

FLASH
GORDON

GOLD



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FLASH GORDON



Flash and Dale face the
wonders and terrors of
Ming's city of science — CITADEL!

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Stranded in an alien world, Flash Gordon, Dale Arden and Dr. Hans Zarkov struggle against the evil emperor, Ming the Merciless, who seeks to enslave an entire planet.....

FLASH GORDON on the *PLANET MONGO*

CITADEL PART ONE

STORY BY: JOHN WARNER
ART BY: CARLOS GARZON
CREATED BY: ALEX RAYMOND

PROLOGUE:
SOMEWHERE
ON THE PLANET
MONGO...

HOLD-COMMUNICATION FROM HIS INFINITENESS,
MING THE MERCILESS, ON PRIORITY SCRAMBLER
CIRCUIT! STAND BY!

FLASH GORDON HAS
RETURNED TO MONGO!
HE IS SOMEWHERE
ON THE CONTINENT!

SOONER OR LATER
THEY WILL FIND CITADEL!
OR--YOU WILL FIND
THEM! I AM DIS-
PATCHING A UNIT
FROM MINGO CITY
WHICH I WILL LEAD
PERSONALLY!

I SEE! AN ENTIRE
UNIT! ISN'T THAT
EXCESSIVE?

"REALISTIC! THEY ARE VERY DANGEROUS..."

"YOU SAID 'THEY,' MING. THEN ZARKOV IS
WITH HIM ALSO?"

SURVEY-SCOUT TO
CENTRAL--INTRUDER
ALERT! DISPATCH
SECURITY FOR
INTERCEPT!

90148-811
FLASH G #20-789

"YES--HE
AND MY
FUGITIVE
BRIDE,
DALE
ARDEN..."

THIS MATERIAL IS ICE--
BUT ITS MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE IS MORE LIKE
STEEL, AND IT EMITS HEAT!

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THE HEAT IS GENERATED BY WHATEVER CAUSES THEM TO GLOW, BUT THE ICE MOLECULES RETAIN THEIR STRUCTURE...

FLASH, DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING JUST A MOMENT AGO? IT SOUNDED LIKE--

UNDERSTOOD, MING! WE SHALL PREPARE FOR YOUR ARRIVAL!

ZARKOV!

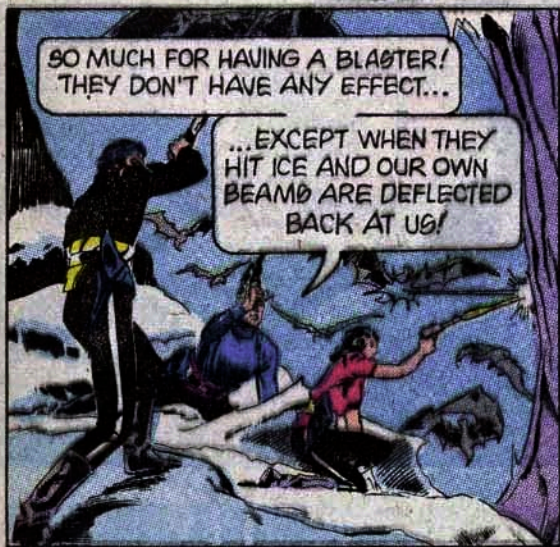


WHAT ARE THEY? THEY LOOK LIKE LARGE BATS!

BLAST! MY GUN'S POWER PACK IS MISSING! IT MUST HAVE DISLODGED IN THE CRASH!

TAKE MINE! YOU'RE A BETTER SHOT ANYWAY!

CITADEL PART 1: **LEGACY**





GIVE THE PRISONERS A MOUNT AT ONCE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS CITADEL IS?

ZARKOV REMAINS SILENTLY THOUGHTFUL, BUT THE ANSWER IS SOON ENOUGH IN COMING...

CITADEL--A CITY AND MORE! ICE HANDS REACH UP WITH GLASS FINGERS BOUND IN CHROME, TOUCHING THE PALE BLUE MONGO MORNING...

EVEN ON MONGO IT HAS AN AIR OF STRANGENESS TO IT...

A STATUE OF MING! THEN YOU MUST BE MING'S SOLDIERS!

ONLY WHEN HE WANTS US TO BE! WE ARE QUEEN AURALON'S SECURITY PATROL! BUT YOU WILL LEARN!



