

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four

52
JULY

12¢

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

Introducing:
THE SENSATIONAL
**BLACK
PANTHER!**



NOW PRESENTING THE CLASSIC FIRST APPEARANCE OF BLACK PANTHER!

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 **FA** 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

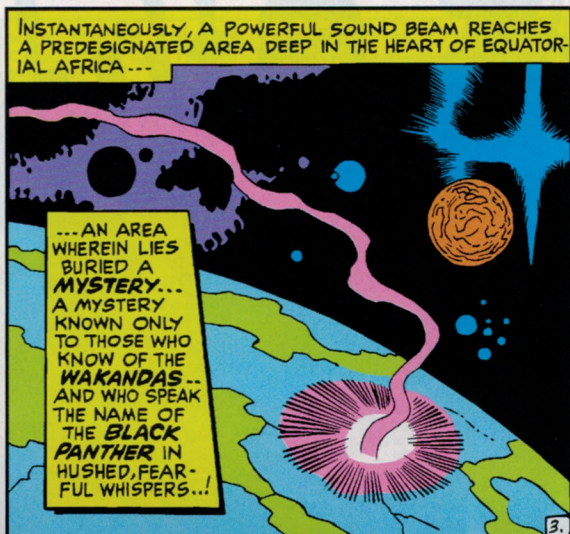
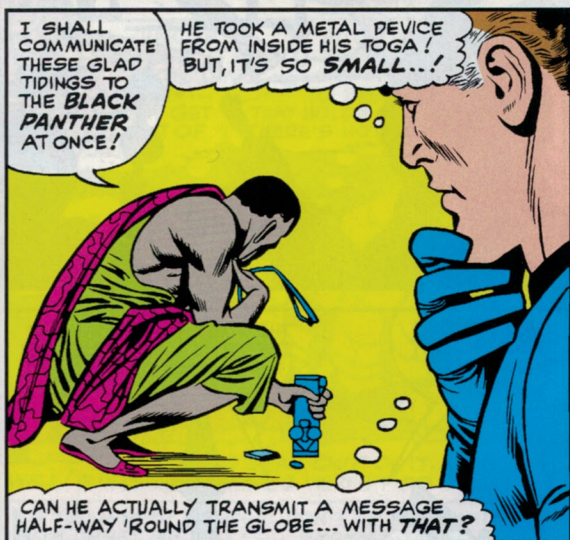
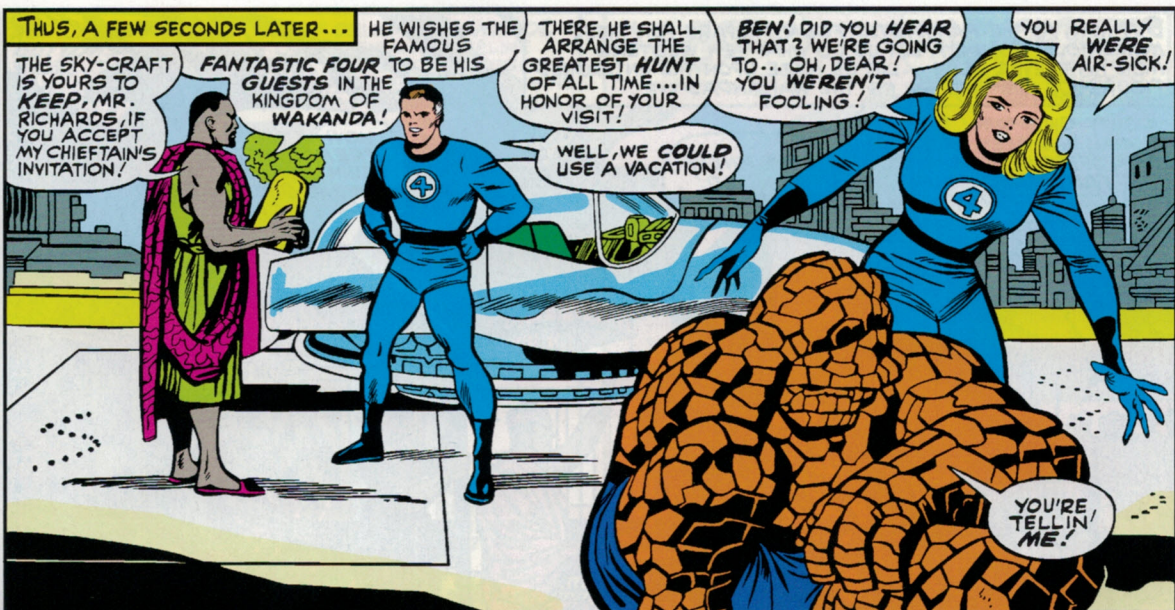
SURPRISED AT YOU! YOU... AN EX-AIR FORCE PILOT... AND THE STRONGEST MAN I KNOW... I THINK YOU'RE GETTING **AIR-SICK**!

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**!

