Flash can’t resist fighting his way into Ming’s trap!
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

The CORONATION of MING the MERCILESS

MINGO CITY--THE LARGEST CITY ON MONGO, HELD TIGHT IN THE IRON GRASP OF MING THE MERCILESS! TODAY IT IS A CITY OF CELEBRATION, BY ROYAL DECREE...

BUT SOON IT MAY BECOME THE BACKGROUND TO A GRAND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MING AND THE EARTHMAN SWORN TO END MING'S TYRANNY--FLASH GORDON!

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HEAR ONE! HEAR ALL! LET REVELRY FILL THE STREETS!

OUR TRUE EMPEROR SHALL BE SO RECOGNIZED IN THE RITE OF CORONATION!
ALL HAS BEEN PREPARED! THERE WILL BE A WEEK OF CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF YOUR CORONATION!

MOST SPECIFICALLY, WORD MUST REACH FLASH GORDON!

GOOD! SEE TO IT THAT WORD OF IT REACHES ALL THE KINGDOM!

HE WILL COME--I AM SURE OF IT! WE WILL HAVE AN EXECUTION AS WELL AS A CORONATION!

AND EVEN AS THEY SPEAK, WORD HAS ALREADY REACHED ALANIA--AND THIS, FLASH GORDON...

FLASH, IT WOULD BE SUICIDE FOR ANY OF US TO SET FOOT IN MINGO CITY! IT'S JUST TOO RISKY!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT! I GUESS I'M JUST OVERANXIOUS!

DON'T GO, FLASH! IT'S CRAZY!

BUT WE MAY NEVER HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS AGAIN!

BUT, THAT NIGHT...

I HATE TO SNEAK OFF LIKE THIS, BUT IT'S BETTER IF I GO ALONE!

THE HEADS OF ALL THE KINGDOMS WILL BE THERE! THEY MUST LEARN THAT FLASH GORDON IS BACK!
THE NEXT MORNING...

FLASH HAS GONE TO MINGO CITY! THAT THICK-HEADED-- IF I DIDN'T LOVE HIM--

But he knows I would have gone with him!

And, at that moment, a lone "CAVALIER" rides into MINGO CITY.

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I WAS ABLE TO DO SOME WHEELING-DEALING WITH A BAND OF ROVERS HEADING THIS WAY!

WHATEVER, I'M IN! GETTING BACK OUT WILL BE THE HARD PART!

HMM... THOSE LOOK LIKE THE PAVILIONS WHERE THE IMPERIAL "GUESTS" ARE CAMPED OUT!
KEEPING THEIR VOICES SOFT, FLASH GORDON, RONAL AND QUEEN FRIA DISCUSS WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST TIME THEY SAW EACH OTHER...

AT LEAST I KNOW MY COUSIN, KING BARIN, IS ALL RIGHT!

WE'VE BEEN SO ISOLATED UP IN FRIGIA SINCE MING RETURNED!

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE -- TO RALLY SUPPORT AGAINST MING!

SOME OF THE NEWER LEADERS PREFER GIVING IN TO MING RATHER THAN FACE THE PROSPECT OF WAR!

BE CAREFUL, FLASH! THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN AWAY!

I DON'T WANT A WAR, FRIA--JUST A COUP! I WANT MING BACK IN EXILE!
TO THOSE WHO KNEW HIM BEFORE, HE
REVEALS HIMSELF! TO THOSE HE DOESN'T
KNOW, HE CLAIMS TO SPEAK FOR FLASH
GORDON WHO HAS "RETURNED TO
RELIEVE MONGO--SOON!"

IN HIS GUISE AS CAVALIER, FLASH GORDON
SLIPS FROM PAVILION TO PAVILION TO PAVILION...

MANY REACTIONS ARE SUPPORTIVE, BUT
CAUTIONS. SOME, THOUGHT, ARE
UNEXPECTEDLY HOSTILE...

