

QUANTUM LEAP TM



Cal Hayler



So, she says to me, she says...

"LEAVING AROUND IN TIME SOME-
TIMES LEFT ME IN SOME
MYSTERIOUS SOCIAL SETTINGS, LIKE
BEING ONE OF ONLY SIX GUYS
WEARING A TIE AT A PARTY. WAS I
A TEACHER? A CHAPERONE?"



LH OH.

...and then my friend Karen Valentino says to me, she says...

Ain't that right, Dr. Epstein?

"THEN I HEARD THE MATING CALL
OF THE RARE AND BIZARRE
BIG-HAIRED BACHELORETTE."

"IT LOOKED LIKE A SUBURBAN
COCKTAIL PARTY FROM THE SIXTIES."



Doctors make lots of money, right?

...graduated together from Cheltenham High School... mention that I'm a high-school graduate? I know...

"GREAT. I HATED THOSE THINGS."

Ugh! She just lets her hair fall naturally! I just can't...

...ain't interested in talkin' formulas when they get home... interested in another kind of language. Know what I mean?

"IN THE EIGHTIES, WHEN I USED TO ATTEND THINGS LIKE THIS, WE REFERRED TO IT OPTIMISTICALLY AS NETWORKING."



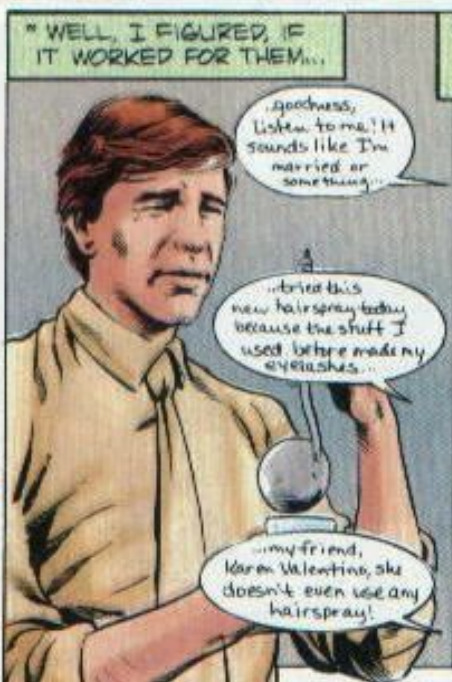
"I GUESS THIS LADY IS AHEAD OF HER TIME"

...like senator's wives, you know? Ain't that right...

"WHAT I WAS REALLY REMINDED OF WAS BEING DRAGGED ALONG TO COCKTAIL PARTIES IN THE '60'S BY MY PARENTS"

"ALL I COULD DO WAS STARE AT THE HOST'S LAVA-LAMP..."

"...WHILE MY PARENTS GOT EMBALMED ON PUNCH."

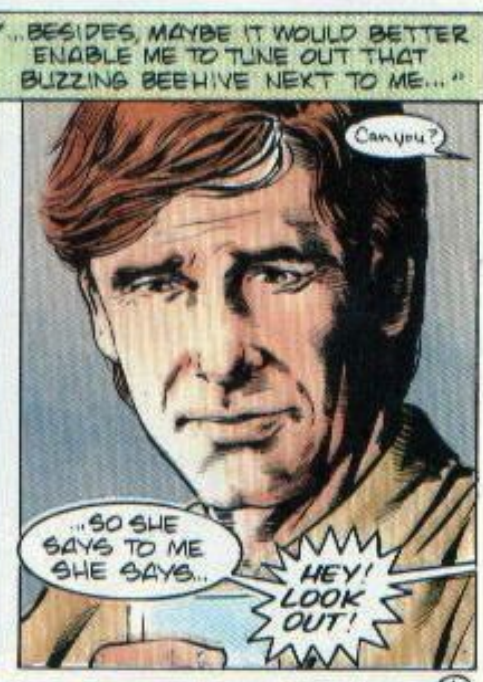


"WELL, I FIGURED, IF IT WORKED FOR THEM..."

...goodness, listen to me! It sounds like I'm married or something...

...tried this new hairspray today because the stuff I used before made my eyelashes...

...my friend, Karen Valentino, she doesn't even use any hairspray!

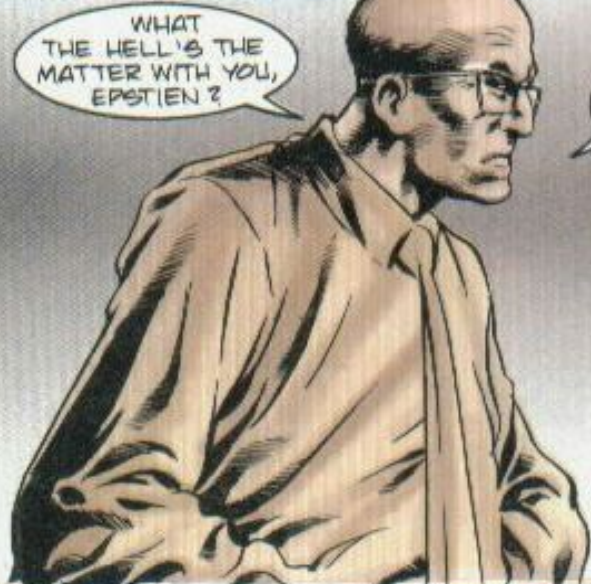


"...BESIDES, MAYBE IT WOULD BETTER ENABLE ME TO TUNE OUT THAT BUZZING BEEHIVE NEXT TO ME..."

Can you?

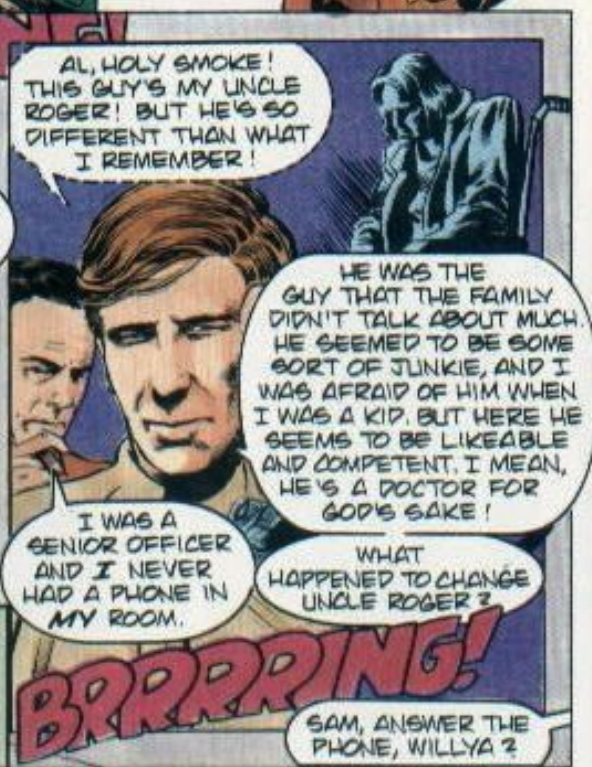
...SO SHE SAYS TO ME SHE SAYS...

