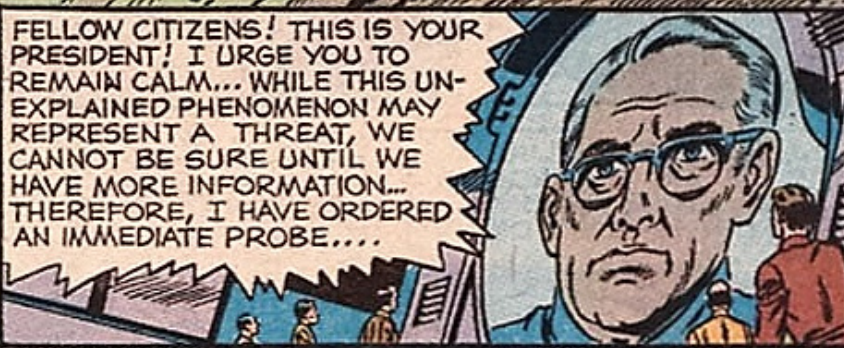
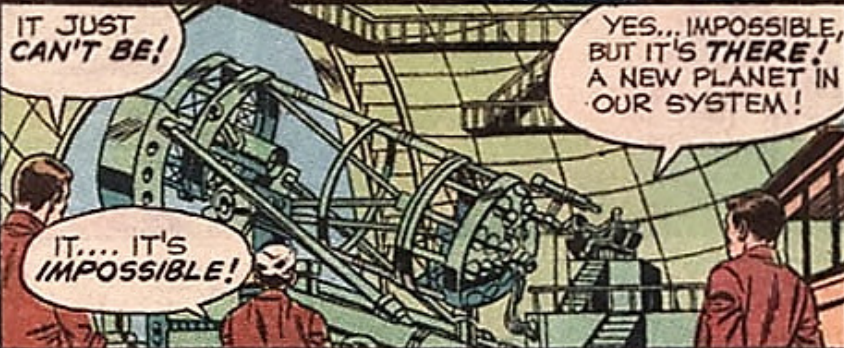


# MTHE MISTFTS



ENDLESS SPACE... ETERNAL VOID, SILENT AND VAST, SEEMINGLY AS UNCHANGEABLE AS TIME... AND YET, ON THIS DAY THE EYES OF A STUNNED WORLD WITNESS A COSMIC PARADOX....



BUT AS SOON AS IT NEARS THE STRANGE PLANET...



...AND A FEW DAYS LATER A SPACE SHIP LANDS NEAR THE U.S. MOON BASE...



IT'S NO USE... ALL SIGNALS FROM THE MOON HAVE STOPPED!

IT MUST BE THE FIRST STEP IN AN INVASION OF EARTH!

THE NEXT DAY OVER THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE...



A MAN JUST EMERGED FROM THE SHIP... HEY! IT'S A WHITE MAN...

WELL, THAT'S A GOOD SIGN ANYWAY... TRY TO TALK TO HIM! MAYBE THEY'RE FRIENDLY...



NO... I MEAN WHITE! LIKE A SHEET OF PAPER! IT'S UNCANNY... HE'S JUST LOOKING AROUND... IGNORING US! LIKE WE DIDN'T MATTER...

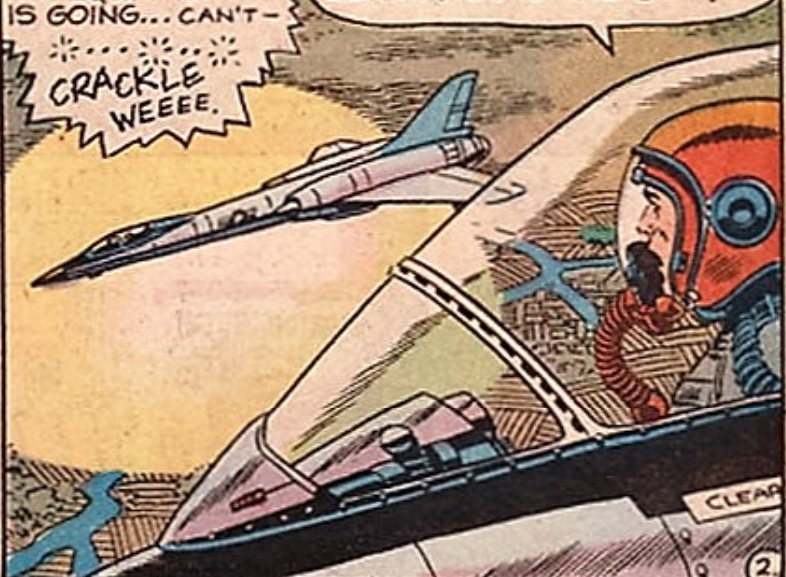
I'LL TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM THOUGH... HERE GOES...

