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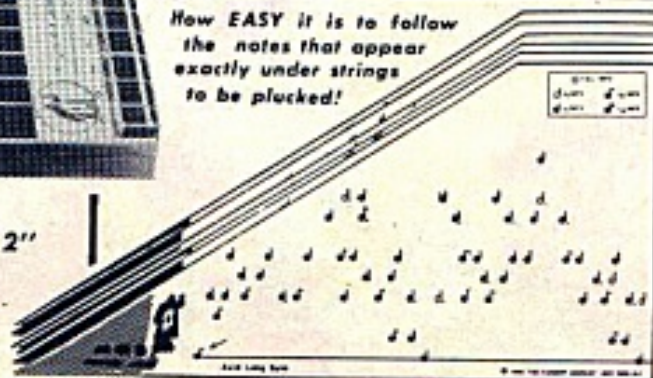
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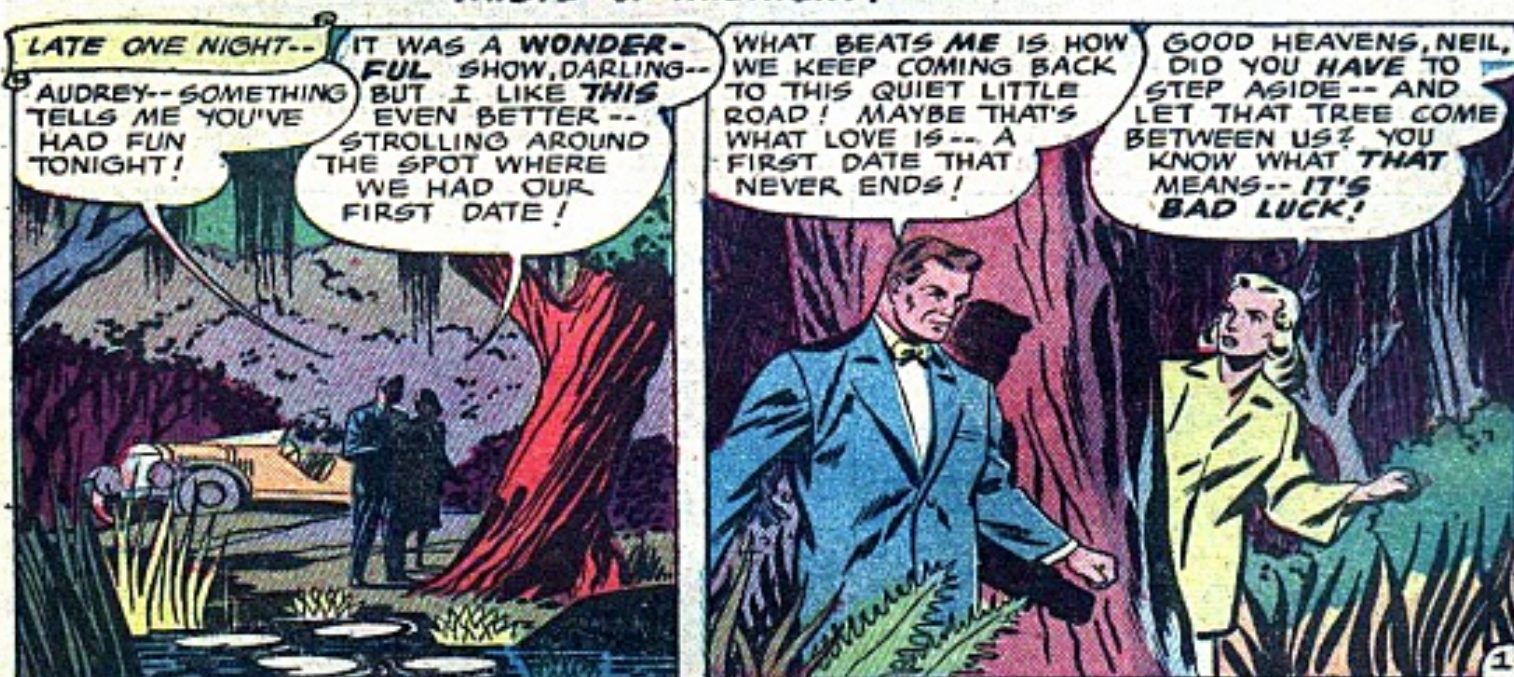
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# The MISTS of MIDNIGHT



The next time fog creeps over the countryside like a living shroud, peer into its restless depths-- and dare to speculate on what it hides! But first be sure you're in the right frame of mind-- because the hulking haze may hover toward you like an endless trap-- and enfold YOU among the victims of the **MISTS OF MIDNIGHT!**



LATE ONE NIGHT--

AUDREY-- SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'VE HAD FUN TONIGHT!

IT WAS A WONDERFUL SHOW, DARLING-- BUT I LIKE THIS EVEN BETTER-- STROLLING AROUND THE SPOT WHERE WE HAD OUR FIRST DATE!

WHAT BEATS ME IS HOW WE KEEP COMING BACK TO THIS QUIET LITTLE ROAD! MAYBE THAT'S WHAT LOVE IS-- A FIRST DATE THAT NEVER ENDS!

GOOD HEAVENS, NEIL, DID YOU HAVE TO STEP ASIDE-- AND LET THAT TREE COME BETWEEN US? YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS-- IT'S BAD LUCK!



IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A PRETTY TOUGH JINX TO ROCK OUR LITTLE DREAMBOAT! GOSH, HONEY-- I THOUGHT YOU GOT OVER THIS SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!

**NONSENSE?** I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE VERY FIRMLY IN THOSE THINGS -- AND I DON'T LIKE BEING RIDICULED!

LOOK, AUDREY-- NO MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN-- I DON'T SEE WHY IT SHOULD BECOME AN ISSUE!

DON'T WORRY-- IT WON'T! AND IF YOU DON'T MIND-- I'LL GO HOME BY MYSELF!

MINUTES LATER-- TOO LOST IN THOUGHT TO NOTICE THE STRANGE FOG CURLING OVER THE SILENT FIELDS--

MAYBE NEIL'S RIGHT ABOUT MY SUPERSTITIONS! IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO EXPECT BAD LUCK-- AND THEN BRING IT ABOUT WITH A QUARREL!



SUDDENLY--FROM THE THICKENING MIST--

**HELP! HELP!**

WHATEVER'S WRONG-- THERE'S SOMETHING QUEER ABOUT THAT VOICE! I KNOW IT'S CLOSE-- AND YET IT SOUNDS SO FAINT AND FAR AWAY!



THEN-- AS A GROPING SHAPE REARS FROM THE CLAMMY BILLOWS--

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHO ARE YOU?

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME! NO MATTER WHAT I LOOK LIKE, I'M ALIVE-- I'M HUMAN!



FOR JUST AN INSTANT-- AUDREY CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF THE WHITE, HAGGARD FACE PEERING FROM THE MIST--

THEY'RE COMING-- THEY'RE ALL AROUND US! GET ME AWAY FROM HERE-- DON'T LET THEM DRAG ME BACK INTO THE MISTS!



IN THE NEXT TERRIBLE MOMENT, THE WHITE EMPTINESS CHANGES INTO COWLED FIGURES-- HEMMING IN THEIR ANGUISHED VICTIM!

NO-- NO! NOT AGAIN-- NOT BACK THERE!







THEN-- IN A SHIFTING WAVE OF EVIL --

GOOD HEAVENS-- HE'S DISAPPEARING-- THE FOG'S SWALLOWING HIM UP!

AGHHH!

AND YET IT WASN'T FOG! THAT CREEPING VAPOR HARBORED THINGS-- ON THE TRAIL OF ESCAPING PREY!

BUT AN HOUR LATER--

I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN-- IT DIDN'T REALLY HAPPEN! IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED-- IT WAS JUST A HORRIBLE VISION CAUSED BY UPSET NERVES AFTER MY QUARREL WITH NEIL!

AT THAT MOMENT-- DEEP IN THE FORBIDDING HAZE--

UNTIL NOW-- NO ONE HAS GUESSED THE FATE OF THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE! BUT WHAT THIS GIRL SAW CAN BE DANGEROUS-- THERE ARE HUMANS VERSED IN THE SUPERNATURAL WHO CAN DESTROY US IF SHE IS PERMITTED TO TALK!

BUT SHE WON'T! WE WILL LURE HER TO THE ECTOSPHERE-- SHE WILL BE THE NEXT VICTIM TO YIELD TO THE LIFE FORCE THAT MEANS OUR SURVIVAL!

THAT WILL NOT BE EASY! ONE LOOK SHOWED THAT THE GIRL LEADS A FULL AND CONTENTED LIFE -- AND THE HUMANS WE PREY ON ARE THOSE SO LADEN WITH TROUBLES THAT THEY GROW UNWARY OF THE FORCES READY TO ENGULF THEM!

BUT SUPPOSE WE BLIGHT THE CONTENTED LIFE OF AUDREY CLARK? SUPPOSE SHE IS BURDENED WITH ALL THE MISFORTUNE WE CAN DEVISE-- WHAT COULD SAVE HER FROM THE ECTOSPHERE THEN?



NEXT DAY-- AT AUDREY'S HOME --

HONEY, LET'S FORGET ABOUT THOSE CREEPS YOU THINK YOU SAW IN THE FOG LAST NIGHT! YOU NEEDN'T GO THAT FAR TO GAIN MY SYMPATHY-- I'M AS ANXIOUS TO MAKE UP AS YOU ARE!

AND YET YOU'RE READY TO SHRUG OFF THE WHOLE STORY AS JUST ANOTHER SUPERSTITIOUS FANTASY! YES, I WAS JOLTED BY WHAT I SAW-- BUT WHAT REALLY TERRIFIES ME IS THE PROOF THAT IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED!

NEIL, THIS IS THE MAN WHO BEGGED ME TO HELP HIM-- THE MAN CLAIMED BY THE PHANTOMS OF THE MIST!

BABY, I KNOW YOU'RE CERTAIN ABOUT THIS-- BUT CAN'T YOU SEE WHERE SUCH THOUGHTS LEAD TO? OKAY, YOU'VE GOT PROOF-- YOU WERE TERRIFIED AND NERVE-WRACKED-- BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE YOU'LL STOP THINKING ABOUT IT!

NEIL-- I'LL TRY! MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING I'LL NEVER EXPERIENCE AGAIN-- SOMETHING I CAN DRIVE OUT OF MY HEAD BY THINKING OF YOU!



BUT THAT NIGHT-- A PROWLING SHAPE IS READY TO OPEN THE EVIL CAMPAIGN OF DOOM!

AUDREY CLARK MAY BE SAFE FROM THE ECTOSPHERE NOW-- BUT WAIT! FROM THIS HOUR ON-- HER BROODING WILL BE THE LURE THAT LEADS HER TO US!



AS THE COWLED FIGURE HOVERS THROUGH THE GLOOMY HUSH--

OH! IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS I SAW IN THE FOG!

I HAVE COME WITH A WARNING FROM THE BEYOND!



BEWARE-- BEWARE OF WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR YOU! YOU ARE FATED TO LOSE ALL YOU HAVE LOVED-- AND ALL YOU HAVE WORKED FOR!

AS THE SPECTRAL FORM FADES IN A GLOWING HAZE --

I'VE GOT TO PHONE NEIL! NOW HE WILL BELIEVE ME-- I CAN COUNT ON HIM-- HE'LL FIND A WAY TO HELP ME!







WHAT-- AGAIN? SWEETHEART, I THINK A PHONE CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS CARRYING THIS GHOST BUSINESS A LITTLE TOO FAR!

IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY AT A TIME WHEN I NEED YOUR PROTECTION MOST? ALL RIGHT, NEIL-- I WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN-- EVER!



I'M THROUGH WITH NEIL-- I'VE LOST ALL I LOVED! IF THE PHANTOM WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT-- WHAT ABOUT ALL I HAVE WORKED FOR? DOES THAT MEAN MY ADVERTISING JOB-- THE ONLY OTHER THING THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO ME?



