"Flash Gordon" is young, handsome, an athletic whirlwind in Jules Verne-like adventures. "Flash's" creator, Alex Raymond, is young, handsome. He got his higher education on an athletic scholarship. In boyhood, when his playmates had cowboy, detective or fireman second-selves, Alex had a dream existence encircling the world in 80 days, voyaging 20,000 leagues under the sea, hurtling space. That is, he grew up on Jules Verne's books. Nothing has given him more satisfaction than to be called "the modern Jules Verne."

Raymond has to have a large library for research, for no matter how fantastic the adventure, Flash's following, always ready with criticism, expect his machines and actions to be plausible and "possible."

Raymond sketches characters from life. Current model (below) for Dale, Flash's sweetheart, is Patricia Quinn, 17, whom Walter Thornton signed up after seeing her Florida bathing beach picture in a rotogravure section. Pat lives with her mother in Arlington, N. J.

Pat, who's seeing how she'll look in the funny papers, her posing period over, is a "Blondie" strip fan. She also models for style magazines.

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FLASH GORDON

BY ALEX RAYMOND

Poor Zarkov and the others... all drowned!

Brace up, darling. They may have come thru. I see a light ahead. It may be a way out.

Sorry, Dale. But I'm lost.

I hope we find the river again soon... I'm so thirsty.

I hear running water, Dale! Seems to be right ahead of us.

They recoil in horror as a giant turtodon rises from the slime at the water's edge.

Flash breaks off a sharp stalagmite and taking...

Careful aim, hurls it with all his strength.

The monster's defiant roar ends in a high-pitched scream, as the crude spear pierces its throat.
IF THIS TURTOSON SHELL WILL FLOAT, WE MAY GET OUT OF THIS PLACE. BUT THE RIVER IS PITCH BLACK—HOW CAN WE DODGE THE ROCKS?

ATTACKED BY A GIANT TURTOSON, FLASH HAS KILLED THE MONSTER.

LUCKY! FOUND SOME FLINT IN THE ROCKS.

I HOPE THE WOOD WILL CATCH FIRE.

BETTER FASTEN THE TORCH AND BAIL OUT THAT WATER, DEAR.

RIGHT AWAY, FLASH.

LOOK! WE'RE COMING OUT INTO THE OPEN AIR.

YES... AND THOSE PEOPLE MAY BE MING'S GUARDS! PUT OUT THE TORCH AND LIE FLAT—WE MAY SLIP BY UNSEEN.

BUT THE STRANGERS PROVE TO BE ZARKOV, BULOK AND CHONG.

WAS ANYONE ELSE SAVED?

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST!

NO, WE FLOATED OUT ON THE WRECKAGE, BUT NOW WE'RE SAFE IN BARIN'S COUNTRY.
FLASH GORDON
BY ALEX RAYMOND

FORESTERS HALT FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS

"WHY, YOU'RE FLASH GORDON! BUT WE HEARD THAT MING'S AIR FLEET HAD DESTROYED ALL OF YOU...."

"I'M GLAD MING THINKS SO, CAPTAIN. TAKE US TO YOUR KING"

WHILE THE OFFICER REMAINS BEHIND, TO CONTACT KING BARIN BY VISAPHONE, FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS ARE BORNE TO THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAYS

ONE OF BARIN'S SPEED-CARS WHisks THEM TOWARD HIS CAPITAL

"LOOK, FLASH, ARBORIA HAS BEEN REBUILT MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER!"

"I HAVE A PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR YOU. BEHOLD! PRINCE ALAN OF ARBORIA... ONE YEAR OLD TODAY!"

"FLASH, MY FRIEND, I HAD GIVEN YOU UP FOR DEAD!"

"I'M GLAD IT IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, BARIN. IT'S GRAND, BEING WITH YOU AGAIN!"

"OH, AURA, HOW WONDERFUL! ISN'T HE DARLING?"
Flash and Dale find a haven with Barin, Aura and their year old son.

Later a banquet is held for Flash and Dale.

You're even more beautiful than I had heard!

Dale, may I present my cousin, Prince Ronal?

Emperor Ming is calling on the Spaceophone.

Your Majesty?

Ming, eh? Very well, plug it in.

Now that Flash is dead I can think of pleasanter matters. I shall visit you and my grandson next week.

Dale and I will leave now Barin to avoid embarrassing you.

Never! My palace is large enough, so I can entertain you safely during this inconvenient visit.
FLASH GORDON

BY ALEX RAYMOND

WE'RE WALKING OFF ALL ENTRANCES TO THIS WING, EXCEPT THRU THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE MING PROWLING AROUND IN THE KITCHEN!

TOO BAD HE'S COMING UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE, AS A GUEST... I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM MAN TO MAN!

ESCORTED ALONG THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAYS BY BARIN'S HONOR GUARD, EMPEROR MING ARRIVES IN STATE TO SEE HIS GRANDSON.

I SEE, BARIN, THAT YOU'VE DEFIED MY ORDERS THAT NO MAN IN MONGO MAY LET HIS HAIR GROW!

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BALD, IS NO GOOD REASON WHY WE ARBORIANS SHOULD GO HAIRLESS!

PLEASE, FATHER, I WANTED MY HUSBAND TO LOOK HANDSOME!

FATHER, WHY THIS SUDDEN DESIRE TO SEE MY SON? CERTAINLY, YOUR INTEREST IS NOT SENTIMENTAL!

HM-M-HE LOOKS HEALTHY...

SENTIMENT? BAH! I INTEND TO TAKE YOUR SON AWAY FROM ALL PARENTAL CARE AND PLACE HIM UNDER PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF MY GENERALS SO THAT SOME DAY HE MAY SUCCEED ME.

NO-NO! NEVER! UGH! YOU'RE POSITIVELY INHUMAN!
YOU WOULD TAKE MY BABY FROM ME AND MOLD HIM INTO A COLD HEARTLESS MACHINE! NEVER, FATHER, I'D DIE FIRST!

BUT THE CHILD MUST BE TRAINED TO RULE MONGO! PARENTAL CARE WOULD MAKE HIM WEAK.

WE INTEND TO TRAIN OUR OWN SON... IN THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY FLASH GORDON

HIS BELIEFS HAVE BROUGHT HIM DEATH, BARIN... HEED WELL HIS FATE!

ONE OF MING'S COURTIERS BLUNDERS INTO FLASH'S HIDDEN QUARTERS

HA! BARIN SHOWS FINE TASTE IN SERVANTS! COME NOW—A KISS!

FLASH'S SLEDGE-HAMMER FISTS SENDS THE AMOROUS OFFICER SPINNING TO THE FLOOR!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! I'LL NOT STAY WHERE I AND MY MEN ARE INSULTED/ HAVE YOUR MEN ESCORT ME TO THE BORDER!

WITH PLEASURE, SIRE!

KING BARIN, I DEMAND SATISFACTION! SOMEONE STRUCK ME... IN THE SERVANTS QUARTERS!

SERVES YOU RIGHT—YOU HAD NO BUSINESS THERE!
PRINCE RONAL ESCORTS MING TO THE END OF THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAY AND ORDERS CAPTAIN SOLAS TO CONDUCT HIM TO THE BORDER.

I THINK THIS MEANS WAR!

NO, EVEN THOUGH MING HAS NO LOVE FOR AURA'S CHILD. HE WOULDN'T RISK KILLING HIS HEIR, BUT WE SHOULD WARN ALL OUTPOSTS AGAINST MING OR SOME OF HIS MEN, RETURNING.

AURA, YOUR BABY IS DARLING! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL!

NEITHER HAVE I AND I DON'T MEAN THE BABY.

WHILE BARIN'S AIR SLED IS MADE READY FOR THEIR TOUR OF THE OUTPOSTS, FLASH TAKES HIS LEAVE OF DALE.

OH, FLASH... I HATE TO LET YOU GO OUT OF MY SIGHT...

I KNOW CAPTAIN SOLAS WON'T LET ANY SPIES OR KIDNAPPERS GET PAST HIM.

MING MAY TRY TO STEAL MY SON.

AS FLASH TAKES OFF, AURA EYES RONAL CLOSELY.

RONAL, YOU'RE FALLING IN LOVE WITH DALE?

WHY... NO, NO... OF COURSE NOT...
Ming won’t stop trying to get your son... you can count on that, Barin.

His spies will never get thru our lines, Flash.

Suddenly, the air-sled goes into a dive...

S.O.S. We are falling... out of control! Our liquid-air motor has broken down... may have been tampered with.

The ship rips into the Great Arborian forest with terrific force.

In Barin’s palace...

His Majesty and Flash Gordon crashed in the forest northwest of here!

Oh Donal... take me to Flash!

Go to the rescue at once, Captain Solas!

As Captain Solas and his men slash their way thru the dense jungle under growth...

Spies, left behind by Ming, trail the rescue party.

