THE RETURN OF GORGO

The Return of Gorgo

Ditko at Charlton: 1961

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Hands off.

Many of these stories were published without a by-line.
To the best of our abilities,
we have identified each writer.

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ISBN 978-1-945307-45-4
Book designed by Rodney Schroeter

This book is dedicated
with appreciation
to Joe Gill

"Reprint what you can, when you can, to keep our material in print."
— Steve Ditko to Robin Snyder, 2009

THE RETURN OF GORGO

Written by JOE GILL

Illustrated by STEVE DITKO

Ditko at Charlton: **1961**

Famous Comics
2025

WHOOM!

The Rise of the Monsters

Charlton published 282 individual issues across 43 titles in 1961 according to Dan Stevenson. These included a wide range of characters, subjects and titles. *Atomic Mouse* to *Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal*. In between there is Adventure, Biography, Cars, Funny, Hospital, Love, Military, SF, War, Western and…

…three Monster titles beginning in 1961. *Gorgo*, *Konga* and *Reptilicus*. Adaptations of the movies. Each had a monstrous run.

And three Monster film magazines over the next few years: *Black Zoo*, *Horror Monsters*, *Mad Monsters*.

All of which coincides with the rise of the Monster movies of the late 1950s.

For those interested in the Monsters of comics and film, we direct you to the writings of Stephen R. Bissette in the pages of *Little Shoppe of Horrors* no. 52.

There is usually plenty of imitation in the comics but for one reason or another, Charlton had the field of Monsters all to itself.

Yes, there were a few Apes and Dinosaurs in a few stories here and there, but Charlton was the single publisher of Monster comic books.

And Joe Gill was the man who wrote all of those stories.

The same fellow who wrote almost all of the Adventure, Cars, Funny and the rest of the Charlton comics catalog.

Joe's Monsters were illustrated by a number of artists: Rocke Mastroserio, Bill Montes, Charles Nicholas, Joe Sinnott and others, but the ones in this volume were illustrated by Steve Ditko. The man who also illustrated Joe's Captain Atom stories.

Speaking of Captain Atom, he hangs up his isotopic spurs in this year. Who knows just why? Perhaps Joe simply did not care much for costumed characters, so he threw in the towel to focus on Love, War, Western and…

Yes, Science Fiction and Fantasy titles and stories.

But as man advances into Outer Space, sends more and more rockets up there to be followed by animals and then men, the comics publishers began to retreat, return to Earth. *Buck Rogers* and *Flash Gordon* were still flying high in the newspapers, but more and more of the sf comic books were shrinking and then closing. Not just at Charlton, but at other companies, too. Why?

Think and wonder about this and more as we return to 1961 and A Look into the Future with Captain Atom and the Monster and SF stories and art by Joe Gill and Steve Ditko.

Spring 2025

Introducing Joe Gill

Once upon a time Joe had his hand in the writing game. From the day his big brother Ray was discussing the epic battle between The Human Torch and the Sub-mariner (Ray contributed to that sequence), to a feature in *Cartoonist PROfiles,* to directing the action and adventure in *Secret Agent Corrigan,* Joe, without fanfare, produced, wrote and/or edited an impossible-to-count number of characters, comics, magazines, articles, features, essays, books and more and is still one of the most prolific writers in the comics. Some of that material lives today.

"In 1945, I left the service, Nov. 18 to be exact. At that time I shared a store-front studio on Verdermeer Place in Brooklyn. The other occupants were my brother Ray, one of the real pioneers in comics, and Mickey Spillane who got his first job in the comics field through Ray." *(The Comics!)*

Noting how his brother and Spillane seemed to be reaping profits in the field, Joe jumped in head first. He began writing for the comics in December 1945.

He wrote for Grace Jacquet at Funnies Inc., Stan Lee at Timely, for McFadden, Novelty and St. John but it was at Charlton beginning in March 1955 where he really made his mark. He was hired by Al Fago to write more and more pages per week. Later on and in his spare time he wrote for Dell, Western, National, King, a few stories for A.C.E. and Spotlight and a couple of articles for *The Comics!*

He helped Spillane launch the *Mike Hammer* strip and left it for greener pastures. Thousands and thousands of comic book scripts later he returned to strips for a run on *Secret Agent Corrigan* for King Features. ("I was uniquely qualified for *Corrigan*. The character, while operating in the present, had the flavor of the 40s and 50s." 1991 letter)

Joe was dismissive of his writing, while he was writing and in retrospect. Let us be attentive and consider for a moment some of that which he produced.

In the adventure genre he wrote *The Bionic Woman, Blue Bolt, Danger and Adventure, Davy Crockett, Emergency, Fightin' 5, Flash Gordon, Foreign Intrigues, Frontier Scout, Dan'l Boone, Gorgo* ("The last of the dinosaurs, he had big jaws and sharp claws. Steve drew him as a frightening monster yet the big lizard was kind of cute, with a lovable side, wasn't he? Especially in scenes with his mother." 1996 letter), *Hercules, House of Yang, Jim Bowie, Jonny Double, Judomaster, Jungle Jim, Jungle Tales of Tarzan, Konga* ("I loved that ugly monster and tried to get across the bewilderment and loneliness the formerly friendly little lab animal must have felt. Steve interpreted my hurried scripts with a brilliance, producing a menacing creature who wanted to be loved."), *Long John Silver, Mission: Impossible, Nyoka, Peacemaker, The Phantom, Ramar of the Jungle, Secret Six, The Six Million Dollar Man, Spy Thrillers, Sue and Sally Smith, Flying Nurses, Toka,*

Vengeance Squad, What is…the Face?, Yang, and still more.

Including all the antique, classic and modern car and racing stories in *Drag n' Wheels, Dragstrip Hotrodders, Grand Prix, Hot Rod Racers, Hot Rods and Racing Cars, Hot Wheels,* and *World of Wheels.*

And *Bobby Sherman.*

Joe especially enjoyed writing funny stuff: *Abbott and Costello, Atom the Cat, Atomic Bunny, Atomic Mouse, The Flintstones, Huckleberry Hound, Popeye, Spencer Spook, Top Cat, Underdog, Wheelie and the Chopper Bunch, Wotta Bunch Weirdos,* and *Yogi Bear.*

And he fought crime in the Law and Order comics. *Badge of Justice, Johnny Dynamite, Lawbreakers Suspense Stories, Racket Squad in Action, Rookie Cop, Scotland Yard, Sherlock Holmes.*

Everything is coming up roses for a guy in love: *Brides in Love, Career Girl Romances, Cynthia Doyle, Nurse in Love, First Kiss, For Lovers Only, Hollywood Romances, I Love You, Just Married, Love Diary, Nurse Betsy Crane, Romantic Story, Secret Hearts, Secrets of Young Brides, Sweethearts, Teen-age Confidential Confessions, Teen-Age Love, Ten Confessions, Three Nurses, True Life Secrets*, and in the title created by Simon and Kirby, *Young Romance.*

Joe made himself the master of mystery with *Beyond the Grave, Ghost Manor, Ghosts, Ghostly Haunts, Ghostly Tales, Haunted, The Many Ghosts of Dr. Graves, Monster Hunters, Tales of the Mysterious Traveler, The Thing, This Magazine is Haunted,* and *Unusual Tales.*

And, at the drop of a hat, he composed sci-fi scenarios in *Doomsday + 1,* (which he has described as his favorite), *Mysteries of Unexplored Worlds, Outer Space, Space Adventures, Space: 1999, Strange Suspense Stories,* and *Unusual Tales.*

Joe claims to hate super characters but he wrote a clutch of them: *Blue Beetle, Capt. Atom, Captain America, Human Torch, Liberty Belle, Nukla,* and *Son of Vulcan*.

The reluctant warrior was back in the saddle in *Army Attack, Battlefield Action, Fightin' Air Force, Fightin' Army, Fightin' Marines, Fightin' Navy, Marine War Heroes, Marines Attack, Navy War Heroes, Shotgun Marker and the Chicken, Special War Series, Submarine Attack, U.S. Air Force Comics,* and *War Heroes.*

Westward ho! *Billy the Kid, Black Fury, Black Rider, Bounty Hunter, Capt. Doom, Cheyenne Kid, Cowboy Western, Death Valley, Gunmaster, Gunsmoke Western, Kid Colt, Kid Montana, Lash La Rue Western, Mr. Young of the Boothill Gazette, Outlaws of the West, Range Busters, Rocky Lane Western, Six-gun Heroes, Sunset Carson Comics, Tex Ritter, Texas Rangers in Action, Two Gun Kid, Wander, Wild Bill Hickock, Wild Western,*

and *Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal.*

No, that's not it. Not by a long shot.

He often wrote all of the features in most of the Charlton titles, year after year.

There are many more comics plus all of his articles, magazines and editorial production.

One day someone will publish the comics bibliography—to include his comics strips and educational comics—of this most prolific writer.

And perhaps, in his spare time, produce an outline of his editorial production and the great number of articles he wrote.

I asked him how it was possible to have conjured up such a staggering array of characters and stories. His succinct reply, "I seen me duty and I done it."

Never one to blow his own horn, even he would be surprised to learn that much of the material he published is still being collected and traded and read.

All these years later and a portion of that work is being collected here, in this series from Famous Comics.

Joe Gill. Pioneer. I'll never forget him. Neither will you.

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Last issue (#23), September 1965
23 issues published

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Gorgo

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Cover
Gorgo's Return

#3, September 1961
Cover
The Return of Gorgo

#4, November 1961
Cover

FROM THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE NOW... NOW, WHEN THE GREAT CREATURES HAVE DISAPPEARED WHENCE THEY CAME... WE CAN RELATE THE SERIES OF EVENTS THAT LED TO ONE OF THE GREAT DISASTERS IN MAN'S HISTORY! A LESSON MAY BE LEARNED... BUT MAN HAS FAILED TO LEARN BEFORE, AND THIS CATACLYSMIC EVENT SHALL PROBABLY BE RECORDED AS A PROFITLESS CATASTROPHE REMEMBERED WITH AWE AND, BY SOME, WITH GREEDY SPECULATION!

IT BEGINS A SHORT TIME AGO, ABOARD A SMALL SHIP OWNED BY TWO MEN WHO, LIKE VULTURES OR HYENAS, PROFIT WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER! THEY ARE DIVERS... SALVAGING THE REMAINS OF THE SHIPS SUNK IN THE LAST GREAT WAR...

THIS IS JOE RYAN AT WORK... AN ALMOST FEARLESS MAN WILLING TO RISK ANYTHING THAT WILL MAKE HIM RICHER...

ON DECK, SAM SLADE, HIS PARTNER, IS A BIT LESS GREEDY...

TRYTON

JOE RYAN BETTER COME UP SOON, SAM! IT'S LOOKIN' TERRIBLE UGLY! THE MEN ARE GETTIN EDGY!

SO'M I, BOSUN!

I KNOW THESE WATERS AN' I NEVER SEEN THE LIKES O' THIS, SAM!

GET ME A LUNG! I'M GOING DOWN AND BRING JOE UP!

2

BUT SAM SLADE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO DOWN FOR HIS PARTNER -- RYAN APPEARED JUST THEN...

WE'RE IN! SWING OUT THE BOOM AND GET A CABLE OVER THE SIDE!

ARE YOU KIDDIN'? LOOK, JOE!

I SEE IT! BUT THERE'S A $10,000 GYROCOMPASS DOWN THERE AND I'M STAYIN' HERE TILL I GET IT!

BAROOM!

JOE, USE YOUR HEAD!

GET THE ANCHOR UP!

BATTEN HER DOWN!

3

THEIR SHIP, THE TRITON, WAS ALMOST SWAMPED BY THE FIRST MONSTROUS VOLCANIC TIDAL WAVE ...

WE'LL CAPSIZE SURE!

LESS COURAGEOUS MEN WOULD'VE LOST THEIR SHIP AND LIVES... BOTH JOE RYAN AND SAM SLADE SAVED BOTH ...

LATER, AFTER THE HEAVILY DAMAGED TRITON HAD BEEN DOCKED IN A TINY GAELIC FISHING PORT...

THE TOWN WAS PRETTY HARD HIT BY THE STORM TOO, JOE!

LOOK, JOE! THOSE FISH IN THE WATER!

I NEVER SEEN NOTHIN' LIKE THAT BEFORE! WHOLE OCEAN BOTTOM MUST BE TORE UP!

DREAD SILENCE BLANKETED THE VILLAGE! MEN WHO KNEW THE SEA CROSSED THEMSELVES AS THEY REPAIRED THE STORM-WROUGHT DAMAGE! THEY TOO HAD SEEN THE WEIRD FISH ...

IS THERE A HARBOR MASTER IN THIS PORT, CHUM?

THEY'RE AN ODD BUNCH! JUST JABBER GAELIC AT EACH OTHER!

SOMEONE HERE SHOULD KNOW ENGLISH!

WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR THE HEAD MAN AROUND HERE!

IT'S THE RIGHT PLACE YOU HAVE COME TO THEN! MR. McCARTIN, THE ARCHEOLOGIST, LIVES HERE! I'M HIS HELPER!

THE ADVENTURERS LEARNED THAT Mc CARTIN HAD BEEN SENT TO DIRECT A SEARCH FOR A SUNKEN VIKING FLEET FOUND OFF THE COAST OF THE GAELIC ISLAND! Mc CARTIN TURNED OUT TO BE A SHREWD, WORLDLY MAN...

I'M JOE RYAN, HE'S SAM SLADE, MY PARTNER! WE NEED REPAIRS AND FRESH WATER!

HAVE YOU A PERMIT TO WORK THESE WATERS, MISTER RYAN?

PERMIT? FROM WHO?

FROM DUBLIN! THE BOY, SEAN, SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT! YOU CAN'T STAY HERE FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BECAUSE OF THE WORK WE'RE DOING!

WE CAN'T SAIL WITHOUT FRESH WATER!

YOU CAN HAVE THAT MUCH, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE!

JOE RYAN AND SAM SLADE WERE A SKEPTICAL PAIR! THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE Mc CARTIN... SO THEY FOLLOWED Mc CARTIN'S BOAT CREWS...

IF Mc CARTIN'S LYIN', JOE, HE HAS GOOD REASON! WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE ISLAND DIVERS DOWN, BE CAREFUL!

SLACK HER OFF, BOS'! I WANT TO QUESTION THESE GUYS!

THEY SPEAK ENGLISH AS GOOD AS WE DO WHEN THEY WANT TO, JOE!

BUT THE BOATMEN WOULDN'T TALK... THEY GLARED UNTIL THE ADVENTURERS SHEERED OFF... THEN THE ISLAND DIVERS WENT DOWN SEEKING WHAT THEIR EMPLOYER PAID THEM TO FIND...

I NEVER SAW SUCH A SECRETIVE BUNCH IN MY LIFE, SAM!

WHAT GOT INTO *HIM*?

NEVER MIND! GET HIM ABOARD!

YIIIII!

THE DIVER WAS PALE... FRIGHTENED SPEECHLESS...

WHAT'S DOWN THERE, MAN? WHAT SCARED YOU?

THE DIVER COULDN'T ANSWER... IN THE NEXT SECOND HE WAS DEAD! DEAD WITH A FISTFUL OF VIKING GOLD IN HIS RELAXING HAND...

SO *THAT'S* WHY Mc CARTIN DIDN'T WANT US AROUND! HE FOUND *SUNKEN GOLD!*

AND SOMETHIN' ELSE, JOE!

SOMETHIN' SO *BAD* IT SCARED HIM TO DEATH! AND I HEARD A SHOUT FROM ANOTHER BOAT! ANOTHER DIVER DIDN'T COME UP AT ALL!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, SAM! THERE'S GOLD DOWN THERE AN' I'M GOIN' DOWN FOR IT!

SAM, YOU'RE THINKIN' ABOUT THE DEAD MEN! IF YOU DON'T WANTA DIVE, DON'T.

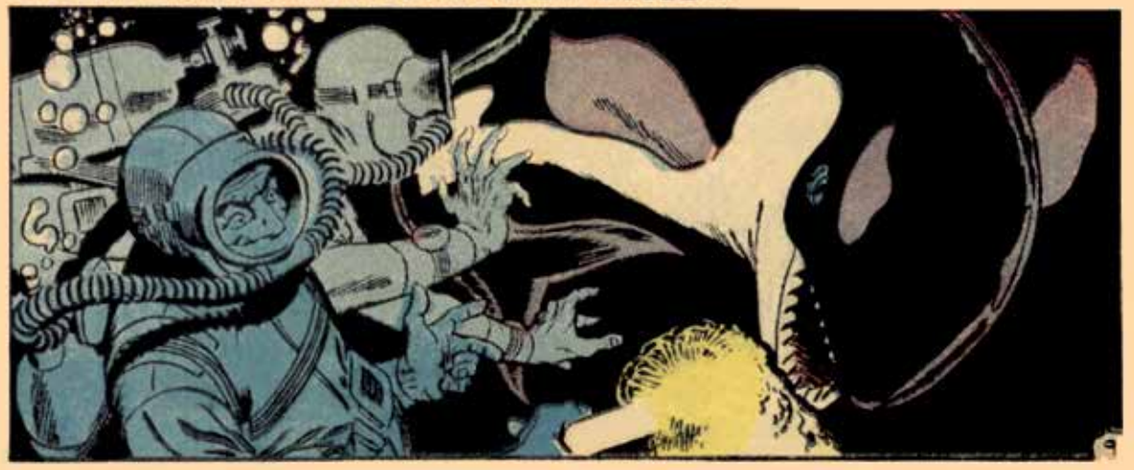
I'M GOIN' DOWN ALL RIGHT! TO SEE THAT *YOU* COME BACK UP ALL RIGHT!

GOLD... VIKING GOLD WAS THE LURE THAT TOOK THE ADVENTURERES DOWN INTO THE ACCURED GAELIC COVE...

8

JOE DIDN'T TRY TO EVADE THE OCTOPUS OR THE CRUSHING TENTACLE LOOPING AROUND HIM! HE WENT CLOSER, AIMING THE EXPLOSIVE HARPOON CAREFULLY FOR THE ONLY CHANCE THEY'D HAVE...

THE KILLER WHALE HAD DECIDED... THEY WERE NEXT ON HIS INCREDIBLE MENU! THIS TIME, THE TWO KNEW THE PERIL WAS GREAT INDEED...



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THE KILLER WHALE ... RACED IN ... A DREADED SIGHT TO ANY DINER ... BUT A GREATER EVIL WAS BEYOND ... AN INCREDIBLE CREATURE PREYING ON THE GREAT KILLER WHALE ...

LATER ... AS WATER IS BEING PUMPED ABOARD THE TRITON, SAM SLADE AND JOE RYAN WATCH THE ISLANDERS' ACTIVITIES IN THE GROWING DUSK ...

McCARTIN'S YOUNG HELPER WAS WITH SAM AND JOE ... STRANGELY SILENT, AN ODD, SAD EXPRESSION ON HIS YOUNG-OLD FACE! HE TOO WATCHED THE DARK AND SULLEN WATERS OF THE BAY ...

GREAT FIRES WERE BUILT ON THE BEACHES! FISHERMEN ROWED THE BAY WITH TOUCHING OMINOUS HIGHLIGHTS OFF HIS QUESTING HEAD ...

THEN ... AT LAST ... THE ISLANDERS SAW THEIR OGRA! THE MONSTER SWAM INSHORE ... FOUND FOOTING ... AND ROARED A TERRIBLE GREETING ...

THE ISLANDERS PANICKED... THEN A FEW BRAVER MEN RALLIED TO DEFEND THEIR HOMES...

OGRA! IT IS OGRA!

JOE RYAN AND SAM SLADE... SENSED THE DANGER TO ALL! THE GRASPED TORCHES AND MOVED TOWARD THE COLOSSUS...

THE FOOLS! THEN'LL BOTH DIE!!

THAT'S IT! GET MORE TORCHES! DRIVE HIM BACK TO THE *SEA!*

RROOWWR!

FIRE WAS THE WEAPON... THE **ONLY** WEAPON THE MONSTER FEARED! WITH ONE LAST FLICK OF HIS TAIL THAT WRECKED A DOZEN BOATS AND TWICE AS MANY MEN, HE TURNED...

HE'S GOING! PRAISE BE, WE'RE SAVED!

12

SOME ISLANDERS ON THE BEACH FELL TO THEIR KNEES AND GAVE THANKS... BUT JOE RYAN AND SAM SLADE HAD OTHER THOUGHTS...

JOE, Mc CARTIN'S GOLD DINERS'LL BE QUITTIN' AFTER THIS! DO YOU SUPPOSE...

AYE! HE'LL WANT THE MONSTER OUT OF THE WAY, SAM! BUT...

...THE MONSTER ITSELF IS WORTH MORE THAN THE GOLD! SAM, IF WE COULD GET THE STEEL SHARK NET ON OGRA, WE COULD CAPTURE HIM!

MISTER RYAN, YOU'LL BE TRYIN' TO CATCH OGRA?

YEAH, SEAN! NOT AFRAID, ARE YOU?

NO, BUT 'TIS A TERRIBLE BAD THING YOU'RE DOIN'... A TERRIBLE BAD THING!

MORNING... AND THE TRITON IS HEADED OUT OF THE HARBOR...

YOU GOT THE SHARK NET ALL RIGGED, BOS'? AND THE BATHYSPHERE?

ALL READY, JOE! BUT BE CAREFUL! THESE ISLANDERS ARE SCARED BAD!

SO'M I!. SCARED WE WON'T FIND THAT OVERGROWN LIZARD AND CASH 'IN!

13

IN THE CONE WHERE OGRA HAD BEEN FIRST DISCOVERED, THE BATHYSPHERE WITH JOE RYAN INSIDE IS SLOWLY LOWERED...

LOWER AWAY!

THE LIGHTS ATTRACTED THE MONSTER FIRST! MAYBE THEY'LL BRING IT TO ME AGAIN!

WHAT THA... IT'S THE MONSTER!

STILL BITTERLY PAINED BY MAN-INFLICTED WOUNDS, THE HUGE THROWBACK SWAM CLOSER... CLOSER...

HE'S COMIN' FOR ME! BUT HE CAN'T TOUCH ME IN HERE!

THEN... WITH A GURGLING ROAR JOE RYAN COULD HEAR INSIDE THE CAPSULE, THE SEA GIANT CRUNCHED DOWN ON THE STEEL SHELL..

TAKE ME UP! TAKE ME UP!

SAM... SAM! PULL!!

14

ON DECK, SAM SLADE AND THE BOSUN KNEW THE MONSTER HAD JOE! THEY APPLIED FULL POWER TO THE WINCH...

THE MONSTER'S GOT HIM! THE CABLE'LL SNAP IF...

DROP THE SHARK NET! QUICK, SAM!

OGRA HAD THE BATHYSPHERE.. .JOE RYAN'S TIME SEEMED SHORT... UNTIL THE GREAT SHARK NET PLUNGED DOWN...

SNUG UP! SNUG UP! WE GOT 'IM!

TAKE IT EASY! WE GOT HIM! TAKE ME UP!

15

THE BOOMS OF THE TRITON WERE BARELY EQUAL TO THE TASK BUT THE MONSTER WAS ABOARD AT LAST! THE NEWS WAS FLASHED ROUND THE WORLD! GREAT MUSEUMS MADE OFFERS... THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN CLAIMED OWNERSHIP! BUT JOE RYAN AND SAM SLADE WERE NOT SCIENTISTS, NOT PHILANTHROPISTS... THE OPERATED FOR PROFIT ONLY...

THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT OGRA NOW, JOE! NEWSREEL CAMERAMEN PAID FOR PICTURES, NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS...REPORTERS!

DON'T CALL HIM **OGRA** ANY MORE, SAM!

MR. DORKIN, OF DORKIN'S LONDON CIRCUS HAS OFFERED THIRTY THOUSAND POUNDS AGAINST FIFTY PERCENT OF THE GROSS! DORKIN CALLS OUR PET **GORGO**...AND GORGO HE WILL BE!

SET A COURSE FOR LONDON!

BBC

McCARTIN'S ASSISTANT, SEAN, WAS ABOARD...A STOWAWAY THE PARTNERS MADE WELCOME! HE ALONE HAD NO FEAR OF GORGO...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?

16

RWWRRRRR!

YOU NUTS? YOU TRIED TO LET HIM GO!

YES, TO LET HIM GO BACK TO THE SEA WHERE HE BELONGS! TO SAVE YOUR SILLY SKINS FOR YOU!

DESPITE THE ORPHANED IRISH BOY, TRITON MADE THE THAMES ESTUARY...WHERE A GREAT WELCOME AWAITED...

DORKIN'S LONDON CIRCUS WELCOMES **GORGO** 8th WONDER OF THE WORLD

LONDON HAS NOT SEEN SUCH EXCITEMENT SINCH V-E DAY!

MR. DORKIN AND THE PARTNERS WERE INTERVIEWED BESIDE THE MONSTER...NEWLY CHRISTENED GORGO, THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD...

WE'VE BUILT A SPECIAL TANK FOR GORGO! HE WILL BE TRANSPORTED UNDER SEDATION TO IT! THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DANGER TO ANYONE!

17

GORGO MADE THE TRIP THROUGH LONDON TO BATTERSEA PARK AND THE LONDON CIRCUS! HIS TANK WAS WAITING... HE WAS CAGED AT LAST WITH THE LOSS OF ONLY ONE MAN... THE BOSUN WHO DIED GETTING HIM INTO THE HUGE MOAT...

DORKIN'S MAKIN' A PILE OF MONEY, JOE! SO ARE WE BUT...

SEAN'S BEEN FILLIN' YOU UP WITH HIS IRISH BLARNEY, I SEE!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT PROFESSOR HENDRICKS SAID ABOUT GORGO?

MMOOORR!

HE SAYS GORGO'S NOT AN ADULT SPECIMEN! IN FACT, HE'S IN *EARLY INFANCY!* AN ADULT OF THIS SPECIES WOULD BE WELL OVER TWO HUNDRED FEET TALL!

MEANWHILE, McCARTIN WAS DISCOVERING THE SAME THING... BY SEEING A *FULL GROWN* PARENT OF GORGO...

THEY GOT OUT JUST IN TIME!

THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY FIRST LEARNED THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITH NARA ISLAND HAD CEASED... THEN LEARNED FROM PROFESSOR HENDRICKS OF THE PROBABLE EXISTENCE OF AN ADULT MONSTER BIGGER THAN GORGO...

NEVER FEAR, PROFESSOR, THE BRITISH NAVY CAN STOP YOUR MONSTER! I'LL ORDER OUT A TASK FORCE TO PATROL THE WATERS BETWEEN HERE AND NARA ISLAND AT ONCE!

GORGO'S PARENT CAUGHT A SCENT... PERHAPS WATER FROM THE HOSES THAT WERE PLAYED ON GORGO DURING HIS BRIEF PASSAGE! AT ANY RATE, THE BEAST HEADED FOR LONDON...

SENTINEL TO STINGER! BOGIE SIGHTED NORTH-EAST YOUR POSITION!

THE DESTROYER CLOSED IN... FIRED SALVOS AT THE HUGE CREATURE...

BLAM! BAROOM!

MODERN WEAPONS PROVED USELESS... GORGO'S MOTHER PROCEEDED SURELY ON THE SAME COURSE THE SHIP HAD STEERED INTO THE THAMES ESTUARY...

NOTIFY ALL CIVILIANS TO EVACUATE ENTIRE AREA! CLEAR A WIDE PATH BETWEEN HERE AND BATTERSEA PARK! MAMA'S GOING FOR BABY!

BLAM!

VROOM

SHRIEKING SIRENS CONVERGED ON BATTERSEA PARK... PLANES PATROLLED THE AIR ABOVE... BRITAIN'S ARMED MIGHT WAS MARSHALED TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE... AND STOP THE MONSTER BEFORE IT REACHED GORGO...

GORGO KNOWS SHE'S COMIN'! LISTEN TO HER! BUT SHE WON'T REACH US, SEAN!

SHE WILL, MR. RYAN! WE SHOULD'VE LET GORGO GO BACK TO THE SEA!

DO KIN PRESENTS GORGO

ROWRRR!

JOE, WE'VE GOT TO TURN THE THING LOOSE! IT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? THIS IS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY! THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO HANDLE AN OVERGROWN LIZARD!

I'M GOIN' TO LET HIM GO!

OVER MY DEAD BODY!

CROWDS WAIT OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING STREET... WHERE THE PRIME MINISTER CONFERS WITH THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF...

ATOMIC WEAPONS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION SIR! HEAVILY POPULATED AREA... MORE CASUALTIES THAN... TANKS OF COURSE... MISSILES...

20

TANKS... PLANES... MISSILES... EVERY WEAPON OF MODERN MAN'S ARSENAL WAS USED... AND FAILED TO STOP THE PRE-HISTORIC CREATURE...

SHIPLOADS OF GASOLINE WERE DUMPED INTO THE RIVER... IGNITED...

THE GASOLINE FIRES FAILED TOO!

NOTHING STOPPED GORGO'S MOTHER... NOT FIRE, TANKS, OR MISSILES! SHE WAS CLOSER TO BATTERSEA PARK... CLOSE TO HER OUT-SIZED OFFSPRING...

HERE SHE COMES, SEAN! YOU'LL GET YOUR WISH! GORGO WILL GO BACK TO THE SEA WHERE SHE BELONGS!

LOOK AT THAT! I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET IN THEIR WAY WHEN THEY START BACK TOWARD THE SEA!

21

FIRE WAS USED... MILLIONS OF VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY... NOTHING AVAILED! MAMA MONSTER AND GORGO WERE HEADING FOR HOME...

BACK TO THE THAMES ESTUARY... BACK TO THEIR ELEMENT...

THERE GOES GORGO, SEAN!

THEY'RE CLEAR OF THE SUB-MARINE NETS NOW, JOE!

THEY'LL BE GOIN' BACK NOW... BACK TO THE ISLAND... AND THE SEA!

R-ROOOWR!

END

A Charlton Publication

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

STILL 10¢

THE RETURN OF GORGO

RELEASED BY M.G.M.

BASED ON A KING BROTHERS PICTURE

AUGUST

GORGO RETURNS

THE SCIENTISTS REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE REPORTS THAT THE MONSTROUS REPTILE REALLY EXISTED...THE SPECIES BECAME EXTINCT 2,000,000 YEARS AGO, BACK IN THE DAWN OF TIME/ YET, INCREDIBLY, THERE HE WAS ON THE RUNWAYS OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MOVING TOWARD NEW YORK CITY, DEFYING MAN AND HIS TERRIBLE WEAPONS/ SMASHING THE SLEEK AND DEADLY WARPLANES FROM THE SKY, UNHURT BY THE POWERFUL TANKS AND ARTILLERY SHELLS BURSTING AGAINST HIS REPTILIAN SKIN/

THAT WASN'T THE FIRST LOOK MAN HAD AT GORGO...ONCE BEFORE THE ANCIENT REPTILE HAD ASCENDED FROM THE HIDDEN DEPTHS TO CHALLENGE ALL MANKIND! ON THAT OCCASION, THE GREAT CITY OF LONDON HAD PAID A TERRIBLE PRICE FOR TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE BABY MONSTER...

GORGO'S LOVING MOTHER, HAD SMASHED INLAND, IGNORING THE ARMED MIGHT OF ALL ENGLAND TO RESCUE HER MAMMOTH OFFSPRING!

MEN WHO SAW THE INCREDIBLE CREATURES PRAYED THEY WOULD NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN! OTHERS DID MORE THAN PRAY...THEY PLANNED...

ADMIRAL, WE ARE CAPABLE OF CHARGING THE IRISH SEA, THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, AND ALL ADJACENT WATERS WITH 10,000,000,000 VOLTS IF THE MONSTERS EVER ATTEMPT TO RETURN!

EXCELLENT! BUT WE WILL NOT RELY ON THAT ALONE! WE WILL ADOPT OTHER MEASURES!

THERE WAS NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GORGO AND HER OFFSPRING! THE MASSIVE CREATURES WERE BACK IN THEIR HABITAT AT 30,000 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE!

2

THEN, IT BEGAN HAPPENING! HUGE GENERATORS ON THE ENGLISH COAST WENT INTO OPERATION...

THE WATERS OF THE IRISH SEA ARE NOW ELECTRICALLY CHARGED!

GORGO'S MOTHER, DOZING AWAY THE YEARS, FELT THE PRICKLE OF ELECTRICITY...AWAKENED, ALARMED FOR HER BABY, GORGO!

GORGO, OF COURSE, PLAYFUL AS A 500 TON PUP, IGNORED HIS MOTHER'S NUDGES...

FINALLY, LIKE MOST PARENTS, SHE HAD TO DO IT THE HARD WAY!

3

THE TWO HEADED WEST...AWAY FROM THE IRISH COAST WHERE THERE WERE CANNON AND FLAMETHROWERS, ANNOYING ELECTRICAL CURRENTS AND CONSTANT HARASSMENT! WESTWARD TOWARD AMERICA...

THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND DRIFTING ICE FLOES, STORM-TOSSED SEAS...AND A QUICK LOOK AROUND!

SAINTS PRESERVE US!

DOWN AGAIN... SMASHING EASILY THROUGH THE FISHING NETS OF THE COD TRAWLERS ON THE GRAND BANK!

THEN, OFF THE COAST, THEY RESTED AFTER THE 2,000 MILE JOURNEY! THEY FED WELL ON THE TEEMING SCHOOLS OF COD...

4

AND RESTED MORE...

HARMLESS? YES...BUT THEIR VERY BULK ON THE OCEAN FLOOR WAS HAVING AN ODD EFFECT ON MANKIND! IN PARIS, A PARFEUMER TALKING TO A HOLLYWOOD STARLET DISCOVERED...

ZIZI, STOP TALKING ZIS WAY! YOU KNOW YOU CANNOT SPEAK CHINESE!

BLASTED TELEPHONE'S HAYWIRE!

I SAY, OLD CHAP, STOP MOUTHING THAT GIBBERISH!

GIBBERISH? YOU BLASTED LIMEY, I SPEAK OXONIAN ENGLISH!

NYET! NYET! BAH!

SO THE CONFUSION BROUGHT MERRIL HYDE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS INTO THE BUSINESS! HYDE, A TROUBLE-SHOOTER WITH THE VAST CORPORATION, WAS AT A SMALL LONG ISLAND MARINA!..

WE'VE GOT A JOB, MERRIL! SEEMS THE ATLANTIC CABLE'S FOULED UP SO BAD THEY'RE GETTING CROSS-TALK IN OSHKOSH!

THANKS, DINK! I'LL GET ON THE SHIP-SHORE RADIO AND QUERY THEM ON IT!

THE RESULT WAS A FAST DEPARTURE FOR THE GRAND BANKS WHERE GORGO AND HIS PARENT SLEPT SO HEAVILY AS TO SNARL ALL THE TELEPHONES ON TWO CONTINENTS!

I HOPE ONE OF THE TRAWLERS HASN'T HOOKED AN ANCHOR IN THE CABLE AGAIN! THEY CAN BE NASTY JOBS, DINK!

5

THEY SLEPT LONG AND WELL...AND GORGO AWAKENED FIRST, IN A PLAYFUL MOOD LIKE ANY MONSTER OF TENDER YEARS/ HIS MOTHER SLEPT ON AS...

THERE SHE BLOWS/

THIS AIN'T NO WHALE, YE CONSARNED IDJIT/

IT AIN'T A WHALE AT THAT/

THEN, DOWN, DOWN, DOWN DEEP TO THE BOTTOM...WHERE ANOTHER DISTRACTION OFFERED SPORT/

ABOARD THE TROUBLE III PLOWING THROUGH NORTH ATLANTIC SWELLS, MERRIL HYDE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL ORDERS..

HYDE, FIND THE TROUBLE QUICKLY, YOU HEAR? DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO TO RESTORE TRANSATLANTIC SERVICE AT ONCE/

WILL DO, BOSS/

6

MEANWHILE, GORGO WAS HAVING A BALL.. HIS TREMENDOUS, LIMITLESS STRENGTH SNAPPING THE THICK CABLE EASILY/

THE COILED CABLE SUCCEEDED, THE PREHISTORIC GIANT LIZARD WAS CAUGHT/

OUR INSTRUMENTS SHOW THE BREAK IS ABOUT HERE, DINK/ I'LL USE THE SKIN-DIVING GEAR AND TAKE A TORCH DOWN WITH ME/

THE WATER'S MUDDIED UP/ SOMETHING PRETTY BIG HAS BEEN DRAGGIN' THE BOTTOM/

WHAT IN BLAZES...??

7

IT'S A CINCH WE CAN'T USE THE CABLE WITH THIS CRITTER TIED UP IN IT/ FIRST THING TO DO IS CUT THE DAMAGED PORTION LOOSE/
MERRIL HYDE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S BRAVEST MEN, CHOSE THE FIRST PLACE TO CUT, A LOOP AROUND THE MONSTER'S WAIST/
WITH ONE LOOP OFF, HE FELT THE MONSTER SHIFTING, KNEW IT WAS ALMOST FREE...SO HE CUT ANOTHER/
THEN, GORGO FEELING THE CABLES LOOSENING, GAVE A CONVULSIVE HEAVE AND...
SONOFAGUN GOT LOOSE QUICKER THAN I EXPECTED/ I SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T COME FOR ME/
8

GORGO QUICKLY PAWED THE REMAINING LOOPS OF CABLE AWAY...
GOT TO GET TO THE BOAT AND WARN DINK/
QUICK, DINK, START THE ENGINES/ GOT TO GET AWAY/ MONSTER DOWN THERE HUNDREDS OF FEET LONG/
YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM NITROGEN NARCOSIS/
SO AM I/
FOR A LONG AND TERRIBLE MOMENT, GORGO LOOMED OVER THE BOAT...ONE QUICK SLASH WOULD DESTROY BOTH BOAT AND MEN/ BUT, STRANGELY, HE DIDN'T SEEM HOSTILE/
DON'T SHOOT, DINK/
OKAY, SKIPPER/ A BULLET WOULDN'T DENT HIM ANYHOW/
9

FULL AHEAD, SKIPPER/ THAT THING'S STILL NEAR THE BOAT!

WE'LL LOSE HIM, DINK, DON'T WORRY/

40 KNOTS...50...60 KNOTS AND...

STILL WITH US/ DINK, START THE OIL VAPORIZERS...MAKE SMOKE/ THAT SHOULD SLOW HIM DOWN/

RROL-L-L

IT'S WORKING, SKIPPER/ HEAR THAT?

HE'S SLOWING DOWN, MERRIL/

LATER, AS TROUBLE III HEADED INTO THE MARINA WHICH WAS CLOSE TO THE BORDER OF NEW YORK CITY AND IDLEWILD AIRPORT/

WE'LL NOTIFY THE WORKBOATS TO BE READY AND LEAD THEM TO THE SPOT WHERE THE BREAK IS IN THE MORNING/

OKAY, SKIPPER/ WE'D BETTER NOT MENTION THAT NIGHTMARE THAT CHASED US OR THE MEN WON'T GO/

10

BUT GORGO HADN'T ABANDONED THE CHASE...PERHAPS THERE WAS GRATITUDE IN HIS HUGE HEART...OR A FAINT COAL OF CURIOSITY BURNED IN HIS BRAIN/ HE WASN'T FAR AWAY...IN FACE, HE WAS RIGHT OFF THE PORT WHERE TROUBLE III HAD DOCKED/

NOTHIN' OUT HERE BUT MINNOWS, DARN IT/

ON SHORE, MERRIL HYDE HAD DRIVEN QUICKLY TO THE COMPANY OFFICES IN MANHATTAN AND...

WHAT? YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THIS YARN?

YOU'D BETTER, SATTERTHWAITE/ I DIDN'T INVENT THE CRITTER/

LAST YEAR, LONDON WAS RAZED BY TWO CREATURES EXACTLY LIKE IT/ I THINK WE'D BETTER NOTIFY WASHINGTON AND URGE THEM TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION/

IN WASHINGTON THERE WERE MEN WHO SCOFFED...BUT LUCKILY, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WAS NOT ONE OF THEM/

BUT, MR. PRESIDENT, SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE...

I DO, ADMIRAL/ I KNOW MERRIL HYDE AND HE DOESN'T LIE OR EXAGGERATE/ YOU'LL COOPERATE WITH THE AIR FORCE AND INVESTIGATE FULLY/

IT WAS AN AIR FORCE PILOT FLYING LOW AND SLOW IN AN L 17-B OBSERVATION PLANE THAT SIGHTED GORGO FIRST...

HONEST, IT'S AS BIG AS THAT CIVILIAN DIVER SAID/ TREMENDOUS/

11

THE OBSERVATION PLANE'S BROADCAST WAS HEARD BY A HOT-ROCK FIGHTER PILOT WHO CAME FLASHING DOWN AND...

AM ABOVE MONSTER ON BOMBING RUN/

SWOOOSH

SWOOOSH

GOT 'IM/

MERRIL HYDE WAS ABOARD TROUBLE III WHEN HE HEARD THE TRANSMISSIONS ON THE FIGHTER FREQUENCY/ HE ACTED AT ONCE...

WE'RE GOING OUT THERE, DINK/ I SHOULD'VE TOLD THEM NOT TO USE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ON THE BEAST/

IT'S NAME IS GORGO, I FOUND OUT, MERRIL/ THE BRITISH TRIED BOMBS, FLAME-THROWERS, AND ARTILLERY WITHOUT HURTING IT OR THE BIGGER ONE/

12

THE DEFEAT HANDED THE BRITISH NAVY, WAS KEPT IN MIND AS HEAVY CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS RACED OUT OF NEW YORK HARBOR/

GUNPOINT FROM HOWITZER/ DO NOT ATTACK WITHOUT SPECIFIC ORDERS/ SUGGESTION MADE TO USE SMOKE SCREEN TO DRIVE CREATURE BACK TOWARD OPEN SEA--WE WILL TRY IT/

I SHOULD'VE RETIRED EARLIER THIS YEAR BEFORE THIS CAME UP/ IF THE SAME THING HAPPENS TO OUR SHIPS THAT HAPPENED TO THE BRITISH, I'LL BE RUINED/

GORGO WAS MAD/ ONCE MORE BATTERED AND BURNED AND RIPPED AT BY MAN'S PUNY WEAPONS, HE WAS PAIN-CRAZED AND LOOKING FOR REVENGE/

USE THE FLAME-THROWER, DINK/ KEEP HIM AT A DISTANCE/

IT WORKS, SKIPPER/ HE'S TURNING AWAY/

IF WE CAN ONLY DRIVE HIM OUT TO DEEP WATER...

HE WENT UNDER, SKIPPER/ HE'S DOWN THERE...MAYBE COMING UP TO ATTACK THE BOAT/

13

IF GORGO HAD FELT KINDNESS TOWARD MAN IT VANISHED WITH THE FIRST BOMB...NOW, ENRAGED, HE WAS RUNNING AMOK!

JUMP, BUDDY!

THE TWO TROUBLE-SHOOTERS HIT THE WATER AND SWAM FOR THEIR LIVES!

WHAT'S HE DOIN' NOW?

HE SIGHTED THE CRUISER! SWIM FOR IT, DINK, THEY WILL BE LOBBING SHELLS IN HERE ANY SECOND!

OPEN FIRE!

RANGE 3000, USE ARMOR PIERCING SHELLS!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

SHATTERING CRASHERS MARKED THE PATH OF THE SHELLS! TONS OF LETHAL STEEL SLASHED AND TORE AT GORGO...

THAT'S IT! FIRE AT WILL!

ONCE MORE GORGO SUBMERGED, CONFUSED AND FURIOUS, HEADING NOT TOWARD THE OPEN SEA WHERE THE DANGER LAY BUT IN TOWARD LAND!

FEEL THE RUSH OF WATER, DINK? HE JUST WENT PAST... HEADING FOR SHORE!

ONCE HE GETS THERE, HE'LL KILL THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE!

BUT, OVERHEAD, A COAST GUARD HELICOPTER PILOT HAD SEEN THE MOVING BLUR BENEATH THE SURFACE AND...

EVACUATE ALL SHORE POINTS THIS AREA! GORGO HEADING FOR LAND! GET THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AWAY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

BUSLOADS, TRUCKLOADS, CARLOADS OF PEOPLE SPEWED INTO INLAND TOWNS...

THIS IS NONSENSE! NO SEA-GOING LIZARD CAN BE AS BAD AS THEY SAY IT IS!

INSHORE HE CAME, GRINDING AHEAD THROUGH BUILDINGS AND POWER LINES...

NOTHING WILL STOP THAT BEAST!

BEHIND GORGO, ABOARD A COAST GUARD CUTTER, MERRIL HYDE HAD THE SAME OPINION...

WE CAN'T DESTROY IT! WE'VE GOT TO TRAP IT! CHIEF, YOU KNOW THAT BIG SAND PIT INLAND?

YES, SIR, I KNOW WHERE IT IS!

HE'S GETTING 500,000 VOLTS OF JUICE RIGHT NOW! DOESN'T SEEM TO BOTHER HIM AT ALL!

16

MEANWHILE, GORGO'S PARENT WAS AWAKENING AT LAST...HER FIRST LOOK WAS FOR HER BELOVED OFF-SPRING, OF COURSE!

RRROAR!

MERRIL HYDE WAS FLOWN ASHORE BY HELICOPTER...AND HIS PLAN RELATED TO NATIONAL GUARD OTIS CLEEK, IN COMMAND OF THE DISASTER AREA!

...AND THE SAND PIT IS PLENTY DEEP! HAVE YOUR ENGINEERS MINE THE SIDES! WE'LL STEER GORGO TOWARD THE PIT BY USING SMOKE WHICH HE DEFINITELY DOESN'T LIKE!

FIRST SENSIBLE IDEA I'VE HEARD! WE WILL TRY IT!

SO HUGE SMOKE GENERATORS ALONG GORGO'S LINE OF ADVANCE WERE STARTED UP...CREATING A TUNNEL DOWN WHICH HE MARCHED!

HYDE'S IDEA WORKS! HE'S MOVING TOWARD THE SAND PIT!

HE'S ON THE EDGE...SIGNAL TO YOUR ENGINEERS NOW! BLAST THE SPOT HE'S ON...TUMBLE HIM INTO THE PIT!

17

WHOOM!
NOW CAVE THE SIDES ON HIM!
HUGE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES RIPPED AT THE STEEP SAND BANK! TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TONS OF SAND AND EARTH FELL INWARD AND...
THAT DID IT! GET BULLDOZERS AND PUSH MORE EARTH OVER HIM! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM HERE UNTIL WE FIGURE WHAT TO DO!
18

MIGHTY GORGO WAS HELPLESS, CAUGHT, UNABLE TO MOVE! BUT HE COULD ROAR.. AND THE FEARSOME SOUNDS TERRIFIED EVERYONE FROM BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT TO SOUTH PHILADELPHIA!
ROWL
SIXTY MILES OFF-SHORE, SEEKING HER SON, THE MONSTER HEARD THE DISTRESSFUL CRY...
MEANWHILE, MERRIL HYDE, GENERAL CLEEK, AND ADMIRAL SATTERTHWAITE WERE CONFERRING...
ABOUT TWO TONS OF DYNAMITE WILL DO THE JOB!
GENERAL, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD! IF ONLY WE COULD GET HIM TO GO BACK INTO THE OCEA...
TUT, TUT, MISTER! LET'S KEEP HIM HERE ON DRY LAND! DON'T GO GIVING ME ANY MORE TROUBLE THAN I ALREADY HAVE!
HAVE ANY OF YOU THOUGHT...OF GORGO'S MOTHER? WE KNOW SHE EXISTS! SHE SMASHED LONDON, REMEMBER! WHERE IS SHE NOW?
19

NOT FAR AWAY, GENTLEMEN, AND CLOSING THE DISTANCE FAST!

GREAT HEAVENS, LOOK!

LARGER CREATURE MOVING INSHORE! REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS!

DON'T OPEN FIRE! YOU'LL ONLY IRRITATE IT AND YOU WON'T HELP ANY!

GENERAL CLEEK'S NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS STOOD THEIR GROUND BRAVELY BUT...

20

SET FIRE TO ALL THE BUILDINGS IN YOUR VICINITY! KEEP THE THING FROM REACHING THE OTHER CREATURE!

FIRE THE AREA, SERGEANT! BURN EVERYTHING!

A WALL OF FLAME STOOD BETWEEN THE MONSTER AND HER BABY! SHE TRIED TO KEEP ON BUT...

IT'S MOVING WEST NOW! GENERAL, YOUR PLAN WORKED!

YES, WESTWARD...INTO A MORE POPULATED AREA...TOWARD KEY POINTS SUCH AS IDLEWILD AIRPORT!

FLIGHT 101 TO CONTROL IDLEWILD! YOU'D BETTER GET ALL PLANES OFF THE GROUND! MONSTER AT END OF RUNWAY NOW!

REQUEST MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SUGGEST USING ATOMIC BOMBS!

21

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THE TERRIFIED CONTROLMAN'S SUGGESTION WAS CONSIDERED AND...

DROP THE HYDROGEN BOMB ON THE CREATURE!

IN NEW YORK CITY, WARNINGS WERE BROADCAST...IT WAS DETERMINED TO WAIT ONE HOUR WHILE THE POPULACE GOT INTO SHELTERS!

YOU ARE DIRECTED TO TAKE SHELTER IN APPROVED AREAS! EVERYONE MUST BE UNDER COVER WHEN THE BOMB IS DROPPED IN THIS AREA!

THE MONSTER HAS MOVED INTO THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS AND IS MOVING TOWARD THE CITY!

YES, SHE WAS ON THE MARCH! SMASHING OVERHEAD RAILWAYS, REDUCING GREAT BUILDINGS TO RUBBLE, IMPERVIOUS TO FLAMES, PLANES, AND SHELLS!

TO THE SHELTERS!

22

THEN, THE HOUR WAS UP...THE BOMBER CARRYING THE TERRIBLE WEAPON WAS ON THE WAY!

NEARING TARGET AREA! AM STARTING BOMBING RUN!

RELEASING BOMB!

GOT THE CRITTER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLAST!

THE CITY WAITED...THE EASTERN SEABOARD WAS AT A STANDSTILL AS THE TOWERING ATOMIC CLOUD BEGAN TO DISPERSE IN THE GENTLE WINDS/ THE CREATURE WAS DEAD, THEY MURMURED, AS THEY HUDDLED IN FEAR/ HE MUST BE DEAD/

LOOK...THE SMOKE'S BLOWING AWAY/

THEN, A SUDDEN GUST CLEARED THE AREA AND...

THE MONSTER ISN'T DEAD/ REPEAT/ THE MONSTER ISN'T DEAD/

NOT DEAD, NOT WEAKENED, AND VERY, VERY ANGRY/ SHE MOVED LIKE A GIANT BULLDOZER THROUGH QUEENS, PAUSED AT THE RIVER NEAR THE QUEENSBOROUGH BRIDGE AND...

MERRIL HYDE, THE DISCOVERER OF GORGO, WAS IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL/ HIS HELICOPTER HOVERED CLOSE AS THE ADVENTURER STROVE TO THINK OF A WEAPON TO STOP THE MONSTER/

LOOK/ IT'S PUSHING AGAINST THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING/

24

THEN, SHE WAS IN THE MIDST OF THE GREAT CITY...A CARELESS SWING OF HER TAIL OBLITERATING THE GRAND CENTRAL STATION AREA...

