

# THE Fantastic Four

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BY THE  
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AUTHORITY

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-I--I CAN'T  
TURN INVISIBLE  
FAST ENOUGH!!  
HOW CAN WE  
STOP THIS  
CREATURE,  
TORCH?

JUST WAIT  
AND SEE,  
SISTER!  
THE  
FANTASTIC  
FOUR HAVE  
ONLY  
BEGUN TO  
FIGHT!

THE THREE  
OF YOU CAN'T  
DO IT ALONE, IT'S  
TIME FOR **THE  
THING** TO TAKE  
A HAND!

IT'LL TAKE MORE  
THAN **ROPES** TO  
KEEP MISTER  
FANTASTIC OUT  
OF ACTION!

FEATURING:  
"THE THING!"  
"MR. FANTASTIC!"  
"HUMAN TORCH!"  
"INVISIBLE GIRL!"  
TOGETHER  
FOR THE FIRST TIME  
IN ONE MIGHTY  
MAGAZINE!





DR. REED  
RICHARDS



BEN  
GRIMM



SUSAN  
STORM



JOHNNY  
STORM



HERE  
THEY  
ARE...

Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

# THE FANTASTIC FOUR!



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WITH THE SUDDEN FURY OF A THUNDERBOLT, A FLARE IS SHOT INTO THE SKY OVER CENTRAL CITY! THREE AWESOME WORDS TAKE FORM AS IF BY MAGIC, AND A LEGEND IS BORN!!

LOOK! IN THE SKY--  
WHAT IN BLAZES DOES  
IT MEAN?

I DUNNO, BUT THE  
CROWDS ARE GETTIN'  
PANICKY!

RUMORS ARE  
FLYIN' ABOUT  
AN ALIEN  
INVASION!



ABOVE ALL THE HUBBUB AND EXCITEMENT, ONE STRANGE FIGURE HOLDS A STILL-SMOKING FLARE GUN! ONE STRANGE MAN WHO IS SOMEHOW **MORE** THAN JUST A MAN--FOR HE IS THE LEADER OF...  
THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

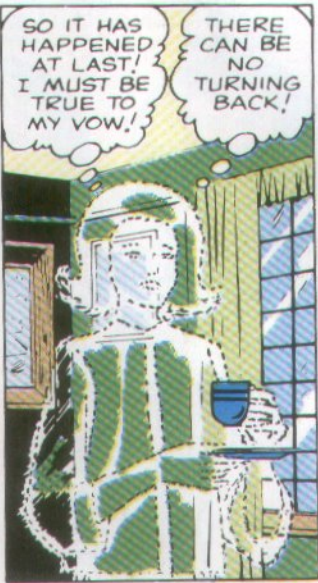
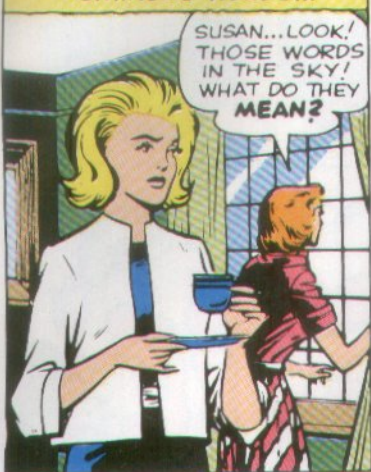
IT IS THE  
FIRST TIME I HAVE  
FOUND IT  
NECESSARY TO  
GIVE THE SIGNAL!  
I PRAY IT WILL  
BE THE **LAST!**



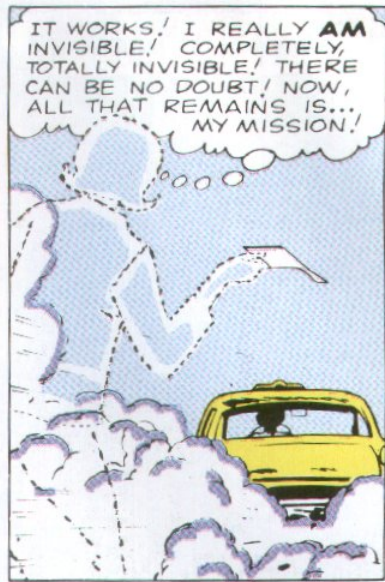
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IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, SUSAN STORM IS HAVING TEA WITH A SOCIETY FRIEND, WHEN SHE HEARS THE OMINOUS WORDS...







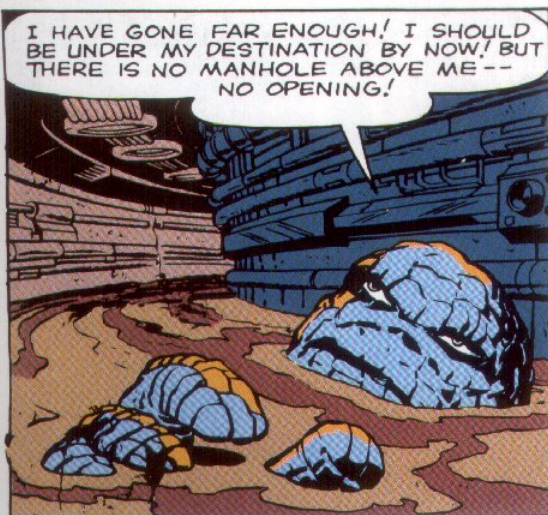


WHY MUST THEY BUILD  
DOORWAYS SO **NARROW?**

HOLY SMOKE!!  
A--A--**MONSTER!**

PETE, LOOK!  
WHAT'S **THAT?**

I DUNNO... BUT  
I AIN'T TAKIN'  
ANY **CHANCES**  
WITH IT!







WHAT IS THAT... RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME??  
OH, NO... IT'S ALIVE!!

FOOL! DID YOU NOT SEE ME IN TIME?



IT'S A WALKING NIGHTMARE!!  
HELP!!  
HELP!!

LILY-LIVERED COWARDS!

IT AIN'T HUMAN!  
IT'S TOO BIG...  
TOO STRONG!!  
IT--IT'S A MARTIAN!



MINUTES LATER, THE POLICE RIOT SQUAD REACHES THE SCENE...

THERE'S NO ONE HERE!

