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No 3

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

EXPLORING the SUPERNATURAL!

Thrilling
TALES
of the
EERIE
UNKNOWN!

10¢



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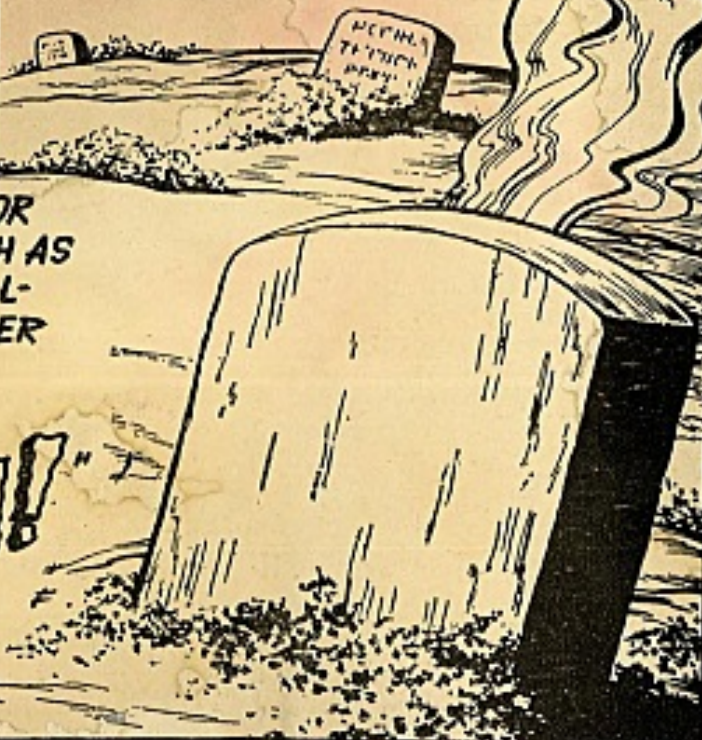
YOU'VE BESEECHED US, BOMBARD-
ED US WITH REQUESTS TO PUB-
LISH MORE FREQUENTLY... AND
NOW WE'VE DONE IT! YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO BUY AMERICA'S
FAVORITE MAGAZINE OF THE
SUPERNATURAL EVERY MONTH
NOW--WHICH MEANS TWICE AS
MUCH GOOD READING! TWICE
AS MANY THRILLS AND CHILLS
FROM THE CHALLENGING COMICS
MAGAZINE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

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



LAIR ^{of the} VAMPIRE



SOMETIMES, IN THE MUFFLED DARK OF THE MOON, A STRANGE SOUND RISES ABOVE THE GIBBERING WIND--THE RUSTLE OF HUGE WINGS! DOWN THROUGH THE BARE GAUNT TREES THEY FLAP--DOWN THROUGH THE TREMBLING CURTAINS OF A SLEEPER'S WINDOW--READY TO BEAR ANOTHER SCREAMING VICTIM TO THE

LAIR ^{of the} VAMPIRE!

SOMEWHERE IN CENTRAL EUROPE--

THERE IT IS, GLORIA! I'VE BEEN WAITING TO COME HERE EVER SINCE I FOUND THAT OLD PHOTOGRAPH--IT'S A NATURAL FOR MY BOOK ON ANCIENT CASTLES!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THERE'S NO ROAD LEADING TO THE CASTLE, PAT! BESIDES BEING A PROBLEM TO BUILD--HOW COULD ANYONE POSSIBLY LIVE THERE?

WAY BACK, THERE PROBABLY WAS A ROAD, HONEY--IT'S JUST BEEN SWEEP AWAY BY LANDSLIDES OR EROSION!

MAYBE-- BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN MY STRANGE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMEONE LIVING UP THERE NOW!





THERE'S NO NEED TO GET JUMPY JUST BECAUSE IT'S GROWING DARK, GLORIA! THAT OLD INN IS THE ONLY OTHER BUILDING WE'VE SEEN FOR MILES AROUND---WE MIGHT AS WELL SPEND THE NIGHT THERE, AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CLIMB UP TO THE CASTLE IN THE MORNING!



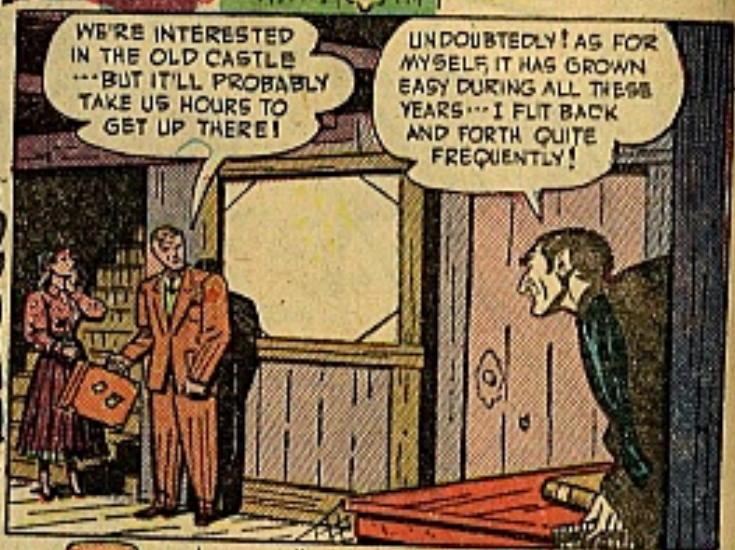
GOOD EVENING! I HOPE IT WON'T TROUBLE YOU TO GIVE US ROOMS FOR THE NIGHT!

I WOULD BE DELIGHTED! I HAVEN'T HAD ANY GUESTS FOR A LONG TIME---NONE, IN FACT, FOR MANY YEARS!



THAT MUST MAKE THINGS PRETTY TOUGH FOR YOU!

AH, YES---YOU'LL NOTICE HOW THIN I AM! I'VE HAD VERY LITTLE TO LIVE ON!



WE'RE INTERESTED IN THE OLD CASTLE---BUT IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE US HOURS TO GET UP THERE!

UNDOUBTEDLY! AS FOR MYSELF, IT HAS GROWN EASY DURING ALL THESE YEARS---I FLIT BACK AND FORTH QUITE FREQUENTLY!



ON THE DUST-MUFFLED LANDINGS ABOVE---

SOMEBODY LIKE THAT WOULD MAKE A HABIT OF VISITING THE CASTLE---HE'S JUST THE COLD AND CREEPY TYPE YOU'D EXPECT TO FIND THERE!

THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK, MONEY! MAYBE HE IS A BIT ECCENTRIC---BUT WHY NOT---WHEN THERE ISN'T A SOUL TO TALK TO FOR MILES AROUND?



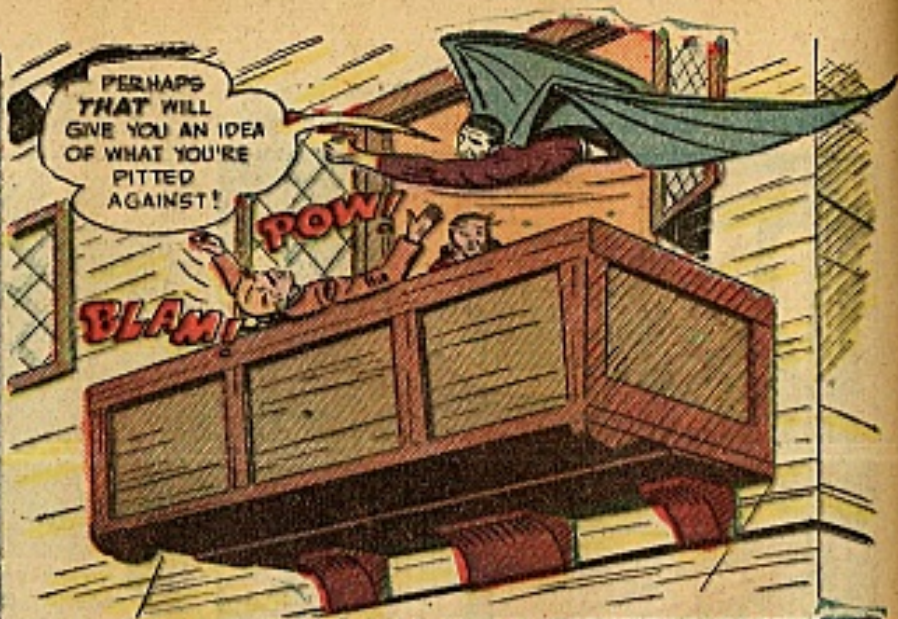
MINUTES LATER---

PAT MAY NOT GENGE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE, BUT SLEEP'S OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR ME---GO I MIGHT AS WELL READ UNTIL DAWN!

LONG PAST MIDNIGHT, AS A CHILL CREEPS THROUGH THE ROOM... FURTIVE AS THE PANTING BREATH OF EVIL...

JREN... WITH THE FAINT HINT OF A WHITE AND STARING FACE ABOVE HER...



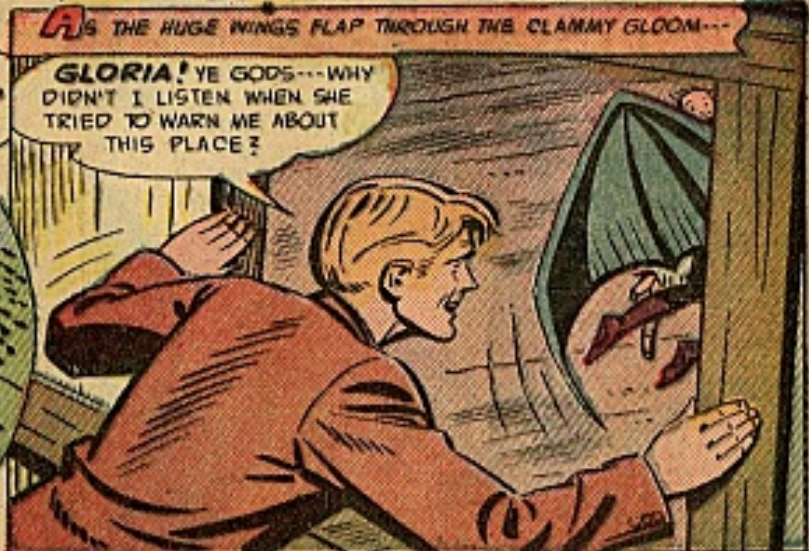


PERHAPS THAT WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU'RE PITTED AGAINST!



PAT... HELP!

GOOD LORD... HE'S DRAGGING GLORIA TOWARD THE WINDOW!



AS THE HUGE WINGS FLAP THROUGH THE CLAMMY GLOOM...

GLORIA! YE GODS... WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN WHEN SHE TRIED TO WARN ME ABOUT THIS PLACE?

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE CASTLE NEVER NEEDED A ROAD... AND WHAT THE INNKEEPER MEANT WHEN HE SAID HE FLITS BACK AND FORTH! HE'S A VAMPIRE... AND THE LACK OF PEOPLE IN THE REGION MEANS THAT HE'S PREYED ON THEM EVER SINCE THE CASTLE WAS BUILT... THERE AREN'T ANY LEFT! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE GLORIA FROM THAT FIEND... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GET THERE... I'VE GOT TO CLIMB UP TO THE CASTLE!



THE CARDS ARE STACKED AGAINST ME, BECAUSE THE VAMPIRE'S CERTAIN TO SPOT ME FROM THE HUGE WINDOW OF THE CASTLE... AND SEND ME PLUMMETING HUNDREDS OF FEET WITH A SINGLE SWOOP! I MIGHT AS WELL BE PREPARED FOR THAT... AND PRAY THAT MY LUCK HOLDS OUT!

MINUTES LATER...UP THE BEETLING CRAGGE SURMOUNTED BY A LAIR OF HORROR...



SOON AFTERWARD...



JUST AS I EXPECTED, HE'S SPOTTED ME... AND NOW'S THE TIME I'D BETTER DODGE!

SECONDS LATER...WITH HIS JAGGED FINGERS HISsing THROUGH THE AIR LIKE THE SUMMONS OF DEATH...

