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Centipede

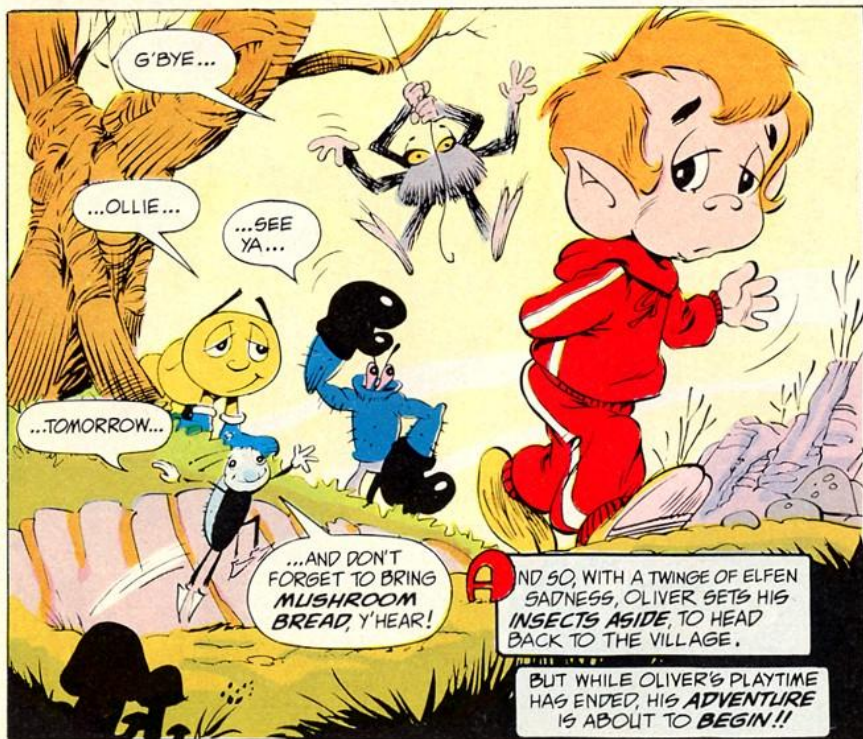


DEEP IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST LIVES A BAND OF LITTLE ELVES. OLIVER IS THE LITTLEST OF THEM ALL... BUT DOES THAT BUG HIM? NO WAY! NOT WITH SECRET FRIENDS LIKE THESE: SPIDER, FLEA, SCORPION, AND OF COURSE... **CENTIPEDE!!**



AND, AFTER SOME MORE GOOD CLEAN FUN, OLIVER SHARES HIS LUNCH WITH HIS MANY-LEGGED FRIENDS...OF COURSE, THE MENU IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST IS RATHER **LIMITED**, SINCE BERRY JAM AND MUSHROOM BREAD IS **ALL** THAT ELVES EAT!

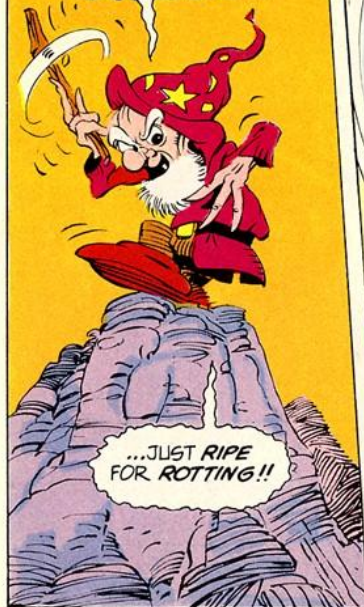




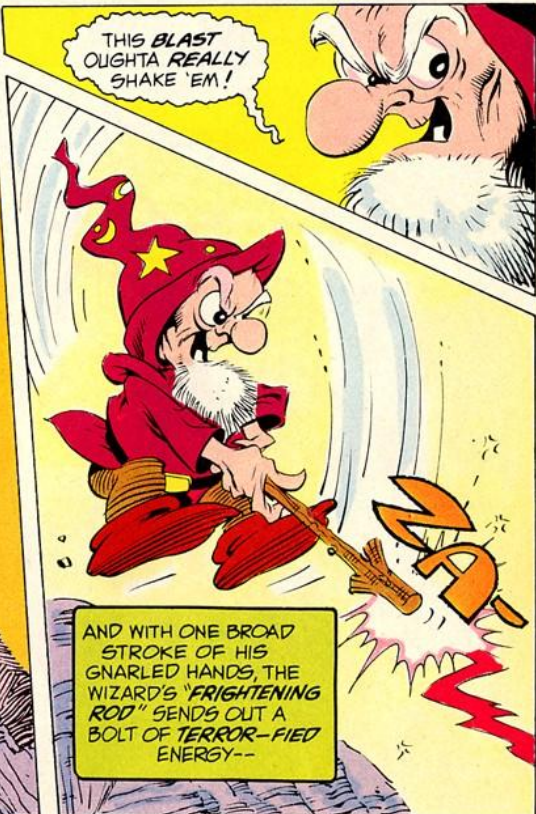


FOR, HIGH ON MT. MUSHMORE, A PARTICULARLY EVIL WIZARD HAS A PARTICULARLY EVIL PLAN...

