

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



52
JULY

12¢

Fantastic FOUR

Introducing:
THE SENSATIONAL
**BLACK
PANTHER!**

**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**



THE FABULOUS F.F. ARE TRAPPED IN THE INCREDIBLE REALM OF.

"THE BLACK PANTHER!"

ALSO
FEATURING:
The WAY-OUT
and WONDERFUL
**WYATT
WINGFOOT!**



IT HAD TO BE
TOLD...AS ONLY
MIGHTY MARVEL
COULD TELL IT!

SCRIPT BY: SMILIN' **STAN LEE**
ART BY: JOLLY **JACKIE KIRBY**
INKING BY: GENTLEMAN **JOE SINNOTT**
LETTERING BY: HAMMY **SAMMY ROSEN**

VOTED
THE GREATEST
TALE OF THE MONTH!

BY STAN AND JACK!

WHEN YOU OR I GO FOR A SPIN, PUSSYCAT, WE HOP INTO THE OL' HOT ROD AND TAKE OFF! BUT, YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT THE #1 TO BE AS CONVENTIONAL AS THAT, NOW, WOULD YOU?

HEY, STRETCH...WHEN DID YOU HAVE TIME TO DREAM UP A JAZZY FLYIN' FASTBACK LIKE THIS BABY?

I DIDN'T, BEN!

IT WAS AN UNEXPECTED GIFT... SENT TO ME BY AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN, CALLED... THE BLACK PANTHER!

IF ONLY JOHNNY WERE HOME FROM COLLEGE! HE'D BE IN SEVENTH HEAVEN BY NOW!

NEVER HEARD OF 'IM! BUT HOW DOES SOME REFUGEE FROM A TARZAN MOVIE LAY HIS HANDS ON THIS KINDA GIZMO?

'N WHY WOULD HE GIVE IT TO YOU?

HEY, EGGHEAD...WHAT HAPPENED? DIDJA LOSE CONTROL?

NO, BEN! RELAX...I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT THIS SHIP WILL DO, ITS MANEUVERABILITY IS AMAZING!

IT SEEMS TO BE POWERED BY SOME SORT OF MAGNETIC WAVES...

AND THESE PUSH-BUTTON CONTROLS MAKE HANDLING IT AS EASY AS DIALING A PHONE!

I WONDER HOW THE BLACK PANTHER... WHOEVER HE IS... GOT POSSESSION OF SUCH A SHIP?

BEN! IS ANYTHING WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET... AND, YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL!

WITH A FACE LIKE MINE, HOW CAN YA TELL? BENJAMIN J. GRIMM! I'M

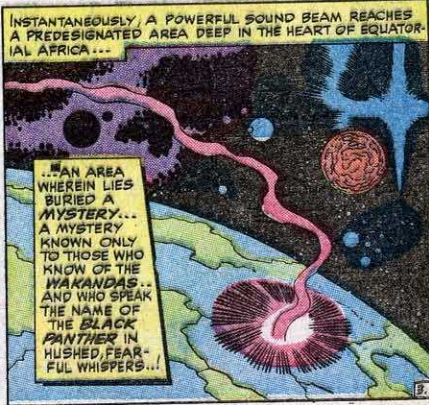
SURPRISED AT YOU! YOU...AN EX-AIR FORCE PILOT...AND THE STRONGEST MAN I KNOW...I THINK YOU'RE GETTING AIR-SICK!

IF WISHIN' YA COULD LAY DOWN 'N DIE IS A SYMPTOM...YER RIGHT, SUSIE!

I THINK BEN'S PUTTING YOU ON, HONEY!

BUT, I'LL HEAD FOR THE BAXTER BUILDING NOW, ANYWAY! THE BLACK PANTHER'S EMISSARY IS WAITING FOR US ON THE LANDING-ROOF..!

I'M ANXIOUS TO HAVE HIM TELL ME MORE ABOUT OUR MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR!

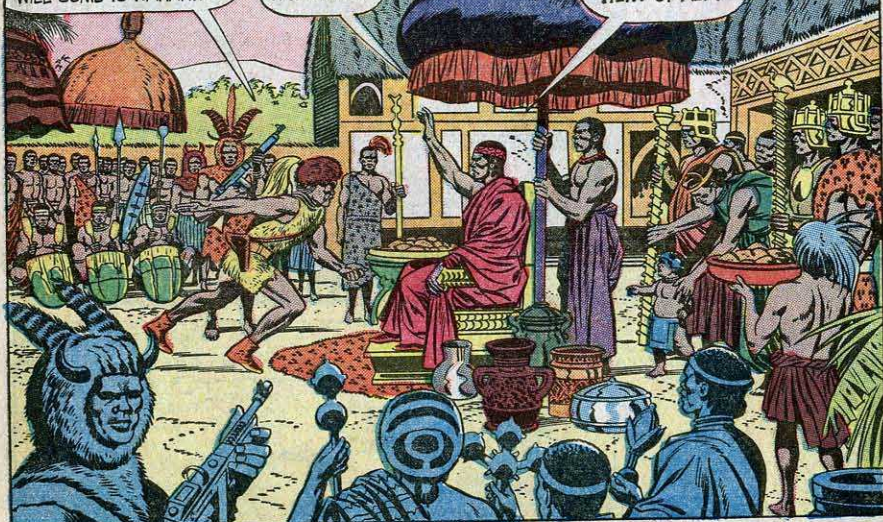


BUT NOW, AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR PREPARE FOR THEIR MOMENTOUS JOURNEY, LET US DO WHAT FEW WESTERN MEN HAVE EVER DONE...LET US GAZE UPON THE ENTHRONED FIGURE OF HIM WHO RULES THE WAKANDAS...

MIGHTY CHIEFTAIN! THE SIGNAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED! YOUR OFFER IS ACCEPTED! THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL COME TO WAKANDA!

AS I KNEW THEY WOULD! IT IS GOOD!

NOW, LET THE PREPARATIONS BEGIN! THIS SHALL BE THE GREATEST HUNT OF ALL!



RAISE THE TOTEM! LET THE RITUAL BEGIN!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE BLACK PANTHER TO STALK ONCE MORE!



THEN, AT A SINGLE GESTURE FROM THE PROUD CHIEFTAIN OF THE WAKANDAS, A STRANGE, CARVED FIGURE SWIFTLY RISES FROM ITS RESTING PLACE WITHIN A HIDDEN UNDERGROUND SILO...

HO! YOUR BROTHER GREET'S YOU THIS DAY! THE HUNT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

DEFTLY PUSHING A SERIES OF DELICATE CONTROL BUTTONS AT THE BASE OF THE GIGANTIC FELINE FIGURE, THE POWERFULLY-BUILT MONARCH EXPOSES A BANK OF ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS, WITH WHICH HE CONTROLS THE MYRIAD WONDERS OF HIS MYSTERIOUS JUNGLE EMPIRE...

ALL DEVICES ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL!

AND SO I REMOVE MY STALKING COSTUME FROM ITS CAREFULLY CONCEALED COMPARTMENT!

WHILE, IN A QUIET ROOM IN NORTHFIELD DORMITORY, ON THE CAMPUS OF METRO COLLEGE, WE FIND...

I WONDER IF I PASSED TODAY'S EXAM?

I SURE DON'T WANT REED, SUE, AND BEN TO BE ASHAMED OF ME!

NOTHING BOTHERS OL' WYATT! I'M SURPRISED HE EVEN MANAGED TO STAY AWAKE DURING THE TEST!

I CAN'T WAIT TILL MORNING... TO HEAD BACK HOME FOR VACATION!

HEY!! HOLY HANNAH!! WHAT THE...?!!

SURPRISE!

NOW, LET THE FANTASTIC FOUR COME!

THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL GREET THEM... AS THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN GREETED BEFORE!

IT'S HARD... HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE... TO CONCENTRATE ON MY COURSES... WHEN I CAN'T GET CRYSTAL OUT OF MY MIND!

BUT, I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING... UNTIL REED CAN FIND SOME WAY TO BREAK THE BARRIER THAT HOLDS HER PRISONER... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!

