

MARVEL®

A SCOTT ADAMS/MARVEL COMICS LIMITED SERIES

QUEST PROBE

FEATURING

THE
**HUMAN
TORCH**

AND
THE

THING

by SCOTT ADAMS
with art by
RON WILSON AND
JOE SINNOTT

75¢

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3

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Blast into space as an official YOUNG ASTRONAUT!



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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

QUESTPROBE!

Original concept by SCOTT ADAMS & JOHN BYRNE

FEATURING:
THE HUMAN TORCH AND THE THING!

SOME SAY THAT ONE'S HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS. IF SUCH IS THE CASE, THEN JOHNNY STORM'S HOME IS WHEREVER ALICIA MASTERS WALKS-- FOR THAT SIGHTLESS SCULPTRESS HAS RECENTLY WON THE YOUNG HERO'S HEART.

BUT HERE IN THE BAXTER BUILDING* LONG-TIME RESIDENCE OF THE FABLED FANTASTIC FOUR, JOHNNY FINDS THE WARMTH DRAWN FROM HIS LOVELY COMPANION QUICKLY FADING, AS IF LEECHED BY THE VERY DWELLING THAT HE ONCE CALLED... "HOME."

YOU KNOW, ALICIA, I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH THIS PLACE CAN FEEL LIKE... WELL... A TOMB.

*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE BAXTER BUILDING'S DESTRUCTION IN FANTASTIC FOUR #279--303.

STRANGERS

DAVID MICHELINIE
PLOT/SCRIPT

RON WILSON
PENCILS

JOE SINNOTT
FINISHER

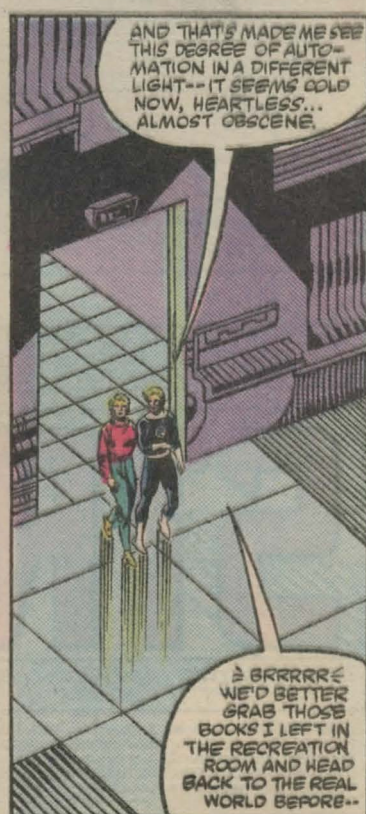
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LETTERS

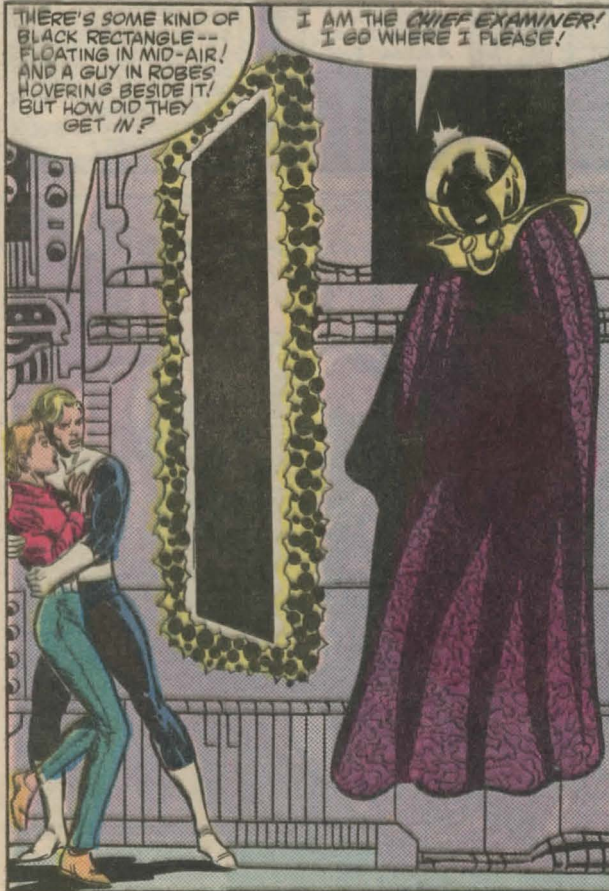
J. FERRITER
COLORS

BOB BUDIANSKY
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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THIS GUY SOUNDS LIKE A LUNATIC,
BUT IF HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO GET
INTO FANTASTIC FOUR HQ, WE'D
BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES!

JOHNNY STORM'S
OUTSTRETCHED
HAND BEGINS
TO SMOLDER
OMINOUSLY--

--WHILE THE CHIEF EXAMINER'S
HAND, DELICATE AND ETHEREAL,
WAITS OUT TO TOUCH A NEARBY
COMPUTERIZED CONTROL
CONSOLE--

AS A RESULT
OF WHICH...

--TRIGGERING
AN EXCHANGE
OF ELECTRONS
FASTER THAN
THE BLINK OF
A HUMAN EYE.

SERVICE ALCOVES
OPENING! I DON'T
GET IT! THOSE
MAINTENANCE
DROVES AREN'T
SUPPOSED TO ACTIVATE
UNLESS THERE'S
SOMETHING TO CLEAN
UP OR REPAIR!

"AND NOW THEY'RE GROUPING TOGETHER,
HEADING STRAIGHT AT US LIKE THEY'RE
GOING TO ATTACK! IT'S ALMOST LIKE
THEY'VE BEEN REPROGRAMMED!"

"GET DOWN,
ALICIA! I'M
GOING TO--"

THE A-MAZE-ING
OREO!

CHOCOLATE SANDWICH COOKIE



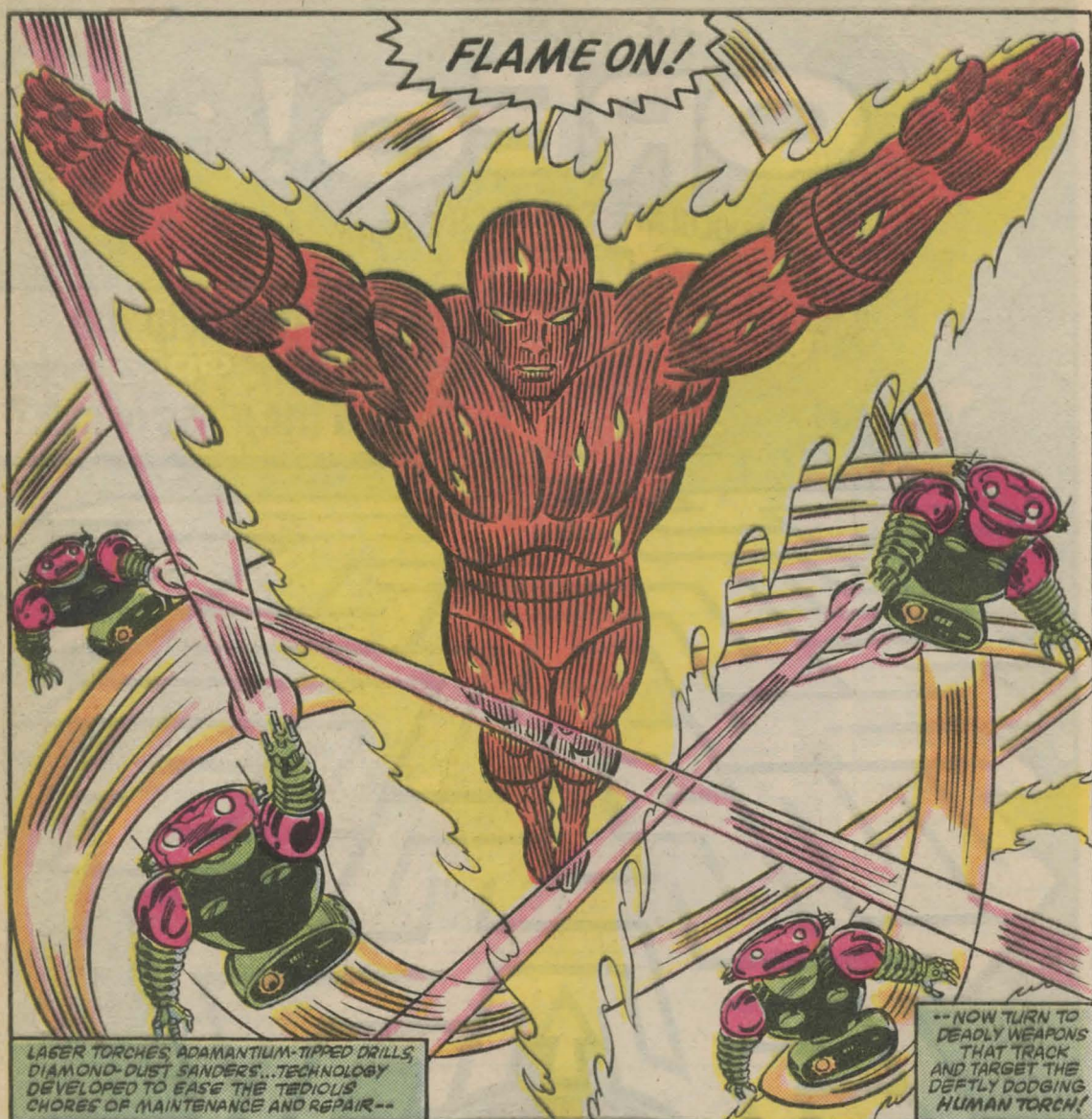
Can you help the
delicious **OREO** cookie
find the glass of milk?