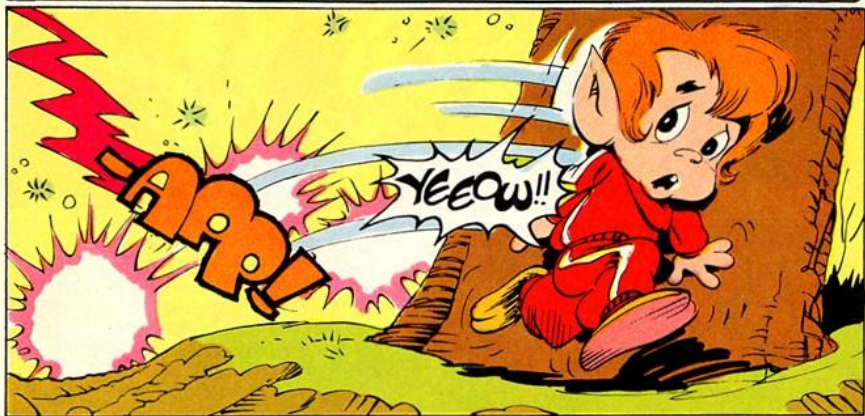
heh heh...NOW THERE'S AN ESPECIALLY NICE-LOOKING MUSHROOM PATCH...



THIS BLAST OUGHTA REALLY SHAKE 'EM!



WHICH, NOT-SO-COINCIDENTALLY, BLASTS ONE BEAUTIFUL MUSHROOM PATCH TO SMITHEREENS, AND SCARES ONE INNOCENT ELF **SILLY**!!



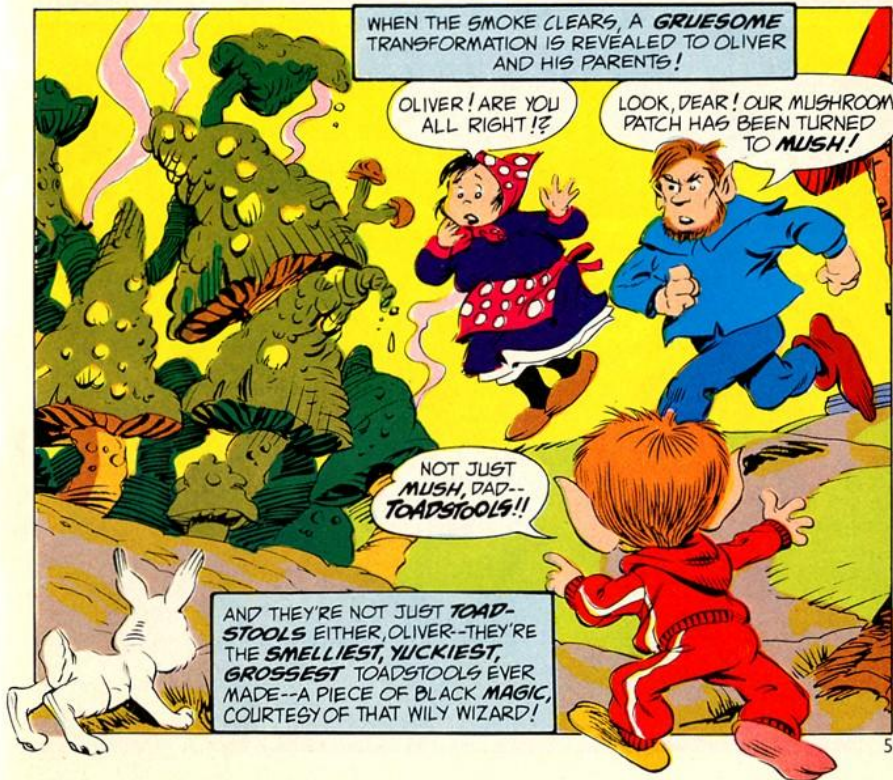
WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, A **GRUESOME** TRANSFORMATION IS REVEALED TO OLIVER AND HIS PARENTS!

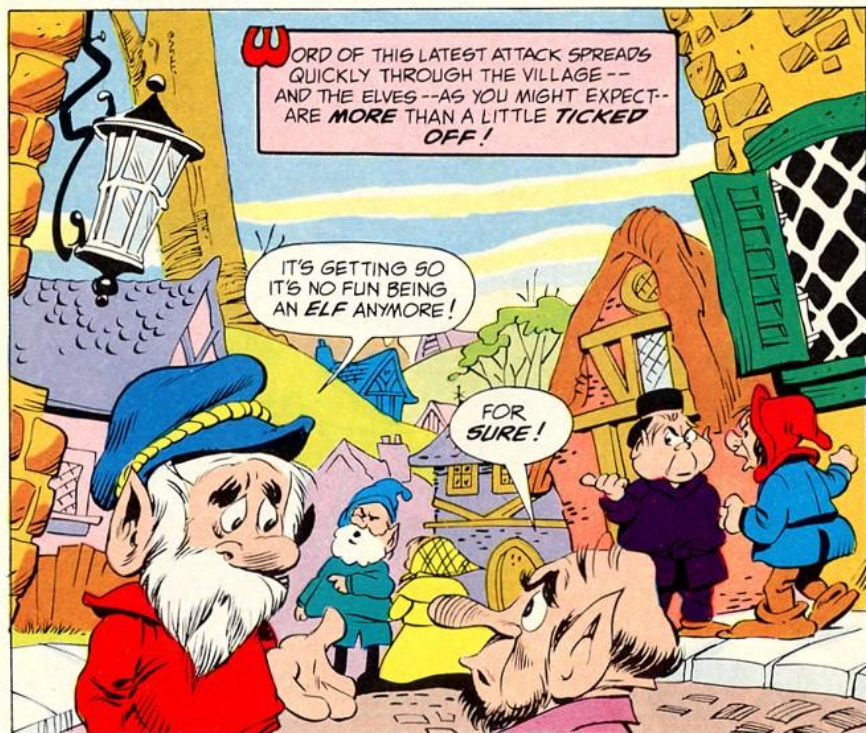
OLIVER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

LOOK, DEAR! OUR MUSHROOM PATCH HAS BEEN TURNED TO **MUSH**!

