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# QUEST PROBE

FEATURING

THE

# THOR

by BILL MANTLO  
MARK GRUENWALD  
and  
JOHN ROMITA

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Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# QUESTPROBE!

Original concept by SCOTT ADAMS & JOHN BYRNE

## PROLOGUE:

THIS IS A WORLD FAR OUT IN THE DISTANT REACHES OF INTERGALACTIC SPACE... A WORLD NO EARTHLY EYES HAVE EVER SEEN.

IT IS A WORLD BLESSED WITH EVERYTHING A WORLD COULD ASK FOR, AND BEING SO BLESSED, IT IS A WORLD AT PEACE.

BUT NOW, AFTER UNTOLD MILLENNIA, THAT PEACE IS SUDDENLY SHATTERED!

GODS OF OUR ANCESTORS!  
ANOTHER WORLD, HORRIBLY  
DESTROYED!

WHO ARE THESE  
INVADERS? WHERE  
DO THEY COME  
FROM? WHAT DO  
THEY WANT?

NO ANSWERS  
ARE KNOWN TO  
THOSE QUESTIONS,  
FOR NO ONE HAS  
SURVIVED SUCH AN  
ONSLAUGHT TO  
GIVE THEM!

THE BLACK  
FLEET DRAWS  
NEARER TO OUR  
STAR SYSTEM!

WHAT  
SHALL WE  
DO WHEN  
THEY REACH  
US?

WHAT CAN WE  
DO? OURS IS A  
PEACEFUL PLANET,  
AND SUCH HAS IT BEEN  
FOR SO LONG THAT  
WE HAVE FORGOTTEN  
THE ARTS OF WAR!

YOUR  
WORDS ARE  
TRUE! ALL WE  
CAN HOPE TO  
DO WHEN THE  
BLACK FLEET  
ARRIVES...  
... IS  
DIE!

A PANICKED MURMUR SWELLS IN THE CROWDED COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE PEACEFUL PLANET... A CHAMBER ACCUSTOMED TO THE DISCUSSION OF SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND ART -- NOT STRATEGY, LOGISTICS AND WAR.

I FEAR OUR BROTHER SPOKE RIGHT. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE WAYS OF WAR. AGGRESSION IS ALIEN TO US, DEFENSE A DREAM UNDEAMT. OUR AGE OF HEROES HAS LONG BEEN PUT BEHIND US.



BUT WITH OUR WORLD AT STAKE, SURELY WE COULD LEARN...!



COULD WHAT? BUILD WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO FIGHT? PERHAPS, BUT THEN WE WOULD BE REVIVING A TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE LONG RENOUNCED!

WORSE! EVEN IF WE POSSESSED WEAPONS, WHO AMONG US WOULD WIELD THEM?



WHO AMONG US, TAUGHT IN THE LONG SPAN BETWEEN CRADLE AND GRAVE NEVER TO HARM ANOTHER LIVING BEING--



-- WOULD BE THE FIRST TO, IN EFFECT, SHRUG OFF HIS URGINGS OF HIS SOUL AND SLAY THIS ENEMY?



THE SPEAKER EXPECTS NO ONE TO STEP FORTH, FOR TO SO VOLUNTEER WOULD SMACK OF HERESY.

BUT THERE IS ONE, ONE FOR WHOM THE THOUGHT OF SEEING HIS PEACEFUL PLANET DESTROYED IS MORE THAN THE HEART OF DURIGAN THE PHILOSOPHER CAN BEAR...

NO! CALL ME HERETIC IF YOU WILL, BUT I SAY TO YOU--



-- THAT THOUGH OUR HISTORY AND OUR MORALITY MILITATES AGAINST OUR FIGHTING BACK, IT IS A GREATER SIN TO DIE WITHOUT RESISTING!



DURGAN IS MAD! HE REJECTS THE BASIC TENET OF OUR RACE!



RENOUNCE PEACE, DURGAN, AND YOU BECOME A MAN WITHOUT A WORLD!



CONTINUE TO CLEAVE TO PEACE, OBISPO, AND WE WILL ALL BE WITH-OUT A WORLD ...AND OUR LIVES!

HERETIC! BEGONE FROM THIS CHAMBER!

AND SO DURGAN THE PHILOSOPHER GOES FORTH FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LEAVING BEHIND COUNTLESS ARGUMENTS WHICH ENDLESSLY REVOLVE BACK UPON THE IDEA THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE, AND THAT DURGAN'S PEACEFUL PLANET IS LOST...

OUR WORLD... DESTROYED? ALL OUR PROUD AND ANCIENT HISTORY ERASED IN THE BLINK OF AN INVADER'S EYE? IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE!

THERE **MUST** BE SOME WAY TO RESIST SUCH DESTRUCTION WITHOUT RENOUNCING THE VERY PACIFISM THAT IS THE SOUL OF OUR RACE!



BUT, NO... IF WE FIGHT, WE LOSE OUR SOULS, YET IF WE DON'T FIGHT, WE LOSE OUR LIVES!

IF ONLY OUR **HEROES** OF OLD STILL LIVED... HEROES? GODS OF THE GALAXY, PERHAPS THAT IS THE ANSWER! WE HAVE NO HEROES LEFT. THAT AGE IS PASSED!

BUT I HAVE OBSERVED OTHER RACES INHABITING THE COSMOS WHO DO NOT BELIEVE AS WE BELIEVE-- OTHERS BORN TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT ONE MUST BE WILLING TO **FIGHT** FOR THAT WHICH ONE HOLDS DEAR!



I HAVE MARVELED FROM AFAR AT THE **POWERS** THESE ALIEN **SUPER-BEINGS** POSSESS... POWER ENOUGH TO SAVE **MY WORLD!**

WHAT IF THE **POWERS** OF SUCH **SUPER-BEINGS** COULD BE MADE ... **OURS?!!**

BUT NO, TO EVEN **THINK** SUCH THOUGHTS IS HERESY ON OUR WORLD! ALAS, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

END OF PROLOGUE.

HALF A GALAXY AWAY, ON A PLANET WITH WHICH ALL OF US ARE FAMILIAR-- EARTH--

--AND WHERE WALKS

# THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

WHEREVER HULK GOES, HULK IS HUNTED, HOUNDED!

PUNY HUMANS FLEE FROM HULK! PUNY HUMANS SCREAM!

HULK DOES NOT CARE WHAT PUNY HUMANS THINK OF HIM! HULK JUST WANTS PUNY HUMANS TO LEAVE HULK ALONE!

