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ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

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DARING
the
SUPERNATURAL!



(The) WERETIGER of ASSAM



YOU PROBABLY KNOW A LOT ABOUT WEREWOLVES, DON'T YOU? BUT HERE, READER, IS A SPINE-CHILLING TALE OF A CREATURE THAT YOU'VE NEVER DREAMED OF EVEN IN YOUR WILDEST NIGHTMARES---THE WERE-TIGER OF ASSAM! SO BAR THE DOORS, BOLT THE WINDOWS AND TURN THE LIGHTS DOWN LOW ---AND GET SET FOR THRILLS AND CHILLS!

WERE-TIGERS? YOU MUST BE KIDDING ME, CHIEF! IT'S RIDICULOUS ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT WERE-WOLVES EXIST, BUT WERE-TIGERS... HAH!

SURE, IT'S RIDICULOUS, CLINT --- BUT THOSE TWO MEN I SENT OUT INTO THE NAGA HILLS OF UPPER ASSAM WERE HARD-HEADED ENGINEERS, AND THEY CAME BACK BABBLING OF BEING ATTACKED BY WERE-TIGERS---BY SAVAGE BEASTS THAT ARE HALF HUMAN AND HALF TIGERS!

THEY REFUSED TO GO BACK THERE, SAYING THAT THE WERE-TIGERS HAD FORCED HUNTING NAGA TRIBESMEN TO KILL ALL STRANGERS ON SIGHT---APPARENTLY THE SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES ARE TERRIFIED OF THE SUPERNATURAL POWERS THE WERE-TIGERS ARE SUPPOSED TO POSSESS! AND SINCE YOU'RE MY ACE TROUBLE-SHOOTER, I'LL HAVE TO RELY ON YOU TO CARRY OUT OUR CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERN-

NAGA HILLS. HERE I COME! AND IF THERE ARE ANY WERE-TIGERS THERE, THEY'D BETTER WATCH OUT!



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2 DAYS
LATER, OVER
THE REMOTE
PROVINCE
OF ASSAM
IN INDIA---

WELL, NOW THAT I'VE BONED UP ON
THE NAGA LANGUAGE, LET'S SEE
WHAT THIS ATLAS HAS TO SAY
ABOUT MY DESTINATION! HMM, THE
NAGA TERRITORY IS 33,000
SQUARE MILES OF ALMOST
INACCESSIBLE WILDERNESS
---AND IT'S INHABITED BY SOME
HALF MILLION HEAD-HUNTING
NATIVES! I GUESS THIS
IS ONE TIME I'D
**BETTER KEEP
MY HEAD ON THE
JOB!**



THEN, ABOVE THE NAGA HILLS---

THOSE TWO ENGINEERS THE CHIEF SENT OUT
BEFORE ME MADE THE MISTAKE OF USING
AN OVERLAND MULE-TRAIN TO REACH THE
NAGA HILLS---THE TRIBESMEN MUST HAVE
KNOWN DAYS IN ADVANCE THAT THEY
WERE COMING, AND COULD HAVE
LAID THEIR PLANS TO SURPRISE
THEM AND SCARE THEM AWAY!
MAYBE **MY** METHOD WILL EN-
ABLE **ME** TO DO THE
SURPRISING!



GREAT SCOTT---GNEISSOSE AND
CALCAREOUS ROCKS---JUST THE KIND
THAT **RUBIES** ARE ALWAYS FOUND
IN! AND THERE ARE A COUPLE OF
BEAUTIES RIGHT ON THE SURFACE.
---THESE HILLS MUST BE LITERALLY
LOADED WITH FABULOUS GEMS!
THINK I'LL SCOUT AROUND
AND GEE IF THE
NATIVES HAVE
BEEN MINING
ANY OF IT!



AN HOUR LATER---

YOU HAVE NOT BROUGHT ENOUGH
RUBIES YET! BACK INTO THE CAVE
FOR MORE---BEFORE I CHANGE
INTO A TIGER AND CLAW YOU TO
DEATH!

WE---WE GO BACK
FOR MORE, MASTER!

OH, OH---
THIS
IS WORTH
LOOKING
INTO!



BLAST
THAT
TWIG!

A STRANGER!
YOU'LL **DIE** FOR
SNOOPING AROUND
HERE, FOOL!



SORRY, BUDD---**YOU'RE** THE
FOOL FOR THINKING YOU
CAN OUTDRAW OR OUTSHOOT
CLINT DESMOND!

AARGHH!



SO **THIS** IS WHAT THE SUPERSTITIOUS
NATIVES ARE SO TERRIFIED OF! WELL,
IF WEARING A TIGER COSTUME MAKES
A MAN THE BOSS AROUND HERE, I
GUESS I'LL JUST JOIN THE
MASQUERADE PARTY!





YOU ARE WONDERFUL---MY LOVE! BUT YOU MUST BE HUNGRY AFTER YOUR TRIP HERE...COME, LET US CHANGE INTO OUR TIGER STATE TO EAT!

I AM HUNGRY, BUT I---ER...I'VE GOTTEN USED TO EATING IN MY MAN STATE! WHERE'S THE FOOD?



OUT HERE...THE NATIVES KILLED IT FOR ME THIS MORNING! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN TEAR YOUR FOOD APART...YOU HAVE NO CLAWS IN YOUR MAN STATE! I ALWAYS HAVE TO CHANGE TO EAT...LIKE THIS...



YIPE! I...I MUST BE SEEING THINGS! SHE'S...BECOME A TIGER!



NO, IT---IT'S REAL...SHE ACTUALLY CHANGED...SHE'S BEGINNING TO CLAW THAT MEAT APART! I...I'D BETTER SIT DOWN UNTIL I RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK!



SHE'S PADDING TOWARD ME...MUST HAVE GOTTEN SUSPICIOUS! I'D BETTER GET MY HAND ON THE GUN INSIDE MY SHIRT!



SHE'S RAKING MY CHEEK WITH HER CLAW! I HATE TO DO IT... BUT I'D BETTER SHOOT!



BUT BEFORE CLINT'S FINGER CAN TIGHTEN ON THE TRIGGER...

WHEN...SHE CHANGED BACK JUST IN TIME TO SAVE HER LIFE! I...I CAN'T KILL HER NOW THAT SHE'S HUMAN AGAIN!



I'M SORRY I CLAWED YOUR CHEEK...I JUST WANTED TO CARESS YOU WHEN I SAW YOU LOOKING SO ILL. BUT I FORGOT I WAS IN MY CLAWED STATE! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU... WHY DO YOU LOOK SO STRANGELY AT ME?

NOTHING IS THE MATTER, TIGRA... I'M JUST FATIGUED! I GUESS THE DESCENT BY PARACHUTE TOOK TOO MUCH OUT OF ME... ER, I MEAN...

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...ALTHOUGH I NEVER HEARD THE ROPE CALLED A PARACHUTE BEFORE! I VAGUELY REMEMBER MY DESCENT DOWN THE ROPE, AND HOW FRIGHTENING IT WAS...BUT ZORTAN'S DRUGS MADE ME FEEL BETTER! COME, LET US GO TO ZORTAN'S HEADQUARTERS IN GIBSAGAR... HE WILL HELP YOU, TOO!



WHAT IN BLAZES DOES SHE MEAN ABOUT A ROPE? BUT WHATEVER SHE'S BABBLING ABOUT, THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHO THIS ZORTAN IS!

YES, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, TIGRA... I WILL GO WITH YOU TO SEE ZORTAN!

GOOD! BUT THE SUN IS AT ITS ZENITH...THE NATIVES WILL BE ASSEMBLED ON THE HILL OUTSIDE THE TOWN--IT IS TIME NOW TO OBEY ZORTAN'S INSTRUCTIONS AND MAKE MY DAILY SPEECH TO THE NAGAS!



