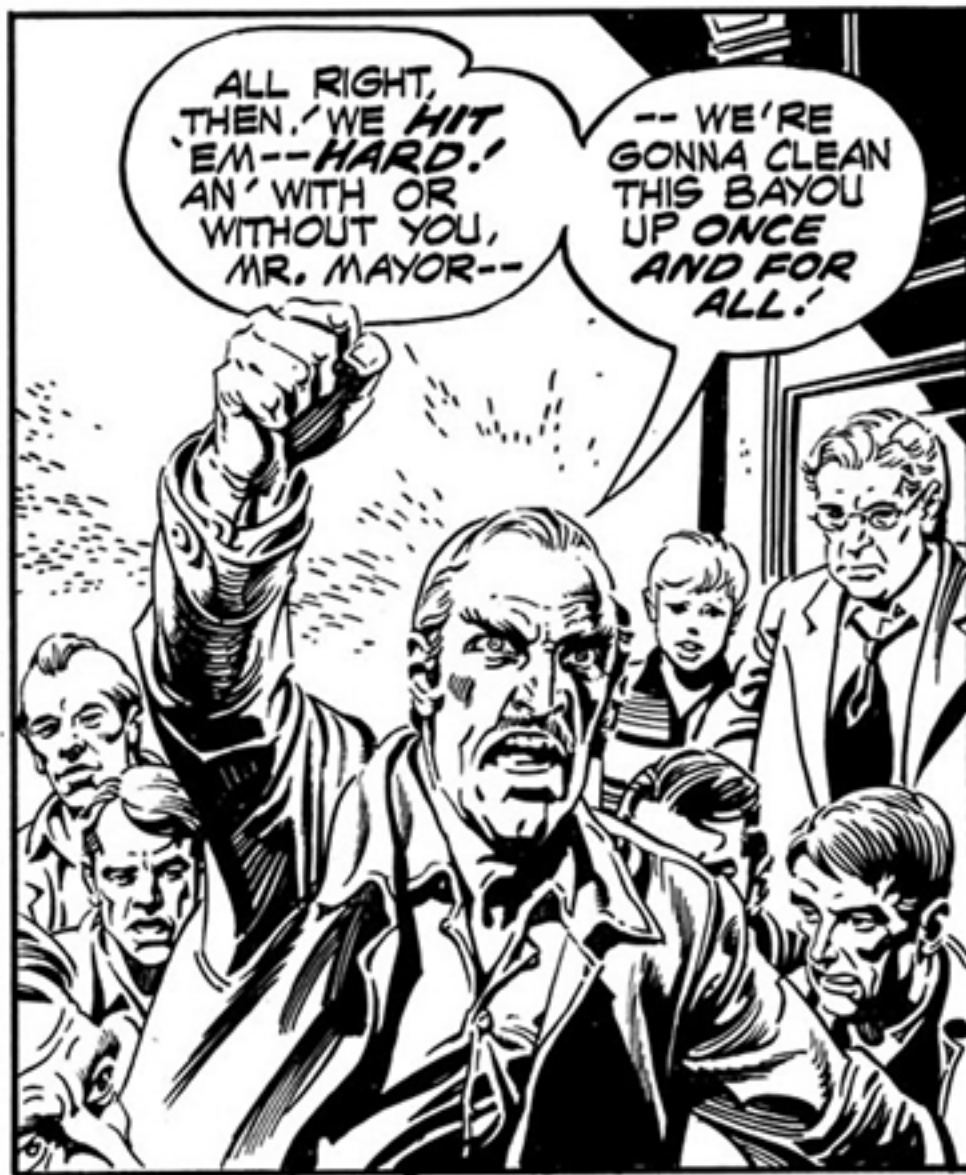
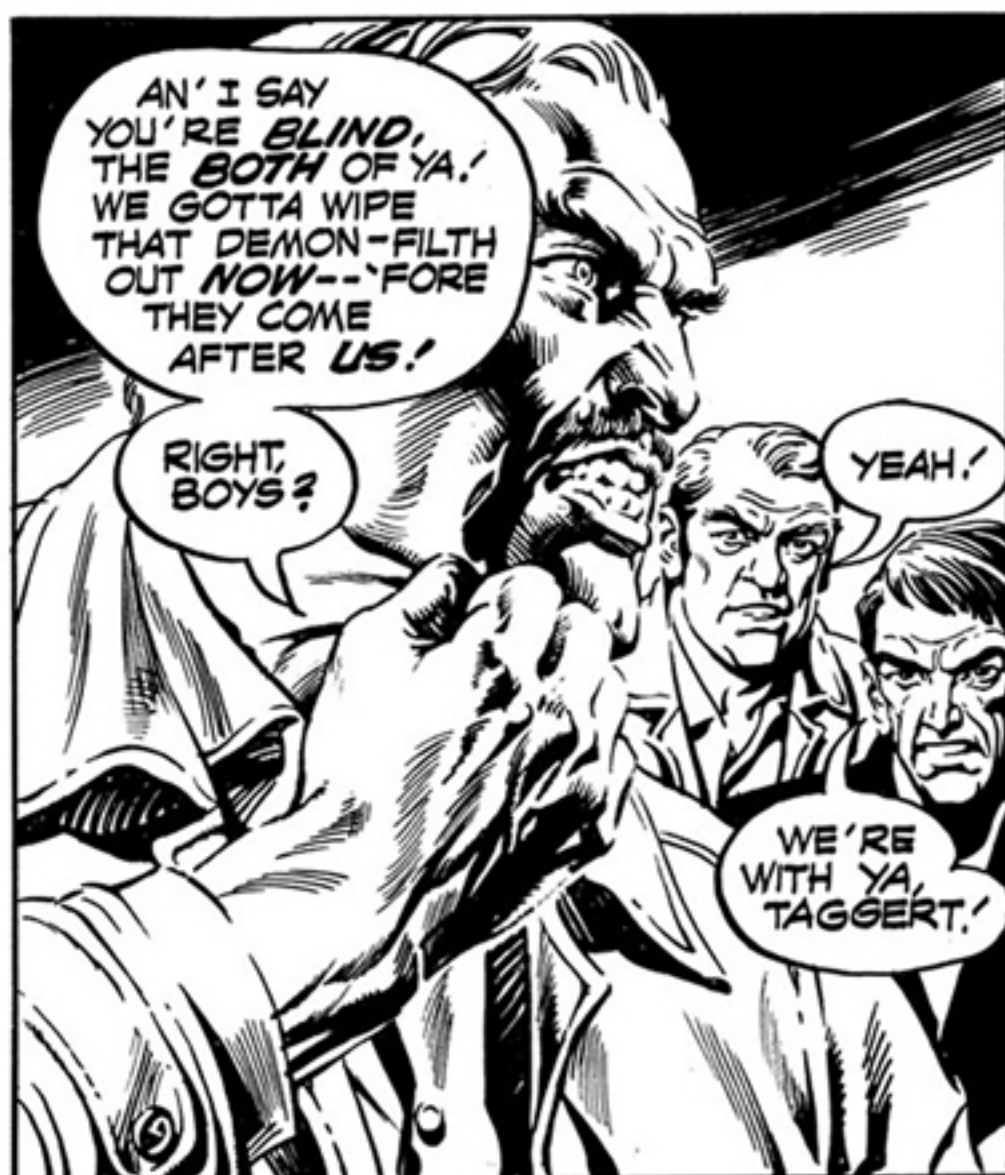
SURE WE
CAN, THEY'S
DIFFERENT,
AIN'T THEY ?
THEM KIDS JUST
AIN'T **LIKE**
THE REST
OF US !



