

THE FABULOUS **F.F.** ARE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, DURING...

THE RETURN OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

SO YA
FINALLY
PICKED A
MONIKER
FOR THE
KID, HUH?

WELL, HOW'S
ABOUT 'CLUIN'
A FELLA IN?

WE'VE DECIDED
TO CALL HIM
FRANKLIN...
AFTER HIS **GRAND-
FATHER!**

**FRANKLIN
B. RICHARDS**
WELL, IT'S
BETTER THAN
**MATCH-HEAD...
OR STRETCHO!**

DAD WOULD
HAVE BEEN
SO PROUD!
...IF ONLY
HE WERE
**ALIVE, TO BE
HERE!**

WHY DO
YOU NOT
PICK HIM
UP, BEN?

SEE HOW
HE REACHES
OUT TO YOU!

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

INKING!
JOE SINNOTT

LETTERING:
SAM ROSEN

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AWW, I AIN'T MUCH FOR KIDDIN' AROUND WITH KIDS!

SOMETHING WRONG, BEN? YOU SOUND KINDA DISAPPOINTED!

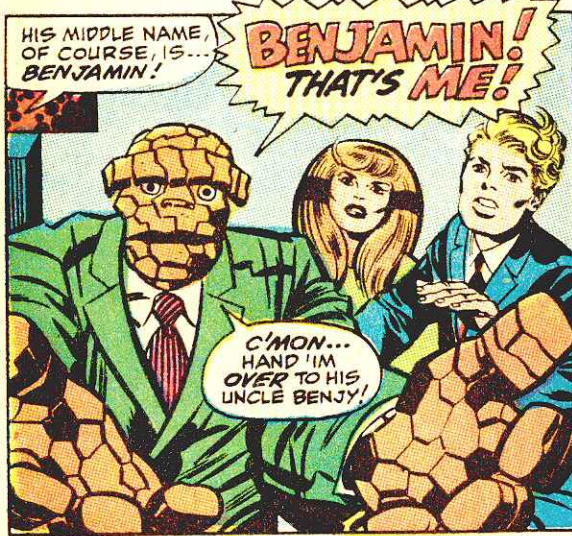
HECK NO! WHAT'S TA BE WRONG?



SO YA FINALLY NAMED THE KID! SO OKAY! YA WANT I SHOULD HAND OUT MEDALS?

BY THE WAY, SUE... DID YOU MENTION WHAT HIS MIDDLE INITIAL STANDS FOR?

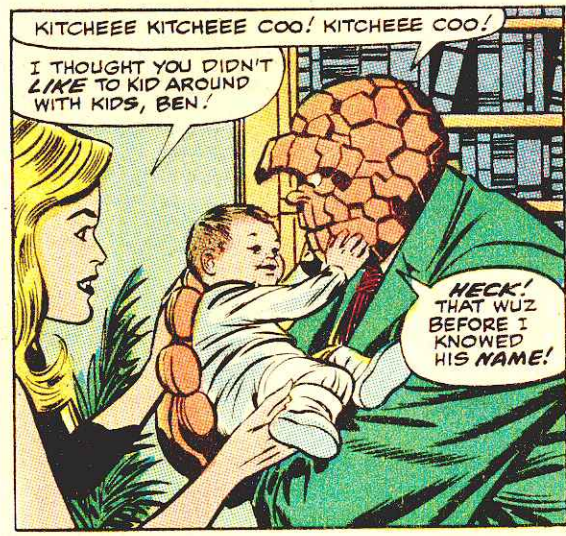
HOW SILLY OF ME! IT MUST HAVE SLIPPED MY MIND!



HIS MIDDLE NAME, OF COURSE, IS... BENJAMIN!

BENJAMIN!
THAT'S ME!

C'MON... HAND 'IM OVER TO HIS UNCLE BENJY!



KITCHEEE KITCHEEE COO! KITCHEEE COO!

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE TO KID AROUND WITH KIDS, BEN!

HECK! THAT WUZ BEFORE I KNOWED HIS NAME!



NOBODY... EVER NAMED **NOTHIN'**... AFTER ME BEFORE!

NOW... ALL OF A SUDDEN... I FEEL LIKE PART OF... A FAMILY... 'STEAD OF A FREAK SHOW!



BUT NOW, IT'S TIME TO TAKE HIM UP-STATE... WHERE WE'VE ENGAGED A **CHILD-REARING SPECIALIST** TO LOOK AFTER HIM!

WHO NEEDS SOME CRUMMY SPECIALIST? WHAT'SAMATTER WITH US?

UNTIL WE GIVE UP OUR LIVES OF DANGER, BEN... THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL BE SAFER ELSEWHERE!

AND, SPEAKING OF DANGER...

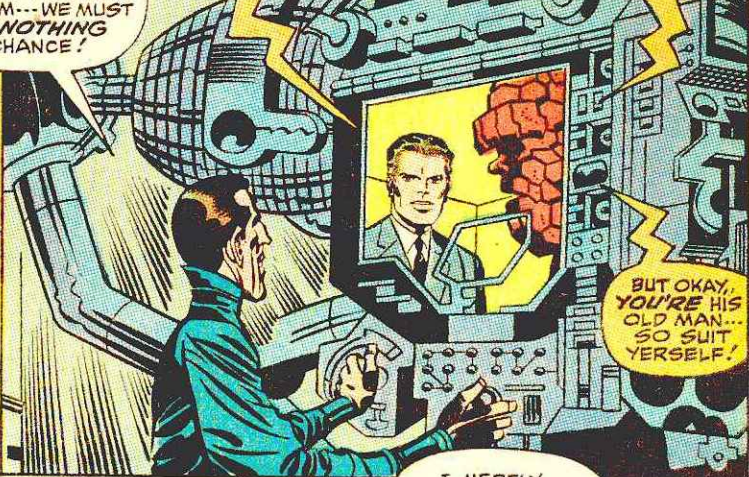
SO! YA FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO MONITOR THE FF, HUH, WIZ?