HEY! LOOK OUT!



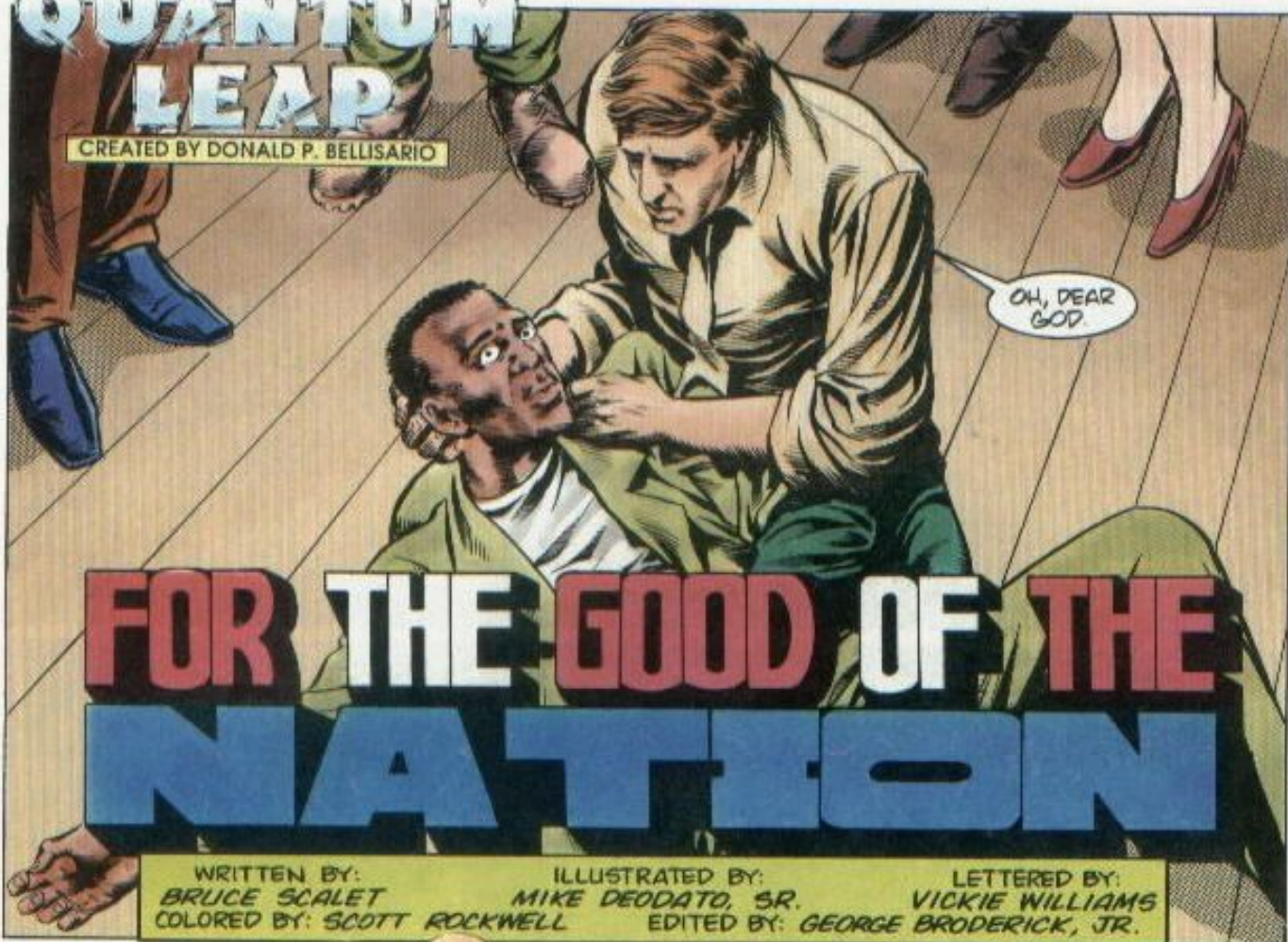
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QUANTUM LEAP

CREATED BY DONALD P. BELLISARIO



FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION

WRITTEN BY:

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ILLUSTRATED BY:

MIKE DEODATO, SR.

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LETTERED BY:

VICKIE WILLIAMS



FINALLY, A
FULL
REACTION!



WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE.

WE
WILL?

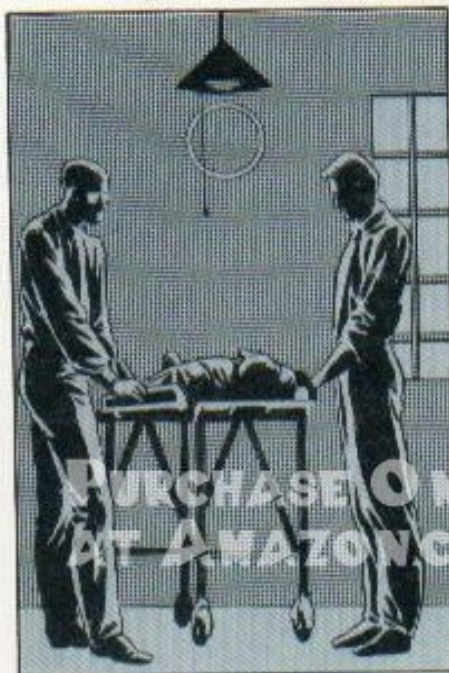


"THE MAN ON THE LITTER
WAS IN BAD SHAPE. HE
COULD HAVE CODED AT
ANY MINUTE."



"WHERE WERE WE TAKING HIM?
WAS THIS THE MEDICAL
BUILDING? WHY WAS IT LOCKED?"

