

STEEL STERLING

MAN OF STEEL

IN ONE BREATHLESS MOMENT, JOHN STERLING WAGERED THE FAINT HOPE OF POSSESSING A BODY OF HUMAN STEEL, AGAINST MUTILATION AND DEATH. HE EMERGED FROM HIS BATH OF MOLTEN METAL AS *STEEL STERLING*, ENEMY OF THE UNDERWORLD, A MAN IMMUNE TO ALL KNOWN IMPLEMENTS OF DEATH. NOW POSING AS HIS OWN TWIN BROTHER, JOHN HE OPERATES A DETECTIVE AGENCY.

THE MURDER OF
JOHN (*STEEL*)
STERLING....

?

HEY! TWISTO! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WAS IN THE JUG!

IN THE DARK OF NIGHT A FURTIVE FIGURE SKULKS AMONG THE TENTS AT THE CIRCUS GROUNDS.....
TWISTO! THE RUBBER MAN.

I BROKE OUT OF THE JUG BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL IT!

SHHH! INFERNO! DON'T SAY ANYTHING!

LEAVING HIS VICTIM, TWISTO ENTERS THE TENT OF INFERNO, THE FLAME-BREATHER!



SO YOU GOT OUT, HUH?

YOU BET I DID! NO JAIL CAN HOLD ME. NOW, LISTEN. I GOT A PROPOSITION TO MAKE!



IF WE GET HEFTO TO JOIN US, THE THREE OF US CAN RULE THIS TOWN! BUT FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF JOHN STERLING!



OH, YEAH?

LISTEN, YOU! I KNOW YOUR BACKGROUND! I KNOW YOU WERE UP THE RIVER ONCE— AND YOU VIOLATED YOUR PAROLE! YOU'LL PLAY BALL, OR ELSE!



I'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR US, INFERNO!



AH! I THOUGHT YOU WAS IN JAIL, TWISTO!

NEVER MIND THAT! WE WANT TO TALK BUSINESS WITH YOU!



SO YOU WANT US ALL TO GET KILLED MAYBE, TRYING TO GET JOHN STERLING? NO SIR!

REMEMBER THE TIME DOWN BY THE WATERFRONT IN FRISCO? YOU GOT MAD AND STRANGLED A GUY WITH YOUR BARE HANDS? WELL....



OKAY! SO YOU GOT THE GOODS ON ME. I AIN'T SO HOT ON THIS CIRCUS LIFE ANYWAY. SURE, I'LL GO IN WITH YOU— IF THERE'S DOUGH IN IT!



GLAD YOU BOTH GOT SMART! NOW— JOHN STERLING HAS AN OFFICE DOWNTOWN. TONIGHT, WHEN HE STARTS TO LEAVE FOR HOME....



AT THE SAME MOMENT, ALI BEN LUNAR ALIAS LOONEY, WHO SEES ALL AND KNOWS NOTHING, LEAVES HIS TENT.



PRIZES! Choose Yours NOW!



BOYS! GIRLS!

Here are swell prizes for you, or fine gifts for Mother and Dad. They're yours without a cent of cost.

IT'S EASY! Do like thousands of others have done—get any prize here, or your choice from many others in our Big Prize Sheet for selling only 40 Christmas Packs at 10c each. Each pack contains 2 beautiful Christmas Cards, 2 envelopes and 24 sparkling Xmas Seals. When sold, return the money and choose your prize. It is sent AT ONCE.

Mail coupon today for Xmas Packs and Big Prize Sheet showing over 40 prizes to choose from. **SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU!**

THE AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO. DEPT. 404, LANCASTER, PA.

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 404, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Sheet and one order of 40 Xmas Packs. I will resell them at 10c each, send you the money and get my prize. My choice of prize is _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

....AND TWISTO SAID THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU BECAUSE YOU AND STEEL ARE THE SAME GUY!

WOULDN'T STEEL GET A LAUGH OUT OF THAT?

DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT TWISTO'S A FUGITIVE FROM THE LAW? WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING HIM IN?

OH! G-GOSH! I FORGOT ABOUT THAT!

BUT, DON'T WORRY, BOSS! I'LL GO BACK AND CAPTURE HIM SINGLE-HANDED!

SO THEY WANT TO KILL ME, HUH? WELL.....

MAYBE IT'LL BE A GOOD IDEA TO HELP THEM! I WONDER...

MEANWHILE...

WHERE TO, IN SUCH A HURRY, LOONEY?

HOW'S ABOUT GETTING OL' CLANCY-- JUST TO MAKE THE ARRESTS?

YOU GOT-A DA FIVE-A-CENTS-A, CLANCY?

LOOK, BACHI! I'M A SERGEANT, NOW! I PROTECT YUH, DON'T I? HUH?