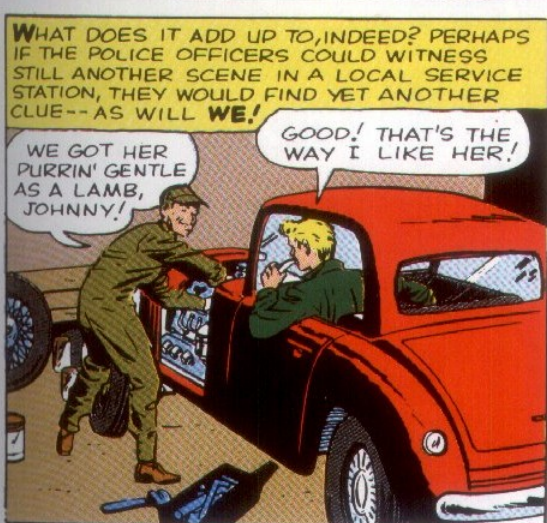
STREET'S DESERTED!

THEN WHO PUT IN THAT DANGER CALL?



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENING IN CENTRAL CITY! THOSE SCATTERED WORDS IN THE SKY... THOSE SCATTERED REPORTS OF MONSTERS WALKING THE STREETS...

BUT WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, CHIEF?  
...WHAT?



WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, INDEED? PERHAPS IF THE POLICE OFFICERS COULD WITNESS STILL ANOTHER SCENE IN A LOCAL SERVICE STATION, THEY WOULD FIND YET ANOTHER CLUE-- AS WILL WE!

WE GOT HER PURRIN' GENTLE AS A LAMB, JOHNNY!

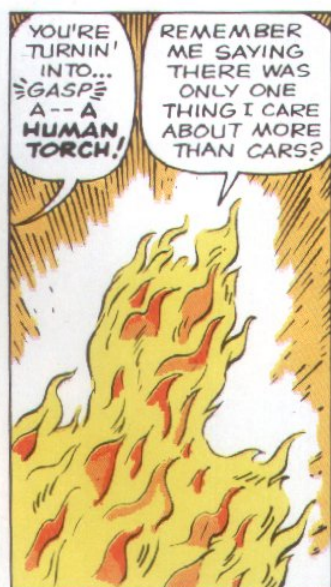
GOOD! THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE HER!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IN THE WORLD THAT INTERESTS ME MORE THAN CARS!

YEAH? WHAT'S THAT, JOHNNY?







SECONDS LATER, THE MAYOR OF CENTRAL CITY ISSUES AN EMERGENCY ORDER...

CALL THE GOVERNOR! HAVE HIM ALERT THE NATIONAL GUARD!

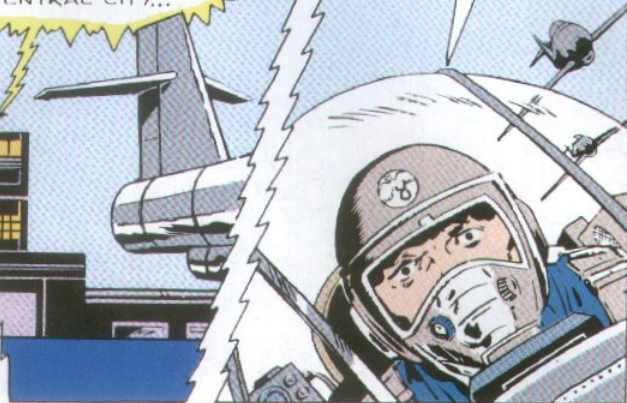
MOVE, MAN!

Y-YES SIR!

AND BEFORE THE HOUR IS OUT, WASHINGTON HAS ALSO TAKEN IMMEDIATE ACTION!

RED DOG TO SQUADRON LEADER... ATTACK UNKNOWN FLAMING OBJECT OVER CENTRAL CITY...

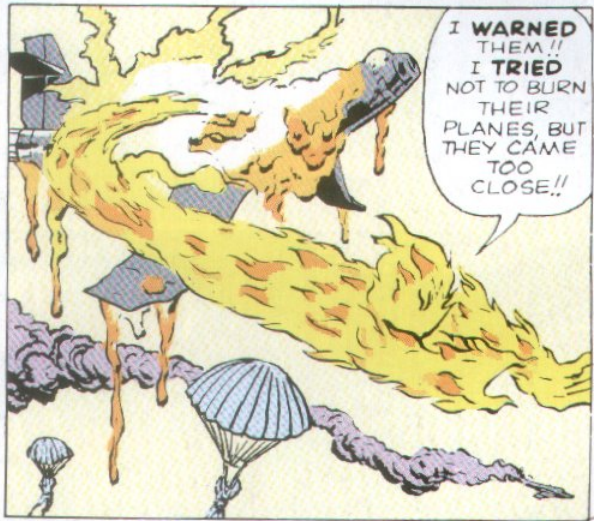
FLAMING OBJECT? HUH! SOMEONE MUST HAVE FLIPPED HIS LID! OF ALL THE WILD GOOSE CHA--HEY! WAIT!! WHAT'S THAT?



IT IS A FLAMING OBJECT! LET'S GET IT, GUYS!

NO! NO! STAY BACK! KEEP AWAY!

WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN?



I WARNED THEM!! I TRIED NOT TO BURN THEIR PLANES, BUT THEY CAME TOO CLOSE!!

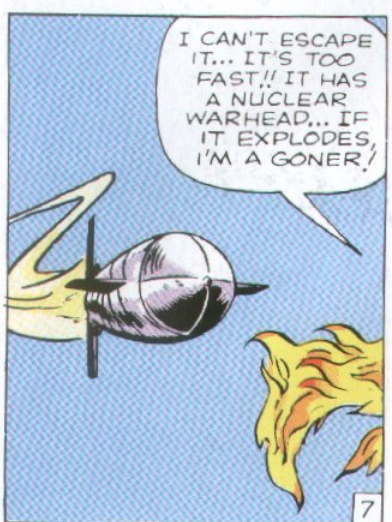


AT LEAST THEY ALL PARACHUTED TO SAFETY!

THAT SOUND-- IN THE DISTANCE! IT LOOKS LIKE--



A HUNTER MISSILE! IT'S ZEROED IN ON ME! IT'S ATTRACTED TO MY FLAME!



I CAN'T ESCAPE IT... IT'S TOO FAST!! IT HAS A NUCLEAR WARHEAD... IF IT EXPLODES, I'M A GONER!



SUDDENLY, THE HUMAN TORCH'S FLAME BEGINS TO DIMINISH... AND, AS THE MISSILE IS ABOUT TO STRIKE HIM, TWO IMPOSSIBLY LONG ARMS REACH ABOVE THE ROOF-TOPS, AND...



MOVING WITH DAZZLING SPEED, ONE OF THE INCREDIBLE ARMS HURLS THE MIGHTY MISSILE FAR FROM SHORE, WHERE IT EXPLODES HARMLESSLY OVER THE SEA!



