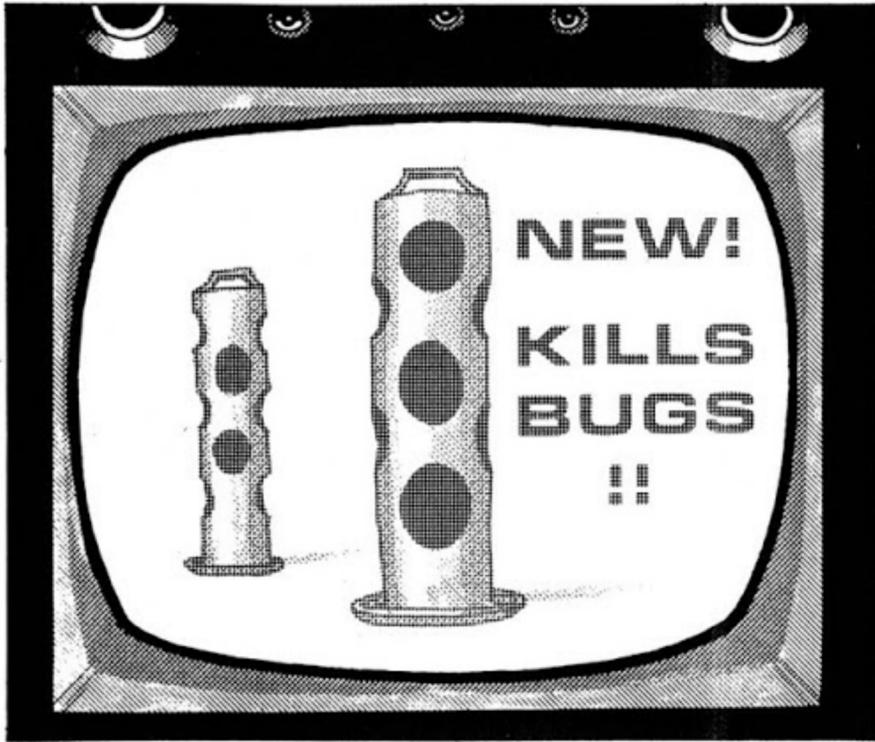
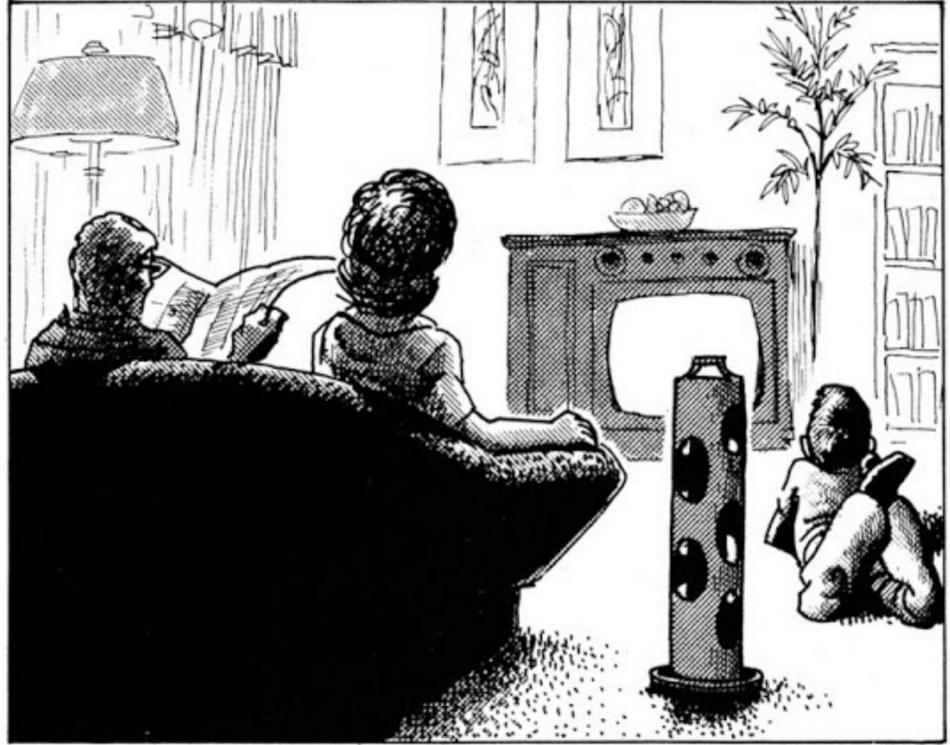


PROLOGUE:

THEY MADE THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE ON TELEVISION...



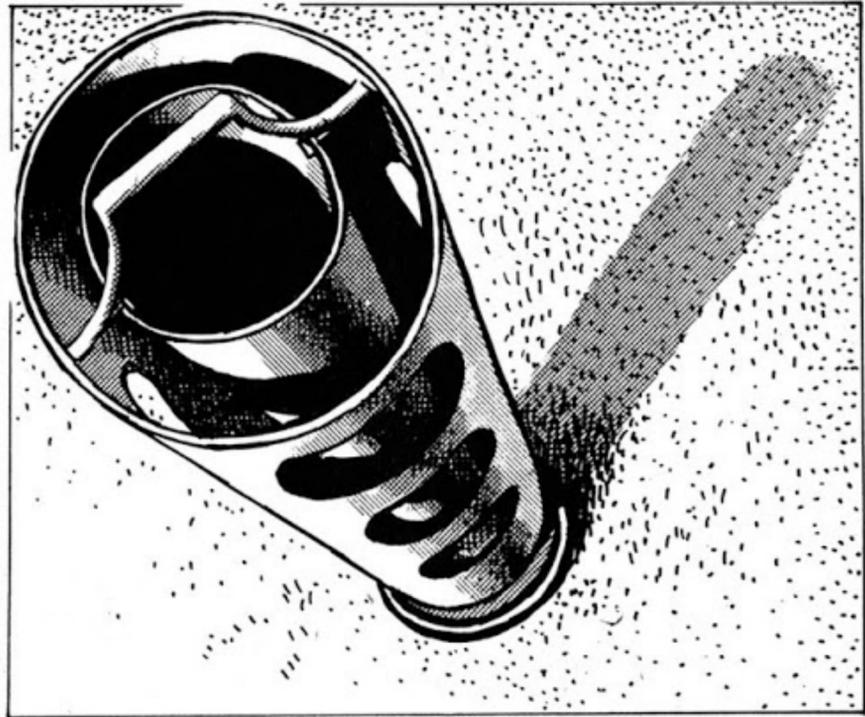
...THEN, STARTED SHOWING UP ELSEWHERE... IN HOMES...



... IN OFFICES ...



... COMPOSED OF PLASTIC, CARDBOARD AND NERVE GAS... GIVING OFF FUMES DEADLY TO CRAWLING INSECTS... DANGEROUS FUMES...



AND FINALLY, ONE DAY, IT HAPPENED...