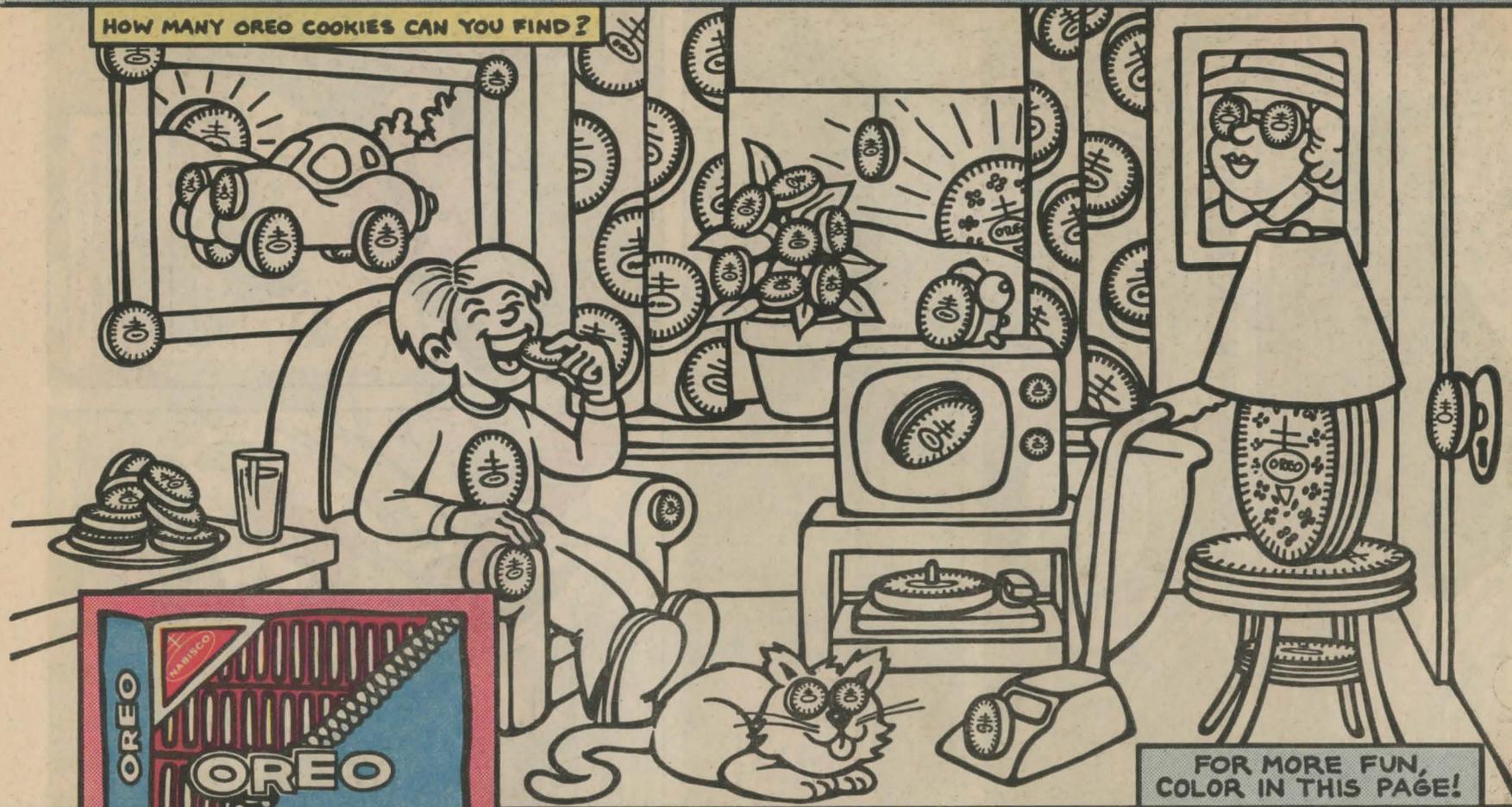
BUT WHEN PUNY HUMANS HIDE FROM HULK BEHIND SOLDIERS, TANKS AND PLANES, PUNY HUMANS MAKE HULK MAD!

AND WHAT HULK GETS MAD AT... HULK SMASHES!

MUCH TO THEIR REGRET, THE HULK'S LITTLE LESSON IN PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE HAS COME TOO LATE TO BENEFIT THIS DIVISION OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD!

# IMAGINE! OREO® COOKIES EVERYWHERE!!

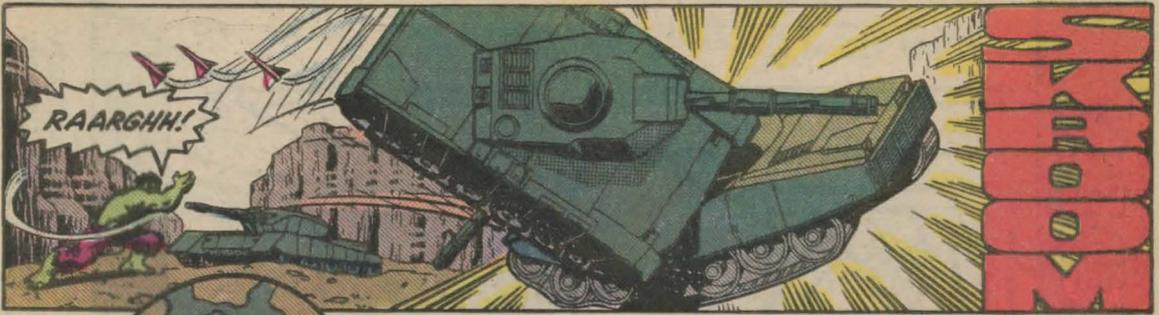
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YES, THE ROBED  
FIGURE  
RECORDS...

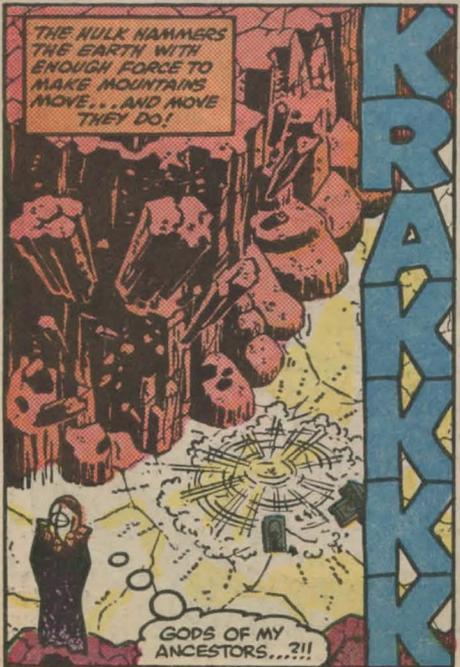
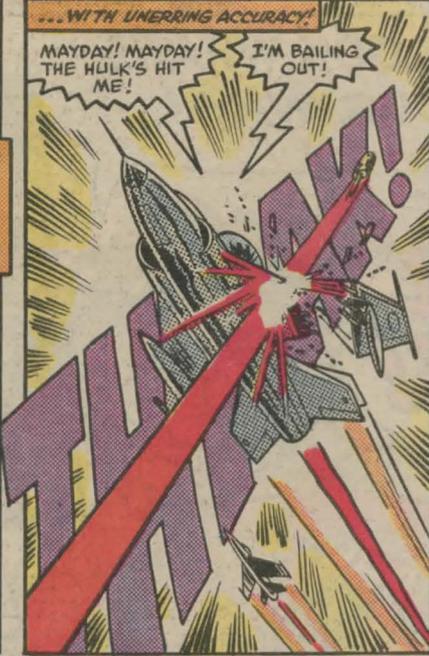
... AS GAMMA-  
IRRADIATED  
MUSCLES FLEX  
AND RELEASE,  
HURLING A  
MASS OF METAL  
SKYWARD...