NOTHING BUT HOPE... AND DREAM... AND PRAY!

I'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT... AND I WILL! IF ONLY THE EVENINGS WEREN'T SO LONG...

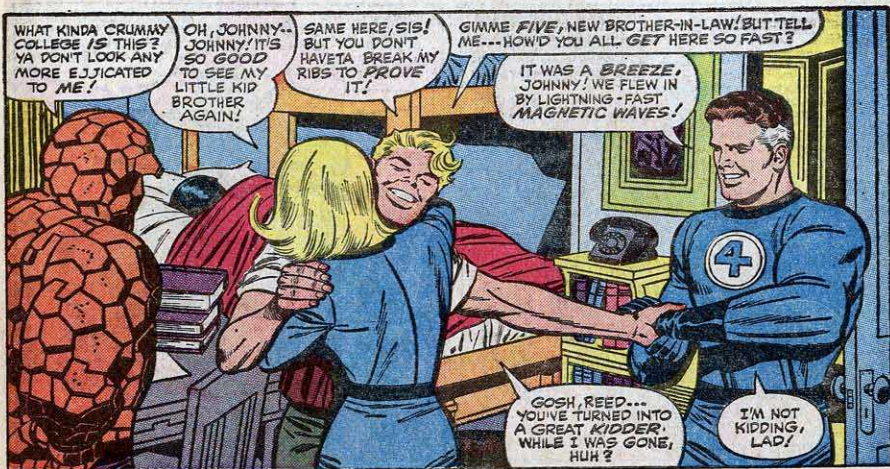
* IF YOU MISSED F.F. #48, DON'T TELL US! YOU KNOW HOW UPSET WE GET! ... SHAKY STAN.

HIYA, JOE! COLLEGE! WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD, LITTLE ITTY BITTY BUDDY?

I'LL ITTY BITTY BUDDY YOU, YOU BLUE-EYED BIRDBRAIN!!

I KNEW Y'AD BE AS GOOD-NATURED AS EVER, JUNIOR!

LEGGO BEFORE I GIVE YOU A HOT-FOOT BETWEEN WHERE YOUR EARS OUGHTTA BE!



BUT, THOUGH THEIR PLIGHT SEEMS TRULY HOPELESS, THEY REFUSE TO DESPAIR...

YOU WASTE YOUR TIME, KARNAK! EVEN YOUR POWER CANNOT SHATTER A NEGATIVE ZONE!

IT COULD, GORGON... IF I COULD FIND THE ONE WEAK SPOT! PERHAPS I NEED MORE PRACTICE!

BUT YOU'VE BEEN SHATTERING THOSE DIAMOND BLOCKS FOR MONTHS!

I MUST KEEP MY HAND IN! WE MUST NEVER STOP TRYING!

EVERYTHING HAS ONE WEAK SPOT!! EVERYTHING!! EVEN THIS SEEMINGLY INDESTRUCTIBLE DIAMOND BLOCK!

BUT, A NEGATIVE ZONE IS DIFFERENT! IT CAN REPEL ANY POSITIVE MATTER!

NO! I'LL FIND A WAY! NOTHING CAN RESIST THE POWER OF KARNAK!

NOTHING!!

CLAKK!

IF I CAN SHATTER THE HARDEST SUBSTANCE KNOWN ON EARTH... WHY CAN'T I FREE US FROM THE PRISON OF THIS ACCURSED NEGATIVE ZONE?? WHY? WHY?

OH, KARNAK... IF ONLY YOU COULD! IF ONLY WE COULD ONE DAY REJOIN THE HUMAN RACE...

STAND BACK! I'LL TRY AGAIN!!

IF I COULD SEE JOHNNY STORM ONCE MORE... FEEL HIS ARMS AROUND ME AGAIN... JUST ONCE MORE...

I'VE TOLD YOU, CRYSTAL... YOU MUST FORGET HIM! YOU MUSTN'T TORTURE YOURSELF SO!

ARRRRHHHHH!

NO MORE, KARNAK... NO MORE! YOU'LL BREAK YOUR HAND! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY!!

THEN, FROM A SECURELY-LOCKED CELL, HIGH ABOVE, THE MAD, CACKLING LAUGHTER OF MAXIMUS... THE POWER-CRAZED BROTHER OF BLACK BOLT... TAUNTS THE DESPERATE LITTLE BAND WHOM WE KNOW AS... THE INHUMANS!

YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE! NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!

I AM THE RIGHTFUL KING... NOT BLACK BOLT!!

AND MY SUBJECTS MUST REMAIN WITH ME... FOREVER!!

WHAT MONUMENTAL *IRONY*! ONLY **MAXIMUS** KNOWS THE SECRET OF ESCAPING FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE!! **THUS, THE KEY WILL BE ETERNALLY LOCKED IN A MADMAN'S BRAIN!**

AHH, **BLACK BOLT**... IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE MIGHTIEST AMONG US... AND EVEN YOU STAND HELPLESS!

WE MUST NEVER ABANDON HOPE! I KNOW THE MAN I LOVE WILL NOT FAIL US! SOME DAY... SOMEHOW... **BLACK BOLT** WILL FIND THE WAY TO FREE US ALL!

BUT, FOR ME, IT MAY BE... TOO LATE! WHAT IF **JOHNNY STORM** HAS FOUND ANOTHER?

I'LL NEVER STOP TRYING! NEVER! NEVER!

'TIS ALMOST GOOD THAT YOU HAVE LOST THE POWER OF SPEECH... FOR, OF WHAT USE ARE WORDS TO US... NOW?

AND THAT, **FRANTIC ONE**, IS ALL WE'LL SEE OF THE INHUMANS THIS IG... WE JUST WANTED TO WHET YOUR APPETITE A BIT, BESIDES, IT'S TIME TO VISIT **WAKANDA**... SO C'MON... THE SAFARI'S JUST LEAVING...

SHIP APPROACHES! ALL GOES AS PLANNED!

AS THE CHIEFTAIN HAS PROMISED... THIS WILL BE HIS GREATEST HUNT!

THE JUNGLE LOOKS SO **PRIMITIVE**... SO UNDEVELOPED... ARE YOU **SURE** WE HAVE REACHED **WAKANDA** TERRITORY?

WE ARE VIRTUALLY AT OUR DESTINATION, **MR. RICHARDS!**

AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER... IN THIS LAND, THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS... AS THEY **SEEM!**

IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A SHIP SUCH AS THIS ONE COULD HAVE COME FROM A LAND WITH NO SIGN OF TECHNOLOGY... OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT...

BEFORE YOUR VISIT IS ENDED, **MRS. RICHARDS**, YOU WILL FIND MANY MORE SURPRISING FACETS OF OUR LITTLE KINGDOM!

I DON'T LIKE IT! THERE'S SOMETHING **OMINOUS** IN THE AIR... AND YET, I DON'T WANT TO ALARM **SUE**!

IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN BACK NOW! I'LL JUST HAVE TO REMAIN **ON GUARD!**

GOOD OL' **WYATT!** I GUESS HE'S JUST NOT MUCH FOR SIGHT-SEEING!

IF THEY HAD A **KENTUCKY DERBY** FOR SLEEPERS... I'D PUT MY WHOLE WAD ON HIM!

I'LL BET HE COULDA SNOORED HIS WAY THROUGH THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE!

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SUDDENLY...
THERE IS A
BREAK IN THE
DENSE
FOLIAGE
BELOW...AND
WITH UNERRING
PRECISION,
THE GRIM-
LIPPED NATIVE
PILOT GUIDES
HIS SILENT
SHIP INTO...
A WORLD OF
SHEER
WONDERMENT...!

IT'S A STRANGE NEW
LAND... HIDDEN FROM
ABOVE BY A CONCEALING
COVER OF GIANT TREES.

IT'S TRULY A
JUNGLE... BUT
LIKE NOTHING EVER
SPAWNED BY
NATURE! IT'S A
MAN-MADE JUNGLE!

INDEED, YOU ARE
CORRECT! THE ENTIRE
TOPOGRAPHY AND FLORA
ARE ELECTRONICALLY-CONTROLLED
MECHANICAL APPARATUS! THE
VERY BRANCHES ABOUT US ARE
COMPOSED OF DELICATELY-
CONSTRUCTED WIRES...

