

BELL
COMIC

No. 512

10¢

FLASH GORDON





FLASH GORDON

Earth's hero in defense of freedom and leader of the United Planets Security Forces to combat aggression.



DR. ZARKOV

Brilliant scientist and originator of "The Zarkov Line," Earth's asteroid belt defense against invasion from outer space.



MING, THE MERCILESS

Cruel tyrant emperor of the planet, Mongo, whose great ambition is to conquer Earth . . . and destroy Flash Gordon.



DALE

Loyal, young assistant to Flash whose courage and intelligence is equalled only by her love for him.



ZARA

Beautiful and dangerous daughter of the Emperor Ming. Her lust for power is exceeded only by that of her father.

FLASH GORDON



IN THE COLD REGIONS OF THE
ASTEROID BELT BEYOND MARS---



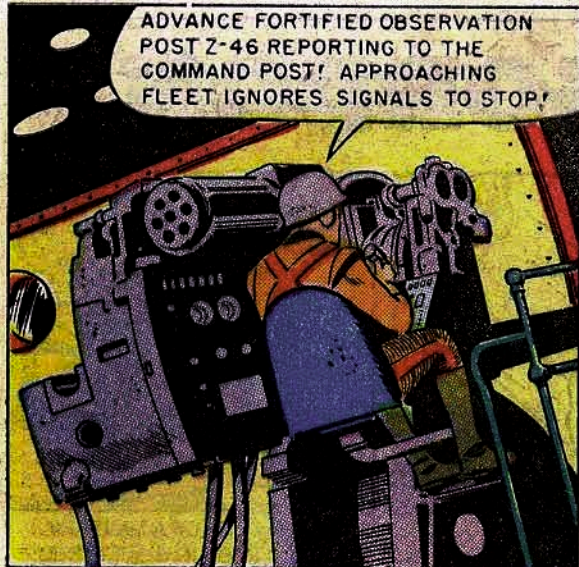
HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN A
SPINNING PLANETOID---



THE STILLNESS OF A MILITARY
COMMAND POST IS SHATTERED
BY SUDDEN ALARM!



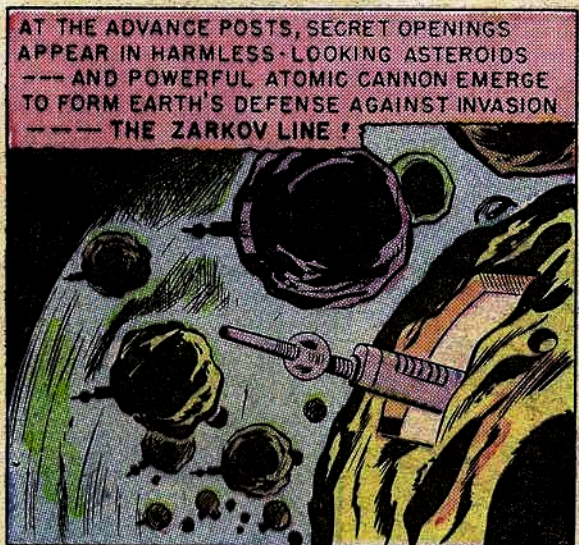
ADVANCE FORTIFIED OBSERVATION
POST Z-46 REPORTING TO THE
COMMAND POST! APPROACHING
FLEET IGNORES SIGNALS TO STOP!



ATTENTION, ADVANCE POST
COMMANDERS! THIS IS SPACE
ADMIRAL CRAIG--- PREPARE
FOR AN ATTACK!



AT THE ADVANCE POSTS, SECRET OPENINGS
APPEAR IN HARMLESS-LOOKING ASTEROIDS
--- AND POWERFUL ATOMIC CANNON EMERGE
TO FORM EARTH'S DEFENSE AGAINST INVASION
--- THE ZARKOV LINE!



ADVANCE POST
Z-46 ON TARGET!

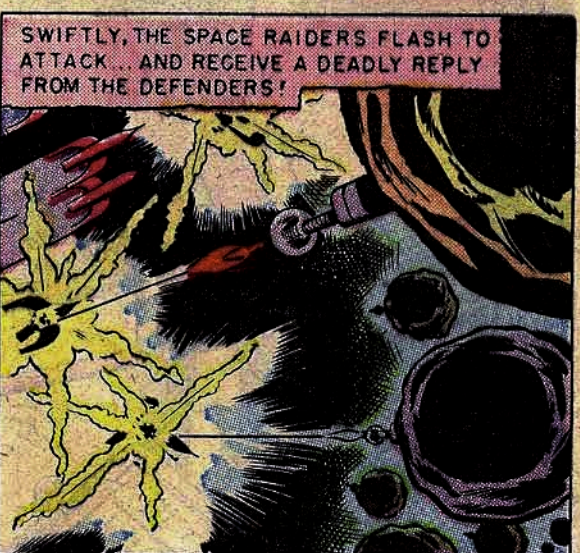
ADVANCE POST
T-19 ON TARGET!



ALL GUNS---
FIRE!



SWIFTLY, THE SPACE RAIDERS FLASH TO
ATTACK... AND RECEIVE A DEADLY REPLY
FROM THE DEFENDERS!



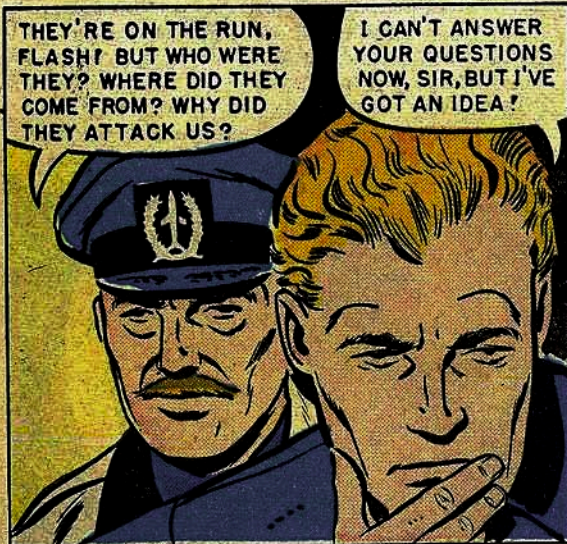


I'VE SET THE VIDEO-SCREEN AT TEN POWER MAGNIFICATION, SIR. I WANT TO HAVE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE ENEMY SHIPS!

