

KENTON OF THE STAR PATROL



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED THE CONQUEST OF *SPACE*, MANKIND CAME INTO CONTACT WITH OTHER RACES FROM THE *STAR TRAILS*. TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF *SPACE PIRATES* AND *ASTEROID BUCANEERS*, THE *STAR PATROL* CAME INTO BEING. BUT WHEN THE *STAR PATROL* ENCOUNTERED THE PEOPLE OF THE STAR, *DENEK*, WHO CAME INTO THE SOLAR SYSTEM HUNTING LIVING HUMAN BEINGS, THEY RAN INTO STRANGE WEAPONS, AND DEFEAT FOLLOWED DEFEAT. ONLY PATROL CAPTAIN *DAVE KENTON* LIVED TO LEARN THE INCREDIBLE TRUTH BEHIND...

the **VAMPIRES** of the **VOID**

ON THE STAR, *DENEK*... IN THE CITY KNOWN AS *PAL-MOORA*, A GIRL AS VIVID AS *FLAME* TALKS OF — **DEATH!**

FOOLS! GO FIND BEASTS! WE MUST HAVE *LIVING THINGS* TO FEED OUR DYNAMOS!

BEASTS WILL NOT DO, ROYAL MYRZA!



ONLY HUMANS POSSESS THE LIFE FORCE THAT IS NECESSARY FOR OUR ENGINES! BUT THERE ARE NO ENEMIES LEFT TO US! WE HAVE CONQUERED THEM ALL!

THEN WE SHALL MAKE **NEW ENEMIES!**



AND SO, A FLEET OF GIANT PALMOORAN WARSPACERS SWEEP PAST PLUTO AND NEPTUNE. WORD OF THEIR COMING IS CARRIED BY MICROWAVES!



GETTING SLEEPY... GOT TO SEND WORD OF THOSE SHIPS... CAN'T KEEP MY HAND ON THE KEY...

WITHIN FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE ATTACK, MEN STAND OR SIT OR LIE GRUMPLED ON THE METALLIC FLOOR— SOUND ASLEEP!



NOT FAR AWAY, CAPTAIN DAVE KENTON IS ON SCOUT PATROL DUTY. HIS WRISTBEAMER CATCHES AND FEW WORDS BEFORE SILENCE FALLS...



... SO SLEEPY... SHIPS FIRING BUT... NOTHING HAPPENS...

PLENTRY HAPPENS! WHOEVER THEY ARE, PUT YOU ALL TO SLEEP! BUT — WHY?

ON KENTON'S RELAY BROADCAST, FLEET HEAD-QUARTERS AT MARS CITY ROARS INTO ACTION...



ALL HANDS TO SHIP! TAKE OFF TIME TWENTY-SEVEN ZERO!

THE SPACE FLEETS MEET WITH DARTING RAYS AND SCORCHING FIREBALLS THAT EAT THROUGH STEEL!



IN THE PALMOORA FLAGSHIP STANDS MYRZA, EYES BRIGHT WITH TRIUMPH...



WE'LL HAVE THEIR FINEST SOLDIERS HELPLESS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!



THOUSANDS OF MEN! WITH THEIR VITAL LIFE-FORCE INTACT! WE'LL TAKE THEM TO PALMOORA!

LATER, IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE FLAGSHIP OF THE ALIEN FLEET--

WE'LL TREAT THESE PEOPLE WELL--UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE NEED THEM!



WORD OF THE TERRIBLE DEFEAT BRINGS DISMAY TO THE EARTH-MARS HIGH COMMAND...

WE'LL HAVE TO PULL SHIPS OFF VENUS AND MERCURY! BRING THEM IN AROUND EARTH AND MARS!

IF WE COULD ONLY LEARN WHAT WEAPON THEY USE!

WE HAVE ONE MAN OUT THERE NOW--SCOUTING. CAPTAIN DAVE KENTON!



AT THAT MOMENT, KENTON IS LANDING ON AN ASTEROID OUTSIDE JUPITER...

THOSE ALIENS ARE DOING A LOT OF BUILDING! I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK!



BY MAKING OBSERVATIONS AND MICROFILM REPORTS, I'LL WARN HEADQUARTERS OF WHAT GOES OUT HERE!



YOU MUST ALLOW FOR TORPEDO TUBES TO PROJECT THROUGH THE GLASS AIR ENCLOSER!

IT SHALL BE DONE, HIGHNESS.



WHY ARE THEY BUILDING HERE, WHEN THEY COULD GO INTO MARS CITY? DON'T THEY KNOW THAT OUR CRIPPLED FLEET IS NO PROTECTION FOR MARS AND EARTH?



