Introducing for the first time...

FLASH GORDON COMICS
especially written and drawn for this book
FLASH AND DALE ARDEN IN THEIR ATOM-PROPELLED SKYSHIP GET OFF THEIR COURSE LEAVING MONGO.

AS FLASH SWOOPS LOW OVER STRANGE TERRAIN, RADAR-CONTROLLED RAY GUNS OPEN FIRE ON HIS SKYCRAFT.

"WE'RE CAUGHT IN CROSS FIRE. CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, FLASH, DARLING," CRIES DALE.

FLASH, YOU'RE DELIBERATELY FLYING INTO THEIR LINE OF FIRE.

NO, DALE, OUR ATOM POWER IS GONE.
HANG ON, DALE! I'M GOING TO SET HER DOWN IN THAT VALLEY.

LOOK OUT, FLASH! THOSE TREE LIMBS!

WE MUST FIND COVER, DALE, NOW THAT WE ARE DOWN THEY'LL BE ON THE HUNT.

OH, FLASH, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY RIGHT ANKLE.

THE DEMANDS OF THE SITUATION ARE GREAT, BUT FLASH MANEUVERS THE DAMAGED SKYSHIP TO A ROUGH, BUT SAFE, LANDING.

FLASH GATHERS DALE INTO HIS ARMS, AS THEY RETREAT TOWARD THE CONCEALING FOREST, THEY CAN HEAR THE DRONE OF APPROACHING VEHICLES.

FLASH AND DALE GAIN A VANTAGE POINT FROM WHICH THEY SEE THEIR ABANDONED SHIP CIRCLED BY ARMORED VEHICLES. "WE ARE SAFE FOR A WHILE," SAYS FLASH. "WHAT IS THIS PLACE?" QUERIES DALE.

HEARING A NOISE BEHIND HER DALE TURNS AND INTERRUPTS FLASH'S ANSWER....

FLASH! FLASH! LOOK!
IN THE VALLEY BELOW:
LISTEN! GUN FIRE!
SERGEANT, INVESTIGATE
THAT ACTION; IT MAY
BE THE INVASER!

A REPTO-ELECTRO, THE
STING OF WHICH
MEANS DEATH," FLASH SHOUTS,
AS HE BLAZES
AWAY AT THE
MONSTER.

IF THEY
MOVE FIRE!

FLASH'S
DEADLY AIM
TAKES ITS TOLL, AS
THE HIDEOUS MONSTER
FLAILS THE EARTH IN DEATH.

OH, FLASH!
WHAT A HORRIBLE SIGHT!

SIGHT! THEY POSSESS SIGHT!
TAKE THEM ALIVE! THEY HAVE
VIOLATED THE SOVEREIGNTY
OF OPTO!

STEADY, DALE, WE'D
BETTER MOVE ON.

THE KEEN EARS OF THE APPROACHING
SOLDIER HEARS DALE'S REMARK.
"SIGHT!" HE NUMBLESTHEN.....
The soldiers pounce on Flash before he can draw his gun. Under arms of steel he is bound with strong leather thongs. Dale is left untied.

No need to whisper, woman, my hearing is keen. I am the prefect, adjutant to the regent Optik, head of the secret service.

Crouched in the dark interior of the armored car, Flash feels Dale remove his atom-pistol, while the officer talks on.

I couldn't fire in these close quarters, Flash! Good girl, Dale! Untie my bonds, we'll commandeer this car.

I don't know if I can untie this thong, Flash. What is this place called—Opto?

I don't know what Zarkov has told me about it. The people of Opto cannot see, but are guided by a radar device in that headgear they wear. Wait! We're stopping!
AS THE PREFECT BUILDS A FANTASTIC STORY ABOUT DALE'S PROWESS, SHE IS DRAGGED FROM THE CAR AND BOUND.

THE ARMORED CAR SWINGS TO A STOP IN A GREAT COURTYARD. THE SOLDIERS OPEN THE HATCH TO FIND A DAZED PREFECT MUMBLING, "THE WOMAN, TIE HER UP SHE HAS THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN!"

FLASH OFFERS PROTEST, BUT IS CUT SHORT.... SILENCE, PRISONER! THE PREFECT IS ABOUT TO SPEAK!

THROW THEM IN JAIL, I'LL PRESENT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM TO THE HIGH TRIBUNAL. THEY WILL BE GIVEN A "FAIR TRIAL" TOMORROW.

AS THE PREFECT SNARLS HIS DECLARATION, FLASH REALIZES THE BOGUS EVIDENCE THE PREFECT WILL PRESENT.

FLASH AND DALE ARE LED TO THEIR CELL. "HERE YOU AWAITS TRIAL, AFTER WHICH YOUR SIGHT WILL BE DESTROYED," SMILES THE GUARD.

IN THE FAR END OF THE CELL A YOUNG LADY WHIMPERS, "MORE PEOPLE TO BE MADE LAUGHINGSTOCKS FOR THE HIGH TRIBUNAL, OR IS THIS YET ANOTHER WAY TO TORMENT ME?"
STAY AWAY FROM ME. HAVEN'T I BEEN TORTURED ENOUGH? COME NEARER AND I SHALL BE FORCED TO USE THIS NAIL FILE!

