



NOW--IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE...

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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

SEPT.

NO. 2

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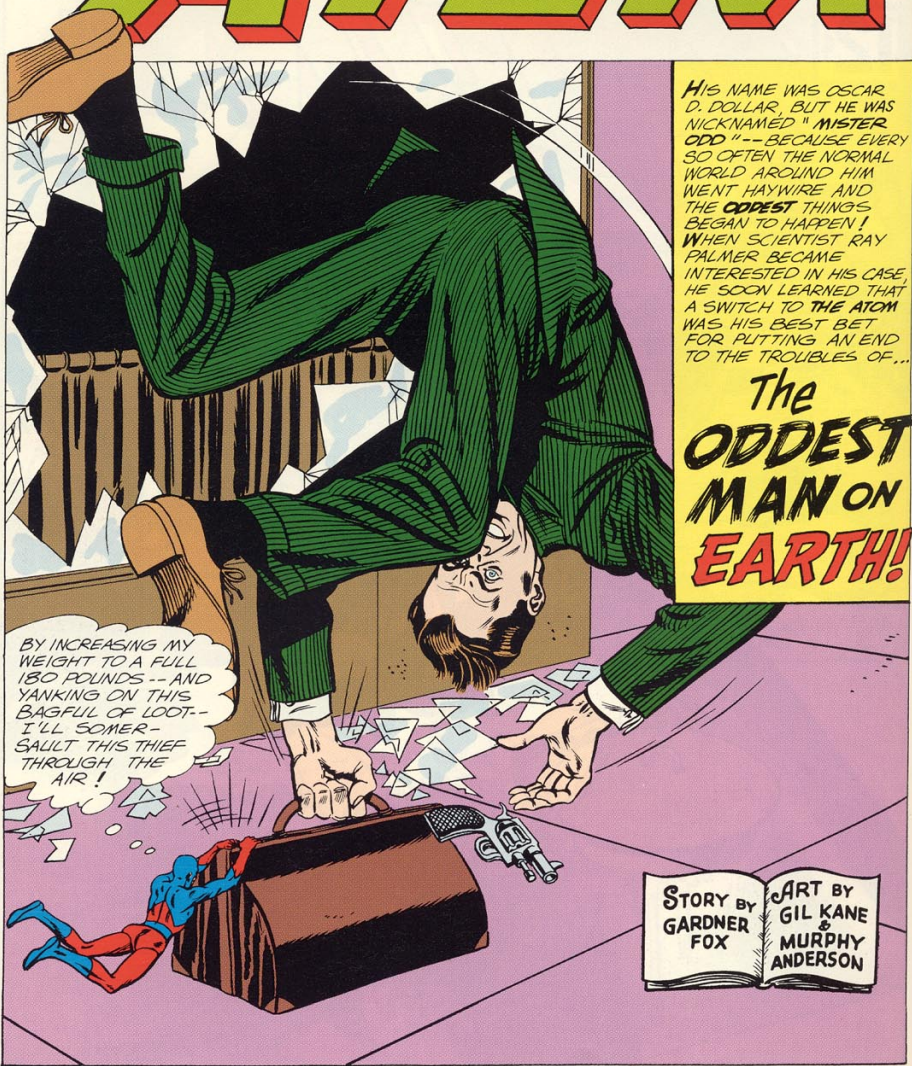
The

ATOM

DISASTER STRIKES THE WORLD'S
SMALLEST SUPER-HERO EVERY TIME
HE MEETS... "***The ODDEST
MAN ON EARTH!***"



The ATOM



HIS NAME WAS OSCAR D. DOLLAR, BUT HE WAS NICKNAMED "MISTER ODD" -- BECAUSE EVERY SO OFTEN THE NORMAL WORLD AROUND HIM WENT HAYWIRE AND THE **ODDEST** THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN! WHEN SCIENTIST RAY PALMER BECAME INTERESTED IN HIS CASE, HE SOON LEARNED THAT A SWITCH TO **THE ATOM** WAS HIS BEST BET FOR PUTTING AN END TO THE TROUBLES OF...

**The
ODDEST
MAN ON
EARTH!**

BY INCREASING MY WEIGHT TO A FULL 180 POUNDS -- AND YANKING ON THIS BAGFUL OF LOOT-- I'LL SOMERSAULT THIS THIEF THROUGH THE AIR!

STORY BY
GARDNER
FOX

ART BY
GIL KANE
&
MURPHY
ANDERSON

AGAINST
THE
NIGHT
SKY OF
THE IVY
TOWN
FARM
BELT
GLOW
RED
TONGUES
OF FIRE...

JEAN, TIM
KERR'S
BARN IS
ON FIRE!

IT'LL TAKE THE VOLUNTEER
FIREMEN A LITTLE TIME TO
GET HERE, RAY! MEANTIME,
MAYBE WE CAN HELP!



AS THEY DRIVE INTO THE YARD...

CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, FOLKS! MY
SPRINKLER SYSTEM SHOULD BE
WORKING--UNLESS I FORGOT TO
TURN ON THE VALVE WHEN I
CHECKED IT
THE OTHER
DAY!

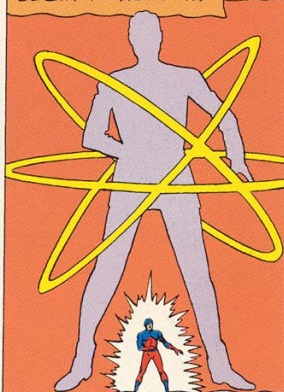
I'LL SEE IF I CAN
GET TO IT FROM
THE OTHER SIDE,
MR. KERR!



OUT OF SIGHT OF HIS
SWEETHEART, JEAN LORING,
AND FARMER TIM KERR,
YOUNG SCIENTIST RAY
PALMER TOUCHES THE
INVISIBLE CONTROL DEVICE
ON THE EQUALLY INVISIBLE
UNIFORM HE ALWAYS
WEARS...



INSTANTLY THE TREMENDOUS
NATURAL FORCES INHERENT IN
THE FIBRES OF THE WHITE
DWARF STAR METEOR FROM
WHICH HE HAS FASHIONED
HIS AMAZING ATOM UNIFORM
BEGIN TO WORK...



WHEN THE NORMAL-SIZED
RAY PALMER WEARS THE ATOM
UNIFORM, IT IS SO STRETCHED
OUT IT IS INVISIBLE AND IN-
TANGIBLE! IT IS ONLY WHEN
RAY SHRINKS IN SIZE THAT
THE UNIFORM BECOMES VISIBLE!

THE TINY
TITAN
GIVES A
LITTLE
SPRING
AND IS
WASTED
GENTLY
UPWARD
ON A
COLUMN
OF HEATED
AIR FROM
THE
BURNING
BARN...



BY MAKING MYSELF
LIGHTER THAN A
FEATHER, I CAN
RIDE THESE HOT
AIR CURRENTS TO
THE ROOF!

HIGH INTO THE AIR HE IS WIFTED, UNTIL HE HALTS HIS UPWARD PROGRESS BY GRIPPING THE IRON WEATHERVANE...

THOSE CUPOLA LOUVERS WOULD NEVER LET A MAN THROUGH THEM-- BUT I CAN SQUEEZE IN AS THE ATOM!

WITHIN SECONDS HE IS SLIPPING BETWEEN THE LOUVERS...

ON RARE OCCASIONS, BARN FIRES ARE CAUSED BY SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF HAY STORED IN THEM, DUE TO THE HEAT GENERATED BY THE LIFE ACTIVITIES OF BACTERIA IN THE HAY!

DROPPING LIGHTLY ONTO THE PIPES WHICH ARE PART OF THE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM, THE MIGHTY MITE RUNS ALONG A ROD...

USUALLY THE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS GO ON WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS HIGH ENOUGH TO ACTIVATE THEM!

