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THE THUD & BLUNDER MAG



DAMN
EINSTEIN
!

1966

CALL for CAPTAIN PAST!

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&
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'Captain Past,' hissed Otto, as he came running through the door, backwards as usual.

'Please!' complained Captain Past. 'Next time open the door; it's becoming expensive.'

Otto hissed again (he was always hissing; his mother had been scared by a snake), 'I told you to put in revolving doors!'

'Well! What do you want?' thundered the Captain.

'They want you on Earth. That flashlight is shining again.' This is what the President always did when they wanted Captain Past, the Wizard of Silence. They would put a flashlight at the south pole so he could see it from his hangout on the moon and come and save the system, or anything else that wanted saving, such as old stamps or pieces of string. As soon as Captain Past saw this he would always get his three men of the past; Drag, the galvanized goon, or robot; Otto, the synthetic simp; and 'the Liver', who had lived ever since his death years before in a glass case; and leave for Earth at once. Captain Past would have carried around a brain, but at the time none were available. This made the Liver very jealous.

'We'll leave at once,' hissed Captain Past. 'Get Drag and the Liver and roll out the Mess.' The Mess was Captain Past's super-powered airplane, in which he flew around the system at Astounding speeds. As everyone but Captain Past knows, planes do not work in space; but the men of the past had oars.

In three shakes of a dinosaur's tail they were off for Earth. Drag, who was too big to go through the Mess door, was always attached onto the rear of the ship and in times of need was

thrown out as an anchor. The Liver was now working on a plan of enlarging the door or shrinking Drag so the latter could also fly inside the Mess. It seemed they were going to have to shrink him since he was bigger than the plane anyway.

Meanwhile, inside the ship Otto had his eyes glued to the telescope. Otto never did like glueing them on, but that was what Captain Past told him to do, so he did it. Anyway, it wasn't too bad since it left the rest of his body free to roam the ship; not that there was any room to roam in.

'I knew that two-bit model was too small,' hissed Otto.

'Well, that was all you had,' belched the Liver from the other side of the cabin.

'Quit breathing in my face,' hissed the android.

'Tain't my fault,' rasped the Liver. 'If you don't like it turn your face away.'

'I can't,' hissed Otto. 'My ear is caught in the porthole.'

'Can't you get out?' asked the Liver, belching once more.

'Yes,' replied the android. 'But you know the model company didn't supply wings for the Mess.'

'According to my eyes, which are over on the telescope, we are nearing Earth,' remarked Otto. ...A terrible crash rent the air.

'That's what you get for looking through the wrong end of the telescope,' said Captain Past, calmly unwrapping a propellor from around his neck. He then replaced his head to his body

and stood up. 'Where is my toupee?' he hissed violently.

'Look,' exclaimed Otto. 'I have a beard.'

Captain Past stepped over to Otto's side and strange noises followed. Captain Past returned to the controls, calmly replacing his mussed mop. He glanced back and smiled grimly as he saw Otto trying desperately to untangle his legs from around his neck.

Captain Past then picked up two large pistons, which evidently had fallen from the motor, which was located on the roof, now at least. As he went to replace them a horrible cry came from outside.

'My feet,' screamed Drag.

'Sorry old boy,' said the Wizard of Silence, and he quickly reconnected the robot's large tootsies. He went over to Otto and helped him untangle his legs, then, picking up the Liver, he stepped from the ship.

Otto heard a crash!

'Watch your step,' came Captain Past's rather annoyed voice. 'We are still a mile off the ground.'

In a minute Otto landed the ship and ran to his master's side. He picked it up and put it back on the rest of Captain Past's body, and carried him over to where his feet lay. Replacing them with a confident smile, he picked up Cap's toupee, which was again missing, and replaced it atop the gleaming globe that was the Captain's cranium.

'Where is the Liver?' asked Captain Past. Otto glanced around and said:

'The Liver's in the river!'

'Drag will you swim out and get him?' asked Captain Past. . . Silence. . .

'Otto will you swim out and get him?' . . Silence!

Two minutes later Captain Past returned wet, with the Liver in his hand. 'His case broke,' moaned the Wizard.

'Messy isn't it,' hissed Otto. Otto was always humane.

'Well, get the frying pan,' said Captain Past. 'We can't let him lie around indefinitely.'

'Oh, that's a lot of rot,' said Drag.

'If it isn't now it will be in a minute,' hissed Otto.

Half an hour later the three comrades were off to Washington. Captain Past licked his chops and hissed:

'The Liver was more use dead than alive anyway. Boy did he taste good!'

'Did he?' hissed Drag and Otto.

As they entered the Capitol Building, Captain Past flashed his famous charm bracelet, which had the nine planets revolving around it. It was run by a small gas motor which he carried in his back pocket. The power lines sometimes got mixed up in what he was doing, and for that reason the nine planets were not in an orthodox position.

This admitted him at once. He rushed into the President's study, with Drag and Otto close in front. The President was lying on his

