

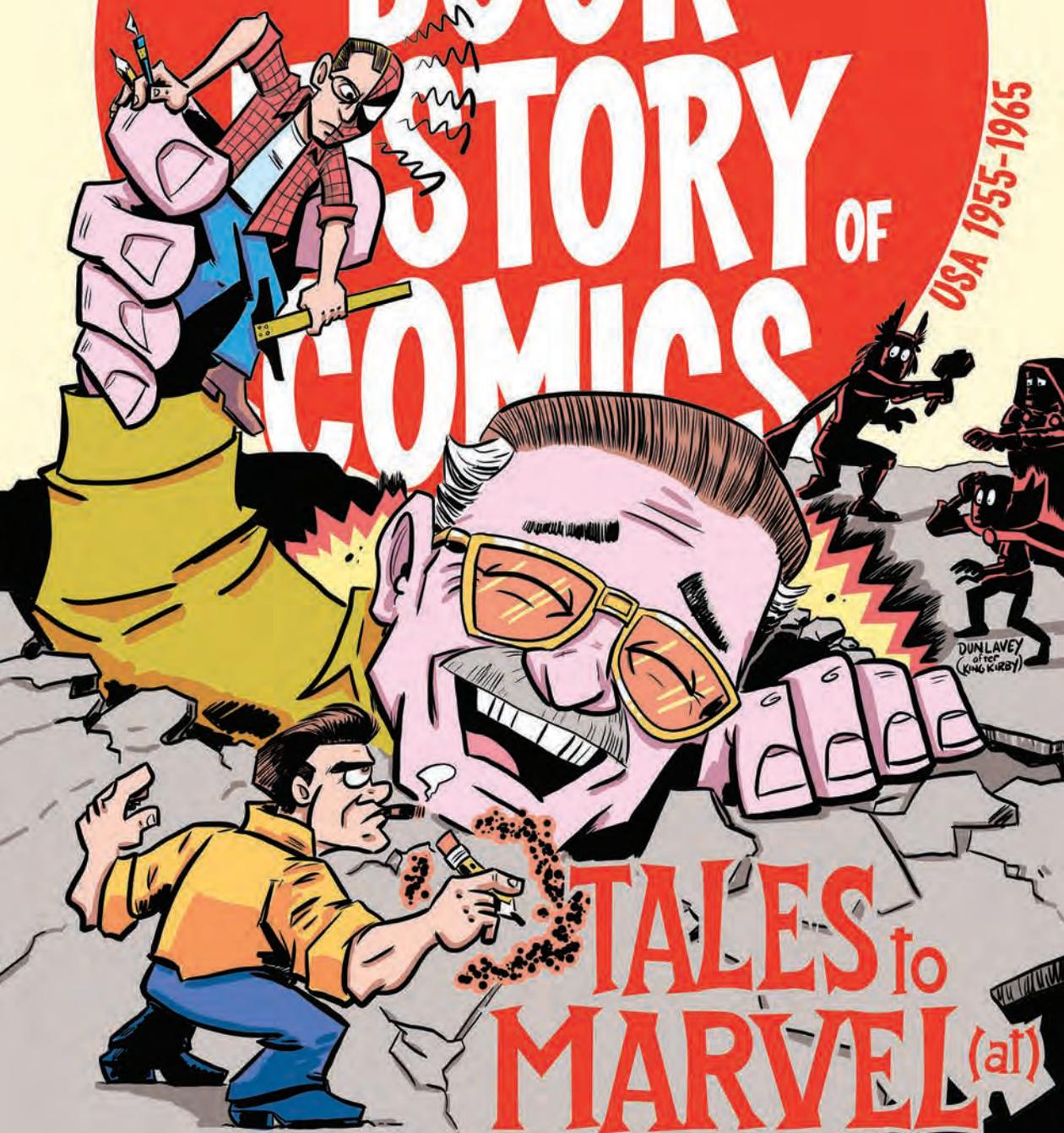
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST **FOUR COLOR** COMIC HISTORY MAGAZINE!

