



ANNUAL 1996

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1996



DETECTIVE COMICS® BATMAN®

DIXON • HENRY • HODGKINS

HODGKINS



LEGENDS OF THE
DEAD EARTH



"AND THE BATMAN
AND HIS SQUIRE
LIVED IN THE CITY
CALLED GOTHAM
ON THE PLANET
CALLED EARTH.

"A PLANET
THAT TURNED
LIKE A BALL
AROUND A
SINGLE SUN.

"AND WHEN
NIGHT FELL
ON THE CITY,
THEIR ENEMIES
CAME OUT.

WAR 307

LEGENDS OF THE DEAD EARTH
Earth is dead.

Those who once might have called it home are long scattered to the endless stars. But in that scattering, on a thousand different worlds, by a thousand different ways...Earth's greatest legends still live on.

"THREE-FACE
AND THE
JOKER
AND LOTS
OF OTHERS."

"BANE-A-GATOR,
FIRECAT AND THE
BUZZARD."

"THEY WOULD
FIGHT AND FIGHT
AND FIGHT UNDER
THE LIGHT OF A
TINY PLANET
CALLED THE
MOON."

"SH, COME
ON, DEALY..."

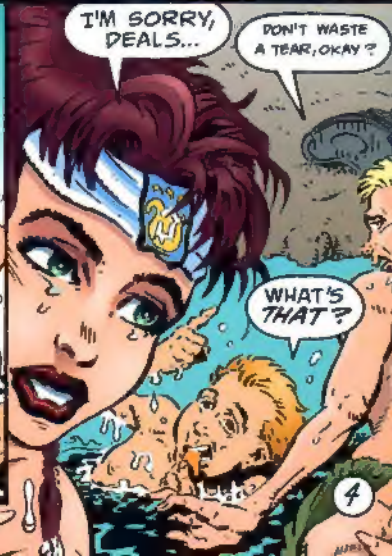
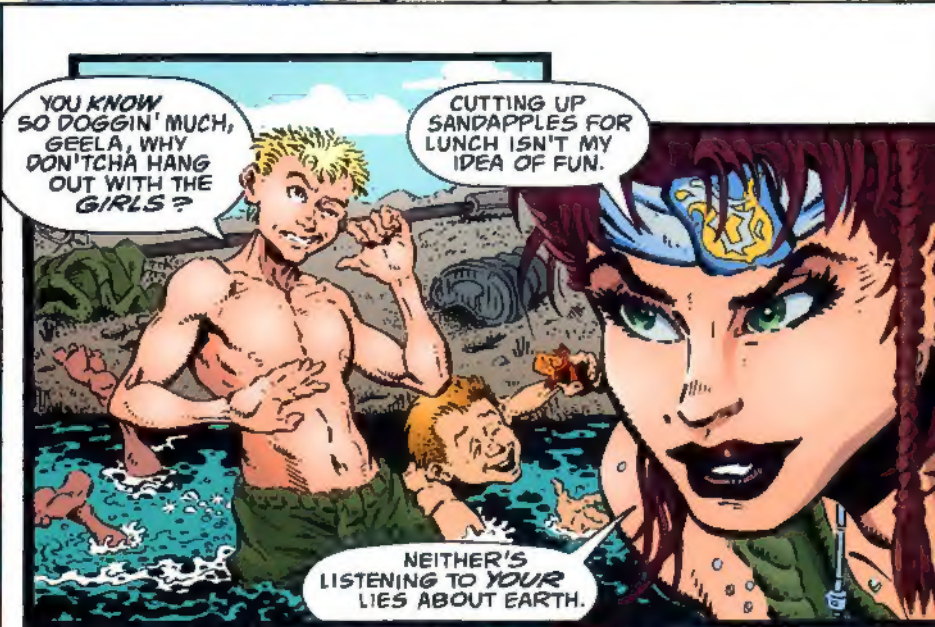
AR-KDM

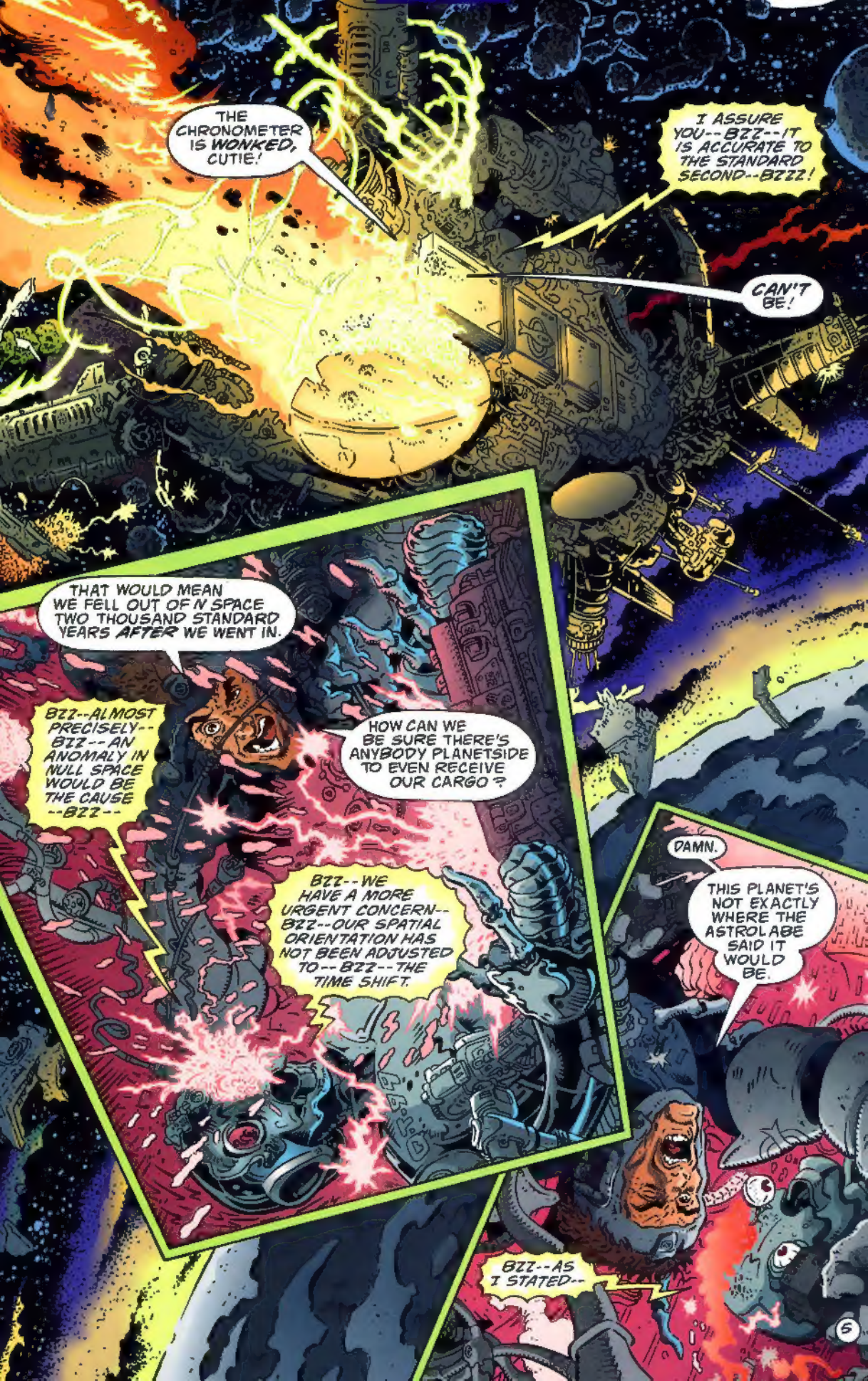
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... MY POPPO
SAYS THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS A
PLANET THAT SPINS
AROUND.

YOUR POPPO
EVER BEEN
OFF THIS
PLANET?

Naw...





THE
CHRONOMETER
IS WONKED,
CUTIE!

I ASSURE
YOU--BZZ--IT
IS ACCURATE TO
THE STANDARD
SECOND--BZZZ!

CAN'T
BE!

THAT WOULD MEAN
WE FELL OUT OF N SPACE
TWO THOUSAND STANDARD
YEARS AFTER WE WENT IN.

BZZ--ALMOST
PRECISELY--
BZZ--AN
ANOMALY IN
NULL SPACE
WOULD BE
THE CAUSE
--BZZ--

HOW CAN WE
BE SURE THERE'S
ANYBODY PLANETSIDE
TO EVEN RECEIVE
OUR CARGO?

