

WHO IS THE MASKED MAN KNOWN ONLY TO SOCIETY AS THE SPIRIT? WHO IS THE MAN WHO HAS THWARTED CRIME AND CRIMINALS ALL THESE YEARS? WHO IS HE AND HOW DID HE COME TO BE? THIS IS THE STORY.

IT WAS LONG PAST MIDNIGHT ON A HOT, WET JUNE NIGHT MANY YEARS AGO... CENTRAL CITY LAY CHOKING FOR BREATH IN AN EERIE FOG...

A LONE FIGURE SPURTED THROUGH THE NARROW, SOGGY WATERFRONT STREETS THAT WOUND LIKE GREY VEINS THROUGH THE FRIGHTENED CITY. IT WAS DENNY COLT NOTED CRIMINOLOGIST. HIS MISSION:

TO SAVE THE CITY FROM THE MAD SCIENTIST, DR. COBRA!



DR. COBRA INVESTIGATIONS
CENTRAL CITY
WITH EXTRA INFORMATION

DR. COBRA'S
CRIMINAL RECORD
TODAY'S PAGE 10
78 110

ON CENTRAL CITY'S OLD WATERFRONT... SOMEWHERE IN AN ABANDONED VAULT DEEP BELOW THE CITY STREETS.



I AM ON THE BRINK OF VICTORY!

IN ONE HOUR... THE LIQUID I HAVE WORKED SO LONG TO PERFECT WILL FLOW INTO THE CITY RESERVOIRS... HA HA HA! BY DAWN, THE ENTIRE POPULATION WILL BE IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!



EVERYONE WILL APPEAR DEAD!! THEN... DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS I WILL JOIN WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST CRIMINAL... THE OCTOPUS TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE CITY... WHEN THE POPULATION AWAKENS I... WHAT IS IT GRANCH?

I HEAR... ??



NO TIME TO ARGUE DOLAN... I'VE LOCATED DR. COBRA'S HIDEOUT... CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU... I'M GOING IN...

@@!! IT'S THAT AMATEUR SLEUTH DENNY COLT.



DADDY DON'T LET HIM GO IN ALONE...

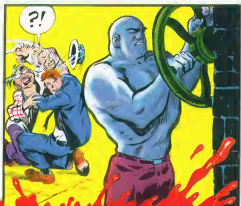
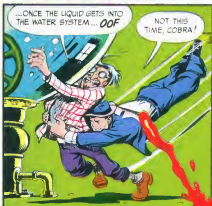
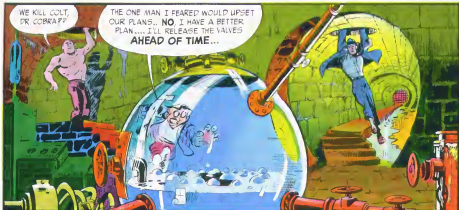
NO! NO! NO! YOU'RE NOT A COP THIS IS POLICE WORK. I'LL BE OUT WITH A SQUAD IN 20 MINUTES!

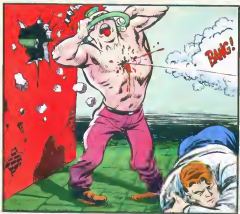


... SORRY COMMISSIONER IN THAT TIME HE MAY RELEASE THE LIQUID... CLICK

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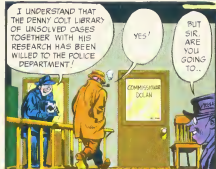








POLICE HEADQUARTERS TWO DAYS LATER...



I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DENNY COLT LIBRARY OF UNSOLVED CASES TOGETHER WITH HIS RESEARCH HAS BEEN WILLED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT!

YES!

BUT SIR, ARE YOU GOING TO...



I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE...

NOT EVEN ME??

YES SIR



WHA...??

SHHHH



PENNY!! YOU'RE ALIVE... BUT IT CAN'T BE... I SAW YOU BURIED...

