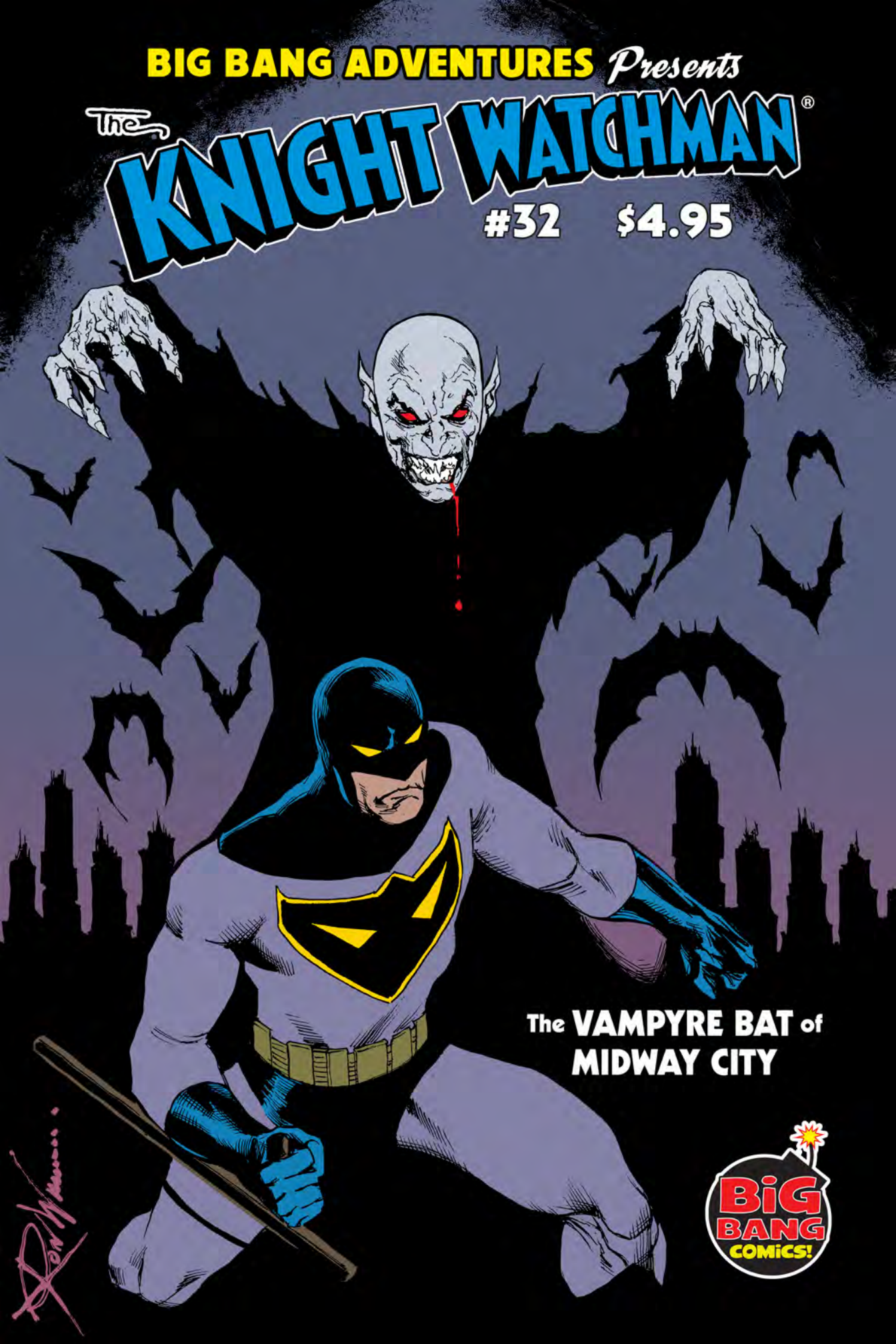
BIG BANG ADVENTURES Presents
The KNIGHT WATCHMAN®
#32 $4.95
The VAMPYRE BAT of MIDWAY CITY
BIG BANG COMICS!

BIG BANG ADVENTURES™ #32

Starring

The KNIGHT WATCHMAN®

YEAR ONE!

Story by Gary Carlson • Art by Ronald C. Williams • Cover Colors by Mark Lewis
Pin-Up by Eugene Booker • Gray Flats by Shayne Cui • Edited by Ray MacKay