WHILE THE
FLOWERS WHICH
ABOUND HERE ARE
HIGHLY COMPLEX
BUTTONS AND DIALS!
EVEN THE BOULDERS
CAN BE HEARD TO
HUM WITH THE
STEADY PULSE
OF COMPUTER
DYNAMOS!

THEN, NO SOONER DOES THE AMAZING SHIP COME TO A VIBRATIONLESS HALT, THAN...

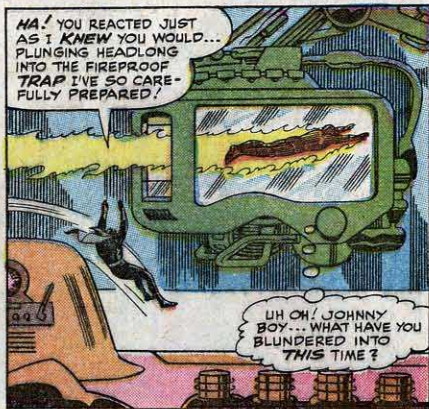
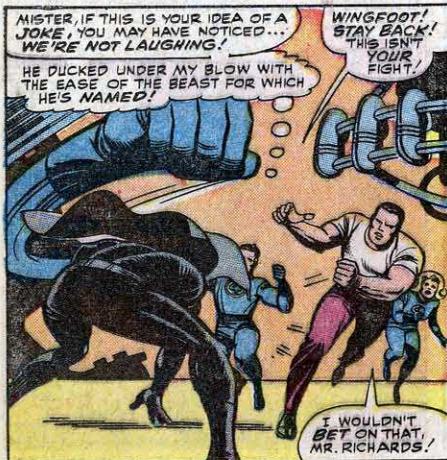
OUR GUIDE!! HE'S GONE!
HE VANISHED BEHIND A
NETWORK OF TUBES AND
COILS!

STAY TOGETHER... ALL OF YOU! WHOEVER
CREATED THIS ELECTRONIC NIGHTMARE HAS
KEPT IT A SECRET FOR SOME DEADLY
REASON!

PHOOEY! IT'LL TAKE
MORE'N A MESS'A
CHROME-PLATED NUTS
'N BOLTS TO SCARE
ME!









AHH...MY PREY LEARNS QUICKLY! THEY HAVE ELECTED TO STOP AND PLAN BEFORE PLUNGING WITLESSLY INTO ANOTHER FOOL-HARDY ATTACK!

THAT IS GOOD! A VICTORY TOO EASILY WON IS TOO SOON FORGOTTEN!

AND, SEPARATED FROM THEIR ASTOUNDING ANTAGONIST BY A VAST, MIND-STAGGERING COMPLEX OF UNFATHOMABLE ELECTRONIC MARVELS, WE FIND...

HE SAID I'D BE WEAK FOR FIVE MINUTES, BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE'A MINUTES AND I FEEL LIKE MY OL' BEAUTIFUL SELF AGAIN!

EVEN THE BLACK PANTHER DIDN'T REALIZE HOW TRULY STRONG YOU ARE, BEN!

WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

BUT, DON'T LAUNCH ANY NEW ATTACKS, OLD FRIEND, UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD!

BENEATH OUR FEET... THE HUM OF POWERFUL GENERATORS... GIVING OFF LIMITLESS ENERGY!



BEN--WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING??!

DON'T DO IT, MR. GRIMM! PUT THAT IRON DEVICE DOWN! PUT IT DOWN!

RELAX, STRETCHO! I'M JUST TESTIN' MY EVER-LOVIN' STRENGTH!



YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!

THE ONLY GUY-WHO GIVES ME ORDERS IS A GUY WHO CAN LICK ME!

AND THERE AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMAL!



LOOK, SIR...I'M NOT PRESUMING TO GIVE ORDERS TO ANYONE!

BUT, IT'S PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT A SUPERIOR INTELLECT BUILT THIS ELECTRONIC JUNGLE...AND EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH MIGHT BE A FATAL BOOBY TRAP!

USE YOUR HEAD, BEN! WINGFOOT IS DEAD RIGHT!

OUR FIRST JOB IS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!



AND I'M THE ONE TO DO THAT FOR YOU, SIR!

NO

THE BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS... THE GREATEST SCOUTS OF ALL TIME... FLOWS STRONG IN MY VEINS!

JOHNNY TOOK A SHINE TO THAT JOE! THE KIDS GOT WHAT IT TAKES!

WE'LL STAY TOGETHER, HERE TILL YOU RETURN, SON!

SUE, DARLING... DON'T WORRY ABOUT JOHNNY... YET! THE PANTHER IS JUST TOYING WITH US NOW... TAUNTING US!

IF ONLY WE COULD LEARN HIS MOTIVE!

THE ODDS SEEM SO HOPELESS! WE'RE ON HIS HOME GROUND... IN A FIGHT WHERE HE MAKES THE RULES... WHERE HE HAS PLANNED EVERYTHING BEFOREHAND.

SHEESH!
YA WANNA BORROW MY CRYING TOWEL?!!

HEY... LISTEN! WHAT'S AT?

DRUMS!! LOUD 'N CLEAR! IT MUST BE MOOD MUSIC TO BE CLOBBERED BY!

LOOK SHARP!! IT'S AN ATTACK SIGNAL OF SOME SORT!

THANKS FER TELLIN' US! WE MIGHTA THOUGHT IT WAS LAWRENCE WELK!

TAKE YOUR POSITIONS!! READY YOUR POLARITY GUNS! RELEASE SAFETY! AIM!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

FIRE!

WHAT'SIS... A GAG? DO THEY EXPECT TO POLISH US OFF BY SHOOTIN' FLASHLIGHT BEAMS AT US?

THEY'RE NOT LIGHT BEAMS, BEN! FEEL THAT VIBRATION? WE'VE BEEN HIT BY MAGNETIC ANTI-POLARITY BEAMS!

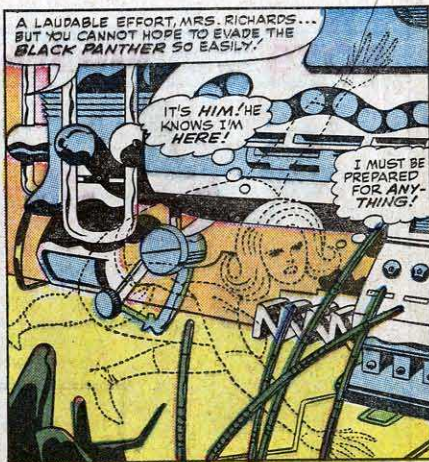
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHAT ARE THEY...?

THEY MAKE OBJECTS REPEL EACH OTHER! WE CAN'T STAY TOGETHER... TILL THEY WEAR OFF!

THE PANTHER WANTS TO SEPARATE US... TO ATTACK US INDIVIDUALLY! TURN INVISIBLE WHEN YOU LAND, SUE!

IT'S GETTIN' SO THAT YA CAN'T POKE YER SNOOT OUTTA THE HOUSE WITHOUT RUNNIN' INTA SOMIE NEW REJECT FROM MAD SCIENTISTS INCORPORATED!

THWUP!



YOU ARE FORTUNATE IN *ONE* RESPECT, YOUNG LADY! UNLIKE THE CLAWS OF MY NAMESAKE, *MINE* HAVE THE POWER TO EMIT A HARMLESS *SLEEP GAS!*

OHhhh...!

BY THE TIME YOU AWAKEN, THE HUNT WILL BE OVER, AND THE *BLACK PANTHER* SHALL HAVE WON HIS GREATEST VICTORY!

BY NOW, THE BLUNDERING THING SHOULD HAVE STUMBLED INTO THE *SECOND* TRAP I'VE PREPARED FOR HIM!

THE TIMING IS *PERFECT!*

THERE HE IS... REFRESHING HIMSELF BY WASHING HIS FACE AT WHAT SEEMS TO BE A FOUNTAIN OF CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER...!

