

IT WAS THE YEAR 1989...THE EARTH'S FIRST ROCKET FLEET STOOD READY! BUT FOR ALL THE GLORY THAT WOULD BE HIS, COMMANDER JORDAN WAS AN UNHAPPY MAN!

# IT HAPPENED ON MARS

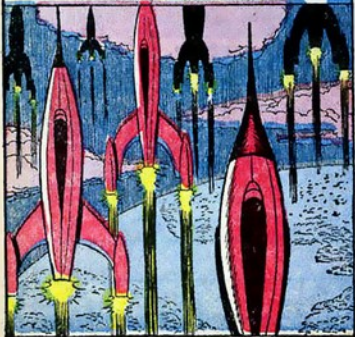
DON'T EXPECT THE INHABITANTS OF MARS TO LOOK LIKE US, COMMANDER JORDAN! OUR SCIENTISTS SAY THEY'LL BE UGLY CREATURES! AND REMEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR MISSION... THE EARTH IS OVERCROWDED, AND MARS MUST BE OPEN FOR COLONIZATION BY OUR PEOPLE...

I'LL DO MY BEST, MR. PRESIDENT!



G-787

THE COMMANDER SMARTLY SALUTED PRESIDENT NORRIS, ENTERED THE FLAGSHIP AND GAVE THE SIGNAL TO TAKE OFF...



YOU DID THIS TO ME, EMILY! YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL ON EARTH FOR ME...



AS THE ROCKET SHIPS RACED THRU SPACE, JON REMEMBERED THAT FATEFUL LAST DAY WITH EMILY EDEN...



IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE, EMILY?

YES, JON... I' ACCCEPTED HIS PROPOSAL LAST NIGHT! I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS JUST A GOOD FRIEND!

NOTHING MATTERS WITHOUT YOU, EMILY! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW!

JON... I'M SORRY...



THE UNHAPPY MEMORY REPEATED ITSELF IN HIS MIND UNTIL THE NAVIGATOR BURST INTO THE PILOT'S COMPARTMENT...

WE'VE RUN INTO A MAGNETIC FIELD, SIR! ALL OF MY NAVIGATION INSTRUMENTS HAVE STOPPED WORKING!

WE'LL PROCEED WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS, LIEUTENANT, UNTIL WE'RE OUT OF THE FIELD!

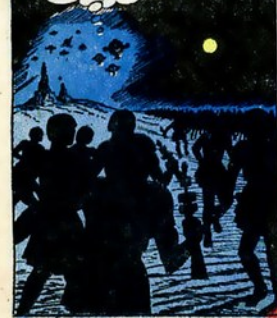


BEFORE LONG...

WE'VE ARRIVED SOONER THAN I ANTICIPATED!



THERE THEY ARE... AND READY TO FIGHT FROM THE LOOK'S OF THEM!



ALL CREW LEADERS HEAR THIS COMMAND! AN ARMY OF THE PLANET MARS STANDS IN OUR PATH! HAVE YOUR MEN READY, AND THE ORDER IS, GIVE THE ENEMY NO QUARTER!



COMMANDER JORDAN'S ROCKET FLEET MANEUVERED TO A PERFECT LANDING... THE OPPOSING ARMY WAS TRAPPED!



THEY'RE MAKING NO MOVE TO FIGHT! EITHER THEY KNOW THEIR SITUATION IS HOPELESS, OR THEY HAVE SOME TRICK UP THEIR SLEEVE!



YOU WHO ARE THE LEADER... ORDER YOUR MEN TO THROW DOWN THEIR ARMS!



MY BROTHERS, YOU WILL OBEY!

I AM PRINCE TUR OF MARS, BROTHER OF THE EMPEROR, HIGH COMMANDER OF ALL THE ARMIES!



WITH THIS PRINCE AS OUR HOSTAGE, THE EMPEROR OF MARS WILL CAPITULATE AT ONCE! YOU'LL TAKE COMMAND OF OUR FORCES WHILE I RETURN TO EARTH WITH HIS HIGHNESS!



EXCELLENT, SIR! PRESIDENT NORRIS WILL BE GREATLY PLEASED WITH SUCH AN EASY VICTORY!

