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WINTER
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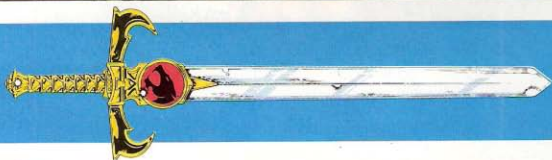
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**WAKING
NIGHTMARE!**

**COLLECTED
COMICS 1**

THE CATS' LAIR



THUNDERCATS... HO! It's classic action time as we represent some of the very best Thundercats adventures of days gone by in this, the first in a brand new series of COLLECTED COMICS! *Waking Nightmare* is a titanic two-part tale which originally saw the light of day in THUNDERCATS issues 9-10, and pits Lion-O, Hereditary Lord of those selfsame fearless felines against the ancient evil of Mumm-Ra, the Ever Living! Lion-O was but ten years old when his home planet of Thundara was destroyed, and the Thundercats launched out on their epic, perilous quest for a new home. When Lion-O emerged from his suspension capsule on the world of Third Earth, he found that he had grown to manhood – but in body only. Lion-O still possessed the rash, impetuous mind of a ten year-old, and this is a weakness of which the evil Mumm-Ra is only too aware! Join the Lord of the Thundercats in the hardest fought battle of his young life – against fear itself! And don't forget – you can follow the further adventures of Lion-O, Panthro, Tygra, Cheetara, Wilykat, Wilykit and Snarf each week in the pages of THUNDERCATS weekly. Like we said – THUNDERCATS... HO!

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WAKING NIGHTMARE!

PART ONE.

MY NAME IS
LION-O...

I'M HEREDITARY
LEADER OF THE
NOBLE WARRIORS
KNOWN AS
THUNDERCATS...

I'M TEN
YEARS OLD...

AND I'M
TERRIFIED!



WE WERE PLAYING IN THE FOREST, MY FRIENDS AND I. WHEN OUR BAL BOUNCED INTO THIS HOLLOW. WE DIDN'T FIND IT.



INSTEAD, THIS... THIS CREATURE FOUND US!

THE STENCH OF DEATH, DECAY... AND EVIL HANGS ON IT LIKE A SHROUD. IT REACHES FOR US -



NO - REACHES FOR THEM, REACHES FOR MY FRIENDS!



AND WHAT DO I DO?

I JUST STAND THERE, MY BODY PARALYSED WITH FEAR, AND WATCH AS IT TAKES THEM AWAY. THE CREATURE'S CACKLES FILL THE DANK AIR, BUT THE ONLY SOUNDS I HEAR ARE THEIR VOICES...



...SCREAMING FOR HELP. HELP I CANNOT GIVE! I - I WANT TO HELP THEM, BUT I'M JUST A CHILD - A WEAK, HELPLESS CHILD.



NO. FROM THE FUTURE COMES THE SWORD OF OMENS, AND WITH IT THE SOURCE OF THE THUNDERCATS' POWER - THE SACRED EYE OF THUNDERA!



WITH IT I WILL LIGHT
THE DARKNESS OF MY
DESPAIR, SAVE MY
FRIENDS, AND
DESTROY THIS
CREATURE! I UTTER
THE WORDS...



THUNDER...

THUNDER...

THUNDER...



**THUNDER-
CATS HO!**



BUT SOME-
THING'S WRONG...

WHOOOA!
C-CAN'T HOLD
IT... IT'S
TOO HEAVY!

I'VE FAILED. I'M JUST A CHILD - UNABLE
TO WIELD THE SWORD OF OMENS AS I
SHOULD. I CAN ONLY LIE HERE...



WATCHING AS MY FRIENDS
GO TO THEIR DOOM...



AND LISTENING TO
THEIR CRIES!

LION-O,
HELP US! FOR
PITY'S SAKE
- HELP US!



NO. NO...
PLEASE -





"THAT CAPSULE KEPT ME ALIVE THROUGH THE LONG, LONG SPACE JOURNEY, BUT IT DIDN'T STOP MY BODY AGING SEVERAL YEARS IN THE PROCESS. I'D GROWN UP... OR SO I THOUGHT..."



