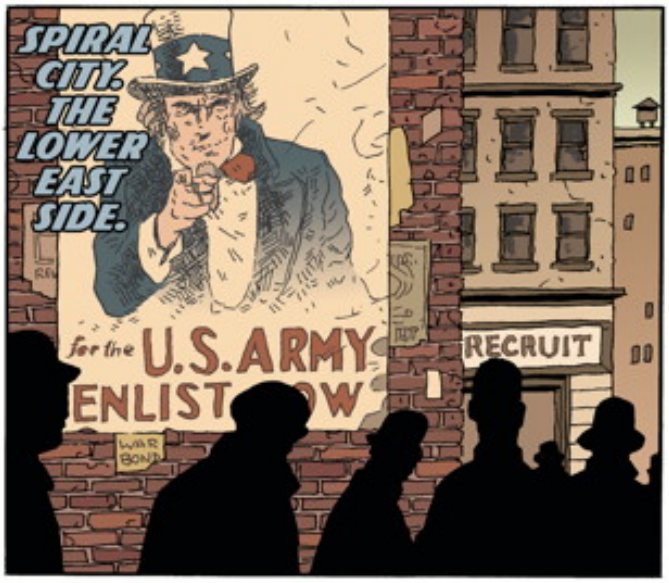
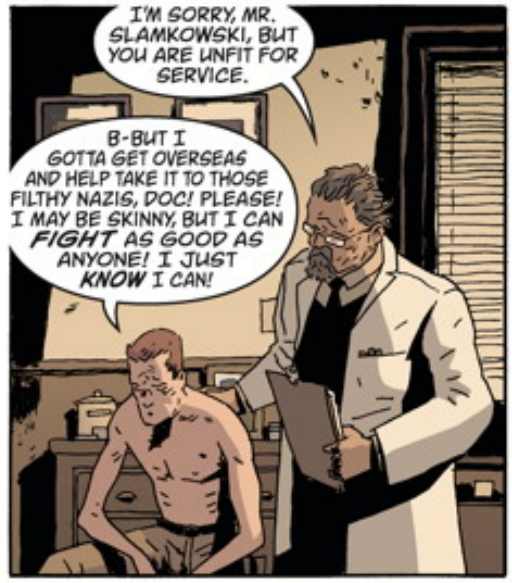

SPIRAL CITY. THE LOWER EAST SIDE.
for the U.S. ARMY
ENLIST
RECRUIT
WAR BONDS


I'M SORRY, MR. SLAMKOWSKI, BUT YOU ARE UNFIT FOR SERVICE.
B-BUT I GOTTA GET OVERSEAS AND HELP TAKE IT TO THOSE FILTHY NAZIS, DOC! PLEASE! I MAY BE SKINNY, BUT I CAN FIGHT AS GOOD AS ANYONE! I JUST KNOW I CAN!

I ADMIRE YOUR GUMPTION, SON, BUT YOU DIDN'T PASS A SINGLE ELEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL. YOU'RE NEAR-SIGHTED, AS THIN AS A TOOTHPICK, AND YOUR LUNGS ARE WEAK. MAYBE YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO HELP UNCLE SAM HERE AT HOME, HMM?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PIPSQUEAK? DID YA STRIKE OUT WITH THE NURSE?
HA!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THE ARMY WOULDN'T TAKE ME. I'VE ALREADY BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE. ALL I WANNA DO IS GET TO EUROPE AND FIGHT.

WHY SO GLUM, CHUM?
HUH? AW, SORRY, MISTER... I JUST WANNA BE ALONE.
THE ARMY WON'T TAKE ME. I'M ABOUT AS USELESS AS IT GETS.

WELL, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP THERE, BOY. YOU REALLY WANNA FIGHT, YOU GOTTA LEARN HOW TO TAKE A FEW PUNCHES.
WHATTA YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

SOCKLINGHAM BOXING GYM.
I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO FIGHT. MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO HELP YOU PUT A FEW POUNDS ON THEM CLOTHES HANGERS YOU CALL SHOULDERS.
RUSED

PUNCH SOCKLINGHAM.
ABRAHAM SLAMKOWSKI. REAL NICE TO MEET'CHA. CAN YOU REALLY HELP ME GET IN SHAPE? TEACH ME TO FIGHT?
THAT DEPENDS... YOU READY TO PUT IN THE HARD WORK, ABE?

"YOU BET I AM!"
SLAM BAM THANK YOU, MA'AM!

