

TALES OF SUSPENSE

WHO? OR WHAT, IS THE
NEWEST, MOST BREATH-TAKING,
MOST SENSATIONAL
SUPER HERO OF ALL...?



IRON MAN!

HE LIVES!
HE WALKS!
HE
CONQUERS!



FROM THE TALENTED BULLPEN WHERE
THE FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDER-MAN, THOR
AND YOUR OTHER FAVORITE SUPER HEROES
WERE BORN!

IRON MAN IS BORN!



PLOT:
STAN LEE
SCRIPT:
LARRY LIEBER
ART:
DON HECK
LETTERING:
ART SIMEK

WATCH HIS AWESOME APPROACH! LISTEN TO HIS PONDEROUS FOOTSTEPS AS HE LUMBERS CLOSER... CLOSER... FOR TODAY YOU ARE DESTINED TO ENCOUNTER--
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN!!

IN A SECLUDED AREA SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. DEFENSE PERIMETER, THERE STANDS A CLOSELY GUARDED BUILDING... THE LABORATORY OF ANTHONY STARK!

BOY! THAT GUY STARK MUST REALLY RATE, TO GET A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GUARD!

HE RATES, ALL RIGHT! THE COMMIES WOULD GIVE THEIR EYETEETH TO KNOW WHAT HE'S WORKING ON NOW!



AND, INSIDE...

GENERAL, YOU WILL SEE MY TINY TRANSISTOR INCREASE THE POWER OF THIS SMALL MAGNET SO TREMENDOUSLY THAT IT WILL OPEN THAT LOCKED VAULT!

OH, COME NOW, STARK! THAT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!



THINK SO? THERE, I'VE SWITCHED ON THE TRANSISTOR! IT'S ENERGIZING THE MAGNET!

CLICK



THE DOOR --IT'S BEGINNING TO BUDGE!

NATURALLY! MY TINY TRANSISTORS ARE SO POWERFUL THAT...



-- THEY CAN INCREASE THE FORCE OF ANY DEVICE...



--A THOUSANDFOLD!



NOW DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSISTORS I'VE INVENTED ARE CAPABLE OF SOLVING YOUR PROBLEM IN VIETNAM?

STARK, AFTER WHAT I'VE JUST SEEN, I'M READY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING!



YES, IT WAS AN AMAZING DEMONSTRATION! BUT NOW, LET US LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MAN WHOSE GENIUS MADE IT POSSIBLE! LET US LEARN MORE ABOUT ANTHONY STARK, THE ONE WHO IS FATED TO BECOME... IRON MAN!

ANTHONY STARK... RICH, HANDSOME, KNOWN AS A GLAMOROUS PLAYBOY, CONSTANTLY IN THE COMPANY OF BEAUTIFUL, ADORING WOMEN...

LOOK! THERE'S TONY STARK!

UMMMNN... HE'S THE DREAMIEST THING THIS SIDE OF ROCK HUDSON!

THE RIVIERA WAS A REAL DRAG TILL YOU SHOWED UP, DARLING!

YES, ANTHONY STARK IS BOTH A SOPHISTICATE AND A SCIENTIST, A MILLIONAIRE BACHELOR, AS MUCH AT HOME IN A LABORATORY AS IN HIGH SOCIETY!



BUT, THIS MAN WHO SEEMS SO FORTUNATE, WHO'S ENVIED BY MILLIONS -- IS SOON DESTINED TO BECOME THE MOST TRAGIC FIGURE ON EARTH!

OUR TALE REALLY HAS ITS BEGINNING HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, IN A SOUTH VIETNAM JUNGLE, MENACED BY WONG-CHU, THE RED GUERRILLA TYRANT!

HAH! I HAVE BROUGHT ANOTHER VILLAGE TO ITS KNEES!

NOW FOR THE WRESTLING MATCH! IF ANY PRISONER CAN DEFEAT WONG-CHU, I FREE WHOLE VILLAGE!



DESPERATE TO SAVE THEIR VILLAGE, THE STRONGEST OF THE NATIVES ACCEPTS THE WAR LORD'S CHALLENGE...

AH, YOU ARE GOOD! BUT WONG-CHU BETTER!



ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER, TRIES IN VAIN...

I AM STRONGEST OF ALL! NEXT TO WONG-CHU OTHER MEN ARE BUT FLEAS!



IT IS OVER! NOW LET US PLUNDER THE TOWN! FOR NONE CAN STOP THE VICTORIOUS WONG-CHU!



