

IND.

AMAZING ADVENTURES

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SEE HIM GROW BEFORE YOUR
EYES!!
SSEERPO.
THE CREATURE
WHO
CRUSHED
THE WORLD!!

HE'S *STILL*
GROWING!!
NOTHING CAN *STOP*
HIM! BY TOMORROW
HIS WEIGHT WILL
CRUSH THE WHOLE
PLANET!! EARTH
IS
DOOMED!!



SSERPPO!

THE
CREATURE
WHO
CRUSHED
THE EARTH!



PROLOGUE: ONE RAINY, WIND-TOSSED NIGHT ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A VOICE CRIED OUT IN DESPAIR...

IT IS HOPELESS!
UTTERLY **HOPELESS!!**

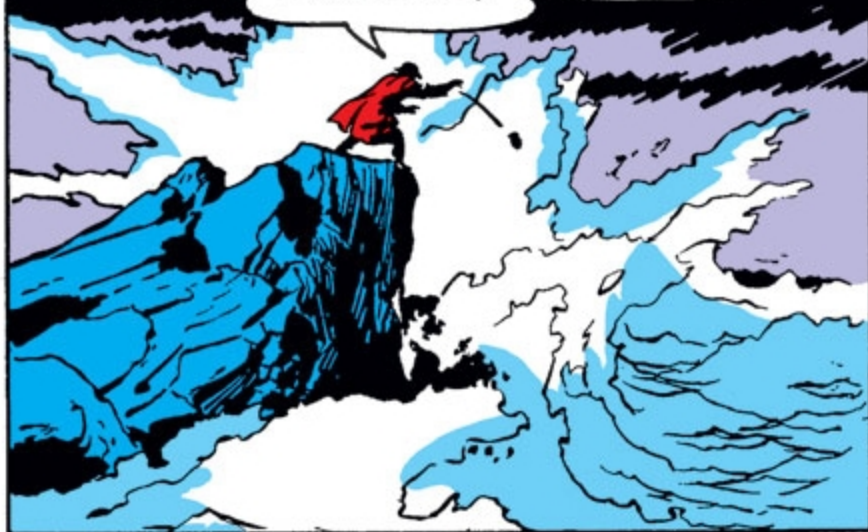


NO MATTER HOW MUCH I EXPERIMENT, I CANNOT DISCOVER THE MISSING INGREDIENT WHICH WILL MAKE MY **GROWTH SERUM** WORK!

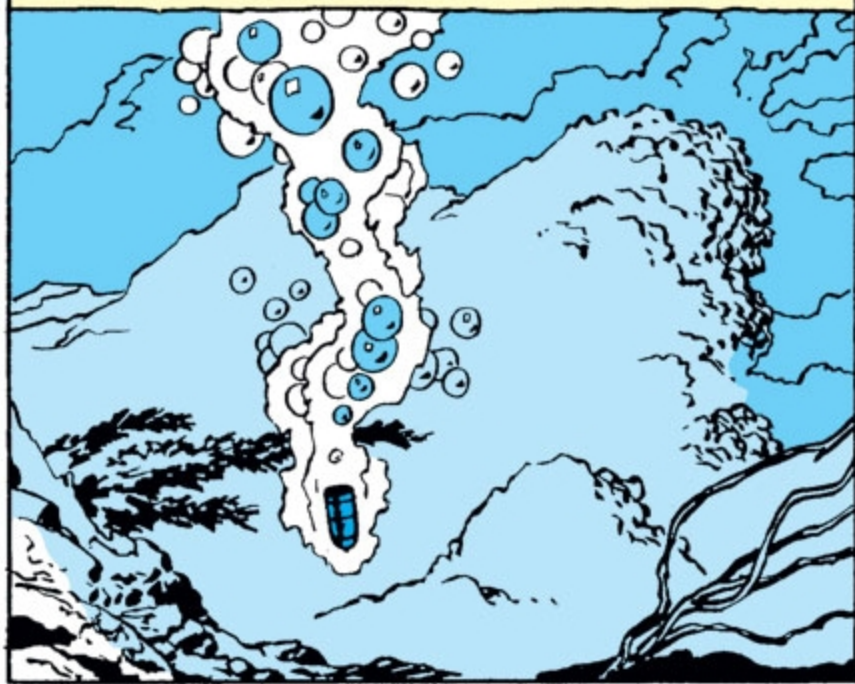


SO, AFTER COUNTLESS DISAPPOINTMENTS, THE DESPONDENT SCIENTIST HURLED HIS SERUM BITTERLY INTO THE SEA!

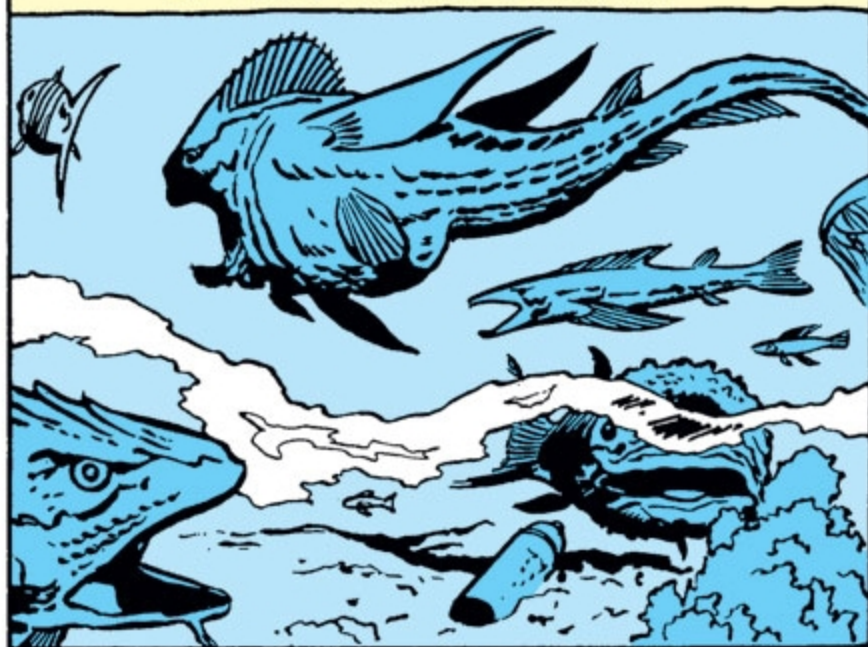
WITHOUT THE MISSING INGREDIENT, MY SERUM IS USELESS! IT CAN MAKE **NOTHING** GROW! IT IS A **FAILURE!**



SILENTLY, THE TINY VIAL SPLASHED INTO THE SEA AND SOON SANK OUT OF SIGHT...



SLOWLY THE LONG YEARS PASSED, AS THE SILENT SEA CURRENTS CARRIED THE DISCARDED VIAL OUT ACROSS THE PACIFIC... OUT TO THE UNKNOWN, UNPLUMBED DEPTHS OF THAT GREAT OCEAN...



...WHERE DECADES LATER, IT CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF A SMALL, STRANGE, LIZARD-LIKE CREATURE!



THE SMALL, SERPENTINE CREATURE, SEEKING FOOD, SEIZED THE VIAL AND DRANK THE SERUM AS IT MIXED WITH THE WATER!



THEN, WITHIN MOMENTS, THE TINY LIZARD BEGAN TO GROW...



AND GROW...



...AND GROW! FOR THE ONE INGREDIENT THE GROWTH SERUM HAD NEEDED TO MAKE IT EFFECTIVE WAS SO COMMON PLACE THAT IT HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED! THAT INGREDIENT WAS--WATER!!



AND THUS BEGINS OUR STORY!!

MY NAME IS HENRY BURKE! I'M A SCIENTIST! I USED TO SPECIALIZE IN RADIO ASTRONOMY...

FOR MONTHS I'VE BEEN SENDING RADIO WAVES OUT INTO THE UNIVERSE, WITHOUT RESULTS! BUT I'M NOT DISCOURAGED! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL HIT THE JACKPOT--I'LL MAKE CONTACT WITH ANOTHER WORLD!



HOWEVER, THERE WERE THOSE WHO DISAPPROVED OF MY WORK! ONE OF THEM WAS MY WIFE!

SUPPOSE YOU DO GET THROUGH TO AN ALIEN CIVILIZATION ON SOME DISTANT PLANET--SUPPOSE THEY'RE HOSTILE--THEY MIGHT COME HERE AND ATTACK US!

NONSENSE! WE CANNOT HIDE FROM THE STARS SIMPLY BECAUSE WE FEAR WHAT WE'LL FIND OUT THERE!



BUT THE OBJECTIONS TO MY EFFORTS CONTINUED...

CONTACT WITH OTHER PLANETS?! BAH! THAT'S JUST TOO FAR-FETCHED! IT'S COMIC BOOK STUFF!

