

THE INCREDIBLE
ADVENTURES OF
**JANUS
STARK**

VOLUME II

TOM TULLY
FRANCISCO SOLANO LÓPEZ
JAIME BROCAL REMOHÍ
FRANC FUENTES MAN
REG BUNN



THE TREASURY OF BRITISH COMICS PRESENTS

THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF **JANUS STARK** VOLUME II

SCRIPT

TOM TULLY

ART

FRANCISCO SOLANO LÓPEZ: PAGES 7-12, 19-30
JAIME BROCAL REMOHÍ: PAGES 1-6, 31-36
FRANC FUENTES MAN: PAGES 13-18, 43-48
REG BUNN: PAGES 37-42

Creative Director and CEO: Jason Kingsley

Chief Technical Officer: Chris Kingsley

Head of Publishing: Ben Smith

Deputy Publishing Manager: Rob Power

2000 AD Editor in Chief: Matt Smith

Senior Graphic Novel Editor: Keith Richardson

Graphic Novel Editors: Maz Smith, Oliver Pickles

Graphic Design: Sam Gretton, Oz Osborne & Gemma Sheldrake

Reprographics: Joseph Morgan, Emma Denton & Richard Tustian

PR: Michael Molcher

Publishing Coordinator: Owen Johnson

Originally serialised in *Smash!* 14th June-20th September 1969. Copyright © 1969, 2020 Rebellion Publishing IP Ltd. All rights reserved. *Janus Stark* and all related characters, their distinctive likenesses and related elements featured in this publication are trademarks of Rebellion. The stories, characters and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional.

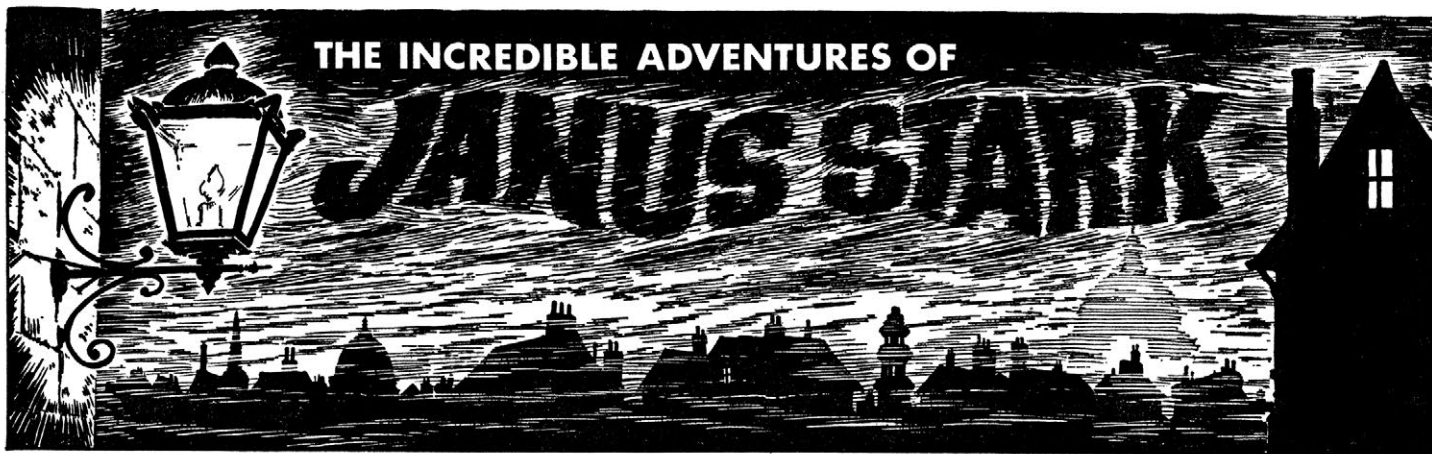
Published by Rebellion, Riverside House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

www.rebellion.com

Printed in the UK by Comic Printing UK

For more information on *Treasury of British Comics* graphic novels, please email: books@2000ADonline.com

To find out more, visit treasuryofbritishcomics.co.uk



EVEN THOUGH THE WRETCHED BOYS OF HEMLOCK HALL ORPHANAGE WERE CONSTANTLY ILL-TREATED, IT WAS ALWAYS A SAD OCCASION WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR ONE OF THEM TO LEAVE THE ONLY FRIENDS HE HAD EVER KNOWN AND DEPART INTO THE BLEAK, OUTSIDE WORLD. SUCH A DAY HAD COME FOR YOUNG OLIVER WIMPLE...

SO THAT IS WHO HAS COME TO TAKE ME AWAY, HE LOOKS AS CRUEL AS SIMON TRAGG, OUR ORPHANAGE MASTER!

I HOPE FOR YOUR SAKE, OLIVER, THAT HIS DARK LOOKS ARE DECEIVING!

GOOD LUCK, OLD FRIEND!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND TO ME, JONAS CLARKE! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!

AND SO THE TWO FRIENDS WERE PARTED...

STOP SQUIRMING, YOU YOUNG RIP! SAY 'HOW D'YER DO?' TO YER NEW MASTER, MISTER MOLESWORTH! VERY IMPORTANT MAN, 'E IS... A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE!

OLIVER WIMPLE SANK INTO OBLIVION, BUT IT IS A WELL-KNOWN STORY HOW JONAS CLARKE FINALLY EARNED FAME AND FORTUNE AS THE ESCAPIST... JANUS STARK!

'PON MY WORD... THE FELLOW IS QUITE REMARKABLE!

OCCASIONALLY, OLIVER SAW MENTION OF JANUS, USUALLY IN AN OLD NEWSPAPER...

SO JANUS STARK IS BRINGING HIS ACT TO WOOLWICH TOMORROW! THAT'S ONLY A FEW MILES FROM HERE...

WIMPLE'S LIFE WAS ONE OF TOIL AND FEAR IN AHAB MOLESWORTH'S GLOOMY HOUSE. THE TOIL LASTED ALL DAY IN THE KITCHEN... THE FEAR BEGAN AT NIGHT, CONNECTED WITH A LOCKED CELLAR DOOR!

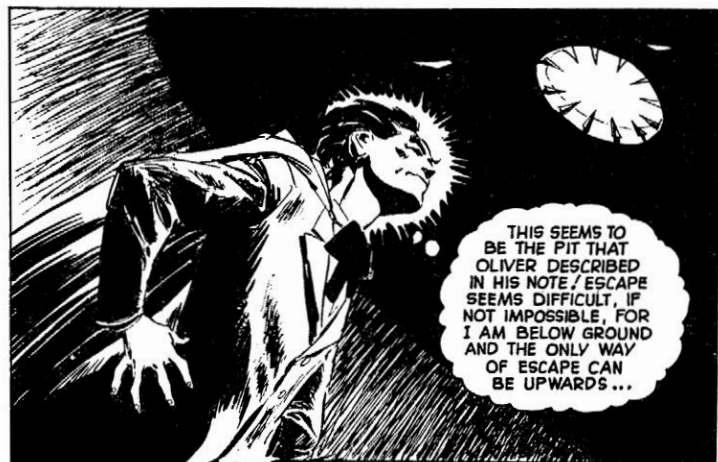
WHY... WHY IS THAT CELLAR DOOR ALWAYS KEPT LOCKED?

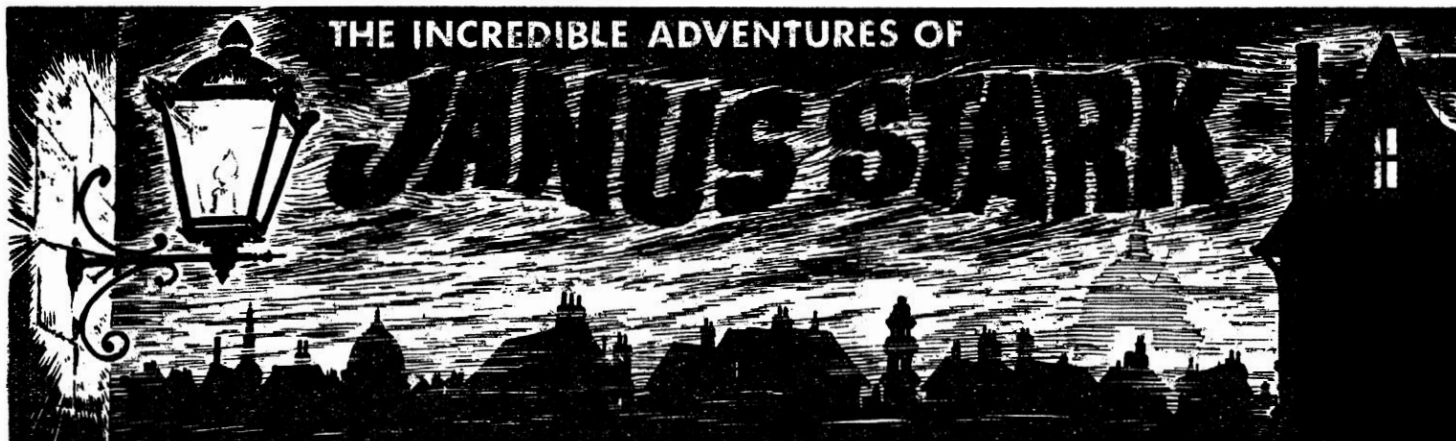
AAH!

THERE'S THAT 'ORRIBLE NOISE AGAIN... AND FOOTSTEPS! IT'S OLD MOLESWORTH HIMSELF GOING DOWNSTAIRS!

OFTEN THE EERIE SHADOWS OF MOLESWORTH MANSION VIBRATED WITH AN AWFUL MOANING...



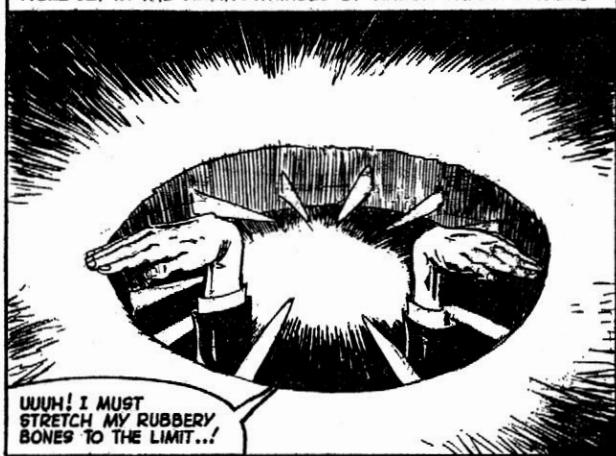




JANUS STARK - MASTER-ESCAPIST OF VICTORIAN LONDON - HAD RECEIVED A NOTE FROM OLIVER WIMPLE, AN OLD FRIEND WHO WAS WORKING FOR THE EVIL AHAH MOLESWORTH. OLIVER WAS TERRIFIED BY MOANS COMING FROM A PIT IN THE CELLAR... BUT WHEN JANUS ARRIVED TO INVESTIGATE, HE WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS, AND WHEN HE RECOVERED HIS SENSES...



THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF THE PIT WAS VIA THE NARROW HOLE SET IN THE CEILING... RINGED BY RAZOR-SHARP SPIKES!



LONG FINGERS GRASPED THE STONE RIM, AND IN AN AGONY OF EFFORT STARK HAULED HIS BODY THROUGH!



ONCE OUT OF THE TERRIBLE PIT, THE CELLAR DOOR PROVED NO PROBLEM TO THE MAN WHO LAUGHED AT LOCKS!

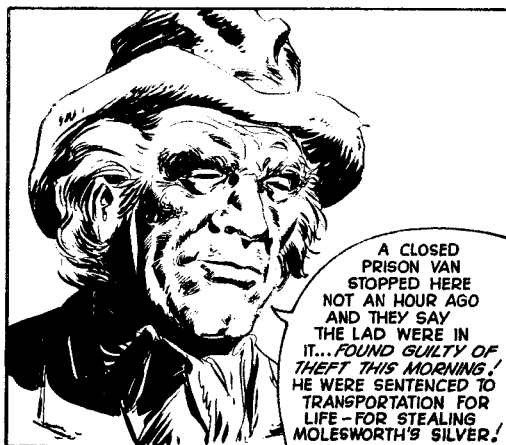


JANUS STARK MADE A CAUTIOUS SEARCH FOR HIS FRIEND...

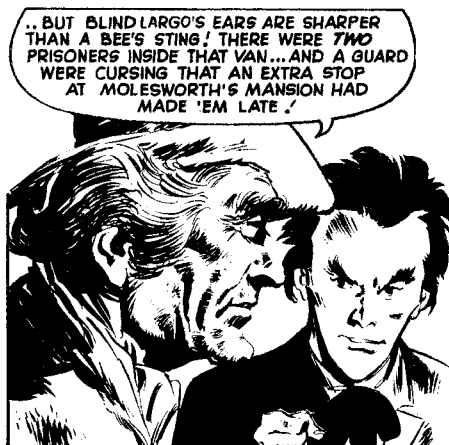


MYSTIFIED, JANUS HURRIED BACK TO THE VILLAGE AND HIS COMPANION, BLIND LARGO...





A CLOSED PRISON VAN STOPPED HERE NOT AN HOUR AGO AND THEY SAY THE LAD WERE IN IT... FOUND GUILTY OF THEFT THIS MORNING! HE WERE SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE - FOR STEALING MOLESWORTH'S SILVER!

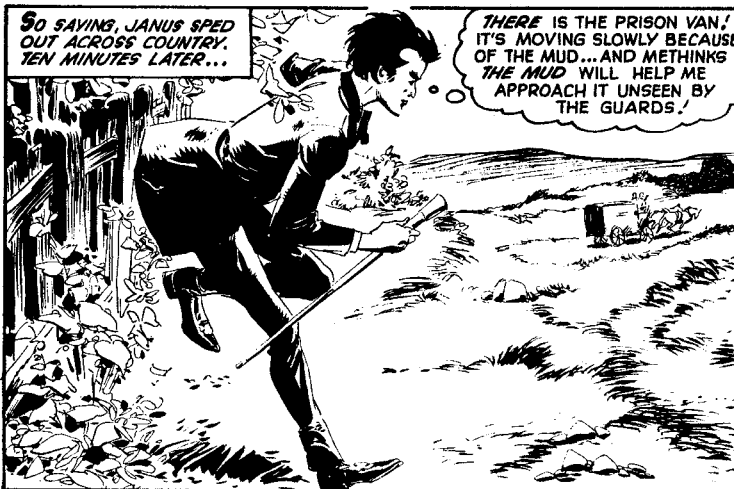


.. BUT BLIND LARGO'S EARS ARE SHARPER THAN A BEE'S STING! THERE WERE TWO PRISONERS INSIDE THAT VAN... AND A GUARD WERE CURSING THAT AN EXTRA STOP AT MOLESWORTH'S MANSION HAD MADE 'EM LATE!



