

HORROR TALES

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**SATAN'S
PLAYTHING**

•
**SCREAMS
IN THE
NIGHT**
•

PLUS OTHER
SPINE-SNAPPING
TALES FROM
WORLDS BEYOND

JUNE 1969

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HORROR TALES

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Vol. 1 No. 7

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SATAN'S PLAYTHING

What's behind the quarter toy?—It's only made of tin, springs and something extra, that'll send the "shivers" crawling up your spine. Lookout!—It's coming closer!

THE TIGER'S PAW

Under the full jungle moon, a curse was fulfilled as John Wytes watched a black cat change into a cat-woman screaming for blood! . . . Go away! s-Stop! ARRgghhh!

SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT

A bone cracking weirdie of torture and torment told to the sound hollow laughter! . . . Yeech!

BOOMERANG BLACKLASH

Sometimes incredible tales of times and men sound strange, could it be that fiction is only truth twisted into another shape? . . . Hmmmm?

DOLLARS AND DOOM

Molly wanted only one thing out of life—money! And when her grim ship finally came in, she found it carried the ghost of a man who died twice! . . . Ugh!

THE CRAWLING HORROR

A nightmare of blood and madness broke among the people of the Yucatan after slumbering under crumbling stones for a 1000 years. Hey, — it's crawling toward you—.

DEVIL'S SKETCH BOOK

Would you believe it? A blank book over 400 years old? Sketch a portrait and death visits the sitter—Humbug, you say? Here, sit here while I make a sketch of you . . . Afraid?

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Mei Lenny, Publisher

Carl Burges, Editor . . . Irving Fass, Art Director

Ezra Jackson, Art Editor

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SATAN'S PLAYTHING

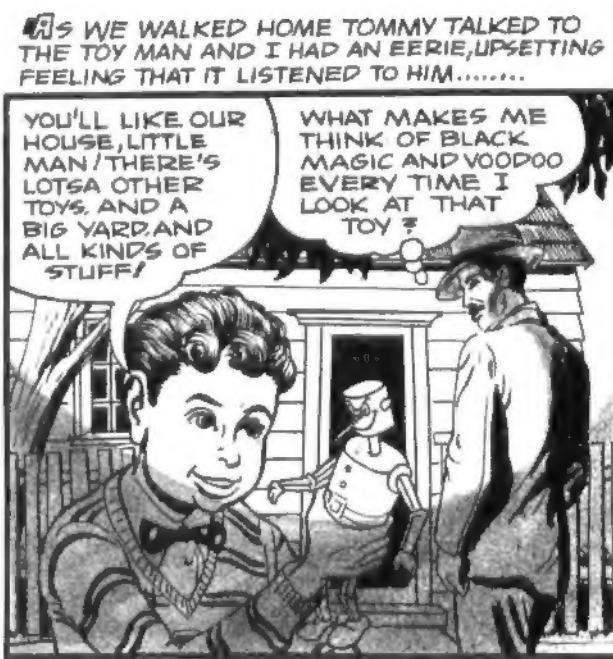


THE CURTAIN RISES ON THE FIRST ACT OF OUR STORY AS NED CHAMBERS AND HIS SON TOMMY ARE OUT FOR A WALK. LET NED TELL THE STORY IN HIS OWN WORDS: "IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY, THE WORLD SEEMED FILLED WITH GOOD, UNTIL WE ROUNDED THE CORNER AND SAW THE LITTLE OLD MAN....."



"I GAVE THE ANSWER AUTOMATICALLY. ... IT WAS THE REAL REASON..... INSTINCTIVELY I RECOILED FROM THE PEPPLER AND HIS WARES AS ONE WOULD FROM A SNAKE... OR SATAN!....."





THEN AFTER WE GOT HOME, AND LEILA, TOMMY'S MOTHER, AND MYSELF WERE READING THE PAPERS.....



I BRUSHED TOMMY'S WORDS ASIDE, EVEN THOUGH SOME SIXTH SENSE TOLD ME THEY WERE MORE THAN CHILDISH PRATTLE.....



AFTER I HANDED THE MAN BACK TO TOMMY.....



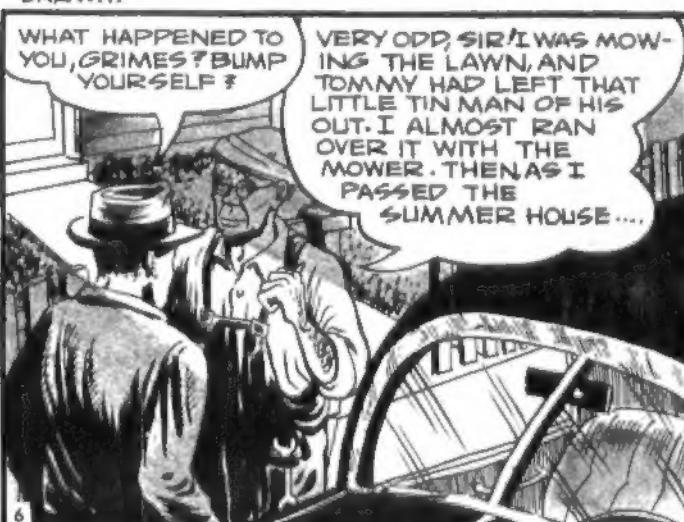
AFTER TOMMY AND LEILA WENT UPSTAIRS, I GOT THE MAN AND TOOK IT OVER TO HIS TOY CHEST IN THE HALL.....



SEVERAL HOURS LATER WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO TURN IN....



BY THE TIME I GOT HOME FROM THE OFFICE THE NEXT NIGHT, I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN THE LEERING MECHANICAL MAN. THEN, AS I GOT OUT OF THE CAR.....



A FLOWER POT FALLS OFF A SHELF, AND NEARLY KILLS ME...AND THERE UPON THE SHELF WAS THE LITTLE MAN GRINNING AT ME. FUNNY THING IS HOW HE GOT UP THERE. TOMMY COULDN'T REACH THAT HIGH, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING...



LEILA, MAYBE YOU THINK I'M CRAZY, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THIS TOY MAN... I THINK IT'S CURSED!

OH, NED, QUIT BEING SO FOOLISH! YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO GRIMES STORY... I THINK HE PUT THE MAN ON THAT SHELF HIMSELF! THEN HE FORGOT... HE'S GETTING AWFULLY OLD, YOU KNOW!

DADDY, THE MAN IS TALKING BETTER ALL THE TIME, HE SAYS HE HURTS PEOPLE WHO HURT HIM, SO YOU JUST BETTER BE REAL GOOD

TOMMY, YOU HAVE ENOUGH IMAGINATION FOR A DOZEN LITTLE BOYS!

HMM, I WONDER!

THE NEXT DAY WAS SATURDAY, AND I WAS HELPING OLD GRIMES CLEAN UP THE GARAGE, WHEN, SUDDENLY...

DANG THAT TIN MAN! HE'S ALL OVER! WHEN YOU HIT HIM HE ALMOST FEELS LIKE HE'S ALIVE!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, GRIMES. I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

THEN, BEFORE I COULD MOVE.....

GRIMES! LOOK OUT! THE GASOLINE!

AIEEE! OHHHHH!

LUCKY THAT EXTINGUISHER WAS SO CLOSE! BUT I'M AFRAID I WAS TOO LATE, EVEN AT THAT!

OHHHH... I... I...

I'LL CALL DOCTOR THORNTON RIGHT AWAY, NED!

AND TELL HIM TO HURRY!

