

**SWAMP  
THING**



MORE **ACTION** THAN EVER!  
THE **BLAZING BATTLE WITH**  
**THRUDVANG!**

**30c**

NO. 24

SEPT.

30686

**STARTLING!**  
THE **ALL-NEW**

# SWAMP THING



TELL ME  
YOUR SECRET,  
SWAMP THING--  
TELL ME--  
OR **DIE!**



YOU WILL NEVER FORGIVE  
YOURSELF IF YOU MISS...

**the MYSTERY of  
ALEC HOLLAND!**



**A NEW  
CHAPTER**

**IN THE  
STARTLING SAGA  
OF THE**

**SWAMP  
THING**



**PAIN-FIRE:**  
ALIVE AND  
AVARICIOUS,  
ATTACKING  
SWAMP THING  
WITH SEARING,  
BLISTERING  
INTENSITY!

**PAIN-FIRE:** CONSUMING  
HIM SIMULTANEOUSLY  
FROM WITHIN--

--FEEDING  
ON HIS  
TORTURED  
SOUL!

A DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT \* ERNIE CHUA - FRED CARRILLO \* CARL GAFFORD \* JOE ORLANDO  
(WRITER) (ARTISTS) (COLORIST) (EDITOR)

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO GERRY CONWAY FOR THE PLOT!





GOTTA ESCAPE...  
BUT WHERE AM I...  
RUNNING TO? NO  
PLACE...TO GO!

THAT IS, UN-  
FORTUNATELY,  
THE TRUTH OF  
IT. THERE IS NO  
ESCAPE FROM--

--DESTINY!

LORD--  
WHY ME!?

WHY?

