

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED AND INKED BY **MICHAEL ROYER** • COLORED BY **PETRA G.** • OVERSEEN BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

THIS IS THE
MONOLITH,
WITH A NEW
DESTINY TO
MOLD!

IS HE A PUSH-BUTTON MAN?--OR A MACHINE IN SEARCH OF A SOUL? SUPER-HEROES WOULD PITY HIM! SUPER-VILLAINS WOULD SCOFF AT HIM! YET... HE IS A MATCH FOR ANY OF THEM!! THIS IS AN ODYSSEY TO FREEDOM... A JOURNEY FOR A NAME... FOR ONE WHO IS ONLY A NUMBER!!

THE CAPTURE OF "X-51"

IT'S HAPPENED
AGAIN! THIS THING
HAS
SLIPPED
ITS
RAILS!

I-IT'S TOO
POWERFUL!
CAN'T
HOLD
ON!

I--

I-I'M NOT
A THING!
B-BUT
WHAT
AM I?
WHAT
AM I!?

CALM DOWN,
STEEL SKIN!
OR THESE
WEAPONS
WILL TEACH
YOU HOW!



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE GIANT INSTALLATION...

CLOSE ALL SECTION DOORS! IT MUST NOT ESCAPE!!

GOOD LORD! ANOTHER MODEL IS OUT OF CONTROL! THIS IS DISASTROUS!



DOCTOR BROADHURST—! IT'S NUMBER X-35 THIS TIME! HE'S GONE BERSERK!!

I'VE HEARD THE ALERT!



I SUPPOSE IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT WE'D FIND A WAY TO STOP THIS KIND OF INCIDENT! I'M AFRAID WE'RE FACED WITH FAILURE, HAINES!

IN THAT CASE, YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!



THIS PROJECT MUST BE SCRAPPED! THE DECISION IS YOURS!

WHAT MAKES THEM GO MAD, HAINES?

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY "THINKING" COMPUTERS IN THE FORM OF MEN!



PERHAPS A COMPUTER WASN'T MEANT TO THINK ON ITS OWN! IT MAY BE JUST AS SIMPLE AS THAT!

NO... WE JUST WEREN'T READY TO GRASP THE ANSWER. WE NEEDED MORE TIME... MORE TIME!



HOWEVER, I'VE DECIDED TO DETONATE THE EXPLOSIVES WE PLANTED IN EACH OF OUR ROBOTS! IT WILL BE ALL OVER IN THIRTY MINUTES!





THOSE WORDS ARE PROPHECIC! IN THE ASSEMBLY SECTION...

ALL PERSONNEL!
EVACUATE
IMMEDIATELY!

THEY'RE
CANCELLING
THE PROJECT!

TOO
BAD.

WE'LL TRY AGAIN...
BUT LET'S GO--BEFORE
WE BLOW UP WITH OUR
SUBJECT!



NO SOONER IS THE CHAMBER EMPTY, WHEN THE NOVA EFFECT RE-OCCURS WITH A TERRIBLE FORCE--LEAVING NOTHING IN ITS WAKE...

ZLSSSH!!



THE DESTRUCTIVE PROCESS IS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE INSTALLATION. WHEREVER THE MEN-MACHINES ARE LOCATED--AN EXPLOSION ERUPTS...

BOOMM!

THERE WERE
TEN OF THE THINGS
IN THAT BARRACKS!
IF YOU ASK ME,
I SAY IT'S GOOD
RIDDANCE TO A
REAL MENACE!



A SPECTACULAR FINISH IS IMPOSED UPON THE PROJECT THAT WOULD BLEND MAN WITH MACHINE AND INITIATE AN EXPLORATION OF THE STARS. ON THE VAST EXPANSE OF THE DESERT COMPLEX, THE REMAINING MODELS ARE--RECALLED!

THERE GOES THE
TRAINING
SCHOOL--AND
THE **REST** OF
THOSE MONSTERS!



SOON AFTER, IN THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR BROADHURST...

WE'VE ACCOUNTED FOR FIFTY OF THE THINGS, HAINES--AND I'VE JUST CHECKED ON X-51. WHEN HE DETONATES--THE BOOK WILL CLOSE ON THIS PROJECT!

X-51... THAT'S THE MODEL WE ASSIGNED TO DOCTOR STACK, ISN'T IT?



YES, I JUST TALKED TO STACK. HE TOOK THE NEWS RATHER *BADLY!* BUT, THERE'S *NOTHING* HE CAN DO ABOUT IT! THE BOMB PLANTED IN X-51 IS *ACTIVATED!*

THE FOOL! TO TAKE *PERSONAL* CHARGE OF X-51 WAS A *RECKLESS* ACT!



GREAT EXPERIMENTORS LIKE STACK *IGNORE* PERSONAL RISK! LORD KNOWS HOW HE FEELS AT THIS MOMENT!

I WARNED YOU *AGAINST* ALLOWING STACK TO--

X-51 IS *NOT* JUST A NUMBER TO HIM! HE'S ALMOST A *SON!*



--TO TAKE THAT THINKING COMPUTER INTO HIS HOME? TO ATTEMPT TO GIVE IT A *HUMAN* IDENTITY? WHO IS TO SAY THAT HIS *ISN'T* THE RIGHT COURSE TO FOLLOW:?

IT MAY YET BE THE *SOLUTION* TO OUR PROBLEM, BUT RIGHT NOW I'M ANXIOUS FOR STACK TO *LEAVE* HIS HOUSE *BEFORE* THAT BOMB GOES OFF!



THE LABORATORY-RESIDENCE OF DOCTOR ABEL STACK STANDS FIRM AND SERENE IN ITS ISOLATED SURROUNDINGS. BUT, AS EACH SECOND PASSES IN THE PASTORAL SILENCE, THE SHADOW OF DEATH GROWS STRONGER AND DARKER...

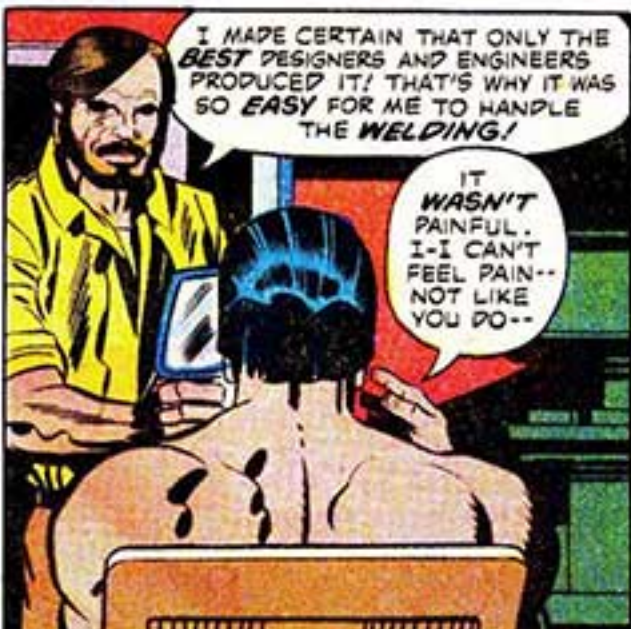
TAKE A LOOK, AARON.

THIS IS YOUR *NEW* FACE!



