

1st BRAND-NEW ISSUE!

DC  
SHAZAM

WITH ONE MAGIC WORD...

20c



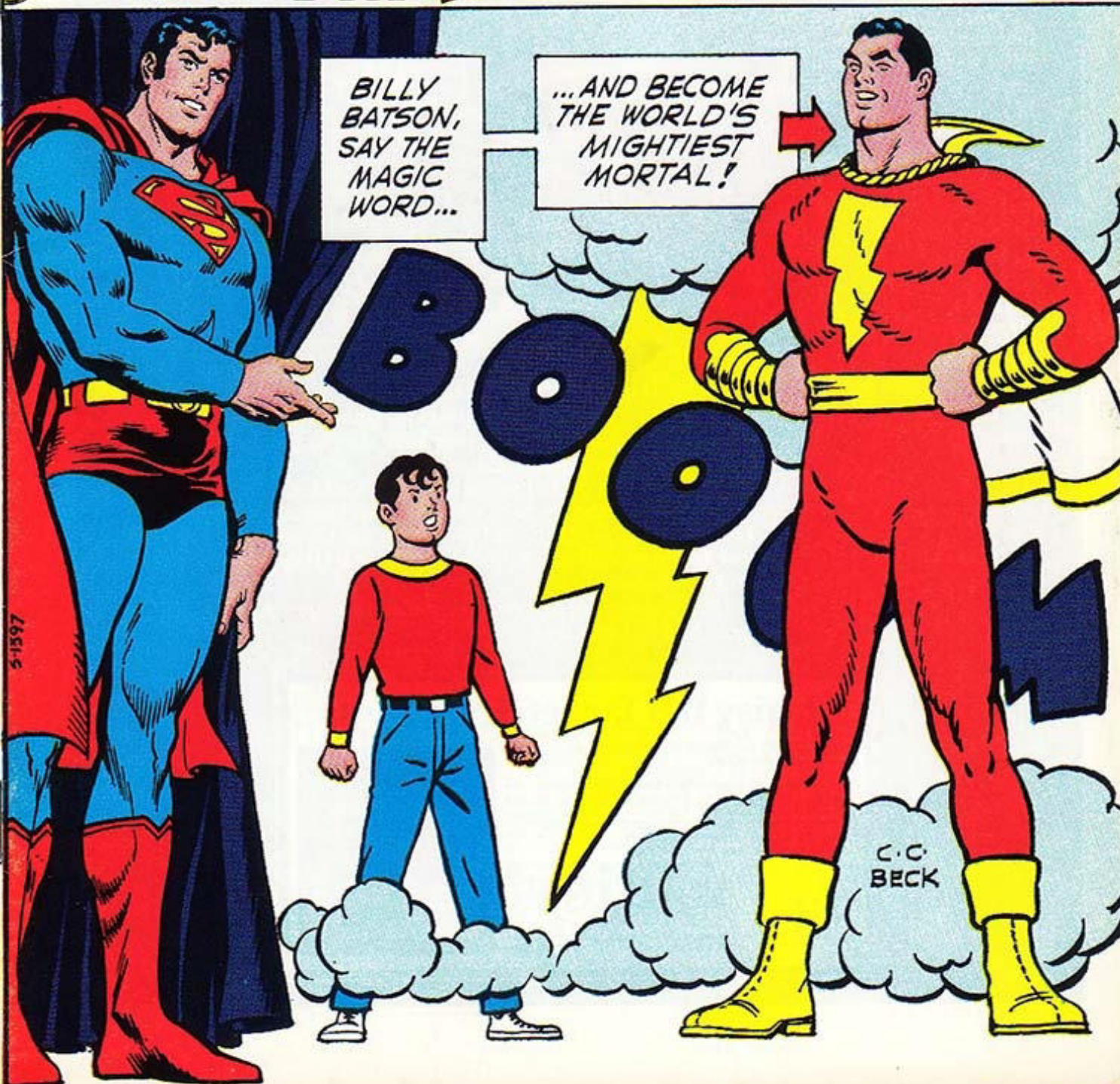
# SHAZAM!

TM

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

NO. 1 FEB. 30688

## THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN MARVEL



BILLY  
BATSON,  
SAY THE  
MAGIC  
WORD...

...AND BECOME  
THE WORLD'S  
MIGHTIEST  
MORTAL!

C.C.  
BECK



# SHAZAM!

**AFTER  
20 YEARS...  
THE TRIUMPHANT  
RETURN OF THE  
WORLD'S  
MIGHTIEST  
MORTAL...  
THE  
ORIGINAL  
CAPTAIN  
MARVEL**



**A  
RETELLING OF THE  
GREATEST  
LEGEND IN  
COMICS**

**BY  
DENNY O'NEIL  
WRITER**

**C.C. BECK  
ARTIST**

**JULIUS SCHWARTZ  
EDITOR**

**PP In the BEGINNING PP**

SHAZAM! Vol. 1, No. 1, Feb., 1973. Published monthly, (with the exception of Jan., March, July and Nov.) by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Carmine Infantino, Publisher, Julius Schwartz, Editor, E. Nelson Bridwell, Assistant Editor, Sol Harrison, Production Manager, Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwartz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © 1972 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

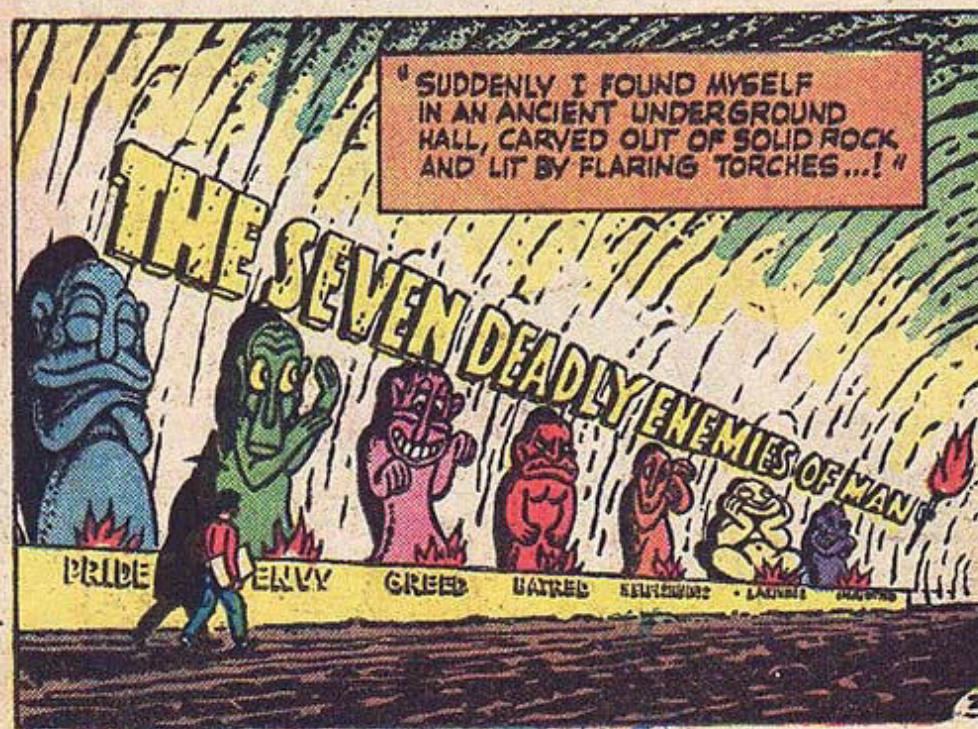
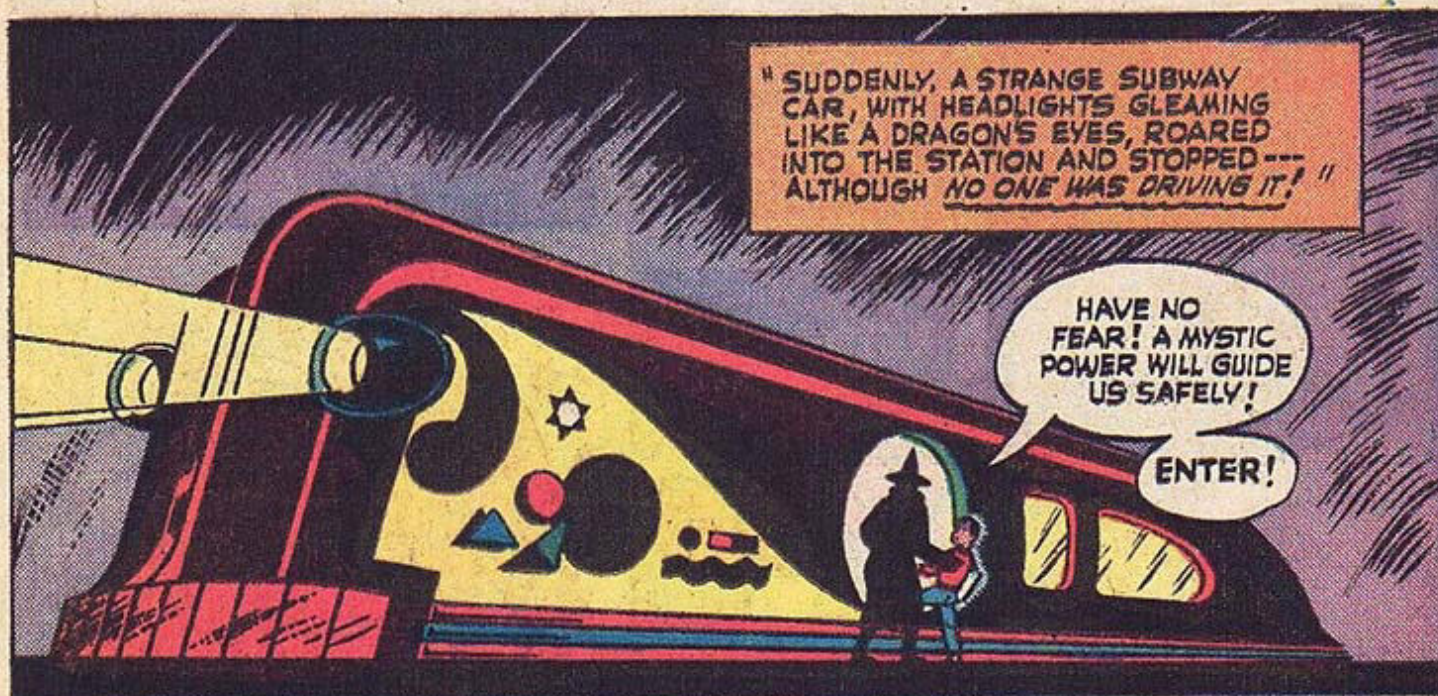
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"WHEN WE CAME TO A MAJESTIC  
FIGURE ON A GREAT THRONE,  
MY MYSTERIOUS GUIDE  
VANISHED..."