ALL IN ALL, IT COULD HAVE BEEN
WORSE! NO ONE WAS WILLING TO
TALK HERE--UNDER MING'S NOSE!

BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING THE
REACTION I GOT FROM THE
HAWKMEN'S NEW LEADER! I
JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T--

THERE HE IS!

WHAA--?

FLASH GORDON, YOU
ARE UNDER ARREST.
I'M SORRY. YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN!
THERE'S NO FLASH GORDON HERE...

...OR, AT LEAST THERE WON'T BE IN A MINUTE!

LUCKILY, THEY DON'T DARE USE THEIR RAY GUNS WITH SO MANY PEOPLE IN HERE!

STILL A QUICK EXIT WOULD BE TO MY ADVANTAGE!

STOP THAT MAN! STOP HIM!

IF I CAN JUST LOSE THEM IN THE CONFUSION OF THE STREET REVELRY...
But as Flash heads down the street...

Uh-oh! Backups are waiting on rocketcycles! They want me pretty bad!

I think I have a plan! Let's just hope Ming's lackeys are as predictable as usual!

That passage comes out on the other side! You stay here, we'll circle around!

But when they reach the other side...

They never expected this direct an ambush—which gives me a split second to get the jump on them!

Whoa! That was close! And it looks as if...

...they're getting less gun-shy!
I GUESS THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP MY RAY GUN CONCEALED! BE¬
SIDES, I HAVE A GOOD USE FOR IT!

THAT WON'T STOP THEM, BUT IT WILL CERTAINLY SLOW THEM DOWN!

SOON...

THIS IS AN OLD PLACE—PROBABLY DATES BACK TO MING'S FATHER!

GOOD! THEY LOST MY TRAIL! NOW, IF I CAN FIND SOME ROUTE TO SNEAK BACK INTO THE CITY—-

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THIS? IT'S SOME KIND OF OPENING, BUT IT'S NOT PART OF THE BUILDING!
FLASH USES HIS RAY GUN TO MAKE A TORCH...

WELL, I'LL BE! I'LL BET THIS IS A PART OF THE OLD FREEMAN NETWORK OF CAVES!

THEY WERE USED TO SMUGGLE POLITICAL PRISONERS OUT OF MING'S JAILS!

EH? DID I HEAR SOMETHING?

THAT YOU MOST CERTAINLY DID!

I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO IS TRESPASSING—AND WHETHER HE SERVES OUR EMPEROR, MING!

COME DOWN, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW A FREE MAN FIGHTS!

HO! HO! WITH PLEASURE!
I will admit you have quite a bit of skill! Who are you, free man?

Yes, I am! Are you—a friend?

My name is—oops!

Could you possibly be—Flash Gordon?

Friend, indeed! We have waited and hoped for a long time! I, Korlo, welcome you!

Meanwhile, in Alania...

Dale, I've got something on that Mingocity channel I was able to patch in!

...Flash Gordon is now my prisoner! His execution shall take place in the Public Dome immediately following my coronation!

It sounds like Ming!
FLASH GORDON ON THE PLANET MONGO

The Coronation of Ming the Merciless

Part 2

Coronation Week -- Third Day! As the streets continue to fill with throngs of celebrating people...

Look! The radio reports are true!

Ming the Merciless has captured Flash Gordon!

...Ming basks in splendor from his observation gallery! But today, there is another on that balcony as well!
TWO PEOPLE IN THE GATHERED CROWD ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED...

THEN MING ISN'T BLUFFING, ZARKOV! HE REALLY DOES HAVE FLASH!

WE HAVE TO GET INTO THAT PALACE, DALE!

I DON'T LIKE IT--GETTING IN HAS BEEN TOO EASY! IT'S AS IF MING WERE SETTING A TRAP!

WHY SHOULD HE BOTHER? HE HAS ALREADY CAPTURED FLASH!

MAYBE WE SHOULD SNEAK OVER TO THE PAVILIONS AND SEE IF WE CAN MAKE CONTACT WITH RONAL AND PRIA!

