

SKULL,
THE SLAYER

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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SKULL

THE SLAYER™



A MODERN-DAY MAN-TRAPPED
IN A WORLD OF TIME GONE MAD!

**PERIL
OF THE
PYRAMIDS!**

SAVAGE ACTION AS
YOU'VE COME TO EXPECT
IT FROM FAR-REACHING
HOUSE OF IDEAS!



PLUS!

THE SHOCKING
RETURN OF THE
**BLACK
KNIGHT!**

STAN LEE
PRESENTS!

SKULL the SLAYER™

TIME OUT OF MIND!



TOGETHER AGAIN FOR
THE FOURTH TIME!
STEVE ENGLEHART ★ AUTHOR
SAL BUSCEMA
AND
MIKE ESPOSITO ★ ARTISTS
PLUS
IRV WATANABE • LETTERER
DON WARFIELD • COLORIST
MARY WOLFMAN ★ EDITOR

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CRIPES! TALK ABOUT BUM-OUTS--THIS ONE GOES ON AND ON! THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE, DINOSAURS, ALIENS AND THEIR SUPER-BELTS AND THEIR TOWERS FULLA TIME, AND NOW THIS!

IF WE DON'T GET SOME ANSWERS SOON, JEFF, I'M--

BLUM!



JEFF! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING?

GET YOUR COSTUMED BUTT OUT HERE!



I--SKULL, I--

JEFF! HE NEEDS YOU!

I KNOW, ANN-- BUT--I CAN'T FIGHT THOSE GUYS! I TRIED TO FIGHT THAT DINOSAUR!--

--BUT SKULL WAS RIGHT! I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS GAME!

"LAST ISH. --MARY.



WELL, I AM, BOY--EVEN WITH-OUT THAT SPECIAL BELT OUR HERO HAS!

IT SEEMS TO ME, THOUGH THAT IF YOU'D PICK A KILLER FOR AN IDOL--

BAM!

--YOU'D MAKE SURE WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF VIOLENCE FIRST!



LEAVE THE KID ALONE, COREY! AT LEAST HE'S SCARED OF FIFTEEN ARMED MEN--

TOK!

--NOT ONE LOUSY DINOSAUR LIKE YOU!

"AGAIN, LAST ISH. --M.



I MAY DO MY DAMNEDDEST TO SAVE YOU FROM THESE BOZOS, JERK, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE'LL HAVETA SAVE YOU FROM M--

HUM?



THAT EGYPTIAN--
HE WAS A ROBOT--

--JUST LIKE THE
TYRANNOSAURUS TURNED
OUT TO BE!

MAN, IF I EVER GET
THE TIME, I'M GONNA
HAVE TO GIVE THIS
SCENE SOME LOWS,
HARD THOUGHT--



--BUT I HAVEN'T
GOT TIME NOW!

C'MERE BEFORE
YOU HURT
SOMEBODY WITH
THAT, ABU BEN
GORILLA!



LEMME SHOW YOU WHAT
BABE RUTH MIGHT HAVE
DONE WITH MY SUPER-
POWERS!

SORRY I
DON'T KNOW
ANYBODY
MORE
RECENT--

--BUT I GREW
UP IN NEBRASKA
AND WE DON'T
HAVE A TEAM
TO FOLLOW!



BESIDES,
PEOPLE FROM
NEBRASKA--

--ARE ALL
DULL!

TUNK!



YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY,
DON'T YOU--WAR, I MEAN!

YOU--
UNNNH!



COREY! MAN, COULD I USE
SOME OF MY OLD INFANTRY
BUDDIES HERE!

WITH
HIM
DOWN--



--THE ODDS JUST WENT UP
TO FIFTEEN-TO-ONE--

--AND THAT'S MORE THAN EVEN
I'M WILLIN' TO BET INTO!



IF ONLY JEFF HAD HELPED!
THESE CLOWNS AREN'T SO
STRONG--ALL WE NEEDED
WAS NUMBERS!

AH WELL--I WAS
THE ONLY ONE
WHO WENT TO
NAM! WHAT CAN
YOU EXPECT?

OKAY, THEN--WE PLAY THE
PERCENTAGES FOR NOW!
BUT I PROMISE YOU
ONE THING, BOYS--

--YOU'LL NEVER PUT
ME IN A PRISON CAMP!



SILENCE, CAUCASIAN! YOU'LL
DO JUST AS YOU'RE TOLD--

--EVEN AS
THE NEGROID
WHOM WE
FIRST CAP-
TURED WILL!



