

Edmond Hamilton (1940)

TOEI Animation (1978) / Bastei-Lübbe (1982)



The Story of
Joan Randall
&
Curtis Newton

(hey - even if this guy is the hero of the stories - lady's first ...)

Part 2

Captain Futures Challenge

Les Cinq Mines de Gravium

Die Gravium-Sabotage - Der Kampf um die Gravium-Minen

Introduction

Focus of this story is the relationship (if there is one anyway, you can decide by yourself then) between Ms. Secret Agent and Mr. Superhero, but I'll try to cover the main events of the adventure as well (as they are shown in the french anime) and the differences between book and movie ...

But no guarantees are given. If you think something should be included, tell me: harraps@gmx.com

The order of the adventures

differ the same way. This makes things VERY complicated, when in the novels the two are already in "kissing status" and in the anime don't dare to look at each other ... grumbl...

To make things more confusing, the German anime (A) and novel (N) titles differ, too.

Anyway, the order of this love-story ☺ follows the French DVD anime-version.



N	01 CF & the Space Emperor	01 Die lebende Legende	
A		02 Der Herrscher von Megara	01 L'Empereur de L'Espace
N	02 Calling Captain Future	02 Kollisionsziel Erde	
A		06 Der schwarze Planet	07 La Planète noir
N	03 Captain Future's Challenge	03 Die Gravium-Sabotage	
A		05 Der Kampf um die Gravium-Minen	02 Les Cinq Mines de Gravium
N	04 Captain Future's Triumph	04 Der Lebenslord	
A		11 Das gefährliche Lebenselixier	11 La Source de L'Immortalité
N	05 CF & the 7 Space Stones	05 Diamanten der Macht	
A		03 Das Geheimnis der 7 Steine	06 Le Secret des Sept Pierres
N	06 Star Trail to Glory	06 Sternstrasse zum Ruhm	
A		-	14 La course à travers le Système Solaire
N	07 Magician of Mars	07 Der Marsmagier	
A		07 Der Zauberer vom Mars	05 L'Univers parallèle
N	08 The Lost World of Time	08 Im Zeitstrom verschollen	
A		01 Die Zeitmaschine	03 Départ pour le Passé
N	09 Quest beyond the Stars	09 Die Materiequelle	
A		04 A. d. Suche n. d. Quelle d. Materie	04 Le Créateur Universel
N	10 Outlaws of the Moon	10 Das Erbe der Lunarier	
A		-	-
N	11 The Comet Kings	11 Im Schatten der Allus	
A		10 Die Elektromenschen	10 La Comète de Halley
N	12 Planets in Peril	12 Held der Vergangenheit	
A		12 Planet in Gefahr	12 Le Semeurs de Givre
N	13 Face of the Deep	13 Planetoid des Todes	
A		08 Mitgefangen im Weltall	08 La Révolte des Prisonniers
N	14 Worlds to come	14 Invasion der Sverd	
A		-	-
N	15 Star of Dread	15 Stern des Grauens	
A		13 Ein gefährliches Geheimnis	13 La Caverne de Vie
N	16 Magic Moon	-	
A		09 Die Rolle seines Lebens	09 Silence, on Tourne!

What ? You think THIS is confusing ???

This is how the two look in the US-Pulp:



Biggest difference is the colour of Joan's hair and eyes: both brown instead of blonde / blue.

And she's never wearing this red pack, always something different in each story.

For further questions please refer to: <http://www.capitaineflam.free.fr/>

It's sad but I do have to destroy one illusion: They never, ever kiss in the anime, even if you may sometimes think that the tape is going to rip (or the DVD is going to melt) if they don't take their chance NOW.

Sorry - but the novels make up for that. AND they are addressing each other with the first names and use "Du / tu" instead of "Sie / vous" very soon (in "Calling CF"). The first kiss ? No, I won't tell you here - but you'll find out, I promise.

In the animes they stick to the "Captain / Sie / vous"-stuff almost all the time, especially in emotional scenes. Hopeless...