THEY MUST BE FROM DEEP SPACE, FLASH. I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SHIPS BEFORE!

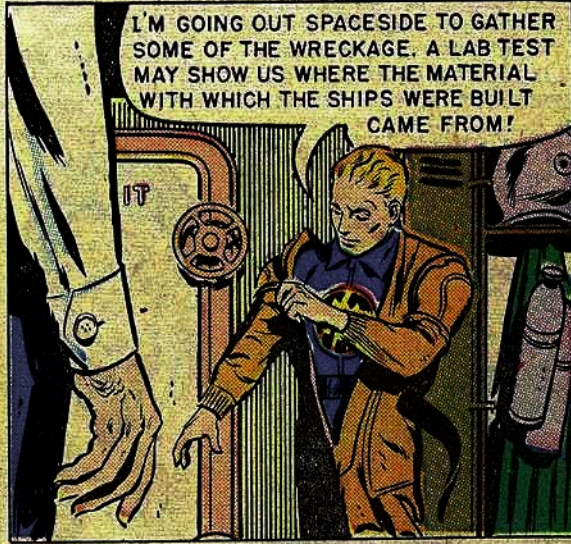


STRANGE! THEY DON'T ACT AS IF THEY EXPECTED TO GET THROUGH AFTER ALL---



THEY'RE ON THE RUN, FLASH! BUT WHO WERE THEY? WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? WHY DID THEY ATTACK US?

I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS NOW, SIR, BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



I'M GOING OUT SPACESIDE TO GATHER SOME OF THE WRECKAGE. A LAB TEST MAY SHOW US WHERE THE MATERIAL WITH WHICH THE SHIPS WERE BUILT CAME FROM!

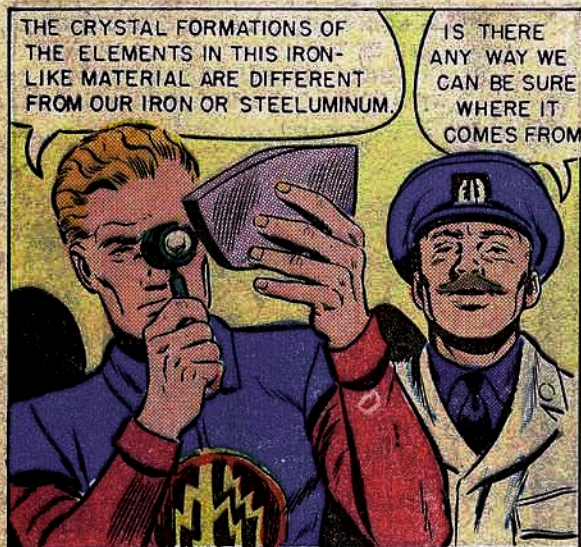


PICK UP WHATEVER WRECKAGE YOU FIND AND SHOOT IT DOWN TO THE LABS, MEN.



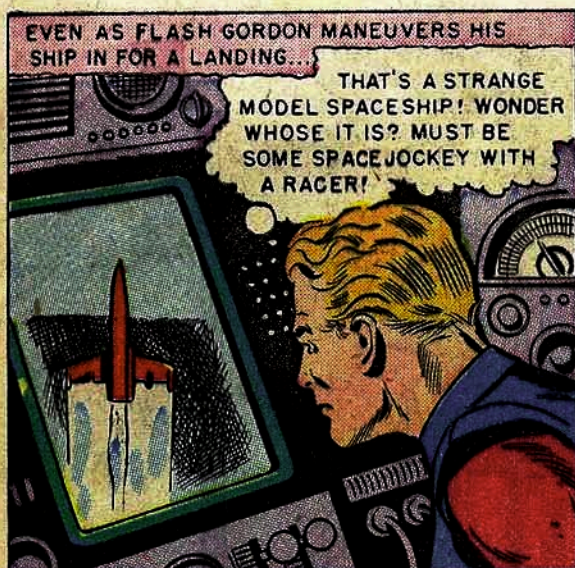
GEIGER CHECK SHOWS MINOR RADIATION! NO DANGER, FLASH.

GOOD! LET'S GET TO WORK!

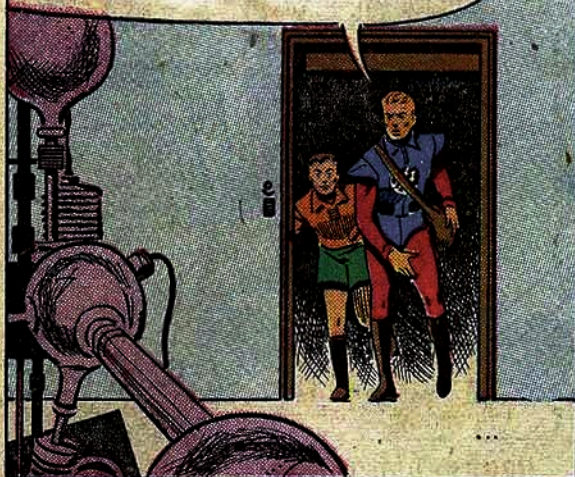








GONE! THE ATTACK ON THE ZARKOV LINE WAS A DIVERSION! NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND WHERE THE RAIDERS CAME FROM!



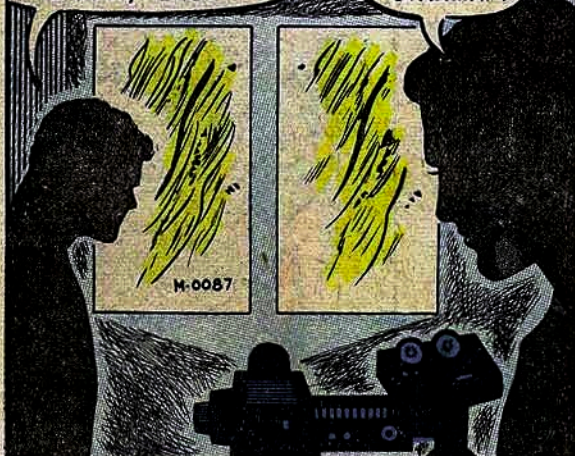
PREPARE THE SPECTROSCOPIC LABORATORY! I WANT TO TEST THE CRYSTAL FORMATIONS OF ELEMENTS IN THE GALAXY ON THIS METAL!

