



MAY
NO. 25



TALES OF THE

UNEXPECTED

10¢



WARNING TO ALL
PLANETS! THIS
ESCAPED CRIMINAL
IS DANGEROUS!
DO NOT REMOVE
HIS MASK--OR
YOU WILL BE
DOOMED!

Featuring
**"The
MARTIAN
in the
IRON
MASK!"**



THE WARNING WAS FLASHED THROUGHOUT THE SOLAR SYSTEM-- DO NOT REMOVE THE MASK, OR THE MARTIAN'S AWESOME EYES WOULD DO THEIR TERRIBLE WORK! THOSE EYES COULD ENTRANCE YOU-- HYPNOTIZE YOU-- ENSLAVE YOU! THEY COULD MAKE THE UNREAL SEEM REAL-- THE IMPOSSIBLE SEEM POSSIBLE! BUT NOW THAT THE MASK WAS REMOVED, EARTH HAD TO COME UP WITH AN ANSWER TO THE SHATTERING POWERS OF...

THE MARTIAN IN THE IRON MASK



IN A MOMENT, I WILL HAVE YOU FREE OF THE MASK!

FREE, INDEED-- TO TURN MY GAZE UPON EARTH-- AND MASTER YOUR WORLD!

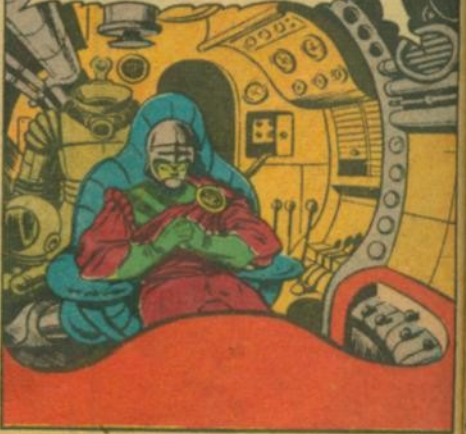
AN ALARMING SOLAR-TELECAST IS MADE FROM THE PLANET MARS...

TO ALL PLANETS! THIS IS THE MARTIAN IN THE IRON MASK WHO HAS ESCAPED! REPEAT-- HE HAS ESCAPED!



IN A SMALL CRAFT, FAR OUT IN SPACE...

--HE HAS ESCAPED! ALL PEOPLES OF ALL WORLDS ARE WARNED: HIS EYES ARE AN AWESOME WEAPON-- AND MUST BE KEPT COVERED! HE IS A WIZARD-- POSSESSING INCREDIBLE ILLUSIONARY POWERS...





ON HIS MASK, IN THE MAJOR LANGUAGES OF ALL THE PLANETS, THE WARNING IS INSCRIBED: **DO NOT REMOVE THE MASK!**



AFTER THE SHIP SETS DOWN IN A REMOTE EARTHIAN COUNTRYSIDE... THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE, TRANSPARENT SHIELD ENABLES ME TO SEE, BUT IT NEUTRALIZES MY POWERS! AH, THAT HOUSE! PERHAPS ITS OCCUPANT DIDN'T HEAR THE BROADCAST! I COULD WORK MY TRICK ON HIM!



SOME MOMENTS LATER...
EH? WHO ARE YOU? I SEE THAT YOU ARE A MAN OF SCIENCE! PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME! I AM A SPACE-PATROLMAN, CAPTURED BY THE MARTIAN CRIMINAL! HE LOCKED HIS MASK ON ME!



LET ME EXAMINE IT! HMM-- IT APPEARS TO BE A TYPE OF **ATOMIC LOCK!**

YES--YES! CAN YOU OPEN IT?



PERHAPS! WITH ELECTRICAL IMPULSES, I CAN DISTURB THE NUCLEAR ARRANGEMENT-- AND POSSIBLY SPRING THE CATCH...



A FAINT CLICK SOUNDS WITHIN THE LOCK, AND THEN...

THERE-- YOU ARE FREE OF THE MASK!

YES-- FREE AT LAST!



I MUST DEPART NOW TO RESUME MY PURSUIT OF THE CRIMINAL!

CAN'T LET THEM SEE MY EYES... THEY'D KNOW MY REAL IDENTITY AND SOUND AN ALARM!

WAIT! THE MANSERVANT SAW MY EYES IN THE MIRROR! WHY WASN'T HE AFFECTED? WHY DIDN'T HE SPEAK UP? OBVIOUSLY, THE MIRROR DIDN'T REFLECT MY FULL POWER!



THEN AFTER THE MARTIAN HAS DEPARTED...

DUSK IS FALLING, ANDREW! OUR WORK IS DONE FOR THE DAY! GOOD NIGHT...



GOOD NIGHT...

AT DAWN, EARLY RISERS IN A LARGE CITY ARE STARTLED BY A STRANGE SIGHT...



