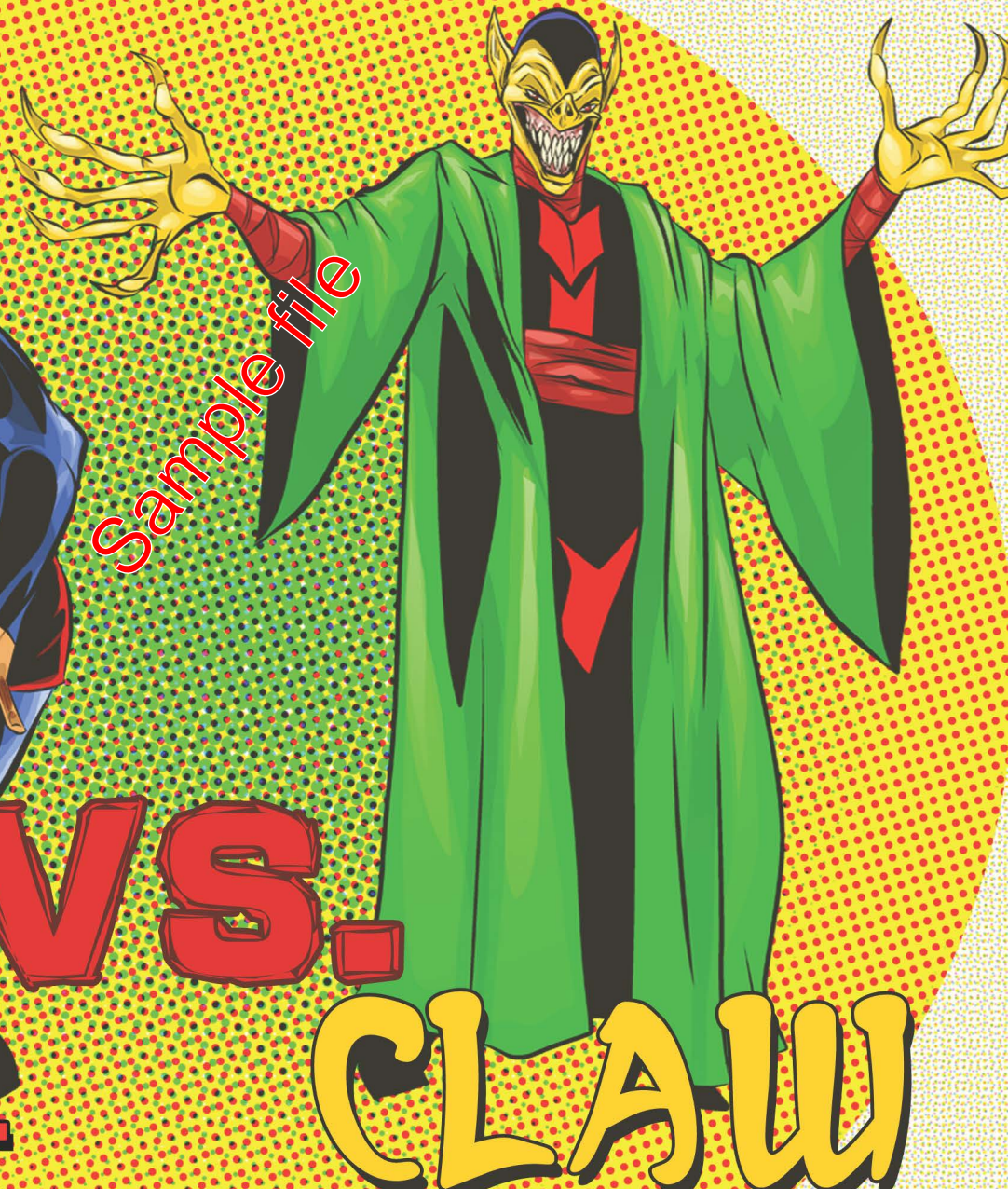


GOLDEN AGE THRILLING ACTION!



