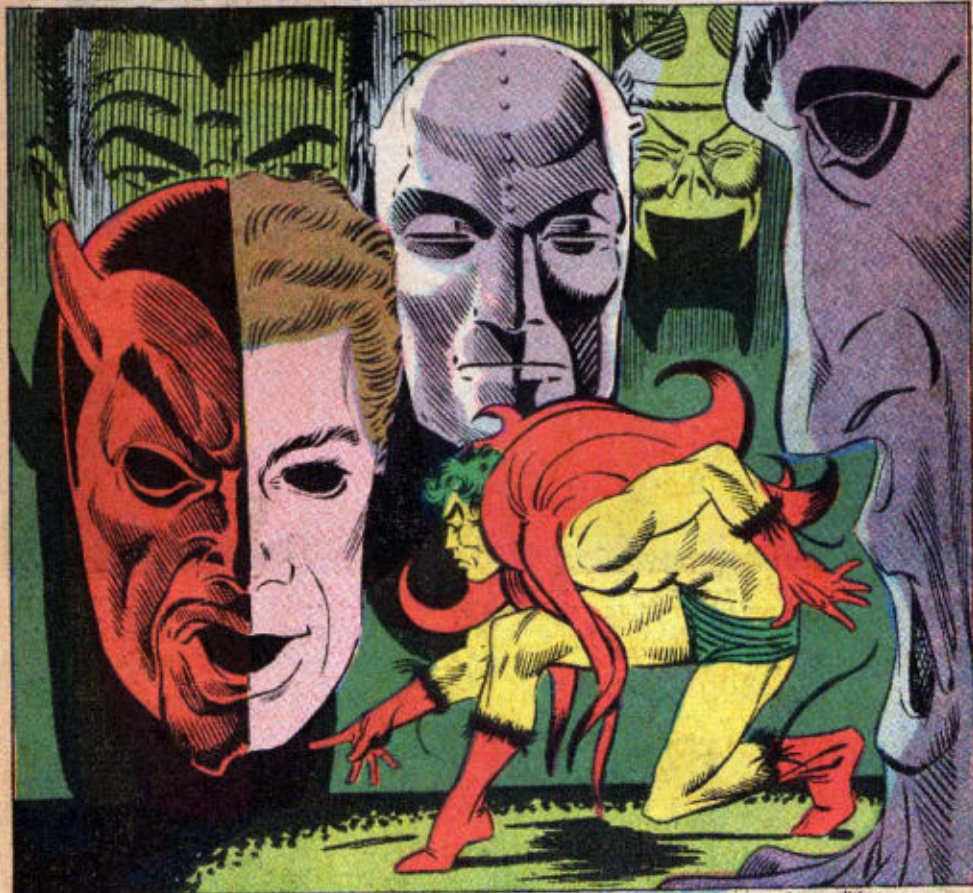


# Beware THE CREEPER

THE WORLD HAS MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF TROUBLEMAKERS, TORMENTORS, AND TERRORISTS! AND PERHAPS NOT QUITE ENOUGH FORCES OF COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND JUSTICE TO COMBAT THEM. BUT NOW---A NEW FORCE AGAINST EVIL IS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT. A UNIQUE POWER, EMBODIED IN A REMARKABLE CHARACTER, AND DEDICATED TO THE DEFEAT OF THE DESTROYERS. A MAN THRUST ACCIDENTALLY INTO A DYNAMIC DESTINY---AND WHO ACCEPTS THE EXPLOSIVE CHALLENGE. FOR IT IS HE WHO WILL DEFEAT THOSE DESTROYERS, AND MAKE THEM BEWARE THE CREEPER!!!

## THE COMING OF THE CREEPER !!



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IN A SECRET LABORATORY, THE UNDERWORLD GANG OF ANGEL DEVILUN FINDS INTERNATIONALLY-KNOWN SCIENTIST PROFESSOR YATZ----

THE COMMIES WILL PAY PLENTY WHEN WE DELIVER YATZ AND HIS EQUIPMENT! GET RID OF HIS ASSISTANT!



MEANWHILE, IN AN ALLEY NEAR THE GANG'S OWN HIDEOUT, A TV NETWORK INVESTIGATOR PAYS THE PRICE FOR SNOOPING ON THE UNDERWORLD----



AT THAT SAME TIME, DR. CLAYTON WETLEY, CRUSADER AGAINST ALL KINDS OF VIOLENCE, IS BEING INTERVIEWED ON TV BY THE OUT-SPOKEN PROGRAM HOST, JACK RYDER....

