

VERTIGO
DC COMICS

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MATURE READERS

the vertigo **HORROR** anthology

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**HORROR
GETS A
FACELIFT**



**THREE
EYE-POPPING
TALES BY:**

RICHARD BRUNING

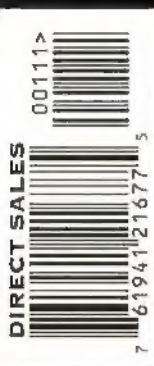
JIM LEE

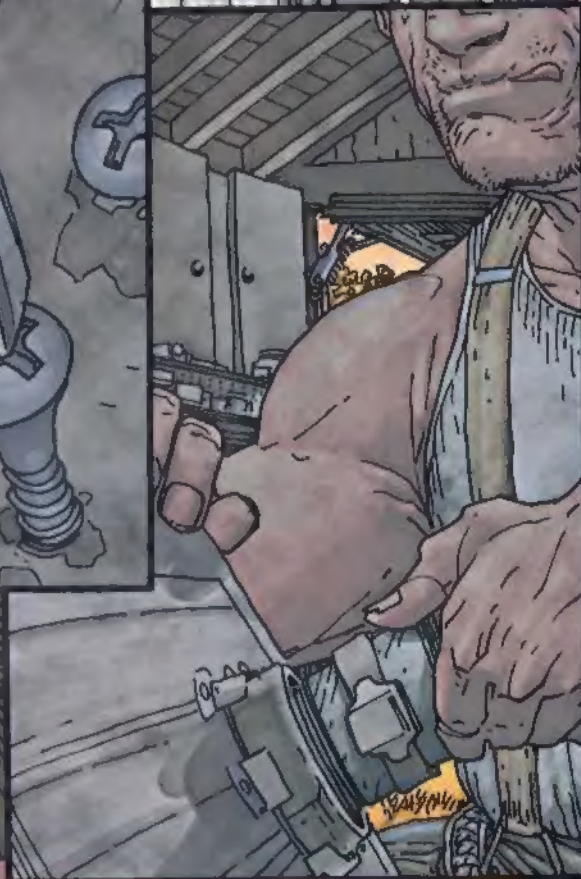
BRUCE JONES

RICHARD CORBEN

JEN VAN METER

FRANK QUITELY





PLEASE GOD...

LET IT WORK THIS TIME...

ROCKET-MAN

Richard Bruning
STORY/LETTERS

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nom deplume scan

YEAH... THIS TIME IS GONNA BE IT.



I CAN FEEL IT.



*ALL THOSE
YEARS, SITTIN'
IN THAT DAMN
TOLL BOOTH,
BREATHIN'
THOSE FUMES,
AN' HATIN' IT...*

*BUT,
AFTER
TONIGHT,
NEVER AGAIN.*



*OK, GANG.
THIS IS THE NIGHT
WE'VE ALL BEEN
WAITIN' FOR.*



*TONIGHT,
DADDY?!
HONEST?*





THAT'S RIGHT, CASSIE,
ALL THOSE NIGHTS AND
WEEKENDS IN THE GARAGE
PAY OFF TONIGHT!

THE SUIT
IS DONE AND
READY TO GO!



FRAN...
YOU'VE BEEN SO
GREAT PUTTIN' UP
WITH THIS...
SINCE, I GUESS,
EVEN BEFORE THE
KIDS WERE BORN.

I FIGURE YOU'VE
SUFFERED PLENTY, BUT...
HECK, YOU KNOW HOW
MUCH DOIN' THIS
MEANT TO ME.



AND, BILL, I SWEAR,
I'LL MAKE UP FOR ALL
THOSE GAMES
I MISSED. HONEST.
YOU'LL SEE.



THIS TIME
IT'S GONNA WORK,
I SWEAR. I CAN
JUST FEEL IT.

DADDY,
YOU'RE
THE BEST!



OH, SWEETIE,
THANKS. YOU SURE
HELPED KEEP ME GOIN'.
YOU ALL HAVE.

AND TONIGHT I'M GONNA
PAY YOU ALL BACK FOR
BEING SO PATIENT AN'
EVERYTHING.



TONIGHT'S
THE NIGHT
I FLY!

YIPPEE!!

MAYBE YOU
SHOULD ALL
STAND BACK
A LITTLE...

KLICK--

FSST!

TRY IT AGAIN,
DADDY!

...HERE GOES...

KLICK--

PFFF!

WHAT'S TH...

KLICK--

BOOM!



OMIGOD!



THIS IS
INCREDIBLE!
LOOK AT ME!
I'M --



CASSIE?

FRAN?



BILL?
WHERE
ARE YOU?

WELL, THEY'LL SEE ME ONCE
THE SMOKE CLEARS...

AND THEY'LL BE SO PROUD...

I FINALLY DID IT!

I'M
FLYING!





LARRY, WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED HERE?!

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO BELIEVE
THIS ONE, ED.

THE NEIGHBORS
SAY THE GUY WHO
LIVED HERE...

SAY
WHAT?!

Y'KNOW,
A JET PACK,
LIKE IN THOSE
OLD SCI-FI
STORIES...

...AND IT APPEARS
TONIGHT HE
SET IT OFF.

OH JEEZ.
WHAT A FUCKIN'
MESS.

YOU'RE TELLIN' ME.
THE WIFE'S THIRD DEGREE BURNS
HEAD TO FOOT, THE BOY'S GOT HALF A
FACE LEFT AND A CRUSHED CHEST,
AND THE LITTLE GIRL...

...WELL, SHE
AIN'T GONNA
MAKE IT THROUGH
THE NIGHT.