ALL THIS WAS
BUILT BY MING
--HIS CATHEDRAL
OF SCIENCE,
ISOLATED
FROM THE
WORLD!

HALF THE PEOPLE OF
MONGO STILL THINK THIS
LOST CONTINENT IS A MYTH!



YOU SAID
"CATHEDRAL OF
SCIENCE"?

INDEED! THIS IS WHERE VIRTUALLY ALL
OF MING'S TECHNOLOGY ORIGINATES!



PERHAPS "PRISON
OF SCIENCE" WOULD
BE MORE FITTING!

NO! MING DISTRACTS US FROM TIME TO
TIME, BUT MOSTLY THE SCIENTISTS JUST
DON'T CARE ABOUT POLITICS!



IS THE MAIN LINE
OF RESEARCH
WEAPONRY?

SORRY!
CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION!
COME ALONG
QUICKLY NOW!



YOU SEEM TO
BE AVOIDING THE
ISSUE OF MING!
WHAT ARE YOU--

FRANKLY, WE TRY
TO INVOLVE MING IN
AS FEW OF OUR
AFFAIRS AS POSSIBLE!



I AM AURALON--THOUGH WHAT YOU SEE IS A THREE-DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION OF ME! A **SECURITY** PRECAUTION!

WE COME IN PEACE! WE ONLY WISH TO PASS INTO THE HILLS BEYOND!



I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE!

THEN YOU HAVE REPORTED US TO MING!

ON THE CONTRARY! MING REPORTED **YOU** TO US!



WE AREN'T MUCH CONCERNED WITH ON-GOING **POLITICAL** SQUABBLES -- YOURS OR MING'S!

TORIN, CONDUCT FLASH GORDON AND THE WOMAN TO THE HOLDING PENS! LEAVE ZARKOV HERE!



NO! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN!

FLASH, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO! BUT ZARKOV MAY LEARN SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP!



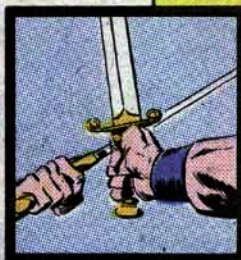
AND, WHEN ALL HAVE LEFT THE ROOM...

DOCTOR ZARKOV-- PLEASE ENTER!

MEANWHILE,
IN THE IMPERIAL
PALACE IN
MINGO CITY...

CLANG!
TANG!

VISSHH!



TANG! THUD!

AHH!

GOOD! VERY
GOOD! YOU ARE
STILL THE FINEST
FIGHTER UNDER
MY COMMAND!

YOU HAVE SERVED
YOUR PENANCE WELL!
YOU HAVE NOT EATEN
NOR TAKEN REST
SINCE YOUR RETURN
FROM FAILING TO CAP-
TURE FLASH GORDON!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

HONORED, MY EMPEROR! I FAILED, YET I
STILL LIVE! I AM STILL YOUR **WARLORD!**



YOU SHALL, OF COURSE,
BE THERE WITH ME--A
SECOND CHANCE...

YOUR
LAST!

AH, GOOD! YOU WILL
NOW BE REWARDED!
I AM TAKING A
UNIT TO CITADEL TO
PERSONALLY SUPER-
VISE THE HUNT!

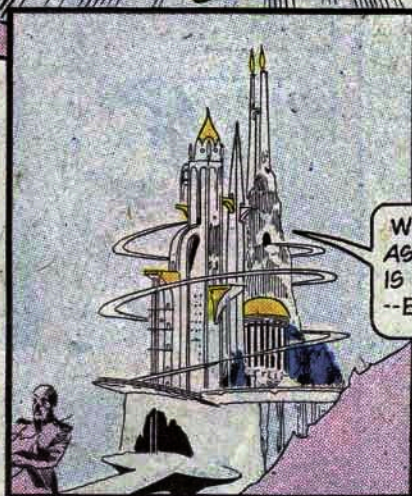


WHILE,
BACK AT
CITADEL...

I AM AURALON, ZARKOV. I NEED
YOU TO SEE...TO UNDERSTAND!

THE SHIELDING
BETWEEN US PRO-
TECTS YOU! I
EMIT A HIGHLY
LETHAL RADIA-
TION--THE PRICE
OF OPENING
THE DOOR TO
THE UNKNOWN!

THE UNKNOWN?



WE ARE CHILDREN PLAYING
AS GOD! MOST OF OUR RESEARCH
IS CHanneled IN ONE DIRECTION
--EXTENDED LIFE--**IMMORTALITY!**

AND WHY?
SO MING
MAY RULE
FOREVER!