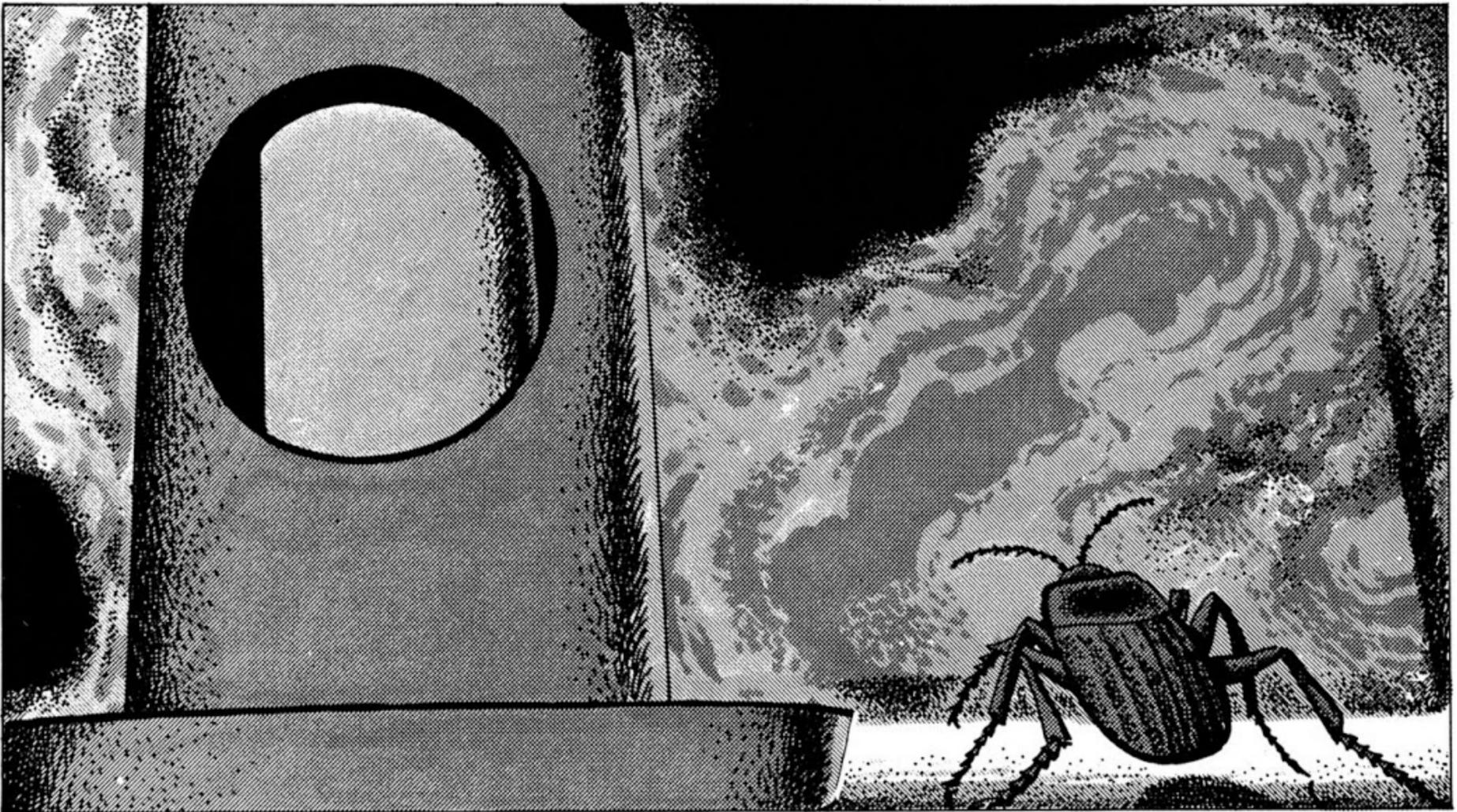




THINK VAMPIRES AND WEREWOLVES ARE THE **END** WHEN IT COMES TO MONSTERS...? THEN LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE **NEW BREED**... LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO...

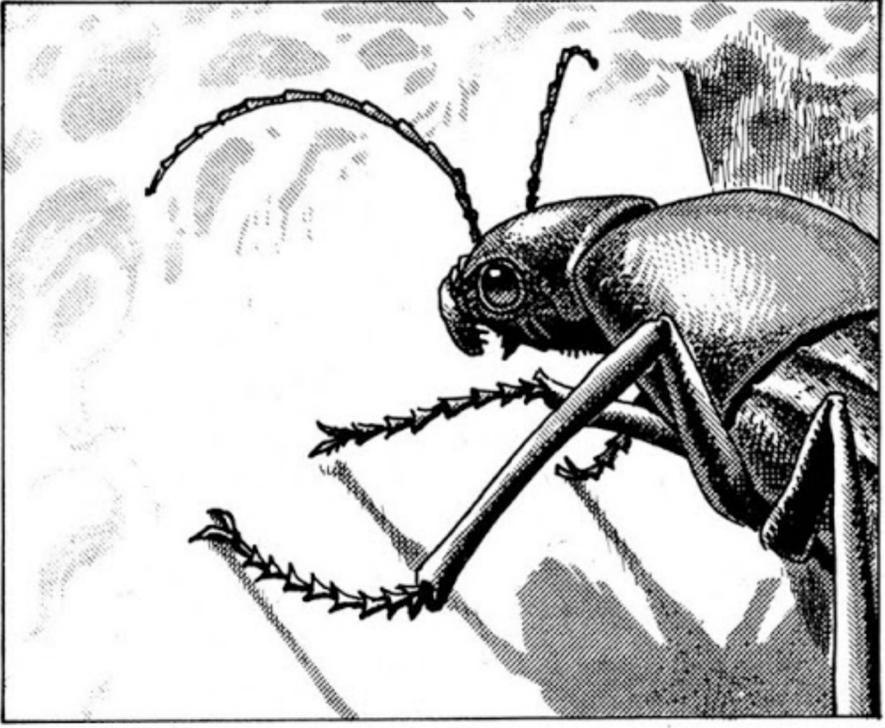
THE PEST!

CRAWL... TRY TO ESCAPE FROM THE FUMES... THE FUMES THAT REACH OUT FOR YOU, WISH TO STRANGLE YOU... CRAWL... AND KNOW THAT YOU, WHO WERE ONCE THE VICTIMIZER, ARE NOW THE VICTIM...



SCRATCH AT THE DOOR... TRY TO FORCE YOUR SIX AWKWARD LIMBS TO FUNCTION PROPERLY... TRY TO GET OUT... BUT AS YOU DO, THINK BACK...

... THINK BACK AND REMEMBER THAT AN ETERNITY AGO YOU STOOD ON TWO LEGS... YOU WERE A MAN...



IT'S **FINISHED** SIR! BUT I **DON'T** THINK WE SHOULD PUT IT ON THE **MARKET!**

WHY NOT??

... OR WERE YOU A MAN?
COULD ANYONE CALL ONE
SUCH AS YOU A MAN?

IT ISN'T **SAFE!** THE CHEMICALS
GIVEN OFF BY THIS THING
COULD BE VERY HARMFUL TO
CHILDREN... OLDER PEOPLE
... AND ANYONE WHO'S
SICKLY!

THE **FDA**
MIGHT...