YOU HAVE ALL SEEN ME CHANGE INTO A TIGRESS...ALL OF YOU KNOW MY DREADFUL POWER! REMEMBER...THE WERE-TIGERS WILL NOT DESTROY THE NAGAS AS LONG AS ALL OF YOU OBEY ZORTAN'S ORDERS TO WORK IN THE RUBY MINES AND SLAY ALL STRANGERS! BUT THOSE WHO DISOBEY WILL DIE BY THE CLAWS OF THE WERE-TIGERS!



NOW, I'M BEGINNING TO GET A GLIMMERING OF THE PLOT! IT LOOKS AS IF THIS ZORTAN IS USING TIGRA TO ESTABLISH A MONOPOLY HERE AND GAIN A FABULOUS FORTUNE IN RUBIES! I'M EVEN MORE ANXIOUS TO MEET HIM NOW AND THROW A MONKEY-WRENCH INTO HIS SCHEME!

COME...NOW LET US CHANGE INTO OUR NATURAL STATES--BECAUSE IT IS EASIER TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE JUNGLES TO GIBSAGAR AS TIGERS!



ER, I...I STILL HAVEN'T FULLY RECOVERED FROM MY DESCENT DOWN THE ROPE...I THINK I'LL HAVE THE NAGAS CARRY ME TO GIBSAGAR!

THAT MIGHT BE BEST...I WILL CHANGE AND MEET YOU THERE!



WHEN...I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE SIGHT OF HER CHANGING INTO A TIGRESS...I'LL STILL GET THAT CREEPY FEELING DOWN MY SPINE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT HAPPENS!



LATER... GOSH, I JUST HAPPENED TO REALIZE THAT TIGRA WILL GET TO GIBSAGAR BEFORE I DO--AND IF SHE TELLS ZORTAN ABOUT ME, I'D BETTER BE READY FOR TROUBLE!



JUST OUTSIDE GIREBAR...

HALT, HAGAG! WE
WILL ESCORT OUR
FELLOW TIGER-MAN
INTO ZORTAN'S
PRESENCE!

OH, OH---I
DIDN'T EXPECT
A RECEPTION COMMITTEE
THIS SOON! I BETTER NOT
PUT UP A FIGHT---YET!



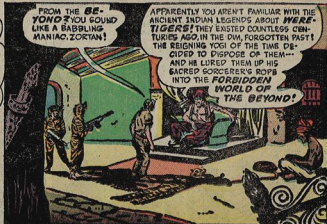
SO YOU'RE
THE BRAIN
BEHIND ALL
THIS, ISN'T?

YES---AND I CAN SEE
THAT YOU'RE AN
AMERICAN! I DIDN'T
KNOW WHOM TO EXPECT
WHEN TIGRA THANKED ME
FOR SENDING A TIGER-MAN
TO HER! ALL OF MY MEN
HAD STRICT ORDERS TO KEEP
AWAY FROM HER---AND I KNEW
THAT I HADN'T BROUGHT ANY
MORE WERE-TIGERS DOWN
FROM THE BEYOND!



FROM THE BE-
YOND? YOU SOUND
LIKE A BABBLING
MANIAC, ZORTAN!

APPARENTLY YOU AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE
ANCIENT INDIAN LEGENDS ABOUT WERE-
TIGERS! THEY EXISTED COUNTLESS CEN-
TURIES AGO, IN THE DIM, FORGOTTEN PAST!
THE REIGNING YOGI OF THE TIME DE-
CIDED TO DISPOSE OF THEM---
AND HE LURED THEM UP HIS
SACRED SORCERER'S ROPE
INTO THE FORBIDDEN
WORLD OF
THE BEYOND!



IF YOU'RE REFERRING
TO THE FAMOUS INDIAN
ROPE TRICK, THAT STUNT
SEEM PROVEN TO BE
A FAKE!---NO ONE
OUR RACE HUMBLES
OR BEATS DIS-
APPEAR BY CREEP-
ING THEM UP A
ROPE!

NO ONE BUT THE HOLIEST
LIVING YOGI! THE SACRED
SORCERER'S ROPE THAT
WAS USED TO RID INDIA OF
WERE-TIGERS WAS HANDED
ON TO THE HIGHEST YOGI
OF EACH GENERATION---



---UNTIL IT CAME TO THIS YOGI! I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO
TOOK THE ANCIENT LEGENDS SERIOUSLY, AND I SPENT YEARS
IN TRACKING DOWN THE CURRENT POSSESSOR OF THE
SACRED ROPE---BECAUSE I REALIZED THE ENORMOUS
POWER IT COULD GIVE ME! WHEN I FINALLY FOUND THAT
THIS YOGI HAD THE AUTHENTIC SORCERER'S ROPE, I
KIDNAPED HIM, PARALYZED HIS WILL BY THE USE OF
DRUGS UNTIL HE BECAME MY OBEDIENT SLAVE---
WHO WOULD SEND HIS ROPE UP INTO THE
BEYOND WHENEVER I ORDERED HIM TO!



I CLIMBED UP THE ROPE, AND THERE I FOUND AN ASTONISHING WORLD INHABITED BY FIERCE **WERE-TIGERS**! MANAGING TO STEAL A YOUNG FEMALE WERE-TIGER CUB, I NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH AND FLED DOWN THE ROPE WITH HER, PULLING THE ROPE DOWN AFTERWARDS TO PREVENT THE WERE-TIGERS FROM FOLLOWING ME! I CALLED THE CUB **TIGRA** ...AND BY YEARS OF CAREFUL TRAINING, TAUGHT HER TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS!



I THEN TOOK HER INTO THE NAGA HILLS AND SHOWED THE TRIBESMEN HOW SHE COULD CHANGE INTO A TIGRESS! THEY WERE TERRIFIED...AND WHEN I TOLD THEM THAT I WOULD RELEASE HUNDREDS OF WERE-TIGERS ON THEM UNLESS THEY DID MY BIDDING, **THEY** BECAME MY ABSOLUTE SLAVES!



I'D DISCOVERED THAT THE NAGA HILLS WERE A FABULOUS SOURCE OF RUBIES, AND REALIZED I COULD BECOME THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH! MY HIRED THUGS, DRESSED IN TIGER-SKINS TO TERRORIZE THE NATIVES, SUPERVISED THE DIGGINGS AT THE RUBY MINES...BUT THEY WERE UNDER STRICT ORDERS NEVER TO APPROACH **TIGRA'S VILLAGE**! THAT WAS HOW I KNEW A **SPY** WAS IN OUR MIDST WHEN **TIGRA** TOLD ME A TIGER-MAN HAD COME TO HER!

WELL, I BELIEVE IN WERE-TIGERS NOW... BUT YOU CAN NEVER MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT BALONEY ABOUT THE **SACRED ROPE** AND THE **WORLD OF THE BEYOND**!



OH, **NO?** PERHAPS **THIS** WILL CONVINCE YOU!... **YOGI...HARBARI GAR JAMRAD!**



JAMRAD KARASAI SADMARDA SKARDU!

HOLY COW...THAT ROPE LEAPED STRAIGHT UP!

YES...AND NOW YOU WILL CLIMB IT!



UP...OR YOU DIE HERE AND NOW!

I'D BETTER DO AS HE SAYS...OR THAT **TOMMY-GUNNER** WILL GET ME!





GREAT SCOTT---I--I'M
IN ANOTHER WORLD UP
HERE! IT---IT'S FANTASTIC--
UNBELIEVABLE---



BUT IT'S ALL REAL---
AND ALL SO WEIRD AND
UNEARTHLY!



HA--NOW THAT I ORDERED
THE ROPE WITHDRAWN,
TIGRA'S TIGER-MAN
WILL BE DEVoured
BY THE WERE-TIGERS
OF THE WORLD
ABOVE!

OH!!!



THE ROPE'S GONE--I'M
STRANDED HERE! AND
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF
THOSE CREATURES! I'D
BETTER USE MY GUN--
FAST!



THEY---THEY'RE
**WERE-
TIGERS!**

BANG!



THE OTHERS ARE FALLING BACK
---BUT THEY'LL SURROUND ME
AND ATTACK AGAIN AND AGAIN
UNTIL MY BULLETS ARE GONE! I
---I GUESS I'M A
GONER!