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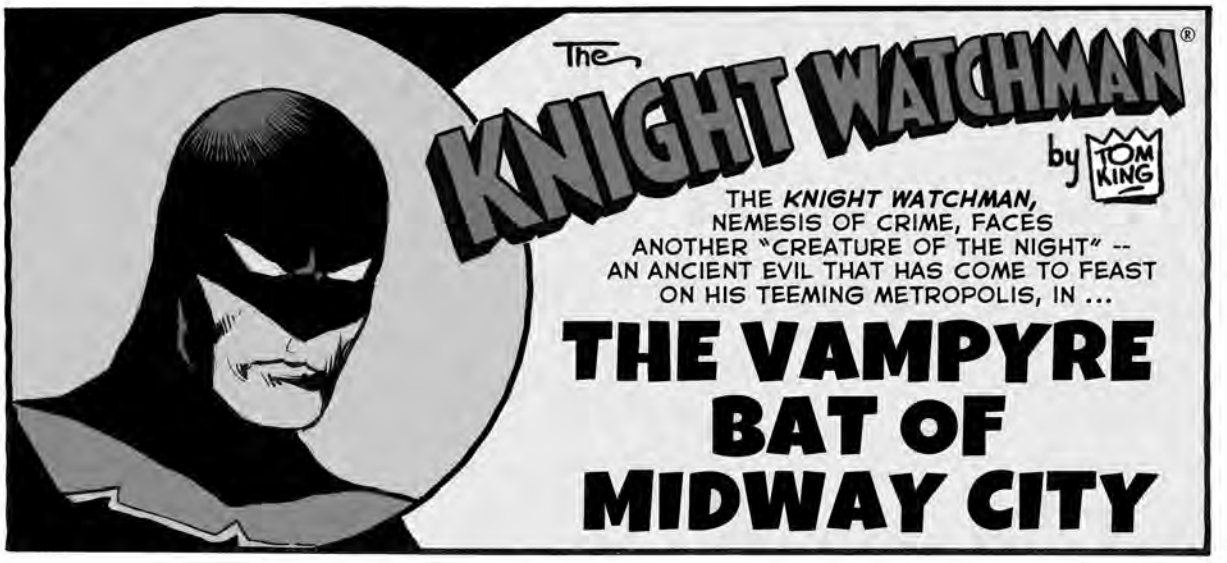

The
KNIGHT WATCHMAN®
by TOM KING
THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN, NEMESIS OF CRIME, FACES ANOTHER "CREATURE OF THE NIGHT" -- AN ANCIENT EVIL THAT HAS COME TO FEAST ON HIS TEEMING METROPOLIS, IN ...
THE VAMPYRE BAT OF MIDWAY CITY

MIDNIGHT IN MIDWAY CITY: THE HONEST CITIZENS HAVE GONE TO BED AND THE CRIMINALS HAVE GONE TO WORK!

THIS WAY, FINGERS! THE SAFE IS BEHIND THAT PAINTING! HURRY UP!
WE'VE HIT THE JACKPOT!
"B-B-B-BUT - - - LOOK! GASP! WHAT - - WHAT IS IT?!!!!"
BANG! BANG! BANG!
IT'S JUST THAT KNIGHT WATCHMAN GUY!
1

BUT THE GUNSEL'S BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT!
WHAT THE --?
THAT'S NO COSTUME!! WHAT IS IT?
RUN!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
I CAN'T! HIS EYES - - HORRIBLE!
THE MYSTERIOUS CREATURE'S RED BLAZING STARE CASTS A HYPNOTIC SPELL ON THE HOODLUMS!
THE CRIME STARTED OUT AS ROBBERY, BUT TURNED INTO MURDER!
THE GUNSHOTS DRAW THE ATTENTION OF ANOTHER CREATURE OF THE NIGHT!
WITH A DEATH-DEFYING LEAP, THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN SWINGS INTO ACTION - -
GUNSHOTS AND A SCREAM FROM THIS PENTHOUSE.
I'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
2

THAT'S ODD! THE ROOM IS FULL OF SMOKE! NO, IT'S *FOG!*
AND TWO *CORPSES!*
BUT THEY WEREN'T SHOT! THOSE MARKS ON THEIR NECKS!

AS THE FOG CLEARS - -
DEAD! THEY LOOK AS IF THEY DIED OF *FRIGHT!*
AND THOSE LOOK LIKE *BITE* MARKS! IS SOMEONE PLAYING A CREEPY GAME?

KEEN EARS DETECT A NOISE ON THE BALCONY - -
THE KILLER!

LIKE A JUNGLE CAT, THE HUNTER SPRINGS AFTER HIS PREY - ONLY TO FIND THAT HIS QUARRY HAS VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.
NOBODY HERE! DID HE JUMP?

A BONE CHILLING SIGHT ABOVE A NEARBY BUILDING!

WITH LIGHTNING SPEED THE *KNIGHT WATCHMAN* LEAPS, USING A CHAIR AS A TRAMPOLINE - -

PROPELLING THE MASKED MAN THROUGH THE NIGHT LIKE A HUMAN MISSILE - - ONLY TO LAND SAFELY ON THE NEARBY ROOFTOP!
NOPE. TOTALLY EMPTY!

NOBODY HERE EXCEPT FOR ME AND THESE *BATS!*
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHERE COULD THE KILLER HAVE GONE!?
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING!
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE SOME LOOKING INTO!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE MIDWAY MONITOR EDITOR FRANK SPAULDING RECEIVES A VISIT FROM HIS FRIEND, REID "KNIGHT WATCHMAN" RANDALL.
THIS *"VAMPIRE BAT-MAN"* - DO YOU BELIEVE IT'S REAL, FRANK?
BAT-MAN TERRORISES CITY
BAH!

I THINK ITS A VIGILANTE NUT IN A COSTUME LIKE THE *KNIGHT WATCHMAN!* EXCEPT THIS ONE KILLS!
WHO-EVER IT IS PREYS ONLY ON CROOKS, REID!
DRAINING THE *BLOOD* FROM THEIR BODIES!

