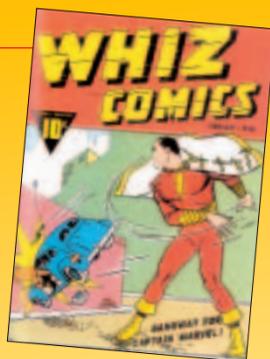


# CAPTAIN MARVEL

## THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL

**FIRST APPEARANCE** WHIZ COMICS #1 (February 1940)  
**STATUS** Hero **REAL NAME** William Joseph "Billy" Batson  
**OCCUPATION** Radio Personality; super hero  
**BASE** Fawcett City  
**HEIGHT** (as Billy) 5ft 4in; (as Captain Marvel) 6ft 2in  
**WEIGHT** (as Billy) 110 lbs; (as Captain Marvel) 215 lbs  
**EYES** Blue **HAIR** Black  
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**  
 Virtually invulnerable and able to fly; possesses the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Hercules, the stamina of Atlas, the power of Zeus, the courage of Achilles, and the speed of Mercury.

**WITHOUT A DOUBT**, Captain Marvel is the world's mightiest mortal, with strength and powers on a par with Superman. But unknown to many, this stalwart and virtuous super hero—by all appearances a middle-aged man—is really teenager Billy Batson. With one magic word, youthful Billy assumes the appearance and abilities of one of Earth's greatest and most respected heroes; however, he remains very much an innocent in heart and mind.



**ARRIVAL** *The Big Red Cheese* was Fawcett Comics' answer to Superman and, for a time, was just as popular as the Man of Steel.

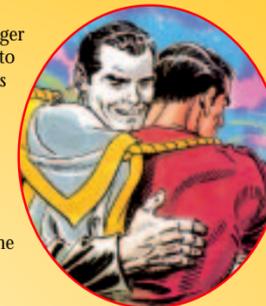


### MERCY FOR A MURDERER

Captain Marvel's very first adventure found him battling Black Adam, his parents' killer enabled with his own superpowers. Theo Adam channeled the strengths of Teth-Adam, a man empowered with similar abilities by Shazam during Egypt's 19th dynasty via an ancient scarab amulet first discovered by Billy's parents. Captain Marvel defeated Black Adam by removing his amulet, thus stripping him of his powers, at least for a while. Instead of allowing the helpless Theo Adam to die in a collapsing museum, the good-hearted Captain Marvel spared the life of the man who murdered his family.

### THE MARVEL FAMILY

Later, at the Rock of Eternity, Billy learned that the stranger who led him to Shazam was really his father. Billy chose to remain Captain Marvel and use Shazam's gifts for good, as well as to find his long-lost sister, MARY MARVEL. Eventually, Billy and Mary were reunited, and Captain Marvel decided to share his awesome abilities with her. He also gave some powers to their mutual friend, newsboy Freddy Freeman (see CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.), who had been crippled by the nefarious CAPTAIN NAZI. In the meantime, Captain Marvel became a member of the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, although Billy often felt inferior to his more confident super-heroic peers.



