







# THE ONLY WAY TO GET HIM OFF A CASE IS...TO KILL HIM!

Don McGregor's hard-boiled private eye is on another violent case. Film noir realism in comics, as Gene Colan's gritty drawings come to life through new color techniques and full process separations.

A 4-issue mini-series for the direct market.

NATHANIEL DUSK II.



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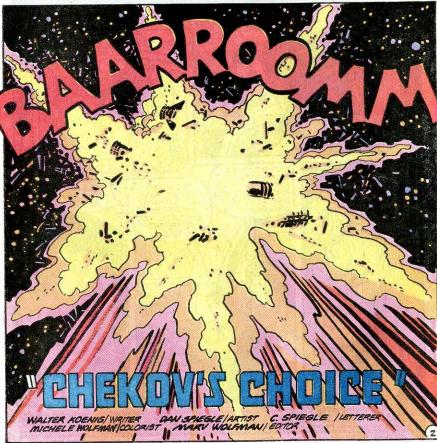
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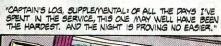


















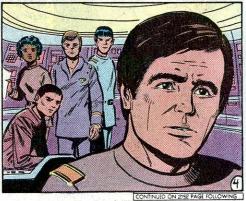


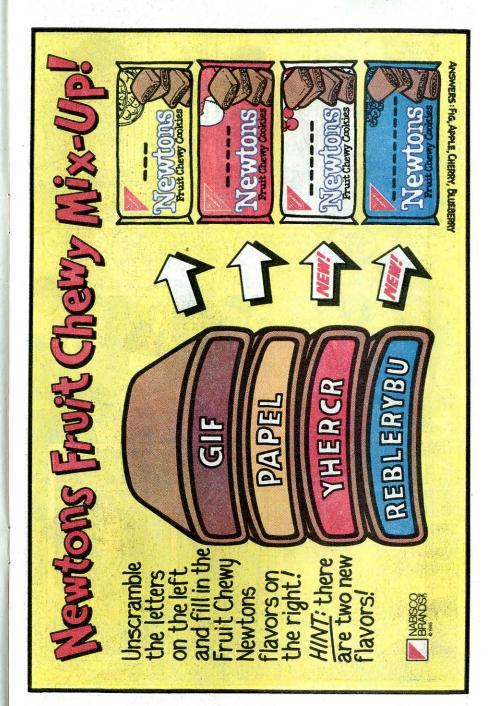
















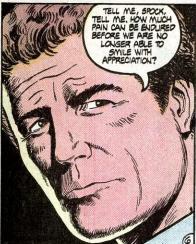


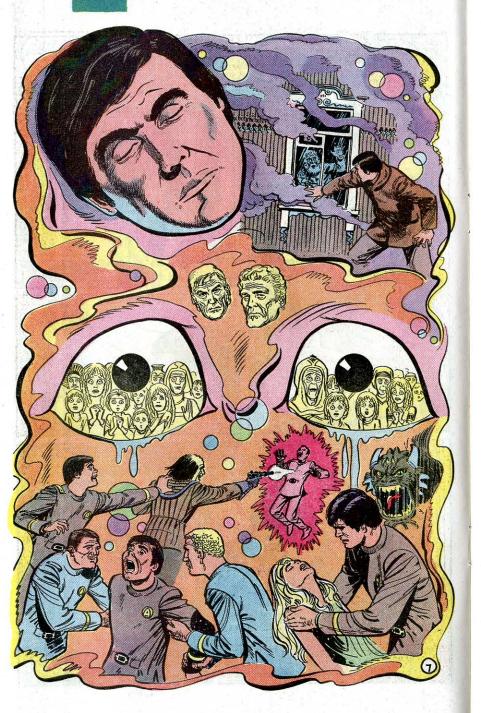
















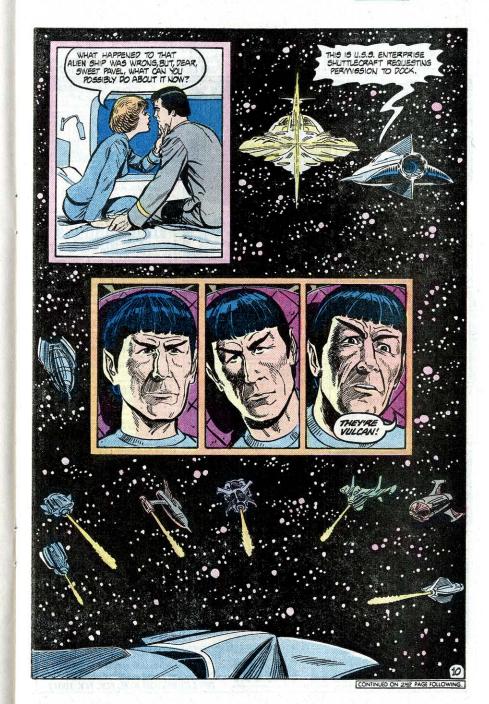












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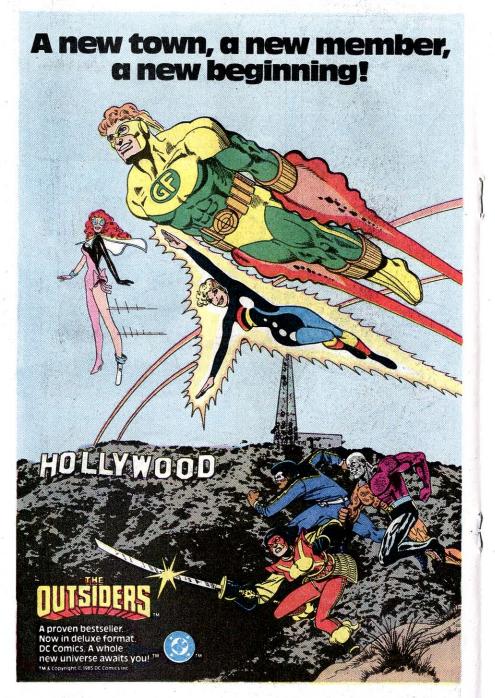