AND THE
ROCKET-MAN?

THAT'S HIM
ALL OVER. THEY'LL BE SCRAPIN'
HIM OFF THE GARAGE
FOR A WEEK.

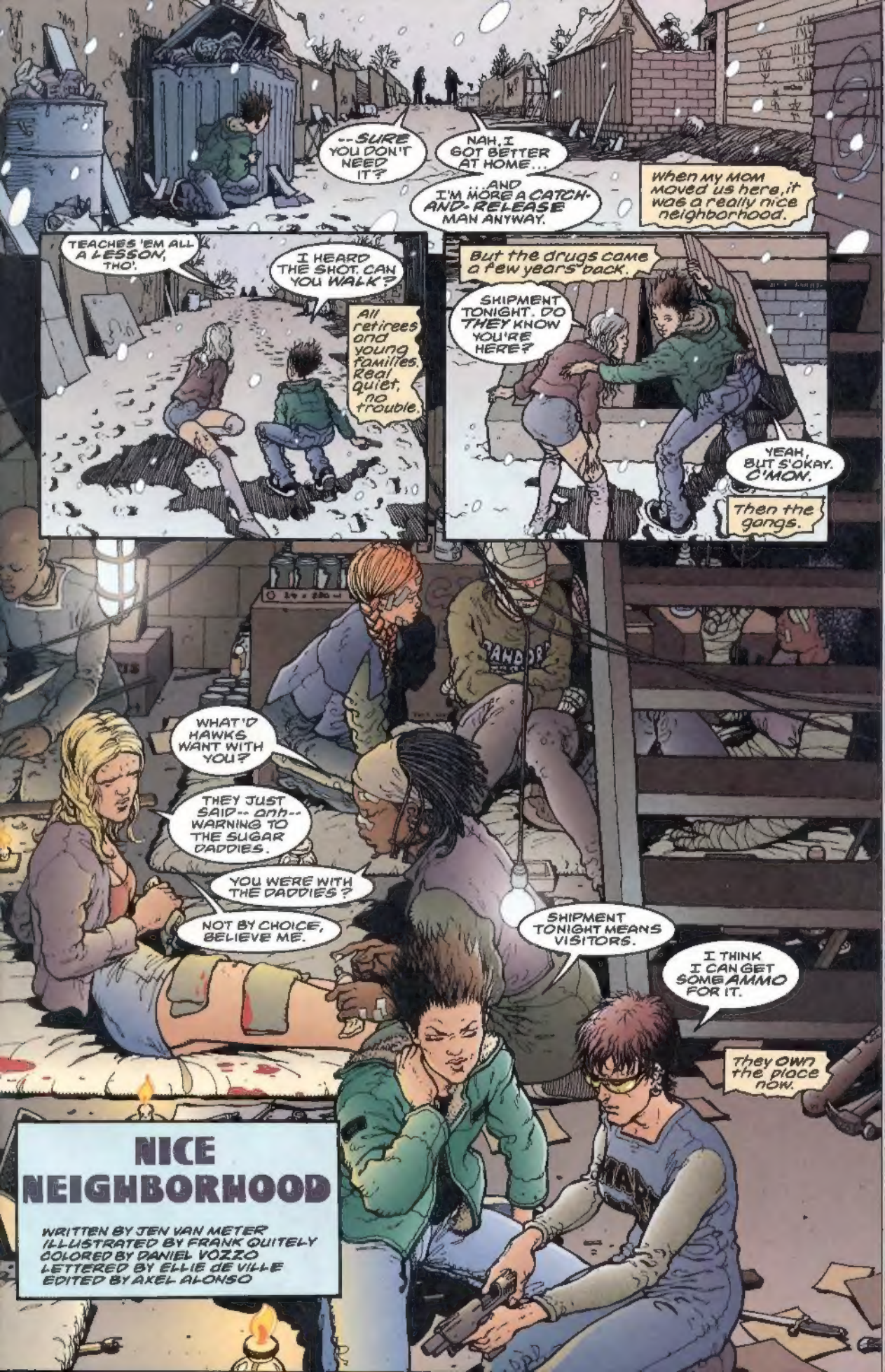




OH MAN...
WHAT THE HELL
WAS HE
THINKIN'
ANYWAY?

WHO KNOWS...?
SOME GUYS JUST
ALWAYS GOT
THEIR HEAD IN
THE CLOUDS.

•fini•



--SURE
YOU DON'T
NEED
IT?

NAH, I
GOT BETTER
AT HOME...

AND
I'M MORE A CATCH-
AND-RELEASE
MAN ANYWAY.

When my mom
moved us here, it
was a really nice
neighborhood.

TEACHES 'EM ALL
A LESSON,
THO'.

I HEARD
THE SHOT. CAN
YOU WALK?

All retirees
and
young families.
Real
quiet,
no trouble.

But the drugs came
a few years back.

SHIPMENT
TONIGHT. DO
THEY KNOW
YOU'RE
HERE?

YEAH,
BUT S'OKAY.
C'MON.

Then the
gangs.

WHAT'D
HAWKS
WANT WITH
YOU?

THEY JUST
SAID-- OH--
WARNING TO
THE SUGAR
DADDIES.

YOU WERE WITH
THE DADDIES?

NOT BY CHOICE,
BELIEVE ME.

SHIPMENT
TONIGHT MEANS
VISITORS.

I THINK
I CAN GET
SOME AMMO
FOR IT.

they own
the place
now.