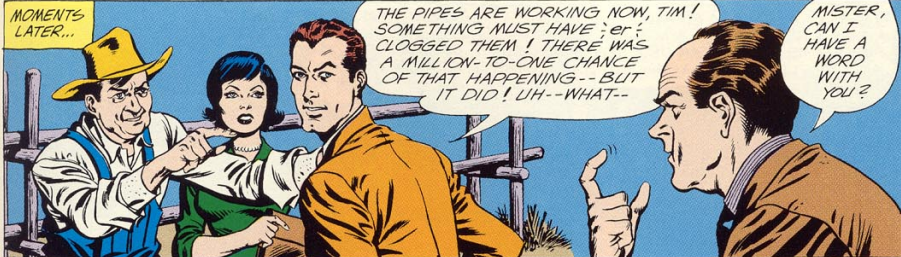
REACHING THE VALVE, HE BEGINS TO TURN IT...

BUT THERE HAS TO BE WATER IN THE PIPES --AND SINCE TIM DID FORGET TO TURN THIS VALVE BACK ON, THERE WASN'T ANY WATER TO SHOOT DOWN ONTO THE FIRE! I'LL SOON REMEDY THAT, HOWEVER...

MOMENTS LATER, A FLOOD OF SPRAYING WATER SHOWERS DOWN ON THE BLAZING HAY, EXTINGUISHING IT--AS THE ATOM RIDES A WATER PIPE TO THE FLOOR...

NOW I'LL CHANGE BACK TO RAY PALMER WHERE I CAN'T BE SEEN BY JEAN OR TIM. KERR!

MOMENTS
LATER...



I THINK THAT FIRE WAS
MY FAULT ! I DIDN'T
ACTUALLY SET IT BUT--
I MADE IT HAPPEN !
I HEARD YOUR GIRL
FRIEND SAY YOU'RE
A SCIENTIST--SO MAYBE
YOU CAN EXPLAIN THE
STRANGE THINGS I
MAKE HAPPEN !

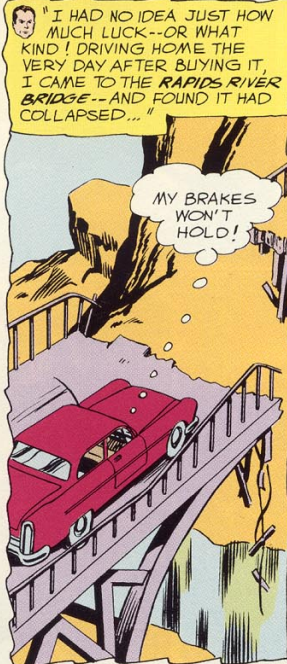


AFTER INTRODUCING HIS NEW
ACQUAINTANCE--OSCAR D. DOLLAR--
TO JEAN LORING AND TIM KERR,
RAY DRIVES JEAN HOME, THEN...

MR. PALMER, MY TROUBLES
BEGAN ABOUT A YEAR AGO !
I COLLECT COINS--AND I
ESPECIALLY WANTED A MINT
CONDITION 1920 SILVER DOLLAR,
SINCE THAT'S THE YEAR I WAS
BORN ! I FANCIED IT MIGHT
BRING ME LUCK...



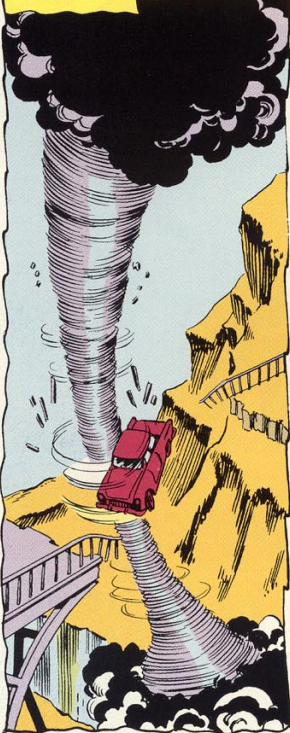
"I HAD NO IDEA JUST HOW
MUCH LUCK--OR WHAT
KIND ! DRIVING HOME THE
VERY DAY AFTER BUYING IT,
I CAME TO THE RAPIDS RIVER
BRIDGE--AND FOUND IT HAD
COLLAPSED..."



"EVEN AS MY CAR HURTL
OFF THE BRIDGE AND BEGAN
ITS FALL INTO THE RAVINE,
I HEARD A BUZZING SOUND
LIKE THAT OF A THOUSAND
SWARMS OF BEES..."



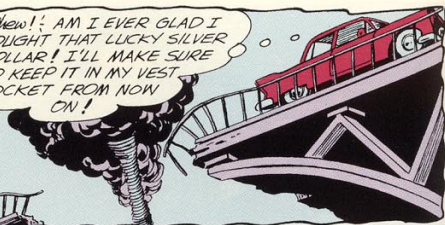
"THE NEXT INSTANT--A TORNADO HIT ME! ITS SWIRLING WINDS PICKED ME AND MY CAR UP AND WHIRLED US THROUGH THE AIR..."



"THEN-- AGAINST INCREDIBLE ODDS--THE TORNADO SET MY CAR SAFELY DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE!"

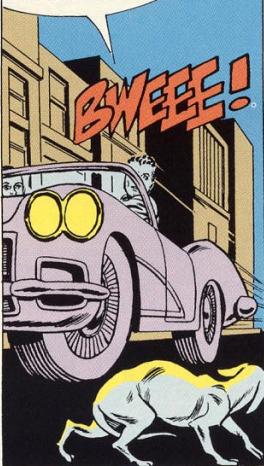


"When! AM I EVER GLAD I BOUGHT THAT LUCKY SILVER DOLLAR! I'LL MAKE SURE TO KEEP IT IN MY VEST. POCKET FROM NOW ON!"



AT THIS INSTANT, A DOG TROTS OUT IN FRONT OF THE CAR AND ...

WATCH OUT, PUP! PAY ATTENTION TO MY HORN!



BWEEEE!

AND IN ANSWER TO THAT BLAST...

GOOD GOSH! THE SOUND-VIBRATIONS FROM MY HORN SHATTERED THE GLASS WINDOW OF THAT JEWELRY STORE! ANOTHER MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE!

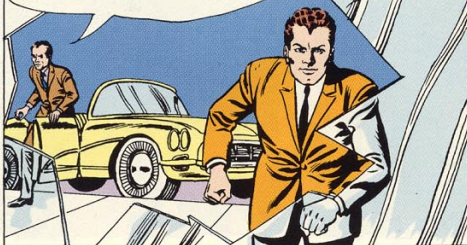
NOT WITH ME BESIDE YOU! SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS ALMOST AN EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE WITH ME!



CRASH!

THE GREATER THE ODDS AGAINST A THING HAPPENING, THE BETTER THE CHANCE OF MY BEING AROUND WHEN IT DOES! THAT'S WHY I CALL MYSELF MISTER ODD-- BECAUSE OF MY INITIALS AND MY QUEER ABILITY TO MAKE THINGS OCCUR--NO MATTER HOW INCREDIBLE THE ODDS!

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! GET TO A PHONE AND CALL THE POLICE!

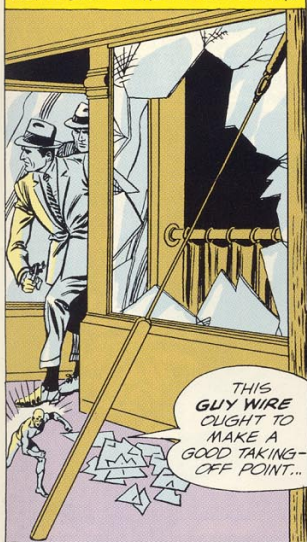


I'LL STAY HERE AND-- SAY, THERE ARE TWO MEN IN THERE! ROBBING THE STORE! THE SOUND OF THE BREAKING WINDOW SCARED THEM! I'D BETTER CHANGE OVER TO--

THE ATOM!

