



PSST! YOU! YES, YOU OUT THERE, COME CLOSER...



QUICK, BEFORE THEY COME BACK! TAKE THESE PAGES THAT I WROTE...



READ THEM, AND WARN THE WORLD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! HURRY!



DON'T LET THIS END UP AS ANOTHER STORY IN A WEIRD MAGAZINE! IT'S A WARNING! AFTER YOU READ IT, GET HELP... COME HERE AND DESTROY...

THE DARK TUNNEL



G. COLAN

AS A KID, MY FRIENDS THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY BECAUSE I LIKED COCKROACHES... AND BUGS...



DON'T...DON'T STEP ON IT! I CAN'T STAND IT!

BILLY LIKES COCKROACHES! HA! HA!

IT WAS VERY STRANGE, CONSIDERING THAT MY FATHER WAS AN EXTERMINATOR!

YOU BETTER GET OVER THOSE FEELINGS, SON! SOMEDAY YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE MY JOB!



NO! NO! I'LL NEVER KILL ROACHES! NEVER!

BUT THE DAY THE OLD MAN DISAPPEARED, I HAD TO TAKE OVER HIS BUSINESS...

I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T MURDER COCKROACHES AND BUGS... IT'S CRUEL... IT'S INHUMAN!



THAT'S WHEN I GOT THE IDEA! I WENT TO A CHEMIST WHO WAS A FRIEND OF MINE AND HAD HIM MAKE UP A SPECIAL SPRAY...



HERE YOU ARE, BILL! THIS WON'T KILL ROACHES! IT'LL JUST CHASE THEM AWAY!

GOOD, NOW I CAN STAY IN THE EXTERMINATING BUSINESS WITHOUT KILLING!



I STILL THINK IT'S WRONG! ROACHES AND BUGS SHOULD BE DESTROYED!

NO... I COULDN'T DO IT! I CAN'T STAND HURTING THEM!



ON MY NEXT JOB, IN AN OLD CELLAR...



I TRIED MY NEW ROACH SPRAY...



AND IT WORKED...



THAT'S IT, MY LITTLE PETS... RUN AWAY SO THEY CAN'T HURT YOU!

EVERYTHING WENT ALONG FINE UNTIL THE DAY I GOT A CALL FROM THE OLD KIRBY HOUSE...

ALL THE OTHER EXTERMINATORS JUST LEAVE WITHOUT MY SEEING THEM, AND THEY DON'T GET RID OF THE ROACHES!

DON'T WORRY, MRS. KIRBY! I'LL DO THE JOB RIGHT!

THE SPRAY WORKED, AND THE ROACHES STARTED TO RUN...

THAT'S FINE! NOW, STAY AWAY! IF SOMEONE ELSE COMES, YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY!

WHAT...? WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE A TUNNEL! THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE GOING!

I FOLLOWED THE STREAM OF ROACHES INTO THE DARK TUNNEL ... TO SEE JUST WHERE THEY WERE GOING!

IT GOES BACK PRETTY FAR! I WONDER WHERE IT LEADS!

IT'S VERY STRANGE TO FIND A TUNNEL LIKE THIS IN AN OLD HOUSE! WHAT TH...?

CLATTER

SKELETONS...

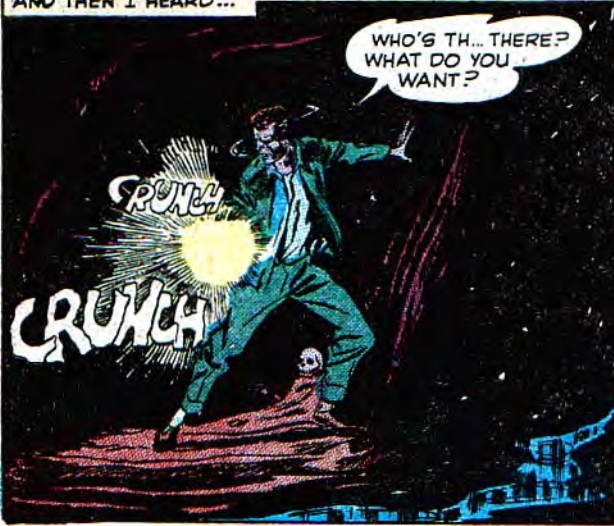
OF HUMAN BEINGS...

