

EERIE AND STARTLING ADVENTURES INTO...

NOV '52

WEIRD

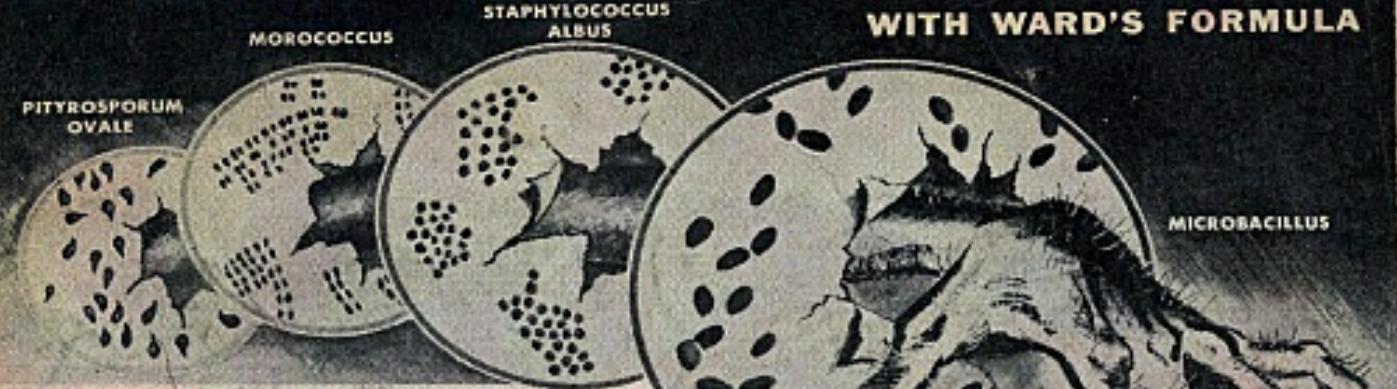
TALES OF THE FUTURE

10c



KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS

WITH WARD'S FORMULA



NOTHING, Absolutely nothing known to Science can do more to

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but all four types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—on contact
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—fast
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—quickly
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—instantly
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—within 3 seconds

Once you're bald, that's it, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe us. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have proved what we say. Read their grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's better than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at our risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy all the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. You be the judge! Ward Laboratories Inc., 1430 Broadway, N.Y. 18, N.Y.

TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW

Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

—ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!—

Word Laboratories Inc.,
1430 Broadway, Dept. 6109-W New York 18, N.Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Check here if you enclose \$2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Some refund offer holds, of course.

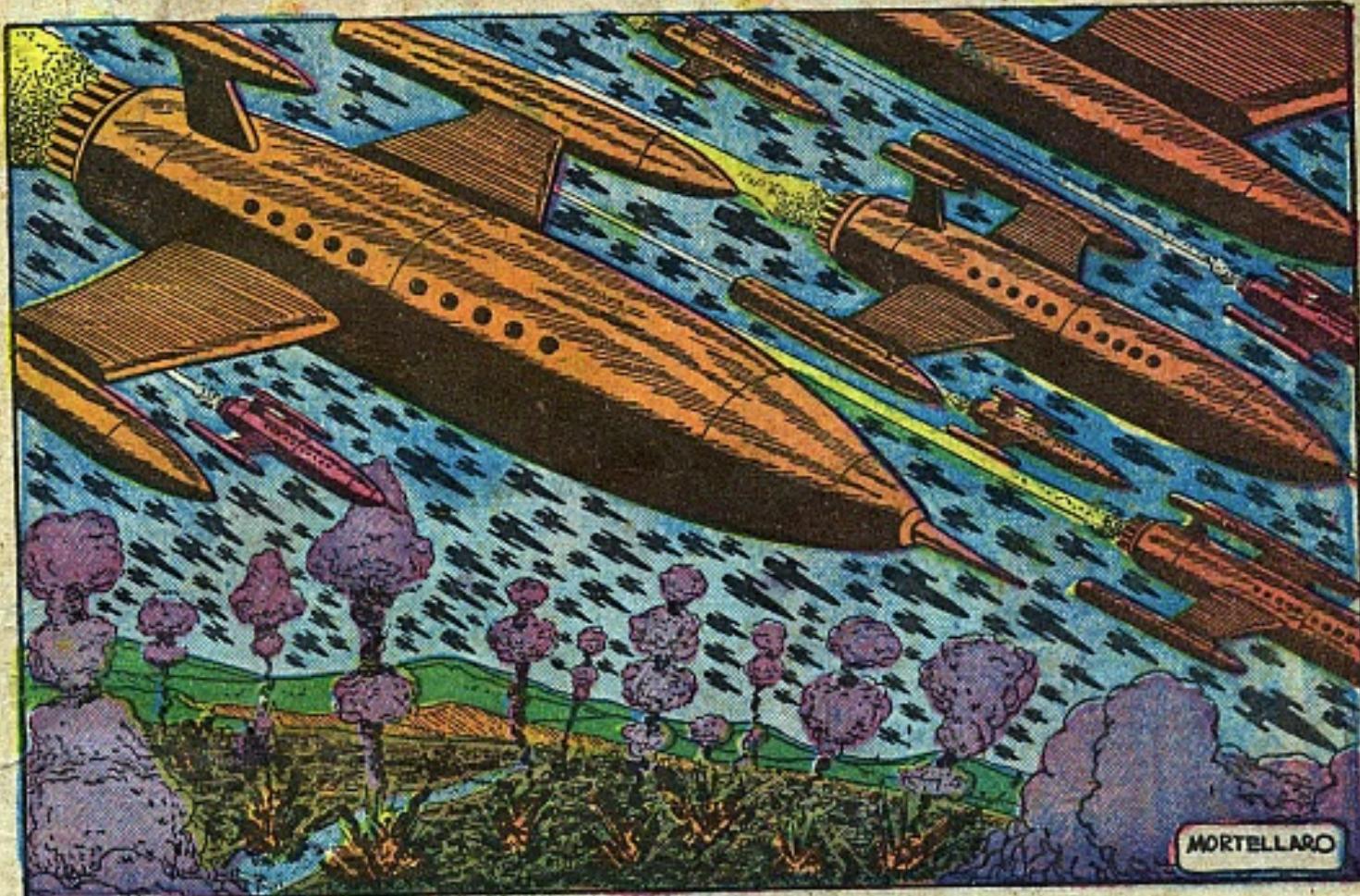
Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but Double Your Money Back unless you actually SEE, FEEL and ENJOY all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion of the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

Ward Laboratories, Inc.

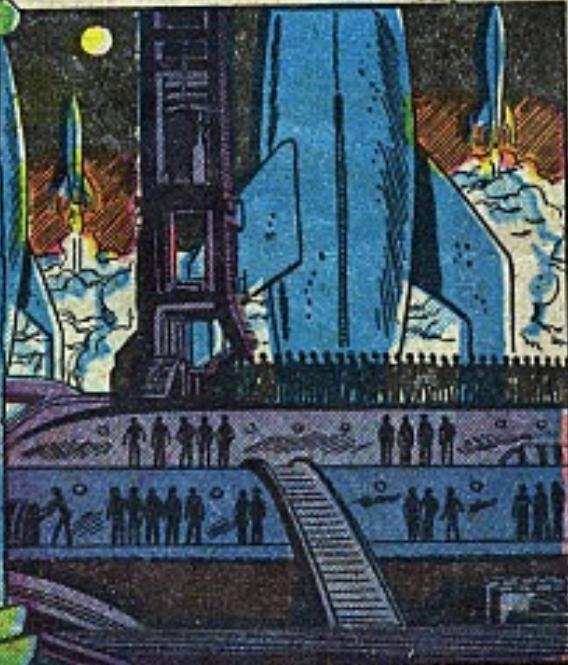
The Invasion from Outer Space only Postponed the...

DAY OF DEATH



MORTELLARO

The preparations had been started five years before. It had been a tremendous undertaking before the final showdown. Now on April 17th, 1993, the last of the Western Hemisphere was being evacuated out of the Central Spaceport, New Mexico...



WE CAN EXPECT AN ATTACK ANY TIME, ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE! WELL, WE'RE READY FOR THEM, MAJOR BARRETT! THEY WON'T GET PAST RADAR SCREEN WITHOUT WARNING US!





THINGS, HOWEVER,
ALREADY HAD
OCCURRED, OF
WHICH FREE
MEN DID NOT
EVEN DREAM!
THE ENEMY, IN
THE EAST, BEHIND
THEIR IRON
CURTAIN, WERE
NOT YET READY
FOR ATTACK, IT
IS TRUE. BUT
IT WOULD COME
SOON--SOON!
MEANWHILE, AN
ARMADA OF
BERYLLOUM-
ARMORED CRAFT
PREPARED
FOR A TEST
TAKE-OFF...