I imagine all the fun you can have with **OREO** cookies!



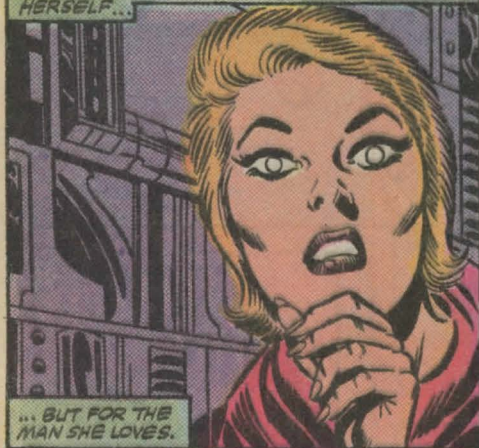
FLAME ON!



LASER TORCHES, ADAMANTIUM-TIPPED DRILLS, DIAMOND-DUST SANDERS...TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED TO EASE THE TEDIOUS CHORES OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR--

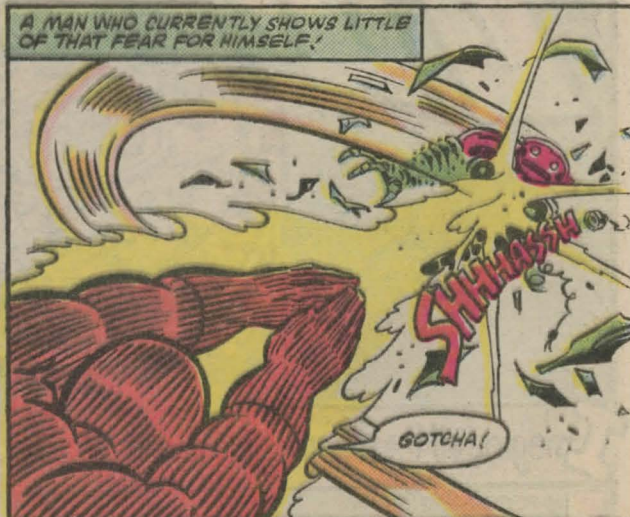
--NOW TURN TO DEADLY WEAPONS THAT TRACK AND TARGET THE DEFTLY DODGING HUMAN TORCH!

WHILE NEARBY, ALICIA MASTERS COCKS HER HEAD THIS WAY, THEN THAT, FOLLOWING THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE, HER FACE A MASK OF FEAR. NOT FOR HERSELF...



... BUT FOR THE MAN SHE LOVES.

A MAN WHO CURRENTLY SHOWS LITTLE OF THAT FEAR FOR HIMSELF!



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The Bonkers! Robot-Watch is two kinds of space-age fun. On your wrist, it's a digital watch. Off the strap, it transforms into a robot. You can get it from Bonkers! — the fruit candy that comes in four out-of-this-world flavors — strawberry, grape, orange, and new watermelon.



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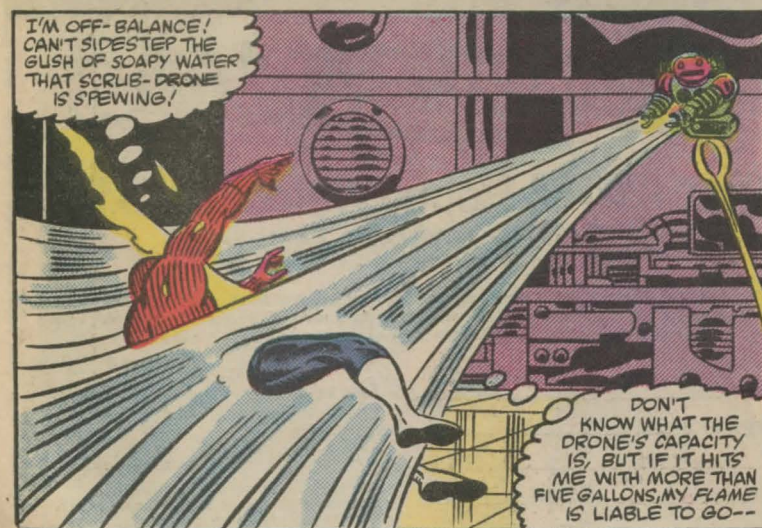
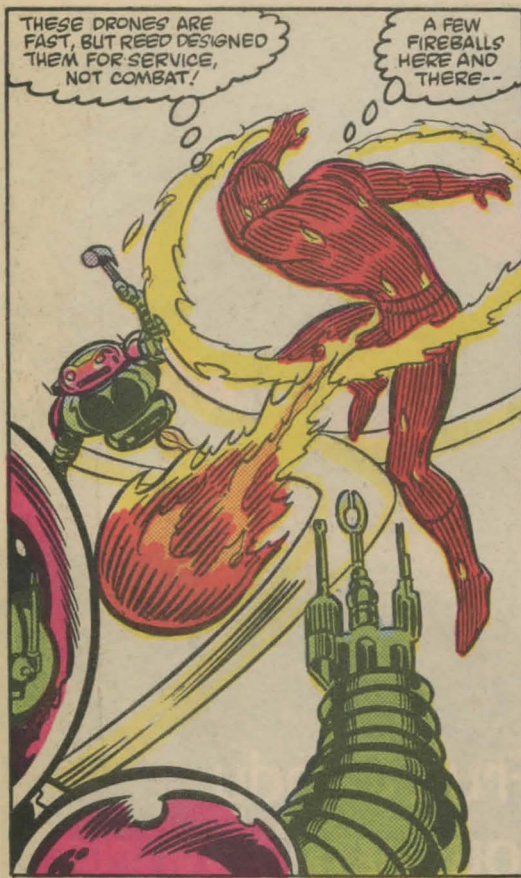
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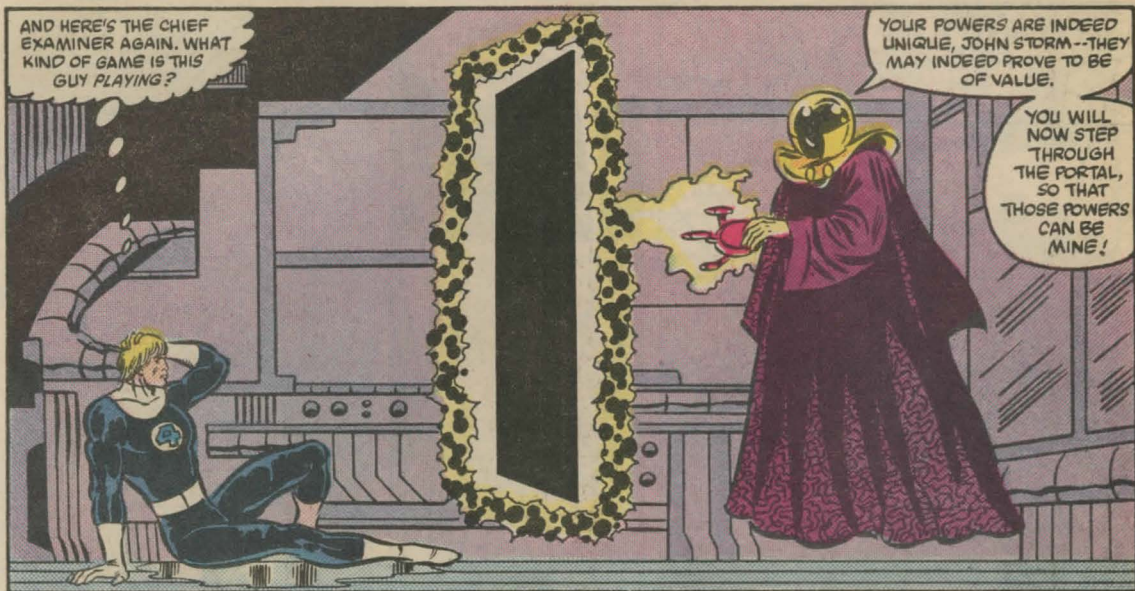
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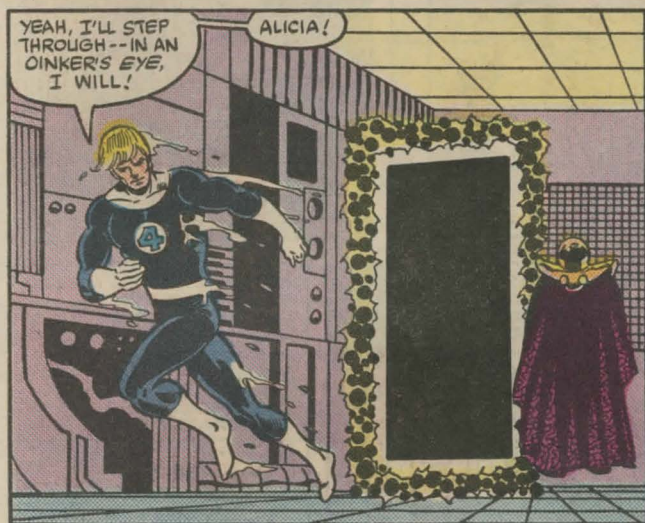




AND HERE'S THE CHIEF EXAMINER AGAIN. WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS GUY PLAYING?