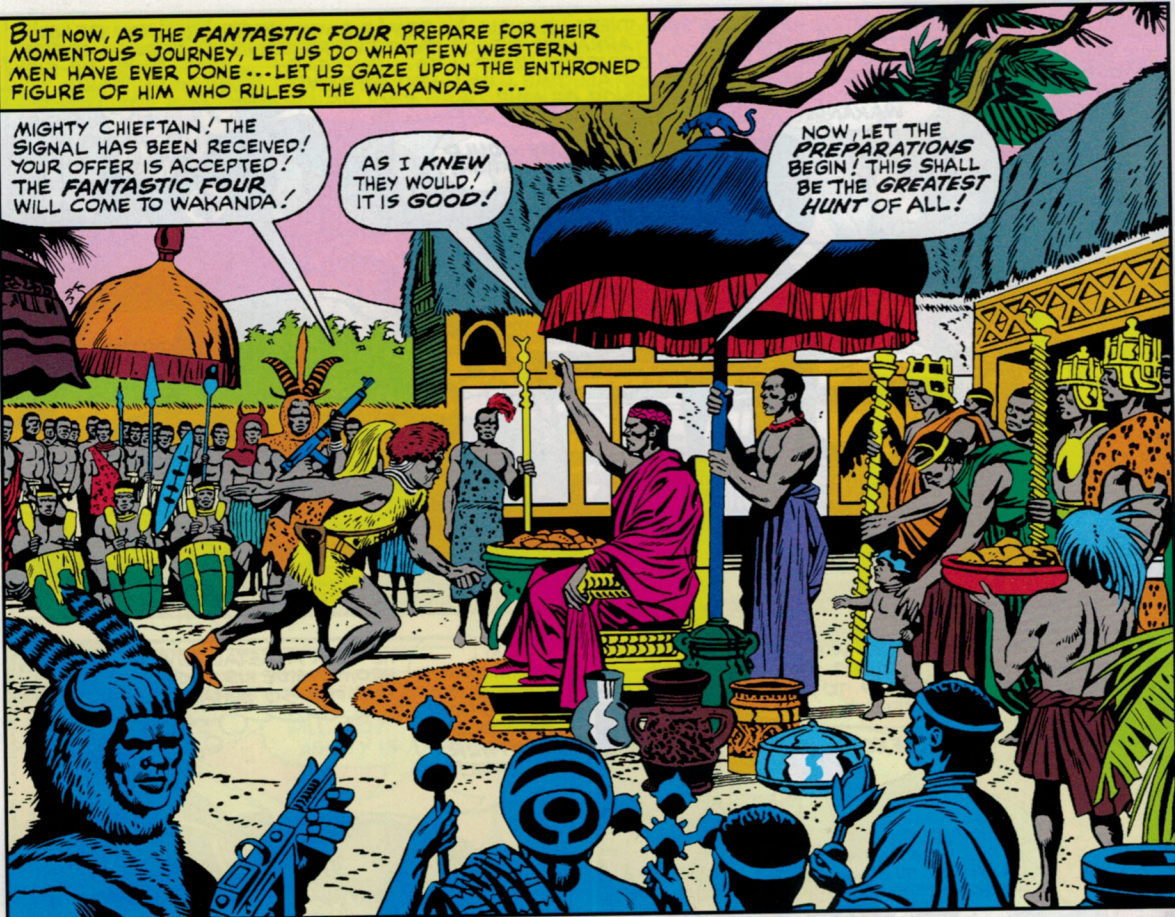


BUT NOW, AS THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** PREPARE FOR THEIR MOMENTOUS JOURNEY, LET US DO WHAT FEW WESTERN MEN HAVE EVER DONE...LET US GAZE UPON THE ENTHRONED FIGURE OF HIM WHO RULES THE WAKANDAS...

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!



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!

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**.

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

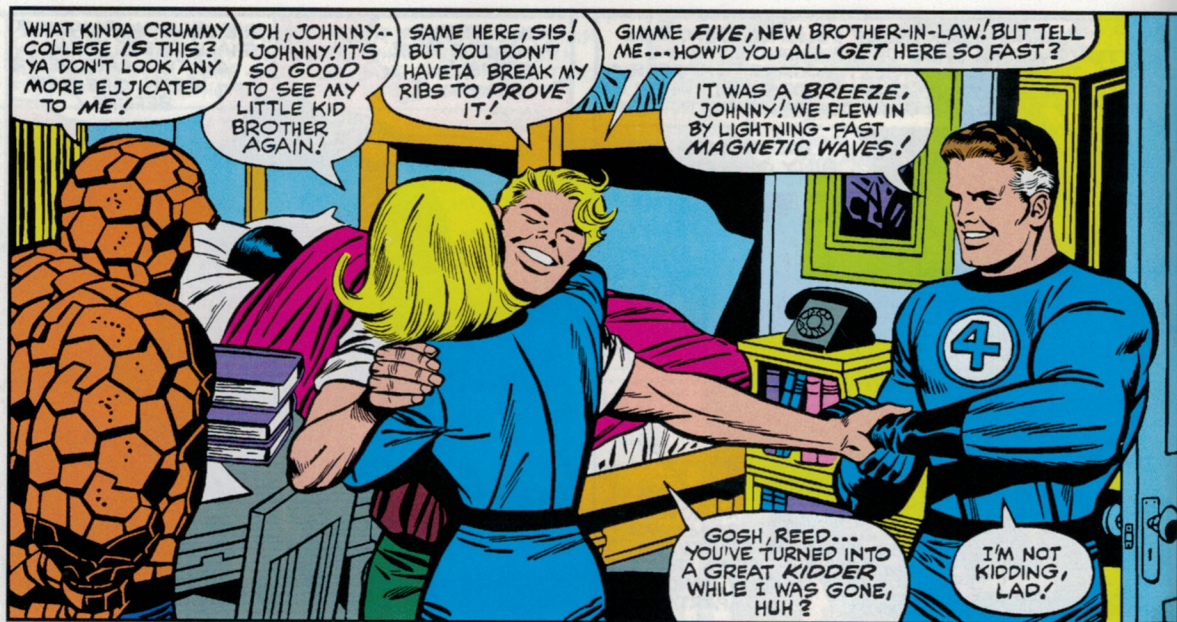
SURPRISE!

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

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

I **KNEW** YA'D BE AS GOOD-NATURED AS EVER, JUNIOR!

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



WHAT KINDA CRUMMY COLLEGE IS THIS? YA DON'T LOOK ANY MORE EJJICATED TO ME!

OH, JOHNNY-- JOHNNY! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE MY LITTLE KID BROTHER AGAIN!

SAME HERE, SIS! BUT YOU DON'T HAVETA BREAK MY RIBS TO PROVE IT!

GIMME FIVE, NEW BROTHER-IN-LAW! BUT TELL ME...HOW'D YOU ALL GET HERE SO FAST?

IT WAS A BREEZE, JOHNNY! WE FLEW IN BY LIGHTNING-FAST MAGNETIC WAVES!

GOSH, REED... YOU'VE TURNED INTO A GREAT KIDDER WHILE I WAS GONE, HUH?

I'M NOT KIDDING, LAD!



IT'S A NEW SHIP...OPERATES ON A BRAND NEW PRINCIPLE! IT WAS THE GIFT OF AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN!

NOW I KNOW YOU'RE CONNIN' ME! HOW DOES AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN LATCH ONTO A PLANE THAT FLIES BY MAGNETIC WAVES?

THAT, LITTLE PARTNER, IS JUST WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!

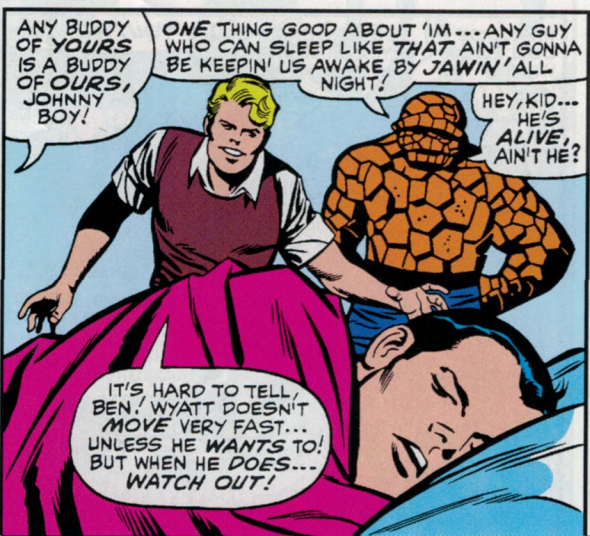
WE'RE LEAVING FOR WAKANDA... RIGHT AWAY! AND YOU'RE GOING WITH US!