YES! WHEN THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR NEXT STRIKE AT THEM... WE MUST LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE!

NO ONE WOULD THINK TO LOOK FOR THE CHILD IN SUCH A LONELY SPOT!

NUTS! I STILL THINK THE KID WOULD BE SAFER WITH US!

BUT OKAY, YOU'RE HIS OLD MAN... SO SUIT YERSELF!



HEY! YOU AIN'T FIGURIN' ON GOIN' AFTER THE KID, ARE YA?

I'M NO PERCY PUREHEART... BUT FIGHTIN' INFANTS AIN'T MY LINE!

FOOL! IT ISN'T THE CHILD I'M AFTER...

I MERELY SEEK REVENGE... REVENGE ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN ANY WAY I CAN GET IT!



AND YOU, SANDMAN... YOU WILL NOT QUESTION... FOR IT WAS I WHO GAVE BACK YOUR POWER AFTER YOUR BATTLE WITH THE HULK HAD TURNED YOUR LIMBS TO GLASS!*

AND NOW, I SEE THAT THE TRAPSTER HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS MISSION!

IT WAS A BREEZE, WIZ! SOON AS SHE HEARD WE WERE GONNA TACKLE THE FF, MEDUSA CAME A'RUNNIN'!

THEN THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR SHALL FIGHT AGAIN!



* WE WOULDN'T KID YOU! IT WAS IN HULK #114! ... STAN.



MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY HOUSE, ATOP A LONELY HILL...

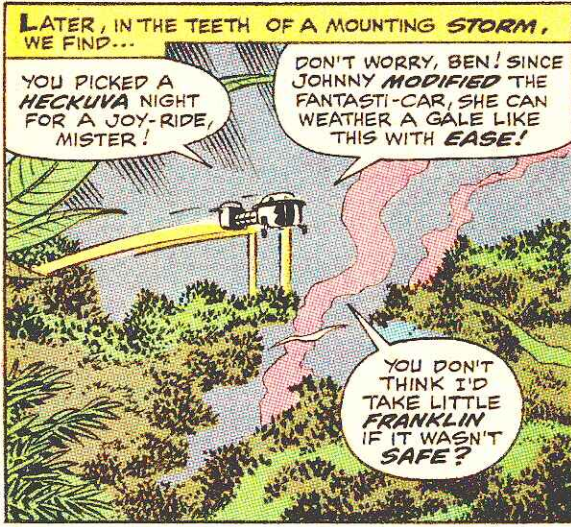
PATIENCE, EBONY... PATIENCE! THEY WILL BE HERE SOON!



ALTHOUGH I HAVE LIVED IN RETIREMENT FOR YEARS...

I COULD NOT SAY NO TO MY NEWEST CHARGE... WHEN I LEARNED THE IDENTITY OF HIS PARENTS!

I THINK WE ARE DUE FOR SOME INTERESTING MOMENTS, MY PET!



LATER, IN THE TEETH OF A MOUNTING STORM, WE FIND...

YOU PICKED A HECKUVA NIGHT FOR A JOY-RIDE, MISTER!

DON'T WORRY, BEN! SINCE JOHNNY MODIFIED THE FANTASTI-CAR, SHE CAN WEATHER A GALE LIKE THIS WITH EASE!

YOU DON'T THINK I'D TAKE LITTLE FRANKLIN IF IT WASN'T SAFE?



I THOUGHT YOU WUZ GONNA CALL HIM BENJY, AFTER MY FAVORITE... HEY!! NOW WHAT?

JUST AN UP-DRAFT, OLD FRIEND! WE'RE OKAY!

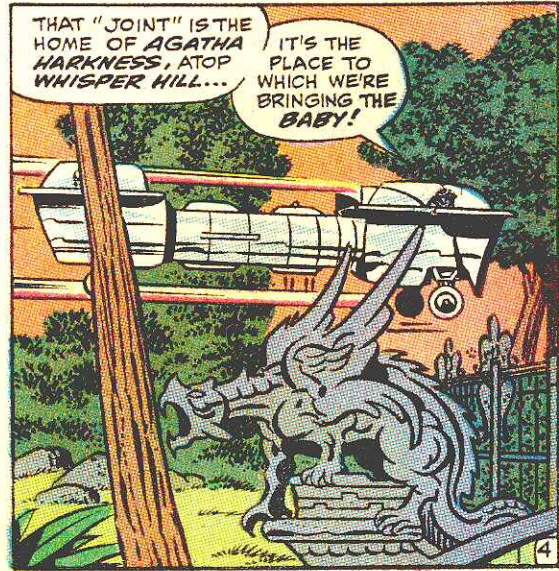


ANYWAY, FOR A MAN WHO WAS ONE OF THE TOP FIGHTER PILOTS OF WORLD WAR TWO, YOU'RE MIGHTY JITTERY THESE DAYS!

ME? I AIN'T GOT A JITTERY BONE IN MY WHOLE, LOVEABLE LITTLE BODY!

I'M JUST PLAIN SCARED!

HEY! UP ON THAT HILL... THAT JOINT LOOKS LIKE DRACULA'S DREAM HOUSE!



THAT "JOINT" IS THE HOME OF AGATHA HARKNESS, ATOP WHISPER HILL...

