

























G.I.L.T.

Travel Responsibly! Only 1 Temporalist at a Time.

GVILD OF INDEPENDENT LADY TEMPORALISTS

Rules and Regulations:

- Do not alter any major feature of the apartment without co-op board approval.
- Do not alter any major feature of the past without co-op board approval.
- Do not stay in the past for longer than 7 days.



Well, that was good, wasn't it? Yes, if you're the low type who reads the text page before the story, I just laid a big spoiler on you. I'll repeat it: This issue was good! More spoilers: witty, gorgeous, sensitive . . . oh my God, that describes *me!* Alisa, Mauricet, and Rob have made *G.I.L.T.* a valentine to me!

While that sinks in, let's have a look at your letters, which already exist due to time travel.

Dear Editor,

My oldest brother, who's been reading G.I.L.T. much longer than I have, recalls a story in which Hildy and Trista tracked down a criminal by means of candle wax. Can you please explain?

> Hollis Phemister Pawtucket, RI

Is it warm in here?

Dear Editor.

Recently, you had a story in which a giant enemy gave Hildy and Trista some awful rough moments. It seems to me that if Hildy could grow into a giant, she'd be much more effective.

Lefty Donovan Reno, NV

I suppose, Lefty. But there was no giant or—now that I think of it—no candle wax. This is the first issue ever of *G.I.L.T.*! How could these stories exist? Wait, I already said time travel. I feel really light-headed.

Dear Editor,

More than once, you've called the G.I.L.T.mobile the fastest car in the world. What gives it its special power?

Katie Osborne Lexington, KY

I don't know, Katie. There's a G.I.L.T.mobile?

Dear Editor,

Personally, my favorite type of story is when Trista's body, for some strange scientific reason, undergoes incredible changes. Are you planning another one soon?

Marty Fricke Akron, OH

What is wrong with you, Marty? Don't write to us anymore. And don't read *G.I.L.T.* We don't want you.

Dear Editor,

Are boys allowed to join G.I.L.T.? If they are, I would love to join. Could you please tell me where one is located near me?

Abbott Boyd Kirksville, MO

No and no, Abbott.

Dear Editor,

I bought G.I.L.T. comics for my little girl and read the stories to her before she could read. Now she can buy her own, and do you know what happened in the meantime? I got bit by the G.I.L.T. bug myself! Now little Kathy always remembers to pass her copies on to me. Keep up the good work!

Debbie Willihan Banff, Alberta

Thanks for your letter, Debbie. We've forwarded it to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. The rest of you: Please, please, please do not read *G.I.L.T.* to small children. It's not for them.

Dear Editor,

Is it true that Hildy and Trista have outfits which enable them to withstand severe bolts of electricity?

> Joan Torio Utica, NY

That's it. I'm closing the mailbag. Do better, people.



COMING AHOY-TRACTIONS

THE WRONG EARTH: FAME & FORTUNE (Mark Russell, Michael Montenat, Andy Troy, and Rob Steen. Covers by Jamal Igle, Michael Montenat, and Gene Ha.)—Another cash-grabbin' WRONG EARTH one-shot! On Earth-Alpha, Dragonflyman and his billionaire alter-ego, Richard Fame, work to bring citizens together. On Earth-Omega, the Dragonfly—also Richard Fame—busts heads and breaks unions with a savage intensity. But they both share one goal: build a new sports stadium with Richard Fame's name on it!—April 13!

NEXT: Alisa, Mauricet, and Rob's love letter to *moi* continues as Hildy and Trista are whisked back to 1973, where they meet again for the first time! Join us back here on *May 11!* Until we meet again—

—Tom



Write to G.I.L.T.—or any AHOY comic—at letters@comicsahoy.com. Snail mail: PO Box 189, DeWitt, NY 13214. Mark "OK to print" if it is.