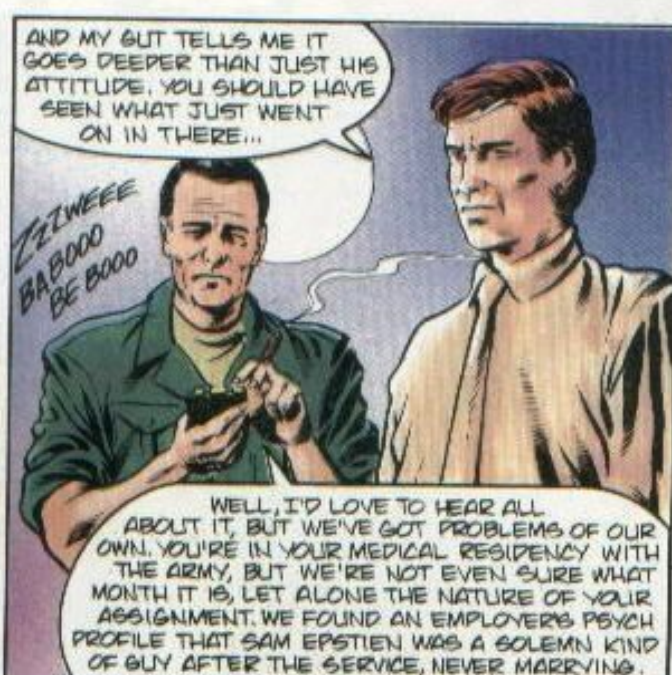
COME
ON.





I TAKE IT YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY BONDED WITH COMMANDER NOZZLE THERE.

WE'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM WITH THAT GUY, AL--



AND MY GUT TELLS ME IT GOES DEEPER THAN JUST HIS ATTITUDE. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN WHAT JUST WENT ON IN THERE...

ZZZWEE
BABOOO
BE BOOO

WELL, I'D LOVE TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT, BUT WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN. YOU'RE IN YOUR MEDICAL RESIDENCY WITH THE ARMY, BUT WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE WHAT MONTH IT IS, LET ALONE THE NATURE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT. WE FOUND AN EMPLOYERS PSYCH PROFILE THAT SAM EPSTEIN WAS A SOLEMN KIND OF GUY AFTER THE SERVICE, NEVER MARRYING.



SAM, HE WAS GOING FOR A JOB AS A LAB TECHNICIAN.

WAITAMINIT. THE GUY'S A DOCTOR! COUNTING ROGER, THAT'S TWO FROM THIS BASE THAT ABANDON THE PRACTICE.

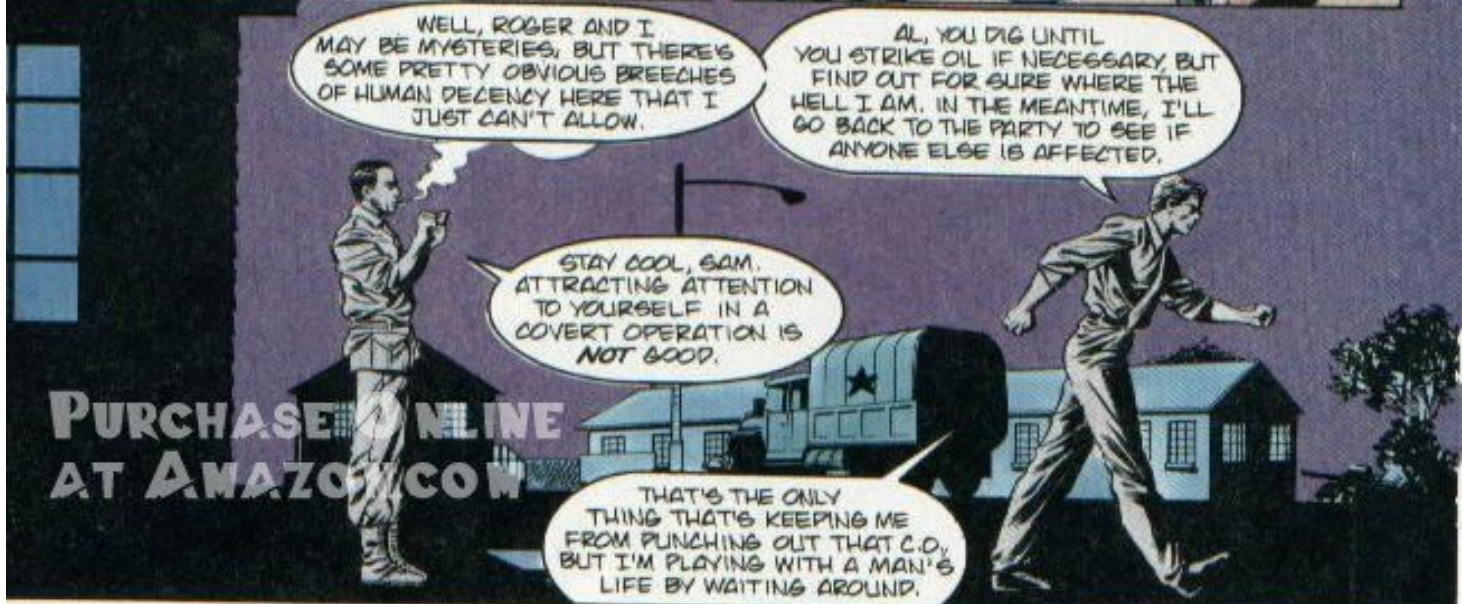
BESIDES, HE OBVIOUSLY GETS ALONG WELL WITH ROGER. I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A LIKEABLE, HANDSOME PHYSICIAN COULDN'T FIND A NICE WIFE.

WELL, YOU KNOW, SAM, SOME GUYS ARE ITALIAN, AND SOME GUYS HAVE IT TOUGH! HEH HEH...



...HEH HEH HEH--

OH, MAN.



WELL, ROGER AND I MAY BE MYSTERIES, BUT THERE'S SOME PRETTY OBVIOUS BREECHEES OF HUMAN DECENCY HERE THAT I JUST CAN'T ALLOW.

AL, YOU DIG UNTIL YOU STRIKE OIL IF NECESSARY BUT FIND OUT FOR SURE WHERE THE HELL I AM. IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL GO BACK TO THE PARTY TO SEE IF ANYONE ELSE IS AFFECTED.

STAY COOL, SAM. ATTRACTING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF IN A COVERT OPERATION IS NOT GOOD.

THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S KEEPING ME FROM PUNCHING OUT THAT C.O., BUT I'M PLAYING WITH A MAN'S LIFE BY WAITING AROUND.

