

IN THE WORLD OF MORTAL MEN  
HE IS **JIM CORRIGAN**,  
HARD-BOILED POLICE  
DETECTIVE-- BUT TO THE  
LEECHES OF THE UNDERWORLD  
HE IS **THE SPECTRE**,  
AWESOME AVENGER OF  
EVIL, AN EARTHBOUND  
GHOST WHO PUNISHES  
EVIL WITH A FEARSOME  
VENGEANCE FROM  
BEYOND THE GRAVE!  
JOIN US NOW FOR THE  
FRIGHTENING STORY

OF...

# THE SWAMI

AND...

# THE

# SPECTRE

P-PLEASE!  
YOU'VE GOT TO  
LET ME OUT OF  
HERE! Y-YOU'VE  
G-GOT TO!

EEAAH  
HA  
HA

IN THE  
SPIRITUAL  
SANCTUM OF  
THE GREAT  
SWAMI  
SEELAL,  
A SEANCE  
DRAWS TO  
A CLOSE...

...AH, THE SPIRITS  
GROW WEAKER NOW...  
EVER WEAKER... WITH  
EVERY PASSING  
SECOND THEY ARE  
REMOVING THEM-  
SELVES FURTHER  
AND FURTHER  
FROM OUR  
PRESENCE...

SCRIPT • MICHAEL FLEISHER ✓ ART • JIM APARO  
ART CONTINUITY • RUSSELL CARLEY ✓ EDITOR • JOE ORLANDO



FOR TONIGHT, OUR COMMUNION WITH THEM IS... OVER--!

OH, SWAMI! YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT TONIGHT! SIMPLY MAGNIFICENT!



REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DONATIONS NEXT TIME, LADIES, FOR ALTHOUGH THE FILTHY MONEY DISTURBS ME PERSONALLY, WITHOUT IT OUR GREAT SPIRITUAL WORK COULD NOT POSSIBLY CONTINUE!

DON'T WORRY, SWAMI!



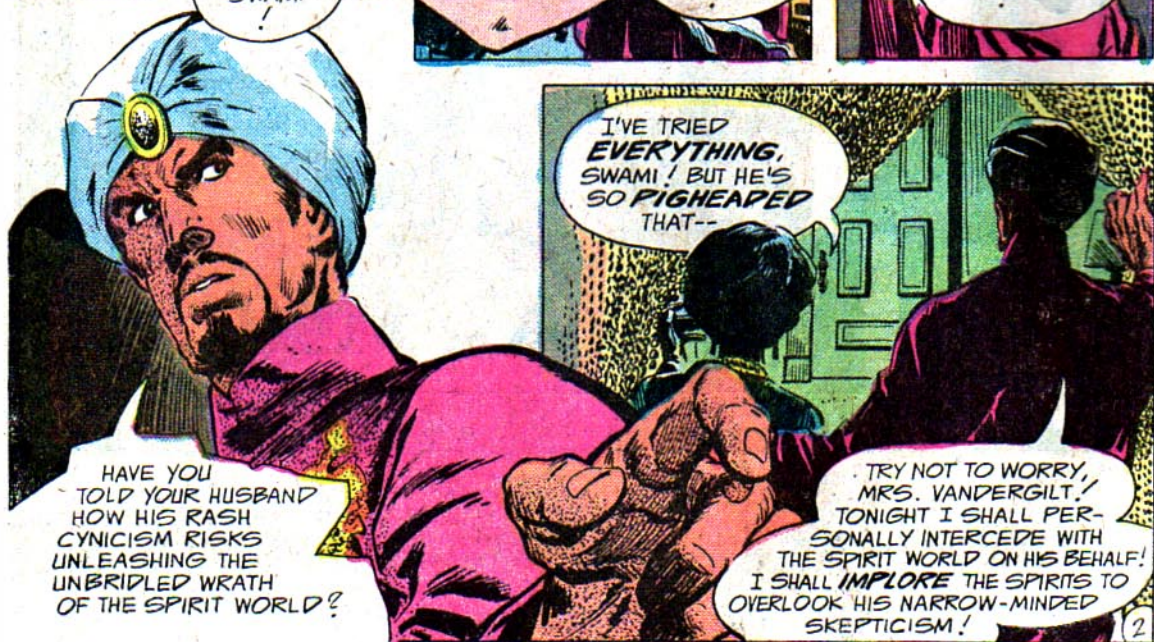
SWAMI, I'M SORRY, BUT MY HUSBAND REFUSES TO LET ME HAVE ANY MORE MONEY FOR YOUR GREAT WORK! HE REFUSES TO BELIEVE IN YOU, SWAMI!

HE CALLS YOU A FAKER AND A CON MAN!



I'VE TRIED TO SHOW HIM HOW BLIND HE IS, BUT HE WON'T LISTEN!

