

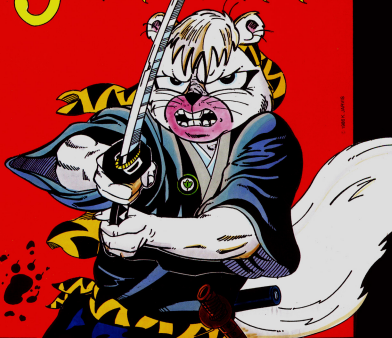
SPOTLIGHT COMICS

\$1.75

NO. 2

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SAMURAI SQUIRREL



WELCOME EVERYONE!

Welcome to the second issue of **SAMURAI SQUIRREL**! You hold in your hands the second part of an epic quest filled with mystical and magical beasts, heroic warriors and beautiful maidens "clad in fur."

It is the beginning of an adventure with our heroic nut-eater and his journey to find the truth about life and death.

SPOTLIGHT COMICS plans to publish **SAMURAI SQUIRREL** eight times a year and promises each issue will maintain, if not surpass, the quality of this one.

For those of you new to this series, a brief retelling of last issue.

In issue #1, we were introduced to a weird and primitive life of small mammals on an unknown world. Here, animals, 2½ to 3 feet tall, take life seriously in a wild culture. To them, death is a fact of life. It can be given as swift as it can be taken.

NATO-SAN, a young albino squirrel, with his brother **MALIK-QUI** is confronted by bandits who wish to steal food and money from the pair. **NATO** is swift with his blades and one falls. His brother, however, is unskilled and fails. **NATO** comes to his aid and the bandit falls with a large headache!

From there, **NATO** finds a large red gemstone pendant on the bandit's body, and takes it as a token. The two then head off back to camp.

Unknown to them, an evil ferret named **MORDAK OMISOGGI** desires the pendant for himself, but for different reasons!

Back at camp, **MALIK**, tired of running, confronts **NATO** about his brother's self-guilt of their past. **NATO**, now **RONIN**, fights back and **MALIK** storms off into the darkness.

That night, **MALIK** is attacked by Mordak's ninjas and is struck down with a **NINJA** star while **NATO** sleeps.

NATO wakes to a horrifying sight and vows death to his brother's murderers. Thus begins the squirrel's journey.

He takes up the task from two birds to rescue their child from a giant spider known as **SILVERBACK**, in exchange for transportation to the **CITY OF SORROW**, **NATO's** next stop.

As this issue begins, we find **NATO** discovering the main chamber in the spider's lair and a room filled with cocoons.

But in which one is the bird-child? Will **NATO** find the baby before the monster is awake? Is **MALIK** dead?

READ ON AND ENJOY!

With special thanks to Rich Maurizio, Dennis Kayatt and Wendy Pini for her advice and her artistic abilities which inspire me so...being a female artist, and the rest of my beloved friends for all their help!

Thanks...

WRITE IN, I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SPOTLIGHT COMICS

c/o "TAILS END"

145 Grandview Ave.

Third Floor

Waterbury, CT 06708



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IF A MORE HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE
COULD COME TO LIFE, **NATO-SAN**
IS NOT SURE WHAT IT MIGHT BE ...

THE THICK-ROTTEN SCENT IS UNBEARABLE,
BUT IS SOON FORGOTTEN AS HE REMEM-
BERS THE GREAT TASK AHEAD OF HIM...



NEVER HAS **NATO** VENTURED
INTO A SPIDER'S LAIR OR FOUGHT
A SPIDER EXCEPT AT SWORD'S
LENGTH. BUT THIS TIME IT IS
DIFFERENT...

THIS IS GOING
TO BE A LITTLE
HARDER THAN I
THOUGHT!

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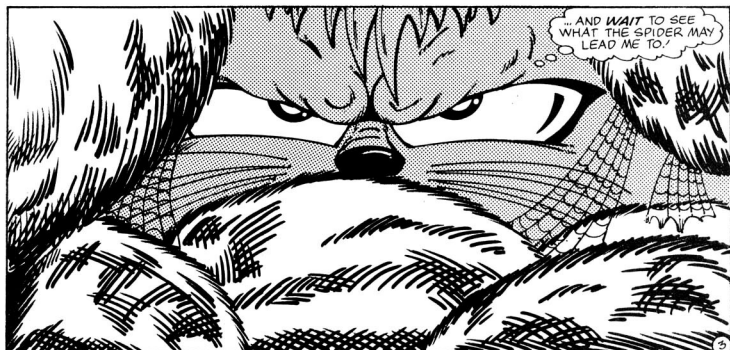
GENTLY HOLDING THE BLADE OF
HIS **KATANA**, HIS "SOUL SWORD"
THE SQUIRREL CONTINUES FORWARD.
HIS SENSES WARN HIM OF GREAT
DANGER...