WHILE BELOW---

BUT LISTEN TO ME, TIGRA
---YOUR TIGER-MAN **WASN'T**
A REAL WERE-TIGER! WE **CAN'T**
BRING HIM
BACK!

YOU LIE! YOU
WILL BRING
HIM BACK TO
ME---OR I'LL
KILL YOU
ALL!





WITH THE YOGI DEAD, ALL THE SACRED
GORCERER'S POWER IS GONE FROM
THE ROPE---AND NOW I CAN'T GO BACK
TO HELP TIGRA! **NO ONE** CAN EVER
AGAIN MOUNT THIS ROPE INTO THE
WORLD OF WERE-TIGERS---JUST AS
NO WERE-TIGERS CAN EVER AGAIN
DESCEND TO **OUR** WORLD! THE
NAGAS WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR
THAT---AND PERHAPS MY MISSION
HERE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL,
AFTER ALL---



SO LONG, TIGRA
...WHEREVER
YOU ARE!



The ZOMBIE'S EYES



ON A DARKENED HOSPITAL ROOM, RETURNING CONSCIOUSNESS BRINGS A VIVID IMAGE—A MEMORY RELIVED FOR A SINGLE TERRIBLE INSTANT!



I'VE GOT TO FORGET THE ACCIDENT—I'VE GOT TO BLOT IT OUT! I CAN'T SEE, BUT THANK HEAVEN I CAN HEAR FOOTSTEPS—I'M NOT ALONE!





I SHOULD FEEL REASSURED, DR. KIRKWOOD--BUT I'M NOT! THERE WAS A MAN IN HERE WITH A STRANGE, HOLLOW VOICE--AND HE TOLD ME THE OPERATION WAS AT HIS EXPENSE!

JUST A NIGHTMARE--CAUSED BY THE ETHER WEARING OFF! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO NOW IS RELAX--AND FORGET EVERYTHING BUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET BETTER FAST!



IN THE BARE CHAMBER WHERE BODIES ARE EXAMINED, ACCORDING TO LAW, BEFORE BURIAL--

WAIT A MINUTE! WHEN I REMOVED THE EYES FROM THAT PLANE VICTIM'S BODY--I LEFT ORDERS THAT IT WAS TO REMAIN HERE FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION!

THAT'S WHY I GOT YOU DOWN HERE, DOCTOR! THAT BODY WASN'T REMOVED--NO ONE TOUCHED IT--IT LEFT BY ITSELF!



DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, JOHNSON! IT ISN'T A VERY FUNNY JOKE--BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME MEDICAL

INTERNS HAVE HIDDEN AN UNCLAIMED CORPSE!

THE DOOR WAS LOCKED, DR. KIRKWOOD--I'VE GOT THE KEY! THE ONLY OTHER WAY TO GET IT OPEN IS TO TURN THIS LATCH--FROM THE INSIDE!



MOMENT LATER--
WHAT'S WRONG, JOHNSON? DON'T TELL ME THERE'S ANOTHER EMERGENCY CASE!



FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, DOCTOR--DON'T WASTE TIME--YOU'VE GOT TO COME TO THE AUTOPSY ROOM!

THERE WAS NOTHING DR. KIRKWOOD COULD SAY AT THE TIME--BUT AS THE DAYS PASSED, HE NOW AND THEN FOUND HIS THOUGHTS TAKING A STRANGE TURN!

WHAT WAS IT THAT PARRY GIRL SAYS SHE FELT IN HER HOSPITAL ROOM? AND WHY DID IT HAPPEN THE VERY NIGHT--ALMOST THE VERY MINUTE--THAT CORPSE DISAPPEARED--THE CORPSE WHOSE EYES SHE'LL BE SEEING WITHIN A FEW MORE DAYS? I'M A DOCTOR, AND I DEAL WITH REALITIES--BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON DRU PARRY!



WEEK LATER--
WELL, DRU--THIS'LL SHOW YOU I WASN'T JUST HANDING YOU A LINE TO BOOST YOUR MORALE! HOW ABOUT IT?

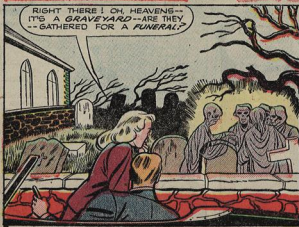
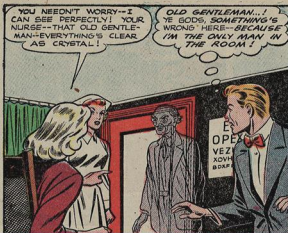


IT'S LIKE COMING BACK TO LIFE--I CAN SEE!

YOU'RE THE FIRST THING I WANT TO LOOK AT, DR. KIRKWOOD--SO YOU'LL KNOW HOW DEEPLY I MEAN IT WHEN I SAY THANK YOU--WITH ALL MY HEART!

O.K., DRU--BUT I'M A LITTLE TOO CLOSE! LOOK AROUND THE ROOM--AND LET'S SEE WHETHER YOUR EYES ARE FOCUSING CORRECTLY!





FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, DR. KIRKWOOD POWERS IN SILENCE AS DUSK GATHERS OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE--GROPPING FOR WORDS TO EXPRESS A REALIZATION LIVED WITH HORROR!

DRU--YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THEY'RE NOT REALLY YOUR EYES! THERE HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS OF CORNEA GRAFT OPERATIONS--BUT THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN DONE WITH EYES FROM HUMANS!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT THE EYES USED FOR MY OPERATION WERE TAKEN FROM THE BODY OF A MAN WHO DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH?

THAT'S RIGHT--BUT HE WASN'T A MAN, DRU--AND HE DIDN'T DIE! HE'S THE KIND OF CREATURE THAT NEVER DIES--WITH EYES THAT CAN SEE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD BECAUSE HE PREYS ON THEM--A ZOMBIE!



NOW I KNOW WHY HE CAME TO MY HOSPITAL ROOM--WHY HE STARTED TO UNDO THE BANDAGE! HE CAN'T FIND THE DEAD WITHOUT HIS EYES--HE'S TRYING TO GET THEM BACK!

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WHAT EVER HAPPENS, DON'T GIVE WAY TO PANIC--THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO STOP THAT FIEND!

SUDDENLY-- YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME, DR. KIRKWOOD--AFTER I LIVED THROUGH A PLANE CRASH--AND AN EX-CRUCIATING OPERATION--WITHOUT ANESTHESIA?

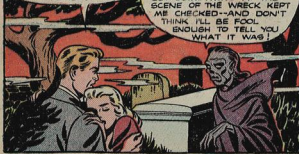
DOCTOR--THAT VOICE! IT'S HIM--THE ZOMBIE!

TAKE IT EASY, DRU! THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO LEARN FROM THIS CREEP--INCLUDING HOW HE MANAGED TO BE ON THAT PLANE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I HAD A PREMONITION OF DISASTER--AND I PLANNED TO SUMMON THE DEAD TO THE HALF-LIFE OF THE ZOMBIES AFTER THE PLANE CRASHED! BUT SOMETHING AT THE SCENE OF THE WRECK KEPT ME CHECKED--AND DON'T THINK I'LL BE FOOL ENOUGH TO TELL YOU WHAT IT WAS!

EVEN SO--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ~~PRETENDED~~ TO BE DEAD--SUBMITTING TO THE TORTURE OF THAT OPERATION!

DON'T YOU SEE I HAD NO OTHER COURSE--WHEN THE RESCUE PARTY ARRIVED A MOMENT AFTER THE PLANE CRASHED? EVERYONE IN MY SECTION OF THE PLANE HAD BEEN INSTANTLY KILLED--HOW COULD I LET MYSELF BE DISCOVERED UNHARMED--WITHOUT PROVING I WAS A ZOMBIE?



THE REAL TEST CAME ON THE OPERATING TABLE--WHEN YOUR SCALPEL SLASHED INTO MY EYE SOCKET! BUT I WITHSTOOD THE AGONY, KNOWING IT WOULD BE JUST A QUESTION OF TIME-- A TIME LIKE THIS--



--WHEN I WOULD GET BACK MY EYES!

