

MOLOCH EM TAS - THE HYBRID!

THIS PLANET IN PERIL!

"WE WANT HOB'S GLOW'S MINERALS," SAYS THE INTERSTELLAR RESOURCE CORP. "THE EARTHMEN WILL SOON GROW TIRED OF THEIR ROCK HUNT" SAYS THE TOCHEM! IN THE MIDDLE IS THE HYBRID-- HALF HUMAN AND HALF TOCHEM-- TRYING TO CONVINCE THE TOCHEM OF THE DANGER

AGAIN THE IRC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A MURDER, MOLOCH-- WE MUST DRIVE THEM FROM OUR PLANET...

ONE TOCHEMITE WILL NEVER WORRY AGAIN ABOUT DANGER FROM THE IRC...

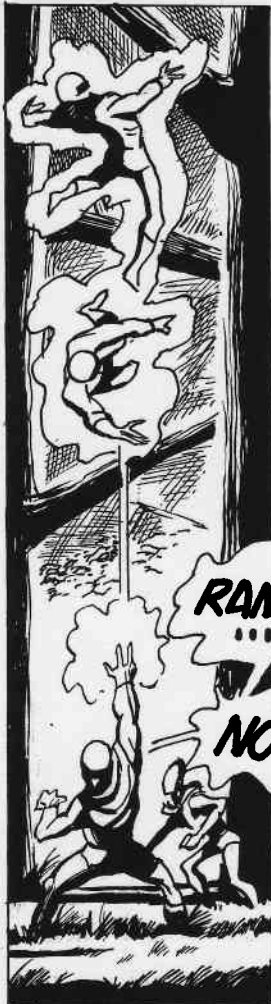
WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE THE TOCHEM IN PEACE? LEAVE THIS PLANET IN PEACE?
...

STOP MURDERING INNOCENT BEINGS, IN THE NAME OF GOD!



THIS PLACE WILL BE SWARMING WITH RC'S IN MINUTES-- WE MUST GET OUT WHILE WE STILL CAN...

BUT THEY MUST BE MADE TO PAY FOR THEIR ...



THE VOICE HAS THE SOLID RING OF AUTHORITY WHICH RAMES TAL HAS LEARNED TO OBEY... AS THEY HURRY AWAY, MOLOCH RELEASES THE IRC'S...

RAMES ... NOW!



MUMMP

THAT MOMENT, IN THE OFFICE OF THE EARTH GOVERNOR EDMUND MARKS, A MEETING IN PROGRESS WITH EMMET STUBBS, DIRECTOR OF HOB'S GLOW'S SECURITY FORCES...

REALLY NOW, EMMET-- DON'T ...

THE REGULATION IS CLEAR, GOVERNOR-- THE INTENT BY INDIGENOUS LIFE FORMS TO THWART US IS THERE! OUR COURSE IS CLEAR! ...

WE MUST CRUSH THIS RESISTANCE BY THE MINORITY WHILE WE STILL CAN -- IF THE IRC IS TO HOLD ANY SWAY ON THIS PLANET, WE MUST INCREASE OUR SECURITY EFFORTS...





MY JOB IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH -- I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD TEMPER YOUR REGULATIONS WITH SOME COMPASSION FOR THESE PEOPLE...

YES, SIR!



SO WHAT DID HE...

HE INSISTS MY ESTIMATION IS CORRECT... HE WANTS A CRACK-DOWN ON THESE MALCONTENTS! AND AT ANY COST....

I WANT YOU TO PREPARE NEW ORDERS FOR ALL SECURITY OPERATIVES...

THE NEXT DAY, MOLOCH AND MESS ENTER A SMALL CLEARING AWARE OF THE NEW ORDERS! ON TO BE MADE AWARE...

IT IS WITH A MIXTURE OF FEAR AND RAGE THAT THE HYBRID RECOGNIZES THE HIGH-PITCHED WHINE OF BURSTERS AT FULL-DESTRUCT SETTING...



GOT BOTH BURSTERS BEFORE THEY COULD FIND OUR RANGE BUT...

SOMEONE ON HIGH WANTED US DOWN FOR GOOD -- TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE TOCHEM... FAST!