FEATURING:

\$1.00



Sample file

VS.

DAREDEVIL

CLAW



BY JOE BARDALES AND DAN HOUSER

GOLDEN AGE

THRILLING ACTION!

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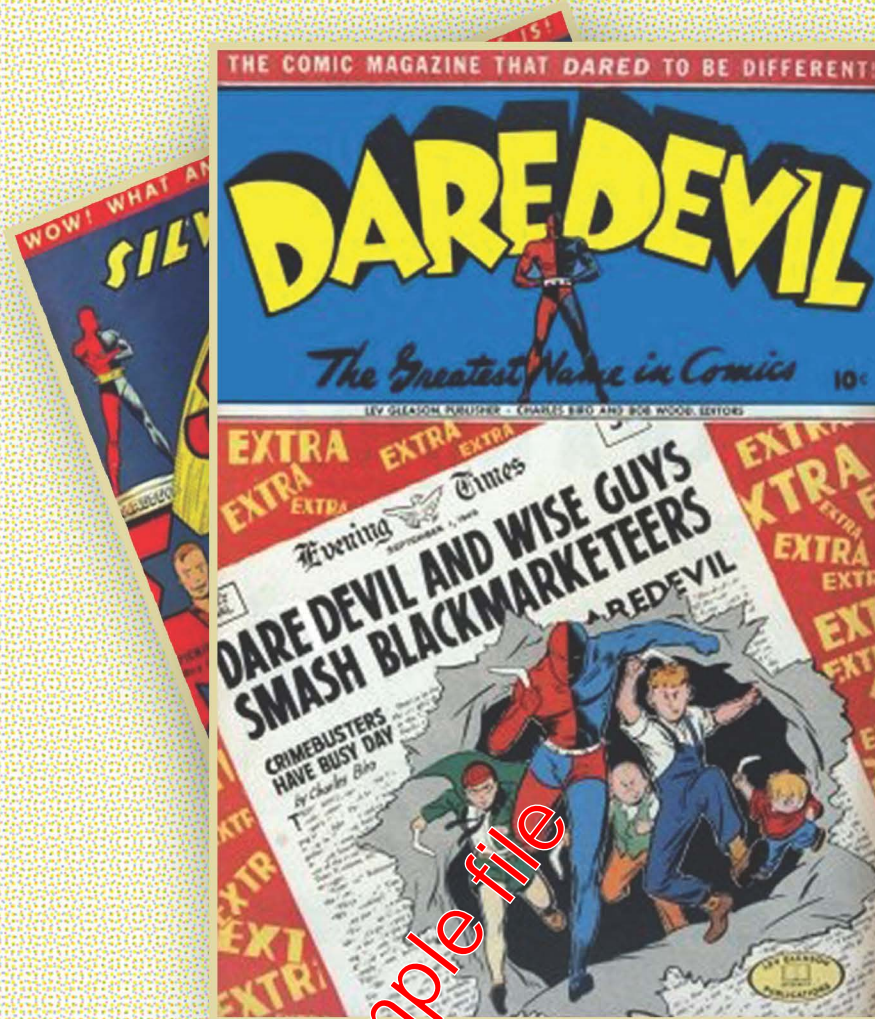
INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to Golden Age Thrilling Action! by Stark City Press. The second edition is going to carry a pair of brilliant bastions of the pulp era of superpowered derring-do! The amazing boomerang brandishing baron of bombast: Daredevil! And carrying on our tradition of macabre malevolence in matchmaking, we have the jaundice-jawed jasper, The Claw!

This is a supplement for the ICONS Superpowered Roleplaying game by Adamant Entertainment, and is designed as both an introduction to classic heroes from the Golden Age of comics, and as an aid to GMs who'd like to add some Golden Age flavor to their campaigns or just play a quick one on one battle with a friend over a single shot session.

