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AUG.-OCT.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

1917 ★ 1963



*"My fellow Americans, ask not what
your country can do for you; ask
what you can do for your country."*



JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

BORN—May 29, 1917

HARVARD UNIVERSITY—1940

"WHY ENGLAND SLEPT"—1940

LIEUTENANT, U.S. NAVY—1941

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1946

UNITED STATES SENATE—1952

MARRIED JACQUELINE LEE BOUVIER—September 12, 1953

CAROLINE BOUVIER KENNEDY—November 27, 1957

"PROFILES IN COURAGE"—1956 (Pulitzer Prize)

"STRATEGY FOR PEACE"—1960

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, JR.—November 25, 1960

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—1960

ASSASSINATED—November 22, 1963



AS A STUDENT AT CHOATE

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

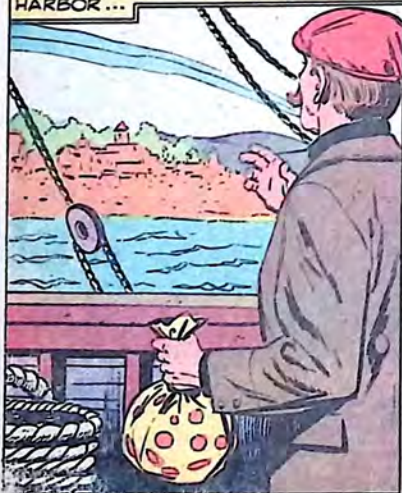
WAS NOT A TOP STUDENT, YET
HIS INQUIRING MIND MADE UP
FOR HIS MIDLING GRADES.
HIS FELLOW STUDENTS EVEN
THEN RECOGNIZED THAT,
ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT A STAR
ATHLETE NOR AN HONOR STU-
DENT, HE HAD THE MAKINGS
OF GREATNESS. IN THEIR
SENIOR YEAR THEY VOTED HIM...
THE MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED!

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JOHN F. KENNEDY FELT A FLUSH OF PRIDE IN BEING WELL THOUGHT OF BY HIS CLASSMATES! BUT THEN, HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS ONLY KEEPING UP A FAMILY TRADITION--THE TRADITION OF AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY THAT HAD SUCCEEDED...



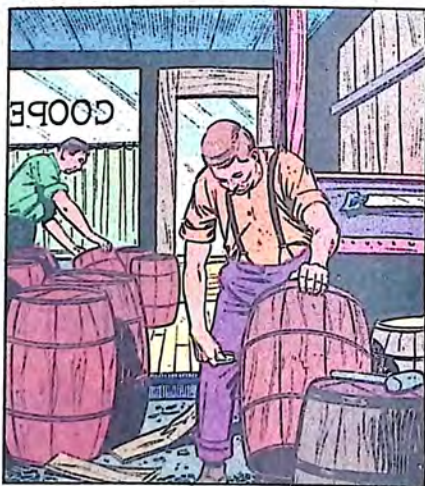
IT WAS NOT EASY, BUT PATRICK KENNEDY SCRAPED TOGETHER THE TWENTY DOLLAR FARE--ALONG WITH COURAGE TO LEAVE HIS HOME FOR A NEW WORLD! SAILING STEERAGE, HE LEFT IRELAND AND SOON GAZED OUT ON BOSTON HARBOR...



WHEN THE POTATO CROPS FAILED AND FAMINE STRUCK IRELAND IN THE 1840'S, JOHN F. KENNEDY'S GREAT-GRAND-FATHER, PATRICK KENNEDY NIBBLED ON A CRUST OF BREAD BY HIS THATCH ROOFED COTTAGE IN NEW ROSS...



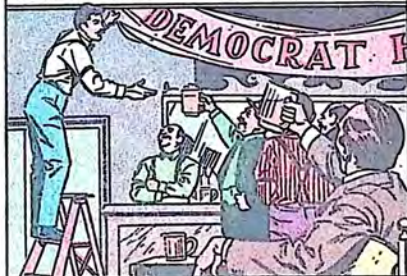
THOUSANDS OF OTHER FAMINE-FLEEING IRISHMEN HAD PRECEDED HIM AND WERE ROAMING UNEMPLOYED IN BOSTON! BUT PATRICK KENNEDY'S DRIVE FOR SURVIVAL WON HIM WORK AS A COOPER, MAKING AND FIXING BARRELS...



IN 1862, PATRICK J. KENNEDY WAS BORN! WHEN HIS FATHER DIED SOON AFTER, YOUNG PATRICK BECAME THE 'MAN' IN THE HOUSE! WHILE STILL A YOUTH, HE OPENED A TAVERN NEAR THE BOSTON SHIPYARDS AND IT SOON BECAME A POPULAR MEETING AND EATING PLACE...



IN A FEW YEARS, HE OWNED SEVERAL TAVERNS AND HAD AN INTEREST IN A BANK! BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, HIS FIRST TAVERN BECAME A POLITICAL MEETING PLACE AND PATRICK J. KENNEDY BECAME A DEMOCRATIC WARD LEADER...



INEVITABLY, HE MET THE LEADER OF THE NORTH END OF BOSTON, JOHN FITZGERALD, KNOWN AS HONEY FITZ! A NATURAL POLITITION, HONEY FITZ WAS A GAY, WARM MAN, WHO COULD LEAD HIS CRONIES IN SONG AS WELL AS LEAD THEM TO THE POLLS, WHERE THEY ELECTED HIM BOSTON'S MAYOR...



PATRICK'S SON JOE AND HONEY FITZ'S DAUGHTER ROSE MET AND STARTED A SEVEN YEAR COURTSHIP! DURING THAT TIME, JOE KENNEDY GRADUATED FROM HARVARD AND BECAME THE YOUNGEST BANK PRESIDENT IN THE COUNTRY...



BRIGHT AND AMBITIOUS, JOE KENNEDY RESOLVED TO MAKE HIS FIRST MILLION BEFORE HE WAS THIRTY-FIVE! A DESK IN HIS BANK BECAME THE SEAT OF A GROWING FINANCIAL EMPIRE...



AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR, JOE KENNEDY BECAME A MEMBER OF A TOP BROKERAGE HOUSE! TICKER TAPE FLOWED THROUGH HIS KNOWING HANDS WITH A GOLDEN TOUCH...

STILL BULLISH, JOE?

WHY NOT, THE STOCK'S JUMPED TEN POINTS TODAY!



MARKED BY A RELENTLESS INNER DRIVE, HE ONCE WORKED FROM HIS BED, WHERE HE WAS INVALIDED WITH NEURITIS, AND, ALTHOUGH FORCED TO STAY IN HIS ROOM, JOE KENNEDY WAS ABLE TO SAVE A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CAB BUSINESS FROM BANKRUPTCY...



WHILE JOE KENNEDY'S FORTUNE WAS GROWING, SO WAS HIS FAMILY! ON MAY 29th, 1917, HIS SECOND SON WAS BORN! HE WAS BAPTIZED...

