



Michael J. Gilbert's



**BOE STEARN**

# WAR MONSTER



DOC STEAM™

# MR MONSTER



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This issue respectfully dedicated to Fred Kelly!

# ORIGINS Chapter II



FOR OVER TEN THOUSAND YEARS WE STRANGERS HAVE GLADLY SACRIFICED OUR LIVES TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. TO A MAN, WE WERE ALL PROUD TO WEAR THE TITLE OF *MR. MONSTER*... BUT NOT HIM!!

HE SHARED US ALL.

STRONGFORTH! TALKING ABOUT YOUR OWN FATHER LIKE THAT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE REMORSED! IF MY KELLY EVER SPOKE ABOUT ME LIKE THAT, I'D... MEEC! I'M JUST GLAD SHE'S DOWNSTAIRS WITH HER MOTHER... WHERE SHE CAN'T HEAR YOUR DISRESPECT!

WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO SIT IN JUDGEMENT OF YOUR DADDY?

I LIKE YOU, STRONGFORTH! I'LL TELL YOU THAT STRAIGHT! BUT I GOTTA BE HONEST! LOTS OF TIMES I QUESTION WHY MY DAUGHTER WASTES HER TIME ON A STUBBORN, SELF-RIGHTEOUS PRIDE LIKE YOU.

THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING HUMAN, SON. YOUR DADDY HAD EVERY RIGHT IN THE WORLD TO QUIT BEING MR. MONSTER.

BACK IN THE '30'S, EVEN A DUMB BEAT COP LIKE ME HEARD OF DR. JIM STRONG! LONG BEFORE HE EVER PUT ON THAT DAMNED COSTUME, JIM EXPLORED THE MOST DANGEROUS PARTS OF THE WORLD... SHARING HIS PRECIOUS KNOWLEDGE, RISKING HIS LIFE HELPING OTHERS. YOUR DADDY WAS A GREAT MAN.

HE DIDN'T NEED MR. MONSTER TO MAKE HIM A HERO.

YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO GET A HANDLE ON, SON. WHAT MAKES YOU TICK? MY KELLY'S BEEN SWEET ON YOU FOR YEARS... YET YOU NEVER EVEN BOTHERED TELLING HER ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. NOW I FIND OUT YOU'RE ASHAMED OF YOUR OWN FATHER. DAMNED STRANGE.



WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY? YOUR MOTHER FOR INSTANCE?



MY MOTHER? SHE'S IN HEAVEN NOW.

SHE DIED IN CHILDBIRTH.



SHE DIED IN CHILDBIRTH? BUT I THOUGHT...



IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT, JOE. I HAVE TO GET READY. SOON ENOUGH YOU'LL HAVE THE ANSWERS YOU REQUIRE.

IN THE MEANTIME, I FOUND SOMETHING IN MY FATHER'S FILES THAT MAY AMUSE YOU.

WHAT'S THIS? A FUNNY BOOK?

YES, THERE WERE A FEW... "MR. MONSTER" COMIC BOOK STORIES PRODUCED IN THE LATE 1940'S, LOOSELY BASED ON MY FATHER'S EARLY EXPLOITS. I THOUGHT YOU'D FIND THIS ONE PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY, JOE.



"THE TERROR OF TREE MA"? SAY... I WAS ASSIGNED THAT CASE YEARS AGO!

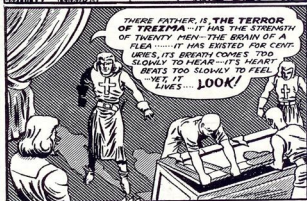
THAT'S WHERE I MET GLO. SO THEY MADE A FUNNY BOOK OUTTA IT, EH? LET'S SEE THAT, SON...







THEN, AS THE EVENING WEARS ON, THE  
YOUNG ROLF SUDDENLY RISES TO HIS FEET...





SLOWLY THE MONSTER RAISES ITSELF... THEN, WITH A ROAR...

... IT RUSHES AT THE TERRIFIED REVELLERS!! BEFORE IT CAN BE SUBDUED, MANY MEN AND WOMEN FALL BEFORE ITS RENDING FANGS!!