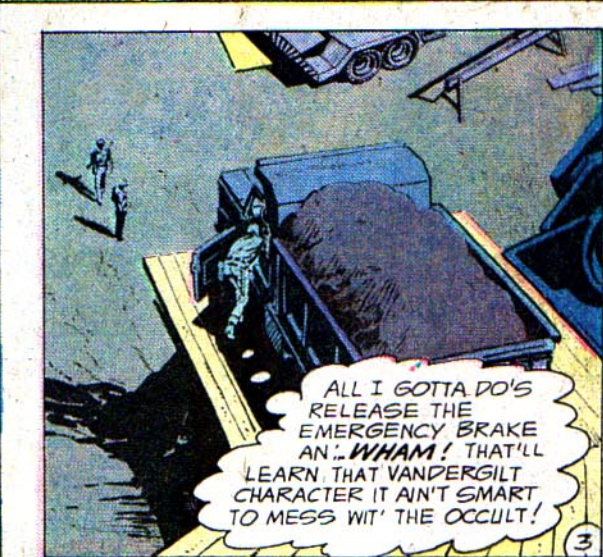
hmm! THIS IS SERIOUS, MRS. VANDERGILT!

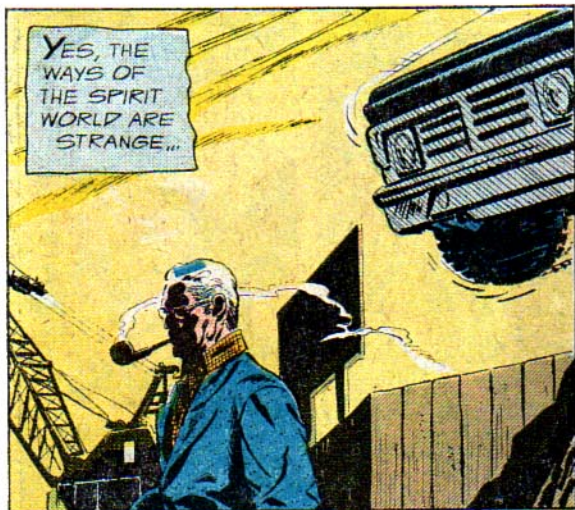


HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR HUSBAND HOW HIS RASH CYNICISM RISKS UNLEASHING THE UNBRIDLED WRATH OF THE SPIRIT WORLD?!

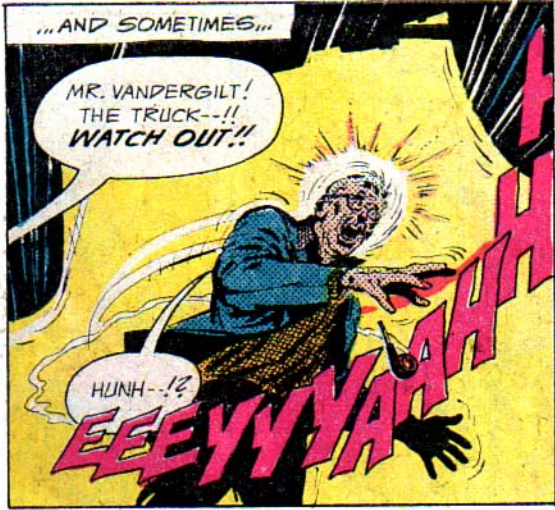
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING, SWAMI! BUT HE'S SO FIGHEADED THAT--

TRY NOT TO WORRY, MRS. VANDERGILT! TONIGHT I SHALL PERSONALLY INTERCEDE WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD ON HIS BEHALF! I SHALL IMPLORE THE SPIRITS TO OVERLOOK HIS NARROW-MINDED SKEPTICISM!





YES, THE WAYS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD ARE STRANGE...

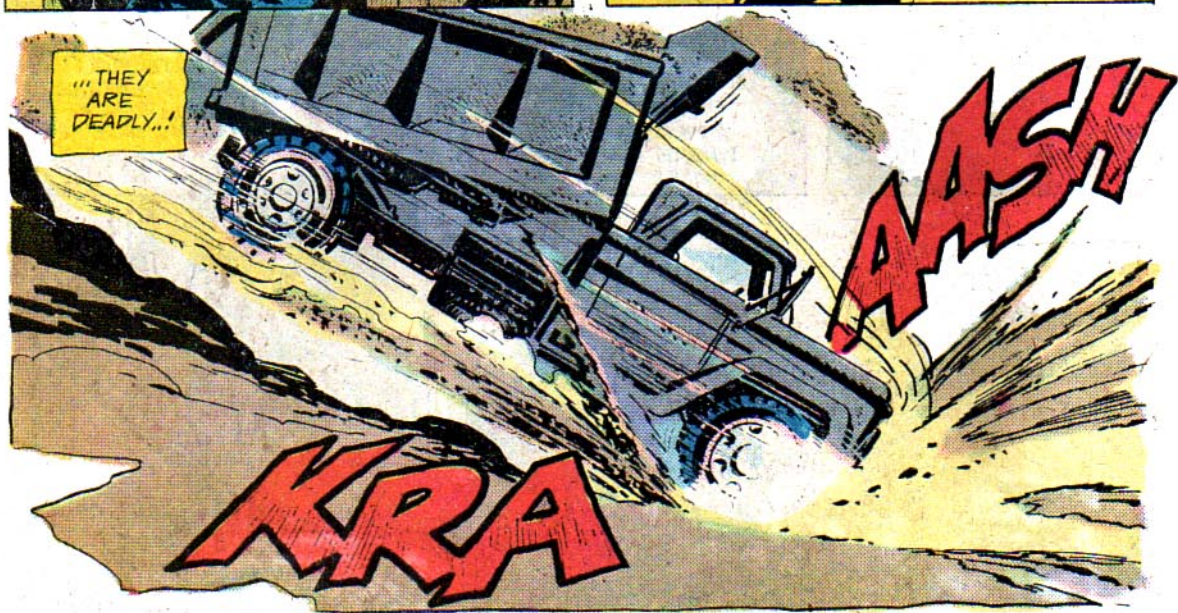


...AND SOMETIMES...

