

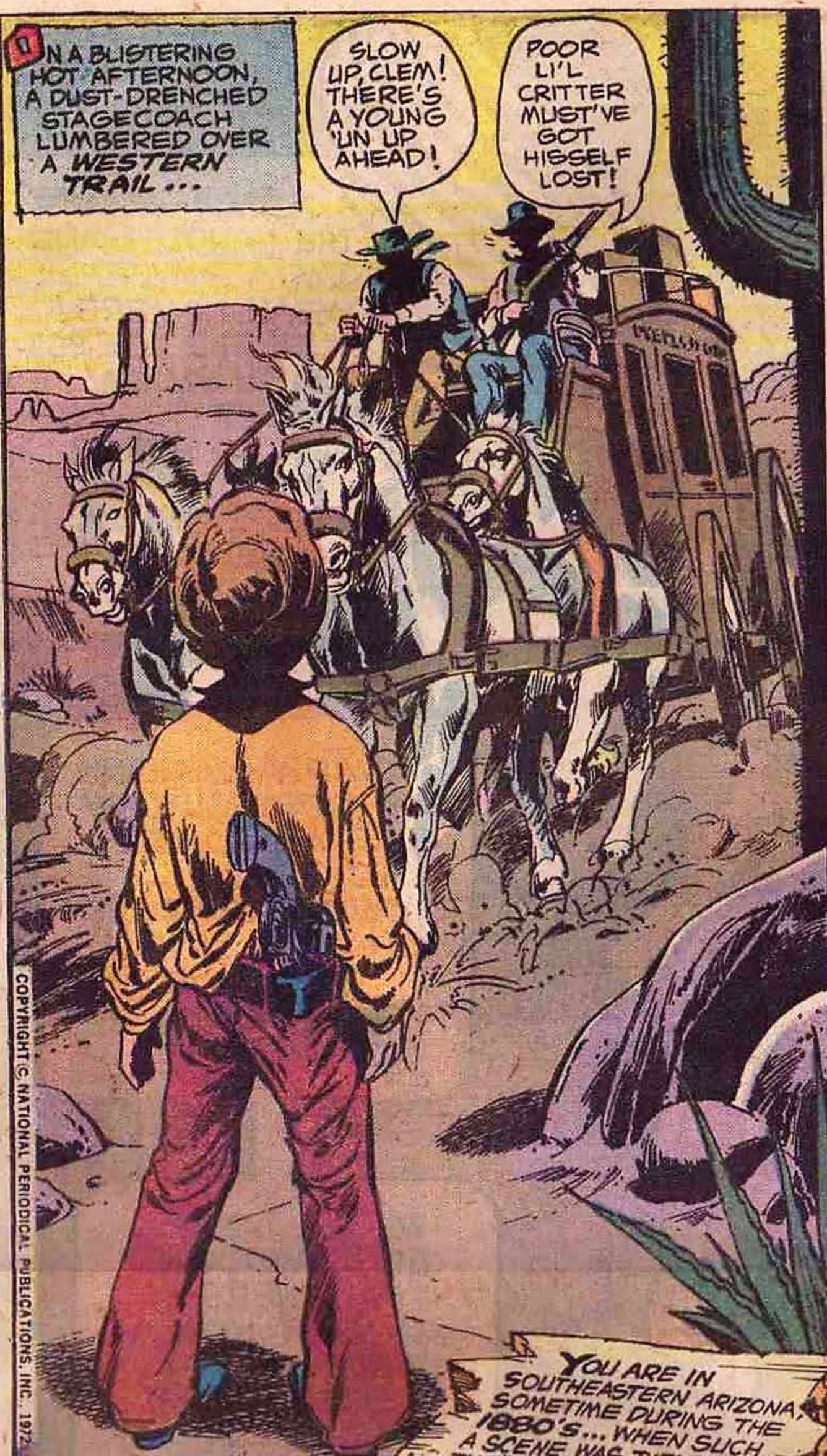
ON A BLISTERING HOT AFTERNOON, A DUST-DRENCHED STAGECOACH LUMBERED OVER A WESTERN TRAIL ...

SLOW UP, CLEM! THERE'S A YOUNG 'UN UP AHEAD!

POOR LI'L CRITTER MUST'VE GOT HISELF LOST!

AS SOON AS THE DRIVER PULLED HIS TEAM OF HORSES TO A HALT...