MATCHES

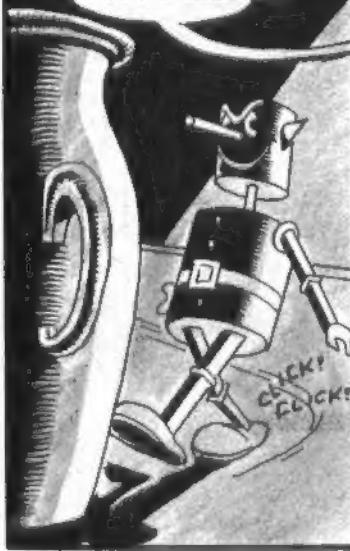
GRIMES DIDN'T PULL THROUGH, IN FACT, HE WAS DEAD WITHIN FOUR HOURS... THAT NIGHT, I SAT UP LONG HOURS....

IT COULD BE I'M OVERTIRED, OR NERVOUS. IT COULD BE MY IMAGINATION! BUT I DON'T THINK SO!

WELL, LITTLE MAN, MAYBE I AM GIVING YOU A HARD TIME! HERE I'LL WIND YOU UP AND YOU CAN TAKE A WALK! MAYBE WE CAN LEARN TO BE FRIENDS AFTER ALL! WHY NOT?



YOU'RE DOING FINE! CLEAR PATH! HEY! LOOKOUT... KEEP STRAIGHT!! DON'T HIT THAT URN!



...WH...WHAT IS THIS? IT DELIBERATELY TURNED AND CRASHED INTO THE URN! IT'S UNCANNY...NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?



I HAD HAD ENOUGH. SHAKILY, I PUT IT IN THE TOY CHEST, MADE SURE THE CATCH WAS SECURELY FASTENED, BUT, JUST AFTER DAWN THE NEXT MORNING....



FIRE? BUT HOW? I DON'T EITHER... AND YET I DO UNDERSTAND! PERFECTLY! RUN DOWN AND GET THE EXTINGUISHER FROM THE KITCHEN! I'LL TRY TO SMOTHER IT WITH A BLANKET!



ACCIDENTS, DEATH... NOW FIRE! IT'S TOO MUCH! I'M GOING MAD!



QUICK GIVE ME THAT EXTINGUISHER!

LOOK, MOMMY, I WOKE UP EARLY, AND LET MY LITTLE MAN OUT OF THE TOY CHEST! HE LIKES THE FIRE....SEE HOW HE WATCHES.



YOU TOOK THE MAN OUT OF THE CHEST? WHERE DID YOU PUT IT?

ON THE FLOOR, I WOUND HIM UP AND HE STARTED TO CLIMB RIGHT UP THE STAIRS!

WHAT WHOLE DAY WAS A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE TO ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IT WAS SILLY, I KNEW, TO EXPECT ANYONE TO BELIEVE MY STORY. I KNEW IT WAS TRUE. THAT EVENING, AS I CAME IN THE FRONT DOOR.....

IT...IT EVEN KNOWS WHEN I COME HOME! IT'S HAUNTING ME! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! IF I'M NOT CRAZY NOW I SOON WILL BE!

MAYBE THAT'LL KNOCK IT APART! I HOPE IT DOES!

AS I APPROACHED THE BATTERED LITTLE TOY I WAS TERRIFIED BY THE SIGHT OF A DROP OF BLACK BLOOD, Oozing FROM ITS BODY.....

...SATAN'S BLOOD! THIS HOUSE IS CURSED! WHAT CAN I DO?

IT'S LATE! TOMMY AND LEILA ARE ASLEEP! I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE GUEST ROOM! OUR ROOM IS STILL RUINED BY THE FIRE!

I LOCKED TOMMY AND LEILA'S DOOR, THEN LOCKED MYSELF IN THE OTHER GUEST ROOM, AFTER FIRST GETTING MY GUN....I HAD HARDLY LAID DOWN WHEN...

IT'S INHUMAN! IT'S AFTER ME! WHAT WILL I DO! WILL BULLETS STOP IT?

IT'S AFTER TOMMY! I'VE GOT TO STOP IT! I'LL SHOOT...I'LL TAKE A CHANCE ON BEING LOCKED UP AS A LUNATIC!

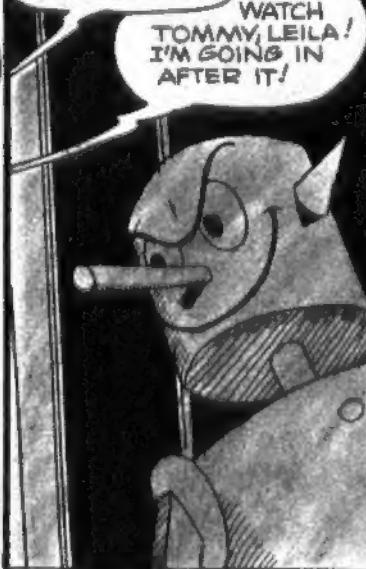
MISS! IT'S THE DEVIL
ITSELF IT'S SO CLEVER!



NED! WHAT...WHAT'S HAPPENING
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
OH, NED, DARLING!



IT'S RUN IN MY ROOM!
YOU'RE RIGHT, NED! IT
ISN'T A TOY!



MISS! IT AGAIN! I'M TOO EXCITED.....
HAVE TO STEADY MYSELF!



GETTING MY SELF CAREFULLY, I LUNGED
FOR THE EVIL LITTLE MONSTROSITY. I FELT
ITS METAL BODY TOUCH MY FINGERS FOR A
BRIEF INSTANT.....



IT YELLED! I'D SWEAR IT! IT WASN'T THE
SOUND OF THE FAN...IT WAS THE LITTLE
MAN!



AS LONG AS I LIVE, I'LL INSIST THE LITTLE
MAN ACTUALLY SCREAMED OUT IN AGONY AS
IT HIT THE FAN-BLADES.....



I'VE DONE....HE'S DEAD
..DONE FOR! I FEEL
LIKE A NEW MAN
ALREADY!

I PUSHED TOMMY AND HIS MOTHER OUT OF THE ROOM, AS THOUGH THERE WAS A CORPSE IN IT....

GO AWAY NOW, PLEASE!
I DON'T WANT EITHER OF
YOU TO SEE THIS!

WHAT HAPPENED
TO MY LITTLE MAN
DADDY?

COME
TOMMY!

I WAS LIMP, WORN OUT, JITTERY, BUT NO
LONGER AFRAID. THE CLAWING FRIGHT
THAT HAD CLUTCHED AT ME EVER SINCE WE
GOT THE TOY MAN WAS GONE

I'LL BURY IT IN -
THIS BOX!



ALTHOUGH I WAS NO LONGER AFRAID...I HAD
NIGHTMARES THAT NIGHT.... WONDERING HOW
I EVER GOT MIXED UP IN THIS HORRIBLE
MELEE. AS I OPENED MY PAPER THE NEXT
MORNING.....

WHAT'S THIS?"FUGITIVE FROM LAW FALLS IN
THEATRE VENTILATING FANS WHILE BEING
CHASED BY OFFICERS."HMM, I WONDER....
YE9.... IT'S THE MAN WHO SOLD THE TOY
MECHANICAL MEN! HE WAS CHOPPED UP
IN THE HUGE BLOWER VANS
WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE
ACROSS THE ROOF OF
THE THEATRE!

IT SAYS.... "THE DEAD MEN WAS REPUTED
TO PRACTICE BLACK MAGIC AND HE
CLAIMED THE LITTLE MECHANICAL
MEN HE SOLD COULD BE HEXED
TO PUT A CURSE ON A BUYER
HE DIDN'T LIKE. NATURALLY, NO
ONE PLITS CREDENCE IN
THAT STORY!" THAT'S
WHAT THEY THINK!



