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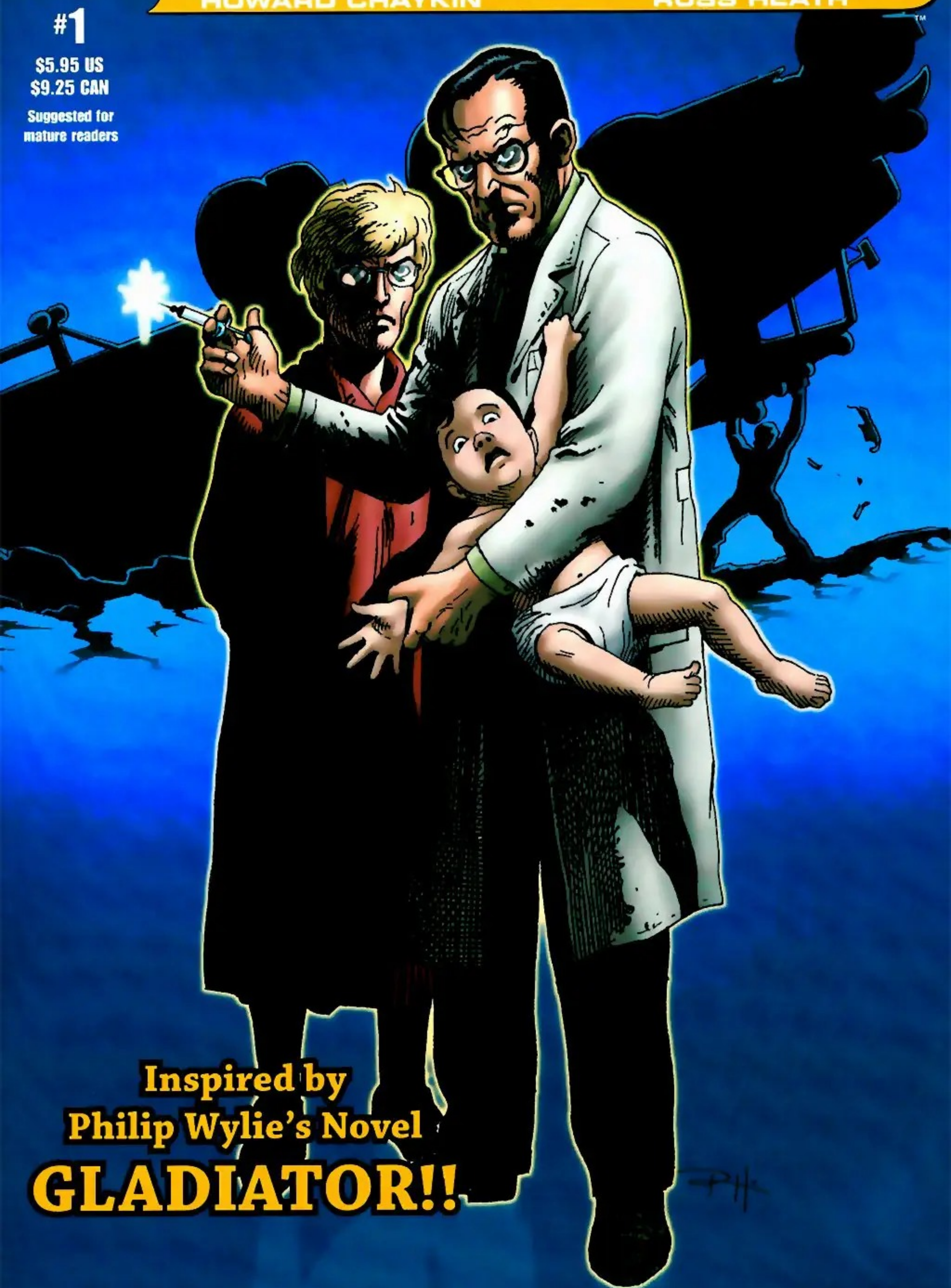
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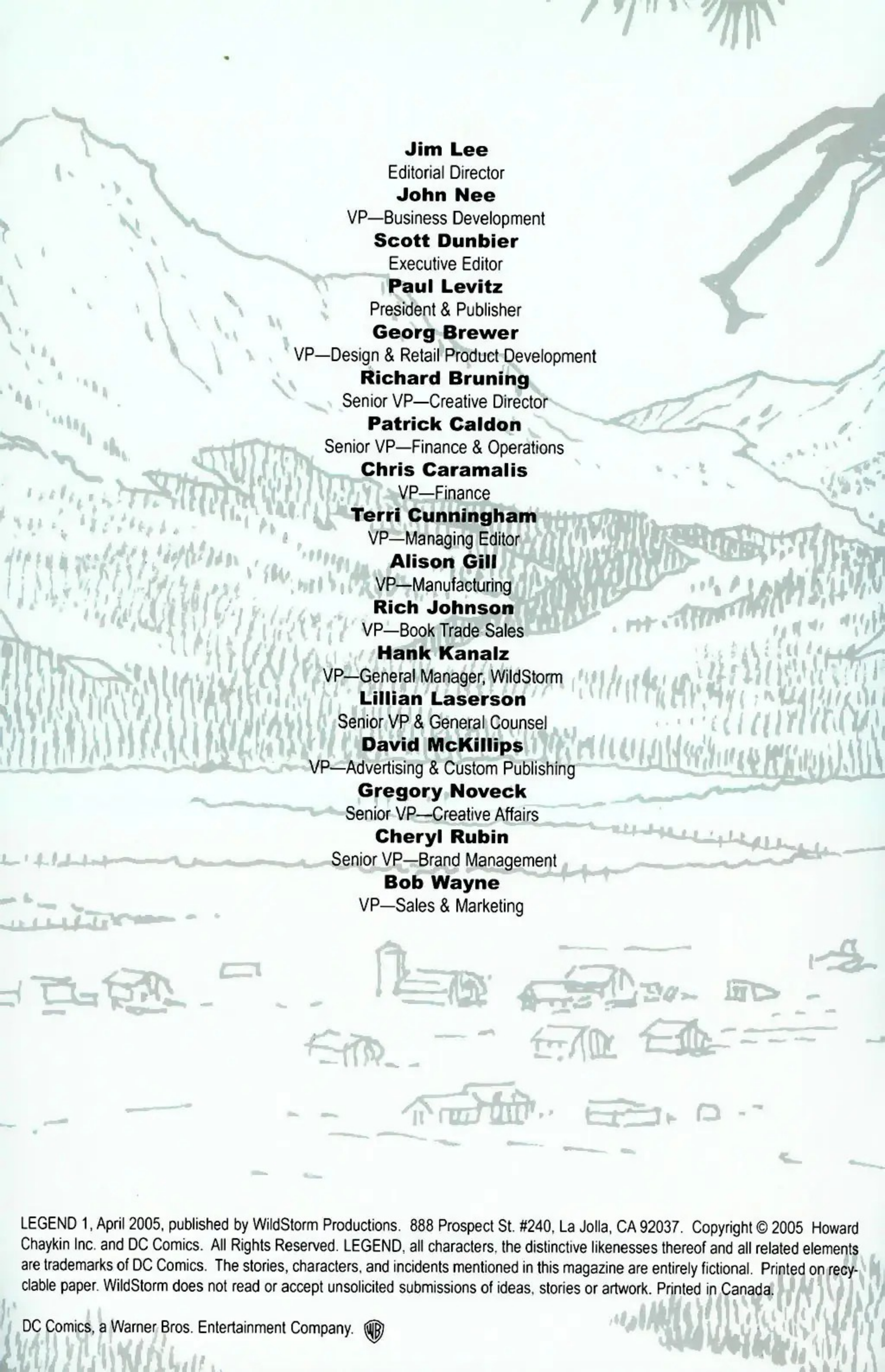
LEGEND

HOWARD CHAYKIN

RUSS HEATH



Inspired by
Philip Wylie's Novel
GLADIATOR!!



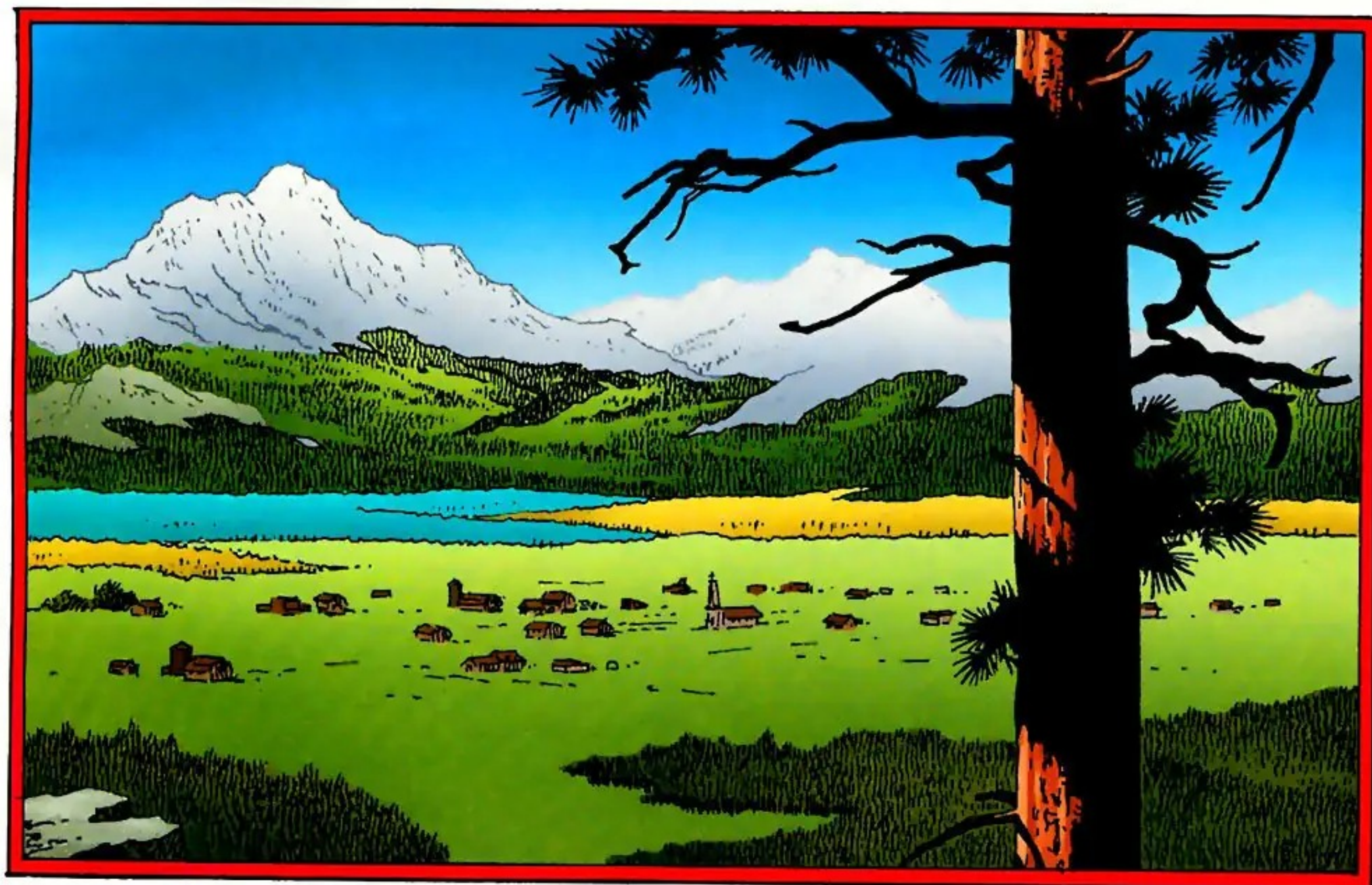
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LEGEND

BOOK ONE

A Boy's Story



Written by HOWARD CHAYKIN

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Lettered by ROB LEIGH

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Assistant Editor - KRISTY QUINN

Editor - ALEX SINCLAIR

Inspired by Phillip Wylie's Immortal Novel, "GLADIATOR."

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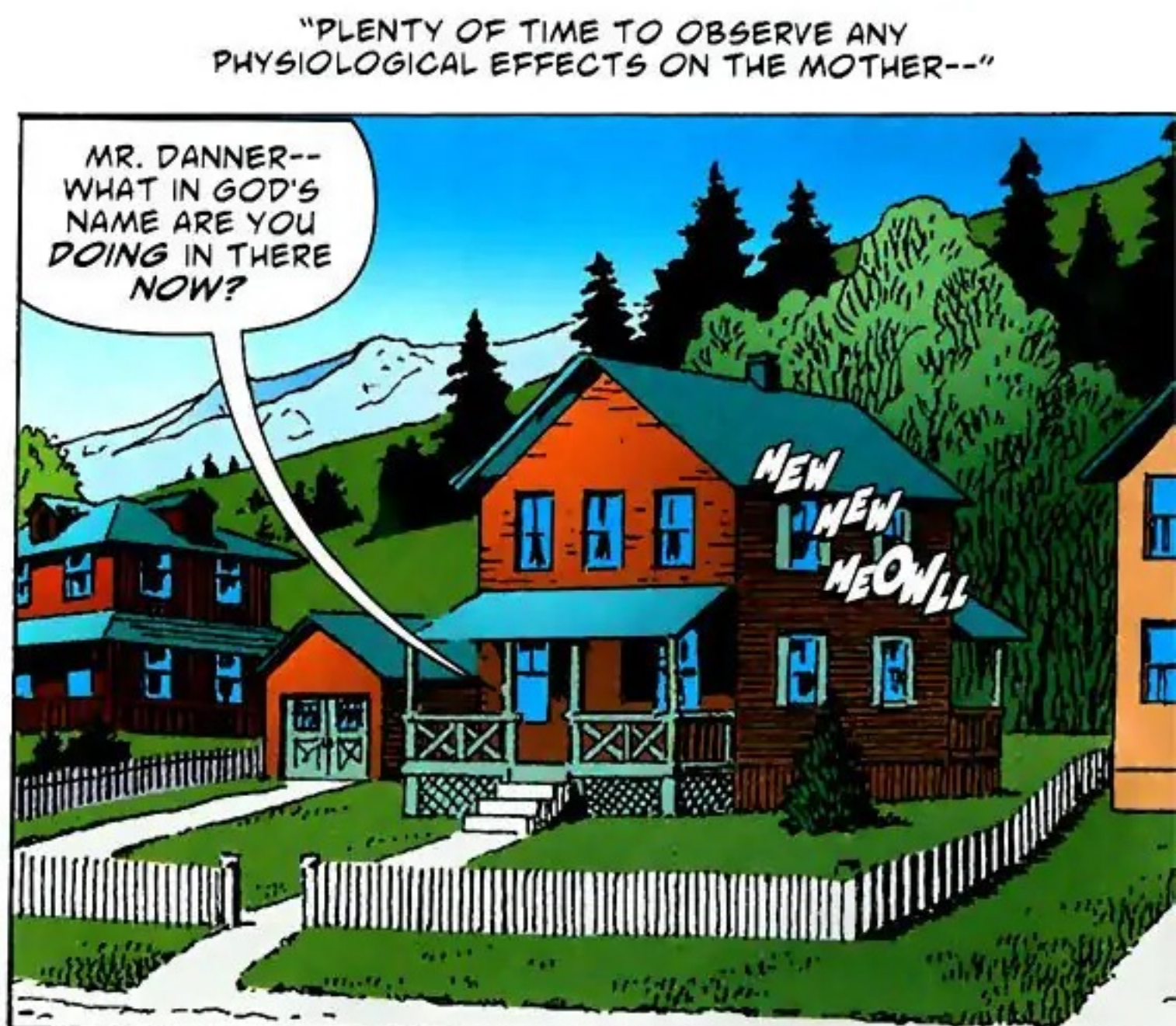
"FINDING THE SPECIMEN PROVED MORE DIFFICULT THAN I'D EXPECTED--"



"MOST OF THE PREGNANT ONES WERE FROZEN SOLID IN THE EARLY SNOWFALL AND FREEZE."



"IT'LL BE SPRING BEFORE SHE DROPS--"



"PLENTY OF TIME TO OBSERVE ANY PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS ON THE MOTHER--"

MR. DANNER--
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU DOING IN THERE NOW?



HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING!?!

JUST MAKING CERTAIN I'M NOT OVERWHELMED BY MY WORK.



ONE WILL BE MORE THAN A HANDFUL.

"AT TWO WEEKS, SAMSON IS CONSUMING HIS OWN SHARE OF MOTHER'S MILK, AND HIS LATE SIBLINGS', TOO..."



"...THE MOTHER IS WORN OUT BY SAMSON'S ENERGY LEVEL--"



OH DEAR--

"I'M CERTAIN SAMSON WAS SIMPLY BEING PLAYFUL..."



"...BUT I'M TAKING NO CHANCES WITH A FERAL DISPOSITION."