THROW DOWN THE STRONGBOX GENTS--PRONTO--OR I'LL PLUG BOTH OF YA FULLA LEAD!



HE'S ONLY A KID-- CAN'T BE MORE'N TEN YEARS OLD!

DON'T MAKE NO DIFFERENCE! HE'LL KILL US IF WE HASSLE HIM... I KIN SEE IT IN HIS EYES!



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YOU ARE IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA, SOMETIME DURING THE 1880'S... WHEN SUCH A SCENE WAS TYPICAL OF THE "WILD WEST"! BUT THE SPELL BINDING EVENTS YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS WILL MAKE ALL OTHER WESTERN ADVENTURES SEEM TAME! TAKE HEED...

WESTERN ADVENTURES THIS IS... **THE ORIGIN OF TERRA-MAN**

story by: CARY BATES art by: DICK DILLIN & NEAL ADAMS

N-1320

NEXT MOMENT, A BURST OF GUNFIRE SENT THE FRIGHTENED HORSES SPRINTING AWAY...



NICE GOIN', SON! YUH DID IT JEST LIKE I LEARNED YUH!

IT SURE DOES A MAN GOOD TO SEE HIS ONLY KIN FOLLOWIN' IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS!

IT WAS EASY, PA! I LOOKED THEM MEN SQUARE IN THE EYE, LIKE YUH TOLD ME!



NOW THET YUH'VE GOT YORE FIRST HOLD-UP UNDER YORE BELT, TOBY, IT WON'T BE LONG 'FORE JESS MANNING AND SON IS THE MOST FAMOLIS-- AN' BEST--OUTLAW TEAM-- IN THE WEST!



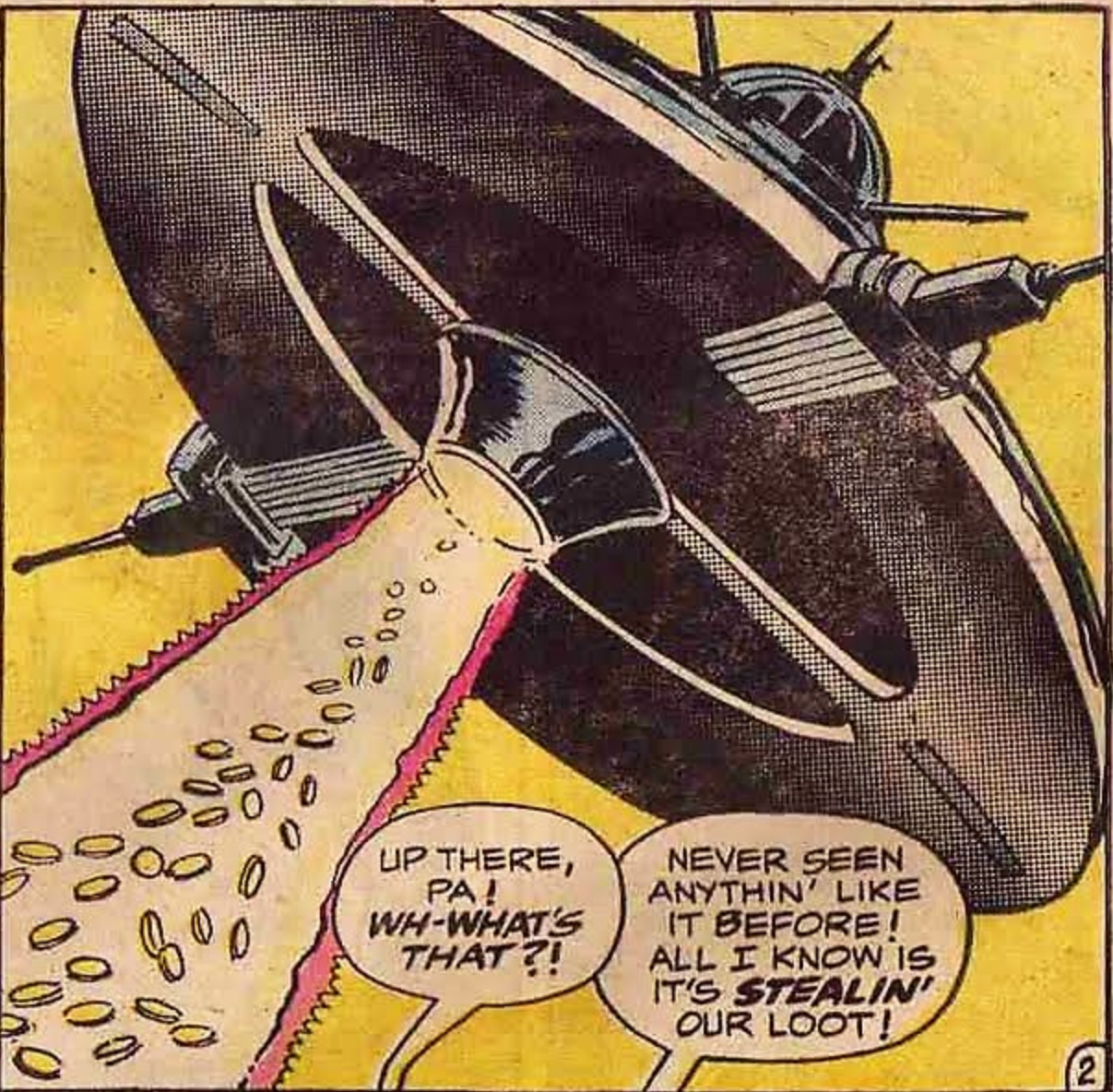
I'LL BE LEARNIN' YUH EVERYTHIN' I KNOW... SO'S YUH KIN CARRY ON THE MANNING NAME AFTER I'M GONE!