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"I WAS AMAZED BY THE REACTIONS THESE PEOPLE WERE HAVING."



"THERE SEEMED TO BE MANY DIFFERENT EFFECTS, BUT ALL OF THEM WERE EXTREME."



"SOME PEOPLE ACTED AS IF I WAS THE FUNNIEST THING THEY'D EVER SEEN."



"OTHERS THOUGHT I WAS THE SCARIEST."



"AND I JUST COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THESE 'VOLUNTEERS' DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS THEY WERE VOLUNTEERING FOR."

"I SAW A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN OBSERVING OFF TO THE SIDE. THERE'S ONLY ONE KIND OF PERSON SO INTERESTED IN HUMAN SUFFERING: AN EAGER-TO-PLEASE PRE-MED STUDENT."

"BUT STUDENTS OR NOT, THEY WERE STILL A PART OF WHATEVER THIS ATROCITY WAS."



"I HAD TO STAY COOL. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED TO, I COULDN'T BITE OFF THEIR HEADS UNTIL I FOUND OUT WHO THE REAL HEAD OF THIS THING WAS."

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SO WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?

UH, HELLO DOCTOR EPSTIEN.

HELLO, DOCTOR EPSTIEN.

DOCTOR EPSTIEN.

DOCTOR EPSTIEN.

WEE-YUNN

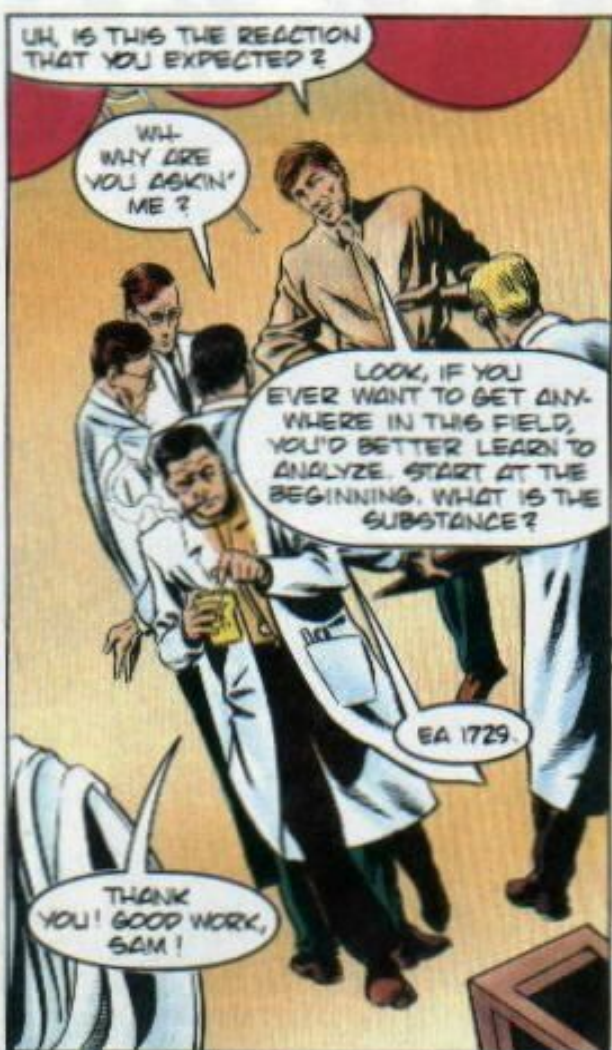


"YEP. THEY HAD TO BE PRE-MEDS OR TECHS OF SOME SORT. THEY WERE ALL YOUNG, TOO YOUNG TO BE DOCTORS. AND TO BE A PART OF THIS 'EXPERIMENT'."

OBTAINING A SEVERE REACTION, DOCTOR.

WE'VE RUN INTO ANOTHER BRICK WALL, SAM. NO INFO YET.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME BUT TRY PUMPING MR. WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS, HERE.



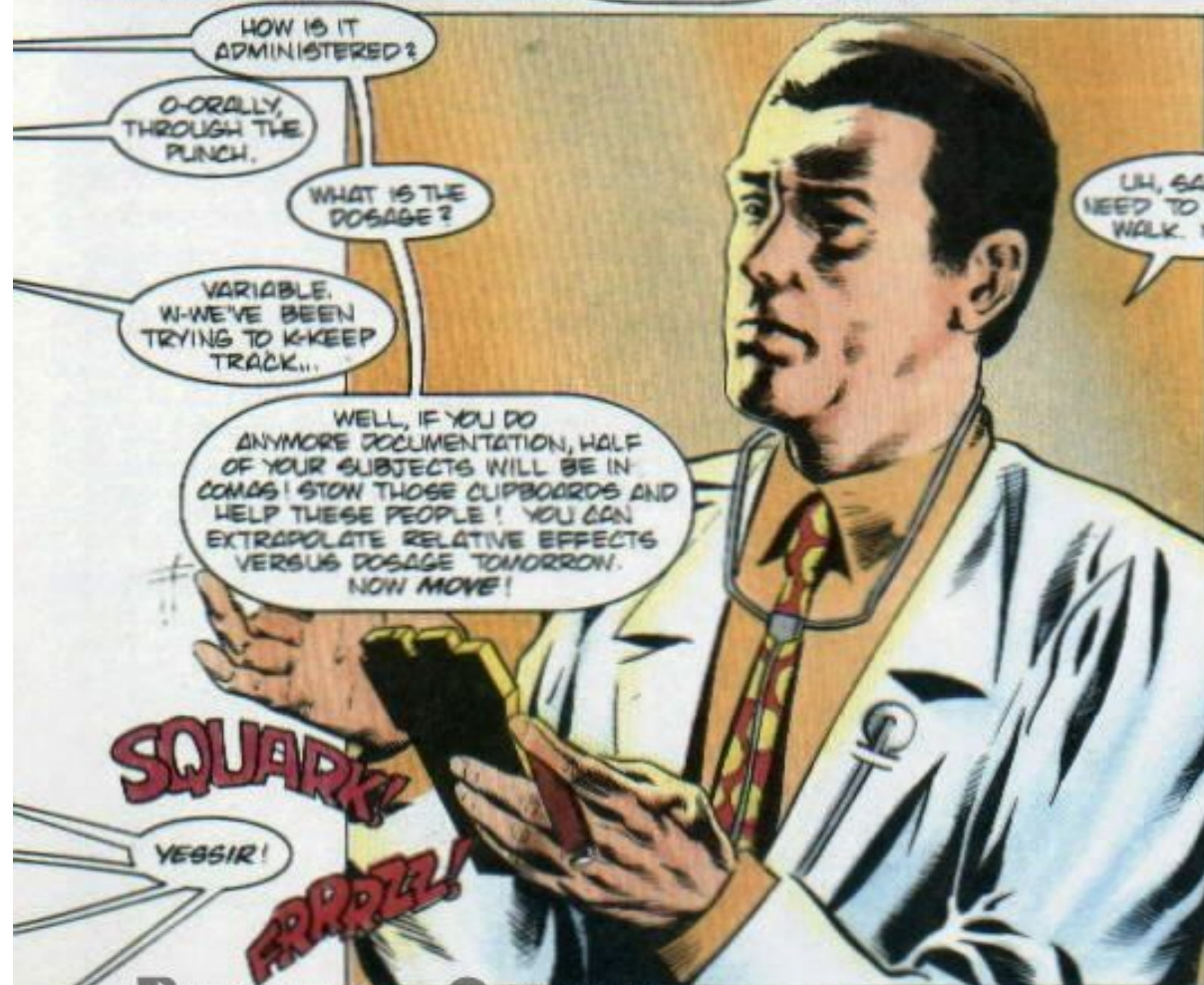
UH, IS THIS THE REACTION THAT YOU EXPECTED?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?