... WITH UNERRING ACCURACY!

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!  
THE HULK'S HIT  
ME!

I'M BAILING  
OUT!

HAVE SOLDIERS HAD ENOUGH,  
OR DOES HULK HAVE TO TELL  
SOLDIERS AGAIN TO LEAVE  
HULK...



THE HULK HAMMERS  
THE EARTH WITH  
ENOUGH FORCE TO  
MAKE MOUNTAINS  
MOVE... AND MOVE  
THEY DO!



BUT PRAYERS GO UNNEEDED FOR THERE SEEMS NO FORCE ON EITHER  
HEAVEN OR EARTH CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING THE SAVAGE FURY OF  
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

OUT OF YOUR TANKS, BOYS,  
BEFORE YOU'RE BURIED IN 'EM!  
THAT JADE GIANT'S BRINGING THE  
CANYON DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!!

RUN THE  
TERRIFIED  
TROOPS  
DO...

GODS OF MY  
ANCESTORS...?!!

... AND, LUCKILY, ALL SURVIVE TO TURN AND STARE BACK IN OBVIOUS RELIEF AT THE WALL OF ROCK AND RUBBLE THAT NOW STANDS AS A BARRIER BETWEEN THEM AND THE BEHEMOTH THEY WERE SENT FORTH TO TAME.

THAT... THAT HULK IS UNSTOPPABLE! HE'S POWERFUL ENOUGH--

--TO SHATTER THE STARS!



THEN THE HULK IS THE ONE I HAVE COME FOR!

HUH? WHO SAID--



--THAT? WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?!!

A... STRANGER ... COME TO MAKE THE HULK'S POWER MY OWN!

LISTEN, HOUDINI, WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAUL IT BACK TO THE CIRCUS YOU ESCAPED FROM! HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CAPTURE THE HULK WHEN NOT EVEN MY WHOLE BATTALION COULD STOP HIM?



I INTEND TO DO IT WITH... THIS!



BEFORE THE BATTALION COMMANDER CAN MAKE ANY RESPONSE, THE ROBED FIGURE RISES INTO THE AIR...

...AND VANISHES, LEAVING DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER HE WAS EVER ACTUALLY THERE AT ALL.



MILES DISTANT, BUT NOT MUCH LATER...

...THE SETTING SUN TURNS THE COLORADO RIVER RED AS IT SNAKES ITS WAY THROUGH A GEOLOGICAL WONDERLAND.

IT IS A VISTA THE BEAUTY OF WHICH IS, SADLY, LOST UPON A BEING WHO SEEKS ONLY A PLACE TO REST.

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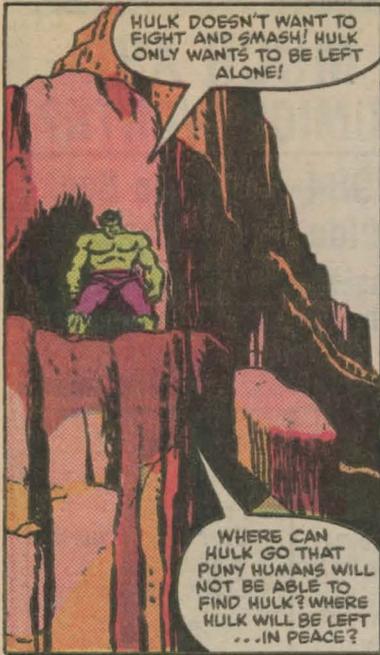


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HULK DOESN'T WANT TO FIGHT AND SMASH! HULK ONLY WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE!

WHERE CAN HULK GO THAT PUNY HUMANS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND HULK? WHERE HULK WILL BE LEFT ... IN PEACE?



A CAVE CUT INTO THE CLIFF-FACE SEEMS AS LIKELY A SPOT AS ANY TO THE WEARY BEHEMOTH, AND SO THE HULK TURNS AND SEEKS ITS SHADOWS.

HE CRAVES PEACE SO BADLY HE HAS JUST FOUGHT FURIOUSLY FOR IT.



THAT FACT IS NOT LOST UPON HIM WHO SILENTLY OBSERVES...



INSIDE THE CAVE, THE HULK'S HOPES FOR SOLACE AND SOLITUDE ARE SOON SHATTERED...

WHAT IS FUNNY LIGHT INSIDE CAVE?

THE LIGHT FLOWS FROM TWO STRANGE PEDESTALS OVER WHICH FLOAT TWO STRANGER OBJECTS.



THE FIRST, WE SHALL LEARN IS A NATTER ENERGY-EGG.

THE SECOND IS A BLOOD-RED BIO-GEM.

THE HULK NEITHER KNOWS NOR CARES TO KNOW THEIR NAMES, BUT THE GLOW THEY EMIT INTRIGUES HIM.



HOWEVER, BEFORE THE HULK'S EXTENDED HAND CAN CLOSE UPON EITHER ONE...

**VOOM!**

HUNH! EGG EXPLODES, AND BLOWS UP GEM!!

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HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND!

BUT, AS THERE ARE MANY THINGS THE GREEN GOLIATH IS INCAPABLE OF COMPREHENDING, THE STRANGE SIGHT HE HAS JUST WITNESSED PASSES EASILY FROM HIS MEMORY...

...AND, SENSING THAT HE IS AT LAST ALONE, THE HULK SLUMPS DOWN INTO WHAT HE HOPES WILL BE A LONG... AND PEACEFUL... SLEEP.



FOR THE HULK, AS FOR ALL OF US, SLEEP BRINGS RELEASE.

IN HIS CASE, HOWEVER, THE SLIPPING AWAY OF CONSCIOUSNESS...



...IS COUPLED WITH THE ERASURE OF THE HULK'S PERSONA AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE...

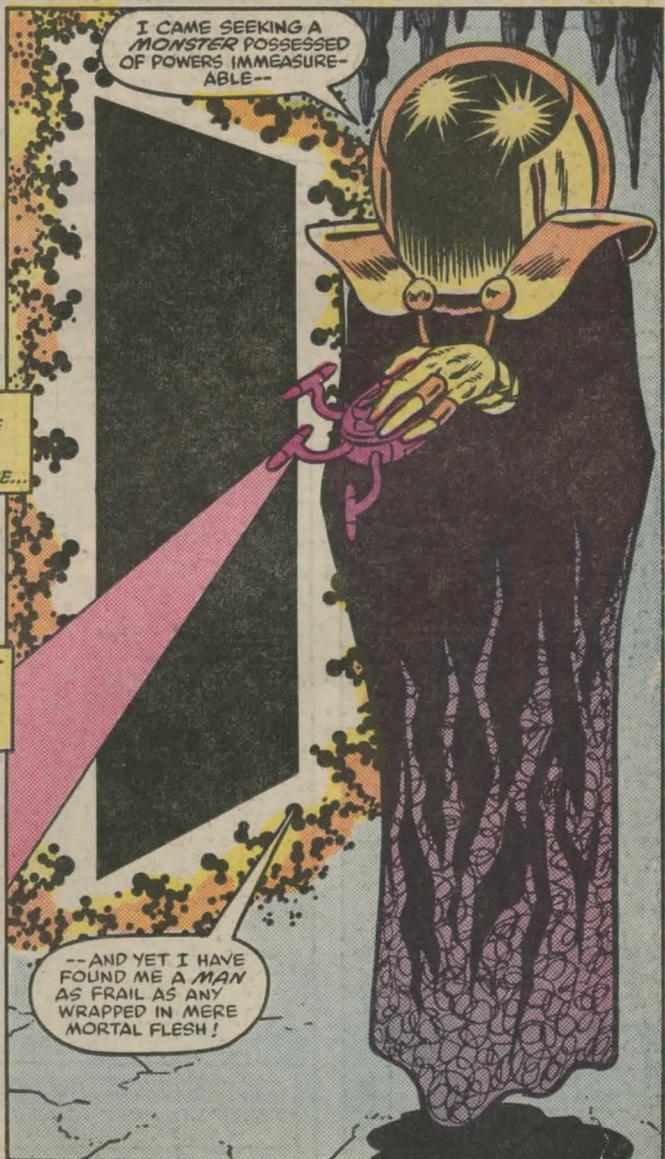
...AND THEIR REPLACEMENT WITH THOSE OF THE MAN TRAPPED WITHIN THE MONSTER.