CRIMINALS ARE A COWARDLY AND SUPER-STITIOUS LOT, BUT THIS FELLOW WOULD FRIGHTEN ANYBODY!

"MY PUBLISHER HAS HIRED SOME SORT OF PHONY BALONEY EXPERT. A *VAMPIRE HUNTER* TO FIND THIS PHONY BAT!"
Police Artist Sketch

VAMPYRES ARE VERY REAL WHERE I COME FROM!
I AM BARON VON FLEDERMAUS. HELLO.

THE FAMOUS GERMAN *AVIATOR?* WELCOME TO MIDWAY CITY! PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE VAMPIRES!
MY FATHER WAS THE FLYING ACE.
BARON, THIS IS REID RANDALL, ALSO OF FAMOUS LINEAGE.
CHARMED.
HIS FAMILY RUNS THE *RANDALL CLOTHIERS* EMPIRE.

VAMPYRES ARE FOUL *UNDEAD* CREATURES THAT CHEAT DEATH BY DRINKING THE BLOOD OF THE LIVING! THEY CANNOT ABIDE DAY-LIGHT AND THEY HAVE INHUMAN STRENGTH.

"THE ONE I SEEK CAN TRANSFORM INTO A *BAT* OR FOG, AND HIS *BITE* TRANSFORMS HIS VICTIMS INTO VAMPIRES ALSO!"

HOW INTERESTING. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO MEET MY MOTHER FOR LUNCH. NICE TO MEET YOU.

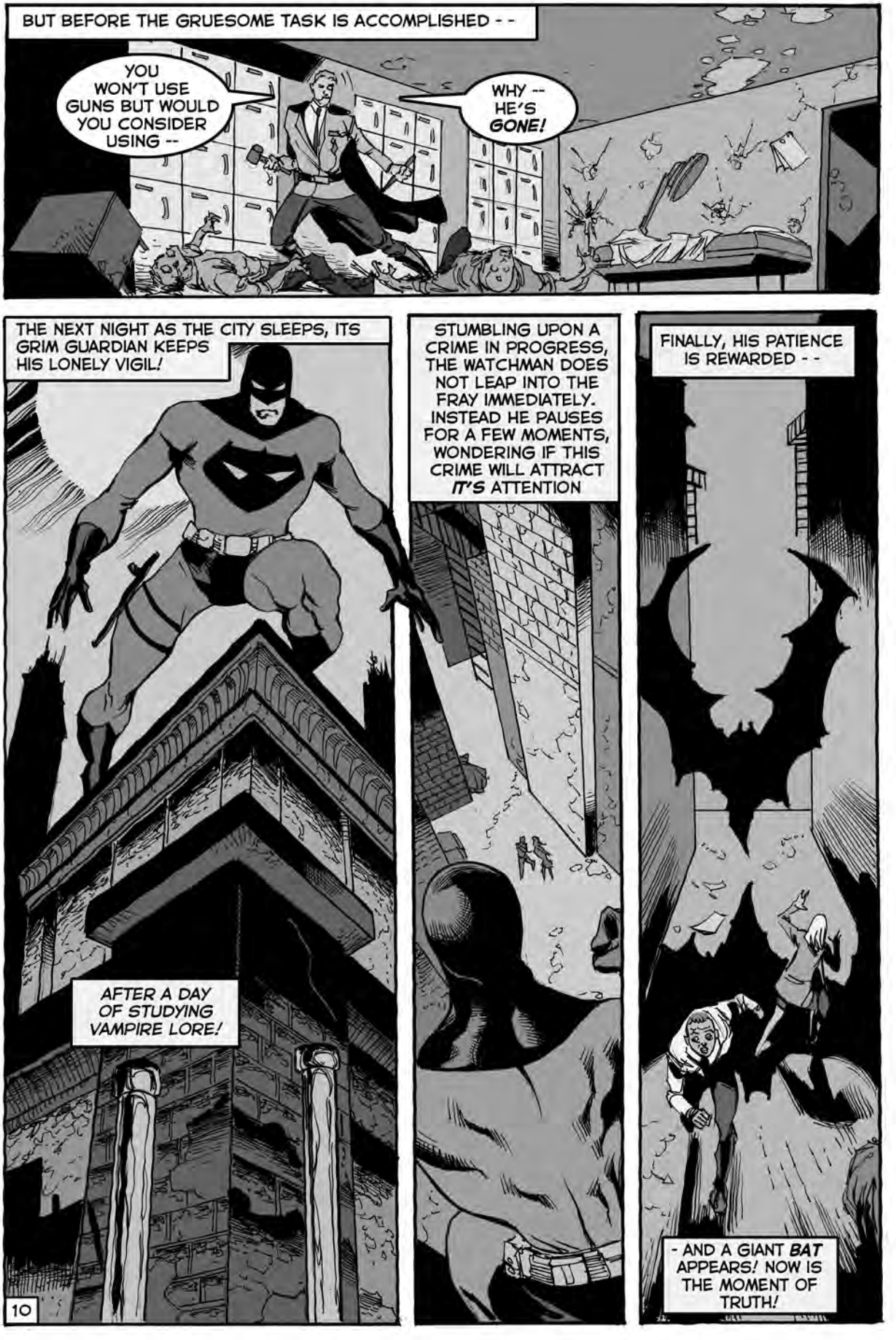
REID RANDALL EXITS THE OFFICE AND HEADS UP THE STAIRWAY!

