

# "I CHALLENGED... GROOT!"

## THE MONSTER FROM PLANET X!

FOOL--*NONE* CAN  
WITHSTAND THE MIGHTY  
GROOT! YOU ARE DOOMED!  
YOU AND YOUR TOWN  
SHALL PERISH!

EVANS DON'T  
DEFY THE  
MONSTER!  
HE'LL DESTROY  
YOU!

I'M NOT AFRAID!  
GROOT-- YOU'LL  
*NEVER* TAKE  
OUR TOWN! I'LL  
FIND *SOME* WAY  
TO STOP YOU!

HOW CAN  
A HUMAN BEING  
CONQUER THE  
UNCONQUERABLE

?

IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT... ALICE AND I WERE RETURNING HOME FROM A PARTY, AND SHE WAS ON HER USUAL SUBJECT...

HONESTLY THAT GEORGE CARTER IS A WONDERFUL GUY! HE'S SO MANLY-- SO RUGGED!-- IF ONLY YOU WERE MORE LIKE THAT, LESLIE!

SUDDENLY--

# SCREECH

WHAT'S THE MATTER?! WHY DID YOU STOP?

LOOK! OVER THERE!

GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT IS THAT THING!

I DON'T KNOW-- SOME KIND OF LUMINOUS OBJECT!

IT'S COMING DOWN IN THE FOREST! LET'S GO SEE WHAT IT IS!

OH, NO, LESLIE... IT'S LATE AND I'M MUCH TOO TIRED! LET'S GO ON HOME!

SO WE WENT HOME... I'M A BIOLOGIST AND THE NEXT FEW DAYS I WAS TOO BUSY WITH MY WORK TO GO TO THE FOREST TO EXAMINE THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECT... BUT THEN, ALICE CAME INTO MY LAB...

LESLIE, THE MOST PECULIAR THING HAS HAPPENED... I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

WHAT'S THAT?

TWO OF OUR TREES ARE MISSING!

MISSING??

YES, AND I SPOKE WITH CLAIRE, AND SHE TELLS ME THEIR WOODEN FENCE IS GONE, ALSO!

MUST BE SOMEONE'S POOR IDEA OF A PRANK! THE STUFF WILL PROBABLY TURN UP SOMEWHERE SOON!

BUT EVEN AS I SAID THAT, A SUDDEN THOUGHT CAME TO ME... A DISTURBING THOUGHT THAT REMAINED WITH ME UNTIL THAT EVENING WHEN I TOLD ALICE...

HONEY, I'M GOING TO DRIVE OVER TO THE FOREST... I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OBJECT THAT LANDED THERE THE OTHER NIGHT!

ALL RIGHT, BUT IT WOULD DO YOU MORE GOOD TO WALK THERE! I MIGHT TOUGHEN YOU UP A LITTLE! HARDEN YOUR MUSCLES!

ALICE'S REMARKS ABOUT WHAT SHE CONSIDERED MY SOFTNESS, USUALLY BOTHERED ME... BUT THIS NIGHT MY MIND WAS ELSEWHERE...

I'VE A STRANGE HUNCH THERE'S SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT MYSTERIOUS OBJECT AND THE STUFF THAT'S DISAPPEARED!



I PARKED MY CAR ON THE EDGE OF THE FOREST AND MADE MY WAY ON FOOT IN THE DIRECTION OF AN BERRIE GLOW...

IT-- IT'S STILL GLOWING!

WHATEVER THE THING IS, IT'S MIGHTY POWERFUL-- OR IT COULDN'T EMIT THAT MUCH LIGHT!