FLASH AND DALE MOVE INTO THE CELL. DALE STEPS FORWARD TO SPEAK TO THE YOUNG GIRL, BUT SHE SPRINGS ON DALE WITH THE FURY OF AN ENRAGED TIGRESS.....

DALE, HER ARMS BOUND BEHIND HER, STOOPS LOW, AS THE ANGRY GIRL HURTLES OVER HER.

YOUNG LADY, CAN'T YOU SEE OUR ARMS ARE BOUND? WE ALL SHARE THE SAME FATE.

YOU LIE! YOU ARE AGENTS OF THE REGENT OPTIK!

YOU HAVE BEEN PLACED HERE TO GAIN MY CONFIDENCE. THEN YOU EXPECT TO LEARN THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OUTLAW VANGO AND THE YOUNG KING VISA. BUT I'LL NEVER TELL YOU.

I ASSURE YOU WE KNOW NOTHING OF THE PEOPLE YOU MENTION.

NO! WE ARRIVED HERE FROM MONGO QUITE RECENTLY AND QUITE BY ACCIDENT. WELL, YOU DO POSSESS SIGHT
While Flash and Dale reason with the girl, a messenger from one of Opto's outposts rushes to the headquarters of the Regent Optik...

The messenger reaches his destination and is quickly admitted into the office of the Regent.

Sir, I bring evidence which proves the skyship we shot down was from Mongo.

Place it on my desk, then clear this room.

They must be in league with the outlaw Vango. How fortunate we intercepted them! I'll call the prefect. The prisoners will go before the high tribunal immediately.

The room cleared, the regent removes his headgear. Studies the evidence placed on his desk. "Mongo!" he thinks. "One of the prisoners may be Dr. Zarkov, or that Flash Gordon!"

Soon after, guards enter the corridor leading to the prison cell housing Flash and Dale.

The prefect receives the order and passes it on in a burst of fury.
TIME OF TRIAL HAS BEEN ADVANCED. YOU GO BEFORE THE HIGH TRIBUNAL NOW. ALSO THE WOMAN NAMED "CHEE."

THE HIGH TRIBUNAL. IT IS A TEST OF PHYSICAL ENDURANCE IN THE PIT—AGAINST THE VICIOUS TIGORYX.

SILENTLY, THE PRISONERS ARE LED TOWARD THE ARENA, COURT ROOM OF THE HIGH TRIBUNAL.


WELL, THEY ARE HUMANE ENOUGH TO GIVE US POSSESSION OF OUR FACULTIES. HERE, FLASH, YOUR ATOM-PISTOL. I HID IT UNDER MY TUNIC WHEN WE LEFT THE ARMORED CAR.

GOOD GIRL! I THOUGHT THE GUARDS HAD GOTTEN IT. GIN STAY CLOSE TO ME. WE'LL RUSH THE GATE THROUGH WHICH THE TIGORYX WILL BE RELEASED!
One, the regent Optik presses a button and the iron gate rises—leaving to Dale, Flash and Chee a wild herd of fangs and horn.

Three greedy, cruel men, the high tribunal, watch and listen as Flash, Dale and the girl, Chee, rush the gate.

Flash fires point-blank into the herd of charging beasts.

Some escape the blast to rush on at the armed prey.

They have a weapon! What is the meaning of this? Send for the prefect. Post troops around the arena.
WE MUST GET TO THE GATES BEFORE THEY ARE CLOSED!

TRUE! I KNOW THE CATACOMBS OF THE ANIMAL CHAMBER.

FLASH COVERS THE GIRLS' RETREAT, AS THEY RUSH FOR THE RAPIDLY CLOSING GATES.

THE GIRLS MAKE IT. FLASH ROLLS THROUGH JUST BEFORE THE SPEARS OF THE GATE SINK INTO THE GROUND.

YOU SAY YOU KNOW THESE CHAMBERS, WHERE TO FROM HERE, CHEE?

THE RIVER ENTRANCE WHERE THE TIBORYX WATER, IT IS OPEN, BECAUSE THE ANIMALS FEAR THE RIVER.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT TUNNEL?

I ONCE WORE A HEADDRESS, DEPRIVED OF SIGHT, YOUR OTHER SENSES BECOME ACUTE. I CAN HEAR THE RIVER.

WAIT! HOW FAR IS IT?

QUIT A DISTANCE.

THEN THEY WILL HAVE TIME TO POST SOLDIERS THERE.

APPARENTLY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE RIVERS OF OPTO.
Or the moonlight nights we have.

This is no time for romance, lady. What’s the connection?

It is simple, sir. Opto has many moons. Consequently, our rivers have many conflicting tides and tidal waves.

Then the river that offers us protection can also destroy us.

The tunnel winds for nearly a mile, then opens out onto broad, boiling water.

The regent will leave us to this river.

I suggest you remove all unnecessary clothing. We must swim to the other shore.

That’s suicide!

We have no choice. I take your leave. See you on the other side.

That girl is crazy!