"REMEMBER THE DAY **JEB**
WHEELER FIRST BROUGHT
'EM INTO TOWN, SLINKIN' IN LIKE
SOMETHIN' OUTA ONE O' THEM
LOW BUDGET MONSTER
MOVIES ?"

"WHY, IT MADE MY
GUT CRAWL
JUSTA LOOK
AT 'EM !"





FORMICA PALLIDFULVA: A
SOMEWHAT **POMPOUS** LABEL
GIVEN BY SCIENCE TO THAT SPECIES
MORE GENERALLY REFERRED TO
AS THE **COMMON ANT**...

ONLY **THIS ANT** IS FAR
FROM **COMMON**!...

A RATHER OBVIOUS
FACT THE INQUISITIVE
SWAMP THING WOULD
FIND MOST **INTERESTING**--
IF HIS MIND WASN'T
OCCUPIED WITH MORE
PRESSING MATTERS--

--SUCH AS KEEPING A
PAIR OF VISE-STRONG
MANDIBLES FROM
CRUSHING HIS LICHEN-
STREWN RIB CAGE TO
PULP...

THIS SWAMP...
IS JUST **FULL OF**
SURPRISES...
=UNGH<...

BUT IF I'M
GOING TO...**SURVIVE**
THIS ONE...I'D BETTER
GET OUT OF THESE...
KING-SIZE **PINCHERS**...
BEFORE I END UP...
IN **TWO PIECES**...!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



STEEL-STRONG MUSCLES RIPPLE UNDER MOSSY FLESH, AND SLOWLY--SICKENINGLY--THE SCISSORLIKE JAWS OF THE GIANT INSECT PULL FREE--

-- TAKING GREAT CLOTS OF SAPPY PULP WITH THEM...



OKAY, ANTSY... YOU'VE *HAD* YOUR POUND OF *FLESH*...

NOW IT'S *MY* TURN...!



AND OVER-SIZED OR NOT... IT'S MY GUESS THERE'S STILL A *NECK*... UNDER ALL THAT BULK...

AND IF I CAN JUST... GET THE RIGHT KIND OF *LEVERAGE*... THAT NECK... SHOULD SOON...

CRACK



OH, SWELL... LOOKS LIKE ANTSY HAD... A *FAMILY*...

THUD



THIS PINCHER... IS RAZOR SHARP... AS I *WELL* KNOW...

IF I CAN JUST... GET IT LOOSE... USE IT AS A WEAPON... MAYBE I CAN...