DRU--WATCH OUT!



I'LL TRY TO HOLD HIM! GET TO THE CAR!

SOK!



THIS WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT IT MEANS TO RESIST ME--THE KIND OF DEATH YOU NEVER DARED DREAM OF!

POW!



WHAM!



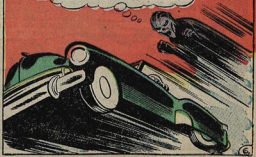
AS THE DREAD FIGURE LEAPS--HIS CLAWED HANDS GRIPPING--

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE DOCTOR--DON'T LOSE YOUR GRIP! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT--THE ZOMBIE UNDERGOES A RIDICULOUS TRANSFORMATION!

THEY'LL NEVER ELUDE ME! NO MATTER HOW FAR THEY GO, THEY'LL BE HAUNTED BY THE FACT THAT I'M CLOSING IN--IN A PURSUIT THAT WON'T END UNTIL I'VE RECOVERED MY EYES!



MINUTES LATER--UNWARE OF THE FIERCE FIGURE ABOVE THEM--

I HATE TO THINK OF THE HORRIBLE RISK YOU TOOK IN ORDER TO SAVE ME, DOCTOR--YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!

NO USE DWELLING ON THAT! WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT IS THE THING THAT WARD OFF THE ZOMBIE AT THE PLANE WRECK--BECAUSE IT'S THE ONE THING THAT WILL DO ANY GOOD NOW!



IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING THAT WASN'T DESTROYED BY THE FLAMES--AND SINCE YOU WERE THE ONLY HUMAN WHO WAS THROWN CLEAR--YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CARRIED THE MYSTERIOUS TALISMAN THE ZOMBIE FEARS! HE WOULDN'T HAVE ATTACKED NOW IF YOU STILL HAD IT--SO THINK BACK, DRU--DID YOU LOSE ANYTHING DURING THE ACCIDENT?

YES--THE NECKLACE I BOUGHT IN HAITI! IT WAS JUST A NATIVE TRIFLE--MADE OF RED AND BLACK SEEDS!



GREAT GUNS--THAT'S IT! THOSE ARE JUMBIE SEEDS, DRU--JUMBIE MEANS THE SAME THING AS ZOMBIE--AND THE SEEDS ARE USED IN YOOOOO TO REBEL THE WALKING DEAD!

THAT WON'T BE ANY HELP TO US! THERE'S BUT ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION WE'LL FIND THE NECKLACE--AND WE'D NEVER HAVE TIME TO GET MORE JUMBIE SEEDS--ALL THE WAY FROM THE WEST INDIES!



YOU'RE RIGHT--IN FACT, I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE LONGER THAN TONIGHT! WE'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP FLEEING THAT FEROZ DRU--WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CHANCE--AND LET HIM CORNER US!



HALF-HOUR LATER--

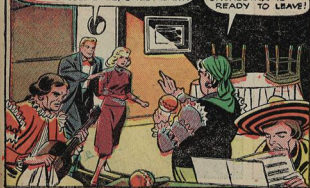
COME ON, MONEY--HERE'S THE PLACE I HAVE IN MIND!

A NIGHT CLUB? BUT DOCTOR, WE'VE FOLLOWED US--HERE AT LAST!



YEP--I EXPECTED HIM TO FOLLOW US! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT BY BEING CORNERED, SWEETHEART!

SEÑOR--THE PLACE IS CLOSING! THE ORCHESTRA IS READY TO LEAVE!



NEVER MIND THAT--START PLAYING! DRU--GET OVER TO THE BAR!



IN AN INSTANT LATER--AS IF THE CHILL OF DEATH HAD ENTERED IN AN UNSEEN BLAST--



DIOS MIO--
THAT IS NOTHING ALIVE! IT
IS A BEING WE KNOW WELL
IN CUBA--THE CREATURE
OF RESTLESS GRAVE-
YARDS!

ONLY ONE THING
WILL SAVE US! PRE-
TEND YOU DON'T NO-
TICE HIM--KEEP
PLAYING!

BABY, DRU! WE'VE
GOT TO ACT BOLDLY
--WITHOUT SHRINK-
ING!

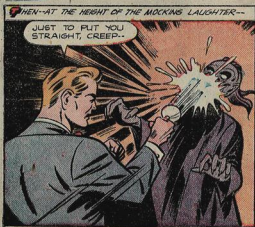
YOU'RE ACTUALLY
WAITING FOR ME,
EH? YOU TWO GAVE
UP MORE QUICKLY
THAN I EXPECTED,
DR. KIRKWOOD!



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'D
BETTER GIVE UP FREAK!
ONCE THIS GLASS IS
DRAINED, IT'LL BE ALL
OVER--WE WON'T HAVE
A THING TO WORRY
ABOUT!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE
POISON? YOU'RE ACTUALLY READY
TO DIE IN MY PRESENCE--AND
GIVE ME NOT ONLY MY EYES--
BUT A PAIR OF CORPSES I
CAN COMMAND FOREVER?

HAA NA
NA NA!



THEN--AT THE HEIGHT OF THE MOCKING LAUGHTER--

JUST TO PUT YOU
STRAIGHT, CREEP--

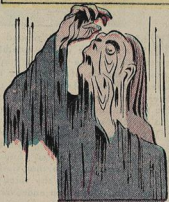


--WHO SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
US DYING?

AAGH...
AAGH...



ON THE NEXT SECOND--THE GASPING SHAPE
SHRINKS INTO SOMETHING THE EARTH HAD
CLAIMED CENTURIES AGO!





WHEN ART EXPERT RICHARD SMALL WAS COMMISSIONED BY A NEALTHY CLIENT TO EXAMINE THE PAINTING OF A FEROCIOUS 18TH CENTURY BUCCANEER, HE THOUGHT HE WAS IN LUCK! HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT BEFORE HIS WORK WAS FINISHED, THE FIGURE IN THE PAINTING WOULD SUDDENLY SPRING SAVAGELY TO LIFE AND HE'D BE BATTLING FOR HIS VERY EXISTENCE AGAINST THE TERROR OF THE SEVEN SEAS...AGAINST THE SPECTRAL PIRATE!

I'VE HEARD GOOD REPORTS OF YOU, MR. SMALL! I WANT YOU TO LOOK OVER THIS CANVAS AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS PAINTED BY SIR GLADWIN KEEFER!

I'LL BE GLAD TO, MR. MACPHERSON!



VICIOUS-LOOKING CUSTOMER, EH? SUPPOSED TO BE A LIFE STUDY OF CAPTAIN CUTT, THE BLOODIEST PIRATE OF THEM ALL! QUITE A LEGEND ABOUT HIM---BURIED A TREASURE SOMEWHERE AROUND NEW YORK HERE, THEY SAY!

JUST AS LONG AS HE STAYS WHERE HE IS, I WON'T WORRY! I'D SURE HATE TO MEET HIM ON A DARK NIGHT!





DON'T WORRY, GIRL! I'LL BE CAREFUL!

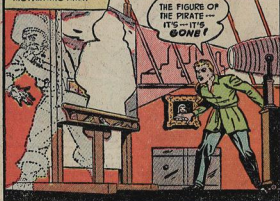


THERE ARE MANY TESTS OF A PORTRAIT'S AUTHENTICITY...AND RICHARD WASN'T MISSING A BET!

SEEMS NO DOUBT THAT IT'S A REAL KEEFER...BUT I'D BETTER RUN THROUGH ALL THE TESTS! AND THAT INCLUDES SCANNING IT WITH **INFRA-RED RAYS!**



BUT NO SOONER DID THE MYSTERIOUS INFRA-RED RAYS STRIKE THE PAINTING WHEN...

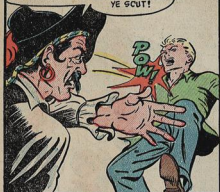


IT'S...IMPOSSIBLE! HE COULDN'T HAVE COME OUT OF THE PAINTING! YET...HE'S IDENTICAL...