Remember, Dale, she is a native of Opto. Come along. We must try it.
CHEE, AN EXCELLENT SWIMMER, FAMILIAR WITH THE WATERS OF OPTO RIVERS, QUICKLY KNIFES HER WAY ACROSS THE TURBULENT RIVER....

DALE, FRIGHTENED BY THE HEAVY WATERS, CLINGS TO FLASH, SCREAMING, "WE ARE LOST, FLASH, DARLING! WE ARE LOST!"

I MADE IT. THEY'LL BOTH DROWN THE WAY THAT DALE HANGS TO FLASH!

LET THEM DROWN, I'M FREE FROM THE REGENT. NOW I MUST GET TO VANGO!

DEserting flash and dale, chee moves stealthily down the bank of the river....

A lone fisherman preparing to go out, just what i need - his boat.

chee creeps up to the unsuspecting fisherman and with the edge of her hand clips him on the nape of the neck.
DALE, exhausted, slips from Flash's arms, as he tries desperately to save their lives.

Cheo, gaining control of the fisherman's craft, roves away from the dock, determined to get to Vango.

What was that? — The radar-harpoons have fired. I forgot to shut them off.

The racing craft sweeps by Dale and Flash, as they struggle in the water.

The harpoon whizzes just above the heads of Flash and Dale.

Quickly, Flash grasps at the loose line.
Chee grabs a gaff axe and rushes to the harpoon port that has fired. "When that gun went off it cut the power. This boat will be stalled until I release the tension on that line," she mutters.

Through the open port, Chee sees her catch....

Flash and Dale!

Chee watches quietly, Flash lets the line tow him to the boat.

While Chee watches, Dale rolls on the edge of the boat, as the towline stops.

He rolls Dale onto the edge of the boat, and the towline stops.

Tension off the line, the jet power automatically kicks in. The boat surges forward.

Chee, having stopped the hoist, swings the gaff axe on the still taut line. "Vango would never accept you," she cries.
CHEE, HAVING SET THE AUTOMATIC PILOT ON THE CONTROLS, OPENS A HATCH TO SEE IF SHE IS FREE OF FLASH AND DALE....

OM!

NICE LIFESAVING JOB, CHEE!

FLASH SCRAMBLES ABOARD THE ROCKING CRAFT, FEARING DALE WILL BE TOSSED OFF THE BOAT.

SO VANGO WON'T ACCEPT US! WE AREN'T TAKING YOUR WORD FOR IT. WE'LL SEE FOR OURSELVES!

I'M SORRY- I WAS JUST EXCITED. I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND WITH DALE.

FLASH MOVES DALE TO THE CABIN. AFTER GIVING HER FIRST AID, HE TURNS TO CHEE....

WHERE DO YOU HAVE THIS BOAT HEADED?

UPSTREAM TO THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, VANGO'S HEADQUARTERS ARE THERE.

BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE RIVER. VANGO DOESN'T WANT SPIES.

OH, WE'RE SPY SUSPECTS AGAIN! DIDN'T WE HELP YOU ESCAPE THE REGENT, OPTIK?

THAT'S JUST IT! OUR ESCAPE WAS TOO EASY. WHY WERE YOU PERMITTED TO HAVE A PISTOL WHEN YOU WERE A PRISONER?

OVERSIGHT ON THE PART OF THE GUARDS, I GUESS.
HO! TRY CONVINCING VANGO WITH THAT YARN. LOOK, I'LL PULL INTO SHORE. THEN YOU AND THAT DALE CAN MAKE YOUR OWN WAY ON LAND.

THE REGENT OPTIK HAS PATROLS, DOESN'T HE? NO, THANK YOU. I LIKE THIS BOAT, DESPITE THE CREW.

CHEE, INFURIATED BY FLASH'S SARCASM, PULLS A RIFLE FROM THE WALL RACK.

I'LL SEE THAT YOU DO GO ASHORE. I'M NOT TAKING YOU INTO VANGO'S CAMP.

NOW I'LL TAKE YOUR WATERLOGGED PISTOL. FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS OR YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO RUN FROM OPTIK'S PATROLS.

AS CHEE MOVES FORWARD TO TAKE FLASH'S PISTOL, HE KNOCKS HER RIFLE TO ONE SIDE. HER REFLEXES DISCHARGE THE WEAPON.

THE BURST FROM THE RIFLE MAKES A DIRECT HIT ON THE CONTROL PANEL. THE FISHERMAN'S BOAT CAREENS WILDLY...

THEN PLUNGES HEADLONG INTO THE ROCK-BOUND SHORELINE.
At the moment of impact, Flash and Chee are hurled forward.

Chee recovers quickly in a rage of fury....

You fool! You wrecked the boat!

Dale, aroused from her stupor, sees Flash pull Chee into his arms, as he tries to subdue her anger. "He loves her," thinks Dale, "because she is daring, an athlete and a strange woman."

Near by, an opto-guard, having spotted the wrecked boat, blows on a supersonic trumpet.

Let's go! Our fishermen never lose control of their boats. It must be the criminals who escaped the high tribunal.