AHH! NOTHIN' LIKE THE FEEL O' MONEY IN YORE HANDS!



SUDDENLY...

WHAT... IN THUNDER?! COINS FLOATIN' RIGHT OUTA MY PALMS!



UP THERE, PA! WH-WHAT'S THAT?!

NEVER SEEN ANYTHIN' LIKE IT BEFORE! ALL I KNOW IS IT'S STEALIN' OUR LOOT!

AHH...MY MAGNE-BEAM HAS JUST SECURED ANOTHER PRIZE SAMPLE FOR MY GALACTIC-WIDE CURRENCY COLLECTION...



I DON'T LET NO STRANGE-LOOKIN' DUDE COME OUTA THE SKY AN' ROB ME!

ATTAWAY, PA! YUH WINGED HIM!

BOOM!



IN AN INSTANT, THE WOUNDED ALIEN BECAME INCENSED WITH A SURGE OF VIOLENT RAGE...

I'LL TEACH THAT IMPUDENT CREATURE TO PAIN ME WITH HIS WEAPON!



PA--!

THE HUMAN IS DYING! B-BUT... I ONLY INTENDED TO STUN HIM! MY ANGER IMPELLED ME TO DISCHARGE AN OVERDOSE OF SOLAR-POWER!

ALREADY THE MENTAL DEATH-LINK IS BEGINNING...

THE DEATH-LINK--
AN EXTRA-ORDINARY POWER WHICH ENABLED THE SPACEMAN TO TELE-PATHICALLY SCAN THE MIND OF A FATALLY STRICKEN PERSON IN HIS LAST MOMENTS OF LIFE...



ALL THE INNERMOST THOUGHTS... MEMORIES... AMBITIONS... OF THIS EARTHMAN... **JESS MANNING--**

--FLASHING INTO MY MIND!

I KNOW NOW THE PLANS HE HAD FOR HIS SON **TOBY...**



...HOW HE DREAMED AND PLANNED THAT THE YOUTH WOULD BECOME THE GREATEST OF ALL DESPERADOES! BUT I'VE ROBBED TOBY OF HIS DESTINY... **UNLESS--**

THOUGH THE ALIEN WAS A RUTHLESS, CONNING BANDIT-- BREAKING THE LAWS OF MANY PLANETS TO AMASS HIS "COLLECTION"-- HE WAS NOT A KILLER BY NATURE! BESET WITH GUILT, HE MADE A VOW...

I'LL TAKE HIS FATHER'S PLACE... ADOPT THE ORPHAN AND MAKE HIM MY APPRENTICE... TEACH HIM MY SUPER-SKILLS... ARM HIM WITH MY ULTRA-WEAPONS...



BUT--I CANNOT EXPECT THE YOUTH TO ACCEPT ME, KNOWING I KILLED HIS FATHER!

WITH THIS HYPNOTIC GRID, I'LL ERASE THAT INCIDENT FROM HIS MEMORY... SUBSTITUTE A STORY OF MY OWN!



SNIFF MY PA IS DEAD! SOMEBODY KILLED HIM!

I INSTANTLY ASSIMILATE OTHER LANGUAGES... SO I'LL USE THIS REGION'S VERNACULAR!