SUDDENLY THE ENTIRE AREA IS SEALED OFF BY A STRANGE, OPAQUE LUMINOSITY...

HEY! WHAT!?! MY EQUIPMENT IS GOING... CAN'T -

CRACKLE WEEEE.

PATROL TO BASE... VISIBILITY ZERO AROUND THE SHIP!



WE MUST NOW GO BACK IN TIME... IT IS NOON IN NEW CHICAGO, A FEW DAYS EARLIER...



HEY!

OH!

WOW! LOOK AT ALL THAT MONEY! SHE MUST HAVE ROBBED THE BANK!



BETTER CALL A COP!

YES, THE MONEY'S MISSING! BUT NO ONE SAW HOW....



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE IS NO WAY SHE COULD'VE GOTTEN TO THE MONEY!

THEY'D HAVE HAD TO HAND IT TO HER!

LATER, IN DETENTION...

WELL WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

NOTHING! SAYS SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER... THE LIE DETECTOR SAYS SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH... WE DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, WHY SHE DID IT... OR HOW!



LOOK, YOUNG LADY, IT'S THIS WAY... WE CAN'T LET YOU GO, AND WE CAN'T KEEP YOU... YOU'RE A POTENTIAL THREAT... WE CAN'T HAVE SOMEONE WITH AN UNEXPLAINED ABILITY LIKE YOURS WALKING AROUND!



WE'RE GOING TO SEND YOU TO THAT SECRET GOVERNMENT PROJECT... "OPERATION MISFIT"...



ALL RIGHT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO...

AT THE PROJECT...

WHA-WHAT'S THAT? WE CALL HIM "SHAG." WE'RE HOLDING HIM ON ILLEGAL ENTRY, HE'S AN ALIEN, OBVIOUSLY, BUT WE CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH HIM!



ALONE IN HER ROOM SHE SUDDENLY FEELS A STRANGE SENSATION...

IT'S AS THOUGH SOMEONE WERE TRYING TO ENTER MY MIND! DON'T BE AFRAID! IT'S ONLY SHAG! I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR A TELEPATH TO ARRIVE!!



A TELEPATH? IS THAT WHAT I AM? YES... THAT AND MORE! I DO NOT KNOW WHAT ELSE IS IN YOUR MIND... BUT YOU HAVE SOMETHING I SENSE AS A WILD TALENT..



AND WHAT ARE YOU? ONE QUESTION AT A TIME PLEASE. I WILL TRY TO ANSWER BRIEFLY... I AM ON MY WAY TO YOUR ROOM NOW THROUGH THE VENTILATING SYSTEM!



AT THAT MOMENT...

BAP! BAP! BAP! CONDITION RED! TROUBLE ON LEVEL SEVEN! ALL STANDBY PERSONNEL REPORT AT ONCE!



WHAT IS IT SHAG? WHAT'S HAPPENING? GLOMB, A MUTANT... HE MUST HAVE BROKEN LOOSE AGAIN! THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR US TO ESCAPE!



BUT HOW... I DON'T KNOW IF...

I FEEL YOU CAN DO IT! ASK THE GUARD TO OPEN THE DOOR!



OKAY! I'LL TRY! HERE GOES...

GUARD, OPEN THE DOOR!



OPEN... THE... DOOR...

HEY! WOW! IT WORKS!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE CAN THINK ABOUT IT!



NOW WHAT? HOW DO WE...

TRUST ME! MY SENSES ARE VERY ACUTE! I WILL FIND THE NEAREST EXIT!



AT THAT MOMENT...



CR-RASH!

HOLY COW! WHAT IS THAT?

THAT IS GLOMB! HE IS VERY STRONG... AND NOT VERY INTELLIGENT!

HE'LL CRUSH US! I MUST TRY TO CONTACT...

GLOMB! EASY... WE ARE FRIENDS...



YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME... I AM YOUR FRIEND!

DON'T... WANT... TO... HURT...



WELL, THERE GOES OUR ESCAPE! TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF... AND GLOMB!

I AM FROM A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM. MY SHIP WAS DAMAGED BY METEORS, AND LANDED IN THE SEA... I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE...



SO, I AM STRANDED UNLESS YOUR CIVILIZATION HAS INTER-STELLAR DRIVE WHICH I DOUBT!

