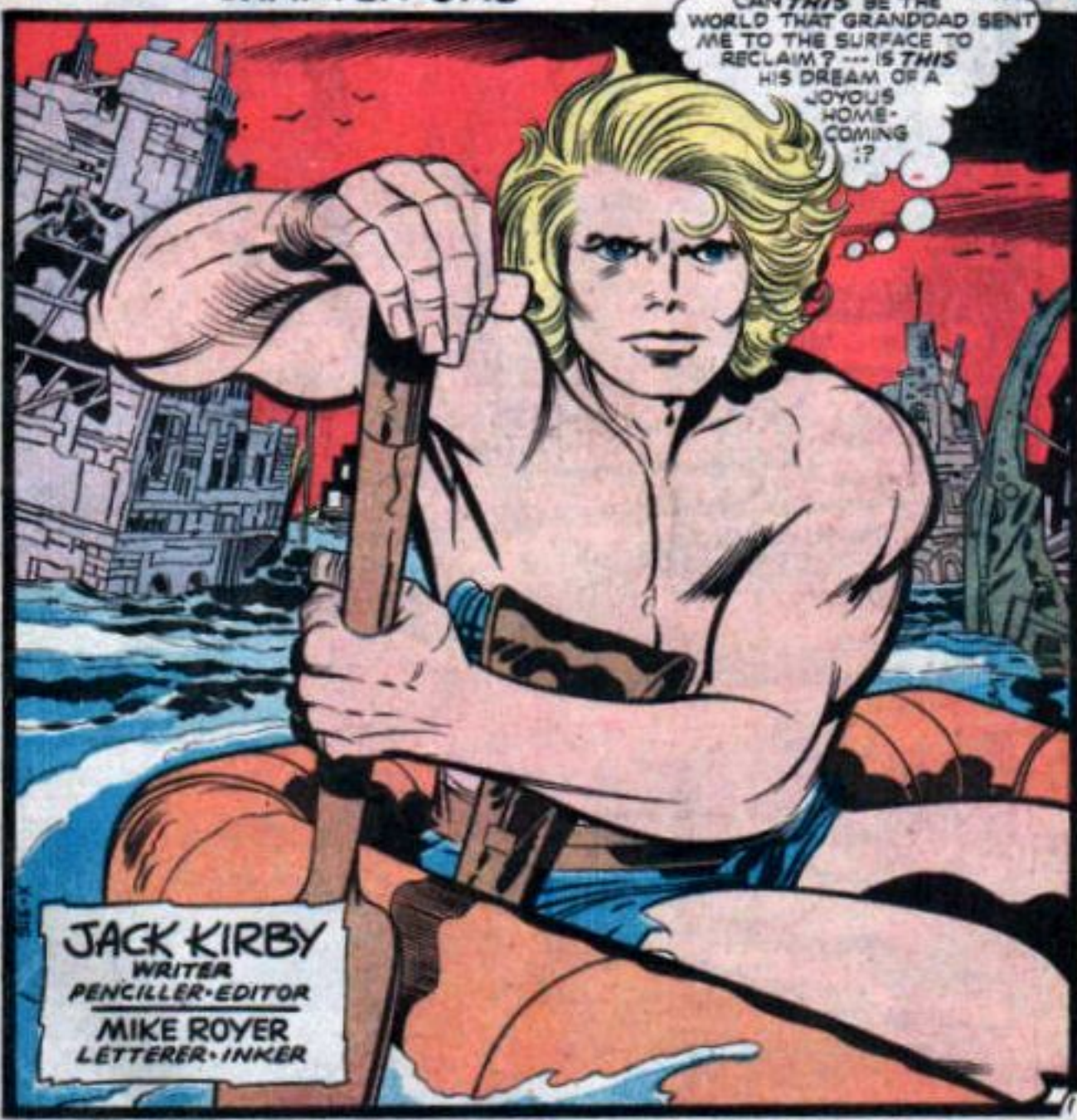


HIS NAME IS KAMANDI! IT MAY SEEM LIKE A STRANGE NAME TO YOU--- BUT ACTUALLY IT IS A SORT OF DRAMATIC TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE POPULATED **COMMAND "D"**, THE LAST SECTION OF A LARGE UNDERGROUND **BUNKER COMPLEX!** NOW THERE IS ONLY THE LAST OLD MAN---AND HIS GRANDSON--- WHO COULD WELL BE---

THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!