BZZ--WE
HAVE A MORE
URGENT CONCERN--
BZZ--OUR SPATIAL
ORIENTATION HAS
NOT BEEN ADJUSTED
TO--BZZ--THE
TIME SHIFT.

DAMN.

THIS PLANET'S
NOT EXACTLY
WHERE THE
ASTROLABE
SAID IT
WOULD BE.

BZZ--AS
I STATED--



SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

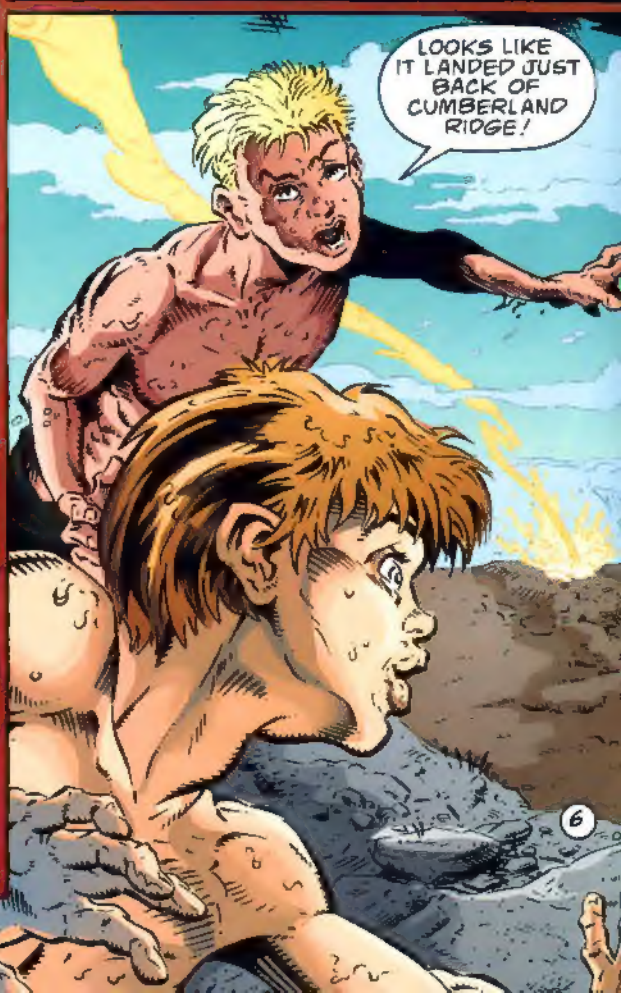
WE'RE HITTING
THE ATMOSPHERE
AT ALL THE WRONG
ANGLES--

BZZ--
EVACUATING
CARGO
TO--



A METEOR?

AN INVASION?



LOOKS LIKE
IT LANDED JUST
BACK OF
CUMBERLAND
RIDGE!



COULD THIS BE DANGEROUS?

I GUESS SO, BRUGGO.

DOG...



WOW! IT'S SIZZLIN'!

THERE'S AN ACCESS PAD HERE.



IF IT'S A BOMB YOU'LL BE BLASTED TO STRIPS!

STUPID BOYS.



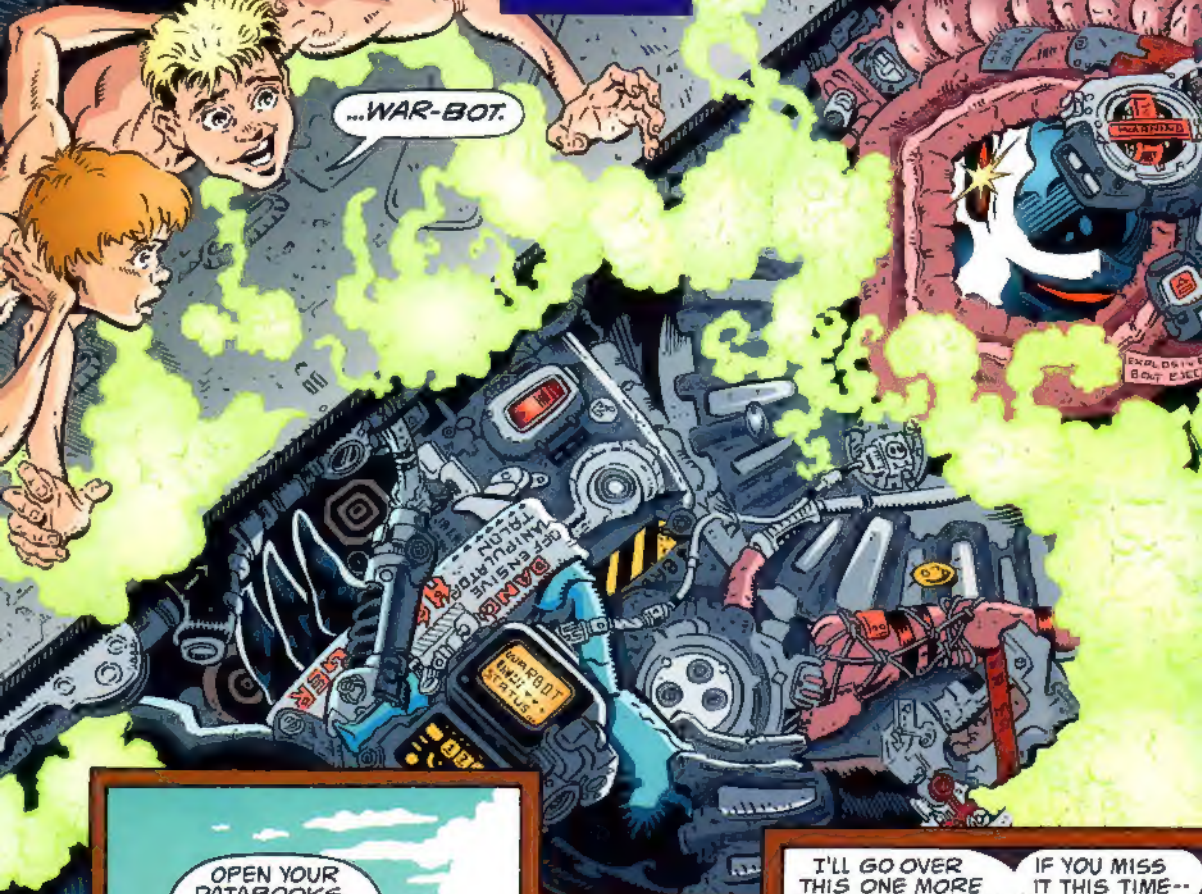
GOT IT WINKLED.

DOG!

COFF! COFF!



BRUGGO... IT'S A...



OPEN YOUR
DATABOOKS
TO PLANETARY
GEOGRAPHY.

FROM YOUR
LATEST TEST
CURVES IT'S OBVIOUS
WE NEED TO RETURN
TO BASICS.

YOU ALL SEEM
IGNORANT OF
THE GEOLOGY,
LOCATION AND
SPECIAL
PROPERTIES OF
THE WORLD WE
LIVE ON.

I'LL GO OVER
THIS ONE MORE
TIME S-L-O-W-L-Y.

IF YOU MISS
IT THIS TIME--

--IT'S
YOUR
FAULT.

TYPHON REVOLVES
AROUND THE DOUBLE STAR
SYSTEM OF OSIRIS AND
ISIS IN THE GREATER
AMUN SYSTEM.

HELD IN THESE
CONFLICTING
GRAVITATIONAL
FIELDS, OUR
PLANET IS HELD
IN A BROAD
ELLIPTICAL
ORBIT.

SYBARIS, OUR
SIDE OF THE
PLANET, ALWAYS
FACES THE
TWIN SUNS.

CROTONA, THE
OPPOSITE
HEMISPHERE, IS
IN PERPETUAL
NIGHT.