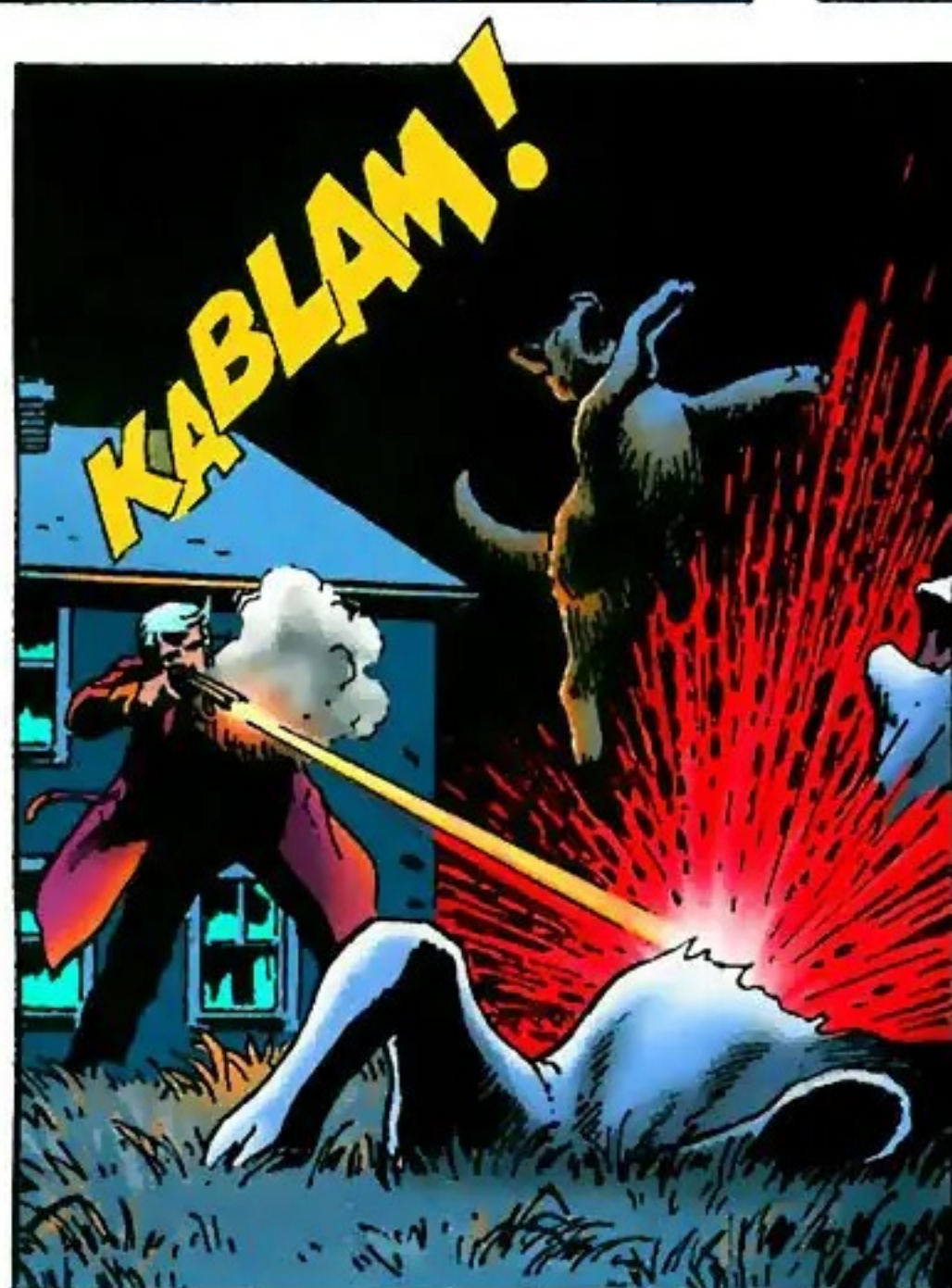
HERE, KITTY KITTY--

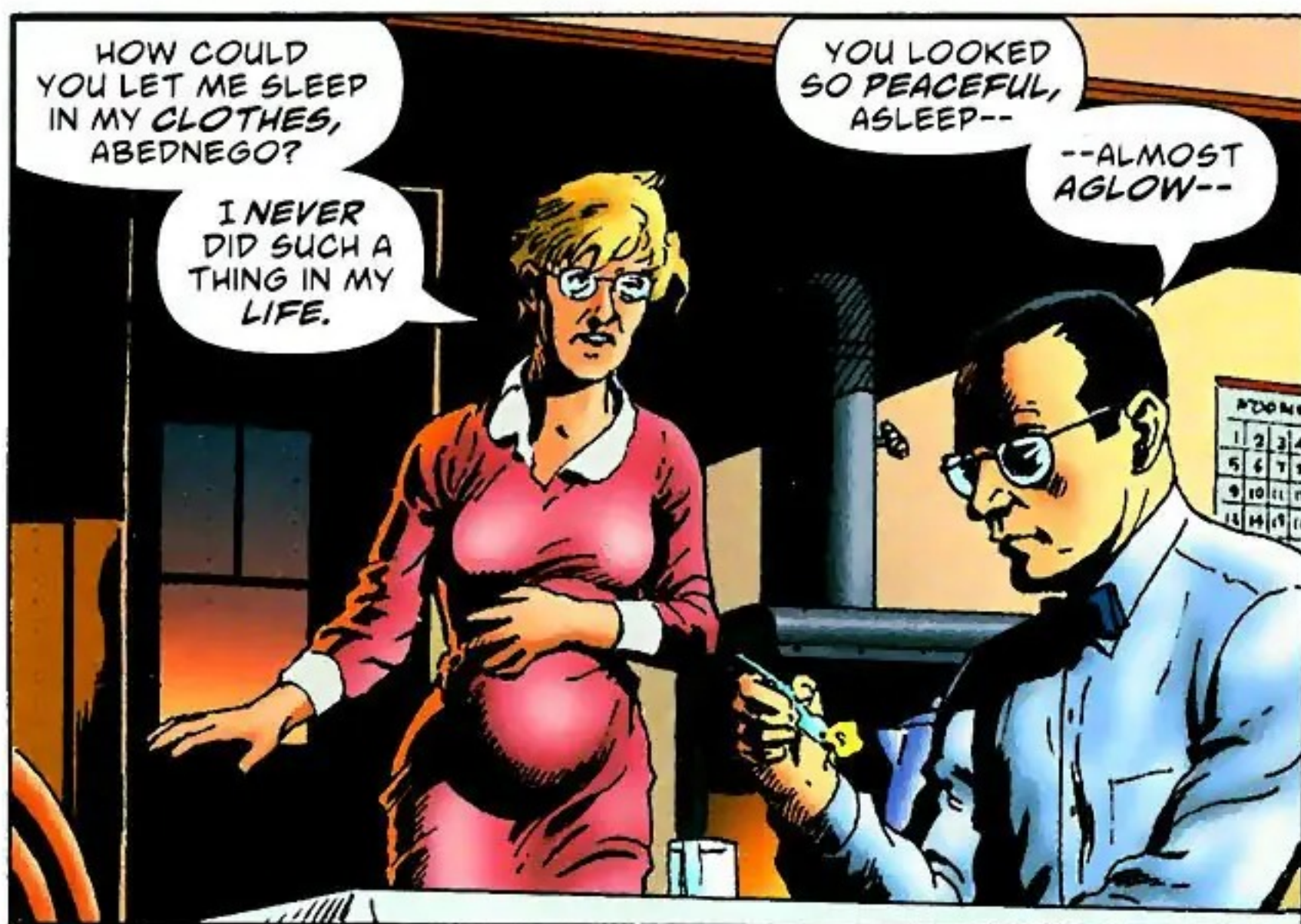


"AT TWO MONTHS, SAMSON CONSUMES NEARLY TWICE HIS WEIGHT IN MEAT A DAY..."









HOW COULD YOU LET ME SLEEP IN MY CLOTHES, ABEDNEGO?

I NEVER DID SUCH A THING IN MY LIFE.

YOU LOOKED SO PEACEFUL, ASLEEP--

--ALMOST AGLOW--



AGLOW...?

I'M SURE IT WAS THE WINE--

"HER EXPERIENCE SEEMS NORMAL BY ANY STANDARD. MATILDA COMES OF GOOD SCOTTISH PEASANT STOCK--

"WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR HER USUAL DISPOSITION--

"A DISPOSITION I FIND DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED BY HER DELICATE CONDITION."



SYMPATHY PAINS, TOO--OR JUST APPETITE--?

MR. DANNER HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL HUSBAND, THESE PAST MONTHS--

"MY GREATEST TERROR--MY MOST GROTESQUE FEAR FOR MATILDA--IS LABOR."



GET MRS. NOLAN--

--NOW!



WAAAAAA

IT'S A BOY, MR. DANNER--YOU NEVER SAW SUCH A BEAUTIFUL, HUSKY BOY.

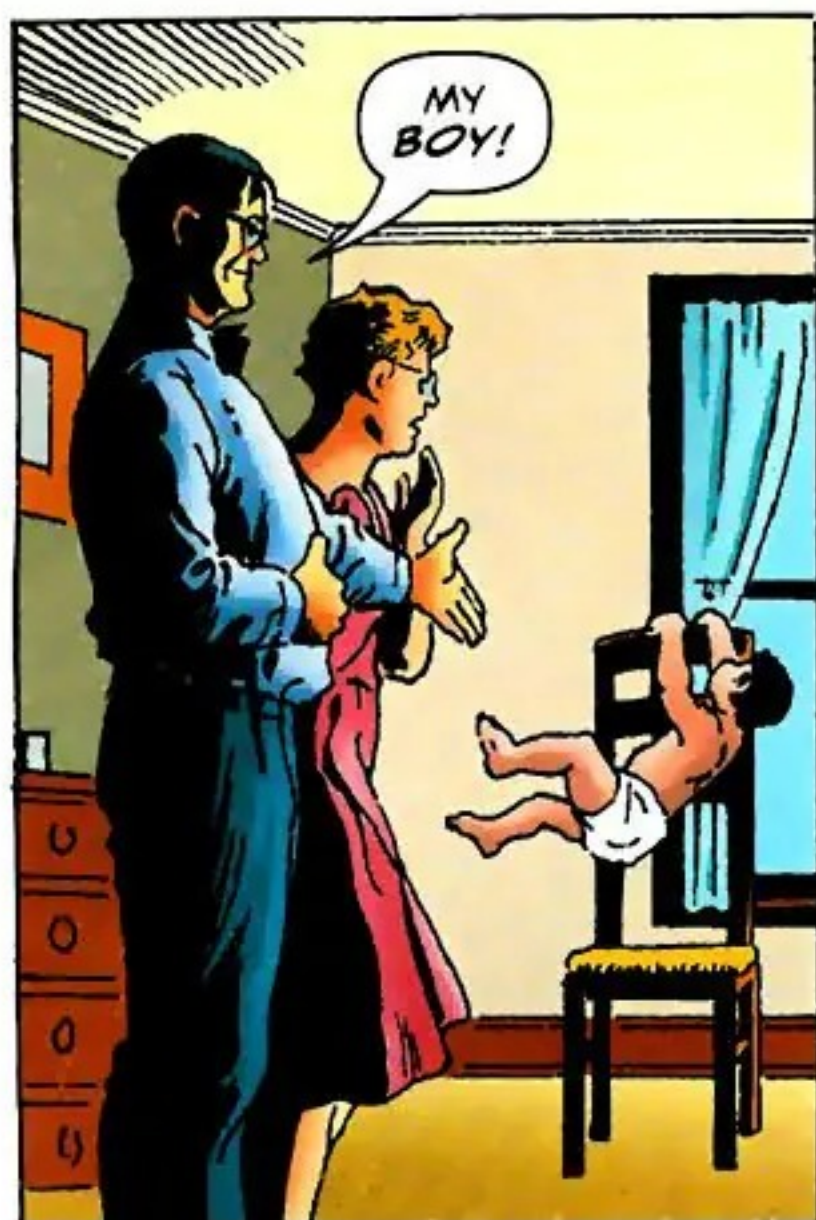
BEAUTIFUL...?

IT OUGHT TO BE.

WAA







MY BOY!



YES--
I DID IT--THE
NIGHT THE
CORDIAL PUT
YOU UNDER.



AND THERE'S
MY SON--
STRONGER
THAN A LION
CUB.



AND HE'LL GET
STRONGER--
ENOUGH TO PUT
SAMSON AND
HERCULES TO
SHAME.

HUGO IS THE FIRST
BORN OF A NEW AND
GLORIOUS RACE--A
RACE WITHOUT
FEAR--

--A RACE
THAT CAN
NEVER KNOW
HARM.



YOU CAN KNOCK
ME DOWN ALL
YOU LIKE--

--BUT I'VE GIVEN
YOU A SON WHO
WILL NOT BE
BROKEN.



ALL THESE
YEARS I'VE
LISTENED AND
OBEYED
YOU--

--AND
FEARED
YOU,
TOO--

--HOW
GOD MUST
HATE ME
FOR IT.

BUT MY SON--
HE'S EVERYTHING
I MIGHT HAVE
BEEN--WHAT
MEN SHOULD
BE--



I KNOW IT
STANDS
AGAINST YOUR
FAITH--

--BUT TRY
TO LOVE HIM--
THEN PLEASE,
MATTY--

--TRY TO
FORGIVE
ME.

--OF
COURSE
I LOVE
HIM.

GO WASH
YOUR FACE,
ABEDNEGO.





ALL WE DOUGLASES ARE THAT WAY.

MY GRANDAD COULD LIFT A CIDER KEG AT FIVE--TWO HUNDRED POUNDS AND MORE.



LIKE I TOLD MRS. NOLAN HERE--

HUGO TAKES AFTER MY FAMILY, IS ALL.

I WONDERED WHY YOU HADN'T BROUGHT THE CHILD TO CHURCH TO BE BAPTIZED--

--AND WHY, NOW HE'S OLD ENOUGH, WE DON'T SEE MORE OF YOU AND MR. DANNER?



HUGO IS AN IRRITABLE CHILD-- WE'D PREFER TO BAPTIZE HIM AT HOME.

THAT'S HIGHLY IRREGULAR--AS IRREGULAR AS THIS IRON PLAYPEN--

IT SEEMS UNNECESSARILY CRUEL TO ME--



IS THAT SO?

I'M AFRAID IT DOES, MRS. DANNER--

HE'S SMASHED THREE CRIBS AND A WOODEN PLAYPEN--

TEMPER, EH? WELL THEN, HE MUST BE PUNISHED--

PUNISHED?

EXACTLY-- I'VE REARED SEVEN BY THE ROD.



HERE'S YOUR HAT, PARSON--

I BEG YOUR PARDON--



MRS. DANNER-- WHAT IS THE MEANING OF--

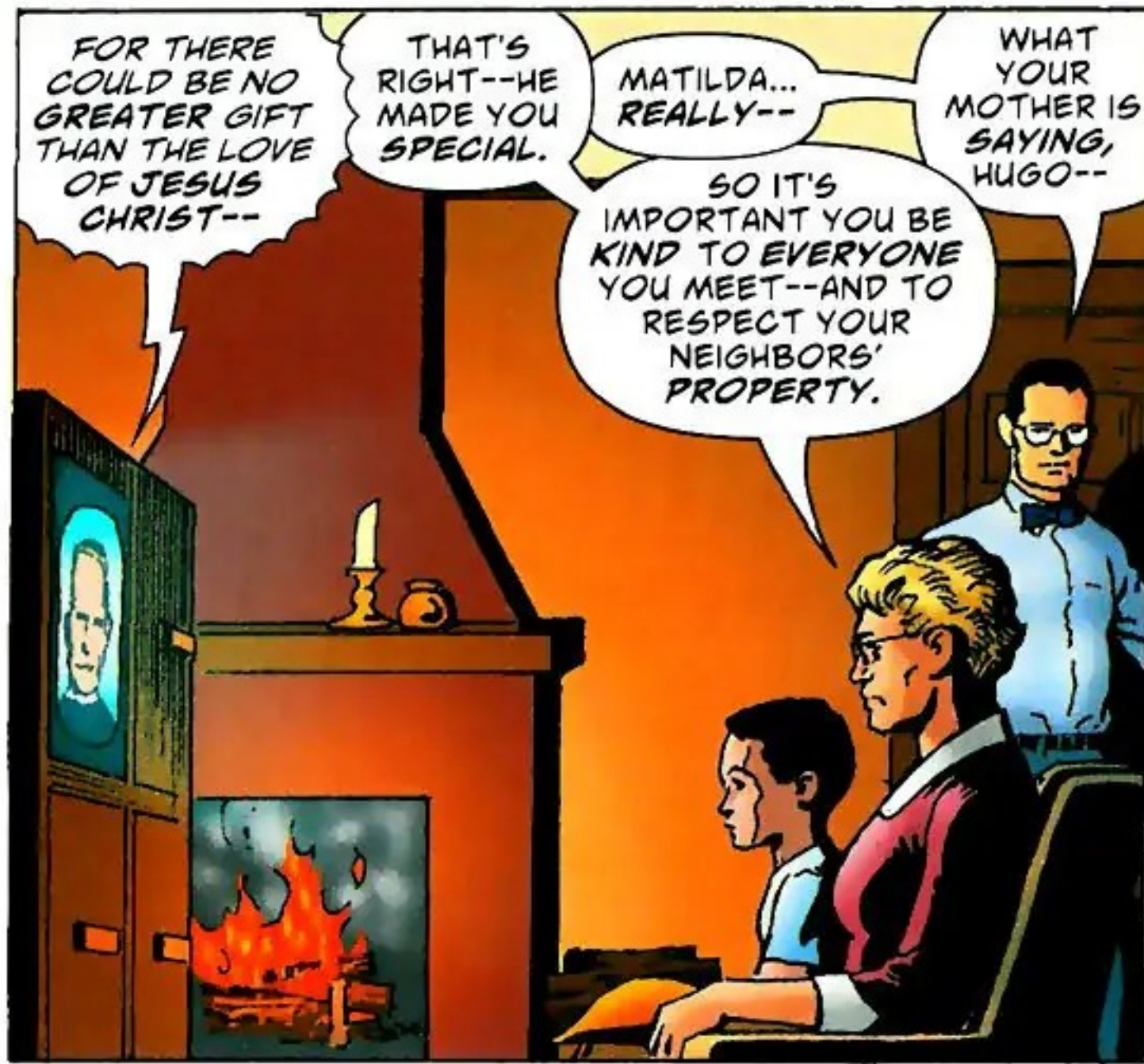
YOU WON'T RAISE MINE BY THE ROD--OR TOUCH HIM BY A MILE.



