

IND.

THE Fantastic FOUR



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I--I CAN'T
TURN INVISIBLE
FAST ENOUGH!!
HOW CAN WE
STOP THIS
CREATURE,
TORCH?

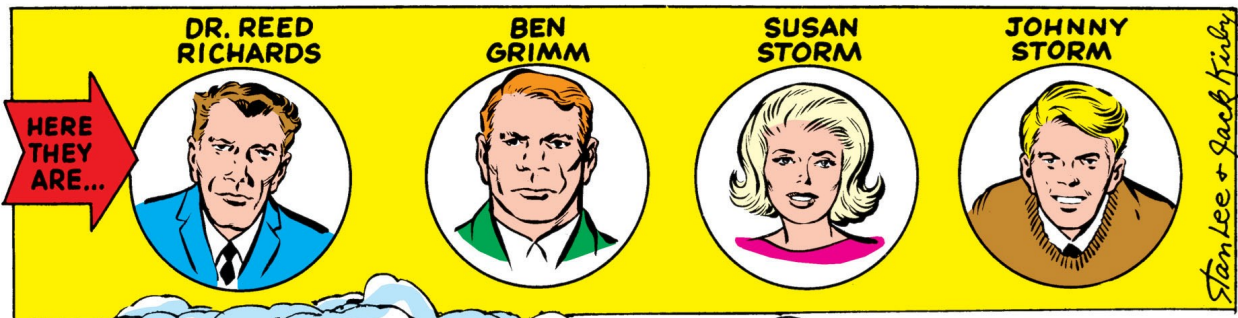
JUST WAIT
AND SEE,
SISTER!
THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR HAVE
ONLY
BEGUN
TO FIGHT!

THE THREE
OF YOU CAN'T
DO IT ALONE!
IT'S
TIME FOR **THE
THING** TO TAKE
A HAND!

IT'LL TAKE MORE
THAN **ROPES**
TO
KEEP MISTER
FANTASTIC OUT
OF ACTION!

FEATURING:
"THE THING!"
"MR. FANTASTIC!"
"HUMAN TORCH!"
"INVISIBLE GIRL!"
TOGETHER
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN ONE MIGHTY
MAGAZINE!





WITH THE SUDDEN FURY OF A THUNDERBOLT, A FLARE IS SHOT INTO THE SKY OVER CENTRAL CITY! THREE AWESOME WORDS TAKE FORM AS IF BY MAGIC, AND A LEGEND IS BORN!!

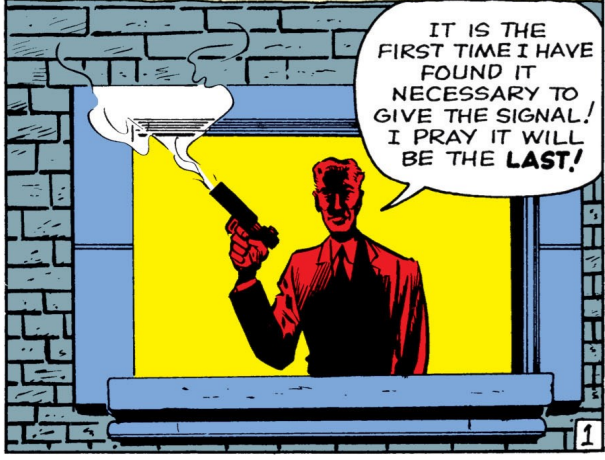


LOOK! IN THE SKY-- WHAT IN BLAZES DOES IT MEAN?

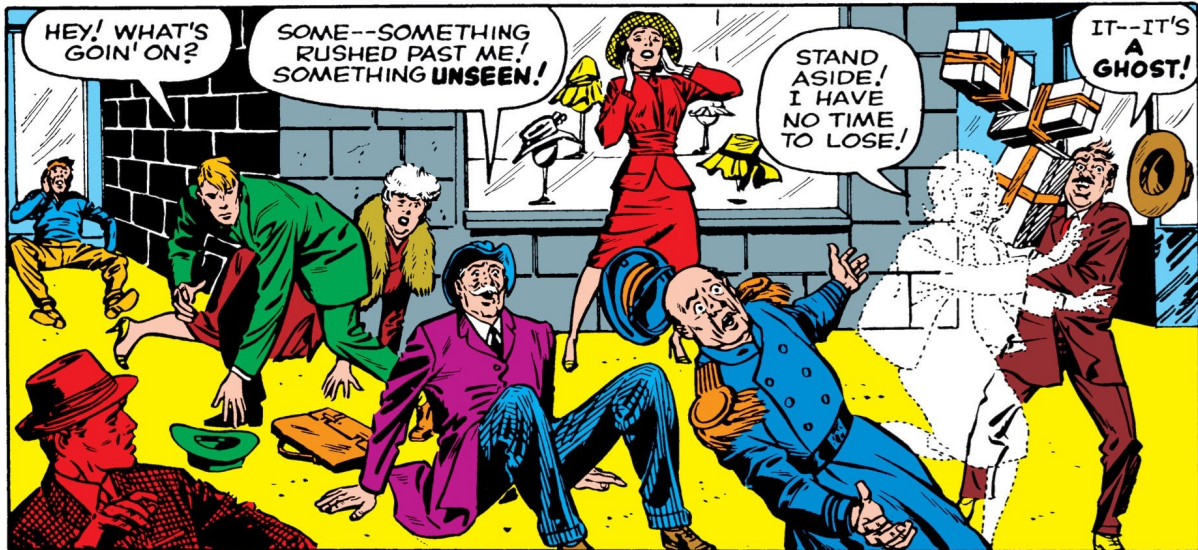
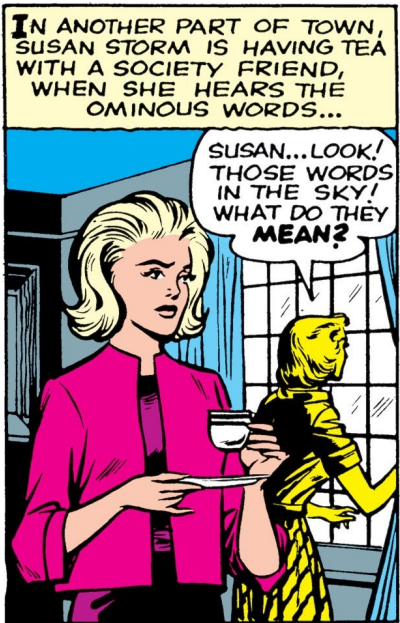
I DUNNO, BUT THE CROWDS ARE GETTIN' PANICKY!

RUMORS ARE FLYIN' ABOUT AN ALIEN INVASION!

ABOVE ALL THE HUBBUB AND EXCITEMENT, ONE STRANGE FIGURE HOLDS A STILL-SMOKING FLARE GUN! ONE STRANGE MAN WHO IS SOMEHOW MORE THAN JUST A MAN--FOR HE IS THE LEADER OF... THE FANTASTIC FOUR!



IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO GIVE THE SIGNAL! I PRAY IT WILL BE THE LAST!





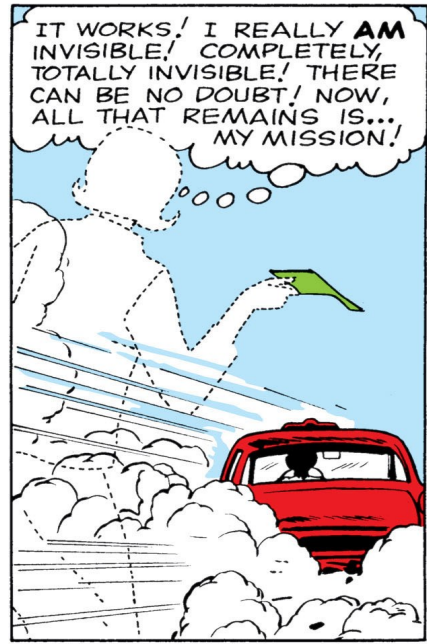
DON'T JUST SIT THERE GAPING, MAN! TAKE YOUR MONEY!



I--I'M HEARIN' THINGS! SEEN' THINGS! OR--OR NOT SEEIN' THEM!!



GANGWAY! I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!



IT WORKS! I REALLY AM INVISIBLE! COMPLETELY, TOTALLY INVISIBLE! THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT! NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS... MY MISSION!



BUT LET US LEAVE THE AMAZING INVISIBLE GIRL AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A MEN'S CLOTHING STORE, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...

I'M SORRY, MISTER, I JUST DON'T CARRY ANYTHING BIG ENOUGH TO FIT A MAN YOUR SIZE!



BAH! EVERYWHERE IT IS THE SAME! I LIVE IN A WORLD TOO SMALL FOR ME!

LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW IN THE SKY!



THOSE WORDS... "THE FANTASTIC FOUR"! WHAT CAN THEY MEAN?

SO! THE TIME HAS COME!



WAIT, DON'T BOTHER TAKING OFF YOUR COAT... I TOLD YOU WE HAVEN'T ANYTHING IN YOUR SIZE...

