



**BEOWULF**



**FIRST AND GREATEST  
HERO OF THEM ALL!**

**25¢**  
NO. 6  
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32416



# BEOWULF

## DRAGON SLAYER



**HALF MAN... HALF BEAST...  
ALL KILLER,  
"THE MINOTAUR!"**

# BEOWULF

OUR STORY: FALSE GODS FROM BEYOND HAVE CARRIED PRINCE BEOWULF AND HIS WARRIOR-COMPANION, NAN-ZEE, HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD! BARELY ESCAPING THE DESTRUCTION OF ATLANTIS, THEY BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE ISLAND OF CRETE!

A SUDDEN MEDITERRANEAN TEMPEST, FORGED BY SATAN IN THE PITS OF HELL, PROVIDES THE FINAL BARRIER BETWEEN BEOWULF AND THE OBJECT OF HIS QUEST---THE SUPERNATURAL POWER SOURCE KNOWN AS THE ZUMAK!

BEOWULF! THE RAFT IS BREAKING APART!

HOLD TIGHT TO A LOG! AND CLING TO ME IF YOU WISH! THE SEA CONCERNS ME NOT SO MUCH AS THAT BLACK CLOUD ABOVE!

## LABYRINTH OF THE GROTTO MINOTAURI!

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AND THE OMINOUS  
BLACK CLOUD BEGINS  
TO SAG! THE WIND  
SLICES THROUGH THE  
SCREEN OF RAIN...  
AND THE AIR BEGINS  
TO SWIRL UNCONTROLLABLY...

WYRD!  
IT-IT'S A  
CYCLONE!

DIVE!  
DIVE!

A DESPERATE DIVE TO ESCAPE  
DEATH...

BUT WHEN  
THE FORCES  
OF NATURE  
ALLY  
THEMSELVES  
WITH THE  
CAUSE OF  
SATAN...

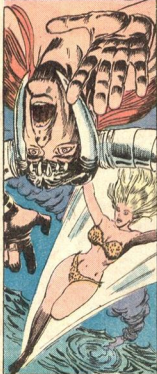
...WHAT CHANCE DOES  
THE STRENGTH OF  
FLESH, BLOOD AND  
BONES HAVE?

...NONE...

WHAT THOUGHTS STREAK THROUGH THE MIND OF A BARBARIAN SEEMINGLY IN THE SAVAGE THRALL OF DEATH? IT IS NOT A COMPARISON OF THE POWERS OF MAGIC AND NATURE...



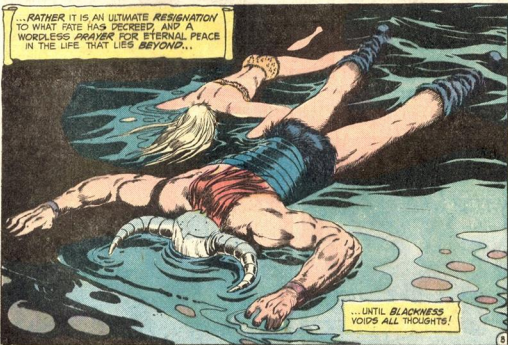
...IT IS NOT A FLASHING VIEW OF HIS ENTIRE, STORMY LIFE...



...SURPRISINGLY, NEITHER IS IT BLOOD-DRAINING PANIC OR MADDENING TERROR OF DYING...



...RATHER IT IS AN ULTIMATE RESIGNATION TO WHAT FATE HAS DECREED, AND A WORDLESS PRAYER FOR ETERNAL PEACE IN THE LIFE THAT LIES BEYOND...



...UNTIL BLACKNESS VOIDS ALL THOUGHTS!



FAR OFF, BEYOND THE CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION, NESTS THE YONDO SECT OF THE TANG TRIBE IN THE LAND OF PIKADON! FOUR FIGURES ARE WEIGHED DOWN BY HEAVY CHAINS... AND THEY DO NOT LIKE IT...



CAN NOT ONE OF YOU FOOLS GET US OUT OF HERE?