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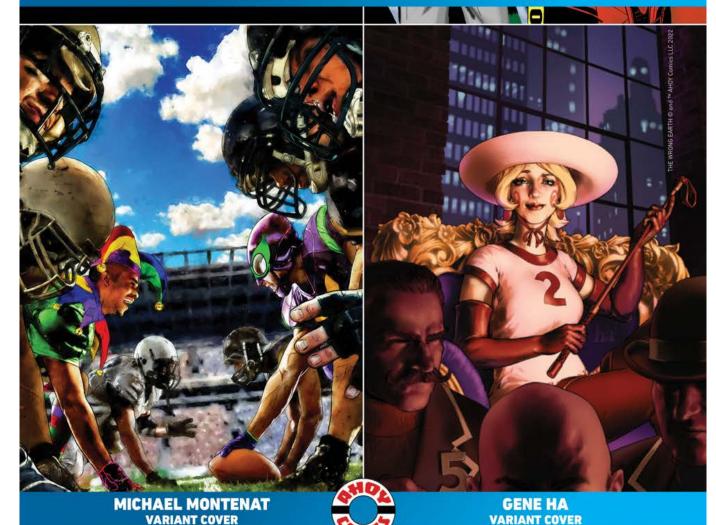
FAME & FORTUNE

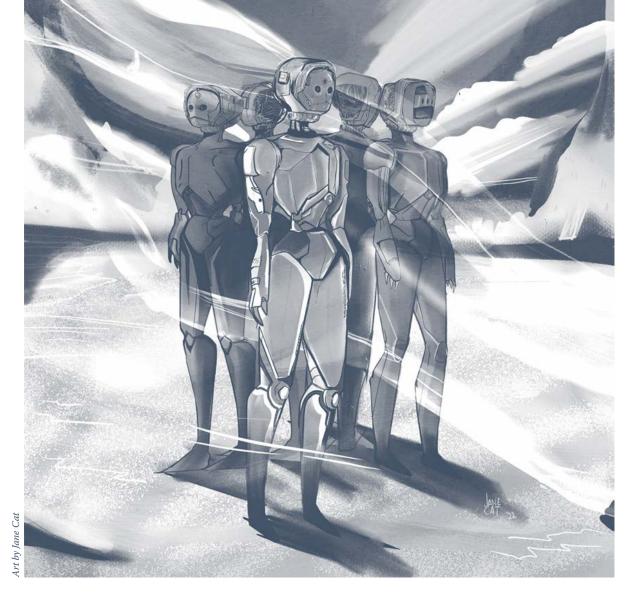
MARK RUSSELL
MICHAEL MONTENAT
ANDY TROY
ROB STEEN



APRIL 13

JAMAL IGLE COVER





RETURN OF THE HUMANS

by MAGGIE DANCER

After the nuclear war, after global warming peaked and began its descent, after all remaining humans were gone to Mars and beyond and the only animals left were squirrels, aardvarks, vultures, and several of the more aggressive insects, the only other things were the robots. AI had taken over all the work that the humans had done and each robot had its specific task. And only its specific task.

After 100 years, what had been left behind were the farms, the manufacturing plants, the river keepers, the soil testers, the packers, the miners, the clothiers, the drivers, the pilots, the rock diggers, the cement makers, and all the robots who did all the kinds of work that the humans had done. This continued without pause for the entire 100 years and all activities were centered, as had been predicted, at the earth's poles.

It took the five Overseer robots—who knew nothing more than to make sure all robots were doing their programed tasks—those 100 years to realize that 100 years of automobiles had been built, 100 years of vegetables had been grown, harvested, refrigerated, frozen and stored, 100 years of building after building after building had been built so that all the food, cars, computers, drones, howitzers, Jumbo Jets, ships, trains, piles of blacktop and cement and all else that had been produced were overwhelming the planet with no humans to consume them.

All were duly stored because that was the job of the storer robots and it was, of course, all they knew how to do. And that was the only unfortunate result—no robot could be reprogrammed. No robot knew the codes, the procedures, or even that there were codes and procedures. Every single robot had been given one job and one job only.

There was a leader, however, among the five Overseer robots. And one thing that it knew besides being a leader type of robot was that there had been humans, and those humans had been made of genes. And so that leader, with a decal on its left hip showing 889245GX22, gathered all the searchers and librarians and techie robots to find out what genes were and how to make them into human beings.