MISS CUMMINGS! OH! GOSH! I'M ON MY WAY TO ROUND UP TWISTO AND HIS DANGEROUS GANG OF CRIMINALS!

SCREECH

ATSA NO GOOT! GIVE-A TO ME DA NICKEL!

OKAY! OKAY! AS SOON AS I GET PAID— ON THE 34 TH!

HELLO, MISS DORA! HAVE A BANANA?

NO, THANKS, CLANCY! BUT LOONEY HERE WANTS YOU TO HELP CATCH SOME CRIMINALS!

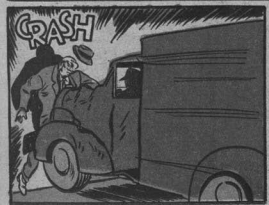
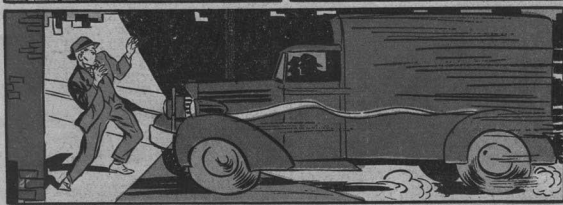
YEAH! THEY'RE KILLERS! WHAT D'YA SAY?

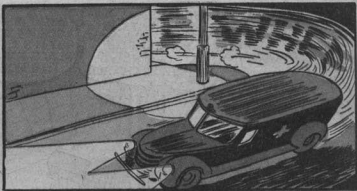
JUST LEAD ME TO 'EM, LOONEY!

FOLLOW ME, SARGE!

A-PASTA FA-ZOOL! MY FIVE-A-CENTS-A! ATSA TOO MUCH!

DON'T WORRY, BACHI! THEY'LL BE RIGHT BACK! THAT CRAZY JOHN STERLING HAS LOONEY OUT ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE







BUT IS STERLING
REALLY DEAD?



OR DOES THE MAN
OF STEEL HAVE
SOME HIDDEN MOTIVE?



I THINK I'VE
WAITED HERE
LONG ENOUGH!



NOW TO
SHOVE A FEW
TONS OF DIRT
OUT OF
THE WAY!

THIS FRESH
AIR FEELS GOOD,
AFTER EIGHT
HOURS IN
THAT TOMB!



NOW, I'LL GET
DOWN TO
BUSINESS!



AND AWAY ZOOMS
THE MAN OF STEEL

STEEL STERLING
MAGNETIZES HIM-
SELF TO THE TELE-
GRAPH WIRES...



.... AND
RACES BACK
TO THE CITY



JOHN STERLING
PRIVATE
DETECTIVE



I HOPE THEY
HAVEN'T BOTHERED
ANYTHING
IN HERE,
YET!



AH! SO FAR, SO
GOOD! THE
DUMMY IS JUST
AS I LEFT
IT!



BACK TO THE CEMETERY RACES STEEL STERLING.



IN CASE
ANYONE DOUBTS
JOHN STERLING
IS DEAD, HERE
HE IS!



SO, JOHN STERLING IS DEAD! AND
RIGHT NOW "THE UNHOLY THREE"
ARE HAVING A GOOD LAUGH! BUT,
WE'LL SEE WHO HAS
THE LAST LAUGH!





WHAT A COMBINATION WE'LL BE!
THE **THREE**
KINGS OF CRIME!

YEH! YOU, **INFERNO**, CAN MELT LOCKS OFF DOORS!
HEFTO, YOU'RE THE STRONG ARM GUY, AND I'M THE BRAINS. THERE AIN'T A PLACE I CAN'T GET US INTO OR OUT OF!

NOW, LISTEN! WE'RE GOIN' TO PULL A JOB THAT'LL SET THIS TOWN ON ITS EAR!

MEANWHILE...



GEE, TWISTO! YOU THINK WE CAN DO IT?

IT'S A CINCH! **STERLING'S** DEAD, AIN'T HE?

O.K! YOU'RE THE **BOSS!** LET'S GET OVER TO THE POWERHOUSE!



GET READY, BOYS! WHEN WE TAKE OVER THIS JOINT, WE'VE GOT THE CITY IN THE PALMS OF OUR HANDS!

CITY LIGHT & POWER COMPANY



STEALTHILY...



ONE BY ONE.....



THE GUARDS ARE OVERCOME!



DANGER
MAIN DYNAMO
NO ADMITTANCE

THIS IS OUR LAST BARRIER!
OPEN IT, INFERNO!

WHEW, HE MELTS THAT DOOR LIKE BUTTER!



WRECK IT, HEFTO! SUBWAYS WILL STOP! RADIO STATIONS GO OFF THE AIR! PANIC WILL REIGN! WE SHALL HAVE THE CITY AT OUR MERCY!

