

CRIMSON ALPHA-QUEEN of ANDROGYNE

AT THE RUINS OF WHADE...

WATCH THE HANDS,
THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD
FIGHTERS THESE
KITTENS...

THE NOBLEWOMEN ARE
FIGHTERS--THESE PEASANT
GIRLS ARE GENTLE AS
LAMBS!







THERE ARE A COUPLE OF TREE-RATS WHO WOULD LIKE TO INSPECT OUR PRISON'S, GENTLEMEN...

NEAR THE WEST WALL...



THESE FRIENDS FROM BEYOND THE STARS OFFER US MUCH, COUNCIL MEMBERS...

SCIENCE, MEDICINES AND TECHNOLOGY FAR BEYOND OUR PRESENT CAPABILITIES... ALL THEY ASK IN RETURN...

THE QUEEN'S COUNCIL -- ONCE AN ARENA FOR CALM DEBATE -- NOW, DOMINATED BY WOMEN TU, THE QUEEN'S POWER-MAD SON AND HEMMET GAL, ALPHA'S DIRECTOR, IT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO TWO FACTIONS -- ONE 'FOR' AND ONE 'AGAINST' THE EARTH CORPORATION...



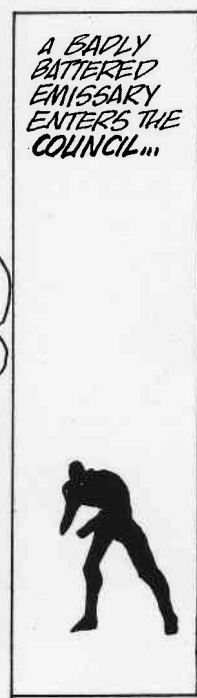
TRAITOR! YOU SEEK TO SELL OUR PLANET FOR YOUR OWN PURPOSES...

HEMMET GAL! KEEP YOUR TONGUE STILL -- OR BY ALL THE GODS OF...



THA-BUMP!

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO GRATEFUL FOR AN INTERRUPTION



A EARLY BATTERED EMISSARY ENTERS THE COUNCIL...



MAJESTY OF THE CRIMSON HOUSE-- THE VILLAGE OF HADE IN THE STATE OF SERPE FACES ASSAULT BY AGENTS OF THE EARTH CORPORATION IRC. MANY HAVE DIED IN THEIR SURPRISE ATTACK...



WHAT KIND WORDS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR EARTHMEN, NOW, WOMEN?



PERHAPS THIS
WILL BEGIN A WAR
AGAINST THE
IRC...

...AT LONG
LAST!

A REGIMENT PREPARES TO
MARCH ON HADE WITH ALPHA...



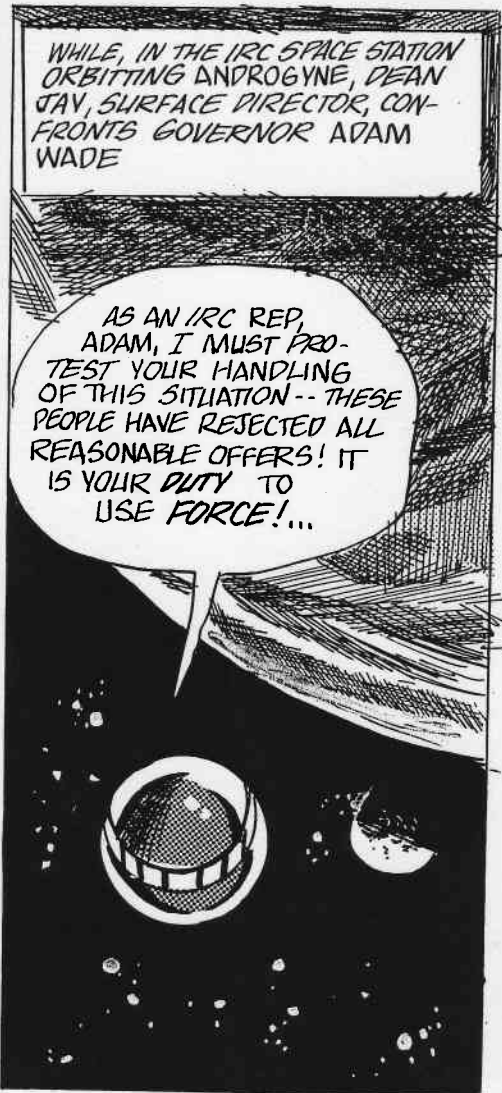
MEANWHILE...