I KNEW YOU'D BE FOOL ENOUGH TO COME AFTER HER...AND THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU'RE GETTING!



A MOMENT LATER...



MAYBE NOW YOU'LL FIND IT EASIER TO STAY HERE AS MY BRIDE...BECAUSE THERE ISN'T MUCH CHANCE YOU'LL BE MARRYING ANYONE ELSE!

HAA HA HA!

BLAM!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?







WE'RE JUST GETTING OURSELVES IN A WORSE TRAP THAN EVER, PAT... WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THE CASTLE ROOF!

THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE WHILE THE VAMPIRE'S STILL ALIVE! I TRICKED HIM ONCE, AND MAYBE I CAN DO IT AGAIN IN AN ATTEMPT TO FINISH HIM OFF... BECAUSE TRYING TO FIGHT HIM OFF WILL BE SHEER SUICIDE!

A MOMENT LATER... ON THE WIND-SWEPT HEIGHTS...



HE'S COMING, PAT! WHAT IN HEAVEN WILL WE DO?

KEEP YOUR HEAD... AND HIDE! THIS WHOLE IDEA WILL BE WORTHLESS IF THE VAMPIRE CATCHES SIGHT OF YOU!



HAA! IS THIS THE WAY YOU EXPECTED TO ESCAPE?

THERE'S NO USE LOOKING FOR GLORIA... SHE'S JUST BEEN PICKED UP BY THE HELICOPTER I ARRANGED FOR! IT'LL BE BACK TO GET ME IN A FEW MINUTES... AND UNTIL THEN, I'LL BE SAFE RIGHT HERE!



SAFE! FOOL... DO YOU THINK THAT PERCH IS ANY OBSTACLE TO ME?

SUPPOSE YOU TRY TO CLIMB UP... AND FIND OUT? COME ON, CREEP... GET ME! I'M ITCHING FOR A CHANCE TO KICK YOUR UGLY FACE IN... WHILE YOU'RE CLINGING TO THE POLE!



YOU FORGET I CAN FLY! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DIVE LIKE A HAWK... AND THIS TIME I'LL BE SURE IT IS YOU WHO HURTTLES TO THE ROCKS BELOW!

A5 THE EVIL SHAPE FLAPS HIGHER IN THE MOONLIGHT...



HE'S READY TO DIVE! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... THIS'LL BE THE PAYOFF!



THEN...WITH INCREASING VELOCITY...

PAT... I CAN'T WATCH! YOU'LL BE KILLED!



SO THAT HELICOPTER STORY WAS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO OUTWIT ME, EH? THAT GIVES YOU A PRETTY THOUGHT TO DIE WITH... BECAUSE SHE'LL BE A VAMPIRE'S VICTIM BEFORE YOU HIT THE GROUND!



TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE HITTING, FREAK!



IN THE NEXT SPLIT SECOND...

AAAGH!



RIGHT! I REMEMBERED JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO THAT MEDIEVAL CASTLE BUILDERS THOUGHT THAT SILVER-TIPPED FLAG POLES COULD WARD OFF LIGHTNING...AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEEDED TO SNUFF OUT A LIFE THAT SHOULD HAVE ENDED CENTURIES AGO!

HE'S DEAD! GOOD HEAVENS, PAT... IS THAT POINT THAT PIERCED HIS BODY SILVER?



AS THE CRINKLED BLACK WINGS TREMBLE WEAKLY...

OK., HONEY -- PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

The End! (8)

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Breakfast of Champions



The RETURN

THE THIRD DAY after Mrs. Peabody had settled into her new summer cottage on Lake Owasco, she decided to pay a visit to her nearest neighbor a few hundred yards down the path that skirted the shore. But before she had even gotten within sight of her neighbor's house in the tree-fringed cove, Mrs. Peabody's attention was drawn to the woebegone figure of a little girl crouching at the water's edge, staring soulfully into the blue depths.

As Mrs. Peabody approached, she was startled to see that the girl's clothes and hair were dripping wet, and that her skin had the awful white pallor of a shroud.

She's probably just recovered from a long illness, Mrs. Peabody thought. That would explain her ghastly whiteness. This might be her very first day out-of-doors, but she'll probably be having a relapse after that wetting she apparently just got.

"How did you get so wet, child?" Mrs. Peabody asked with concern. "Did you fall into the lake?"

The girl looked up at her with eyes of cloudy blue. "Oh, yes," she said gravely. "And it was cold. So cold...for so long."

"Well, why don't you go on home and get dry and warm? You'll catch your death sitting there like that!"

The girl smiled slowly, sadly. "You don't catch death. Death catches you. But it isn't so bad. He looks very terrible, but he's very gentle with little girls. It didn't hurt much."

The poor thing's delirious, Mrs. Peabody thought in alarm. "Where do you live, child? I'll have to take you home right away!"

"Oh, you're coming into the lake with me?" the girl exclaimed, standing up with a pleased expression on her face. "That'll be fun! There's no one else down there

except some grouchy old fisherman. Come on...take my hand and I'll show you how easy it is. All you have to do is step right into the lake and..."

Mrs. Peabody drew back in horror as she felt the icy clamminess of the girl's hand touching hers. The child's temperature must be terribly low due to shock and exposure, she thought wildly; that was the only explanation for the deathly iciness of that touch. And as for what the girl had said...well, that was merely the raving of a sick mind.

Realizing that the delirious girl probably wouldn't obey any orders from a stranger to return to her home, Mrs. Peabody said, "What's your name, child?"

"Alice Hanscombe. But aren't you coming into the lake with me...?"

Hanscombe. The renting agent had told Mrs. Peabody that her nearest neighbor's name was Hanscombe. "No, dear," Mrs. Peabody said as she began to hurry away. "Now you stay right there and I'll be right back."

As Mrs. Peabody rounded the edge of the cove and saw the Hanscombe house ahead, she thought she heard a splash coming from behind her...and that only made her quicken her steps into a run. When she burst into the kitchen of the house, she said breathlessly to the woman standing at the stove. "Mrs. Hanscombe...I...I'm your new neighbor...and I just saw your daughter Alice standing dripping wet at the edge of the lake! You...you'd better go out there and bring her back, before she..."

"Oh, again?" Mrs. Hanscombe gasped. "This is the...the third year she's come back...on the anniversary of the day she drowned in the lake!"

The VENGEFUL SPIRIT



WHAT CAUSES SPIRITS TO LEAVE THEIR PEACEFUL REALM OF ETERNAL REST... TO HAUNT THE WORLD OF THE LIVING? BY FAR THE MOST POWERFUL MOTIVE IS THAT OF... **REVENGE!** HERE, THEN, IS AN EERIE TALE OF JUST SUCH A **VENGEFUL SPIRIT**... A SPIRIT IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE... IN A GHOSTLY ADVENTURE **YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!**

ON A SMALL SIDE-STREET IN PARIS---

JUST THINK, PETE, DARLING... THREE WEEKS AGO WE DIDN'T EVEN **KNOW** EACH OTHER... WE WERE JUST TWO OF THE HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING HERE AT THE SORBONNE! THEN FATE THREW US TOGETHER... AND NOW WE'RE **ENGAGED!**

AND THAT CALLS FOR A ROYAL CELEBRATION! **GARÇON... A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE!**

OH, THIS PLACE IS IDYLIC, PETE... WE'RE THE ONLY CUSTOMERS!

HERE YOU ARE, MONSIEUR-- **CHATEAU MARIVEAUX 1941!** YOU ARE PROBABLY THE FIRST ONES TO DRINK CHAMPAGNE OF THIS VINTAGE, SINCE PIERRE MARIVEAUX ALWAYS AGES HIS CHAMPAGNES TEN YEARS BEFORE SHIPPING... AND I HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH HIM TO RECEIVE THE VERY FIRST SHIPMENTS EACH YEAR! THIS JUST CAME IN AN HOUR AGO!





TALKATIVE, WASN'T HE? I'M GLAD HE WENT BACK INTO THE KITCHEN --- NOW WE CAN CELEBRATE IN PRIVACY!

YEAH---IF I CAN EVER GET THIS BOTTLE OPEN!

FROM THE BOTTLE --- A WEIRD VISION!



WHAT THE ---!



EDNA --- DID --- DID YOU SEE WHAT I SAW?

YOU --- YOU MEAN THAT WRAITH-LIKE FIGURE OF A GIRL? I --- I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION --- BUT IF YOU SAW IT TOO ---



BUT IT'S --- **CRAZY!** THIS VINTAGE IS PROBABLY HEAVILY CARBONATED --- AND WHEN I OPENED THE BOTTLE, THE ESCAPING GAS JUST ASSUMED AN ODD SHAPE THAT **RESEMBLED** A GIRL! COME ON, LET'S DRINK UP --- TO US!

H --- NO, THANKS, PETE --- I --- I DON'T SEEM TO WANT TO DRINK ANY MORE OF **THAT** WINE! AND I WISH YOU WOULDN'T, EITHER!



DON'T BE SILLY ---! I'LL SHOW YOU IT'S HARMLESS --- **ULP!**

GO --- GO TO THE CHATEAU MARIVEAUX!



I --- I HEARD IT --- SHE SPOKE TO ME!

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING, BUT I **SAW** HER. ALL RIGHT! PETE --- LET --- LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE --- **FAST!**



NO --- THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF AN ALCOHOLIC SPIRIT THAT **IS** A SPIRIT --- AND I'VE **GOT** TO FIND OUT IF IT **REALLY** HAPPENED! I'LL TEST IT AGAIN ---

ONCE AGAIN... THAT EERIE SPECTACLE... BUT THIS TIME...

GO... GO TO THE CHATEAU MARIVEAUX... THERE YOU WILL FIND ME!



I... I SAW THAT... SHE KISSED YOU! AND YOU LOOKED AS IF YOU LIKED IT!

THE... THE TOUCH OF HER HANDS... HER LIPS... THAT WAS REAL! I... I'VE GOT TO DO AS SHE SAYS... SEE IF I CAN FIND HER... HELP HER!



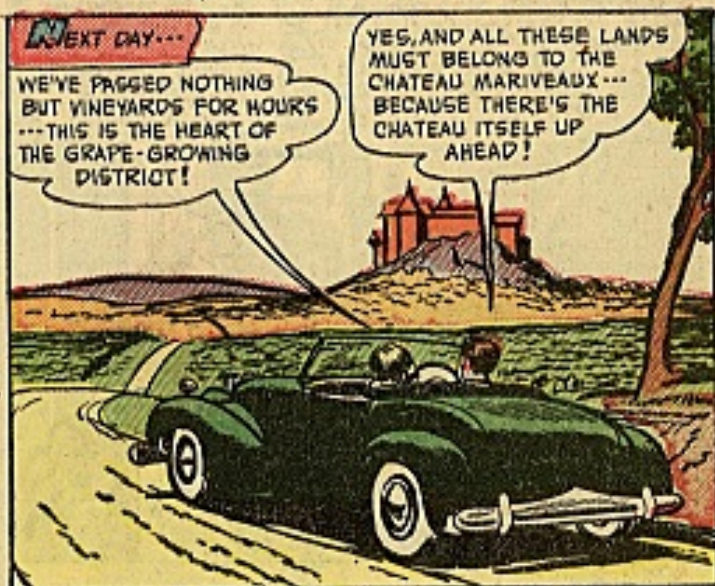
THE CHATEAU MARIVEAUX AT EPERNAY... THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING!

YOU MEAN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING! THAT GIRL WAS TOO BEAUTIFUL, EVEN IF SHE IS ONLY A BODILESS SPECTER!

NEXT DAY...

WE'VE PASSED NOTHING BUT VINEYARDS FOR HOURS... THIS IS THE HEART OF THE GRAPE-GROWING DISTRICT!

YES, AND ALL THESE LANDS MUST BELONG TO THE CHATEAU MARIVEAUX... BECAUSE THERE'S THE CHATEAU ITSELF UP AHEAD!



I AM SORRY... MY MASTER, MONSIEUR MARIVEAUX, REFUSES TO SEE VISITORS!

I'LL HAVE TO TRY A SHOT IN THE DARK--!