WE HAVE OUR REASONS
FOR EXTENDING YOUR
TWO LIVES--

--BUT
OTHERS MAY
DIE IF YOU
FAIL TO
COMPLY!



YOU ARE THE **FIRST** MEN EVER TO
PASS THE PERILS OF **PREHISTORY** IN
SAFETY! FOR THAT REASON ALONE,
MY MASTER SUTHEROUGE WILL
WISH TO SEE YOU!

YOUR MASTER, HUH?
NOW **THAT'S** A MAN I'M
LOOKIN' FORWARD TO
MEETIN' MYSELF!

LEAD ON,
LOUD-
MOUTH!



SKULL, I--I'M SORRY--!

ALL RIGHT,
BOY! WE
HEARD
YOU ONCE
ALREADY!

JIM
SCULLY
IS
SILENT.



WHAT'S THERE TO
SAY THAT HASN'T
ALREADY BEEN
HEARD?

THAT'S THE
PAST--THE
PAST IS DEAD
(MORE OR LESS)--



--AND IF THEY DON'T WANT
TO END UP THE SAME WAY,
JIM SCULLY'S GONNA HAVE
TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR
FUTURE!

JIM! MY
GOD, JIM--!

I SEE
IT, ANN!
KEEP CALM!



PRISONERS!
I PRESENT--

--MY MASTER--
SLITHEROGUE!

THE PHARAOH'S GARB HANGS STRANGELY
ON THE LITHE, LEAN FRAME BEFORE THEM--
THE GEMS FLASH AND SPARKLE AS THE
SLICK PURPLE FINGERS INTERTWINE--

--BUT IT'S THE STENCH THAT
REALLY STUNS THEM--THE
STENCH SCULLY'S KNOWN IN
LATRINES, AND THE FLOOR OF
HIS CONG PRISON CELL--



--THE STENCH NO HUMAN WOULD
ABIDE!

OKAY,
MISTER "MASTER"
--IT'S TIME FOR
SHOW AND TELL!

TELL YOUR
TROOPS TO
HOLD THEIR
FIRE--



--AND TELL US WHAT YOU'RE
TRYIN' TO PROVE AROUND
THIS PLACE!

WE'VE PUT IN A LOT OF HARD
DUTY SINCE YOU PULLED OUR
PLANE IN HERE--SEEN A
LOT OF CRAZY THINGS--

--AND COME HELL
OR HIGH WATER,
I'M FINDIN' OUT
WHY!



YESSS...YOU ARE WELL-SUITED
FOR SURVIVAL, CALICASIAN. YOU
APPEAR DEVOID OF THE NORMAL
TERRAN FEARS!

IF YOU WISH TO KNOW
MY SECRETS.

...I'D CONSIDER
IT AN HONOR TO
DISPLAY THEM!

"I COME FROM A FAR-DISTANT WORLD, IN THE STAR SYSTEM SCORPIUS. WE CONSIDER IT A PARADISE..."



"...ESPECIALLY SO SINCE WE CREATED THE PERFECT CONSTRUCT--A 'ROBOT' IN YOUR VERNACULAR."

"ONCE COMPLETED, THEY TOIL UNCEASINGLY-- UNCOMPLAININGLY. IN FACT, THEY PRESENT ONLY ONE PROBLEM..."



"...THAT OF KEEPING THEM OCCUPIED! WERE THEY TO STAND IDLE OFTEN, THEY WOULD DE-DETERIORATE, LIKE ANY INTRICATE MACHINE BADLY USED..."



"...AND TO LESSEN THEIR PERFECT MOTIVATION WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE FOR THEIR EXISTENCE!"

"WE FOUND WE NEEDED NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER--"



"--WORLDS TO PROVIDE PROJECTS FOR OUR CONSTRUCTS."

"WE CHOSE EARTH--"

"--AND ARRIVAL IN YOUR PREHISTORY. IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD HOLD HERE, WE SET UP A VORTEX TO PULL WHATEVER IT TOUCHED THROUGHOUT TIME BACK TO US."



"YOUR ERA KNOWS IT AS THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE."

"THUS, ONCE WE LEARNED YOUR DEVELOPMENT, WE MOLDED OUR CONSTRUCTS IN THE FORMS OF YOUR LIFE..."



"...AND BEGAN TO REBUILD YOUR HISTORY!"

I WAS LEFT IN CHARGE HERE, TO KEEP THE MEN WHO HAVE ARISEN ON YOUR WORLD FROM LEARNING THAT NOT ALL WHO WALK AMONG THEM ARE HUMAN!