THAT'S WHY I SAY, MR. RYDER, THAT EVEN THE POLICE ARE A SYMBOL OF VIOLENCE. THEY, TOO, USE FORCE FOR THEIR PURPOSES!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, DR. WETLEY! THAT'S LIKE ACCUSING DOCTORS OF LIKING DISEASES!

JACK JUST BLEW HIS JOB! THE SHOW'S SPONSOR IS WETLEY'S PAL! HE WON'T LET HIM TALK TO WETLEY LIKE THAT!



I WON'T HAVE HIM INSULTING MY FRIEND, DR. WETLEY! I PAY THE BILLS FOR THIS PROGRAM! I WANT RYDER FIRED OR ELSE!

RYDER, I WARNED YOU TO TREAT WETLEY WITH KID GLOVES! NOW IT'S YOU OR THE SPONSOR! YOU'RE FINISHED!

WELL, I CAN ALWAYS COLLECT UNEMPLOYMENT!



I DEMAND AN APOLOGY!

MAYBE YOU'LL GET IT--- BUT IT WON'T BE FROM ME! GOODBYE, DR. CRACKPOT!

HHMMM... I THINK I'LL HAVE A TALK WITH RYDER... I LIKE HIS NERVE...





THIS IS TERRIBLE, JACK! NOW YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB. BE REASONABLE. MAYBE WETLEY AND THE SPONSOR WILL FORGIVE YOU.

NO, THANKS, PAL. DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE OUT.



BUT BILL BRANE, CHIEF OF NETWORK SECURITY, ALREADY HAS SOME PLANS FOR JACK RYDER...

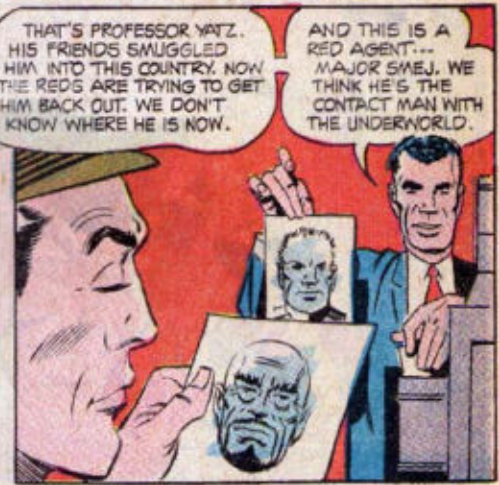
I KNOW OF A JOB FOR YOU, RYDER. IT'S NOT GLAMOROUS, LIKE HAVING YOUR OWN TV SHOW... NETWORK SECURITY INVESTIGATORS CHECK ON CRANK CALLS, DO SOME DIGGING, STUFF LIKE THAT, BUT IT'S INTERESTING.

HEY, THAT SOUNDS LIKE KICKS. I MIGHT JUST TRY IT FOR AWHILE.



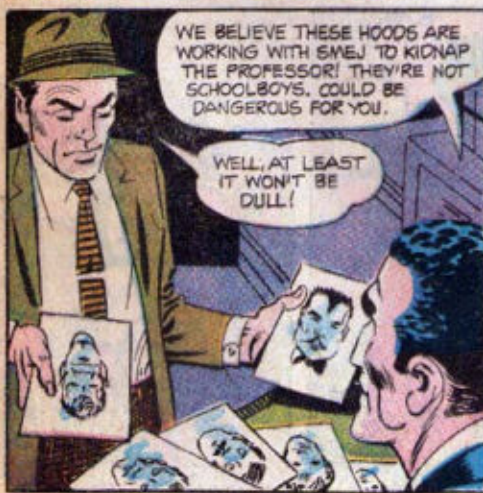
TRY THIS FOR OPENERS. WE'VE LEARNED THE COMMIES HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE UNDERWORLD HERE. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP THEM GET RED DEFECTORS BACK OUT OF THE USA.

THE CIA ASKED US TO DO SOME CHECKING.