CERTAINLY, SIR!



IT CHECKS WITH ELEMENT CRYSTALS OF CHART M-0087, FLASH!

LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT A STARMAP!



M-0087 IS THE CENTAURI GROUP OF PLANETS! THAT'S WHERE THE RAIDERS CAME FROM!



THE SOLDIERS WHO ATTACKED. TELL ME, WERE THEY DRESSED IN BLACK UNIFORMS? THE CLAW OF A DRAGON ON THEIR CHESTS?

WHY, YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW, FLASH?



THE TALONS OF EMPEROR MING! THAT EVIL TYRANT HAS STILL NOT GIVEN UP HIS PLANS TO CONQUER OUR WORLDS!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, FLASH? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



IT MEANS MING HAS ABDUCTED DR. ZARKOV AND DALE TO FORCE INFORMATION FROM THEM ABOUT THE ZARKOV LINE---OUR MAIN DEFENSE AGAINST ATTACK FROM OUTER SPACE!





FLASH GORDON, CALLING COMMAND POST, ZARKOV LINE! ATTENTION! SPACE ADMIRAL CRAIG! USE CODE SCRAMBLER!



GO AHEAD, FLASH. WHAT DID THE TESTS SHOW?

SPACE RAIDERS WERE SENT BY EMPEROR MING! THEY KEPT US BUSY WHILE ANOTHER GROUP ABDUCTED DR. ZARKOV AND DALE!



A FULL REPORT IS ON THE WAY TO YOU BY SPACEGRAM, SIR!

AN OUTRAGE! I'LL HAVE OUR DEPARTMENT OF ASTRAL RELATIONS CONTACT EMPEROR MING'S AMBASSADOR, FLASH...

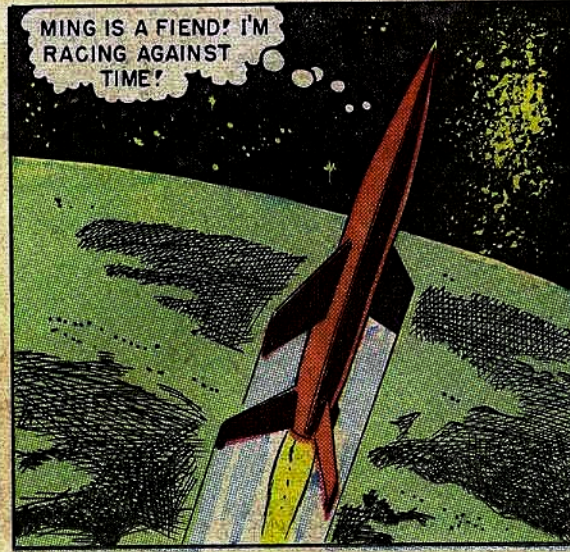


MING ISN'T GOING TO ADMIT HE KIDNAPPED DR. ZARKOV AND DALE, SIR! I'M GOING TO TAKE PERSONAL ACTION, ADMIRAL!

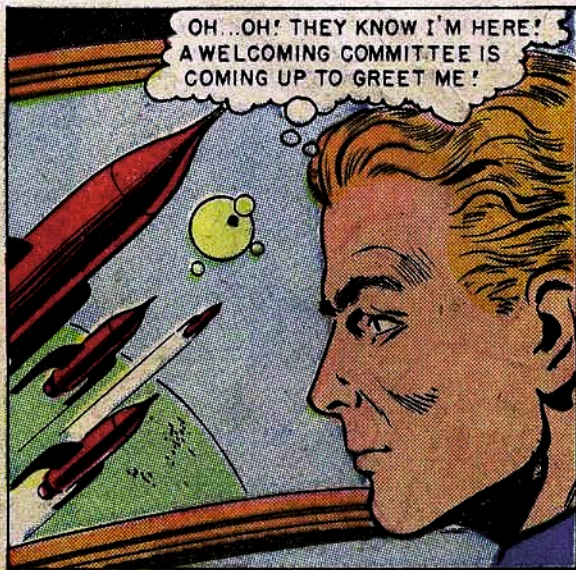
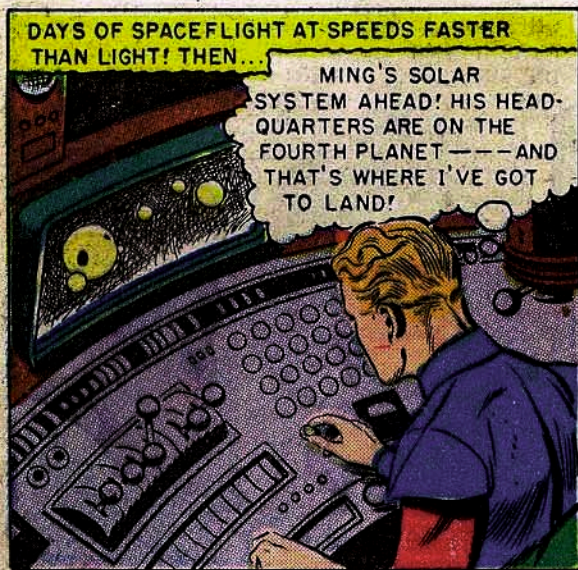
OF COURSE, FLASH! GOOD LUCK!



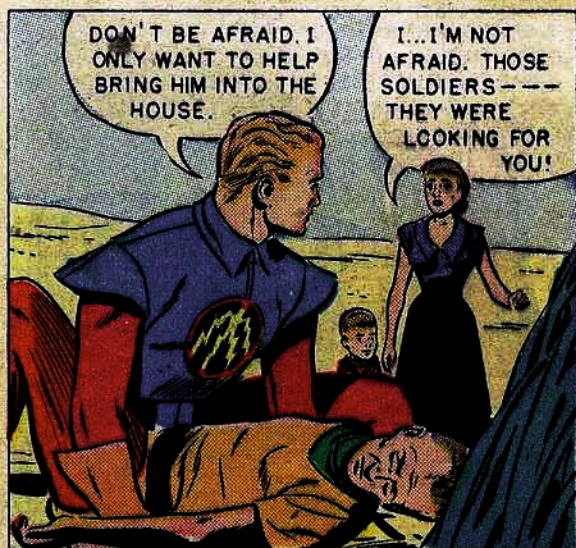
MING WILL TORTURE DR. ZARKOV TO LEARN THE SECRETS OF OUR FORTIFICATIONS! I'VE GOT TO GET TO MONGO AS FAST AS I CAN!