VAN LENTE
DUNLAVEY
GUZOWSKI

THE COMIC BOOK STORY OF COMICS

USA 1955-1965



DUNLAVEY
after
(KIMO KIRBY)

TALES to MARVEL (at)



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Fred Van Lente

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Ryan Dunlavey

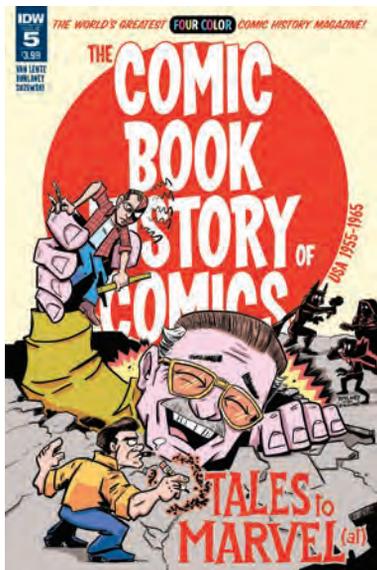
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FANBASE

Presents...

THOUGH EC, *SANS MAD*, DIED WITH THE BIRTH OF THE CMAA, THE 20,000 MEMBERS OF ITS OFFICIAL "FAN-ADDICT" CLUB KEPT ITS MEMORY ALIVE...

...TRADING AND SELLING OLD COMICS, SWAPPING MEMORIES, AND SHARING THEIR OWN EC-STYLE STRIPS THROUGH HOMEMADE FANZINES LIKE *POTRZEBIE*, *HOOHAAH*, *ECHHH*...

...AND *FOO*, A GENTLE *MAD* PASTICHE WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY THE *CRUMB* BROTHERS, CHARLES AND ROBERT, OF DOVER, DELAWARE.



THE *CRUMBS* TRIED TO SELL *FOO* AT THEIR SCHOOL AND DOOR-TO-DOOR AT THE LOCAL *AIR FORCE BASE* WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS IN 1958.

THE BROTHERS BEGAN CREATING FAN COMICS AT AN EARLY AGE. CHARLES FIRST BECAME OBSESSED WITH DELL'S DISNEY-LICENSED PRODUCT AND, ROBERT REMEMBERS, "FORCED ME TO DRAW COMICS! IF I DIDN'T DRAW COMICS, I WAS A USELESS HUMAN BEING."



"I DREW YEARS AND YEARS OF *BROMBO THE PANDA* COMICS THAT WERE REALLY UNINSPIRED, BUT I HAD TO TURN THEM OUT ON A MONTHLY SCHEDULE (BECAUSE OF CHARLES)."

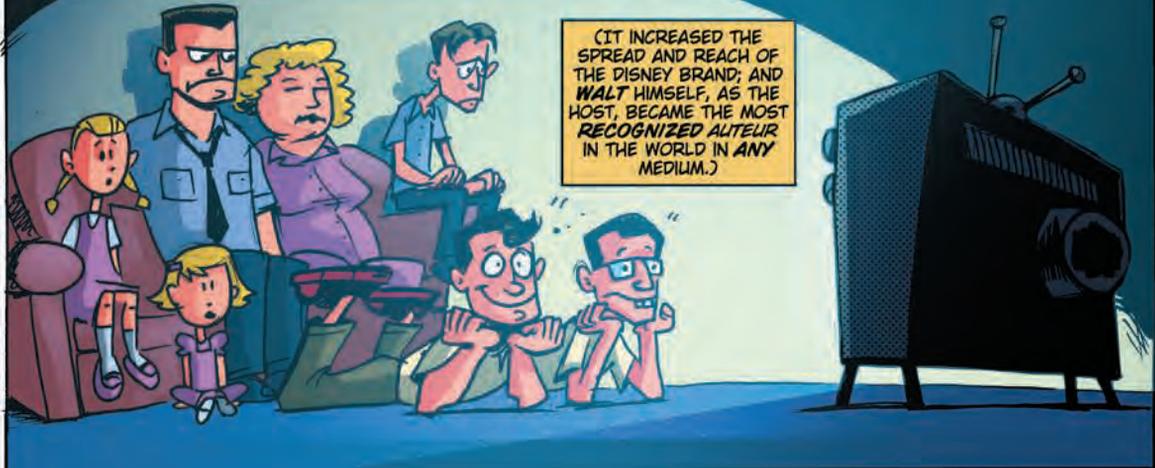
CHARLES' MANY OBSESSIONS HELPED HIM ESCAPE THE BOYS' ABUSIVE, DOMINEERING EX-MARINE FATHER.