CHAPTER ONE

CAN THIS BE THE WORLD THAT GRANDDAD SENT ME TO THE SURFACE TO RECLAIM? --- IS THIS HIS DREAM OF A JOYOUS HOME-COMING? :



JACK KIRBY
WRITER
PENCILLER-EDITOR
MIKE ROYER
LETTERER-INKER

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SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED IN THE DIM PAST---! A NATURAL DISASTER LINKED WITH RADIATION! THE PEOPLE IN THE BUNKERS LIVED OUT THEIR LIVES AND DIED DREAMING OF A DAY OF RETURN---THE RADIATION WOULD BE GONE--- AND THE WORLD THEY LEFT WOULD BE WAITING---



THIS IS NOT THE NEW YORK I SAW IN THE MICRO-FILM LIBRARY! THE CITY IS GONE! ...COVERED BY THE SEA--!



KAMANDI REMEMBERED HIS GRAND-FATHER'S TALES ABOUT THE YEAR OF THE GREAT SNOKS! COULD THIS HAVE BEEN THE TIME WHEN NEW YORK MET ITS FATE? KAMANDI COULD ONLY GUESS---

IT TAKES SEVERAL DAYS OF PADDLING FOR KAMANDI TO MAKE HIS WAY UP WHAT WAS ONCE THE HUDSON RIVER---SUDDENLY--- HE SEES---



THE SIGHT OF HIS OWN KIND BRIGHTENS KAMANDI'S SPIRITS! BUT WHEN HE HAILS THEM, THEY STOP ALL ACTIVITY---AND STIFFEN WITH ALARM!



THEN, WITH SHOUTS AND SCREAMS OF FRIGHT THE PEOPLE TURN AND BOLT INTO THE WOODS ALONG THE SHORELINE!



THE NEXT MOMENT, ALL SIGNS OF THEIR PRESENCE FADE INTO SILENCE! KAMANDI HAS SEEN SIMILAR BEHAVIOR IN OLD WILD LIFE FILMS---ANIMAL HERDS, FLEEING A WATERHOLE AT THE APPEARANCE OF A PREDATOR!



BUT SOON AFTER KAMANDI CONTINUES UP RIVER---



IT'S KAMANDI'S TURN TO FEEL THE ICY TOUCH OF FEAR! WHEN HE REACHES THE BUNKERS---

I BOOBY-TRAPPED THE GROUNDS BEFORE I LEFT! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE HAD UNLUCKY VISITORS!



ARMED LOOTERS! THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM TO GRANDFATHER AND MYSELF! UP TILL NOW WE'VE MANAGED TO DODGE THEM!



BUT---THIS IS DIFFERENT! GRANDFATHER IS ALONE IN THOSE TUNNELS!---ALONE ---AND PROBABLY FRIGHTENED!



IGNORING THE TWO VICTIMS OF HIS SECURITY MEASURES, KAMANDI RUSHES IN TO FIND HIS KINSMAN!

IF MY TRAPS DIDN'T GET ALL THE LOOTERS, THEY MAY BE IN THERE, TOO!



THERE ARE ENDLESS MILES OF TIME-WORN CORRIDORS FILLED WITH STEEL AND CIRCUITRY OF A VANISHED TECHNOLOGY!---BUT THE ECHOES THAT FILTER DOWN TO KAMANDI ARE ALARMINGLY ALIVE!

VOICES AHEAD! BLAST THE LUCK! SOME OF THE LOOTERS HAVE BROKEN IN!





THEN...

LOOK AT THESE, FENI! **BOOKS! MAPS!** DO YOU THINK THESE ANIMALS...?

FORGET IT! ANIMALS **DON'T READ BOOKS OR MAPS!** NOW, JUST GRAB WHAT YOU THINK WE CAN SELL!

OH, NO! NO!



THIS TOOTHLESS OLD BEAST GAVE US QUITE A BATTLE BEFORE WE BAGGED HIM! BUT HIS HIDE'S WORTH NOTHING!

GRANDFATHER-! ...INSTEAD OF HIDING... WE TRIED TO STOP THEM!



YOU COLD-BLOODED MURDERERS! YOU KILLED GRANDFATHER! YOU KILLED GRANDFATHER!!

**POW!
POW!
POW!**



KAMANDI DROPS THE LOOTER BEFORE HIM AND OVERCOME WITH GRIEF, CRIES UNASHAMEDLY OVER HIS TERRIBLE LOSS!!

STEK! STEK! WHAT HAPPENED...?

FORGIVE ME, GRANDFATHER-! YOU NEEDED ME... AND I WASN'T HERE TO HELP YOU!