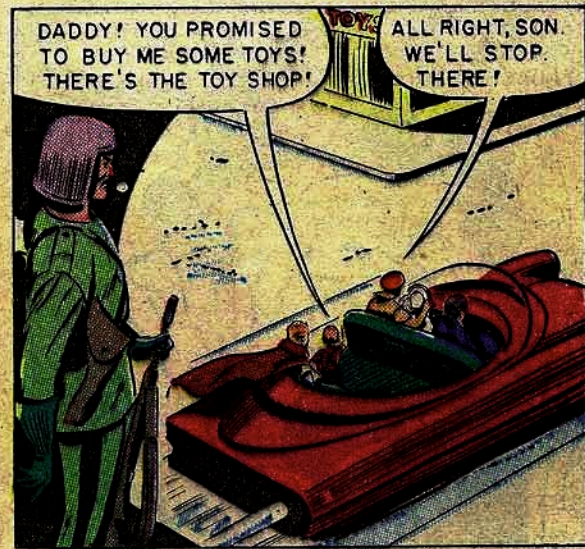


MING IS A FIEND! I'M RACING AGAINST TIME!











DOWN THESE STEPS! HURRY!
I MUST RETURN TO THE
TOY SHOP!



THE MEN OF THE UNDER-
GROUND POWER PLANTS
HATE MING! THEY WILL
HELP YOU, FLASH!

CAN THEY HELP
ME GET INTO
MING'S PALACE?



AND WHY DO YOU
WISH TO ENTER THE
PALACE OF MING?



AH...BASTIK! THIS
IS A FRIEND...FLASH
GORDON!

I HAVE COME TO
RESCUE TWO FRIENDS
HELD BY EMPEROR
MING!



I MUST HURRY BACK,
FLASH! GOOD-BYE! I
LEAVE YOU IN GOOD
HANDS!

THANKS FOR ALL
YOU'VE DONE...AND
THE RISKS YOU'VE
TAKEN TO HELP ME!

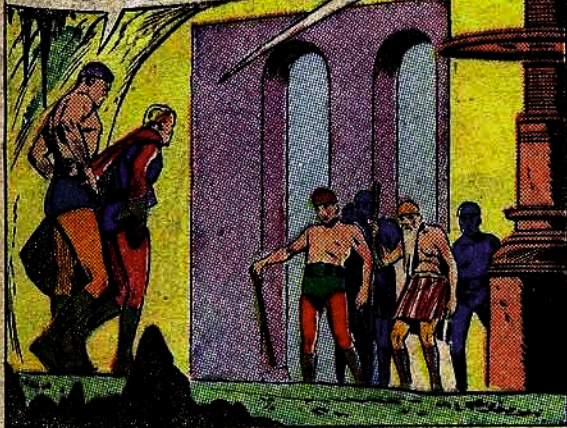


NOW, MY FRIEND, WE SHALL
TALK! IT IS NOT SO SIMPLE--
FREEING A PRISONER OF THE
CURSED TYRANT MING! THERE
IS DANGER OF DEATH...
OR WORSE!

I KNOW...BUT
MILLIONS OF
LIVES DEPEND
ON US!

THIS BRAVE AND FOOLISH ONE
DESIRES TO FREE SOME FRIENDS
BEING HELD BY MING! BUT HE
DOES NOT KNOW WHERE
THEY ARE!

I ASK YOUR
HELP IN FIND-
ING THEM,
FRIENDS!



THE VENTILATION TUBES, PERHAPS? THEY
GO TO EVERY ROOM IN THE PALACE... BUT IT
WILL TAKE LONG... AND IT IS DANGEROUS!
ONE SLIP, AND YOU WILL FALL INTO THE
GIANT FANS!



SHOW ME WHERE
THEY ARE! I'LL
TAKE THE CHANCE!

HE SPEAKS LIKE A
FIGHTER! AYE! I,
BARTIK, WILL GO
WITH HIM!



I WILL LEAD
THE WAY, FLASH!

I'M READY!



WE'RE APPROACHING
THE FIRST FAN, FLASH!
BE CAREFUL!



WE CAN STOP THESE FANS FOR A FEW
SECONDS TO CRAWL THROUGH. BUT IF
THEY ARE SILENT TOO LONG---
SOMEONE MIGHT SUSPECT WE'RE
INSIDE!





BARTIK... THE PRISONERS I SEEK ARE VERY IMPORTANT I THINK MING HIMSELF WILL BE QUESTIONING THEM! CAN YOU LEAD ME TO HIS ROOMS?

HA! I, BARTIK, KNOW EVERY INCH OF THE PALACE! I WILL LEAD YOU RIGHT TO MING!



MING'S COUNCIL ROOM IS JUST AHEAD! WE CAN SEE AND HEAR EVERYTHING THROUGH THE VENTILATOR!

GOOD! MAYBE I CAN LEARN WHERE DALE AND ZARKOV ARE...



IT IS USELESS, YOUR MAJESTY! DALE AND DR. ZARKOV REFUSE TO TALK!

THEN TORTURE THEM! THE VIBRO-RAY WILL SHAKE THEIR SECRETS LOOSE!



LOOK AT THIS MAP! THE PLANETS MERCURY... VENUS... EARTH... MARS... DEFENSELESS!... EXCEPT FOR FORTIFICATIONS BUILT ON THE ASTEROIDS HERE... BUILT BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER!