I TRUST YOU'VE ENJOYED SPLASHING A DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF DEVITALIZING FLUID UPON YOURSELF!

!GLURGLE!
...HUH...??

THAT LIQUID IS BUT ONE OF *MANY* TRAPS I'VE PREPARED TO SAP YOUR STRENGTH...!

...SAP IT JUST ENOUGH SO THAT WE TWO CAN BATTLE, *HAND-TO-HAND!*

FOR, IN ANY EQUAL MATCH, THE *BLACK PANTHER* IS CERTAIN TO WIN!

SAY, YOU 'N RICHARDS DIDN'T GO TO THE SAME *PREP SCHOOL* OR SOMETHIN', DIDJA?

IT'S MOST UNLIKELY! ...WHY?

YA BOTH GOT THE SAME CORN-BALL HABIT...

...YA CAN TALK A GUY TO DEATH WHILE YER FIGHTIN' 'IM!

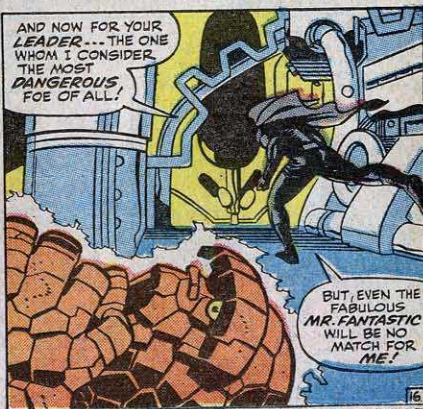
PERHAPS, BUT I CAN DO FAR *MORE* THAN TALK...

...AS YOU SHALL SEE...

AMONG OTHER THINGS, I HAVE LONG BEEN THE *BOXING CHAMPION* OF THIS ENTIRE CONTINENT!

WOK!

WELL GOODY FER YOU!...SURPPP!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF WYATT WINGFOOT? (...WE THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!)



BUT THEN, WITH THE STEALTHY SILENCE OF HIS PROUD, RED-SKINNED FOREBARS, THE INDIAN YOUTH STRIKES!

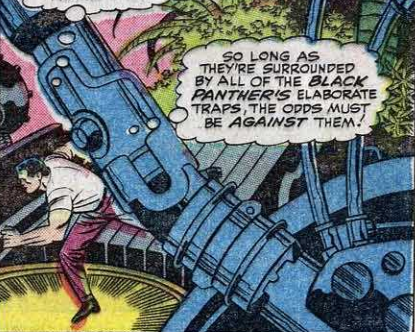


LUCKY FOR ME THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING AN ATTACK! NOW IF THEY'LL JUST STAY OUT LONG ENOUGH...

THERE! THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SPY ON ANYONE ELSE WITH THESE ELECTRONIC SCANNERS!



I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM AGAIN, AND LEAD THEM OUT OF THIS ARTIFICIAL JUNGLE INTO THE REAL ONE!



BUT, MINUTES LATER, AS THE COURAGEOUS YOUTH REACHES HIS DESTINATION...



THE INTENSITY OF THE HEAT KEEPS VARYING! THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE EXPLANATION...

IT'S THE TORCH! HE'S TRAPPED BENEATH ME... AND HE'S TRYING TO SIGNAL... TO CATCH MY ATTENTION!



IF YOU CAN KEEP TRACK OF WHERE WE LEAVE EVERYONE DURING THESE STACCATO SCENE CHANGES, YOU'RE BETTER THAN WE ARE, FRANTIC ONE!—ANYWAY...

ONCE I HAVE BESTED YOU, RICHARDS, THE HUNT WILL BE ENDED!

MY WIFE!! WHERE IS SHE? IF YOU'VE HARMED HER...

SHE IS SAFE ENOUGH... FOR NOW! I DO NOT CONSIDER FEMALES TO BE FAIR GAME!

HE'S POISED TO LEAP! IF I CAN LASSO HIM FIRST...

I CAN DIVINE YOUR PURPOSE... BUT YOU WILL FIND THAT I AM NOT SO EASILY OUT-MANEUVORED!

HE PLUNGED THE AREA INTO TOTAL DARKNESS! I CAN'T SEE!

REMEMBER... THE PANTHER IS ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY OF CATS!

AND, UNLIKE A MERE HUMAN, THE CAT IS NEVER SIGHTLESS IN THE DARK!

UHHHH--!

MR. FANTASTIC... LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR... HELPLESS BEFORE THE POWER OF THE BLACK PANTHER! MY HOUR OF TRIUMPH AT LAST!

BUT, ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO SEE HIS TAUNTING FOE... THE VALIANT REED RICHARDS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE... TO FIGHT BACK... TO LASH OUT IN A DESPERATE, RAGING FURY...

YOU HAVEN'T WON YET, PANTHER! NOT WHILE I HAVE ONE BREATH OF LIFE LEFT...

I HAVE TO DODGE HIS ARMS... FOR ANOTHER FEW SECONDS...

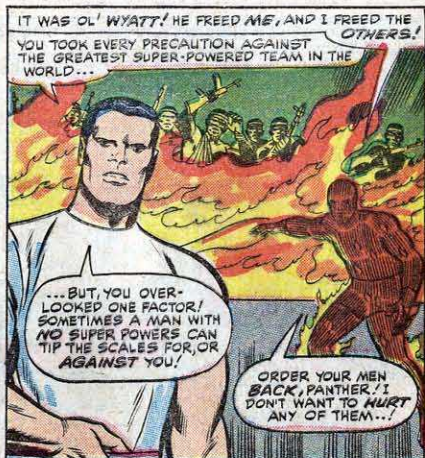




YOU CAN RELEASE YOUR FORCE FIELD NOW, SUE! HE'S LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE... AND, WITHOUT THAT, HE'S NO MATCH FOR US!

C'MON...TAKE A SWING AT ME!
YA WANT ME TO GET FRUSTRATED?!!

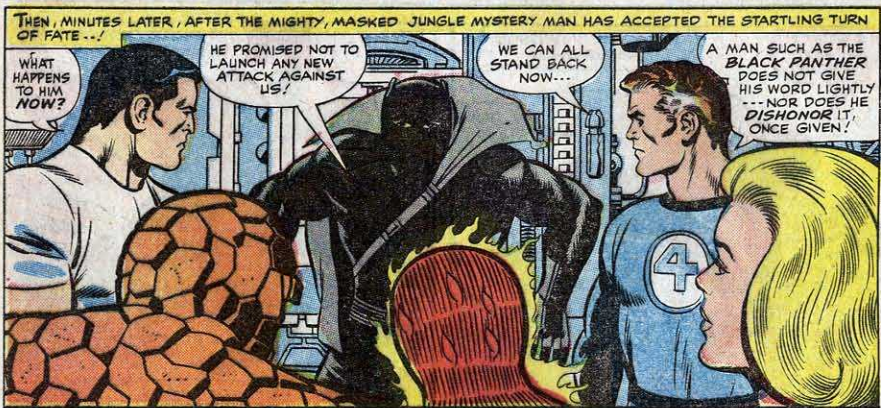
SURRENDER, PANTHER! IT'S THE ONLY CHOICE LEFT TO YOU!



IT WAS OL' WYATT! HE FREED ME, AND I FREED THE OTHERS!
YOU TOOK EVERY PRECAUTION AGAINST THE GREATEST SUPER-POWERED TEAM IN THE WORLD...

...BUT, YOU OVER-LOOKED ONE FACTOR! SOMETIMES A MAN WITH NO SUPER POWERS CAN TIP THE SCALES FOR, OR AGAINST YOU!

ORDER YOUR MEN BACK, PANTHER! I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANY OF THEM...



THEN, MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE MIGHTY, MASKED JUNGLE MYSTERY MAN HAS ACCEPTED THE STARTLING TURN OF FATE...!

WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM NOW?

HE PROMISED NOT TO LAUNCH ANY NEW ATTACK AGAINST US!

WE CAN ALL STAND BACK NOW...

A MAN SUCH AS THE BLACK PANTHER DOES NOT GIVE HIS WORD LIGHTLY... NOR DOES HE DISHONOR IT, ONCE GIVEN!