IN A FEW MOMENTS, COMMANDER JORDAN'S ROCKET SHIP WAS AGAIN STREAKING THRU SPACE.



YOU MAY BE ASSURED, PRINCE TUR, THAT WE EARTH PEOPLE WILL MAKE YOUR STAY ON OUR PLANET AS PLEASANT AS POSSIBLE!

IF THE MARTIAN PRINCE MINDED HIS  
PREDICAMENT, HE SHOWED NO OUT-  
WARD CONCERN, BUT MADE THE  
JOURNEY IN COMPLETE SILENCE...

BE ASSURED, PRINCE  
TUR, WE ARE A VERY  
CIVILIZED PEOPLE!  
YOU HAVE NOTHING  
TO FEAR!

I AM NOT  
AFRAID,  
COMMANDER  
JORDAN!



THEY SOON LANDED...

HEAR HOW  
THEY CHEER  
ME!

PERHAPS  
THEY ARE  
CHEERING  
ME!



SUDDENLY A GROUP OF ARMED MEN...  
EMERGED FROM THE THRONG AND  
SURROUNDED THEM... PRINCE TUR  
LAUGHED AT JON'S STUNNED  
EXPRESSION!

THESE ARE NOT EARTH  
SOLDIERS...

AND THIS IS  
NOT EARTH...  
COMMANDER...  
WELCOME TO  
MARS!



YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD  
LANDED ON MARS WHEN  
YOU FOUND US! ACTUALLY  
YOU'D LANDED ON YOUR  
OWN PLANET, THE EARTH!  
I AND MY MEN WERE IN A  
PLACE CALLED SIBERIA  
ON A SCIENTIFIC  
EXPEDITION!

IT WAS THE  
MAGNETIC  
FIELD!  
IT MADE OUR  
INSTRUMENTS  
FAIL!



SOON THE EARTH'S ROCKET FLEET COMMANDER  
FACED EMPEROR TA OF MARS...

WHY WERE YOU SO ANXIOUS  
TO COME TO THIS PLANET?

TO OPEN IT TO  
HABITATION BY  
MY PEOPLE! I  
FAILED, BUT THERE  
WILL BE OTHERS...  
AND WE ARE  
POWERFUL!



WE MARTIANS ARE NOT  
UNREASONABLE PEOPLE!  
WE MUST REMEMBER  
YOU ARE OUR GUEST!  
LET US SHOW OUR  
EARTH BROTHER  
THE HOSPITALITY  
DUE HIM!

IT IS TRUE... YOU ARE  
NOT UNREASONABLE...  
NOR ARE YOU UGLY  
CREATURES, AS MY  
PEOPLE ARE LED TO BELIEVE!



QUICKLY A FEAST WAS PREPARED FOR THE HONORED  
VISITOR...





THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM ON OUR PLANET FOR SETTLERS! WE'LL WELCOME ALL EARTH PEOPLE WHO MAY COME TO LIVE AMONG US!

THAT GIRL WHO'S SITTING NEXT TO HIS MAJESTY... WHO IS SHE, PRINCE TUR?



THAT IS OUR SISTER, KEE-LA! I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO HER!

SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I'VE EVER SEEN!



JON AND KEE-LA THAT DAY AND SPENT LONG HOURS WITH EACH OTHER IN THE PALACE GARDEN...

I AM FROM ANOTHER PLANET, KEE-LA, AND NOT OF ROYAL BLOOD!

HERE, ON MARS, THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE STATIONS OF A MAN AND WOMAN... IT ONLY MATTERS HOW THEY FEEL TOWARD ONE ANOTHER!



I'VE GOT TO GO BACK HOME, KEE-LA, TO TELL THEM THE EMPEROR WILL WELCOME THEM HERE!

THEY WILL FIND US MOST HAPPY TO RECEIVE THEM!



JON JORDAN DEPARTED FOR HOME THE NEXT MORNING...

YOU MUST COME BACK... I'LL BE WAITING!



I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF EMILY THESE PAST FEW DAYS! ONCE I THOUGHT SHE WAS THE ONLY GIRL FOR ME... NOW I KNOW SHE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THE UNIVERSE!



I'LL BE BACK, KEE-LA... I'LL BE BACK TO STAY!