A SECOND LATER, KAMANDI IS CONFRONTED BY THE REMAINING INTRUDER!

STEK! WHERE ARE YOU...?

WHA...? WHAT IN BLAZES-!

STAY BACK! THIS TIME YOU WON'T... Y-YOU W-O-N-T...
... ..

YOU... YOU'RE A...

A WOLF!

KAMANDI IS ALMOST FROZEN INTO SHOCK AT THIS STRANGEST DEVELOPMENT YET! HE REALIZES NOW THAT THE WORLD KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE BUNKERS HAS UNDERGONE RADICAL CHANGES... OR NO LONGER EXISTS...! THERE ARE NOW VAST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THINGS KAMANDI'S BEEN TAUGHT... AND WHAT HE NOW SEES!

CHAPTER TWO

I MUST BE HAVIN' NIGHTMARES!
...A WILD ANIMAL THAT TALKS AND
TOTES A WEAPON!... AND SETS
BOOBY-TRAPS, TOO, I'LL BET!

YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO FINISHED OFF
MY MEN!

S-S-STAY
B-B-BACK-!

WELL, THE FELLA WHO TRAINED YOU
MUST'VE BEEN A GENIUS, IF
ANYTHING!... HERE! GIVE ME
THAT GUN!... COME ON...!
I WON'T HURT'CHA!

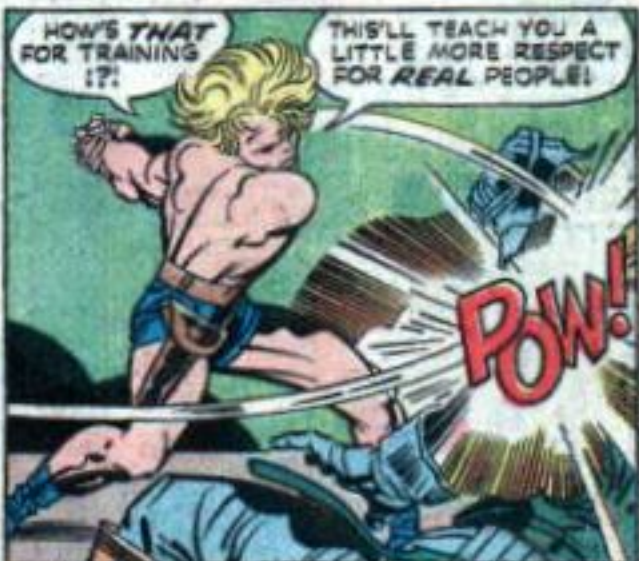
EASY...
EASY...

Y-YOU COME ONE
STEP CLOSER... A-AND
I-I'LL SHOOT!...
I-I MEAN IT!

THE WOLF LUNGES WITH
INCREDIBLE SWIFTNES!



YOU'LL REG-
NOW THAT
I'VE DRAWN
YOUR FANGS!



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THAT'S IT! MAKE A CHASE OF IT! WE'LL HAVE A BIT OF SPORT BEFORE I NAIL YOU! HAHAHAHAH!!

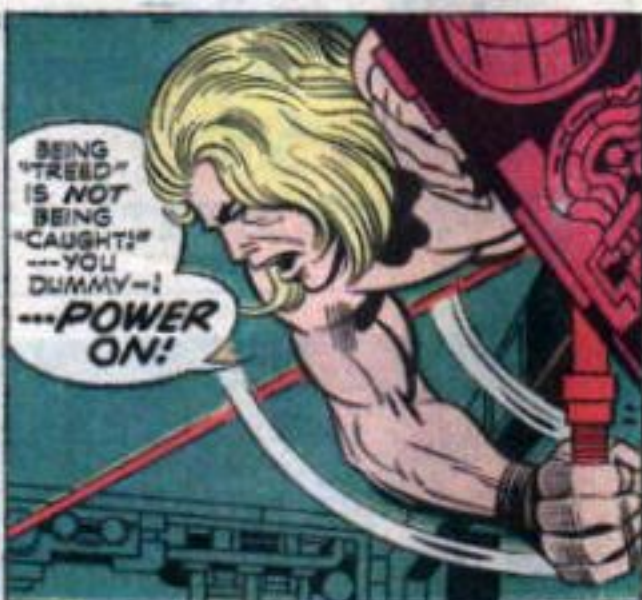


KAMANDI SUDDENLY LEAPS INTO THE AIR --- ONTO A CROSSBEAM!