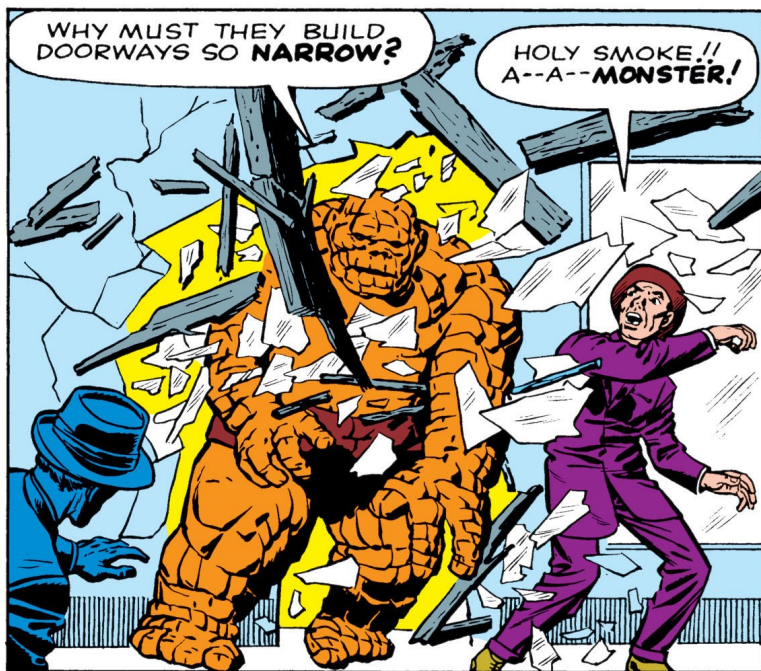


YOUR--YOUR--SIZE...



OH NO...

WHAT A RELIEF TO GET RID OF THOSE TIGHT RAGS!



WHY MUST THEY BUILD DOORWAYS SO **NARROW?**

HOLY SMOKE!!
A--A--**MONSTER!**



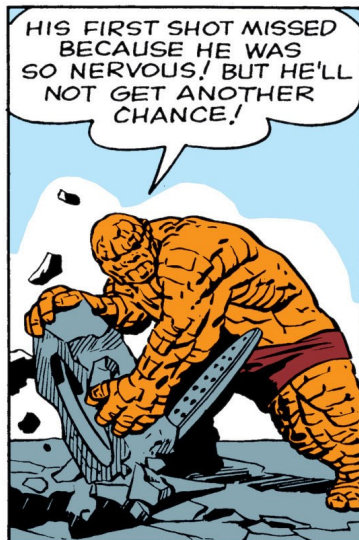
PETE, LOOK!
WHAT'S **THAT?**

I DUNNO... BUT
I AIN'T TAKIN'
ANY **CHANCES**
WITH IT!



HALT!! HALT OR
I'LL SHOOT!!

OKAY,
I
WARNED
YOU!

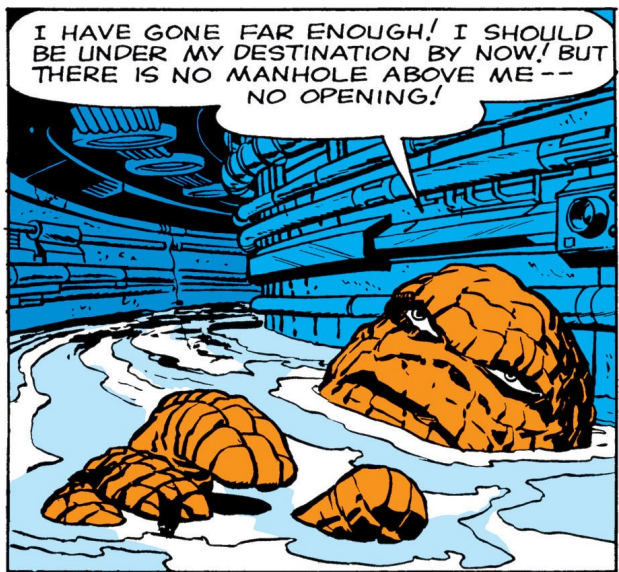


HIS FIRST SHOT MISSED
BECAUSE HE WAS
SO NERVOUS! BUT HE'LL
NOT GET ANOTHER
CHANCE!

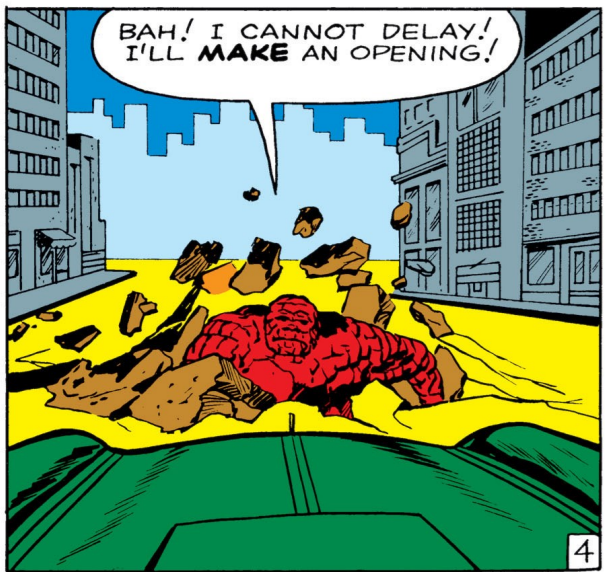


DID YOU SEE **THAT?**
HE RIPPED THE
MANHOLE COVER
OUT OF THE
GROUND WITH
HIS BARE HANDS!

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!



I HAVE GONE FAR ENOUGH! I SHOULD
BE UNDER MY DESTINATION BY NOW! BUT
THERE IS NO MANHOLE ABOVE ME--
NO OPENING!



BAH! I CANNOT DELAY!
I'LL **MAKE** AN OPENING!



WHAT IS THAT... RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?? OH, NO... IT'S ALIVE!!

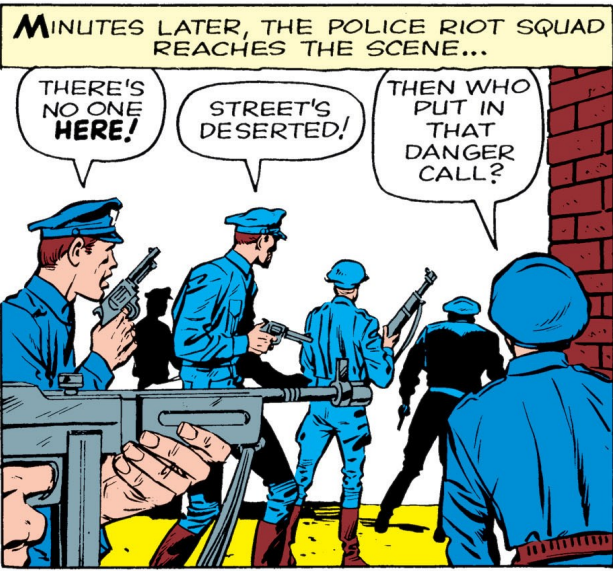
FOOL! DID YOU NOT SEE ME IN TIME?



IT'S A WALKING NIGHTMARE!! HELP!! HELP!!

LILY-LIVERED COWARDS!

IT AIN'T HUMAN! IT'S TOO BIG... TOO STRONG!! IT--IT'S A MARTIAN!



MINUTES LATER, THE POLICE RIOT SQUAD REACHES THE SCENE...

THERE'S NO ONE HERE!

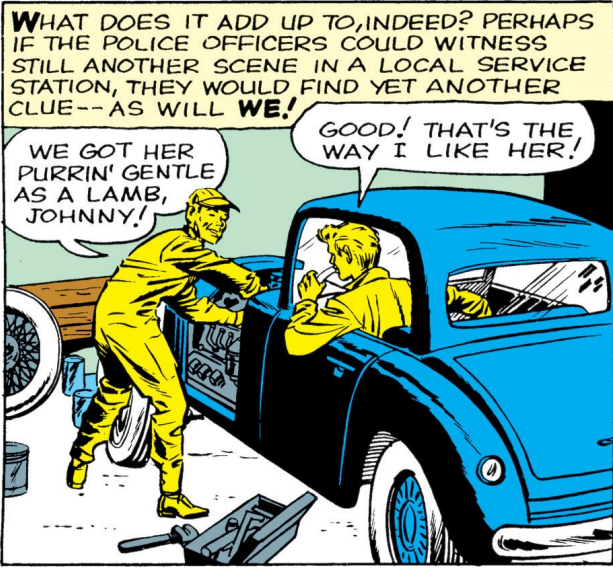
STREET'S DESERTED!

THEN WHO PUT IN THAT DANGER CALL?



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENING IN CENTRAL CITY! THOSE WORDS IN THE SKY... THOSE SCATTERED REPORTS OF MONSTERS WALKING THE STREETS...

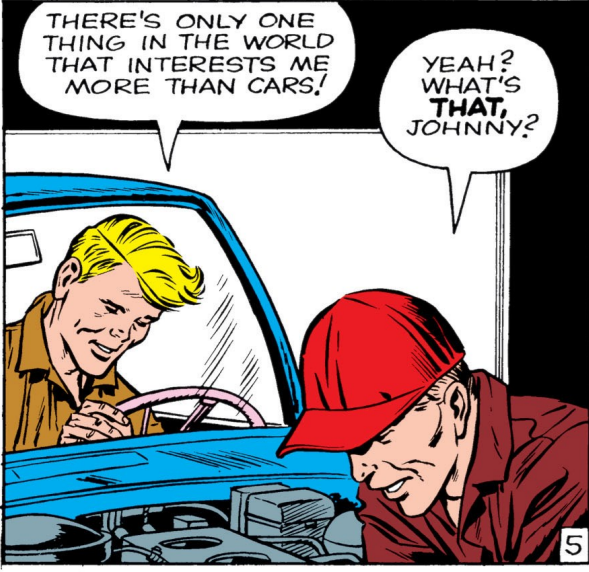
BUT WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, CHIEF? ...WHAT?



WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, INDEED? PERHAPS IF THE POLICE OFFICERS COULD WITNESS STILL ANOTHER SCENE IN A LOCAL SERVICE STATION, THEY WOULD FIND YET ANOTHER CLUE-- AS WILL WE!