We’ll try to capture the officer.
With heavy hearts, Dale, Aura and Ronal set out to search for Flash and Barin, who have crashed in the deadly Arborian jungle.

And Flash, bruised and dazed, climbs from the wrecked air sled with Barin draped over his shoulder.

No sooner is Flash at a safe distance from the wreckage, than it explodes with a roar!

While trying to revive Barin, Flash hears a snarl. Turning, he faces a dread tree tiger!

Meantime, spies stalk Captain Solas and his rescue expedition. Waving his men on, Solas stops to check his position.

...and falls easy prey to the plotters' clubbed pistols!

Ha! Ming can use this captive officer to get into Barin's kingdom!
MING'S SPIES HAVE CAPTURED CAPTAIN SOLAS, NOT KNOWING THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO RESCUE FLASH AND BARIN FROM A WRECKED AIR-SLED. A ROCKET PLANE WAITS IN A GREAT CLEARING TO CARRY THEM TO MING'S CAPITAL.

MING WILL GET NO INFORMATION FROM ME, MAJOR LINGAN!
NO? MING IS DETERMINED TO HAVE A GRAND SON. WE HAVE CLEVER WAYS OF MAKING PEOPLE TALK, CAPTAIN SOLAS!

MEANWHILE FLASH AND THE UNCONSCIOUS BARIN ARE ATTACKED BY A TERROT.

FLASH'S BLADE IS DEFLECTED BY THE DIFFICULT ANGLE OF THE HURTLING BEAST'S BODY.

FLASH HAS IT LOCKED IN A DEADLY GRIP—HIS GREAT TORSO MUSCLES STRAINING MIGHTILY, BURST OPEN THE SEAMS OF HIS TUNIC!

AND OVER THEIR VERY HEADS, DALE, AURA, AND RONAL HUNT THEM IN VAIN. NO TRACE OF THE CRASH—they could be anywhere.

NOW RECOVERED, BARIN STARES IN AMAZEMENT AT THE RESULT OF FLASH'S SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, THE TERROR OF THE TREES IS DEAD, IT'S NECK BROKEN!
Flash and Barin have crashed in the densest jungles of Arboria. Hopelessly lost, they decide to build a signal fire.

Look, Dale... smoke! Their ship may be burning! Are you and Aura game to try to dive thru the trees?

Oh, yes, Ronal! Anything! We must reach them!

Ronal cuts his rockets and drifts thru an opening in the trees. Halfway down, an unseen vine trips the plane.

What was that crash? Sounded like a falling rocket plane! Hope it wasn't one of yours! Let's go!

Thank heaven, you're all right, Flash!

Oh, yes... yes... I'm all right... but you... gee, girl, we got so much to be thankful for!
Led by Prince Ronal, Flash, Dale, Aura and Barin strike out in the general direction of the Great Tree Highway.

A venomous tree lizard, in search of prey, drops from its lofty perch onto Ronal’s back.

Before Flash or Barin can unsheathe their swords, a bowstring thumps in a nearby thicket.

Excellent shooting soldier! Who is your commanding officer?

Captain Solas, Sire, we were searching for you and Flash Gordon when a wild beast, or something, carried the captain off.

But Solas is in the hands of a two-legged beast... Ming, the Merciless!

You want me to watch Solas, so I can imitate him?

Yes, he can’t see thru this one-way glass. He’s the key to unlock Barin’s kingdom, so that I can seize my grandson.

Later, when Ming and one of his doctors enter his cell, Captain Solas realizes that he may be tricked into revealing the secret that Flash is alive!
NAME THE MEN ON YOUR BORDER POST!

Even as he talks, Solas tries not to tell Ming that Flash is still alive. Suddenly his eyes become glazed...

No more questions, Your Majesty, he's fought the serum till he's near death!

He's told enough!

MING AND A DOCTOR QUESTION CAPTAIN SOLAS UNDER THE TRUTH SERUM

A make-up artist, working from photographs, disguises Major Lingan as Captain Solas

AT MIDNIGHT, LINGAN'S SHIP ROARS OUT OF MINGO AND HEADS TOWARD BARIN'S KINGDOM

A rocket ship will carry you to the Arborian border. I warn you, Major, don't come back without my grandson!

The next day, in Arboria - Flash, Dale, Aura, Barin and Royan finally reach the elevators to the Great Tree Highway

Gaily they enter the elevator cars, happy to have escaped the perils of the deadly jungle, unaware that tragedy stalks them in the person of Major Lingan.
Ming’s major lingan, disguised as the captured Solas, is sent to seize Aura’s son.

I was stunned by a tree lizard and carried off, Lieutenant Robel... but I escaped.

Good! Ask him to report to me at the palace at once.

Ha! I hadn’t hoped for this.

That evening Captain Solas is an honor guest at a lavish banquet heralding the safe return of Flash and Barin.

The discovery that Flash Gordon is still alive causes Major Lingan to act sooner than he’d expected. While the palace sleeps, he stealthily lowers himself to the nursery.

As Ming’s ace spyhover overs Prince Alan’s crib, Aura’s door opens... she screams.

The door to Barin’s quarters bursts open and Flash drops the intruder with a bone-cracking tackle!
LINGAN, DISGUISED AS BARI'S CAPTAIN SOLAS, IS SENT TO STEAL THE HEIR TO MING'S THRONE. WHEN FLASH GRAPPLIES WITH THE INTRUDER, BARI GRASPS A HEAVY LAMP AND RUSHES TO HIS AID.


WELL, I MANAGED TO HANG ON TO THIS, BARI… A SHOULDER-STRAP FROM A CAPTAIN'S UNIFORM!

THE TRAITOR! I'LL ORDER AN INSPECTION OF ALL CAPTAIN'S AT ONCE!

BUT LINGAN DISCOVERING HIS LOSS, SLIPS INTO THE OFFICERS' QUARTERS AND SUBSTITUTES HIS TUNIC FOR THAT OF ANOTHER OFFICER.

HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE MAN, BARI!

I SWEAR I'M NOT GUILTY, SIRE!

I'M NOT FLASH... THE TRAITOR IS STILL LOOSE

JUST THEN DALE ENTERS THE CELL CORRIDOR AND CALLS BARI.
FLASH GORDON

BY ALEX RAYMOND

Barin, I think I have it! Listen to this... We'll put the baby in Aura's room.

While Dale comforts the sleepless Aura, Flash and Barin rack their brains for a plan to trap the would-be abductor of Aura's child.

But Ming's spy Lingan, masquerading as Captain Solas, steals into the dungeon where Turan lies unjustly accused. He knocks out a jailer and takes his keys...

Outside the nursery, Prince Ronal stands guard. At sight of Lingan's masked figure, Ronal draws his sword but he is dropped by a bolt from a paralyzo-gun.

As Lingan reaches into the cradle, it explodes, releasing agonizing tear gas fumes... Lingan staggers backward, tearing off his mask...

Why, it's Captain Solas!

Is that you, Flash? I can't see you... Did you get Turan? I was just grabbing him, when something blew up!

Quick-thinking Lingan's alibi is borne out...

See? Turan's cell is unlocked. He escaped and got back here!
Either you, Turan, or you, Solas, are guilty of attempting to abduct little Prince Alan. Tomorrow we will test you with the truth drug!

But Flash has left both cell doors unlocked, hoping that the traitor will betray himself by attempting to escape.

Hours later, the wily Solas (really Ming's spy Major Lingan) stealthily emerges from his cell.

...But the opening of the cell door sets off an automatic alarm in the warden's office where Flash waits.

Number Ten... Solas' cell! All right, you traitor. Here's where you get yours! Turn out the guard!

Immediately Barin's soldiers block the palace corridors, but they have no defense against Lingan's murderous gas-gun.

Lingan rushes thru the palace, leaving death and destruction in his wake. By setting fire to the drapes and furnishings he hopes to delay pursuit.

...And batters his way into Aura's chambers, to find Dale and Aura sprawled on the floor and baby gone!

But Flash dashes recklessly thru the flames...
Ming's spy, Lingan, disguised as Solas, has set Barin's palace afire to cover his escape with Barin's infant son.

Flash finds Dale and Aura overcome by smoke and the baby's crib empty, soaking cloths in water, he ties them over the girls' faces.

He douses himself and the girls with water and lifts them to his shoulders.

Consciousness slips from him as he staggers out of the flames into the arms of a group of Barin's firefighters.

And once again dashes through the flaming corridor, but there is a limit to Flash's endurance—he starts to reel and stumble.

Meanwhile, the cat-like Lingan, with the baby wrapped in his cloak, descends the castle wall by way of a stout vine.

After him, men! But don't shoot—you might hit the baby!

But Flash and Barin have placed a cordon of soldiers around the palace to prevent the abductor's escape. They spot Lingan.

He hurls the machine onto the great tree highway, bowling over Barin's men like ten-pins!
Ming’s spy, Lingan, disguised as Captain Solas, has escaped with Barin’s son, after setting fire to his castle...