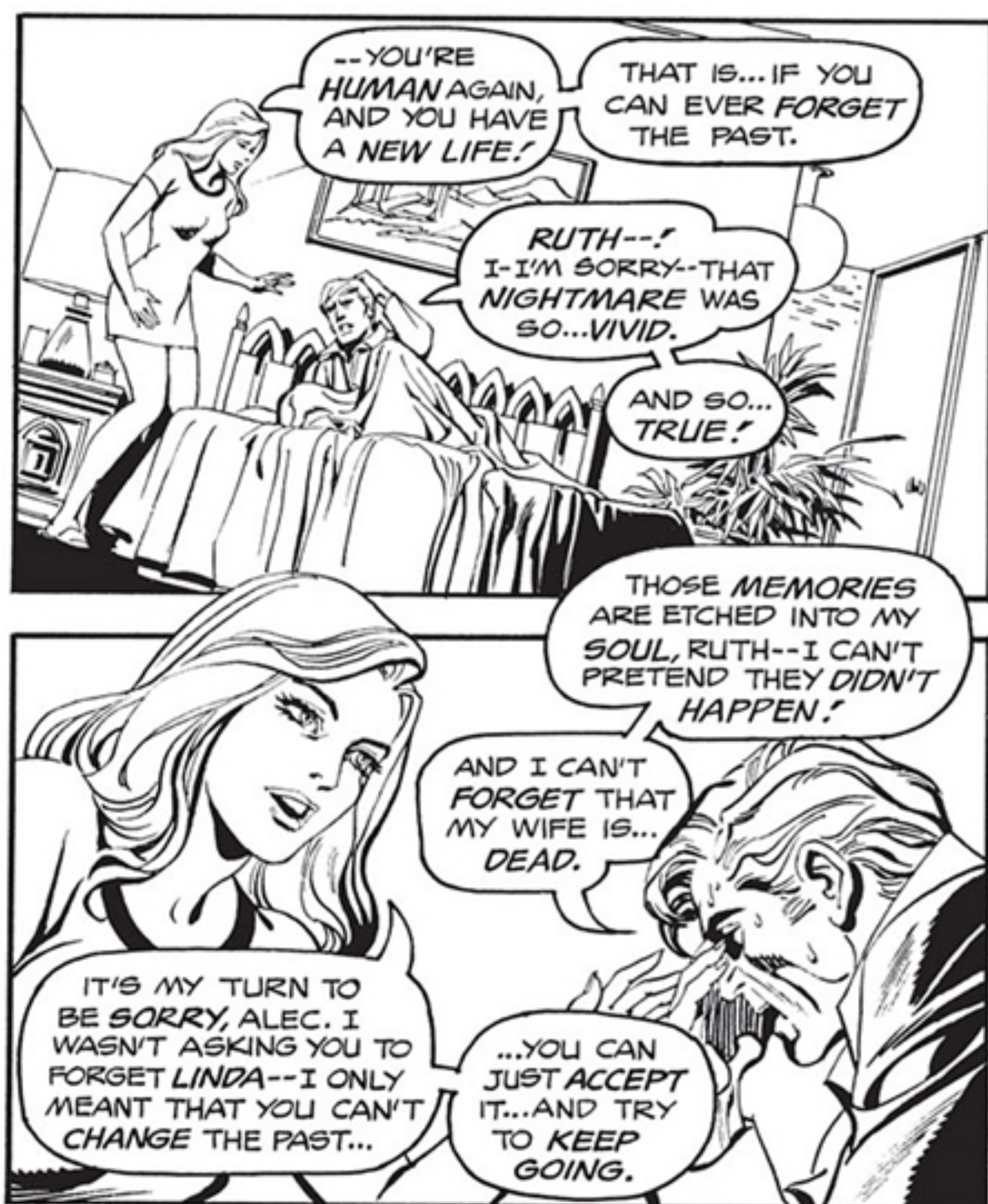
NO  
ESCAPE--



--NOT EVEN  
IN SLEEP!

ALEC--  
WAKE UP!  
YOU'RE ALL  
RIGHT!

YOU'RE NOT THAT  
SHAMBLING SWAMP  
THING ANYMORE--



--YOU'RE  
HUMAN AGAIN,  
AND YOU HAVE  
A NEW LIFE!

THAT IS...IF YOU  
CAN EVER FORGET  
THE PAST.

RUTH--!  
I-I'M SORRY--THAT  
NIGHTMARE WAS  
SO...VIVID.

AND SO...  
TRUE!

THOSE MEMORIES  
ARE ETCHED INTO MY  
SOUL, RUTH--I CAN'T  
PRETEND THEY DIDN'T  
HAPPEN!

AND I CAN'T  
FORGET THAT  
MY WIFE IS...  
DEAD.