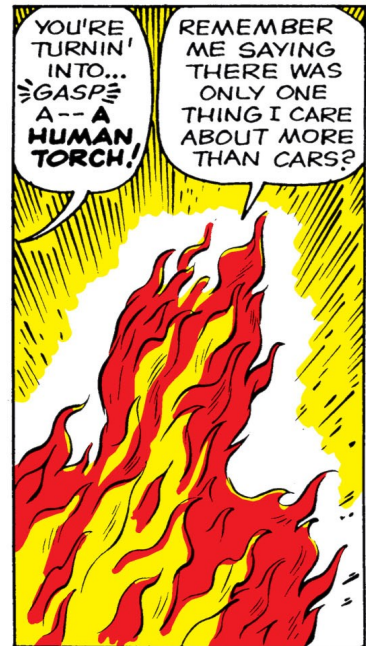
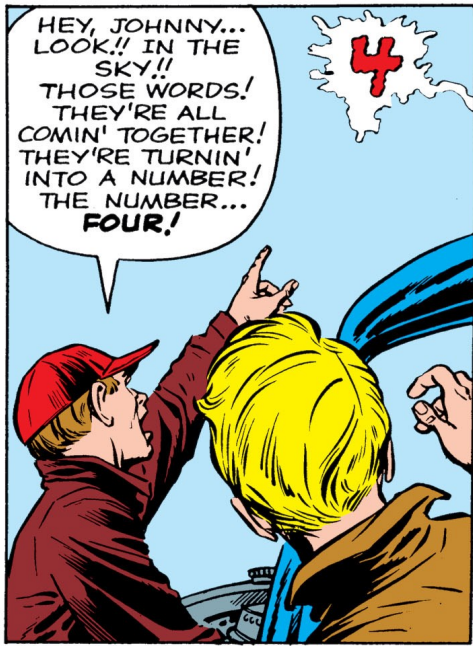
WE GOT HER PURRIN' GENTLE AS A LAMB, JOHNNY!

GOOD! THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE HER!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IN THE WORLD THAT INTERESTS ME MORE THAN CARS!

YEAH? WHAT'S THAT, JOHNNY?



SECONDS LATER, THE MAYOR OF CENTRAL CITY ISSUES AN EMERGENCY ORDER...

CALL THE GOVERNOR! HAVE HIM ALERT THE NATIONAL GUARD!

MOVE, MAN!

Y-YES SIR!

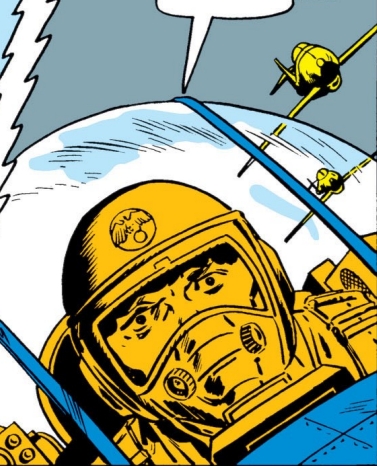


AND BEFORE THE HOUR IS OUT, WASHINGTON HAS ALSO TAKEN IMMEDIATE ACTION!

RED DOG TO SQUADRON LEADER... ATTACK UNKNOWN FLAMING OBJECT OVER CENTRAL CITY...



FLAMING OBJECT? HUH! SOMEONE MUST HAVE FLIPPED HIS LID! OF ALL THE WILD GOOSE CHA-- HEY! WAIT!! WHAT'S THAT?



IT IS A FLAMING FLYING OBJECT! LET'S GET IT, GUYS!

NO! NO! STAY BACK! KEEP AWAY!

WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN?



I WARNED THEM!! I TRIED NOT TO BURN THEIR PLANES, BUT THEY CAME TOO CLOSE!!



AT LEAST THEY ALL PARACHUTED TO SAFETY!

THAT SOUND-- IN THE DISTANCE! IT LOOKS LIKE--



A HUNTER MISSILE! IT'S ZEROED IN ON ME! IT'S ATTRACTED TO MY FLAME!



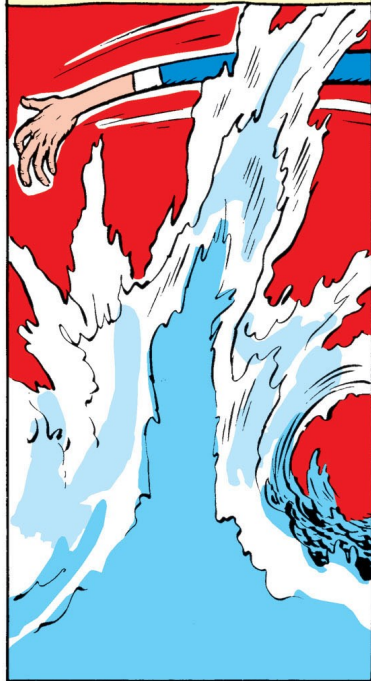
I CAN'T ESCAPE IT... IT'S TOO FAST!! IT HAS A NUCLEAR WARHEAD.. IF IT EXPLODES, I'M A GONER!



SUDDENLY, THE HUMAN TORCH'S FLAME BEGINS TO DIMINISH... AND, AS THE MISSILE IS ABOUT TO STRIKE HIM, TWO IMPOSSIBLY LONG ARMS REACH ABOVE THE ROOF-TOPS, AND...



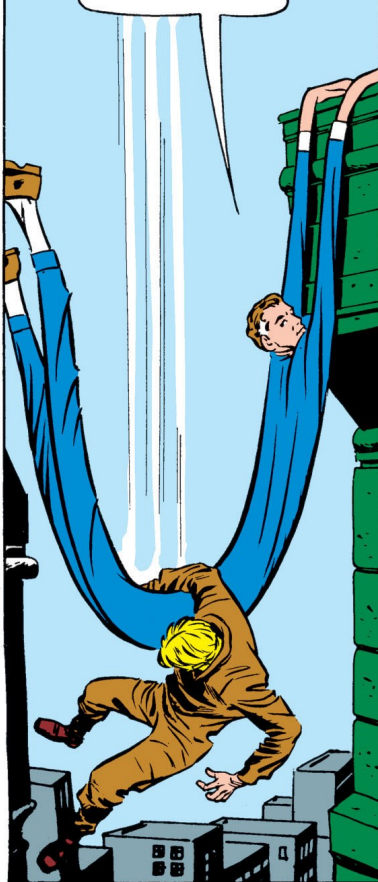
MOVING WITH DAZZLING SPEED, ONE OF THE INCREDIBLE ARMS HURLS THE MIGHTY MISSILE FAR FROM SHORE, WHERE IT EXPLODES HARMLESSLY OVER THE SEA!



BUT, AS THE FLYING BOY'S FLAME FLICKERS OUT ALTOGETHER, HE BEGINS TO PLUMMET TOWARD EARTH... TOWARD A CERTAIN DOOM!

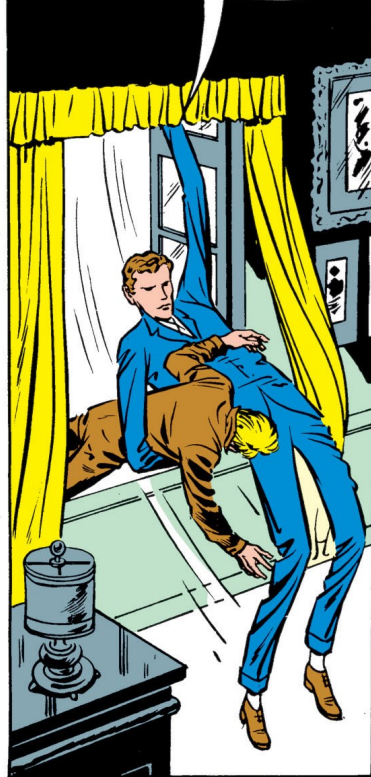


GRAB ME, JOHNNY BOY!! THAT'S IT!!



WHO IS THIS UNBELIEVABLE STRANGER WHO HAS SAVED THE HUMAN TORCH?

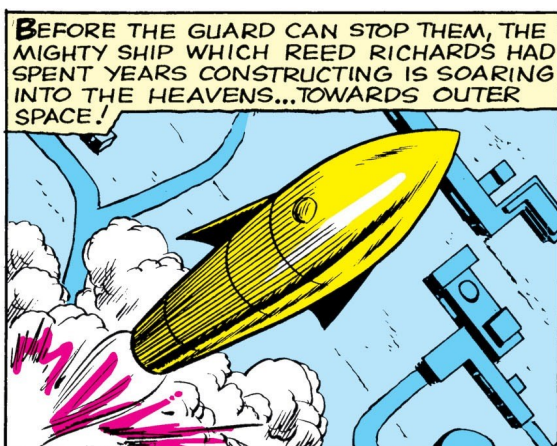
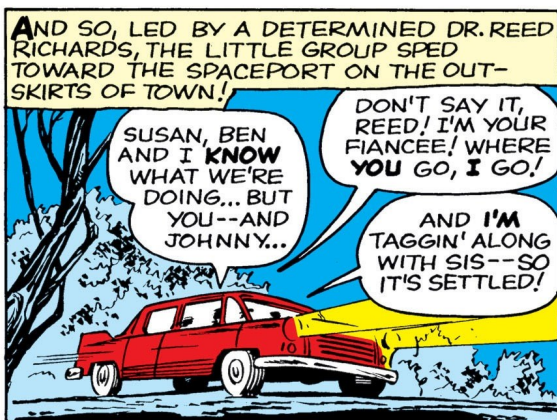
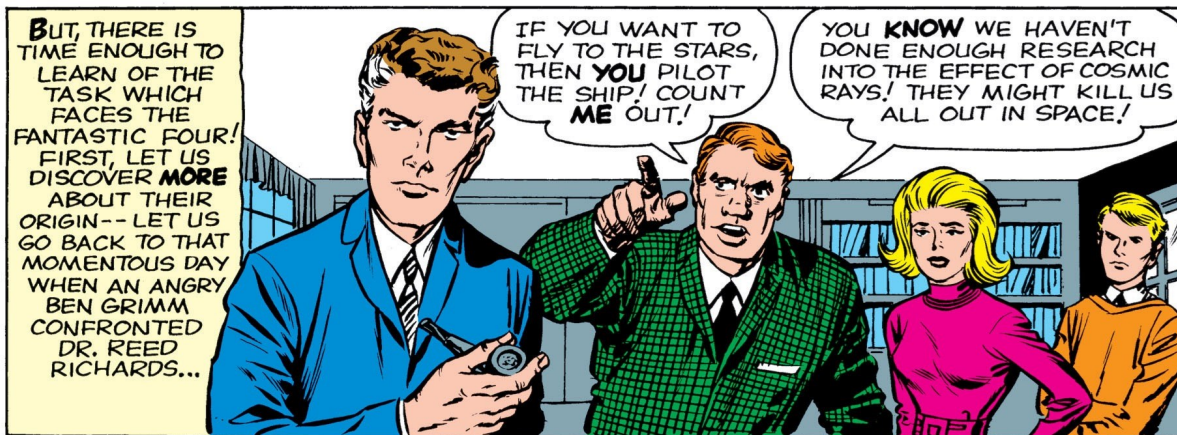
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, LAD! YOU'RE SAFE!