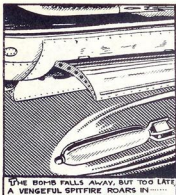
AND SO, THE TERROR OF TREZMA WAS HIDDEN AWAY. ... IT WAS COMPLETELY LOST FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS -- LOST THAT IS, UNTIL THE NAZIS FOUND IT FOR US, CENTURIES LATER. -- IT HAPPENED DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN...



THE BEAST IS FINALLY OVERCOME, THEN THE OLD DUKE, SHAKEN WITH GRIEF, SURVEYS THE SCENE OF CARNAGE...

GERMAN BOMBER, BADLY SHOT UP, IS FLYING LOW OVER THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE...





THE BOMB FALLS AWAY, BUT TOO LATE, A VENGEFUL SPITFIRE ROARS IN.....



END OF THE LINE FOR YOU JERRY!!

DOWN TOWARDS THE BLEAK COUNTRY SIDE TUMBLES THE BOMB...TOWARD AN ANCIENT ENGLISH CASTLE!!



IN A FEW YEARS, THE WAR IS OVER, AND THE BRITISH PEOPLE GO WILD WITH JOY--ONE FARMER IN PARTICULAR DOES A GOOD JOB OF CELEBRATING, AND AS HE STAGGERS HOME.....



SHAY, LOOKSH LIKE THE OL' CASTLE RILLY CAUGHT IT---URP---SHINK I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUN'!!



'EY!...CORKS, OIM SLIPPIN' INTO THAT BIG 'OLE !!

STUMBLING ABOUT IN THE RUINS, THE DRUNK TRIPS OVER A LOOSE STONE, AND FALLS HEADLONG INTO A BOMB CRATER!!

PICKING HIMSELF UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT, HE FINDS HE'S LANDED ON THE LID OF A LARGE, ROTTING CASKET!!



WHATSH THISH A BIG BOX- I'M GONNA HAVE A LOOK INSIDE !!



LUMMY! THIS BLOKE'S REALLY MESHED UP.....HIC.....BETTER GET DOG CARTER!!



HE WEAVES HIS WAY TO THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE---MEANWHILE, HIS FORGOTTEN CIGARETTE SMOLDERS AMONGST SOME DRIED LEAVES IN THE CASKET OF 'THE TERROR OF TREZIMA'.



BACK IN CANADA, DOC. STEARNE IS OUT DANCING WHEN HE RECEIVES THE CABLEGRAM FROM ENGLAND!!



[IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, JIM AND GLO ARE IN SURREY-- THEY DECIDE TO CALL ON DOCTOR CARTER WITHOUT DELAY....]



[MEANWHILE, THE TERROR OF TREZMA GROPEs AROUND IN THE BLACKNESS UNTIL IT FINDS WHAT IT SEEKS... --ANOTHER EXIT FROM THE CASTLE!!]



FUNNY! THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED, AND AJAR!!



MURDERED!! GLO, YOU'D BETTER WAIT OUTSIDE!!



HERE THEY ARE... HIS NOTES ON THE TERROR OF TREZMA!!



GOSH, IT'S SPOOKY OUT HERE... I WISH JIM WOULD HURRY UP!!

FRANTICALLY, DOC SEARCHES THE SLAIN MAN'S HOME UNTIL HE FINDS THE PAPERS!!

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, GLO WAITS IMPATIENTLY, UNAWARE OF THE OMINOUS SHAPE WHICH RISES OUT OF THE MISTS...

A SHORT TIME LATER, DOC LEAVES THE HOUSE TO FIND GLO HAS DISAPPEARED!!



WONDER WHERE SHE'S GONE?? HEY!! WHAT ARE THOSE BITS OF RAGS ON THAT BUSH!!?

BANDAGES!! THE DOCTOR'S NOTES SAID THE MONSTER WAS SWATHED IN BANDAGES!!



NOW TO FIND THIS TERROR OF TREZMA!!

FEARING THE WORST, JIM STEARNE TEARS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHES AND ASSUMES THE IDENTITY OF... MR. MONSTER!!

AS MISTER MONSTER NEARS THE CASTLE, HE SEES THE TERROR CARRYING GLO TO THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST TOWER!!

THERE ISN'T A SECOND TO WASTE... IF I'M NOT TOO LATE ALL READY!!

RACING AGAINST TIME, MISTER MONSTER SPEEDS AFTER THE SLOWLY MOVING BEAST!!

IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO THROW GLO OVER THE EDGE--I'VE GOT TO GET HIM QUICKLY... AND QUIETLY!!

THIS FLASH'S GOTTA TURN THE TRICK!!

THE BEAM OF THE POWERFUL FLASH BLINDS THE TERROR-- IT DROPS GLO AND LUNGES BLINDLY AT MISTER MONSTER.

WHOSE GLEAMING SUIT OF CHAIN-MAIL TURNS THE SMASHING BLOW!!

NOW, IF I CAN SNEAK AROUND BEHIND HIM...

--SET THE FLASH ON THIS LEDGE... AND TURN IT ON--

WOW!! I'D BETTER DOUSE THIS LIGHT!!





AS THE MADDENED BEAST TURNS TO DESTROY THE FLASHLIGHT...

NOW I'LL GET 'N BEHIND IT!!



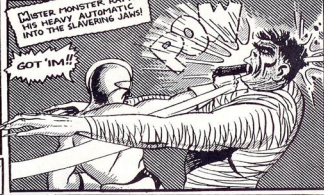
CLUNK

I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE OF HIM WITH ONE SHOT--BUT HIS SKIN'S LIKE ARMOUR!!



MISTER MONSTER RAMS HIS HEAVY AUTOMATIC INTO THE SLAVERING JAWS!

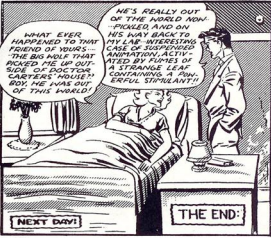
GOT 'IM!!



INFURIED BY THE BLOW, THE TERROR OF TREZMA WHEELS TO MEET THE NEW ATTACK, AND OPENS ITS MOUTH IN A HIDEOUS SCREAM OF ANGER!!



CURTAINS FOR THE CURSE... NOW TO GET GLORIA OUT OF THIS RUIN, AND INTO A HOSPITAL!!



WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THAT FRIEND OF YOURS... THE BIG WOLF THAT PICKED ME UP OUTSIDE OF DOCTOR CARTERS' HOUSE? ROY, HE WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

HE'S REALLY OUT OF THE WORLD NOW--PICKED, AND ON HIS WAY BACK TO MY LAB--INTERESTING CASE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION, ACTIVATED BY FUMES OF A STRANGE LEAF CONTAINING A POWERFUL STIMULANT!!

NEXT DAY!

THE END!



WHOOO!

THE MEMORIES THAT BRINGS BACK! THEY CALLED ME IN ON THAT CASE - A LITTLE LATE, AS IT TURNED OUT YOUR DADDY DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH FOR US POOR COPS TO CLEAN UP.

FUNNY, SAYS HERE A FLASHLIGHT BLINDED THE "TERROR." I SEEM TO REMEMBER ITS FACE BURNIN' FROM A FLAREGUN!

IT'S ONLY A COMIC BOOK JOE

LOTS OF THE FACTS ARE WRONG.

FIRE AND STEEL DESTROYED THE MONSTER. MY FATHER'S NOTES CONFIRM THAT! IT SEEMS THE BASIC THRUST OF THE COMIC BOOK STORY IS ACCURATE... BUT THE DETAILS ARE WRONG... ALTERED!

HAHAHA... GUESS THE GUY WHO DREW THIS THING FIGURED THE REAL STORY WAS JUST TOO RAW FOR KIDS, CHANGED IT TO PROTECT 'EM.

Dr. STEAM

WASTED EFFORT! YOU CAN'T BURY THE TRUTH - ESPECIALLY FROM CHILDREN.

THEY ALWAYS FIND OUT THE REAL STORY... EVENTUALLY!

JOE... YOU WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MY FAMILY. TONIGHT YOU MAY DISCOVER MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR! I'VE STUDIED MY FATHER'S JOURNALS... PARTICULARLY THE PERIOD JUST PRIOR TO MY BIRTH. MOST OF HIS LOG ENTRIES ARE QUITE DETAILED... UNTIL THE POINT WHEN HE AND GLORIA SEPARATED. THEN HIS NOTES GET SKETCHY... INCOMPLETE.