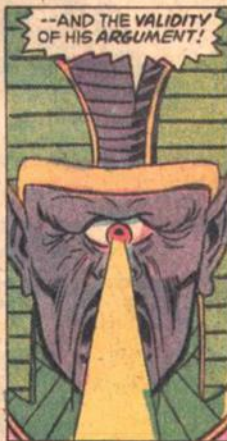
IN TIME--WHEN THERE ARE ENOUGH CONSTRUCTS HERE--WE SHALL SWEEP FORWARD, THROUGH ALL OF TIME--

--AND BRING ALL ERAS UNDER OUR DOMINATION!

BUT--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



YOU CAN'T CONQUER TIME!





YOU DO KNOW WAR, CALICASOID! PERHAPS IT'S BEST YOU KNOW A PRISON CELL NOW THAT OUR CONVERSATION HAS ENDED!

GUARDS!

MOVING SMARTLY, SWIFTLY, THE ROBOTS TAKE SCULLY, COREY, AND ANN AWAY--DOWN HOLLOW STONE HALLS TO THE DARK, DANK, BOWELS OF THE EARTH!

THERE'S NEITHER TIME NOR CHANCE TO FIGHT THEM! SKULL HAS TO GO ALONG...!

OH GOD!
JEFF--POOR
JEFF!
POOR
US!

ALL OUR PROBLEMS--HIS FATHER, FEMINISM--EVEN YOUR FEUD--

THEY ALL SEEM SO PETTY NOW. WE COULD ALL BE DEAD AT ANY MINUTE!

MY MOTHER TOLD ME ABOUT WORLD WAR II--HOW HELPLESS SHE FELT WHEN SHE HEARD ABOUT PEARL HARBOR!

I NEVER-- NEVER THOUGHT I'D FACE ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

WHAT CAN WE DO, JIM?

JUST WHAT SHE DID, ANN! JUST WHAT A LOT OF US DID TWICE SINCE THEN--AND A MILLION TIMES BEFORE!

WE HOLD ON--AND HOLD OUT!

THAT'S RIGHT, SCULLY--GIVE THE LADY SOME COMFORT!

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY HUMAN FEELINGS--DO YOU, KILLER? ALL YOU KNOW IS WAR, AND TO BLAZE WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED!

JEFF WAS JUST A CASUALTY--JUST A NUMBER! RIGHT?

AGAIN, JIM SCULLY SAYS NOTHING, AND HE TURNS HIS STONE FACE ASIDE, BUT WITHIN HIS BOILING BRAIN, THE MOVIE STARTS AGAIN...THE FILM ABOUT ANOTHER WAR AND ANOTHER JEFF...

...HIS BROTHER!



THE PLAN IS SIMPLE. THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE COMPLICATED OUT HERE. EVEN WITH SCULLY'S BELT, HE CAN'T FIGHT THESE METAL MONSTERS!



NO, IT'S JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL--

--TILL SCULLY SEES A BREAK!



HE LOOKED LONG ENOUGH FOR ONE IN NAM!

THERE, HE NEVER FOUND IT, BUT TODAY--



NOW!

--HE HAS!

ALL HE NEEDED WAS ONE CARELESS GUARD! THE ROBOTS MAY BE INDUSTRIOUS, BUT THEY LACK A CERTAIN DEDICATION FOUND IN VIET CONG!



SKULL TAKES THIS LOSER OUT--

AND THEY ALL RUN LIKE THE BLAZES!

THAT'S THE PLAN.

DESTROY THEM!

PRETTY SIMPLE, HUH?

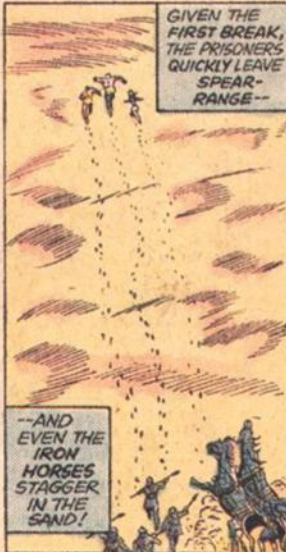


THE THING IS, IT HAS EVERYTHING GOING FOR IT! EVEN AFTER EIGHT HOURS UNDER THE EGYPTIAN SUN, SKULL, COREY, AND ANN HAVE A DEDICATION FOR RUNNING--



--AND THE ROBOTS WERE BUILT TO WALK!