SILENCE, TRAITOR! YES, UNFERTH, YOU TURNED BEOWULF AND NAN-ZEE OVER TO THE STAR-GODS AND WYRD ALONE KNOWS WHAT HAS BECOME OF THEM!

I HAVE A PLAN TO FREE US, BUT REST ASSURED WE SHALL DEAL WITH YOU LATER!

WIGLAF, BEOWULF'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, SETS HIS DARING PLAN FOR FREEDOM INTO MOTION...



WARRIOR! IF YOU AGREE TO SET US FREE, OUR SORCERER WILL GRANT YOU A REQUEST OF MAGIC!

WHY NOT--IF HE CAN SHOW ME HE HAS SUCH POWER FIRST!



COME ON, SHAPER-- YOU WILL CAST ONE LITTLE SPELL... WON'T YOU?



NO! FOR THE SAME REASON I WOULD NOT USE MY POWERS TO FREE US BEFORE!

I AM NO COURT JESTER! I WILL NOT USE MY POWERS TO AMUSE ANYONE!

A SHORT TIME PASSES, AND THE SHAPER FINDS HIMSELF CHANGING HIS MIND... AFTER A BIT OF FRIENDLY PERSUASION FROM HIS COMRADES...

--HOWEVER, ON SECOND THOUGHT, WHAT HARM COULD COME FROM CASTING ONE LITTLE SPELL?



WE KNEW YOU WOULD SEE IT OUR WAY, MY FRIEND!

AS THE YONDO TRIBESMEN GATHER TO WATCH, THE SHAPER'S COMPANIONS PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED...

YDNIC D'NABOB EGAIIRRAM YPPAH!



CONTINUED ON 33<sup>RD</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING



MAGIC? HERE ILLUSION?  
WHO CAN TELL?

HA-HA-  
HA-HA!

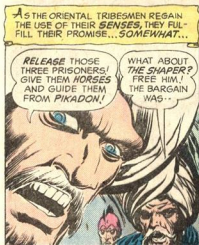
AEEEE!  
STOP!  
STOP!

STOP!  
WE  
HAVE  
SEEN  
ENOUGH!

WHAT IN HADES  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?



KERTRATS NOEM  
ROFMOOR EREHTSI!



AS THE ORIENTAL TRIBESMEN REGAIN  
THE USE OF THEIR SENSES, THEY FUL-  
FILL THEIR PROMISE... SOMEWHAT...

RELEASE THOSE  
THREE PRISONERS!  
GIVE THEM HORSES  
AND GUIDE THEM  
FROM PIKADON!

WHAT ABOUT  
THE SHAPER?  
FREE HIM!  
THE BARGAIN  
WAS--



THE SORCERER  
STAYS! WE HAVE  
NEED OF HIM!  
NOW GO...OR  
DIE!

WE DO NOT  
LEAVE  
WITHOUT  
HIM!

WHAT--??! SPEAK  
FOR YOURSELF,  
YOU IDIOT!



I APPRECIATE  
YOUR LOYALTY,  
BUT INSIST  
YOU GO, WIGLAF!

DO NOT  
FEAR FOR  
THE  
SHAPER!  
I WILL  
BE IN  
DANELAND  
BEFORE  
YOU!



CRYPTIC WORDS AND A SLY  
SMILE ENCOURAGE WIGLAF  
TO DEPART! THE SHAPER'S  
WORDS, "I WILL BE IN  
DANELAND BEFORE YOU!"  
RING IN HIS EARS! AND HE  
HAS LITTLE REASON TO  
DOUBT THEM...



VERY LITTLE  
REASON...

MEANWHILE, DRIVEN BEYOND THE LIMITS OF HUMAN EXHAUSTION, MOVING BY SHEER WILL POWER ALONE, THE BATTERED BODY OF BEOWULF CRAWLS FROM THE MERCILESS SEA...

NAN-ZEE...  
NAN-ZEE...

NAN-ZEE--  
NOT YOU...  
NOT YOU,  
TOO!