I AM **SHAZAM**,  
AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN  
WIZARD. FOR THOUSANDS  
OF YEARS I HAVE  
FOUGHT EVIL,  
BILLY BATSON.

H-HOW DID  
YOU KNOW  
MY NAME?

BECAUSE I KNOW EVERYTHING! BUT  
NOW, MY TIME IS UP! AND I HAVE  
CHOSEN YOU TO BE MY  
**SUCCESSOR!**

M-ME,  
SIR?

"A THUNDERCLAP  
FROM THE ENDS OF  
THE UNIVERSE...  
AN EYE-SEARING  
BOLT OF MAGIC  
LIGHTNING... AND  
I FOUND MYSELF  
TRANSFORMED INTO..."

**BOOOOOM!**

YES! YOU ARE  
PURE OF HEART!

**SPEAK  
MY  
NAME!**

**SHAZAM!**

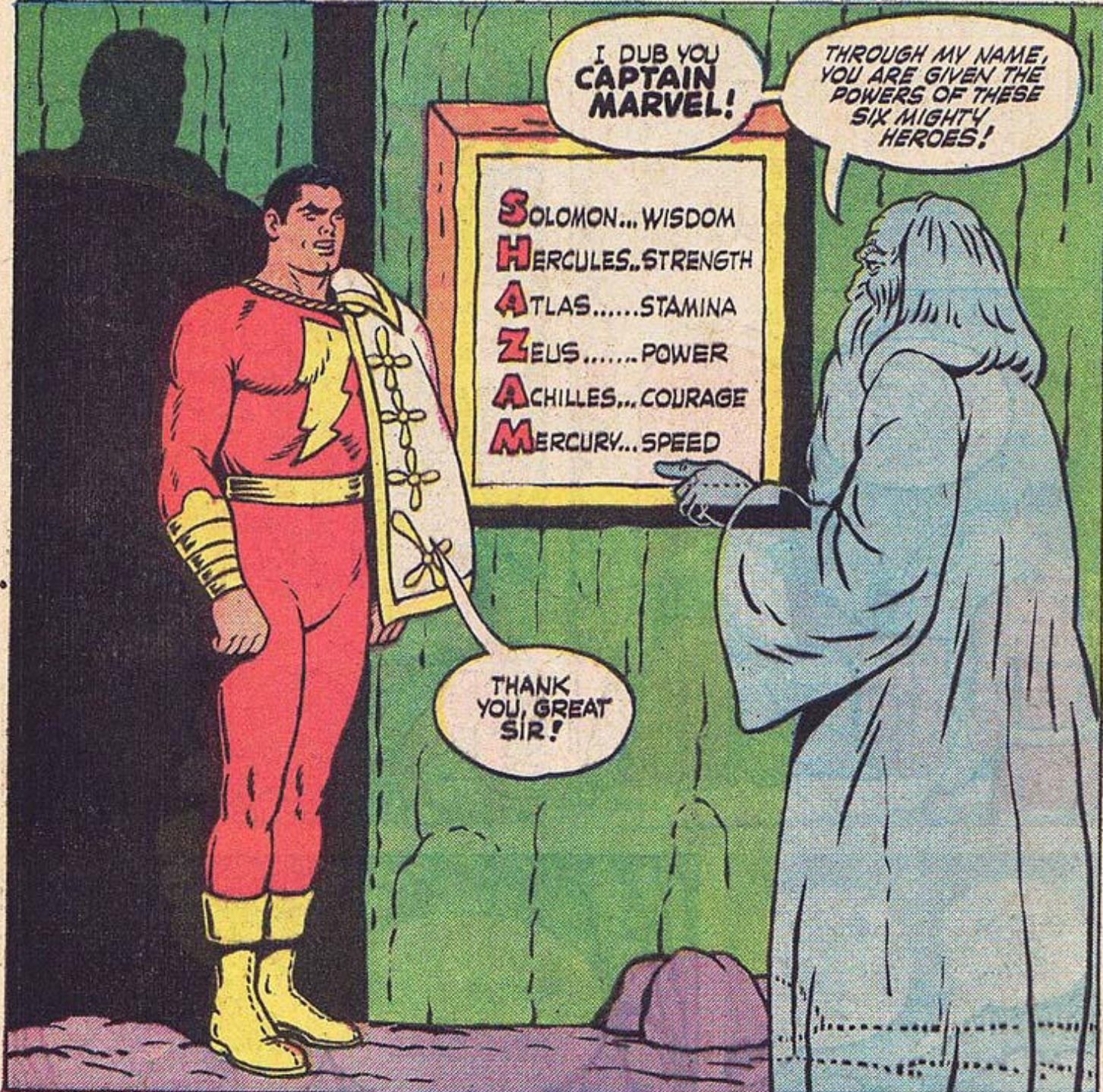
"...THE WORLD'S  
MIGHTIEST MORTAL!"











I DUB YOU  
**CAPTAIN  
MARVEL!**

THROUGH MY NAME,  
YOU ARE GIVEN THE  
POWERS OF THESE  
SIX MIGHTY  
HEROES!

**S**OLOMON... WISDOM  
**H**ERCULES.. STRENGTH  
**A**TLAS..... STAMINA  
**Z**EUS..... POWER  
**A**CHILLES... COURAGE  
**M**ERCURY... SPEED

THANK  
YOU, GREAT  
SIR!



HENCEFORTH, IT SHALL  
BE YOUR SWORN  
DUTY TO FIGHT  
**ALL EVIL  
ON EARTH!**

I'LL  
DO MY  
BEST...!



THAT WAS THE **BEGINNING!**

FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS,  
I MADE GOOD MY PROMISE...  
I MEAN  
**CAPTAIN  
MARVEL'S  
PROMISE!**

I FOUGHT  
EVILDOERS  
EVERYWHERE  
...AND I  
USUALLY  
**WON!**



THEN... THE WORLD'S  
WICKEDEST SCIENTIST  
FOUND A WAY TO  
**EXILE ME!**

WELL...  
**EXILE'S  
OVER!**

AND I'M GOING  
AFTER THE MAN  
WHO **CAUSED  
IT!**

**FOR THE STORY OF CAPTAIN  
MARVEL'S STRANGE, TWENTY-  
YEAR ABSENCE, CHECK OUT THE  
NEXT STORY... QUICK!  
THE EXCITEMENT'S  
JUST BEGUN!**





# SHAZAM!

T.M.

IS THE MAGIC WORD FOR THE  
ORIGINAL CAPTAIN  
MARVEL

IT'S BEEN ONLY SECONDS  
SINCE WE LEFT YOUNG  
BILLY BATSON, BUT IN  
THOSE FEW MOMENTS,  
HE HAS HEARD THE  
SOUND OF GUNSHOTS!...