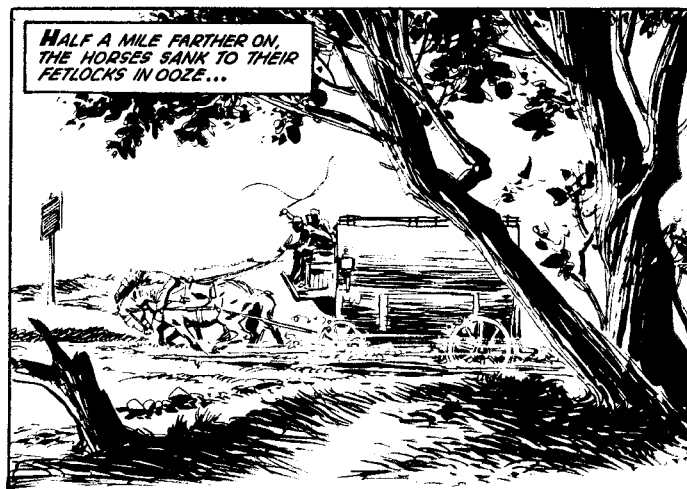
BUT JANUS WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN THE FATE OF ONE PRISONER...

THE CHARGE IS FALSE! OLIVER HAS NEVER STOLEN, EVEN WHEN HE WAS STARVING! YESTERDAY HE WROTE TO ME APPEALING FOR HELP... NOW I SHALL GIVE THAT HELP!



SO SAYING, JANUS SPED OUT ACROSS COUNTRY. TEN MINUTES LATER...

THERE IS THE PRISON VAN! IT'S MOVING SLOWLY BECAUSE OF THE MUD... AND METHINKS THE MUD WILL HELP ME APPROACH IT UNSEEN BY THE GUARDS!



HALF A MILE FARTHER ON, THE HORSES SANK TO THEIR FETLOCKS IN OOZE...



THEN SUDDENLY THE MUD PARTED BEHIND THEM...

UUURGH! THESE BOARDS HAVE SAVED ME FROM BEING TRAMPLED BY THE HORSES' HOOVES!



AND AS THE WAGON PASSED OVER HIM, HE CAUGHT HOLD OF THE AXLE...

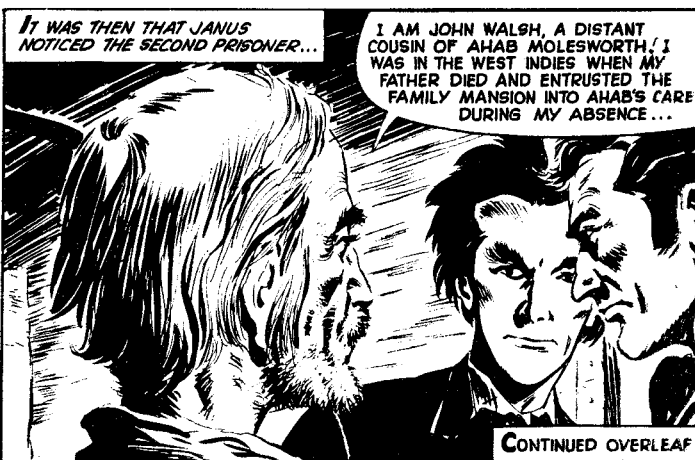
NOW PERHAPS I CAN WORK MY WAY UNSEEN INTO THIS TRAVELLING JAIL!



SOME TIME LATER...

JANUS STARK! YOU!

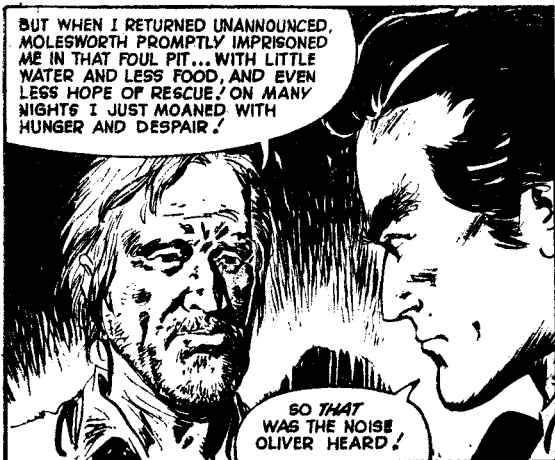
NOT TOO LOUD, OLIVER, OLD FRIEND! WE DON'T WANT TO ALERT THE GUARDS!



IT WAS THEN THAT JANUS NOTICED THE SECOND PRISONER...

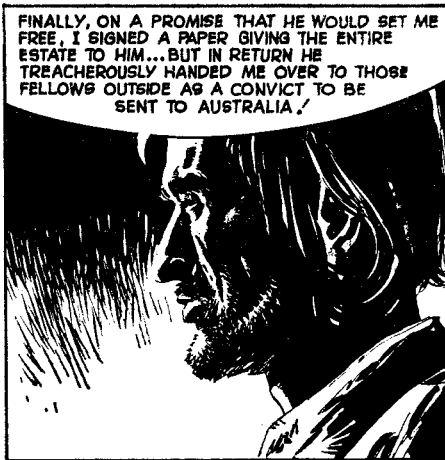
I AM JOHN WALSH, A DISTANT COUSIN OF AHAB MOLESWORTH! I WAS IN THE WEST INDIES WHEN MY FATHER DIED AND ENTRUSTED THE FAMILY MANSION INTO AHAB'S CARE DURING MY ABSENCE...

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



BUT WHEN I RETURNED UNANNOUNCED, MOLESWORTH PROMPTLY IMPRISONED ME IN THAT FOUL PIT... WITH LITTLE WATER AND LESS FOOD, AND EVEN LESS HOPE OF RESCUE! ON MANY NIGHTS I JUST MOANED WITH HUNGER AND DESPAIR!

SO THAT WAS THE NOISE OLIVER HEARD!



FINALLY, ON A PROMISE THAT HE WOULD SET ME FREE, I SIGNED A PAPER GIVING THE ENTIRE ESTATE TO HIM... BUT IN RETURN HE TREACHEROUSLY HANDED ME OVER TO THOSE FELLOWS OUTSIDE AS A CONVICT TO BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA!



THIS TIME THE VILE AHAB MOLESWORTH WAS GIVEN A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE! I HAVE A PLAN TO DO JUST THAT... IF YOU'LL AGREE TO IT, MR. WALSH!

SPEAK ON, LAD!



THE FIRST PART OF THE PLAN WAS SIMPLE... THE TRIO WERE TO DROP THROUGH THE FLOOR OF THE TRAVELLING PRISON!



LATER THAT DAY, AHAB MOLESWORTH OPENED HIS FRONT DOOR TO SOME UNEXPECTED CALLERS!

YES, AHAB MOLESWORTH, WE HAVE MET BEFORE... NOW MEET TWO FRIENDS OF MINE FROM BOW STREET!

STARK! BUT-BUT...

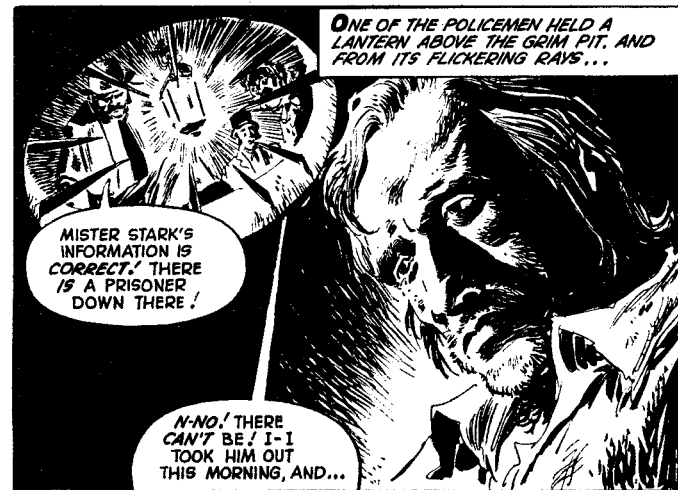
WE BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE HOLDING A MAN PRISONER IN THIS HOUSE AGAINST HIS WILL! WE HAVE A WARRANT TO SEARCH!



AHAB WAS CONVINCED THEY WOULD FIND NO PRISONER - FOR HE HAD PERSONALLY DESPATCHED HIS COUSIN TO AUSTRALIA!

WHAT A RIDICULOUS IDEA! BY ALL MEANS COME IN AND SEARCH!

WE'LL LOOK IN THE CELLAR FIRST!



ONE OF THE POLICEMEN HELD A LANTERN ABOVE THE GRIM PIT, AND FROM ITS FLICKERING RAYS...

MISTER STARK'S INFORMATION IS CORRECT! THERE IS A PRISONER DOWN THERE!

N-NO! THERE CAN'T BE! I-I TOOK HIM OUT THIS MORNING, AND...



BUT AHAB MOLESWORTH WAS ALREADY AS GOOD AS CONDEMNED TO A LONG TERM OF IMPRISONMENT... WHICH HE JUSTLY DESERVED!

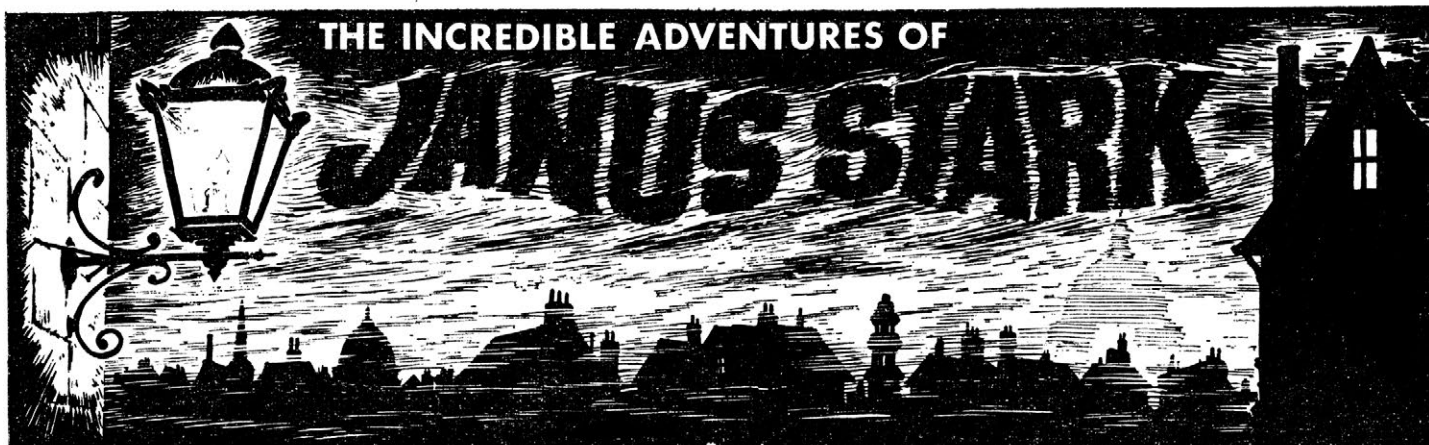
THAT AHAB WAS FOND O' LOCKING PEOPLE UP... I WONDER HOW HE'LL LIKE IT HIMSELF?



FAREWELL, JANUS - AND THANK YOU!

THE MASTER OF ESCAPE HAD SOLVED YET ANOTHER MYSTERY!

BE SURE NOT TO MISS THE NEXT GRIPPING JANUS STARK ADVENTURE... IN "SMASH!"



THE RAJAH OF RANPAWR HAD KNOWN MANY CLEVER ENTERTAINERS, AND SEEN THEM PERFORM SOME UNCANNY ACTS, IN HIS NATIVE INDIA, BUT IT WAS IN LONDON THAT HE MET THE MOST FANTASTIC OF THEM ALL... JANUS STARK, ESCAPOLOGIST-EXTRAORDINARY OF THE VICTORIAN ERA!

YOU HAVE SUMMONED ME TO ENTERTAIN YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS. BUT I SHALL DO MORE THAN THAT... I SHALL ASTOUND YOU!

OTHERS HAVE TRIED, MY FRIEND... BUT I AM NOT EASILY IMPRESSED!

IT WAS IN THE RAJAH'S HOTEL THAT THE STRANGE DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE...

MEET... MY ASSISTANT!

BY THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT... A FULL-GROWN PYTHON!



PAH! THE CREATURE IS NO MORE THAN A TRAINED PET, HIGHNESS!



NO, VEDAH! I HAVE SEEN MANY PYTHONS IN RANPAWR, AND THIS SERPENT IS UNTAMED... A DEADLY MAN-KILLER!

STARK SHUDDERED AT THE MERCILESS STRENGTH OF THE HUGE SNAKE...

GAAH! HAVE I CHALLENGED FATE: ONCE TOO OFTEN? CAN - CAN I ESCAPE?

SEE, THE BRUTE CONSTRICTS ITS COILS... AND SEEKS TO CRUSH JANUS STARK TO DEATH!



THEN, WITH A SUPREME EFFORT...



AS VISHNU IS MY WITNESS... HE FREES HIMSELF FROM THE FATAL GRIP OF THE PYTHON!



YOU HAVE MADE GOOD YOUR BOAST, MY FRIEND! I AM ASTOUNDED!

IT MUST BE SOME TRICK... PERHAPS THE PYTHON IS AN ILLUSION!



BUT THE HUGE REPTILE
SUDDENLY UNCOILED...

NO! THE BRUTE
STRIKES AT US,
HIGHNESS!

