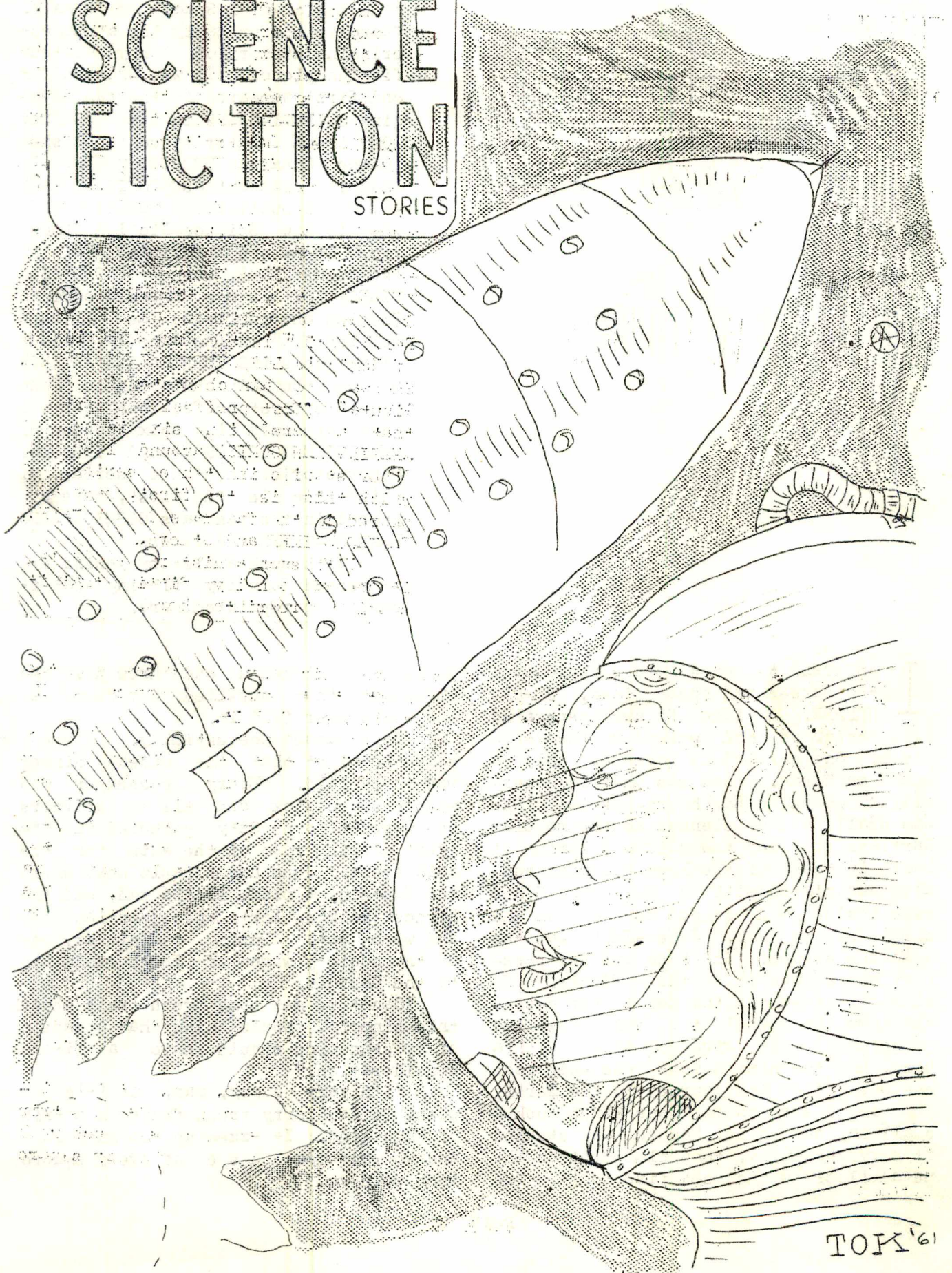


THE ORIGINAL

DECEMBER, 1961 10¢

SCIENCE FICTION

STORIES



THE MAGICIAN OF SPACE

BY JAMES V. TAURASI

"The Magician Of Space" by James V. Taurasi has probably the strangest printing history of any amateur fiction piece. It was written for and first appeared in the fan magazine SCIENFI-SNAPS in its Summer 1938 issue. Later it was published in the Canadian UNCANNY TALES. In 1943 it came out as COSMIC LIBRARY #1, a fan publication published by what is now Science-Fiction Times, Inc. It was reprinted again in the August 1948 issue of FANTASY-TIMES. It was translated into Spanish and published as "El Mago Del Espacio" in the June 1950 issue of Mexico's LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS. She was the main character in John Giunta's first professional cartoon that appeared in six issues of AMAZING MAN COMICS around 1939-40. Other stories in the series, of which this is the first, have appeared in the fan mags COSMIC TALES, FANTASY-TIMES and others.

With such a history behind it, it seemed only fitting that it should be reprinted here.

LAST CALL to get aboard sounded from the Mars-Earth space liner, SPACE-HOPPER. A lone figure separated from the crowd and walked up the gangplank. She carried no baggage, only a small hand-bag. She was what is generally known as an Earthborn-Martian. She was small and slender as the regular Martians, but had the golden coloring of Earth instead of the lead coloring usually associated with a Martian. She came inside and signed her name on the ship's record book. Jane GEM35 was the name she signed. She took out her passport and showed it to the officer. He signed it, gave her the key to her cabin, and gave the signal to take down the gangplank. The air-lock closed with a hiss, and the next moment the ship rose and was off on its journey to the Earth.

In her cabin Jane GEM35 took a small map out of her handbag and studied it very carefully, then placed it on the metal floor and set fire to it. The

ashes she picked up and threw down the air-shaft that supplied her room. No one would ever find it.

Days passed uneventfully. Then came the night that the midway dinner was to be held. Every passenger who wasn't space sick and all the officers who weren't on duty gathered in the great dining room of the ship for the gala event. Jane had a table near where the Captain, a plump little man, and the highest ranking Earth and Martian men and women sat. During the dinner, one of the society women of Earth exclaimed to the Captain.

"Can't we get some fresh fruit aboard this liner? I should think that a person of my standards should have a little consideration."

"I'm very sorry, mam, but it's impossible to carry fresh fruit on a trip of this kind. It takes up too much room and we must make use of every square inch we have."

Before him Jane gazed at the Captain as if in deep thought, then she relaxed and continued eating. The Captain turned to his food. His face got white, great beads of sweat stood on his forehead. The society women next to him gave a snort. The rest of the officers stood looking at the Captain's dish with their mouths open. There in front of the Captain stood a dish containing the most perishable fruits of Earth!

No use saying that the Captain was angry the rest of the meal; he was. But above all he wanted to know how Earth fruit had come aboard an Earth liner which had just left Mars. It was a mess, but this was just the beginning. For the next two days things like that began happening throughout the ship. Passengers would say that they would like so and so, and it would appear for them. One woman exclaimed aloud that she would like a new gown, and, when she turned to look into a mirror, she saw that she was wearing it. She was out cold for two whole hours.

The Captain was at his wits end. How in the name of heaven could such things happen? He was pulled out of his thoughts by the First Mate who informed him that another space ship was near by. The Captain rose to go into the control cabin when a loud explosion racked the rear of the liner. He yelled and rushed to the rear to see what the trouble was. With him went most of the officers in the control room and those thereabout. When they reached the rear they found that nothing seemed to be disturbed. No sign of an explosion was seen. Mistified the Captain and Co, started for the control room. They arrived just in time to see a figure in a space-suit slip into an emergency air-lock. Sitting on a chair as if in a daze was Clinkerton, the First Mate. The Captain picked a glass of water from a small sink and threw it into Clinkerton's face. The man looked up as if he had just come to his senses and yelled, "Stop her, stop her quick. She's got the shipment of radium."

"What", exploded the Captain. "Quick man speak up. How did she get it? You are the only one besides myself who knew where it was!"

"I'm sorry, Captain", wailed the

man. "It wasn't my fault. She Hypnotized me into telling her where it was. I just couldn't help it. Look — this was left in my hand. Gosh!!"

