

THE PLANET WAS PERFECT! IT WAS AS IF NATURE HAD DELIBERATELY DESIGNED IT TO PLEASE THE SPACE-WEARY EARTH-MEN! BUT IS THAT REALLY NATURE'S WAY? WAS THIS TRULY A ...

# GARDEN OF EDEN

THERE WERE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE BEAUTY OF THAT PLANET! WE WENT BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM EXPECTING ANYTHING BUT WHAT WE FOUND -- PARADISE!

HEY! LOOK WHAT'S COMING BACK WITH CAPTAIN JAMES -- A GIRL!

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL -- LIKE EVERYTHING ON THIS PLANET!



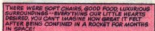
I'M KIP ROGERS, SPACEMAN 1ST CLASS -- DOOLEY FORBES, CAPTAIN JAMES AND I WERE A SURVEY TEAM, SORT OF ADVANCE SCOUTS FOR EARTH'S EXPANSION TO THE OUTER STAR SYSTEMS...

WOW, CAPTAIN! WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?

SHE FOUND ME! A ONE GAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE -- AND GUESS WHAT?

IT MEANS I SPEAK YOUR NATIVE TONGUE! I AM ANI'AAAR! I GREET YOU!





THE CAPTAIN WAS WATCHING ALL RIGHT! HE WAS LIKE A MAN CONSTANTLY ON GUARD--WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO MATERIALIZE--ALTHOUGH FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I COULDN'T SEE WHAT THIS PLACE WAS PERFECT--AN ENTIRE PLANET LIKE A GARDEN OF EDEN. THEN ONE DAY--

VACATION IS OVER, BOYS! GET YOUR GEAR! WE'RE MOVING OFF!

WHAT?

GOSH, CAPTAIN! YOU KNOW THAT SURVEY MEN CAN STAY ON A PLANET UNTIL THE RESEARCH ROCKETS SHOW UP TO TAKE OVER!

YES! WHY THE BIG RUSH, CAPTAIN? THEY'RE NOT DUE FOR TWO MONTHS YET!

THEY'RE NOT COMING! I'M GOING TO WARN THEM-- THAT THIS PLACE IS A TRAP!

CAPTAIN, YOU SOUND SO HAPPY! THIS PLACE IS PERFECT!

YOU'VE BEEN HAVING TOO GOOD A TIME TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS, KIP! IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW! LET'S GO!

SODDENLY, IT HAPPENED! ANIZAAK SHOWED UP-- BUT NOT AS WE'D EVER SEEN HER!

NO! YOU MUST OBEY! ANIZAAK WISHES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR SPECIES!

ONE QUESTION FIRST! WHO IS ANIZAAK?

THE GROUND SUDDENLY ERUPTED IN FLAME! THEN, THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN FAST!

I AM ANIZAAK!

THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS GONE AND THE VERY LAND ITSELF BECAME AN UGLY HOSTILE ENTITY THAT TURNED ON US WITH HARMFUL INTENTS!

I AM ANIZAAK!

THE VEGETATION, NO LONGER THINGS OF BEAUTY,  
LACED OUT AT US LIKE ANGRY BRUTES!



IT IS THE PLANET! DON'T  
YOU SEE? IT'S BEEN THE  
PLANET ALL ALONG!



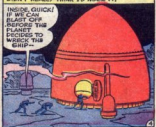
THE GROUND SEEMED TO FEEL LIKE A LIVING  
THING AS THE CAPTAIN BLASTED HIMSELF  
LOOSE FROM AN AREA THAT SOFTENED UNDER  
HIM AND ALMOST DREW HIM IN!



GAS-SPHERES WOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER  
NAME FOR THEM! THEY RELEASED AN ETHER-  
LIKE VAPOR WHEN THEY EXPLODED! WE JUST  
ABOUT STAGGERED THROUGH ON OUR FEET  
IN THAT DANGEROUS HAIL!



I WAS THE FIRST TO REACH THE SHIP--AND I  
DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D MAKE IT!



THE CAPTAIN'S REARMS BEGAN TO BURN ON HIM WHEN WE WERE ALL INSIDE AND READY TO LEAP FOR THE SKY!

CAPTAIN, DO YOU MEAN THAT THE PLANET ITSELF IS ATTACKING US?

EXACTLY!



WE WERE BARELY OFF THE SURFACE WHEN AN IMMENSE WALL OF WATER SWIFT TOWARD US!

ANIZAR IS A LIVING, INTELLIGENT ORGANISM OF PLANETARY SIZE! THE GEL WAS JUST AN ILLUSION!



HE MOULDED HER FROM HIS OWN ATOMIC STRUCTURE IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE WITH US! HE TURNED HIS ENTIRE PLANETARY SURFACE INTO A GARDEN OF EDEN TO KEEP US CONTENT!

AND WHEN WE DECIDED TO TAKE OFF HE GREW ANGRY AND SHOWED US HIS TRUE SELF!



THE WHOLE SETUP MADE ME SUSPICIOUS! IT WAS TOO PERFECT--AS IF NATURE ITSELF WAS TRYING TO PLEASE US! AND THAT ISN'T NATURE'S WAY!

IMAGINE! A PLANET THAT'S ACTUALLY ALIVE! WHAT A DISCOVERY, CAPTAIN!



IMAGINE HOW ANIZAR FELT WHEN WE ARRIVED! MICROBES THAT FLEW ABOUT IN SPACE SPACE!--HE WANTED TO STUDY US--FIND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT US! I COULDN'T LET HIM DO THAT!...

...NOT UNTIL WE LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM--AND HIS POWERS! WHEN THE RESEARCH BOYS HEAR ABOUT THIS, ANIZAR WILL HAVE MORE COMPANY THAN HE CAN HANDLE!

