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# THUNDERBIRD

BY BILL GALVAN AND NATHAN SHUMATE



SPECIAL PREVIEW ISSUE

[WWW.THUNDERBIRDCOMICS.COM](http://WWW.THUNDERBIRDCOMICS.COM)



The terrorists  
were getting away.

Fleeing in a stealth helicopter,  
they had tried to steal the  
greatest weapon the  
world had ever known.  
They also had a hostage.

What they didn't know was that  
flying at them at over 100 mph  
was the prototype version of  
that weapon...Thunderbird.

Our story begins here...



DID I HAVE TO TRY TO PLAY THE HERO?

THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER... AND AMANDA WOULD BE FREE, AND MR. IKAROS WOULDN'T BE --

...ERIC?



MR. IKAROS! YOU'RE ALIVE!

DON'T JUMP... TO CONCLUSIONS...



ARE YOU... INJURED?

I'M ALL RIGHT. THEY TOOK AMANDA.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME.

MR. IKAROS, DON'T TRY TO MOVE. YOU MIGHT...



TRUST ME, ERIC. NOTHING I DO NOW... WILL MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.  
HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?



HOW CAN SO MANY THINGS CHANGE SO COMPLETELY -

"- IN ONE HOUR?"

MR. SIEGEL,  
ARE YOU *EVER*  
PLANNING ON  
GOING HOME  
TONIGHT?

EVENING,  
RUDY. OR  
*MORNING*, RATHER.  
AND CALL ME  
ERIC.

THIS BABY'S  
SCHEDULED FOR A  
9 AM *WINDTUNNEL STRESS*  
TEST AND I'M GOING TO GET  
IT IN WORKING ORDER IF I  
HAVE TO PUT THE *LAWS OF*  
*PHYSICS* OVER MY *KNEE*  
AND *SPANK* THEM.

ALL QUIET  
TONIGHT?

SAME AS  
EVERY NIGHT.  
I'M NOT  
COMPLAINING  
THOUGH.

JUST A  
COUPLE OF  
*NIGHTOWL*  
*WORKAHOLICS*  
LIKE YOU HERE  
AND THERE.

REALLY?  
WHO ELSE  
WOULD BE  
*CRAZY*  
ENOUGH --

ERIC, ARE YOU THERE?

WELL, THAT  
ANSWERS  
THAT.

I'M HERE,  
AMANDA.  
WHAT'S UP?

MR. IKAROS WOULD  
LIKE TO SEE YOU  
UP HERE AS SOON  
AS YOU CAN.

AMANDA TRESE  
AND MR. IKAROS  
ARE *BOTH* STILL  
HERE?

I WONDER  
WHAT'S UP?

~...Infiltration  
Plan (finalized).

~...Beacon and sonar sweep patterns  
allow a 27-second surveillance gap  
every 32 minutes.

~...Stealth team can be lowered to  
executive building rooftop (see  
attached schematic) via  
THERMALLY SHIELDED HELICOPTER.

~...Estimated elapsed  
time: 24 seconds.


~...Projected difficulty :  
MINIMAL.

# THUNDERBIRD

## PARADIGMS AND DECISIONS

ARTWORK BY BILL GALVAN WRITTEN BY NATHAN SHUMATE

THUNDERBIRD CREATED BY BILL GALVAN




~...Recommended: Three member stealth unit. Balances sufficient skill overlap with optimal mobility and cohesion.



~...Roster: Francesca for point and surveillance.

~...Jules for onsite system infiltration (see technical requirements, attached).



~...Under my leadership, the three of us constitute a stealth infiltration team more than sufficient to the task at hand.

~...See attached for payment requirements.

EVEN IF I HAVE KNOWN MR. IKAROS ALL MY LIFE...



... I'D STILL FEEL BETTER IF I HAD A SHOWER OR CHANGE OF CLOTHES.

ERIC, THAT WAS FAIRLY FAST.



AND I DEFINITELY WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE SUDDENLY SWEATY PALMS.

*NEWS FLASH, SIEGEL. "OPERATIONS ASSISTANT TO THE C.E.O." MEANS AMANDA TRESE IS YOUR BOSS.*

SIGH...

THIRTY MINUTES OR IT'S FREE. ANY IDEA WHAT THE OLD MAN WANTS?

NOT THAT HE'S TOLD ME, BUT I DON'T GO HOME TILL HE DOES.

GO AHEAD AND GO ON IN.

THANKS.

MAYBE WHEN I'M DONE, WE SHOULD GET A PIZZA SENT IN.

"A PIZZA??" WELL, THAT WAS THE LAMEST ATTEMPT AT A CASUAL PASS SINCE JUNIOR HIGH...

MR. IKAROS...?

**KNOCK KNOCK**







YES...  
TOO BAD.

THE FLIGHT SUIT!  
HOW-- IS THIS--  
DID YOU--?!

YES, I DID.  
JUST ME.

THIS IS MY PRIVATE  
WORKSPACE.  
COMPLETELY SEPARATE  
FROM SKY-TECH AS A  
WHOLE. I CO-OPTED YOUR  
CANCELLED DESIGN WORK  
AND KEPT GOING.

I HOPE YOU  
DON'T MIND. I CALL  
IT PROJECT  
THUNDERBIRD!



MIND!?  
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!  
YOU'VE GOT THE MICROFIBER  
MESH PROTECTING WORKING  
PARTS WHILE AFFORDING  
MOBILITY...



THE EXTENDABLE  
'FEATHER' STRUTS  
FOR VARIABLE  
WINGSPAN...

...WHAT ARE  
THESE METAL  
PLATES ON THE  
GLOVES...



...NOT FLIGHT  
CONTROLS?

NO, THEY'RE DIRECTIONAL E/M  
PULSE GENERATORS, CAPABLE  
OF SCORCHING A SHIELDED  
ELECTRONIC SYSTEM AT  
FIFTY FEET.



THIS IS...  
A BATTLE  
SUIT?

MR. IKAROS, IF THE D.O.D. WASN'T INTERESTED, WHO'S YOUR CLIENT?

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT?

NO, THAT'S *DISINGENUOUS*. I'VE MADE SURE TO STAY *IGNORANT*.

JUST AFTER THE PROJECT WAS DROPPED, I WAS CONTACTED BY A *THIRD PARTY*.

A GROUP OF *MULTINATIONAL INVESTORS* WAS LOOKING TO DEVELOP A COMBINATION OF BATTLE ARMOR AND *WEAPONS SYSTEM*.

DID I HAVE ANYTHING ON THE *DRAWING BOARD* THAT MIGHT FIT THE BILL?

I TOOK THEIR MONEY AND TOLD THEM *VERY LITTLE*. THEY DON'T KNOW I'VE FINISHED THE PROTOTYPE. *HELL*, THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THE SUIT CAN *FLY*.

THEIR *DEADLINE* FOR DELIVERY OF DETAILED *SCHEMATICS* WAS THREE *WEEKS* AGO.

TWO DAYS AFTER MY *GRANDDAUGHTER'S FUNERAL*.