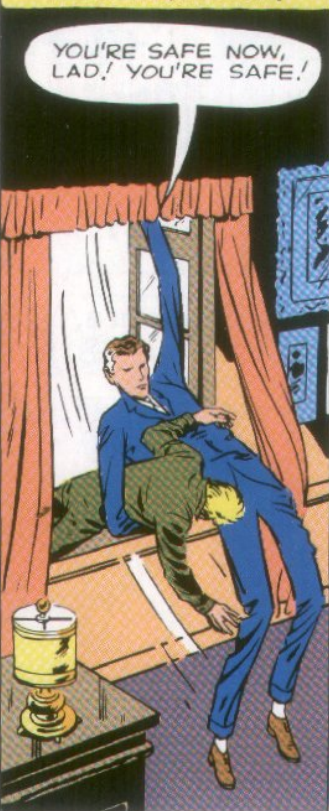
BUT, AS THE FLYING BOY'S FLAME FLICKERS OUT ALTOGETHER, HE BEGINS TO PLUMMET TOWARD EARTH... TOWARD A CERTAIN DOOM!



GRAB ME, JOHNNY BOY!! THAT'S IT!!



WHO IS THIS UNBELIEVABLE STRANGER WHO HAS SAVED THE HUMAN TORCH?

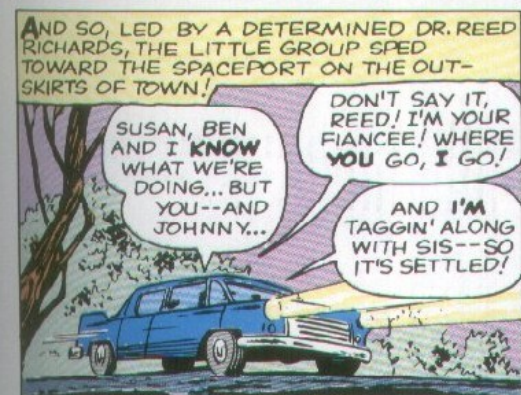


IN FACT, WHO ARE **ALL FOUR** OF THESE STRANGE AND ASTONISHING HUMANS? HOW DID THEY BECOME WHAT THEY ARE? WHAT MYSTIC QUIRK OF FATE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER, TO FORM THE AWE-INSPIRING GROUP KNOWN AS **THE FANTASTIC FOUR??**



YOU ALL HEEDED MY SUMMONS!! GOOD!! THERE IS A TASK THAT AWAITS US... A FEARFUL TASK!



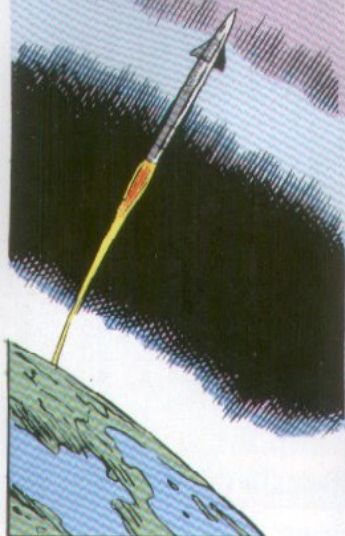




HIGHER AND HIGHER, LIKE A SILVER BULLET, ROARS THE SLEEK SPACE CRAFT...

WE HAD TO DO IT!! WE HAD TO BE THE FIRST!

BUT WE'RE REACHING THE COSMIC STORM AREA... HANG ON!



RAK TAC TAC TAC TAC

HEAR THAT?? IT'S THE COSMIC RAYS!! I-I WARNED YOU ABOUT 'EM!!



THEY'RE PENETRATING THE SHIP!! OUR SHIELDING ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH!

BUT I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!

NATURALLY! THEY'RE ONLY RAYS OF LIGHT! YOU CAN'T FEEL 'EM-- BUT THEY'LL AFFECT YOU JUST THE SAME!



MY HEAD!! IT--IT'S POUNDING AS THOUGH IT'S ABOUT TO BURST!!

BEN WAS RIGHT!! WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED... SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HEAVIER SHIELDING!



JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, SIS! MY BODY FEELS HOT-- LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!! I-I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING UP!!



UGH!! LISTEN TO ME...

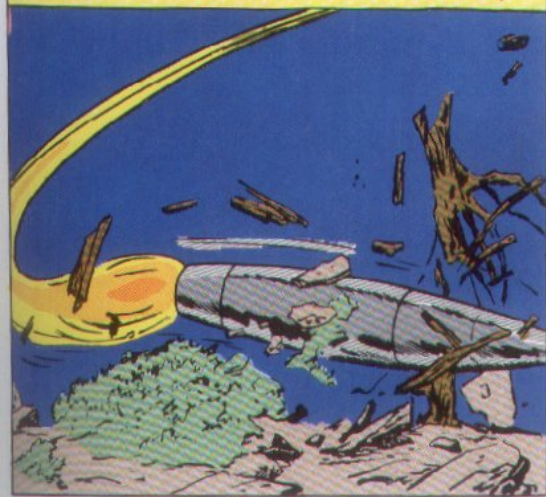
... SOMEBODY ELSE TAKE THE CONTROLS... I CAN'T HANDLE THE SHIP ANY MORE! MY-- MY ARMS ARE HEAVY-- TOO HEAVY-- CAN'T MOVE-- TOO HEAVY-- GOT TO LIE DOWN-- CAN'T MOVE!!

BEN!





AT THAT MOMENT, THE POWERFUL SHIP'S AUTO-  
MATIC PILOT TOOK OVER, AND MANAGED TO  
RETURN THE SLEEK ROCKET SAFELY TO EARTH,  
IN A ROUGH, BUT NON-FATAL LANDING!



I--I'M GRATEFUL  
WE'RE ALL ALIVE!!  
IT WAS MIGHTY  
CLOSE!

BUT, REED...WE FAILED!!  
AFTER ALL YOUR WORK...  
YOUR DEDICATION...  
WE FAILED!



BAH!  
WHAT'D  
YOU  
EXPECT?

BUT WE'RE **STILL** NOT  
COMPLETELY SAFE! WE  
STILL HAVE TO SEE  
WHETHER THE COSMIC  
RAYS **AFFECTED** US IN  
ANY WAY!

OH, REED...  
I FEEL SO  
STRANGE!



**SUSAN!** LOOK  
AT SUSAN!!

WHAT'S  
WRONG?