MEET DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, A MAN FOR WHOM HELL EXISTS ON EARTH.



ASTONISHING!



I CAME SEEKING A MONSTER POSSESSED OF POWERS IMMENSURABLE--

--AND YET I HAVE FOUND ME A MAN AS FRAIL AS ANY WRAPPED IN MERE MORTAL FLESH!





AAAAAAAAAAAA



NO MERE MORTAL COULD SURVIVE SUCH A PLUNGE... BUT THEN NO MERE MORTAL POSSESSES THE POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

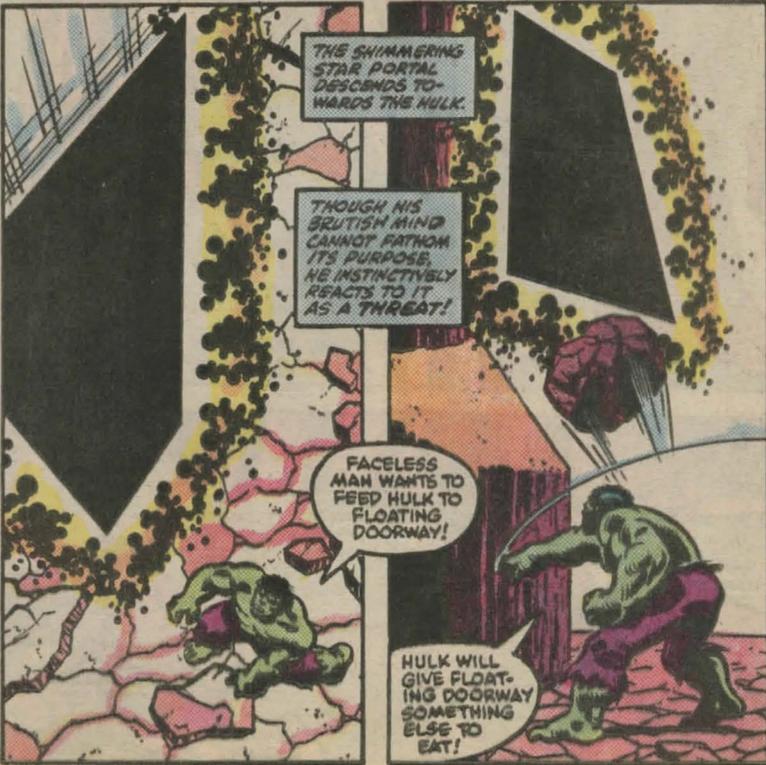


WHO HUNTS HULK NOW?!



I DO, GREEN ONE.

YOUR POWER MUST BE MINE.



THE SHIMMERING STAR PORTAL DESCENDS TOWARDS THE HULK.

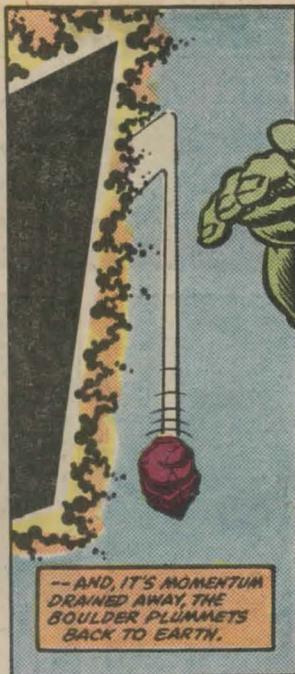
THOUGH HIS BRITISH MIND CANNOT FATHOM ITS PURPOSE, HE INSTINCTIVELY REACTS TO IT AS A THREAT!

FACELESS MAN WANTS TO FEED HULK TO FLOATING DOORWAY!

HULK WILL GIVE FLOATING DOORWAY SOMETHING ELSE TO EAT!

THE HUGE STONE FLIES, PROPELLED BY ENORMOUS PHYSICAL FORCE.

STRIKING THE SHIMMERING PORTAL, THAT FORCE IS DISPELLED... OR ABSORBED---



-- AND, ITS MOMENTUM DRAINED AWAY, THE BOULDER PLUMMETS BACK TO EARTH.

FLOATING DOORWAY MADE STONE HULK THROW FALL! DOORWAY TOOK STONE'S STRENGTH AWAY!

BUT DOORWAY WILL NOT STEAL HULK'S STRENGTH!

THE NIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES ON EARTH CARRY THE HULK AWAY.



I WILL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU FLEE, GREEN ONE.



I MUST FOLLOW YOU. YOUR STRENGTH MUST BE MINE!

MEANWHILE, UP THE COLORADO RIVER JUST BEFORE ITS WATERS ARE SET TO SEETHING BY ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE GRAND CANYON...



EVERYTHING SECURE IN THE RAFT, GERRY?

YOU BET, ED! WE'RE READY TO RIDE THE RAPIDS!

WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS! WE'VE GOT TO BE OUT OF OUR MINDS!



HEY, NIKKI, WHAT'S WITH THE SHAKES? YOU'VE RIDDEN WORSE RAPIDS BEFORE!

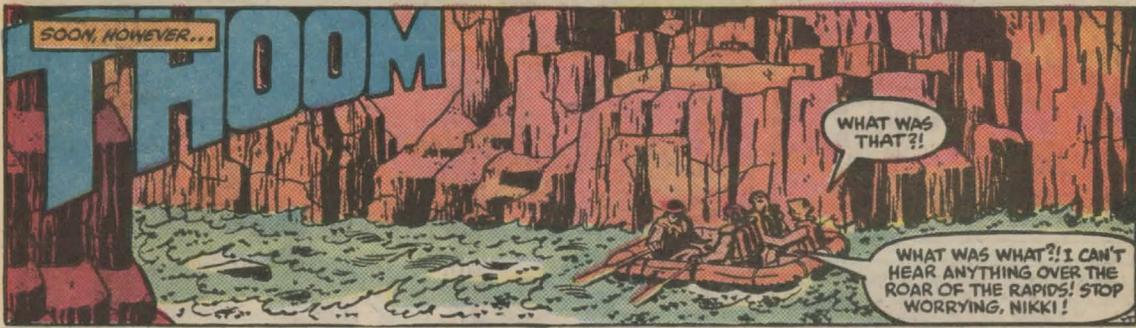
IT'S NOT THE SHOOT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, BEN-- IT'S THE REPORTS WE GOT THAT THE **HULK** HAS BEEN SIGHTED IN THE CANYON AREA! WE CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON THE RIDE AND THE HULK AT THE SAME TIME!