SO, FRIENDS, I
LEAVE YOU WITH
THE LOVE OF OUR
SAVIOR--

IT WAS
JESUS WHO
DIED SO YOU'D
BE SAVED--

JESUS
IS WHY IT
DOESN'T
HURT?



FOR THERE
COULD BE NO
GREATER GIFT
THAN THE LOVE
OF JESUS
CHRIST--

THAT'S
RIGHT--HE
MADE YOU
SPECIAL.

MATILDA...
REALLY--

WHAT
YOUR
MOTHER IS
SAYING,
HUGO--

SO IT'S
IMPORTANT YOU BE
KIND TO EVERYONE
YOU MEET--AND TO
RESPECT YOUR
NEIGHBORS'
PROPERTY.



HUSH,
ABEDNEGO.

HUGO--YOUR
FATHER AND I HAVE
DONE EVERYTHING WE
POSSIBLY CAN TO
MAKE LIFE BETTER
FOR YOU--

--YOU HAVE
TO MEET US
HALFWAY.

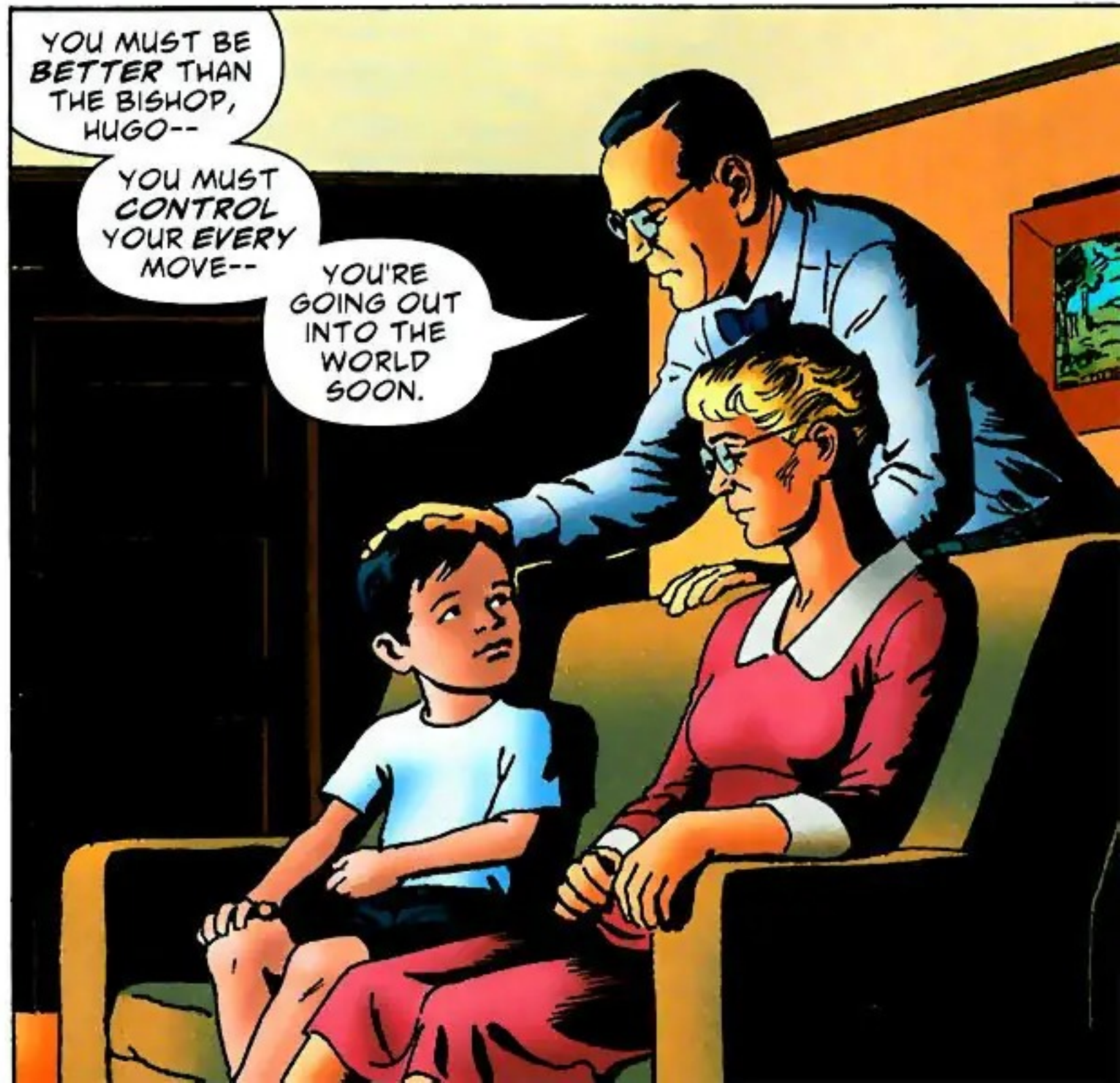


I'M AWFULLY
SORRY ABOUT THE
ROSEBUSHES,
MOM.

I'M
SURE YOU
ARE, HUGO--
BUT BEING
SORRY ISN'T
ENOUGH--



BUT THE
BISHOP ON
TV SAYS
IT IS--

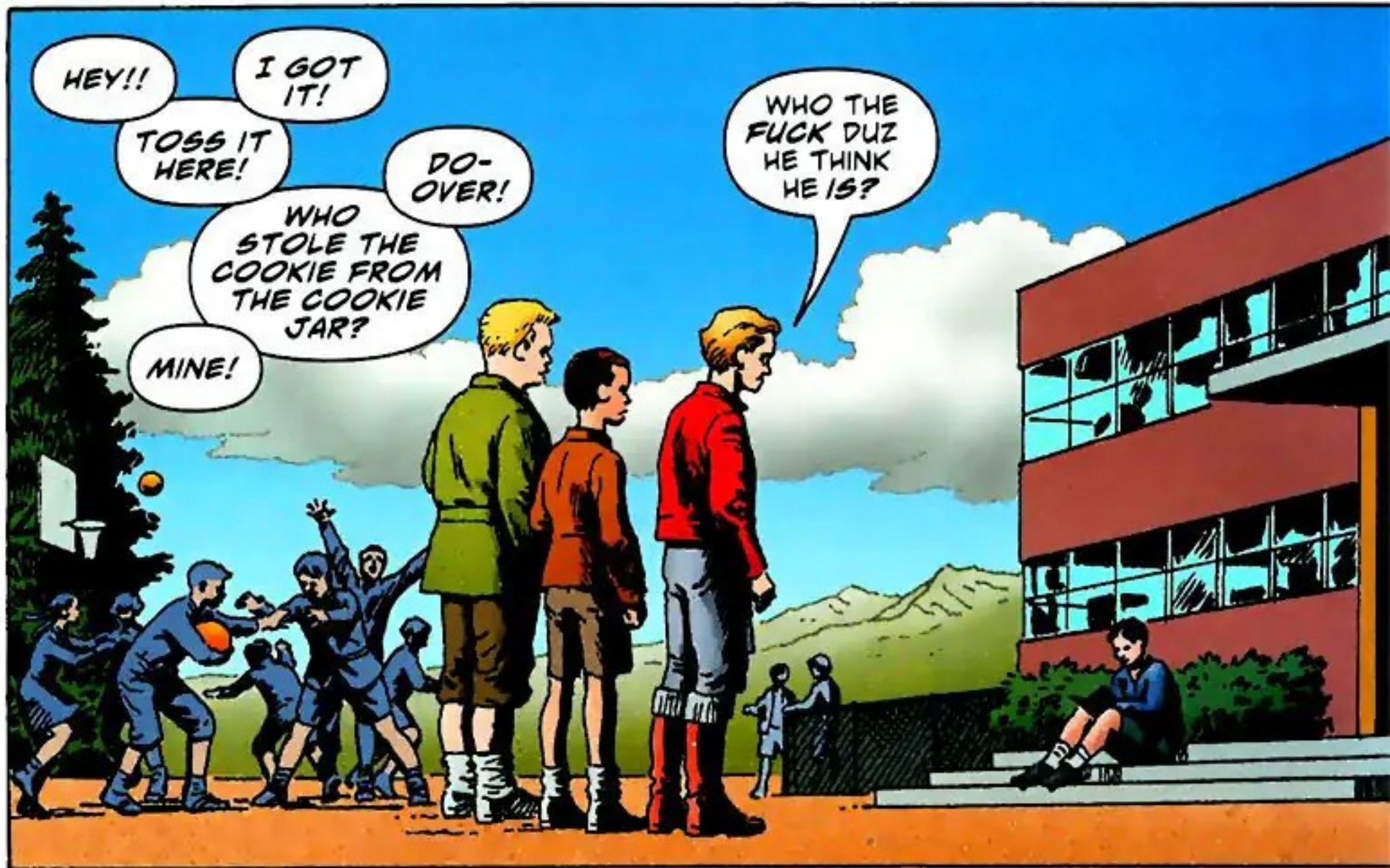


YOU MUST BE
BETTER THAN
THE BISHOP,
HUGO--

YOU MUST
CONTROL
YOUR EVERY
MOVE--

YOU'RE
GOING OUT
INTO THE
WORLD
SOON.

