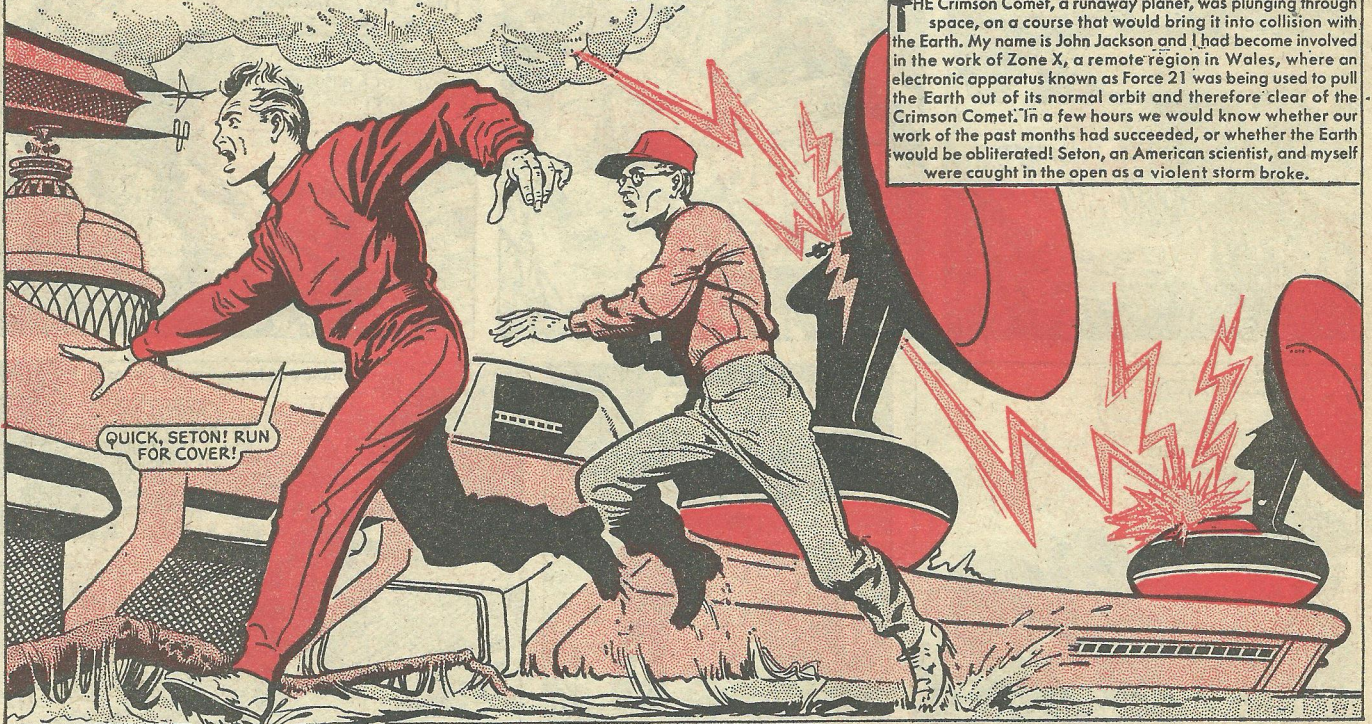


The fate of the world will be known in nine hours!

The CRIMSON COMET



THE Crimson Comet, a runaway planet, was plunging through space, on a course that would bring it into collision with the Earth. My name is John Jackson and I had become involved in the work of Zone X, a remote region in Wales, where an electronic apparatus known as Force 21 was being used to pull the Earth out of its normal orbit and therefore clear of the Crimson Comet. In a few hours we would know whether our work of the past months had succeeded, or whether the Earth would be obliterated! Seton, an American scientist, and myself were caught in the open as a violent storm broke.