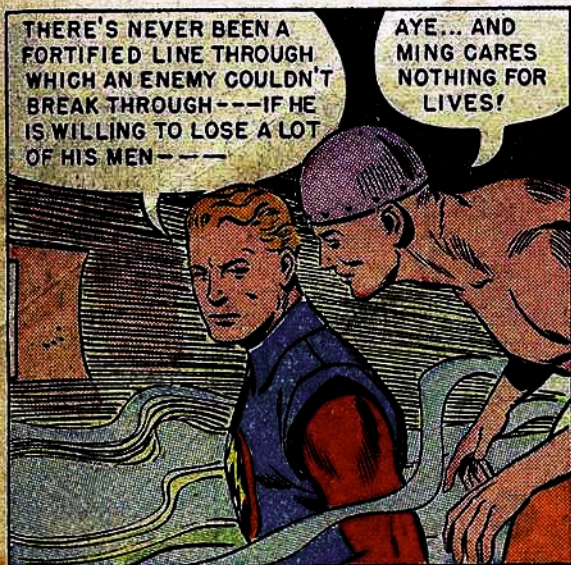


AND WE HAVE TESTED THOSE DEFENSES, YOUR MAJESTY! OUR SPACE FLEET WOULD BE SMASHED TRYING TO GET THROUGH!

DEFEATIST TALK IS TREASON! EVEN IF YOU DO NOT FORCE ZARKOV TO TALK IN TIME, YOU WILL ATTACK ON SCHEDULE!



LAD, YOU BETTER FORGET YOUR FRIENDS! MING'S SPACE ARMADA MIGHT BREAK THROUGH ANY DEFENSE. AYE, AND HAVE ENOUGH SHIPS LEFT TO BLAST YOUR PLANETS INTO SPACEDUST!



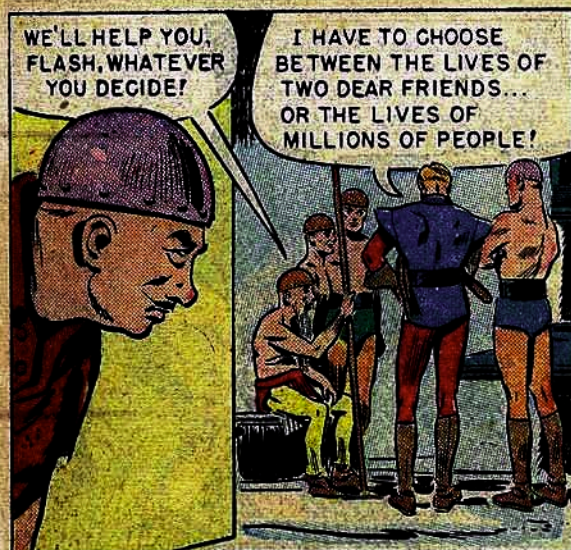
THERE'S NEVER BEEN A FORTIFIED LINE THROUGH WHICH AN ENEMY COULDN'T BREAK THROUGH---IF HE IS WILLING TO LOSE A LOT OF HIS MEN---

AYE... AND MING CARES NOTHING FOR LIVES!



I CAN STAY HERE AND TRY TO SAVE DALE AND DR. ZARKOV...OR RETURN HOME TO WARN MY WORLD OF MING'S PLAN!

A SAD CHOICE YOU HAVE, FRIEND!



WE'LL HELP YOU, FLASH, WHATEVER YOU DECIDE!

I HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE LIVES OF TWO DEAR FRIENDS... OR THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE!



I MUST LEAVE DALE AND ZARKOV IN MING'S HANDS---AND RETURN TO EARTH!

A HARD CHOICE TO MAKE, FLASH! BUT THE LIVES OF MANY ARE MORE IMPORTANT! YOU ARE RIGHT!



WILL YOU HELP ME CAPTURE ONE OF MING'S SHIPS TO MAKE MY ESCAPE?

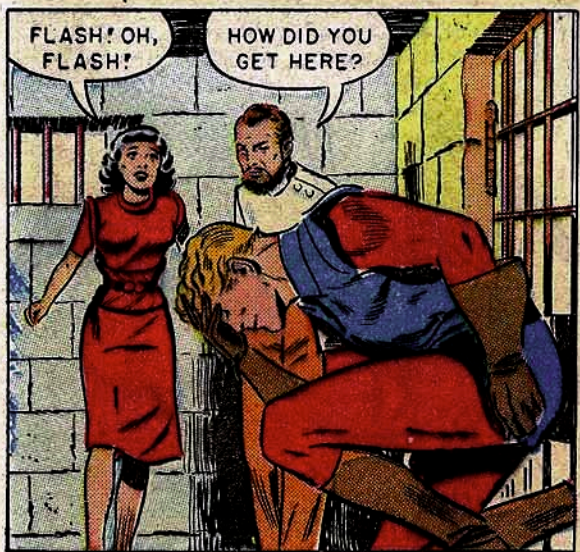
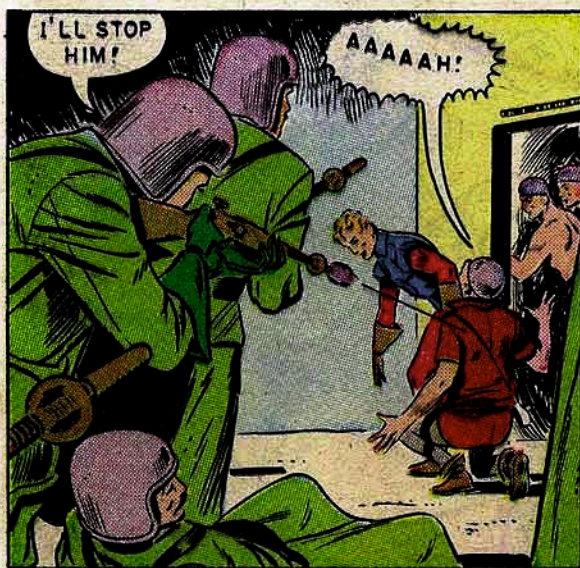
AYE, FLASH! THAT WE WILL!



HEH-HEH! EMPEROR MING WILL PAY A PRETTY POUCH OF GOLD CREDITS FOR MY INFORMATION!











BUT A GREAT DEFEAT WILL MEAN YOUR FATHER WILL BE OVERTHROWN!

YES, AND I SHALL BECOME EMPRESS! AND I WILL DEMAND ONE THING FOR MY HELP.



YOU SHALL COME BACK WITH ME--- AND BE MY SLAVE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE! I WILL NEED YOU TO HELP ME RULE THE EMPIRE!



DON'T BELIEVE HER, FLASH! THERE'S SOME TREACHERY IN HER PLAN!

