



"It's an eight man ship, and heavily armed," Tara declared. "We're lost. And if they ever discover these documents it will mean the end for the man in the Brotherhood, too. Stall them off, and I'll try to hide the papers."

"Do you think they'll destroy the ship?" asked Malo.

"I doubt it," Robin replied. "They'll probably hook up a magnetic grapple and take us in to the nearest patrol station. Of course, if we resist, they're likely to be more drastic. What shall we do?"

It was obvious that the Space Patrolman was becoming impatient, too, for he repeated harshly:

"This is Captain Malkin of the Space Patrol! Identify yourself at once, or I'll open fire."

Robin shrugged his shoulders. Tara loomed up alongside of him and said:

"All right, I've hidden the papers. Switch on the sending viewer."

**R**OBIN made the necessary adjustments. Tara knew that her features and those of her companions would be crystallizing on the view screen aboard the Space Patrol ship.

"This is Tara, Queen of

From the pocket of Tara's jacket there projected the important documents the trio had secured and which they must turn over to Haneesh. Suddenly there was a flickering of the finder button on the visiscreen and Robin signalled for silence as he said:

"It looks as though we've made contact with Haneesh. Stand by."

Robin adjusted the controls on the visiscreen until a clear figure loomed up before him. Then he started back as he saw that the face was unfamiliar. But there was no mistaking the helmet and insignia that were worn by the talker.

They were marked by a large SP.

"I'm Captain Malkin of the Space Patrol!" he announced. "Identify yourself."

Robin looked toward Tara and Malo as though expecting them to give him some help. The girl leaped to the porthole to look out and identify the patrol ship. As she did, it was obvious from the expression on her face that matters were serious.

**T**ARA and her two companions, Robin and Malo, were crawling along in their run-about space ship as they made their way back to the Phantom Haven of the Brotherhood of Space on their isolated site on the planet Venus. They had just carried out one of their important missions and were hoping that Haneesh, the head of the brotherhood, might have something else for them to do.

Robin was bending over the visiscreen, and looking for some sign that would tell him of the approach of the planet. He looked up at Tara and saw that the girl was practicing with her sword of the future. It was a tricky weapon that sent forth darts of light force as effective as any bolt of lightning that might be loosed by a Thor of the old Valhalla.

Malo was in the stern of the small space ship, flicking his long whip and snapping it against a metal projection that he had often used as a target for his practice swipes.

**The Pirate Queen Acts Swiftly in a Sudden Emergency!**

the Space Pirates," she announced. "I'm afraid we are in your power."

A shout of pleasure came across the void, and Captain Malkin said:

"What a catch! We'll be cited for this! We will stand by to come aboard. Our heavy guns will be trained upon you. If you give up without a struggle, I can promise you fair treatment."

Moments later there was a slight jar as the Space Patrol ship came alongside. The hatches were opened and the three space pirates were led into the larger patrol ship. Captain Malkin ordered the grapples adjusted so the pirate ship could be towed. Then he turned to greet his prisoners. Several of the space patrolmen studied the captives with interest. They had heard many stories of Tara and her cohorts. The young lieutenant who was second in command turned to the captain and asked: "Where shall we imprison them?"

Captain Malkin shook his head slowly. "It is not as easy as that," he said. "Tara and her two friends are too clever. If we put them in a cabin out of our sight it would not surprise me if they managed to tear away the side of the ship to make their escape. I have a foolproof method of keeping them captive."

"What is that, sir?"

"We will need two men to navigate the ship," the captain explained. "The rest of us will sit here in the wardroom with our prisoners in the center. I'm sure the conversation with them will be interesting and instructive. I've often waited for this chance. Search them for weapons and see that you do it carefully."

**T**HE lieutenant saluted. Then approaching Robin he went over his person carefully and relieved him of his sword of the future. He carefully placed this in a locker nearby. Male's whip joined the weapon Robin had carried. Tara surrendered her sword without argument. The lieutenant satisfied himself that there were no other arms on the trio.

Captain Malkin motioned them to seats, and the space patrolmen assigned to guard duty took their places in a circle. Tara answered their questions about her experiences in a calm and soothing voice. Then her fingers went to a round disc that hung at her belt. Malkin noticed it at once. The lieutenant reached for it and asked: "What is this?"

"Merely a filter," Tara replied. "I use it so that I may look into the sun without hurting my eyes." The lieutenant held it up and saw that it was a round disc of white metal about eight inches in diameter. There was nothing sinister about it. He handed it back to the girl. She placed it on the end of a gauntleted finger and began to spin it.

She talked on and Robin and Male contributed their own discussion to the conversation.

Suddenly Captain Malkin and his companions started nodding. The captain's head began falling forward. Apparently he did not notice that his companions were in the same condition.

The lieutenant tried to rise from his chair, but Tara turned to face him, the spinning disc whirling on her

fingers. The lieutenant settled back. The other space patrolmen were equally fascinated. "What's going on?" Male asked in surprise.

Tara turned to Robin and the space pirate and said "Secure the men. Do it quickly."

The space patrolmen put up no resistance, and it was only moments before they were securely bound. Tara and her companions then retrieved their weapons and headed for the space lock. Before they reached it, they made certain that the two men in the control and rocket rooms would not be able to interfere with their escape.

**S**AFELY back in the small space ship of their own, Tara checked to make sure that the hidden documents hadn't been located by the space police, and then said:

"Head for Venus, Robin. I'm sure Harneesh is waiting for us."

"Okay," replied Robin happily, "but I still don't understand just what happened."

"Hypnotism," laughed Tara. "They were all fascinated by the spinning disc. The spinning light captured their minds and they were receptive to my thoughts. They won't come out of it for quite a while, and by that time we'll be well beyond their location ray. The disc is the best method, but a good mirror will also work."

Male cracked his whip. He was proud of the weapon. But again Tara had proven that, with no weapon but her brains, she was more than a match for most men.

