

WHO ARE **THE** IRREPRESSIBLE! UNSTOPPABLE!
VIGILANT?

THE PRISONER OF ZENGA | Valiant 1975 | Script: Unknown | Art: Unknown



The Prisoner of ZENGA

THE BASEMENT LABORATORIES OF A COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, SOMEWHERE IN THE SPRAWLING MIDLANDS CITY OF BELLINGHAM. IT WAS WELL PAST MIDNIGHT AS THREE MEN GAZED NERVOUSLY AT THE HUGE, METALLIC SHAPE THAT SEEMED TO FILL THE ROOM WITH SILENT MENACE!



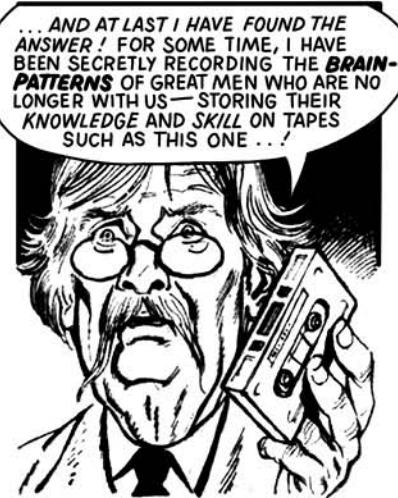
PROFESSOR GLEESON! YOU CLAIM THAT THIS... **METAL MONSTROSITY**, WHICH YOU HAVE CALLED 'PROJECT Z', WILL SOON HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE TO SOLVE ALMOST **ANY MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM?**

EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

WITH PLEASURE, GENTLEMEN...!



LET US FIRST CONSIDER THE LOSS TO CIVILISATION, WHEN OUR GREAT INTELLECTUALS PASS AWAY! IF ONLY THEIR GENIUS COULD **LIVE ON** TO BENEFIT MANKIND...!



... AND AT LAST I HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER! FOR SOME TIME, I HAVE BEEN SECRETLY RECORDING THE **BRAIN-PATTERNS** OF GREAT MEN WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US—STORING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL ON TAPES SUCH AS THIS ONE...!



AND NOW... BY FEEDING A PARTICULAR TAPE INTO 'PROJECT Z'...!

YOU CAN MAKE THE ROBOT **THINK AND BEHAVE LIKE THE PERSON** WHOSE BRAIN-PATTERNS ARE RECORDED ON THE TAPE!

INGENIOUS, BUT **IMPOSSIBLE!** IT CAN'T BE DONE, GLEESON!



THEN ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE! MR. CAINE, WILL YOU KINDLY BRING ME THE **BRAIN-PATTERNS OF SIR ADRIAN SOPER**, THE WORLD-FAMOUS MATHEMATICIAN WHO DIED SIX MONTHS AGO!

AT ONCE, PROFESSOR...!



BUT THE PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT SEEMED TO STUMBLE, AND...

AA-AAAAGH!

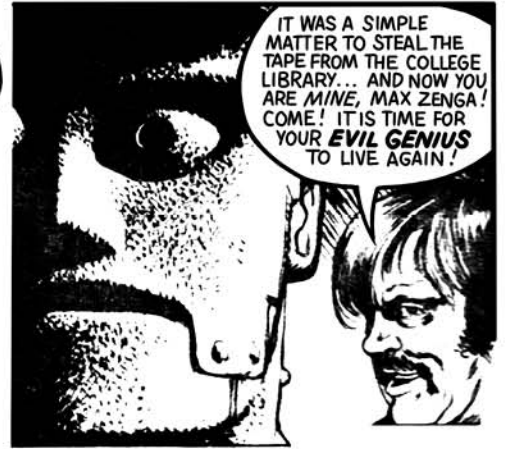
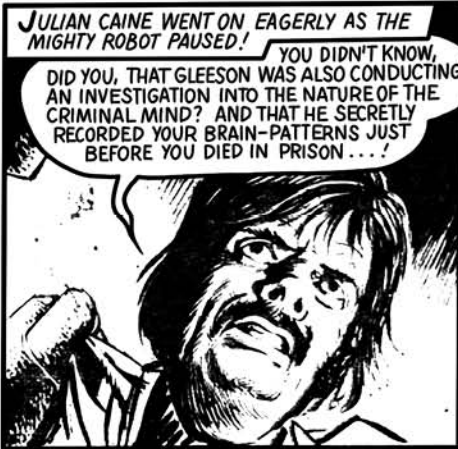
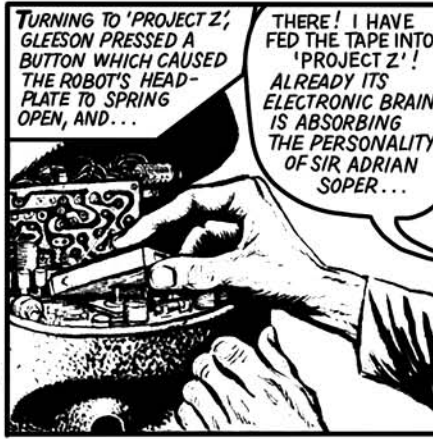
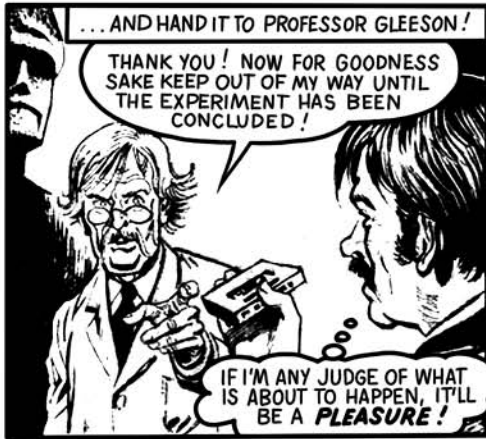
CLUMSY IDIOT! YOU'VE KNOCKED THE TAPES ON TO THE FLOOR! IF ANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN **DAMAGED...**