WE MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT BEFORE--BUT WE KNOW IT NOW! GET HIM... ALIVE!

WHY DO THEY WANT ME ALIVE? BE A LOT EASIER JUST TO RAY ME DOWN! THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!





YIELD, BEFORE WE ARE FORCED TO BLAST YOU INTO SMOKE!

TRY TAKING ME!



GOT TO GET ROOM TO USE MY BEAMGUN!

THUDD



KENTON WHIRLS, HIS ELECTRONIC HANDGUN BLASTS AGAIN AND AGAIN...

NOW... TO GET TO MY SHIP AND RELAY THOSE MICROFILMS...



I'LL TRIP HIM UP! YOU OTHERS GO AFTER HIM!

WHAT THE?!



WE HAVE HIM!

HE'LL MAKE A GOOD OFFERING TO THE LIFE-VAULTS. THERE'S PLENTY OF LIFE IN HIM!

HE IS A TOUGH ONE!

POW

WHACK



BLEEDING AND EXHAUSTED... KENTON IS DRAGGED BEFORE THE CRUEL BUT LOVELY MYRZA ...

IF HE IS SUCH A FIGHTER, I WILL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF HIM. BRING HIM ALONG WITH ME!



THIS IS A MINATURE OF THE VAST LIFE-VAULT THAT WE MAINTAIN ON PALMOORA. HERE WE HAVE EVERYTHING BUT THE FUEL... — AND YOU PEOPLE OF EARTH WILL BE THAT FUEL!



OUR FIRST OFFERING--A SOLDIER OF YOUR FLEET! WATCH CLOSELY, EARTHLING!



AS THE NEURALISIS RODS BEGIN TO ROTATE, THE MAN ON THE LIFE-VAULT BED BEGINS TO SHRINK! POWER IS BEING DRAWN FROM HIS BODY!



MAD WITH RAGE AND HORROR, KENTON DIVES FORWARD...

WHY, YOU! VAMPIRES! PREYING ON OTHER LIVING BEINGS!!

YOU FOOL!



YOU DARE ATTACK ME!! I AM IMMORTAL, EARTH FOOL!

ZAAAP



I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU! THEN YOU WILL BE OFFERED TO THE LIFE-VAULT!



MOVE ALONG, EARTH MAN, BUT REMEMBER-- I AM JUST BEHIND YOU!

I GUESS MY PEOPLE ARE CHILDREN WHEN IT COMES TO SCIENCES LIKE YOURS! IF... IF I COULD JOIN YOU...?



WE COULD USE SOMEONE TO LURE EARTHMEN INTO OUR TRAPS!!

ALL I ASK IS-- A CHANCE!

IS DAVE KENTON TURNING TRAITOR? WILL HE BETRAY HIS OWN PEOPLE TO VAMPIRES FROM OUTER SPACE?

YOU MUST WEAR MY JEWEL. IT PROTECTS YOU FROM THE SLEEP RAY, BY ABSORBING THE VIBRATIONS. WITHOUT IT, WE TOO, WOULD FALL ASLEEP...

I'LL WEAR IT FOR YOU, MYRZA.



IT IS NICE TO HEAR THINGS LIKE THAT!

ALL I WANT IS TO SERVE YOU... PERHAPS TO BE YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT...



IF KENTON DOES NOT CONVINCE HER THAT HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH--HIS BODY WILL SHRINK TO NOTHINGNESS IN THE LIFE-VULT!

MYRZA THROWS HER ARMS AROUND HIM, AND WHISPERS IN HIS EAR...

IF YOU DO MEAN WHAT YOU SAY, PROVE IT TO ME. I WILL TAKE YOU BELOW WHERE WE SHIP QUICK-FROZEN EARTH MEN TO PALMOORA TO FEED OUR LIFE-DYNAMOS!



OUR BROADCAST FILTERS MUST CHARGE TO THE FULL BEFORE WE CAN SEND THESE MEN TO PALMOORA. GIVE ME FIVE MORE HOURS!

VERY WELL. FIVE MORE HOURS! COME, KENTON!



UNTIL THAT TIME, YOU MUST REMAIN HERE. AMUSE YOURSELF FOR A WHILE!



KENTON MOVES ABOUT THE LABORATORY. HIS SCIENTIFICALLY TRAINED MIND RECOGNIZES VARIOUS MACHINES!

HMMM... AN ULTRA-VIOLET RAY LAMP. BUT WHAT'S IT LOCKED TIGHT FOR? YOU'D THINK IT WAS A DANGEROUS WEAPON...



AS KENTON WORKS LOOSE THE LOCK THAT PROTECTS THE ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP HE IS AMAZED...

