



Nº 1
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FIRST ISSUE COLLECTOR'S ITEM!



WOLFE

**SHE'S GOT YOUR
HERO RIGHT HERE**



CO
AN
PALMIOTTI

WOW

" BY THEIR OWN BOOTSTRAPS "



DWAYNE MCDUFFIE

writer

M.D. BRIGHT

penciller

MIKE GUSTOVICH

inker

STEVE DUTRO

letterer

RACHELLE MENASHE

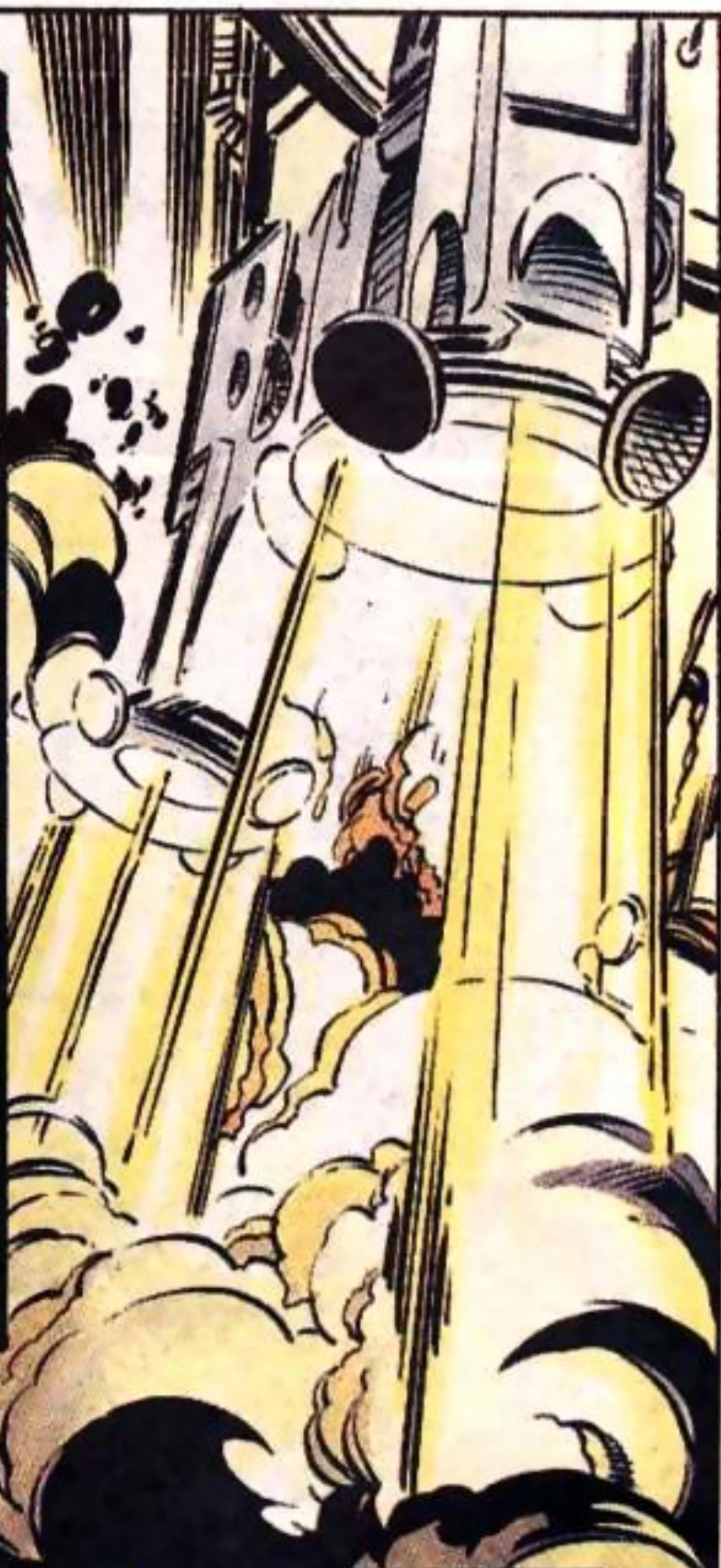
JAMES SHERMAN

NOELLE GIDDINGS

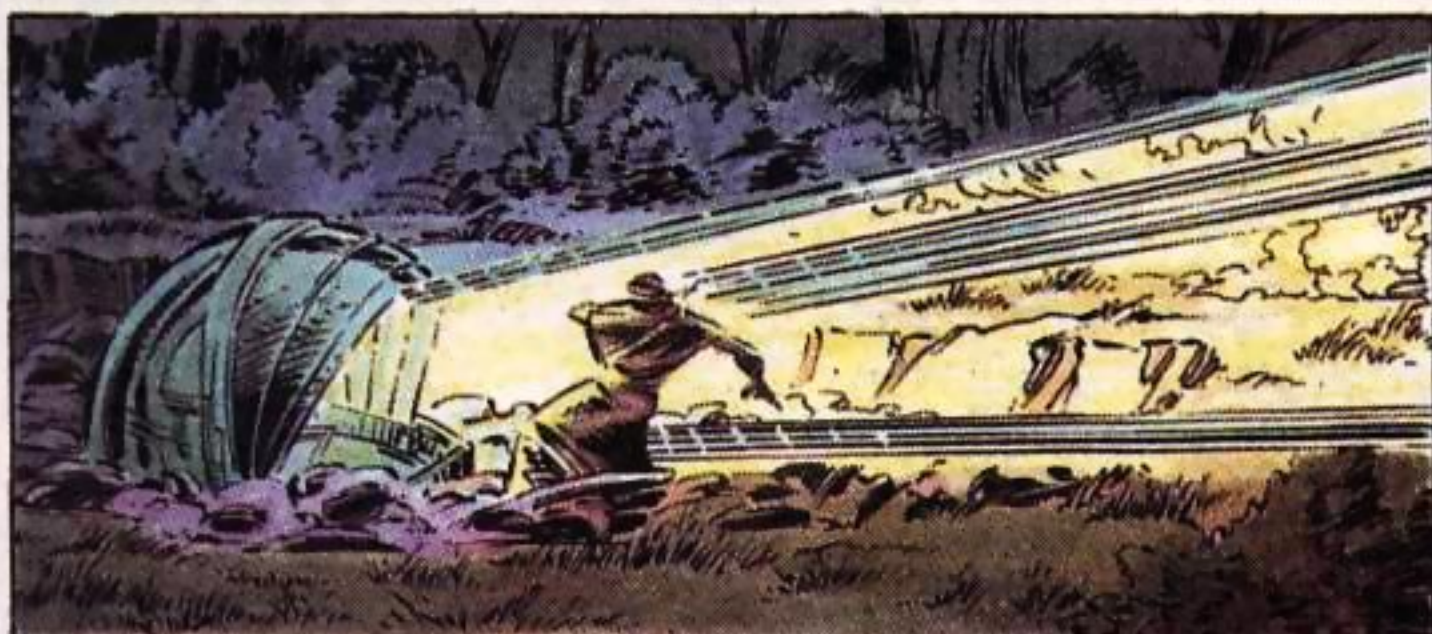
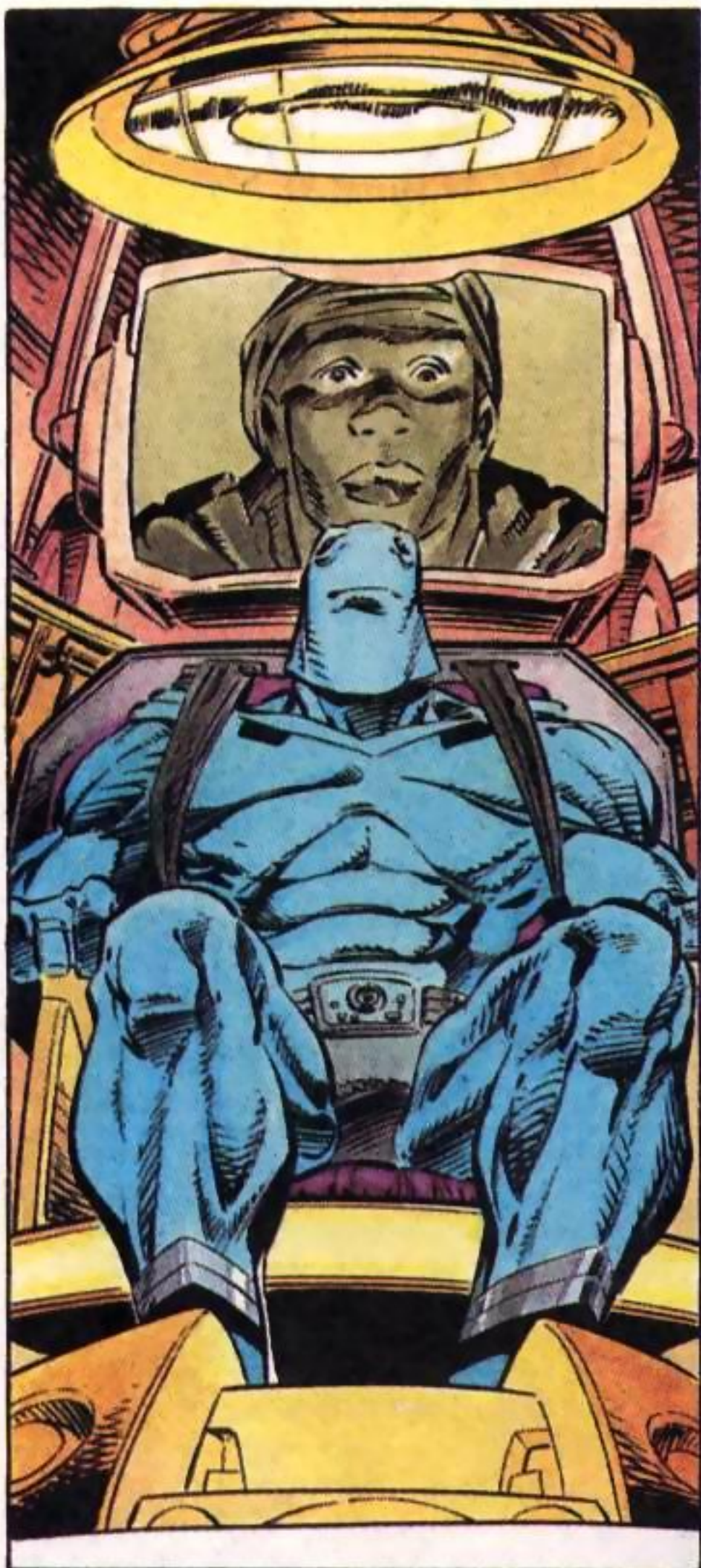
colorists



