



NOW--IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE...

The

ATOM

12¢

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

JULY

IF MY VENUS'S-
FLYTRAP CAN OVERCOME
THE MIGHTY **ATOM**,
THEN NOTHING WILL
STAND IN THE WAY OF
MY PLANT-CONQUEST
OF EARTH!

STARRING THE WORLD'S
SMALLEST SUPER-HERO in...
**"MASTER of the
PLANT WORLD!"**

The ATOM



I'LL HITCHHIKE A RIDE
ON THAT SEED AND TRY
TO STOP IT FROM
SMASHING THAT
PLANE!

STORY BY
GARDNER FOX

ART BY
GIL KANE (PENCILS)
MURPHY ANDERSON (INKS)

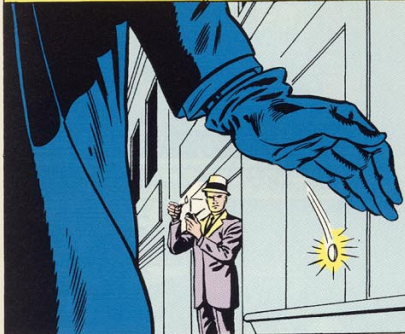
D-DAY IS THE HISTORICAL DATE OF THE WORLD WAR II INVASION OF FRANCE BY THE ALLIES. **V-J DAY** SIGNIFIES THE VICTORIOUS END OF THE WAR WITH JAPAN. NOW COMES **P (FOR PLANT) DAY**-- THE INVASION-DATE OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE **PLANT WORLD!** COMMANDING THE ARMY OF PLANTS IS **JASON WOODRUE**-- AND WAGING A DESPERATE ONE-MAN BATTLE AGAINST THIS FANTASTIC FOE IS THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO--**THE ATOM!**

MASTER OF THE PLANT WORLD!

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOURS A MAN WALKS SWIFTLY BY THE IVY TOWN BANK...



FROM HIS HAND DROPS A SMALL OBJECT...



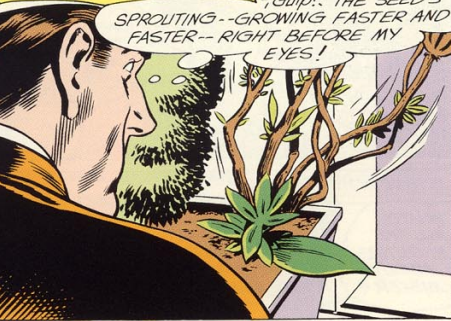
A LATE STROLLER IS FILLED WITH SUDDEN CURIOSITY...



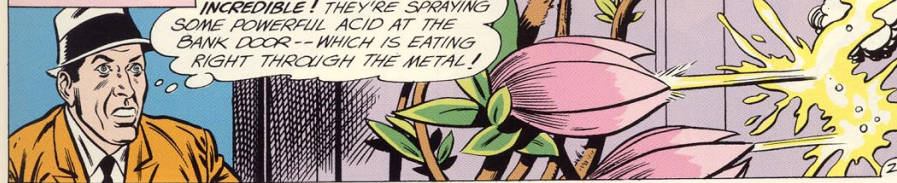
AND SO, AS HENRY CHALMERS TAKES A LOOK FOR HIMSELF...



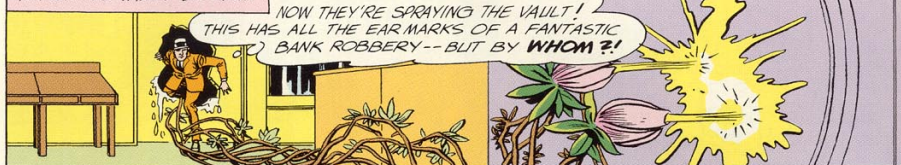
EVEN AS HE STARES, THE SEED TAKES ROOT AND BEGINS TO GROW...



WITHIN MOMENTS THE STRANGE VINE IS FULLY GROWN! THEN ITS PETALS TURN TOWARD THE BANK DOOR AND OPEN...



SLITHERING SWIFTLY INSIDE THE BANK THROUGH THE OPENING THEY HAVE MADE, THE ODD FLOWERS REACH THE VAULT DOOR...



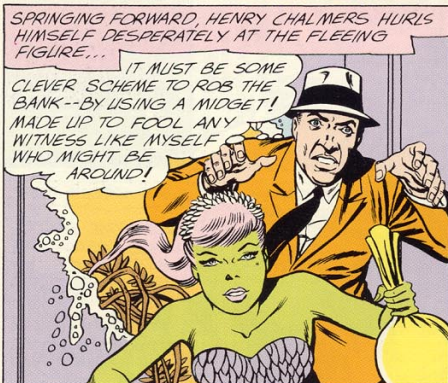
OUTWARD FROM THE NEW OPENING SPRINGS A LITHE, EERIE FIGURE, HER HANDS FILLED WITH MONEY-BAGS...

I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE! THAT LOOKS LIKE PICTURES I'VE SEEN OF MYTHICAL DRYADS-- WOOD SPIRITS FROM TREES! DREAM OR NO DREAM-- I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT THIEF!



SPRINGING FORWARD, HENRY CHALMERS HURIS HIMSELF DESPERATELY AT THE FLEEING FIGURE...

IT MUST BE SOME CLEVER SCHEME TO ROB THE BANK-- BY USING A MIDGET! MADE UP TO FOOL ANY WITNESS LIKE MYSELF WHO MIGHT BE AROUND!



THEN TO HIS AMAZEMENT HE SEES...

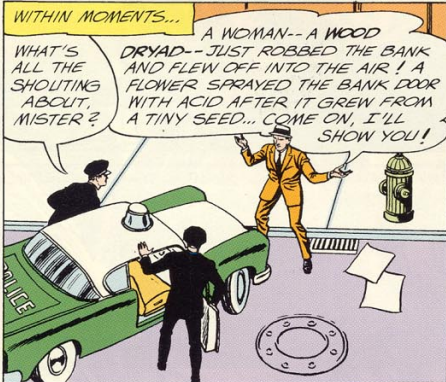
SHE'S FLYING OFF WITH THE LOOT! HELP! POLICE! HELP!



WITHIN MOMENTS...

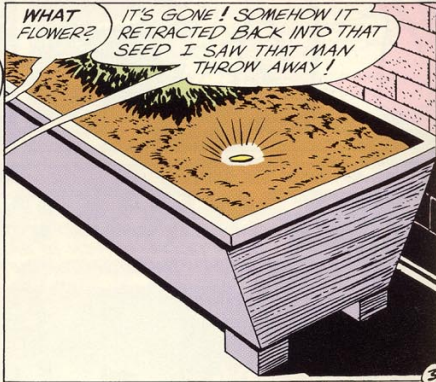
WHAT'S ALL THE SHOUTING ABOUT, MISTER?

A WOMAN-- A WOOD DRYAD-- JUST ROBBED THE BANK AND FLEW OFF INTO THE AIR! A FLOWER SPRAYED THE BANK DOOR WITH ACID AFTER IT GREW FROM A TINY SEED... COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU!



WHAT FLOWER?

IT'S GONE! SOMEHOW IT RETRACTED BACK INTO THAT SEED I SAW THAT MAN THROW AWAY!



HAND-
CLIFFS
GLITTER
IN THE
MOON-
LIGHT
AS...

KNOW WHAT I THINK ? YOU AND A
PAL ROBBED THE BANK ! HE MADE
HIS GETAWAY--BUT WHEN YOU SAW
LIS COMING, YOU MADE UP THAT STORY
TO COVER YOURSELF !

NO, NO !
IT'S TRUE !
EVERY
WORD
OF IT !

THE NEXT MORNING, IN THE
IVY TOWN JAIL INTERROGATION
ROOM...