ALL TRANSPORTATION IS AT A STANDSTILL/ POWER IS OFF TO PREVENT WIDESPREAD FIRES/ REMAIN IN THE SHELTERS/ GORGO IS ON MANHATTAN ISLAND BUT THERE IS LITTLE DANGER IF YOU DO NOT PANIC/

25

YES, AMOK AMONG THE GREAT BUILDINGS, THE ULTIMATE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAN/ BUT THE MONSTER WAS NO RESPECTOR OF WHAT WE'D CREATED/

HE'S HEADING FOR THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, NOW/

DO NOT PANIC, THE AUTHORITIES ARE IN COMPLETE CONTROL/

NORTHWARD, THEN, UP BROADWAY, GAY, GLITTERING BROADWAY...

I'VE ASKED WASHINGTON FOR ORDERS, HYDE/ WE HAVE NO WAY OF COPING WITH THIS THING/

THERE IS A WAY AND WE MUST FIND IT/ I'VE GOT IT/ GORGO!

26

MERRIL HYDE DIDN'T EXPLAIN/ HE URGED GENERAL CLEEK INTO THE HELICOPTER AND...

WE'VE GOT GORGO CAPTURED/ THE MOTHER'S PROWLING RIGHT NOW TRYING TO FIND IT/IF WE STOP ATTACKING AND IF SHE HEARS JUNIOR HOWLING, SHE'LL CROSS OVER TO LONG ISLAND AGAIN...AT LEAST SHE'LL BE CLOSER TO THE SEA/

SIR, GORGO'S QUIETED DOWN NOW/ HE CAN'T MOVE WITH THAT MOUNTAIN OF SAND ON HIS BACK/

SOMEONE GET ME A LONG POLE AND SOME OIL-SOAKED RAGS/

ARE YOU MAD? IF YOU GET IT EXCITED, HE'S LIABLE TO GET FREE AND...

GET AWAY/ I WANT GORGO EXCITED/I WANT IT TO BE FREE... SO WE CAN USE SMOKE TO HERD IT BACK TOWARD THE SEA/STAND BACK/

MERRIL HYDE, AS SAID BEFORE, WAS A BRAVE MAN/ AND NEVER BRAVER THAN WHEN...

HOWL, BLAST YOU, HOWL FOR YOUR MOTHER/

27

RUN CLEAR, HYDE!

GORGO, AROUSED NOW, INFURIATED BY MAN, SHUDDERED WITH RAGE AND...

START THE SMOKE GENERATORS/ HERD IT BACK INTO THE SEA!

MEANWHILE, GORGO'S MOTHER WAS AT THE HUDSON RIVER...WREAKING FURTHER DAMAGE ON THE WORKS OF MAN!

...AND HE'S HEADING EAST ONCE MORE/ HE WILL CROSS MANHATTAN ISLAND ON HIS PRESENT COURSE!

28

GENERAL, THIS ATOMIC CANNON THROWS A BIG SHELL/ IF TWO OF THE ATOMIC WARHEADS WERE REMOVED, I'D STOP GORGO AND HIS MOTHER!

HOW? HURRY, MAN, BEFORE THEY TURN INLAND AGAIN!

FIRE!

KERBL AM

GENERAL CLEEK LISTENED TO HYDE, THEN GAVE THE NECESSARY ORDERS/

THAT MAN'S GOT ENOUGH NERVE DRUG TO PARALYZE THE NATION/IT WILL IMMOBILIZE THE MONSTERS, I'M SURE/

THE SHELL PENETRATED HER SKIN/THE DRUG'S IN HER BODY NOW/

THEN, A SECOND SHELL FOR GORGO...

WHAM

29

THE PREHISTORIC CREATURES PAUSED, FEELING AN ODD SENSATION WITHIN THEIR POWERFUL BODIES/ THEN, GORGO, THE SMALLER TOTTERED AND...

IT WORKED ON GORGO BUT...

THE PARENT WOBBLED BUT DID WHAT SHE HAD TO DO/

GOT TO GIVE HER CREDIT, GENERAL/SHE'S SAVING THE YOUNG ONE AND GETTING AWAY/

LET HER GO... SHE'LL DIE AT THE BOTTOM/ MAN WILL NEVER BE TERRIFIED BY EITHER OF THEM AGAIN/

BUT THE GENERAL WAS WRONG/ THE CREATURES WERE MERELY DAZED/

AT LAST, BACK WHERE THEY BELONGED, MILES BELOW THE SURFACE, THE GIANT REPTILES WERE ABLE TO REST/ TO SLEEP, AND PERHAPS, SURVIVE...AND REVIVE AGAIN IN ONE YEAR OR A CENTURY/ NO MAN KNOWS...BUT WE CAN HOPE SHE DOES NOT RETURN WITH HER TERRIBLE OFFSPRING IN OUR LIFETIME/

END

A Charlton Publication

AWESOME! GIGANTIC!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

STILL 10c

GORGO

RELEASED BY M.G.M.

BASED ON A KING BROTHERS PICTURE

SEPTEMBER

I CAN CONTROL YOU...WITH YOU AT MY COMMAND I WILL RULE THE WORLD!

THE RETURN OF GORGO

THE AWESOME MONSTERS WHICH HAD DEFIED THE ARMED MIGHT OF TWO GREAT POWERS, THE PREHISTORIC BEASTS WHO HAD PROVED IMMUNE TO MAN'S MOST TERRIBLE WEAPONS, WERE EITHER DEAD OR CLOSE TO IT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA WHEN LATIN DICTATOR MANDEL ASTRO ADDRESSED HIS SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS/ ASTRO, A MERCILESS TERRORIST WAS A FRUSTRATED MAN BECAUSE THE ISLAND NATION HE RULED WAS POVERTY-STRICKEN, THE ARMED FORCES HE COMMANDED TOO INEFFECTUAL TO CONQUER ANYTHING, AND HE HAD APPARENTLY REACHED A DEAD END ON THE ROAD TO WORLD POWER/ PERHAPS NO OTHER MAN COULD ENVISION THE POSSIBILITIES OF THOSE MONSTERS...BUT ASTRO DID/ AND HE HAD SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT ZOOLOGISTS TO HELP HIM CARRY OUT HIS MANIACAL PLAN/ IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMED THEN, THE TIME CAME WHEN GORGO, A SURVIVOR OF AN AGE 2,000,000 YEARS IN THE PAST, WOULD OBEY ASTRO'S ORDERS/

DICTATOR ASTRO'S PLAN WAS ONLY A MAD WISH SOME MONTHS BEFORE...EXPRESSED AT THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTISTS OF BOTA ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE/

YOU FOOLS/ I WAS NOT APPRISED OF THE PRESENCE OF THIS MONSTER IN OUR HEMISPHERE/ THE MONSTER, GORGO, AND HIS PARENT ARE IN YOUR PROVINCE/ DR. VALZO/ WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

GORGO AND HIS PARENT ARE OBVIOUSLY SURVIVORS OF A TIME WHEN THE EARTH WAS RULED BY SUCH LARGE REPTILES/

THEIR SPECIES DID NOT SURVIVE BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT ADJUST TO CHANGING CONDITIONS/ IF ONLY THEY HAD MAN'S BRAIN TO DIRECT THEM, THEY WOULD BE RULING OUR WORLD TODAY/

I HAVE HEARD YOU CLAIM THAT YOU COULD MAKE ANY LIVING CREATURE OBEY YOU/ NOW...FIND THIS MONSTER, DR. VALZO/ MAKE IT SERVE ME/

S-SERVE YOU, PRESIDENT? IT WOULD DESTROY ME, IT W-WOULD...

PERHAPS, VALZO, ONLY PERHAPS/ BUT, OF A CERTAINTY, I WILL DESTROY YOU IF YOU FAIL/

MANDEL ASTRO'S MANDATE SENT DR. VALZO SCURRYING NORTH WITHIN THE WEEK.. TRAVELING IN THE SLEEK, WELL-EQUIPPED OCEAN-EXPLORING YACHT OWNED BY THE NATIONALIZED BOTA ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE/

BUT HOW CAN WE CAPTURE THIS MONSTER, DOCTOR? HOW CAN WE EVEN FIND HIM? AND, AFTER WE HAVE DONE THESE THINGS, HOW CAN WE TAME THE BEAST?

ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, PEDRO/

2

WE KNOW THAT MASSIVE NERVE DRUG INJECTIONS WERE ADMINISTERED AND THE PARENT TOOK HER OFFSPRING INTO THE OCEAN EAST OF LONG ISLAND OFF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT/ THESE CREATURES WILL SEEK THE GREAT DEPTHS...AND THERE IS JUST ONE TRULY DEEP AREA IN THAT LOCALE/ WE WILL FIND THEM BOTH THERE--DEAD, I HOPE/

A BATHYSPHERE WAS USED FIRST...DR. VALZO, MANNING IT, SEARCHED FOR SIXTEEN DAYS BEFORE HE SAW...

IT...IT IS THEY/

YES, THERE THEY WERE...LIFELESS HULKS ON THE OCEAN FLOOR/ ALIVE? VALZO HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THEN...

I'VE FOUND THEM/ HOIST ME TO THE SURFACE AT ONCE, PEDRO/

DR. VALZO KNEW IT WAS A JOB HE HAD TO DO HIMSELF/ BUT HE WANTED SOME PROTECTION AND PEDRO PROVIDED THAT...

THIS ELECTRICAL ROD, DOCTOR? WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

IT IS CONNECTED TO THE MAIN GENERATORS, PEDRO/ IT GENERATES 1,000,000 VOLTS, ENOUGH TO STUN EVEN CREATURES AS BIG AS THESE/

THE YOUNG ONE WILL BE MORE EASILY FRIGHTENED, HENCE EASIER TO TRAIN/ I WILL WORK WITH IT FIRST--IF IT IS STILL ALIVE/

3

DEAD, PROBABLY/ I CAN SENSE NO LIFE IN EITHER/
UNABLE TO FIND ANY SIGN OF LIFE, DR. VALZO AT LAST RESORTED TO THE ELECTRIFIED WAND HE HAD BROUGHT DOWN...

SUDDENLY, WHERE THERE HAD BEEN NO LIFE, THERE WAS A LIVING, ENRAGED CREATURE...
IT'S AROUSED, IT WILL DESTROY US BOTH NOW/ I WAS A FOOL TO COME HERE...
I...I CAN'T GET AWAY/ I'LL DIE HERE UNLESS...
FINDING COURAGE SOMEWHERE IN HIS CRAVEN HEART, DR. VALZO TURNED AND THRUST AGAIN WITH THE 1,000,000 VOLT ROD...
IT WORKED AGAIN/ THE ELECTRICITY STOPS HIM/
5

TO VALZO'S AMAZEMENT, THE SHOCK DID MORE...IT COMPLETELY STUNNED THE TREMENDOUS REPTILE/

WITH THIS POWER OVER GORGO, I CAN BRING HIM TO THE DICTATOR/ IT MAY EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE CREATURE OBEY ME IN ALL THINGS/

WORKING SWIFTLY, USING WOVEN STEEL WIRE CABLE SKILLFULLY, DR. VALZO AND HIS MEN SOON HAD GORGO TRUSSED SECURELY...

THE CABLES WILL NOT HOLD IF THAT THEENG TRIES TO ESCAPE/

THE ELECTRODE IS FIRMLY BOUND TO THE CREATURE, PEDRO?

I WILL PERIODICALLY SHOCK GORGO, REDUCING HIM TO A COMATOSE STATE EACH TIME/ THIS ACCOMPLISHES TWO THINGS--IT WILL KEEP HIM HELPLESS UNTIL WE REACH THE INSTITUTE AND TEACH HIM FEAR OF ME TO FACILITATE HIS TRAINING WHEN IT BEGINS/

6

DR. VALZO RADIOED AHEAD, OF COURSE, NOTIFYING MANDEL ASTRO/ AND THE DICTATOR SEIZED UPON THE MESSAGE AS AN EXCUSE FOR...

...AND THE BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, DR. VALZO, WILL TAME THIS GREAT CREATURE, MAKE IT A SERVANT OF THIS REPUBLIC, BRING NEW VICTORIES FOR OUR GLORIOUS NATION/ I PROMISE YOU, COMRADES, A NEW, RICH LIFE FOR ALL/

GORGO RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS THREE TIMES BEFORE THE YACHT REACHED PORT AND EACH TIME...

THE INSTRUMENTS INDICATE GORGO IS REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, SIR/

THEN, GIVE HIM ANOTHER JOLT, FOOL/

GORGO WAS TOWED TO THE BEACH WHERE BULLDOZERS COMPLETED THE JOB OF HAULING THE HUGE CARCASS ON SHORE...

THAT'S IT/ FINE/ NOW, SET UP GENERATORS SO THAT MY CONTROL OVER THIS CREATURE CAN CONTINUE/

RRRRR

ROAR REPTILE/ THREATEN ALL YOU PLEASE/ IT IS I WHO WIELD THE POWER/

STRIKE OFF THE CABLES, I DO NOT NEED THEM NOW! THE CREATURE WILL OBEY...HE HAS LEARNED FEAR WELL!

DR. VALZO, YOU ARE A TRUE GENIUS!

IN A MONTH, EL PRESIDENT, GORGO WILL BE PERFECTLY TRAINED TO PERFORM ANY TASK YOU WISH!

EXCELLENTE, DOCTOR! I WILL PROVIDE ALL THE ASSISTANCE OF FUNDS YOU DESIRE!

VALZO, A HARSH TEACHER, WORKED LONG HOURS WITH GORGO! TIRING FOR VALZO...TERRIFYING FOR THE ANCIENT REPTILE!

UP, GORGO, UP! THAT'S IT! NOW...UPROOT THAT TREE FOR ME!

ENOUGH, GORGO! GO INTO THE SEA AND WASH BUT DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GET AWAY OR YOU WILL SUFFER!

8

DR. VALZO AND MANDEL HELD MANY MEETINGS! ASTRO WAS IMPATIENT, THE POWER-MADNESS A GROWING FEVER IN HIS VEINS...

WHEN MAY WE USE THE CREATURE, VALZO? I WARN YOU, MY PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN!

DO NOT HURRY ME! IT IS FOR ME TO SAY WHEN...

FOOL! I WOULD ORDER YOU TRIED AS A TRAITOR IF I DID NOT NEED YOU NOW! HAVE GORGO READY WITHIN THE WEEK FOR USE AGAINST OUR NEIGHBOR!

EXACTLY ONE WEEK LATER, DR. VALZO WAS READY--AND PRESIDENTE ASTRO'S ARMED FORCES WERE MARSHALED FOR ACTION TOO!

MARCH TO THE BORDER AND ATTACK AT ONCE! I WILL FOLLOW WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT TO EXTEND TERMS!

GORGO, OBEYING DR. VALZO UNQUESTIONINGLY NOW, WAS A TERROR TO THE ENEMY DEFENDING THEIR BORDERS!

9

RUNNING AMOK, FRIGHTENED OF THE TERRIFYING ELECTRICITY AT DR. VALZO'S COMMAND, ENRAGED AT ALL MANKIND, GORGO SMASHED THE CITY, TORE DOWN EVERYTHING MAN-BUILT IN A WIDE AREA!

EL PRESIDENTE ASTRO IS HERE TO NEGOTIATE A SURRENDER!

ASTRO MET WITH THE LOCAL DICTATOR AND...

MANDEL, THIS IS TOO MUCH! I WILL SHOOT YOU FOR LOOSING THAT MONSTROSITY AMONG MY PEOPLE!

SHOOT ME AND DR. VALZO WILL SEND THE MONSTER AFTER YOU!

YOU WANT THAT, AMIGO? YOU WANT IT COMING FOR YOU, TALONS, TEETH, AND TAIL? OR WOULD YOU RATHER FLEE WITH THE MILLIONS YOU HAVE STOLEN FROM YOUR POOR, DOWN-TRODDEN PEOPLE?

I'LL GO, ASTRO! LET ME ESCAPE!

SO, THANKS TO GORGO, IT WAS A SHORT, ALMOST BLOODLESS WAR...AND THE CONQUEROR, GORGO, WAS UNDER CONTROL ONCE MORE!

YOU SEE, MY PET? DEFEATING A NATION ISN'T DIFFICULT! IT MIGHT AS EASILY BE THE WORLD! BUT YOU WILL NOT FIGHT FOR ASTRO!

I WILL NOT WIN POWER FOR OTHERS! IT IS I WHO HOLD THE POWER OVER YOU! IT IS I WHO WILL REAP THE RICH REWARDS!

10

THE COUP CAME WHEN DICTATOR ASTRO HELD A CELEBRATION AND FACED HIS PEOPLE, GLOATING IN HIS POWER OVER THEM AND HIS FEARFUL NEIGHBORS...

...AND YOU WILL REDOUBLE YOUR PRODUCTION QUOTAS! IT IS FUTILE TO THINK OF REVOLT, YOU CANNOT BREAK MY POWER! FOR THERE STANDS GORGO WHO IS READY TO ENFORCE MY ORDERS AND DESTROY MY ENEMIES!

SEE HIM, GORGO? DESTROY HIM! SMASH THE PALACE AND THE THRONE!

NOW, LITTLE PET!

DESTROY IT! SIGNAL THE TANKS, THE PLANES, MY...YEOW!!

WHEN THE DUST CLEARED, THE ABUSED PROLETARIAT HAD A NEW MASTER IN THE PALACE BUT THERE WAS NO REAL CHANGE...

I WANT GOLD, ALL THE GOLD IN THE COUNTRY! LEVY NEW TAXES, TAKE THEIR CROPS, SELL THEM! WE WILL SEIZE ALL FOREIGN-OWNED PROPERTY!

11

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF GORGO? HIS VAST STRENGTH COULD NOT LONG BE CONTAINED...

HE KNOWS YOU FEAR HIM, DOLT/ HAVE COURAGE, SHOW HIM WHO IS THE MASTER/ GO AT HIM, ATTACK... NOW/

HE ATTACKS/ WHAT SHALL I DO?

YEEEEEIIIIII/

DR. VALZO, THE RULER NOW, WAS INFORMED AND CAME AT ONCE/ GORGO, HIS ANGER FORGOTTEN AS HUNGER TOOK ITS PLACE, WAS EATING PEACEFULLY/

EXCELLENTE, WE TRIED BUT THE BEAST WAS TOO ANGRY TO FEEL PAIN/

BAH/ I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO HANDLE HIM/

NOW, BEAST, TURN AND KNEEL TO YOUR MASTER/ TURN, I SAY/

12

SLOWLY GORGO TURNED... THE HABIT OF OBEDIENCE TO THIS HATED HUMAN WAS DEEPLY INGRAINED NOW... GORGO KNEW THAT FEELING WOULD COME AGAIN IF HE RESISTED...

THERE/ YOU SEE, SERGEANT, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT AFTER ALL/

THE BEAST COULD DESTROY ME IN SECONDS IF HE HAD THE COURAGE, SERGEANT/ YOU JUST SAW A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THE POWER OF THE HUMAN MIND OVER BRUTE STRENGTH/

READY OUR FORCES FOR ANOTHER ATTACK/ YOU WILL HAVE THE ENTIRE ARMY AND AIR FORCE OF TWO NATIONS AT YOUR DISPOSAL/ EVEN WITHOUT THE MONSTER ON OUR SIDE WE ARE ASSURED OF VICTORY BUT HE MAKES IT A CERTAINTY/

SI, EL PRESIDENTE/ THE ARMORED COLUMN WILL BE READY BY DAWN/

SO VALZO DREAMED HIS DREAMS... DREAMS BUOYED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT GORGO RESTED NOT FAR AWAY, READY TO ENTER BATTLE AT A WORD FROM HIM/

CAME THE DAWN AND VALZO'S MOTORIZED DIVISIONS ROLLED...

13

LEADING THE ADVANCE, RIDING IN COMFORT, WAS DR. VALZO...

FASTER, DRIVER! IT IS 150 KILOMETERS TO THE BORDER OF THE COUNTRY I WISH TO CONQUER TODAY!

NOT FAR AWAY, NEEDING NO URGING, GORGO EASILY KEPT PACE WITH THE RACING ARMORED COLUMN...

THE FIRST OBSTACLE WAS REACHED TWO HOURS LATER...A MASSIVE PILL-BOX SET SQUARELY ON THE ROAD THROUGH THE DENSE JUNGLE!

I SHALL ORDER THE BOMBERS TO BEGIN BOMBING, EXCELLENTE!

NONSENSE, GENERAL! WHY WASTE THE BOMBS! GORGO WILL ACCOMPLISH THE SAME THING IN A FEW MOMENTS! GORGO!

GORGO! COME HERE!

YOU SEE IT, GORGO! DESTROY IT! TRAMPLE IT INTO THE JUNGLE MUCK! OBEY ME!

14

OBEY I SAY!

THEN, IN THE HEART AND MIND OF THE YOUNG REPTILE...YOUNG IN AGE IF NOT IN YEARS, A SPARK OF REBELLION GLOWED! AND FLAMED...

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU GET NOW? I SHOW YOU!

I WILL PUNISH YOU, GORGO. I WILL MAKE YOU PAY!

THE BEAST REBELS! NEXT, HE WILL TURN ON US!

15

GORGO, FREE OF THE MAN-INSTILLED FEAR WAS CONSCIOUS OF HIS STRENGTH ONCE MORE, KNOWING HIS ENEMIES...

FIRE ONE ROUND, THEN RUN AT FULL SPEED! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR HEROES!

CHAOS WRECKED VALZO'S ARMY....

16

DR. VALZO, A MAN WHO TEMPERED HIS AMBITION WITH CAUTION, HAD AN ESCAPE ROUTE READY...AND HIDDEN FUNDS AT THE BOTA ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE!

MY FIRST ACT WHEN I GAINED POWER WAS TO LOOT THE GOLD BULLION IN THE TREASURY! IT AWAITS ME NOW ABOARD THE YACHT! I'LL GET AWAY... LET GORGO HAVE THE COUNTRY AND ALL THE FOOLS IN IT!

I'LL BE RICH FOR LIFE! ABLE TO EXPERIMENT AS I WISH!

GORGO, THE FIRST SURGE OF RAGE ABATED, MOVED IN THE SAME DIRECTION! IGNORING THE ARMED MEN WHO WATCHED HIM PASS, TREMBLING VIOLENTLY, AFRAID TO MAKE HIM THEIR TARGET, GORGO WAS MOVING FAST!

HE WASN'T AFTER US, PABLO! HE IS PASSING US BY!

THE YACHT IS READY TO DEPART! ALL OF THE GOLD IS ABOARD!

17

HE WON'T CATCH ME NOW! I'LL GET AWAY!

VALZO REACHED THE YACHT JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE CAPTAIN LEAVING IT...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CAPITAN? WE CAST OFF AT ONCE!

THE CREW DESERTED WHEN THEY HEARD GORGO'S ROAR, EXCELLENTE, AND I AM DOING THE SAME!

WAIT! WAIT, I WILL SHARE THE GOLD, I WILL MAKE YOU RICH!

OFFER THE GOLD TO GORGO, VALZO, SEE WHAT HE SAYS!

VALZO, MOVING FAST, DRIVEN BY TERROR, GOT THE BIG DIESELS STARTED, AND MOVED THE THROTTLES TO FULL AHEAD...

I MADE IT! I GOT AWAY!

18

THE FOOLS THOUGHT ME DOOMED! THEY WERE WRONG--I WILL COME OUT ON TOP ONCE AGAIN!

DR. VALZO PLACED THE CONTROLS ON AUTOMATIC AND WENT TO TAKE A LAST TRIUMPHANT LOOK AT HIS COUNTRY... AND GORGO!

NO! OH, NO, IT CAN'T BE! GO BACK!

YES, VALZO FORGOT THAT GORGO WAS A MARINE ANIMAL...MORE AT HOME IN THE WATER THAN ON DRY LAND...

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

I AM YOUR MASTER I WILL TEACH YOU TO OBEY!

19

VALZO SAW THE INCREDIBLE BEAST DEMOLISH THE SHIP...SAW TIMBERS AND STEEL PLATES IMPALED ON THOSE TEETH! AND HE KNEW HE WAS HARVESTING WHAT HE HAD SOWED...

THEN, GORGO TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO VALZO...

DON'T, GORGO! LET ME ALONE! I WON'T HURT YOU AGAIN! GO AWAY, PLEASE GO AWAY!

ALMOST AS THOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD THE ABJECT FEAR, AS THOUGH HE FELT PITY IN HIS HUGE HEART, GORGO DID RESIST AND TURN AWAY, SWIMMING STRONGLY FOR THE DEEP, QUIET PLACE WHERE HIS MOTHER STILL SLEPT!

AND SO, BACK WITH HIS MASSIVE PARENT, GORGO RESTED AFTER HIS MIGHTY LABORS! TO SLEEP PERHAPS A YEAR--OR A CENTURY--OR FOREVER AS WE MEASURE TIME! FOR GORGO WAS BORN 2,000,000 YEARS AGO--AND HE IS YOUNG YET!

END

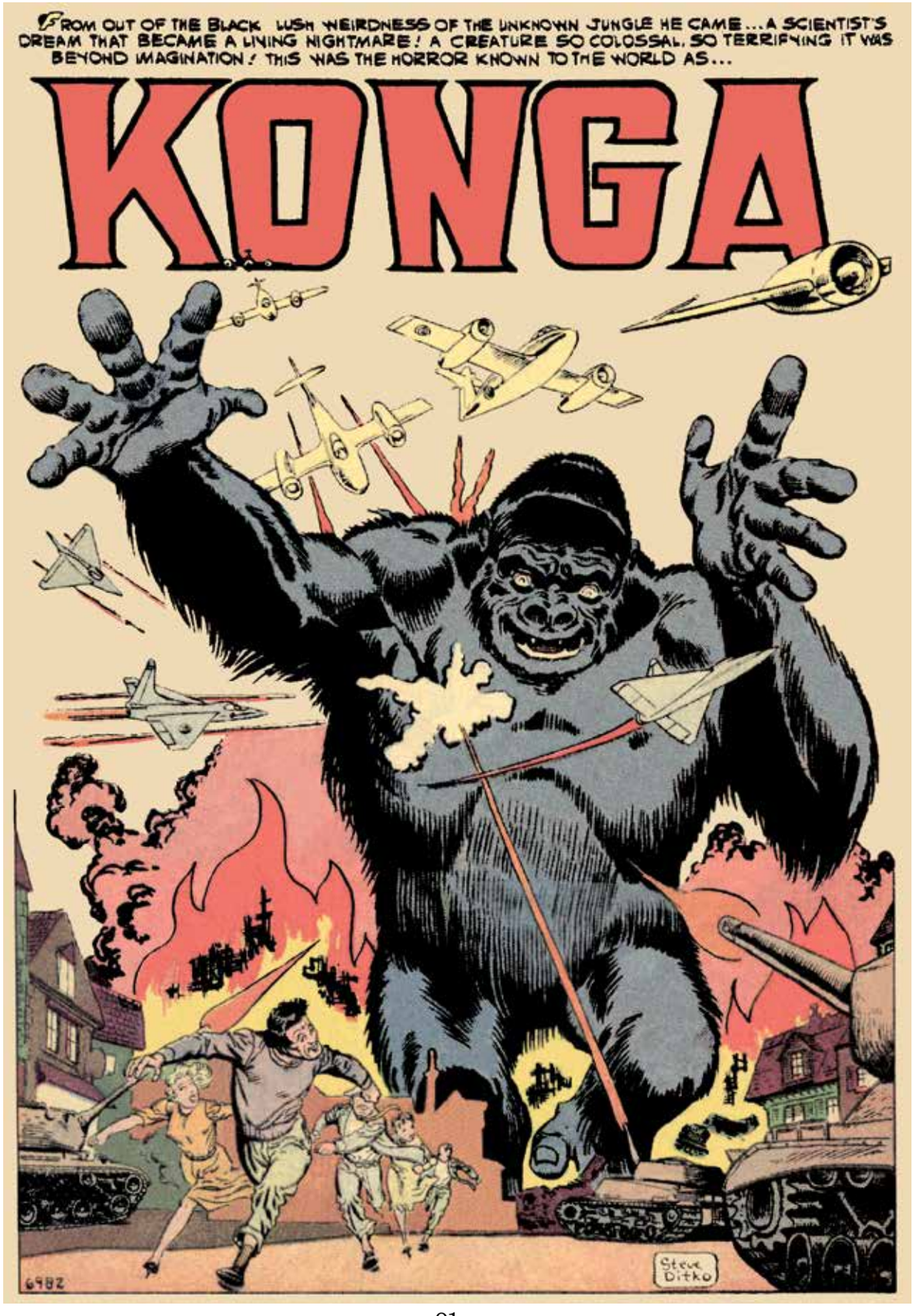
KONGA

First issue (#1), June 1961
Last issue (#23), November 1965
23 issues published

#1, [no month] 1961
Konga

#3, October 1961
Konga
The Rulers

#4, December 1961
Cover
Konga



AFRICA, THE DARK CONTINENT, A LAND OF STRANGE, BARBARIC RITES LINKED TO THE UNKNOWN! IN ITS UNEXPLORED SWAMPS AND JUNGLES MAY LIE THE SECRETS OF LIFE... AND OF DEATH...

THE LIMITLESS SKY STRETCHES UNMARRED ABOVE THE CROUCHING JUNGLE...UNMARRED, UNTIL A SPECK APPEARS ON THE VASTNESS... A SPECK THAT RAPIDLY GROWS LARGER...

THEN THE SILENCE IS SHATTERED, TOO, BY THE UNEVEN SNARL OF AN AIRCRAFT MOTOR, LABORING AND FLUTTERING LIKE A DYING HEART...

THE OTHER MOTOR'S CONKING OUT, TOO! THIS JOLLY WELL LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE LINE!

ISN'T THERE ANY CLEARING BIG ENOUGH TO SET HER DOWN IN?

IT'S ALL SOLID JUNGLE! WE'RE LOSING ALTITUDE FAST! BAIL OUT, DOCTOR DECKER, WE'RE GOING TO CRASH...

2

LIKE A WOUNDED THING, THE PLANE FLUTTERED DOWN TOWARD THE IMPENETRABLE JUNGLE... AND THE GREEN, LEAFY CLAWS OF THE JUNGLE REACHED UPWARD TOWARD IT...

SUDDENLY SHARP FORKS OF FLAME FINGERED OUT FROM THE FAILING MOTOR! THE MOTOR WHINED AND THEN WAS STILL...

THE PLANE'S NOSE TIPPED DOWNWARD AND PLUMMETED TOWARDS THE THICK ARMS OF THE JUNGLE...

...AND DISAPPEARED INTO ITS TANGLED DEPTHS...

3

AN EXPLOSION RAKED THE CLOSE FOLIAGE, THE SOUND QUICKLY MUFFLED BY THE ENCROACHING PLANT GROWTHS...

FLAMES LICKED UPWARD FIERCELY, BUT THEY WERE DEFEATED BY THE DANK UNDERGROWTH

THEN SILENCE CAME AGAIN, AND THE JUNGLE CROUCHED AND WAITED. GREEDY, INSATIABLE, A MINDLESS MONSTER, AGELESS AND DEADLY...

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, EYES WATCHED FROM THE SHADOWS... WATCHED A HUMAN FORM MOVE WITH A GROAN...

THE EYES GREW LARGER! LEAVES WHISPERED AS LIVING FLESH TOUCHED THEM... AND A TINY FURRED FORM LEFT THE PROTECTIVE GROWTH AND MOVED TOWARD THE SEMI-CONSCIOUS MAN...

HEARD THE EXPLOSION! PLANE... PILOT... GONE! I... I'M ALONE... LOST IN THE JUNGLE... NO WEAPONS...

CHIIIRUKK!

CHIIIRUKKK!

WELL, NOT QUITE ALONE. W-WHAT IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME?

IT LOOKS LIKE IT WANTS ME TO FOLLOW... WELL, WHY NOT? I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM... I ONLY KNOW MY PLIGHT COULDN'T BE WORSE! WAIT UNTIL I RID MYSELF OF THIS CHUTE...

THE MONKEY MOVED INTO THE JUNGLE AND DR. CHARLES DECKER FOLLOWED HIM...

THEN, ABRUPTLY, THE TRAIL ENDED IN A CLEARING. AND...

A HUGE HAND IMPRISONED HIM...

STOP!

KONGA, THE SACRED ONE, PROTECTS AND BEFRIENDS HIM! SET HIM FREE! I, M'BONTU THE WITCH DOCTOR, COMMAND YOU!

DR. DECKER FOLLOWED THE WITCH DOCTOR INTO THE VILLAGE! HE SPOKE TO M'BONTU IN THE BANTU DIALACT...

YOU ARE A RACE OF GIANTS! HAVE YOUR PEOPLE ALWAYS BEEN SO BIG?

NO, M'BONTU MAKE THEM BIG! I SHOW YOU!

M'BONTU HALTED AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE AND POINTED...

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS... BUT OF A SPECIES AND SIZE UNKNOWN TO SCIENCE!

M'BONTU PREPARE FOOD FROM PLANT SEEDS! MAKE MY PEOPLE VERY BIG, VERY STRONG!

6

AMAZING! THE SEEDS TRIGGER A GROWTH FACTOR! THESE PLANTS COULD BE THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE! M'BONTU, I WANT TO STAY HERE AND DO SOME EXPERIMENTS...

HA, YOU, WITCH DOCTOR OF WHITE MEN, CAN STAY! M'BONTU HELP YOU!

TIME PASSES...

THEN, A YEAR LATER, AT THE B.B.C. STUDIOS IN LONDON...

...THOUGHT TO HAVE PERISHED IN AFRICA, DR. CHARLES DECKER, FAMOUS ENGLISH SCIENTIST HAS RETURNED! WE NOW TURN YOU OVER TO WHERE DR. DECKER IS BEING INTERVIEWED!

...AND IT TOOK YOU A YEAR TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO CIVILIZATION, DR. DECKER?

NO! MOST OF THAT TIME WAS SPENT WITH THE TRIBE THAT GAVE ME REFUGE, ENGAGED IN RESEARCH WHICH MIGHT REVOLUTIONIZE SCIENTIFIC THINKING!

IF I CAN PROVE MY THEORY, WE MAY HAVE TO TEAR UP A LOT OF TEXT BOOKS! NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M TIRED, AND MY WIFE MARGARET IS WAITING FOR ME...

7

AND SO, AFTER A YEAR'S ABSENCE, DR. DECKER RETURNED TO HIS WIFE AND HOME...

SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU WERE STILL ALIVE! OH, MY DEAR, IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK!

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK! MARGARET, DEAR. DID YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE LETTER I SENT FROM AFRICA?

YES, I HADA HUGE CAGE BUILT IN THE LABORATORY! BUT CERTAINLY IT ISN'T FOR THIS LITTLE MONKEY?

YES, IT WILL BE FOR KONGA! HE WILL HELP ME BLAZE A NEW TRAIL IN SCIENCE! LET US GO TO THE LABORATORY!

THERE ARE THE BOXES YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU...

GOOD! WE MUST OPEN THEM IMMEDIATELY! TURN THE TEMPERATURE UP TO 90 DEGREES, MY DEAR! WE MUST SIMULATE THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY OF THE TROPICAL JUNGLE!

WHAT'S IN THE BOXES, CHARLES?

THE SEEDS OF A VERY REMARKABLE PLANT! SOME WE WILL PLANT, SOME WILL BE MADE INTO A SERUM! THESE SEEDS CONTAIN THE GENETIC LINKAGE BETWEEN PLANTS AND ANIMALS!

THE PLANT MANUFACTURES, WITHIN ITS SELF, THE DRUG COLCHICINE WHICH EFFECTS THE CENTRAL UNITS OF HEREDITY, THE GENES! IT CAN MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF GENES IN EACH CELL, CAUSING TREMENDOUS GROWTH...

8

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE THE PLANTS TO GROW FROM THE SEED?

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FOR FULL GROWTH! BUT WHEN THE OIL FROM THE SEEDS IS INJECTED INTO AN ANIMAL, IT FORCES GROWTH AND ALSO PUSHES THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS OF THE SPECIES!

THE SCIENTIST GLOWED WITH THE FERVOR OF A FANATIC! TO HIM HAD COME THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY EVER GRANTED A HUMAN... TO AID MANKIND TOWARD HIS GOLDEN AGE...

IF I AM SUCCESSFUL, MAN CAN SPAN A MILLION YEARS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION IN A FORTNIGHT! MAN CAN BECOME THE KINGS OF THE UNIVERSE... AND BEYOND!

LOOK, THE SEEDS ARE SPROUTING ALREADY!

THE WITCH DOCTOR WHO BEFRIENDED ME SHOWED ME HOW TO EXTRACT THE OIL FROM THE SEEDS! I HAVE A VIAL OF IT HERE! GET ME A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE...

ONLY BY CONTROLLED DOSAGE CAN GROWTH BE SUPERVISED. HALF OF A CC IS THE MOST I CAN ADMINISTER! KONGA, YOU ARE ABOUT TO BECOME IMMORTAL... THE VEHICLE OF THE GREATEST EXPERIMENT EVER ATTEMPTED!

THE NEEDLE SLID IN... AND THE HAND THAT GUIDED IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THE HAND OF THE SCIENTIST AS IT WAS THE HAND OF DESTINY... DARK DESTINY...

THERE! THAT DIDN'T HURT, DID IT, KONGA?

9

THE SERUM SHOULD BEGIN TO WORK WITHIN A FEW MINUTES!

I'VE ARRANGED A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG THE KEY TO THE CAGE AT A DISTANCE GREAT ENOUGH TO BE BEYOND KONGA'S REACH!

GOOD! MARGARET, YOU ARE A JEWEL...

CHARLES ...LOOK! HIS...HIS BODY, IT... IT'S CHANGING ...

THE LIVING CELLS THAT WERE A SIMIAN BEING SQUIRMED AND WORMED INTO NEW AND GREATER GROWTH BEFORE THEIR EYES! THE ENTIRE BODY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE LITTLE CREATURE ENLARGED, CHANGED...

IT WORKS! GROWTH, AND THE SECOND STAGE OF PRIMATE EVOLUTION... THE CHIMPANZEE!

I... I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE IT! WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WILL STARTLE THE WORLD!

THIS IS BUT THE BEGINNING! IT WILL TAKE YEARS OF RESEARCH! MEANWHILE I MUST GO BACK TO MY POSITION AS BOTANY PROFESSOR AT ESSEX COLLEGE, AND SPEND EVERY SPARE MOMENT ON MY SECRET EXPERIMENT!

10

TWO DAYS LATER DR. DECKER RETURNED TO HIS CLASSROOM...

TOMORROW, WE WILL LEARN THAT WITHOUT PLANTS AS OUR ALLIES, MANKIND COULD NOT SURVIVE, AND WHY! CLASS DISMISSED!

BUT, IF HE ACCEPTS, IT WILL CUT INTO OUR TIME TOGETHER... AND, SANDRA, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU!

BOB, I WANT TO! HE'S A BRILLIANT MAN, WORKING WITH HIM WOULD BE A TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY!

DR. DECKER, IF YOU COULD USE SOMEONE TO ASSIST YOU, I'D BE MORE THAN GLAD TO HELP!

THANK YOU, SANDRA! I COULD USE SOMEONE AS BRILLIANT A STUDENT AS YOU, TO HELP IN THE WORK HERE AT SCHOOL!

I AM ENGAGED IN A PRIVATE EXPERIMENT TO WHICH I WISH TO GIVE AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE, AND SOME OF THE WORK HERE, WHICH AN ASSISTANT COULD HANDLE, CUTS INTO THAT TIME!

DEAN FOSTER WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN HIS OFFICE, DR. DECKER!

YOU WISHED TO SEE ME, DEAN FOSTER?

YES, CHARLES! WE'VE BEEN GETTING REPERCUSSIONS FROM THAT INTERVIEW YOU GAVE! IT'S ONE THING FOR YOU TO MAKE EXTRAVAGANT SCIENTIFIC CLAIMS, BUT, SINCE YOU'RE PART OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, IT REFLECTS ON THAT INSTITUTION!

11

MY CLAIMS WERE NOT EXTRAVAGANT, AND THE ULTIMATE END OF MY EXPERIMENTS WILL REFLECT GREAT GLORY ON THE SCHOOL!

CHARLES, I AM BEST QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE WHAT WILL OR WHAT WON'T BRING CREDIT TO THIS SCHOOL! YOU WILL KINDLY REFRAIN FROM INDULGING IN PRIVATE EXPERIMENTATION AND...

I CANNOT... I WILL NOT STOP MY EXPERIMENT! DEAN FOSTER, NOTHING YOU CAN SAY OR DO CAN STOP ME!

NOW, CHARLES, CONTROL YOURSELF! YOUR HARDSHIPS IN THE JUNGLE MUST HAVE DERANGED YOU... TEMPORARILY! AT TOMORROW'S FACULTY MEETING I SHALL RECOMMEND THAT YOU BE GIVEN A LONG REST...

YOU IMPUGN MY INTEGRITY AS A SCIENTIST AS WELL AS MY SANITY! I KNOW WHAT I AM DOING, AND WHEN I REACH MY ULTIMATE GOAL NO ONE WILL PREVENT ME FROM GIVING IT TO THE WORLD!

ANGRY AND DISTURBED, DECKER WENT BACK TO HIS LABORATORY! AS HE PREPARED THE HYPO FOR ANOTHER INJECTION, KONGA WATCHED INTENTLY, HIS INTELLIGENT EYES FOLLOWING EVERY MOVEMENT...

HALF A CC... NO MORE... NEVER ANY MORE!

HOLD STILL NOW, KONGA! THAT'S A GOOD CHAP... THERE! DONE!

12

EVERY FACTOR OF THIS EXPERIMENT MUST BE CAREFULLY RECORDED!

GROWRRR!

THE DEEP ANIMAL-SOUND TURNED DR. DECKER! THE SERUM HAD REACTED QUICKLY! KONGA WAS NO LONGER A LESSER APE... HE HAD BECOME A GORILLA, SIX HUNDRED POUNDS OF PRIMORDIAL POWER...

WONDERFUL! A FULLY GROWN GORILLA, YET STILL MY FRIEND, KONGA!

BUT THE DOCTOR'S TRIUMPH WAS QUICKLY BRUSHED ASIDE BY ANGER AND BITTERNESS AS HE THOUGHT OF HIS MEETING WITH THE DEAN...

WITHOUT MY WAGES FROM THE SCHOOL HOW CAN I LIVE OR CARRY ON MY EXPERIMENT? AND DEAN FOSTER WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE FACULTY DISMISSES ME! THE FOOL, THE BLIND FOOL...

UNKNOWN TO DECKER, THE SERUM CAUSED EXPANSION OF THAT SECTION OF THE BRAIN WHICH ALLOWED THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE...

13

TO THE GREAT APE WERE TRANSFERRED HIS MASTER'S FEELINGS... AND A MIND PICTURE OF THE MAN TOWARD WHOM IT WAS DIRECTED! A LONG HAIRY ARM STRETCHED TOWARD THE KEY THAT WAS NOW IN EASY REACH...

DARKNESS AND FOG SHROUDED THE STREETS OF LONDON...

IN HIS STUDY, DEAN FOSTER READ BEFORE RETIRING! NO SOUND BROUGHT HIM WARNING. NO ANIMAL ODOR RANG A TOCSIN IN HIS BRAIN IN PREMONITION OF WHAT WAS TO COME...

NEXT MORNING... DEAN FOSTER FOUND DEAD IN HIS STUDY! READ THE LATEST!

WORLD TIMES

EDUCATOR KILLED BY MYSTERIOUS ASSASSIN

WORLD TIMES

SCOTLAND YARD HAD FOUND CLUES AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME THAT MADE IT EVEN MORE PUZZLING...

THE WEAPON WAS AN ARM... TWICE THE STRENGTH OF A HUMAN ARM... AND THE LAB REPORTS SAY THAT THE HAIRS WE FOUND WERE ANIMAL HAIRS!

YET YOU'VE CHECKED AND FIND THAT NO ANIMAL HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING OR AT LARGE!

NEW SCOTLAND YARD

14

THAT'S RIGHT, SIR! HOWEVER IMPROBABLE, DEAN FOSTER WAS KILLED BY A POWERFUL ANIMAL!

WE'LL QUESTION THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM WELL! HAVE DR. CHARLES DECKER COME IN!

DOCTOR, YOU SPOKE WITH DEAN FOSTER THE DAY HE WAS KILLED! IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF THAT CAN THROW SOME LIGHT ON THIS CRIME?

NOTHING, I'M AFRAID! IT'S TERRIBLE, A SHOCKING THING!

YOU KNOW, DR. DECKER, DETECTION OF CRIME IS ALSO A SCIENCE! AS ONE SCIENTIST TO ANOTHER, DO YOU HAVE ANY THEORY AS TO WHY--OR BY WHOM, DEAN FOSTER WAS KILLED?

NONE WHATEVER! I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, BUT YOU SEE, I DEAL IN LIFE, NOT IN DEATH!

IT WAS EVIDENT THAT DR. DECKER COULD BE OF NO HELP IN THE INVESTIGATION. SO HE WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE...

YOU MADE NO MENTION OF THE ANIMAL HAIRS, OR THE INSTRUMENT OF DEATH. THEY ARE OF INHUMAN STRENGTH!

NO! THOSE WEIRD CLUES, WE WILL, FOR THE TIME BEING, KEEP TO OURSELVES!

WHEN DR. DECKER RETURNED TO ESSEX COLLEGE HE FOUND THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL STAFF, SHOCKED, DISCUSSING THE TRAGIC OCCURRENCE...

I CAN'T GET OVER IT...

DARLING, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE! DEAN FOSTER HAD ASKED PROFESSOR TAGORE TO LECTURE HERE! HE JUST ARRIVED AND ASKED SPECIFICALLY TO SEE YOU!

15

SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU, DR. DECKER! I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU EVER SINCE I READ YOUR PAPER ON MULTIPLE GENES AND EVOLUTION! ESPECIALLY SO IN LIGHT OF WHAT YOU OBSERVED IN AFRICA...

MY REPORT WAS HARDLY COMPLETE!

BUT... I READ BETWEEN THE LINES! FOR SEVERAL YEARS I HAVE BEEN WORKING IN A BROAD FIELD OF GENETICS! THROUGH THE USE OF X-RAYS AND OTHER METHODS I CAN ACCELERATE MAMMAL AND PLANT GROWTH, INCREASING THE FREQUENCY CYCLE OF EVOLUTION!

YES, OUR WORK HAS BEEN ALONG PARELLEL LINES! PROFESSOR TAGORE, WHY DON'T WE JOIN FORCES... WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON END?

I AM FLATTERED, DOCTOR! BUT, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE! I AM ON THE BRINK OF SUCCESS! I AM CERTAIN I SHALL BE THE FIRST TO GIVE THIS VITAL THEORY TO THE WORLD!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HOW MY EXPERIMENT HAS PROGRESSED, AND COMMENT ON IT, I SHOULD BE HONORED! HERE IS MY ADDRESS!

YES... YES, OF COURSE!

STUNNED BY TAGORE'S REVELATION, DR. DECKER HURRIED FROM THE BUZZING HALL! HE NEEDED SOLITUDE IN WHICH TO THINK, TO ABSORB THE IMPACT OF THE INDIAN'S WORDS AND BRING ORDER TO HIS MENTAL CHAOS...

HIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL OBLITERATE MY WORK... THE COUNTLESS HOURS SPENT IN AFRICA AND HERE, THE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, STUDY, EXPERIMENTS... ALL FOR NOTHING!

16

I WANTED TO MAKE THIS GREAT GIFT TO MANKIND! MY NAME, MY FAME, WOULD HAVE ECHOED DOWN THE CORRIDORS OF TIME FOR ALL ETERNITY! INSTEAD IT WILL BE TAGORE... TAGORE...

AND I... I WILL REMAIN A WRETCHED, OBSCURE TEACHER, WHO HAS LIVED AND DIED A CIPHER... UNMOURNED AND FORGOTTEN!

THE DOOR SLAMMED BEHIND THE ANGUISHED MAN! SILENCE CAME TO THE LABORATORY! THEN, THE GREAT APE STIRRED...

17

THE MORNING PAPERS SCREAMED THEIR HEADLINES! DEATH HAD STRUCK AGAIN...

LABORATORY DESTROYED BY FIRE. PROF. TAGORE DIES IN FLAMES

THAT MORNING DR. DECKER HAD TAKEN HIS STUDENTS INTO THE FIELD...

NOW I WANT YOU TO...

IT'S BEGINNING TO RAIN!

WELL, THAT FINISHES OUR FIELD ACTIVITIES! BACK TO ESSEX!

DR. DECKER, MAY I SPEAK TO YOU?

WE...I, HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE UP MY WORK AS YOUR ASSISTANT, DOCTOR! BOB HAS PURSUADED ME... YOU SEE, WE... BOB AND I...

NO NEED TO GO INTO DETAIL! I UNDERSTAND!

CONTROLLING HIS IRRITATION, DR. DECKER WALKED THROUGH THE RAIN TO HIS CAR...

I THOUGHT THIS ACCIDENT TO TAGORE SOLVED MY PROBLEMS! NOW THAT SANDRA ISN'T GOING TO ASSIST ME ANYMORE I'LL HAVE TO SPEND MORE TIME IN CLASS... PRECIOUS TIME, TAKEN AWAY FROM MY EXPERIMENT!

HE WAS STILL IRKED WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS LABORATORY...

BOB, HE MADE HER DO IT! A STUPID BOY, DELAYING THE GREATEST EXPERIMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND! THE YOUNG FOOL!

GREATLY DISTURBED THE SCIENTIST LEFT THE LABORATORY FOR A CUP OF TEA TO QUIET HIS NERVES BEFORE CONTINUING HIS WORK...

THE DOOR TO THE APE'S CAGE SWUNG OPEN! KONGA MOVED OUT INTO THE ROOM, HIS GAZE SWUNG TO THE MEDICAL CABINET AND MEMORY SPARKED HIS MIND...

CLUMSILY HE FILLED THE HYPO TO THE BRIM WITH THE DANGEROUS SERUM... APEING EVERY MOTION HE HAD SEEN THE DOCTOR MAKE...

THE NEEDLE PIERCED HIS FLESH AND THE SERUM, FIFTY TIMES THE CONTROLLED POTENCY, ENTERED HIS VEINS...

MEANWHILE, IN THE LIVING ROOM...

MARGARET, I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING HORRIBLE! TAGORE'S DEATH MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT! I REMEMBER THINKING ANGRILY OF THE DEAN AND TAGORE WHILE IN THE PRESENCE OF KONGA! THE SERUM... IF THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE...

GOOD HEAVENS... BOB! I THOUGHT... HURRY, MARGARET..

HE'S LOOSE!

H-HE'S GROWING... GETTING BIGGER EVERY SECOND...

THE GROWTH SERUM COURSED THROUGH KONGA! HE SWELLED AND EXPANDED TO MONSTROUS PROPORTIONS...

HE'S BEYOND CONTROL... HE'S BECOME EVERYTHING THAT IS BESTIAL!

I MUST GET HELP! SCOTLAND YARD...

THE DWELLING SWAYED! TIMBERS CRACKED AS THE MONSTER'S BODY GREW BEYOND THE SIZE OF THE ROOM...

INSPECTOR, HUGE APE... MONSTER BEYOND IMAGINATION... LOOSE ON LONDON...

20

IT'S TRUE...

EMERGENCY! EVERY MAN ON THIS! CONTACT THE MILITARY! THROW A CORDON AROUND MAPLE STREET! GET THE COOPERATION OF THE AIR FORCE...