Please, Flash... You are in no condition to go out—You must rest!

Call for an air-sled. Barin, we must get Solas.

Dr. Zarkov and Barin revive Flash after he’d been felled by smoke while saving Dale and Aura from the flames.

The real Captain Solas finds himself face to face with his double.

Look, Barin! The Rocket-car... deserted! It must mean that Solas has taken to the trees.

And Flash is right, but Lingan, swinging along one of the narrow cat-walks, halts as a man approaches...

So you’ve abducted little Prince Alan! ... Throw that gun away, Solas or I’ll shoot the baby!

Great Scot, Barin! The ragged man must be the real Solas... the other man, a spy! Look! He’s pointing the gun at the baby... and Solas just threw his gun away!

But Flash... you might hit the baby!

This is a hard shot, Barin, but it is the only way! If we trap him, he’ll kill either Lis or your son! I hope Solas keeps his wits about him!

Flashes’ arrow flies straight and true... Solas catches Lingan before he can topple off the cat-walk with the baby in his arms.
Flash has foiled Ming’s attempt to abduct little Prince Alan. Joy reigns as Flash returns the baby to his mother’s arms.

Captain Solas draws Flash to one side...

Flash, Ming knows that you’re alive!

Then Ming will attack Barin to get me. There can’t be a war on my account!

Where else could you go and be among friends, Flash? We’d fight Ming a dozen times rather than have you go!

I appreciate that, Barin. But you aren’t equipped to fight Ming... it would be senseless slaughter! Besides, I want to explore the unknown: Northland.

Nice of Flash to take you along, Ronal... but don’t forget, he too, loves Dale.

I know, Aura... and she loves him. I realize it’s hopeless... but perhaps I can help her sometime.

Farewell’s are said, hatches sealed and a great boom swings the ship into a catapult.

Barin’s private rocket-ship has been fitted for the flight and is wheeled from its hangar.

There is a heavy explosion and the ship leaps into the heavens, carrying Flash, Dale, Zarkov and Ronal into the unknown.
Flash, Dale, Zarkov and Ronal have bid farewell to Barin's kingdom and are now heading into the vast unexplored Northland of Mongo...

Their rocketship roars through utter stillness. Weirdly-dancing northern lights play across the bleak sky. Frequently they are buffeted by wild storms. Each storm leaves the ship more heavily laden with ice.

"It's a hundred below zero outside. Zarkov the ship is ice-heavy... I can't hold her nose up! Try the regulator rockets!"

"Nobody hurt? Good! I can't hold her up any longer... we're going down. Get into your crash-padding and hang on!"

With great skill, Flash lands the ship nose up. She bounds thru the snow, gradually losing speed... but a great glacier looms ahead!

There is a rending, tearing crash...

...which starts an avalanche. The ship and its occupants are trapped under tons of ice and snow!
In making a forced landing in Mogo's unexplored Northland, Flash crashes against a glacier, bringing tons of ice and snow down on his ship.

"Quick, everyone, get into your ice-suits before we freeze! Zarkov, get the heat-guns...we've got to get out of here before the ship collapses!"

With their pistol-like heat-guns, they start boring a circular tunnel from their imprisoned rocket ship outward.

"Zarkov, you and Royal carve a shelter in the face of that glacier while I hunt some fresh meat."

Hours later, while Flash is busily trailing an ice-bear...

"Another hungry creature stalks Flash as food!"

In sight of his prey, Flash aims carefully and fires...

"Unaware that the great snow-dragon, sitting on its broad...toboggan-like tail is hurtling down on him!"
AS THE MONSTER, SEATED ON ITS BROAD, TOBOGGAN-LIKE TAIL, HURTTLES DOWN ON HIM, FLASH DROPS TO HIS KNEE, TAKES COOL AIM, AND FIRES

ENCUMBERED BY HIS SNOW-SHOES, FLASH IS UNABLE TO DODGE THE DYING BEAST'S ONRUSHING BODY

MUCH LATER, A HARDY TROOP, LED BY A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, GLIDES ALONG FLASH'S TRAIL. THEIR ATHLETIC BODIES ARE SHIELDED FROM THE COLD BY A LIGHT, TRANSPARENT GARB, WHICH COVERS THEM FROM HEAD TO FOOT

A WILD, CLEAR-VELL CUTS THE ICY STILLNESS... FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS DROP THE REMAINDER OF THEIR BEAR-MEAT FEAST AND SCRAMBLE TO THE ENTRANCE OF THEIR GLACIER DUGOUT
In answer to a ringing challenge from without, Flash, Dale, Zarkov and Ronal scramble to the entrance of their glacial hideout, to find themselves trapped by a band of hardy Northmen, led by a beautiful girl.

"I'm going down and speak to her, Zarkov. We want to make friends if possible!"

A great winged serpent, watching the approaching procession, gathers itself for an attack!

"We come as friends. I am Flash Gordon. Who are you?"

"Fria, queen of Frigia— I never heard of you... consider yourselves my prisoners.

"We could have fought them off, Flash! What will happen to Dale?"

Ronal, they are so many we would have no chance—and nobody's come to harm Dale, not if I know it!

Flash shouts a warning and whips out a ray-pistol from inside his ice-suit.

...he fires once and the snow-serpent seems to burst in mid-air!

"Thank you, but where did you get the ray-gun? You pretended to be unarmed."

"Pretended nothing—you see, we are your guests... not your prisoners!"
FLASH HAS SAVED THE LIFE OF QUEEN FRIA OF THE ICE WORLD. SHE HONORS HIM BY ASKING HIM TO DRIVE HER SNOW BIRD-DRAWN CHARIOT ON THE LONG DASH TO THE PALACE OF FRIGIA.

COUNT MALO SEETHES WITH JEALOUS FURY AT HAVING BEEN DISPLACED IN THE ROYAL CHARIOT. DALE NOTES THIS WITH DEEP CONCERN.

AS COLD TWILIGHT SETTLES OVER THE LAND, THE GLITTERING ICE-PALACE RISES BEFORE THEM IN ALL IT'S DREAM-LIKE SPLENDOR.

"EACH ROOM HAS A HEAT CONDITIONING UNIT. WATCH IT! IT IS VERY IMPORTANT IN FRIGIA!"

"THERE IS LITTLE WOOD OR STONE HERE. THE PALACE IS ALL MADE CHEMICALLY BY THE GREATEST ARTISANS OF FRIGIA."

LATE THAT NIGHT, THE SINISTER COUNT MALO STEALS INTO FLASH'S ROOM. HIS RIGHT HAND HOLDS AN ICE-GUN. HIS LEFT SHUTS OFF THE VITAL HEAT-CONDITIONING UNIT!
... and a sheath of ice covers Flash's face!

Turning off the heat-conditioning unit, so the ice won't melt, Jealous Count Malo aims his ice-gun at the sleeping Flash, he squeezes the trigger...

Hearing a suspicious sound, Doctor Zarkov leaps from his bed and tiptoes to the door separating his room from Flash's.

Half-crazed with grief at sight of Flash's ice-encased body, Dale flings herself at Queen Fria, sobbing, "This is all your doing, you witch!"

"You're hysterical, girl... I liked him!"

He flings open the door and a beam from Malo's gun turns his left shoulder to ice!

The assassin makes his escape, as Zarkov presses a button, causing alarm sirens to wail throughout the palace.

Heat melts the ice, but all stimulants fail. The queen's doctor gives up hope... "No use... He's frozen thru!"

"Try everything, he can't die! Try penetro-rays!" pleads Zarkov.

Flash is placed under penetro-electrodes. The heat becomes unbearable. Suddenly, Zarkov shouts, " Enough! He's breathing... He's breathing!"
FLASH GORDON
BY ALEX RAYMOND

DALE MAINTAINS CONSTANT VIGIL AT FLASH'S BEDSIDE, AS HIS IRON CONSTITUTION FIGHTS OFF THE EFFECTS OF AN UNKNOWN ASSASSIN'S ATTACK

YOU DOCTORS TO GIVE HIM EVERY ATTENTION!

QUICKLY CHANGING INTO THE UNCONSCIOUS DOCTOR'S CLOTHING, MALO ORDERS THE PROTESTING DALE FROM THE ROOM

COUNT MALO, JEALOUS OF THE QUEEN'S INTEREST IN FLASH, WAVING THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE

AS DALE OBEDIENTLY WALKS INTO THE HALL, SHE GLANCES INTO A MIRROR AND GASPES AT ITS REFLECTION!

SHE GRAPPLES WITH THE 'DOCTOR'... HER SCREAMS ROUSE FLASH FROM HIS SLEEP, WITH SUPERHUMAN EFFORT, HE HURLS HIMSELF FROM HIS BED....

