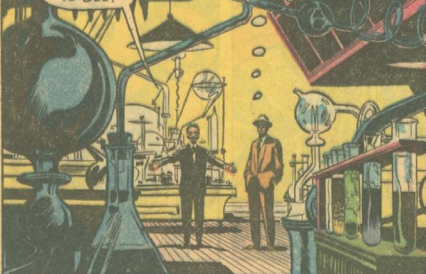


AT DUBOIS' BIZARRE STUDIO I COULD HARDLY SUPPRESS A SMILE...

IT IS HERE THAT MY SECRET RESTS, TRAVERS! SOON, I SHALL UNCHAIN MY SCIENTIFIC GIANT FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!

A REAL CRACKPOT! HE'S PROBABLY TRYING TO MAKE GOLD OR SOMETHING!



FOR A MONTH WE WERE CONSTANT COMPANIONS! THEN, EARLY ONE EVENING HE APPEARED AT MY HOTEL WIDE EYED WITH EXCITEMENT...

COME, TRAVERS! WE ARE GOING TO THE THEATRE TO SEE THE GREATEST ACTOR IN ALL FRANCE - JEAN FARGE!

OH, YES--HE'S WINNING RAVE NOTICES PLAYING THE PART OF A COWARD AT THE BOULEVARD THEATRE! OKAY, LET'S GO!



SHORTLY, IN A THEATRE BOX...

DUBOIS! WHAT IN THUNDER IS THAT THING? WHY ARE YOU POINTING IT AT THE STAGE?

DO NOT FEAR, MY FRIEND! MY MACHINE WILL NOT HARM JEAN FARGE-- IT WILL MERELY STEAL A BIT OF HIS SKILL!



AS I NERVOUSLY WATCHED DUBOIS OPERATE THE STRANGE DEVICE...

NO...NO! I BEG OF YOU-- DO NOT HARM ME!

AH, YES! FARGE IS INDEED THE MASTER ACTOR-- HE PLAYS THE PERFECT COWARD!



AFTERWARD, MY INCREDIBLE FRIEND LAUNCHED STILL ANOTHER SURPRISE WHEN WE RETURNED TO HIS STUDIO...

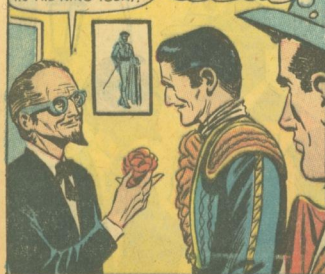
GREAT THUNDER, IN TIME-- IN DUBOIS! CUT OUT THE MYSTERY AND TELL ME WHAT THIS MUMBO JUMBO IS ALL ABOUT!



I WAS TOO FASCINATED TO RESIST! MORNING FOUND US IN THE DRESSING ROOM OF THE FAMOUS MATADOR, MANUEL...

MANUEL, THE FAIREST LADY IN PARIS REQUESTS THE BRAVEST MATADOR IN SPAIN TO WEAR HER ROSE IN THE RING TODAY!

W-WHY, THAT'S THE ROSE HE HAD IN HIS STUDIO! WHAT COULD HE BE GIVING IT TO MANUEL FOR?



SHORTLY, THE CROWD CHEERED AS MANUEL MET THE FIRST BULL...

AH! HE WEARS THE ROSE!

DUBOIS' LOSING HIS WITS! I BETTER DROP HIM AS A FRIEND BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING DANGEROUS!