MR. VANDERGILT! THE TRUCK--!! WATCH OUT!!

HUNH--!?

EEEEYYAAH



...THEY ARE DEADLY...!

KRA

AASH



SOON...

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT, MRS. VANDERGILT, BUT IN CASES LIKE THIS... WELL... WE LIKE TO POKE AROUND A LITTLE!

SOB OH, LT. CORRIGAN, I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN! I W-WARNED HIM, SOB BUT HE JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN!



WARNED HIM ABOUT WHAT, MRS. VANDERGILT?

ABOUT SOB OFFENDING TH-THE INHABITANTS OF THE S-SPIRIT WORLD BY WITHDRAWING HIS SUPPORT FROM THE SPIRITUAL RESEARCHES OF THE GREAT SWAMI SEELAL!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



SWAMI SEELAL!?! IS HE TIED UP IN THIS? WHY, HEADQUARTERS HAS A FILE ON THAT PHONEY AS BIG AS THE **YELLOW PAGES!** HE--

I'LL THANK YOU TO HOLD YOUR TONGUE, LIEUTENANT! SWAMI SEELAL IS A **GREAT SPIRITUAL LEADER!**



YEAH, WELL, UH, THANKS, MRS. VANDERGILT! YOU HAVE MY SINCEREST CONDOLENCES, BELIEVE ME--

--AS WELL AS MY PROMISE TO PAY A LITTLE SOCIAL CALL ON THE EXALTED SWAMI!



**SOMETIME LATER...**

OKAY, PUNJAB, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF! TAKE ME TO THE SWAMI!

SURE, LIEUTENANT! THE SWAMI WELCOMES ALL LOST SOULS--EVEN WHEN THEY'RE **COPS!**



**AND SO...**

MY ESTEEMED ASSISTANT INFORMS ME THAT YOU SEEK WORDS WITH ME, LT. CORRIGAN! HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE TO YOU?

A MAN NAMED **VANDERGILT** WAS **KILLED** THIS MORNING, SEELAL-- FLATTENED BY A RUNAWAY DUMP TRUCK!



THE LAB BOYS SAY IT WAS AN ACCIDENT-- WHICH IS WHAT I THOUGHT UNTIL HIS WIDOW TOLD ME THAT HE DIED RIGHT AFTER HE STOPPED MAKING HIS REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR PRIVATE **SLUSH FUND!**



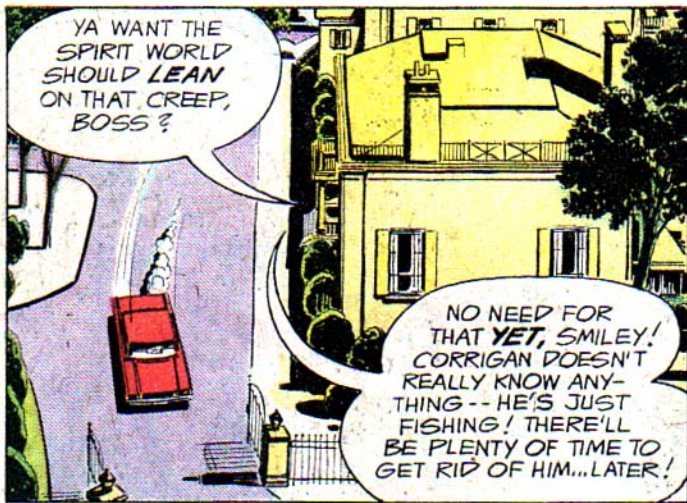
HIS WIDOW--? YOU MEAN **MRS. VANDERGILT!** A FINE, FINE WOMAN! YES, SHE IS A MEMBER OF MY FLOCK!

BUT WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING, LIEUTENANT-- THAT I **MURDERED** MR. VANDERGILT BECAUSE HE WITHDREW HIS SUPPORT FROM MY WORK?



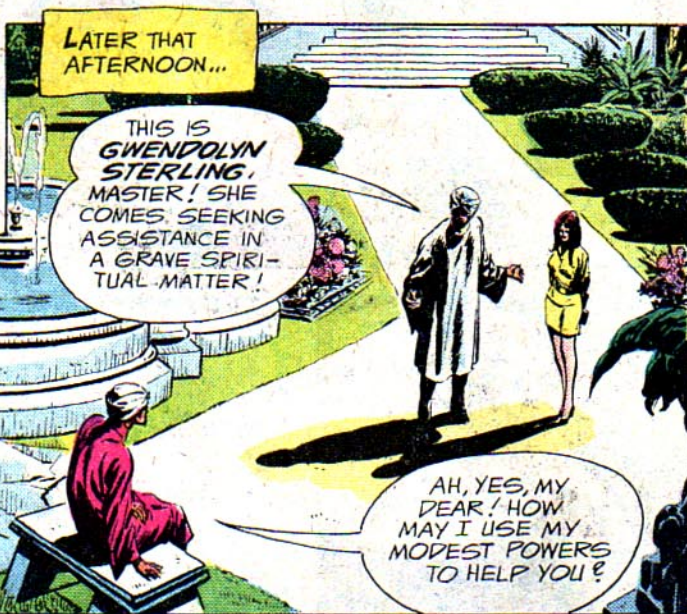
NO, NOT JUST YET I'M NOT! BUT I'M WARNING YOU, SEELAL, YOU TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF LINE... YOU SLIP UP JUST ONCE... AND I'M GOING TO NAIL YOUR HEAD TO THE WALL! REMEMBER THAT!