MALO TEARS HIMSELF FROM FLASH'S WEAK GRASP AND FLEES IN TERROR FROM THIS MAN HE THOUGHT NEAR DEATH!
Flash's great strength speeds his recovery after the attempted assassination. At last he is ready for exercise in the Ice Queen's indoor pool.

Jealous Count Malo at last finds Flash unguarded. As Flash and Dale swim in mid-pool, he throws the quick-freezing lever that turns the pool into a skating rink.

The ice freezes toward the center.

As Flash tries to climb on the ice's edge, Dale sinks, paralyzed with the cold.

Flash dives after Dale... and the ice freezes above them, thickening fast.

Holding his breath, Flash makes a desperate effort to swim thru the water outlet pipe, before the pool freezes into an icy coffin.

With his lungs about to burst, Flash pushes thru an inspection manhole in the pumping station... "Quick, get hot blankets for Dale!"
Count Malo reports to Queen Fria that he can find no clues to the man who tried to kill Flash...

They track down a snow ox and Flash brings it down with a single shot.

The smell of blood brings a giant ice-worm out of a crack in the glacier.

Flash leaps in front of Fria, blazing away at the monster’s head and body.

“I was jealous of you and Fria. I tried to kill you. Kill me... I don’t deserve to live!”

“You’ve proved that you’re a man, Malo... forget the past!”

As the ice worm thrashes about in its death throes, Malo confesses to Flash.
FROM AMBUSH, A BAND OF HAIRY GIANTS WAITS TO RAID THE REMNANTS OF FLASH’S HUNTING PARTY.

WITH WILD YELLS, THEY CHARGE, SNARING DAVE, MALO AND RONAL IN THEIR CASTING NETS.

THE SLAVE RAIDERS DISABLE MOST OF THE SURPRISED HUNTERS. FLASH FIGHTS ON.

FLASH AND THE GIANT CONTINUE THEIR TITANIC STRUGGLE. FRIA, HER GUN EMPTY, STANDS BY HELPlessly.

BUT FLASH’S DEADLY STRENGTH AND SKILL FINALLY FELL THE GIANT. FLASH RAISES THE BARBARIAN’S CLUB AND SNARLS... “TELL ME—WHERE ARE THEY GOING? HOW MANY ARE THERE OF YOU?”

“TO THE CAVEs BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN,” GASPS THE GIANT... “WE NUMBER FIFTY.”

SENDING A WOUNDED SURVIVOR BACK TO THE PALACE FOR AID, QUEEN FRIA INSISTS ON GOING WITH FLASH ON HIS DARING RESCUE MISSION.

AS THEY APPROACH THE FIGURE THEY SEE THAT IT IS MALO—RIGID IN DEATH, FROZEN INTO A GHASTLY STATUE!

SUDDENLY, SHE STOPS AND POINTS... LOOK, FLASH! IS THAT A SENTRY ON GUARD?

AT THE FEET OF THE BODY IS A WARNING WHICH READS—"TURN BACK. LEST YOU TOO, MEET THIS FATE!"
HAVING SEIZED DALE AND RONAL AS SLAVES, THE HAIRY GIANTS MARCH THEM TOWARD THEIR HOME IN THE Icy Wastes of the Mongo Northland

THEY ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE MIGHTY BRUKKA, CHIEF OF THE GIANTS... "I CARE NOT HOW YOU AMUSE YOURSELVES WITH THIS HAIRLESS WEAKLING," HE BELLOWs, "BUT PUT THIS WENCH WITH THE SLAVES!"

MEANWHILE, FLASH AND FRIA HAVE TRACkED THE GIANTS TO THEIR LAIR, ABANDONING THEIR SKIS, THEY CREEP FORWARD...

...AND INTO THE CAVES, FLASH NOTES THAT HEAT IS SUPPLIED BY VOLCANIC STEAM, WHICH SWIRLS UPWARD FROM FLOOR VENTS

FLASH AND THE ICE QUEEN DODGE BEHIND A ROCK, JUST IN TIME AS A GIANT, RETURNING FROM THE HUNT, DISCOVERS THEIR TRACKS!
Flash and Queen Fria rush into the lair of the giants to rescue Dale and Ronal. When a sentry discovers their tracks, Flash silently kills him with the butt of Fria's ray-gun.

A steaming canyon impedes their progress and a drawbridge is up... to be lowered only at the hail of another giant.

Dale's scream brings Ronal, who attacks the giant barehanded.

Meantime, Ronal has been straining at the bonds which the clumsy giants have tied too loosely... "Ah, free at last! Now to help... poor Dale!"

But Brukka's iron strength makes a toy of the gallant prince... "Ho, Grubba... catch this little pest and tie him tighter!"

Brukka sends for his new slave, cringing slave-girls hurry Dale into his presence, begging... "Don't displease the master... or he'll have us all frozen!"
Desperate to rescue Dale from the giants, Flash is balked by a guarded drawbridge. Suddenly a giant comes running up..."Ho guard...let down the bridge! I've been attacked by a human!"

Do you think you can hold on to the bridge when it's raised, Fria? We can't run across without being seen. "I'll try Flash," answers Fria.

They dangle over the fiery chasm as the guard raises the drawbridge.

From the top of the bridge, Flash plummets down on the giant who has just crossed, breaking his neck!

At that moment Fria shouts an alarm for the doomed giant's scream brings a horde of his fellows!

The bridge-keeper leaves his windlass and rushes at Flash, who, by a jiu-jitsu trick, hurls the giant head first into the abyss!
**FLASH GORDON**

by

**ALEX RAYMOND**

FLASH AND FRIA CRAWL OUT ON THE FACE OF THE ABYSS, WHERE THE PURSUING GIANTS DISCOVER THEM...

THE GIANTS HURL HUGE BOULDERS AT THE FLEEING PAIR WHO INCH CLOSER TO ANOTHER CAVE ENTRANCE...

THEY GAIN THE TUNNEL, BUT NOT BEFORE FLASH RECEIVES A BLOW ON THE LEG, LEAVING AN UGLY WOUND

WITH FLASH UNABLE TO LIMP FARTHER, THEY TAKE REFUGE IN A DANK STORE ROOM WHERE FRIA TENDERLY BINDS HIS GASHED LEG

MEANWHILE, CHIEF BRUKKA CONTINUES TO FORCE HIS UNWELCOME ATTENTIONS ON DALE WHO, DEMURELY BUT DESPERATELY PLAYS FOR TIME...

AND, NOT FAR AWAY, PRINCE RONAL SAGS IN HIS CHAINS, BEATEN INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS FOR TRYING TO RESCUE DALE.
DALE, HOPING FOR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE, TRIES TO VAMP THE GIANT, BRUKKA, BUT HE TERRIFIES HER INTO CRYING FOR HELP.

FLASH, LIMPING BADLY BECAUSE OF HIS INJURED LEG, AND QUEEN FRIA, LEAVE THEIR HIDING PLACE TO PUSH FURTHER INTO THE CAVES, WHEN THEY HEAR A DISTANT SCREAM.

AGAIN THE SCREAM. FLASH'S MUSCLES GROW TAUT... AND, AT THE EXPRESSION OF HIS FACE, FRIA CLUTCHES HIM, PLEADING... DON'T DO IT, FLASH! DON'T DO IT, FLASH! THEY'RE TOO MANY, YOU'LL BE KILLED.

BUT DALE'S CRIES DRIVE FLASH BERSERK. BIDDING FRIA STAY HIDDEN, HE DASHED FORWARD, HEEDLESS OF HIS BAD LEG. THE CAVES RESOUND TO HIS YELLS OF FURY.

A SENTRY BARS FLASH'S PATH, FLASH TRIES TO SHOOT HIM, BUT HIS PISTOL'S RAY-CHARGE IS EXHAUSTED... SO HE HURTS THE USELESS WEAPON WITH UNERRING AIM!

FLASH'S MAD RUSH CARRIES HIM INTO BRUKKA'S THRONE-ROOM... BUT THE WEIGHT AND NUMBER OF HIS GUARD ARE TOO MUCH FOR EVEN FLASH'S GREAT STRENGTH.
Dazed and battered Flash is brought before Brukka, the giant chief, who demands to know where Flash has hidden Fria. Flash's defiant silence angers the chief-tain, who snarls... "Beat him until he tells where the girl is hiding!"

But Flash wrenches free and skillfully weaves and dodges...

While Flash's back is turned, Brukka hurls a heavy war club.

...among the unwieldy giants, wreaking havoc with his crushing fists.

"Ha! Can't sit or stand! But you can kneel! Yes, kneel to Brukka! Kneel till you beg for death! Then I'll be generous! Ha! So very, very generous!"

And Flash's last frail hope... the hidden queen Fria... is menaced as someone comes into the storeroom!
QUEEN FRIA AND THE SLAVE GIRLS HAVE DRUGGED THEIR GIANT CAPTORS. BUT THE BRUTAL BRUHKA ESCAPES. MANY HURL THEMSELVES INTO THE VOLCANIC STEAM VENTS, PREFERING THIS TO BRUHKA'S TERRIBLE SWORD.