TAKE THIS TO THE
EARTHMEN AT HADE
-- IF YOU TAKE THE
MOUNTAIN ROUTE, YOU
SHOULD PRECEDE
....

...OUR
FAIR
QUEEN...



IF THEY ARE MADE
AWARE OF ALPHA'S
INTENTION TO STAGE
A COUNTER-ATTACK,
THERE MIGHT YET BE
TIME TO ORGANIZE
AN AMBUSH...



WHILE, IN THE IRC SPACE STATION
ORBITTING ANDROGYNE, DEAN
JAY, SURFACE DIRECTOR, CON-
FRONTS GOVERNOR ADAM
WADE

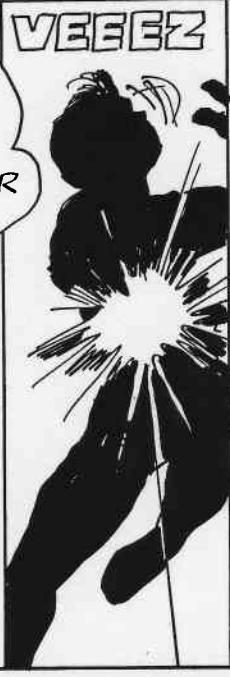
AS AN IRC REP,
ADAM, I MUST PRO-
TEST YOUR HANDLING
OF THIS SITUATION -- THESE
PEOPLE HAVE REJECTED ALL
REASONABLE OFFERS! IT
IS YOUR DUTY TO
USE FORCE!...



NOMEN'S MESSENGER SPLURS HIS MOUNT INTO HADE, AS DAWN APPROACHES....



I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN'S ADMINISTRATOR ...



VEEEZ



THAT'S WHAT WE THINK OF YOUR QUEEN--HER ADMINISTRATOR AND THIS WHOLE STINKIN' PLANET, KID!



HA! FULL HOUSE! I TELL YA--THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY...!

NOW.

THE IRC GUARDS ARE DISPATCHED QUICKLY AND SILENTLY--AND CRIMSON ALPHA AND HER TROOPS MOVE ON...



...TO COMMENCE THE BATTLE -- THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE SERVES THEM WELL AND THEY ARE IN THE MIDST OF THE INVADERS BEFORE AN ALARM CAN BE SOUNDED. THE BURSTERS, NEARLY USELESS AT CLOSE QUARTERS, PROVE TO BE A HOLLOW THREAT! DEPENDANT UPON THE FIREARMS FOR TOO LONG, THE IRC'S ARE NEARLY HELPLESS BEFORE CRIMSON ALPHA AND HER MEN! THOUGH THEY POSSESS BUT A HANDFUL OF SWORDS, THEIR DISCIPLINE AND SPIRIT BRINGS THE BATTLE TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION



1975

1975



GIM 77

COMICS ART

ALL SURVIVORS AMONG THE CAPTIVES ARE TO BE TIED-- IF WADE WANTS THEM BACK, HE CAN COME AND GET THEM

BURSTERS ARE TO BE BROKEN UP-- INTO DUST IF POSSIBLE, BUT FRAGMENTS WILL DO...