DESPITE ALL I'VE LEARNT SINCE THEN, I'M RAPIDLY REALISING THAT, AT HEART, I'M STILL A CHILD. I HIDE IT WELL, BUT THE DISGUISE IS SLIPPING.

I REALLY SHOULD TELL THE OTHER THUNDERCATS ABOUT THIS...



BUT I CAN'T!



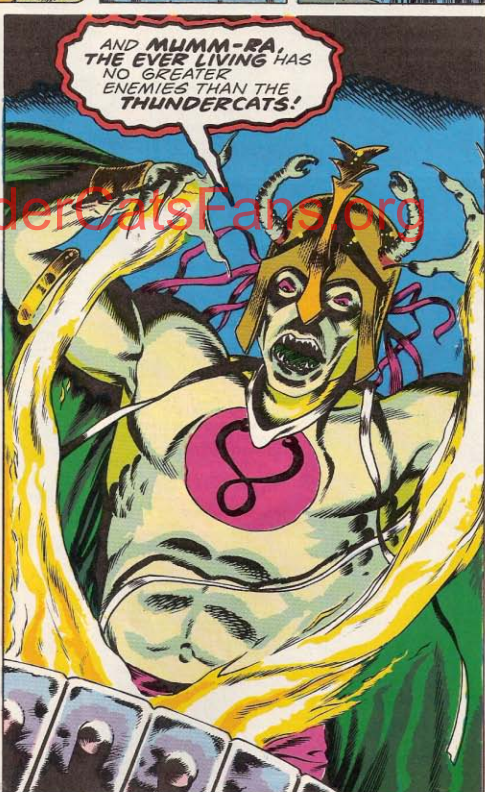
IT IS TIME.



TIME TO STRIKE. TIME TO DESTROY MY ENEMIES.



AND MUMM-RA, THE EVER LIVING HAS NO GREATER ENEMIES THAN THE THUNDERCATS!





AND PERHAPS MUMM-RA WILL DEMONSTRATE HIS POWER BY LIBERATING YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR SHOULDERS!



I-I... WAS, OF COURSE, ONLY SPEAKING IN JEST, GREAT MUMM-RA. I -

SILENCE! AND LISTEN...



AND THE THUNDERCATS WILL FIND THEMSELVES MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER BEFORE!

SOMETHING WHICH I'M SURE YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOU TO EXPLOIT!



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DAWN, THE CATS LAIR...

COME ON, THUNDERCATS. LET'S GO. THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF WORK TO BE DONE ON OUR NEW HOME'S FORTIFICATIONS.



HOW COME WE'RE UP AT THIS HORRIBLE HOUR? IF LION-O GETS TO LIE-IN, WHY CAN'T WE? AREN'T LEADERS SUPPOSED TO SET AN EXAMPLE?

YEAH!



THAT'S TWO QUESTIONS, WILLYKAT! STILL, YOU ARE RIGHT. WHERE IS LION-O? SNARF - DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO WAKE HIM?





IN CASE YOU HADN'T
NOTICED, SNARF, HE
HAS **ALREADY**
GROWN! SO JUST
GO AND GET HIM -
NOW!

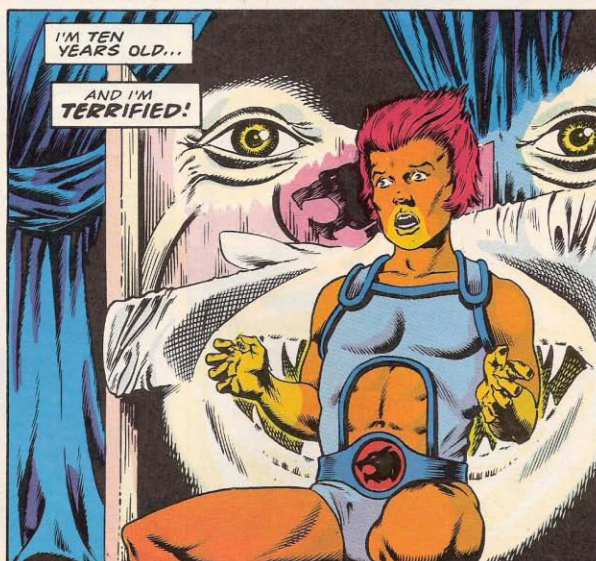


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THUNDERCATS

THE SWORD'S
POWER SINGS
WITHIN HIM.

