



STRANGE TALES OF SUSPENSE!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

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APR.

NO.
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ALL
BRAND-NEW
STRANGE
TALES

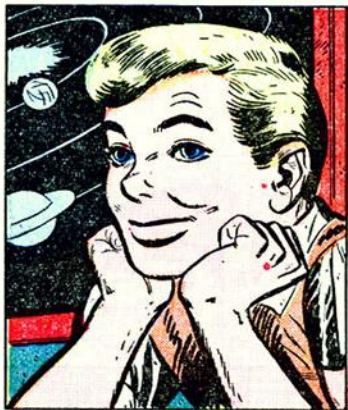
HOW DID HE GET
IN THERE?
"THE MAN IN
THE BOTTLE!"
AND HOW WILL HE
GET OUT?

DON'T MISS
THE STARTLING
CLIMAX OF...
"FREDDIE'S
FACE!"

THE TARGET!



RANDY'S ONE CONSUMING PASSION KEEPS HIM BUSY...SPACE TRAVEL! THE THOUGHT OF CONQUERING THE VAST SPACE VOID THAT SEPARATES THIS WORLD FROM OTHERS SEEMS LIKE A PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO HIM...



HE'S AT IT AGAIN, HOYT! HE'S OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF CROSSING SPACE!

I DON'T LIKE IT, MARLA! WE'VE GOT TO TURN HIS MIND FROM THOSE SCHEMES! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS A PASTIME FOR A KID!



BUT HIS ANXIOUS PARENTS' SUGGESTIONS FALL ON DEAF EARS! RANDY CONTINUES TO PURSUE HIS FASCINATING HOBBY...



THERE! THAT MARKS OUT MY COURSE! I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PLANET'S ORBIT VARIATION, SO MY JOURNEY WILL BE TIMED TO BLAST OFF WHEN THE ROUND TRIP WILL INVOLVE THE SHORTEST DISTANCE!



DAD, TAKE A LOOK AT MY NAVIGATIONAL CHART! I'VE FINALLY DECIDED ON MY **TARGET PLANET!**

FINE, RANDY! NOW, MAYBE YOU'LL STOP MAKING THESE IMAGINATIVE SPACE FLIGHTS AND SETTLE DOWN TO YOUR REGULAR SCHOOLWORK!



DAD, YOU'RE NOT EVEN LOOKING AT THE PLANET I'VE CHOSEN AS MY **TARGET!**

I'VE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU! WHY ALL THIS INTEREST IN SPACE TRAVEL?



WHEN I LOOK OUT THERE, BEYOND OUR WORLD AND SEE ALL THOSE STARS... SOMETHING OUT THERE SEEMS TO DRAW ME AWAY FROM HERE! IT'S MORE THAN JUST THE CHALLENGE OF BEING **FIRST** TO CROSS THE SPACE VOID! IT'S AS IF I WERE **BECKONED!**



SPACE TRAVEL IS A DANGEROUS UNDERTAKING! PUT YOUR CHARTS AND MODELS AWAY FOR TWO WEEKS AND PLAY WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN!

ALRIGHT, DAD!

FOR TWO WEEKS, RANDY FORCES HIMSELF TO AVOID THINKING ABOUT SPACE TRAVEL. BUT ONCE THE PROMISED PERIOD ENDS, HE STARTS CHECKING WITH LEADING SCIENTISTS...



NO, I'M AFRAID SPACE TRAVEL IS **IMPOSSIBLE!** THE HEAT OF FRICTION CAUSED BY A SPACE SHIP BREAKING THRU OUR ATMOSPHERE AT THE REQUIRED SPEED TO GET CLEAR OF OUR GRAVITATIONAL FIELD, WOULD **MELT** ANY KNOWN METAL!

THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION, SIR!



THEN RANDY CONSULTS A LEADING ASTRONOMER...

THE CLOSEST WE'LL GET TO ANY OF THE PLANETS WILL BE AS NEAR AS OUR TELESCOPES WILL BRING US! I'VE STUDIED THE PROBLEM FOR YEARS... SPACE TRAVEL WILL **NEVER** BE ACCOMPLISHED!



SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN PROVEN **WRONG** BEFORE! SOMEDAY I'LL DEMONSTRATE TO THEM ALL THAT A SPACE SHIP **CAN** REACH ANOTHER PLANET!