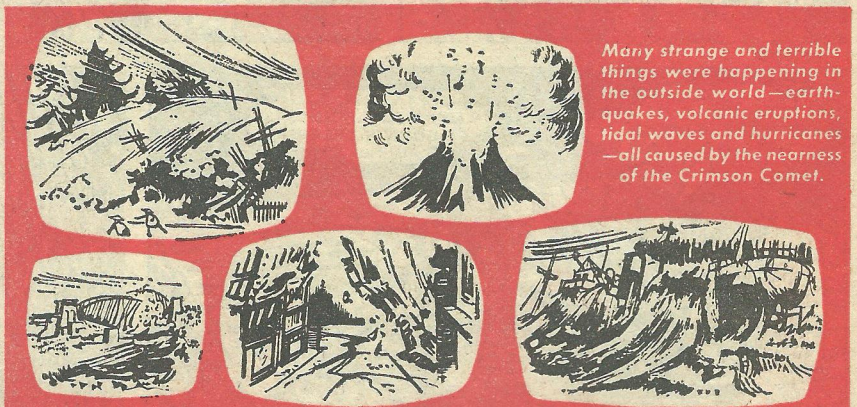
QUICK, SETON! RUN FOR COVER!



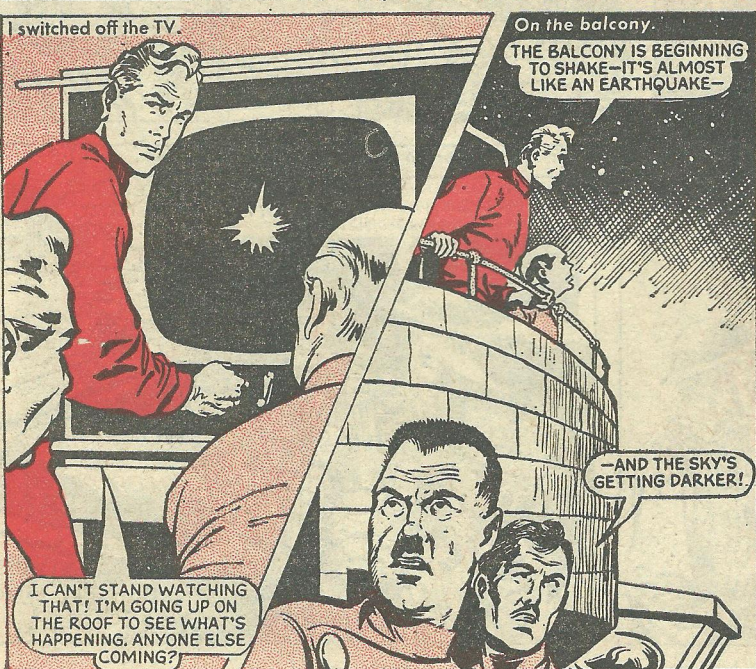
We took shelter in the control building.

THE CRIMSON COMET IS THE CAUSE OF THIS STORM! IT MUST BE GETTING MIGHTY CLOSE TO US!

IN ABOUT NINE HOURS WE'LL KNOW OUR FATE! LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD ON T.V.



Many strange and terrible things were happening in the outside world—earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves and hurricanes—all caused by the nearness of the Crimson Comet.



I switched off the TV.

On the balcony.

THE BALCONY IS BEGINNING TO SHAKE—IT'S ALMOST LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE—

—AND THE SKY'S GETTING DARKER!

I CAN'T STAND WATCHING THAT! I'M GOING UP ON THE ROOF TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. ANYONE ELSE COMING?



In the darkening sky, the dreaded Crimson Comet could be clearly seen, alongside the moon! Gavin Hamilton, the head astronomer, explained—

THE CRIMSON COMET IS THE SAME DISTANCE FROM THE MOON AS IT IS FROM US! WE ARE NOW COMING INTO THE CRITICAL PERIOD, WHEN WE'LL KNOW IF OUR CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN CORRECT OR NOT!

THIS WAITING GETS YOU DOWN!