YOUR POWERS ARE INDEED UNIQUE, JOHN STORM--THEY MAY INDEED PROVE TO BE OF VALUE.

YOU WILL NOW STEP THROUGH THE PORTAL, SO THAT THOSE POWERS CAN BE MINE!



YEAH, I'LL STEP THROUGH--IN AN OINKER'S EYE, I WILL!

ALICIA!



COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE FIFTH FLOOR, TO THE HANGARS! ONCE I'VE FLOWN YOU TO SAFETY IN A FANTASICAR, I CAN GET THE REST OF THE FF AND--



--HEY! THE ELEVATOR DOOR ISN'T OPENING!

THAT IS BECAUSE I DO NOT WILL IT TO DO SO!



WHEN I REPROGRAMMED THE ALARM CIRCUITRY TO CEASE FUNCTIONING, I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF CANCELING THE ELEVATOR PROGRAMMING AS WELL!



HOLY--! REED'S COMPUTERS ARE THE BEST-PROTECTED ELECTRONICS ON EARTH! IF THAT GUY CAN GET INTO THEM LIKE HE SAYS--

--HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN I EVER IMAGINED!



JOHNNY! I-I WANT TO HELP--!

JUST RUN! WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE!



THE EMERGENCY ELEVATOR! IT'S ON A DIFFERENT CIRCUIT THAN THE OTHERS--!

WITH A LITTLE LUCK--



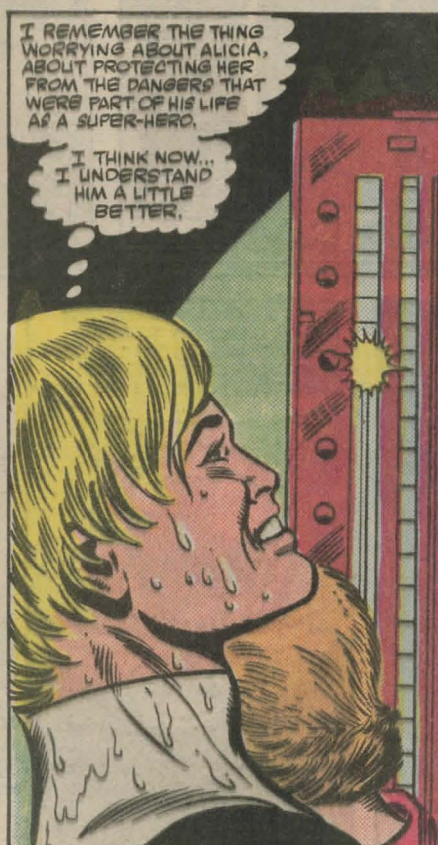
-- ALL RIGHT! IT'S WORKING! HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET TO THE HANGAR LEVEL BEFORE THAT EXAMINER GUY FIGURES OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!



AND, AS THE EMERGENCY ELEVATOR HUMS GENTLY UPWARD...

AUTOMATED DRONES, AUTOMATED ELEVATORS... THE WHOLE BLASTED BUILDING'S TURNED AGAINST US!

AND ALICIA-- SHE FEELS SO SOFT, SO VULNERABLE, AND UNLESS I DRY OUT FAST, I WON'T BE MUCH BETTER OFF!



I REMEMBER THE THING WORRYING ABOUT ALICIA, ABOUT PROTECTING HER FROM THE DANGERS THAT WERE PART OF HIS LIFE AS A SUPER-HERO.

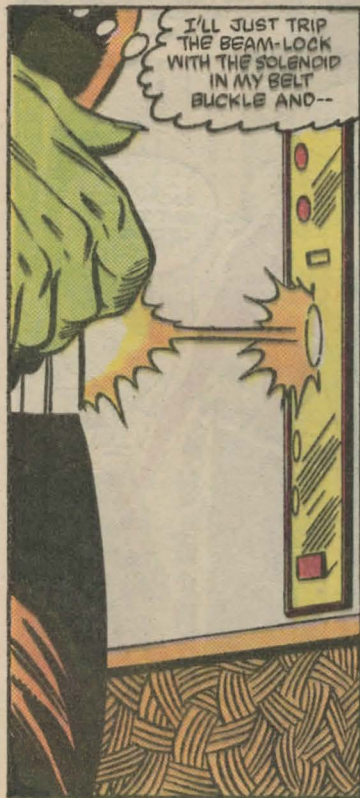
I THINK NOW... I UNDERSTAND HIM A LITTLE BETTER.



MEANWHILE, AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BAXTER BUILDING, JENNIFER WALTERS-- BETTER KNOWN AS BOTH THE SHE-HULK AND THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- RETURNS FROM HER ERRANDS...

AAAAALIFORNIA DREAMIN'...

BAXTER





THAT DOESN'T SOUND
LIKE REPAIRS TO ME--
IT SOUNDS LIKE
BATTLE!

I'D BETTER
GET UP THERE
FAST!



NUTS!
AND THOSE
EGGS WERE
ON SPECIAL,
TOO...!



WHILE ABOVE...

JOHNNY, WE'VE
STOPPED!

YEAH, BUT
BETWEEN FLOORS!
THE CHIEF
EXAMINER MUST
BE ONTO US!

I JUST HOPE ENOUGH
OF THAT SOAPY WATER
HAS EVAPORATED FOR ME
TO FLAME BACK ON! GOT ON
CONCENTRATE...AND...AND...



DID IT!



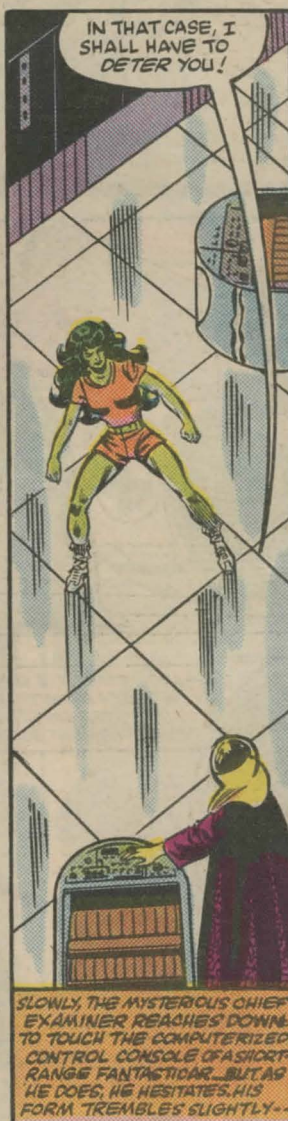
THIS WAY,
ALICIA!
WE'VE GOT
TO GET TO THE
FANTASTICAR
BEFORE--

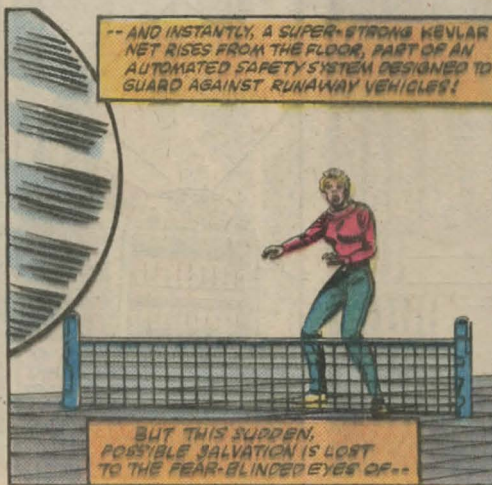
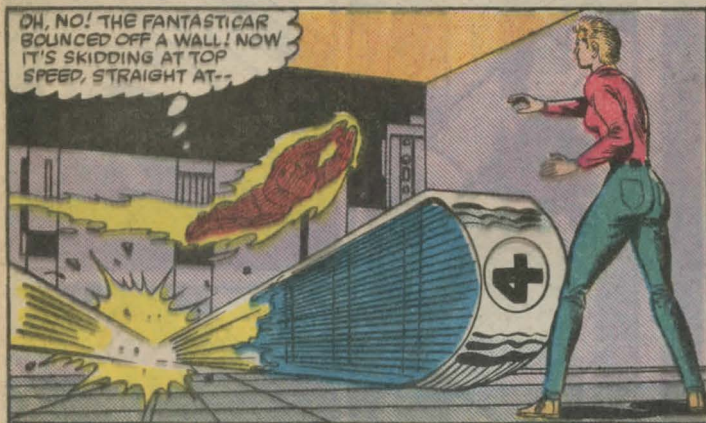
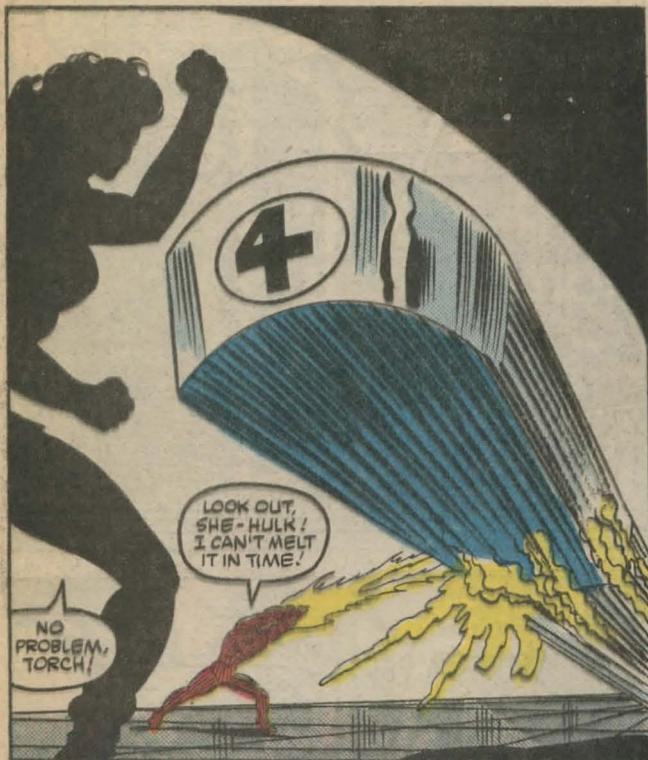


