

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

# The **BARRIER CLOUDS** of **VENUS**

MYSTERIOUS VENUS, OUR NEAREST PLANET, IS FURTHER OBSCURED BY ITS CLOUD MASSES WHICH PREVENT EVEN A GLIMPSE OF ITS SURFACE WITH TELESCOPES... WHAT SORT OF WORLD LAY UNDER THOSE CLOUDS?



IN THE LATE 1960'S THE FIRST EARTH SPACESHIP TO TRY THE TRIP TO VENUS WAS NEARING THE CLOUD-SHROUDED WORLD...

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW UNTIL WE SEE WHAT THE SURFACE OF VENUS IS LIKE!



THOSE CLOUDS SEEM DIFFERENT THAN THE CLOUDS OF EARTH!

PROBABLY EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT HERE!



# CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

WAIT! THE RADSCOPE SHOWS SOME OBJECTS COMING TOWARD US!



BUT THE UNKNOWN REPELLING ENERGY SEEMED TO COME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE CLOUD SURFACES! THE SPACESHIP WAS SLAMMED BACK WITH TERRIBLE FORCE!



WE CAN'T TURN BACK--WE'LL DIVE THROUGH THE CLOUD BARRIER!



WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO GET THROUGH THOSE CLOUDS! WE'VE COME 36,000,000 MILES AND WE CAN'T GIVE UP WITHOUT TRYING!



THE SHIP BEGAN EXPLORING THE UPPER CLOUD SURFACE, SEARCHING FOR AN OPENING...



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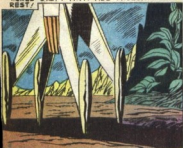
THERE WERE NO FORCE RAYS AT WORK  
THERE--THE EARTH SHIP RAMMED  
THROUGH AT FULL SPEED!

THE CLOUDS SWIRLED SHUT AFTER  
THE SHIP PLUMMETED THROUGH!



# CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

AFTER THE LONG JOURNEY, THE MEN SHOULD HAVE BEEN FATIGUED... BUT THE THRILL OF LANDING ON THIS NEW WORLD SWEEP AWAY ALL THOUGHTS OF REST!



CAUTIOUSLY, THE MEN FROM EARTH STEPPED OUT OF THE SHIP... THE FIRST TO EVER SET FOOT ON ANOTHER PLANET!

LOOKS A LOT BETTER THAN THE MOON WHICH WE LANDED ON TWO YEARS AGO!



THE AIR IS FIT FOR BREATHING ON VENUS! WE DON'T NEED SPACE SUITS!

SHALL WE GO OUT AND PLANT OUR FLAG?



NOT YET... IT MIGHT BE TAKEN AS A HOSTILE GESTURE!

SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND THE CLUMPS OF VEGETATION, THE MEN WERE SEIZED BY GIANT PALE HUMANOIDS!



SWIFTLY THE SPEECHLESS EARTH MEN WERE HALF-CARRIED, HALF-DROGGED TOWARD ONE OF THE SPIRDED CITIES!



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THEY WERE TAKEN TO AN OFFICIAL  
IN A GREAT HALL/ THEY CONVERSED  
BY TELEPATHY...



I AM KALEM... MILITARY  
COMMANDER OF VENUS... I HAVE  
NEVER MET MARTIANS LIKE  
YOURSELVES BEFORE... WHY  
DO YOU COME?



WE ARE NOT MARTIANS.  
WE ARE FROM EARTH EX-  
PLORING YOUR PLANET!

INDEED/ I DO NOT BELIEVE THE  
INHABITANTS OF EARTH HAVE  
ADVANCED FAR ENOUGH TO ARRIVE  
AT INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL/  
TAKE THESE MARTIAN SPIES  
TO THE DUNGEON!



THE HELPLESS EARTHMEN WERE FULL  
OF QUESTIONS BUT HAD NO CHANCE TO  
INQUIRE...



THIS IS A QUEER  
SET-UP/ WE'RE  
ACCUSED OF BEING  
MARTIANS/ WE'LL  
NEVER GET OUT  
OF HERE!

WELL, MAYBE WHEN  
THEY STUDY OUR  
SPACESHIP  
THEY'LL KNOW WE  
ARE REALLY FROM  
EARTH...



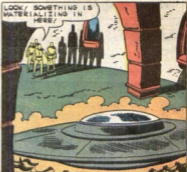
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OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON, THE VENU-SIANS HAD SET UP STRANGE WEAPONS TO GUARD AGAINST ANY RESCUE AT-TENTS!



LOOK! SOMETHING IS MATERIALIZING IN HERE!



I AM BARZAM OF MARS... I HAVE COME TO RESCUE YOU EARTHLINGS FROM YOUR VENU-SIAN CAPTORS! HURRY INTO THE VEHICLE! I SHALL EXPLAIN ALL LATER!



THE ASTONISHED MEN FROM EARTH DID AS THE VISITOR ORDERED THEM...



WE ARE NOW ABOVE THE CLOUDS OF VENUS...

WHY, I DIDN'T EVEN DETECT ANY MOVEMENT! NOW TELL US...



I KNOW YOU EARTHLINGS HAVE MANY QUESTIONS... IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOUR SHIP IS ATTACHED TO MINE... SO IT IS IN READINESS FOR YOUR RETURN TO EARTH...



# CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

"YEARS AGO, VENUSIANS, A HOSTILE RACE, HAD PLANS TO CONQUER EARTH AND MARS...WE WATCHED THEM CAREFULLY..."



"WE INVENTED THE GREAT FORCE CLOUDS TO COVER THE PLANET...AND WE LAYED THEM OVER ITS SURFACE..."



"WE KNEW THAT THEY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL UNLESS WE DISCOURAGED THEM SOMEHOW!"



"WHEN VENUSIAN SHIPS TRIED TO GET THROUGH THEM THEY CRASHED BACK... WHEN WE DETECTED YOU FINDING A DEAD SPOT TO ENTER, WE CAME TO RESCUE YOU!"



NOW YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND MARS AND EARTH HAVE ESTABLISHED A GREAT INTERCHANGE IN CULTURE AND COMMERCE... WHILE VENUS IS FOREVER WATCHED FOR THE DAY WHEN THEY MIGHT FIND A WAY TO CRASH THE CLOUD BARRIER THAT CONTAINED THEM!