BAH!
FORGET
THE **FDA!**



I'VE GOT CONTACTS
IN **ALL** THE GOVERNMENTAL
AGENCIES! THOSE I
CAN'T **BRIBE,**
I CAN **BLACKMAIL!**

WE'LL HAVE **NO**
TROUBLE **AT ALL**
GETTING THIS
BABY ON THE
MARKET!



I DOUBT THAT WE'LL EVEN
HAVE TO PUT A **WARNING**
LABEL ON IT!

THEY'LL SELL
LIKE **HOT-CAKES!**



WELL, PERHAPS NOT EXACTLY LIKE HOT-CAKES... BUT THEY DID SELL WELL...



THEN, ONE DAY...

I **WANT** TO SEE YOUR
BOSS! AND I'M **GOING** TO
SEE HIM! **RIGHT NOW!**

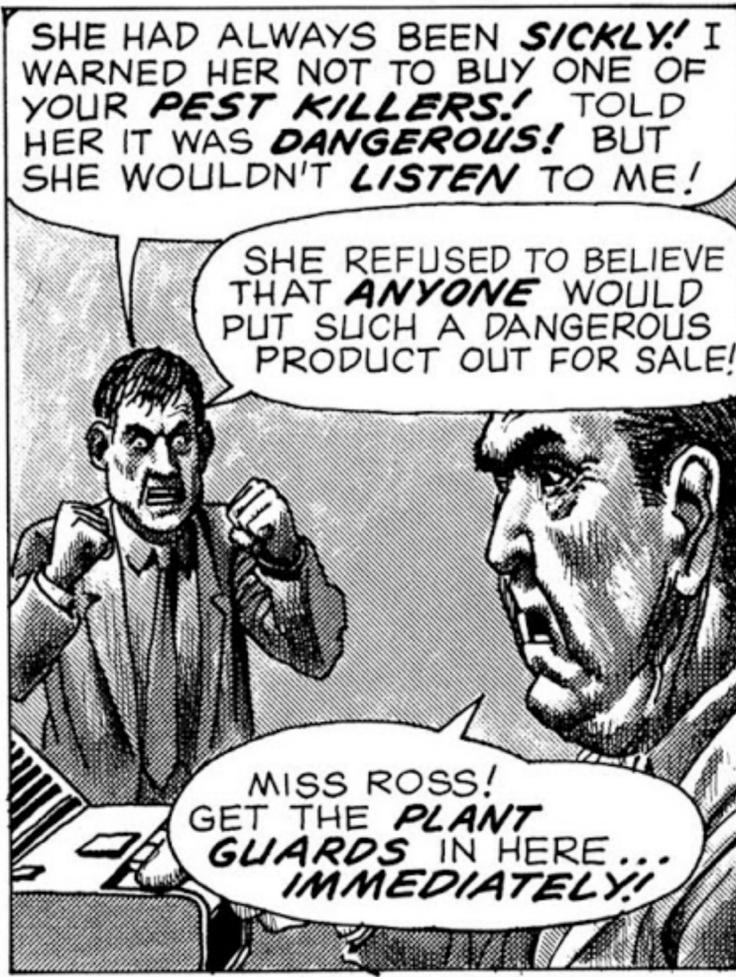
BUT... BUT,
SIR...





THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU **KILLED** MY
WIFE!

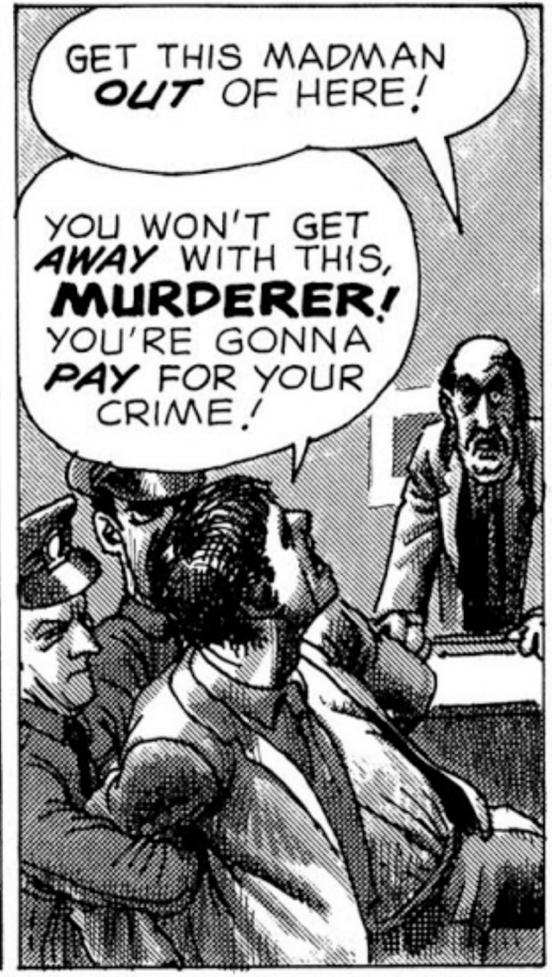
WHAT?



SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN **SICKLY!** I
WARNED HER NOT TO BUY ONE OF
YOUR **PEST KILLERS!** TOLD
HER IT WAS **DANGEROUS!** BUT
SHE WOULDN'T **LISTEN** TO ME!

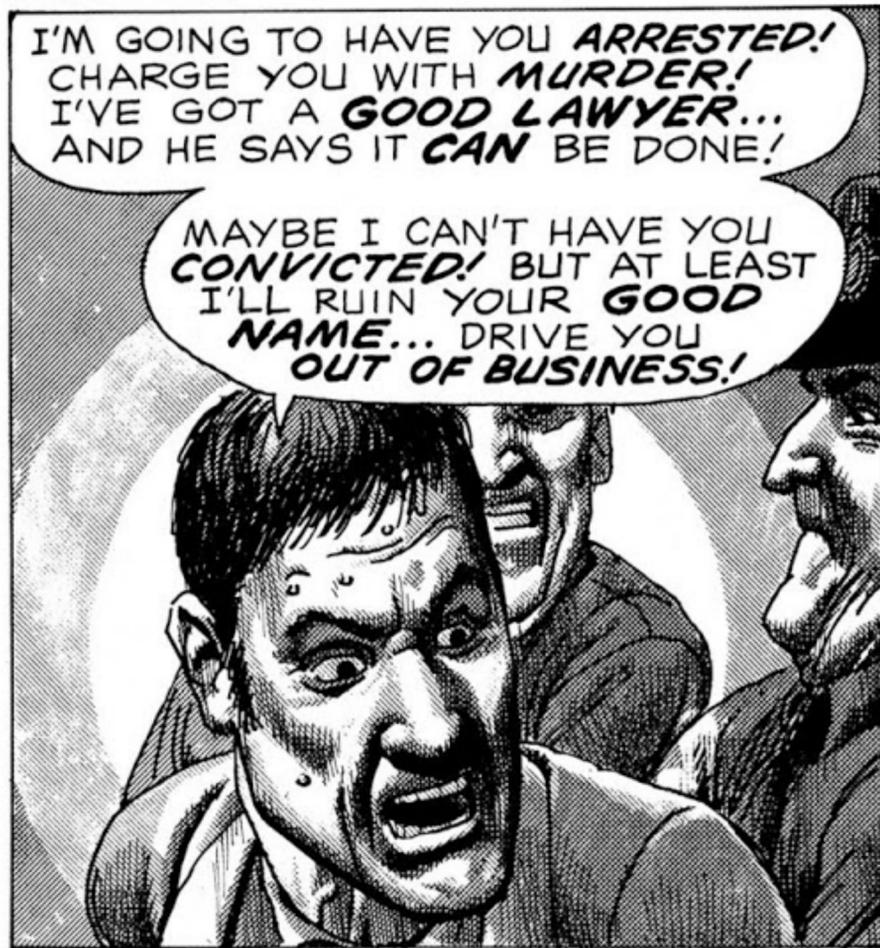
SHE REFUSED TO BELIEVE
THAT **ANYONE** WOULD
PUT SUCH A DANGEROUS
PRODUCT OUT FOR SALE!