889245GX22 appointed Librarian 45WN to find all books on genetics. Librarian 45WN, in turn, put Color Specialist Zx78 in charge of finding a book and the book he chose was written by Doc PackerBacker. It happens that Doc PackerBacker finished third from last in his class at Joe's Med School (unaccredited). Doc PackerBacker had taken full advantage of the course menu and decided he liked genetics, the best. He wrote a book about genetics which he titled "Genetics of the Creatures: My Favorite Projects and Other Science Stuff". It was a vanity book financed by his doting uncle. It so happened that the Color Specialist Zx78 chose this book because he liked the cover.

It bears noting that Doc PackerBacker was known for a riotously messy lab and the quality of his notes and records of experiments duly reflected that fact. This, of course, would present nearly any sentient being with problems in that there were no pictures of actual human beings in his entire book. However, 889245GX22, Librarian 45WN, Color Specialist Zx78, the other four Overseers and every other robot laboring was incapable of entertaining the thought that other books on genetics might provide pictures showing examples of human beings of every conceivable gender.

It took 15 years for the robots to finally come up with a foot, neither left nor right but it was peculiarly round rather than long, that bore 10 incisor teeth around its circumference instead of toenails. "HUMAN!" exclaimed 889245GX22. "At last!"

The Human Project robots continued to labor and after 25 more years they emerged from the laboratory with a round shape that consisted of six legs, multicolored, all connected to each other. They formed what would look to us like a hub with six spokes, each consisting of several joints, the number of which was not equal to its neighbors. "It will WALK!" exclaimed 889245GX22.

If congratulations could have been had all around, the robots would have heartily clapped each other on the back and said, in unison, "Huzzah!" but, alas, the vast majority were mute and, when their various tasks were done, inert. It was left to 889245GX22 to make any kind of comment thereafter which, of course, fell on no aural receptors of any kind except the Musician robots, but they never recognized the tune.

Twenty years after the creation of the thing with six legs, 105 disaffected descendants of the humans who went to Mars decided to build a spaceship of their own and leave Mars to go back to terraform Earth. Their imaginations were filled with the idea it would be possible to rehab the Earth's generous helping of flora and fauna in their lifetimes so that they would hear birdsong, see water buffalo in Africa, smell the perfume of roses, overlook the grandeur of Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon, before the last of their generation on Earth died out. All of them expected their offspring would live in such a reconstructed ecological Utopia. This made five years spent outfitting their spaceship with all the comforts of home fly by. It only seemed like four years.

While the Martian humans labored, then navigated their way to Earth, the robots, being tireless entities, labored

away at their project. They produced hands with eyeballs the fingers and thumbs, chimera that crossed human and elephant genes with completely indescribable results.

The day finally arrived when the Martian humans landed on Earth and took all necessary readings of the atmosphere, if there had been one. Significantly, this was near the site where the robots were so busy with their human project, producing results that were always comically horrific.

Captain Biff Jones, the leader of the Martian humans, emerged from the spaceship first. First Officer Jake Smith followed shortly thereafter, and both strode down the ramp to the ground. In an odd coincidence, Jones and Smith spotted 889245GX22, the Librarian, the techies, and the laborer robots at the same time that they saw Jones and Smith. Of course, not a single robot could fathom what kind of creatures these two humans were. Nevertheless, 889245GX22 acted the gracious host and offered to show them around to see the marvelous work they were engaged in.

"This planet once held creatures known as humans, but they disappeared. We are engaged in rebuilding a human population. Would you care to see the remarkable progress we have made?"

Jones and Smith looked at each other quizzically, then turned to 889245GX22 and nodded. "We would be most interested in seeing your progress."

As proudly as possible for a robot, 889245GX22 bowed and accompanied them to the rooms in which their creatures were stored. Jones and Smith stifled their disbelief when their host showed them all the robot creations. Ever curious, 889245GX22 asked what entry on the phylum of life Jones and Smith were.

Jones responded, "We're gods."

889245GX22 replied, "What are gods?"









THE LEVER

by RYAN ROE

"What's this?" Luke asked.

"What's what?" said Keith.

They were in Keith's car, on the way to grab some pizza. Keith was driving. Luke had been adjusting the armrest when he happened to notice a little lever between the seats. Tucked between the cupholders, it was about the size of Luke's index finger.

"What is this lever, right here?" said Luke. "It says EMERGENCY EXIT."

"I don't know," Keith answered.

"Well, what happens when you pull it?"

"I've never pulled it. I've never had an emergency."