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY...



ALTHOUGH A BUSY MAN, JOE KENNEDY WAS STILL A DOTING FATHER! WITH HEARTY ENJOYMENT, AS THE FIRST SNOW COVERED BROOKLINE'S STREETS, HE WAS OUT WITH HIS SONS...

FASTER, DADDY!

FASTER!

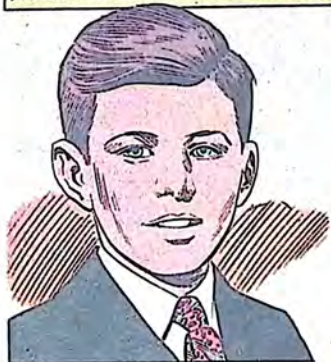


WHILE HIS FATHER REPRESENTED THE FINANCIAL WORLD, JACK'S GRANDFATHER, HONEY FITZ, MADE POLITICS COME ALIVE FOR HIM! ONE OF HIS EARLIEST MEMORIES WAS WHEN HE WAS SIX YEARS OLD AND HEARD HIS GRAND-FATHER CAMPAIGNING FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP...



NOW, YOU FOLKS KNOW ME!
AND IF I'M ELECTED...

JACK'S FIRST SCHOOL WAS DEXTER, A PRIVATE SCHOOL CLOSE TO HOME...



WITH HIS FAMILY INCREASING AND WITH AN INCREASING NEED TO BE IN NEW YORK, JOE KENNEDY MOVED TO BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK! THERE, THE CHILDREN, BOTH THE BOYS AND GIRLS, BEGAN TO COMPETE IN INTER-FAMILY PLAY...



GET HER,
ROSEMARY!

THROW IT
HERE,
KATHLEEN!

WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN, JACK WENT TO CANTERBURY, A CATHOLIC BOARDING SCHOOL! THERE, HE WAS ONLY A FAIR STUDENT, BUT THE ONE PLACE WHERE HE EXCELLED WAS IN THE POOL...



GOOD GOING, JACK! YOU DID
THE FIFTY YARDS IN THIRTY
SECONDS FLAT!

A YEAR LATER, HE WAS SENT TO THE EXCLUSIVE BOARDING SCHOOL -- CHOATE! THERE, HIS FATHER HOPED HE WOULD MEET AND MINGLE WITH BOYS FROM A MORE VARIED BACKGROUND...



BUT AT CHOATE HE WAS UNDER THE SHADOW OF HIS BROTHER, JOE! OLDER, A BETTER STUDENT AND ATHLETE, JOE ALWAYS SEEMED A HOPELESS CHALLENGE TO HIS YOUNGER BROTHER...

WOW! DID YOU SEE HIM HIT THAT ONE? IF ONLY YOU COULD BAT LIKE YOUR BROTHER, JACK, OUR TEAM'D BE GREAT!



WHILE AWAY FROM FROM HIS FAMILY, JACK FELT THE NORMAL FLASHES OF HOME-SICKNESS! BUT THE HOUSEMASTER'S WIFE HAD ONE ANTIDOTE FOR THAT, A HEAPING PLATE OF WAFFLES...



A WEALTHY MAN BY NOW, JOE KENNEDY BOUGHT A SUMMER HOME AT HYANNISPORT ON CAPE COD! THERE, JACK SAILED HIS FIRST BOAT...

WHY DID YOU NAME HER "VICTURA"?

BECAUSE IT'S LATIN AND MEANS SOMETHING ABOUT WINNING!



AN ACTIVE FAMILY, THE KENNEDYS TURNED THEIR FRONT LAWN INTO A PLAYING FIELD...



IN THE ABSENCE OF THEIR FATHER, JOE JUNIOR TOOK OVER THE FAMILY REINS! BUT HIS RULE WAS NOT UNCHALLENGED! AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTERS WATCHED JACK'S VALIANT STRUGGLES...



BUT THEIR FATHER KEPT THE RIVALRY IN HAND! AT THE DINNER TABLE, HE ENCOURAGED DEBATE AND DISCUSSION...



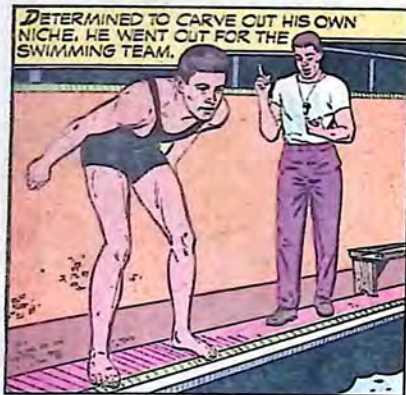
FOR A BRIEF TIME, JACK ESCAPED FOLLOWING IN HIS OLDER BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS! INSTEAD OF JOINING JOE AT HARVARD, JACK WENT TO PRINCETON! BUT ILLNESS FORCED HIM TO DROP OUT AND IN SEPTEMBER 1936, HE STARTED AT THEIR FATHER'S ALMA MATER-- HARVARD...



SAY, DON'T YOU HAVE A BROTHER HERE, JACK?

YES, BUT WE'RE ONLY LOWLY FRESH-MEN SO LET'S NOT BOTHER HIM!

DETERMINED TO CARVE OUT HIS OWN NICHE, HE WENT OUT FOR THE SWIMMING TEAM.

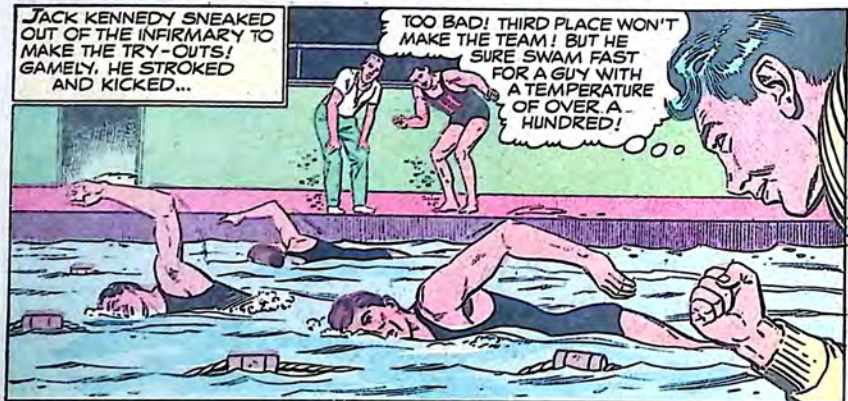


BUT JUST BEFORE THE TRY-OUTS FOR THE YALE MEET, JACK ENDED UP IN THE INFIRMARY WITH THE GRIPPE! AFRAID THE DIET THERE WOULD WEAKEN HIM, HE HAD HIS ROOMMATE BRING HIM EXTRA FOOD...



HURRY! GET THAT MILK SHAKE DOWN BEFORE THE NURSE GETS BACK!