LOOK, IF YOU EVER WANT TO GET ANYWHERE IN THIS FIELD, YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO ANALYZE. START AT THE BEGINNING. WHAT IS THE SUBSTANCE?

EA 1729

THANK YOU! GOOD WORK, SAM!



HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED?

O-ORALLY, THROUGH THE PUNCH.

WHAT IS THE DOSAGE?

VARIABLE. W-WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO K-KEEP TRACK...

WELL, IF YOU DO ANYMORE DOCUMENTATION, HALF OF YOUR SUBJECTS WILL BE IN COMAS! STOW THOSE CLIPBOARDS AND HELP THESE PEOPLE! YOU CAN EXTRAPOLATE RELATIVE EFFECTS VERSUS DOSAGE TOMORROW. NOW MOVE!

UH, SAM, WE NEED TO TAKE A WALK. NOW.

SAM, EA 1729 IS LSD.

HOBBY...

SQUARK!

YESSIR!

FRZZ!

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I'LL TELL YA, SAM, I'VE HAD A HELLUVA TIME FINDING THIS STUFF. IT'S FUNNY, IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S INTENTIONALLY HIDDEN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "INTENTIONALLY HIDDEN"?

BUT WHEN I LOOK UP INFORMATION PERTAINING TO EA 1729 OR SPECIFIC NAMES FROM THESE PROJECTS OR EVEN BROAD TOPICS LIKE MILITARY USE OF LSD, WE DRAW A BLANK FOR A WHILE. EVENTUALLY WE FIND IT, BUT OFTEN IT'S MISFILED CHRONOLOGICALLY OR ALPHABETICALLY.

ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE WAS INTENTIONALLY TRYING TO MAKE THE INFORMATION DIFFICULT TO FIND FOR THE CASUAL RESEARCHER.

WELL, AN ACT OF CONGRESS DECLARED A LONG TIME AGO THAT WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME ALL TRANSCRIPTS FROM SENATE INVESTIGATIONS AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS HAD TO BE MADE PUBLIC RECORD. YOU CAN LOOK UP ANY HEARING YOU WANT AT THE LIBRARY.

BUT?

YEAH, ALMOST. IT IS THERE, SO IT'S NOT ILLEGAL, IT'S JUST DAMN TOUGH TO FIND.

OKAY, SO WHAT DID YOU FIND?

WELL, FOR ONE THING, THERE WERE LOTS OF SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS TO REVIEW ASPECTS OF THIS PROGRAM. EVIDENTLY NOT EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS KOSHER.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL.

YOU KNOW THAT TROOP YOU JUST CARRIED INTO THE EMPTY ROOM? HE'S ONE JAMES R. THORNWELL. IN 1975, A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD HIM A MILLION CLAMS.

CLAMS?

DOLLARS, SAM. A MILLION DOLLARS.

IN FACT, SINCE IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO SUE THE GOVERNMENT, THEY HAD TO ENACT A SPECIFIC LAW CALLED THE "JAMES R. THORNWELL LAW" FOR IT TO EVEN BE POSSIBLE. THIS WAS A BIG DEAL, SAM.

SO, WHY DID THEY GIVE HIM THE MONEY?

UH, WE'RE STILL TRYIN' TO FIGURE THAT PART OUT.

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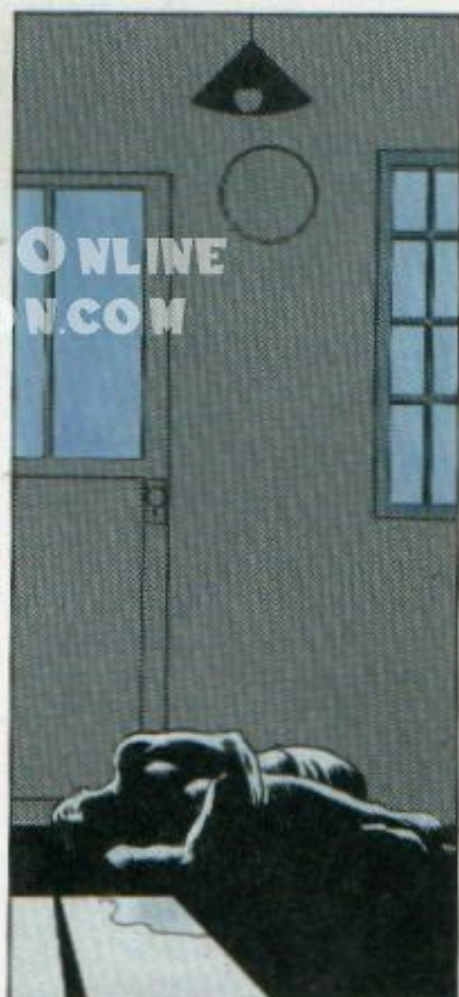


ASSUMING NO PERMANENT DAMAGE,
HE SHOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO
INTERROGATION IN THE MORNING.



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I'LL POST
A GUARD TO MAKE
SURE HE REMAINS
ISOLATED.



