Marooned on a monster-infested planet torn by war, Flash and Dale are hunted from every side!
More than 100 years ago, the bessemer process made large tonnage steel output possible. Discovered by Sir Henry Bessemer.

First flames and then sparks pour from the open end, as impurities are burned out of the iron and it is refined into the steel.

Recently, the basic oxygen process has replaced the bessemer process. A jet of high-purity oxygen is used to make better steel.

Melted iron is poured from a charging ladle into the pear-shaped converter. It is then turned upright and the air is forced in.

The impurities burn for about 20 minutes. Multicolored flames leap 30 feet into the air and are visible for many miles at night.
A power failure forces Flash Gordon to crash-land his space ship in a deep valley on a strange unknown planet! As they begin to search for help, they are suddenly attacked by a hideous monster—the first of many dangers Flash and Dale Arden will encounter on the strange planet Opto!

Flash blazes away at the creature, killing it instantly! But the sound of his gun brings hostile soldiers to him...

Oh, Flash! What a horrible sight!

Steady, Dale. We'd better move on.

Sight! They possess sight! Take them alive! They have violated the sovereignty of Opto!

The keen ear of the approaching soldier hears Dale's remark. "Sight!" He mumbles, then...
AS THE PREFECT BUILDS A FANTASTIC STORY ABOUT DALE'S PROWESS, SHE IS DRAGGED FROM THE CAR AND SOUND.

BY ARMORED CAR TO A GREAT CITY WHERE THE SOLDIERS OPEN THE HATCH TO FIND A DAZED PREFECT MUMBLING, "THE WOMAN, TIE HER UP SHE HAS THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN!"

FLASH OFFERS PROTEST, BUT IS CUT SHORT....

SILENCE, PRISONER! THE PREFECT IS ABOUT TO SPEAK!

THROW THEM IN JAIL. I'LL PRESENT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM TO THE HIGH TRIBUNAL. THEY WILL BE GIVEN A "FAIR TRIAL" TOMORROW.

AS THE PREFECT SNARLS HIS DECLARATION, FLASH REALIZES THE BOGUS EVIDENCE THE PREFECT WILL PRESENT.

FLASH AND DALE ARE LED TO THEIR CELL. "HERE YOU AWAIT TRIAL, AFTER WHICH YOUR SIGHT WILL BE DESTROYED," SMILES THE GUARD.

In the far end of the cell, a young lady whispers, "More people to be made laughingstocks for the High Tribunal, or is this another way to torment me?"
STAY AWAY FROM ME, HAVEN'T I BEEN TORTURED ENOUGH? COME NEARER AND I SHALL BE FORCED TO USE THIS NAIL FILE!

FLASH AND DALE MOVE INTO THE CELL. DALE STEPS FORWARD TO SPEAK TO THE YOUNG GIRL, BUT SHE SPRINGS ON DALE WITH THE FURY OF AN ENRAGED TIGRESS......

DALE, HER ARMS BOUND BEHIND HER, STOOPS LOW, AS THE ANGRY GIRL HURTTLES OVER HER.

YOUNG LADY, CAN'T YOU SEE OUR ARMS ARE BOUND? WE ALL SHARE THE SAME FATE.

YOU LIE! YOU ARE AGENTS OF THE REGENT OPTIK!

YOU HAVE BEEN PLACED HERE TO GAIN MY CONFIDENCE. THEN YOU EXPECT TO LEARN THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OUTLAW VANGO AND THE YOUNG KING VISA. BUT I'LL NEVER TELL YOU.

I ASSURE YOU WE KNOW NOTHING OF THE PEOPLE YOU MENTION. NO! WE ARRIVED HERE FROM MONGO QUITE RECENTLY AND QUITE BY ACCIDENT. WELL, YOU DO POSSESS SIGHT.
While Flash and Dale reason with the girl, a messenger from one of Opto's outposts rushes to the headquarters of the Regent Optik.

The messenger reaches his destination and is quickly admitted into the office of the Regent.

Sir, I bring evidence which proves the skyship we shot down was from Mongo.

Place it on my desk, then clear this room.

They must be in league with the outlaw Vango. How fortunate we intercepted them. I'll call the Prefect. The prisoners will go before the High Tribunal immediately.

The room cleared, the Regent removes his headgear, studies the evidence placed on his desk. "Mongo!" he thinks. One of the prisoners may be Dr. Zarkov, or that Flash Gordon!

Soon after, guards enter the corridor leading to the prison cell housing Flash and Dale.