YOU'RE  
GASP  
**FADING  
AWAY!!**

OH, NO!!  
**NO!!**

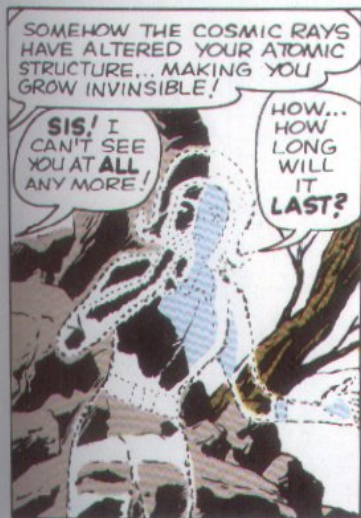
IT'S  
**IMPOSSIBLE!!**



SOMEHOW THE COSMIC RAYS  
HAVE ALTERED YOUR ATOMIC  
STRUCTURE... MAKING YOU  
GROW INVISIBLE!

**SIS!** I  
CAN'T SEE  
YOU AT **ALL**!  
ANY MORE!

HOW...  
HOW LONG  
WILL  
IT  
**LAST?**



THERE'S NO WAY OF  
**KNOWING!!**

WHA--WHAT  
IF SHE  
**NEVER** GETS  
VISIBLE  
AGAIN??



LOOK!!  
I **SEE**  
HER!

I'M **MYSELF** AGAIN!  
IT HAPPENED SO  
SUDDENLY... ALL  
BY ITSELF!



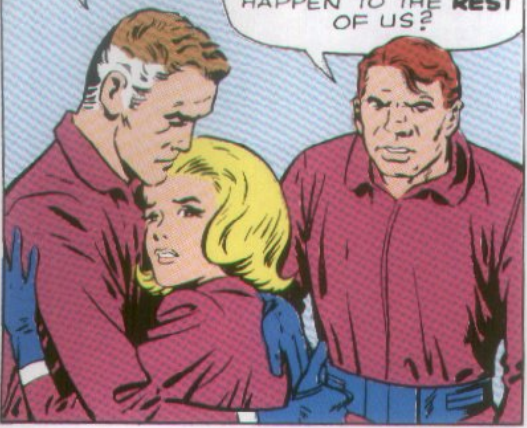


THANK HEAVENS!!  
YOU'RE ALL  
RIGHT, MY  
DARLING!

ALL RIGHT, EH? HOW  
DO YOU **KNOW**, WISE  
GUY? HOW DO YOU  
KNOW SHE WON'T  
TURN INVISIBLE  
**AGAIN?** HOW DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT'LL  
HAPPEN TO THE **REST**  
OF US?

BEN, I'M SICK  
AND TIRED OF  
YOUR INSULTS...  
OF YOUR  
COMPLAINING!  
I DIDN'T  
**PURPOSELY** CAUSE  
OUR FLIGHT TO  
FAIL!

AND I'M SICK OF **YOU...**  
PERIOD. IN FACT, I'M  
GONNA PASTE YOU  
RIGHT IN THAT SMUG  
FACE OF  
YOURS!



BEN, **STOP!** WAIT!!  
LOOK WHAT'S  
HAPPENING TO YOU!  
YOU'RE--**CHANGING!**

DON'T TRY TO  
TALK YOUR WAY OUT  
OF IT, MISTER! I'M  
GONNA MOP UP  
THE PLACE WITH  
YOU!

RUN, REED DARLING!  
HE'S TURNED INTO A--  
A-- SOME SORT OF  
A **THING!** HE'S STRONG  
AS AN OX!!

"REED  
DARLING"!!  
**BAH!** HOW  
CAN YOU  
CARE FOR  
THAT  
WEAKLING  
WHEN I'M  
HERE!?



I'LL **PROVE**  
TO YOU THAT YOU  
LOVE THE  
WRONG MAN,  
SUSAN, I'LL--  
HEY! WHAT--??!

NO, YOU  
DON'T!!

YOU'VE HAD THIS  
COMING TO YOU  
FOR A LONG TIME,  
BEN!

OH, REED...  
REED... NOT  
**YOU, TOO!!**  
NOT YOU,  
TOO!!

WHAT AM I  
**DOING?** WHAT  
**HAPPENED**  
TO ME? TO **ALL**  
OF US?





YOU'VE TURNED INTO MONSTERS... BOTH OF YOU!! IT'S THOSE RAYS, THOSE TERRIBLE COSMIC RAYS!



NOW I KNOW WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING SO WARM! LOOK AT ME!! THEY'VE AFFECTED ME, TOO! WHEN I GET EXCITED I CAN FEEL MY BODY BEGIN TO BLAZE!



I'M LIGHTER THAN AIR!! I CAN FLY!! LOOK... I CAN FLY!!



MINUTES LATER, JOHNNY STORM'S FLAME SUBSIDED AND HE LANDED NEAR THE OTHER THREE! SILENTLY THEY WATCHED THE SMALL FIRE HE HAD STARTED IN THE UNDERBRUSH BURN ITSELF OUT!! SILENTLY THEY WERE EACH OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN STARTLING THOUGHTS!



WE'VE CHANGED! ALL OF US! WE'RE MORE THAN JUST HUMAN!

LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! THAT MEANS YOU TOO, BEN! TOGETHER WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMANS HAVE EVER POSSESSED!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A SPEECH, BIG SHOT! WE UNDERSTAND! WE'VE GOTTA USE THAT POWER TO HELP MANKIND, RIGHT?

RIGHT, BEN, RIGHT!



I'M CALLING MYSELF THE HUMAN TORCH-- AND I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!

SAME GOES FOR ME... THE INVISIBLE GIRL!

THERE'S ONLY ONE STILL MISSING... BEN!!



I AIN'T BEN ANYMORE-- I'M WHAT SUSAN CALLED ME-- THE THING!!

AND I'LL CALL MYSELF... MISTER FANTASTIC!!