I...I MUST BE DREAMING!

NOBODY'S HAVING THAT TREASURE BUT ME---CAPTAIN CUTT! MAKE A MOVE AND I'LL GLIT YOUR GULLET FULL OPEN, YE SCUT!



LAZED, RICHARD LAY STILL, EYES FIXED ON THE NIGHTMARE FIGURE...

IT'S UTTERLY FANTASTIC---BUT SOMETHING MUST'VE BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE! PERHAPS THE INFRA-RED RAYS...

AH! A BOTTLE O' GROG!



WITHOUT HIM, MR. MACPHERSON'S PAINTING IS RUINED! AND---GOOD HEAVENS! NANCY'S LIABLE TO COME IN AT ANY MOMENT!

I'VE STILL GOT THE MAP! SCUPPER ME, BUT IF THE SCURVY KNAVES HAD ONLY KNOWN THAT I'D HIDDEN THE KEY TO MY TREASURE IN A SECRET POCKET, THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT!



AYE, I REMEMBER---THE ISLE OF DEVIL'S RETREAT---FIFTEEN PACES FROM THE OAK TREE---PAST THE BIG BOULDER---THEN---

WHAT ON EARTH AM I GOING TO DO? I'M NO MATCH FOR HIM!



THEN---RICHARD'S PROBLEM WAS MOMENTARILY SOLVED AS CAPTAIN CUTT STRODE TO THE DOOR, THREW IT WIDE OPEN---



STAY WHERE YE ARE! 'TIS ONLY FOR SAVING MY LIFE THAT I SPARE YOURS! NOW I GO ASHORE AND GET MY TREASURE! THEN FOR A LIFE OF EASE!



THANK GOODNESS HE'S GONE! ---THAT PAPER! HE DROPPED IT! THE MAP TO HIS TREASURE!







SILENCE, DOG! CAPTAIN CUTT TAKES WHAT HE WANTS...AND NOBODY STOPS HIM!



AND SO, GRIPPING THE GIRL TIGHTLY, AND WITH ONE HUGE HAND OVER HER MOUTH, CAPTAIN CUTT FORCED HER TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE STREET! NIGHT HAD COME...AND WITH IT, A HEAVY FOG!



AH! THE SMELL OF THE SEA! NOW TO FIND A CONVEYANCE TO TAKE US TO MY TREASURE!



THEY HADN'T GONE HALF A BLOCK ALONG CENTRAL PARK SOUTH WHEN THEY CAME UPON A HANSON CAB MOMENTARILY DESERTED BY ITS DRIVER...

HO! THIS WILL DO! IN WITH YE, WENCH! DARE TO MAKE AN OUT-CRY...AND I'LL WRING YOUR NECK!



AHOY! WHERE LIES LONG ISLAND?

THAT WAY, PAL, ACROSS THE QUEENSBORO BRIDGE!



MEANWHILE, RICHARD HAD RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS...

NANCY'S...GONE! HE'S MADE OFF WITH HER! I'VE...I'VE GOT TO TRACK HIM DOWN...NOW MORE THAN EVER...DEVIL'S RETREAT! WHERE CAN IT BE?



AT THE HOME OF A NOTED LOCAL GEOGRAPHER...

BUT THERE MUST BE AN ISLAND AROUND NEW YORK NAMED DEVIL'S RETREAT!...SAY! PERHAPS THAT'S THE OLD NAME! PERHAPS IT'S BEEN CHANGED!

HMMMM! BETTER LET ME GET OUT SOME OLD MAPS OF NEW YORK!



GREAT GUNS! THERE IT IS...OFF THE NORTH SHORE OF LONG ISLAND! DEVIL'S RETREAT! NOW IT'S KNOWN AS CANNON ISLAND...PRIVATELY OWNED BY THE MASON FAMILY! THEY HAVE A SUMMER PLACE THERE!

CANNON ISLAND! THAT'S WHERE I'M HEADING...FAST!



BUT THE HEAVY FOG AND UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE REGION SLOWED RICHARD'S PROGRESS! MUCH TIME HAD PASSED BEFORE HE BROUGHT HIS CAR TO A STOP AT A SMALL VILLAGE ON THE MAINLAND OPPOSITE ISLAND...



CAN I RENT A ROWBOAT, MISTER? I HAVE TO GET ACROSS TO THE ISLAND!



RECKON SO...WHAT'S GOIN' ON OVER THERE? MA SONG HAVIN' A PARTY? JEST HALF AN HOUR AGO, A MAN DRESSED UP LIKE A PIRATE TOOK A BOAT WITHOUT ASKIN' ANYONE AN' SET OUT FER CANNON, ROWIN' LIKE CRAZY! PURTY GAL WITH HIM! LOOKED SCARED, IF YOU ASK ME!

THE OLD MAN'S WORDS RANG IN RICHARD'S EARS AS HE ROWED RAPIDLY AWAY INTO THE FOG...

HALF AN HOUR! IF ONLY I'M IN TIME...



IT WAS A RACE...A RACE FOR LIFE ITSELF! COULD HE REACH HANDBY BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE...SAVE HER FROM THIS AWFUL BEING FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN! FINALLY...CANNON ISLAND!



PLEASE...PLEASE... LET HER BE SAFE!



NO SIGN OF LIFE ANYWHERE...WAIT! THERE'S A LIGHT WAY DOWN THERE!

A LIGHT...FROM AN OLD LANTERN PLACED ON THE GROUND! AND IN ITS RAYS WAS NANCY, BOUND HAND AND FOOT! AND NEARBY, CAPTAIN CUTT WAS DIGGING... DIGGING...



IF...IF ONLY I CAN FREE HER BEFORE HE CATCHES SIGHT OF ME!



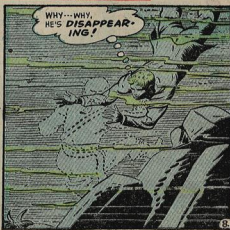
RICHARD!

SHHHHHH!

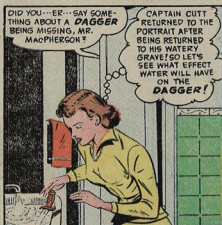
BLAST IT! MY TREASURE'S GONE! I'VE BEEN ROBBED!



IT WAS AN UN-
EQUAL COMBAT---
A MORTAL HUMAN,
PITTED AGAINST A
MIGHTY CREATURE
FROM A STRANGE
REALM! RICHARD
FOUGHT MADLY
AGAINST THE
FATAL DAGGER
... AND ...







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MIND over MATTER

I WAS PACKING my bags for the return trip to the States when the door of my hotel suite in Bombay suddenly burst open...and Philip Byerly entered, his eyes aglow, looking very tense and exalted.

Phil and I had been lifelong friends, despite our constant arguments about our different philosophies and beliefs. As a psychiatrist, I had always held to the scientific view that there were no such things as "supernatural" phenomena... while as a delver into occult mysticism, Phil had always been convinced that the laws of magic and sorcery were as valid as, and even more powerful than, the laws of natural science. But no matter how heated our arguments became at times, we still remained the closest of friends...and I think we both would have missed our spirited hours of controversy had we been apart for any length of time.

So it was that Phil decided to accompany me to India that summer when I accepted the visiting professorship in psychiatry at Bombay University's School of Medicine. He took a summer's leave of absence from his job as curator of the Institute of Applied Occultology, and we had a fine old time of it on the plane trip to Bombay, arguing and rearguing over all the fine points of our radically different philosophies.

But then at Bombay, Phil decided to take advantage of his stay in India by going off into the remote interior to learn what he could of the mystical secrets of Yoga. And despite my protests that it would be a waste of his time, off he went. I neither saw him nor heard from him for three months...until he burst into my hotel room as I was packing my bags.

After the handshakes and greetings, I said, "Well, what did you find in the interior, Phil...gold? Why so excited and keyed up?"

His eyes glowed even more brightly than before...the look of a fanatic. He said triumphantly, "I found plenty, Hugh...I learned a secret of the Yogis that can make anything in the world disappear!