The Prefect receives the order and passes it on in a burst of fury.
Time of trial has been advanced. You go before the High Tribunal now. Also the woman named 'Chee.'

The High Tribunal. It is a test of physical endurance in the pit — against the Vicious Tigoryx.

Silently, the prisoners are led toward the arena, court room of the High Tribunal.

Entering the arena, they find they are a great distance from the bench of the judges. The voice of the Regent Optik booms over the loudspeakers, "Untie the prisoners."

Well, they are humane enough to give us possession of our faculties. Here, Flash. Your atom-pistol. I hid it under my tunic. When we left the armored car.

Good girl! I thought the guards had gotten it. Come on! Stay close to me. We'll rush the gate through which the Tigoryx will be released!
Three greedy, cruel men, the high tribunal, watch and listen as Flash, Dale, and the girl Chee rush the gate.

Flash fires point-blank into the herd of charging beasts.

Some escape the blast to rush on at the armed prey.

They have a weapon! What is the meaning of this? Send for the prefect post troops around the arena.
WE MUST GET TO THE GATES BEFORE THEY ARE CLOSED!
TRUE! I KNOW THE CATACOMBS OF THE ANIMAL CHAMBER.

FLASH COVERS THE GIRLS' RETREAT, AS THEY RUSH FOR THE RAPIDLY CLOSING GATES.

THE GIRLS MAKE IT. FLASH ROLLS THROUGH JUST BEFORE THE SPEARS OF THE GATE SINK INTO THE GROUND.

YOU SAY YOU KNOW THESE CHAMBERS. WHERE TO FROM HERE, CHEE?

THE RIVER ENTRANCE WHERE THE TIBORYX WATER IT IS OPEN, BECAUSE THE ANIMALS FEAR THE RIVER.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT TUNNEL?
I ONCE WORE A HEADGEAR. DEPRIVED OF SIGHT, YOUR OTHER SENSES BECOME ACUTE. I CAN HEAR THE RIVER.

WAIT! HOW FAR IS IT?

THEN THEY WILL HAVE TIME TO POST SOLDIERS THERE.

APPEARENTLY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE RIVERS OF OPTO.
OR THE MOONLIGHT NIGHTS WE HAVE.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR ROMANCE, LADY. WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

IT IS SIMPLE, SIR. OPTO HAS MANY MOONS. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR RIVERS HAVE MANY CONFLICTING TIDES AND TIDAL WAVES.

THEN THE RIVER THAT OFFERS US PROTECTION CAN ALSO DESTROY US.

THE TUNNEL WINDS FOR NEARLY A MILE, THEN OPENS OUT ONTO BROAD, BOILING WATER.

THE REGENT WILL LEAVE US TO THIS RIVER.

I SUGGEST YOU REMOVE ALL UNNECESSARY CLOTHING. WE MUST SWIM TO THE OTHER SHORE.

THAT'S SUICIDE!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. I TAKE YOUR LEAVE. SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

THAT GIRL IS CRAZY!

REMEMBER, DALE, SHE IS A NATIVE OF OPTO. COME ALONG. WE MUST TRY IT.
Chee, an excellent swimmer, familiar with the waters of Opto rivers. Quickly knives her way across the turbulent river....

Dale, frightened by the heavy waters, clings to Flash, screaming, "We are lost! Flash, darling! We are lost!"

I made it. They'll both drown the way that Dale hangs to Flash!

Let them drown. I'm free from the regent. Now I must get to Vango!

Deserting Flash and Dale, Chee moves stealthily down the bank of the river....

A lone fisherman preparing to go out, just what I need—his boat.

Chee creeps up to the unsuspecting fisherman and with the edge of her hand clips him on the nape of the neck.
Dale, exhausted, slips from Flash's arms, as he tries desperately to save their lives.

Chee, gaining control of the fisherman's craft, roars away from the dock, determined to get to Yango.

What was that? — the radar-harpoons have fired. I forgot to shut them off.

The racing craft sweeps by Dale and Flash, as they struggle in the water.

The harpoon whizzes just above the heads of Flash and Dale...

Quickly, Flash grasps at the loose line.
CHEÉ GRABS A GAFF AXE AND RUSHES TO THE HARPOON PORT THAT HAS FIRED. "WHEN THAT GUN WENT OFF IT CUT THE POWER. THIS BOAT WILL BE STALLED UNTIL I RELEASE THE TENSION ON THAT LINE," SHE MUTTERS.

FLASH AND DALE!