MEANWHILE, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE JUNGLE...

THE RED GUERRILLAS OUTNUMBER US! OUR HEAVY ARTILLERY COULD BEAT THEM, BUT WE CAN'T TRANSPORT SUCH BIG WEAPONS THROUGH THE DENSE JUNGLE!

SO, THAT'S WHERE MY MIDGET TRANSISTORS COME IN, EH?



RIGHT! THANKS TO YOUR INVENTIONS, OUR MORTARS ARE NO LARGER OR HEAVIER THAN FLASHLIGHTS! OUR MEN CAN CARRY THEM ANYWHERE!

TAKE COVER! THERE'S THE ENEMY! YOU'LL SEE YOUR GUNS IN ACTION NOW!



THAT'S WHY I WAS SENT HERE! TO MAKE SURE THEY WORK AS WELL AS PLANNED! IF NOT, I'LL FIX 'EM ON THE SPOT!

JUST LOOK AT THE REDS RETREAT!

STARK, YOUR WEAPONS ARE EVERYTHING WE HOPED FOR!



BATTLE-FILLED MINUTES LATER...

THE REDS NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM!



BUT, THE JUNGLE HOLDS A THOUSAND PERILS! SOME NATURAL, OTHERS MAN-MADE...

AND, TRIPPING OVER A SMALL, CONCEALED STRING LEADS TO DISASTER...



A BOOBY-TRAP! OHHH...

MINUTES LATER...

YANKEE CIVILIAN STILL ALIVE! HIM MAYBE IMPORTANT OFFICIAL OF GOVERNMENT! I BRING HIM TO WONG-CHU! MAYBE GET REWARD!

OHHHH!



LATER, AT THE GUERRILLA CHIEF'S HEADQUARTERS...

HIS PAPERS REVEAL HE IS FAMOUS YANKEE WEAPONS INVENTOR! HOW IS HE?

BAD! MUCH SHRAPNEL NEAR HIS HEART! IMPOSSIBLE TO OPERATE! CANNOT LIVE LONGER THAN ONE WEEK!



IN A FEW DAYS SHRAPNEL WILL REACH HIS HEART-- THEN HE WILL DIE! NOTHING CAN SAVE HIM!

BAH! WE CAN USE HIS GENIUS! WONG-CHU WILL TRICK HIM INTO SPENDING HIS LAST DAYS ON EARTH WORKING FOR US! IS HE STRONG ENOUGH NOW?

WE KNOW YOU ARE AMERICAN WEAPONS INVENTOR! IF YOU DESIGN POWERFUL NEW WEAPON FOR ME, AFTERWARDS I HAVE SURGEON SAVE YOUR LIFE!

HE'S LYING... IF THEY COULD THEY'D DO IT NOW, TO BE SURE I LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO DESIGN WEAPONS FOR THEM!



YES, HE CAN WORK TILL SHRAPNEL REACHES HEART!

I KNOW I'VE ONLY DAYS TO LIVE, BUT MY LAST ACT WILL BE TO DEFEAT THIS GRINNING, SMIRKING, RED TERRORIST!

I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT HESITATE TO BETRAY YOUR COUNTRY TO SAVE YOURSELF!

ALL RIGHT, WONG-CHU, I'LL DO IT!

HERE ROOM WHERE YOU WORK! PLENTY OF SCRAP IRON! PLENTY TOOLS!

THIS I PROMISE YOU... I SHALL BUILD THE MOST FANTASTIC WEAPON OF ALL TIME!

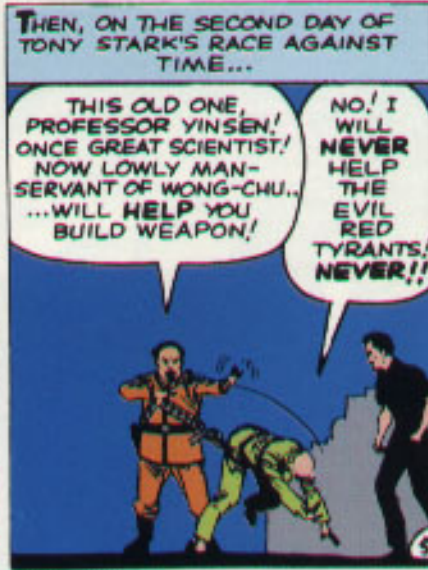


I'LL BUILD IT, ALL RIGHT, BUT IT WILL BE MINE...

--MADE FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE-- TO KEEP ME ALIVE!