And after three months of training by the Yogis in the exercise of my will to believe, I can make anything vanish...if I doubt that it actually exists! Watch...I don't believe that the chandelier on the ceiling exists...!"

"Great Scott!" I exclaimed involuntarily, staring at the spot where the chandelier had been. *It was there no longer!*

"See?" Phil said triumphantly. "It's all a question of the will. The world exists for each man only insofar as he believes it exists. And if you train your will-power according to the Yogi methods, the slightest doubt that an object exists is enough to cause that object to cease existing!"

By this time, of course, I had recovered my composure...and I thought I understood what had happened. "You're only partly right, Phil," I said firmly. "It is a question of the will...and because you want so desperately to believe that you have this godlike power, you've developed a temporary insanity. The chandelier exists, all right...but you don't see it because you don't want to see it, because your psychosis makes you blind to it!"

"But look up there!," Phil shouted. "You don't see it, do you?"

"No, I don't," I admitted. "But that's only because your hallucination is so strong that it's affected me...and if there were others in this room, it would be a case of mass hallucination. In psychiatry, it's known as *folie a deux*, where one person temporarily catches the hallucinations of a psychotic. And I'll give you an argument to prove that you can't be right. If what you say is true, then nothing in the world really exists...not even you!"

A look of bewilderment and doubt grew on Phil's face. "I...I never thought of that," he said. "Maybe I don't really ex..."

Before my eyes, Phil suddenly vanished, seemingly right out of this world. I never saw him again...and I don't think I ever will.

ASSAULT *from the* UNKNOWN



GREAT SCOTT-- I... I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE MY EYES! GHOSTS, ZOMBIES, WEREWOLVES, VAMPIRES-- ALL HEADING FOR THAT CAVE, AS IF IN ANSWER TO SOME SATANICAL SUMMONS!

YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NAME, READER, BUT WE'VE MET MANY TIMES BEFORE-- IN THE PAGES OF THIS MAGAZINE! YES, I'M ALAN HARTWOOD, DELVER INTO THE SUPERNATURAL-- AND CHIEF WRITER FOR ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN! AND THIS IS THE MOST-STARTLING STORY I'VE EVER WRITTEN-- AN ACCOUNT OF A FIENDISH PLOT, A MONSTROUS ASSAULT FROM THE UNKNOWN AGAINST THIS VERY MAGAZINE! I GOT MY FIRST HINT OF THE PLOT ON A GLOOMY, MIST-SHROUDED MOUNTAIN-TOP HIGH IN THE ADIRONDACKS...



WE COME, O MASTER--
WHAT IS THY WISH?



"MASTER"-- THE ONLY MASTER COMMON TO ALL THESE CREEPS IS SATAN HIMSELF! AND IF HE CALLED THIS CONVENTION, THEN SOMETHING REALLY BIG MUST BE COOKING-- SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT!

"WITHIN A HUGE, HOLLOWED-OUT AMPHITHEATRE..."

WELCOME, O LEGION OF DEMONS! I HAVE SUMMONED YOU BECAUSE EVERY CREATURE IN THE REALM OF THE SUPERNATURAL IS IN GREAT DANGER FROM THE EXPOSES OF THAT CRUSADING MAGAZINE, "ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN"!



DANGER, I SAY-- FOR IT HAS REVEALED TOO MANY OF OUR PRECIOUS SECRETS, WHILE TEACHING HUMANS HOW TO COMBAT SUPER-NATURAL FORCES!

YOU SPEAK TRULY, MASTER! THERE IS SCARCELY A SAFE LOCALITY LEFT FOR US TO ATTACK!



WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! MY PLAN CALLS FOR A DIRECT ATTACK ON "ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN"! WE MUST TERRORIZE ITS KEY PERSONNEL-- AND ABOVE ALL, EXTERMINATE ALAN HARTWOOD, ITS CHIEF WRITER!



HARTWOOD KNOWS MORE OF OUR SECRETS THAN ANY MAN ALIVE, SO HE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO TRAP! BUT WE MUST GET HIM-- WE MUST!

WHEW! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT CONVENTION OF CREEPS BREAKS UP!



LUCKY I CAMOUFLAGED MY HELICOPTER, OR THOSE FLYING VAMPIRES WOULD HAVE SPOTTED IT! NOW TO GET BACK TO NEW YORK-- FAST!



"HOURS LATER..."

HI, NORA-- I'VE GOT TO SEE THE EDITOR IMMEDIATELY-- IT'S VERY URGENT!

I'M SORRY, MR. HARTWOOD-- HE'S IN CONFERENCE AT THE MOMENT! YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT!



"I WAITED, BUT GRINNED AS I HEARD THE VOICES COMING FROM THE INNER EDITORIAL SANCTUM--AND I COULD BASILY IMAGINE WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE..."

BUT, CHIEF, IT'S THE HONEST TRUTH--NONE OF US HAS BEEN ABLE TO DIG UP A LEAD ON ANY GHOST, VAMPIRE, ZOMBIE, OR WEREWOLF LATELY!

I DON'T NEED EXCUSES-- I NEED STORIES! I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU DIG 'EM UP, BUT GET 'EM IN FAST-- AND THEY'D BETTER BE GOOD!

HARTWOOD! WHERE THE DEVIL HAVE YOU BEEN?

WITH THE DEVIL CHIEF-- BUT LITERALLY! I INTERCEPTED A SATANIC MESSAGE THAT SUMMONED THE MOST FIENDISH DENIZENS OF THE UNKNOWN TO A MEETING IN A SECRET CAVE IN THE ADIRONDACKS--AND I WENT THERE, TOO! I LEARNED THAT ALL THOSE GHOULS ARE OUT TO DESTROY YOUR MAGAZINE! THE LIFE OF EVERYONE WORKING HERE IS IN DEADLY PERIL!



LOOK, HARTWOOD, I KNOW YOU'RE ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING AUTHORITIES ON THE SUPERNATURAL-- BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT PIPEDREAM! WHY DON'T YOU ADMIT THAT YOU COULDN'T GET ANY ACTUAL LEADS, SO YOU JUST COOKED THIS YARN UP OUT OF YOUR OWN HEAD AND--

BUT I DIDN'T-- IT'S TRUE!

BETTER SKIP IT! I'M BE-GINNING TO LOSE MY TEMPER!

WELL, YOU'LL FIND OUT THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH--WHEN THEY COME TO GET YOU! REMEMBER-- I WARNED YOU! AND NOW ALL I CAN DO IS TRY TO PROTECT THE OTHERS IN THE OFFICE!



"AS I STALKED OUT ANGRILY, MY EYE WAS CAUGHT BY PRETTY NORA COLE-- AND THE THOUGHT CAME TO ME THAT SHE, TOO, WAS IN DANGER..."

I COULDN'T STAND IT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HER! BUT HOW CAN I BEST PROTECT HER?

WHY, I'D LOVE TO... ALAN!

SAY, NORA, HOW ABOUT HAVING DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?



LISTEN, NORA-- I'M GOING TO MAKE A VERY ODD REQUEST! I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE POWDER INSIDE THIS POUCH-- AND SPREAD IT AROUND YOUR BED IN A CIRCLE BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP TONIGHT!

BUT... BUT WHY? WHAT ON EARTH IS IT?



IT'S A SPECIAL MIXTURE OF HEMLOCK, ACONITE, AND POWDERED SILVER-- THE MOST EFFECTIVE KNOWN SUBSTANCE TO KEEP SUPER-NATURAL FORCES AWAY, BECAUSE ITS CERTAIN ANNIHILATION FOR ANY OF THEM TO STEP INTO A CIRCLE MADE OF THAT POWDER! I ALWAYS KEEP A SUPPLY WITH ME-- AND I HAVE A HUNCH YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT, TOO!



WHY THAT'S RIDICULOUS, ALAN-- BUT I'LL DO AS YOU SAY IF YOU TAKE ME OUT DANCING! I'VE BEEN DYING TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!

