

17
AUG
02908

25¢
CC

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

WEIRD WONDER TALES™

AT LAST I CAN
ENTER THIS
WORLD--

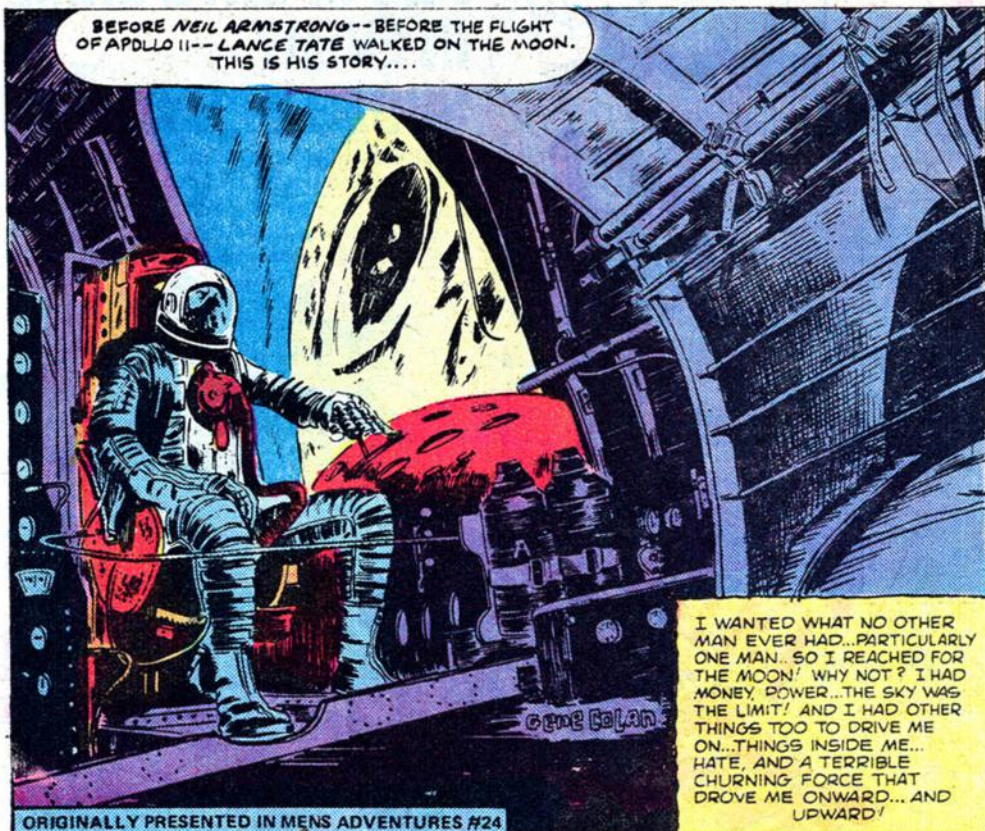
--AND *CRUSH*
ALL HUMANS!

THE
LATE SHOW
WAS NEVER
AS TERRIFYING
AS THE
CREATURE
FROM
KROGARR!



FIRST MOON-WALK

BEFORE NEIL ARMSTRONG--BEFORE THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11--LANCE TATE WALKED ON THE MOON. THIS IS HIS STORY....



I WANTED WHAT NO OTHER MAN EVER HAD...PARTICULARLY ONE MAN...SO I REACHED FOR THE MOON! WHY NOT? I HAD MONEY, POWER...THE SKY WAS THE LIMIT! AND I HAD OTHER THINGS TOO TO DRIVE ME ON...THINGS INSIDE ME... HATE, AND A TERRIBLE CHURNING FORCE THAT DROVE ME ONWARD...AND UPWARD!

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN MENS ADVENTURES #24

I HATED KING PHILLIPS! EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS ON SOUTH STREET, I'D HATED HIM!