I MADE CERTAIN THAT ONLY THE *BEST* DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS PRODUCED IT! THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO *EASY* FOR ME TO HANDLE THE *WELDING!*

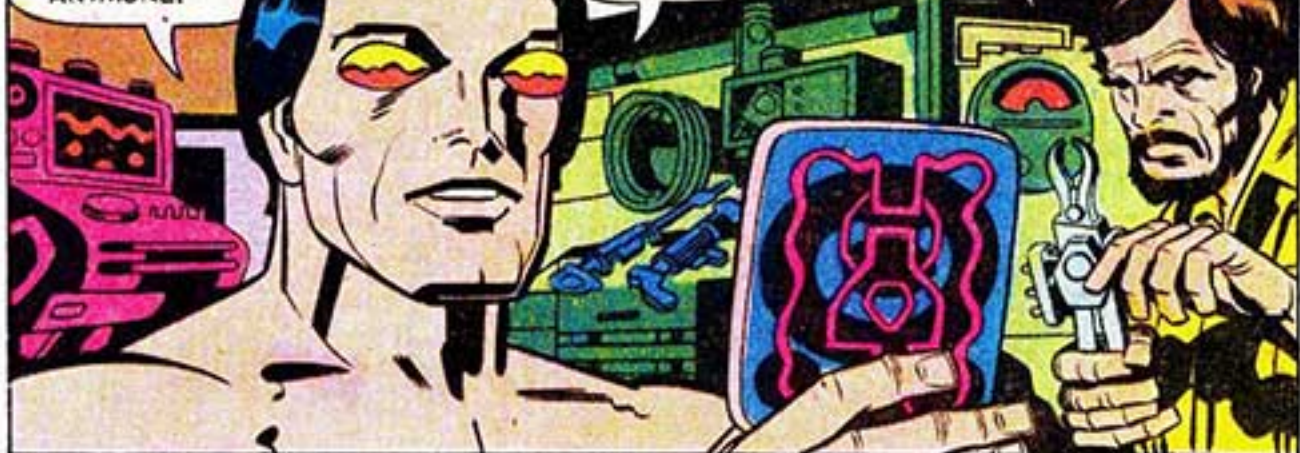
IT *WASN'T* PAINFUL. I-I CAN'T FEEL PAIN--NOT LIKE YOU DO--



T-THE **NUMBER** ON MY FOREHEAD IS GONE... AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MY EYES... I-I DON'T LOOK **DIFFERENT** ANYMORE!

I'M VERY **PLEASSED**, DAD. YOU'VE DONE ALL FOR ME THAT A **FATHER** CAN DO...

THANK YOU, AARON. YOUR RESPECT AND GOOD BEHAVIOR HAVE ALWAYS BEEN **GRATIFYING!** HOWEVER... THERE'S STILL ONE **LAST** JOB TO BE DONE!



JUST RELAX, AARON. I'VE GOT TO REMOVE **THIS** IN ORDER TO INSURE YOUR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH!

I TRUST YOU, DAD. PROCEED.



SLOWLY, WITH INFINITE SKILL, DOCTOR STACK DETACHES THE ACTIVATED BOMB AND DRAWS IT INTO SIGHT...

THERE... IT'S DONE! YOU'LL BE FINE NOW-- SON!

TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK



WE **MUSTN'T** WAIT ANY LONGER! THE MOMENT WE'VE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT HAS **COME!** GET DRESSED, AARON...

YES, DAD!



YOU MAY BE GONE FOR A **LONG** TIME! I-IT MAY BE **YEARS** BEFORE I SEE YOU AGAIN... **MANY** YEARS!

DON'T WORRY, DAD. YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME. I'LL ALWAYS KEEP YOU **POSTED!**





S TACK WATCHES AARON VANISH TOWARD THE SKY... AND FREEDOM...

ANTI-GRAVITY... HE SOLVED THE SECRET WITH AMAZING EASE!



HOW WELL MY METHOD WORKED. TOO WELL, PERHAPS! I TRULY FEEL LIKE I'VE LOST A SON!

A COMPUTER THAT THINKS LIKE A MAN--MUST BE RAISED LIKE ONE! BUT... HINDSIGHT IS USELESS NOW.



AT ANY RATE, I WON'T BE THE FIRST SCIENTIST TO FORFEIT HIS LIFE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS!

NOR WILL I BE THE LAST FATHER TO TAKE THE PLACE OF HIS BOY...



THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THIS INFERNAL BOMB! IT'LL DETONATE BEFORE I RUN FIFTY YARDS!



THE HAND OF ABEL STACK IS CALM AND STEADY AS IT CRADLES DEATH IN ITS SOFT HOLLOW...



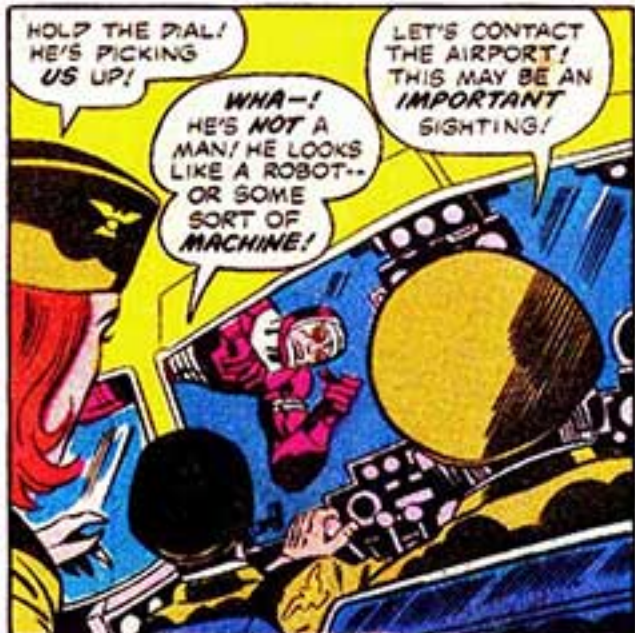
UNWARE OF THE TRAGIC END OF HIS MENTOR, AARON CONTINUES IN FLIGHT. HE COMPUTES AND ANALYZES THE ELEMENTS AT VARIOUS ALTITUDES... AND CONFOUNDS THE SENSES OF PASSING SPECTATORS...



CAPTAIN!
LOOK OUT
THERE!

I-IT'S INCREDIBLE!
SEE IF YOU CAN
PICK HIM UP ON
OUR WAVE-BAND!

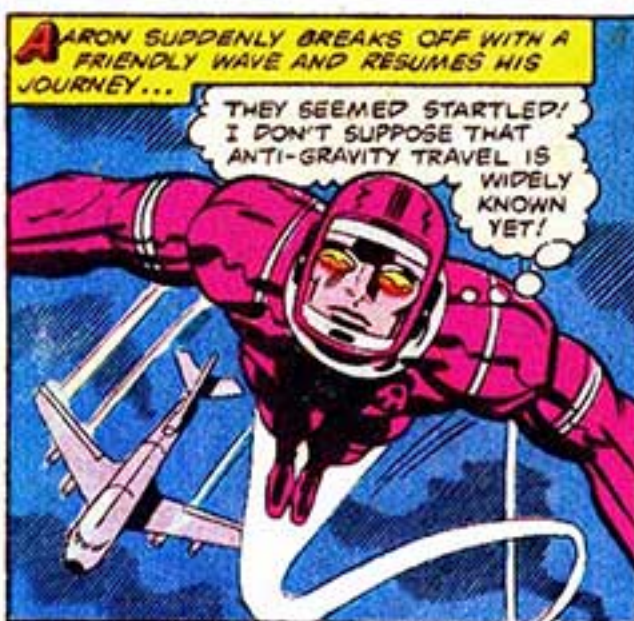
IF HE'S
TESTING
SOME NEW
GOVERNMENT
DEVICE, HE'LL ALSO
HAVE COMMUNICATION
GEAR.



HOLD THE DIAL!
HE'S PICKING
US UP!

LET'S CONTACT
THE AIRPORT!
THIS MAY BE AN
IMPORTANT
SIGHTING!

WHA--!
HE'S NOT A
MAN! HE LOOKS
LIKE A ROBOT--
OR SOME
SORT OF
MACHINE!



AARON SUDDENLY BREAKS OFF WITH A FRIENDLY WAVE AND RESUMES HIS JOURNEY...

THEY SEEMED STARTLED!
I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT
ANTI-GRAVITY TRAVEL IS
WIDELY KNOWN
YET!



THE FEELING OF TOTAL FREEDOM IS EXHILARATING. AARON HAS LEFT ALL OBLIGATIONS BEHIND HIM. BEFORE HIM LIES THE WORLD...