EVERY TICK OF THE CLOCK BRINGS THE DEADLY PIECE OF SHRAPNEL CLOSER TO MY HEART! I'VE GOT TO WORK FASTER THAN I'VE EVER WORKED BEFORE! CAN'T AFFORD A SINGLE MISTAKE!



THEN, ON THE SECOND DAY OF TONY STARK'S RACE AGAINST TIME...

THIS OLD ONE, PROFESSOR YINSEN! ONCE GREAT SCIENTIST! NOW LOWLY MAN-SERVANT OF WONG-CHU... WILL HELP YOU BUILD WEAPON!

NO! I WILL NEVER HELP THE EVIL RED TYRANTS! NEVER!!

PROFESSOR YINSEN, IN COLLEGE I READ YOUR BOOKS! YOU WERE THE GREATEST PHYSICIST OF ALL!! THEN, EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU HAD DIED!

I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF I HAD! I WAS PRESSED INTO SLAVE LABOR BY THE REDS, AND WHEN I RESISTED, WONG-CHU TOOK ME PRISONER!

AND THE REDS THEMSELVES GAVE US ALL THE MATERIALS WE WILL NEED!

NO LONGER ABLE TO WORK IN SECRET, ANTHONY STARK MUST REVEAL HIS PLAN TO THE AGED SCHOLAR, THE ONLY HUMAN HE DARES TRUST!

AN IRON MAN! FANTASTIC! A MIGHTY, ELECTRONIC BODY, TO KEEP YOUR HEART BEATING AFTER THE SHRAPNEL REACHES IT! WE JUST MIGHT SUCCEED! THINK WHAT A CREATURE WE COULD CREATE! WHAT WONDERS HE SHALL PERFORM!

AND THE REDS THEMSELVES GAVE US ALL THE MATERIALS WE WILL NEED!

THUS, A DYING MAN'S DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME CONTINUES...

I'VE DONE EXTENSIVE WORK WITH TRANSISTORS! I CAN DESIGN THEM IN ANY SIZE TO PERFORM ANY FUNCTION!

WE SHALL USE THEM TO OPERATE THE MACHINE ELECTRONICALLY TO MOVE COUNTLESS GEARS AND CONTROL LEVERS!

ALL ACTIVITY MUST BE COORDINATED PERFECTLY! THE IRON FRAME MUST DUPLICATE EVERY ACTION OF THE HUMAN BODY!

IT SHALL, MY FRIEND! IT SHALL! THIS SHALL BE THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF MY LIFE!

HOURS PASS INTO DAYS, AS THE SHRAPNEL MOVES CLOSER AND CLOSER TO ANTHONY STARK'S HEART...

I CAN FEEL THE PRESSURE! MY TIME IS RUNNING OUT! WE MUST WORK FASTER!

THERE! THE SELF-LUBRICATION SYSTEM IS COMPLETED! JUST A LITTLE LONGER! YOU MUST HAVE COURAGE!

AND THEN, WHEN THE DOOMED AMERICAN'S CONDITION BECOMES CRITICAL -- WHEN HE CAN NO LONGER STAND...

THE LIFE-GIVING HEART OF YOUR IRON BODY IS READY! QUICKLY... CLAMP IT AROUND YOUR CHEST!

THERE! IT IS DONE! WHEN I ACTIVATE THE MACHINE, YOUR OWN AMAZING TRANSISTORS WILL FURNISH THE POWER TO KEEP YOUR HEART BEATING! YOU SHOULD LIVE AS LONG AS THE IRON BODY OPERATES!



THIS GENERATOR WILL SOON BUILD UP ENOUGH ENERGY TO FURNISH ALL THE POWER YOU'LL NEED TO MOVE!



BUT SUDDENLY...

THE WARNING LIGHT WE INSTALLED-- IT FLASHES! SOMEONE IS APPROACHING!

IT MUST BE WONG-CHU! IF HE ENTERS NOW, ALL OUR WORK WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!!



WONG-CHU MUST BE KEPT AWAY UNTIL THE MIGHTY ELECTRONIC BODY BEGINS TO POWER THE HEART OF ANTHONY STARK!

MY LIFE IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE! BUT I MUST GAIN TIME FOR IRON MAN TO LIVE!



AND THUS THE GALLANT CHINESE SCIENTIST BUYS PRECIOUS SECONDS FOR ANTHONY STARK... WHILE THE LIFE-SUSTAINING MACHINE BUILDS UP MORE AND MORE POWER BEHIND THE LOCKED DOOR!!!