I PIONEERED THE PROJECT AND I MADE
THE BIG BREAKTHROUGH! THIS LETHAL
SIDE EFFECT IS THE LEGACY OF
MY WORK!

CITADEL IS
MY CITY--AND
MY PRISON!

I DO NOT BLAME MING FOR MY
MISCALCULATION! I DO WHAT I DO
FOR SCIENCE--NOT MING!

BUT YOU, DOCTOR
ZARKOV, ARE THE
GREATEST MIND
ON MONGO! FOR
YOUR HELP, I
MIGHT **BETRAY**
MING!

ELSEWHERE...

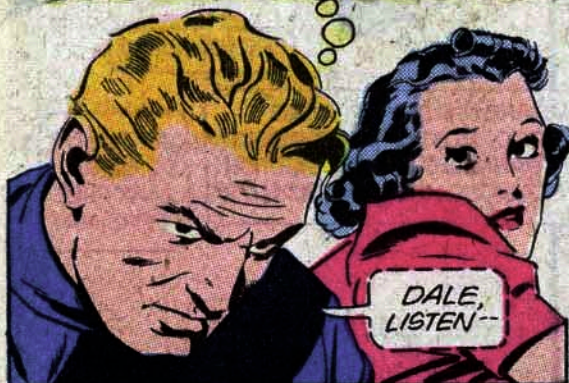
SECURITY IN THIS PLACE IS PRETTY LAX! THEY AREN'T USED TO HAVING VISITORS!

THESE MEN ARE MORE LIKE GAME WARDENS THAN SOLDIERS! AND THEY ONLY USE SWORDS INSIDE THE CITY! WHY?



IF WE COULD OVERPOWER THIS GUARD, CHANCES ARE WE COULD MAKE IT BACK TO ZARKOV BEFORE ANYONE REALIZED!

DALE,
LISTEN--



THEN...

OHH! MY
FOOT!

WHAT
ARE YOU--



WITH A SIMPLE BUT DEFT APPLICATION OF SHOULDER LEVERAGE...

WAAH!

STOP
THEM!



TRY IT AND
THESE MEN
ARE DEAD! PUT
DOWN YOUR
WEAPONS AND
UNDO THESE
MANACLES--
NOW!

DO AS THEY SAY--
THERE'S NO PLACE
FOR THEM TO RUN!





NOW
WHAT?

OVER BY
THAT EDGING!
LET'S GO!



AND NOW, CAPTAIN TORIN, I THANK YOU!
YOU TREATED US WELL, CONSIDERING WE
WERE PRISONERS!

I HOPE THIS
WILL NOT BE TOO
UNCOMFORTABLE!



HEADING BACK
TO THE CENTRAL
COMPLEX...

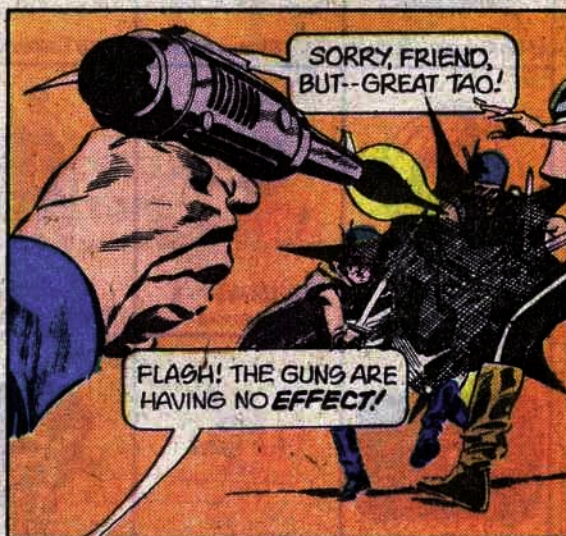
WE HAVE THEIR
GUNS, DALE, AND
HAVE NO QUALMS
ABOUT USING THEM!

BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT
THEY CAN DO! WE HAVEN'T
SEEN THEM USED!