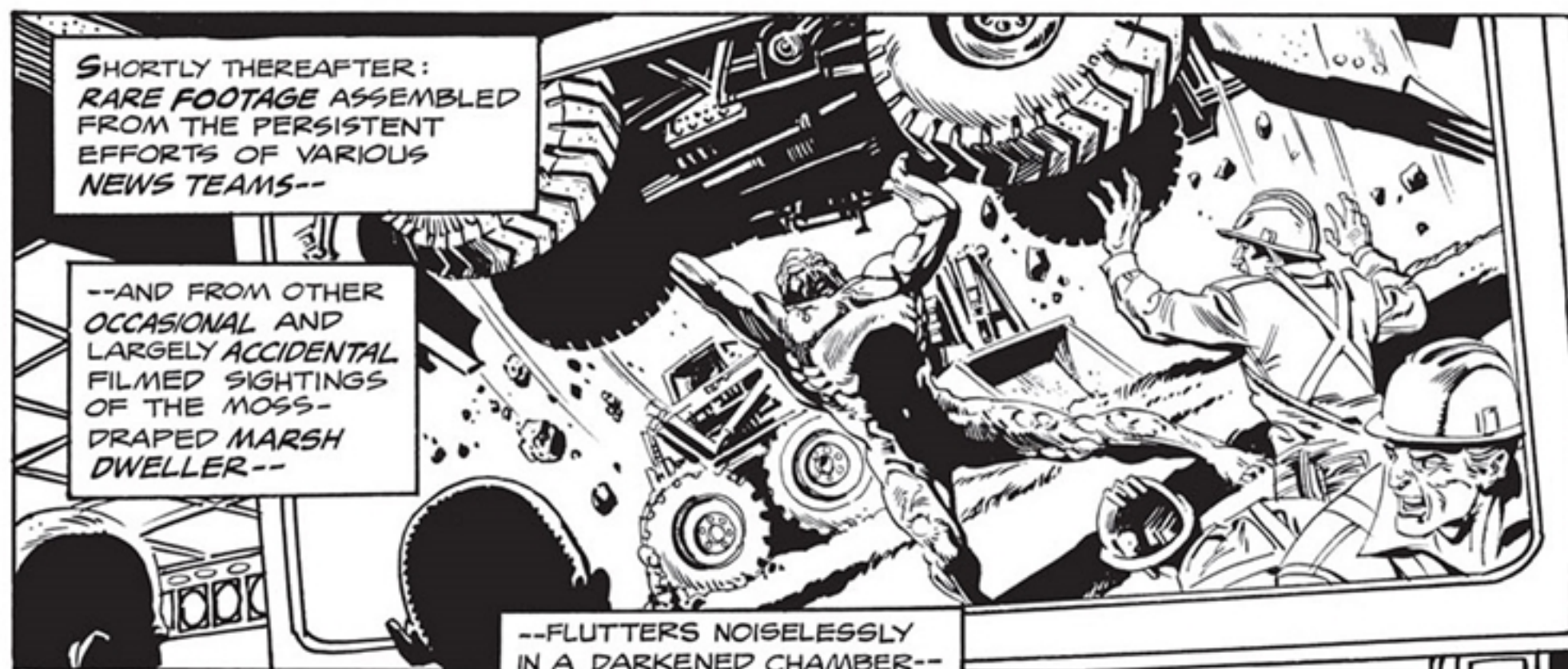
IT'S MY TURN TO  
BE SORRY, ALEC. I  
WASN'T ASKING YOU TO  
FORGET LINDA--I ONLY  
MEANT THAT YOU CAN'T  
CHANGE THE PAST...

...YOU CAN  
JUST ACCEPT  
IT...AND TRY  
TO KEEP  
GOING.

















"...HE IS..."

"...UNPREDICTABLE!"

"HE'S BEEN MUTE AND  
GURLY SINCE THE  
TREATMENTS WHICH  
RECREATED HIM--"

"--AND THIS  
SHAMP THING  
MISSION IS HIS  
FIRST FIELD  
ASSIGNMENT."

"HEY FELLAS--WE  
GOT COMPANY--"

"...BAD  
COMPANY!"

"HIS DISPOSITION  
IS UNSTABLE--"

"--HE'S EASILY  
ANTAGONIZED--"

"--AND HIS POTENTIAL  
FOR DESTRUCTION  
IS TRILLY IMMENSE--"

"--ALMOST  
INFINITE!"

"BACK OFF!  
DAMN YOU--"

"--BACK  
OFF!"

"UNSUPERVISED,  
THESIDIANS MAY  
BE WANDERING  
AT LARGE--"