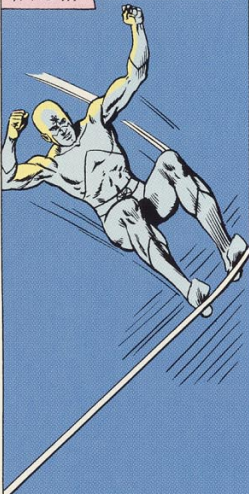


ALMOST INSTANTLY RAY PALMER
DISAPPEARS--AND IN HIS PLACE...



THIS
GUY WIRE
OUGHT TO
MAKE A
GOOD TAKING-
OFF POINT...

WITH BOTH FEET LEGS
BRACED, THE MIGHTY
MITE COMES DOWN
HARD ON THE TAUT
WIRE...



THE NEXT MOMENT HE IS HURLED
LIKE AN ARROW, SOARING THROUGH
THE AIR, STRAIGHT FOR THE RACING
THIEVES...



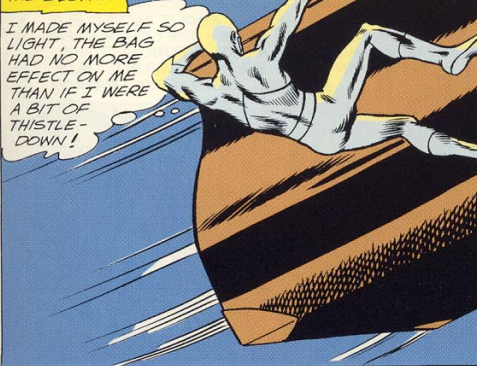
CONTACT!

THE ATOM! WHEN I
HIT YOU WITH THIS
BAG--WEIGHTED DOWN
WITH THE JEWELRY
WE STOLE--I'LL
KNOCK YOU
COLD!

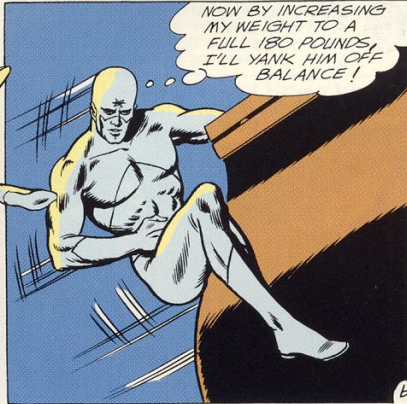


I CAN'T AVOID GETTING
HIT--BUT I CAN
AVOID GETTING
HURT!

AS THE BAG HITS HIM, THE TINY TITAN RIDES
THE BLOW...



I MADE MYSELF SO
LIGHT, THE BAG
HAD NO MORE
EFFECT ON ME
THAN IF I WERE
A BIT OF
THISTLE-
DOWN!



NOW BY INCREASING
MY WEIGHT TO A
FULL 180 POUNDS,
I'LL YANK HIM OFF
BALANCE!

THE JEWEL THIEF LEAVES HIS FEET AS THOUGH CLUTCHED BY A MIGHTY HAND...



--AND LANDS BESIDE HIS UNCONSCIOUS COMPANION...

NOW I'LL BECOME RAY PALMER AGAIN--AND TELL THE POLICE THE ATOM LEFT ME TO GUARD THEM WHILE HE WENT OFF ON SOME OTHER BUSINESS!



AFTER THE POLICE HAVE DEPARTED WITH THEIR PRISONERS AND POSTED AN OFFICER TO GUARD THE BROKEN WINDOW, RAY DRIVES OSCAR D. DOLLAR TO HIS BOARDING HOUSE...

GO ON WITH YOUR STORY, OSCAR...



"DECIDING TO TEST MY GOOD LUCK FURTHER, I WENT TO THE RACETRACK AND BOUGHT A TICKET ON A LONG--SHOT--# 8 HORSE IN THE FIRST RACE..."

I WON! I WON! THIS IS TERRIFIC! I'LL BE RICH IN NO TIME WITH SUCH 'LUCK'!



"IT WAS THEN THAT I LEARNED MY 'LUCK' COULD BE BAD AS WELL AS GOOD!"...

SORRY, MISTER-- THIS TICKET IS FOR #6 HORSE TO WIN!

TALK ABOUT INCREDIBLE ODDS! THE OTHER CLERK MUST'VE PUNCHED THE WRONG NUMBER-- SIX INSTEAD OF EIGHT!



SOON, AT THE BOARDING HOUSE WHERE OSCAR DOLLAR RENTS A ROOM...

OTHER MISCHANCES OCCURRED FROM TIME TO TIME!



THEY WERE CAUSED--NOT BY LUCK-- BUT ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MATHEMATICAL PROBABILITIES! APPARENTLY YOU ACTED AS A "CATALYST" * TO INCREASE THE CHANCE OF AN IMPROBABILITY HAPPENING!



*EDITOR'S NOTE: A CATALYST IS THAT WHICH CAUSES A REACTION IN SOMETHING WITHOUT ITSELF BEING AFFECTED OR CHANGED!

AS RAY REVIEWS WHAT HE HAS BEEN TOLD, HE IS UNAWARE THAT HE IS BEING OVER-HEARD IN THE NEXT ROOM...



WHAT'S THIS? A LUCKY SILVER DOLLAR? HMMMM, IF I CAN'T MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS PAY OFF--FOR ME--MY NAME'S NOT BART TRANTER!

NEXT DAY...

MR. DOLLAR... THIS IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE IVY TOWN INDUSTRIAL TRUST BANK! IF YOU WILL DROP IN ABOUT QUARTER OF THREE THIS AFTERNOON TO TALK OVER AN ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY...



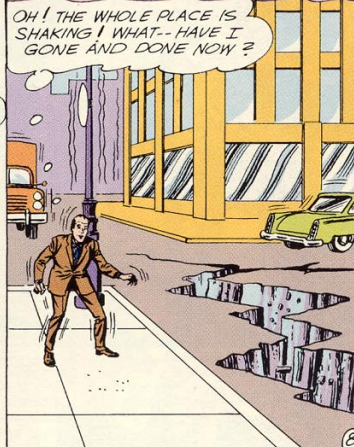
I'LL BE GLAD TO...

AND SO OSCAR D. DOLLAR TAXIS DOWNTOWN--AND AS HE PAYS THE DRIVER, HE TAKES OUT HIS SILVER DOLLAR FOR LUCK AND SPINS IT HIGH...

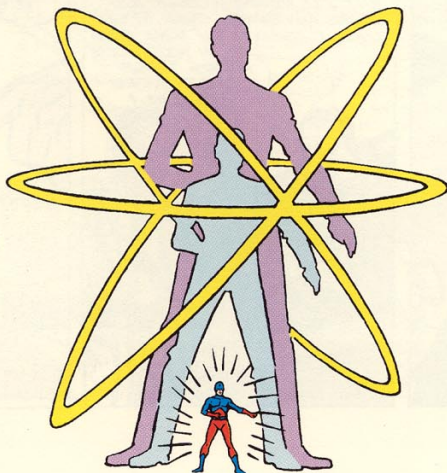


WITH GOOD LUCK, THIS BANK PRESIDENT INTERVIEW MAY BE A TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE!

NO SOONER DOES HE THRUST THE COIN BACK IN HIS TROUSER ROCKET THAN...



OH! THE WHOLE PLACE IS SHAKING! WHAT--HAVE I GONE AND DONE NOW?



The ODDEST MAN ON EARTH! PART 2

THE EARTH TREMBLES UNDER FOOT AS LINES OF MEN AND WOMEN ABANDON THE SUDDENLY DANGEROUS BUILDINGS...

THIS IS THE FIRST EARTHQUAKE WE'VE EVER HAD IN IVY TOWN!

I SURE HOPE IT'S THE LAST!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT-- I KNOW IT!

IN THE CONFUSION, BART TRANTER RACES INTO THE NOW-DESERTED BANK...