Within these pages, you're going to see a hero and a villain come alive, along with their preferred battleground. In this issue, you've got Daredevil and The Claw, two men squaring off in the heart of The Claw's hidden SKULL MONASTERY!

This classic battle begins on the next page with a little background on the hero, Daredevil!



DAREDEVIL

In this installment of Golden Age Thrilling Action, we're going to take a look at Daredevil, an iconic Golden Age superhero now in the public domain from Lev Gleason Publications. Daredevil is interesting in that the origin story, background and look presented in his very first appearance (Silver Streak Comics #6) were changed and later re-written starting with his very next appearance. Initially, Daredevil was mute, the result of a childhood trauma at the hands of vicious criminals who murdered both his parents and tortured the young Bart Hill by branding a boomerang-shaped scar on his chest - a mark that led him to take up the study of his signature weapon later in life.

He also wore a two-toned costume of yellow and blue. In his second appearance, the colors of Daredevil's costume were changed to red and blue, and he also somehow regained the ability to speak (how and why was never explained). He did, however, retain his spiked belt and his definitive skill with the boomerang. Daredevil's origin story was officially retconned much later when he had his own comic book title (Daredevil Comics #18), and that is the version presented below. One other important thing came about from these early concept changes: Daredevil was firmly established as the leading opposition to Lev Gleason Publications' major super-villain, the Claw!

ORIGIN STORY

Bart Hill was the son of John Hill, a wealthy American who owned a lucrative gold mine in Australia that was managed by his stepbrother Edgar. When Edgar informed him that the mine had dried up and no new veins of gold ore could be found so he should sell it off immediately, John took his young wife Mary and infant son Bart with him to Australia to investigate further. In reality, Edgar made up the story because he wanted the highly profitable mine for himself, and when the young Hill family arrived in Australia, he decided to kill them off now instead to inherit the mine as the family's sole survivor. Edgar tricked a local tribe of aborigine pygmies into believing the Hills were evil spirits, and the tribe hunted them down and killed John first and then went after Mary, but not before she had hidden her infant son Bart in a tree trunk. Mary Hill went down firing, killing several pygmies before saving the last bullet for herself. The aborigine pygmy chief informed Edgar of John and Mary's death, but knew nothing of their infant son, so Edgar left to collect his inheritance, convinced that baby Bart would die in the jungle all alone.

Fortunately, the pygmy chief's father, who did not approve of his son's actions as leader, found Bart in the tree trunk his mother had hidden him in and took him back to the tribe. The chief took the boy from him to sacrifice as an evil spirit that prevented rain from falling by burning him alive. Just as the fire was lit, a heavy rain began to fall and extinguish the fire, and the aborigine pygmies took this as a sign that the child was blessed and decided to adopt him into their tribe. Bart grew up amongst the pygmies where he learned their ways as well as became extremely proficient with the boomerang. Eventually, the pygmy chief and Bart came into conflict, and Bart defeated him in a duel and became the tribe's new chief. Bart spared the life of the former chief, who then graciously handed over the symbol of his office, the two-toned red and blue porous rubber suit of the Daredevil! Bart later learned from the former chief's father about his Uncle Edgar who had stolen the family fortune, and went back to America to settle the score and reclaim his rightful inheritance. Now a wealthy young man living in America, Bart went on to high school and college, but took up the secret identity of the Daredevil to avenge his parents by dedicating himself to battling crime, corruption and evil.

During World War II, Daredevil was personally called upon by President Roosevelt and the United States Military for assistance, and he frequently came into direct conflict with the Führer himself, Adolf Hitler. Winston Churchill also called upon Daredevil in England's darkest hours, and during the course of the war, he often formed team-ups with other superheroes of the day such as Silver Streak, Lance Hale, Dickie Dean, Cloud Curtis and the Pirate Prince to thwart Hitler's plans and deliver crushing blows to the forces of the Axis Powers around the globe. But as evil as the Axis and its leaders were, they could barely hold a candle to his greatest arch-nemesis, the Claw!



DAREDEVIL