TELL YOUR MASTER WE'VE COME TO SEE HIM ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE 1941 VINTAGE!

LET... LET THEM IN!

I AM PIERRE MARIVEAUX! COME INTO MY LIBRARY AND TELL ME WHAT YOU MEANT ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE 1941 VINTAGE! DID... DID YOU SEE HER TOO... DID SHE TELL YOU ANYTHING?

THEN YOU KNOW ABOUT HER, EH? YES, I SAW HER WHEN I DRANK FROM A BOTTLE OF YOUR '41 CHAMPAGNE... BUT ALL SHE SAID WAS THAT I'D FIND HER HERE!

OUI, SHE IS HERE! HER SATANICAL SPIRIT IS IMPRISONED IN EVERY BOTTLE OF THE '41 VINTAGE... AS WELL AS IN THE HUGE WINE CASKS IN MY CELLAR VAULTS! I BEGAN GENDING OUT THAT YEAR'S VINTAGE BEFORE I KNEW OF HER PRESENCE WITH IT... AND NOW THAT CHAMPAGNE IS ON ITS WAY ALL OVER THE WORLD!

I... I MUST EXORCISE HER SPIRIT BEFORE SHE DOES ANY HARM!





BUT WHO... WHO IS THAT SPIRIT?

MY SISTER, ODETTE... AN EVIL WITCH, CURSED BY HER NAME! I THOUGHT I WAS RID OF HER WHEN SHE DIED IN 1941... BUT HER DEMON'S SOUL LIVES ON! I... I STILL REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I FIRST SAMPLED THE '41 VINTAGE FROM THE CELLAR CASKS... HOW HER FIENDISH FINGERS REACHED FOR MY THROAT! THE ONLY WAY I CAN FORGET HER IS IN DRINK...



...ANYTHING BUT THE '41 CHAMPAGNE!



HE... HE'S GOING TO DRINK HIMSELF INTO A STUPOR! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! PETE... FORGET THIS CRAZY BUSINESS!

NO! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GIRL WAS AN EVIL WITCH! I'VE GOT A PLAN... WE'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL HE DRINKS HIMSELF INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS...



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

BEFORE YOUR MASTER... ER, RETIRED, HE SAID THAT WE WERE TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE! COULD YOU SHOW US TO OUR ROOMS, PLEASE?

MAIS OUI... AFTER I HAVE PUT MY MASTER TO BED!



AND HERE IS YOUR ROOM, MONSIEUR!

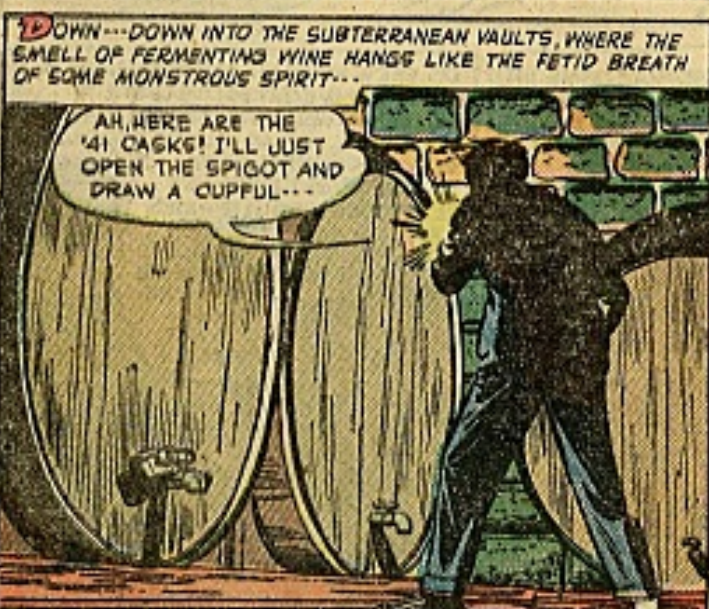
PETE... I... I'M SCARED! WON'T YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND AND LEAVE... PLEASE?

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, DARLING! JUST LOCK YOUR DOOR... AND I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!



AS MIDNIGHT TOLLS LIKE THE KNELL OF DOOM...

THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP... NO ONE WILL KNOW THAT I'VE STOLEN DOWN TO THE WINE CELLAR! IF THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY IS ANYWHERE IN THIS HOUSE, IT'S DOWN THERE!



DOWN... DOWN INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN VAULTS, WHERE THE SMELL OF FERMENTING WINE HANGS LIKE THE FETID BREATH OF SOME MONSTROUS SPIRIT...

AH, HERE ARE THE '41 CASKS! I'LL JUST OPEN THE SPICOT AND DRAW A CUPFUL...



OH-OH... HER AGAIN!



TAKE-- THAT AXE --BREAK OPEN THE CASKS!

I-- I CAN'T! IT'S VALUABLE--AND IT'S NOT MY PROPERTY--



YES, BUT IT WOULD GIVE FREE REIN FOR MY SPIRIT TO ESCAPE! I HAVE NOT THE STRENGTH TO SPEAK LONG-- HURRY!

YOUR-- YOUR LIPS-- I-- I CAN'T RESIST YOU!



CRASH!



THEN--

YOU-- YOU'RE MUCH CLEARER NOW-- AND THAT GHOSTLY LIGHT AROUND YOU IS STRONGER!

YES-- ALL THESE CASKS CONTAIN MORE THAN ALCOHOLIC SPIRITS-- THEY CONTAIN ALSO MY SPIRIT! AND ENOUGH OF MY SPIRIT ESSENCE IS ESCAPING FROM THIS CASK NOW TO SUSTAIN ME FOR A WHILE AND GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO TELL YOU MY STORY!



I AND MY BROTHER PIERRE WERE THE LAST OF THE MARIVEAUX FAMILY-- THE LAST ONES TO INHERIT THE FABULOUS FAMILY VINEYARDS! BUT PIERRE WAS NEVER A TRUE MARIVEAUX, OR A TRUE FRENCHMAN-- FOR WHEN THE NAZIS CONQUERED FRANCE IN 1940, HE BECAME A COLLABORATOR, IN ORDER TO RETAIN HIS FORTUNE-- WHILE I JOINED THE MAQUIS OF THE FREE FRENCH UNDERGROUND!



"BUT I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL MY IDENTITY-- AND THE NAZIS SOON PLACED A PRICE ON MY HEAD!"

MAYBE NOW YOU BOONS WILL RAISE THE REWARD FOR MY CAPTURE!



"BUT WHEN THE GESTAPO DRAGNET TIGHTENED AROUND MY BAND OF MAQUIS, I TURNED IN DESPERATION TO PIERRE, FOOLISHLY BELIEVING THAT HE WOULDN'T BETRAY HIS OWN SISTER!"

THE NAZIS TRUST YOU... THEY WOULD NEVER THINK OF SEARCHING YOUR WINE CELLARS FOR MAQUIS! IT WOULD MAKE A PERFECT HIDEOUT FOR US--

NO! I AM IN TOO WELL WITH THE NAZIS NOW-- I CANNOT AFFORD TO RISK MY LIFE AND FORTUNE BY HELPING YOU! BUT YOU CAN HELP ME SOLIDIFY MY POSITION WITH THE NAZIS...



OH H H H H!

...WHEN THE NAZIS LEARN THAT I KILLED MY OWN SISTER FOR THEM, THEN I WILL **REALLY** BE IN WITH THEM!

"THE NAZIS PAID EVEN HIGHER PRICES FOR PIERRE'S WINES AND CHAMPAGNES AFTER HE HAD THUS PROVEN HIS LOYALTY TO THEM ...AND PIERRE GREEDILY PLANTED EVERY SQUARE FOOT OF HIS LAND WITH GRAPE VINES, EAGER FOR THE MONEY THAT EACH ADDITIONAL BOTTLE WOULD BRING HIM! BUT HE MADE HIS FATAL MISTAKE WHEN HE PLANTED VINES ON MY GRAVE!"



HA ... YOU SERVE MY PURPOSE EVEN AFTER YOUR DEATH, MY SISTER! THE WINE THAT I WILL EXTRACT FROM THIS 1941 CROP WILL CONTAIN YOUR VERY HEART'S BLOOD!

BUT THE VINES CONTAINED **MORE**... THEY ALSO IMPRISONED MY **SPIRIT**! AND SINCE CHAMPAGNE IS ALWAYS A **BLENDED** MIXTURE, MY SPIRIT WAS DIFFUSED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE 1941 VINTAGE... AND EXISTED IN EACH CASK, IN EVERY BOTTLE! BUT I CAN APPEAR ONLY WHEN THE CARBONIC GAS ESCAPES, FOR I USE THE GAS TO FORM MY SPECTRAL SHAPE...

I GET IT NOW... THE MORE GAS THAT ESCAPES, THE CLEARER AND STRONGER YOUR SPIRIT IS!

EXACTLY... AND THAT WAS WHY I COULD ONLY APPEAR MOMENTARILY TO YOU IN THAT PARIS CAFE! THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH OF MY SPIRIT IN EACH BOTTLE TO WHISPER A FEW WORDS... WHILE THERE WAS ENOUGH IN THIS CASK TO ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU MY STORY! AND THAT IS ALSO WHY I DID NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WREAK MY REVENGE ON PIERRE WHEN HE OPENED HIS FIRST BOTTLE! BUT NOW, I AM BECOMING WEAKER, MORE TRANSPARENT... THE GAS IS ALMOST COMPLETELY EVAPORATED FROM THE CASK...



IT... IT IS UP TO **YOU**... TO AVENGE MY MURDER! YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH... TO **KILL** MY BROTHER! AVENGE ME... AND ALLOW ME TO RETURN TO ETERNAL REST! REMEMBER...

...KILL MY BROTHER... KILL MY BROTH...

SHE... SHE'S EVAPORATED... VANISHED! BUT I... I CAN'T DO WHAT SHE ASKED... I CAN'T COMMIT **MURDER**! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, OUT INTO THE FRESH AIR... WHERE I CAN THINK THIS OUT!





BUT OUTSIDE---

ARE YOU... MONSIEUR MARIVEAUX ? I... I WAS TOLD TO COME HERE... BY A... A LOVELY VISION... A GIRL! SHE SAID I WOULD FIND HER HERE...

OH-OH, HE MUST HAVE HAD A BOTTLE OF CHATEAU MARIVEAUX CHAMPAGNE... VINTAGE 1941! I'VE GOT TO DISCOURAGE HIM... BEFORE HE GETS ENTPANGLED IN THIS!



I AM FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MONSIEUR... AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT YOUR VISION WAS MERELY AN HALLUCINATORY EFFECT, CAUSED BY A DRUG IN THE CHATEAU MARIVEAUX CHAMPAGNE! MANY OTHERS HAVE IMAGINED THAT SAME GIRL... BUT SHE EXISTS ONLY IN THE IMAGINATION! WE HAVE CONFISCATED ALL THE CONTAMINATED CHAMPAGNE HERE... SO I ADVISE YOU TO GO HOME AND FORGET THE VISION YOU HAD!

FORGET... HER? NEVER, MONSIEUR! I WILL GO HOME... BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET HER CAKSSING HANDS... HER LIPS...

HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS, WILL BE COMING HERE IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS TO COME... SEARCHING FOR A VISION THEY SAW IN A CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE! AND IT'LL KEEP ON HAPPENING... UNLESS I PUT THAT SPIRIT TO REST! I CAN'T KILL PIERRE... BUT I THINK I KNOW HOW TO GIVE ODETTE'S SPIRIT ENOUGH STRENGTH TO WREAK HER OWN REVENGE ON HIM!



NEXT MORNING...

EH? ARE YOU TWO STILL HERE? GET OUT... OUT OF MY HOUSE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT UG TO LEAVE... WHEN WE KNOW THAT YOU MURDERED YOUR SISTER?



SO... YOU SPOKE TO ODETTE'S SPIRIT AGAIN! SHE TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT IT, EH? WELL, YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT IT!

IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO KILL ME! YOUR '41 CHAMPAGNES ARE GOING ALL OVER THE WORLD... HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WILL SOON BE BEATING A TRAIL TO YOUR DOOR, URGED ON BY ODETTE'S SPIRIT! YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO LISTEN TO ME... BECAUSE I ALONE KNOW HOW TO DOWN HER AVENGING SPIRIT!