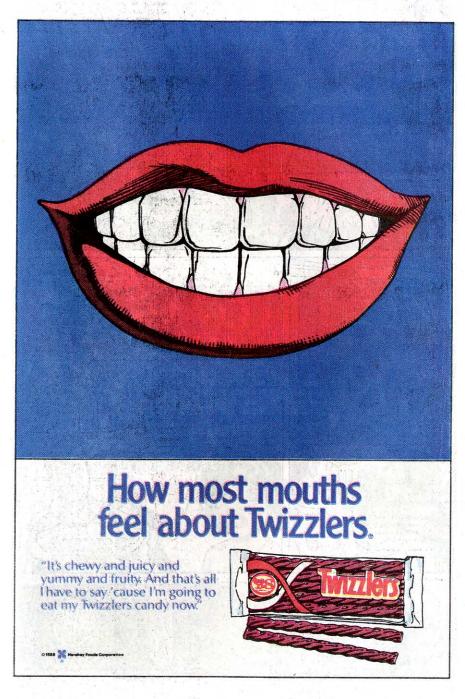
















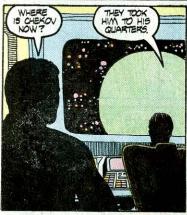


















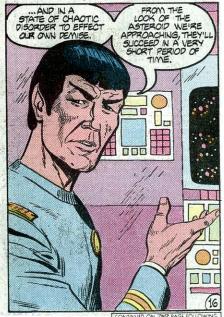


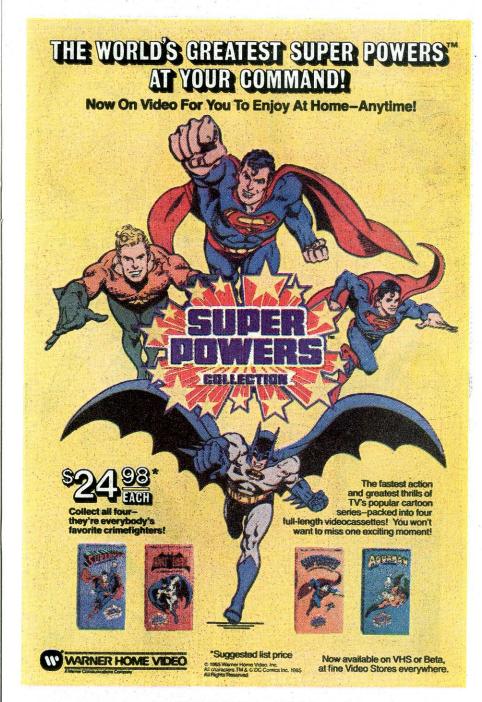


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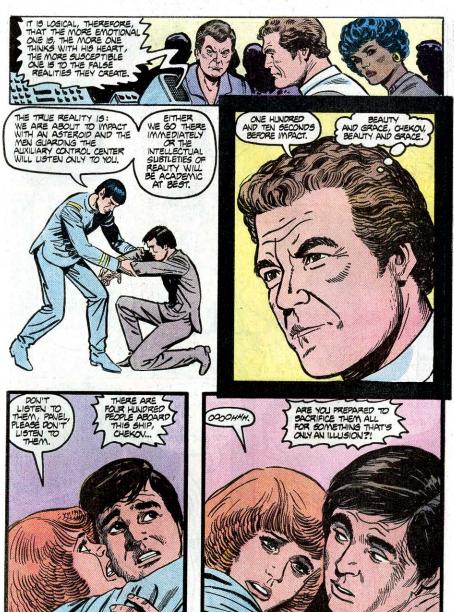
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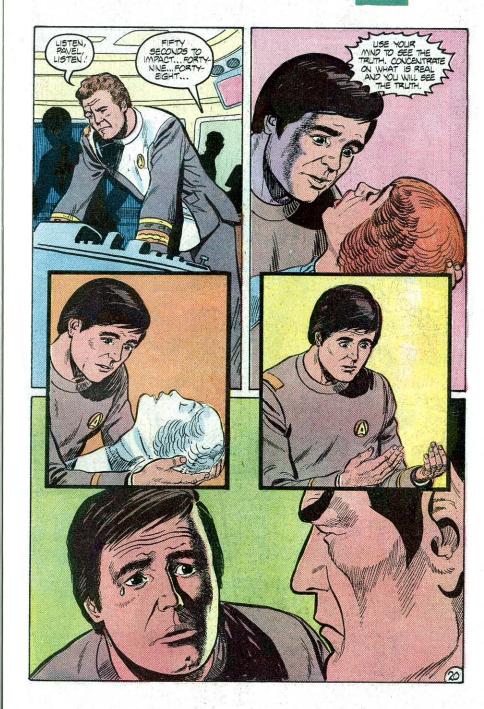