NO! SEE ALL THOSE IMPERIAL TROOPS THAT JUST "HAPPEN" TO BE WANDERING AROUND?

THAT IS THE ONE THING MING EXPECTS US TO DO! LET'S STICK TO OUR PLAN!
WHAT HE WON'T EXPECT IS FOR US TO COME TO HIM—I HOPE!

WELL, HERE COME THE GUARDS!

AND HERE GO A COUPLE OF IMPERIAL GUARDS!

MMPH...

SHORTLY...

DON'T WORRY, FLASH! WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE GUARDS DISCOVER US!

I'M GLAD TO SAY MING'S SECURITY ISN'T ALL IT SHOULD BE!

FLASH! WE FOUND HIM!

HA HA HA! FOOLS! DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE THIS EASY?

COME! MING IS WAITING!

I GUESS THE GUARD IS GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE CELEBRATION!
AND, SOMEWHERE BELOW MINGOCITY...

SO WE ARE THE NEW FREE-MEN, I SUPPOSE! WE LIVE DOWN IN THESE CAVES AND HAVE CREATED NEW ONES!

ARE YOU ALL FROM MINGOCITY?

MOSTLY! A FEW OF US ARE DESERT TRIBEMEN! GOOD MEN, BUT THEIR STAKE IS "ADVENTURE!"

THE DESERT TRIBES LIKE US--OUR CAVES COME OUT IN THEIR TERRITORY, BUT...

...THEY WON'T INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN POLITICS.

WELL, I'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND PUT AN END TO THIS RUMOR THAT MING...

KORLO, WE JUST PICKED UP A MESSAGE! MING HAS CAPTURED ZARKO AND DALE! HE DEMANDS FLASH'S SURRENDER.

THIS TIME MING ISN'T BLUFFING.
THAT BLASTED LITTLE PIG EMPEROR! BY TAO, THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!
FLASH--WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO CHARGING IN BLINDLY!

OH, NO! JUST WATCH ME!
LISTEN! YOU'LL JUST BE CAPTURED--OR WORSE! DON'T YOU SEE, WE NEED A PLAN!

MEANWHILE...
WELCOME TO MY PALACE, DALE ARDEN ... YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS GUARANTEED TO FLUSH OUT FLASH GORDON!

WITH YOU MY PRISONER, IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME!

CHARMING! YOU STILL HAVE SPIRIT! BY THE WAY, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY...

YOU'LL FLUSH HIM OUT, ALL RIGHT--HE'LL BRING THIS PALACE DOWN AROUND YOUR HEAD!

...YOU WILL LIVE--AS MY EMPRESS! ONLY ZARKOV WILL BE EXECUTED TOMORROW!
SHORTLY IN THE LOWER CELL CHAMBER...

HA HA! I HEARD ABOUT HIM! HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOME SORT OF BIG BRAIN!

ATTEN-HUT! HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY!

WELL, IS THIS THE GREAT DR. ZARKOV, MONGO'S FOREMOST SCIENTIST?

AND MING'S FOREMOST ENEMY—AFTER FLASH GORDON!

AFTER TOMORROW I SHALL BE RID OF ONE FOREMOST ENEMY!

BUT FLASH IS STILL FREE! AND THAT HAS YOU SCARED TO DEATH, DOESN'T IT?

I AM MING! I AM THE FORCE AND THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD! I FEAR NO MAN—NO THING!

GOOD DAY, ZARKOV! IT WILL BE YOUR LAST!
ALL THE WHILE, FLASH AND KORLO ARE HARD AT WORK...

IT'S NO GOOD! YOUR IDEAS ARE SOUND, BUT WE ALWAYS END UP WITH TOO MANY CASUALTIES!

I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY! WE HAVE TO SET DALE AND ZARKOV FREE!

AREN'T THERE ANY TUNNELS THAT GO TO THE PUBLIC DOME?