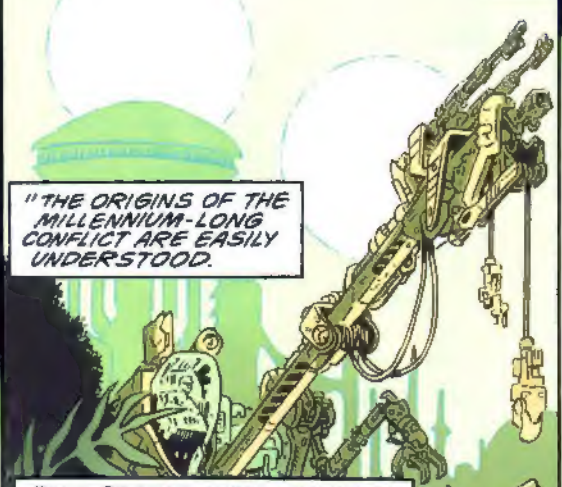


BETWEEN THE TWO,
CAUSED BY THE EXTREME
DIFFERENCES IN CLIMATE,
LIES THE EQUATORIAL
STORM REGION.



NO SYBARIAN HAS
VISITED THE DARK
SIDE OF THE GLOBE
IN NEARLY A THOUSAND
YEARS.

THAT WAS WHEN
THE LAST WAR
WITH CROTONA ENDED
IN A DRAW.



"THE ORIGINS OF THE
MILLENNIUM-LONG
CONFLICT ARE EASILY
UNDERSTOOD."



"OUR PEOPLE HAVE OCCUPIED
THE SUN-DRENCHED HALF OF
TYPHON SINCE THE ARRIVAL
OF THE FIRST COLONISTS."



"LATER ARRIVALS WERE
LEFT TO SETTLE ON
CROTONA AND ITS FRIGID
AND LIFELESS LANDSCAPE."

"ENVY FED UPON ITSELF
FOR GENERATION UPON
GENERATION."



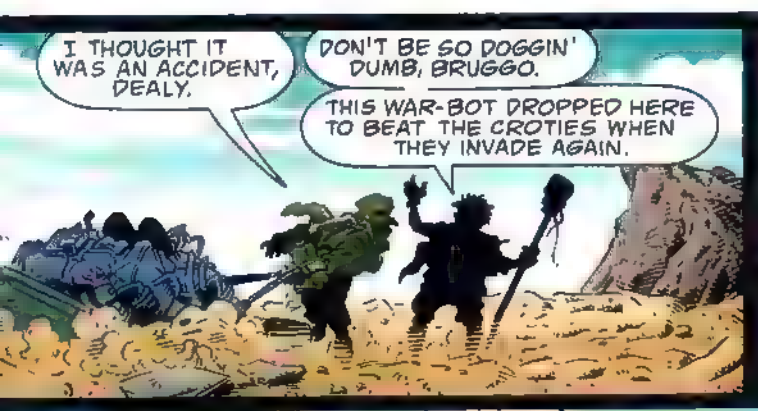
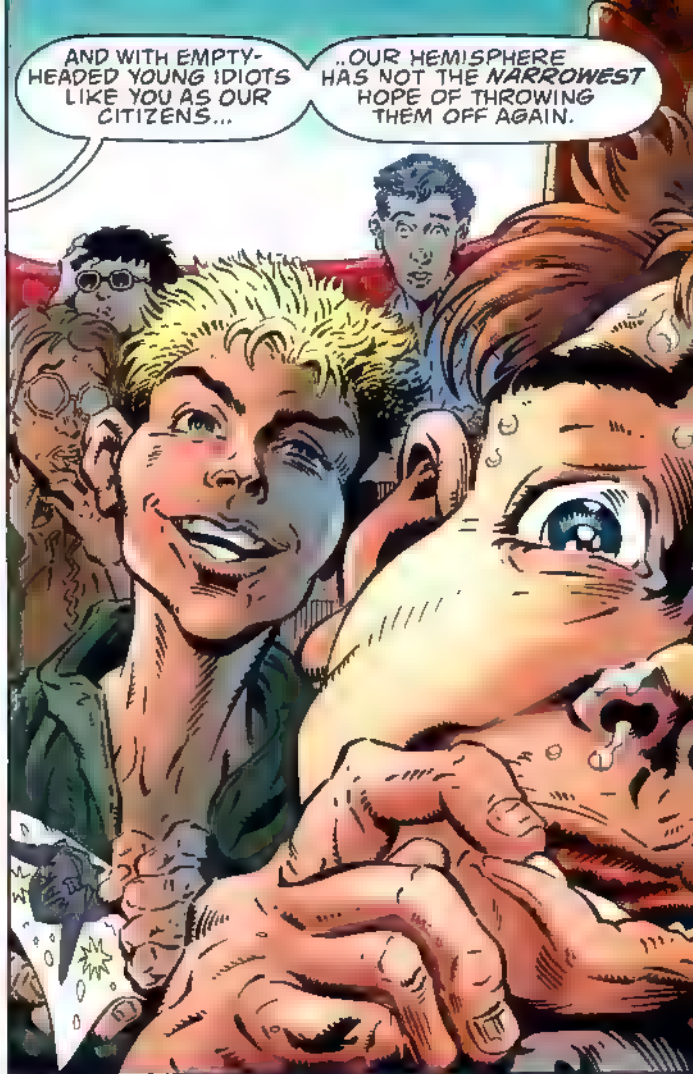
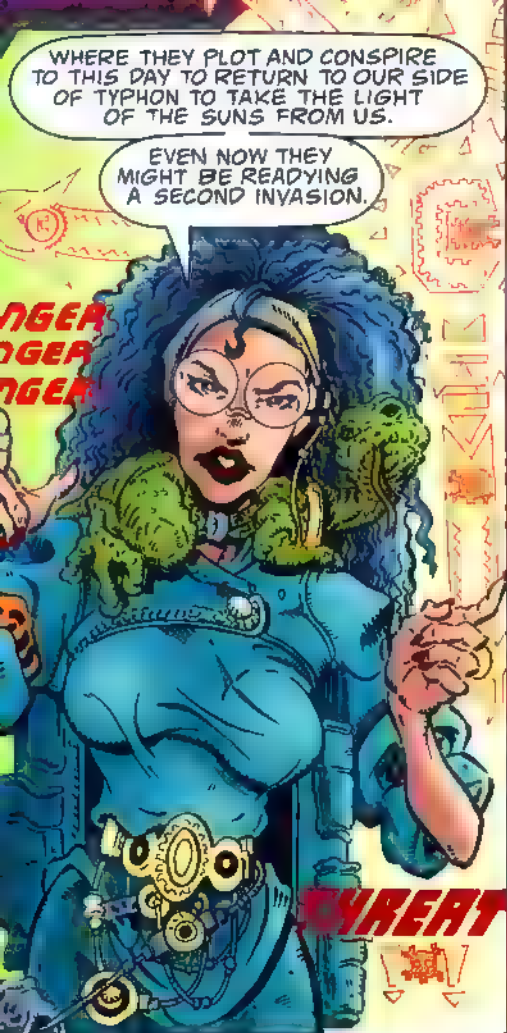
"AND FINALLY THE CROTONANS
LAUNCHED AN INVASION TOWARD
OUR HEMISPHERE."



"AND IN THE VEIL OF STORMS
THAT RINGS OUR WORLD THE
WAR RAGED ON FOR CENTURIES.

"UNTIL SYBARIAN
SCIENTISTS CREATED
A WEAPON THAT LAID
THE FORCE OF CROTONA
TO WASTE.

"AND SENT
THEM BACK
TO THEIR
DARK LANDS."





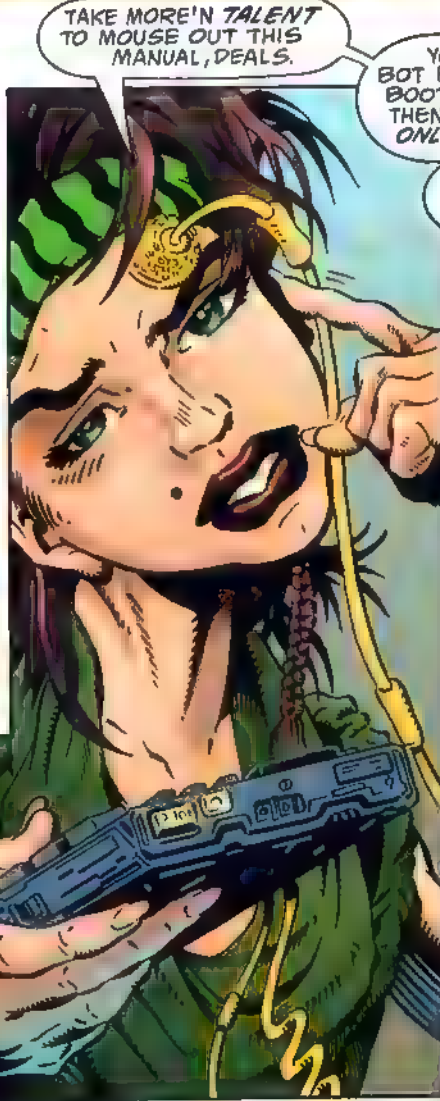
GEELA?