WHILE CHEÉ WATCHES QUIETLY, FLASH LETS THE LINE TOW HIM TO THE BOAT.

HE ROLLS DALE ONTO THE EDGE OF THE BOAT, AS THE TOWLINE STOPS.

CHEÉ HAVING STOPPED THE HOIST, SWINGS THE GAFF AXE ON THE STILL TAUT LINE. "VANGO WOULD NEVER ACCEPT YOU," SHE CRIES.

BUT FLASH GORDON'S REFLEXES ARE FAST! AS THE BOAT SURGES FORWARD, HE SCRAMBLES ABOARD...
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE RIVER! I DON'T WANT YOU WITH ME WHEN I GET TO VANGO! WHY DON'T YOU AND DALE TRY TO MAKE IT ON LAND?

THE REGENT OPTIK HAS PATROLS; DOESN'T HE? NO, THANK YOU. I LIKE THIS BOAT, DESPITE THE CREW.

LATER, INSIDE THE BOAT...

CHEE, INFURIATED BY FLASH'S SARCASM, PULLS A RIFLE FROM THE WALL RACK.

I'LL SEE THAT YOU DO GO ASHORE. I'M NOT TAKING YOU INTO VANGO'S CAMP.

NOW I'LL TAKE YOUR WATERLOGGED PISTOL. FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS OR YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO RUN FROM OPTIK'S PATROLS.

AS CHEE MOVES FORWARD TO TAKE FLASH'S PISTOL, HE KNOCKS HER RIFLE TO ONE SIDE. HER REFLEXES DISCHARGE THE WEAPON.

THE BURST FROM THE RIFLE MAKES A DIRECT HIT ON THE CONTROL PANEL. THE FISHERMAN'S BOAT CAREENS WILDLY---

THEN PLUNGES HEADLONG INTO THE ROCK-BOUND SHORELINE.
ALMOST INSTANTLY, OPTO SOLDIERS RACE ALONG MARKED TRAILS FOR THE RIVER'S EDGE...

WHILE A COMMON ENEMY NEARS THE WRECKED BOAT, FLASH TRIES TO BRING CHEE TO REASON. FINALLY SHE SAYS, "WE'LL ABANDON SHIP."

BUT I WON'T TAKE YOU TO VANGO. MEANWHILE, I'LL GET SOME CLOTHING FROM AN AFT COMPARTMENT. WE ARE IN THE WINTER REGION OF OPTO.

BETTER MAKE IT FAST!

GLAD YOU ARE FEELING BETTER, DALE. WE MUST KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON THAT CHEE; SHE HAS A TERRIBLE DISPOSITION.

YES, I NOTICED YOU HAD HER UP IN ARMS — YOUR ARMS.

CHEE RAISES THE HATCH COVER TO LEAD THE WAY OUT, BUT IS WELDED BY A BURST OF GUNFIRE.

CHEE RETURNS WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF WINTER CLOTHING. THE THREE OF THEM SLIP INTO THE SUITS QUICKLY. "FOLLOW ME," CHEE ANNOUNCES. "WE'LL LEAVE BY NUMBER THREE HATCH!"
A SECOND BUST SENDS CHEE BELOW....

OPTO COAST GUARDMEN! THERE'S BUT ONE WAY NOW. DON'T FIRE ON THEM, FLASH. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

CHEE RUSHES BELOW. A FEW MINUTES LATER SHE RETURNS, WEARING A HEADGEAR. "WE'LL SEE HOW THIS WORKS," SHE SAYS, AS SHE MOVES TO THE HATCH COVER.

HOLD YOUR FIRE. I AM THE DAUGHTER OF THE FISHERMAN, ZANDRO OF OPTOMEREY!

IT MAY BE A TRICK!

YES, BUT SHE WEARS A HEADGEAR. HEAR THE RECOGNITION SIGNAL!

Snatching a rifle from one of the guards, she bashes Flash on the back of the head.

Reluctantly, the guards give the order, "PASS TO SHORE! CHEE, DALE, AND FLASH CLIMB OVER THE ROCKS TO THE PRESENCE OF THEIR ENEMY. "ARREST THESE TWO PEOPLE! THEY ESCAPED THE HIGH TRIBUNAL AND HAVE BEEN HOLDING ME AS HOSTAGE," SMILES CHEE, TRiumphantly."
Chee removes her headgear for better vision, then turns the rifle on the startled guards.

I said I wouldn't take you to Vango and I meant it. You can give that message to Flash when he comes to.

