



**BERNI WRIGHTSON  
SELF-PORTRAIT**

**Bernie (Berni) Wrightson** was an American comic book artist who was born on October 27, 1948, in Dundalk, Maryland. Wrightson was primarily self-trained and grew up learning art from watching Jon Gnagy on television and reading comics. He also took a correspondence course from the Famous Artists School. His first published art was fan art of a headstone bearing the inscription "Berni Wrightson, Dec. 15, 1965". The drawing earned a spot on page 33 of Warren's *Creepy* #9 published in June of 1966. Wrightson began his professional career as an illustrator for The Baltimore Sun newspaper, but after meeting Frank Frazetta at a comic book convention in New York City, he became inspired to create his own original comics. His first professional comic came in 1968 and was titled "The Man Who Murdered Himself". It appeared in *House of Mystery* No. 179 which was published in April of 1969. He co-created the character *Swamp Thing* for DC Comics with writer Len Wein, as well as *Destiny*, which was later featured in Neil Gaiman's *The Sandman*. Wrightson crafted

50 pen-and-paper illustrations for a comics adaptation of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, working on it for seven years without pay because it was a labor of love. First published in 1983, it's since gone down in comic book history as one of the greatest achievements by any artist in the field.