BY HEAVENS,
THIS WAS NO
PART OF MY
ACT!



A LIGHT OF UNCANNY POWER AND
COMPELLING FORCE BURNED IN THE
INCREDIBLE EYES OF JANUS STARK...

BRAMAH BE
PRAISED! THE
CREATURE
OBEYS!

BACK, FIEND!



YOU HAVE SAVED MY
LIFE, JANUS STARK. I
MUST FIND A FITTING
REWARD FOR YOU.

NO, HIGHNESS... YOU MUST
NOT GIVE THE STAR OF
RANPAUR TO THIS ENGLISHMAN!



BUT THE RAJAH PRESENTED
STARK WITH THE PRICELESS
JEWEL...

ENVY CURDLES
YOUR TONGUE,
VEDAH... BE
SILENT!

IT IS A
PRINCELY GIFT,
HIGHNESS. I SHALL
TREASURE IT!



VEDAH WAS THE LEADER OF AN INDIAN
SECT IN VICTORIAN LONDON...

THIS IS ALL THE REWARD I GET
FOR FAWNING ON THE RAJAH! THE
FOREIGNER MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED TO KEEP HIS TREASURE.
DVIN... FOLLOW HIM!

KALI SHALL LEND
CUNNING TO MY
HANDS, MASTER... AND
THE STAR SHALL
GLOW BEFORE HER
STATUE IN OUR
TEMPLE, ERE THIS
NIGHT IS OUT!



THE UNSUSPECTING STARK
WALKED BACK TO HIS
CHAMBERS THROUGH THE
FOGGY LONDON STREETS...

THE JEWEL
MUST BE WORTH
MANY THOUSANDS
OF POUNDS... BUT
I BELIEVE I
EARNED IT!



BUT SUDDENLY, IN A
SHADY ALLEYWAY...

DIE, UNBELIEVER...
BY THE WEIGHTED
SCARF OF THUGSEE!

HUH?



THE THUGS OF INDIA WERE DREADED PROFESSIONAL KILLERS...

ARGH!

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...



KALI'S WILL IS DONE ...
AND THE STAR OF
RANPAWR SHALL SHINE
IN HER FOREHEAD,
INSTEAD OF IN THE
UNWORTHY POCKET OF
THIS FOREIGN DOG!

BUT JANUS
STARK HAD
ONLY FEIGNED
DEATH, IN ORDER
TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT HIS
ASSAILANT...



SO I HAVE CHEATED FATE
A SECOND TIME TONIGHT...!
IT WAS LUCKY FOR ME
THAT I MANAGED TO SLIP
MY HAND UNDER THE
SCARF AND TAKE THE
PRESSURE FROM MY
THROAT!

STARK GLIDED AFTER THE FLITTING
SHADOW OF THE INDIAN...

THE ASSASSIN IS A
HENCHMAN OF THAT
FAWNING CUR, VEDAH...
I MUST FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT THIS NEST
OF VIPERS!



THE MASTER AWAITS
YOU, DVIN!

A RESPECTABLE HOUSE
IN PIMLICO...BUT WHAT
LIES BEHIND ITS
DOORS?



NO BUILDING, HOWEVER WELL GUARDED,
COULD RESIST THE TALENTS OF THE
MAN WHO LAUGHED AT LOCKS!

THE MAIN
WINDOWS ARE
BARRED...NO DOUBT
VISITORS ARE
UNWELCOME! BUT
JANUS STARK
GOES WHERE
HE CHOOSES!



SO THIS IS
VEDAH'S SECRET
HIDE-OUT / A SHRINE
TO KALI, THE SAVAGE
GODDESS OF DEATH...
IN THE HEART
OF LONDON!



IN AN INNER ROOM OF
THE STRANGE TEMPLE...

THE UNBELIEVER
IS DEAD, MASTER...
AND THE STAR OF
RANPAWR IS KALI'S!

IT IS GOOD,
DVIN! WE WILL PLACE
IT WITH THE REST OF
THE WEALTH WE HAVE AMASSED
BY THEFT AND ASSASSINATION
OVER THE YEARS!



BUT EVEN AS JANUS STARK
CREPT ALONG THE CORRIDOR,
UNCANNY EYES WERE WATCHING
HIS EVERY MOVEMENT...

THESE VILLAINS
MUST HAVE BEEN
RESPONSIBLE FOR A
HUNDRED UNSOLVED
CRIMES WHICH HAVE
BAFFLED SCOTLAND
YARD! IT IS TIME
THE VIPERS WERE
CRUSHED!



THEN...

AAAH!

CAN
JANUS STARK
ESCAPE THE
CLUTCHES
OF THE
IDOL? FOLLOW
THE
EXCITEMENT
NEXT
WEEK!

THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF JANUS STARK

JANUS STARK, ESCAPOLOGIST-EXTRAORDINARY OF THE VICTORIAN ERA, HAD SO IMPRESSED A VISITING INDIAN RAJAH WITH HIS UNCANNY POWERS THAT HE WAS PRESENTED WITH A PRICELESS JEWEL. BUT THE JEWEL WAS STOLEN FROM STARK BY AN ASSASSIN EMPLOYED BY A SINISTER INDIAN NAMED VEDAH, LEADER OF A CRIMINAL SECT. STARK ESCAPED DEATH, AND FOLLOWED THE ASSASSIN TO VEDAH'S SECRET TEMPLE IN BELGRAVIA. BUT, INSIDE THE TEMPLE, A WEIRD AMBUSH WAS SPRUNG...



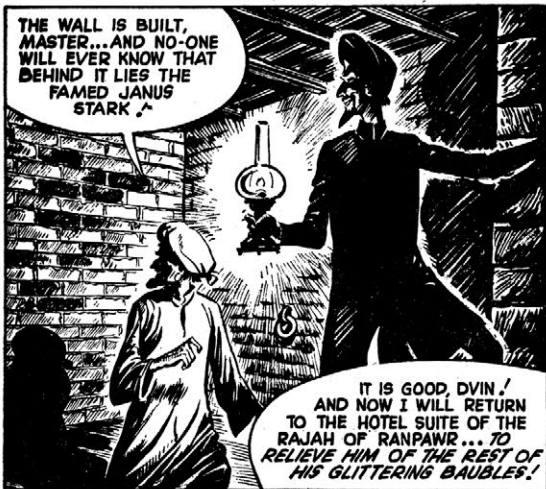


NOW USE THE BRICKS AND MORTAR AND WALL-IN THE UNBELIEVER!



THE WALL OF BRICKS ROSE RAPIDLY BEFORE THE HELPLESS BODY OF JANUS STARK...

A PITY YOU HAVE NOT RECOVERED YOUR SENSES, MY ELUSIVE FRIEND! YOU COULD HAVE SAVOURED TO THE FULL YOUR LAST, LINGERING MOMENTS... IN THAT NARROW PRISON WHICH WILL BE YOUR TOMB!



THE WALL IS BUILT, MASTER...AND NO-ONE WILL EVER KNOW THAT BEHIND IT LIES THE FAMED JANUS STARK.

IT IS GOOD, DVIN! AND NOW I WILL RETURN TO THE HOTEL SUITE OF THE RAJAH OF RANPAWR... TO RELIEVE HIM OF THE REST OF HIS GLITTERING BAUBLES!



THIRTY MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE NARROW SPACE...

THEY HAVE BURIED ME ALIVE! CAN I ESCAPE... OR IS THE CURTAIN TO FALL AT LAST ON THE DRAMATIC CAREER OF JANUS STARK?



BUT THE FINGERS OF THE MASTER OF ESCAPE WERE FANTASTICALLY SUPPLE...AND PHENOMENALLY STRONG!

SUCCESS!

THE NEW WALL OF BRICKS RESISTS MY EFFORTS... BUT THE MORTAR IN THIS OUTER WALL IS OLD AND BRITTLE.



AS STARK SQUEEZED THROUGH THE TINY HOLE TO FREEDOM, HE OVERHEARD THE VOICE OF VEDAH'S HENCHMAN...

THE MASTER WILL RETURN SOON WITH THE JEWELS OF THE RAJAH OF RANPAWR... TO SWELL THE FORTUNE IN LOOT WHICH ALREADY FILLS A VAULT IN THIS SECRET TEMPLE OF OURS!



FIVE MINUTES LATER, IN A DESERTED BELGRAVIA SQUARE...

HUR? WHASSAT?

To Inspector Frome. Take your minions to number Thirteen, Regent Square, Belgravia. You will find there the solution to a hundred crimes which have baffled Scotland Yard. Janus Stark.

NAR! NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT! BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN LONDON WHO COULD VANISH THAT QUICKLY!



JANUS STARK HURRIED ACROSS LONDON TO A LUXURY HOTEL IN MAYFAIR...

THIS IS THE HOTEL WHERE THE RAJAH IS STAYING. NOW TO CATCH THE VILLAINOUS VEDAH RED-HANDED!

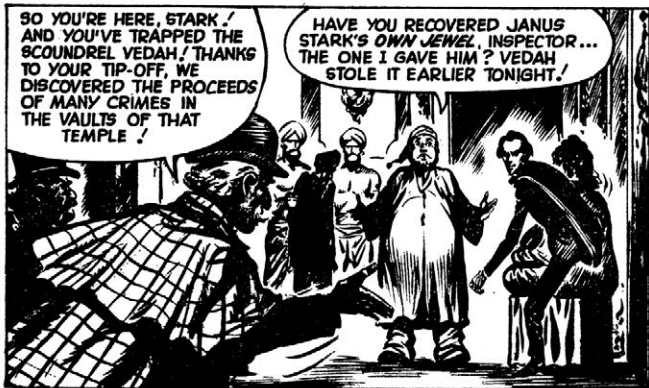
CONTINUED OVERLEAF



KALI
BE PRAISED...
MY HAUL IS
A RICH ONE!



I MUST ALLOW
THE VILLAIN NO
CHANCE TO DENY
HIS GUILT, AND THIS
STATUE WILL SERVE
MY PURPOSE WELL!



THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF JANUS STARK

JANUS STARK, MAN OF MYSTERY, ESCAPIST AND MASTER OF ILLUSION, OFTEN LIKED TO WALK ALONE THROUGH THE DRAB STREETS OF VICTORIAN LONDON. HERE, AS JONAS CLARKE, A RUNAWAY ORPHAN BOY, HE HAD FIRST MET THE AMAZING OLD MAN, BLIND LARGO, WHO HAD GUIDED HIM TO FAME...



JANUS STARK HAD NEVER FORGOTTEN HIS OWN HUMBLE BEGINNING...

WHAT A FOUL PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO LIVE! PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SOME HELP!



BUT THE MAN WHO BAFFLED AUDIENCES WITH HIS ASTOUNDING FEATS SOMETIMES FORGOT HIS AWESOME APPEARANCE...

COR, WHO'S THIS FUNNY-LOOKIN' GEEZER?



HELLO, LADS... LIKE TO SEE A TRICK? WATCH MY HANDS!



ALL EYES TURNED TO THE LONG, ALMOST RUBBERY HANDS AND NEXT MOMENT...

STONE ME... APPLES!

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

DON'T WORRY-- THEY'RE REAL ENOUGH!



HAVE SOME MORE!

COO!

BLOW ME, I'VE NEVER SEEN NOTHIN' LIKE IT!



I KNOWS 'IM NOW! IT'S JANUS STARK! THEY SAY 'E'S ALWAYS GOT A FEELIN' FOR US POORER FOLK!



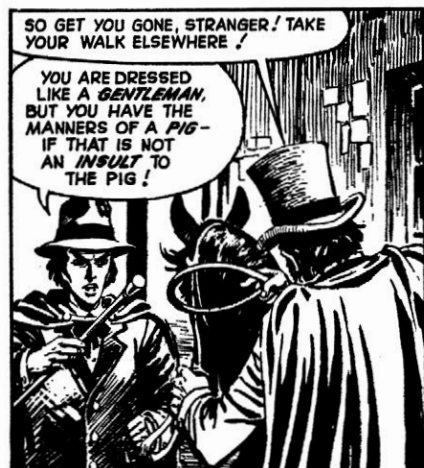
BUT SUDDENLY THERE CAME THE CLATTER OF HOOFES AND A COARSE, BRUTAL VOICE...

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU SCUM!

AAGH! IT'S SIR JASPER LAMPREY AND HIS BULLY-BOYS!

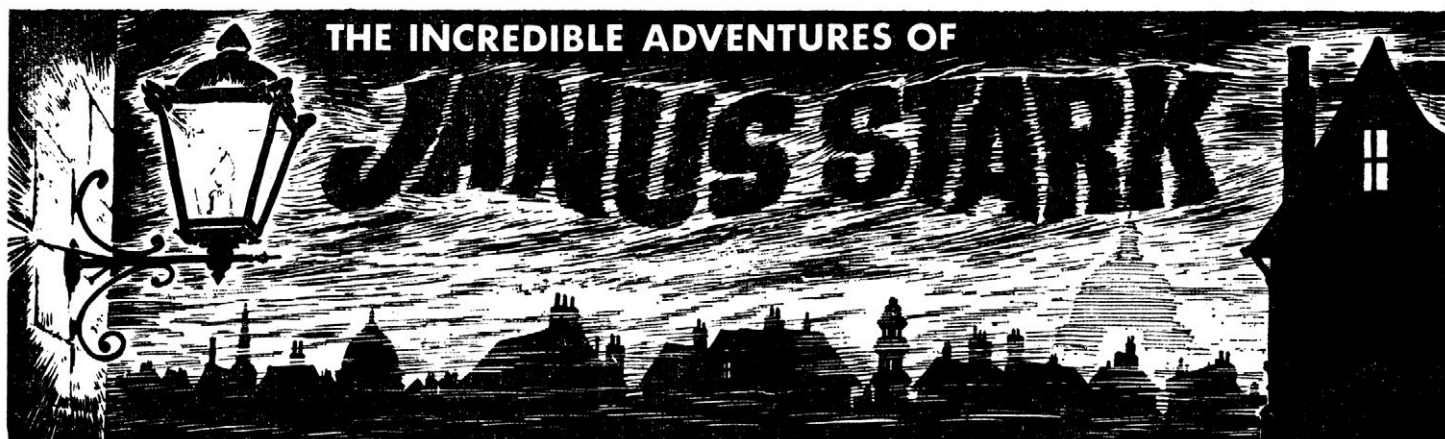


CONTINUED OVERLEAF





CONTINUE THIS
DRAMATIC TALE
FEATURING THE
INCREDIBLE JANUS
STARK...IN YOUR
NEXT ISSUE OF
"SMASH!"