BUT IT'S THE *KNIGHT WATCHMAN* WHO EMERGES ON THE ROOF!
HMMM. THOSE STRANGE MURDERS LAST NIGHT!
I NEED A CLOSER LOOK AT THOSE *CORPSES!*
SNAP!

MIGHTY MUSCLES PROPEL MIDWAY CITY'S GRIM TWILIGHT PALADIN ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS OF THE CITY!
NEXT STOP - -
THE CITY MORGUE!
SOON, THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN BEGINS HIS GRISLY TASK WITH A MAGNIFYING GLASS.
HMMM.
"PUNCTURE WOUNDS IN THE NECK AND HIS BODY WAS DRAINED OF BLOOD!"

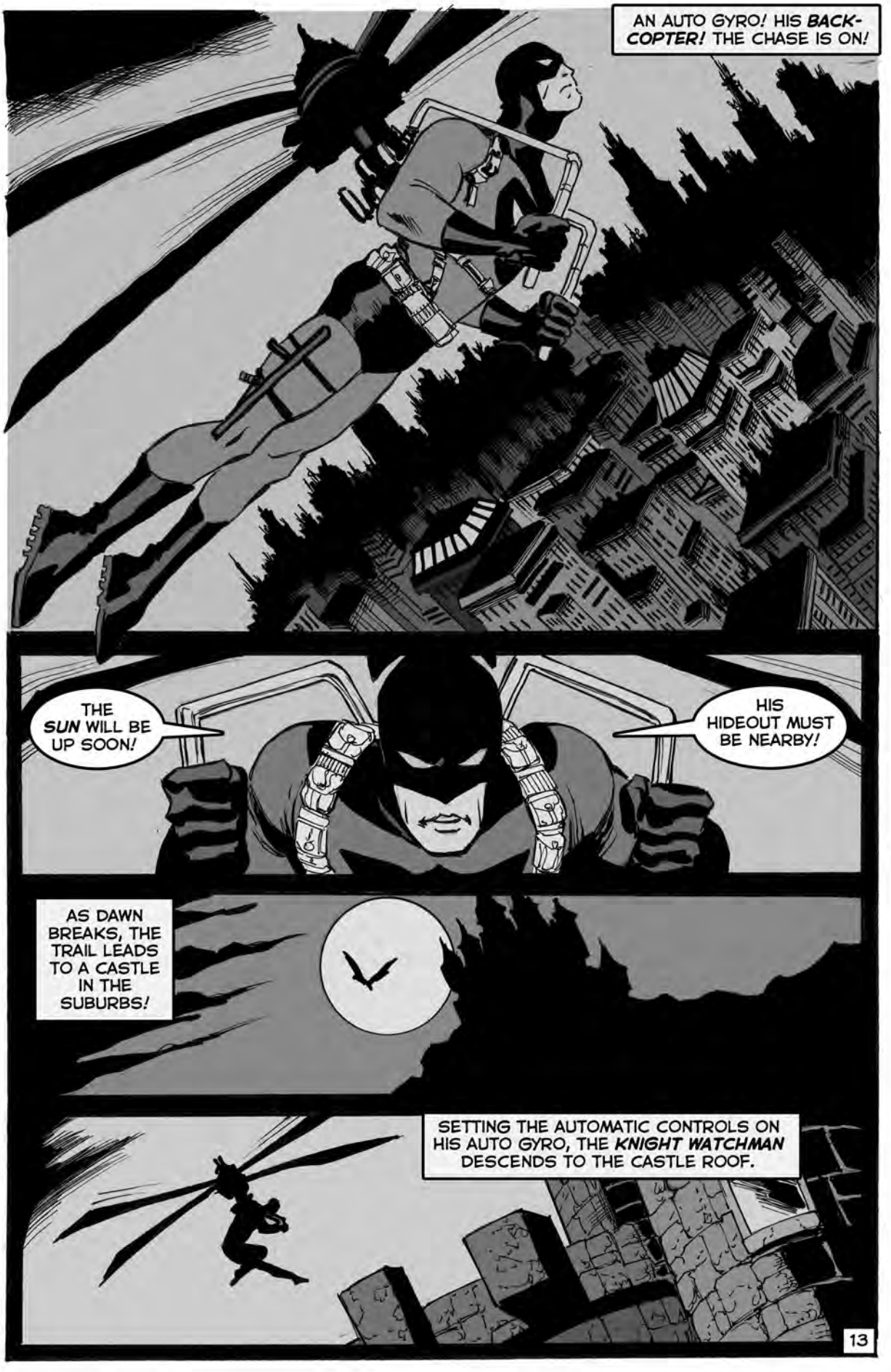
SUDDENLY - -
RUUUUARGHH!
GACK! THE OTHER CORPSE!
A TWIST - - AND A MIGHTY HEAVE!
KRASH!
THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN FINDS HIMSELF FACING TWO DEADLY -- AND VERY DEAD - - FOES!
TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE, EH?
COME AND GET ME!
THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN LASHES OUT, BUT HIS HAMMERING BLOWS HAVE NO EFFECT!
YOU'RE TOUGH NUTS TO CRACK, AREN'T YOU?
KAPOW!

