

Dr. CHANEY'S MACABRE CREATION

WATCH IT, YOU STUPID OAF! DON'T DROP HIM! THIS IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT GUINEA PIG, HUGO! AFTER TONIGHT, OUR WORK WILL BE OVER!

HE MUST STOP CALLING ME THOSE NAMES AND INSULTING ME! I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF IT! I CAN'T HELP IT THAT HE'S SMARTER AND BETTER LOOKING THAN I AM!



"FOUR TIMES DR. RALPH CHANEY HAD TAKEN PATIENTS ABOUT TO DIE OF AN INCURABLE DISEASE, INJECTED A DRUG WHICH WOULD PUT THEM INTO A COMATOSE STATE RESEMBLING DEATH, AND SIGNED THEIR DEATH CERTIFICATES. THUS THEY WERE BURIED ALIVE, ACTUALLY, SO THAT CHANEY COULD SHORTLY AFTERWARD DIG THEM UP AND USE THE VICTIMS IN HIS SECRET EXPERIMENT. THE FIFTH TIME, DR. CHANEY, A BRILLIANT BUT ECCENTRIC YOUNG BRAIN SPECIALIST, KNEW WOULD BE THE LAST. IT WAS THE LAST STEP IN HIS MACABRE EXPERIMENT. HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT WAS A STEP HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN, THAT WAS FATED TO TAKE HIM OVER THE BOUNDARY LINE OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, AND INTO A SNARLED AND TWISTED TIME OF TERROR BEYOND THE KEN OF EVEN THE MOST TRAINED AND SCIENTIFIC MIND..."

YOU SURE THIS ONE'S STILL ALIVE, DOCTOR? HE DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD!

HE LOOKS AS GOOD AS YOU DO, YOU UGLY BEAST! AND RIGHT NOW, EVEN IN A COMA, HE'S SMARTER THAN YOU ARE! I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS EXPERIMENT IS OVER AND I CAN GET RID OF YOU, HUGO!



HURRY, HUGO! PREPARE HIM FOR SURGERY WHILE THERE IS STILL A SPARK OF LIFE!

AND TONIGHT THE MASTER BRAIN WILL BE COMPLETED, HUH, DOCTOR? TELL ME ABOUT IT AGAIN!



"SWIFTLY DR. CHANEY EXPLAINED TO HIS DULL-WITTED ASSISTANT HOW THEIR FOUR PREVIOUS VICTIMS HAD BEEN GENIUSES IN SPECIAL FIELDS. ONE HAD BEEN A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, ANOTHER A MASTER MATHEMATICIAN. THE THIRD WAS A GREAT GENERAL AND MILITARY STRATEGIST, THE FOURTH A FAMOUS ORATOR AND STATESMAN..."



AND WE TOOK THE SECTION OF BRAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PARTICULAR GENIUS OF EACH MAN, KEPT IT ALIVE AND PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER TO FORM ONE SUPER-INTELLIGENT BRAIN!

HE'S READY FOR THE FIRST INCISION NOW, DOCTOR!



A MAN POSSESSING SUCH A BRAIN WOULD BE ABLE TO RULE THE WORLD! THE SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS SECTIONS WOULD ENABLE HIM TO SOLVE THE GREAT RIDDLES OF CURBING DISEASE, DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND POPULATION!

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO SECTIONS?



THE MILITARY AND STATESMANSHIP SECTIONS WOULD ENABLE THE MAN WITH THE MASTER BRAIN TO SUPERVISE CONQUEST OF THE WORLD AND THEN MAINTAIN AN INTELLIGENT WORLD GOVERNMENT!



BUT THE MAN FROM WHOM WE JUST REMOVED THIS FIFTH SECTION OF BRAIN IS JUST AN ORDINARY GUY, DOCTOR! HE HAS NO SPECIAL GENIUS! WHAT DOES HE CONTRIBUTE TO THE MASTER BRAIN?

THE WILL-POWER -- THE SECTION THAT CONTROLS THE REST OF THE BRAIN!