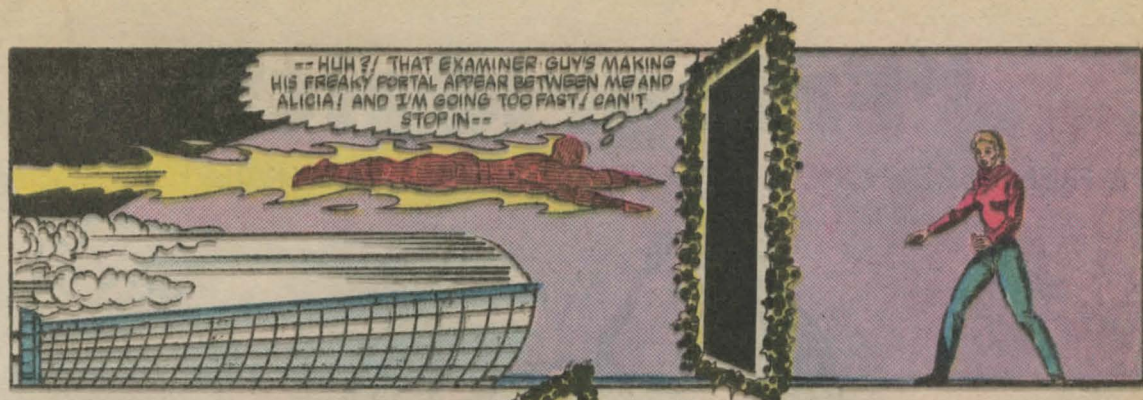
WILL YOU PASS THROUGH
MY PORTAL NOW, JOHNNY
STORM?

H-HOW DID HE
GET HERE BEFORE
US?

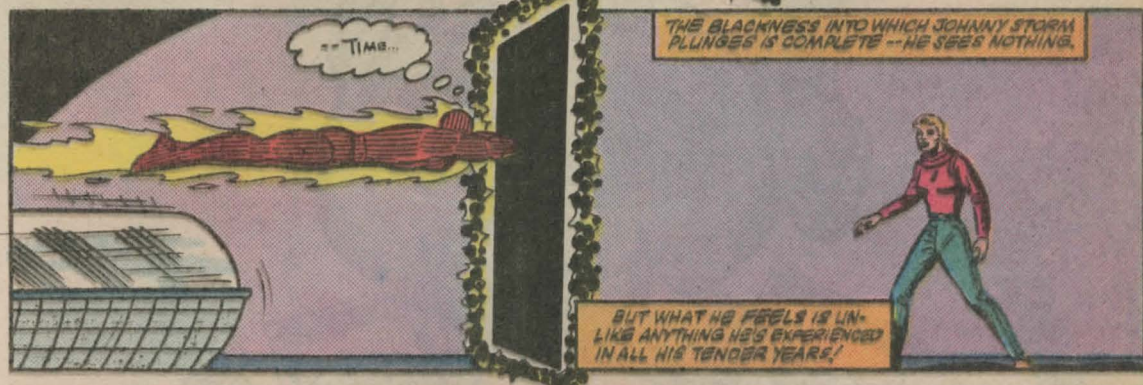
I DON'T
KNOW, BABE,
BUT I WON'T
LET HIM HURT
YOU!







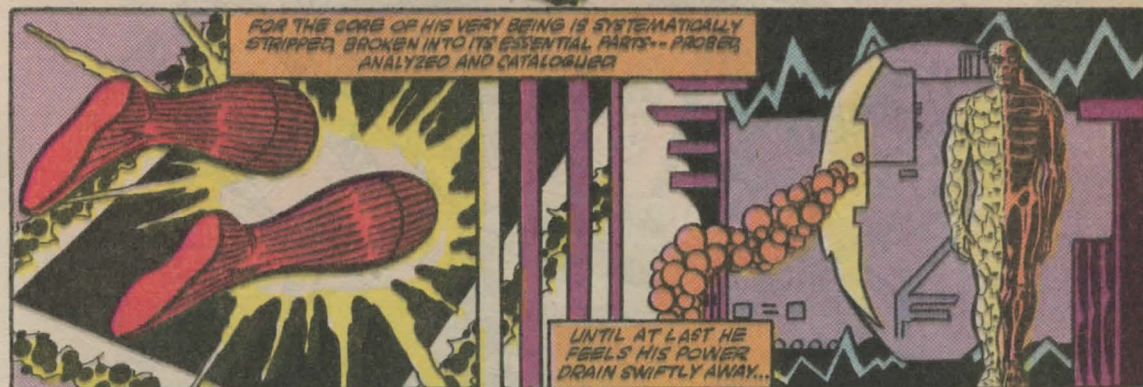
--HUH?! THAT EXAMINER GUY'S MAKING HIS FREAKY PORTAL APPEAR BETWEEN ME AND ALICIA! AND I'M GOING TOO FAST! CAN'T STOP IN--



--TIME--

THE BLACKNESS INTO WHICH JOHNNY STORM PLUNGES IS COMPLETE --HE SEES NOTHING.

BUT WHAT HE FEELS IS UNLIKE ANYTHING HE'S EXPERIENCED IN ALL HIS TENDER YEARS!



FOR THE CORE OF HIS VERY BEING IS SYSTEMATICALLY STRIPPED, BROKEN INTO ITS ESSENTIAL PARTS--PROBED, ANALYZED AND CATALOGUED

UNTIL AT LAST HE FEELS HIS POWER DRAIN SWIFTLY AWAY...



... AND HE TUMBLES WEAKENED, THOUGH APPARENTLY UNHARMED, FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EBON GATEWAY!

STILL... IN ONE PIECE... AND I CAN FEEL MY POWER ALREADY RETURNING... BUT WHAT ABOUT--

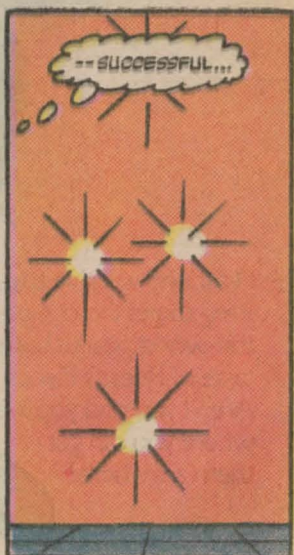


--ALICIA!



THE POWER OF THE HUMAN TORCH IS MINE, TO ADD TO THAT OF THE HULK AND SPIDER-MAN. * MY MISSION HAS BEEN --

* IN QUESTPROBE #'S 1 & 2 --Bob.