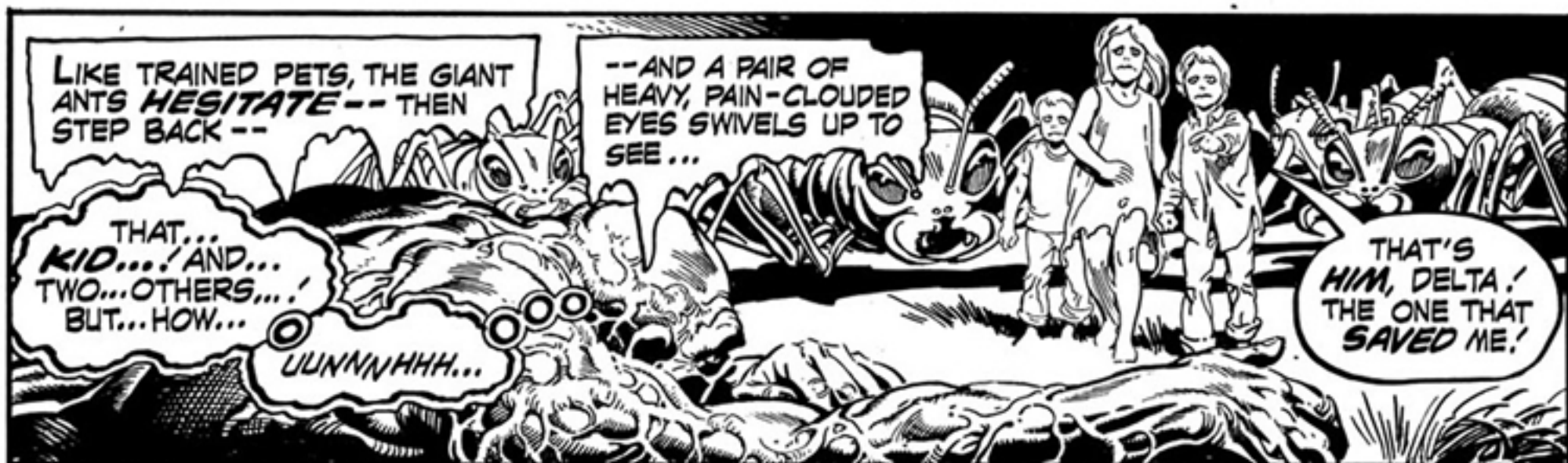
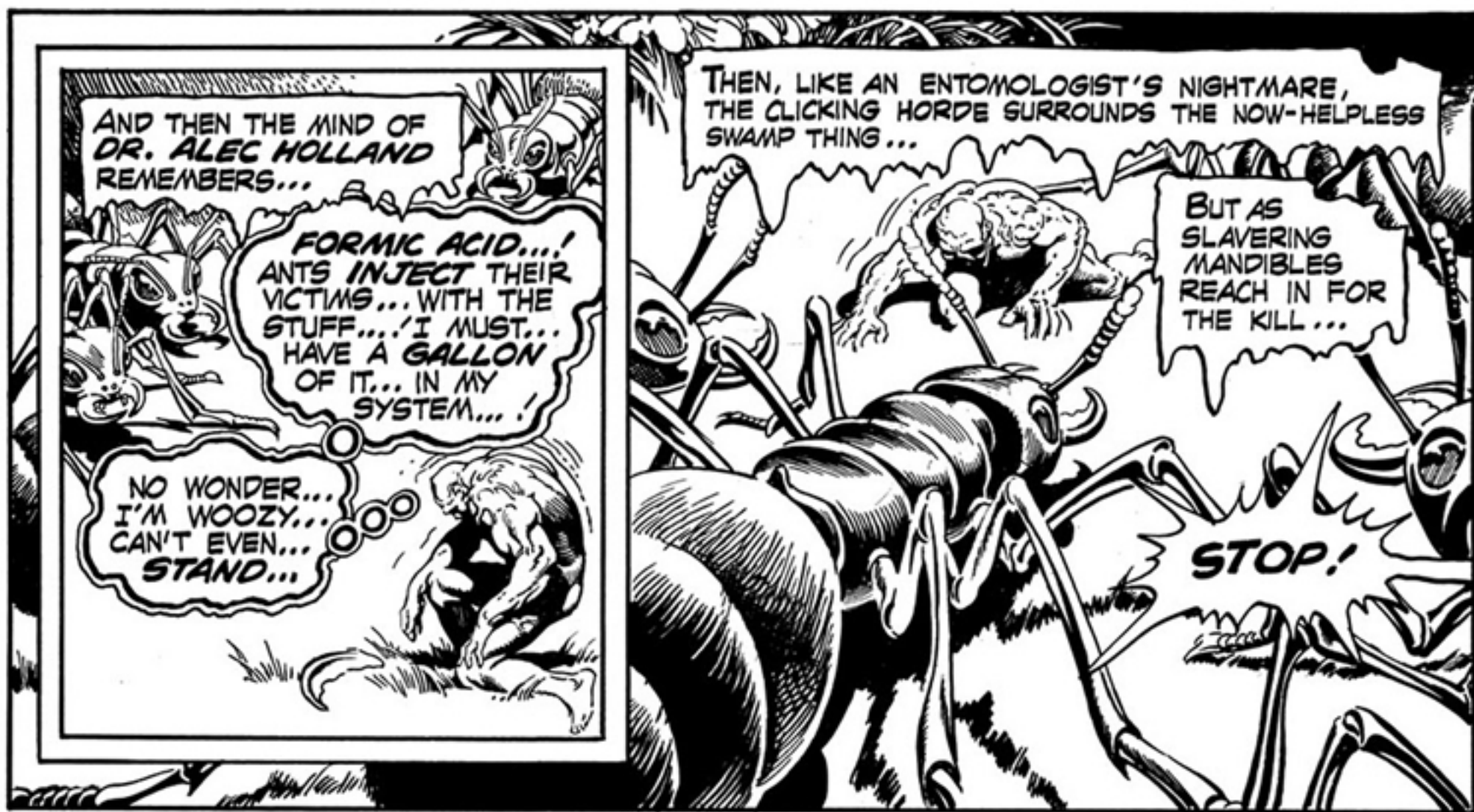
KRRIK



BUT, UNEXPECTEDLY...

MY *SIDES*... WHERE THAT THING *GRABBED* ME... THEY'RE *BURNING*...!