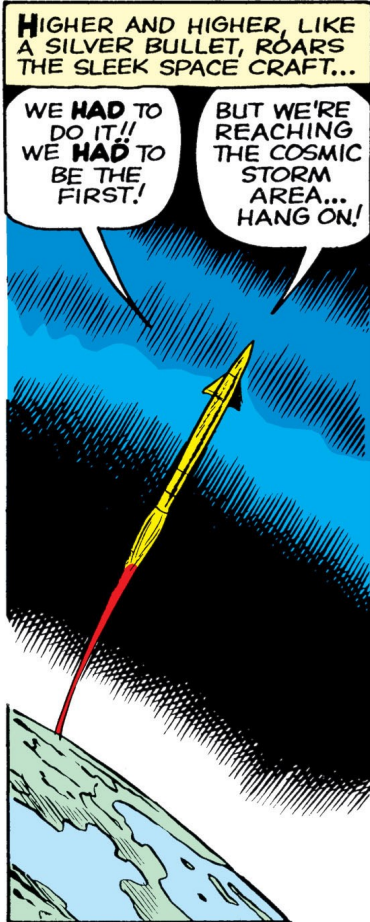


IN FACT, WHO ARE ALL FOUR OF THESE STRANGE AND ASTONISHING HUMANS? HOW DID THEY BECOME WHAT THEY ARE? WHAT MYSTIC QUIRK OF FATE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER, TO FORM THE AWE-INSPIRING GROUP KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR??

YOU ALL HEEDED MY SUMMONS!! GOOD!! THERE IS A TASK THAT AWAITS US... A FEARFUL TASK!







HIGHER AND HIGHER, LIKE A SILVER BULLET, ROARS THE SLEEK SPACE CRAFT...

WE HAD TO DO IT!! WE HAD TO BE THE FIRST!

BUT WE'RE REACHING THE COSMIC STORM AREA... HANG ON!



RAK TAC TAC TAC TAC

HEAR THAT?? IT'S THE COSMIC RAYS!! I-I WARNED YOU ABOUT 'EM!!



THEY'RE PENETRATING THE SHIP!! OUR SHIELDING ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH!

BUT I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!

NATURALLY! THEY'RE ONLY RAYS OF LIGHT! YOU CAN'T FEEL 'EM-- BUT THEY'LL AFFECT YOU JUST THE SAME!



MY HEAD!! IT--IT'S POUNDING AS THOUGH IT'S ABOUT TO BURST!!

BEN WAS RIGHT!! WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED... SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HEAVIER SHIELDING!



JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, SIS! MY BODY FEELS HOT-- LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!! I-I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING UP!!

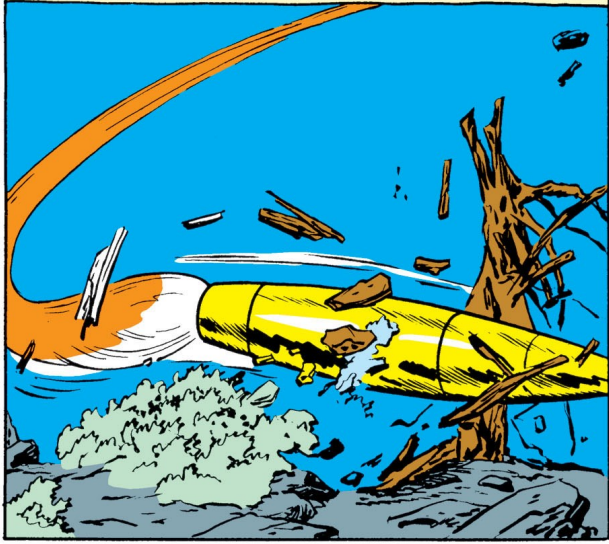
UGH!! LISTEN TO ME...



... SOMEBODY ELSE TAKE THE CONTROLS... I CAN'T HANDLE THE SHIP ANY MORE! MY-- MY ARMS ARE HEAVY-- TOO HEAVY-- CAN'T MOVE-- TOO HEAVY-- GOT TO LIE DOWN-- CAN'T MOVE!!

BEN!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE POWERFUL SHIP'S AUTOMATIC PILOT TOOK OVER, AND MANAGED TO RETURN THE SLEEK ROCKET SAFELY TO EARTH, IN A ROUGH, BUT NON-FATAL LANDING!



I--I'M GRATEFUL WE'RE ALL ALIVE!! IT WAS MIGHTY CLOSE!

BUT, REED...WE FAILED!! AFTER ALL YOUR WORK... YOUR DEDICATION... WE FAILED!



BAH! WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?



BUT WE'RE **STILL** NOT COMPLETELY SAFE! WE STILL HAVE TO SEE WHETHER THE COSMIC RAYS **AFFECTED** US IN ANY WAY!

OH, REED... I FEEL SO STRANGE!



SUSAN! LOOK AT SUSAN!!

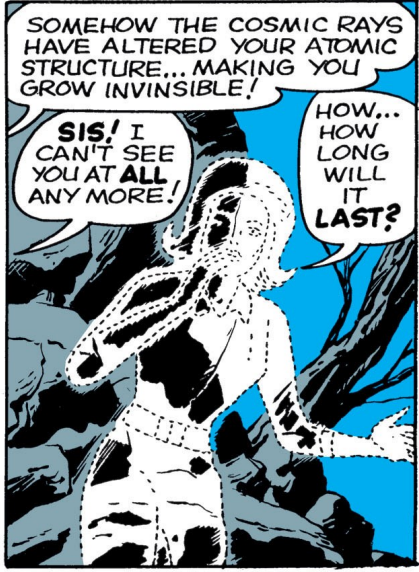
WHAT'S WRONG?



YOU'RE **GASP** FADING AWAY!!

OH, NO!! NO!!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



SOMEHOW THE COSMIC RAYS HAVE ALTERED YOUR ATOMIC STRUCTURE... MAKING YOU GROW INVISIBLE!

SIS! I CAN'T SEE YOU AT ALL ANY MORE!

HOW... HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?



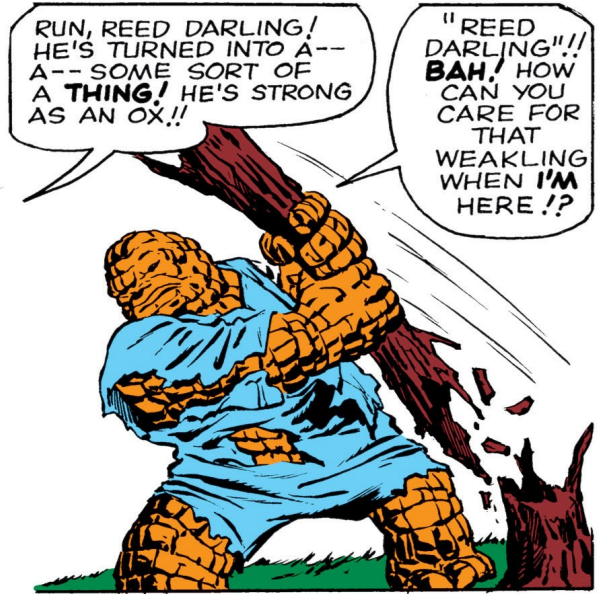
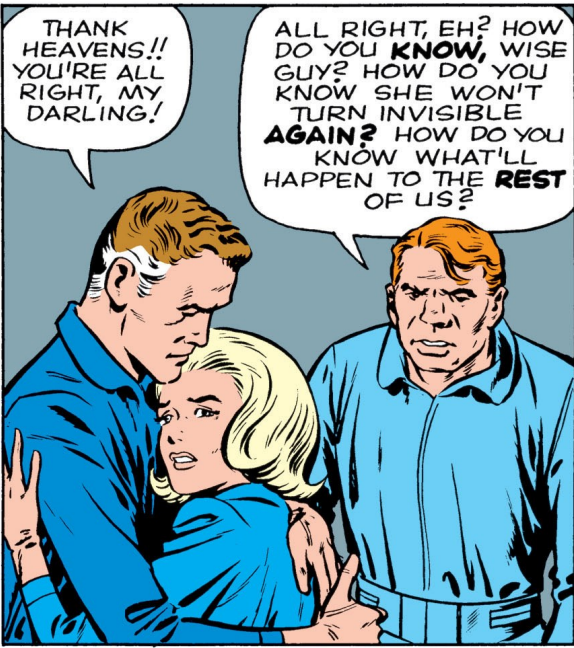
THERE'S NO WAY OF **KNOWING**!!

WHA--WHAT IF SHE **NEVER** GETS VISIBLE AGAIN??