NEXT DAY--

I KNOW I'M BEHIND SCHEDULE ON THIS LAYOUT, MR. FLETCHER-- BUT I'M STYMIED! I CAN'T CONCENTRATE!

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME, AUDREY-- IT'S AN IMPORTANT ACCOUNT!



HOURS LATER-- FRANTICALLY TRYING TO FORGET THE GNAWING TERROR OF THE PROPHECY--

OH, MURDER-- THERE GOES THE BOTTLE OF WHITE INK! IT'S RUINED EVERYTHING!



THEN--

OH!

GREAT SCOTT, AUDREY-- WHAT'S WRONG?

NEIL WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME-- AND I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO-- BUT THERE'S ONE OF THE THINGS I'VE SEEN FOR THE PAST TWO NIGHTS-- AS PLAINLY AS I SEE YOU!



WELL-- THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO GET THOSE LAYOUTS FINISHED NOW! BY TOMORROW MORNING WE'LL HAVE LOST OUR BIGGEST ACCOUNT-- AND I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHAT THAT MEANS!

MR. FLETCHER-- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? YOU NEEDN'T PULL ANY PUNCHES!



IT'S A TOUGH BREAK, KID-- BUT YOU JUST HAVEN'T HELD UP IN A PINCH-- WHEN WE NEEDED YOU MOST! AND IN THIS GAME--IT HAPPENS ONLY ONCE!

YOU'RE NOT SAYING WHAT YOU REALLY THINK-- THAT I'M NOT ONLY UNRELIABLE-- BUT VERY POSSIBLY HALF-CRACKED! BUT NEVER MIND-- YOU NEEDN'T FIRE ME -- I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!

BROKENLY, AUDREY WALKS AIMLESSLY THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS-- HER THOUGHTS SHADOWED BY A BLEAK CONVICTION--

NOW THAT I'VE LOST BOTH NEIL AND MY CAREER--THERE'S ONLY ONE CERTAINTY LEFT! I DID SEE THOSE PHANTOMS-- AND IT'S A PORTENT OF A DOOM I CAN'T ESCAPE!

AN HOUR LATER-- WITH STREAMERS OF FOG DRIFTING AMONG THE BARE TREES --

IT'S A STRANGE, HAZY NIGHT-- BUT WHY SHOULD I MIND -- WHEN IT MATCHES MY MOOD?



ORDINARILY, I'D SHRINK FROM THIS GREY, SHAPELESS MOTION AROUND ME-- BUT NOW I KNOW THAT FEAR IS A LUXURY-- FELT ONLY BY PEOPLE WITH SOMETHING TO LOSE!

SLOWLY, THE MISTS OF MIDNIGHT THICKEN AROUND THE SOLITARY FIGURE-- AND THE MUFFLED SILENCE IS BROKEN BY WEIRD LAUGHTER-- RISING AND FADING IN THE CLAMMY PALL!



WITH MOUNTING DREAD--

I-- I DON'T LIKE THIS! I'VE GOT THE FEELING THAT EACH STEP IS TAKING ME TOWARD SOMETHING FROM WHICH THERE'S NO RETURN-- AS COLD AND CLINGING AS DEATH ITSELF!

THEN, AS THE FOG LOOMS CLOSER-- AND ITS HOVERING DEPTHS EDDY INTO COWLED AND CACKLING FORMS --

ROAD-- TREES -- EVERYTHING'S BLOTTED OUT! THERE'S NOWHERE TO TURN-- I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM!





FROM ALL SIDES-- SOUNDLESS AND STARING-- THE PHANTOMS MOVE TOWARD AUDREY IN A CHILL WHITE WAVE--

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING-- NOTHING BUT THEM! NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MAN THE OTHER NIGHT! I'M BEING CAUGHT IN THE MISTS-- FOREVER!



DON'T STRUGGLE-- YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE HALF-DEATH OF THE ECTOSPHERE! WHY SHOULD YOU-- WHAT HAS THE WORLD TO OFFER YOU?

AND WHAT CAN YOU OFFER ME? YOU'RE EVIL-- EVERYTHING IN ME SENSES IT AND SHRINKS FROM IT!



THERE ARE NO THOUGHTS IN THE ECTOSPHERE! ALL THAT IS GONE AND ALL THAT IS LOST WILL NEVER MATTER AGAIN!

YOU WILL FORGET IN OUR QUIET GREY WORLD! THERE WILL BE NO DAYS AND NO NIGHTS-- NOTHING BUT A HUSHED ETERNITY!

TO FORGET... THEN I WOULDN'T MIND ANY MORE-- THERE'D BE NO GRIEF-- NO LONELY BROODING!

THAT IS THE WAY IT WILL BE IN THE ECTOSPHERE! IT'S WHAT YOU WANT-- COME WITH US!

SUDDENLY, THE HUDDLED FIGURES ARE TOUCHED BY FAINT POINTS OF TWINKLING LIGHT-- AND A WEIRD AMBER GLOW FILTERS THROUGH THE VEIL OF TERROR--

WHAT DOES THAT FLASH MEAN? NOW THAT I'VE BEEN LULLED INTO A FEELING OF SAFETY-- WILL I HAVE TO FACE A NEW OUTBURST OF HORROR?



I HEAR A VOICE! IT'S NOT LIKE YOURS-- IT'S HUMAN!

NO-- YOU HEAR NOTHING! IT IS ONLY AN ECHO OF WHAT YOU HAVE LOST-- A MEMORY THAT WILL DIE OUT AS WE APPROACH THE ECTOSPHERE!



THEN-- THROUGH THE FOG-STREAKED GLOOM--









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# POSTSCRIPT to DEATH

**S**YLVIA SUDDENLY FOUND herself running breathlessly towards the house. She had a strange feeling that something terrible had happened, and she prayed fervently that her husband was all right.

When she got to the house, she flung open the front door and called out with a desperate intensity, "John...John!" But there was no answer. Fearfully, she began a tour of the rooms, which seemed to be overcast with the hush of death. The conviction struck her that John had died, and she was about to burst into grieving tears, when she heard the sound of a car pulling up in front of the house.

Looking through the window, Sylvia uttered a heartfelt cry of relief as she saw her husband get out of the car. But...what was he doing in a funeral car...and why was he wearing those dismal mourning clothes? Had any of their relatives or friends died? Why hadn't John told *her* about it?

She raced to the door, a thousand questions on her lips. But they were all unasked, as she saw the stark lines of tragedy etched into her husband's face. There was something lifeless about him, as if all emotions had been drained from him, as if he were no more than a hollow shell from which all life and spirit had fled. Frightened, Sylvia shrank back into the shadows of the hallway, wondering whether this was actually the laughing John she'd always known.

As he swept by her with unseeing eyes, she stretched out a timid hand to touch him. But he went up the stairs as if he'd felt nothing at all. Was this a horrible nightmare she was having? Desperately, Sylvia pinched her arm

with all her strength, feeling the sharp pain as her long nails dug into the soft flesh...and the bright red mark her fingers had made told her that this was no dream, but awful reality.

Slowly she followed John up the stairs, watched him enter her room with the stiff tread of the sleepwalker. She stood in the doorway as he opened one of her closets and stared at her clothes. Suddenly he was on his knees, his hands clutching at her dresses, crying.

For a moment, Sylvia stood there in stunned astonishment, dumbly thinking that this was the first time she had ever seen him weep. But then she ran towards him with outstretched arms, her heart wracked by his sobs.

"John, John! What's wrong?" she cried, dropping to her knees beside him and enfolding him in her arms. "Tell me what's the matter, darling. Let me help you!"

John didn't seem to have heard her. Instead, he clenched his fists and cried out, "Why...why did it have to happen to *her*?"

His face now raised, he was staring up at the ceiling. Sylvia bent over him, looking right into his pain-filled eyes that gazed right through her, as if she weren't even there. "John!" Sylvia cried, terror growing in her heart. "Talk to me...look at me!"

"He can't, my dear," a quiet voice said behind her. "The living can't see the dead. Come, you have many years to wait until he can talk to you."

Sylvia whirled, and gasped at the sight of her mother, who had died years before. Slowly, Sylvia advanced to take her mother's outstretched hand, aware of the truth at last.



# The LEAGUE of VAMPIRES



THERE ARE NIGHTS WHEN A CHILL WIND SENDS DEAD LEAVES DANCING AGAINST THE LAST STREAKS OF SUNSET--WHEN A DARTING BLACK FORM SKIMS THROUGH THE WHISPERING TREES! AND ON SUCH A NIGHT, IT'S EASY TO BELIEVE THAT A FACE WILL APPEAR AT THE FROSTY WINDOW--A FACE WITH BEADY EYES AND FANGS THAT WARN OF EVIL--A FACE THAT CAN SUMMON THE FLAPPING LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES!

ONE NIGHT--AT THE HOME OF NANCY LEWIS--

WITH ALL THE PAPERS REPORTING MY ENGAGEMENT TO ROY, IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO REALIZE THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS KEEP HIM ISOLATED--TOO BUSY TO SEE EVEN ME! BUT LONELY AS I AM, I CAN'T INTERRUPT HIS WORK--NOT AT A TIME WHEN HE'S TURNING EVERYONE ELSE AWAY FROM HIS LABORATORY!



UNEXPECTEDLY--

THAT'S STRANGE!  
WHAT COULD ANYONE  
WANT AT THIS HOUR?











**A HALF-HOUR LATER--**

WE'RE HERE! HAVE YOU ANY OTHER COMMANDS?

TAKE ME INSIDE-- I CAN DO THE REST!



**NANCY!** GOSH--FOR A MOMENT I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

PLEASE DON'T BE CROSS WITH ME, ROY--I JUST **HAD** TO SEE YOU!



YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER TIME, HONEY! I'VE JUST COMPLETED A RESEARCH-PROJECT THAT WILL GIVE WORLD AGRICULTURE THE THING IT NEEDS MOST--**A PERFECT SOIL!**

I'VE LEARNED THAT MUCH ALREADY--BY FLUTTERING OUTSIDE THE LOCKED WINDOWS! YES, IT'S A PERFECT SOIL--**FOR VAMPIRES!**



AT ONE TIME, NANCY, THE WORLD WAS AMAZINGLY FERTILE--AND THE ENTIRE GLOBE HAD JUST ONE TYPE OF SOIL! WIND, EROSION, AND OTHER FACTORS CHANGED ALL THAT--BUT I'VE MIXED TOGETHER ONE-POUND SAMPLES OF SOIL FROM FIFTY DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD! THE BLEND IN THIS BOX IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL SOIL THAT ONCE COVERED THE EARTH--AND ANALYSIS

SHOWS IT CAN BE MASS PRODUCED BY ARTIFICIAL MEANS!



HONEY, I WAS TOO EXCITED TO NOTICE IT BEFORE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE IN YOUR MANNER--**IT ISN'T NATURAL!**

I--I CAN'T EXPLAIN! YOU SEEM SO FAR AWAY-- JUST AS IF THERE WAS NOTHING HERE BUT MYSELF--**AND THOSE EYES!**



**AS ROY FOLLOWS NANCY'S BENUMBED STARE--**

GREAT GUNS--WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU SAY THIS BOX WILL HELP THE WORLD OF HUMANS--BUT IT CAN MEAN MUCH MORE TO THE WORLD OF **VAMPIRES!**



**THEN--WITH EYES GLINTING LIKE POOLS OF MIDNIGHT--**

UNTIL NOW, WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO **UNITE--** BECAUSE EACH OF US MUST RETURN BY DAWN TO A GRAVE IN OUR **NATIVE SOIL!** BUT WITH THIS BOX CONTAINING SOIL FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WE CAN FORM A **LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES--** CARRYING IT WITH US WHEREVER WE SEEK OUR VICTIMS--AND HIDING IN IT AS **BATS** AT THE FIRST STREAKS OF SUNRISE!