NO, DALE! I MUST GIVE HER A CHANCE!



WE HAVE NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO AGREE WITH ZARA, DALE. OTHERWISE, WE DIE HERE--- AND MING WILL DESTROY OUR WORLDS!

I AGREE, ZARA!



I SHALL RETURN SOON... WHEN THE GUARD HERE IS CHANGED! BE READY TO COME WITH ME!



WELL, FLASH, HOW MUCH OF HER STORY DID YOU BELIEVE?

THERE WAS ENOUGH TREACHERY IN HER PLAN--- AGAINST HER OWN FATHER --- TO MAKE ME THINK SHE MIGHT BE OF HELP TO US!

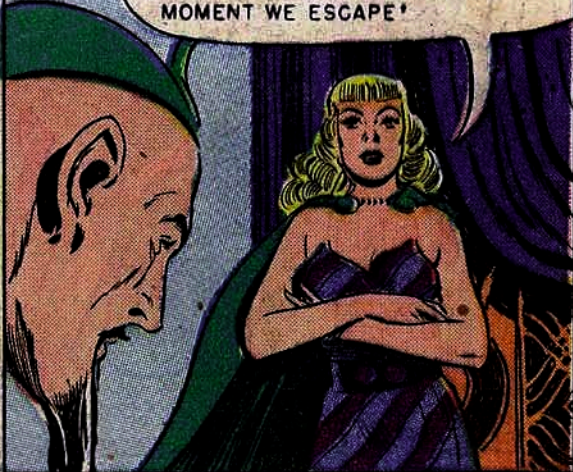
IN THE PALACE ABOVE THE DUNGEON CELLS...

HOW DID IT
GO, ZARA?

THEY BELIEVED ENOUGH
OF MY STORY TO AGREE!



WE MUST GIVE THEM TIME TO WORK
OUT A DEFENSE PLAN! SEND YOUR
SPACE ARMADA TO ATTACK THE
MOMENT WE ESCAPE!



I GO NOW, FATHER!
DEPEND ON ME!

YOU ARE A DAUGHTER
OF EMPEROR MING! YOU
SHALL NOT FAIL! GO!



QUICKLY! THE GUARD IS
CHANGING. GET INTO THESE
UNIFORMS WHILE I WAIT
OUTSIDE!



REMEMBER, NOW, LEAVE
ZARA TO ME! DON'T DO
ANYTHING THAT MIGHT
SPOIL HER PLANS
FOR US!

VERY WELL, FLASH!
I KNOW THAT YOU
ARE SURE OF WHAT
YOU'RE DOING ---
AND I TRUST YOUR
JUDGEMENT!

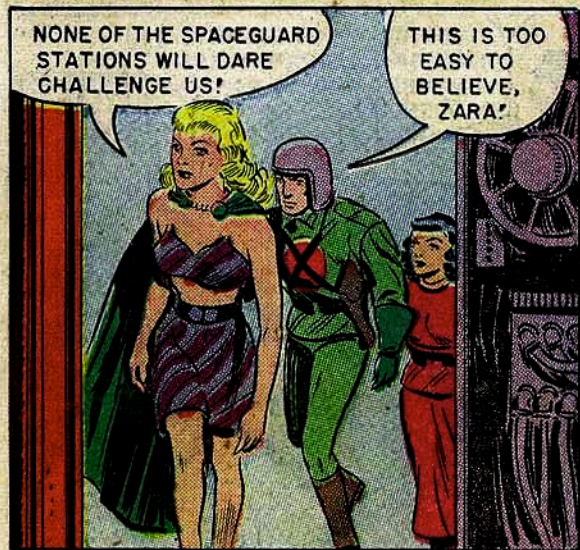


PRETEND YOU ARE
GUARDING DALE! NOW
MARCH, QUICKLY!





THAT IS MY PERSONAL SHIP. I'VE HAD IT FUELED AND READY! GET ON BOARD!



NONE OF THE SPACEGUARD STATIONS WILL DARE CHALLENGE US!

THIS IS TOO EASY TO BELIEVE, ZARA!

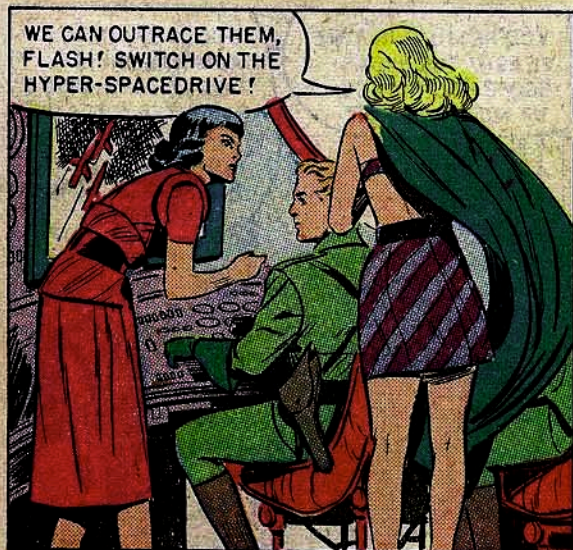


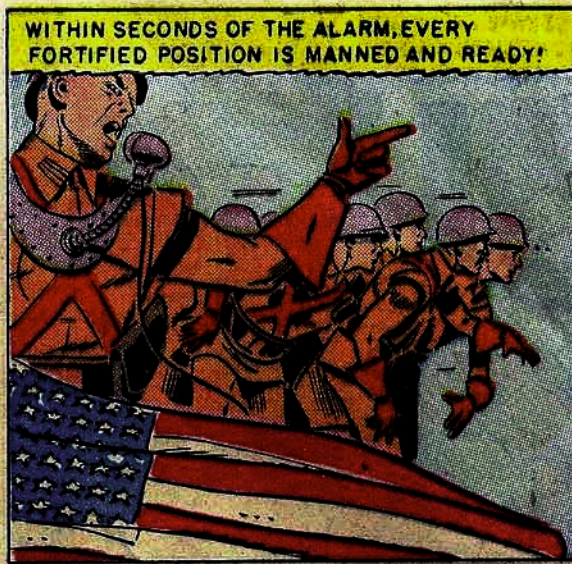
I HAVE WANTED A LONG TIME TO CURE MY FATHER OF HIS WAR AMBITIONS! YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH THE CHANCE! THAT IS WHY EVERYTHING IS SO CAREFULLY PLANNED!