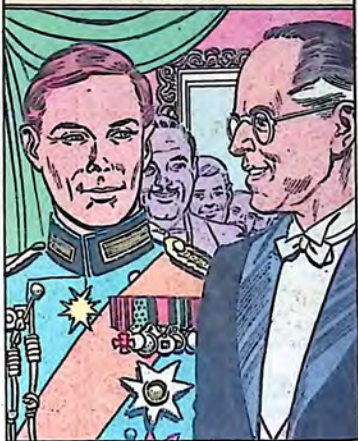
JACK KENNEDY SNEAKED OUT OF THE INFIRMARY TO MAKE THE TRY-OUTS! GAMELY, HE STROKED AND KICKED...



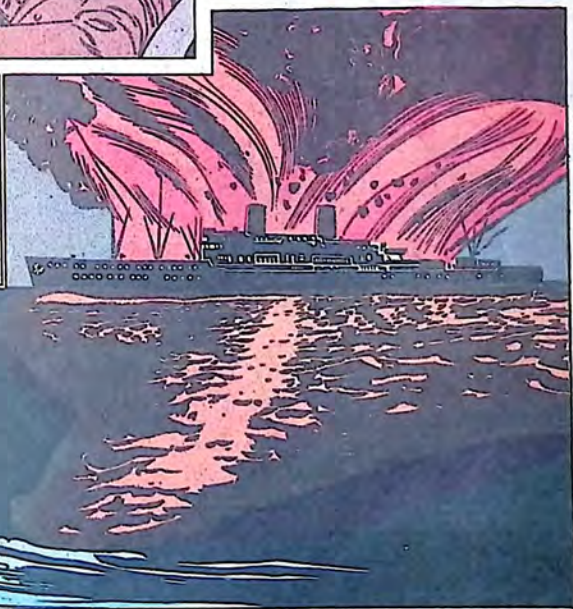
TOO BAD! THIRD PLACE WON'T MAKE THE TEAM! BUT HE SURE SWAM FAST FOR A GUY WITH A TEMPERATURE OF OVER A HUNDRED!

BY NOW, JOE KENNEDY HAD MORE THAN REALIZED HIS AMBITION TO BE A MILLIONAIRE! HIS SHREWD MIND KEPT HIM FROM LOSING HIS FORTUNE DURING THE DEPRESSION! HIS FINANCIAL ASTUTENESS WON RECOGNITION FROM PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, WHO APPOINTED HIM TO THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION, THE WATCHDOG COMMISSION OVER THE STOCK MARKET! THEN, IN 1937, F.D.R. MADE A SURPRISE APPOINTMENT...

DRESSED IN OFFICIAL MAGNIFICANCE, JOE KENNEDY WAS PRESENTED TO THE KING OF ENGLAND! AS HE HANDED OVER HIS CREDENTIALS, HE KNEW THAT HIS MOST DARING HOPES HAD COME TRUE! FROM HUMBLE ORIGINS, HE HAD BECOME AMERICA'S RANKING DIPLOMAT...



BUT HE SERVED IN ENGLAND DURING TROUBLED TIMES! WAR BROKE OUT WHILE HE WAS AMBASSADOR! DESPITE THE WAR, JACK VISITED HIS FATHER AT THE EMBASSY! WHILE ON A VISIT, A NAZI SUB TORPEDGED THE BRITISH LINER ATHENIA, SENDING THREE HUNDRED HOME-BOUND AMERICANS INTO THE SEA...



HIS FATHER SENT JACK DOWN TO HELP THE AMERICAN SURVIVORS! WHEN HE MET THEM, HE FOUND AN ANGRY HOSTILE CROWD...

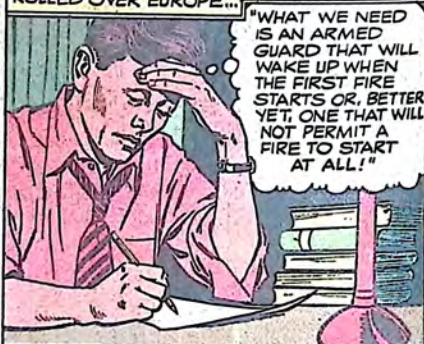
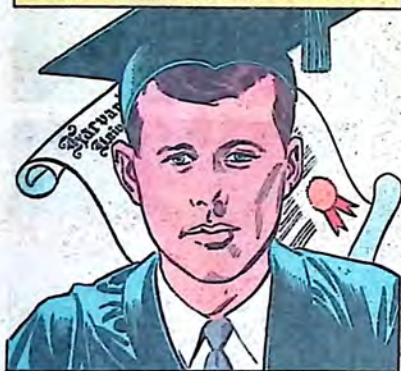
WE WANT A CONVOY! YOU CAN'T TRUST THE GERMAN NAVY NO MATTER WHAT YOUR OLD MAN MAY SAY--

I'LL RECOMMEND TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT YOU ALL BE SHIPPED HOME IN A CONVOY!



BUT WHILE CANNONS ROARED IN EUROPE, CHIMES SOUNDED AT HARVARD, AS JACK RECEIVED HIS DEGREE.

FOR HIS THESIS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, JACK TRIED TO EXPLAIN FROM HIS FIRST-HAND OBSERVATIONS WHY ENGLAND HAD SLEPT WHILE GERMANY'S ARMED MIGHT ROLLED OVER EUROPE...



WITH HIS FATHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT, JACK SUBMITTED THE THESIS FOR PUBLICATION! SUDDENLY, AT TWENTY-THREE, HE FOUND HIMSELF THE AUTHOR OF A BEST SELLER...



REALIZING AMERICA WOULD INEVITABLY ENTER THE WAR, JACK TRIED TO ENLIST IN THE ARMY! BUT AN OLD BACK INJURY FROM FOOTBALL CAUSED HIS APPLICATION TO BE STAMPED...



FOR FIVE MONTHS, JACK WENT THROUGH A VIGOROUS EXERCISE ROUTINE TO STRENGTHEN HIS BACK...



HE PASSED THE NAVY PHYSICAL AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN THE FALL OF 1941! BUT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A WASHINGTON DESK WHEN THE JAPS STRUCK AT PEARL HARBOR...



AND WHILE HE WAS AIDING THE WAR EFFORT IN HIS OFFICE...



HIS OLDER BROTHER JOE WAS EASILY WINNING HIS NAVY PILOT'S WINGS...



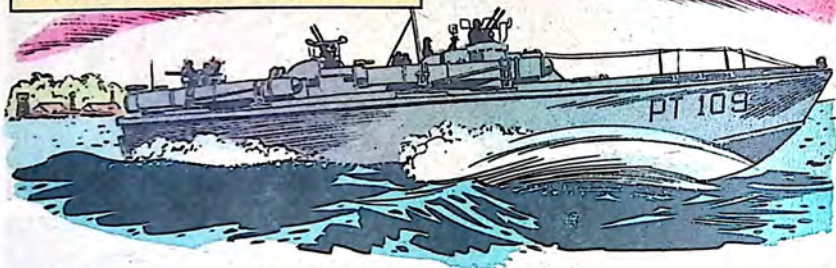
NEAR THE END OF 1942, JACK FINALLY WAS ASSIGNED TO SEA DUTY--IN A MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRON...