WE'LL SEE IF YOU STILL THINK SO WHEN I FINALLY DO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ANOTHER WORLD!



WHILE I CARRIED ON MY WORK, FOUR THOUSAND MILES AWAY A FANTASTIC DRAMA WAS BEGINNING...

LOOK, A SERPENT FROM BOTTOM OF SEA--A SSERPO!

HE GROWS BIGGER BEFORE OUR EYES! HE HAS MAGIC POWER! WE CATCH HIM! HE BRING US MUCH LUCK!





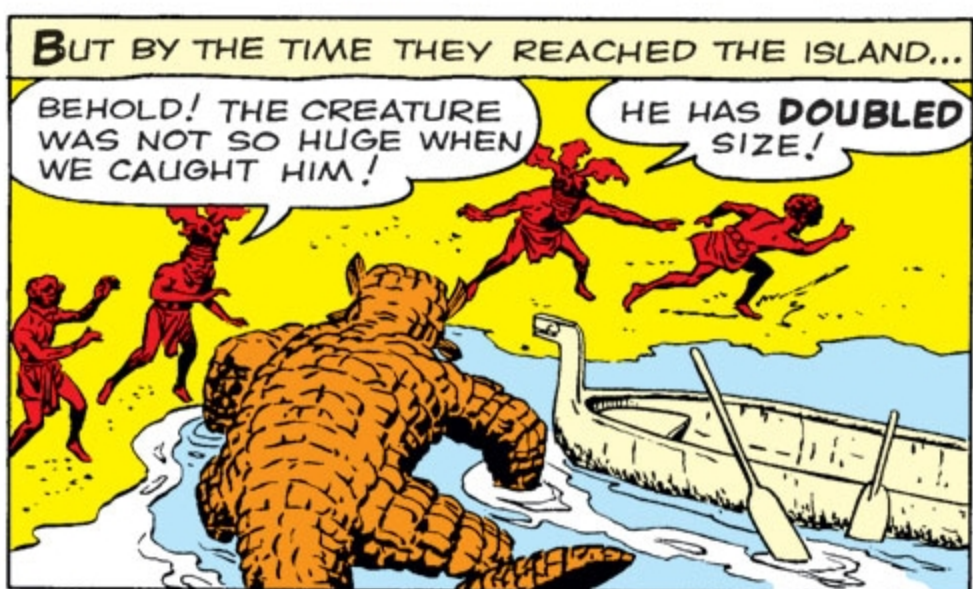
TAKE CARE! NO HARM
SSERPO...OR HE GROW
ANGRY AND TURN MAGIC
AGAINST US!

HE IS
SIGN FROM
GODS! IS
GOOD
OMEN!



SSERPO WILL MAKE
OUR LAND FERTILE...
OUR CROPS RICH!

HE WILL STAVE
OFF TYPHOONS!



BUT BY THE TIME THEY REACHED THE ISLAND...

BEHOLD! THE CREATURE
WAS NOT SO HUGE WHEN
WE CAUGHT HIM!

HE HAS **DOUBLED**
SIZE!



INCREDULOUSLY,
THE NATIVES
WATCHED THE
FANTASTIC SSERPO
CONTINUE TO GROW
WITH EVERY
PASSING SECOND!

HE--HE DWARFS
OUR TALLEST
TREES!



SCANT MINUTES LATER...

HE IS BROTHER
TO THE MOUNTAIN
--AND **STILL**
HE GROWS!



SUDDENLY...

THE
LAND!!
IT
TREMLES
BENEATH
THE
WEIGHT
OF SSERPO!

AIYEE!!
OUR VERY
ISLAND
WILL SINK
BENEATH
THE SEA!

HE MUST GROW
NO MORE! LET
US **DESTROY**
HIM!

BUT BY NOW, THE TOWERING SSERPO'S FANTASTIC SIZE HAD MADE HIM IMPERVIOUS TO SPEARS AND ARROWS!

IT IS USELESS!
A LIVING MOUNTAIN CANNOT BE HARMED BY MERE SPEARS AND CLUBS!

THE ISLAND IS **SINKING!**

TO THE BOATS!
WE MUST ROW TO SAFETY!

THE LAND--THE VEGETATION--ALL THAT HAD MOMENTS BEFORE BEEN GLEAMING IN THE SUN, WERE CRUSHED BENEATH THE INCREDIBLE WEIGHT OF THE MIGHTY SSERPO!

HEAD FOR KAUTAU ISLE!

THE SERPENT CREATURE! MAY WE NEVER SEE HIS ACCURSED FORM AGAIN!

WITH THE ISLAND GONE, SSERPO'S INSTINCTS LED HIM IN SEARCH OF ANOTHER BODY OF LAND... A LARGER BODY OF LAND... LAND THAT WOULD NOT SINK BENEATH HIS AWESOME BULK!

B'LIMY-- THERE'S SOME KINDA SEA MONSTER OUT IN THE OCEAN!

HE-- IT-- IT'S COMING THIS WAY!

BY THE TIME HE REACHED AUSTRALIA, SSERPO WAS ALMOST ONE THOUSAND FEET TALL! EVERY STEP HE TOOK CAUSED TREMBLING THROUGHOUT THE LAND!

IT'S A GIANT FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

HE'LL CRUSH US ALL!

RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

HE'S MOVING INLAND! ALERT THE ARMY--THE AIR FORCE!!

BY SOME MIRACLE, SSERPO'S MIGHTY FOOT-STEPPS MISSED STEPPING ON ANY BUILDINGS CONTAINING LIFE! HE SEEMED UNAWARE OF THE PUNY HUMANS BELOW--THEY WERE TOO SMALL TO BE OF ANY INTEREST TO HIM!

WITH ONE STEP HE COULD LEVEL AN ENTIRE CITY STREET!

WE'VE BEEN LUCKY SO FAR! HE AVOIDS THE BUILDINGS, AS WE MIGHT AVOID STEPPING ON ANT HILLS!

BY NOW, WORD OF THE AWESOME SSERPO WAS SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WORLD!

THEY SAY HIS HEAD REACHES ABOVE THE CLOUDS!

AND HE IS **STILL** GROWING!! WHEN WILL HE **STOP?**

WHEN?

WHEN?

MUSCLE MAN

IT was a hot afternoon, this last one of Jimmy Binn's vacation. He leaned on the boardwalk railing, enviously watching the four lithe, limber powerful weight lifters and acrobats near the water's edge. No, he thought, he'd never be like them. It was one thing juggling boxes of underwear in the stock room, another juggling husky young giants and doing flips and handstands. "You can lift a ton a day," he thought, "but if it's only a pound at a time, where are you?"

"That's right," he heard a voice to his right, "where are you?"

At first Jimmy didn't look. Some character had merely made a statement that seemed to answer a question Jimmy had asked quietly of himself.

Then he felt the gentle, but urgent nudge of an elbow in his ribs and the repeated query, "Where are you? Tell me."

Jimmy looked close at his neighbor, a little fellow with a doorknob nose and a wide grin. He was broadshouldered and wore a derby, an old droopy bathing suit, maybe thirty years old, and a big patterned necktie. Jimmy laughed. This fellow must be a clown with one of the amusement park concessions.

"I didn't notice you," Jimmy said. "Guess I was busy with my thoughts."

"So busy," the little man nodded, "that your thoughts

got to Tooloo . . . Tooloo's me," he explained. There was a bench nearby and the little man sat down, indicating that Jimmy join him. Jimmy, puzzled by this, sat down. "I'll tell you where you are," the little man closed one eye tight and nudged Jimmy with his elbow. "You're in a state of mind. Know where that is? You're no place. I mean that when you want to be someplace, or someone, and you are only what you are, and not happy about it, you are *no place*. The only time you are someplace is when you are where and what you want to be." And as Jimmy started up, the man nudged him with that tricky elbow and grinned, "You want to be strong."

"Sure," Jimmy said, "I eat the proper food, sleep enough hours, take healthful vacations, practice with the weights . . ." he shook his head sadly. "On others it makes muscles. On me," he opened his hands . . . "nothing."

The little man nudged Jimmy again. Then he made a fist and held his arm up. "Feel my muscle," he invited. Jimmy did, and his fingers went down to bone. Jimmy grinned wryly, and looked off at the beach Tarzans.

"Watch me now," the little man said, "and don't go away." And Jimmy watched as Tooloo scaled the railing and landed

lightly on the sand below. With a jaunty jog he trotted over to the four nimble acrobats and muscle men.

Jimmy kind of liked the little clown, and he got angry fast when the huskiest of the four tumblers out there grabbed Tooloo. Soon the funny figure in the old bathing suit was being tossed back and forth like a medicine ball.

Jimmy, with a feeling of helpless rage leaned over the rail and yelled, "Leave him alone! Cut that out, you guys!" They stopped and looked at thin Jimmy. One of the giants was resting his hand on Tooloo's derby that somehow hadn't become dislodged.