MISS ROSS!
GET THE **PLANT**
GUARDS IN HERE...
IMMEDIATELY!



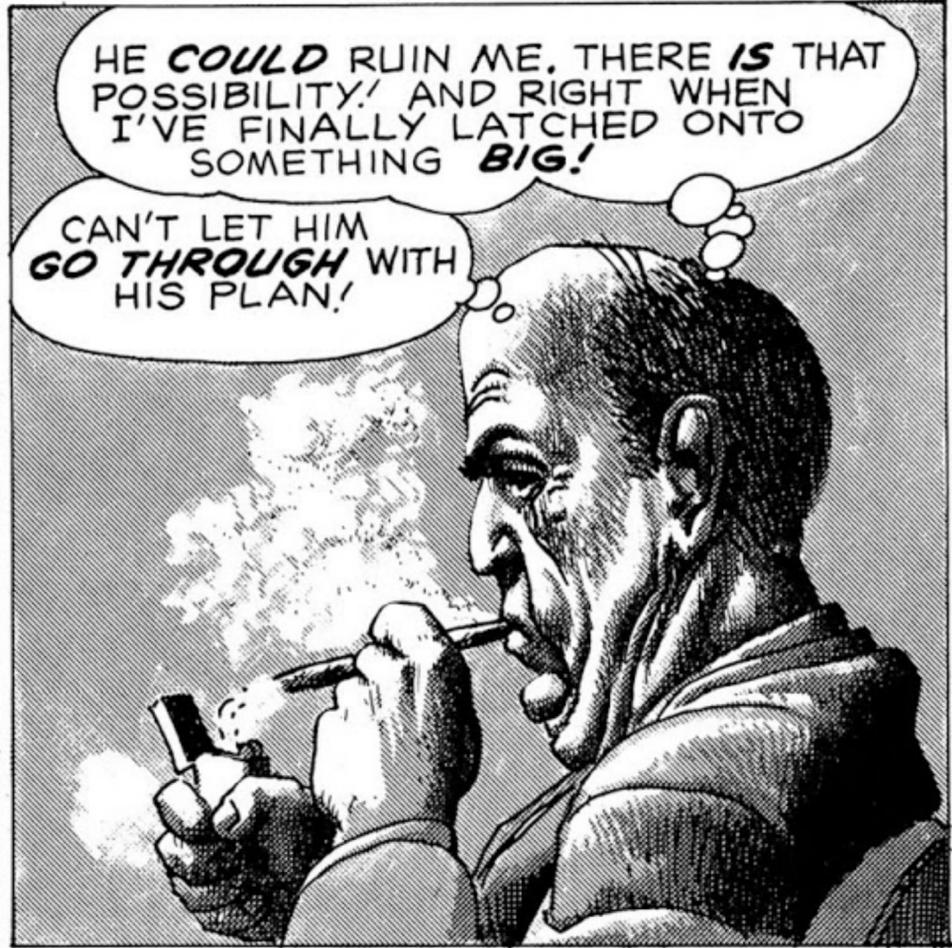
GET THIS MADMAN
OUT OF HERE!

YOU WON'T GET
AWAY WITH THIS,
MURDERER!
YOU'RE GONNA
PAY FOR YOUR
CRIME!



I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU **ARRESTED!**
CHARGE YOU WITH **MURDER!**
I'VE GOT A **GOOD LAWYER...**
AND HE SAYS IT **CAN** BE DONE!

MAYBE I CAN'T HAVE YOU
CONVICTED! BUT AT LEAST
I'LL RUIN YOUR **GOOD**
NAME... DRIVE YOU
OUT OF BUSINESS!