WELL, WHO'S
THE BEST
GEARJOCK
IN THE
GANG?

YOU GUYS
COULDN'T EVEN PASS
YOUR MIDYEAR TRIALS
IN BASE-SCI.



NO CORRIES, GEELA.
THAT'S SCHOOL STUFF
WE'RE BETTER AT
JOCKIN' WITH
OUR HANDS.



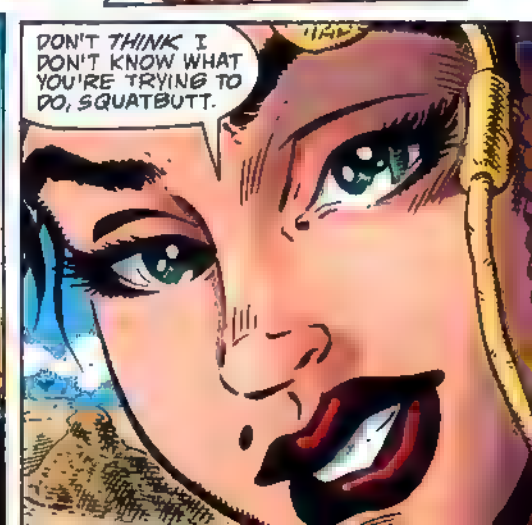
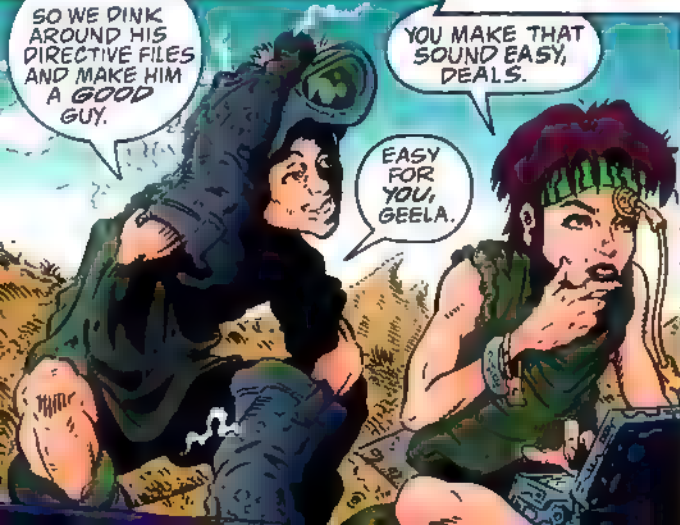
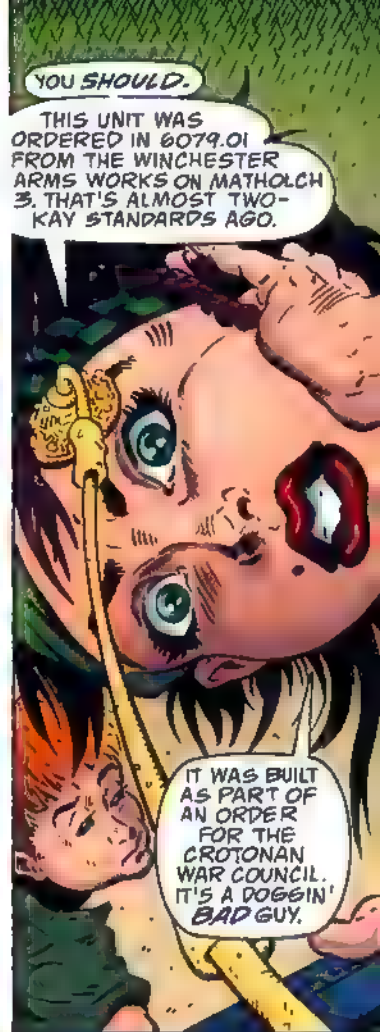
TAKE MORE'N TALENT
TO MOUSE OUT THIS
MANUAL, DEALS.

YOU WANT THIS
BOT RE-DATA'ED AND
BOOTED UP RIGHT,
THEN THE BOOK'S THE
ONLY PLACE TO START.

AND I'M THE
BOOKSMART
ONE

BUT DID
YOU THINK OF
THESE?





THERE.

AND HE'S SLAVED
TO MY MOTHERBOARD..

LET ME CALIBRATE, OKAY?
HE'S GOT A WILD PROGRAM
RUNNING HERE

DESTROYED---
DE--DE--DE--
DE--DE--DE--

EVALUATINGEVALUATINGEVALUATINGEVALUATING

LOCKING
IT DOWN..
DOWN...

DESTROYDESTROYDESTROYDESTROYDESTROYDESTROY

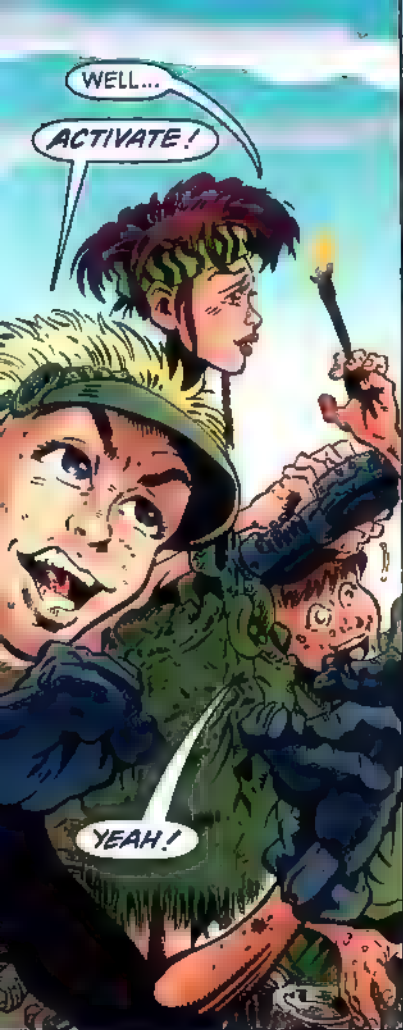
DEPTA04DES---
DE--DE--DE--
DE--DE--DE--

DEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDEDE

DEFEND
DEFEND
DEFEND
DEFEND
DEFEND

HELLOOOO.
ANYBODY
HOME?

DEFEND. DEFEND. DEFEND. DEFEND. DEFEND. DEFEND.



WELL...

ACTIVATE!

YEAH!

HERE'S OUR OWN
PERSONAL WAR-BOT.

NO WAY, GEELA-
GIRL.

HE'S OUR
WAR-BAT!

HE'S
HUMMING.

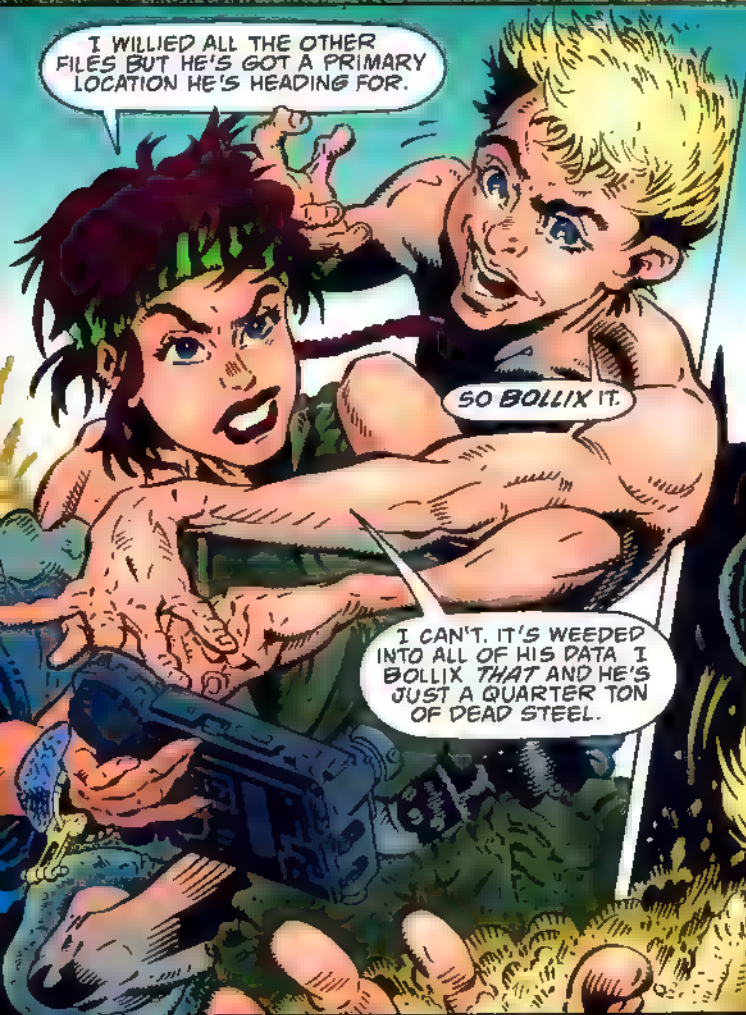
HE'S WALKING...