I HAD NEVER BEEN ONE TO BELIEVE IN THE
OCCULT.... BUT I KNEW DIFFERENTLY NOW!
I ALSO KNEW I HAD A TERRIBLY CLOSE
ESCAPE FROM DEATH.....

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WE GOT THAT
TOY MAN, I FEEL NATURAL! I CAN UNDER-
STAND WHAT A DEATH HEX DOES TO A
PERSON NOW! I'LL NEVER
SCOFF AGAIN!



HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN EXPERIENCE WITH THE
UNKNOWN? IF YOU HAVE.... YOU CAN SYMPATHIZE
WITH NED CHAMBERS!.....

The TIGER'S PAW

...IT WAS A VOODOO SIGN AND IT MEANT CERTAIN DOOM!

EVERY TIME I VISIT YOU, UNCLE JOHN, I DISCOVER ANOTHER CURIO! NOW WHAT A STRANGE BOTTLE! WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU GET THIS?

QUITE A STORY BEHIND THAT URN, LILLIAN! IT HAPPENED A FEW YEARS BACK WHEN I WAS LIVING IN THE JUNGLE STUDYING VOODOO PRACTICES...

...ONE NIGHT A NEIGHBOR, CLIFTON SHAW POUNDED ON MY DOOR AT RATHER A STRANGE HOUR FOR VISITING... I WAS AMUSED AT HIS REASON FOR SHOWING UP... IT SEEMED LIKE A JOKE THEN...

BAH! IT'S BOUND TO BE JUST A JOKE, CLIFTON! WHO'D SEND YOU A CHILDISH THREAT TO YOUR LIFE SIGNED WITH A TIGER'S PAW? I SAY, FORGET IT!

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT, DOCTOR! BUT I'LL TRY TO THINK YOUR WAY! IT'S JUST A VERY UNFUNNY JOKE!



WITH MY REASSURANCE, HE LEFT... I WATCHED AFTER HIM FOR A MOMENT BEFORE I WENT IN, AND HE SEEMED IN BETTER SPIRITS...

HELLO, YOU LITTLE BEGGAR! YOU WOULDN'T SEND ME A THREAT, WOULD YOU? YOU'RE JUST A PUP... NICE CAT...

BUT I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE IN SO QUICKLY... THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MUCH DIFFERENT FOR CLIFTON...

I'M NOT REALLY A TIGER CUB, MR. SHAW! NOT REALLY...

HAH! WHO ARE YOU? WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?



NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHAT POOR CLIFTON THOUGHT AS HE FACED THE STRANGEST LAST MOMENTS OF HIS LIFE, AND HE DIDN'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO TELL...



UNDER THE FULL JUNGLE MOON A CURSE WAS FULFILLED! WHAT COULD BE THE STORY BEHIND SUCH VOODOO? I WAS SOON TO DISCOVER THAT ANSWER THE HARD WAY...

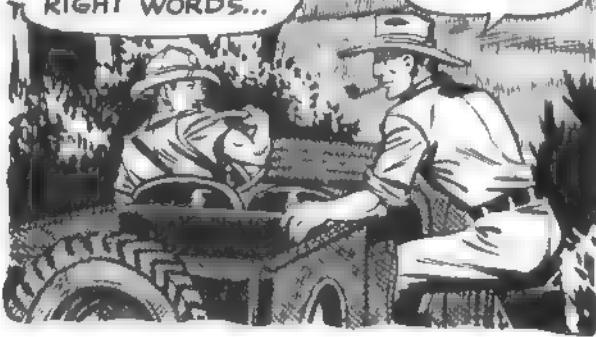


THE FOLLOWING DAWN FOUND ME AT THE COMMISSIONER'S SIDE TRYING TO FIT THE PIECES OF MY STORY TOGETHER...



I'LL HAVE TO HAND OUT THE BAD NEWS TO HIS BROTHER! THAT'S A TASK I CERTAINLY DON'T RELISH! NEVER SEEM TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS...

I'LL COME ALONG TO SEE IF I CAN HELP, COMMISSIONER, NOT THAT I FEEL ANY MORE CAPABLE THAN YOU DO...



OUR GRIM NEWS HAD REACHED CLIFTON'S BROTHER BEFORE WE DID. IN THE JUNGLE, NEWS OF VOODOO CURSES FULFILLED, TRAVEL FAST...



I'VE HEARD OF YOU, WYTES, AND OF YOUR STUDY OF CURSES. MY FAMILY SEEMS PLAGUED WITH THEM! I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU OUR FAMILY HISTORY! MY FATHER LOST HIS LIFE ODDLY LIKE CLIFTON DID! HE WAS HUNTING IN INDIA... IT WAS BELIEVED A JUNGLE BEAST GOT HIM...



THERE WERE FORMAL QUESTIONS THE COMMISSIONER HAD TO ASK, AND AS WE WAITED FOR HIM, SOMETHING OUTSIDE CAUGHT MY ATTENTION...

I CONFESS I'M FRIGHTENED! CLIFTON'S DEATH CAN BE SOLVED! YOU'LL EXCUSE ME A FEW MINUTES...

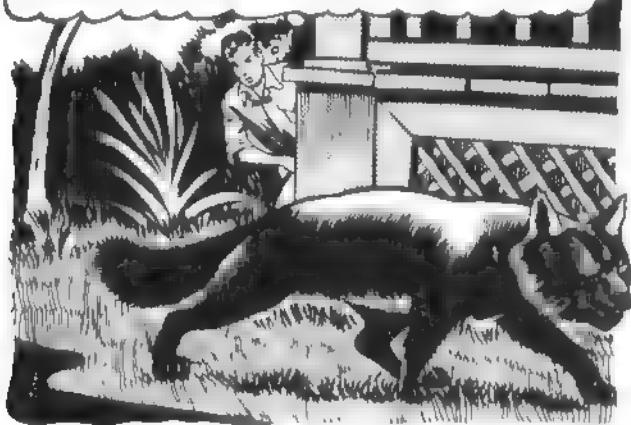
CERTAINLY! AND REMEMBER, MOST DEATHS CAN BE EXPLAINED, FRED, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT CAT... WHAT IS IT? GREAT SCOTT! NOW I KNOW! NO TRACKS! IT'S NOT LEAVING EVEN A MARK ON THE SOFT EARTH!

I'D LIKE TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THAT KITTY, BUT WITHOUT BEING SEEN! IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF A CAT I'D CARE TO TANGLE WITH!



BAH! I'LL NEVER KEEP UP WITH IT NOW AND NOT BE HEARD OR SEEN! GUESS I'M OUT OF LUCK... BUT I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THOSE TRACKS! NARY A ONE!



I STARED IN DISBELIEF, BUT THERE IT WAS! ANOTHER THREAT NOTE AS CLIFTON HAD RECEIVED... I KNEW THEN WE WERE UP AGAINST SOMETHING THAT MIGHT WELL BE SUPERHUMAN...



OH, THERE YOU ARE, JOHN! I'VE GOT SOME NEWS! A RUNNER JUST BROUGHT ME A REPORT FROM OUR MEDICAL EXAMINER... POISON DID KILL CLIFTON! A TYPE NOT USED FOR CENTURIES! THERE'S SOME OLD LEGEND ABOUT IT... SUPPOSED TO BE A VOODOO POTION THAT WAS A HIGHLY GUARDED SECRET!