NO! IN FACT, THEY EXCAVATED TO BUILD IT! AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DIG ONE!

BLAST! THE DOME ITSELF PREVENTS BOTH OVERHEAD AND LONG-DISTANCE ASSAULT!

IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET TO THEM IS SURRENDER!

WAIT A MINUTE...

OH, THREE DOZEN MEN, MAYBE! GUNS, DEFINITELY! WHAT--?

...THAT'S IT! KORLO, HOW MANY MEN AND GUNS CAN YOU RAISE?

I HAVE A PLAN!
Coronation Week—Fourth Day! This is the main event! In this ceremony, adapted from old Mongo tradition, Mingo has reasserted his despotic authority as "Serpent of the Sun, Viper of the Moon"...

Crowds gather as they have all week! But, unlike before, they are quiet, almost ceremonious! Some out of awe, some out of respect—many out of fear...

And now that my rulership has been properly consecrated...

...Let the execution of Zarkov, enemy of the state, commence!
NO! STOP! RELEASE HIM AS YOU PROMISED!

I HAVE COME TO SURRENDER! I KNOW YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING ME!

FLASH GORDON! YOU FOOL, I WILL DO ANYTHING I PLEASE, WHEN I PLEASE!

AND IT PLEASES ME TO KILL YOU ON THE SPOT FOR YOUR INSOLENCE!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS!

WHAT?!

IF YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO FIGURE IT OUT, THE TWO RAISED ARMS ARE FAKE! SO WAS MY SURRENDER!

YOU'RE MAD! YOU'VE WON NOTHING!

OH, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THEM WITH ENOUGH OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS!

ANYTIME YOU ARE READY, FLASH!

GUARDS!
DALE, JOIN KORLO! YOU!
GET ZARKOV FREE, AND
MAKE IT SNAPPY!

KORLO, TAKE THEM AND
GET YOUR PEOPLE OUT
OF HERE!

WHAT?! WE CAN'T
LEAVE YOU
HERE
ALONE!

KORLO, I SAID
THERE WOULDN'T
BE ANY
CASUALTIES
AMONG YOUR
PEOPLE! I MEAN
IT--
GO!

YOU'RE A FOOL,
GORDON! A
DEAD FOOL!

YES, I AM-- FOR NOT KILLING
YOU! BUT SOMEHOW I CAN'T
GET MYSELF TO DO IT...

...BUT I
OWE YOU THIS--
AT LEAST!

EVERYONE'S TOO CONFUSED
TO DO MUCH! AND THE
GUARDS ARE HESITANT
ABOUT FIRING
INTO THE CROWD!

STOP
HIM!
Shortly, underground...

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

OH, YOU KNOW! Ming and I had a lot of great old times to talk about!

IN FACT, WE HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME HE SENT SOME OF HIS BOYS TO FETCH ME BACK!

TOO BAD I HAVE TO DISAPPOINT THEM, BUT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SHOW YOU SOME OF OUR EXPLOSIVES!

LOOK OUT!

KA-BOOM!

NOT BAD--BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

DON'T WORRY! WE SENT WORD TO THE DESERT TRIBES LAST NIGHT!

LET'S HOPE THEY GOT WORD TO KING BARIN! HE SHOULD BE WAITING!

HE WILL--IF THE DESERT TRIBES DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE TOO "POLITICAL"!
But much later...

We are honored to aid the great hero, Flash Gordon!

Thank heaven, it's over!

Well, now we can get back to Alania! We...

No, Barin! I appreciate all you've done, but we have work to do!

I made important contact with heads of certain kingdoms! We've got to maintain that contact, to rally support!

I understand! Please, take one of my rockets to continue your journey!

Thank you, Barin... and Korlo! Without people like you, the fight would indeed be hopeless!

I pray the great Tao watches over them! Ming's anger will be boundless!

And so is their courage! I'll wager the odds are stacked in their favor!

The end.