WHERE'S HE GOING, GENIUS? I THOUGHT YOU RETOOLLED HIM.

IT'S A CLOSED PROGRAM. GEO-DIRECTIONAL. I COULDN'T WONK IT.

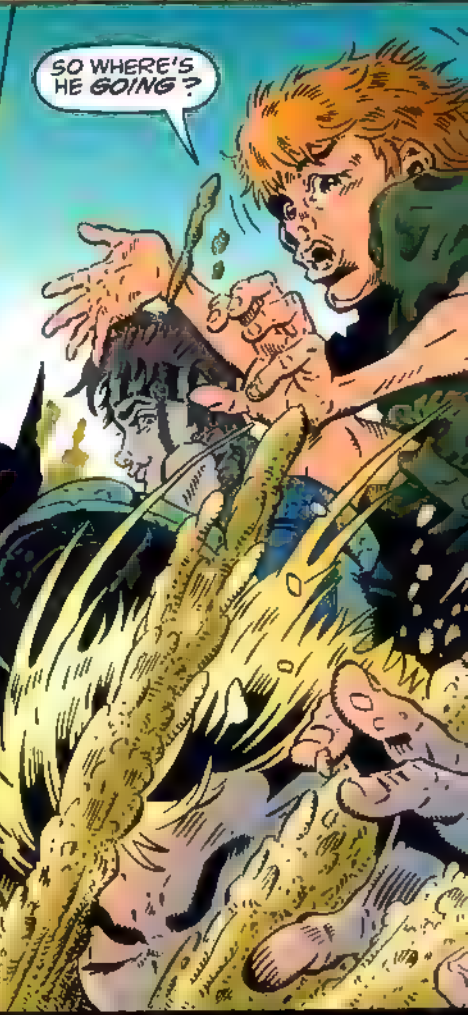
huh?



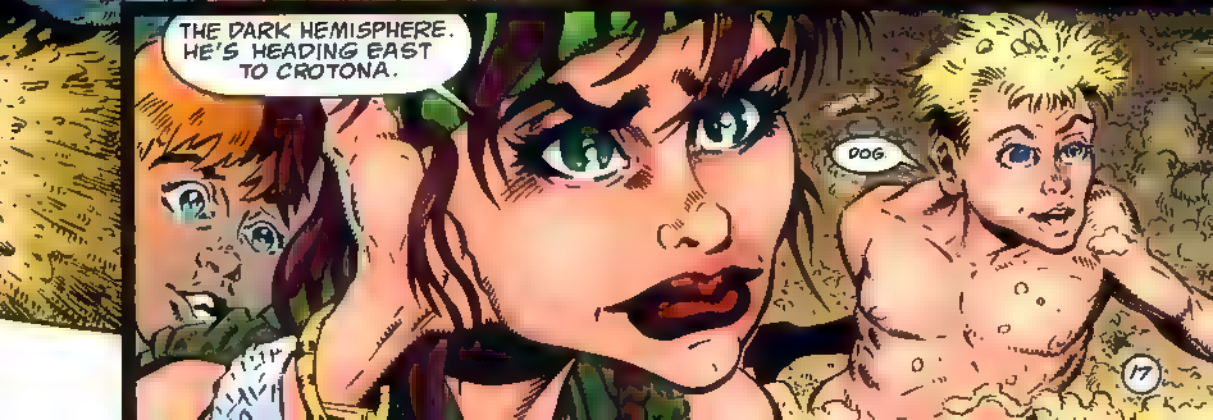
I WILLIED ALL THE OTHER FILES BUT HE'S GOT A PRIMARY LOCATION HE'S HEADING FOR.

SO BOLLIX IT.

I CAN'T. IT'S WEEDDED INTO ALL OF HIS DATA. I BOLLIX THAT AND HE'S JUST A QUARTER TON OF DEAD STEEL.



SO WHERE'S HE GOING?



THE DARK HEMISPHERE. HE'S HEADING EAST TO CROTONA.

DOG.

ALL RIGHT. HE'S SHUT DOWN.
WHAT GOOD'S THAT DO ?

AS SOON AS WE TURN
HIM ON, HE'S GOING TO WALK
BACK TO HIS MASTERS.
IT'S HIS PROGRAM.

HOW. IT'S
HIS FATE

WHAT?

HIS FATE.
HIS QUEST HIS
DESTINY.

YOU NEED
SOME SHADE,
DEALS.

HE DROPPED HERE FOR A REASON!
HE'S GONNA GO OVER TO THE
SUNLESS SIDE AND KICK
CROTE BUTT!

HE'S THE
WAR-BAT!
HE'S THE
BATMAN!

ONLY 'CAUSE WE
WELDED BAT EARS TO
HIS HEAD, DEALY.

I HATE TO AGREE WITH
BOOGA-BRUGGA..

YOU'RE
BOTH DOGGED!
THIS IS THE
ADVENTURE OF
A LIFETIME!

THE WAR-BAT'S
GOIN' OVER TO THE
SHADOWLANDS...

... AND I'M
GOIN' WITH
HIM.



I... THINK
I'M GOIN'
TO BED.

ARE YOU
NOT FEELING
WELL, DEALY?



JUST TIRED
FROM SCHOOL,
I GUESS.

WELL, IF YOU DON'T
FEEL LIKE EATING, I'LL
CHECK IN ON---

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO. I'M
JUST GONNA
SLEEP.

ALL RIGHT,
THEN ..



YOU
COMIN'?

SHH!

SOON'S
I GET MY
STUFF

I BROUGHT WATER
AND OXY-BARS AND
GUMCRACKS AND
CHOCNUT BUTTER
AND---

GREAT! I GOT
ROPE AND A MAP
AND SOME BOOKS
AND SOCKS AND--

DEALY--

WHY DON'T I HAVE
A COSTUME?

BECAUSE I'M
ROBIN THERE'S ONLY
ONE ROBIN.

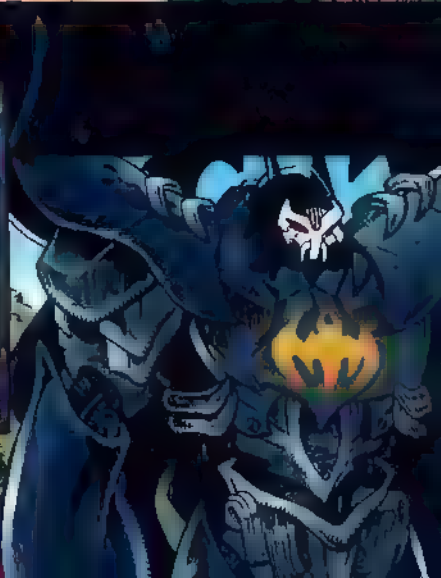
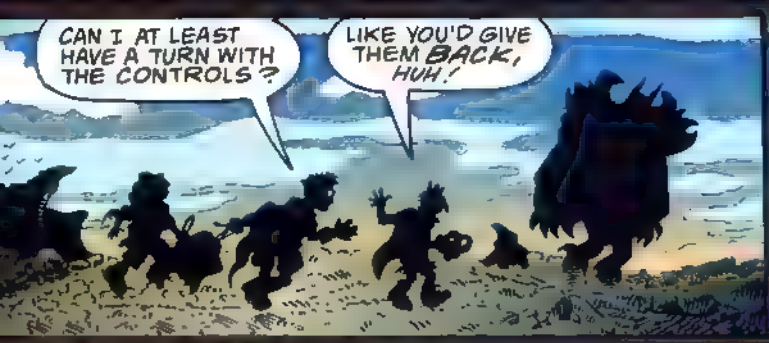
SO WHO
AM I?