I'M GOING TO GO OVER THESE GROUNDS! THERE MIGHT BE SOME LITTLE LEAD AS TO WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT! VOODOO PRACTICES USUALLY LEAVE CLUES... CARE TO JOIN ME, JOHN?

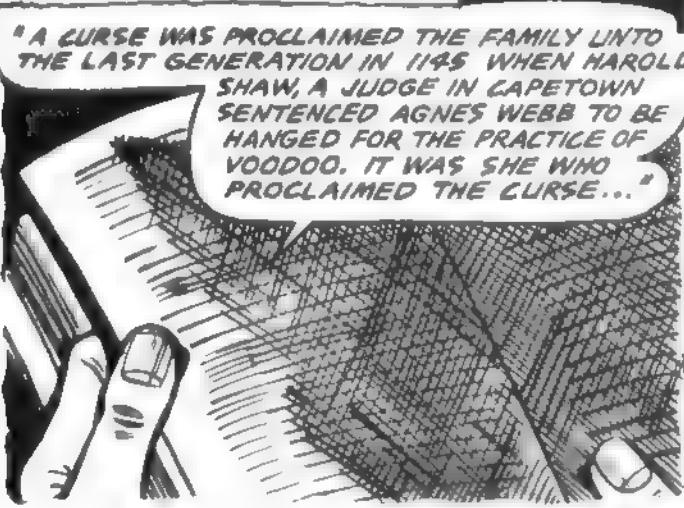
I...ER...IN A FEW MINUTES, COMMISSIONER! I'D LIKE TO GLANCE THROUGH THE LIBRARY WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE! SPLENDID COLLECTION THERE...

HISTORY OF THE SHAW FAMILY... THIS IS IT! NOW TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY FACT TO PROVE FRED'S CLAIM OF HIM BEING AN INTENDED VICTIM!



YELLOW WITH AGE, THE PAGES SEEMED RELUCTANT TO DEPART THEIR SECRETS, BUT I READ SOMETHING THAT SET ME THINKING...

"A CURSE WAS PROCLAIMED THE FAMILY UNTO THE LAST GENERATION IN 1945 WHEN HAROLD SHAW, A JUDGE IN CAPE TOWN SENTENCED AGNES WEBB TO BE HANGED FOR THE PRACTICE OF VOODOO. IT WAS SHE WHO PROCLAIMED THE CURSE..."

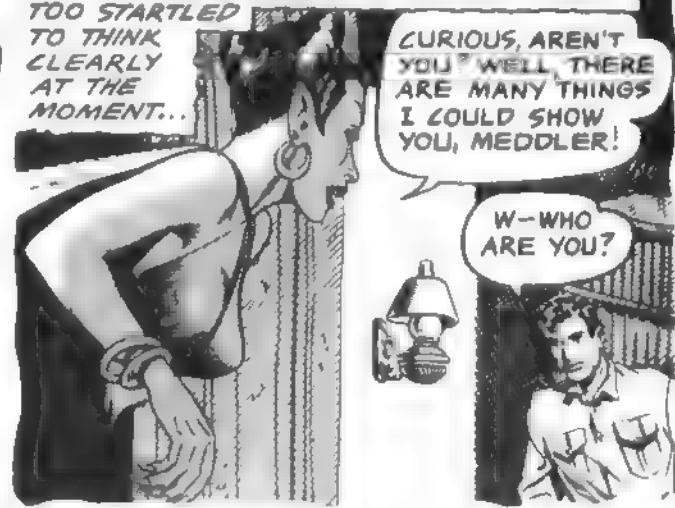


SUDDENLY I FELT THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER IN THE ROOM... I WHIRLED AROUND AND FACED A WOMAN WHO WAS FREAKISHLY LIKE A CAT, OR WAS IT A WITCH... I WAS TOO STARTLED

TO THINK CLEARLY AT THE MOMENT...

CURIOUS, AREN'T YOU? WELL, THERE ARE MANY THINGS I COULD SHOW YOU, MEDDLER!

W-WHO ARE YOU?



I COULD TELL THOSE WORDS WERE AN INVITATION TO SEE SOMETHING UNPLEASANT, BUT I FELT COMPELLED TO FOLLOW HER FLEEING FIGURE...

UGH... THE VERY AIR HAS TURNED COLD AND SHE SEEMS TO WAFT AN AROMA THAT SMACKS OF A TOMB...



CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HER, BUT THEN I'M NOT VERY ACCUSTOMED TO RUNNING A RACE WITH A CAT OR A WITCH OR WHATEVER SHE IS... BUT AT LEAST I CAN KEEP HER IN SIGHT...



DISAPPEARING! GUESS I SPOKE TOO QUICKLY, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME ALL IS NOT WELL IN THIS SHAW HOUSEHOLD! NOT WELL AT ALL!



AT THAT MOMENT I HEARD A HOARSE CRY... THE VOICE BELONGED TO FRED SHAW...

THE COMMISSIONER AND I SEEMED TO ARRIVE AT THE SAME SPLIT SECOND! FRED WAS SOBING HYSTERICALLY OVER THE PROSTRATE FORM OF HIS FIANCÉE...

WHAT'S WRONG?

A...A CAT WOMAN! SHE TRIED TO GET ME... LILLIAN CAME INTO THE ROOM JUST IN TIME! IT DISAPPEARED... AND LILLIAN FAINTED!

WHILE WE REVIVED LILLIAN WEBB AND COMFORTED FRED, I WONDERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE CREATURE WHO WAS SO DETERMINED TO END THE SHAW LINE...

BREW-BREW! MY TASK IS ALMOST COMPLETE, BUT NOW I SEE I MUST GET THE OTHERS OUT OF MY WAY, TOO...ESPECIALLY THAT DOCTOR...



ENOUGH TIME HAS BEEN WASTED! TONIGHT I WILL DO THE ENTIRE BUSINESS AND BE DONE WITH IT! I WEARY OF TOYING WITH THESE PEOPLE!



I THINK I MAY HAVE SOMETHING IN MY LABORATORY THAT COULD ASSIST US! IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE AN HOUR OR SO, BUT I THINK IT'LL BE WORTH IT!

GO TO IT, JOHN!

NOTHING CAN HELP NOW! I AM DOOMED BY SOME KIND OF BLACK MAGIC!



WHAT I HAD TO DO TOOK OVER AN HOUR, BUT THEN I RETURNED TO THE SHAW HOME AND WENT INTO THE LIBRARY TO WAIT...MY PLAN WAS UNDER WAY...WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN WAS ALMOST UP TO LUCK!

C'MON, TIGER'S PAW, THIS WAITING ISN'T EASY ON THE NERVES...



AH... THERE IT IS! UNNATURAL LOOKING BEAST... THOSE EYES... A GHOST CAT... GOT TO BE CALM NOW...



WHY DO YOU STAND IN MY WAY, STRANGER? MY BUSINESS IS WITH THE LOATHSOME SHAWS! I FORBID YOU TO STAND IN MY WAY!

I BELIEVE I HAVE POWER TO STOP ANY SUPERNATURAL EVIL SUCH AS YOU PERFORM!

YOU FOOL! I HAVE NO PATIENCE WITH SUCH NONSENSE! YOU DESERVE NO MORE THAN DEATH BY THE TIGER'S PAW!

THIS IS THE TEST! IF I DON'T SURVIVE HER CLAWS, IT'S MY OWN HARD LUCK... I ASKED FOR IT...



C-CANT CATCH MY BREATH... HE WHO DEFIES THE ANCIENT VOODOO RITES, OR TRIES TO PREVENT THEM, SELLS HIS OWN DOOM! GOT TO HANG ON... B-BUT EVERYTHING'S TURNING SO BLACK...