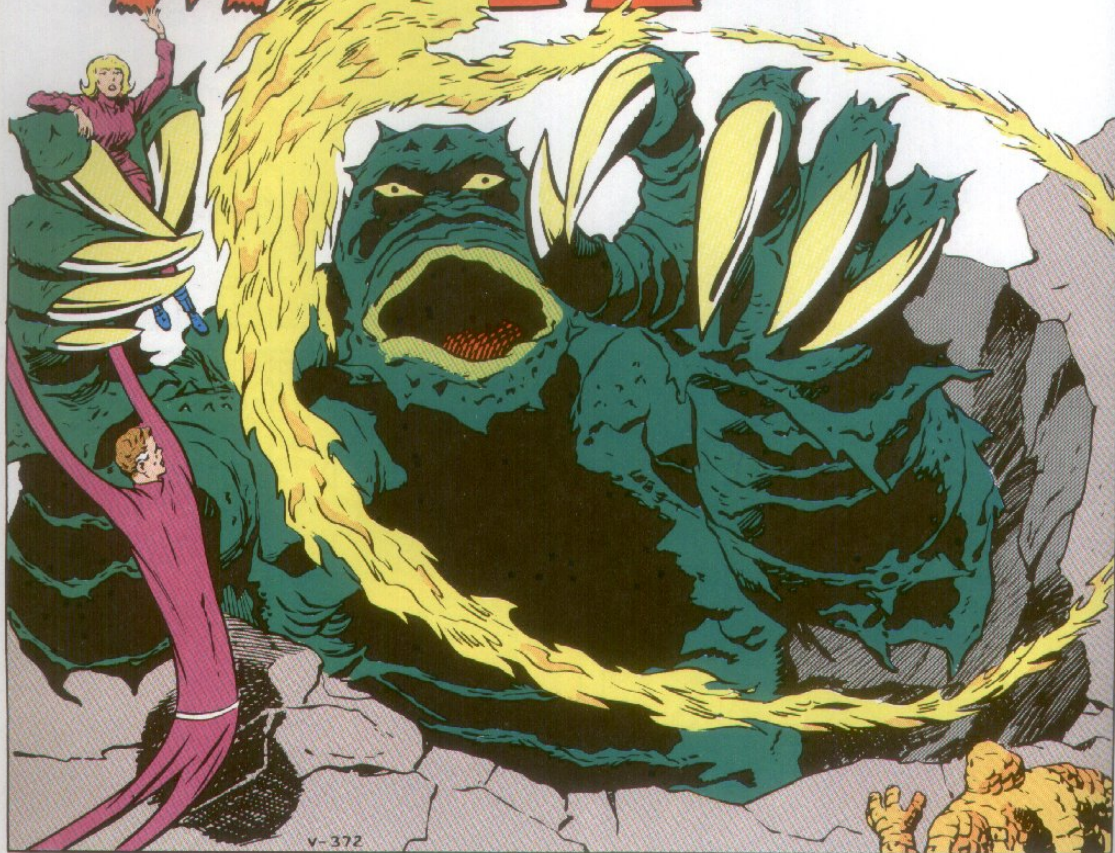


AND SO WAS BORN "THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!" AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE WORLD WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME!!





# THE FANTASTIC FOUR MEET THE **MOLE MAN!**



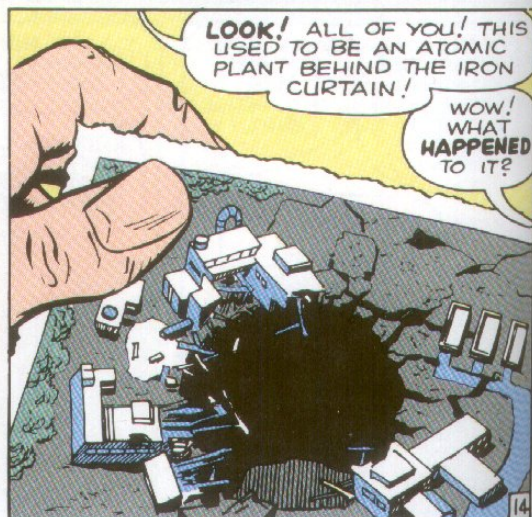
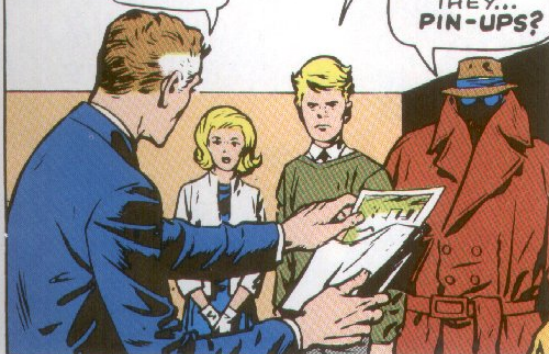
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AND NOW, HAVING MET OUR FOUR AMAZING CHARACTERS, LET US RESUME OUR TALE...

I CALLED YOU TOGETHER  
BECAUSE I HAVE SOME  
PICTURES TO SHOW  
YOU!

PICTURES?

WHAT ARE  
THEY...  
PIN-UPS?



LOOK! ALL OF YOU! THIS  
USED TO BE AN ATOMIC  
PLANT BEHIND THE IRON  
CURTAIN!

WOW!  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO IT?



THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER ATOMIC PLANTS ON THOSE PHOTOS!

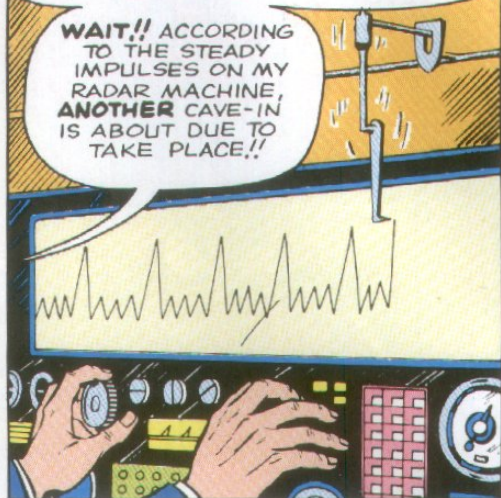
THIS ONE IS IN AUSTRALIA!

AND THIS IS IN SOUTH AMERICA!



THAT'S JUST IT! IT'S HAPPENING TO ATOMIC PLANTS ALL OVER THE WORLD! NO ONE KNOWS HOW--OR WHY!

WAIT!! ACCORDING TO THE STEADY IMPULSES ON MY RADAR MACHINE, ANOTHER CAVE-IN IS ABOUT DUE TO TAKE PLACE!!



AND, EVEN AS REED RICHARDS SPEAKS, HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, IN FRENCH AFRICA, THE FOLLOWING SCENE IS TAKING PLACE...

WHAT IS WRONG, PIERRE?



I DO NOT KNOW! IT SOUNDS INSANE, BUT THE SAND BENEATH MY FEET SEEMS TO BE THROBBING!



...ALMOST AS IF SOMETHING IS MOVING BELOW US! ALMOST AS IF... LISTEN! DON'T YOU FEEL IT??



HELP!!



IT IS AN EARTHQUAKE! BUT HERE IN THE DESERT?? IMPOSSIBLE!!

IMPOSSIBLE OR NOT, PIERRE ALMOST FELL TO HIS DOOM!



WAIT!! THE GROUND IS TREMBLING AGAIN!! WHAT CAN IT BE??

SACRE BLEU!! THE EARTH IS GOING MAD!!