I'll take Flash's pistol. Vango will be interested in such a weapon.

Chee steps near Dale to get the pistol. Her left leg is caught in a scissors hold, as Dale enters the conflict.

Chee, disarmed in her fall, tries to recover, as Dale pulls Flash's pistol from his belt.

We're going with you, Chee! Whether you like it or not!
FORCED TO TAKE THEM WITH HER, CHEE WASTES NO TIME IN EXPOSING THEM AS “SPIES” WHEN THEY REACH VANGO!

FLASH STARTS TO SPEAK, BUT IS CUT SHORT BY VANGO. CHEE HAS TOLD ME ENOUGH ABOUT YOU. I’LL USE MY OWN METHODS OF Gaining CONFIRMATION.

THEN A HULK OF A MAN ENTERS THE ROOM....

YOU CALLED ME, SIR?

YES, KATONK, THIS MAN NEEDS SOME VIOLENT EXERCISE!

YOU, MY DEAR, MAY SIT NEAR ME DURING THIS SPECTACLE!

ONE MOMENT, VANGO—

YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID, THEY’LL WATCH US!

KATONK WHIRLS FLASH ABOUT, SLASHES HIM WITH A RIGHT THAT SENDS HIM SPRAWLING.

NOW, YOUNG LADY, WHILE YOUR CHAMPION IS SUBJECTED TO THE TORMENT OF KATONK YOU WILL TALK, AND HONESTLY, OR KATONK WILL BECOME MOST BRUTAL!

AS VANGO PRESSES DALE TO TALK, KATONK PULLS FLASH FROM THE FLOOR, CLAPS HIM IN HIS ARMS AND PINS HIM AGAINST THE STUDDED POINTS OF HIS BELT.
Realizing he must stay away from the mighty Katonk, Flash retreats with a sharp left to the giant's stomach.

Katonk, champion of rough and tumble in the camp of Vango, is enraged by Flash's clever moves.

Dale, her eyes fixed on Flash, tells Vango their story, adding: "Flash believed you were fighting for a great cause, that's why he came here." Vango seems impressed, but makes no move to stop the fight.

Flash dances about the clumsy Katonk, as the huge man stalks him awkwardly.

Finding openings, Flash moves in to batter the baffled fighter.
Flash's skill and timing take their toll as the giant Katonk falls to the floor, a beaten man.

His adversary lying on the floor, Flash races toward Vango, the outlaw leader stirs uneasily.

What a touching scene! The great Vango gives hand and heart to his enemies.

Enough, chee! Provide quarters for this young lady!

Then to Flash's surprise Vango rises, his hand extended in greeting.

Now I am to aid and comfort the enemy! Come on, Dale! I'll leave Vango to the error of his ways!

Silence, woman! Curb your tongue.

Unnoticed by the others, the beaten Katonk rises from the floor. Quietly he moves toward Flash, his studded-belt dangling in his hand.
MANY YEARS AGO, OPTO'S SUN BURNED OUT. NATURALLY, THE PLANET BECAME COLD, BUT WITH THE BENEFIT OF SCIENCE, LIFE WAS SUSTAINED FOR GENERATIONS. EACH GENERATION BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO THE EVERLASTING DARKNESS.

RIGHT! THEN A FEW DECADES PAST A NEW SUN SUDDENLY APPEARED. THE EXTREME LIGHT BLINDED THE PEOPLE OF OPTO.

NO ONE ESCAPED?

FEW, OPTIK, WHO CAME INTO POWER, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS MALADY. ANYONE POSSESSING SIGHT HE CLAIMED WAS AN EVIL PERSON. HE IS NOW MASTER OF A FEW MILLION SLAVES.

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. WHEN DO WE MARCH AGAINST OPTIK?

WE? I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, TOO. GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND TOMORROW WE'LL GET TO WORK.

VERY WELL, VANGO. GOOD NIGHT!

MANY HOURS LATER, FLASH ROUSES FROM A DEEP AND RESTFUL SLEEP....

GOOD MORNING, SIR. PETTO AND KATONK AT YOUR SERVICE.

DO I HAVE TO FIGHT YOU TOO? I THOUGHT WE'D PROVEN WE AREN'T SPIES!

SAVE YOUR FIGHTING FOR OPTIK! WE GO TONIGHT!