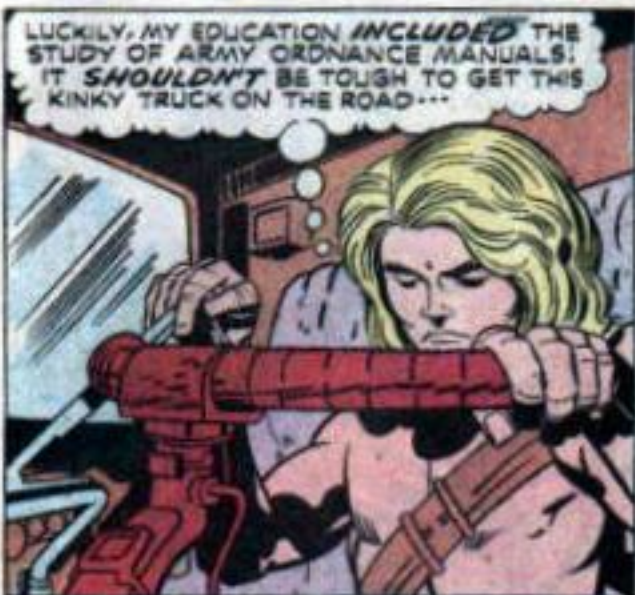


THIS OLD POWER-CABLE MUST DO THE TRICK! ---OR---

KAMANDI'S PURSUER STILL CHARGES! STILL SHOOT! ANIMAL FURY *BLINDS* HIM TO THE CABLE WHICH IS HOOKED TO POWER ABOVE --- AND PENETRATES THE STAGNANT WATER ON THE TUNNEL FLOOR!



NOT LONG AFTER, KAMANDI! ONCE AGAIN LEAVES THE BUNKER COMPLEX... THIS TIME NEVER TO RETURN!



HIS REAR-VIEW MIRROR IS A KIND OF PERISCOPE AFFAIR--- BUT IT SHOWS KAMANDI, WITH HORRIFYING ACCURACY, WHAT HIS NEW SITUATION IS:



KAMANDI'S LUCK HOLDS! HE'S ABLE TO TURN OFF THE HIGHWAY IN TIME TO AVOID AN UNCOMFORTABLE DEVELOPMENT!



BUT KAMANDI'S CURIOSITY IS AROUSED: HE PARKS HIS VEHICLE AND DOUBLES BACK ON FOOT:



MAJESTIC! IMPERIOUS! THE CLASSIC IMAGE OF A SOVEREIGN LEADER. IF GREAT CAESAR IS HIS NAME, IT SURELY FITS HIM!



SUDDENLY, KAMANDI SNAPS ABOUT AND LOOKS ABOVE HIM!





THIS ISN'T MY FIGHT!
I SHOULD STAY OUT OF
IT! BUT I CAN'T!
I-I JUST CAN'T LET
HIM SHOOT THAT
TIGER!

BLAM!



HEY!
WHA-?

SO! WE HAVE
A HIDDEN
ALLY! AN
ANIMAL
JCB, NO
LESS!



WELL, YOU BE-
LONG TO
CAESAR
NOW!

LET
ME
GO-!



THE ENEMY
IS IN THE
FIELD, MEN!

LOAD
LANCES!
FORWARD
AT A TROT!



FORWARD AT
A GALLOP!
CHARGE!

FOR
CAESAR
AND
VICTORY!

WOM!

KAMANDI FINDS HIMSELF SWEEP ACROSS A LARGE, GRASSY FIELD WHICH ROCKS WITH THE THUNDER OF WAR! THE ENEMY LEAPS FROM COVER TO FIGHT AND FLEE!

FALL BACK AND REGROUP! WE CAN'T HOLD THIS CHARGE!

LEOPARDS! THEY'RE FIGHTING LEOPARDS!

DEATH TO THE ENEMY!!



LEOPARDS IN TREES ARE A DANGEROUS FORCE! BUT LEOPARDS CAUGHT IN AN OPEN FIELD ARE PREY TO A POWERFUL, OVERWHELMING ENEMY! YET, THEY FIGHT FIERCELY AGAINST CAESAR!

THE LEOPARDS TURN TO RETREAT ACROSS THE FIELDS, BUT THE SCEPTER WHICH CAESAR USES AS A MACE, ALSO SHOOTS A LASER BEAM!



CAESAR MUST BE PROTECTED BY MAGIC SPELLS! HIS MEN FALL, BUT HE DOESN'T!

WE CAN'T STOP HIM!

THE FIELD BEHIND THEM IS BURNING! THE ENEMY IS CUT OFF FROM RETREAT!