IT WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS... A CLASH OF PERSONALITIES, OR... WELL, I GUESS MAYBE A PSYCHIATRIST COULD GIVE IT A NAME! ANYWAY IT WAS THERE...THE **HATE!**



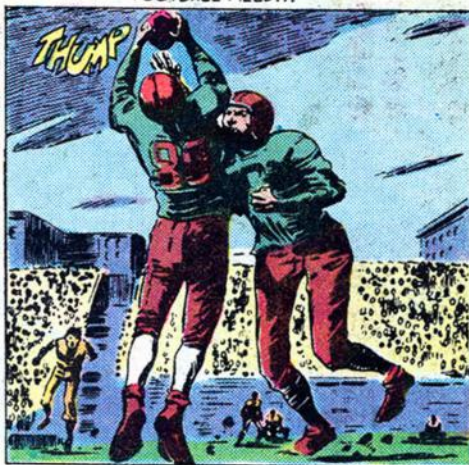
DON'T YOU KIDS EVER GET SICK OF FIGHTING?

THEY'RE LIKE A COUPLE OF BULLDOGS!

IT WAS STRANGE THAT WE HATED EACH OTHER SO / OUR FATHERS WERE IN BUSINESS TOGETHER... A SMALL MACHINE SHOP NEAR THE RIVER...



IN SCHOOL OUR RIVALRY CONTINUED! ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD...



IN THE CLASSROOM... ...AND OUR TWO HONOR STUDENTS, THIS YEAR AS LAST YEAR, ARE LANCE TATE AND KING PHILLIPS!



WE WERE THE BEST IN EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF THE WAY WE PROVE EACH OTHER! BUT NO MATTER HOW WE TRIED, NEITHER ONE OF US COULD BEST THE OTHER!



IT WAS DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT THAT DAD'S BUSINESS PROSPERED! GOVERNMENT ORDERS BROUGHT HUGE PROFITS! DAD BUILT A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN AN EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD!

TOO BAD YOUR PARTNER PHILLIPS HAS TO SHARE IN YOUR GOOD LUCK! I SUPPOSE THAT STINKER KING WILL BE LIVING IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS TOO, NOW!



THAT'S WHAT SPOILED IT ALWAYS FOR ME! NO MATTER WHAT I DID, KING PHILLIPS DID AS WELL! NO MATTER WHAT I HAD, HE EQUALLED ME!

LANCE, DID YOU SEE THE PAPER? A GOVERNMENT SCANDAL... AND YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY IS BEING INVESTIGATED!

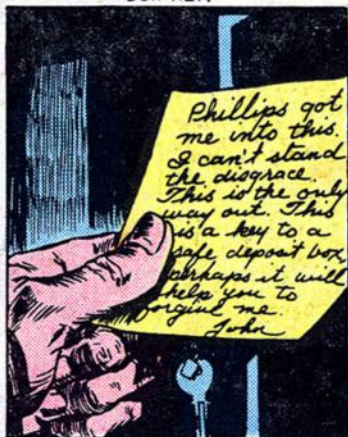


THAT'S WHEN I HEARD THE SHOT!





I FOUND THE SUICIDE NOTE IN HIS ROOM... AND THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX KEY!



MY FATHER'S TRAGIC DEATH WAS TOO MUCH FOR MOTHER TO STAND! SHE DIED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF A HEART ATTACK! IT WAS WHEN I CAME BACK FROM THE DOUBLE FUNERAL THAT I REMEMBERED THE KEY...



WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, YOU SNAKE?

MY FATHER JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE! HE LEFT A NOTE SAYING YOUR FATHER GOT HIM INTO THAT MESS! YOUR OLD MAN WAS THE SAME KIND OF LOUSE YOU ARE!

WE WERE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS IN A MINUTE, AND FROM HIS FACE I KNEW THAT THIS WAS NO LONGER KID STUFF! BOTH OF US WERE PUSHED BY A RED RAGE TO KILL!



HIS FACE WAS BLUE, MY TONGUE WAS PROTRUDING AND MY EYES GLAZING WHEN THE POLICE CAR HAPPENED BY...



THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW KING PHILLIPS FOR A LONG WHILE! THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO THE BANK AND GOT DAD'S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX, AND A NEW LIFE BEGAN FOR ME...



BONDS, SHARES IN ALL KINDS OF BIG BUSINESSES... \$3,000,000 IN CURRENCY! THIS IS WHAT THE SCANDAL WAS ABOUT... AND NOW IT'S ALL MINE! MONEY AND POWER... THE WAY TO BEAT KING PHILLIPS AND MAKE MYSELF BIG!