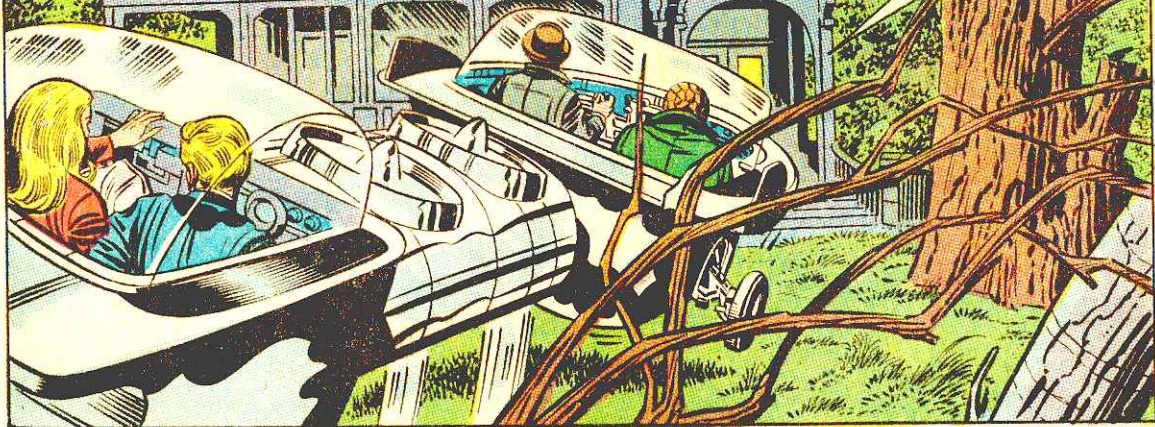
IT'S THE PLACE TO WHICH WE'RE BRINGING THE BABY!

GOSH, SIS... WHEN REED SAID NOBODY WOULD BE APT TO FIND THIS PLACE, HE SURE WASN'T KIDDING!

IT'S JUST WHAT WE WANTED, JOHNNY... IT'S SECLUDED, SERENE, AND I PRAY THAT IT'S SAFE!

DON'T JUDGE A PLACE BY ITS LOOKS, BEN; MISS HARKNESS HAPPENS TO HAVE A WORLD-FAMOUS REPUTATION!

YEAH? FOR WHAT? BEIN' THE TOP GRAVEYARD MANAGER OF THE YEAR?



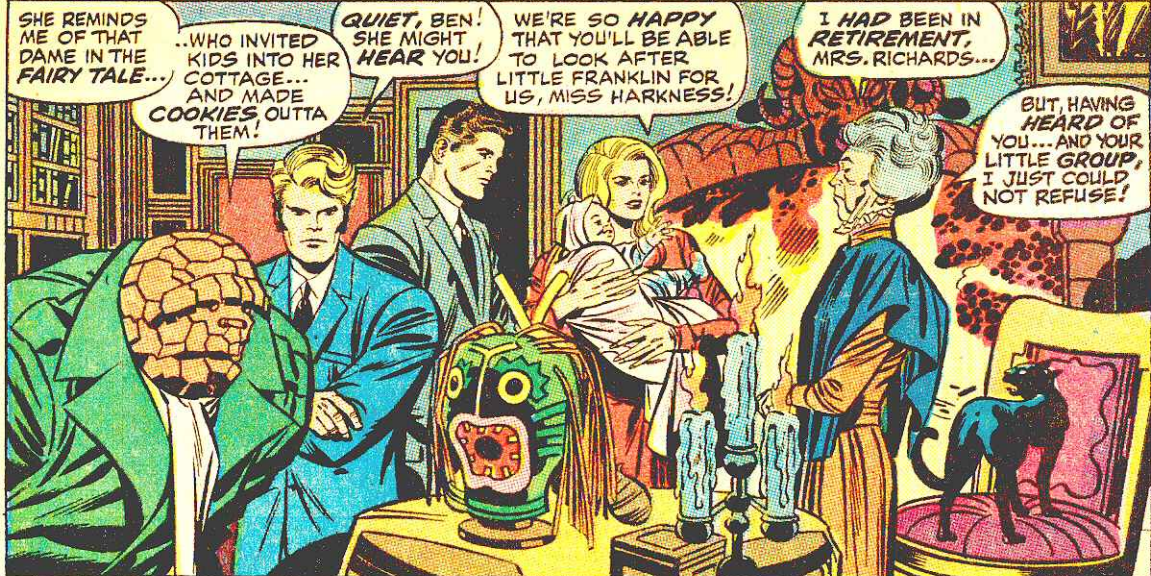
LET'S GO IN! I'M SURE WE'LL TAKE HER TO OUR HEARTS AS SOON AS WE MEET HER!

WHO'S GONNA OPEN THE DOOR... BARNABAS, OR QUASIMODO?



I AM AGATHA HARKNESS... AND THIS IS EBONY! YOU MAY ENTER!





SHE REMINDS ME OF THAT DAME IN THE FAIRY TALE...

...WHO INVITED KIDS INTO HER COTTAGE... AND MADE COOKIES OUTTA THEM!

QUIET, BEN! SHE MIGHT HEAR YOU!

WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER LITTLE FRANKLIN FOR US, MISS HARKNESS!

I HAD BEEN IN RETIREMENT, MRS. RICHARDS...

BUT, HAVING HEARD OF YOU... AND YOUR LITTLE GROUP, I JUST COULD NOT REFUSE!



IN WHICH ROOM... WILL THE BABY STAY, MISS HARKNESS?

I SHALL KEEP HIM WITH ME, OF COURSE... AS I HAVE DONE WITH ALL MY CHARGES!



AND NOW, SINCE IT IS TOO LATE... AND TOO STORMY FOR YOU TO LEAVE TONIGHT... LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOMS...



I TRUST YOU WILL FORGIVE THE DARKENED CORRIDORS... MY EYES ARE SENSITIVE TO BRIGHT LIGHTS!



I TRUST YOU TWO GENTLEMEN WILL BE COMFORTABLE SHARING A GUEST ROOM!

SURE! IF HE SNORES I'LL CLOBBER 'IM!

THIS SHOULD BE FINE, MISS HARKNESS!



