



LADIEES AND GENTEELMEN! CRAZY CIRCUS IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE MOST FANTASTIC HIGH-DIVING ACT OF THE CENTURY! HE DIVES ONE-HUNDRED FEET INTO A TINY ONE-FOOT HOLE IN SOLID GROUND AND COMES OUT COMPLETELY UNHARMED AND UNBRUISED! MY GOOD PEOPLE, I GIVE YOU...

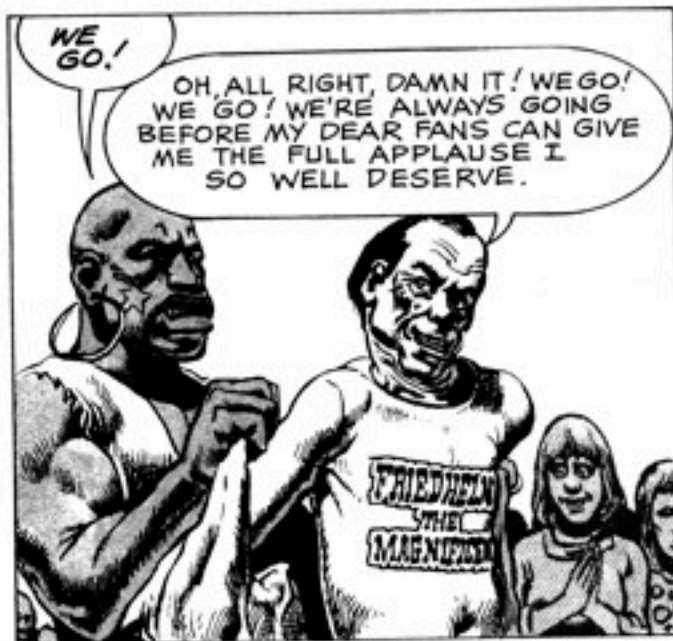


THANK YOU! THANK YOU, MY LITTLE ADMIRERS! THANK YOU!

ENOUGH, FRIEDHELM. WE GO BACK TO TENT NOW.

GET AWAY YOU DUMB JERK! CAN'T YOU SEE THEY LOVE ME? CAN'T YOU SEE THEY WANT ME?





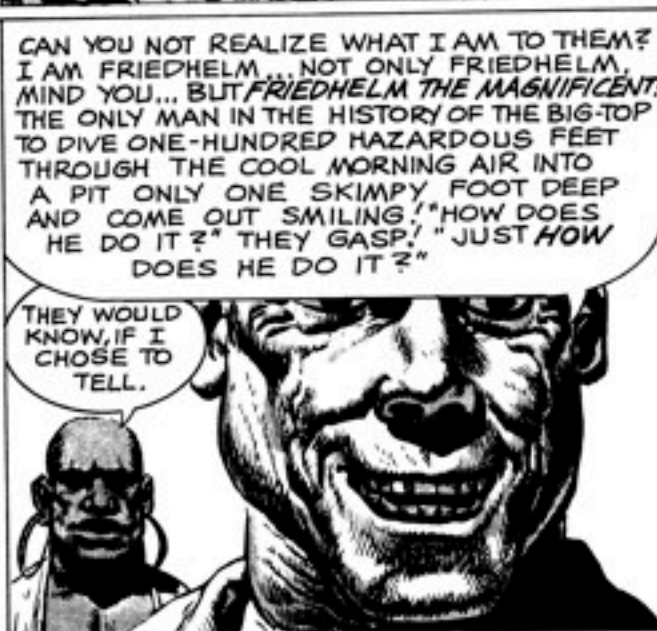
WE GO!
GO!

OH, ALL RIGHT, DAMN IT! WE GO!
WE GO! WE'RE ALWAYS GOING
BEFORE MY DEAR FANS CAN GIVE
ME THE FULL APPLAUSE I
SO WELL DESERVE.



HANDS GET SORE AFTER
MUCH CLAPPING!

BAH!
THEY DON'T MIND, THEY
LOVE ME! THEY'D CLAP THE
SKIN RIGHT OFF THEIR PALMS
FOR ME! CLAP TILL THEY BLEED
IF I WISHED IT! FOR ME, THEY'D
DO ANYTHING! JUST LET ME
STAY LONG ENOUGH SOME
TIME, AND I'LL PROVE
IT!