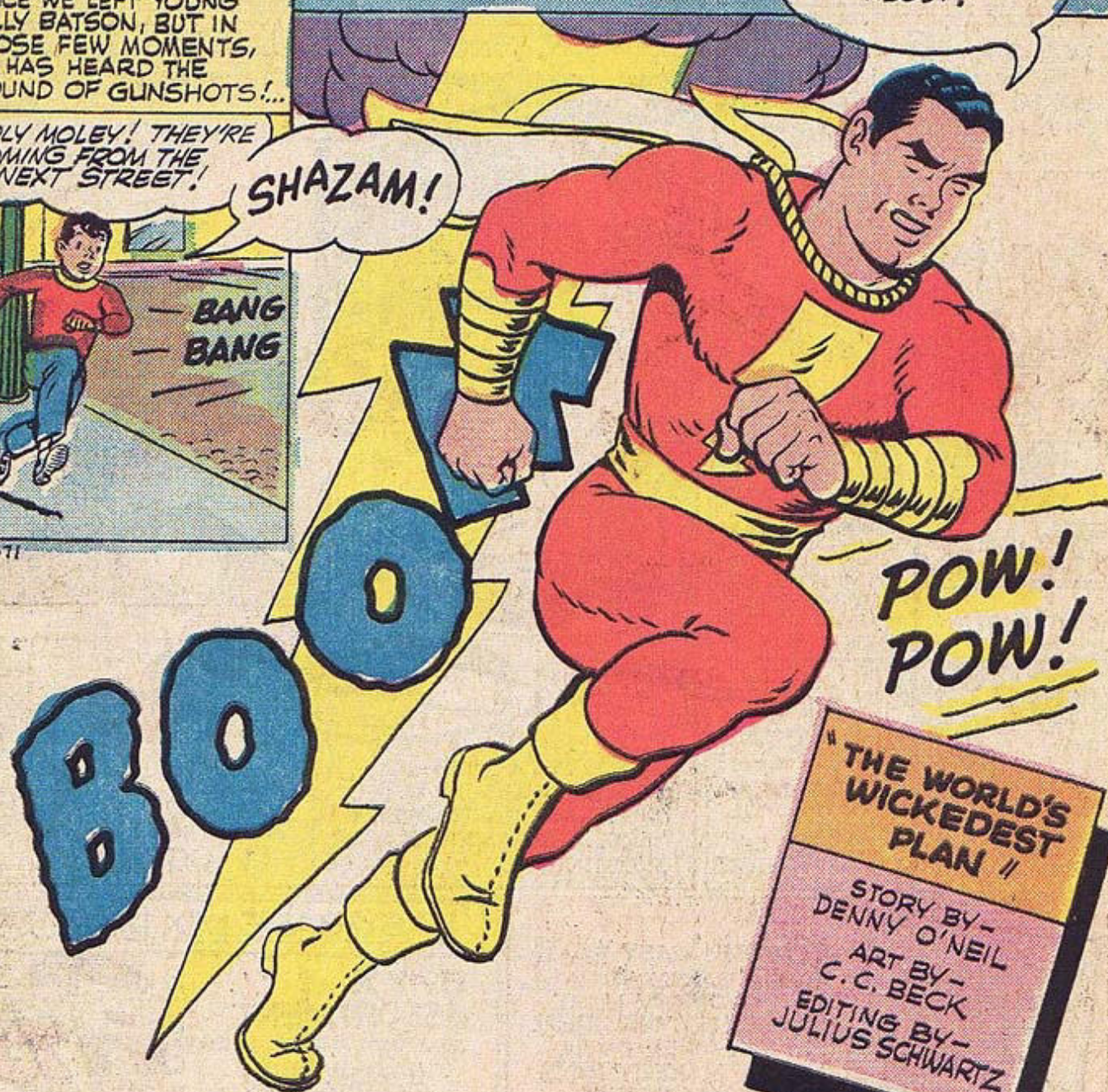
HOLY MOLEY! THEY'RE  
COMING FROM THE  
NEXT STREET!

SHAZAM!



5-1371

NOW LET'S SEE  
WHAT THIS IS ALL  
ABOUT!



"THE WORLD'S  
WICKEDEST  
PLAN"

STORY BY -  
DENNY O'NEIL

ART BY -  
C. C. BECK

EDITING BY -  
JULIUS SCHWARTZ



CRIMINALS... RUNNING FROM  
THE POLICE! I SEE THINGS  
HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH IN  
THE TWENTY YEARS I'VE  
BEEN AWAY!

ROOOO!

KABANG  
KABANG

SCREECH

THERE ARE STILL  
GOOD GUYS AND  
BAD GUYS...

...AND I'M STILL ON THE  
SIDE OF THE **GOOD  
GUYS!**

KRASSH

YIPES!  
A HUMAN  
ROADBLOCK!

CH-CHARLIE... DO  
YOU SEE WHAT  
I SEE?

BAM

KAPOW

YEH, JULIE... EITHER  
THE BULLETS ARE BOUNCING  
OFF HIM... OR WE'RE USING  
VERY INFERIOR  
BULLETS!

YEP... THINGS  
HAVEN'T CHANGED  
MUCH AT  
ALL!

GOTCHA!

THANKS A LOT,  
MISTER.

NO THANKS ARE  
NECESSARY, OFFICER--  
I WAS JUST DOING  
MY JOB!

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







"SUDDENLY, WE WERE CAUGHT IN A STRANGE RAY AND PULLED INTO THE SKY, ALONG WITH SOME OTHERS IN THE CROWD---"

HOLY MOLEY!

"...BEFORE ANY OF US COULD ACT, WE WERE DRAWN INTO DEEP SPACE! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A FAMILIAR SPACE SHIP..."

"...AND I KNEW WHO WAS INSIDE ---THE WORLD'S WICKEDEST SCIENTIST'S --- DOCTOR THADDEUS BODOG SIVANA, HIS DAUGHTER GEORGIA, AND HIS SLIMY SON, SIVANA JUNIOR!"

WE DID IT, KIDS!  
OUR VORTEX TRANS-  
PORTER PARALYZER  
BEAM SNARED THE  
**BIG RED CHEESE!**  
HEH HEH HEH!

TO SAY NOTHING  
OF THAT WITCH,  
MARY-- THE LITTLE  
RED CHEESE!

HEH  
HEH

HEH!

AND THAT BRATTY  
JUNIOR---THE LITTLE  
**BLUE CHEESE!**

AS SOON AS I  
PRESS THIS BUTTON,  
THE WHOLE LOT OF  
THEM WILL BE SEALED  
IN A GLOBE OF  
**SUSPENDIUM,**  
A COMPOUND  
I INVENTED!

THEY'LL BE IN  
**SUSPENDED  
ANIMATION--  
FOREVER!**

WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO...  
HEH HEH...  
**RULE  
THE  
WORLD  
!**