AS HEREDITARY
LEADER OF THE
THUNDERCATS
IT IS LION-O'S
RIGHT TO WIELD
THAT POWER!

THE
POWER OF THE
SWORD
OF OMENS!

ONE SHOUT
AND THE
SONG
BECOMES A
SYMPHONY-

THUNDER...

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THUNDER...

THUNDER -

WHEN LION-O
WIELDS THE
SWORD OF OMENS,
NOTHING CAN
STOP HIM OR
STAND IN HIS WAY!

THUNDER-
CATS HO!

ANOTHER AND THE
SYMPHONY SWELLS -
ITS FORCE
COURSING THROUGH
HIM LIKE A LIVING
BREATHING THING!

A THIRD
AND THE
SYMPHONY
REACHES A
CRESCENDO.

AT LEAST,
THAT'S THE
WAY IT USED
TO BE!

THESE DAYS, THINGS ARE
A LITTLE DIFFERENT!

WAKING NIGHTMARE!

PART TWO.

I-I'VE
FAILED!

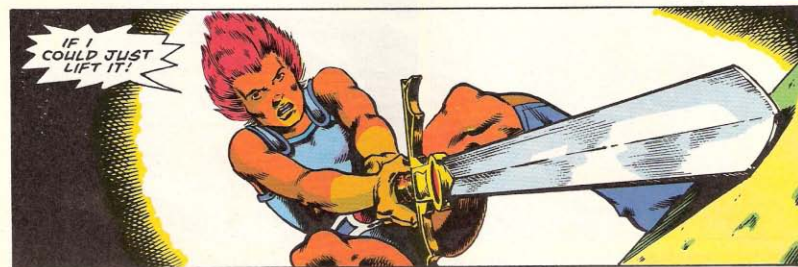
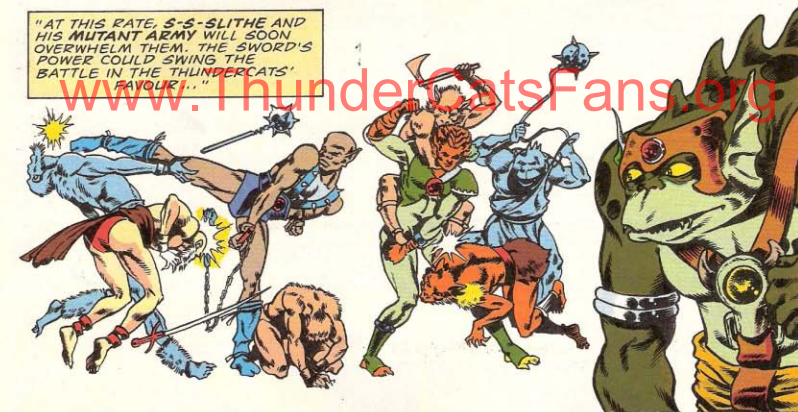
FAILED
THE SWORD OF
OMENS, FAILED
MY FRIENDS -
AND FAILED
MYSELF!

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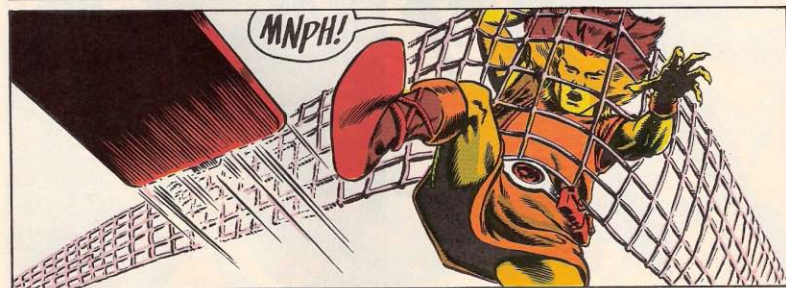
S-SOMEHOW, I'M TEN
YEARS OLD AGAIN! THE
NIGHTMARES THAT HAVE
PLAGUED ME THIS PAST
WEEK HAVE COME
TRUE!