ODETTE TOLD ME HER STRENGTH WOULD DIS-APPEAR AS SOON AS ALL THE FERMENTING GAS ESCAPED FROM THE CASKS IN YOUR CELLAR VAULTS! SO ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BLOW UP THE CASKS... AND BLOW HER SPIRIT TO SMITHEREENS!

AH, YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED FOR THAT INFORMATION! I CAN SAFELY DYNAMITE THE '41 CASKS, BECAUSE THE STONE WALLS OF THE VAULT WILL WITHSTAND THE EXPLOSION... AND I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW!





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

THREE RAPS OF a ghostly gavel---and the meeting is called to order! Greetings, all you wonderful people who are doing so much to make "Forbidden Worlds" a sellout! You've given us your wholehearted support, greeting our new magazine with an enthusiasm which is fast making publishing history. All of the loyal fans of our companion publication, "Adventures Into The Unknown", have leaped onto the bandwagon of our new book---and we've added hosts of new readers. All of which guarantees the fact that "Forbidden Worlds" will continue to thrill and entertain its vast and growing public for many years to come!

It's no simple job to thrill and entertain readers who know and demand the best. It calls for constant research on the parts of experienced delvers into the occult---for searching out the strange, eerie and little-known facts that lie hidden deep within the menacing realm of the supernatural. It calls for the skilful efforts of able and imaginative writers geared to turn out the type of story material calculated to leave you breathless and gasping. And it demands the talent of ace artists who can

translate weird story material into spine-tingling life. All of this we are bringing you---and shall continue to do so. You'll see the gripping results in this current issue. For we've assembled a galaxy of fast-paced yarns which should be right up the alley of you experienced fans! There's "Lair of the Vampire", presenting a weird menace from out of the Unknown. There's "The Vengeful Spirit", one of the most imaginative and novel ghost stories you've ever read. And "Domain of the Doomed", a gasp-laden adventure into truly forbidden worlds! "Skull of the Sorcerer" is a Halloween story which should make you bar the door comes All Hallows' Eve---and "The Witch's Apprentice" packs an out-of-this-world punch you'll long remember!

Please---write us about how you like this issue. Tell us which stories you like, and why! And tell us what you'd like to see in future issues, because this is your magazine! Address your letters to *The Editor, Forbidden Worlds, 45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.* And in case you'd like to know what other readers think, here goes!

"Dear Editor:-"

I have just read your newest book, 'Forbidden Worlds'. I find this magazine most interesting and exciting, and hope that I will see many more copies of it. I liked all the stories in it, especially that titled 'The Way of The Werewolf'. I hope you continue this book and keep up the exciting stories that you put into this last issue. I have also read 'Adventures Into The Unknown', and find it completely thrilling and absorbing. Keep up your swell work on both of them!

---June Mueller, Cleveland, O."

"Dear Editor:-"

My favorite comic up to now has been 'Adventures Into The Unknown', but at last I've found one which I like equally---'Forbidden Worlds'! Yes, I think that 'Forbidden Worlds' has done a great job in living up to your earlier magazine in every respect---even though I would have thought it impossible! I especially liked the stories, 'Demon of Destruction' and 'The Monster Doll'. I'd like to see you try some good robot stories---also zombies.

"Dear Editor:-"

---Michael R. Elliott, Portland, Ore."

I have just finished reading your new book called 'Forbidden Worlds', and I think it is the best book I have ever read. I can also say the same thing about your 'Adventures Into The Unknown'---so take your pick! I am crippled with arthritis and cannot walk, and wonderful books like these help me to pass my time thrillingly. The stories I like best are about vampires and werewolves---but any stories of the Unknown and supernatural send me. Keep up the good work---and keep these books rolling!

---Frances E. LeJeune, Fremont, O."

The DOMAIN of the DOOMED



MANKIND HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE REMOTE REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE AS A LAST OUTPOST OF MYSTERY...LITTLE REALIZING THAT IT HARBORS AN EVIL FAR MORE GRISLY THAN ANY EARTHBOUND MENACE! ONLY ONE THING CAN ACTIVATE THE MONSTROUS CREATURES WHO SYMBOLIZE THIS EVIL...AND IT HAPPENS WHEN ATOMIC SCIENCE REACHES THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED!



I'VE GOT ONE VISITOR, CORPORAL! SHE'S BEEN CLEARED WITH HEAD-QUARTERS!

OK., DR. NORTON! GUESS ANYONE YOU BRING IS A GOOD SECURITY RISK!

U.S. ARMY
ATOMIC
BOMB
PROJECT

I'M AWFULLY PROUD THAT YOUR RECORD AS A PHYSICIST MADE THE ARMY CHOOSE YOU TO HEAD THIS STRATOSPHERE EXPERIMENT, BRUCE... BUT I'VE STILL GOT ONLY A VAGUE IDEA OF WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

THAT'LL CHANGE IN JUST A MINUTE, BETTY... BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE GOT IN MIND!





GOOD HEAVENS
--THAT BALLOON
IS IMMENSE!

IT HAS TO BE,
SWEETHEART--
IT'S CARRYING
AN ATOMIC
BOMB TWENTY
MILES UP INTO
THE STRATO-
SPHERE!

THE BOMB IS SET TO EXPLODE
TWO HOURS AFTER THE BALLOON
IS RELEASED--AND THE STAFF
OF ARMY TECHNICIANS I SUPER-
VISE WILL THEN MEASURE HOW
MUCH RADIOACTIVITY PENE-
TRATES THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
THAT WILL BE IMPORTANT IF
ROCKET-POWERED ATOMIC
BOMBS ARE USED IN A
FUTURE
WAR!



JEEPER'S BLOOE
--I'M NOT SURE
I WANT TO GET
TOO CLOSE TO
AN A-BOMB--
EVEN AROUND
YOU!

THERE'S NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID OF! COME
ON-- I WANT TO
EXPLAIN A FEW OF
THE INSTRUMENTS
WE'VE INSTALLED IN
THE TOP OF THE
CYLINDER!

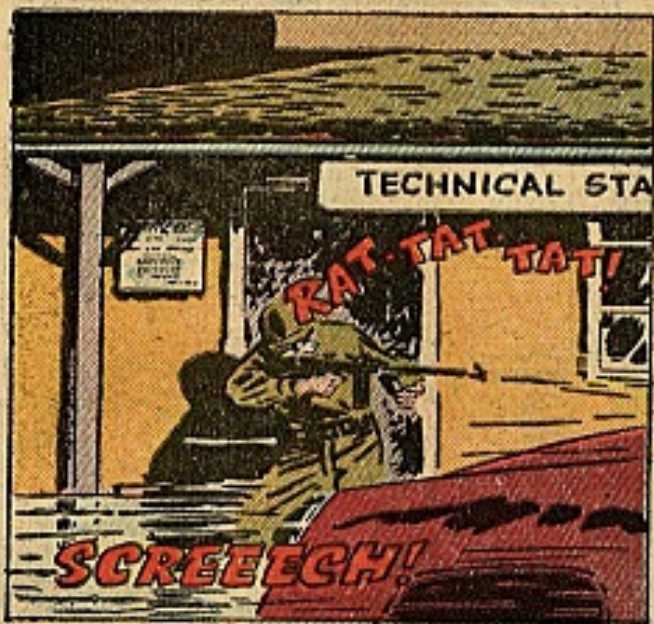


A MOMENT LATER--
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
--THIS SABOTAGE
ATTEMPT WILL MEAN
CERTAIN DEATH FOR
US!

THAT DOESN'T
MATTER--AS LONG
AS WE CARRY OUT
OUR ASSIGNMENT
TO LEVEL THE
AREA WITH
AN ATOMIC
BLAST!



THEY ZIPPED RIGHT
PAST THE SENTRY!
HEY, DOWN THERE
--STOP THAT CAR!



TECHNICAL STA

RAT-TAT-TAT!

SCREEECH!

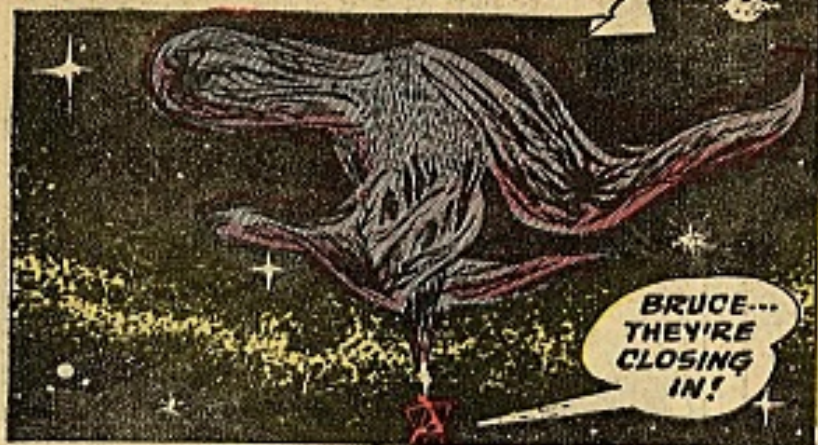


IN THE NEXT SECOND--

CRASH!



THEN--IN AN ENGLUING WAVE OF HORROR--



**BRUCE...
THEY'RE
CLOSING
IN!**

DEEP IN THE MUFFLED DARKNESS--

THE BALLOON'S MOVING
IN A **NEW** DIRECTION,
BRUCE... WE'RE BEING
TAKEN SOMEWHERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT!
WE'RE ENTERING A
DEFINITE ATMOSPHERE
...AND IT'S
**CHARGED WITH
EVIL!**



**MINUTES LATER--A LURID FLASH
BREAKS AROUND THE BALLOON--
COUPLED WITH A DIZZY PLUNGE
THROUGH SPACE!**



**AS THE BALLOON AND ITS DEADLY
BURDEN SETTLE ON A WEIRD SUBWORLD--**

I CAN'T GUESS WHERE
WE ARE, BETTY... BUT IT
MUST BE ONE OF THE
SMALL, NAMELESS PLANETS
THAT SOMETIMES ENTER
THE SOLAR SYSTEM FROM
THE OUTER LIMITS
OF SPACE!

**BRUCE!
GOOD
HEAVENS
...WHAT
ARE
THEY?**



HUMANS!

THE DARK
POWERS ABOVE
HAVE SENT THEM
HERE -- **TO
US!**



**BETTY--HIDE! THE
ROCKS ARE CRAWLING
WITH THESE THINGS!**



IN A SCUTTling RUSH--

**HAA HA! WHO CAN
HIDE--HERE?**



THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR---THE ONE THING THAT CAN HELP US IN THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED!

YOU MEAN YOU KNOW WHAT WE'VE CARRIED INTO THE STRATOSPHERE?

WE WERE ONCE HUMAN---WE WERE THE EVIL-DOERG WHO PLAGUED OUR FELLOW MEN---UNTIL DEATH SENT US INTO AN EXILED AFTER-LIFE **HERE!** WE HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM THE EARTH, BUT NEWCOMERS TO THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED BRING US NEWS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS THERE---**LIKE THE ATOMIC BOMB!**

AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION WILL HAVE ONLY ONE EFFECT ON THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED---IT WILL EXERT A CREATIVE FORCE THAT CAN CHANGE US INTO MORTAL BEINGS! WE'LL KEEP OUR HIDEOUS SHAPES, BUT OUR RETURN TO LIFE WILL MEAN WE CAN ESCAPE FROM THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED---AND MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO THE EARTH!

WE'VE HAD NO CHANCE TO WREAK TERROR AND DESTRUCTION **HERE!** BUT ONCE WE REACH THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, WE'LL BE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR EVIL DESTINIES WITHOUT LIMIT!

GOOD LORD, BRUCE! WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS---WE CAN'T LET THESE THINGS CARRY OUT AN INVASION OF HORROR!

HA HA HA! SHE THINKS WE CAN BE STOPPED---BY HUMANS!