NICE NEIGHBORHOOD

WRITTEN BY JEN VAN METER
ILLUSTRATED BY FRANK QUITELY
COLORED BY DANIEL VOZZO
LETTERED BY ELLIE DEVILLE
EDITED BY AXEL ALONSO

The Flying Aces got
Kim back in November
I got one of them that
night with a tire iron.

All by myself

YOU CANT
IGNORE US
ANY MORE

ANYONE
KNOW WHERE
THOSE CURLING
IRONS ARE?

CRATE
UNDER THE
STAIRS

The Silver
Wolves found
us at the
apartment
last week

We didn't
let them
in.

AW, COME ON,
DON'CHA WANNA
PARTY A
LITTLE?

YOU
GIRLS GOT
NOTHIN' TO
BE AFRAID
OF

--FRIENDLY
SOCIAL
CALL IS
ALL--

Then they
really got
mad.

They caught Lisa
when she was out
for supplies.

STUPID
TEASE!

TELL 'EM
WE'RE COMING
BACK SOON,
BRAT!

Beat her pretty
bad. We had to move
everyone here.

ghuh!

WE'RE
NOT DONE
WITH YOU YET,
SLUT!

She got a chance
to run, though, and
she took it. Smart
kid

The drugs keep
these guys going.

SHE'S OVER
HERE!

THIS WAY!

whee-see

YOU
OKAY? NEED
A DOSE?

S'NA
GOOD IDEA
BYPASS--
CATCHIN' UP
WID ME

but if you run them long
enough, their hearts just
explode or something.

SHE'S
GONE.

GIVE IT UP,
GUYS.

WE'LL
GET HER
WHEN THE NEW
SHIPMENT
COMES IN.

YOU
SHOULD SEE MY
CARDIOLOGIST
HE RUNS WITH THE
COUNTRY CLUB
KINGS.

It's good for
little kids like her,
running them. I've
gotten' kind of
sick of it



I have gotten so sick of running.

BEEN TOO BUSY TO VISIT THE OLD FOLKS?

YOU GIRLS WANNA PLAY NICE NOW?

we all have this time, we will let them in.



and we will be ready.

THERE YOU ARE NICE AND YOUNG LIKE-- AGHH!

GET AWAY FROM HER

YEHHH! LITTLE--

MY NEW EYES! GHYAAH!

I'm almost looking forward to this



I'M GONNA GET WHAT I WANT, LITTLE GIRL



NO YOU WON'T BUT I WILL

ALMOST

Thing is, sometimes I kind of understand them why they're so mad.

They used to be a big joke, see?

CALLING



-- SIXTY YEARS OF MARRIAGE, GUY TAKES THE STUFF --

-- SHOTS HIS WIFE CUZ SHE DOESN'T WANT SEX.

RIGOR FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BORED

HA HA HA HA



AFTER SIXTY YEARS, HELL, I'D SHOOT HER IF SHE DID!

DOES THEIR RAGE SURPRISE YOU? AFTER DECADES OF BEING IGNORED, NEGLECTED, SNEERED AT, DEHUMANIZED, DESEXUALIZED?

WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE HAVE DONE?

MAYBE AGING SHOULD BE ABOUT STEPPING ASIDE QUIETLY, RIGHT, TORI?

TRY STEPPING IN, SIDE, WILL, OR AT LEAST GET SOME PLASTIC SURGERY!

BWAHA HA

-- SUSPECTS IN A THREE-DAY SPREE OF RAPE AND ASSAULTS TARGETING PROSTITUTES

THE TWO MEN WERE SHOT WHEN POLICE RETURNED THEIR FIRE.

EARLY REPORTS SUGGEST BOTH MEN WERE USING RIGOR IN ADDITION TO STEROID AND TESTOSTERONE COMPOUNDS.

SO NOW THESE GUYS JUST NEED TO LEARN THE OTHER ATHLETES' SECRET--

-- BIGGER TEAM, BETTER OFFENSE! HEH HEH!



Big joke Real funny.

It wasn't a joke to some people.



what happened to them wasn't funny either



It's no joke for us

Not here in Cloverton

not in Palm Springs

not in Scottsdale

and not in Miami Beach

YOU CAN'T SCARE US ANYMORE



END?

DID YOU EVER WAKE
UP ONE DAY AND REALIZE
--QUITE BY ACCIDENT--THAT
IN FACT, YOU ARE GOD?..



...AND BEING GOD, WHAT
IS IT YOU'D WANT? WHAT
IS THE SINGLE THING IN
AN ETERNITY OF HAVING
EVERYTHING, NEEDING
NOTHING, YOU MIGHT
POSSIBLY COVET?..



COMPANIONSHIP? BUT
YOU ALREADY HAVE
THAT YOU CREATED MAN

REST
STOP!

AND WOMAN...

THIS IS A TALE TOLD
BY ONE OF HIS MINIONS,
ONE OF HIS CORPORALS IN
HIS ARMY OF TRUTH.

MY NAME IS PETER MILKEN,
AND THIS IS A STORY ABOUT
THE ONE THING THAT
EVEN GOD NEEDS..



WOLF GIRL EATS

Written by BRUCE JONES
Illustrated by RICHARD CORBEN
Colored by GRANT GOLEASH
Separated by DIGITAL CHAMELEON
Lettered by CLEM ROBINS
Edited by AXEL ALONSO

HAVE YOU GUESSED YET?
HERE'S A HINT GOD CREATED
MAN IN HIS IMAGE

ANOTHER
BACKWOODS
CANADIAN HAM-
LET, REVEREND
LOOK DOWN
THERE NOT A
CHURCH
STEEPLE IN
SIGHT

IF GOD MADE ONLY
HOLY MEN, THERE WOULD
BE NO WORK FOR
EVANGELISTS,
CORPORAL MILKEN

SO...YOU ARE GOD...YOU HAVE
EVERYTHING...CERTAINLY
YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU..
WHAT THEN DO YOU NEED?..