By the way - there's another Space-Dreamteam - for them deep-freezing of one part of them does tremendous wonders to their love-life :-D

But as far as I can see, this is the only thing our lovers haven't tried. They got kidnapped (uncountable times), tortured, burned, imprisoned, thrown super-troupers at, crashed with an spaceship on an instable planet, hypnotised, suffocated, undergone partition of body and soul (twice), immobilised, electrified, gene-mutated (or something like that), beaten, shot at (all the time) - did I forget something ?

One should really think they know each other very well by now.

Names

... all the time different in the novels and the animes *sigh*. If you get lost, you can check here for the main characters:



Pulp (USA)

Curtis Newton
Joan Randall
Otho
Grag
Ezra Gurney
Simon Wright
Johnny Kirk
Eek
Oog
Comet
Cosmolem

Anime (D)

Captain Future
Joan Lander
Otho
Grag
Eszella Garnie
Simon Wright
Ken Scott
Yiek
Oak
Comet
Cosmoliner

Anime (F)

Capitaine Flam
Johann Landore
Mala
Crag
Ezla Garni
Simon Wright
Ken Scott
Limaille
Frégolo
Cyberlabé
Cosmolem

I stucked to the pulp-names of all of the other characters, when in doubt, because at least I knew how to write them correctly...

But as a devoted fan (why else would you read this, anyway ?) you'll find your way, I'm sure.

Counter

F: 01/02/0:03:36 = French DVD: Journey 01 / Chapter 02 / hh:mm:ss (of the chapter)

Cut scenes

The biggest problem for me when writing this special summary was that in the German version a lot of J&C-scenes were cut to make the series fitting into the German TV-schedule. Thanks to a French Flam friend (the creator of this website you're currently visiting), who wrote down a lot of scenes for me, I could grab the meaning of some of them - but as you will see, the work isn't finished yet. So any help will be appreciated. French language will do, meanwhile I can read it quite well - got that hint, hmmmmm ??? ☺

Enjoy !

Main storyline:

Gravium is one of the most important minerals (?) in this time-period. Without it it would be impossible to produce devices which enable space-travellers to explore planets with different gravity (please - this isn't a scientific text). But somebody destroys one mine after the other - without any specific reason, as it seems to be at first.

The explanation follows after our hero is kidnapped: The villain of this story wants to be the ruler of the worlds (what did YOU think ??). The beginning of the story is nice (seen from our point of view), the rest is business as usual.

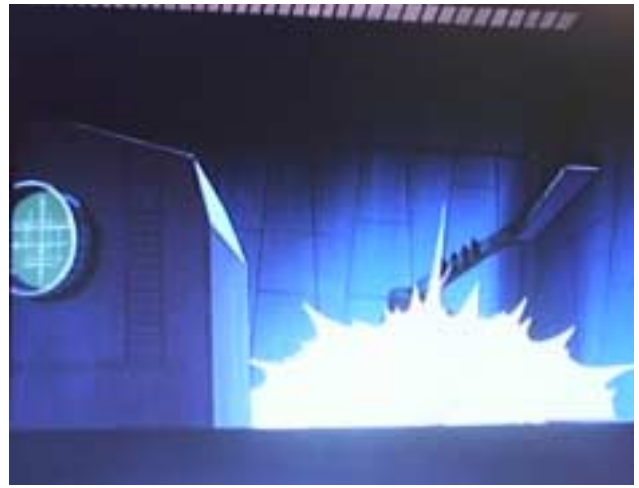
In fact there is no romance at all, but we get some insight in their characters, so I decided to do a longer version of this.

F: 02/05/0:00:34



On the left: the stuff that's all about - on the right: the villain in charge: Mr. Wrecker.





The Captain is investigating on his own (alone ?), but gets captured and can't answer the Presidents call.

I'm not sure what is going on here (cut scenes in the German version) - but in the novel those guys enter the moon base, while Simon, Otho and Grag are on a scientifically mission on the other side of the moon.