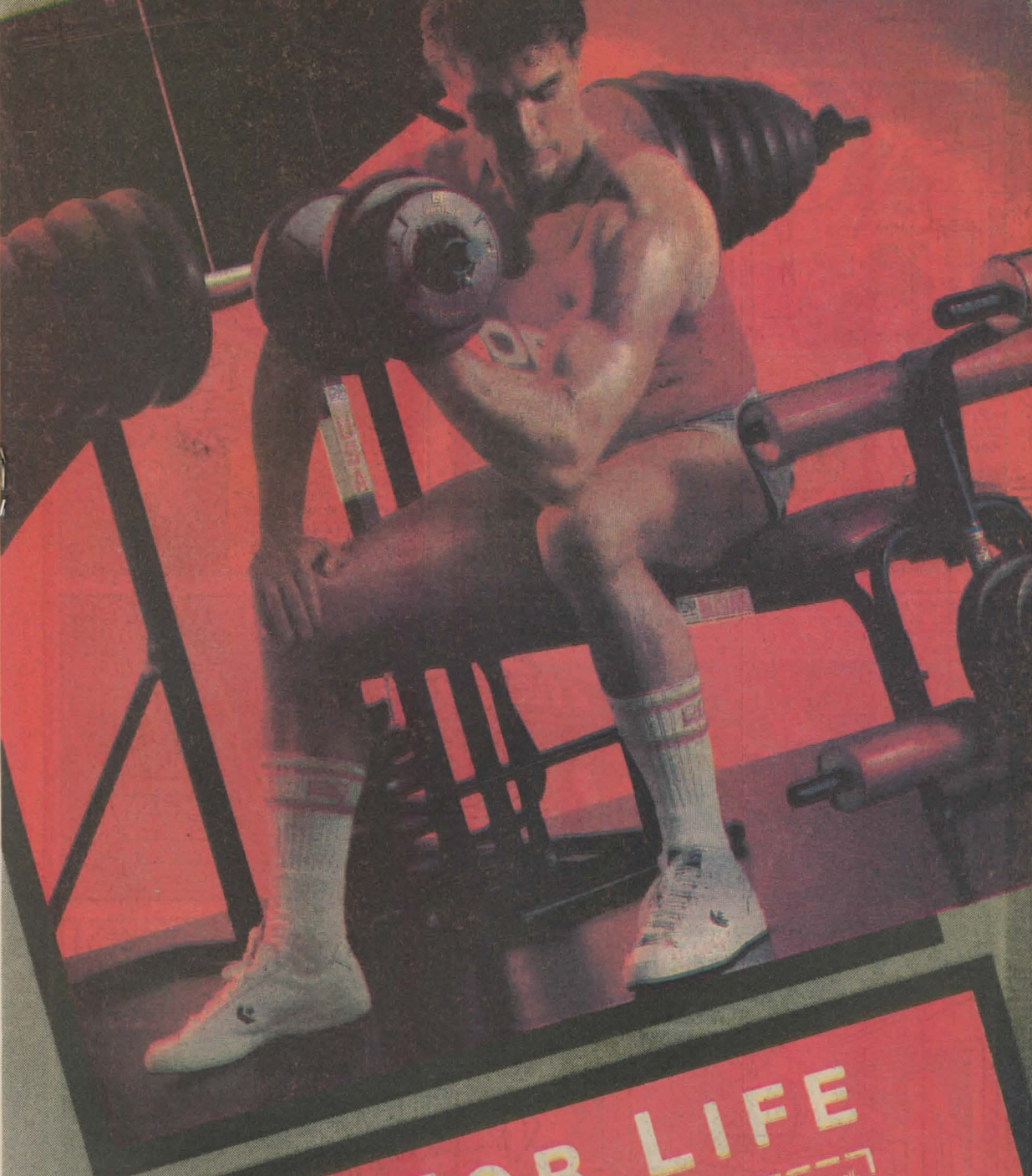
--SUCCESSFUL--

"Fribgridgit"

(MY FRIEND BACK HOME SAID HE'D TRADE ME HIS CLOUD SKATES FOR THESE.)



His friend will give anything to get the out-of-this-world peanut butter taste of Reese's Pieces. Aren't you glad you live where you can get them anywhere?



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AUTOMATION. IT ALMOST KILLED YOU.

BUT IT ALSO SAVED ME. AUTOMATION IS ONLY AS GOOD OR BAD AS THE WAY IT'S USED.

YOU TWO CAN TALK PHILOSOPHY--



--BUT I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO THAT CHIEF EXAMINER WAS! WHY DID HE WANT JOHNNY'S POWER?

AND WHY DID HE TRY TO KILL ME AND THEN CHANGE HIS MIND?

QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS YOU MAY NEVER KNOW, SHE-HULK--



--UNLESS YOU TRAVEL MANY LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH--

-- TO A PLANET FLOATING IN THE DEPTHS OF GALACTIC SPACE A SOFT PASTEL WORLD THAT SEEMS, IF CASUALLY OBSERVED, TO BE BLISSFULLY AT PEACE.



BUT EVEN NOW, ON THAT PLANET'S SURFACE, A LEARNED COUNCIL DISCUSSES AN IMPENDING CATASTROPHE THAT FACES THEIR WORLD, AND LOOKS FOR WAYS OF AVOIDING IT WITHOUT RESORTING TO HATED VIOLENCE--

-- LITTLE REALIZING THAT AN EVEN GREATER DANGER THREATENS FROM A NEARBY ABANDONED AND FORBIDDEN TOURIST MUSEUM...



... WHEREIN LIE TWO SINISTERLY ALIEN OBJECTS--A GLOWING MATTER ENERGY EGG, AND A BLOOD-RED, SENTIENT BIO-GEN.

I MUST BE CAUTIOUS, IF THE GUARDIAN EGG SENSES MY MANIPULATION OF NEAR-BY COMPUTER BANKS, IT WILL TERMINATE ME!

STILL, I AM ENCOURAGED. I WAS ABLE TO SUBTLY INFLUENCE THE CHIEF EXAMINER, TURNING HIS THOUGHTS TO EVIL, EVEN IF BUT FOR A MOMENT! AND AS I GAIN STRENGTH--



-- NO! I MUST PULL BACK! SOMEONE APPROACHES!

SOMEONE NAMED TUSKAR, STUDENT, NATIVE OF THIS WORLD... AND A TROUBLED MAN.

HE HAS TRACED A PUZZLING ENERGY DRAIN TO THIS MUSEUM--

-- AND NOW REACHES OUT TOWARDS THE NATTER EGG, CURIOSITY OPENING HIS HAND... UNTIL --



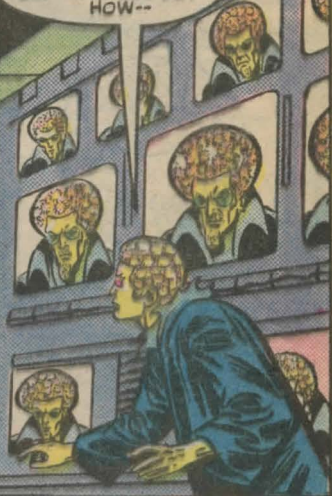
NO!

THE EGG WILL EXPLODE IF YOU TOUCH IT-- AND I NEED YOU ALIVE!



THAT IS UNIMPORTANT. WATCH THE MONITORS, TUSKAR, AND LISTEN WHILE I EXPLAIN. TIME IS SHORT...

WHA-- DURGAN THE PHILOSOPHER, MY OLD TEACHER, BUT HOW--



YOU WERE AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, WERE YOU NOT? THE ONE WHERE THE DANGER TO OUR WORLD WAS REVEALED?



YES, DURGAN, I WAS.



THEN YOU KNOW THAT THE BLACK FLEET DRAWS EVER NEARER TO OUR STAR SYSTEM, OBLITERATING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH--

--JUST AS YOU KNOW THAT CENTURIES OF PACIFISM DICTATE THAT WE MEET THIS THREAT WITH OPEN HANDS AND BOWED HEADS, THAT RESISTANCE IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN BY OUR LAWS.

BUT I OPPOSED THIS DECREE AND I ARGUED THAT IT IS BETTER TO RESIST THAN YIELD TO THE INVADERS' WILL.



SO I CREATED THE CHIEF EXAMINER!

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, HE IS THE AGENT THAT TRANSFORMS MY PHILOSOPHY INTO ACTION. HE ROAMS A DISTANT PLANET WHERE DWELL NUMEROUS HEROES WITH ASTONISHING POWERS!



BY ANALYZATION AND REPLICATION, HE GATHERS THESE POWERS, POWERS THAT MIGHT ENABLE US TO SAVE OUR WORLD, IF ONLY WE USE THEM TO STAND AGAINST--



NO! I'LL LISTEN NO LONGER! YOU SPEAK HERESY! I MUST INFORM THE COUNCIL--



YOU MUST NOT INFORM THE COUNCIL! YOU ARE A KINDRED SPIRIT, TUSKAR, ELSE YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE SET FOOT IN THIS FORBIDDEN PLACE! I NEED YOU, MY FRIEND..



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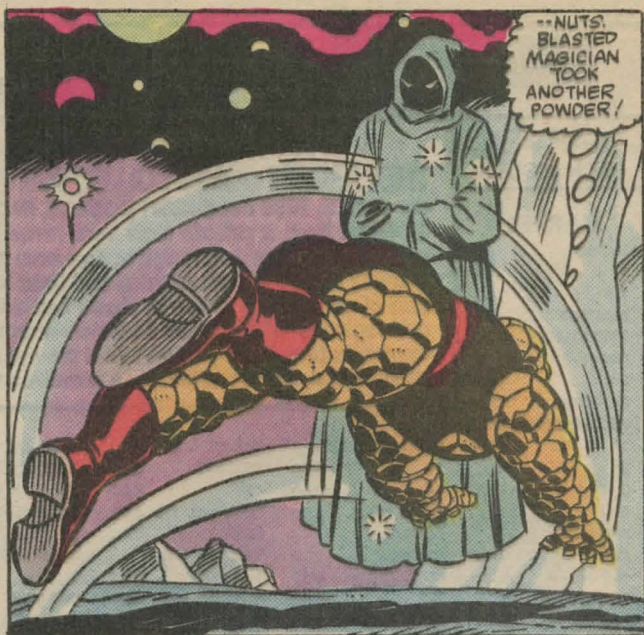
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DID I SAY
"FREAKY"?
THIS PLACE
LOOKS LIKE
SOMETHIN'
SALVADOR
DALI MIGHTA
DESIGNED
AFTER A
BAD DAY!



