THE SHARK MEN INVADE...

as a traitor within waits to strike the final blow!
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

A rocket strike base beyond the "Ice" field of Citadel, a hidden city where secret scientific experiments are carried on...

Sure it's pull here! I hope the troops get back soon!

Suddenly... Maybe we can be of service! Does this living things up enough?

PART 1 Wolf in the Fold

Baaa doom!

At least we now have some real weapons, Zarkov! We almost don't need them--these "Hot Ice" crystals tossed near the exhaust vents of the rockets give us all the fire power we need!

Story by: John Warner
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I'm still thankful for the rifles!

If only to keep your thick hide in one piece while you toss those things!

I just hope Ming enjoys the little party favors, Flash!

Heads up, both of you! We've got field boys coming up fast!

Get down to the rocket at the end of the field! And watch out for that hover-fueeler!

The fools won't back off—Even sitting on a tank-load of rocket fuel!

Blast Ming! He wasn't worth all of those men!

They leave us no choice!
WE'RE IN!

ZARKOV, GET ON THE CONTROLS AND LAUNCH! DALE, HOOK ME UP ON THE DOOR HARNESS!

VSSHOOOM!

UH, FLASH, DO YOU MIND IF I PULL YOU BACK IN NOW?

WE DID IT!

YOU, YOUNG LADY, WORRY ABOUT ME TOO MUCH!

ME? I WAS JUST CONCERNED ABOUT THE FRIGHTFUL DRAFT YOU WERE CAUSING!

MING SURE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY TOO HAPPY ABOUT THIS!

NEITHER ARE WE IF MING EVER GETS HIS HANDS ON US AGAIN! SET A COURSE FOR...
"...Arboria!"

Shall we try that city below?

We overshot a little to the southwest, Flash! We'll have to swing north for the capital!

I don't think we're going to have much choice, Zarkov--we have an escort!

Strike fighters! They think we're one of Ming's ships!

We are one of Ming's ships, blast it--which means these radio channels are on frequencies for Ming city--not Arboria!

Maybe we can outmaneuver them in the city below!

No can do! This city is domed under a force field! I almost failed to register it!

They're forcing us to land!

Be thankful for small favors! They're letting us land in one piece!
HOLD YOUR FIRE—BARIN!

GREAT TAO! IT'S FLASH GORDON!

THEN, SUDDENLY, LIKE A RIPPLE, EMOTIONAL SHOUTS PASS THROUGH THE RANKS.

ALL HAIL FLASH GORDON, THE LIBERATOR! NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

I'M THANKFUL THAT OUR PILOTS SHOWED AS MUCH RESERVE AS THEY DID!

WE'RE ALL A BIT JUMPY THESE DAYS!

NOTICE, BARIN... ESPECIALLY THE FORCE FIELD!

WE'VE HAD A RASH OF BOMBINGS LATELY. "SABOTAGE"—WHICH MEANS THERE ARE TRAITORS AMONG MY OWN PEOPLE!

ALL THIS HAS CRIPPLED MY PEOPLE'S MORALE! THE FORCE FIELD WAS ERECTED TO PROTECT US FROM MING!

BUT HOW DO MY PEOPLE PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS?
BUT WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

"IT'S A LONG STORY, FLASH! AS YOU KNOW, MING WAS EXILED AND I RULED..."

"BUT, NOW THAT THEY WERE FINALLY FREE OF MING'S TYRANNY, EVERY SMALL KINGDOM WANTED TO BE SELF-ASSERTIVE..."

"THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE, BUT MOST OF THEM KNEW NOTHING ABOUT RUNNING A STATE! THINGS DESCENDED INTO CHAOS AND MANY BORDER SKIRMISHES..."

"MING, MEANWHILE, HAD TAKEN REFUGE ON THE LOST CONTINENT! HE MADE CONTACT WITH THE IMPERIAL ARMY AND CERTAIN SYMPATHETIC KINGDOMS AND BEGAN A SERIES OF SECRET NEGOTIATIONS..."