IT HAPPENED EXACTLY
AS I SAID, MISS LORING--
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME !

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT
BAIL, MR. CHALMERS ! MEANWHILE,
I'LL START MY OWN PRIVATE
INVESTIGATION !

JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN, LADY LAWYER JEAN LORING PAYS A VISIT TO A HORTICULTURAL
EXPERT, RETIRED PROFESSOR WALTER DUDLEY OF IVY UNIVERSITY...

COULD ANY FLOWER GROW BEFORE
YOUR EYES, PROFESSOR ? OR
SHOOT A STRONG ACID ?

TO YOUR SECOND QUESTION--YES,
INDEED ! THE "RIND" OF THE
CASHEW PLANT CONTAINS A
DEADLY ACID ! OUR CASHEW
NUTS ARE VERY POISONOUS
BEFORE BEING ROASTED ...

THEN, IN A SMALL SHED ADJOINING THE
GREENHOUSE...

WATCH NOW WHILE I
CLIT THE STALK OF
THIS BANANA PLANT !

MOMENTS AFTER THE KNIFE HAS SEVERED THE
STALK...

AMAZING... A
SHOOT GROWING FROM THE
BANANA PLANT ! NOW COULD
I SEE THE CASHEW PLANT--
THE ONE WITH THE ACID ?

UNFORTUNATELY--NO !
IT WAS STOLEN FROM
ME NIGHT BEFORE LAST !

STOLEN? HMM, THE MYSTERY IS CLEARING UP! MAYBE THE MAN WHO ROBBED THE BANK STOLE IT--TO CAUSE THOSE STRANGE THINGS HENRY CHALMERS SAW! HAVE YOU INFORMED THE POLICE ABOUT THE ROBBERY?

I--I DECIDED AGAINST IT! YOU SEE, MY FLOWERS ARE SO DELICATE THAT I WAS AFRAID THE POLICE WOULD RUIN THEM WHEN SEARCHING FOR CLUES!

PROFESSOR, WOULD YOU LET ME STAY IN YOUR GREENHOUSE TONIGHT--JUST IN CASE THAT THIEF SHOWS UP HERE AGAIN? I'LL BE VERY VERY CAREFUL!

VERY WELL, BUT FIRST--LET ME ADJUST THE TEMPERATURE CONTROLS TO COUNTERACT OUR BODY HEAT--AND I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY BEAUTIES!



SOME HOURS LATER, JEAN LORING IS DINING WITH HER BOY FRIEND, RAY PALMER.

JEAN, DARLING, I FOUND A PLACE WHERE THE MOON SHINES DOWN ON A MIRROR LAKE AND--WELL, I THOUGHT WE'D RIDE OUT THERE AND--

--AND YOU COULD PROPOSE TO ME AGAIN! NOT TONIGHT, RAY! I HAVE ANOTHER DATE...



AND SO RAY DRIVES JEAN HOME, INSTEAD OF TO THE ROMANTIC PLACE HE'D PICKED FOR HIS LATEST PROPOSAL...

STOP SULKING, DEAR--MY DATE IS WITH SOME FLOWERS!

I KNOW JEAN'S TELLING ME THE TRUTH--BUT IN SUCH A SNEAKY WAY THAT I'M GOING TO LOOK INTO IT--AS THE ATOM!

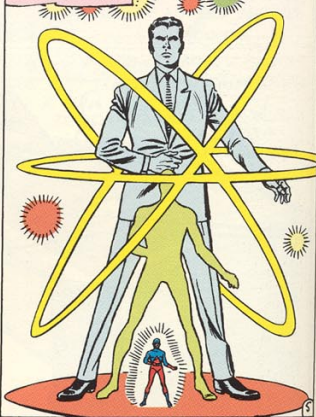


AFTER DROPPING JEAN OFF AT HER HOME, RAY DRIVES A BLOCK AWAY, WHERE HE PARKS IN A SECLUDED SPOT...

NOW TO TOUCH THE CONTROL BUTTON OF MY INVISIBLE COSTUME...

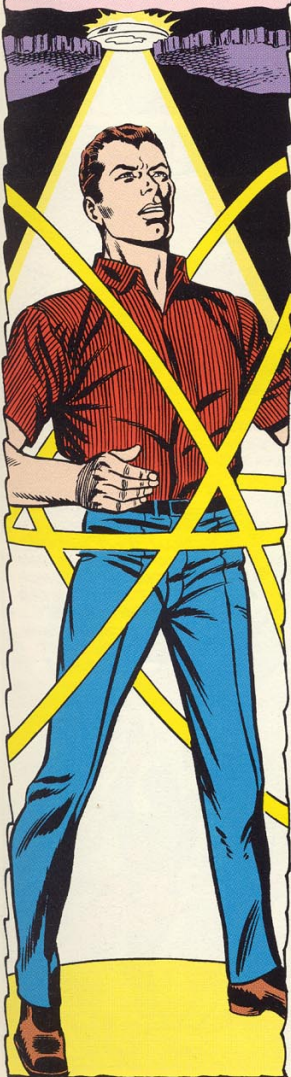


SWIFTLY HIS BODY BEGINS TO SHRINK--AND INSTEAD OF THE FAMILIAR FIGURE OF RAY PALMER WE SEE ANOTHER, TINIER BODY, CLAD IN A STRIKING RED AND BLUE UNIFORM...



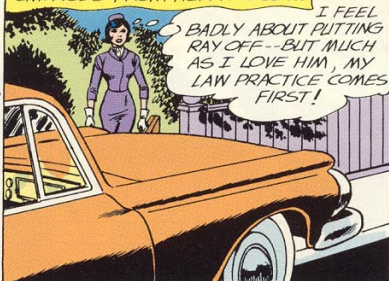
WHAT IS THE EXPLANATION OF THIS CHANGE?

MONTHS EARLIER, IN A CAVERN, RAY PALMER, A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST AT **IVY UNIVERSITY**--WITH THE HELP OF A FRAGMENT FROM A WHITE DWARF STAR AND SUNLIGHT--HAD DISCOVERED THE ABILITY TO COMPRESS THE ATOMS OF HIS BODY...

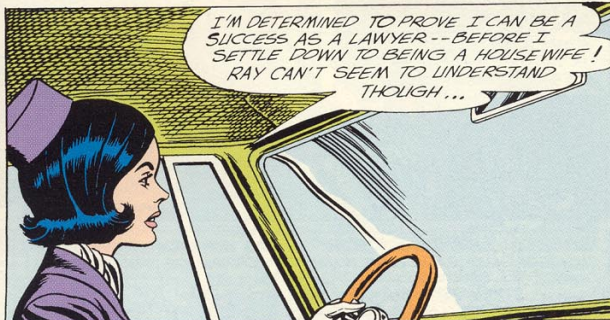


BY CHEMICALLY TREATING A UNIFORM MADE FROM FIBRES OF THE WHITE DWARF STAR, HE CAN WEAR IT OVER HIS CLOTHES AS RAY PALMER, FOR ITS ATOMS ARE STRETCHED SO FAR APART IT IS INVISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE! BUT WHEN HE BECOMES **THE ATOM**, THEY GATHER TOGETHER TO GRIP HIM TIGHTLY...

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, JEAN LORING EMERGES FROM HER HOUSE...



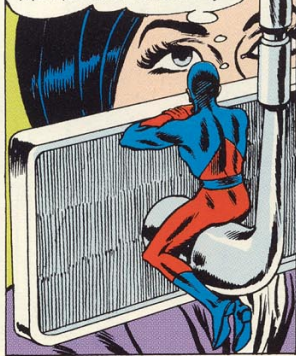
I FEEL BADLY ABOUT PUTTING RAY OFF--BUT MUCH AS I LOVE HIM, MY LAW PRACTICE COMES FIRST!