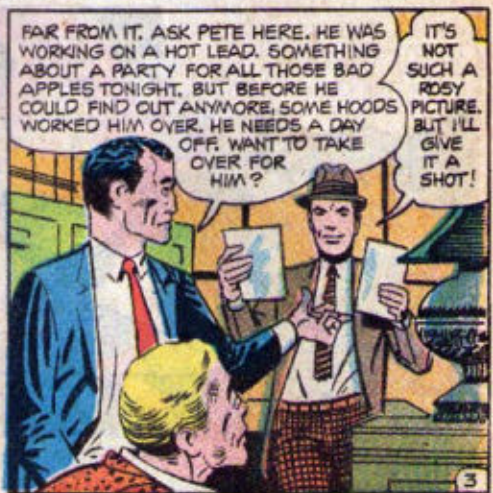
THAT'S PROFESSOR YATZ. HIS FRIENDS SMUGGLED HIM INTO THIS COUNTRY. NOW THE REDS ARE TRYING TO GET HIM BACK OUT. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW.

AND THIS IS A RED AGENT... MAJOR SMEJ. WE THINK HE'S THE CONTACT MAN WITH THE UNDERWORLD.



WE BELIEVE THESE HOODS ARE WORKING WITH SMEJ TO KIDNAP THE PROFESSOR! THEY'RE NOT SCHOOLBOYS. COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR YOU.

WELL, AT LEAST IT WON'T BE DULL!



FAR FROM IT, ASK PETE HERE. HE WAS WORKING ON A HOT LEAD. SOMETHING ABOUT A PARTY FOR ALL THOSE BAD APPLES TONIGHT. BUT BEFORE HE COULD FIND OUT ANYMORE, SOME HOODS WORKED HIM OVER. HE NEEDS A DAY OFF. WANT TO TAKE OVER FOR HIM?

IT'S NOT SUCH A ROSY PICTURE. BUT I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!

THAT EVENING  
AFTER PETE DIDN'T  
FILLED RYDER IN  
ON THE REST OF  
THE DETAILS...

I GUESS PETE DIDN'T  
KNOW IT WAS A COSTUME  
PARTY. I'D BETTER GET A  
HOLD OF SOME DUDS...



WE CARRY MOSTLY COSTUMES  
FOR KIDDIES, BUT I DO HAVE THIS  
BOX OF ODDS AND ENDS, LEFT-  
OVERS FROM A SPECIAL ADULT  
ORDER. IT'S ALL YOURS FOR TEN  
BUCKS.

IF THERE'S  
NOTHING  
GOOD IN  
HERE, I CAN  
ALWAYS WEAR  
THE BOX.  
THANKS.



NEAR THE  
HOME  
WHERE  
THE  
PARTY  
IS BEING  
HELD...

HMMM...NO MASK...BUT  
WITH THIS WIG AND THE  
MAKE-UP, MY OWN MOTHER  
WOULDN'T EVEN  
RECOGNIZE ME.

IS THAT SALESMAN SERIOUS?  
HE SOLD ME THIS WILD OLD  
SHEEPSKIN RUG, TOO! WELL, I'LL  
JUST USE IT FOR A CAPE...

GLOVES AND BOOTS!  
I'LL TIE THE TOPS  
TO MAKE SURE  
THEY STAY UP!



SOME NICE LITTLE COSTUME  
PARTY---WITH HOODLUMS  
STANDING GUARD! I JUST  
HOPE THEY'RE NOT TOO  
ALERT!



NICE OF THEM TO LEAVE  
THE WINDOW OPEN FOR SOME  
FRESH AIR--AND ME--  
ESPECIALLY SINCE I HAVEN'T  
GOT AN INVITE!



CONTINUED ON 35<sup>th</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

WITH THOSE COSTUMES AND MASKS, I CAN'T MATCH ANY OF THEM UP WITH THE PHOTOS BRANE SHOWED ME. GOT TO FIND SOME CLUE TO THEIR IDENTITIES...



I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF APPEARING IN PUBLIC LIKE THIS, MR. DEVLIN. IT'S TOO RISKY. THE AUTHORITIES ARE LOOKING FOR ME.

LET THEM LOOK! WITH THAT COSTUME, YOU CAN HIDE RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN. RELAX, WE'VE GOT THE PROFESSOR HERE, RIGHT AFTER THE PARTY, WE TURN HIM OVER TO YOU!