LIKE WOW, BROTHER-IN-LAW! THAT'S THE GEAREST!

BUT LOOK... CAN I BRING MY BUDDY, WYATT WINGFOOT? HE'LL FLIP!

SURE, JOHNNY!

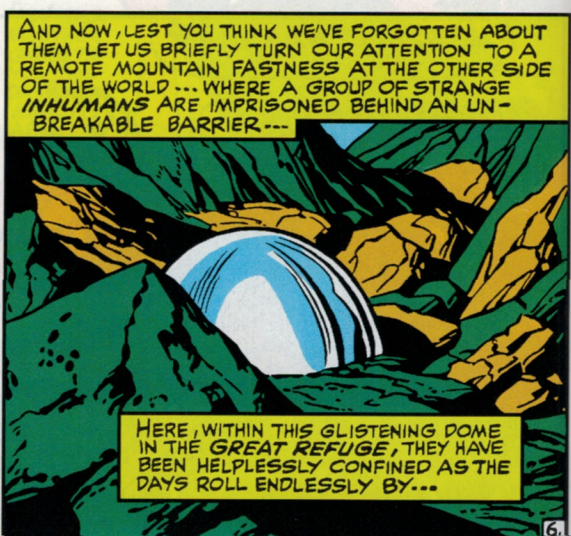


ANY BUDDY OF YOURS IS A BUDDY OF OURS, JOHNNY BOY!

ONE THING GOOD ABOUT 'IM...ANY GUY WHO CAN SLEEP LIKE THAT AIN'T GONNA BE KEEPIN' US AWAKE BY JAWIN' ALL NIGHT!

HEY, KID... HE'S ALIVE, AIN'T HE?

IT'S HARD TO TELL, BEN. WYATT DOESN'T MOVE VERY FAST... UNLESS HE WANTS TO! BUT WHEN HE DOES... WATCH OUT!



AND NOW, LEST YOU THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM, LET US BRIEFLY TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A REMOTE MOUNTAIN FASTNESS AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD... WHERE A GROUP OF STRANGE INHUMANS ARE IMPRISONED BEHIND AN UN-BREAKABLE BARRIER---

HERE, WITHIN THIS GLISTENING DOME IN THE GREAT REFUGE, THEY HAVE BEEN HELPLESSLY CONFINED AS THE DAYS ROLL ENDLESSLY BY...



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!

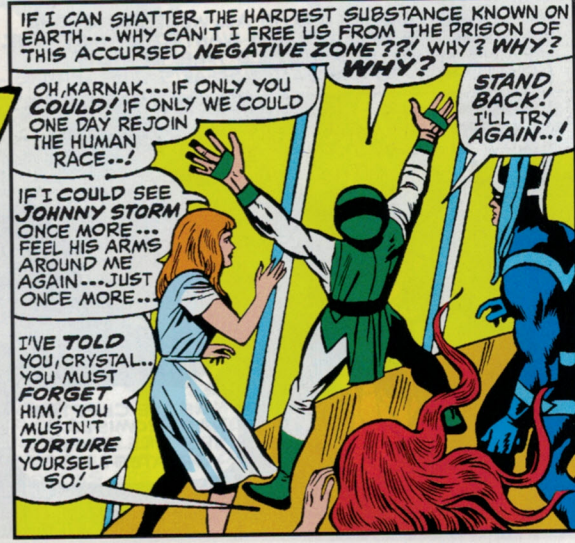
BUT, A NEGATIVE ZONE IS DIFFERENT! IT CAN REPEL ANY POSITIVE MATTER!

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...

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

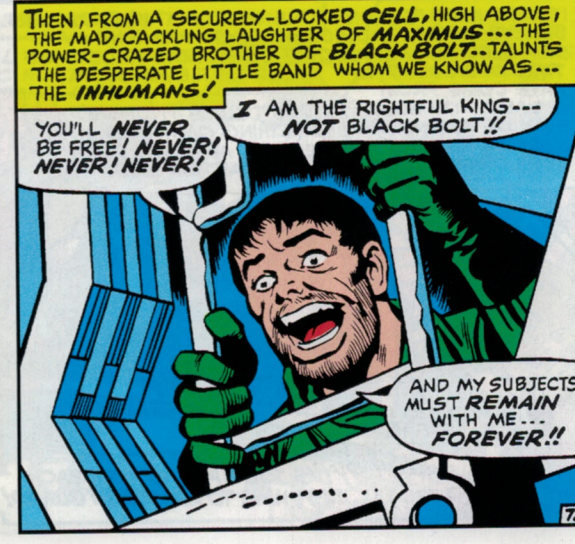
I'VE TOLD YOU, CRYSTAL... YOU MUST FORGET HIM! YOU MUSTN'T TORTURE YOURSELF SO!

STAND BACK! I'LL TRY AGAIN!!



ARRRRHHHH!

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

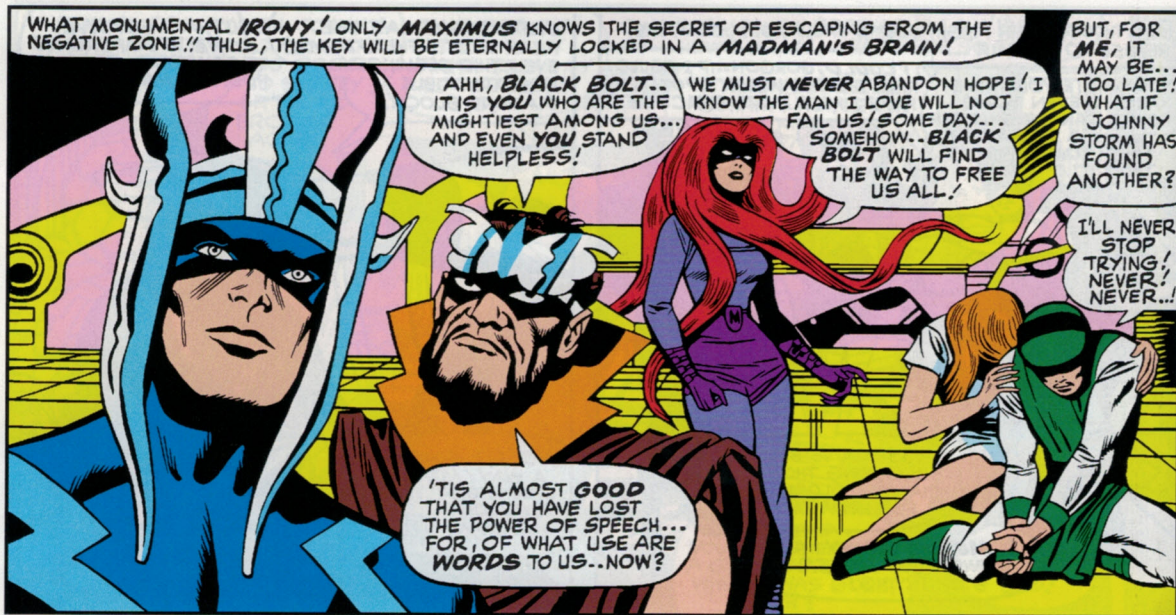


THEN, FROM A SECURELY-LOCKED CELL, HIGH ABOVE, THE MAD, CACKLING LAUGHTER OF MAXIMUS... THE POWER-CRAZED BROTHER OF BLACK BOLT... TAUNTS THE DESPERATE LITTLE BAND WHOM WE KNOW AS... THE INHUMANS!