CAN YOU NOT REALIZE WHAT I AM TO THEM?
I AM FRIEDHELM... NOT ONLY FRIEDHELM,
MIND YOU... BUT FRIEDHELM THE MAGNIFICENT!
THE ONLY MAN IN THE HISTORY OF THE BIG-TOP
TO DIVE ONE-HUNDRED HAZARDOUS FEET
THROUGH THE COOL MORNING AIR INTO
A PIT ONLY ONE SKIMPY FOOT DEEP
AND COME OUT SMILING! "HOW DOES
HE DO IT?" THEY GASP! "JUST HOW
DOES HE DO IT?"

THEY WOULD
KNOW, IF I
CHOSE TO
TELL.



BUT YOU WON'T TELL THEM, YOU
SAVAGE ELEPHANT! WE HAVE
A PACT!

IT IS TRUE, FRIEDHELM.
I CANNOT BREAK THE
PACT. NOR CAN YOU!



THEY LOVE ME, I TELL YOU,
THEY LOVE ME!

THERE
CAN BE NO LOVE FOR
ONE SO COLD AS YOU,
MY COMRADE.



AH! GOOD DAY TO YOU, MY DARK-SKINNED FRIEND. HOW GOES IT WITH YOUR WARD, MASTER FRIEDHELM?

AS USUAL, SA-VHANT. CAN YOU IMAGINE SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES? EVEN I BEGIN TO SPIT ON HIS SELFISH SOUL. TRULY, I AWAIT THE DAY THAT I AM RID OF HIM WITH MUCH EAGERNESS.



WORRY NOT. IN JUST ONE WEEK, FRIEDHELM'S PART OF THE PACT MUST BE PAID. WE HAVE DONE OUR PART, YOU AND I. WE HAVE ENABLED FRIEDHELM TO BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR HIGH-DIVER EVER! WITH MY POWER OF FORESIGHT AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ANCIENT FORGOTTEN WITCHDOCTOR INCANTATIONS AND SYMBOLS, WE HAVE MADE EACH OF FRIEDHELM'S FOOT-DEEP HOLES INTO A PILLOWY CUSHION WHICH CATCHES HIS FALLING FORM AS A MOTHER CRADLES HER NEWBORN!



IT IS TRUE, SA-VHANT. HE THINKS HE IS A GOD, YET IT IS OUR DOING THAT HAS MADE HIM GREAT.

NOT SOLELY OUR DOING, FRIEND. WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR MASTER TO WHOM WE GIVE THE SPOILS OF OUR WORK. IT IS HE THAT FRIEDHELM SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO. IT IS HE THAT HAS MADE THAT ONCE NON-ENTITY INTO A SUPER-STAR OF INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM!



THE SUN RISES SIX TIMES AND SETS ANOTHER SIX, AND WE VIEW THE TENT OF FRIEDHELM IN ALL HIS WARPED MAGNIFICENCE!

YOU PROMISED, FRIEDHELM! YOU PROMISED WE'D BE MARRIED AS SOON AS THE CIRCUS REACHED THIS TOWN. YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW! I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHILD... YOUR CHILD! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US! YOU PROMISED!





AS THE DISCARDED GIRL LEAVES...

OUR PACT, FRIEDHELM! REMEMBER WELL THE NIGHT YOU LAID PEN AND INK TO IT AND SIGNED IT WITH YOUR PENILESS NAME. REMEMBER, TOO, THAT TOMORROW YOU HAVE AGREED TO DO A TASK FOR US IN PAYMENT FOR MAKING YOUR NAME FAMED AND WORSHIPED!

I REMEMBER, OLD DOGS! BUT I ALSO REMEMBER THAT YOU PROMISED ME ONE LITTLE THING THAT YOU'VE FAILED TO EXECUTE. ONE LITTLE THING THAT WAS TO MAKE FRIEDHELM THE MAGNIFICENT, THE ULTIMATE OF ULTIMATE HIGH DIVERS! SUPREME AMONG ALL SUPREMES!



YOU WERE TO ARRANGE THE LONGEST JUMP EVER ATTEMPTED BY MAN FOR ME.