Aggressively one of them took a step toward Jimmy, and Jimmy quickly regretted opening his mouth. Surely he wasn't going to tangle with *those* fellows. He looked about to beat a hasty retreat, and then stopped to stare. Tooloo had removed the hand that rested on his derby and *that* big muscle man made a double flip in the air to land head down in one of the wire beach baskets. His nearest friend came at the little man and he found *himself* grasped about the waist. With a graceful arc the second goliath also sailed into a beach receptacle. The last of the quartet came at Tooloo together and to Jimmy's amazement, he saw them rotating about the little man like

CONTINUED...



SSERPO PART 2



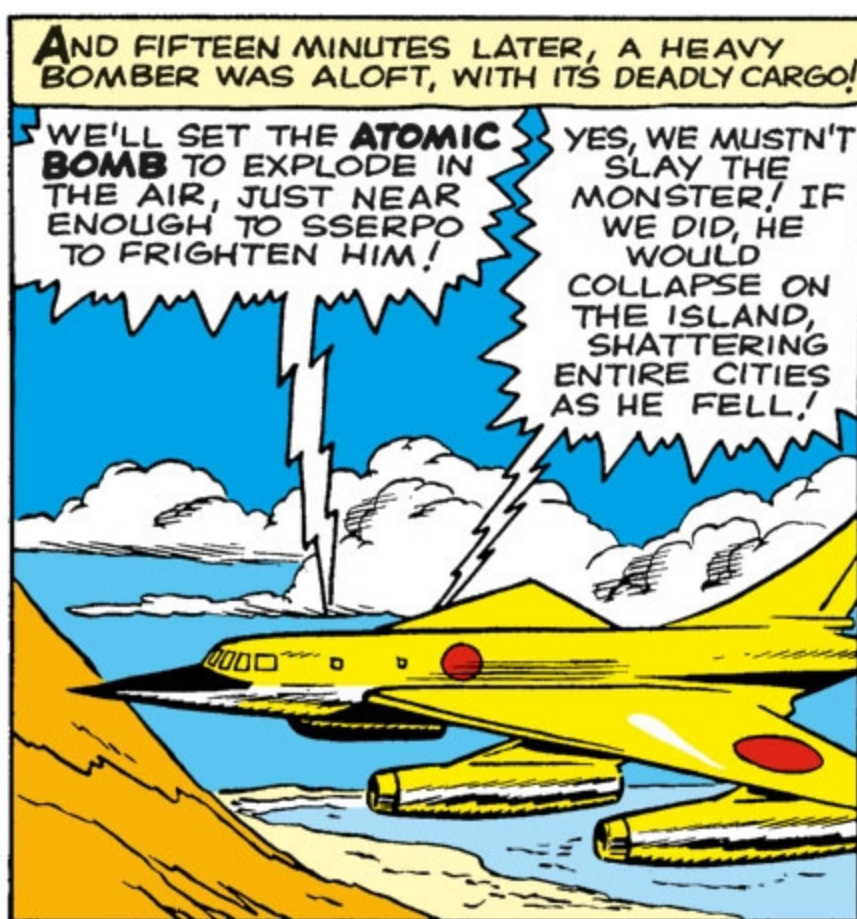
SSERPO STILL LIVES!!
STILL GROWS!!

TOWERING AT AN UNBELIEVABLE HEIGHT OF TWO THOUSAND FEET, THE STUPENDOUS LIZARD MONSTER LUMBERED ONTO THE ISLAND OF JAPAN!

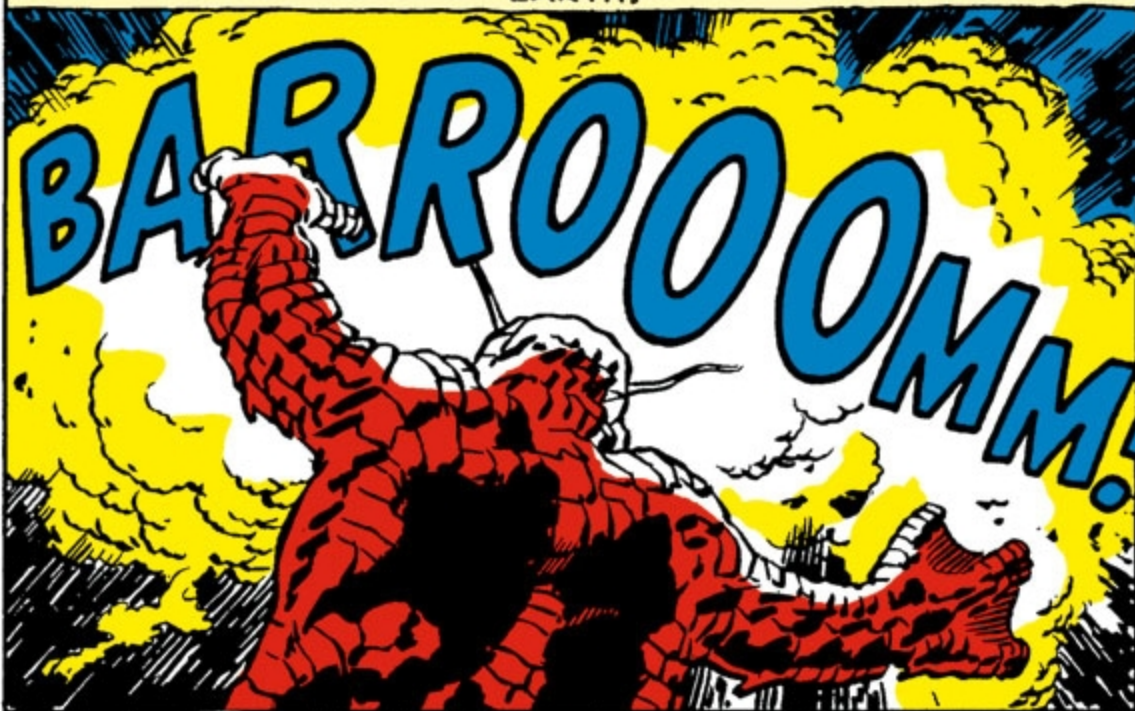
FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!

WHERE? WHERE CAN WE RUN?? HE IS EVERYWHERE!

WE ARE DOOMED!!



SO ONCE MORE, MAN PITTED THE POWER OF HIS WEAPONS AGAINST THE MIGHTIEST CREATURE EVER TO STRIDE THE EARTH!



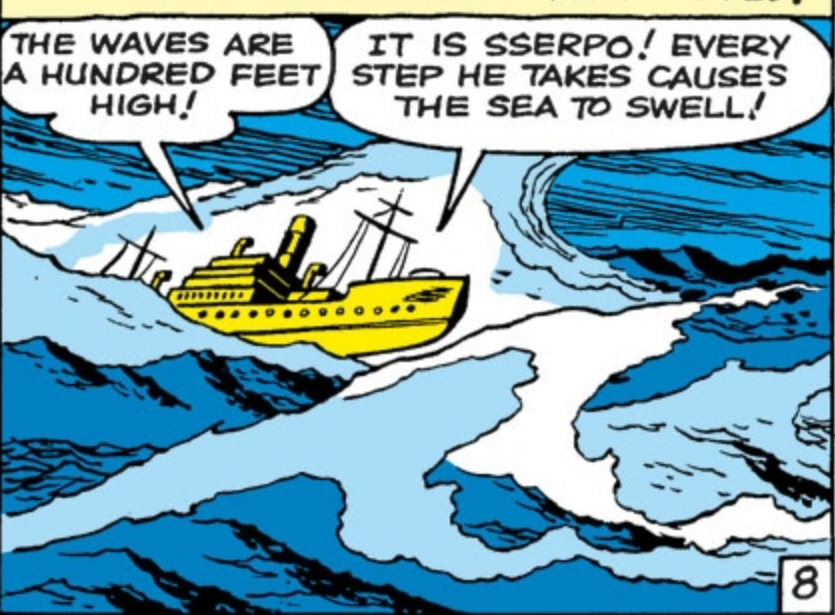
AND ONCE AGAIN, MAN EMERGED VICTORIOUS!



REELING GROGGILY, THE STILL-GROWING BEHEMOTH SLOWLY TROD TOWARD THE COAST, AS HIS EVERY STEP COVERED VAST ACRES OF DESERTED LAND!



THE GROANING EARTH ITSELF WAS AFFECTED BY THE MONSTER'S PROGRESS! EARTHQUAKES, TIDAL WAVES, AVALANCHES... ALL WERE CAUSED BY SSERPO! BY SSERPO, WHOSE SIZE WAS SO FANTASTIC THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WE LITTLE HUMANS **EXISTED!**





WHILE THE AWE-STRICKEN BOMBER CREW FLEW BACK TO THEIR BASE, THE LIVING NIGHTMARE CALLED SSERPO PLODDED NORTHWARD!