DALE RUSHES TO THE CAVE WHERE FLASH AND RONAL ARE HELD PRISONERS, AND WITH TREMBLING HANDS, STRUGGLES WITH FLASH'S BONDS.

FLASH IS FINALLY FREED, BUT HIS TORTURED ARMS ARE HALF PARALYZED. DESPERATELY, THEY STRIVE TO FREE RONAL.

UNARMED AND NOT DARING TO LEAVE DALE UNPROTECTED, FLASH AND RONAL FIGHT DOWN THEIR DESIRE TO AID THE SLAVE GIRLS, AND MAKE A DASH FOR FREEDOM.

BUT RONAL DROPS SLOWLY BEHIND, AND WATCHING HIS CHANCE, DODGES BEHIND A STALAGMITE—A DARING AND HEROIC PLAN FORMING IN HIS MIND.

AS A MAGNIFICENT GESTURE TO SPEED DALE—the girl he silently and hopelessly loves—ON HER WAY TO FREEDOM, RONAL HURLS HIMSELF ON THE PURSUING GIANT CHIEFTAIN!
Ronan’s heroic attempt to halt Brukka, comes to naught, as the mighty giant dashes him against the wall.

Missing Ronan, Flash and Dale pause in their flight... "Strange, mutters Flash, "either he was too weak to keep up with us, or he was ambushed. Let’s go back a bit."

Rounding a corner, they face the onrushing Brukka who howls in bloodthirsty glee at sight of his prey. Flash picks up a heavy stone.

...When the giant chieftain is almost upon them, Flash hurls the stone. Brukka folds up as the missile thumps into his mid-section.

But other giants recovered from the sleeping potion take up the fugitives’ trail.

As Flash and Dale continue their now hopeless flight, Queen Fria suddenly appears in the entrance to the giant’s central power-room... "She calls... "Quick... in here!""

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FLASH, DALE AND FRIA HIDE FROM THE GIANTS IN THEIR CENTRAL HEATING ROOM. A DOME-LIKE STRUCTURE COLLECTS STEAM FROM A VOLCANIC WELL AND PIPES IT TO REMOTE SECTIONS OF THE CAVES.

FLASH THROWS A LEVER, CUTTING THE STEAM FROM A PIPE RUNNING TOWARD THE END OF THE ROOM AND ANGLING CEILINGWARD. THIS HE SHATTERS AT THE ELBOW.

AFTER HURRIED INSTRUCTIONS TO DALE AND FRIA, HE UNBOLTS THE DOOR AND DASHES INTO A TUNNEL.

HE CLAMBERS UP AND BEHIND A GREAT STALAGMITE JUST AS A HOWLING BAND OF GIANTS, LED BY BRUKKA, DASHES PAST.

DALE AND FRIA, OBEYING FLASH’S ORDERS, THROW THE LEVER ON THE SHATTERED PIPE AND THE GIANTS ARE HURLED BACK BY A STREAM OF LIVE STEAM!

FLASH FINDS RONAL WHERE BRUKKA HAD FLUNG HIM. SUDDENLY, A HEAVY POUNDING AND SHOOTING REACHES HIS EARS—"THE POWER-ROOM!" BREATHES FLASH.

AS THE DOOR TO THE POWER ROOM GOES DOWN UNDER THE GIANTS’ BLOWS...
COUNT KORRO TRIES EVERY MEANS HIS NOBLE BIRTH PERMITS TO END QUEEN FRIAS GROWING INTEREST IN FLASH!

DARIS: LOVE FOR FLASH IS TOO UNSELFISH... "DON'T GO ON THIS EXPEDITION WITH ZARKOV AND KORRO," SHE BEGS, "I KNOW IT'S FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY SAY!

URGE FLASH TO COME EXPLORING WITH ME," HE SUGGESTS TO DALE

BUT MEN MUST ADVENTURE...

-AND WOMEN MUST WEEP. HOWEVER, UNABLE TO ARGUE FLASH OUT OF GOING, FRIAS SENDS FOR KORRO. SHE DECLARES FLATLY—"THERE WILL BE NO EXPEDITION UNLESS DALE AND I ACCOMPANY YOU"

A FEW DAYS LATER AMID SECRET JEALOUSIES AND INTRIGUES, THE ROYAL EXPLORING PARTY SETS OUT TO HUNT THE DREAD MONSTER WHICH HAS TERRORIZED THE GLACIER COUNTRY OF FRIGIA

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COUNT KORRO'S PLAN TO SEPARATE FLASH AND QUEEN FRIA BACKFIRES WHEN SHE JOINS THE PARTY HUNTING THE GLACIER MONSTER.

AS THE SNOW TRACTOR BEARS THEM ACROSS THE FROZEN WASTES, FLASH POINTS SUDDENLY: "WHAT STRANGE CREATURE WOULD MAKE A TRACK LIKE THAT?"

STRAINING TO SAVE ALL FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION, FLASH SWERVES AND RIDES THE AVALANCHE TILL HE CRASHES AGAINST ANOTHER GLACIER . . .

SEEING THAT DALE WAS THROWN FREE UNHURT, FLASH CARRIES THE INJURED FRIA FROM THE WRECK, BUT DALE BELIEVES THAT FLASH'S FIRST THOUGHT WAS OF FRIA.

KORRO, DAZED, FALLS AS HE CRAWLS FROM THE SNOW TRACTOR. ZERKOV SHOUTS A WARNING, AS THE WRECK SLOWLY TOPPLES ONTO HIM!

FLASH'S GREAT STRENGTH SAVES THE LIFE OF THE MAN WHO IS DETERMINED THAT FLASH MUST DIE!
COUNT KORRO, FEARFUL THAT QUEEN FRIA WILL MAKE FLASH GORDON, KING OF FRIGIA, PLAY ON DALE'S JEALOUSY.

FRIA, FALLING IN LOVE WITH FLASH IN SPITE OF HERSELF HANDLES THE SITUATION WITH ROYAL TACT—"KORRO, WON'T YOU HELP ME? FLASH HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO START REPAIRING THE MACHINES.”

FLASH AND DALE WALK AWAY IN STIFF SILENCE AT THE DOOR TO HER TENT SHE WHIRLS ON HIM—"WELL, SAY IT! SAY WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY AND GET IT OVER WITH!" "I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY," ANSWERS FLASH!

FACED WITH THE HOPELESS PUZZLE OF WOMEN'S EMOTIONS, FLASH TAKES MANKIND'S AGE-OLD ESCAPE AND THROWS HIMSELF INTO HIS WORK—
In the intense cold, Flash drives himself and his comrades to the limit of their endurance repairing machinery and equipment wrecked in the avalanche.

Suddenly, a horrible eye-tipped tentacle coils over the brow of a nearby hill, threatening two members of the expedition...

...who are hauling a smashed tow-sled toward camp.

Count Korro, scheming to keep Flash from becoming king of Frigia, urges him toward certain death! "Save your men!" he cries, but Flash was already on his way.

Zarkov, working on broken scientific equipment nearby, intercepts Flash and drops him. "You can't go Flash! If you attract the monster's attention this way, the women are doomed!"

But the men's fate is already sealed. Another arm of the strange monster has reached out inquiringly...

"There is a deafening thunder-clap as the second arm completes the weird circuit... and sled, men, rope and all vanish into nothingness!"
FLASH GORDON
BY ALEX RAYMOND

HORROR SHOCKS THE EXPLORERS, AS THE GLACIER MONSTER BLASTS TWO OF THEM INTO NOTHINGNESS WITH A TOUCH. FLASH AND ZARKOV SCRAMBLE MADLY TOWARD CAMP, WITH FLASH MUTTERING: "WE CAN'T LET IT GET THE GIRLS!"

SNATCHING A FEW WEAPONS AND TOOLS, THE SURVIVORS RACE DOWN AN ICY CREVASSE TOWARD A YAWNING CAVERN.

WITHOUT HESITATION, THEY PLUNGE INTO THE UNKNOWN PERILS OF THE ICE TUNNEL.

FLASH, ACTING AS REAR GUARD, FIRES HIS RAY-GUN, FULL POWER, AT THE CLUTCHING TENTACLE—BUT THE MONSTER'S STRANGE ELECTRIC CHARGE REPELS THE RAY IN MID-AIR!

HIS WEAPON USELESS AGAINST THE CREATURE'S WEIRD POWER, FLASH TRIES ONE LAST SUICIDAL TRICK—TO BLAST THE MOUNTAIN DOWN ON HIS UNCANNY FOE!

THE MOUNTAIN SHUDDERS. AN AVALANCHE POURS DOWN, AND THE MONSTER, UNHARMED, WITHDRAWS ITS TENTACLE WITH A PARTING BLAST OF CHOKING POISONOUS GAS.
Hunted by the Glacier Monster, Flash blasts down the glacier wall—only to be trapped by poisonous gas...