NOT JUST **MUSH**, DAD--
TOADSTOOLS!!

AND THEY'RE NOT JUST **TOADSTOOLS** EITHER, OLIVER--THEY'RE THE **SMELLIEST, YUCKIEST, GROSSEST** TOADSTOOLS EVER MADE--A PIECE OF **BLACK MAGIC**, COURTESY OF THAT **WILY WIZARD**!







AS ONE, THE ANGRY ELVES RACE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN TO SEE THE NEWEST BATCH OF TERRIBLE TOADSTOOLS AND PLAN THEIR NEXT MOVE.



THE ELDERS DECIDE THAT THE WIZARD MUST BE STOPPED-- AND THAT EVERYONE MUST HELP--

WELL...ALMOST EVERYONE...

BUT WHY CAN'T **I** GO, DAD?

BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO LITTLE--AND THE WIZARD ESPECIALLY *DISLIKES* LITTLE ELVES! YOU STAY HERE AND CHOP DOWN THE TOADSTOOLS--WE **MUST** TRY TO REPLANT BEFORE WINTER--OR WE MAY **STARVE!!**



SEE YA'ROUND, PIPSQUEAK-- HOPE THAT AXE ISN'T TOO BIG FOR YOU TO HANDLE!

ALAS, SUCH ARE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF BEING THE VILLAGE'S *LITTLEST* ELF!

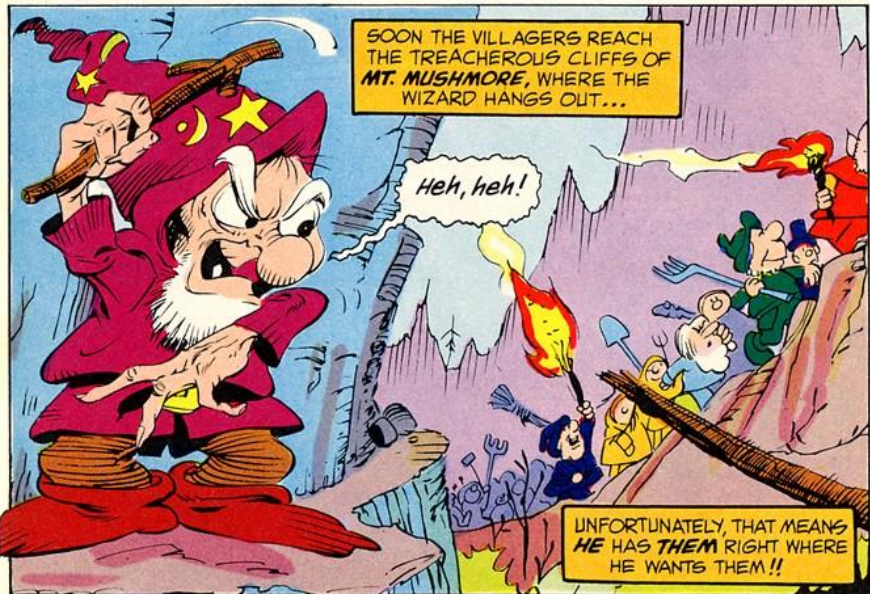


THE VILLAGERS BEGIN THEIR TREK UP THE NARROWLY WINDING MOUNTAIN PATH IN SEARCH OF... **EVIL WIZARDS!**



WHILE DOWN IN THE ONCE-FERTILE VALLEY, **OLIVER** PREPARES TO TAKE A WHACK AT THE **TOADSTOOL** PROBLEM...

...EVEN IF I **AM** THE LITTLEST ELF!!

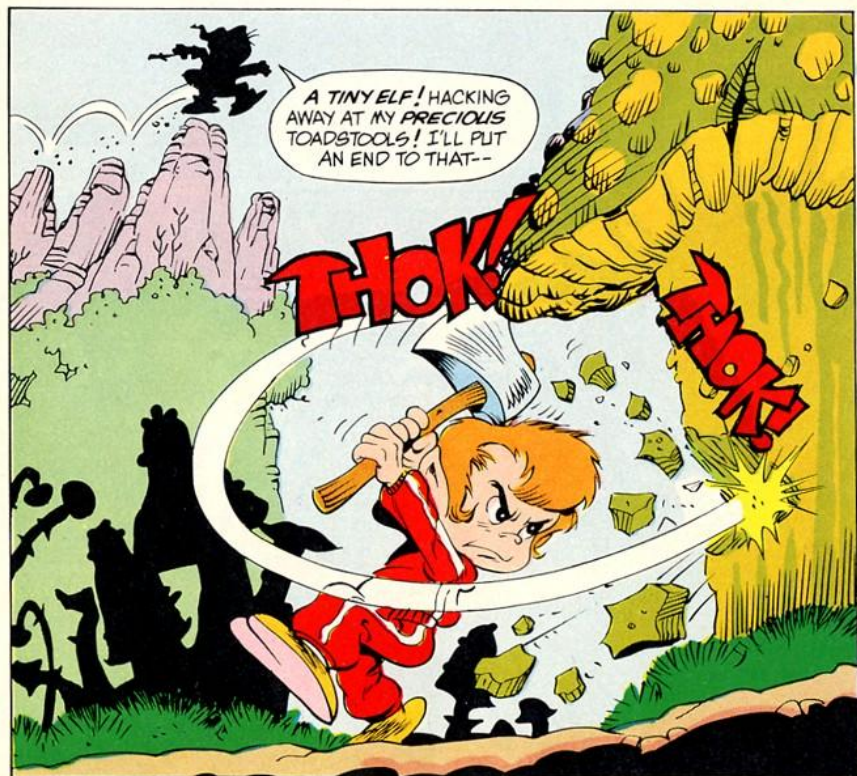


SOON THE VILLAGERS REACH THE TREACHEROUS CLIFFS OF **MT. MUSHMORE**, WHERE THE WIZARD HANGS OUT...

