

TOMB OF
DARKNESS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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TOMB OF DARKNESS



DEATH
*IS A
MOUNTAIN!*



DEATH IS A MOUNTAIN!



MT EVEREST, THE 29,002 FOOT GIANT OF THE HIMALAYAS, HAS BEEN CONQUERED! BUT MT. EVEREST IS NOT THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN ON EARTH! IT'S A KNOWN FACT THAT THE RADAR BLIPS ON ARMY PLANES FLYING "THE HUMP" DURING WORLD WAR II ESTABLISHED A PEAK TOWERING 30,000 FEET! THAT MOUNTAIN... AND NOT MT. EVEREST... IS THE ROOF OF THE WORLD!

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN MENS ADVENTURES #25



DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE CLIMB ROUTES OF THE TWO TEAMS DON'T CROSS... AND THE MEN CLIMB DAY AND NIGHT...



WE'LL KILL OURSELVES IF WE KEEP UP THIS PACE, KELLER! WE'RE 20,000 FEET UP... WE'VE GOT TO REST!

CUT OUT YOUR BELLY-ACHIN', PETRO! WE DON'T SQUAT UNTIL THOSE OTHER TWO GUYS DO... SO KEEP GOIN'!

LOOK, KELLER! THEY'RE MAKIN' BIVOUAC NOW!



OKAY... THEN WE'LL FLOP TOO!

A TENT IS PITCHED AND PETRO SINKS INTO A DEEP SLEEP IMMEDIATELY... BUT KELLER SITS AND PLANS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OTHER TWO-MAN TEAM...



THEY'RE YOUNGER THAN I AM AND THEY CAN BEAT ME TO THE TOP... UNLESS I STOP THEM NOW!

PETRO! WAKE UP!



HUH? WHAT'S UP? IS IT TIME TO GO ALREADY?

YEAH... TIME FOR YOU TO GO! I WANT YOU TO SNEAK UP TO THEIR CAMP AND RAID IT! TAKE THEIR ROPES, AXES, CRAMPONS*, BOOTS...



BUT THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO CLIMB WITHOUT THEIR EQUIPMENT!

* STEEL FRAMES WITH SPIKES FOR SOLES OF THE BOOTS!



AND THEIR FEET WILL FREEZE WITHOUT THEIR BOOTS! I CAN'T DO...
OWW!



YOU'LL DO IT, PETRO... OR ELSE!

OKAY... I-I'LL GO!

KELLER WATCHES AS PETRO SCALES THE ARETE* AND STEALS INTO THE OTHER TEAM'S BIVOUAC...

THESE GUYS'LL NEVER MAKE IT... UP OR DOWN... WITHOUT THIS STUFF! BUT I... I GOTTA DO IT... OR THAT MANIAC KELLER WILL KILL ME!



*RIDGE OF SNOW!

PETRO'S MISSION IS SUCCESSFUL...UNTIL HE TRIES TO LEAVE AND STUMBLES OVER A MESS KIT...

HEY! WHAT'S THAT RACKET? WHO IS IT?

IT'S KELLER'S STOOGES...IN OUR CAMP... AND LOADED WITH OUR GEAR! LET'S GET HIM!



PETRO DROPS THE REST OF THE STUFF AND STARTS TO RUN...

HE MADE ME DO IT... HE MADE ME!



SUDDENLY A GIANT OPENING SLICES ACROSS PETRO'S PATH...

A CREVASSE! I'M TRAPPED!



UNLESS I CAN JUMP IT...



BUT THE GAP IS TOO WIDE... AND PETRO DROPS INTO THE BOTTOMLESS ICEBOX!



THAT'S THE END OF PETRO! IT'S ONE AGAINST TWO NOW... BUT I'LL EVEN THOSE ODDS! I'VE GOT TO WIN THIS RACE TO THE TOP!



DESPERATION AND ANGER ARE FUEL FOR KELLER AS THE CLIMB CONTINUES WITH THE AID OF OXYGEN MASKS! AND DAYS LATER, WHEN THE OTHER TEAM BIVOUACS AT 29,000 FEET, KELLER KEEPS GOING...