I WILL, LIEUTENANT! GOOD DAY!



YA WANT THE SPIRIT WORLD SHOULD LEAN ON THAT CREEP, BOSS?

NO NEED FOR THAT YET, SMILEY! CORRIGAN DOESN'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING -- HE'S JUST FISHING! THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO GET RID OF HIM... LATER!



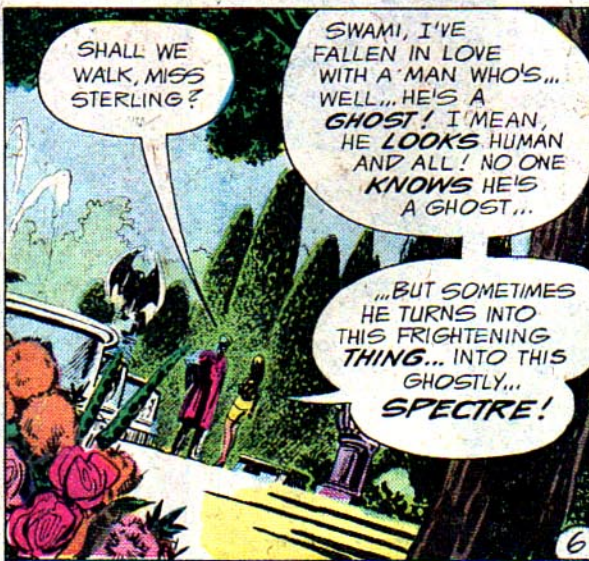
LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

THIS IS GWENDOLYN STERLING, MASTER! SHE COMES SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN A GRAVE SPIRITUAL MATTER!

AH, YES, MY DEAR! HOW MAY I USE MY MODEST POWERS TO HELP YOU?



THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CRAZY, SWAMI, BUT SINCE YOU'RE KNOWN AS A RENOWNED MASTER OF THE OCCULT, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME!



SHALL WE WALK, MISS STERLING?

SWAMI, I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A MAN WHO'S... WELL... HE'S A GHOST! I MEAN, HE LOOKS HUMAN AND ALL! NO ONE KNOWS HE'S A GHOST...

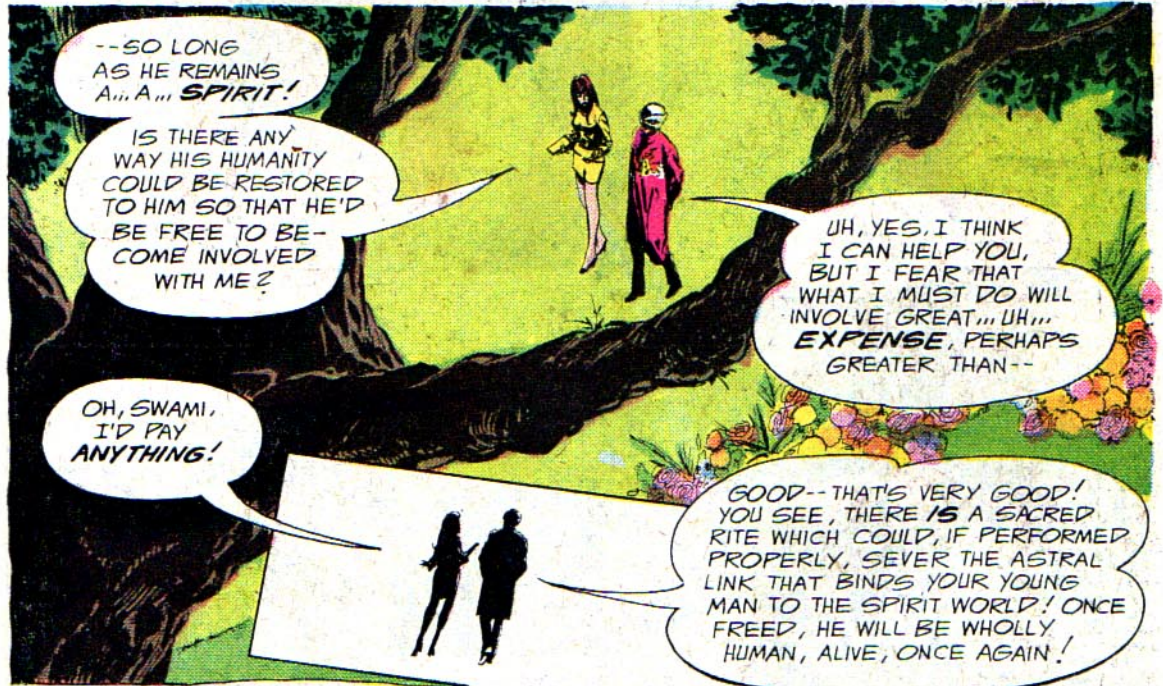
...BUT SOMETIMES HE TURNS INTO THIS FRIGHTENING THING... INTO THIS GHOSTLY... SPECTRE!