Flash whirls, and again blasts down the walls in a desperate attempt to block out the thickening swirls of gas.

To Flash’s cry of—“Keep going! Gas!” Ronal replies—“We can’t—we’ve reached a dead end!”

“No use,” says Zarkov. “Enough has come in to fill the cave in time. It will rise slowly.” They help the girls to a higher ledge—that they may live a little longer.

As the deadly gas expands and rises slowly, Captain Lupi cracks under the strain. Zarkov quickly checks his hysterical cries of—“Air... give me air!”

Flash, as cool as the surrounding ice, aims a heavy ray-gun at the ceiling and hurls a narrow beam through the roof.

He races death to drive a second, lower opening thru the ice mountain, thus creating a draft which sucks the deadly poison from their frozen prison!
BY RIDDING THE BLOCKED-OFF TUNNEL OF POISON GAS, FLASH SAVES THE LITTLE EXPEDITION, WITH HER EYES SHINING, FRIA EXPRESSHER GRATITUDE.

COUNT KORRO, AWARE THAT HIS QUEEN IS FALLING IN LOVE WITH FLASH, VENTS HIS WRATH ON CAPTAIN LUPI... "I OUGHT TO KILL YOU! YOUR COWARDICE IN THE FACE OF DANGER HAS DISGRACED ME AND THE ARMY! I'LL HAVE YOUR COMMISSION FOR THIS!"

VENGEFUL LUPI, WHISPERS TO FLASH, "KORRO STARTED THIS EXPEDITION SO YOU WOULD BE KILLED, HE'S JEALOUS AND SINCE FRIA MUST MARRY A COUNT AND YOU AND KORRO ARE THE ONLY ONES—AND ONLY YOU ARE HANDSOME!"

FLASH SPURNS LUPI'S VICIOUS ATTEMPT TO GET REVENGE ON KORRO, BUT NOW HE REALIZES WHAT A SITUATION HE IS IN.

"WHY DID YOU HIT MY CAPTAIN?" ASKS FRIA, "YOUR CAPTAIN IS A RAT," ANSWERS FLASH, "BUT HE'S UNIMPORTANT, WHAT MATTERS NOW IS GETTING OUT OF HERE!"

FLASH HOPES THAT THE EFFORT TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR ICE PRISON, BEFORE IT BECOMES A TOMB, WILL END THE QUARRELS AND INTRIGUES.
FLASH GORDON

BY ALEX RAYMOND

TRAPPED INSIDE A GLACIER BY AN INCREDIBLE MONSTER. FLASH TRIES TO BLAST A WAY OF ESCAPE WITH THE FAILING POWER OF THE RAY GUNS.

FLASH PEERS THRU THE AIR HOLE AND HIS HEART SINKS AS HE SEES THE MONSTER LYING IN WAIT FOR THEM!

OVERCOME BY DISAPPOINTMENT AND FATIGUE, FRIA WANDERS OFF BY HERSELF. THEN THINKING SHE IS ALONE, SHE SINKS TO THE Icy CAVERN FLOOR, SOBBING BITTERLY.

FLASH HAS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN... FOR ZARKOV RUNS UP WITH STILL WORSE NEWS. THE MONSTER HAS SEALED THE AIR HOLES WITH ITS TENTACLES, DOOMING ALL TO A DEATH OF SUFFOCATION!

THERE FLASH FINDS HER... "I KNOW, FRIA," HE SAYS GENTLY, "EVEN QUEENS ARE HUMAN BUT DON'T GIVE UP... WE'RE NOT LICKED YET!" DALE, HAPPENING UPON THE SCENE, QUITE NATURALLY, MISUNDERSTANDS.
Flash and his friends seek escape from the cavern, as their air supply is cut off by the monster's tentacles over the air vents.

With a small sounding device, Flash and Zarkov measure the wall thickness by electrical impulse.

As time passes, breathing becomes more difficult and the cold more unbearable. Dale, Ronal, Korro, Luli and Fria watch the two men with fading hope.

Suddenly Zarkov speaks, “The wall is thinnest here. There’s a tunnel or cave nearby!” “Good,” breathes Flash. “If our power only holds out till we bore an opening!”

But the last ray charge fails long before they are thru. “Hatchet!” gasps Flash hoarsely. “We’re lost,” groans Zarkov. “The others are unconscious already!”

Finally, only Flash remains conscious. His breath comes in labored gasps. But his powerful right arm drives the hatchet into the ice—again—and again...

The wall breaks thru! and Flash pitches forward on his face, gulping the sweet, pure air into his tortured lungs.
AS FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS RECOVER FROM THE EFFECTS OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT IN AN AIRLESS TUNNEL, KORRO REMARKS TO HIS QUEEN...

"IT'S TOUCHING TO SEE HOW HE LOVES HER, YOUR HIGHNESS!"—FRIA REPLIES HAUGHTILY—"KINDLY KEEP YOUR CLEVER OBSERVATIONS TO YOURSELF, MY DEAR COUNT!"

FRIA SAUNTERS OVER TO FLASH—"WE'RE LOST AND WEAPONLESS, FLASH. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST DOING?"—"I THINK OUR FIRST MOVE IS TO EXPLORE THIS GLACIER RIVER!"

A HALF-MILE DOWN THE RIVER, THEY ARE STARTLED AS A GREAT FISH BREAKS WATER—"A KORVIA," SAYS FRIA, EXCITEDLY, "IT'S GOOD TO EAT, BUT IT'S DANGEROUS!"

WITH AN ICE AXE AS A WEAPON, FLASH STEALTHILY APPROACHES THE MAN-EATER—BUT HE SLIPS ON AN ICE-COATED ROCK.

RECKLESS OF HER OWN DANGER, DALE FLINGS HERSELF AT THE DEADLY KORVIA, AND BY CLINGING TO ITS SWORD-LIKE BEAK, BREAKS UP ITS ATTACK. FLASH ADMINISTERS THE DEATH BLOW.

THE GIANT FISH DOES NOT DIE IN VAIN; IT FURNISHES FOOD AND OIL. FOR A BADLY NEEDED FIRE. IN ITS RUDY GLOW, FLASH'S EYES CARESS DALE'S SWEET FACE, AND HE SECRETLY AND FERVENTLY THANKS THE FATE THAT CAST THIS GIRL'S LOT WITH HIS
While Ronal smokes the fish, Zarkou, Korro and Lupi re-charge the weapons with a ray-generator. Flash says to Dale and Fria, "I'm going down stream, so watch this line. If it stays taut you'll know I'm in trouble. In that case pull me in as fast as possible!"

Flash plays out his line as he goes. Finding, as he expected, very little bank on which to maintain a foothold, he decides to take to the icy stream.

Frequently, Flash's great strength saves him from disaster in the swift current. Finally, numb with cold, he reaches the cavern's exit—only to face a terrible sight!

His ray-gun is futile against the glacier monster's own tremendous electric charge. Flash dives deep into the icy water.

Flash guesses right. The monster does not pursue him into the water, which would discharge his own power—but the tentacle stays poised to seize Flash if he comes to the surface!
WITH THE GLACIER MONSTER READY TO POUNCE IF HE LEAVES THE WATER, FLASH FIGHTS HIS WAY UP THE Icy STREAM, TRAVELING ALONG THE RIVER BOTTOM

AT LAST, WITH THE AIR IN HIS WATER-PROOF GLASSINE SUIT EXHAUSTED, FLASH IS FORCED TO COME TO THE SURFACE HAPPILY, HE FINDS HIMSELF BEYOND THE REACH OF THE MONSTER'S TENTACLE

BUT AS HE LEAVES THE RIVER, HE SLIPS ON AN ICE-COATED ROCK AND STRIKES HIS HEAD A GLANCING BLOW

DALE WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR A SIGNAL, OR FOR FLASH'S RETURN, SEES THE LIFELINE GROW SUDDENLY TAUT. WITH A CRY SHE LEAPS FOR IT, BUT KORRO STOPS HER, HISSING—"LET GO, CHILD—YOU MUSTN'T INTERFERE!"

A SHOUT FROM FRIA BRINGS ZARKOV AND RONAL, WHO DESPERATELY HAUL IN THE LIFELINE

AS FLASH'S FRIENDS WORK FRANTICALLY OVER HIS SEEMINGLY LIFELESS FORM-KORRO, WHO SACRIFICED FLASH RATHER THAN LET QUEEN FRIA MARRY HIM, MUTTERS SADLY—"FOR FRIGIA!"
FRIA, GRIEVING IN SILENCE HEARS CAPTAIN LUPI'S LOW-PITCHED GLOATING VOICE—"HA, YOUR RIVAL FOR FRIA'S HAND IS OUT OF THE WAY, COUNT KORRO!"