FOR AN INSTANT, ROY IS CHECKED BY THE MURKY HOLD OF THE STARING EYES--STIFLING HIS RESISTANCE IN WAVES OF EVIL!



NOW I KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH NANCY! SHE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST THIS FIEND--BUT I'VE GOT TO!

PHEN-- THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME IF YOU START SLUGGING BACK, CREEP--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DROP THE BOX FIRST!



DO YOU THINK I NEED TO WASTE MY STRENGTH ON A MERE HUMAN? VAMPIRES-- COME FORTH!

IN THE NEXT SECOND--

ROY! IT'S JUST AS IF I'VE BEEN SLEEPWALKING THROUGH A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE-- BUT THAT BLOW SNAPPED ME OUT OF IT!

YE GODS, LOOK--COMING THROUGH THE DOOR!



WITH A HURLING IMPACT--



ROY! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DEFIED HIM--NOT A CREATURE LIKE THAT!

CAN YOU SEE NOW WHY I WANTED THIS BOX OF EARTH, DR. CARLSON?



IT WILL BE A HAVEN--A GATHERING PLACE--FOR DOZENS OF VAMPIRES NOW SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD! THANKS TO YOU, WE NEED NO LONGER BE CONTENT WITH RANDOM VICTIMS--NOW THERE WILL NOT BE A SLEEPER ANYWHERE WHO CANNOT BE REACHED BY THE LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES!





AS A CHILL, TAUNTING LAUGH RIPPLES THROUGH THE DARKNESS--



HA HA HA!

GREAT GUNS --HE'S SPROUTING IMMENSE BAT WINGS!

THEN--WITH HIS BLACK DEMONS WHEELING AROUND HIM--



BE CAREFUL, DR. CARLSON! REMEMBER THIS NIGHT--AND REMEMBER THE LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES!



DARLING, I WOULD RATHER HAVE BEEN A VICTIM MYSELF THAN HELP THAT FIEND--BUT IT'S JUST AS IF I HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A MERE MACHINE--MANIPULATED BY THOSE HIDEOUS, STARING EYES!

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, NANCY--I'M GLAD YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE UNHARMED! BUT WHEN I THINK OF THE UNBRIDLED TERROR THAT LIES AHEAD--WITH FLOCKS OF FLUTTERING DEMONS CONVERGING ON A SINGLE DISTRICT--THERE'S JUST ONE THING TO DO! I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT BOX!



THREE DAYS PASS--MARKED BY THE LOOMING SHADOW OF IMPENDING TERROR!

IT'S NO USE, SWEETHEART --THE PAPERS DON'T CARRY SO MUCH AS A HINT AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THOSE VAMPIRES!

MAYBE IT'S A MISTAKE TO TRY TO DO ANYTHING ALONE, ROY! CONSIDERING THE GRISLY HORROR THOSE CREATURES CAN WREAK --WE'VE GOT TO CALL ON THE POLICE FOR HELP!



NATURALLY, I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT --BUT DON'T YOU SEE THE VAMPIRES WILL REALLY HIDE ONCE THEY GET WIND OF AN ORGANIZED SEARCH? ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE COULD ONLY TRICK THEM INTO THINKING WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE--IT MIGHT GET RESULTS!



HONEY--I'VE GOT IT! THE VAMPIRE LEADER NEVER ACTUALLY RELEASED YOU FROM THAT HYPNOTIC SPELL--AND AS FAR AS HE KNOWS--YOUR MIND IS STILL UNDER HIS CONTROL!

THANK HEAVEN. IT ISN'T--BUT WHAT'S THE TIE-UP?



IT'S JUST A SHOT IN THE DARK, BUT I'M GOING TO SEE MY FRIEND STAN ADAMS--OVER AT THE FEDERAL BROADCASTING STUDIOS! HE'S GOING TO SEND OUT A NEWS FLASH--THE FANTASTIC KIND THAT FEW PEOPLE WILL TAKE SERIOUSLY--EXCEPT THE VAMPIRES!



THAT NIGHT--NEARING THE  
END OF A GRIM JOURNEY FROM  
THE ENDS OF THE WORLD--



'MY SUMMONS HAS BEEN ANSWERED--THEY'RE COMING FROM EVERYWHERE! SUNRISE WILL FIND THEM ALL SAFELY INSIDE THE BOX--AND BY TOMORROW NIGHT--THE LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES WILL BE READY FOR ITS FIRST WAVE OF TERROR!



IT ISN'T LIKELY ANYONE NOTICED THE BATS MAKING THEIR WAY HERE--BUT I'LL TUNE IN ON THE LATE NEWS BULLETINS JUST TO PLAY SAFE!



FOLKS, THIS IS STAN ADAMS--WITH A LOCAL ITEM PROVING HOW WHACKY SOME PEOPLE CAN GET! A GIRL NAMED NANCY LEWIS CLAIMS SHE WAS HYPNOTIZED BY A LUNATIC WHO THINKS HE'S A VAMPIRE! WHAT'S MORE, SHE CLAIMS SHE'S STILL SUBJECT TO HIS WILL--AND SHE'S READY TO LEAD VICTIMS TO THE VAMPIRE'S LAIR!

PEOPLE MAY REALLY THINK NANCY LEWIS IS CRAZY--BUT THE POLICE AREN'T THAT EASILY FOOLED! ONCE THEY GET WIND OF THIS, THEY'LL KNOW SHE'S REALLY HYPNOTIZED--AND SHE'LL BE LEADING THEM HERE!



GET NANCY LEWIS!  
THERE'S ONE WAY TO END  
THIS DANGEROUS  
HYPNOTIC STATE--  
DEATH!



AN HOUR LATER--OUTSIDE NANCY'S HOME--

THEY'LL PROBABLY RETURN TO THEIR HIDING PLACE WHEN THEY FIND I'M NOT INSIDE--BUT WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO, ROY? WE CAN'T POSSIBLY FOLLOW THEM!

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT, HONEY-- BUT THEY'RE GOING TO GUIDE US AS EFFECTIVELY AS A MAP! WATCH!





**A** MOMENT LATER--AS THE BATS CIRCLE AWAY FROM THE HOUSE--

I'M NOT SORRY TO SEE THEM GO, ROY-- BUT I'M *STILL* PUZZLED ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!

THESE THREADS CAUGHT ON THE BATS' WINGS, JUST AS I EXPECTED --AND THEY WERE TREATED WITH A **RADIOACTIVE SOLUTION** STRONG ENOUGH TO REGISTER ON THIS EXTRA-SENSITIVE DETECTOR! IT MAY TAKE TIME--BUT THE DEVICE WILL HUM LOUDER AND LOUDER AS WE APPROACH THE VAMPIRES' RETREAT!



**T**HROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, NANCY AND ROY FOLLOW THE TELLTALE HUM ALONG LONELY BACK ROADS--AND FINALLY--

THE DETECTOR SIGNAL HAS REACHED ITS MAXIMUM PITCH, NANCY! NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT--**THIS IS THE PLACE!**



**THE LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES!** WHO'D EVER DREAM THAT SO MUCH HIDEOUS, FLAPPING EVIL COULD BE GATHERED UNDER ONE ROOF?

WAIT--I CAN'T LET YOU FACE THOSE FIENDS A **SECOND** TIME! I'M NOT SURE YET OF HOW MUCH I'LL BE ABLE TO DO--BUT I'VE GOT TO MEET THE PROBLEM **ALONE!**



**AT** THAT INSTANT--IN ONE OF THE MURKY CHAMBERS OF HORROR--

THAT'S STRANGE...THE BATS WOULDN'T FLUTTER RESTLESSLY WITHOUT A REASON--CAN IT BE THAT THEY SENSE THE PRESENCE OF **PREY!**



**AHH--**THIS EXPLAINS THAT RADIO BULLETIN--**THEY'VE TRIED TO TRICK ME!** BUT NOW THE TABLES WILL BE TURNED--**NOW THEY WILL LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE UNDER A VAMPIRE'S SPELL!**



**SECONDS LATER--**AS THE RUSH OF IMMENSE WINGS CUTS THROUGH THE BLACK SILENCE--

ALL RIGHT, ROY! I HATE TO SEE YOU RUN THE RISKS **ALONE--**BUT I'LL WAIT IN THE CAR!

I WISH YOU **HAD,** BABY--BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW! **HERE HE COMES!**



**WHEN--**WITH A FIXED AND LUMINOUS STARE--

THOSE EYES AGAIN! ROY --CAN YOU FEEL IT?

GOOD LORD--IT'S A NUMBING WAVE OF EVIL--**I CAN'T FIGHT IT OFF!**







**YARD BY YARD**  
--THE VAMPIRE'S VICTIMS STAGGER HELPLESSLY TOWARD THE PORTALS OF DOOM!

**HA HA!** YOU TWO LONGED TO FIND THE HIDING-PLACE OF EVIL--I WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR PREY--AND NOW WE'LL ALL BE SATISFIED!



THERE'S NO NEED WAITING UNTIL **TOMORROW** NIGHT TO SEARCH FOR VICTIMS! TONIGHT THE VICTIMS HAVE COME TO US!

I CAN'T GIVE UP LIKE THIS! I'VE GOT TO SUMMON EVERY IOTA OF WILL POWER --AND RESIST!

**A**5 THE FLUTTERING WINGS BEAT CLOSER--



NANCY--DON'T YOU SEE THEM? **NO--NO--I CAN'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU!**

**D**ESPERATELY--ROY FIGHTS OFF THE PARALYZING CLUTCH OF THE VAMPIRE'S WILL!



WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS--I KNOW **ONE** THING THAT WILL DRAW THEM AWAY FROM NANCY!



**THE BOX!** MAY ALL THE BLACK CURSES OF PERDITION BE ON HIS HEAD--STOP HIM!



MAYBE YOU FLITTING FIENDS CAN STOP ME--BUT EVERY MINUTE COUNTS--AND I'M READY TO FIGHT RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST SECOND!

**WHAM!**





THIS IS *ONE* WAY TO GET MYSELF CORNERED--BUT AS LONG AS THEY'RE AFTER *ME*--NANCY WILL BE SAFE!



BODILY INJURY DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO CREEPS LIKE THESE--IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF HOW LONG I CAN KEEP THEM CHECKED!



**WHEN--IN AN UNEXPECTED SWOOP--**

FOOL--HOW OFTEN CAN YOU DODGE?

THAT WAS CLOSE ENOUGH! BUT THE FACT THAT I SPOTTED THE VAMPIRE JUST IN TIME PROVES IT'S GETTING LIGHTER--IT'S WITHIN A FEW MINUTES OF DAWN!

WE'LL COME AT YOU FROM ALL SIDES--WE'LL WEAR YOU OUT!

**AS THE VAMPIRE CIRCLES FOR ANOTHER DIVE--**



HOLY SMOKE-- I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!

POW!



MAYBE I'M DONE FOR--BUT THEY'RE NOT GETTING THIS!



**ON THE NEXT INSTANT--**

CRASH!





THIS TIME HE WON'T DODGE! FOLLOW ME, VAMPIRES--FOR THE FINAL POUNCE!

YOU'D BETTER MAKE IT A QUICK ONE, CREEP! THE EARTH THAT SHELTERS YOU IS SCATTERED FOR YARDS--AND YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO GATHER IT TOGETHER!



THE BOX--HE DRAGGED IT DOWN WITH HIM! GET THE SOIL--FAST--FAST!



