

# "The MARTIAN HORSE!"

THIS IS THE STORY OF DAN HARBER, A SMALL-TIME GAMBLER WHOSE LUCK WAS RUNNING OUT. THEN DAN FOUND A FANTASTIC HORSE. WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHY DID IT WIN EVERY RACE? YOU'LL FIND THE STARTLING ANSWERS IN THIS SUSPENSE THRILLER, THE STRANGEST SPORTS STORY EVER TOLD!

WHY, THAT'S A HORSE DOWN THERE! THE MOST MAGNIFICENT ANIMAL I'VE EVER SEEN! I MUST GET HIM! HE'LL BE THE CHAMP RACER OF ALL TIME!



STORY BY MANNY RUBIN

ONE AFTERNOON, AT THE BELSONT CITY RACE TRACK...

THE WINNER OF THE BELSONT HANDICAP IS--HAPPY DAYS... SECOND--BIG TIME... THIRD--KENTUCKY BELLE.



THE RESULTS SPELL GLOOM FOR DAN HARBER, PROFESSIONAL GAMBLER...

OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK! THAT MAKES SEVEN RACES IN A ROW I LOST!







I OWE THE SYNDICATE THREE GRAND BECAUSE OF MY WRONG HUNCHES. THEY'RE LIABLE TO PLAY ROUGH WHEN THEY DISCOVER I CAN'T PAY OFF!

THERE HE GOES, DUKE! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.



OKAY, HARBER, WHERE'S OUR THREE G'S? WE DON'T LIKE WELSHERS.

YOU'LL GET IT. JUST GIVE ME UNTIL SATURDAY.

WE BETTER GET IT SOON--OR ELSE!



LATER... NOW WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I PROMISED THEM I'D HAVE THE MONEY BY SATURDAY, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GET IT. I SHOULD HAVE NEVER TAKEN UP GAMBLING.



WHEN I GOT OUT OF COLLEGE I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN AN HONEST JOB. NOW I'M A DEAD DUCK! NOTHING IS LEFT... GREAT SCOTT! WHAT IS THAT?



I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES -- BUT IT LOOKED LIKE A SPACE-SHIP THAT WAS ABOUT TO CRASH! BUT WHERE COULD IT BE COMING FROM?



IT IS A SPACE-SHIP AND IT CRASHED ON THAT SMALL ISLAND! THERE MAY BE SOME SURVIVORS. I'D BETTER GET DOWN THERE AND INVESTIGATE.



MOMENTS LATER...

I HAVEN'T DONE A DIVE LIKE THIS SINCE I WAS SWIMMING CHAMP AT COLLEGE. I WONDER WHAT MY COACH WOULD SAY ABOUT MY FORM?



THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO MAKE \$3,000, BUT I MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE A LIFE. I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE WATCHING ME AS I DIVED.



THERE IS SOMEONE ALIVE NEAR THE SHIP! I WONDER WHO HE'LL TURN OUT TO BE? HA, HA, MAYBE HE'LL BE A MAN FROM MARS...



PRESENTLY, WHEN DAN HARBER WADES ASHORE...

OF HIM! HE'S A THOROUGHbred ALL RIGHT... I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER SURVIVORS?

GREAT GUNS... IT'S A STALLION! BUT LOOK AT THE SIZE



AFTER CAREFULLY EXAMINING THE OUTSIDE OF THE SHIP, DAN GOES IN TO INSPECT THE CABINS...

THAT'S FUNNY--THE PILOT AND CREW HAVE DISAPPEARED! BUT LOOK AT ALL THESE CAGES! THIS SHIP MUST HAVE BEEN FULL OF ANIMAL SPECIMENS OF THEIR WORLD AND THE REST OF THE CARGO HAS ESCAPED!





PRESENTLY, OUTSIDE AGAIN...

HMM... WHAT A SPLENDID ANIMAL! WITH THESE POWERFUL LEGS I BET HE'D BREAK RECORDS FOR THE MILE-AND-A-QUARTER! I THINK I'LL GET HIM TO THE TRACK AND SEE WHAT HE CAN DO UNTIL SOMEONE CLAIMS HIM.



BUT FIRST I'LL COVER THE SHIP WITH BRANCHES SO NOBODY ELSE WILL FIND IT. I NEVER CAN TELL WHEN I MAY NEED IT AGAIN.



IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! THAT HORSE JUST SHATTERED MAN-O-WAR'S RECORD. HE'S THE FASTEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN. IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I'LL ENTER HIM IN SOME SMALL RACES AS A TUNE-UP FOR THE DERBY.



IT'S AMAZING THE WAY HE'S TAKEN TO YOU, MR. HARBER. AS IF HE DOESN'T WANT YOU OUT OF HIS SIGHT FOR A MOMENT. WHAT'S HIS NAME?