SUDDENLY...

LOOK, MY GENERAL!
THE SKY IS BLACK
WITH WESTERN SWINE
IN THEIR CRAFT!



WHERE IS OUR INTELLIGENCE?
WHY HAVE WE NOT BEEN
WARNED OF THIS? WHY DID
THE COMMISSAR OF
ELECTRONICS NOT REPORT
THIS INVASION?

THERE
WAS NO
WARNING,
MY GENERAL!

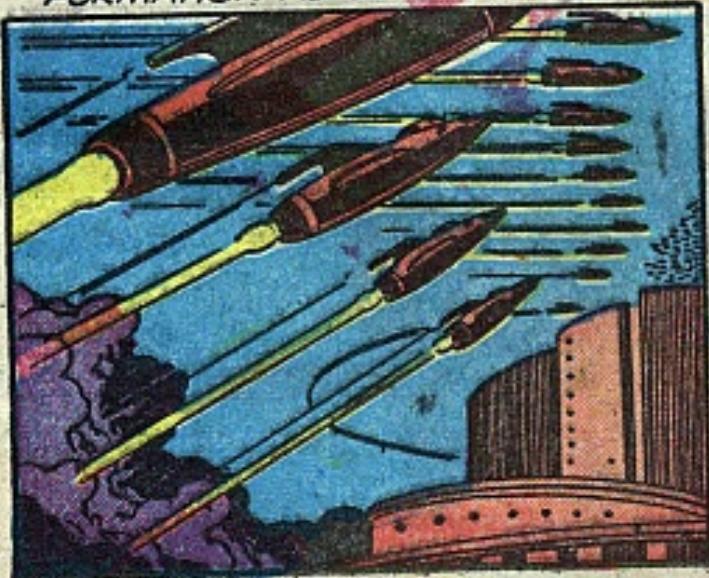


NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL
BLAST THE ANTIQUATED
DEMOCRACIES FROM
THE SKIES!

IF YOU FAIL,
YOU WILL END
YOUR DAYS IN
A MONGOLIAN
LABOR CAMP!

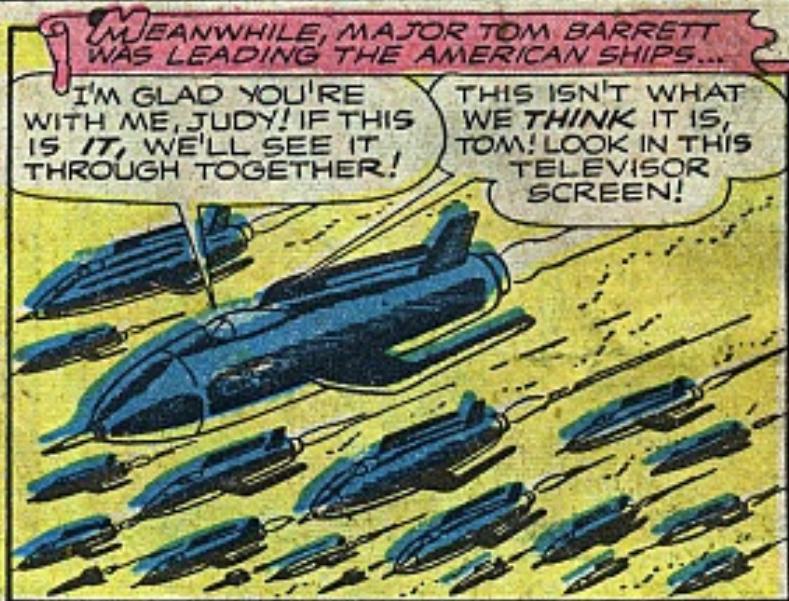
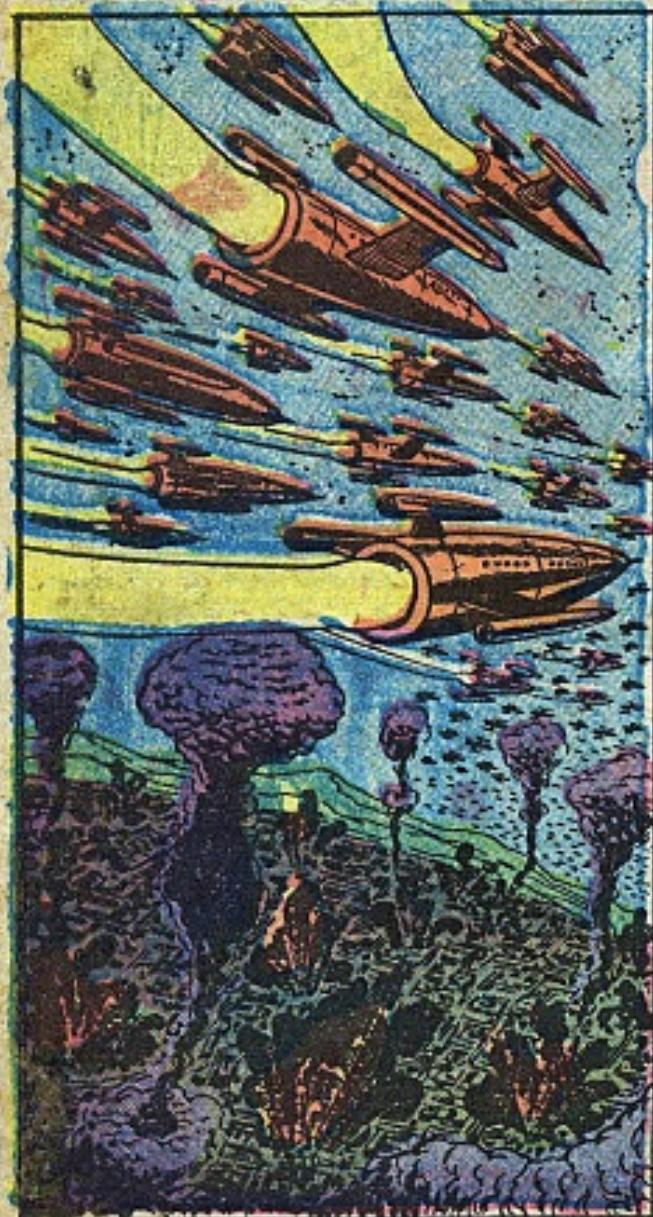


THE ROCKET SHIPS RISE FROM THE FIELD
IN VAST NUMBERS, TAKING BATTLE
FORMATION AS THEY GO UP...



FIGHTER SQUADRON COMMANDER TO GENERAL
POLOKOVICH! WE ARE ABOUT TO ENGAGE
THE ENEMY! THEY ARE NOT THE CONVENTIONAL
TYPE OF WESTERN CRAFT, BUT WE
SHALL OVERCOME THEM!





WITHIN AN HOUR THE WEST COMMAND'S ARMADA HAS SCREAMED INTO THE ETHER...

BUT THE ENEMY FROM OUTER SPACE ALREADY WAS SWARMING ABOVE THE FACE OF THE EARTH, LAYING IT WASTE...



FLYING TOWARD THE EAST AND TOWARD THE WEST, THE ARMADAS OF THE EARTH'S FREE MEN CAUGHT THE OUTER-SPACE ENEMY UNPREPARED FOR ATTACK, CATCHING THEM AS IN THE JAWS OF A GIANT VICE OF BLASTING DEATH...



MOSCOW... BUDAPEST... PEIPING...

MAJOR BARRETT TO NEW MEXICO SPACEPORT! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



THE LAST DUTY OF THE ARMY OF FREE MEN OF THE EARTH WAS TO EVACUATE ITSELF...

WITHIN FIVE YEARS WE CAN GO BACK THERE, JUDY... WHEN THE RADIATION FROM OUR GUNS HAS CLEARED!

MEANWHILE, TOM, THE CITIES WE HAVE BUILT ON THE MOON WILL KEEP US QUITE COMFORTABLY!



HUL-LOK, FIVE SUN-CYCLES IN TIME HAVE PASSED ON THIS BARREN PLANET, ZEBOB! AND EACH DAY I HAVE HATED THOSE WHO SPOILED OUR PLAN AND ESCAPED TO THE SATELLITE!