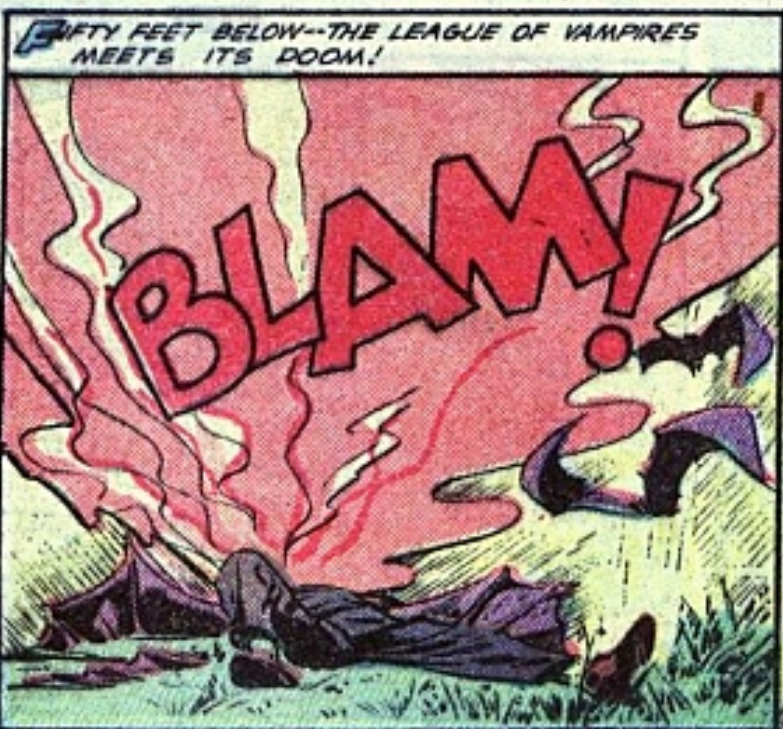
TAKE A LOOK AT THE HORIZON, BUD! WHAT DO YOU SEE--WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THAT BURST OF LIGHT...IT'S THE SUN--IT'S DAWN!



THEN--IN AN UNCHECKED PLUNGE--

WE'RE TRAPPED--DAYLIGHT HAS CAUGHT US WITHOUT A REFUGE! YAAAGH!



FIFTY FEET BELOW--THE LEAGUE OF VAMPIRES MEETS ITS DOOM!

**BLAM!**



THAT FINISHES 'EM, NANCY! THOSE WINGS THAT RUSTLED AT MIDNIGHT--THE EVIL SPELL THAT CLAIMED THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS--THEY'VE VANISHED FOREVER!

NOW THAT THEY'RE GONE, DARLING--MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET YOU UNDER A LITTLE SPELL OF MY OWN!

*The End.*



# Extra! GOOD NEWS!

## "ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!"

...NOW PUBLISHED **MONTHLY!**



YOU'VE BESEECH'D US, BOMBARD'ED US WITH REQUESTS TO PUBLISH MORE FREQUENTLY... AND NOW WE'VE DONE IT! YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BUY AMERICA'S FAVORITE MAGAZINE OF THE SUPERNATURAL EVERY MONTH NOW--WHICH MEANS TWICE AS MUCH GOOD READING! TWICE AS MANY THRILLS AND CHILLS FROM THE CHALLENGING COMICS MAGAZINE THAT'S TAKEN AMERICA BY STORM! TWICE AS MANY GASPS FROM A GRIP-PING GALAXY OF GHOSTS, VAMPIRES, WEREWOLVES, ZOMBIES...PRESENTED EACH MONTH FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT!

Read THIS GREAT MAGAZINE FOR OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD WONDERS SUCH AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN... FOR A THRILL-TIME EXPERIENCE YOU'LL REMEMBER FOREVER! IT'S ALL IN---

## 'ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!'

Now PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

**10¢** ON ALL STANDS





# From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

**G**REETINGS, READERS! This is an important meeting between us---since it marks the second issue of "Forbidden Worlds". Which means that many of you have had the opportunity of reading our first number---and seeing exactly what it was that we were trying to bring you. For the benefit of newcomers, we're going to repeat that aim. What we plan for every issue is to bring you the breathtaking forbidden worlds of the supernatural---of the great *Unknown*. We'll touch on forbidden knowledge, and lay bare the secret mysteries of the occult. And we're going to do this through bringing you a constant succession of truly outstanding stories---strange and challenging stories---the products of the best in research, art and writing. That's our pledge to you---and it's a pledge we're going to keep! We feel that our first issue served to launch us far along our chosen path---if reader reaction is any criterion! For letters have been pouring in---and they've been letters that have warmed our hearts. Yes, it seems that you like what we've done---and want more of the same!

■ To you from us, then, this current issue---in which we've tried to follow your expressed desires by featuring a lineup of tense, gripping tales that'll leave you calling for more! Take our opening story, "Mists of Midnight", for instance. We'll wager you've never read anything

like *this* one! For suspenseful gasps---for out-of-this-world chills---it's tops! "League of Vampires" sheds a new and eerie light on the ancient vampire legend, and it will fascinate you! Then there's "Dead Man's Doom", for our money one of the weirdest, most spine-tingling yarns ever to come across an editor's desk. "True Witches of History" packs a novel punch and reveals some surprising facts, as does "True Ghost Tales", wherein you're sure to enjoy meeting "The Boy Who Talked With Spirits"! Lastly, you're sure to enjoy the intriguing "Magic Coin"---your passport to a brand new world!

Beginning next issue, we plan to feature as many letters from our readers as space will allow. You'll be able to learn what others think---and they'll get your viewpoint, too! As a step in this direction, we urge you to write to us, telling what you think of our stories---what you like or don't like---what you'd like to see us carry in future issues. Address your mail to:

The Editor  
"FORBIDDEN WORLDS"  
45 West 45 Street  
New York 19, N.Y.

We'll be waiting for your letter! Remember, it's a date for our next issue---and meanwhile, don't fail to read our companion magazine---"Adventures Into The Unknown"!



# DEAD MAN'S DOOM



YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE OF CORPSES THAT RISE TO METE OUT JUSTICE... OF VENGEFUL SPIRITS WHOSE MIDNIGHT VISITS ARE MARKED BY STRANGLERED CRIES FROM BEHIND LOCKED DOORS! BUT NO HORROR CAN SURPASS THE BLACK SHAPE THAT ANSWERED THE WILD SUMMONS OF A CORNERED KILLER...THE DARK AND DRIPPING WRECKER OF THE DEAD MAN'S DOOM!

IF FATE IS A WITNESS TO HUMAN DEEDS...AND MANY PEOPLE THINK IT IS...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING HERE TONIGHT...IN THE GLOOMY SEANCE CHAMBER OF PHANTO, THE SPIRITUALIST!







EVERYTHING O.K., PHANTO? ANYONE IN THERE WITH YOU?

YOU NEEDN'T FEAR THE SPIRITS I SUMMON, MY FRIEND! ENTER AND BE AT EASE—THEY ARE READY TO HELP YOU!



HERE'S YOUR FEE, PHANTO—BUT I WANT MORE DEFINITE RESULTS THAN LAST TIME, SEE? I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR ME—AND I WANT IT IN BLACK AND WHITE!

AND TONIGHT YOU WILL KNOW! TONIGHT THE POWERS OF THE UNKNOWN WILL APPEAR TO YOU—AND SPEAK!

BIT BY BIT, THE LIGHTS FADE—AND AS THE VISITOR'S EYES STRAIN IN THE DEEPENING DARKNESS—



OUT OF THE TOMB AND OUT OF THE BIER—GHOSTS OF THE FUTURE—GATHER HERE!

Then—as a distant throb creeps along the muffled walls—



I SEE 'EM—BUT THAT NOISE—IT'S GETTING LOUDER!

WOOO-OO!

LOUDER—AND LOUDER—LIKE A WAIL FROM A STRICKEN GRAVEYARD!



PHANTO—THE LIGHTS! THEY'RE COMING—THEY'RE AFTER ME!

WOOO-OO!

GET AWAY FROM THE SWITCH! THE SPIRITS WON'T HURT YOU—AS LONG AS THEY'RE IN DARKNESS!

KEEP BACK! DO YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF THEM?



POW!



Then—in a sudden flood of light—

JUST AN AUTOMOBILE GIREN—AND SOME PIECES OF PHOSPHORESCENT GAUZE LOWERED FROM OPENINGS IN THE CEILING! YOU SIDE-SHOW PHONY!



I GOT MY MONEY THE HARD WAY, PHANTO... AND I WANT BACK EVERY DOLLAR! FORK IT OVER!

YOU THINK I'LL GIVE IT UP THAT EASILY... AT GUN-POINT? WATCH—LOOK AT MY EYES—AND SEE HOW FAR YOU GET!



AGAIN, THE DARKNESS SEEMS TO FALL IN SLOW, HEAVING WAVES—AND PHANTO'S GLINTING STARE BECOMES AN ENORMITY THAT FILLS THE ROOM!

SOMETHING'S HIT ME! I CAN'T THINK—I CAN'T MOVE!



YOU THINK A FEW TRICKS DON'T RATE THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS YOU GAVE ME, EN? BUT I'M READY TO DO MORE FOR THE MONEY—MUCH MORE—INCLUDING MURDER!



YES...IF FATE WERE WATCHING...THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR CRUDE DEVICES LIKE FLOATING GAUZE! THERE WOULD BE HORROR ENOUGH IN ITS LURKING SHAPE...IN THE LOW CHUCKLE THAT FORESAW THE DEAD MAN'S DOOM!



PHANTO—GIVE ME A BREAK! I WON'T TELL A SOUL WHO PLUGGED ME—YOU CAN KEEP THE MONEY—BUT GET ME TO A DOCTOR!

DO YOU EXPECT A SWINDLER LIKE ME TO TAKE ANYBODY'S WORD? AH, NO... YOU'RE FINISHED!



WE THINK OF HORROR IN TERMS OF GHOSTS...BUT WHAT TERROR COULD MATCH THIS MIDNIGHT SCENE—A HUMAN FIEND WITH A HUMAN BURDEN?

PHANTO—I'LL DO ANYTHING! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... DON'T KILL ME!

AT LEAST IT WON'T BE WITH A GUN! AFTER YEARS OF DABBING IN BLACK MAGIC—I HAVE A TASTE FOR THE HORRIBLE!







PHANTO---I WARN YOU! YOU'LL REGRET IT---RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST SECOND OF YOUR LIFE!

THIS IS WHAT I HAVE IN MIND --- SOFT, STIFLING TAR!



DO YOU THINK YOU SCARE ME? WHAT WILL I HAVE TO FEAR--- FROM A DEAD MAN?

AAAGH!



THAT'S MY LAST GLIMPSE OF YOU! WHOEVER YOU WERE--- THANKS FOR THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!



AS THE WIND RISES---FLINGING A DARK VEIL OF CLOUDS ACROSS THE MOON---

IT'S A STRANGE, FORBIDDING NIGHT--- BUT THERE'S NOTHING ON MY CONSCIENCE! THAT STRANGER WANTED TO KNOW HIS FUTURE--- AND HE LEARNED IT!



MINUTES LATER---

HA-HA---A THREAT FROM A DEAD MAN! I'LL LAUGH ABOUT THAT ONE--- WHILE I'M SPENDING HIS MONEY!



Then...SUDDEN AS A THUNDERCLAP---

FOOTPRINTS ---BLACK ONES!



YES, TAR--- BUT THERE'S NOTHING ON MY SHOES! HOW DID THOSE TRACKS GET HERE--- WHO LEFT THEM?





I MUSTN'T LOSE MY HEAD! THERE MUST BE **SOME** EXPLANATION... HE **COULDN'T** HAVE FOLLOWED ME...HE'S A **DEAD MAN!**



**MINUTES LATER...**

IT'S JUST NERVES...THAT'S ALL! EVEN AT THIS HOUR, THERE'LL BE **PEOPLE** DOWNTOWN... THERE'LL BE RESTAURANTS WHERE I CAN GET A GOOD DINNER TO PICK ME UP!



THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! LET'S SEE A DEAD MAN LEAVE HIS STICKY FOOT-PRINTS **HERE**...IN A PLACE THROINGING WITH LIFE!