In the guard station the supersonic trumpet call is received through a converter that broadcasts at a lower frequency audible to human ears.
GUIDED BY THEIR RADAR-EQUIPPED HELMETS, THE TWO GUARDS RACE ALONG A MARKED TRAIL TO THE RIVER'S EDGE.

WHILE A COMMON ENEMY NEARS THE WRECKED BOAT, FLASH TRIES TO BRING CHEE TO REASON. FINALLY SHE SAYS, "WE'LL ABANDON SHIP."

BUT I WON'T TAKE YOU TO VANGO. MEANWHILE, I'LL GET SOME CLOTHING FROM AN AFT COMPARTMENT. WE ARE IN THE WINTER REGION OF OPTO.

BETTER MAKE IT FAST!

GLAD YOU ARE FEELING BETTER, DALE. WE MUST KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON THAT CHEE; SHE HAS A TERRIBLE DISPOSITION.

YES, I NOTICED YOU HAD HER UP IN ARMS—YOUR ARMS.

CHEE RAISES THE HATCH COVER TO LEAD THE WAY OUT, BUT IS WELCOMED BY A BURST OF GUNFIRE.

CHEE RETURNS WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF WINTER CLOTHING. THE THREE OF THEM SLIP INTO THE SUITS, QUICKLY. "FOLLOW ME," CHEE ANNOUNCES, "WE'LL LEAVE BY NUMBER THREE HATCH!"
A second burst sends Chee below...

Opto coast guardsmen! There's but one way now, don't fire on them, flash. I'll be right back!

Chee rushes below. A few minutes later she returns, wearing a headgear, 'we'll see how this works,' she says, as she moves to the hatch cover.

Hold your fire. I am the daughter of the fisherman, Zandro of Optomerey!

It may be a trick!

Yes, but she wears a headgear. Hear the recognition signal!

Snatching a rifle from one of the guards, she bashes flash on the back of the head.

Reluctantly, the guards give the order, 'pass to shore.' Chee, Dale and Flash climb over the rocks to the presence of their enemy. 'Arrest these two people! They escaped the high tribunal and have been holding me as hostage,' smiles Chee, triumphantly!
Chee removes her headgear for better vision. Then turns the rifle on the startled guards.

I said I wouldn’t take you to Vango and I meant it. You can give that message to Flash when he comes to.

I’ll take Flash’s pistol. Vango will be interested in such a weapon.

Chee steps near Dale to get the pistol. Her left leg is caught in a scissors hold, as Dale enters the conflict.

Chee, disarmed in her fall, tries to recover, as Dale pulls Flash’s pistol from his belt.

Get on your way, Chee! Go to your so wonderful Vango.
Chee is forced by Dale to move on. Taking a pair of skis from the fallen Opto Guards, she is soon lost in the vastness of OTO's High Sierras.

Later, Flash rallies, "What happened, Dale?" Dale tells Flash how he was hit by Chee, how she turned on the guards—and that now she is on her way to Vango.

Flash gets to his feet...

"Vango! We must follow her!"

No! No, Flash. Let's forget Chee and Vango. Why not try contacting Dr. Zarkov on M NGO? We have a better chance for that, if we get to Vango.

Disregarding Dale's pleading, Flash takes the remaining two pairs of skis, and he and Dale start their pursuit of Chee.

Hours later, Chee arrives at a sentry post...

"It's Chee! Our little Queen of Espionage!"

Righto! Take me to Vango. I have much to say!

Shortly after, Chee is with Vango.

"Thank Saturn, you got here. There's a heavy storm closing in on the region. They'll never make it then—"
Meanwhile, Flash, there's a storm rising. Yes, if that wind continues to rise, Chee's tracks will be lost to us.

Fighting against time, Flash urges Dale. On, the blizzard increases in intensity and a bitter wind bites into the very marrow of their bones...

Their progress is greatly impeded, as they huddle near each other. "No use, Dale! We must seek shelter. This storm may continue for days.

For hours the winter region of Opto is a mad swirl of white. Night closes in with intense cold. Flash builds a fire, but its heat is little comfort against the fury of the weather.

Over there, Flash! It is a light!

Do you know what that means, Dale? Whoever has that light can see! It may be one of Vango's — it's gone!

Suddenly, the storm subsides. The sky clears and the many moons of Opto illuminate a fairyland, in which all tracks have been erased. Dale startles Flash with, "Look! A light!"
FLASH AND DALE PREPARE TO INVESTIGATE THE LIGHT, WHEN SUDDENLY, IN A WHIRL OF SNOW, A SMALL FIGURE NEARLY LANDS ON THEM...

WHERE YOU HEADING, STRANGERS? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

VANGO WANTS YOU, HAND OVER YOUR GUN, THEN PUT ON YOUR SKIS.

ARRIVING AT A RAMBLING HOUSE, THE DWARF BANGS ON THE DOOR, "OPEN UP, WOMAN! I HAVE THE SPIES." TO FLASH HE SAYS, "I PUT YOU ON YOUR HONOR WHILE YOU'RE HERE, BUT ONE FALSE MOVE AND I'LL END OUR FRIENDSHIP!"