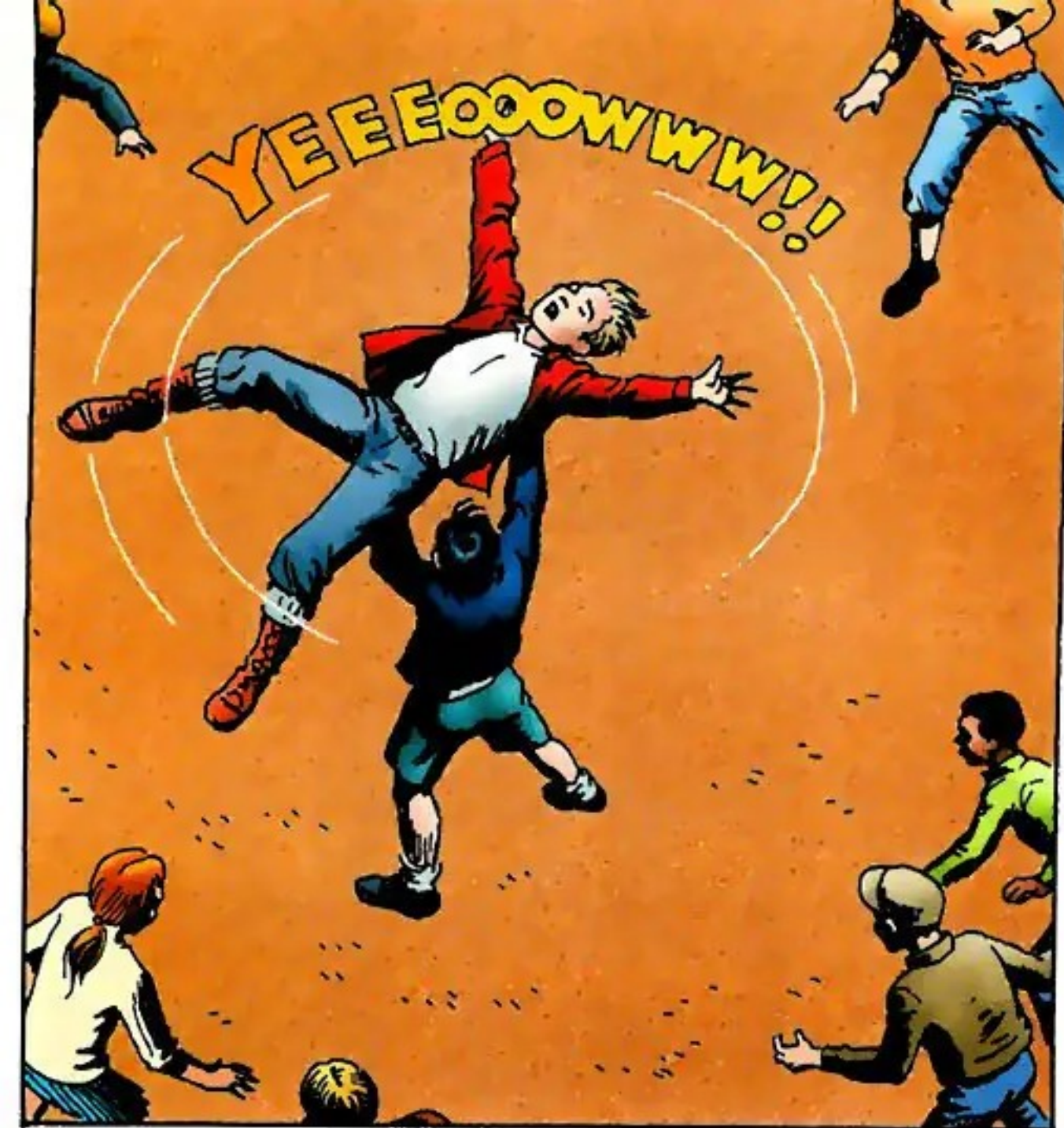


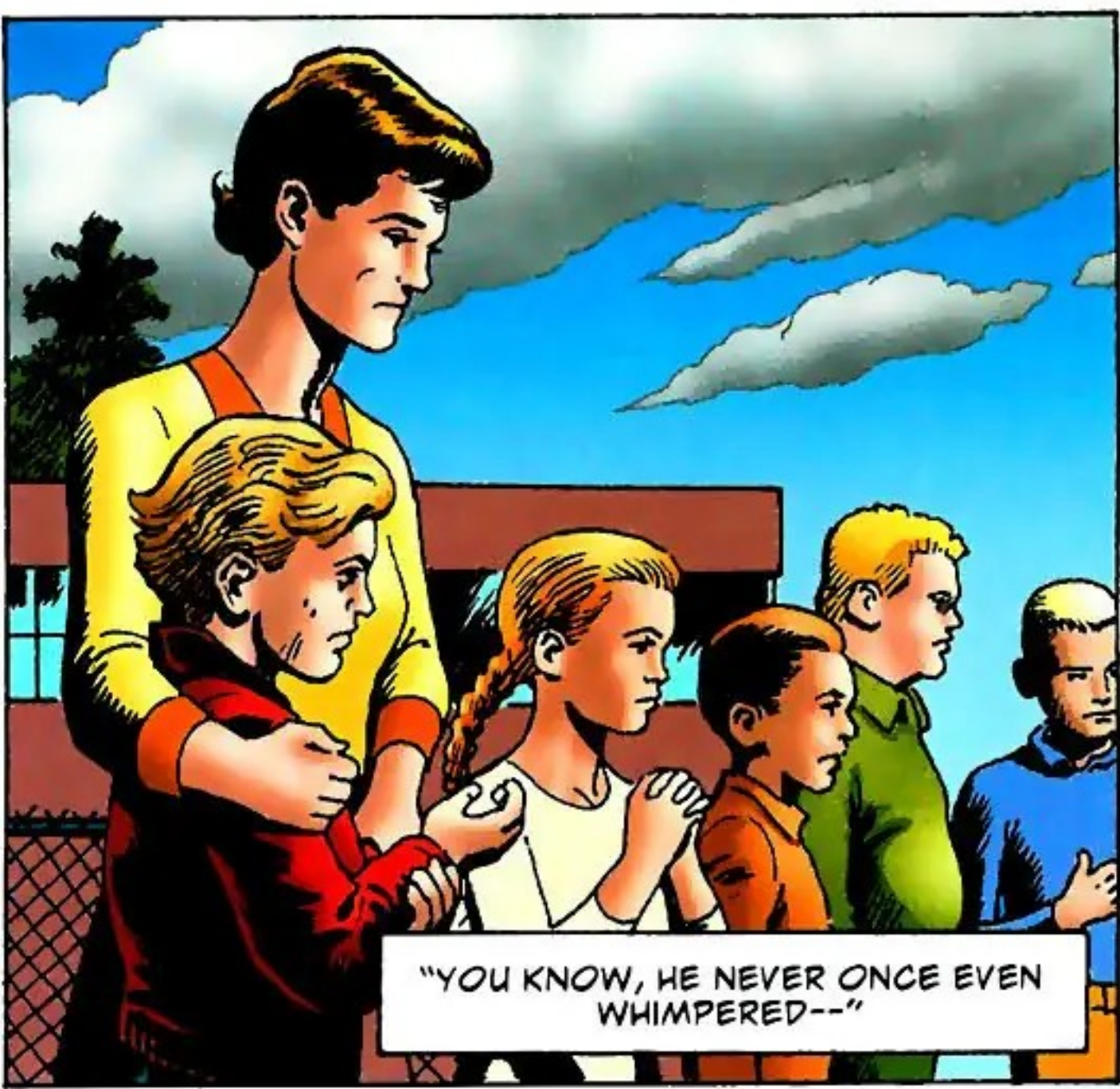








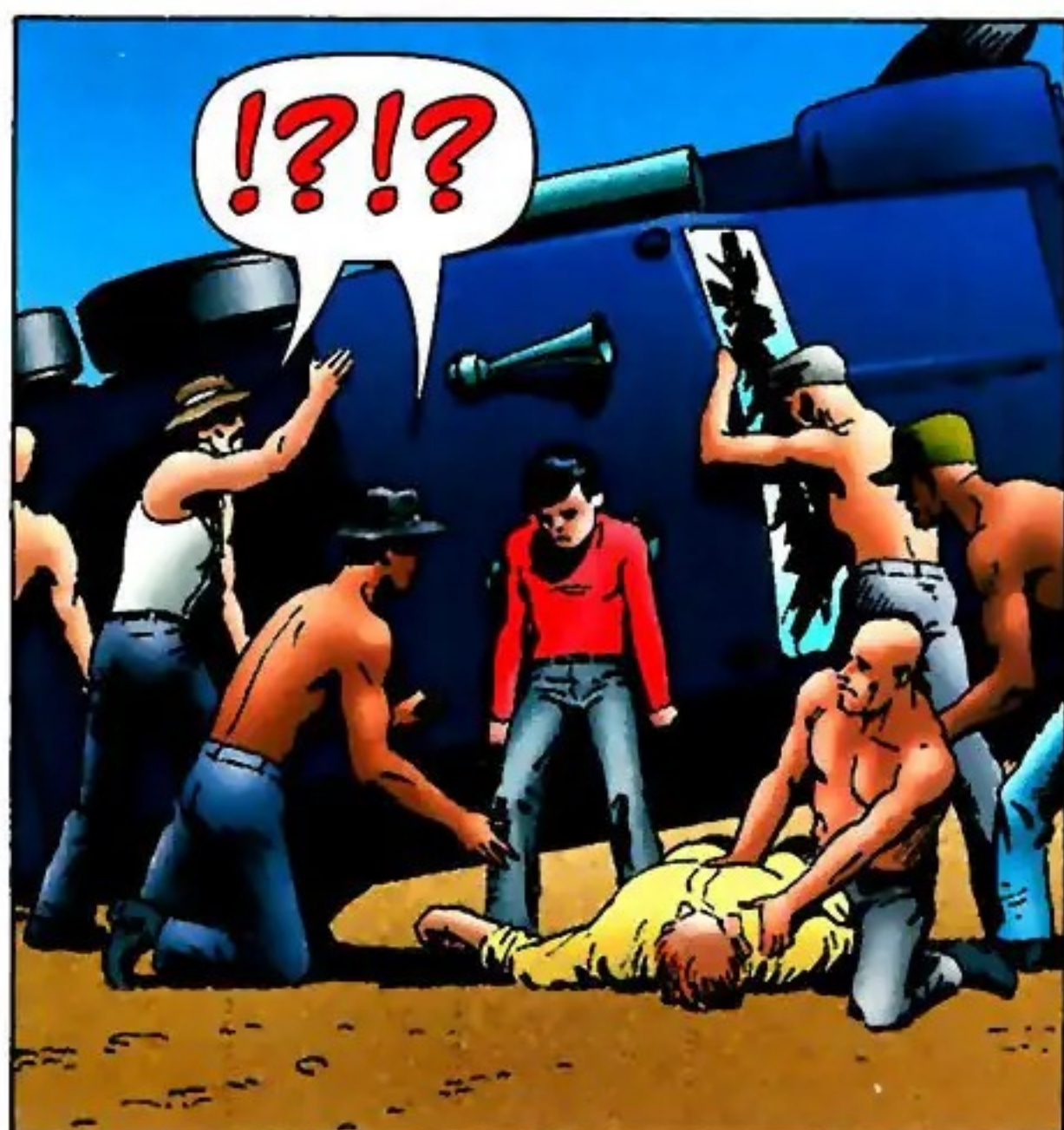
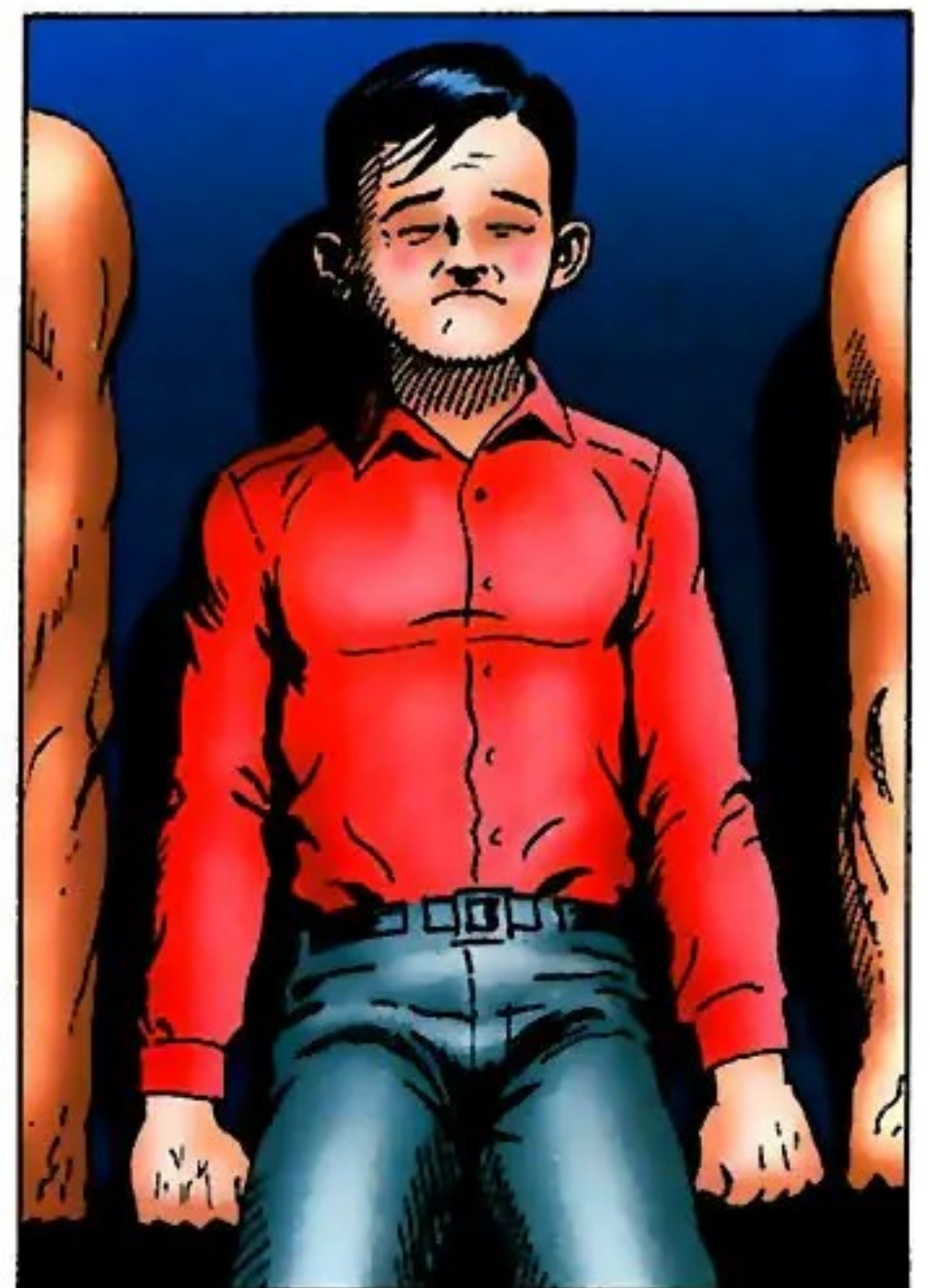


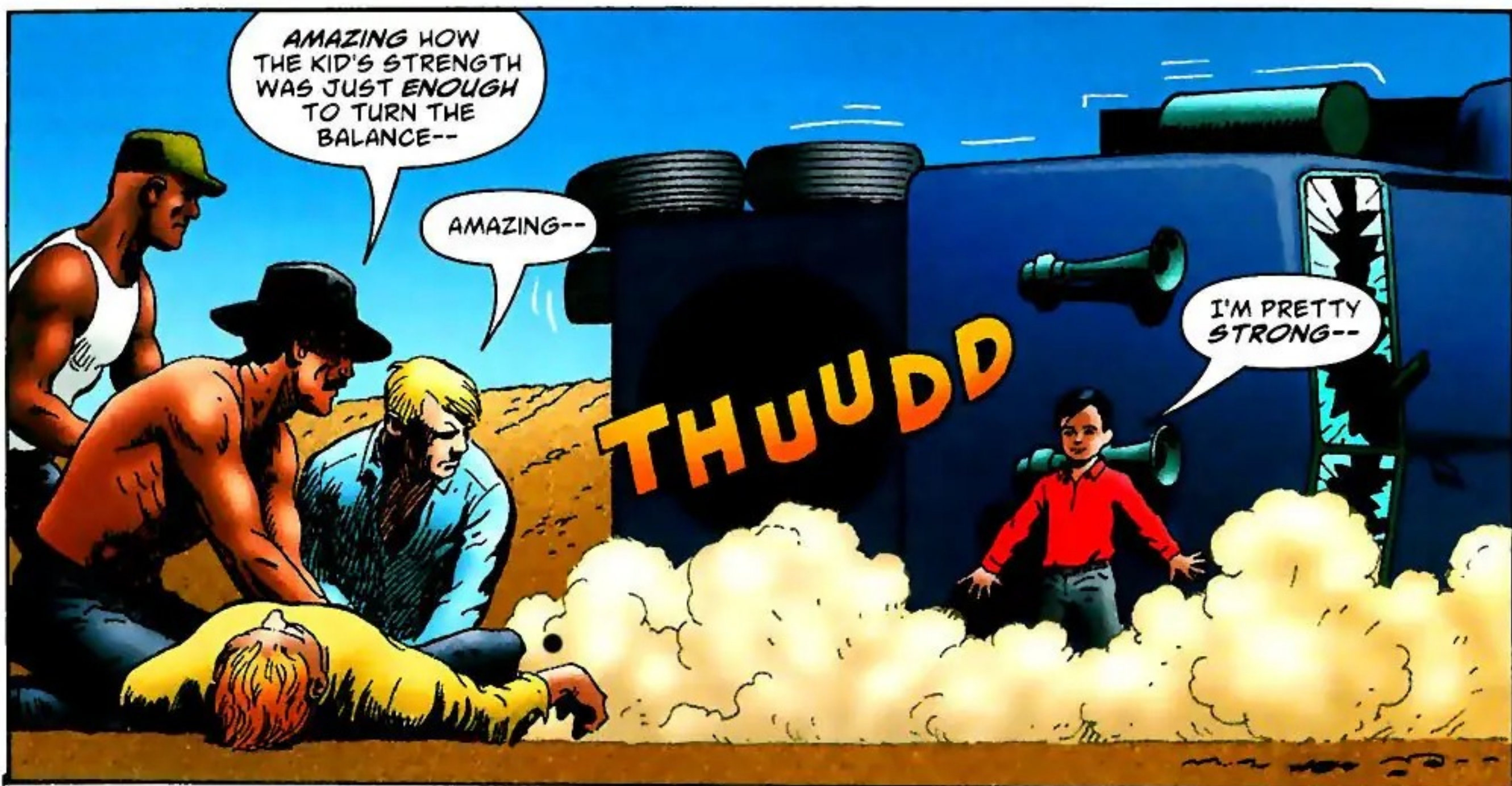








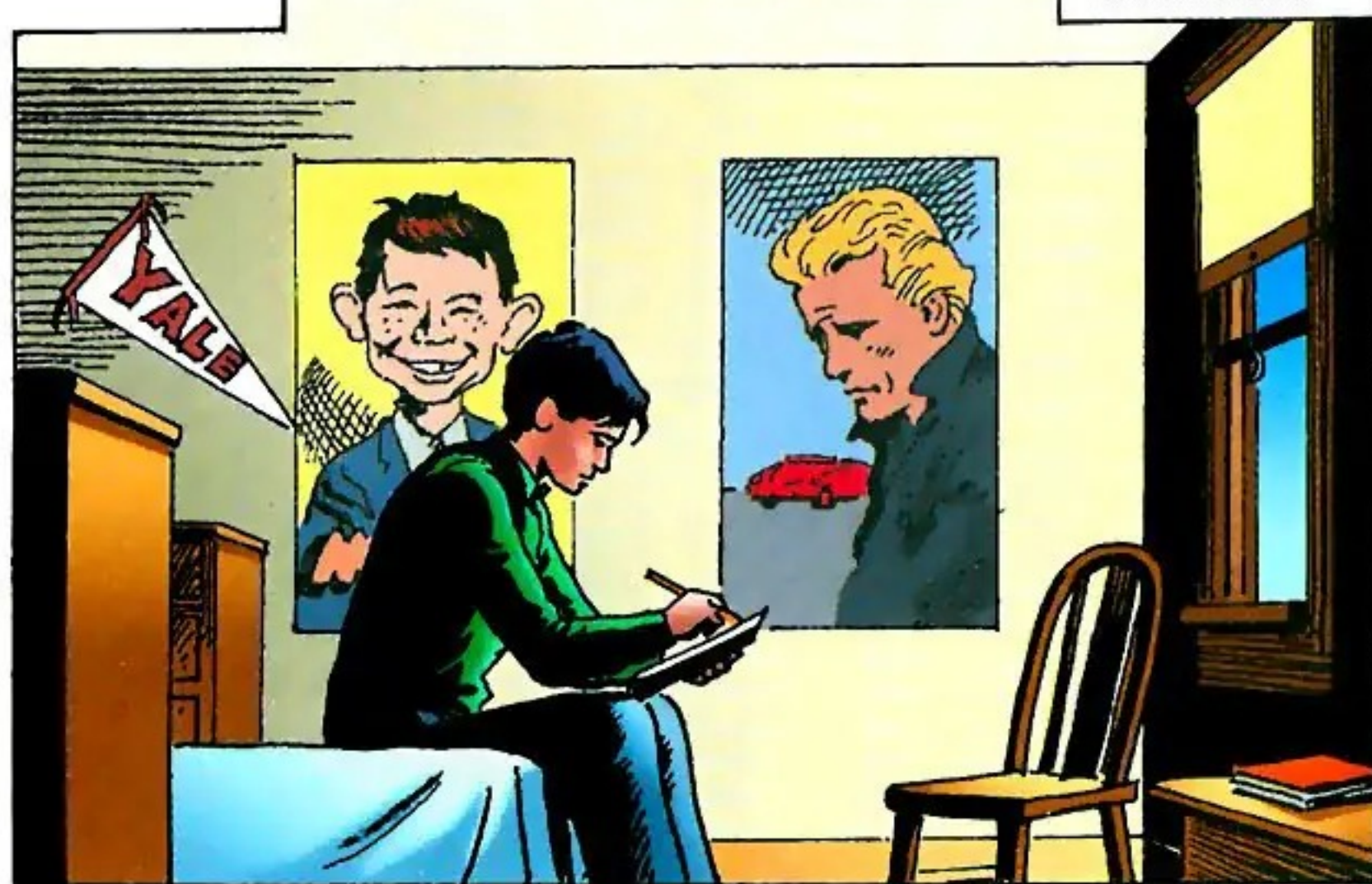






"It's still a curse. At school they think it went away--like a kid disease--chicken pox--"
"--but I can't just pretend it's not there.

