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opening extract from

# **Classics Illustrated: The War of the Worlds**

written by

**H. G. Wells**

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# THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

By H.G. WELLS

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, several newspapers in England carried a small account of the discovery of a mass of flaming gas, chiefly hydrogen, originating on the planet Mars and moving with enormous speed toward the Earth.

The news item, however, was so insignificant, that I, as well as the rest of the world ignored what proved to be one of the gravest dangers that ever threatened the human race.

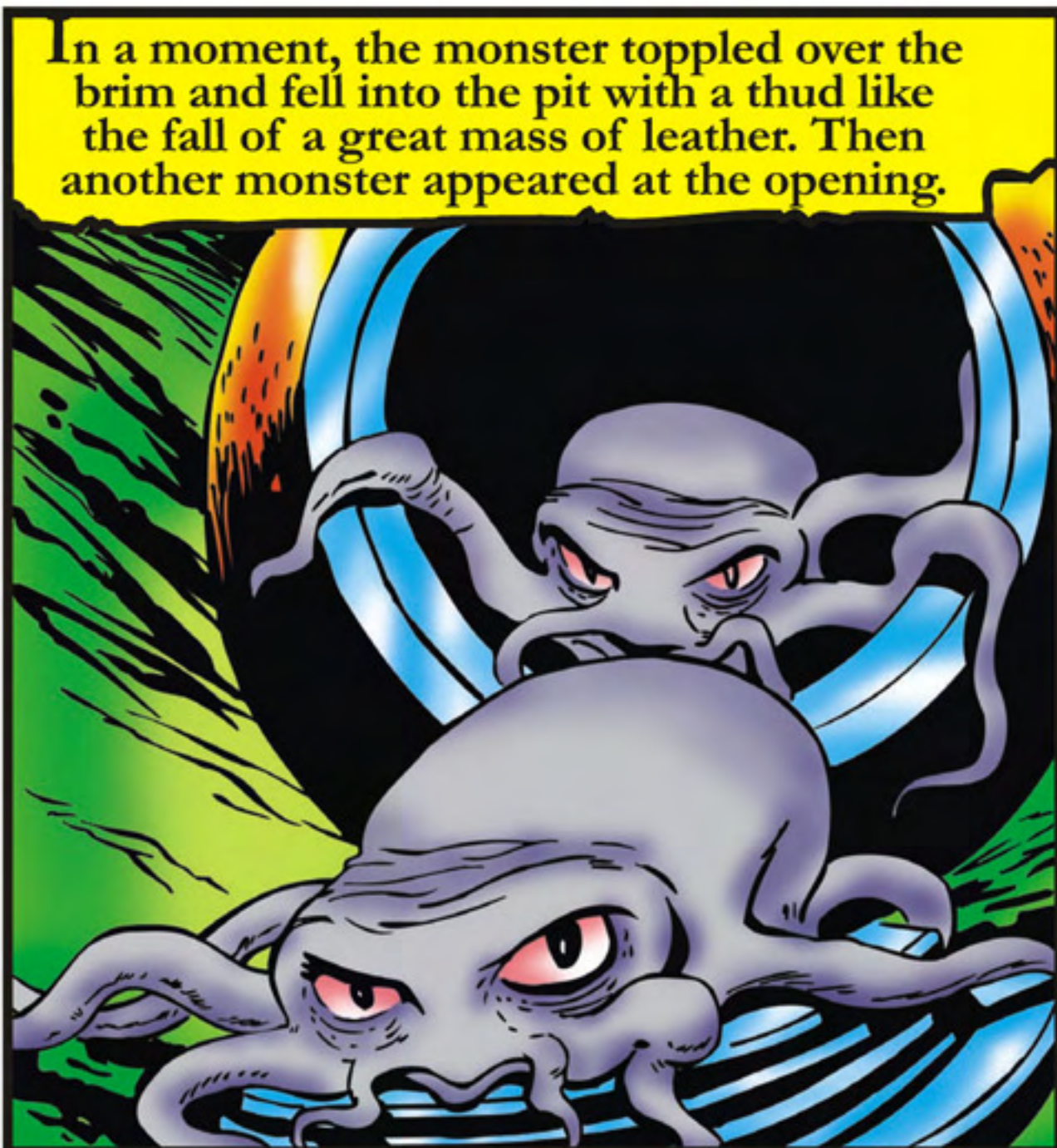




I stood petrified as more of the tentacles emerged.



A big grayish, rounded bulk was rising slowly and painfully out of the cylinder.



In a moment, the monster toppled over the brim and fell into the pit with a thud like the fall of a great mass of leather. Then another monster appeared at the opening.



I ran madly for the first group of trees I saw. Then I turned and watched.