If the base can be reached and entered that easily it is quite astonishing why the Captain hasn't more visitors. Anyway, I don't know where this takes place, if it's in Curtis home or on one of he attacked mines.

Curtis, don't worry - your rescuer just happens to be in the Presidents office...





Usual call: "If you don't hand me over all the power, then I'll go on - you saw what I'm capable of. "

Somewhere there must be a handbook: "What to do to be a perfect villain". 12 easy-to-follow lessons with exemplary sentences for all thinkable situations.



Clever thinking of her and quite a quick reaction. But how does she know the precise location of where to go searching for him - he is on a moving ship ?

F: 02/05/0:06:26

F: 02/05/0:09:09

Curtis manages to free himself - I'm not going to tell here how, won't spoil some surprises for you - but has some minor difficulties when leaving the ship he was held in prison on.

He can send out a call to his comrades to pick him up just before he leaves (or leaps out) the ship - but the given location seems to be wrong. Curtis - where are your talents and wisdom ??



Somehow his friends are not clever or quick enough to find him - another surprising turn of story, but a nice one as you will see. So somebody else gets a chance to collect points.



It's obvious what they are thinking.



So this lady prefers a black ship (you can see it in front of the Comet, just above the little arrow).



Why did she wait with medical treatment till now ? And feeling his pulse through armour and clothing would declare everybody as dead...

Little addition, couldn't resist ☺: Same scene, the other way round (in a laaaaaater story and another context).

On the left picture he'll be saved from death, and on the right one she is going to die ☹... (don't be afraid, she'll be back !).

I don't know what she's telling him in this scene - but she looks absolutely determined to do whatever she can to get him back (perfect drawing). Curtis, you're dumb if you let that woman out of your eyes.



Why is she so surprised ???



As you can see, the lady has no legs (and the whole perspective is wrong).



Everybody seems to be angry, but he twinkles in Simon's direction: WHY ?!? Can't understand a word... the whole rescue-scene is missing *sigh*.



So I have to interpret what they're saying. On the left it looks like: "So, WHAT !?!"

And look what he is DOING: SHAKING HANDS WITH HER for thanking her for saving his live ARGH !!!

Could somebody please hand me a proper script here ??? I can't believe this.



However - he's back on duty.

Curtis, if I may give you some advice: Don't let that girl go - she's the perfect partner for you. There are not much people who would've flown right into the sun to rescue you, let away FINDING you there. And ... let me give you some little advice: next time the proper "thank-you" would at least be a hug ... HMPF.

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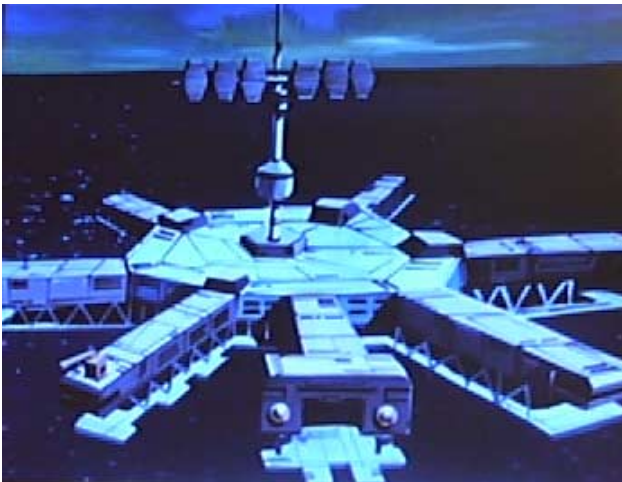
F: 02/05/0:25:15



Curtis want's to save one of the owners of the mines when it is attacked - it's impossible and his friends have to hold him back. This is already two you owe your friends. and the adventure has just begun.

F: 02/05/0:25:20

F: 02/06/0:01:06



So the last members of the usual cast are on board now. In the novel it is almost the same until now, besides for Ken, who isn't participant (and I can really see no reason why he should be here anyway)

F: 02/06/0:02:19

F: 02/06/0:05:03

Grag and Joan are send away for an investigation in the jungle - Curtis is going to visit one of the underwater-mines.