I'M DETERMINED TO PROVE I CAN BE A SUCCESS AS A LAWYER--BEFORE I SETTLE DOWN TO BEING A HOUSE WIFE! RAY CAN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THOUGH...

BUT, PROPPED ON THE BACK OF THE REARVIEW MIRROR...

I UNDERSTAND, ALL RIGHT! THAT'S WHY--AS **THE ATOM**--I TRY TO GIVE JEAN A HELPING HAND ON HER MOST DIFFICULT LEGAL CASES! THE SOONER SHE MAKES GOOD IN HER CHOSEN CAREER--THE SOONER SHE WILL MARRY ME AS RAY PALMER!



SHORTLY, THE LADY LAWYER TAKES UP HER VIGIL INSIDE ONE OF WALTER DUDLEY'S GREEN-HOUSES...

I'LL JUST KEEP MY EYES OPEN AND WAIT...

SO THIS IS WHAT SHE MEANT BY A DATE WITH SOME FLOWERS!



AS HE WATCHES THE GIRL HE LOVES, THE TINY TITAN TENSES AND STARES MORE CLOSELY AS...



BEFORE HE CAN SPEED TO JEAN'S SIDE, HOWEVER...

HUH? AM I ASLEEP TOO? OR AM I REALLY SEEING TINY FLORAL-SPIRITS EMERGING FROM THOSE FLOWERS OFF TO ONE SIDE OF JEAN!



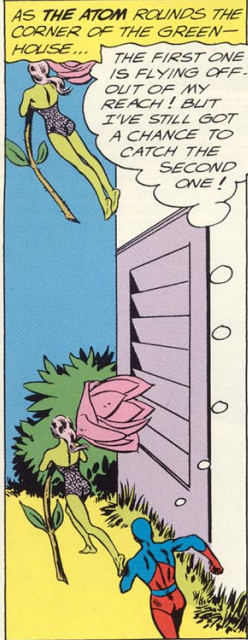
THE FLORAL SPIRITS LIFT SOME FLOWERS AND RACE OFF WITH THEM...

I'VE GOT TO CUT THEM OFF AND STOP THEM!



AS THE ATOM ROUNDS THE CORNER OF THE GREEN-HOUSE...

THE FIRST ONE IS FLYING OFF-- OUT OF MY REACH! BUT I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO CATCH THE SECOND ONE!



THE MIGHTY MITE MAKES A PRODIGIOUS LEAP AND BARELY MANAGES TO GRAB HOLD OF A STALK...

I'LL HITCH A RIDE AND SEE WHERE THEY'RE GOING! JEAN TOLD ME ABOUT HER LATEST CLIENT AT DINNER-- THIS THEFT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THAT CASE!

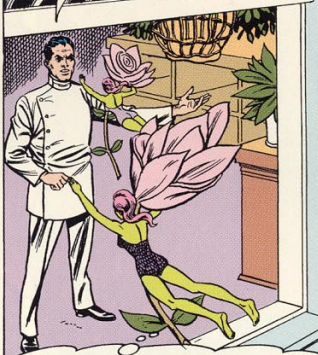


WITH HIS ABILITY TO MAKE HIMSELF SMALL OR LARGE, LIGHT OR HEAVY, THE ATOM RIDES A FLOWER-STALK THROUGH THE AIR TOWARD... WHAT ? ...



THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW, THE FLOWER-SPIRITS SWOOP INTO A LARGE ROOM IN AN OLD HOUSE SOME MILES FROM IVY TOWN...

AHA, MY LITTLE BEAUTIES ! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU OBEYED MAYA WHEN I COMMANDED HER TO ORDER YOU HERE !



I'LL MAKE MYSELF SIX INCHES TALL NOW AND-- CAPTURE THIS FELLOW !

LEAPING FROM THE SPRING-BOARD OF THE FLOWER-- STALK, THE TINY TITAN HURLS HIMSELF FORWARD.

WHAT'S THIS ? IT CAN'T BE AND YET-- THE ATOM ! YOU TRACKED ME DOWN ! BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD !



EVEN AS THE MIGHTY MITE SWOOPS THROUGH THE AIR, HALF A DOZEN TOUCH-ME-NOTS LIFT AND BOMBARD HIM WITH THEIR CANNONBALL-LIKE SEEDS...

HUH ? IF ONE OF THOSE THINGS HITS ME RIGHT-- IT'LL KNOCK ME COLD !

I AM MASTER OF ALL GROWING THINGS, ATOM ! MY LITTLE BEAUTIES WILL PROTECT ME !



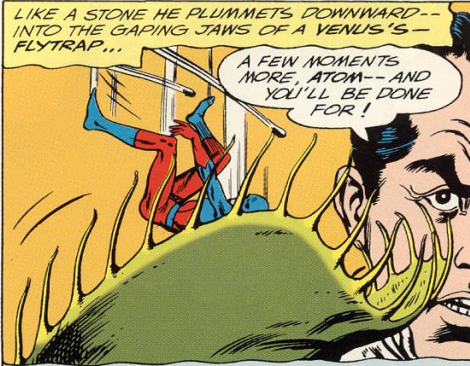
MAKING HIS BODY LIGHT, HE RISES ON A PUFF OF AIR --THEN MAKING HIMSELF HEAVY, HE DROPS --ALWAYS TRYING TO AVOID THAT AWESOME BOMBARDMENT...

OHH ! THREE HITTING ME AT ONCE !



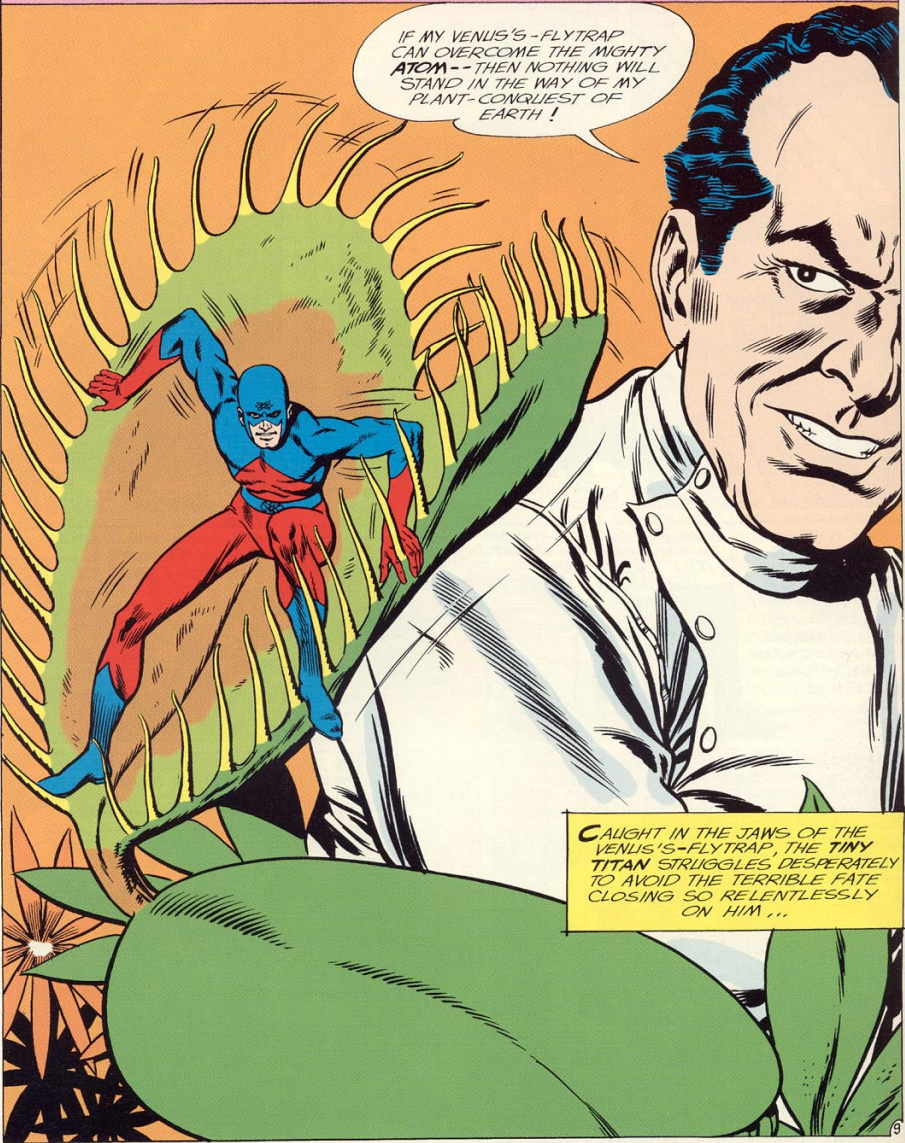
LIKE A STONE HE PLUMMETS DOWNWARD-- INTO THE GAPING JAWS OF A VENUS'S-FLYTRAP...