Heh, heh!

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS **HE** HAS **THEM** RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS THEM!!





BUT, AS THE EVIL SORCERER PREPARES TO FINISH OFF THE UNKNOWING ELF, HIS WICKED SHADOW GIVES HIM AWAY!



NOT A SECOND TOO SOON, OLIVER DROPS HIS AXE AND RUNS AS FAST AS HIS FURRY LITTLE FEET CAN CARRY HIM!

EXPLOSION!



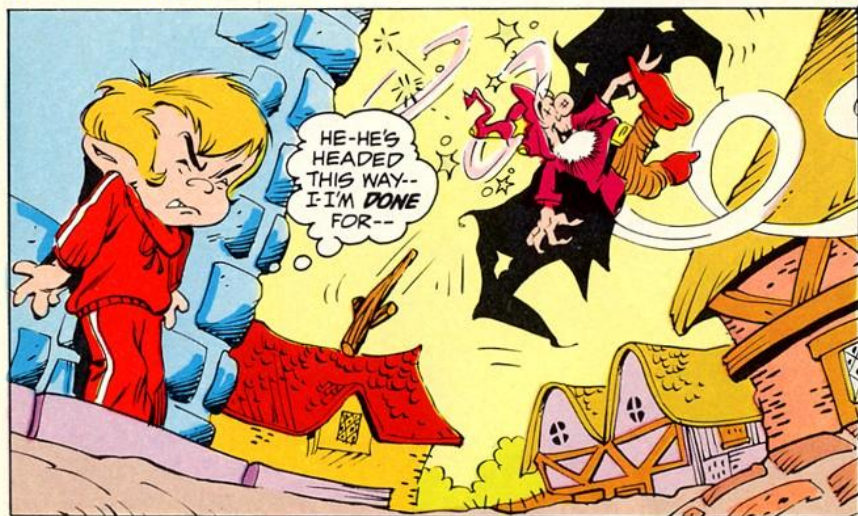
THE WIZARD!
BUT WHERE ARE THE VILLAGERS?







BUT, LOST IN HIS DESTRUCTIVE FRENZY, THE WIZARD FAILS TO SEE --



H EY OLIVER!! OPEN YOUR EYES--THE WIZARD'S "FRIGHTENING ROD" IS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!!



GEE...THE WIZARD'S WAND...

IT SURE DOESN'T LOOK MAGIC!!



HELP!

I DON'T THINK IT--
YEOW!



AS IF RESENTING OLIVER'S THOUGHTS, THE MAGIC STICK BLASTS OFF!!!





BUT WHEN THE STICK LETS HIM DOWN, OLIVER FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF... **NOWHERE!!**

I'D BETTER FIND MY FOLKS BEFORE THE WIZARD FINDS ME!



MOM!! DAD!! ANYBODY!!?

THERE'S **GOOD** NEWS AND **BAD** NEWS FOR OLIVER: THE **GOOD** NEWS IS THAT THE VILLAGERS ARE RIGHT BEHIND HIM; THE **BAD** NEWS IS THAT THEY'RE **STILL** A BUNCH OF TOADSTOOLS-- AND OLIVER DOESN'T KNOW IT!

BUT THE **WORST** NEWS OF ALL IS THAT OLIVER IS BEING **WATCHED...**

THAT BRATTY ELF!!!

HE'S GOT MY ROD--AND I'M PRACTICALLY **POWERLESS** WITHOUT IT!

BUT I **STILL** HAVE A FEW TRICKS LEFT!!

THE EVIL WIZARD JOURNEYS DEEP INTO THE FOREST TO THE **E.B.S.C. (ENCHANTED BUGS SOCIAL CLUB)** TO PUT "OPERATION STICK RETRIEVAL" INTO EFFECT!

A GREAT WIZARD LIKE ME RELYING ON **INSECTS** FOR HELP--THAT **REALLY** BUGS ME!

ANYBODY HOME? CAN I COME IN?

ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

TO WHAT DO WE **HUMBLE BUGS** OWE THE HONOR OF THIS VISIT?

HUMBLE BUGS?--
HUMBUG! I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU!





SO YOU REFUSE? I HAVE WAYS OF **MAKING** YOU DO MY BIDDING--PERHAPS A LITTLE **HYPNOSIS** WILL DO THE TRICK!



NOW--heh heh--GO FIND THE ELF--AND RETRIEVE MY WAND--**BEGONE!!**





AND I'LL BE FOLLOWING YOU GUYS--SO NO FUNNY STUFF!

NOW--GET CRAWLING!!



BUT AS THE HYPNOTIZED BUGS GO OFF, THE LAST AND LITTLEST SEGMENT OF THE CENTIPEDE STILL HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!

EVIL IS AFOOT! I'VE GOT TO WARN OLIVER!!