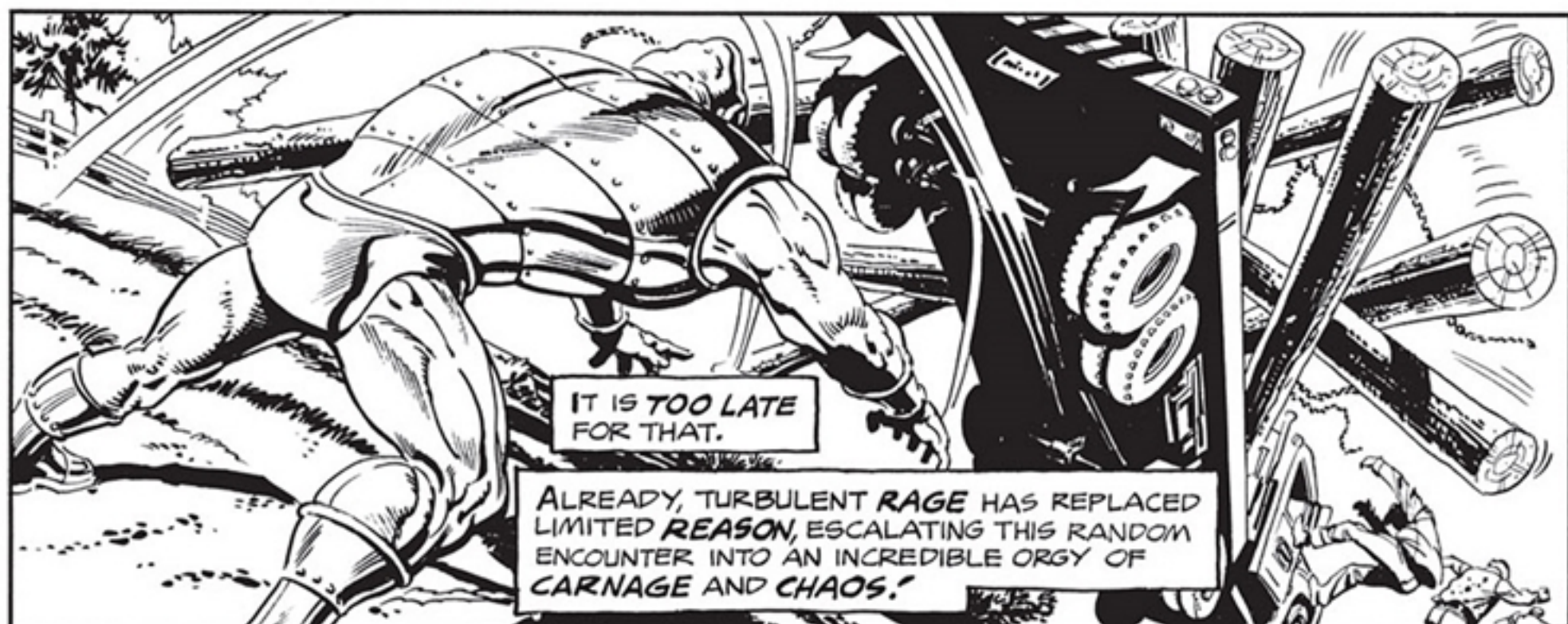
"DON'T HASSLE  
HIM, BOND--JUST  
GET AWAY FROM  
THE TRUCK--"

"...NOW!"

"--AND ANY  
INCIDENT AT ALL  
CAN PROVOKE HIS  
REMORSELESS  
HOSTILITY!"

"YOU'VE GOT  
TO FIND HIM--  
BEFORE HE GOES  
ON A BERSERK  
RAMPAGE!"









THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY,  
HIS MISSPENT *TEMPER*  
TAKES AN UNUSUAL TURN--

--HIS AWE-  
SOME AND  
UNREASONING  
ANGER  
ABATES--

--AND  
THRUDVANG  
STANDS...  
INARTICULATE...

**YAAIEEE!**



...AND SADLY  
ALONE.