SIRENS SCREAMED THEIR BANSHEE CALL OF DANGER! A THING HAD BEEN TURNED LOOSE ON THE WORLD... A MONSTROUS THING THAT THREATENED MAN'S LIFE AND SANITY...

THE TERRIFYING GROWTH OF THE APE CONTINUED! THIS CREATURE THAT STALKED THE STREETS OF LONDON, LEAVING CHAOS AND RUIN IN ITS WAKE, WAS BEYOND THE MOST WILDEST IMAGINATION OF MAN...

ALL THE FIRE POWER THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE HAD AT ITS COMMAND WAS CENTERED ON THE TERRIBLE FIGURE...

VITAL ORGANS HAD BEEN HIT! THE GREAT BODY QUIVERED, SWAYED, BEGAN TO CRUMBLE...

21

THE LIFE LEFT THE GIGANTIC BODY... LIFE FLED AWAY FROM THIS THING THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE LIVED AT ALL...

AND AS THE SEEDS OF LIFE WITHERED AND DIED, SO DID THE BODY WITHER, GROW IN UPON ITSELF, SHRINK...

I'D SAY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, IF I HADN'T SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES!

BETWEEN YOU AND ME... I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WILL EVER BELIEVE IT!

POOR DR. DECKER AND HIS WIFE... KILLED IN THAT AWFUL TRAGEDY!

HIS LIFE'S WORK IS GONE ...BURIED BENEATH THE ASHES! NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW WHAT HIS GREAT MIND COULD HAVE PRODUCED!

END

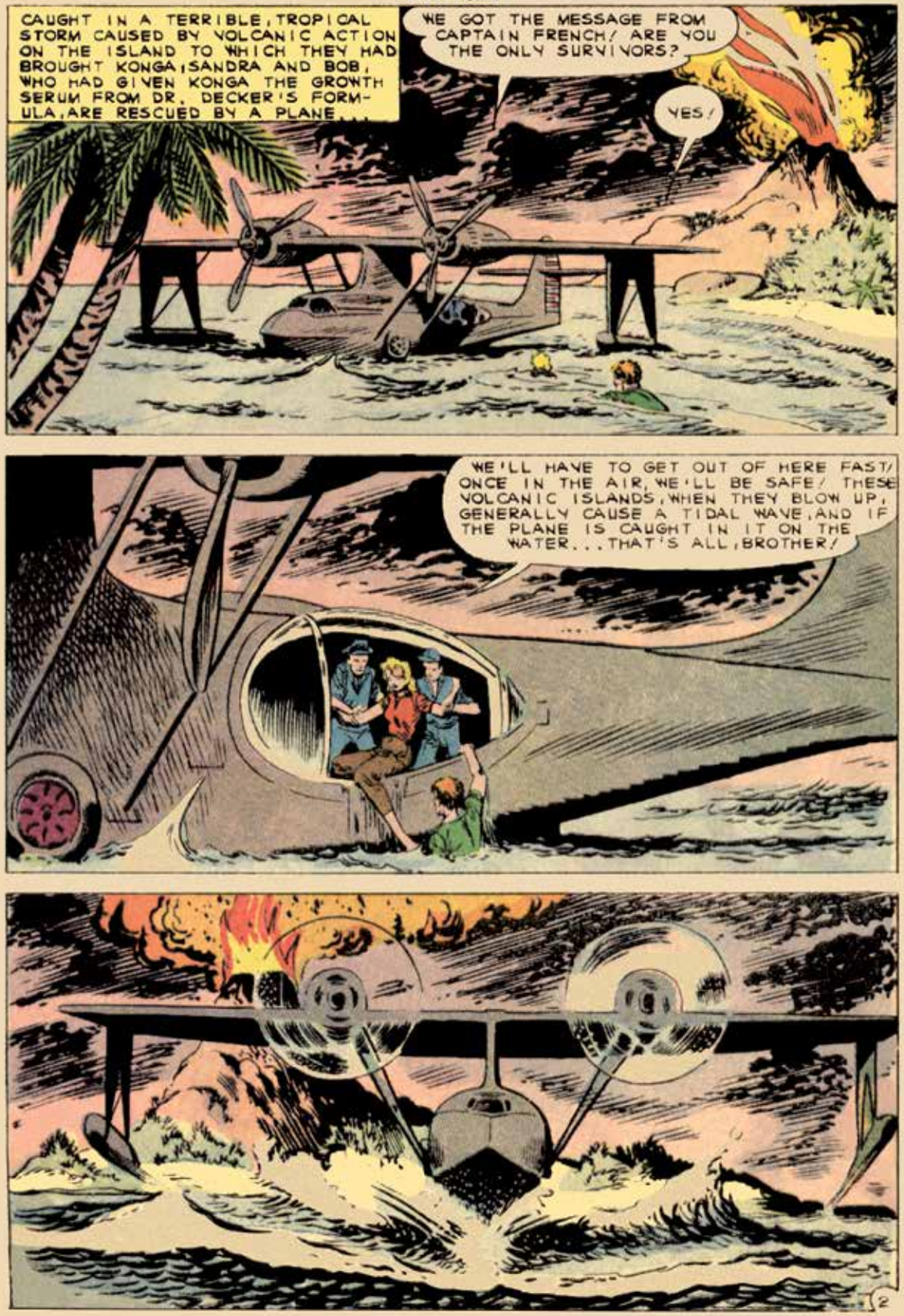
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

KONGA

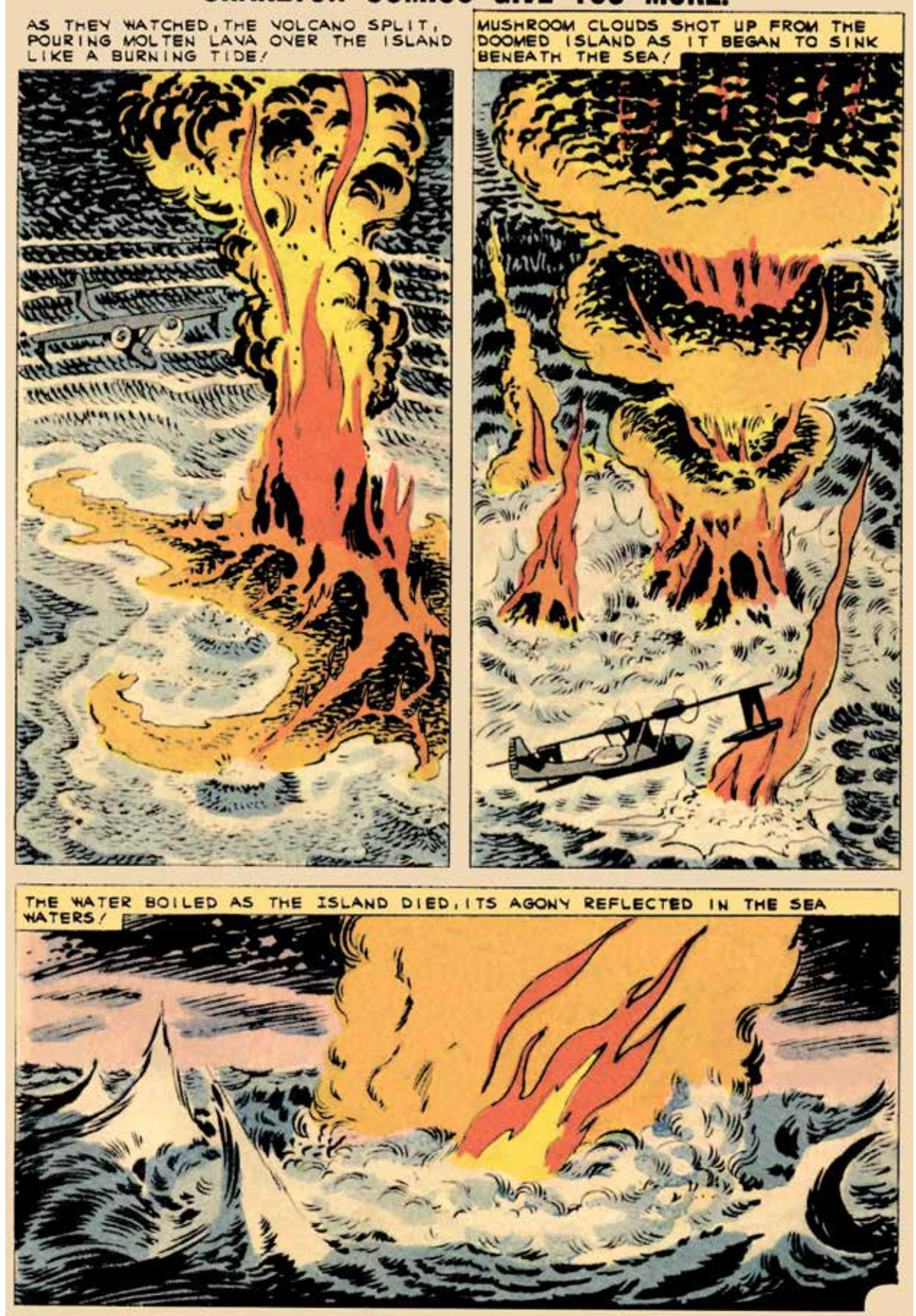
RISING FROM THE SEA, DEFYING DEATH AND THE ELEMENTS, KONGA, THE HAIRY, PRIMEVAL MONSTER WHO SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN, WALKS THE EARTH ONCE MORE! HUGE BEYOND BELIEF, THIS HIRSUTE GIANT WHO HAD ONCE BEEN A HARMLESS LITTLE MONKEY BUT WAS GIVEN MONSTROUS GROWTH BY MAD, SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, ROAMS...

...THE JUNGLE OF A TINY, TROPICAL ISLE NEAR NEW ZEALAND ...AN ISLAND THAT WAS SOON TO BECOME VALUABLE TO SEVERAL PEOPLE...

KONGA



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

YOU SEE, OUR GOD, THE MONSTER FROM THE SEA, HAS HEARD AND CHASED AWAY THE STORM/
AYAAAA/ HE IS ALL POWERFUL/

PEACE RETURNED ONCE MORE/ THE BALMY TROPICAL SUN LOOKED DOWN UPON THE LITTLE ISLE, AND THE PEOPLE CONTINUED THEIR EVERYDAY PURSUITS/
OUR PEOPLE NEED MORE OF THE WHITE MAN'S GOODS, THE KNIVES AND CLOTH/ GATHER YOU THE BRACELETS AND TRINKETS WE MAKE FOR TRADE, AND MAKE THE CANOES READY/

ONCE A YEAR THE TRIP TO THE MAINLAND OF NEW ZEALAND WAS MADE TO THE JUNGLE-SURROUNDED TRADING POST OF GORDEAU THE TRADER/

WELCOME, MY FRIENDS/ YOU COME TO TRADE, NO?
WE COME TO TRADE/ MY BROTHERS WILL SHOW YOU WHAT WE HAVE BROUGHT/

JULES, REMOVE THAT GIEGER COUNTER SO THEY CAN LAY OUT THEIR GOODS/ PARBLEU, WHAT A WORTHLESS MACHINE IT IS, AN' YOU SPENT GOOD MONEY FOR IT, YOU FOOL!
6

WE HAVE BROUGHT CARVED BEADS AND NECKLACES AND MANY ARM BRACELETS OF METAL/
NOT WORTH MUCH, MON CHIEF/

MON DIEU, CORDEAU, DO YOU HEAR? THE GIEGER COUNTER, IT HAS GONE MAD/
THAT BRACELET... IT MUST BE FULL OF URANIUM/

IT MEANS A FORTUNE, CORDEAU/ THAT ISLE MUST BE RICH WITH URANIUM...
CONTROL YOURSELF, YOU FOOL/ THEY MUST NOT SUSPECT... AH, MON CHIEF, WE WILL TRADE NOW, NO?

MON CHIEF, ME AN' MY PARTNER, WE SHOULD LIKE TO VISIT YOUR ISLAND...
NO/ THAT CANNOT BE/ IT IS WRITTEN AND TOLD US FROM EARLY TIMES, THAT ONLY OUR PEOPLE MAY WALK OUR ISLAND, NONE ELSE/
7

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CORDEAU SMILED HIS EVIL SMILE AND WAVED JAUNTILY AS THE CANOES SAILED AWAY/ MUTTERING UNDER HIS BREATH/

GOODBYE, MON CHIEF/ SO ONLY YOUR PEOPLE CAN WALK YOUR ISLE, EH? SACRE NOM, I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU...SOON YOU WILL HAVE TWO VISITORS...WITH A GIEGER COUNTER/

YOU ARE THE SLY ONE, CORDEAU!/

FATE PULLS THE STRINGS, AND THREE MORE CHARACTERS APPROACH THE STAGE TO PLAY THEIR ROLES IN OUR DRAMA, AS A LUXURIOUS YACHT SAILS SLOWLY TOWARD THE ISLAND/

WE HAVE TO PUT IN SOMEWHERE FOR FRESH WATER/ BUT I DON'T SEE ANY-PLACE CLOSER THAN THE NEW ZEALAND MAINLAND...UNLESS THIS TINY DOT HERE IS AN ISLAND/

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, NESBIT, YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN I HIRED/ THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS/

MUST YOU ALWAYS PUSH THE RESPONSIBILITY ONTO SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOULDERS, JOHN? I KNOW WEALTH GIVES A MAN THE RIGHT TO EXPECT OTHERS TO TAKE CARE OF HIM AND HIS...

8

KONGA

JOHN MARKS TURNED TO HIS YOUNG AND LOVELY WIFE...

IT DOES JUST THAT/ AND TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, TOO, MY DEAR/ THERE IS NO REAL EMERGENCY SO I SCARCELY SEE WHY I SHOULD REALLY CONCERN MYSELF/

YOU NEVER CONCERN YOURSELF...AND YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO MEET AN EMERGENCY, HAVE YOU, JOHN?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, NO/ COME, LET US HAVE SOME TEA..

NO/ I'M GOING TO REMAIN ON DECK/ YOU GO AND HAVE YOUR TEA/

HE THINKS MONEY CAN BUY HIM ANYTHING/ HE'S NEVER HAD TO EXERT HIMSELF ONCE IN ALL HIS LIFE/ SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I MARRIED HIM/

THAT'S EASY...HIS MONEY/ IT BOUGHT HIM YOU/

WHY YOU INSUFFERABLE...

NO, LILA/ I DON'T STAND TO BE SLAPPED/ ESPECIALLY FOR TELLING THE TRUTH/ WHY ELSE WOULD YOU MARRY A MAN SO MUCH OLDER THAN YOURSELF?

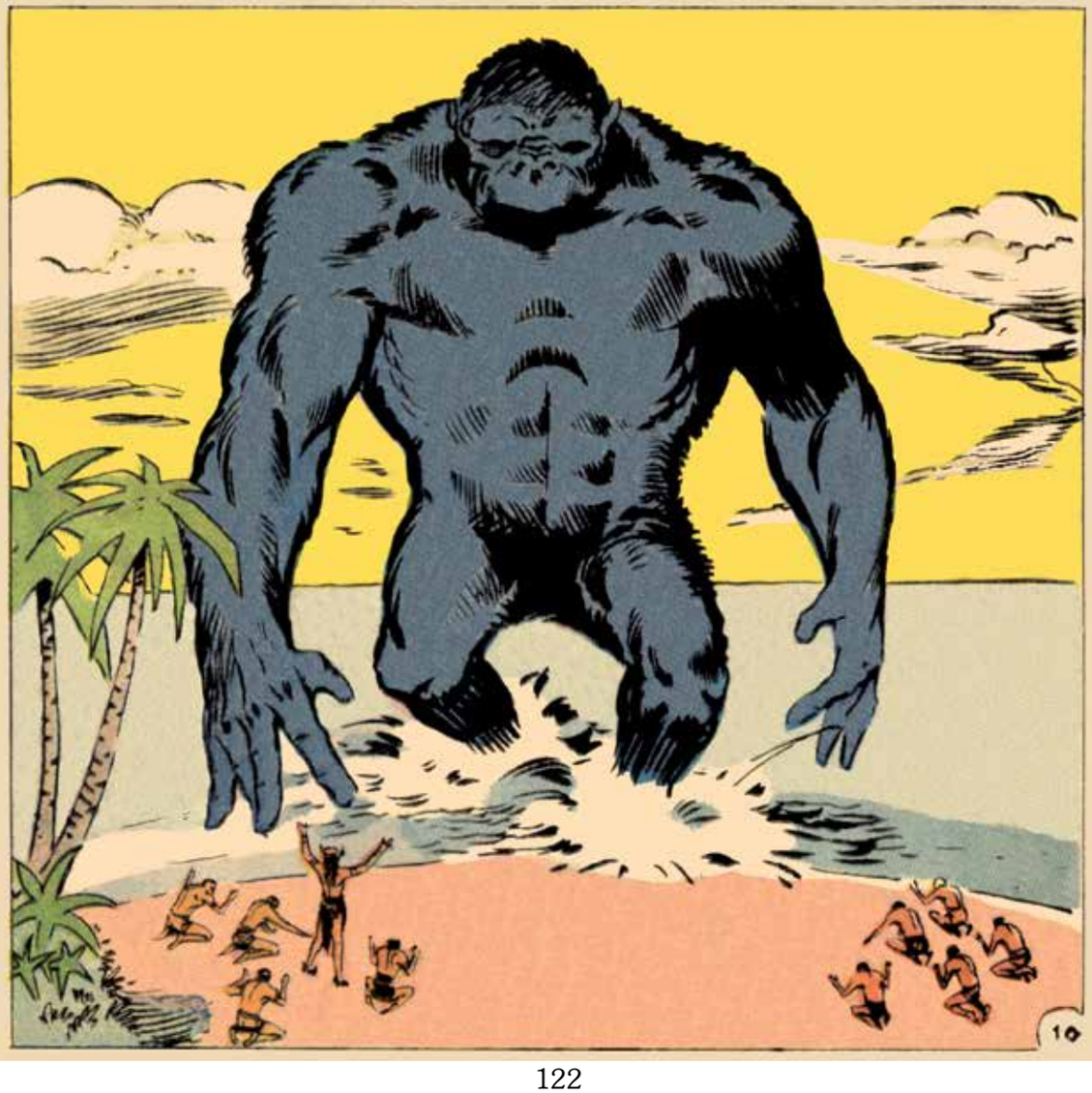
IT'S NOT THE TRUTH/ I ADMIT HIS MONEY ISN'T HARD TO TAKE/ BUT, I LOVED HIM. ..I THOUGHT HE WAS MATURE, MANLY...

9

LOVED? NOT LOVE ? MAYBE SINCE THIS VOYAGE BEGAN. SINCE WE MET, IT'S CHANGED, EH...LILA?
I...I'M GOING TO JOIN JOHN BELOW/

AND, WHILE A CONFUSED LILA JOINS HER HUSBAND ON THE LUXURIOUS YACHT, NOT FAR AWAY, THE CHIEF RETURNS TO HIS ISLE/

LOOK/ LOOK WHAT COMES FROM THE SEA/
IT...IT IS THE MIGHTY ONE, THE GOD OF OUR LEGENDS/

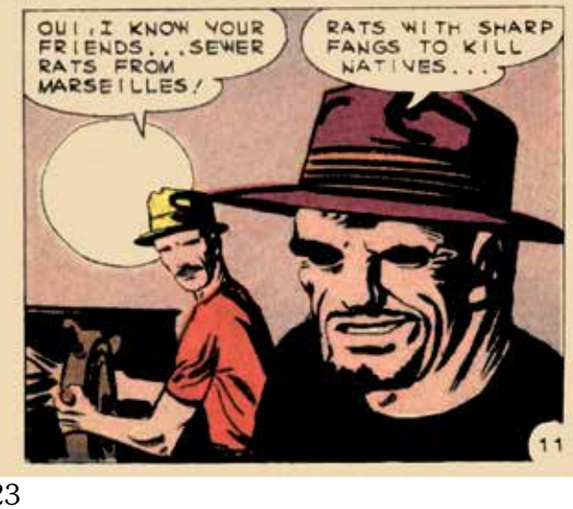

10

YES, THE MONSTER APE HAD SURVIVED NATURE'S HOLOCAUST AND THE TIDES HAD CARRIED HIM TO THE LITTLE ISLE/

FEAR AND AWE GRIPPED THE SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES AS KONGA MOVED PAST THEM TOWARD THE SWEET WATER AND FOOD HE SMELLED IN THE JUNGLE BEYOND/

AND THERE WERE GREAT FEASTS THAT NIGHT IN HONOR OF THE COMING OF THE ANCIENT GOD/
WE MUST THINK OF SOME GREAT SACRIFICE FOR THE MIGHTY ONE/

AND AT THE OTHER END OF THE ISLE, UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS...
BE CAREFUL OF THE GIEGER COUNTER, FOOL/ WE WILL STAY HIDDEN WHILE WE SEARCH OUT THE URANIUM/ ONCE WE HAVE LOCATED IT, WE WILL RECRUIT AND RETURN WITH FRIENDS...


OUI, I KNOW YOUR FRIENDS...SEWER RATS FROM MARSEILLES/
RATS WITH SHARP FANGS TO KILL NATIVES...
11

KONGA

IN THE JUNGLE KONGA ROAMED DISCONSOLATE AND LONELY/ HE WAS THE ONLY ONE OF HIS KIND IN THE WORLD, AND HE MISSED SANDRA WHOM HE WORSHIPPED/

HE HAD NO INTEREST IN THE NATIVES AND THE NOISE THEY MADE ANGERED HIM/

BY GEORGE, THAT SPOT ON THE MAP WAS AN ISLAND/ SEE THE FIRES... MUST BE NATIVES/ WE'LL SAIL IN CLOSE AND DROP ANCHOR AND LAND IN THE SKIFF TOMORROW/

ARE YOU SURE THE NATIVES WILL BE FRIENDLY?

OH, JOHN, DON'T BE SO FRIGHTENED/

I'M NOT FRIGHTENED, REALLY/ BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, DO YOU? IT WAS MERELY A QUESTION, A POINT OF INTEREST/ IF I HAVE ANY FEAR, IT'S FOR YOUR SAFETY, MY DEAR/

12

I...ER...HATE TO MENTION IT, BECAUSE MY WIFE MAY THINK IT'S FEAR SPEAKING AGAIN, BUT THE GLASS IS DROPPING AND THE SKY LOOKS FORBIDDING/ DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO IN THIS CLOSE WITH A STORM BREWING?

IT WILL PROBABLY PASS/

A STORM COMES, I SMELL IT/ THE MIGHTY ONE IS ANGRY AT US/

WE MUST FIND A SACRIFICE TO MAKE HIM HAPPY WITH US... BUT IT MUST BE A SACRIFICE BEFITTING THE GREAT GOD/

AND ON THE NORTHERN END OF THE ISLAND, AS A MENACING DAWN BREAKS...

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP...

MON DIEU, THE WHOLE ISLAND IS COVERED WITH URANIUM...

LISTEN/ WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE AN OUTBOARD MOTOR...

THERE IS A BOAT FIT FOR MEN WHO WILL BE MILLIONAIRES, EH, JULES?

AND THE WOMAN, SHE IS VERY PRETTY...

13

KONGA

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

KONGA

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE WATER CHURNED TO FOAM AND THE GIGANTIC MOVEMENTS, THE SCREAMS AND ROARS OF THE MONSTROUS ANTAGONISTS SHOOK THE EARTH OF THE ISLAND/ IT WAS A NIGHTMARE STRUGGLE TO THE DEATH BETWEEN CREATURES THAT BELONGED IN ANOTHER WORLD, WHERE FRIGHTFULNESS AND BESTIALITY RULED/

18

THEN THE MIGHTY ARMS FOUND THEIR SEEKING HOLD/ THERE WAS A DULL CRACK, A FINAL UNEARTHLY SCREAM...

THIS IS IT, DEAR/ I'M GLAD THAT WE FOUND EACH OTHER, EVEN IF ONLY AT THE END/

I LOVE YOU, JOHN/

GIANT HANDS REACHED... THE MONSTROUS FACE DREW CLOSE...

HE... HE'S FREEING ME/

I... I MAY BE GOING MAD BUT... BUT I DON'T THINK HE MEANS TO HARM US/

SEE/ THE ONE MIGHTY GOD HAS SHOWN US WHAT HE WANTS/ HE HAS KILLED THE SEA MONSTER, HE HAS STOPPED THE STORM, AND NOW HE FREES THE WHITE ONES/

19

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

IT IS THE WISH OF THE GREAT ONE THAT YOU BE FREE! MY WARRIORS WILL PADDLE YOU TO THE MAINLAND!

WE MUST NEVER TELL ABOUT THE URANIUM...NOR SPEAK OF THIS ISLAND!

HE SAVED OUR LIVES! LET HIM REMAIN HERE, THE KING, THE GOD HE DESERVES TO BE!

YES! IF ANYONE KNEW ABOUT THE URANIUM, OR ABOUT HIM, CIVILIZATION WOULD COME TO THE ISLAND...

AND CIVILIZATION WOULD DESTROY HIM!

THE CANOE BECAME A SPECK ON THE WATERS, THEN VANISHED IN DISTANCE! THE KING REMAINED...KONGA, THE MIGHTY ONE, THE LEGENDARY GOD!

END

KONGA

THE RULERS

THIS IS A STORY OF EARTH...OF THIS PLANET! THIS IS THE STORY OF THE RULERS OF EARTH! EARTH IS A GLOBE IN A GALAXY THAT HAS AS ITS CORE THE FIERY SUN! AND, ON EARTH, AS THE EON SEASONS PASS, SPECIES RULE THE SURFACE, RULE THE PLANET! THIS IS THEIR STORY!

AT FIRST THERE WERE NO CREATURES, NO LIVING CREATURES! THERE WERE ONLY VOLCANOES, EARTH QUAKES, BURSTING GAS, AS THE EARTH HEAVED AND FORMED INTO AN ENTITY!

THEN THE EARTH COOLED AND NATURE'S FANTASTIC, GIANT TANTRUM SUBSIDED... AND LIFE BEGAN!

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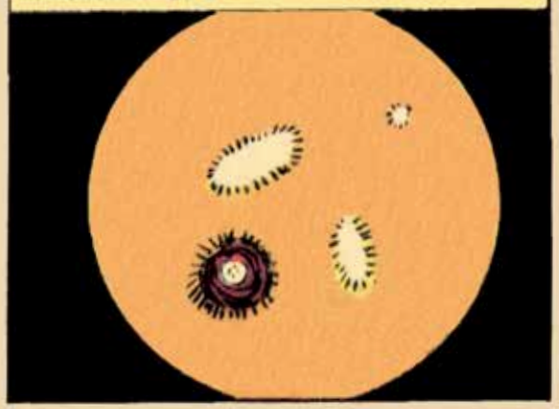
KONGA

THERE CAME A STIRRING IN THE WATERS, AND ANIMAL LIFE TOOK PLACE! AT FIRST TINY, ONE-CELLED CREATURES SUCH AS CAN BE SEEN NOW IN A DROP OF WATER THROUGH A MICROSCOPE!



AND AS LIFE FORMED IN THE SEA, SOME OF THE FORMS STRUGGLED TOWARD THE LAND AND SOON INSECTS AND GIANT MOTHS FLUTTERED AND CREPT THROUGH THE FOREST PRIMEVAL!

IN THE SEA, LIFE FORMS GREW AND TOOK DIFFERENT SHAPES, AND GIANT SEA BEASTS CAVORTED, KILLED AND WERE KILLED BENEATH THE WAVES!

LIFE ON LAND MATCHED LIFE IN THE SEA! GIANTS TROD THE EARTH... THE DAY OF THE SAURIANS HAD COME TO BE!

AND THESE GREAT LIZARDS RULED THE EARTH, ROARING AND SHAKING THE GROUND WITH THEIR HUGE FEET, HORRORS WHOSE EQUAL HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN ON EARTH!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

FOR EONS THEY RULED, FOR WHAT COULD DEFEAT THESE INSENSITIVE GIANTS? THEY WALKED THE EARTH LIKE THE CONQUERORS THEY WERE!

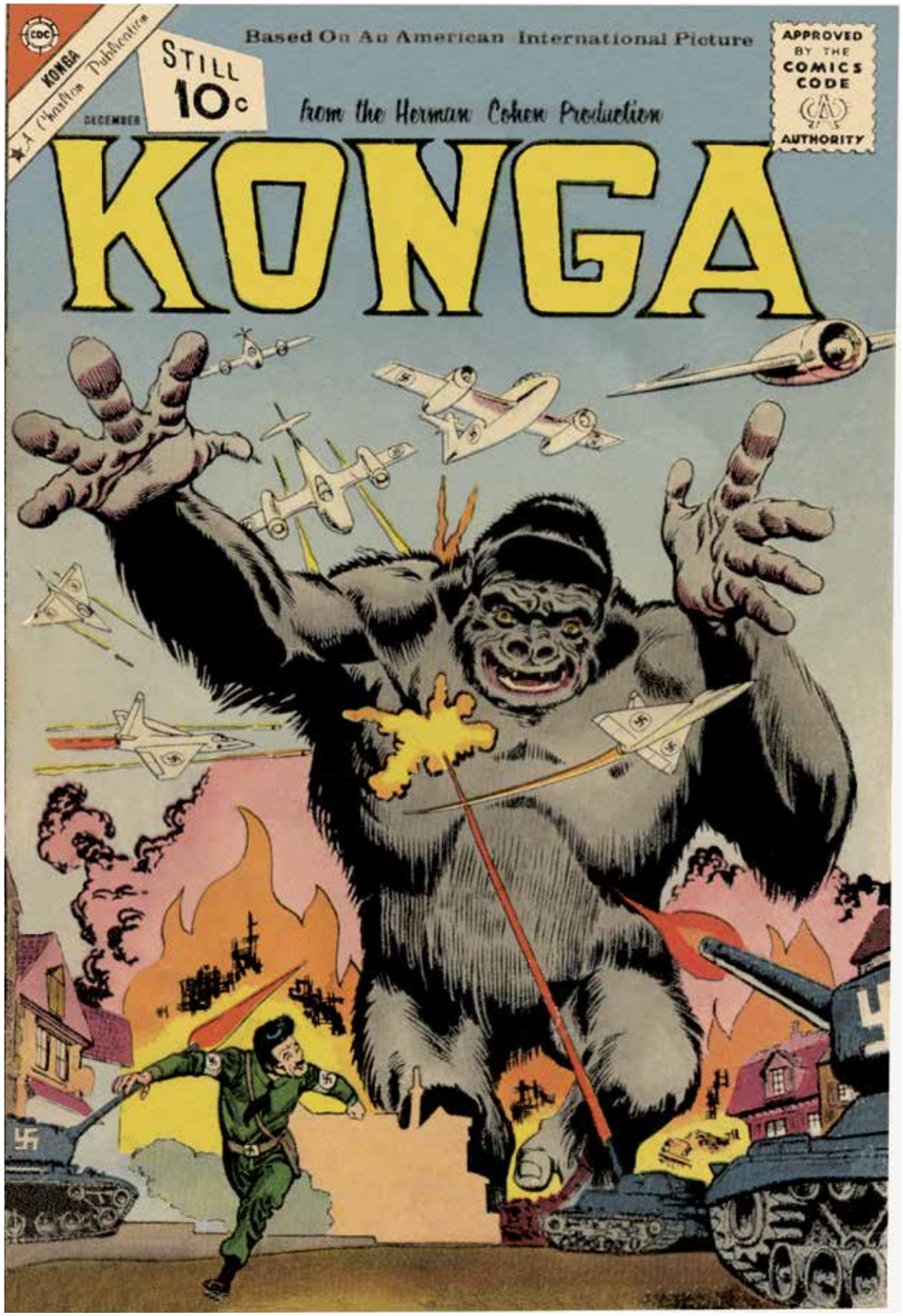
BUT SOMETHING DID CONQUER THE GIANTS, AND THEY DIED, AND A NEW LIFE FORM BECAME THE RULERS OF EARTH!

AGAIN NATURE WAS LAVISH, AND THE RULERS WERE GIANTS OF THEIR KINDS! HUGE SABRE-TOOTHED TIGERS, MONSTROUS BEARS, GIANT SLOTHS, WOLVES AS BIG AS TODAY'S KODIAK BEARS!

THERE WAS ALSO A STRANGE APE-LIKE CREATURE, WHO HUDDLED IN CAVES TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM THE HUGE MEAT-EATERS... AND THIS CREATURE WAS THE FOREFATHER OF THE NEW RULERS OF EARTH... MAN!

THE CENTURIES PASSED AND MAN, BY INVENTION, SUBDUED THE BEASTS AND RULED THE WORLD!

AND SO THE RULERS OF EARTH EACH HAD THEIR DAY IN THE SUN! THE QUESTION IS, AFTER MAN... WHO, OR WHAT, WILL RULE?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KONGA
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KONGA

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

HE WAS A MONSTER, MADE BY THE SCIENTIFIC GENIUS OF MAN/ HE WAS A SIMIAN GIANT, FIT ONLY FOR AN ERA LONG GONE, WHEN GIANTS TROD THE EARTH AND MANKIND WAS YET TO BE KNOWN, BUT IT WAS HIS FATE TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTRY/ HE WAS THE MOST TERRIBLE CREATION OF MAN, THE MOST GIGANTIC LIVING CREATURE THE WORLD HAD EVER SEEN/HE WAS

KONGA

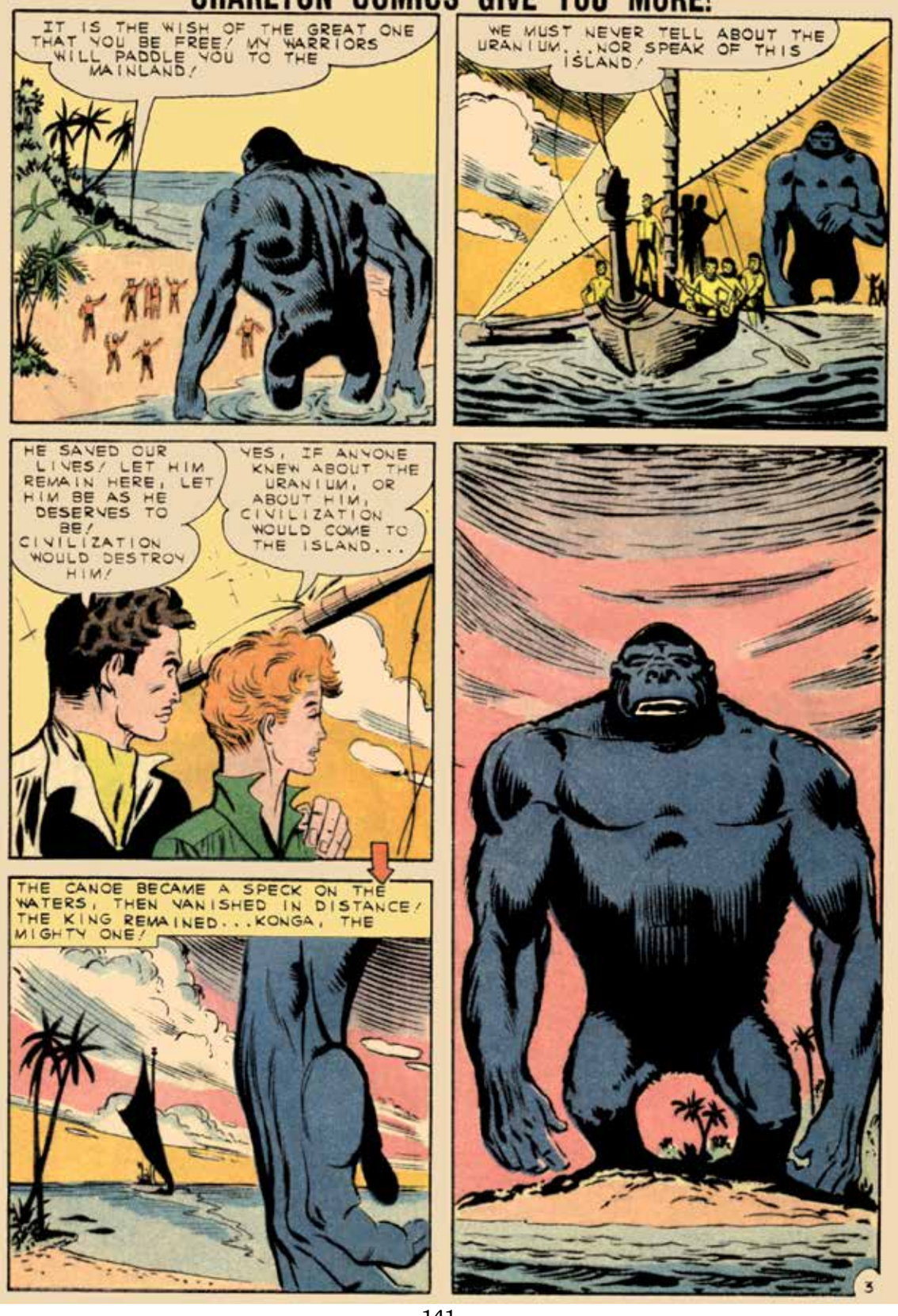
A-830

1

KONGA

ON AN UNCHARTED ISLAND IN TROPICAL WATERS, KONGA HAS BEEN MADE A GOD BY THE NATIVES WHOSE LEGENDS TELL OF AN ANCIENT SEA MONSTER WHOM THEIR FOREFATHERS WORSHIPPED/ THEY OFFER JOHN AND LILA, WHOSE YACHT STOPPED AT THE ISLE FOR WATER, AS SACRIFICES TO THE GREAT KONGA/ THEN, AFTER CENTURIES, THE REAL SEA MONSTER APPEARS, AND KONGA AND THE FRIGHTFUL CREATURE ENGAGE IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH...

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



KONGA

MONTHS LATER, AT A TEA IN LONDON...
I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO MEET BOB AND SANDRA/ THEY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH AN APE ONCE...SOMETHING ABOUT A SERUM AND THE APE GREW IN INTO A MONSTER OR SOME SUCH THING/ TERRIBLY INTERESTING... BOB HAS HIS DOCTORATE NOW...
JOHN AND LILA EXCHANGED STARTLED GLANCES...
OH, THERE YOU ARE, SIR JASON...
PAY NO ATTENTION TO LADY ARMBRUSTER/ SHE SEEMS TO SAY ANYTHING THAT COMES INTO HER MIND/
IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO WHAT SHE SAID... ABOUT A GIANT APE, DOCTOR? BELIEVE ME, I DON'T ASK OUT OF IDLE CURIOSITY/
I SEE THAT/ WHY DO YOU ASK?
I HAVE A DEFINITE REASON/ WHERE IS THIS CREATURE NOW?
HE...HE'S DEAD/ DIED IN TROPICAL WATERS, NEAR AUSTRALIA/ I'LL ALWAYS FEEL GUILTY.
SANDRA, PLEASE, YOU MUSTN'T FEEL THAT WAY/ KONGA IS BETTER OFF DEAD THAN ALIVE/ HE WAS AN ANACHRONISM HE DIDN'T FIT INTO THE MODERN WORLD/
4

KONGA

NEAR AUSTRALIA, YOU SAY...AND THAT'S NOT FAR FROM NEW ZEALAND/
I KNOW WE SWORE WE'D NEVER SPEAK OF IT, JOHN, BUT I THINK WE MUST NOW/
SPEAK OF WHAT? IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH KONGA/ WHAT IS IT?
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SHOCK, OLD MAN/
THE CREATURE YOU CALL KONGA...IS NOT DEAD/ HE IS ALIVE AND ON A SMALL ISLAND WHERE THE NATIVES WORSHIP HIM/
WHERE? WHERE IS THE ISLAND?
WAIT/ WE CAN'T SPEAK OF THIS HERE, THERE ARE TOO MANY EARS/ OUR PLACE IS JUST A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE/ WE CAN TALK IN PEACE THERE/
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
IT WAS ONLY BY ACCIDENT THAT WE WENT TO THE ISLAND AND SAW THE GIGANTIC CREATURE YOU CALL KONGA...

AND SO JOHN AND LILA TOLD THE STORY OF THEIR ADVENTURE ON THE TABOO ISLAND/

AFTERWARD THERE WAS SILENCE FOR A FEW MINUTES/ THEN SANDRA SPOKE...

HE ALWAYS LOVED ME, SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE MONKEY/ THAT'S WHY HE SAVED YOU/ HE REALLY ISN'T SAVAGE/

IT'S OUR FAULT THAT HE'S BECOME WHAT HE IS...

HOW DID HE BECOME WHAT HE IS? WE TOLD YOU OUR STORY, NOW WILL YOU TELL US YOURS?

TELL THEM, BOB/ THEY DESERVE TO KNOW/

ANOTHER STORY BEGAN...THE STORY OF THE BEGINNING OF KONGA, THE MONSTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY/

ACTUALLY IT BEGAN WHEN DOCTOR DECKER RETURNED FROM THE DEAD/ HIS PLANE HAD CRASHED IN AFRICA AND HE WAS THOUGHT DEAD/

AND YOU SURVIVED THE CRASH, LIVED WITH A REMOTE TRIBE OF NATIVES AND FINALLY FOUND YOUR WAY BACK TO THE COAST, AFTER ALL THAT TIME?

PERCISELY/

YOU BROUGHT THAT MONKEY BACK WITH YOU? WHAT'S HIS NAME, DOCTOR?

I CALL HIM... KONGA/

WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE TIME YOU WERE IN AFRICA WITH THAT UNKNOWN TRIBE, DOCTOR?

I...I'M TIRED/ YOU MUST FORGIVE ME/ I CAN'T ANSWER ANYMORE QUESTIONS/

THE DOCTOR TOOK HIS PLACE AGAIN AS A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL BOTH SANDRA AND I ATTENDED/ LATER WE FOUND OUT WHAT HE HAD LEARNED AND DONE IN AFRICA DURING HIS ABSENCE/

FROM THE WILD TRIBE HE HAD LIVED WITH HE HAD LEARNED A NEW THEORY OF GROWTH...

THE SERUM SHOULD CAUSE THE LIVING BODY CELLS THEMSELVES TO EXPAND...

THE SERUM WORKED...

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

BUT THE GROWTH AND MULTIPLICATION OF CELLS WENT WILD! KONGA GREW INTO A MONSTROUS CREATURE, SMASHING THE DOCTOR'S HOME, GROWING RIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF! AND, IN THE WRECKAGE THAT ENSUED, DR. DECKER AND HIS WIFE MET THEIR DEATH!

THE GIGANTIC BEAST MOVED TOWARD THE HEART OF LONDON LEAVING WRECKAGE AND SHRIEKING FEAR IN HIS WAKE!

THE MILITARY AND POLICE WERE ALERTED! PLANES AND ARMY WEAPONS BLASTED AT THE GIANT APE...

HURT, BEWILDERED, THE GIANT APE STRUCK BACK!

BUT, DESPITE HIS HUGE SIZE AND TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, HE WAS NO MATCH FOR THE DEADLY, MODERN WEAPONS OF MAN!

THE GREAT BODY, MORTALLY WOUNDED, BEGAN TO TOPPLE! THE ROARS EMENATING FROM HIS MONSTROUS CHEST TURNED TO A PITIFUL ANIMAL QUERY...AND KONGA FELT THE ICY HAND OF DEATH CLUTCH HIM!

''AND SO KONGA, WHO HAD BEEN MADE INTO WHAT HE WAS BY MAN, WAS KILLED BY MAN BECAUSE OF IT/''

''AND STRANGELY, WITH DEATH HE SHRUNK IN SIZE UNTIL HE WAS THE LITTLE SIMIAN THAT DR. DECKER HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM AFRICA/''

AFTERWARD, SANDRA AND I FOUND THE NOTES OF DR. DECKER'S EXPERIMENT IN A METAL BOX/

SOME TIME LATER WE AQUIRED A LITTLE MONKEY PET, AND WE NAMED HIM KONGA, TOO/ AND THE INEVITABLE FOLLOWED...

YOU PLAYED WITH THE FORMULA YOURSELF, GAVE YOUR LITTLE MONKEY THE SHOTS AND HE TURNED INTO THE MONSTROUS BEAST WE SAW ON THAT ISLAND AND WHOM YOU THOUGHT WAS DEAD, TOO/

SHORTLY AFTERWARD THEIR VISITORS LEFT AND BOB AND SANDRA WERE ALONE/

SANDRA, YOU'RE CRYING/ WHAT'S WRONG?

TALKING ABOUT IT! BRINGING IT ALL BACK.../ OH, BOB, OUR POOR LITTLE KONGA/ WE'VE DONE A TERRIBLE THING...

10

BOB TRIED TO QUIET HIS WIFE, BUT SHE WAS SO EMOTIONALLY UPSET THAT HE COULDN'T/

IF THERE WERE ONLY AN ANTIDOTE...SOME WAY TO REDUCE HIM TO NORMALCY AGAIN/

THERE MAY BE/

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, DR. DECKER WAS WORKING ON AN ANTIDOTE.. A SERUM TO REDUCE CELL SIZE AND MULTIPLICITY/ HIS NOTES WERE IN THE METAL BOX, TOO/

OH, BOB, THEN THERE IS A CHANCE/ YOU'RE A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST IN YOUR OWN RIGHT/

I'LL TRY, SANDRA, DARLING/ AND IF I SUCCEED WE'LL FIND THAT ISLAND AND...

THE YOUNG SCIENTIST WORKED ON THE SHRINKING SERUS DAY AND NIGHT/ AND FINALLY, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

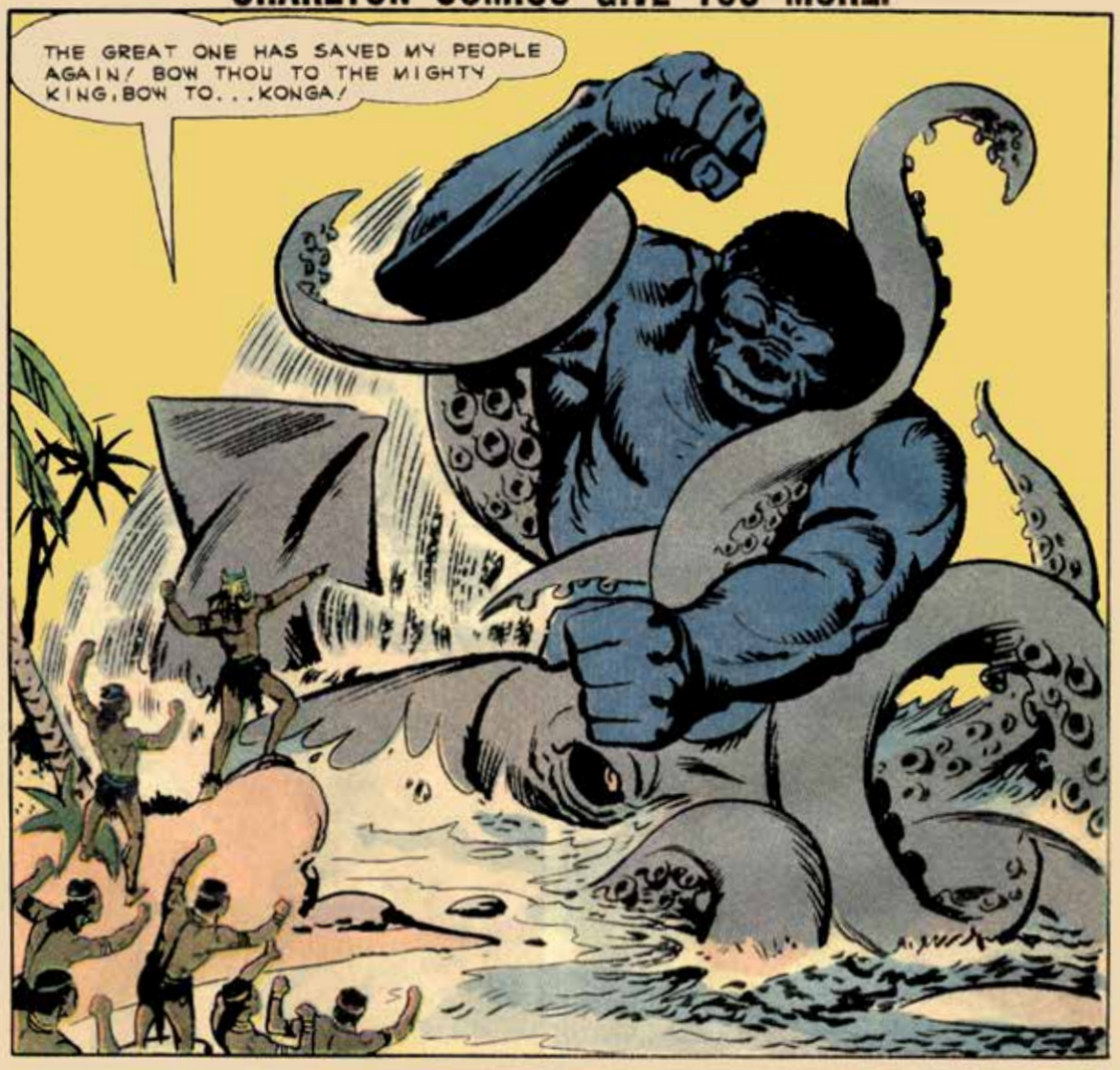
IT WORKS, SANDRA, IT WORKS/ COME HERE...LOOK/

OH, BOB...

11

THEY CHARTED A SMALL BOAT AFTER FLYING TO NEW ZEALAND...

AND, OF THE ISLAND THAT LAY AHEAD OF THEM, KONGA ACTED LIKE THE KING THE NATIVES THOUGHT HIM TO BE!



KONGA

A SMALL POWER BOAT TOOK THEM TO SHORE...

THIS IS OUR OUTPOST/ WE, AND THE MEN OUR LEADER WILL BRING WITH HIM, WILL BE THE CORE OF OUR NEW SWEEP TO POWER/ AND THIS TIME WE SHALL NOT FAIL, FOR THIS TIME, IT IS WE WHO WILL STRIKE WITH ATOMIC POWER/

THE FOOLS OF THE WORLD THINK OUR LEADER DEAD/ HOW THEY WOULD SHIVER IF THEY KNEW THAT HITLER LIVES, THAT OUR FUEHRER WILL RENDEZVOUS WITH US HERE IN A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE WITH THE ORDERS THAT WILL RAISE THE NAZI FLAG AGAIN/

LED BY CAPTAIN VON SCHROEDER, THE RUTHLESS NAZIS QUICKLY ENSLAVED THE NATIVES/

WORK FASTER, FOOLS/

I...I FEEL TERRIBLE/ ACH, I HAVE A FEVER.. BURNING...

CAPTAIN/ CAPTAIN VON SCHROEDER/

TROPICAL FEVER/ THIS IS NOT GOOD/ WE BROUGHT NO MEDICATION FOR SUCH AN EMERGENCY/

I...I DO NOT FEEL VERY GOOD EITHER/

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CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

WITHIN A FEW DAYS HALF OF THE SUPER MEN WERE RAVING WITH TROPICAL FEVER/

IF WE ONLY HAD AN ANTIDOTE...

AND ON THE OTHER END OF THE ISLAND, UNAWARE OF THE NATIVES' PLIGHT, KONGA SAT IN REVERIE, REMEMBERING SANDRA, WHOM HE HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO/

NIGHT WAS FALLING WHEN ONE OF THE GUARDS WHO PATROLED THE NATURAL BAY FACING NEW ZEALAND, BROUGHT NEWS/

CAPTAIN, A STRANGE CRAFT IS COMING INTO THE COVE/

KEEP OUT OF SIGHT/ THEY WON'T ATTEMPT TO LAND UNTIL MORNING..