Joan - your parents never taught you: Don't go with people you don't know ???



On the other hand - this is your job... So you're captured again - even Grag can't help.



The guard on the left seems to have pity with Joan...



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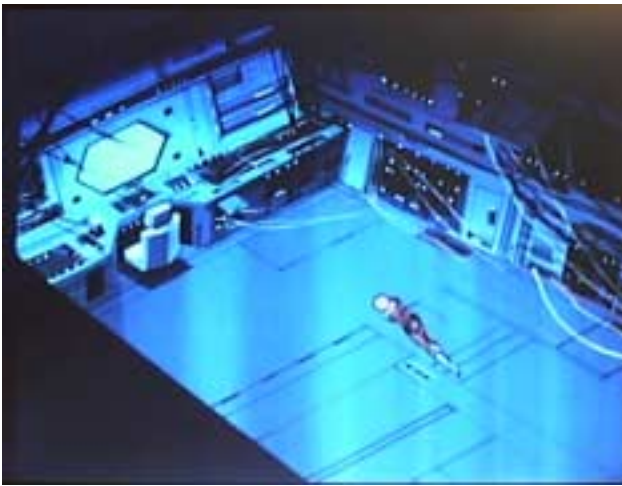
F: 02/06/0:08:25



Well done, with this reflections on the glass.



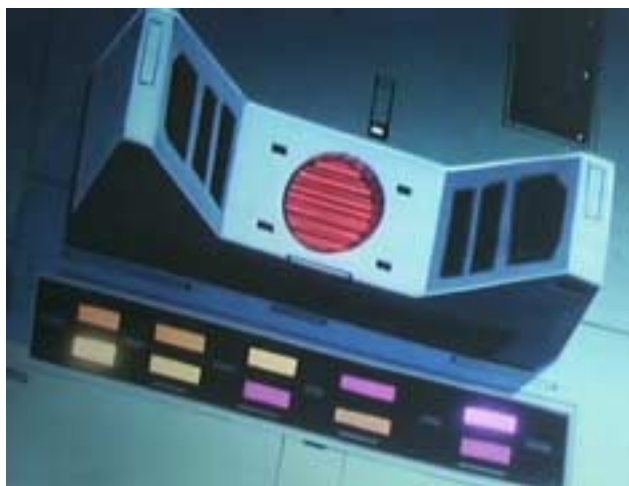
Otho has some problems with explaining what happened to Joan...



As you can see, she has still got her gun - so why does she choose the sparks for getting rid of her bonds ?



Joan and Curtis are two of a kind: always looking for the most spectacular of options.



As a result of that what she is doing it is broadcasted around the ship. Doesn't she realise that short-circuits are ALWAYS checked ? On the other hand: Women and electricity - a good friend of mine could tell you some stories about my own experiences with that ☺ - somehow I 'm perfectly fitting in this cliché.

And even if she often looks like a little girl - she isn't that cute and harmless. Somehow those guys were aware of that (just for checking the cables it seems to be a lot of guys, there are a lot more in the background) and didn't underestimate her.



Almost every shot of her finds its target and not a single one of those of the boys. Its nice to show her that powerful, but - REALLY, please some more realism here !

Those scene isn't in the novel - in fact she's got almost nothing to do (a little bit at the end). So I won't complain about this too much. ☺





She almost made it - but why this incident ? (German text: Kill her, we already had had enough trouble with her). Fortunately Grag found her just on time.