AND ON THE FINGER OF ONE OF THEM...

MY FATHER'S RING!!!



I WANTED TO RUN FROM THE TUNNEL, BUT I STOOD ROOTED TO THE SPOT! A FOUL STENCH FILLED THE CAVE AND THEN I HEARD...



I SAW IT! A SIGHT THAT TURNED MY BLOOD TO ICE, AND RIPPED A SHRIEK FROM MY LIPS...



THE MONSTER... AT THE OPENING...



A GIANT ROACH...



COMING TOWARD ME...



TERROR MADE THE PULSE THROB IN MY BRAIN UNTIL I THOUGHT I WOULD GO MAD... IT GRABBED ME IN ITS GIANT MANDIBLES...



THE ODOR OF FILTH FILLED MY NOSTRILS... MAKING ME SICK! THEN EVERYTHING WHIRLED BEFORE ME, AND I BLACKED OUT!





WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS SUR-
ROUNDED BY THE HUGE ROACHES
AND SOMEHOW I COULD UNDER-
STAND THEIR THOUGHTS...

HE MUST DIE
LIKE THE
OTHERS!

NO, HE IS
NOT AN
ENEMY! HE
HAS SAVED
THE LIVES OF MANY
OF OUR SUBJECTS!



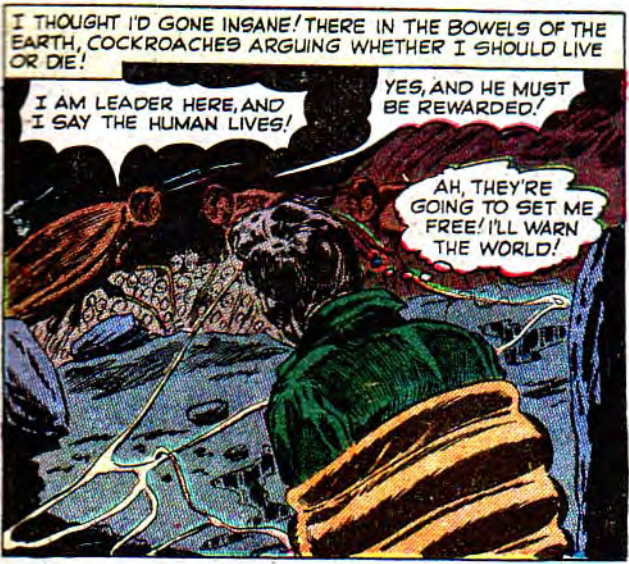
IF HE LIVES, HE WILL
REVEAL US AND DESTROY
OUR CHANCES OF
RULING THE EARTH
AFTER THE ATOM WARS
DESTROY MANKIND!

TRUE, BUT
HE MUST
BE REWARDED
FOR HIS
KINDNESS
TO US!



I SAY HE
DIES!

...AND I
SAY HE
MUST
LIVE!



I THOUGHT I'D GONE INSANE! THERE IN THE BOWELS OF THE
EARTH, COCKROACHES ARGUING WHETHER I SHOULD LIVE
OR DIE!

I AM LEADER HERE, AND
I SAY THE HUMAN LIVES!

YES, AND HE MUST
BE REWARDED!

AH, THEY'RE
GOING TO SET ME
FREE! I'LL WARN
THE WORLD!



AS A REWARD, HE'LL BE
ALLOWED TO LIVE HERE
WITH US FOR THE REST
OF HIS LIFE!

NO! NO!
PLEASE...
PLEASE...



FOR A YEAR I'VE LIVED, EATEN, AND WORKED WITH THE
FILTHY CREATURES, AND WHEN YOU'RE WITH SOMEONE
LONG ENOUGH, IT BEGINS TO CHANGE YOU...

TELL THE WORLD MY STORY, AND THEN
DESTROY THE TUNNEL! KILL ALL THE
ROACHES, BURN THEM, STAMP
THEM OUT...



BEFORE THIS HAPPENS
TO YOU!

THE END