A NATURAL SAILOR, HE HANDLED THE PT BOAT LIKE AN OLD SALT...



DURING MARCH, 1943, LIEUTENANT (J.G.) KENNEDY WAS SHIPPED OVER-SEAS AND MADE SKIPPER OF HIS OWN PT BOAT IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS...

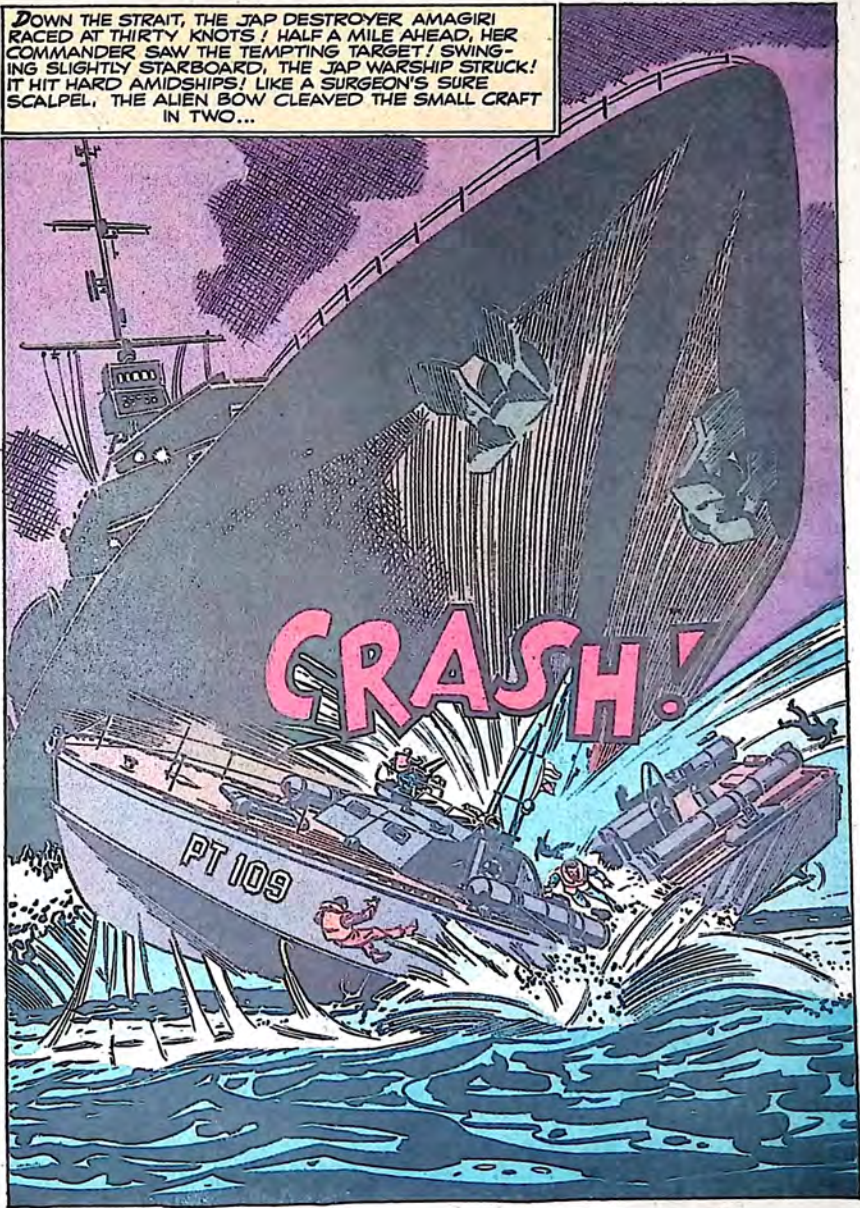


ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 2ND, 1943, AS PT 109 PATROLLED ON A ROUTINE RUN IN BLACKETT STRAIT, A CRY WENT UP FROM THE STARBOARD GUN TURRET...



DOWN THE STRAIT, THE JAP DESTROYER AMAGIRI RACED AT THIRTY KNOTS! HALF A MILE AHEAD, HER COMMANDER SAW THE TEMPTING TARGET! SWINGING SLIGHTLY STARBOARD, THE JAP WARSHIP STRUCK! IT HIT HARD AMIDSHIPS! LIKE A SURGEON'S SURE SCALPEL, THE ALIEN BOW CLEAVED THE SMALL CRAFT IN TWO...

CRASH!



THE FUEL TANKS, LOADED WITH HIGH-OCTANE AVIATION GASOLINE, ERUPTED IN A BRILLIANT BURST...



CERTAIN THE TRIFLING TORPEDO BOAT'S CREW WAS DEAD, THE JAP DESTROYER HURRIED ON! BEHIND IT, SHE LEFT TWO DEAD AND ELEVEN SURVIVORS, SOME BURNED, SOME WOUNDED, ALL SHAKEN! JACK KENNEDY, SLAMMED AGAINST THE COCKPIT, HAD ONE THOUGHT FILLING HIS MIND...



JACK LIFTED HIMSELF OFF THE DECK AND COUNTED HEADS! ELEVEN MEN WERE THERE ON THE NEARLY SUNKEN FRONT HALF OF THE HULK OF PT 109...



WHAT DO WE DO IF THE JAPANESE RETURN, FIGHT OR SURRENDER?

FIGHT WITH WHAT?

THE JAPS DIDN'T RETURN! BUT NEITHER DID ANY RESCUING SHIP COME DOWN THE STRAIT! AT DAWN, A DECISION HAD TO BE MADE...



SHE'S STARTING TO TURN TURTLE, SKIPPER! WHAT DO WE DO?

THERE'S A SMALL ISLAND THREE MILES FROM HERE...

... WE SWIM!

BUT ONE CREWMAN, McMAHON, WAS TOO WEAK FROM BURNS TO SWIM! NOW, THE YEARS OF SWIMMING TEAM PRACTICE COULD PAY OFF! BITING THE LEATHER STRAP FROM McMAHON'S MAE WEST, JACK KENNEDY STARTED STROKING FOR THE DISTANT ISLAND...



FOR FIVE HOURS JACK SWAM! FOR FIVE HOURS, DESPITE THE SALT WATER THAT SPLASHED THROUGH HIS CLINCHED TEETH AND HALF CHOKED HIM, JACK KENNEDY CARRIED ALONG THE DEAD WEIGHT OF THE WOUNDED MAN! AFTER FIVE TORTUOUS HOURS, THE SURVIVORS STAGGERED ASHORE...