HE STARTED DRESSING LIKE *LONG JOHN SILVER* AFTER SEEING DISNEY'S FIRST LIVE-ACTION EFFORT, *TREASURE ISLAND* (1950), ON ABC'S WALT-HOSTED *DISNEYLAND*.



CIT WAS REALLY **TELEVISION** THAT TRANSFORMED DISNEY STUDIOS INTO THE MEGAGIANT IT IS TODAY. WALT'S THREE-DECADE-DEEP ARCHIVE OF **FAMILY-FRIENDLY** FARE GAVE THE FLEDGLING ABC NETWORK ITS **IDENTITY**.

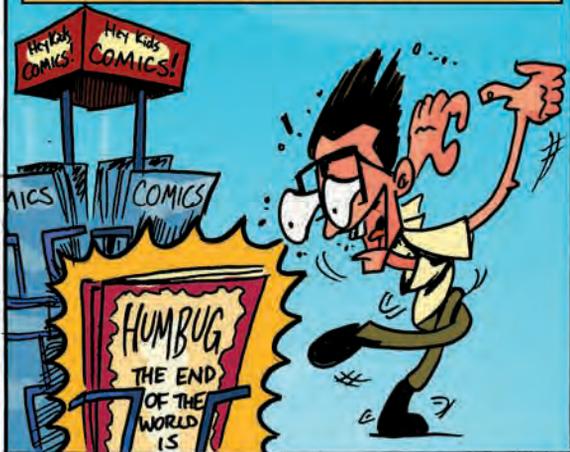
(IT INCREASED THE SPREAD AND REACH OF THE DISNEY BRAND; AND WALT HIMSELF, AS THE HOST, BECAME THE MOST **RECOGNIZED AUTEUR** IN THE WORLD IN **ANY MEDIUM**.)



FROM DISNEY AND DELL **ROBERT CRUMB** GRADUATED TO MAD AND THE WORK OF **HARVEY KURTZMAN**, STARTING WITH **HUMBUG**, HARV'S POST-TRUMP (AND EQUALLY **TROUBLED**) SATIRE EFFORT.

ROBERT BECAME AN **OBSESSIVE KURTZMAN COLLECTOR**: "I **LIVED**, **BREATHED** AND **ATE** THE PAGES OF HIS **MAGAZINES!**"

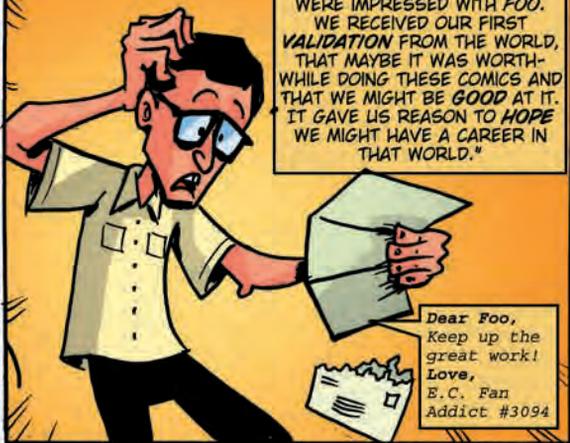
BUT WHEN HE AND **CHARLES** FAILED TO EXCITE THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD OVER THEIR OWN EFFORT, **FOO**, THEY **BURNED** THE UNSOLD PRINT RUN.



STILL:

"THE **REAL IMPORTANCE** OF **FOO** WAS THAT IT CONNECTED **CHARLES** AND ME WITH THE **NATIONAL FANZINE NETWORK**," **ROBERT** ATTESTS.