A-AND MY HEAD... IT'S *SPINNING*... CAN'T SEE *STRAIGHT*... B-BUT WHAT...?





UNTIL AT LAST, A
DESTINATION IS
REACHED...

RISING OUT OF A CLEARING
LIKE SOME MAD ARCHITECT'S
HOPELESS DREAM, A GREAT
MUSHROOM OF A DWELLING--
NOT BUILT, BUT **GROWN** INTO
A THING OF INCONGRUOUS
BEAUTY-- A GRACEFUL FLOWER
NESTLED IN THE FESTERING
SLIME OF THE BOG...

IT IS TO **THIS** THAT
THE LUDICROUS
PARADE TRAVELS...



AND IT IS HERE, HOURS
LATER, THAT MOSS-
CAKED EYELIDS
FLUTTER OPEN--
RHEUMY EYES SLOWLY
FOCUS...

HE'S
COMING
AROUND,
DELTA!

GOOD!
THAT MEANS
HIS BODY'S
ABSORBING
THE POISON!



WHO...
WHERE...?

TAKE IT
EASY, FELLA,
YOU'RE STILL
PRETTY **WEAK!**
MY NAME'S **DELTA**--
AND THESE ARE
MY BROTHERS,
SETH AND
JEREMY!

I KNOW
YOU'RE
CONFUSED, BUT
JUST CALM DOWN
--ALL YOUR
QUESTIONS WILL
BE ANSWERED
SOON.



BUT...

JUST LIE
BACK... SLEEP..
AND YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND.
JUST...
SLEEP...

THE GIRL'S VOICE
SOOTHES -- HER
EYES COMFORT--

--AND, ALMOST AS IF
HE WANTED TO, THE
SWAMP GIANT EASES
BACK --AND RETURNS
TO THE PEACEFUL
OBLIVION OF SLEEP...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

SLEEP AND DREAMS: IMAGES OF AN OLD MAN SEEING SOMETHING NEVER INTENDED TO BE WITNESSED...

TAR-NATION!
AIN'T WE GOT ENOUGH
POLLUTION IN THIS
SWAMP ALREADY? NOW
OUTSIDERS'RE
BRINGIN' THEIR
GARBAGE IN!

COULDN'T GET
THAT BLASTED TUBE
OUT 'FORE IT SANK--
BUT AT LEAST I CAN
GIVE THIS OVER-SIZED
SNUFF BOX A
PROPER BURIAL. I
MEAN, SOMEONE'S
GOTTA CARE ABOUT--

EH?
NOISES!
COMIN' FROM
INSIDE! I
WONDER
WHAT...

HOLY
HANNAH!
BABIES! AN'
NOT LIKE ANY
KIDS I EVER
SEEN!

WELL,
UGLY OR NOT,
THEY'VE GOT
AS MUCH RIGHT
TO LIVE AS
ANYONE
ELSE!

**IMAGES: VISIONS OF
A LONELY OLD RECLUSE
AND THREE STRANGE
FOUNDINGS --**

-- AND SEEDS
OF KINDNESS
BLOOMING INTO
A GARDEN OF
TRUST AND
LOVE...

**THEN VISIONS OF A
SNAKE IN THAT
GARDEN--A SLITHERING
VIPER CALLED IGNORANCE
WHOSE ONLY REACTION
TO SOMETHING NOT UNDERSTOOD
IS FEAR AND VIOLENCE...**

**VISIONS: EVEN GRAVER PICTURES
OF A FORGOTTEN CYLINDER NOW
LEAKING, SEEPING VILE WASTE
INTO THE SWAMP--**

-- CHEMICALS
THAT BRING
DEATH,
DISEASE --

DANGER!
RADIO-ACTIVE
WASTE

-- AND CHANGE, ALTERING GENES
AND CREATING NEW SPECIES OUT OF
OLD -- HUGE, BENEVOLENT INSECTS
WHOSE ONLY WISH IS TO SERVE AND
PROTECT --

-- AND BIZARRE, SAVAGE REPTILES
DESIRING ONLY ENOUGH BLOOD AND
OFFAL TO FILL THEIR SERPENTINE BELLIES...