MY MEN ARE ALL OVER THE GROUNDS, AND, EVEN THOUGH OUR HOST, HERE, IS SECRETLY ONE OF US, HE'S ALSO A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY...AS ARE SO MANY OF HIS OTHER GUESTS, SO WE'RE QUITE SAFE HERE.

MR. DEVLIN'S RIGHT, MAJOR SMEJ. THE POLICE WOULD NEVER SUSPECT ANYONE I INVITED TO MY HOME.

DR. WETLEY, MR. PELL! HOW GOOD OF YOU TO COME! I TRUST YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELVES.

OH, YES! LOVELY PARTY. NICE AND PEACEFUL. JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT.



OF COURSE, SOME OF THE COSTUMES LOOK A BIT TOO VIOLENT FOR MY TASTE, AND SOME OF THEIR COLORS ARE MUCH TOO ALARMING AS WELL.

YOU MEN ARE NOT HERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDS, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE HE DOESN'T BELONG HERE.

HEY!

I DON'T REMEMBER CHECKING HIM IN. BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!





NO CLUES SO FAR---OH-OHHH!

YOU WERE RIGHT! A PARTY-CRASHER! LET'S CARVE HIM UP!



SECRET ROOM BEHIND THE PANEL! I WONDER IF---

UGH!---GOT ME WITH KNIFE!

THUD!

ZONK!

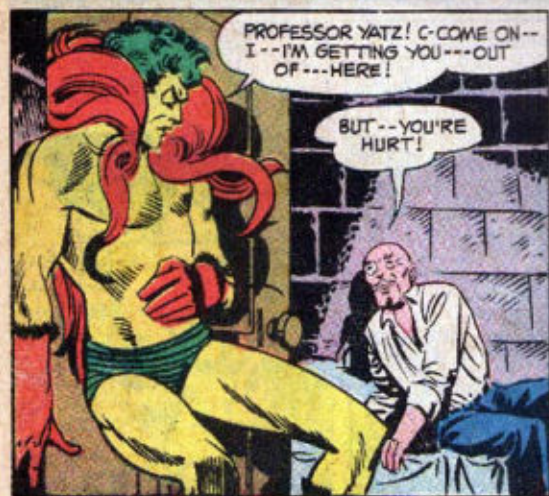


WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?



LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN THIS ROOM!

BLAM!



PROFESSOR YATZ! C-COME ON-- I--I'M GETTING YOU---OUT OF---HERE!

BUT--YOU'RE HURT!



I'LL--WORRY ABOUT-- THAT---LATER! GOT TO---MOVE FAST!

PLACE IS-- SWARMING WITH--- HOODS!

SUDDING PANEL'S JAMMED. DON'T WORRY, SWEJ. WE'LL GET IT OPEN. MEANWHILE, HE'S TRAPPED IN THERE WITH YATZ. NOW WE'VE GOT THEM BOTH!



MY MEN IN THERE HAVE PROBABLY TAKEN CARE OF HIM ALREADY. THERE'S NO DANGER---I ASSURE YOU.

YOU PROMISED ME NO SLIP-UPS, DEVILIN! THERE HAD BETTER NOT BE!



WE'RE LOCKED IN! NOW THEY'LL PROBABLY KILL YOU FOR TRYING TO HELP ME. BUT I JUST CAN'T LET YOU BLEED TO DEATH! THEY BROUGHT ALONG MY MEDICAL SUPPLIES---I'LL TREAT YOUR WOUND!

I'M SURE GLAD YOU MAKE HOUSE CALLS! IF YOU CAN JUST STOP THE PAIN, MAYBE I COULD THINK A LITTLE CLEARER AND GET US OUT OF HERE.



THESE TWO DISCOVERIES REPRESENT MY LIFE'S WORK. I CANNOT BEAR TO DESTROY THEM--YET I CANNOT ALLOW MY ENEMIES TO HAVE THEM.

THEREFORE, I SHALL ENTRUST THEM TO YOU-- IN THE HOPE THAT YOU MIGHT SOMEHOW SURVIVE.