JANUS STARK - MAN OF MYSTERY AND ESCAPE - HAD PREVENTED A CRUEL LANDLORD, SIR JASPER LAMPREY, FROM THROWING OUT SOME OF HIS TENANTS. FURIOUS, LAMPREY VOWED TO GET EVEN WITH STARK... BUT AS HE LEFT THE NEWS WHERE THE CONFRONTATION HAD OCCURRED, JANUS SHOUTED OUT A BOLD CHALLENGE...



YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO GET EVEN, LAMPREY! TONIGHT I'LL COME TO YOUR HOUSE - AND TAKE EVERYTHING THAT IS YOURS... EXCEPT YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!



AND SO, THAT NIGHT, ACCOMPANIED BY BLIND LARGO, THE MASTER-ESCAPIST APPROACHED HIS DESTINATION...



LAMPREY WILL HAVE IT DEFENDED LIKE A FORTRESS, BUT I SHALL ENTER, TO TEACH HIM A LESSON HE'LL NEVER FORGET!

YE WILL THAT, LAD. AND LEAVE A WAY IN FOR OLD LARGO, HEH?

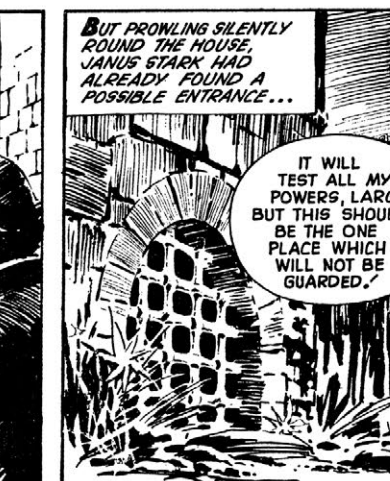


MEANWHILE, SIR JASPER, SATISFIED THAT HIS HOUSE WAS SECURE, WAS GIVING A PARTY TO WITNESS THE HUMBLING OF JANUS STARK...



I'VE HEARD THE FELLOW CAN GET OUT OF ANYTHING - BUT CAN HE GET IN, LAMPREY?

HAH, I'LL WAGER HE'LL SKULK AWAY DEFEATED!



BUT PROWLING SILENTLY ROUND THE HOUSE, JANUS STARK HAD ALREADY FOUND A POSSIBLE ENTRANCE...

IT WILL TEST ALL MY POWERS, LARGO, BUT THIS SHOULD BE THE ONE PLACE WHICH WILL NOT BE GUARDED!



EVEN FOR THE AMAZING MAN OF MYSTERY, THE WAY HE HAD CHOSEN CAUSED PAIN...



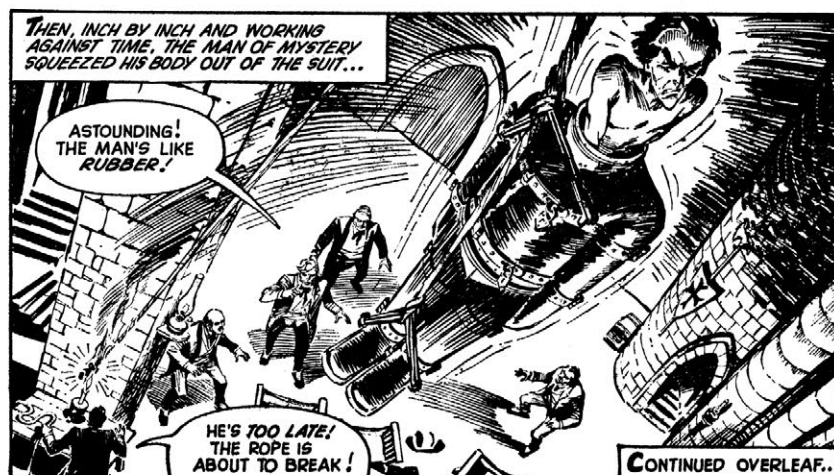
BUT INCH BY INCH JANUS STARK FORCED HIMSELF THROUGH THE GRATING...

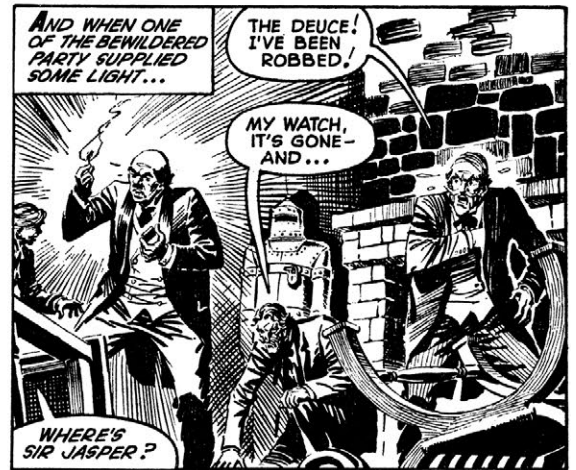
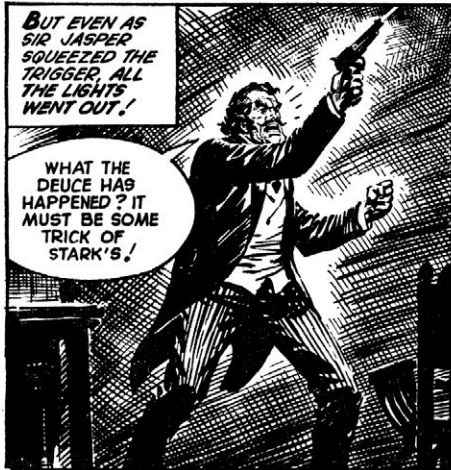
AAAGH! INSIDE, I MUST SUCCEED IN MY TASK... I DON'T WANT TO RETURN THIS WAY!

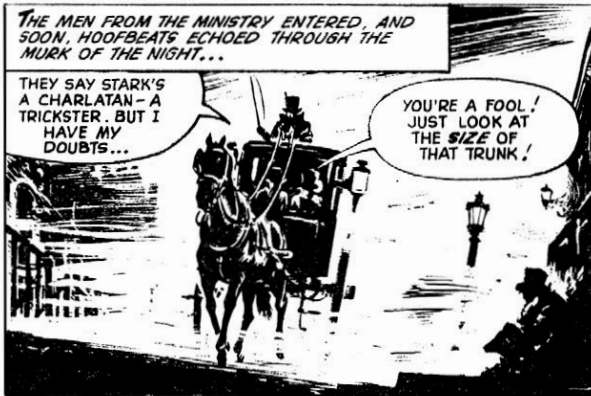
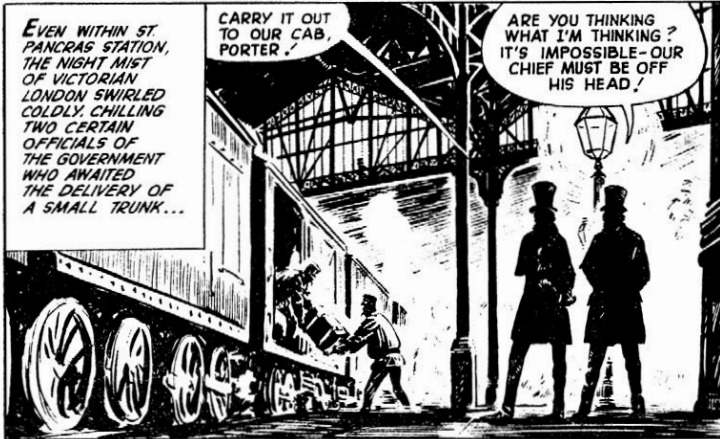
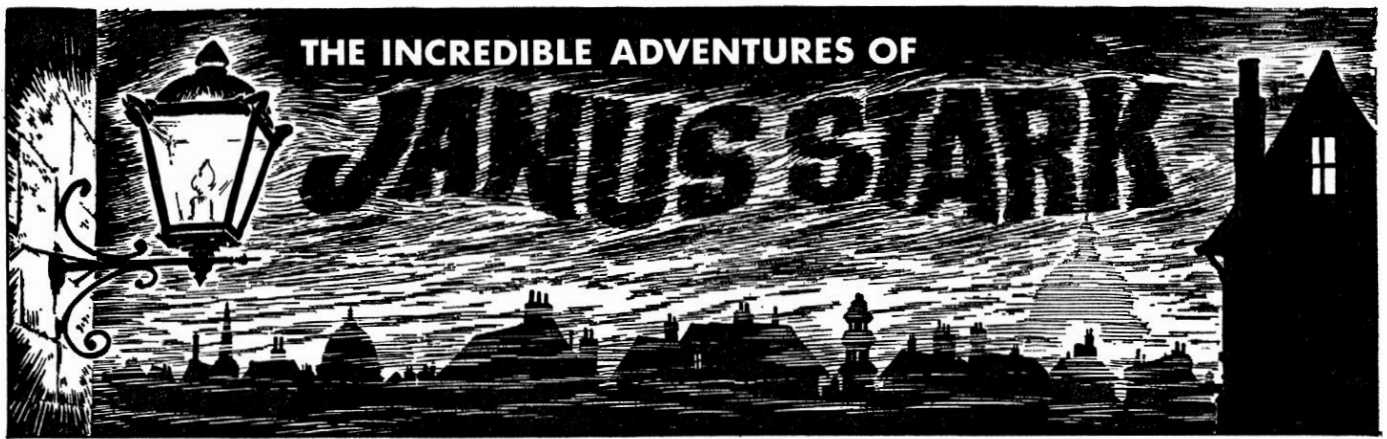


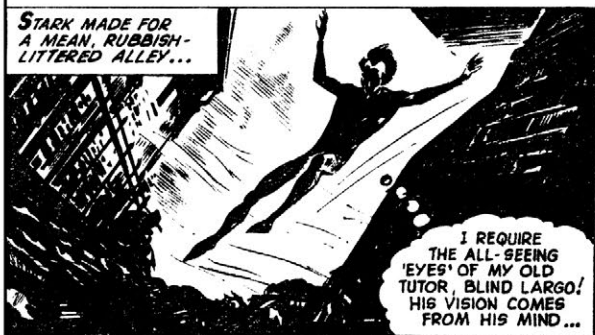
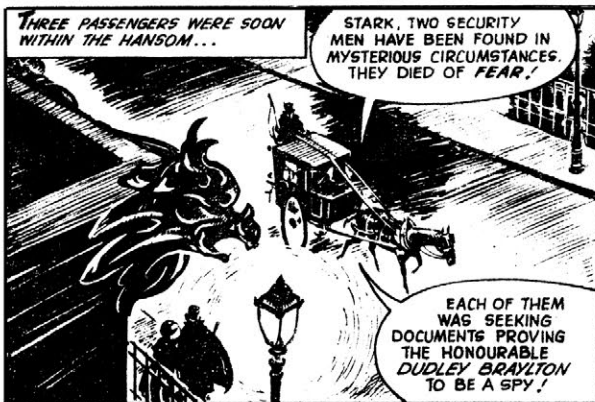
WRAITH-LIKE, THE MASTER-ESCAPIST FLITTED ACROSS THE CELLAR IN WHICH HE FOUND HIMSELF...

FIRST... A WAY IN FOR LARGO!









THE DUDLEY BRAYLTON ESTATE LAY OUTSIDE LONDON. VAST WROUGHT-IRON GATES GLITTERED DULLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON...

TWO MEN DIED HERE—BUT THEY'LL BE AVENGED! I SMELL AIR DANK WITH EVIL...



NEXT INSTANT, JANUS'S FANTASTIC, RUBBER-LIKE BODY STARTED TO CONTORT AND SQUIRM...



ONCE THROUGH, HE WARILY SCOUTED THE GROUNDS...



'MANY LANES... MANY ROADS' LARGO SAID... THE MAZE! HE MUST HAVE MEANT THE MAZE!

STARK ENTERED, HIS STEP AS LIGHT AS A PROWLING CAT'S...



THE DOCUMENTS LIE SOMEWHERE IN THIS MAZE! WHATEVER GUARDS THEM CAN KILL—AND KILL BY FEAR! ONLY THE 'PRINCE OF ESCAPERS' DARE ACCEPT SUCH A CHALLENGE!



UNSEEN, WAS A HEDGE ROSE—SEALING THE ENTRANCE...



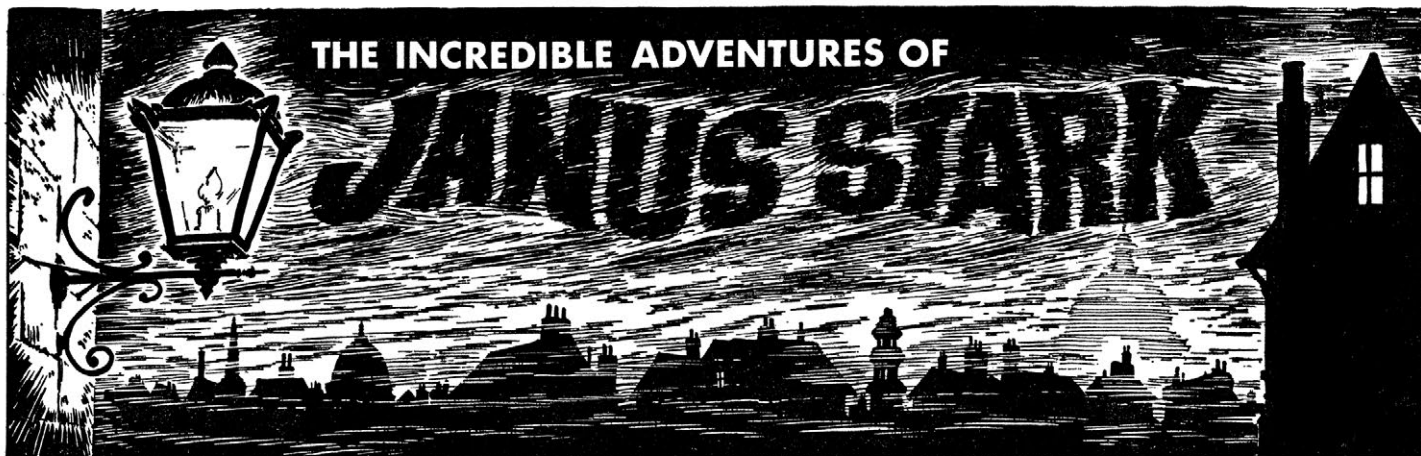
IN THE GRANGE AN ALARM RANG...