**POLICE CLOSING IN ON BANK ROBBERY KILLER**

SHINE



**AND SO PHANTO JOINS THE THINNING CROWDS... ONCE MORE BEARING A BURDEN... THE INVISIBLE CURSE OF A MIND SADDLED WITH FEAR!**

HE **CAN'T** BE TRAILING ME... WHY DO I KEEP LOOKING AROUND? AND NO WONDER I'M LIGHT-HEADED...I HAVEN'T EATEN!

**RESIST!**



AH...LOBSTER! SORRY I'M YOUR ONLY CUSTOMER, WAITER... I'LL NEED SOME TIME TO HANDLE **THIS!**

QUITE ALL RIGHT, SIR! THERE'S JUST ONE THING I'D LIKE TO KNOW...



...CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THE DEAD MAN BY YOURSELF?

**DEAD MAN! HERE?**

**CRASH!**

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NO...I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM! BLACK... DRIPPING... HE DID FOLLOW ME!



WHAT IN BLAZES HAPPENED TO HIM...IS HE NUTS?

YOU TELL ME! I BROUGHT HIM A LOBSTER AND WONDERED IF HE COULD REMOVE THE DEAD MAN...YOU KNOW, THE INEDIBLE PART THAT'S SO HARD TO GET OUT OF THE SHELL...AND HE WENT COMPLETELY HAYWIRE!

SOON AFTERWARD...ALONG A LONELY ROAD OVERLOOKING THE MOURNING SEA...



I CAN'T GIVE WAY LIKE THIS...IT'S JUST A STATE OF MIND! A DEAD MAN IN A RESTAURANT...A DEAD MAN IN A BARREL OF TAR...IT'S CRAZY!



THOSE FISHERMEN HAVE JUST BROUGHT IN THEIR NIGHT'S CATCH...AND A QUIET CHAT WITH THEM WILL SOOTHE MY NERVES! THOSE FELLOWS LIKE ME... THEY THINK I'M SOME KIND OF SCHOLAR!



EVENING, PHANTO! WE'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO INTEREST YOU!

HE'LL KNOW WHAT IT IS! PHANTO'S SEEN THIS BEFORE!



YAAAGH! WHAT'S THAT?

GOSH, PHANTO...DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE IT? IT'S A DEAD MAN'S FINGERS!





DEAD MAN...DEAD MAN! I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM!



BY GEORGE...THAT BEATS EVERYTHING!

SURE DOES! IMAGINE BEING SCARED BY SEAWEED...JUST BECAUSE IT HAS A SPOOKY NAME!



THE FROWNING ROCKS...WITH FEAR TIGHTENING AROUND HIM LIKE A CLAMMY NET...

HE MAY BE CLOSING IN...BUT I KNOW HOW TO GET THE BEST OF HIM! YOU DEAD MAN WITH YOUR BLACK STICKY CORPSE...SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST WHAT I CAN CONJURE UP!



IF EVER I HAVE KNOWN EVIL...LET IT TAKE SHAPE NOW! COME FORTH, ENCRUSTED WITH HORROR...AND BE THE DEAD MAN'S DOOM!



THE DARKNESS ROLLS IN LIKE A SILENT SEA...AND FROM ITS BROODING FALL...

MY SUMMONS HAS BEEN ANSWERED...IT'S COMING! YOU'RE BEATEN, DEAD MAN...YOU'LL NEVER GET ME...WITH THAT AROUND!



SHAPELESS...GUMMY WITH A STRANGE AND GLISTENING JET...

THE FEND I EXPECTED SHOULD BE BLACK...THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK IT'S TAR! IT'S EVIL...THAT'S WHAT I ASKED FOR...THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!



THEN...AS THE WIND SWEEPS UP A NEWSPAPER THROWN ASIDE BY A LATE FERRY PASSENGER...

AM I DREAMING...OR DID I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING FAMILIAR IN THAT HEADLINE?



HOLDUP KILLER! YE GODS, HE'S THE ONE I  
KILLED---HE'S THE DEAD MAN I'VE BEEN  
FLEEING---



...AND HE'S THE  
EVIL I  
SUMMONED!



THEN...WITH A YELL THAT IS SMOTHERED IN THE TARRY DARKNESS...



FOR JUST A SECOND, PHANTO GROPE ABOVE THE  
THICK, CLINGING BLACKNESS THAT ENGULFS HIM---  
AND THEN SINKS, A DARK AND WRITHING FORM,  
INTO THE DEAD MAN'S FINGERS THAT CHOKE THE MOON-  
LIT TIDE!



YES, FATE WAS DEFINITELY  
WATCHING---FATE COULD HAVE  
EXPLAINED THE FOOTPRINTS  
IN PHANTO'S CHAMBER! THEY  
WERE LEFT BY THE POLICE  
---THE POLICE WHO WERE  
TRAILING PHANTO'S MURDER-  
OUS VICTIM ---THE POLICE  
WHO HAD WALKED ALONG  
THE NEWLY-TARRED ROAD!  
BUT IF FATE COULD TALK,  
THERE WAS NO ONE TO  
LISTEN---THERE WAS NOTH-  
ING BUT THE RIPPLING BLACK  
SEAWEED---PRESSING LIKE  
STICKY HANDS AGAINST THE  
PITCHING CORPSE!

THE END!  
8



# "TRUE" WITCHES of HISTORY

KATE, the WITCH, vs. ANDREW JACKSON

THE MOST CELEBRATED WITCH IN AMERICAN HISTORY WAS THE ONE THAT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE APPEARED BEFORE ANDREW JACKSON IN 1821! GENERAL JACKSON HIMSELF, THE GREAT DUELLIST, STATESMAN, AND HERO OF THE WAR OF 1812, ACTUALLY VOUCHERED FOR THIS EXPERIENCE!



IT ALL STARTED IN 1817, AT THE HOME OF JOHN BELL, THE RICHEST FARMER IN ROBERTSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE---AND THE WARM FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF ANDREW JACKSON! ONE EVENING, WHILE BETSY BELL WAS BEING COURTED BY JOSH GARDINER, HER FIANCÉ, A HARSH, THREATENING VOICE SPOKE FROM OUT OF NOWHERE---

BETSY BELL, DON'T MARRY JOSH GARDINER!

OH! WHO... WHO'S THERE... WHERE ARE YOU?



I'M KATE, THE WITCH... AND I'M RIGHT HERE! ONCE I WAS HAPPY, JUST LIKE YOU, UNTIL I CAME UNDER AN EVIL SPELL! AND NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE UNHAPPY, JUST LIKE ME!

NO... DON'T... DON'T BEWITCH ME! I WON'T MARRY JOSH--- I'LL GIVE HIM BACK HIS RING!



BUT THE VENGEFUL WITCH REFUSED TO LET BETSY ALONE---AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, WOULD TORTURE THE POOR GIRL UNMERCIFULLY!

OH, STOP... PLEASE STOP!

GREAT HEAVENS! SOMETHING'S STRIKING HER... BUT WHAT?



THE IMPRINT OF A SUPERNATURAL HAND WAS CLEAR ON THE GIRL'S FACE--- BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THERE! HER GOLDEN HAIR WAS RENDÉD---

HA-HA-HA!





WHEN JOHN BELL CALLED IN SOME TRUSTED NEIGHBORS TO ASK THEIR ADVICE, THE WITCH REACTED IN ANWFUL RAGE... AND PANDEMONIUM ENGUE!



PEOPLE FLOCKED TO VIEW THE UN-CANNY GOINGS-ON, UNTIL THE ENTIRE COUNTY KNEW ABOUT THE WITCH THAT WAS PLAGUING THE BELL HOUSE-HOLD! BUT WHEN TOO MANY CURIOSITY-SEEKERS BEGAN POURING INTO THE HOUSE, THE WITCH TURNED ON THEM!



FINALLY, IN 1821, THE NEWS OF HIS FRIEND'S TROUBLE REACHED ANDREW JACKSON AT THE HERMITAGE, NEAR NASHVILLE... BUT THE HARD-HEADED, REALISTIC GENERAL REFUSED TO BELIEVE WHAT HE'D HEARD!

I'VE KNOWN JOHN BELL ALL MY LIFE... THERE NEVER WAS A GAMER MAN! BUT HE MUST HAVE GONE CRAZY IF HE SAYS A WITCH IS HAUNTING HIS HOUSE!

BUT ANDREW, DOZENS OF PEOPLE HAVE SEEN HER... THEY CAN'T ALL HAVE GONE MAD!

WELL, RACHEL, THIS WITCH CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN THE INDIANS AND POLITICIANS AND BRITISH I'VE FACED! I THINK I'LL GO SEE HER FOR MYSELF!

IF YOU DO, ANDREW, YOU'D BETTER TAKE ALONG THAT FAMOUS WITCH-DESTROYER WHO LIVES NEAR THE RIVER! HE'S GOT SILVER BULLETS IN HIS GUN, AND IF HE GETS TO USE THEM ON THAT CREATURE, SHE'LL VANISH FOR GOOD!

UPON HIS WIFE'S INSISTENCE, JACKSON TOOK THE "WITCH-DESTROYER" ALONG TWO DAYS LATER ON THE TRIP TO ROBERTSON COUNTY! THE RIDE WAS UNEVENTFUL UNTIL THE GENERAL'S COACH NEARED THE BELL HOME...

WHAT'S WRONG, DRIVER... WHY AREN'T WE MOVING?

I... I DON'T KNOW, GENERAL... THE HORSES ARE STRAINING, BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO STIR! AND THERE'S NO MUD FOR US TO BE STUCK IN... THERE'S SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THIS!

JACKSON ORDERED HIS FOLLOWERS TO PUT THEIR SHOULDERS TO THE WHEEL AND TRY TO MOVE THE COACH...

WE... WE CAN'T BUDGE IT!

IT'S INCREDIBLE... THAT WITCH MUST'VE PUT A HEX ON THE COACH!

THAT'S RIGHT, GENERAL... BUT NOW I'LL TAKE THE HEX OFF!

AS THE COACH SUDDENLY LURCHED FORWARD...

SEE YOU AGAIN TONIGHT, GENERAL!



**A**T THE BELL HOME, JACKSON BEGAN THE VIGIL OF WAITING FOR THE WITCH... AND HE SOON BECAME ANNOYED AT THE WITCH-DESTROYER'S BOASTING...



THIS PISTOL'S NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO MISFIRE... AND MY SILVER BULLETS HAVE KILLED OVER A DOZEN OF THE OLD HAGS! AND WHEN THIS ONE APPEARS, I'LL...



I THINK YOU'LL RUN! THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE TALKING SO MUCH IS TO KEEP UP YOUR COURAGE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, GENERAL... HE IS A COWARD!

**THE WITCH!**

YES, HERE I AM... SHOOT, COWARD!

THE... THE GUN WON'T FIRE!



**T**HE WITCH-DESTROYER PULLED THE TRIGGER AGAIN, AND WHEN IT FAILED TO FIRE THIS TIME...



NOW IT'S MY TURN!

NO, NO... LET ME OUT OF HERE!

**HAW-HAW-HAW!** I KNEW HE WAS A COWARD!

**J**ACKSON WANTED TO STAY ON AT THE BELL HOUSEHOLD, TO CONTINUE HIS INVESTIGATIONS OF THE WITCH, BUT WAS UNFORTUNATELY CALLED AWAY ON URGENT OFFICIAL BUSINESS...



GOODBYE, JOHN... THANKS FOR ENTERTAINING ME WITH THE WITCH! SHE GAVE ME THE BEST LAUGH I'VE HAD IN YEARS... AND WAS THE FUNNIEST-LOOKING THING I'VE EVER SEEN!

LAUGH AT ME, WILL HE? I'LL FIX HIM... THROUGH HIS FRIEND!

**A**S SOON AS JACKSON LEFT...



YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, JOHN BELL... VERY SOON!

**B**ELL BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL, AND NOTHING THE DOCTORS DID SEEMED TO HELP HIM! ONE DAY...



ALL YOUR MEDICINES ARE USELESS... I GAVE HIM MY MEDICINE! HE'LL NEVER GET UP FROM THAT BED AGAIN!

