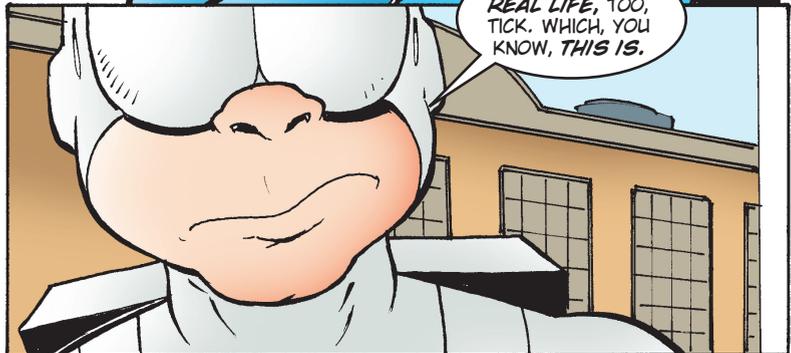
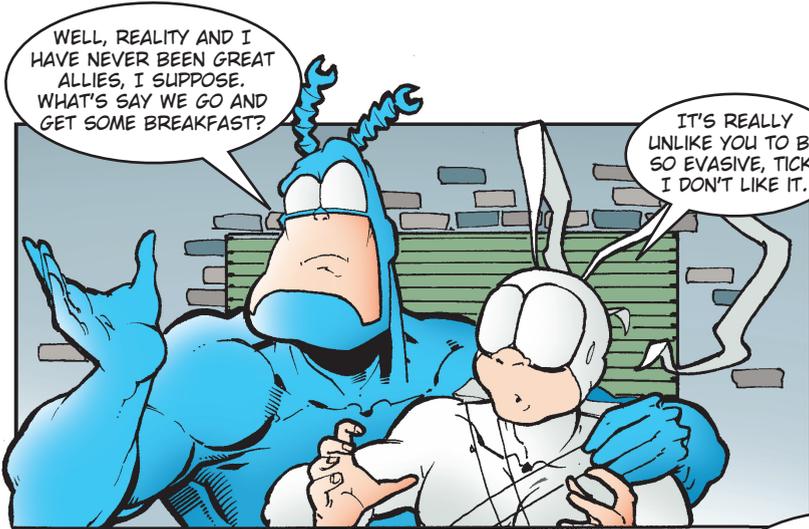


A FEW MIGHTY LEAPS LATER...





WELL, REALITY AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN GREAT ALLIES, I SUPPOSE. WHAT'S SAY WE GO AND GET SOME BREAKFAST?

IT'S REALLY UNLIKE YOU TO BE SO EVASIVE, TICK. I DON'T LIKE IT.



WHAT ARE YOU HIDING IN HERE?

NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL!

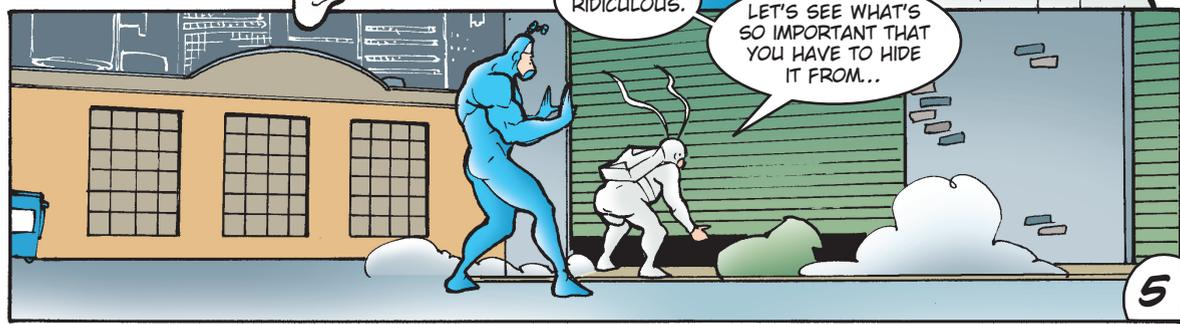
IS IT A CAT? ARE YOU FEEDING A CAT HERE?