AT THAT INSTANT...



HAS JANUS BEEN OUTWITTED BY HIS EVIL ADVERSARY? READ NEXT MONDAY'S DRAMATIC CONCLUSION!



JANUS STARK—
UNCANNY 'PRINCE
OF ESCAPERS'
IN VICTORIAN
TIMES—SOUGHT
PAPERS PROVING
DUDLEY BRAYLTON
TO BE A SPY.
TWO BRITISH
AGENTS HAD BEEN
FOUND DEAD
FROM FEAR, AND
THE PAPERS WERE
HIDDEN WITHIN
A MAZE ON
BRAYLTON'S ESTATE.
BUT WHEN HE
ENTERED THE
MAZE, STARK
WAS TRAPPED IN
A HUGE WEB...

AAH! THE CLINGING
STRANDS TIGHTEN... I
SEE CIRCLES OF FIRE!
SOMETHING IS CRAWLING
FROM THE EARTH!



STEEL FLASHED
FROM THE
FERRULE OF
JANUS STARK'S
WALKING-STICK...

AN EVIL SCURRYING SOUND MADE
EVEN STARK'S BLOOD RUN COLD...

A GIANT SPIDER! I AM
SOUGHT BY THE TERRIBLE
DENIZEN OF THE WEB!
I MUST FIGHT FEAR!



REASON IS AS KEEN AS
THIS BLADE! BRAYLTON
HAS TO KILL MEN BY
FEAR... BUT HE CANNOT
KILL REASON!



THE TACKY THREADS PARTED, AND
ONE THRUST MADE THE FEARSOME
SHAPE DISINTEGRATE!



LAMP-LIT EYES! A
MECHANICAL DEVICE
WORKED BY HOT AIR!
BRAYLTON, I HAVE
PASSED YOUR FIRST
HAZARD!

WITHIN THE GRANGE, BRAYLTON'S
SERVANT WATCHED AGHAST...



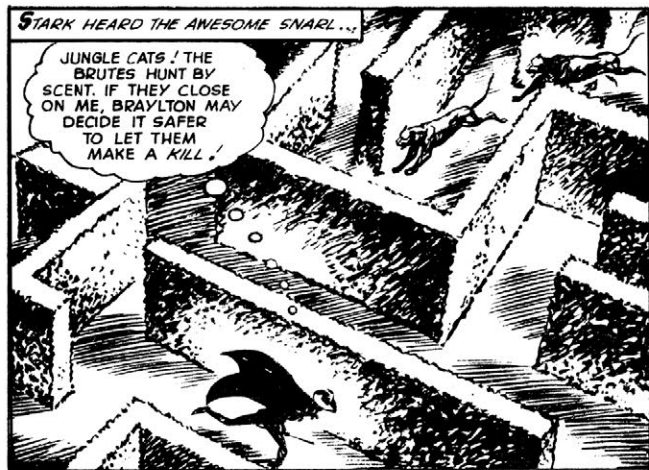
SIR, STARK'S FREE! HE'S
DANGEROUS—NOT LIKE
THOSE OTHER POOR
FOOLS YOU FINISHED!

HE INTRIGUES
ME—A WORTHY
OPPONENT. BUT
DON'T WORRY, MY
MAZE HAS NEVER
FAILED YET!

I'LL FREE THE HUNTERS, MARLOWE!
STARK SHALL BECOME THEIR
PREY. EVERY MAN'S COURAGE HAS
A BREAKING-POINT, AND I MEAN
TO FIND HIS!

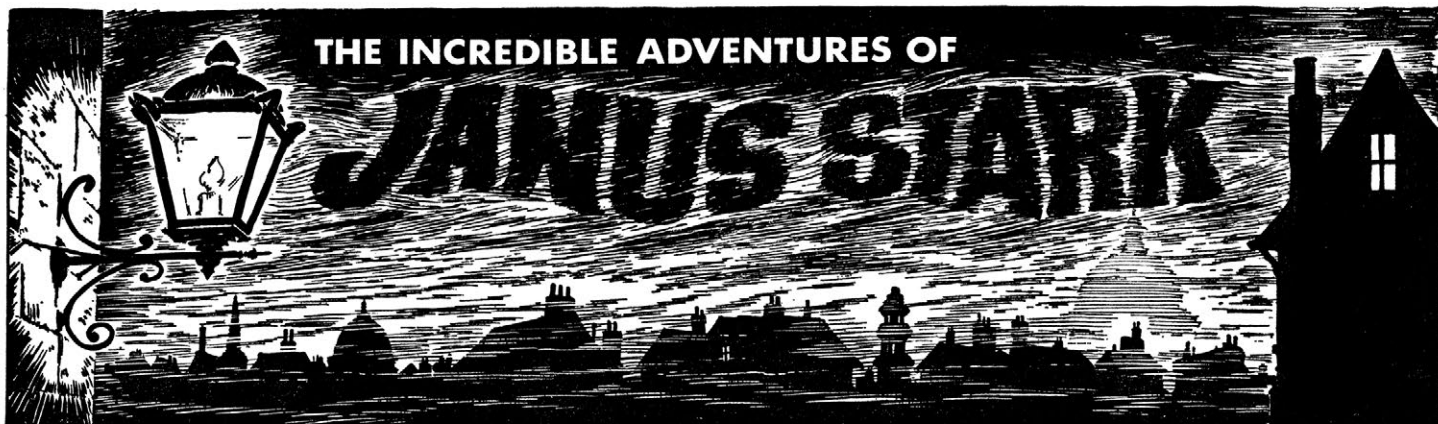


CLICK!



CONTINUED OVERLEAF

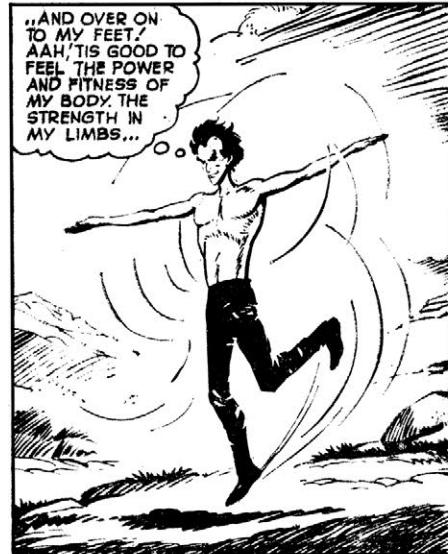


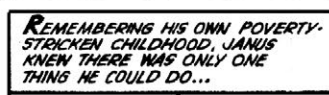


HIGH IN THE REMOTE WILDERNESS OF A SOUTH WALES VALLEY, JANUS STARK - MASTER OF ILLUSION AND ESCAPE - WAS TAKING TIME OFF TO EXERCISE HIS INCREDIBLE RUBBER-LIKE MUSCLES...

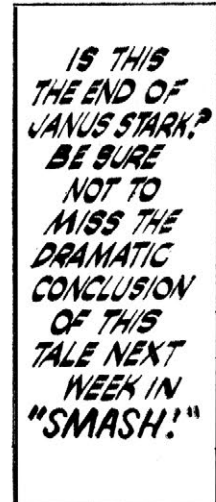


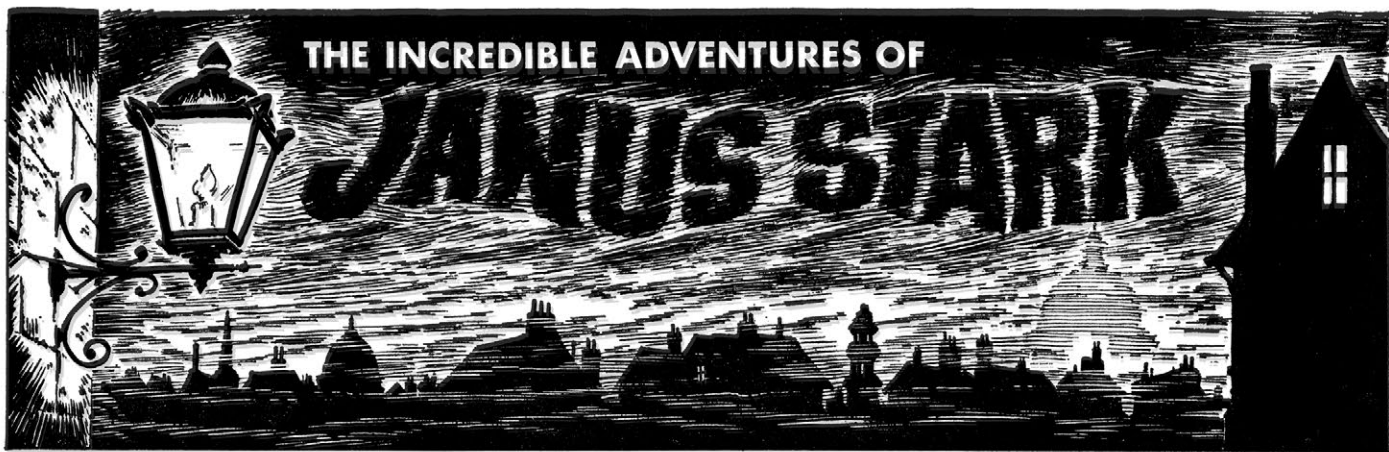
REFRESHED, JANUS STARK WAS JUST STARTING TO DRESS, WHEN SUDDENLY...





CONTINUED OVERLEAF





TRYING TO SAVE A YOUNG BOY'S PONY FROM BEING SENT TO WORK IN A WELSH COAL-MINE, JANUS STARK, MASTER OF MYSTERY AND ESCAPE, DISCOVERED THAT FOR SOME REASON, DAI WILLIAMS, THE CHIEF FOREMAN, WAS FORCING THE ANIMALS TO DRAG TWICE AS MUCH COAL AWAY FROM THE COAL-FACE AS THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE. THEN JANUS WAS SPOTTED, BUT ONE OF THE FOREMAN'S CRONIES STRUCK A MATCH IN A SIDE-TUNNEL...





THE EXPLOSION MUST HAVE DIVERTED AN UNDERGROUND STREAM. THIS TUNNEL WILL BE FLOODED WITHIN THE HOUR.

THEN WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE TO A HIGHER LEVEL. CAN IT BE DONE?



THERE'S AN ABANDONED GALLERY DIRECTLY ABOVE THIS ONE - RUNNING AT RIGHT-ANGLES TO IT. BUT THE ONLY DIRECT LINK IS THAT AIR-SHAFT...



NO MAN EXCEPT JANUS STARK, MY FRIEND, GAIN ACCESS TO THE OLD SEAM, AND I CAN HACK A HOLE IN THE ROOF TO HAUL EVERYONE UP!



SWIFTLY, THE MINERS RIPPED A HOLE IN THE WOODEN PIPE. AND NEXT MOMENT...

UHH!

HE MIGHT DO IT, BY THUNDER... BUT IF WE ARE SAVED, I'LL MAKE SURE HE NEVER LEAVES THIS PIT ALIVE!

UNAWARE OF WHAT WILLIAMS WAS PLOTTING, JANUS INCHED HIS WAY FORWARD...



STRENGTH...TIS TIGHT, EVEN FOR ME... BUT THE PIPE IS STARTING TO BEND UPWARDS AND BACKWARDS TO MEET THE ABANDONED SEAM...



ON AND ON HE WIGGLED... UNTIL AT LAST...

SUCCESS... I'M ON THE HIGHER LEVEL, IF I WIDEN THIS HOLE, I CAN DROP INTO THE SHAFT ITSELF!



CAREFULLY WORKING OUT THE DISTANCE HE HAD TRAVELLED, JANUS GRABBED A RUSTY PICK AND BEGAN TO DIG...



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

CRUUUNCH!

LOR, LOOK THERE! HE'S DONE IT! HE'S THROUGH!



SWIFTLY, JANUS WIDENED THE HOLE...

THERE IS A WINCH UP HERE. FASTEN THESE CANVAS SLINGS UNDER EACH PONY. WE'LL HOIST THEM CLEAR FIRST...

RIGHT... BUT HURRY! THE WATER'S RISING FASTER EVERY MINUTE...

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...



SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE FANTASTIC RESCUE OPERATION GOT UNDER WAY...



...AND ONE BY ONE, MEN AND ANIMALS WERE HAILED BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH, UNTIL...

ONLY WILLIAMS TO COME! YOU MEN HEAD FOR THE MAIN LIFT-SHAFT AND CONTACT THE SURFACE... WE'LL FOLLOW IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

HAH! THE FOOL... HE'S GIVING ME THE VERY CHANCE I NEED.



AND AS JANUS REACHED DOWN TO HELP WILLIAMS UP, THE FOREMAN JERKED HIM SAVAGELY...

YE-EEA!

HA, HA, HA! FAREWELL, STARK! 'TIS I WHO WILL BE MAKING A REPORT NOW... ON YOUR UNFORTUNATE SLIP TO CERTAIN DEATH!



FLOUNDERING IN THE FLOODED TUNNEL, JANUS LOOKED UP... AND FURY FLASHED IN HIS EYES!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME REACHING FOR THE ROPE, MY FRIEND. IT'S TOO LATE...

STRETCH, JANUS... STRETCH YOUR ARM AS YOU'VE NEVER STRETCHED IT BEFORE!



N-NO! I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT...!

SWOOSH!

THEN HERE IS SOMETHING YOU WILL BELIEVE, DAI WILLIAMS!



...A JAW-CRUSHING RIGHT HOOK!

THWAACK!

GNNN!



AN HOUR LATER, IT WAS ALL OVER... AND JANUS STARK STOOD CALMLY IN THE OWNER'S OFFICE...