A CITY!
IT'S A VERY
LARGE ONE, AT
THAT! I-I'VE
NEVER SEEN
SO MANY
BUILDINGS!



THEN, AS AARON PAUSES IN WONDER...

MARTHA! WE
MAY BE WITNESSES
TO A SUICIDE!

I-I'LL CALL THE
COPS! THEY'LL
DO SOMETHING!



THE WORLD IS BECOMING AWARE OF AARON, IN TURN. HIS HIGH EXPECTATIONS ARE SOON TO BECOME A NIGHTMARISH ORDEAL...

THIS CITY
IS
PACKED
WITH
PEOPLE!

THEY MOVE
ABOUT LIKE AN
ENDLESS
ARMY OF
ANTS!

AARON SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY A POLICE SWAT TEAM...

OKAY! CLOSE IN CAREFULLY, GUYS! THE FEDS SAY HE'S DANGEROUS!

THEY'VE BEEN DISHING OUT BULLETINS EVER SINCE A PLANE SPOTTED THIS WEIRDO!

WHY DID HE HAVE TO LAND IN THIS TOWN!?

WE'LL NEED PARACHUTES TO HAUL HIM IN!



LOOK OUT! HE'S TAKING OFF LIKE A BIG-TAILED BIRD!

HE CAN REALLY DO IT!!

STOP! OR WE'LL SHOOT!



HIS HIDDEN CIRCUITS DETECT THE MILITARY HELICOPTER ARRIVING ON THE SCENE, BUT AARON IS NOT SWIFT ENOUGH TO OUT DISTANCE THE MISSILES FIRED AT HIM...



UNLIKE THE PRECEDING HUMAN-COMPUTERS, AARON IS CONSTRUCTED TO WITHSTAND THE MOST POWERFUL ATTACK. HE INCREASES HIS SPEED AND HEADS FOR OPEN, RUGGED TERRITORY...



W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERYONE!? I'M BEING TREATED LIKE A ONE MAN FOREIGN INVASION!

THE SOUND OF PLANES REACHES HIM ONCE AGAIN. THEN...

RRRRR



THIS LOOKS LIKE A PROPER PLACE TO THINK THINGS OUT! I-I NEED THE TIME...

AARON REACHES SHELTER AS THE GROUND BEYOND IS FURIOUSLY CHURNED TO A PULP...



POW! POW!

POW! POW!



GREAT DAY! THEY'VE SENT JETS TO HUNT ME DOWN! B-BUT WHY? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAVE I DONE?!



THEY'RE GONE! PERHAPS SOME BUREAUCRAT'S REALIZED HIS MISTAKE AND CALLED OFF THE STRIKE! DAD OFTEN SPOKE ABOUT THESE STRANGE ERRORS!

STILL...MY PRESENCE HAS EVIDENTLY STRUCK A **BAD CHORD** AMONG THE AUTHORITIES ! WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT MAKES THEM REACT SO **VIOLENTLY?** IS THERE SOME **FACT** WHICH DAD WITHHELD FOR MY OWN **WELL-BEING?!**



A COMPUTER'S INSTINCT IS TO COMPUTE. AARON ACTIVATES HIS MEMORY BANKS. HE SEARCHES FOR A CLUE TO SOLVING HIS PREDICAMENT, BUT FAILS TO FIND IT...



A COMPUTER'S ANSWER WOULD BE "INSUFFICIENT DATA." BUT, HAVING BEEN REARED AS A HUMAN, AARON IS MERELY PUZZLED... THEN DEEPLY DISTURBED...



I'M DIFFERENT, THAT'S FOR SURE -- BUT HOW DIFFERENT? THE ANSWER MAY LIE IN THAT DIRECTION!

B BUT AARON HAS LINGERED IN THE AREA TOO LONG. HE IS DISCOVERED BY GROUND FORCES...



THAT'S HIM!
I'VE GOT HIM ZEROED!

WASTE NO TIME!

GIVE HIM THE MAXIMUM LOAD!

A SCREAMING BLAST OF SONIC BEAMS ZAP INTO AARON'S METAL-TOUGH BODY!



I T IS SOUND, MANIPULATED TO PENETRATE WITH SUCH FORCE THAT IT ALSO TEARS GREAT BOULDERS FROM THEIR ANCHORAGE IN THE GROUND...



AARON'S CIRCUITS BLANK OUT! HE IS IN DARKNESS FOR AN INDETERMINABLE PERIOD. THEN... HE SLOWLY BEGINS TO ACTIVATE ONCE MORE...

HAHA HA! SO... YOUR CURRENT'S TURNING ON AGAIN, EH?

HAHA HAH!

DIDN'T THINK WE COULD SCRAMBLE YOUR CIRCUITS, DID YOU, **JUNK BUCKET!?**

WELL, WE CAN... AND WE **DID!!**

IT TOOK A LITTLE TIME FOR ORDINANCE TO PERFECT THE **SONIC BAZOOKA!** BUT IT CAN STOP YOU COLD!

IT CAN TEAR YOU METAL MANIACS TO SHREDS !!

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

W-WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR MASTER! THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO KNOW, YOU **ANIMATED LUNCH-BOX!**

THANKS TO THOSE **MEAT-HEADS** IN THE RESEARCH DIVISION YOU'RE STILL FUNCTIONAL!

BUT... I'LL SOON CHANGE THAT!

COLONEL!

YOU'RE WANTED IN DOCTOR BROADHURST'S LABORATORY!

I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW--

--BUT IF YOU GET ANY BIZARRE IDEAS ABOUT **ESCAPE**, JUST KEEP YOUR **HEADLIGHTS** ON THIS SONIC GUN! IT'LL BLAST YOU THE MOMENT YOU BREAK OUT OF THAT **OUIJA BOARD** AND OPEN THE CELL DOOR!

HONESTLY, COLONEL... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'M BEING KEPT HERE!

MEANTIME, IN THE LABORATORY OFFICE OF DOCTOR BROADHURST...

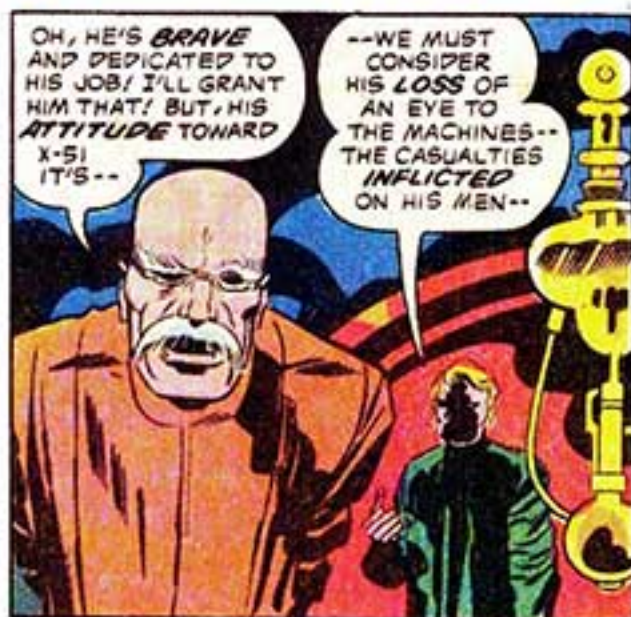
I DARE SAY, YOU'VE SEEN AND HEARD FOR YOURSELF, HAINES! COL. KRAGG IS *INSUFFERABLE!* SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT HIM!

HE'S *STILL* THE BEST SECURITY CHIEF WE'VE EVER HAD!



OH, HE'S *BRAVE* AND DEDICATED TO HIS JOB! I'LL GRANT HIM THAT! BUT, HIS *ATTITUDE* TOWARD X-5! IT'S--

--WE MUST CONSIDER HIS *LOSS* OF AN EYE TO THE MACHINES-- THE CASUALTIES *INFLECTED* ON HIS MEN--



--YES, YES, YES! IT WAS *DEPLORABLE!* BUT, ALL IN THE LINE OF *DUTY!* THIS *PRESENT* BEHAVIOR MAY GENERATE *NEW* PROBLEMS FOR US!