UM... YOU'RE ALFRED
GORDON. ONE OF BATMAN'S
FRIENDS.

GEELA!

WHO INVITED
YOU?

THERE WAS *TOO*
MORE THAN ONE ROBIN!
ONE OF THEM WAS
EVEN A GIRL!





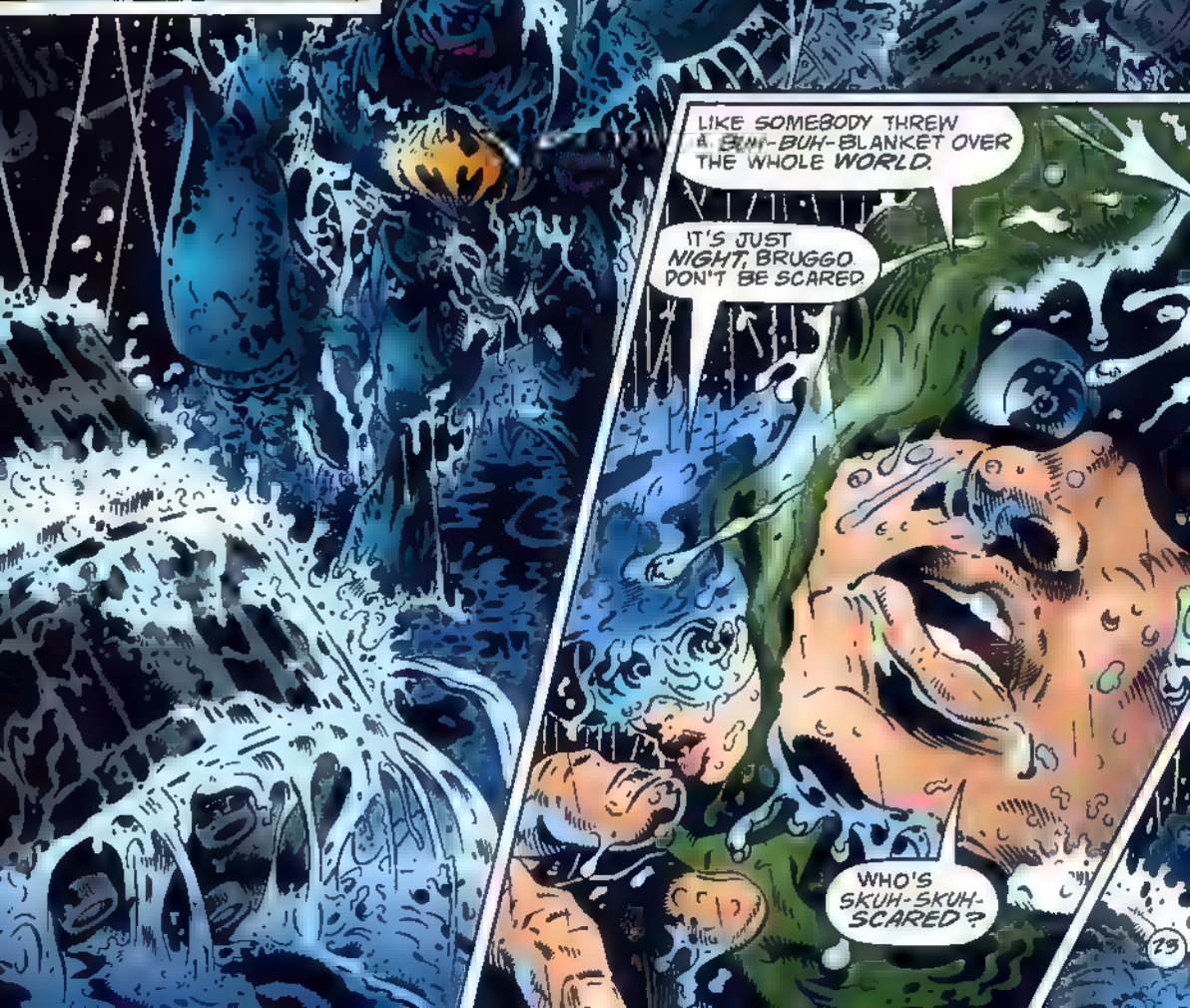
... THE
STORM
BELT.

NO ONE'S
CROSSED IT IN
A THOUSAND
YEARS.

DOG
ME.

WELL .

...LET'S NOT WASTE
ANY MORE TIME GETTING
THERE.





WE'RE OVER
THE EQUATOR.
WE'LL BE IN
CROTONA IN A
FEW BLIPS

THEN
WHAT?

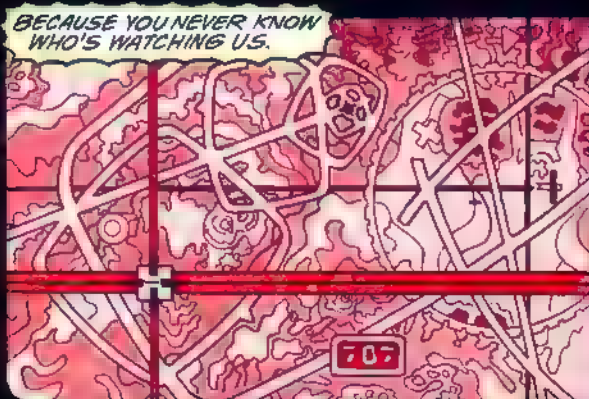
THEN WE
WALK **REAL**
CAREFUL AND
SNEAKY.

712
318
619
145
327
6514
B43
6631
ABZ
CT4
M007
ZQ7
35B
063
AB3
145
ZMR

KBN
SR0
MT3
Z02
611
146
MAR
199M
T8A5
5413
DWE
BA7
4M5
P03
703
LAC
64A

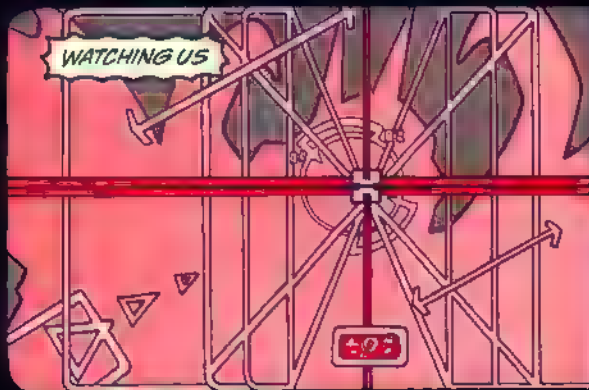
STAO
BAS
U114
9CA
VNA
BPM
DAB
NTFL
IHN
AY0
CUH
KCD
NOX
IEM
LAC
VEN
178

BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW
WHO'S WATCHING US.



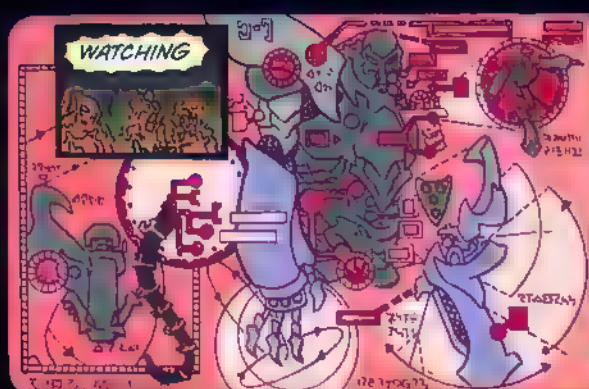
AC:SE

WATCHING US



REC Δ1!!SEAC

WATCHING



DIACSE 1.2;3/1K11







IT'S SO...
QUIET. WHERE'S
ALL THE
CROTES?

IT'S ALL RIGHT
WITH *ME* IF WE
DON'T SEE ANY
CROTES.

SHUT UP
YOU SLUGS



I'VE GOT MOVEMENT
HERE.

MOVEMENT?

SOMETHING,
LOTS OF
SOMETHINGS,
ARE COMING
RIGHT FOR US

HE KNOWS
IT TOO

DEALS...