WELL, MR. HUMPHRIES, WHAT SAY YOU? WAS I RIGHT ABOUT WILLIAMS AND HIS TWO CRONIES?

YES, INDEED! THAT VILLAIN HAS BEEN FALSIFYING THE PRODUCTIVITY REPORTS FOR MONTHS, WORKING THE PONIES TO DEATH BY DOUBLING THEIR LOADS, AND SELLING THE EXTRA COAL TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!



BUT THANKS TO YOU, STARK, IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN... AND YOUNG MORGAN HERE CAN HAVE HIS PET PONY BACK UNHARMED.

YES! 'T WAS A LUCKY DAY INDEED, WHEN YOU 'APPEARED ALONG, SIR. NOW I MUST THANK YOU FOR -

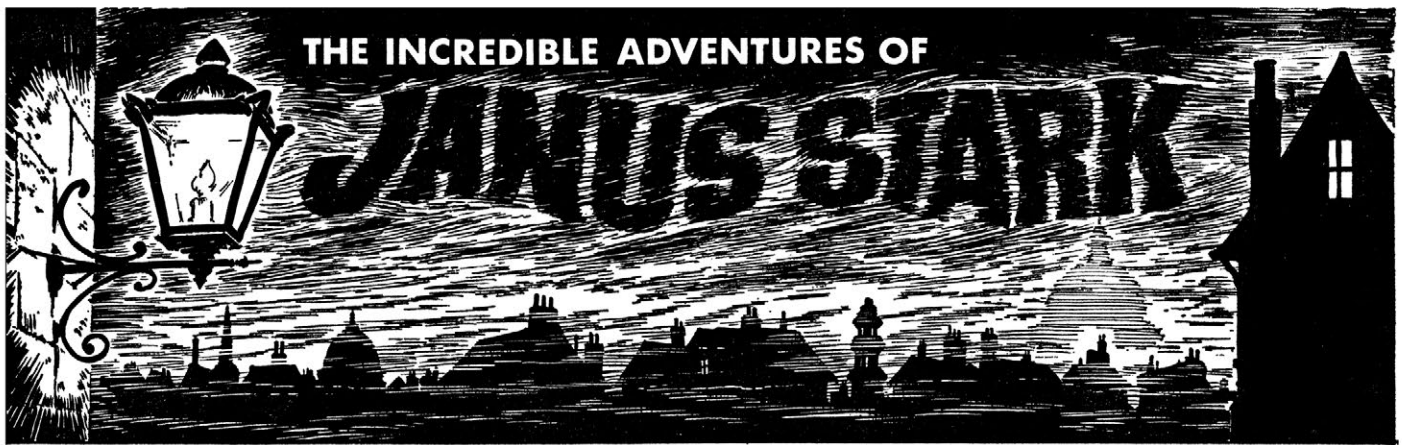


SUDDENLY THE BOY BROKE OFF... FOR JANUS STARK WAS NO LONGER THERE!

HE'S A STRANGE ONE, MR. HUMPHRIES... HE DIDN'T EVEN WAIT TO SAY GOODBYE!

I HAVE A FEELING THAT'S HIS WAY, LAD. HE'S A MAN WHO GOES AS QUIETLY AS HE COMES. A MAN WHO NEEDS NO THANKS!

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER DRAMATIC TALE FEATURING JANUS STARK IN YOUR NEXT "SMASH"!



AN AWED CROWD — WHICH INCLUDED NEWSPAPERMEN, THE POOR AND THE VERY WEALTHY — PACKED NEAR THE RAILWAY TRACK LINKING VICTORIAN LONDON WITH THE FEN TOWN OF KELRICK. BUT IT WAS MORE THAN THE KELRICK EXPRESS THEY WAITED TO SEE...



'E'LL NEVER DO IT.'

THEY SAY THE LAW ARE GONNA STOP IT...

THIS FELLOW JANUS STARK KNOWS NO FEAR AT ALL!



VAINLY, INSPECTOR PARKER AND A CONSTABLE TRIED TO FIGHT THROUGH THE CROWD...

MAKE WAY THERE! IT'S THE POLICE! LET US THROUGH!

WHO'RE YOU SHOVING, CULLY?

CAREFUL, MY MAN!



MEANWHILE, JANUS STARK — FAMED MAN OF MYSTERY — LAY CALMLY ACROSS THE RAILWAY TRACK...

COR! HE AIN'T EVEN STARTED TO MOVE YET!

WHEN'S 'E GOING TO TRY TO ESCAPE?

HERE'S THE EXPRESS NOW!



STARK WAS THE UNCANNY GENIUS WHOM NO CHAINS OR FETTERS COULD HOLD...

I HAVE EIGHT SECONDS! A TRUE ARTISTE MUST NEVER DISAPPOINT HIS PUBLIC BY HASTE!



ONLOOKERS CAUGHT THEIR BREATH IN HORROR...

'E AIN'T GOING TO MAKE IT!

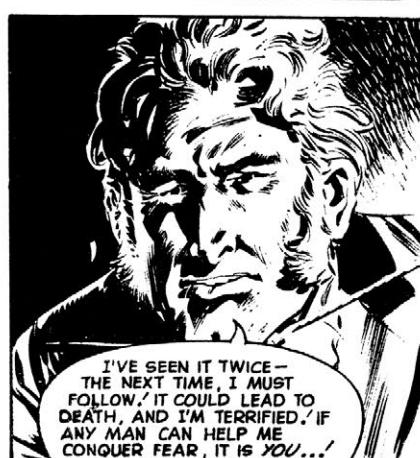
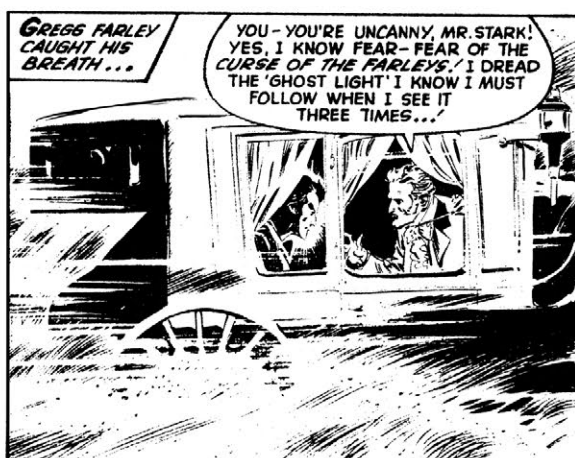
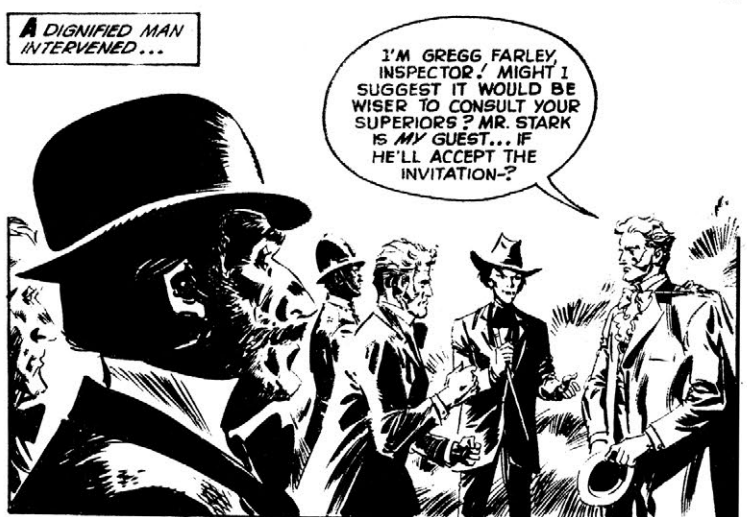
GREAT SCOTT! NO—!

BRAAKE!

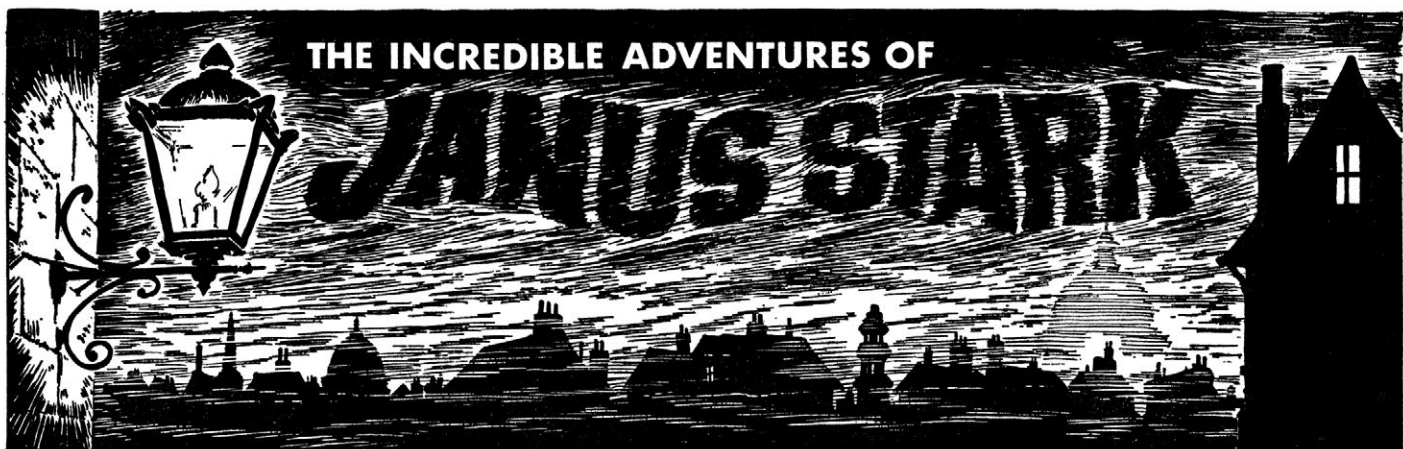


SUDDENLY, JANUS STARK'S FORM SEEMED TO BECOME A BLUR...

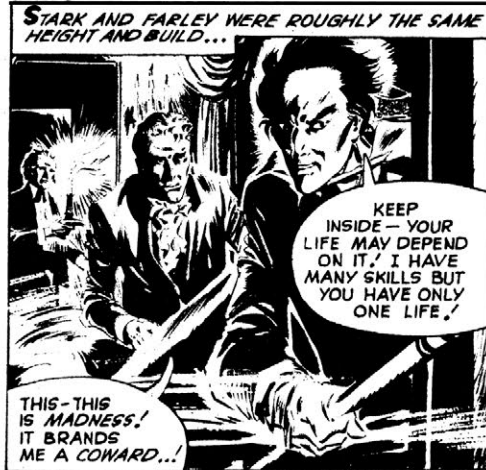
AAGH!







JANUS STARK — MASTER OF MYSTERY AND ILLUSION IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND — HAD BEEN ASKED BY WEALTHY GREGG FARLEY TO SAVE HIM FROM THE 'CURSE OF THE FARLEYS.' WHEN FARLEY WAS ABOUT TO BE LURED FROM HIS HOUSE BY THE UNCANNY 'GHOST LIGHT' STARK STOPPED HIM — AND ELECTED TO GO IN HIS PLACE!

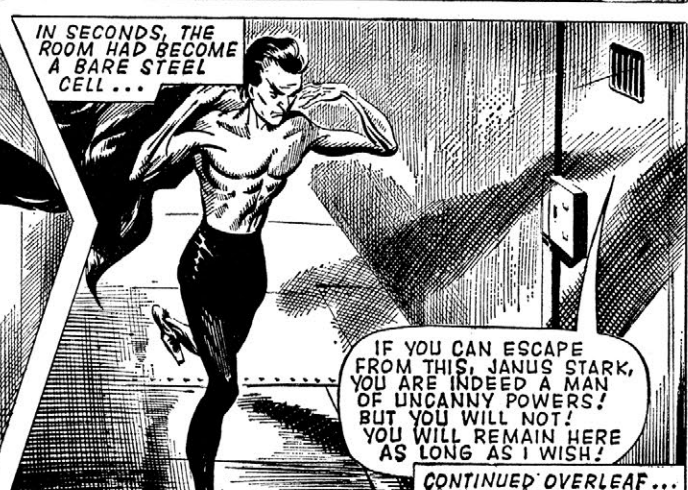








THE FAME OF JANUS STARK — MASTER OF MYSTERY AND ESCAPE — HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE IN VICTORIAN LONDON, AND HE WAS INVITED TO LECTURE TO A LEARNED SOCIETY. MANY OF THE SCIENTISTS SCOFFED, AND CHIEF AMONG THEM WAS SIR HECTOR BRANDELLE, NOTED MECHANICAL ENGINEER...



CONTINUED OVERLEAF...



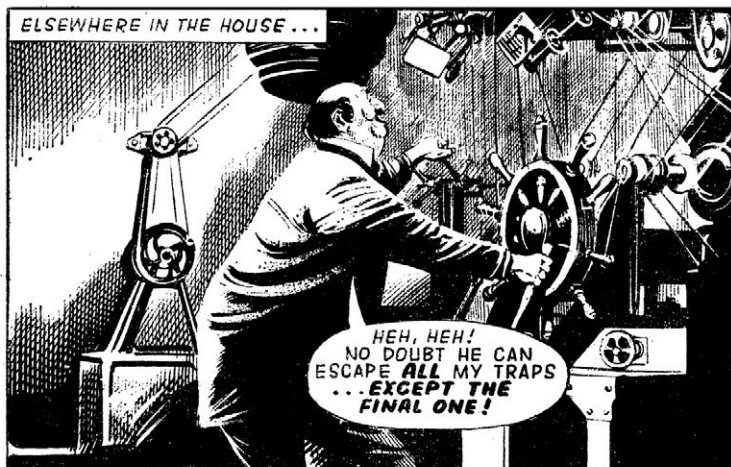
IT TOOK ONLY SECONDS FOR THE MASTER ESCAPIST TO EMERGE CALMLY ...



BUT AS HE PADDED DOWN THE CORRIDOR...