HAHAHAH!! THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT... OR SURRENDER!





HOWEVER, I *CAN'T* DIRECT THE BATTLE TO ITS END, AND STILL PROTECT THIS UNUSUAL PET!

ADJUTANT! HAVE HIM TAKEN TO THE ROYAL CITY! SEE THAT HE'S CLEANED AND CARED FOR UNTIL MY RETURN!

IT SHALL BE DONE, GREAT CAESAR!



ALL RIGHT, CALM DOWN, YOU! DON'T GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE! YOU'RE CAESAR'S PET! ---NOT MINE!



NOW, KNOCK IT OFF-!

ZOP!

UGH-!

THE SHARP BLOW PUTS KAMANDI TEMPORARILY OUT OF ACTION! WHEN HE AWAKENS, HIS SENSES SLOWLY TELL HIM THAT THE SCENE HAS CHANGED---

WHEN FULL REALIZATION OF HIS PREDICAMENT STRIKES HIM, KAMANDI FEELS THE HEAVY TOUCH OF DESPAIR!---HIS EQUIPMENT IS GONE! HE IS HELPLESS TO ESCAPE FROM WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A VEHICLE USED BY DOG-CATCHERS-!



LUNN... MY HEAD'S SPINNING! WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?... I'M IN SOME SORT OF RICKETY HAY WAGON!