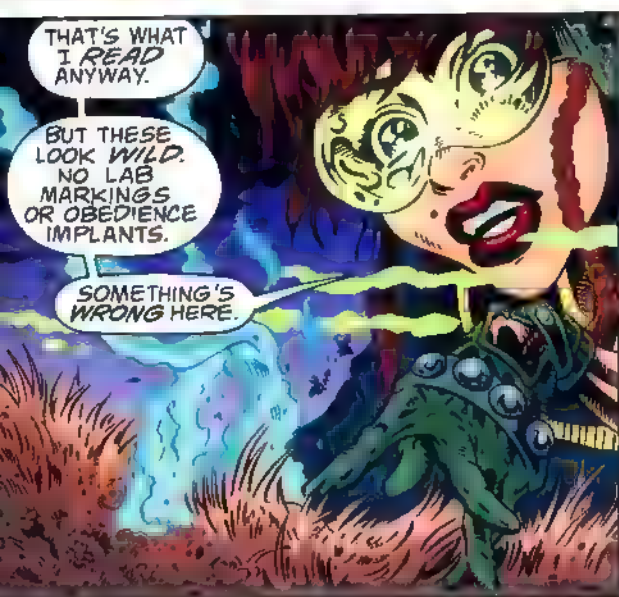
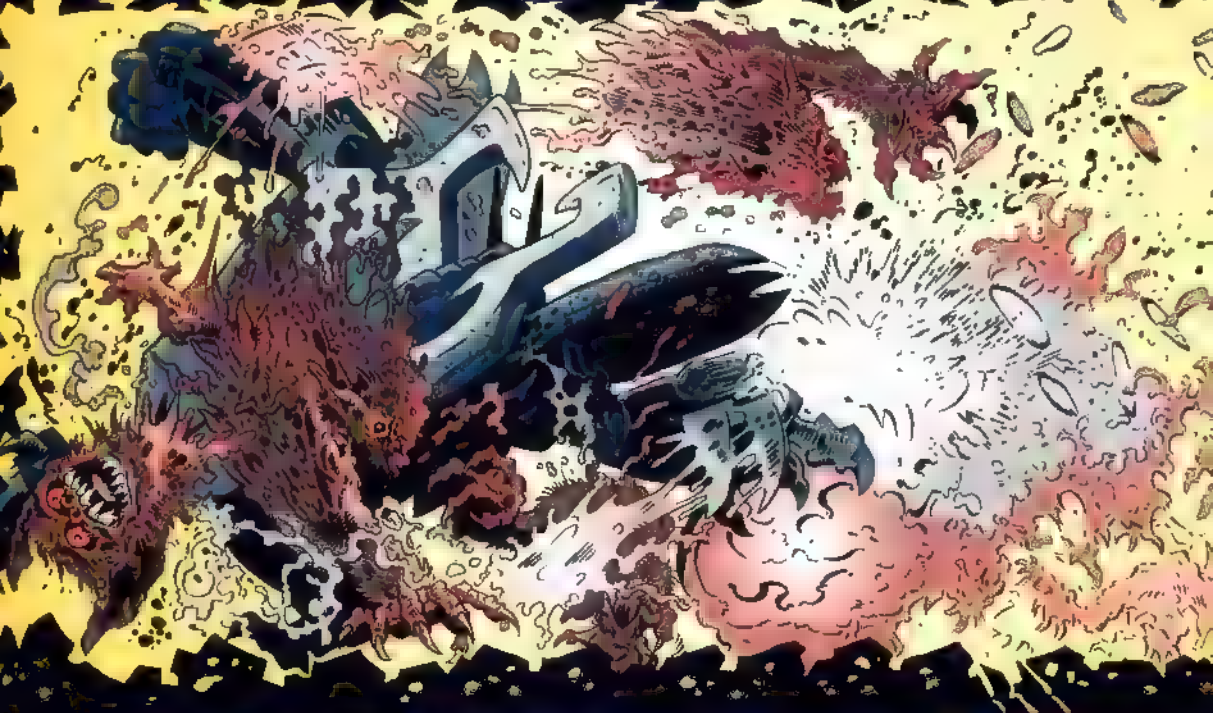


DEALS!

DOG!

uh uh







WHERE YOU
THINK HE'S
GOING?

TO FIGHT
EVIL,
BRUGGO.

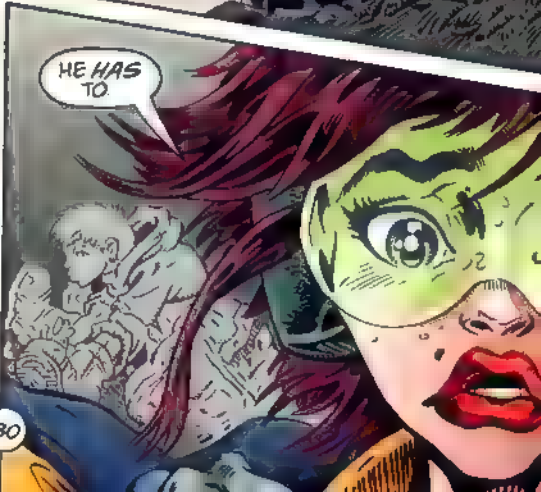
TO MAKE THE
CROTES PAY FOR BEING
BAD GUYS AND PLANNING
TO TAKE OVER OUR
SIDE OF THE WORLD.

HE'S GONNA
MAKE 'EM ALL
PAY FOR KILLIN'
HIS PARENTS.



YOU THINK
HE REALLY
BELIEVES ALL THAT,
GEELA?

HE BELIEVES
IT, BRUGGO.



HE HAS
TO



WHAT IS
IT? WHERE'S
HE GOING?

NOWHERE,
GEELA-GIRL.



NO-DOGGIN'
-WHERE.

THE
CITY---IT'S
GONE

ALL THE
CROTES ARE
DEAD



THEY MUSTA
DIED IN THE
LAST WAR.

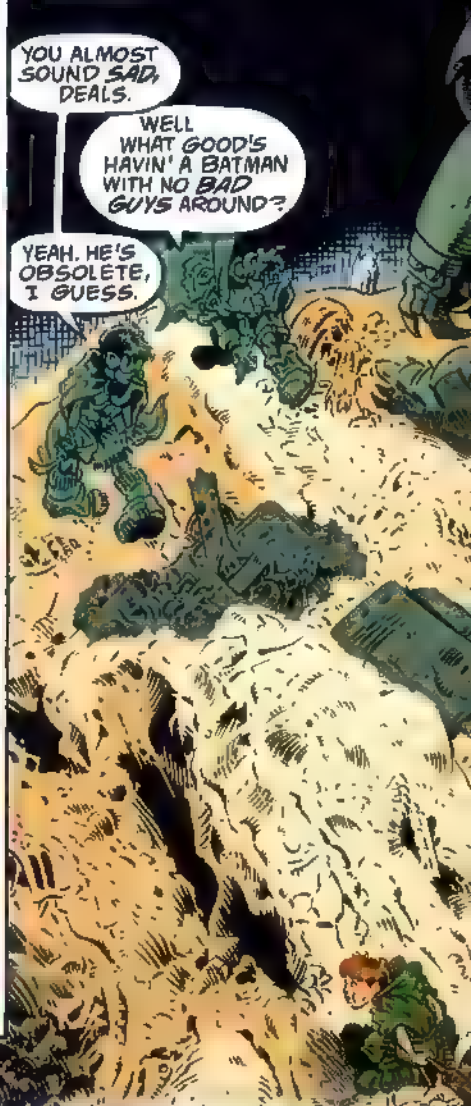
WE WON
AND WE DIDN'T
KNOW IT

YEAH

YOU ALMOST
SOUND SAD,
DEALS.

WELL
WHAT GOOD'S
HAVIN' A BATMAN
WITH NO BAD
GUYS AROUND?