THAT'S
OKAY, FRIEND,
I'M HERE.

m-m-m-m-b-b-b

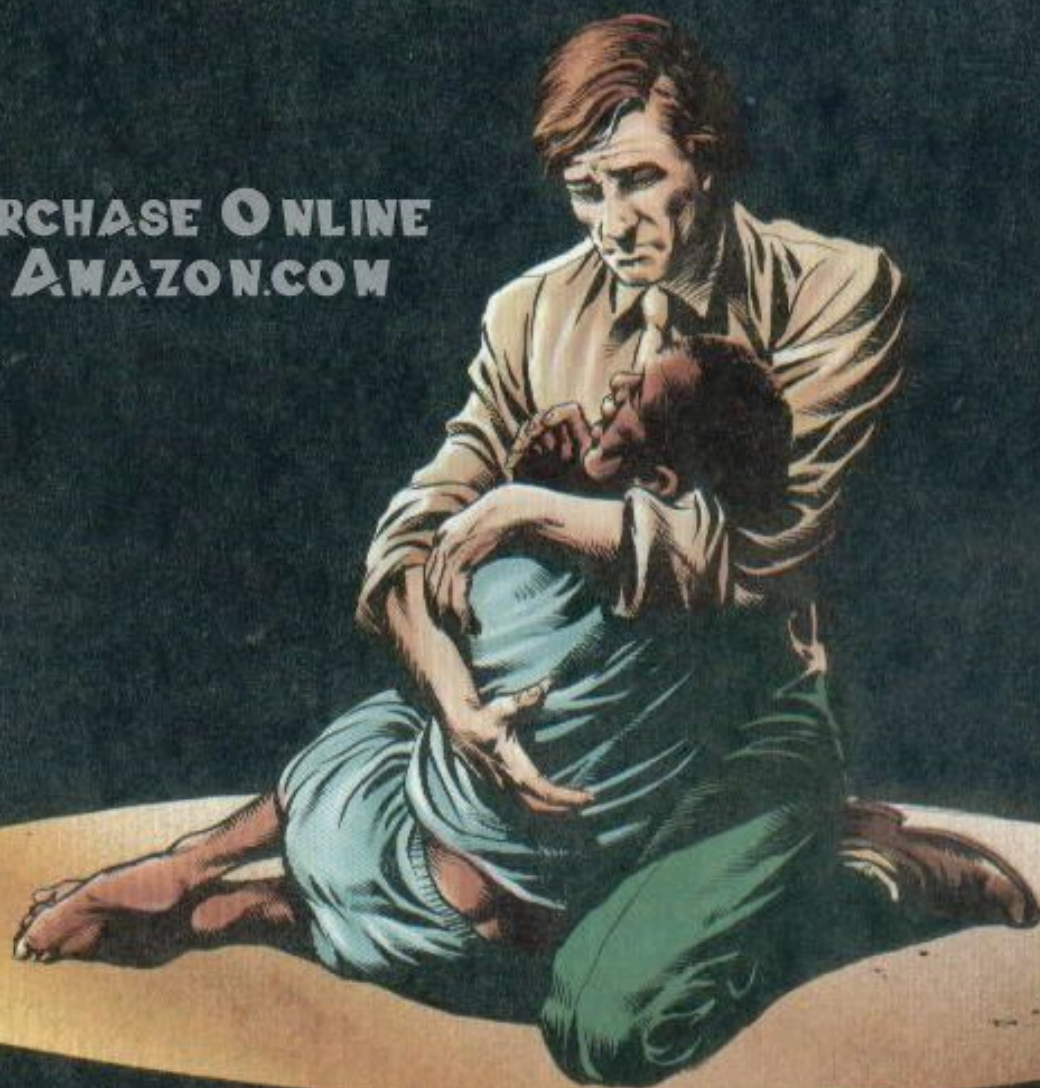


Ssshhhhllllh

NO!
I WON'T
LEAVE
YOU.



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THIS ~~WAS~~ AN EMERGENCY, ROGER!

THAT MAN WAS IN A SEVERE STATE OF SHOCK. HE WAS HALLUCINATING HEAVILY, AND HE WAS LYING IN THE DARK ON A COLD LINOLEUM FLOOR. I WAS HIS ONLY ANCHOR TO REALITY, AND I HAD NO SUPPLIES AT ALL. HE WAS TERRIFIED, I COULDN'T EVEN LEAVE HIM TO GET HIM SOME WATER.

OH, BOY.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

COULD SOMEONE PLEASE JUST TELL ME HOW THE UNITED STATES COULD SPONSOR SUCH A HEINOUS PROGRAM?

YOU GOTTA REMEMBER THE POLITICAL CLIMATE BACK THEN, SAM...

WITH EVERYBODY IN OUR COUNTRY SO PARANOID, THIS SURPRISES YOU? SAM, PRADA IS SO RESTRICTIVE THAT NO ACCURATE INFORMATION IS EVER SEEN HERE--

A HUGE, MYSTERIOUS COUNTRY WITH STRANGE CUSTOMS, A DIFFICULT LANGUAGE AND A STRONG, AGGRESSIVE MILITARY... FOLKS BELIEVE ANYTHING THEY'RE TOLD! AND FOLKS IN THE MILITARY THINK THEY'RE ON A HOLY MISSION TO KEEP OUT THE EVIL COMMUNISTS!

UNFORTUNATELY, SAM, ROGER'S DESCRIPTION IS RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

SO THAT JUSTIFIES EXPERIMENTS WITH LSD ON INNOCENT PEOPLE? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

HEY, I'M NOT SAYING IT'S REASONABLE, JUST UNDERSTANDABLE.

WELL, SAM, I'M STILL NOT THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT CONCERNS ABOUT BIZARRE SOVIET TORTURES WITH LSD AREN'T REASONABLE.

BUT... BUT...

SAM, I *AM* QUESTIONING THE VALIDITY OF THIS PROGRAM, AND IT ISN'T THE FIRST TIME. IT'S JUST THAT I KEEP THINKING THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN IT, GOOD, DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE, LIKE YOU AND ME, WHO ARE JUST TRYING TO SAFEGUARD THEIR COUNTRY.

OH, PLEASE DON'T STOP PLOTTING YOUR MILITARY COUP ON MY ACCOUNT.

ACTUALLY, "SIR," I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE PRIVATE WE CARRIED OUT OF THE SOCIAL LAST NIGHT.

WE OUGHTTA COUP YOU, YOU NAZI JERK.

FEELING A LITTLE RED SYMPATHY, ARE WE?

BETTER BE CAREFUL, SAM. DON'T GIVE THIS GUY ANY REASON TO PUT YOU AWAY.