BUT, I THINK YOU MIGHT REMOVE YOUR MASK NOW...AND TELL US WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY...

MY MASK IS NOT FOR CONCEALMENT... BUT RATHER A SYMBOL OF MY PANTHER POWER!



NOW THAT THE HUNT IS OVER...THE GAME IS ENDED...I SHALL OFFER YOU THE EXPLANATION...FOR YOU HAVE EARNED IT INDEED!



I AM, AS YOU SEE ME...HEREDITARY CHIEFTAIN OF THE WAKANDAS... AND PERHAPS THE RICHEST MAN IN ALL THE WORLD!

BUT, IT WAS NOT ALWAYS SO/ MY TALE IS ONE OF TRAGEDY... AND DEADLY REVENGE...!

NEXT ISSUE:
"THE REASON WHY!"

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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CODE

CAS
AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four

12¢

53
AUG

THE WAY
IT BEGAN!

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



THE FABULOUS **F.F.** LEARN THE SECRET OF THE BLACK PANTHER

"THE WAY IT BEGAN!"

HAVING SUCCESSFULLY EVADED ALL THE UNCANNY TRAPS OF THE BLACK PANTHER, THE TRIUMPHANT FANTASTIC FOUR, ACCOMPANIED BY WYATT WINGFOOT, ARE AWARDED A HEROES' CEREMONY---

LET THE DANCE OF FRIENDSHIP BEGIN!

SHEESH! A BUNCH'A FRED ASTAIRES THEY AINT!

RELAX, BEN! IT'S BETTER'N BEING SHOT AT BY THEM!

THOUGH THE WAKANDA TRIBE LIVES IN THE TRADITION OF THEIR FOREFATHERS, THEY POSSESS MODERN, SUPER-SCIENTIFIC WONDERS. WE CAN ONLY MARVEL AT IT! THERE'S AN INCREDIBLE MYSTERY HERE--AND ONLY THE BLACK PANTHER HIMSELF KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS!

THEY ARE NOT THE ORDINARY NATIVE TRIBE THEY SEEM TO BE,

SCRIPT: STAN LEE

ART: JACK KIRBY

INKS: JOE SINNOTT

LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

NATIVE DANCES: THE BALLET FORBUSH TERPSICHOREAN TROUPE

I STILL DON'T GET IT! THEY TOSSED A BUNCH'A SCIENCE-FICTION GIZMOS AT US THAT **DOC DOOM** WOULD'A BEEN PROUD OF USIN'!

AND NOW THEY'RE ACTIN' LIKE THEY'RE ALL CHARGED UP ON ACCOUNT'A JUST INVENTIN' THE **WHEEL**!

OL' REED WON'T CUT OUT OF HERE TILL HE GETS HIMSELF SOME ANSWERS!

A FAT LOTTA GOOD THAT'LL DO! NOBODY'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND 'EM EXCEPT HIM!



AWRIGHT, BREAK IT UP--**BREAK IT UP!** WHAT'RE YA ALL GAPIN' AT, ANYWAY?

AIN'TCHA NEVER SEEN A BASHFUL, BLUE-EYED THING BEFORE?!!



LET'S GO, BEN! THE BLACK PANTHER IS INVITING US TO HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS!



WOW! WOTTA PAD! I'LL BET EVEN HUGH HEFNER COULDN'T IMPROVE ON THIS LAYOUT!

MAN! IF YA GOTTA LIVE IN THE JUNGLE, THIS SURE IS THE WAY TA DO IT! THERE MUST BE A LOTTA DOUGH IN BLACK PANTHERIN'!

MY GUESTS AND I DO NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED!

STILL ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE OLD AND THE NEW, DARLING! LOOK AT THAT ELABORATE STEREO MUSIC SYSTEM--COMPLETE WITH TAPE RECORDER!

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!

YOU SEEM PUZZLED BY WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN! YOU SHOULDN'T BE!

AFTER ALL, I CAN AFFORD TO PAMPER MYSELF--TO INDULGE MY EVERY WHIM--ENJOY EVERY LUXURY! I'M ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD!

REMEMBER, I'VE SEEN, I BELIEVE YOU! BUT THERE'S MORE TO YOUR STORY THAN MERE WEALTH--

YOU ARE PERCEPTIVE INDEED, RICHARDS!



ACTUALLY, THE BLACK PANTHER LIVES UNDER A TRAGIC CURSE!

BUT, MY TALE REALLY BEGINS WITH THE SPEAR AND SHIELD OF MY FATHER--T'CHAKA, THE WARRIOR KING!



BUT, EVEN AS THE DRAMATIC **BLACK PANTHER** BEGINS HIS REVELATION, TWO MEMBERS OF THE **TERRITORIAL PATROL** COME UPON A STAGGERING DISCOVERY--

THE ENTIRE AREA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN **RIPPED UP**--AS THOUGH BY GIANT HANDS; THERE ARE NO ANIMALS--NO BIRDS!! EVERY FORM OF LIFE HAS BEEN **FRIGHTENED AWAY!**

AND THESE HOLES IN THE GROUND--IMPOSSIBLE THOUGH IT SEEMS, THEY CAN ONLY BE **TRACKS**--THE FOOTPRINTS OF SOME GARGANTUAN CREATURE!

CAN IT BE THAT THE RUMORS OF MONSTROUS BEASTS ROAMING THE JUNGLE ARE **TRUE?!!**



AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST SUPERSTITION--OLD WIVES' TALES TO FRIGHTEN LITTLE CHILDREN! BUT NOW--I CAN ALMOST **SENSE** THE DANGER UPON US!

HOLD IT! DID YOU JUST FEEL THE GROUND **TREMBLE**--AS THOUGH BENEATH THE PRESSURE OF SOME TITANTIC WEIGHT?!!



THERE! I FELT IT **AGAIN!!** THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--**SOMETHING** IS BEHIND US!

SWIFTLY TURNING, THE TWO MEN RECOIL IN MUTE **SHOCK** AT THE AWESOME SIGHT THAT GREETES THEIR EYES--AS THEY FIRE WILDLY--DESPERATELY, AT THAT WHICH CONFRONTS THEM--!

IT'S LIKE A GIGANTIC **GORILLA**--AN UNBELIEVABLE CRIMSON ANTHROPOID!!



KEEP FIRING! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FRIGHTEN HIM AWAY WITH OUR GUNSHOTS! IT'S **TOO LATE** TO RUN!

HOWEVER, THE GUNFIRE OF THE TWO COURAGEOUS PATROLMEN CAUSES A PHENOMENON FAR DIFFERENT THAN EITHER OF THEM EXPECTS--!

IT-IT SEEMED TO **EXPLODE**--RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!!

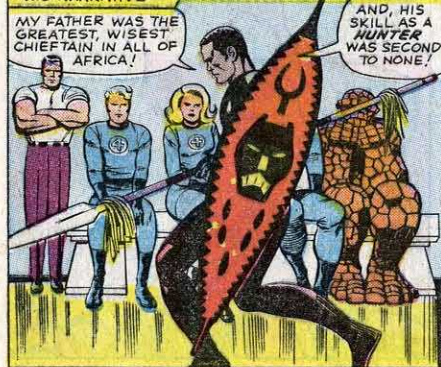
IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!** IT CAN'T BE--!

AND YET--I SAW IT, TOO!





AND, SPEAKING OF THE WAKANDAS, IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO REJOIN THE BLACK PANTHER AS HE CONTINUES HIS NARRATIVE--





OUR VIRTUALLY
INEXHAUSTIBLE
SUPPLY OF **VIBRANIUM**
COMES FROM THAT
SACRED MOUND WHICH
HAS BORDERED THE
LAND OF THE **WAKANDAS**
SINCE THE DAWN OF
TIME!



EVERY **WAKANDA** CHIEFTAIN IS PLEDGED
TO PROTECT THE **SACRED VIBRANIUM**
WITH HIS **LIFE**--JUST AS MY
FATHER WAS SO PLEDGED!

ALL
HAIL
T'CHAKA--
GUARDIAN
OF THE
ETERNAL
PEAK!