SEE! HE ATTEMPTS TO STAND UPON THE ICE!

HE IS TOO HEAVY! IT WILL NOT HOLD HIM!

LOOK!!



WITH ONE STEP, HE HAS CRUSHED THE LARGEST GLACIER!

FASTER! PADDLE FASTER!

MEANTIME, MANY MILES AWAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AN EMERGENCY WORLD SCIENCE MEETING WAS CALLED TO COPE WITH THE THREAT OF SSERPO!

PROFESSOR WILKES HAS SENT THREE WIRES URGING YOU TO ATTEND THE MEETING! WHY WON'T YOU GO??

BECAUSE I'M BUSY WITH WORK THAT'S **MORE** IMPORTANT! I'VE ALMOST GOT THESE NEW RADAR WAVES REACHING THE PLANET JUPITER!!



BUT HOW IN HEAVEN'S NAME CAN YOU SAY YOUR WORK IS MORE IMPORTANT??! SSERPO IS MENACING OUR ENTIRE PLANET!! THE SCIENCE ORGANIZATION NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET TO FIGHT HIM!!

PLEASE, ANNE, I HAVEN'T TIME TO ARGUE! GO AWAY AND LET ME FINISH MY WORK!



MEANWHILE, AT THE UNITED NATIONS, MANKIND'S FINEST SCIENTIFIC BRAINS WERE GATHERED...

SINCE WE CANNOT DESTROY SSERPO, WE MUST FIND A WAY TO MAKE HIM **STOP GROWING!**

LET US PREPARE AN ANTI-GROWTH HORMONE AND SHOOT IT INTO HIM!

HENRY BURKE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE! HE IS A SPECIALIST ON SUCH MATTERS!

WE IMPLORER HIM TO ATTEND THE MEETING, BUT HE REFUSED! THE MAN'S A BLASTED TRAITOR TO HIS OWN PLANET!



FINALLY, AFTER FRANTIC PREPARATIONS, LARGE METAL PELLETS WERE FILLED WITH A SPECIAL ANTI-GROWTH SERUM, AND FIRED AT THE MONSTROUS SSERPO!

IT'S **USELESS!** HIS SKIN'S SO TOUGH, THE PELLETS **CAN'T PENETRATE IT!**

WE MIGHT AS WELL BE SHOOTING SPITBALLS AT HIM!



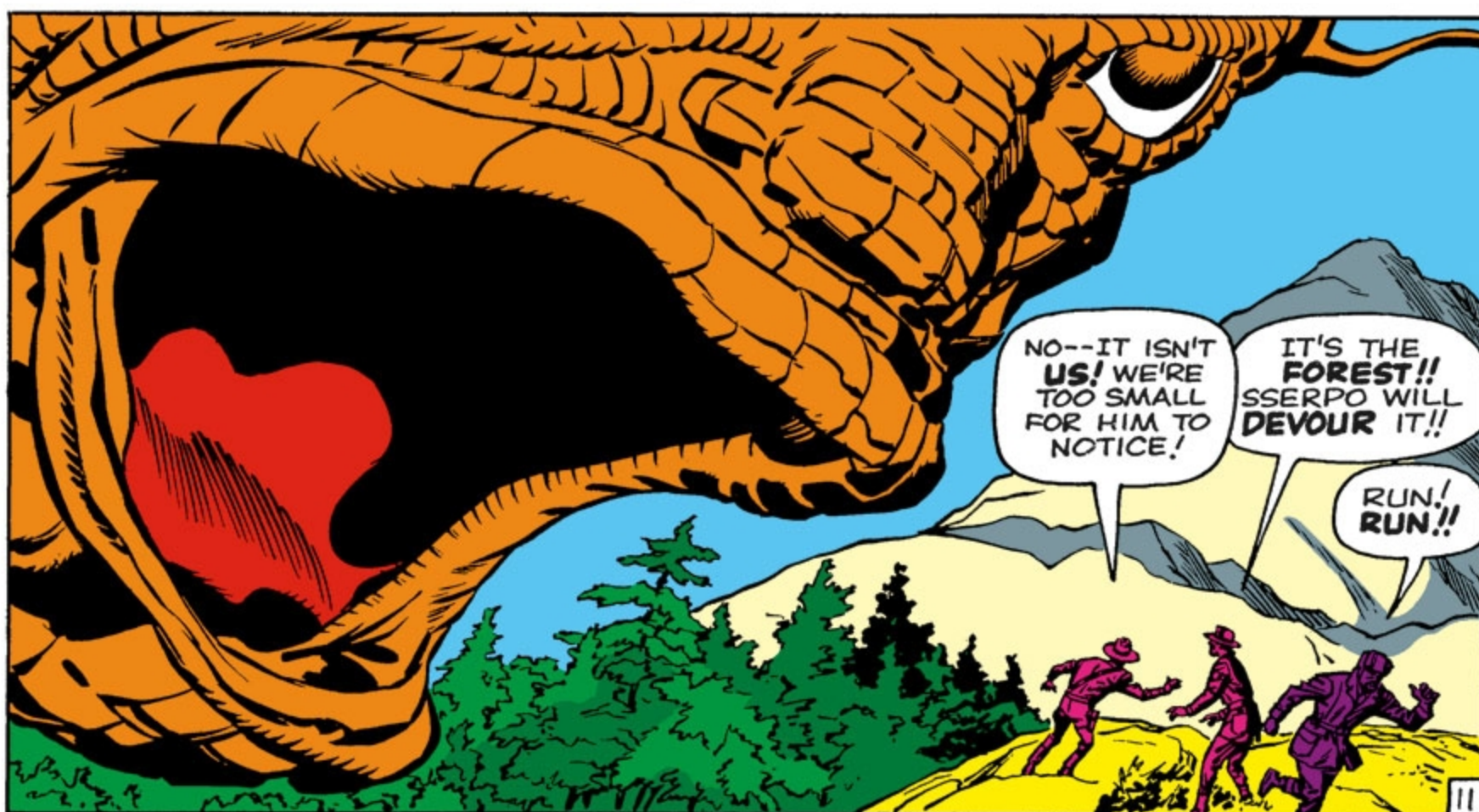
HAVING FAILED WITH THE ANTI-GROWTH SERUM, THE SCIENTISTS NEXT TRIED **SLEEPING GAS!!**