I DON'T KNOW...

THE HULK? HA! Y'KNOW, I DON'T EVEN THINK THAT MONSTER EXISTS!

YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT! THE NATIONAL GUARD MUST'VE DRIVEN HIM OUTTA THIS AREA BY NOW!

BUT THE TEAM IS EAGER TO PRESS ON, AND SO THE RAFT EDGES OUT ONTO THE RUSHING RIVER.



SOON, HOWEVER...

WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHAT WAS WHAT?! I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING OVER THE ROAR OF THE RAPIDS! STOP WORRYING, NIKKI!



BUT, IF THE RAFTERS COULD SEE AROUND CORNERS, THEY'D SOON FIND GOOD REASON TO WORRY...

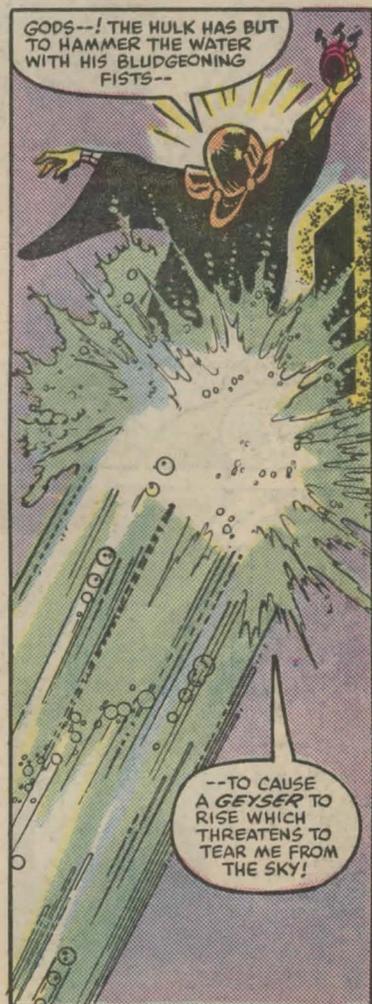
STOP FOLLOWING HULK, FACELESS MAN! LEAVE HULK ALONE!

THAT I CANNOT DO, GREEN ONE-- UNTIL YOUR POWER IS MINE!



HULK'S POWER IS ALL HULK HAS! IF FACELESS MAN TAKES IT, HULK WILL BE WEAK!

STRONG IS BETTER THAN WEAK, FACELESS MAN! HULK WANTS TO BE STRONG!



GODS--! THE HULK HAS BUT TO HAMMER THE WATER WITH HIS BLUDGEONING FISTS--

--TO CAUSE A GEYSER TO RISE WHICH THREATENS TO TEAR ME FROM THE SKY!

BUT THE CHIEF EXAMINER'S PORTAL INTERCEPTS THE WATERSPOUT...



... AND, DRAINED OF THE FORCE THAT DROVE IT SKYWARD, IT RAINS GENTLY BACK DOWN UPON THE HULK!

MEANWHILE, ABOUT TO BECOME AWARE OF THE GREATER DANGER THAT LURKS AHEAD, THE RAFTERS REACH...



WHITE WATER!

LOOK! ON THE ROCKS ...IT'S-- THE HULK!

WE'VE GOT TO TURN BACK!

WE'RE IN THE CURRENT NOW! FROM THIS POINT ON, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!

PAYING NO ATTENTION TO THE RAFTERS, THE HULK HOWLS HIS RAGE AT THE CHIEF EXAMINER...



LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE, FACELESS MAN HUNTS HULK!



BUT HULK IS TIRED OF RUNNING, TIRED OF HIDING!

HULK WILL SMASH FACELESS MAN--!

BUT AGAIN THE STAR-FLECKED DOORWAY INTERCEDES...

... AND, AS IF INSTINCTIVELY AWARE OF THE DANGER IT PASSES TO HIM, THE HULK TWISTS OUT OF ITS WAY.



BUT IN SO DOING, HIS LEAP FAILS TO CARRY HIM PRECISELY WHERE HE'D INTENDED TO LAND...

WATER BELOW HULK!

BUT HULK IS NOT AFRAID OF WATER!

NO, THE HULK IS NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING...



... BUT THAT WHICH CAN NOT HARM HIM CAN STILL GIVE OTHERS CAUSE TO FEAR.

THE HULK DISAPPEARS BENEATH THE WATERS! CAN I HAVE LOST HIM?

KEEP THE RAFT STEADY! DON'T LET HER CAPSIZE!



THE GREAT MASS OF ROCK STRIKES DOWN AT THE CHIEF EXAMINER, PINNING HIM BEFORE HE CAN MANEUVER OUT OF ITS WAY...

I AM TRAPPED!  
I CANNOT MOVE!

ARRHH!  
AIR!

NOW IT IS HULK WHO IS THE HUNTER!

NOW HULK WILL SMASH FACELESS MAN!

GIVEN TIME, I MIGHT SLIP FREE OF THIS STONE THAT HOLDS ME--

--BUT THE HULK WILL NOT GIVE ME TIME!

THE DEVICE THAT CONTROLS HIS STILL-HOVERING PORTAL LYING JUST BEYOND HIS REACH, THE CHIEF EXAMINER FACES HIS DOOM AT THE HANDS OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

BUT OTHERS FACE DANGER, ALSO, FROM THE SELFSAME STONE THAT HOLDS THE CHIEF EXAMINER FAST!

THE HULK'S DROPPED A MASS OF MOUNTAIN ACROSS THE ENTIRE RIVER!

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN AVOID IT!

DIVE, PEOPLE, BEFORE WE...

...CRASH!

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IT IS THE FIRST INDICATION THE INCREDIBLE HULK HAS THAT HE AND THE CHIEF EXAMINER ARE NOT ALONE ON THIS WILD RIVER...

STONE HULK DROPPED FORCES PUNY HUMANS INTO WATER!