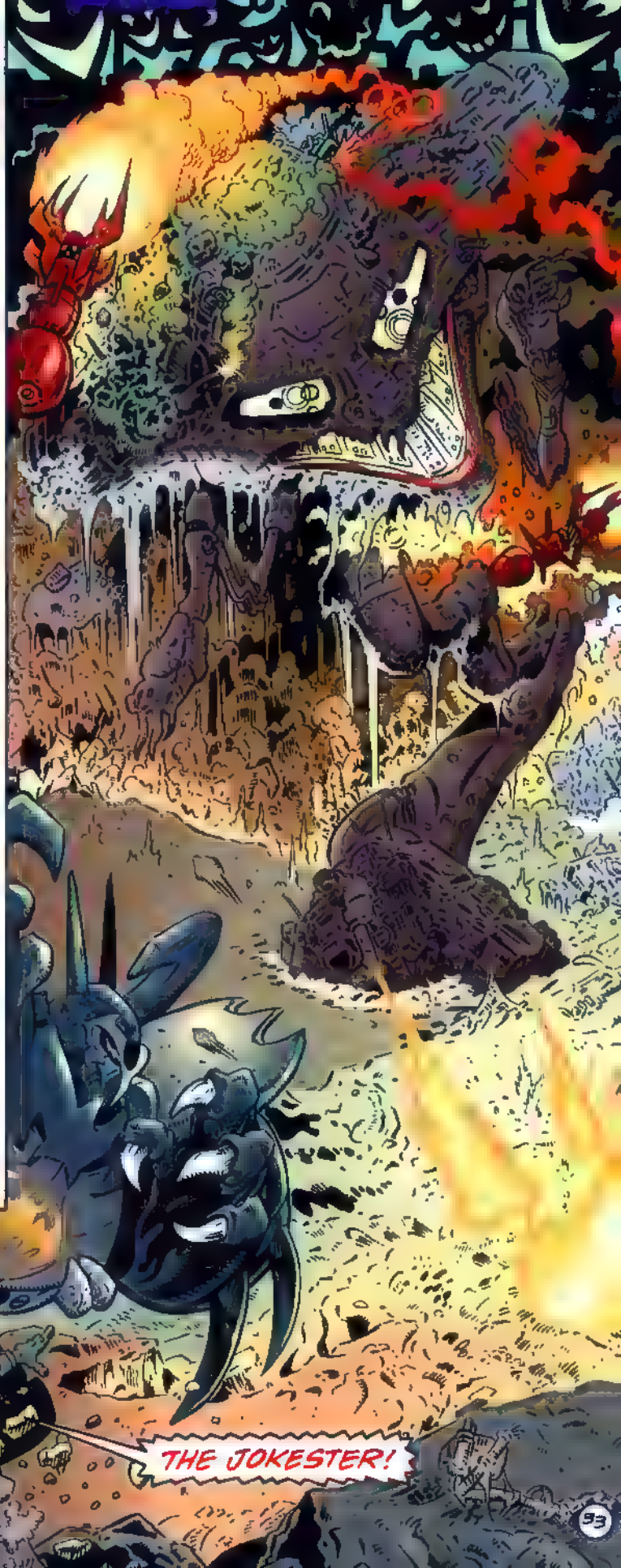
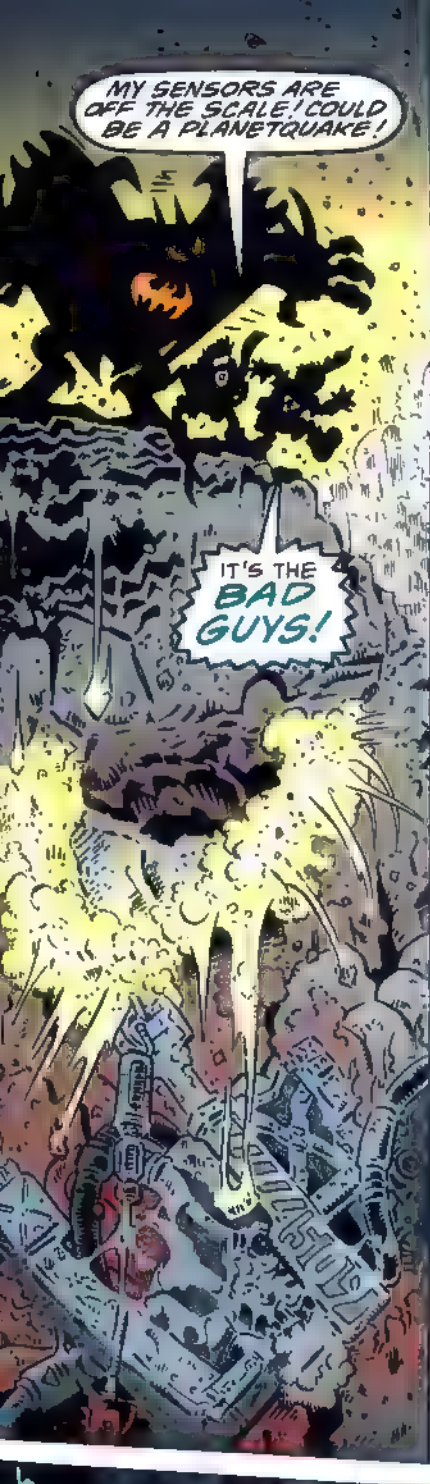
YEAH. HE'S
OBSOLETE,
I GUESS.



HE DOESN'T
THINK SO.

MUST BE
SOME CROTES
LEFT.

HEY!





GEELA!

GET
DOWN,
STUPID!



I CAN'T
SEE!

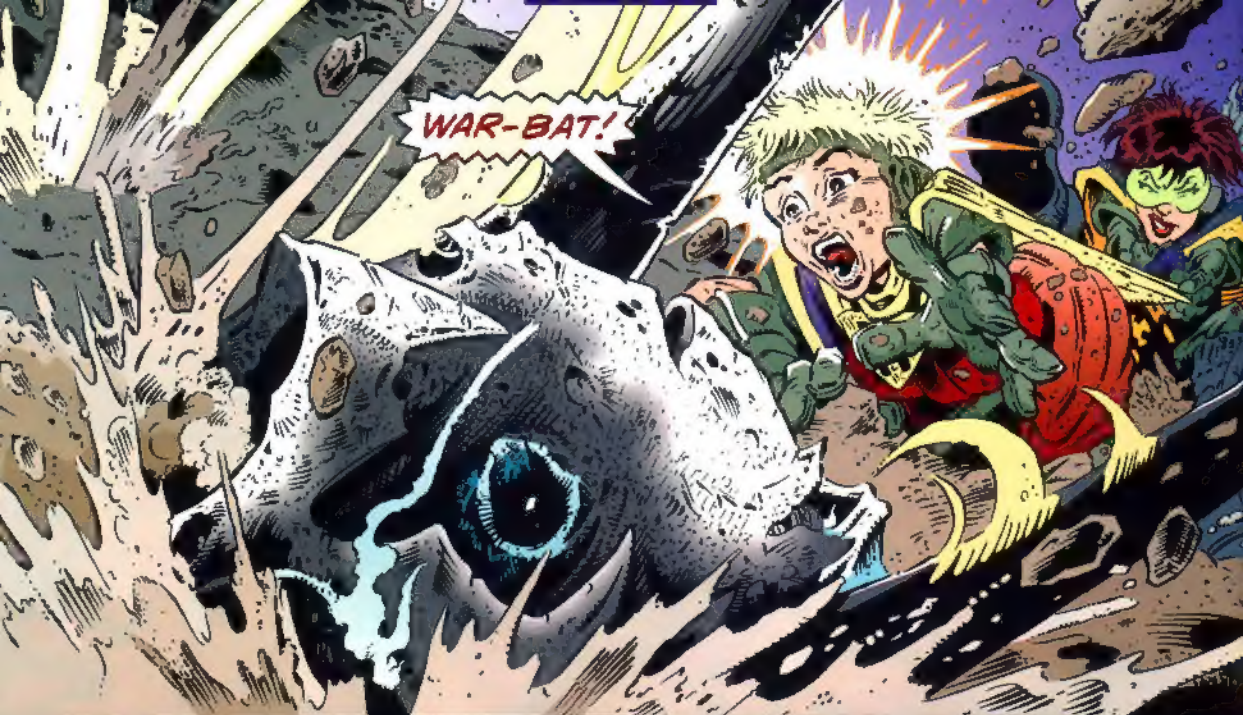
KEEP YOUR
HEAD LOW!
THAT THING'S
A KILLER

BUT I
CAN'T SEE
THE WAR-
BAT!



"I WANT TO SEE HIM
TAKE THAT JOKESTER-
BOT APART!"





WAR-BAT!



HE'S DEAD.

HE WAS NEVER ALIVE, DEALS. HE WAS NEVER EVEN A "HE."



IT WAS A WEAPON AND IT WAS FULFILLING ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION.

JUST LIKE THAT CROTONAN MACHINE; FIGHTING FOR MASTERS THAT HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.



HE WAS A HERO. AND YOU DIDN'T PROGRAM THAT INTO HIM. HE SAVED OUR LIVES.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... ROBIN.

BET YOUR BUTT I AM... ROBIN.

HEY!





... I THINK
I LIKED IT.

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THE
END

DETECTIVE COMICS

THIS MONTH IN DETECTIVE COMICS



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