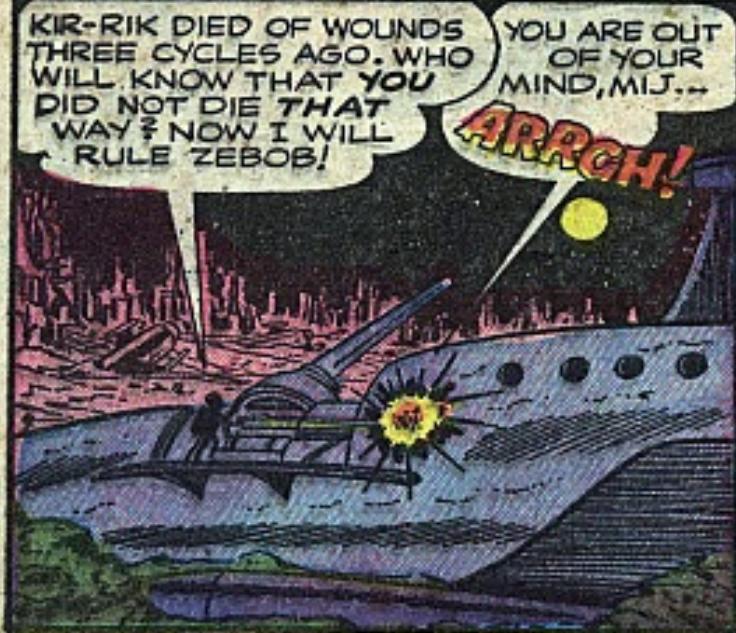
DON'T SHOOT THE GUN, MIJ-JUDOK! YOU ARE AN ENGINEER... YOU DESIGNED THE BIG GUN... BUT KIR-RIK WAS THE SCIENTIST AND HE SAID NOT TO SHOOT IT!



KIR-RIK DIED OF WOUNDS THREE CYCLES AGO. WHO WILL KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT DIE THAT WAY? NOW I WILL RULE ZEBOB!

YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR MIND, MIJ...

ARRGH!

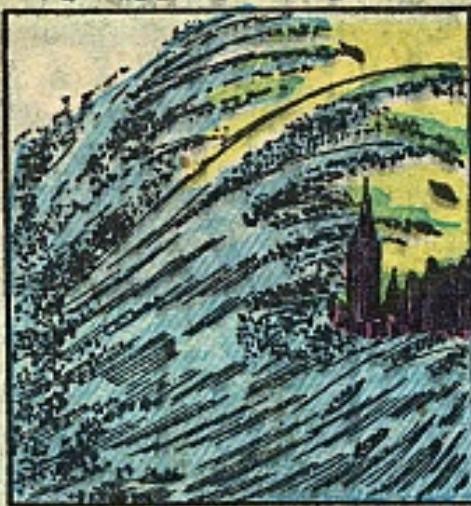


HUL-LOK IS DEAD! WE WERE SENT HERE TO COLONIZE ZEBOB! OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CONTACT US FOR A HUNDRED SUN-CYCLES! WE MUST BE SURE THOSE WHO SMASHED OUR ARMADA TO PIECES SHALL NEVER RETURN! I NOW DESTROY THE SATELLITE TO WHICH THEY HAVE FLED!



DEATH OF THE MOON!

WITH THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF THE MOON SUDDENLY GONE, THE FORCES OF NATURE SNAPPED LIKE A GIANT ELASTIC BAND AND THE OCEANS SEEMED TO RISE TO THE SKY...



THE SEAS BELCHED THEIR FURY AND SPEWED THEIR WATERS OVER THE EARTH, UNTIL THE LAND BECAME SEAS, AND THE SEAS BECAME LAND...



THERE CAME A TIME NOT LONG AFTERWARD WHEN THOUSANDS OF ROCKET SHIPS STREAKED ONCE MORE INTO THE ETHER...

YOU WERE SO RIGHT, TOM... GUESSING THEY WOULD BLOW UP THE MOON!

THAT'S WHY I CONVINCED GENERAL MACWILLIAMS TO ORDER OUR REMOVAL TO THE ZONE OF ASTEROIDS! THROUGH OUR ELECTRONIC TELESCOPE I COULD SEE THEM WORKING ON THE GUN! WELL... NOW WE'RE GOING HOME!



AND THEN...

TOM, DID YOU SAY... HOME? LOOK THERE!

I'LL BE DOGGONED! THAT CITY IS THE ATLANTIS... THE MARVELLOUS CITY LOST BENEATH THE EARTH'S OCEANS EONS AGO!



OH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL! A WHOLE NEW WORLD!

YES... AND IT WILL STILL BE HOME, JUDY! A HOME FOR YOU AND ME... TOGETHER!



THE END.

LAST CHANCE AT THIS LOW PRICE!

LIFETIME CHRONOGRAPH STOPWATCH-WINDOW CALENDAR WRIST-WATCH

PRECISION
JEWELLED

Comes with Handsome
Matching Expansion Band
AT NO EXTRA COST!
WEAR AND ENJOY
This Watch on

DATE
CHANGES
EVERY
DAY
Auto-
matically

10-DAY FREE TRIAL!

This Swiss-Precision Watch is Also a

- **TACHOMETER:** Measures speeds of moving objects.
 - **TELEMETER:** Measures distance between points.
and
 - **12 HOUR RECORDER**
- It's Also*
SHOCK-RESISTANT
and ANTI-MAGNETIC

Check These Features!

These High Price Features Usually
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- Push Buttons for "Stop"
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- Red Sweep-Second Hand.
- Unbreakable Crystal,
Triple Chrome-Plated Case
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Hands and Numerals.
- Shock-Resistant and Anti-
Magnetic.
- Handsome, Matching Ex-
pansion Wristband.

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Guarantee and Lifetime Service Guarantee included.

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Be sure to order this amazing Chronograph Stopwatch — Window Calendar Wrist-Watch WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS! Use it — and ENJOY IT—for 10 full days; if this wonderful combination timepiece isn't everything we say it is, return it for immediate refund of your purchase price. Don't take a chance on being disappointed . . . Mail FREE-TRIAL Coupon NOW!

BUYER'S GUILD, Inc., Woodbridge, N. J., Dept. 5404



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ONLY
\$8 95
plus
10%
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Tax

A sensational bargain! Don't miss it — or you may be too late! You have always wanted a watch with these expensive features. Now you can have them AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD! This accurate, precision-made Window Calendar Chronograph is ideal for the members of our Armed Services, for sportsmen, doctors, photographers, engineers, technicians, executives, etc. And as for gifts . . . it's A PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERY OCCASION, such as Graduation, Birthday, Anniversary, Holiday, etc. SEND NO MONEY! Simply mail coupon below for 10-Day FREE TRIAL. Do it now, before supply is exhausted!

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Woodbridge, New Jersey

Send _____ Chronograph Watch(es) at \$8.95 plus 10¢ Fed. Tax each. Will pay postman bargain price, plus postage. If not completely satisfied may return Watch within 10 days for immediate refund of purchase price.

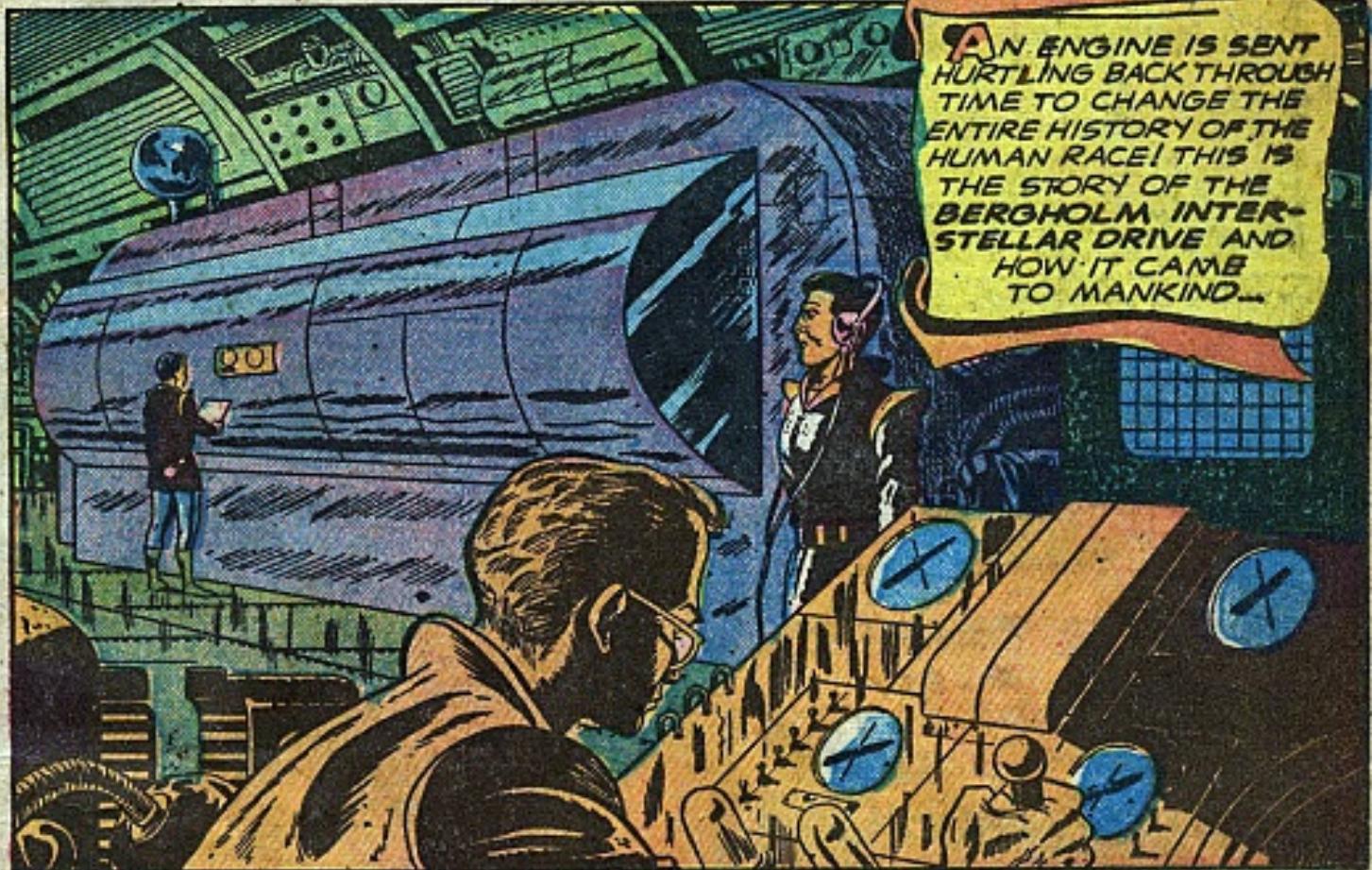
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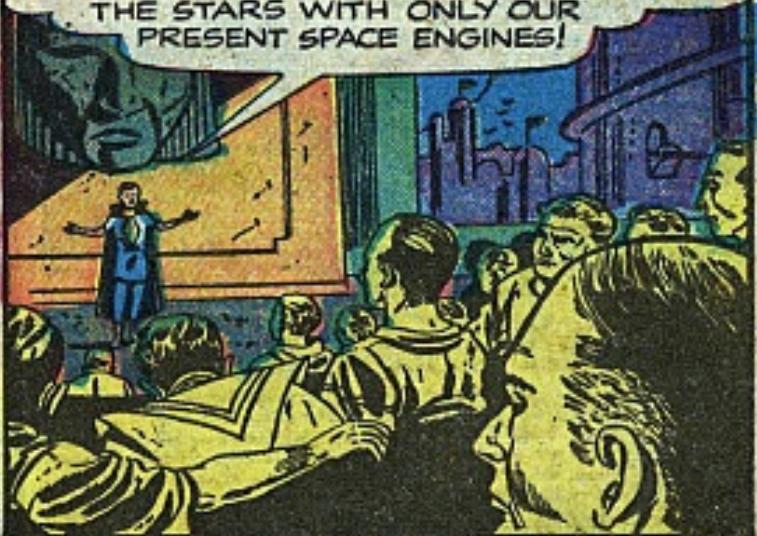
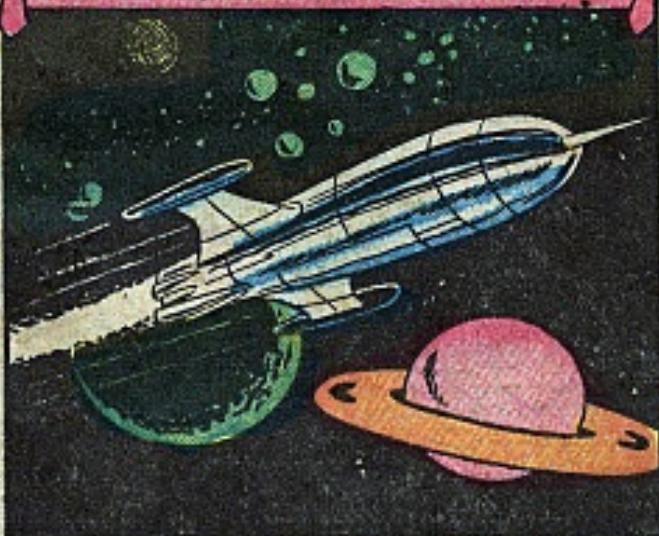
SAVE POSTAGE! Send \$9.85 (Includes Fed. Tax) and we pay postage. Some 10-Day Free Trial and Money-Back Guarantee.

THE ENGINE THAT CAME THROUGH TIME!



By the year 2733 man had established colonies and trade with the relatively nearby planets, but that was all...

...and so, gentlemen, mathematics prove, that the stars will never be reached! **NOTHING** can attain the speed of light! The distances are too great to reach the stars with only our present space engines!



BUT IN THE LABORATORIES OF THE WORLD SCIENCE INSTITUTE, A YOUNG, BRILLIANT SCIENTIST WAS HARD AT WORK. HIS NAME WHICH WOULD GO RINGING DOWN THE CORRIDORS OF HISTORY... ARTHUR BERGHOLM!



THIS ROUTINE WORK IS DRIVING ME MAD! IF ONLY I HAD THE TIME TO DEVELOP MY INTERSTELLAR ENGINE! I KNOW IT WILL WORK!



CIVILIZATION HAS BECOME STATIC... MAN HAS BECOME COMPLACENT! THERE MUST BE A WAY TO EXPAND... TO GIVE MEN HOPE ONCE MORE... TO REACH THE STARS!



LATER, AT HOME WITH HIS WIFE...

I COULD SUCCEED, HELEN, IF ONLY THEY WOULD GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME AND MONEY SO THAT I COULD DEVELOP MY IDEAS!

PERHAPS THEY WILL, DEAR!

AND AFTER SUPPER...

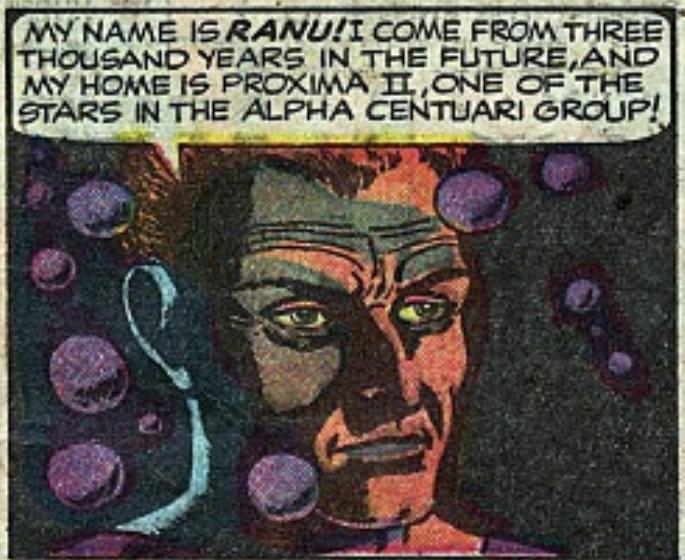


WHAT TH---! HELENE, HELENE! COME QUICKLY!



THIS IS INCREDIBLE! THIS ENGINE... IT... IT'S SOMEHOW FAMILIAR! AS IF... AS IF I'D SEEN IT BEFORE!

HOW DID IT GET HERE?



RANU BEGINS HIS EXPLANATION TO BERGHOLM: "IT IS WRITTEN IN THE HISTORIES OF OUR PAST, THAT YOU, ARTHUR BERGHOLM, WERE THE INVENTOR OF THE INTERSTELLAR SPACE DRIVE!"

"THUS BEGAN THE COLONIZATION AND CONQUEST OF THE STARS! ALL THE UNIVERSE WAS OPENED TO MANKIND, FOR THE BERGHOLM DRIVE ALLOWED SPACE SHIPS TO TRAVEL MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT!"



IN OUR CIVILIZATION OF 5070, WE DEVELOPED TIME-TRAVEL! TO OUR AMAZEMENT WE FOUND THAT TIME HAS MANY POSSIBLE PATHS! IN ONE OF THESE PATHS YOU FAILED TO INVENT YOUR ENGINE... AND WE OF 5070 DID NOT EXIST!

"WE FOUND THAT THE PLANET EARTH WAS IN A TERRIBLE WAR WITH THE OTHER PLANETS. YOU, ARTHUR BERGHELM, WERE KILLED BEFORE YOU COULD BUILD THE INTERSTELLAR DRIVE!"



THEREFORE, I HAVE COME FROM THE FUTURE, BRINGING THIS ENGINE WHICH YOU WOULD HAVE INVENTED! THIS WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE WAR IS PREVENTED AND THAT WE OF THE FUTURE, AS WE KNOW IT, WILL EXIST!

INCREDIBLE!



LATER...

LET US TAKE A QUICK LOOK AROUND YOUR CITY BEFORE YOU PRESENT THE ENGINE TO THE ASSEMBLED SCIENTISTS!



LOOK OUT, RANU!

HAVE NO FEAR...



IT WAS ALSO WRITTEN IN HISTORY THAT YOU NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH IN AN ATOM EXPLOSION! I HAD A FORCE-FIELD AROUND BOTH OF US!

GOOD LORD!

NOW YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR ENGINE TO THE WORLD... AND I MUST RETURN TO THE FUTURE FROM WHICH I CAME!



GOODBYE, RANU... I WILL DO AS YOU SAY! THERE SHALL BE NO WAR AND MEN WILL REACH THE STARS!



A FEW HOURS LATER AT AN ASSEMBLY OF THE SCIENTISTS...

...AND SO, THIS ENGINE WILL DRIVE A SPACE SHIP FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT! NO LONGER ARE WE BOUND BY TIME TO THE PLANETS!

IMPOSSIBLE!

WE DEMAND PROOF!



SO...

IT'LL NEVER WORK!

NOTHING CAN GO FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT!



I AM TAKING ALL OF YOU WITH ME! IF THE ENGINE WORKS, AND I KNOW IT WILL... I WANTED A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF SCIENTISTS TO BE WITNESSES!



ONCE IN SPACE, BERGHEM MAKES READY TO TURN ON THE INTERSTELLAR DRIVE...



THIS IS IT... ARE YOU READY?

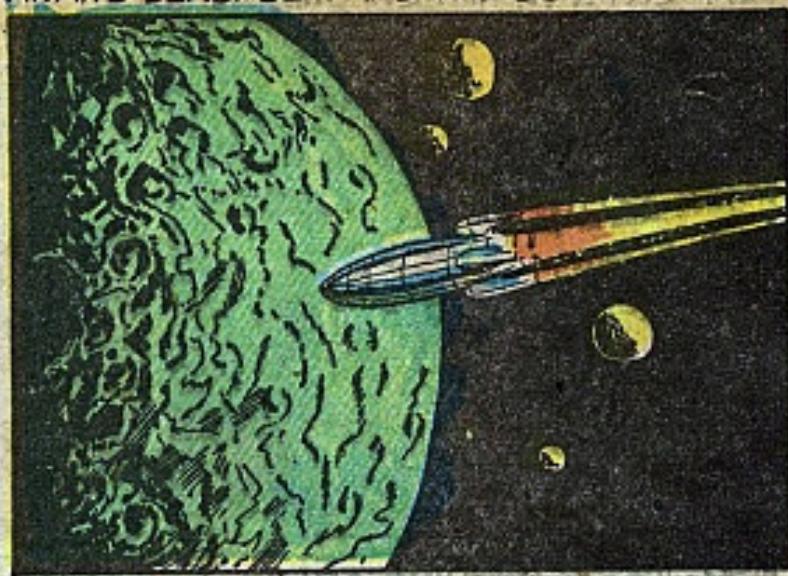
WE ARE READY!



AND TWO DAYS LATER...

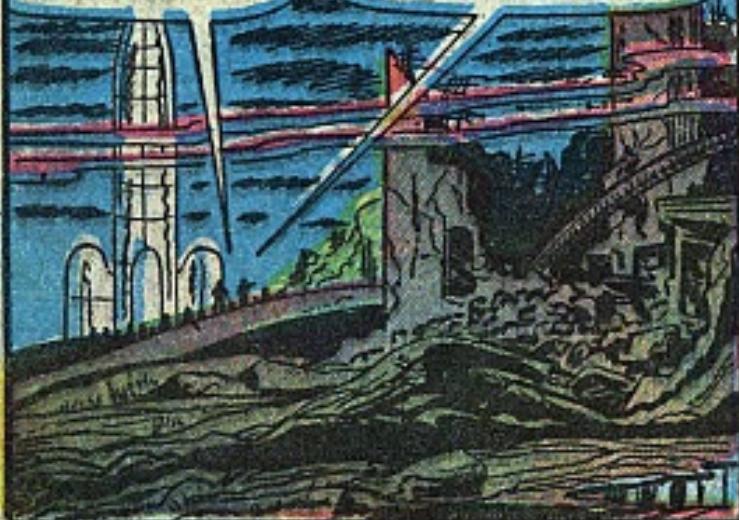
ALPHA CENTAURI, INCREDIBLE! FELLOW SCIENTISTS! NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME? SNAP SOME PICTURES FOR PROOF AND LET'S GET BACK TO EARTH!

BUT AS THE SHIP FLASHES BACK TO EARTH AT INTERSTELLAR SPEED, A TERRIBLE SURPRISE AWAITS BERGHOLM AND THE SCIENTISTS...



EARTH IS A GRAVEYARD OF WRECKAGE!

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IN SO SHORT A TIME?



SHORT A TIME! FOUR HUNDRED YEARS! GOOD LORD!



I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! LET ME DO A LITTLE FIGURING...



THE LORENZ-FITZGERALD EQUATIONS... THAT MUST BE IT! THE ONLY ANSWER-- WHAT IS IT? HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN ALL THIS DESOLATION... THE FOUR HUNDRED YEAR TIME JUMP?



PART OF THE MATH IS TOO DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, BUT THE IDEA IS THIS...AS MASS APPROACHES INFINITY, TIME APPROACHES ZERO...AND OUR SHIP WAS GOING FOUR TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT!

THEN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS HAVE PASSED ON EARTH!

YES, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS ON EARTH... AND ONLY FOUR DAYS OF YOUR TIME ELAPSED!

RANU... IT'S YOU!



YES! WE OF THE FUTURE KNEW OF THIS, AND WE ALSO KNEW THAT WE HAD TO TRICK YOU INTO MAKING THIS TRIP! BECAUSE IF YOU HAD KNOWN OF THOSE EQUATIONS, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE STARS!

YOU SCOUNDREL!



DO NOT JUDGE ME HARSHLY, ARTHUR BERGHOLM! ALL THE PLANETS, INCLUDING EARTH, ARE IN RUINS! THERE IS SOME LIFE, YES, BUT MANKIND WILL HAVE TO BUILD AGAIN! YOU ARE KNOWN IN OUR HISTORY AS THE FATHER OF OUR RACE ON ALPHA CENTUARI!



GOODBYE, ARTHUR BERGHOLM...THE FUTURE OF MANKIND RESTS WITH YOU!



SO...

SOME DAY WE'LL RETURN, BUT NOW OUR FUTURE LIES HERE, HELENE...ON ALPHA CENTUARI! WE'LL BUILD A NEW CIVILIZATION, WITH NO WARS, NO DISEASE... ONLY HAPPINESS FOR ALL!



THE MASQUERADE



George was pleading with Alice, "Why can't you go? I was there last year and it was swell! Most everybody we know is going. It's the best masquerade ball of the year!"

Alice smiled. "Oh, I'd just love to go with you, George, but you know my father. I'll have to ask him first. And you know my physical condition, my heart . . ." It was true, for Alice had a frail, faulty heart. Since early childhood she'd had to forfeit most of the things her girl friends had done . . . swimming, tennis, hikes, all these were denied her. Nothing serious to worry about—all the doctors assured her of that—but still she had to be careful, very careful.

He nodded. "Well, see what he says and let me know. I don't think it will be too much of a strain on you. I've got my costume all ready, and I'd rather take you than any person I know."

"Thank you, George, you're a sweet old dear!"

When George had gone, Alice went into the library to talk the situation over with her father. She had never been to a masquerade ball before, and she was thrilled about the whole affair. It was quite a task, convincing her father that it would be all right, that nothing would happen to her. Fathers can be so backwards and old-maidish at times.

"Father," she had said, "why can't I go? Everybody else is going. You're just an old prude!"

He smiled, flicking an ash from his cigar. "All right, Alice, I'll give in to you this time. But remember, it was a very wise man who once said, 'all is not gold that glitters.' Remember that. Be careful. Try not to tax yourself physically. All your life your mother and I have done our best to protect you from harm and danger, but the time is coming when I'll no longer be able to guard you. You may go to the masquerade dance."

Alice was deliriously happy. The next afternoon she shopped for three hours in order to get the correct, the perfect costume for herself. In a mad rush, she visited one department store after another, trying on dozens of dresses until finally she had exactly what she wanted. She finally decided on an angel costume, all pink and glittery, and it even had a trick halo that floated mysteriously above her head. It would be the best, the most unusual costume at the dance, she decided with a quick toss of her pretty blonde curls.

The night of the ball George came for her promptly at eight. Dear George! Dear, punctual, easy-going, steady-as-a-rock George. Always around, polite, chivalrous, dependable George. But oh, so dull, Alice thought. So dreadfully dull! Visions of knights in shining armor, riding white steeds to battle, haunted Alice's dreams, and all George ever did was tarnish the silvery glow of their armor. But he was an escort to the dance, and Alice could not afford to be choosy.

At the dance, she was easily the sensation of the evening. Though she was masked everyone could see how beautiful she was, how graceful, how supple, how marvelously she floated over the floor in the arms of the many who danced with her . . .

There were many costumes and varied; there were cave-men and devils, funny faces and sad, demons and saints, and she danced with them all, she whisked from one straining arm to the next; happy, breathless, floating on the silent wings of her greatest night of glory. During these moments she forgot about her weak heart, her father's warning to her.

Then suddenly a man cut in, swept her into his arms, a man she had not danced with before. Alice gasped in surprise. For a moment as he held her she felt an icy qualm sweep over her and suddenly she was completely at ease. From whence had he come? She was sure she had noticed every costume at the ball. He must have arrived

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Box 463, Midtown Station, New York 18, N. Y.

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A picture of a dancing couple shows you each step and movement; easy follow-the-footprint drawings for every step of each complete dance. Simple-to-read instructions. All together, this new speed-method makes it easy and quick to learn to dance.



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The good dancers have the best times . . . to expert dancing. And, DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK if it isn't everything we say it to own this new, complete, Short-Cut Course . . . The bonus book of Square Dances is yours.

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SAVE MONEY: Send payment now, and we pay the extra postage. No A.P.O., F.P.O., or Foreign C.O.D.s.

late, she decided with a mental shrug. No matter. He was dressed plainly, all in grey, grey gloves, grey suit and tie. But his face was masked. It was this also, that had caused Alice to gasp. Because of all the masked men in the room, his was surely the most original, the most baffling, the cleverest and most arresting.

His face seemed blank. . . .

Alice snuggled into his arms as the music swept dreamily on and on, and for the first time during the dance, no one cut in on her. She did not notice. And on the crowded floor they were not even bumped by other swaying couples. If they had been a million miles away from earth, floating in empty space, they could have been no more alone. And far back in Alice's mind a haunting doubt began to gnaw its way to her consciousness. But the strength of his arms drove away all doubts, and even the icy coldness of his hand upon the small of her back did not jar her from her dreams.

"Who are you?" she murmured into his ear.

"No matter," his voice came back. "You will know before the night is ended. Soon we unmask, at the stroke of twelve, and you shall see."

Alice moved her head back and gazed at his face. The blankness under the hat seemed suddenly aswirl with movement and then was still. Whoever he was, someone had done a simply marvelous job of make-up. The greyness seemed to match perfectly with the rest of his costume.

The music stopped and the man guided her to the balcony. For a brief moment she thought of George, dear, dull, dependable George, and she felt a strange urge to call out for him, as though suddenly she needed him, needed him worse than ever before in all her life; but the thought faded away like fog struck by the slanting rays of the rising sun. And the words of her father suddenly echoed in her memory . . . "all is not gold that glitters . . . be careful . . ." And then she was calm and peaceful and they were on the open balcony and the night enveloped them with softness, and ageless, glittering stars shone calmly down.

They stood there, not speaking, breath-

ing in the silent humid fragrance of the summer night. Then a pale rind of moon waned ghostlike and fragile, riding low on the edge of the horizon.

Alice sighed. This was so romantic, just what she had always dreamed would happen to her. And at twelve she would see his face. She knew, she was just positive he had light blue eyes and strong, even, white teeth under that funny mask he wore. And his hair would be dark and curly and glistening.

"Who are you?" she asked again. She was curious now, with a strange expectancy.

His voice sounded tired as he answered, "You shall know at twelve. You have danced dreadfully long and strenuous tonight, my Alice, but you shall know soon. Many, many years have led to this moment, but we were destined to meet tonight."

Suddenly behind them, in the great lighted hall, music blared and the sound of laughter could be heard. Alice turned to him, removing her mask, tilting her face skyward. She was very beautiful.

"It is twelve," she said tremulously, "they are unmasking inside. Now I must know and see your face."

He seemed reluctant and swiftly she moved her hand upward to remove his mask.

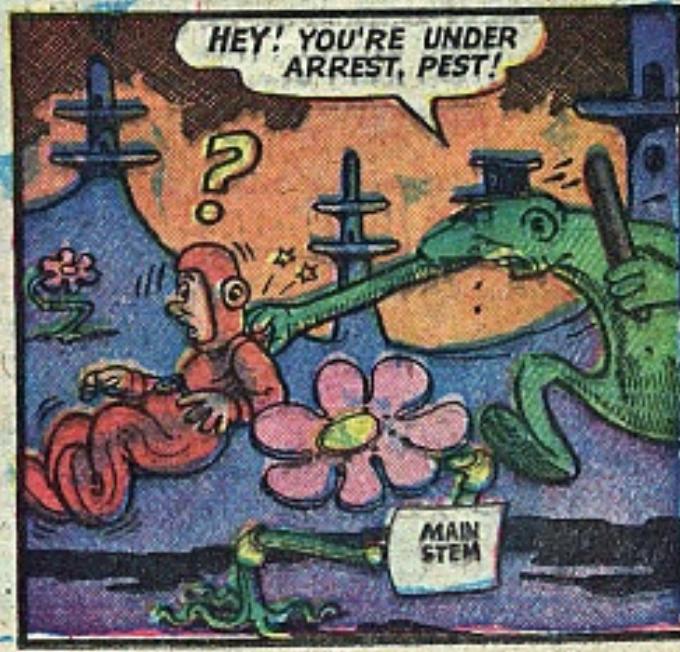
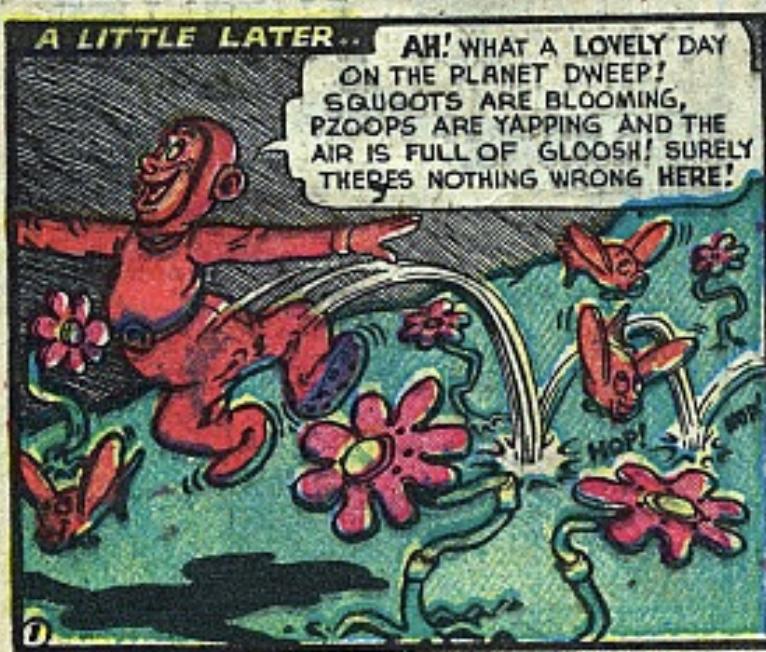
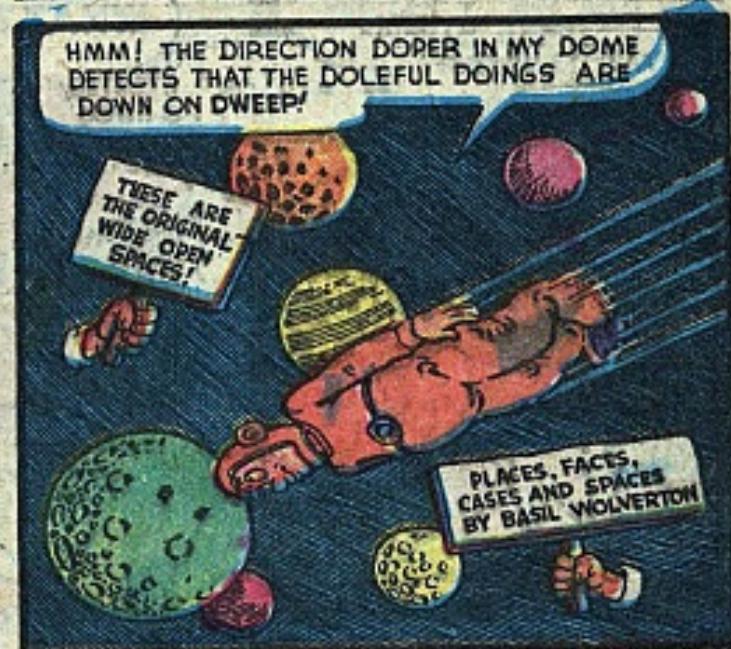
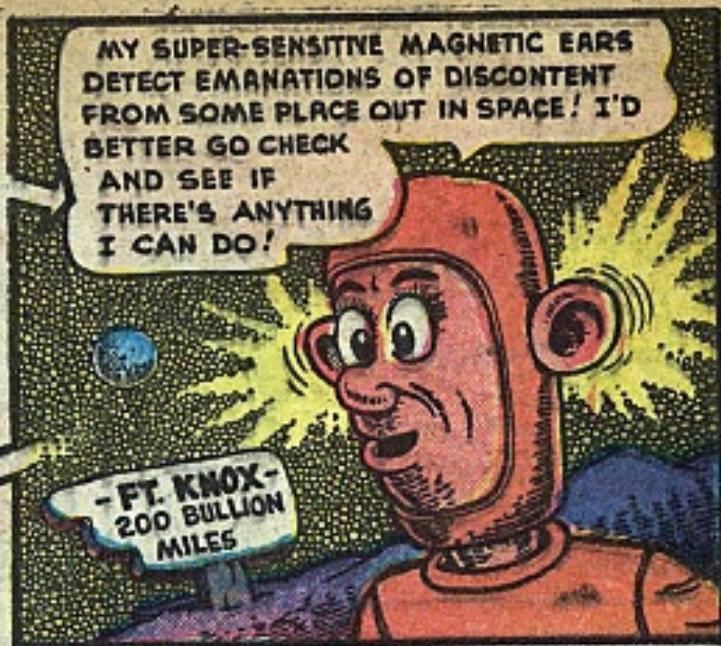
She screamed then, a long drawn-out, thin screeching wail of fright. The sound a person would make if they were frightened to death.

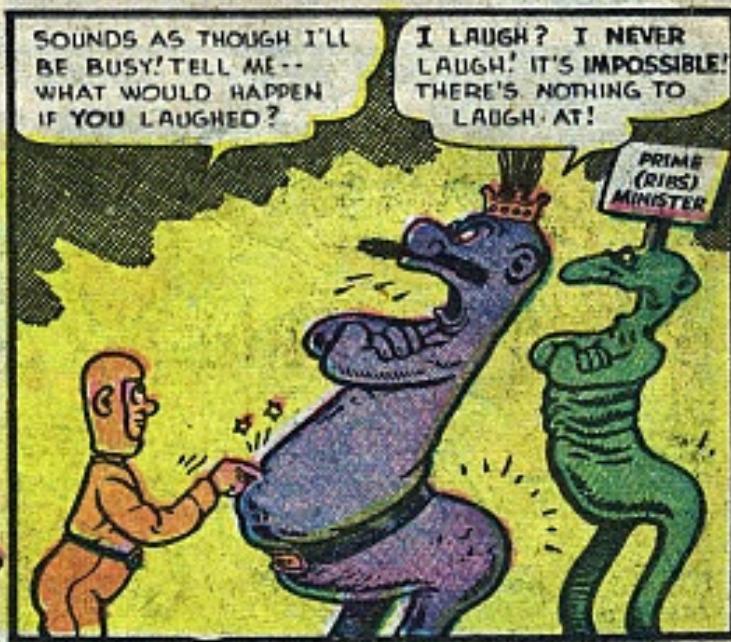
And Alice sank limply and gracefully to the floor of the balcony.

They found no one beside her. And later, the doctor said she died of heart failure. "Too much excitement for her weak heart. She danced too much." He shrugged his fat shoulders in pity and mopped his perspiring brow. "Such a beautiful girl, too. Her first dance and she was having such a wonderful time. . . ."

But what they did not know and the thing they could never know was this. When Alice reached to unmask the man in grey, she discovered, poor Alice did, that he was not wearing a mask at all, and the blank grey space between his shoulders and under his hat—the space all aswirl with greyness and movement was . . . his face!

JUMPIN' JUPITER









THE END

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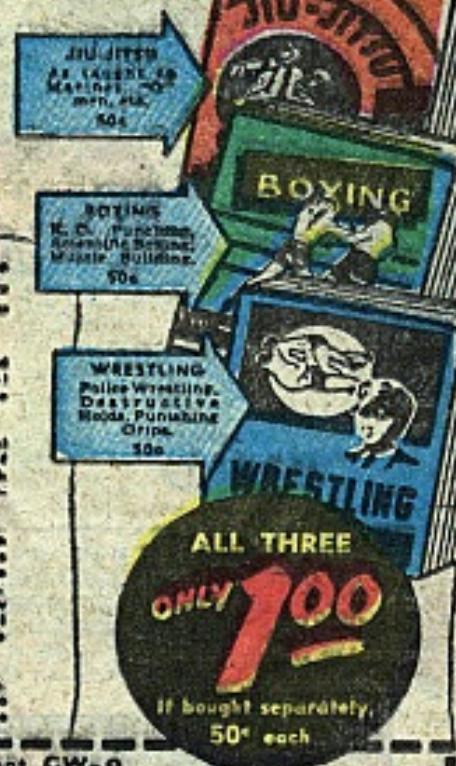
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IN THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE-TRAVEL, AMONG THE BILLIONS OF HEAVENLY BODIES, A MERE MAN IS BUT A...

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"THE X-3 WAS AN OUT-MODED CRATE OF THE OLDER VACUUMAL PROJECTALS. OUR GETAWAY SPEED WAS JUST UNDER THIRTY-THOUSAND MILES PER SECOND. IT WAS A ROUTINE FREIGHT HAUL, EARTH TO MOON TO MERCURY..."

"I WOULDN'T HAVE RISKED THE FLIGHT AS METEOR-OLOGIST WITH ANY OTHER PILOT THAN BILL CROWTHER. HE WAS THE BEST! I'LL SAY THAT MUCH FOR HIM. I REMEMBER IT WAS JUNE 14, 3052, EARTH DATE. I REMEMBER IT BECAUSE..."

YOU KNOW, SCOTTY, THIS WAS TO BE MY WEDDING DAY!

GOSH, I'M SORRY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT, BILL!

ZOOM!

"CROWTHER TOOK A RING FROM HIS POCKET. I HAD NEVER SEEN ONE TO MATCH IT! GENUINE LUSTER-STONE, SET IN ANCIENT PLATINUM!"



"BILL SAID NO MORE ABOUT VENUS. WE DELIVERED THE CARGO TO THE MOON GOVERNMENT, AND CHECKED OFF THE STUFF AT THE SPACEWAYS DEPOT. NATIVES THERE DID THE UNLOADING..."

"WE WERE ABOUT FOUR DAYS OFF THE MOON AND DRIFTING LAZILY FOR THE TIME-BEING IN THE OUTER FRINGES OF THE VENUS GRAVITATIONAL CURRENT...ABOUT ONE-THIRD THE WAY TOWARD MERCURY, WHEN..."



BILL! WHAT'S WRONG? THIS CRATE IS... GOING CRAZY!

SOMETHING IS FOULLED UP WITH THE VACUUM EQUALIZER! I'LL SWITCH TO ROCKET PROPULSION!



"I SAW HOW USELESS MY FEARS WERE. BILL FOUND A PLANETOID ABOUT TEN MILES IN DIAMETER AND GRADUALLY WE SAT DOWN ON ITS BARREN SURFACE..."



WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT, SCOTTY? I'LL DO A QUICK WELDING JOB AND WE'LL FEEL BETTER IF I KNEW YOU COULD MAKE THE REPAIRS!



SCOTTY! LOOK AT THE GROUND! IT'S PURE PITCHBLEND! GET THE GEIGER COUNTER... IT'S GOT A PLENTY HIGH CONTENT OF URANIUM, TOO! BUT WITH THE SYNTHETIC STUFF MADE TODAY, THIS ORE IS WORTHLESS!



"HOW'S IT COMING? SURE! BUT WE BILL? ARE YOU BETTER MAKE GOING TO BE ABLE TO AT VENUS AND REPAIR IT?"



"I DIDN'T THINK OF IT AT THE TIME, BUT EVENTUALLY IT DAWNED ON ME..."

"THE TEMPERATURE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNBEARABLE, BUT FOR OUR REFRIGERATED SUITS! WE HAD BROUGHT THEM WITH US FOR USE ON MERCURY, BUT BY ADJUSTING THE THERMOSTATIC CONTROLS, THEY WORKED FINE ON VENUS. NEVERTHELESS, I WAS STILL BOILING..."

BILL, YOU'RE A LIAR! NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH THE X-3! IT WAS ALL A STALL TO GET HERE TO VENUS AND THAT DAME!

SHE'S NO DAME, SCOTTY! SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF A NATIVE KING! WAIT'LL YOU SEE HER!



IF I HAD KNOWN YOU WERE GOING TO PULL THIS GAG! HOW DID YOU EVER GET HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I PILOTED DR. JOHANSEN'S EXPEDITION FROM EARTH UNIVERSITY, REMEMBER? UNFORTUNATELY, JOHANSEN KNEW I WAS ENGAGED! ER, LOOK! THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS TURNING OUT!



"BUT SOME OF MY ANGER SUBSIDED WHEN I SAW OUR RECEPTION! I WAS INTRIGUED AND DELIGHTED BY THE FRIENDLINESS AND BEAUTY OF THESE NATIVES DEEP OF THE VENUSIAN JUNGLES. THE MEETING BETWEEN BILL CROWTHER AND THE PRINCESS STARTLED ME, HOWEVER..."



"INDEED, I COULD SEE PLAINLY THAT THINGS HAD GONE ON DURING THE EXPEDITION OF WHICH DR. JOHANSEN HAD HAD NO KNOWLEDGE!"



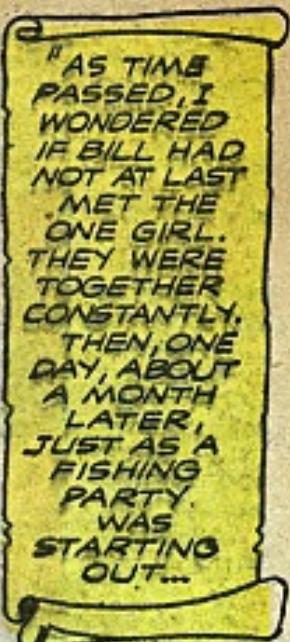
KING TNU, AND PRINCESS YYE! AND THIS IS SCOTTY!

SCOT-TY, SCOT-TY! WELCOME, SCOT-TY!



"THE WELCOMING FEAST WAS ONE TO REMEMBER! EVERY DELICIOUS BITE OF EXOTIC FOOD WAS AN EXPERIENCE! I WAS BEGINNING TO SEE BILL'S POINT IN WANTING TO MAKE THIS SOJURN..."

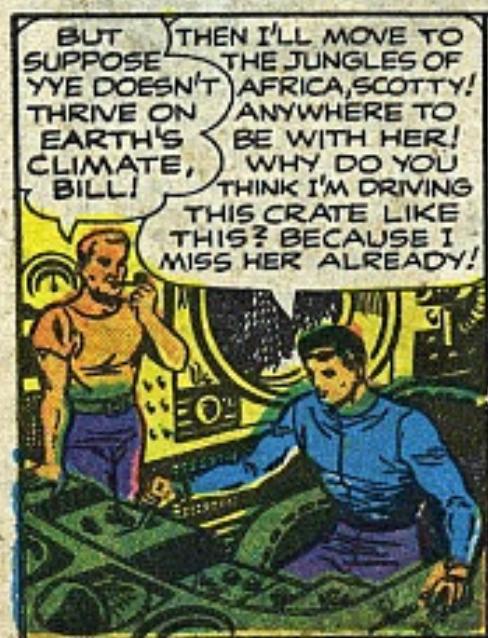




"I THOUGHT IT PECULIAR THAT BILL HAD MADE THE SUDDEN DECISION TO DEPART BUT I ACCEPTED THE SITUATION WILLINGLY ENOUGH. I WAS BEGINNING TO ENJOY LIFE ON VENUS! AS I SAT IN THE CANOE..."



"BILL CROWTHER AND KING TNU RETURNED WITHIN AN EARTH WEEK. THERE WAS GREAT CELEBRATING THEREAFTER. FOR THE NEXT DAY BILL AND YYE WERE MARRIED. THEN AT LAST..."





"I COULD APPRECIATE BILL'S ANXIETY. I TOOK HOLD OF THE CONTROLS AND SET THE SHIP ON COURSE, BUT I CUT HER SPEED. ABOUT TWO MINUTES LATER..."



"I GUessed THE TROUBLE AT ONCE! YYE HAD TO HAVE A SUPER-MOIST CLIMATE TO SURVIVE. SHE WAS LIKE A FISH TAKEN FROM THE WATER..."

WAIT HERE, HONEY! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE CABIN YET! I'LL TALK WITH BILL...

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO, BILL! TAKE HER BACK TO VENUS! YOU CAN LIVE THERE... IT ISN'T BAD!

ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE CUSTOM THERE, DID YOU? YOU BUY A WIFE FROM HER FATHER! THAT'S WHAT I DID!

COMING BACK FROM MERCURY, I TOOK TNU TO THAT PLANETOID WE STOPPED AT. I GAVE THAT PLANETOID TO TNU TO PAY FOR YYE! I TOLD HIM IT WAS MINE, AND WAS WORTH MILLIONS, THAT ANY GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE HIM A FLEET OF SPACESHIPS FOR IT!



YOU'RE A LOUSE, BILL! BUT YOU'RE GOING BACK ANYWAY! YOU'RE TAKING HER BACK!

LOOK, SCOTTY... I MARRIED A BEAUTIFUL DAME! SUPPOSE YYE NEVER CHANGES FROM THE OLD HAG SHE IS NOW! AND I'M IN NO MOOD TO BE NEAR HER OLD MAN WHEN HE FINDS OUT ABOUT... THAT PLANETOID... UH... SAY... YOU'RE SERIOUS!

YOU GET THE IDEA!

OKAY, I WON'T ARGUE! TAKE THE CONTROLS, AND I'LL TELL HER! MAYBE I CAN STAND TALKING TO HER... IF HER FACE IS COVERED UP! UGH! WHAT A MESS!



"I FELT A GRIM SATISFACTION AS BILL WALKED TOWARD YYE'S CABIN. I TURNED MY HEAD TO WATCH HIM ENTER, THEN I REALIZED..."



"I SET THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS. THERE WAS ONLY MY UTILITY KNIFE AVAILABLE. I HAD NO TIME TO GET MY GUN!"

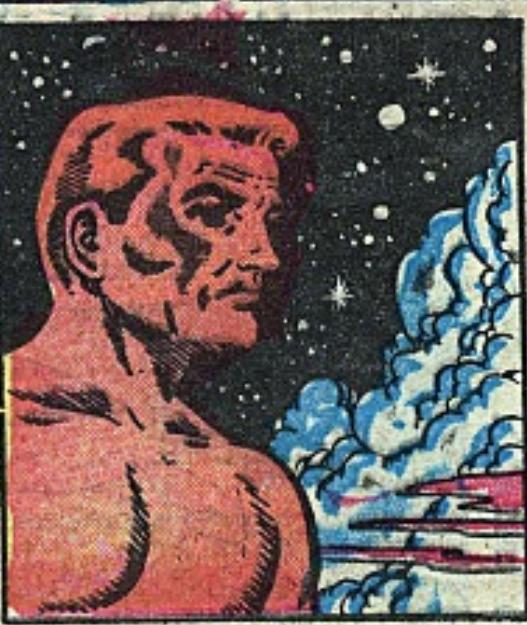


"I STOOD FROZEN, HYPNOTIZED! FOR I HAD TURNED TO ROCKET PROPULSION, AND WAS WATCHING BILL'S BODY HURTLING THROUGH SPACE AS IT SHOT OUT OF THE ROCKET EXHAUST... I COULD FEEL YYE TREMBLING... OR WAS I TREMBLING?"



"**I**

EVENTUALLY BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO VENUS'S CLIMATE. BUT SOMETIMES, WHEN A WIND BLOWS AWAY THE CLOUDBANDS, I WATCH THE PLANETS IN THE SKY. THE EARTH AND ITS MOON... I'LL NEVER GO THERE AGAIN... BUT THEN...



"WHEN I SEE YYE, NOW BEAUTIFUL BACK IN HER NATIVE HABITAT, AND OUR LITTLE DAUGHTER, I WANT NOTHING ELSE FROM LIFE... NOT EVER!"



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Back View



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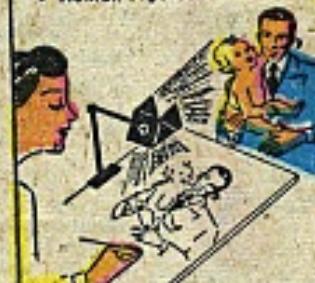
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