LOOKS
DESERTED,
BROTHER
MILKEN

PERHAPS
THEY'RE ALL
AT CHURCH
?CHUCKIE?

SARCASM
REAPS SARCASM,
BROTHER MILKEN
LOOK

WOLF
GIRL
EATS
2 MILES

SOME WAYWARD
ADOLESCENTS
FILTHY JOKE

THEN IT'S
OUR JOB TO
SEEK HIM OUT...
RESTORETH
HIS SOUL...

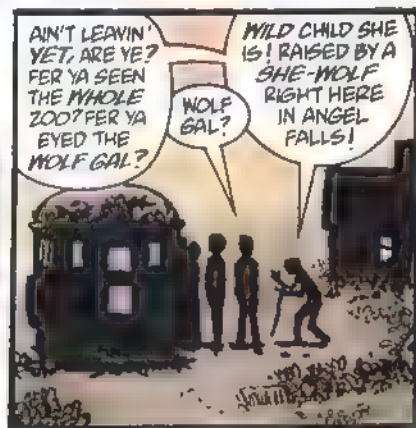
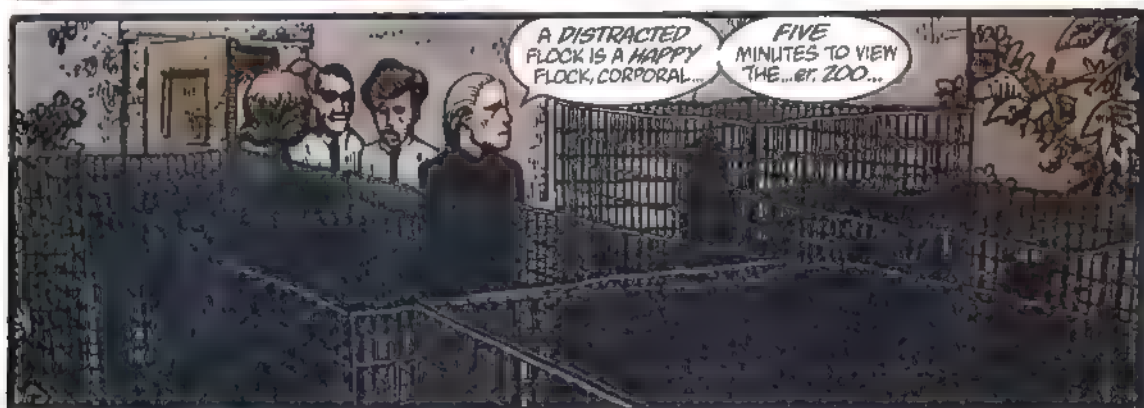
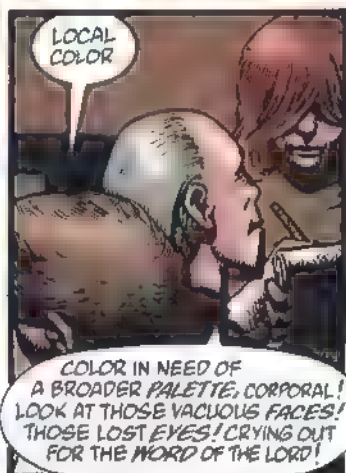
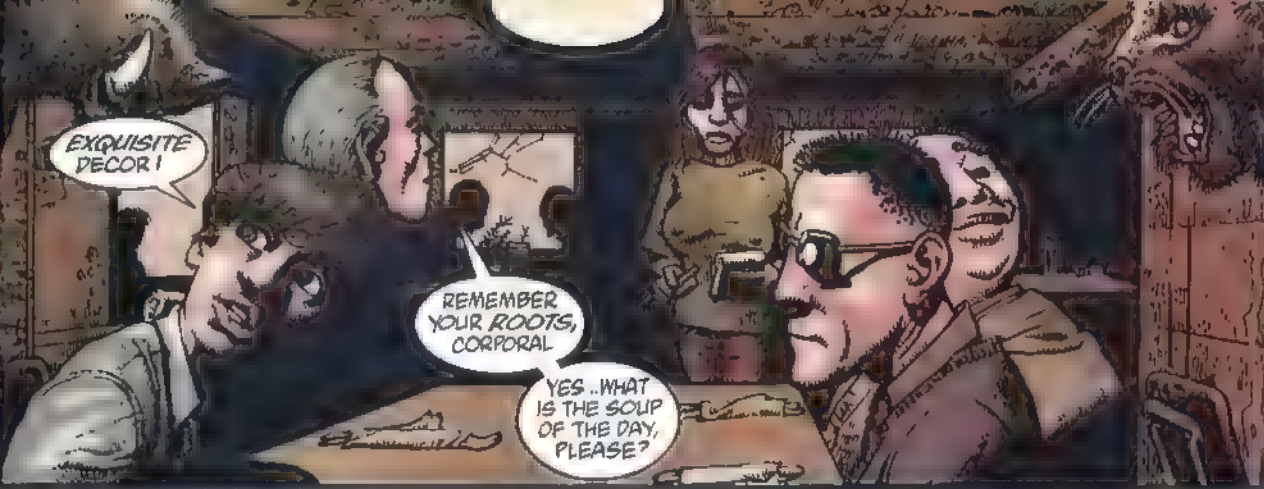
BUT FIRST
OUR FLOCK NEEDS
NOURISHMENT!