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1993...

THE OLD DOWNTOWN DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF DAKOTA.







LENNY, DEKE
AND NOBLE HAD
THIS IDEA...

IT'S
SIMPLE...



...ALL THE
COPS ARE GOING
TO BE HERE ON THE
ISLAND, TRYING TO
STOP THE *BIG BANG*.
SO WE GO OUT TO
THE 'BURBS AND
HELP OURSELVES TO
SOME SERIOUS
CASH AND
MERCHANDISE.



STOP THE CAR,
NOBLE, I AIN'T
NO THIEF.

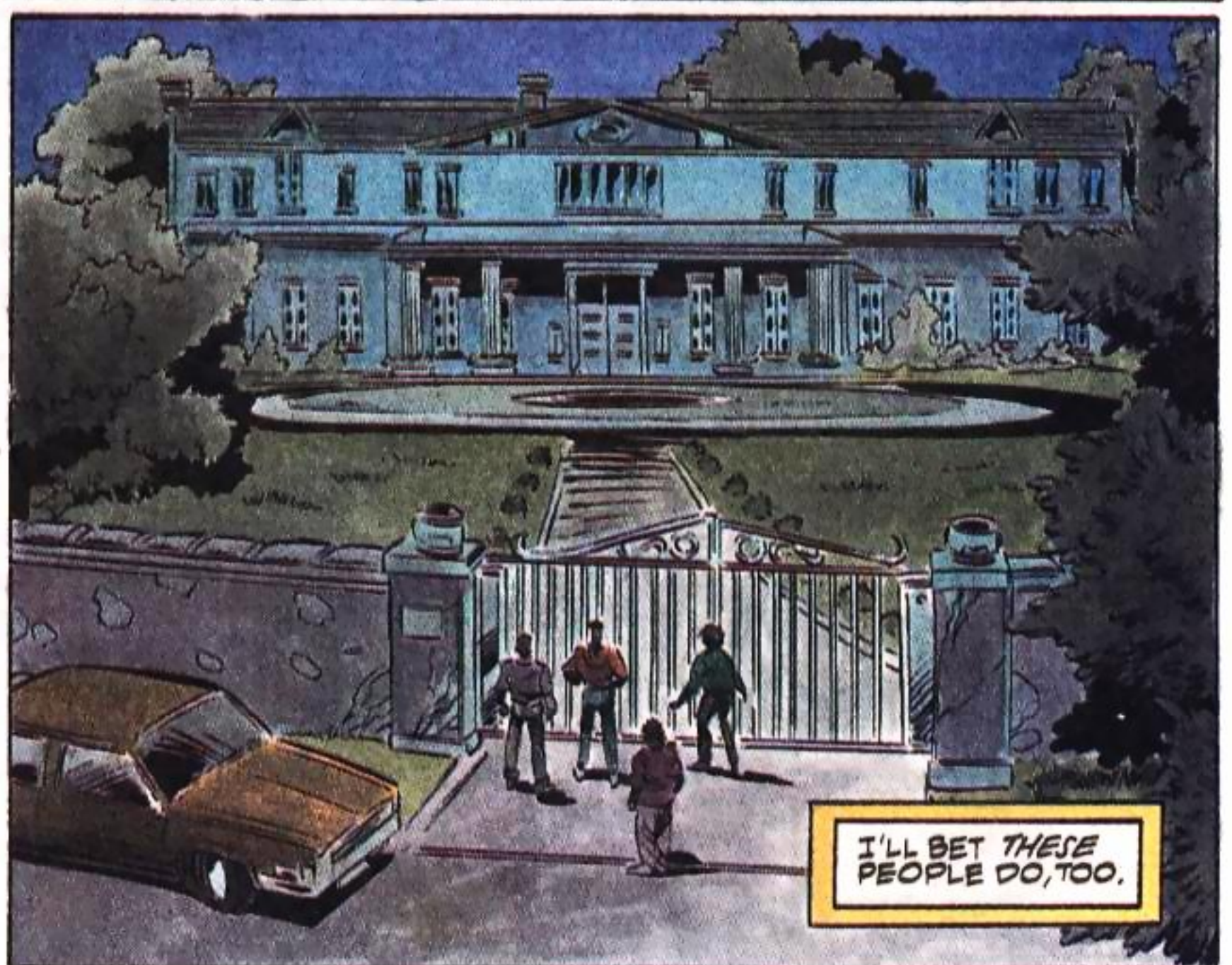
WE'RE GOING
UP TO PROSPECT
HILLS.

THEY GOT SO
MUCH MONEY UP
THERE THEY
WON'T EVEN MISS
THE LITTLE BIT
WE TAKE.



BESIDES, WE HAVE A
GOOD NIGHT, MAYBE
WE'LL MAKE ENOUGH
MONEY FOR YOU TO
GET YOURSELF A
TYPEWRITER.

I'LL BET TONI
MORRISON HAS
A TYPEWRITER.



I'LL BET THESE
PEOPLE DO, TOO.



I'VE GOT THE ALARM.

GOOD I'LL GET THE DOOR.



LOOK AT THIS PLACE!

I THOUGHT PEOPLE ONLY LIVED LIKE THIS ON TELEVISION.

STOP GAWKIN'.



GRAB WHAT YOU CAN CARRY AND GET OUT. YOU GET CAUGHT ROBBING WHITE PEOPLE, YOU GO TO JAIL.

WE SPLIT UP...



I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WANTS SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE SOMEBODY ELSE HAS IT.

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN LOOKING AROUND THAN TAKING ANYTHING

UNTIL I SAW THE STUDY.