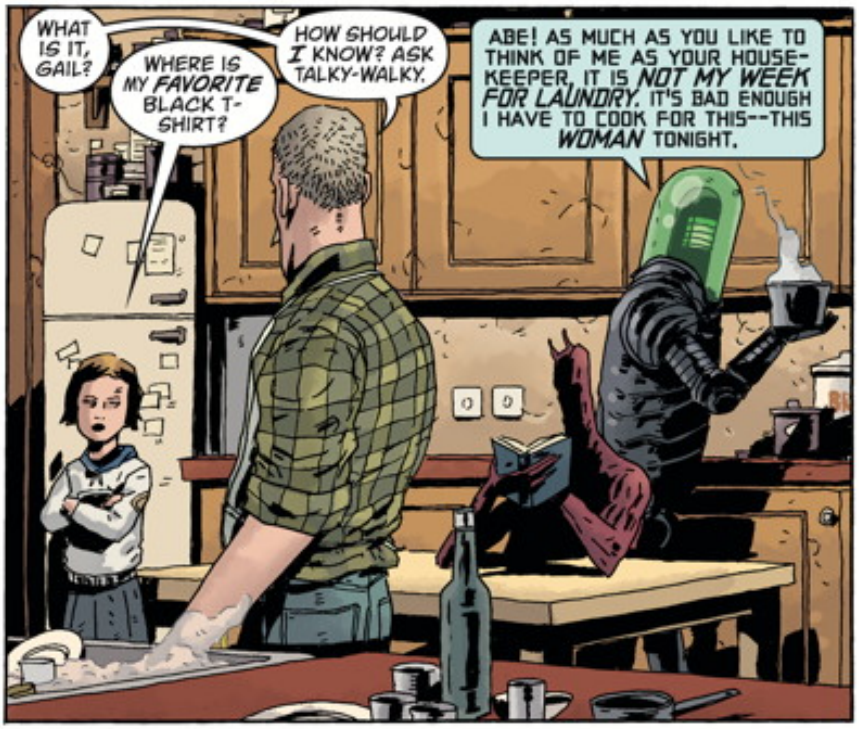
WOW, PUNCH, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE REALLY A HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDER!
SURE WAS, ABE. WITH A NAME LIKE MINE, I WAS BORN TO FIGHT. JUST LIKE YOU.

SLAMKOWSKI?
SLAM...ABRAHAM SLAM. IT'S GOT A NICE RING TO IT! AND YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY FROM THE WALKING BEANPOLE THAT I MET ON THE STREET ALL THOSE MONTHS AGO.
YOU COULD FIGHT ANYONE NOW, ABE.

SOCKLINGHAM-- YOU AND YOUR GIRL-FRIEND DONE TOWELING EACH OTHER OFF YET?
PUNCH, WHO IS THAT?!
QUIET, ABE--STAY HERE!

TELL MR. OLSEN I'LL HAVE THE MONEY NEXT FRIDAY. I GUARANTEE IT!
YOUR WORD IS MUD AROUND HERE, SOCKLING-HAM!
PUNCH?
TIME'S UP, PUNCH!
BOSS TOLD US TO PUNCH YOUR TICKET! HA!
BLAM!
PUNCH!!!
AND WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? PUNCH'S LITTLE GIRLFRIEND GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
CAN'T LEAVE NO WITNESSES, OTTER!
YOU ROTTEN [redacted]!
THWAP!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!
POW!
HOLD ON, PUNCH! I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
T-TOO LATE, ABE--BUT NOT FOR YOU...
WH-WHATTA YOU MEAN?
YOU GOT MORE HEART THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER SEEN, KID. NEVER STOP...N-NEVER STOP FIGHTING...
PUNCH IS RIGHT...MAYBE I MISSED OUT ON THE FIGHT OVERSEAS, BUT THIS JUST PROVES THERE'S STILL PLENTY I CAN DO BACK HERE AT HOME.
I'LL USE MY TRAINING TO TRACK DOWN THIS NEFARIOUS MR. OLSEN AND ALL THE OTHER THUGS LIKE HIM THAT ARE TAKING OVER SPIRAL CITY...
...BUT NOT AS ABE SLAMKOWSKI. NO, CRIMINALS AND NO-GOODERS WILL COME TO FEAR ME BY ANOTHER NAME...

ABRAHAM SLAM!
YO! EARTH TO ABE!
HUH?