"I TOOK NORA OUT, OF COURSE-- AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WONDERFUL EVENING IF I HADN'T BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT WHERE AND WHEN THE LEGION OF DEMONS WOULD STRIKE FIRST! TOWARDS MIDNIGHT, I DROVE PAST OUR OFFICE BUILDING..."

LOOK-- THAT LIGHT ON THE 14TH FLOOR-- THAT'S OUR OFFICE! AND NO ONE EVER WORKS THIS LATE!

SOMEONE PROBABLY LEFT THE LIGHTS ON! IF THE BUILDING'S OPEN, I'LL GO UP AND TURN THEM OUT!



IT'S LOCKED! THAT MEANS IF ANYONE OR ANYTHING IS UP THERE, IT HAD TO FLY UP! AND THAT TELLS ME HOW I'M GOING TO GET IN! BUT I CAN'T LET NORA IN ON THIS!



IT'S LOCKED-- I MIGHT AS WELL FORGET ABOUT IT AND TAKE YOU HOME!

ALL RIGHT, ALAN!

"AFTER TAKING NORA HOME, I RACED OUT TO THE EAST RIVER DOCK WHERE MY HELICOPTER-SEAPLANE WAS ANCHORED-- AND WAS SOON FLYING BETWEEN THE CANYON-LIKE WALLS OF THE SKYSCRAPERS! THEN, HOVERING OUTSIDE THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF 'ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN'..."



HOLY SMOKE-- VAMPIRES-- TEARING THE PLACE APART!

ALL RIGHT-- I'M READY TO SET THE FIRE!

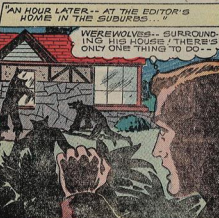
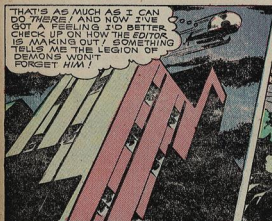
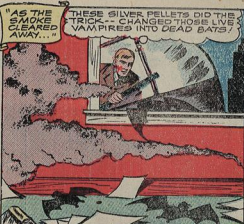
LOOK-- A HELICOPTER OUTSIDE THE WINDOW! WE'RE DISCOVERED!



GET HIM-- KILL HIM!

THEY CAN OUTFLY THIS CRATE! ONLY ONE THING CAN STOP THEM-- A SHOTGUN FILLED WITH SILVER PELLETS-- AND THAT'S SOMETHING I ALWAYS CARRY IN THE PLANE FOR EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS!







WHAT WAS THAT NOISE-- WHO'S OUT THERE?

DON'T SHOOT-- IT'S ALAN HARTWOOD! COME ON OVER HERE AND LOOK AT THIS!



DEAD WOLVES!

DEADLY WEREWOLVES JUST A MINUTE AGO! I CAME HERE JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, AND FOUND THEM ON THE VERGE OF BREAKING INTO YOUR HOUSE TO KILL YOU! I LURED THEM AWAY, AND THEN POLISHED THEM OFF WITH A GRENADE MADE OF ACONITE-- OTHERWISE KNOWN AS WOLF'S BANE!



HARTWOOD, YOUR MIND MUST HAVE BEEN WARPED BY THE SUPERNATURAL STORIES YOU'VE BEEN TURNING OUT IF YOU THINK I'LL FALL FOR A PRANK LIKE THIS! THROWING STUFFED WOLVES ONTO MY LAWN TO TRY TO MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT MANIACAL STORY ABOUT SATAN'S LEGION OF DEMONS! BUT IT WON'T WORK!

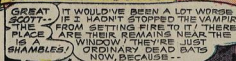


YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME, EH? WELL, COME ON UP TO YOUR OFFICE WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING THAT WILL CONVINCE YOU!

AT THE OFFICE? SO HELP ME, HARTWOOD, IF YOU'VE PULLED ANY STUNT THERE, I'LL TEAR YOUR LIMB FROM LIMB!



SOON-- BACK IN THE OFFICE--



GREAT SCOTT-- THE PLACE IS A SHAMBLES!

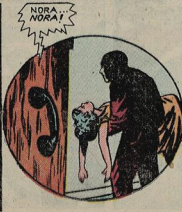
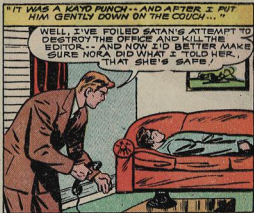
IT WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT WORSE IF I HADN'T STOPPED THE VAMPIRES FROM SETTING FIRE TO IT! THERE ARE THEIR REMAINS NEAR THE WINDOW! THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY DEAD BATS NOW, BECAUSE--



DON'T GIVE ME THAT BALONEY! YOU USED YOUR HELICOPTER TO LAND ON THE ROOF, THEN LOWERED YOURSELF BY ROPE TO THE WINDOW, BROKE IN WITH A SACKFUL OF DEAD BATS-- AND THEN DID THE DIRTY WORK YOURSELF! I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE AND HAVE YOU LOCKED UP AS A DANGEROUS MADMAN!

NO--YOU WON'T--







"I HAD NO CHOICE-- I HAD TO SAVE NORA'S LIFE! BUT LUCKILY, THERE WAS STILL ENOUGH TIME BEFORE DAWN TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF 'ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN'-- EXPLAINING ALL..."





"BUT GHOSTS CAN MOVE FAR MORE SWIFTLY THAN HUMANS-- AND THE INEVITABLE OCCURRED! I WAS TRAPPED--BY COLD AND HIDEOUS HANDS!"



...AND WHEN I WOKE UP, I FOUND MYSELF IN A CEMETERY! OF COURSE, I COULD HAVE BEEN SLEEPWALKING-- BUT I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE-- AND SOMEHOW, I HAVE A FEELING THAT ALAN HARTWOOD IS CONNECTED WITH THIS!

...and if I don't come back, you'll know I gave my life to save Nora-- you'll hear from me again-- because I've learned so many secrets of the spirit world, I'm writing for "adventures into the unknown" that I'm sure I can become a Ghost Writer!

Just make sure you leave a fresh supply of paper near the office typewriter at night... and I'll continue to write stories of the Supernatural from the world of the Supernatural!

Alan



UNCANNY MYSTERIES

PHYSICIAN for PHANTOMS

ONE OF THE STRANGEST TALES IN THE ANNALS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IS THAT OF DR. KARL HENDERSON OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA-- SELF-APPOINTED PHYSICIAN FOR PHANTOMS!

IN THE EARLY 1850'S, YOUNG DR. HENDERSON ACHIEVED THE REPUTATION OF BEING A SURGEON OF UNCANNY SKILL...

THERE! THE OPERATION IS COMPLETE-- THE CHILD WILL LIVE!

INCREDIBLE! THE BOY'S HEART HAD STOPPED BEATING 20 MINUTES BEFORE YOU WENT TO WORK ON HIM! YOU... YOU'VE LITERALLY RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, DR. HENDERSON!



BUT DR. HENDERSON'S REAL INTEREST IN RAISING PEOPLE FROM THE DEAD BEGAN THE RAINY DAY WHEN HE WATCHED BODIES BEING EXHUMED FROM A SMALL GRAVEYARD THAT HAD BEEN FLOODED BY HEAVY RAIN AND HIGH TIDES...

THERE ARE MANY PHYSICIANS FOR THE LIVING, BUT NONE WHATEVER FOR THE DEAD! MAYBE-- I COULD USE MY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL TO COMFORT THOSE WHO LIE IN MISERY, MOLDERING IN THE GRAVE!

THE DOCTOR BEGAN HIS RESEARCHES INTO DEATH-- AND IN AN ADDRESS TO THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON NOVEMBER 10TH, 1853...

THE DEAD ARE NOT ASLEEP. THEY DO NOT REST! THE AIR ABOUT US THROUGHS WITH THEIR SPIRITS! THOUGH WE CONSIGN THE BODY TO THE EARTH, THERE STILL PERSIST VOLATILE ESSENCES WHICH REMAIN TO WANDER THROUGH THE DRIFTING VAPORS OF THE NIGHT!