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

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

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 ISH! 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 SNORED HIS WAY THROUGH THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE!

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**!

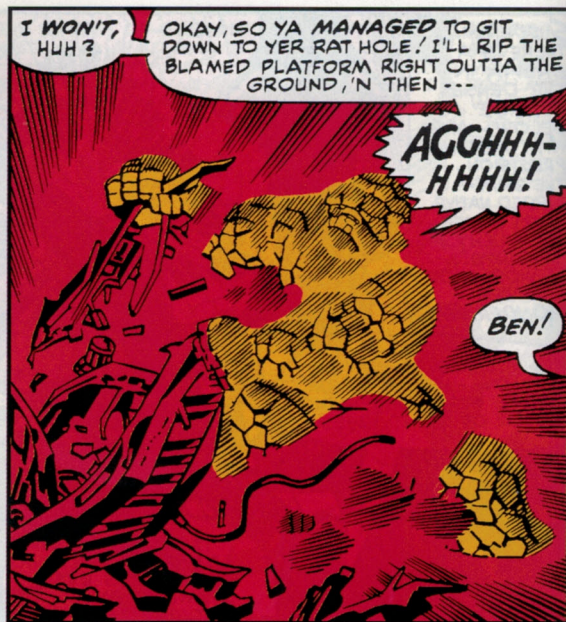
PHOOEY! IT'LL TAKE MORE'N A MESS'A **CHROME-PLATED NUTS 'N BOLTS** TO SCARE ME!





HEY, LOOK! IT'S LAUGHIN' BOY! THAT'S WHERE HE DISAPPEARED TO! HE'S MAKIN' A GETAWAY DOWN THAT BLAMED ELEVATOR!

LUMBERING FOOL! YOU'LL NEVER REACH ME IN TIME!



I WON'T, HUH?

OKAY, SO YA MANAGED TO GIT DOWN TO YER RAT HOLE! I'LL RIP THE BLAMED PLATFORM RIGHT OUTTA THE GROUND, 'N THEN ---

AGGHHH-HHHH!

BEN!



IT WUZ A TRAP!... SOME KINDA ELECTRIC SHOCK... WAITIN' FER WHOEVER TOUCHED THAT METAL!

EASY, BIG FELLA... EASY! LEAN ON ME, BEN... I'LL HELP YOU!

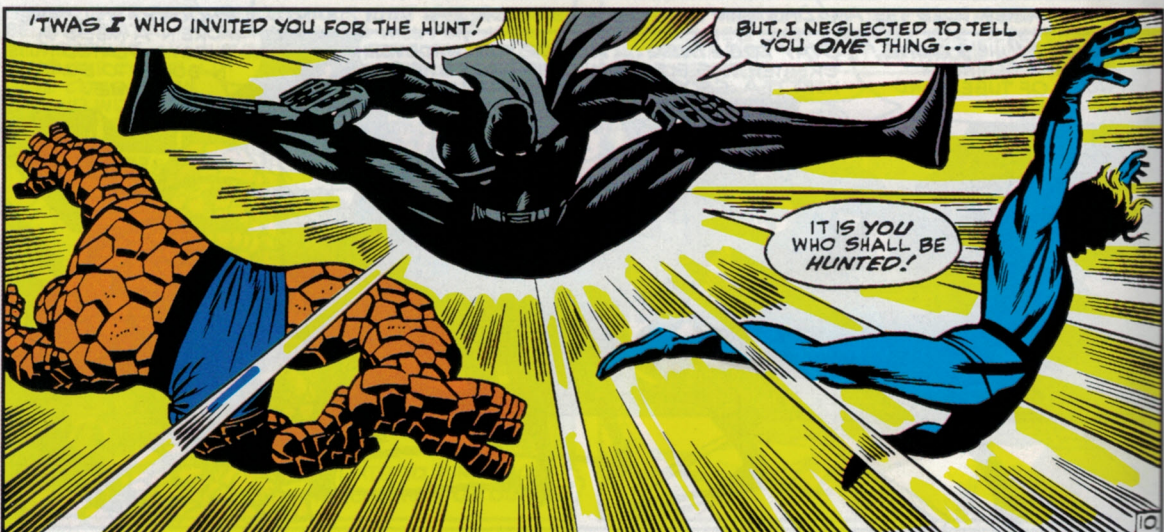
BUT... WHAT'D IT DO TO ME ?? I... I'M AS WEAK AS A BLAMED YANCY STREETER...!



YOU WASTE YOUR TIME, JOHNNY STORM! NOTHING CAN HELP ANY OF YOU NOW!

THOSE ELECTRIC VOLTS HAVE CAUSED A CHAIN REACTION IN HIS BLOOD CELLS WHICH WILL WEAKEN HIM FOR FIVE MINUTES!