BANG!
BANG!
SUDDENLY, AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR!
WHILE YOUR FISTICUFFS WERE A VALIANT EFFORT MY FRIEND...
BARON VON FLEDER-MAUS!
SILVER BULLETS ARE THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEAL WITH THEIR KIND!
I NEVER USE A GUN!
THEN YOU'D BETTER LEAVE THE VAMPYRES TO ME, MY FRIEND.
THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE THEY STAY DEAD - -
- IS A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH THE HEART!


BUT BEFORE THE GRUESOME TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED - -
YOU WON'T USE GUNS BUT WOULD YOU CONSIDER USING --
WHY -- HE'S GONE!
THE NEXT NIGHT AS THE CITY SLEEPS, ITS GRIM GUARDIAN KEEPS HIS LONELY VIGIL!
AFTER A DAY OF STUDYING VAMPIRE LORE!
STUMBLING UPON A CRIME IN PROGRESS, THE WATCHMAN DOES NOT LEAP INTO THE FRAY IMMEDIATELY. INSTEAD HE PAUSES FOR A FEW MOMENTS, WONDERING IF THIS CRIME WILL ATTRACT IT'S ATTENTION
FINALLY, HIS PATIENCE IS REWARDED - -
- AND A GIANT BAT APPEARS! NOW IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

SUDDENLY A GREAT LIGHT FLOODS THE ALLEY - - REVEALING THE TRUE FACE OF HORROR - -
HISSS!
LIGHT -- THE VAMPIRE'S BANE!
KNIGHT WATCHMAN!
HISSS! DIE, WATCHMAN!
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, THIS CREEP LOOKS REAL TO ME!
AS THE MONSTER TIGHTENS ITS GRIP, THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN'S FINGERS SEEK A POCKET IN HIS BELT - -

A QUICK THRUST OF A SILVER DAGGER, POISON TO A VAMPIRE! IT SCREAMS AND LOSES ITS GRIP!
THE WOUNDED BAT-MAN SEEKS TO ESCAPE!
EEEEEEEEEE!
THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN DROPS FROM THE SKY!
BUT THE PURPLE PALADIN IS PREPARED! HIS WATCHTOWER IS NEARBY!
AND LANDS MOSTLY UNHURT ON A ROOFTOP BELOW.
THE WOUNDED VAMPIRE SEEKS TO ESCAPE!


AN AUTO GYRO! HIS BACK-COPTER! THE CHASE IS ON!
THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON!
HIS HIDEOUT MUST BE NEARBY!
AS DAWN BREAKS, THE TRAIL LEADS TO A CASTLE IN THE SUBURBS!
SETTING THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS ON HIS AUTO GYRO, THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN DESCENDS TO THE CASTLE ROOF.

THE SEARCH BEGINS!
I DON'T LIKE GUNS BUT I MAY MAKE AN EXCEPTION TONIGHT!
A LIGHT! SOMEONE IS IN THAT ROOM!
BUT IT'S NOT THE BAT - -
BARON VON FLEDERMAUS!
KNIGHT WATCHMAN!
SO YOU TRAILED THE MONSTER HERE ALSO? PERHAPS WE SHOULD JOIN FORCES, JA?
I DIDN'T SEE YOU IN THE CITY, BARON! HOW DID YOU TRACK THE VAMPIRE HERE?
TRACKING AND KILLING THEM IS WHAT I DO. I HAVE MANY YEARS OF PRACTICE.

HIS COFFIN WILL BE IN THE THE BASEMENT -- THE *DUNGEON!* FOLLOW ME.

YOU'RE THE EXPERT. LEAD ON, MACDUFF!

IN THE BASEMENT, THEY FIND A *CASKET!*
THERE HE SLUMBERS, INSIDE THE CASKET AND THE EARTH THAT HE WAS BURIED IN.

I'LL HANDLE THIS ONE, BARON!

WHAT THE - - ? THIS IS NO VAMPIRE!
IT'S A *WAX DUMMY!*

HE'S NOT THE ONLY DUMMKOPF HERE!
KRAKK!
FADE TO BLACK!
MUCH LATER - -
OH MY HEAD! WHERE AM I?
CHAINS! THE DUNGEON! THE BARON TRICKED ME!
"INDEED I DID."
BUT WHY?!!

YOU! BARON VON FLEDERMAUS! YOU ARE THE VAMPIRE!
YES, THIS IS MY CASTLE! I HAD IT MOVED HERE, BRICK BY BRICK, AFTER WORLD WAR ONE.
I WAS - AND AM - THE WORLD WAR FLYING ACE!
MANY YEARS AGO I WAS BITTEN BY A VAMPYRE!
I KILLED HIM, BUT HE HAD ALREADY PASSED HIS CURSE ON TO ME!
AT NIGHT I BECOME A VAMPYRE - A MAN BAT!
I HATE IT, BUT I MUST DRINK BLOOD TO SURVIVE!
IF YOU HATE IT SO MUCH WHY NOT TURN YOURSELF IN?
LET THEM SEEK OUT A CURE FOR YOU.
THERE IS NO CURE! ONLY THE UNENDING CURSE
FOREVER DAMNED TO WALK THE NIGHTS AS A MONSTER!