"IN THOSE NIGHTMARES I WAS TEN YEARS
OLD, AND UNABLE TO STOP A CREATURE OF
UNSPEAKABLE EVIL FROM TAKING MY
FRIENDS TO THEIR DOOM."











THERE LIES MUMM-RA'S MOST
INSPIRED TRIUMPH!

THE NIGHTMARES I INFLICTED
ON HIS SUBCONSCIOUS HAVE
CONDITIONED HIM TO ACCEPT
THE IDEA THAT THE YOUNG
LION-O IS HELPLESS TO
AID HIS FRIENDS...



...AND WEAKENED
HIM PHYSICALLY
THROUGH LACK OF
PROPER SLEEP. A
SIMPLE SILL OF
ILLUSION
FOLLOWED...



NOW, LION-O
TRULY BELIEVES HE
IS TEN YEARS OLD
IN BODY AS WELL
AS IN MIND.



WHEN THE LAST
THUNDERCAT FALLS,
I WILL REVEAL THE TRUTH
TO LION-O. I DOUBT HE WILL
BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT HE
COULD HAVE ACTED TO
SAVE HIS FRIENDS...
BUT DIDN'T.

THUS
DO I TWIST
THE KNIFE OF
VENGEANCE...



"THE VENGEANCE OF MUMM-RA,
THE EVER-LIVING!"

LION-O, OPEN THIS DOOR...
PLEASE! IT'S SNARF
REMEMBER ME? YOUR
FAITHFUL COMPANION
AND FRIEND.

LION-O,
PLEASE! I NEED
YOU... THE
THUNDERCATS
NEED YOU!



Hmm...
SNARF'S
AGITATION
WOULD SEEM
TO INDICATE
THAT LION-O
IS...





"I REMEMBER A WEAK AND SMALL LION-O WHO WATCHED BRAVELY AS HIS HOME-WORLD, THUNDERA, DIED, AND ACCEPTED WITH A MAN'S COURAGE, THAT A NEW LIFE AWAITED HIM IN THE STARS..."



"THAT LION-O SINGLEHAND-EDLY BEAT OFF S-S-SLITHE, JACKALMAN AND MONKIAN, WIELDING THE SAME SWORD HE NOW CLAIMS HE CANNOT RAISE."



"I REMEMBER A LION-O WHO CALMLY ACCEPTED THAT NEARLY TEN YEARS OF HIS LIFE WOULD BE LOST TO HIM AS HE LAY IN THE LIFE-SUPPORT CAPSULE THAT BROUGHT HIM SAFELY HERE TO THIRD EARTH."



"AND THOUGH IN THAT JOURNEY HE GREW IN SIZE, IT WAS THAT SAME 'CHILD' THAT LEAPT TO HIS FELLOW THUNDERCATS' AID WHEN THEY WERE THREATENED BY THE MUTANTS ONCE MORE!"



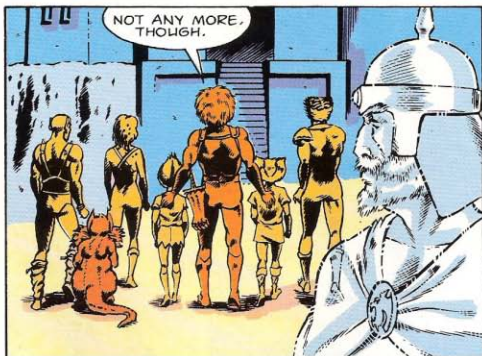
"IS THAT LION-O GONE? ASK MYSELF? I THINK NOT. LOOK WITHIN YOURSELF, LION-O... KNOW THAT THE CHILD AND THE MAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME!"



WILL YOU ACCEPT DEFEAT NOW, LION-O? WILL YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON YOUR FRIENDS?







CONTINUED IN COLLECTED COMICS 2