"YOU STAY AT MY HOUSE TONIGHT, GO TO VANGO IN THE MORNING!" SAYS THE DWARF AS HE LEADS THE WAY.
Above them the fire-weakened timbers of the roof give way under the weight of heavy snow. "We'll both stay here!", the dwarf cries, then breaks into hideous laughter.

Flash, realizing the little man's mind has gone berserk, picks him up bodily.

Get some clothing and some skis, Dale. This fellow will be of little help until we get him outside.

I have everything at the main entrance, Flash!

With his small charge Flash works his way to the door, where Dale waits anxiously. "Thank heaven you made it, Flash darling," she whispers, happily.

Good work! I'll put skis on this guy and perhaps he can still lead us to Vango!

Put me down, I'll take care of myself!

Flash seizes the little man to the ground. The dwarf, gaining his feet, lunges toward the door of the burning house. Flash leaps in pursuit.
DON'T BE A FOOL, LITTLE FELLOW. YOU CAN'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY. YOU ARE NEEDED BY VANGO.

VANGO! YES, VANGO! HE WANTED ME TO BRING YOU IN, AND YOU WANT TO SEE HIM. YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!

VERY WELL! I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, WE'LL GO TO VANGO, BUT NOT ON SKIS, FOLLOW ME!

JUST A MINUTE! WHAT SORT OF A TRICK IS THIS? YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO ENTER THAT BURNING HOUSE.

TRUE! BUT WE MUST, TO REACH THE TUBE. FURTHERMORE, THIS END OF THE TUBE MUST BE BLOWN UP, SINCE THE BURNING OF THE HOUSE WILL EXPOSE THE DIRECT CONNECTION TO VANGO'S HIDE-OUT.

THAT SOUNDS LOGICAL. LEAD THE WAY.

CAUTIOUSLY THE DWARF LEADS FLASH AND DALE INTO THE SMOKE-FILLED FOYER OF THE BURNING HOUSE. OPENING A TRAP DOOR IN THE FLOOR, THROUGH WHICH THEY ENTER TO A SUPER-SUBWAY.

ENTER, MY FRIENDS! THE NEXT STOP IS VANGO'S HIDE-OUT. I WILL ENTER LAST, BECAUSE I MUST SET THE DETONATOR.

SO THAT THIS STATION WILL BE DESTROYED, RIGHT?

RIGHT!

FLASH AND DALE ENTER THE MACHINE, QUICKLY THE DOOR IS SLAMMED SHUT...

WHY, THAT LITTLE—

HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US, FLASH! WE'RE MOVING!
Making hairpin turns and sudden rises and drops, the subway car shoots through subterranean caverns at incredible speed.

Suddenly the speed is cut and the machine coasts to a stop in front of an elaborate ramp. A guard exclaims, "Look! The car of Petito, the little one, has arrived!"

Petito, you little runt, did you get the man—oh—where is Petito?

If you refer to the midget, he's in his burning house at the other end of the tube.

He wanted to destroy the station there—

As if to add emphasis to Flash's statement, the concussion of a distant blast surges through the tube...

I'll send some men to check your story. Meanwhile, you'll be taken to Vango.

I'm afraid you won't like what they find. Where is this Vango?

A few minutes later Flash and Dale are led before Vango and Chee. "There, my darling, are the spies of the resent Optik," Chee says.
Vango rises. "So these are the spies?" he says. "Send for Katonk. We'll deal with them quickly."

Flash starts to speak, but is cut short by Vango. "Chee has told me enough about you. I'll use my own methods of gaining confirmation."

Then a hulk of a man enters the room...

You called me, sir?

Yes, Katonk. This man needs some violent exercise.

You, my dear, may sit near me during this spectacle!

One moment, Vango...

You heard what he said, they'll watch us!

Katonk whirls Flash about, slashes him with a right that sends him sprawling.

Now, young lady, while your champion is subjected to the torment of Katonk you will talk, and honestly, or Katonk will become most brutal!

As Vango presses Dale to talk, Katonk pulls Flash from the floor, clasps him in his arms and pins him against the studded points of his belt.
Flash drives his thumbs into the sides of the big man. For a moment the vise-like hold is broken.

Realizing he must stay away from the mighty Katonk, Flash retreats with a sharp left to the giant's stomach.

Katonk, champion of rough and tumble in the camp of Vango, is enraged by Flash's clever moves.

Dale, her eyes fixed on Flash, tells Vango their story, adding: "Flash believed you were fighting for a great cause. That's why he came here." Vango seems impressed but makes no move to stop the fight.

Flash dances about the clumsy Katonk, as the huge man stalks him awkwardly.

Finding openings, Flash moves in to batter the baffled fighter.
Flash’s skill and timing take their toll as the giant Katonk falls to the floor, a beaten man.

His adversary lying on the floor, Flash races toward Vango, the outlaw leader stirs uneasily.

What a touching scene! The great Vango gives hand and heart to his enemies. Enough, Chee! Provide quarters for this young lady!

Then to Flash’s surprise, Vango rises, his hand extended in greeting.

Now I am to aid and comfort the enemy! Come on, Dale! I’ll leave Vango to the error of his ways!