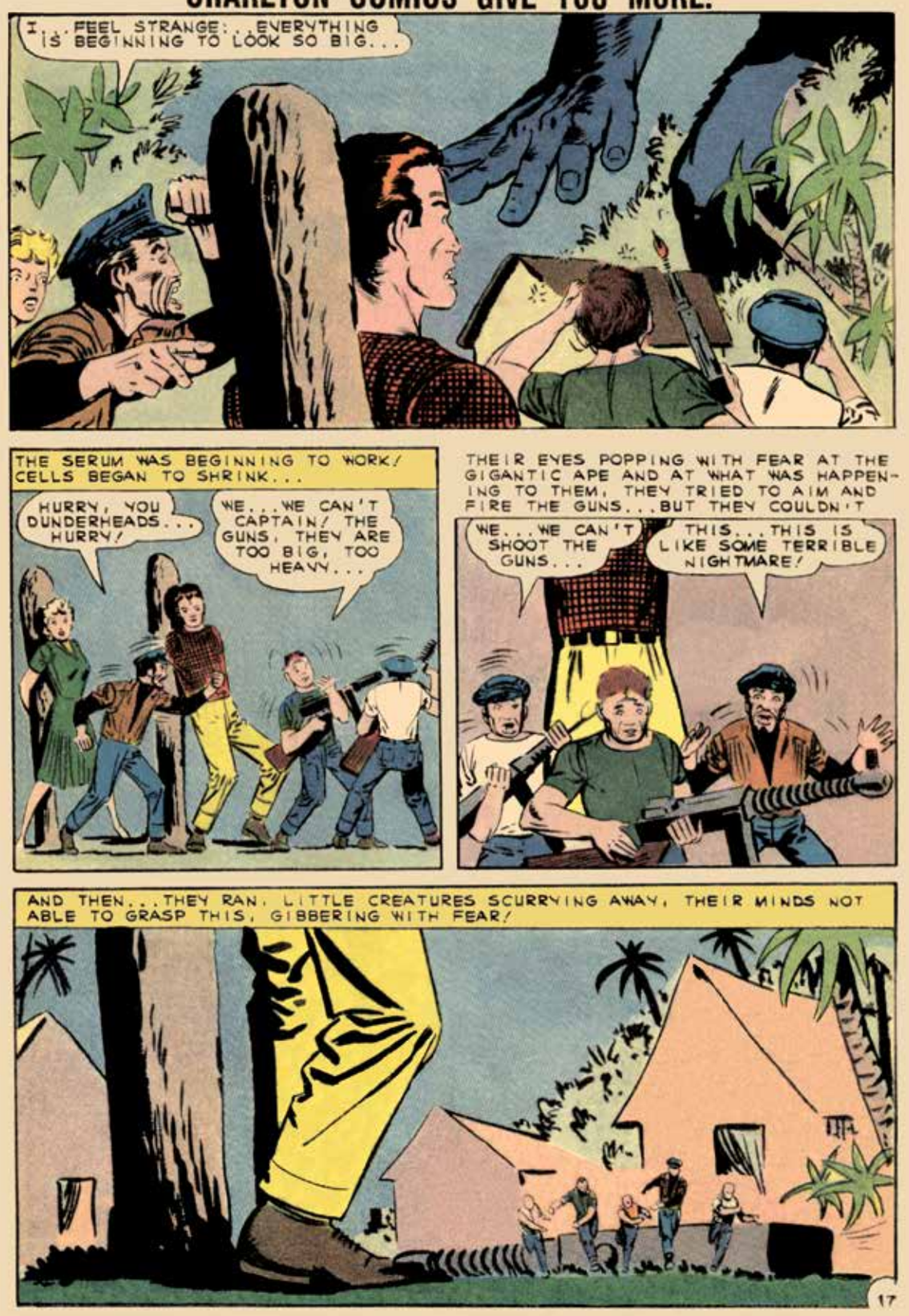
WHEN THE TROPICAL NIGHT HAD FALLEN THE NAZIS, EMPLOYING NATIVE CANOES, STOLE SILENTLY TO THE ANCHORED BOAT/

SEARCH THE SHIP/ SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP TROPICAL FEVER/

15

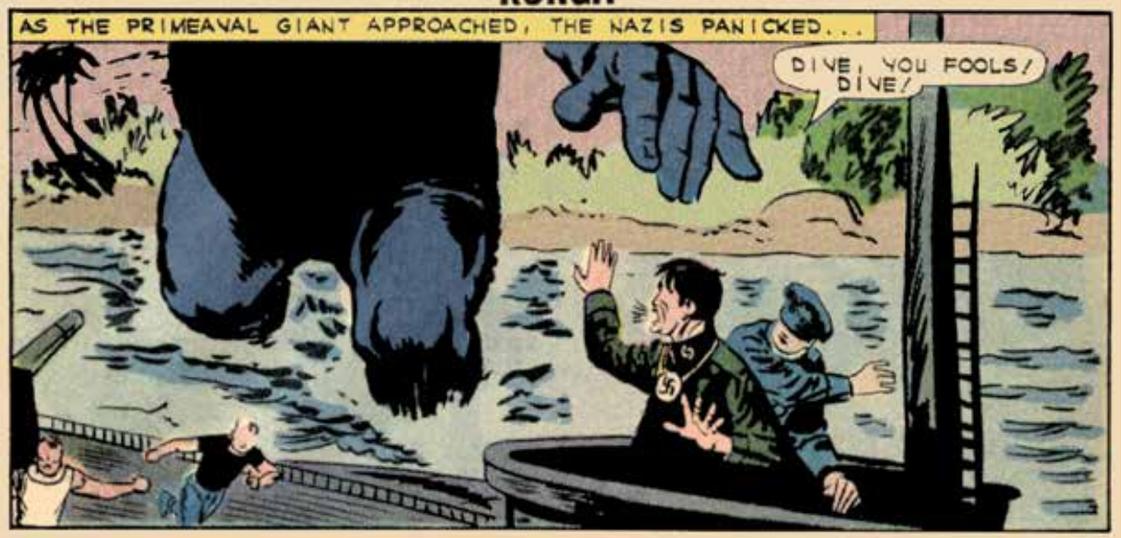
KONGA

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

KONGA

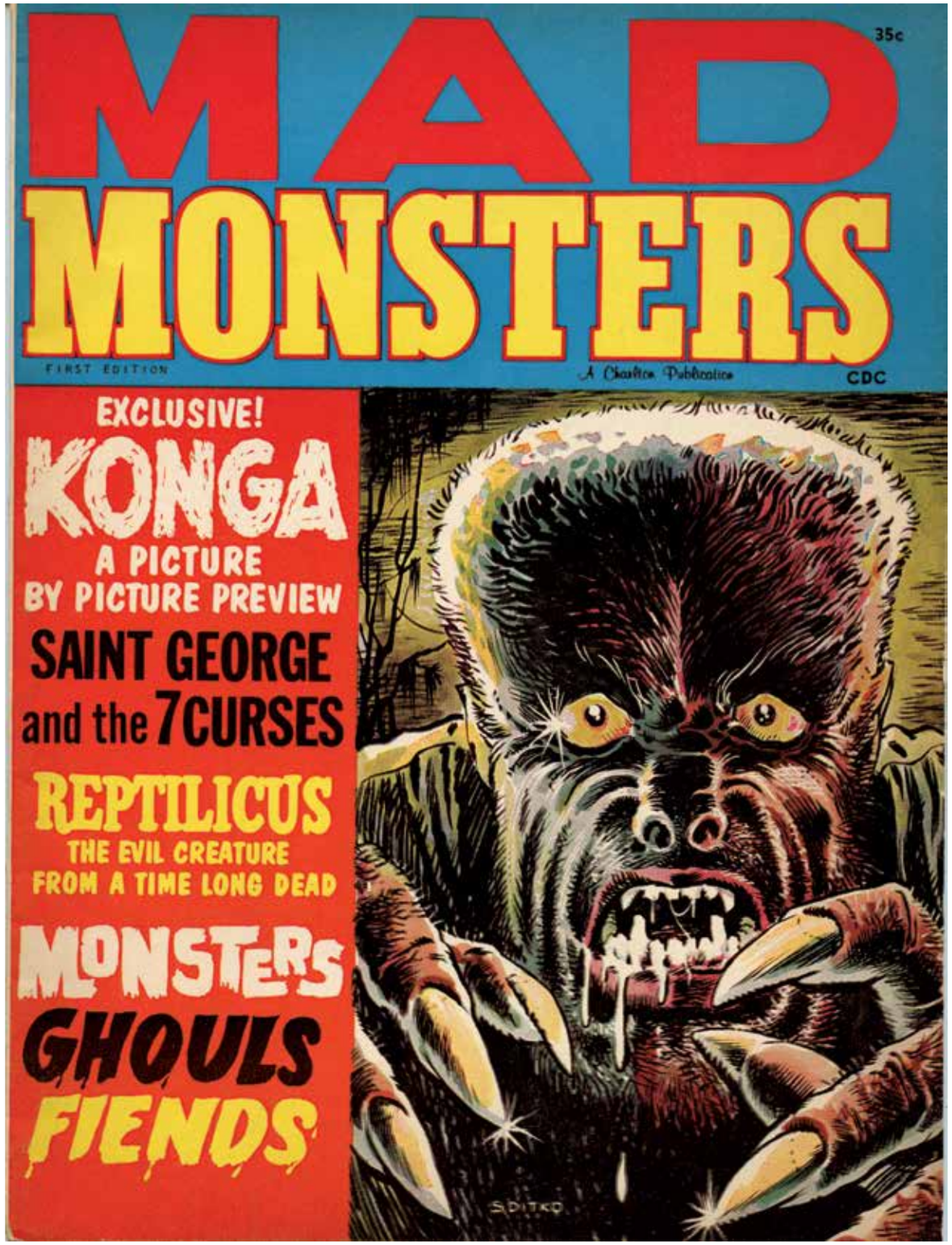


CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

MAD MONSTERS

First issue (#1), 1961
Last issue (#10), 1965
10 issues published

#1, [no month] 1961
Cover
K



IN THE ANNALS OF MONSTER HISTORY THERE IS NO MORE HORRENDOUS A TALE (OR TAIL, IF YOU PREFER BEGINNING AT THE END) THAN THAT OF "K" (KONREPGORDRACFRANWEREZOMBMUM FOR SHORT). THIS MAD MONSTER, WHEN COMPARED TO OTHERS OF HIS ILK, EVEN AT THEIR ILKIEST, WAS, BEYOND A DOUBT! SO WITHOUT FURTHER DETAILED EXPLANATION, LET US PLUNGE FORTHWITH (OR HINDWITH, IF YOU LIKE) INTO THE TERRIFYING STORY OF . . .
THE MADDEST MONSTER OF THEM ALL!
OUR TALE BEGINS IN THE MIASMIC INTERIOR OF AN OLD BAT'S CAVE. "K" HAD KICKED THE OLD BAT OUT AND TAKEN POSSESSION. THE MAD MONSTER IS MADLY INTERESTED IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH AND, AS A HOBBY, PAINTS VARIOUS KIND OF SCIENCE.
He's "K", and I'm "P"
BAT
VAMP
VAMPIRE
DOWN
STEVE DITKO
PU
INTERSEX(C)
"K" HAD HIS SHEEPSKIN IN MEDICINE (WHICH MADE THE SHEEP VERY ANTISEPTIC AND SOGGY) BUT HE WAS A DOCTOR WHO HAD LOST ALL HIS PATIENCE. AND SO THIS HORRIBLE MONSTER CAME TO THE MAD DECISION THAT WAS TO SHOCK THE WORLD.
I will make the greatest discovery in the history of science and astound the world! I will build a living, breathing animate creature from dead, inanimate material, and I will call it . . . mankind? Homo-domo? No! I shall call it . . . MAN! Ha, ha, ha, ha, tee hee!
And mankind spelled backwards is . . . dniknam! Ho, ho, ho!
"K" HAD ENGAGED IN MANY WORTHWHILE PROJECTS, BUT ALWAYS HE HAD FAILED. HE'D TRIED TO BUILD A SWAMP, BUT GOT STUCK IN THE MIDDLE. HE THEN ATTEMPTED TO BUILD A HAMMOCK OF HUMAN SKIN, BUT FORGOT THE PORES THAT REFRESHES . . .
But this time I shall not fail. I will buy the scientific paraphernalia necessary to my fabulous experiment . test tubes and hypos, too . . . I love to stick a needle in a tube and hear it go "boom"!
Have you ever used a hypodermic needle to mend a patch? It's sew, sew!

I want one of those, and one of those, and . . . oh, everything looks so splendid. Give me an operating table, too.

SO THE STAGE WAS SET, THE CAST WAS DYED, FOR THE MOST MONSTROUS EXPERIMENT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

Now I must find a body, then wait until the full of the moon, when the superous elements reiterate abominable, abysmal glee. . . . I said it, and I'm glad!

Hello, Glad!

Speaking of bodies . . . Woo, Woo!

You're cute.

But, this is not bringing me closer to my ghoul . . . to make a living, breathing, loathsome, horrible MAN. I must cease this lally-gagging!

I'm Lally.

And I'm gagging.

SO "K" PROWLED FORTH, FINDING THE ELEMENTS WITH WHICH TO BUILD HIS "MAN" . . . BONES FROM CEMETERIES AND OLD GARBAGE PAILS. CHICKEN, BEEF, LAMB . . .

Smack! Smack! Not bad. Just a bit heavy on the garlic.

He makes no bones about it.

J. Grilwood

OUT TO LUNCH

HE BUILT HIS AWFUL CREATION WITH RUBBER MUSCLES (STRETCHING A POINT TO GET A SNAPPY TORSO), LEATHER SKIN (AND RUMPELSTILTSKIN), AND INNER ORGANS OF MUSIC, LUNGS, KIDNEYS, AND HEARTS AND FLOWERS.

What to do about a brain? Aha, I've got it . . . and I'd like to get rid of it. I won't give him a brain . . . and this will be typical of the creature known as "MAN"

I wonder if a heart is worst or a liverwurst?

THEN CAME THE MOMENT OF MOMENTS! THE TIME HAD COME. IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT WHEN LIGHTNING RIPPED ACROSS THE SKY LIKE FANGS AND THUNDER CRASHED. AND IT WAS THEN THAT "K" GAVE LIFE TO HIS CREATION!

Here.

He should've given him a Look first.

Boo!

What horror! What awfulness! have built so horrendous a creature that the very sight of it kills me. I die, De-die, die!

He should've built a "Woman" not a "Man" At least he would've died happy.

SO THE AWFUL CREATION TURNED UPON ITS CREATOR AND "K" DIED IN AGONIZING FEAR AND HORROR, KNOWING THAT HE HAD LET LOOSE UPON THE WORLD THE MOST MONSTROUS MAD MONSTER EVER CONCEIVED.

I shall achieve the greatest scientific experiment in the history of the world. That is what little boys were made for. I shall make a living, breathing, monster! I shall . . . woo. woo . . .

Here we go again.

You're cute.

Mmmmmmm, why should I make a monster, when this one is already made . . . I theeennnkkk!

This is the end. Ain'tcha glad? Hello Glad . . . and so on, far, far into the centuries.

THE END.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Any reader wishing to purchase a drawing from this tremendous epic can have one free. Just send $1,000 in stamps to cover the cost of mailing to Hemlock Mental Sanitarium, Ward 3.

MYSTERIES OF UNEXPLORED WORLDS

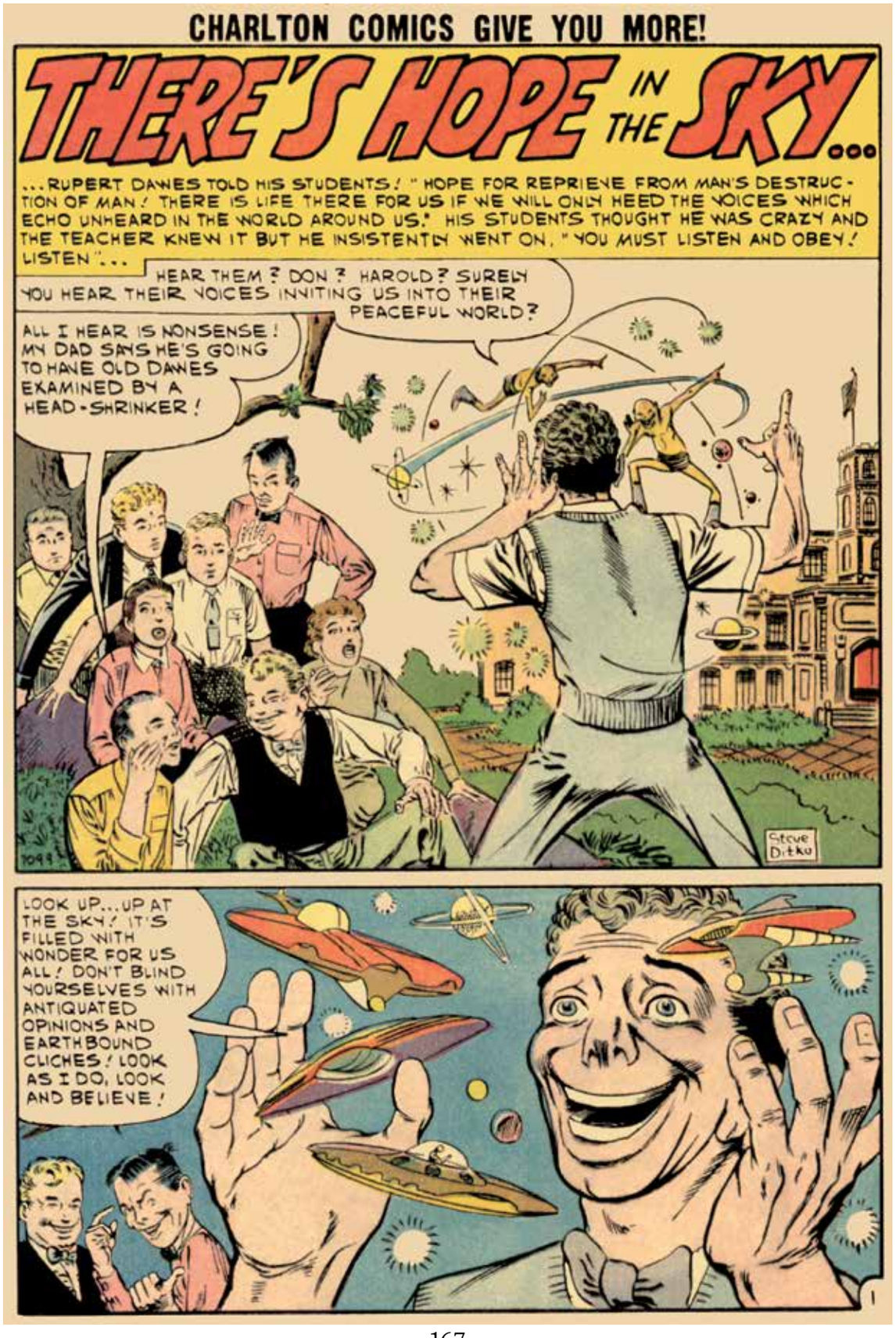
First issue (#1), August 1956
Last issue (#48), September 1965
48 issues published

#22, January 1961
There's Hope in the Sky

#23, March 1961
The Quiet Little Men

#24, May 1961
The Vanishing Men

#26, September 1961
Believe No Evil



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

RUPERT DAWES, A BRILLIANT MAN, HAD BEEN SEEING THE LITTLE PEOPLE FROM OUTER SPACE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME! BUT HE'D HIDDEN IT AT FIRST... UNTIL HIS ENTHUSIASM TO SHARE THE WONDERS OF THE SKY MADE HIM FORGET CAUTION...

DON'T BE BLIND BY WHAT CONVENTIONAL TEACHERS TELL YOU! RAISE YOUR FACES TO THE SKY...

COME ALONG, RUPERT! I WANT A WORD WITH YOU...

I WANT NO TALK ABOUT THIS, BOYS! MR. DAWES ISN'T WELL! HE'LL RETURN TO YOU WHEN WE'RE SATISFIED THAT HE'S...UH...BETTER!

THERE'S A CUTE ONE!

IT WAS INEVITABLE! THE DOCTORS WHO EXAMINED RUPERT DAWES DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO REACH A UNANIMOUS OPINION...

MY, THERE'S A LOT OF THEM OUT TODAY!

(BUZZ BUZZ) IMBALANCE (BUZZ BUZZ) GREAT STRAIN (BUZZ) JUST PLAIN CUCKOO (BUZZ BUZZ) GET RID OF HIM RIGHT AWAY...

YOU SEE THEM TODAY, DOCTOR? YOU **DO** BELIEVE THEY'RE THERE, DON'T YOU?

OF COURSE I DO, MR. DAWES! NOW CALM DOWN...WE WISH TO DISCUSS YOUR VACATION WITH YOU!

WE THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE A SIX MONTH VACATION! PERHAPS TO CONTINUE YOUR STUDIES IN YOUR SPECIAL SUBJECT!

WONDERFUL IDEA! PERHAPS I'LL GO TO JUPITER **AGAIN** THIS YEAR!

2

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE PLANET JUPITER? **AGAIN**? YOU'VE **BEEN** THERE?

OH, YES, DOCTOR! WONDERFUL PLACE! FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN WE ARE ON THIS PLANET! THEY'RE QUITE DISGUSTED WITH THE WAY WE'RE MANAGING THINGS! IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE, THEY'LL REMOVE US FROM THE SKY! WELL, I'D BEST GET ON HOME AND BEGIN PACKING!

I WONDER IF HE'S AS NUTTY AS WE THINK! THERE **MIGHT** BE FLYING SAUCERS AND PURPLE PEOPLE WITH TWO HEADS OUT THERE!

RUPERT DAWES WAS UNDER SURVEILLANCE FROM THE TIME HE LEFT THE CLINIC UNTIL HE HAD PACKED AND APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE! HE WAS READY TO LEAVE FOR JUPITER...

THIS IS RICH! RUPERT'S CHECKIN' HIS WATCH LIKE THE GUY HE'S WAITIN' FOR IS LATE! AND LOOKIN' UP AT THE SKY! MAYBE HE ORDERED A HELICOPTER!

HAW!

HALF THE TOWN WAS WATCHING TO SEE HIM LEAVE...YET, NOT ONE SAW HIM WHEN HE DEPARTED...

I'D BETTER RETIRE! MY EYES ARE PLAYIN' TRICKS ON ME NOW!

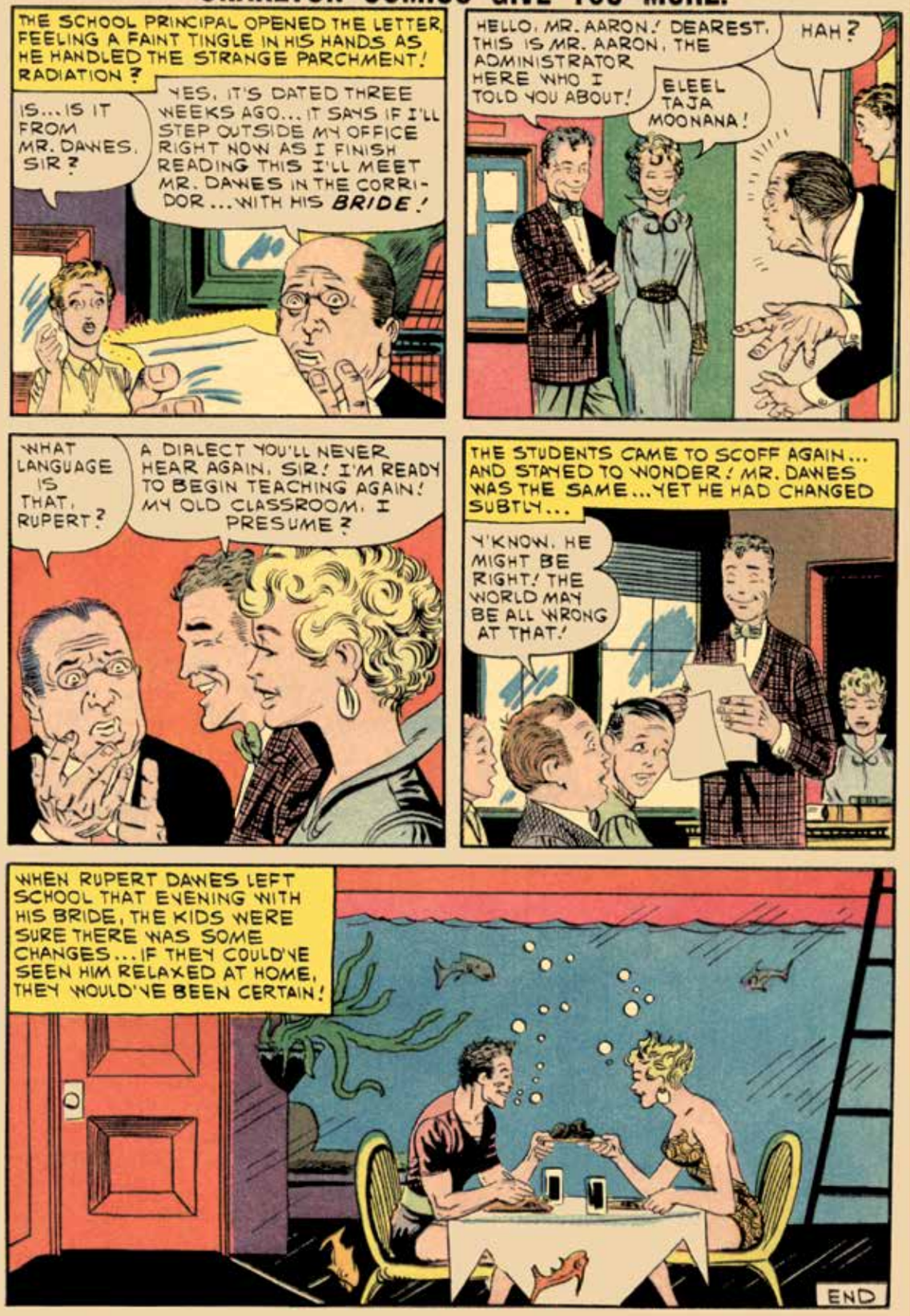
HOW'D HE MANAGE **THAT**?

MY STARS! HE...HE JUST DISAPPEARED!

3

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

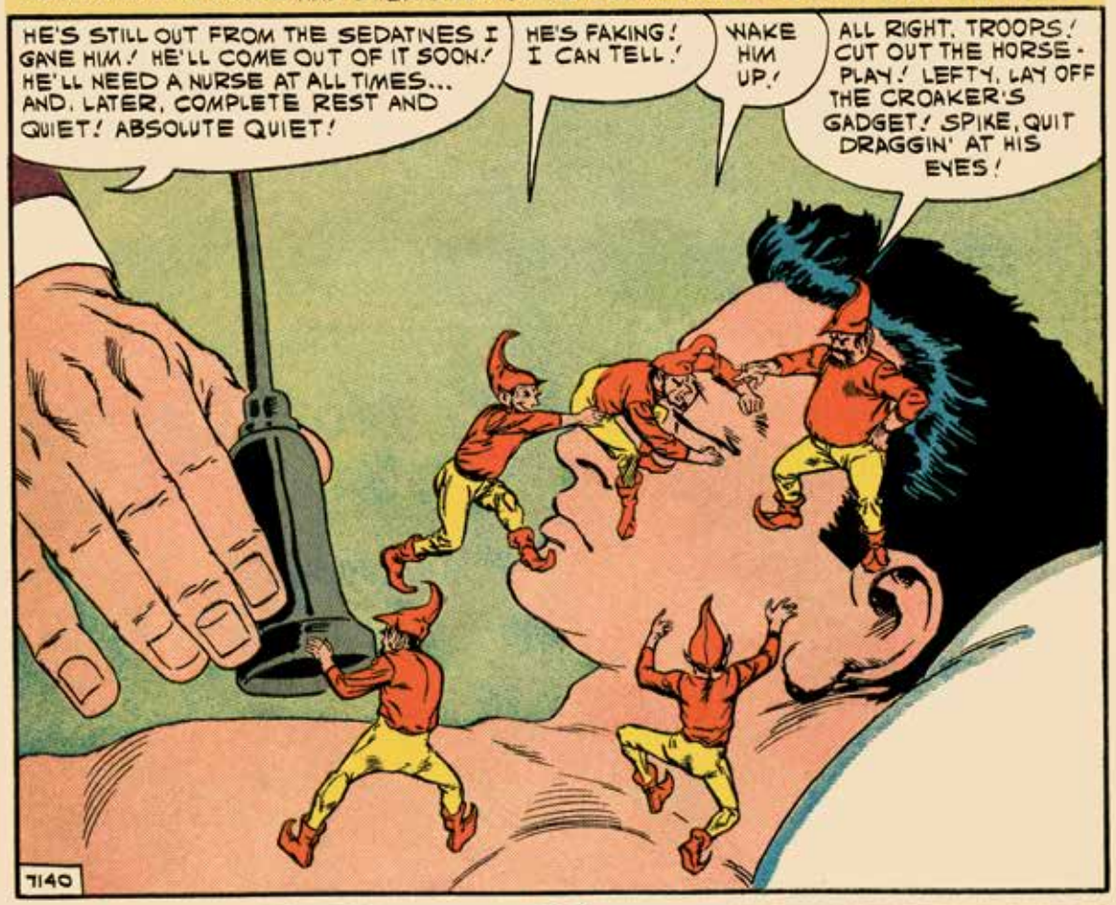
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE QUIET LITTLE MEN

AT THE APEX OF HIS CAREER, CLAYTON AMES SUDDENLY COLLAPSED...A BREAKDOWN. THE DOCTORS CALLED IT... WHATEVER IT WAS, CLAYTON AMES WAS SEEING AND HEARING THINGS NO MAN IN THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN OR HEARD! AT LEAST, WE THINK SO? HOW ABOUT YOU?



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

HE'S SUFFERING FROM A COMPLETE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN! IT'LL BE MONTHS BEFORE HE CAN WORK AGAIN!

HE'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH HIS OWN DOCTOR, OF COURSE! MEANWHILE, WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND? SHOULD HE BE HOSPITALIZED?

I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD HELP! I'D SAY A LONG VACATION AT THE QUIETEST PLACE HE CAN FIND! AND ABSOLUTELY NO WORK!

HEAR THAT, SPIKE? WE'RE GOING ON VACATION!

CLAYTON AMES WAS VAGUELY CONSCIOUS... HE HEARD HIS SECRETARY'S QUESTIONS AND THE DOCTOR'S ANSWERS FROM A LONG WAY OFF! BUT HE HEARD OTHER WORDS MUCH MORE CLEARLY...

THANK YOU, DOCTOR! I'LL SEE THAT HE TAKES A LONG REST!

DOGGONE IT, AMES, YOU GOOFED BAD THIS TIME! I WAS GETTIN' TO LIKE THE ADVERTISING BUSINESS!

HIS OWN DOCTOR VERIFIED THE DIAGNOSIS AT HOME... HOME BEING THE SUMPTUOUS DUPLEX APARTMENT THE BACHELOR OCCUPIED IN NEW YORK CITY...

HMM... LET'S SEE! HAWAII IS NICE THIS TIME OF YEAR!

...AND ABSOLUTE QUIET! I'LL RECOMMEND A PLACE ON THE SHORE! THERE'S A NICE PLACE FOR RENT THAT YOU CAN AFFORD!

THE *LITTLE MEN* YOU TOLD ME ABOUT WILL VANISH IN A FEW DAYS, AMES! IT'S A COMMON SYMPTOM IN CASES LIKE YOU... OUCH!

THEY SEEM AWFULLY REAL TO ME, EVEN NOW! BUT, SINCE THEY'RE ONLY A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION, I'LL IGNORE THEM FROM NOW ON!

2

AMES STILL SAW THE PIXIES... THEY WENT WITH HIM EVERYWHERE...

LISTEN, BUDDY, WE DON'T LIKE THE SEASHORE! WE SORTA PLANNED ON THE CATSKILLS! WE GOT FRIENDS UP THERE!

THE DOCTOR ADVISED COMPLETE REST...

THIS LOOKS PRETTY QUIET!

YEEEOW! WE'LL GO NUTS IN THAT JOINT!

IF CLAYTON AMES WAS AWARE THAT THE QUIET LITTLE MEN DIDN'T LIKE HIS CHOICE, HE DIDN'T LET ON! HE WAS DETERMINED TO IGNORE THE LITTLE PEOPLE WHO HAD COME TO HAUNT HIM DURING HIS NERVOUS BREAKDOWN...

THERE YOU ARE, MR. BROWN. ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR NINETY DAYS! IT SEEMS RIDICULOUSLY CHEAP!

IT'S A GENUINE BARGAIN, MR. AMES, AND... OUCH!

IT'S A GENUINE HAUNTED HOUSE, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

THANKS AGAIN, MR. BROWN!

LOOK, FRIEND, THIS IS GOING TOO FAR! YOU CAN'T GET RID OF US, SO WHY MAKE US SUFFER THIS WAY?

THE LITTLE MEN ARE ONLY FIGMENTS OF MY IMAGINATION, THE DOCTOR ASSURED ME! BUT, IF THE FIGMENTS DON'T LIKE THE PLACE, MAYBE THEY'LL GO AWAY!

I AIN'T NO FIGMENT, MAC!

3

LOCAL PEOPLE WERE HIRED TO CLEAN UP... IN A FEW DAYS, THE HOUSE LOOKED CLEAN AND CHEERFUL...

IT'S QUIET HERE, ALL RIGHT! GETTING ON MY NERVES ALREADY... I'D BETTER TAKE A WALK ALONG THE BEACH...

HEY, BUDDY, WAIT FOR US!

IT IS PEACEFUL HERE! WHAT I NEED IS SOMEONE TO TALK TO!

THEN, HE SAW HER...

WELL, WELL, MY IMAGINARY FIGMENTS ARE GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME!

HELLO! YOU JUST MOVED INTO THE QUIGLEY PLACE, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT'S CORRECT! I'M CLAYTON AMES! DO YOU LIVE NEARBY?

I'M ELLEN HALSTEAD, I LIVE QUITE NEAR!

4

I DIDN'T THINK I'D LIKE IT AT FIRST... AND *THEY* HATE THE PLACE!

THEY'LL HATE IT *MORE* ALL THE TIME!

YOU SOUND AS IF YOU KNOW WHO *THEY* ARE AND THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU SEE, I HAD A...

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHOSE HAD A BREAKDOWN! AND OTHERS HAVE HAD **THEM** AROUND AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER!

HEY!

I'LL BE HERE TOMORROW, CLAYTON! I'LL SEE YOU THEN!

I DON'T LIKE IT HERE ATALL!

I HATE THAT DAME! SHE'S ONTO US, I'LL BET!

NIGHT CAME TO THE OLD QUIGLEY PLACE... AND A NEW SERENITY FOR CLAYTON AMES...

WHY'D HE FALL ASLEEP WITH THE LIGHT ON? IS THAT BIRD STILL THERE?

HE SURE IS! JUST WAITIN' TO POUNCE THE MINUTE HE SEES US!

5

MORNING CAME AFTER A REFRESHING NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR AMES... AND A MISERABLE NIGHT FOR THE LITTLE MEN WHO'D COME TO HIM DURING HIS ILLNESS...

WOTTA NIGHT!

♪ OHH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNIN'... OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY! ♫

HELLO IN THERE!

SOUNDS LIKE ELLEN!

JUST IN TIME FOR COFFEE, ELLEN! SIT DOWN!

SMELLS GOOD!

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THIS EARLY VISIT BUT IT'S TOO LOVELY A DAY TO WASTE!

YEEOWW!

IT WAS A HAPPIER WORLD FOR CLAYTON AMES WITH ELLEN HALSTEAD IN IT... SHE WAS BRIGHT AND GAY... AND SEEMED ALMOST FATAL TO THE LITTLE PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T THERE AS FAR AS SHE WAS CONCERNED! OR DID SHE KNOW?

WHOOPS! HOW CLUMSY OF ME!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, ELLEN! IT'S NOT SCALDING HOT!

GLUB! GLUB! GLUBBEY DAME!

6

YOU'RE FROM THE CITY, AREN'T YOU? DO YOU, BY CHANCE, KNOW DR. SHIELDS?

I DO! AND HE CALLED ME AND SAID YOU'D BE HERE!

COME ON, LEFTY! WE GOTTA STICK WITH OUR GUY!

NOT ME! I'M STAYIN' RIGHT HERE! IF THE BLASTED SEA GULLS DON'T GET US, THAT CLUMSY GIRL *WILL*! SHE'S RUININ' US!

THAT WALK, THE FIRST OF MANY, PROVIDED THE PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS AND NEW INTEREST CLAYTON AMES NEEDED...

CLAYTON, AFTER YOU'VE RECOVERED, WHAT DO YOU PLAN?

I HADN'T THOUGHT AHEAD, ELLEN! MY AGENCY WANTS ME BACK BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE ANOTHER BREAKDOWN IF I RETURN!

DID YOU LIKE YOUR WORK, CLAY?

THE WORK DIDN'T CAUSE MY BREAKDOWN! I KEPT LATE HOURS AND I NEVER ATE PROPERLY!

THEN, YOU *CAN* GO BACK! I'M SURE, WHEN YOU DO, THAT YOU'LL STAY HOME NIGHTS AND KEEP EARLY HOURS!

SHE HOOKED HIM! WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THAT DAME!

7

BUT THE POWERS OF THE QUIET LITTLE MEN WERE LIMITED... THEY HAD EXISTED FOR CLAYTON AMES ONLY BECAUSE HIS MIND HAD BEEN WEAKED FROM EXHAUSTION! FOR A GIRL LIKE ELLEN HALSTEAD, THEY WERE NO PROBLEM AT ALL...

BEFORE I MET YOU, ELLEN, I KEPT SEEING LITTLE MEN AROUND EVERYWHERE! THEY'RE NOT AROUND NOW!

THEY'RE BANISHED, CLAY! AFTER WE'RE MARRIED, YOU'LL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN!

WE'LL DRIVE TO NEW YORK THIS AFTERNOON, GET MARRIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

THE PIXIES... A VERITABLE HORDE WHEN CLAYTON AMES HAD ARRIVED AT THE BEACH... HAD VANISHED ONE BY ONE! ONLY THE LEADER, A DIEHARD, WAS LEFT WHEN CLAYTON AND ELLEN WERE UNITED IN THE BONDS OF MATRIMONY...

THEY WON'T GET RID OF *ME* SO EASILY!

HE'S STILL HERE!

NOT ANY MORE HE'S NOT, CLAY!

AND SO, THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER... WITHOUT THE QUIET LITTLE MEN...

PHOOEY!

JUST MARRIED

THE END

THE VANISHING MEN

HIS RESCUERS FOUND SPEDUNKLER ERNIE HAYES 270 FEET DOWN IN THE VAST LABYRINTH DESIGNATED AS LOSTMAN CAVERN...

THERE HE IS! HE'S STILL ALIVE AFTER TWELVE DAYS DOWN HERE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER!

HE WAS BROUGHT TO MIDDERN CITY HOSPITAL... HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS BUT REFUSED TO TALK TO DOCTORS OR ANYONE ELSE!

BUT YOU MUST'VE FOUND FOOD! THE DOCTORS SAY YOU'VE BEEN WELL FED AND SHOW NO SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE! HOW DID YOU EAT AND KEEP WARM DOWN THERE FOR TWELVE DAYS?

THE QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AGAIN AND AGAIN! ERNIE HAYES LAY THERE FOR HOURS, A HAUNTED LOOK IN HIS EYES... REFUSING TO ANSWER, SMOKING ONE CIGAR AFTER ANOTHER! THEN, WHEN AN INVESTIGATOR FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TRIED TO PIN HIM DOWN, ERNIE HAYES TOOK ONE LAST MOUTHFUL OF CIGAR SMOKE AND...

Steve Ditko

NO TRICKS, HAYES/ YOU'VE GOT TO ANSWER THESE... HE IS GONE/ HE'S NOT IN THIS BED!
HE CAN'T DISAPPEAR/ HE AND I... WE...
I'VE GOT TO TELEPHONE THE PAPER/ MY EDITOR WILL THINK I'M CRAZY!
MAYBE WE'RE ALL CRAZY/
RAY DEAN'S EDITOR WAS DISGUSTED WITH HIS REPORTER...
RAY, YOU GOOFED/ WHEN THAT CAVE FELLA ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL, YOU SHOULD'VE FOLLOWED HIM/
FOLLOWED HIM? MR. WALLACE, HE DIDN'T WALK OUT OF THERE/ HE EVAPORATED/
OR D-DEMATERIALIZED/
YEAH? WELL, YOU DEMATERIALIZE OUTA HERE AND DON'T COME BACK UNTILL YOU HAVE THE FACTS/ ALL THE FACTS/
MR. DEAN? I MUST SPEAK TO YOU/
DON'T BOTHER ME/ I GOT TROUBLES ENOUGH ALREADY/ I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT NUTTY SPEDUNKLER OR I'LL LOSE MY JOB/
EDIT
I WANT TO FIND ERNIE EVEN MORE THAN YOU DO/ WE... WE WERE ENGAGED/ LOOK, I FOUND THIS IN HIS POCKET/
AN EAR OF CORN/ IT LOOKS NO MORE THAN A DAY OLD/
2

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AND I WAS RAISED ON A FARM/ WHERE WOULD HE GET FRESH CORN DOWN...
I DUNNO BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT/ COME ON!/
A DEPUTY SHERIFF WAS AT THE CAVE WHEN RAY DEAN AND NURSE MILDRED SIMMS ARRIVED...
I RECKON YOU CAN GO DOWN THERE/ FOGARTY, THE GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, IS IN THERE ALREADY/ JUST FOLLOW THIS FIVE HUNDRED FOOT LENGTH OF TWINE AND YOU CAN'T GO WRONG/
COME ON, MILDRED/
NEITHER RAY NOR MILDRED HAD EVER EXPLORED CAVES AS BIG AS LOSTMAN CAVERN...
WE'RE THREE HUNDRED FEET IN ALREADY, MILDRED/ PAST THE SPOT WHERE ERNIE HAYES WAS FOUND/
LOOK, RAY, YOU CAN SEE MR. FOGARTY'S FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST...
CAN'T GO WRONG FOLLOWING THEM/ WE'LL CATCH UP WITH FOGARTY SOON/ WE'RE FOUR HUNDRED FEET DOWN ALREADY/
FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FEET/ HE SHOULD BE JUST AHEAD... WE SHOULD'VE HEARD FROM HIM BY NOW/
THAT'S THE END OF THE STRING AND...
HE'S NOT THERE/ HE VANISHED... LOOK/ HIS FOOTPRINTS JUST STOPPED/
3

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

SUDDENLY...RAY DEAN FELT A MOVEMENT IN THE DEAD AIR OF THE CAVE... AND, THEN, A SHOCKING, PARALYZING BLOW ON THE ARM...

SOMETHING HIT ME, MILDRED! I... I DROPPED THE LIGHT!

MILDRED?W-WHERE ARE YOU?

TURN AND GO BACK, DEAN! THE GIRL IS SAFE SO LONG AS YOU DON'T MAKE ANY MORE TROUBLE! TELL THE OTHERS UP ABOVE NOT TO SEARCH OR THEY WILL BE SORRY!

W-WHO IS THAT? FOGARTY, IS THAT YOU?

THERE WAS NO MORE SOUND...ONLY A SOFT SIGH AS OF WINGS IN AIR, A FAR AWAY ECHO OF A LAUGH...AND SILENCE!

MILDRED! I'LL FIND YOU, I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

GO BACK! GO BACK OR YOU WILL REGRET IT!

RAY, A TIMID TYPE BEFORE, FOUND COURAGE TO GO ON...

THAT LIGHT AHEAD...IT LOOKS LIKE DAYLIGHT, BUT IT CAN'T BE!

HE REFUSED TO LISTEN, ERNIE! WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM NOW?

WE'LL TAKE HIM TO LUCERNE! LET HIM DECIDE!

4

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

LUCERNE, A YOUNGISH MAN...BUT WITH ANCIENT WISDOM IN HIS EYES...

ERNIE HAYES KNEW WE'D BRING HIM BACK IF HE TRIED TO RETURN TO THE OUTER WORLD...YET, HE RISKED MY WRATH FOR THAT GIRL!

DON'T PUNISH HIM, DAD!

YOU SEE, YOUNG FRIEND, WE HAVE A METHOD OF RECLAIMING THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THIS PLACE...THEY SIMPLY VANISH FROM THE WORLD ABOVE!

YOU LIVE HERE TOO, MISS?

FOGARTY, THE INVESTIGATOR, WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE AFTER HE PROMISES NOT TO TELL ANYONE WHAT WE HAVE DOWN HERE! DO YOU WISH TO GO WHEN HE DOES!

MY NAME IS LALA! WHAT'S YOURS?

RAY DEAN!

YOU'LL LIKE LIVING IN OUR WORLD, RAY DEAN!

I DIDN'T SAY I'D. I GUESS I WILL, LALA!

FOGARTY, THE INVESTIGATOR, WAS GUIDED BACK THROUGH THE CAVE...HAVING SWORN NEVER TO REVEAL WHAT HE HAD SEEN...

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? DID YOU SEE THEM?

YOU BET I DID! WAIT'LL I TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED!

TALK FAST! I'LL GET OUT AN EXTRA...

WHERE'D HE GO?

I DUNNO BUT I'M GONNA SEE THAT THIS CAVE IS SEALED OFF! I AM GONNA MAKE SURE NO ONE ELSE VANISHES INTO THAT CAVE!

THAT'S WHAT WAS DONE BUT THERE ARE OTHER CAVES! MAKE SURE YOU DON'T VANISH ONE DAY!

END

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

BELIEVE NO EVIL

CHARLES B. GOOD, A QUIET MAN, AND A POOR ONE IF JUDGED BY WORLDLY WEALTH, WAS RICHER THAN ANY MAN IN OTHER WAYS! SINCE CHILDHOOD, CHARLEY HAD EXHIBITED A SIMPLE, ROCKBOUND FAITH THAT AMAZED THOSE WHO KNEW HIM... A REFUSAL TO BELIEVE THAT GREAT MISFORTUNE COULD TOUCH HIM OR THOSE AROUND HIM...

DADDY, THAT PLANE IS GOING TO CRASH! EVERYONE IN IT WILL DIE!

NO, DANNY, THE PLANE *WON'T* CRASH! JUST WATCH AND SEE!

A-267

IN THE LAST SPLIT SECOND BEFORE DEATH JOINED THE TERRIFIED GROUP, THE PILOT YANKED FUTILELY AT THE CONTROLS WHICH HAD GONE DEAD...

YOU WERE RIGHT, DAD! IT *DIDN'T* CRASH!

OF COURSE NOT!

CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE CONTROLS RESPONDED EVEN THOUGH THE HYDRAULIC LINES BURNED AWAY! IT... IT'S A *MIRACLE!*

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

ON THE GROUND, CHARLES B. GOOD TURNED FROM THE PLANE...ONE EVIL AVERTED BUT ANOTHER PENDING MISFORTUNE STILL HAD TO BE FACED...

I HEARD OUR DOCTOR TALKING TO THE SPECIALIST, DAD! HE SAID MY CASE IS HOPELESS! THEY...THEY THINK I'M GOING TO DIE!

BELIEVE *ME*, DANNY, NOT THE DOCTORS...

...YOU WILL NOT DIE!

HONEST, DAD? IF YOU SAY I'LL GET BETTER, I'LL BELIEVE YOU!

I *DO* SAY IT, SON! YOU WILL BE HEALTHY AGAIN, VERY SOON!

NEITHER OF THEM WILL BELIEVE THE WORST, DOCTOR! HOW...HOW SOON WILL DAN...WILL IT HAPPEN?

NOT LONG NOW, MRS. GOOD! THE BOY HAS AN INCURABLE DISEASE! NO ONE HAS EVER RECOVERED FROM IT!

THE BOY'S STRENGTH WANED...HE HAD TO LIE IN BED...BUT HIS FATHER NEVER LEFT HIS SIDE...

YOU HEAR ME, DAN? YOU WILL LIVE! HEAR ME AND *BELIEVE* MY WORDS!

LET ME LOOK AT HIM, SIR!

I BELIEVE DANNY IS DEAD, MISTER GOOD!

YOU'RE WRONG! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

2

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

UNHURRIDLY, CHARLES B. GOOD TOOK THE DOCTOR'S PLACE... HELD THE BOY'S LIFELESS HAND IN HIS OWN AND...

LISTEN TO ME, SON! THE DISEASE WHICH MADE YOU ILL HAS RUN ITS COURSE! YOU WILL OPEN YOUR EYES...YOU WILL BEGIN TO RECOVER!

HE...HE'S ALIVE, MR. GOOD! I WAS *WRONG!*

IN TWO WEEKS, DANNY GOOD WAS AS WELL AS EVER...

THE BOY IS ALL RIGHT, ANNE! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW!

NO, BUT YOU LOST YOUR JOB, CHARLES! AND ALL OUR MONEY IS GONE!

I'LL FIND A JOB! EXPERT ACCOUNTANTS NEVER REMAIN OUT OF WORK LONG!

CHARLES B. GOOD DID FIND A JOB...TWO DAYS LATER...AT A FINE SALARY! HIS EMPLOYER, CLAYTON TRASK COULD AFFORD TO BE GENEROUS...

YOU'LL HANDLE THE FINANCE RECORDS, MR. GOOD! BANK THE CHECKS AS THEY COME IN! BUSINESS IS GOOD AND GETTING BETTER!

YOU'RE SELLING STOCK IN A NUCLEAR-REACTOR POWER SYNDICATE, MR. TRASK? IT SOUNDS LIKE A FINE CHANCE FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE MONEY!

OF COURSE THEY WILL, MR. GOOD! THE SMALL INVESTORS WILL *TRIPLE* THEIR MONEY IN A FEW MONTHS! I'M THINKING ONLY OF THEM!

3

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

SO CHARLES WENT TO WORK... CLAYTON TRASK'S HIGH-PRESSURE SALES FORCE PUSHED THE SENSATIONALLY RISING STOCKS... CHARLES B. GOOD WAS IN CHARGE OF THE INCOMING FLOOD OF MONEY...

ADD IT UP AND PUT IT IN THE BANK, MR. GOOD! REMEMBER, NINETY PER CENT GOES INTO THE SPECIAL SWISS ACCOUNT...

THE STOCK IS UP THREE POINTS AGAIN TODAY, SIR! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...

THE PLANS FOR THE NUCLEAR-REACTOR PLANTS! THEY'RE READY TO BE GIVEN TO THE CONSTRUCTION PEOPLE! WE SHOULD BEGIN TO BUILD...

THE TIME IS NOT YET RIPE, CHARLEY! I WILL TELL YOU WHEN!

MONTHS PASSED... THE STOCKS SOARED! CLAYTON TRASK WAS ALL OVER THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL CENTERS! WHILE CHARLES B. GOOD HELD DOWN THE DESK AT HOME...

I'M WORRIED, CHARLES! WHAT IF MR. TRASK IS A **CROOK**? YOU SAID THERE WEREN'T ANY EXISTING NUCLEAR-REACTING PLANTS AS YET!

THAT'S WHAT I SAID, DEAR! DID YOU KNOW, A MONTH OR TWO AGO, MR. TRASK PLACED ME IN CHARGE OF THINGS HERE?

WELL, I **AM** IN CHARGE! AND I'M DOING JUST EXACTLY WHAT A FINE MAN LIKE CLAYTON TRASK WOULD WANT ME TO DO!

4

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

TRASK'S COMPANY WAS TALKED OF EVERYWHERE... HIS OWN GOLDEN TONGUE AND VIVID IMAGINATION WAS THE CORPORATION'S GREATEST ASSET...

IMAGINE IT! THE BACKWARD AREAS OF THE WORLD MADE PROSPEROUS BY CHEAP ELECTRIC POWER! THE WORLD'S POOR WILL LIVE LIKE KINGS WHEN MY NUCLEAR-REACTORS SUPPLY ELECTRICITY FOR INDUSTRY EVERYWHERE!

THINK OF IT, GENTLEMEN! INVEST YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS IN ME -- WATCH YOUR LITTLE NEST-EGGS TRIPLE AND QUADRUPLE IN SIZE!

THEY BOUGHT... CLAYTON TRASK HAD SCALED THE HEIGHTS AND STOOD AT LAST ON THE HILLTOP... COMPOSED OF CURRENCY...

THE MONEY FLOWED IN. A VERITABLE MISSISSIPPI OF WEALTH! AND CHARLES B. GOOD TABULATED THE FABULOUS FLOW... A FIT PARTNER FOR TRASK THE DREAMER...

ANOTHER $700,000! WONDERFUL! CLAYTON IS OUTDOING HIMSELF TODAY!

I THOUGHT CLAYTON TRASK WAS A DREAMER OF DREAMS WHEN I FIRST CAME TO WORK FOR HIS FIRM! IN FACT, I WASN'T AT ALL SURE HE EVER INTENDED TO BUILD A POWER PLANT! BUT I WAS WRONG!

5

TRASK'S OVER-INFLATED BUBBLE BURST IN LONDON JUST AFTER HE'D COLLECTED A MILLION POUNDS STERLING FOR HIS VENTURE...

COME ALONG, MR. TRASK! OUR SECURITIES PEOPLE WISH TO QUESTION YOU ABOUT YOUR COMPANY!

I'VE GOT A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST!

THE NEWS BROKE--HALF THE WORLD WAS RUINED...

FINANCIER HOAXED THE WORLD!

TRASK A THIEF!

NUCLEAR-POWER-KING A COMMONER!

BILLIONS STOLEN FROM MILLIONS!

REALLY, TRASK, YOU'RE A TERRIBLE CAD! I INVESTED IN YOUR THIEVING COMPANY! DIDN'T YOU EVER INTEND TO BUILD THE POWER PLANTS? WAS THIS A FRAUD FROM ITS INCEPTION?

NO, I MEANT TO DO IT IN THE BEGINNING!

I HOLD PATENTS ON THE GENERATORS! THEY WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED! IT *WAS* GENUINE AT FIRST! BUT I NEVER GAVE THE ORDERS TO BEGIN BUILDING!

HIS CONFESSION SHOCKED THOSE WHO HEARD IT! AND, SECONDS LATER, ANOTHER VOICE BROKE IN...CHARLES B. GOOD'S...

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT, MR. TRASK? ALL THE POWER PLANTS YOU PROMISED TO BUILD ARE ***BEING*** BUILT! THE MONEY HAS BEEN PAID TO THE BUILDERS! YOU'VE COMMITTED NO FRAUD! THIS COMPANY'LL BE SUCCESSFUL!

HUH?

MR. GOOD, I ***AM*** A THIEF! I INTENDED TO ABSCOND WITH ALL THE MONEY!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! OF COURSE I KNEW YOU MIGHT BE TEMPTED SO I ORDERED CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN YOUR ABSENCE! I USED THE MONEY YOU TOLD ME TO DEPOSIT IN THE SWISS ACCOUNT! YOU SEE, I KNEW YOU WERE BASICALLY HONEST!

END

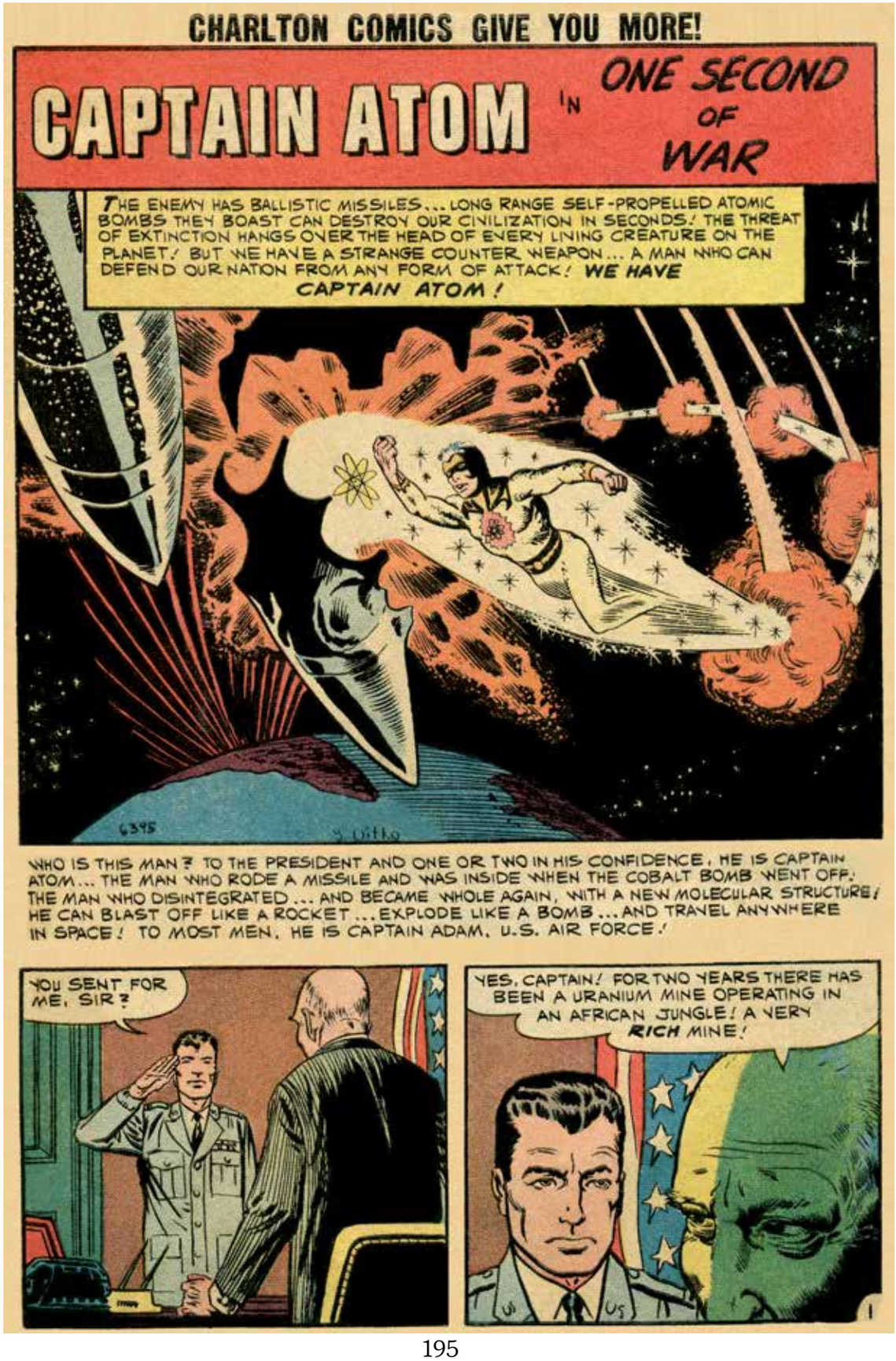
SPACE ADVENTURES

First issue (#23), May 1958
Last issue (#59), November 1964
37 issues published

#38, February 1961
One Second of War
Backfire
The Force Beyond

#39, April 1961
Test-Pilot's Nightmare
An Ageless Weapon

#40, June 1961
The Crisis
The Boy and the Stars
The Silver Lady from Venus



SPACE ADVENTURES

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

ATOM WENT INSIDE...BY-PASSING THE DOORS WHERE JAYNES HAD INGENIOUSLY INSTALLED DETECTO-RAYS...

I COULD DESTROY THEM NOW...BUT HALF OF AFRICA WOULD VANISH! AND THE FALL-OUT MIGHT POISON ALL MANKIND! JAYNES MUST BE COMPLETELY MAD!

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I WANT EVERY MISSILE MOUNTED ON A LAUNCHING PAD! BY DAWN, MY BIRDS WILL FLY!

WORKING FEVERISHLY FOR INCREDIBLE PAY, JAYNES' INTERNATIONAL WORK FORCE ACCOMPLISHED THE INCREDIBLE TASK...

IT IS TIME! TIME TO DESTROY HALF THE WORLD... AND THE HALF THAT IS LEFT WILL BE *MINE!*

FIRE! FIRE THEM ALL!

UP THEY SPEED, AT INCREDIBLE SPEED... EACH ROCKET AIMED AT A GREAT CITY... WASHINGTON, TOKYO, NEW YORK, LONDON...

AMONG THEM, CLIMBING HIGHER FASTER, WAS CAPTAIN ATOM...

IF THEY WERE DESTROYED EVEN ONE HUNDRED MILES UP...THEY WOULD KILL MILLIONS! THEY MUST LEAVE THE UNIVERSE!

CAPTAIN ATOM MOVED AMONG THE DEADLY FUSILLADE...CHANGING HEADINGS, SPEEDING THEM UP...DIRECTING THEM TOWARD INFINITY...

I COUNTED THEM ON THE GROUND...ONE DID NOT FIRE AS THE OTHERS DID!

NO...ONE MISFIRED...SOMEWHERE IN SOMALILAND AN OMINOUS MUSHROOM GREW... BENEATH ITS TERRIBLE SHADOW NOTHING LIVED...

NOTHING THERE! NOT A BLADE OF GRASS FOR A HUNDRED MILES! JAYNES' NIGHTMARE DIED WITH HIM! NOW, TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON...MISSION COMPLETED... DANGER PAST!

END

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

SPACE ADVENTURES

GUSTAV BORLIN IS A DICTATOR IN HIS COUNTRY, AN UNFRIENDLY NEUTRAL! NOW, C.I.A. HAS SENT REPORTS THAT BORLIN'S CRAZY... AND HAS THE POWER TO BEGIN AN ATOMIC MISSILE WAR!

SKAFIC'S HIS CAPTIVE GENIUS WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST AMERICA! OUR MISSILE EXPERTS RATE HIM AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

CAPTAIN ATOM TIMED HIS ARRIVAL TO LAND AT DAWN...

I BETTER LAND AWAY FROM THE TOWN... I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON BEING SEEN THE WAY I AM!

NOW TO CHANGE AND GET TO OUR EMBASSY!

MOMENTS LATER...

CAN YOU GIVE ME A RIDE TO TOWN, MISTER?

THOSE? THEY ARE MISSILES! PREMIER BORLIN CLAIMS FOREIGN POWERS PLAN TO WAR ON US AND WE MUST BE PREPARED TO STRIKE BACK!

2

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, CAPT. ADAM FOUND THEM WAITING... PUZZLED BY THE UNUSUAL ORDERS CABLED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ...

IF YOU'VE GOT A PLAN TO STOP GUSTAV BORLIN, CAPTAIN, TELL ME ABOUT IT!

I'VE GOT NO PLAN, SIR! BUT I MUST SEE THE DEMONSTRATION BORLIN IS STAGING THIS MORNING!

ALL RIGHT... BUT IF WE DON'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING, WE'RE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

MINUTES LATER...

PREMIER BORLIN HAS PROMISED A DEMONSTRATION THIS MORNING, INVITED OBSERVERS FROM THE FREE WORLD! BUT WE FEAR IT MAY BE *MORE* THAN THAT! BORLIN MAY START A WAR... AT *THAT* MOMENT!

PREMIER BORLIN'S SPECIAL GUARDS MET THEM.

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS, CAPTAIN! PREMIER BORLIN TREATS US AS PRISONERS, NOT PRIVILEGED OBSERVERS OF HIS MISSILE DEMONSTRATION!

I INVITED ONLY *YOU*, GENERAL! BUT YOUR UNDERLING IS WELCOME! THIS DEMONSTRATION TODAY WILL END FOREVER THE MYTH THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A RULING POWER!

PREMIER BORLIN, I MUST WARN YOU THAT ANY RECKLESS ACTION YOU INITIATE WILL BE BLOCKED AND RETALIATION WILL BE IMMEDIATE!

3

SPACE ADVENTURES

SOME YEARS AGO, GENERAL, YOUR SCIENTISTS RIDICULED MY THEORIES, LABELED THEM HALLUCINATORY AND IMPRACTICAL! TODAY, YES, *TODAY*, MY THEORIES WILL BE PROVED...TO EVERY UNFORTUNATE CITIZEN OF YOUR DECADENT DEMOCRACY!

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE ARE READY!

KONTROL

ORDERS WERE GIVEN...SKAFIC'S MISSILE TEAM BEGAN THEIR PROCEDURE...

COUNTDOWN BEGINS! TEN...NINE...EIGHT...

THERE IS TIME TO HALT THIS MADNESS, BORLIN!

SEVEN...

NO! TIME HAS RUN OUT FOR AMERICA, GENERAL! BESIDES, MY PEOPLE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT VENGEANCE WILL BE THEIRS TODAY!

STOP HIM, SKAFIC!

LET THE FOOL GO! HE CANNOT STOP THE BLAST OFF!

TIME FOR ME TO GET INTO THE ACT!

BEHIND THE CLOUD OF ROCKET FUMES, CAPTAIN ADAM, U.S.A.F., SHED HIS UNIFORM AND BECAME CAPTAIN ATOM, THE INDESTRUCTABLE MAN...

I HAVE TO TAKE THE CHANCE THEY DIDN'T SEE ME CHANGE! NOW I MUST STOP THOSE MISSILES!

ZERO! FIRE!

4

THE FIRST MISSILE ROSE SLOWLY FROM THE GROUND...500,000 LBS OF THRUST LIFTING IT FASTER AND FASTER EACH SECOND...

THEN, THE ENTIRE BANK OF MISSILES, TWENTY IN ALL, BEGAN RISING...

I COULD DETONATE THEM NOW...AND DESTROY BORLIN'S COUNTRY! BUT THE PEOPLE HERE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE!

INSTEAD, CAPTAIN ATOM, ACCELERATING EVEN FASTER THAN DR. SKAFIC'S MISSILES, NUDGED EACH ONE...GENTLY...BUT ENOUGH TO THROW EACH OFF COURSE...DIRECT IT TO WASTE PLACES ON THE EARTH! AND HE ADDED A FINAL TOUCH...

THEIR FIRING MECHANISMS ARE USELESS! THERE WILL BE NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TO POISON THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!

MOMENTS LATER, CAPTAIN ATOM RETURNED TO EARTH AND AGAIN BECAME CAPTAIN ADAM, U.S.A.F. ...

THE MISSILES FAILED! WE ARE FORCED TO ABANDON OUR PLANS FOR VENGEANCE! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

THE PEOPLE ARE REBELLING, BORLIN! THEY DEMAND YOU RESIGN! THEY DON'T WANT WAR!

LATER, AS CAPTAIN ADAM RELATED THE STORY TO THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE...

CAPTAIN, ONCE MORE THIS COUNTRY OWES YOU A DEBT WE CAN ONLY REPAY WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE AND THANKS!

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT! I AM GRATEFUL THAT I WAS ABLE TO HELP!

END

CAPTAIN ATOM IN 'THE FORCE BEYOND'

ONCE MORE, MIGHTY NATIONS TREMBLED ON THE BRINK OF WAR...MISSILES HURTLED FAR OUT IN SPACE. ARMED WITH ATOMIC WARHEADS.. PRESIDENTS AND KINGS AND COMMON MEN EYED THE HEAVENS WAITING FOR THE NEXT INCIDENT THAT MIGHT BRING CHAOTIC WAR AND MASS DESTRUCTION FROM MAN TO FELLOW MAN! THE POTENTIAL WEAPONS WERE ALOFT...THEY AWAITED ONLY THE SIGNAL THAT WOULD SWERVE THEM DOWNWARD OUT OF ORBIT, THE SIGNAL THAT WOULD AIM THEM AT THE TEEMING CITIES WHICH WAITED, DEFENSELESS, FOR THE HOLOCAUST! ONE MAN...ONLY *ONE*...MIGHT AVERT DISASTER! ***CAPTAIN ATOM!*** ***AND HE WAS ALREADY A VICTIM!***

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

A HAND WAS POISED OVER A RED BUTTON IN CAPE CANAVERAL... THE BUTTON THAT WOULD TRANSMIT THE IMPULSE WHICH WOULD ACTIVATE THE STEERINGS IN THE MIGHTY MISSILES THAT CARRIED MANKIND'S TOTAL DESTRUCTION...

THREE...

FAR ACROSS THE WORLD, A MAN LISTENED TO THE COUNTDOWN... EQUALLY RELUCTANT TO PRESS THE SWITCH HE CONTROLLED...

TWO...

FAR OUT PAST THE IONOSPHERE, CAPTAIN ATOM HEARD MAN'S DOOM TOLLED IN THE METALLIC VOICE... AND WAS POWERLESS TO STOP IT...

CAPTAIN ATOM! IF YOU CAN HEAR, ACKNOWLEDGE!

ONE...

MUST STOP IT! CANAVERAL WILL ACTIVATE OUR BOMBS! AT THE SAME TIME, *THEY* WILL FIRE THEIRS!

CANAVERAL! CANAVERAL!

IT'S CAPTAIN ATOM'S VOICE! HE'S ALIVE!

HOLD COUNTDOWN! ALL FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS EVERYWHERE, STOP THE FIRING PROCEDURE!

2

SPACE ADVENTURES

MISSILES ZEBRA ONE AND FOUR ON DOWNWARD PATH, PREDICTED EXPLOSION AREA 37 DEGREES EAST, 56 DEGREES NORTH! BUT THEY...

...WON'T GET THAT FAR!

CAPTAIN ATOM, ARE YOU STILL THERE?

ZEBRA ONE AND FOUR ARE NO MORE! I AM NOW PROCEEDING TO DESTROY *ALL* MISSILES IN ORBIT!

SPUTNIKS, LUNIKS ALL POTENTIAL WEAPONS IN SPACE BECAME TARGETS FOR CAPTAIN ATOM...

CAPTAIN ATOM COMING IN TO REPORT!

3

SPACE ADVENTURES

OBJECT JUST WENT PAST AT ESTIMATED SPEED 22,000 MILES PER HOUR ON COURSE FOR CANAVERAL! IT MUST BE CAPTAIN ATOM!

SECONDS LATER, CAPTAIN ATOM LANDED WHERE HIS STARTLING CAREER BEGAN! ON A LAUNCH PAD AT CAPE CANAVERAL THE HOME OF U.S. MISSILES...

WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE? YOU DIDN'T ANSWER SO WE FIGURED YOU FINALLY GOT BLASTED... FOR GOOD THIS TIME!

HI, GUNNER! I *DID* GET ATTACKED... BY A DIRECTED STREAM OF METEORITES!

SOME INTELLIGENCE, SOME MIGHTY FORCE, DIRECTED THAT ATTACK! AFTER I REPORT, I'LL COME BACK HERE AND MAKE A SPACE PATROL TO LEARN MORE!

THE GENERALS HEARD CAPTAIN ATOM'S STORY FIRST...

THEN, THE PRESIDENT... TELL YOUR STORY AGAIN, CAPTAIN ATOM!

LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW, ALL NATIONAL CAPITALS ARE WATCHING ON THE TELE-CON NETWORK!

4

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

AN UNIDENTIFIED HOSTILE FORCE CAUSED THE INCIDENTS THAT ALMOST PRECIPITATED A GLOBAL WAR! MISSILES WERE DEFLECTED FROM ORBIT AND AIMED AT DIFFERENT POINTS OF THE PLANET!

I AM GOING OUT NOW TO TRY TO NULLIFY THAT FORCE, TO DESTROY OUR MUTUAL ENEMY! IF I FAIL, DO NOT FIGHT EACH OTHER! FIND THE ENEMY I SEEK AND MAKE WAR ON *IT*!

CAPTAIN ATOM BLASTED NORTH... STRAIGHT UP FROM WASHINGTON D.C., OUT PAST NATIONAL BOUNDARIES... UP AND AWAY FROM EARTH AND ITS GRAVITY! OUT TO WHERE A SINISTER UNKNOWN LAY IN WAIT...

CAPTAIN ATOM TO EARTH! TARGET SIGHTED... I WILL BE ATTACKED...

...BUT I AM ATTACKING FIRST!

LATER, CAPTAIN ADAM, U.S.A.F. TELLS THE STORY... TO A SERGEANT AND A GENERAL, THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW CAPTAIN ADAM AND CAPTAIN ATOM ARE ONE...

...SO I USED THE GAMMA-RAY POTENTIAL TO DISINTEGRATE THE ENEMY, WHOEVER IT WAS! THERE WAS NO TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS, GENERAL SORRY!

THE END

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CAPTAIN ATOM in TEST-PILOT'S NIGHTMARE

THE SLEEK BUT BLUNT-NOSED X-49 NESTLED SNUGLY AGAINST THE BELLY OF THE MOTHER-SHIP, A MODIFIED B-52... AT TAKE-OFF, CAPTAIN ADAM, U.S.A.F. ROCKET EXPERT, ACE TEST-PILOT AND TROUBLE-SHOOTER, WOULD BE ABOARD! HIS APPEARANCE AT THE DESERT AIR BASE WAS AS PUZZLING AS HIS REASON FOR BEING THERE! FOR HE'D BEEN TALKING BY PHONE FROM CANAVERAL IN FLORIDA TO THE CHIEF DESIGNING ENGINEER ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE...

CAPTAIN ADAM, YOU'VE LIED TO ME! YOU SAID YOU CALLED FROM CAPE CANAVERAL... MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND MILES AWAY... THREE MINUTES AGO!

DR. HARGUS, THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW! WHAT *IS* IMPORTANT IS THE OXYGEN SUPPLY PUMP YOU'VE PROVIDED IN THE EXPERIMENTAL PLANE!

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Steve Ditko

IT WILL WORK! MAJOR SILBERLING, THE TEST-PILOT, ALREADY HAS FLOWN WITH THE GEAR IN AN F-105!

IT WORKED AT SPEEDS UP TO 2100 MILES PER HOUR! BUT AT 18,000 MILES PER HOUR, IT WILL FAIL! I'M GOING UP WITH YOU WHEN YOU LAUNCH!

SPACE ADVENTURES

DR. HARGUS TRIED TO PREVENT CAPT. ADAM FROM FLYING THAT MORNING -- HE CALLED A FOUR STAR GENERAL...

DOCTOR HARGUS, I'VE JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE! CAPTAIN ADAM WILL ACCOMPANY YOU AND YOU WILL LISTEN TO ANY SUGGESTION HE MAKES...AND **ACT** ON IT! YOU UNDERSTAND?

TAKE-OFF TIME, 1010...

GLAD TO HAVE YOU ALONG, CAPTAIN! I'VE HEARD A FEW WHISPERS ABOUT YOU THAT INDICATE YOU'RE A HANDY MAN IN A PINCH!

THE PINCH MAY COME SOON, MAJOR! I'VE TOLD DR. SILBERLING THAT I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR OXYGEN SUPPLY PUMP!

WELL, IT'S THE ONLY PUMP WE'VE GOT, ADAM! AND WE'RE DUE TO LAUNCH IN SEVEN MINUTES! EXCUSE ME... I'VE GOT TO CLIMB INTO MY SCOOTER!

CONDITIONS WERE RIGHT...AT 55,000 FEET, THE X-49 WAS LAUNCHED...

START POWER, MAJOR!

US AIR FORCE

ROGER!

VR-ROOM

2

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

ACCELERATED TO 9,000 MPH ON FIRST ROCKET STAGE! CUTTING IN SECOND STAGE!

14,000 MPH ON SECOND STAGE! THIRD STAGE WILL BOOST ME TO 18,000 MPH...CRUISE FOR TWO HOURS AT THAT SPEED, CHECK?

THAT IS CORRECT, MAJOR! NOW, BEGIN YOUR INSTRUMENT CHECK!

DR. HARGUS, THE MAJOR IS SUFFERING FROM ANOXIA ALREADY! WARN HIM NOT TO USE HIS THIRD STAGE! REQUEST HE RETURN TO BASE!

YOU'RE A CRANK, ADAM! STOP ANNOYING ME, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

MEANWHILE, IN X-49...

♫ *HE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR, WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE...

*ONE OF THE SYMPTOMS OF ANOXIA, LACK OF OXYGEN, IS A EUPHORIC FEELING SIMILAR TO THAT EXPERIENCED BY ONE UNDER ALCOHOLIC INFLUENCE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SILBERLING? THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES!

HE'S DYING, THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG! DYING FOR OXYGEN!

CAPT. ADAM WENT QUICKLY...SECONDS WERE VITAL...FROM THE PRESSURIZED AREA TO A HATCHWAY! HE HAD NO PARACHUTE...BUT HE DIDN'T NEED ONE...

3

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CAPTAIN ADAM HAD TO WORK FAST...HE QUICKLY CHANGED FROM THE AIR FORCE UNIFORMED MAN SUBJECT TO HEAT AND COLD AND GRAVITY... TO THE BEING HE'D BECOME SO LONG BEFORE AT CAPE CANAVERAL WHEN A HYDROGEN WARHEAD HAD DEMOLISHED HIM... AND, THROUGH AN UNEXPLAINED METAMORPHASIS, HE'D BEEN ABLE TO REFORM AS MAN AGAIN... RETAINING HIS NEWLY-ACQUIRED INVULNERABILITY TO THE ELEMENTS... IN SHORT, ABLE, AT WILL, TO BECOME... *CAPTAIN ATOM* ...

IT LOOKS LIKE A...NO, IT'S A ROCKET! IT *MUST* BE ONE OF OUR SUPER-HIGH-SPEED TESTING ROCKETS!

I'M OVERTAKING HIM.. HIS SPEED IS 18000 MILES PER HOUR, MINE IS 23,000! HE'S GOT TO BE ALIVE!

CAPTAIN ATOM WAS IN SPACE... FEELING NO DISCOMFORT, NO OXYGEN LACK .

THE OXYGEN PUMP FAILED BECAUSE OF THE FINE OIL VAPORIZING WHEN SUBJECT TO NEGATIVE PRESSURE IN SPACE !

SHOULDA JOINED THE ARMY! FLYIN' IS FOR THE BIRDS! HA. HA. HA!

HE'S GOT SECONDS TO LIVE!

SPACE ADVENTURES

I'M LUCKY I STUDIED THE DESIGN OF THE X-49! I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE BEARING IS LOCATED! GOT IT! IT'S DRY... BARELY TURNING!

SOME HEAVY GREASE WHICH DIDN'T VAPORIZE SHOULD DO IT! GOT SOME FROM THE MAIN BEARING GREASE CUP! *THERE!*

IN A SPLIT SECOND THE DRY BEARING WAS RUNNING FREE ONCE MORE! LIFE-GIVING OXYGEN WAS REACHING MAJOR SILBERLING, AND HE WAS ALERT AND CAPABLE...

INSTRUMENT READING AS REQUESTED, DOCTOR! ALTITUDE FOUR HUNDRED AND TEN THOUSAND FEET...

SILBERLING SAW ME... IN HIS STUPOR! BUT HE WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE ME...

LATER...

HOW WAS THE FLIGHT, MAJOR? ANY TROUBLES?

NO, EXCEPT FOR A DRY BEARING IN THE OXYGEN PUMP! IT'LL HAVE TO BE REDESIGNED! OH, YEAH, I HAD A SPACE DREAM FOR A SECOND UP THERE...THOUGHT I SAW A MAN IN A ODD OUTFIT! FUNNY HOW THE HUMAN MIND WORKS THAT FAR UP, EH, CAPTAIN?

END

CAPTAIN ATOM in AN AGELESS WEAPON

TWENTY-EIGHT MINUTES AFTER CAPTAIN ATOM LEFT WASHINGTON, HE ARROWED DOWN OVER BERLIN...

NOW... A QUICK CHANGE... AND I'M ALL SET TO DELIVER THE DISPATCHES!

THERE! NOW TO BE ON MY WAY!

MINUTES LATER, AS CAPTAIN ADAM APPROACHED NATO HEADQUARTERS...

THEY INSTRUCTED US TO INTERCEPT *ALL* STRANGE OFFICERS GOING INTO THAT BUILDING! THE HANDSOME CAPTAIN MIGHT BE OUR MAN!

CAPTAIN ADAM SAW THE GIRL... WALKING BRISKLY PAST THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING! AN IMPERCEPTIBLE FALTER IN HER STRIDE...

WATCH YOUR STEP!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FRAULEIN?

A GUN! IS THIS A JOKE? THE SENTRY...

...WILL BE UNABLE TO HELP YOU IF I PULL THIS TRIGGER AS I SHALL UNLESS YOU OBEY ME IMPLICITLY! I AM *DESPERATE*, HERR KAPITAN!

2

YOU'RE STUPID! IF I CALL OUT

I WILL BE EXECUTED IF I FAIL HERR KAPITAN! YOU WILL BE SILENT AND WALK TOWARD THAT CAR! AN ARMED MAN IS INSIDE WITH A GUN AIMED AT YOUR HEART!

CAPTAIN ADAM HELD INVALUABLE PLANS THE ENEMY WOULD WASTE TEN THOUSAND LIVES TO GET... HE KNEW THEY WOULD FIRE IF HE RESISTED EVEN IF IT MEANT DEATH FOR THEM! SO HE GOT IN THE CAR...

EAST BERLIN, FRANZ!

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN FRAULEIN! I WARN YOU NOW RELEASE ME!

I AM CONVINCED YOU ARE THE COURIER WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO INTERCEPT! BE QUIET OR I WILL SHOOT YOU NOW AND TAKE THE PAPERS!

BY SIDE STREETS AND ALLEYS, THE CAR WENT OUT OF THE CHEERFUL AND PROSPEROUS WESTERN ZONE OF BERLIN... THROUGH THE IRON CURTAIN INTO EASTERN BERLIN WHERE A MORE SINISTER ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED...

HIER BEG

THE NEXT BLOCK, FRANZ!

FIGHTING WILL DO NO GOOD NOW HERR KAPITAN! THE GUARDS ARE CRACK SHOTS! YOU WILL BE HELPLESS!

PERHAPS. WE'LL SEE AFTER I'VE MET YOUR SUPERIORS!

THE INSTANT CAPTAIN ADAN STEPPED INSIDE HE REALIZED HE WAS IN THE HEART OF THE SECRET RED ESPIONAGE NET THAT COVERED EUROPE! THE MAN WHO WAS WAITING HAD A BOOK-LENGTH DOSSIER IN EVERY ALLIED INTELLIGENCE OFFICE IN THE WORLD...

VLADIMIR KOSSI

WELCOME, COMRADE!

3

SPACE ADVENTURES

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CAPTAIN ATOM in THE CRISIS

IT WAS TIME FOR ANOTHER SUMMIT MEETING...AND THE U.S.DIPLOMAT ARMED WITH THE FACTS AND THE COURAGE TO FACE DOWN THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM WINGED O-VER THE ATLANTIC...IN A PL NE SABOTAGED BY THE ENEMY TO CRASH SOMEWHERE OVER THE OCEAN! ONLY ONE MAN COULD AID THE HELPLESS PEOPLE ABOARD...CAP-TAIN ATOM!

THEY CAUGHT THE SABOTEUR AFTER TAKE-OFF...AND THE CLIP-PER'S IN MID-OCEAN NOW, TOO FAR FOR CONVENTION-AL AIRCRAFT TO REACH THEM IN TIME! EVEN I MAY BE TOO LATE!

MADE IT... JUST IN TIME!

LATER, AFTER THE PLANE HAD LANDED AT THE EUROPEAN AIRFIELD NEAR WHICH THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE, CAPTAIN ATOM, ATTIRED AS CAPT. ADAMS, U.S. AIR FORCE, WAS INTRODUCED TO THE GREAT MAN...

IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO MEET YOU, MR. HAYNES! I UNDERSTAND YOUR PLANE HAD ENGINE TROUBLE ON THE TRIP OVER!

VERY STRANGE THING, CAPTAIN! WE WERE FALLING, THEN WE RE-SUMED NORMAL FLYING SPEED... WITH NO ENGINES OPERATING!

Steve Ditko

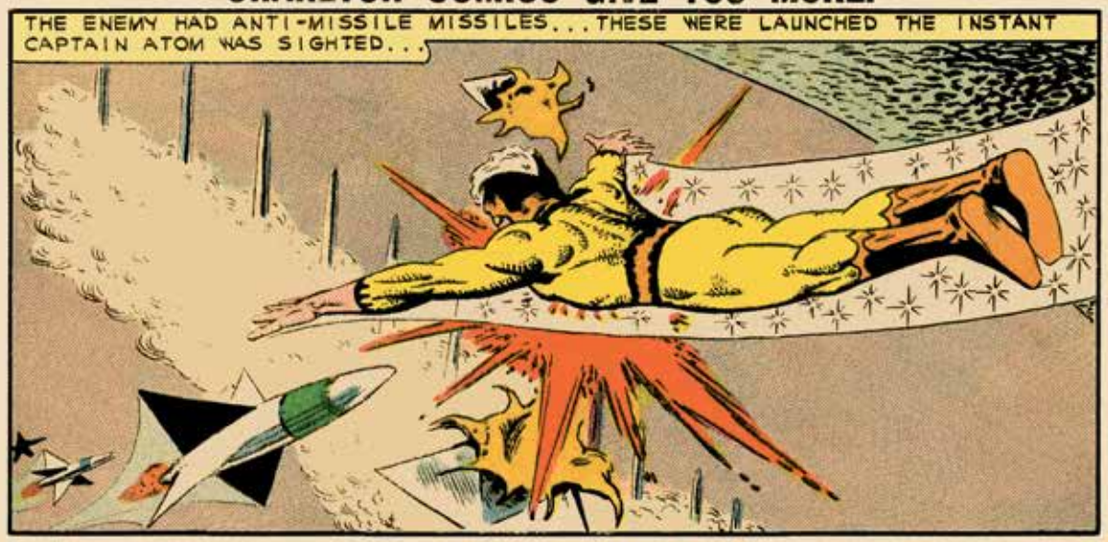
1

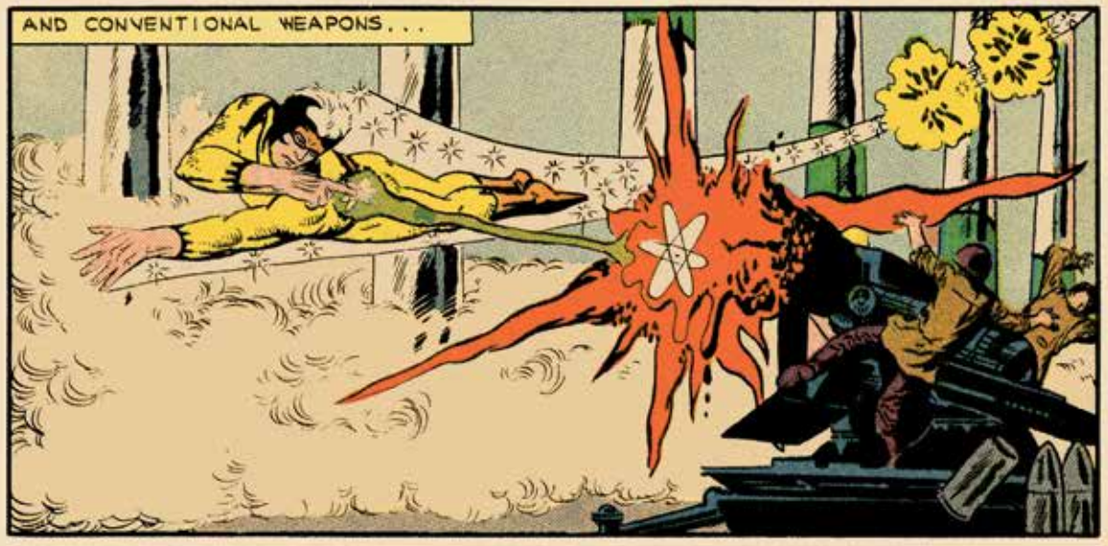
SPACE ADVENTURES

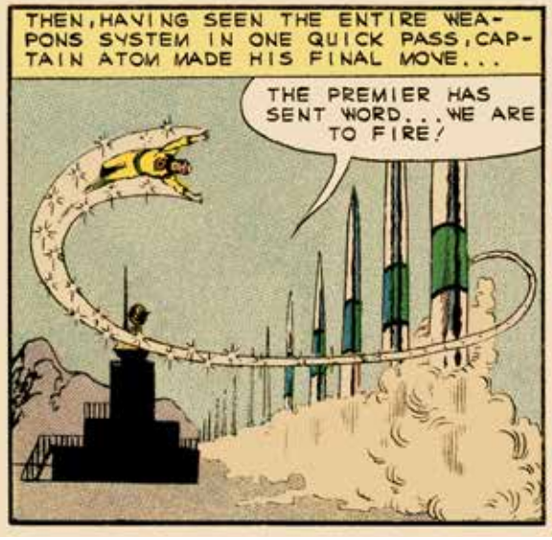
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

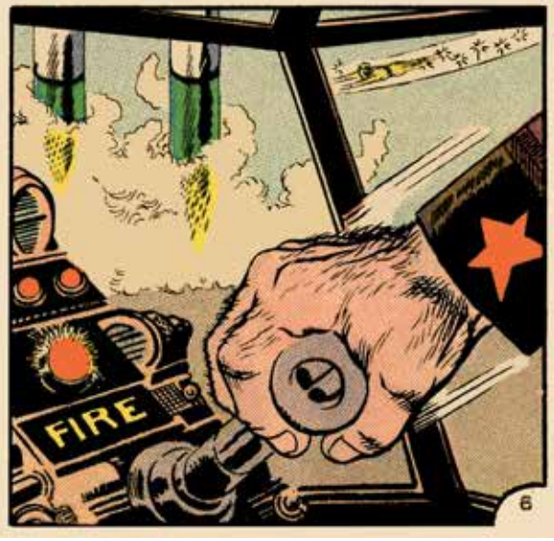
AND, NOW GENTLEMEN, I INTRODUCE MR. HAYNES WHO, I THINK, WILL ADMIT MY CHARGES ARE TRUE!
BEFORE I STATE MY COUNTRY'S POSITION, I WANT TO TELL YOU HOW I ARRIVED HERE THIS MORNING!
TWO ARMED MEN KIDNAPPED ME FROM BEFORE THE U.S.EMBASSY AND THREATENED TO KILL ME IF I SPOKE THE TRUTH HERE! THEY ARE HERE NOW, UNDOUBTEDLY NOW IN THE ACT OF COMMITTING MURDER...
THERE YOU ARE! THEY HAVE TRIED AND FAILED! THE GUARDS WILL SEIZE THEM...THEY WILL NOT DARE FIRE AGAIN!
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME ONE MOMENT? I WILL RETURN SHORTLY...
IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE REAL DIPLOMAT HAD TAKEN HIS PLACE...
NO ,THIS IS OUR PROGRAM! AS TO DI ARMAMENT, WE WILL AGREE ONLY IF...ETC. ETC.
4

MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN ATOM WAS SPEAKING TO A UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE OFFICER...ONE WHO HAD ARRIVED WITH THE ENEMY DELEGATION!
WE MUST BE BRIEF! IF I AM CAUGHT, I HAVE NO IMMUNITY FROM AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET!
ALL RIGHT! GIVE ME WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED QUICKLY!
WHAT SHE HAD TO SAY WAS STARTLING... IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO SEND CAPTAIN ATOM WINGING OUT OF THAT BUILDING WITHOUT HIS USUAL CAUTION NEVER TO BE SEEN!
HE MUST NOT FAIL!
ODEVA TOLD ME THEY'VE GOT A HUNDRED ATOMIC MISSILES READY TO BE FIRED! THE BOSS MAN WILL GIVE THE FREE WORLD AN ULTIMATUM! KNUCKLE UNDER OR DIE!
LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE BIG WHEEL DELIVERS HIS THREAT TO ALL MANKIND!
TRAVELING AT 100,000 MPH, CAPTAIN ATOM BLASTED OVER THE LAST RANGE OF MOUNTAINS... OVER THEIR MISSILE LAUNCHING SITE!
WOW! WHAT AN ATOMIC ARSENAL!
5

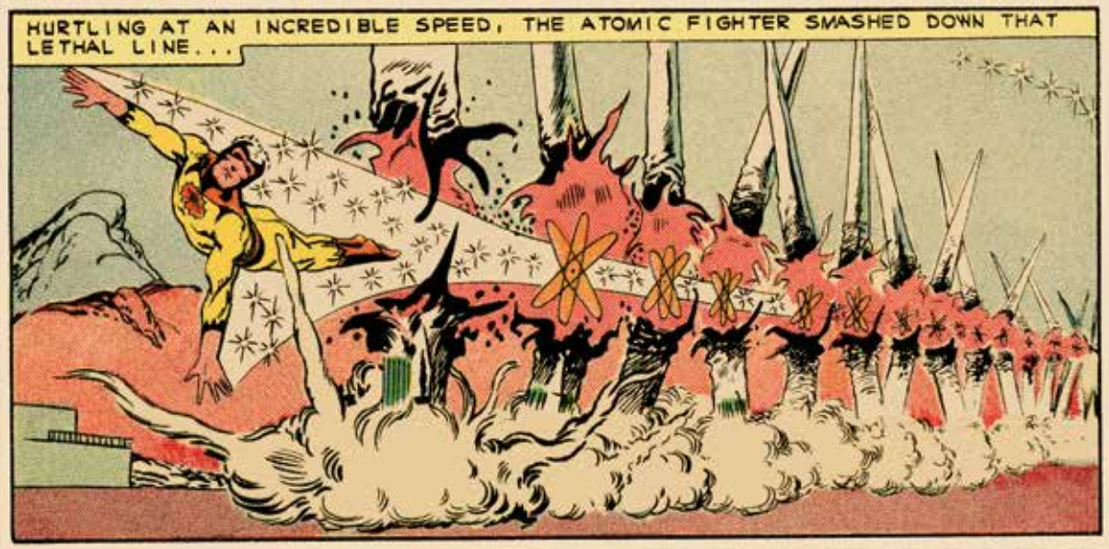

THE ENEMY HAD ANTI-MISSILE MISSILES...THESE WERE LAUNCHED THE INSTANT CAPTAIN ATOM WAS SIGHTED...


AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS...


THEN, HAVING SEEN THE ENTIRE WEAPONS SYSTEM IN ONE QUICK PASS, CAPTAIN ATOM MADE HIS FINAL MOVE...
THE PREMIER HAS SENT WORD...WE ARE TO FIRE!


FIRE
6

THEN, THE GIANT MISSILES WERE FIRED...YET, THEY HOVERED FOR SECONDS OVER THEIR PADS AS GIANT MISSILES ALWAYS DO!
KKRRASH
RRROOOAAA


HURTLING AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED, THE ATOMIC FIGHTER SMASHED DOWN THAT LETHAL LINE...

MINUTES LATER, CAPTAIN ATOM WAS BACK AT THE SUMMIT MEETING...ATTIRED AS CAPT. ADAMS...WHISPERING IN THE EAR OF THE U.S. DELEGATE!
I'VE DESTROYED THEIR POWER TO DESTROY, SIR! HIS THREATS ARE EMPTY NOW!
WONDERFUL!

THE HOSTILE SPEAKER FINISHED, THEN THE AMERICAN DELEGATE ROSE, SMILING AS THE OTHER'S OMINOUS THREATS STILL ECHOED IN THE ROOM! HIS REPLY? SIMPLE...JUST ONE WORD...
BALONEY!
THE END

CAPTAIN ATOM in THE BOY AND THE STARS

M/SGT. WILLKIE SCOTT HAD BEEN A GOOD SOLDIER IN HIS COUNTRY'S SERVICE... ONE OF THE INVALUABLE TECHNICIANS OF OUR NEW AIR FORCE WHO HELPED "FLY THE BIRDS" AS THE ROCKET PEOPLE CALLED IT! BUT HE BEGAN MAKING MISTAKES... SUCH AS THE WHOPPER THAT LOOSED AN ATOMIC-WARHEAD INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE OVER THE GREAT CITIES OF OUR EASTERN SEABOARD! IT TOOK CAPTAIN ATOM TO AVERT A GREAT TRAGEDY... AND, PERHAPS, A NUCLEAR WAR...

RETURN TO BASE, EAGLE ABLE! EMERGENCY OVER! CAPTAIN ATOM WILL DIRECT THE BIRD INTO OUTER SPACE!

Steve Ditko

WHEW! ANOTHER SECOND AND THE MISSILE WOULD'VE HIT THE CITY!

A-84

CAPTAIN ATOM, THE STRANGE BEING CREATED BY AN ATOMIC BLAST, EASILY RODE THE ULTRA-SONIC MISSILE UP... OUT OF THE AIR OCEAN SURROUNDING EARTH... OUT INTO THE UNIVERSAL VACUUM! THERE'S NO OXYGEN OUT THERE... THE TEMPERATURE IS -459.69°F, ABSOLUTE ZERO! BUT THE CONDITIONS DIDN'T AFFECT THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN ATOM...

PREMATURE FIRING... BLAST-OFF TRIGGERED BY DEFECTIVE SOLENOID... WILLKIE SCOTT'S RESPONSIBILITY!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

AT CANAVERAL, GENERALS WERE ASKING QUESTIONS, A HATCHET-MAN FROM WASHINGTON WAS TRYING TO FIX THE RESPONSIBILITY... AND M/SGT. SCOTT WASN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT THE MISFIRE EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW IT WAS HIS FAULT...

POOR LITTLE GUY... HE'S GOING TO DIE AND I CAN'T HELP HIM... NO ONE IN THE WORLD CAN!

IT ISN'T FAIR! WHY SHOULD MY SON DIE OF SOME DISEASE NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE!

I DEMAND TO KNOW WHOSE MISTAKE CAUSED THE MIS-FIRING! WHEN WE FIND THE MAN...

CAPTAIN ATOM KNEW... BUT HE KNEW IT WOULD BE USELESS TO DISCUSS ROCKETS OR MISFIRINGS OR ANYTHING ELSE RIGHT THEN...

POOR GUY! HIS SON MUST BE WORSE!

WITHIN SECONDS, CAPTAIN ATOM, RADIO-ACTIVE AND CAPABLE OF AMAZING FEATS OF SPEED AND POWER, BECAME CAPTAIN ADAM, U.S. AIR FORCE, LIKE OTHER MEN...

YOUR MISTAKE ALMOST COST THE LIVES OF OTHER BOYS LIKE YOURS, WILLKIE! TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG! IS IT THE BOY?

YES, THE BOY, CAPTAIN! DYING... GAMMA RAY POISON, THE DOCTORS SAY, BUT A DIFFERENT TYPE! RAYS FILTERING DOWN FROM THE STARS!

2

SPACE ADVENTURES

FUNNY THING ABOUT THE BOY AND THE STARS! I BUILT HIM A TELESCOPE, CAPTAIN! REMEMBER, ONCE, YOU FIGURED OUT THE FORMULA AND HELPED ME GRIND THE LENS! IT'S A BEAUTY! WELL, THE KID SPENT ALL HIS TIME WATCHING THE STARS! THE DOCTOR THINKS PERHAPS THAT'S HOW HE ABSORBED ALL THE GAMMA POISONING... THROUGH THE TELESCOPE LENS!

HE'S DYING, CAPTAIN! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS NOW...

I WANT TO SEE THE BOY, SERGEANT! COME, WE'LL USE ONE OF THE NEW JETS TO GET TO THE WEST COAST WHERE YOU LIVE!

MINUTES LATER, AFTER CAPTAIN ADAM HAD USED HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE WHITE HOUSE TO ARRANGE AN EMERGENCY FURLOUGH FOR M/SGT. SCOTT...

WE'LL BE THERE SOON, SERGEANT! I MAY BE ABLE TO CURE YOUR SON! THAT IS, IF YOU TRUST ME AND AGREE TO MY PLAN!

I TRUST YOU MORE THAN ANY MAN ALIVE, SIR! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, CA T. ADAM WAS BESIDE THE BED OF LITTLE BUDDY SCOTT... A DYING BOY WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT FATE HELD IN STORE...

YOU WANT TO GET WELL, BUDDY? WOULD YOU BE AFRAID TO GO OUT AMONG THE STARS WITH ME?

OH, NO, SIR! BUT HOW CAN WE GO?

THE BOY BLINKED... WHERE CAPT. ADAM HAD BEEN, THERE NOW STOOD A DIFFERENT BEING... MANLIKE IN FORM, BUT DIFFERENT, THE BOY KNEW...

I WILL TAKE YOU, BUDDY!

GEE! CAPTAIN ATOM!

3

SPACE ADVENTURES

THE NURSE LOOKED IN... SHE HAD MEDICINE.. INEFFECTIVE BUT IT WAS ALL THEY HAD! BUT THE BED. THE ROOM ITSELF... WAS EMPTY...

THE BOY HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED! THE AIR FORCE OFFICER TOOK HIM AWAY!

WHEEEE! DON'T LET ME FALL, CAPTAIN ATOM!

H-HOW FAR ARE WE GOING, SIR?

TO A STAR WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR ON MAPS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM... A LOVELY STAR WHICH EMANATES A RAY THAT I HAVE FOUND USEFUL! YOU KNOW, BUDDY, I TOO HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF GAMMA RAY POISONING... AND I CURED MYSELF IN THIS SAME WAY!

JUPITER WAS PASSED, SATURN LAY TO THEIR RIGHT AS CAPTAIN ATOM DARTED AT IMMEASURABLE SPEED OUT BEYOND THE KNOWN...

THAT'S SATURN! AND THERE'S THE GREAT BEAR CONSTELLATION! AND...

WHAT IS THIS, SIR? WHERE ARE WE?

WE ARE BEING TREATED RIGHT NOW, BUDDY, FOR THE INSIDIOUS THING WHICH MADE YOU ILL! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOUR PECULIAR TYPE OF ILLNESS CAN BE CURED! LOOK AROUND YOU...

...ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?

4

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CAPTAIN ATOM TIMED THEIR STAY... TOO MUCH OF THE GOOD THING COULD PROVE AS FATAL AS THE GAMMA RAY POISONING! AFTER 430 SECONDS, IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE...

WHERE TO NOW, CAPTAIN?

A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR OF THE MILKY WAY! THEN, PERHAPS, A TRIP TO THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON... A STOP ON SATURN... AND BACK HOME!

BUDDY SCOTT, COMPLETELY CURED NOW, WAS GIVEN A RIDE SUCH AS NO BOY HAS EVER HAD BEFORE...

AND THEN...

SERGEANT, YOUR SON IS GONE AND IT'S THE OFFICER WHO TOOK HIM!

MY BOY IS ALL RIGHT! JUST WAIT, DOCTOR!

CAPTAIN! BUDDY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OH, YES, DADDY! I'M ALL BETTER!