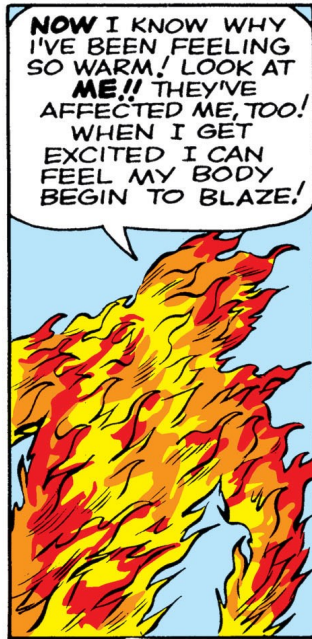
LOOK!! I **SEE** HER!

I'M **MYSELF** AGAIN! IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY... ALL BY ITSELF!





YOU'VE TURNED INTO MONSTERS... BOTH OF YOU!! IT'S THOSE RAYS! THOSE TERRIBLE COSMIC RAYS!



NOW I KNOW WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING SO WARM! LOOK AT ME!! THEY'VE AFFECTED ME, TOO! WHEN I GET EXCITED I CAN FEEL MY BODY BEGIN TO BLAZE!



I'M LIGHTER THAN AIR!! I CAN FLY!! LOOK... I CAN FLY!!

MINUTES LATER, JOHNNY STORM'S FLAME SUBSIDED AND HE LANDED NEAR THE OTHER THREE! SILENTLY THEY WATCHED THE SMALL FIRE HE HAD STARTED IN THE UNDERBRUSH BURN ITSELF OUT!! SILENTLY THEY WERE EACH OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN STARTLING THOUGHTS!



WE'VE CHANGED! ALL OF US! WE'RE MORE THAN JUST HUMAN!



LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! THAT MEANS YOU TOO, BEN! TOGETHER WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMANS HAVE EVER POSSESSED!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A SPEECH, BIG SHOT! WE UNDERSTAND! WE'VE GOTTA USE THAT POWER TO HELP MANKIND, RIGHT?

RIGHT, BEN, RIGHT!



I'M CALLING MYSELF THE HUMAN TORCH-- AND I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!

SAME GOES FOR ME... THE INVISIBLE GIRL!

THERE'S ONLY ONE STILL MISSING... BEN!!



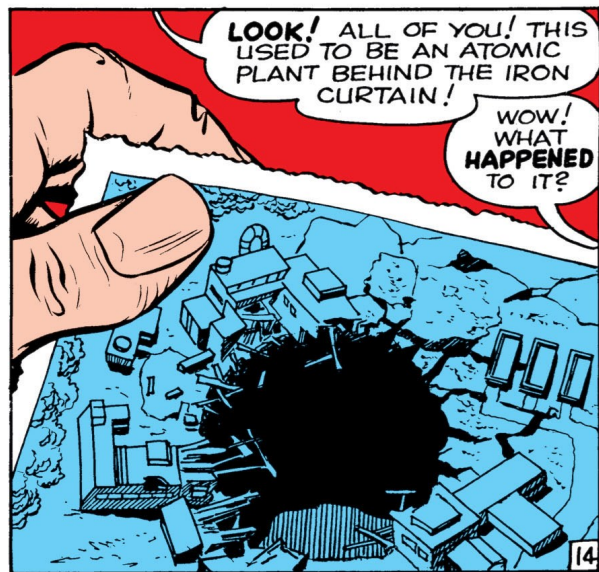
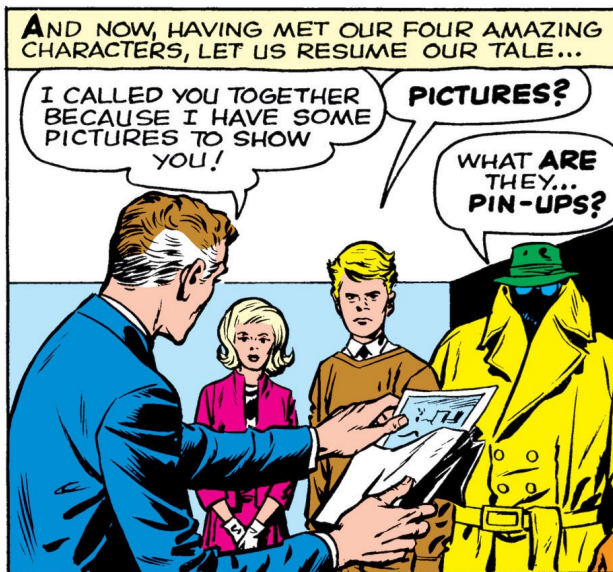
I AIN'T BEN ANYMORE-- I'M WHAT SUSAN CALLED ME-- THE THING!!

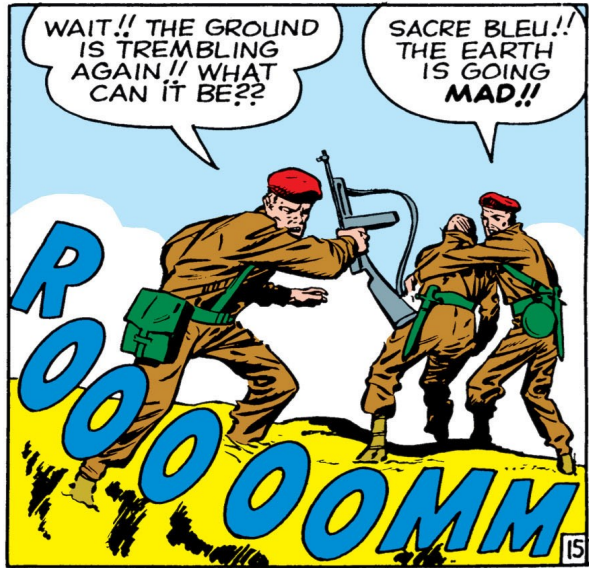
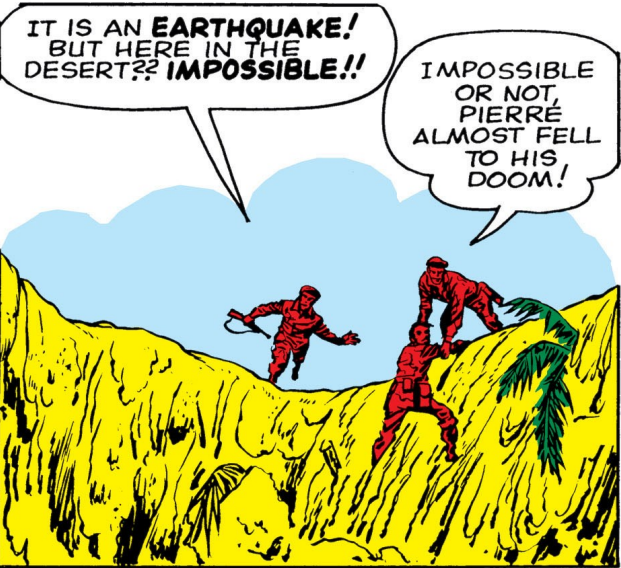
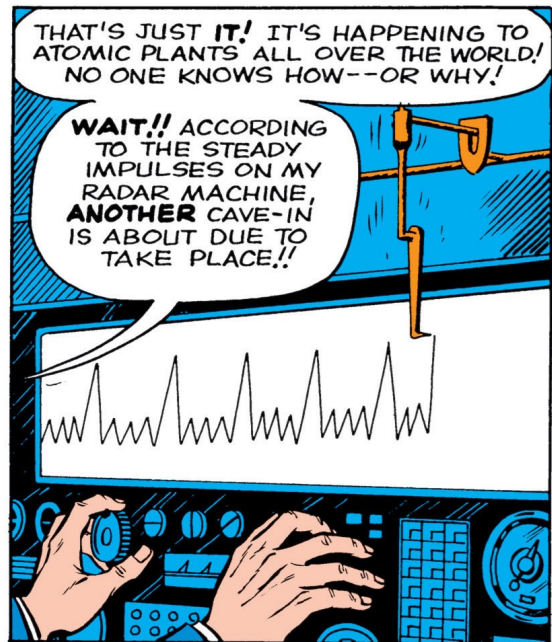
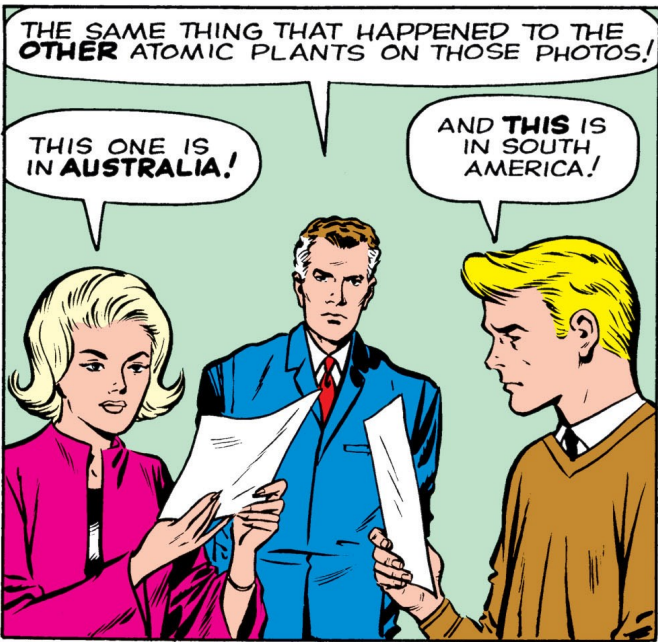
AND I'LL CALL MYSELF... MISTER FANTASTIC!!