I ALWAYS TOLD YA, KID... THAT HUMAN RUBBERBAND IS OUTTA HIS TREE FER SURE!

I WOULDN'T EVEN LET THAT OLD CROW TAKE CARE'A MY AUNT PETUNIA!

WELL, I'LL ADMIT SHE'S NOT EXACTLY A BUNDLE OF LAUGHS, BENJY!



LAUGHS?! EVEN HER PAINTINGS ARE FRESH OUTTA A LATE SHOW HORROR FLICK!

I'LL BET HER IDEA OF A FUN EVENIN' IS GOIN' TO A SWINGIN' FUNERAL!



SUDDENLY...

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED? THE WHOLE BLASTED WALL IS TURNIN' AROUND...

I'M FALLIN' THRU!



ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO HAPPEN NEXT...

I'LL SIT 'N WAIT FER VINCENT PRICE TA SHOW UP!



SOMETHIN' HIT MY BACK... STICKIN' TO IT... PUSHIN' ME UP... TO THE CEILIN'!



CAN'T EVEN REACH BACK THERE... TO GIT IT OFF!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TA DO NOW?

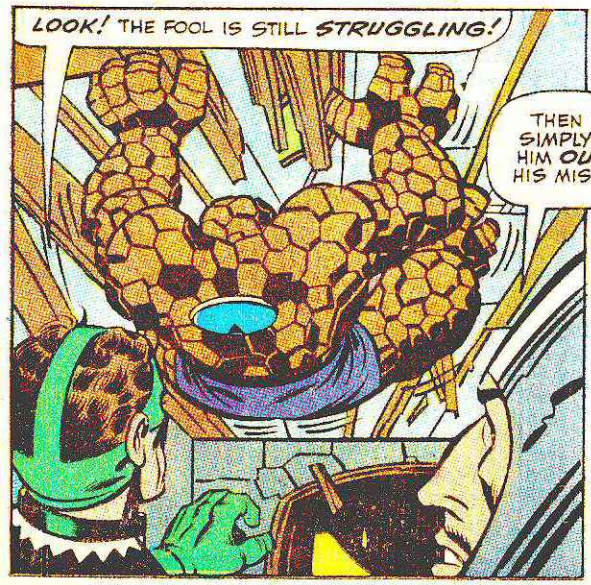


MERELY REMAIN THERE... HELPLESS AND INEFFECTUAL... BECAUSE OF MY ANTI-GRAV DISC!

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, WIZ! YOU GOT 'IM FIRST CRACK OUTTA THE BOX!

NOW THERE'S ONLY THREE MORE TO GO!

THE WIZARD... AND SAND-MAN! I SHOULD'VE GUESSED!



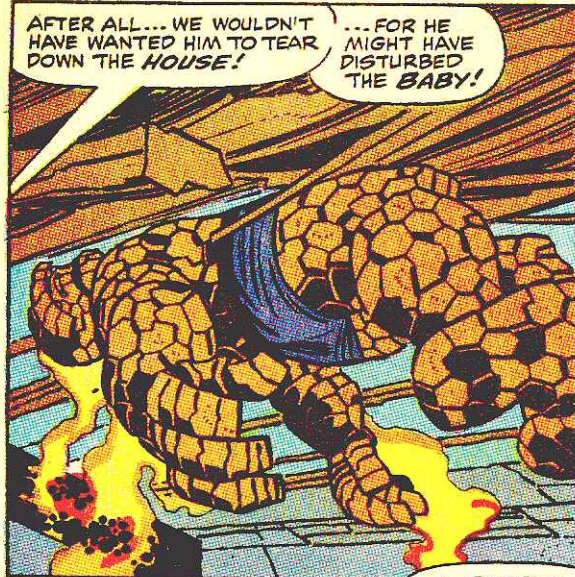
LOOK! THE FOOL IS STILL STRUGGLING!

THEN I'LL SIMPLY PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY!



A DOUBLE-INTENSITY BLAST FROM MY POWER GLOVE SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

BULL'S EYE!



AFTER ALL... WE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED HIM TO TEAR DOWN THE HOUSE!

...FOR HE MIGHT HAVE DISTURBED THE BABY!



THAT OUGHTTA KEEP 'IM OUT TILL... HEY! LOOK THERE!

A FLAME PROBE! IT'S THE TORCH!



LET'S GET 'IM... BEFORE HE CAN REALLY FLAME ON!

A SIMPLE MATTER FOR ONE WHO CAN FLY!



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CREEPS GOT HERE... BUT I'M SURE GONNA MAKE YOU WISH THAT YOU HADN'T!

FLAME ON!

TOO LATE, PUNK! I'M 'WAY AHEAD OF YOU...!



NOTHIN' CAN BURN WHEN IT'S COVERED BY A FAST-HARDENING BLANKET OF SAND!

UNNNHH!



WHILE, DOWN THE HALL...

STAY HERE, SUE!
I DON'T LIKE WHAT I
HEARD!

WHAT
IS IT,
REED?

HAS IT ANY-
THING TO DO
WITH... THE
BABY?

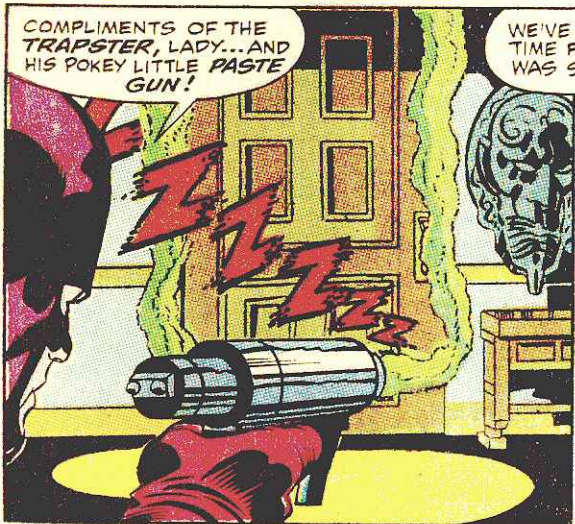


DON'T GET
ALARMED,
DEAR! I
JUST WANT
TO...