I REMEMBER. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED. OUR AFRICAN COMRADE IS OUTSIDE MAKING THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS AT THIS VERY MOMENT!

GOOD! VERY GOOD! I AM VERY PLEASSED WITH YOU, SA-VHANT. NOW TELL ME ABOUT THE TASK.



IT IS VERY SIMPLE, REALLY. AFTER TOMORROW'S PERFORMANCE TAKE THIS KNIFE AND KILL YOURSELF!





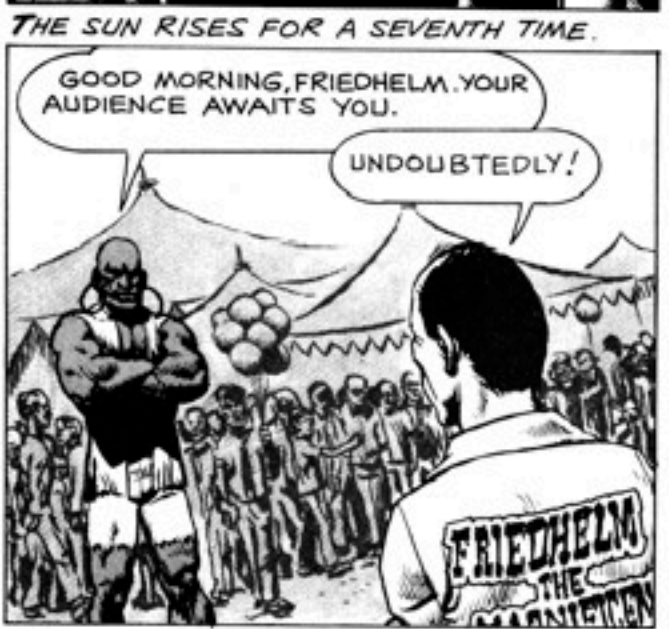
CRAZY OLD YELLOW SKIN! I SAID THAT FRIEDHELM DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROMISES TO KEEP, AND I MEANT IT! BUT WAIT! WHAT IF YOUR BLACK-SKINNED BOY LEARNS OF THIS? HE'D MURDER ME SURE!



I COULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! WHO WOULD ALL MY LITTLE ADMIRERS TURN TO THEN? THEY'D WEEP SO FOR POOR FRIEDHELM! THEY'D ALL COME TO MY FUNERAL AND...NO! NO! I MUSTN'T EVEN THINK SUCH A THING. I MUST GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE!



WHERE CAN I DISPOSE OF... HMMM... THE LIONS HAVEN'T BEEN FED TONIGHT, HAVE THEY? IT'D BE A SHAME TO SEE THE POOR CREATURES GO WITHOUT ANY MEAT TONIGHT!



THE SUN RISES FOR A SEVENTH TIME.

GOOD MORNING, FRIEDHELM. YOUR AUDIENCE AWAITS YOU.

UNDOUBTEDLY!

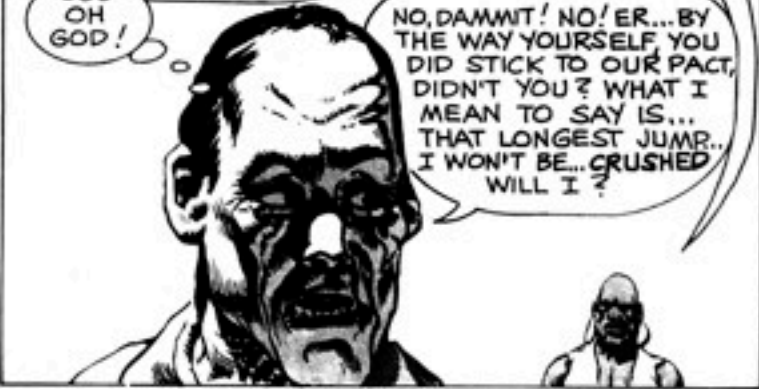
YOUR ACT IS ALL SET. TODAY, YOU JUMP THE LONGEST JUMP EVER RECORDED BY MAN.



BY THE WAY, FRIEDHELM, HAVE YOU SEEN SA-VHANT THIS MORNING?

Ooo
OH
GOD!

NO, DAMMIT! NO! ER... BY THE WAY YOURSELF, YOU DID STICK TO OUR PACT, DIDN'T YOU? WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS... THAT LONGEST JUMP... I WON'T BE... CRUSHED WILL I?