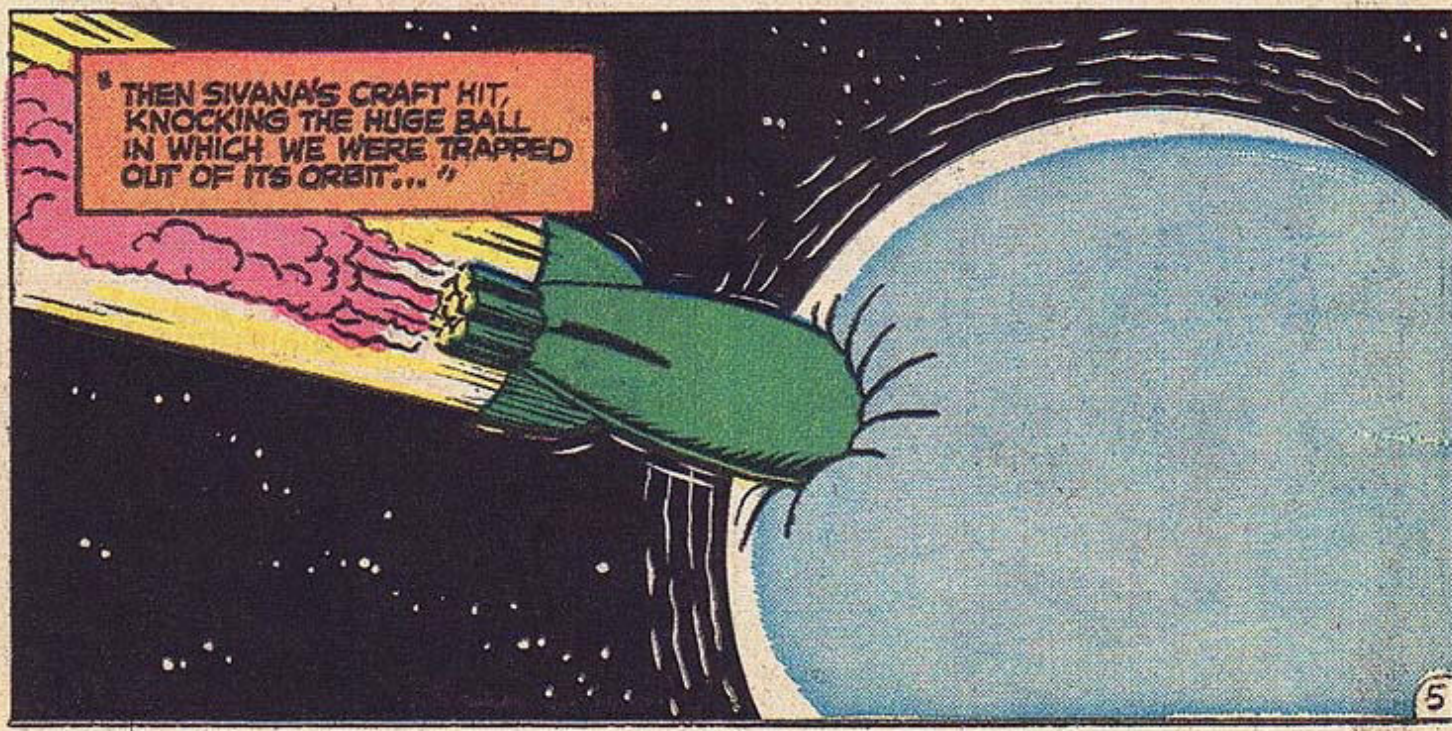
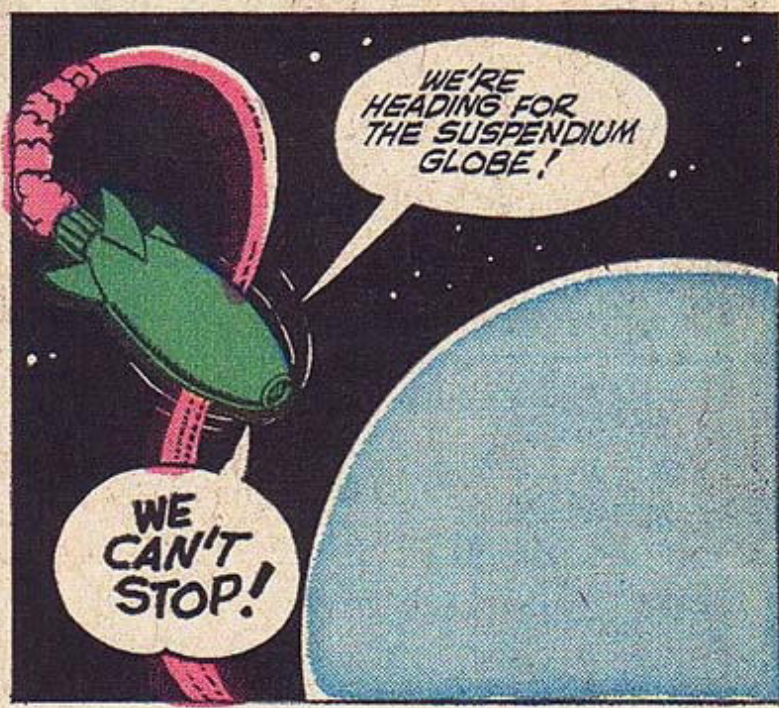
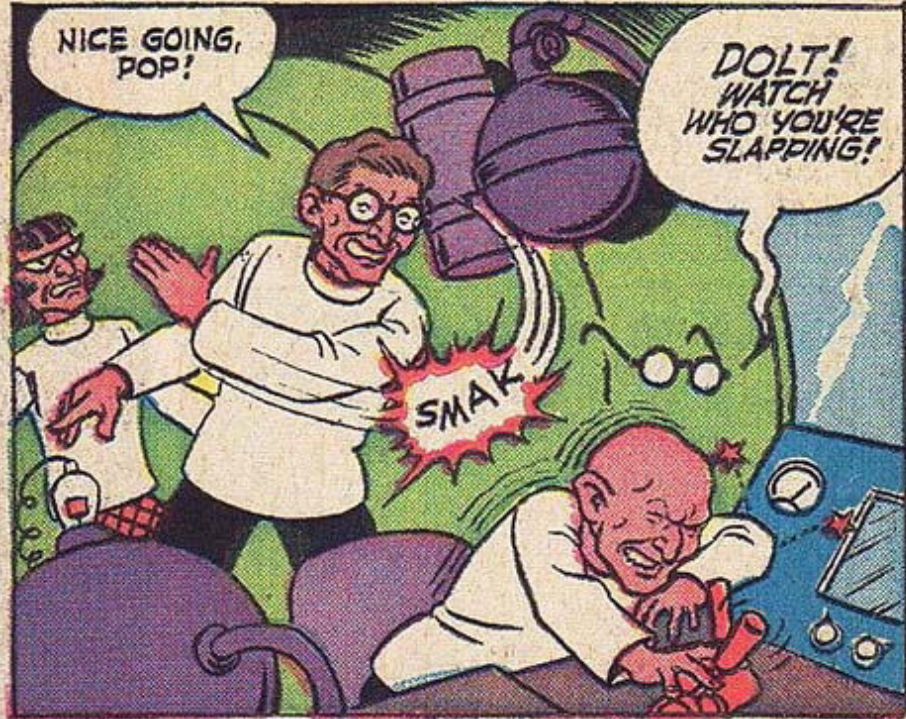
HEH

HEH

HEH  
HEH

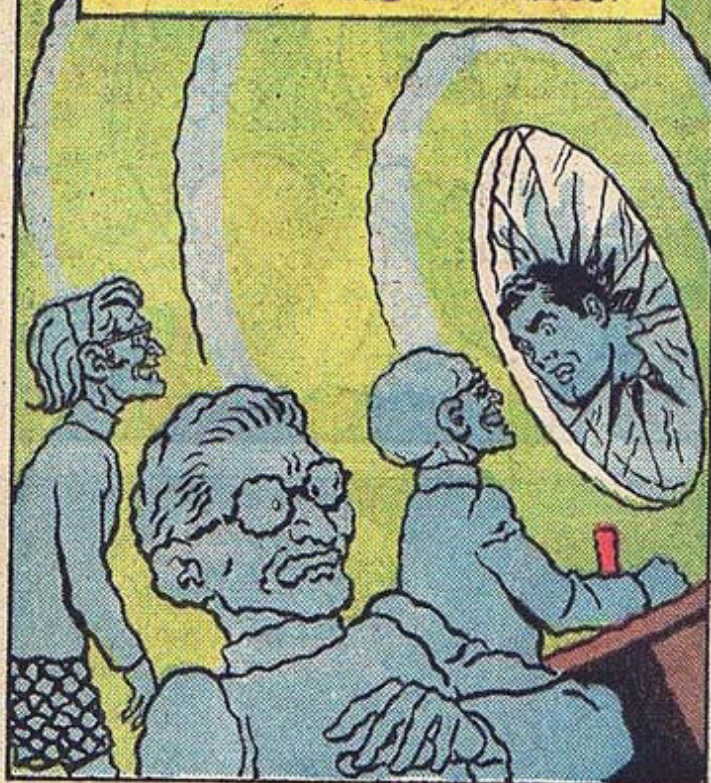
HEH  
HEH  
HEH







"INSTANTLY, THE GHASTLY SUSPENDIUM PUT THE SIVANAS INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION, TOO! THE SHIP HAD CRASHED NEAR ME AND I FOUND MY HEAD ONLY INCHES AWAY FROM SIVANA'S. NO MATTER, THOUGH... WE WERE ALL HELD MOTIONLESS!"



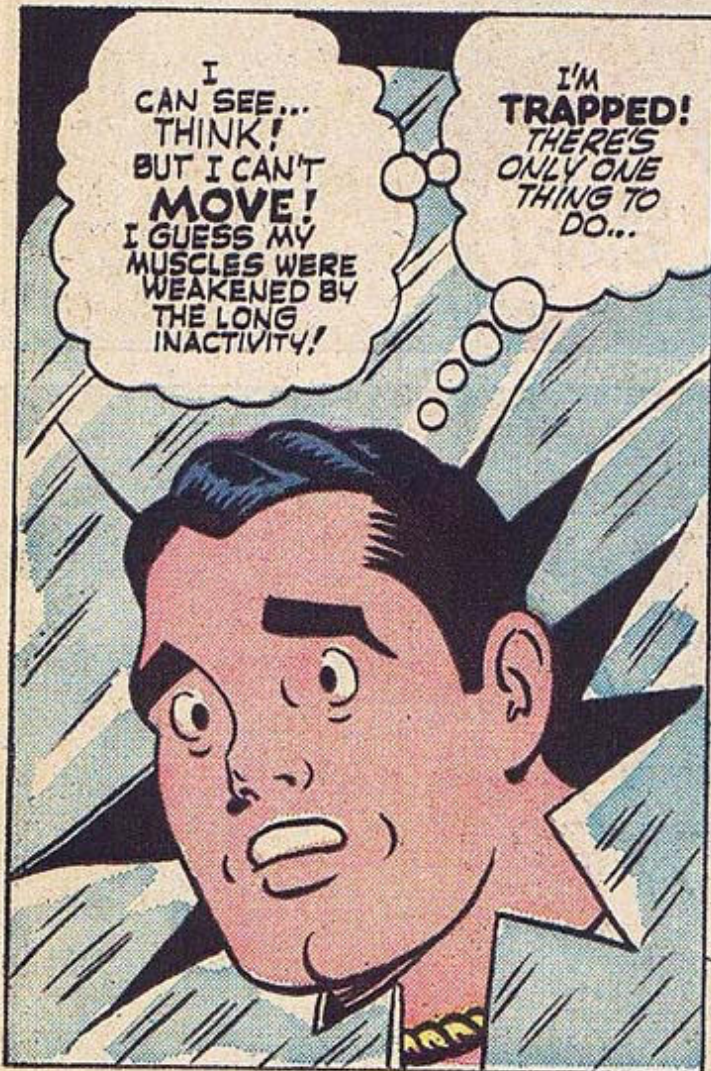
"FOR NEARLY 2 DECADES WE ORBITED THE SUN, DRAWING SLOWLY CLOSER AND CLOSER TO IT..."