"THE ARMY WANTED ORDER--AT ANY PRICE! MING GAVE IT TO THEM..."
"WE ESCAPED BACK TO ARBORIA! THERE WAS A BRUTAL WAR, BUT WE HELD OUR OWN, DESPITE LOSING MUCH OF OUR SEA POWER TO THE SUPERIOR SHARK Fleets ALLIED WITH MING..."

THE OLD CAPITAL IS NOW A HEAVILY FORTIFIED MILITARY BASE! I RELOCATED TO THIS CITY TO PROTECT AURA AND OUR SON!

IN FACT, WE RENAMED THIS CITY ALANIA!

"AND HOW IS MY GODSON, ALAN, DOING?"

HAHHH!

DOING QUITE WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE! FERRO, ALAN'S TUTOR, IS NOT ONLY AN ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLAR, BUT MY FINEST FENCER!

YOU HONOR ME, MY KING!

BUT ENOUGH - YOU THREE NEED REST!

THE REST I WISH FOR IS ALAN BEING ABLE TO GROW UP IN A WORLD NOT TERRORIZED BY MING THE MERCILESS!
LATER, SOMEWHERE UNDER THE CITY...

YOU'VE COME AT LAST! WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT FLASH GORDON—BARIN IS CALLING A BANQUET?

NEVER MIND FLASH GORDON, SHARK MAN! WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM LATER!

BUT WHAT IF HE DISCOVERS—

HE WON'T, SO LONG AS WE KEEP STRICTLY TO MING'S PLAN!

IT IS ONLY BARIN WHOM MING WANTS ASSASSINATED!

FLASH GORDON HE WANTS ALIVE! FLASH WILL BE TRAPPED WHEN THE CITY FALLS!

I DON'T LIKE IT... PERHAPS IF WE GRABBED THE BOY—

WHAT? I WARN YOU, IF YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH YOUNG ALAN, FLASH GORDON WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR CONCERNS!

YOU'RE A GOOD SPY AND A GOOD SOLDIER, FERRO! BUT YOU'RE GETTING SOFT! YOU'RE BEGINNING TO FEEL!

ONE LAST WARNING—FOLLOW ORDERS!
EVENING! THE ROYAL PALACE FILLS WITH LIGHT AND THE SOUNDS OF CELEBRATION...

FLASH, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS! IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS!

BEHOLD, FLASH GORDON -- WHILE YOU SLEPT, MY PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER TO PAY YOU YOUR DUE HOMAGE!

COME ON, FLASH! STOP LOOKING SO GRIM!

I'M SORRY, DALE! I KNOW I'M BEING RUDE AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE BARIN HAS GONE TO! I CAN'T HELP IT!
I just can't get Ming out of my mind! Petty sabotage isn't his style—there's got to be more to it!

In fact, I have Zarkov working on it down at the lab complex!

I thought you said he was coming right down!

Ming can wait a day. I will not let you and Zarkov work yourselves into a fit!

I love Flash, but I wish I could get him to relax--for his own good! Zarkov, too!

Wait! I thought I just heard--

Umph! One of the performers--but there's no one else around! They're all inside!

Looks like I'll just have to help myself!

Ahhhh! Blasted human!
YOU NEEDN'T HAVE STRUCK HER THAT SAVAGELY!

WAAK!

BACK OFF, FERRO! YOU'RE OUR CONTACT, BUT I'M GETTING TIRED OF YOUR MEDDLING!

THE SHARK MEN HAVE MADE THIS INVASION POSSIBLE!

HIS FACE—UHNN!

NOW, WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE SCATTERED A FEW MORE OF THESE DETONATORS AROUND!

THEM'RE ABOUT TO...

"...GO OFF!!"

DAK-KOOM!

WHAT WAS THAT?

BY THE GREAT TAO -- EXPLOSIONS!

BA-DOOM!

