

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...



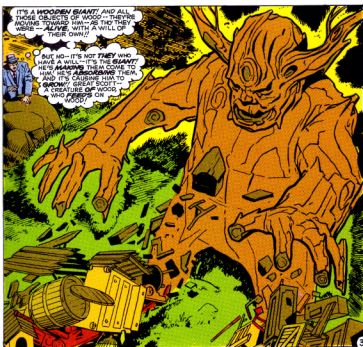
IT-- IT'S STILL GLOWING!

WHATEVER THE THING IS, IT'S MIGHTY POWERFUL-- OR IT COULDN'T SMIT THAT MUCH LIGHT!

I KEPT WALKING UNTIL FINALLY I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THE OBJECT ITSELF... AND THEN MY GAZE FELL UPON-- THE UN-BELIEVABLE--THE INDESCRIB-ABLE!!



NO-- IT CAN'T BE!! SUCH THINGS DON'T EXIST! AND YET-- THERE IT IS!! I'M LOOKING AT IT!



IT'S A WOODEN 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 ABSORBING THEM, AND IT'S CAUSING HIM TO GROW!! GREAT SCOTT-- A CREATURE OF WOOD, WHO FEEDS ON WOOD!