"MY FATHER WAS THE GREATEST CHIEFTAIN OF ALL!
WISE IN COUNCIL--JUST IN JUDGEMENT--AND BRAVE
IN BATTLE!"



"WHEREVER THERE WAS
DANGER, THERE TOO
WAS **T'CHAKA**--ALWAYS
IN THE FOREFRONT--!"

"TO ME, HE WAS MORE THAN FATHER--MORE THAN
WARRIOR--TO ME, HE WAS LIKE A **GOD**!"



ONE DAY I TOO
SHALL BE
CHIEFTAIN,
FATHER!

AND I SHALL BE WORTHY
OF ALL YOU HAVE
TAUGHT
ME!

BUT NOW, IT IS
BEDTIME FOR
THE LITTLEST
CHIEFTAIN OF
ALL!

LOOK, KIDDO--WHY
DON'TCHA SAVE YER-
SELF THE TROUBLE?
I KNOW THE REST
BY HEART! EVERY-
THING WUZ HUNKY
DORY UNTIL THE
GREEDY **IVORY** HUNTERS
MADE THE SCENE!

BEN! FOR THE LAST TIME, WILL
YOU REMEMBER THAT WE'RE HIS
GUESTS?!

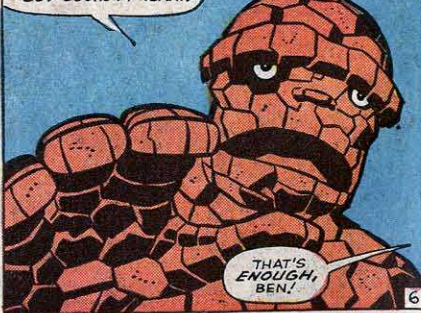
DO NOT BE CON-
CERNED, REED RICHARDS!
I REALIZE MY TALE MAY
SOUND CONTRIVED TO
YOU!



YOU AINT
JUST WHISTLIN'
WATUSI, PAL!

YER TALKIN' TO A GUY
WHO SEEN EVERY
TARZAN MOVIE AT LEAST
A DOZEN TIMES, AND I
CAN RECITE YA HALF'A
THE **BOMBA**, THE **JUNGLE**
BOY BOOKS BY HEART!

SO YER LITTLE BEDTIME
STORY AINT IMPRESSIN'
ME! LET'S GIT TO THE
PUNCHLINE, HUH?



THAT'S
ENOUGH,
BEN!

I DO NOT MIND
THE **THING'S**
INTERRUPTIONS!

PERHAPS MY TALE **DOES** FOLLOW THE
USUAL PATTERN, EXCEPT FOR ONE THING!
IT WAS NOT A GREEDY **IVORY HUNTER**
WHO CAME TO OUR LAND! NO, IT WAS
ONE FAR MORE **DANGEROUS**--FAR
MORE **EVIL**--!

HE CALLED HIMSELF **K'LAU**, THE **MASTER
OF SOUND**--AND HE POSSESSED A WEAPON
THE LIKE OF WHICH NO MAN HAD EVER SEEN
BEFORE--A WEAPON WHICH COULD CONVERT
SOUND INTO **MASS**!

THE **FOOLS**! THEY **MOCKED** ME WHEN
I SAID THAT **VIBRANIUM** EXISTED! BUT
NOW I HAVE **FOUND** IT, HERE IN THIS
JUNGLE--AND, IT MUST BE **MINE**!

VIBRANIUM!!
THE ONE
ELEMENT I NEED--
THE ONE ELEMENT
WHICH WILL POWER
MY **SOUND
TRANSFORMER**--
SO THAT I MAY
CHANGE THE BASIC
ENERGY OF **SOUND**
INTO ANY LIVING
FORM I DESIRE!



"I STILL REMEMBER THE SIGHT OF **K'LAU**, THE
UNSMILING--**K'LAU**, THE MERCILESS--ORDERING MY
FATHER TO **GIVE UP** OUR SACRED MOUND--OUR
PRECIOUS ETERNAL ROCK--!"

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
ONCE I GAIN POSSESSION
OF THE WORLD'S ONLY
SUPPLY OF **VIBRANIUM**,
ALL THE RICHES OF
EARTH SHALL BE
MINE!

BEGONE! THIS LAND IS
OURS! SO SPEAKS **T'CHAKA**,
THE CHIEFTAIN!
THEN **T'CHAKA**
SHALL SPEAK
NO MORE!

GUN
HIM
DOWN--
NOW!



"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE SOUND OF
GUNFIRE--A SOUND I WAS TO REMEMBER ALL
THE DAYS OF MY LIFE--!"

**CRACK!
CRACK!**

**FATHER!
FATHER!**

THEY HAVE
SLAIN
T'CHAKA!

BUT HIS
DEATH
SHALL BE
AVENGED!



"I, WHO HAD LIVED IN THE JUNGLE SINCE BIRTH, HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH VIOLENCE AS I BEHELD THAT MOMENT--WHILE THE MACHINE-GUN FIRE OF KLAUW FELL UPON OUR WARRIORS WITHOUT MERCY--!"



"BUT, OVER THE NOISE OF THE GUNFIRE--ONE SOUND KEPT ROARING IN MY ANGUISHED BRAIN--THE SOUND OF A NAME--A NAME I WOULD HATE FOR ALL ETERNITY--! THE NAME OF--**KLAUW!**"



"SECONDS LATER, THE FIRING HAD CEASED--BUT, THE DEADLY SILENCE WHICH FOLLOWED WAS MORE DEAFENING--MORE FRAUGHT WITH DREAD--THAN ALL THE THUNDER THAT HAD GONE BEFORE!"



"IN THAT SPLIT-SECOND, MY BOYHOOD ENDED--AS THE NEW **CERTAIN** OF ALL THE WAKANDAS WAS BORN--!"



"SUDDENLY, I HEARD THE SOUND OF A MAN MUTTERING BEHIND ME! SILENTLY, WITH A SEETHING RAGE IN MY HEART, I TURNED--"



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"FINDING THE STRANGE WEAPON, SURPRISINGLY LIGHT IN WEIGHT, I LIFTED IT, CARRYING IT WITH ME, UNTIL I REACHED THE GATES OF OUR VILLAGE, WHERE MY EYES BEHELD KLAU'S FINAL ACT OF VILLAINY---!!"

MY PEOPLE—
FLEEING FOR
THEIR LIVES!!
OUR VILLAGE
IN FLAMES!!

THIS IS NO MAN I SEEK
TO BATTLE!! TRULY, HE
IS **EVIL INCARNATE!!**
HIS VERY PRESENCE
BEFOULS THE EARTH
UPON WHICH HE STANDS!

OUT! DRIVE THEM
OUT! THE MOUND OF
VIBRANIUM MUST
BELONG TO **KLAU!**
ONLY I AM DESTINED
TO BE SUPREME!
ONLY I AM **MASTER
OF SOUND!**



"WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, I AIMED THE FEAR-SOME OBJECT IN MY ARMS DIRECTLY AHEAD OF ME --WHILE MY FINGER BEGAN TO TIGHTEN ON THE TRIGGER, AS I CRIED---"

YOU HAVE SLAIN MY FATHER!
YOU HAVE PUT THE TORCH
TO OUR VILLAGE!
AND NOW YOU
MUST PAY--!!

THE **SOUND
BLASTER!!**
HE'S ABOUT
TO FIRE IT!

**STOP
HIM!** HE
DOESN'T
KNOW
WHAT HE'S
DOING--!!



**TOO LATE! HE
DETONATED
IT!**

IT WAS AN **ACCIDENT!** HE
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW
TO AIM IT! THE SHOT FELL
SHORT!



I'LL MAKE
SURE HE
GETS **NO
SECOND
CHANCE!**

YOU LITTLE **FOOL!** YOU CANNOT REALIZE THE
FORCES YOU ARE TAMPERING WITH! THE DEVICE
YOU HOLD CONVERTS **SOUND** INTO PURE **ENERGY!**
IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT CAN WREAK UNMENTION-
ABLE

YOURS ARE THE HANDS
THAT ARE WRONG, **EVIL**
ONE--NOT **MINE!**

**LOOK OUT! HE'S
GONNA FIRE
AGAIN!**



THE LITTLE
SAVAGE
WOULDN'T
DARE!

I SEE YOU
STARTING TO
SQUEEZE YOUR
TRIGGER! BUT,
YOU ARE **TOO
LATE---**

THIS IS
FOR **T'CHAKA--
THE
WARRIOR
KING!**

**MY
HAND!**





IT IS TRUE! I SOLD SMALL PORTIONS OF VIBRANIUM TO VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS, ENABLING ME TO AMASS A FORTUNE--THE EQUAL OF ANY ON EARTH!

SO THAT'S HOW YA COULD AFFORD THAT FAR-OUT MECHANIZED JUNGLE OF YOURS!



IT WAS A SIMPLE EXERCISE, TO TEST MY SKILL--FOR I HAD ATTENDED THE FINE UNIVERSITIES OF BOTH HEMISPHERES!

HOW ABOUT YER PANTHER POWER--THE WAY YA SEE IN THE DARK, 'N STUFF--!

A SECRET--HANDLED DOWN FROM CHIEFTAIN TO CHIEFTAIN!



WE EAT CERTAIN HERBS--AND UNDERGO RIGOROUS RITUALS--OF WHICH I AM FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK!

BUT, WHY THE HECK DIDJA TRY TO TRAP US?!!

I HAD TO! YOU FOUR WERE THE SUPREME TEST!



ALTHOUGH HE HAS KEPT HIDDEN FROM ME ALL THESE YEARS, I KNOW HE IS PLANNING TO--

WAIT!!

IT HAS COME! THE LONG AWAITED, CRITICAL DANGER SIGNAL!!



WOTTA DEAL! YA MOVE ONE OF THEM CRAZY PANTHER STATUES, AND THE WHOLE BLASTED WALL SLIDES BACK!

QUIET! THIS SENS-A-SCOPE IS RECORDING THE APPROACH OF A NAMELESS MENACE--FROM THE DIRECTION OF OUR SACRED MOUND!



AND, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, LUMBERING AWESOMELY INTO WAKANDA TERRITORY, WE SEE--



SECONDS LATER, AS THE TORCH IS FIRST TO REACH THE GIGANTIC CRIMSON MONSTER--



WHAT CAN IT BE? IT'S SHAPED LIKE A GORILLA--BUT IT'S HAIRLESS--AND COLORED RED--AND LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT--!

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE FIERY YOUTH COMES TO A STARTLING REALIZATION--



HE SEEMS ALIVE--BUT HE ISN'T! HE CAN'T BE!

EVERY BEAST THAT LIVES FEARS MY FLAME--BUT HE DOESN'T!

AT THAT MOMENT...

LOOKA THAT, STRETCH, THEY MUST BE FILMIN' A NEW KING KONG!

BUT WHO EVER HEARD OF A RED, HAIRLESS GORILLA?

IT'S NOT A GORILLA, BEN! IT'S SOMETHING FAR MORE DANGEROUS!

WHAT DARLING? WHAT IS IT??



WHAT'S A DIFFERENCE? I'M GOIN' AFTER 'IM!

ANYTHING'S BETTER'N STAYIN' THERE 'N LISTENIN' TO ANOTHER ONE OF BIG DOME'S EXPLANATIONS!



BEN--STAY BACK! YOU CAN'T HURT HIM! LOOK HOW HE IGNORES MY FLAME!



FLAME, SHMAME! NOW WE'LL SEE IF HE CAN IGNORE A FISTFUL O' KNUCKLES!

NOBODY'S MAKIN' AN ACCORDION OUTTA MY LITTLE BUDDY!

I GOTTA MOVE FAST! NO TELLIN' WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO THE KID!

BUT, EVEN BEFORE THE ONRUSHING BATTLER CAN GET WITHIN STRIKING RANGE OF THE TOWERING CREATURE, THE TORCH'S OWN HEAT IS SUDDENLY MAGNIFIED, AND HURLED BACK AT THE STARTLED THING--!



LOOK OUT, BEN--
LOOK OUT!

HUH--??

GETTIN' HOTTER EVERY SECOND!!
BUT--CAN'T FALL BACK NOW!
THE TORCH NEEDS ME! HE
NEEDS ME--!

GOTTA KEEP
MOVIN' FORWARD
--GOTTA
BEAR
THE
HEAT--!

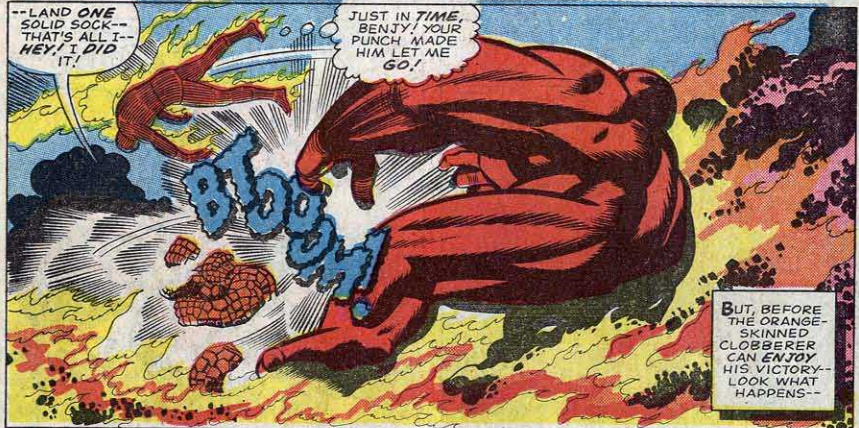
I'M GETTIN'
CLOSER--
CLOSER--!
NOW, ALL I
GOTTA DO--
IS--



--LAND ONE
SOLID SOCK--
THAT'S ALL I--
HEY! I DID
IT!

JUST IN TIME,
BENJY! YOUR
PUNCH MADE
HIM LET ME
GO!

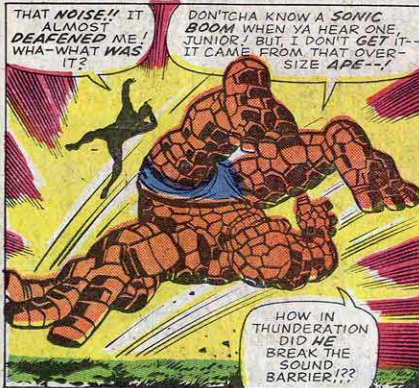
BOOM!



BUT, BEFORE
THE ORANGE-
SKINNED
CLOBBERER
CAN ENJOY
HIS VICTORY--
LOOK WHAT
HAPPENS--

THAT NOISE!! IT
ALMOST
DEAFENED ME!
WHA-WHAT WAS
IT?

DON'TCHA KNOW A SONIC
BOOM WHEN YA HEAR ONE,
JUNIOR! BUT, I DON'T GET IT--
IT CAME FROM THAT OVER-
SIZE APE--!



HOW IN
THUNDER
DID HE
BREAK THE
SOUND
BARRIER??

I'LL ANSWER YOU
LATER, BIG BUDDY!
RIGHT NOW, I
WANNA ENJOY
SINKING INTO
SUSIE'S FRIENDLY
LITTLE FORCE
FIELD!

DIDJA EVER HAVE A
FEELIN' YA GOT STUCK IN
THE WRONG NIGHTMARE?



I GOT
THEM!
REED!
JUST IN
TIME!



GET THEM DOWN QUICKLY, SUE! THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE FIGHTING!

WHAT IS IT, DARLING? SOME SORT OF A GIANT ROBOT?

NO! IT'S MORE UNCANNY THAN THAT! IT'S SOMETHING THAT CANNOT EXIST!

RUMBLINGS! IN THE DISTANCE! COMING CLOSER--!



QUICK--TAKE COVER! SOMETHING IS COMING! JUDGING BY ALL THE SIGNS, IT'S SOMETHING ENORMOUS!

THERE'S NO PLACE WE CAN RUN TO! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STAND FAST AND FIGHT IT!

BUT, REED-- WHAT IS IT? WHAT WAS THAT HORRIBLE RED CREATURE?