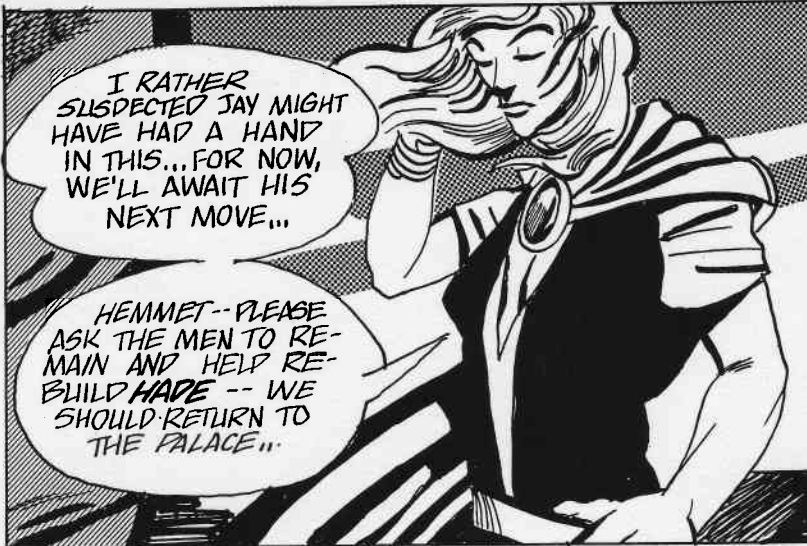
... THE MEN ARE WELCOME TO ANY IRC POSSESSIONS THEY CAN CARRY... ASIDE FROM THE IRC'S THEMSELVES-- THEY MAKE THE WORST SERVANTS...



ALPHA-- ONE OF THE EARTH MEN SAYS THE RAID WAS ORDERED BY DEAN JAY



I RATHER SUSPECTED JAY MIGHT HAVE HAD A HAND IN THIS... FOR NOW, WE'LL AWAIT HIS NEXT MOVE...



HEMMET-- PLEASE ASK THE MEN TO REMAIN AND HELP REBUILD HADE -- WE SHOULD RETURN TO THE PALACE...

"SO THIS IS NOT TO BE THE START OF A WAR WITH THE IRC" MUSES HEMMET UNDER HIS BREATH. "PERHAPS..." BUT THE THOUGHT IS LEFT UNFINISHED AS HE TURNS TO FOLLOW CRIMSON ALPHA...





THE NEXT DAY, THE CAPITAL CITY REJOICES!

THE QUEEN RETURNS! SHE HAS WON ANOTHER VICTORY!...



ANOTHER VICTORY!! WILL THESE EARTHMEN NEVER LEARN?



ENJOY THE CHEERS WHILE YOU STILL CAN, ALPHA -- VERY SOON, THOSE CHEERS WILL BE FOR ME!



"UNDoubtedly, my messenger lies dead," he thinks. "I could hand these fools Androgyne on a silver platter, but their stupidity prevents it."

CLIP BY JORJA

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IT FEELS VERY GOOD TO BE HOME AGAIN, HEMMET...



FREE TRADE WITH EARTH FOR ALL OF ANDROGYNE!

ALPHA'S FOOT FLASHES UP AND CATCHES THE ATTACKER IN MID-STRIDE AS HE RAISES HIS KNIFE...



THOUGH PHYSICALLY UNHURT ALPHA IS VISIBLY STUNNED BY THE INCIDENT -- THE FIRST ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF A REIGNING QUEEN! SHE STARES DUMBLY AT THE MAN AS HEMMET GAL ORDERS HIM ARRESTED...

IT IS AN EVENT PREGNANT WITH SIGNIFICANCE, AND ALPHA IS THOUGHTFUL AS SHE FOLLOWS HEMMET CLOSELY...



WISDOM 11/12

11/12

EPILOGUE





WITH A KNIFE, FAT-- JUST NOW! SOMEONE WHO... YOUR TAPESTRIES LOOK LIKE THEY COULD STAND A PRESSING, FAT!



IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MY FORMER REGENT HAS WEIGHTY MATTERS ON HIS MIND ... SO I WON'T KEEP YOU...



THANK YOU, FAT! JUST SEEING YOU FOR A FEW MOMENTS WAS ENOUGH TO CHEER ME UP...



THE WEIGHT OF AUTHORITY ON THOSE SLIM SHOULDERS... THAT POOR GIRL WILL NEVER LEARN TO... AH, WELL...

MORE WINE, MY DEAR?

NEXT: A CROWN OF DISCONTENT! 000.

7/11/11

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STAR-GAZER ONE

RAVEN AND TROUT

THE HYBRID

CRIMSON ALPHA

GIMMY