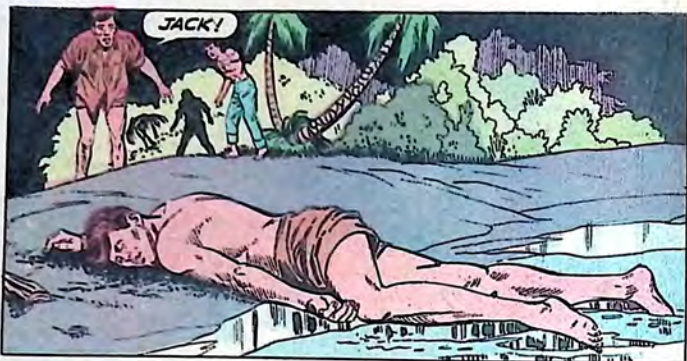
JACK DID NOT REST LONG! AT DUSK, CARRYING THE SHIP'S LANTERN, HE WENT BACK INTO THE WATER TO SWIM TOWARD FERGUSON PASSAGE, A REGULARY PATROLLED PT BOAT ROUTE...



VAINLY, HE FLOATED AND TRED WATER, WAITING HOUR AFTER HOUR FOR A PT BOAT TO SPEED HIS WAY.



FINALLY, REALIZING DEFEAT, HE SWAM BACK! CORAL REEFS CUT HIM, WAVES BUFFETED HIM, BUT HE HEADED FOR HIS WAITING MEN! HE REACHED THEIR ISLAND, STARTED ASHORE, AND COLLAPSED!



A DAY LATER, JACK LED THE MEN ON A THREE HOUR SWIM TO AN ISLAND NEARER THE PT BOAT PATROLLED PASSAGE...



ON THE FOURTH DAY, JACK AND ENSIGN ROSS SWAM TO NAURU ISLAND! THERE, LUCK CHANGED! THEY FOUND JAP SUPPLIES THAT HAD BEEN WASHED ASHORE AND SOON HAILED FRIENDLY NATIVES...



ON A COCONUT, JACK KENNEDY CARVED A DESPERATE MESSAGE...



MIRACULOUSLY, THE MESSAGE GOT THROUGH! AN AUSTRALIAN COAST WATCHER, STATIONED BEHIND JAP LINES, PASSED ALONG THE WORD! SOON, A FRIENDLY PT BOAT NOSED UP...



HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE OF HIS BACK INJURY, JACK KENNEDY SADLY REALIZED HE WAS OUT OF THE FIGHTING FOR THE DURATION...



HIS HEROIC CONDUCT WAS QUICKLY RECOGNIZED! BESIDES THE PURPLE HEART, JACK KENNEDY WAS AWARDED THE NAVY AND MARINE MEDAL WITH A STIRRING CITATION... "HIS COURAGE, ENDURANCE AND EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTED TO THE SAVING OF SEVERAL LIVES AND WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE!"



FOR HIS OLDER BROTHER JOE, THE WAR WAS STILL ON! HE HAD STEPPED FORWARD WHEN VOLUNTEERS WERE NEEDED FOR A VITAL BUT HAZARDOUS MISSION...

TO GET THESE GERMAN SUB PENS, YOU'LL FLY LOW IN PLANES LOADED WITH TEN TONS OF T.N.T.! NEAR TARGET, YOU'LL PARACHUTE AND YOUR PLANES WILL FINISH THEIR MISSION ON ROBOT CONTROL!



JOE KENNEDY JR. JOCKEYED HIS PLANE OVER THE CHANNEL! IT'S NOSE SWUNG FOR THE BELGIAN COAST, BUT LONG BEFORE HE EVER NEARED THE BAIL-OUT POINT, TWO UNEXPLAINED EXPLOSIONS RIPPED APART HIS LETHALLY LOADED CRAFT.



ON AUGUST 2ND, 1944, ONE YEAR TO THE DAY THAT HIS SECOND SON'S PT BOAT WENT DOWN, JOSEPH KENNEDY SR. FACED TWO SAD EYED CALLERS...



BUT TRAGEDY HAD NOT FINISHED WITH THE KENNEDYS! A MONTH LATER KATHLEEN'S HUSBAND, A BRITISH PEER, THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, WAS LEADING HIS COLDSTREAM GUARDS INTO ACTION IN FRANCE...

COME ON, YOU FELLOWS! BUCK UP!



AN INSTANT LATER, JACK'S FAVORITE SISTER WAS WIDOWED...



DISCHARGED FROM THE NAVY IN 1945, JACK NOW ASSUMED THE MANTLE OF FAMILY LEADERSHIP AS THE OLDEST SON! FOR A WHILE HE TRIED HIS HAND AT JOURNALISM, BUT DID NOT FIND IT STIMULATING OR CHALLENGING ENOUGH! AS HIS FATHER WATCHED WITH SILENT APPROVAL, JACK REACHED A CONCLUSION AND CHOSE A CAREER...

WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE DISTRICT'S CONGRESSMAN WAS VACATING HIS SEAT, JACK TOSSED HIS HAT INTO THE RING! THE DISTRICT EXTENDED FROM EAST BOSTON WHERE HIS FATHER WAS BORN TO THE NORTH END WHERE HIS MOTHER WAS BORN! THE FITZGERALD-KENNEDY NAME WAS KNOWN...

JOE SAID IF HE EVER WAS GOING TO START ON THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE, IT WOULD BEGIN HERE IN MASSACHUSETT'S ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT! WELL--I'M BEGINNING HERE!



SUDDENLY, JACK DISCOVERED HE HAD UNEXPECTED HELP! HE KNEW HE COULD COUNT ON HIS FAMILY, BUT FRIENDS BEGAN POURING INTO HIS BOSTON HEADQUARTERS! FRIENDS FROM CHOATE, CHUMS FROM COLLEGE, SHIPMATES FROM THE NAVY...

JACK SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHARM THE VOTERS HERE! LOOK WHAT HE'S GOT ME DOING FOR HIM--AND I'M A REPUBLICAN!

KENNEDY
QUARTERS



THE 1946 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY WAS WIDE-OPEN WITH TEN CANDIDATES IN THE RUNNING! BUT ONE OF THEM TRIED TO PIN A LABEL ON JACK, CALLING HIM...



THE FAMILY PITCHED IN ALL THE HARDER! ROSE KENNEDY POURED TEA FOR THE THOUSAND WOMAN VOTERS AND SHE ADDED MORE THAN SUGAR...



SEVENTY-NINE YEARS OLD JACK WENT TO THE POLLS ON JUNE 18, 1946! THE VOTERS OF HIS DISTRICT HAD TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT HIM...



AND JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY WAS CHOSEN BY A LANDSLIDE! EIGHTY YEAR OLD HONEY FITZ SAW HIS GRANDSON HAD TAKEN OVER THE FAMILY'S POLITICAL TRADITION AND MOUNTING A TABLE, DANCED A VICTORY JIG...