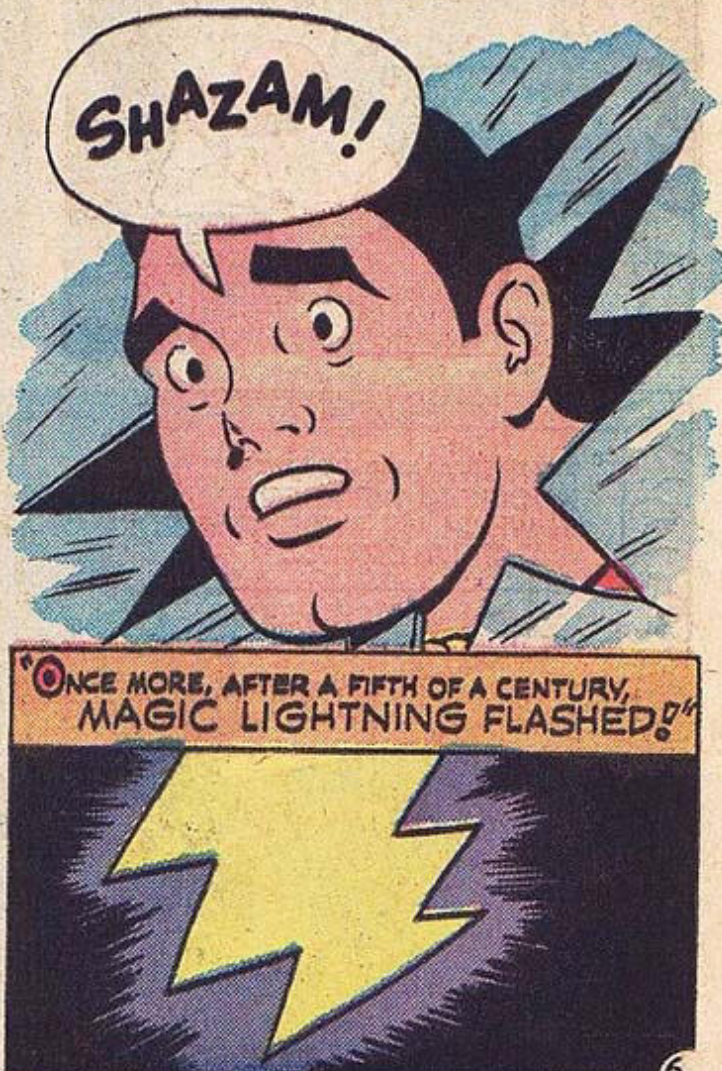
"EVENTUALLY, WE CAME TO WITHIN A MILLION MILES OF THE BLAZING ORB AND THE HEAT BEGAN VAPORIZING THE SUSPENDIUM. I AWOKE, AND..."

I CAN SEE... THINK! BUT I CAN'T **MOVE!** I GUESS MY MUSCLES WERE WEAKENED BY THE LONG INACTIVITY!

I'M **TRAPPED!** THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...



**SHAZAM!**



"ONCE MORE, AFTER A FIFTH OF A CENTURY, MAGIC LIGHTNING FLASHED!"



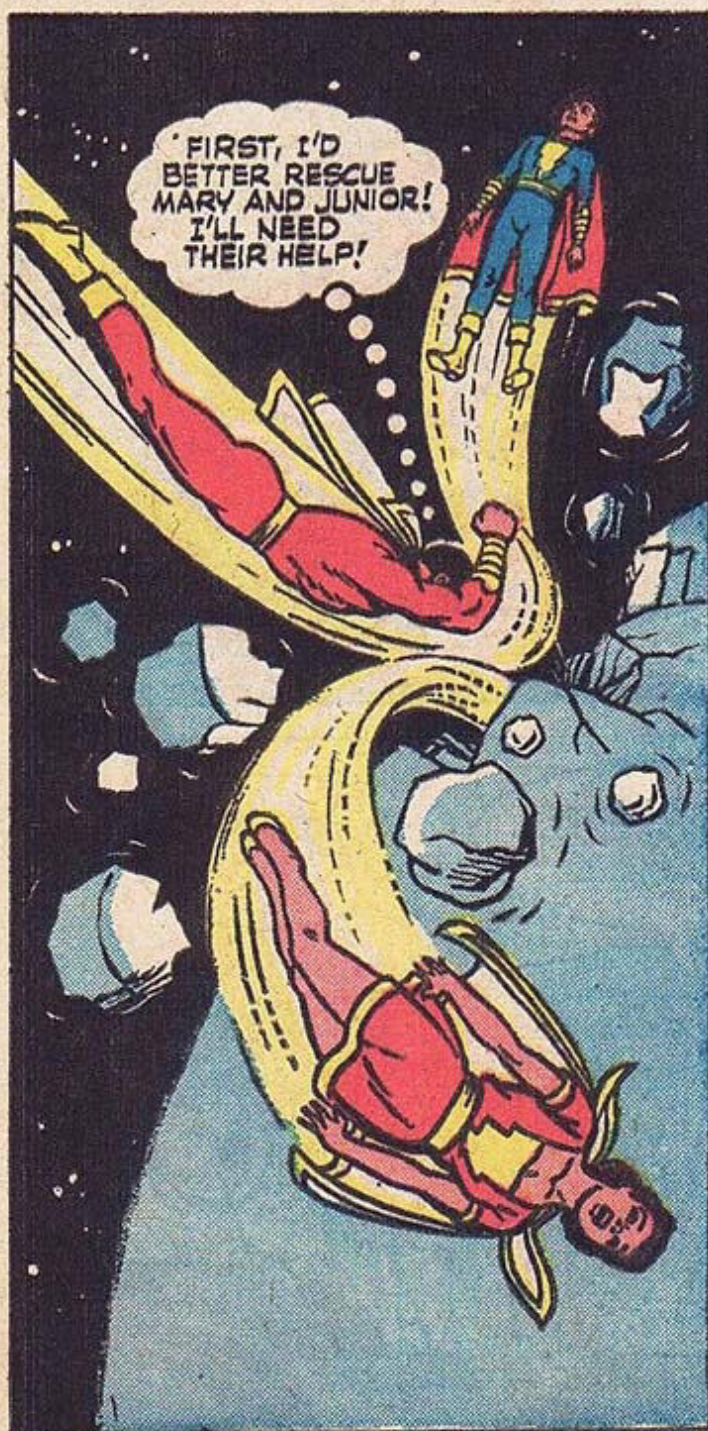


NOW THAT I'M FREE, I CAN SWITCH BACK BY SAYING...

**SHAZAM!**



IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, THAT GLOBE WILL BE MELTED AND THE PEOPLE INSIDE WILL DIE!



I FEEL LIKE I'VE HAD A LONG NAP!

I'LL EXPLAIN TO THEM LATER. WE'VE GOT TO RETURN ALL THOSE FOLKS TO EARTH... **FAST!**



"THE SIVANAS CAME TO AND ESCAPED, BUT WE COULD ALWAYS CATCH UP WITH THE MAD SCIENTISTS-- WE ALWAYS HAD BEFORE! JUNIOR, MARY AND I PUSHED THE BALL OF SUSPENSION BACK TO EARTH..."



"THEN..."

ALL TOGETHER NOW--  
A-ONE! A-TWO! A-THREE...

**PUNCH!**

**KA-WHOOMP!**

"DAZED, THE CITIZENS CAME TO, UNAWARE THAT TWENTY YEARS HAD PASSED WHILE THEY HADN'T AGED A SECOND!"

GOSH, MY JOINTS ARE STIFF! MUST BE RHEUMATISM!

YOU'RE GETTING OLD, PA!

FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE MARVEL FAMILY'S FRIENDS, SEE THIS ISSUE'S TEXT FEATURE, "SHAZAM AND SON!"





...AS I SAID--THE STORY IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! YET IT'S TRUE!

MARY AND JUNIOR HAVE GONE TO SEARCH FOR THE SIVANAS IN SPACE, BUT...



MY HUNCH IS, THEY HEADED FOR EARTH. SIVANA USED TO HAVE A HIDEOUT IN THESE MOUNTAINS...

...AND UNLESS I'M TERRIBLY MISTAKEN, THIS IS WHERE I'LL FIND HIM!



THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IS RIGHT, FOR NOT FAR AWAY...

I WISH THOSE IDIOTS I SENT TO STEAL THE ELECTRONIC PARTS WOULD COME BACK!