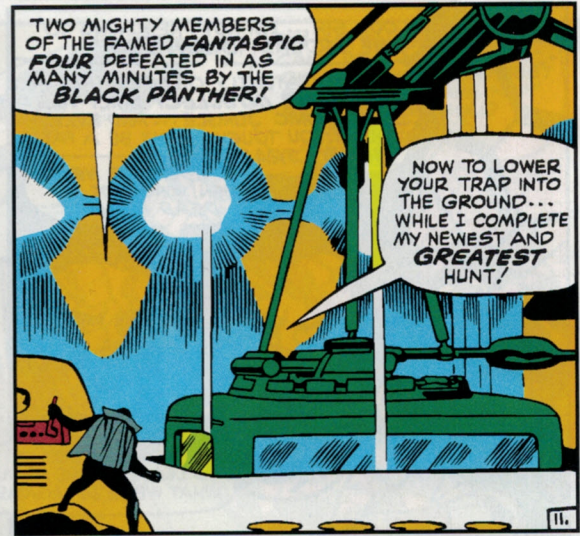
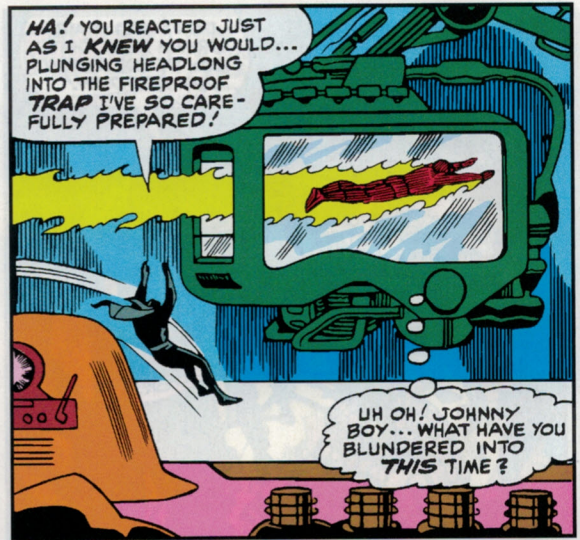
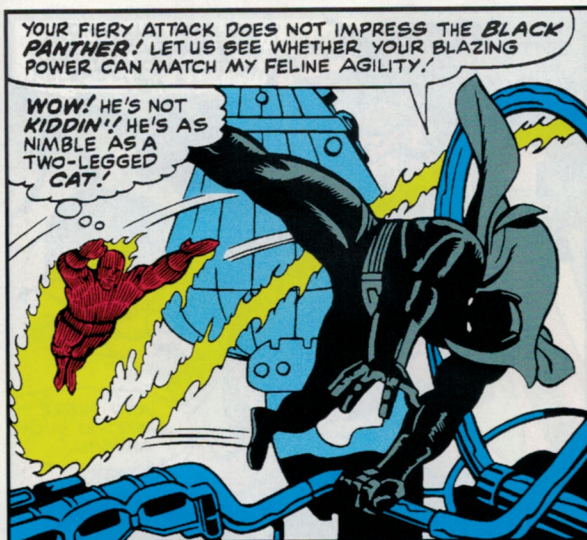
AND THAT IS ALL THE TIME THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL NEED!



'TWAS I WHO INVITED YOU FOR THE HUNT!

BUT, I NEGLECTED TO TELL YOU ONE THING...

IT IS YOU WHO SHALL BE HUNTED!





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!

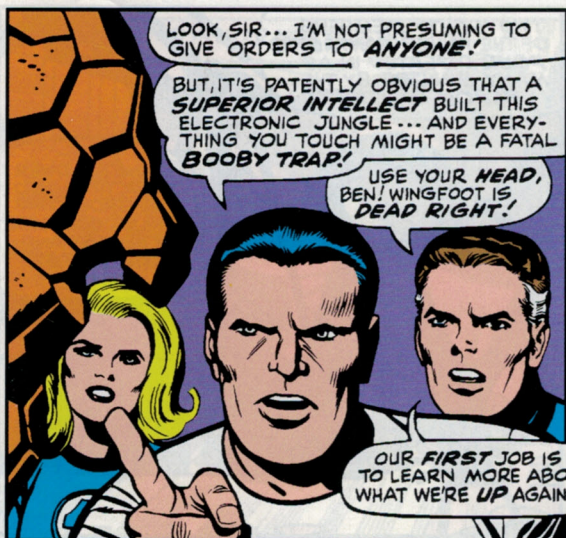
RELAX, STRETCHO! I'M JUST TESTIN' MY EVER-LOVIN' STRENGTH!



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!

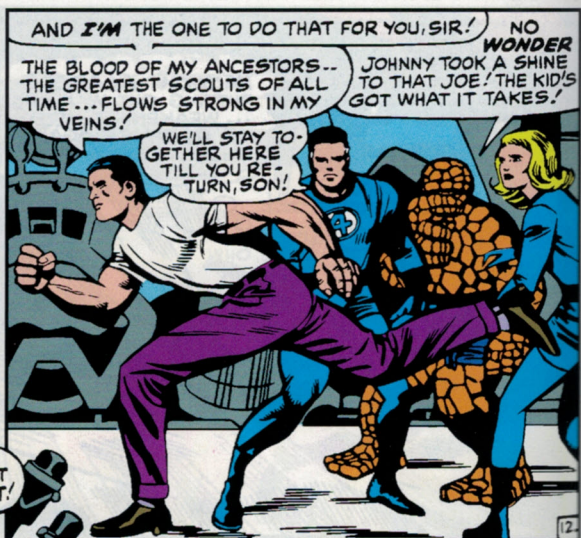


LOOK, SIR... I'M NOT PRESUMING TO GIVE ORDERS TO **ANYONE!**

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 **WONDER**

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

JOHNNY TOOK A SHINE TO THAT JOE! THE KID'S 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 CRYIN' TOWEL?!!

HEY... LISTEN! WHAT'SAT?

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!

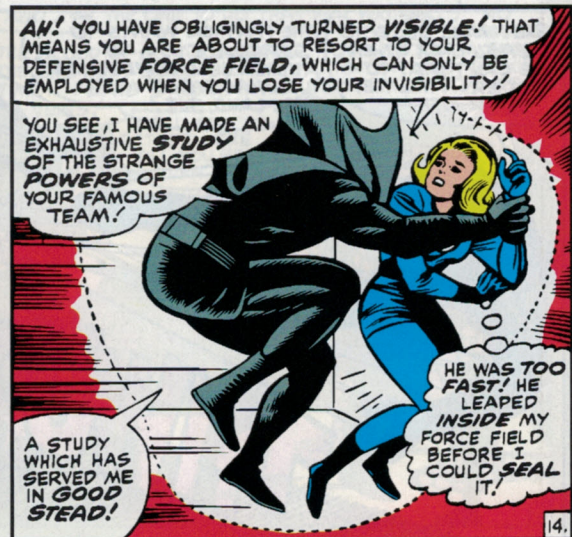
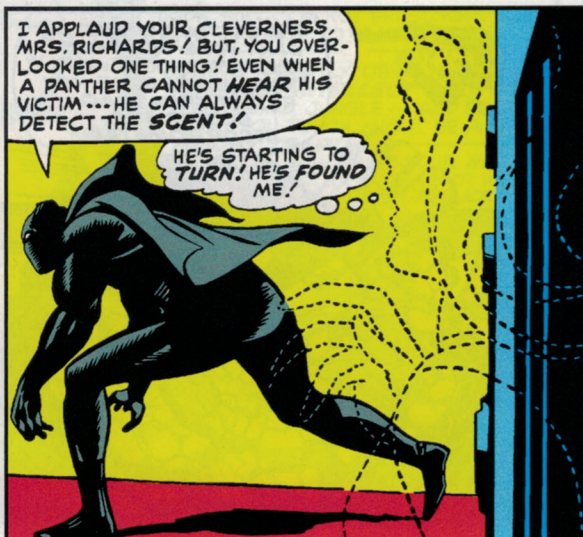
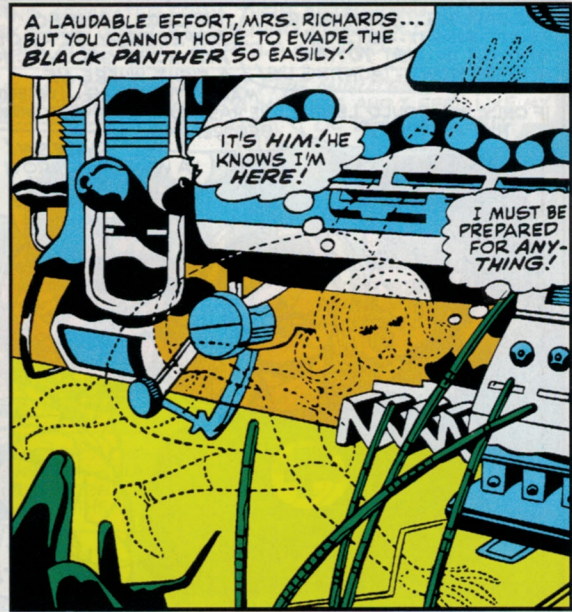
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHAT ARE THEY...?