AS IF WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW HELPLESS THEY ARE---AND THAT THE BOMB WILL EXPLODE WITHIN A FEW MINUTES!

UNEXPECTEDLY---

PLENTY CAN HAPPEN WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, CREEPS!

GET TO THE BALLOON, BETTY---FAST!



THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US, BRUCE... BUT WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO BE SAFE AROUND THE BOMB!



I CAN'T PREVENT IT FROM EXPLODING AND RESTORING THOSE FIENDS TO LIFE... BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE WE AREN'T CAUGHT IN THE BLAST! HURRY... CLIMB UP ON THAT CABLE!



THEN...



GOOD THING THE CONTROLS ARE WORKING! THE BALLOON'S UNCOUPLED FROM THE BOMB... IT'S STARTING TO RISE!



IN THE NEXT SECOND...



BRUCE! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... DON'T LET THEM GET YOU!

THE BALLOON'S MOUNTING FAST... THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE!



WITH A DESPERATE LEAP...



THE CABLE! GRAB IT... THEY'RE ESCAPING!



A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED...



BRUCE IS JUST MANAGING TO HOLD ON! AND IF HE LOSES HIS GRIP... HE'LL BE DIS-INTEGRATED BY THE BOMB BLAST AFTER HE HITS!



BLACK AND BRUTISH... AS PRIMITIVE AS THE ROCK FROM WHICH THEY WERE FORMED...

WELCOME! WE HAVE BOTH GAINED LIFE IN THE SAME SINGLE SECOND!

THAT MAKES US ALLIES... UNITED IN A COMMON CAUSE FOR EVIL!



EVIL! FOR A MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF THE WORD HAS NO MEANING TO THESE MUTE AND GROPING MINDS...

AND THEN... UNEXPECTEDLY...



WITH A FURIOUS BATTLE RAGING BELOW...

I HATE TO SAY THIS, BRUCE... BUT THE MONSTERS SEEM TO BE GETTING THE UPPER HAND!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THE ATOMIC CREATURES NEED HELP, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THEY CAN GET IT... **THE BALLOON!**



BUT HEAVENS, BRUCE... YOU CAN'T! THE BALLOON IS SOMETHING WE NEED... IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO GET BACK TO EARTH AGAIN!

IT'S A TOUGH THING TO ASK, HONEY... BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A CHOICE! MAYBE WE WON'T REACH THE EARTH... BUT NEITHER WILL THOSE FIENDS... AND **THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING!**



O.K., BETTY... HOLD ON TIGHT... AND BRACE YOURSELF FOR A JOLT!



AS THE FLAMES MOUNT IN A SEETHING FLASH...



THEY... IN A SPOUTING, WHITE-HOT INFERNO...



SLOWLY, WITH REPEATED GESTURES, BRUCE SPEAKS TO THE WEIRD CREATURES... AND BIT BY BIT... A DIM IDEA FORMS IN THEIR GROPING CONSCIOUSNESS!



THEY'RE GROUPING TOGETHER, BRUCE! THEY SEEM TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD YOU... BUT CAN THEY HELP?



DON'T YOU FEEL SOME KIND OF STRANGE FORCE AROUND US? YOU'D BETTER BRACE YOURSELF... IT'S GROWING STRONGER EVERY SECOND!

THEY... WITH A BLINDING GLARE BREAKING ABOVE THE ATOMIC CREATURES...



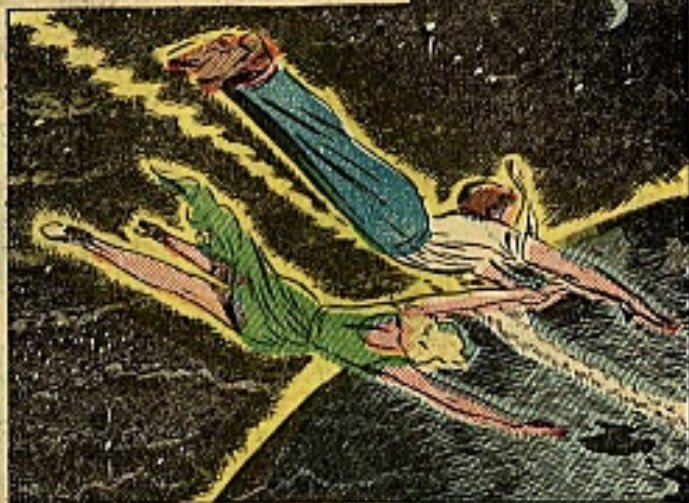
OHH!

BRUCE... WHAT'S HAPPENING?



WE'RE BEING PROJECTED ALONG A MOLECULAR BEAM GIVEN OFF BY THE ATOMIC CREATURES... AND IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY US THROUGH SPACE TO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!

EARTHWARD... AT A SPEED THAT BRIDGES THE BLACK GULF OF THE UNIVERSE!



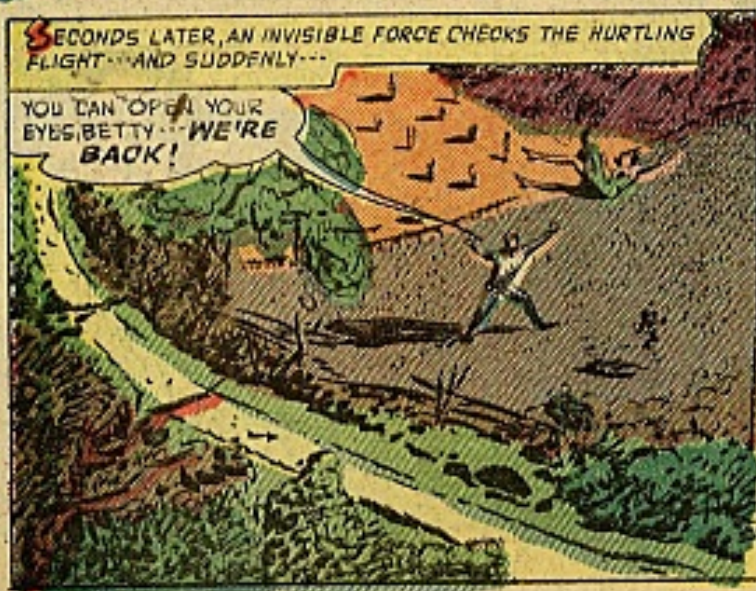
DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, BRUCE?

I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY, HONEY! WE CAN ALWAYS PRETEND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF PARACHUTES IN THE INSTRUMENT COMPARTMENT... BECAUSE THAT WILL BE A LOT EASIER TO BELIEVE THAN THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED!



SECONDS LATER, AN INVISIBLE FORCE CHECKS THE HURLING FLIGHT... AND SUDDENLY...

YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES, BETTY... WE'RE BACK!



The END!
10

GIANTS ON THE EARTH

NOT ALL THE FORBIDDEN WORLDS ARE ON OTHER PLANETS OR IN THE REALMS OF THE SUPERNATURAL...FOR SOME ARE RIGHT HERE ON THE EARTH! ONE SUCH PLACE IS A MYSTERIOUS WORLD ALL TO ITSELF... THE FORBIDDEN LAND OF TIBET--WHERE GIGANTIC SNOWMEN STALK THE UNWARY TRAVELER!



FOR MANY YEARS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND EXPLORERS WHO HAVE PENETRATED INTO THE INTERIOR OF TIBET HAVE BEEN BRINGING BACK STRANGE TALES OF THE "ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN"--GIGANTIC, SILVERY-FURRED APENEN WHO FEED UPON YAKS AND HUMAN'S ALIKE!

BUT THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN MERE LEGENDS ABOUT THE GIGANTIC SNOWMEN--FOR NATIVES HAVE LED EXPLORERS TO MONSTROUS HUMAN TRACKS ON MANY OCCASIONS! THE FIRST AUTHENTIC REPORT OF SUCH FOOTPRINTS CAME FROM THE JALPAIGURI DISTRICT IN 1928...

MIRKA!
BAD
MANSHI!

HMM--MIRKA MEANS THAT GIANT BIPED THE NATIVES ARE SO TERRIFIED ABOUT! IT SEEMS AS IF ALMOST EVERY TIBETAN MONASTERY IN THE HIMALAYAS HAS A LURID DRAWING OR CARVING OF ONE OF THOSE BEASTS!

MI-GO--
MIRKA!

GREAT SCOTT--THE LEGENDS ABOUT THE GIGANTIC SNOWMEN ARE TRUE!



THROUGH THE YEARS, OTHER TRACKS WERE FOUND AS FAR SOUTH AS BELAKOBA IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGAL--AND SOME WERE MEASURED BY A BRITISH REPORTER FROM REUTER'S NEWS AGENCY ON JUNE 20, 1938, NEAR JALPAISURI...

PERHAPS THE MOST ENORMOUS FOOTPRINTS OF ALL WERE THOSE FOUND BY WING COMMANDER F. B. BEAUMAN AND ERIC SHIPTON, THE EVEREST CLIMBER, IN THE GARHWAL AND KUMAON DISTRICTS! NO TAPE MEASURES WERE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME... BUT SOME OF THE PRINTS WERE FOUR TIMES LARGER THAN THOSE OF THE EXPLORERS!

IF THEIR FEET ARE FOUR TIMES LARGER THAN OURS, THEN THOSE MONSTERS MUST BE FOUR TIMES TALLER THAN US... OR OVER 24 FEET TALL!

BY GEORGE--THESE PRINTS ARE 24 INCHES LONG AND 11 INCHES WIDE! THE MONSTER THAT LEFT THEM MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 18 FEET TALL!



AMONG OTHERS WHO SAW THE GIGANTIC TRACKS WERE FRANK S. SMYTHE, THE ENGLISH EXPLORER AND MOUNTAINEER, AND H. W. TILMAN, LEADER OF THE 1938 MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION! BUT DURING THE LAST WAR, A GROUP OF U.S. FLIERS FORCED DOWN ON THE FAMOUS "HUMP" ROUTE OVER THE HIMALAYAS ACTUALLY SAW THE INCREDIBLE MONSTERS THEMSELVES!

HOLY COW---
THOSE...THOSE
THINGS ARE
OVER 20
FEET
TALL!

THEY SEEM TO BE
CURIOUS ABOUT
OUR PLANE--LET'S
GET OUT OF HERE
BEFORE THEY TURN
THEIR ATTENTION
TO US!



ACCORDING TO THE TIBETAN LEGENDS, THE GIANT SNOWMEN SOMETIMES WANDER AWAY FROM THEIR MOUNTAIN FASTNESSES AND DESCEND INTO THE SURROUNDING AREAS--AND SURE ENOUGH, THE REVEREND HAROLD YOUNG, A MISSIONARY, REPORTED THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED GIGANTIC, SILVER-HAIRED APE-MEN IN THE YUNNAN JUNGLES OF CHINA IN 1934!



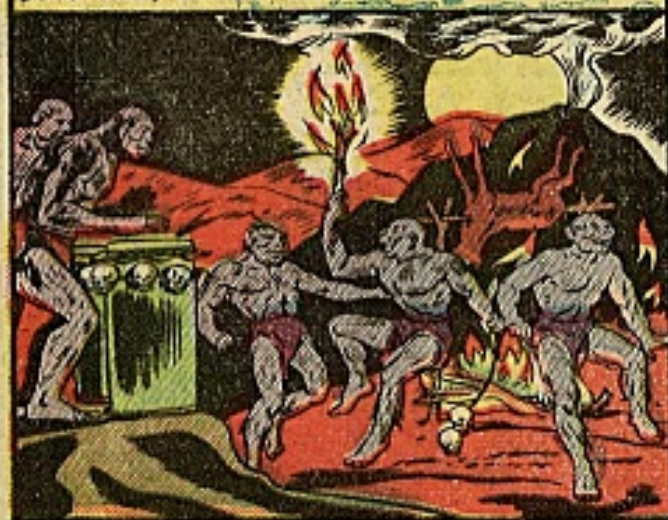
BUT OTHERS WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE GIANTS DIDN'T GET OFF SO EASILY! THE SURVIVOR OF A POLISH EXPEDITION THAT HAD SET OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE GIGANTIC TRACKS SAID HIS PARTY HAD REACHED A HEIGHT OF 20,500 FEET ON THE SLOPE OF NANDA DEVI WHEN HE SAW SOME OF THE GIANTS HURL AN AVALANCHE DOWN ON THOSE WHO HAD LAGGED BEHIND!