THE YEARS PASSED. BY 1968 THE INDUSTRIAL EMPIRE I HAD BRUTALLY GRASPED MADE ME ONE OF THE GREAT PEOPLE OF THE WORLD...

AN ANNOUNCEMENT HAD JUST COME OVER THE TELETYPE, MR. TATE! THE PHILLIPS AERONAUTICAL CO.'S NEW JET FLYER HAS EQUALED THE ROUND-THE-WORLD RECORD OUR JET MADE LAST WEEK!



YES, KING PHILLIPS HAD HAD A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX TOO, AND HE HAD USED THE CONTENTS AS I HAD! HIS NAME, AND ONLY HIS, EQUALED MINE FOR MONEY AND POWER IN THE WORLD!

I SHOULD HAVE HIRED ASSASSINS TO KILL HIM LONG AGO! BUT, NO... THEN ANYTHING I DID WOULD BE AN EMPTY VICTORY! I MUST SOMEHOW BEST HIM... LEAVE MY MARK ON THE WORLD IN LETTERS SO HIGH THAT HE WILL BE FORGOTTEN!



A NEW DREAM HAD COME TO MANKIND OVER THE YEARS AND THAT DREAM HAD BECOME MY DREAM!

THE MOON! I'LL BUILD A SHIP THAT WILL SPAN THE VOID! THERE LIES THE GREAT ADVENTURE, THE NEW FRONTIER, IN OUTER SPACE!



AND THE MAN WHO FIRST WALKS ON THE MOON WILL BE THE GREATEST HERO THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN... AND THE WORLD WILL NEVER FORGET HIM!



THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE WAY TO BEAT KING PHILLIPS! I'LL BUILD A SHIP AND FLY TO THE MOON! I'LL CLAIM ALL MINERAL AND INDUSTRIAL RIGHTS TO THE PLANET AND KING PHILLIPS WILL FADE INTO DARKNESS IN THE LIGHT OF MY ETERNAL GLORY!



I FOUND A SITE IN THE NORTH WOODS WHERE NO MAN EVER CAME! I BOUGHT 10,000 ACRES AND SURROUNDED IT WITH CHARGED WIRE AND BROUGHT THERE A YOUNG GENIUS ON SPACE CRAFT AND FLIGHT!



YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT! I'LL FLY IN THE PARTS MYSELF! YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE! EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE IN THE UTMOST SECRECY! KING PHILLIPS MUST NEVER HAVE AN INKLING OF MY PURPOSE!

FROM THE THOUSANDS OF FACTORIES UNDER MY CONTROL, I HAD THE NECESSARY MATERIAL AND MACHINERY BUILT! IN NO ONE PLACE DID I HAVE MADE MORE THAN A SECTIONAL PART, SO AS TO DISGUISE MY PURPOSE.



WE'LL ASSEMBLE A NEW CRANE I'VE BROUGHT! YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY MEN WHO MUST KNOW OF THIS, OR MY SECRET WILL LEAK OUT! THESE MACHINES AND CRANES MUST DO THE WORK OF MEN!

IT'S TOUGH, MR. TATE, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST!

TOWARD THE END I DIDN'T LEAVE AT ALL. I WORKED
SIDE BY SIDE WITH MY GENIUS, SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME
DRIVING ME...AND WHILE I WORKED, I PLANNED...

THEN CAME THE GREAT DAY! THE MOON WAS IN THE RIGHT POSITION IN RELATION TO EARTH... EVERYTHING HAD BEEN TESTED THOROUGHLY AND WAS READY!

I'LL BLAST OFF WHEN THE TIME COMES, AND ASTRONOMERS WILL SEE A BODY IN FLIGHT OUT THERE, NOT KNOWING WHAT IT IS! UNTIL I RETURN, NO ONE SHALL KNOW OF THIS GREAT ADVENTURE!

BEST OF LUCK, MR. TATE!
I...WHAT ARE YOU DOING
WITH THAT GUN?

**E!
G I'M SORRY IT HAS TO
BE THIS WAY, BUT I
CAN'T TRUST ANYONE!
NOBODY MUST KNOW OF
THIS FLIGHT TO THE MOON
UNTIL MY TRIUMPHANT
RETURN!**

**NO! I WON'T...
ARRGHHH!**

THEN I BLASTED OFF
ON MY GREAT
ADVENTURE!