BANG!

IT IS DONE! DRAG HIM AWAY!

YOU WILL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN, MY FRIEND! I SWEAR IT! THE IRON MAN SWEARS IT!



THEN, BEFORE THE REDS CAN ENTER THE ROOM, THE BRAVE PROFESSOR YINSEN MAKES ONE DESPERATE LAST EFFORT...

DEATH TO WONG-CHU! DEATH TO THE EVIL TYRANT!

HE HAS GONE MAD! AFTER HIM! END HIS MISERABLE LIFE! HE IS OF NO FURTHER USE TO ME!



THEN, EVEN AS PROFESSOR YINSEN BREATHES HIS LAST, THE ELECTRONIC MARVEL BEGINS TO STIR...

THE TRANSISTORS HAVE SUFFICIENT ENERGY NOW! MY HEART IS BEATING NORMALLY! THE MACHINE IS KEEPING ME ALIVE!
ALIVE!!



AND THE TRANSISTOR-POWERED CIRCUITS ARE COORDINATED WITH MY BRAIN WAVES, JUST AS ANY LIVING HUMAN'S BRAIN CONTROLS HIS OWN BODY!



B-BUT I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!



THUD!

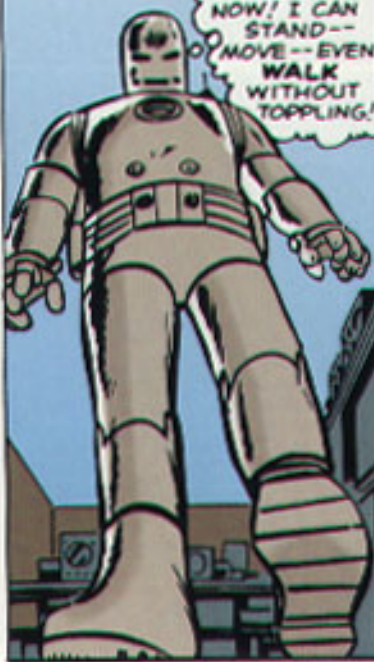


I'M LIKE A BABY LEARNING TO WALK! BUT I HAVEN'T TIME! I MUST LEARN QUICKLY! I MUST GET THE KNACK OF MANIPULATING THIS MASSIVE, UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL IRON SHELL BEFORE THE REDS FIND ME -- OR ELSE I'LL BE AT THEIR MERCY!



BUT THE BRAIN WHICH HAS MASTERED THE SECRETS OF SCIENCE IS ALSO CAPABLE OF MASTERING ITS NEW BODY! AND SO...

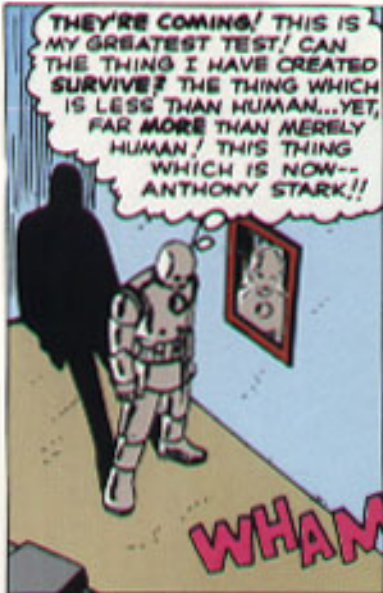
I HAVE THE FEEL OF IT NOW! I CAN STAND -- MOVE -- EVEN WALK WITHOUT TOPPLING!



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE LOCKED DOOR...

BREAK IT DOWN! SMASH IT! I MUST LEARN WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THERE!





THEY'RE COMING! THIS IS MY GREATEST TEST! CAN THE THING I HAVE CREATED SURVIVE? THE THING WHICH IS LESS THAN HUMAN...YET, FAR MORE THAN MERELY HUMAN! THIS THING WHICH IS NOW-- ANTHONY STARK!!

WHAM



MY BRAIN STILL THINKS! MY HEART STILL BEATS! BUT, IN ORDER TO REMAIN ALIVE, I MUST SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN THIS IRON PRISON!!