MAYBE THIS LAMP IS THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEM! NO WONDER THEY'VE ENCLOSED THEIR CITY IN A POLAROID GLASS BUBBLE!

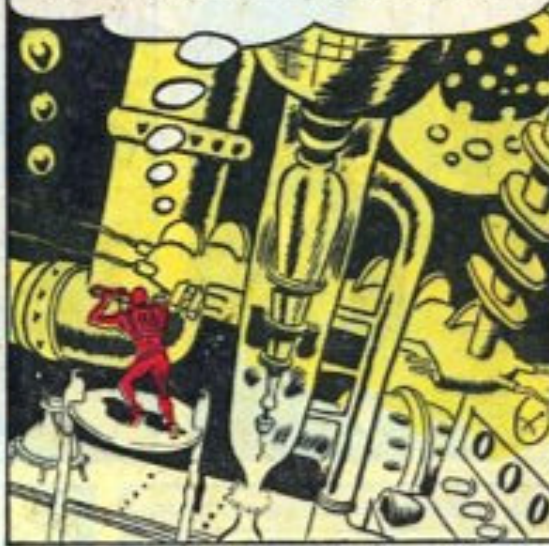


THE ULTRA-VIOLET RAY IS *MELTING* THE PROTECTIVE JEWEL THAT MYRZA GAVE ME! NO WONDER MYRZA WANTED NO OXYGEN LEAKING OUT! BECAUSE IF OXYGEN COULD LEAK OUT—ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS FROM SUNLIGHT COULD LEAK IN!



KENTON, HURRIEDLY BUILDS A GIGANTIC ULTRA-BEAM-WAVE TRANSMITTER ...

I'LL EQUIP THIS THING WITH A MOTOR THAT WILL REVOLVE IT... BUILD UP ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS AND BROADCAST THEM THROUGHOUT THIS ASTEROID FORT.



AH! IN FIFTEEN MINUTES IT WILL BUILD UP ENOUGH ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS TO DO THE JOB!



EDITOR'S NOTE: ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT IS INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, SO, MYRZA SEES NOTHING TO ALARM HER...

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE BUILDING, KENTON? IT JUST KEEPS TURNING AROUND AND AROUND.

A *SURPRISE* FOR YOU, MIGHTY PRINCESS! BUT COME! IT MUST BE TIME FOR MY TEST OF LOYALTY.



THIS IS WHERE WE PLACE QUICK-FROZEN HUMANS, AND SHOOT THEM THROUGH SPACE TO PALMOORA!



AND *THIS* IS HOW I'M GOING TO SMASH YOUR ATTEMPT TO DRINK THE LIFE BLOOD OF HUMAN BEINGS!

WHAT-?



QUICK—YOU OTHERS! THE *METABOLISIRAY!* PUT HIM TO *SLEEP*—THEN -- INTO THE LIFE VAULT!

NO YOU DON'T!—BY SMASHING THIS SWITCH, I'VE HALTED YOUR BROADCAST POWER BEAMS!



SNARLING WITH ANGER, THE EVIL WARRIORS HURL THEMSELVES ON CAPTAIN KENTON...

GOT TO GIVE MY ULTRA-VIOLET RAY ROTOR TIME TO GET TO WORK...



HALF ASLEEP—KENTON PITCHES FORWARD AS A PALMOORAN WARRIOR LUNGES AT HIM FOR THE COUP-DE-GRACE...

NO USE! THOSE SLEEP RAYS ARE SWEEPING THE ENTIRE PLACE. PUTTING ME TO SLEEP...



AND THEN, THE PALMOORAN WARRIOR PITCHES FORWARD UNCONSCIOUS...

METABOLISIRAYS MAKING US SLEEP... OUR JEWELS NOT PROTECTING US...



THESE JEWELS—MELTING! OUR SLEEP RAYS WILL PUT US TO SLEEP, NOW, AND WITH SLEEP... THE LIFE FORCE WILL NOT FUNCTION... WE WILL DIE... DIE!



WHEN CAPT. KENTON OPENS HIS EYES AND STAGGERS ERECT, DEATH IS ALL ABOUT HIM...

DEAD! ALL OF THEM—DEAD! THE SLEEP RAYS... THAT ONLY PUT US TO SLEEP—KILLS THEM!



THE LOVELY BUT EVIL MYRZA—GONE! VANISHED LIKE HER DREAMS OF CONQUEST!



WE CAN GO TO PALMOORA NOW—WIPE OUT THIS VAMPIRE RACE! FIND A NEW PLANETARY SYSTEM WAITING FOR US, TO MAKE SAFE FOR MANKIND, AND PEACE—FOREVER!

