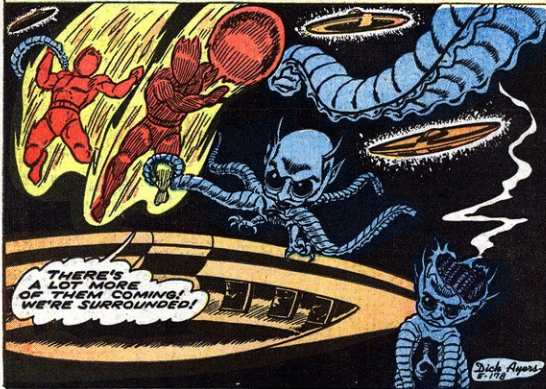


# THE HUMAN TORCH

PEOPLE LAUGHED AT THE FLYING SAUCER YARNS ... THEY SHOUTED "FAKE" AT THE THINGS FROM OUTER SPACE! BUT **THE HUMAN TORCH** AND **TORO** FOUND NOTHING TO LAUGH AT WHEN THEY FACED DEATH FROM THE **FLYING SAUCERS!**



IT BEGAN QUIETLY AND WITH A TOUCH OF HUMOR AS THINGS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE OFTEN DO ...

I TELL YOU THEY'RE HERE, ALIENS FROM ANOTHER WORLD! I'VE GOT ALL THE INFORMATION IN THIS PORTFOLIO!

SURE YOU HAVE! I'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME! GOOD-BYE NOW!



WHEW! THAT CRANK HAUNTS ME, THE F.B.I. AND THE NEWS-PAPERS WITH TALES OF FLYING SAUCERS AND ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE! HE CLAIMS THE SAUCER AND THE FREAKS AT THE CARNIVAL ARE THE REAL MCCOY!



WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF FLYING SAUCER YARNS LATELY, BUT NOBODY PAYS ATTENTION TO THEM ANY MORE! BUT THAT CRANK...

LET'S GO TO THE CARNIVAL AND SEE THIS "FLYING SAUCER"!



DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, DAD! WE'LL SEE THESE ALIENS AND SICK THEM ON YOUR CRANK, MR. MANTIS, AND THEY'LL SHOOT HIM WITH A RAY GUN OR SOMETHING!



IT WAS A TYPICAL CARNIVAL, GARISH AND NOISY...



THERE'S THE FLYING SAUCER TENT!

WELL IT'S BIG ENOUGH! LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

HERE THEY ARE, THE MEN FROM MARS AND THEIR SPACE SHIP...

OH, THEY'RE HORRIBLE! LET'S GET CLOSER!



I'VE GOT A COURT ORDER TO CLOSE THIS SHOW AS DANGEROUS, SWORN OUT BY MR. MANTIS, HERE!

DANGEROUS? IT'S NOTHING BUT A FAKE!



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS THAT SEEMS... REAL!

OH, TORCH... NOT YOU TOO!

HEY! COME BACK HERE!

THE SAUCER SHOT INTO THE AIR AT TERRIFIC SPEED...



HEY, THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD GAG!

THE SHERIFF AND THIS... THE WHOLE THING'S A PUT-UP JOB FOR PUBLICITY!

TORO, LET'S FOLLOW THAT SHIP! FLAME ON!

LIKE TWIN COMETS OF FLAME, THEY BLAZED UPWARD IN PURSUIT OF THE STRANGE CRAFT...

DO YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S SOMETHING TO THIS, TORCH?

I DO, AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT IT IS!



DID YOU NOTICE HOW THOSE CREATURES MOVED? AS THOUGH THEY WERE MECHANICAL DOLLS!

YES! WE'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE AND THEN WE'LL SEE!



I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY METAL LIKE THIS!

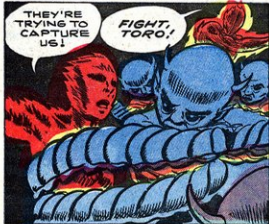
THE DOOR'S OPENING...



THE STRANGE THINGS Poured OUT OF THE SHIP, TENTACLES WHIPPING OUT MENACINGLY...

THEY'RE TRYING TO CAPTURE US!

FIGHT, TORO!



SUDDENLY THE SKY WAS FILLED WITH FLYING SAUCERS! IT WAS AN EERIE THING, FOR THERE WAS NO SOUND FROM THE SHIPS OR THE ALIENS!