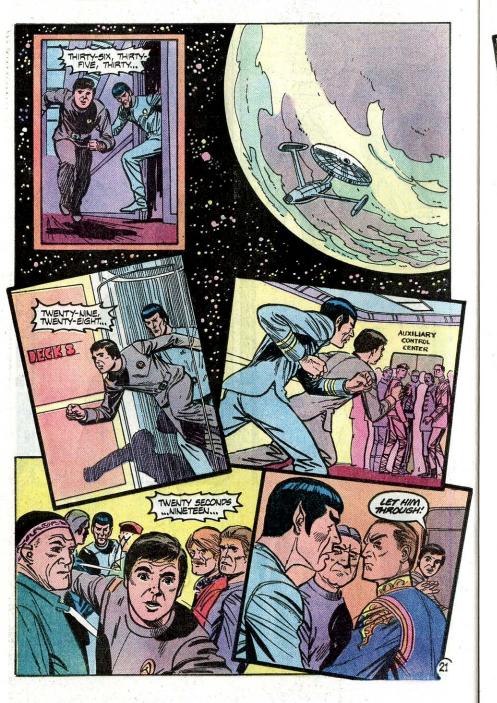




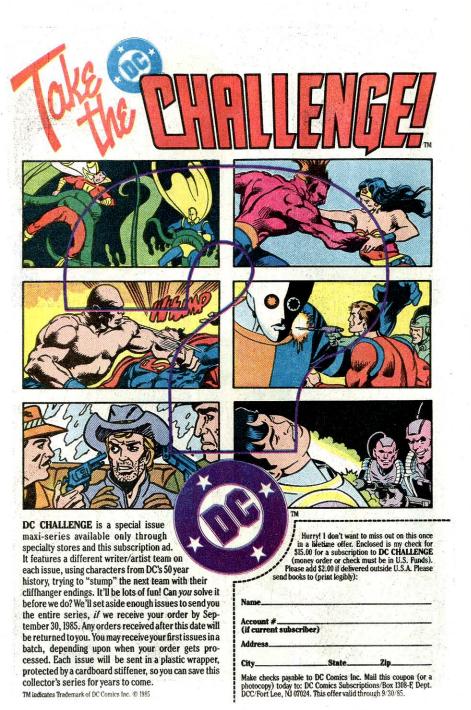


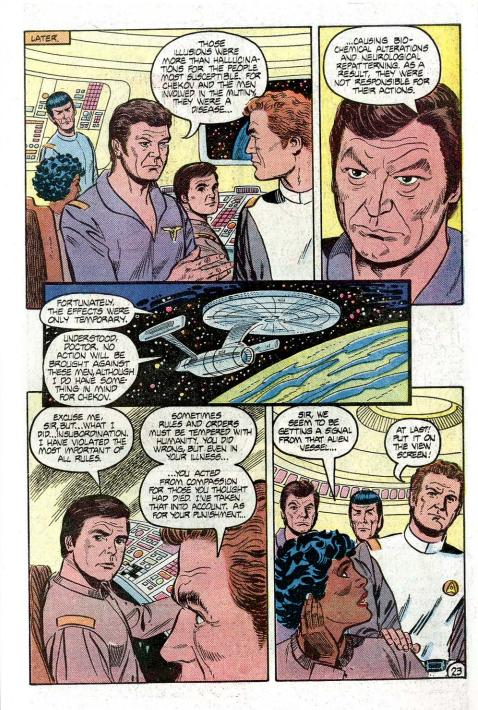


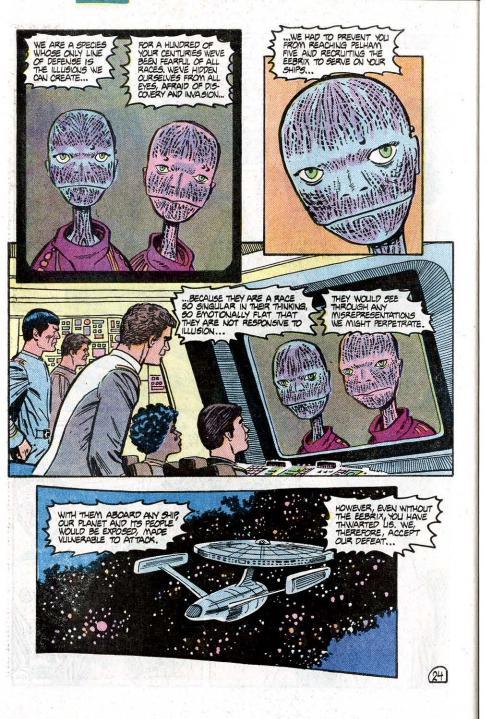
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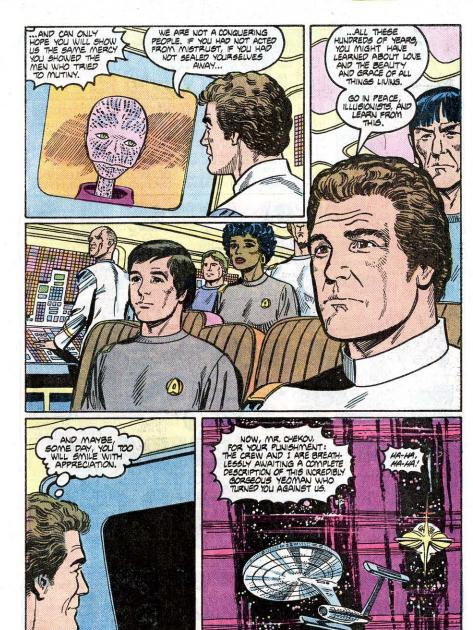






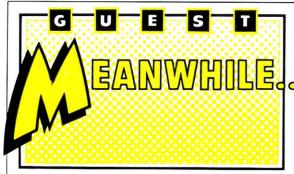












Fox, and the been pushing couldn't have

A LIFE IN THE FUNNYBOOKS doubtless sin

by Roy Thomas

Twenty years is a long time. But in many ways, it only seems like yesterday.