GLOMB WAS A HUMAN BABY, ARTIFICIALLY MUTATED TO STAND HEAVY GRAVITY. HE WAS TO BE SENT TO EXPLORE THE GIANT PLANET JUPITER...



WHICH BRINGS US UP TO THE PRESENT AND THE THREAT OF THE ALIEN INVASION...

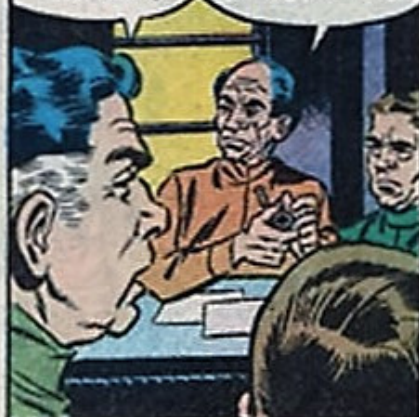
RELENTLESSLY, THE AREA UNDER THE ALIENS CONTROL EXPANDS, AND NOTHING THAT IS ENCOMPASSED BY IT EVER EMERGES...



A HASTY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE! THIS THING COULD SPREAD OVER THE WHOLE WORLD!

YES... WE'LL HAVE TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS!! IT IS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL!



BUT AS THE BOMBERS NEAR THE TARGET ZONE...



... THE BOMBS EXPLODE INSIDE THE PLANES!



GOOD LORD!

AT LAST THE MYSTERIOUS ZONE ENCOMPASSES THE "MISFIT" LAB WHERE A MOMENTOUS DISCOVERY HAS JUST BEEN MADE...



YES, MY DEAR... WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE... YOUR NAME IS MYSTRA!

...AND YOU ARE AN EXPERIMENT... AN ARTIFICIAL HUMAN BEING! YOUR STRANGE INTRACELLULAR STRUCTURE CAUSED US TO SUSPECT, AND WE CHECKED WITH THE ANDROID DEVEL...



WH-WHAT IS IT?

A VACANT LOOK ON HIS FACE, THE DOCTOR TURNS AND WALKS STIFFLY AWAY...



HEY! COME BACK! WHAT'S WRONG...

THEY'RE ALL IN A DAZE... LIKE THEY HAVE SUDDENLY BECOME A BUNCH OF ZOMBIES!



...AND THE ROBOTS! THEY'RE ALL GOING AWAY! WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE ANYWAY?





MYSTRA AND SHAG CONCENTRATE ON THE GIANT, BUT TO NO AVAIL... ALTHOUGH ABLE TO ANSWER, GLOMB CANNOT MUSTER ENOUGH MENTAL FORCE TO COUNTER THE CONTROL OVER HIM...

BUT AS THEY START, THE FORCE GROWS STRONGER...



...AND AT LAST SHAG COLLAPSES!



FIGHTING OFF DIZZINESS, SHE CONTINUES...



THEN THE FORCE SEEMS TO FOCUS ON HER... A VOICE SOUNDS IN HER MIND...



THEN... SOMETHING SNAPS IN HER!



A STRANGE FEELING OF POWER FLOWS THROUGH HER, GROWING STRONGER AS SHE CLIMBS UP TO THE ALIEN SHIP...



... AND THEN SHE IS FACE TO FACE WITH THE WHITE MAN...



POWERFUL MINDS LOCK IN MORTAL COMBAT... CONFIDENT AT FIRST, THE ALIEN SOON REALIZES THE DANGER...



GIVING ONE LAST COMMAND TO THE ROBOTS, HE CONCENTRATES HIS FULL POWER ON MYSTRA, WHO REELS UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT...



BUT GLOMB AND SHAG ARE FREE!



GLOMB, BEING VERY LITERAL, WASTES NO TIME...



AS MYSTRA, FIGHTING DOWN A NAMELESS'S HORROR, FEELS HER SELF BEING DRAWN INTO THE MIND OF HER ADVERSARY...

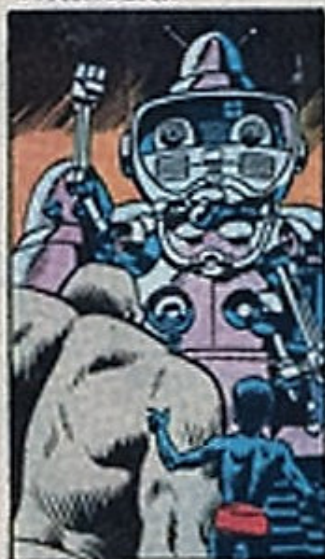


AS THEY NEAR THE SHIP...