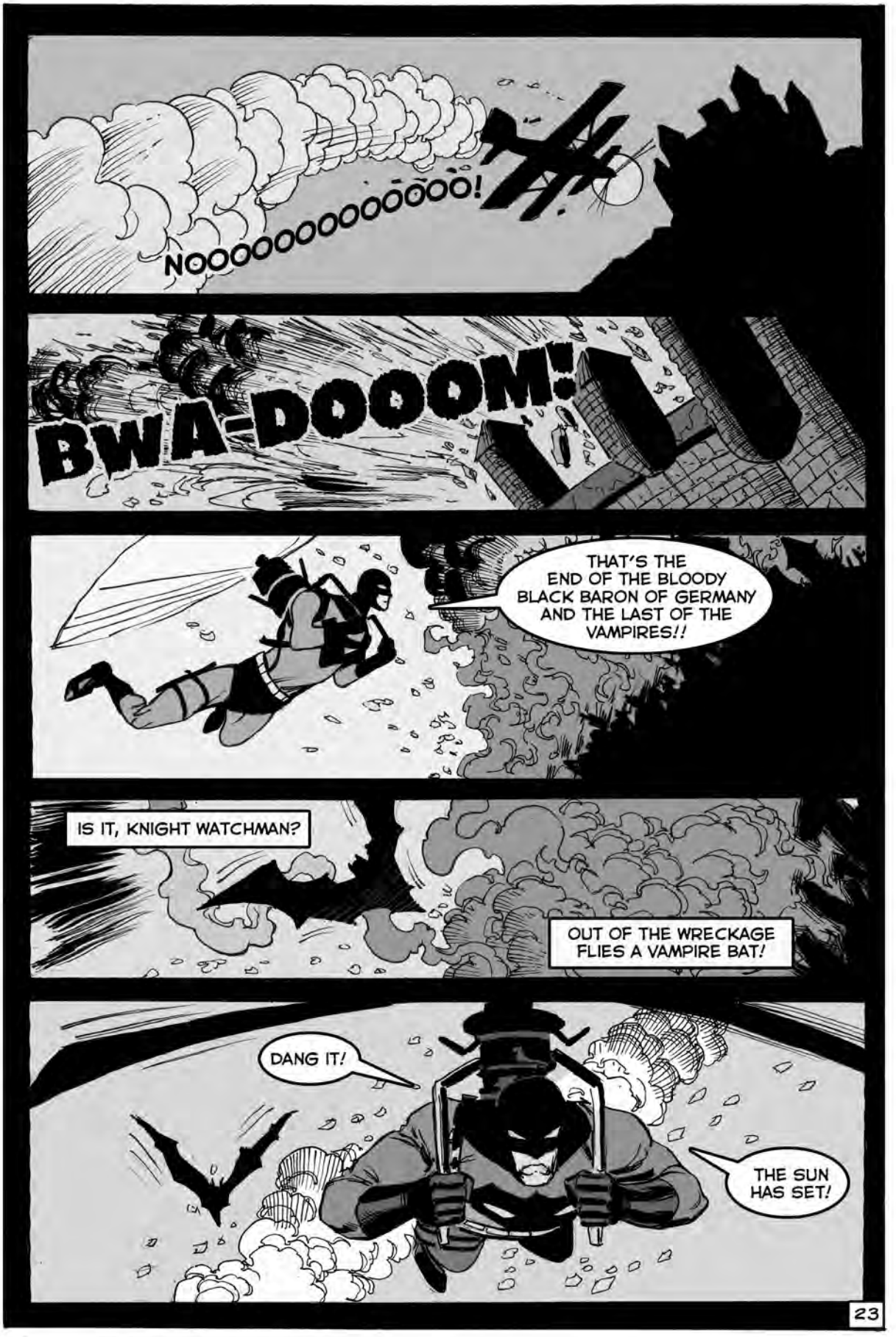
NOTHING WORKED!
I HAVE GIVEN UP AND SET A NEW COURSE HERE!
I MOVED HERE AFTER THE WAR. I WAS RECENTLY INSPIRED BY *YOUR* EXPLOITS AND DECIDED TO KILL ONLY *CRIMINALS!*
SOON I WILL TURN INTO THE VAMPYRE AND YOU MUST DIE, AND MY SECRET WITH YOU!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BARON!
BUT I HAVE OTHER PLANS!
SOCK!
DON'T WORRY! THERE WILL BE FAR FEWER CRIMINALS HERE IN MIDWAY CITY WITH *ME* IN CHARGE!
I'M GOING TO ENJOY DRINKING YOUR BLOOD, KNIGHT. PERHAPS I WILL PICK UP A FEW POINTERS ON TRACKING DOWN CROOKS!
WE WILL MEET AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT WHEN I KILL THE *VAMPYRE* YOU.

YEAH? WELL, CHEW ON *THIS!* WHY PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED TODAY!
KRAK!