BEOWULF?  
I--I'LL BE ALL  
RIGHT! I NEVER  
REALIZED YOU  
WOULD BE  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT ME!  
YOU NEVER--



A PRINCE MUST BE  
HARD OF HEART  
TO BE A STRONG  
LEADER... TO MAKE  
THE RIGHT DECISIONS!

BUT BENEATH MY TITLE  
LIES A MAN, NAN-ZEE--  
A MAN CAPABLE OF LOVING  
AND CAPABLE OF BEING  
HURT!



THERE WAS A  
GIRL ONCE... WHEN  
I WAS HARDLY MORE  
THAN A LAD! SHE  
WAS TAKEN FROM  
ME... HORRIBLY!

IT HURT! IT  
HURT SO MUCH  
I SWORE NEVER  
TO LET MYSELF  
BECOME WEAK  
... NEVER TO  
CARE AGAIN!



COME! WE SHALL  
BE HOME SOON!  
LET US GET THAT  
ZUMAK AND COM-  
PLETE THIS CURSED  
QUEST!

THEN...

THAT CITY! IF IT WAS NOT  
SO DECAYED, IT WOULD BE  
JUST THE WAY ULYSSES  
DESCRIBED THE MAIN CITY  
OF CRETE!

BEOWULF! THIS  
IS CRETE!

I DO NOT LIKE THIS!  
WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED  
HERE BY WYRD OR  
SATAN!...

...AND  
WE SHALL  
SOON  
LEARN  
WHICH!



LOOK YONDER! AN OLD **BEGGAR!** I HAD THOUGHT THIS CITY--THIS ENTIRE **ISLAND**--TO BE HOME ONLY TO **GHOSTS!**

SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU ARE NOT **WRONG!**



**HO, STRANGER!** WE SEARCH FOR THE **ZUMAK FRUIT!** CAN YOU LEAD US TO IT?

**AYE!** THAT I CAN!



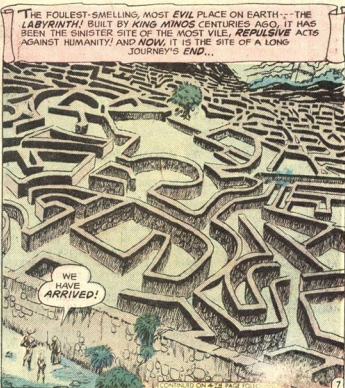
THE **PEEPER** WILL ALWAYS LEAD THE **PRETTY LADY** AND THE **MIGHTY WARRIOR**... BECAUSE WITH BUT **ONE EYE**, THE **PEEPER** SEES **ALL!**

BUT BE WARNED --CRETE IS A **DEAD CIVILIZATION** AND THOSE WHO WALK ITS SOIL ARE THE **LIVING DEAD!**



WALK THIS WAY...

...TO THE **LABYRINTH!**



THE **FOULEST-SMELLING**, MOST **EVIL** PLACE ON EARTH--THE **LABYRINTH!** BUILT BY **KING MINOS** CENTURIES AGO, IT HAS BEEN THE **SINISTER** SITE OF THE MOST **VILE**, **REPULSIVE** ACTS AGAINST HUMANITY! AND **NOW**, IT IS THE SITE OF A LONG JOURNEY'S **END...**

WE HAVE **ARRIVED!**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20





# LEGENDARY LETTERS

Z-306

Dear Denny:

I was very disturbed by Richard Clark's letter, which appeared in BEOWULF #3. He displayed a great lack of knowledge about Scandinavian language and history, and proudly displayed his ignorance in these matters.

Point 1: Scandinavia was actually semi-Christianized at the time of BEOWULF (400-700 A.D.), and the old gods were dying out. Wyrd was a sort of halfway-between type, being a personification of fate. Besides, BEOWULF is not a Scandinavian poem, it is an Anglo-Saxon one; logically, it is their god, Wyrd, who should be depicted as the power, as he is in the poem. On this point, Mr. Clark should argue with the original scribe, not you.