YOU ARE GOD AND YOU'VE
GIVEN MAN EVERYTHING
WHAT CAN HE GIVE YOU?

WOLF GIRL EATS

I CAN
IMAGINE THE
CUISINE

FAITH,
BROTHER
MILKEN
FAITH...



TEMPTATION? IS THAT
WHAT MAN COULD OFFER
GOD? OR IS GOD BEYOND
ALL EARTHLY WANT?

"TEMPTATION"... I PONDERED
THE THOUGHT AS WE ERECTED
THE FIRST NIGHT'S REVIVAL.

NEVER KNOWD THE
TOUCH OF A MAN! PURE SHE
IS... AN AGATE OF EYE!

NOT
EXACTLY A
KILLER
CROWD..

GOD'S
WORD WILL
BE SPREAD,
BROTHER
MILKEN.

AND CHR.ST
TOUCHED
THE LEPERS
AND THEY WERE
HEALED!

YOU'RE LOSING THEM,
REVEREND SHALL I SET UP
THE SOUP AND CRACKERS?

POWER... PERHAPS
THAT IS WHAT GOD
NEEDS... THE POWER
OF CONTROL...

AND THE
ROMANS
DID SIN
BEFORE THE
ALMIGHTY!

SINNED!
AMEN!

NO. SET UP THE
PROJECTOR...

THEY DID WAGER! THEY DID
DRINK! THEY DID BUTCHERY
BEFORE THE LORD'S WRATHFUL
EYE!

"LOSING THEM."
BROTHER MILKEN?

IGNORANT FOOLS
HAVE PROBABLY
NEVER SEEN A
MOVING PICTURE
IN THEIR LIVES..

AMEN,
BROTHER!
YEA!

"TEMPTATION"
CAN EVEN
GOD BE
TEMPTED?...

TOMORROW NIGHT
WE'LL SET UP OUTDOOR
LOUD SPEAKERS! GOD'S
WORD WILL RING ACROSS
THE MOUNTAIN TOPS!

OUT FER A WALK,
ARE YE? COME TO
SEE THE WOLF GAL,
HAVE YE? Heh-heh!
GET YE IN FREE
TONIGHT!

BEGONE,
FILTH!

LET
HIM SPEAK,
CORPORAL

MORE BEAUTEIOUS
THAN AN ANGEL, SHE
IS!! WILD AS THE NORTH
WIND! COME HAVE A
LOOK! NO CHARGE
TONIGHT!

COME,
BROTHER
MILKEN IF
ONE OF GOD'S
CHILDREN IS
IN DISTRESS,
IT IS OUR
CHRISTIAN DUTY
TO HELP HER

LEAD ON, OLD MAN

WHAT'S
THIS--?

Heh-heh!
USED TO BE A PIT
FER DOG FIGHTS! BUT
THE LAW GOT ON US!

WOLF GAL!
Heh-heh! NE'ER
TOUCHED BY
HUMAN HANDS!

DEAR
LORD..

"AND GOD
CREATED
WOMAN"

WHO IS SHE,
OLD MAN? TO
WHOM DOES SHE
BELONG?

BELONG?
Heh-heh! TO THE
WOODS!

AND ONCE
TEMPTED. TO
WHOM DOES
A GOD TURN?

ANOTHER RUSE,
REVEREND! IT'S THE
MUTE WAITRESS
ALL DONE UP!

SHE IS A CHILD OF
GOD, CORPORAL WHEN
THE TIME IS RIGHT, WE
WILL HELP HER.

DOES GOD
DREAM,
DO YOU
SUPPOSE?

...OR IS ALL
OF LIFE
BUT HIS
DREAMS...?

.. AND TO WAKEN GOD--
NO MATTER WHAT HIS
DREAMS--OUR END...?

REVEREND!

WHA--?

YOU WERE
TALKING IN
YOUR SLEEP!
THE...THE
THINGS YOU
SAID...

IT'S
HER! THAT
...THING!
YOU COVET
HER! YOU
DEBASE
YOURSELF
WITH HER!

MILKEN!
YOU FORGET
YOURSELF! WHO
YOU ARE!

YES. WHO I
WAS. THE DAY
I FIRST CAST
EYES UPON
GOD..



...FIRST FELT--A LONELY RUNAWAY--HIS LOVE FALL UPON ME...

FEAR NOT, BOY...THERE IS NO SIN OF FLESH UNDER GOD'S EYES...



COME AND BE SUCCORED...COME DRINK FROM GOD'S SILVER CUP...



JEALOUSY IS A SIN, CORPORAL MILKEN I DRIVE IT FROM YOUR SOUL!