WHERE I COME FROM, TO GO AGAINST THE TERMS OF A PACT IS TO GO AGAINST THE GODS. I HAVE DONE WHAT I HAVE DONE! WHY? DOES FRIEDHELM THE MAGNIFICENT FEEL THE FINGERS OF FEAR AT HIS THROAT? IS HE... AFRAID?



OR ARE YOU JUST...
GUILT-RIDDEN?



IS IT GUILT, FRIEDHELM? IS IT GUILT THAT MAKES YOU SHIVER AS YOU CLIMB TO THE DIVING PLATFORM?



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! I NOW DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION SKYWARD AS WE PRESENT TO YOU FRIEDHELM THE MAGNIFICENT IN HIS LONGEST JUMP EVER. STEP RIGHT UP AND THRILL TO THE MOST SPECTACULAR DIVE YOU HAVE EVER AND WILL EVER SEE!

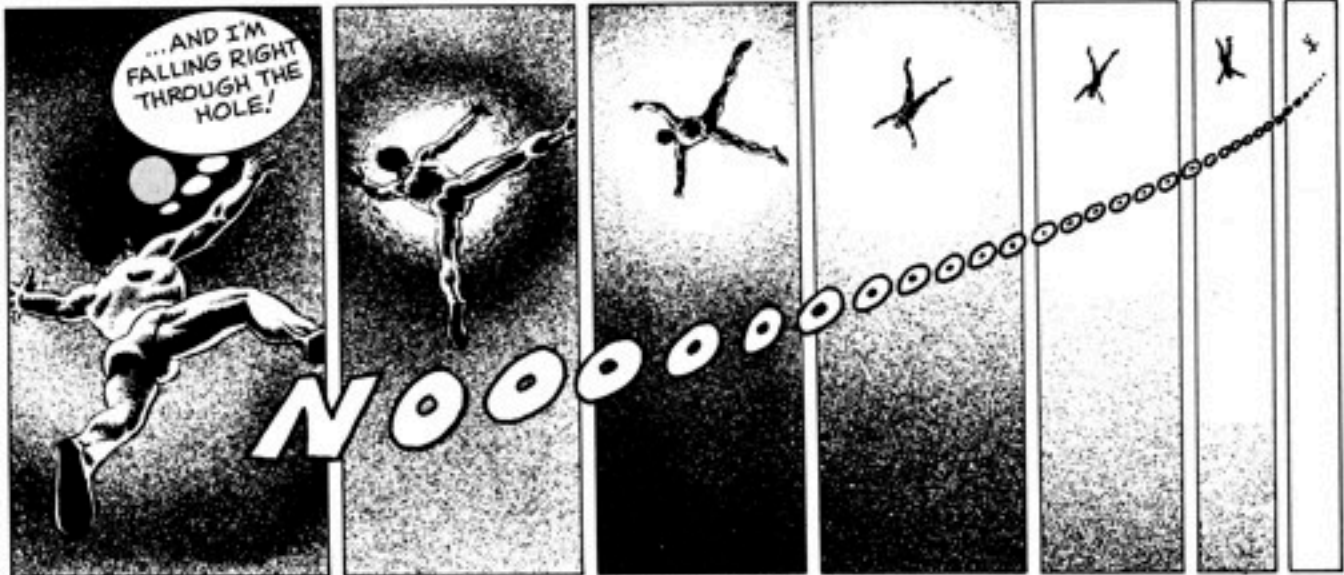


OR AREN'T YOU CAPABLE OF GUILT? PERHAPS, IT IS REALIZATION! DIVE, FRIEDHELM, DIVE!

DIVE AS YOU BEGIN TO REALIZE THE TRUTH! DIVE AS YOU REALIZE THAT YOU REALLY DIDN'T KILL SA-VHANT, YOU MERELY SENT HIM HOME!



DIVE AS YOU REALIZE JUST WHO "OUR MASTER" IS! DIVE AS YOU REALIZE THAT THE PACT HAS NOT BEEN BROKEN!



DIVE! NOW YOU KNOW THAT YOU'VE MADE THE LONGEST DIVE OF ALL TIME...
...ALL THE WAY TO HELL!



END