TIME-SHIFT:
AND THE PICTURES
CHANGE TO A SCENE
OF EXILE --

-- WHERE SPECIAL CHILDREN
GROW, SLOWLY LEARNING OF
MENTAL GIFTS THEY
POSSESS: TELEKINESIS,
EMPATHY--

-- AND MOST WONDROUS
OF ALL, THE ABILITY TO
BECOME ONE WITH THE
ELEMENTS, TO WORK
NATURE AS A
SCULPTOR MIGHT WORK
COMMON CLAY...

AND, FINALLY, IMAGES OF
FOUR BECOMING THREE --
WITH PAINS OF LOSS AND
SORROW THAT TEAR AT
THE VERY SOUL...

UNTIL, AT LAST, THE IMAGES
FADE...

...AND GREAT RED-RIMMED EYES
FLICKER OPEN ONCE MORE...

SO NOW
YOU KNOW
IT ALL,
FRIEND.

'CEPT THAT
WE FIGURE SOMEONE
MUST HAVE BEEN
EXPERIMENTING IN
SPEEDING UP
EVOLUTION--
AND WE WERE
SOME OF HIS
FAILURES!

BUT
THAT'S IN
THE PAST.
THIS **SWAMP**
IS OUR
HOME NOW.

AND
YOURS,
FRIEND--AS
LONG AS YOU
CARE TO
STAY...



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



BUT NOW...

IF WHAT I SAW IN MY "DREAM"... IS FOR REAL... IT JUST MAY BE MY TICKET... BACK TO HUMANITY...

ONLY HOW... WILL I EVER FIND...

... THE CYLINDER?



I CAN SENSE THAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IT, FRIEND. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE.

YOU SEE, WHEN WE REALIZED THE BAD THINGS IT WAS DOING, WE TOOK IT AWAY AND HID IT.



WE CAN EVEN SHOW YOU *WHERE*. IF IT WOULD MAKE YOU REST EASIER.

REST EASY...! LITTLE LADY... YOU JUST DON'T KNOW...



BUT, SOON AFTER THE SHAMBLING MAN-MONSTER AND HIS PALID FRIENDS LEAVE...

SETH! DELTA! Y-YA GOTTA GET OUTA HERE! THEY'S COMIN' AFTER YA WITH--



WHA--? THEY'RE NOT *HERE*. BUT IF THEY COME BACK WITHOUT ANY WARNIN' THEY'LL BE *SITTIN' DUCKS*!

G-GUESS I CAN'T DO NOTHIN' BUT *WAIT* FOR 'EM--AN' JUST HOPE THEY SHOW UP 'FORE *MR. TAGGERT* DOES!



WHILE ACROSS THE MARSH...

IT'S IN THERE, FRIEND--IN THAT *HOLLOW TREE*!

I CAN HARDLY *BELIEVE* IT... AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS... TO BE WITHIN REACH OF SOMETHING... THAT MIGHT RID ME OF THIS MUCK-ROTTED FORM... *FOREVER*...







OH...
MY...
GOD...!



BUT EVEN AS THE SOUND OF
THE EXPLOSION FADES, IT IS
REPLACED BY A MORE
STRIDENT CRY--

--AS A VOICE
HELD BACK BY
FEAR FINALLY
FINDS STRENGTH
ENOUGH FOR...