THE UNRESTING DEAD RETURN! THEN NIGHT WANES, THE COCKS CROW-- AND BACK TO THE GRAVE THEY GO! WHATEVER HAS ONCE HAD LIFE HAS LIFE FOREVER! THE DEAD ARE HELPLESS-- THEY CANNOT RECALL THEMSELVES, NOR RISE OF THEIR OWN VOLITION! BUT BY THE POWER OF IMPERIOUS WILL, THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD MAY BE RECALLED!



HA-HA!

WHAT NONSENSE!

THE MAN'S MAD!

MOCKED AT FOR HIS RADICAL VIEWS, THE DOCTOR THENCEFORTH REFUSED TO TREAT ANY LIVING PATIENTS-- BUT SOUGHT HIS PATIENTS AMONG ABANDONED GRAVEYARDS...

THEN, ONE MARCH NIGHT, THE DOCTOR FOUND ONE GRAVE WHOSE UTTER DECAY MADE HIS HEART HEAVY WITH SORROW...



RISE UP-- MY WILL **COMMANDS** YOU TO RISE UP AND WALK THE EARTH ONCE MORE!



POOR SPIRIT-- WAS THERE NO ONE WHO LOVED YOU ENOUGH TO TEND YOUR GRAVE? IS THERE NO ONE IN THIS WORLD YOU WISH TO RISE UP AND SEE?



AS IF IN RESPONSE TO HIS WORDS...

GREAT SCOTT-- SHE **HEARD** ME! AND SHE'S **BEAUTIFUL**-- THE LOVELIEST BEING I'VE EVER SEEN!

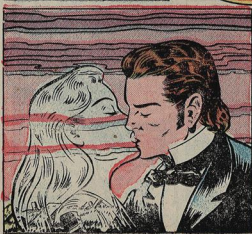
WHO ARE YOU-- WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I DON'T KNOW-- I THINK THE STONE ABOVE MY GRAVE SAID "HELEN"-- BUT-- IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

HIS HEART WRACKED WITH PITY AND LOVE THE DOCTOR REACHED OUT, CAUGHT THE GHOST'S HAND...

YOUR TOUCH IS **WARM**-- YOU'RE **ALIVE**! YOU MUST LET ME GO-- I AM NAUGHT BUT A SPIRIT!

A SPIRIT THAT HAS CAPTURED MY HEART!



WHEN THE COCKS BEGAN CROWING IN THE FIRST FAINT LIGHT OF DAWN...

I MUST RETURN TO MY GRAVE BEFORE THE SUN'S RAYS STRIKE ME... OR ELSE I WILL PERISH ALTOGETHER! FAREWELL-- UNTIL MIDNIGHT TOMORROW...

STAY-- DO NOT LEAVE ME! I LOVE YOU!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE STRANGE PAIR MET!
AND ONE DAWN, THE DOCTOR SWORE SHE
WOULD NEVER LEAVE HIM AGAIN...

THE SUN WILL
BE UP IN A
FEW MINUTES--
LET ME GO!

NEVER! WE HAVE SNATCHED
THESE FEW HOURS FROM
DEATH-- AND NOW WE WILL
CHEAT HIM FOREVER! MY
LOVE WILL KEEP YOU
ALIVE-- WE WILL NEVER
BE PARTED AGAIN!



THE SUN--
MY SPIRIT
DIES--
OHHHH!

HELEN!



SHE... SHE'S GONE!
EVEN HER GOWN HAS
CRUMBLED TO DUST
IN MY HANDS!



I AM TO BLAME! I SHOULD
HAVE LET HER RETURN WHILE
THERE WAS STILL TIME-- BUT
I SWEAR THAT I WILL CALL
HER SPIRIT BACK-- THAT
SHE WILL RETURN AND
BE MINE FOREVER!



THE DOCTOR LOCKED HIMSELF
UP IN HIS HOUSE AND BEGAN
HIS STRANGE RESEARCHES
INTO THE MYSTERIES OF DEATH!
AND WHEN STRANGE SOUNDS
WERE HEARD COMING FROM
THE HOUSE, CONSTABLES
BROKE IN...

LET ME--
RETURN
TO MY
GRAVE!

THAT... THAT'S
A GIRL'S
VOICE!



INSIDE THE HOUSE...

A COFFIN--
AND A GIRL
INSIDE! IS...
IS SHE DEAD
OR ALIVE?

YOU'LL NEVER
KNOW-- YOU'LL
NEVER TAKE
HER FROM
ME!

LOOK OUT--
HE'S
SETTING
FIRE
TO THE
HOUSE!



THE CONSTABLES ESCAPED, BUT THE HOUSE
WAS CONSUMED TO ASHES-- ALONG WITH
THE PHYSICIAN FOR PHANTOMS!



The End 3

"True" GHOSTS of HISTORY The QUEEN'S CADAVER

ONE OF THE MOST ILL-FATED LOVE MATCHES OF HISTORY WAS THAT BETWEEN PRINCE DOM PEDRO OF PORTUGAL AND THE LOVELY SERVANT GIRL, INEZ DE CASTRO, WHO FIRST MET IN THE AUTUMN OF 1350 ...

OURS IS A LOVE THAT CAN NEVER BE! YOU ARE A PRINCE OF ROYAL BLOOD, YOU WILL BE KING WHEN YOUR FATHER DIES-- THE NOBLES WILL NEVER LET YOU MARRY ME-- A MERE COMMONER!



I WILL MARRY YOU-- AND ON THE DAY OF OUR CORONATION-- THE NOBLES WILL BOW TO KISS THE HEM OF YOUR ROBE! I SWEAR IT!

THE PRINCE MARRIED INEZ THE FOLLOWING YEAR, DESPITE THE BITTER OPPOSITION OF HIS FATHER, ALFONSO THE PROUD, AND FROM THE NOBLES, WHO SWORE SECRETLY NEVER TO LET THEMSELVES BE RULED BY A COMMONER QUEEN...

ALFONSO IS ON HIS DEATH BED-- AND WHEN HE DIES, DOM PEDRO WILL BE KING-- AND HIS WIFE WILL BE QUEEN!

NEVER! WE MUST KILL HER BEFORE ALFONSO DIES!



THE NOBLES PLOTTED WELL-- AND AFTER LURING DOM PEDRO AWAY FROM THE ROYAL HUNTING LODGE ON THE RIVER QUITA, WHERE HE WAS STAYING WITH PRINCESS INEZ ...

DIE-- COMMONER!



OH!!!

WHEN DOM PEDRO RETURNED, HIS GRIEF AND WRATH KNEW NO BOUNDS! WHEN HE BECAME KING, HE FIRST EXECUTED THE NOBLES WHO HAD COMMITTED THE MURDER, AND THEN HAD THE SKELETON OF HIS WIFE EXHUMED! DRESSING IT IN THE CORONATION ROBES OF A QUEEN, THE NEW KING PROPPED IT UP ON THE THRONE-- AND MADE IT QUEEN FOR THE DAY!

I SWORE YOU WOULD BE QUEEN-- AND I SHALL FULFILL THAT OATH!

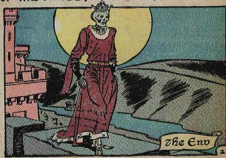


THEN FOLLOWED THE MOST MACABRE CORONATION SCENE IN HISTORY! FEARFUL OF THE WRATH OF THE NEW KING, NONE OF THE NOBLES DARED DISOBEY DOM PEDRO'S ORDER TO PAY GRISLY HOMAGE TO THE QUEEN'S BODY!

BOW DOWN TO YOUR QUEEN-- BOW DOWN AND KISS THE HEM OF HER CORONATION ROBE!



EVER SINCE THEN, A GHOSTLY SKELETON DRESSED IN BEJEWELLED CORONATION ROBES HAS BEEN SEEN TO WALK ON THE RAMPARTS OF THE ROYAL HUNTING LODGE, AND ALSO IN THE CHAPEL OF THE PALACE OF THE KINGS, AT OPORTO, PORTUGAL!



The End