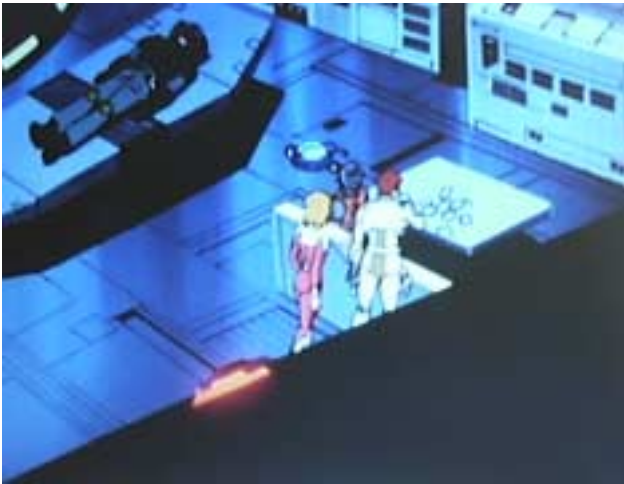


The trunk is cut into pieces, and in perfect condition in the next scene.



Where does the rope on her leg come from ? But even Curtis is impressed ! F: 02/07/0:16:43

F: 02/07/0:18:15



This didn't work very well - first being attacked and then the villain escaped...



Ms. Randall - you're sitting a little bit closer to your friend than it would be necessary !

F: 02/07/0:20:35

F: 02/07/0:05:30

Curtis disguises himself as the prisoner and tries to infiltrate Wreckers crew by pretending he escaped, Otho tries the same with the local fishermen - so maybe the command centre can be found.

The other soldiers are not so eager to get their comrade back - in the novel this is by far easier. Main storyline is the same.



Back on the Comet they try to find out who this guy is - but then he tricks them out and escapes in fact .





Curtis is asked to kill himself twice: To attack Captain Future and be killed at the attempt (Curtis in disguise is the guy on the far right).

F: 02/07/0:10:05

F: 02/07/0:17:35

Then the real guard shows up and Curtis soul is swapped with the one of one of the sea-people.



Then he is taken to the prison and how he escapes from there, I won't tell - please take a look yourself.

F: 02/07/0:18:32

F: 02/07/0:19:53

In the meantime Curtis friends showed up, searching for him. Joan get's another chance to show how good she can fight. But she wears the wrong batch on her uniform: Has she been upgraded or downgraded ???



The false Captain lures them into a trap...



F: 02/08/0:02:29



Guess who is chosen for some special treatment ... hmpf.



They have to watch how two soldiers are killed - this is disgusting and there's absolutely no reason to show it in detail neither here nor in the anime.



Wrecker tells Joan what he is planning with both of them:

Ken is led away to be an offering to the sea-devil, which will destroy the only inhabitable island of this planet at the same time. Joan wants to sacrifice herself to save Kens life, but is told that her body will be needed for the soul of Wrackars future wife. All the time she is held at gun-point from somebody who looks like Curtis and is beaten by him later on.

She's really having a bad day today... Maybe she should better stay in bed next time.

But here the usual procedure starts. She's almost every time captured / kidnapped twice - but later she isn't allowed to escape on her own, it's always Curtis. But he is usually the one who gets her INTO the really bad trouble - so he should get her OUT again, too - don't you agree ?



No complaints about her crying - the situation seems to be hopeless F: 02/08/0:05:18

F: 02/08/0:08:42





The guy with the gun is Curtis ... this is one of the movies in which he has the most different appearances.



Our two heroes as sea-people - not exactly an improvement in looks... For Joan is another device used.





Fast forward: Ken is saved, new Graviuim supplies are found (guess from whom), and now the showdown:



NO - I won't show you who Wrecker is - find it out on yourself.

The showdown in the novel is in the rough outlines equal, but there's no human offering, just an earthquake generating device. Joan is spared the soul- transformation - what is happening to her on the last pages can be seen on the intro-page of this site: Wreckers crew are threatening her with that if Simon won't tell Captain Futures secrets to them - please, how naive one can be ???

F: 02/09/0:23:11

Some statistics ☺

Can't resist, but don't take it too seriously, hm ?

Life-saving J : C	2 : 1
"Too Dangerous":	no
Otho's comments:	none as far as I can say
Joan is kidnapped:	twice
Together in peril:	more or less ... one ?
Hugs:	none, but a handshake ... can't believe it