GIVEN THE FIRST BREAK, THE PRISONERS QUICKLY LEAVE SPEAR-RANGE--



--AND EVEN THE IRON HORSES STAGGER IN THE SAND!

NOW, IF ONLY--

AAAAGHH!

JIM!





THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY JUST DOES THE ENEMY'S JOB FOR HIM, AND AIDING THE ENEMY'S A CRIME!

BLAST-- BUT THAT'S ANN BACK THERE.

HERE'S THE DOOR BACK INTO THE TIME-TOWER--

NO--I CAN'T REALLY GO THROUGH IT! I'VE GOT TO TURN BACK!

BLAST IT, ANN, YOU WERE A GOOD WOMAN, AND YOU DID YOUR BEST, AND I MURDERED YOU!

BUT YOU, COREY-- YOU WERE THE BIGGEST FOOL I EVER MET!



JIM SCULLY TURNS, ALL OF HIS REASON TELLING HIM TO RUN AND ALL OF HIS BODY STOCK STILL--

AND THEN HE SEES--



--WHAT HE KNEW HE'D SEE!



AND NOW THERE'S ONLY SCULLY, JAMES PATRICK, CAPTAIN 303-50-0467 TO CARRY ON!

TIME TO GO, BABE-- BEFORE THE TROOPERS CATCH YOU!



IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN TO 19--

CLUNK!

A THROWN ROCK!



A LAST-SECOND TRY BY THE ROBOTS--

--THAT ALMOST WORKS!



SCULLY FALLS, BUT INTO THE TOWER!

DOWN-- INTO THE TOWER!



KUMP!



I SEE AND MARVEL, LORD MERLIN! MY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THY CAUSE HAVE FAILED TO TEMPER MY AWE AT YOUR FEATS OF MAGIC!

STILL, THIS IS NO DEMON OF MY EXPERIENCE! HIS RAIMENT IS MOST UNUSUAL--



--AND HIS VISAGE BEARS THE SEMBLANCE OF HUMANITY!

MERLIN! HE CALLED HIM MERLIN!

I'M IN A ROBOTIC NIGHTMARE OF KING ARTHUR'S TIME!



A JOKE--THAT'S WHAT IT MUST BE! A COSMIC JOKE, SCULLY--AND EACH TIME YOU THINK YOU'VE FOUND THE PUNCHLINE, SOMEONE SLAPS ANOTHER PIE IN YOUR PUSS!



A JOKE! BUT WHEREAS MOST MEN IN YOUR PLACE WOULD DISOLVE INTO LAUGHTER--THE ENDLESS KIND, THAT RISES INTO SCREAMS--

--YOU--



BY THE SEVEN SACRED SPELLS!

--GET MAD!



THE DEMON HATH FOUGHT FREE OF MY CONTROL!

YOU BET I HAVE, BUDDY!

NOBODY'S GONNA HOLD ME BACK ANY MORE! I'VE HAD IT WITH THAT!

YOU'RE GONNA--







I MAY BE A BARBARIAN 'CAUSE
I DON'T DO CHIVALRY--

--BUT I'M FROM
A MUCH MORE
ADVANCED TIME
THAN YOURS!



FIGURE THAT
ONE--WHEN YOU
WAKE UP!

ALL RIGHT, MERLIN! SHOOT YOUR
NEXT SHOT! AND YOUR NEXT! AND
KEEP 'EM COMIN', 'CAUSE IN THE
END, I'M LEAVIN' ANYWAY!

BUT BEFORE I DO, I'M GONNA
KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW
ABOUT SLITHEROUSIE AND HIS
TIME-TOWER, SO NO ONE
CAPTURES ME AGAIN!

GET IT ON, OLD MAN!
HERE I COME!



THEN PRAY, COME SIT BESIDE
ME, YOUNG SIR--FOR 'TWOULD
SEE' A MORE SENSIBLE AC-
TION THAN PUMMELEING MY
ANCIENT BONES IN VAIN!



I SHALL
FREELY SPEAK
--IF THOU
WILST!

THERE'S A LOOK IN
MERLIN'S EYES--
NOT A LOOK OF
HYPNOTIC SORCERY
BUT A LOOK OF
JUSTICE AND POWER.
SKULL LOOKS AT
THAT LOOK--

--AND TALKS.

--SO, I GOT OUT ALONE...AND ENDED UP ROLLIN' TO HERE.

INCREDIBLE--
IF TRUE.