"Yeah, but aren't you curious? We should try it!"

"No!" Keith insisted. "What if it makes the doors fall off or something? It would be a pain to get them put back on."

"It's not gonna make the doors fall off!" Luke insisted. "But wouldn't that be cool if it did? We should pull the lever."

"We're not pulling the lever," said Keith. "Obviously you're only supposed to use it if there's an emergency, and we don't have an emergency."

"How about in the owner's manual? There must be something in there about what it does."

"I bought this car used from my ex's brother. He lost the manual, and I can't find it online." Luke persisted. "How about if we wait until we get back to your house, then we try it? So if something happens, we'll be in your driveway."

"No, man. That's not what it's for. Just forget it, okay?"

They drove in silence for a minute or two. Luke tried to distract himself by looking out the window, but the lever seemed to call out: "Pull me, Luke! It's the only way to find out what I do! Don't you want to know?"

Luke glanced at Keith. Keith's eyes were focused on the road. Luke slowly moved his left hand over the cupholders. Keith didn't seem to notice. Luke curled his finger under the lever. He was touching it now.

"Hey!" Keith shouted.

"Huh-ha-what?" Luke yanked his hand away from the lever and into his lap.

Keith was still looking out the windshield. "That jerk ran right through that red light!" he griped. "Some people. Does he think he's the only driver on this road?!"

Jolted out of his lever-induced trance, Luke breathed a



heavy sigh. Well . . . it is Keith's car, he thought. Maybe I should, like, respect his wishes? He decided to leave it alone. For now. He distracted himself by looking out the window for the rest of the trip to the pizza place.

Two weeks later, Luke and Keith got an early start for a road trip to visit a buddy they hadn't seen since the three of them graduated college. Keith was driving again.

Before they left the city, Keith pulled into a shopping center. "I'm going to run into Starbucks. You want something?"

"Dude," said Luke. "From Starbucks? Think about who you're asking." He held up his canned energy drink. "I got my caffeine fix right here."

"Okay. I'll be right back."

Luke was now alone in the car. But he wasn't completely alone . . . because there was the emergency exit lever. He never had found out what happened when it was activated. Curiosity gnawed at him like a termite devouring a back porch.

EMERGENCY EXIT.

It was a safety feature. How bad could it possibly be?

Luke stole a furtive glance left, then right. Satisfied that neither Keith nor anyone else was watching him, he closed his eyes and pulled the lever.

KA-CHUNK. With a jolt, the car hummed to life, then the hum became a growl. The car began vibrating wildly. Luke's seat belt unbuckled. His seat folded all the way back. The car now seemed to be collapsing in on itself. Doors, engine parts, and wheels shifted, slid, and doubled over on each other. Luke lay there, paralyzed with disbelief in the middle of the noise and chaos.

Keith stepped out of the coffee shop, just in time to see the car changing its shape like a Transformer action figure.

Luke now found himself in darkness, inclined at an angle. Reaching his hands out, he felt solid metal all around him. The vibration, as well as the grinding and whirring noises, stopped. For the moment, he was trapped.

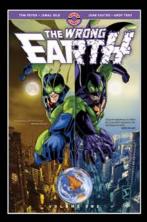
I don't understand, Luke thought. I thought this was supposed to be an emergency ex—

BOOM! With a deafening explosion, the car-turned-cannon fired him into the air. Luke was launched into the sky, over the shopping center, and out of sight.

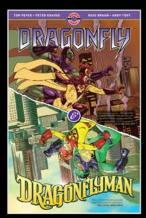
Keith stood watching from outside the coffee shop. "I told him not to pull the lever," he said, as he took a sip of his mocha latte.



AHOY COMICS









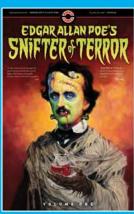






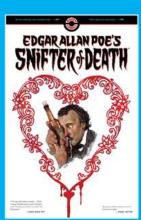










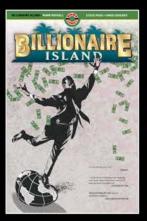


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COLLECTED EDITIONS



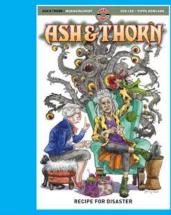






















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