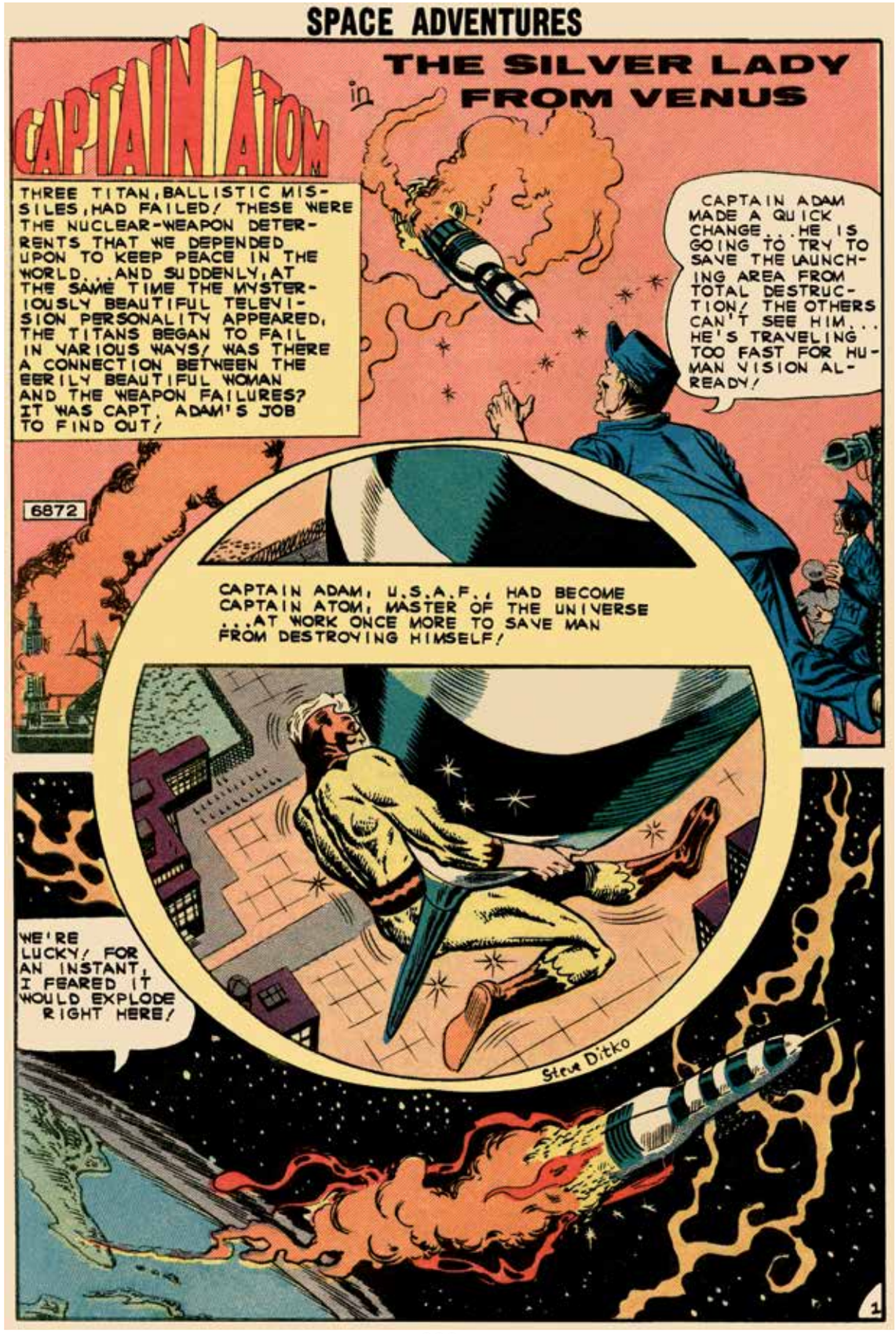
A-5

LATER, AT CAPE CANAVERAL... THERE WERE NO FURTHER INCIDENTS...

CAPTAIN ADAM, I ORDERED YOU TO LEARN WHOSE MISTAKES CAUSED THAT MISFIRE! DID YOU OBEY MY ORDER?

I FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED, GENERAL, AND I FIXED THE TROUBLE! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, SIR!

END


SPACE ADVENTURES
CAPTAIN ATOM
in
THE SILVER LADY FROM VENUS
THREE TITAN, BALLISTIC MISSILES, HAD FAILED/ THESE WERE THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON DETERRENTS THAT WE DEPENDED UPON TO KEEP PEACE IN THE WORLD...AND SUDDENLY, AT THE SAME TIME THE MYSTERIOUSLY BEAUTIFUL TELEVISION PERSONALITY APPEARED, THE TITANS BEGAN TO FAIL IN VARIOUS WAYS/ WAS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE EERILY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND THE WEAPON FAILURES? IT WAS CAPT. ADAM'S JOB TO FIND OUT/
CAPTAIN ADAM MADE A QUICK CHANGE...HE IS GOING TO TRY TO SAVE THE LAUNCHING AREA FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION/ THE OTHERS CAN'T SEE HIM... HE'S TRAVELING TOO FAST FOR HUMAN VISION ALREADY/
6872
CAPTAIN ADAM, U.S.A.F., HAD BECOME CAPTAIN ATOM, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE ...AT WORK ONCE MORE TO SAVE MAN FROM DESTROYING HIMSELF/
WE'RE LUCKY/ FOR AN INSTANT, I FEARED IT WOULD EXPLODE RIGHT HERE/
Steve Ditko
1

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

CAPTAIN ATOM HAD A DOUBLE DUTY OUT THERE BEFORE THE MISSILE DISINTEGRATED OVER THE GULF STREAM...TO SAVE LIVES AND TO DISCOVER WHAT HAD GONE WRONG IN THE MISSILE!

THE TROUBLE IS IN THE LIQUID OXYGEN EXPANSION TUBE! I SEE IT...AN IMPROPERLY CLOSED OXYGEN SUPPRESSOR VALVE!

THE PHYSICIST, DR. JAMES MATSON, IS IN CHARGE OF THAT! I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH HIM!

YOU FIND THE TROUBLE, CAPTAIN?

ONE OF MATSON'S OXYGEN VALVES WAS FAULTY!

SGT. GOSLIN KNEW THE DOUBLE-IDENTITY OF CAPT. ADAM...AND TWO OTHERS KNEW, AN AIR FORCE GENERAL AND THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE!

YOU DON'T NEED ME NOW, SIR! THE SILVER LADY FROM VENUS IS ON TELEVISION! I WOULDN'T MISS SEEING HER FOR A CARLOAD OF MISSILES!

DR. MATSON, I...

SSSSSH! SHE'S ON NOW!

LAB

...AND SOME DAY I WILL TAKE YOU TO VENUS WITH ME, ALL OF YOU, MY FANS IN THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE! TO VENUS, THE PLANET OF LOVE!

SHE MEANS IT TOO! WHAT A WOMAN! SHE'S GORGEOUS!

2

SPACE ADVENTURES

HER SKIN LOOKS SILVER-COLORED! AND HER HAIR ISN'T WHITE...IT'S A METALLIC COLOR... PLATINUM!

YES, YES, PLATINUM, THAT'S IT! NOW, SHUT UP, SHE IS TALKING TO ME!

THERE IS A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN! A TITAN MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM OUR OWN BASE HERE AT CAPE CANAVERAL FAILED TONIGHT! IF ONE OF YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE, DO NOT WORRY! ON VENUS, THERE ARE NO WARS, NO NUCLEAR MISSILES, ONLY JOYOUS LOVE! GOOD NIGHT...AND I DO MEAN YOU!

DID YOU HEAR HER, CAPTAIN? IT'S ALL RIGHT! THE MISSILE FAILED BUT SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THAT!

DOCTOR, YOU ARE A LOST MAN!

YOUR ERROR ALMOST SMASHED THIS BASE AND A THOUSAND MEN! YET, YOU DON'T CARE! DID YOU DELIBERATELY SABOTAGE THE TITAN?

I KNEW IT WOULD FAIL, YES! AS I WORKED ON THE OXYGEN FLOW SYSTEM I COULD SEE HER FACE...HEAR HER WORDS...SO I MADE THE MISTAKE!

SHE'S HYPNOTIZED YOU, DOCTOR MATSON! AND COUNTLESS OTHER MEN HERE, AT CANAVERAL! I'D BETTER GO AND SEE THIS WONDER-WOMAN FROM VENUS!

YOU STAY AWAY FROM HER! SHE IS MY GIRL!

I'LL STOP YOU, I'LL...

WHA!!! I BETTER LOCK HIM UP FOR HIS OWN GOOD!!!

BLAM BLAM

PWING PWING

3

SPACE ADVENTURES

SUDDENLY, CAPTAIN ADAM KNEW IT WASN'T A MECHANICAL ERROR...OR AN ERROR BY ONE MAN/THE SILVER LADY FROM VENUS HAD REACHED MANY MEN ON CAPE CANAVERAL...HAD CAPTURED THEIR MINDS/

CAPT., THAT SILVER LADY IS OUT OF THIS WORLD/ WHAT'S UP SIR?

YOUR SILVER LADY IS AN ALIEN BEING, SERGEANT/SHE IS OUT OF THIS WORLD, ALL RIGHT/ STRAIGHT FROM VENUS/

CAPT. ATOM FLIPPED HIS WARHEAD/

THAT LIGHT-BEAM... STRAIGHT FROM VENUS/

SHE'S IN CONTACT WITH HER VENUTIAN MASTER ...GETTING MORE ORDERS TO DESTROY THINGS AND PEOPLE OF EARTH/

DO NOT APPROACH, MAN OF EARTH/IT IS NOT YET TIME TO REMOVE YOU TO THE MOTHER PLANET/

IT IS TIME TO REMOVE YOU FROM THIS AREA, MADAME/ ARE YOU READY?

BEFORE THE SILVER LADY COULD ACT OR APPEAL TO HER OWN FORCES FOR ASSISTANCE, THE ALL-POWERFUL CAPTAIN ATOM HAD SEIZED HER...AND BLASTED OFF/

4

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

YOU RETURN ME TO MY OWN PLANET, AMAZING EARTH CREATURE?

NO, MADAME/ THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE RIGHT NOW/

THEN WHERE DO YOU TAKE ME EARTH MAN?

TRAVELING AT 25,000 M.P.H., THE 7,000 MILE TRIP DIDN'T TAKE LONG/

YOU REALIZE, SIR, THAT I MUST CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK I WAS SENT TO DO? WHEREVER I AM PLACED, I WILL WORK MISCHIEF WITH YOUR FELLOWS/

GO RIGHT AHEAD, SILVER LADY, WORK ALL THE MISCHIEF YOU WANT/

LATER, IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IN A VERY, VERY PRIVATE OFFICE...

...SO, AFTER YOU DETERMINED THE LIMITED OPERATING RANGE OF THIS CREATURE, YOU MOVED HER/ TO WHERE, CAPTAIN?

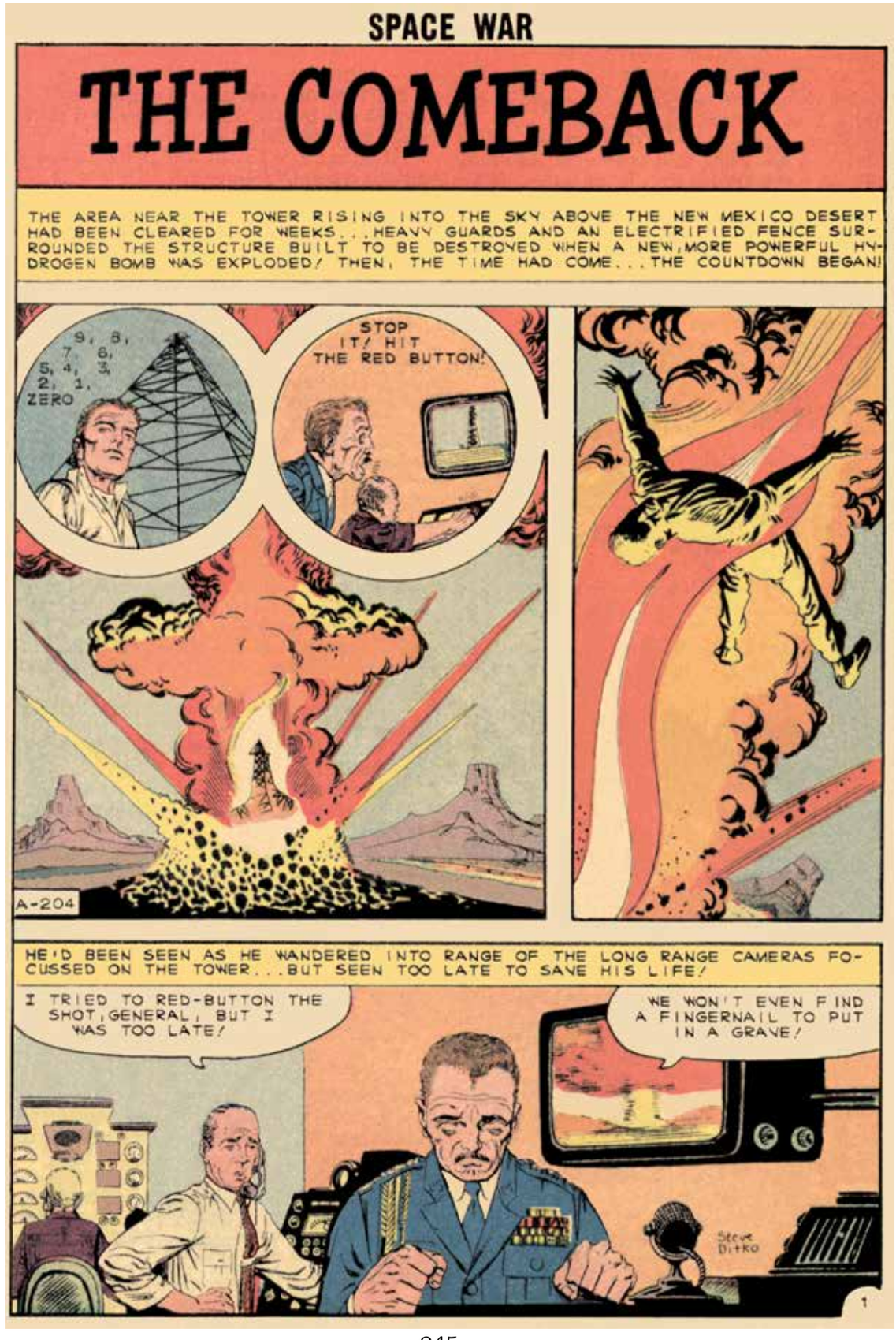
BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN, MR. PRESIDENT/ LET HER WORK MISCHIEF THERE AS MUCH AS SHE WANTS/

END

SPACE WAR

First issue (#1), October 1959
Last issue (#34), March 1979
34 issues published

#10, April 1961
The Comeback



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THERE IT GOES...A HUNDRED MILES INTO SPACE...THE MOST POWERFUL ATOMIC BOMB BLAST EVER CAUSED BY MAN!

LOOK! DEBRIS OUT HERE, BEYOND THE ENVELOPE OF ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING EARTH...

BLASTED CLEAR OF EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL HOLD...

ODD DEBRIS FOR A SPACE WANDERER TO FIND, EH? BUT WHAT SORT OF CREATURE WANDERS IN SPACE THESE DAYS?

UNLESS IT WOULD BE A MAN FOOLISH ENOUGH TO WANDER IN BENEATH A TOWER WHERE A BOMB WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE! A MAN LIKE MARVIN BAIRD!

DON'T EXAMINE FRIEND MARVIN TOO CLOSELY...YOU'RE LIKELY TO FIND HE'S NOT QUITE REAL...NOT FLESH AND BLOOD AS WE OF EARTH UNDERSTAND THE TERMS!

2

SPACE WAR

WOW! WOTTA BIG BLAST THAT WAS! I'VE GOT A KING-SIZED HEADACHE!

I SURE WAS STUPID WANDERING UNDER THAT BIG FIRECRACKER! I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT IT...DIDN'T KNOW WHAT DATE THEY INTENDED TO FIRE!

NOW, WHAT'LL I DO??

MARVIN BAIRD FELT NO ALARM...THE WAY HE LOOKED AT THINGS, THE WORST HAD HAPPENED...NOTHING COULD HURT HIM NOW! SO HE DRIFTED OUTWARD IN SPACE...OUT OF OUR GALAXY...

WHAT IN THE WOR...WHAT COULD THAT BE?

YOU ARE OF EARTH?

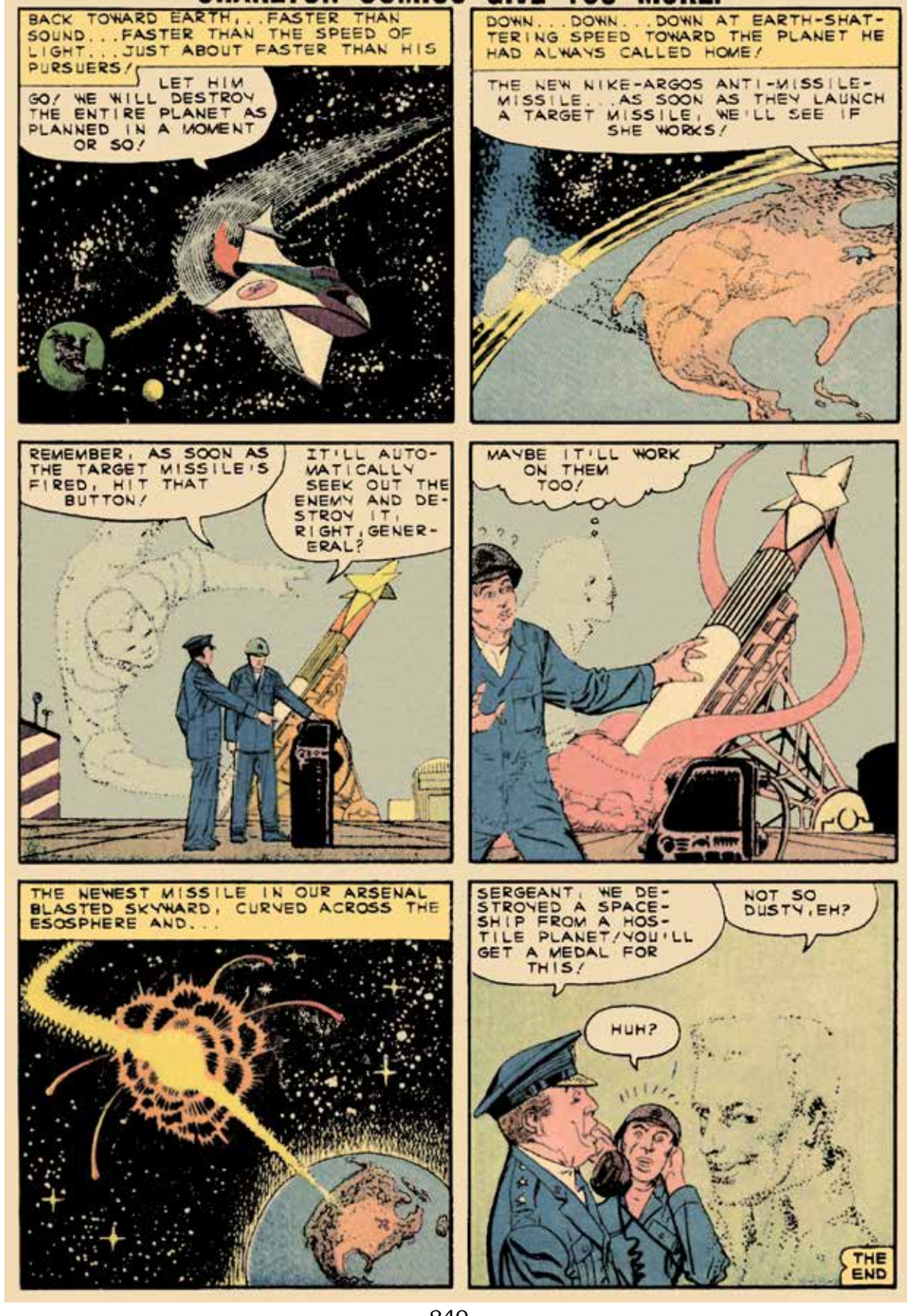
I WAS, FRIEND! I'M OF NOTHING MUCH RIGHT NOW!

BRING HIM INSIDE!

3

SPACE WAR

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



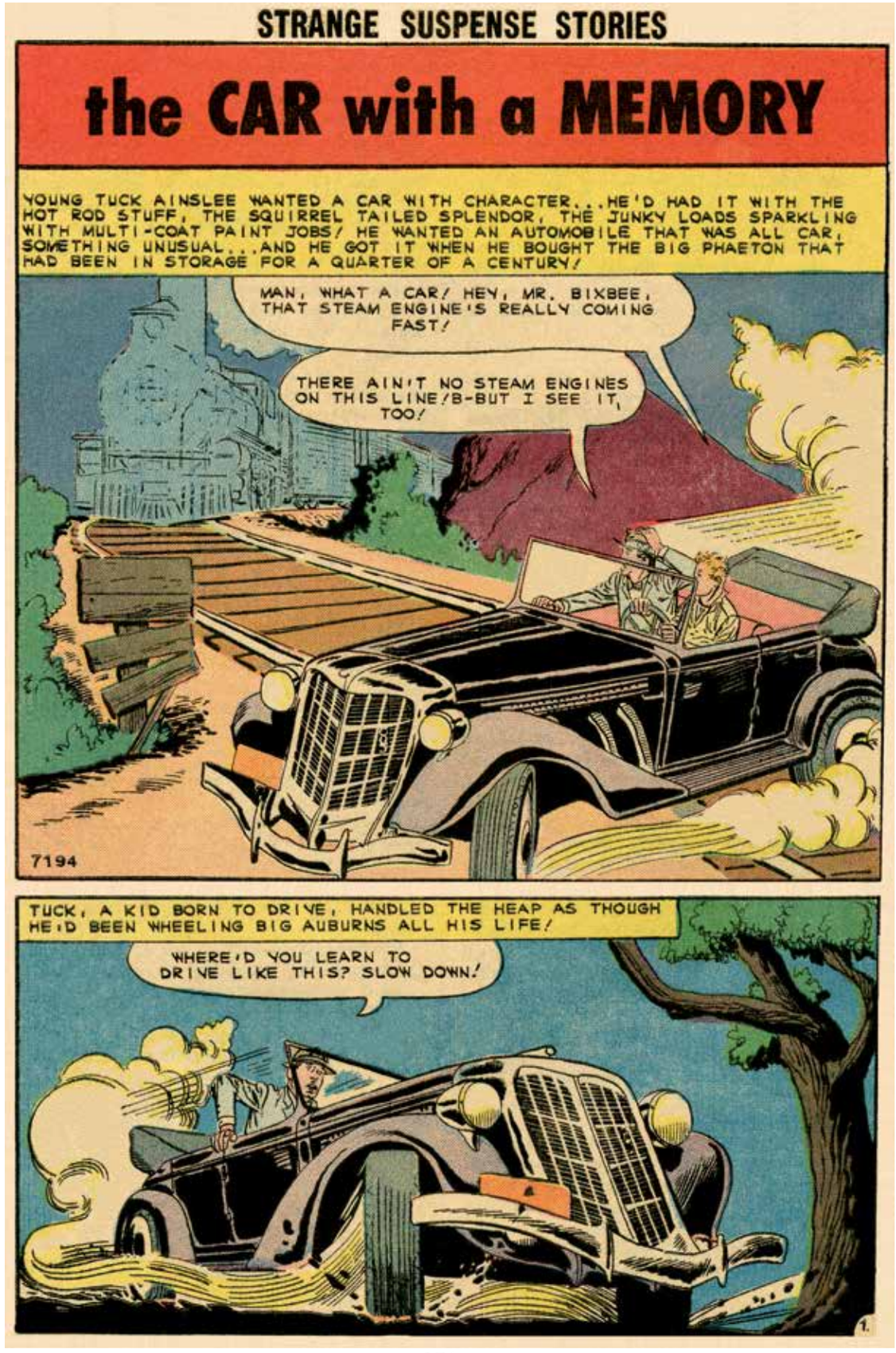
STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES

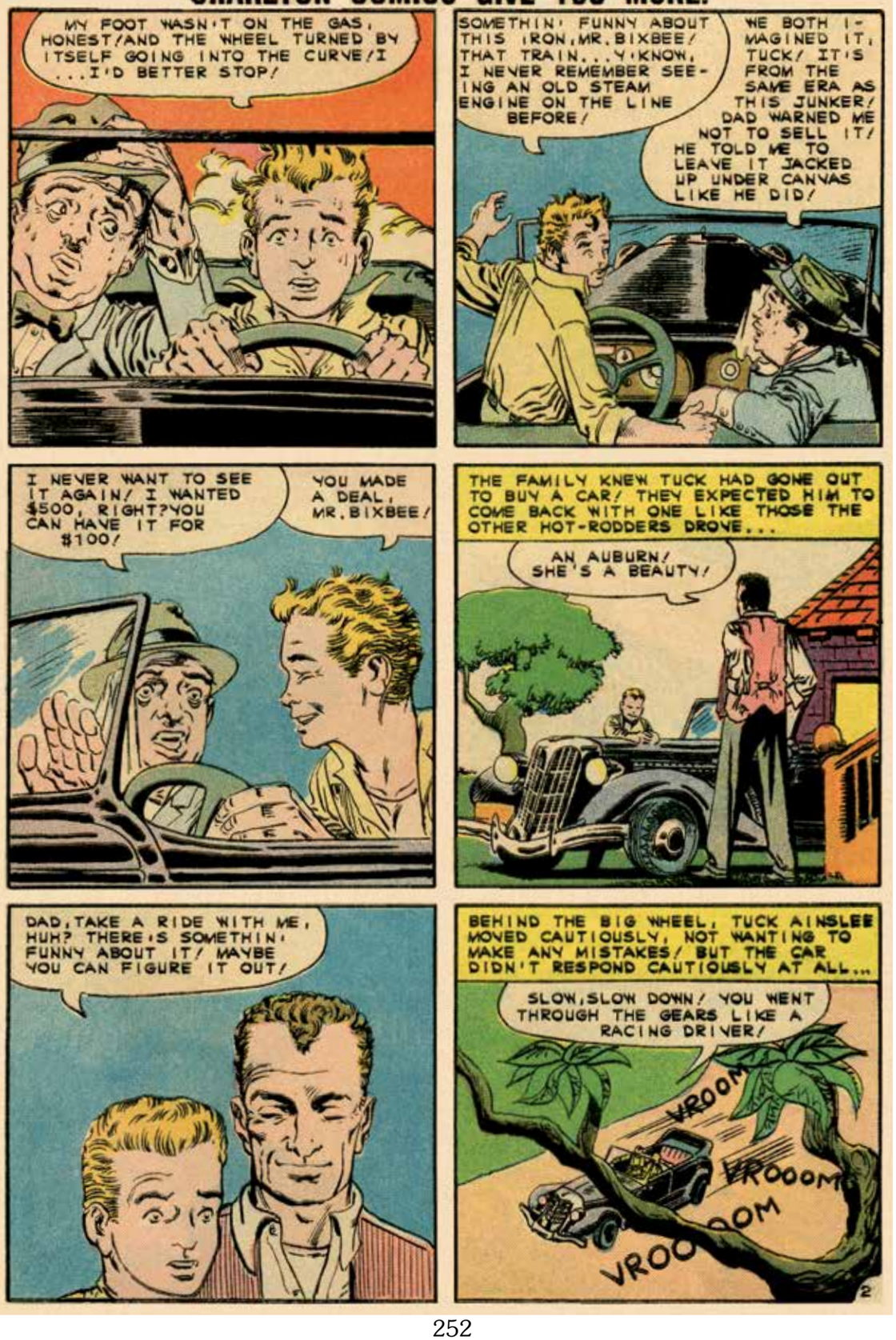
First issue (#27), October 1955
Last issue (#77), October 1965
51 issues published

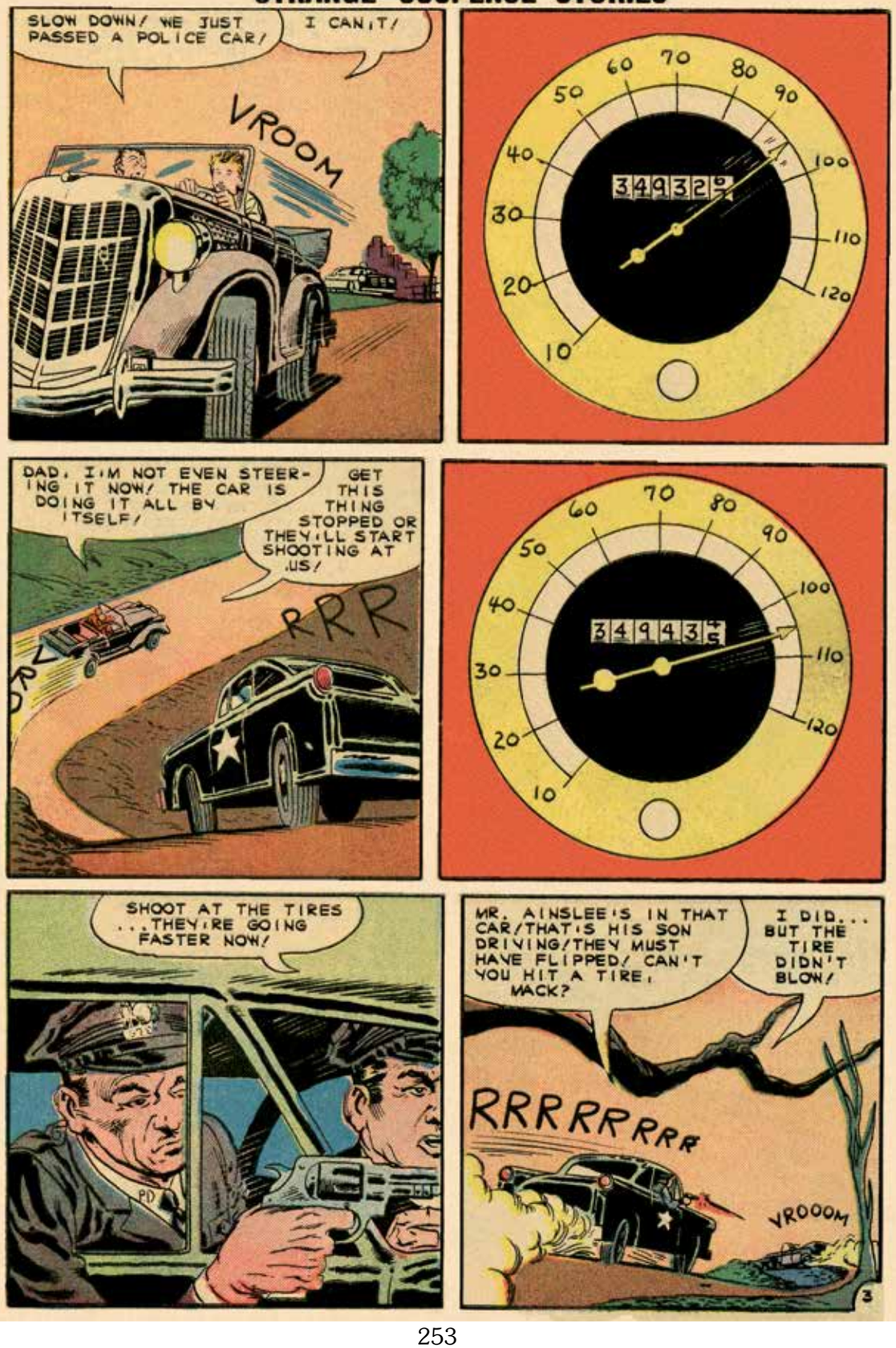
#51, January 1961
The Car with a Memory

#52, March 1961
The Heritage

#53, May 1961
The Ice Princess




MY FOOT WASN'T ON THE GAS, HONEST/AND THE WHEEL TURNED BY ITSELF GOING INTO THE CURVE/I ...I'D BETTER STOP/
SOMETHIN' FUNNY ABOUT THIS IRON, MR. BIXBEE/ THAT TRAIN...Y'KNOW, I NEVER REMEMBER SEEING AN OLD STEAM ENGINE ON THE LINE BEFORE/
WE BOTH IMAGINED IT, TUCK/ IT'S FROM THE SAME ERA AS THIS JUNKER/ DAD WARNED ME NOT TO SELL IT/ HE TOLD ME TO LEAVE IT JACKED UP UNDER CANVAS LIKE HE DID/
I NEVER WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN/ I WANTED $500, RIGHT? YOU CAN HAVE IT FOR $100/
YOU MADE A DEAL, MR. BIXBEE/
THE FAMILY KNEW TUCK HAD GONE OUT TO BUY A CAR/ THEY EXPECTED HIM TO COME BACK WITH ONE LIKE THOSE THE OTHER HOT-RODDERS DROVE...
AN AUBURN/ SHE'S A BEAUTY/
DAD, TAKE A RIDE WITH ME, HUH? THERE'S SOMETHIN' FUNNY ABOUT IT/ MAYBE YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT/
BEHIND THE BIG WHEEL, TUCK AINSLEE MOVED CAUTIOUSLY, NOT WANTING TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES/ BUT THE CAR DIDN'T RESPOND CAUTIOUSLY AT ALL...
SLOW, SLOW DOWN/ YOU WENT THROUGH THE GEARS LIKE A RACING DRIVER/
VROOM
VROOOM
VROOOOM
2

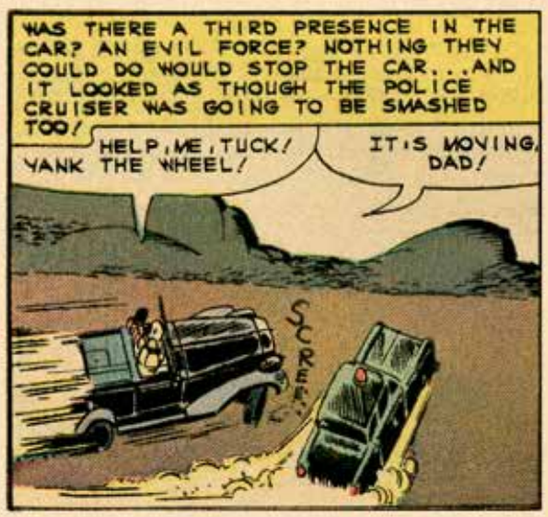

SLOW DOWN/ WE JUST PASSED A POLICE CAR/
I CAN'T/
VROOM
DAD, I'M NOT EVEN STEERING IT NOW/ THE CAR IS DOING IT ALL BY ITSELF/
GET THIS THING STOPPED OR THEY'LL START SHOOTING AT US/
RRR
SHOOT AT THE TIRES ...THEY'RE GOING FASTER NOW/
MR. AINSLEE'S IN THAT CAR/ THAT'S HIS SON DRIVING/ THEY MUST HAVE FLIPPED/ CAN'T YOU HIT A TIRE, MACK?
I DID... BUT THE TIRE DIDN'T BLOW/
RRRRRRRR
VROOOM
3

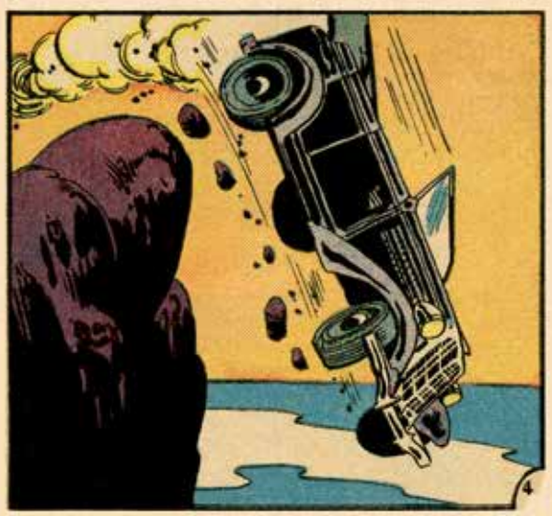
TUCK AINSLEE HAD ENJOYED THE WILD RIDE AT FIRST...BUT HE BEGAN TO GET WORRIED AFTER A FEW MINUTES/ HIS FATHER WAS WORRIED EVEN MORE/
WHAT'LL I DO, DAD? THE BRAKE DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK/
LET ME TAKE THE WHEEL, TUCK/ YOU SLIDE INTO THE BACK SEAT/

I'LL TURN OFF THE IGNITION/
IT DIDN'T HELP, DAD/ THE MOTOR'S STILL GOING ALL OUT/

I PUT THREE SLUGS INTO THE GAS TANK/ SAW THEM HIT ...DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH THE PAINT/ PASS THAT CAR, MACK/ WE'LL CUT THEM OFF/

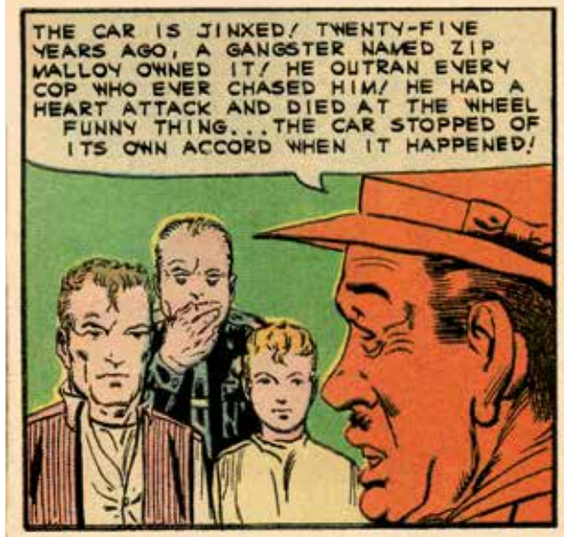
PASS IT? IT WASN'T EASY...THE POLICE CRUISER, BUILT FOR SPEED, HAD TO TOP 125 MPH TO CATCH THE 1935 AUBURN/


WAS THERE A THIRD PRESENCE IN THE CAR? AN EVIL FORCE? NOTHING THEY COULD DO WOULD STOP THE CAR...AND IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE POLICE CRUISER WAS GOING TO BE SMASHED TOO/
HELP, ME, TUCK/ YANK THE WHEEL/
IT'S MOVING, DAD/
SCREE!



DAD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TAKE IT EASY, SON/ THE POLICE ARE ON THE BANK/ THEY'LL MAKE SURE WE GET ASHORE/

LATER, AT THE POLICE STATION WHERE THE OFFICERS SUGGESTED THEY GO TO MAKE A STATEMENT...
WE'RE NOT PREFERRING ANY CHARGES, MR. AINSLEE/ WE'RE CONVINCED THAT NEITHER YOU NOR TUCK WERE AT FAULT FOR THE SPEEDING/ WE'VE SENT FOR BIXBEE, THE MAN WHO SOLD TUCK THE CAR/ HE MAY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

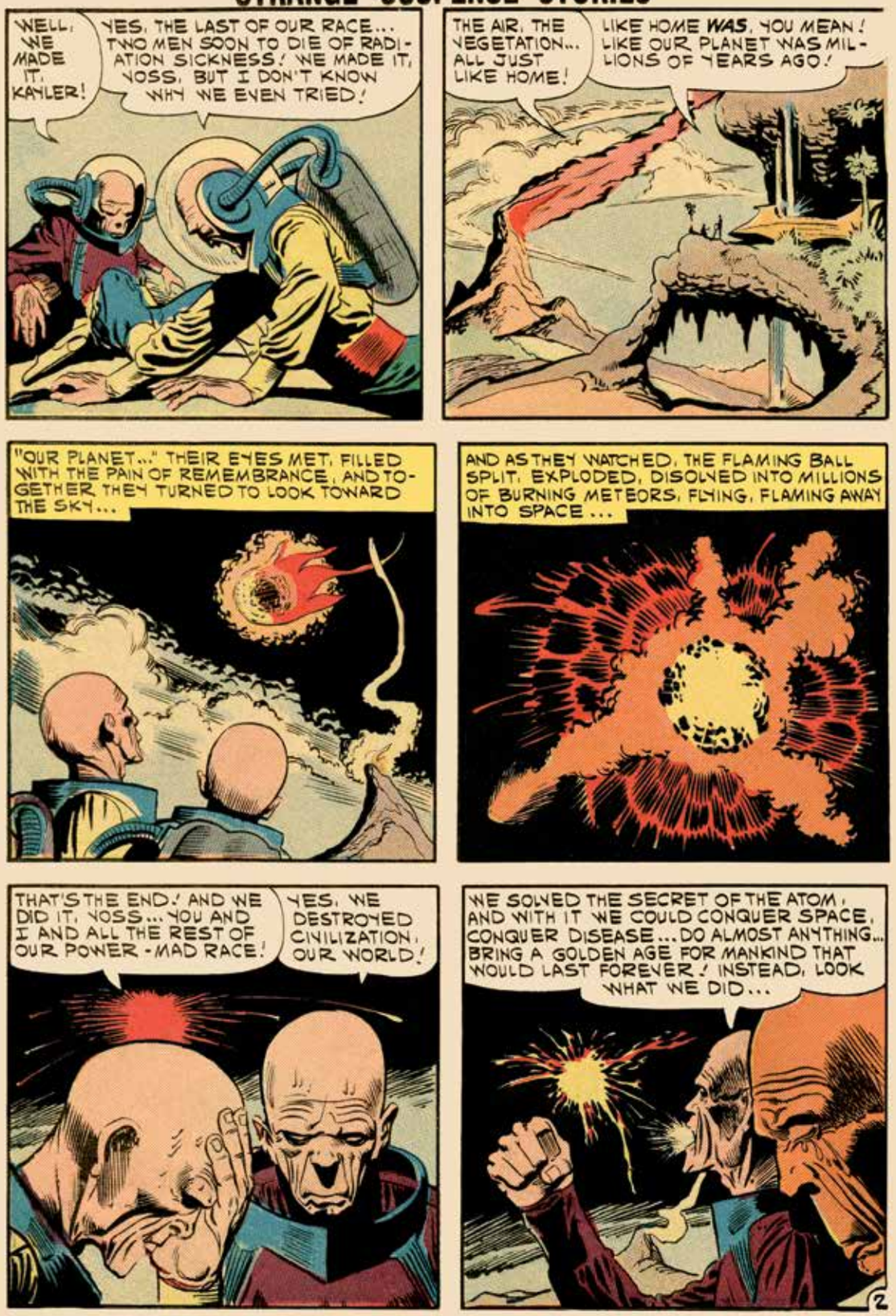

THE CAR IS JINXED/ TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, A GANGSTER NAMED ZIP MALLOY OWNED IT/ HE OUTRAN EVERY COP WHO EVER CHASED HIM/ HE HAD A HEART ATTACK AND DIED AT THE WHEEL FUNNY THING...THE CAR STOPPED OF ITS OWN ACCORD WHEN IT HAPPENED/

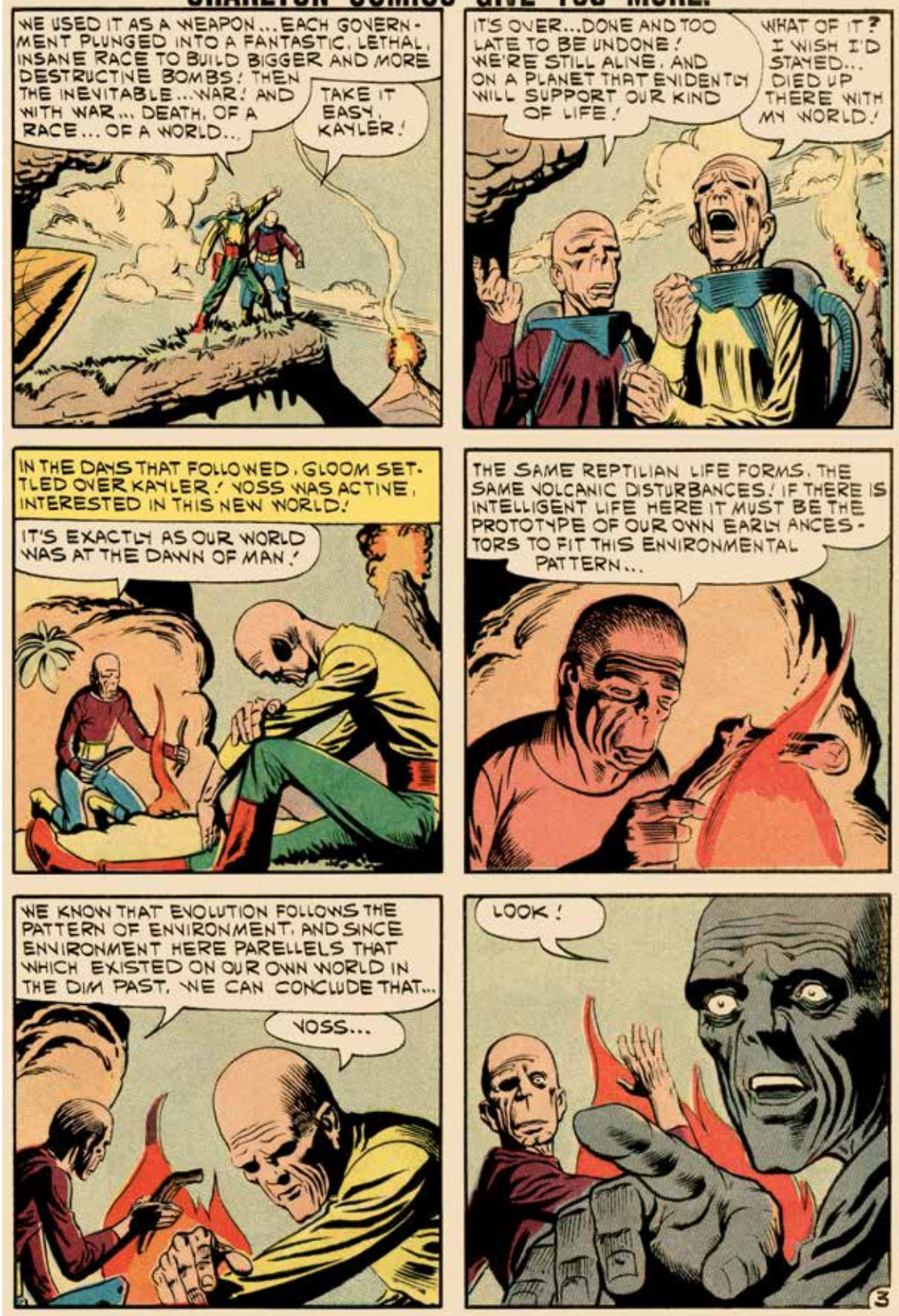
I REMEMBER NOW/ THE ROAD YOU WERE ON...ZIP MALLOY DROVE THAT WAY THE DAY HE DIED/ YOU SAY IT FELT AS THOUGH SOMEONE ELSE...OR THE CAR ITSELF...DRIVING?
IT WAS/ I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE IT'S CUT UP FOR SCRAP/ IT WILL NEVER TAKE ANYONE FOR A WILD RIDE AGAIN/
THE END

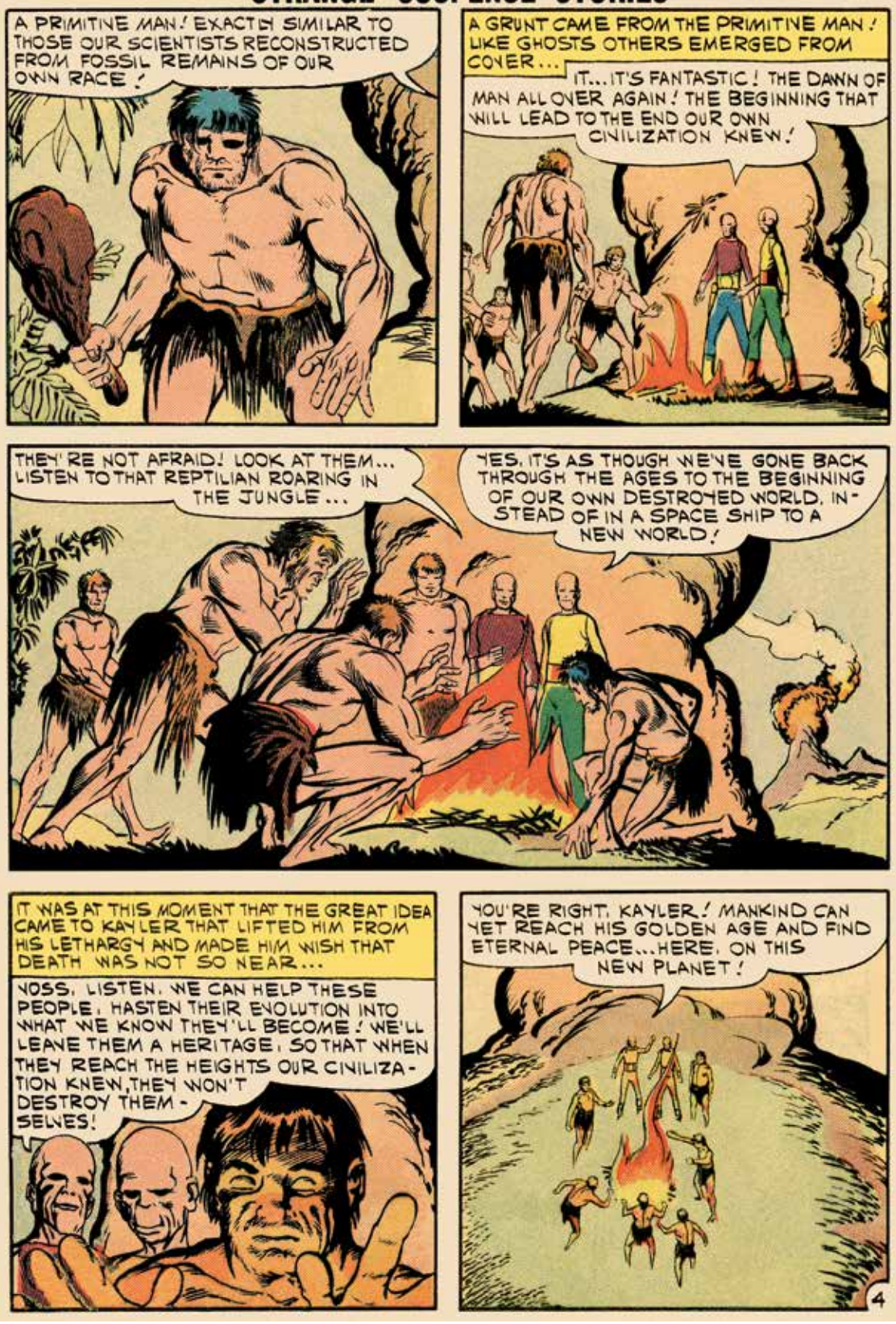
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE HERITAGE

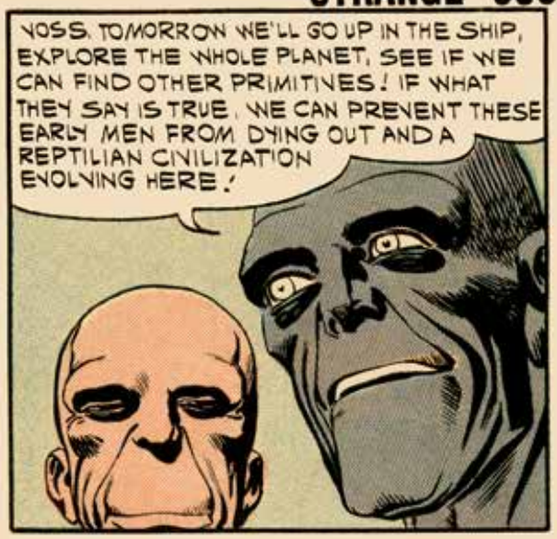
THE MEN, THE LAST SURVIVORS OF THEIR RACE, TWO MEN... DYING, ON A NEW PLANET. TWO MEN WHOSE OWN WORLD WAS GONE, INTO THE DARKNESS OF OBLIVION BECAUSE OF THE MISTAKES OF THEIR RACE! SO, TO THIS NEW WORLD AND THE RACE THEY FOUND THERE, THESE TWO, DYING MEN, LEFT A HERITAGE!


