

# BIRTH OF A GIANT

Illustrated by CHRISTIAN HOOK

**O**UR GLORIOUS CITY of Rome is today at the heart of a vast and powerful Empire. Yet how many of us know how and when it was founded?

EVEN HERE at *The Roman News*, we cannot discover exactly what happened all those years ago—the story is so ancient that the truth has been lost in the mists of time.

But could there be any better account than that given in popular legend—the dramatic story of the twin brothers, Romulus and Remus?

## THROWN OUT TO DIE

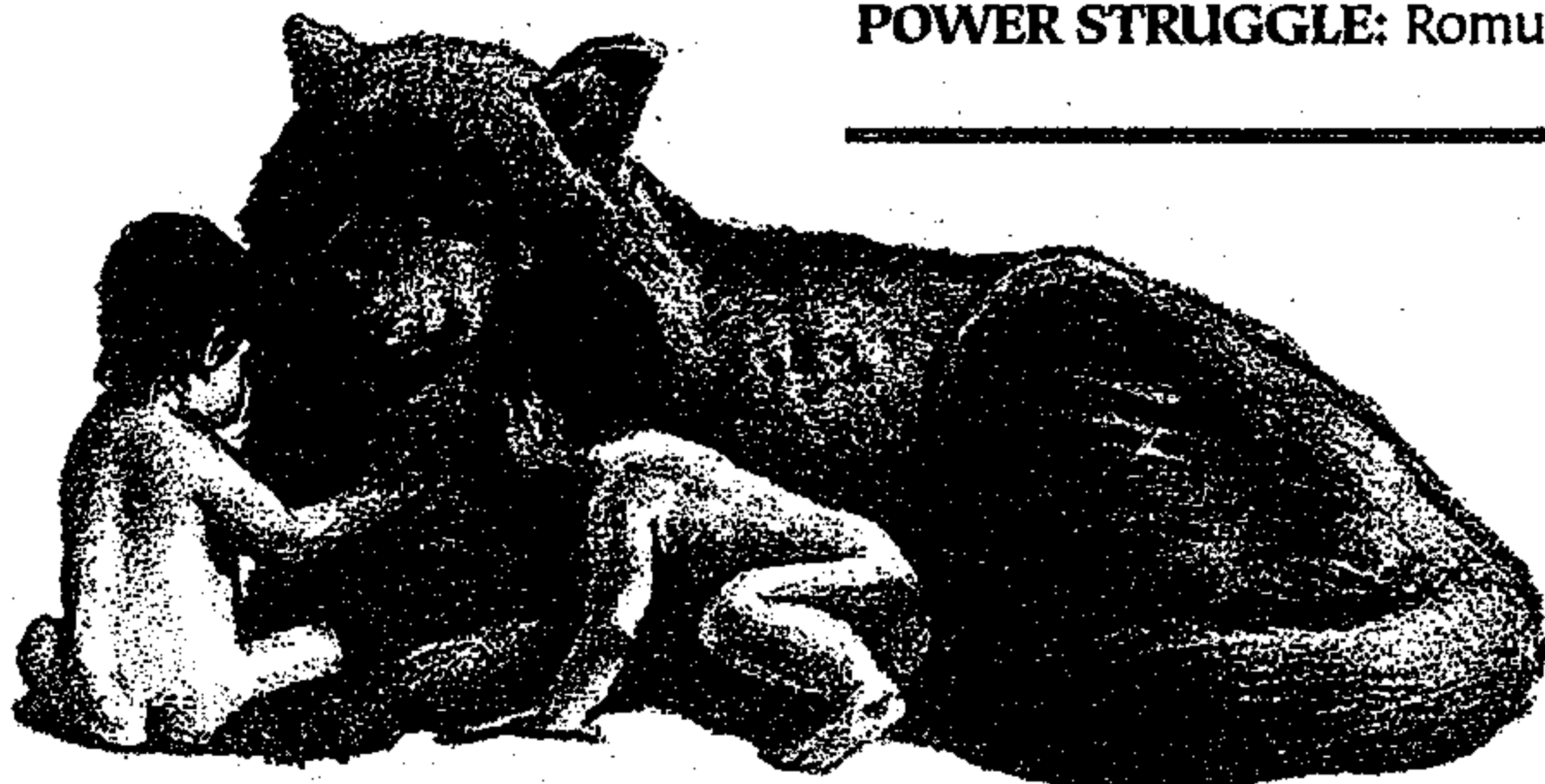
As tiny babies, the twins were cruelly taken from their mother and left by the Tiber River to starve.

But miraculously, a wolf saved them from death, and cared for them as if they were her own cubs. Then the boys were discovered

by a shepherd, who took them to his home.

The years passed, and after many adventures the brothers learned that they were of royal blood—princes of a nearby town, Alba Longa.

The twins returned to Alba Longa and regained their kingdom. And to celebrate their victory, they decided to build a splendid new town on one of the seven hills by the Tiber River, where the wolf had discovered



**MOTHERLY LOVE:** A wolf saved the twins from death.



**POWER STRUGGLE:** Romulus and Remus fight for the right to be king.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

**R**OMULUS WAS just the first of many kings to rule Rome, as it grew into a large and bustling city.

BUT IN THE END, these kings became far too greedy for power and wealth—they had to go.

In 509 B.C., the nobles

drove the last king out of Rome and made the city a republic, in which the leaders were chosen by the people.

Rome thrived and became a rich and busy city. It conquered more and more land until, by the 170s B.C., it ruled all of Italy. We were well on our way to becoming the proud and powerful nation of today. ✦

them all those years ago.

But which brother was to rule this new town? The twins looked for a sign from the gods.

Remus searched the skies and saw six vultures, but Romulus saw twelve and claimed this gave him the right to be king.

## A FIGHT TO THE DEATH

The brothers quarreled and swords were drawn. A bitter fight followed and Remus fell—stabbed by Romulus!

With his brother dead, Romulus took the throne,

and the new town was given the name Rome in his honor.

Of course, there are people who sneer and say this is just a silly legend. They claim that Romulus never existed.

But these skeptics should climb to the top of the Palatine Hill in Rome and visit the plain wooden hut where Romulus once lived.

**And whatever really did happen so long ago, we can be sure of two things—our city was founded in 753 B.C. and our first king was named Romulus.** ✦