HERE ARE YOUR NEW CLOTHES. VANGO IS ANXIOUS TO SEE YOU.
THAT NIGHT, IN VANGO'S HIDEOUT A HUGE METAL DOOR OPENS! LIGHTS FLASH AND ROCKET-POWERED SLEDS —

MOVE OUT TO ATTACK OPTH'S OUTPOST BARRIERS.

AS THE SLEDS PASS EACH OF OPTH'S DIRECTION FINDERS, THEY KNOCK THEM OUT WITH RAY-GUN FIRE.

APPROACHING FIRST GUARD POST SIR FLASH.

SIGNAL TO THE OTHER SLEDS TO CUT THEIR POWER.

WITH THEIR POWER SHUT OFF, THE SLEDS GLIDE QUIETLY INTO THE GUARD POST. PASSING THE ENTRANCE THEY REGAIN SPEED AND OPEN FIRE, LEAVING THE OUTPOST IN RUIN.
"That's one for our side," shouts Katonk. "We've a long way to go, don't become too confident," says Flash. "Our next target is an atom cannon."

"We'll have to circle behind it, Petito," continues Flash. "I'm familiar with its location." Answers Petito, "But we'll have to abandon our sleds."

"Because it is beyond the winter belt in the timber region," adds Katonk, as their sled takes to flight.

"What are you doing, Petito?"

"I would go on skis, taking the shortest distance to the lower level."

"The sleds sail down from the mountain ledge and land easily on a glacier run."

As the first sled, in which Flash, Petito and Katonk are riding, coasts to a stop, an explosion rips the bow—

Followed by a second explosion that hurls them clear of the sled.
The heavy foliage along the glacier breaks their fall, as their bodies twist toward the ground.

Something funny about this. Optik doesn’t have any guard posts near here and we were fired on at close range.

Listen! More firing!

The second sled spots the snipers, and quickly knocks out the anti-tank gun that stopped Flash’s sled.

It wasn’t a guard post. Petito. Just two men!

Yes! They were Optik’s special guards!

Optik here? Good! Petito. Get the other men from the sleds. Bring the phony headgear. This is more than we wished for!

Right!
Later, Petito and the troops return, outfitted in headgear similar to the ones worn by Optik's soldiers.

These helmets send out a recognition signal every few minutes the same as the real ones, but these are equipped with perisopic lenses, instead of the usual radar equipment.

Good! Let's go!

Flash leads the troops into Optik's bioluac. "What garrison are you from?" challenges an Opto sergeant. "Post 3," answers Flash. "We are to report to the regent. He isn't here!" Snaps the sergeant.

But one of Optik's soldiers slips away and rushes to an armored car.

Flash gives a signal and the troops of Vango spring into action. Optik's troops are easy prey to the surprise attack.

One of them is trying to escape! Take charge here, Petito!

Flash lunges toward the armored car, as it picks up speed. Gaining a hold, he swings on to the vehicle.
Flash finds the hatch sealed from within. Raising his pistol, he blasts the cover open.

Flash drops through the hatch just as the opto soldier blurs a warning to Optik on the radio.

Turning in his seat, he fires at Flash...

Flash escapes the opto soldier's fire, throws himself to one side and aims at the radio. The shot from his pistol rips open the entire front of the vehicle.

The car swerves wildly out of control...

Then, hurtles over an embankment...
—AND PLUNGES INTO THE RIVER BELOW....

"THE VEHICLE SETTLES TO THE BOTTOM. FLASH TRIES TO FREE THE DRIVER, AS THE WATER SURGES THROUGH THE WRECKED CAR."

RELEASING THE DRIVER, HE PULLS HIM TOWARD THE SURFACE. "HE MAY BE ABLE TO LEAD ME TO OPTIK," FLASH THINKS.

FLASH DRAGS THE LIMP FORM OF THE OPTIK SOLDIER TO THE ROCKY SHORE.

MEANWHILE, KATONK AND PETIO LEAD VANGO'S SOLDIERS AGAINST THE ATOM CANNON. THEY ENTER THROUGH THE AMMUNITION ROOM.

"WAIT A MINUTE! THEY SAID OPTIK IS HERE. WHY SHOULD WE RISK OUR NECK'S CAPTURING HIM, WHEN WE CAN SET A TIME FUSE ON ONE OF THESE ATOM SHELLS?"

"RIGHT! THEN WE GET RID OF OPTIK JUST LIKE THAT!"
The fuse is set on this one, Petit. Everyone clear out!

You bet! We want distance now!

We better find Flash on our way back. We don’t want him to walk in there.

But Flash passes them unseen, as he urges the revived Optik soldier toward the Atom Cannon.