Point 2: He says that "Hondscio" is not Norse. He is correct, but as that name comes straight from the poem, and IS Anglo-Saxon, the name fits neatly into place. The other names he comments on show only good imagination at work. After all, the original story is rather sparse with names, especially those of women.

Point 3: the fire breathing dragons. In the second half of the poem, BEOWULF, such a dragon DOES appear, and brings about BEOWULF's death as they fight. I think, such being the case, a few more dragons would hardly be out of place.

All criticism aside, I am personally quite pleased with your version of the story. My knowledge of those previously related facts and ideas comes from a knowledge of the language of the original, as I hold a Masters in English. I believe your instincts re: the magazine itself are quite right. Thank you very much for a fine magazine. Long Live BEOWULF!

Mrs. Mary Alice Kelly

Dear Mary Alice:

Both your expert knowledge and highly positive opinion concerning our BEOWULF are deeply appreciated. But it does pose a slight problem for us. Richard Clark's letter was one of the few expressing negative sentiments about BEOWULF, which is why we printed it. So we now find ourselves in the odd editorial position of inviting negative criticisms from our readers. Of course, positive opinions are also welcomed at any time!

As far as references to frames of time in BEOWULF, we believe the epic to be a timeless work of art. And BEOWULF, himself, is a timeless character. A greatly magnetic hero in any age. So why limit BEOWULF to an existence in any one given time zone? We believe that BEOWULF can be depicted in any era against any foe, and still hold his own in terms of excitement and credibility. Needless to say (but here

we go saying it again), we invite your comments on this.

.....

Dear Denny:

I've been through 27 years of comic book mania, but have never written a letter to any of the many comics I've read ... until now!

I've read three issues of BEOWULF. I've read the praise in the letter column, tinged with some slight criticism.

A character set in the pre-Medieval world of legend and sorcery should remain in that world, even in dialogue. BEOWULF abounds in anachronisms of dialogue apparent to anyone, whether or not they have any knowledge of the period or the poem. For example, in BEOWULF #3 there are lines like "Good help is hard to find these days, my prince," and "rarebit fiend".

The most grating of all is the nonsense of the "mirror" magic words. Nonsense words, okay ... anagrams, even ... but not Harry Houdini is that you!

A closing personal note ... my childhood goal was to write sci-fi and comics. Now at 31, I find myself back in college, finding my full potential as an honor student at Long Island University majoring in English and political science. I've an eye toward college teaching, and am also trying to establish myself as a free-lance writer. My life has been an odyssey of sorts, but throughout it all, comics were always a safe harbor. They are still part of my relaxation. To you, Denny, for representing the whole industry at this rare moment for me, I give you many thanks!

Randy Paul Young, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Randy's letter was originally much longer. Due to lack of space, it had to be cut, but we left in the negative comments that accompanied the praise. It's good to think there's someone out there, who will one day be a college professor and tell his students that he owes it all to comics. I wish I had HIM in college; I could have done some reports that would have interested me a lot more than the topics of those I was assigned to do.

As for the anachronistic comments ... chalk them up to our timeless approach on BEOWULF. Besides, people of every age DID have their colloquialisms ... for example, various expressions which we think of as contemporary were actually originated by William Shakespeare (such as Othello calling Desdemona "Honey").

Allan Asherman  
Assistant Editor

# SHAZAM!

## "The CUP CAKE CAPER"

HOLY MOLEY!  
WE'VE JUST GOTTEN  
WORD THAT THE  
STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE  
OF CUP CAKES AROUND  
THE WORLD IS  
CONTINUING!



UNLESS  
SOMETHING  
IS DONE ABOUT  
THESE CUP CAKE  
CROOKS, KIDS  
COULD BE IN  
REAL TROUBLE!

IF ONLY WE  
COULD GET IN  
TOUCH WITH  
CAPTAIN MARVEL!



SHAZAM!

BAM!

OBVIOUSLY,  
THERE'S A  
CUP CAKE CAPER.  
MY PROBLEM IS  
TO FIND WHO'S  
BEHIND IT--AND  
WHERE THEY'VE  
STASHED THE  
GOODIES.