Silence, woman! Curb your tongue.

Unnoticed by the others, the beaten Katonk rises from the floor. Quietly he moves toward Flash, his studded-belt dangling in his hand.
KATONK TAPS FLASH ON THE SHOULDER...

THIS BELT BELONGS TO YOU NOW, YOU ARE OPTO'S NEW CHAMP!

WHAT? I COULD NOT ACCEPT IT. I AM NOT A NATIVE OF OPTO. YOU KEEP IT. YOU WEAR IT WELL.

I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, FLASH. IT WAS ADDED PROOF OF WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT YOU.

SUPPOSE YOU EXPLAIN THAT, WHILE I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SHOWER BATH YOU OFFERED ME!

CHEE CAME TO ME, PROCLAIMING YOU WERE AN AGENT OF OPTIK. MENTION OF YOUR NAME STRUCK A FAMILIAR NOTE WITH ME AND I CHECKED MY FILES. I KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE AN ENEMY.

I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE ALL YOUR PUBLICITY CLAIMED YOU TO BE, YOU ARE!

O.K., WHY DOES OPTIK LIST YOU AS AN OUTLAW?

BECAUSE I AM TRYING TO LIBERATE THE PEOPLE OF OPTO, AND IN SO DOING, RESTORE THEIR SIGHT. OPTIK HAS KEPT THE PEOPLE SUBJECTED UNTIL HIM. HE HAS BANISHED ALL DOCTORS WHO HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH SIGHT RESTORATION.

DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE A DOCTOR.

NO, I'M AN EXAMPLE PATIENT, THE SAME AS ALL MY ARMY. WE RESCUED AND HAVE PROTECTED ONE DOCTOR, WHO IS NOW THE HEAD OF OUR MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

WHY ARE THE PEOPLE OF OPTO WITHOUT SIGHT?
MANY YEARS AGO, OPTO’S SUN BURNED OUT. NATURALLY, THE PLANET BECAME COLD, BUT WITH THE BENEFIT OF SCIENCE, LIFE WAS SUSTAINED FOR GENERATIONS. EACH GENERATION BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO THE EVERLASTING DARKNESS.

AT THIS POINT THEY STILL POSSESSED SIGHT?

RIGHT! THEN A FEW DECADES PAST A NEW SUN SUDDENLY APPEARED. THE EXTREME LIGHT BLINDED THE PEOPLE OF OPTO.

NO ONE ESCAPED?

FEW, OPTIK, WHO CAME INTO POWER, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS MALADY. ANYONE POSSESSING SIGHT HE CLAIMED WAS AN EVIL PERSON. HE IS NOW MASTER OF A FEW MILLION SLAVES.

I’VE HEARD ENOUGH. WHEN DO WE MARCH AGAINST OPTIK?

WE? I’M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, TOO. GET A GOOD NIGHT’S SLEEP AND TOMORROW WE’LL GET TO WORK.

VERY WELL, VANGO. GOOD NIGHT!

MANY HOURS LATER, FLASH ROSES FROM A DEEP AND RESTFUL SLEEP....

GOOD MORNING, SIR. PETTO AND KATONK. AT YOUR SERVICE.

I THOUGHT YOU BLEW YOURSELF UP WITH THE SUBWAY STATION?

I WANTED TO WATCH IT GO BLOOIE! THAT’S WHY I STAYED.

HERE ARE YOUR NEW CLOTHES. VANGO IS ANXIOUS TO SEE YOU.
Meanwhile, Dale slips from her quarters, while Chee sleeps, taking with her Chee’s pistol.

Through the halls of Vango’s hideout, Dale searches for the signal office. Finding it, she enters quietly.

What is the range of your transmitters?

A slight noise as Dale closes the door behind her, brings the communications officer to his feet. “Good morning,” says Dale, warmly.

A few million miles, we maintain radio silence at present. One transmission and Optik’s artillery would cut loose on us.

If you were operating, could you contact Mongo?

Then do it now. Use call letters “K-M-O.” You will contact Dr. Zarkov, then I will speak with him.

We have in the past!
The huge direction finders of Opto's Signal Corps picks up the transmission immediately and establishes a fix on the station.

...in the office of fire control a signal ticks out the fix in code, "Target R-53, target R-53." The officer in charge shouts orders into a microphone.

Instantly, atom guns protrude from their positions and at the designated time lay down their first barrage on target R-53.

Vango's headquarters rock with the first blast within the heavy protective walls of lead. A surprised Vango turns on flash.

Gordon! If you tricked me, if you are really an agent of Optik responsible for this, you will never leave here alive!

I had nothing to do with it! Where did Chee take Dale?

Just then Chee enters the room.....

Vango! That woman, Dale, left my room. She took my pistol. I can't find her anywhere.
I hope you are satisfied, Miss Arden. Dr. Zarkov probably has a vague idea where you are now.

I'm sorry, believe me. I didn't think Opto had such advanced equipment.

Okay, we'll try to keep this a secret between us. If Vango finds out about the transmission, I'm in the same spot with you.

It seems the secret don't keep long!

So you broke radio silence and drew the fire of Optik's guns. You're under arrest. If we live through this.