WHAT IS IT, GAIL?
WHERE IS MY FAVORITE BLACK T-SHIRT?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? ASK TALKY-WALKY.
ABE! AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE TO THINK OF ME AS YOUR HOUSE-KEEPER, IT IS NOT MY WEEK FOR LAUNDRY. IT'S BAD ENOUGH I HAVE TO COOK FOR THIS--THIS WOMAN TONIGHT.

SHE'S NOT JUST SOME WOMAN, TALKY--THIS IS TAMMY TRUEHEART WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...ABE'S MAIN SQUEEZE. HIS SWEETHEART. SHE MIGHT EVEN BE THE ONE, RIGHT, ABRAHAM?
I MEAN, NONE OF US HAVE EVER BROUGHT ANYONE HOME TO MEET THE FAM BEFORE. THIS IS BIG!
ARE YOU TWO GOING STEADY, ABE? DID YOU GIVE HER YOUR HOMECOMING PIN? ARE YOU GOING TO PROM TOGETHER?

I'M GLAD YOU FIND THIS AMUSING, BARBIE.

THE WAR OF THE WORLD
H.G. WELLS
OH, I DO. I REALLY, REALLY DO.

YOUR T-SHIRT IS PROBABLY IN THE PILE IN THE BASEMENT, GAIL. YOU'LL HAVE TO CLEAN IT YOURSELF. AND REMEMBER, DINNER IS AT SIX! DO NOT BE LATE!
WHATEVER...
...LIKE I CARE WHAT TITTY TAMMY HOSE BAG THINKS.

YOU COULD HELP TOO, YOU KNOW! THERE'S A LOT TO GET READY.
I AM HELPING. I'M READING A BOOK SO THAT I CAN ENRICH MY MIND AND MAKE STIMULATING DINNER CONVERSATION WITH TITTY TAMMY.

DON'T CALL HER THAT!
OH, SORRY, IT JUST NIPPED OUT--OH, I MEAN SLIPPED OUT.

:SIGH:
ABRAHAM--STOP WORRYING. HONESTLY, I'VE SEEN YOU GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH COSMIC DESPOTS AND YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED THIS NERVOUS BEFORE.

I--I JUST REALLY LIKE HER, BARBIE. I JUST WANT THIS DINNER TO GO WELL.
AND IT WILL. I PROMISE. I'LL BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOR, AND SO WILL GAIL. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

SHRACK
OH SWEET CHRIST. I'M DOOMED.
:SNORT!:
--oh, hello, Abraham. Why are you on the ceiling?

Oh--that's better.
LOOK, COLONEL, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
Of course, Abraham... anything.

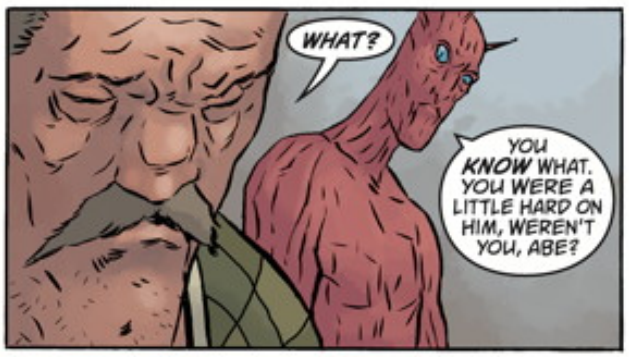
WELL, I'M HAVING A FRIEND OVER FOR DINNER TONIGHT...A LADY FRIEND, AND I--
Oh. That's wonderful. I'd very much like to meet her.

WELL, THAT'S JUST IT, COLONEL. I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD UNDERSTAND. I MEAN--
Me? You're worried about me, Abe? I assure you I can play my part. I'll be your son, Randy. Just like always.

;AHEM;--WELL, COLONEL, TO BE FRANK, I'M NOT SURE WE CAN TRUST YOU TO PLAY THE PART.
I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU--WELL, IF YOU DON'T COME TO DINNER TONIGHT. JUST IN CASE. MAYBE STAY IN THE PARA-ZONE? OR IN THE BARN WITH TALKY?

Oh... I see.
IT'S JUST THAT--WELL, YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN YOURSELF LATELY.

Of course, Abraham...I understand. Don't worry... I won't embarrass you.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I--


WHAT?
YOU KNOW WHAT. YOU WERE A LITTLE HARD ON HIM, WEREN'T YOU, ABE?

A LITTLE TOUGH LOVE NEVER HURT ANYONE, BARBIE.
SURE, ABE... WHATEVER YOU SAY.