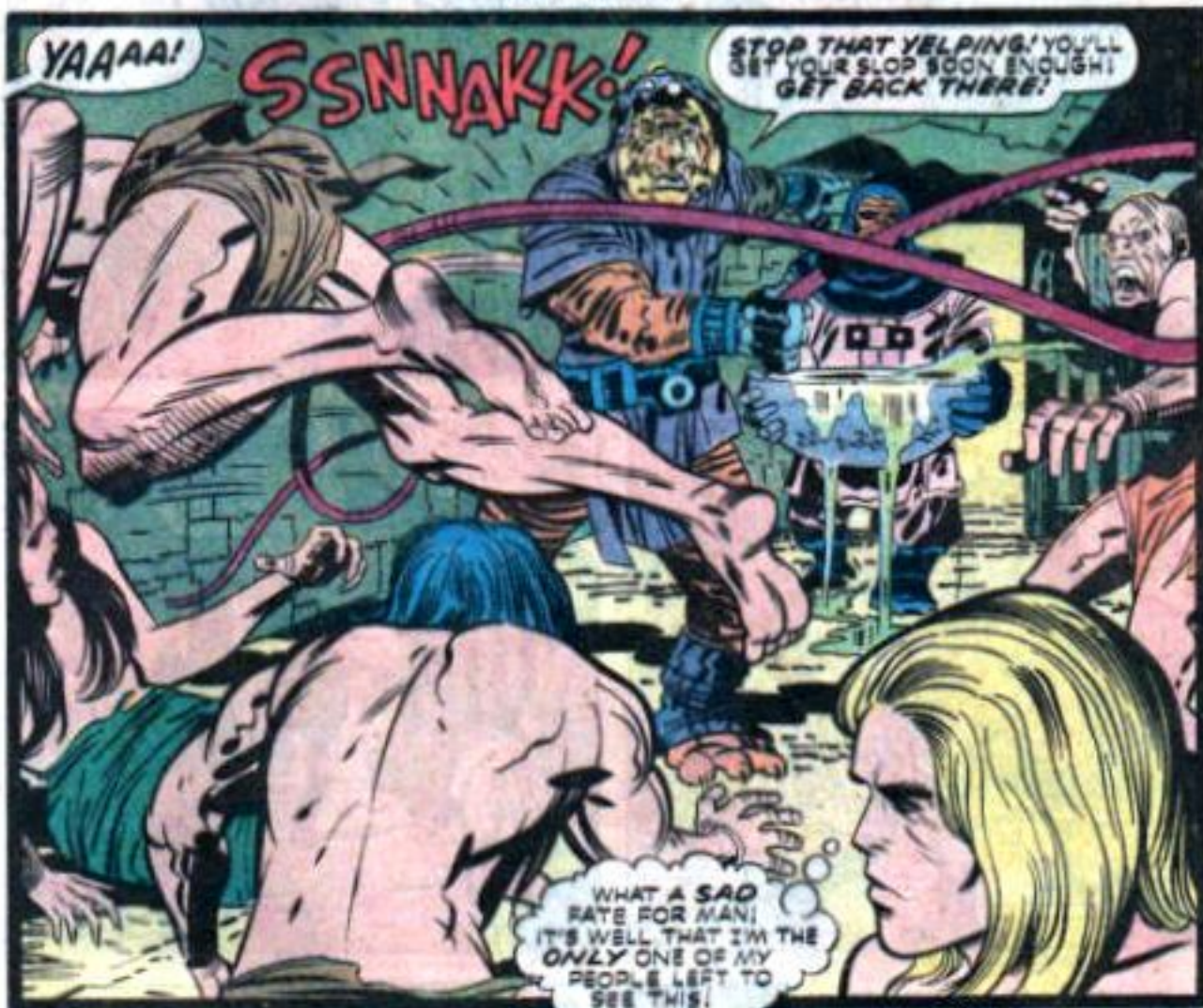


IT LOOKS LIKE I'M HEADED FOR THE ROYAL CITY! BUT I DOUBT IF I'LL GET A ROYAL WELCOME!

CONTINUED ON THE PAGES FOLLOWING

THE ROYAL CITY KENNELS!

IT'S A PLACE LIKE NO ONE OF KAMANDI'S KIND HAS EVER IMAGINED! TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE CITY OF TIGERS, WHICH HE COULD SCARCELY SEE FROM HIS CAGE, KAMANDI NOW FINDS HIMSELF IN A LARGER ONE—WHERE THE REVERSAL OF ROLES BETWEEN MAN AND BEAST IS SHARPLY BROUGHT HOME TO HIM!



KAMANDI WATCHES IN SILENCE AS HIS HUMAN COMPANIONS ATTACK THE BOWL OF ILL-SMELLING FOOD...AND, EACH OTHER...





THE NEW PUP **DOESN'T** LOOK VERY HAPPY, DOES HE! WELL, HE'LL SOON PERK UP! GREAT CAESAR'LL TREAT HIM **BETTER**'N HE TREATS US!

NYMPH! TOO BAD HE'LL BE LEAVING US! HE'S BRAWNY FOR HIS SIZE!---GOT **FIGHT** IN HIM, TOO! BET I COULD TRAIN HIM TO FIGHT IN THE **ARENA!**

BAP!
BAP!



BY CAESAR, I THINK YOU'RE **RIGHT!** LOOK AT HIM! HE'S A **REAL FURY!**

THAT'S ENOUGH NOW, **CLUB!** MY PATIENCE IS GROWING **SHORT!**

WHAM!
WHAM!



HEY! STOP HIM! HE'S **BOLTING THE KENNEL!**

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!---THE **BOYS OUTSIDE'LL HANDLE HIM!**



---AND OUTSIDE THE KENNEL---
IT'S CAESAR'S PET! HE'S **ESCAPED THE KENNEL!**

UNCOIL THAT HOSE! TURN ON THE **WATER!** WE'LL STOP HIM!



HAHAHAHAH!! HE NEEDS A **CLEANING,** ANYHOW!

TAKE IT EASY WITH THE PRESSURE! CAESAR'LL **SKIN US** IF WE HURT HIM!

HAHAHAH!
HE'S SOPPED
UP MORE
WATER THAN
A SPONGE!

I THINK IT'S TIME TO
MAKE HIM SHINE FOR
THE EMPEROR'S VICTORY
CELEBRATION!
LET'S HOP TO IT!



LATER---

GREAT CAESAR'LL
BE MIGHTY PLEASED
WITH WHAT WE'VE
DONE WITH HIS
NEW PET!

YEAH! WE
SHOULD BE
GIVEN A
MEDAL! THE
LITTLE DANDY
FOUGHT US
EVERY INCH
OF THE WAY!



KAMANOI IS LED OUT TO A HUGE,
OPEN PLAZA WHERE GREAT CAESAR
AND HIS OFFICIALS ARE GATHERED
FOR SOME KIND OF CEREMONY!

IN THE NAME OF THE MIGHTY
WARHEAD WHICH GUIDES OUR DESTINY,
GREAT CAESAR ONCE AGAIN RETURNS
VICTORIOUS IN BATTLE AGAINST
OUR ENEMIES!

HOLD IT
RIGHT HERE,
PET!



FROM BENEATH THE GROUND,
RUMBLING ECHOES ARE HEARD!
THEN, AS THE ASSEMBLED
WORSHIPPERS KNEEL IN HOMAGE,
THE WARHEAD SLOWLY RISES
FROM ITS AGED SILO---

BUILT IN THE
PAST TO MAKE
MEN SECURE,
IT FAILED
TO HELP THEM
AGAINST
THE REAL
TRAGEDY!