PUT THOSE  
HOSTESS  
CUP CAKES  
OVER THERE,  
MAX.

RIGHT,  
CHIEF.

THAT  
COMPLETES  
THE CUP CAKE  
CAPER. WE'VE GOT  
ALL THE CUP CAKES  
NOW.



NOT SO  
FAST, DUMB  
ONE.

I SUPPOSE  
YOU WANT US  
TO RETURN  
THESE HOSTESS  
CUP CAKES TO  
THE KIDS, JUST  
BECAUSE THEY  
LIKE THE DEVIL'S  
FOOD CAKE,  
CHOCOLATY  
ICING AND  
CREAMY  
FILLING.

THAT'S  
CORRECT, MY  
FIENDISH  
FRIEND. THAT'S  
WHY I'M ENDING  
YOUR CAPER,  
RIGHT NOW!

THANKS FOR ENDING  
THE CUP CAKE CAPER,  
CAPTAIN MARVEL.

THAT'S WHAT  
FRIENDS ARE FOR,  
KIDS!



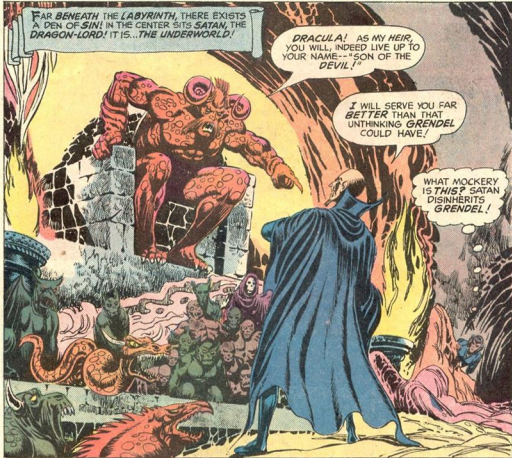
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN  
EVERY BITE OF  
HOSTESS CUP CAKES

FAR BENEATH THE LABYRINTH, THERE EXISTS A DEN OF SIN! IN THE CENTER SITS SATAN, THE DRAGON-LORD! IT IS...THE UNDERWORLD!

DRACULA! AS MY HEIR, YOU WILL, INDEED LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME--"SON OF THE DEVIL!"

I WILL SERVE YOU FAR BETTER THAN THAT UNTHINKING GRENDL COULD HAVE!

WHAT MOCKERY IS THIS? SATAN DISINHERITS GRENDL!



THE MOTHER OF GRENDL HAS CHOSEN THE RIGHT MOMENT TO SPY ON SATAN! HE HAS BROKEN HIS VOW AND DENIES GRENDL HIS BIRTHRIGHT! AND THE MONSTER-WOMAN CRIES FOR VENGEANCE...

GRENDL MUST BE TOLD! MY SON MUST RULE! HE WILL DESTROY THEM BOTH!



GRENDL! GRENDL ARISE! YOU MUST REBEL! SATAN IS DECEIVING YOU!



HE HAS MADE DRACULA HIS HEIR! HE-- AGGGH!

SHUT UP!





I'M NOT BLIND! I KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED! SATAN S-S-SAW HOW POWERFUL I WAS AGAINST BEOWULF AND HIS MEN!

NOW HE FEARS ME! SATAN FEARS ME!



HE TRIES TO OUS-S-ST ME FROM FAVOR! BUT TONIGHT GRENDEL MAKES S-S HIS MOVE!

THIS S-S NIGHT I KILL SATAN AND BECOME KING OF THE UNDERWORLD!

LUMBERING THROUGH THE CATACOMBS THAT LEAD TO THE DEVIL'S LAIR, THE DEATH SHADOW PAUSES TO RIP A SILVER STALACTITE FROM THE CEILING...



THE ONLY WAY SATAN CAN DIE IS IF I GET HIM BY SURPRISE WITH THIS!