IT WAS TH' LAW WHAT DONE IT, BOY! I SEEN TH' SHERIFF GUN HIM DOWN!



AND SO THE PAIR
ROAMED THE
GALAXY
TOGETHER, AS
THE CURRENCY-
CRIMINAL
PILLAGED
PLANET AFTER
PLANET TO ADD
TO HIS HOARD
OF CURRENCY...

ALWAYS, THE SPACE-BANDIT PATIENTLY
TOOK TIME TO INSTRUCT AND EQUIP
HIS EARTHLING PRODIGY...

WHAT'VE
YOU
STUCK
INTO MY
INNARDS?

A MINIATURE
OXYGENATOR-
THERMOSTAT!
IT WILL ENABLE
YOU TO BREATHE
AND BE COM-
FORTABLE IN THE
VACUUM OF SPACE
AND ON ANY UN-
EARTHLY PLANET!

YET HE NEVER FORGOT HIS ADOPTED APPRENTICE
WAS STILL DEEPLY INGRAINED WITH THE CULTURE
OF EARTH'S OLD WEST...

I JUST TAUGHT
HIM HOW TO USE
AN ENERGI-LASSO...
AND ALREADY HE'S
CAPTURING THAT YOUNG
ARGUVIAN SPACE-
STEED WITH IT!

BY THE TIME IT IS A FULL-
GROWN STALLION, THE BOY
WILL BE A MAN--A MAN
OF EARTH...
TERRA-MAN!

AND WITH THE AID OF
THE SPACECRAFT'S
FAR-REACHING
MONITOR-SCOPES,
THE GROWING YOUTH
COULD OBSERVE HIS
HOME PLANET
PERIODICALLY...

THAT STRANGE-GARBED
SUPERMAN IS THE MOST
IDOLIZED HERO ON EARTH!

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SO
MUCH IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE I
LEFT! THERE MUST BE FORCES
AT WORK I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

EDITOR'S NOTE: BY A PARADOX OF
SPACE-TRAVEL, TIME SLOWS DOWN
WHILE TRAVELING NEAR THE SPEED
OF LIGHT! THUS, WHILE TOBY HAS
AGED 20 YEARS IN TWO DECADES OF
SPACE-FLIGHT--100 YEARS HAVE
GONE BY ON EARTH!

ONE DAY, AS THE MAJESTIC STEED CARRIED ITS MASTER THROUGH SPACE, ITS WINGS BEATING AGAINST THE FORCE OF SOLAR WINDS...

I'M RIDING TO STEAL SOME RARE COIN-PIECES FROM YONDER PLANET BEXOL!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MY MENTOR HASN'T COME ALONG! HE'S TESTING ME TO SEE IF I CAN PULL A JOB ON MY OWN!



WHEN THE WESTERN DESPERADO CHARGED IN, HE SET OFF AN INTRICATE ALARM-SYSTEM ...

THE MOUNTED MARAUDER! HE AND HIS PARTNER HAVE RAIDED EVERY OTHER PLANET IN OUR SECTOR!

AND NOW HE COMES FOR OUR MONEY! PREPARE TO FIRE THE COSMA-CANNON!



BUT EVEN AS SIGHTS WERE BEING LEVELLED AT HIM ...

THIS STUFF TASTES LIKE CHEWIN' TOBACCO... BUT ACTUALLY IT'S A MAGICAL HERB THAT GIVES ME THE POWER TO TEMPORARILY CREATE ANY FORM OF MATTER, MY MIND DREAMS UP!



AYEEE!

FLEE!-- BEFORE THAT MONSTROUS BEAST DEVOURS US!

HAW! HAW! I FIGURED A FEARSOME SIGHT LIKE THAT GILA MONSTER OF EARTH WOULD SCARE 'EM OFF!



NOW TO TAKE THIS LOOT BACK TO THE COLLECTOR AND SHOW HIM WHAT KIND OF A MAN HE HAS RAISED AND TUTORED!





BACK AT THE FLYING SAUCER...

AN IMPRESSIVE HAIL, MY SON! IT WARMS ME WITH PRIDE TO SEE YOU CARRYING ON IN MY STYLE!

MY REAL FATHER... HAD SIMILAR WORDS... LONG AGO, BACK ON EARTH--



--THE DAY YOU KILLED HIM! I'VE BEEN WAITING YEARS TO PAY YOU BACK!