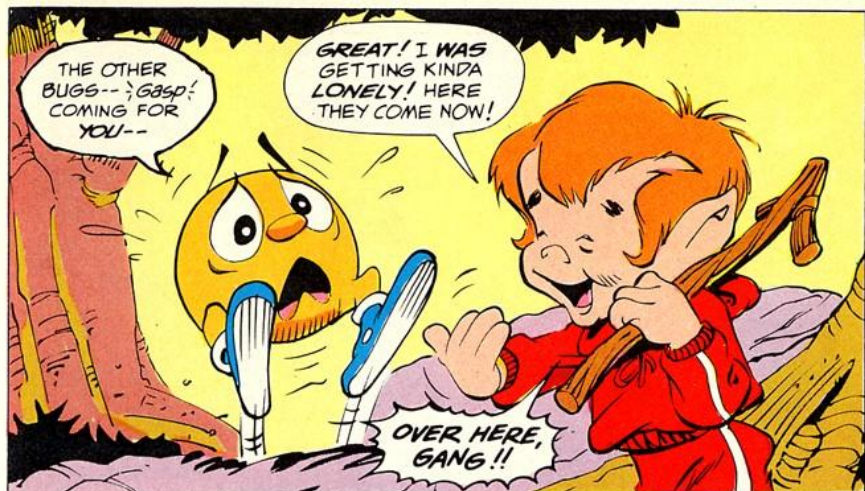


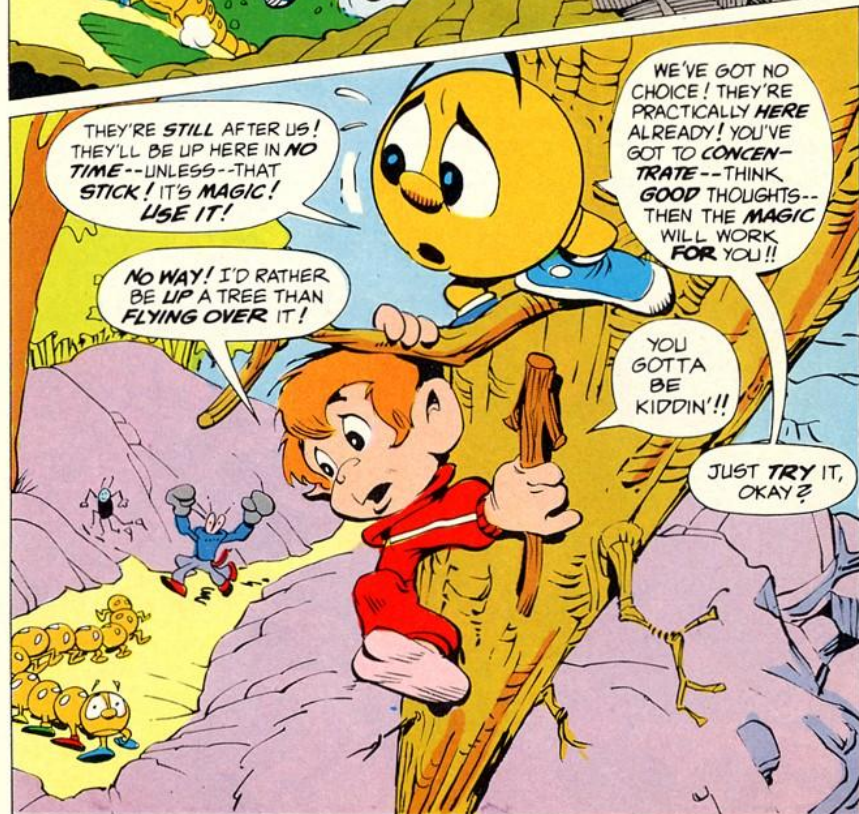
THE 'PEDE RACES THROUGH THE WOODS AHEAD OF THE OTHERS, UNTIL, HUFFING AND PUFFING, HE FINDS THE WAY-WARD ELF...

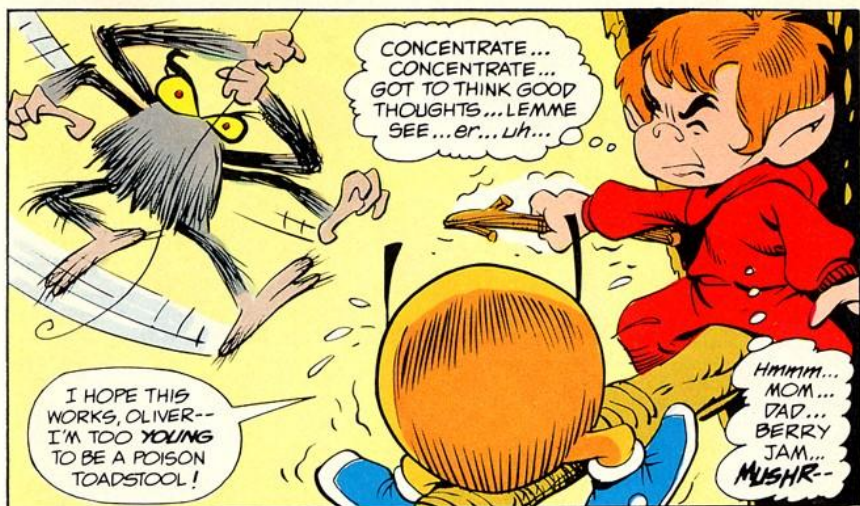
O-O-OL-OLIVER Gasp: I'VE GOT TO Gasp: TELL YOU--Gasp:!

HI, 'PEDE! LONG TIME NO SEE!-- HEY! WHERE'S THE REST OF YOU!?

HAVE I GOT A STORY FOR YOU GUYS!







ZAP!