THE ENTIRE  
INSTALLATION!!  
IT--IT IS  
CAVING IN!

# RRROOMM



BUT THE WORST IS YET TO COME!!  
FOR, LESS THAN THIRTY SECONDS  
LATER...

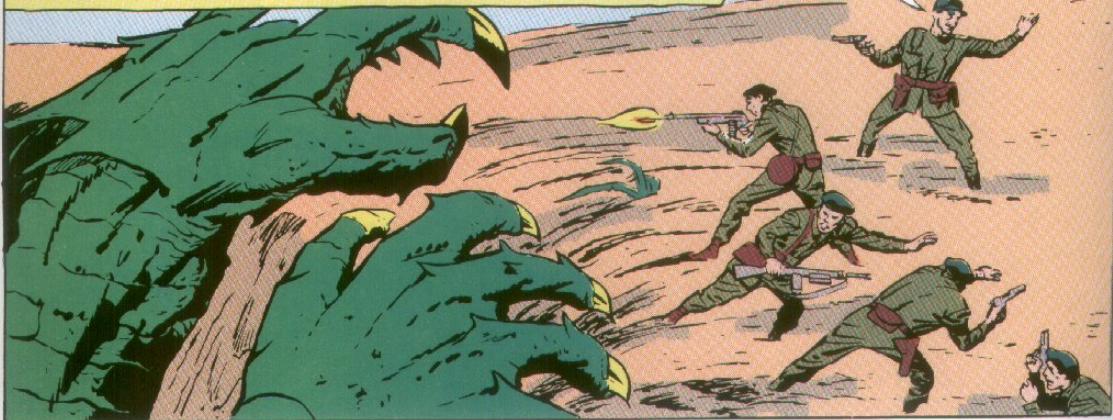
IN THE  
NAME  
OF  
HEAVEN!!

WHAT IS  
**THAT?**



WHAT INDEED?? IT IS A GIGANTIC PAIR OF CLAWS, THE  
LIKE OF WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN ON EARTH,  
OR ON ANY PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE!! IT IS  
UNBELIEVABLE... MIND STAGGERING... BUT **REAL!**

**ARTILLERY!! BRING THE  
ARTILLERY!! HURRY!  
HURRY!**



**ARTILLERY! OF WHAT USE IS ARTILLERY  
AGAINST A CREATURE WHOSE HIDE IS  
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DIG ITS WAY UP  
THRU COUTLESS TONS  
OF ROCK-HARD EARTH??**



**ARTILLERY! OF WHAT USE  
IS ARTILLERY AGAINST  
A MONSTER WHO CAN  
CRUSH A HEAVY TANK  
WITH ONE HAND??**



**BUT, JUST AS IT SEEMS  
THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD  
WILL HALT THE NIGHTMARE  
MENACE, THE SHRILL SOUND  
OF A COMMANDING VOICE  
IS HEARD... AND THE GOLIATH  
STOPS IN ITS TRACKS!**

**ENOUGH! RETURN TO  
EARTH'S CORE! OUR MISSION  
HERE IS FINISHED! GO!!**



**FOR EVEN SUCH A MONSTER  
HEEDS ITS MASTER! A MASTER  
KNOWN AS...  
THE MOLEMAN!!**



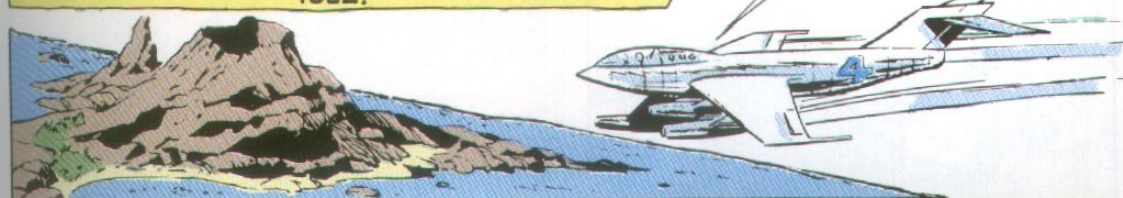
**BUT WE SHALL RETURN TO THE MOLEMAN BEFORE LONG! FIRST, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AS THEY GAZE IN ASTONISHMENT AT DR. REED RICHARDS' SUPER-SENSITIVE RADARSCOPE...**



**THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!**



**AND FIND OUT THEY DO! HOURS LATER, ABOARD THEIR SMALL, PRIVATE JET, THE FANTASTIC FOUR SEE A STRANGE MOUNTAIN RISING FROM THE SEA, LIKE AN UNEARTHLY GROTESQUE FACE!! THEY HAVE FOUND... MONSTER ISLE!**



**LITTLE DREAMING WHAT AWAITS THEM, THEY CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE FORBIDDING PEAK...**

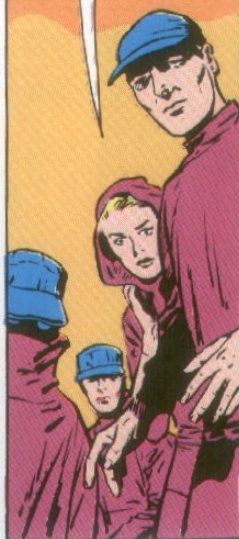
**IF THIS IS JUST A WILD GOOSE CHASE, MISTER, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU LIVE TO REGRET IT!**

**SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR THE CLIMB, GRUESOME!**



**HOLD IT!! I HEAR SOMETHING!!**

**IT'S COMING FROM BELOW!**



**LOOK!! THOSE EYES...**



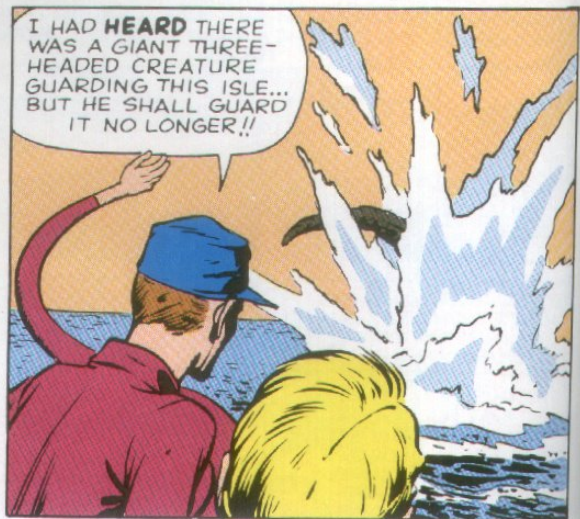
**SUDDENLY, A LIVING THREE-HEADED NIGHTMARE HURLS ITSELF AT THEM FROM OVER THE EDGE OF THE PEAK OF MONSTER ISLE!**







SEEING ONE OF ITS INTENDED VICTIMS VANISH BEFORE ITS EYES, THE MONSTER HALTS... BEWILDERED!!