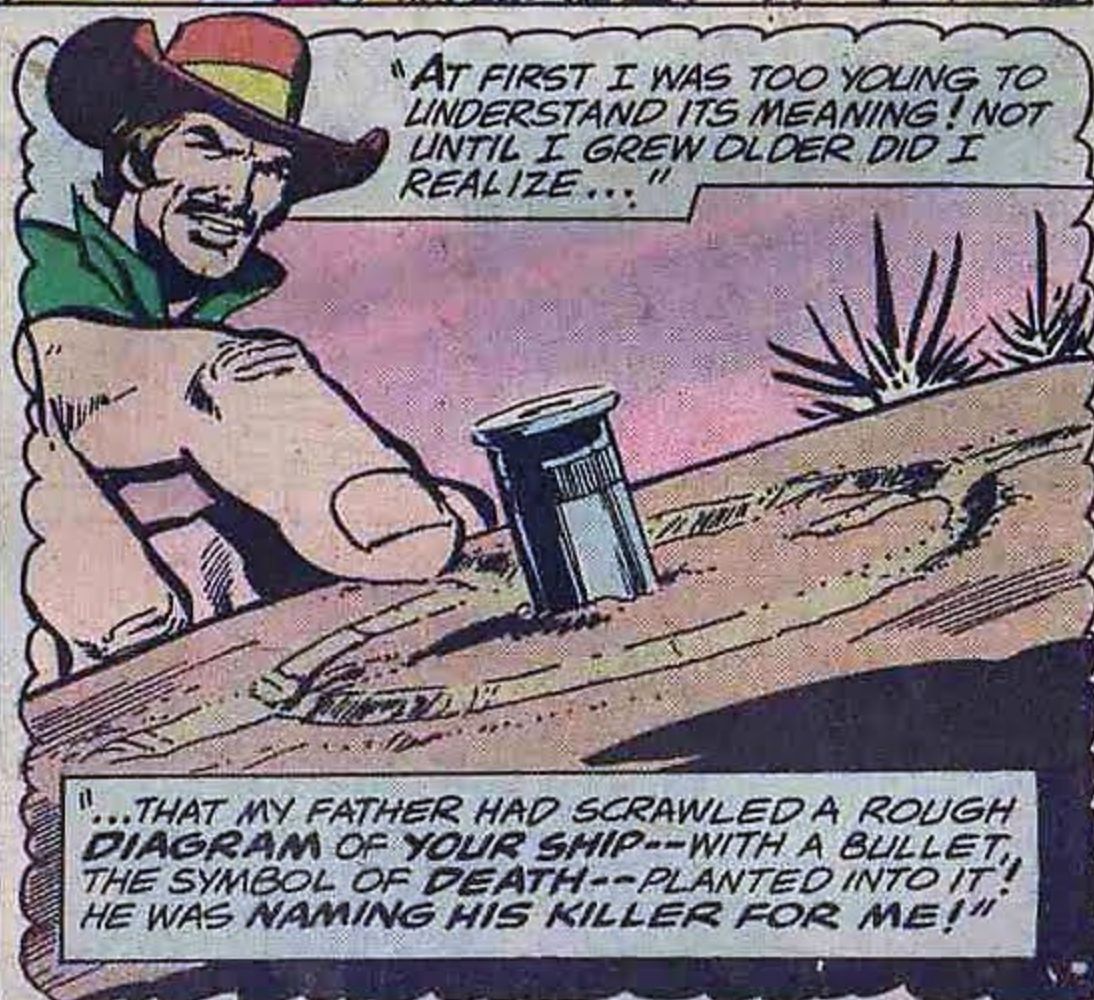
ARRGHHH!

POW!



GASP! I'M DYING... BUT YOU MUST TELL ME... HOW YOU KNEW! MY HYPNOTIC GRID SHOULD HAVE ERASED THE TRUTH FROM YOUR MEMORY!

IT WOULD HAVE--HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE SECRET MESSAGE MY FATHER LEFT BEHIND JUST BEFORE HE DIED!