THAT EVENING...

WHAT'S WRONG, RANDY? YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN A BITE!

I SAW DR. KARN'S AND PROFESSOR BEND'S... THEY BOTH SAID MAN WOULD **NEVER** BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS PLANET!



I KNOW IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT, BUT THEY'RE WISER THAN YOU ARE, AND THEY HAVE THEIR **REASONS** FOR COMING TO THEIR CONCLUSIONS! FORGET THIS WILD DREAM AND ENJOY LIFE WHERE YOU ARE!



BITTERLY, RANDY SURVEYS HIS CAREFULLY WORKED-OUT COURSE ACROSS SPACE...

EVERYTHING IS RIGHT ON PAPER FOR ME TO REACH MY TARGET PLANET! I'VE **GOT** TO REACH IT SOMEDAY... I **MUST** MAKE THE TRIP!



THEN, WITH SUDDEN RESOLVE, HE STUFFS THE CHART INTO A DESK DRAWER AND SLAMS IT SHUT...

WONDER WHAT THE FELLOWS ARE DOING TOMORROW?



HE PUT HIS CHART AWAY!

THE CHAT WITH THOSE TWO SCIENTISTS MAY HAVE DONE THE TRICK! LET'S HOPE HE FORGETS COMPLETELY ABOUT HIS **DANGEROUS** PROJECT!

BUT, THE NEXT DAY, AS RANDY PLAYS BALL WITH HIS FRIENDS, A WILD TOSS SENDS HIM SCURRYING TOWARD A HITHERTO UNNOTICED RAVINE...



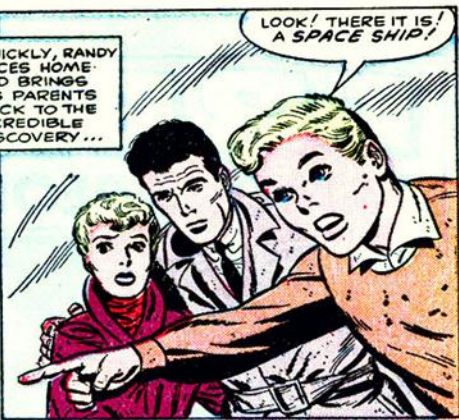
A SPACE SHIP! I'M NOT SEEING THINGS! THERE'S A WRECKED **SPACE SHIP** DOWN THERE!

CONTINUES AFTER NEXT PAGE.



IT LOOKS AS IF SOMEONE MADE A HALFHEARTED ATTEMPT TO HIDE THE RUINS, BUT THE LAST STORM WE HAD MUST'VE UNCOVERED THE BURIED WRECKAGE! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT **HOW** IT GOT HERE!

QUICKLY, RANDY RACES HOME AND BRINGS HIS PARENTS BACK TO THE INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY...



LOOK! THERE IT IS! A SPACE SHIP!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS? **SOMEONE ELSE** IS INTERESTED IN SPACE TRAVEL!



MAYBE IF I CHECK THRU THE WRECKAGE, I'LL BE ABLE TO LEARN WHO DESIGNED THIS SHIP! THEN I COULD WORK WITH HIM, AND SOMEDAY I'LL REACH MY **TARGET PLANET!**

AS RANDY SEARCHES THE CRASHED SHIP, HIS PARENTS RETURN HOME IN GRIM SILENCE...



HOYT, WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN RANDY DISCOVERS THAT SHIP WASN'T AN **EXPERIMENTAL** MODEL, BUT WAS ACTUALLY **USED** TO CROSS SPACE?

...CROSS SPACE TO BRING US HERE, TO ESCAPE A WAR-MAD PLANET! AND THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TELL HIM HOW WE PARTLY DESTROYED THE SHIP, SO NONE OF US THOUSAND REFUGEES COULD FLY BACK AND REVEAL OUR HIDE-OUT!

WE MUST TELL HIM THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR COLONY, HOYT! OTHERWISE, ONE DAY RANDY WILL LEAD HIS UNSUSPECTING GENERATION ON A **FLIGHT INTO SPACE!**



IT'S IN HIS BLOOD, MARLA! EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BORN HERE, INSTINCTIVELY HE'S **HOMESICK!** HIS **TARGET PLANET** IS EARTH!



FOR THE BEST IN UNUSUAL STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER