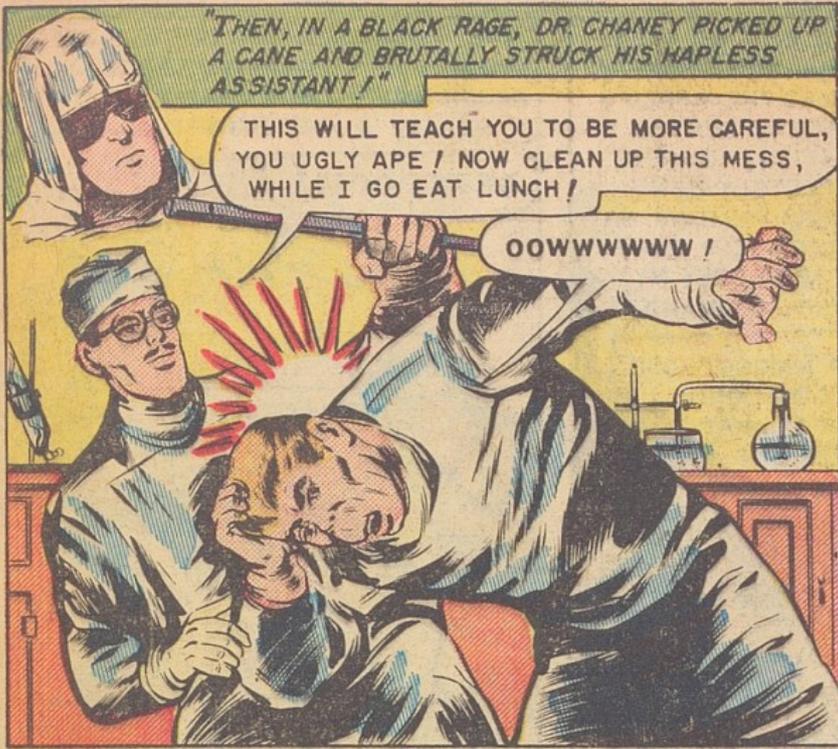
AND WHEN I INSERT THIS MASTER BRAIN INTO THE "CARRIER" -- THE MAN I'VE SELECTED TO BE THE OWNER OF ALL THIS GENIUS -- I WILL HYPNOTIZE HIM, GET CONTROL OF THE WILL-POWER SECTION! I WILL CONTROL HIM, COMPLETELY! I WILL REAP ALL THE WEALTH AND POWER FROM HIS SUPER-WISDOM!



HUGO, YOU CLUMSY LOU! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! THOSE INSTRUMENTS WILL BE BENT AND DULLED, YOU IMBECILE!

I-I'M SORRY, DOCTOR!





"THEN, IN A BLACK RAGE, DR. CHANEY PICKED UP A CANE AND BRUTALLY STRUCK HIS HAPLESS ASSISTANT!"

"THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO BE MORE CAREFUL, YOU UGLY APE! NOW CLEAN UP THIS MESS, WHILE I GO EAT LUNCH!"

OOWWWWWW!



BEATINGS! INSULTS! HOW I HATE HIM! HE HAS EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE NOT-- GOOD LOOKS, INTELLIGENCE! BUT I HAVE A PLAN TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON HIM! AND NOW IS THE TIME!

I'LL RUIN THE ONE THING HE LOVES, HIS GREATEST CREATION-- THE MASTER BRAIN! I'LL DESTROY IT, AND SUBSTITUTE IN ITS PLACE THIS OTHER SIMILARLY LARGE BRAIN, USED IN EARLIER EXPERIMENTS!

THE FOOLISH MORTAL DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S SUBSTITUTING THE BRAIN OF A LION!



THERE! I'VE PUT THE OTHER BRAIN IN THE MASTER BRAIN'S GLASS CASE! THE DOCTOR WILL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE! AND NOW I DESTROY HIS GREAT CREATION! THIS IS THE END OF THE MASTER BRAIN!



A LITTLE LATER, DR. CHANEY RETURNED TO THE LAB, IN A HAPPY, TRIUMPHANT MOOD. NOW, HUGO, WE ARE READY TO TRANSPLANT THE MASTER BRAIN INTO THE SKULL OF ITS "CARRIER"! YOU'VE OFTEN ASKED WHO WOULD BE SO HONORED! NOW, MY DULL BRUTE OF A SERVANT, YOU SHALL HAVE THE ANSWER!



YOU ARE GOING TO CARRY THE MASTER BRAIN, HUGO! YOUR THICK, EMPTY HEAD WILL SOON BE FILLED WITH THE BRAIN'S MIGHT AND POWER!

UGH!
CRACK



LATER, I WATCHED HIM WORKING FEVERISHLY... THERE! HUGO'S BRAIN IS REMOVED! NOW TO INSERT THE MASTER BRAIN IN HIS OPENED SKULL! NO, DOCTOR-- NOT YOUR PRECIOUS MASTER BRAIN, BUT THE BRAIN OF A LION! I, FATE, THROUGH THE VENGEFUL MACHINATIONS OF HUGO, HAVE SO DECREED IT!





THE OPERATION IS COMPLETED! I HAVE INJECTED A POWERFUL STIMULANT TO BRING HIM BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS! HOW DO YOU FEEL, HUGO?

VERY STRANGE! DIZZY! CONFUSED! MY - MY HEAD ACHES SO!



GAZE INTO MY EYES, HUGO-- YOU WHO NOW POSSESS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MENTAL ABILITIES! YOU ARE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER! YOU HAVE NO WILL OF YOUR OWN! YOU MUST OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND!

STOP MAKING THOSE SILLY MOTIONS AND GET AWAY FROM ME!



THE HYPNOSIS DIDN'T EFFECT HIM! AND HE-- HE'S CHANGING! HE'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE A WILD BEAST! A - A LION!

GRRROOW!



WHAT WENT WRONG? HUGO'S BECOME HALF-BEAST, HALF-HUMAN -- A LION-MAN! IF I CAN GET MY GUN IN TIME...

GRRROOW!



THAT'LL STOP YOU!

DON'T BE SO SURE, DOCTOR! YOUR ILL-FATED EXPERIMENT IS NOT YET ENDED!

BANG



"THEN DR. CHANEY SAW THAT HUGO, FELLED BY THE BULLET, HAD REGAINED HIS HUMAN FORM!"

THIS IS FANTASTIC! AFTER I SHOT HIM, HE CHANGED AGAIN! OR AM I GOING MAD? DID I JUST IMAGINE THAT HUGO HAD TURNED INTO A BEAST, BEFORE?



NOT ONLY DID MY EXPERIMENT GO WRONG, BUT I'VE COMMITTED MURDER, NOW! CAN'T PLEAD SELF DEFENSE! WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT HUGO TOOK THE FORM OF A KILLER-BEAST AND ATTACKED ME!

I'LL HIDE HUGO'S CORPSE! I'LL PUT HIM UNDER THIS CELLAR FLOOR, THEN RE-CEMENT IT! NOBODY'LL EVER FIND HIM!

BY MORNING, THIS NEW CEMENT WILL BE HARDENED AND NOBODY WILL NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE! I'M SAFE, NOW!

PERHAPS, DR. CHANEY, YOU ARE MERELY SEALING YOUR OWN FATE, WITH THAT CEMENT!

LATER THAT NIGHT, DR. CHANEY WAS VIOLENTLY AWAKENED BY LOUD SOUNDS COMING UP FROM THE CELLAR...

THOSE NOISES! SOUNDS AS THOUGH THEY'RE COMING FROM THE BASEMENT!

CRASH!
C-RUNCH!

HUGO! IT-CAN'T BE! HE'S DEAD! I SHOT HIM! YET, HE'S STILL ALIVE, AND BACK IN HIS BEAST FORM ONCE MORE!

I CANNOT BE KILLED! THE LION'S BRAIN THAT I SWITCHED IN PLACE OF YOUR CREATION, THE MASTER BRAIN, HAD BEEN KEPT ARTIFICIALLY ALIVE TOO LONG BY YOUR EXPERIMENTS! NOW IT HAS A POWER OF ITS OWN! IT REFUSES TO DIE!

GRRROAR! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME!

NO! NO!

THE CHASE LED INTO THE BUSINESS SECTION OF THE TOWN, STRIKING TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE CROWDS!

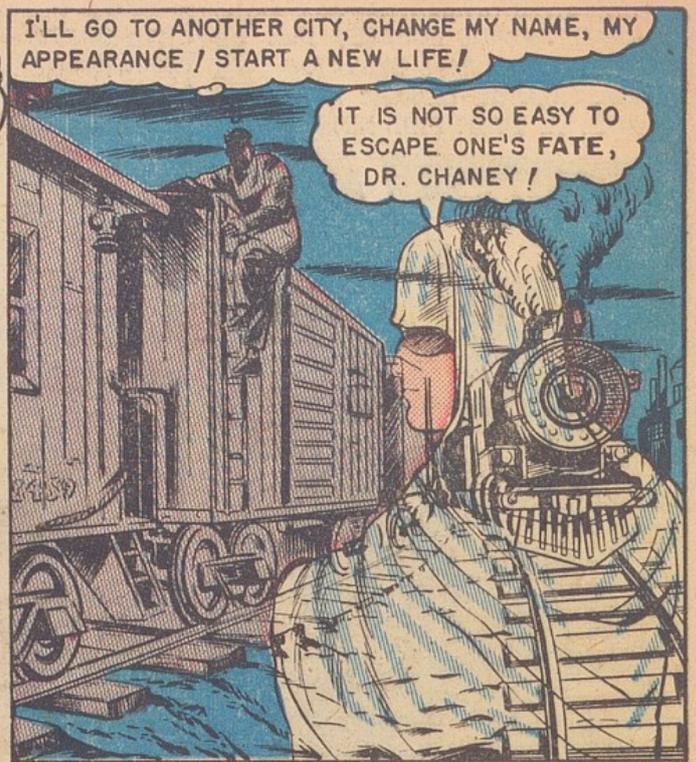
HELP! POLICE! SHOOT DOWN THE BEAST, BEFORE HE CATCHES ME!