ZARA HAS SUCCEEDED! ORDER MY SPACE ARMADA TO BLAST OFF FOR THE ATTACK ON EARTH!

I OBEY, MAJESTIC EMPEROR!





STAY HERE WITH ADMIRAL CRAIG,
DR. ZARKOV. HE WILL NEED YOUR
TECHNICAL ADVICE!

BUT,
FLASH,
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
GOING TO
COMMAND?



I AM, DR. ZARKOV,
BUT FROM COMMAND
POST "D"!

COMMAND
POST "D"!
BUT, FLASH---



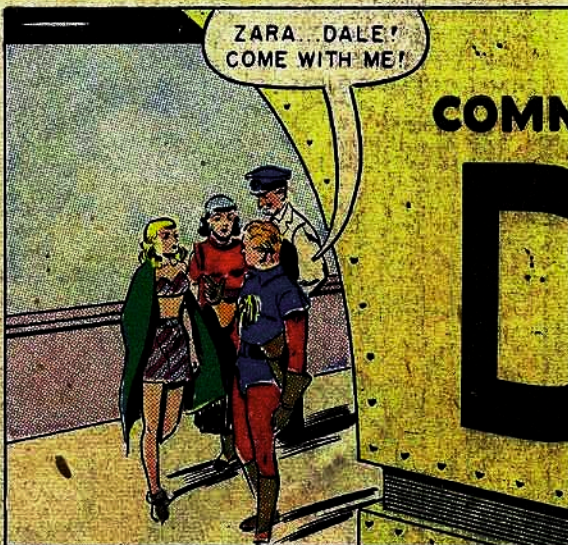
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

THIS EMERGENCY DEMANDS
WE USE OUR SECRET
EMERGENCY COMMAND
POST, SIR!



ZARA DALE!
COME WITH ME!

COMM



I WILL DIRECT THE BATTLE
FROM HERE! STAND BY, ZARA!
DALE--- TAKE OVER COMMUNICATION
CONTROL!

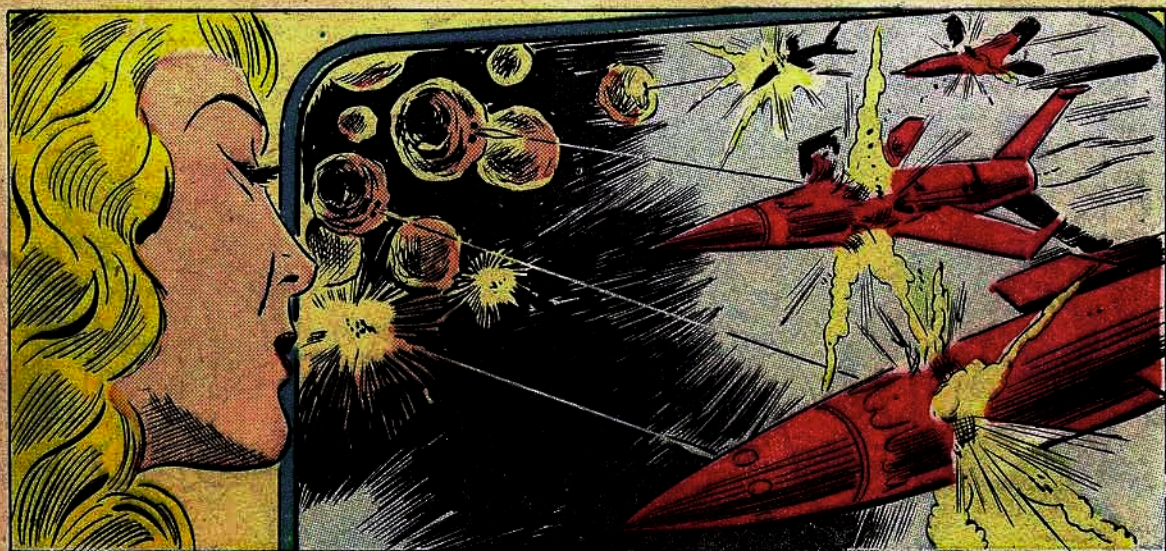
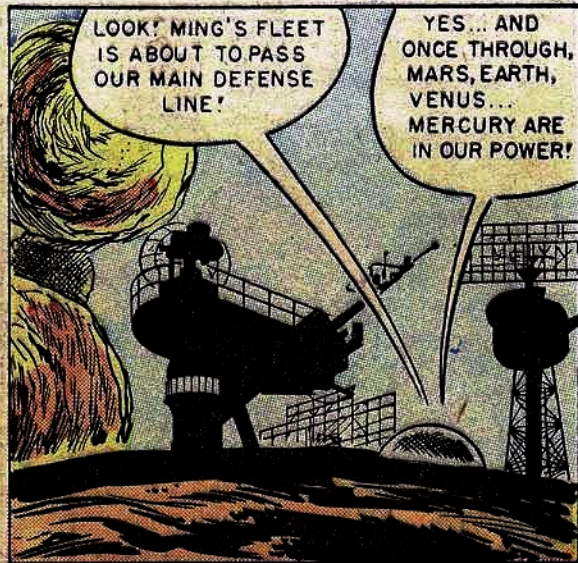


THE ENEMY FLEET IS
APPROACHING OUR
OUTER DEFENSE
POSTS!

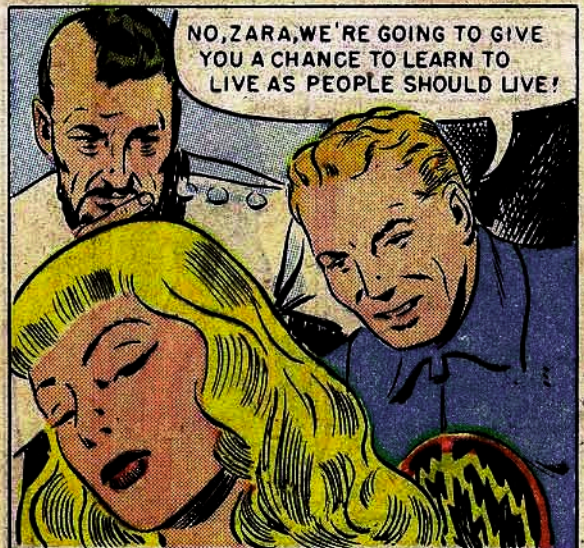
LET THEM PASS,
FLASH! MING PLANS
TO SEND OLD, USE-
LESS SHIPS---
CONTROLLED BY
ROBOTS AHEAD OF
HIS FIGHTING
SHIPS!