OR
BETTER YET,
A BAD NIGHT--



--MARE?

THE DOOR! IT'S
DISAPPEARIN'!



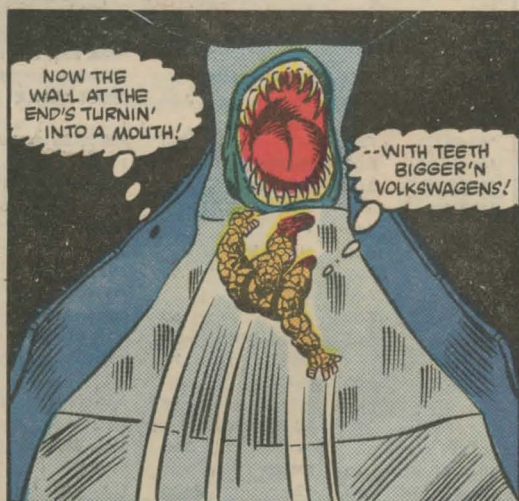
NO
MATTER.
I AIN'T
FINISHED
IN HERE,
ANYWAY.

STRANGE,
THOUGH.
THIS JOINT
ALMOST
SEEMS...
FAMILIAR
SOMEHOW.
LIKE I'VE
BEEN HERE
BEFO--



--WHOA!
STEPS
SUDDENLY
SNAPPED
FLUSH,
TURNIN'
THE
STAIRWAY
INTO A
SLIDE!

AN' I'M
STARTIN'
TO SLIDE
UP INSTEAD
O' DOWN!

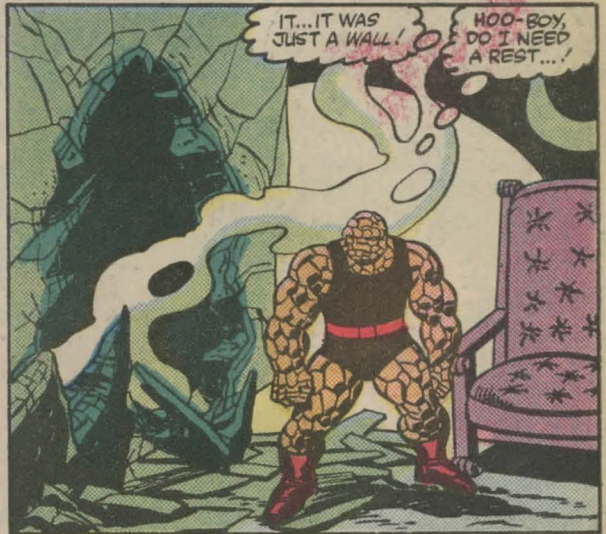
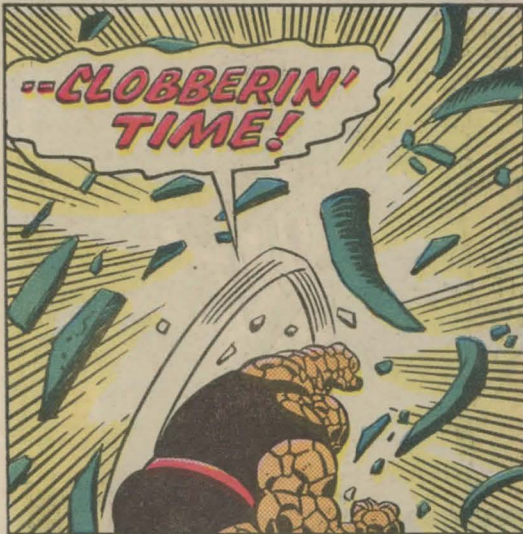


NOW THE
WALL AT THE
END'S TURNIN'
INTO A MOUTH!

--WITH TEETH
BIGGER 'N
VOLKSWAGENS!



AN' GUESS
WHICH EVER-
LOVIN' BLUE-
EYED SUCKER'S
GONNA BE
BRUNCH!



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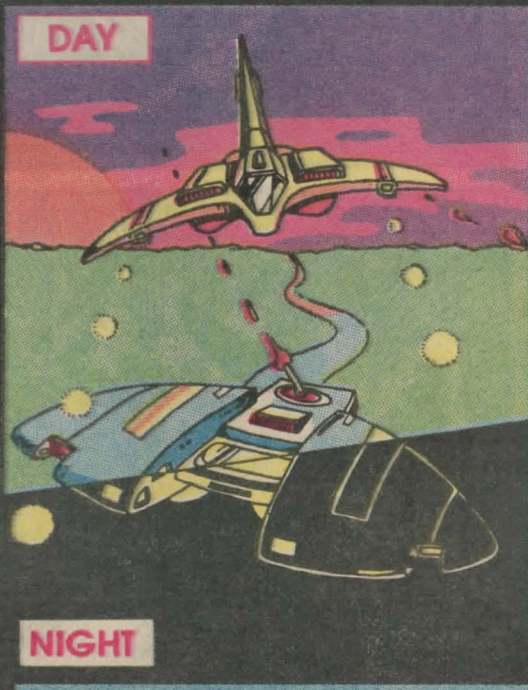
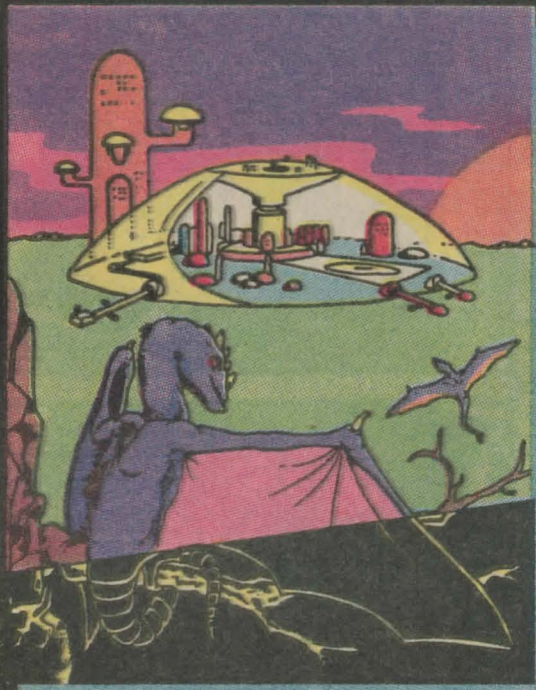
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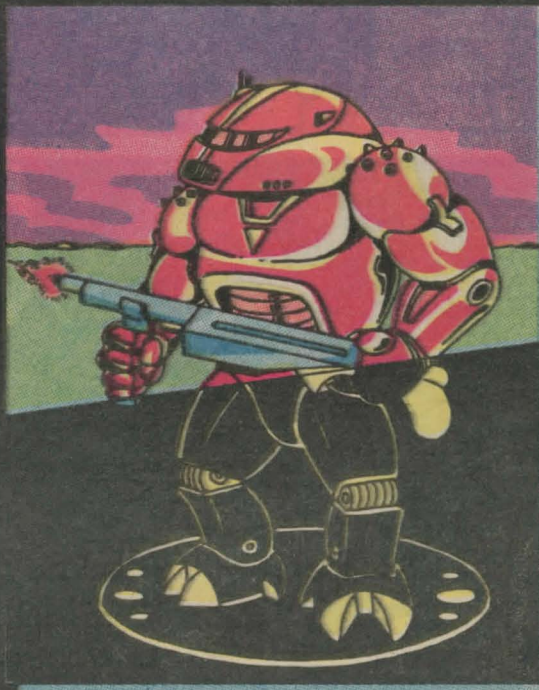
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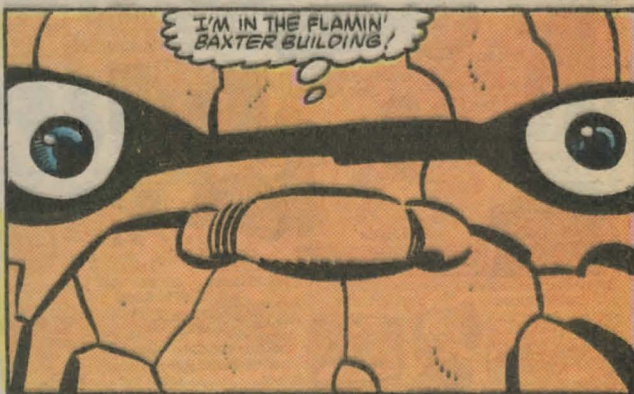
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NIGHT







