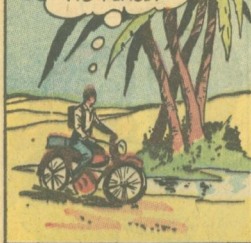


ONE BY ONE BUILDINGS FADED
INTO NOTHINGNESS ...

EVEN THE FOUNTAIN
IS GONE! JUST A
SMALL OASIS IN
ITS PLACE!

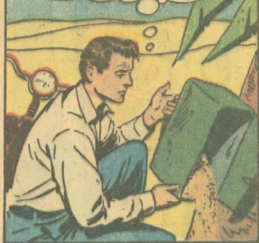


UNTIL THE CITY AND ITS
COBBLED STREETS WERE
GONE! THE STARTLED
EYES OF GARY FORD
BEHELD ONLY DUNES,
AND PALMS AND DESERT
WASTE ...

NO WONDER I
COULD WALK THROUGH
THE WALLS! THEY
WERE NEVER THERE
... IT WAS ALL A
MIRAGE!



THE GEMS ... THEY'RE
NOTHING BUT **SAND!**
I TALKED WITH PEOPLE,
BUT I HEARD THEM
ONLY BECAUSE I
BELIEVED THEY
REALLY EXISTED!



- AND JOYCE! THEN SHE WAS
AN **ILLUSION**, TOO!



AS GARY FORD SPED WESTWARD AWAY
FROM CAIRO, HE THOUGHT NOT OF GEMS
HE'D NEVER HAVE ...

RICHES DON'T SEEM IMPORTANT
NOW! IF ONLY JOYCE HAD BEEN
REAL! HOW GOOD LIFE WOULD
HAVE BEEN, MARRIED TO
A GIRL LIKE HER!



SOMEONE ELSE HAD WITNESSED THE
DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FABULOUS
DESERT CITY ...

I NEVER WANTED GEMS! NOTHING
WOULD HAVE MATTERED IF ONLY
GARY HADN'T BEEN JUST
ANOTHER MIRAGE!



JOYCE FLYNN URGED HER HORSE EAST-
WARD TOWARD CAIRO, AWAY FROM THE
LOVE SHE'D NEVER SEE AGAIN ...

MY LIFE WOULD BE COMPLETE
IF I COULD HAVE MARRIED
A MAN LIKE THAT!



THE
END