END PART 2
FLASH GORDON

PART 2 WOLF in the FOLD

IN THE NEXT MOMENTS, MEN AND EQUIPMENT ARE RUSHED TO THE SEVERAL DISASTER SITES...

KING BARIN IS SUMMONED BY HIS CHIEF MILITARY ATTACHE...

SABOTAGE AGAIN?

WE'RE RUNNING TESTS NOW, BUT ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO PLANTED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES! VERY SMALL -- BUT VERY POWERFUL!

BUT WHO? NO ONE CAN INFLICT THE FORCE FIELD! IT MUST BE SOMEONE INSIDE!

YOU MEAN AN ARBORIAN WHO IS SYMPATHETIC TO MING? THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY!

I AGREE, FLASH GORDON! WHO IN ALL OF ALANIA WOULD WISH TO BRING ABOUT THE TRAGEDY WHICH I BEAR?
I found this in the debris scattered by the explosion!

Dale's scarf! Aura gave it to her just this afternoon...burned!

Found in the debris, you say?

And no sign of Dale?

Then someone must have abducted her!

And if any harm comes to her, I'll...

Flash!

I rushed over as soon as I could! I've got important data back at the lab complex!

Soon, in the lab complex...

I was investigating some of your work here when I stumbled on this elaborate seismographic data central!

We set up this monitor system to let us know if the force field stresses were getting too great!
That's just it! You were only looking for the big problems!

Beginning a month ago, several very concentrated disturbances in the crust began occurring at intervals!

Never enough to cause much concern, but the last occurred just before those explosions!

Barin, I propose that if one wants to get past a force field, one would tunnel under it!

While, somewhere below Alania...

So that's it—shark men! I'd forgotten how vicious they were!

I'm tied to one of the steam-pipe-lines used to maintain proper humidity!

You were a fool to bring her here! There was no reason...

Yes, there was!

Ming will reward me handsomely for her! A fine bonus atop what he has already promised for Barin's death!
BACK IN THE LAB COMPLEX...

THERE -- I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING -- THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'VE MAPPED OUT ALL THE SITES OF THE RECENT SABOTAGE AND THEY NEARLY FORM A CIRCLE WITH ITS CENTER IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT!

GREAT TAO! I JUST REALIZED WHAT'S AT THAT CENTER...

...ALANIA'S POWER PLANT!

IF IT WERE SABOTAGED, THE FORCE FIELD WOULD HAVE TO BE DROPPED! BUT ONLY AN ARMY COULD GET THROUGH...

IT'S LUCKY FOR ME SHARK MEN DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY!

THE STEAM PIPE CAUSED MY WRISTS TO SWEAT AND THE ROPES TO STRETCH!

...AND IT'S GOOD I KNOW WHERE SHARK MEN ARE VULNERABLE!

THOKK!
ALL HUMANS WILL STEP BACK FROM THEIR STATIONS... HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM!

YOU ARE...

...SURROUNDED!

SHARK MEN!

WHAT DO THEY WANT?

WE WANT TO DESTROY THIS POWER PLANT FACILITY--AND THUS YOU--IN THE NAME OF MING THE MERCILESS!

YOU WILL PARDON US IF WE DECLINE YOUR OFFER!

KEEP THE SHARKS PINNED DOWN AND GET THE WORKERS OUT OF HERE!

OUT OF HERE, NOTHING! WE'RE HELPING!

HA! THINGS WERE GETTING TOO DULL AROUND HERE ANYWAY!

KK-ZAPP!
THERE'S THE SHARK CAPTAIN—JUST THE ONE I WANT!

FOLLOWING THE SHARK MAN DEEP UNDER THE POWER PLANT...

FER--... AHHH!

FLASH, WHAT IS IT? WE SAW YOU HEAD DOWN HERE!

ONE OF THE SHARKS' HYDRAULIC TUBES—LEADING, NO DOUBT, TO THEIR UNDERSEA NEST!

MEANWHILE, DOWN INSIDE THE NEST...

THE HUMAN HAS BROKEN FREE--EE--E!