THE DOOR!
IT'S JAMMED!
I...I CAN'T OPEN
IT!

THERE'S SOMEONE
OUT THERE...
SOMEONE TRYING
TO LOCK US IN!

BUT
WHO?
WHY?



COMPLIMENTS OF THE
TRAPSTER, LADY... AND
HIS POKEY LITTLE PASTE
GUN!

WE'VE WAITED A LONG
TIME FOR THIS... AND IT
WAS SURE WORTH IT!

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO
DO NEXT?



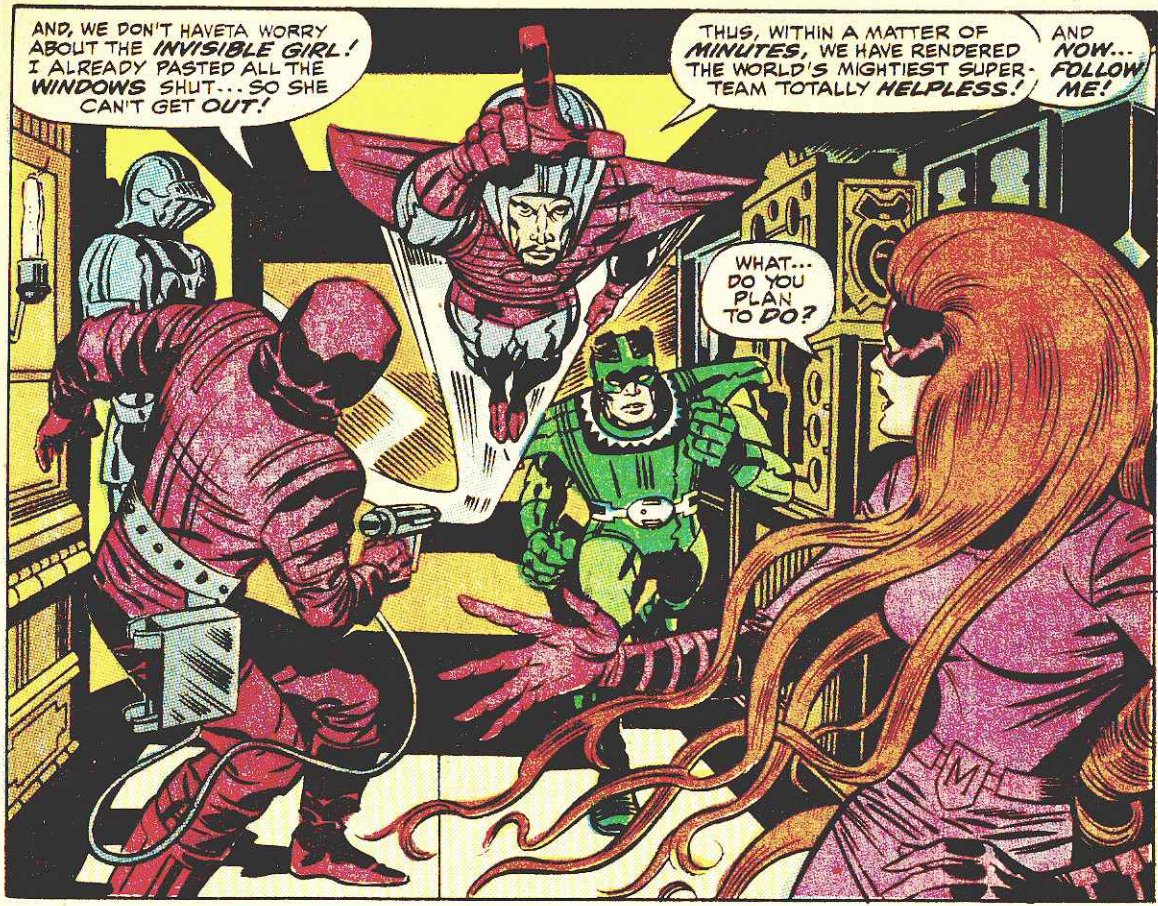
JUST
WATCH
ME, DOLL!

I FIGGERED RICHARDS
WOULD TRY SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...



BUT A FAT LOTTA
GOOD IT'S GONNA
DO HIM!

YOU...
PASTED HIS
HAND... RIGHT
TO THE DOOR!



AND, WE DON'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT THE **INVISIBLE GIRL!** I ALREADY PASTED ALL THE **WINDOWS SHUT...** SO SHE CAN'T GET OUT!

THUS, WITHIN A MATTER OF **MINUTES,** WE HAVE RENDERED THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SUPER-TEAM TOTALLY **HELPLESS!**

AND **NOW...** FOLLOW ME!

WHAT... DO YOU PLAN TO DO?



DISPOSE OF THEM, OF COURSE ... ONCE AND FOR ALL!

... IN A MANNER BEFITTING THE GREAT-EST CRIMINAL BRAIN OF ALL TIME!



THEN, **THIS** IS THE TIME FOR **MEDUSA** TO STRIKE!

WHAT?? YOU DARE TURN AGAINST YOUR **ALLIES??!**



ALLIES?! I'D SOONER TEAM UP WITH A NEST OF SERPENTS!

I MERELY JOINED YOU SO THAT I'D BE ON HAND TO HELP THE FF...IF THE NEED AROSE!

YOU CALL YOURSELVES MEN? YOU'RE MONSTERS ...EVERY ONE OF YOU!



IT SERVES US RIGHT FOR EVER TRUSTING A DAME LIKE YOU!

BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO GLOAT OVER THE WAY YOU FOOLED US!



WHA...?! YOUR HAIR! EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW...IT COULD MOVE SO FAST!



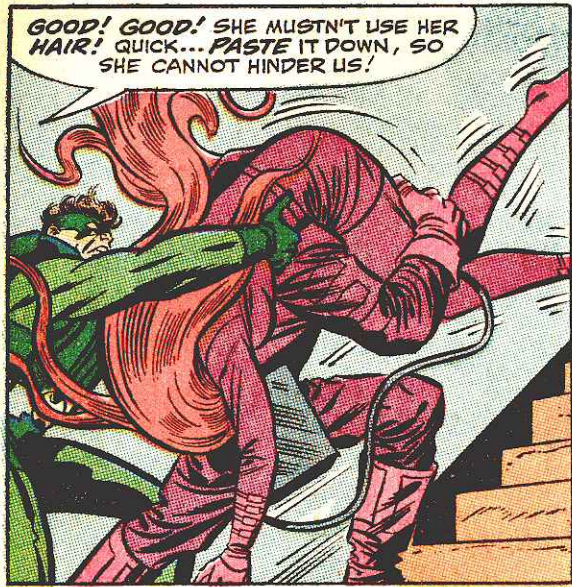
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? ANY ONE OF US CAN TAKE HER! JUST WATCH THIS...!

YOUR AIM IS OFF...YOU'LL MISS HER!



RELAX, WIZ! I WANTED IT TO RICOCHET OFF THE WALL!

LOOK HOW THE SAND GRAINS ARE BLINDIN' HER!



GOOD! GOOD! SHE MUSTN'T USE HER HAIR! QUICK... PASTE IT DOWN, SO SHE CANNOT HINDER US!



THEN, AFTER THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF... I WILL TEACH HER THE HIGH PRICE OF... TREASON!

BUT NOW WE MUST MOVE FAST... BEFORE THEY CAN BREAK FREE!



ENOUGH! THAT WILL HOLD HER! NOW, FOLLOW ME!

IF YOU GET AN ITCH, LET US KNOW, DOLL! WE'LL WORRY OURSELVES SICK!



LOOK! THERE'S AN OLD DAME AT THE HEAD OF THE STAIRS!

KEEP MOVING, YOU FOOL! YOU DON'T THINK SHE CAN STOP US?



I WARN YOU! YOU MUST COME NO FURTHER!

EVEN NOW, EBONY'S HACKLES START TO RISE!

IT'LL TAKE FAR MORE THAN AN ALLEY CAT TO STOP THE WIZARD!



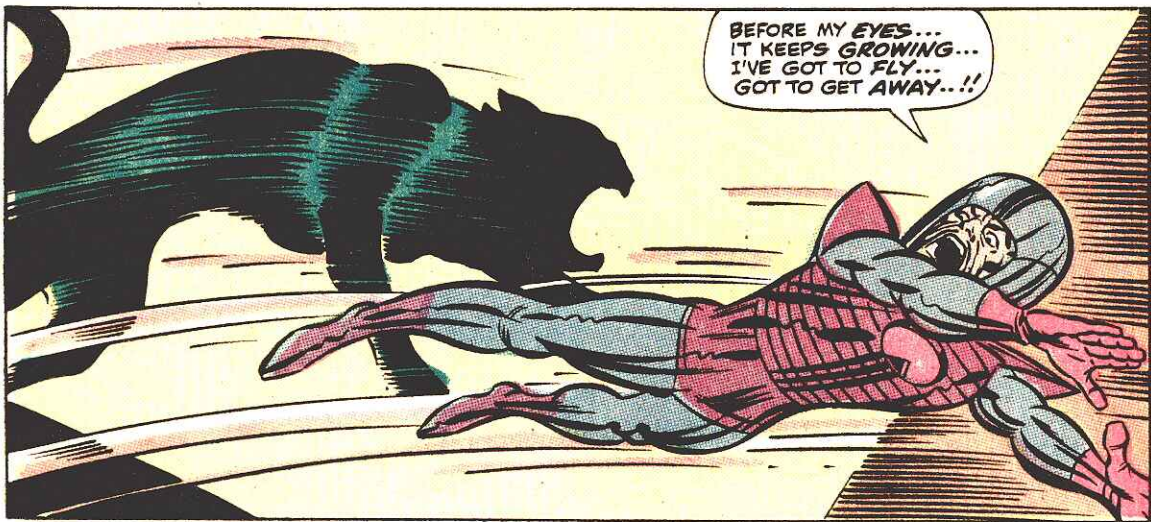
AH, BUT EBONY IS...



FAR, FAR MORE...



THAN JUST AN ALLEY CAT!



BEFORE MY EYES... IT KEEPS GROWING... I'VE GOT TO FLY... GOT TO GET AWAY...!!



THERE'S NO ESCAPING IT... NO MATTER WHERE I GO!!

WHILE, BACK IN THE CANDLE-LIT CORRIDOR...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YA DID THAT, LADY... BUT ME AND THE TRAPSTER DON'T THINK IT'S FUNNY, SEE?

HUMOR HAS NEVER EXACTLY BEEN MY FORTE, YOUNG MAN!



BUT, SURELY, YOU WOULDN'T THREATEN A FRAIL OLD LADY LIKE MYSELF?



SANDMAN! WHAT'S SHE DOING? WHY IS SHE WAVING HER ARMS LIKE THAT?

I DUNNO! BUT... ALL OF A SUDDEN... MY OWN ARM IS BEGINNIN' TO FEEL LIKE LEAD! I... CAN'T EVEN... LIFT IT!



LOOK OUT! YOUR BODY'S GETTING ROCK HARD! YOU'RE... FALLING BACK AGAINST ME! YOU'LL CRUSH ME TO THE WALL!