A FEW MOMENTS MORE, ATOM-- AND YOU'LL BE DONE FOR !



STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING!

MASTER OF THE *PLANT WORLD!* CHAPTER 2

A comic book panel showing a superhero named Atom, wearing a blue suit with a red chest and a blue mask, running away from a giant Venus flytrap. The flytrap is green with yellow tentacles. A large, close-up image of a man with a white lab coat and a menacing expression is on the right. A speech bubble from the man is at the top. A yellow text box is at the bottom right.

IF MY VENUS'S-FLYTRAP
CAN OVERCOME THE MIGHTY
ATOM--THEN NOTHING WILL
STAND IN THE WAY OF MY
PLANT-CONQUEST OF
EARTH !

CAUGHT IN THE JAWS OF THE
VENUS'S-FLYTRAP, THE **TINY**
TITAN STRUGGLES DESPERATELY
TO AVOID THE TERRIBLE FATE
CLOSING SO RELENTLESSLY
ON HIM ...

TIGHTER AND TIGHTER THE SPIKED TRAP SHUTS ON THE BATTLING ATOM ...

I DARE NOT RELEASE MY GRIP ON THIS THING TO TRY TO TOUCH THE CONTROLS OF MY UNIFORM BELT--THE JAWS WOULD SNAP TIGHT BEFORE I COULD EVER REACH MY CONTROLS!

REMORSELESSLY THE TINY TITAN IS ENCLOSED BY THE DEADLY FLOWER UNTIL...

IT'S SHUT TIGHT ON ME!

SNAP!

THE ATOM IS FINISHED! NOW I CAN LEAVE TO GO ABOUT MY TASK OF CONQUERING THE EARTH BY MY GREAT POWER OVER ITS PLANT LIFE!

AFTER JASON WOODRUE LEAVES...

THE INSIDES OF THESE LEAVES ARE SO STICKY.. I CAN HARDLY MOVE! I CAN'T EVEN REACH MY CONTROL BUTTONS TO MAKE MYSELF A DIFFERENT SIZE!

BUT WAIT! I'M STILL HOLDING A SPIKE WHICH BROKE OFF IN MY HAND! BY TURNING MY WRIST--I MIGHT BE ABLE TO NUDGE ITS TIP AGAINST MY CONTROL BUTTON!

INSTANTS LATER, AS THE CONTROL DIAL CLICKS INTO PLACE, THE ATOM GROWS TO A FOOT IN SIZE ...

I'VE BROKEN THROUGH!

AS HE DROPS LIGHTLY TO THE TABLETOP AND RECOVERS HIS SIX-INCH HIGH SIZE...

HELP!
PLEASE
HELP
ME!

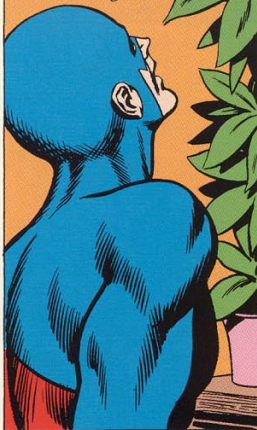
HUH? THAT CALL
FOR HELP--
WHERE'S IT
COMING
FROM?



I'M UP HERE, INSIDE THIS
FLOWER CAGE! THE PETALS
OF THESE FLOWERS EMIT
A FRAGRANCE WHICH
MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO MOVE!

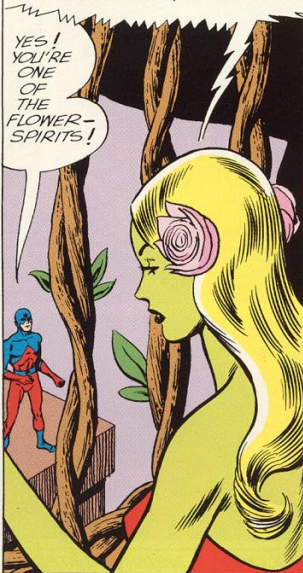


ANOTHER VICTIM
OF THE FLOWER-
THIEF?! BUT--
I CAN'T SEE
ANYONE!



OH! I FORGOT THAT I MUST
"WILL" YOU TO SEE ME! NOW
CAN YOU SEE ME, LITTLE MAN?

YES!
YOU'RE
ONE
OF
THE
FLOWER-
SPIRITS!



WITH A RUNNING JUMP THE TINY
TITAN LEAPS HIGH INTO THE
AIR-- BUT NOT HIGH ENOUGH...

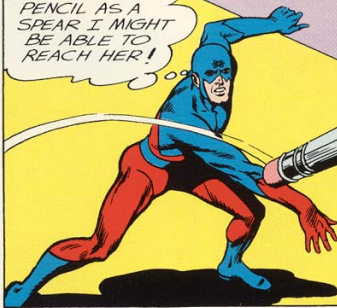
I AM *QUEEN* OF THE FLOWER
SPIRITS... AND MY NAME IS
MAYA!



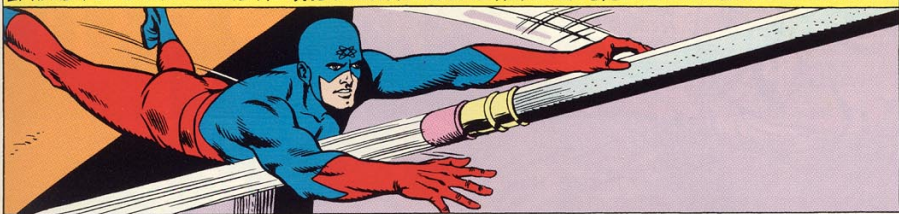
I CAN'T
QUITE
REACH
THE
CAGE!

SNATCHING UP A PENCIL, THE MIGHTY MITE HEAVES IT...

BY USING THIS
PENCIL AS A
SPEAR I MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
REACH HER!



UPWARD FLIES THE PENCIL AS **THE ATOM** RENDERS HIMSELF LIGHT AND JUMPS TO CATCH IT.



HE RIDES HIS WOODEN "ROCKET" UNTIL ...

DID I UNDERSTAND
YOU TO SAY YOUR
NAME WAS --
MAYA ?



THEN IT WAS **YOU** WHO
ORDERED THOSE FLORAL-
SPIRITS TO STEAL THE
FLOWERS JEAN
LORING WAS
GUARDING !

ONLY BECAUSE
JASON WOODRUE--
THE MAN YOU
TRIED TO CAPTURE--
COMPELLED ME TO
DO SO !



WOODRUE IS NOT A TRUE
EARTH-MAN ! HE COMES FROM
A DIMENSIONAL WORLD
CLOSE TO OUR OWN WHICH
IS INHABITED BY WOOD
NYMPHS, DRYADS, NEREIDS,
AIR SPRITES AND FLOWER-
SPIRITS !