KRAK

WAK

THE HYBRID WOULD BE EVEN MORE CERTAIN, WERE HE TO BE AT A MEETING BETWEEN STUBBS AND JANICE STROMM (DIRECTOR OF PERIMETER DEFENSE) AT THAT MOMENT...



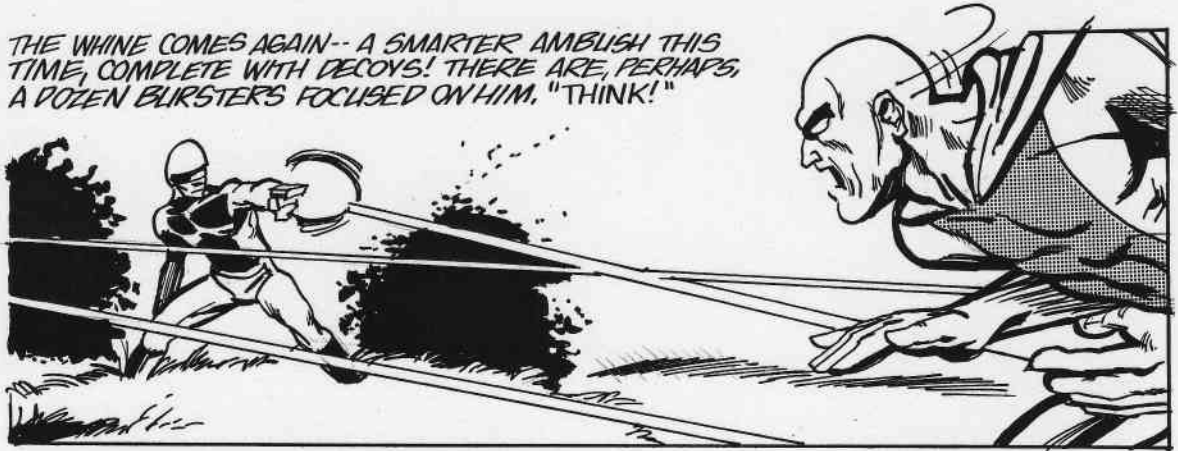
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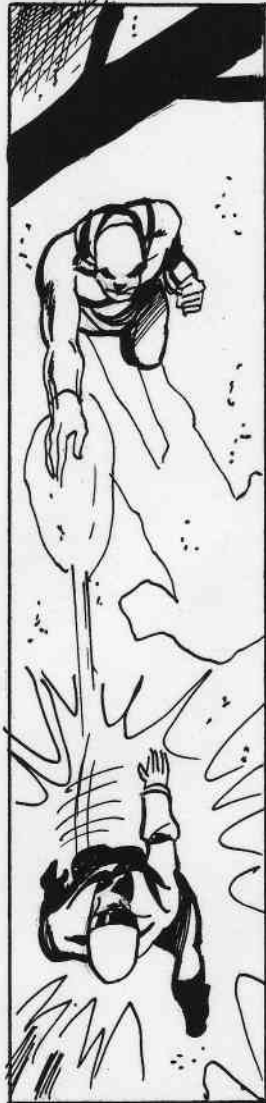
THE HYBRID