"THESE **COMICS FANS** WERE IMPRESSED WITH **FOO**. WE RECEIVED OUR FIRST **VALIDATION** FROM THE WORLD, THAT MAYBE IT WAS WORTHWHILE DOING THESE COMICS AND THAT WE MIGHT BE **GOOD** AT IT. IT GAVE US REASON TO **HOPE** WE MIGHT HAVE A CAREER IN THAT WORLD."



Dear Foo,
Keep up the great work!
Love,
E.C. Fan
Addict #3094

THAT **FAN NETWORK**, WHICH FIRST NURTURED THE ARTIST WHO WOULD HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THE MEDIUM SINCE **SIEGEL & SHUSTER**, SPRANG FROM A TRADITION BEGUN A GENERATION **BEFORE** BY **HUGO GERNSBACK**...



INCOMING TRANSMISSION!!!
FROM **JULIUS SCHWARTZ**,
817 CALDWELL AVE., BRONX,
NY RE: "PERILS OF THE
PIRATE PLANET" IN OUR
DECEMBER ISSUE!!!

...WHO PRINTED THE **FULL ADDRESSES** OF THE AUTHORS OF THE **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** IN HIS **SCI-FI PULPS**, ALLOWING FANS TO THEN CORRESPOND WITH **EACH OTHER**.



AMONG THE FIRST GENERATION OF GERNSBACK FANS WAS JULIUS "JULIE" SCHWARTZ, WHO MET FELLOW BRONX ROCKET JUNKIE MORT WEISINGER THROUGH THE READERS' COLUMN OF AMAZING STORIES. TOGETHER, THEY FOUNDED THE TIME TRAVELLER, "SCIENCE FICTION'S ONLY FAN MAGAZINE."

THE FIRST ISSUE DEBUTED JANUARY 9, 1932 WITH ARTICLES ON SF HISTORY, INTERVIEWS AND AUTHOR BIOS BY SCHWARTZ, WEISINGER AND THEIR FRIEND, FUTURE FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND CREATOR FORREST J. ACKERMAN.



THROUGH HIS 'ZINE, JULIE BECAME A LITERARY AGENT FOR PULP AUTHORS LIKE ROBERT BLOCH AND H.P. LOVECRAFT.

YOU WANT TO BUY AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS. YOU WILL PAY FOUR CENTS A WORD FOR IT...

I WANT TO BUY...



SCHWARTZ WOUND UP AT MAX GAINES' ALL-AMERICAN COMICS AND STAYED WITH THE COMPANY AFTER DC BOUGHT GAINES OUT.

HE GOT MANY OF HIS SF BUDDIES AND EX-CLIENTS TO WRITE FOR DC, DESPITE SCI-FI FANDOM'S GENERAL CONTEMPT FOR THE COMICS MEDIUM.

NERD!



THANKS TO SCHWARTZ, DC BECAME A LEADER IN SCIENCE FICTION COMICS WHEN HE BROUGHT OUT TWO TITLES TO COMPETE WITH EC'S SF FARE: STRANGE ADVENTURES (1950) AND MYSTERY IN SPACE (1951).

DC MONKEYS! IN SPACE!

(STRANGE ADVENTURES BEGAN THE NOW-LEGENDARY 1950s DC TREND OF FEATURING GORILLAS ON INNUMERABLE COVERS, SINCE THEY ALLEGEDLY SOLD BETTER THAN NON-GORILLA COVERS.)