"HE WAS EXILED FROM THIS
WORLD BECAUSE OF HIS
WICKED DEEDS AND
BANISHED INTO OURS WHERE
IT WAS BELIEVED HE WOULD
PERISH ..."

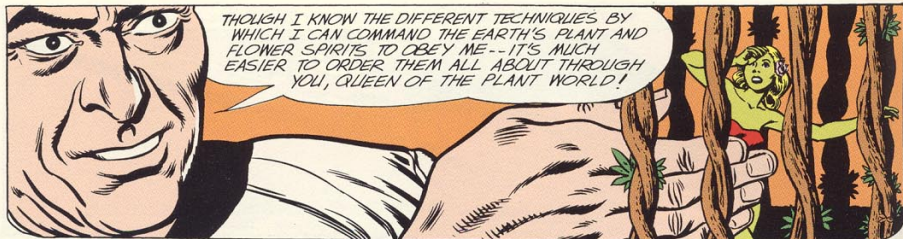
WE BANISH
YOU INTO
THE EARTH
DIMENSION.



"HE RETAINED ALL
KNOWLEDGE OF HIS
OTHER WORLD, HOWEVER,
WHEN HE ARRIVED HERE--
WHICH GAVE HIM THE
POWER TO CAPTURE ME
AND COMPEL MY
OBEDIENCE ..."

YOU SHALL
HELP ME
CONQUER
THIS
WORLD,
MAYA !

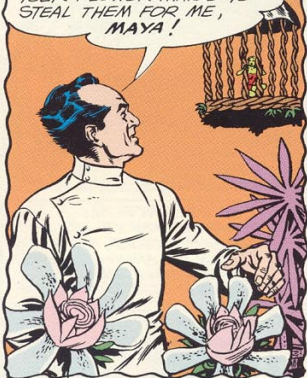




THOUGH I KNOW THE DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES, BY WHICH I CAN COMMAND THE EARTH'S PLANT AND FLOWER SPIRITS TO OBEY ME--IT'S MUCH EASIER TO ORDER THEM ALL ABOUT THROUGH YOU, QUEEN OF THE PLANT WORLD!

"THERE ARE MANY STRANGE PLANTS IN THE FLOWER KINGDOM WITH MOST UNUSUAL PROPERTIES-- BUT JASON WOODRUE IMPROVED ON THEM BY MAKING PLANTOIDS-- HIS OWN ARTIFICIAL COPIES OF THEM ..."

I NEED THE REAL FLOWERS TO IMITATE WHEN I MAKE MY PLANTOIDS! THAT'S WHY I FORCE YOU TO ORDER YOUR FLOWER MAIDS TO STEAL THEM FOR ME, MAYA!



JASON PERFECTED A PLANTOID SEED WHICH WOULD GROW AS FAST AS THE BANANA PLANT-- AND THEN SHOOT OUT AN ACID SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CASHEW PLANT, WHICH HE USED TO ROB THE IVY TOWN BANK!

THE POLICE ARRESTED HENRY CHALMERS BUT WOODRUE'S THE GUILTY MAN, THEN?



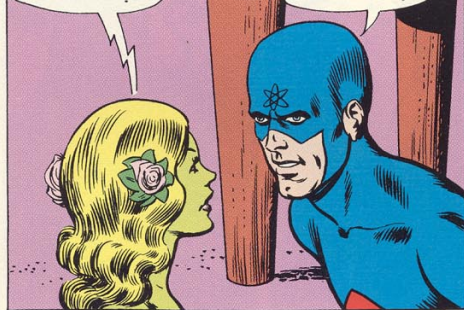
YES! HE ALSO MADE ME SUMMON A DRYAD TO TAKE THE MONEY OUT OF THE BANK FOR HIM! MY SPIRIT GIRLS ARE INVISIBLE UNLESS THEY HAVE TO TOUCH OR CARRY SOMETHING TANGIBLE. THEN THEY APPEAR TO HUMAN EYES!

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE JASON IS NOW?



NO--EXCEPT THAT HE'S ON HIS WAY TO BEGIN HIS PLANT-CONQUEST OF EARTH!

WELL, BEFORE WE TACKLE THAT, I'D BETTER GO SEE IF JEAN LORING IS ALL RIGHT!



COME, ATOM! I CAN FLY NOW! I'LL TAKE YOU TO SEE JEAN!

I SURE AM GETTING A LOT OF FREE RIDES TONIGHT!



WITH MAYA CLASPING HIS HAND, THE TINY TITAN IS BORNE ALOFT AND TOWARD THE DISTANT GREENHOUSE OF WALTER DUDLEY...



SOON, AT THE GREENHOUSE...

OHH--I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP! WHY--IT'S MY FRIEND THE ATOM!

JEAN, HENRY CHALMERS IS INNOCENT! I LEARNED ABOUT YOUR INTEREST IN THE IVY BANK ROBBERY AND THOUGHT I'D LEND YOU A HELPING HAND!



AFTER THE MIGHTY MITE HAS RELATED SOME OF HIS EXPERIENCES...

I'LL WIN MY CASE IF YOU CAN CATCH THIS JASON WOODRUE FOR ME! THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD, ATOM...

I'LL DO MY BEST, JEAN...

I DIDN'T TELL JEAN ABOUT WOODRUE'S BIGGER PLAN--TO CONQUER EARTH WITH HIS PLANTS!



THEN THE ATOM SEES JEAN TO HER CAR...

AND WILL YOUR LITTLE GIRL FRIEND HELP TOO?

I'LL BET SHE WOULDN'T CALL MAYA THAT IF SHE KNEW I WAS RAY PALMER!

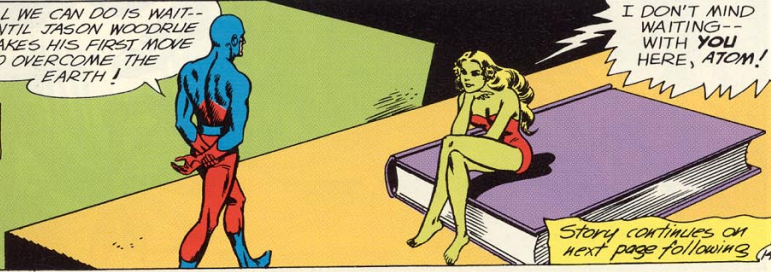
I'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP HIM!



SHORTLY THERE--AFTER HE AND MAYA RETURN TO WOODRUE'S LABORATORY...

ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT--UNTIL JASON WOODRUE MAKES HIS FIRST MOVE TO OVERCOME THE EARTH!

I DON'T MIND WAITING--WITH YOU HERE, ATOM!



Story continues on next page following 14

MASTER OF THE *PLANT WORLD!* CHAPTER 3

WITH MY PLANTOID ARMY I
SHALL RULE THE WORLD !
NOTHING CAN STAND
AGAINST ME !

P(FOR PLANT) DAY
HAS ARRIVED--AND
AT THE SAME MOMENT
ACROSS THE UNITED
STATES, AN ARMY OF
MIGHTY PLANTOIDS
STRIKES WITH THE
CRIPPLING FURY
OF A THOUSAND
ATOM BOMBS !



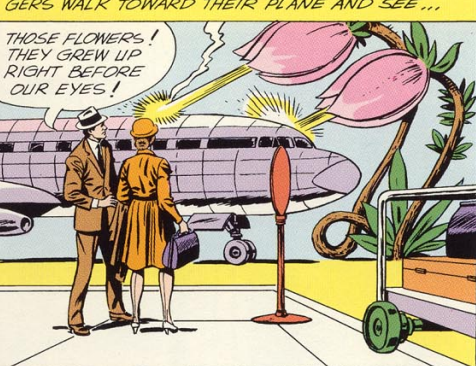
AT 9 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, EASTERN STANDARD TIME, GIGANTIC VINES GROW FROM SCATTERED SEEDS AND TWINE ABOUT THE MIGHTY BUILDINGS OF AN ATLANTIC COAST CITY...