SINCE YOU WERE PART OF THAT STORY... I WAS HOPING YOU COULD HELP ME FILL IN SOME OF THE BLANK SPOTS.

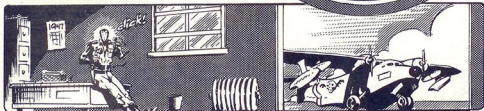
THINGS STARTED GETTING FUZZY RIGHT HERE! MY FATHER RECEIVED A CALL FROM HIS OPERATIVES IN AFRICA. IT SEEMS MR. MONSTER WAS NEEDED! THAT IN TURN LED TO ANOTHER CALL...

"...OF A MORE PERSONAL NATURE!"

GLO?... THIS IS JIM.  
LOOK, HONEY, I DON'T HAVE MUCH  
TIME--SO LISTEN CAREFULLY. WORDS  
OUT THAT THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE  
CONGO! ITS VOODOO AND  
VAMPIRES, GLO!

NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE...  
BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO BACK ME UP--  
JUST IN CASE. DROP EVERYTHING  
AND MEET ME AT THE TORONTO  
AERODROME IN AN HOUR. WE'RE  
GOING TO AFRICA, GLO!

JIM, I...I CAN'T  
TALK NOW. LOOK--YOU'LL  
HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE  
THIS TIME. I HAVE TO...I... I  
JUST CAN'T GO--THAT'S  
ALL. WE...WE'LL  
TALK WHEN YOU GET BACK...  
OK? G...GOOD LUCK JIM.



SHE COULDN'T  
GO.

SHE WAS  
TOO BUSY WITH  
YOU, JOE.

YEAH,  
I GUESS  
SHE WAS  
AT THAT,  
SON.



I WAS PRETTY BUSY, TOO. THE JOB WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *SIMPLE*, TWO WEEKS AT MOST.

IT TURNED OUT TO BE *SIX MONTHS!!*

ALL THE WORLD'S EVIL CRAWLED OUT OF THAT HOT GREEN *CESS POOL*! INVISIBLE ZOMBIES, MAD WITCH-DOCTORS, GIANT VAMPIRE MOSQUITOES... EACH WORSE THAN THE LAST!

MR. MONSTER STOPPED THEM COLD! MY FATHER EVENTUALLY CLEANED OUT THAT JUNGLE, BUT PAID A HEAVY PRICE! EXHAUSTION AND DISEASE HAD TAKEN THEIR TOLL... AND WHEN JIM STEARNE FINALLY RETURNED HOME FROM THAT STEAMY INFERNO...



GLO...

CRACK!

"...IT WAS TO A DIFFERENT WORLD."



WHO IS IT, MONEY?

I DON'T KNOW, JOE. MOTHER COULDN'T BE BACK AL-

OH!

WINE  
YOU'RE BACK...

MUCH COLDER ONE



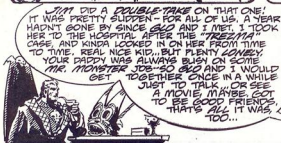
SIX MONTHS IN THE CONGO LEFT YOUR FATHER IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, SON. HE WAS WEAK...TRYING TO FIGHT OFF A LINGERING CASE OF MALARIA.

IT WASN'T THE BEST TIME TO FIND OUT ABOUT ME AND GLO.

BUT YOU TOLD HIM ANYWAY.

HAD TO...











IT HURT HIM REAL BAD... BUT HE HAD IT AS BEST HE COULD. HE WAS A LOT LIKE YOU IN THAT RESPECT... A LITTLE AFRAID TO SHOW HE WAS HUMAN, MAYBE THAT'S WHY GLO MARRIED ME INSTEAD OF HIM.

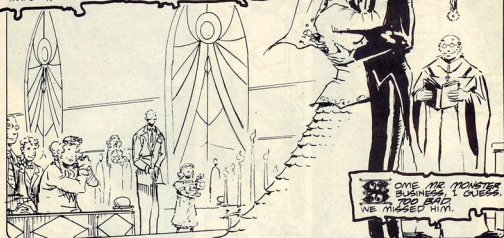
SOMETHING WORTH THINKING ABOUT, SON.