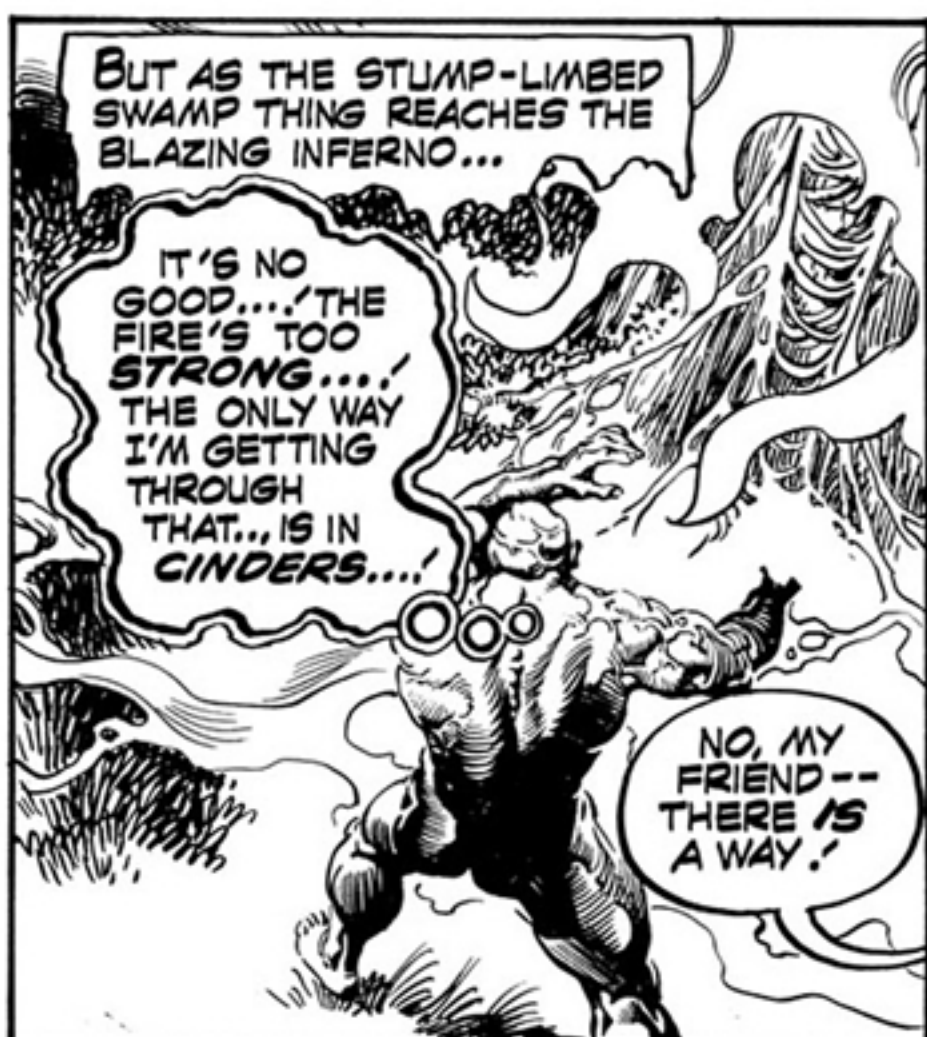
A SCREAM!
THERE'S
SOMEONE IN
THE **TREE**
HOUSE!



OH, MY
DEAR LORD!
IT'S MY SON--
JIMBO!

H-HELP!
PA!
P-PLEASE!

I'VE NO
LOVE...FOR THESE
VILLAGERS...BUT
THAT KID DOESN'T
DESERVE TO **BURN...**
FOR THE SINS OF
HIS **FATHER...**



BUT AS THE STUMP-LIMBED
SWAMP THING REACHES THE
BLAZING INFERNO...

IT'S NO
GOOD...!THE
FIRE'S TOO
STRONG...!
THE ONLY WAY
I'M GETTING
THROUGH
THAT...IS IN
GINDERS...!

NO, MY
FRIEND--
THERE **IS**
A WAY!



BUT WE
HAVE TO WORK
TOGETHER!
QUICKLY, TAKE
ME ONTO YOUR
SHOULDERS!
I'LL SEE THAT
THE **FLAMES**
DON'T HURT
US!