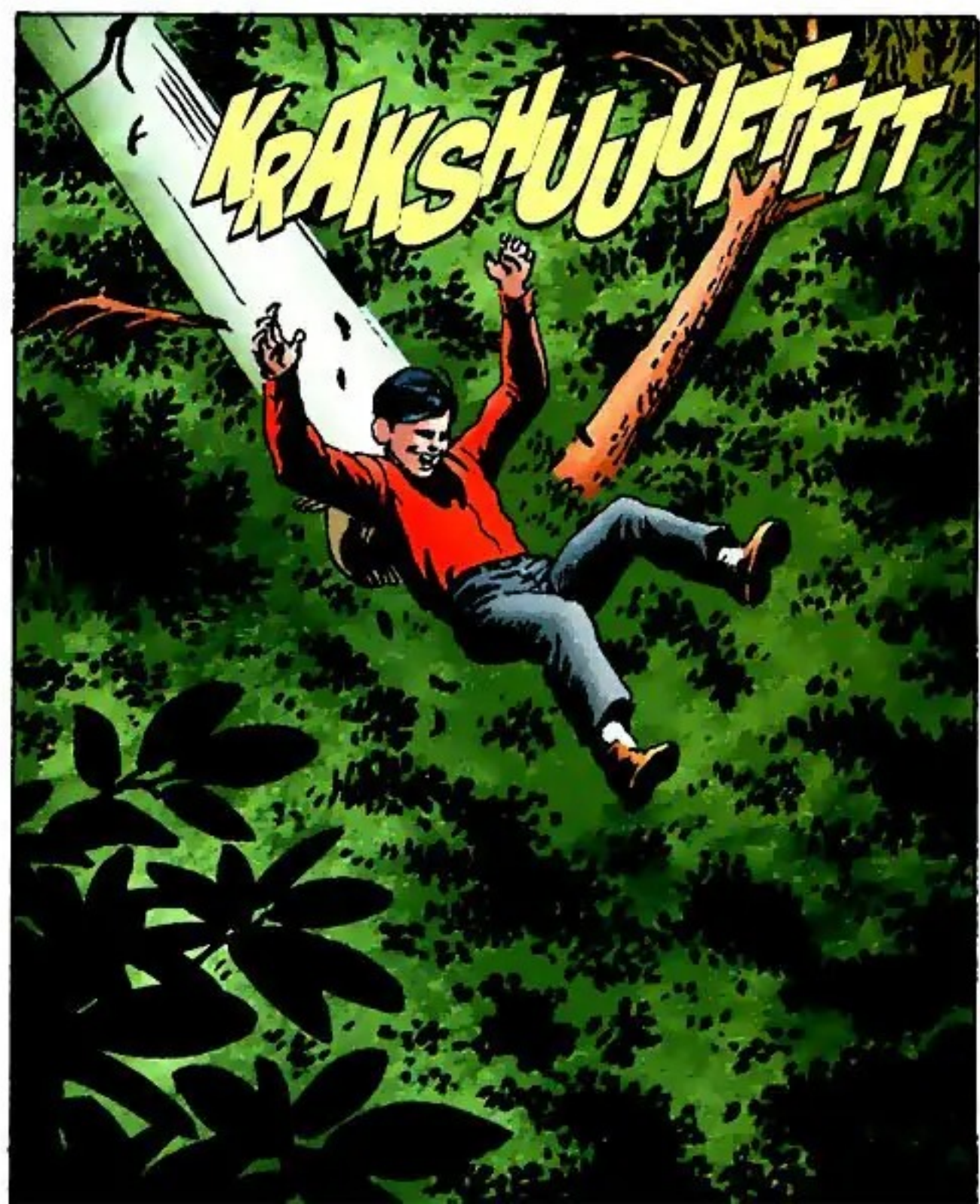
"But that farmer-- he really hated me."

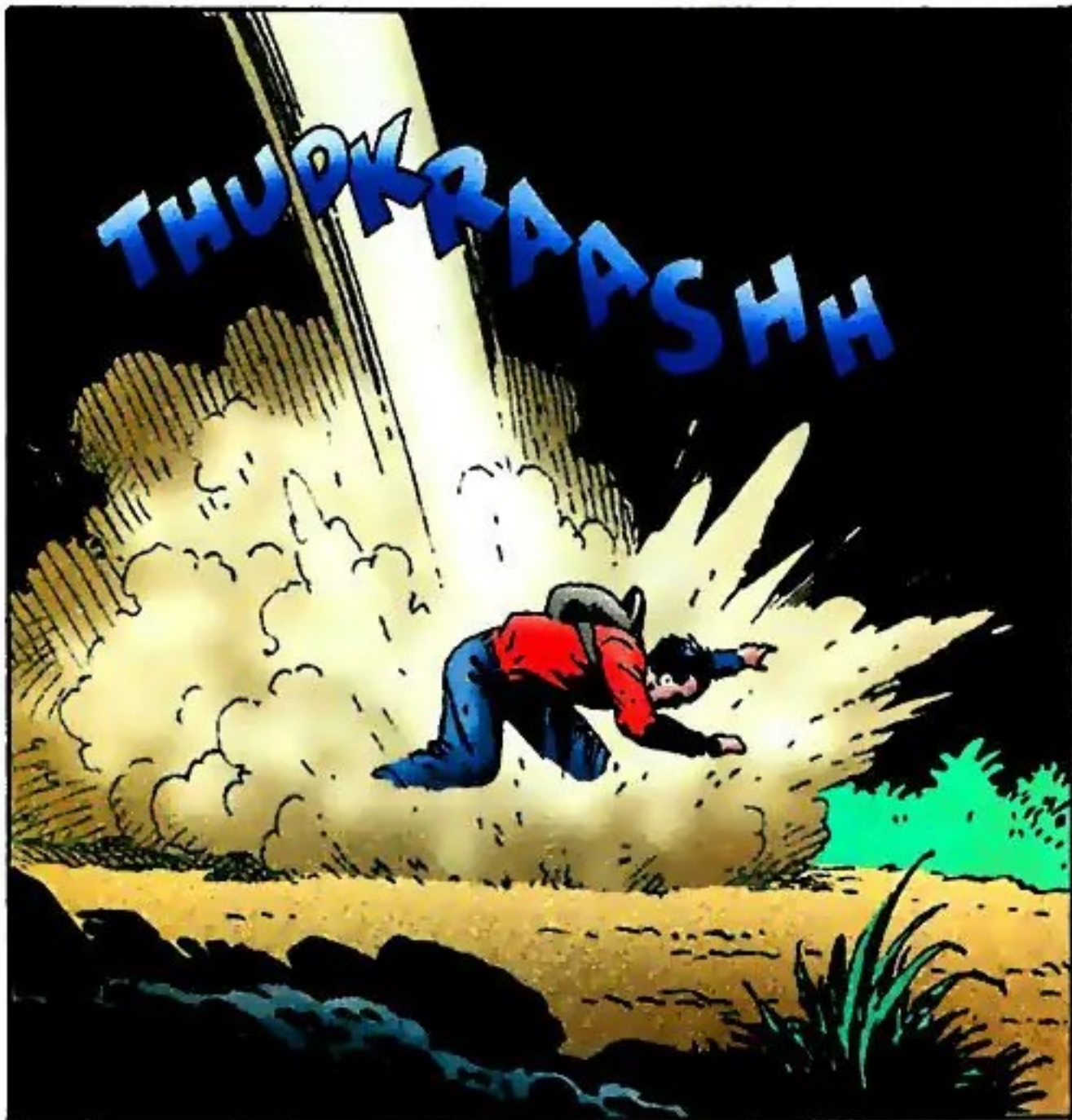


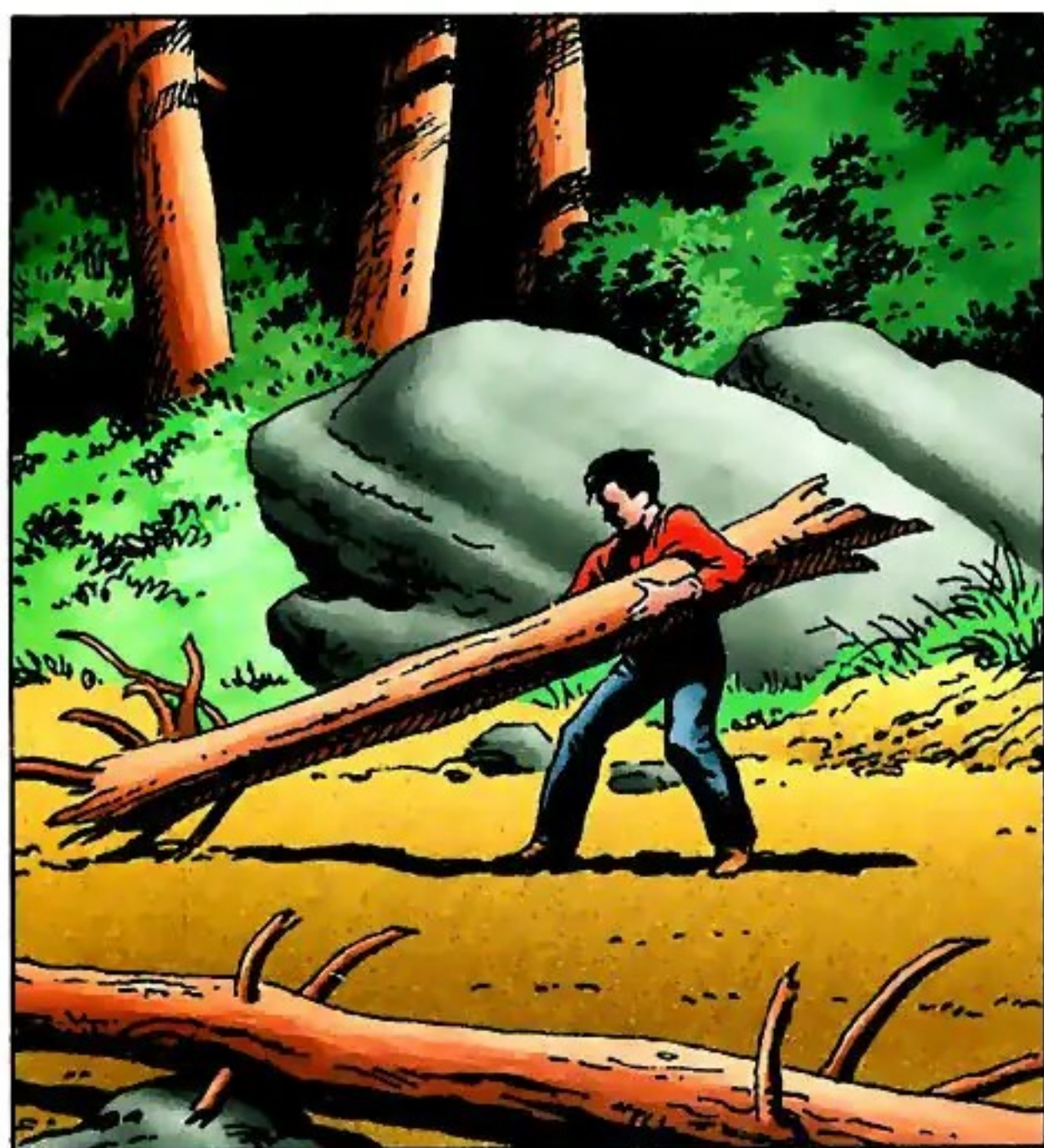
"But how strong am I, really--
and how fast?"



"How high can I jump?"

















IT'S LONG PAST TIME WE TALKED, I GUESS.

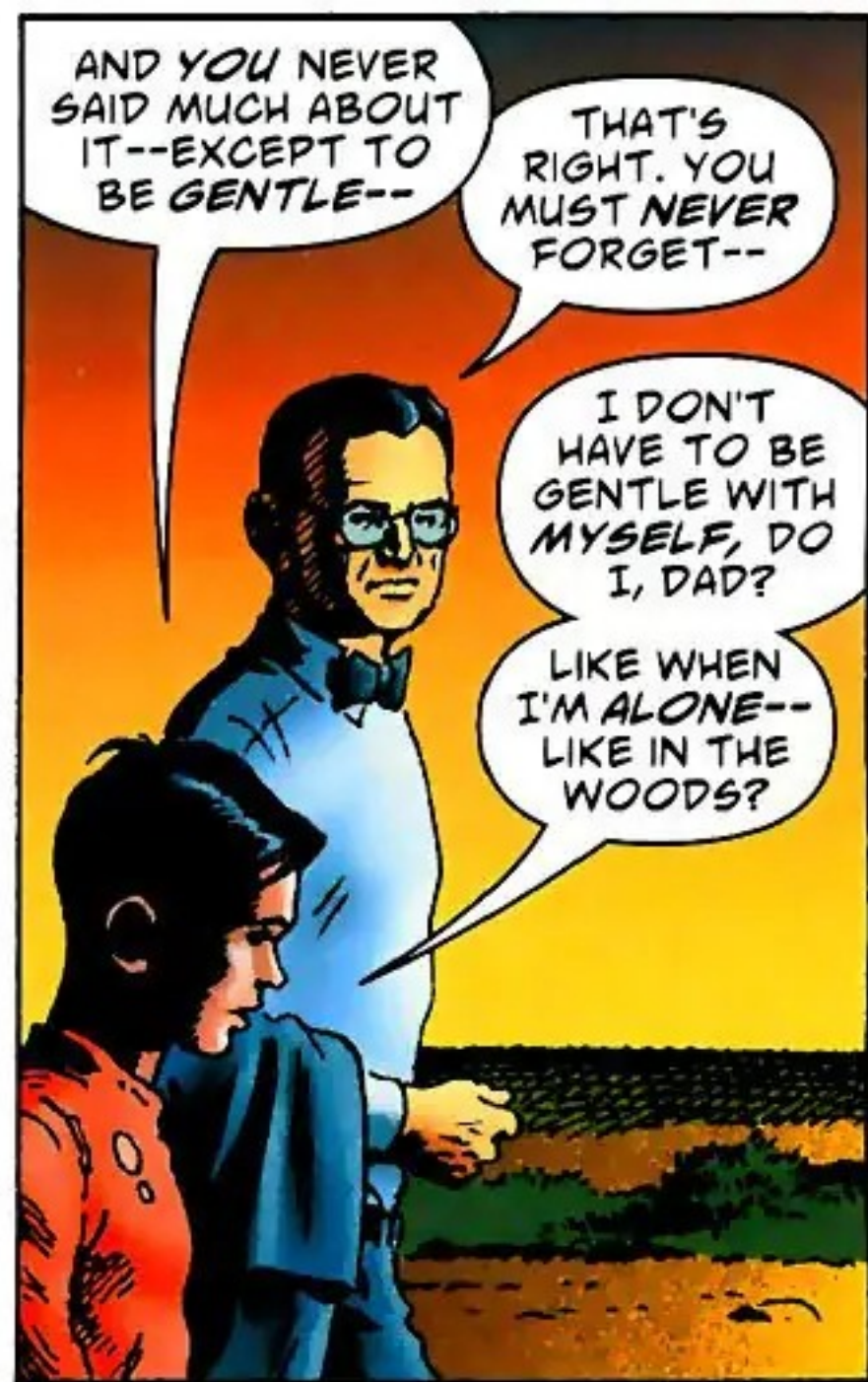
WELL, I KIND OF THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL YOU...

THIS AFTERNOON... WELL--

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PRETTY STRONG KID.



I--I KNOW, HUGO-- I KNOW...



AND YOU NEVER SAID MUCH ABOUT IT--EXCEPT TO BE GENTLE--

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU MUST NEVER FORGET--

I DON'T HAVE TO BE GENTLE WITH MYSELF, DO I, DAD?

LIKE WHEN I'M ALONE-- LIKE IN THE WOODS?



YOU MEAN--WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE--

YOU LET YOURSELF GO--ALL THE WAY?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN.



I TOOK A LONG WALK TODAY, DAD--AND I KIND OF TRIED MYSELF OUT.

I'M NOT JUST ANOTHER STRONG KID.

I'M NOT LIKE ANY OTHER KIDS AT ALL--

--AND IT'S BEEN GETTING WORSE SINCE I WAS A BABY.



WORSE?

I MEAN STRONGER.

