

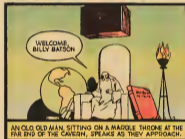
THE MOMENT ITS PASSENGERS ARE SEATED, THE CAR HURTLIES THROUGH THE PITCH-BLACK TUNNEL AT TREMENDOUS SPEED.



THE CAR HAS STOPPED AT THE END OF THE LINE. THE BOY AND HIS PHANTOM COMPANION STEP OUT ONTO A PLATFORM RESEMBLING THE MOUTH OF A WEIRD, SUBTERRANEAN CAVERN.



MUSTERING HIS COURAGE THE BOY ENTERS AN ANCIENT UNDERGROUND HALL, CARVED OUT OF SOLID ROCK, GROTESQUELY LIGHTED BY FLARING TORCHES.



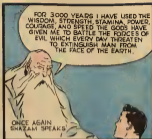
AN OLD, OLD MAN, SITTING ON A MARBLE THRONE AT THE FAR END OF THE CAVERN, SPEAKS AS THEY APPROACH.



A HUGE BLACK CLOUD—A BLINDING LIGHTNING FLASH & DEAFENING RAIL OF THUNDER FORM OUT OF NOWHERE AS THE OLD MAN SPEAKS HIS NAME —



SIMULTANEOUSLY & CURIOUS INSCRIPTION, EXPLAINING SHAZAM'S NAME, APPEARS MAGICALLY ON THE WALL



ONCE AGAIN SHAZAM SPEAKS!



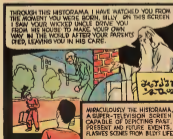
THREE THOUSAND YEARS!

YES, SON, AND DURING THAT TIME I HAVE SEEN EVERYTHING—KNOWN EVERYTHING—THAT HAPPENED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FROM THE HIGHEST TO THE LOWEST!



THE HISTORAMA!

CLAP



THROUGH THIS HISTORAMA I HAVE WATCHED YOU FROM THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN, BILLY. ON THIS SCREEN I SAW YOUR WICKED UNCLE DRIVE YOU FROM HIS HOUSE TO MAKE YOUR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD AFTER YOUR PARENTS DIED, LEAVING YOU IN HIS CARE.

MIRACULOUSLY THE HISTORAMA, A SUPER-TELEVISION SCREEN CAPABLE OF DEPICTING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE EVENTS, PLAYS SCENES FROM BILLY'S LIFE.



I KNOW THAT HE GOT RID OF YOU IN ORDER TO GET POSSESSION OF THE MONEY AND BONDS YOUR FATHER WILLED TO YOU.

DIRECTLY ABOVE SHAZAM'S HEAD A MASSIVE GRANITE BLOCK WEIGHING TONS HANGS FROM A SLENDER FRAYED THREAD. IF THE THREAD BROKE, THE GRANITE WOULD CRUSH THE OLD MAN TO POWDER, AND THE THREAD IS ALMOST WORN THROUGH!



ALL MY LIFE I HAVE FOUGHT INJUSTICE AND CRUELTY. BUT I AM OLD NOW - MY TIME IS ALMOST UP. YOU SHALL BE MY SUCCESSOR. MERELY BY SPEAKING MY NAME YOU CAN BECOME THE STRONGEST AND MIGHTIEST MAN IN THE WORLD -

CAPTAIN MARVEL!



SHAZAM!



BLAM!



AS BILLY SPEAKS THE MAGIC WORD HE BECOMES CAPTAIN MARVEL!

CAPTAIN MARVEL, I SALUTE YOU HENCEFORTH IT SHALL BE YOUR SACRED DUTY TO DEFEND THE POOR AND HELPLESS, RIGHT WRONGS AND CRUSH EVIL EVERYWHERE.

YES, SIRE.



TO BECOME BILLY BATSON AGAIN, ALSO SPEAK MY NAME AND NOW I MUST GO, CAPTAIN MARVEL, SPEAK MY NAME!



SHAZAM



THROUGH THE BLINDING FLASH OF THE LIGHTNING BOLT, CAPTAIN MARVEL SEES THE GRANITE BLOCK FALLING ON SHAZAM.

A MOMENT LATER BILLY FINDS HIMSELF STANDING AT HIS OLD POST. SHAZAM, CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE WEIRD UNDERGROUND GOVERN HAVE VANISHED.



GEE!
IT ALL SEEMS
LIKE A DREAM.



NEXT
MORNING

SENSATIONAL
NEWS!
ALMOST
MAKES BILLY
FORGET HIS
NIGHT'S
ADVENTURE -

EXTRA!
EXTRA!
READ ALL
ABOUT IT!



MANIAC SCIENTIST THREATENS U.S. RADIO SYSTEM; DEMANDS \$500,000

AIR OFFICIALS ALARMED

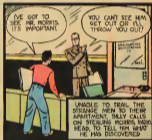


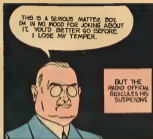
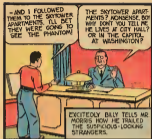
GIMME A PAPER, KID.

WANNA READ
ABOUT THE BOSS,
EH?

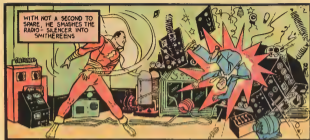
WHAT DO YOU /GEE/
CONC OR LET'S GET
MOVIN.

-BILLY OVERHEARS A STRANGE CONVERSATION









WITH NOT A SECOND TO SPARE, HE SMASHES THE RADIO-SAUCCER INTO SMITH'S REINS



THE OTHER MAN RACES FOR THE PRIVATE ELEVATOR -



- AND SLAMS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.



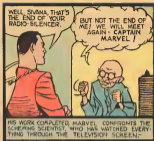
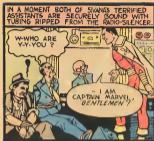
FLEXING HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES MARVEL PULLS THE DOOR OPEN.



- GRIPS THE ELEVATOR CABLE IN STEEL-LIKE HANDS -



- AND HELDS THE CAR BACK TO THE PENTHOUSE.





RESUMING HIS NORMAL SHAPE, BILLY TELEPHONES THE RADIO COMPANY PRESIDENT.