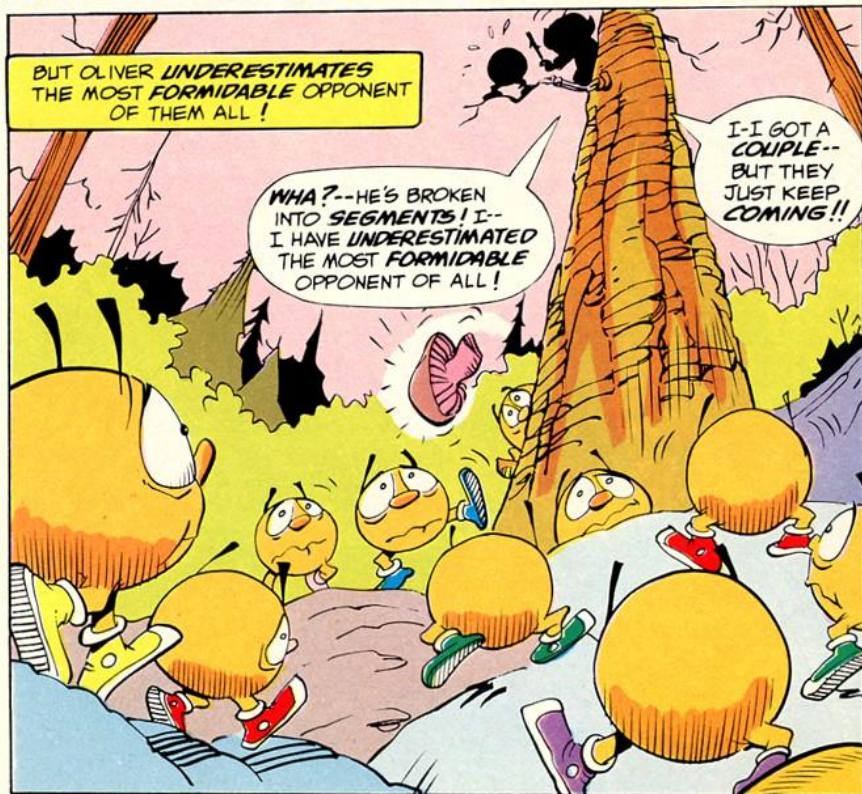
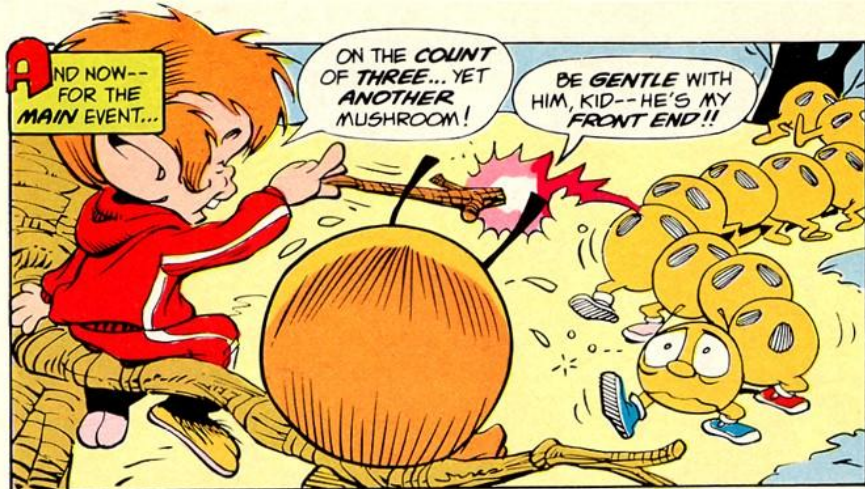


OLIVER! HERE COMES
FLEA! GIVE HIM A GOOD
ZAP BEFORE HE GETS
CLOSE ENOUGH TO
TICKLE US SILLY!

I'M GETTING
THE *KNACK*
OF IT, PEDE--
WATCH
THIS!!

FLEE,
FLEA!







THIS IS NO
BLUFF,
'PEDE--
WATCH
THIS!!

ZOOOP!

ZOOOP?