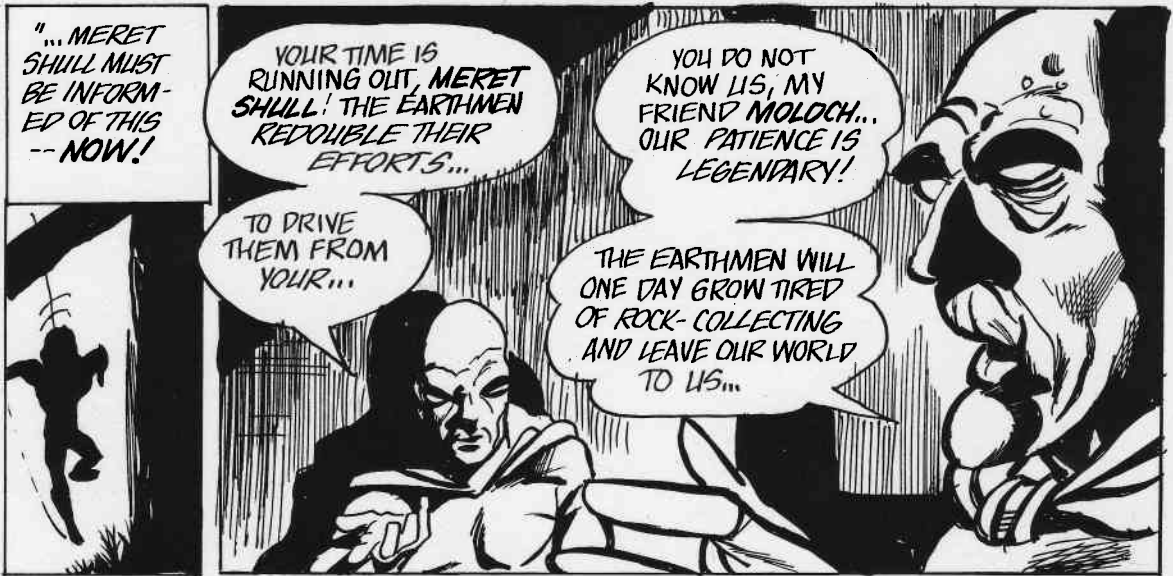
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THE WHINE COMES AGAIN-- A SMARTER AMBUSH THIS TIME, COMPLETE WITH DECOYS! THERE ARE, PERHAPS, A DOZEN BURSTERS FOCUSED ON HIM. "THINK!"



HE SEARCHES OUT AND FINDS THE WEAKEST LINK-- HITTING IT-- HARD! DECKS THE FIRST WITH A MIND-BLAST! THE SECOND IS RUNNING, SO HE DIVES UNDER A BURSTER SHOT AND SMASHES HIS FOE ACROSS THE KNEES! A SHORTLEAP CARRIES HIM ONTO A LOW BRANCH-- "THEY'RE OUT FOR ME NOW-- IF I DON'T KEEP AHEAD OF THEM, THE TOCHEM WILL LOSE THEIR ONLY EFFECTIVE DEFENDER..."





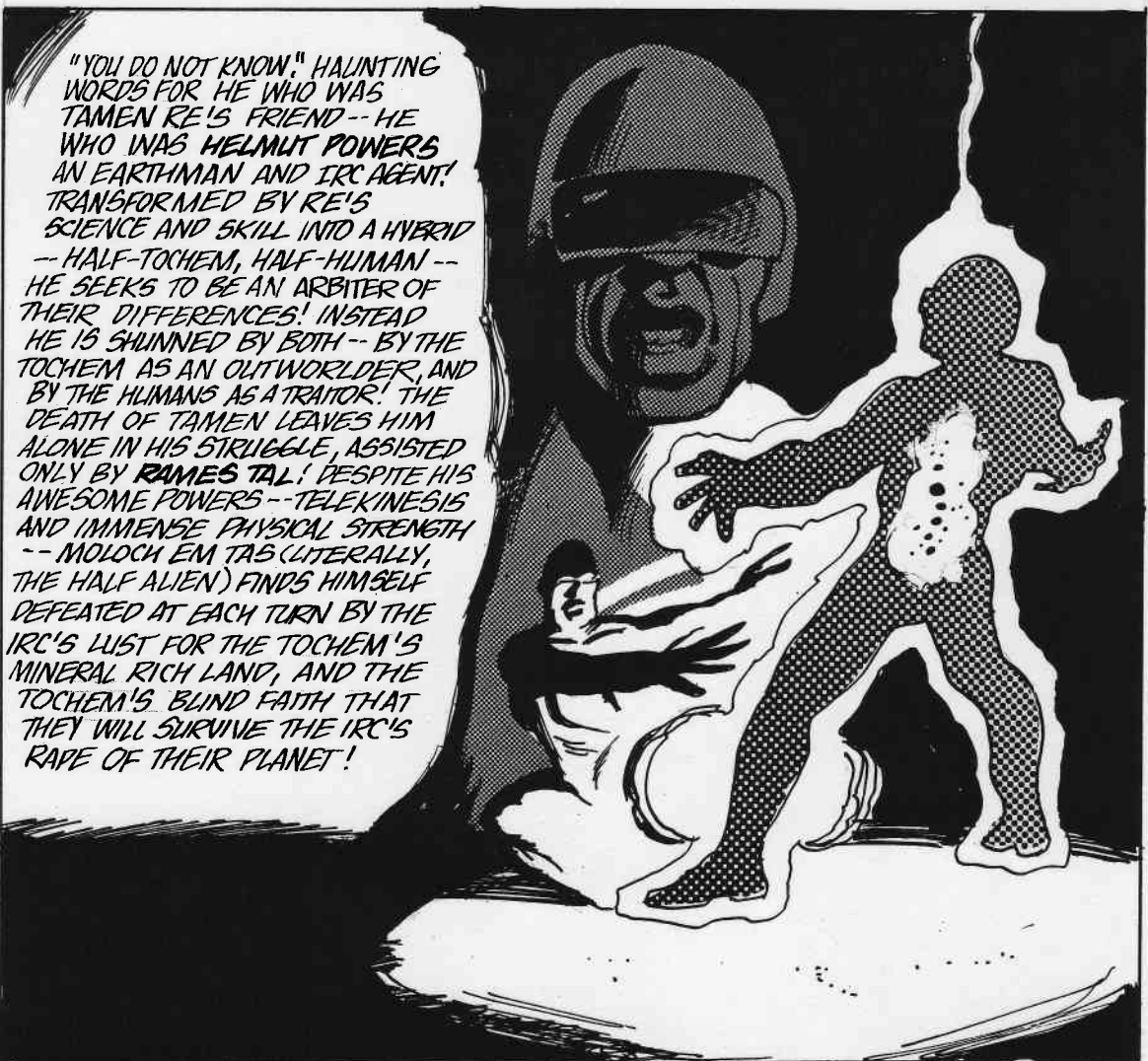
"...MERET SHULL MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS -- NOW!"