OH BROTHER!  
A COMPLETE  
**FRUITCAKE!**

UH... YES!  
BUT WHAT EXACTLY  
IS THE PROBLEM,  
MISS STERLING  
?

WELL, HE  
FEELS HE CAN'T  
LEAD A NORMAL  
LIFE--



--SO LONG  
AS HE REMAINS  
A... A... **SPIRIT!**

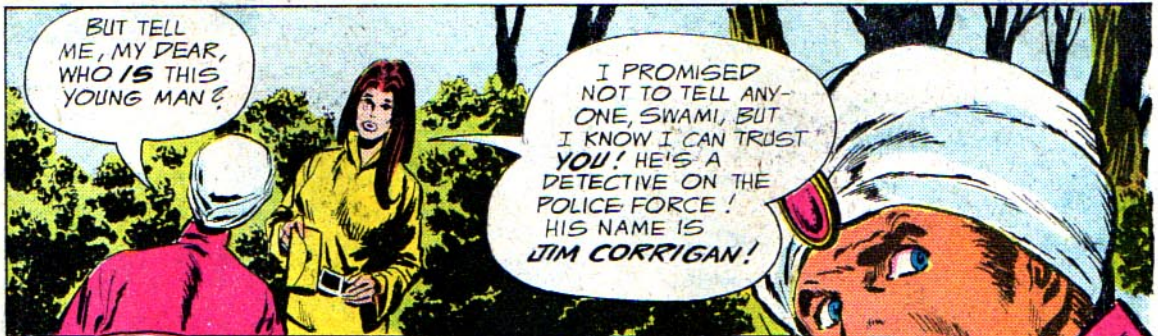
IS THERE ANY  
WAY HIS HUMANITY  
COULD BE RESTORED  
TO HIM SO THAT HE'D  
BE FREE TO BE-  
COME INVOLVED  
WITH ME?

UH, YES, I THINK  
I CAN HELP YOU,  
BUT I FEAR THAT  
WHAT I MUST DO WILL  
INVOLVE GREAT... UH...  
**EXPENSE**, PERHAPS  
GREATER THAN--

OH, SWAMI,  
I'D PAY  
**ANYTHING!**



GOOD-- THAT'S VERY GOOD!  
YOU SEE, THERE **IS** A SACRED  
RITE WHICH COULD, IF PERFORMED  
PROPERLY, SEVER THE ASTRAL  
LINK THAT BINDS YOUR YOUNG  
MAN TO THE SPIRIT WORLD! ONCE  
FREED, HE WILL BE WHOLLY  
HUMAN, ALIVE, ONCE AGAIN!



BUT TELL  
ME, MY DEAR,  
WHO **IS** THIS  
YOUNG MAN?

I PROMISED  
NOT TO TELL ANY-  
ONE, SWAMI, BUT  
I KNOW I CAN TRUST  
**YOU!** HE'S A  
DETECTIVE ON THE  
POLICE FORCE!  
HIS NAME IS  
**JIM CORRIGAN!**



JIM  
CORRI--  
!?!

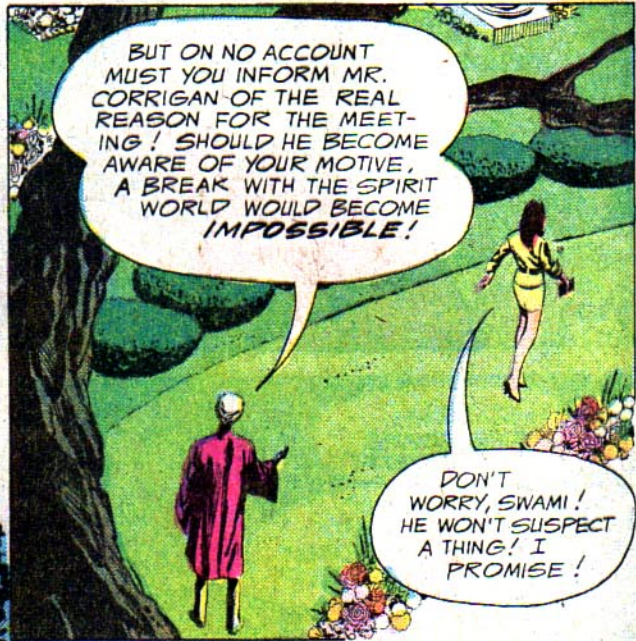
HMM! THIS  
CHANGES THINGS  
A LITTLE! MAYBE  
I CAN BILK THIS IDIOT  
FEMALE AND DO AWAY  
WITH THAT PESKY COP  
CORRIGAN AT THE  
SAME TIME!

OH, SWAMI,  
WILL YOU HELP  
ME?



OF COURSE I WILL ! YOU MUST CALL MR. CORRIGAN AND TELL HIM TO MEET YOU TOMORROW... AT MIDNIGHT... AT A CERTAIN ABANDONED CEMETERY, WHERE THE SPIRITUAL EMANATIONS ARE PARTICULARLY STRONG!