WHEN JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY TOOK HIS SEAT IN THE 80TH CONGRESS, IT WAS A REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED LEGISLATURE! DESPITE THE DEMOCRAT HARRY TRUMAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE, KENNEDY WAS IN THE MINORITY PARTY AND AS A LIBERAL, IN THE MINORITY FACTION OF HIS OWN PARTY! HE FOUGHT FOR VETERAN'S HOUSING AND LAWS TO PREVENT THE LOWER WAGE CENTERS IN THE SOUTH FROM LURING BUSINESS AWAY FROM NEW ENGLAND...



HIS OTHERWISE ROUTINE FRESHMAN TERM SHOWED ONE FLASH OF COURAGE! HIS CONGRESSIONAL PREDECESSOR JAMES CURLEY WAS IN A FEDERAL PRISON FOR FRAUD! THE MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSMEN PETITIONED FOR CURLEY'S PARDON ON GROUNDS OF HEALTH. JACK CHECKED AND FELT CURLEY'S PHYSICAL CONDITION DID NOT MERIT PARDON -- HE ALONE REFUSED TO SIGN THE PETITION ...



IN 1946 AND IN 1950, JACK EASILY WON RE-ELECTION! BUT NOW HE WAS SETTING HIS SIGHTS HIGHER...



JACK WAS FACED WITH A TOUGH OPPONENT, REPUBLICAN SENATOR HENRY CABOT LODGE, DESCENDANT OF A FAMOUS BOSTON FAMILY, NATIONALLY KNOWN. LODGE WAS A GREAT VOTE GETTER! KENNEDY WOULD NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP, BUT INSTEAD, HE AMAZED EVERYONE BY NAMING HIS YOUNGER BROTHER BOBBY, WHO HAD JUST GRADUATED LAW SCHOOL, AS HIS CAMPAIGN MANAGER...

BOBBY WAS TO PROVE AN ASTUTE MANAGER! QUICKLY, HE HELPED SET UP KENNEDY CENTERS IN OVER THREE HUNDRED COMMUNITIES! MEANWHILE, JACK'S MOTHER ROAMED THE ITALIAN AND IRISH WARDS, SPEAKING LIKE ANY ORDINARY MOTHER...



OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND YOUR PROBLEM! I HAD T 'E SAME -- WITH NINE CHILDREN! BUT I KEPT A CARD LIKE THIS FOR EACH CHILD TO TELL ME WHEN HE WAS DUE AT THE DENTIST!



JACK'S SISTERS EUNICE, PAT AND JEAN GAVE A SERIES OF BOSTON TEA PARTIES! THEY OCCASIONALLY RAN OUT OF CUPS, BUT NEVER OUT OF POTENTIAL VOTERS, AS OVER FIFTY THOUSAND WOMEN CAME!



IF ANYONE MISSED RUNNING INTO A KENNEDY ON THE STREET OR SHARING TEA WITH THEM, THEY COULDN'T ESCAPE THE FAMILY EVEN IN THEIR OWN HOME, WHERE TELEVISION ALLOWED THEM TO HAVE "COFFEE WITH THE KENNEDYS"...



IN NOVEMBER 1952, BY AN IRONY OF HISTORY, JACK AVENGED A POLITICAL FAMILY DEFEAT OF TWO GENERATIONS EARLIER! THEN, GRANDFATHER HONEY FITZ HAD BEEN DEFEATED FOR THE SAME SENATE BY HENRY CABOT LODGE! NOW, JACK DEFEATED THAT WINNER'S GRANDSON BY 70,737 VOTES...



THAT SAME YEAR, JACK MET THE SOCIALITE DAUGHTER OF A WALL STREET FINANCIER AT A PARTY! BUT JACQUELINE BOUVIER WAS DESTINED TO BECOME MORE THAN JUST HIS DINNER PARTNER...



ON SEPTEMBER 12th, 1953 BEFORE OVER A THOUSAND INVITED GUESTS, ARCH-BISHOP CUSHING OF BOSTON MARRIED THEM!



BUT HIS FIRST YEARS IN THE SENATE WERE PLAGUED WITH HIS CHRONIC BACK TROUBLE! IN 1954, AN OPERATION FAILED! LAST RITES WERE GIVEN, BUT JACK RALLIED! TAKING TO CRUTCHES, HIS WIFE AT HIS SIDE, HE LEFT THE HOSPITAL FOR THE FAMILY HOME...



BUT RECUPERATION COULD NOT CONTAIN HIS RESTLESS MIND! WITH JACKIE'S HELP, HE STARTED WRITING A BOOK ABOUT AMERICANS WHO HAD RISKED THEIR POLITICAL CAREERS FOR WHAT THEY FELT WAS THEIR LONELY DUTY...

HIS BOOK, "PROFILES IN COURAGE" WAS A RUNAWAY BEST SELLER! AND THE SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS WAS THE NATION'S PULITZER PRIZE WINNER FOR THE BEST BIOGRAPHY...



HIS POLITICAL STAR WAS NOW RISING FAST! IN 1956, AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, JACK WAS GIVEN THE HONOR OF NOMINATING THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE--ADLAI STEVENSON...



WHEN STEVENSON THREW OPEN THE NOMINATION FOR HIS RUNNING MATE, IN A PROPHETIC HINT OF FUTURE ASSOCIATION, SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON ROSE TO ANNOUNCE TEXAS' CHOICE FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENCY...

TEXAS PROUDLY CASTS ITS VOTES FOR THE FIGHTING SAILOR WHO WEARS THE SCARS OF BATTLE! JOHN F. KENNEDY!

BUT SENATOR ESTES KEFAUVER WON IN A HARD FOUGHT BATTLE AND BECAME STEVENSON'S RUNNING MATE...

ADLAI AND ESTES



EISENHOWER AGAIN DEFEATED THE DEMOCRATS! BUT JACK HAD MORE ON HIS MIND THAN POLITICS! IN 1957, HIS FIRST CHILD, CAROLINE, WAS BORN...



HAVING COME CLOSE TO MAKING THE BALLOT IN HIS PARTY'S SECOND SPOT, JACK WAS NOW AIMING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION! BY 1958, HIS FACE BECAME A FAMILIAR COVER PHOTO...



A CAREFULLY PLANNED PRIMARY SCHEDULE STARTED IN 1959! USING A PRIVATE PLANE, THE CAROLINE, JACK FLEW FROM STATE TO STATE! HIS CLOSE ADVISORS, LED BY HIS BROTHER BOBBY, FLEW ALONG BRIEFING HIM ON LOCAL LEADERS AND HELPING HIM TEST HIS SPEECHES...



IN THE NEXT EIGHTEEN MONTHS, JACK JOURNEYED OVER 400,000 MILES, MET COUNTLESS THOUSANDS, SPOKE HUNDREDS OF TIMES AND SHOOK INNUMERABLE HANDS...



AT SOME STOPS, ONLY A FEW LOCAL SUPPORTERS WERE ON HAND, BUT JACK GREETED THEM AS IF HE FACED THOUSANDS...