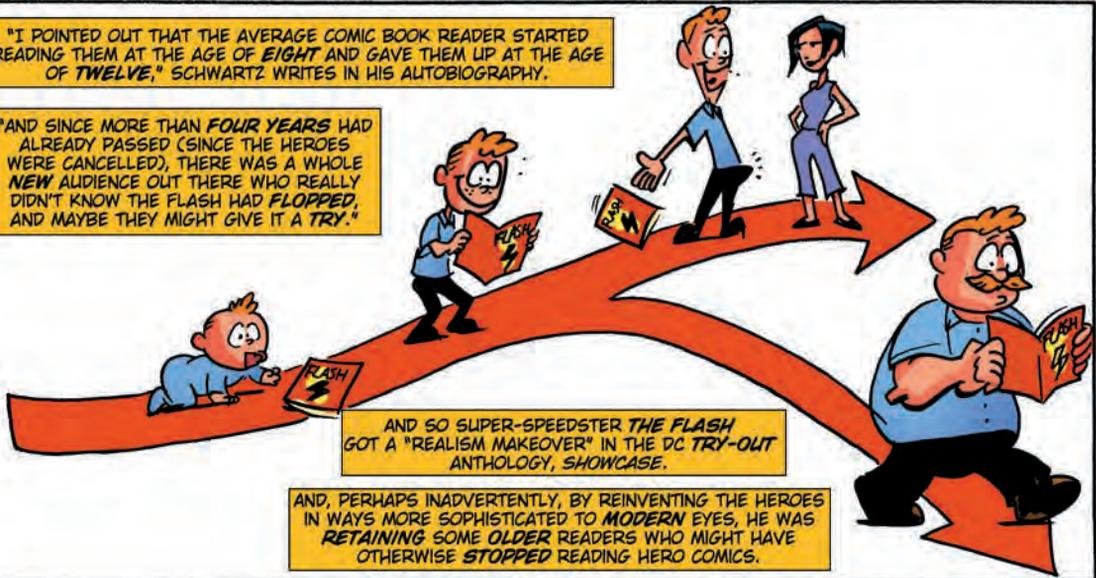
NEXT SCHWARTZ HIT ON THE IDEA OF REVAMPING ALL-AMERICAN'S SUPER HEROES -- CANCELLED EN MASSE AFTER THE WAR -- ALONG SF LINES.

HELMENTS ON, BOYS! I'M PUTTIN' YOU BACK IN!

SWEEEEEEET!!

"I POINTED OUT THAT THE AVERAGE COMIC BOOK READER STARTED READING THEM AT THE AGE OF EIGHT AND GAVE THEM UP AT THE AGE OF TWELVE," SCHWARTZ WRITES IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

"AND SINCE MORE THAN FOUR YEARS HAD ALREADY PASSED (SINCE THE HEROES WERE CANCELLED), THERE WAS A WHOLE NEW AUDIENCE OUT THERE WHO REALLY DIDN'T KNOW THE FLASH HAD FLOPPED, AND MAYBE THEY MIGHT GIVE IT A TRY."



AND SO SUPER-SPEEDSTER THE FLASH GOT A "REALISM MAKEOVER" IN THE DC TRY-OUT ANTHOLOGY, SHOWCASE.

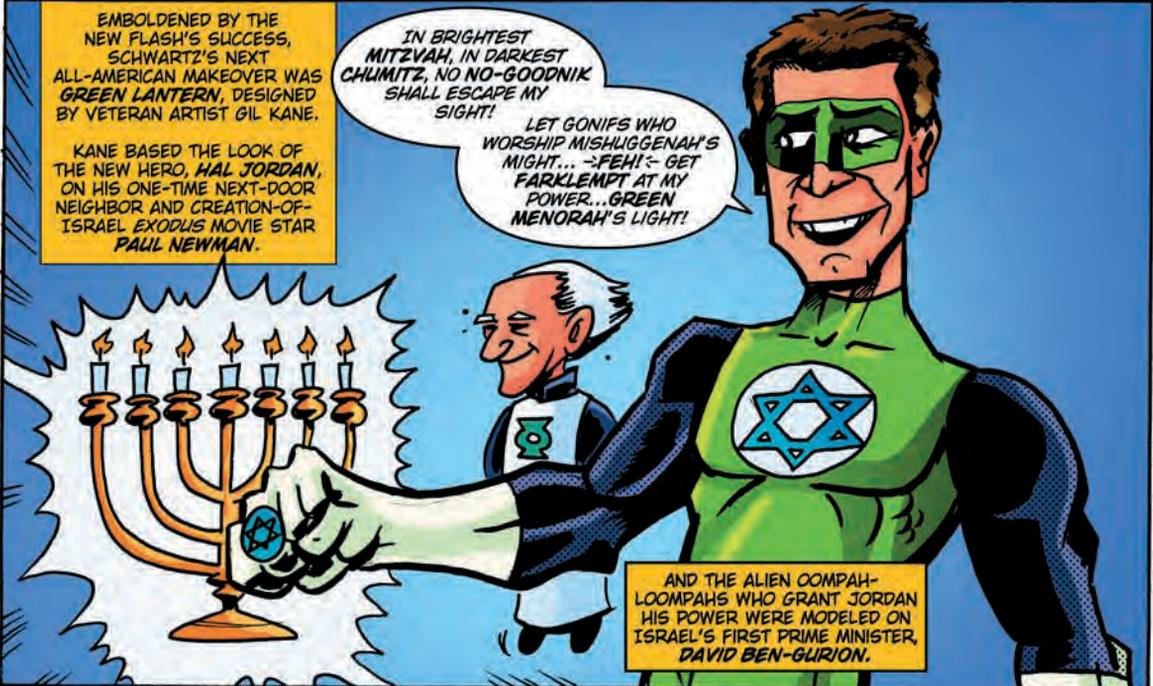
AND, PERHAPS INADVERTENTLY, BY REINVENTING THE HEROES IN WAYS MORE SOPHISTICATED TO MODERN EYES, HE WAS RETAINING SOME OLDER READERS WHO MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE STOPPED READING HERO COMICS.