WHILE I STRUGGLED TO HOLD ONTO LIFE, I HEARD HER SLINK DOWN THE HALL TO FRED'S ROOM... AS IF IN A DREAM STATE, THEIR VOICES WERE CARRIED TO ME...

AND NOW... THE LAST MEMBER OF THE SHAW FAMILY!

NO... NO... HELP!



AS YOUR FOREFATHER CONDEMNED ME, SO HAVE I SENTENCED YOU ALL TO DIE! YOU ARE THE VERY LAST OF THE FAMILY... AND GOOD RIDDANCE...



Y-YOU ARE AGNES WEBB! HOW CAN THIS BE?

...PERHAPS FRED'S SHOUTS DID THE TRICK. IN ANY EVENT, I SNAPPED OUT OF SEMI-CONSCIOUSNESS AND STAGGERED TOWARD THAT ROOM...

WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU WHAT TOOK ME CENTURIES TO LEARN?



IT TOOK ALL OF MY STRENGTH TO PULL HER AWAY, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER, THIS WAS NOT A WOMAN, IT WAS A FULL-FLEDGED TIGRESS! HER CLAWS LASHED OUT AND SHE SNARLED AND FOUGHT FURIOUSLY...

THAT'S ENOUGH, AGNES WEBB! YOUR VOODOO SPELL HAS BEEN BROKEN... PERMANENTLY!

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU FOOL, IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN ALIVE!

THIS IS NOT THE COMMISSIONER! YOU'RE THREATENING! IT'S JOHN WYTES, THE MAN YOU THINK YOU JUST CLAWED TO DEATH!

THE DOCTOR! NO... IT CAN'T BE YOU! NO ONE LIVES WHEN I STRIKE! IT—IT WOULD RENDER ME POWERLESS!



THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO AGNES WEBB. I HAD DISCOVERED HER SECRET! I HAD BROKEN THE CHAIN OF HER OUTER WORLD POWER AND HER EVIL WAS NOW OF NO USE... A COLD WIND SWEPT THROUGH THE ROOM AS I STOOPED TO ATTEND FRED SHAW...

EASY NOW, FRED!



AM I SEEING THINGS? A GIANT TIGRESS JUST SEEMED TO BE IN THIS ROOM! BUT SHE FADED AWAY!

YOU SAW WHAT YOU SAW COMMISSIONER! NOW, FRED, YOU'RE OKAY!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, DOCTOR! BUT HOW? I WAS A GONER!



THERE'S REALLY NO MAGIC ABOUT IT! I MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER AN ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON SHE BREWED UP FOR HER CLAWS! IT WORKED ON ME SO I KNEW SHE COULDN'T HARM YOU THEN!

YOU BROKE A VOODOO SPELL! INCREDIBLE!

FANTASTIC, UNCLE JOHN! BUT I DON'T SEE HOW THAT TIES UP WITH THIS BOTTLE?

THAT BOTTLE CONTAINED THE ANTIDOTE! I KEPT IT... WELL... IN CASE! YOU SEE, EVEN I HAVE DOUBTS THAT HER SPELL WAS REALLY BROKEN!



The End

SCREAMS in the NIGHT

IT WAS A WEIRD AND EERIE TALE THAT THE LITTLE DOCTOR HAD TO TELL - A SICKENING STORY OF TORTURE AND TORMENT TOLD TO THE SOUND OF HOLLOW LAUGHTER IN THE BACKGROUND! ONLY DEATH COULD BREAK THE SEAL ON THIS MAN'S LIPS, COULD MAKE HIM REVEAL WHAT DREAD KNOWLEDGE HE POSSESSED OF THE UNDYING BEAST...



ONE FOGGY NIGHT IN
A SMALL TOWN IN BAVARIA,
NOT LONG AGO...

HEY! LOOKS
LIKE THAT OLD
GENTLEMAN'S
IN TROUBLE!

PLEASE!
PLEASE,
AMERICAN
SOLDIER,
HELP ME!

I MUST—MUST TALK
TO YOUR COMMANDING
OFFICER! VERY—
IMPORTANT—
PLEASE!

OKAY, POP! JUST
TAKE IT EASY
NOW! YOU CAN
SEE COMMAND-
ING OFFICER! SEE
A DOCTOR, TOO!



MINUTES LATER IN AN ARMY DISPENSARY...

PLEASE— I
MUST TALK!
I HAVE NOT
LONG— PLEASE,
YOU MUST
LISTEN!

HE'S RIGHT,
MAJOR! MAY
GO ANY
MOMENT!

I'M THE COMMANDING
OFFICER, SIR! WHAT
IS IT THAT YOU
WANT TO TELL
ME?

I—I AM HEINRICH ZELLER!
B—BEFORE THE WAR, IN BERLIN,
I WAS A WELL-KNOWN PLASTIC
SURGEON! B—BUT THE NAZIS
DID NOT TRUST ME AND SO I
RETIRIED AND CAME TO THIS
VILLAGE TO LIVE! JUST MYSELF
AND MY— MY
DAUGHTER. MY
ELSA!

CAN YOU
TALK A LITTLE
LOUDER, SIR?

GOING FAST,
MAJOR! BUT I'LL
KEEP TRYING!

W—WE
WERE
HAPPY AT

FIRST! FINALLY
THE WAR WAS OVER—
THEN ONE NIGHT
THERE CAME A
KNOCKING AT
THE DOOR...

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THAT
KNOCKING THAT CHILLED MY BLOOD!
I HAD HEARD IT BEFORE...

FATHER!
I—I'M
AFRAID!

NONSENSE, LITTLE ELSA!
IT'S PROBABLY ONLY ONE
OF OUR NEIGHBORS! THE
WAR IS OVER! THE NAZIS
ARE BEATEN!

KNOCK,
KNOCK!

ELSA WAS RIGHT! THEY WORE NO UNIFORMS,
BUT I KNEW WHAT THEY WERE...

OH— THE
GESTAPO!

WH— WHY
DO YOU
BOther
US?

QUIET, YOU
OLD FOOL!
YOU'RE
COMING
WITH US!

BOTH
OF YOU!

HURRY UP!
IN WITH YOU!
AND DON'T
TRY ANY-
THING!

FATHER!
THEY'LL
KILL US!

BE BRAVE,
ELSA! EVERY-
THING WILL BE
ALL RIGHT!



WE DROVE FOR HOURS THROUGH THE COLD NIGHT! AT LAST WE WERE HIGH IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS...

ELSA WAS TAKEN AWAY AND I WAS THRUST RUDELY INTO A LARGE ROOM...

ALMOST THERE, HANS!
MAKE SURE THAT THESE
TWO DO NOT SEE TOO MUCH!

JA! THEY WILL
MAKE NO TROUBLE—
NOT IF THEY WISH
TO LIVE!

ABOUT TIME, YOU SWINE!
YOU ARE LATE! IS THE
DOKTOR WITH YOU?

THAT VOICE—
IT SOUNDS
FAMILIAR!

JAWOHL!
WE HAVE
HIM! HE IS
READY TO
BEGIN!

YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN ME, HERR DOKTOR ZELLER, BUT I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOU! YOU WERE THE BEST PLASTIC SURGEON IN ALL GERMANY!

NOW YOU WILL MAKE
ME A NEW FACE!
BEGIN!

MY FINGERS WERE TREMBLING AS I UNWOUND THE BANDAGE! EVEN THEN I KNEW WHAT I WOULD SEE...