Wait a minute, Vango. This is the time to attack Optik's forces. They will concentrate their fire on this installation until they believe everything is destroyed.

I ask no advice from you. I have worked years for the day when I could stand against Optik and help my people—

Now, you and your lady friend have ruined everything. But I will see you destroyed.

The cutting blow across his face throws flash into action. He springs on Vango who shouts for Katonk, but Katonk stands idly by and ignores the orders.
GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, VANGO. WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M GOING TO ATTACK OPTIK WITH YOUR TROOPS AND THE HELP OF KATONK!

AND ME! DON'T FORGET ME!

SUCH INSUBORDINATION! MUTINY! I'LL HAVE ALL OF YOU FOR THIS!

I'LL LEAVE DALE AS HOSTAGE. IF OUR VENTURE SUCCEEDS OR FAILS, I'LL HOLD YOU ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR HER.

MEANWHILE, I SUGGEST YOU COOL YOUR WRATH INWhATEVER SHELTER YOU MAY HAVE PROVIDED AGAINST ATTACK.

YOU SEEMED TO HAVE GAINED FAVOR WITH MY MEN—

— IF THEY WILL FOLLOW YOU, I'LL GO ALONG.

NO! YOU STAY HERE. IF WE SUCCEED, YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY TO DO LATER.

OPTIK, HEARING THE REPORT OF THE SHELLING, MOVES TO A FORWARD AREA. "THIS SHOULD BRING PEACE TO OPTO," HE REMARKS.

WITH VANGO OUT OF THE WAY, WE HAVE NO OPPOSITION.

HE WILL BE NO ONE WILL ESCAPE. RADIO-ACTIVITY WILL GET THEM, IF THE BLASTING DOESN'T.
While Optik gloats over his disposition of Vango,
in Vango's hide-out a huge metal door opens. Two green lights by the control tower blink and rocket-powered sleds move out to attack Optik's out-post garrisons.

As the sleds pass each of Optik's direction finders, they knock them out with ray-gun fire.

Approaching first guard post sir Flash. Signal to the other sleds to cut their power.

With their power shut off, the sleds glide quietly into the guard post passing the entrance. They regain speed and open fire, leaving the outpost in ruin.
"That's one for our side," shouts Katonk. "We've a long way to go. Don't become too confident," says Flash, "our next target is an atom cannon."

"We'll have to circle behind it, Petito," continues Flash. "I'm familiar with its location," answers Petito, "but we'll have to abandon our sleds."

"Because it is beyond the winter belt in the timber region," adds Katonk, as their sled takes to flight.

"What are you doing, Petito?"

"The same thing I would do on skis. Taking the shortest distance to the lower level."

"The sleds sail down from the mountain ledge and land easily on a glacier run."

"As the first sled, in which Flash, Petito and Katonk are riding, coasts to a stop, an explosion rips the bow--"

"Followed by a second explosion that hurls them clear of the sled."
"Bloonin' Radar! They tripped us up with their blamed Radar," cries Katonk, in anger.

The heavy foliage along the glacier breaks their fall, as their bodies twist toward the ground.

Something funny about this. Optik doesn't have any guard posts near here, and we were fired on at close range.

Listen! More firing!

The second sled spots the snipers, and quickly knocks out the anti-tank gun that stopped Flash's sled.

It wasn't a guard post. Petito, just two men!

Yes! They were Optik's special guards.

That means the Regent is around!

Optik here? Good! Petito, get the other men from the sleds, bring the phony headgear. This is more than we wished for!

Right!
Later, Pettio and the troops return, outoftrated in headgear similar to the ones worn by Optik's soldiers...

These helmets send out a recognition signal every few minutes the same as the real ones, but these are equipped with periscope lenses, instead of the usual radar equipment.

GOOD! LET'S GO!

Flash leads the troops into Optik's bivouac. "What garrison are you from?" challenges an opto sergeant. "Post 3," answers Flash, "we are to report to the regent." "He isn't here!" snaps the sergeant.

But one of Optik's soldiers slips away and rushes to an armored car.

Flash gives a signal and the troops of Vango spring into action. Optik's troops are easy prey to the surprise attack.

One of them is trying to escape! Take charge here, Pettio!

Flash lunges toward the armored car as it picks up speed. Gaining a hold, he swings on to the vehicle.
Flash finds the hatch sealed from within. Raising his pistol, he blasts the cover open.

Flash drops through the hatch, just as the Opto Soldier blurts a warning to Optik on the radio.

Turning in his seat, he fires at Flash...

Flash escapes the Opto Soldier's fire, throws himself to one side and aims at the radio. The shot from his pistol rips open the entire front of the vehicle.

The car swerves wildly out of control...

Then hurtles over an embankment...
AND PLUNGES INTO
THE RIVER BELOW...

THE VEHICLE SETTLES
TO THE BOTTOM. FLASH TRIES TO FREE
THE DRIVER, AS THE WATER SURGES THROUGH
THE WRECKED CAR.

RELEASES THE DRIVER, HE
PULLS HIM TOWARD
THE SURFACE. "HE
MAY BE ABLE TO LEAD
ME TO OPTIK! FLASH
THINKS.