ANYWAY, YOUR DADDY WENT AWAY TO LICK HIS WOUNDS... MOVED BACK TO AMERICA-- TO THIS HOUSE. GLO TRIED TO KEEP IN TOUCH... BUT JIM KIND OF DRIFTED AWAY. DIDN'T READ MUCH ABOUT MR. MONSTER AFTER THAT, EITHER.

UNTIL THE ACCIDENT, OF COURSE.



**W**E WERE MARRIED LATER THAT YEAR, IF GOD ABOVE EVER MADE ANYTHING QUITE AS BEAUTIFUL AS GLO IN THAT WEDDING DRESS OF HERS. WELL... I'VE YET TO SEE IT! WE INVITED YOUR FATHER, OF COURSE--BUT HE COULDN'T MAKE IT.

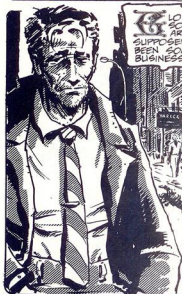


GLO WORRIED A LOT ABOUT JIM LIVING ALONE HERE IN STEARN MANSION. SHE'D BEEN HERE YEARS BEFORE... WHEN JIM FIRST TOLD HER ABOUT ALL THAT MR. MONSTER BUSINESS. DIDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL. FOUND IT DEPRESSING. CAN'T SAY I DISAGREE.





I'VE BEEN MIGHTY LONELY.



LO AND I GOT A LETTER FROM THE STATES NOT LONG AFTER SOME FRIEND OF HERS THOUGHT HE SAW JIM HANGING AROUND THE BAD PART OF TOWN. LOOKED LIKE HELL, SUPPOSEDLY! REAL RAGGED... KIND OF DIRTY. I FIGURED IT MUSTA BEEN SOMEONE ELSE. YOU DON'T SURVIVE LONG IN JIM'S BUSINESS BY BEING SLOPPY.

PLEASE, MISTA... PLEASE...  
I GOTTA HELP! IT GRABBED MY GRAMMY!

EH...?  
WHO? GO  
WAY, LITTLE  
GIRL, I  
DON'T...

THE  
BOOGYMAN!



THE  
BOOGEYMAN  
GOT HER!



WHAT  
Huh?

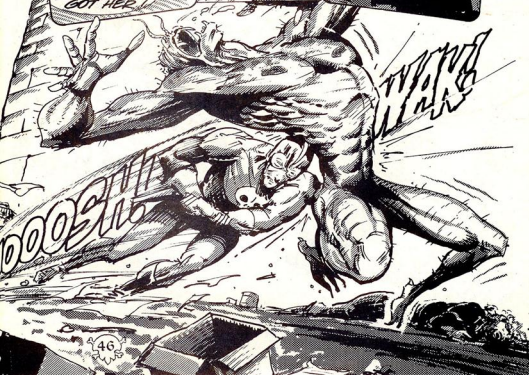
STAY  
BACK,  
SWEETIE...  
I'LL TAKE  
CARE OF  
THIS!!

YOU...  
YOU'RE  
MISTAH  
MONSTER!



I'LL GET  
NO HELP MISTAH  
MONSTER, HE  
BIG!

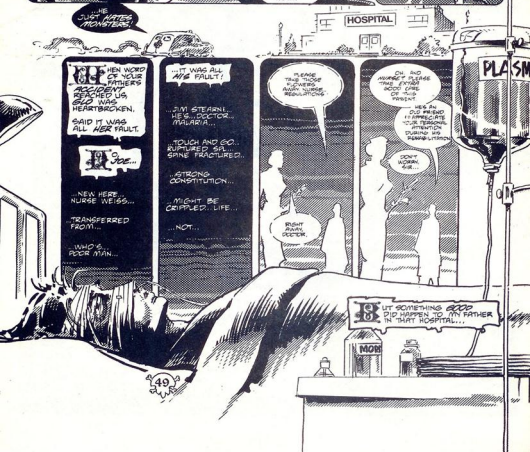
AS IT TURNED  
OUT, GLO'S  
FRIEND WAS  
RIGHT. STILL...  
WHO'D THINK YOUR  
FATHER'D BE CRAZY  
ENOUGH TO GO OFF  
FIGHTING MONSTERS  
IN HIS CONDITION.











HE MET  
MY MOTHER!

HE'LL  
BE SAFE  
WITH  
ME.

L. WEISS

NEXT: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stearns!