AS GLOMB ADVANCES,  
THE OPPOSITION GROWS  
STRONGER...



...AS MYSTRA BEGINS  
TO WEAKEN...



SENSING HER FLIGHT,  
SHAG HURLS A MENTAL  
COMMAND AT GLOMB...



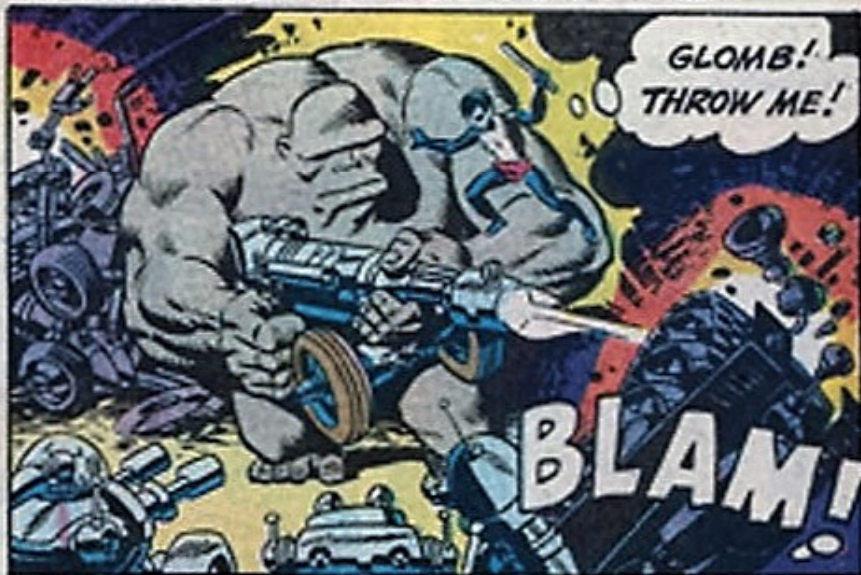
AND NOW THE BRAVE  
GIRL FACES IMMEDIATE  
DEFEAT—AND DEATH!



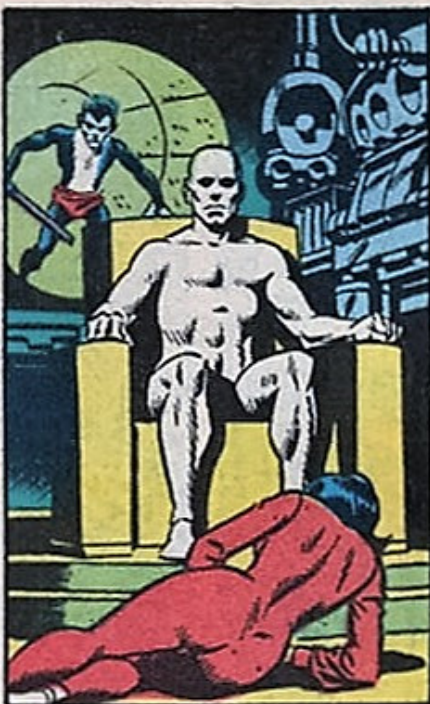
THE ALIEN LOOMS LARGER AS  
MYSTRA SEEMS TO SHRIVEL...



AND SHAG REALIZES THAT THERE IS ONE CHANCE...



AT THE LAST MOMENT, THE ALIEN WHIRLS...



... TOO LATE!



**MYSTRA!** YES... IS HE DEAD? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UGH! I GOT A GOOD LOOK IN HIS MIND. HE WAS SUPERIOR TO US, BUT THERE WAS SUCH AN INHUMAN, COLD RUTHLESSNESS I FELT SICK!



"I SAW THEIR PLANET BEING DRIVEN THROUGH SPACE BY GIANT ROCKET MOTORS..."



... FOR THE WHOLE INTERIOR OF THEIR WORLD IS FILLED WITH MACHINERY! IT IS REALLY A HUGE INTERSTELLAR SHIP, GOING FROM SUN TO SUN LOOTING WHOLE PLANETS OF THEIR FISSONABLE MATERIALS..."



WELL, WE BEAT THEM, AND WE'RE FREE....

YES, BUT JUST ONE OF THEM NEARLY CONQUERED THE EARTH, AND THERE'S A PLANET FULL OF THEM OUT THERE!



AND THREE MISFITS, AN ANDROID, AN ALIEN AND A MUTANT, PREPARE TO FACE AN OMINOUS FUTURE...