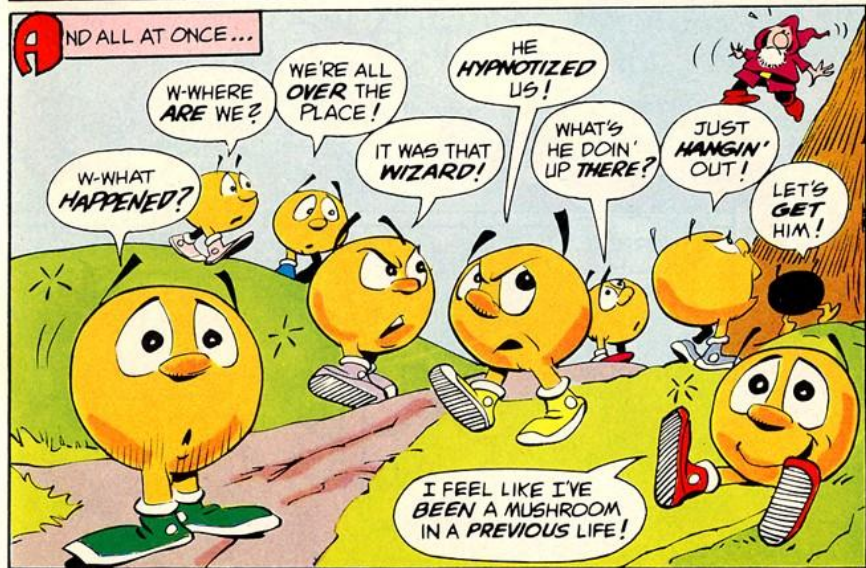
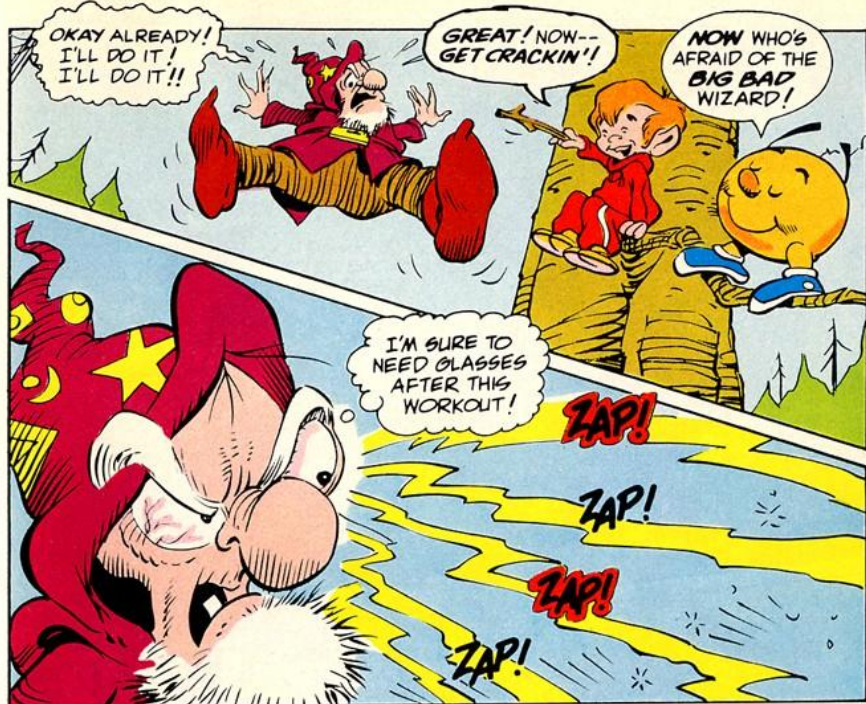
SUDDENLY,
THE EVIL
WIZARD IS
SUSPENDED
IN MID-AIR!!

UN-HYPNOTIZE
THOSE PEDE PARTS,
OR I'LL TURN YOU
INTO A MUSHROOM
TOO!!

NO! NO! NOT A
MUSHROOM! ANY-
THING BUT THAT!!*

LET HIM HAVE IT,
KID-- RIGHT
BETWEEN THE
EVIL EYES!!

*FOR A TOADSTOOL-LOVING
WIZARD, ENDING UP AS A
MUSHROOM IS THE
ABSOLUTE PITS!!



BEFORE ANYONE DOES
ANYTHING-- WIZARD!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO
MY PARENTS AND THE OTHER
VILLAGERS?

I-er-uh--TURNED THEM
INTO POISON TOADSTOOLS...
I-er- DON'T SUPPOSE
AN APOLOGY WOULD
HELP A GREAT DEAL?

TSK!
TSK!

WHAT A
CREEP!

YOU
SAID
IT!

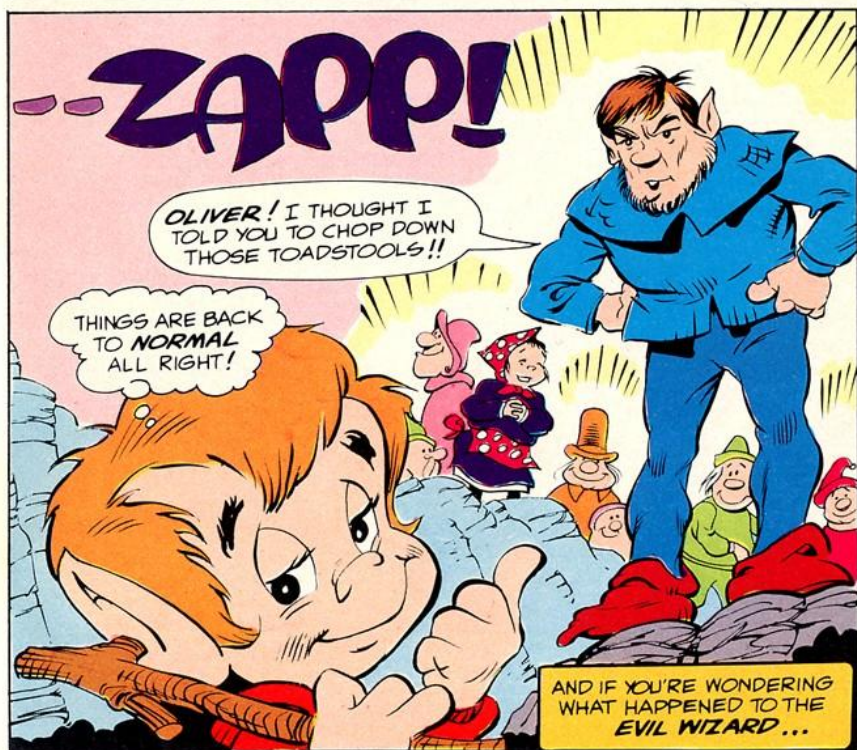
YOU'RE GONNA LEAD
ME TO THEM, WIZARD--
BUT FIRST, I'LL CHANGE
MY FRIENDS BACK TO
NORMAL!

AND WITH
YET
ANOTHER
WAVE OF
HIS WAND,
THE
THREE
**MUSH-
KETEERS**
ARE
TRANS-
FORMED
BACK
INTO...