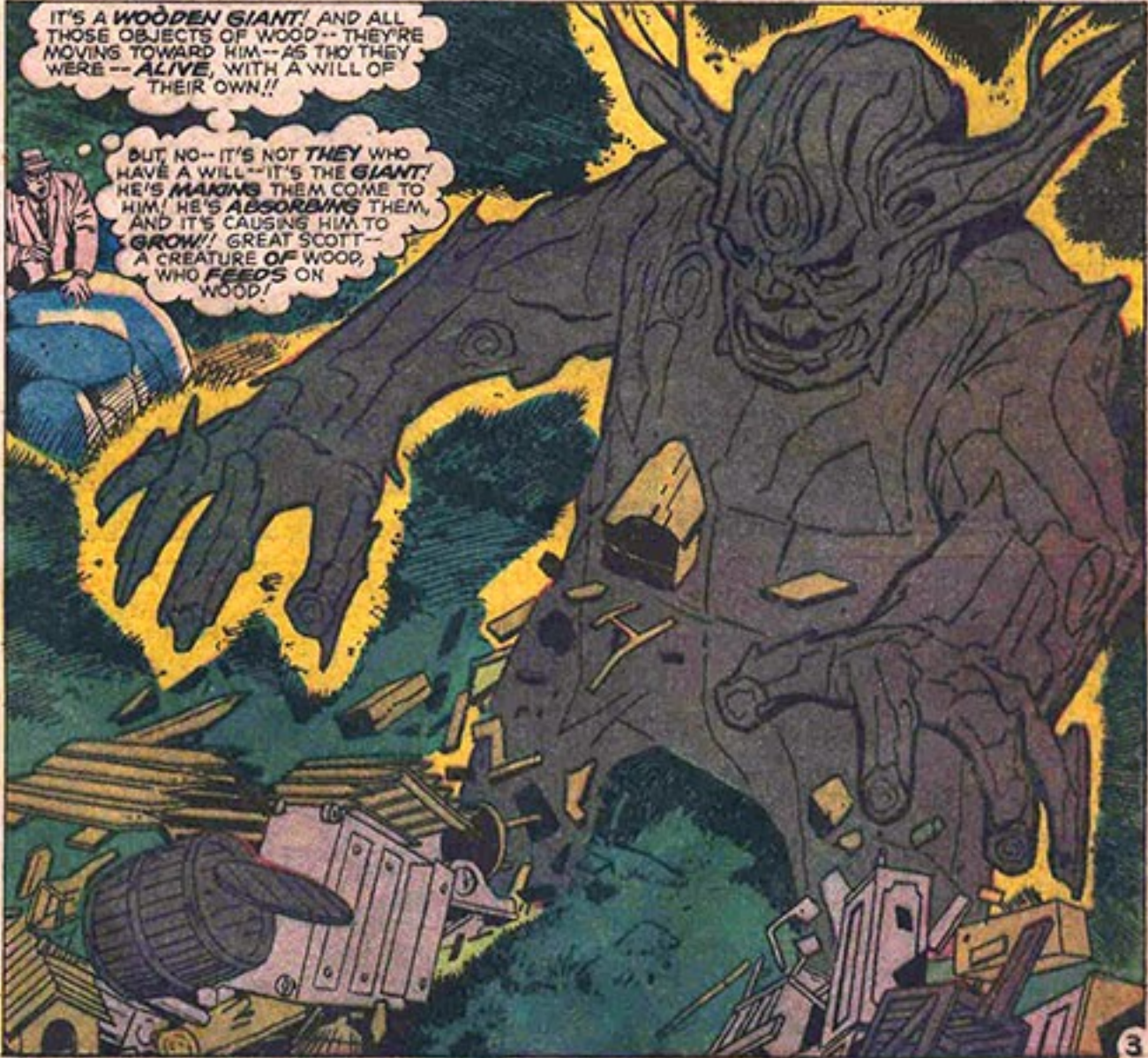
I KEPT WALKING UNTIL FINALLY I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THE OBJECT ITSELF... AND THEN MY GAZE FELL UPON-- THE UN-BELIEVABLE--THE INDESCRIBABLE!!

NO-- IT CAN'T BE!! SUCH THINGS DON'T EXIST! AND YET-- THERE IT IS!! I'M LOOKING AT IT!



IT'S A WOODEN GIANT! AND ALL THOSE OBJECTS OF WOOD-- THEY'RE MOVING TOWARD HIM-- AS THO' THEY WERE-- ALIVE, WITH A WILL OF THEIR OWN!!

BUT, NO-- IT'S NOT THEY WHO HAVE A WILL-- IT'S THE GIANT! HE'S MAKING THEM COME TO HIM! HE'S ABSORBING THEM, AND IT'S CAUSING HIM TO GROW!! GREAT SCOTT-- A CREATURE OF WOOD, WHO FEEDS ON WOOD!



I'D BETTER GET TO TOWN FAST!  
I'VE GOT TO WARN THE SHERIFF!  
THIS WOOD-GIANT COULD MENACE  
US ALL!!



SOME FRANTIC MINUTES LATER, I WAS IN TOWN,  
TRYING TO CONVINCE THE SHERIFF I WASN'T MAD...

I TELL YOU I SAW IT  
WITH MY OWN EYES!  
IT WAS DEVOURING  
ALL KINDS OF  
WOODEN OBJECTS!