**ORPHANED** *For the sake of a jeweled scarab of untold power, Theo Adam murdered Billy's parents.*

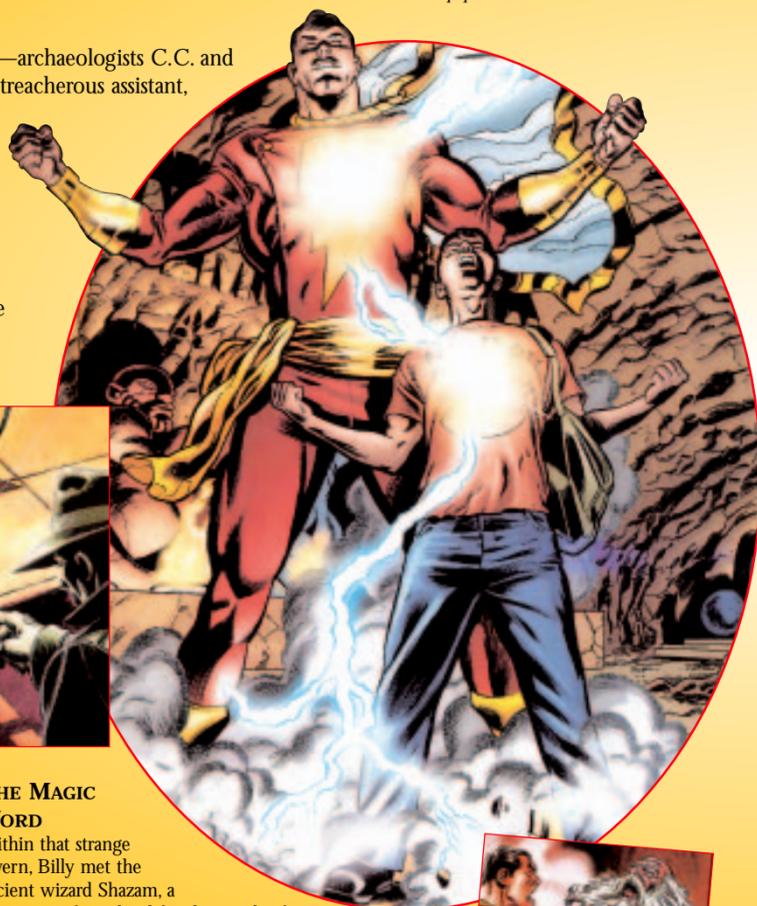
### HEADING

Left penniless and homeless, Billy eked out a sorrowful existence in Fawcett City as a newsboy. For shelter, he often slept in the subway terminals. One night, a mysterious stranger—later revealed to be the spirit of Billy's father, C.C. Batson—convinced the orphaned lad to follow him deep into the subway tunnels, where a marvelous train decorated in hieroglyphics and mystic runes awaited them. Billy and the stranger rode the train deep into the bowels of the Earth and arrived in a cavern that held statues epitomizing the Seven Deadly Enemies of Man: Pride, Envy, Lust, Hatred, Selfishness, Laziness, and Injustice.



### ORPHANED AND BETRAYED

When Billy was just a boy, his parents—archaeologists C.C. and Marilyn Batson—were killed by their treacherous assistant, Theo Adam (see BLACK ADAM), while on a dig at the tomb of Rameses II at Abu Simbel, Egypt. Billy was separated from his sister Mary and left in the care of their unscrupulous Uncle Ebenezer, C.C. Batson's half-brother. Unfortunately, Ebenezer threw Billy out and stole the youth's trust fund, money set aside for Billy's care and welfare.



### THE MAGIC WORD

Within that strange cavern, Billy met the ancient wizard Shazam, a champion of mankind for thousands of years. Withered with age, Shazam sat on a throne poised beneath a giant stone block suspended above him as if by magic. Shazam chose Billy to succeed him and granted the young orphan all of his extraordinary powers. By speaking the wizard's name, a lightning bolt transformed adolescent Billy into the adult Captain Marvel, a hero possessing the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Hercules, the stamina of Atlas, the power of Zeus, the courage of Achilles, and the speed of Mercury. With this great gift also came responsibility: he must vow to uphold the cause of good and to battle the Seven Deadly Enemies of Man, duties that Billy promised faithfully to fulfill every time he uttered the name "Shazam!"



**ANGRY AT FIRST** Billy was not sure if Shazam's great gifts were a blessing or a curse.

### DO THE RIGHT THING

Back home in Fawcett City, Billy returned to school and worked as an announcer for WHIZ radio. At the same time, Captain Marvel wielded Shazam's great powers to battle such evils as MISTER MIND, DOCTOR SIVANA, MISTER ATOM, and the MONSTER SOCIETY OF EVIL. Through it all, Captain Marvel fought with indefatigable spirit, perhaps the truest of any costumed champion. Captain Marvel's wholesome honesty and integrity made his spotless soul the prize most coveted by the demon NERON. However, Billy and his alter ego have always had the moral strength to resist temptation.



**RADIO STAR** Billy often reports on the deeds of Captain Marvel.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

A former member of the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Captain Marvel continues to keep the trust of the old wizard Shazam while he battles vice and villainy as only the world's mightiest mortal can. He guards over Fawcett City with the help of the extended Marvel Family and allies like BULLETMAN and Bulletgirl II (see BULLETGIRL I & II (WINDSHEAR)), the latter of whom has been romantically linked with Captain Marvel, known affectionately as "The Big Red Cheese." Many millennia from now—in the 853rd century, to be precise—Billy will assume the elder Shazam's role and choose a new Captain Marvel. But until that time, Billy Batson has a lot of growing up to do. SB

**ENEMY ALLIED** *Captain Marvel was forced to fight alongside his arch-foe Black Adam when both were members of the JSA.*



**ROCK OF ETERNITY** Billy will make his home on this distant rock spire, assuming the mantle of Shazam.

### KEY STORYLINES

- THE POWER OF SHAZAM (4/8, 1994): The legend of Captain Marvel is retold in this novel as Billy Batson is given great power by uttering one magic word: Shazam!
- UNDERWORLD UNLEASHED #1-3 (NOV.-DEC. 1995): The super-villains bargain with the devil Neron for greater powers, but the ultimate prize in this Mephistophelian epic is Captain Marvel's incorruptible soul.
- THE POWER OF SHAZAM #38-41 (MAY-AUG. 1998): The Big Red Cheese battles the Monster Society of Evil. He learns that the wicked worm, Mr. Mind, was first imprisoned on the planet Venus by Green Lantern Abin Sur.

