



Imagine my astonishment when I turned to this page in issue #33!

THE VOICE OF FATE!

CAN A MAN
CONTROL HIS
OWN DESTINY?
OR IS HE BUT
A HELPLESS
STRAND IN A
WEB SPUN
BY FATE?
WALTER KRUGG
THOUGHT HE
KNEW THE
ANSWER! BUT
WALTER WAS
MISTAKEN...
VERY MUCH
MISTAKEN...



THE YEAR WAS 1845!
THE PLACE-- WELL, IT
WAS SOMEWHERE
BEYOND WHAT WE CALL
REALITY!

HOW LONG
HAVE WE
BEEN GOVERN-
ING LIFE?

I SHOULD
IMAGINE
ABOUT
6 BILLION
YEARS!

AND HOW LONG
HAVE THE
HUMANS BEEN
UNDER OUR
JURISDICTION?

EVER
SINCE THEY
BEGAN TO
WALK
UPRIGHT
...FOR ABOUT
2 MILLION
YEARS!



WELL NOW,
WOULDN'T YOU
THINK THAT
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME
THE HUMANS
WOULD HAVE
LEARNED WHAT
EVERY OTHER
LIVING
CREATURE
KNOWS...
THAT THE
WHOLE SHOW
IS RUN BY
US, THE
FATES!?

BUT NO,
THE
HUMANS
STILL
DO NOT
BELIEVE
THAT!
THEY
STILL
THINK
THEY
CONTROL
THEIR
OWN
DESTINY!



WHY, EVEN
IF ONE OF
US WERE
TO GO
DOWN
THERE AND
TELL THEM
THE TRUTH,
THEY
WOULD
STILL GO
ON TRYING
TO DEFEY
US!

I DO NOT
AGREE
WITH
YOU!
I THINK
THE
HUMANS
ARE
AWARE
OF US!



OH??
WELL
IN THAT
CASE,
LET US
MAKE A
SMALL
WAGER!

I'LL BET YOU
A THOUSAND
THUNDER-
BOLTS THAT
IF YOU
SELECT A
HUMAN...
AT RANDOM,
YOU COULD
NEVER
CONVINCE
HIM THAT HE
CANNOT
ESCAPE HIS
FATE!

I ACCEPT
THE
WAGER!



AND, AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER
DIMENSION OF SPACE AND TIME...



AH! LOOK AT
THE WAY
THE
STONES
SPARKLE!
THEY'RE
FABULOUS!

NO WONDER THIS
NECKLACE IS WORTH
A FORTUNE! AND A
FORTUNE IS JUST
WHAT I'LL GET FOR
IT!



DID YOU PUT THE
DIAMOND NECKLACE
IN THE SAFE,
WALTER?

YES SIR! IT'S
LOCKED UP
FOR THE
NIGHT!



WHAT IS THE HULK ?



GOOD! I WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO IT!

THE OLD FOOL! TOO BAD I WON'T BE AROUND IN THE MORNING TO SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN HE OPENS THE SAFE AND FINDS THE NECKLACE GONE!



THE WORLD IS FULL OF FOOLS... LIKE ALL THE GUYS IN SERVICE, FIGHTING IN THE WAR, BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T SMART ENOUGH TO FORGE PAPERS AND BEAT THE DRAFT THE WAY I DID!



AND NOW THAT I'VE STOLEN THIS NECKLACE, I'M NOT ONLY SAFE FROM THE WAR, BUT I'M RICH, TOO!



ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS TO GO SOME PLACE WHERE THE POLICE CAN'T EVER FIND ME!

IT IS USELESS, WALTER KRUGG...



WHAT?! WHO SAID THAT?? WHO... WHO ARE YOU??

HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE, WITH THE DOOR LOCKED ??

I AM ONE OF THE FATES... AND I AM ABLE TO DO MANY THINGS!



ONE OF THE WHAT?? NO, DON'T BOTHER ANSWERING! LOOK, MAC, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, BUT I DON'T SCARE EASILY! SO BEAT IT, HUH!



BUT I AM HERE TO INFORM YOU... TO TELL YOU THAT IT IS USELESS FOR YOU TO FLEE!

FOR NO MAN CAN ESCAPE WHAT WE FATES HAVE ORDAINED FOR HIM!

ARE YOU KIDDIN'? I MEAN, DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT JAZZ?

WHO IS THE HULK?



LOOK, PAL, I TAKE CARE OF MYSELF AND I DO A **GOOD** JOB OF IT, SEE? I BEAT THE DRAFT AND I'VE GOT A NECKLACE WORTH A FORTUNE!

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HIDE OUT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY... SOME PLACE WHERE THE POLICE CAN'T REACH ME!



BUT THAT IS FUTILE! IT IS DECIDED THAT NO MATTER WHERE YOU HIDE, YOU WILL STILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY! BUT YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH BECAUSE I DON'T BUY IT!



RESIDES, EVEN IF YOU ARE FATE, HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY AFFECT ME! LOOK AT YOU! YOU AIN'T EVEN HUMAN!

SO YOU SEE, I GOT **NOTHIN'** TO WORRY ABOUT!

SO LONG, PAL!



SO, YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE THE TRUTH! THEN FLEE, FOOL! FLEE!

AND SO, BACK AGAIN IN THE SHADOWY LAND...



AH, YOU HAVE RETURNED!

YES, AND I HAVE LOST MY WAGER!



I CHOSE A HUMAN! I TOLD HIM THAT HE COULD NOT ESCAPE HIS FATE... THAT HE **MUST** PAY FOR HIS CRIMES! BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ME!

THEY NEVER DO!

4



YOU ALLOWED HIM TO DEPART, THOUGH, SO THE HUMAN *DID* ESCAPE FATE AFTER ALL!

NO, NOT REALLY...



...FOR THOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT HE IS NOW IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND THOUGH HE POSSESSES HIS STOLEN GEM, HE *STILL* HAS NOT ESCAPED!

BUT, LOOK BELOW AND SEE FOR YOURSELF...



SEE HOW **CONTENTED** HE IS!

HA! IT'S EASY TO BE A TRAITOR TO YOUR OWN COUNTRY! THE ENEMY IS ALWAYS GLAD TO ACCEPT YOU, WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED!



NOW, I'LL JUST WAIT OUT THE REST OF THE WAR HERE, IN THE ONE COUNTRY WHERE THE AMERICAN POLICE CAN'T REACH ME!



YES SIR! I'M NOT ONLY RICH... I'M *ALSO* PERFECTLY SAFE! BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, IN A QUIET, PEACEFUL CITY LIKE THIS...



...WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN TO ME??