WHAT ARE THEY?

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM SO SUDDENLY?

IN THE MIDDLE WEST IT IS 8 O'CLOCK AS PASSENGERS WALK TOWARD THEIR PLANE AND SEE...



THOSE FLOWERS! THEY GREW UP RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

MOMENTS LATER...

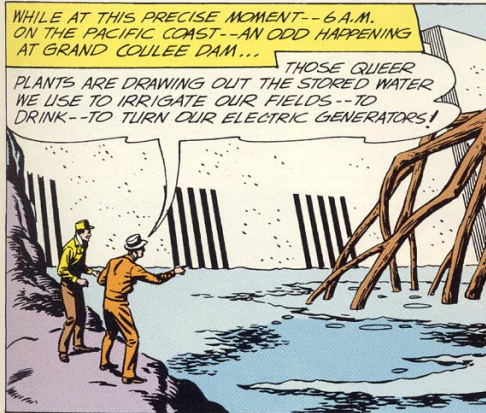


THE PLANE HAS DIS-APPEARED!

EATEN AWAY BY THE ACID SPRAYED ON IT BY THE FLOWERS!

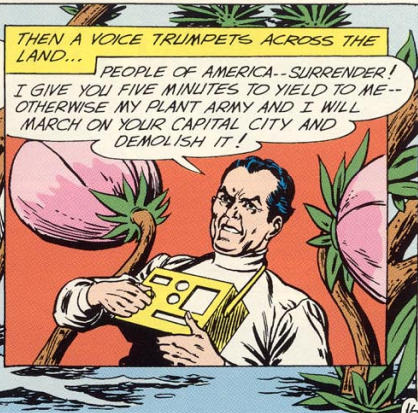
WHILE AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT--6 A.M. ON THE PACIFIC COAST--AN ODD HAPPENING AT GRAND COULEE DAM...

THOSE QUEER PLANTS ARE DRAWING OUT THE STORED WATER WE USE TO IRRIGATE OUR FIELDS--TO DRINK--TO TURN OUR ELECTRIC GENERATORS!



THEN A VOICE TRUMPETS ACROSS THE LAND...

PEOPLE OF AMERICA--SURRENDER! I GIVE YOU FIVE MINUTES TO YIELD TO ME-- OTHERWISE MY PLANT ARMY AND I WILL MARCH ON YOUR CAPITAL CITY AND DEMOLISH IT!



IN JASON WOODRUE'S ABANDONED HOUSE JUST OUTSIDE IVY TOWN...

DID YOU HEAR, MAYA? WOODRUE'S THREATENED TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON! WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

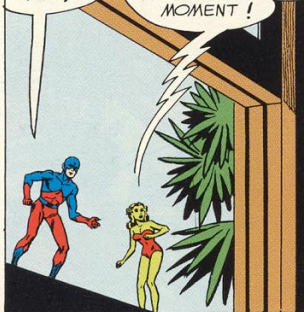
HE ORDERED MY FLOWER-SPIRITS TO DROP THOSE SEEDS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SO THEY WOULD SPAWN HIS DEADLY PLANTOIDS AT THE SAME MOMENT!

NOW THAT YOU'RE FREE YOU CAN COUNTERMAND THOSE ORDERS, MAYA!

OHH--I WAS SO CONCERNED--I FORGOT TO RESUME CONTROL!

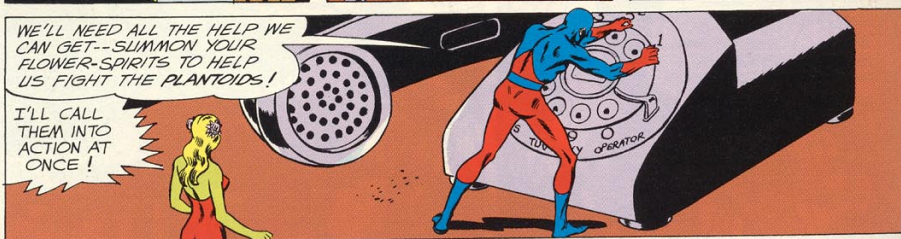
I'LL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON BY DIALING WASHINGTON INFORMATION! THE NUMBER IS--202-555-1212!

WHAT CAN I DO?



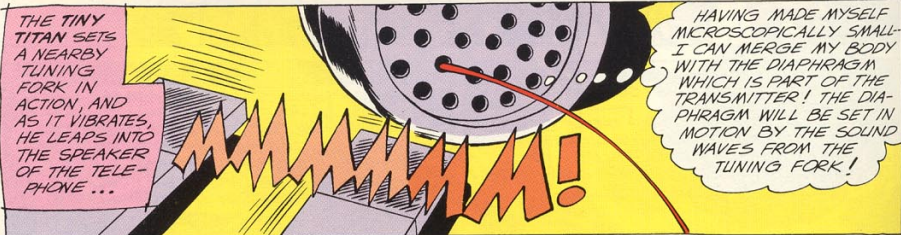
WE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET--SUMMON YOUR FLOWER-SPIRITS TO HELP US FIGHT THE PLANTOIDS!

I'LL CALL THEM INTO ACTION AT ONCE!

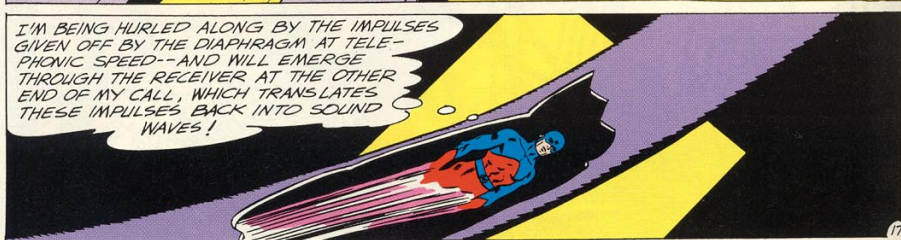


THE TINY TITAN SETS A NEARBY TUNING FORK IN ACTION, AND AS IT VIBRATES, HE LEAPS INTO THE SPEAKER OF THE TELEPHONE...

HAVING MADE MYSELF MICROSCOPICALLY SMALL--I CAN MERGE MY BODY WITH THE DIAPHRAGM WHICH IS PART OF THE TRANSMITTER! THE DIAPHRAGM WILL BE SET IN MOTION BY THE SOUND WAVES FROM THE TUNING FORK!



I'M BEING HURLED ALONG BY THE IMPULSES GIVEN OFF BY THE DIAPHRAGM AT TELEPHONIC SPEED--AND WILL EMERGE THROUGH THE RECEIVER AT THE OTHER END OF MY CALL, WHICH TRANSLATES THESE IMPULSES BACK INTO SOUND WAVES!



THEN, IN THE WASHINGTON TELEPHONE OFFICE ...

OH!!

SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT PLANTOID ARMY!

AS HE RACES ONTO THE STREETS OF WASHINGTON HE FINDS THEM COVERED WITH THE SLEEPING FORMS OF SOLDIERS, WHILE AHEAD OF THEM ...

THE PLANTOIDS OVERCAME THESE MEN-- BUT HOW? AND-- WHAT'S THAT FLOWER DOING UP AHEAD?

WHY, IT--IT'S BEEN CONVERTED INTO AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT PLANT! ITS SEEDS ARE SO HARD THEY'RE LIKE IRON CANNONBALLS! THIS IS WOODRUE'S HANDIWORK!

SWIFTLY HE CLAMBERS UP THE GREAT STALK SO THAT JUST AS A DEADLY SEEDLING IS FIRED SKYWARD...

THIS PETAL MAKES A PERFECT SPRINGBOARD TO GET ME ONTO THAT SEED!