NOW IT
FULFILLS
ANOTHER
PURPOSE---
UNDREAMED
OF BY ITS
BUILDERS.

KEEP
US
STRONG,
O' WAR-
HEAD!

ALL HAIL
TO THE
WARHEAD!

HAIL TO
THE
WARHEAD!



HEAR
OUR
PRAISE,
WAR-
HEAD!





YOU YOUNG FOOL!
THIS *ISN'T* THE ONLY
WAY OUT! THIS WORLD
STILL HAS
ALTERNATIVES
FOR YOU!

AS WHAT? AS A
PET?—AS A HUNTED
ANIMAL—LIKE THOSE
WILD HUMANS?

DO YOU
THINK I'D
LIVE LIKE
THAT?!

STOP IT! I'M GOING
TO DO ALL I CAN TO SAVE
YOUR NECK! SO, COOPERATE
AND TRUST ME! I'M A
DEDICATED RESEARCHER!
—AND HIGHLY RESPECTED
HERE!

IF YOU'RE
LYING,
CANUS, I'LL—
I'LL—

THE NEXT MOMENT—

MY LASER ROD!
GOOD WORK, CANUS!
THAT MAD ANIMAL
COULD'VE CAUSED
GREAT HARM!

DON'T PUNISH HIM, GREAT
CAESAR! THIS POOR
CREATURE'S IN A
NERVOUS STATE! HE
HASN'T HAD TIME
TO BE PROPERLY
ORIENTED!

I'LL MAKE HIM DOCILE!
ALL HE NEEDS IS A FEW
GOOD BEATINGS! JUST
TURN HIM OVER TO MY
TRAINERS!

I BEG A FAVOR,
MAJESTY! LET
ME HAVE HIM!
I NEED ONE
SUCH SUBJECT FOR
"ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
STUDY!" I'LL—

ENOUGH! TAKE HIM, THEN,
CANUS! DO WITH HIM AS
YOU WISH! HE'S
MADE A
MESS
OF MY
TRIUMPHANT
RETURN TO
ROYAL CITY!

THANK YOU,
GREAT CAESAR!
THE RESULTS OF
MY TESTS SHALL
YIELD MORE
INFORMATION
TO AID YOU
IN YOUR
CAMPAIGNS
AGAINST
HOSTILE
RACES!

LATER, IN THE LABORATORY OF DOCTOR CANUS...



WHAT NOW, CANUS? ARE YOU GOING TO TEACH ME TO **FETCH** YOUR SLIPPERS?

SOMEONE WHO PACKS A SURVIVAL SIDEARMS CAN DO **BETTER** THAN THAT!



YES... AND THAT **SOMEONE** KNOWS HOW TO EXPLODE AN ATOMIC MISSILE, DOESN'T HE? I'VE BEEN AWARE OF PHENOMENA LIKE YOURSELF FOR SOME TIME NOW!

THAT'S JUST GREAT! WHAT **HAPPENS** TO US PHENOMENA? DO WE WIND UP IN **FREAK** SHOWS?



STEP IN **HERE**, PLEASE... **DON'T** BE FRIGHTENED-!

WE MAY AS WELL GET THIS **OVER** WITH! BUT I WARN YOU! TRY TO HURT ME AND I'LL...



KAMANDI CAUTIOUSLY ENTERS THE ADJOINING ROOM! HE PEERS INTO THE GLOOM FOR SIGNS OF WHATEVER DEVILISH INSTRUMENTS WAIT FOR HIM! BUT, HE IS **STUNNED** BY WHAT HE SEES!

A **HUMAN!** BUT IS HE LIKE ALL-



I SEE YOU BROUGHT BACK COMPANY, CANUS!

HE SPEAKS **COHERENTLY!** AND THAT COSTUME HE'S WEARING... I'VE SEEN ILLUSTRATIONS OF IT IN **OLD BOOKS**...!

I **WOULDN'T** EXACTLY CLASSIFY HIM AS AN OLD ILLUSTRATION!

(CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING)

20



I'D CALL HIM A **WONDER** OF ANIMAL ADAPTATION TO **HOSTILE** CONDITIONS! **SHOW HIM, FRIEND!**

W-WH-HE'S BEGINNING T-TO GLOW! ...LIKE **RADIATION** DOES IN THE DARK!



THAT'S RIGHT! HIS **BODY CHEMISTRY IS RADIOACTIVE!** SEE HIS HAND PRESS THAT **CIRCLE** ON HIS CHEST?