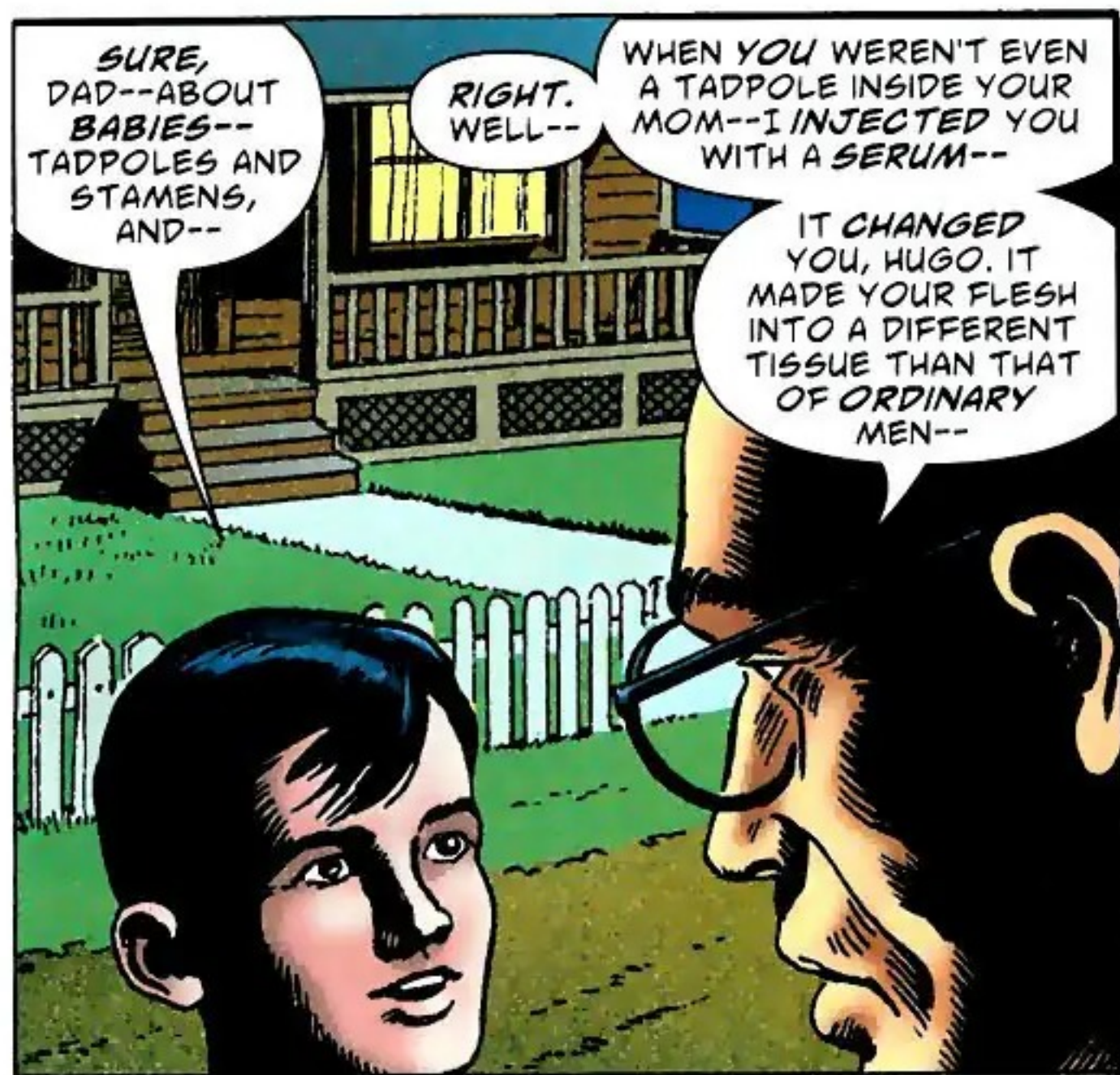
DAD-- I THINK I MIGHT BE THE STRONGEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN'T DO--

--IT KIND OF SCARES ME.



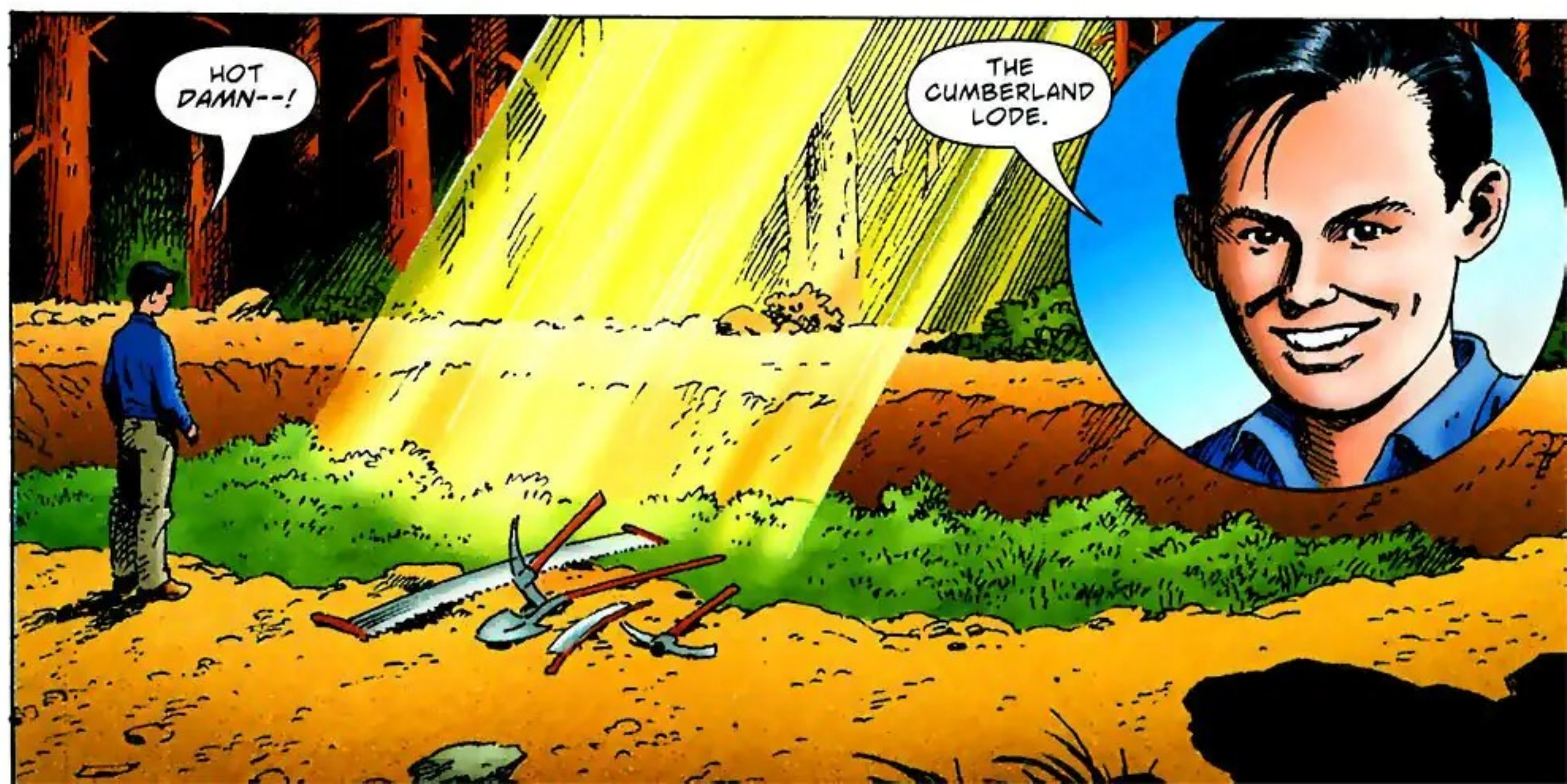
SUPPOSE YOU SHOW ME...



"GOD I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT."



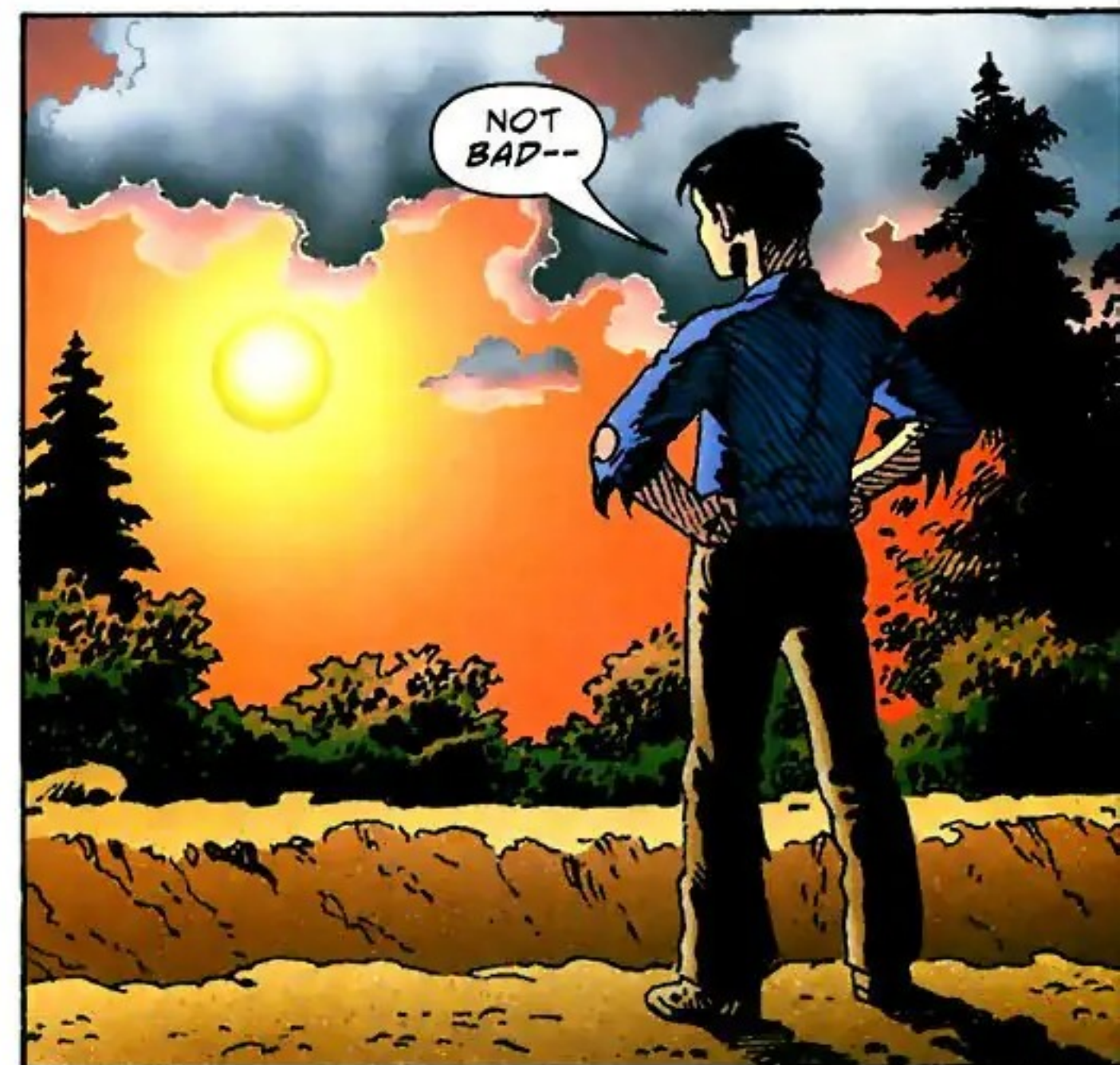
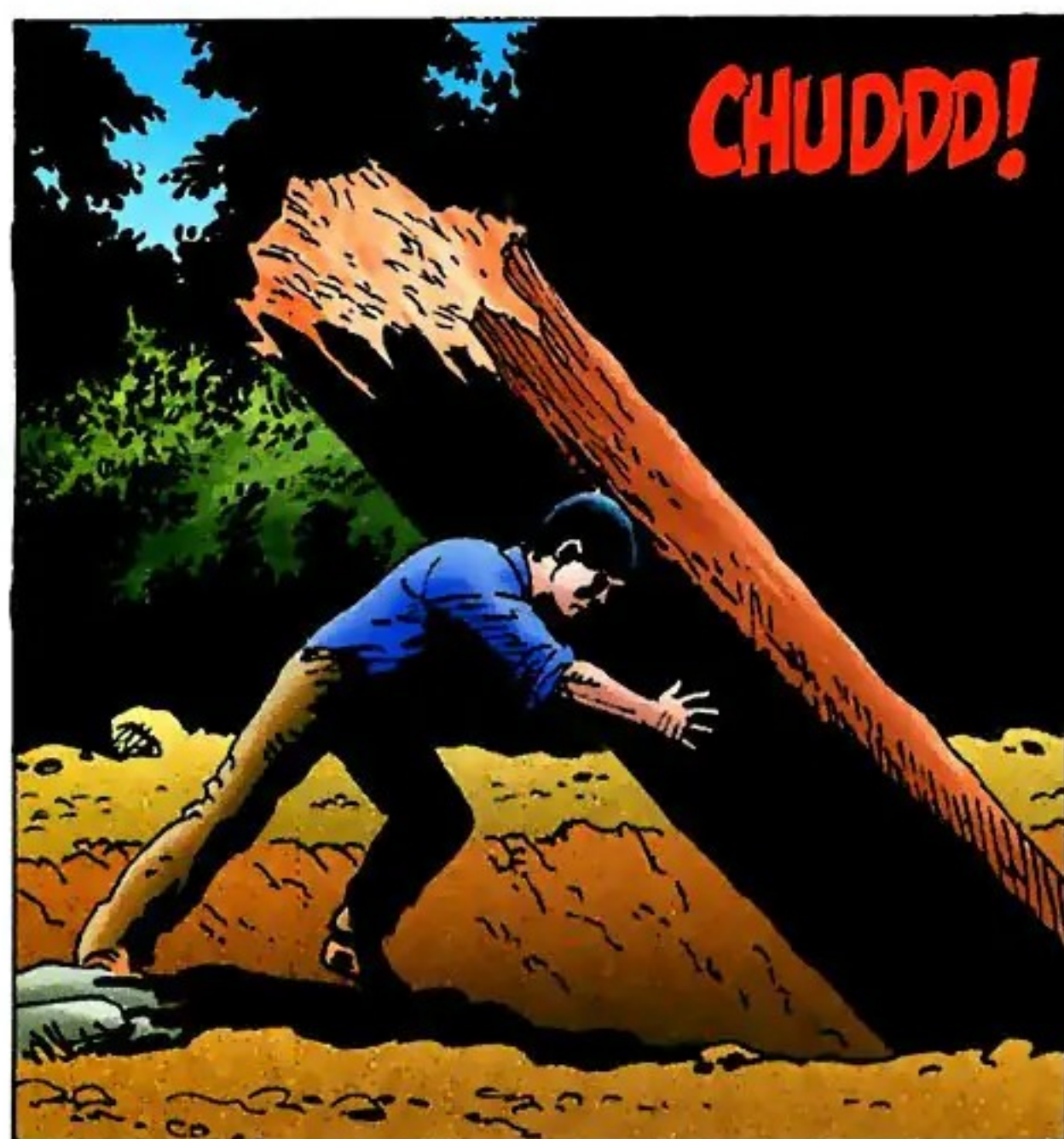
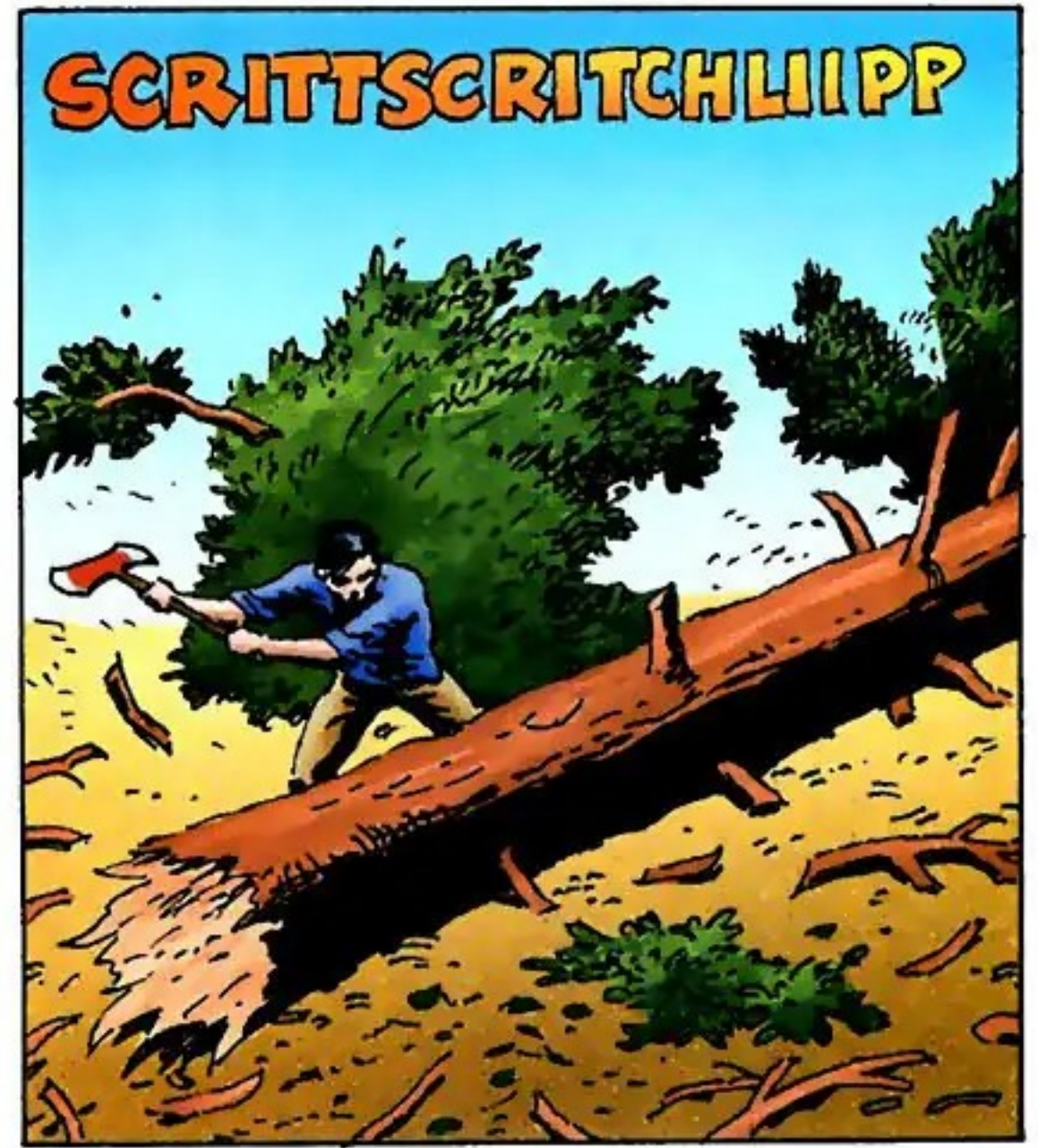
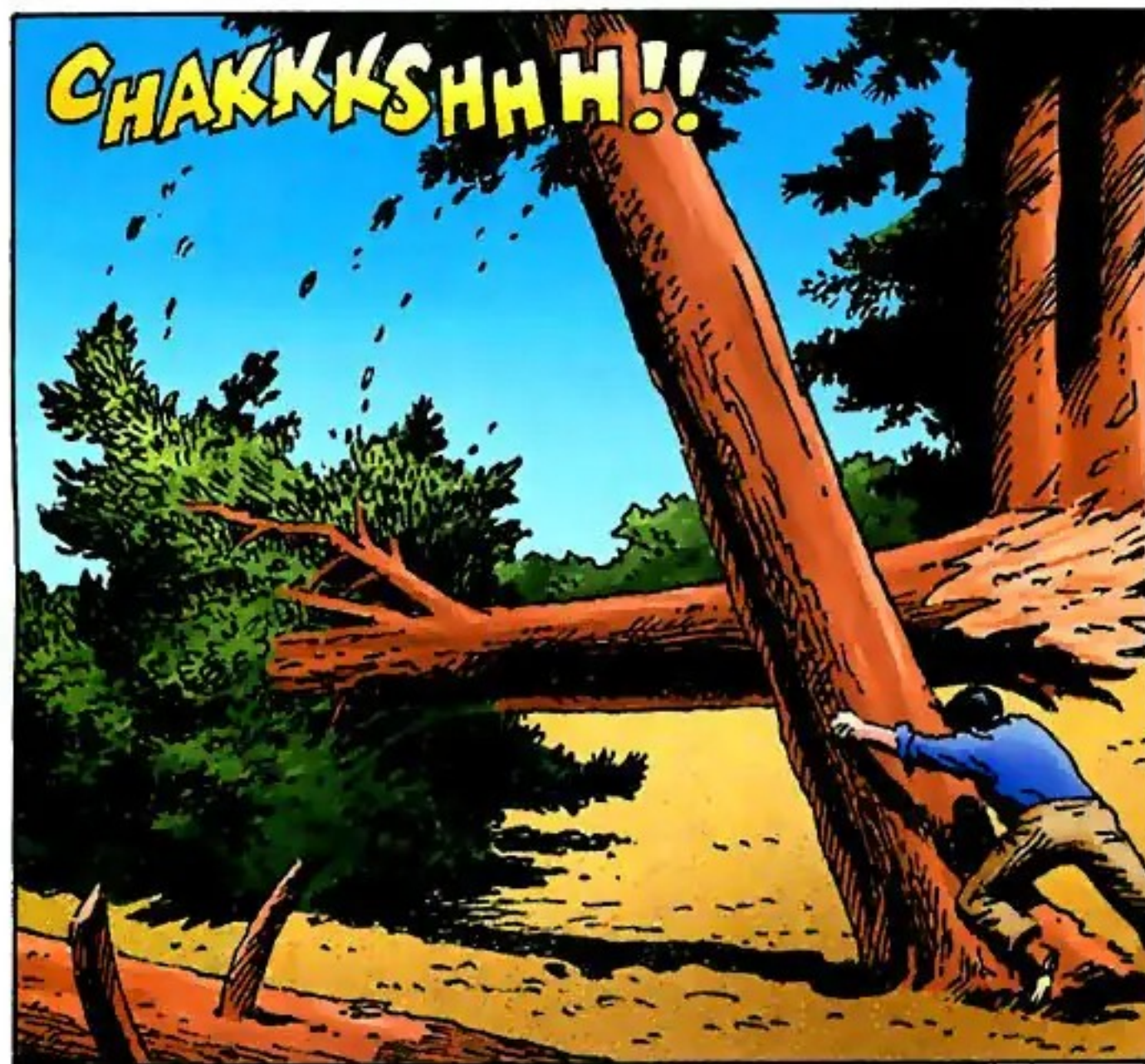
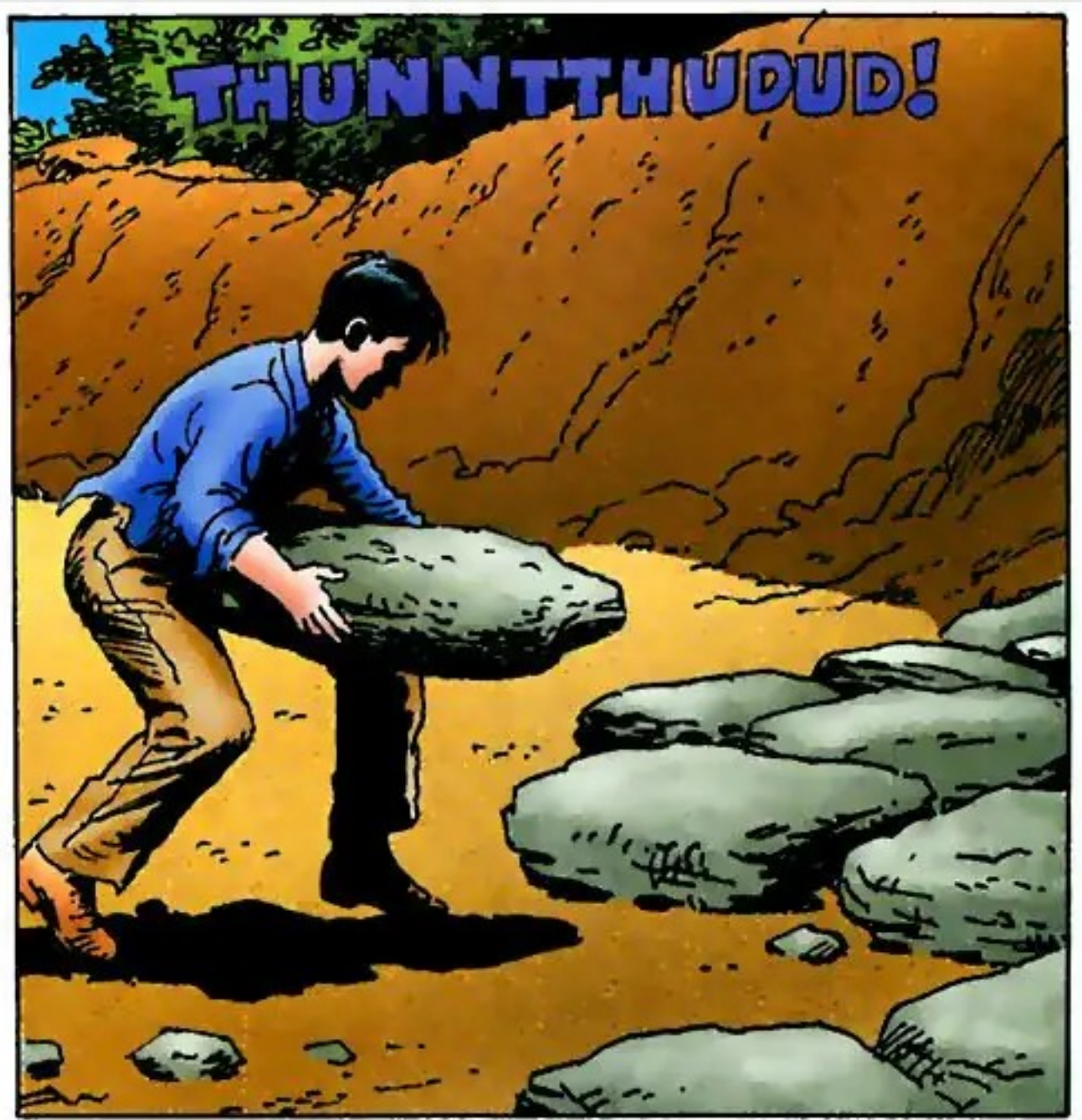
CHAKKRAKSHHH