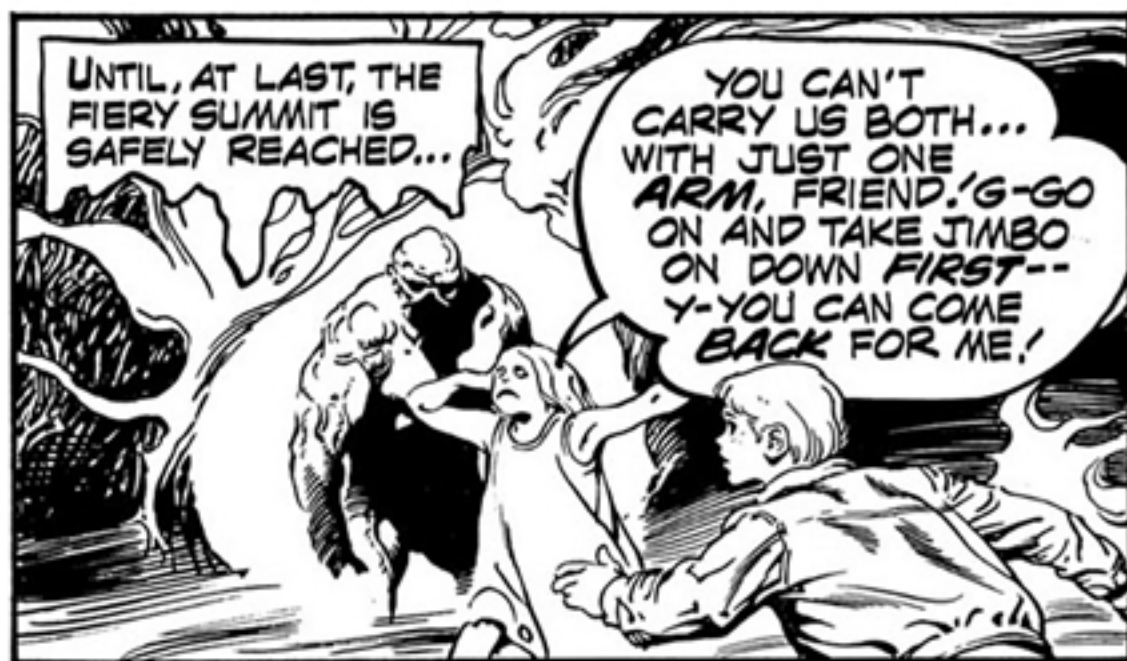
OKAY,
LITTLE LADY...
ONLY I HOPE
YOU KNOW...
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



THEN, AS THE MOSSY MAN-BRUTE BEGINS TO CLIMB, THE SLENDER CHILD EXTENDS HER ARMS, HER MIND REACHING OUT WITH LANCES OF *PURE THOUGHT* --

-- CAUSING THE FLAMES TO *PART* LIKE WAVES ON SOME ANGRY BLOOD-RED SEA ...



UNTIL, AT LAST, THE FIERY SUMMIT IS SAFELY REACHED...

YOU CAN'T CARRY US BOTH... WITH JUST ONE ARM, FRIEND! G-GO ON AND TAKE JIMBO ON DOWN FIRST-- Y-YOU CAN COME BACK FOR ME!



I'LL KEEP... THE *F-FLAMES* BACK! B-BUT, PLEASE... GO! H-HURRY!

GOTTA GET THIS KID DOWN... AND GET BACK TO THE GIRL... *FAST...*



SHE MAY HAVE... A HEFTY SET OF *POWERS...* BUT THERE'S A LIMIT... TO *EVERYTHING...*

AND IF THAT *STRAIN* ON HER FACE... IS ANY INDICATION... I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH *LONGER...* SHE CAN HOLD THOSE ...



IT BEGINS WITH A SIGH--A SOFT "SHUFF" OF HARDWOOD--TURNED-ASH GIVING WAY...



THEN GROWS TO A *RUMBLE* AS FLAME-CHARRED *TIMBERS* COLLAPSE IN UPON THEMSELVES ...

KA-WHOOOM



TAKING A GENTLE AND WILLING *LIFE* WITH THEM...



FROM THE WRITER OF
WATCHMEN & V FOR VENDETTA

ALAN MOORE

Reimagined by revolutionary comics writer Alan Moore, the classic Gothic nightmare blossoms into a masterpiece of lyrical fantasy, telling the horrifying yet poignant story of a man reborn as a powerful elemental, with a potential as vast as the earth itself.

VOL. 1: SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING

VOL. 2: LOVE AND DEATH

VOL. 3: THE CURSE

VOL. 4: A MURDER OF CROWS

VOL. 5: EARTH TO EARTH

VOL. 6: REUNION



SWAMP THING VOL. 2:
LOVE AND DEATH



SWAMP THING VOL. 4:
A MURDER OF CROWS



SWAMP THING VOL. 6:
REUNION



Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**

Suggested for Mature Readers