EEEEEEYIIIEEE!



THAT STOPPED THE MURDEROUS CREATURE!

PERHAPS HE'S DEAD! BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES ON HIS COMING TO LIFE AGAIN! NOR ON BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS NIGHT'S HORROR! I'D BETTER FLEE THE CITY!



I'LL GO TO ANOTHER CITY, CHANGE MY NAME, MY APPEARANCE / START A NEW LIFE!

IT IS NOT SO EASY TO ESCAPE ONE'S FATE, DR. CHANEY!



"SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, IN A HOTEL ROOM A THOUSAND MILES FROM THE SCENE OF HIS ILL-FATED EXPERIMENT..."

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T BE GRROAR! HERE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND ME SO SOON!



GOOD GRIEF! WH-WHAT KIND OF OTHER-WORLD CREATURE IS THAT?

HE'S STILL AFTER ME!



SPEED AWAY FROM HERE--FAST!

YES, SIR! (GULP) WHAT CRAZY ZOO DID HE ESCAPE FROM?

"DR. CHANEY TEMPORARILY ESCAPED HIS PURSUING FATE, THAT TIME. BUT HE BECAME A DREAD, HUNTED THING, WHO, NO MATTER WHERE HE WENT, WHERE HE HID, WAS SOON AGAIN ROOTED OUT AND HAUNTED AND CHASED BY HIS NEMESIS, HIS OWN HORROR-CREATION--HUGO, THE LION-MAN!"



"AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF NIGHTMARISH PURSUIT..."

CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! LOSING MY MIND WITH THIS CONSTANT TERROR! BUT I-I THINK I KNOW HOW TO END IT, NOW! GOT TO GO BACK TO MY LABORATORY, WHERE THE WHOLE THING STARTED!



"AND SO THIS FOOLISH MORTAL WHO TEMPTED FATE WITH HIS DIABOLICAL EXPERIMENT, RETURNED HOME A FEW DAYS LATER..."

WHEN HUGO COMES AFTER ME AGAIN, HE'LL HAVE TO DO AS I SAY! IT IS THE ONLY WAY OUT, FOR BOTH OF US!



WAIT, HUGO! STOP! I'LL HELP YOU! GET ONTO THE OPERATING TABLE! I'LL REMOVE THE LION'S BRAIN FROM YOUR SKULL AND RELEASE YOU FROM THAT HIDEOUS LION-MAN FORM! THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE ETERNAL PEACE!



THERE WILL BE NO REAL DEATH--NO PEACE FOR ME, WHILE HE STILL LIVES!

HE--HE DOESN'T ANSWER ME-- DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND! NO, HUGO! GET AWAY!



EVEN STABBING HIM THROUGH THE HEART DOESN'T STOP HIM! MY THROAT! ARGHHH!

ARRRR!



"WHEN ALL LIFE HAD BEEN WRUNG OUT OF DR. CHANEY'S TERROR-WRACKED FORM, HUGO LIFTED HIM ONTO THE OPERATING TABLE, A BIZARRE IDEA FORMING IN HIS HALF-BESTIAL, HALF-HUMAN MIND!"



"AND SO, COMPLETING AN IRONIC TWIST OF FATE, HUGO CLUMSILY OPENED DR. CHANEY'S SKULL AND REMOVED THE BRILLIANT BUT WARPED BRAIN THAT HAD CONCEIVED THE MACABRE IDEA OF CREATING A MASTER-MIND IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS HORROR AND TROUBLE!"



"THEN ONCE MORE, HUGO BEGAN TO CHANGE TO HIS OWN, HUMAN FORM, ONLY TO FEEL THE CLUTCHES OF DEATH, THIS TIME, REAL, FINAL, ETERNAL DEATH, CLAWING AT HIM, AS HE SANK TO THE FLOOR..."

I - I'M CHANGING, BECOMING HUMAN AGAIN! BUT MY HEART! CAN'T BREATHE! CHOKING! FALLING! I'M DYING! D-Y-I-N-G..."



THE END