NO, SIR, JUST TRYING TO ADHERE TO MY HYPOCRATIC OATH.

WELL, I'VE GOT ALL YOU NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT RIGHT HERE. IT'S YOUR TURN FOR MAIL DUTY-- YOU'D BETTER GET RIGHT ON IT.

OH, BOY.

MAIL DUTY?

YEAH, SAM. YOU GOTTA GO AROUND AND COLLECT EVERYBODY'S MAIL. IT'S A GRUNT JOB, SO THEY ROTATE IT EVERY WEEK.

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, MISTER?

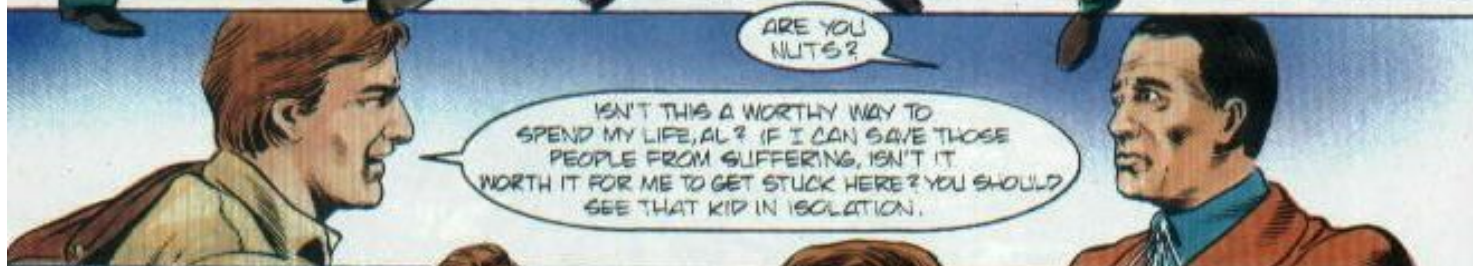
WELL, IF THAT MEANS GIVING DRUGS TO UNKNOWN AMERICANS, WHO'S GOING TO SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY FROM US?

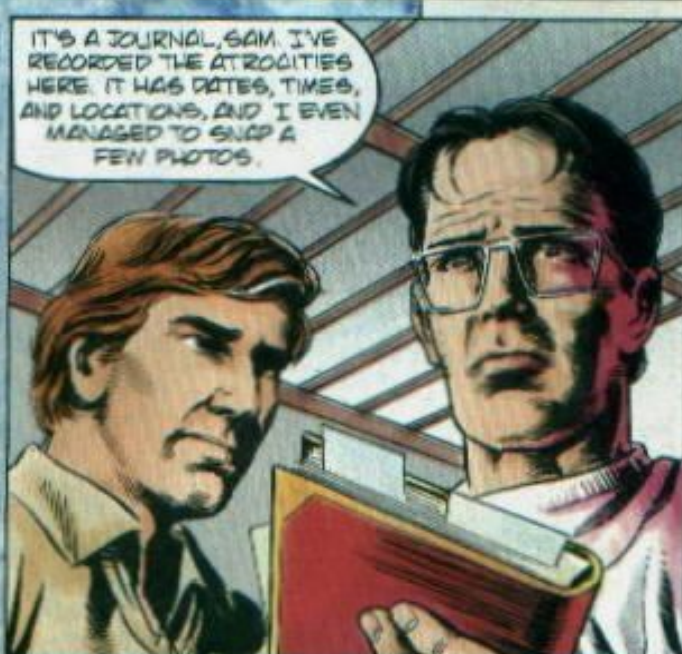
WELL, GLAD I CAUGHT YOU BOYS AT HOME.





SAM, IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT ABOUT THIS LEAD, YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURSELF-- AND THE KID WHO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE-- IN BIG TROUBLE. DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IF ZIGGY'S RIGHT AND YOU GET THROWN INTO LOCKUP YOU COULD BE STUCK HERE FOREVER?





SAM, I INTEND TO EXPOSE THIS D.O.D.* PROGRAM FOR WHAT IT IS AS SOON AS I'M DISCHARGED.

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*D.O.D.--DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE--GEORGE.

"ALTHOUGH I WAS DOG TIRED, I SPENT THE DAY TENDING TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD ATTENDED LAST NIGHT'S SOCIAL."

"NOT ALL OF THEM WERE HAVING GOOD TRIPS."

"NONE OF THEM WERE AS BAD AS PRIVATE THORNWELL, BUT THEY WERE STILL COMING DOWN FROM THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCES WITH LSD."

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"I WISHED TO GOD THAT THERE WERE SOME WAY TO STOP THIS TERRIBLE PROGRAM. TO MAKE THOSE DOCTORS PAY FOR WHAT THEY WERE DOING."

"BUT ZIGGY STILL HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO ROGER, SO I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT EVENT I WAS TO WATCH OUT FOR."

AND WHAT'S WORSE, ZIGGY SAYS ROGER'S JOURNAL IS NEVER SEEN ANYWHERE. SAM, YOU'VE GOT TO PREVENT WHATEVER HAPPENS FOR A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN JUST YOUR UNCLE.

WHOA...
IT'S DICK TRACY!

"HE COULD HAVE HAD WEEKS OR MINUTES. I HAD TO BE READY IN EITHER CIRCUMSTANCE."





GET OUT THERE, EPSTEIN. I HAVE MATTERS TO DISCUSS WITH ROGER THAT I'M SURE YOU'D RATHER NOT GET INVOLVED WITH. BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE TALKING TO YOU LATER.

DON'T WORRY, BUDDY. I'M STICKIN'.



WE-HE-WELL, LOOKS LIKE OUR BOYS' MOMMIES ARE GONNA BE GETTIN' THEIR HOMESICK LETTERS A LITTLE LATE THIS WEEK.

HEH, HEH... YEAH, I GUESS.

I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE AWARE, ROGER, THAT I JUST FINISHED INTERROGATING THE PATIENT THAT OD'D THE NIGHT BEFORE.



YES. SOME RATHER INTERESTING INFORMATION WAS REVEALED.

UH OH...

ROGER, I WANT YOU TO HEAD UP THE POST-INTERROGATION OBSERVATIONS OF THE PATIENT.

UH, M-ME?

ABSOLUTELY. I COULDN'T IMAGINE SOMEONE MORE IDEALLY SUITED FOR SUCH A SPECIALIZED AND SENSITIVE TASK. GET GOING. I'LL JOIN YOU THERE SHORTLY, AFTER I USE YOUR PHONE.