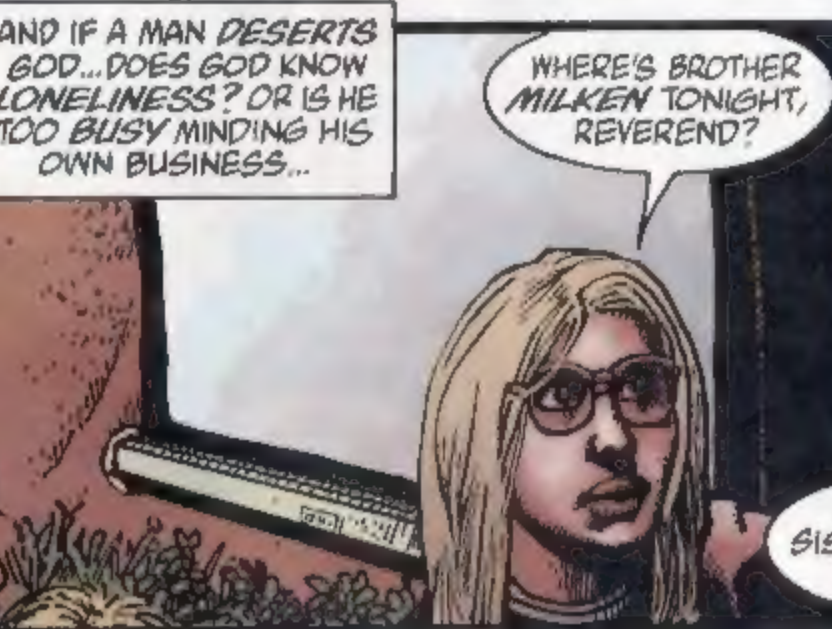
I WILL--



--WHEN I HAVE DRIVEN HERS FROM YOURS!

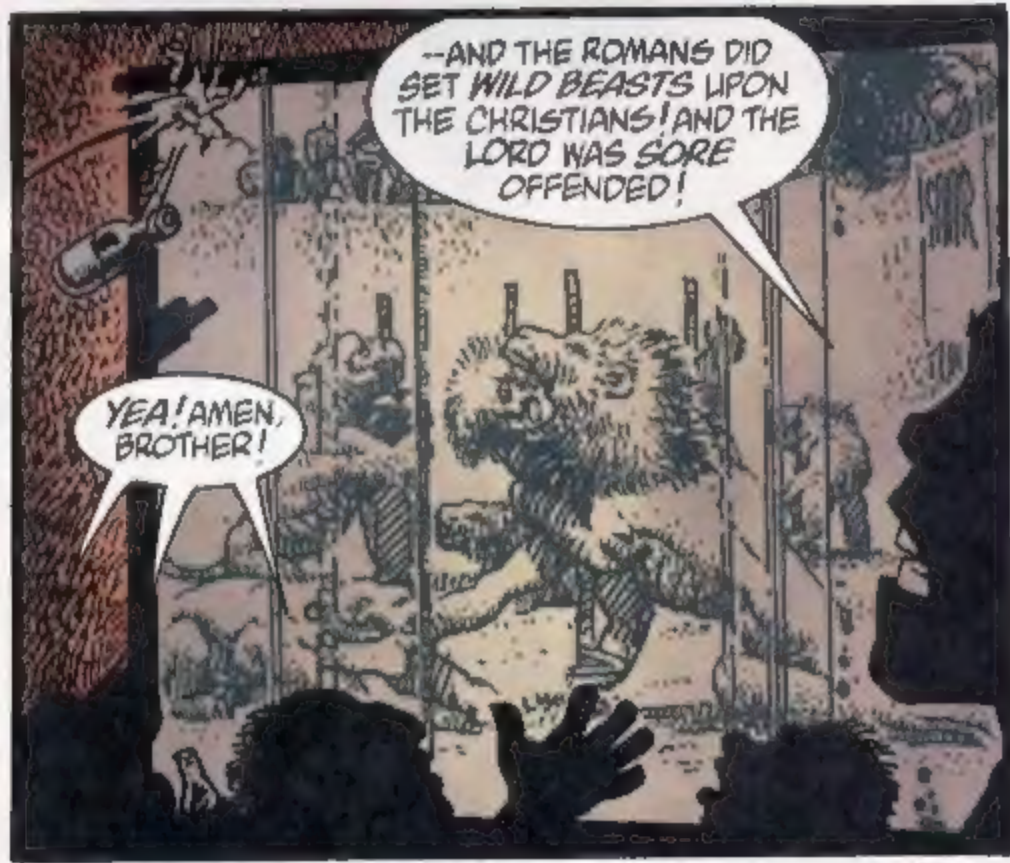


AND IF A MAN DESERTS GOD...DOES GOD KNOW LONELINESS? OR IS HE TOO BUSY MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS...



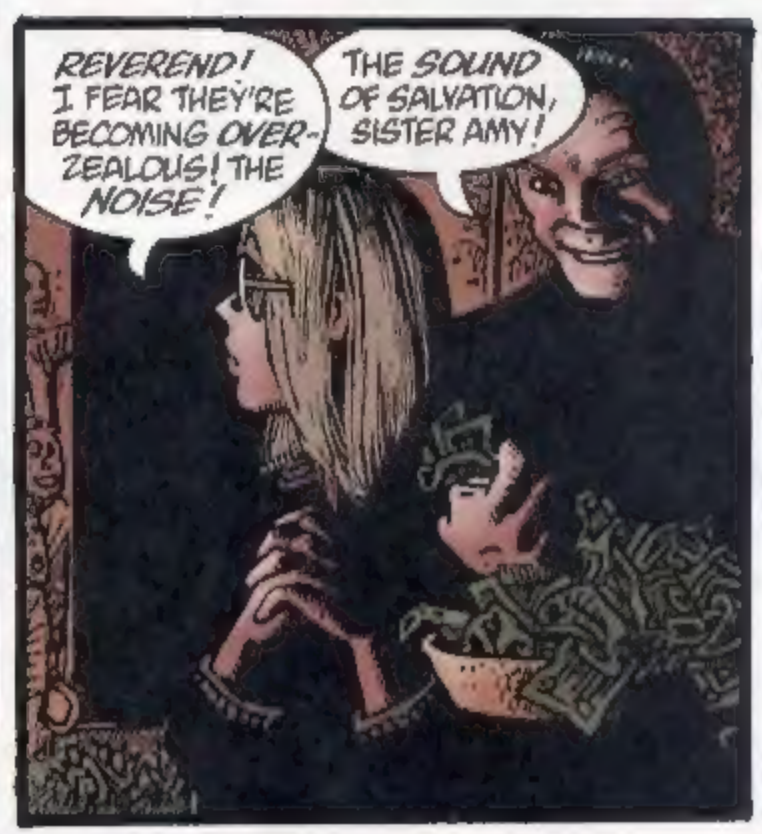
WHERE'S BROTHER MILKEN TONIGHT, REVEREND?