YOU SOUNDED BEFORE AS IF YOU KNEW!

I DO KNOW!--THOUGH I ALMOST WISH I DIDN'T!



JOHNNY'S LAPPED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS! BUT HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! IT'S JUST THE SHOCK OF HIS FLAME BEING SNUFFED OUT SO SUDDENLY!

THANK HEAVENS THAT'S ALL IT IS! BUT, WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

ME, I FEEL LIKE FINDIN' OUT ONCE 'N FER ALL IF BUFFERIN WORKS FASTER THAN ASPIRIN!



WHATEVER'S HEADING THIS WAY, NOTHING'S SO BIG THAT I CAN'T STOP 'IM WITH A ROCK IN THE HEAD!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, BEN!

DON'T YOU REALIZE IT--MAGNIFIES WHATEVER STRIKES IT--AND FEELS THAT SAME FORCE BACK--MORE DEADLY THAN EVER --TO ITS OWN ATTACKER!



BUT, WHY DON'T NOTHIN' HURT IT??

THINK, BEN!! HOW CAN YOU HURT--A SOUND?

A SOUND??!!

EXACTLY! DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE BLACK PANTHER TELLING US THAT KLAU CALLED HIMSELF THE MASTER OF SOUND!

DIDN'T HE HAVE A METHOD OF CONVERTING SOUND INTO LIVING MATTER??



BUT, EVEN AS REED RICHARDS BEGINS HIS ASTOUNDING EXPLANATION, THE BLACK PANTHER, EMULATING HIS NAMESAKE, TAKES TO THE TREES IN SEARCH OF HIS PREY--

KLAU COULD NEVER CREATE HIS DEMONICAL SOUND MONSTERS WITHOUT THE AID OF MANY COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC MACHINES!

AND, IN ALL OF WAKANDA TERRITORY, THERE IS BUT ONE PLACE WHERE SUCH EQUIPMENT COULD BE HIDDEN--!

IT IS THERE, I KNOW, THAT I SHALL FIND THE ONE I MUST DESTROY!

SOFTLY, SILENTLY, THE **BLACK PANTHER** DROPS TO THE GROUND, A FEW MINUTES LATER--LANDING WITH THE GRACE AND EASE OF A TRUE FELINE--!

THIS PORTION OF MY BELOVED JUNGLE--LAID WASTE BY THE POWER OF **KLAU**, AND HIS DEADLY CREATIONS!

BUT, FROM THIS MOMENT ON--HE WILL DESTROY NO MORE!

THIS HIDDEN CAVE--THE LARGEST IN WAKANDA--HE COULD SAFELY CONCEAL ANYTHING WITHIN ITS DEPTHS!

EVEN IN THE SHADOWS--EVEN IN THE GLOOM--HE IS UNMISTAKABLE! I HAVE FOUND MY QUARRY!

FIRST, I'LL DISPOSE OF THESE TWO UNSUSPECTING GUARDS!

AND THEN, THE **REAL CHALLENGE** WILL COME--WHEN I'M FACE-TO-FACE WITH **KLAU**, AT LONG LAST!

I WAS RIGHT! IT IS HIM!

AND THAT MUST BE HIS MASTER'S CONVERSION SYSTEM FOR CHANGING BASIC MATTER INTO **LIVING MATTER!**

AT LAST I'M READY TO LAUNCH MY MAIN ATTACK!

FOR YOU, **KLAU**, THERE SHALL BE NO MORE ATTACKS! FOR YOU--THERE IS ONLY **RETRIBUTION!**

THAT VOICE!! I LAST HEARD ONE LIKE IT TEN YEARS AGO--BUT I CAN NEVER FORGET IT!

THE **BLACK PANTHER!** THE ONE WHOSE NAME IS MUTTERED IN WHISPERS THROUGHT AFRICA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A **LEGEND--A MYTH!** BUT--YOU DO EXIST!

I EXIST! I HAVE EXISTED, WAITED, PLANNED, ALL THIS TIME--UNTIL THIS DAY WHEN MY FATHER'S DEATH SHALL BE **AVENGED!**

NEVER! IT IS YOU WHO SHALL PERISH! FOR I AM **STRONGER** NOW THAN BEFORE!

AND, THANKS TO YOU, I CARRY A DEADLY **WEAPON** IN PLACE OF A RIGHT HAND!



BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE MOUNTAINOUS BOULDER STRIKE THE CHARGING BEAST, THAN IT CRUMBLES INTO A THOUSAND SMALLER FRAGMENTS, RICOCHETTING BACK AT THE DUMBFOUNDED HUMAN POWERHOUSE--!



IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT REALLY BUGS ME, IT'S A WISE-GUY ELEPHANT!

IT'S THE ONES LIKE YOU THAT MAKE A JOKE OUTTA "BE KIND TO DUMB ANIMALS WEEK"!



BUT, I GOT NEWS FOR YA, BIG BOY! YA MADE ONE REAL BAD MISTAKE--

JUST BECAUSE I GOT A SWEET, INNERGENT BLUE-EYED FACE YA THOUGHT BASHFUL BENJAMIN WOULD BE A PUSHOVER--!



BUT, NOW I'M GONNA--

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?? THIS IS CRAZY!! IT-IT DON'T MAKE SENSE--!

THE MORE PRESSURE I PUT ON 'IM, THE MORE IT HURTS ME--JUST LIKE HE'S REFLECTIN' IT ALL BACK--LIKE A MIRROR!



GOTTA LET UP ON 'IM, MY OWN STRENGTH ALMOST FINISHED ME OFF--!



HE'S STARTIN' TO FADE AWAY-- LIKE SOME KINDA GHOST!! BUT HE WUZ REAL-- I KNOW HE WUZ--!

WYATT! THE ELEPHANT'S GONE! SEE IF BEN NEEDS ANY HELP--WHILE I LOWER SUE AND JOHNNY TO THE GROUND!

HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT, MR. RICHARDS, HE'S STARTING TO GET UP!

'COURSE I'M AWRIGHT! I WUZ JUST TRYIN' TO FIND ME A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER!





BUT, BEFORE THE MAD MASTER OF SOUND CAN ACTIVATE HIS STRANGE WEAPON, THE BLACK PANTHER, MOVING AS SWIFTLY AS HIS NAMESAKE, HURLS THE FATAL POWER SWITCH WHICH HIS NIMBLE FINGERS HAD BEEN SILENTLY GROPPING FOR--!

MY CONVERTER, IT--IT'S BEING BLOWN APART!!

IT HAS TO END THIS WAY-- IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE!

YOU DID NOT REALIZE-- I AM A SCIENTIST, TOO--!

THUS, I COULD TELL WHICH LEVER TO THROW IN ORDER TO OVERLOAD YOUR DELICATE ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS!

AND NOW, ONLY MY PANTHER SPEED CAN SAVE ME FROM THE HOLOCAUST WHICH IS ABOUT TO BEFALL--!

IT'S OVER! THE CASTLE IS DESTROYED! NEVERMORE SHALL THE MASTER OF SOUND'S UNCANNY MONSTERS THREATEN MY LAND!

MAY YOUR ETERNAL SLEEP BE A PEACEFUL ONE, T'CHAKA, MY FATHER!! THIS DAY YOU HAVE BEEN AVENGED!

AT THAT MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF YARDS AWAY, FIVE PAIR OF STARTLED EYES SEE THE ELECTRIFYING UPHEAVAL--

THAT ENTIRE HILL-- IT'S BEEN SHATTERED INTO NOTHINGNESS!

WHAT IS IT, REED? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I'M NOT SURE, JOHNNY-- BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE BLACK PANTHER IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE!

THE SOUND IS DEAFENING!! IT'S LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD!! HOLD ME, MY DARLING--!

HEY! LOOK-- OVER THERE! A COUPLE MORE OF THEM REFUGEES FROM GOD-- ZILLA! GOD!

BUT--THEY'RE FADING AWAY!! THEY MUST SOMEHOW BE LINKED TO THE EXPLOSION!

WHATEVER IT WAS THAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED, MUST HAVE BEEN THE THING THAT CREATED THEM!



NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...