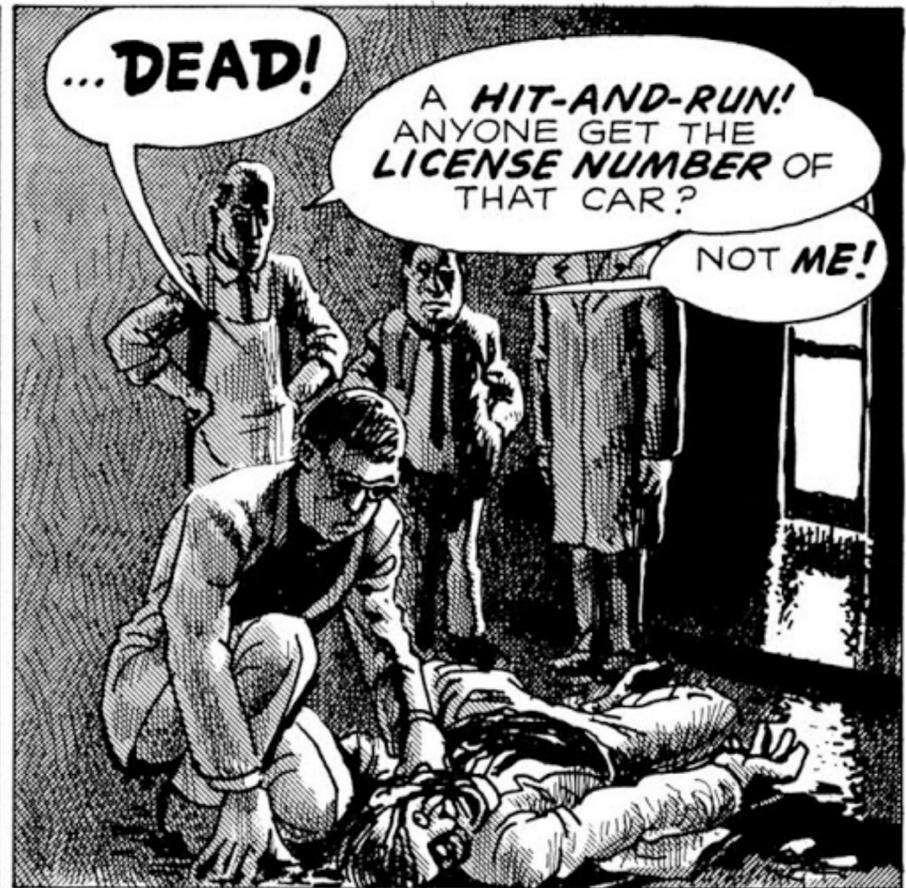
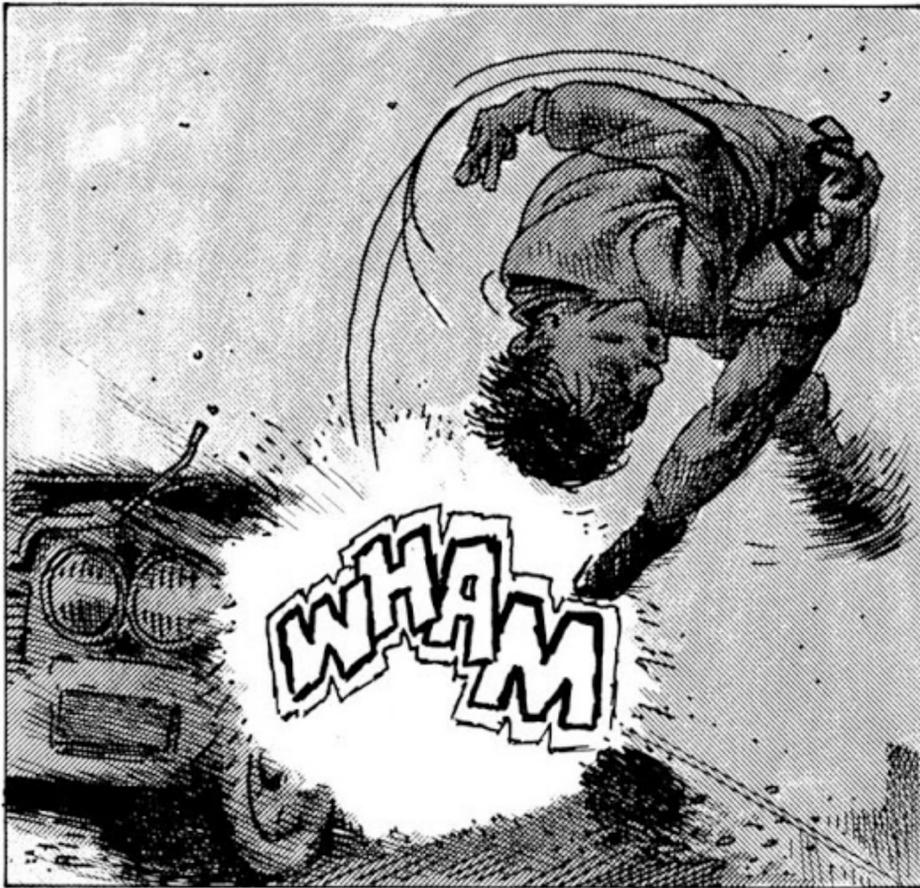


HE **COULD** RUIN ME. THERE **IS** THAT
POSSIBILITY! AND RIGHT WHEN
I'VE FINALLY LATCHED ONTO
SOMETHING **BIG!**

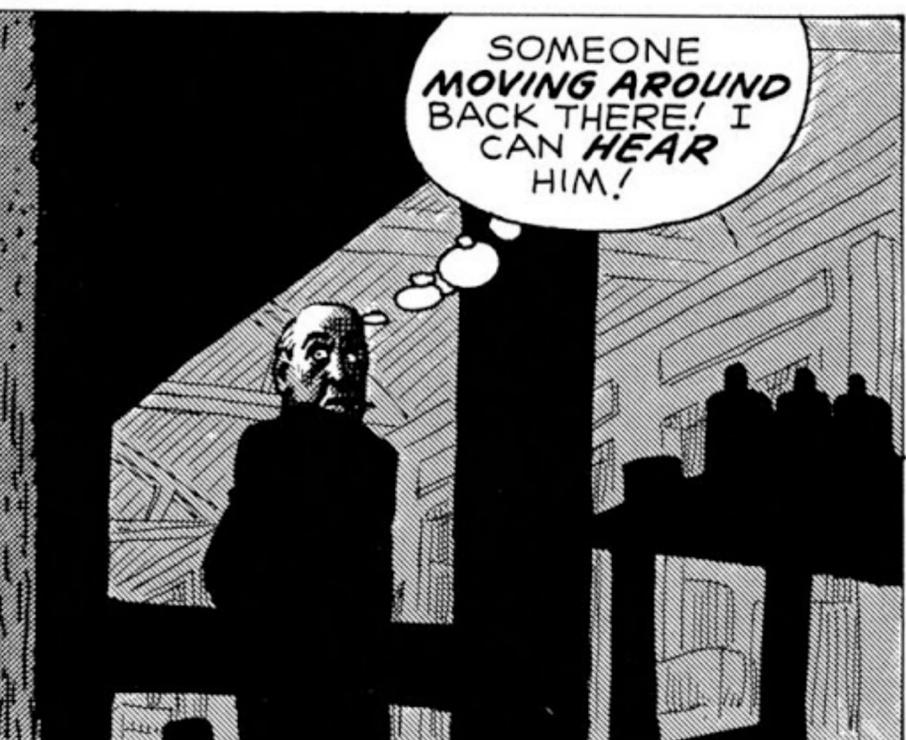
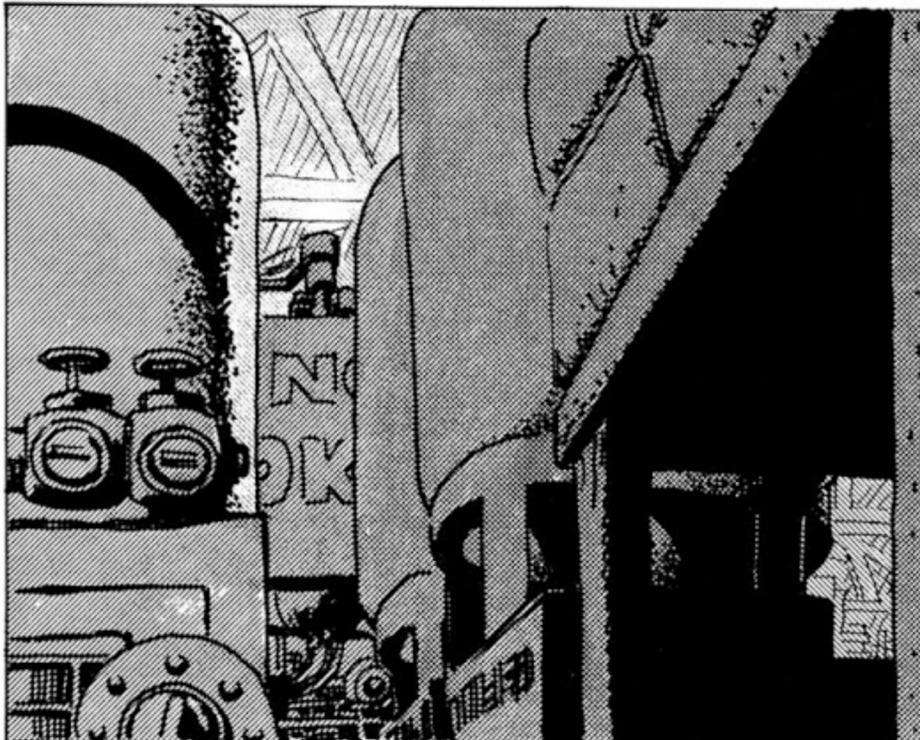
CAN'T LET HIM
GO THROUGH WITH
HIS PLAN!