NEVER MIND, SISTER AMY...YOU MAN THE PROJECTOR...



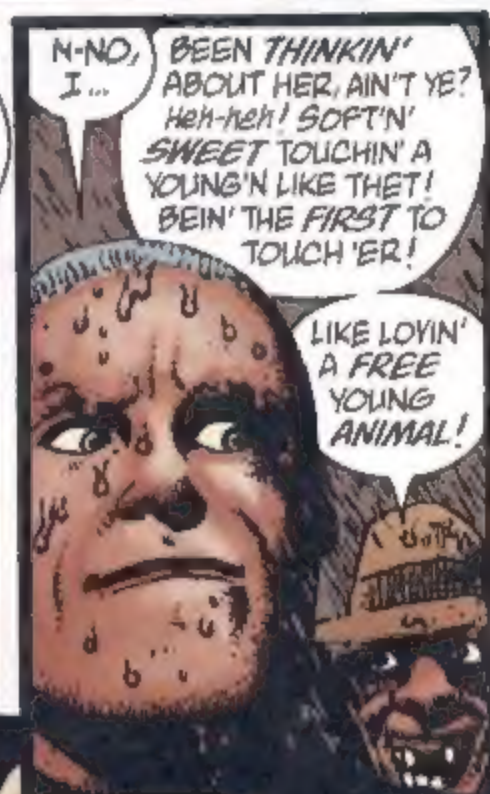
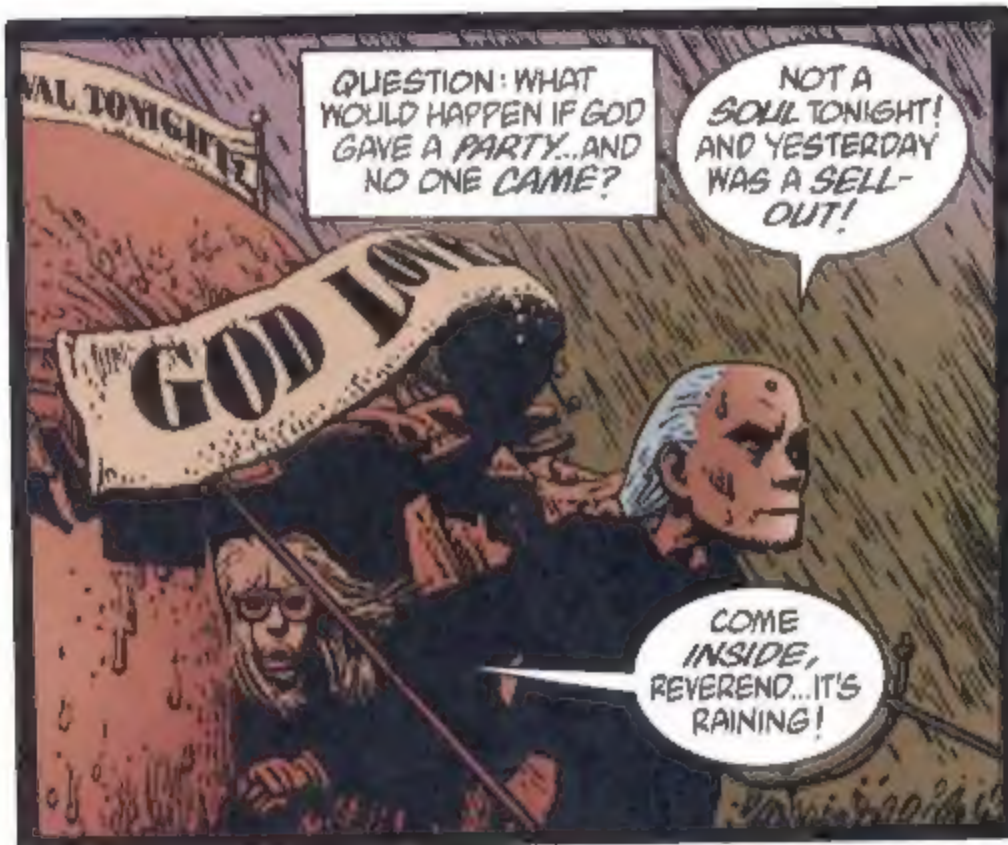
--AND THE ROMANS DID SET WILD BEASTS UPON THE CHRISTIANS! AND THE LORD WAS SORE OFFENDED!