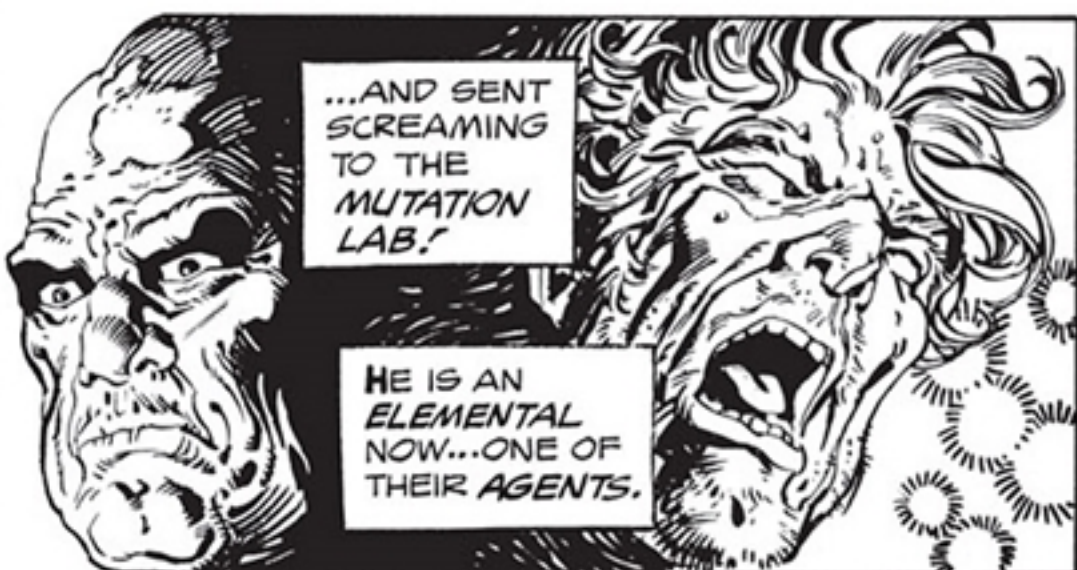
HE STRAINS, DIMLY  
BUT INTENTLY, TO  
REMEMBER.

TO *UNDERSTAND.*



IMAGES BURN DISTANTLY  
THROUGH THE MINDLESS,  
SENSELESS *DAZE* OF  
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS--

--FRAGMENTARY AND  
FLEETING *MEMORIES*  
OF A FEARFUL BOWERY  
BUM DRAFTED BY THE  
*COLOSSUS ORGANIZATION...*



...AND SENT  
SCREAMING  
TO THE  
*MUTATION*  
LAB!

HE IS AN  
*ELEMENTAL*  
NOW...ONE OF  
THEIR *AGENTS.*



AND THIS CATASTROPHIC  
CLASH WITH LOGGERS  
WAS MERELY A *MINOR*  
DIVERSION--

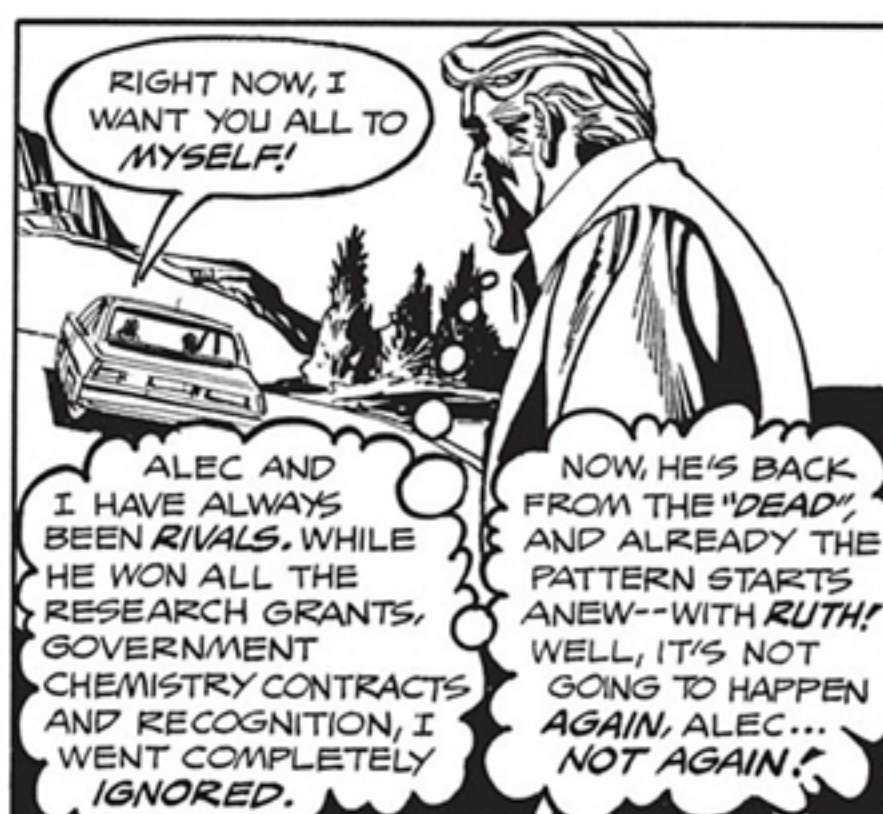
--A PRELUDE TO  
A FAR MORE  
IMPORTANT *MISSION:*  
THRUDVANG MUST  
FIND THE *SWAMP*  
*THING!*