MY ASSISTANT WILL ESCORT YOU THERE, WHILE I REMAIN HERE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE SPIRITS THROUGH MY CRYSTAL SPHERE!



BUT ON NO ACCOUNT MUST YOU INFORM MR. CORRIGAN OF THE REAL REASON FOR THE MEETING ! SHOULD HE BECOME AWARE OF YOUR MOTIVE, A BREAK WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD WOULD BECOME IMPOSSIBLE!

DON'T WORRY, SWAMI ! HE WON'T SUSPECT A THING ! I PROMISE !

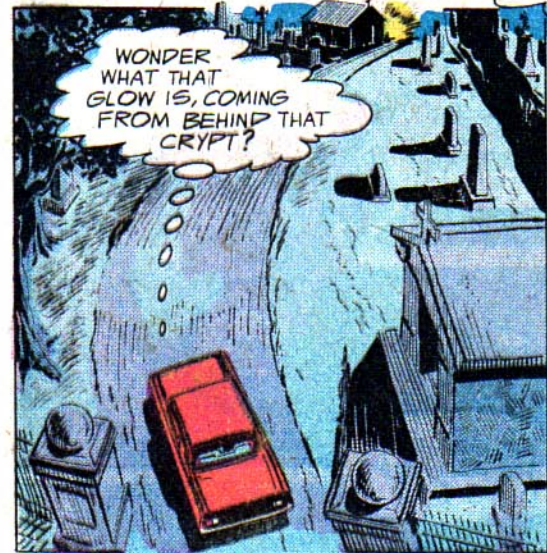


AND SO, THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

YOU KEEP ON MEDITATING, MISS STERLING, WHILE I GO TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO...UH... GREET MR. CORRIGAN ! HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW !

ALL RIGHT!

THERE'S THE CEMETERY ! GWEN CERTAINLY SOUNDED MYSTERIOUS ON THE PHONE ! WONDER WHY SHE WANTS ME TO MEET HER HERE, AT THIS UNGODLY HOUR ?



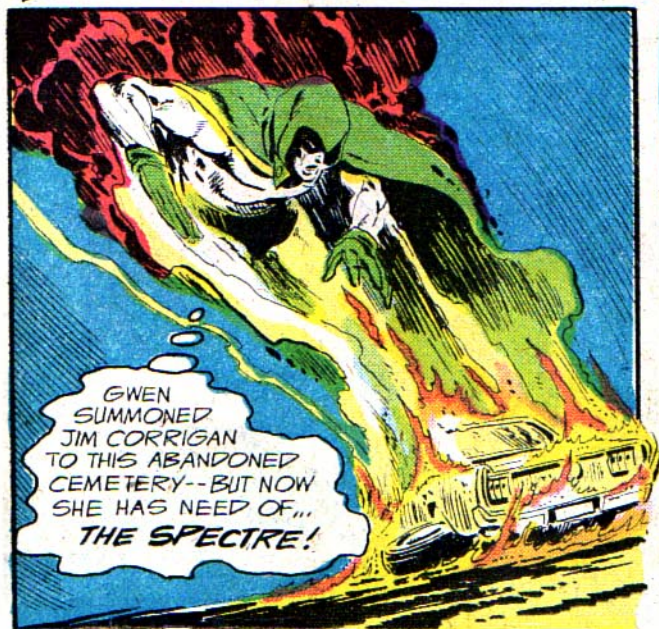
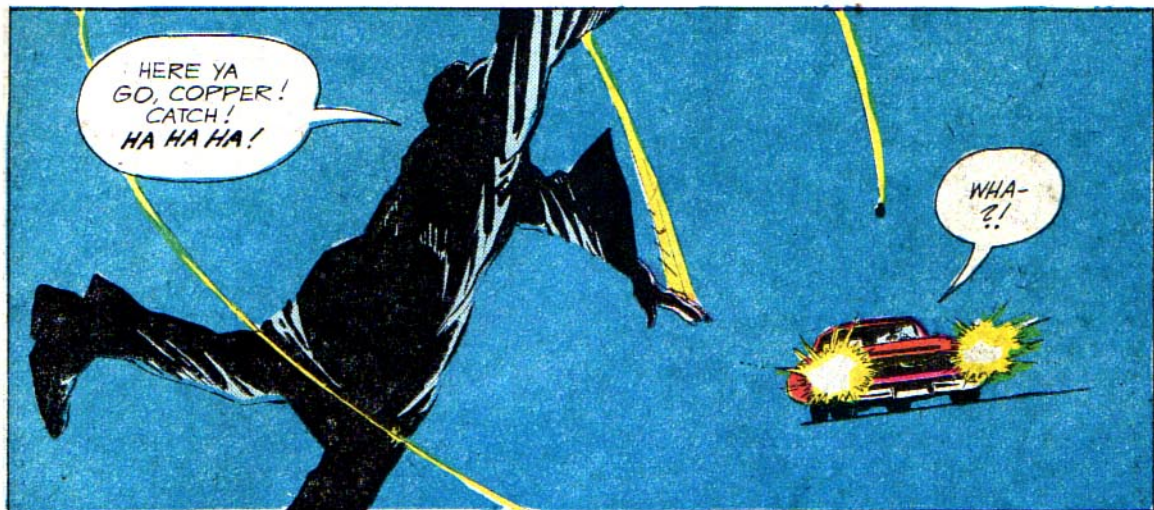
WONDER WHAT THAT GLOW IS, COMING FROM BEHIND THAT CRYPT ?