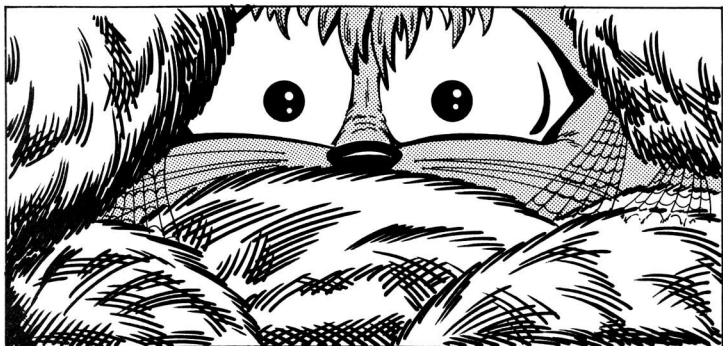
*SEE **SAMURAI
SQUIRREL** #1

CHAPTER I PART II

"ALONG CAME A SPIDER..."









I KNOW OF YOUR INTENTIONS, RODENT, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU YOU WILL NEVER FIND THAT BIRD WHILE I'M ALIVE!



HE'S TRYING TO PRY ME OUT. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE CAREFUL...

YOU'RE TRYING MY PATIENCE... YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME? WHERE EVER YOU HIDE I WILL FIND YOU... RODENT!



SHOW YOURSELF OR I'LL CRUSH EVERY COCCOON IN THIS LAIR. THEY MEAN NOTHING TO ME, JUST PLAY THINGS.



NO, MONSTER! YOU'LL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR ACTS OF CRUELTY!



YOUR BLOOD WILL FALL TODAY AND NOURISH NOTHING!



MEANWHILE...

CHAINS, THIS
BETTER BE WORTH
MY TIME!



IF THIS IS ANOTHER
FAILURE ON YOUR
PART...



NO, SIRE, YOU'LL SEE. THE
GUARDS SAID THEY'RE HAVING
A BIT OF TROUBLE WITH
HIM, FIGHTING ALL THE
TIME.

NO, CHAINS, HE'LL DO
AS HE'S TOLD. THERE ARE
MANY WAYS TO MAKE
HIM OBEY!



RIGHT THIS
WAY, SIRE! HE'S
IN HERE.

I DON'T SEE
HOW THIS CREATURE
CAN HELP YOU... HE'S
QUITE WEAK...



SLAG, YOU'RE IN
NO POSITION TO ASK
QUESTIONS... **RE-**
MEMBER THAT!

Uh, SORRY,
SIRE.

THERE HE IS, SIRE.
WHY DON'T YOU
STAND UP
ONE-EYE?

THE **POOR** BOY...
HOW MUCH MORE CAN
HE STAND?

SHOW YOUR MASTER
SOME RESPECT! OR DO I
HAVE TO MAKE YA?
Ha, Ha, Ha...



DAMN! I'VE GOT TO HAVE IT!

I SEARCHED HIM, JUST AS YOU ORDERED, BUT I FOUND NO PRETTY GEMSTONE. JUST A BUNCH OF DRIED UP LEAVES AND A FEW SEEDS...

CHAING? IS IT POSSIBLE, HE THREW IT AWAY BEFORE HE WAS CAUGHT?

CHAING? ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

OH! Uh...Uh... YES, SIRE! I GUESS IT IS... Uh, POSSIBLE.



SLAG! UNCHAIN HIM. MAKE HIM **KNEEL** BEFORE ME... HIS NEW **MASTER**. I HAVE TO QUESTION HIM.

YES, SIRE!



YOU'RE GONNA TALK FOR OL' SLAG, AREN'T YA, ONE-EYE? NOW KNEEL!




WHERE IS THE **MEDALLION**? ANSWER ME, OR I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!




I USUALLY DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH PRISONERS, BUT... YOU SEE I MUST HAVE THIS MEDALLION. WHAT DO YOU DESIRE? GEMS, RICHES, WOMEN? TELL ME AND IT'S ALL YOURS!





YOU'LL DIE A MOST PAINFUL DEATH IF I CATCH YOU, SQUIRREL!

NATO KNOWS THE ONLY HOPE OF BEATING THE SPIDER IS TO TRICK HIM! HE SWINGS HIS SWORD...



NATO USES THE TIME TO RUN UNDERNEATH THE SPIDER. NATO'S TRICK WORKED!

THE SPIDER PULLS BACK TO PROTECT HIS EYES...

RAAAA

NATO TURNS AROUND, SUBDUED BY THE SPIDER'S PAIN.