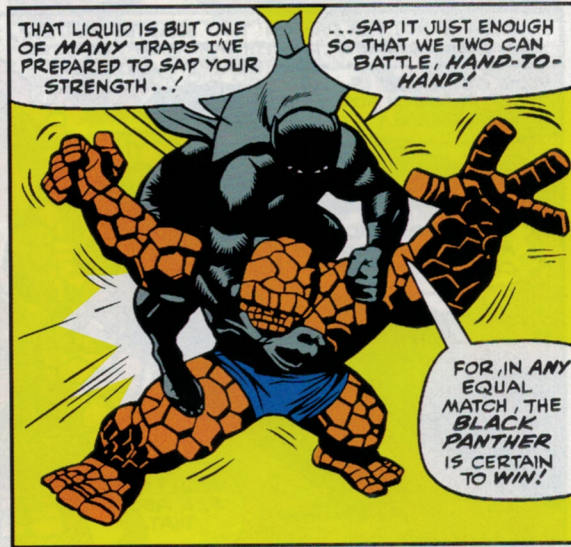
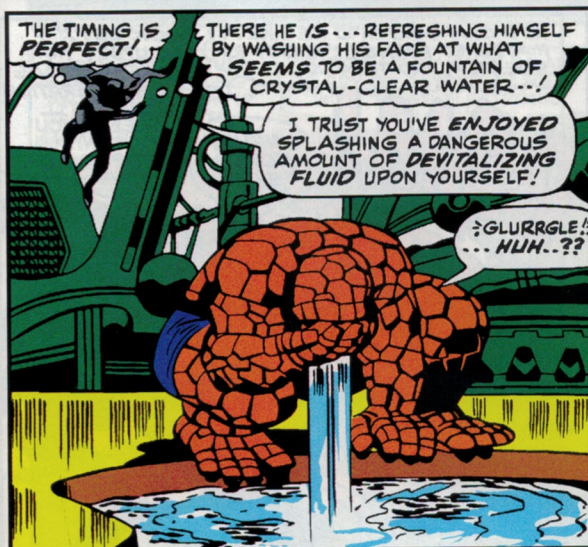
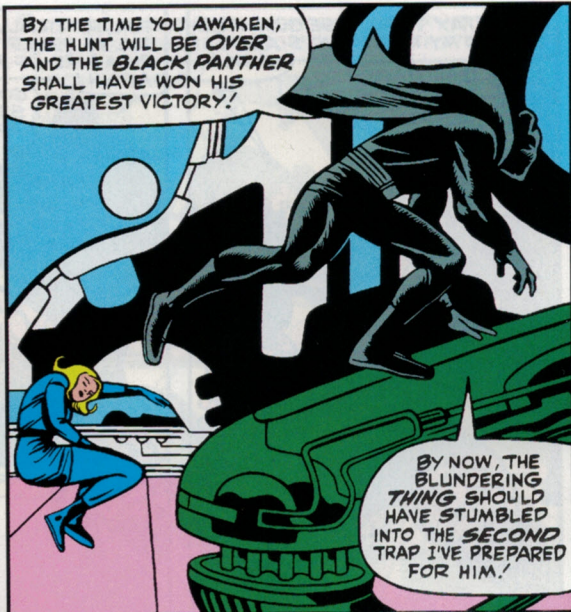
THEY MAKE OBJECTS REPEL EACH OTHER! WE CAN'T STAY TOGETHER...TILL THEY WEAR OFF!

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 SHOOT OUTTA THE HOUSE WITHOUT RUNNIN' INTO SOME NEW REJECT FROM MAD SCIENTISTS, INCORPORATED!

THWUP!





JUST **STAY** THERE, WISE GUY...TILL I GIT TO MY FEET! THAT'S **ALL** I ASK!
I SHALL BE **HAPPY** TO OBLIGE YOU!



FOR, AFTER ALL ... **UNTIL** YOU STAND, I'LL BE DENIED THE EXQUISITE PLEASURE OF **FLOORING** YOU AGAIN!



GOTTA **STEADY** MY-SELF! CAN'T FALL APART JUST 'CAUSE HE **WEAKENED** ME WITH THAT PHONY WATER!

THEN **SUDDENLY** ...WITH FEROCIOUS SPEED TOTALLY BELYING HIS MAMMOTH BULK, THE **THING** STRIKES BACK...!

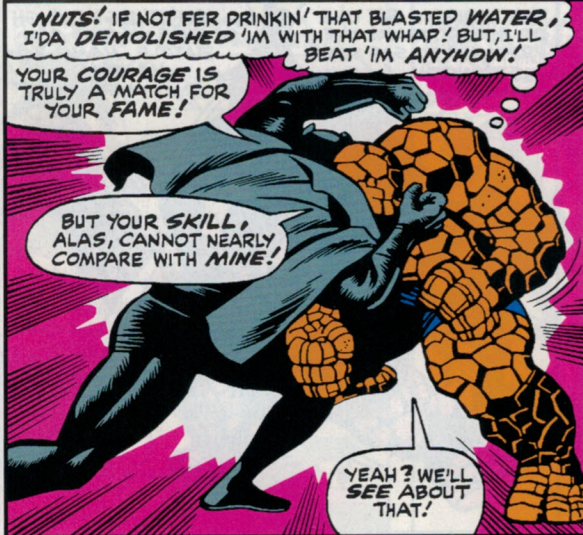


MEBBE THIS'LL SHUT YER YAP FER A WHILE!

