



BIG AND SCALY

Weekly Snippets

YOUR SPECULATIVE FICTION ROUNDUP

AUG 21 2023



Hey Friends -

Over the weekend I was thinking about the *Beginner's Mindset* idea. When you're a beginner in anything, your ego doesn't get in the way. You know you're just starting out and probably aren't very good, and that's okay because you're a beginner and you're there to learn.

You never feel bad about your inadequacies because, well, you're a beginner.

There are always going to be people who are smarter, faster, and stronger than we are. Having a *Beginner's Mindset* means that when we come across these people, rather than feeling inadequate, we smile at the opportunity to learn from them.

Have a great week!

Gus Prouty

This Weeks Insights



Return Of GORGO

We begin our trek through the original tales of Charlton's Gorgo with THE RETURN OF GORGO. Seems reasonable. Being an American company, published for an almost exclusively American audience it makes sense that a main goal of this issue is to reestablish Gorgo and his mother as primarily American threats. No more grey skies and tea for these monsters, principally because they are driven out by humanity electrifying the whole of the Irish sea.

But before we have time to contemplate the countless consequences of that plan, we are presented with a new problem. Gorgo and his mother's chosen sleeping spot is playing havoc with the Atlantic intercontinental phone cables. Enter Merryl Hyde, "one of the world's bravest men", to fix the world's phone problem. Inevitably he awakens Gorgo, discovers the kaiju has an aversion to smoke, and unintentionally leads the young monster back to New York City.

Ditko's art in this issue is excellent. While the deep green coloring isn't exactly screen accurate it works well, as does the gigantic tail and arms he chose to give Gorgo and his mom. This helps create a more unique profile for the monsters and set them apart from their inspirations like Godzilla. I also personally appreciate the character given to Gorgo and Orga; they are thinking creatures even if their thoughts are not known to anyone outside of the narrator.

From this point on the story basically rehashes the plot of the movie, only now set in New York. Gorgo gets captured by world's only competent man, Merryl Hyde, and Orga arrives to rescue her son. And then the president drops a nuke on Orga, because this is America and we have to show that we're better than Britain by demonstrating a

complete lack of self-preservation. But beyond the harrowing implications of this act, the fact that Orga walks out of it completely unscathed already makes this version of the character one of the toughest kaiju around. I mean Godzilla regularly tanks nukes, but most versions of him are born by and feed on radiation. Orga is just a really big prehistoric reptile.

Realizing their plans are not working, to put it mildly, and the big apple is currently resembling a broken Lego set, Merry! Hyde releases Gorgo and uses the previously established aversion to smoke to drive him and his mother back towards the sea. There they are shot full of “enough nerve drug to paralyze the nation” by an “atomic cannon” and fall into the Atlantic. The book ends on the question of whether the pair will ever wake again in our lifetime. Judging by the fact that there’s still 24 more issues my guess would be *YES !!*

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Thank you

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