MOTHER SAYS USE THIS ... AND GRENDEL ALWAYS OBEYS HIS MOTHER!

GRENDEL MOVES ONWARD WITHOUT HESITATION, UNTIL HE HEARS THE VOICE OF SATAN...

USE YOUR NEW POWER, DRACULA! BECOME A BAT! AND GO QUENCH YOUR THIRST AT HEOROT, CASTLE HROTHGAR'S MEAD-HALL! YOU WILL EVEN BE A BETTER BLOOD-BEAST THAN GRENDEL!



IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, I'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THAT HUMAN, BEOWULF!



NOW TO CONTINUE MY GAME WITH HIM UNINTERRUPTED!

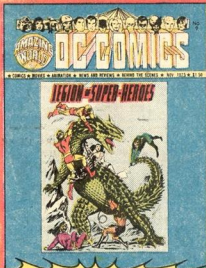
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THE TENSION  
IN THE  
UNDERWORLD IS  
SHARED BY  
THOSE ABOVE!  
IS THERE A  
WAY IN?  
ONLY THE  
PEEPER  
KNOWS...

YOU WASTE  
OUR TIME!  
THERE IS  
NO OPENING  
IN THAT  
WALL!

YOU WOULD  
NOT WANT  
TO REPEAT  
THAT...



...WOULD  
YOU?

NO--I--  
WOULDN'T!

I THOUGHT  
NOT!



BUT ONCE WE FIND THE  
ZUMAK, HOW DO WE  
FIND OUR WAY BACK?



SLAM

AND THE PEEPER  
CLOSES THE  
DOORWAY...

NO ONE  
EVER HAS!  
HEE-HEE-  
HEE!



...TRAPPING THEM!

RROOOWWWLL

THAT HIDEOUS  
GROWL! WHAT IS IT?

BUT THE STRANGER WHO  
SEES ALL IS NO LONGER  
THERE! INSTEAD, HER  
TRUE FORM OF FLAMES  
LEAPS HIGH, LICKING  
THE SKY...

THE GROWL  
BELONGS TO THE  
GROTTO MINOTAUR,  
THE STARVING  
GUARDIAN OF THE  
LABYRINTH! AND  
AS FOR THE PEEPER,  
HE WAS MERELY A  
DISGUISE FOR...

--THE SLAVE-  
MAIDEN OF  
SATAN!

I  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
KNOWN!

HER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED,  
THE SLAVE-MAIDEN VANISHES,  
LEAVING THE TWO MORTALS  
TRAPPED...

THIS IS SATAN'S  
FINAL MOVE TO  
STOP US!

LET US FIND  
THAT ZUMAK  
...AND FAST!

BUT OFT TIMES  
THE BEST LAID  
PLANS —

DEAD  
END!

THEN AGAIN...  
AND AGAIN...  
AND AGAIN...

NOTHING!

LOOK! THOSE ARE  
OUR TRACKS! I  
THINK WE ARE  
BACK WHERE  
WE STARTED!

GRRRR!

AND  
THAT  
SNARLING  
IS  
GETTING  
LOUDER!

WELL, LET US TRY  
THE PATH AROUND  
THIS WALL!

OUR LUCK  
JUST HAS  
TO CHANGE!

AND INDEED  
IT DOES...  
FOR THE  
WORST!

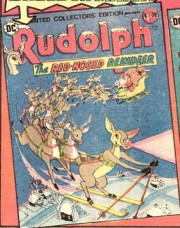
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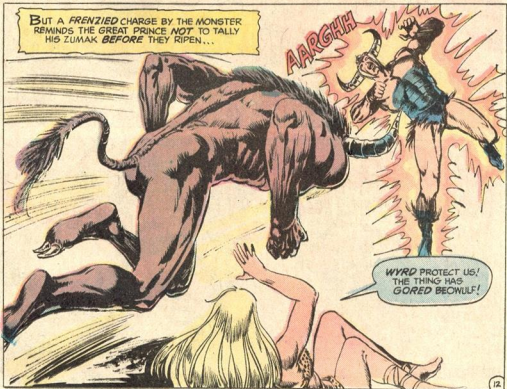


IT'S A GROTTO  
MINOTAUR! IT IS  
NOT MUCH DIFFERENT  
FROM THE LAST ONE  
I FOUGHT! IF  
SATAN HAS NOT  
EMPOWERED IT, I  
CAN BEST IT!