YOUR TIME IS RUNNING OUT, MERET SHULL! THE EARTHMEN REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS...

YOU DO NOT KNOW US, MY FRIEND MOLOCH... OUR PATIENCE IS LEGENDARY!

TO DRIVE THEM FROM YOUR...

THE EARTHMEN WILL ONE DAY GROW TIRED OF ROCK-COLLECTING AND LEAVE OUR WORLD TO US...



"YOU DO NOT KNOW." HAUNTING WORDS FOR HE WHO WAS TAMEN RE'S FRIEND-- HE WHO WAS HELMUT POWERS AN EARTHMAN AND IRC AGENT! TRANSFORMED BY RE'S SCIENCE AND SKILL INTO A HYBRID -- HALF-TOCHEM, HALF-HUMAN -- HE SEEKS TO BE AN ARBITER OF THEIR DIFFERENCES! INSTEAD HE IS SHUNNED BY BOTH -- BY THE TOCHEM AS AN OUTWORLDER, AND BY THE HUMANS AS A TRAITOR! THE DEATH OF TAMEN LEAVES HIM ALONE IN HIS STRUGGLE, ASSISTED ONLY BY RAMES TAL! DESPITE HIS AWESOME POWERS -- TELEKINESIS AND IMMENSE PHYSICAL STRENGTH -- MOLOCH EM TAS (LITERALLY, THE HALF ALIEN) FINDS HIMSELF DEFEATED AT EACH TURN BY THE IRC'S LUST FOR THE TOCHEM'S MINERAL RICH LAND, AND THE TOCHEM'S BLIND FAITH THAT THEY WILL SURVIVE THE IRC'S RAPE OF THEIR PLANET!

THE HYBRID

THEY ARE DIFFERENT, THESE TWO! AND YET, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES, THERE IS A RESPECT AND AFFECTION BETWEEN THEM!



THE HYBRID

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THE NEXT DAY, KEEPING A WARY EYE OUT FOR IRC'S, RAMES MAKES HIS WAY TO HIS MOTHER'S HOME...



HELLO! I'M SORRY I....



*



MOTHER! WHO DID...



WUMP
WUMP



YES?... RIGHT.... AND YOU'RE SURE THAT IT'S HIM? GOOD WORK!

BRING HIM IN!



THEY'VE GOT HIM!

W. S. HYERD

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THE NEXT DAY, KEEPING A WARY EYE OUT FOR IRC'S, RAMES MAKES HIS WAY TO HIS MOTHER'S HOME...



HELLO! I'M SORRY I....



*



MOTHER! WHO DID...



WUMP WUMP



YES?... RIGHT.... AND YOU'RE SURE THAT' IT'S HIM? GOOD WORK!