FINALLY, THE AMAZING DUO  
FLOAT DOWN TO THE  
BOTTOM OF THE PIT...

IT'S PITCH  
DARK!! WHAT  
SORT OF  
PLACE CAN  
IT BE?

REED!  
I  
FEEL  
SOME-  
THING!

IT'S A  
TRAP DOOR  
IN THE  
WALL!

IT'S  
MOVING!

THAT LIGHT !!  
WHERE DID IT  
COME FROM!

IT'S  
BLINDING!  
I CAN'T  
SEE!

I-I'M  
BLACKING  
OUT!

IT MIGHT BE MINUTES, OR HOURS LATER,  
WHEN THE TWO MEN REGAIN THEIR SENSES  
ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES GARBED IN STRANGE,  
ADHESIVE-TYPE SUITS WHICH PROTECT THEM  
FROM THE BLINDING, UNEARTHLY GLOW!

MY HEAD!!

THE LIGHT--IT ACTUALLY  
CAUSED US TO LOSE  
CONSCIOUSNESS!  
BUT HOW DID WE  
GET INTO THESE  
SUITS?

SO, YOU HAVE  
RECOVERED,  
HAVE YOU!! IT  
IS ABOUT  
TIME!!

WHO--WHO  
ARE YOU?  
I CAN'T  
SEE...

AND WHERE  
ARE WE?

THE REASON YOU  
CANNOT SEE IS...  
YOU ARE BLINDED  
BY THE GLARE  
FROM-- THE  
VALLEY OF  
DIAMONDS!!

--AND AS  
FOR ME-- I  
AM THE  
MOLEMAN!!



# THE MOLEMAN'S SECRET!

BEFORE WE WITNESS THE BREATH-TAKING CONCLUSION OF OUR AMAZING TALE, LET US GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE LOOSE ENDS! LET US RETURN TO THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHO DID NOT FALL BELOW DURING THE CAVE-IN...

REED... AND  
JOHNNY... GOT TO  
FIND THEM!!

WAIT! THAT  
NOISE-- BEHIND  
ME!! WHAT--??



BUT OTHER EARS ALSO HEAR  
THE MENACING SOUNDS...  
AND OTHER EYES BEHOLD  
THE FRIGHTENING SIGHT...



THE EYES OF...  
**THE THING!!**



DUCK, SUE!  
OUT OF THE  
WAY!

LET ME  
HANDLE  
'IM!





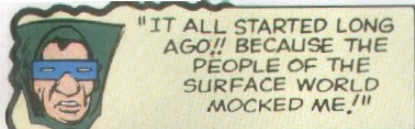
THE SECOND GIGANTIC GUARDIAN OF MONSTER ISLE IS POWERFUL BEYOND BELIEF... BUT HE IS FIGHTING AN ENEMY WHOSE EVERY ATOM HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH COSMIC RAYS... AN ENEMY WHO **CAN'T BE STOPPED!**



AND WHAT OF REED RICHARDS? AND SUE'S BROTHER, JOHNNY? WE AGAIN DESCEND TO THE DEPTHS OF MONSTER ISLE WHERE WE FIND THEM CONFRONTED BY THE STRANGEST MENACE OF ALL TIME... THE MOLEMAN!







"IT ALL STARTED LONG AGO!! BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE WORLD MOCKED ME,"



WHAT? ME GO OUT WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!



I KNOW YOU'RE QUALIFIED, BUT YOU CAN'T WORK HERE! YOU'D SCARE OUR OTHER EMPLOYEES AWAY!



HEY, IS THAT YOUR FACE, OR ARE YOU WEARIN' A MASK? HAW HAW!

"FINALLY, I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER! I DECIDED TO STRIKE OUT ALONE... TO SEARCH FOR A NEW WORLD... THE LEGENDARY LAND AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH! A WORLD WHERE I COULD BE KING! MY TRAVELS TOOK ME ALL OVER THE GLOBE..."



EVEN THIS LONELINESS IS BETTER THAN THE CRUELTY OF MY FELLOW MEN!

"AND THEN, JUST WHEN I HAD ALMOST ABANDONED HOPE... WHEN MY LITTLE SKIFF HAD BEEN WASHED ASHORE HERE ON MONSTER ISLE, I FOUND IT!"



THAT STRANGE CAVERN, WHERE CAN IT LEAD TO?

"I SOON **SAW** WHERE IT LED... IT LED TO THE LAND OF MY DREAMS..."



DOWN THERE... BELOW-- I'VE FOUND IT!! IT'S EARTH'S CENTER!

"BUT IN THE DREAD SILENCE OF THAT HUGE CAVERN, THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF MY LOUD OUTCRY CAUSED A VIOLENT AVALANCHE, AND..."



"...WHEN IT WAS OVER, I HAD SOMEHOW MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED THE FALL... BUT, DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CRASH, I HAD LOST MOST OF MY SIGHT! YES, I HAD FOUND THE CENTER OF EARTH--BUT I WAS **STRANDED** HERE... LIKE A HUMAN MOLE.!"





THAT WAS TO BE THE LAST OF MY MISFORTUNES! MY LUCK BEGAN TO TURN IN MY FAVOR, I MASTERED THE CREATURES DOWN HERE-- MADE THEM DO MY BIDDING-- AND WITH THEIR HELP, I CARVED OUT AN UNDERGROUND EMPIRE!



A NOTE OF MADNESS CREEPS INTO THE MOLE'S VOICE AS HE SPEAKS OF HIS POWER! AND THEN, HE MAKES HIS FIRST FATAL MISTAKE...

I CONQUERED EVERYTHING ABOUT ME! I EVEN LEARNED TO SENSE THINGS IN THE DARK--LIKE A MOLE! HERE, I'LL **SHOW** YOU! TRY TO STRIKE ME WITH THAT POLE! **TRY** IT, I SAY!!



HAH! I SENSED THAT BLOW COMING! NOTHING CAN TAKE ME BY SURPRISE! AND, I HAVE DEVELOPED **OTHER** SENSES TOO, LIKE THOSE OF THE BAT--



I POSSESS A NATURAL RADAR SENSE... A WARNING SYSTEM WHICH ENABLES ME TO EVADE WHATEVER DANGER STRIKES AT ME!



COMPARED TO THE MOLE-MAN, YOU ARE SLOW... CLUMSY!! HAH HAH!!