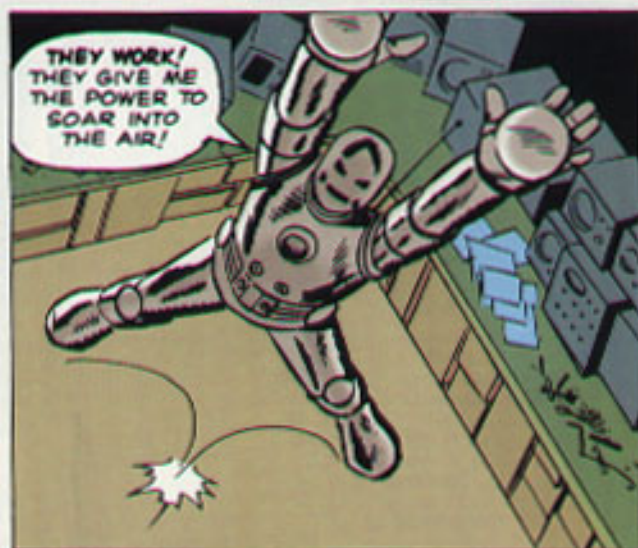
BUT, THIS BITTER REALIZATION IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED, AS THE IRON MAN SNAPS BACK TO REALITY...

THEY'LL SOON BE THRU THE DOOR... I MUST CONCEAL MYSELF UNTIL I CAN PLAN MY NEXT MOVE!



FORTUNATELY, YINSEN AND I EQUIPPED MY IRON BODY WITH MANY ATTACHMENTS, SUCH AS THESE!

I'LL FASTEN THESE SUCTION CUPS TO MY PALMS AND TURN ON MY TRANSISTOR-POWERED AIR-PRESSURE JETS!



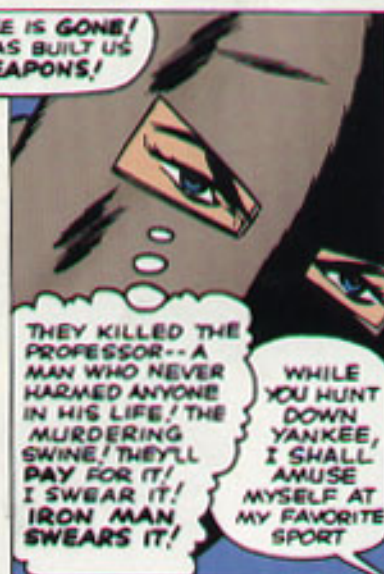
THEY WORK! THEY GIVE ME THE POWER TO SOAR INTO THE AIR!



THEY DON'T DREAM OF LOOKING UP HERE IN THE SHADOWS!

THE YANKEE IS GONE! AND HE HAS BUILT US NO WEAPONS!

HE CANNOT BE FAR! FIND HIM AND DISPOSE OF HIM AS YOU DID THE OTHER WHO DARED DEFY ME!



THEY KILLED THE PROFESSOR-- A MAN WHO NEVER HARMED ANYONE IN HIS LIFE! THE MURDERING SWINE! THEY'LL PAY FOR IT! I SWEAR IT! IRON MAN SWEARS IT!

WHILE YOU HUNT DOWN YANKEE, I SHALL AMUSE MYSELF AT MY FAVORITE SPORT



THEN, SECONDS AFTER THE REDS DEPART...

YES, WONG-CHU, AMUSE YOURSELF WHILE YOU STILL CAN! FOR OUR MOMENT OF RECKONING IS ALMOST AT HAND!

IN THE COURTYARD...

HAH! I WIN AGAIN!

NONE CAN DEFEAT THE MIGHTY WAR LORD!

I SAY HE IS A COWARD! I CHALLENGE WONG-CHU!



WHO DARES SPEAK THUS TO WONG-CHU? SHOW YOURSELF! LET ME SEE THE FACE OF THE ONE I AM ABOUT TO DESTROY!



AS YOU WISH, TYRANT! FIRST, I SHALL REMOVE MY CLOTHES--



WHY DO YOU STARE, WONG-CHU? WHAT IS WRONG?

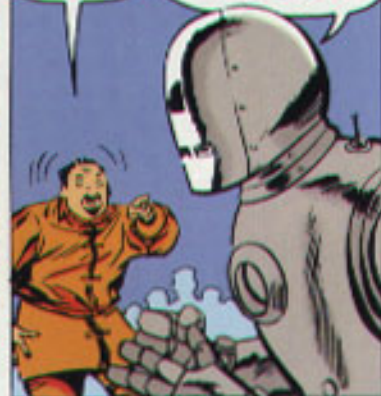


HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN AN IRON MAN BEFORE?!



YOU--YOU ARE NOT HUMAN! YOU ARE MACHINE!!