BRING HIM IN!

W. S. HYBRID

7706 23

THE BAD NEWS TRAVELS QUICKLY



HYBRID!
THE IRC HAS
CAPTURED
RAMES!



WHERE IS
HE?

THE
WEST
COMPOUND!



SO, STUBBS!
YOUR JACKALS
FAILED TO GET
ME!... NOW YOU TRY
BATING A TRAP..

VERY WELL!
I'LL ENTER
YOUR LITTLE TRAP
AND WE SHALL
MEET, THEN,
STUBBS...

**I
SWEAR
IT!**

THAT NIGHT, THE THREE PERIMETER GUARDS HAVE THEIR SHIFT SHORTENED GREATLY...



THE HYBRID

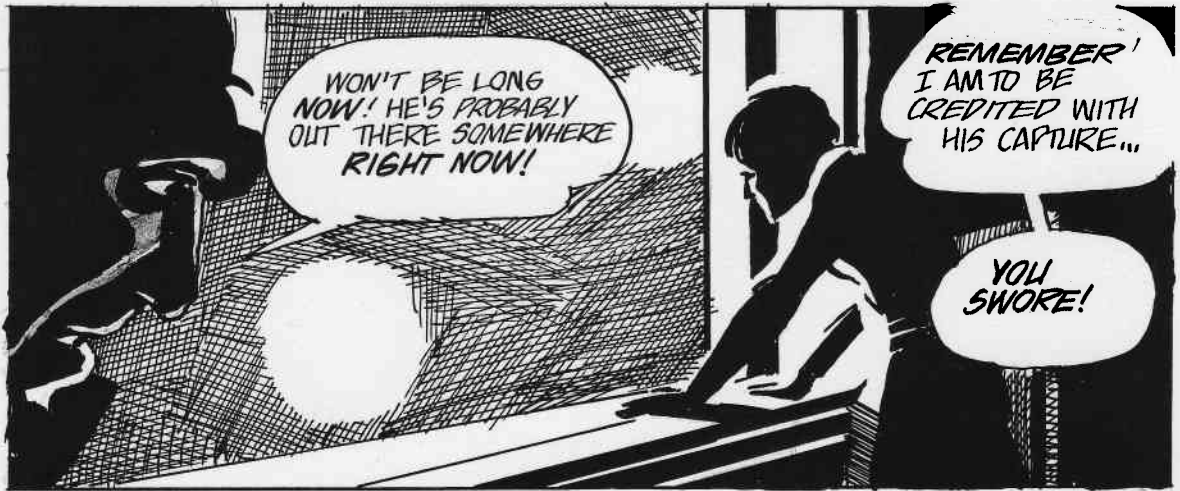
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Panel 24



THE HYBRID

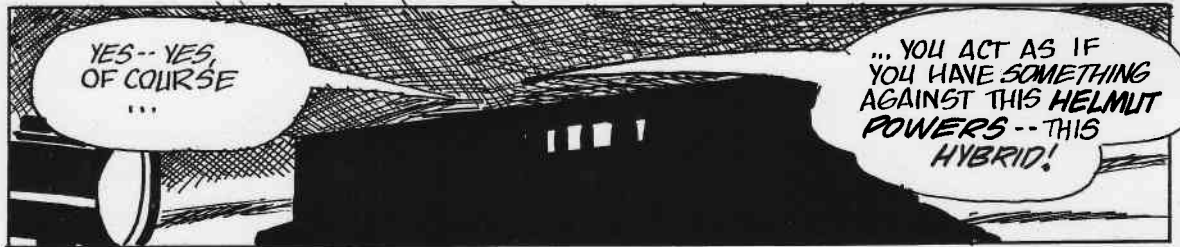
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WON'T BE LONG NOW! HE'S PROBABLY OUT THERE SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW!

REMEMBER! I AM TO BE CREDITED WITH HIS CAPTURE...

YOU SWORE!



YES-- YES, OF COURSE ...

... YOU ACT AS IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST THIS HELMUT POWERS -- THIS HYBRID!



I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT...



... WE WERE ONCE HUSBAND AND WIFE...

SMM

NEXT: ASSAULT ON THE COMPOUND!

THE SHEEP

PG (12)