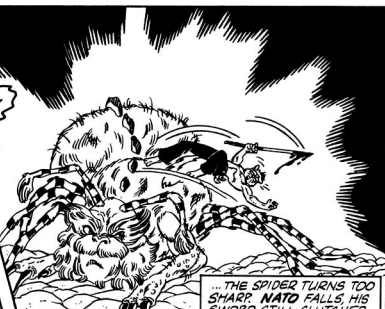
HE JUMPS TO THE SPIDER'S BACK, USING HIS CLAWS TO CLING TO THE "ARACHNIDS" TOUGH HIDE.

THE SPIDER FIGHTS DESPERATELY. NATO IS ROCKED LEFT AND RIGHT...

... HIS LIMBS ARE IN AGONY BUT HIS STRENGTH DOES NOT GIVE WAY. MOMENT BY MOMENT NATO'S SWORD GETS CLOSER TO ITS MARK. BUT, THEN ...



AAAAHH!

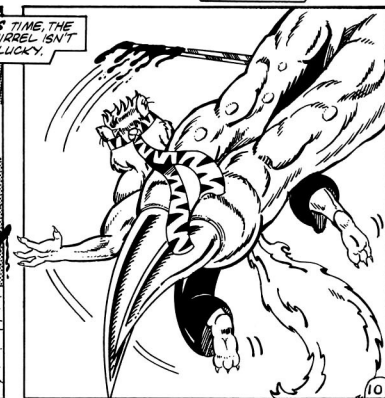


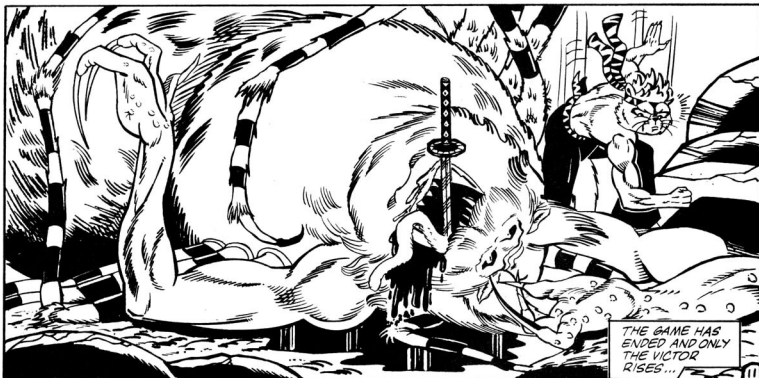
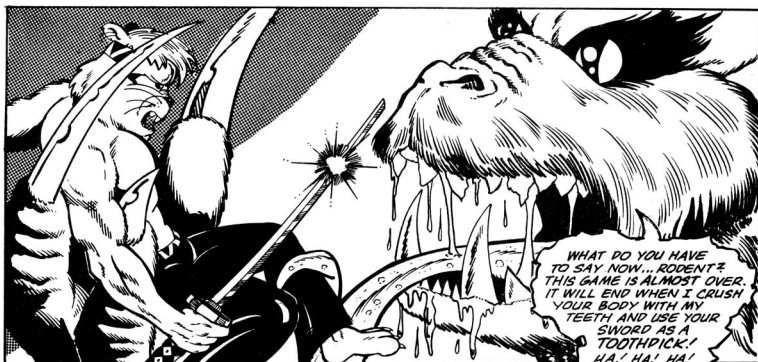
... THE SPIDER TURNS TOO SHARP. NATO FALLS, HIS SWORD STILL CLUTCHED IN HIS PAW...

THE SPIDER CLOSES IN...

THIS TIME, THE SQUIRREL ISN'T SO LUCKY.

I'VE GOT YOU NOW!





ALL THAT REMAINS FOR THE YOUNG SAMURAI IS TO RETRIEVE THE SWORD AND FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE THIS FOUL-SMELLING PLACE...



...WITH THE BABY BIRD AT HIS HEELS.

RETRIEVING HIS SWORD, THE SQUIRREL FINDS IS SIMPLE ENOUGH.



A CRY IS HEARD FROM FAR UP THE SHEER WALL, AT THE TOP OF THE PIT... FAR TOO HIGH AND SHEER FOR THE SAMURAI TO NURTURE ANY REALISTIC HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO SCALE THEM SUCCESSFULLY...



FORTUNATELY, THE RIM OF THE PIT IS WITHIN REACH...