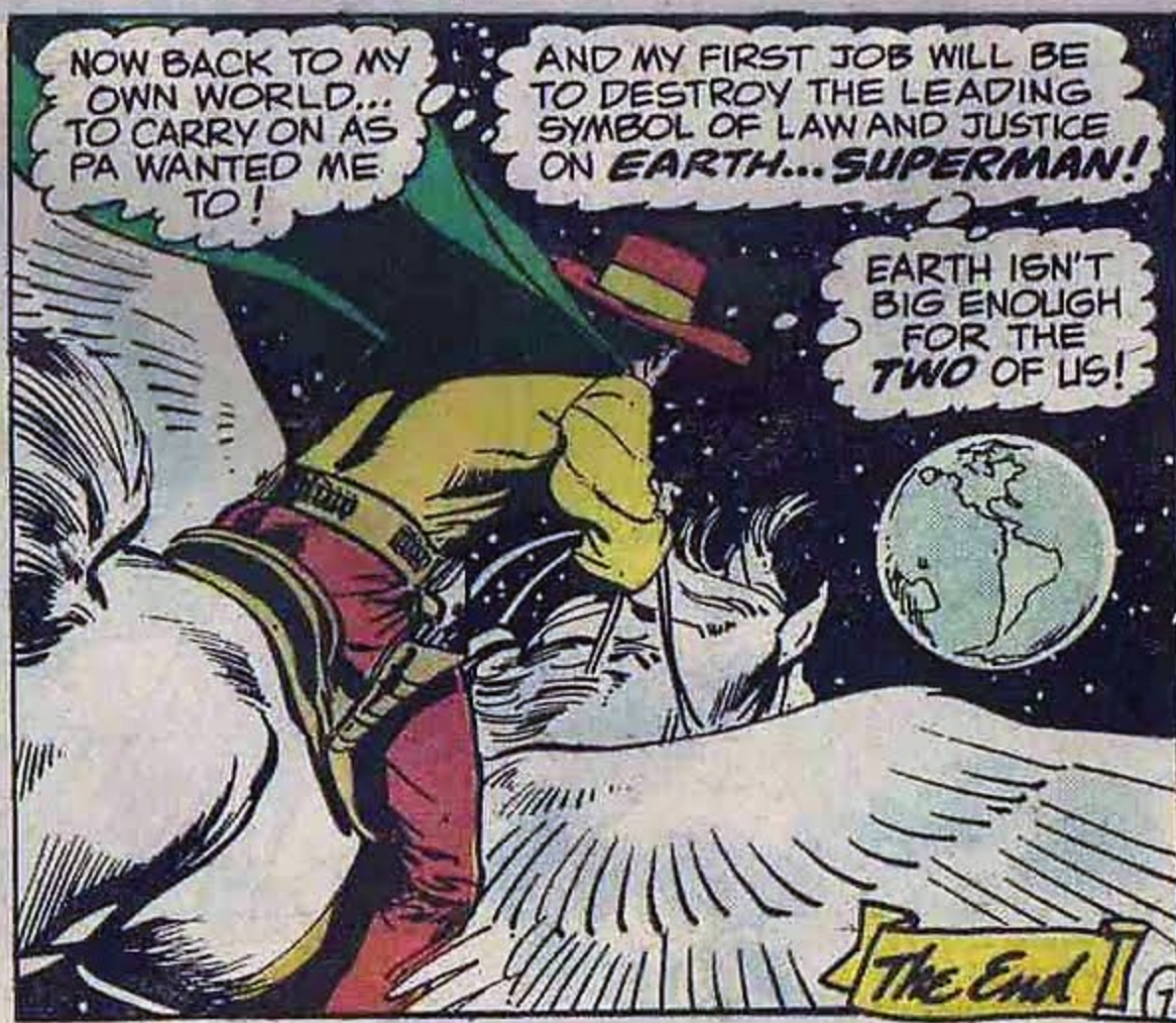
"AT FIRST I WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING! NOT UNTIL I GREW OLDER DID I REALIZE..."

"...THAT MY FATHER HAD SCRAWLED A ROUGH DIAGRAM OF YOUR SHIP--WITH A BULLET, THE SYMBOL OF DEATH--PLANTED INTO IT! HE WAS NAMING HIS KILLER FOR ME!"



I BIDED MY TIME... WAITED TILL YOU TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING YOU KNEW!

ALL THESE YEARS, YOU NEVER SUSPECTED YOU WERE TRAINING YOUR OWN MURDERER!



NOW BACK TO MY OWN WORLD... TO CARRY ON AS PA WANTED ME TO!

AND MY FIRST JOB WILL BE TO DESTROY THE LEADING SYMBOL OF LAW AND JUSTICE ON EARTH... SUPERMAN!

EARTH ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE TWO OF US!



The End