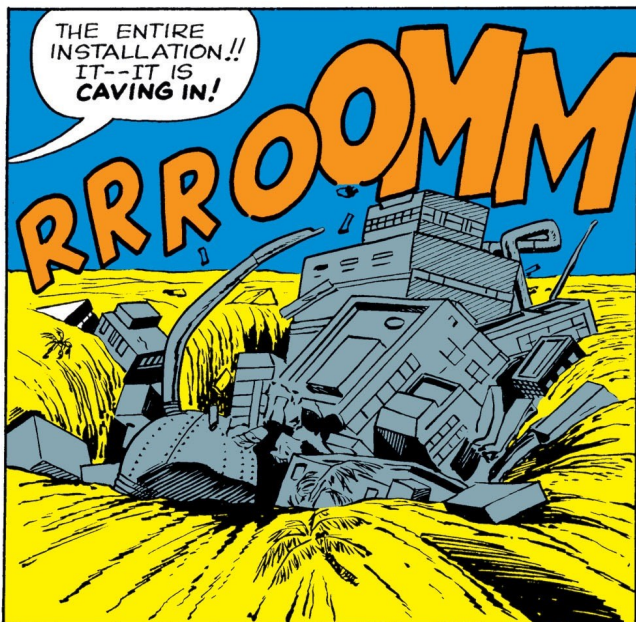


AND SO WAS BORN "THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!" AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE WORLD WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME!!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR MEET THE MOLE MAN!







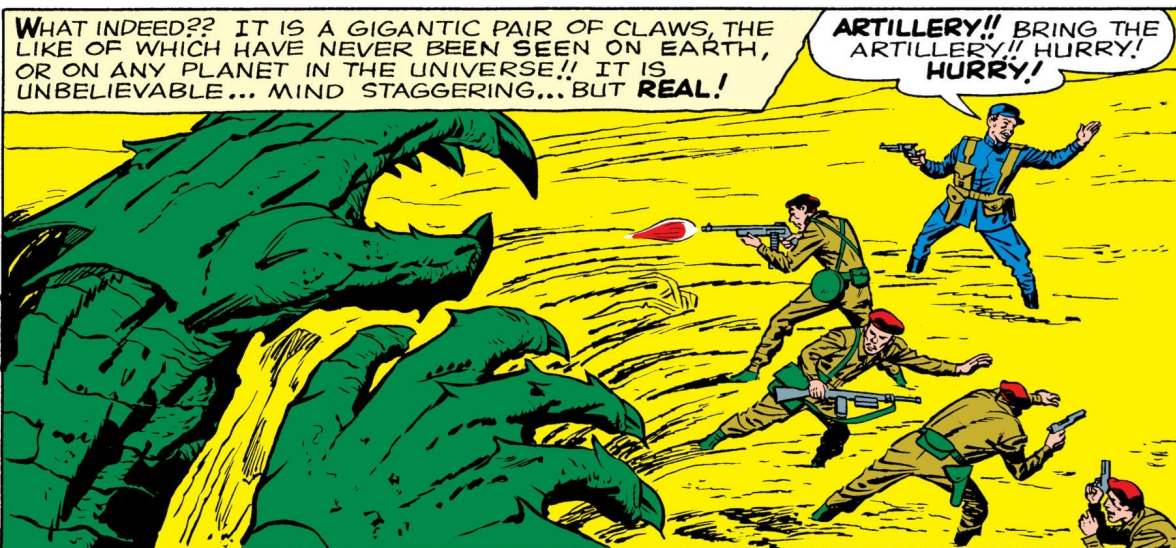
THE ENTIRE
INSTALLATION!!
IT--IT IS
CAVING IN!

RRROOMM

BUT THE WORST IS YET TO COME!!
FOR, LESS THAN THIRTY SECONDS
LATER...

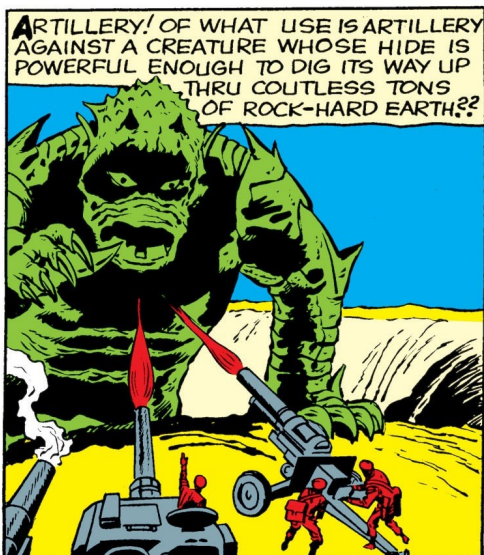
IN THE
NAME
OF
HEAVEN!!

WHAT IS
THAT?



WHAT INDEED?? IT IS A GIGANTIC PAIR OF CLAWS, THE
LIKE OF WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN ON EARTH,
OR ON ANY PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE!! IT IS
UNBELIEVABLE... MIND STAGGERING... BUT **REAL!**

**ARTILLERY!! BRING THE
ARTILLERY!! HURRY!
HURRY!**



ARTILLERY! OF WHAT USE IS ARTILLERY
AGAINST A CREATURE WHOSE HIDE IS
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DIG ITS WAY UP
THRU COUTLESS TONS
OF ROCK-HARD EARTH??



ARTILLERY! OF WHAT USE
IS ARTILLERY AGAINST
A MONSTER WHO CAN
CRUSH A HEAVY TANK
WITH ONE HAND??

BUT, JUST AS IT SEEMS
THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD
WILL HALT THE NIGHTMARE
MENACE, THE SHRILL SOUND
OF A COMMANDING VOICE
IS HEARD... AND THE GOLIATH
STOPS IN ITS TRACKS!

ENOUGH! RETURN TO
EARTH'S CORE! OUR MISSION
HERE IS FINISHED! **GO!!**



FOR EVEN SUCH A MONSTER
HEEDS ITS MASTER, A MASTER
KNOWN AS...
THE MOLEMAN!!

BUT WE SHALL RETURN TO THE MOLEMAN BEFORE LONG! FIRST, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AS THEY GAZE IN ASTONISHMENT AT DR. REED RICHARDS' SUPER-SENSITIVE RADARSCOPE...

THERE! IT HAS HAPPENED AGAIN! THIS TIME IN FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA!

BUT HOW? WHY?

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!

BY STUDYING THE CAVE-INS CAREFULLY, I'VE PIN-POINTED AN ISLAND LOCATED EXACTLY BETWEEN THEM! THAT IS WHERE WE WILL FIND OUR ANSWER! IT IS KNOWN AS **MONSTER ISLE!**

MONSTER ISLE! THAT'S JUST A FAIRY TALE! THERE'S NO SUCH PLACE!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, BEN!

AND FIND OUT THEY DO! HOURS LATER, ABOARD THEIR SMALL, PRIVATE JET, THE FANTASTIC FOUR SEE A STRANGE MOUNTAIN RISING FROM THE SEA, LIKE AN UNEARTHLY GROTESQUE FACE!! THEY HAVE FOUND... **MONSTER ISLE!**

THERE IT IS!

LITTLE DREAMING WHAT AWAITS THEM, THEY CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE FORBIDDING PEAK...

IF THIS IS JUST A WILD GOOSE CHASE, MISTER, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU LIVE TO **REGRET** IT!

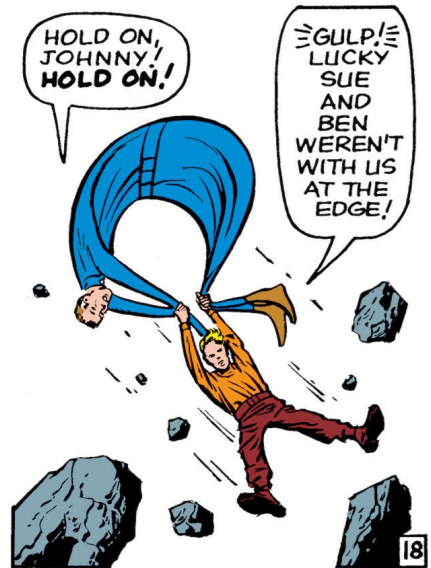
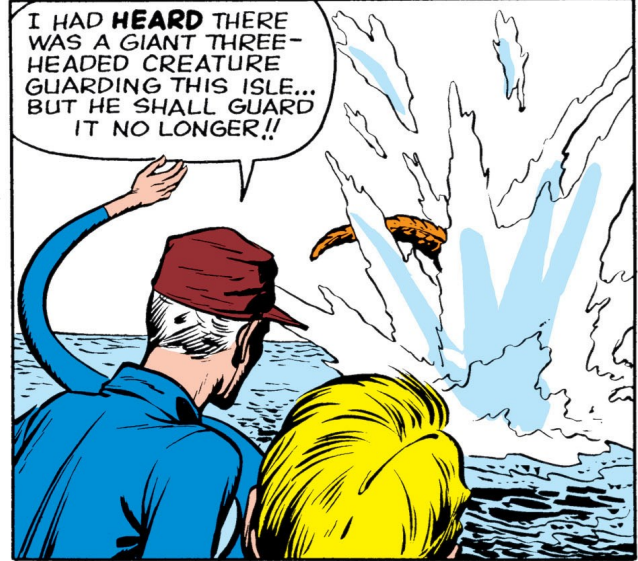
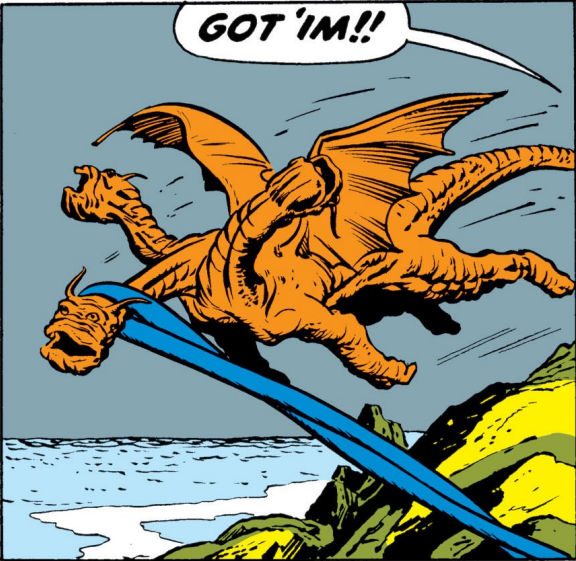
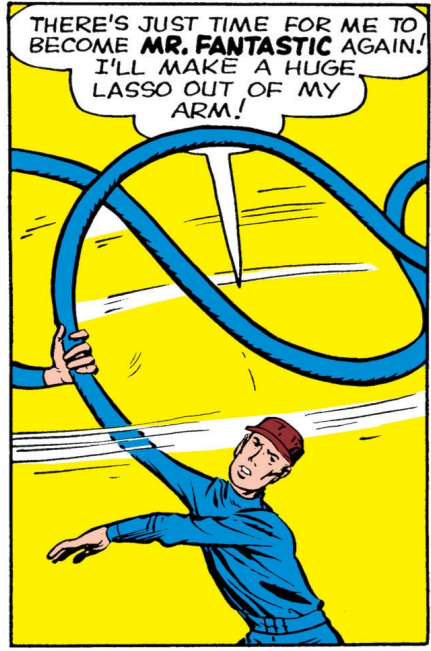
SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR THE CLIMB, GRUE-SOME!