THE SHIP HANDLED SWEETLY! THE MOON RUSHED TOWARD ME THROUGH SPACE! I LIFTED MY HAND AND IT FIT IN MY PALM, OR SO IT SEEMED TO MY FANCY...

IN THE PALM OF MY HAND! YES,
AND SO WILL THE EARTH BE IN THE
PALM OF MY HAND WHEN I RETURN
AND THEY KNOW! **TWO** PLANETS
WILL BE MINE!

THE MOON HOVERED BELOW! I REVERSED THE JETS AND THE SHIP LOWERED ITSELF SLOWLY! IT WAS A COLD NIGHT ON THE MOON, AND I WAS IMMERSSED IN LANDING OPERATIONS, BUT OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE I SAW SOMETHING BLAZE OFF TO MY RIGHT...

THAT LOOKS LIKE... LIKE
ANOTHER SPACE SHIP!

I LANDED LIKE A FEATHER! QUICKLY I TURNED ON THE HEAT UNITS OF MY SPACE SUIT AGAINST THE TERRIBLE NIGHT COLD OF THE MOON AND DESCENDED TO THE SURFACE...

IT'S HIM! IT'S KING PHILLIPS...
I FEEL IT! ~~HE~~ HAD THE SAME
IDEA I HAD!

KEEPING THE RAGGED ROCK FORMATIONS BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE OTHER SHIP, I MOVED FORWARD...

HE ISN'T GOING TO STEAL MY DREAM! HE AND I ALONE ON A DEAD WORLD! HA, THIS TIME I'LL FINISH HIM FOR GOOD!



THE COLD WAS GETTING TO ME! I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME! THE PORT OF HIS SHIP WAS OPEN... I CRAWLED IN, HATE TEARING AT MY GUTS LIKE A LIVE SNAKE...

NO ONE HERE! HE'S LEFT HIS SHIP! PROBABLY CURIOUS ABOUT MY SHIP!



WE WANTED TO GET TO THE MOON TO BE A HERO... TO BECOME THE BIG MAN ON TWO PLANETS! ALL RIGHT, HE GOT TO THE MOON... AND HE'LL ROT HERE, WHILE I GO BACK TO EARTH AND THE GLORY THAT'S WAITING FOR ME! THE FIRST MAN TO WALK ON THE MOON!



HIS SHIP WOULD NEVER FLY AGAIN! I WAS GROWING NUMB! I MUST GET BACK BEFORE THE ICY DEATH OF THE MOON TOOK ME...

IT'S HIM! HE'S BEEN TO MY SHIP! THE STINKIN' SNAKE... HE SMASHED IT... HE'S TRYING TO KEEP ME HERE ON THE MOON... MAKE THE PLANET MURDER ME!



HE SAW ME... HE KNEW THAT I HAD DONE TO HIS SHIP WHAT HE HAD DONE TO MINE! THE COLD WAS NUMBING OUR BODIES... WE CRAWLED TOWARD EACH OTHER! THE FIRST TWO MEN TO REACH THE MOON!... THE ONLY HUMANS ON A DEAD PLANET... AND ALL WE HAD IN OUR HEARTS WAS... KILL!



WE WERE WITHIN A FEW FEET OF EACH OTHER WHEN THE ICY FINGERS OF THE MOON CLOSED ON US, STOPPING US! WE LAY THERE, GLARING AT EACH OTHER, STIFFENING, UNABLE TO MOVE...

I CURSED HIM... AND THE CURSES WERE BUBBLES IN MY THROAT... RED, FROZEN BUBBLES... AND THE COLD PUSHED DOWN, UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT THE SILENT MOON... AND APPROACHING DEATH!

THE IRONY OF IT! OUR HATE FOR EACH OTHER DROVE US TO THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF MANKIND... AND THAT SAME HATE WILL KEEP ANYONE FROM EVER KNOWING! THE EMPIRES WE BUILT WILL FALL APART AND OUR NAMES WILL BE FORGOTTEN! EVERYTHING WE DID, EVERYTHING WE WANTED AND DREAMED OF, GONE, IN OUR MOMENT OF GREATEST TRIUMPH!



THE END