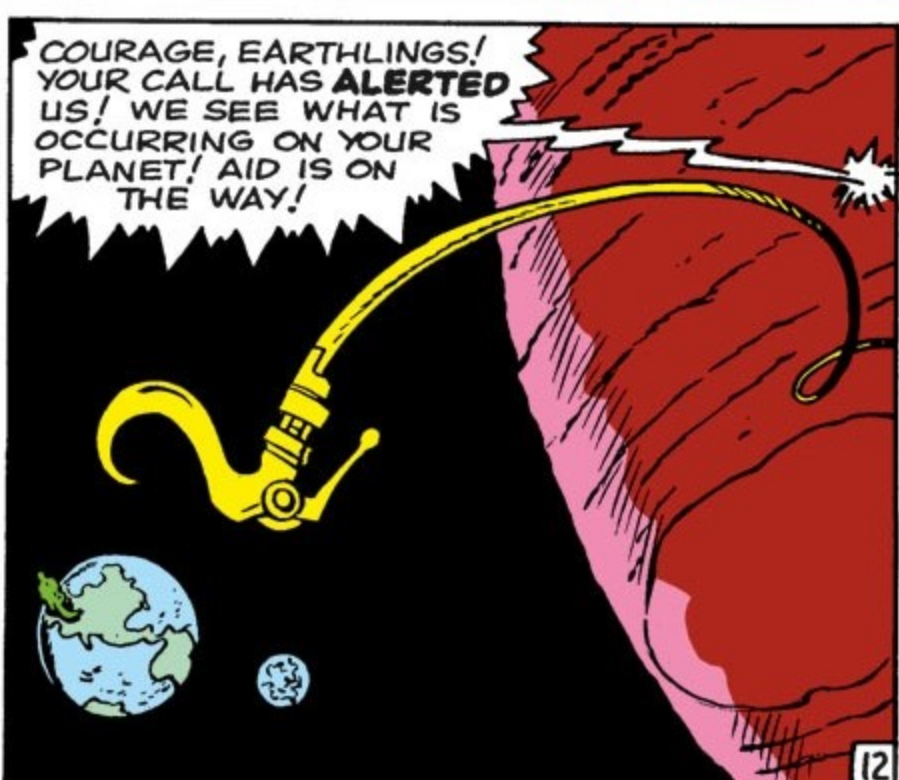
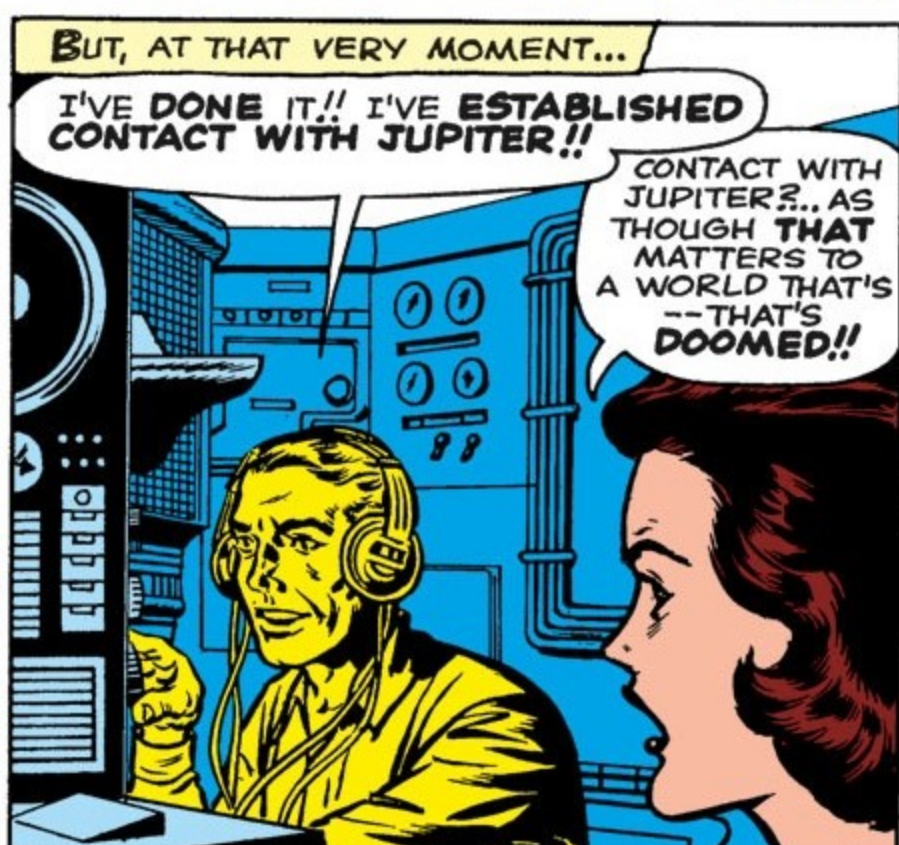
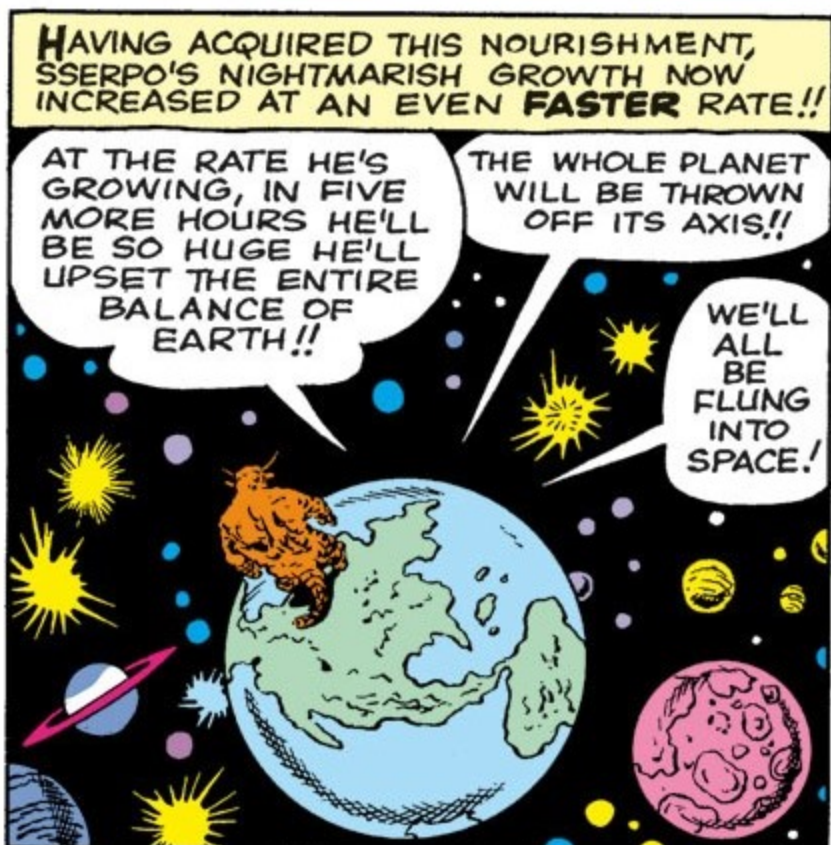
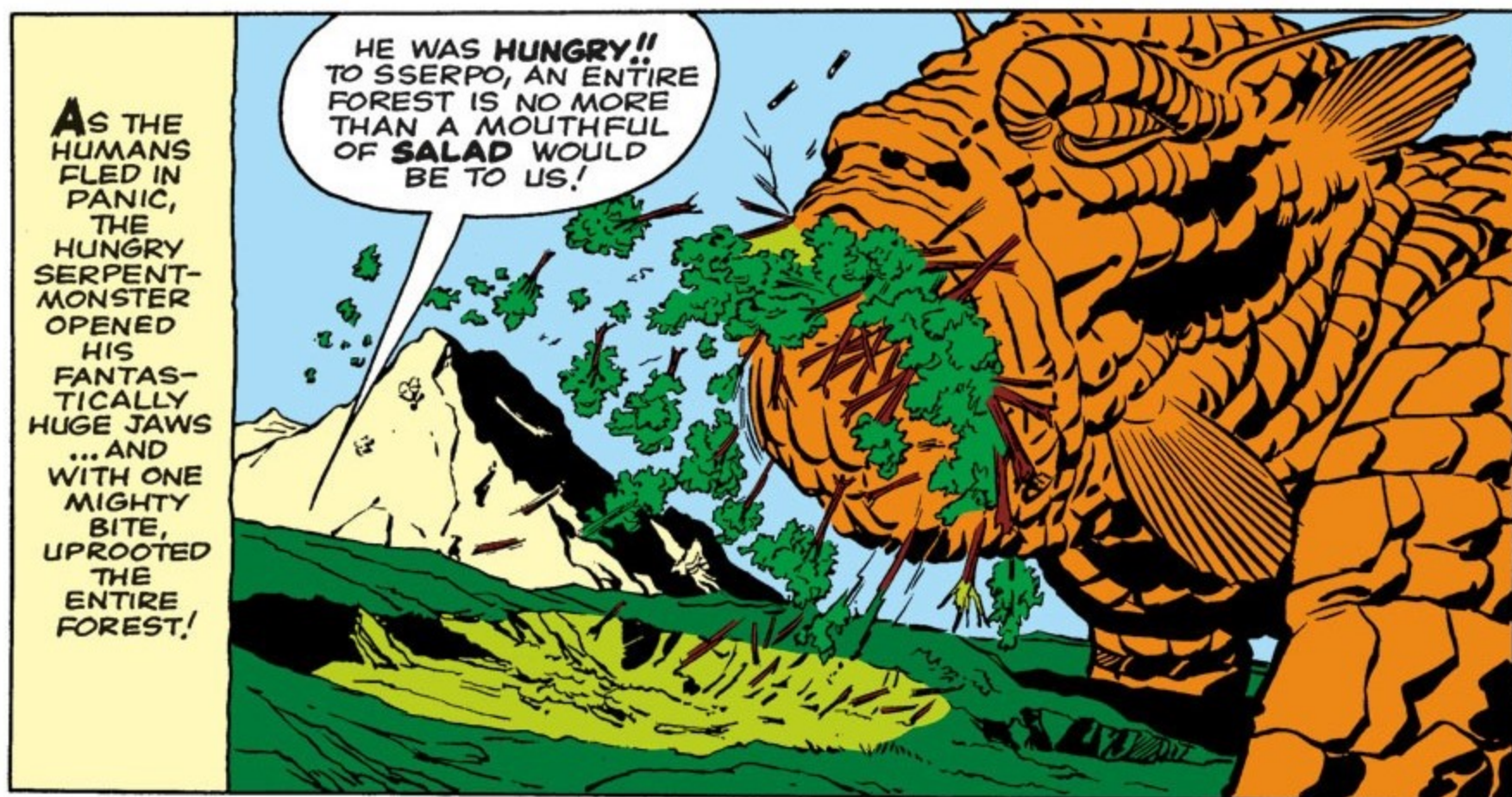
THAT'S THE FOURTH TYPE OF SLEEPING GAS WE'VE TRIED, AND **STILL THE MONSTER STANDS!!**

NOTHING CAN DEFEAT SSERPO! **NOTHING!!**



STILL ALIVE AND STILL GROWING, THE TOWERING SSERPO WAS SOON LARGE ENOUGH TO REACH FROM THE ARCTIC OVER HALF A CONTINENT INTO THE HEART OF CANADA!