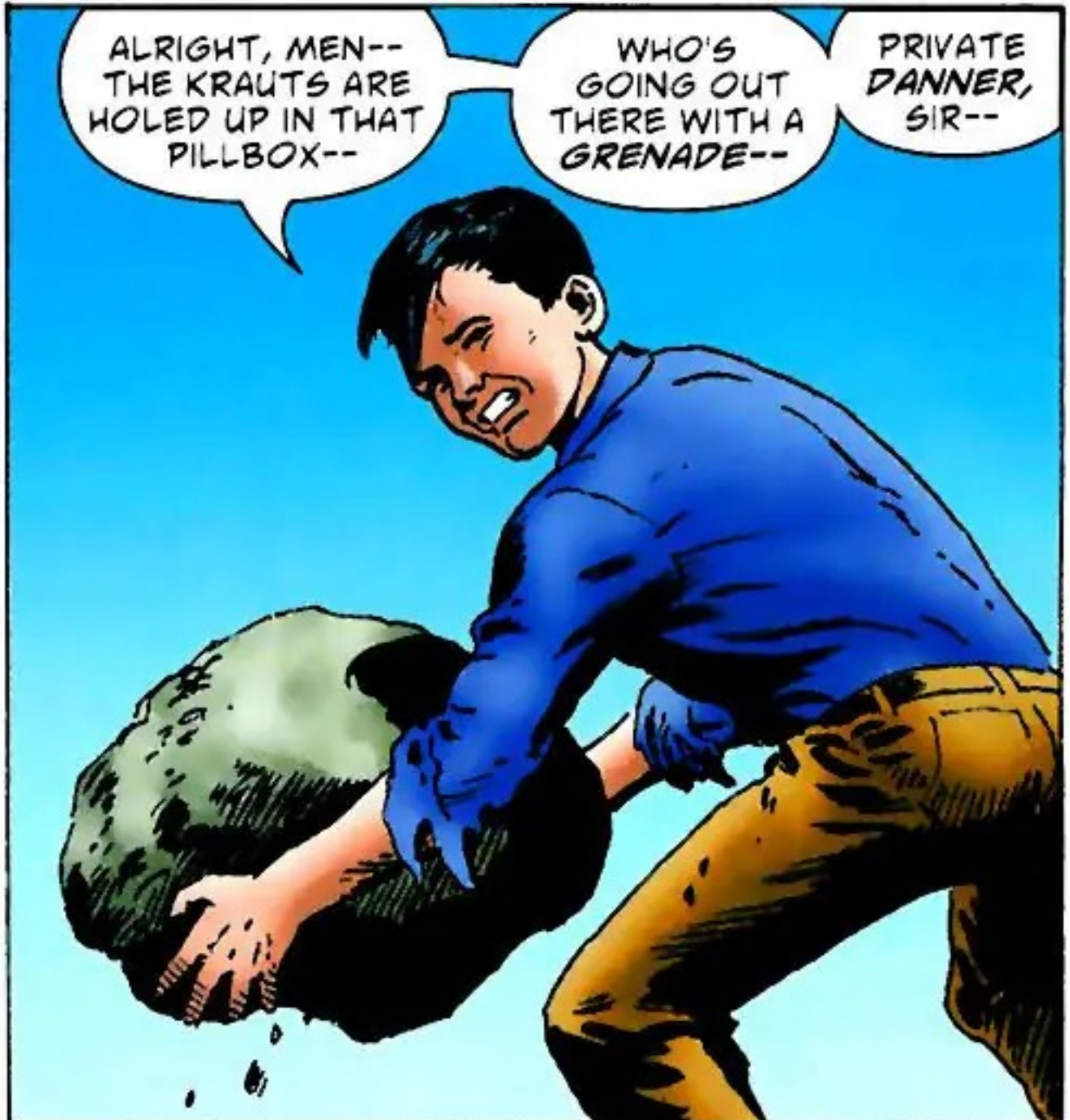


HOT
DAMN--!

THE
CUMBERLAND
LODE.









MOON-
SHINERS,
MAYBE?

RUBBISH--
HILLBILLIES
NEVER BUILD
LIKE THAT.

WE'VE
GOT A SORT
OF INDIAN
STONEHENGE
HERE--



BUT THERE'S FRESH
WORK THERE--AND
THERE--

IS IT POSSIBLE
WE'VE STUMBLED
ONTO SOMETHING
REALLY BIG--

--SOME
BACKWOODS
TRIBE,
MAYBE--

COULD
THEY BE
HOSTILE?



HEYYY!!!

WHY, IT'S OLD
DANNER'S
BOY--HUGO,
RIGHT?



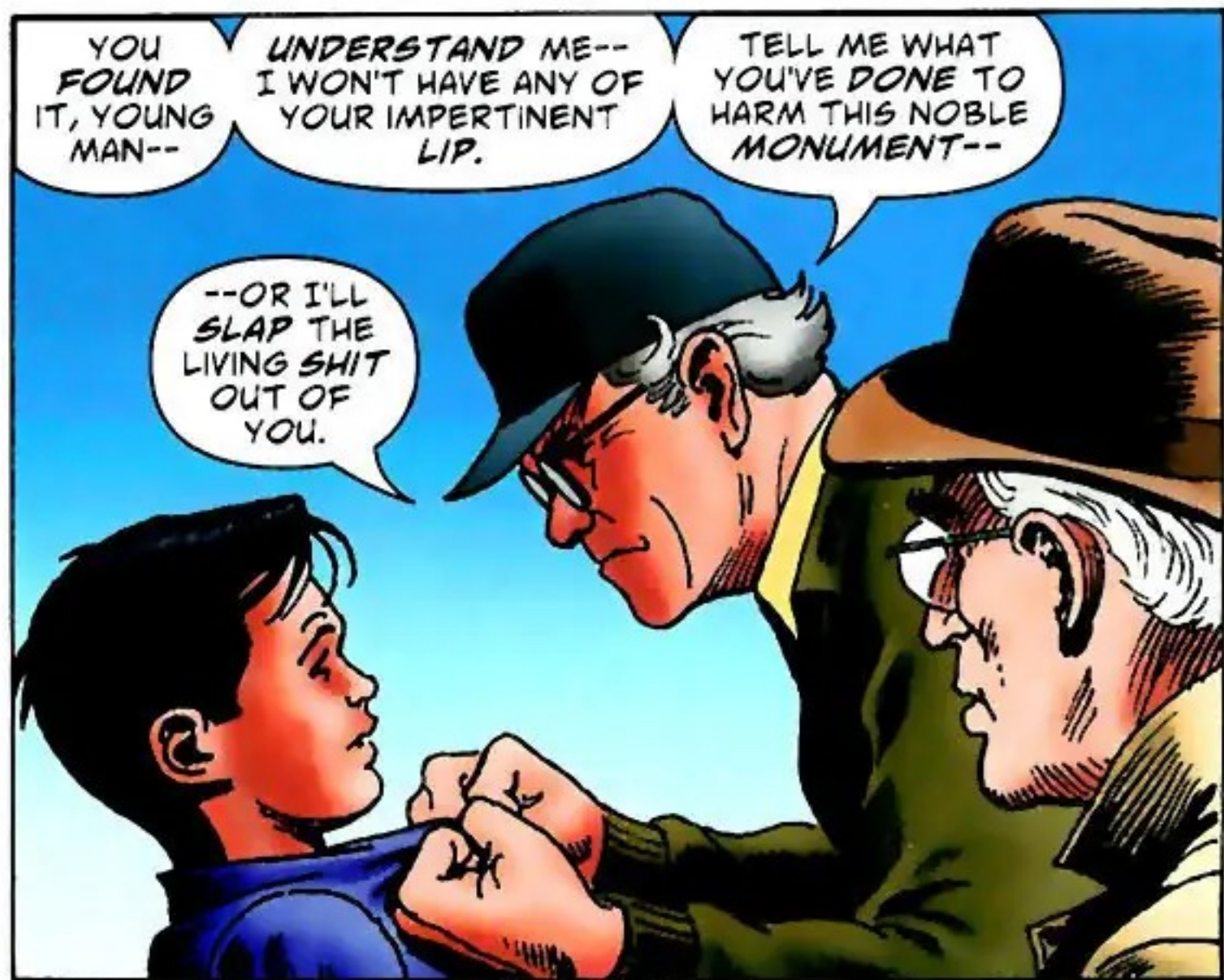
TELL ME,
BOY--WHAT
DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THESE
RUINS?