EMBOLEDENED BY THE NEW FLASH'S SUCCESS, SCHWARTZ'S NEXT ALL-AMERICAN MAKEOVER WAS GREEN LANTERN, DESIGNED BY VETERAN ARTIST GIL KANE.

KANE BASED THE LOOK OF THE NEW HERO, HAL JORDAN, ON HIS ONE-TIME NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR AND CREATION-OF-ISRAEL EXODUS MOVIE STAR PAUL NEWMAN.

IN BRIGHTEST MITZVAH, IN DARKEST CHUMITZ, NO NO-GOODNIK SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT!

LET GONIFS WHO WORSHIP MISHLUGGENAH'S MIGHT... >FEH!< GET FARKLEMPY AT MY POWER... GREEN MENORAH'S LIGHT!



AND THE ALIEN OOMPAH-LOOMPAS WHO GRANT JORDAN HIS POWER WERE MODELED ON ISRAEL'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER, DAVID BEN-GURION.

SUPER HERO CREATORS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING SCHWARTZ'S TEMPLATE FOR TEACHING OLD TIGHTS NEW TRICKS EVER SINCE...

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SUPER HERO

GOLDEN AGE:



WHAT THE--?

THE MYSTIC CAPE THAT MYSTERIOUS WIZARD GAVE ME HAS MYSTICALLY GIVEN ME THE MYSTIC POWERS OF THE FLAMING CAPE!

AW-HAW-HAW!! SO SOLLY, OCCIDENTAL SWINE!!

SAVE ME, FLAMING CAPE!

I MUST NOW USE THESE STRANGE AND WOND'ROUS POWERS TO SAVE WANDA WHITEBREAD FROM THAT ORIENTAL MASTERMIND, DOCTOR JAPANAZI!

SILVER AGE:



GREAT SCOTT!

MY NEWLY-INVENTED SURVIVAL CAPE PROTECTED ME FROM THAT NEUTRON BOMB EXPLOSION BUT THE RADIATION RAYS HAVE TRANSFORMED ME INTO... SOME KIND OF FLAMING CAPE!

MY VICTORY OVER THE CHAMPION OF THE IMPERIALIST WEST SHALL PROVE THE SUPERIORITY OF SOCIALISM!

SAVE ME, FLAMING CAPE!

I MUST NOW USE THESE STRANGE AND WONDEROUS POWERS TO SAVE WANDA WHITE FROM THAT GODLESS MARXIST MASTERMIND, THE COMMISSAR!

MODERN AGE:



Holy Christ Rape!

While I was trapped in that virtual reality simulation, the nanomachines that top-secret military agency injected into me have ionized the air molecules around me into super-hot plasma!

Too late, a-hole!

I stuffed her inside this refrigerator!

Now I can seriously eff-up those terrorists and save President White...

...while Twittering about it on Facebook!

Ryan Dunaway 2009