WHOEVER LIVED HERE HAD MORE THAN MONEY. THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE. THEY HAD HISTORY.

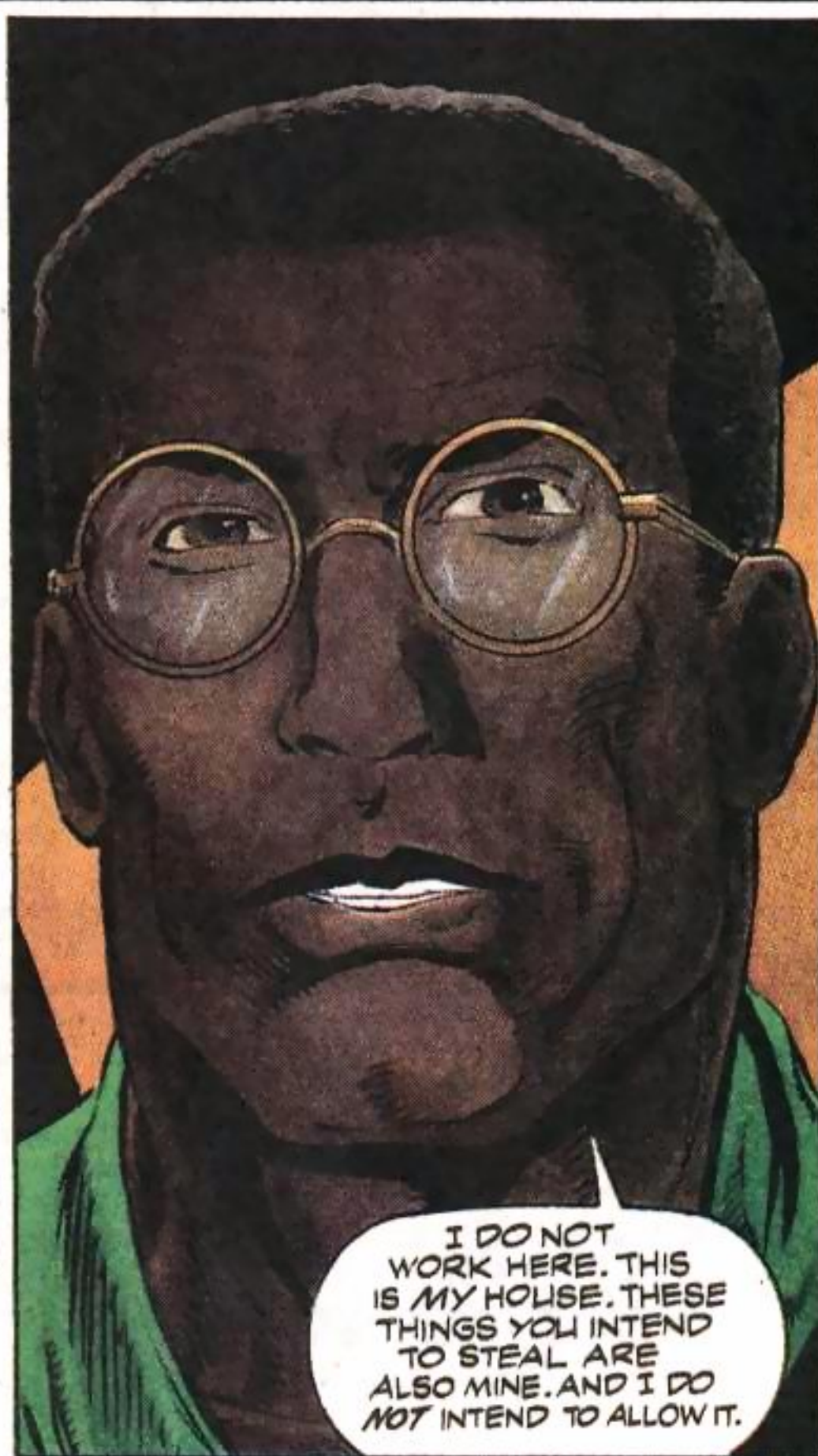
AND I WANTED IT. MORE THAN I HAD EVER WANTED ANYTHING IN MY LIFE.