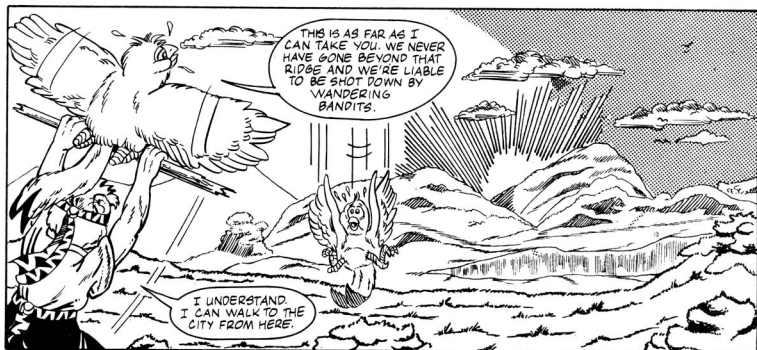
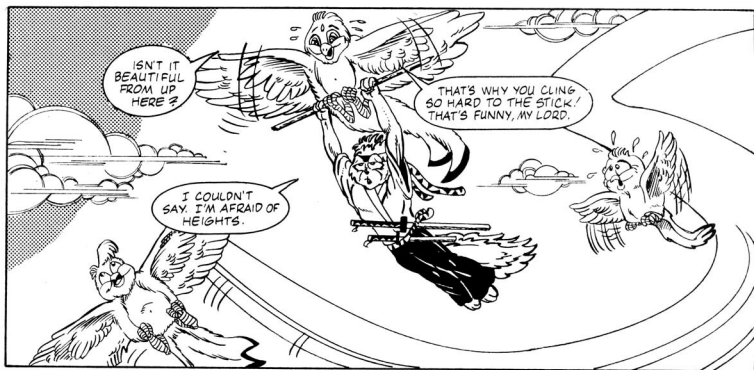
... AND WITHIN MINUTES...



MY SENSES TELL ME HE'S UP HERE, BUT WHERE?

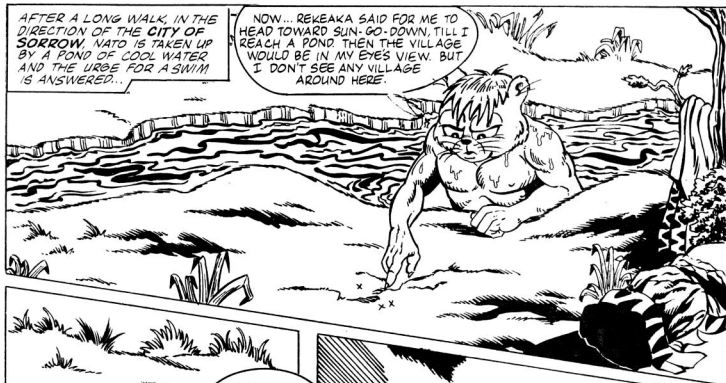






AFTER A LONG WALK, IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY OF SORROW, NATO IS TAKEN UP BY A POND OF COOL WATER, AND THE URGE FOR A SWIM IS ANSWERED...

NOW... REKEAKA SAID FOR ME TO HEAD TOWARD SUN-GO-DOWN, TILL I REACH A POND. THEN THE VILLAGE WOULD BE IN MY EYES VIEW. BUT I DON'T SEE ANY VILLAGE AROUND HERE.



KNOWING ME, IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT... OF... MY... EYES...

... AND I'M JUST... WALKING BY IT!

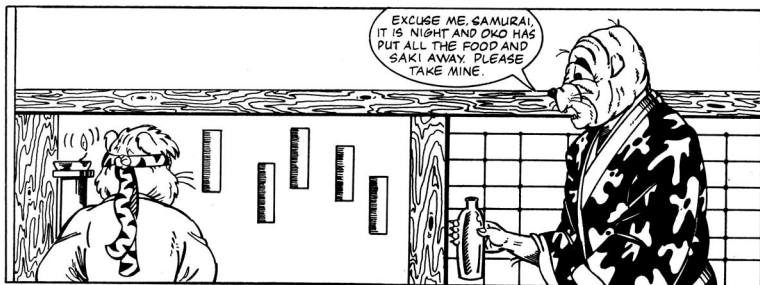


THAT'S IT! NOW I'M GETTING SOMEWHERE!













I HAVE WASTED SO MUCH TIME ALREADY... BUT IF I SAY NO, HIS DAUGHTER WILL BE TAKEN AND TOSHIO WILL BE KILLED... IT WILL BE MY FAULT!



Panbi!

... GOT TO... HURRY!!



IF I SAY YES...



... MUST TELL THE WATCHER!



I GO AFTER MORDAK WITH YOUR HELP!



IF I'M LUCKY, I MIGHT GET A REWARD FOR THIS.



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COMING SOON ULTRAPOWERFULMAN



SO YOU SAY YOU'VE HAD YOUR FILL
OF SUPERHEROES WHO ALWAYS
GET THE JOB DONE WITHOUT SO MUCH
AS A PROBLEM?

WELL, MEET THE NEWEST GUY ON
THE BLOCK--

ULTRAPOWERFULMAN!