**T**HE WITCH'S PROPHECY CAME TRUE... AND WHEN JOHN BELL DIED, SHE LEFT WITH THE PROMISE THAT SHE WOULD BE BACK IN SEVEN YEARS, WHEN SHE WOULD VISIT EVERY HOUSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! THIS SHE DID IN FEBRUARY, 1828... AND THEN DISAPPEARED FOREVER! LEGEND... OR FACT?





# Strange STAIRCASE

**Y**IIPE! Billy began to run as he heard the terrified yelp of his dog. When he reached the front door of his house, his heart sank, for his stepfather was brutally kicking Roger.

"Keep that mutt out of my way," his stepfather roared, shaking his fist at Billy, "or I'll slit his throat one o' these days!"

The screen door slammed, and Billy gathered the trembling Roger into his arms. "Easy, boy, easy," Billy murmured. "I know just how you feel. He kicks *me* every now and then, too! C'mon, we'll go down to your favorite romping place. Maybe finding a field-mouse in the barn will help you forget that kick."

By the time they got near the barn, Roger was his usual frisky self. Watching the dog race ahead, Billy thought sadly, "Golly, if only Roger and me could *always* be happy. If...if only we could go someplace where we were never kicked or beaten, where everyone was kind and..."

Roger's sudden outburst of excited barking from the barn interrupted Billy's reverie, and he dashed inside. "What's wrong, Roger?" he asked as he entered the barn. "Oh, there's someone here!"

The little man grinned up at Billy. "Don't be afraid," he said in a high, squeaky voice. "I'm just the repair man. I fix troubles and staircases. Right now, I'm putting the finishing touches on this new staircase I built up to the barn's attic."

But Billy couldn't tear his eyes away from the little man to look at the new staircase. "I...I'm not afraid of you. Why, you're even smaller than me, even though you've got a long, white beard. Are you an elf? Why do you wear those funny clothes? Who asked you to build a new staircase? Why..."

The strange little man cackled with

glee. "You're not afraid, and you're curious. Good! And I see your dog is just like you...*he's* already climbing up the stairs. Go on, Billy...follow him up!"

Billy hesitated, watching Roger scamper up the strange-looking staircase that hadn't been there before. And a moment later, *Roger* wasn't there!

"He...he just disappeared!" Billy gasped. "He went up to the top step... and *vanished!*"

"Heh, heh. Sure, he's in *my* world now," the little man said. "And it's the kind of world *you* said you wanted, Billy...a place where everyone is always kind and happy and wise. Go on up. Your new friends are waiting for you. You'll love it up there. But hurry, I've got other calls to make."

Billy stared at the little man, eager to believe that such a world could actually exist, but still doubtful. Excited barking from the staircase made him look up again, and he saw Roger materialize from nothingness on the top step. The dog bounded down the stairs, and began tugging at Billy's overalls, urging him to follow.

"He...he's acting just like he does when he wants to show me something new or wonderful," Billy said.

"Well, it's not so new," the little man said, "but it *is* wonderful, more wonderful than all the fairy tales you ever read. Follow him up and take a peek at it. If you don't like it, you can come right on down."

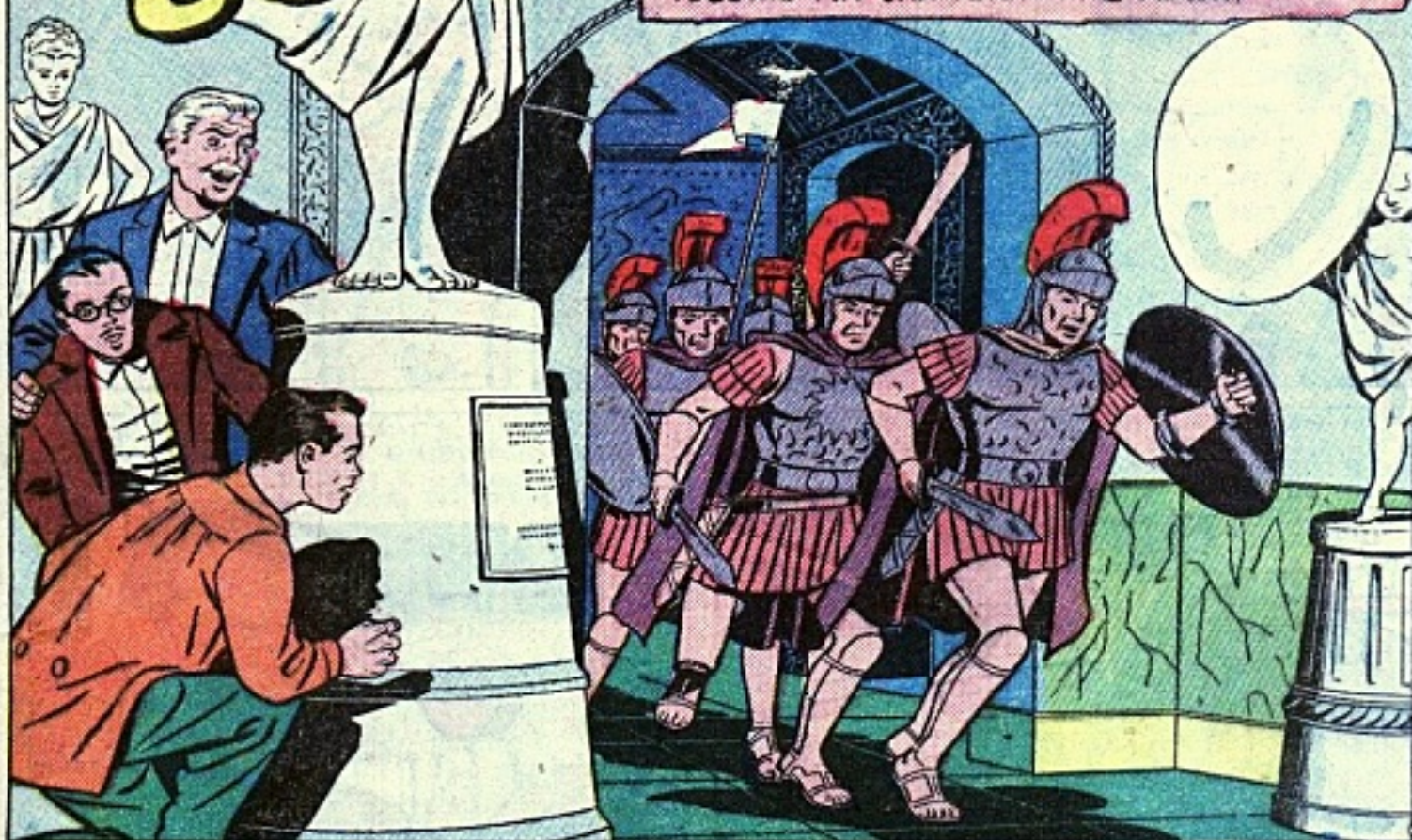
Quickly Billy followed Roger up the strange staircase. From below, the little man smilingly watched Billy's head disappear. Then he heard the boy say delightedly, "*Gollee!* Wait for me, Roger...I'm coming!"

When Billy had completely disappeared, the strange little man began dismantling his strange staircase. Moments later, he was on his way, looking for more troubles to repair.



# The MAGIC COIN

MYSTERY SURROUNDED THE STAID OLD COSMOPOLITAN MUSEUM-- FOR FROM WITHIN ITS GREY WALLS, THE RENOWNED ARCHEOLOGIST, DR. AMOS BROWN, HAD VANISHED! IN VAIN, POLICE INVESTIGATORS HAD QUESTIONED AND SEARCHED! THE CASE SEEMED HOPELESS UNTIL DR. BROWN'S YOUNG ASSISTANT, KEN HAVERS, HUNTING DOGGEDLY FOR A CLUE, STUMBLED ON THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY -- A KEY WHICH BROUGHT THE PAST AND PRESENT TOGETHER IN ONE TERRIFYING FLASH!



WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST, MR. HAVERS? IT'S WAY PAST CLOSING TIME -- AND USELESS TO SEARCH ANY MORE!



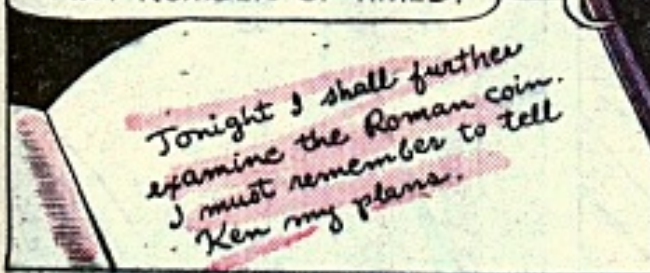
BUT THERE **MUST** BE AN EXPLANATION! A MAN JUST DOESN'T VANISH WITHOUT A TRACE! YOU RUN ALONG, MISS SEELY! I'LL LOOK AROUND DR. BROWN'S OFFICE AGAIN!



I DON'T LIKE TO READ HIS PERSONAL DIARY -- BUT PERHAPS HE WROTE **SOME-THING** THAT'LL GIVE ME A LEAD!



WONDER WHAT PLANS HE MEANT? HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T TELL ME -- AND HE'D EXAMINED THAT COIN THOROUGHLY ANY NUMBER OF TIMES!



WHY, HERE IT IS -- UNDER THE MICROSCOPE! IT'S A RARE COIN FROM THE TIME OF **MARCUS AURELIUS** -- BUT THAT CAN'T EXPLAIN DR. BROWN'S STRANGE INTEREST IN IT!





THIS MICROSCOPE SURE IS POWERFUL! BRINGS OUT THE DETAILS LIKE... HOLY NELLY! THOSE RAISED PARTS LOOK LIKE HILLS! AND THAT APPEARS TO BE A ROAD LEADING INTO THEM!



THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING... IT'S-- IT'S A LITTLE MAN! WHY... WHY... HIS FACE-- IT'S DR. BROWN!



HE'S LOOKING UP AT ME-- WAVING HIS HANDS! SIGNALING IN SEMAPHORE! HE'S TELLING ME TO--



I'M BEGINNING TO GET IT! HE'S TELLING ME TO MIX CERTAIN RARE CHEMICALS TOGETHER-- AND LET A SINGLE DROP OF THE MIXTURE FALL ON THE COIN!



IT'S CRAZY-- I KNOW I'M GOING TO WAKE UP AND FIND THIS IS ALL A DREAM! BUT SOMEHOW-- I FEEL I OUGHT TO DO WHAT HE SAYS!



NOW-- TO LET A SINGLE DROP FALL-- AS HE INSTRUCTED! BUT-- BUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?



GOOD LORD! HE'S DIVING RIGHT INTO IT!



DR. BROWN! YES, I'M HERE, KEN! THANK GOODNESS YOU LOOKED AT THE COIN AND RECEIVED MY MESSAGE! I'D NEVER HAVE GOT OUT IF YOU HADN'T!





**GOT OUT!**  
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHAT--

RELAX, LAD, AND I'LL EXPLAIN! YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN STUDYING THAT COIN FOR SOME TIME -- BUT I DIDN'T DARE TELL ANYONE THAT I SUSPECTED IT CONTAINED A **MINIATURE WORLD** ALL ITS OWN! EVEN TO AN ARCHEOLOGIST, IT SEEMED TOO **FANTASTIC!**



BUT THE MORE I INSPECTED IT, THE MORE I WAS STRUCK WITH THE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THE HILLS ON THE COIN AND THE SEVEN HILLS OF ROME! THEN ONE DAY I SAW THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE A TROOP OF **ROMAN SOLDIERS** MARCH ALONG THAT ROAD-- AND I WAS **SURE** I WAS RIGHT!



AN ANCIENT WORLD-- RIGHT THERE UNDER MY MICROSCOPE! I WAS POSSESSED WITH THE DESIRE TO GET **INTO** THE COIN! IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE-- UNTIL I RECALLED DECIPHERING AN ANCIENT GREEK PALIMPSEST WHICH PURPORTED TO GIVE THE FORMULA FOR REDUCING ALL MATTER TO INFINITESIMAL SIZE!



"I INTENDED TELLING YOU OF MY PLAN, KEN, SO YOU COULD HAVE THE ANTIDOTE READY! BUT FIRST I PREPARED THE FORMULA-- IT ACTED QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT-- FUMES GUSHED AROUND ME..."



"AND THEN-- I FOUND MYSELF ON THE COIN-- DRASTICALLY REDUCED IN SIZE! AND WITH EACH SECOND I GREW **SMALLER-- SMALLER!**"



I TRAVELED ALONG THE ROAD, THROUGH THE HILLS, INTO THE VERY HEART OF THE COIN-- TO **ANCIENT ROME!** OH, IF ONLY I'D BROUGHT CAMERAS AND RECORDING EQUIPMENT ALONG!



IT'S AN ARCHEOLOGIST'S GOLD MINE, KEN! THAT'S WHY I RETURNED-- TO GET FULLY EQUIPPED, AND TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME-- IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME!



WHY-- IT'S THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!

FIRST LET ME WARN YOU! WE MAY RUN INTO DANGER-- THE ROMANS OF THAT PERIOD WERE RUTHLESS-- REMEMBER, HUMAN LIFE MEANT NOTHING TO THEM!



JUST TRY TO KEEP ME FROM GOING!



KEEPING DR. BROWN'S RE-APPEARANCE A SECRET, THEY QUICKLY PREPARED FOR THE TRIP! ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON WAS LET IN ON THE SECRET...

SMITHERS, JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THE COIN THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE! AND WHEN WE SIGNAL, LET A DROP OF THIS FLUID FALL ON THE COIN! JUST A **SMALL DROP--** UNDERSTAND?



SURE, DOC! I'LL DO IT!

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE COIN, KEN! I'M TAKING THE STOPPER OUT OF THE FLASK-- ALL SET?



LET'S GO!

JUMPIN' SPHINXES! THEY'RE GONE!



AND WITHIN MOMENTS-- A MAGIC WORLD!

WE'RE HERE, KEN! ASSEMBLE THE MOTORBIKE, AND WE'RE OFF FOR ANCIENT ROME!



I-- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I MADE FRIENDS WITH A ROMAN PHILOSOPHER NAMED DECIMUS-- HE LIVES OUTSIDE THE CITY! WE'LL GO TO HIS HOUSE FIRST!



LOOK! ROMAN SOLDIERS!

A CENTAUR! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES! NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEHELD A TWO-HEADED CENTAUR! 'TIS BEST THAT I FOLLOW THIS STRANGE-THING!



JUST AHEAD IS DECIMUS' HOUSE! AND BEYOND IT, FEAST YOUR EYES, KEN-- THE CITY OF ANCIENT ROME!



JUST WAIT TILL WE TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THIS!



WELL, DECIMUS, I CAME BACK AS I PROMISED! THIS IS MY YOUNG ASSISTANT, KEN HAVERS!

WELCOME TO ROME, GOOD FRIENDS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY! LET ME INTRODUCE MY DAUGHTER, SABINA! SHE HAS BEEN MOST IMPATIENT TO SEE YOU!



WHILE DR. BROWN AND DECIMUS TALKED--

IT IS HARD TO FIND WORDS WITH SOMEONE -- FROM ANOTHER WORLD! TELL ME, DO YOU NOT FIND OUR LAND FAIR TO BEHOLD?

ALMOST... ALMOST AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU, SABINA!



GO THESE STRANGERS ARE FRIENDS OF DECIMUS, WHO IS SUSPECTED OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE EMPEROR! THEY MUST BE SPIES FROM ABROAD! I SHALL REPORT THIS!



CENTURIES AND WORLDS APART-- BUT WHAT A PAIR THEY MAKE!

YES! I HATE TO BREAK IT UP, BUT WE MUST GET ON TO ROME-- KEN! COME ALONG! TEMPUS FUGIT!



LEAVING THE MOTORBIKE BEHIND, KEN AND DR. BROWN SET OUT FOR ROME--

YOU WILL RETURN SOON, KENNETH?

WE SURE WILL, HONEY!



MEANWHILE, IN THE AUDIENCE CHAMBERS OF THE TYRANNICAL EMPEROR, MARCUS AURELIUS--

YOU MEAN THESE STRANGERS PLOT WITH THE TRAITOR DECIMUS?

YES, MY EMPEROR-- THEY CAME ON A STEED WITH NO HEAD AND NO TAIL! WIZARDS, THEY ARE! THEY DOUBTLESS PLAN TO SPY ON YOUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS!



THERE ARE THE STRANGERS, SIRE! THEY HAVE ENTERED ROME ITSELF!

FOLLOW AND SEIZE THEM!

GOOD THING WE BROUGHT ALONG LOTS OF FILM! GOLLY-- WHAT A BREAK THIS'LL BE-- IF WE CAN COMPLETE OUR INSPECTION WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION!





UNAWARE OF PURSUIT, KEN AND DR. BROWN ENTERED THE COLOSSEUM --

TO THINK WE'RE ACTUALLY IN THE FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATER -- WOW! IF THIS SHOT COMES OUT, IT'LL BE THE PICTURE OF THE CENTURY!



HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, BUD!



CAPTURED-- AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE EMPEROR --

LOOKS BAD, DOC! IT SURE DOES! THEY DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF WHAT I TOLD THEM!



YOU ARE BOTH JUDGED GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON-- AND SENTENCED TO DEATH IN THE ARENA!

IF I REMEMBER MY HISTORY RIGHTLY-- THAT MEANS WE'RE TO BE DINNER FOR A BUNCH OF LIONS!



SHORTLY AFTER--WHILE THE EXCITED ROMAN CROWDS WATCHED--

IF ONLY WE'D BROUGHT ALONG OUR PISTOLS, WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE-- BUT NOW---

WE AREN'T LICKED YET, DOC! BUT GET SET-- HERE COME THE LIONS!



KEN WAITED UNTIL THE SNARLING BEASTS WERE ALMOST UPON THEM-- AND THEN-- TRIPPED THE RELEASE OF HIS FLASH GUN!



THE WIZARDS MAKE LIGHTNING!

FLEE! THE LIONS ARE UPON US!



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PANDEMONIUM, KEN AND DR. BROWN HEADED FOR AN EXIT--

GET GOING, DOC, WHILE THE GOING'S GOOD!

SPARE MY LIFE, GODS! I PRAY YOU, SPARE ME!





**OUTSIDE -- A CAPTURED CHARIOT --**

SHIFT THIS THREE HORSE-POWER JOB INTO HIGH! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE MOTORCYCLE OR WE'LL BE SUNK!

IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR, PURSUE THEM! **THEY MUST DIE!**



**MOMENTS LATER -- BACK AT DECIMUS' HOUSE --**

THE EMPEROR'S SOLDIERS ARE AFTER US! YOU'D BETTER HIDE!



BE OFF, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

GOOD-BYE, SABINA! GOSH, IF ONLY --

OH, KENNETH!



THROTTLE PUSHED WIDE OPEN, KEN SENT THE MOTORCYCLE TEARING BACK UP THE ROAD THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS --

THEY CAN'T CATCH US NOW, DOC! WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!

PROVIDED SMITHERS IS LOOKING INTO THE MICROSCOPE -- AND REMEMBERS TO DROP THE FLUID!



**BUT BACK IN THE MUSEUM --**

I GUESS IT'S O.K. TO TAKE A SHORT NAP -- THE DOC AND KEN AREN'T LIABLE TO SHOW UP FOR A WHILE!



MEANWHILE, AS THE MOTORCYCLE RACED ACROSS THE FACE OF THE COIN --

**WHAT THE -- A BLOWOUT!**



I'M ALL IN, KEN! YOU -- RUN FOR IT! THERE'S THE CONTACT PLACE AHEAD!

AND LEAVE YOU TO THOSE BABIES? **NOTHING DOING!**



HERE THEY COME -- THE WHOLE **BLASTED ROMAN ARMY!**





IT WAS A MAD RACE TO THE POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE MICROSCOPE-- BUT THERE--

THAT IDIOT SMITHERS! I'VE SIGNALLED! WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHING?

IT HAD BETTER BE SOON-- OR IT'LL BE ALL UP WITH US!



HO-HUM! MAYBE I'D BETTER TAKE ANOTHER LOOK BEFORE I DROP OFF--



GREAT GUNS! THERE THEY ARE-- AND A BUNCH OF SOLDIERS ARE AFTER THEM! THE FLUID-- I MUST DROP THE FLUID!



HASTILY, SMITHERS FILLED THE DROPPER WITH THE SPECIAL FLUID! THEN, HIS FINGERS SHAKING FROM EXCITEMENT, HE SQUEEZED THE BULB -- BUT TOO HARD!

THE FOOL! HE'S LET TOO MUCH OF THE LIQUID COME OUT!



THE NEXT INSTANT--

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE BACK!

MORE THAN JUST US! GET OUT OF SIGHT IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE!



GOSH ALMIGHTY! HOW'D THEY G-GET HERE?



AS THE BEWILDERED ROMANS SURGED OUT INTO FIFTH AVENUE --

IT'S AN INVASION FROM MARS!

SEND FOR THE RIOT SQUAD!



WE'RE IN ANOTHER WORLD!

THE STREETS ARE FILLED WITH ARMORED BEASTS! LET US FLEE TO WHENCE WE CAME!





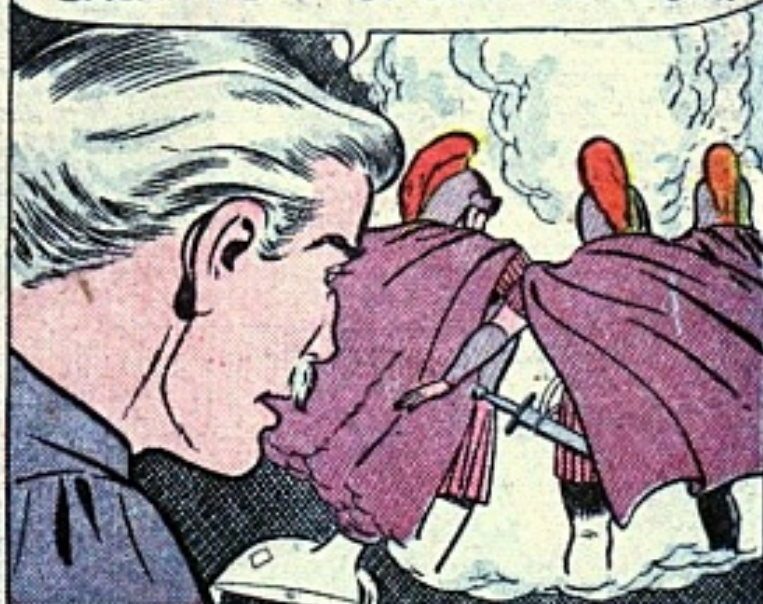
OH, MIGHTY WIZARD, ON MY BENDED KNEE, WE PRAY-- SEND US BACK TO ROME!

LET US DEPART FROM THIS PLACE OF EVIL!

GLAD TO OBLIGE!



RUN INTO THAT VAPOR-- AND YOU'LL BE BACK WHERE YOU STARTED FROM!



GONE! ALL OF THEM! THANK HEAVENS!

AS FOR THIS FORMULA-- NEVER AGAIN WILL IT BE USED!



SUDDENLY--

HUH? ANOTHER ONE! AND THE FORMULA'S BEEN DESTROYED!



SABINA! YOU!

YES, KENNETH! I DRESSED AS A WARRIOR SO I COULD COME ALONG-- I WANTED TO TRY TO SAVE YOU!



GOOD GRIEF, GIRL! I CAN'T SEND YOU BACK NOW! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK! I WANT TO STAY WITH MY KENNETH FOREVER!

DARLING!



YOU WON'T MIND THAT I'M OLDER THAN YOU, KENNETH? IT'S ONLY A FEW THOUSAND YEARS!

OMNIA VINCIT AMOR!

HUH? WHAT'D YOU SAY, DOC?



THE ROMANS HAD A WORD FOR IT-- LOVE CONQUERS ALL!



The End



# UNCANNY MYSTERIES *The SPECTRAL SKY-SHIP*

IN JANUARY, 1646, THE VESSEL *FELLOWSHIP* SAILED FROM THE COLONY OF NEW HAVEN FOR ENGLAND, WITH AN ENORMOUSLY RICH CARGO AND A DISTINGUISHED PASSENGER LIST! THE WATCHERS ON SHORE JOINED IN THE MINISTER'S HEARTFELT WORDS...

LORD, IF IT BE THY PLEASURE TO BURY THESE OUR FRIENDS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, THEY ARE THINE! BUT WE PRAY THEE--**SPARE THEM!**

BUT THE MONTHS LENGTHENED INTO A YEAR, WITHOUT WORD FROM THE *FELLOWSHIP*! EACH TIME ANOTHER SHIP ARRIVED FROM ENGLAND, ITS CAPTAIN WAS EAGERLY QUESTIONED BY THE WORRIED COLONISTS...

THE *FELLOWSHIP*! SHE COULDN'T HAVE REACHED ENGLAND--OR I WOULD HAVE HEARD OF HER!

THEN SHE MUST HAVE BEEN LOST, WITH ALL HANDS ABOARD! LET US PRAY THAT WE MAY BE GIVEN SOME INDICATION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR SHIP AND LOVED ONES!

THEN, THE FOLLOWING SUMMER, AFTER A VIOLENT THUNDERSTORM HAD PASSED OVER NEW HAVEN---

LOOK--UP IN THE SKY---IT'S THE *FELLOWSHIP*!

CROWDS POURED OUT INTO THE STREETS TO WITNESS THE ASTONISHING SIGHT OF THE LOST SHIP SAILING ON A CLOUD THROUGH THE SKY! THE CLOUD SEEMED TO DROP, AND THE SHIP SAILED IN CLOSE, IT ALMOST BRUSHED THE CHURCH STEEPLE!

THAT'S THE *FELLOWSHIP*, ALL RIGHT---JUST AS WE SAW HER TWO WINTERS AGO!

YES--AND THERE'S CAP'N LAMBERTON ON THE QUARTERDECK! THIS IS A MIRACLE!

BUT SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THE BLOWING CLOUDS RUSHED OVER THE *SPECTRAL SHIP* LIKE STORM WAVES! ITS RIGGING WAS BLOWN AWAY---THE MASTS FELL ON TOP OF THE SEAMEN---AND WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, THE VESSEL WAS REDUCED TO A BATTERED HULK!

MINUTES LATER, THE GHOSTLY *FELLOWSHIP* SANK SLOWLY INTO THE CLOUD, AS IF SINKING INTO THE BRINY DEEP--WHILE THE NEW HAVEN COLONISTS LOOKED ON IN HORROR AND AWE!

NOW WE KNOW THE FATE OF THE *FELLOWSHIP*!

THE END..



# TRUE GHOST TALES

# The BOY who TALKED with SPIRITS

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK WITH GHOSTS, READER-- TO BE TAKEN INTO THEIR CONFIDENCE, HAVE THEM WHISPER SECRETS OF THE UNKNOWN INTO YOUR EARS? WELL, JUST THAT HAPPENED TO A NINE YEAR-OLD LAD OF RENO, NEVADA-- TO EDDIE HARKNESS, THE BOY WHO TALKED WITH GHOSTS!



IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE HARKNESSES MOVED INTO A LONG-VACANT FARMHOUSE OUTSIDE RENO...

GOSH, THIS IS A WONDERFUL OLD HOUSE! IT LOOKS AS IF MAYBE IT'S HAUNTED!

DON'T BE SILLY, EDDIE--THERE'RE NO SUCH CREATURES AS GHOSTS! YOU'VE BEEN READING TOO MANY SPOOK STORIES!

IT JUST LOOKS STRANGE BECAUSE NO ONE'S LIVED IN IT FOR SO LONG--BUT WE'LL CHANGE THAT!



THE FAMILY SOON MADE THEMSELVES AT HOME, AND ASSIGNED ONE OF THE SPARE ROOMS TO EDDIE AS A PLAYROOM...

PLEASE, LAD--- STOP THAT RACKET!



HUH? WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? FOR 28 YEARS, EVER SINCE WE DIED IN THIS ROOM, WE'VE HAD ALL THE PEACE AND QUIET WE WANT...UNTIL NOW!

NOW, JOSIAH, THE BOY JUST DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT OUR BEING HERE! DON'T BE HARSH WITH HIM!



I... I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU--- YOU ARE GHOSTS! GOSH, I'M GOING RIGHT DOWN AND TELL MOM AND DAD THAT--

NO---YOU MUSTN'T TELL THEM ABOUT US! WE KNEW THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE FRIGHTENED, THAT YOU'D ACCEPT US WITHOUT QUESTION! BUT IF ADULTS SAW US, THEY'D EITHER THINK THEY'D GONE CRAZY OR ELSE CALL IN A WHOLE ARMY OF SO-CALLED PSYCHIC EXPERTS WHO'D NEVER GIVE US ANY PEACE!







SO YOU SEE, WE DON'T **DARE** APPEAR TO ANYONE IN THIS HOUSE-- EXCEPT **YOU!**

I...I UNDERSTAND--AND I'LL BE CAREFUL NEVER TO MAKE NOISE, HERE! BUT YOU **WILL** APPEAR TO ME OFTEN, WON'T YOU?

SURELY, MY BOY--- WE'LL MATERIALIZE AND TALK TO YOU **EVERY DAY!**



**A FEW NIGHTS LATER...**

THE FUTURE--AND WE JUST FOUND OUT THAT YOUR AUNT EMILY IS PLANNING A SURPRISE VISIT! WE'RE AFRAID YOUR FOLKS MIGHT PUT HER UP IN **OUR** ROOM-- HERE!

EDDIE, WE'RE WORRIED! SPIRITS CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE--AND WE JUST FOUND OUT THAT YOUR AUNT EMILY IS PLANNING A SURPRISE VISIT! WE'RE AFRAID YOUR FOLKS MIGHT PUT HER UP IN **OUR** ROOM-- HERE!

GOSH--AND SHE **SNORES!** I'LL GO RIGHT DOWN AND TRY TO MAKE MOM PROMISE TO PUT HER UP SOME-PLACE ELSE!



BUT I TELL YOU SHE **IS** COMING HERE ON A SURPRISE VISIT-- THE TWO GHOSTS WHO LIVE IN MY PLAYROOM **TOLD** ME! AND YOU **MUSTN'T** PUT HER UP IN THAT ROOM!

YOU'VE JUST HAD A BAD DREAM, DARLING! BUT IF IT'LL HELP YOU GO BACK TO SLEEP, I PROMISE NOT TO PUT AUNT EMILY UP THERE --**IF** SHE COMES!



**BUT THE NEXT DAY...**

WHY, IT...IT'S **EMILY!**

HA, HA---I KNEW YOU'D BE SURPRISED! I DIDN'T TELL A **SOUL** ABOUT THE VISIT I WAS PLANNING!



WE'LL HAVE TO LIVE UP TO THE PROMISE I MADE EDDIE-- AND PUT HER UP HERE IN THE LIVING ROOM!

YES--BUT HOW DID HE KNOW SHE WAS COMING? I'M BEGINNING TO **BELIEVE** IN THOSE GHOSTS OF HIS!



**BUT THERE WAS MORE TO COME---FOR A FEW NIGHTS LATER...**

YOUR BARN IS GOING TO KICK OVER THE OIL LAMP IN FIFTEEN MINUTES! BUT IF YOUR FATHER GETS OUT THERE IN TIME, HE CAN SAVE THE BARN FROM BURNING DOWN!

GOLLY, IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT NOW! I'LL HAVE TO WAKE HIM UP!



BUT DAD---THE GHOSTS WERE **RIGHT** ABOUT AUNT EMILY, WEREN'T THEY? THEN THEY'RE PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT THE BARN ---YOU'VE GOT TO HURRY OUT THERE!

ALL RIGHT, SON--- ALL RIGHT! I'LL GO DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK AT OLD DOBBIN. ---BUT I'M SURE THERE'S NO RUSH!



BY THE TIME MR. HARKNESS REACHED THE BARN...

GREAT SCOTT---IT HAPPENED JUST THE WAY EDDIE SAID!



LUCKY I GOT HERE WHEN I DID--OR THE WHOLE BARN WOULD HAVE BURNED DOWN! THANK HEAVENS I'VE GOT A SON WHO TALKS WITH GHOSTS! I'LL NEVER DOUBT THEIR EXISTENCE AGAIN!



THEN, IN OCTOBER, 1950....

EDDIE, I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS! THE TRUCKEE RIVER IS GOING TO OVERFLOW NEXT MONTH--AND WASH THIS HOUSE CLEAN AWAY! YOU'D BETTER TELL YOUR DAD TO GET OUT FLOOD INSURANCE!

GOSH, THANKS ---I'LL TELL HIM RIGHT NOW!



EDDIE'S GHOST FRIENDS HAVE BEEN RIGHT TWICE BEFORE--WE'D BETTER DO AS THEY SUGGEST!

YES, WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! WE'LL KEEP OUR EYES OPEN--AND BE READY TO EVACUATE AT THE FIRST SIGN OF DANGER!



PURE ENOUGH, TORRENTIAL RAINS SOON BEGAN, AND THE TRUCKEE RIVER OVERFLOWED ITS BANKS IN ONE OF THE WORST FLOODS IN NEVADA'S HISTORY! BUT ONE FAMILY, AT LEAST, DIDN'T LOSE ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS...

COME ON, THE HOUSE IS ABOUT TO BE WASHED AWAY! WE SAVED EVERYTHING WE WANTED--- AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO GET OUT!

NO! WAIT FOR THE GHOSTS--- THEY'LL DROWN IF WE LEAVE THEM HERE!



LOOK, THERE THEY ARE--I SEE THEM!

DON'T WAIT FOR US, EDDIE-- WE'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE UNTIL IT FALLS APART IN THE FLOOD WATERS! WE'LL MEET YOU AGAIN WHEN YOUR LIFE-TIME'S THROUGH--AND WE'LL HAVE A HOUSE WAITING FOR YOU UP ABOVE!



AND SO IT WAS THAT THE FEW FAMILIES AFLOAT IN THAT DISASTROUS FLOOD SAW A STRANGE SIGHT-- TWO GHOSTLY FIGURES CLINGING TO A WRECK OF A HOUSE UNTIL THE FLOOD WATERS RIPPED IT APART--AND FORCED THEM TO FIND ANOTHER HOME IN THE GREAT UNKNOWN!



THE END..



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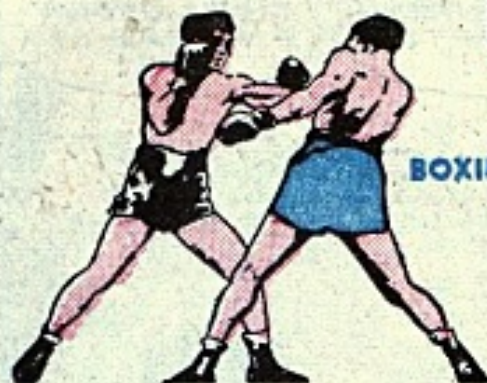
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*Charles Atlas*

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**FREE BOOK** Mail coupon now. I'll send my illustrated book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." Tells about my "Dynamic Tension" method. Shows photos of men I've made into Atlas Champions. It's a valuable book! And it's FREE! Mail coupon to me personally. CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 2-J, 115 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y.



CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 2-J  
115 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

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