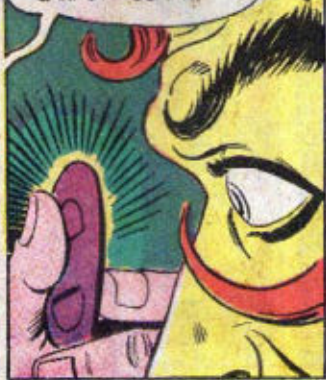


I DEVELOPED THIS SERUM AS AN INSTANT HEALING AID. IT IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE GREATER STRENGTH AND STAMINA. THIS FAR, I HAVE TESTED IT ONLY ON ANIMALS-- BUT WITH GREAT SUCCESS.

I SHALL TREAT YOUR WOUND WITH IT.




AND THIS DEVICE I SHALL IMPLANT IN YOUR WOUND. MY ENEMIES WILL NEVER SUSPECT IT IS THERE---EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.



IN ANY CASE, THEY WILL NOT OBTAIN MY SECRETS. I WOULD RATHER HAVE THEM DIE WITH US!







IF PERFECTED, THIS DEVICE WILL REVOLUTIONIZE MASS TRANSPORTATION. IT WOULD REARRANGE THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF MATTER--- MAKING IT WEIGHTLESS AND INVISIBLE!

WHOLE ARMIES COULD BE SENT INTO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AS NORMAL TOURISTS---WITH THEIR INVISIBLE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT.

THEN, AT THE RIGHT MOMENT, MY DEVICE COULD BE ACTIVATED, AND THE HIDDEN ARMY COULD BE ASSEMBLED FOR CONQUEST! THAT IS HOW MY ENEMIES HOPE TO USE IT.



I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THE REDS WANT IT-- BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM GET IT.



I HAVE PLACED THE DEVICE IN YOUR WOUND, BUT I FORGOT TO ADD THE ACTIVATOR FOR IT. HERE---WHEN YOU FEEL THAT ESCAPE IS IMPOSSIBLE, SWALLOW IT! NOW I MUST DESTROY ALL MY NOTES AND EQUIPMENT!

SAY, HOW DOES THIS THING WORK?

WHAA---?? WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU---YOU ACTIVATED THE DEVICE IN YOUR WOUND! YOU'VE MADE YOUR COSTUME INVISIBLE! MY ACTIVATOR WORKS! NOW TURN IT AGAIN!

AMAZING!

THERE--YOU'VE REASSEMBLED THE MOLECULES OF YOUR COSTUME! NOW HELP ME BURN MY EQUIPMENT!

OH...WHAT HIT ME? ...HEY--WHAT ARE THEY DOING? GOT TO STOP THEM!

PROFESSOR! TAKE COVER!

AIEEEEE!

SNOKE---CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT ON THAT GUY!





BACK TO SLEEP,  
MISTER!

HEY--WHAT A  
BELT! MAYBE  
THE PROFESSOR'S  
SERUM DID GIVE  
ME ADDI-  
STRENGTH!

BLOK!



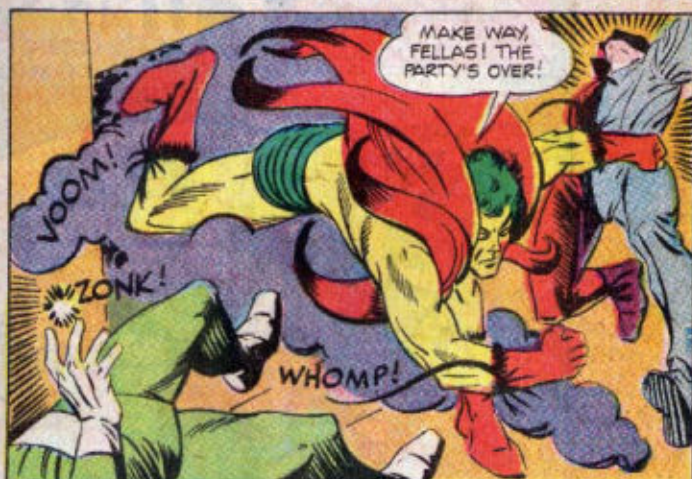
POOR OLD GUYS  
DEAD! HE HELPED  
ME MORE THAN I  
HELPED HIM! I  
OWE IT TO HIM  
TO SAVE HIS  
CREATIONS!



IT---IT'S  
OPENING!  
GET READY  
TO---

WHAT'S  
THAT  
SMOKE?

KA-REEK



MAKE WAY,  
FELLAS! THE  
PARTY'S OVER!