OH, 'TIS
TRUE, SIR
KNIGHT...!



THIS TALE DOETH LEND FIRM
SUBSTANCE TO A FEAR I'VE
HARBORED, LO, THESE
MANY NIGHTS!

LONG HAVE I FELT
THAT THE FOES OF
OUR LORD ARTHUR DO
PREPARE AN OCCULT
ATTACK UPON HIS
MAJESTY--

--AND NOW I
SEE THE
NATURE OF
THEIR DEMONIC
ALLIES!



GOOD SIR, MERLIN HATH
SWORN TO PROTECT THE
GLORY OF CAMELOT! TO
THAT END HAVE I PLEDGED
THE BLACK KNIGHT
TO MY SERVICE!

I OFFER THEE
THE SAME
OPPORTUNITY!

JOIN WITH
US AND SMITE
THE DEMON
SLITHEROUSIE!

THINK
ON IT!



HE THINKS SLITHEROGUE IS A
DEMON, AND NOT FROM OUTER--

AHH, BUT WHAT'S THAT
MATTER? HE KNOWS WHAT
HE WANTS JUST LIKE I DO,
AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!

I PLAYED THE GAME RIGHT, AND
STILL LOST ALL MY PEOPLE!
THAT'S WAR...

... BUT IF I'M GONNA WIN, I'M
GONNA NEED PEOPLE WHO CAN
FIGHT ALONGSIDE ME!

GOODBYE,
ANN, JEFF...
AND COREY...

OKAY, MERLIN--
I'M YOUR MAN!

**FINAL THREAD: SOMEWHERE
ELSE IN CAMELOT THIS EVE, A SEC-
OND SCENE OF SORCERY
IS PLAYED...**

ARISE, ARISE, O
ETERNAL SERPENT!

SEEK THE FIRES
OF MINE
AWAITING ARMS!

WHO CALLS THEN...

...UPON SLITHEROGUE?

I, LORD
OF EVIL--

--MORGAN LE FEY,
WHO DOETH COUNT
NO ONE BEFORE
HER IN THE PUR-
SUIT OF THE
EVIL ARTS!

I CALL UPON
THEE FOR POWER,
TO CRUSH MINE
ARCH-ENEMIES,
MERLIN AND
ARTHUR!

FOOL CAUCASOID! SHE SEES MY
TRAVEL THROUGH TIME AS HER DOING--

WHEN ALL SHE DID
WAS FURNISH ME
DIRECTION!
STILL....!

I'LL AID YOU,
WOMAN--YES, TO
DESTROY YOUR
ENEMIES--

--AND ONE MORE OF
MINE: **SKULL
THE SLAYER!**

TIME-TOSSED TRAVELER
VS.
SINISTER SORCERY
IN A TALE OF

MEDIEVAL EVIL!

HE THINKS SLITHEROGUE IS A DEMON, AND NOT FROM OUTER--

AHH, BUT WHAT'S THAT MATTER? HE KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS JUST LIKE I DO, AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!



I PLAYED THE GAME RIGHT, AND STILL LOST ALL MY PEOPLE! THAT'S WAR...

... BUT IF I'M GONNA WIN, I'M GONNA NEED PEOPLE WHO CAN FIGHT ALONGSIDE ME!

GOODBYE, ANN, JEFF... AND COREY...



OKAY, MERLIN-- I'M YOUR MAN!



FINAL THREAD: SOMEWHERE ELSE IN CAMELOT THIS EVE, A SECOND SCENE OF SORCERY IS PLAYED...

ARISE, ARISE, O ETERNAL SERPENT!



SEEK THE FIRES OF MINE AWAITING ARMS!

WHO CALLS THEN...

...UPON SLITHEROGUE?



I, LORD OF EVIL--

--MORGAN LE FEY, WHO DOETH COUNT NO ONE BEFORE HER IN THE PURSUIT OF THE EVIL ARTS!



I CALL UPON THEE FOR POWER, TO CRUSH MINE ARCH-ENEMIES, MERLIN AND ARTHUR!

FOOL CAUCASOID! SHE SEES MAY TRAVEL THROUGH TIME AS HER DOING--

WHEN ALL SHE DID WAS FURNISH ME DIRECTION! STILL...

I'LL AID YOU, WOMAN--YES, TO DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES--

--AND ONE MORE OF MINE: **SKULL THE SLAYER!**



TIME-TOSSED TRAVELER VS. SINISTER SORCERY IN A TALE OF

MEDIEVAL EVIL!