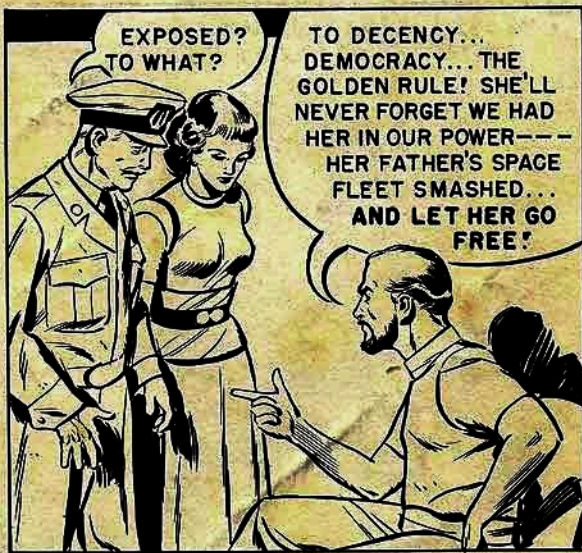












THERE'S FLASH! HE'S GOING UP THE STEPS! OH! I'M THRILLED BY ALL THIS!

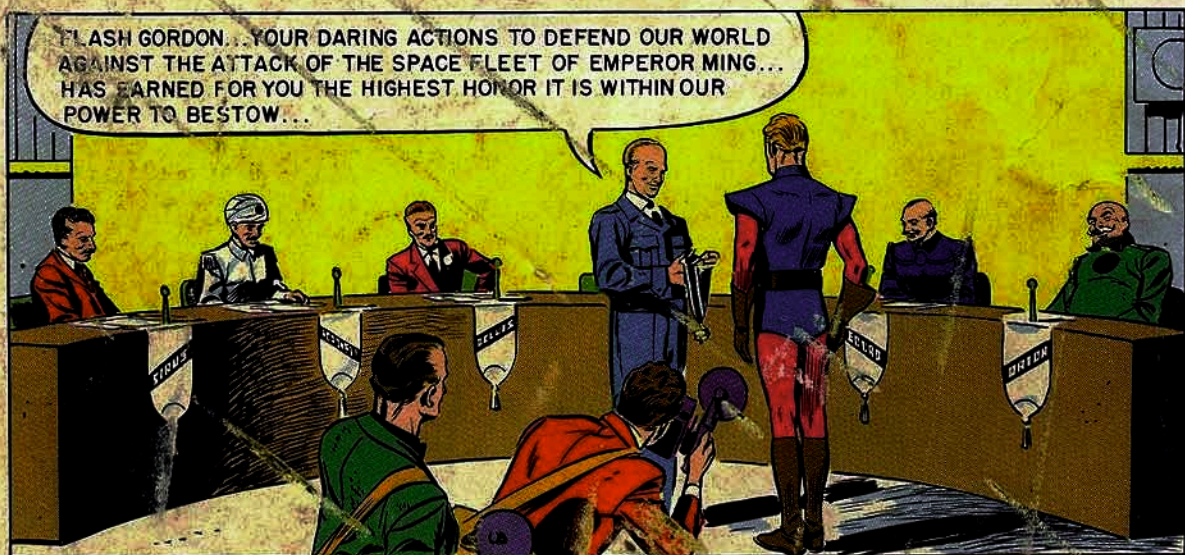
WAIT A MINUTE, DALE! WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHETHER FLASH HAS BEEN CALLED TO BE HONORED...OR IS TO BE PUNISHED FOR FREEING ZARA!



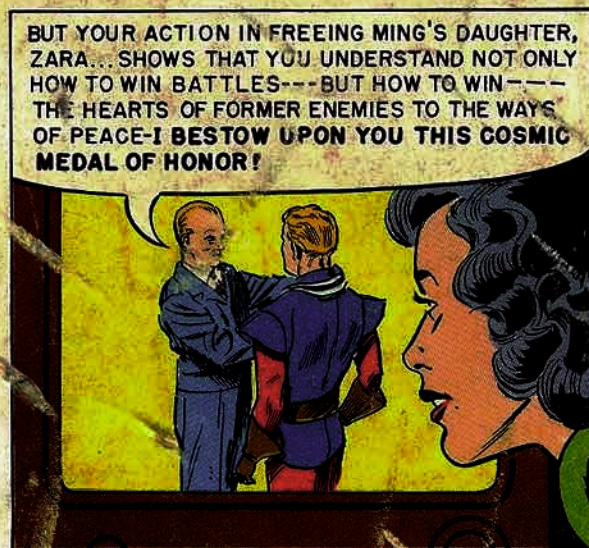
A HUSHED SILENCE FALLS OVER THE GREAT AUDIENCE WATCHING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED PLANETS AS FLASH GORDON APPROACHES THE COUNCIL TABLE!



FLASH GORDON... YOUR DARING ACTIONS TO DEFEND OUR WORLD AGAINST THE ATTACK OF THE SPACE FLEET OF EMPEROR MING... HAS EARNED FOR YOU THE HIGHEST HONOR IT IS WITHIN OUR POWER TO BESTOW...



BUT YOUR ACTION IN FREEING MING'S DAUGHTER, ZARA... SHOWS THAT YOU UNDERSTAND NOT ONLY HOW TO WIN BATTLES--- BUT HOW TO WIN--- THE HEARTS OF FORMER ENEMIES TO THE WAYS OF PEACE-I BESTOW UPON YOU THIS COSMIC MEDAL OF HONOR!



FLASH TAUGHT ME SOMETHING, TOO! UNTIL NOW I DIDN'T APPRECIATE HIS FREEING ZARA!

FLASH CALLS ME A GENIUS, BUT I'VE ALWAYS FOUND HIM A COUPLE OF STEPS AHEAD OF ME!