NUTS! IF NOT FER DRINKIN' THAT **BLASTED** WATER, I'DA **DEMOLISHED** 'IM WITH THAT WHAP! BUT, I'LL BEAT 'IM **ANYHOW!**

YOUR **COURAGE** IS TRULY A MATCH FOR YOUR **FAME!**

BUT YOUR **SKILL**, ALAS, CANNOT NEARLY COMPARE WITH **MINE!**



YEAH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

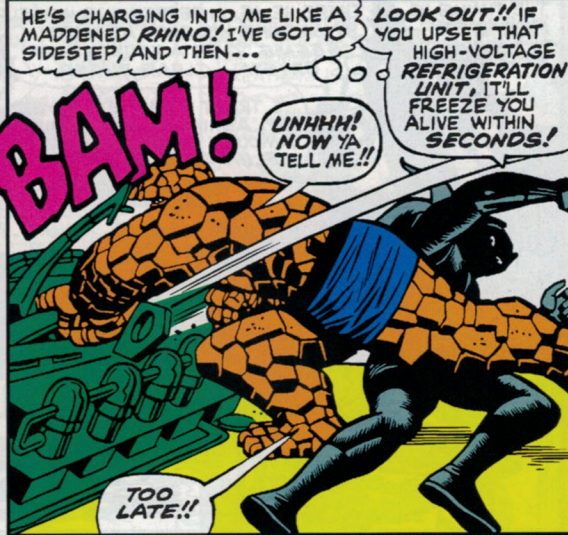
HE'S CHARGING INTO ME LIKE A **MADDENED RHINO!** I'VE GOT TO SIDESTEP, AND THEN...

LOOK OUT!! IF YOU UPSET THAT **HIGH-VOLTAGE REFRIGERATION UNIT**, IT'LL FREEZE YOU ALIVE WITHIN **SECONDS!**

BAM!

UNHHH! NOW YA TELL ME!!

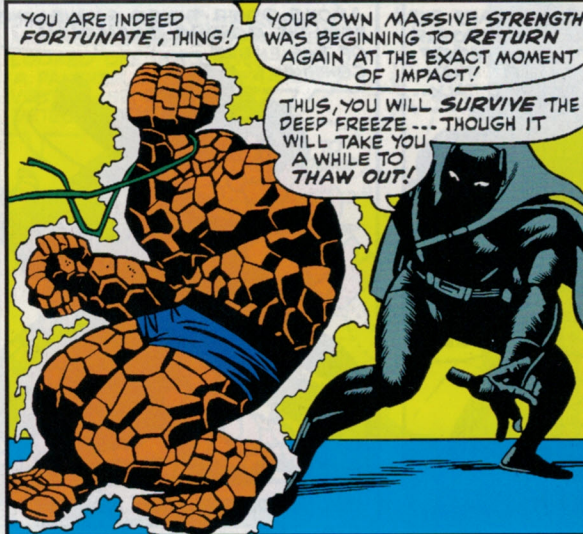
TOO LATE!!



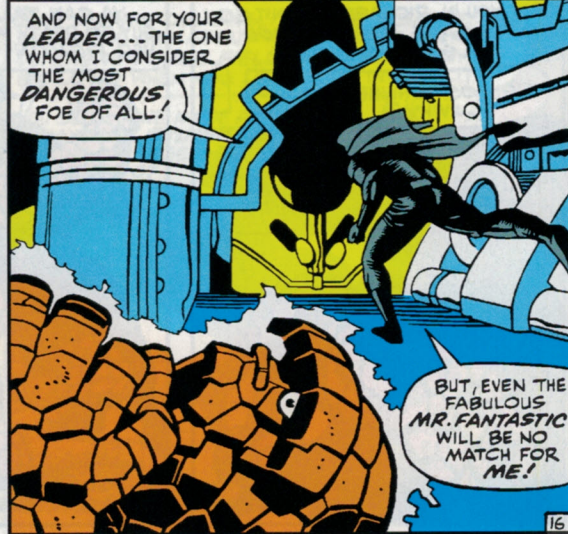
YOU ARE INDEED **FORTUNATE**, THING!

YOUR OWN **MASSIVE STRENGTH** WAS BEGINNING TO **RETURN** AGAIN AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF IMPACT!

THUS, YOU WILL **SURVIVE** THE DEEP FREEZE ...THOUGH IT WILL TAKE YOU A WHILE TO **THAW OUT!**



AND NOW FOR YOUR **LEADER**...THE ONE WHOM I CONSIDER THE MOST **DANGEROUS** FOE OF ALL!



BUT, EVEN THE **FABULOUS MR. FANTASTIC** WILL BE NO MATCH FOR **ME!**

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

SO! THE EDGE OF THE REAL JUNGLE, AT LAST! BUT, WHAT'S THIS?

A HIDDEN OBSERVATION POST... THE WAKANDAS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY MONITORING THE F.F.!

OUR CHIEFTAIN MUST DEFEAT ONLY ONE MORE TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL OF TOTAL VICTORY!

THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL NOT FAIL!

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

IF I CAN CRIPPLE THE BLACK PANTHER'S COMMUNICATIONS, IT MAY HELP THE F.F.!

BAM!

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!

AND NOW, I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE OTHERS... WHILE I STILL CAN!

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

SO LONG AS THEY'RE SURROUNDED BY ALL OF THE BLACK PANTHER'S ELABORATE TRAPS, THE ODDS MUST BE AGAINST THEM!

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

I'M TOO LATE!! THEY'RE GONE!

WAIT...WHAT'S THIS? THE GROUND...IT FEELS WARM!