THIS IS EVEN BETTER THAN I'D HOPED! AN EARTHQUAKE! WOW! THAT DOLLAR GUY CAN SURE STIR THINGS UP!

EVERYBODY BEAT IT WHEN THE BANK BUILDING BEGAN TO SHAKE! I'M ALL ALONE WITH HALF A MILLION BUCKS! I'LL CARRY AS MUCH OF IT AS I CAN IN THIS VALISE!

WITHIN TEN MINUTES THE EARTHQUAKE SUBSIDES, BUT OSCAR D. DOLLAR WALKS AROUND IVY TOWN FOR TWO HOURS MAKING UP HIS MIND, AND THEN...

THAT EARTHQUAKE WAS THE LAST STRAW! I'M GETTING RID OF THIS SILVER DOLLAR FOR GOOD! I'LL GO DOWN TO RAY PALMER'S LABORATORY AND TURN IT OVER TO HIM! MAYBE IT'LL CONVINCE HIM THAT THE COIN IS MAKING THOSE ODD THINGS HAPPEN AROUND ME!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL...

GIVE AWAY THAT SILVER DOLLAR? HEY? I GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS-- LIKE STEALING IT FROM PALMER--SO IT'LL WORK FOR ME!

SHORTLY, OSCAR D. DOLLAR SHOWS UP IN RAY'S RESEARCH LABORATORY AT IVY UNIVERSITY...

I'VE HAD IT! YOU TAKE IT! I CAUSED THAT EARTHQUAKE-- BUT I'LL NEVER CAUSE ANYTHING LIKE IT AGAIN!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, OSCAR, I'D LIKE TO CHECK YOU OVER TO SEE IF SOME AURA IN YOUR BODY MAKES THOSE MISCHANCES OCCUR!

AS OSCAR DOLLAR REMOVES HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS...

SAY, THIS IS AN ODD STONE! WHERE'D YOU GET IT?

I FOUND IT A YEAR AGO TODAY IN THE WOODS BEHIND THE CAMPUS! ALWAYS KEPT IT WITH ME SINCE THEN!



THE YOUNG SCIENTIST IS ABOUT TO BEGIN HIS TESTS WHEN...

STRANGE! I FOUND MY WHITE DWARF FRAGMENT AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME IN EXACTLY THE SAME PLACE! I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY CONNECTION?

WHY, THE MACHINE WON'T WORK!

HOW ABOUT THAT! SOMEONE MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY KICKED THE PLUG OUT OF ITS SOCKET! AN ODDS-ON CHANCE--AND IT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE HERE!

THAT FIGURES! THAT'S WHY I'M LAYING OFF THAT SILVER DOLLAR!

FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR, RAY MAKES A SERIES OF EXHAUSTIVE BUT FRUITLESS TESTS...

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING PECULIAR ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL MAKEUP!

'COURSE NOT! IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THAT SILVER DOLLAR!

AFTER "MISTER ODD" HAS LEFT, RAY WORKS ON FOR A WHILE, THEN...

...NEWS BULLETIN! DURING THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE, THE BANK WAS ROBBED OF OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS...

GOOD THING OSCAR IS HONEST OR I MIGHT THINK HE "CAUSED" THAT EARTHQUAKE TO MAKE SOME MONEY! HEY! HE FORGOT HIS STONE WHEN HE LEFT HIS GOOD-LUCK PIECE WITH ME!

I'LL PUT THEM BOTH IN MY POCKET SO I WON'T FORGET TO RETURN HIS STONE! TIME NOW TO LOCK UP FOR THE NIGHT!

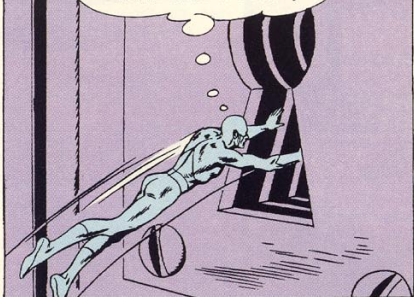
I'LL KNOCK THE GUY OUT, THEN DUMP HIM IN A CLOSET WHILE I SEARCH FOR THAT SILVER DOLLAR!

MOMENTS LATER, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST "COMES TO," LOCKED IN THE LABORATORY STORAGE ROOM...

SOMETHING HIT ME FROM BEHIND... KNOCKED ME OUT! I HEAR SOMEONE MOVING AROUND--IN THE LABORATORY! IT MIGHT STILL BE MY ATTACKER!

WITHIN
MOMENTS...

A LOCKED DOOR MIGHT
STOP AN ORDINARY MAN--
BUT NOT **THE ATOM**!
I'M GOING TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S GOING ON
IN MY LABORATORY!



BART TRANTER IS SEARCHING FOR THE SILVER DOLLAR
WHEN A CURIOUS SHADOW ON THE WALL ALERTS
HIM TO DANGER...

HUH? WHAT'S
THAT?



HE WHIRLS
AND IN WILD
DESPERATION
FLINGS OUT
AN ARM--
AND AS
"LUCK"
WOULD
HAVE IT--
HITS THE
ATOM
A CRUSH-
ING BLOW...

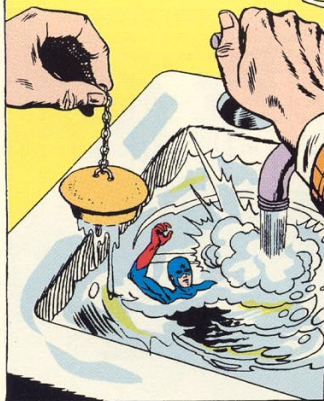
GET AWAY
FROM
ME!



TOUGH BREAK! A THOU-
SAND-TO-ONE CHANCE HE'D
SEE MY SHADOW--THEN HIT
ME IN HIS SUDDEN START--
BUT IT HAPPENED!
OHHHHH!

STUNNED, THE TINY TITAN SLAMS
INTO THE LAB SINK, AND...

HA! HA! EVEN LOOKING FOR
THAT DOLLAR I'M LUCKY!
SO LONG, **ATOM**! I'LL WASH
YOU OUT OF MY LIFE RIGHT
NOW!



CAUGHT BY THE RUSHING
WATERS, **THE ATOM** IS
DRAWN DOWNWARD TOWARD
THE DRAIN AND--OBLIVION...

THIS IS YOUR FINISH,
ATOM! YOU'LL NEVER
BOTHER ME AGAIN!



THE COLD WATER REVIVES THE
MIGHTY MITE ENOUGH SO
THAT AS HE IS SWEEPED DOWN
THE DRAIN...

GOT TO
STOP--SOMEHOW! ONCE
I'VE BEEN CARRIED INTO
THE PIPES--I'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO--GET OUT!
BUT--HOW CAN I FIGHT
THIS TORRENT OF WATER?



HIS DESPERATELY REACHING HANDS CLOSE DOWN ON A CATCH-BAR OF THE DRAIN FITTING--AND HIS FINGERS LOCK AGAINST THE RUSH OF WATER ...

I'M SO SMALL, THE CATCH-BAR HIDES ME! HE CAN'T SEE ME, IT'S SO DARK INSIDE THIS DRAIN!



SECONDS AFTERWARD, THE ATOM CLIMBS UPWARD...

THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T CAST A SHADOW BEFORE ME!



A GREAT LEAP--THE THUD OF TWO CLOSED FISTS PACKED BY THE IMPACT OF AN 180-POUND BODY--AND...

POW!



NEXT DAY, AFTER THE STOLEN BANK MONEY HAS BEEN RETURNED AND BART TRANTER PLACED BEHIND BARS...

OSCAR, MY TESTS HAVE SHOWN THIS STONE OF YOURS WAS PART OF A WHITE DWARF FRAGMENT THAT LANDED ON EARTH! IT'S COMPOSED OF UNKNOWN EARTHLY ELEMENTS WHICH-- WHEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SILVER DOLLAR-- CAUSED THOSE ODD EVENTS TO OCCUR!