JUST FOR A JOKE I'M CALLING HIM **MARTIAN**. HE CAME TO ME OUT OF THE BLUE AND HE'S GOING TO PUT ME IN THE GREEN... HA, HA!



THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY, AT SANTA ANITA...

THE WINNER OF THE \$25,000 ARNOLD STAKES IS **MARTIAN**!

THE ODDS ON HIM WERE 40 TO 1. THAT MEANS I CAN PAY OFF THE SYNDICATE AND HAVE PLENTY LEFT OVER. I'LL TAKE HIM TO NEW YORK AND SEE WHAT HE CAN DO THERE.



A WEEK LATER, AT THE JAMAICA RACE TRACK...

**MARTIAN** WINS AGAIN. WITH THE ODDS AT 30-TO-1, I COLLECT \$90,000. I WON'T RACE HIM NOW UNTIL THE KENTUCKY DERBY. THEN I'LL **REALLY** CLEAN UP!





TWO WEEKS LATER, AT THE GREATEST OF ALL TURF EVENTS...THE KENTUCKY DERBY... WITH THE ODDS ON **MARTIAN** AT 5 TO 1.



OKAY, **MARTIAN**, WIN THIS AND I'M ON EASY STREET. I'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR YOU AND ME AS SOON AS THE RACE IS OVER.

THERE'S THE BUGLE TO GET READY. I'LL SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE IN A FEW MINUTES.

TWO MINUTES MORE, AND THOUSANDS OF SPORT FANS SEE THE GREATEST HORSE EVER TO ENTER A KENTUCKY DERBY ROMP HOME TO ITS GREATEST VICTORY!



THE WINNER IS **MARTIAN**, SETTING A NEW TRACK RECORD AND COLLECTING THE BIGGEST PURSE EVER RECORDED!

HE'S A GOLD MINE, BUT I CAN EARN MILLIONS MORE IF I FIND OUT WHERE HE CAME FROM. TONIGHT I'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE SPACE-SHIP.

THE ISLAND'S JUST AHEAD. NOW, IF I CAN ONLY REPAIR THE SHIP SO THAT IT CAN FLY, IT MIGHT RETURN ME TO HIS PLANET. THEN THINK OF THE MONEY I CAN MAKE WHEN I RETURN TO EARTH AS THE FIRST SPACE-TRAVELER!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER... THIS HORSE IS AMAZING!



HE SEEMS TO SENSE WHICH INSTRUMENTS WERE DAMAGED AND PUSHES ME TOWARD THEM. AND HE'S POINTED THE DIRECTION INDICATOR TO THE PLANET MARS. WE'LL BE ABLE TO START OUR JOURNEY IMMEDIATELY.

PRESENTLY, AFTER THE GAMBLER HAS EXPERIMENTED WITH THE CONTROLS, THE SHIP BLASTS OFF INTO SPACE...



FOR A WEEK THE SPACE-SHIP CONTINUES ITS FLIGHT THROUGH THE VOID BEARING ITS STRANGE CARGO OF MAN AND ANIMAL. FINALLY...

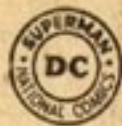
SO THIS IS MARS! AND LOOK AT THE THOUSANDS OF HORSES WAITING FOR ME! I'LL PUT ON THIS HELMET I FOUND IN THE SHIP AND SEE IF I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE!







# MYSTERY IN SPACE



EAGERLY DAN HARBER ADJUSTS THE GLASS HELMET AND STEPS OUT...

LOOK, IT'S ZAHOO! HE HAS RETURNED WITH AN EARTHMAN.

HURRAY FOR ZAHOO! HE NEVER FAILS IN HIS MISSION!

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THESE HORSES ARE TALKING! WHERE ARE THE MARTIANS?

WE ARE THE MARTIANS, HARBER! YOU ARE LISTENING IN ON OUR THOUGHT WAVES. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR A PURPOSE.

BUT THIS IS CRAZY! YOU'RE A HORSE! WHAT DO YOU WANT ME FOR?

WE HERE ON MARS ALSO ENJOY BETTING ON SPORTS, AND THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU I KNEW YOU'D BE A WINNER! TAKE HIM TO HIS STALL, BOYS!

NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! YOU'RE HORSES!

AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AT THE GREAT MARTIAN OUTDOOR AQUACADE ...

YOUR EARTHMAN WON AGAIN, ZAHOO! HE'S BETTER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER DIVERS FROM VENUS OR JUPITER! HOW DID YOU EVER FIND HIM?

AS SOON AS I SAW THE FOOL COMING TO RESCUE ME, I KNEW HE'D BE TERRIFIC! HE'S GOING TO MAKE ME A MILLION DOLLARS! SOME DAY I MAY RETURN TO EARTH AND PICK UP A FEW MORE HUMANS!

THE END

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