

FLAMES LICKED HUNGRILY AT THE INVESTIGATORS' HEELS AS THEY RACED TO ESCAPE FROM THE CHAMBER OF FIRE



SEXTON BLAKE

and the PHANTOM of PERIL ROCK



A sinister castle on Peril Rock was said to be the hiding place of a golden bow and jewelled arrows, guarded by the "Golden Archer". Ace detective Sexton Blake and his assistant Tinker went to the castle to search for the treasure. There, Blake began to suspect Alfred Witheridge, secretary to the castle's owner, of being the phantom. Later, the investigators became separated from Witheridge and were trapped in a room filling with molten metal!



TINKER-LOOK! FOOTSTEPS IN THE DUST... THAT MEANS THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY OUT OF HERE!



A WRITHING WALL OF MOLTEN FIRE SWEEPED ACROSS THE TRAIL OF FOOTPRINTS!

READY TO JUMP? WE MUST GET ACROSS!

STONE THE CROWS, GUV... I'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH THE ACE DETECTIVE GRABBED TINKER AND SPRANG OVER THE LICKING FLAMES!



AS THEY LANDED SAFELY ON THE OTHER SIDE...

PHEW! I THOUGHT WE'D 'AD IT THEN!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST! THERE MUST BE A CONCEALED DOOR AT THE END OF THOSE FOOTPRINTS - THEY SEEM TO DISAPPEAR THROUGH THE WALL!



BUT THEN TINKER'S SHOE TOUCHED A JOIN BETWEEN TWO FLAGSTONES, AND, LIKE A LIFT, THE GIANT SLABS BEGAN TO SINK BENEATH THE FLOOR!

AAHH... I MUST'VE TRIGGERED SOMETHIN' OFF WIV ME HEEL...

.. AND FOUND THE WAY OUT! WHEREVER WE'RE GOING, IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN A VAULT OF FIRE!



THE HUGE STONE LIFT GROUND TO A HALT, AND WHEN THE INVESTIGATORS HAD STEPPED OFF, IT SILENTLY ROSE TO ITS FORMER POSITION...

GREAT SCOTT, WE SEEM TO BE BACK IN THE MAZE UNDER THE CASTLE!

WAIT, GUV! THERE'S COBWEBS OVER EVERY TUNNEL MOUTH... THEY AIN'T BEEN USED FOR YEARS! WHICH ONE WILL LEAD US OUT?



THEN, MOCKING LAUGHTER ECHOED EVILLY THROUGH THE DARK MAZE, AND THERE, BEHIND A NETWORK OF COBWEBS, STOOD THE GOLDEN ARCHER!

STAND BACK, TINKER!

IN THE ARCHER'S SHINING BOW, A DEADLY SHAFT SPARKLED MENACINGLY!



THE SUPER SLEUTH RAISED HIS ARM WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, AND WAVED OFF THE FLASHING MISSILE!

AAHH— FOILED YOU YET AGAIN! NOW, YOU FIEND... WE'RE COMING FOR YOU!



AS THE ARCHER TURNED AND RAN INTO THE SHADOWS, BLAKE HURTLIED FORWARD IN PURSUIT!

COME ON, TINKER... WE CAN'T GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE!



THROUGH THE EERIE PASSAGE THEY RACED... AFTER THE FLEEING FIGURE, UNTIL...

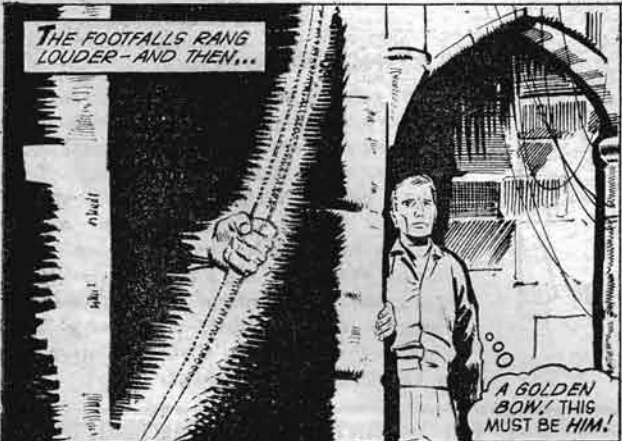
UHH, Y-YOU'D BETTER GO ON ALONE, GUV... I CAN'T KEEP UP!

RIGHT, TINKER! I'LL GET HIM THIS TIME!



FOR A MOMENT, BLAKE LOST SIGHT OF HIS QUARRY— AND THEN, AS HE NEARED ANOTHER PASSAGE ENTRANCE...

SOMEBODY'S COMING UP THE TUNNEL... AND IF IT'S THE ARCHER RETURNING, I'M WAITING FOR HIM!



THE FOOTFALLS RANG LOUDER— AND THEN...

A GOLDEN BOW! THIS MUST BE HIM!



WITH THE SPEED OF A PANTHER, BLAKE POUNCED!

SO, WE MEET AT LAST, GOLDEN ARCHER! AND THIS TIME, YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME!

WILL THE PHANTOM'S IDENTITY BE REVEALED? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT GRIPPING INSTALMENT!