I DON'T THINK I WAS GOING TO SNATCH THE COMPUTER...

CHRISTINA--?

BUT I GUESS I'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW.





I'M NOT GOING TO PUT UP WITH THAT SORT OF LANGUAGE IN MY--



BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THIS *ISN'T* HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.





RUN!

ST-STAY
BACK,
MAN!!!

PUT THE
GUN DOWN. YOU
SURPRISED ME ONCE,
BUT I'M READY
FOR YOU NOW.



GIVE ME THAT
BEFORE YOU HURT
YOURSELF.



DON'T MOVE FROM
THIS SPOT I'LL BE BACK
FOR YOU SHORTLY.



I READ THIS BOOK CALLED
"SONG OF SOLOMON" WHERE
THIS MAN WANTED TO FLY.
NOT LIKE IN AN AIRPLANE,
BUT FOR REAL.

IN THE BOOK, THOUGH, FLYING
DIDN'T MEAN FLYING. IT
MEANT SOMETHING ELSE.
FLYING WAS LIKE FREEDOM.



I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD
THE BOOK, BUT I DIDN'T.
NOT REALLY.



NOT UNTIL
I SAW IT...



WHEN YOU CAN
FLY THERE'S NO
BURDEN YOU
CAN'T BEAR.



WHEN YOU CAN
FLY, GRAVITY
CAN'T TOUCH
YOU.



WHEN YOU
CAN FLY...



~WHOOF~



...YOU CAN DO
ANYTHING.

LISTEN TO ME
VERY CARE-
FULLY--



--I HAVE LITTLE PATIENCE
FOR CRIMINALS. AND
THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.



BECAUSE
I WOULD PREFER
NOT TO HAVE CERTAIN
DETAILS OF THIS EN-
COUNTER MADE
PUBLIC, I'M GOING
TO LET YOU GO.



BUT IN THE FUTURE,
I EXPECT YOU TO
COMPORT YOURSELVES
LIKE CITIZENS, NOT
COMMON THUGS.



IF YOU WANT SOMETHING,
PAY FOR IT. IF YOU CAN'T
AFFORD IT, WORK FOR IT.



YOUR BEHAVIOR
REFLECTS POORLY ON
OUR PEOPLE AND
ON YOURSELVES.



THAT
YOU,
MAN!



AFTER WHAT I HAD SEEN THAT NIGHT, MY WORLD SEEMED VERY *SMALL*.

AND WHILE MY MOM GAVE ME HELL FOR COMING HOME LATE--

--ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS WHAT A CRAPPY LIFE SHE'S HAD, WHAT A CRAPPY LIFE I WAS GOING TO HAVE--

--AND THE SUDDEN POSSIBILITY OF *FLIGHT*.

YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR.

I DO? WHO?

HELLO, MISTER FREEMAN. I'VE BEEN THINKING, AND I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.

THAT'S WHEN I TOLD HIM HOW JUST SEEING HIM OPENED UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ME...

...HOW I THOUGHT HE COULD HELP LOTS OF PEOPLE, IF ONLY THEY COULD SEE WHAT HE CAN DO.



I NEVER THOUGHT I'D
SEE HIM AGAIN, BUT
TWO DAYS LATER...



HE GAVE ME A COSTUME LIKE
THE ONE I DESIGNED, BUT
MADE OUT OF A MATERIAL I'D
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.



HE ALSO GAVE ME A
SPECIAL BELT THAT
HE SAID WOULD PRO-
TECT ME FROM HARM
ONCE I LEARNED HOW
TO USE IT.



HE SAID THAT I SHOULD
MEET HIM AT THE BRIDGE
IN THREE WEEKS.



TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT. AND IF
I'M LUCKY, FROM NOW ON, I'M
GOING TO HAVE **PLENTY**
TO WRITE ABOUT.



PARIS ISLAND, THE
CITY OF DAKOTA.

THE CHILD'S WORDS RING IN
MY EARS, ECHOING SIMILAR
WORDS, SPOKEN BY MY WIFE
SO VERY LONG AGO.

I DISMISSED HER WISDOM
THEN, BUT NOW I WONDER.