SUDDENLY THE BEAST *RECOGNIZES* BEOWULF'S  
HEADGEAR AS THE *SKULL* OF ITS BROTHER  
MINOTAUR! AND THE THING FLIES INTO A FROTHING  
RAMPAGE...



BUT A *FRENZIED* CHARGE BY THE MONSTER  
REMINDS THE GREAT PRINCE NOT TO TALLY  
HIS ZUMAK *BEFORE* THEY RIPEN...



GROTTO MINOTAURS ARE NEITHER THIS **FAST** NOR THIS **STRONG!** THE **PRINCE OF DARKNESS** COMMANDS THIS CREATURE! BUT THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL NOT **SAVE** ME!



BUT **BEOWULF** HAS FAILED TO CONSIDER THE **CUNNING** AND THE **MIGHT** OF HIS FEMALE COUNTERPART, FOR **NAN-ZEE** LEAPS INTO THE FRAY...

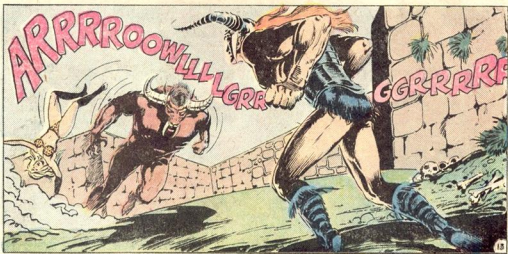
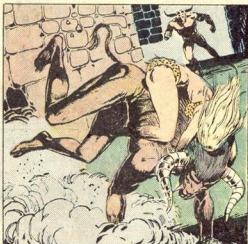
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU--

MOVE, STUPID!



I'M **FREE!** LET ME ATTACK HIM! GET OFF WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

GET TO THE **BACK** OF THE LINE AND WAIT YOUR TURN! HE'S **MINE!**



AGAIN, A LOOK AT **BEOWULF** PLUNGES THE DEMON-THING INTO A HELLISH FIT...

THE **HELMET!** OF COURSE!  
THAT IS WHAT INFURIATES  
THE BEAST!

WELL, I SHALL  
WEAR IT--UNTIL  
THE TIME COMES  
WHEN THE  
MINOTAUR PARADES  
MY SKULL ON  
ITS HEAD!



A HOT BLOOD-RED GLOW FIRES THE AIR AROUND  
THE LABYRINTH-DWELLER AS HE RIPS FREE OF  
BEOWULF'S CRUSHING HEADLOCK...

TOO LATE!  
THE DEVIL HAS  
MADE HIS MOVE!  
HIS POWER COURSES  
THROUGH THE  
BEAST'S VEINS!



NAN-ZEE!  
BRING ME THE  
ZUMAK!  
IT-IT'S  
MY  
ONLY  
HOPE  
NOW!



TIME GROWS SHORT!  
MY WOUNDS WEAKEN  
ME!

THE CREATURE MUST  
JOIN ITS BROTHER  
IN DEATH!



NAN-ZEE! NO!  
STAY BACK!

UGGHH!

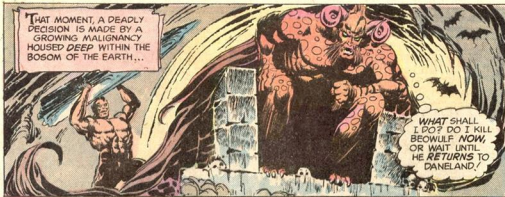


IT WON'T  
COME OFF!  
IT WON'T  
COME OFF!

AND SINCE I NEVER DRANK  
THE VENOM OF THE **BLACK  
VIPER**, I CANNOT GAIN  
MYSTIC STRENGTH BY  
EATING IT!