Entering the cannon station through the main entrance, he forces the soldier to lead him to Optik.

Sir, this man brings an urgent message to the Regent!

Does he? Why does he hold a gun on you?

As I suspected, Optik, your vision is perfect. Since you can see this pistol, I advise you to respect it.

What is the meaning of this? Who are you?
 REMOVING HIS HEADGEAR, FOR BETTER VISION, OPTIK GLARES AT FLASH. RECOGNITION RACES THROUGH HIS MIND AND HE MUTTERS, "FLASH GORDON!"

 HE LEANS OVER TO DRAW A PISTOL FROM THE DESK. FLASH SLASHES THE BUTT OF HIS WEAPON AGAINST THE SOLDIER'S HEAD.

 THEN follows up with a left that sends the Regent sprawling.

 THEN throws himself at Optik, clipping the weapon from the Regent's hand.

 He pulls the Regent to his feet. "Get on that radio and give the order to cease firing," orders Flash. "You are now the prisoner of Vango!"

 While in the arsenal below, the timing device on an atom projectile ticks away time that can't be turned back.
Optik turns to the radio and announces, "Soldiers of Optik, cease firing and abandon your stations. This is the Regent."

Meanwhile, in an atom-jet skyship, nearing Optik, Dr. Zarkov watches the images on his Televiso-a-scope.

Seconds later, Dr. Zarkov's skyship zooms in to a landing near the Atom Cannon Station.

Flash sees the skyship approach. Recognizing the construction of the craft as a Mongo ship, he rushes the Regent Optik down to meet it.

Greetings between Flash and Dr. Zarkov follow, then the three board the ship. As the craft shoots from the ground, the Atom Cannon Station explodes behind them.
With landing gear retracted, the skyship lands on the snow near the launching ramp for Vango's power sleds.

Petito rushes out to meet them. Seeing Flash, he exclaims, "When we couldn't find you, we thought you had drowned in that armored car."

Within Vango's headquarters Dale awaits. As Flash and Zarkov enter, she rushes into Flash's arms. There are tears in her eyes, as she whispers, "My darling, you are safe."

Dr. Zarkov, I know that Medico, our doctor, would greatly appreciate your help in restoring the sight of the people of Opto. I would be most happy to lend my talent!

Optik is led away by Katonk and Petito. "My most sincere thanks, for what you have done, are most inadequate," says Vango. "I do hope and wish that you might stay to help in the rehabilitation."

Thank you, I'll send for Medico. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must attend to a family affair. You see, Optik is my brother."
Vango enters a small room in which Optik, Petit, and Katonk wait. He walks to a cabinet, removes two swords and tosses one to Optik. "Defend yourself, brother," he says.

"No! No, Vango! I was wrong! I'm your brother, but you have greater wisdom, surely, you can find forgiveness for my folly," says Optik.

I can't fight a coward who refuses to raise a sword in his defense. Better that I leave you to the people of Opto. Lock him up, Katonk!

As Vango turns, Optik reaches for the sword.

Before Katonk can stop him, he hurls the blade at Vango...

Katonk grabs the treacherous Optik in the steel-like grip of his hands. Seconds later, the limp form of the regent slides to the floor.

Days later, Vango recovers from the sword wound. He finds that he has been moved to the capital of Opto.
Vando also finds that the palace has been transformed into a large hospital...

Where Medico and Dr. Zarkov have treated many thousands of Opto's people and have given to those people a new world—through sight.

As he walks onto the balcony, he realizes that the people of Opto have begun a festival season. At last happiness has come to Opto.

Finding Flash ready to leave, he apologizes for his inability to express his deep gratitude.

Chee approaches them and admits, "I was a nasty little fink, but I am most thankful for what you have done." She pauses, then kisses Flash, saying, "For the people of Opto!"

Then Flash, Dale, and Dr. Zarkov take their leave of Opto and set course for Mongo. Dale murmurs, "That designing Chee, kissing you on behalf of Opto—may I laugh now, Flash?"
The secretary bird gets its name from the long plumes on its head which look like quill pens that once adorned secretaries.

The scientific name of this relative of the eagle is Sagittarius, the Latin name for archer, which the bird also resembles.

These birds live on lizards, insects and young birds, but are best known for their ability in destroying any poisonous snakes.

Ranchers in South Africa often tame these birds and keep them around to keep the range free of dangerous snakes and rodents.

The secretary bird ranges all over the African Veldt. Although it can fly well, it spends most of its time on the ground.