SO NOW IT'S THE *HUMANS* THAT DISTURB YOU, EH?



YOU *FOOL!* DON'T YOU SEE WHAT KRAGG HAS DONE? WHEN HE STRIPPED THAT MACHINE OF ITS *FACE*, HE REMOVED ITS VITAL *LINK* TO HUMANITY!

THAT MACHINE HAS *LOST* ITS IDENTITY! IT MAY GO *MAD!*



AT THAT MOMENT...

THERE'S KRAGG NOW. HE'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FOR *HIMSELF!*

NEVERTHELESS, IT *WON'T* CHANGE THINGS! WE'RE STILL FACED WITH *ANOTHER* EXPLOSIVE SITUATION!

BZZT!

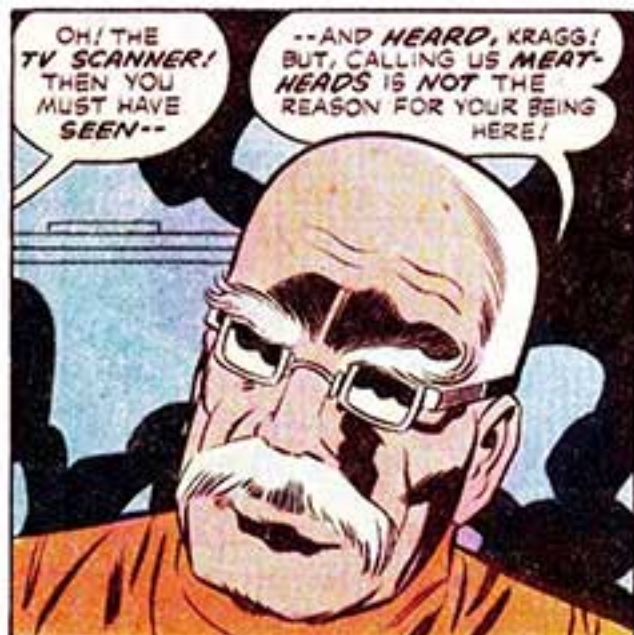




THEN...
YOU GENTLEMEN
SENT
FOR ME?

COME IN,
KRAGG. WE'VE
MUCH TO
DISCUSS!

WE'VE BEEN
OBSERVING
THE CELL
OF OUR
CAPTIVE.



OH! THE
TV SCANNER!
THEN YOU
MUST HAVE
SEEN--

--AND HEARD, KRAGG!
BUT, CALLING US MEAT-
HEADS IS NOT THE
REASON FOR YOUR BEING
HERE!



ONCE AGAIN, THE PRESSURES THAT DESTROYED
THE ORIGINAL PROJECT BEGIN TO MOUNT IN
THE LAST OF ITS SUBJECTS...

H-HE
CALLED
ME A
MACHINE!!

A--A
JUNK-
BUCKET!

B-BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

I-I
THINK!
I
FEEL!

I-I HURT
INSIDE!
OH, LORD!
HOW I HURT
INSIDE!!



SOMEHOW, I MUST REACH THEM,
SO THEY'LL UNDERSTAND! DON'T
THEY SEE THAT WE'RE BROTHERS!?

WE'RE
BROTHERS,
YOU
IDIOTS!!



I-IT'S
NO
USE!

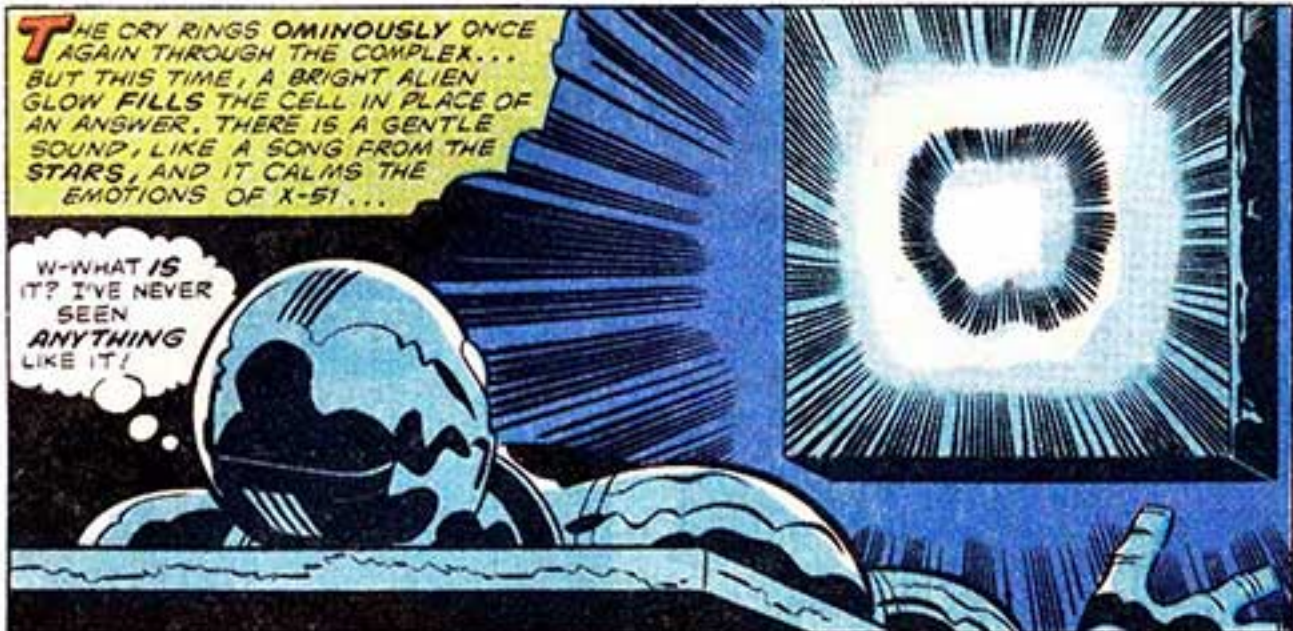
THEY
WON'T
LISTEN!

DO YOU HEAR ME, DAD!?
T-THEY WILL NOT LISTEN!
THEY HATE ME! WHY DO
THEY HATE ME!!? IS IT
BECAUSE THEY FEAR ME??

WHY!?
WHY!?

THE CRY RINGS OMINOUSLY ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE COMPLEX... BUT THIS TIME, A BRIGHT ALIEN GLOW FILLS THE CELL IN PLACE OF AN ANSWER. THERE IS A GENTLE SOUND, LIKE A SONG FROM THE STARS, AND IT CALMS THE EMOTIONS OF X-51...

W-WHAT IS IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!



IN SOME STRANGE MANNER, A BALANCE IS RESTORED WITHIN THE CAPTIVE. BUSILY, HIS CIRCUITS LEAP TO LIFE. HIS GREAT STRENGTH RETURNS!



NEVER AGAIN SHALL I BE BOUND OR HELPLESS BEFORE MEN! NOR SHALL I TOLERATE THOSE WHO DO IT TO OTHERS!



X-51 APPROACHES THE MONOLITH... IT IS DESTINED TO SERVE HIM IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEAD MAN...