WHO CARES ABOUT YOU? MY WHOLE BODY'S... GETTIN' LIKE... STONE!



HAVE TO GET AWAY! HAVE TO ESCAPE!! ALL OF A SUDDEN... THE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY!

WAIT! DON'T GO! HELP ME... DON'T LEAVE ME!



15
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SOMETHING FOLLOWING ME! SOMETHING BIG... GIGANTIC!



NOW IT'S UP AHEAD...BLOCKING ME! I CAN'T GET OUT...NO PLACE TO RUN!



BUT WHAT... WHAT IS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

IT'S TOO BIG! NOT EVEN MY PASTE GUN COULD STOP IT!

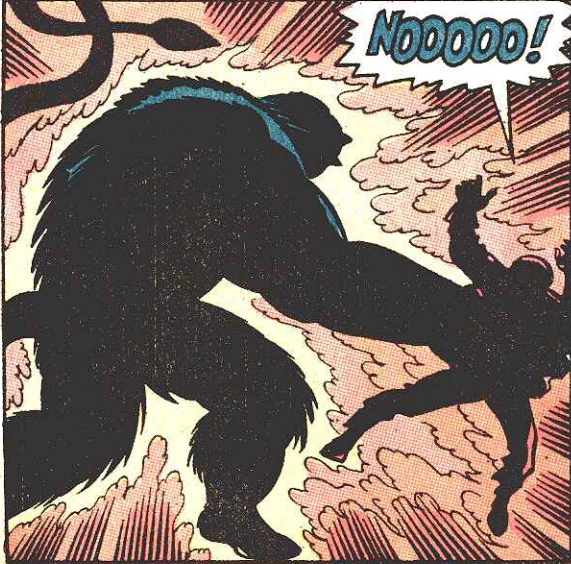
STAY BACK! YOU HAVE TO... STAY BACK!



NO!
NO!



Nooooo!



AND THEN, THE SCREAMING STARTS...THOUGH NO SOUND ESCAPES HIS LIPS...!



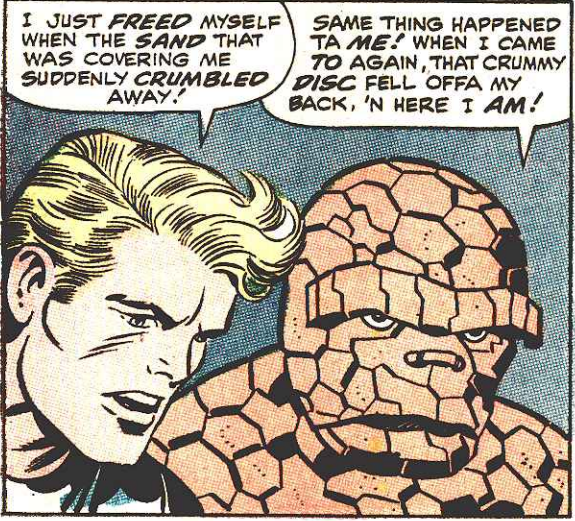


BEN... WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED?

BEATS ME! I JUST BUMPED INTO THIS NUT... AND HE ACTED LIKE I WUZ KING KONG!

I KNOW I AIN'T A RAVIN' BEAUTY, BUT HE'S SEEN ME BEFORE... SO WHY THE PANIC BUTTON?

IF YA ASK ME, NOTHIN' MAKES ANY SENSE AROUND HERE, ANYWAY!



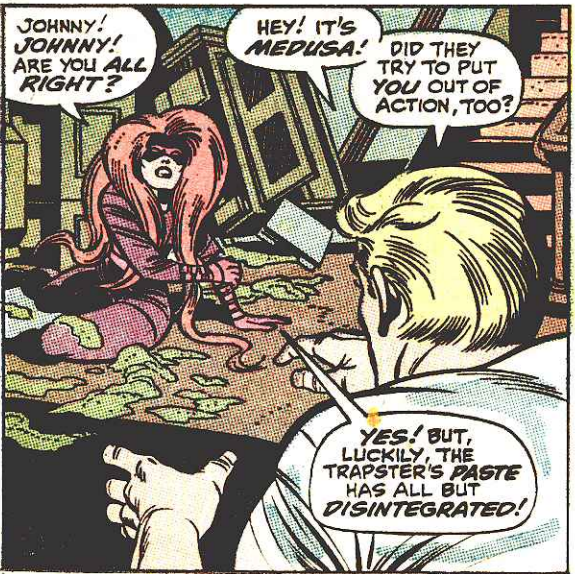
I JUST FREED MYSELF WHEN THE SAND THAT WAS COVERING ME SUDDENLY CRUMBLLED AWAY!

SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME! WHEN I CAME TO AGAIN, THAT CRUMMY DISC FELL OFFA MY BACK, 'N HERE I AM!



BUT, IT'S NOT LIKE THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR TO BE SO CARELESS WITH THEIR WEAPONS!

LOOK-- WHY KNOCK IT, JUNIOR?



JOHNNY! JOHNNY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HEY! IT'S MEDUSA!

DID THEY TRY TO PUT YOU OUT OF ACTION, TOO?

YES! BUT, LUCKILY, THE TRAPSTER'S PASTE HAS ALL BUT DISINTEGRATED!



WHAT OF MY SISTER? CRYSTAL... IS SHE ALL RIGHT?

DON'T WORRY... SHE STAYED BACK IN THE CITY THIS TRIP!