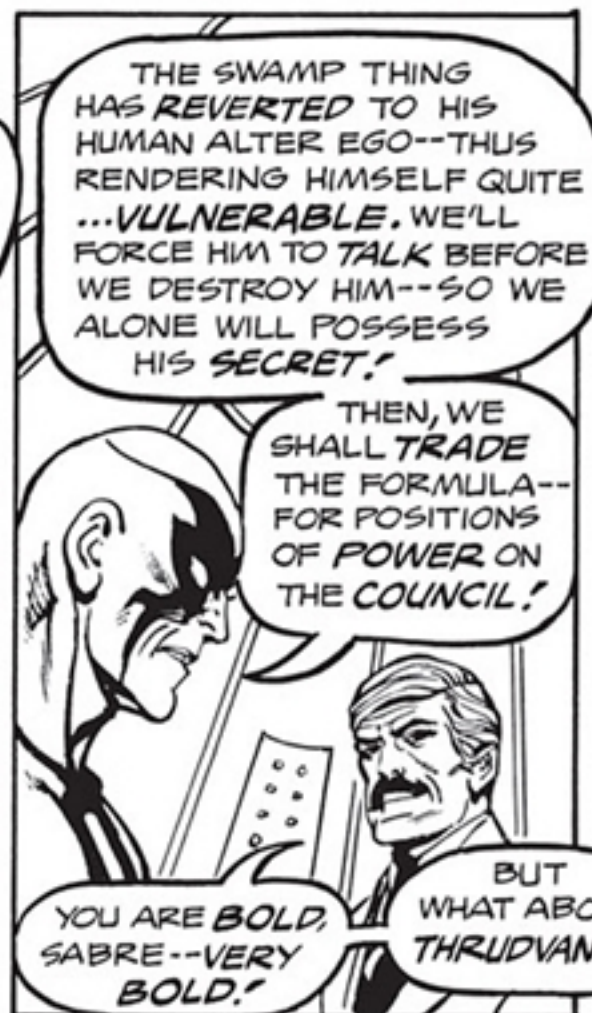
GOOD MORNING, ALEC!  
TOO BAD YOU MISSED *BREAKFAST--*  
BUT RUTH FIGURED IT WAS BETTER  
TO LET YOU *SLEEP.* BESIDES, YOU  
CAN GRAB A BITE WHILE YOU'RE  
IN TOWN FOR *GROCERIES!*

HOW  
D'YA FEEL,  
ANYHOW?

























WHA--?

ALEC--!  
ARE...ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?!

YEAH.  
BUT...



YOU'RE  
IN PAIN--!

THAT'S NOT...  
IMPORTANT, RUTH.  
JUST...LISTEN  
TO ME--



NO, ALEC--  
I WON'T!

YOU'RE NOT  
SOME KIND OF  
MARTYR--



--YOU'RE  
A MAN--



--AND I WON'T  
LET YOU SUFFER  
ALONE ANYMORE!

TIME:

A SINGLE MOMENT  
THAT LINGERS  
TENDERLY...THEN  
IS GONE!