GUIDED ELECTRONICALLY, A LARGE SKY-HOOK FROM JUPITER CROSSED THE VOID OF SPACE AT UNIMAGINABLE SPEED, UNTIL IT MADE ITS MIND-STAGGERING **CATCH!**



WITH SSERPO SAFELY WITHIN THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF THE GRAPPLER, THE FANTASTICALLY ADVANCED JUPITERIANS REVERSED THE PROCESS, REMOVING SSERPO FROM EARTH!



I KNEW IT!! I KNEW THAT ONLY JUPITER, LARGEST OF PLANETS COULD SAVE US!! THAT WAS WHY I **HAD** TO CONTACT THEM!

AND LOOK! THEY HAVE HIM SAFELY IN SPACE NOW, WHERE THEY CAN SAFELY USE THEIR OWN ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO RESTORE HIM TO NORMAL SIZE!



SSERPO HAS VANISHED INTO THE SKY! THANK HEAVENS WE'RE **SAVED!**

THE NIGHTMARE IS ENDED AT LAST!!



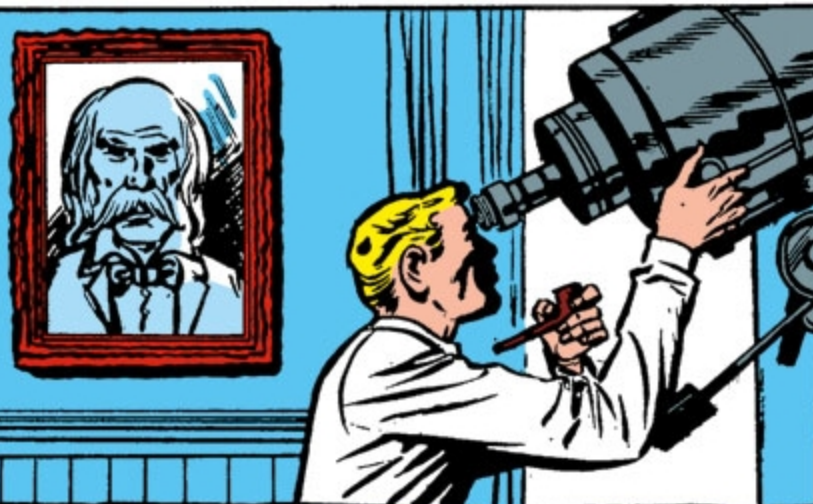
OH, HENRY--YOU SAVED ALL OF MANKIND! DARLING, FORGIVE ME FOR CRITICIZING--FOR COMPLAINING!! I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN! NEVER!!

THERE, HONEY--THERE! I UNDERSTAND!



YOU KNOW, ANNE, THE ONE THING THAT PUZZLES ME ABOUT ALL THIS IS WHAT MADE SSERPO START GROWING IN THE **FIRST PLACE??** WHERE DID HE **COME** FROM? WHAT **WAS** HE? HOW DID IT ALL **HAPPEN?**

I-I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'LL **EVER** LEARN THE ANSWER!



EDITOR'S NOTE: NO, HENRY BURKE NEVER WILL LEARN THE ANSWER! HE'LL NEVER LEARN THAT SSERPO GREW BECAUSE, A CENTURY AGO, A SCIENTIST HURLED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A WORTHLESS SERUM INTO THE SEA! NOR WILL HENRY BURKE EVER LEARN THAT THAT SAME SCIENTIST WAS **THOMAS BURKE... HENRY'S OWN GREAT GRANDFATHER!**

The END

THE FOURTH MAN!



Stan Lee
DITKO
V-339

THEIR NAMES WERE BEN AND SPADE! THEIR EYES WERE COLD AND THEIR HEARTS WERE CRUEL! THEY WERE WAITING -- WAITING --

IS HE COMIN', SPADE?

YEAH! I SEE HIM NOW, BEN! GET READY!



THAT'S HIM!

YEAH!

HELLO, BOYS! WHY AREN'T YOU AT THE BIG GAME TODAY?

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GO, MR. WHITE!



WELL, **EVERY** LAD SHOULD BE AT THE BALL GAME ON SUCH A LOVELY DAY! HERE, THIS WILL BE ENOUGH FOR THE TICKETS, AND SOME HOT DOGS BESIDES!

GOSH! THANKS, MR. WHITE!

GEE! YOU'RE THE GREATEST!



HIS NAME WAS MR. WHITE, AND HE WAS A KINDLY, GENTLE SOUL! FOR HIM, LIFE WAS GOOD, AND PEOPLE WERE FRIENDS, TO BE HELPED AND LOVED!

THERE HE GOES!

INTO THE PARK--SAME AS ALWAYS!



HELLO, LITTLE FRIENDS! YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D FORGET YOUR CRUMBS, DID YOU?



THERE WE ARE... ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU!









...CONTINUED

the spokes of a wheel in a fast horizontal whirl. Then they too sailed off in opposite directions, each to land in another waste receptacle.

"Now I know I'm dreaming," Jimmy muttered aloud. But on either side of him spectators were applauding. One man said, "Those muscle boys have been hogging the beach bullying people. That little guy should get a medal." And no one laughed at his grotesque costume. When you command respect for strength you don't rate ridicule. And if there was one man on that beach on that hot afternoon who commanded respect, it was the little man with the broad shoulders, with the old bathing suit and derby, the powerful man with the empty muscles.

As he returned to the boardwalk he broke into a trot, and with hardly a break in his stride leaped the great height from the beach right over the railing, to land right beside Jimmy. Jimmy stared in admiration at his new friend. "Gee," was all he could say until the little man nudged him in the ribs, winked and suggested they take a stroll. Jimmy went with him.

"Tooloo," Jimmy said, "one second." They stopped and Jimmy treated them both to a double heaped high scoop of custard in cones.

"Make mine chocolate," the little man said. And when they went on, he grinned appreciatively, "Very good."

"You've got a secret," Jimmy said. "I'd sure like to know it. Your muscles are no tougher than custard, and yet you manhandled those bullies."

"That I did," the little fellow said, enjoying his treat. "It's in the mind and in the

heart. You can do the same."

"No," Jimmy shook his head.

"The first thing you *don't* want to do is say 'No'," the little man advised, and he nudged Jimmy with his elbow.

"I'm befuddled," Jimmy said. "I don't understand. What I saw is something I never hoped to see. It was wonderful."

"Sure," the little man said. "Very wonderful. As wonderful as the things that can happen in the mind. Do you know who I am?"

"Sure, Tooloo," Jimmy grinned. "You're some character



who came along on a magic carpet. That's who *you* are."

"If you look at me carefully," the little fellow said, finishing the custard and licking his fingers, "you'll see that *I* am *you*."

"Me?" Jimmy asked. Well, he had *seen* strange things, might as well hear some too.

"*You*," Tooloo said. "What happened down on the beach was *you*, wishing that would happen. Anything you wish hard enough you can make happen. I am your heart and your mind. I am *you*." When Jimmy started a skeptical laugh the little fellow nudged him in the ribs again. "Don't laugh at

what I tell you," he said. "I am *you* . . . and what you wish you can make come to pass. You want to be strong, you want to be as strong as those characters down at that beach. You can be stronger, a better acrobat. And when you go back to work tomorrow, don't think of yourself as just a puny stock clerk holding and handling one box at a time. You get to work with those barbells and weights and diets and exercise and fresh air."

They came to this little park near the beach and sat under a tree. Jimmy lay back, put his hands behind his head and closed his eyes. Beside him he heard his new friend talking, and his voice was so much like a hum Jimmy found it difficult to listen and understand. It faded away.

When Jimmy felt cool, almost chilled, he opened his eyes and sat up. He was alone and he smiled, thinking, "Wasn't that a cute dream I had. That fellow with the old bathing suit, and tossing those four giants around on the beach. Muscles like a balloon. Boy . . ." he shook his head. He stood up. "Too much sun," he explained to himself his odd dream. He started off to get back to his room, take a shower, and start getting ready to leave the beach and this vacation that had ended too soon.

Back in his room he undressed for his shower, and went to the mirror to study his possibilities as a muscle man. He flexed his arm, and was testing its toughness when he saw the red welt on his ribs. He stared, and then exclaimed, "Hey . . . I didn't get those elbow nudges in any dream!"

DR. DROOM DEFIES THE MENACE CALLED... **KROGG!**

ON A QUIET CORNER IN A SMALL MIDWESTERN TOWN THERE STANDS A NEW, PRIVATE HOUSE... AS YET UNSOLD!