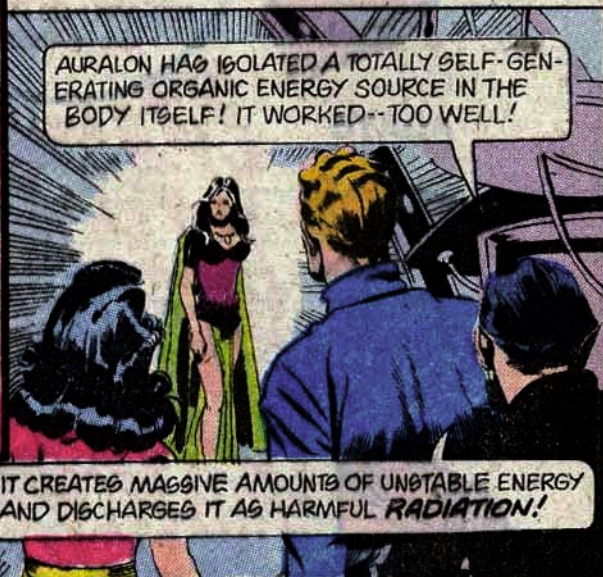
REMEMBER THAT BLACK BURST IN THE
SKY THAT DROVE THOSE BAT-LIKE
CREATURES OFF?

STOP! YOU ARE NOT
AUTHORIZED FOR--



SORRY, FRIEND,
BUT-- GREAT TAO!

FLASH! THE GUNS ARE
HAVING NO EFFECT!



CITADEL PART 2: REQUIEM!



"MING BROUGHT AN ENTIRE UNIT WITH HIM-- SO OUR PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF MANPOWER..."

"I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE! WHEN MING ERECTED CITADEL, HE MADE SURE IT COULD NEVER TURN ON HIM..."

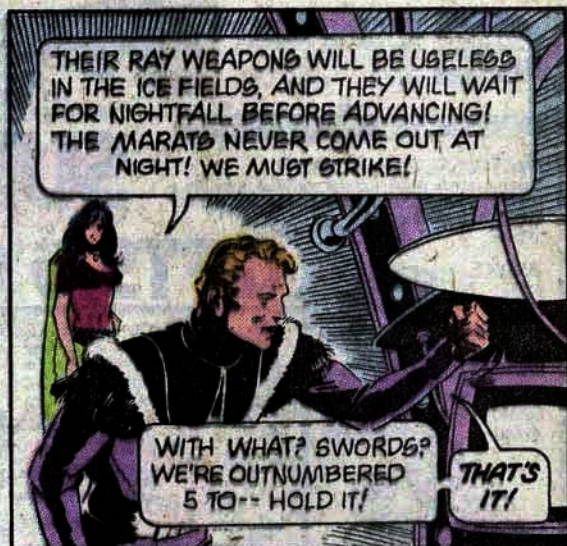
"OUR GUNS ARE USELESS AGAINST ANYTHING EXCEPT THE MARATS, THOSE CREATURES WE RESCUED YOU FROM..."



WE'RE SURROUNDED BY MILES OF THIS "HOT ICE" WHICH MAKES COMMON RAY BLASTERS IMPRACTICAL!

FURTHER, THE RADIATION FROM THE ICE CAUSES ROCKET FUEL TO BECOME UNSTABLE! NONE MAY FLY OVER CITADEL!

WHICH IS WHY MING IS TAKING A HIKE!





BUT UNDERSTAND--I WOULD
RATHER DIE THAN REMAIN AS
I AM... ALONE! CUT OFF!

MAYBE YOU WOULD! WELL, WHATEVER,
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST YOU!



I THINK I
CAN HANDLE
IT! I'M A
BIG GIRL!

DON'T GET
FUNNY-- I'M
WORRIED!
IF WE FAIL--



FAIL?...
NONSENSE!
WE'RE THE
GOOD GUYS,
REMEMBER?



LATER...

WE DEPLOY A MINIMUM OF
MANPOWER AT THREE POINTS!
TORIN, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE AT THE
PITS! I'LL TAKE MEN TO WAIT
FOR MING!

DALE, I'LL NEED
YOU TO TAKE CHARGE
HERE AT THE
GATES!



THESE PLANS
ARE...
INCREDIBLE!

CRUDE SUB-ATOMIC
PHYSICS! WE'RE USING
A HOLLOWED OUT
SECTION OF THE ICE
FOR THE HOUSING THE
ICE ITSELF WILL GIVE
US A SIMULATION
PARTICLE SOURCE!





STATION TWO--THEY ARE APPROACHING YOUR POSITION! WE MUST MOVE THEM WESTERLY A BIT!

AND WATCH IT, MEN! THOSE THINGS ARE REALLY ANGRY!