THAT PUTS ME AHEAD OF THEM NOW! THEIR BIVOUAC IS BELOW THIS CORNICE... AND NOW'S THE TIME FOR A KELLER-MADE AVALANCHE!



THIS'LL PUT THEM IN DEEP-FREEZE FOR ETERNITY... AND MAKE ME THE WINNER OF THIS RACE OF DEATH TO THE ROOF OF THE WORLD!

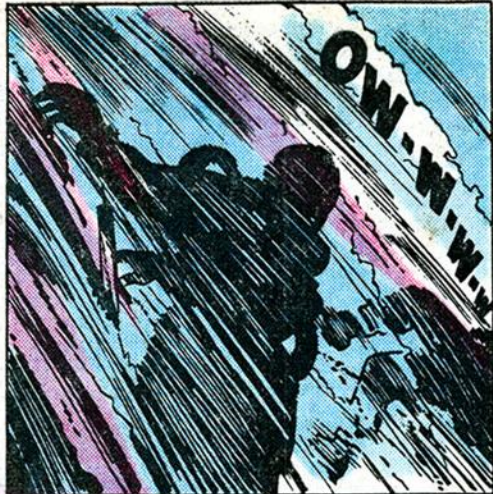


NOVA LEARNS THAT DOOM IS A MAN CALLED DIAMOND-HEAD!



LOOK OUT,
STANISLAW!
IT'S AN
AVALANCHE!

KELLER'S UP
THERE! HE
STARTED IT!



OW...W...W...

THE ROAR OF THE AVALANCHE
THUNDERS OVER THE HIMALAYAS...
AND THEN, THERE'S A SOLEMN SILENCE,
AS THORN KELLER SURVEYS HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENT...

THEY'RE GONE...ALL OF THEM!
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW FROM
CONQUERING THIS PEAK! NOTHING CAN
STOP ME FROM BEING THE
WINNER!



KELLER PUTS UP HIS TENT AND
RESTS IN PREPARATION FOR
THE FINAL ASSAULT...BUT HIS
SLEEP IS NOT A PEACEFUL ONE...

WHO IS IT? I HEARD A
NOISE! WHO'S THERE?
ANSWER ME!



AW, I'M LETTING THE
EXCITEMENT MAKE ME
JUMPY! THERE CAN'T BE
ANYBODY UP HERE BUT
ME!



AT DAWN KELLER STARTS OUT AGAIN AND
MAKES GOOD TIME! BY HIGH NOON, HIS EAGER
FINGERS CLAW AT THE TOPMOST EDGE OF MT.
KELLER... 30,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL...

I MADE IT! I'M THE
WINNER! I'M THE FIRST MAN
TO CLIMB THE HIGHEST
MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD!



THE SECOND MAN,
KELLER! I'VE BEEN
HERE FOR 20
MINUTES!

ALEX! NO! NO! IT
CAN'T BE! YOU...
YOU'RE DEAD!





IF I'M DEAD, KELLER... THEN YOU WON'T FEEL THIS!

OW!

I SAVED MYSELF BY HUGGING THE ICE WALL UNDER THAT CORNICE YOU TURNED INTO AN AVALANCHE, AND IT PASSED OVER ME! I GOT HERE FIRST, YOU KILLER! I'M THE WINNER!



BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT... NOT WITHOUT THIS!

MY OXYGEN MASK! NO... DON'T!



DON'T THROW IT AWAY! DON'T! I... I NEED AIR (GASP!)

SURE, ALEX... HERE'S SOME AIR!

SUDDENLY, KELLER BEGINS TO BREATHE HARD! HE COUGHS AND CHOKES...

I... I MUST'VE EXERTED MYSELF! I'M NOT (GASP!) GETTING ANY AIR! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH THE TANK!



A HOLE! CUT INTO (GASP!) MY OXYGEN TANK (GASP!) THAT NOISE LAST NIGHT (GASP!) IT... IT WAS ALEX! (GASP!) ARRG-H-H!



THE HEAVENS DARKEN AND A WHITE SHROUD OF SNOW FALLS OVER THE TWO DEAD MEN ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD...



AND THE SAME SNOW CROWNS THE MAJESTIC, DEFIANT, CHALLENGING WINNER... MOUNT KELLER!



THE END