...IS IT TEN CATS?



YES! TEN CATS! I'M TEACHING THEM TO SING AND WRITE CAT PLUNGES! ARTHUR, YOU SCOUNDREL, MEOW DID YOU GUESS?

...DID YOU SAY "MEOW"?



THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

LET'S SEE WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE TO HIDE IT FROM...



**HELLO,
ARTHUR!!!**

**HEY GUYS,
LOOK! IT'S
ARTHUR!!**

MAMA.



AND YOU BROUGHT FOOD, TOO!

SOLIP'S ON!!

IT'S... IT'S...

I HAVE A CONFESSION, ARTHUR. I MADE UP THE STORY ABOUT THE CATS.

GRUB



OOO! WE GOT A JAR OF MAYO HERE! WHO WANTS IT?

DIBS!!

MAYBE THIS REALLY IS A DREAM...

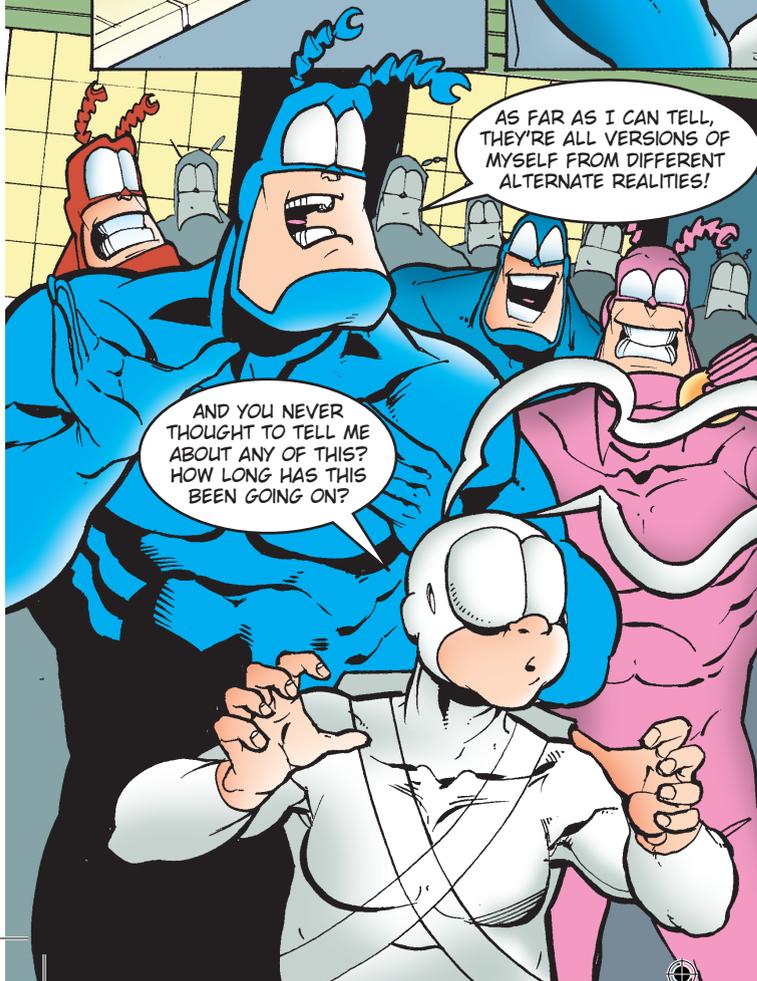


...OR A NIGHTMARE...



LIP YOU GO, CHUM.

TICK, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? WHO ARE ALL THESE OTHER... WELL, THESE OTHER TICKS?



AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THEY'RE ALL VERSIONS OF MYSELF FROM DIFFERENT ALTERNATE REALITIES!

AND YOU NEVER THOUGHT TO TELL ME ABOUT ANY OF THIS? HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?



OH, JUST ABOUT EIGHT DAYS, NOW.

...WHO ARE YOU?

...I'M THE TICK.