WELL, WE MADE IT, KAYLER!
YES, THE LAST OF OUR RACE... TWO MEN SOON TO DIE OF RADIATION SICKNESS! WE MADE IT, VOSS, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY WE EVEN TRIED!
THE AIR, THE VEGETATION... ALL JUST LIKE HOME!
LIKE HOME WAS, YOU MEAN! LIKE OUR PLANET WAS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO!
"OUR PLANET..." THEIR EYES MET, FILLED WITH THE PAIN OF REMEMBRANCE, AND TOGETHER THEY TURNED TO LOOK TOWARD THE SKY...
AND AS THEY WATCHED, THE FLAMING BALL SPLIT, EXPLODED, DISOLVED INTO MILLIONS OF BURNING METEORS, FLYING, FLAMING AWAY INTO SPACE...
THAT'S THE END! AND WE DID IT, VOSS... YOU AND I AND ALL THE REST OF OUR POWER-MAD RACE!
YES, WE DESTROYED CIVILIZATION, OUR WORLD!
WE SOLVED THE SECRET OF THE ATOM, AND WITH IT WE COULD CONQUER SPACE, CONQUER DISEASE... DO ALMOST ANYTHING... BRING A GOLDEN AGE FOR MANKIND THAT WOULD LAST FOREVER! INSTEAD, LOOK WHAT WE DID...
2


WE USED IT AS A WEAPON... EACH GOVERNMENT PLUNGED INTO A FANTASTIC, LETHAL, INSANE RACE TO BUILD BIGGER AND MORE DESTRUCTIVE BOMBS! THEN THE INEVITABLE... WAR! AND WITH WAR... DEATH, OF A RACE... OF A WORLD...
TAKE IT EASY, KAYLER!
IT'S OVER... DONE AND TOO LATE TO BE UNDONE! WE'RE STILL ALIVE, AND ON A PLANET THAT EVIDENTLY WILL SUPPORT OUR KIND OF LIFE!
WHAT OF IT? I WISH I'D STAYED... DIED UP THERE WITH MY WORLD!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, GLOOM SETTLED OVER KAYLER! VOSS WAS ACTIVE, INTERESTED IN THIS NEW WORLD!
IT'S EXACTLY AS OUR WORLD WAS AT THE DAWN OF MAN!
THE SAME REPTILIAN LIFE FORMS, THE SAME VOLCANIC DISTURBANCES! IF THERE IS INTELLIGENT LIFE HERE IT MUST BE THE PROTOTYPE OF OUR OWN EARLY ANCESTORS TO FIT THIS ENVIRONMENTAL PATTERN...
WE KNOW THAT EVOLUTION FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF ENVIRONMENT, AND SINCE ENVIRONMENT HERE PARELLELS THAT WHICH EXISTED ON OUR OWN WORLD IN THE DIM PAST, WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT...
VOSS...
LOOK!
3

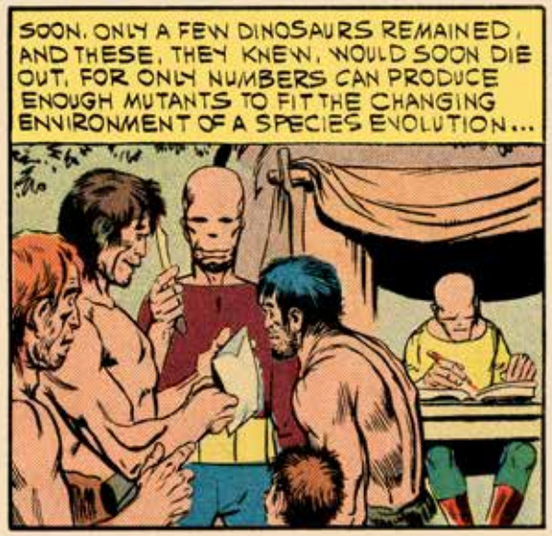

A PRIMITIVE MAN! EXACTLY SIMILAR TO THOSE OUR SCIENTISTS RECONSTRUCTED FROM FOSSIL REMAINS OF OUR OWN RACE!
A GRUNT CAME FROM THE PRIMITIVE MAN! LIKE GHOSTS OTHERS EMERGED FROM COVER...
IT...IT'S FANTASTIC! THE DAWN OF MAN ALL OVER AGAIN! THE BEGINNING THAT WILL LEAD TO THE END OUR OWN CIVILIZATION KNEW!
THEY'RE NOT AFRAID! LOOK AT THEM... LISTEN TO THAT REPTILIAN ROARING IN THE JUNGLE...
YES, IT'S AS THOUGH WE'VE GONE BACK THROUGH THE AGES TO THE BEGINNING OF OUR OWN DESTROYED WORLD, INSTEAD OF IN A SPACE SHIP TO A NEW WORLD!
IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT THE GREAT IDEA CAME TO KAYLER THAT LIFTED HIM FROM HIS LETHARGY AND MADE HIM WISH THAT DEATH WAS NOT SO NEAR...
NOSS, LISTEN. WE CAN HELP THESE PEOPLE, HASTEN THEIR EVOLUTION INTO WHAT WE KNOW THEY'LL BECOME! WE'LL LEAVE THEM A HERITAGE, SO THAT WHEN THEY REACH THE HEIGHTS OUR CIVILIZATION KNEW, THEY WON'T DESTROY THEMSELVES!
YOU'RE RIGHT, KAYLER! MANKIND CAN YET REACH HIS GOLDEN AGE AND FIND ETERNAL PEACE...HERE, ON THIS NEW PLANET!
4

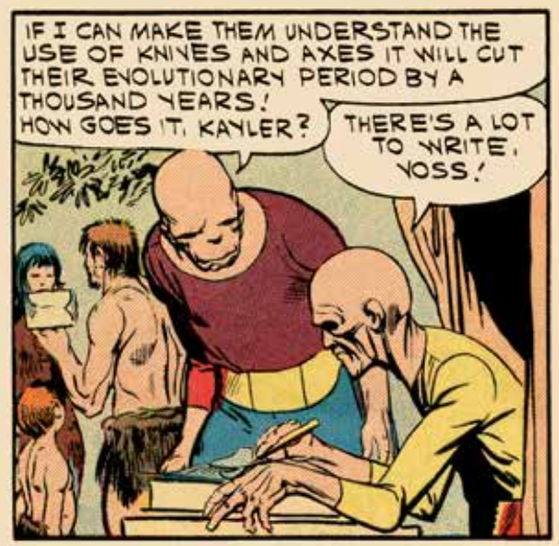
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN FATE! WHY DID WE COME TO THIS PLANET AND NOT SOME OTHER? FATE DECREED IT! BECAUSE WE ARE FATED TO SAVE THIS WORLD FROM THE FUTURE...FROM THE SAME INSANITY IN THAT FUTURE THAT LEFT US THE ONLY TWO SURVIVING HOMO-SAPIENS IN THE UNIVERSE!
A TYRANOSAURUS!
ATOM BLAST GUNS FLAMED AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE GIANT LIZARD... THE END RESULT OF MAN'S RESEARCH AGAINST NATURE'S MOST COMPLICATED, PRIMITIVE REPTILIAN FORM! FATE MUST HAVE CHUCKLED...
THE MONSTER FELL! THE NATIVES GRUNTED IN AMAZED, PRIMITIVE SPEECH, AUGMENTED BY HAND SIGNS...
PRIMITIVE SIGN LANGUAGE! YOU'VE STUDIED SOME OF THAT STUFF...
HE'S SAYING THAT THE SCALEY ONES WILL SOON KILL THEM ALL! THEY ARE AMAZED AT HOW EASILY WE SLEW IT! THEY HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST THE REPTILES, AND THIS PLANET IS ALIVE WITH THEM!
5

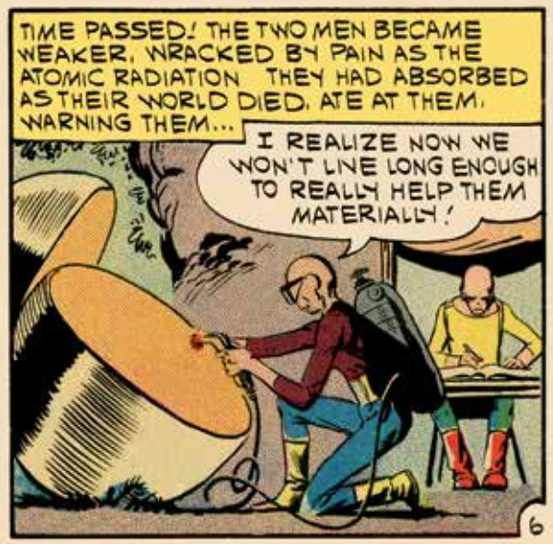

VOSS, TOMORROW WE'LL GO UP IN THE SHIP, EXPLORE THE WHOLE PLANET, SEE IF WE CAN FIND OTHER PRIMITIVES! IF WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE, WE CAN PREVENT THESE EARLY MEN FROM DYING OUT AND A REPTILIAN CIVILIZATION EVOLVING HERE!

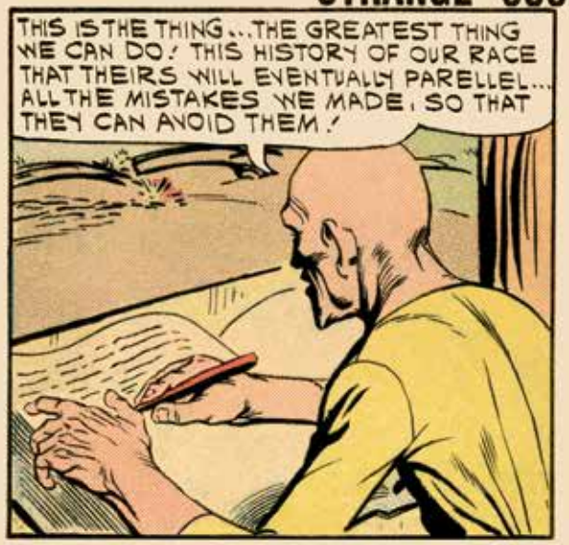
FOR WEEKS THEY EXPLORED THE PLANET! THE GREAT, KILLER REPTILES WERE EVERYWHERE...

THEY BEGAN A SYSTEMATIC EXTERMINATION OF THE REPTILIAN MONSTERS...

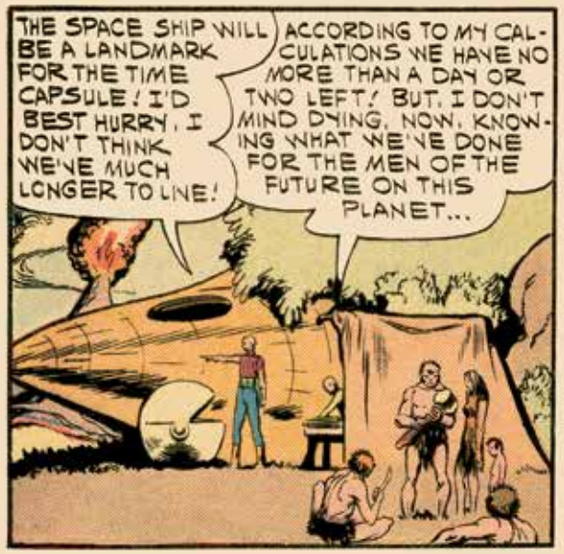

SOON, ONLY A FEW DINOSAURS REMAINED, AND THESE, THEY KNEW, WOULD SOON DIE OUT, FOR ONLY NUMBERS CAN PRODUCE ENOUGH MUTANTS TO FIT THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT OF A SPECIES EVOLUTION...

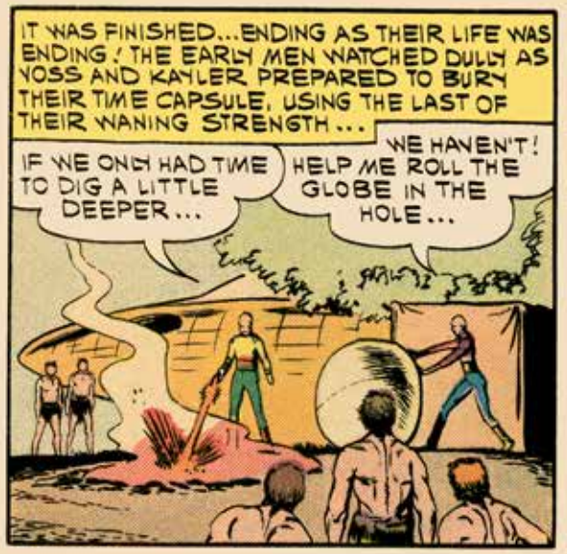

IF I CAN MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THE USE OF KNIVES AND AXES IT WILL CUT THEIR EVOLUTIONARY PERIOD BY A THOUSAND YEARS! HOW GOES IT, KAYLER?
THERE'S A LOT TO WRITE, VOSS!

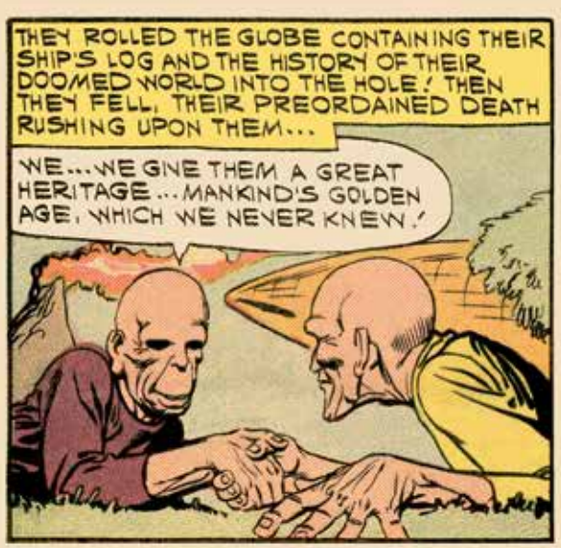

TIME PASSED! THE TWO MEN BECAME WEAKER, WRACKED BY PAIN AS THE ATOMIC RADIATION THEY HAD ABSORBED AS THEIR WORLD DIED, ATE AT THEM, WARNING THEM...
I REALIZE NOW WE WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REALLY HELP THEM MATERIALLY!
6


THIS IS THE THING...THE GREATEST THING WE CAN DO! THIS HISTORY OF OUR RACE THAT THEIRS WILL EVENTUALLY PARELLEL... ALL THE MISTAKES WE MADE, SO THAT THEY CAN AVOID THEM!

THE BIG THING IS TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THE TERRIBLE DANGER OF ATOMIC FISSION WHEN THEY FINALLY DISCOVER IT! WITH THE AWFUL EXAMPLE OF OUR OWN WORLD, WHICH THEY'LL READ HERE, THEY'LL KNOW HOW TO TURN IT TO CONSTRUCTIVE, NOT DESTRUCTIVE, ENDS!
I HAVE THE CONTAINER FOR THE TIME CAPSULE ALMOST READY!


THE SPACE SHIP WILL BE A LANDMARK FOR THE TIME CAPSULE! I'D BEST HURRY, I DON'T THINK WE'VE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE!
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS WE HAVE NO MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO LEFT! BUT, I DON'T MIND DYING, NOW, KNOWING WHAT WE'VE DONE FOR THE MEN OF THE FUTURE ON THIS PLANET...


IT WAS FINISHED...ENDING AS THEIR LIFE WAS ENDING! THE EARLY MEN WATCHED DULLY AS VOSS AND KAYLER PREPARED TO BURY THEIR TIME CAPSULE, USING THE LAST OF THEIR WANING STRENGTH...
IF WE ONLY HAD TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER...
WE HAVEN'T! HELP ME ROLL THE GLOBE IN THE HOLE...


THEY ROLLED THE GLOBE CONTAINING THEIR SHIP'S LOG AND THE HISTORY OF THEIR DOOMED WORLD INTO THE HOLE! THEN THEY FELL, THEIR PREORDAINED DEATH RUSHING UPON THEM...
WE...WE GIVE THEM A GREAT HERITAGE...MANKIND'S GOLDEN AGE, WHICH WE NEVER KNEW!

THEY DIED WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES! FOR A LONG WHILE THERE WAS SILENCE! THEN, THE PRIMITIVES STIRRED...

IN ONE OF THEM AWAKENED THE FIRST CURIOSITY TO STIR WITHIN THE BRAIN OF A HOMO OF THIS PLANET...

HE APED THE MOTIONS OF THE GODS WHO HAD COME FROM THE SKY BOWL...

PANICKED BY THE RESULT, THE DAWN CREATURE SCURRIED AWAY! FLAMES LEAPED FROM THE BURNING GLOBE, SLASHING UPWARD AT THE NEARBY TENT, SPREADING TOWARD THE SHIP...

AND WHEN THE FLAMES TOUCHED THE SHIP, A VAST EXPLOSION OCCURED, SHAKING A NEARBY MOUNTAIN AND BRINGING DOWN AN AVALANCHE OF DESTRUCTION ...

A PALL OF DUST HUNG OVER THE VALLEY! OF THE SHIP, THE CAMP, THE TIME CAPSULE, THE TWO MEN. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT... EXCEPT FOR A SMALL PIECE OF BURNING PAPER FROM THE CAPSULE...

Today we landed on the planet Earth...

THEN THE FLAMES CONSUMED IT WHOLLY AND IT WAS ONE WITH THE DUST...

END

The ICE PRINCESS

LT. COMDR. GUY SUMMERALL WAS FLYING ONE OF THE NEWEST SUPERSONIC JETS ON A SHORT TEST HOP FROM TURKEY OVER THE POLAR CAP TO A NORTH AMERICAN BASE...WHEN BLINKING RED LIGHTS ON HIS INSTRUMENT PANEL WARNED HIM TO LAND HIS VERTICAL TAKE-OFF INTERCEPTOR OR ELSE...

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! AM GOING DOWN OVER POLAR ICE CAP!

SUMMERALL'S SHIP NOSED UP... THE POWERFUL, SUPER-HEATED EXHAUST DEFIED GRAVITY AS THE NAVY PILOT BEGAN BACKING IT DOWN TO LAND IT ON THE TAIL, NECESSARY WITH THAT TYPE PLANE...

THE HEAT FROM MY EXHAUST IS MELTING THE ICE! I HOPE THERE'S SOLID GROUND UNDERNEATH SOMEWHERE!

HIISSSSS

IT WAS AMAZING, FANTASTIC... THE BLAZING JET-STREAM MELTED THE ICE IN A FIFTY YARD CIRCLE... REVEALING, NOT ROCKS OR ARTIC MOSS... BUT A BUILDING... AND A WALL...

SOLID GROUND. ALL RIGHT! AND WHAT'S THAT?

"THAT" WAS THE FIGURE OF A MAN... FROZEN STIFF, RIGID, STANDING AS HE'D BEEN STANDING FOR UN-COUNTED CENTURIES...

HOLY TOLEDO! WE HAVE NO RECORDS OF ANYONE EVER LIVING *THIS* CLOSE TO THE NORTH POLE!

FUNNY, WITH ALL THIS ICE AROUND, I EXPECTED IT TO BE FREEZING-- BUT, IN JULY, IT'S ALMOST PLEASANT! THAT JOKER LOOKS ALIVE!

SOME NABOB LIVED IN HERE, I'LL BET! WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE...

LT. COMDR. SUMMERALL KNEW IT WAS HIS DUTY TO REPAIR HIS AIRCRAFT AND GET OUT... BUT THE TEMPTATION TO EXPLORE WAS TOO GREAT...

RIGHT OUT OF THE VIKING TALES LOOKS LIKE! WONDER IF THERE'S A SLEEPING BEAUTY WAITING FOR ME IN THE TOWER...

2

HIS FLYING SUIT FELT WARM... THE NAVAL OFFICER LOOSENED IT AS HE MOVED INTO THE MYSTERIOUS POLAR CASTLE...

NO ONE IN HERE, NATCH! SURE IS SPOOKY!

I'VE GOT AN URGE TO SEE IT ALL... THIS LADDER MUST LEAD UP TO THE TOWER!

HOLY TOLEDO! A...

...REAL DOLL!

THE FRESHNESS OF HER SKIN... OR AN IMPERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT OF THE GIRL CAUSED SUMMERALL TO GRASP HER HAND AND FEEL FOR A PULSE...

A LIVING DOLL!

I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS STONE ICE BOX... INTO THE SUN! I'VE GOT A FUNNY HUNCH THAT YOU'RE GOING TO THAW OUT MIGHTY NICELY!

3

LT. COMDR. SUMMERALL GOT HIS GORGEOUS BURDEN DOWN THE CRUDE LADDER... OUT INTO THE WARMING SUNLIGHT! THERE, HE USED THE STIMULANTS ALL PILOTS CARRY...

SHE MOVED!

YOU'RE ALIVE! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE... BUT SHE DID COMPREHEND THE DANGER WHEN AN AX HURTLED BETWEEN THEM...

AAAH! TRANSLATED, IT MEANS LET'S BEAT IT!

THERE'S ROOM FOR BOTH OF US... IF I CAN DISCOURAGE THOSE JOKERS LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE OFF!

THAT DID IT! THEY NEVER SAW A GUN BEFORE!

BANG BANG

4

LT. COMDR. SUMMERALL GRABBED HIS CHANCE... CLAMBERED QUICKLY INTO THE VERTIJET...

USNAVY

HIT THE SWITCHES AND...

YOU ALL RIGHT, SUMMERALL? WE RECEIVED YOUR MAYDAY MESSAGE BUT...

I'LL REPORT WHEN I GET IN, CAPTAIN! YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE MY STORY WITHOUT EVIDENCE, AND I'VE GOT THE NICEST LITTLE PACKAGE OF EVIDENCE IN THE WORLD!

ONLY A FEW HEARD THE STORY...

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE GIRL?

NOT A THING, SIR! I'M TAKING CARE OF HER FROM NOW ON!

AND LT. COMDR. SUMMERALL DID... TEACHING HER ENGLISH, ALL THAT SHE'D NEED TO KNOW, AND THEN MARRYING HER...

I HAVE DECIDED THAT I WAS BORN IN ICELAND IN THE YEAR 567 A.D., AND I WAS KIDNAPPED BY THOSE AWFUL...

HUSH, DARLING! LADIES DON'T TELL THEIR AGE THESE DAYS! BESIDES, YOU DON'T LOOK A DAY OVER A HUNDRED... AND THAT'S YOUNG ENOUGH FOR ME!

END

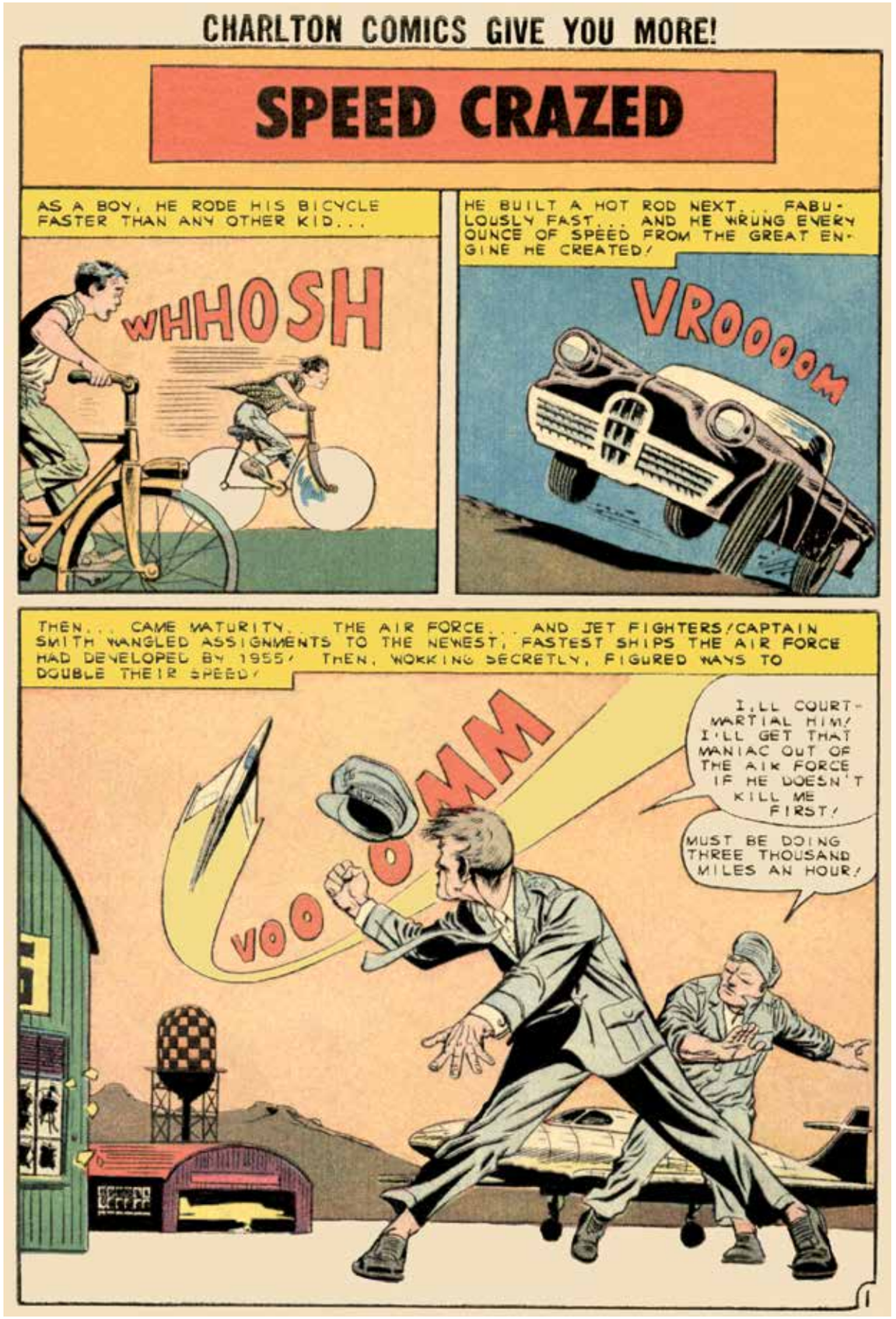
UNUSUAL TALES

First issue (#1), November 1955
Last issue (#49), April 1965
49 issues published

#26, February 1961
Speed Crazed

#27, April 1961
A Look into the Future

#29, August 1961
Way Out, Man



UNUSUAL TALES

WHAT DID JONATHAN SMITH FEEL LIKE FLYING THAT FAST? HE FELT THE SAME AS HE DID WHEN HE RODE THE BIKE TOO FAST...OR THE CAR... OR THE MOTORCYCLES/ IT FELT DANGEROUS. VERY CLOSE TO DEATH/

CAPTAIN SMITH WAS COURT-MARTIALED.. HE SAVED THEM THE TROUBLE OF FIRING HIM BY OFFERING HIS RESIGNATION AND HAVING IT ACCEPTED/

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SIR?

I'VE GOT SOME MONEY AND AN IDEA/ I'M GOING TO BUILD A PLANE FASTER THAN ROCKETS...FASTER THAN LIGHT ITSELF/

I'LL SHOW THEM SPEED/ IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR, IT'S WHAT I'VE STUDIED ALL MY LIFE/ I'LL MAKE THEIR JET PLANES AND MISSILES LOOK OBSOLETE AND I'LL NEED HELP, SERGEANT/

THE SERGEANT, A GENIUS AROUND MACHINERY, TOOK HIS DISCHARGE AND JOINED JONATHAN SMITH IN A REMOTE DESERT BASIN IN NEW MEXICO...

GLAD YOU CAME, SARGE/ I'VE GOT INDIANS HELPING ME AND THEY'RE GOOD MEN...BUT I NEEDED A MACHINIST TO DO THE PRECISION WORK/

NO ONE'LL BOTHER YOU HERE/ WHERE IS THE ROOM WITH THE BLUEPRINTS?

THEY'RE ALL UP HERE, SARGE/ I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO BUILD/ THE EXPERIMENTAL VEHICLES COME FIRST...I'VE GOT ONE NEARLY FINISHED/

2

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THIS IS A PLANE? THAT YOU WILL FLY?

EXACTLY/ IT'S BEEN FINISHED FOR DAYS/ I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE LAUNCHING/ LET'S DO IT RIGHT NOW/

NO PARACHUTE, SIR? HOW'LL YOU LAND? WHERE WILL YOU LAND?

I'LL COME STRAIGHT BACK HERE, SARGE/ QUIT WORRYING AND LAUNCH THIS THING/

THE BLAST-OFF DEVICE MADE THE SERGEANT SHUDDER/ IT WAS BRILLIANTLY DESIGNED AND PUT TOGETHER... BUT IT WOULD SNAP THE VEHICLE INTO THE AIR SO HARD THAT MOST HUMANS WOULD CERTAINLY DIE/

READY WHEN YOU ARE, SARGE/ LET HER GO/

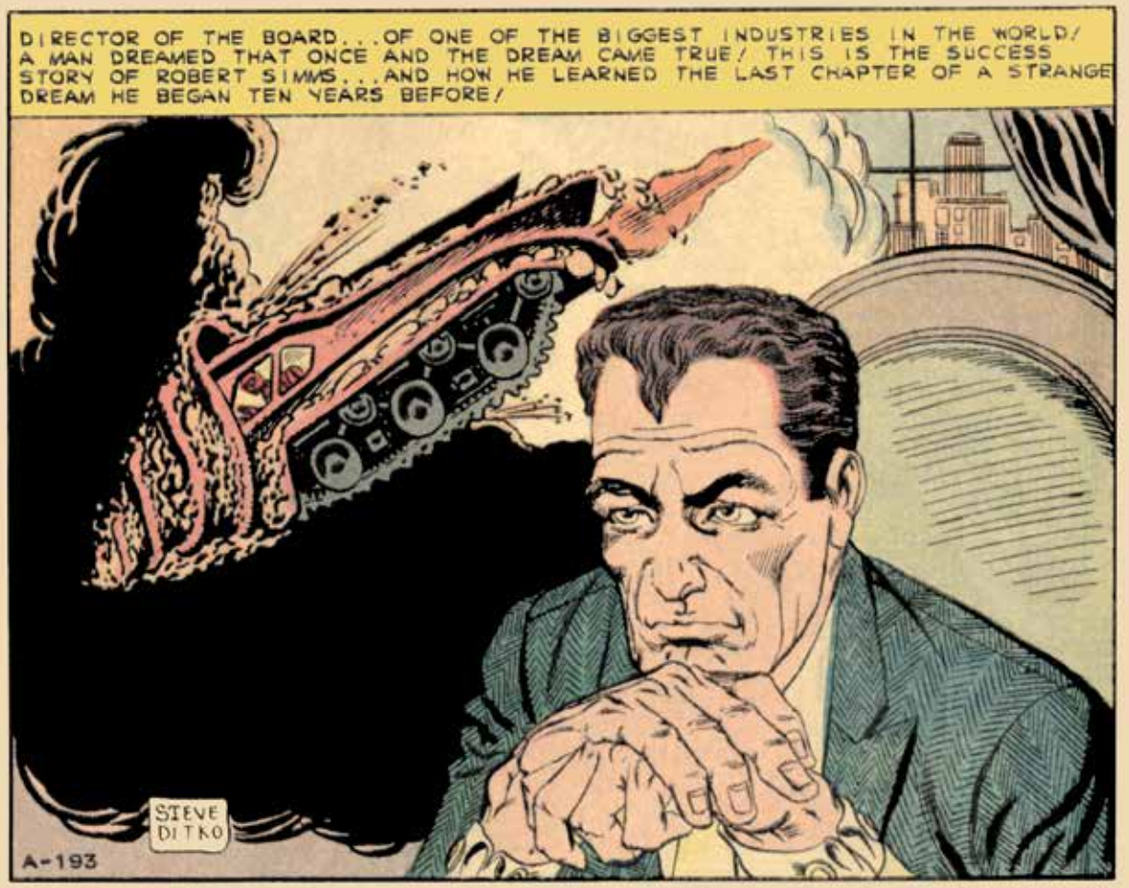
3

THE ACCELERATION RATE WAS TREMENDOUS...
THE SPEED? 15,000 MPH!
AND JONATHAN SMITH? HAPPIER THAN EVER BEFORE!
YOU...YOU STILL A-LIVE, SIR?
MORE THAN EVER, SARGE! THIS IS TREMENDOUS! YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY IT SOMETIME!
THE TURN...SOMEWHERE OVER TENNESSEE...THE SWING NORTH BROUGHT HIM OVER THE GREAT LAKES, THEN SOUTH AND WEST TOWARD A LANDING AT THE SECRET BASIN!
LANDING SPEED 7,000 MPH, WILL SLOW TO 1000 MPH FOR TOUCH DOWN!
HE DID IT! THE LUCKY FOOL GOT HER BACK IN ONE PIECE!
4

AS JONATHAN SMITH HAD SAID, THAT WAS A CRUDE TEST VEHICLE! THE SHIP HE BUILT NEXT WAS BIGGER, MUCH FASTER, AND OF A TOTALLY NEW CONCEPT!
I'LL DO BETTER THAN 50,000 MPH IN HER... PERHAPS I'LL DOUBLE THAT! I'VE INVITED THE GENERALS WHO FIRED ME TO COME HERE TO SEE THIS!
HAS THAT FOOL CONTRAPTION GOT ANY CHANCE TO SUCCEED? I'VE GOT RADAR SETS SURROUNDING THIS AREA! WE'LL RECORD HER PERFORMANCE WHETHER SMITH LIKES IT OR NOT!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR GADGETS, GENERAL!
THE AIR FORCE GENERAL WAS TENSE... HIS TECHNICIANS READY! BUT NONE OF THEM WERE PREPARED AS SMITH HIT THE FIRING BUTTON...
ZOOOM
40,000 MPH, 65,000 MPH, 100,000 MPH! CLIMBING AND GAINING SPEED!
IT..IT'S FANTASTIC! LOOK!
HE D-DISAPPEARED! HE'S GONE FROM THE SCREEN, DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! JONATHAN SMITH TOOK OFF... AND VANISHED FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN... HE'S GONE FROM OUR WORLD...IF YOU SEE HIM WHERE YOU ARE, PLEASE LET US KNOW!
END

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

A LOOK into the FUTURE



"IT CERTAINLY DID/ I REMEMBER GOING FROM COMPANY TO COMPANY BEGGING FOR WORK/"

THERE'S NO OPENING FOR YOU, SIMMS/ YOU HAVE NEVER LASTED VERY LONG AT ANY JOB, HAVE YOU?

NO, SIR/

"I HADN'T EATEN IN DAYS/ I WAS WEAK FROM HUNGER...

FAILED AGAIN/ FEEL WEAK...

SUPERIOR METALS

"THEN I WAS INSIDE THE SUPERIOR OFFICES... TALKING TO THE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR/ HE'S THE MAN YOU MET EARLIER THIS MORNING...

DON'T HAND ME THAT 'SORRY, WE'VE GOT NO OPENINGS' ROUTINE/ A FIRM AS BIG AS THIS ONE ALWAYS NEEDS GOOD EXECUTIVES/ WHERE'S THE BOSS? I'LL TALK TO HIM/

IF WE DON'T FIND THIS METAL IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY, OUR PLANTS WILL HAVE TO CLOSE/

BUT THE NEW MACHINE/ YOU SAID THE NEW MACHINE WOULD FIND IT FOR US/

THE ENGINEER WHO RUNS IT REFUSED TO GO BELOW TWENTY THOUSAND FEET/ NO ONE ELSE WILL EITHER/

WAIT/ I'M AN ENGINEER-- LET ME TRY/

"SILLY, ISN'T IT? I DREAMED THAT THE DIRECTOR SNAPPED AT MY OFFER/

YOU'RE HIRED/ I'LL HAVE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED AT ONCE/

2

"EVERYTHING WORKED BEAUTIFULLY/ I WAS AS FRIGHTENED AS THE ENGINEER BUT I VOWED NOT TO TURN BACK TO THE SURFACE WITHOUT FINDING ORE/

GO AHEAD, TRY IT IF YOU LIKE/ I WON'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL EVER COME BACK ALIVE/

JUST SHOW ME HOW TO OPERATE THE CONTROLS/

"I PRACTICED A FEW TIMES, THEN I POINTED THE NOSE DOWN AND GAVE IT FULL THROTTLE/

I'M DEEPER THAN THE ENGINEER EVER WENT ALREADY/ IF I DON'T FIND ORE SOON, I'VE FAILED/

"ALTHOUGH THE AIR IN THE CAVE WAS FOUL, I DIDN'T NOTICE...

3

"THE METAL WAS THERE...THOUSANDS OF TONS OF HIGH GRADE ORE/ I KNEW IT WAS MY BIG BREAK/

I FOUND IT/ THERE'S NO STOPPING ME NOW/I'LL GO TO THE TOP/

"AT FIRST I WAS MINING ENGINEER...THEN I WAS IN CHARGE OF ALL OUR MINING OPERATIONS/ I WAS PRETTY TOUGH IN THAT DREAM OF MINE/

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK IN THE DEEP SHAFT?IT'S SAFE I TELL YOU/

IT'S NOT SAFE/ WE GO BACK, WE DIE/ COME ON, YOU FELLERS/ WE QUIT/

YOU'RE NOT STARTING ANY LABOR TROUBLE FOR US/

"I FACED THE MEN DOWN, LED THEM INTO THE SHAFT/ THE MINE WAS DANGEROUS...BUT I COULDN'T STOP PRODUCTION FOR A THING LIKE THAT/

GET TO WORK, MEN/REMEMBER--YOU GET A BONUS BASED ON TONNAGE/ FORGET THAT NONSENSE ABOUT MINE CAVE-INS.

"THE MINE DID CAVE LATER...BUT MINING IS A DANGEROUS BUSINESS AND SOME ALWAYS DIE/ THE IMPORTANT THING IS, I GOT PRODUCTION/

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, SIMMS/ THE COMPANY IS GIVING YOU A NEW ASSIGNMENT--YOU'RE TO FLY TO BRAZIL...CHECK ON THE IRON-NICKEL ORE THERE/

YES, THAT WAS QUITE A DREAM I HAD/ OF COURSE, MY OWN RISE IN THE COMPANY CAME IN THE LEGAL END OF THE FIRM...BUT IN THAT DREAM, I WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TYPE/

WE STOP HERE/ HEAD SHRINKERS TRIBE DO NOT LIKE FOREIGNERS/

WE'RE NOT STOPPING/WE'RE GOING AHEAD/

SURRENDER OR DIE, CHIEF/

THE COMPANY GOT MINING RIGHTS WHERE OUR COMPETITORS HAD FAILED/ I WASN'T TOO PARTICULAR WHOSE NECK I STEPPED ON EITHER/

WAIT, SIMMS/ I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN I SIGNED THAT DEED WAIVER/IF YOU USE IT, YOU'LL RUIN ME/

THAT WON'T BOTHER ME/

I GOT A BLOCK OF STOCK FOR THAT DEAL/ I WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS A SHORT TIME AFTERWARD/

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. SIMMS? SHOULD WE BUY THIS MAN'S SMELTING PROCESS?

GIVE HIM A QUARTER OF WHAT IT'S WORTH, HE'LL TAKE IT/

YOU SEE HOW I DREAMED? THINGS WORKED OUT DIFFERENTLY FOR ME...I GOT INTO THE LEGAL DIVISION INSTEAD/BUT THE DREAM GAVE ME CONFIDENCE/

I'M SORRY, MR. SIMMS, BUT THE OTHER DIRECTORS ARE WAITING!

OH, YES/WELL, SIR, I MUST GO/WE HAVE NO PLACE FOR YOU BUT REMEMBER-- HAVE CONFIDENCE AND STEP ON ANY ONE IN YOUR WAY!

WHAT IS IT?WHY ISN'T THE JET POWER PROJECT PRODUCING?

WE SENT A MEMO, MR. SIMMS/WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A NEW ALLOY/ IN QUANTITY!

THE NEW MINING MACHINE WORKS, SIR, BUT THE ENGINEER WON'T OPERATE IT AT MAXIMUM DEPTH/

I WILL, MR. SIMMS/ REMEMBER YOUR DREAM?

I'LL LET YOU TRY, PETERS...BUT WHY REFER TO THAT SILLY DREAM NOW?

BECAUSE IT'S UNFINISHED, SIR/

HOW DO YOU MEAN UNFINISHED?

BECAUSE I HAVE A FEELING THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN FOR ME JUST THE WAY YOU TOLD IT IN THE DREAMS/ I'M WONDERING... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DIRECTOR WHO GAVE YOU THE JOB IN YOUR DREAM?

WHY...HE HIT THE SKIDS AS I REMEMBER/ HE BECAME A BUM/ COULD NEVER FIND ANOTHER JOB AFTER I TOOK HIS PLACE IN THAT DREAM/ YOU DON'T MEAN I...THAT YOU...?

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, MR. SIMMS/ REMEMBER-- IT WAS YOUR DREAM!

THE END

WAY OUT, MAN

BECAUSE STANLEY MOSS LOVED GIGI KEENE, HE WENT TO THE BEATNIK PARTIES WITH HER...SUFFERING THROUGH THEM, NOT UNDERSTANDING THE WEIRD NOISES WHICH ANNOYED HIM AND SENT THEM WINGING THRU TRACKLESS VOIDS, WRITHING ECSTATICALLY, TWITCHING PSYCHOTICALLY, MOANING IN A LANGUAGE NO CIVILIZED MAN COULD EVER LEARN/ HE WENT, HE SUFFERED, HE PITIED POOR GIGI WHO WAS HUMILIATED BECAUSE HE, STAN, WAS SUCH A SIX-SIDED SQUARE/

ISN'T THIS THE UTTERMOST, STANLEY? GET WITH IT, FEEL THE BEAT/ TAKE OFF, CUBE, AND FLY/

IT'S TOO SMOKEY IN HERE/ LET'S GO HOME, GIGI/

THEY WENT HOME...OUT INTO THE CLEAR NIGHT WHERE STANLEY MOSS WAS TOLD OFF BY HIS BEATNIK BEAUTY/

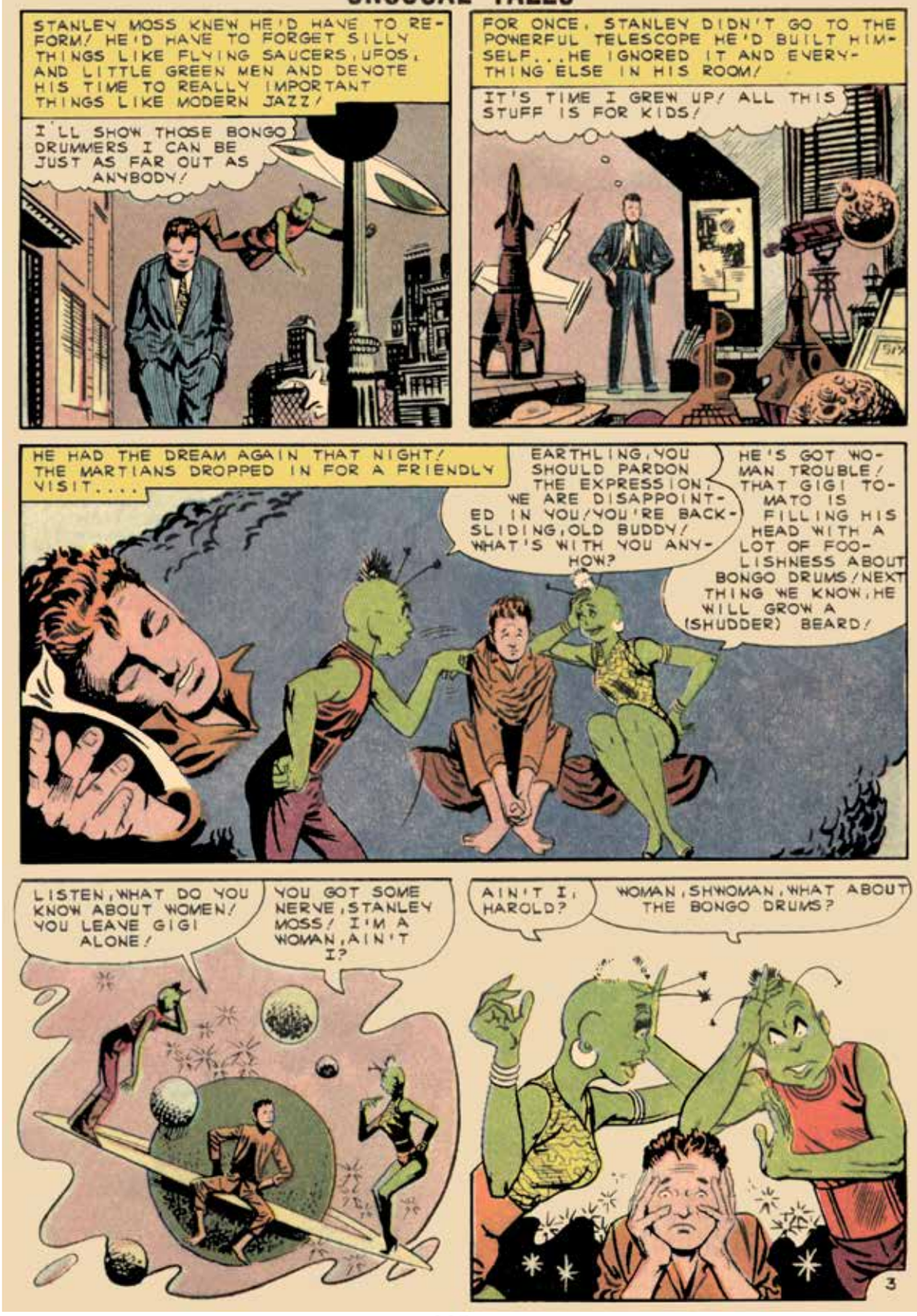
HONESTLY, STAN, YOU'RE SO SQUARE, YOU'RE A MUSEUM PIECE/

STEVE DITKO

A-393

1

YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE BONGO DRUMS, THEY GIVE ME A HEADACHE/THE FRIENDS YOU HAVE ARE FUNNY/THEY DON'T TALK LIKE EVERYONE ELSE I KNOW/
LIKE WHO, FOR INSTANCE?LIKE THAT CREEP WITH THE MOON TELESCOPE LIKE?
GEORGE IS ALL RIGHT, HONEY/ I LIKE ASTRONOMY TOO/ DID I TELL YOU I SAW A FLYING SAUCER AGAIN LAST NIGHT?
YES, STANLEY, YOU TOLD ME/ I'LL BET IT HAS LITTLE GREEN MEN INSIDE, TOO, DIDN'T IT, STANLEY?
I DON'T KNOW/ I COULDN'T SEE INSIDE, GIGI/ I JUST SAW THIS LUMINOUS DISC LIKE, HOVERING OVERHEAD, THEN IT SORT OF DISAPPEARED/
YES, LOVE, I KNOW/ JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER FLYING SAUCERS YOU'VE SEEN/ HOW ARE THE MARTIANS?ANY OF THEM KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR LATELY?
YOU'RE KIDDIN' ME NOW, GIGI/ I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER REALLY SEEN A MARTIAN/
GIGI, NEXT TIME YOU TAKE ME TO A BEATNIK PARTY I PROMISE I WON'T EMBARRASS YOU/ I'M GOING TO STUDY BONGOES AND STUFF/
YES, BELOVED, I KNOW ..
2


STANLEY MOSS KNEW HE'D HAVE TO REFORM/ HE'D HAVE TO FORGET SILLY THINGS LIKE FLYING SAUCERS, UFOS, AND LITTLE GREEN MEN AND DEVOTE HIS TIME TO REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE MODERN JAZZ/
I'LL SHOW THOSE BONGO DRUMMERS I CAN BE JUST AS FAR OUT AS ANYBODY/
FOR ONCE, STANLEY DIDN'T GO TO THE POWERFUL TELESCOPE HE'D BUILT HIMSELF...HE IGNORED IT AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN HIS ROOM/
IT'S TIME I GREW UP/ ALL THIS STUFF IS FOR KIDS/
HE HAD THE DREAM AGAIN THAT NIGHT/ THE MARTIANS DROPPED IN FOR A FRIENDLY VISIT....
EARTHLING, YOU SHOULD PARDON THE EXPRESSION; WE ARE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU/YOU'RE BACKSLIDING, OLD BUDDY/ WHAT'S WITH YOU ANYHOW?
HE'S GOT WOMAN TROUBLE/ THAT GIGI TOMATO IS FILLING HIS HEAD WITH A LOT OF FOOLISHNESS ABOUT BONGO DRUMS/NEXT THING WE KNOW, HE WILL GROW A (SHUDDER) BEARD/
LISTEN, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WOMEN/ YOU LEAVE GIGI ALONE/
YOU GOT SOME NERVE, STANLEY MOSS/ I'M A WOMAN, AIN'T I?
AIN'T I, HAROLD?
WOMAN, SHWOMAN, WHAT ABOUT THE BONGO DRUMS?
3

UNUSUAL TALES

WELL, IT'S THIS WAY/GIGI IS DISGUSTED BECAUSE I'M SO SQUARE/ IT'S SERIOUS, FELLAS/ I GOT TO LEARN TO BE A BEATNIK/

DEFINE THE WORD, CHUM? LIKE WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS MUSIC THAT'S JUST PLAIN NOISE, CONVERSATION THAT'S COMPLETLY SENSELESS, AND DRESSING AS IDIOTICALLY AS POSSIBLE/ I HATE IT ALL, BUT FOR GIGI, I'VE GOT TO BECOME ONE/

GO BACK TO SLEEP, STAN/ WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROBLEMS/

IN THE MORNING, THE DREAM WAS ALMOST FORGOTTEN...BUT HIS FRIENDS FROM THE SKY DIDN'T FORGET/

LIKE THIS STUFF IS GREAT, MAN/ GONNA NEGOTIATE FOR A BONGO, BOY/

I WAS THINKING OF...

CHIN WHISKERS GENUINE CAT HAIR BEARDS

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE/ YOU'RE A...ONE OF THEM/

SSSSHH, MAN, I'M LIKE INCOGNITO/ LET'S GET WITH THE BEAT INSIDE, MAN/ BUY SOME LIKE SKINS

STAN, NOW IN BEATNIK ATTIRE, TOOK HIS MARTIAN FRIEND TO GREENWICH VILLAGE WHERE TOURISTS GOT SHOOK UP WHEN HE SPIED THE SICKLY LOOKING VISITOR/

HEY, HAROLD, WAIT A MINUTE/ REMEMBER ME?

COME ON, STANLEY/ THAT CREEP IS A BIRDWATCHER/ HE ALWAYS WANTS TO TALK ABOUT BIRD LIFE ON MARS/

4

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

INSIDE THE COFFEE SHOP WHERE GIGI WAS WAITING, THE MARTIAN AND STANLEY JOINED THE PARTY...