THE DOLLAR ITSELF HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! WHEN YOU KEPT IT IN YOUR VEST POCKET, NOTHING HAPPENED! IT WAS ONLY WHEN YOU PUT IT IN THE PANTS POCKET WITH THE STONE THAT A REACTION OCCURRED TO MAKE THE STRANGE EVENTS TAKE PLACE! NOW WE'LL TEST IT IN THE SPECTROSCOPE ...



AS A LIGHT-BEAM FROM THE SPECTROSCOPE HITS THE METEOR STONE...

ANOTHER IMPROBABLE OCCURRENCE! SOMEHOW, THE BEAM OF LIGHT MADE THE STONE ANTI-GRAVITIC! ITS SHOOTING UPWARD OFF THE EARTH--AND INTO SPACE-- WHERE IT'LL NEVER WORK ITS FANTASTIC ODDS AGAIN!

GOOD RIDDANCE! I'LL NO LONGER BE THE "ODDEST" MAN ON EARTH!

SMACK!



AFTER OSCAR O. DOLLAR HAS GONE, RAY PALMER GOES FOR A WALK...

I THINK I'LL CALL JEAN AND ASK HER OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT! WHY, THE PHONE IS RINGING! I'LL ANSWER IT TO CLEAR THE LINE FOR MY OWN CALL...



RRING!

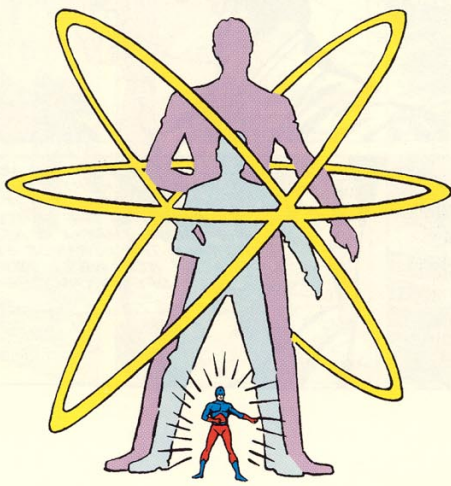
BUT WHEN HE LIFTS THE RECEIVER...

RAY, THIS IS JEAN! I CALLED TO LET YOU KNOW I'D GLADLY GO TO DINNER WITH YOU TONIGHT!

HUH? JEAN, HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN I WAS WALKING PAST THIS PUBLIC PHONE BOOTH AT THIS TIME?

I DIDN'T KNOW! I DIALED YOUR OFFICE-- IVYTOWN 6-6212!

THIS NUMBER IS IVYTOWN 6-6221! TALK ABOUT ODD OCCURRENCES! JEAN MUST HAVE TRANSPOSED THE LAST TWO DIGITS OF MY TELEPHONE NUMBER-- JUST AS I WAS WALKING PAST THIS BOOTH!



The ATOM

THE IVY TOWN POLICE WERE FACED WITH A PERPLEXING PROBLEM--HOW TO KEEP CRIMINALS IN JAIL! ALL THESE JAILBIRDS HAD TO DO TO "FLY THE COOP" WAS CLASP A COUPLE OF CELL-BARS --AND DISAPPEAR! ONLY BY HIDING HIMSELF ON A PRISONER'S PERSON COULD THE ATOM HOPE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF...

THE PRISONERS WHO VANISHED!



IN A CERTAIN HOUSE IN IVY TOWN, CARL BALLARD IS TREATING A TRIO OF GANGLAND CHARACTERS TO LUNCH...

HOLD IT, FELLOWS! YOU'VE ALL BEEN WONDERING WHAT THIS CELEBRATION IS ALL ABOUT! WELL, HERE IT IS -- I'VE DISCOVERED A **FOOL PROOF** METHOD OF GETTING YOU OUT OF JAIL IF YOU'RE ARRESTED!

HUH ?!

YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

IT'S NO JOKE, I ASSURE YOU! WHEN **THE ATOM** SLAPPED ME IN JAIL FOR FORCING A PINT-SIZED SPACEMAN TO ROB FOR ME, * I DETERMINED NEVER TO BE TRAPPED THAT WAY AGAIN! THAT'S WHY, AFTER I WAS RELEASED, I WORKED OUT A SCIENTIFIC GIMMICK FOR BREAKING JAIL ...

*Editor's Note :
AS REVEALED
IN "BATTLE OF
THE TINY TITANS"--
SHOWCASE
34

THAT'S BIG TALK, BALLARD! BUT CAN YOU PROVE IT--

WITH THE BEST PROOF IN THE WORLD! IF ONE OF YOU VOLUNTEERS TO GET HIMSELF ARRESTED, I'LL TELL HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE HAS TO DO TO FIND HIMSELF BACK IN THIS ROOM BEFORE MIDNIGHT!

AFTER **DAPPER JOE** HAS AGREED TO GET HIMSELF ARRESTED, HE IS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS BY CARL BALLARD AND SOON ...

CRASH!

CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED, **DAPPER JOE**! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

YOU CAN ARREST ME -- BUT YOU'LL NEVER KEEP ME IN JAIL! I GOT A SUREFIRE WAY OF GETTING OUT -- BEFORE MIDNIGHT!

IS THAT SO ? IN THAT CASE, I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON YOU MYSELF, WISE GUY!

AT A FEW MINUTES BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK, IN THE IVY TOWN JAIL...

I'M STILL WAITING! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO PULL OFF THAT ESCAPE?

ANY MINUTE NOW, OFFICER! JUST KEEP YOUR EYE ON ME ... AND YOU'LL SEE ...

THE LIGHTS GO OFF IN THE JAIL CELLS AT EXACTLY TEN O'CLOCK EVERY NIGHT. AT THAT MOMENT, **DAPPER JOE** PUTS HIS HANDS ON TWO BARS AND MENTALLY BEGINS A COUNTDOWN...

I'M DOING JUST WHAT BALLARD TOLD ME ... TEN -- NINE -- EIGHT ...

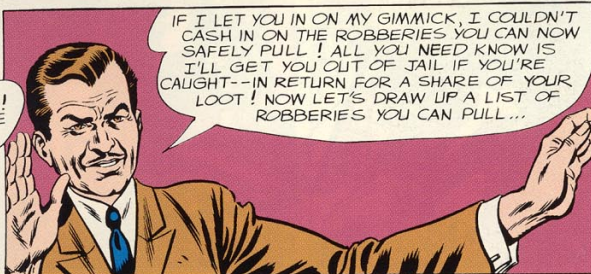


HE'S FADING OUT--
DISAPPEARING
RIGHT BEFORE
MY EYES!

AT ALMOST THIS SAME MOMENT, BACK IN BALLARD'S HOUSE ...

HERE HE COMES --
JUST LIKE BALLARD
SAID!

THE
GUY'S
A
MAGICIAN!
HOW'D HE
DO IT?



IF I LET YOU IN ON MY GIMMICK, I COULDN'T CASH IN ON THE ROBBERIES YOU CAN NOW SAFELY PULL! ALL YOU NEED KNOW IS I'LL GET YOU OUT OF JAIL IF YOU'RE CAUGHT--IN RETURN FOR A SHARE OF YOUR LOOT! NOW LET'S DRAW UP A LIST OF ROBBERIES YOU CAN PULL ...

NEXT DAY IN THE SCIENCE
LABORATORIES OF IVY
UNIVERSITY...

CHIEF, THIS IS
RAY PALMER.
RAY, CHIEF
OF POLICE
BAXTER
NEEDS OUR
HELP!

I SURE DO!
SOME CROOK'S
FOUND A WAY
OF VANISHING
RIGHT OUT
OF OUR
JAIL CELL!



GIVEN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM HIS RESEARCH WORK, RAY PALMER IS SOON MAKING TESTS IN THE
IVY TOWN JAIL ...