AND, THAT NIGHT, AFTER
A VAIN ATTEMPT TO
DROWN HIS SORROWS,
AS THE SAD YOUNG
MAN LEFT A LOCAL
TAVERN... A CAR
CAME FROM OUT
OF NOWHERE...





GUILT -- IS THAT WHAT CAUSED IT? WERE YOU FEELING GUILT FOR THE FIRST TIME? GUILT -- IS THAT WHY YOU HEARD THE SOUNDS, THAT NIGHT WHEN YOU WERE ALONE IN YOUR FACTORY? ...



AND, EVEN AS YOU SHOUTED, WORDS ECHOED IN YOUR BRAIN... THE WORDS THAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN BY THE YOUNG MAN YOU HAD KILLED...

THEN, YOU HEARD THE FOOTSTEPS, ... SOMEONE RUNNING TOWARD YOU... AND YOU RAN...





NO! GOTTA GET HOLD OF MYSELF!

THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE!



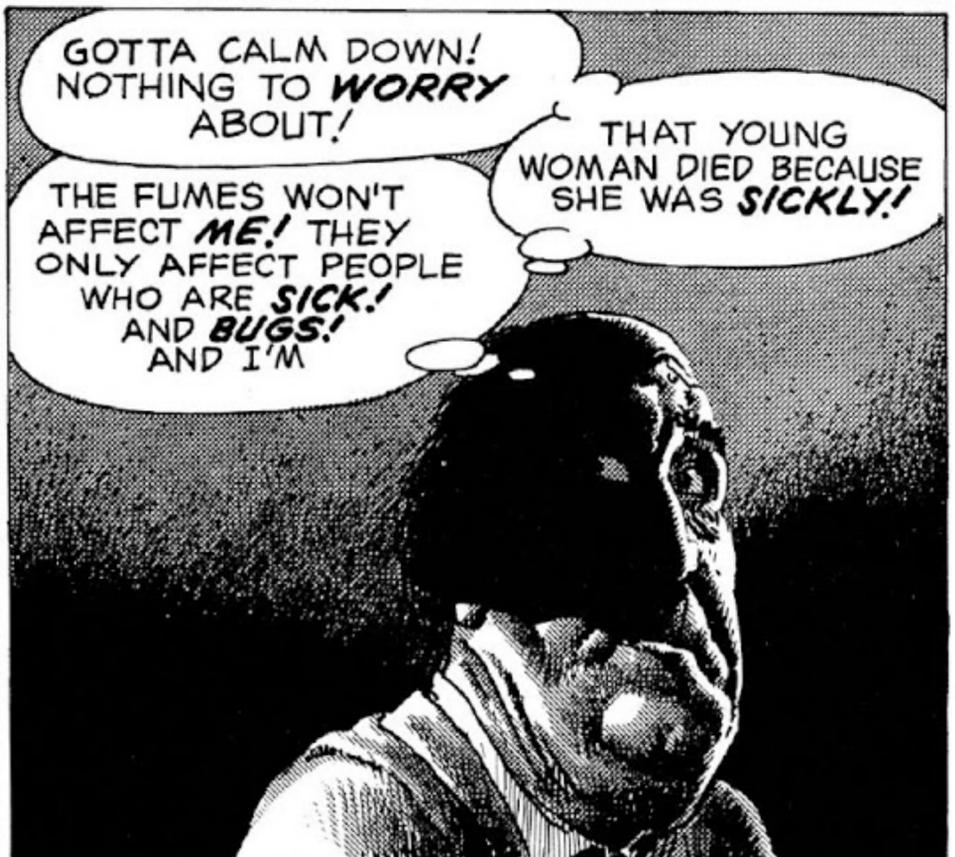
WHA-? PEST-KILLERS! ALL OVER THE PLACE!

GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!



NO! JAMMED!

BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE! I... I'VE

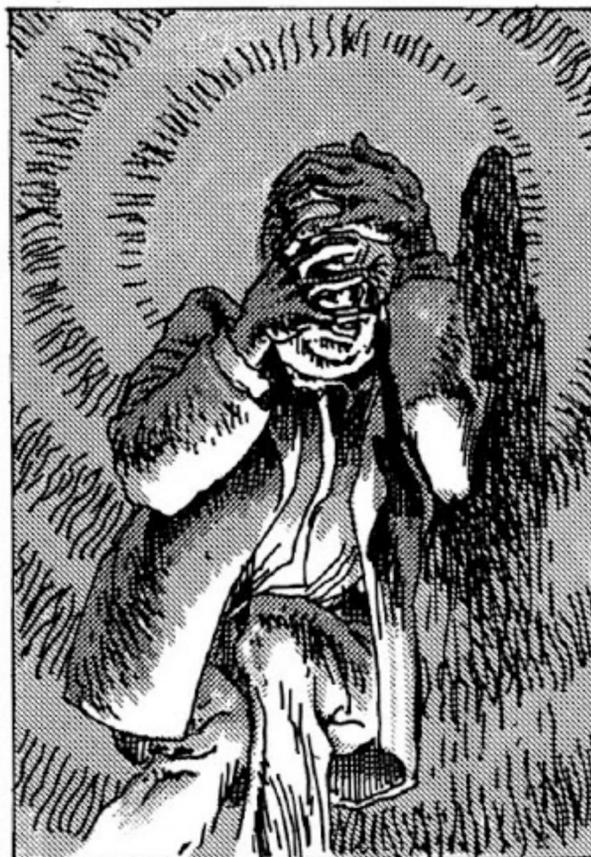


GOTTA CALM DOWN! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

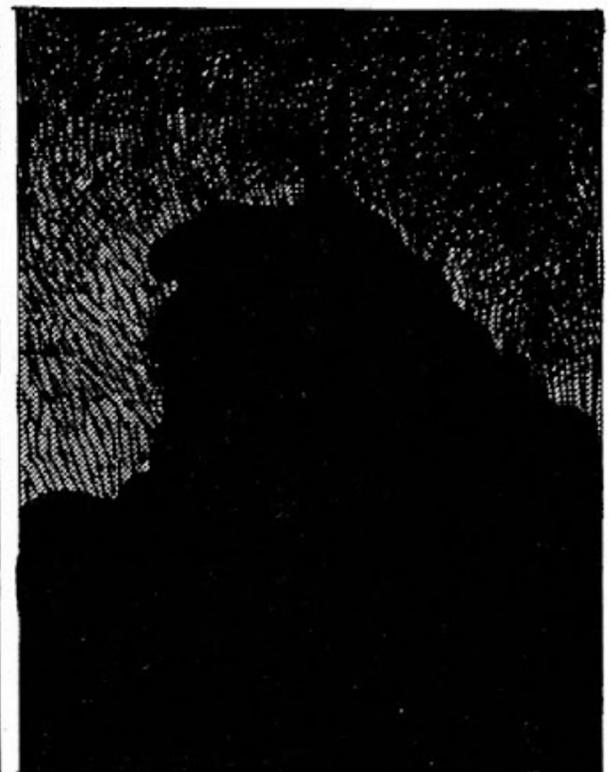
THE FUMES WON'T AFFECT ME! THEY ONLY AFFECT PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK! AND BUGS! AND I'M

THAT YOUNG WOMAN DIED BECAUSE SHE WAS SICKLY!