FOOLISH MORTAL. IT WILL BE *DARK* OUT SOON AND THEN I CAN RETAIN THIS FORM ALL NIGHT!
UNTIL THEN YOU ARE AT AN ADVANTAGE!
KREAK!
LET US EVEN THE ODDS, SHALL WE?
KRASHH!
OOF!
GASP! WHERE DID HE GO?
HA HA. YOU'LL *NEVER* CATCH ME NOW.
THE TUNNEL LEADS TO A HIDDEN AIRPLANE HANGAR AND A BLACK FOKKER TRIPLANE!

HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE IN HIS FAMOUS PLANE FROM THE GREAT WAR!
LUCKILY I'VE GOT *WINGS* TOO!
ZOOOM!
THE *KNIGHT WATCHMAN* RADIOS FOR HIS AUTO GYRO!
YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE, BARON!
KLIK!
HA HA! SO HE THINKS TO CHALLENGE THE WORLD'S GREATEST FLYING ACE, IN A TOY HELICOPTER, DOES HE?

BRING IT ON, WATCHMAN! I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD DOGFIGHT IN DECADES!
HA HA! THIS WAY I WILL ONLY HAVE TO KILL YOU ONCE!
THE STAGE IS SET FOR A DEADLY AERIAL BALLET!
I CAME PREPARED FOR A FIGHT - -
- BUT NOT A DOGFIGHT IN THIS GYRO!
"LUCKY I HAVE A WEAPON OR TWO THAT HE DOESN'T!"
LIKE THIS COMBAT DRONE OF MINE!
AND UNLIKE ME IT USES BULLETS!
RAT A TAT A TAT
THE WATCHMAN CONTROLS HIS DRONE AND THE TWO FLIERS ZIGZAG AND CIRCLE THROUGH THE EVENING SKY!
RAT A TAT A TAT
FIRING AT EACH OTHER CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL - -
CURSES! I'M HIT! CAN'T KEEP THE NOSE UP --
BAH! DEFEATED BY A TOY PLANE!