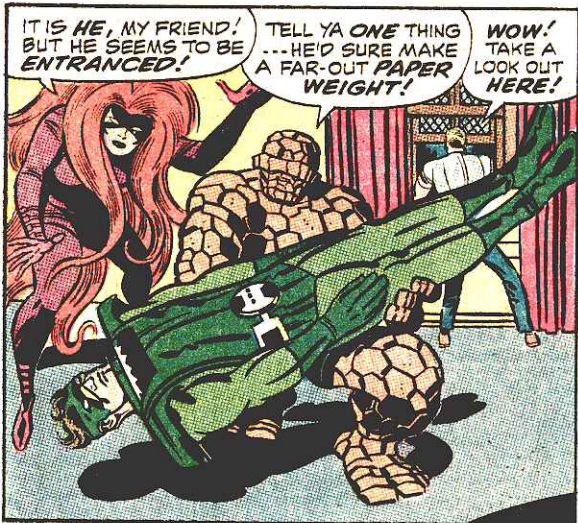
IF YA ASK ME... THAT'S WHAT WE ALL SHOULD HAVE DONE!



HEY...THERE'S SAND-MAN! LOOKS LIKE HE'S POSIN' FER SOME KINDA AURORA PLASTICS AD!



HE'S STIFF AS A BOARD! IS IT HIM... OR A BLASTED STATUE?



IT IS HE, MY FRIEND! BUT HE SEEMS TO BE ENTRANCED!

TELL YA ONE THING...HE'D SURE MAKE A FAR-OUT PAPER WEIGHT!

WOW! TAKE A LOOK OUT HERE!



THAT'S THE WIZARD! BUT...WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

WHATEVER IT WUZ...IT COULDN'TA HAPPENED TO A BETTER GUY!



HE MUSTA SHOT OUTTA HERE LIKE A ROCKET, AND ZONKED WHAMMO INTA THAT TREE!



THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE ALL SAFE... BUT WHERE IS MISS HARKNESS... AND THE BABY?

WE... HAVEN'T SEEN THEM!



SUE AND I WERE SEALED IN OUR ROOM... BY THE TRAPSTER... UNTIL HIS PASTE JUST MELTED!

BUT...MISS HARKNESS... SHE'S ALONE WITH THE BABY... WITH NO ONE TO TURN TO!

YEAH... WE KINDA FIGGERED THAT!



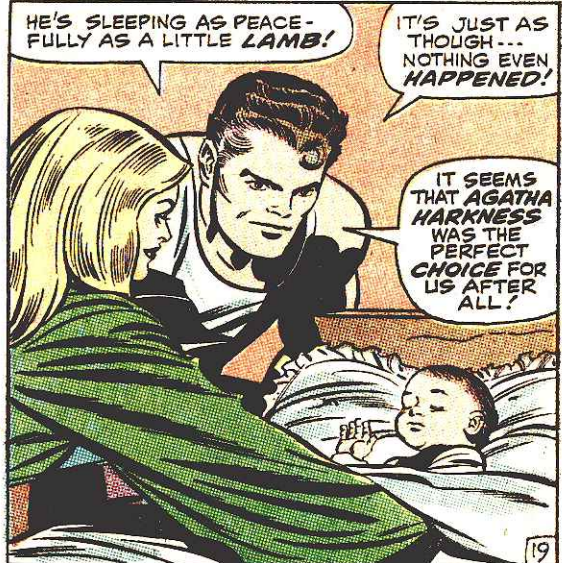
THIS IS THE ROOM... HURRY!

MISS HARKNESS! EVERYTHING SEEMS... ALL RIGHT!

WELL! I SHOULD HOPE SO, MR. RICHARDS!



NOW PLEASE... KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN! WE DON'T WANT TO WAKE THE BABY!



HE'S SLEEPING AS PEACEFULLY AS A LITTLE LAMB!

IT'S JUST AS THOUGH... NOTHING EVEN HAPPENED!

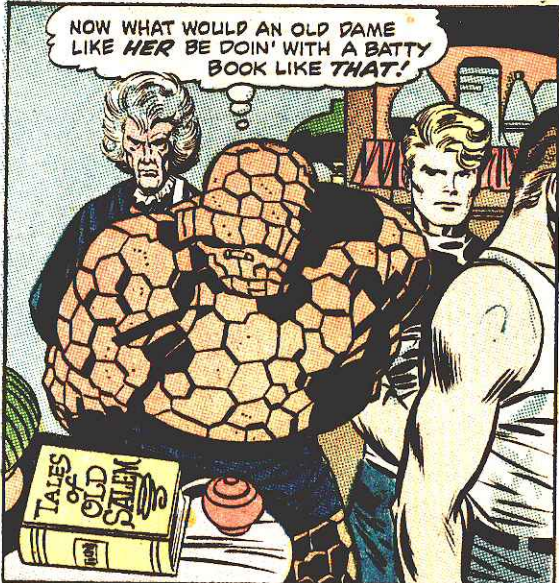
IT SEEMS THAT AGATHA HARKNESS WAS THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR US AFTER ALL!



NOW, NOW...IT'S GETTING QUITE LATE, AND I'M SURE YOU MUST ALL BE WEARY!

SO WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP?

AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE YOUR LONG JOURNEY HOME IN THE MORNING!



NOW WHAT WOULD AN OLD DAME LIKE HER BE DOIN' WITH A BATTY BOOK LIKE THAT!



SALEM! IN THE OLDEN DAYS, THAT'S WHERE...AWW, NO!

SUZIE N REED WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEIR PRIDE AND JOY IN THE CARE OF SOMEONE WHO WUZ --- WHO WUZ...OR... WOULD THEY??



COME TA THINK OF IT...IF THEY WANTED TO BE SURE IT WUZ SOMEONE WHO COULD REALLY PROTECT THE KID...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, MR. GRIMM?

HUH? OH, NO! NO!



YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME SO STRANGELY!

ONE WOULD ALMOST THINK THAT I WERE... A WITCH!

AWW... WHO'D EVER IMAGINE... ANYTHING AS NUTTY AS THAT?!



AHH... WHO INDEED, MY DEAR MR. GRIMM?

**TOMORROW--
WORLD WAR
THREE!**