BUT THE FUMES DID AFFECT YOU, DIDN'T THEY? YOU BEGAN TO FEEL DIZZY... GROGGY...



THEN, THE DARKNESS SET IN...



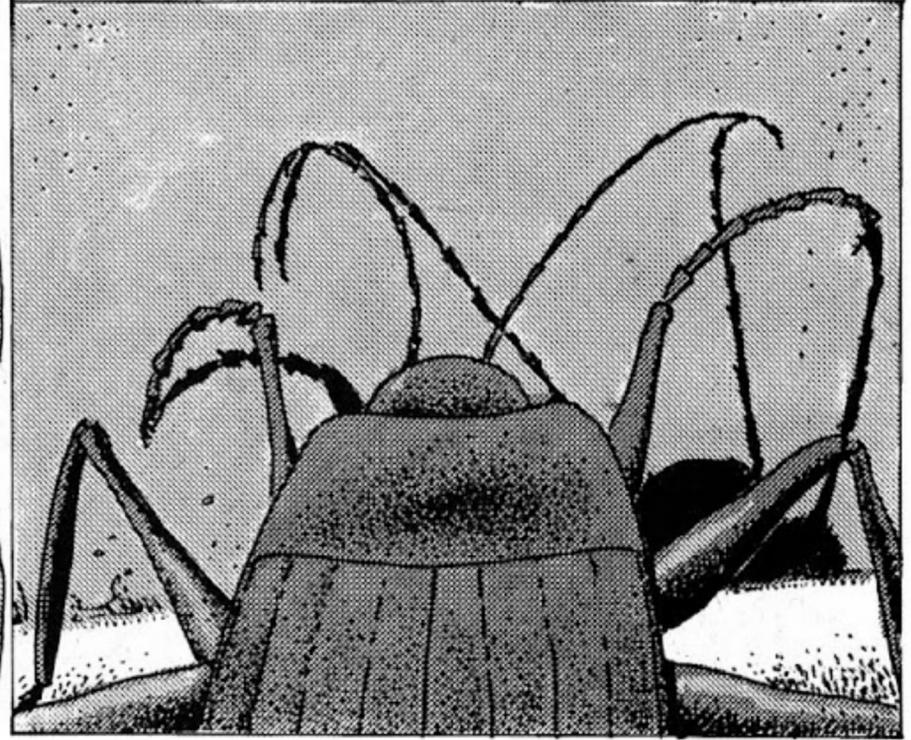
AND WHEN YOU AWAKE ...



WHA-? NO!
IT CAN'T BE!

I'VE... I'VE
BECOME...

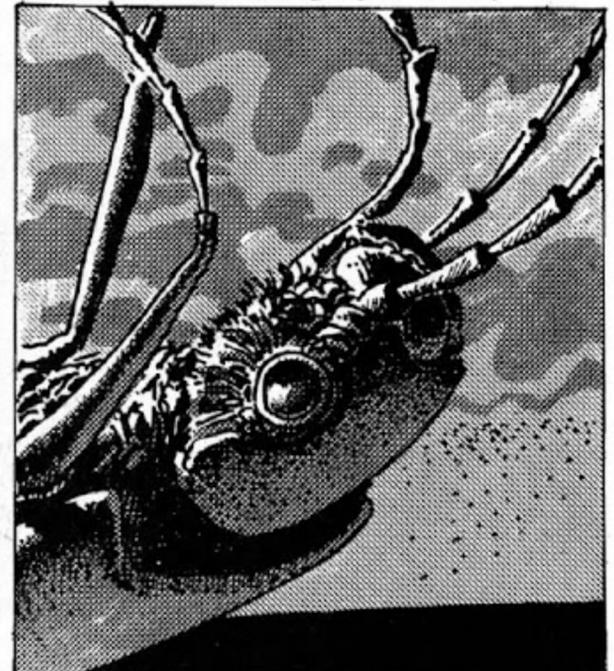
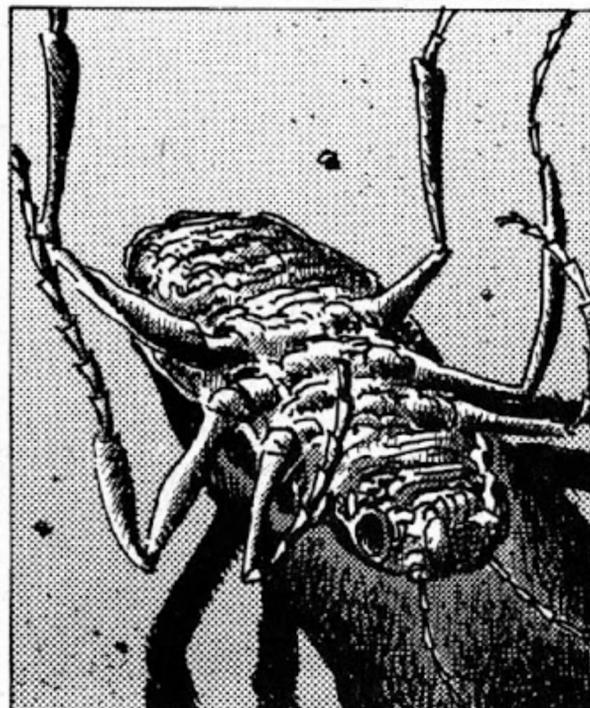
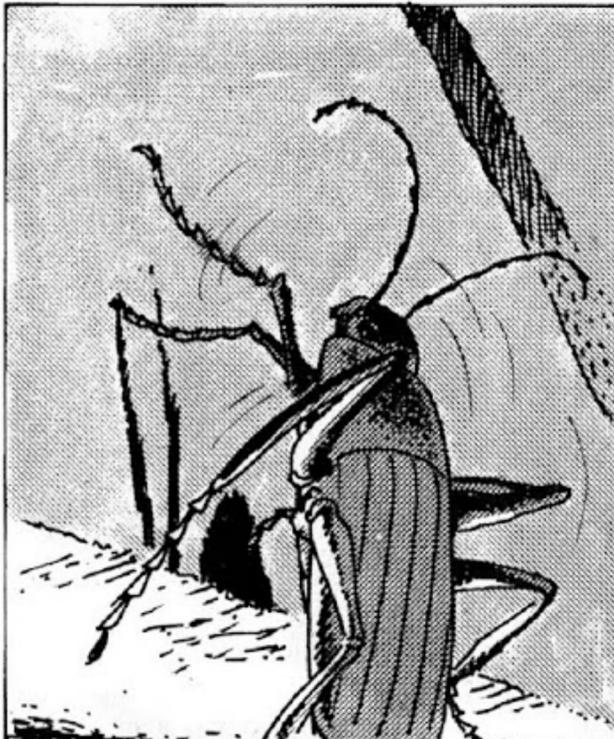
AND NOW YOU ARE SCRATCHING AT
THE DOOR ... TRYING TO MAKE
YOUR STRANGE BODY FUNCTION...
TRYING ESCAPE...