So maybe it was.

Maybe it was only yesterday, instead of late June 1965, that a blond 24-year-old ex-high school teacher and sometime rock vocalist from southeastern Missouri stepped off a plane in New York City—and right into the middle of a taxi strike.

So there I was, my suitcase in one hand, my ostensibly portable electric typewriter in the other, and an ace-in-the-hole graduate fellowship to George Washington University in my back pocket—trudging down Lexington Avenue all the way from the bus depot, far, far away.

Though I was on my way to become assistant editor to the late Mort Weisinger on the Superman line of comics, I was no Man of Steel myself—and by the time I found out I had trudged a couple of blocks too far north and had to retrace my steps with my luggage, that spurned academic career in foreign relations was beginning to look better to me every minute.

Twas all worth it, though. Those two weeks I worked at DC in summer of '65, I got to meet and chum around with so many people I'd idolized for years. Guys like Julius Schwartz, Gardner Fox, and the late Otto Binder, who had been pushing Weisinger to hire me, couldn't have been nicer or more supportive.

I still remember (though they have doubtless since forgotten) long after-hours chats with Joe Kubert and Murphy Anderson.

I even remember then-editor Bob Kanigher verbelly assaulting me because I was a 'lan,'' and some fan had recently referred to him as wearing a bow tie, something he vowed he had never done.

And if circumstances (including but hardly limited to my very real admiration for a writer/editor named Stan Lee a few blocks away) dictated that I reluctantly quit DC at the end of two weeks, it was not without a fond wish that someday, when the time was ripe, I'd be back.



It took fifteen years, during which time I had a reasonably successful career at Marvel both as a writer and as editor-in-chief. There are probably a few graybeards out there who remember my stints on The Avengers (the longest of anybody, ever) and Hulk and The X-Men... oh, yes, and on the first ten years of a barbarian named Conan.

But eventually these things do come round, like the brass ring on a merrygo-round.

And so in late 1980 I rejoined longtime associates like Gerry Conway, Marv Wolfman, Len Wein, Dick Giordano, and others at DC. Hey, and I even got to write stories about my favorite super-heroes of all time characters like the Justice Society, Captain Marvel, and even (gulp!) the Marvel Bunny!



Of course, by now comic-books were no longer the only things on my proto-Midwestern mind. In concert with Gerry Conway, I was starting a screenwriting career which has seen eight screenplays sold, with more in the works ... and I'd met a redhaired soulmate named Danette Couto (now, I'm proud to say, Dann Thomas) more important to me than both careers put together.

Still, as I take stock after two decades in this crazy field, which is currently exploding outward in a hundred creatively promising directions at once, I marvel (excuse the term) at the good fortune and good friends I've enjoyed.

I've been allowed not only to explore new facets of the legendary ISA (in a mini-series and an upcoming graphic novel), but to create a new and ultimate World War Two super-group, the ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

I've had sword-and-sorcery fun with ARAK, SON OF THUNDER and cartoony fun with CAPTAIN CARROT—and got to own a piece of both pies at the same time.

And INFINITY, INC. has given me a chance to explore what it might be like to be the offspring of some of the most famous and powerful beings on the face of the earth.



The future? Well, I'd like to think I've still got some good years, and some good stories, to look forward to.

Say, another twenty years' worth?



☐ Red Tornado 4: The android finally gets his life together!

- ☐ Batman 388: Captain Boomerang and Mirror Master invade Gotham City!
- ON SALE THE | Flash 350: Double-sized final issue as everything gets resolved! | Superman 412: Luthor's ultimate revenge convinces Superman the Earth no longer exists!
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- ☐ Arak, Son of Thunder 49: Will the sojourn in China be victorious?
- ☐ Omega Men 31: Elu faces extinction—while the other Omegans struggle with their new lives! ☐ Legion of Super-Heroes 15: Dr. Regulus holds the new Legionnaires hostage!
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