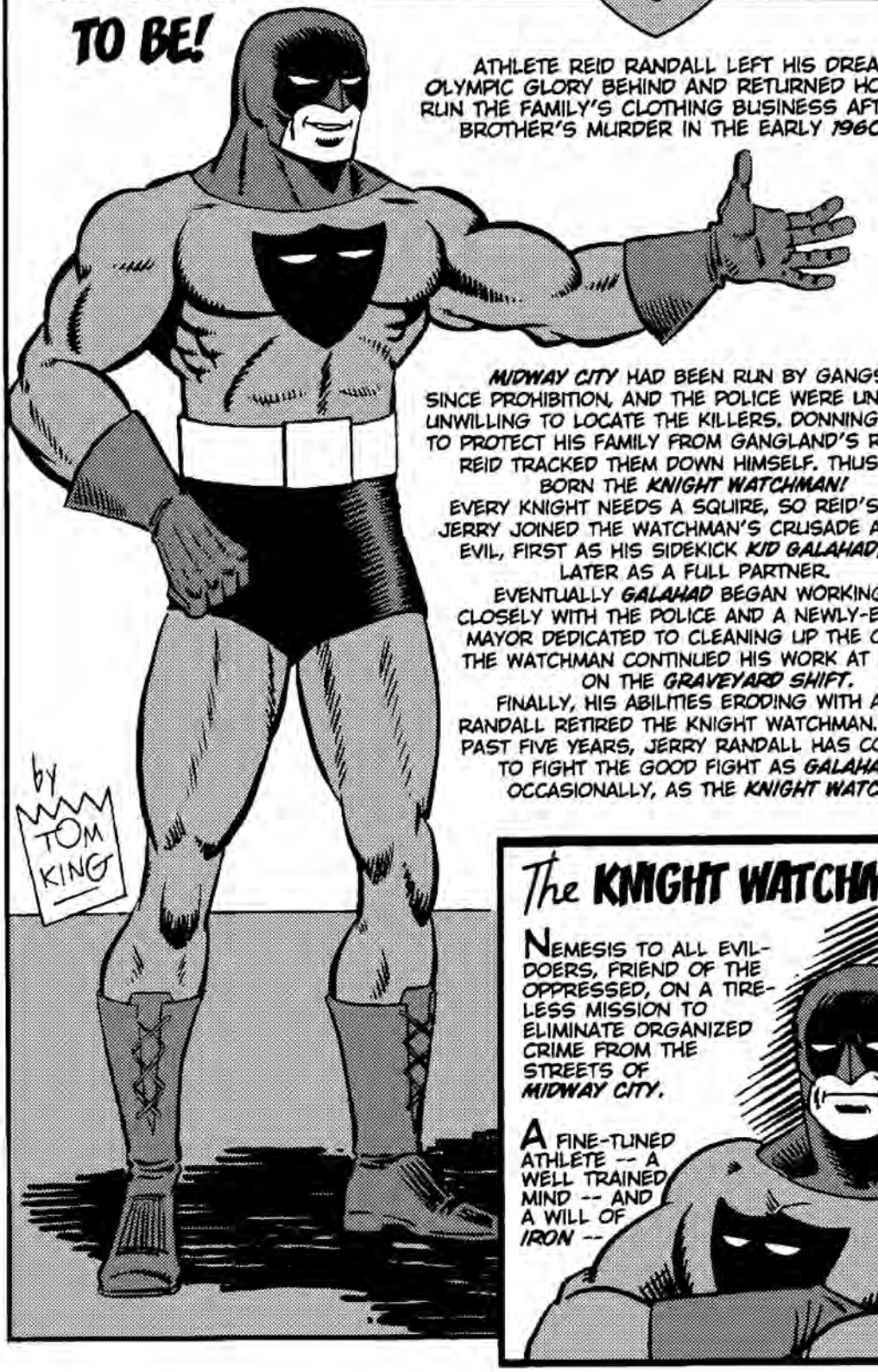

NOOOOOOOOOOOO!
BWA-DOOOM!
THAT'S THE END OF THE BLOODY BLACK BARON OF GERMANY AND THE LAST OF THE VAMPIRES!!
IS IT, KNIGHT WATCHMAN?
OUT OF THE WRECKAGE FLIES A VAMPIRE BAT!
DANG IT!
THE SUN HAS SET!

"HE'S TURNED INTO THE INDESTRUCTIBLE *VAMPIRE!*"
IT SEEMS THAT LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE!
NOT LUCK.
BUT *DESTINY!*
AS SOON AS THE SUN SET I WOULD HAVE *REAWAKENED* IN THIS FORM!
YEAH? LET'S SEE HOW THAT FORM LIKES THIS!
CHOP! CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!
SORRY I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND SILVER COPTER BLADES!
BUT I DID FIND ONE OR TWO OTHER *TOOLS!*
SPLAT
GROSS! *BLOOD?!!*
IS THAT *HIS* BLOOD OR LEFTOVERS FROM LUNCH?

PLAYTIME'S OVER, BARON!
ONLY A SILVER BULLET OR A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART CAN KILL ME, FOOL!
NO, BUT I CAN SHOOT WITHOUT A GUN!
YOUR GUN IS IN THE WRECKAGE OF MY CASTLE! I CAN FLY WITHOUT A PLANE, CAN YOU?
"WITH THIS CROSSBOW!"
EYAAAAAAAAGH!!
I DON'T LIKE GUNS, BUT I DO LIKE WOODEN ARROWS WITH SILVER ARROWHEADS! THAT COVERS BOTH OF YOUR WEAKNESSES!
CHUK!
HAPPY LANDINGS, BARON!
VICTORIOUS OVER THE VAMPIRE, MIDWAY CITY'S HEROIC CREATURE OF THE NIGHT SOARS HOMEWARD THROUGH THE SKY ON MECHANICAL WINGS!
THE END.

WHO HE IS AND HOW HE CAME TO BE!

THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN™



ATHLETE REID RANDALL LEFT HIS DREAMS OF OLYMPIC GLORY BEHIND AND RETURNED HOME TO RUN THE FAMILY'S CLOTHING BUSINESS AFTER HIS BROTHER'S MURDER IN THE EARLY *1960'S.*

MIDWAY CITY HAD BEEN RUN BY GANGSTERS SINCE PROHIBITION, AND THE POLICE WERE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO LOCATE THE KILLERS. DONNING A MASK TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY FROM GANGLAND'S REVENGE, REID TRACKED THEM DOWN HIMSELF. THUS WAS BORN THE *KNIGHT WATCHMAN!*

EVERY KNIGHT NEEDS A SQUIRE, SO REID'S NEPHEW JERRY JOINED THE WATCHMAN'S CRUSADE AGAINST EVIL, FIRST AS HIS SIDEKICK *KID GALAHAD*, AND LATER AS A FULL PARTNER.

EVENTUALLY *GALAHAD* BEGAN WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH THE POLICE AND A NEWLY-ELECTED MAYOR DEDICATED TO CLEANING UP THE CITY, BUT THE WATCHMAN CONTINUED HIS WORK AT NIGHT-- ON THE *GRAVEYARD SHIFT.*

FINALLY, HIS ABILITIES ERODING WITH AGE, REID RANDALL RETIRED THE KNIGHT WATCHMAN. FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, JERRY RANDALL HAS CONTINUED TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AS *GALAHAD*, AND OCCASIONALLY, AS THE *KNIGHT WATCHMAN!*

by TOM KING

The KNIGHT WATCHMAN

NEMESIS TO ALL EVIL-DOERS, FRIEND OF THE OPPRESSED, ON A TIRELESS MISSION TO ELIMINATE ORGANIZED CRIME FROM THE STREETS OF *MIDWAY CITY.*

A FINE-TUNED ATHLETE -- A WELL TRAINED MIND -- AND A WILL OF *IRON* --

COMING SOON. . .

STORY BY CHRIS ECKER ART BY BEN TORRES EDITED BY GARY S. CARLSON

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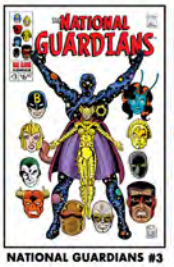
NATIONAL GUARDIANS #1

NATIONAL GUARDIANS #2



NATIONAL GUARDIANS #3

PROTOPLASMAN

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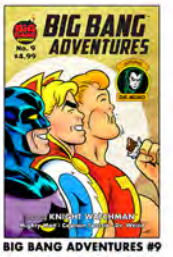

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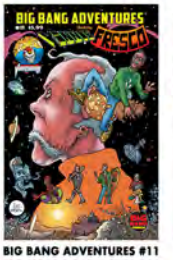

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