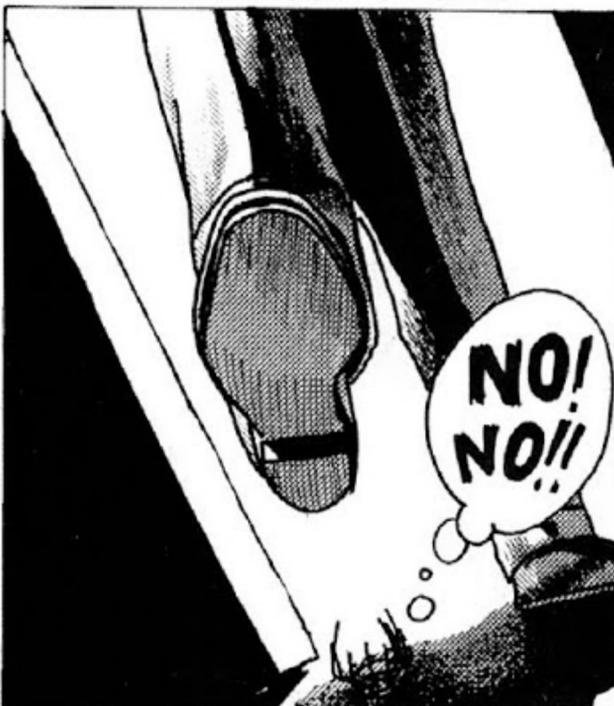
BUT YOU ARE NOT USED
TO THIS BODY... YOU
STUMBLE... FALL ...

AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO
RIGHT YOURSELF... UNABLE
TO TURN OVER... YOU TRY
YOU STRUGGLE ...

FOR HOURS AND HOURS
LIE THERE... THE FUMES
WEAKENING YOU... THEN,
FINALLY HEAR
FOOT- STEPS...

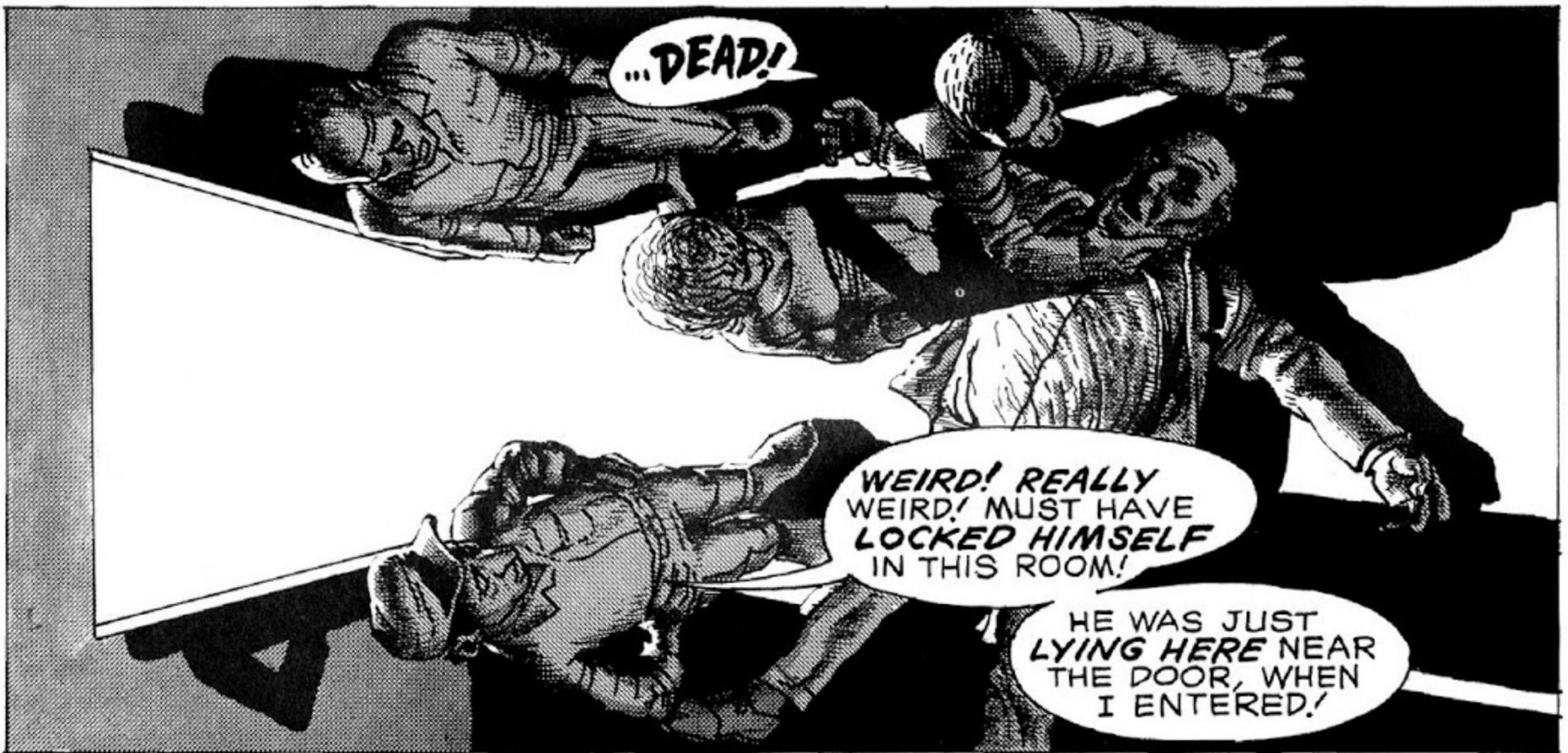


THE DOOR OPENS... A WORK-
MAN FROM YOUR FACTORY...
HIS FOOT HEADING DOWN
TOWARD YOU...



NO!
NO!!





...**DEAD!**

WEIRD! REALLY WEIRD! MUST HAVE **LOCKED HIMSELF** IN THIS ROOM!

HE WAS JUST **LYING HERE** NEAR THE DOOR, WHEN I ENTERED!



... HIS LEGS AND ARMS POINTING STRAIGHT UP INTO AIR!

I DIDN'T **SEE** HIM AT FIRST! I ACCIDENTALLY **STEPPED ON HIS STOMACH!**



THAT'S WHEN HE LET OUT THAT **BLOOD-CURLING SCREAM!**

So, you never did turn into a bug. It was all in your mind. Insanity, brought about, perhaps, by the fumes affecting your mind. Or produced, perhaps, by guilt!



AND A GOOD THING HE **DIDN'T** REALLY BECOME AN INSECT... THINK WHAT A BAD NAME SOMEONE LIKE HIM COULD GIVE **BUGS!** AFTER ALL, SOME OF MY BEST **FRIENDS** ARE-- BUT **THAT'S** ANOTHER STORY!