WHO IS IT? WHAT'S HE DOING UP THERE?

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HIM? HE'S THE MARTIAN WHOSE ESCAPE WAS ANNOUNCED ON THE SOLAR-TELECAST, BUT HIS MASK IS MISSING!

IN MOMENTS, A POLICE CAR, ITS SIREN SHRILLING, RACES TO THE SCENE...

UP THERE, OFFICERS! HE'S ON THE ROOF!



HA, HA! THE FOOLS!

THEN THE EYES--THE AWFUL, HYPNOTIC EYES--STARE INTENTLY AT THE CROWD...



AND BEFORE THE STARING ON-LOOKERS, THE MARTIAN SEEMS TO DESCEND THROUGH THE VERY BUILDING ITSELF--WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SPLIT ASUNDER!



IN REALITY, THE BUILDING IS UNCHANGED...



UNDER MY SPELL, THEIR VERY WORLD SEEMS TO SHATTER BEFORE THEIR EYES! LOOK AT THEM FLEE!

LATER, THE MARTIAN USES HIS EYES WITHIN A BANK...



THE MONEY! SOMETHING'S WRONG! GET THE MONEY!

THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FLOATING BILLS!

SO THEY THINK! MEANWHILE, I'LL HELP MYSELF--THEN CLEAR OUT!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, OUTSIDE...



THERE HE IS! GET HIM!

NOW WATCH!



THEIR PUNY WEAPONS ARE MERE TOYS BEFORE MY GAZE!



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR GUNS!

HE'S GETTING AWAY! HE'S CROSSING THE BRIDGE!



AS THE POLICE PURSUE, THE MARTIAN PAUSES TO FIX HIS GAZE ON THE BRIDGE...



BACK UP! FOR PETE'S SAKE, BACK UP! THE BRIDGE IS EXPLODING!

MEANWHILE, AT THE HOUSE IN THE REMOTE COUNTRY-SIDE...



ANDREW! I JUST HEARD A RADIO REPORT! WE WERE TRICKED, ANDREW! WE UNLEASHED THE MARTIAN CRIMINAL ON OUR CITY! WE MUST HURRY THERE IN OUR HELICOPTER!

YES, SIR...

WITHIN THE HOUR, THE HELICOPTER LANDS, AND...

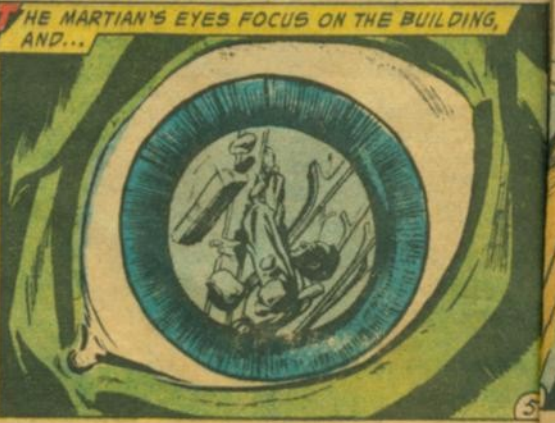


FROM THE HEIGHTS OF THIS BUILDING, I CAN GAZE UPON THE WHOLE CITY-- TRAP ITS ENTIRE POPULATION WITH MY HYPNOTIC EYES!

ALL RIGHT, ANDREW! GO AHEAD! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!



EH? WHAT'S THIS? THE MANSERVANT AGAIN! THEY DARE SEND ONE MERE MAN AFTER ME!



THE MARTIAN'S EYES FOCUS ON THE BUILDING, AND...



BUT...
WHAT? IT DIDN'T WORK! THE FOOL SHOULD'VE TOPPLED IN FRIGHT! I'LL TURN ON MY FULL POWER!



TO FEARFUL WATCHERS, THE SKYSCRAPER SEEMS TO BREAK APART WITH A RESOUNDING CRASH...

KWHAAM

THE BUILDING! HE'S BROKEN IT!



BUT OBLIVIOUS TO THE MARTIAN'S FANTASTIC STARE, THE RELENTLESS ANDREW CLIMBS HIGHER... HIGHER...

WHAT MANNER OF MAN ARE YOU? YOU SHOULD HAVE FALLEN! WHY DON'T YOU?



STAY BACK! STAY BACK, I SAY!



WILDLY, THE MARTIAN RETREATS, BUT A SINGLE MISSTEP, AND...

THE MARTIAN FELL!



SOMETIME LATER...

YOUR MAN IS A HERO, SIR-- HE LITERALLY SAVED EARTH! BUT WHY WASN'T HE AFFECTED BY THE HYPNOTIC STARES?

ANDREW IS A VERY UNUSUAL "MAN." THERE ARE VERY FEW, IF ANY, LIKE HIM. BUT THEN...



... ROBOTS ARE VERY UNUSUAL!

THE END.