THIS
STRUCTURE.

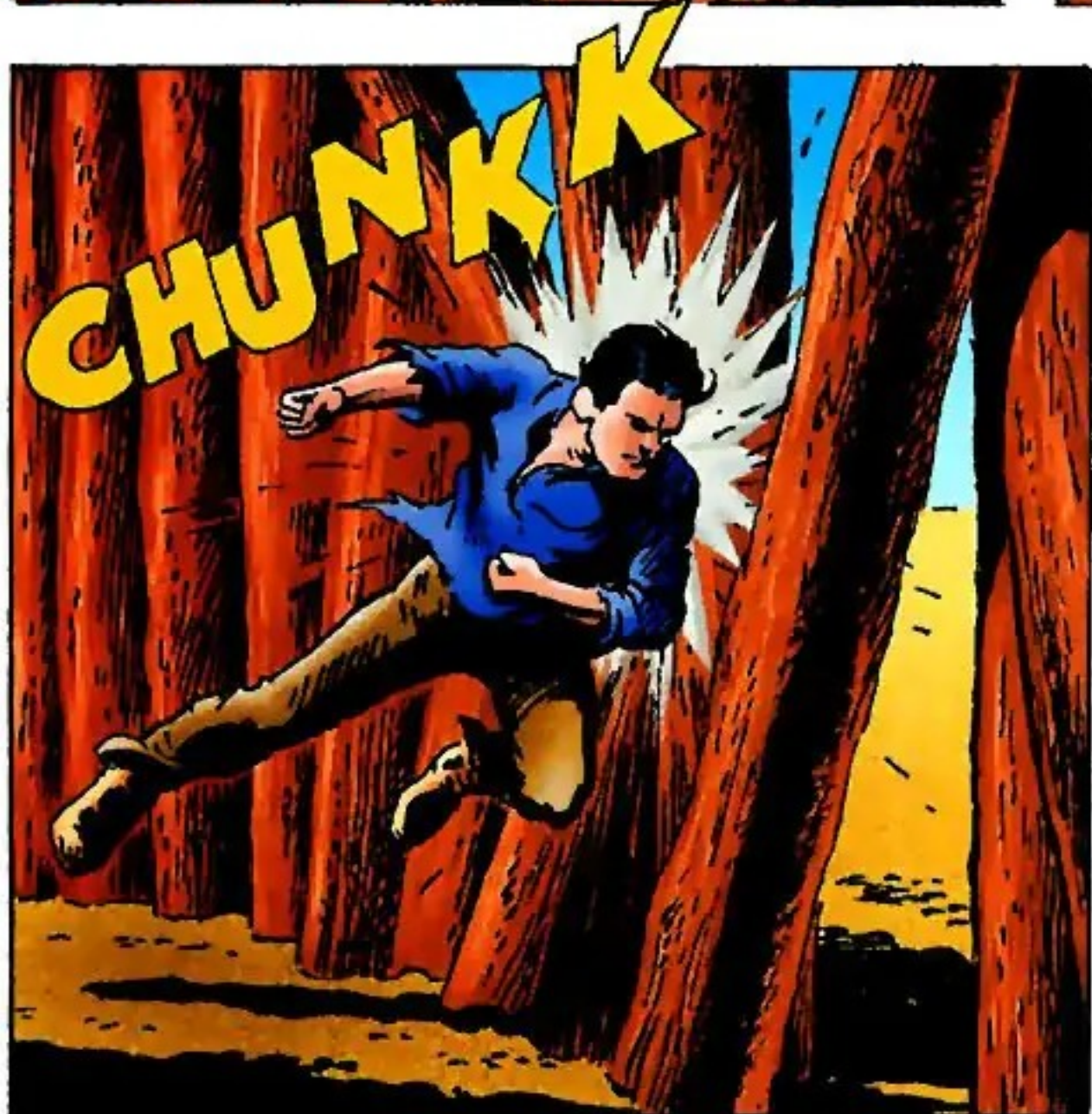
RUINS?
WHAT
RUINS?

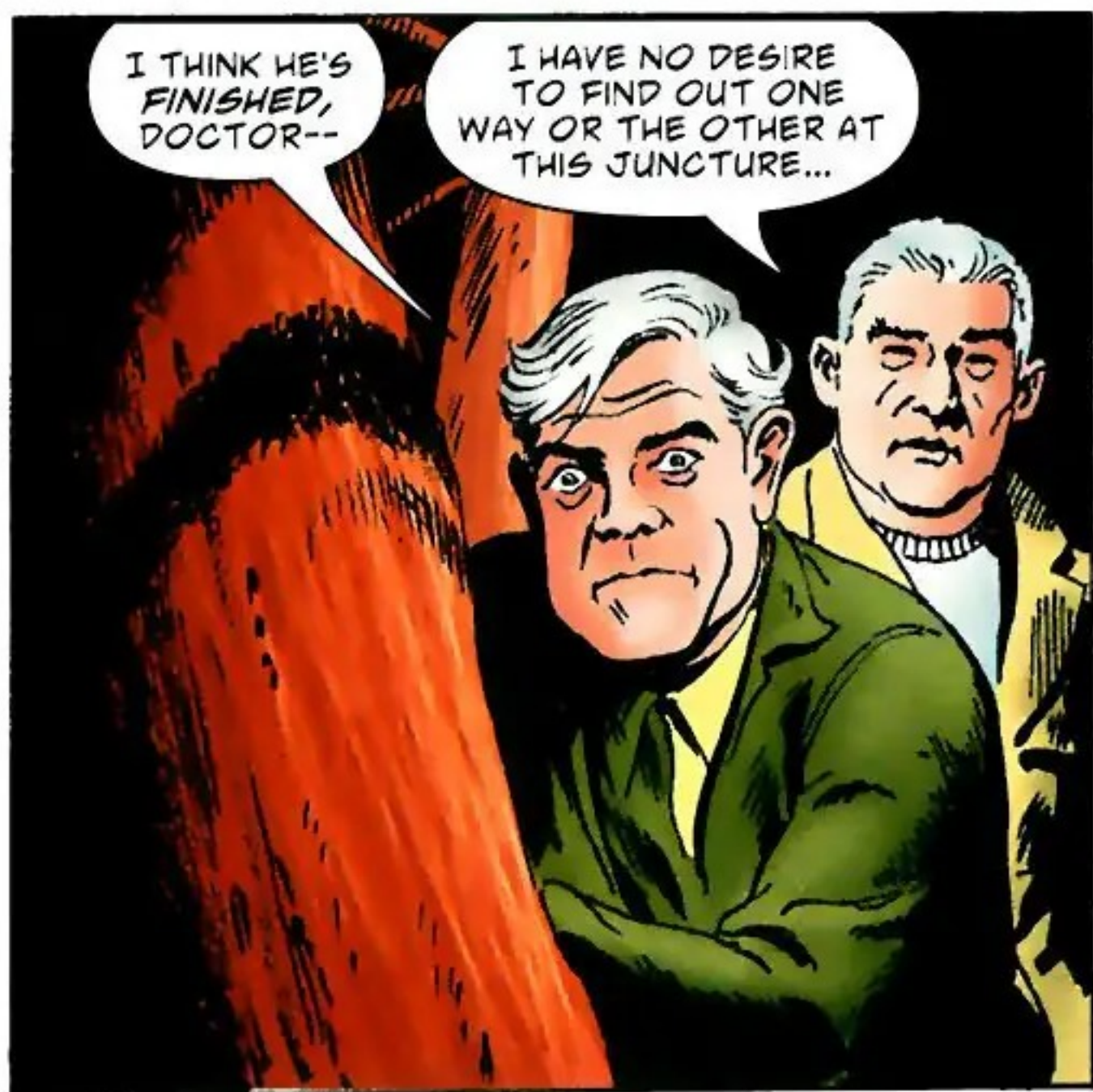


THESE
AREN'T
RUINS--I
BUILT THIS
FORT--

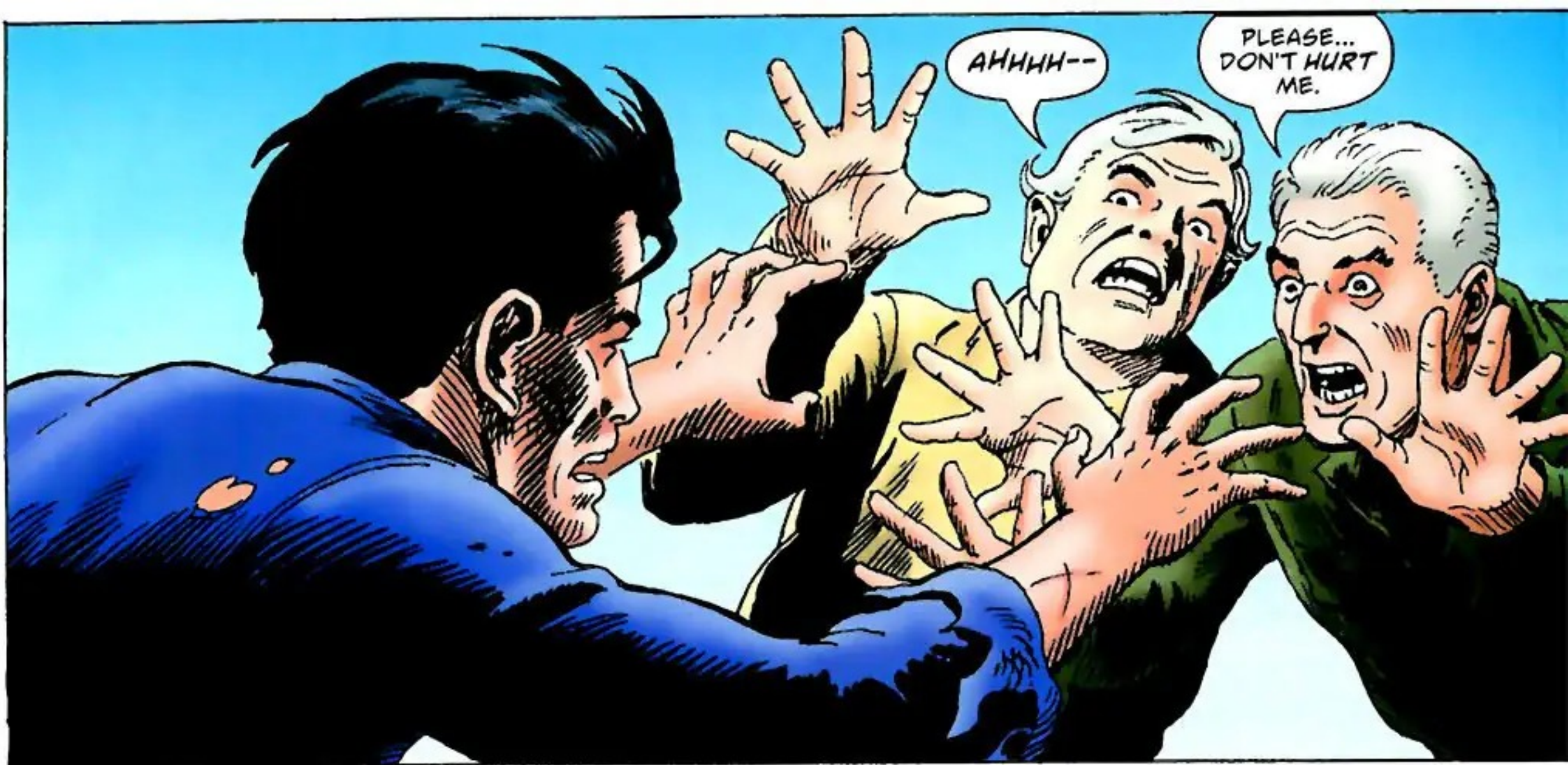








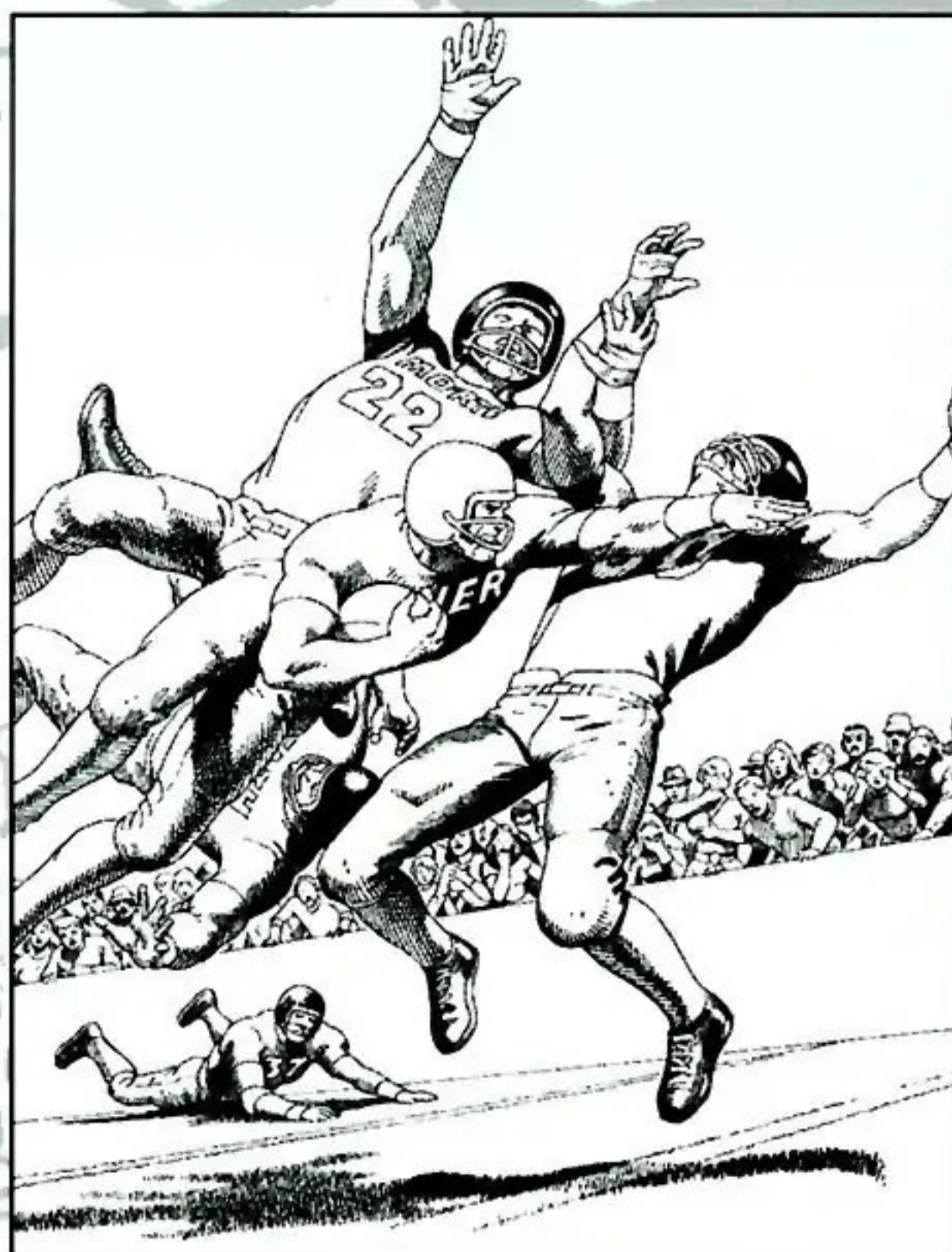






To Be Continued...

NEXT ISSUE



LEGEND 2

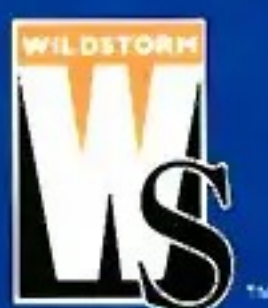
Hugo Danner's powers prove to be a blessing and a curse as he reaches his troubled adolescence. Invulnerability, superhuman stamina and super-strength mean nothing when it comes to love, heartache and the rest of his feelings...and failings.

Written by fan favorite Howard Chaykin (**CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN**, **MIGHTY LOVE**) and inspired by Philip Wylie's novel *Gladiator*, **LEGEND** tells the story of Hugo Danner, a man blessed with superhuman strength and invulnerability—and cursed with all-too-human failings.



Drawn by comicbook great Russ Heath (*SGT. ROCK*), **Legend** explores the physical, emotional and social ramifications Hugo's abilities create as he grows to manhood, desperately searching for acceptance—and for the role he's meant to play in the world he lives in.

LEGEND



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SHAZAM

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