FORGIVE ME, GENTLEMEN! I HAVE THE MISFORTUNE TO BE PLAGUED BY THE MOST DULL-WITTED ASSISTANT IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, GLEESON...!

NO-ONE SAW JULIAN CAINE SLIP ANOTHER SLENDER 'BRAIN-BANK' FROM HIS POCKET...!





AS THE ROBOT FOLLOWED THE GLOATING CAINE FROM THE HALF-WRECKED LABORATORY...

GLEESON TREATED ME LIKE A SLAVE... MOCKED AND INSULTED ME, LIKE THE OTHERS! BUT NOW JULIAN CAINE SHALL HAVE HIS REVENGE... THE POWER AND RICHES THAT I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED FOR...!



SO STRIKE, I COMMAND YOU! THAT JEWELLER'S SHALL BE YOUR FIRST TEST! BRING ME THE WEALTH THAT GLITTERS IN ITS WINDOW!



AND TO CAINE'S DELIGHT AND TRIUMPH...

AYIEEEEEEE! WHAT STRENGTH... WHAT BLIND OBEDIENCE! THE SECURITY GRILLE CRUMPLES LIKE A COBWEB...!

CRUUNCH!



MOONLIGHT GLITTERED ON PRECIOUS GEMS AS CAINE'S EVIL ALLY TURNED!

LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABE! HA! HAAAA! AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! WELL DONE, ZENGA! NOW GIVE ME THE JEWELS, SO THAT I MAY SAVOUR OUR FIRST SUCCESS!

BUT...

UUUUUURRRGH!



NAA-AAAANG!



SUDDEN ALARM FLARED IN JULIAN CAINE'S EYES, AS THE MASSIVE BLOW SENT HIM SPRAWLING!

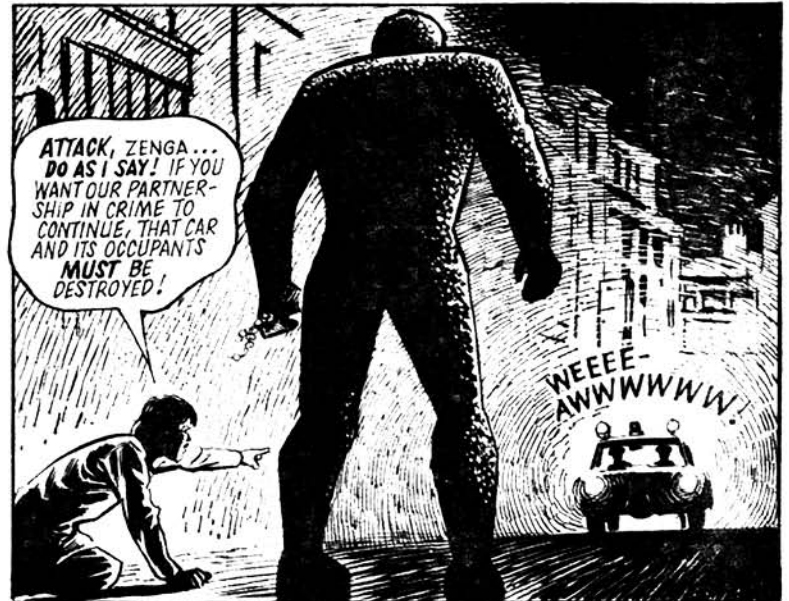
YOU... YOU DEFIED ME! BUT I AM YOUR MASTER... I CREATED YOU! YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!



THEN...

WEEEEAWWWWW!
WEEEEAWWWWW!

A POLICE CAR! WE MUST HAVE BROKEN A SECURITY-CIRCUIT THAT TRIGGERS AN ALARM IN THE LOCAL STATION...!



ATTACK, ZENGA... DO AS I SAY! IF YOU WANT OUR PARTNERSHIP IN CRIME TO CONTINUE, THAT CAR AND ITS OCCUPANTS MUST BE DESTROYED!

WEEEE-AWWWWWW!