SCORPION...

...FLEA...

...AND SPIDER
MAKES THREE!



LIVER GAVE HIM
SUCH A ZAP...

ZAP!

NO NO!
DON'T SHOOT!

SORRY,
WIZ--
THIS IS
ONE STORY
THAT'S
HEADED
FOR A
HAPPY
ENDING--
AND THAT
INCLUDES
YOU TOO!

WHY
YOU
LITTLE...

ER-UH-I-
THAT IS-
GULP!

I *DO* HOPE I'LL GET
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
HELP YOU *FINE ELVES*
WITH YOUR MUSH-
ROOM HARVEST!

WITH THE HELP OF HIS *NEW AND IMPROVED*
"NOT-SO-FRIGHTENING ROD" OLIVER TURNED
ALL THE TOADSTOOLS BACK INTO MUSHROOMS...

FOR HIS HEROIC DEEDS, OLIVER WAS
VOTED *ELF OF THE YEAR*, WHICH, AS
EVERYONE KNOWS, IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT
IN MUSHROOM BREAD--
NOT BAD FOR THE
LITTLEST ELF OF
ALL!

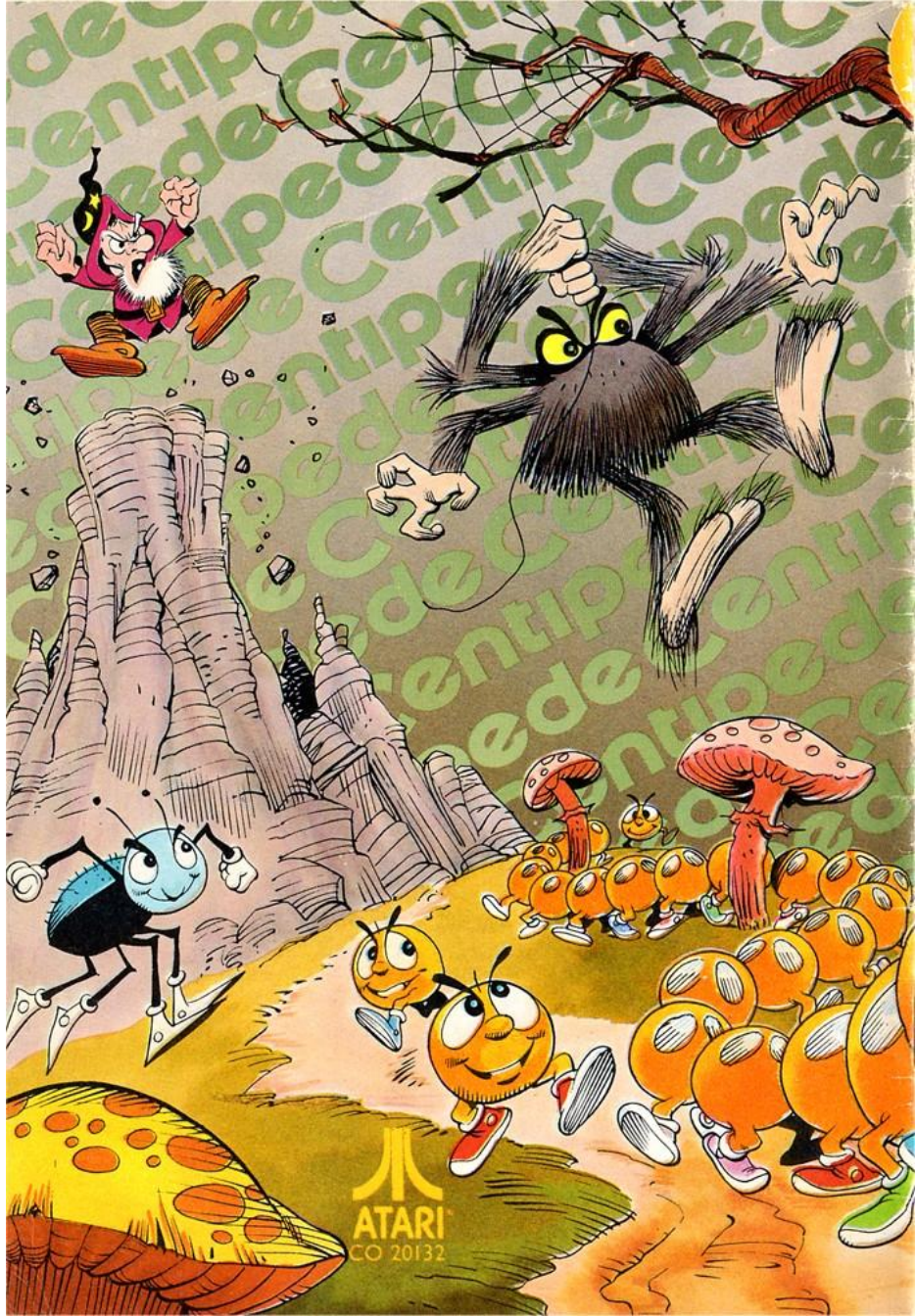
THAT'S
MY BABY!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLEST 'PEDE?
HE WAS SENT TO THE FRONT OF THE
LINE, WHERE HE GUIDES THE OTHER
'PEDES TO THIS VERY DAY!

THINK I'LL QUIT
WHILE I'M A
HEAD!!

THE END

The image shows a close-up of a book cover with a repeating pattern of the word "Centipede" in a green, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in diagonal rows, creating a strong sense of movement and repetition. The pattern is dense and covers the entire visible area of the cover.



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