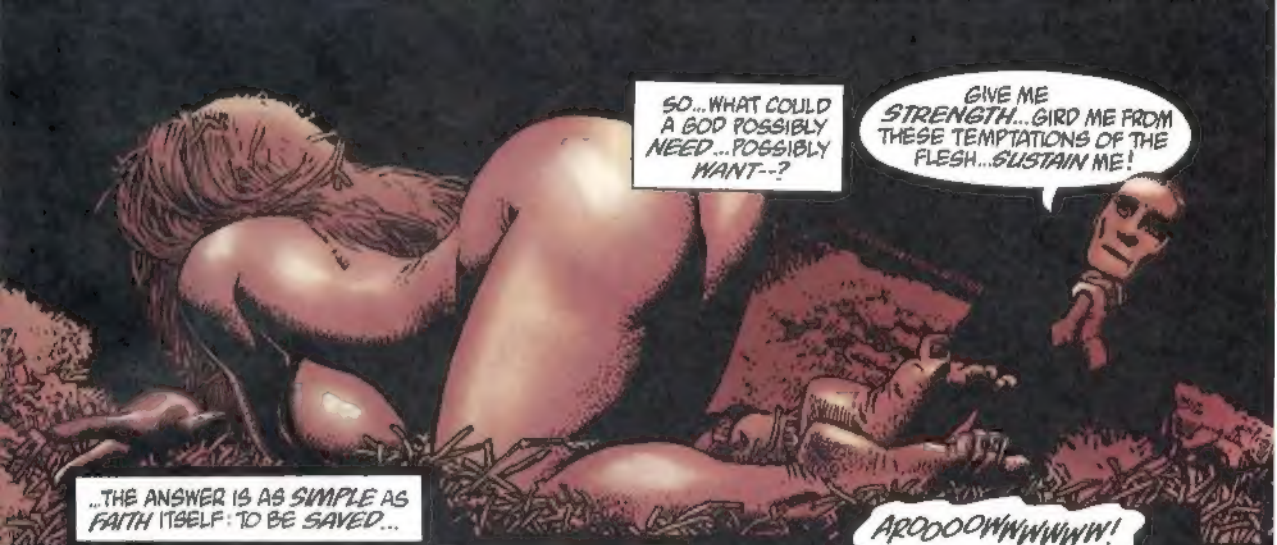
YEA! AMEN, BROTHER!



REVEREND! I FEAR THEY'RE BECOMING OVER-ZEALOUS! THE NOISE!

THE SOUND OF SALVATION, SISTER AMY!





SO...WHAT COULD
A GOD POSSIBLY
NEED...POSSIBLY
WANT--?

GIVE ME
STRENGTH...GIRD ME FROM
THESE TEMPTATIONS OF THE
FLESH...SUSTAIN ME!

...THE ANSWER IS AS SIMPLE AS
FAITH ITSELF: TO BE SAVED...



SHE
BITCH!

NO!



...FROM HIMSELF!

MILKEN!
GET AWAY
FROM HER!



AROOOOWWWWW!

BASTARD!



SHE'S THE
DEVIL INCARNATE!
SHE'S TAKEN YOUR
SOUL!

DON'T
BE A FOOL!--
AGGHHH!



DON'T MAKE
ME HURT YOU,
MILKEN!

HURT
ME! YOU'VE
DESTROYED
ME! DESTROYED
US BOTH!



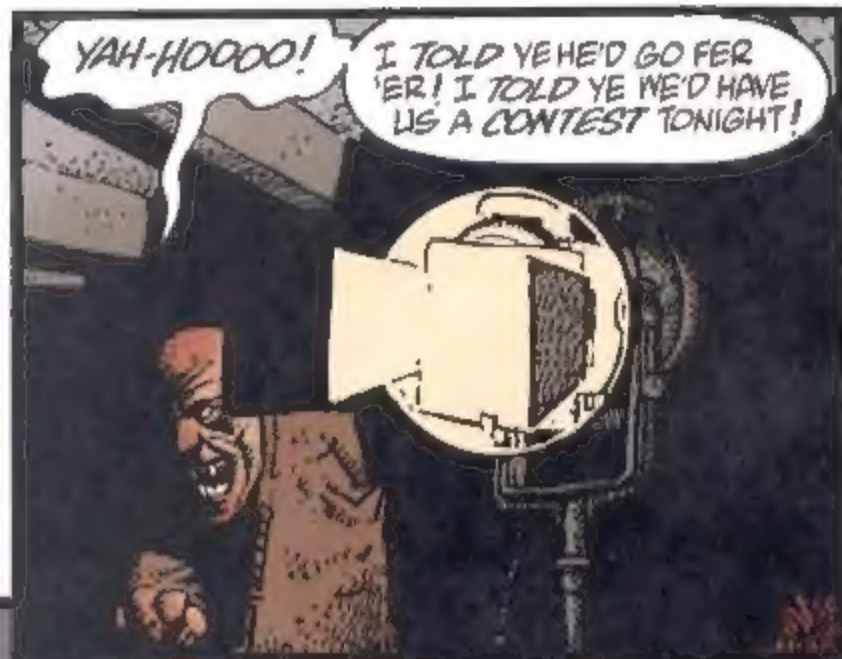
NO! DON'T
MAKE ME!

NNNGGHH!



MILKEN...

I...
LOVED
YOU...



YAH-HOOOO!

I TOLD YE HE'D GO FER
'ER! I TOLD YE WE'D HAVE
US A CONTEST TONIGHT!



FIFTY BUCKS I
HAD ON THE BIG
FELLA! YEA BROTHER,
AND AMEN!

JES LIKE
ROMAN
TIMES!

...AND BECAUSE I
LOVED HIM, I WAS
BLIND TO THE
SIGNS...

...OH LORD...
WHAT HAVE
I DONE...

...TAUGHT
THEM... TAUGHT
THEM WELL...



WHAT
IS IT GOD
NEEDS?

TO BE REMINDED
THAT IN MAN'S IMAGE
HE IS *WEAK*...

LET
LOOSE THE
CIRCUS!



...THAT LIKE THE SERAPH BEFORE
HIM, HE CAN *STUMBLE*...



...AND BE
CAST
DOWN.

ANGEL
FALLS

THE END