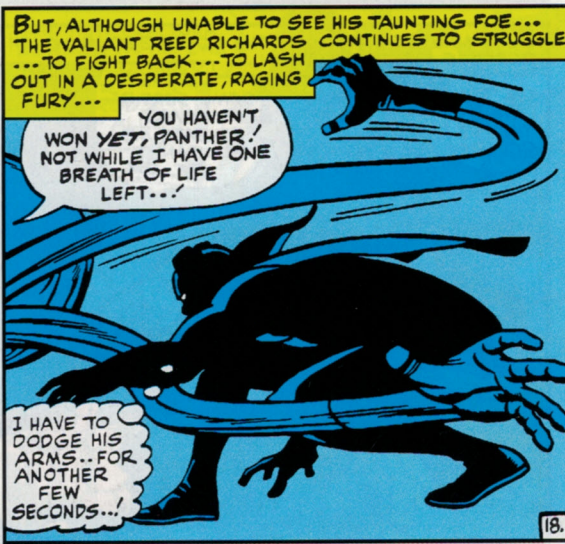
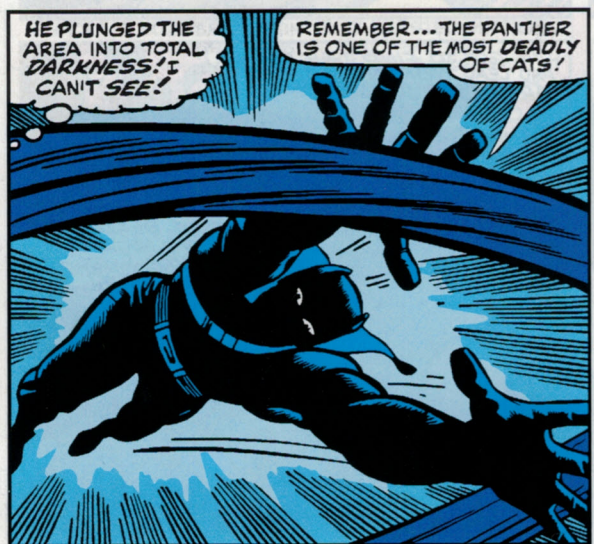
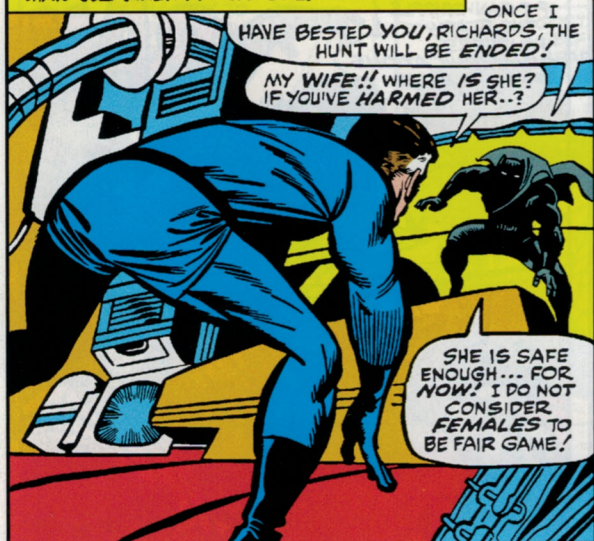
IS THERE SOME SORT OF DYNAMO BENEATH ME, OR...CAN IT BE...?!!

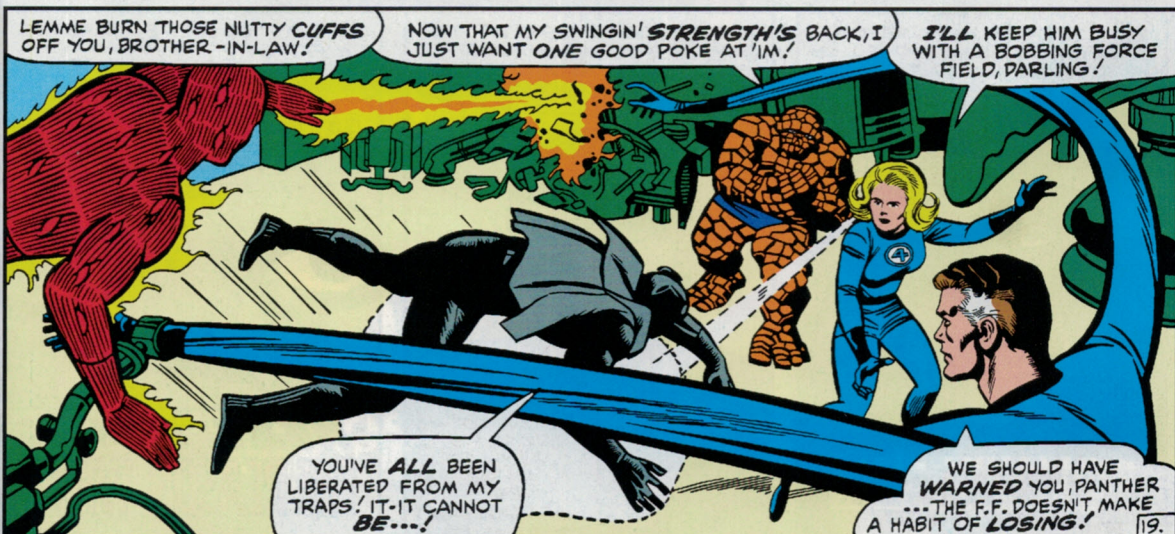
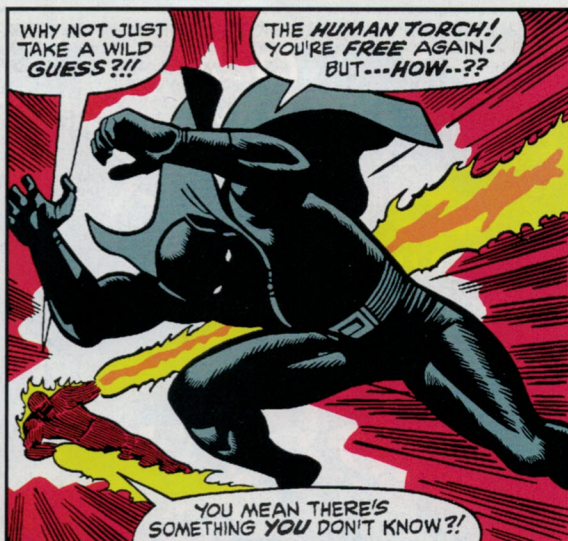
THE INTENSITY OF THE HEAT KEEPS VARYING! THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE EXPLANATION...

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

NO MATTER WHAT... I MUSTN'T FAIL HIM!

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







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!

HOW? HOW DID YOU DO IT? I **MUST** KNOW!



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!



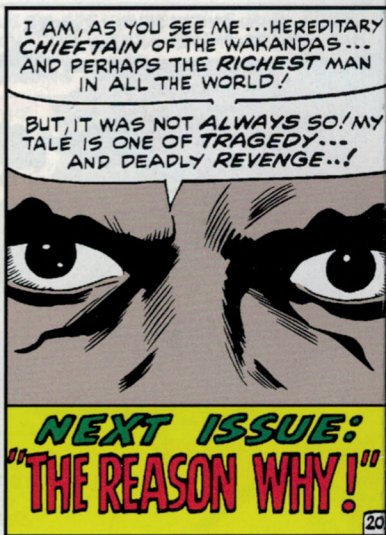
BUT, I THINK YOU MIGHT REMOVE YOUR **MASK** NOW...AND TELL US WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

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!"