AND WHERE IS GWEN ANYWAY ?

IN ABOUT TWO SECONDS THE SPIRIT WORLD'S GONNA HAVE ITS REVENGE ON YOU, YOU NOSEY CREEP !









**EEAAHH--!!**  
(COUGH COUGH)  
**EYAAAHH**  
(CHOKE)--!!



EVEN THE SPIRITS  
OF THE LONG DEAD  
COULD NOT TOLERATE  
THE STENCH OF  
HIS EVIL!

AND NOW TO SPEAK  
WITH GWENDOLYN--  
AS **JIM CORRIGAN!**



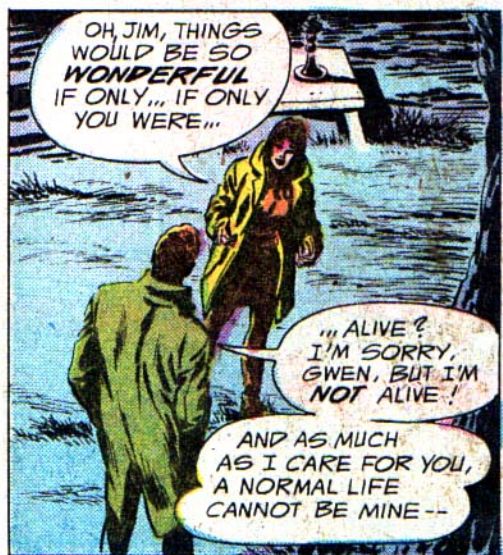
HELLO,  
GWEN!

OH, JIM!  
FORGIVE ME!  
I'M SO SORRY!  
I'M SO  
ASHAMED!



I WENT TO THE  
SWAMP BECAUSE  
I THOUGHT THAT  
MAYBE ... JUST  
MAYBE ... HE COULD  
HELP US ... HELP  
US ...

I  
UNDERSTAND,  
GWEN!



OH, JIM, THINGS  
WOULD BE SO  
**WONDERFUL**  
IF ONLY ... IF ONLY  
YOU WERE ...

... ALIVE?  
I'M SORRY,  
GWEN, BUT I'M  
**NOT ALIVE!**

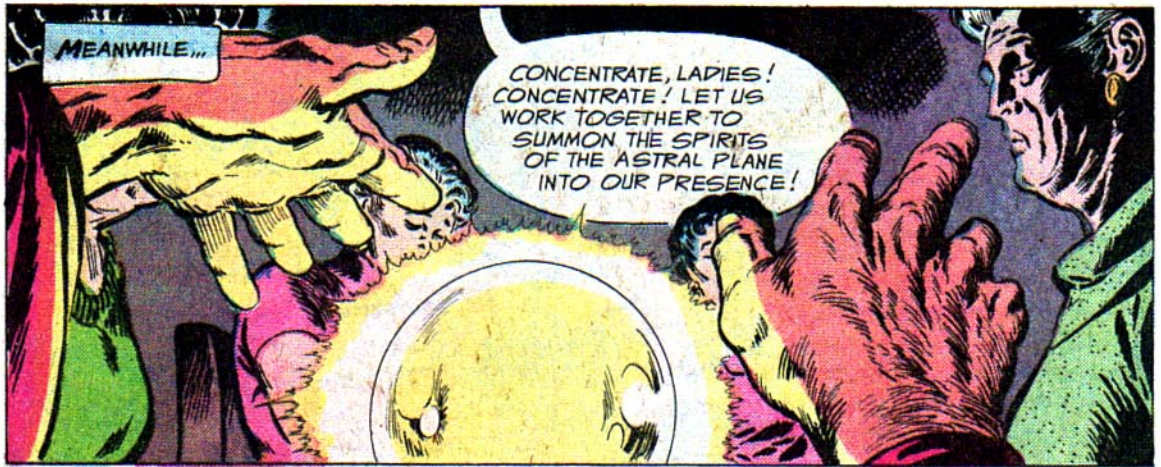
AND AS MUCH  
AS I CARE FOR YOU,  
A NORMAL LIFE  
CANNOT BE MINE--



-- SO LONG AS I HAVE  
MY UNEARTHLY MISSION!  
REMEMBER THAT, GWEN!  
REMEMBER ...

OH JIM!  
JIM!

H-HE'S  
GONE!



MEANWHILE...