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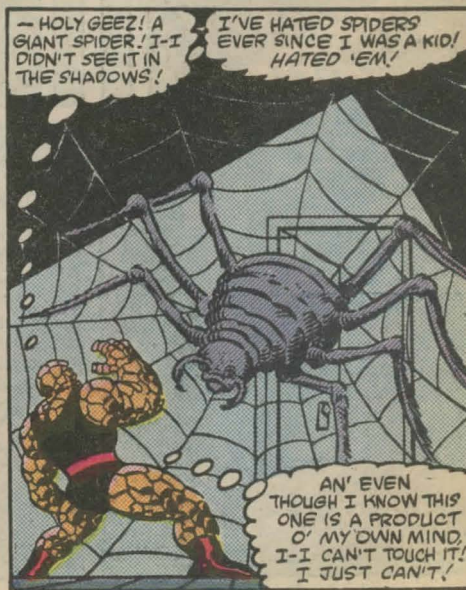
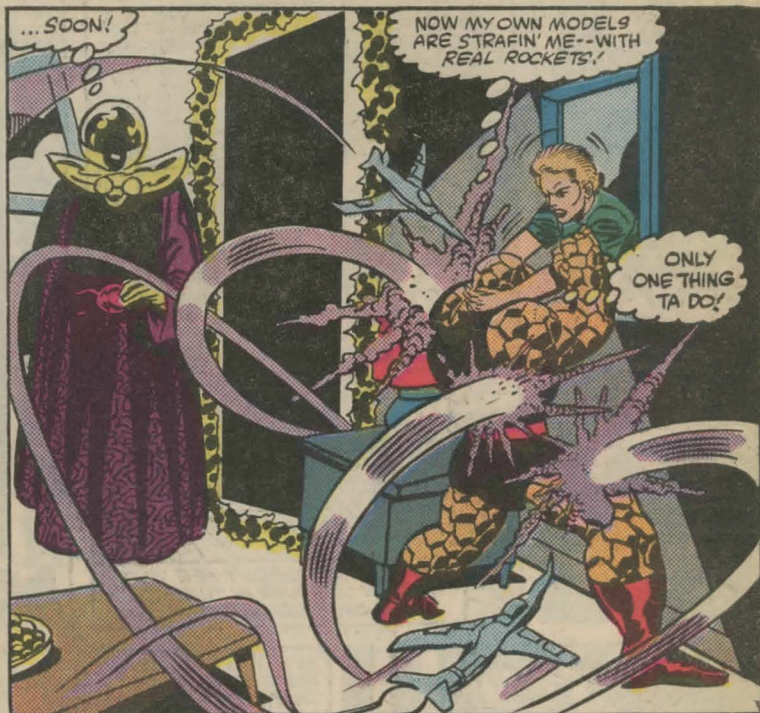
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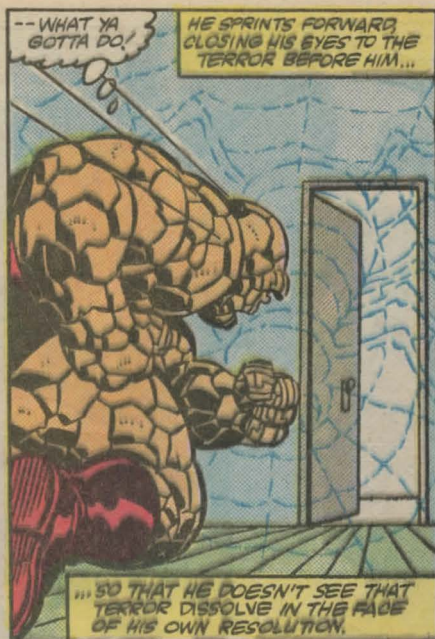
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BUT I HAVE TO THAT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT! AN' IF I DON'T GO NOW, I COULD BE TRAPPED IN THE BAXTER BUILDING FOREVER!

BENJY, I GUESS YA JUST GOTTA DO--



-- WHAT YA GOTTA DO!

HE SPRINTS FORWARD, CLOSING HIS EYES TO THE TERROR BEFORE HIM...

...SO THAT HE DOESN'T SEE THAT TERROR DISSOLVE IN THE FACE OF HIS OWN RESOLUTION.

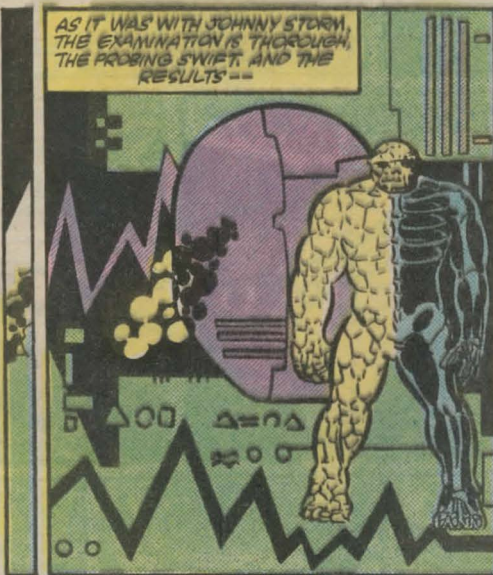


UNFORTUNATELY, HE ALSO DOESN'T SEE THE MIDNIGHT PORTAL THAT SUDDENLY APPEARS IN HIS PATH!



UNTIL...

HUH?



AS IT WAS WITH JOHNNY STORM, THE EXAMINATION IS THOROUGH, THE PROBING SWIFT, AND THE RESULTS--



-- DRAINING!

UUUUH... F-FEEL WEAK... AS A KITTEN!



BUT THE SPIDER'S GONE-- AN' SO'S THE WACKO BAXTER BUILDIN'!

THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS THAT GUY WITH THE FISHBOWL ON HIS HEAD!



AN' NOW EVEN HE'S TAKIN' IT ON THE LAM, SHEESH!



MAYBE SOME DAY THIS'LL ALL MAKE SENSE TA ME-- BUT RIGHT NOW, I GOT ME A WIZARD TA CATCH!

LET SOMEONE ELSE WORRY ABOUT OL' GLOBE-DOME AN' HIS PET RECTANGLE!

NEXT ISSUE: COULD IT BE? THE CHIEF EXAMINER -- A VILLAIN?

QUESTPROBE QUESTIONS

BOB BUDIANSKY: editor

BOBBIE CHASE: assistant editor

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Letters may also be addressed to:

ASK SCOTT, 155 Sabal Palm Drive, Longwood, FL 32779
(if you don't wish for your address to be printed, please tell us.)

Dear Scott,

QUESTPROBE is a great comic. First the Hulk, then Spider-Man and now the FF. What a line-up. Putting it on a computer is just another brilliant idea. However, I have a Commodore Vic-20, and I would really like to get it on tape for the Vic-20. Keep up the good work. I'm looking forward to the next issues of QUESTPROBE.

Danny Bertinato
Gloucester, Ontario

QUESTPROBE requires a computer with a minimum of 16k of memory to run. The standard Vic-20 has only 5k of memory. Since very few people ever get the memory expansion to 16k for the Vic-20, I doubt we will ever put QUESTPROBE on the Vic-20. Sorry.

Dear Awesome, Terrific Scott Adams,

I can't tell you how much I love the QUESTPROBE maxi-series! I've only recently gotten into computers, but I have been collecting comics for about two years. Here's a list of the super heroes I think should appear in the QUESTPROBE series: X-Men, Thor, Rom, Doctor Strange, Iceman, Juggernaut, Alpha Flight and Magneto. Thanks for a great series and keep up the good work! Please tell me which one of these is going to appear in upcoming issues of QUESTPROBE.

Russel Charette
Clovis, CA

Only time will tell, Russel.

Dear Scott,

I think QUESTPROBE is the best thing since sliced bread! After reading issue #2, I immediately called Adventure International (your company) and ordered the games for both issues 1 and 2! To my disappointment, the games were not out yet, but they told me HULK would be out in early January, '85 and SPIDER-MAN sometime in later January. I can't wait!! And I'm going to keep ordering the games for each issue as long as the stars of the issue are good (this qualifies just about everyone).

Now for the suggestions (by the way, the comic is superb). I would like to see another Spider-Man issue and the X-Men also. I would like to see Alpha Flight and Thor, plus Defenders, Avengers, Iron Man and maybe Power Pack.

Scott, thanks for your time. I will be on the lookout for the upcoming issues. 'Til then, may the Eye of the Vishanti watch over you and protect you (which reminds me, I wouldn't mind seeing Doctor Strange in an issue).

Scott Friedman
Medford Lakes, NJ

As you already know, Scott, the QUESTPROBE games #1 and #2 were released just around the '84 Christmas season. I hope you enjoyed them! I originally told you that Commodore was going to be

the one to bring the games to market. Commodore, however, decided they were no longer interested in marketing software for other than their own computers. So, unless something changes again, we here at Adventure International will be once again publishing the versions of Questprobe for the different computers, and we hope to have them out concurrent with the comic book release dates! At this time the following different computer formats are being made: Commodore disk & tape C64; Disk Plus/4; Tape C16, Atari 800 and 800xl Disk, IBM disk PC and PCjr, Apple 2 (all models) Disk.

Dear Scott,

I live in a very small town where there are no stores that feature computers. How can I get any of your games? There are larger



cities nearby, but my mom won't drive me to them just to get a game. I love comics and computers. What should I do?

André Diemunsch
Shelby, MT

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Dear Marvel,

I think #2 of QUESTPROBE was the best comic I've read! I would like to see in the future X-Men, Captain America, Daredevil, Sub-Mariner, Avengers and Defenders.

Mark Rawlings
Xenia, OH

Scott,

I missed the first issue of the QUESTPROBE comic and wonder if I can obtain it through either you or Marvel.

Charles Rylee
Rosharon, TX

Neither Marvel nor Adventure International have any back issues for sale. But there are many many fine comic book dealers who do sell back issues, many of which are advertised in Marvel Comics.

Dear Scott,

Thanks for a great comic! The combination of computer and comic is a great idea. Why not let QUESTPROBE be a continuing comic book instead of a limited series?