THAT MOMENT, A DEADLY  
DECISION IS MADE BY A  
GROWING MALIGNANCY  
HOUSED DEEP WITHIN THE  
BOSOM OF THE EARTH...



WHAT SHALL  
I DO? DO I KILL  
BEOWULF NOW,  
OR WAIT UNTIL  
HE RETURNS TO  
DANELAND!



BUT WHY WAIT  
ANY LONGER?  
THAT IRRATIONAL  
GRENDL MIGHT  
BUNGLE IT THEN  
ANYWAY!



YES--- I WILL DIRECT  
THE GROTTO MINOTAUR!  
BEOWULF DIES  
NOW!



THE GAME  
IS OVER!

WHO'S BEHIND  
ME? GRENDL!

**NO!**

CONTINUED ON SLIP PAGE FOLLOWING





YES-S-S!  
THE GAME  
IS OVER!



DIE, SATAN--  
AS YOU MADE  
SO MANY OTHERS  
DIE! **GRENDEL**  
IS KING OF  
THE  
UNDERWORLD!

**AAAAARRRRGGGHHHH**

THE EARTH **SHAKES!** THE UNDER-  
WORLD **TREMbles!** AND SOMEHOW,  
IN A WAY NO HUMAN BEING COULD  
EVER COMPREHEND, SATAN IS NO  
MORE!

AND AS THE MURDEROUS **GRENDEL**  
ASCENDS THE THRONE OF EVIL, HE  
PREPARES HIMSELF FOR THE UNHOLY  
VENGEANCE OF DRACULA!

OBLIVIOUS TO THE MURDER OF THE DRAGON-LORD, BEOWULF IS SHOCKED TO SEE SATAN'S GLOW DISSOLVE FROM THE MINOTAUR...

WHAT TRICK IS THIS? IT CANNOT BE!

THE MINOTAUR HAS BEEN DESERTED BY ITS MASTER! ITS POWER HAS BEEN SAPPED!

NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM THAT ZUMAK NOW...

POW

NOTHING!

K-K'AW

NOTHING!

KRASH

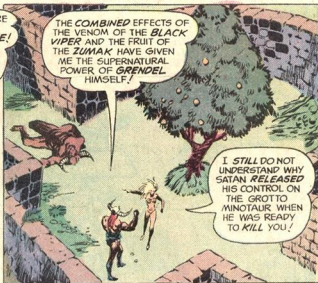
I HAVE THE FRUIT--!

AT LAST!



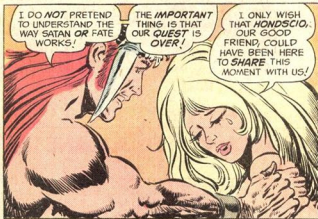


MY-MY WOUNDS ARE HEALING! MY FATIGUE IS GONE! I HAVE NEVER FELT THIS KIND OF STRENGTH IN MY LIFE!



THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF THE VENOM OF THE BLACK VIPER AND THE FRUIT OF THE ZUMAK HAVE GIVEN ME THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF GRENDEL HIMSELF!

I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SATAN RELEASED HIS CONTROL ON THE GROTO MINOTAUR WHEN HE WAS READY TO KILL YOU!



I DO NOT PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND THE WAY SATAN OR FATE WORKS!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT OUR QUEST IS OVER!

I ONLY WISH THAT HONDSCIO, OUR GOOD FRIEND, COULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO SHARE THIS MOMENT WITH US!



THE WALL...

HONDSCIO'S DEATH WILL BE THE FIRST ONE I AVENGE! AND IF WIGLAF OR THE OTHERS HAVE ALSO FALLEN, THE BLOOD-BEAST WILL DIE A THOUSAND TIMES OVER FOR EACH ONE!



YOU SEE MY NEW-FOUND STRENGTH? COME, NAN-ZEE!

WE MUST MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO DANELAND AT ONCE FOR MY BATTLE-TO-THE-DEATH WITH GRENDEL!