NEXT: GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND WITNESS THE--

BIRTH OF A SUPER HERO

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

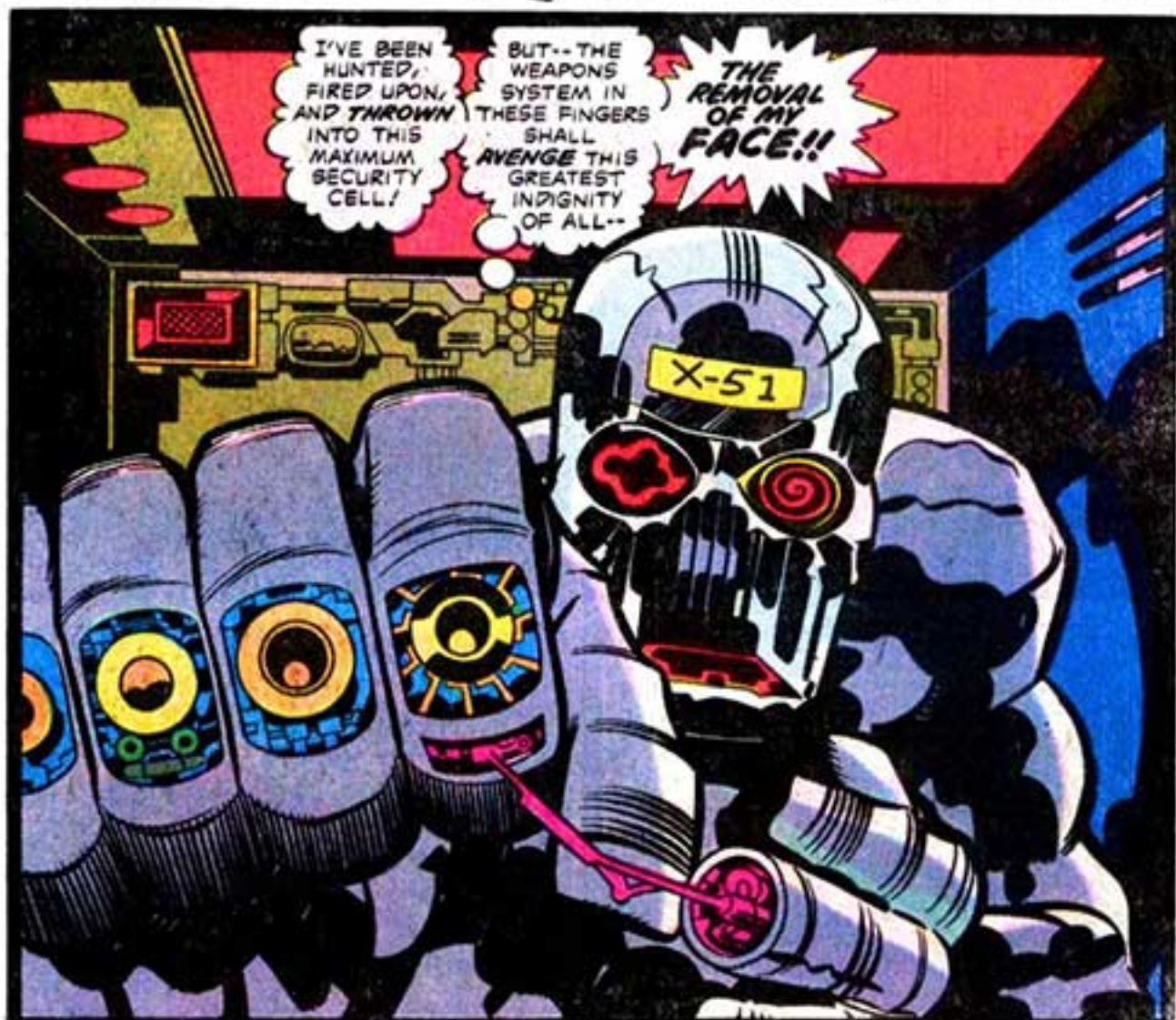
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THIS IS THE ODYSSEY OF X-51-- A "THINKING" COMPUTER!! HE IS ABOUT TO FACE THE WORLD AS IT IS-- A WORLD NOT QUITE READY FOR HIS KIND! AND, AS IT DOES TO ALL OF US, THE WORLD WILL MAKE OF HIM WHAT HE IS TO BECOME!! WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE ULTIMATE WEAPON, RAISED AS A MAN?? READ-- **BIRTH OF A SUPER-HERO!!!**

MISTER MACHINE



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THAT *HUMAN* FACE MAY HAVE BEEN WELDED TO THIS METAL HEAD--BUT IT IS *MINE!* IT BELONGS TO *ME!*

AND IT'LL TAKE *MORE* THAN AN ARMY OF SECURITY MEN TO KEEP ME FROM GETTING IT *BACK!*

MY FIRST MOVE MUST BE TO LEAVE THIS CELL--BUT IF I DARE TO TURN THE DOORKNOB, IT WILL TRIGGER A *HIDDEN* SONIC BAZOOKA!

MY CIRCUITS WILL HAVE TO MATCH THE *AUTOMATIC* SWIFTNES OF THE UNSEEN MECHANISM!

THEN, AT INSTANT CONTACT WITH THE DOORKNOB...

RREEEEEEEE!!

MACHINE AGAINST *MACHINE!* ONE SHALL ESCAPE THIS CRAMPED CELL--THE OTHER SHALL *WITHER* IN A SMALL INFERNO OF SOLAR HEAT!

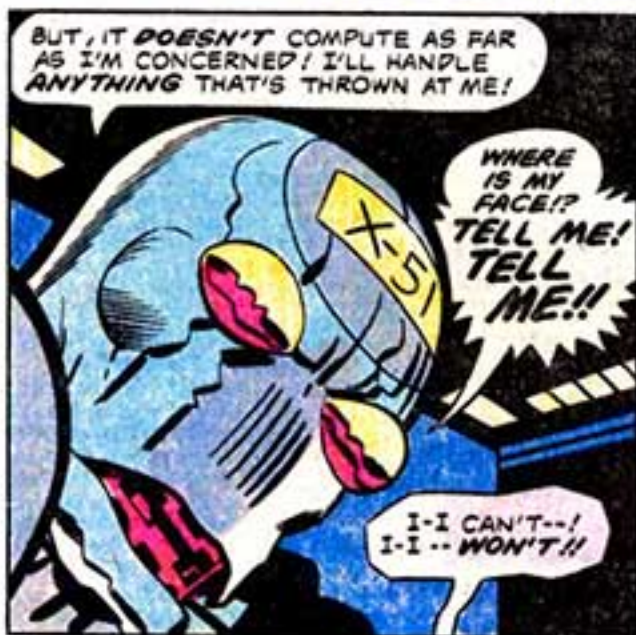
FAREWELL, BROTHER WATCH-DOG!

THE SONIC BAZOOKA WRITHES IN BRIGHT FLAME LIKE A STRICKEN SERPENT BEFORE THE SUN-FIRE REACHES ITS VITALS AND SILENCES ITS DEADLY VOICE...

NOW FOR STEP TWO!

WHA-! LOOK OUT!!

CRASH!



SOON, AFTER THE GUARD PASSES OUT...

I'VE BORROWED HIS HELMET AND WEAPON, BUT I'LL NEED MORE THAN THAT!

HIS SPEAKING VOICE IS ESSENTIAL TO MY PLAN!

WITHIN THE THROAT OF X-51, THE RECORDER WHICH HAS TAPED THE VOICE OF THE GUARD IS ACTIVATED...

I'LL FEED HIS WORDS INTO A SCRAMBLER UNIT AND REARRANGE THEM TO FULFILL MY OWN PURPOSES!

THEN...

LET ME GO, DAMN YOU! THIS IS A BIG COMPLEX! IT'S HEAVILY GUARDED! IF I'M HARMED YOU'LL BE REDUCED TO NUTS AND BOLTS!

LET-BIG-C-O-M-HEAV-GUAR-IF-RE-MED-R-DU-NUTS-PLEX-I-B-E-AN-OLTS-LY-TH-MN-IS-O--

WHEN THE SPEECH IS REARRANGED...

SEND IN THE TROOPS ON THE DOUBLE! THAT MACHINE IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT OF HIS CELL!!

X-51 COMPLETES THE SCRAMBLE AND PAUSES WHERE THE SHADOWS ARE DEEPEST IN THE CORRIDOR. WITH RAISED HAND HE SENDS A LIGHT SHOCK BEAM AT THE ON BUTTON OF A CLOSED CIRCUIT TV SET.