HOW COULD THEY
LIVE LIKE THIS?



HOW COULD
I LET THEM?



I PRETENDED THAT THOSE WHO SUFFER UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS
MUST HAVE BROUGHT THEM UPON THEMSELVES.

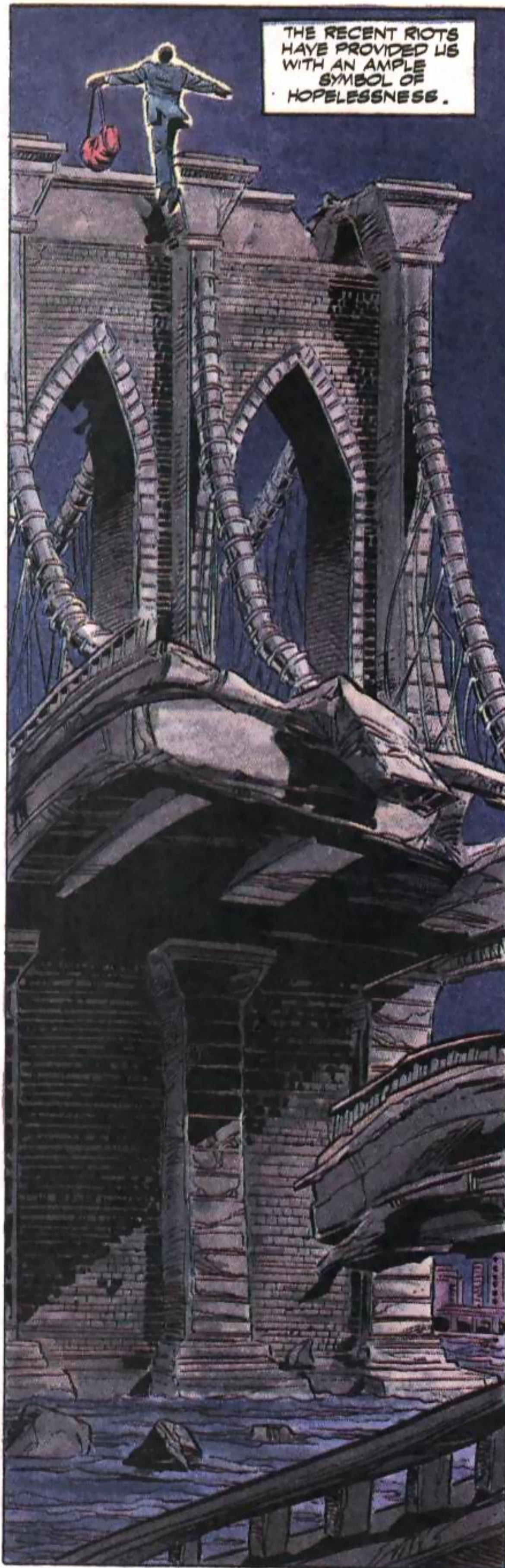


AND WHILE THEY HAVE
LIVED WITHOUT HOPE...



...I HAVE LIVED
A LIE.





THE RECENT RIOTS
HAVE PROVIDED US
WITH AN AMPLE
SYMBOL OF
HOPELESSNESS.



I MUST PROVIDE AN
EXAMPLE TO THE
CONTRARY.

I'M
HERE,
RAQUEL.

GOOD! I
WANT YOU TO
HEAR THIS!



"THE NEGRO RACE, LIKE
ALL RACES, IS GOING TO
BE SAVED BY ITS EX-
CEPTIONAL MEN. IT IS
THE PROBLEM OF
DEVELOPING THE BEST
OF THIS RACE THAT THEY
MAY GLIDE THE MASS
AWAY FROM THE CON-
TAMINATION AND DEATH
OF THE WORST, IN THEIR
OWN AND OTHER RACES."



W.E.B. DUBOIS? I'M
MORE OF A BOOKER
T. WASHINGTON MAN
MYSELF. NEVERTHELESS...

...THERE'S A BIT OF A
SITUATION DOWNTOWN.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO
HELP.

LET'S
ROCK.