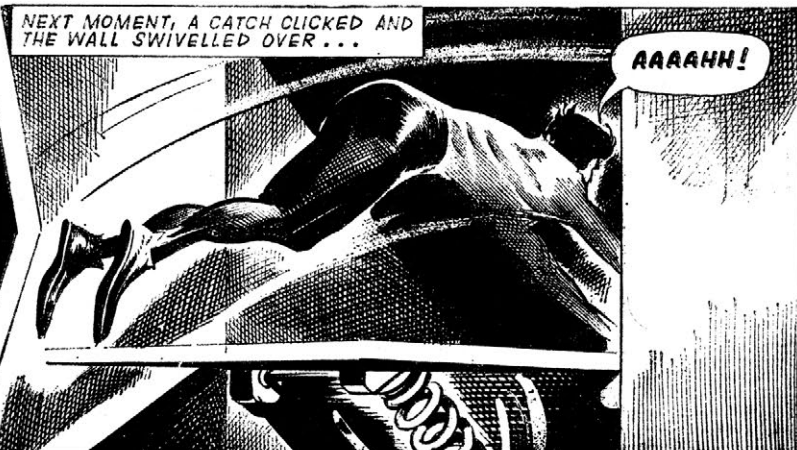
ELSEWHERE IN THE HOUSE ...



MEANWHILE, JANUS STARK WAS TACKLING THE GRILLE ...



NEXT MOMENT, A CATCH CLICKED AND THE WALL SWIVELLED OVER ...





A MOVING
STAIRCASE!
INGENIOUS!

SLOWLY THE PRIMITIVE ESCALATOR
CLANKED UPWARDS...



IT SEEMS I AM BEING
CARRIED TO THE TOP OF
THIS ABODE FOR THE NEXT
LITTLE ADVENTURE! A
DROP INTO SOME
BOTTOMLESS WELL,
PERHAPS?



CONFIDENT AS HE WAS, EVEN STARK WAS NOT PREPARED
FOR THE NEXT
INCIDENT...

A DROP,
INDEED—BUT
INTO WHAT?

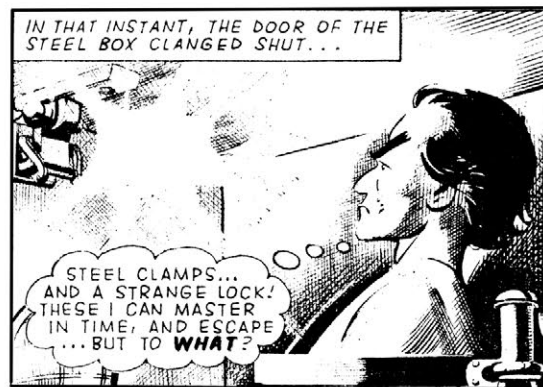


HELPLESSLY, HE SHOT DOWN THE
HEAVILY-GREASED CHUTE...



... AND CRASHED PAINFULLY
INTO A STEEL BOX!

UUUGH!



IN THAT INSTANT, THE DOOR OF THE
STEEL BOX CLANGED SHUT...

STEEL CLAMPS...
AND A STRANGE LOCK!
THESE I CAN MASTER
IN TIME, AND ESCAPE
... BUT TO WHAT?



JANUS STARK DID NOT
HEAR THE MOCKING
LAUGHTER OF SIR
HECTOR BRANDELLE...

HA, HA, HA! THIS
IS MY FINAL TRAP,
STARK—THE TRAP
FROM WHICH YOU CAN
NEVER ESCAPE!



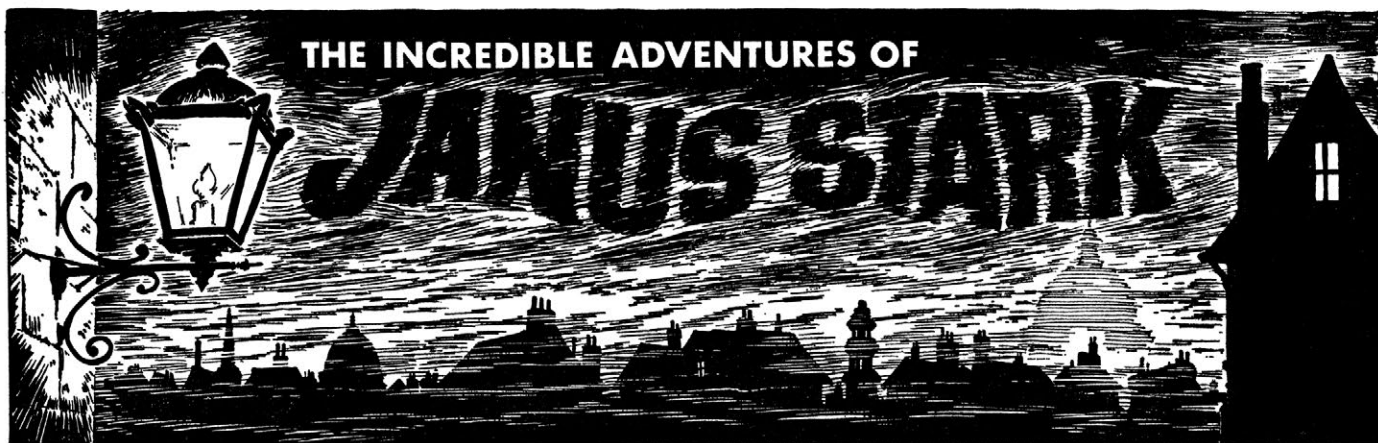
I MUST... FREE
MYSELF! SOMEHOW
I FEEL MY VERY
LIFE DEPENDS
ON IT!



SOUNDLESSLY
THE 'DOME' OF
THE STRANGE
HOUSE ROSE
UP INTO THE
NIGHT SKY...

FAREWELL,
JANUS STARK! MY
MECHANICAL GENIUS
HAS BEATEN YOU
— AND YOU WILL
NEVER BE SEEN
AGAIN!

IS THIS THE END OF JANUS STARK?
FIND OUT IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE!



JANUS STARK—
MASTER OF MYSTERY
AND ESCAPE IN
VICTORIAN LONDON
—HAD BEEN
CHALLENGED BY
FAMOUS ENGINEER
SIR HECTOR
BRANDELLE TO VISIT
HIS HOUSE AND
BE SHOWN SOME
MECHANICAL TRICKS.
STARK PASSED
THROUGH VARIOUS
MECHANICAL
HAZARDS UNTIL HE
FOUND HIMSELF
CLAMPED IN A
STEEL BOX...
UNAWARE THAT IT
WAS ATTACHED TO
A BALLOON SOARING
INTO THE SKY!



ENJOY YOUR
LAST ESCAPEDE,
JANUS STARK! YOU
WILL DRIFT
ENDLESSLY UNTIL
YOU LAND IN SOME
DISTANT OCEAN...
THAT IS IF YOU
DO NOT PERISH
FIRST!



SOMEHOW, STARK REALISED HE
WAS IN DEADLY DANGER...

AAAAGH! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT FATE SIR
HECTOR HAS IN
STORE FOR ME— BUT
I SHALL DEFEAT
THE SCOUNDREL
YET!

PAINFULLY, SLOWLY, JANUS
STARK EASED HIS RUBBERY
BODDY FROM THE CLAMPS ...

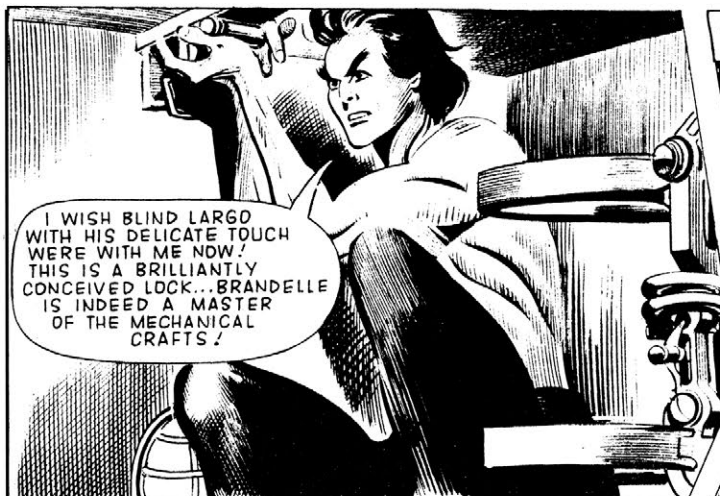


I MUST ESCAPE
WITH ALL SPEED
...THERE IS LITTLE
AIR IN THIS
CONFOUNDED
BOX!

BUT THE MASTER-ESCAPIST
FELT NO SENSATION TO
WARN HIM THAT THE
BALLOON HAD RISEN TWO
THOUSAND FEET INTO THE
SKY ...



SILENCE!
DEATHLY SILENCE!
AND THE FLOOR
...IT SEEMS TO
TILT A LITTLE!



I WISH BLIND LARGO
WITH HIS DELICATE TOUCH
WERE WITH ME NOW!
THIS IS A BRILLIANTLY
CONCEIVED LOCK...BRANDELLE
IS INDEED A MASTER
OF THE MECHANICAL
CRAFTS!

IT SEEMED AN AGE BEFORE JANUS STARK
HEARD THE LOCK CLICK OPEN ...



AH! FRESH
AIR AT LAST!
SOMEHOW I HAVE
BEEN TRANSPORTED
INTO THE OPEN...

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

CONFIDENTLY HE PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR
—AND FROZE IN DEADLY PERIL!

BY ALL
THE POWERS!
I AM FLYING
IN SPACE!

A BALLOON!
SIR HECTOR'S FINAL
TEST— AND THE ONE
LIKELY TO SEE THE END
OF JANUS STARK...
UNLESS I CAN DEFEAT
HIM THROUGH MY
OWN SKILL!

CALMING HIS SCREAMING NERVES, THE MAN OF
MYSTERY SAT DOWN TO THINK...

I SEEM
TO BE OVER THE
ENGLISH CHANNEL!
THE WIND COULD
TAKE ME ANYWHERE!
MY FIRST TASK
MUST BE TO CONTROL
THIS FLOATING
DEATH-TRAP!

SWIFTLY, JANUS STARK
DECIDED WHAT TO DO...

IF I CAN RELEASE
SOME OF THE GAS, PERHAPS
I COULD DESCEND SLOWLY
... AND LAND SOMEWHERE
IN FRANCE!

AT LAST HE WAS ABLE TO GRASP
THE VALVE RELEASE...

HAH!
SUCCESS!

AS DAWN
APPROACHED, STARK
SAW SCATTERED
LIGHTS BELOW...

I AM NEAR A TOWN
OR CITY! ONE LAST EFFORT
AND I MAY BE SPARED TO
CONFRONT THE SCOUNDREL
BRANDELLE!

BUT, SUDDENLY...

WHAT IS IT?
SOME CHURCH TOWER...
A POINTED SPIRE?

AN INSTANT LATER, THE
SHROUDS TORE AWAY FROM
THE RIPPED BALLOON AND
JANUS STARK FELL...

AAAAGH!

BUT FORTUNATELY JANUS CRASHED ON TO A HIGH PLATFORM...



BY ALL THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD, I HAVE BEEN SAVED BY THE **EIFFEL TOWER**, WHICH IS ALMOST COMPLETED AND READY FOR THE GREAT PARIS EXHIBITION!

EARLY WORKMEN COMING TO COMPLETE THE LAST STAGES OF THE MIGHTY PARISIAN BUILDING SAW A FANTASTIC SIGHT...



PARBLEU! HE MUST BE A MADMAN!

LATER, STARK VISITED HIS PARIS AGENT...



WHEN WILL YOU APPEAR IN PARIS AGAIN, M. STARK?

I AM UNDER THE IMPRESSION I HAVE ALREADY APPEARED, MY FRIEND! THE ENGLISH MASTER OF MYSTERY AND ILLUSION — FOUND ON YOUR MAGNIFICENT EIFFEL TOWER! HOW DID HE GET THERE?

THAT NIGHT, SIR HECTOR BRANDELLE SAT ALONE IN HIS STUDY, GLOATING...



HA! SUPERB! MY VICTORY IS COMPLETE!

NEXT MOMENT, A CHILL IN THE AIR MADE SIR HECTOR WHIRL...



BY THUNDER! WHAT IS IT?

AND THEN...



YOU... STARK!

YES, YOU VILLAIN, ALIVE AND WELL! IT IS A PITY YOU HAD NOT SEEN TODAY'S EDITIONS OF THE PARIS NEWSPAPERS, OR YOUR EVIL JOY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TEMPERED!



IN CASE YOUR FRENCH IS POOR, I WILL READ THE HEADLINES FOR YOU... JANUS STARK, ENGLISH MAGICIAN EXTRAORDINARY, PERFORMS MOST AMAZING FEAT... LANDS UNSEEN ON EIFFEL TOWER!

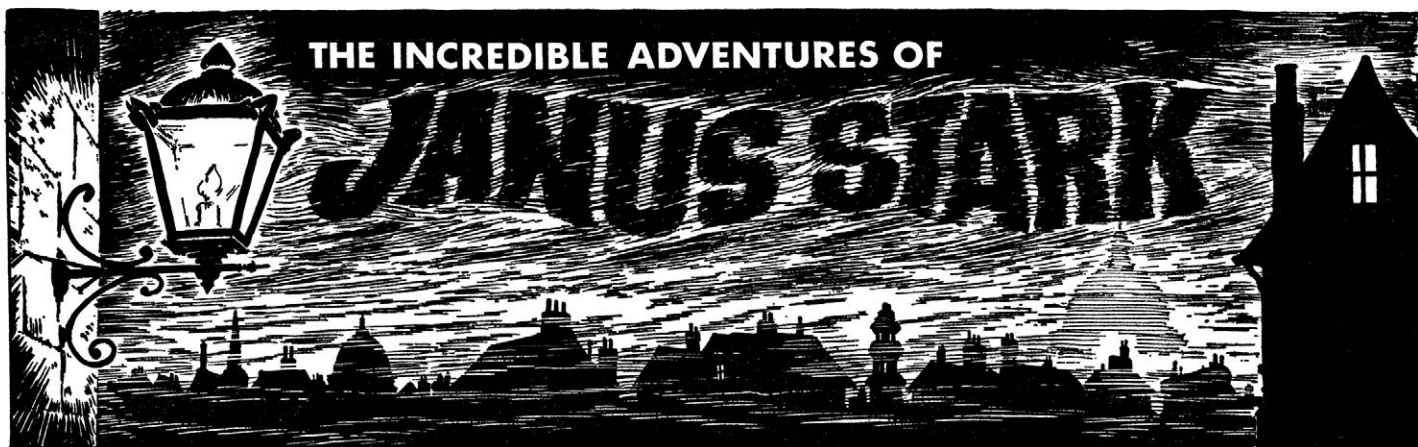
PALE-FACED, SIR HECTOR SLUMPED GASPING IN HIS CHAIR, BUT HIS ORDEAL WAS NOT OVER...