HOLD IT!! I HEAR SOMETHING!!

IT'S COMING FROM BELOW!

LOOK!! THOSE EYES...

SUDDENLY, A LIVING THREE-HEADED NIGHTMARE HURLS ITSELF AT THEM FROM OVER THE EDGE OF THE PEAK OF MONSTER ISLE!



FINALLY, THE AMAZING DUO FLOAT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT...

IT'S PITCH DARK!! WHAT SORT OF PLACE CAN IT BE?
REED! I FEEL SOMETHING!



IT'S A TRAP DOOR IN THE WALL!
IT'S MOVING!



THAT LIGHT!! WHERE DID IT COME FROM!
IT'S BLINDING! I CAN'T SEE!



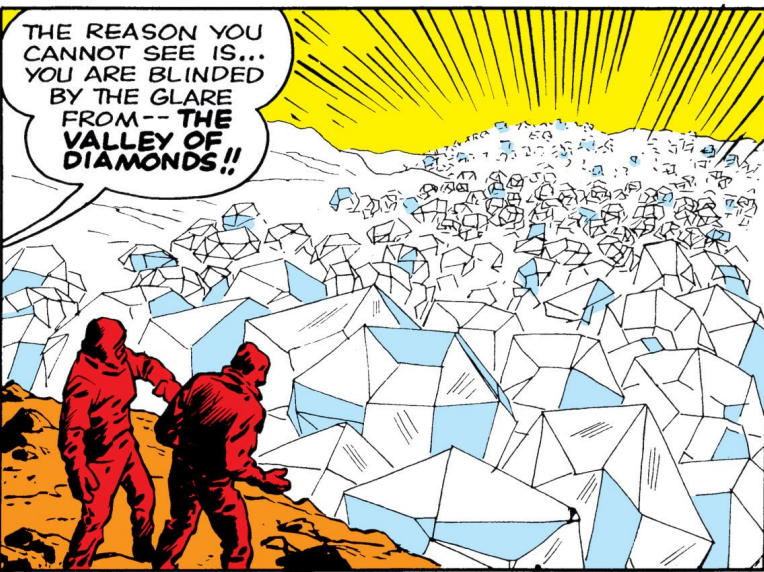
IT MIGHT BE MINUTES, OR HOURS LATER, WHEN THE TWO MEN REGAIN THEIR SENSES ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES GARBED IN STRANGE, ADHESIVE-TYPE SUITS WHICH PROTECT THEM FROM THE BLINDING, UNEARTHLY GLOW!



MY HEAD!!
THE LIGHT--IT ACTUALLY CAUSED US TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS! BUT HOW DID WE GET INTO THESE SUITS?



SO, YOU HAVE RECOVERED, HAVE YOU!! IT IS ABOUT TIME!!
WHO--WHO ARE YOU? I CAN'T SEE...
AND WHERE ARE WE?



THE REASON YOU CANNOT SEE IS... YOU ARE BLINDED BY THE GLARE FROM-- THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS!!



--AND AS FOR ME-- I AM THE MOLEMAN!!

THE MOLEMAN'S SECRET!

BEFORE WE WITNESS THE BREATH-TAKING CONCLUSION OF OUR AMAZING TALE, LET US GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE LOOSE ENDS! LET US RETURN TO THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHO DID NOT FALL BELOW DURING THE CAVE-IN...



REED... AND JOHNNY... GOT TO FIND THEM!!

WAIT! THAT NOISE-- BEHIND ME!! WHAT--??

BUT OTHER EARS ALSO HEAR THE MENACING SOUNDS... AND OTHER EYES BEHOLD THE FRIGHTENING SIGHT...



THE EYES OF... **THE THING!!**



DUCK, SUE! OUT OF THE WAY!

LET ME HANDLE 'IM!



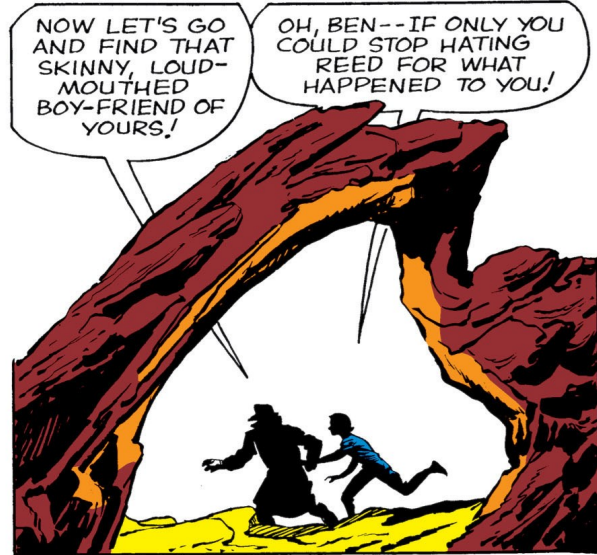
THE SECOND GIGANTIC GUARDIAN OF MONSTER ISLE IS POWERFUL BEYOND BELIEF... BUT HE IS FIGHTING AN ENEMY WHOSE EVERY ATOM HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH COSMIC RAYS... AN ENEMY WHO **CAN'T BE STOPPED!**



YOU'VE DONE IT, BEN!
YOU'VE BEATEN HIM!



WHAT DID YOU **EXPECT??** I'M **THE THING,** AIN'T I??



NOW LET'S GO AND FIND THAT SKINNY, LOUD-MOUTHED BOY-FRIEND OF YOURS!
OH, BEN--IF ONLY YOU COULD STOP HATING REED FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!


AND WHAT OF REED RICHARDS? AND SUE'S BROTHER, JOHNNY? WE AGAIN DESCEND TO THE DEPTHS OF MONSTER ISLE WHERE WE FIND THEM CONFRONTED BY THE STRANGEST MENACE OF ALL TIME... THE MOLEMAN!



SO, YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE **HEARD** OF THE MOLEMAN, EH? WELL, SOON THE **WORLD** SHALL HEAR OF ME!!



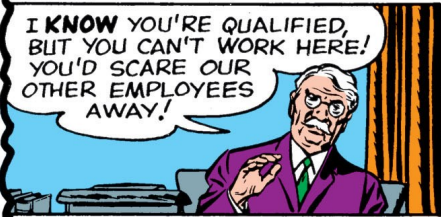
FOR SOON, THE MOLEMAN WILL HAVE THE ENTIRE WORLD IN HIS **POWER!** HOW DID YOU **GET** HERE? WHAT **IS** THIS PLACE?




"IT ALL STARTED LONG AGO!! BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE WORLD MOCKED ME!!"



WHAT? ME GO OUT WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

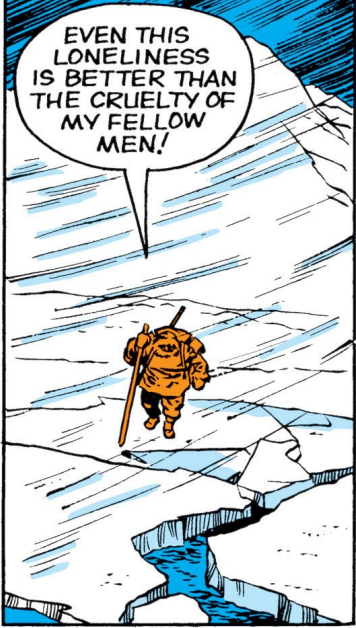


I KNOW YOU'RE QUALIFIED, BUT YOU CAN'T WORK HERE! YOU'D SCARE OUR OTHER EMPLOYEES AWAY!



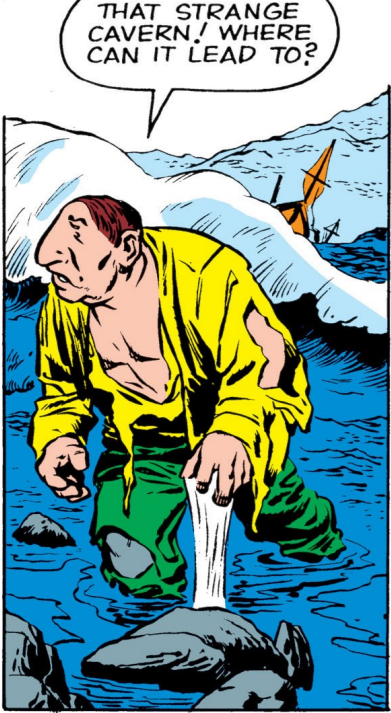
HEY, IS THAT YOUR FACE, OR ARE YOU WEARIN' A MASK? HAW HAW!

