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

PROLOGUE:
SOMEBODY ON THE PLANET MONGO...

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

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

"REALISTIC! THEY ARE VERY DANGEROUS..."

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

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

"I SEE! AN ENTIRE UNIT? I'M NOT THAT EXCESSIVE?"

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

"YES--HE AND MY FUGITIVE BRIDE, DALE ARDEN..."
THE HEAT IS GENERATED BY WHATEVER CAUSES THEM TO GLOW, BUT THE ICE MOLECULES RETAIN THEIR STRUCTURE...

UNDERSTOOD, MING! WE SHALL PREPARE FOR YOUR ARRIVAL!

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

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

WHAT ARE THEY? THEY LOOK LIKE LARGE BATS!

TAKE MINE! YOU'RE A BETTER SHOT ANYWAY!

CITADEL PART 2: LEGACY
SO MUCH FOR HAVING A BLASTER! THEY DON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT... 

...EXCEPT WHEN THEY HIT ICE AND OUR OWN BEAMS ARE DEFLECTED BACK AT US!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! THOSE THINGS HAVE US PINNED!

THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO AIM, BUT SOONER OR LATER---

SUDDENLY...

SKAAK!

WHAT HAPPENED?

SOLDIERS! BUT ARE THEY MING'S?

IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE'VE GOT NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO! AT LEAST THEY DROVE OFF THE BAT CREATURES!

GREAT TAO!

I AM CAPTAIN TORIN OF CITADEL! ONE OF OUR SCOUTS SPOTTED YOU!

I AM TO CONDUCT YOU BEFORE MY QUEEN AS PRISONERS! BUT IF YOU WILL COME FREELY, YOU WILL BE SHOWN HONOR!

WELL, HONOR IT IS THEN, I GUESS!
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!

Indeed! This is where virtually all of Ming's technology originates!

Perhaps "Prison of Science" would be more fitting!

Half the people of Mongo still think this lost continent is a myth!

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?

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!

Sorry! Classified information! Come along quickly now!
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 WOULDN'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 FENS! LEAVE ZARKOV HERE!

NO! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN!

AND, WHEN ALL HAVE LEFT THE ROOM...

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

DOCTOR ZARKOV—PLEASE ENTER!
Meanwhile, in the imperial palace in Mingo City...

**Clang!**

**Tang!**

**Yisshh!**

**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 capture Flash Gordon! How do you feel?

**Honored, my Emperor! I failed, yet I still live! I am still your Warlord!**

Ah, good! You will now be rewarded! I am taking a unit to Citadel to personally supervise the hunt.

You shall, of course, be there with me—a second chance...

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

THE SHIELDING BETWEEN US PROTECTS YOU! I EMIT A HIGHLY LETHAL RADIATION--THE PRICE OF OPENING THE DOOR TO THE UNKNOWN!

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

THE UNKNOWN?

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!

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!

CITADEL IS MY CITY--AND MY PRISON!
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!

Then...

OHH! My foot!

What are you...

Dale, listen...

With a simple but deft application of shoulder leverage...

WANH! 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?

SORRY, FRIEND, BUT... GREAT TAG!

FLASH! THE GUNS ARE HAVING NO EFFECT!

STOP! YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR--
I've made a deal, Flash! Auralon has agreed to help.

Auralon has isolated a totally self-generating organic energy source in the body itself! It worked—too well!

It creates massive amounts of unstable energy and discharges it as harmful radiation!

I have one chance to save her—bombardment of isotope particles!

Which means I must construct Mongo's first specialized particle accelerator!

Deal? What kind of a deal?

I think we'd better go inside! Auralon is waiting.

But we'll need time, Flash... time we don't have...

...unless we have a way of stopping Ming!

End Part 1
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!
THIS PLACE IS A BRAIN BANK! YOU COULD EASILY HAVE DEVELOPED YOUR OWN ARSENAL!

WE DON'T HATE MING! WE JUST WANT FREEDOM TO WORK! MING SAVED US THAT!

THEIR RAY WEAPONS WILL BE USELESS IN THE ICE FIELDS, AND THEY WILL WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL BEFORE ADVANCING! THE MARATS NEVER COME OUT AT NIGHT! WE MUST STRIKE!

WITH WHAT? SWORDS? WE'RE OUTNUMBERED 5 TO -- HOLD IT!

THAT'S IT!

WHAT'S WHAT?

AURALON, I GET THE IMPRESSION THE MARATS GUN DISRUPT RATHER THAN DESTROY!

YES, THEY CREATE VIOLENT SHOCK TO THE MARATS' EQUILIBRIUM AND NERVOUS SYSTEM!

THE MARATS?

TELL ME, AURALON-- WHAT WILL MING DO WHEN HE REALIZES HE'S BEEN BETRAYED?

OUR WORK HERE IS INVALUABLE TO MING! AND, EXCEPT FOR DR. ZARNOV, I AM THE GREATEST SINGLE MIND ON MONGO!

WHATEVER HE WISHES! KILL ME, PERHAPS... DESTROY CITADEL! BUT I THINK NOT!

I CAME VERY CLOSE TO DISCOVERING PRACTICAL IMMORTALITY ONCE! MING WANTS THAT PRETTY BADLY!
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!

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?

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!
This auxiliary tunnel—An emergency exit?

UH, YES... WELL, THIS IS A DANGEROUS OPERATION!

But of course! You are a man of honor, Dr. Zarkov, and I trust you! I have no choice! I will miss you when you are gone!

Dusk settles like fine silver dust over Citadel, three miles to the south...

Okay! I got the spectrofootage for Comp Records!

All men at ready—and by Tao, hold your cover!

Now!

Skakk!

Shrack!

Screeee!

Sprak!

We've got them on the move!
STATION TWO--THEY ARE APPROACHING YOUR POSITION! WE MUST MOVE THEM WESTERLY A BIT!

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

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!

MEANWHILE...

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

MING--LOOK!

MARATB? 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! DEFORMATION 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...

Dale... It's time! We have to be ready!

No, Zarkov! Flash isn't back... and we just got a report that the Marat swarm is breaking!

We created a good chunk of havoc out there, but the Marats were too spooked!

You did what you could! It seems to have bought enough time... that's what's important!

Dale, we can't wait...

...We must not be found!

Zarkov! Dale!

Flash!

We can't just leave these men to face ming alone!

It's not our fight, Flash! Auralon did this for herself--not us!

Now let's get going! All of us!

Dr. Zarkov, all is ready! Corridors are cleared and Auralon is in the bombardment chamber!

Good! Stand by! I'll need you all to start, but as soon as the prime sequence is locked in, clear out!
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!

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

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

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!
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IF YOU WANT ME, I'LL BE IN MY LAB! I HAVE AN IMMORTALITY PROJECT TO RETURN TO!

SUDDENLY...

BADOOOM!

BAA-DAA-KOOOWW!

RUN!
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!

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!

WHILE SOME DISTANCE FROM CITADEL...

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 FAADING! MAYBE...

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

ZARKOV?

YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GO!

THE END