I'M ANXIOUS TO GET STARTED ON MY NEW SCHEME TO... HEH HEH... **RULE THE WORLD!**

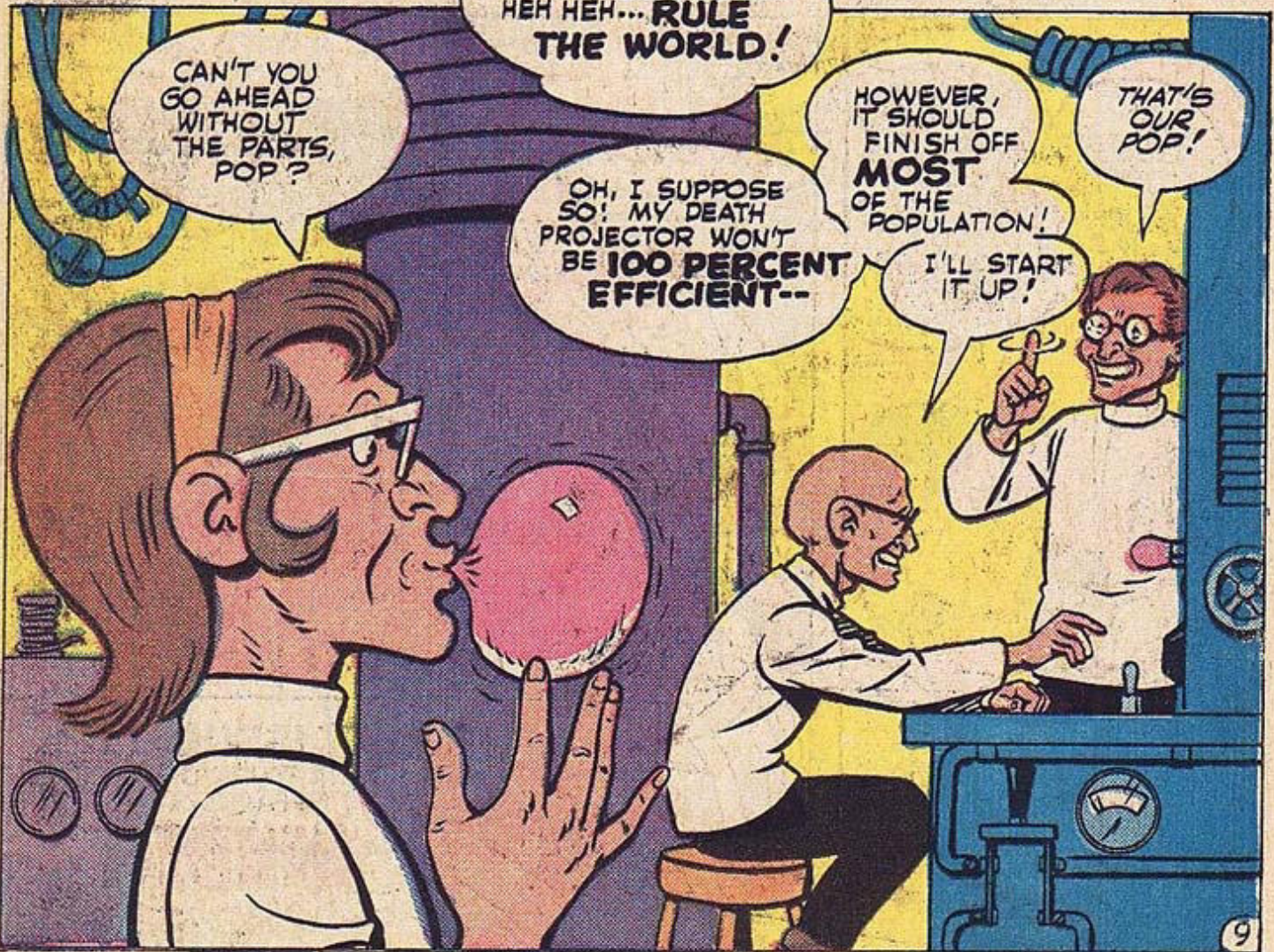
CAN'T YOU GO AHEAD WITHOUT THE PARTS, POP?

OH, I SUPPOSE SO! MY DEATH PROJECTOR WON'T BE **100 PERCENT EFFICIENT--**

HOWEVER, IT SHOULD FINISH OFF **MOST** OF THE POPULATION!

I'LL START IT UP!

THAT'S OUR POP!





BUT BEFORE THE EVIL  
GENIUS CAN ACTIVATE  
HIS DEVILISH DEVICE...

**KARASH**

YIII!  
THE BIG RED  
CHEESE!

UP TO YOUR  
OLD TRICKS,  
EH,  
SIVANA?

AND YOU'RE  
UP TO YOURS,  
CURSE YOU!

**KARUNCH**

GO  
ON--GET  
IT OVER  
WITH!  
**HIT  
ME!**

NOT  
NECESSARY!  
THE  
AUTHORITIES  
WILL TAKE  
CARE OF  
YOU AND  
YOUR  
OAFISH  
OFFSPRING!

AND I DON'T  
THINK YOU'LL  
GET A  
**SUSPENDED  
SENTENCE!**

YAHHH...  
**SMART  
ALECK!**

IS THAT ALL YOU  
HAVE TO SAY,  
YOU BIG RED  
CHEESE?

NO... THERE'S ONE MORE  
THING---

**IT'S GREAT  
TO BE ALIVE!**  
RIGHT,  
SIVANA'S?

**RIGHT!**

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
THE RETURN OF  
THE NEFARIOUS

MR. **MIND!**  
DON'T DARE MISS IT!





# SHAZAM & SON

S-1405

The Story of the World's Mightiest Mortal

By E. Nelson Bridwell

"You are my son, Captain Marvel!"

So old Shazam said once, in a story in *Whiz Comics*. And, in a way, it was true—for the ancient wizard had passed on his powers to Billy Batson when he died and his spirit went to dwell on the *Rock of Eternity*.

But the original *Captain Marvel* was also the brainchild of several other men, who together created the best-selling comic magazine hero of all time.

It began when a writer named Bill Parker turned out an idea for a hero named *Captain Thunder*. He was to combine the powers of six great gods and heroes, and he would debut in the first issue of a new magazine, *Whiz Comics*. Artist Charles Clarence Beck was chosen to illustrate the first adventure of *Captain Thunder*, and it was he who designed the red-and-gold costume of the hero. (Happily, Beck is back with this first issue of *Shazam!*)

But then, for some reason, accounts vary, it was decided to change the name from *Thunder* to—something else. I have heard Pete Costanza tell of the editorial meeting called to select the new name. For a while, they threw around various names. At last, Pete suggested "Captain Marvelous". Close—but someone wisely decided to lop off the "ous" and make it simply *Captain Marvel*. A few years later, Pete would be one of the top *Captain Marvel* artists; I suspect the reprint in this issue is Costanza's work.

A black-and-white issue of *Whiz* #1 had already been printed, for the purpose of securing a copyright. Although the only change in the issue was in the name of the lead feature's hero, when it finally hit the newsstands, in color, it was *Whiz* #2 (dated February, 1940).

Not since *Superman* had a hero so captured the imaginations of readers. Soon, in addition to the *Whiz* appearances, *Captain Marvel* was starring in his own magazine, *Captain Marvel Adventures*, which soon became the top-selling comix magazine in history! In time it went from quarterly publication to monthly, to every third Friday—to every other Friday!

In the very first *Captain Marvel* tale, a mysterious scientist was using a mysterious power to knock all radio stations off the air—and demanding a high ransom to free the air-waves. By chance, Billy Batson discovered the headquarters of the scientist (none other than Sivana himself), and told Sterling Morris, owner of radio station *WHIZ*. But Morris was so sure Billy was wrong that he promised to give him a job as a radio announcer if his information led to the villain's capture. Well, Billy used his new powers as *Captain Marvel* to capture Sivana, and Morris kept his word. Billy became a radio announcer and newscaster. *WHIZ* added TV early in 1946—well before NBC and CBS.

There were other members added to the *Marvel*

Family as time went on, notably *Freddy Freeman*, crippled newsboy, whose life *Captain Marvel* saved by giving him some of his powers, so he became *Captain Marvel, Jr.*; and *Mary Batson*, who found a long-lost brother and the power to become *Mary Marvel* on the same historic day. More of them in this department next issue.

From time to time, new characters were introduced into the *Marvel* saga. Some of these are shown at the bottom of page 8 in this issue's second story. The diagram on this page will help you follow the list below, which gives a rundown on these friends of the *Marvels*.

1. *Uncle Dudley*. This is the lovable, old fraud who pretends to change into a *Marvel*—Uncle *Marvel*—by saying "Shazam!" Actually, he strips off his outer clothes to reveal a home-made costume! As president of *Shazam, Inc.*, he raises money for charity.

2. *Miss Joan Jameson*, Billy's—and *Captain Marvel's*—secretary. She accidentally saw Billy slip away to change to *Captain Marvel*, and convinced him that a good secretary could save him some trouble and still conceal his identity.

3. *Sterling Morris*, owner of station *WHIZ*.

4. *Cissie Sommerly*, Billy's girl friend.

5. *Pa Potter*, Billy's landlord. Billy rented an apartment in his home.