FLASH DRAGS THE LIMP FORM
OF THE OPTIK SOLDIER
TO THE ROCKY SHORE.

MEANWHILE, KATONK AND PETITO LEAD HANGOS
SOLDIERS AGAINST THE ATOM CANNON. THEY
ENTER THROUGH THE AMMUNITION ROOM.

WAIT A MINUTE! THEY SAID OPTIK IS
HERE. WHY SHOULD WE RISK OUR NECKS CAPTURING
HIM, WHEN WE CAN SET
A TIME FUSE ON ONE
OF THESE ATOM
SHELLS.

RIGHT! THEN WE GET RID OF
OPTIK JUST LIKE THAT!
THE FUSE IS SET ON THIS ONE, PETITO. EVERYONE CLEAR OUT!

YOU BET! WE WANT DISTANCE NOW!

WE BETTER FIND FLASH ON OUR WAY BACK. WE DON'T WANT HIM TO WALK IN THERE.

ENTERING THE CANNON STATION THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE, HE FORCES THE SOLDIER TO LEAD HIM TO OPTIK.

BUT FLASH PASSES THEM UNSEEN, AS HE URGES THE REVIVED OPTIK SOLDIER TOWARD THE ATOM CANNON.

SIR, THIS MAN BRINGS AN URGENT MESSAGE TO THE RESENT!

DOES HE? WHY DOES HE HOLD A GUN ON YOU?

AS I SUSPECTED, OPTIK, YOUR VISION IS PERFECT. SINCE YOU CAN SEE THIS PISTOL, I ADVISE YOU TO RESPECT IT.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO ARE YOU?
Removing his headgear, for better vision, Optik glares at Flash. Recognition races through his mind and he mutters, "Flash Gordon!"

He leans over to draw a pistol from the desk. Flash slashes the butt of his weapon against the soldier's head.

Then throws himself at Optik, clipping the weapon from the reagent's hand.

Then follows up with a left, that sends the reagent sprawling.

He pulls the reagent to his feet. "Get on that radio and give the order to cease firing," orders Flash. "You are now the prisoner of Vango!"

While in the arsenal below, the timing device on an atom projectile ticks away - time that can't be turned back.
Optik turns to the radio and announces, "Soldiers of Opto, cease firing and abandon your stations. This is the Regent."

Meanwhile, in an atom-jet skyship, nearing Opto, Dr. Zarkov watches the images on his televisionoscope.

Seconds later, Dr. Zarkov's skyship zooms in to a landing near the atom cannon station.

Flash sees the skyship approach. Recognizing the construction of the craft as a Mongo ship, he rushes the Regent Optik down to meet it.

Greetings between Flash and Dr. Zarkov follow, then the three board the ship as the craft shoots from the ground. The atom cannon station explodes behind them.
With landing gear retracted, the skyship lands on the snow near the launching ramp for Vango's power sleds.

Petito rushes out to meet them. Seeing Flash, he exclaims, "When we couldn't find you, we thought you had drowned in that armored car."

Within Vango's headquarters Dale awaits. As Flash and Zarkov enter, she rushes into Flash's arms. There are tears in her eyes, as she whispers, "My darling, you are safe!"

Optik is led away by Katonk and Petito. "My most sincere thanks, for what you have done, are most inadequate," says Vango, "I do hope and wish that you might stay to help in the rehabilitation."

Dr. Zarkov, I know that Medico, our doctor, would greatly appreciate your help in restoring the sight of the people of Opto. I would be most happy to lend my talent!

Thank you, I'll send for Medico. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must attend to a family affair. You see, Optik is my brother."
Vango enters a small room in which Optik, Petito, and Katonk wait. He walks to a cabinet, removes two swords and tosses one to Optik. "Defend yourself, brother," he says.

"No! No, Vango! I was wrong! I'm your brother, but you have greater wisdom, surely, you can find forgiveness for my folly," says Optik.

I can't fight a coward who refuses to raise a sword in his defense. Better that I leave you to the people of Opto. Lock him up, Katonk!

As Vango turns, Optik reaches for the sword.

Before Katonk can stop him, he hurled the blade at Vango...

Katonk grabs the treacherous Optik in the steel-like grip of his hands. Seconds later, the limp form of the Regent slides to the floor.

Days later, Vango recovers from the sword wound. He finds that he has been moved to the capital of Opto.
Vango also finds that the palace has been transformed into a large hospital...

Where medico and Dr. Zarkov have treated many thousands of Opto’s people and have given to those people a new world—through sight.

As he walks onto the balcony, he realizes that the people of Opto have begun a festival season. At last happiness has come to Opto.

Finding flash ready to leave, he apologizes for his inability to express his deep gratitude...

Chee approaches them and admits, “I was a nasty little minx, but I am most thankful for what you have done. She pauses, then kisses Flash, saying, “For the people of Opto!”

Then Flash, Dale, and Dr. Zarkov take their leave of Opto and set course for Mongo. Dale murmurs, “That designing Chee, kissing you on behalf of Opto—may I laugh now, Flash?”