THERE IS GIRL WITH PUNY HUMANS! GIRL WHO WILL DROWN--

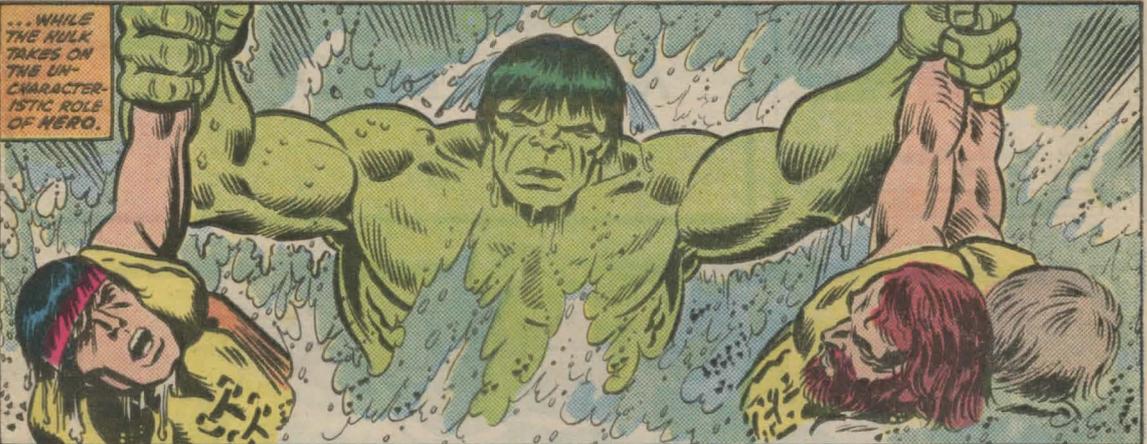


IT IS NOT CHIVALRY THAT COMPELS THE HULK TO BRAVE THE FLOOD AGAIN.



THE CHIEF EXAMINER PULLS HIMSELF FREE...

...WHILE THE HULK TAKES ON THE UN-CHARACTERISTIC ROLE OF HERO.



NOW, HULK, YOU WILL BE FACED WITH A CHOICE...!



N-NIKKI?!

LOOK! SHE'S IN THE WHIRLPOOL!



AND, IN THE HEART OF THAT MURDEROUS MAELSTROM, AN INNOCENT GOES DOWN!

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HERE STANDS THE HULK, ON THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA...

...SAVE THE GIRL AND RISK LOSING HIS POWER-- OR TURN AWAY AND LET THE GIRL DIE IN THE WHIRLPOOL!

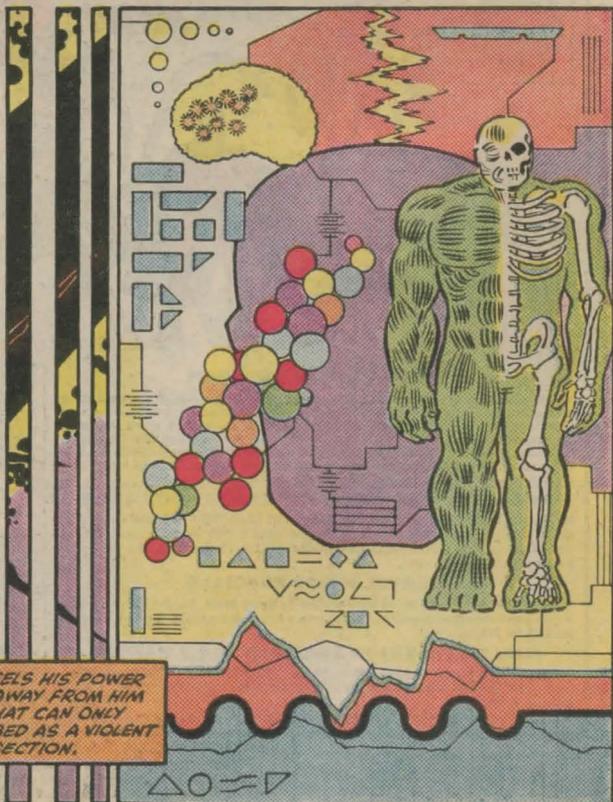


THE HULK DOES NOT STOP TO REFLECT ON THE CONSEQUENCES. HE IS THE HULK...

...AND INSTINCT TRANSLATES INTO ACTION!



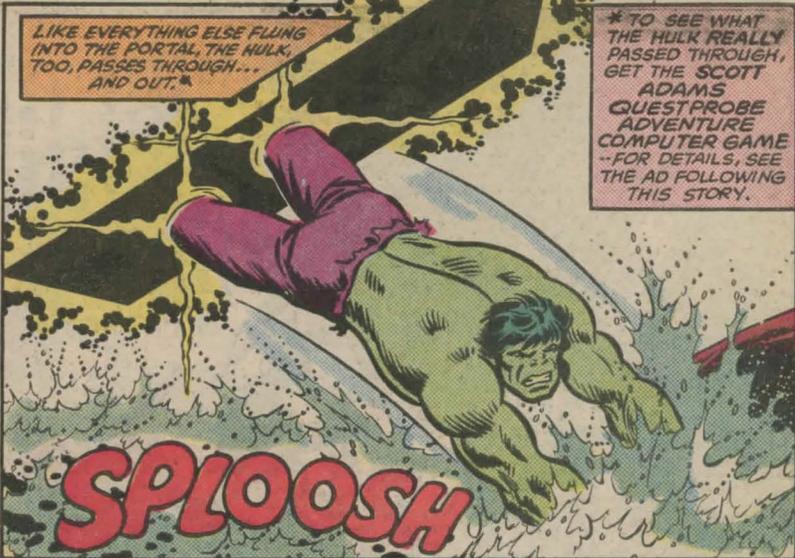
HE PASSES THROUGH THE PORTAL. AS HE DOES SO, HE FEELS HIMSELF BEING EXAMINED, ANALYZED...



... AND FEELS HIS POWER DRAINING AWAY FROM HIM DURING WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A VIOLENT VIVISECTION.



INCREDIBLE ENERGY!  
AND NOW IT'S MINE--  
ALL MINE!



LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE FLUNG  
INTO THE PORTAL, THE HULK,  
TOO, PASSES THROUGH...  
AND OUT.

\* TO SEE WHAT  
THE HULK REALLY  
PASSED THROUGH,  
GET THE SCOTT  
ADAMS  
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--FOR DETAILS, SEE  
THE AD FOLLOWING  
THIS STORY.

**SPLOOSH**



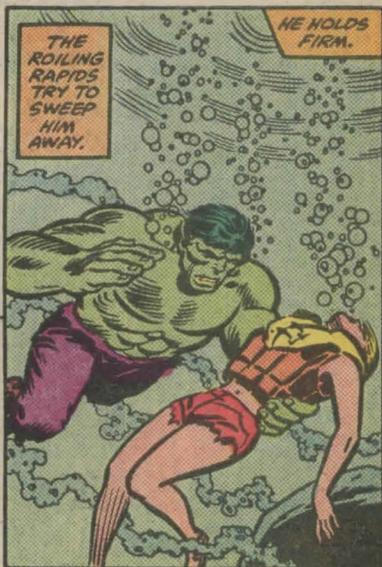
HE IS WEAKER NOW,  
HIS MOMENTUM  
DIMINISHED BY  
THE PORTAL, THE  
CURRENT TEARS  
AT HIM.

HE  
SWIMS  
ON.