STAN, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY REPULSIVE/ I MEAN YOU'RE DEVASTATING/

THANKS, GIGI/ I WANT YOU TO MEET MY FRIEND, HAROLD/

THAT COMPLEXION IS MARVELOUS/HOW DID YOU GET IT, WITH ARSENIC?

I HAD TO CUT THAT OUT, I'M ON A DIET/

THEN, THE MUSIC...AND THE MARTIAN BEGAN TO PLAY/ NO INSTRUMENT, NO SINGING...HE JUST EMANATED A WEIRD TUNELESS VIBRATION THAT HAD THE CATS CLIMBING THE WALLS/

THIS IS MUSIC I CAN UNDERSTAND/

ME TOO, STAN/ I'M FLYIN'.. I'M GOIN' WAY OUT/

WAY OUT...WALLS VANISHED...THE BEATNIKS STOMPED...AND THEY LOST ALL SENSE OF TIME AND PLACE, THEY WERE THOUGHTLESS, WEIGHTLESS...

LATER...

WE'RE WAY OUT NOW, GIGI, WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED/

YEA, DADDIO/ LISTEN-IN' TO STARDUST/ HAROLD SAYS EVERYONE UP ON HIS PLANET LISTENS TO LAWRENCE WELK/

THE END

MONTAGE COVERS

These covers have been relegated to this section, rather than kept with the main body of the book, because the Ditko work on each is taken from panels of interior stories...

...that is, with the exception of Unusual Tales #31. That issue's cover has a panel taken from Konga #1 (see page 102); it has nothing to do with Unusual Tales #31.

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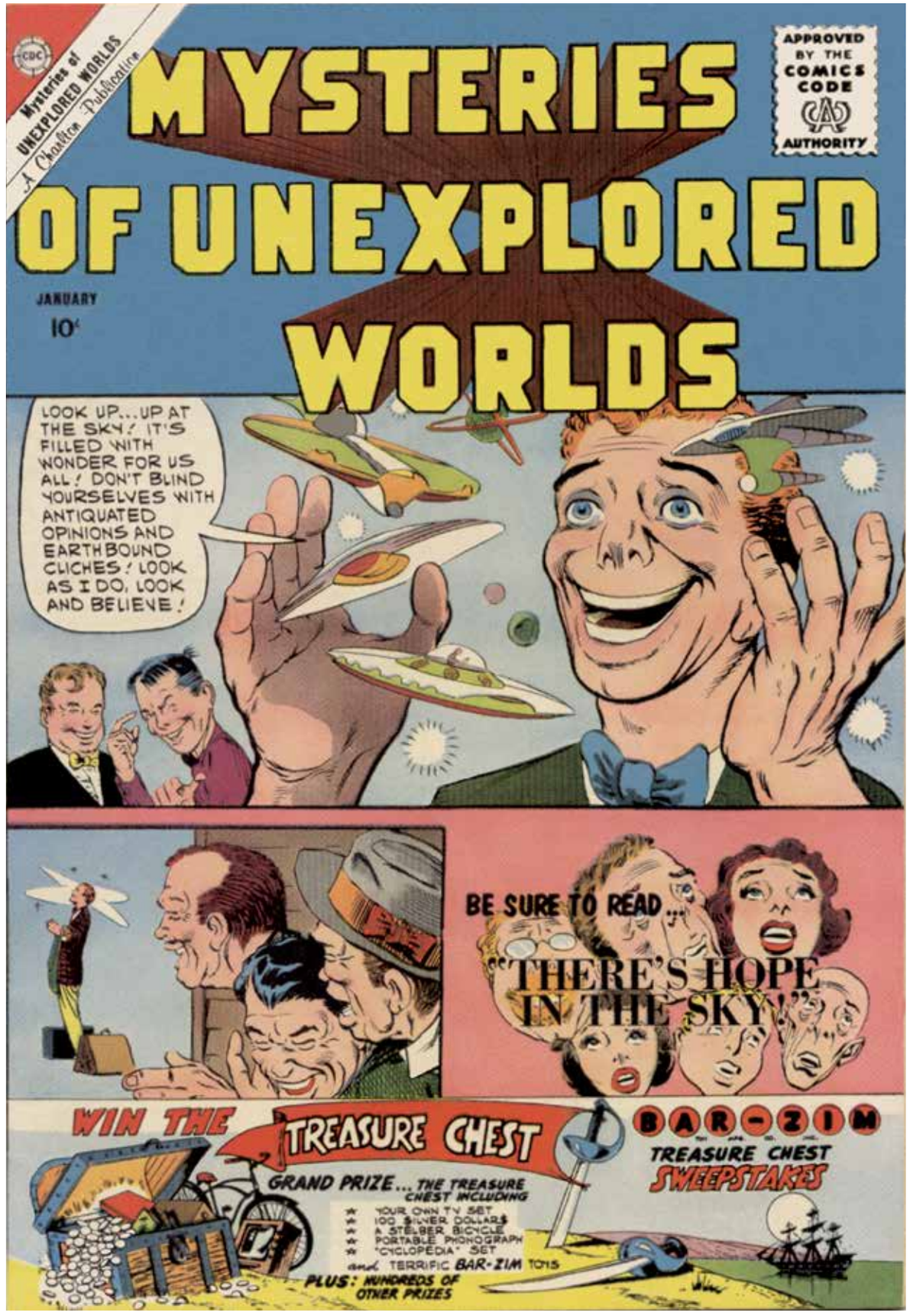
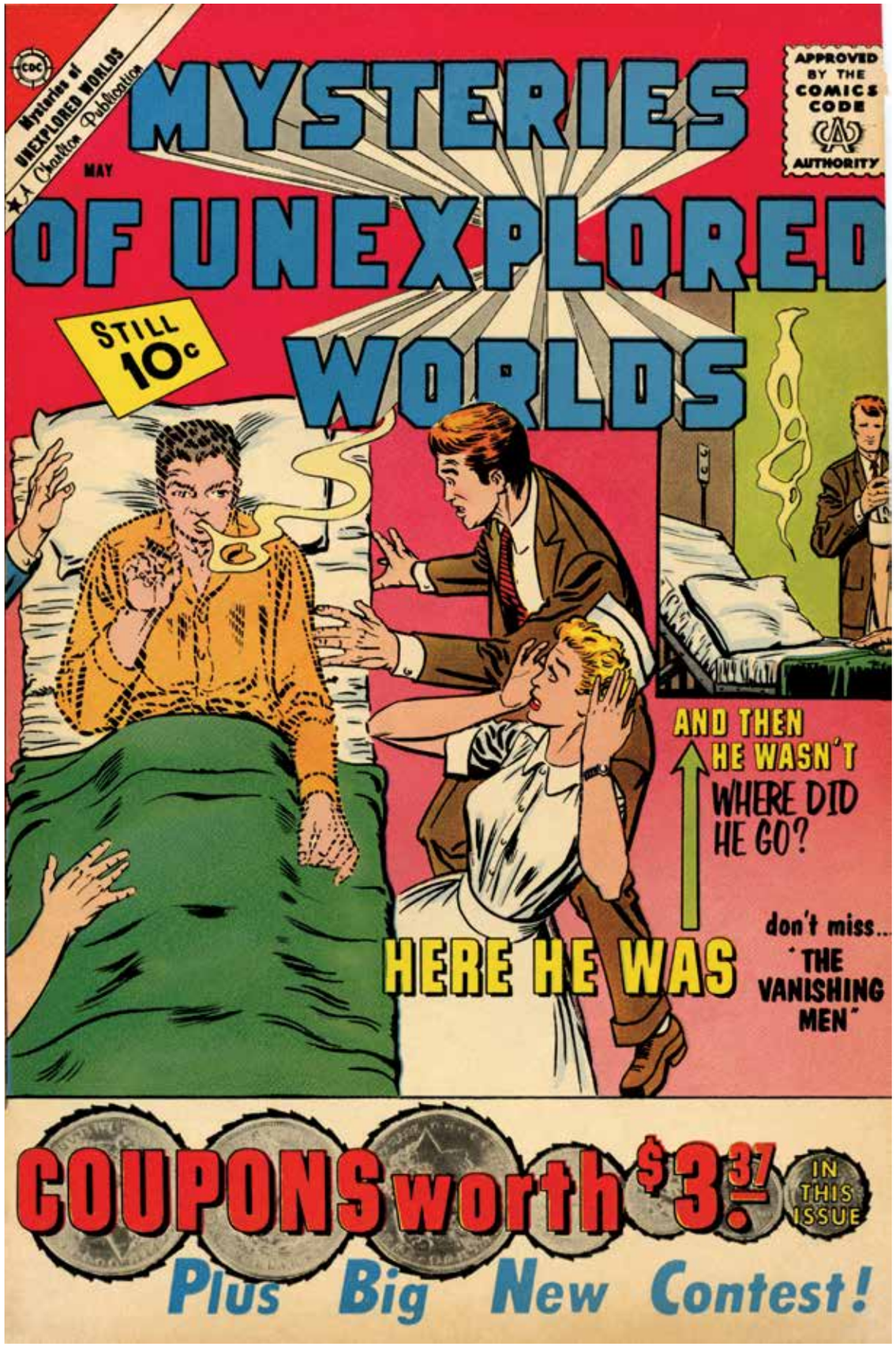


Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS
A Charlton Publication
MYSTERIES
MARCH
10¢
OF UNEXPLORED
WORLDS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE DREAM ROOM
WHERE DID HE GO?
"COMDR. BURKETTS' MACHINE"
WHAT DID IT FIND?
THE QUIET LITTLE MEN
THAT NOBODY COULD SEE...
WIN THE TREASURE CHEST
GRAND PRIZE... THE TREASURE CHEST INCLUDING
YOUR OWN TV SET
100 SILVER DOLLARS
A STELBER BICYCLE
PORTABLE PHONOGRAPH
"CYCLOPEDIA" SET
and TERRIFIC BAR-ZIM TOYS
PLUS: HUNDREDS OF OTHER PRIZES
BAR-ZIM
TREASURE CHEST SWEEPSTAKES


Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS
A Charlton Publication
MYSTERIES
MAY
OF UNEXPLORED
WORLDS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
STILL 10c
AND THEN HE WASN'T
WHERE DID HE GO?
HERE HE WAS
don't miss... "THE VANISHING MEN"
COUPONS worth $3.37
IN THIS ISSUE
Plus Big New Contest!

SPACE ADVENTURES
A Charlton Publication
Fast Moving Episodes Of
SPACE
ADVENTURES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY
10¢
METEORS ATTACKING ME... FORCING DEADLY MISSILES TO STRIKE EARTH... OHH!
CAPTAIN ATOM FROM CANAVERAL! ANSWER, CAPTAIN!
IN THIS ISSUE!!
3 ACTION-PACKED THRILL-FILLED STORIES OF...
CAPTAIN ATOM!
"Backfire"
"The Force Beyond"
"1 Second Of War"
WIN THE TREASURE CHEST
GRAND PRIZE... THE TREASURE CHEST INCLUDING
YOUR OWN TV SET
100 SILVER DOLLARS
A STELBER BICYCLE
PORTABLE PHONOGRAPH
"CYCLOPEDIA" SET
and TERRIFIC BAR-ZIM TOYS
PLUS: HUNDREDS OF OTHER PRIZES
BAR-ZIM
TREASURE CHEST SWEEPSTAKES

SPACE ADVENTURES
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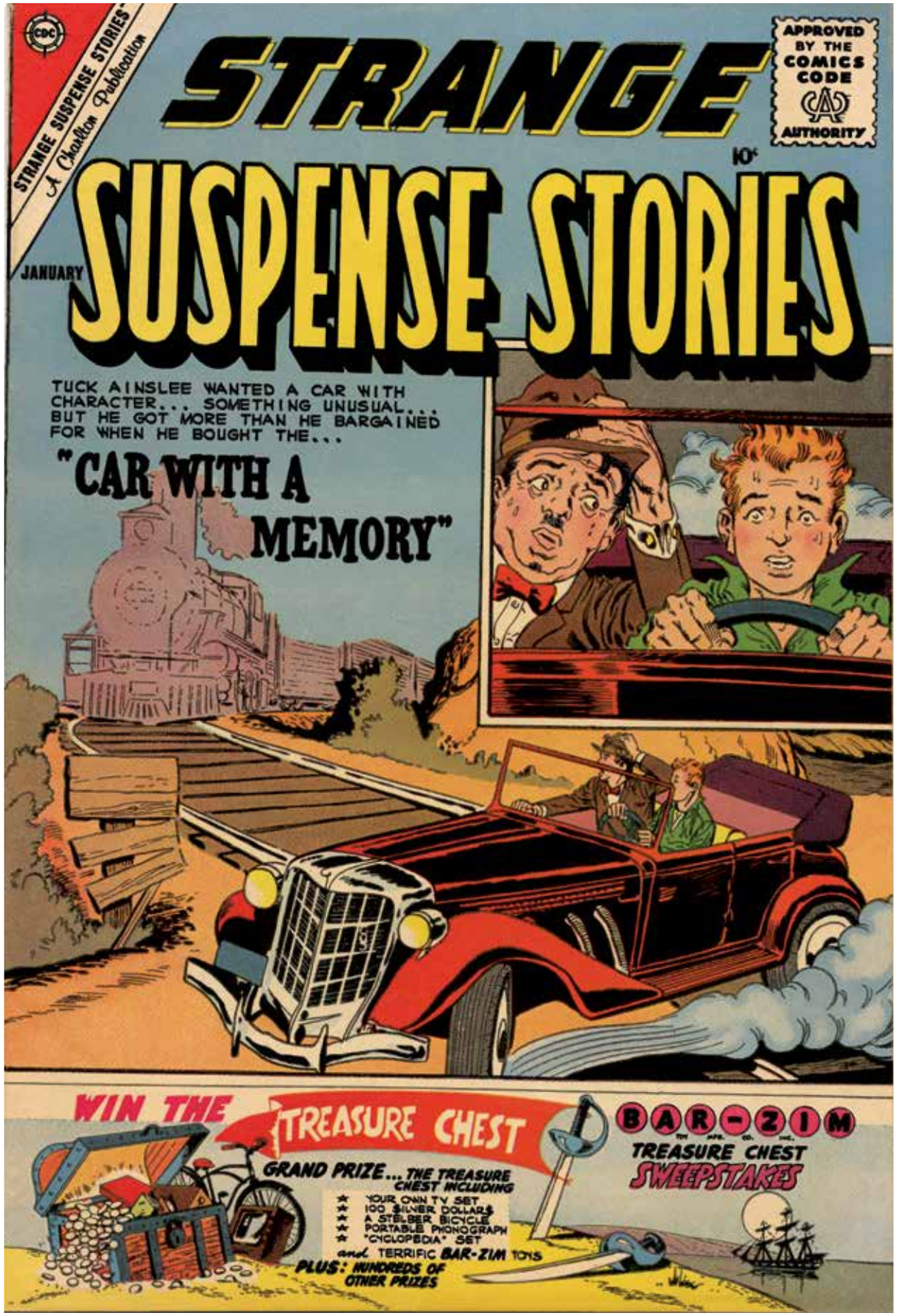
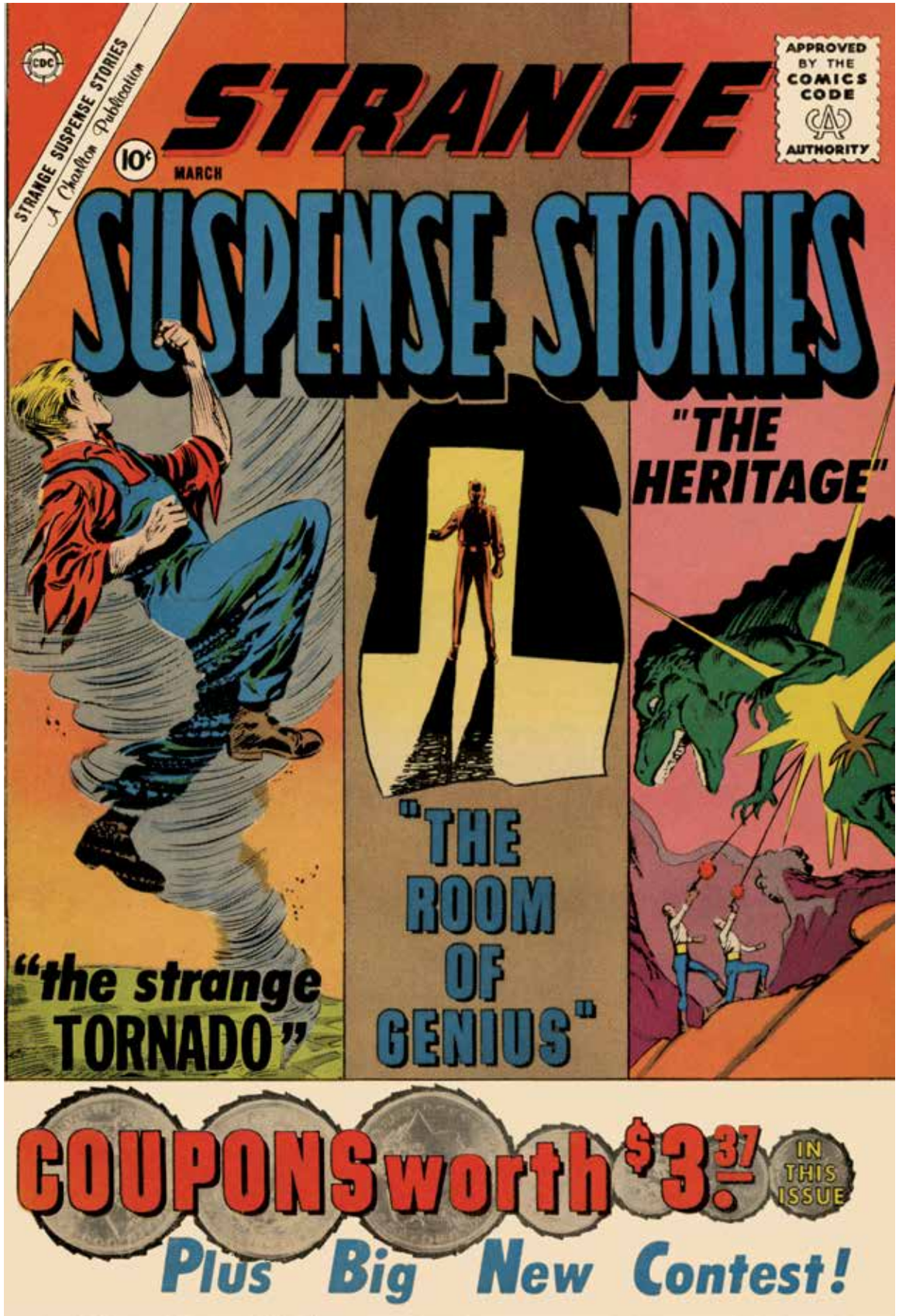
10¢
APRIL
SPACE
ADVENTURES
SEE CAPTAIN ATOM
COUPONS worth $3.37 IN THIS ISSUE
Plus Big New Contest!

CDC
SPACE ADVENTURES
★ A Charlton Publication
CAPTAIN ATOM...MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JUNE
STILL 10c
SPACE ADVENTURES
More of CAPTAIN ATOM
COUPONS worth $3.37 IN THIS ISSUE
Plus Big New Contest!

CDC
SPACE ADVENTURES
★ A Charlton Publication
More Captain Atom
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
OCTOBER
SPACE ADVENTURES
STILL 10c
FREE! WIN OVER 100 PRIZES! REGULATION SIZE SWIMMING POOL
Enter CHARLTON COMICS' MONSTER CONTEST

SPACE WAR
A Charlton Publication
APRIL
STILL 10¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, ZERO
STOP IT! HIT THE RED BUTTON!
THEY TRIED TO STOP THE EXPLOSION WHEN THEY SAW THE MAN WAS IN THE WAY...
"THE COMEBACK"
COUPONS worth $3.37 IN THIS ISSUE
Plus Big New Contest!


STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES
A Charlton Publication
STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JANUARY
10¢
TUCK AINSLEE WANTED A CAR WITH CHARACTER... SOMETHING UNUSUAL... BUT HE GOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR WHEN HE BOUGHT THE...
"CAR WITH A MEMORY"
WIN THE TREASURE CHEST
GRAND PRIZE... THE TREASURE CHEST INCLUDING
YOUR OWN TV SET
100 SILVER DOLLARS
A STELBER BICYCLE
PORTABLE PHONOGRAPH
"CYCLOPEDIA" SET
and TERRIFIC BAR-ZIM TOYS
PLUS: HUNDREDS OF OTHER PRIZES
BAR-ZIM
TREASURE CHEST SWEEPSTAKES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STRANGE
10¢
MARCH
SUSPENSE STORIES
"THE HERITAGE"
"the strange TORNADO"
"THE ROOM OF GENIUS"
COUPONS worth $3.37 IN THIS ISSUE
Plus Big New Contest!

UNUSUAL TALES
A Charlton Publication
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY
UNUSUAL TALES
10¢
LOVE OF SPEED WAS JONATHAN SMITH'S WHOLE LIFE/ HE DEVOTED EVERY FIBRE OF HIS BEING TO THE PURSUIT OF VEHICLES THAT WOULD CARRY HIM FASTER AND FASTER/ BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MAN TAMPERS WITH FORCES HE WASN'T INTENDED TO UTILIZE??
DON'T MISS... "SPEED CRAZED"
WIN THE TREASURE CHEST
GRAND PRIZE... THE TREASURE CHEST INCLUDING
YOUR OWN TV SET
100 SILVER DOLLARS
A STELBER BICYCLE
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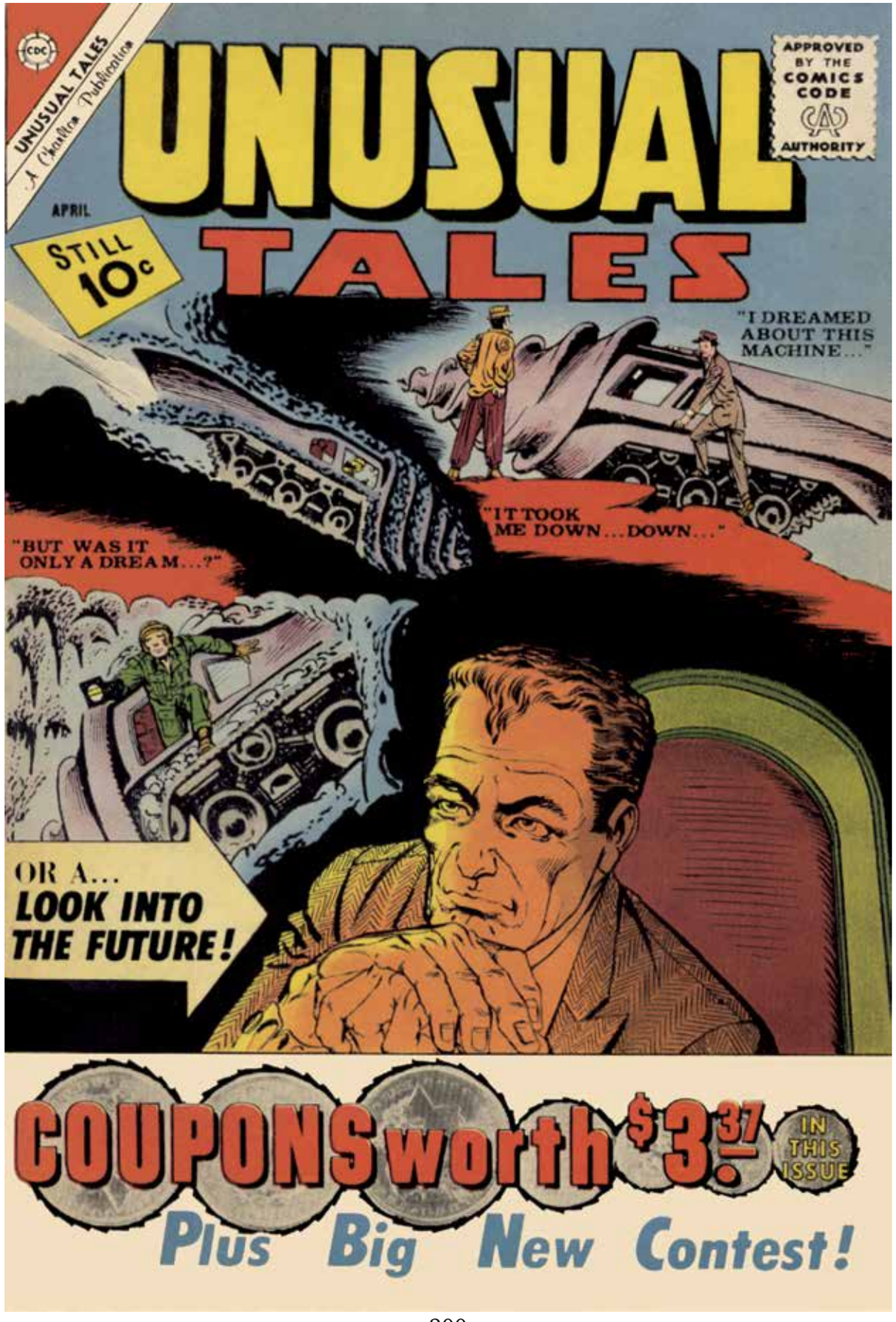
UNUSUAL TALES
A Charlton Publication
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UNUSUAL TALES
APRIL
STILL 10c
"I DREAMED ABOUT THIS MACHINE..."
"IT TOOK ME DOWN...DOWN..."
"BUT WAS IT ONLY A DREAM...?"
OR A...
LOOK INTO THE FUTURE!
COUPONS worth $3.37 IN THIS ISSUE
Plus Big New Contest!

UNUSUAL TALES
A Charlton Publication
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UNUSUAL TALES
DECEMBER
STILL 10c
"the STRANGE case of sammy"
SINISTER... FORBIDDEN...
was it really 'THE HOME FOR HAPPINESS?'
"THE ENEMY"
what is man's worst danger?

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

I was born in 1927 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

1950. I came to New York to enter the comics industry. I enrolled at the Cartoonists and Illustrators School. I was working during the day (non art job) and going to C&I at night. Periodically, I made the rounds of all the comic publishers and was turned down by all.

1953. I received my first job in comics with a small outfit—2nd Headline Pub. (Black Magic) This was the short-lived period of 3-D. It was an involved process. I worked with others inking Harvey's 3-D books and Simon-Kirby's "Captain 3-D." I started working for Charlton Press and their line of weird books (Thing) (This Magazine Haunted).

1954. Early this year I had to leave New York and give up comics. (The investigation into comics and the code had nothing to do with it.)

1955. Late this year I returned to New York and did my first work for Stan Lee and Timely.

1956. I drifted away from Timely and back to Charlton Press.

1957. I did all Charlton Press and their line of fantasy. (Mysterious Traveler, Dr. Haunt)

1958. Stan Lee asked me to do some work for Timely. I returned to Timely but was still doing some work for CP.

1959. I was doing a story for each of their fantasy line. Started Captain Atom for Charlton Press. It went nowhere!

1960. I was doing the same for Timely. Started doing Gorgo & Konga for CP.

1961. Timely same. CP—K & G.

1962. Timely—I started doing Spider-Man. CP—still doing K & G.

1963. Timely—Still doing Spider-Man and started Dr. Strange. CP—I stopped doing K & G.

Present—I am still doing Spider-Man and Dr. Strange.

Above, written by Steve Ditko, from *Komik Heroes of the Future* no. 6, 1964

The following was assembled by Robin Snyder.

1964. Attends and contributes artwork to first Comic Book Convention, New York City.

1965. Returns to drawing and then writing Captain Atom. Leaves Marvel to go exploring at ACG, Dell, National, Tower and others.

1966. Writes and draws a new Blue Beetle for Charlton.

1967. The Question appears in *Blue Beetle* no. 1. Mr. A. is introduced in *Witzend* no. 3 .

1968. *Blue Beetle* no. 5 features "The Destroyer of Heroes." *Mysterious Suspense* no. 1 contains an epic story of The Question.

1969. "Violence, the Phony Issue," an illustrated essay, is featured in *Guts*. "The Avenging World" is published in two issues of *Reason* and two issues of *Witzend*.

1973. Publishes *Mr. A*. with Comic Art Publishers. Bruce Hershenson publishes *Avenging World*. *E-Man* no. 2 introduces Killjoy.

1975. Hershenson publishes *Mr. A*. no. 4 and *Wha...!?*

1977. First issues of *Shade, the Changing Man* published at DC. Ditko developed the characters and storyline for this series. Eight issues were published before it was canceled in 1978.

1979. Begins writing and drawing sf stories for Bill Wilson's *Questar.*

1982. The Missing Man is introduced in *Captain Victory,* Pacific Comics.

1985. Returns to Charlton and publishes the opening chapters in the Static serial.

1987. Narrates a 20-minute segment in *The Masters of Comic Book Art,* a video produced and directed by Ken Viola, with artist segments introduced by Harlan Ellison.

1988. Forms publishing company with Robin Snyder and publishes *Steve Ditko's Static.*

1989. Begins writing and drawing for Mort Todd at Globe.

1990. Helps to develop *Robin Snyder's History of Comics* and publishes "An Insider's Piece of History: Jack Kirby's Spider-Man," illustrated essay. Begins work on a new series of Mr. A. stories. Publishes *The Mocker.*

1991. Publishes *The Ditko Public Service Package.*

1992. "Laszlo's Hammer" appears in *Robin Snyder's History of the Comics.*

1993. *The Safest Place...* published by Dark Horse.

1990s. Various essays are published in Robin Snyder's newsletters.

2008. *The Avenging Mind* initiates the 32 Series. This series of 27 comics would introduce many new characters.

2009. Through the good assistance of Bat Lash, we publish three features in Andrew Breitbart's *Big Hollywood* website: "Toyland," "The Unchecked Premise," and "The Ever Unreachable."

2014. Mr. A. returns in a new series.

2015. Two old titles are revived: *Out of This World* and *Tales of the Mysterious Traveler.*

2018. Ditko dies in New York. He lived his ninety years following his own muse. He lived and succeeded on his own terms and realized the ends of his labor, his plans and goals. His was a worthy life. *Down Memory Lane,* the final book in the 32 Series, is published posthumously.

2019. Robin Snyder and Rodney Schroeter publish the 32 Series in five volumes.

2020. RS & RS publish *The Complete Four-Page Series and Other Essays,* the first volume in the "Ditko Complains" series.

2021. RS/RS publish *Avenging World,* Vol. II in the "Collected Mr. A." series. The first "Ditko at Charlton" collection is published: *A Touch of Genius,* all of Ditko's published work for 1971.

2022. RS^2 publish *Steve Ditko's Static: The Definitive Edition,* and *This Is How It Is* (Ditko at Charlton 1972).

2023. The RS boys release *Steve Ditko's 176 Minus 30 Page Package, The Avenging Mind,* and *Tonight I'll Dream of You (*Ditko at Charlton 1973).

2024. *Introducing Captain Atom* (Ditko at Charlton 1960), and *Make My Dreams Come True* (Ditko at Charlton 1974) are published.

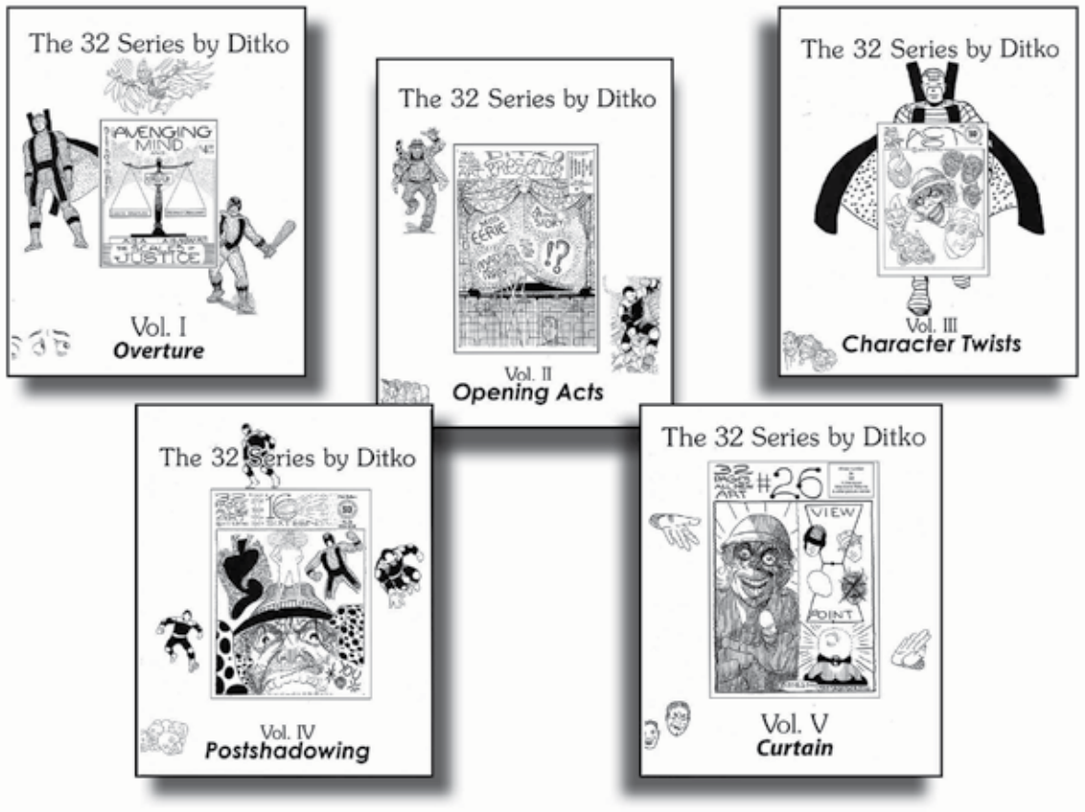
2025. *Steve Ditko's The Mocker: The Definitive Edition* and *The Return of Gorgo* (Ditko at Charlton 1961) are published.

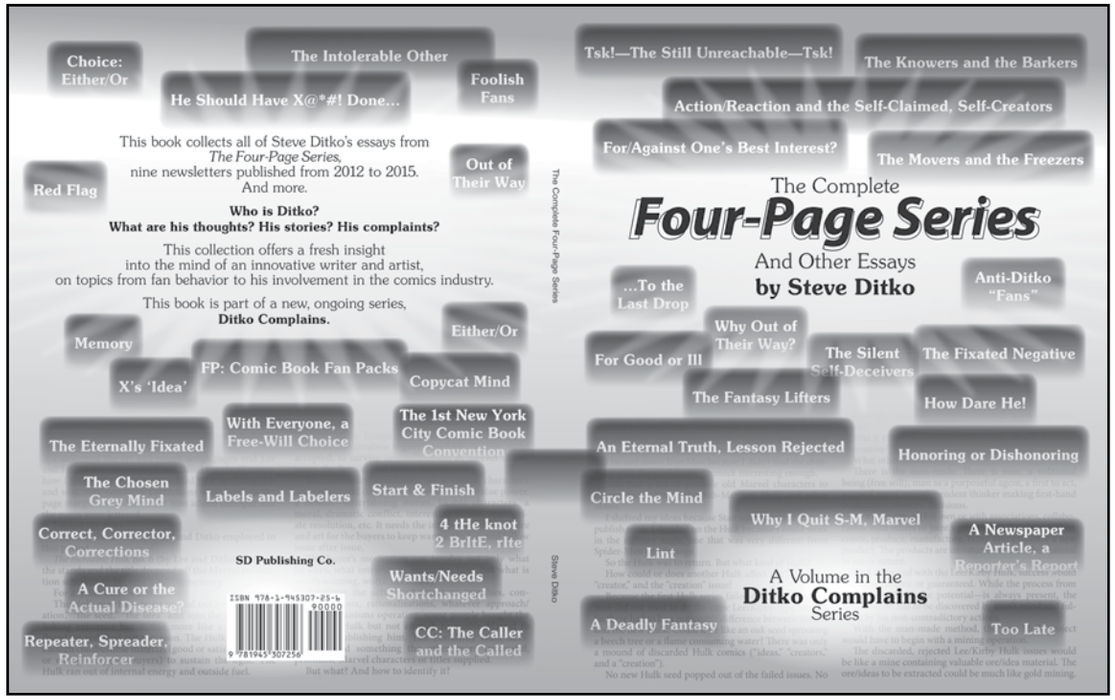
OTHER BOOKS

Over **800 pages**
of stories,
art and essays by **Ditko** were published in
these 27 32-page comics

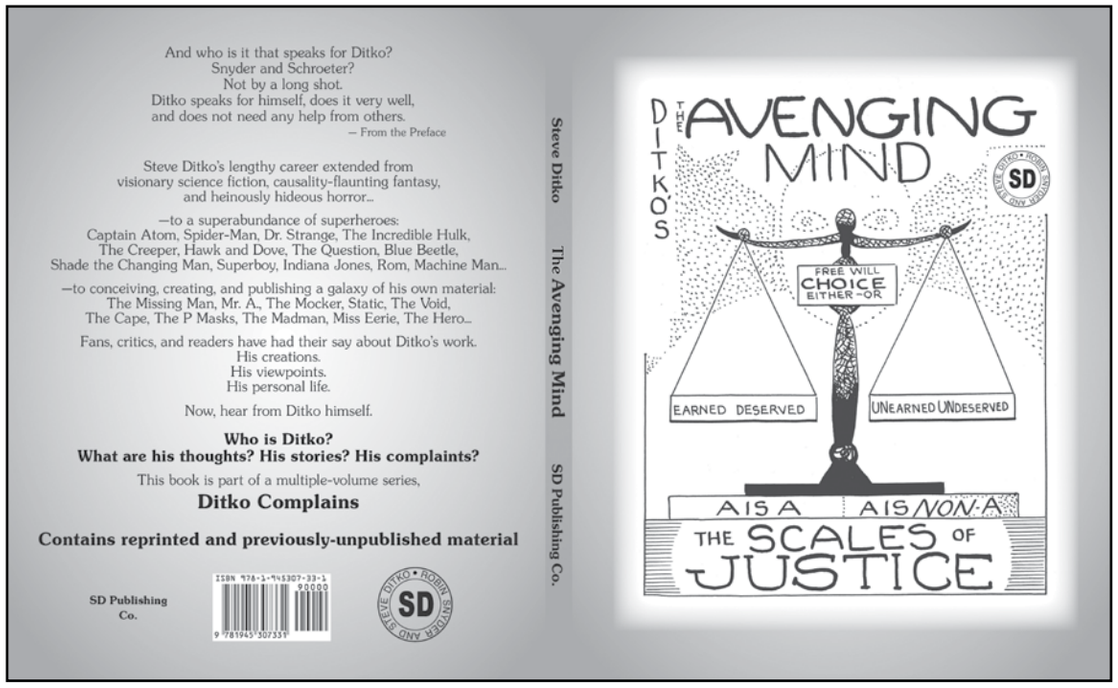
in the last major project of the last decade of Ditko's life

All 27 comics have been collected in these 5 books

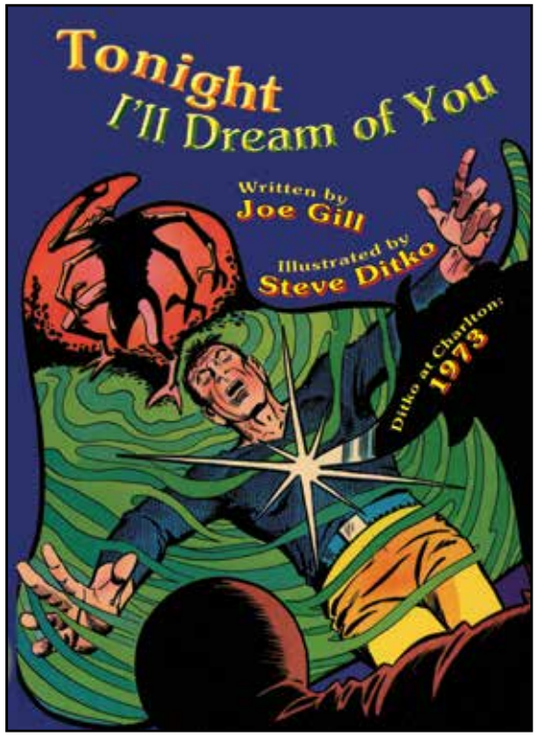




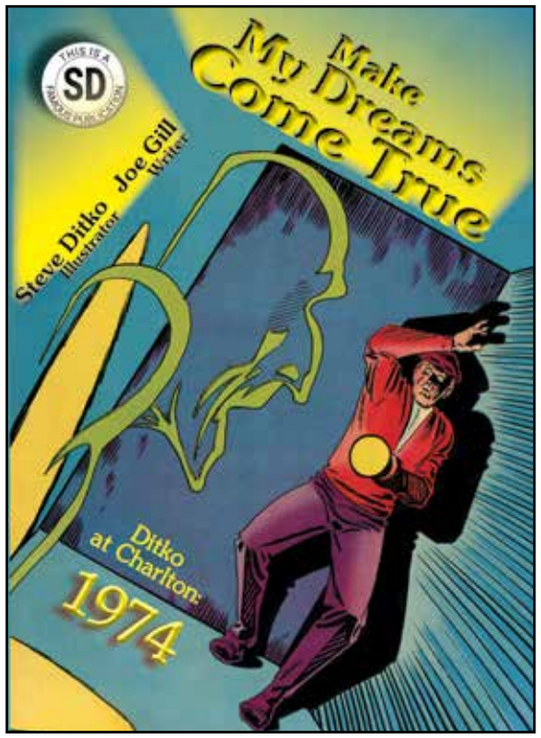
Steve Ditko speaks for himself



Real-World Philosophy: A volume of The Collected Mr. A.



Ditko At Charlton: 1973



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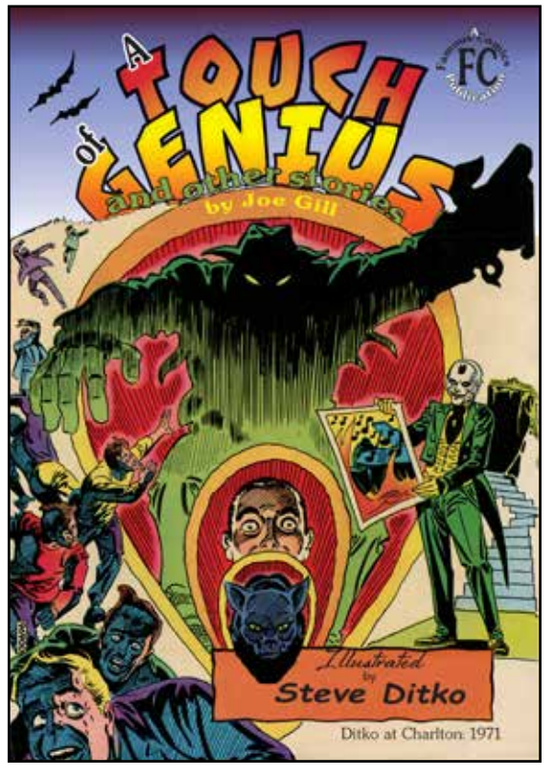

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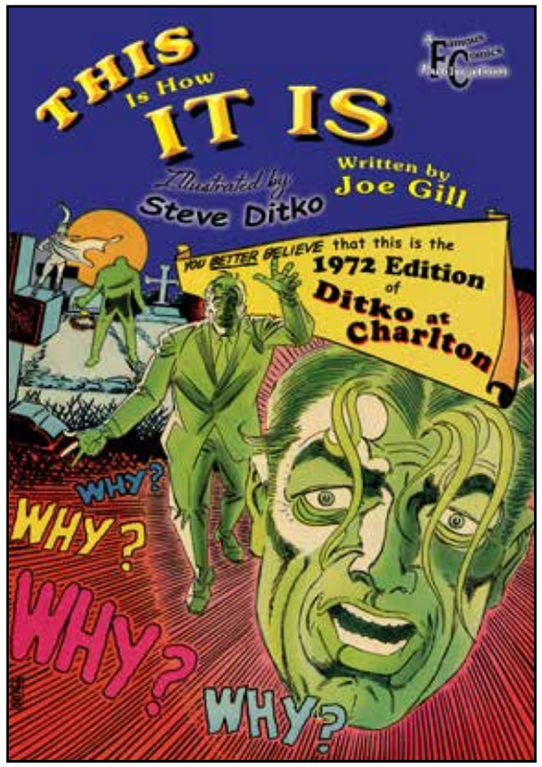

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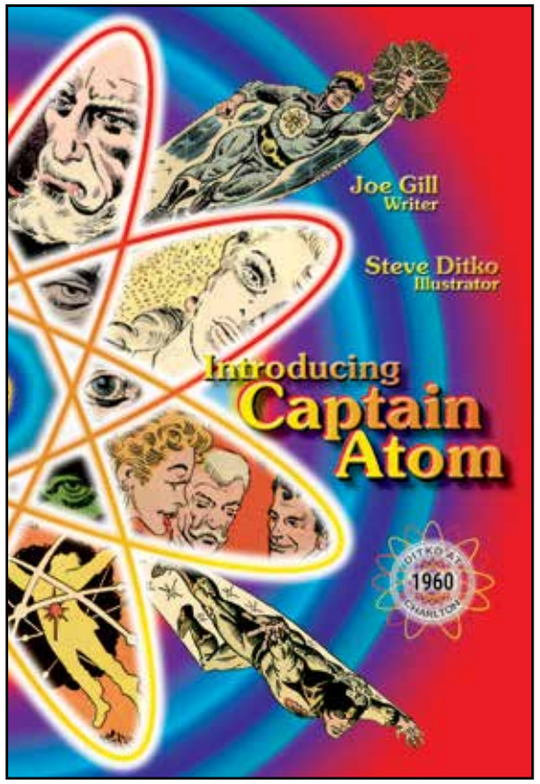

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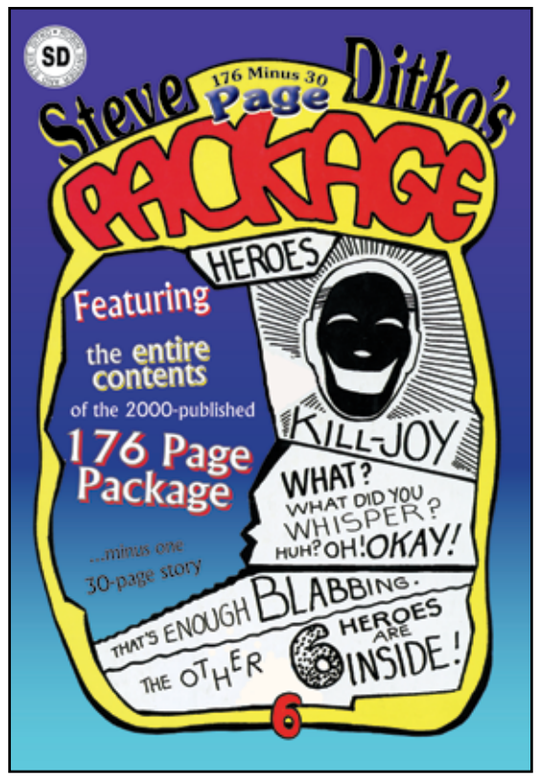

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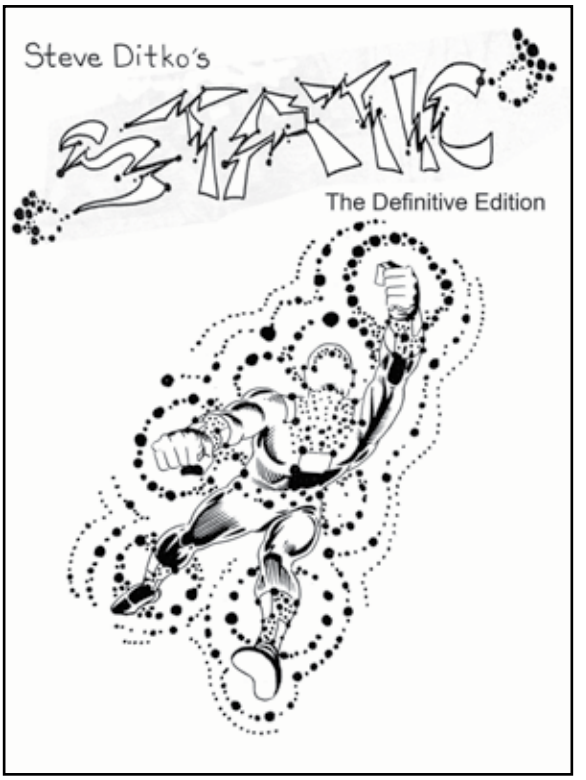

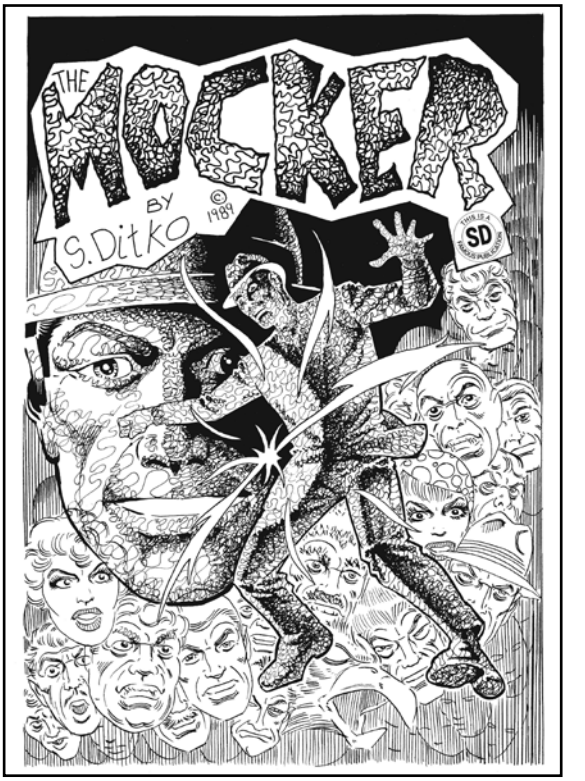

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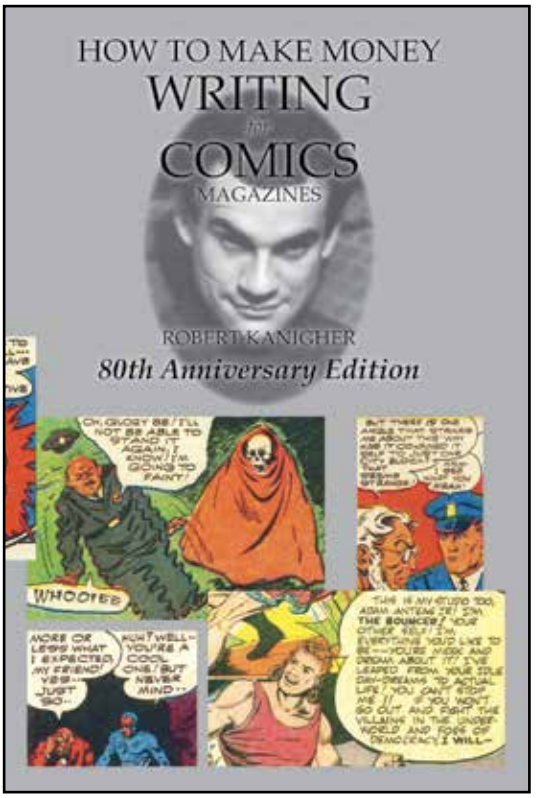

By and About Robert Kanigher

Under Development:

Ditko at Charlton 1975

Kanigher Part II

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