IT ALL SEEMS SO UNREAL! JOHN DEAD! I— I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! OH! WHY DIDN'T STEEL—

AT DORA CUMMINGS'S HOME.

WHY DIDN'T STEEL SHOW UP AT HIS BROTHER'S FUNERAL?

STEEL STERLING! WH— WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO, DORA! SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME!

BUT YOUR BROTHER! HE'S--HE'S--

I KNOW! BUT WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS THAT JOHN AND I ARE — AND ALWAYS WERE — THE SAME MAN! I ONLY DISGUISED MYSELF AS JOHN STERLING SO THAT I COULD FIGHT CRIMINALS WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF!

BUT HOW DID YOU CONVINC THE DOCTORS THAT YOU WERE DEAD?

THAT WAS EASY! I CAN CONTROL MY PULSE AND HEART-BEAT AT WILL! SCIENTISTS CALL IT "CATALEPSY"!

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PRE-TENDED YOU WERE DEAD!

BECAUSE I FOUND THAT I PUT TOO MANY OF MY FRIENDS IN JEOPARDY! EVERYONE WHO KNEW JOHN WAS IN DANGER OF GETTING KILLED!

RIGHT NOW, HEFTO, INFERNO AND TWISTO ARE PLOTTING SOME TERRIBLE CRIME! I'M GOING TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY GET STARTED!

GOOD LUCK, STEEL! AND — OH! DON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU! I— I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL I CAN STAND!

AT THAT INSTANT, THE CITY IS PLUNGED INTO BLACKNESS!

THE CITY'S
TEEMING MIL-
LIONS RUN
RIOT AS....

ALL THE LIGHTS ARE
OUT!

CONFUSION,
PANIC AND
TERROR STALK
THE STREETS

IT MUST BE
THE END OF
THE WORLD!

WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

SUBWAY

MOTHER!
MOTHER!

CRASH!



BUT HIGH ABOVE, A SPEEDING
FIGURE RACES THRU THE NIGHT

THE TROUBLE MUST
BE HERE AT THE
POWERHOUSE!
ONLY THE FAIL-
URE OF THE
MAIN DYNAMO
COULD CAUSE A
COMPLETE
BLACKOUT!

DYNAMOS DON'T
FAIL BY ACCIDENT!
I HAVE A HUNCH
I'LL FIND THE
TROUBLE RIGHT
HERE!

THIS MAN WAS
ONE OF THE
GUARDS AND HE
WAS MURDERED!

LOOKS AS IF THAT
DOOR WAS MELTED
BY AN ACETY-
LENE TORCH!
HMM! SOMEONE'S
IN THERE!

TWISTO! LISTEN!

SOMEONE'S
COMING!

SHH!



ALL RIGHT!
WHO'S IN THERE?
ANSWER!

7-T-TWISTO!
IT'S - S-STEEL
ST-STERLING!



SHUT UP,
YOU
FOOL!



I DIDN'T DO
NOTHING! I WAS
ROPED IN ON
IT! LET ME
OUT OF
THIS!

OHO, SO THIS IS
THE CAUSE OF
ALL THIS!



STICK AROUND, HEFTO!
I'LL SEE YOU IN A
FEW MINUTES!



JUST
A MINUTE,
YOU TWO!



INFERNO PLAYS HIS TRUMP
CARD.



NICE WORK,
INFERNO.



MY EYES! MY
EYES! I CAN'T
SEE!

THE FLAME-BREATHER AND THE RUBBER MAN
MAKE THEIR ESCAPE!

A MOMENT LATER, THE
MAN OF STEEL CHARGES
AFTER THE KILLERS

I CAN'T
LET THEM
GET AWAY!

GONE! I CAN'T
HOPE TO FOLLOW
THEM IN THIS
DARKNESS!



WELL, ONE OF
THEIR PLAY-
MATES IS
STILL IN HERE!

STAY AWAY
FROM ME!
STAY AWAY!!

THANKS FOR THE
ADVICE! BUT I'M
NOT FOLLOWING
IT!



DON'T JUMP
HEFTO! YOU'LL
NEVER MAKE
IT!



PLUNGING TO HIS
DEATH, HEFTO'S
BODY IRONICALLY
THROWS THE SWITCH
ILLUMINATING THE
CITY ONCE AGAIN!



YOU POOR DEVIL!
THEY WERE ONLY
USING YOU FOR
A STOOGIE!



BUT TWISTO, AND
INFERNO ARE
STILL LOOSE!
I'VE GOT TO
FIND
THEM
BEFORE
IT'S TOO
LATE!



WITH TWO OF THE WORLD'S MOST
DANGEROUS KILLERS AT LARGE,
STEEL STERLING FACE'S HIS
MOST SPINE-CHILLING ADVENTURES
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
ZIP COMICS