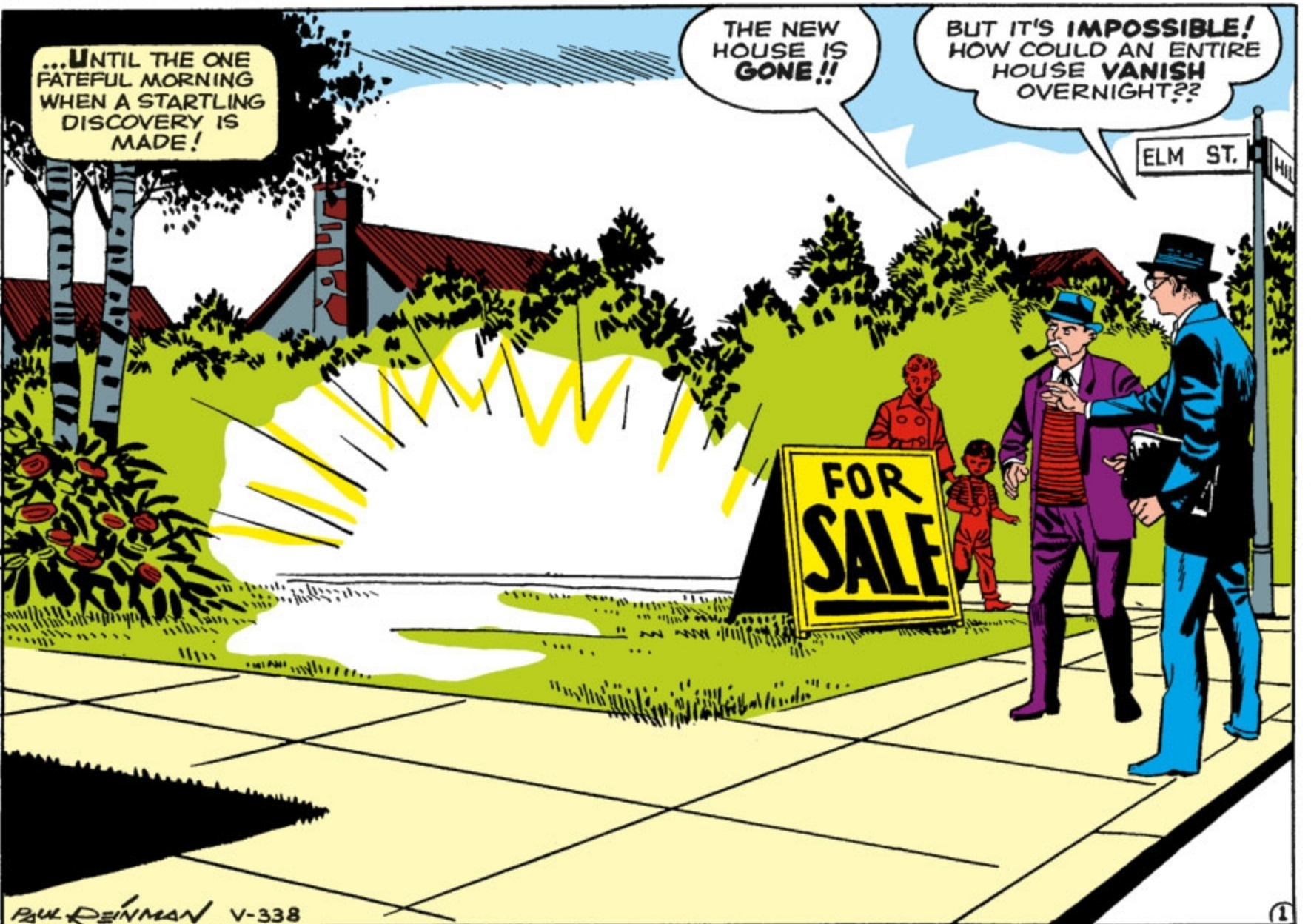
NIGHT FOLLOWS DAY PEACEFULLY, UNEVENTFULLY, IN THE QUIET TOWN...

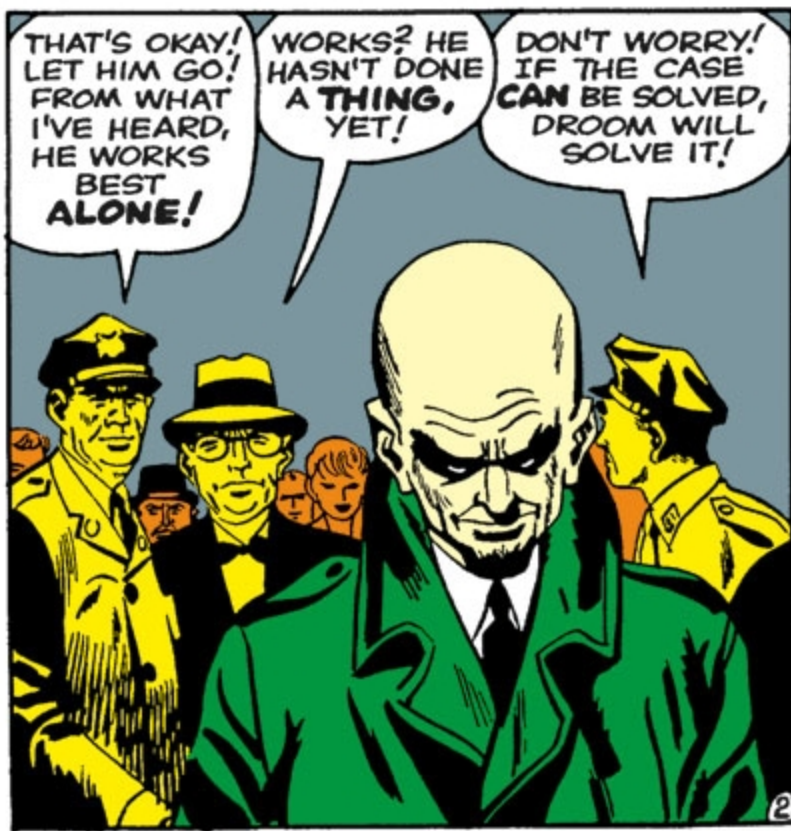
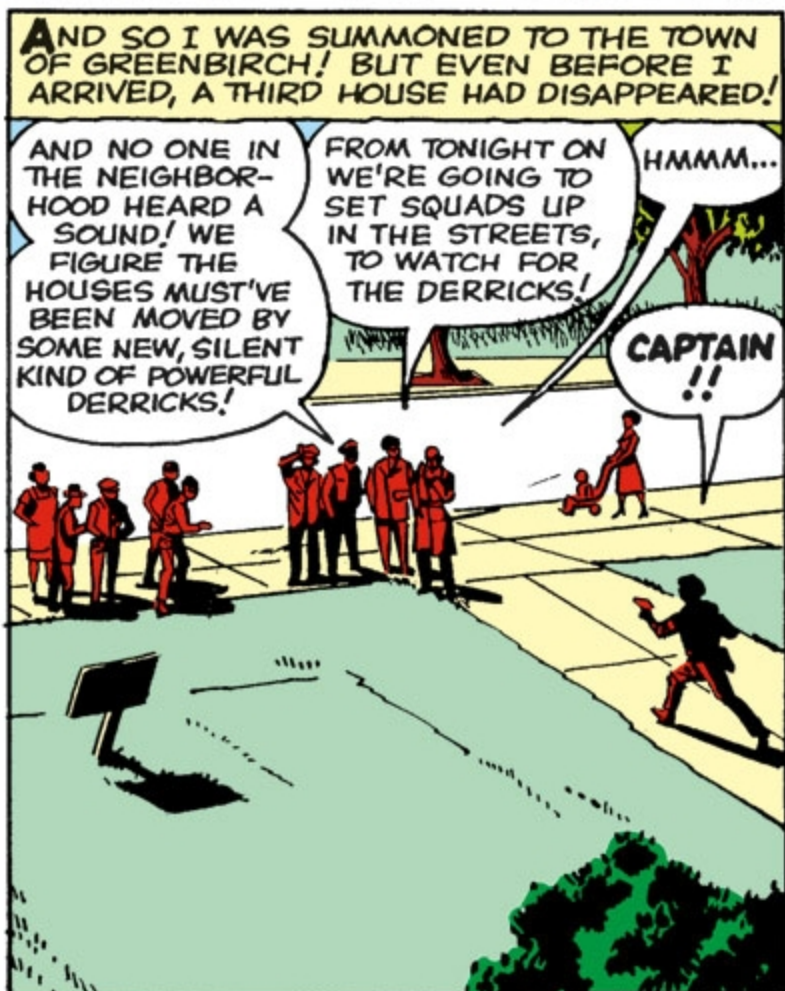