W-WHAT IS HE DOING?!



THE **HARDER** HE PRESSES, THE **BRIGHTER** HE GLOWS!

HIS HAND-PRESSURE ACTS AS A **DAMPER-ROD!** HE'S A **NATURAL ATOMIC-PILE!**

HOLD IT! EASY ON THE PRESSURE!



DON'T WORRY, CANUS- I'VE GOT NO REASON TO **FISSION**; OF COURSE, THE BOY MIGHT GET A **REAL TREAT** IF I DID!

ALL IN GOOD TIME! IT'S BEST TO GO ABOUT THESE THINGS **METHODICALLY!**



THAT **CIRCLE, BOY,** IS A SORT OF **PROTECTIVE COVERING** FOR HIS **CYCLO-HEART!**

IT'S AN ORGAN THAT ALSO FUNCTIONS AS AN **ATOM-SMASHER!**

KEEP UP THAT KIND OF **TALK,** AND YOU'LL **FRIGHTEN HIM.** CANUS: HE'LL THINK I'M A **LIVING A-BOMB!**



THE **PROCESSES** ARE **SIMILAR, BOY,** BUT THE **EXPLOSIONS** ARE--WELL--**DIFFERENT!**

BESIDES, THIS **OLD SPACE SUIT** IS MADE TO **CONTROL RADIATION LEAKAGE!**

THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS TO ME IS THAT YOU... **EXIST!**



A-AND YOU ARE REAL--
AREN'T YOU! ---DO
YOU HAVE
A NAME?

I'M
**BEN
BOXER!**

---AND IT'S
DOWNRIGHT
REFRESHING
TO SEE SUCH
CURIOSITY!



Y-YOU'RE
REAL, ALL RIGHT!
AND THIS
COSTUME IS
REAL! ---
REAL!

IT'S
**TRUE,
FRIEND!**

WHY, I'M
AS REAL
AS
**YOU
ARE!!**



KAMANDI DOESN'T KNOW WHO
THIS MAN IS---OR WHY HE IS
THERE---! BUT HE DOES KNOW
THAT IN THE STRANGE, NEW
WORLD HE FACES, THERE IS
NOW A TINY GLIMMER OF HOPE!

THANK HEAVEN!
---THANK HEAVEN!

**MAN IS DOWN! BUT HE'S NOT OUT! KAMANDI CAN
KEEP GOING NOW, DESPITE THE PERILS! HE HAS
THE PURPOSE TO LIVE! THE
FIRST TRIAL HAS PASSED FOR
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!**



I-I'M NOT
ALONE!
I'M NOT
ALONE!

**ALL COMPLETE IN THE NEXT ISSUE--
A SHOCKING DISCOVERY
UNEARTHED IN WHAT
REMAINS OF A ONCE
GREAT MODERN CITY!**

KAMANDI
FINDS IT!---AND RELEASES A
FURY NEVER BEFORE IMAGINED
BY THE MIND OF REASONING
MAN! THE LAST BOY ON
EARTH AND BEN BOXER
PLUNGE INTO THE

YEAR OF THE RAT!

KAMANDI'S CONTINENT

THIS MAP COVERS THE EXTENT OF KAMANDI'S INITIAL ADVENTURES INTO A WORLD STRUCK BY A GREAT CATASTROPHI! IT'S NOT THE WORLD WE KNOW! BUT AN EXCITING WORLD TO EXPLORE!

MOUNTAINOUS NEW CONTINENT
FORMED BY UPHEAVAL
NOW CONNECTED
TO NORTH AMERICA

STRANGE
FIRE AREA

BAY OF
BONES

HUMAN HERDS
FOUND IN ALL
FORESTED
AREAS

ONCE ALASKA
AND CANADA...
THIS IS NOW FEAR-
RIDDEN TERRITORY! ...
INHABITED BY HOSTILE
PHANTOMS!

**DOMINION
OF THE
DEVILS**

INTELLIGENT
KILLER WHALE
RAIDERS

MONSTER
LAKE

UNDER-
SEA
NEW YORK
RAT
NETWORK

LION
TRIBES

EXPANDING
TIGER
EMPIRE

PUEBLO
BUILDERS

GORILLA
COMMUNES

LEOPARD
SEA PIRATE
ACTIVITY

WILD
HUMAN
PRESERVE

JUNGLE
AREA

"TRACKING
SITE"
CITY OF THE
NUCLEAR
PEOPLE

MYSTERY
CRATER
COUNTRY

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT OCT. 1955