OTHER PILGRIMS FROM THE HIMALAYAS HAVE TOLD OF DIRECT ATTACKS BY THE GIANT SNOWMEN UPON THEIR CARAVANS!



ACCORDING TO JEAN MARQUES-RIVIERA, THE FRENCH EXPLORER, THE GIGANTIC CREATURES HAVE BEEN SEEN BEATING DRUMS AND ENGAGING IN SOME WILD, UNHOLY RITE!



HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH MONSTROUS CREATURES? WELL, ACCORDING TO PALEONTOLOGISTS WHO HAVE UNEARTHED THE BONES OF GIGANTOPITHECUS, THE CHINA GIANT THAT LIVED IN EASTERN ASIA ABOUT HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO, SUCH CREATURES MAY HAVE SURVIVED TO THE PRESENT DAY IN THE INACCESSIBLE FASTNESSES OF TIBET, THE FORBIDDEN LAND!

PALEONTOLOGICAL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT GIANTS ROAMED THE EARTH UNTOLD AEONS AGO, AND THAT MAN BECAME SMALLER AS HE EVOLVED! THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE WORLD-WIDE LEGENDS OF ANCIENT GIANTS--AND FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR ELUSIVE DESCENDANTS EXIST TO-DAY!



SKULL ^{of the} SORCERER



ALL HALLOWS' EVE-- HALLOWE'EN-- THE NIGHT WHEN WITCHES RIDE-- WHEN STRANGE SPECTERS RISE FROM THE GLAMMY VAULTS OF THE UNKNOWN! BUT OF ALL EERIE HALLOWE'EN TALES, THERE'S NONE MORE SPINE-TINGLING THAN THE STORY OF THE SORCERER'S SKULL!



SHUCKS, THIS AIN'T MUCH OF A HALLOWE'EN BONFIRE -- THERE'S NOTHIN' SPOOKY ABOUT IT!

WAIT-- I KNOW JUST THE THING TO MAKE IT REAL- LY SPOOKY-- THE SKULL IN MY DAD'S STUDY! COME ON!



GOSH, DAVEY-- WILL YOUR FATHER LET US BORROW IT?

HE WON'T EVEN KNOW I TOOK IT! HE AND MY MOM WENT TO A COSTUME BALL TONIGHT! SHH-- LET'S GO IN THE SIDE WAY, SO THE BUTLER WON'T SEE US!



DAD ALWAYS GAVE STRICT ORDERS THAT THE SKULL WAS NEVER TO BE TOUCHED-- BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA HURT THE OLD THING! WE'LL JUST PUT IT ON TOP OF A POLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BONFIRE-- AND THEN DANCE AROUND IT, PRETENDIN' WE'RE WITCH-DOCTORS! WE'LL BRING IT BACK BEFORE DAD EVEN COMES BACK FROM HIS PARTY!



AW--THE FIRE DIED DOWN WHILE WE WERE GETTIN' THE SKULL!

GOOD-- IT'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO SET THE POLE IN THE GROUND, WITH THE SKULL ON TOP OF IT! THEN WE'LL JUST BUILD THE FIRE UP AGAIN AROUND THE POLE!



WOO-WOOOO! WE'RE WITCHDOCTORS AND SUMMONING SPECTERS!



SUDDENLY... LOOK-- THE POLE'S CAUGHT FIRE!

IT'S FALLING DOWN! GOOD GOSH-- THERE GOES THE SKULL!



DO YOU THINK IT'S THE SKULL MAKIN' THAT GHOSTLY LIGHT IN THE FLAMES? M--MAYBE WE'D BETTER BEAT IT!

GEE-- THERE MUSTA BEEN SOMETHIN' SPOOKY ABOUT IT! I'M GONNA HIDE IN THOSE BUSHES AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT-- MAYBE MY DAD WILL WANT TO KNOW!



AND BEFORE DAVEY KNOX'S HORRIFIED GAZE--



A-- A HEADLESS SPECTER, DISAPPEARED IN THE FIRE -- AND NOW SOMETHIN' ELSE IS TAKIN' ITS PLACE!

A FEW MILES AWAY, AT A FASHIONABLE HALLOWE'EN MASQUERADE BALL--

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU DANCED WITH ME? AFTER ALL, WE OUGHT TO KEEP ON PRETENDING WE'RE A HAPPY COUPLE-- JUST FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE!

I SEE-- YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW I MARRIED YOU FOR YOUR MONEY-- IS THAT IT, ROBERT?



EXACTLY! BUT I'VE FIXED YOU-- I'VE CHANGED MY WILL TO LEAVE ALL MY MONEY TO DAVEY!

THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME ONE BIT-- YOU'RE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO LIVE ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS! BUT NOW EXCUSE ME-- THERE'S SOMEONE NEW OVER THERE I HAVEN'T DANCED WITH YET!



MY, WHAT AN UNUSUAL COSTUME! AND THAT HOOD MAKES A WONDERFULLY EFFECTIVE MASK! I'D LIKE TO BE THE FIRST TO DANCE WITH THE MYSTERY MAN WHO'S SURE TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST COSTUME-- LET'S HAVE YOUR HAND!

THAT-- THAT COSTUME-- THE SACRED ROBES OF THE DALAI RAMA!



OHHHH!



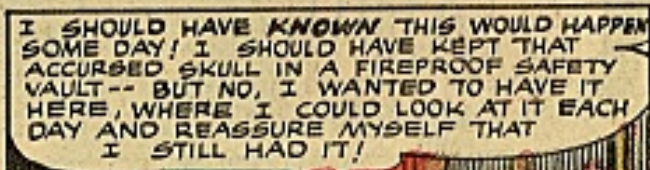
WHAT DID HE DO TO MAKE HER FAINT-- AND WHO IN BLAZES IS HE?

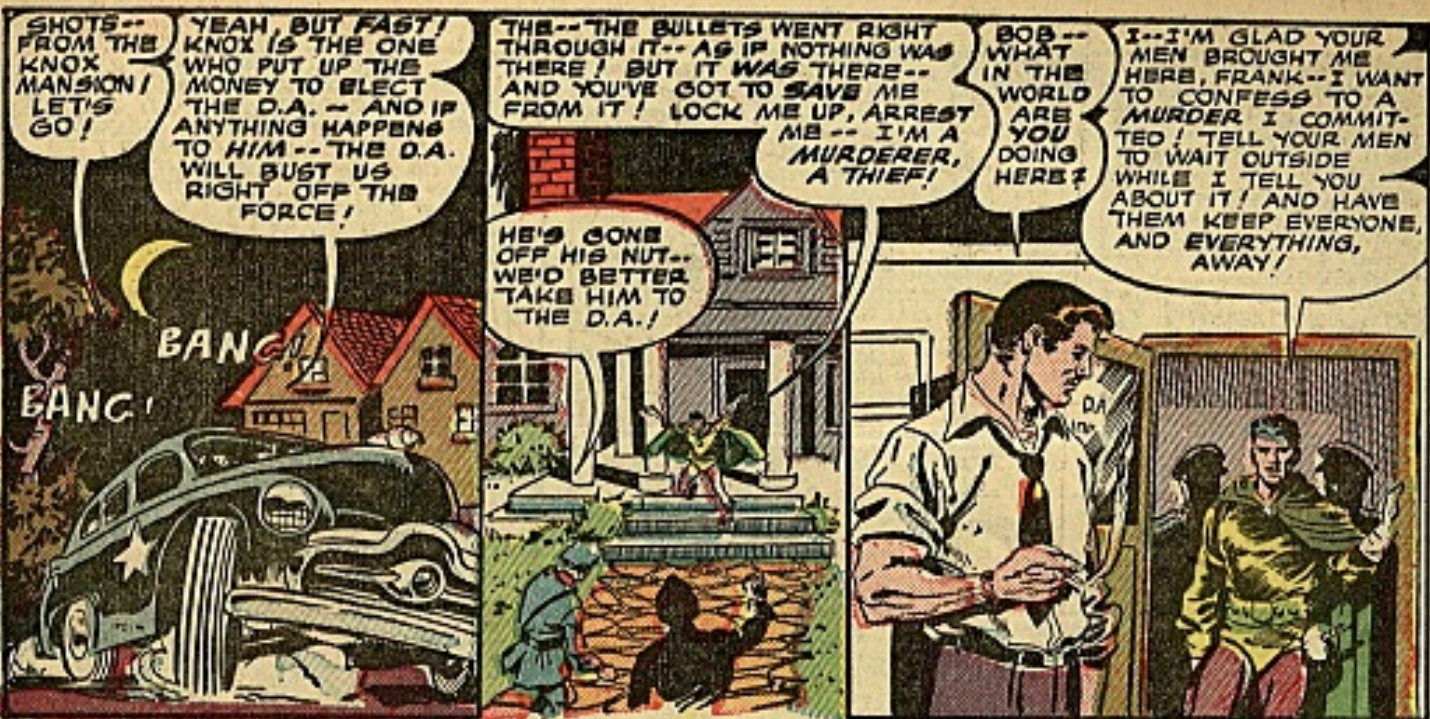
THERE-- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! IT'S NOT MID-NIGHT YET, BUT LET'S ALL UNMASK NOW!



ALL RIGHT, WHOEVER YOU ARE... OR WHATEVER YOU ARE! IF YOU BELONG TO THIS PARTY, YOU'LL DROP YOUR HOOD-- NOW!







"AND THERE, IN THE DIMNESS OF THE SACRED TEMPLE--"





I... I TRUSTED YOU-- AND YOU DEFILED THE SACRED TEMPLE OF KALI! I DIE-- BUT MY SPIRIT WILL NEVER REST-- UNTIL THE SACRILEGE IS REDEEMED BY YOUR DEATH! WHEN MY SKULL IS CONSUMED TO ASHES IN MY FUNERAL PYRE-- THEN SHALL MY SPIRIT RISE UP IN WRATH-- TO SEEK REVENGE!

I... I REMEMBER NOW-- THE TIBETAN FOLK LEGENDS ALWAYS SPOKE OF THE DALAI RAMA OF KARAK AS A MIGHTY SORCERER-- WHOSE SPIRIT COULD ARISE FROM THE ASHES OF HIS SKULL! AND IF THE LEGEND ABOUT THE RUBY WAS TRUE, THEN THIS LEGEND MIGHT ALSO BE TRUE!

WITH MY DYING BREATH-- I CURSE YOU! MAY YOUR SON BETRAY YOU-- MAY-- OHH!

HE'S GONE-- BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES ABOUT HIS SPIRIT! I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH OF THE ORIENT TO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE MYSTERIOUS, SUPERNATURAL FORCES THAT WE WESTERNERS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT! AND THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DALAI'S SPIRIT DOES NOT RISE FROM THE ASHES OF HIS SKULL--



-- IS TO KEEP THAT SKULL ALWAYS IN MY POSSESSION!

"I FLED-- CARRYING IN ONE HAND THE RUBY OF KALI, AND IN THE OTHER, THE HEAD OF THE DALAI RAMA OF KARAK--"



I'VE GOT TO STOP THINKING ABOUT THE DALAI-- AND THINK ONLY OF THE FORTUNE THE RUBY WILL BRING ME! A MAHARAJAH WOULD PAY A COOL MILLION FOR IT-- BUT I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR HALF THAT AMOUNT WHEN I SELL IT ON THE BLACK MARKET AT CALCUTTA!



THERE IT IS-- FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN AMERICAN MONEY! BUT TELL ME, MY FRIEND-- DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN THE OTHER BASKET THAT YOU WANT TO SELL?

NO... NO! WHATSOEVER I HAVE IN THERE ISN'T FOR SALE-- AT ANY PRICE!