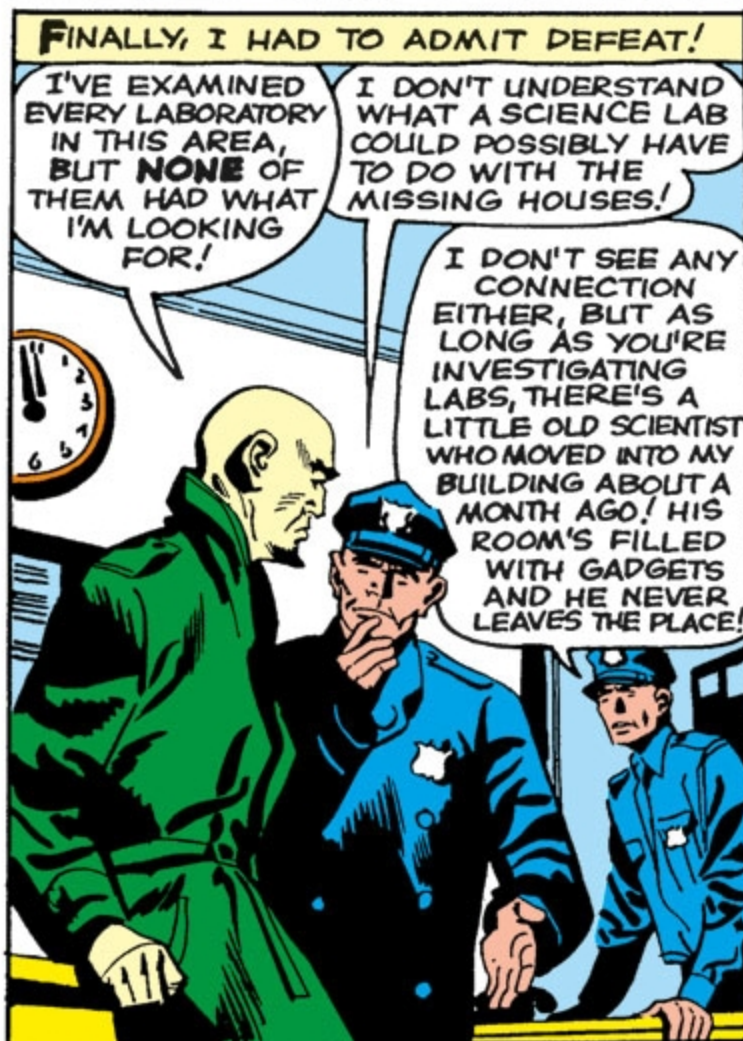
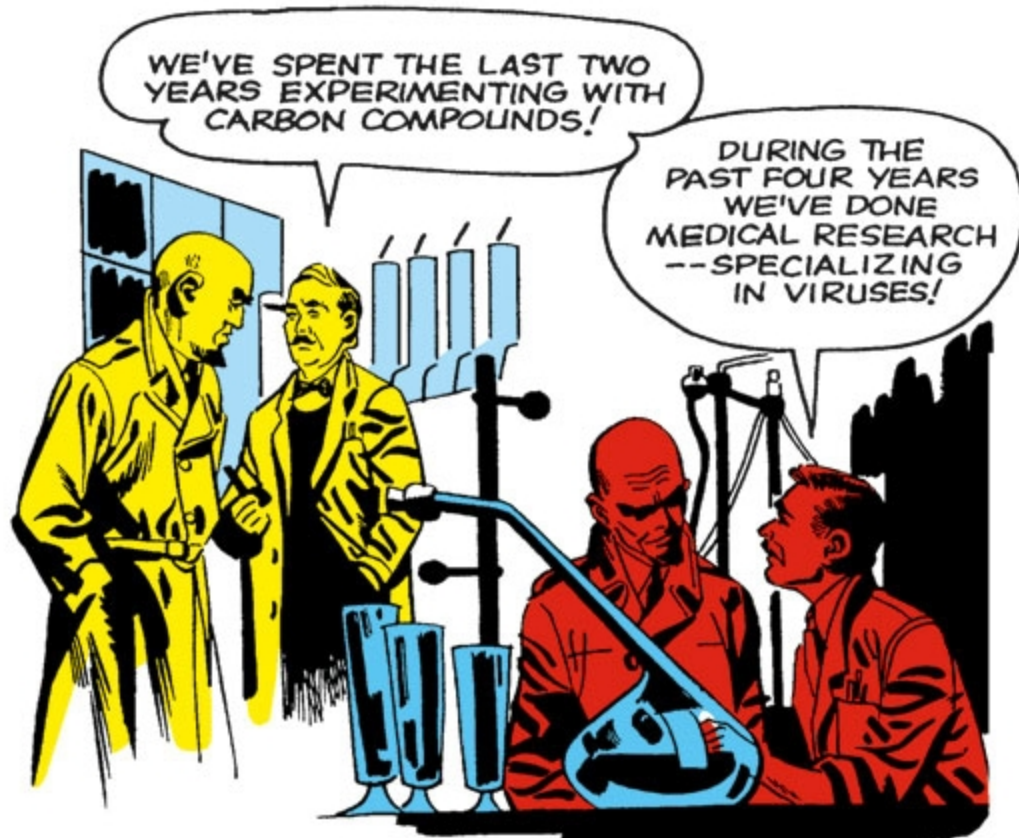
...UNTIL THE ONE FATEFUL MORNING WHEN A STARTLING DISCOVERY IS MADE!

THE NEW HOUSE IS GONE!!

BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD AN ENTIRE HOUSE VANISH OVERNIGHT??







USING ONE OF THE ANCIENT ARTS I HAD LEARNED IN THE ORIENT, I PROJECTED MY VOICE INSIDE THE ROOM...

WELL, MISTER SMITH, SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD AVOID THIS MEETING!

I'M RIGHT HERE! CAN'T YOU SEE ME??!

WHO'S SPEAKING?? WHERE ARE YOU???

NO--NO-- I MUST ESCAPE!!

PANICKED, THE OLD SCIENTIST THREW OPEN THE DOOR!

I MUST FLEE-- WHA--??

THANK YOU FOR OPENING THE DOOR!

I FORCED THE STARTLED MAN BACK INTO THE ROOM AND FOLLOWED HIM!

SO, THERE THEY ARE-- THE MISSING HOUSES!! REDUCED IN SIZE AND TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER DIMENSION!

HOW--HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU'D FIND THEM HERE??!

FROM THE WAY THEY VANISHED-- SO QUICKLY, WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE! I KNEW THEY COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MOVED BY ANY PHYSICAL MEANS!! I KNEW THERE HAD TO BE ANOTHER WAY! A SCIENTIFIC WAY!

SO!! YOU ARE A CLEVER MAN, DOCTOR DROOM! YES, I USED A MATTER-TRANSMITTING MACHINE!!

I FOCUSED IT ON THE BUILDINGS! I BOMBARDED THEM WITH ENERGY RAYS AND SENT THEM INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION... WHERE I INTENDED TO KEEP THEM UNTIL I COLLECTED THEIR RANSOM!

BUT YOU SPOILED MY SCHEME AND FOR THAT YOU SHALL PAY... WITH YOUR LIFE!!

I THINK NOT!



AN INSTANT BEFORE THE SHOT WAS FIRED, I TENSED EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY AND THREW MYSELF INTO A DEEP TRANCE. THE SAME TRANCE THAT ENABLES A YOGI TO LIE ON A BED OF NAILS... OR WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF BULLETS!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!



Y-YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! STILL STANDING!

YES, I TOO HAVE MY POWERS AS YOU SHALL NOW LEARN!



THEN, AS I STEPPED FORWARD...

AH! AS I THOUGHT! YOUR FACE IS BUT A FALSE MASK!



FOR YOU ARE NOT OF THIS PLANET!

CORRECT, DR. DROOM! MY NAME IS KROGG... AND I COME FROM A FAR DISTANT STAR!



I WOULD HAVE USED THE MILLION DOLLARS TO BRIBE RUTHLESS EARTHMEN TO WORK FOR ME... TO HELP ME PLUNDER YOUR PLANET!



BUT WE SHALL MEET AGAIN! AND NEXT TIME, DR. DROOM, I SHALL DESTROY YOU! SO BEWARE... BEWARE...



WITH THOSE WORDS, HE WAS GONE! GONE TO WHERE I COULD NOT PURSUE HIM--YET! BUT HE KNEW THAT I REMAINED ON EARTH, WAITING FOR HIS RETURN... WAITING TO PIT MY POWER AGAINST HIS! ...MINUTES LATER, I REVERSED HIS MACHINE, AND ALL WAS NORMAL AGAIN!

ASK ME NOT FOR EXPLANATIONS! THE HOMES ARE RETURNED! THE THREAT IS ENDED! SO BE IT!



I KNEW MY FOE MUST NEED BE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, FOR NO EARTHLY DEVICE COULD CAUSE A BUILDING TO INSTANTLY VANISH! BUT, WHEN HE RETURNS, AS RETURN HE WILL, CAN I THWART HIM AGAIN! FOR THE SAKE OF ALL EARTH-- I PRAY I CAN!

The End