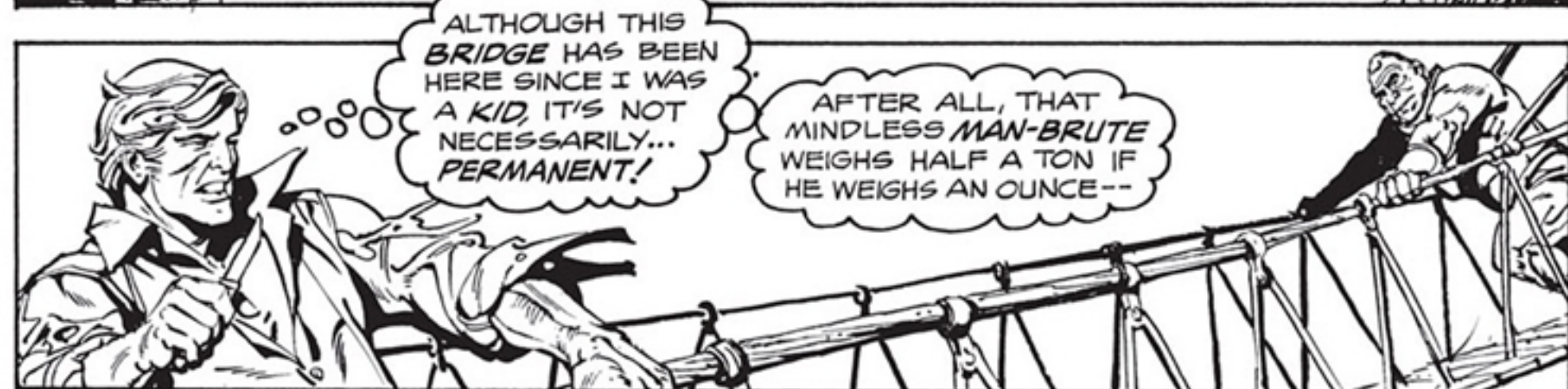
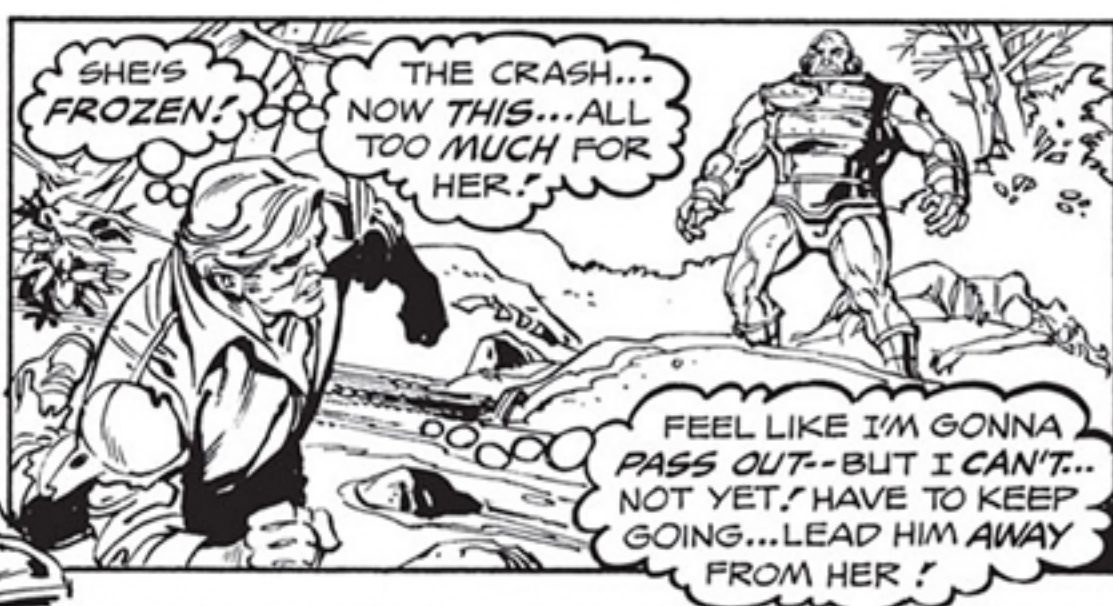


ALEC--!

A BRIEF ETERNITY  
THAT IS MOST  
RUDELY SHATTERED--

--BY A SINISTER  
STALKER WHO  
FOLLOWS AN  
INSIDIOUS SPOOR  
OF RADIO SIGNALS!









**NEXT  
ISSUE:**

**HAWKMAN VS SWAMP THING**

AND PORTLAND, OREGON, WILL *NEVER* BE THE SAME!



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