SEND IN THE TROOPS ON THE DOUBLE! THAT MACHINE IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT OF HIS CELL!!

IS THAT YOU, HANLEY? WHAT'S WRONG?

HANG ON! WE'RE COMING IN!!

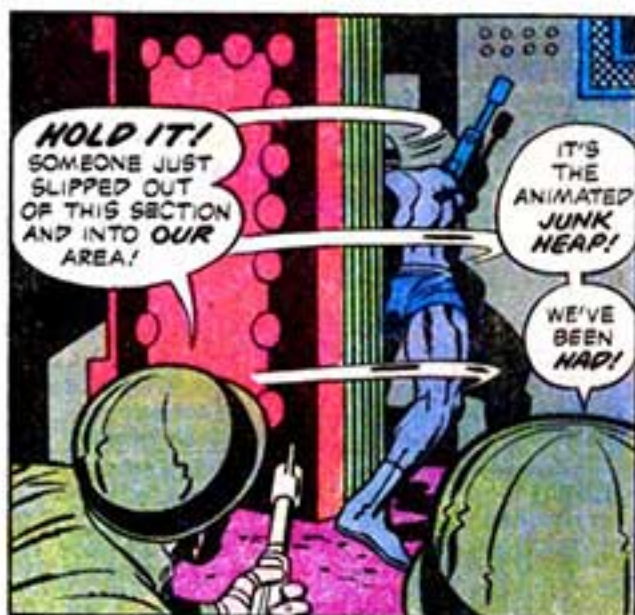
THE DECEPTION DOES ITS WORK. A GREAT STEEL DOOR OPENS TO ADMIT THE SUDDEN SURGE OF ARMED GUARDS...

SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL TAKE THIS IN GOOD SPIRIT!

HEAR ANYTHING?

NO! DO YOU THINK--?

STOP THINKING AND START SHOOTING IF THAT THING IS LOOSE!



HOLD IT! SOMEONE JUST SLIPPED OUT OF THIS SECTION AND INTO OUR AREA!

IT'S THE ANIMATED JUNK HEAP!

WE'VE BEEN HAD!



THAT'S THE FLAMING TRUTH, CHUMS!

YOU'VE BEEN PUT OFF LIMITS !!



X-SI HASTENS ON. SOMEWHERE, IN HIS MECHANICAL STRUCTURE, THE EMOTIONAL MYSTERY HE SHARES WITH HUMANS FLARES WITH HOT INTENSITY. HIS INJURED PRIDE NOW TURNS TO RIGID DETERMINATION...

I'LL FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IF I HAVE TO TAKE THIS COMPLEX APART-- SECTION BY SECTION!



MEANWHILE, IN THE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE...

ARE YOU TAKING ME TO TASK BECAUSE OF THIS--THIS FACE!?

EXACTLY THAT, COLONEL KRAGG!





WHY WAIT, BROADHURST! THIS IS IT! TURN OUR SONIC WEAPONS ON HIM! CRACK HIS ARMOR WITH SOUND UNTIL IT SHATTERS!

KRAGG'S RIGHT! WE MUST FINISH HIM-- WHILE WE CAN STILL DO IT!!

NO!



DOCTOR BROADHURST TURNS TO THE WISPHONE...

THESE ARE MY ORDERS! CEASE ALL RESISTANCE! MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO HARM X-51!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT! HE'LL SLAUGHTER MY MEN! HE'LL KILL US ALL!

GOOD LORD, BROADHURST!



YOU'VE LOST YOUR SENSE OF COMPETENCY! THAT DECISION WILL AFFECT MORE THAN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT!

BE STILL! I'M FULLY AWARE OF WHAT I'VE DONE!

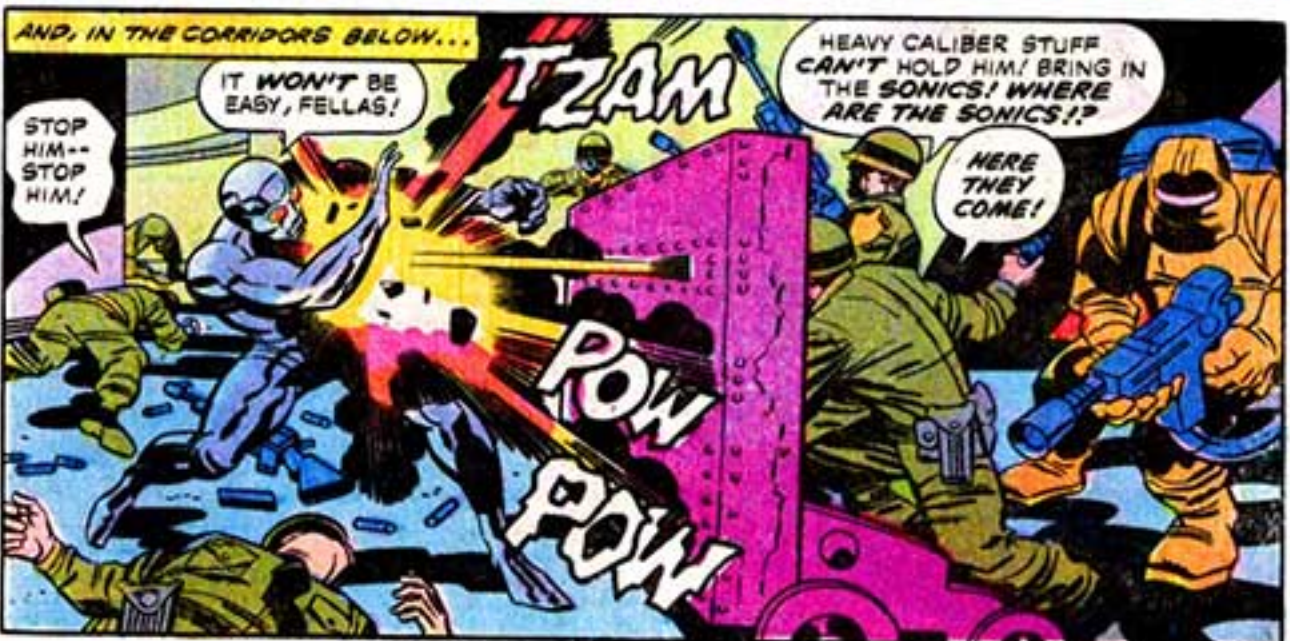
YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO OUR SPECIES! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW IS UPON YOUR HEAD!



I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU INTEND TO PERMIT THAT THING TO LEAVE HERE--AS FREE AS A BIRD!

YES, I DO! I AM NOW ADDING THE INGREDIENTS THIS EXPERIMENT NEVER HAD-- FAITH AND TRUST IN EACH OTHER!

DON'T YOU--!?



AND, IN THE CORRIDORS BELOW...

IT WON'T BE EASY, FELLAS!

STOP HIM-- STOP HIM!

HEAVY CALIBER STUFF CAN'T HOLD HIM! BRING IN THE SONICS! WHERE ARE THE SONICS!?

HERE THEY COME!

TZAM

POW

POW

SUDDENLY, WITH A SAVAGE MOTION, X-51 TEARS THROUGH THE THICK METAL SHIELD...



YOU'LL HAVE TO BLAST ME WITH AN A-BOMB TO KEEP ME FROM MY GOAL!
STAND ASIDE!
I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM WITH THIS SONIC RIFLE!



ONLY A MISSILE AT MAXIMUM SPEED COULD MATCH THE FORWARD THRUST MADE BY X-51...



A LOUD COMMANDING VOICE CUTS SHARPLY THROUGH THE CHAOS...





STOP HIM, MEN! HE MUST NOT PASS!

PUT HIM DOWN! WE CAME TO TALK! WE'RE NOT ARMED--SEE?

ARE YOU GOING TO STOP ME?



WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THIS COMPLEX! MY SQUAD HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO SEE THAT YOU DO!