I WAS... BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE I'M QUITE ALIVE... COBRA'S LIQUID WAS A FORM OF ANESTHETIC WHICH PUT ME IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION... REDUCED MY HEART BEAT... SO I APPEARED DEAD!

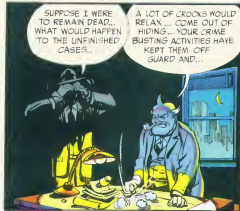


GREAT!! I'LL CALL THE NEWSPAPERS, I'LL CALL...

NO WAIT!



I'VE BEEN DOING SOME THINKING... I'VE GOT AN IDEA.



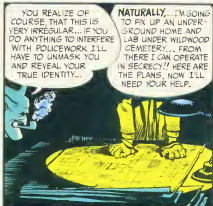
SUPPOSE I WERE TO REMAIN DEAD... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE UNFINISHED CASES...

A LOT OF CROOKS WOULD RELAX... COME OUT OF HIDING... YOUR CRIME BUSTING ACTIVITIES HAVE KEPT THEM OFF GUARD AND...



SAY... WHY THAT'S A GREAT IDEA... IF YOU STAY DEAD IT'LL BE LIKE CATCHING FISH IN A TANK...!

EXACTLY... AND BY WEARING A DISGUISE I COULD OPERATE WITHOUT THE NORMAL RESTRICTIONS...



YOU REALIZE OF COURSE, THAT THIS IS VERY IRREGULAR... IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO INTERFERE WITH POLICEWORK I'LL HAVE TO UNMASK YOU AND REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY...

NATURALLY... I'M GOING TO FIX UP AN UNDERGROUND HOME AND LAB UNDER WILDWOOD CEMETERY... FROM THERE I CAN OPERATE IN SECRET!! HERE ARE THE PLANS, NOW I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.



DON'T WORRY... I'LL HELP YOU GET IT SET UP...? GULP! GOOD LUCK BOY... OH, WHAT WILL YOU CALL YOURSELF?

THE SPIRIT!!



COMMISSIONER, DID I HEAR YOU TALKING... TO SOMEONE...?

ER... NO... HEH HEH JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.

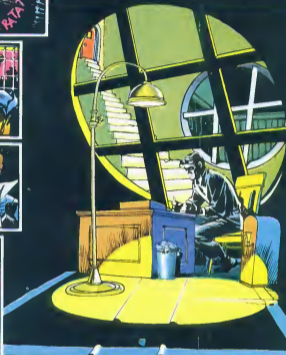


YOU FEELING ALRIGHT, SIR??

MUCH BETTER, MUCH BETTER!

THE SPIRIT

By
WILL
ESNER



I SAW SUCH A FLOW
KILLS A MAN IN
KANSAS CITY TWICE.
THE SPIRIT IS
COMING BACK FOR
MORE.



"GEE... IT'S MY FAULT.
ALL MY FAULT. I
TALKED HIM INTO
THIS. THIS."



See THE SPIRIT narrowly escape poison, arson, bullets and the world's most beautiful women. Eight of his most dangerous adventures. Get THE SPIRIT No. 11. On sale October 14th!



AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

LOOKS LIKE ARSON. FIRE
BURNS TOO FAST. IN A FEW
MINUTES THERE WON'T BE
TOD MUCH LEFT
OR IT

ANYONE
INSIDE?

I DON'T
KNOW
SIR.
WE'VE A
NET
OUT.
JUST TO
MAKE
SURE



UNLESS THE
PERFUME IN YOUR
CLOSET HAS DRUSSED
ME... IT WOULD SEEM
THAT LITTLE AUTUMN
NEWS HAS BEEN
TRYING TO INHERIT
THE CRIME THRONES
OVER THE BODIES
OF VULTURE
STABBY AND
SINISLY!

HMM... IT
LOOKS LIKE
WE HAVE A
LOT TO TALK
ABOUT
--YOU-- AND
I--