Tommy Tucker
Harwood, MD

Marvel's planning on only the limited series for now, Tommy, but if we keep getting such great mail, who knows what might happen?

Dear Marvel,

I am enjoying the QUESTPROBE series very much. If I have read correctly, the Bio-Gem is a legendary evil that was broken down into many small gems, each gem enslaved by a Natter Energy Egg. The thing that gets me is that when anyone or anything gets near the gem the energy egg blows it off the planet it's on. Why wouldn't the previous race have just used the Natter Energy Egg to destroy the Bio-Gem completely in the first place?

Jeff House
Carol Stream, ILL.

Good question, Jeff, and one that's going to be explained very soon. So all we can say now is, keep reading!

Dear Mr. Adams,

When exactly does each QUESTPROBE game come out? And will I have to get all twelve games to fully understand all the mysteries provided?

Tony Wolf
Rockville Center, NY

Each game can be enjoyed on its own, Tony. But each game is also equipped with a password, if you win. All of the passwords connect to give you an extra surprise in the last game.

Dear Scott,

I think that the idea of combining comic books and computers is an ingenious one. In your letter column of QUESTPROBE #2 I saw a list of computers the QUESTPROBE software will run on. I was wondering if the QUESTPROBE software will run on the TRS 80 Color Computer 2 on tape?

Cary Davis
Moncks Corner, SC

Not at this time, Cary. If we come out with anything on the color computer it will probably be disk-based.

Dear Questprobers,

Is the device used to block Spider-Man's spider sense on the market?

James Gardipee
Salem, OR

We haven't seen it in any of the stores recently, James, but if you're really keen on finding one, we can give you Mylerio's phone number. Keep in touch!

Remember, if you have a QUESTPROBE letter, send it to: Ask Scott, 155 Sabal Palm Drive, Longwood, Florida 32750.

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

"A Non-Radioactive Reply To Jim Shooter"

Greetings, patrons of the comic arts! Bob Layton here. Most of you dedicated Marvel readers probably know me from my stint on *Iron Man* (with David Michelinie), or from my contribution as writer / artist on the two successful Hercules Limited Series. Or, perhaps, you've heard tell of me in this very column. You see, for years now in this column, you've been treated to Jim's constant harrassment of me. He has accused me of being a radioactive nuclear terrorist clone — he has informed the general public that I am, in truth, a xerox-replicated entity — he created the bogus organization B.L.A.D.D.E.R.S. (Bob Layton Anti-Defamation and Defense Elite Revenge Squad) which, while ineptly "defending" me, actually caused me further embarrassment — and to make matters worse, in Mark Gruenwald's question of the month feature, he casts aspersions on my relationship with the Law-Enforcement authorities! But the last straw was when he tried to get rid of me in the fraudulent "Win a Dream Date with Bob Layton Contest!" (I wound up with twin Rumanian sisters who had moustaches thicker than Stan Lee's! I didn't even know anyone in Rumania read Marvel Comics!)

Well, I've had it, Big Guy! Now — the gloves are off! Let me tell you readers a few intimate details about my pal, my close personal friend — Jim Shooter!

"Not Fit For Print"

Okay, Jim — I know there are certain facts about your personal life you'd rather I

not mention. Fair enough! After all, you are the official representative of the largest, most successful comics company in the world and you deserve the respect that comes with that position. So I've decided not to mention the time I talked you into

CENSORED

Don't worry, Jim, I wouldn't dream of saying a thing about any of that stuff.

"Mr. Marvel Vs. The Media"

Jim, in my opinion, gets a bad break from the fan press. They call him "opinionated," "stubborn" and "thick-headed" — and they even say a few things that *aren't* true! But soon, Marvel readers will be able to discover the whole story about his relationship with the fan press in Jim's soon-to-be-released autobiography entitled — "I'm Okay ... You're Scum!"

"Better Homes and Garbage"

Jim Shooter is a man of many talents. One of them, however, is not housekeeping. On more than one occasion, I've visited Jim at his "Luxury Condo" in midtown Manhattan. His home can best be described like this: Imagine a four hundred foot tall bag lady. Then, imagine her bag tearing, the contents of which lands indiscriminately around the whereabouts of our Editor in Chief. Jim remains unaffected by all the clutter, being consumed by the dedication to his job. When I visited him last April, I exclaimed, "Aren't you ever going to clean up this place?" Jim replied, "Why bother? My mother is coming to visit in July. She'll tidy it up!"

"We're very proud of our Editor in Chief!"

Well ... I feel so much better, having gotten this off my chest. And despite his little

faults, he's been the best friend any radioactive terrorist could ask for. I only hope that, now, we can bury the hatchet and get on with being two and a half of the most creative urbanites in the comics industry. "What do you say, Big Guy?"

BOB
LAYTON

"Now back to Jim Shooter"

Thank you, Bob. And now, it's my great pleasure to announce — The Mighty Marvel "Take a Radioactive Terrorist Xerox Replicant to Lunch in Rumania Contest!" Details in next month's Bullpen Bulletins.

Shooter



CHECKLIST

- ☐ THE THING #29
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #224
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #33
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #8
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #2 — Continuing the cross-over with *Vision* and *Scarlet Witch*!
- ☐ CLOAK AND DAGGER #3
- ☐ RED SONJA: THE MOVIE (Limited Series) #1 — Beginning the official Marvel adaptation by LOUISE SIMONSON and MARY WILSHIRE!
- ☐ RAWHIDE KID (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ QUESTPROBE (Limited Series) #3 — Featuring the Thing and the Human Torch in the latest adventure in the SCOTT ADAMS computer game series!
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #31
- ☐ LIFE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL (Limited Series) #4 — Reprinting the late Captain's life, as told by JIM STARLIN.
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #270
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #311
- ☐ POWER PACK #16
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #14
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #28 — Not only is this a *Secret Wars II* issue, it's also a startling cross-over with *Incredible Hulk* #313!
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #32
- ☐ DAZZLER #40 — A *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ RED SONJA #11 — The comic!
- ☐ LONGSHOT (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #2 — Concluding the cross-over with the *West Coast Avengers*!
- ☐ AVENGERS ANNUAL #14 — The Skrulls are lurking in this cross-over with the *FF Annual* #14!
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #313 — This is it! The ultimate cross-over with *Alpha Flight* #28!
- ☐ AVENGERS #261 — Will the Beyonder

- become an Avenger in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over?
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #176
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #181 — Reprinting "Birth of a Hero," by STAN LEE and JOHN ROMITA, SR., from *Amazing Spider-Man* #42.
- ☐ ROM #72 — A *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ X-MEN #199
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #5
- ☐ POWER MAN / IRON FIST #120
- ☐ SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ BALDER THE BRAVE (Limited Series) #1 — From the pages of *Thor* and into his own series!
- ☐ G.I. JOE #41
- ☐ NIGHTCRAWLER (Limited Series) #1 — The adventures of that world famous X-Man, as told by DAVE COCKRUM!
- ☐ ETERNALS (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #19 — The Skrulls aren't the only villains in this cross-over with the *Avengers Annual* #14!
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #108
- ☐ DEFENDERS #149
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #284 — With the last appearance of the Invisible Girl!
- ☐ STAR WARS #101
- ☐ THOR #361
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #10
- ☐ SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #5 — The Beyonder plunges into the dark side of humanity, and the world trembles! Featuring Doctor Strange, the Thing, Fantastic Four, and the East and West Coast Avengers!
- ☐ IRON MAN #200 — Special double-sized anniversary issue that answers the question, "Who will wear the armor?"
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #19 — You won't believe what happens when Mary Jane is suspected of being Spider-Man!
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #8 — Everything you need to know to be an expert on

- Amazing Spider-Man* #175-199!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #14
- EPIC COMICS
- ☐ DREADSTAR AND COMPANY #5
- ☐ MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ SWORDS OF THE SWASBUCKLERS #3 — Mutiny!
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #9
- ☐ BLACK DRAGON (Limited Series) #5
- ☐ THE ONE (Limited Series) #2 — One meets the Other!
- ☐ ELFQUEST #4
- ☐ COYOTE #14
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #32 — "The Cerebus Portfolio" by DAVE SIM, plus more graphic adventures by BYRNE & AUSTIN, GOODWIN & GELDOFF, BRYANT & KIMBALL, WHEATLEY and CONRAD!
- STAR COMICS
- ☐ PLANET TERRY #8 — Prisoners on Alphatraz!
- ☐ PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #4
- ☐ EWOKS #4 — Trapped in the castle of the Ice Witch!
- ☐ WALLY THE WIZARD #8
- ☐ ROYAL ROY #4 — Engaged to Lorna Loo! Yuck!
- ☐ MUPPET BABIES #4
- ☐ GETALONG GANG #4 — Meet Wellington Wombat — the most dangerous kid in Green Meadow!
- MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #32
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #23 — The end of the Iron Man adventure written by McKENZIE, painted by STEACY!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #117
- ☐ SAVAGE TALES #1 — It's back and more savage than ever!
- GRAPHIC NOVEL
- ☐ GN #18: SHE-HULK — Romance with Wyatt Wingfoot, action with SHIELD! By JOHN BYRNE, inked by KIM DeMULDER.

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