... AND THAT'S HOW I CAME INTO MY WEALTH! BUT NOW THAT THE SKULL HAS BEEN BURN'T TO ASHES, YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ME FROM THE DALAI'S VENGEFUL SPIRIT! ARREST ME-- KEEP ME UNDER CONSTANT WATCH-- SO HE DOESN'T GET ME!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, BOB! ER-- DON'T YOU THINK A LONG REST IN SOME-- AH-- INSTITUTION MIGHT HELP YOU?



NO... NO! I'M NOT CRAZY! THE DALAI'S SPIRIT WILL GET ME, UNLESS YOU PROTECT ME! IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, I'LL--

MIKE... WALLY! CALL THE HOSPITAL-- AND TELL THEM TO BRING A STRAITJACKET!



YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME! LISTEN TO ME--

WOW! THIS ONE'S A REAL CASE!



THAT SEDATIVE WE GAVE HIM WILL MAKE HIM QUIET DOWN PRETTY SOON! AND MEANWHILE, HIS SHOUTS WON'T DISTURB THE OTHER PATIENTS-- BECAUSE THIS ROOM IS COMPLETELY SOUNDPROOF!

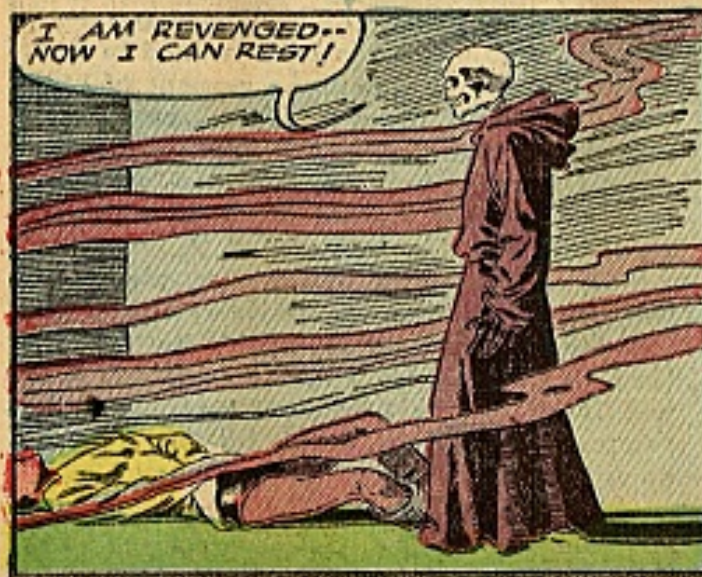
NO! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!



GETTING SLEEPY... GO SLEEPY-- CAN'T KEEP... MY EYES... OPEN--



NO-- HELP-- HEL-- AARGHHNN!



I AM REVENGED-- NOW I CAN REST!



LATER-- IT.. IT CAN'T BE A CASE OF SELF-STRANGULATION-- HE'S STILL IN HIS STRAITJACKET!

I GUESS THERE WAS SOMETHING TO THAT WILD STORY HE TOLD ME! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT ROBERT KNOX WAS KILLED BY FORCES UNKNOWN-- FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN!

THE END

Pursuit PAST

THE TWO MEN sat in a booth at the far end of the dimly-lighted tavern, drinking and talking. Or, rather one of them...the drunken one...was doing all the talking. They had met only a few minutes ago at the bar, and the inebriated one... obviously under a tremendous strain, obviously in need of someone to pour his troubles out to...had invited the second man over to the booth for a drink.

"I...I can't stand this waiting any longer," the first man said desperately. "Never knowing when they'll catch up with me, when they'll drag me back to the world I came from, to the world of 2967 A. D.!"

The man paused to drink from the glass in front of him, as if to give himself courage for what he felt he had to say. "I...I know you won't believe me," he continued after draining his glass and signaling the bartender for another. "But it's just as well that you think I'm raving in a drunken delirium, or that I'm a madman. I don't care what you think, as long as you listen to me...if...if I don't talk about this to someone, I...I will go crazy!"

The second man nodded sympathetically, as if he understood...and the first man continued: "You see, I originally came from the 30th century. You couldn't possibly have any idea what that world is like. The robots control all aspects of life...from the moment of birth, the human infant is assigned to his place in life, according to what the robot analyzers think he's best suited for. And from that moment on, the human's life becomes ordered and regimented down to the very last detail.

"There's no chance for the slightest expression of individualism, of freedom of will or choice. It all amounts to what you Americans would call a slave-state...where all humans are slaves to the all-powerful, eternal, heartless robots!

"In that world, I was an historian of the

past. Mine was the job of using the time-machine to return to the dead ages of the past, investigate those ages, and then return to the 30th century to write up the history. It was expected that I return...it was unthinkable that I should not. And the thought never crossed my mind to remain in the Stone Ages, or in the era of the Roman Empire, for example...until I came to the United States in the year 1951.

"At first I was astonished at the democracy that you Americans take for granted. I was amazed at the freedom all of you had, at your ability to choose your own lives, to do pretty much what you pleased, as long as you hurt no one else. And as I lived among you day after day, studying your habits and customs, I slowly realized that *this* was the kind of life I wanted and longed for...that I could never go back to that despotic slave-state of the robots after once having tasted the freedom and democracy here.

"So I deserted my century and my masters. I destroyed the instrument that was necessary for my return to 2967 A. D. ... and became one of you! But I know it is impossible to keep a secret from my robot masters. I am long overdue, and I am sure that they have long since sent a detective to follow me into the past and force me to return...to my death! And since my pursuer must be a man who has been trained in the arts of detection since the moment of his birth, I know I cannot escape...no matter how well I cover my tracks and try to lose myself among you. Any day now my pursuer will find me, place a strong hand on my shoulder and say..."

The second man reached over, placed a hand on the first man's shoulder, and said, "I have found you, Rog Halith! But I, too, love this democracy I find myself in! We will both remain here...and persuade all those who come after us to do the same!"

THE WITCH'S APPRENTICE



"THIS IS MY STORY--A STRANGE, UNEARTHLY STORY! I AM WRITING IT IN A PRISON CELL WHERE I FACE A CHARGE OF MURDER--**SELF-CONFESSED MURDER!** BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, I WANT TO TELL EVERYTHING--HOW I MET OLD KATE, THE WITCH--HOW I LIVED IN HER EERIE COTTAGE--HOW SHE TAUGHT ME THE DREAD SECRETS OF HER **BLACK MAGIC!** AND NOW, ON THAT TERRIBLE NIGHT, I STALKED A MAN THROUGH THE RAIN-SOAKED WOODS UNTIL MY HANDS FASTENED AROUND HIS THROAT AND I OBEYED OLD KATE'S FINAL COMMAND AS--

The WITCH'S APPRENTICE!"

"**IT ALL BEGAN,** I SUPPOSE, THE DAY I RAN AWAY FROM THE ORPHANAGE AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN! I DIDN'T CARE IN WHAT DIRECTION THE FREIGHT TRAIN WAS GOING--JUST AS LONG AS IT TOOK ME AWAY FROM THE PLACE WHERE I HAD BEEN SO DESPERATELY UNHAPPY!"

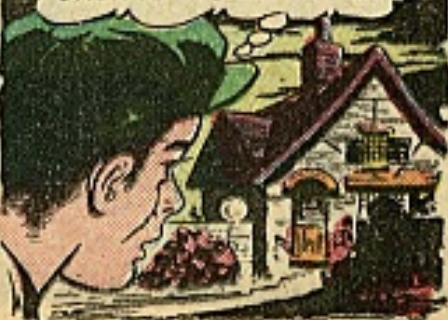


"**IT WAS OCTOBER--AND COLD!** AS EVENING APPROACHED, I WAS CHILLED TO THE BONE! WHEN THE FREIGHT SLOWED TO ROUND A BEND, I HALF-JUMPED, HALF-FELL OFF!"

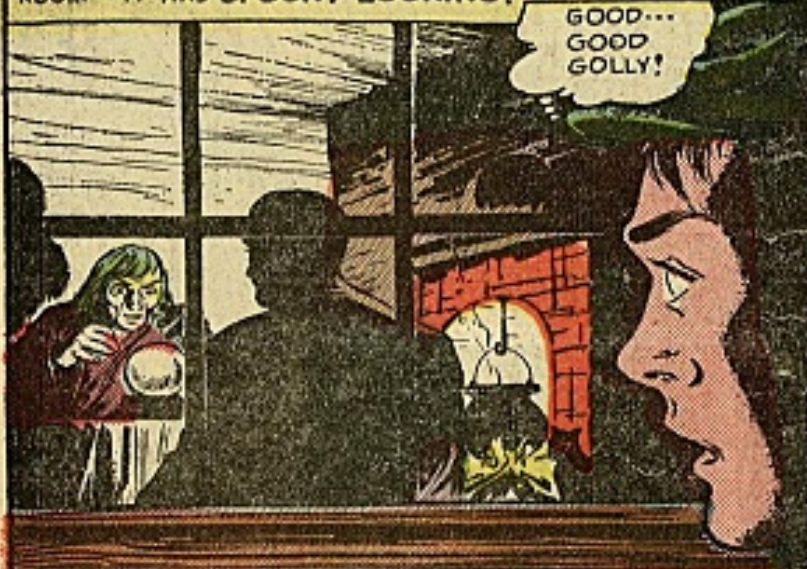


"**IT WAS HUNGRY AND SCARED AS I** PICKED MYSELF UP AND STRUCK OUT THROUGH THE WOODS TOWARDS A TOWN I'D SEEN IN THE DISTANCE! AND THEN, ABRUPTLY, I CAME ON A LOW COTTAGE HIDDEN DEEP IN THE TREES! A LIGHT SHONE FROM A WINDOW..."

MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT! BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL--IF THEY GET WISE I'VE RUN AWAY, THE COPS WILL SEND ME BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE!



"I CREEPT CLOSER, PEERED THROUGH THE WINDOW! THERE WAS A MAN--A STRANGE OLD WOMAN GAZING INTO A GLASS BALL! AND THE ROOM--IT WAS SPOOKY-LOOKING!"



"SUDDENLY THE MAN JUMPED TO HIS FEET, GRASPED THE OLD WOMAN BY THE THROAT--STARTED TO CHOKE HER!"



"I PICKED UP A ROCK AND THREW IT AT THE WINDOW, BREAKING THE GLASS! IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF!"



"WHEN THE MAN HAD FLED--"



"BUT THE OLD WOMAN STILL LIVED! WHEN I REVIVED HER--"



"THE OLD WOMAN SEEMED TO RECOVER QUICKLY! WITHOUT A WORD SHE BROUGHT ME FOOD! I WONDERED HOW SHE KNEW I WAS HUNGRY! I WAS TO WONDER ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS BEFORE I WAS THROUGH WITH OLD KATE!"



AH, I HAVE MY WAYS! DON'T BE AFRAID--I WON'T TELL ANYONE THAT YOU RAN AWAY FROM THE ORPHANAGE!





"THERE WAS SOMETHING FRIGHTENING ABOUT THE OLD WOMAN'S FACE AS SHE STARED AT ME! IT WAS AS IF SHE WERE READING MY VERY THOUGHTS! HER EYES WERE GREENISH--AND GLOWED LIKE A CAT'S!"

I HAVE NO RADIO, LAD... I NEED NONE! I HAVE THE POWER TO SEE INTO THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE! PEOPLE BELIEVE I AM JUST A FORTUNE TELLER... A CHARLATAN! THE FOOLS COME HERE FOR AMUSEMENT... LIKE THAT MAN! BUT I SAW IN THE CRYSTAL THAT HE HAD MURDERED SOMEONE AND HAD NEVER BEEN CAUGHT! THAT IS WHY HE ATTACKED ME... TO SILENCE ME! YOU SEE, I'M A... **WITCH!**

ULP!



"**ES** WAS PETRIFIED WITH FRIGHT! I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE... FROM HER! BUT I COULDN'T MOVE! I SEEMED TO BE HELD BY INVISIBLE BONDS!"