UH OH...



SECURITY, DOCTOR ROGER DELUCA IS SUSPECTED OF TREASON. HE IS TO BE DETAINED FOR INTERROGATION. YES, OF COURSE I INFORMED GENERAL WILLEMS. SEND A UNIT OVER TO ISOLATION IMMEDIATELY AND HOLD HIM THERE UNTIL I ARRIVE.

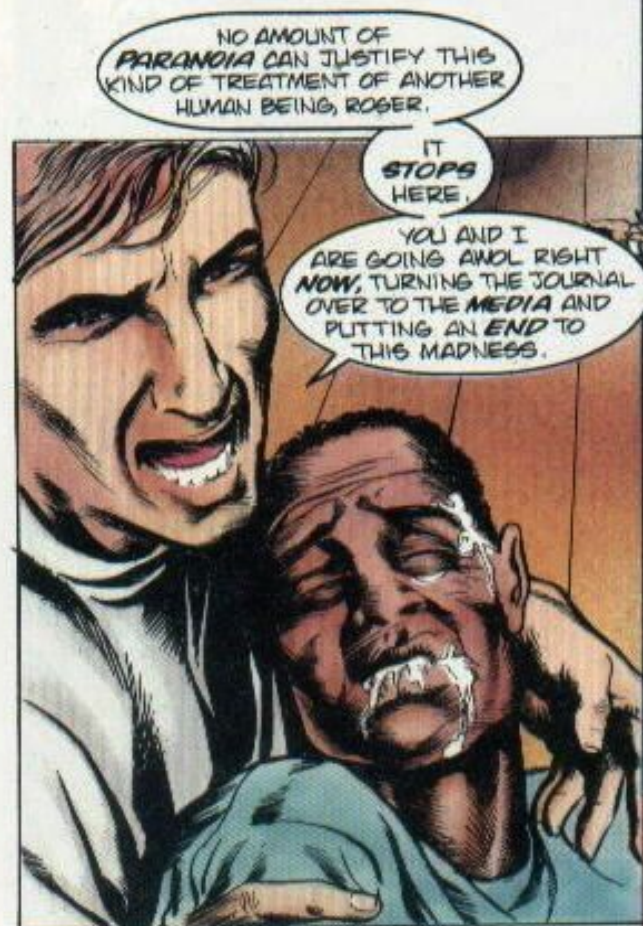


GOT YOU, YOU COMMIE BASTARD.

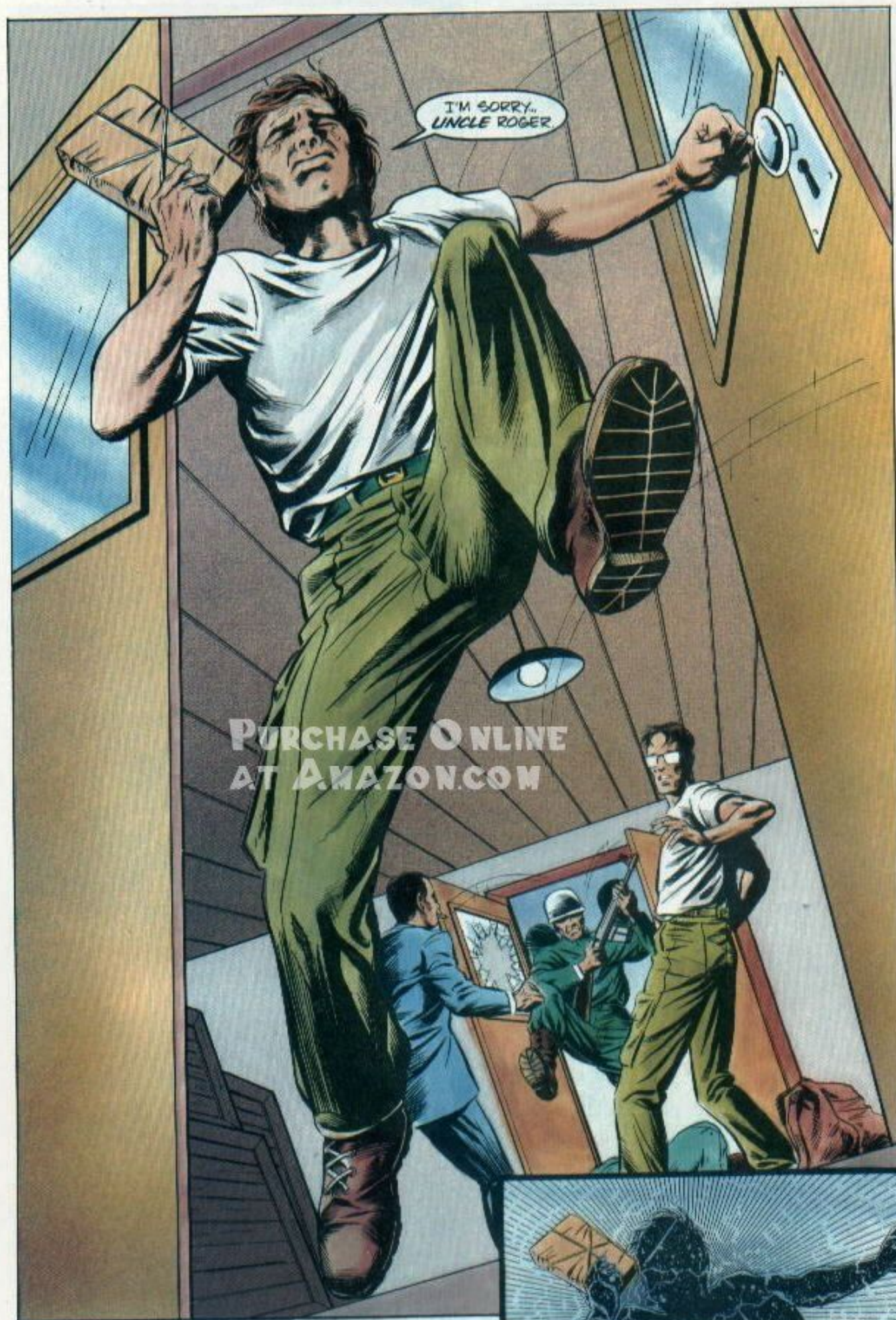
OOOOH, YOU DIRTY, ROTTEN...

GOOSHIE! WE GOTTA FIND SAM, QUICK!

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