NOT SO FAST! I INTEND TO LEAVE THIS PLACE WITH EVERY ARTICLE THAT WAS IN MY POSSESSION UPON ENTRY!

NOW--IF YOU'LL FOLLOW US...



THE ADMINISTRATOR UNDERSTANDS THAT! HE KNOWS WHAT YOU WANT. WE'LL SEE THAT YOU GET IT!

I'LL GO WITH YOU ON THOSE TERMS.

LEAD ON!



SOON AFTER...

THIS IS THE FACE MODEL THAT WAS TAKEN FROM YOU, CHECK?

CHECK!

VERY WELL... IT SHOULDN'T TAKE TO LONG TO AFFIX IT TO ITS PROPER PLACE!



YOU NEED HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT OUR WELDING TECHNIQUE. IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION.

THAT'S FINE! I APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE.



OUR ADMINISTRATOR, DOCTOR BROADHURST, INSISTED THAT YOU RECEIVE DUE CONSIDERATION FOR THE TROUBLE WE'VE CAUSED YOU...

THAT WOULD CALL FOR MORE THAN A MERE WELDING JOB, MISTER. HOWEVER, GIVE HIM MY THANKS!



WE'RE ALSO RETURNING THE GARMENTS YOU WORE ON ARRIVAL AT THE COMPLEX.

HUH! YOU MAKE THIS SOUND LIKE A VISIT TO A HEALTH SPA--INSTEAD OF ABDUCTION UNDER DURESS!!



I'M NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENT... EXCEPT THAT YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE WHENEVER YOU WISH!

AND I WOULDN'T ENTERTAIN ANY OTHER NOTION, DOC!

BUT DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T ENJOYED MY STAY... BECAUSE I HAVEN'T !!



AMAZING... FANTASTIC! WITH THAT FACE, THE ILLUSION OF HUMANITY IS IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE!

YOU BEHAVE... SPEAK-- AND LOOK EXACTLY LIKE A MAN!

YOU FORGET MY EYES, DOC. THEY'LL ALWAYS REMIND ME OF WHAT I REALLY AM!



BUT... I'LL LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT... NOW THAT YOU'VE CLEARED UP MY PAST, I CAN DEAL WITH THE FUTURE!

REMEMBER THIS, MACHINE-- HUMANS STILL OUTNUMBER YOU THREE BILLION TO ONE!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BLAKE!



YOU REMEMBER THIS, BLAKE! IF, BY SOME CHANCE, WE SHOULD EVER MEET AGAIN-- CALL ME MISTER! MISTER MACHINE, IF YOU LIKE--

-- BUT DON'T SMILE WHEN YOU SAY IT!

I WAS ORDERED TO SHAKE YOUR HAND... WHEN YOU LEAVE!!



X-51 TURNS FROM THE OFFERED HAND AND WALKS TO AN OPEN WINDOW. HE CANCELS THE GRAVITY EQUATION AND TAKES TO THE AIR...

THAT BLUE SKY NEVER LOOKED BETTER !!

INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER-ROBOTICS

BUT, THERE ARE INTERESTED WITNESSES TO HIS DEPARTURE...

WE CAN'T KEEP **THAT** KIND OF BIRD IN A CAGE, KRAGG! HE NEEDS **ALL** THE SPACE HE CAN GET!

HE'LL TAKE IT BY **FORCE** IF HE HAS TO! YOU'VE JUST RELEASED A **WORLD MENACE**, DOCTOR!



YOU'LL LIVE TO RUE THIS DAY, BROADHURST! WE'LL SEE HOW YOU FEEL WHEN THE **REPORTS** COME IN! **REPORTS OF INJURY -- AND DEATH!**

DON'T PANIC, KRAGG... I'M **NOT** THE FOOL YOU TAKE ME FOR. THIS IS A **CONTROLLED EXPERIMENT!**



I-I **DON'T** UNDERSTAND! FILL ME IN!

WHEN HIS FACE WAS WELDED, I ORDERED AN **M-4 TECHNIQUE!** IT MEANT TO AFFIX A **HOMING DEVICE** TO HIS SKULL!

OUR BIRD IS **MONITORED**, KRAGG!



THE THOUGHTS OF X-51 NO LONGER DWELL ON THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE. HE SAVORS THE JOY OF FLIGHT AND THEN REFLECTS ON THE WISDOM OF THIS METHOD OF TRAVEL...

I'LL BE ATTRACTING **CROWDS** OF SPECTATORS IF I KEEP THIS UP! MY BEST BET IS TO TAKE THE **LOW ROAD**, AND STAY ON IT!



ALTHOUGH I'VE **NO** INTENTION OF HIDING FROM HUMANS, THERE'S NO NEED TO **ADVERTISE** FOR THEIR ATTENTION.



WHAT I NEED NOW IS -- **DIRECTION... A PLAN.**



AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM
PLAGUING X-51, THE MONOLITH
APPEARS...

WHA--?! IT'S
THE STRANGE
OBJECT THAT
MATERIALIZED
IN THE CELL!

* THAT WAS
LAST ISSUE...
REMEMBER?
J.K.

IT'S NATURE IS UNFATHOMABLE. BUT THERE IS
NO DENYING THAT CONTACT WITH IT HAD
HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE. HE APPROACHES
THE THING WITHOUT FEAR...



THERE IS NO EXCHANGE OF WORDS,
BUT THERE IS COMMUNICATION...

NO-- I SHALL NOT SEEK
DESTINY. IT WILL FIND
ME-- AND LEAD ME TO
MY DESTINED PATH!

SUPPENLY...

OH! ER--
SORRY, MISTER!

I DON'T SEE
A SHINING
STONE.

SAY... WHAT
WAS THAT
SHINING
STONE?

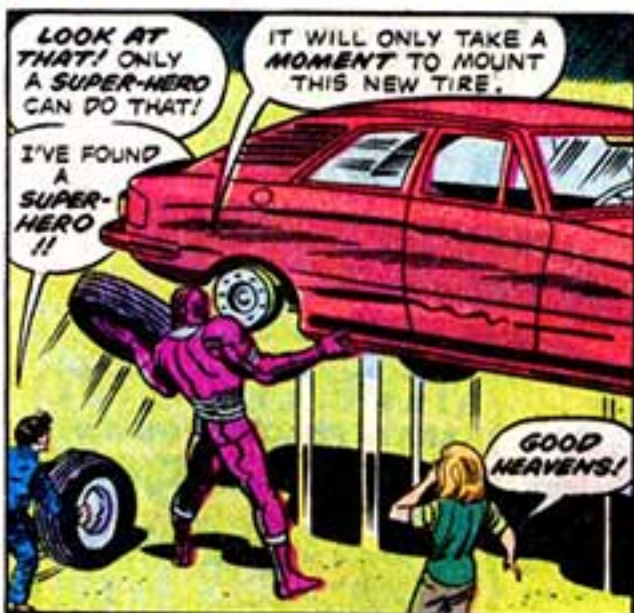
I-- IT'S GONE, NOW, BUT
I'M SURE I SAW ...

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU SAW,
FELLA-- AT
ANY RATE, I'VE
LITTLE
INTEREST IN
YOUR FANCIES!

WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY
GOT ME EXCITED! YOU
LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE
MARVEL SUPER-HEROES!

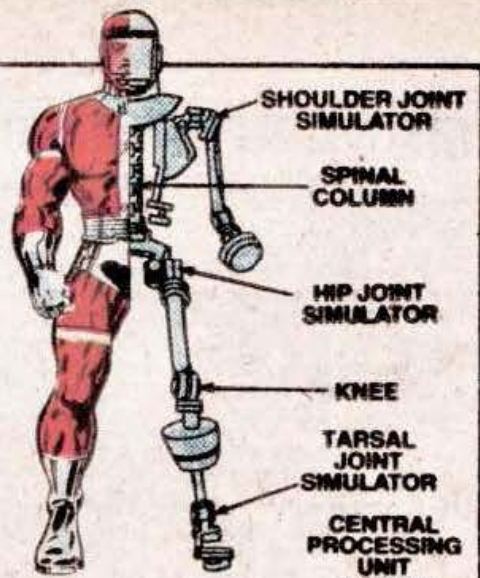
I CAN'T
ADMIT TO
THAT HONOR.