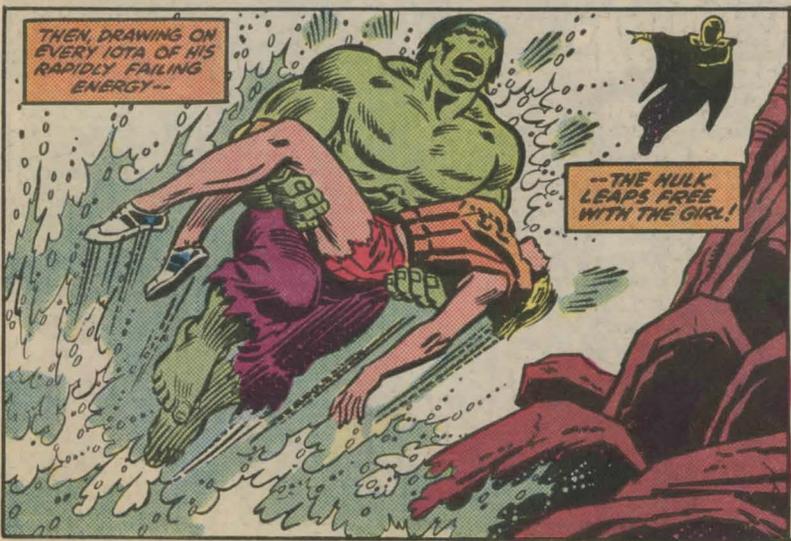
HIS LUNGS  
BURN FIT  
TO BURST.

HE DIVES  
DEEPER.



THE  
ROLLING  
RAPIDS  
TRY TO  
SWEEP  
HIM  
AWAY.

HE HOLDS  
FIRM.



THEN, DRAWING ON  
EVERY IOTA OF HIS  
RAPIDLY FAILING  
ENERGY--

--THE HULK  
LEAPS FREE  
WITH THE GIRL!



YOU DID IT,  
HULK! YOU  
SAVED HER!

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N.Y. ADD TAX

THOUGH READY TO DROP FROM EXHAUSTION, THE HULK GENTLY HANDS THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL TO HER CONCERNED COMRADES...

I'LL START ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION RIGHT AWAY!

TAKE GIRL! MAKE HER LIVE!

THE GIRL RESPONDS. SHE LIVES...

...EVEN AS THE HULK KNEELS BEFORE THE MYSTERIOUS, ROBED FIGURE.

WILL FACELESS MAN KILL HULK?

KILL YOU, GREEN ONE? NO. I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR.

YOUR POWER IS NO LONGER YOURS ALONE! NOW I CAN DO AS I WISH WITH IT.

BUT YOUR HEROISM... PERHAPS THAT IS SOMETHING ONLY YOU CAN POSSESS!

PERHAPS THAT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN NEVER BE STOLEN.

FAREWELL, HULK!

WITH THAT, THE STRANGER WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE CHIEF EXAMINER DEPARTS...

AND NOT LONG AFTER, THE HULK, FEELING HIS POWER RETURNING, AND MADE UNCOMFORTABLE BY THE GRATITUDE AND PRAISE OF THE RAFTERS, LEAPS AWAY.

HE IS THE HULK! HE IS A MONSTER!

AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT HAS BEEN SAID OF HIM SO LONG AND SO OFTEN... AND THAT IS WHAT HE HIMSELF HAS COME TO BELIEVE.

THE END

# Bullpen Bulletins

## A TRAGIC MISTAKE . . . !

Well, maybe not really *tragic*, but, anyway — a few months ago I was talking about being down in Florida visiting *Adventure International*, where they make the best darn computer games in the whole wide world, and I mentioned that a programmer named John Anderson made some favorable comments about our now-legendary Assistant Editors Month. Oops.

It seems that the fellow I spoke to was in reality, *Mr. Mark S. Murley*, who's a Documentation Manager for A.I. as well as a Marvel Comics fan for nearly twenty years! John is a very nice guy, don't get me wrong — but it was Mark with whom I spoke about Assistant Editors Month! Sorry guys! From now on, I promise to keep the names straight.

## WHICH BRINGS UP QUESTPROBE . . .

Have you seen the first issue of our *Questprobe* Limited Series? We're doing this series in conjunction with *Adventure International*, which, if you don't know, is a division of Scott Adams, Inc. They're doing corresponding computer games to go with our comics — which by the way, are hot stuff all by themselves.

Whether you get along with computers or not, I think you'll like this series — especially since issue #1 marks the return of *John Romita* the elder to mainstream Marvel comics. He's finishing and inking the pencil layouts of Mark Gruenwald. The story featuring the Hulk is by Bill Mantlo, and if this thing isn't a collectors' item, I've never seen one.



## THREE TITLES KILLED!

Yes, it's true. Issue #34 of *Ka-Zar*, issue #38 of *Moon Knight* and issue #59 of *The Micronauts* will be the last of those series. Why? Because those three titles were Marvel's three Direct Market-only books, sold exclusively at comics specialty shops. They were made all-direct as an experiment to find out whether or not the Direct Market was strong enough to support titles all by itself. Turned out it is — all three titles sold very well — which is why we now publish

a whole bunch of stuff like EPIC Comics, deluxe reprint specials, and Graphic Novels exclusively for that market. However, the experiment is over — we've found out what we want to know — so we're cancelling *Ka-Zar*, *Moon Knight* and *The Micronauts*. So much for them. They served their purpose. They blazed the trail for the likes of *Dreadstar*, *Coyote* and *Void Indigo*. Yep, no need for them anymore . . . not in their special experimental, Direct-Market only format anyway, which is why . . .

## HYPE BOX

### TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series)

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**HIGH ADVENTURE #1** — Four stories of swashbuckling adventure in the most exotic places in the world — and crafted with tender, loving care by the best writers and artists in the business! This book has been nearly a year in the making, and we think it's been well worth the wait! Stories by STEVE ENGLEHART, ANN NOCENTI, MIKE CARLIN and LOUISE SIMONSON. Art by JOHN SEVERIN, TONY SALMONS, GERRY TALAOC and STEVE LEIALOHA.

**POWER PACK #1** — They're a new team of super-heroes! They have all-new super powers! They have a mission to save the world! And . . . they're all under age 12? Never let it be said we do things the easy way around here! They're the *Power Pack* — and they debut this month in a special, double-size issue, courtesy of LOUISE SIMONSON and BOB WACEK (both of *X-Men* fame), and talented newcomer JUNE BRIGMAN!

## TA-DAAA!

The *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight* and *Ka-Zar* are being reborn! Restaged! *Relaunched* into the world, each in its own full-fledged all-new comics series, sold at newsstands and comics specialty shops in the time-tested traditional Marvel Comics format, priced at 60¢! It's a new beginning for some truly outstanding and deserving characters. When? **MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1** goes on sale June 12th, and **THE FIST OF KHONSHU #1** also debuts June 12th. *Ka-Zar* will come along later. Watch for him.

Those of you who didn't or couldn't follow these guys when they were all-direct, don't worry. When I say it's a new beginning for them, I mean it. You'll be able to pick right up on these guys. Of course, if you want to check out what has gone before, your local comics specialty dealer (many of whom advertise in our comics) will cheerfully help you track down back issues!

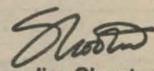
So there!

## THAT'S ALL . . .

Except to warn you that next month I'll be announcing a nifty *freebie*, yes, as in giveaway, courtesy of us guys. What is it? How many? How big?

Stay tuned.