SHERIFF!! THERE'S  
A GREAT GLOWING  
MONSTER -- IT MUST BE  
AT LEAST FIFTY FEET  
TALL -- AND IT'S  
HEADING  
TOWARD  
TOWN!



THAT DID  
IT! THE  
SHERIFF  
AND  
EVERYONE  
ELSE  
WAS NOW  
CONVINCED  
--AND THEY  
WENT INTO  
ACTION...

REMEMBER, DON'T FIRE  
UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT  
THIS THING IS UP TO!

RIGHT!



A BARRICADE WAS SET UP ON THE EDGE OF TOWN,  
AND WE ALL WAITED TENSELY -- FEARFULLY ... WE  
WATCHED THE APPROACH OF THE AWESOME WOOD-  
CREATURE ...

LOOK AT THE WAY  
THAT MONSTER SHINES!  
IT--IT HURTS YOUR EYES  
TO LOOK AT IT!!

GET READY, MEN...  
THAT WALKING  
NIGHTMARE LOOKS  
LIKE IT MEANS  
BUSINESS!



CLOSER AND CLOSER IT CAME ... UNTIL IT WAS JUST IN  
FRONT OF OUR BARRICADE ... THEN IT STOPPED -- AND  
STARTED TO SPEAK!

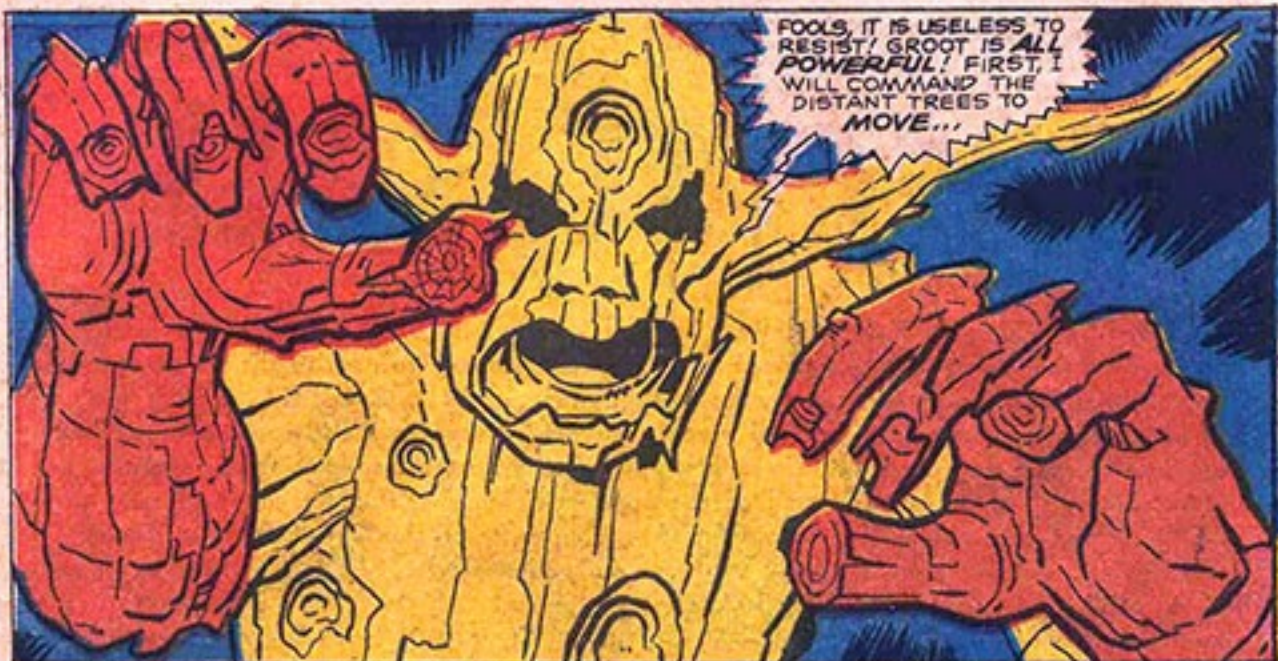
EARTHLINGS--  
HEAR ME!!  
I AM GROOT,  
MONARCH OF  
PLANET X! I COME TO  
TAKE AN EARTH VILLAGE  
--YOUR VILLAGE, BACK TO  
MY PLANET! WE WANT  
TO STUDY YOU, TO  
EXPERIMENT ON YOU!