ZARKOV TRIES VAINLY TO REVIVE FLASH, WHO WAS DROWNED AND FROZEN IN THE GLACIER STREAM—"IT'S NO USE, THE DOCTOR GROANS, DESPAIRINGLY, "HE'S GONE!"

FURIOUSLY, FRIA CONFRONTS KORRO—"SO YOU PLANNED THIS, DID YOU? I'LL HAVE YOUR LIFE FOR THIS, KORRO!"

"NO OUTSIDER SHALL MARRY A QUEEN OF FRIGIA," ANSWERS KORRO, "IF I COULD BRING HIM BACK AND PERHAPS I COULDN'T THEN I WOULDN'T!" "OH, HAVE PITY, KORRO," IMPLORES DALE!

"PROMISE KORRO YOU'LL NEVER MARRY FLASH, IF HE'LL SAVE HIM," BEGS DALE, TEARFULLY, "IF YOU LOVE HIM, PROVE IT BY GIVING HIM UP!" FRIA REPLIES BITTERLY, "IF I CAN'T HAVE HIM, YOU SHALT! WILL YOU ALSO GIVE HIM UP?"

DALE, DESPERATE, PROMISES THE JEALOUS QUEEN THAT SHE'LL NEVER MARRY FLASH

"SAVE HIM, KORRO," "ON MY ROYAL HONOR HE'LL NEVER BE KING OF FRIGIA I'LL EVEN PARDON YOU!" "I DON'T MATTER," ANSWERS KORRO, "BUT FRIGIA DOES. I'LL DO MY BEST FOR THE LAD."

AT THE VETERAN EXPLORER'S ORDER, THEY PACK FLASH'S BODY IN CAKES OF ICE. KORRO PREPARES A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE—HE REMARKS, OMINOUSLY—"WE'VE WAITED DANGEROUSLY LONG THERE'S JUST ONE CHANCE IF HE FAILS TO REACT TO THIS DRUG—WELL, WE'LL SOON KNOW!"
ON RECEIVING FRIA'S PLEDGE NEVER TO MAKE FLASH KING OF FRIGIA, COUNT KORRO TRIES TO REVIVE FLASH.

THE VETERAN EXPLORER INJECTS A MYSTERIOUS STIMULANT INTO FLASH'S ICE-PACKED BODY, AND AT ONCE HIS BREATHING COMES DEEP AND REGULAR.

"WHY, IT'S MIRACULOUS!" EXclaims ZORKOV. "TELL ME--THAT ICE--IS IT FROZEN SLEEP? I WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH IT ON EARTH--"

"WHAT YOU CALL 'FROZEN SLEEP' HAS LONG BEEN PRACTICED IN FRIGIA," ANSWERS KORRO. "YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, ZARKOV."

AS FLASH MENDS RAPIDLY IN HIS STATE OF FROZEN SLUMBER, JEALOUS FRIA REMINDS DALE--"REMEMBER, TO SAVE HIS LIFE--YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D NEVER MARRY HIM!" "REMEMBER?" WHISPERS DALE, "HOW CAN I EVER FORGET?"

FAITHFULLY AND TENDERLY, DALE NURSES FLASH THRU HIS CONVALESCENCE, IN SPITE OF HER BRAVE ATTEMPTS TO HIDE HER GRIEF, FLASH REALIZES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

FINALLY, ONE DAY, FLASH GATHERS HER INTO HIS ARMS AND SAYS--"DARLING, IT HURTS ME TO SEE YOU SO UNHAPPY--TELL OL DOC GORDON ALL ABOUT IT. I CAN'T STAND IT," SOBS DALE, "OH, LET ME ALONE!"

HURT AND ANGERED, FLASH STAMPS OVER TO THE GREAT FIRE WHERE HIS FRIENDS ARE PREPARING A NEW DEVICE WITH WHICH TO FIGHT THE GREAT GLACIER MONSTER. A SUPERHUMAN TASK, BUT TO FLASH, SIMPLER THAN THE PROBLEM OF A WOMAN'S EMOTIONS!
Flash Gordon

By
Alex Raymond

Because of the glacier monsters' fear of water, Flash and his friends plan their attack from the river.

When the air chamber has cooled and hardened, Flash and Korro stow their sensitive equipment aboard and shove off. Zarkov remains behind with the others to man the air-pumps.

The glassite globe floats into midstream. Korro opens an induction valve taking in enough water beneath the water-tight floor to allow them to float between the river surface and the bottom.

From the bottom of the stream, outside the mountain, Flash raises the collapsible conning tower above the surface and focuses an instrument on the unsuspecting monster.

At that moment the dread monster discovers the intruders and strikes like lightning!

Flash shouts a warning and clambers down the ladder—Korro jerks a lever.

Unable to check its lunge, the tentacle brushes the water just as the conning tower submerges—and the icy stream boils and steams!
Ronal who has long loved Dale in vain, is worried about her strange behavior. He doesn't know that, to save Flash's life, she promised Fria she would never marry Flash. "Don't worry about Flash," says Ronal, "he'll come thru all right." Dale answers, "It isn't that—oh, let me alone!"

Hurt, Ronal walks down-stream. He stops in his tracks, as ahead, he sees Lupi furiously aiming his ray gun. Suddenly, Ronal guesses the sinister Captain's intentions.

Lupi, knowing Flash and Korro are under water at the end of the glassite tube, seizes the chance for revenge. Ronal dashes forward.

Unarmed Ronal flings himself on Lupi—both topple into the icy stream—

Meanwhile, farther down-stream, a trickle of water warns Flash and Korro of imminent doom—"A leak!" groans Flash, "and the monster is waiting on the surface!"

Ronal breaks loose from Lupi's desperate clutch—but both are swept toward the tunnel's mouth by the swift current.
AS THE WATER RISES IN THE SUBMARINE CHAMBER, FLASH SEES TWO BODIES FLOATING IN THE GLACIER STREAM.

DEFYING THE GLACIER MONSTER THAT LIES IN WAIT ABOVE, FLASH LIFTS THE FLEXIBLE CONNING-TOWER AND DIVES OVERBOARD.

FLASH HELPS RONAL DOWN THE HATCH, THEN GOES AFTER LUPI, THE OTHER SWIMMER.

BUT THE GLACIER MONSTER GETS THERE FIRST!

UNABLE TO HELP, HORROR-STRICKEN FLASH SEEKS HIS UNDERWATER REFUGE.

A SECOND TENTACLE COMPLETES THE HORRID CIRCUIT—AND LUPI IS BLASTED INTO NOTHINGNESS!
TRAPPED IN AN UNDERWATER CHAMBER, FLASH, KORRO AND RONAL ARE MENACED BY RISING WATER FROM A LEAK. FLASH MUTTERS—WATER WILL SOON FORCE THE AIR OUT!...

FLASH CRAWLS UP THE GLASSITE TUBE LOOKING FOR A LEAK—“TOO LATE,” HE GROANS, “THE TUBE IS FILLED AHEAD!”

BUT DALE NOTICES THE TELL-TALE SWIRL OF WATER, INDICATING THE LEAK—“HE’LL DROWN!” SHE GASPS: “FLASH WILL DROWN! I’VE GOT TO TELL ZARKOV!”

WITH THE HELP OF DALE AND FRIA, ZARKOV QUICKLY HAULS THE GREAT TUBE ONTO THE RIVER BANK—“ALL RIGHT, DALE,” HE SHOUTS, “CUT THE MOTOR! FRIA BRING ME THAT HOSE—we must pump out the water— if it isn’t too late!”

FOR DALE, UPON SEEING FLASH EMERGE SAFELY, TURNS, SOBING INTO RONAL’S ARMS. FLASH DOESN’T KNOW THAT SHE HAD TO PROMISE FRIA TO GIVE HIM UP—“POOR GIRL,” SOOthes RONAL, “IT’S ALL RIGHT—HE IS SAFE!”

LATER, THE MEN CRAWL UP THE TUBE TO SAFETY. FLASH THANKS ZARKOV, THEN ASKS—“BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH DALE? FUNNY, SHE DOESN’T COME TO GREET—OH! I SEE—”
THE HIDEOUS GLACIER MONSTER, WHOSE MYSTERIOUS POWER HAS BLASTED MANY MEMBERS OF FLASH'S EXPEDITION TO NOTHINGNESS, SPRAWLS AT OR THE ICY MOUNTAIN, PATIENTLY WAITING FOR COLD AND HUNGER TO DRIVE THE OTHERS INTO ITS CLUTCHES.

IN THE TUNNELS, DALE, FRIA, AND RONAL WAIT BY THE ELECTRIC DYNAMO FOR THE SIGNAL TO THROW THE SWITCH.

FIRST FLASH, THEN ZARKOV DRIVE THEIR HARPOONS INTO THE MONSTER'S WRITHING TENTACLES.

FLASH HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE Icy WATER AND SWIMS SHOREWARD TO RETRIEVE KORRO'S HARPOON.