SO FAR I CAN'T FIND A THING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IN THIS CELL! IF THAT CROOK ESCAPED BY HOLDING ONTO THOSE CELL BARS--IT MUST HAVE BEEN BY **MAGIC!** AND I DON'T BUY THAT ANSWER!

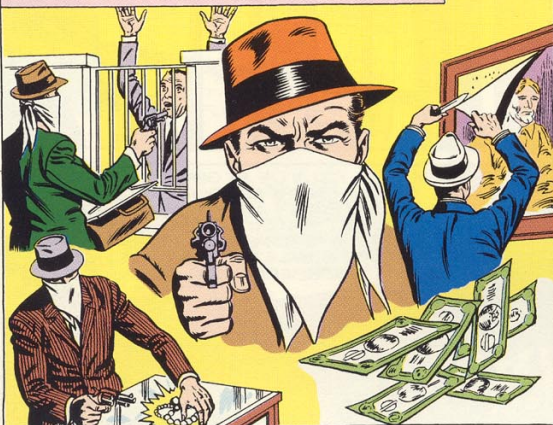


AFTER MORE HOURS OF FRUITLESS INVESTIGATION, RAY PACKS HIS SCIENCE EQUIPMENT...

I COULDN'T LEARN ANYTHING AS **RAY PALMER**-- BUT IF I SECRETLY COME BACK TO THESE CELLS AS **THE ATOM** WHEN THE POLICE MAKE ANOTHER ARREST, I MAY DO BETTER!



DURING THE NEXT WEEK, A TRIO OF DARING ROBBERIES OCCURS WITHOUT AN ARREST BEING MADE...

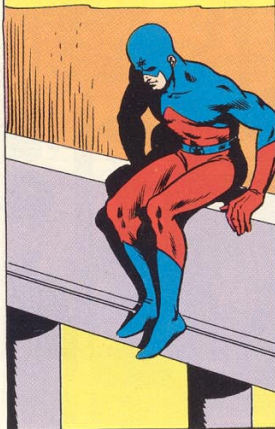


NOT UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK IS A THIEF APPREHENDED, AND THEN...

OKAY, OKAY! SO YOU CAUGHT ME WITH THE GOODS! GO AHEAD AND ARREST ME--BUT YOU'LL NEVER KEEP ME IN YOUR JAIL!

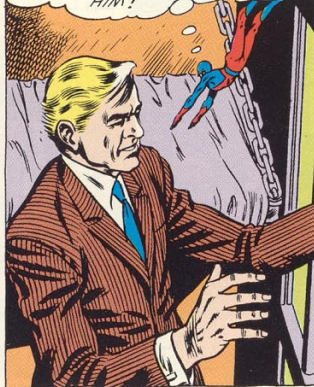


UNSEEN BY EITHER THE ROBBER OR THE POLICEMAN WHO MADE THE ARREST, THE **TINY TITAN** HAS HIDDEN HIMSELF ATOP THE DOOR IN THE CELL WHERE THE PRISONER IS PLACED...



JUST BEFORE THE LIGHT IS SHUT OFF, THE PRISONER STRETCHES HIS HANDS FOR THE CELL-DOOR BARS...

I'M GOING TO DIVE INTO THAT HOOD'S HANDKERCHIEF POCKET! IF HE FADES AWAY FROM HERE--I'LL GO ALONG WITH HIM!



THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!



WHEN THE THIEF REAPPEARS IN BALLARD'S ROOM, **THE ATOM** IS AN ASTONISHED VISITOR...

YOU GOT AWAY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE?

RIGHT! NO TROUBLE AT ALL, CARL!



HE DOESN'T KNOW HE BROUGHT HIS TROUBLE WITH HIM!

HUH? IT'S--
THE ATOM!

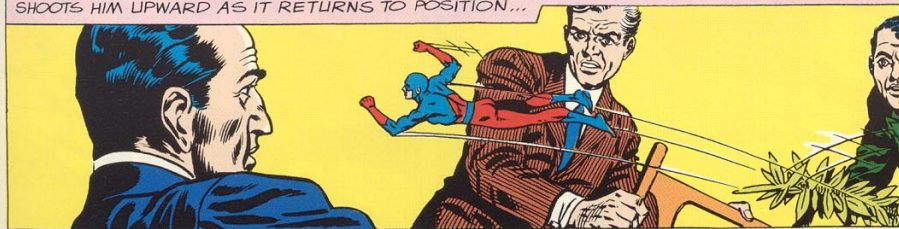


SO CARL BALLARD IS MIXED UP IN THIS! HE WAS **THE ATOM'S FIRST VICTIM**-- AND WILL BE HIS NEXT!

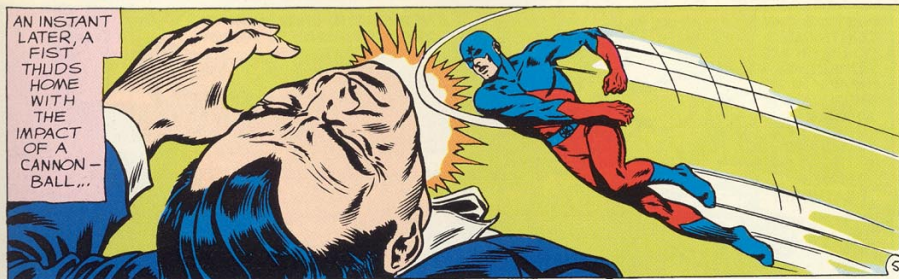
GET HIM!

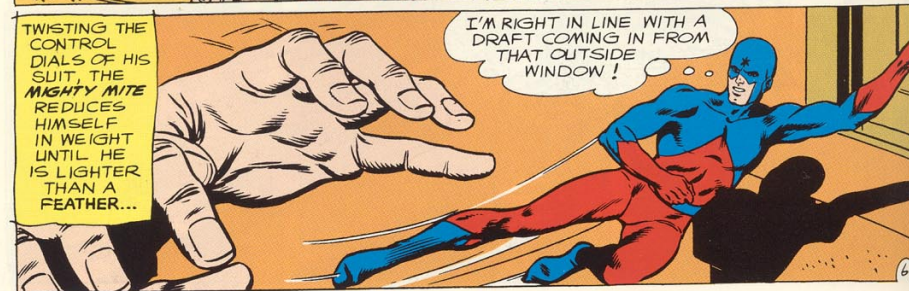
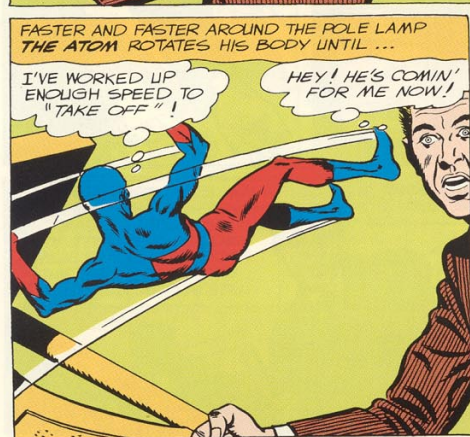


THE TALL PLANT GIVES UNDER THE **TINY TITAN'S** WEIGHT, THEN LIKE A BULLET FROM A GUN-- SHOTS HIM UPWARD AS IT RETURNS TO POSITION...



AN INSTANT LATER, A FIST THUDS HOME WITH THE IMPACT OF A CANNON-- BALL...





AS THE BREEZE BLOWS IN, IT CATCHES THE LIGHT-WEIGHT **MITE** AND MOVES HIM OUT OF HARM'S WAY...

AS SHAKESPEARE PUT IT, "ILL BLOWS THE WIND THAT PROFITS NOBODY!"



THEN ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE BREEZE-BLOWN CEILINGWARD, **THE ATOM** SUDDENLY TURNS HIS WEIGHT BACK TO HIS NORMAL 180 POUNDS (AS RAY PALMER)...