SCREE-EE-

EE-E!

WHILE, NEARBY TO THE WEST...

WHAT IF FLASH GORDON ISN'T AT CITADEL?

HE WILL BE! THIS TERRAIN IS TOO DANGEROUS! BESIDES, AURALON'S SCOUTS COMB EVERY INCH OF THIS TERRITORY DAILY COLLECTING DATA!

ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE FOUND GORDON!

MEAN-
WHILE...

THAT'S HIM ALL RIGHT! GET EVERYONE UNDER COVER-- IT'S GOING TO GET REAL BUGY HERE AWFUL FAST!



MARATH?

MING--
LOOK!

IMPOSSIBLE!



SOMETHING IS
WRONG! GORDON
HAD A HAND IN
THIS!

TROOPS, HOLD YOUR
POSITION! BRING UP
REPELLENT GUNS!



SO MING DID BRING THE MARAT GUNS! I
SUSPECTED HE WAS AT LEAST THAT CLEVER!

BUT I ALSO SUSPECT
HE DOESN'T HAVE
MANY!



SNIPERS!

WE'RE UNDER
FIRE!



RETURN FIRE, BUT STAY LOW!
DEFLECTION FACTOR IS CRITICAL
AND THOSE BLASTED MARATS
HAVE US PINNED!

WE'VE SLOWED THEM--THEY'LL
TAKE A WHILE TO SHAKE OFF
THE MARATS! WE DON'T WANT
TO BE HERE WHEN THEY DO!

MEANWHILE,
AT
CITADEL...





ALL SEQUENCES SET,
CORRELATED AND LOCKED!

EVACUATE--
NOW!

GREAT RIVERS OF ENERGY
AND LIGHT THRUST DOWN THE
MAMMOTH TUNNEL, ACTING
AS A MEDIUM FOR THE CON-
CENTRATED PARTICLE-WAVE
BOMBARDMENT WHICH
SPLASHES OVER AURALON!

AND, LIKE A PHOENIX CON-
SUMED IN HER OWN FIRE,
SHE FLARES AND SEEMS,
IF ONLY MOMENTARILY, TO
BECOME ONE WITH THE
LIGHT!

GO, ZARKOV--GO NOW!
YOUR "EMERGENCY EXIT"
--BEFORE MING...



...MAY THE TAO BE WITH--



BUT I CAN'T LEAVE
UNTIL WE'RE SURE--

SORRY, OLD FRIEND,
BUT IT'S MY TURN THIS
TIME! WE GO!

OUTSIDE, AT THE CITY GATES...

WHAT ARE YOU FOOLS DOING? GET OUT OF THE WAY! MING THE MERCILESS DEMANDS AUDIENCE WITH AURALON!

I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT DELAY! I'M...

... DEAD! AS WILL BE ANY OTHERS WISHING TO DELAY ME!

THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR, MING!

ZARKOV CURED ME--THOUGH IT SEEMS THAT, TOO, HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL!

OH, AND THE THREE OF THEM ARE LONG GONE--PROBABLY STOLE RIGHT PAST YOUR TROOPS!

AURALON?

YES, I LET THEM GO! IF YOU WISH TO KILL ME, DO SO NOW!

YOU LET THEM GO? TRAITOR! TRAITOR!

FIND THEM!

BRING ME FLASH GORDON!

There has never been excitement to match Flash Gordon's adventures on the Planet Mongo!

Danger!

Intrigue!

Romance!

Thrills!