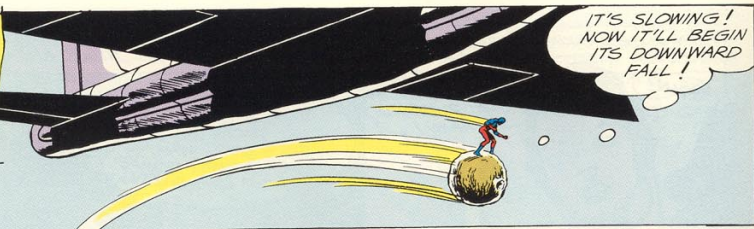
AS THE PETAL SHOOTS HIM UPWARD, HE SPEEDS LIKE A BULLET STRAIGHT FOR HIS TARGET...

I'LL HITCHHIKE A RIDE ON THAT SEED AND TRY TO STOP IT-- IF I CAN!

CLAMBERING ABOARD HIS UNUSUAL VEHICLE, HE INCREASES HIS WEIGHT TO THE 180 POUNDS WHICH HE WEIGHS AS RAY PALMER...

MY ADDED WEIGHT SHOULD SLOW THE SEED DOWN! IT BETTER DO SO IN TIME--OR I'LL BE SLAMMED AGAINST THE AIRPLANE!

HIGHER AND HIGHER HE RISES UNTIL-- JUST BEFORE THE SEED SLAMS INTO THE AIR-PLANE...



GUIDING HIS MISSILE WITH HIS FEET AS A LUMBER-JACK GUIDES A LOG THROUGH WATER, HE RIDES IT EARTHWARD...

NOW TO BRING IT DOWN-- RIGHT ON THAT ANTI-AIRCRAFT PLANTOID!



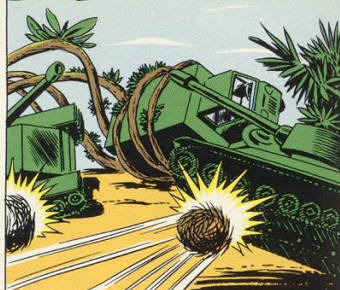
SECONDS LATER...

SPLATT!

BULL'S-EYE!



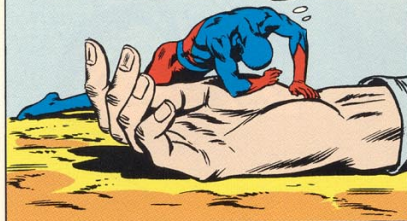
NEXT HE TURNS HIS ATTENTION TOWARD GRIM TUMBLEWEED PLANTOIDS WHICH ARE CRASHING INTO TANKS AND GUN EMPLACEMENTS LIKE BAZOOKA SHELLS..



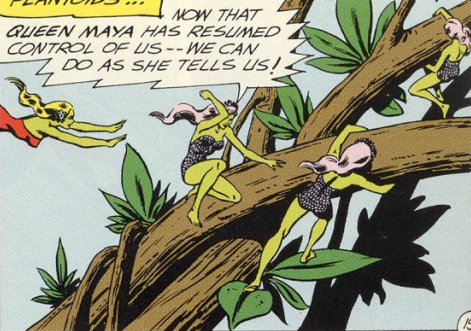
I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM--AS I STOPPED THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FLOWER!

AND THEN--SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING--THE TINY TITAN HELPLESSLY STUMBLES GROUNDWARD...

UHHH-- NOW I KNOW WHY THOSE SOLDIERS WERE--KNOCKED OUT! SOME FORM OF SLEEP GAS IS BEING EMITTED BY WOODRUE'S FLOWERS... PUTTING ME TO SLEEP TOO...



AS THE TINY TITAN LIES SLEEPING--MAYA'S DRYADS AND NEREIDS, UNAFFECTED BY THE SLEEP GAS, WAGE WAR ON THE DEADLY PLANTOIDS...



SOON, MAYA HAS GATHERED A NUMBER OF HER BATTLING FLOWER SPIRITS ABOVE THE CITY OF WASHINGTON WHERE...

LOOK! **THE ATOM** IS DOWN THERE--UNCONSCIOUS! WE MUST SAVE HIM! FOLLOW ME!



SWOOPING GROUNDWARD, MAYA AND HER FLOWER-SPIRITS--WHO BREATHE IN CARBON DIOXIDE AND SO ARE INVULNERABLE TO THE SLEEP GAS--SNATCH UP THE DOZING **ATOM**...

HE'S ONLY ASLEEP! IN THE UPPER AIR WHERE THE SLEEP GAS DOESN'T REACH, HE'LL REVIVE!



MOMENTS LATER THE MIGHTY MITE OPENS HIS EYES...

MAYA, WOODRUE'S WELL ON HIS WAY TO CONQUERING US AS HE PREDICTED! WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE SEEN WHAT'S HAPPENED--THEY'LL SURRENDER TO HIM, TOO!



IN THIS MOMENT OF HIS DESPAIR, THE SHARP EYE-SIGHT OF THE **TINY TITAN** PICKS OUT HIS ARCH-ENEMY...

LOOK THERE! IT'S WOODRUE--AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON AND THE SLEEP GAS! I'VE GOT TO CAPTURE HIM! IT'S OUR ONE CHANCE TO PULL VICTORY FROM DEFEAT!



DIVING EARTHWARD, THE **TINY TITAN** APPROACHES THE PLANT MASTER...

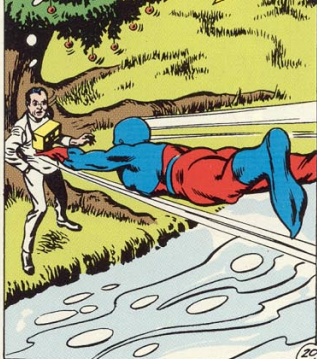
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY ANTI-AIRCRAFT PLANT? SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG IN WASHINGTON!



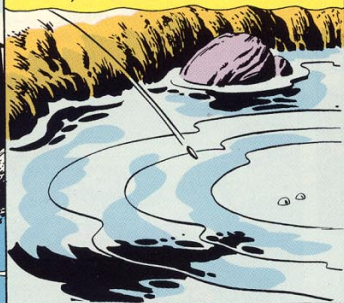
SUDDENLY...

MY ALARM TREE IS VIBRATING--WARNING ME SOMEONE IS APPROACHING! WHY--IT'S **THE ATOM**! SOMEHOW HE ESCAPED THE VENUS'S-FLYTRAP!

TINKLE!
TINKLE!



AS THE **TINY TITAN** SWOOPS LOW ACROSS THE WATERS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER, **WOODRUE** HURLS A SEED...



INSTANTLY THE SEED GROWS INTO A TENTACLED WATER-PLANT, THE GRIPPERS OF WHICH LASH OUT AND...



THIS FANTASTIC PLANT HAS ME SO I CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE!

HOLDING HIM TIGHTLY, THE **PLANTOID** DRAGS HIM BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE RIVER...

LITTLE FOOL! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD DEFEAT **JASON WOODRUE**? -- WAIT! WHAT'S THAT I SEE REFLECTED ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER?



MAYA! HOW DID YOU ESCAPE FROM-- OF COURSE! **THE ATOM** MUST HAVE FREED YOU! BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!

I'VE GOT TO RESCUE **THE ATOM**-- OR THE WHOLE EARTH IS DOOMED! Ooh-- **WOODRUE'S** SEEN ME!



CLOSE YOUR EYES IN SLUMBER FAST-- WAKE NOT BEFORE TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED!

I CAN'T FIGHT HIM! HE'S PUTTING ME INTO A TRANCE-LIKE SLEEP!...



AS **MAYA** FALLS INTO A DEADLY SLUMBER...