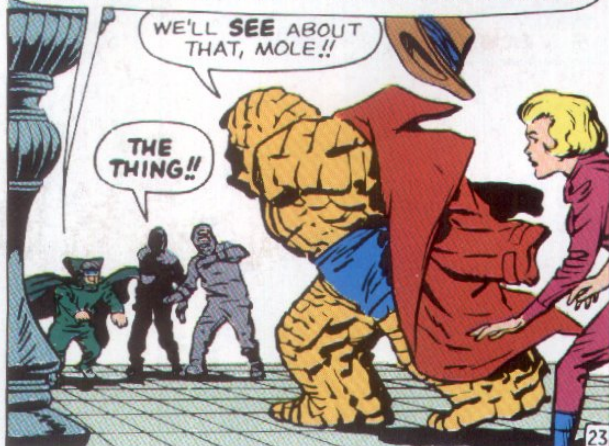
SEE HOW EASILY I DEFEAT YOU... OR ANY OTHERS WHO TRY TO DEFEY ME!



NOW, BEFORE I SLAY YOU ALL, BEHOLD MY MASTER PLAN! SEE THIS MAP OF MY UNDERGROUND EMPIRE! EACH TUNNEL LEADS TO A MAJOR CITY! AS SOON AS I HAVE WRECKED EVERY ATOMIC PLANT, EVERY SOURCE OF EARTHLY POWER, MY MIGHTY MOLE CREATURES WILL ATTACK AND DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT LIVES ABOVE THE SURFACE!



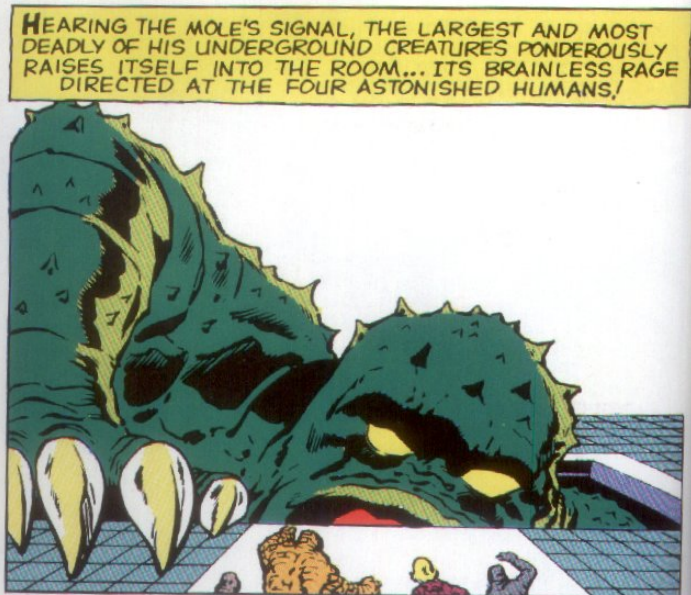
AND NOW, AT MY SIGNAL, THOSE CREATURES OF DARKNESS, MY DENIZENS OF EARTH'S CENTER, SHALL DISPOSE OF ALL OF YOU WITLESS INTRUDERS!



WE'LL **SEE** ABOUT THAT, MOLE!!

THE THING!!







MOVING LIKE A WELL-  
OILED FIGHTING  
MACHINE, THE  
FANTASTIC FOUR,  
WITH THE DEADLY  
MOLEMAN IN THEIR  
GRASP, RACE FOR  
THE SURFACE...  
BUT THEN THEIR  
EVIL ANTAGONIST  
SEIZES THE  
SIGNAL CORD  
AGAIN, AND...



YOU  
HAVEN'T  
WON YET!  
EVEN  
**YOU** CAN'T  
DEFEAT ALL  
OF MY  
UNDER-  
EARTH  
HORDE!

HURRY, REED...  
HURRY!

CAN'T YOU EVEN  
HOLD ON TO ONE  
LITTLE GUY?

AND THEN THEY COME... LIKE FIGMENTS OF A MAD NIGHTMARE...  
ROARING, RUNNING, SNARLING... THE MOLEMAN'S ENTIRE ARMY  
OF UNDERGROUND GARGOYLES!!



BUT THEY HADN'T  
COUNTED ON THE  
UNBELIEVABLE  
POWER OF THE  
HUMAN TORCH!  
FLYING BETWEEN  
HIS FANTASTIC  
ALLIES AND THE  
PURSUING HORDE,  
HE BLAZES A  
FIERY SWATH  
WHICH MELTS  
THE SOFT EARTH...



THIS WILL CAUSE A  
ROCKSLIDE, SEALING  
US OFF FROM THOSE  
CREATURES!

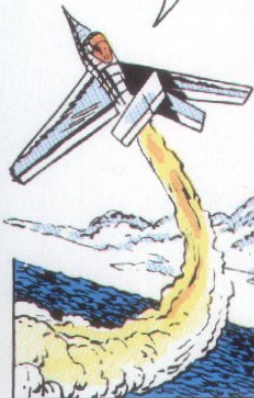
WE DID IT... WE'RE  
FREE!! AND THE  
ENTRANCE TO THE  
MOLEMAN'S EMPIRE  
IS SEALED FOREVER!



**MOMENTS LATER...**

BUT WHERE **IS** THE  
MOLEMAN?

I LEFT HIM  
BEHIND--HE'LL  
NEVER TROUBLE  
ANYONE  
AGAIN!



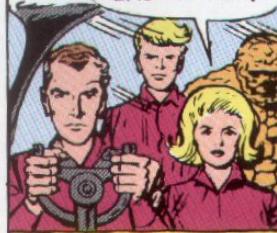
AND THE WORDS OF  
MR. FANTASTIC ARE  
INDEED PROPHETIC...  
AS, SECONDS LATER...

HE'S DESTROYED THE  
ENTIRE ISLE! HE'S  
SEALED HIMSELF  
BELOW--FOREVER!



IT'S BEST THAT WAY!  
THERE WAS NO PLACE  
FOR HIM IN OUR WORLD  
...PERHAPS HE'LL FIND  
PEACE DOWN THERE...  
I HOPE SO!

I JUST HOPE WE  
**HAVE** SEEN THE  
LAST OF HIM!



BUT, WHETHER WE'VE SEEN  
THE LAST OF THE MOLEMAN  
OR NOT, WE WILL SEE  
MUCH MORE OF THE MOST  
AMAZING QUARTET IN  
HISTORY, IN THE NEXT  
GREAT ISSUE OF-- THE  
FANTASTIC FOUR!!  
DON'T MISS IT!!

**THE  
END**