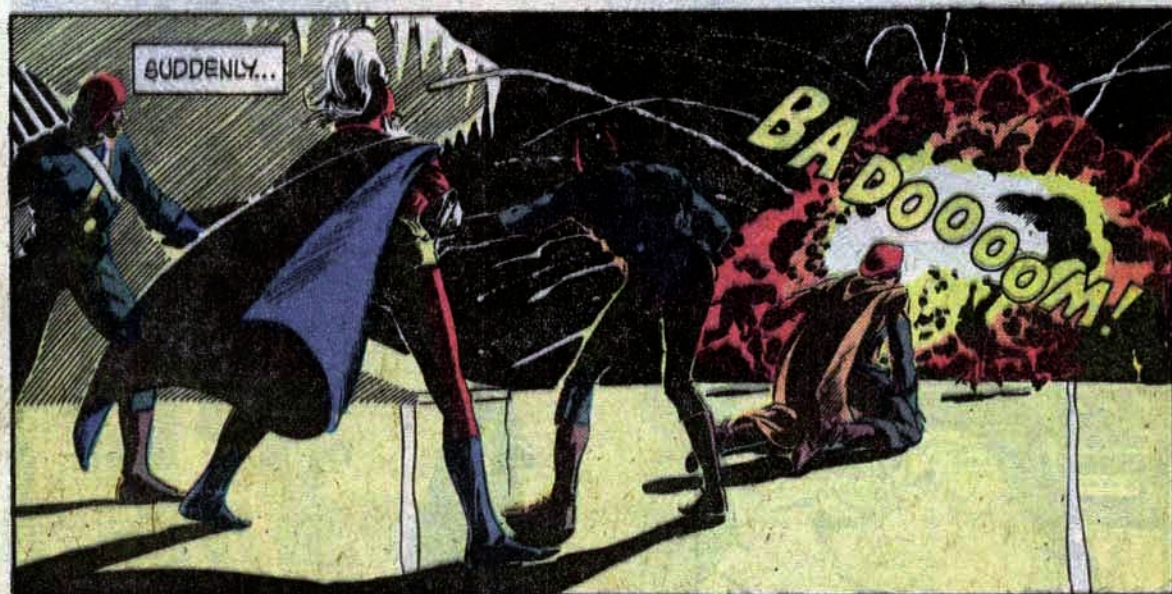
Narrow Escapes!

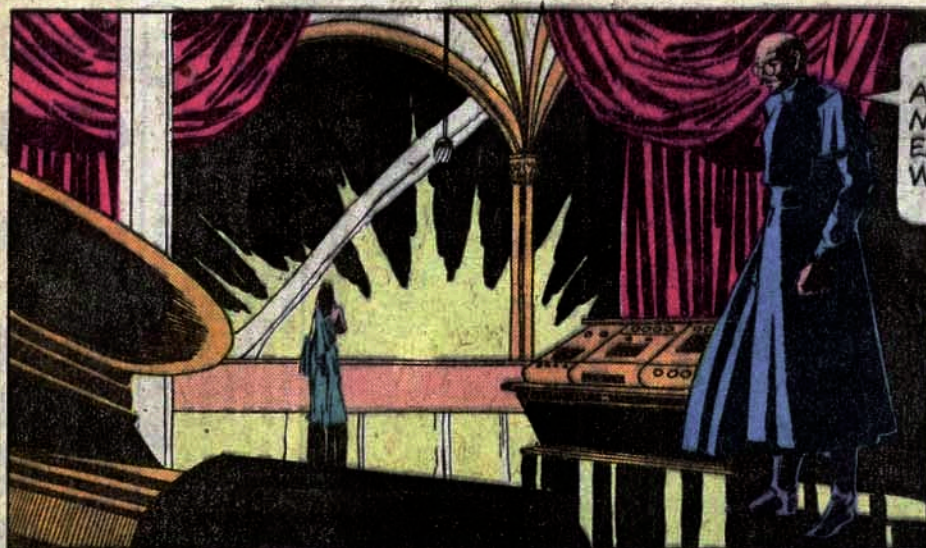
Daring Rescues!



Now all the
breathtaking
action is in
Gold Key Comics!

Don't miss an issue of Flash's gallant
battle against Ming the Merciless, the evil
tyrant who seeks to enslave an entire planet!





DON'T WORRY, AURALON! ZARKOV MADE SURE THOSE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES WOULDN'T DAMAGE CITADEL!

BUT MING WILL NEVER FIND THEIR TRAIL!



TAKE GREAT CARE, ZARKOV!

IF MING EVER CAPTURES YOU, THE UNIVERSE SHALL BE ONE STAR DARKER!

WHILE SOME DISTANCE FROM CITADEL...



CURSE YOU, FLASH GORDON! I SHALL LAY WASTE TO ALL MONGO IF I MUST TO FIND YOU!

RAVE ON, MING! YOU'VE BEEN COMPROMISED IN FRONT OF YOUR IMPERIAL GUARD--A GUARD I CONTROL!

BY DAWN WE'LL BE SAFELY OUT OF MARAT TERRITORY!

ZARKOV?

I PRAY SHE WAS RIGHT, THAT SHE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO MING! MAYBE SHE'LL FIND THAT IMMORTALITY, LIKE THIS LIGHT, NEVER FADING! MAYBE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GO!



THE END