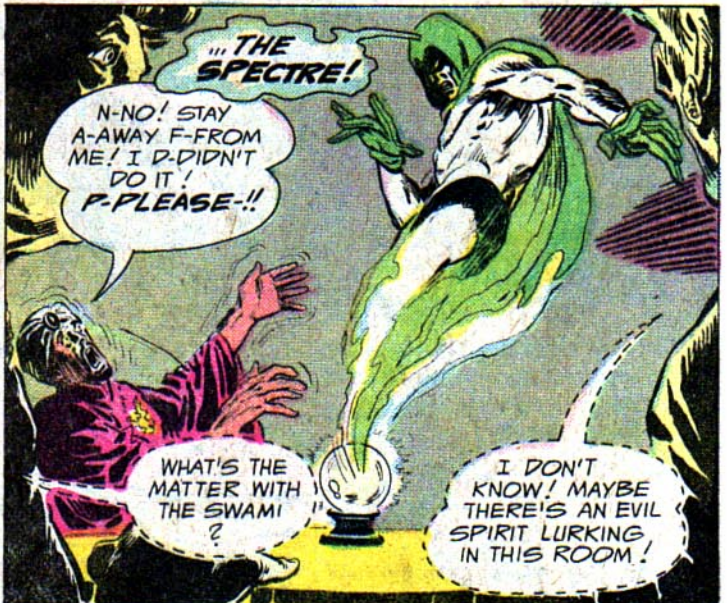
CONCENTRATE, LADIES!  
CONCENTRATE! LET US  
WORK TOGETHER TO  
SUMMON THE SPIRITS  
OF THE ASTRAL PLANE  
INTO OUR PRESENCE!



BY NOW,  
CORRIGAN'S DONE  
FOR, AND I CAN--

HUN--?!  
I-INSIDE M-MY  
C-CRYSTAL  
BALL-- I-IT'S  
S-SOME KIND  
OF F-FACE!

IT IS MY  
FACE, EVIL  
SWAMI! THE  
WRATHFUL FACE  
OF...

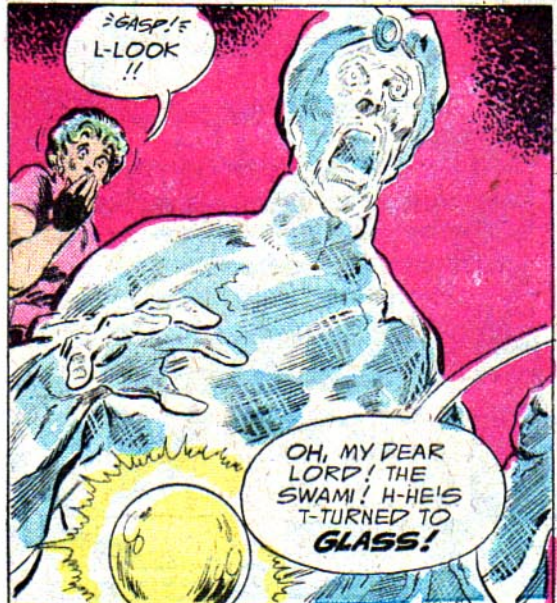


...THE  
SPECTRE!

N-NO! STAY  
A-AWAY F-FROM  
ME! I D-DIDN'T  
DO IT!  
P-PLEASE-!!

WHAT'S THE  
MATTER WITH  
THE SWAMI?

I DON'T  
KNOW! MAYBE  
THERE'S AN EVIL  
SPIRIT LURKING  
IN THIS ROOM!

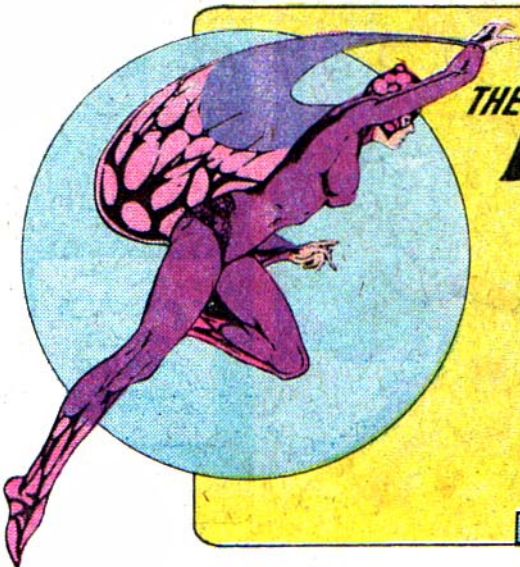
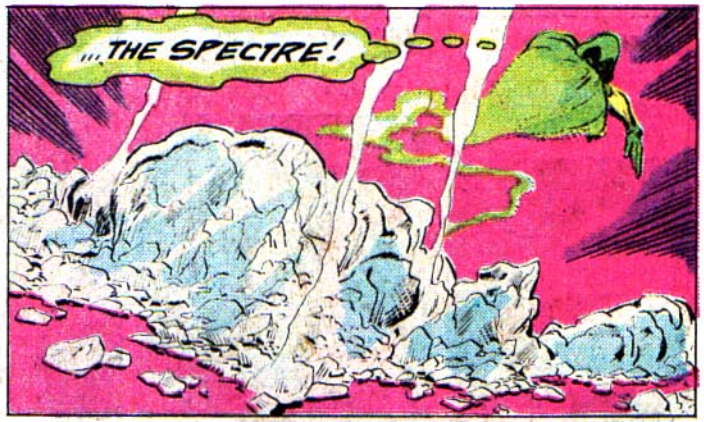


!GASP!  
L-LOOK  
!!

OH, MY DEAR  
LORD! THE  
SWAMI! H-HE'S  
T-TURNED  
GLASS!



L-LOOK!  
THE SWAMI...  
H-HE'S  
F-FALLING!!



The Adventures Of  
**THE BLACK ORCHID**

NOW IN

**THE PHANTOM STRANGER**

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH