

"I CHALLENGED... GROOT! THE MONSTER FROM PLANET X!"

POOH--MONIE CAN
WITHSTAND THE MIGHTY
GROOT! YOU ARE DOOMED!
YOU AND YOUR TOWN
SHALL PERISH!

EWWWW, DON'T
BURN ME,
MONSTER;
WE'LL DESTROY
YOU!

I'M NOT AFRAID
GROOT -- YOU'LL
NEVER TAKE
OUR TOWN; I'LL
FIND SOME WAY
TO STOP YOU!

HOW CAN
A HUMAN BEING
CONQUER THE
UNCONQUERABLE
?



IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT... ALICE AND I WERE RETURNING HOME FROM A PARTY AND SHE WAS ON HER USUAL SUBJECT...



HONESTLY, THAT GEORGE CARTER IS A WONDERFUL GUY! HE'S SO MANLY-- SO RUGGED! -- IF ONLY YOU WERE MORE LIKE THAT, LESLIE!



SUDDENLY...
SCREECH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DID YOU STOP?

LOOK! OVER THERE!



GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT IS THAT THING?

I DON'T KNOW-- SOME KIND OF LUMINOUS OBJECT!



IT'S COMING DOWN IN THE FOREST! LET'S GO SEE WHAT IT IS!

OH, MR. LESLIE... IT'S LATE AND I'M MUCH TOO TIRED! LET'S GO ON HOME!

SO WE WENT HOME... I'M A BIOLOGIST AND THE NEXT FEW DAYS I WAS TOO BUSY WITH MY WORK TO GO TO THE FOREST TO EXAMINE THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECT... BUT THEN, ALICE CAME INTO MY LAB...

LESLIE, THE MOST PECULIAR THING HAS HAPPENED--I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!



WHAT'S THAT?

TWO OF OUR TREES ARE MISSING!!

MISSING??

YES, AND I SPOKE WITH CLAIRE, AND SHE TELLS ME THEIR WOODEN PRANCE IS GONE, ALSO!

MUST BE SOMEONE'S POOR IDEA OF A PRANK! THE STUFF WILL PROBABLY TURN UP SOMEWHERE SOON!



BUT EVEN AS I SAID THAT, A Sudden thought came to me... A disturbing thought that remained with me until that evening when I told Alice...

HONEY, I'M GOING TO DRIVE OVER TO THE FOREST-- I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OBJECT THAT LANDED THERE THE OTHER NIGHT!

ALL RIGHT, BUT IT WOULD DO YOU MORE GOOD TO WALK THERE! MIGHT TOUSEN YOU UP A LITTLE, HARDEN YOUR MUSCLES!



Alice's remarks about what she considered my softness, usually bothered me... but this night my mind was elsewhere...

I've a strange hunch there's some connection between that mysterious object and the stuff that's disappeared!

I parked my car on the edge of the forest and made my way on foot in the direction of an eerie glow...

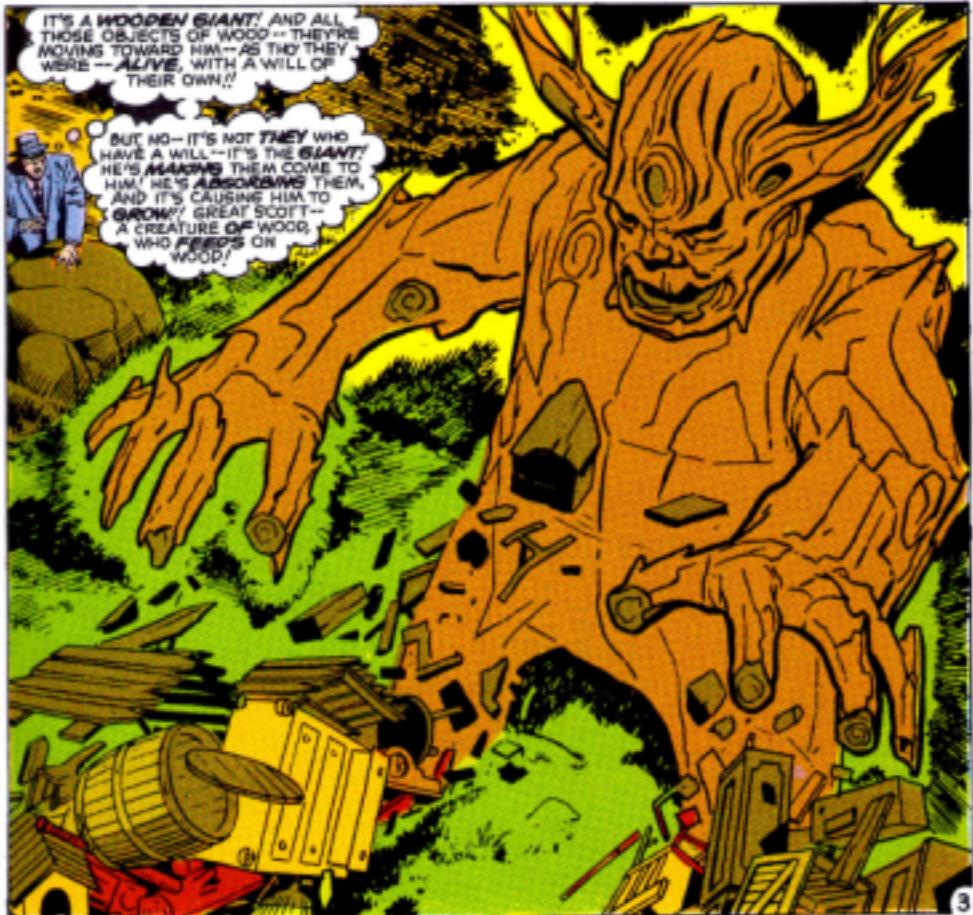


I kept walking until finally I was close enough to see the object itself... and then my gads fell upon-- the UNBELIEVABLE--THE INDESCRIBABLE!!



IT'S A WOODYEN GIANT! AND ALL THOSE OBJECTS OF WOOD-- THEY'RE MOVING TOWARD HIM-- AS THO' THEY WERE-- ALIVE, WITH A WILL OF THEIR OWN!!

BUT NO-- IT'S NOT THEY WHO HAVE A WILL-- IT'S THE GIANT! HE'S MAKING THEM COME TO HIM. HE'S ABUSING THEM, AND IT'S CAUSING HIM TO GROW-- GREAT SCOTT-- A CREATURE OF WOOD, WHO FEEDS ON WOOD!



I'D BETTER GET TO TOWN FAST!
I'VE GOT TO WARN THE SHERIFF/
THIS WOOD-GIANT COULD MENACE
US ALL!!



SOME FRANTIC MINUTES LATER, I WAS IN TOWN,
TRYING TO CONVINCE THE SHERIFF I WASN'T MAD...

I TELL YOU I SAW IT
WITH MY OWN EYES! IT
WAS DEVOURING
ALL KINDS OF
WOODEN OBJECTS!

SHERIFF? THERE'S
A GREAT GLOWING
MONSTER -- IT MUST BE
AT LEAST FIFTY FEET
TALL -- AND IT'S
HEADING
TOWARD
TOWN!



THAT DID IT! THE
SHERIFF
AND
EVERYONE
ELSE
WAS NOW
CONVINCED
-- AND THEY
WENT INTO
ACTION...

REMEMBER, DON'T FIRE
UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT
THIS THING IS UP TO!

RIGHT!



A BARRICADE WAS SET UP ON THE EDGE OF TOWN,
AND WE ALL WAITED TENSELY -- FEARFULLY ... WE
WATCHED THE APPROACH OF THE AWESOME WOOD-
CREATURE...

LOOK AT THE WAY
THAT MONSTER SHINES!
IT -- IT HURTS YOUR EYES
TO LOOK AT IT!!

GET READY, MEN...
THAT WALKING
NIGHTMARE LOOKS
LIKE IT MEANS
BUSINESS!



CLOSER AND CLOSER IT CAME ... UNTIL IT WAS JUST IN
FRONT OF OUR BARRICADE -- THEN IT STOPPED -- AND
STARTED TO SPEAK!



EARTHLINGS --
HEAR ME!! I AM GROOT,
MONARCH OF
PLANET X! I COME TO
TAKE AN EARTH VILLAGE
-- YOUR VILLAGE, BACK TO
MY PLANET! WE WANT
TO STUDY YOU, TO
EXPERIMENT ON YOU!

GET OUT OF HERE! GO
BACK WHERE YOU CAME
FROM -- BEFORE WE
BLAST YOU!



FOOLS, IT IS USELESS TO RESIST! GROOT IS ALL POWERFUL! FIRST, I WILL COMMAND THE DISTANT TREES TO MOVE...



"I WILL MAKE THE FOREST CLOSE IN UPON YOU -- IT WILL FORM A LIVING WALL AROUND YOUR VILLAGE!!!



"THEN I WILL CAUSE THE ROOTS OF THE TREES TO GROW -- TO SPREAD OUT BEHIND YOUR TOWN! THEY WILL ENTWINE AROUND EACH OTHER, FORMING A HUGE, MIGHTY NET! AND THEN YOU WILL WITNESS THE GREATEST FEAT THAT YOUR MORTAL EYES HAVE EVER BEHELD... FOR AT MY COMMAND THE TREES WILL RISE! THEY WILL CARRY YOU AND YOUR TOWN UP FROM THIS PLANET, OUT BEYOND YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM, AND INTO THE VAST REACHES OF SPACE ... FOR I AM GROOT, OVERLORD OF ALL THE TIMBER IN THE GALAXY!"



"I WILL LEAD YOU THRU THE BLACK, MENACING VOID ALL THE WAY TO MY WORLD! THERE, YOU WILL SERVE OUR SCIENTISTS WELL--THERE, ON PLANET X!"



"NO--YOU'LL NEVER TAKE US OR OUR TOWN! WE'LL DESTROY YOU FIRST!"



"HAW? YOU THINK TO STOP ME WITH YOUR PUNY WEAPONS? FIRE AWAY! YOU WILL SEE HOW USELESS THEY ARE!"

THE SHERIFF RAISED HIS HAND TO GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE -- BUT BEFORE HE COULD BRING IT DOWN, I CLIMBED UP ON THE BARRICADE ...

HEAR ME, GROOT! YOU MAY WITHSTAND OUR WEAPONS... BUT BY THE HEAVENS ABOVE, I ALONE PROMISE TO DESTROY YOU BEFORE YOU CAN TAKE OUR TOWN!

WHAT! YOU DARE CHALLENGE THE MIGHTY GROOT?!!! I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE AN INSECT!!

LOOK-- HE'S RUNNING AWAY!
COWARD -- COME BACK! GROOT WILL SHOW YOU THE PRICE OF DEFIANCE!!

I DON'T BLAME HIM!

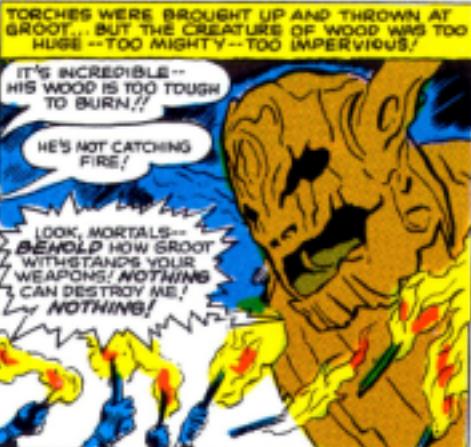


AS I RAN TOWARD MY HOME, I COULD HEAR THE SHERIFF GIVE THE COMMAND -- AND THE MEN BEGIN TO FIRE!

WE'RE HITTING HIM, BUT THE BULLETS DON'T GO DEEP ENOUGH! THEY CAN'T REACH HIS VITAL ORGANS!

SOMEBODY GET TORCHES! MAYBE FIRE CAN STOP THE MONSTER!

FORTUNATELY FOR ME, THE GIANT BEHEMOTH COULD NOT MATCH MY SPEED, OR MY STORY WOULD NOW BE ENDED!

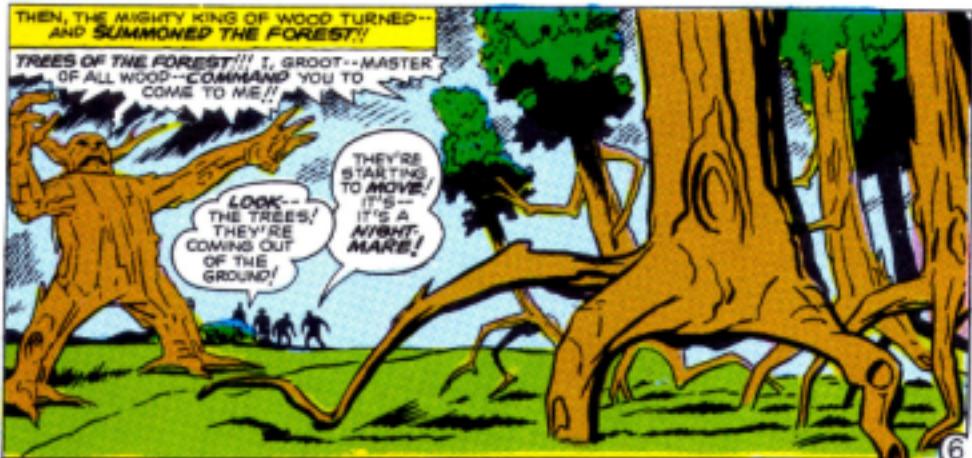


THEN, THE MIGHTY KING OF WOOD TURNED-- AND SUMMONED THE FOREST!!

TREES OF THE FOREST! I, GROOT--MASTER OF ALL WOOD--COMMAND YOU TO COME TO ME!!

LOOK-- THE TREES! THEY'RE COMING OUT OF THE GROUND!

THEY'RE STARTING TO MOVE! IT'S-- IT'S A NIGHT-MARE!



STEADILY, BUT VERY SLOWLY,
THE TREES LUMBERED TOWARD
OUR TOWN! MEANWHILE, I WAS
IN MY LAB -- IN A DESPERATE
FIGHT AGAINST TIME!

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING IN
MERE PINE? WHY AREN'T YOU
OUT WITH THE OTHER MEN --
TRYING TO STOP THAT MONSTER?
MUST YOU BE WEAK AND
SPINELESS TO THE
BITTER END?



UNDER COVER OF NIGHT, I STOLE
OVER NEAR THE GREAT WOOD-
MONSTER...

WE SHOULD
START HAVING
RESULTS WITHIN
MINUTES...



BY SUNUP, IT WAS ALL OVER...

HE'S DEAD!! YOU DESTROYED HIM.
JUST LIKE YOU PROMISED
YOU WOULD! BUT NOW DID
YOU DO IT? WHAT
DID YOU USE?



I WORKED ALL THRU THAT DAY
AND NIGHT, AND THE NEXT DAY
BY SUNDOWN, THE TREES UPON
GROOT'S COMMAND HAD SUR-
ROUNDED THE TOWN AND WERE
STARTING TO EXTEND THEIR
ROOTS...



FINALLY, THE MOMENT WAS AT
HAND! I WAS READY!



SOON IT BEGAN... THE AGONIZING
CRIES OF A WOUNDED CREATURE...