I'M STILL NOT
CERTAIN IF
YOUR OUTFIT
IS DECENT.

OH, IT AIN'T.
SO, YOU GETTING
DRESSED?



YES.
YES I
AM.

C'MON,
THEN--



--LET'S GO
SET A POSITIVE
EXAMPLE FOR THE
DOWNTRODDEN.

ROCKET, IF
YOU DON'T QUIET
DOWN, I'M GOING
TO DROP YOU.

CITY HALL. OLD DOWNTOWN. THE CITY OF DAKOTA.

I WANT YOU TO BE SILENT AND FOLLOW MY LEAD.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO 2 LAND IN THE MIDDLE OF EIGHTY BAZILLION COPS AND ASK THEM IF THEY NEED A HAND?

THAT'S ESSENTIALLY CORRECT.

HEY! I'M THE SIDEKICK. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE NAIVE ONE.

YOU THINK THE COPS ARE SITTING AROUND WAITING FOR A FLYING NIGGER TO DROP OUT OF THE SKY AND DO THEIR JOB FOR THEM?

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE.

AND DON'T ASSUME EVERYTHING'S RACIAL.

IF YOU WANT TO DO THIS YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW RESPECT FOR THE AUTHORITIES.

I'M ICON. I'M HERE TO HELP.

IZZAT SO?

WELL YOU CAN HELP ME MOST BY PUTTING YOUR HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEAD, PRONTO!

DON'T ASSUME EVERYTHING'S RACIAL. HUH? I'LL TRY--





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Chances are, you've never seen a superhero like **ICON**.

This January, at the Great Eastern Convention in New York, many of you expressed your doubts that a rigidly Conservative African-American could be any kind of a superhero. Well, now you've **SEEN** the Hero of Dakota. You've seen what makes him tick. He's definitely **NOT** "street-smart," or whatever the flavor of the month is on TV. Watch him very carefully through the coming months. Does his conduct make him a hero? Is he **REALLY** an African-American? (After all, he **IS** an alien.) Does his longevity give him a better view of America's problems? Or does it place him beyond real understanding?

Well, I have **NO IDEA**. You're going to have to write and tell me what **YOU** think, or I'll just keep asking poignant questions.

Meanwhile, I'm **ASHAMED** of myself.

"ICON - OGRAPHY." How **LAME**. Dwayne thought it up and I guess he was all tired out from being a creative genius and editorial apoplectic. Don't blame him though; just think of it as one of those small manufacturing flaws that make certain books more collectible. I admit it, I should have come up with a backup name, just in case Dwayne blew it. But now I've failed both myself and the company. I have no honor. So: We need a better name for our letters column **RIGHT NOW**. Don't **YOU** let **ME** down. Here's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: Give this letters page a name, and you'll get a signed copy of this first issue, and a **MILESTONE** ballcap.

If you've seen any of the other first issues, you know that there should be a **REAL** contest coming up about

now. You think you're pretty smart, huh? Fine. Here's your damn contest: Is this comic book about Augustus Freeman IV, marooned space alien, or Raquel Ervin, budding writer in a rough neighborhood, or both? Or what? The writer of the best answer, as judged by **MILESTONE** president Derek T. Dingle, will be awarded the title **"CROSS-CULTURAL DIPLOMAT,"** and have the following riches heaped upon their head:

- The best answer will be printed in a future issue of **ICON**, no matter **WHAT** the cost to us;

- The intellectual juggernaut behind this answer will receive a signed First Edition of **ICON #1**;

- The winner gets the traditional **MILESTONE** ballcap, signed by the entire creative team: McDuffie, Bright, Gustovich, Menashe, and Dutro;

- But here's the big thrill: The Diplomat will receive a copy of either Booker T. Washington's **UP FROM SLAVERY**, or W. E. B. Du Bois' **THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK!** (Winner gets choice!)

Your reply as well as your choice of reading material must be delivered by a **US** postal carrier or other government employee no later than **MAY 15th, 1993!** In the meantime, write us letters! That's what I'm here for!

NEXT ISSUE: ICON and ROCKET get their first taste of superheroics, as they go up against THE COPS! "POLICE ACTION," in one month!