NOW TO LAND ON HIM LIKE THE PROVERBIAL TON OF BRICKS!



HEY, WHERE'D HE GO?



YOU'RE NEXT, BALLARD! I CAUGHT YOU BEFORE, WHEN YOU WERE FORCING **KULAN DAR** TO ROB FOR YOU--BY WITHHOLDING THE **EUROPIUM** HE NEEDED TO RETURN TO HIS NATIVE PLANET! * AND--I'LL DO IT AGAIN!



Editor's Note: AS EXPLAINED IN "BATTLE OF THE TINY TITANS," **KULAN DAR WAS AN ALIEN SPACE-MAN WHO HAD DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF TELE-PORTING HIMSELF BY SWALLOWING A SPECIAL PREPARATION OF THE ELEMENT **EUROPIUM**! ITS EFFECT LASTS FOR 60 HOURS!*

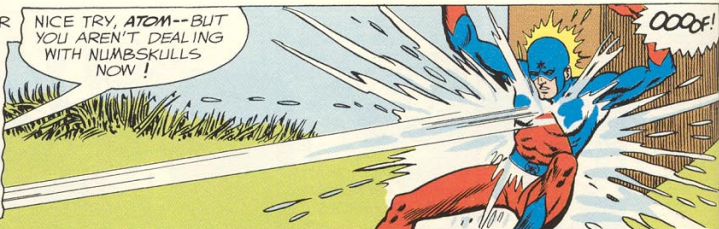
AS THE DESPERATE CRIMINAL RACES ONTO THE LAWN, HIS EYES CATCH SIGHT OF A WATER HOSE...

JUST WHAT I NEED!



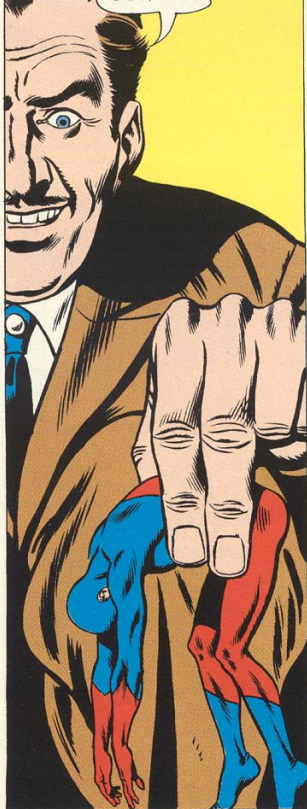
CLASPING THE WATER HOSE, BALLARD TURNS IT ON FULL FORCE...AND AS IF LIFTED AND HURLED BY A MIGHTY HAND...THE **TINY TITAN** IS RAMMED HARD INTO THE EDGE OF THE PARTLY OPENED DOOR...

NICE TRY, **ATOM**--BUT YOU AREN'T DEALING WITH NUMBSKULLS NOW!



MOMENTS AFTERWARD...

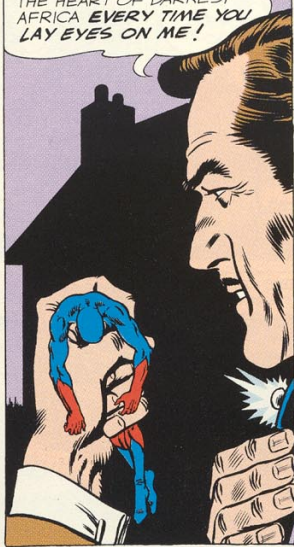
THOSE SAPS INSIDE DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT THE DOUSED ELECTRIC LIGHT AND CELL-BARS I TOLD THEM TO GRAB HOLD OF--HAD **NOTHING** TO DO WITH THE WAY I GOT THEM OUT OF JAIL! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD GUESS HOW IT WAS DONE...



--BECAUSE YOU KNOW ABOUT **KULAN DAR** AND HIS **EUROPIUM**! I LEARNED ITS FORMULA FROM THE TINY ALIEN AND FED IT TO MY FRIENDS INSIDE AT LUNCH-- THEN HYPNOTIZED THEM WITH THIS STICKPIN INTO SUBCONSCIOUSLY ORDERING THEMSELVES TO TELEPORT OUT OF JAIL TEN SECONDS AFTER THE LIGHT WENT OUT!



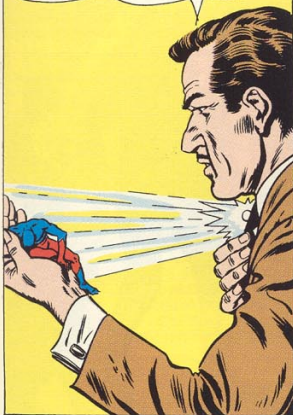
JUST AS I'M GOING TO HYPNOTIZE YOU, **ATOM**-- AND COMMAND YOU TO TELEPORT YOURSELF TO THE HEART OF DARKEST AFRICA **EVERY TIME YOU LAY EYES ON ME!**



BUT FIRST OF ALL --I'LL FEED YOU A DOSE OF LIQUID **EUROPIUM** SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT MY COMMAND-- FOR THE NEXT **60 HOURS!**

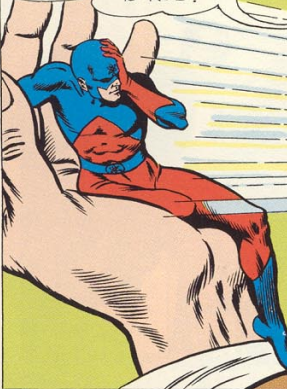


HEAR ME, **ATOM**! LISTEN CLOSELY! I ORDER YOU TO TELEPORT YOURSELF TO AFRICA AS SOON AS YOU SEE ME--AND TO REMAIN UNDER THIS COMPULSION UNTIL--er--LET'S SEE, UNTIL **NOON OF THIS COMING THURSDAY**!



SLOWLY THE **TINY TITAN** OPENS HIS EYES AS THE WORDS SPOKEN BY CARL BALLARD PENETRATE TO HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS ...

...UNTIL NOON OF THIS COMING THURSDAY... FOR BY THEN MY FRIENDS AND I WILL HAVE LEFT **IVY TOWN** TO FIND EVEN RICHER PLACES TO ROB!



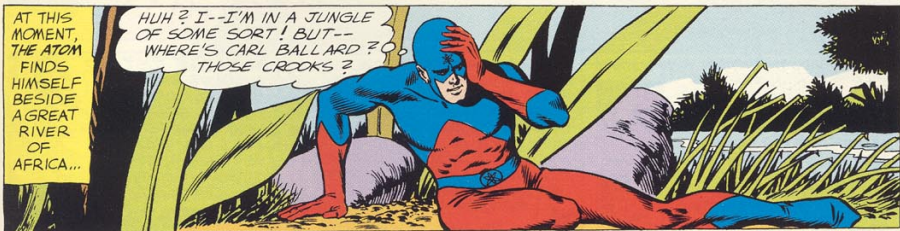
IN THE NEXT INSTANT,...

HE'S GONE--TELEPORTED TO AFRICA! I'M RID OF HIM FOR THE NEXT 2½ DAYS! THE **EUROPIUM** WILL WEAR OFF BY NOON OF THURSDAY, BUT BY THEN I'LL BE FAR AWAY!



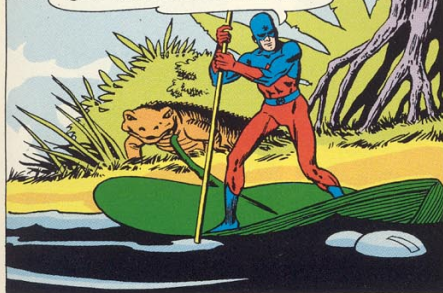
AT THIS MOMENT, THE **ATOM** FINDS HIMSELF BESIDE A GREAT RIVER OF AFRICA...