VOOM!

WZONK!

WHOMP!



GOT TO GET THE POLICE  
HERE FAST---THEY'D  
LIKE TO SEE WHO'S  
BEHIND SOME OF  
THESE MASKS!!

THIEF! STOP HIM!  
HE ROBBED  
MY SAFE!



NEAT TRICK! MAKING THE HONEST  
GUESTS THINK I'M THE CROOK!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHO WAS THAT MONSTER? HOW DARE HE ATTACK ME? SUCH VIOLENCE!!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, DR. WETLEY! HE'S A COMMON THIEF! HE LIT A FIRE TO COVER HIS ESCAPE! DON'T WORRY---MY HOUSE STAFF WILL CATCH HIM!

HE SHAN'T GET AWAY WITH SUCH A MURDEROUS ATTACK! THERE IS NO PLACE IN THIS WORLD FOR SUCH ACTIONS!

WHOEVER HE IS, HE MUST BE SILENCED! HE KNOWS TOO MUCH! WE CAN'T HAVE THE POLICE AROUND HERE!



SINCE NO ONE ELSE IS CALLING THE POLICE, I SHALL DO IT! A VICIOUS CHARACTER LIKE THAT SHOULD NOT BE ON THE LOOSE!



THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, DR. WETLEY, THE CULPRIT WILL BE CAUGHT AND TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE!

HA!  
HA!  
HA!

THESE GUYS PANIC WHEN THEY SEE ME! I GUESS IT'S MY COSTUME! WELL, GOOD! KEEPS THEM OFF-BALANCE!



HA! HA!  
HA!

I THINK MY LAUGH GETS THEM, TOO! IT REALLY BUGS THEM!



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE! A FEW MINUTES AGO, I TOOK A KNIFE IN THE SIDE! BUT NOW I CAN HARDLY FEEL THE WOUND! THE PROFESSOR'S SERUM REALLY WORKS WONDERS!



OH-OHH! THEY'RE GANGING UP! MAYBE IF I WALK LIKE THIS, IT'LL CONFUSE THEM, EVEN MORE! RIGHT NOW I NEED ALL THE TRICKS I CAN THINK OF--- MIGHT AS WELL TRY THE CACKLE AGAIN, TOO!







I DEMAND ACTION! THE TERRIBLE PERSON WHO ATTACKED ME MUST BE CAUGHT!

WE CHECKED THE WHOLE HOUSE, THERE'S NO ONE ELSE!

THAT CREEPER CHARACTER COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR. WE'LL PUT OUT A BULLETIN ON HIM!

SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE, SIR, YOU AND YOUR GUESTS CAN GET BACK TO YOUR PARTY NOW!

SOME OF THE GUESTS ARE MISSING! THE ONES THE POLICE WOULD SUSPECT. THEY MUST BE HIDING IN THAT SECRET ROOM. MAYBE I CAN FLUSH THEM OUT BEFORE THE COPS GO....

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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THE POLICE HAVE STOPPED SEARCHING! TAKE THE PROFESSOR'S BODY THROUGH THE BACK DOOR AND DOWN THE STREET TO THE PARKING AREA. MY CAR IS WAITING.



DON'T WORRY, SMEJ. OUR DEPARTURE WILL GO SMOOTHLY!



IT HAD BETTER! YOU'VE ALREADY BUNGLED THINGS BADLY!



COPS STILL HANGING AROUND OUT FRONT. CAN'T LET THEM SEE ME CHANGE. THEY'LL THINK I ESCAPED FROM THE FUNNY FARM...

I HOPE THOSE HOODS ARE STILL HIDING IN THERE! MAYBE I CAN STIR UP ENOUGH OF A RUMPUS TO BRING THE COPS BACK IN...



NO DICE! WELL, THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE VERY FAR.



GOOD THING I CALLED BRANE. HE'LL KEEP THE POLICE HERE TILL I LOCATE THE GANG..

THAT GARAGE... PLENTY OF ROOM FOR THEM TO HIDE IN THERE...



I'D BETTER MAKE SURE BEFORE I GET THE POLICE. A WILD GOOSE CHASE, AND MY GOOSE'LL BE COOKED!



MUST BE A WAY TO SNEAK IN THERE...















TWO FISTS  
ARE BETTER  
THAN ONE--

--ESPECIALLY  
IF THEY'RE  
BOTH MINE!