WILL THE MAN-MADE MONSTER CARRY OUT CAINE'S EVIL COMMANDS? SEE NEXT WEEK!

ZENGA STRUCK . . . AND THE POLICE CAR CRUMPLED LIKE PAPER!

The Prisoner of ZENGA



MY GRIEF! THOSE EYES... THAT FACE! IT... IT CAN'T BE HUMAN!

SWERVE, YOU FOOL! HIT THE BRAKES...

IN THE MIDLANDS CITY OF BELLINGHAM, LABORATORY ASSISTANT JULIAN CAINE HAD SECRETLY PLANTED THE VICIOUS INTELLIGENCE OF DEAD ARCH-CRIMINAL, MAX ZENGA, INSIDE THE BRAIN OF AN EXPERIMENTAL ROBOT, WHICH HAD ESCAPED FROM ITS INVENTOR, FOLLOWING A RAMPAGE OF DESTRUCTION. BUT JUST AFTER CAINE HAD ORDERED THE ROBOT TO ROB A JEWELLER'S, THEY WERE INTERCEPTED BY A POLICE CAR!



BUT THE HANDS OF THE HORRIFIED DRIVER HAD FROZEN ON THE STEERING WHEEL!

BTTHRAAAAANG!
EEEEAAAAARGH!

ZENGA...!



THE POLICE CAR SLEWED WILDLY ACROSS THE STREET, AND SMASHED INTO ANOTHER VEHICLE!

HRRR-RRRRRRNG!

THANK THE STARS! YOU... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! IT WAS JUST THE IMPACT OF THE CAR THAT KNOCKED YOU OFF BALANCE...!



BAKER FOUR TO... HEADQUARTERS! ARE YOU... RECEIVING ME...?

NOW FINISH IT... QUICKLY! ONE OF THEM HAS SURVIVED! DON'T LET HIM RADIO OUR POSITION...!



HURRY, ZENGA!

...MUST BE... NINE FEET... TALL! GLITTERING LIKE METAL! IT'S... COMING! C-COMING FOR ME...!



AAAAAAAH!

KERRONK

THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING ON CAINE'S EVIL MIND . . . ESCAPE!



A LAST DESPAIRING CRY ECHOED INTO SILENCE!

WHY, YOU... YOU STUPID, INHUMAN BRUTE! I ONLY MEANT YOU TO SILENCE HIM! NOT... THIS!

HAAAAUUURRRNG!



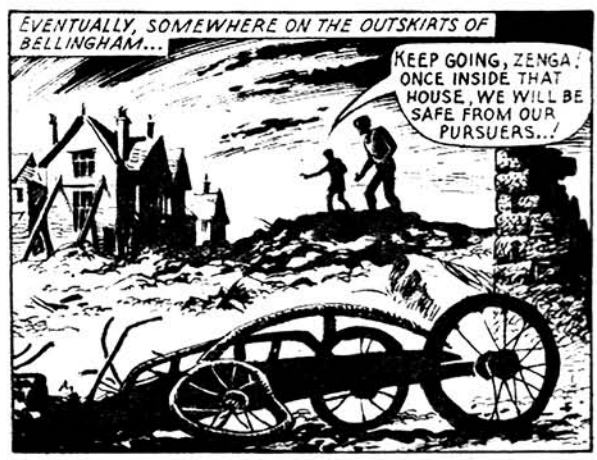
ANOTHER SIREN WAILED IN THE DISTANCE, AS THE WRECKAGE OF THE CAR BURST INTO FLAMES!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... RUN! IF THEY CATCH US NOW, THEY'LL SHOW US NO MERCY!



PAUSING ONLY TO SALVAGE SOME OF THE JEWELS, JULIAN CAINE LED HIS STRANGE, GROPING ALLY THROUGH THE DARKENED SIDE-STREETS!

WHEEEAAWWW!



EVENTUALLY, SOMEWHERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BELLINGHAM...

KEEP GOING, ZENGA! ONCE INSIDE THAT HOUSE, WE WILL BE SAFE FROM OUR PURSUERS...



STUMBLING INTO THE DERELICT RUIN, CAINE PAUSED AT A CELLAR DOOR!

JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO SWITCH ON THE GENERATOR! AH, YES, MY GRISLY FRIEND... EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PLANNED TO THE LAST DETAIL...!



I HAVE BEEN PREPARING THIS LITTLE HIDE-OUT FOR WEEKS! IT IS STOCKED WITH FOOD... SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT! EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED TO PLAN OUR CAMPAIGN OF CRIME...!



THESE JEWELS ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING! WE'LL LIE LOW FOR A FEW DAYS, UNTIL THE HUE-AND-CRY DIES DOWN, AND THEN...!



HAAAAANNING!

UUUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU NOW...?

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THIS MIND-BOGLING QUESTION? SEE NEXT WEEK!

ENCOUNTER THE PRISONER OF ZENGA
15th August 2018



THE **IRREPESSIBLE! UNSTOPPABLE!**
VIGILANT