And stay well,

  
Jim Shooter  
Editor in Chief

## CHECK LIST

- THE THING #14
- DAREDEVIL #209
- NEW MUTANTS #18
- DAZZLER #33
- TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box.
- KA-ZAR #33
- MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #4
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #296
- THOR #345
- INDIANA JONES #20
- POWER PACK #1 — See Hype Box.
- DOCTOR STRANGE #66
- U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #11
- MICRONAUTS #59
- IRON MAN #185

- THE THING #13
- INCREDIBLE HULK #298
- AVENGERS #246
- CONAN THE BARBARIAN #161
- MARVEL TALES #186 — Reprinting "The Menace of the Molten Man," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #28
- X-MEN #184
- ROM #57
- POWER MAN/IRON FIST #108
- TARZAN OF THE APES (Limited Series) #2
- G.I. JOE #26
- FANTASTIC FOUR #269
- MARVEL TEAM-UP #144 — Featuring *Spider-Man* and *Moon Knight*
- DEFENDERS #134

- PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #93
- STAR WARS #88
- ALPHA FLIGHT #13
- WHAT IF #48 — "What if Uncle Ben Had Lived?" Starring *Spider-Man*.

### MARVEL MAGAZINES

- SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #102
- MARVEL AGE #17

### EPIC COMICS

- ALIEN LEGION #2
- DREADSTAR #11
- COYOTE #6

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- HIGH ADVENTURE #1 — See Hype Box.
- IRON MAN TRADE PAPERBACK — Reprinting *Iron Man* #120-128.



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# QUESTPROBE QUESTIONS

## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

The story you've just read may have said "The End" at its conclusion, but for QUESTPROBE it's just the beginning.

QUESTPROBE is an entirely unique and unprecedented comic book. It's currently projected as a 12-issue maxi-series to be published over the next four years. Each issue will be a complete story involving a different Marvel super hero. Now here's the part that makes QUESTPROBE a comic unlike any other: The ending of each story will serve as a sort of "launching pad" for a QUESTPROBE Computer Game. The game will continue the adventures of the hero from the comic — with you, the reader, acting the part of the hero as you play the game! And just as there will be a different hero starring in each comic there will be a new computer game for each hero.

There are probably more immediate questions about this particular issue buzzing around your brain right now: *What's happening on that nameless alien world? Who is the Chief Examiner and what is he up to? What happened to the Incredible Hulk when he passed through that black door?* Well, for the answers to some of those questions, particularly the last one, run down to your local computerware store and tell the floppy disk-monger behind the counter that you want a copy of the QUESTPROBE FEATURING THE HULK Computer Game! Who says Marvel's not leading the comic book world into the future?

## WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

QUESTPROBE is the product of a new kind of creative collaboration. The talents at Marvel and Scott Adams of Adventure International together bring you adventures of the world's most popular super heroes set to the exciting developments in the world of computer entertainment.

The original concepts and creative direction behind QUESTPROBE are the brainchildren of Scott Adams and John Byrne. Each man was perfectly qualified to contribute to this enterprise:

Scott Adams is the most widely recognized microcomputer programmer in the United States and abroad. The Scott Adams Corporation was founded in 1978 with the publication of "Adventureland," Scott's first micro-computer adventure which he designed for the Radio Shack TRS-80 Model 1. The subsequent mail-order success of this program by Scott and Alexis Adams led to the establishment of Adventure International, located in Fern Park, Florida. Since then, the Adamses have diversified their computer interests and established the Adventure International Computer Center. Adventure International's phenomenal growth has led to the construction of a new large facility to be completed this year. Their continually growing software line includes a wide variety of Adventure, Arcade, Business, and Utility programs that have been well received by consumers and industry. Already having earned a string of professional awards and international recognition in his field, Scott is proud and thrilled to add this collaboration with the Marvel Comics Group to his list of achievements.

QUESTPROBE co-creator John Byrne designed characters such as The Chief Examiner, and worked with Scott Adams in developing the thematic approach of the QUESTPROBE series. Born in England and raised in Canada, John's imagination, style and energy make him one of comicdom's top talents. For those of you who are new to Marvel Comics, John is the multitalented writer and artist of THE FANTASTIC FOUR and ALPHA FLIGHT, and writer of THE THING. John's exceptional work has won him a dedicated fan following and tremendous popularity worldwide.

Each issue of QUESTPROBE will be brought to you by a different creative team. Here are the people who put this month's episode together:

Bill Mantlo is not only one of comics most prolific plot-and-script men, but also one of its most versatile. Aside from writing THE INCREDIBLE HULK, ROM, and upcoming stories for MARVEL FANFARE featuring Spider-Man, Bill is current developing "Swashbuckler" for EPIC ILLUSTRATED. Bill has also created such memorable characters as Jack of Hearts and Cloak and Dagger. Bill's thorough familiarity with the Hulk made him the logical choice to write QUESTPROBE #1, and the story you've just read certainly bears this out.

Mark Gruenwald, penciler for this month's QUESTPROBE, is best known as the editor of THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, and THE AVENGERS. Mark came to Marvel in 1978 following a long and distinguished career in comics fandom. Last year, Mark edited and supervised the production of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, the definitive text for all Marvel enthusiasts, fan and professional. Accomplished as a writer and editor, Mark is relatively new to penciling. Fans will remember his artistic prowess from last year's HAWKEYE Limited Series, which Mark wrote and penciled.

QUESTPROBE #1 marks the return of John Romita Sr. to the inked page. These days, John serves as Art Editor for the entire Marvel Comics Line, helping Jim Shooter maintain the quality of all pencil and ink art produced by the Marvel Bullpen. John's earliest notable credits include CAPTAIN AMERICA during the 1950's. John's interpretation of SPIDER-MAN, which he first penciled in the 1960's, has become a standard for later generations of SPIDER-MAN artists. Equally able as a penciler and inker, John Romita served Marvel as Art Director during the 1970's, and recently completed a term with Marvel's Special Projects Division. John's inking of QUESTPROBE #1 is proof that his art directorial duties can't keep him away from his first love, the comics.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We're not telling. You'll just have to get QUESTPROBE #2 (which will probably feature a certain well known web-slinger) and find out for yourself!



Scott Adams, Inc.

Dear True Believer,

Hi, I'm Scott Adams. My company, Adventure International, and I have been selling microcomputer software to the public longer than anyone else (since 1977)! I've been using microcomputers ever since! Besides being the author of the Adventure series, I am also a systems programmer with intimate knowledge of many microcomputers: Apple, Atari, Commodore, TRS-80, IBM to name a few!

What we're going to do in future issues of QUESTPROBE is make an "ask-Scott-Adams-about-computers" letters page. Please try to keep your questions brief and stay away from obvious ones like "what is your favorite computer?" and so forth. I will be personally answering the letters that are printed.

If you include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your letter, and it can be answered briefly, I will send you a personal reply! I will not — repeat, *not* — be giving out hints or solutions to adventures in this column. So please don't ask, OK? The SCOTT ADAMS BOOK OF HINTS & SOLUTIONS is available at most computer stores and should help in that area!

Keep in mind this mail page will be handled differently from the regular QUESTPROBE Mail Page, so send all your computer questions to: ASK SCOTT, 155 Sabal Palm Dr., Longwood, FL 32779.

See ya in 90!

*Scott Adams*



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