AT OTHER STOPS, THE STARS OF THE SCREEN RALLIED HUGE CROWDS TO SUPPORT KENNEDY...



BUT ONE QUESTION WAS SILENTLY BEING ASKED ACROSS THE NATION! ONE ISSUE SEEMED TO BE SILENTLY TROUBLING THE CONSCIENCE OF THE COUNTRY! ON THAT ISSUE, KENNEDY'S HOPES COULD SHATTER! BUT IT TOOK A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN OREGON TO STAND UP AND ASK IT...

SENATOR KENNEDY, CAN A **CATHOLIC** BECOME PRESIDENT?



SUDDENLY, THE ISSUE WAS THERE! NO CATHOLIC HAD EVER BEEN PRESIDENT OF PREDOMINANTLY PROTESTANT AMERICA! OLD FEARS OF DIVIDED LOYALTY BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND STATE WERE WAITING TO BE AROUSED BY BITTER BIGOTS! JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY ANSWERED POINT BLANK...

I SEE NO REASON WHY, IF ELECTED, I COULD NOT FULFILL THE PRESIDENTIAL OATH--IT'S THE SAME OATH I TOOK ON ENTERING THE NAVY, THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE! I BELIEVE IN THE **SEPARATION** OF CHURCH AND STATE! AND MAY I ADD, NO ONE ASKED MY BROTHER JOE IF HE HAD DIVIDED LOYALTIES BEFORE HE WAS ALLOWED TO DIE FOR HIS COUNTRY!



WHILE THAT ANSWER SATISFIED MILLIONS OF HESITANT AMERICANS, IT DIDN'T QUIET THE FEARS OF PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS! WHAT CONVINCED THEM THAT A CATHOLIC CANDIDATE COULD RUN SUCCESSFULLY WAS THE WEST VIRGINIA PRIMARY! IN THAT OVERWHELMINGLY PROTESTANT BIBLE BELT SECTION OF AMERICA, JACK CAMPAIGNED HARD--AND WON! BUT HE WON MORE THAN A PRIMARY--HE WON A TELLING VICTORY AGAINST PREJUDICE...



IN JULY, 1960, WHEN THE DEMOCRATS HELD THEIR NOMINATING CONVENTION IN CHICAGO, HEADQUARTERS FOR KENNEDY WAS IN SUITE 8315 AT THE BILTMORE! THERE, BOBBY, ABLY AIDED BY VIGOROUS, BRILLIANT STAFFMEN, KEPT TABS ON EVERY DELEGATE TO THE CONVENTION...



KENNEDY'S STRENGTH WAS GROWING, BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH YET TO GUARANTEE HIS VICTORY ON THE FIRST BALLOT! TO GOVERNOR FREEMAN OF MINNESOTA WENT THE HONOR OF NOMINATING KENNEDY AS A MAN WHO...

... CAN BRING COURAGE AND DRIVE AND DEDICATION AT A TIME WHEN IT IS DESPERATELY CALLED FOR IN AMERICA AND THE WORLD!



BUT JOHNSON AND STEVENSON HAD LOUD AND LOYAL SUPPORTERS! AS THE FIRST BALLOT WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, BOBBY KENNEDY SAW VICTORY HINGED ON WISCONSIN'S BALLOTS! HE DARTED ON TO THE FLOOR, RACING TO THE DELEGATION, TEN OF WHOSE FIFTEEN VOTES WERE PLEDGED TO HIS BROTHER...

TEN WON'T DO IT, BUT ELEVEN WILL!

OKAY! LET 'EM ALL GO!



INTO THE JAMMED, CHEERING CONVENTION HALL, JACK STRODE TO THE PLATFORM! HE HAD REACHED THE END OF THE LONG PRIMARY TRAIL! THE NOMINATION WAS HIS! HUMBLY, HE FACED HIS SUPPORTERS ...

I CAN ASSURE ALL OF YOU HERE WHO HAVE REPOSED THIS CONFIDENCE IN ME THAT I'LL BE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST!



LYNDON JOHNSON WAS KENNEDY'S CHOICE FOR A RUNNING MATE! KENNEDY FACED A TOP OPPONENT, EISENHOWER'S VICE-PRESIDENT, RICHARD NIXON! TO COUNTER REPUBLICAN NIXON'S NATIONWIDE FAME, JACK MANEUVERED HIM INTO ACCEPTING FOUR TELEVISED DEBATES! SOME HUNDRED MILLION AMERICANS WATCHED WITH FASCINATED INTEREST...



ELECTION NIGHT, THE FAMILY GATHERED AT THEIR FATHER'S HOME IN HYANNIS! EXCITEMENT AND HOPE MOUNTED, AS JACK TOOK A COMMANDING LEAD! THEN, THE MIDWEST VOTE STARTED COMING IN...

NIXON'S CUTTING DOWN YOUR LEAD-- BUT YOU WILL MAKE IT!



THE SEESAW BATTLE WAS NOT OVER UNTIL NOON THE NEXT DAY, WHEN KENNEDY WON MINNESOTA'S ELECTORAL VOTES! THEN, NIXON SENT HIM A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM...

...YOU WILL HAVE THE UNITED SUPPORT OF ALL AMERICANS AS YOU LEAD THE NATION IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS!



AT 1:30 THAT AFTERNOON, THE FAMILY WENT TO THE NEARBY ARMORY! LISTENING TO HIS SON'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH WAS THE MAN WHOSE DREAM HAD COME TRUE! HIS FINANCIAL BRILLIANCE HAD WON HIM A FORTUNE! BUT MORE IMPORTANT, HIS SUCCESS AS A FATHER HAD PRODUCED A SON, IN WHOM A NATION HAD PUT ITS TRUST...

ON INAUGURATION DAY 1961, TWO MEN STRODE SIDE BY SIDE! THE RETIRING PRESIDENT, EVER-POPULAR GENERAL EISENHOWER AND THE NEW PRESIDENT-- JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY! ONE, A MAN IN HIS SEVENTIES, THE OTHER THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO BE BORN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY...



AFTER THE OATH OF OFFICE WAS ADMINISTERED, PRESIDENT KENNEDY MADE A STIRRING INAUGURATION ADDRESS, ONE WHICH WILL TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG THE GREAT HISTORIC DOCUMENTS OF OUR NATION...

ONCE IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT KENNEDY PLUNGED VIGOROUSLY TO WORK! HE CALLED HIS ADMINISTRATION -- THE NEW FRONTIER! PERHAPS, ITS MOST LASTING MONUMENT WILL BE THE DEDICATED WORKERS, YOUNG AND OLD, WHO BY THE THOUSANDS JOURNEYED TO FOREIGN LANDS TO HELP WHEREVER HELP WAS NEEDED UNDER THE BANNER OF KENNEDY'S FAMED PEACE CORPS...