YOU WILL WRITE THE FULL STORY OF HOW YOU TRIED TO FINISH ME, BRANDELLE! FOR MY SILENCE, YOU WILL ALSO PAY FIVE HUNDRED GUINEAS, WHICH I SHALL GIVE TO THE POOR OF LONDON! **WRITE, YOU SCOUNDREL!**

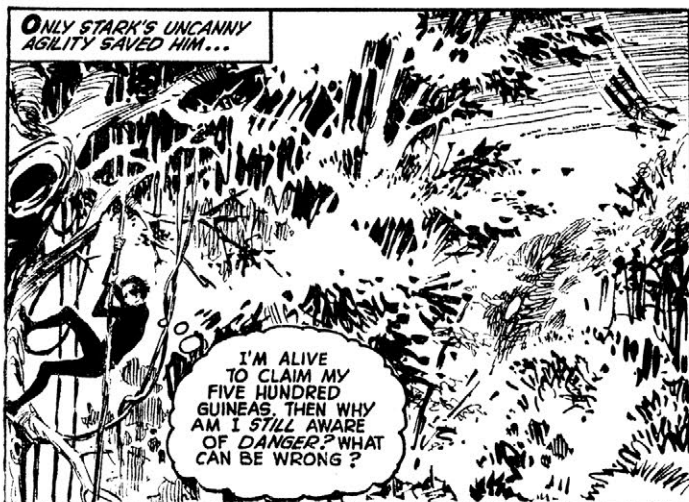
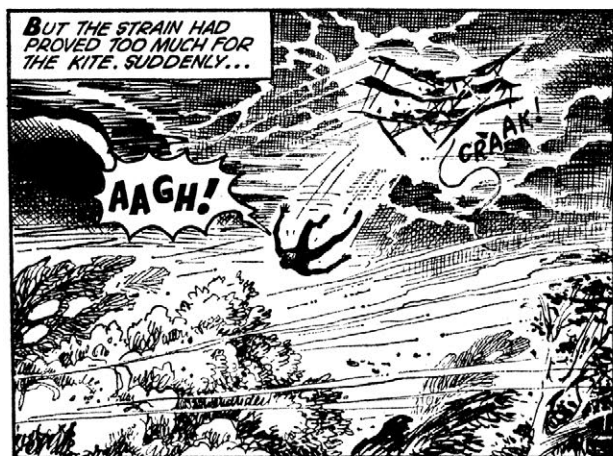
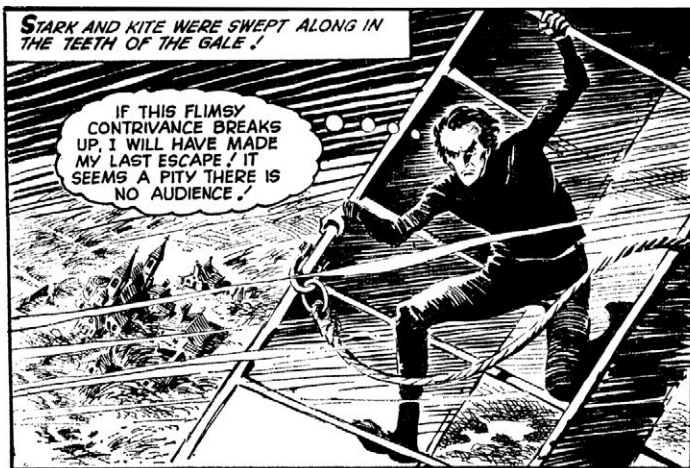
YES, YES! YOU WIN, STARK — YOU WIN!

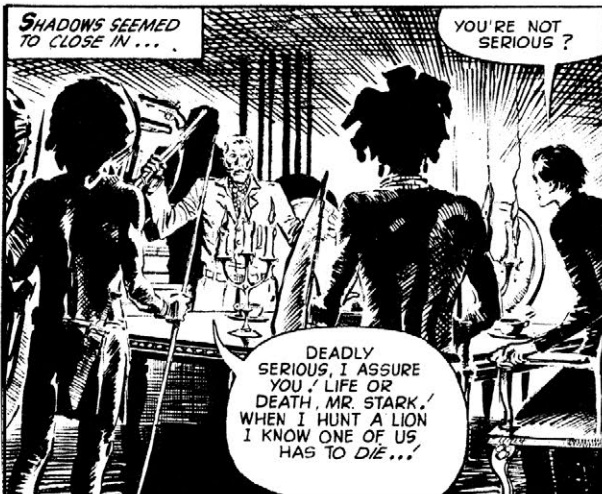
YOU CAN READ ANOTHER DRAMATIC ADVENTURE OF JANUS STARK... **NEXT WEEK!**



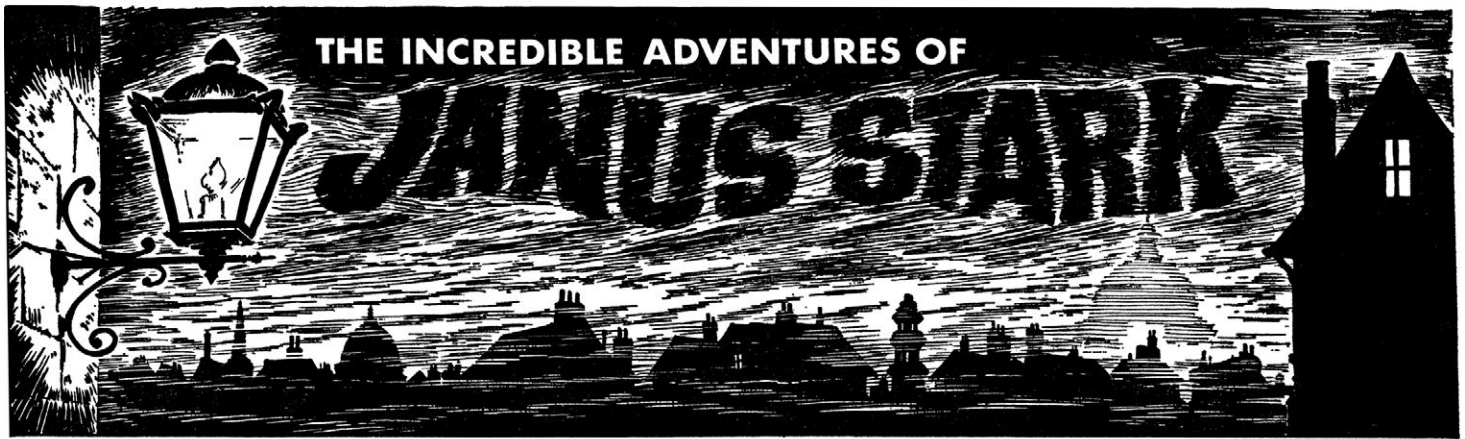
AS A TEAM OF HORSES CAREERED FORWARD, AN EXCITED CROWD BREATHLESSLY WATCHED THE LATEST DARING EXHIBITION GIVEN BY JANUS STARK, FAMED PRINCE OF ESCAPERS IN VICTORIAN TIMES...







WILL JANUS STARK ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE? FIND OUT IN NEXT WEEK'S EXCITING ISSUE OF "SMASH"!



A DARING FEAT WITH A MAN-LIFTING KITE CARRIED JANUS STARK—FAMED MASTER OF ESCAPE IN VICTORIAN TIMES—ON TO A PRIVATE ISLAND IN BRITAIN. HE BECAME THE CAPTIVE OF AN EX-BIG GAME HUNTER, COLONEL LEMAYNE, WHO PROPOSED A GRIM DUEL WITH JANUS STARK PLAYING THE PART OF THE HUNTED ANIMAL...

TAKE THE SPEAR—YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES' START, YOU PIT YOUR SKILL AND LIFE AGAINST MINE!

HE MEANS IT! A HUNT TO THE DEATH!

AS THE SECONDS TICKED PAST...

RUN, STARK—YOU'LL NEED ALL YOUR CUNNING! LET US SEE IF YOUR GREAT FAME IS WELL EARNED!

STARK RAN DESPERATELY, YET WARILY PROBING THE PATH AHEAD OF HIM...

CLANG!

ONE MISTAKE IS MY LAST! TRAPS ARE EVERYWHERE... MY INSTINCT MUST EQUAL THAT FOX'S!

STARK HAD AN UNCANNY POWER OVER ANIMALS...

THAT'S IT—BREAK THE UNDERGROWTH FOR ME! A FALSE TRAIL WILL HELP! THE JUNGLE BEASTS ARE ONLY STUFFED TROPHIES!

NO ORDINARY HUMAN COULD HAVE WORMED THROUGH THE TREE-ROOTS AT SUCH SPEED...

AAAH! MY LIMBS STRETCH... BUT NO TRAIL WILL BE LEFT!

THE 'BEATERS' WERE NEAR...

THIS WAY, B'WANA! FOLIAGE HAS BEEN BROKEN ASIDE...

GOOD MAN, O' MAGO, CLOSE IN.

SUDDENLY...

AAGH!

MY OWN NET TRAP! BRILLIANT, STARK... BRILLIANT! YOU LURED THE HUNTERS INTO THEIR OWN TRAP!

CONTINUED OVERLEAF





THE ZULUS LEFT...

IT'S OVER, STARK—
WHY NOT CRAWL
OUT AND RUN?
MAKE A BREAK—
AND HOPE THAT
I MISS!



THERE WAS NO SOUND, BUT...

YOU'RE... DEAD,
COLONEL! I
NEVER ENTERED
THE HOLE!



LEMAYNE WHIRLED RECKLESSLY...

WHY, YOU—!
THEN WE GO
TOGETHER!



SUDDENLY, A SHAPE
SPRANG OUT FROM
THE OTHER SIDE!

BY THUNDER...

YOU'RE WRONG
AGAIN, COLONEL!
YOU'VE LOST! DO
YOU REMEMBER THE
BARGAIN? YOUR
LIFE OR MINE!



VERY WELL, STARK—
I'M A GOOD LOSER!
KILL—AND BE DONE
WITH IT! YOU WIN—
MY LIFE AND
PROPERTY BECOME
YOURS!



BUT...

I'LL TAKE
THREE HUNDRED
GUINEAS, COLONEL.
YOU CAN KEEP
YOUR LIFE FOR THE
PRESENT. IT'S MINE TO
CLAIM WHENEVER
I CHOOSE!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



STARK GAVE ONE OF
HIS RARE SMILES...

THERE'LL BE NO MORE MAN-HUNTS!
UNDERSTOOD? SHOULD YOU DO
ANYTHING LIKE THIS AGAIN, I
SHALL RETURN TO CLAIM
THE LIFE I WON!



YOU'RE A STRANGE MAN, STARK...
UNCANNY, BUT I AGREE! FOR
AN ESCAPER YOU MAKE A
GREAT HUNTER!

THANK YOU!
NOW I MUST
RETURN TO LONDON.
JUST TO PROVE
TO MY PUBLIC
I'M STILL ALIVE!

JANUS STARK
WILL BE
BACK AGAIN
NEXT TIME
IN ANOTHER
THRILL-
PACKED
ADVENTURE!
DON'T MISS
HIM!

TOM TULLY

Tom Tully is one the most prolific writers ever to grace British comics. His diverse portfolio of work was produced over four decades. Born in Glasgow, Tully entered the industry in the sixties when he began working for Fleetway. One of his earliest strips, *Heros the Spartan*, ran in the original **Eagle** and was illustrated by the great Frank Bellamy. He also wrote *Mytek the Mighty* (**Valiant & Vulcan**) and *The Steel Claw* (**Valiant & Vulcan**) in the same decade. The seventies saw Tully work on a variety of significant stories including *Adam Eterno* (**Thunder**), *Johnny Red* (**Battle**), *Harlem Heroes* (**2000 AD**), *The Leopard from Lime Street* (**Buster**) and *Roy of the Rovers* (**Tiger**), the strip he worked on longer than any other writer.

FRANCISCO SOLANO LÓPEZ

Francisco Solano López hailed from Argentina, but created many memorable and popular British comic book strips such as *Kelly's Eye* (**Knockout**), *Janus Stark* (**Smash!**), *Nipper* (**Score 'n' Roar**), *Pete's Pocket Army* (**Buster**) and *Master of the Marsh* (**Smash!**). He contributed art to *Adam Eterno* (**Thunder**) and many Picture Library stories for Fleetway (including a Battler Britton story for **Thriller Picture Library**). In Argentina he was known for *Ernie Pike* (with Hugo Pratt and José Muñoz), and most famously *The Eternaut* (written by Héctor Germán Oesterheld). He died in 2011.

JAIME BROCAL REMOHÍ

Jaime Brocal Remohí was known not just for his heroic fantasy comics such as **Katan**, but also for his short horror stories printed in US publications such as **Creepy** and **Eerie**, and contributed art for episodes of the serial *The Mummy Walks*.

FRANC FUENTES MAN

Franc Fuentes Man was Spanish artist who managed to work for many different European companies, and found work in the UK working on such varied titles as **Sally** and **Battle** and episodes of *The Spider* for **Smash**.

REG BUNN

In 1944 **Reg Bunn** survived a serious car accident which rendered him paralysed from the neck down, he recovered and went on to take part in the 1949 Amalgamated Press talent search which would gain him work for **The Comet**. He is renowned for his work on **Lion**, and his greatest creation is *The Spider* with writer Ted Cowan.





JANUS STARK

**MASTER OF ILLUSION
SON OF THE UNKNOWN!**

TREASURY
OF BRITISH
COMICS

REBELLION