ALL THE ANCIENT SECRETS OF WITCH-CRAFT ARE MINE... AND THEY SHALL BE **YOURS!** YOU HAVE BEEN SENT TO ME... YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE! FOR THAT I WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW! I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A **WIZARD!**

**NO!
NO!**



YOU WILL DO AS I SAY... **NOW** IT IS TIME TO SLEEP! RESTFUL SLEEP! SLEEP... **SLEEP...**



"**ES** STAYED AT OLD KATE'S THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT--AND THE NEXT! IT WAS AS IF I WERE MESMERIZED! I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY THERE... YET, I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT OLD KATE WAS GOOD TO ME! SHE WAS THE ONLY PERSON I EVER REMEMBER WHO SEEMED TO CARE FOR ME! BUT I WAS **AFRAID** OF HER!"

THIS AFTERNOON ONE OF THE TOWN OFFICIALS ASKED ME ABOUT YOU, TIM! I TOLD HIM YOU WERE MY NEPHEW AND WERE STAYING WITH ME! BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, LAD! THERE'S A **LAW...**

YES, I... KNOW...



"**OLD KATE** WAS RIDICULED BY THE PEOPLE... BUT SHE WAS FEARED! AND MY SCHOOL MATES WEREN'T SLOW IN TAUNTING ME... PARTICULARLY **NED RAWSON...**"

TIM! TIM! THE WITCH'S BOY!

GET ON YOUR BROOMSTICK! WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AROUND HERE!



"**ES** MADE THE MISTAKE OF TURNING ON MY TORMENTORS! THIS WAS JUST WHAT **NED** WANTED!"

STAY OUT OF MY WAY, OR YOU'LL GET WORSE THAN THAT!

GIVE IT TO HIM, **NED!**



"**OLD KATE** SAW MY TORN CLOTHES AND BLACK EYE, BUT DIDN'T ASK ME WHAT HAPPENED! SHE **KNEW!**"

SO YOU'VE HAD TROUBLE WITH THAT **NED RAWSON!**

I... I TRIED TO FIGHT HIM! BUT HE'S TOO BIG AND STRONG!

YOU CAN BEAT HIM--- IF YOU DO AS I SAY!
GET SOMETHING BELONGING TO HIM---
LIKE STRANDS OF HIS HAIR---



"I FOLLOWED OLD KATE'S INSTRUCTIONS---I ALWAYS
DID WHAT SHE SAID! WHEN I SAW NED IN THE BARBER-
SHOP NEXT DAY, I SLIPPED IN, GRABBED A HANDFUL OF
HIS HAIR---

GET THE WITCH TO CUT
YOUR HAIR--- THIS IS NO
PLACE FOR YOU!--- HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU AFTER ?

ER--- DROPPED
MY GLOVE, THAT'S
ALL!



"OLD KATE HAD A HUGE CALDRON BUBBLING OVER THE FIRE! SHE
DROPPED THE HAIR INTO A DARK, SEETHING LIQUID, THEN ADDED
THE CONTENTS OF A NUMBER OF BOTTLES! AND ALL THE TIME
--- SHE CHANTED!"

BOIL---BOIL---SIMMER AND BUBBLE
---MAGIC CHARM AGAINST ALL TROUBLE
---BOIL---BOIL---SIMMER AND
BUBBLE---



DRINK IT! AND WHEN YOU MEET
THAT BULLY, LOOK HIM IN THE EYE!
YOU'LL HAVE NO MORE TROUBLE
FROM HIM--- OR ANYONE!



"NEXT MORN-
ING WHEN I
WENT TO THE
GROCERY
STORE FOR
OLD KATE, I
KNEW THAT
THE TEST HAD
COME! FOR
THERE AHEAD,
WAITING FOR
ME, WAS NED
AND HIS
GANG!"

GET OFF THE SIDEWALK,
WITCH'S BOY! THE ROAD IS
THE PLACE FOR YOU!



I'VE HAD ENOUGH
FROM YOU, NED
RAWSON!



"I WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS OF
MY OWN FIST COMING UP---UNTIL
IT CONNECTED WITH NED'S JAW!"

HERE'S SOMETHING
TO REMEMBER
ME BY!





WOW! WHAT A WALLOP!

YOU... YOU WIN! ONLY DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT... PLEASE!



"I BECAME POPULAR... WENT TO THE SCHOOL DANCES AND WAS ASKED TO PARTIES AT THE HOMES OF THE BEST PEOPLE IN TOWN! NOBODY CALLED ME 'WITCH'S BOY' ANY MORE!"

OH, TIM, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER!

"OLD KATE WAS RIGHT! I NEVER HAD ANY MORE TROUBLE FROM NED! IT WAS ALMOST AS IF I HAD SOME POWER OVER HIM AND THE OTHERS, TOO! FROM THAT MOMENT ON, MY LIFE WAS CHANGED! I HAD FELT AN OUTCAST AT SCHOOL, BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, I WAS INCLUDED!"



"ALL THE TIME, OLD KATE WAS TEACHING ME MANY THINGS... DARK AND MYSTERIOUS THINGS... HOW TO BUILD CHARMS; HOW TO USE SECOND-SIGHT AND MENTAL TELEPATHY! SHE EVEN HELPED ME WITH MY SCHOOL WORK..."

LOOK THROUGH THAT PIECE OF GROUND GLASS, LAD, AND THE KNOWLEDGE IN THOSE PAGES WILL BE YOURS FOREVER!



"I BECAME BRILLIANT IN SCHOOL! NOTHING WAS TOO DIFFICULT! MY TEACHERS WERE STARTLED... FOR FREQUENTLY I KNEW MORE THAN THEY DID!"

IT'S UNCANNY! HE SEEMS TO ANTICIPATE EACH QUESTION I ASK AND HAS THE ANSWER INSTANTLY!

BRIGHTEST PUPIL WE'VE EVER HAD! ALMOST TOO BRIGHT!



"IT WASN'T JUST IN THE SCHOOL ROOM THAT I SHONE! I BECAME THE STAR HITTER OF THE BALL TEAM! I FOUND IT EASY TO OUTGUESS THE PITCHERS! MY BATTING AVERAGE WAS IMPRESSIVE..."

THAT KID TIM IS BIG LEAGUE STUFF!

ANOTHER HOMER!



"THE PRETTIEST AND MOST POPULAR GIRL IN TOWN WAS THELMA STARR, BANKER'S DAUGHTER! PRACTICALLY EVERY BOY TRIED TO DATE HER! BUT WHEN I DECIDED THAT SHE WOULD BE MY GIRL... SHE WAS!"

I'M TAKING YOU TO THE PROM, THELMA!

I'D PROMISED GAM... BUT I'LL GO WITH YOU, TIM!

"EVERYTHING WAS WONDERFUL -- EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT I KNEW MY SUCCESS WASN'T REAL! I KNEW WHAT OLD KATE WAS DOING! SHE WAS MAKING ME, BIT BY BIT, INTO A MALE WITCH! AND I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!"

YOU MUST LISTEN AND LEARN! FOR SOONER OR LATER, MY LIFE MUST END--AND WHEN IT DOES, YOU WILL HAVE THE SECRETS TO GO ON WITH!



"THE YEARS PASSED! I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE HIGHEST HONORS, WENT TO A SMALL COLLEGE IN A NEIGHBORING CITY! THEN ONE DAY, WHEN I RETURNED HOME..."

KATE! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

I'M--DYING, LAD! HE CAME BACK-- THE ONE WHO WAS HERE BEFORE! I KNEW HE WOULD--BUT MY POWERS HAVE BEEN DIMMING! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE MOMENT HE WAS COMING--BUT I--I FAILED! HE SHOT ME--FIND HIM, TIM! REVENGE ME!



WHO IS HE? WHERE WILL I FIND HIM?

LOOK IN THE...CRYSTAL BALL! IT WILL TELL YOU...**AAAAHHHHH!**



"SHE LAPSED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, AND BY THE TIME I GOT A DOCTOR, OLD KATE WAS DEAD! I BURIED HER BENEATH THE OAK TREES..."

YOU WERE...GOOD TO ME, KATE! I'LL FIND THE MAN WHO KILLED YOU--AND THEN...



"FROM A SECRET COMPARTMENT I TOOK THE CRYSTAL BALL AND THE ANCIENT BOOK--THE BOOK WHICH OLD KATE HAD NEVER ALLOWED ME TO READ MYSELF! IT CONTAINED ALL THE MYSTIC RITES OF SORcery--STRANGE AND WEIRD RITES--"



"THEN, WITHIN THE CRYSTAL BALL--"

THERE HE IS--**OLD KATE'S MURDERER!**



"I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE MAN'S NAME WAS OR WHERE HE LIVED! BUT THE NEXT MORNING I FELT AN IMPPELLING URGE TO GO TO A DISTANT CITY--"

TIM, DARLING, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SO STRANGE! WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK?

I DON'T KNOW, THELMA! PERHAPS NEVER!





"WHEN I ARRIVED IN THE CITY, I SET OUT IMMEDIATELY FOR A RESIDENTIAL SECTION! I WENT NOT KNOWING WHY, ONLY GUIDED BY SOME MYSTERIOUS FORCE! I CAME TO A HANDSOME HOUSE, AND AS I STOOD THERE, A CAR TURNED INTO THE DRIVE!"

THE MAN IN THE CRYSTAL! THE MAN WHO KILLED HER!



"FOR A SPLIT SECOND, THE MAN'S EYES LOCKED WITH MINE! THEN A CURIOUS THING HAPPENED! THE CAR SUDDENLY SPURTED FORWARD AND CRASHED HEADLONG INTO A TREE!"

CR-RASH!



"AND IN THAT EVENING'S PAPER..."

DAILY O WORLD
HENRY SYMON INJURED IN FREAK ACCIDENT. CANDIDATE FOR STATE SENATE IN HOSPITAL.



"HENRY SYMON'S INJURY WASN'T SERIOUS... HE WAS SOON BACK AT HIS OFFICE! I WATCHED HIM CONSTANTLY, EVERYWHERE HE WENT, IN NIGHT CLUBS, AS HE MADE HIS CAMPAIGN SPEECHES FOR STATE SENATOR..."



"A CHAIN OF MISFORTUNE SEEMED TO WRAP ITSELF AROUND SYMON! HIS BUSINESS FAILED... HE WAS BADLY BEATEN IN THE ELECTION..."



"THEN, FOLLOWING THE MYSTERIOUS URGE WHICH MOTIVATED ALL MY ACTIONS, I WENT BACK TO THE COTTAGE! TWO NIGHTS LATER, I HEARD MUFFLED SOUNDS COMING FROM THE WOODS..."

SOMEONE IS AT OLD KATE'S GRAVE! IT'S... SYMON! HE'S COME TO BURN OLD KATE'S BODY TO RID HIMSELF OF HER CURSE!



WE HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MR. SYMON!

"HE TURNED ON ME, SPADE UPRaised TO STRIKE! I MOVED IN CLOSER---AND MY HANDS WENT INVOLUNTARILY TO HIS THROAT!"



"SYMON FELL---DEAD! I WENT TO THE POLICE, GAVE MYSELF UP!---THAT'S MY STORY! THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED!"



AN AUTOPSY'S BEEN PERFORMED ON SYMON! HE DIDN'T DIE OF STRANGULATION--- BUT FROM HEART FAILURE! YOU CAN GO HOME, TIM! YOU'RE FREE!



LATER---IN THE COTTAGE IN THE WOODS---

I'D BETTER BURN ALL OF KATE'S BOOKS---HER SECRETS! IT'S BETTER THAT WAY! MAYBE IT WILL HELP---TO BREAK HER GRIP ON ME---



BUT THE SECOND THE FLAME TOUCHED THE PAPERS---A BLINDING BLAZE OF UNHOLY FIRE---



IN A TWINKLING, THE COTTAGE IS A MASS OF FLAMES!

YOU HAVE DONE WHAT I WANTED, LAD---NOW YOU CAN GO! ALL THE RECORDS OF WITCHCRAFT ARE DESTROYED! YOU ARE RELEASED, TIM---RE-LEASED!

OLD KATE!



LATER---

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, TIM--- BUT YOU'VE CHANGED! THERE USED TO BE SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MADE ME AFRAID! NOW--- IT'S GONE!

YES, THELMA, IT'S GONE--- FOR- EVER! NOW I CAN LIVE A FREE, NORMAL LIFE! NOW I CAN ASK YOU TO MARRY ME!



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