HURRY, YOU FOOL, HURRY!
I MUST BE ON MY WAY!

YES, SIR! I—I AM SLOW TONIGHT! BUT I WILL HURRY!

YOU! Y-YOU DID NOT DIE IN THE BUNKER AFTER ALL!

DOES IT SEEM LIKELY, SWINE? NOW GET TO WORK AT ONCE! YOU MUST CHANGE MY FACE UTTERLY—AND MIND YOU DO NOT BOTCH IT!

THE TERRIBLE SHOCK SET MY NERVES TO SCREAMING, BUT I KNEW WHAT I MUST DO...

SO HE LIVES! THE ARCH-FIEND OF ALL TIME! IS HE TO GO FREE AFTER ALL?
NO! I WILL DO WHAT THE RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS COULD NOT!

I KNEW THAT IT MEANT THE DEATH OF MYSELF—AND ELSA! BUT I WAS DETERMINED THAT ADOLF HITLER WOULD NOT ESCAPE...

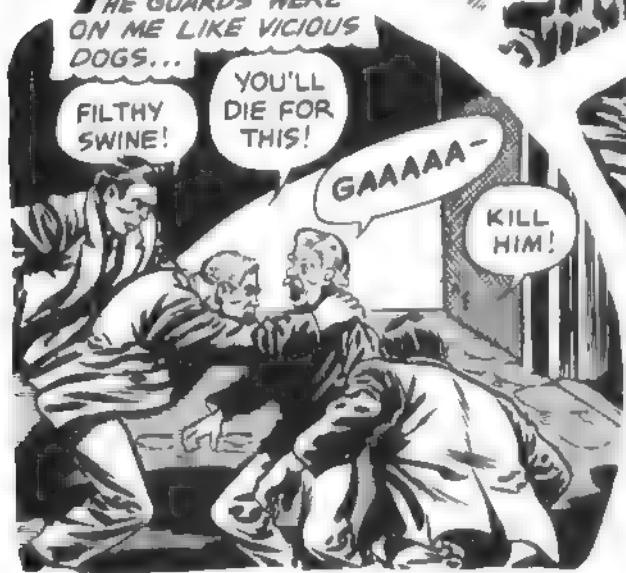


YES! DIE, BEAST! MURDERER!
I TAKE REVENGE FOR ALL
YOU HAVE KILLED AND
RUINED!

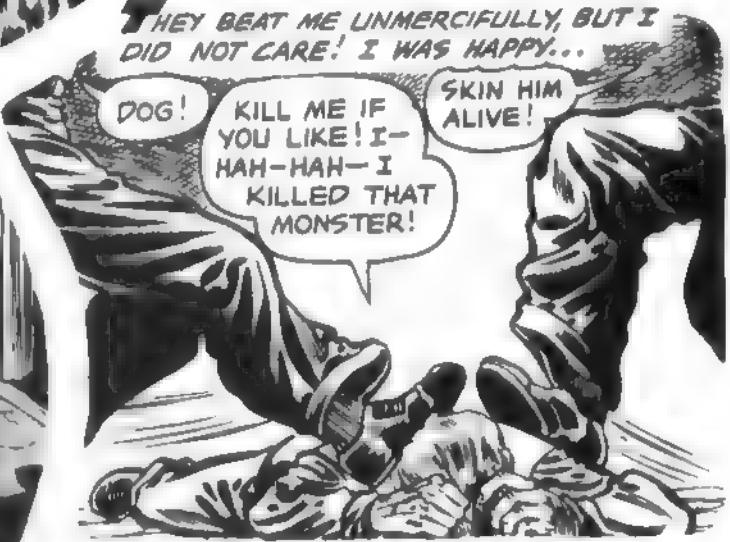
GET
HIM!



THE GUARDS WERE
ON ME LIKE VICIOUS
DOGS...



THEY BEAT ME UNMERCIFULLY, BUT I
DID NOT CARE! I WAS HAPPY...



THEN A STRANGE SILENCE FELL AND I HEARD AN EVIL CHUCKLE! WHEN I GLANCED AT THE DOOR, MY HEART STOPPED BEATING...



DID YOU REALLY
THINK WE WOULD NOT
TEST YOU, HERR
DOKTOR? A GOOD
THING, I SEE! BUT
I HAVE LOST MY
DOUBLE — AND YOU,
HERR DOKTOR, HAVE
LOST YOUR LIFE!
FAREWELL!



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, OF COURSE! THAT BEAST WAS UNDYING — YET I TRIED...

Foul swine! You tricked me, but I'll kill you yet!

GRAB HIM!

LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!



AS THEY DRAGGED ME AWAY, I HEARD MY LITTLE ELSA SCREAMING...

ELSA! MY DAUGHTER! WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO HER?

YOU'LL GET THE SAME!

YOU'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, OLD FOOL!



ELSA! MY CHILD—
AAAAAA—

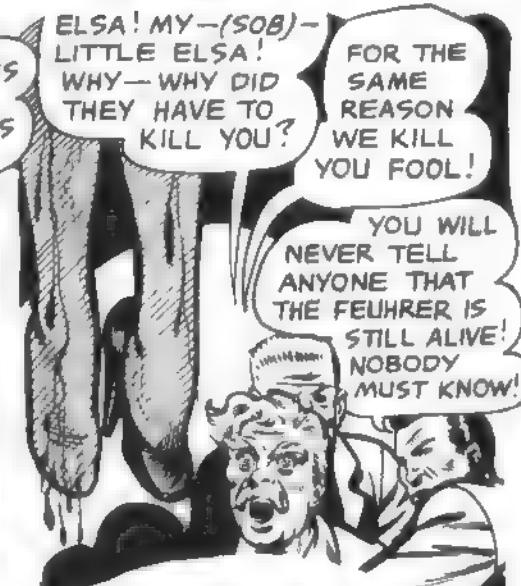
SCREAM, OLD MAN!
NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU!

IT MAKES ME NERVOUS
JUST THE SAME! LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

ELSA! MY—(SOB)—
LITTLE ELSA!
WHY—WHY DID THEY HAVE TO KILL YOU?

FOR THE SAME REASON WE KILL YOU FOOL!

YOU WILL NEVER TELL ANYONE THAT THE FEUHRER IS STILL ALIVE!
NOBODY MUST KNOW!



HURRY—HE FIGHTS LIKE MAD!

JUST A SECOND NOW!

FILTH! KILLERS!
SHAME OF GERMANY!
YOU CAN KILL ME,
BUT YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!
NONE OF YOU WILL EVER ESCAPE!

WHEWWW—
HEAVY FOR SUCH A LITTLE MAN!

YES!

I WILL BE GLAD WHEN
SUCH BLOODY WORK IS OVER! STILL
HE HAD TO DIE IF THE FEUHRER IS TO BE SAFE!



THE OLD MAN FINISHES HIS STRANGE TALE...

SIR? DOCTOR ZELLER,
SIR? IS HE GONE,
CAPTAIN?

HMM— I DON'T KNOW! SOMETHING MIGHTY FUNNY ABOUT ALL THIS, MAJOR!

ONLY FUNNY THING I SEE IS HOW HE ESCAPED! THAT I WANT TO KNOW! AND WHY HE WAITED SO LONG TO TELL US THIS! DOCTOR ZELLER? CAN YOU HEAR ME, SIR?