I HOPE BRANE WAS ABLE TO  
KEEP THE POLICE AROUND!  
MUCH MORE OF THIS SWINGING,  
AND I'LL CATCH A COLD FROM  
ALL THE DRAFT!

GIVE HIM FIVE MORE  
MINUTES, BOYS. HE  
SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT--  
ABOUT PROFESSOR  
YATZ.

OKAY, BUT HE'D  
BETTER BE RIGHT.  
WE'RE NOT  
EXACTLY ON  
VACATION!



VINCE!--  
CHARLEY!

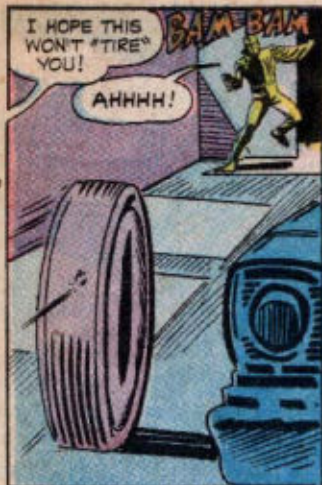
I MUST BE THE  
ONLY ONE STILL ON  
HIS FEET!

HA HA HA



COME ON OUT, YOU  
LAUGHING LUNATIC!  
NOBODY MAKES A  
FOOL OF ME--NOT  
EVEN A FOOL!

I THINK HE'S FLIPPED  
HIS CORK! HE'S RIPE  
FOR A SNEAK ATTACK!







BRANE, THERE'S A SECRET ROOM BACK AT THE PARTY. THAT'S WHERE THEY KEPT YATZ. THE HOST WAS IN ON IT, TOO. THAT FELLOW THEY CALL THE CREEPER-- HE SURE RAISED CANE AROUND THERE!

THE COPS CAN HANDLE HIM, TOO. BUT I WONDER WHY THEY CALL HIM THE CREEPER?

BECAUSE HE CREEPS---WHY ELSE?



LATER, AT A MEETING OF THE UNDERWORLD...

THIS CREEPER---HE MADE A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE FOR US. WE'RE PUTTING A PRICE ON HIS HEAD---ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND!



AND AT CITY HALL...

THERE IS A MOST VIOLENT ELEMENT LOOSE UPON SOCIETY. I DEMAND THE ARREST OF THAT--THAT CREEPER!

WE'LL FIND HIM, DR. WETLEY. HE HAS A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!



MEANWHILE, IN THE QUIET OF HIS APARTMENT...

HEY! MY KNIFE WOUND DOESN'T EVEN SHOW A SCAR! AND THE PROF'S DEVICE IS STILL INSIDE ME! I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF THERE! HE PLANTED IT JUST BELOW THE SURFACE...



AND THIS IS THE BASTY THAT TURNS IT ON!



IT STILL WORKS--BUT I WONDER FOR HOW LONG...?





AND THE PROF'S SERUM! IT'S SURE GIVEN ME PLENTY OF MUSCLE...

BUT WILL THERE BE ANY SIDE EFFECTS...?



OR HOW LONG WILL IT LAST...IF AT ALL?

HE ENTRUSTED HIS SECRETS TO ME! HE WAS AFRAID THEY'D FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST KEEP THEM TO MYSELF...



THEN I CAN MAKE SURE THEY'LL BE USED PROPERLY--BECAUSE ONLY I WILL BE ABLE TO USE THEM!



THE NEXT MORNING...

THE LAW'S LOOKING FOR HIM... AND SO'S THE UNDERWORLD. IF THAT CREEPER'S SMART, HE'LL FADE RIGHT OUT OF THE PICTURE! I'LL BET THAT'S THE LAST WE HEAR OF HIM!



DON'T BE SO SURE! A GUY THAT POPULAR--HE'D BE A FOOL TO FOLD UP HIS ACT WHILE HE'S SUCH A HOT ITEM!

SAY, MAYBE HE NEEDS A GOOD MANAGER!

A HOT ITEM? HE'S BLAZING! THE CREEPER WILL RETURN--AND SOON!

The End

Steve Ditko...  
**LIKE LIGHTNING**  
**STRIKES AGAIN!**  
**THE HAWK**  
**AND THE DOVE**  
**COMING SOON**