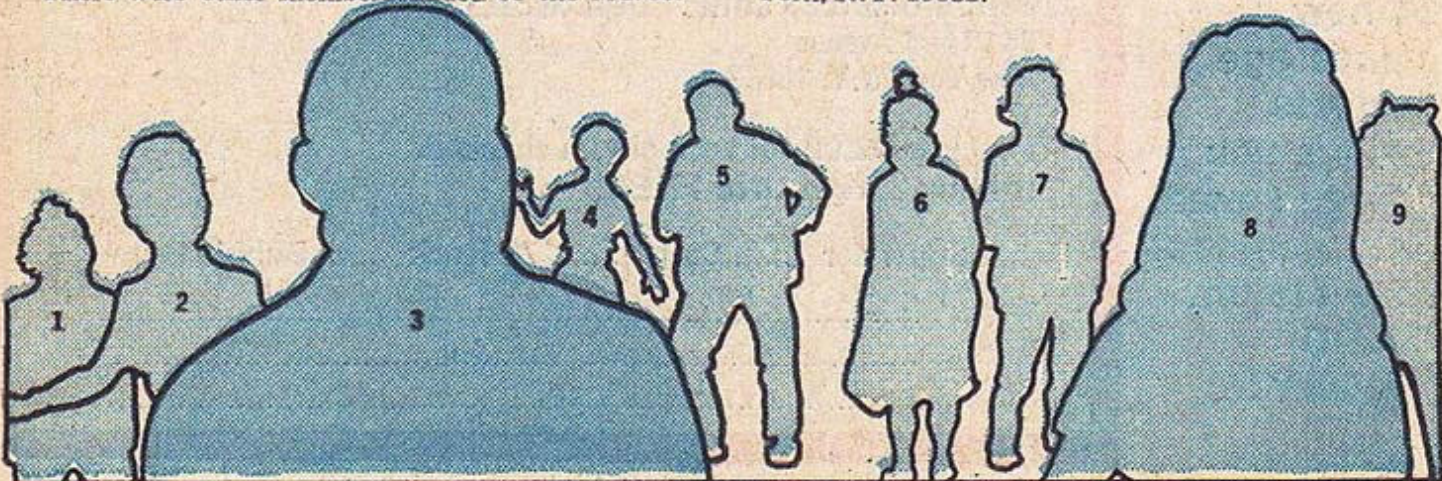
6. *Ma Potter*.

7. *Prof. Edgewise*, eccentric scientific genius who lives in the same boarding house as *Freddy Freeman*.

8. *Beautia Sivana*, elder daughter of *Captain Marvel's* arch-enemy. The difference between her and sister *Georgia* is that *Beautia* is not only beautiful on the outside but basically good on the inside, as well . . . while *Georgia* resembles her father both physically and mentally. *Beautia* has a crush on *Captain Marvel*.

9. *Mr. Tawky Tawny*, the talking tiger. *Mr. Tawny* was an ordinary tiger once—except he'd been raised as a boy's pet. Later, an old hermit who'd invented a serum to raise the intelligence of animals and give them the power of speech, tried it on *Tawny*. Once he became as smart as a human, the tiger began learning about civilization, and finally decided to see what it was like. He wound up working as a museum guide, while living in his own suburban home.

There you have it—a brief background on the *World's Mightiest Mortal*, as he has been dubbed. By the way, in the future, we plan to devote this space to your letters. Only trouble is, we have no suitable title for our letters department. How about sending in your suggestions? The best will be chosen, and the reader who submits it will get a special acknowledgement in *Shazam!* Write to SHAZAM, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



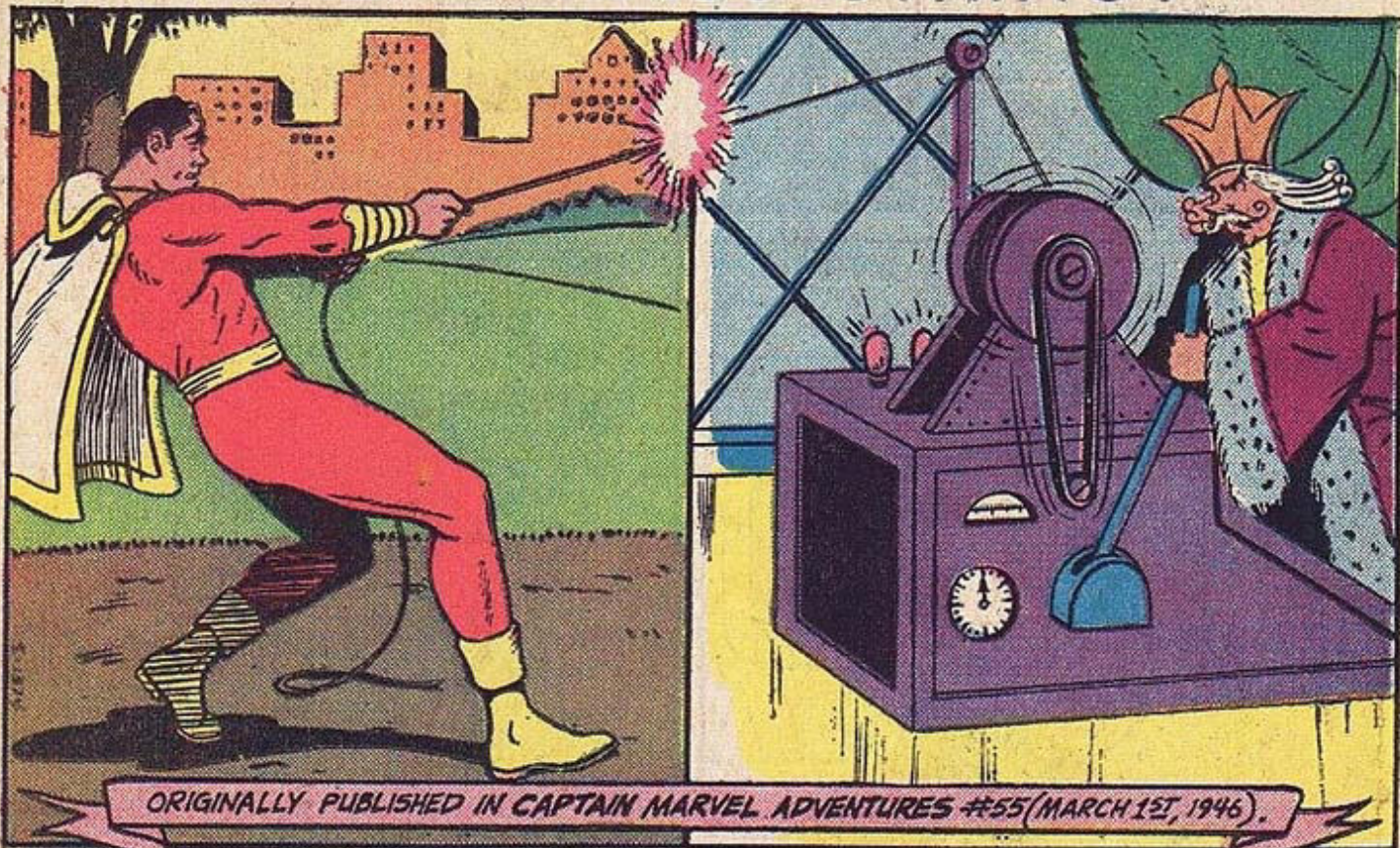


# SHAZAM!

T.M.

*Presents* A GOLDEN AGE CLASSIC *Featuring*  
**THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN MARVEL**

## THE ENDLESS STRING!

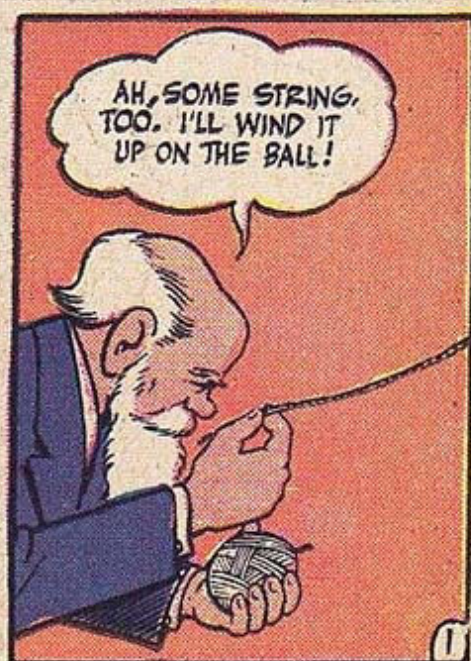


BILLY BATSON SITS AT EASE  
ONE DAY IN THE PARK, AB-  
SORBING SUNSHINE.

SOME PEOPLE ARE  
SO CARELESS,  
TOSSING THINGS  
AROUND!