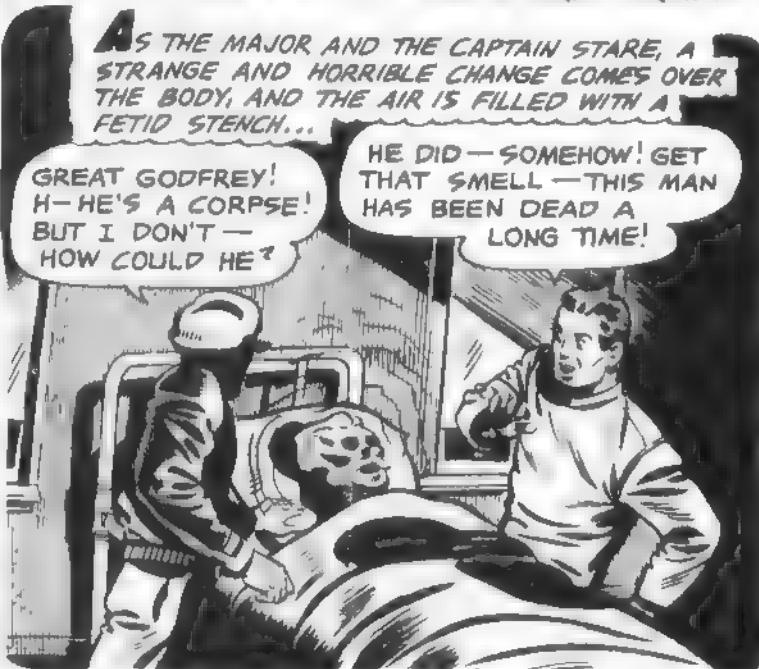
I DID NOT ESCAPE, MAJOR! THEY KILLED ME, THOSE SWINE! IT HAS TAKEN ME ALL THESE YEARS TO COME BACK — TO WARN YOU! DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE! HUNT— AND HUNT — AND HUNT UNTIL HE IS DEAD!



AS THE MAJOR AND THE CAPTAIN STARE, A STRANGE AND HORRIBLE CHANGE COMES OVER THE BODY, AND THE AIR IS FILLED WITH A FETID STENCH...

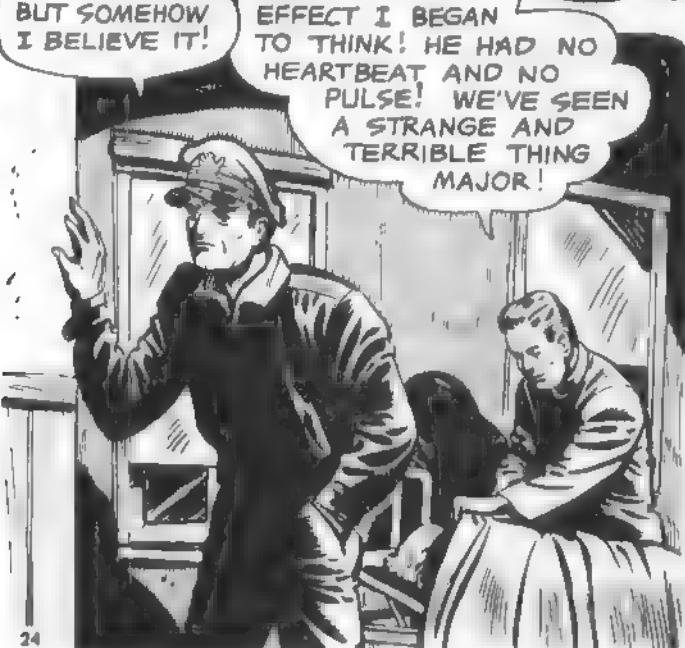
GREAT GODFREY!
H— HE'S A CORPSE!
BUT I DON'T —
HOW COULD HE?

HE DID — SOMEHOW! GET THAT SMELL — THIS MAN HAS BEEN DEAD A LONG TIME!



ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC!
BUT SOMEHOW
I BELIEVE IT!

YES! WHEN MY DRUGS HAD NO EFFECT I BEGAN TO THINK! HE HAD NO HEARTBEAT AND NO PULSE! WE'VE SEEN A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE THING MAJOR!



THE NEXT TIME YOU PASS A STRAY FIGURE ON A LOVELY, FOGGY STREET, LOOK WELL! YOU NEVER KNOW...

The End

FROM FAR AWAY LANDS COME INCREDIBLE TALES OF TIMES AND MEN THAT RING STRANGE TO US, BUT COULD IT BE THAT FICTION IS ONLY TRUTH TWISTED INTO ANOTHER SHAPE? HERE IS THE ACCOUNT OF A MAN WHOSE INJUSTICE WAS HIS OWN UNDOING OF ANOTHER MAN WHO WAS SAVED BY HIS OWN TRUST AND OF A GIRL TO WHOM LIFE WAS INDEED STRANGELY DIRECTED, AND DEATH WAS A TOTAL STRANGER... UNTIL THE THREE OF THEM BECAME ENTWINED IN THE LEGEND KNOWN AS

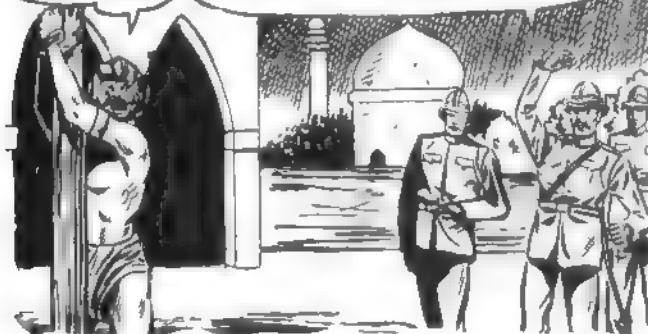
BOOMERANG BACKLASH!!



COLONEL RANKIN OF THE KING'S INDIAN RIFLES,
WAS KNOWN AS A HARD AND FIRM MAN...

AYEEEE—
MERCY, SAHIB!
MERCY! LET
ME FREE!

SILENCE YOUR MOUTH OR
I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET A LESSON
AS WELL! THIS WILL TEACH THE
BEGGAR TO STEAL FROM ME!



I SAY, SIR, DON'T
YOU THINK THE
POOR CHAP HAS
HAD ENOUGH?

ANY MORE OF
THIS SUN AND
IT'LL GO BAD
WITH HIM.

BLAST IT, HAWKINS, WILL
YOU LEARN THAT I AM
IN COMMAND HERE?
KEEP YOUR FOOL
OPINIONS TO YOURSELF,
MAN!



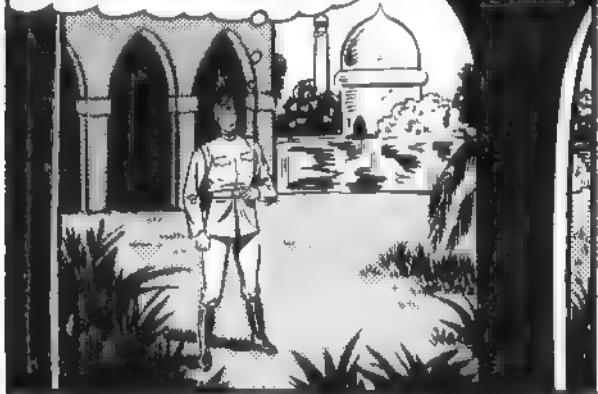
BUT THE COLONEL DOES NOT YET SUSPECT THAT ONE OF HIS INDIAN OFFICERS, A HANDSOME YOUNG SUBALTERN NAMED AHMED RAI, IS IN LOVE...

SHE IS LATE! SHE PROMISED FAITHFULLY TO BE HERE BY THE TEMPLE WHEN THE MOON CAME UP! AND THERE IS THE MOON, ALMOST AS BEAUTIFUL AS MY LOVE - BUT SHE DOES NOT COME!