HE WANTS TO  
KILL US!  
SHOOT HIM!  
SHOOT HIM  
!!!

GET OUT OF HERE! GO  
BACK WHERE YOU CAME  
FROM! -- BEFORE WE  
BLAST YOU!





FOOLS, IT IS USELESS TO RESIST! GROOT IS ALL POWERFUL! FIRST, I WILL COMMAND THE DISTANT TREES TO MOVE...

"I WILL MAKE THE FOREST CLOSE IN UPON YOU--IT WILL FORM A LIVING WALL AROUND YOUR VILLAGE!!!"



"THEN I WILL CAUSE THE ROOTS OF THE TREES TO GROW--TO SPREAD OUT BENEATH YOUR TOWN! THEY WILL ENTWINE AROUND EACH OTHER, FORMING A HUGE, MIGHTY NET! AND THEN YOU WILL WITNESS THE GREATEST FEAT THAT YOUR MORTAL EYES HAVE EVER BEHELD... FOR AT MY COMMAND, THE TREES WILL RISE! THEY WILL CARRY YOU AND YOUR TOWN UP FROM THIS PLANET, OUT BEYOND YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM, AND INTO THE VAST REACHES OF SPACE... FOR I AM GROOT, OVERLORD OF ALL THE TIMBER IN THE GALAXY!"



"I WILL LEAD YOU THRU THE BLACK, MENACING VOID ALL THE WAY TO MY WORLD! THERE, YOU WILL SERVE OUR SCIENTISTS WELL--THERE, ON PLANET X!"



"NO--YOU'LL NEVER TAKE US OR OUR TOWN! WE'LL DESTROY YOU FIRST!"

"HOW? YOU THINK TO STOP ME WITH YOUR PUNY WEAPONS? FIRE AWAY! YOU WILL SEE HOW USELESS THEY ARE!"



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

THE SHERIFF RAISED HIS HAND TO GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE-- BUT BEFORE HE COULD BRING IT DOWN, I CLIMBED UP ON THE BARRICADE...



HEAR ME, GROOT! YOU MAY WITHSTAND OUR WEAPONS... BUT BY THE HEAVENS ABOVE, I ALONE PROMISE TO DESTROY YOU BEFORE YOU CAN TAKE OUR TOWN!

WHAT!! YOU DARE CHALLENGE THE MIGHTY GROOT??!! I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE AN INSECT!!



LOOK-- HE'S RUNNING AWAY!

I DON'T BLAME HIM!

COWARD-- COME BACK! GROOT WILL SHOW YOU THE PRICE OF DEFIANCE!!

FORTUNATELY FOR ME, THE GIANT BEHEMOTH COULD NOT MATCH MY SPEED, OR MY STORY WOULD NOW BE ENDED!



AS I RAN TOWARD MY HOME, I COULD HEAR THE SHERIFF GIVE THE COMMAND --AND THE MEN BEGIN TO FIRE!

WE'RE HITTING HIM, BUT THE BULLETS DON'T GO DEEP ENOUGH! THEY CAN'T REACH HIS VITAL ORGANS!

SOMEBODY GET TORCHES! MAYBE FIRE CAN STOP THE MONSTER!