HUH? I--I'M IN A JUNGLE OF SOME SORT! BUT--WHERE'S CARL BALLARD? THOSE CROOKS?



FOR SEVERAL HOURS, THE **TINY TITAN** FOLLOWS THE COURSE OF THE MIGHTY CONGO RIVER TOWARD LEOPOLDVILLE ...

I'M IN AFRICA--THAT MUCH I CAN FIGURE OUT! BUT HOW I GOT HERE IS BEYOND ME!

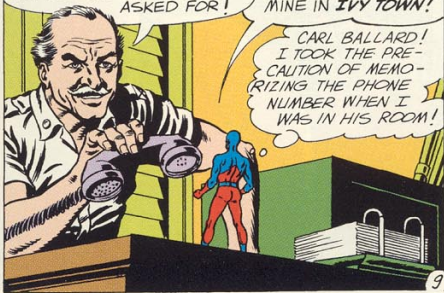


SWEPT ALONG BY THE SWIFT CURRENT OF THE WATERWAY, HE REACHES A UNITED NATIONS POST IN LEOPOLDVILLE WHERE ...

SURE I'LL HELP YOU, **ATOM**! HERE'S THE PHONE YOU ASKED FOR!

I JUST WANT TO CALL UP--er--AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE IN **IVY TOWN**!

CARL BALLARD! I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF MEMORIALIZING THE PHONE NUMBER WHEN I WAS IN HIS ROOM!



WITHIN MINUTES AFTER GETTING HIS CONNECTION, THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO TRAVELS BY TELEPHONE WIRE AND CABLE ABOVE A CONTINENT AND BELOW AN OCEAN, UNTIL ...

HELLO? HELLO? HUH? LOOK OUT, EVERYBODY-- IT'S THAT PEEWEE CHARACTER AGAIN!



THE ATOM RACES FORWARD BUT AS HE LAYS EYES ON CARL BALLARD...

I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!

EASY DOES IT, BOYS! THAT SHRIMP CAN'T HURT US! WATCH!



THE NEXT MOMENT...

HE'S GONE!

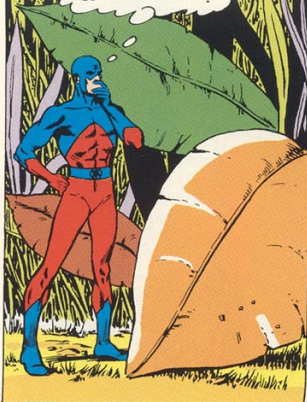
VANISHED LIKE-- LIKE HE'D NEVER BEEN HERE AT ALL!

THIS IS JUST AN ADVANCED IMPROVEMENT ON THE WAY I GET YOU FELLOWS OUT OF JAIL! NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS -- THAT SCHEDULE OF ROBBERIES!



ONCE AGAIN THE ATOM FINDS HIMSELF BACK IN AFRICA...

I THINK I'VE TUMBLED ON TO WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME! SOMEHOW, BALLARD FED ME EUROPIUM! KULAN DAR TOLD ME THAT JUST AFTER YOU TOOK EUROPIUM, YOU'RE HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS!



BALLARD HYPNOTIZED ME INTO ORDERING MYSELF TO TELEPORT TO AFRICA WHENEVER I SAW HIM! HMMM-- I RECALL THAT MY COMMAND IS TO LAST UNTIL NOON OF THURSDAY! IT'S ABOUT MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY NOW IN JIVY TOWN! SO THERE'S NO WAY TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM!



WAIT! I'VE JUST HAD A BRAINSTORM! I HAVE EUROPIUM IN ME! ITS EFFECT LASTS FOR 60 HOURS-- SO I CAN TELEPORT MYSELF INSTANTLY TO ANY PLACE I CHOOSE!



A COMMAND TO HIS BODY--AND THE NEXT INSTANT

I'M IN TOKYO-- WELL PAST THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE WHICH MAKES IT THURSDAY HERE --2 P.M.--INSTEAD OF WEDNESDAY MIDNIGHT AS IT IS BACK IN IVY TOWN! IT'S ENOUGH PAST NOON TO FREE ME FROM CARL BALLARD'S HYPNOTIC SPELL!

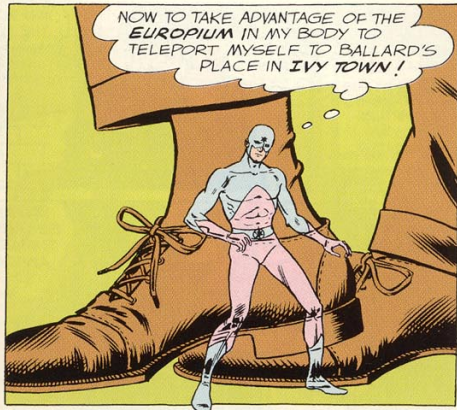


IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

WHAT?! **YOU** BACK AGAIN? WELL, **BEAT IT!** IT ISN'T THURSDAY NOON YET-- SO YOU'RE STILL UNDER MY HYPNOTIC ORDERS!



NOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE **EUROPIUM** IN MY BODY TO TELEPORT MYSELF TO BALLARD'S PLACE IN IVY TOWN!



NO LONGER, BALLARD!



HUH? HOW COME YOU'RE NOT TELEPORTING YOURSELF TO AFRICA?

YOU MADE A BAD MISTAKE WHEN YOU SAID **THURSDAY AT NOON**-- INSTEAD OF "60 HOURS FROM NOW"! IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO THROW OFF YOUR HYPNOTIC SPELL BY GOING TO A PLACE IT **REALLY WAS** THURSDAY AT NOON!

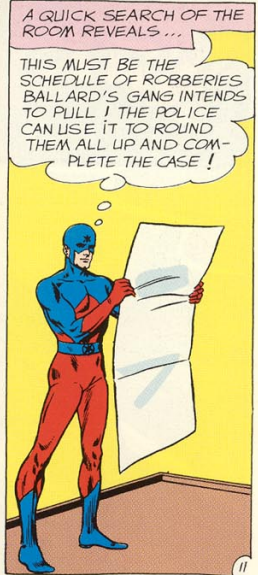


AND ALSO--A CHANCE TO OVERCOME YOU AND THROW YOU IN THE **IVY TOWN JAIL!**



A QUICK SEARCH OF THE ROOM REVEALS ...

THIS MUST BE THE SCHEDULE OF ROBBERIES BALLARD'S GANG INTENDS TO PULL! THE POLICE CAN USE IT TO ROUND THEM ALL UP AND COMPLETE THE CASE!



AFTER CARL BALLARD HAS BEEN LOCKED IN JAIL AND THE POLICE DISPATCHED TO CAPTURE HIS CONFEDERATES...

WE CAUGHT THEM ALL, **ATOM**-- THANKS TO YOU!

YOU WON'T KEEP US HERE! AS SOON AS THE LIGHTS GO OUT--SO DO WE!

AS THE LIGHTS DIM AND THE THREE THIEVES GRIP THE JAIL-CELL DOOR BARS...

--THREE--TWO--ONE! HERE WE GO!

HUH? WE'RE STILL HERE!

YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE-- BECAUSE THE LIGHTS AND THE CELL-BARS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR VANISHING!

WHAT'S THE EXPLANATION, **ATOM**?

THE TELEPORTATION POWERS OF **EUROPIUM** LAST FOR JUST 60 HOURS, CHIEF! I NABBED BALLARD BEFORE HE COULD FEED ANY MORE TO HIS GANG! SINCE THEY HADN'T HAD ANY IN 60 HOURS, THEY COULDN'T PULL THAT FADEAWAY TRICK!

AS FOR CARL BALLARD, HE HIMSELF CAN'T TAKE **EUROPIUM**! DUE TO SOME BODILY PECULIARITY, HE'S ALLERGIC TO IT! SO AT LAST-- YOU HAVE PRISONERS YOU CAN KEEP, CHIEF!

The End

