

THE RED PERIL

"FREIGHTER No. 2 calling Discovery. Freighter No. 2 calling Discovery. For God's sake answer."

"Jet, that can't be Freighter No. 2. She's a million miles in front of us."

"You're right, Lemmy. But what else can it be?"

"I dunno, Jet, but there's something mighty funny going on around here."

BY that time we are dancing up and down yelling advice to the space adventurers to answer the Freighter, or wake up, or do something anyway just to end the suspense. But we forget that to them, this space adventuring is being done in a detached fashion, scientifically as well as physically. We are in a position to say, "I told you so," if someone walked into the space ship on fifteen tentacles, but then, we are conditioned to expect the worst, and the worst usually happens, especially on Mars.

"And so Man's first trip to Mars was over. But it marked only the beginning of Man's dealing with that fiery planet. The invasion of Earth did indeed begin two years later—thirteen years before it was intended—no doubt, after their plans had become known the Martians thought it best to strike immediately—and the first ships of the Martian invasion fleet landed in Asia on September 23, 1973. But that is another story."

With these ominous words, spoken by Doc Matthews, the last serial section of *Journey Into Space* came to a halt. Charles Chilton, writer and producer of the series, introducing the new serial *World in Peril* in the BBC *Radio Times*, gave what is essential to all serial-addicts—an outline of the story so far.

"Jet Morgan, you will remember, left the Moon for Mars with a fleet of nine space ships, in 1971, in which year the planet was closer to the Earth than it had been since 1956. The journey was to have taken two years; six months travelling to the planet, one year exploring its surface, and another six months in which to return. In fact, Jet and his ships, or what was left of them, were back on the Moon in little over a year.

"Neither Jet nor any members of his crew expected to find life on Mars—except, perhaps, a few simple forms of plants. How wrong they were. There's life up there all right. Mars is ruled by highly intelligent beings and inhabited by Earthmen, people who have been captured by the Martians who, apparently, visit the Earth periodically."

After two months on Mars, Jet had lost more of his ships and crews in brushes with Earthmen under Martian control, and had narrowly escaped, together with Lemmy and Mitch, the prospect of becoming a zombie under the invisible Martians' control.

In the new series, *World in Peril*, we take up the adventures of Jet, Lemmy, Doc, Mitch and the other survivors, at the point where they have just returned from Mars to the lunar rocketship base. Here they are detained for interrogation concerning their reports of a highly-developed form of life on the Red Planet, and their frightening discovery that a Martian invasion of the Earth is planned.

Some weeks later, after strange incidents have occurred on Earth, Jet Morgan and his crew leave under sealed orders for Mars to discover more about the peril that threatens Earth.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 17, 1956.



JET MORGAN and his crew: From left, Mitch (Stephen Mitchell), played by Don Sharp; Jet (Andrew Faulds), Lemmy Barnett (Alfie Bass) and Doc Matthews (Guy Kingsley Poynter)

In *The World in Peril*, Andrew Faulds again plays the captain, Jet Morgan, with Guy Kingsley Poynter as the Canadian, Doc Matthews. Stephen Mitchell (Mitch) is played by an Australian, Don Sharp, and the part of

Lemmy is now filled by Alfie Bass. David Jacobs is responsible for the voices of the other characters in the adventure.

The music, which plays an important part in creating the atmosphere and

mood of *Journey Into Space*, is composed and conducted by Van Phillips.

World in Peril, now running from 3YZ and 4YZ, will begin from the YA stations in the week beginning August 27. 1YA, August 31; 2YA, August 28 (repeated August 29); 3YA and 4YA, August 30.

VICTORIAN ROMANCE

THE GOLDEN BUTTERFLY, by Walter Besant and James Rice, first appeared in 1877 as a novel. It has now been adapted by Howard Agg for the BBC as a ten-part radio serial, and will be heard in the Main National Programme at 3.0 p.m. beginning Sunday, August 26. It has been produced by Val Gielgud and Audrey Cameron.

In many ways, *The Golden Butterfly* seems like a conventional late Victorian novel. There is the innocent and almost too-good-to-be-true heroine and the missing will; the selfish and marble-faced society beauty with a secret past; the eccentric American millionaire, and the poor, brave young hero. But however conventional the ingredients, Val Gielgud considers the treatment of this little-known novel to be both original and charming. He suggests that its survival is due to "the ingenuity of its construction and the originality and charm of its characterisation." It is a book, he says, containing the nicest balance of plot, humour and people.

The title of the serial relates to a treasured luck-bringer which an American oil-king keeps in a glass box bearing the inscription, "If this golden butterfly fall and break/Farewell the Luck of Gilead P. Beck." The oil-king (played by James McKechnie) is a magnanimous, egotistical fellow who dispenses his millions on an abortive humanitarian enterprise, and is invincibly

amiable in spite of all discomforts. Norman Shelley plays Joseph Jagenal, the lawyer who is guardian to the young heiress, Phillis Fleming (Prunella Scales); Godfrey Kenton and Jeffrey Segal play Joseph's two middle-aged, dilettante brothers, Humphrey and Cornelius; Barbara Couper is heard as the

wealthy socialite, Victoria Cassilis, who is to initiate Phillis into Society; and Mary O'Farrell is the charming and elderly Agatha L'Estrange. Roland Dunquerque, Phillis's young admirer, is played by Geoffrey Matthews.

If this tale of the wealthy heiress in the middle of changing guardians—a frenetic business when carried out according to Victorian rules—seems complicated, at least it does sort itself out before long.



JAMES McKECHNIE



VAL GIELGUD

BBC photographs