AND YOU ARE A HEARTLESS MAN OF EVIL WHO IS ABOUT TO PAY FOR HIS MISDEEDS!



THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE RED HORDES, TWO ELECTRONICALLY-POWERED ARMS SEIZE WONG-CHU, LIFTING HIM EASILY AS THEY WOULD A TOY!

YOU ARE NOT FACING A WOUNDED, DYING MAN NOW...



--OR AN AGED, GENTLE PROFESSOR!



THIS IS IRON MAN WHO OPPOSES YOU, AND ALL YOU STAND FOR!



AND THEN, TO FRUSTRATE THE WAR LORD'S EFFORTS EVEN FURTHER...

NOW I'LL SWITCH MY OWN VOICE ONTO THE LOUDSPEAKER!
DESERT WONG-CHU FLEE INTO THE JUNGLE!



WHA--WHAT IS HAPPENING?? THOSE NOT MY WORDS!



NONE CAN DEFEAT IRON MAN! FLEE, BEFORE HE SLAYS YOU ALL!!

IN PANIC, AND WITHOUT LEADERSHIP, THEY'LL SOON BE CAPTURED BY SOUTH VIETNAM TROOPS!

HE'S LOCKED THE DOOR BUT THAT WON'T KEEP ME OUT!
AND NOW TO SETTLE WITH WONG-CHU!



MY POWERFUL TRANSISTOR MAKES THIS MINIATURE BUZZ SAW INSIDE MY INDEX FINGER-CONTAINER OUTPERFORM ANYTHING A DOZEN TIMES ITS SIZE!



ALL RIGHT, WAR LORD! YOU'RE FINISHED! COME DOWN HERE!



YOU MIGHT TERRIFY MY TROOPS! BUT NOT WONG-CHU!

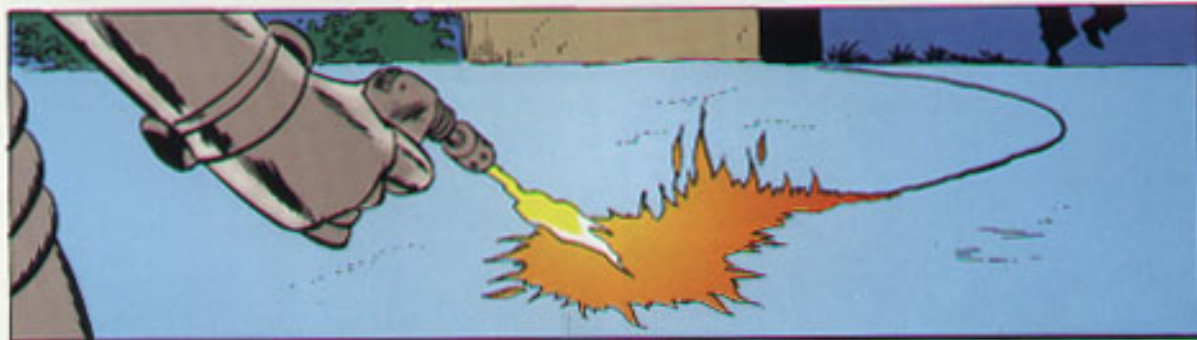
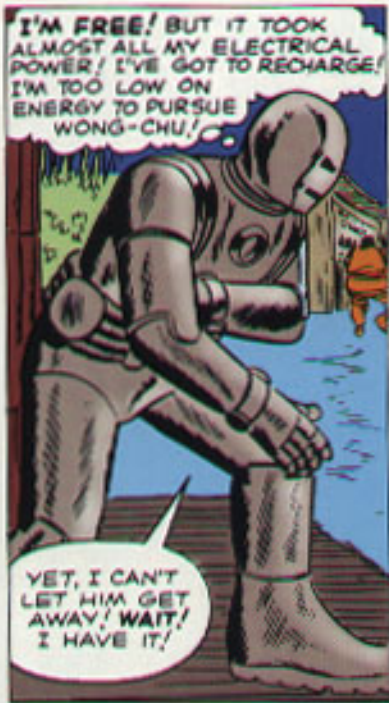
TAKE THIS, MONSTER!



NOW TO ORDER THE EXECUTION OF ALL MY PRISONERS!



UGH!! HE WEIGHTED EACH DRAWER OF THIS CABINET WITH ROCKS!



DON'T MISS MORE OF **IRON MAN** IN THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF... **TALES OF SUSPENSE!**