"FINALLY, I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER! I DECIDED TO STRIKE OUT ALONE...TO SEARCH FOR A NEW WORLD ...THE LEGENDARY LAND AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH! A WORLD WHERE I COULD BE KING! MY TRAVELS TOOK ME ALL OVER THE GLOBE..."



EVEN THIS LONELINESS IS BETTER THAN THE CRUELTY OF MY FELLOW MEN!

"AND THEN, JUST WHEN I HAD ALMOST ABANDONED HOPE... WHEN MY LITTLE SKIFF HAD BEEN WASHED ASHORE HERE ON MONSTER ISLE, I FOUND IT!"



THAT STRANGE CAVERN! WHERE CAN IT LEAD TO?

"I SOON SAW WHERE IT LED... IT LED TO THE LAND OF MY DREAMS..."



DOWN THERE... BELOW-- I'VE FOUND IT!! IT'S EARTH'S CENTER!

"BUT IN THE DREAD SILENCE OF THAT HUGE CAVERN, THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF MY LOUD OUTCRY CAUSED A VIOLENT AVALANCHE, AND..."



"... WHEN IT WAS OVER, I HAD SOMEHOW MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED THE FALL... BUT, DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CRASH, I HAD LOST MOST OF MY SIGHT! YES, I HAD FOUND THE CENTER OF EARTH-- BUT I WAS STRANDED HERE... LIKE A HUMAN MOLE!!"



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THAT WAS TO BE THE LAST OF MY MISFORTUNES! MY LUCK BEGAN TO TURN IN MY FAVOR! I MASTERED THE CREATURES DOWN HERE-- MADE THEM DO MY BIDDING-- AND WITH THEIR HELP, I CARVED OUT AN UNDERGROUND EMPIRE!



A NOTE OF MADNESS CREEPS INTO THE MOLE'S VOICE AS HE SPEAKS OF HIS POWER! AND THEN, HE MAKES HIS FIRST FATAL MISTAKE...

I CONQUERED EVERYTHING ABOUT ME! I EVEN LEARNED TO SENSE THINGS IN THE DARK--LIKE A MOLE! HERE, I'LL **SHOW** YOU! TRY TO STRIKE ME WITH THAT POLE! **TRY** IT, I SAY!!



HAH! I SENSED THAT BLOW COMING! NOTHING CAN TAKE ME BY SURPRISE! AND, I HAVE DEVELOPED **OTHER** SENSES TOO, LIKE THOSE OF THE BAT--



I POSSESS A NATURAL RADAR SENSE... A WARNING SYSTEM WHICH ENABLES ME TO EVADE WHATEVER DANGER STRIKES AT ME!



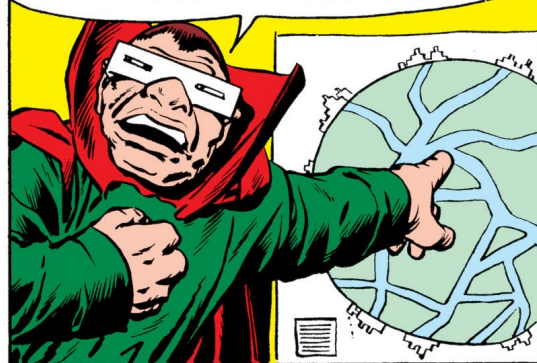
COMPARED TO THE MOLE-MAN, YOU ARE SLOW... CLUMSY!! HAH HAH!!



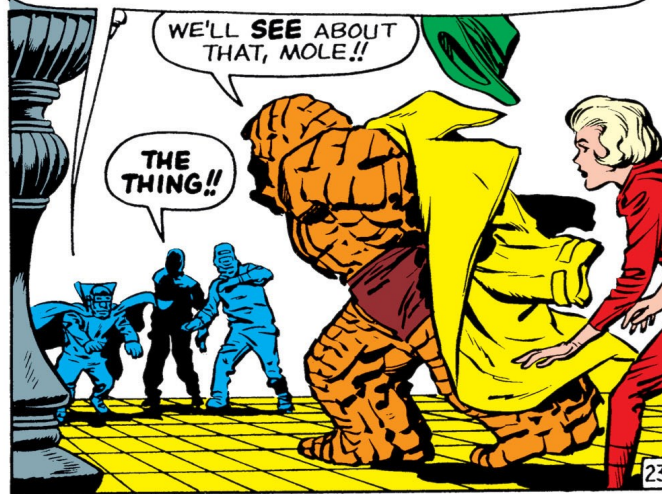
SEE HOW EASILY I DEFEAT YOU... OR ANY OTHERS WHO TRY TO DEFY ME!



NOW, BEFORE I SLAY YOU ALL, BEHOLD MY MASTER PLAN! SEE THIS MAP OF MY UNDERGROUND EMPIRE! EACH TUNNEL LEADS TO A MAJOR CITY! AS SOON AS I HAVE WRECKED EVERY ATOMIC PLANT, EVERY SOURCE OF EARTHLY POWER, MY MIGHTY MOLE CREATURES WILL ATTACK AND DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT LIVES ABOVE THE SURFACE!



AND NOW, AT MY SIGNAL, THOSE CREATURES OF DARKNESS, MY DENIZENS OF EARTH'S CENTER, SHALL DISPOSE OF ALL OF YOU WITLESS INTRUDERS!



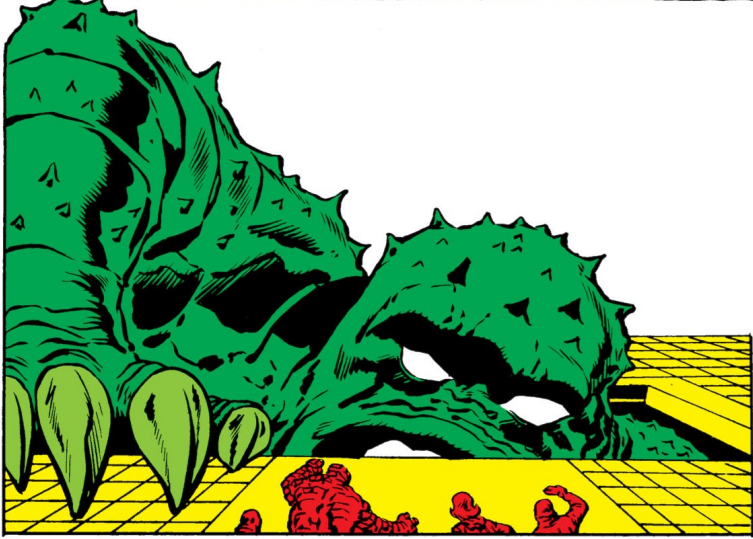


TOO LATE, FOOL! THE DIE IS CAST! THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!!

THING!! LOOK OUT... BEHIND YOU!

BONG!
BONG!

HEARING THE MOLE'S SIGNAL, THE LARGEST AND MOST DEADLY OF HIS UNDERGROUND CREATURES PONDEROUSLY RAISES ITSELF INTO THE ROOM... ITS BRAINLESS RAGE DIRECTED AT THE FOUR ASTONISHED HUMANS!

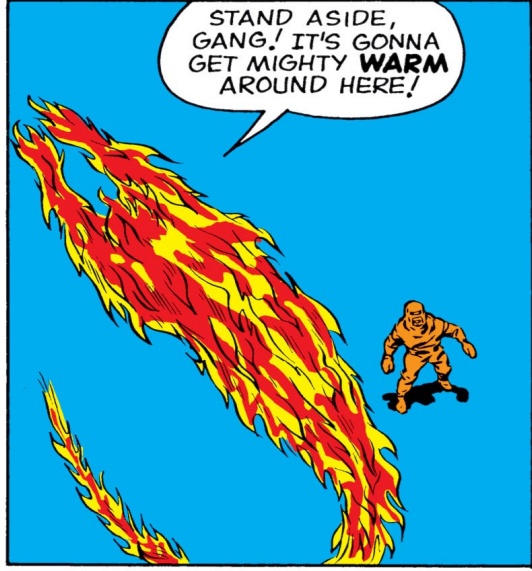


AND THEN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR FLY INTO BLAZING ACTION...

LOOK OUT, REED! I'M GONNA BURN MY WAY OUTTA THIS MONKEY SUIT!



GOOD BOY, TORCH!



STAND ASIDE, GANG! IT'S GONNA GET MIGHTY WARM AROUND HERE!



BACK AND FORTH, BUZZING AROUND THE MONSTER'S HEAD LIKE A HORNET, FLIES THE HUMAN TORCH, AS THE GIGANTIC CREATURE VAINLY TRIES TO GRASP HIS FIERY FOE!



REED! THE MOLEMAN! HE'S ESCAPING!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, SUE!



AND HELP IT I CAN!

MOVING LIKE A WELL-OILED FIGHTING MACHINE, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, WITH THE DEADLY MOLEMAN IN THEIR GRASP, RACE FOR THE SURFACE... BUT THEN THEIR EVIL ANTAGONIST SEIZES THE SIGNAL CORD AGAIN, AND...



AND THEN THEY COME... LIKE FIGMENTS OF A MAD NIGHTMARE... ROARING, RUNNING, SNARLING... THE MOLEMAN'S ENTIRE ARMY OF UNDERGROUND GARGOYLES!!



BUT THEY HADN'T COUNTED ON THE UNBELIEVABLE POWER OF THE HUMAN TORCH! FLYING BETWEEN HIS FANTASTIC ALLIES, AND THE PURSUING HORDE, HE BLAZES A FIERY SWATH WHICH MELTS THE SOFT EARTH...



THIS WILL CAUSE A ROCKSLIDE, SEALING US OFF FROM THOSE CREATURES!



BUT, WHETHER WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THE MOLEMAN OR NOT, WE WILL SEE MUCH MORE OF THE MOST AMAZING QUARTET IN HISTORY, IN THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! DON'T MISS IT!!

THE END