THERE ARE MORE OF THEM... WE'RE SURROUNDED!



THEN, FROM THE SHIPS, POWERFUL RAYS OF ENERGY STRUCK AT THE TWO FLAMING FIGHTERS...

MY FLAME IS DYING... THOSE RAYS... I - I FEEL FUNNY...

ME TOO! I THINK THEY... THEY GOT US!



A TERRIBLE WEAKNESS HELD THEM LIKE A GIGANTIC FIST! WEAKLY, THEY STRUCK OUT AS THE ALIENS REACHED THEM... THEN CAME BLACKNESS!



WHEN THEY CAME TO, THEY WERE NO LONGER IN THE SAUCER ...

HOW DO YOU FEEL, TORO?

I FEEL FINE! I THOUGHT THOSE RAYS WOULD KILL US!



I THINK WE ABSORBED THEM INTO OUR BODY CHEMISTRY AND THEY WON'T AFFECT US AS STRONGLY AGAIN! DID YOU NOTICE THAT THE ALIENS ARE MECHANICAL... LIKE ROBOTS? THAT MEANS, SOMEONE OR SOMETHING MUST CONTROL THEM...

LISTEN, EARTHLINGS...



YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER HUMANS, SO WE HAVE CAPTURED YOU FOR STUDY ALONG WITH A NORMAL HUMAN! YOU ARE ENCLOSED IN A CIRCLE OF DEADLY RAYS SO YOU CANNOT ESCAPE...

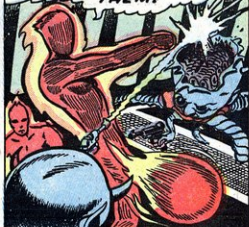
THE NORMAL HUMAN PRISONER... IT'S BETTY!



COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO SAVE BETTY! THESE RAYS ARE THE SAME AS THE OTHER ONES! FLAME ON!



THE RAYS CAN'T HARM US ANY MORE! LET'S GIVE IT TO THEM!



LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER, THE TORCH AND TORO SLAMMED THROUGH THE ENCIRCLING ALIENS...

THEY CAN'T STOP US!

BUT I CAN STOP YOU! I HAVE A RAY GUN POINTED AT THE FEMALE HUMAN! CEASE FIGHTING OR I KILL HER!



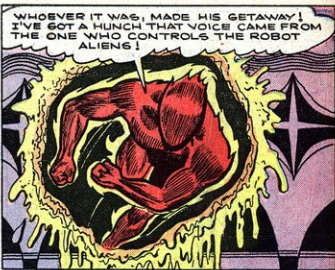
TORO, PROTECT BETTY!

RIGHT!





**FREE BETTY!**



**WHOEVER IT WAS, MADE HIS GETAWAY! I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT VOICE CAME FROM THE ONE WHO CONTROLS THE ROBOT ALIENS!**



**FLAME FULL ON! ENVELOP THE SAUCERS! EITHER FUEL WILL EXPLODE, OR WIRES WILL BE SHORT-CIRCUITED AND CAUSE AN EXPLOSION!**



**THAT DOES IT!**



**AN HOUR LATER ...**

**NOW LOOK, MR. MANTIS, THIS FLYING SAUCER STUFF IS NONSENSE!**

**NOT SUCH NONSENSE! JUST A MINUTE, MR. MANTIS! I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!**



**SO YOU KNOW! YES, I AM THE VOICE YOU HEARD! YOU'VE DESTROYED ALL OF MY SECONDARY RACE AND I AM THE LAST OF THE MARTIAN RULERS! OUR DEATH RAYS COULD NOT KILL EARTHINGS UNLESS THEIR BODY CHEMISTRY WAS CHANGED BY FEAR! THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO CREATE PANIC, BUT IT DIDN'T SUCCEED! THIS IS THE END OF A DYING RACE FROM A DEAD PLANET!**



**WHY, HE'S A ROBOT TOO!**

**PERHAPS EVOLUTION ON MARS PRODUCED METAL BEINGS INSTEAD OF FLESH AND BLOOD! ANYWAY, WE'LL NEVER KNOW NOW!**



**THE END**

**THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO ALSO APPEAR IN THEIR OWN MAGAZINE! LOOK FOR THE HUMAN TORCH COMIC MAGAZINE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOW!**