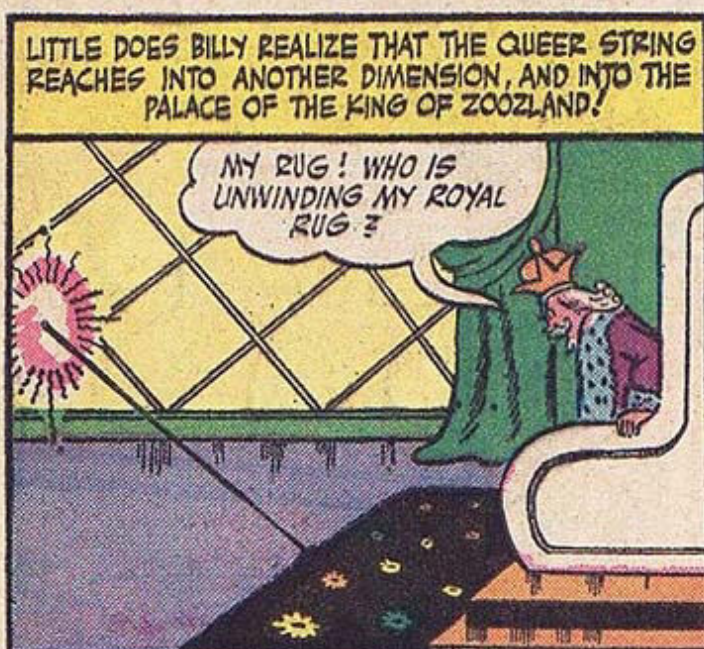
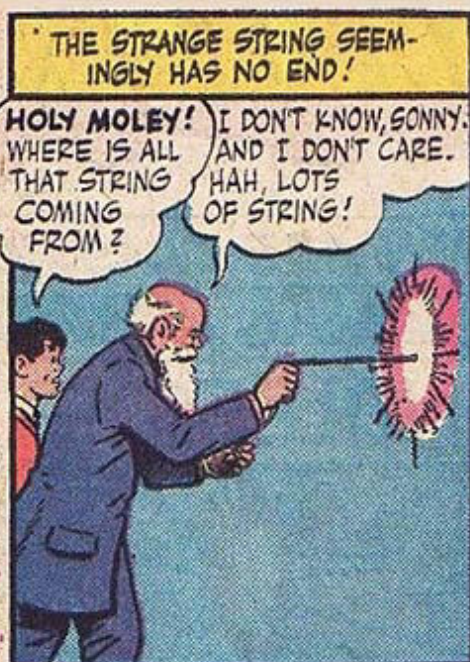
BUT LOOK AT THAT POOR  
OLD MAN. HE COLLECTS BITS  
OF TIN-FOIL, AND OLD  
STRING, TO MAKE A  
FEW PENNIES TO  
LIVE ON!

AH, SOME STRING.  
TOO. I'LL WIND IT  
UP ON THE BALL!





# SHAZAM!



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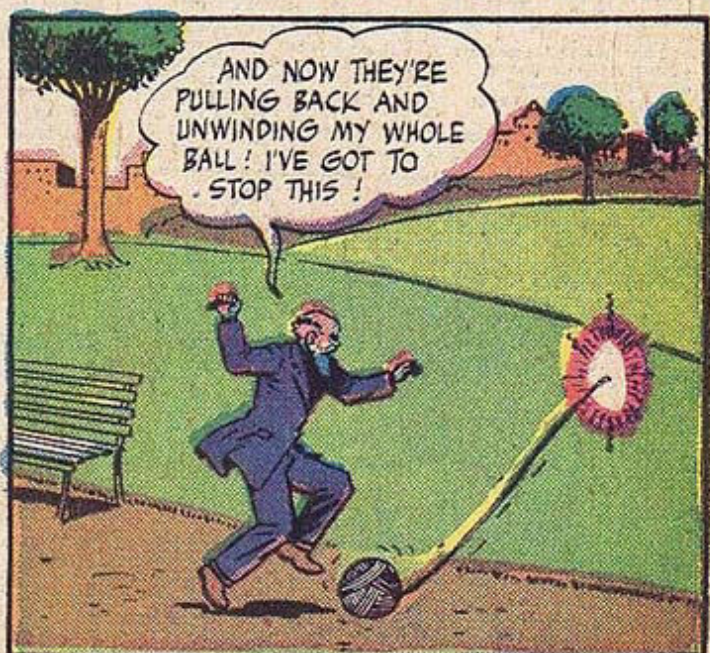
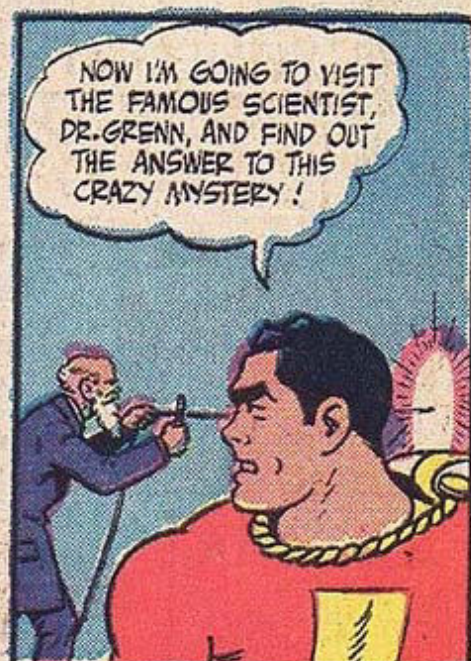


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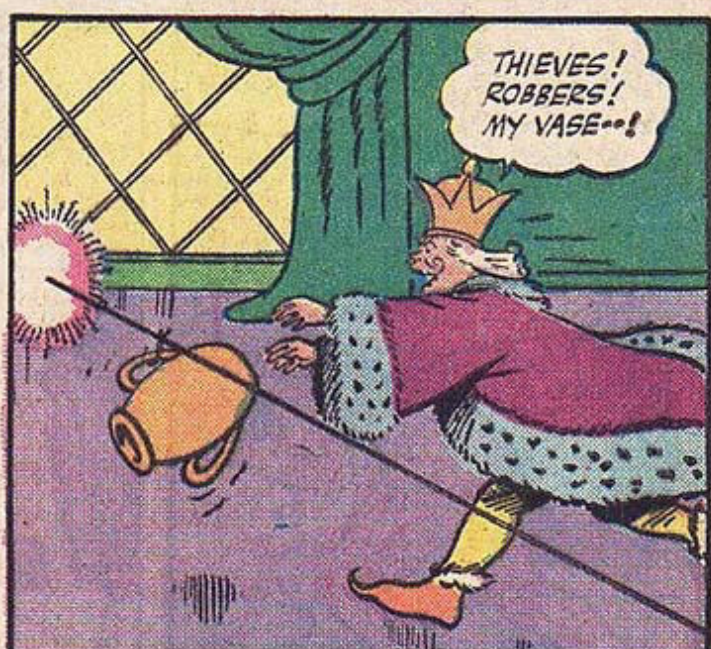
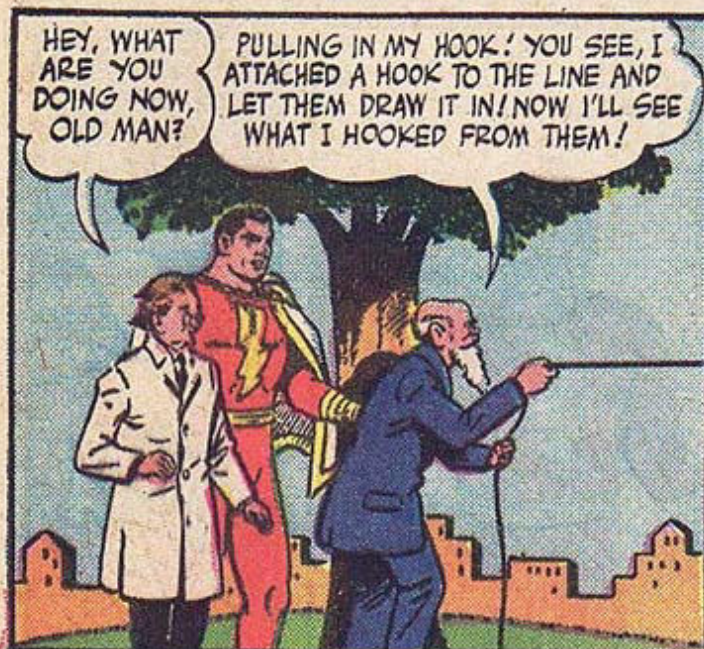


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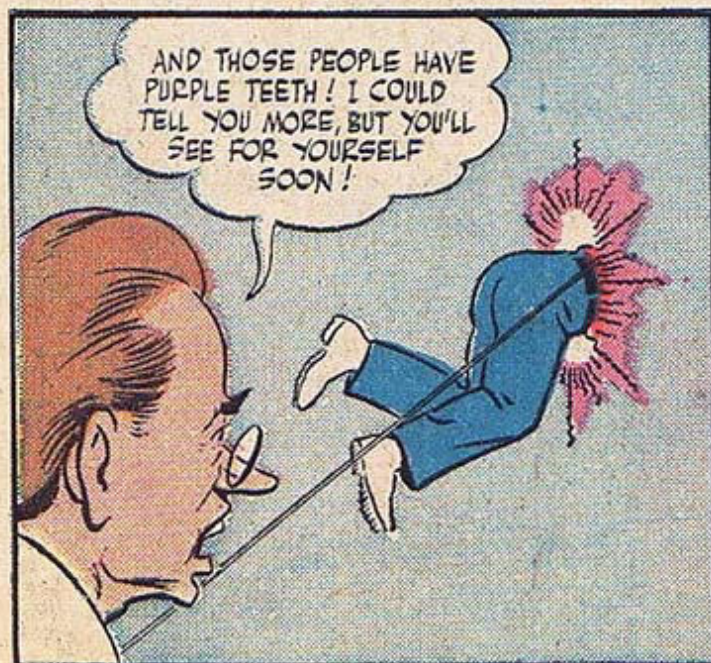


# THE ENDLESS STRING





# SHAZAM!





# THE ENDLESS STRING





# SHAZAM!



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT FEB. 15TH

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# BIG NEWS

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