"Here, let me see," shouted the Captain as he took the piece of paper out of the First Mate's hand. "Well I'll be darn. So it was her who was responsible for all those queer happenings. Tarn it, I should have suspected it. We were all hypnotised into thinking we heard an explosion and the other things. And now it's too late to get her. She's probably aboard that ship that was near us, and is far away from here now. Darn!"

The slip of paper in his hand read, "With the compliments of the MAGICIAN OF SPACE!"

Later they found that Jane 6EM35 was missing and that the space where she had signed her name in the record book was blank.

— The End —

THE FANTASY FAN

by Lane Stannard

WITH the change in ownership of "The Original Science Fiction Stories", we think it would be interesting to review the history of this magazine.

In 1939, Charles Hornig announced at one of the Queens Science Fiction League meetings that he would soon be editing a new science-fiction magazine. This new magazine turned out to be "Science Fiction", the publisher Louis Silberklier. At that time Mr. Silberklier was the publisher of a number of pulp-size magazines mostly on a bi-monthly schedule.

The first issue of "Science Fiction" was dated March 1939. 11 issues followed under this title dated: June 1939, August 1939, October 1939, December 1939, March 1940, June 1940, October 1940, January 1941, March 1941, June 1941, and September 1941. It was combined with "Future Fiction" after the September '41 issue. Robert W. Lowndes became editor of the magazine in 1941.

It wasn't too long after Mr. Silberklier had published the first issue of "Science Fiction" that the decision came whether to publish "Science Fiction" on a monthly basis or to bring out a com-

panion magazine. It looked for a time as if a monthly magazine would win out. In fact the announcements that "Science Fiction" would be monthly were sent out. But when the die was cast, a companion magazine was decided on. "Future Fiction" was the title and the first issue was dated November 1939. Five more issues of the magazine appeared under this title: February 1940, July 1940, November 1940, April 1941, and August 1941. Robert W. Lowndes had become editor during 1940.

"Science Fiction" was combined into "Future Fiction" with the October 1941 issue and the combined magazine was called "Future Combined With Science Fiction". The volume numbering of "Future Fiction" was maintained. The first issue under the combination was Vol. 2 - No. 1. Five more issues appeared under this title: December 1941, February 1942, April 1942, June 1942, and August 1942. With the October 1942 issue (Vol. 3 - No. 1) the title was again changed. This time to "Future, Fantasy And Science Fiction". Two more issues appeared under this title: December 1942, and February 1943. Once again the magazine was re-titled; this time to "Science Fiction Stories" and two issues were published: April 1943 and July 1943. With the July 1943 issue, the magazine was suspended.

After the war, the magazine was revived, but the volume numbering was not. It appeared as "Future Combined With Science Fiction" with the May-June 1950 issue and it was numbered Vol. 1 - No. 1.

The name was changed to "Future Science Fiction" with the January 1952 issue. The magazine continued as a pulp until the October 1954 issue when it was suspended. It was revived late in 1955 as a digest "one-shot", here the numbering had been changed from volumes to straight numbering. The first digest was #28. #s 29, 30 and 31 appeared in 1956. It adapted regular schedule in 1957, eventually became a bi-monthly and the last issue was the #40 issue dated June 1960.

In 1953, Louis Silberklier tried out a digest s-f "one-shot", titled "Science Fiction Stories". In 1954, another issue, also a "one-shot", numbered #2 was tried. Both these trial "one-shots" did very good, so good in fact, that with the January 1955 issue it was placed on a bi-monthly schedule and given the volume numbering of "Future Science Fiction". The January 1955 issue being Vol. 5 - No. 4. With the September 1955 issue the name was slightly changed to "The Original Science Fiction Stories" and the magazine continued as such until it was temporarily suspended with the May 1960 issue. Robert W. Lowndes had been editor of the magazine until then. "The Original Science Fiction Stories" was monthly for a short time in 1958 and 1959.

With this issue the magazine will be published by Science-Fiction Times, Inc., and the new editor will be Ray Van Houten.

THE ORIGINAL SCIENCE FICTION STORIES is published quarterly by Science-Fiction Times, Inc., P. O. Box 115, Solvay Branch, Syracuse 9, New York. December 1961, Volume 11 - Number 24. Copyright © 1961 by Science-Fiction Times, Inc.

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P. O. Box 115, Solvay Branch,
Syracuse 9, New York