WITH **MAYA** ASLEEP, HER FLOWER-SPIRITS MUST OBEY ME-- AND STOP BATTLING MY **PLANTOIDS!** AND NOW-- TO WIFE **WASHINGTON** FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!



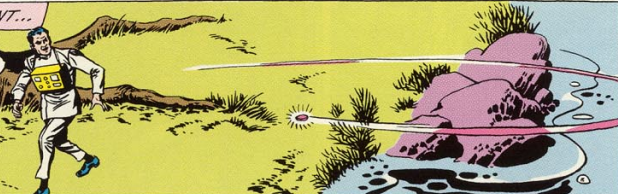
THEN,
AS
JASON
WOODRUE
FIRES
HIS
MOST
DEADLY
SEED
OF
ALL...

WITH THIS SEED I'LL DESTROY
EVERY STONE--EVERY BIT
OF METAL--EVERY BLADE
OF GRASS IN THE CITY!
AFTER SUCH A DEMONSTRATION
OF MY POWERS, THE
EARTH WILL SURELY
ACKNOWLEDGE ME
ITS MASTER!



BUT TO HIS UTTER AMAZEMENT...

NO! NO! I FIRED THE
SEED TOWARD WASHINGTON--
HOW COULD IT HAVE
REVERSED POSITION--
AND BE COMING BACK
TOWARD ME?!



THE SEEDLING BURSTS INTO
THOUSANDS OF TINY PUFFS...

THOSE PUFF BALLS DESTROY
EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH!
I'VE GOT TO TURN THEM
OFF BY USING MY CONTROL
BOX! GOOD GOSH--
IT'S GONE!

CORRECT, JASON
WOODRUE! I HAVE
YOUR CONTROL BOX--
HIDDEN SAFELY
AWAY!

HUH? THE ATOM! I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT! THE GRIPPER PLANTOID DREW
YOU DOWN INTO THE RIVER! HOW
COULD YOU HAVE ESCAPED?!



HOW INDEED COULD THE TINY TITAN HAVE ESCAPED HIS WATERY
DOOM? LET US TURN BACK TIME TO THAT MOMENT WHEN HE
WAS DRAWN UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE POTOMAC BY THE
GRIPPER PLANTOID...

I CAN'T GIVE
UP NOW--THERE MUST
BE A WAY OUT...



EVEN AS HIS LUNGS STRAIN WITH THE NEED TO BREATHE, HE EXERTS HIS GREAT STRENGTH--SLOWLY DRAWING TOGETHER THE TENTACLES HOLDING HIS ARMS...

IF I CAN GET THESE GRIPPERS TO MEET--THEY'LL CLING TO ONE ARM--FREEING THE OTHER!



AS CONTACT IS MADE THE ATOM SLIDES HIS FREE RIGHT ARM AWAY FROM HIS LEFT...

MY HAND IS NOW FREE TO TURN MY CONTROL DIAL, SO I CAN MAKE MYSELF LARGER!



AS HIS HAND SWINGS OVER HIS SIZE CONTROL DIAL HE BURSTS FREE OF THE GRIPPER PLANTOID...

JUST IN TIME! MY LUNGS ARE ABOUT TO BURST!



SWIMMING TO THE RIVERBANK, HE GRASPS A SMALL, SPRINGY SAPLING AND...



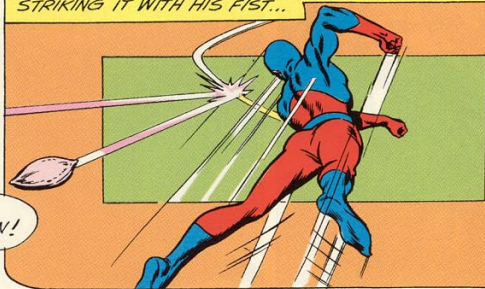
WOODRUE IS SHOOTING A DESTRUCTIVE SEED TOWARD WASHINGTON! I'VE GOT TO INTERCEPT IT!

AS THE ATOM RETURNS TO HIS 6-INCH SIZE, HE ALSO REDUCES HIS WEIGHT, SO THAT AS HE LEAPS ONTO THE RISING SAPLING...



THIS SAPLING WILL ACT LIKE A CATAPULT, HURLING ME--AS ITS LIVING PROJECTILE--STRAIGHT FOR THE SEEDLING!

AT FULL SPEED HE RAMS INTO THE ONCOMING SEED, STRIKING IT WITH HIS FIST...



AS THE SEEDLING EXPLODES INTO THOUSANDS OF PUFFS, THE ATOM RIDES THE WIND CURRENTS DOWNWARD TOWARD THE FLEEING JASON WOODRUE ...

Hmm--THIS MAY YET WORK OUT IN MY FAVOR!



WITHOUT HIS CONTROL BOX HE'LL BE HELPLESS AGAINST HIS PLANTOIDS--SO WHILE HE'S BUSY TRYING TO ESCAPE THEM, I'LL REMOVE IT!



RELEASED FROM ITS STRAP, THE CONTROL BOX SLIDES DOWNWARD...

I'LL HIDE THE BOX--THEN WAIT FOR WOODRUE TO DISCOVER IT'S GONE!



SO THAT NOW, AS JASON WOODRUE REALIZES HE FACES DOOM...

SAVE ME! SAVE ME! THESE SEED PUFFS WILL DESTROY US ALL!

I'LL SAVE YOU-- AFTER YOU RELEASE MAYA FROM THE SLEEP INTO WHICH YOU PUT HER!



WHEN MAYA IS ROUSED FROM HER SLEEP...

NOW THAT I'M IN COMMAND OF WOODRUE'S PLANTOIDS-- I'LL PUT THEM ALL OUT OF COMMISSION!

OH, ATOM-- YOU SAVED THE WORLD!



LATER IN COURT, AFTER HENRY CHALMERS HAS BEEN FREED AND JASON WOODRUE SENTENCED FOR THE IVY BANK ROBBERY...

AFTER I SENTENCE YOU, JASON WOODRUE, I'LL REMAND YOU TO THE FEDERAL PRISON, THERE TO STAND TRIAL FOR ATTEMPTING TO CONQUER THE EARTH!



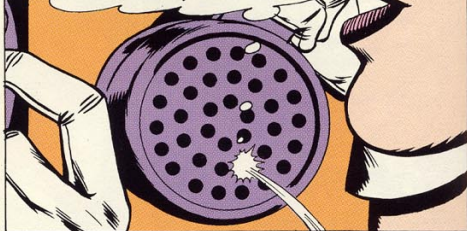
THANK YOU, ATOM--FOR HELPING ME WIN MY CASE AND ALSO FOR SAVING OUR WORLD! NOW I'VE GOT TO HURRY AND TELL RAY PALMER ALL ABOUT IT!



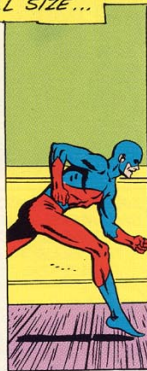
UH-OH! I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE LABORATORY-- AND MY OTHER IDENTITY OF RAY PALMER!

AND SO, AS JEAN DIALS THE IVY UNIVERSITY LABORATORY...

AS SOON AS SHE ASKS TO SPEAK TO ME--I'LL TRAVEL THROUGH THE TELEPHONE WIRES TO THE LAB, THEN RUN INTO MY PRIVATE OFFICE AND CHANGE TO RAY PALMER! HERE GOES...



ALMOST INSTANTLY HE TRAVELS ACROSS THE MILES-- THEN RACES INTO HIS OFFICE--AND TURNS THE CONTROL DIAL WHICH RETURNS HIM TO HIS FULL SIZE...



SO THAT...

I WON MY CASE, DEAR! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT AT DINNER!



I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO HEAR IT OVER AGAIN! OH, WELL-- THAT'S THE PENALTY I MUST PAY FOR HAVING TWO IDENTITIES!