KORRO, THE VETERAN EXPLORER, CLIMBERS UP THE CONNING TOWER LADDER AND LETS FLY HIS HARPOON—but Zorro misses!

"COME BACK, YOU YOUNG FOOL!" ROARS KORRO. "YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE! THE MONSTER WILL GET YOU!"
After testing the electric charge and frequency of the glazier monster, Flash tries to electrocute it. Two wired harpoons are fired by Flash and Zarkov—they carry true—but Korro's harpoon misses. Flash recklessly goes after it.

A horrible eye-tipped tentacle reaches for Flash—he snatches up the wayward harpoon and hurls it with all the strength of his powerful body.

Back in the tunnels, Ronal throws a switch—a high-pitched whine fills the air.

When Flash's weapon strikes its mark, Korro yells down to Zarkov, who speaks into a transmitter: "All right—let him have it!"

There is a blinding flash of light—a terrific explosion—and the great glacier monster is no more.

Flash is lifted and hurled into a snowbank across the river; his clothing turn to shreds by the force of the explosion—"Hey Zarkov," he bellows, "I'm in a bad way—get me another pair of pants—quick!"
The exploring party returns to camp. Flash and Zarkov repair the snow tractor for the return journey to Frigia.

A few days later the powerful tractor lurches off, boring its way through a howling blizzard.

The delicious aroma of cooking food soon draws Flash to the tiny galley where he finds Dale—"Gee, I'm hungry, darling," says Flash, but Dale shrinks from his touch.

"See here, young lady; I don't know why you should shrink from me, but if I'm so distasteful to you, you may be sure I'll never bother you again!"

Bitterly hurt and heartsick, Flash takes the wheel and races grimly through the night. Fria smiles—her plans are going well.

Flash leaves, slamming the door after him. Anguished sobs wrack Dale's body—she cannot tell Flash that she has promised Fria that she will never marry him.
FRIGIA'S CAPITAL GIVES THE RETURNING EXPLORERS A MAD WELCOME

CRUSHED BY DALE'S APPARENT CHANGE OF HEART, FLASH GOES TO HIS ROOM. HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT BOTH DALE AND FRIA HAVE SWORN TO GIVE HIM UP...

"FRIA HAS PLANNED A BANQUET IN YOUR HONOR, YOU MUST GO!" "I CAN'T, RONAL," SAYS FLASH—"I'M GOING TO ZARKOV'S LABORATORY!"

QUEEN FRIA QUICKLY SUMMONS ONE OF HER OFFICERS. "GET ME THE FASTEST SNOWBIRD IN THE STABLES—I'M GOING AFTER HIM ALONE! NO ONE IS TO HEAR OF THIS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN?"

A LITTLE LATER, FLASH, MOUNTED ON A SNOWBIRD, GALLOPS THRU THE PALACE GATE, BOUND FOR ZARKOV'S LABORATORY—
HEART SICK AT DALE'S STRANGE ALOOFNESS, FLASH LEAVES THE FRIGIAN CAPITAL AND HEADS FOR THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND ZARKOV'S LOFTY LABORATORY—

OVER THE MOAN OF THE ICY WINDS, SOUNDS A SINISTER CRACK—AS FLASH LOOKS BACK, A SECTION OF GLACIER SLOWLY LEANS OUT OVER THE PASS—

THEN HIS EYES TRAVELING DOWNWARD, BEHOLD A LONE RIDER, RACING FROM UNDER THE IMPENDING AVALANCHE. EVEN AS HE WATCHES, THE UNKNOWN RIDER'S MOUNT STUMBLERS—

WITH RECKLESS ABANDON, FLASH DASHES BACK ALONG THE TRAIL—HE SWEEPS THE LUCKLESS RIDER TO HIS SADDLE—

FLASH'S MAD DASH CARRIES THEM SAFELY PAST THE MAIN BODY OF THE THUNDERING MAELSTROM—BUT AN OFFSHOOT CATCHES THEM AND WHIRLS THEM BEFORE IT—

FINALLY, ALL IS QUIET—SAVE THE MOANING OF THE WIND—AND QUEEN FRIA'S SOBS—"OH, FLASH," SHE WHISPERS, "I LOVE YOU SO / MARRY ME... PLEASE DO!" FLASH, ALONE, WITH DALE LOST TO HIM, YIELDS TO FRIA'S LURE—HE NODS AND KISSES HER SOFTLY... GENTLY
THINKING THAT DALE NO LONGER LOVES HIM, FLASH SETS OUT FOR ZARKOV'S LABORATORY WITH FRIA IN PURSUIT. HE SAVES HER FROM AN AVALANCHE AND, AT HER PLEA, CONSENTS TO MARRY HER.

ZARKOV SEES TWO FIGURES STRUGGLING UP THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE...THEY ARE FLASH AND FRIA...HE HELPS THE HALF-FROZEN COUPLE INTO HIS COZY LABORATORY AND SOON REVIVES THEM WITH WARM FOOD AND DRINK. THEN, PUZZLED, HE ASKS - WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT SUCH AN HOUR? WHERE IS DALE FLASH? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

"DALE NO LONGER CARES ZARKOV," ANSWERS FLASH. "FRIA AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!" "NO!" CRIES ZARKOV. "YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO DALE! WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE PALACE!"

BACK AT THE PALACE, KORRO STORMS. "EVEN IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR ROYAL HONOR, I'LL NOT LET YOU BREAK YOUR VOW!" FRIA REPLIES. "YOU FORGET I PROMISED THAT FLASH WOULD NEVER BE KING—NOT THAT I WOULD NEVER MARRY HIM. I SHALL ABDICATE!"

FURIOUS, DALE LEAPS AT FRIA..."YOU MISERABLE CHEAT! YOU TRICKED ME INTO PROMISING THAT I'D GIVE FLASH UP TO SAVE HIS LIFE!" SUDDENLY, FLASH KNOWS THE REASON FOR DALE'S COLDNESS TOWARD HIM....

WITH DALE SOBBING IN HIS ARMS, HE SPEAKS—"AND TO THINK THAT I DOUBTED DALE! ALTHOUGH I'M NOT WORTHY, I BEG HER FORGIVENESS. FRIA, I DEMAND THAT YOU RELEASE ME FROM MY PROMISE TO MARRY YOU!"
FLASH GORDON

BY ALEX RAYMOND

ZARKOV STORMS INTO FRIA'S STUDY - "GOOD HEAVEN, WOMAN YOU CAN'T THROW FLASH INTO JAIL JUST BECAUSE HE LOVES DALE! IT'S SPITEFUL - SMALL - "ENOUGH, ZARKOV," INTERRUPTS FRIA. "I THANK YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!"

SHE UNLOCKS FLASH'S CELL DOOR - "YOU'RE FREE, FLASH," SHE WHISPERS, "TAKE DALE AND GO - AND DON'T COME BACK - PLEASE! I COULD NEVER LET YOU GO AGAIN!" FLASH DRESSES HER HAND - "THANK YOU, FRIA - YOU'RE A QUEEN - IN EVERYWAY -"

FLASH HURRIES TO THE PALACE AND TELLS DALE THAT THEY MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. "YOU GET READY," HE SAYS, "I'LL GET ZARKOV AND HAVE A ROCKET SLED OUTFITTED I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU IN A HALF-HOUR!"

BUT FIRST, FLASH REMOVES HIS CHAIN AND SEAL OF OFFICE FROM ABOUT HIS NECK AND LEAVES THEM ON RONAL'S DRESSER WITH A NOTE. HE THEN WHISPERS TO HIS SLEEPING FRIEND - "GOODBYE, COUNT RONAL - MAY YOU SOMEDAY BE KING OF FRIGIA AND FRIA YOUR QUEEN? YOU DESERVE ONLY THE BEST!"

BUT THAT NIGHT FRIA IS UNABLE TO SLEEP, HER OUTRAGED FURY GIVES WAY TO SHAME AND REMORSE, AS SHE MAKES HER WAY TO FLASH'S CELL, A CLOAKED FIGURE WATCHES FROM THE SHADOWS.
Raymond can get an immediate reaction from two comics fans in his own home. His son, Alex, Jr., 9; and daughter, Lynne, 6 1/2, follow numberless strips and are frank in their criticisms of Dad's work. (Junior likes "Mandrake" better; Lynne prefers "Blondie."!) The Raymonds also have another child too young for comics.

If there hadn't been a 1929, Raymond might have been a broker. It made him broke. A neighbor, Russ Westover, who draws "Tillie the Toiler," aware of Alex's skill with pen and pencil, suggested he try using it as a comic artist. Raymond did, first turned out "gag" panels, then developed an idea born of his devotion to Jules Verne—"Flash Gordon." One reward is this impressive Connecticut home. You see him with his wife.

Another reward is the appreciation of a vast public, which continuously makes its influence felt in letters. An artist can only draw a strip, a newspaper can only publish it; the public alone decides whether it continues and how long.