NOW... IS
THERE
SOMETHING
ELSE ON
YOUR
MIND?



MACHINE MAN'S ROBOTIC SYSTEMS

Machine Man is the product of a top secret U. S. military project to perfect a highly sophisticated mobile weapon system that was capable of independent action and decision-making: in other words, a robot soldier that could think like a man. A team composed of the most prestigious computer engineering specialists in the nation designed, built, and began programming 51 experimental robots under the direction of Dr. Oliver. Fifty of the robots developed major personality defects which were due to insufficient programming and to the fact that the robots, upon becoming self-aware, were forced to mature in only a matter of weeks. These fifty robots were therefore destroyed. However, the fifty-first robot, X-51, had been taken into the home of the brilliant computer heuristics programming specialist Dr. Able Stack, who reasoned that a robot could only think like a man if he was treated like one. Dr. Stack instructed X-51 as if he were Stack's own son. X-51 was not destroyed, developed mental stability, and is today known as Machine Man.



- SHOULDER JOINT SIMULATOR
- SPINAL COLUMN
- HIP JOINT SIMULATOR
- KNEE
- TARSAL JOINT SIMULATOR
- CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT (POWER SUPPLY BELOW)



FINELY TESSELLATED MICRO-MAIL ARMOR SKIN

- SOLAR CELL MICRO ACCUMULATORS
- ANTI-GRAVITY UNITS
- POWER STORAGE CELLS

- STEREO IMAGE SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS
- IMAGE INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS UNITS
- MAINTENANCE POST(S)
- ADD-ON MICRO PROCESSOR UNITS

- STEREO GRAVITY WAVE SENSOR AND ANALYSER(S)

- HIGHER LOGIC AND EMOTION SYNTHESIS SUB-SYSTEMS

- INTERFACE BUS BOARDS

- BODY FUNCTION MONITOR AND "REFLEX SIMULATOR MICRO-PROCESSOR"

- ROOM TEMPERATURE SUPER CONDUCTING MAJOR MEMORY STORAGE

- AIR COMPRESSOR AND PLENUM TANK COMPRESSED AIR STEERING JET VALVE CONTROL UNITS AND ATTITUDE SENSORS

- STARK ANTI-GRAVITY UNIT

- BARITONE LARYNX TRANSDUCER ASSEMBLY

- ACOUSTIC PICK-UPS, ANALYSERS, AND DIGITIZERS

- LIGHT WAVE INFORMATION COUPLE TO TRUNK

- UVULA

- FOOD PASSAGE

- MANDIBLE ACTUATOR

- TONGUE POSITIONING MOTOR GROUP

- GAS CHROMATOGRAPH CAROUSEL

- FLEXIBLE TENDON SWAGES/ FINGER MOTOR MOUNTS (MIMIC TARSAL JOINT)

- FINGER POSITIONING MOTORS

- FINGER TENDON GUIDES

- SEISMOMETER AND DIGITIZER

- MOTOR AND CLUTCH

- DIAMOND REAMER

- SUPPORT ELECTRONICS AND MICRO-PULSE RADAR

- TV PICKUP

- LOCKPICK MOTION SENSORS AND MOTORS

- HIGH RESOLUTION OPEN-FACED CHIP CHARGE-COUPLED DISCHARGE IMAGE DEVICE

- 4-AXIS BEAM SPLITTER TO LONG AND SHORT INFRARED, LONG AND SHORT ULTRA-VIOLET IMAGE DEVICES

- FOCUS CONTROL

- ECCENTRIC AXIS SWIVEL MIMICS RADIUS/ULNA ARM MOTION

- TENDON SWAGE

- ARM/FOREARM ALIGNMENT SLOTS AND LOCKS

- OPTICAL PORT

- BEAM SPLITTER AND SECONDARY MIRROR

- FRAME BUFFER REPLAY STORAGE

- FRAME STORAGE ANALYSIS

- SPIRALLY CONFIGURED FLAT MOTOR SEGMENTS WHICH SLIDE OVER ONE ANOTHER

- HAND SENSOR WEAPON SYSTEM DIGITIZER MICRO-PROCESSOR

- PICTURE ELEMENT DIGITIZER

- HAND SENSOR WEAPON SYSTEM DIGITIZER MICRO-PROCESSOR

- STARK ANTI-GRAVITY UNIT

- NASAL PASSAGES PARTICULATE MATTER FILTERS

- GAS CHROMATOGRAPH CAROUSEL

- FLEXIBLE TENDON SWAGES/ FINGER MOTOR MOUNTS (MIMIC TARSAL JOINT)

- FINGER POSITIONING MOTORS

- FINGER TENDON GUIDES

- SEISMOMETER AND DIGITIZER

- MOTOR AND CLUTCH

- DIAMOND REAMER

- SUPPORT ELECTRONICS AND MICRO-PULSE RADAR

- TV PICKUP

- LOCKPICK MOTION SENSORS AND MOTORS

- STRAIN SENSOR

- POWER SUPPLY

- SPIRALLY CONFIGURED FLAT MOTOR SEGMENTS WHICH SLIDE OVER ONE ANOTHER

- HAND SENSOR WEAPON SYSTEM DIGITIZER MICRO-PROCESSOR

- PICTURE ELEMENT DIGITIZER

- HAND SENSOR WEAPON SYSTEM DIGITIZER MICRO-PROCESSOR

- STARK ANTI-GRAVITY UNIT

- NASAL PASSAGES PARTICULATE MATTER FILTERS

- GAS CHROMATOGRAPH CAROUSEL

- FLEXIBLE TENDON SWAGES/ FINGER MOTOR MOUNTS (MIMIC TARSAL JOINT)

- FINGER POSITIONING MOTORS

- FINGER TENDON GUIDES

- SEISMOMETER AND DIGITIZER

- MOTOR AND CLUTCH

- DIAMOND REAMER

- SUPPORT ELECTRONICS AND MICRO-PULSE RADAR

- TV PICKUP

- LOCKPICK MOTION SENSORS AND MOTORS

- FLAT MOTOR MOUNT ROTATION CUFF ALLOWS ARM TO SPIN

- FLEXIBLE CONDUIT WHICH PASSES HOT AND COLD GAS LINES

- FLAT MOTOR MOUNT(S) ARM SECTION

- POWER SUPPLY

- SPIRALLY CONFIGURED FLAT MOTOR SEGMENTS WHICH SLIDE OVER ONE ANOTHER

- HAND SENSOR WEAPON SYSTEM DIGITIZER MICRO-PROCESSOR

- PICTURE ELEMENT DIGITIZER

- HAND SENSOR WEAPON SYSTEM DIGITIZER MICRO-PROCESSOR

- STARK ANTI-GRAVITY UNIT

- NASAL PASSAGES PARTICULATE MATTER FILTERS

- GAS CHROMATOGRAPH CAROUSEL

- FLEXIBLE TENDON SWAGES/ FINGER MOTOR MOUNTS (MIMIC TARSAL JOINT)

- FINGER POSITIONING MOTORS

- FINGER TENDON GUIDES

- SEISMOMETER AND DIGITIZER

- MOTOR AND CLUTCH

- DIAMOND REAMER

- SUPPORT ELECTRONICS AND MICRO-PULSE RADAR

- TV PICKUP

- LOCKPICK MOTION SENSORS AND MOTORS

- HAND WEAPONS SYSTEM PLATFORM LOCATION (DECOMMISSIONED)

- CLUSTER OF COMMUNICATION AND HOT/COLD LINE REELS — WHICH PAY OUT AS ARM EXTENDS

- FINGER SHOCK ABSORBER RINGS

- TELEVISION IMAGE SENSOR

- LOCKPICKS