LET THE WORD GO FORTH FROM THIS TIME AND PLACE, TO FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE, THAT THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED TO A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS -- BORN IN THIS CENTURY, TEMPERED BY WAR, DISCIPLINED BY A HARD AND BITTER PEACE...



AMONG THE HIGH POINTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION WAS AMERICA'S FIRST ORBITING MAN IN SPACE! ON FEBRUARY 21ST, 1962, COLONEL JOHN H. GLENN JR.'S SPACE CAPSULE HURTLIED SKYWARD AND CIRCLED THE EARTH THREE TIMES...



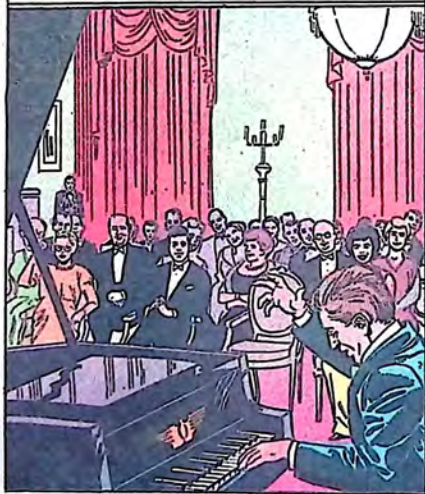
IN OCTOBER 1962, WHEN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SHOWED THAT CUBA WAS BEING TURNED INTO A RUSSIAN MISSILE BASE, KENNEDY ACTED QUICKLY! HIS NAVAL ENCIRCLEMENT OF THAT ISLAND AND TOUGH CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT RESULTED IN THE MISSILES BEING SHIPPED BACK TO RUSSIA...



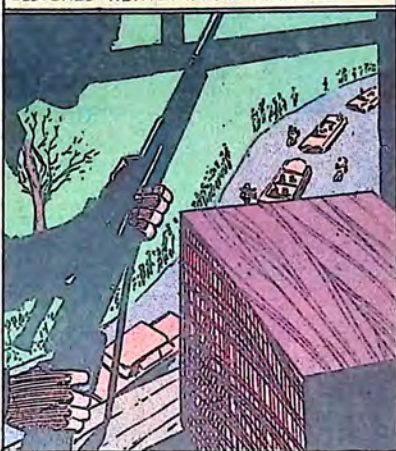
THERE WAS ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE WHITE HOUSE, HIS SON JOHN JUNIOR...



AS PRESIDENT, HE SET THE TASTE OF THE NATION! SHARING HIS WIFE'S APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS, JOHN KENNEDY SOON FILLED THE WHITE HOUSE WITH BRILLIANT MUSICIANS, AUTHORS, ARTISTS AND SCIENTISTS, MAKING IT A CULTURAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL CENTER...



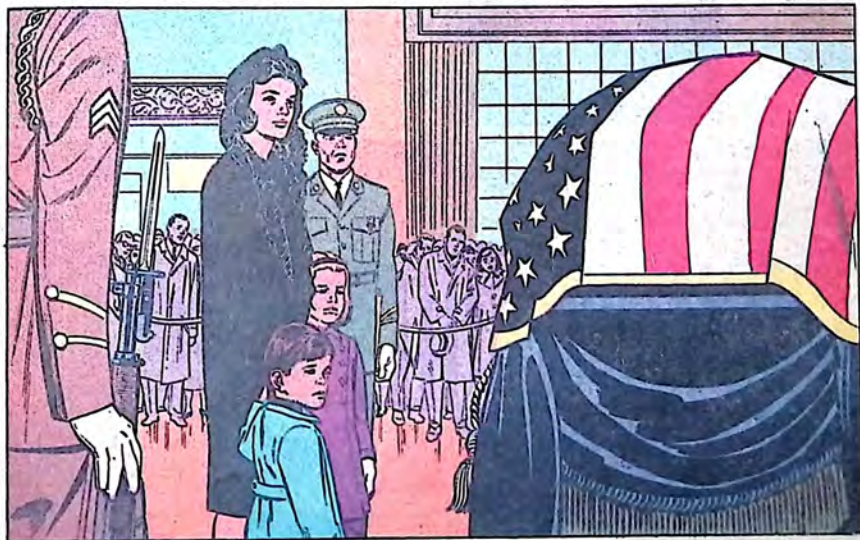
ON NOVEMBER 22ND, 1963, PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND HIS WIFE WERE TOURING DALLAS, TEXAS! CHEERING CROWDS LINED THE STREETS! BUT WHERE THE MOTORCADE HAD TO SLOW TO MAKE A TURN, A LONE MAN KNEELED, A RIFLE CLUTCHED TIGHTLY IN HIS HAND...



THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT SWUNG ONTO ITS TARGET AND THE GUN BLAZED...THE PRESIDENT SLUMPED DOWN! HIS WIFE TURNED IN HORRIFIED DISBELIEF! A SECOND SHOT STRUCK, AS HER ANGUISHED CRY WENT OUT...



FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, A STUNNED, SHOCKED NATION WAITED... THEN IT LEARNED, THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD! THE ONCE VIGOROUS, YOUTHFUL LEADER LAY FOREVER STILL! AT THE CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON FOR A WHOLE DAY AND NIGHT, OVER A QUARTER OF MILLION GRIEVING AMERICANS CAME TO PAY THEIR SILENT RESPECT.



THE WORLD SEEMED TO STOP! FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE THEY CAME TO MARCH IN THE FUNERAL CORTEGE DOWN WASHINGTON'S STREETS! KINGS, QUEENS, EMPERORS AND PRESIDENTS STEPPED TO THE SAD BEAT OF MUFFLED DRUMS...



DENIED THE PRIVACY OF SORROW, JACKIE KENNEDY GAVE THE WATCHING NATION A SENSE OF VALIANT MAJESTY! WITH LOVING CARE AND A SENSE OF HISTORIC TRADITION, SHE SAW TO EVERY DETAIL OF THAT SAD EVENT...



OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, A TINY HAND WAS RAISED IN REVERENT RESPECT! THE PRESIDENT'S SON STOOD AT ATTENTION, A SMALL SOLDIER SALUTING HIS LEADER'S PASSING...



HE NOW LIES AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY ON A SPOT THAT ONLY MONTHS BEFORE HE HAD VISITED AND ADMIRER! NOW, LONG AFTER THE BUGLAR'S SOLEMN TAPS HAD FADED, AFTER THE MOURNFUL BAGPIPES' WAIL HAS DIED, HIS OWN WORDS STILL ECHO! THE VERY WORDS HE SPOKE THE DAY HE TOOK HIS OATH AS PRESIDENT... ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY.





From
INAUGURAL ADDRESS
January 20, 1961

We observe today not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom, symbolizing an end as well as a beginning, signifying renewal as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary belief for which our forebears fought is still at issue around the globe, the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans, born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage, and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world. . . .

. . . In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need; not as a call to battle, though embattled we are; but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation,” a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility; I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