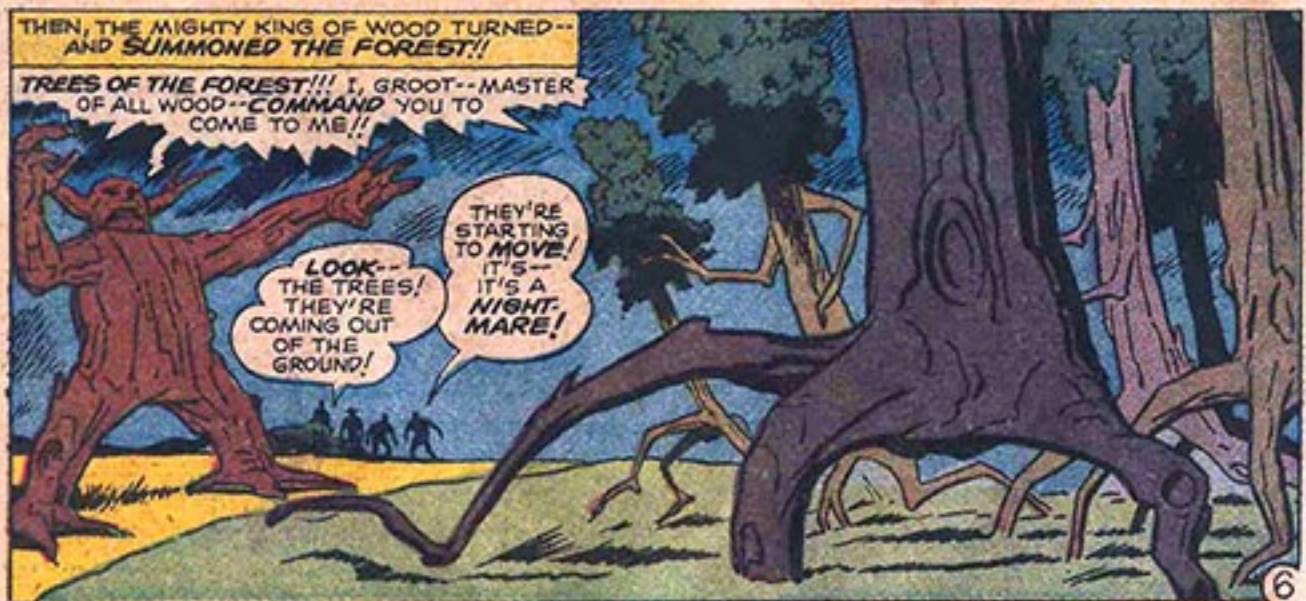


TORCHES WERE BROUGHT UP AND THROWN AT GROOT... BUT THE CREATURE OF WOOD WAS TOO HUGE --TOO MIGHTY--TOO IMPERVIOUS!

IT'S INCREDIBLE-- HIS WOOD IS TOO TOUGH TO BURN!!

HE'S NOT CATCHING FIRE!

LOOK, MORTALS-- BEHOLD HOW GROOT WITHSTANDS YOUR WEAPONS! NOTHING CAN DESTROY ME! NOTHING!



THEN, THE MIGHTY KING OF WOOD TURNED-- AND SUMMONED THE FOREST!!

TREES OF THE FOREST!!! I, GROOT-- MASTER OF ALL WOOD-- COMMAND YOU TO COME TO ME!!

LOOK-- THE TREES! THEY'RE COMING OUT OF THE GROUND!

THEY'RE STARTING TO MOVE! IT'S-- IT'S A NIGHTMARE!

STEADILY, BUT VERY SLOWLY, THE TREES LUMBERED TOWARD OUR TOWN! MEANWHILE, I WAS IN MY LAB -- IN A DESPERATE FIGHT AGAINST TIME!

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING IN HERE FOR?! WHY AREN'T YOU OUT WITH THE OTHER MEN -- TRYING TO STOP THAT MONSTER?! MUST YOU BE WEAK AND SPINELESS TO THE BITTER END?



UNDER COVER OF NIGHT, I STOLE OVER NEAR THE GREAT WOOD-MONSTER...

WE SHOULD START HAVING RESULTS WITHIN MINUTES...!



BY SUNUP, IT WAS ALL OVER...

HE'S DEAD!! YOU DESTROYED HIM, JUST LIKE YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD! BUT HOW DID YOU DO IT? WHAT DID YOU USE?



I WORKED ALL THRU THAT DAY AND NIGHT, AND THE NEXT DAY! BY SUNDOWN, THE TREES UNDER GROOT'S COMMAND HAD SURROUNDED THE TOWN AND WERE STARTING TO EXTEND THEIR ROOTS...

THE ROOTS ARE STILL SPREADING OUT!

THEY'RE WINDING AROUND EACH OTHER! THEY'RE GOING TO FORM A NET!



FINALLY, THE MOMENT WAS AT HAND! I WAS READY!

THIS IS IT! THIS WILL DESTROY THE MIGHTY GROOT!!



SOON IT BEGAN... THE AGONIZING CRIES OF A WOUNDED CREATURE...



AARRGG

...WEAK... I'M BECOMING WEAK... CANNOT MOVE... AARRGG...

THOSE MOANS... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO GROOT!

BUT WHAT? WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HARM THAT GOLIATH??!

WELL, I'LL BE... I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT!

THAT'S WHY EVANS IS A SCIENTIST-- AND YOU'RE ONLY A SHERIFF!

OH, DARLING, FORGIVE ME! I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL! I'LL NEVER COMPLAIN ABOUT YOU AGAIN! NEVER!!



AND THUS, THE END OF GROOT MARKED FOR ME THE BEGINNING OF A NEW, AND BETTER LIFE!