THANKS, SHARK MAN! BUT I THINK THEY ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT!
Uh-oh! They're pressing the battle much too close to use my blaster effectively!

Uhh! Too many of them!

Suddenly... Flash!
Dale, are you all right?

I am now—but I don't know how much longer I could have held out, Flash!

Well, I don't think it's polite of these guys to have their own party and not invite us!

Yes! Shark men were never much on manners!

Flash, I'm so happy we're together again!
THE OPERATION HAS FAILED... INITIATE FLOODING SEQUENCES!

WE DIDN'T STORM THE CITY SOON ENOUGH!

WELL, WE'LL LEAVE FLASH GORDON SOMETHING TO REMEMBER US BY!

AND, IN THE UPPER LEVELS...

LOOK OUT!

VOODOOSH

THE SHARK MEN THINK THEY HAVE US, BUT WE CAME PREPARED!

I'VE GOT TO FIND THEIR ESCAPE ROUTE AND STOP THEM!

CAPTAIN, GET DALE AND ZARKOV UP TO THE SURFACE! I'M GOING TO FIND THE ROUTE DOWN!

FLASH, WAIT! I'M GOING WITH YOU!
COME BACK! IT'S NO USE--SHE'S MADE UP HER MIND! AND IT WON'T HELP TO SEND ANYMORE DOWN! LET'S GO!

FLASH DESCENDS DOWN THE DARK, VERTICAL BAY TUBES, COMING OUT AT LAST JUST BELOW ARBORIA'S GREAT CONTINENTAL SHELF...

TOO LATE! THE SHARK ARMADA HAS ABANDONED STATIONS AND IS HEADING OUT TO SEA!

THEY'LL CONNECT SOMEWHERE WITH MING, NO DOUBT!

LET THEM GO! NOW THAT WE KNOW ABOUT THESE TUBES...

...THEY CAN'T USE THEM TO INVADE!
THE ONE THING ALANIA WILL GET OUT OF THIS IS THE BEST UNDERSEA DEFENSE SYSTEM POSSIBLE...

...COURTESY OF THE SHARK MEN!

NEXT DAY, IN ONE OF THE COURT GARDENS WITHIN THE ROYAL PALACE...

I PUT MING'S PLAN TOGETHER FROM WHAT THE PRISONERS TOLD US!

SIMPLY, THE SHARK PEOPLE WERE TO COVERTLY CREATE HAVOC!

THIS WAS TO DIVERT US WHILE THEY PREPARED THEIR ATTACK ON THE POWER PLANT!

ALL THIS WAS, OF COURSE, TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR MING!

BUT THE PRISONERS CLAIM THERE WAS AN ACTUAL CONTACT HERE IN ALANIA! THEY WERE NOT TOLD WHO!

FERRO--YOU? WHY-?

GAKKK!
YOU'VE FAILED! BARIN'S ASSASSINATION MEANS NOTHING IF THERE'S NO INVASION FORCE TO STORM THE CITY!

MING IS AMBITIOUS, BUT HE KNOWS THE VALUE OF WAITING FOR WHAT HE WANTS!

HE WAITS FOR YOUNG ALAN, TOO!... WILL YOU GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS?

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL GIVE HIM A PRINCE AND A WARRIOR! I CAN DO NO MORE!

HE WANTS A MACHINE TO CARRY ON HIS TYRANNY! WILL YOU--

GUARDS!

MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S LUCKY YOU SPOTTED HIM, FERRO! GUARDS, I WANT ALL THESE GROUNDS PATROLLED -- THERE MAY BE MORE!

EXCUSE ME! I HAVE ALAN'S NEW STUDIES TO PREPARE!

AT LEAST I KNOW ALAN WILL ALWAYS BE SAFE -- WITH FERRO!

NONE OF THEM SUSPECT-- NOT EVEN FLASH GORDON! AND WHEN THEY FINALLY WAKE UP IT WILL BE...

...TOO LATE!