...WITH HIS WARD, ROSE... AND THAT SHE IS IN LOVE WITH HIM...

AHMED DARLING! I'M SO SORRY TO BE LATE, BUT HE WAS WATCHING ME. I THINK HE'S BEGINNING TO SUSPECT SOMETHING!

ROSE! JUST SO YOU ARE HERE! I DO NOT FEAR THE COLONEL!



BUT I AM AFRAID, DARLING! TERRIBLY AFRAID! HE WOULD FIRE YOU IF HE FOUND OUT ABOUT US! Y-YOU KNOW HOW HE FEELS ABOUT...

YES, MY DEAREST, I KNOW! YET IN MY VEINS RUNS THE BLOOD OF PRINCES, AND I FEAR NO MAN! MY HERITAGE IS AS GOOD AS THAT OF YOUR GUARDIAN!



N EITHER OF THE LOVERS IS AWARE OF THE GLEAMING, GREEDY EYES THAT SPY ON THEM FROM THE MURKY SHADOWS...

SO THIS IS HOW MATTERS STAND! I AM FORTUNATE TO HAVE SEEN THIS, FOR NOW COLONEL SAHIB WILL REWARD ME WITH MANY RUPEES!



SO A LITTLE LATER...

VERY IMPORTANT
INDEED, SAHIB!

A BEGGAR TO SEE YOU, SAHIB! HE SAYS HE HAS IMPORTANT NEWS!

YOU WILL THANK ME!

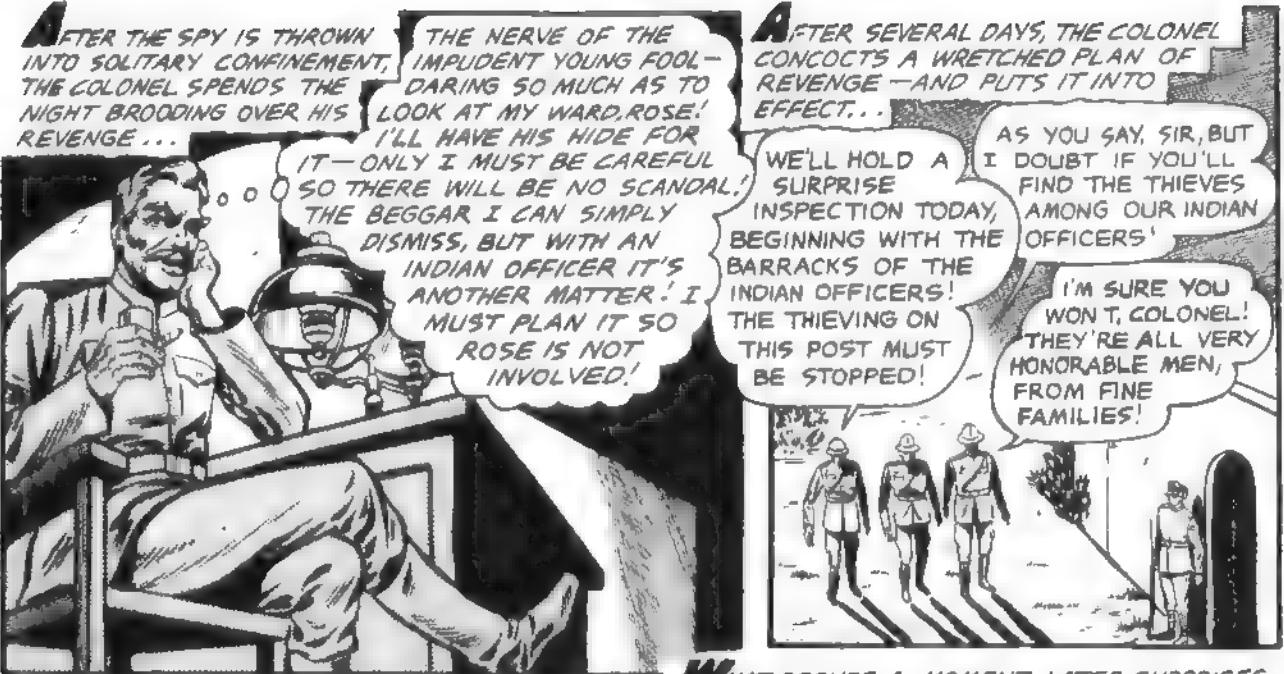
WELL, MAN, WHAT IS IT? OUT WITH IT— SPEAK!

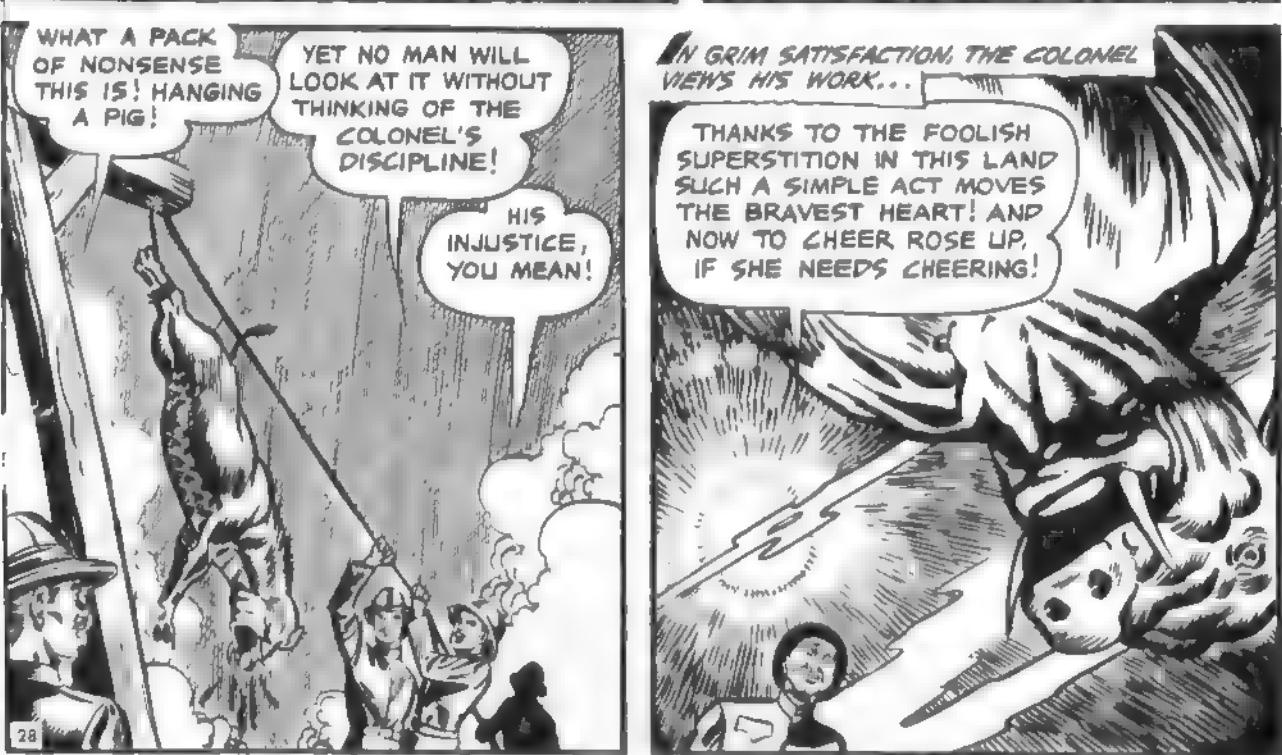
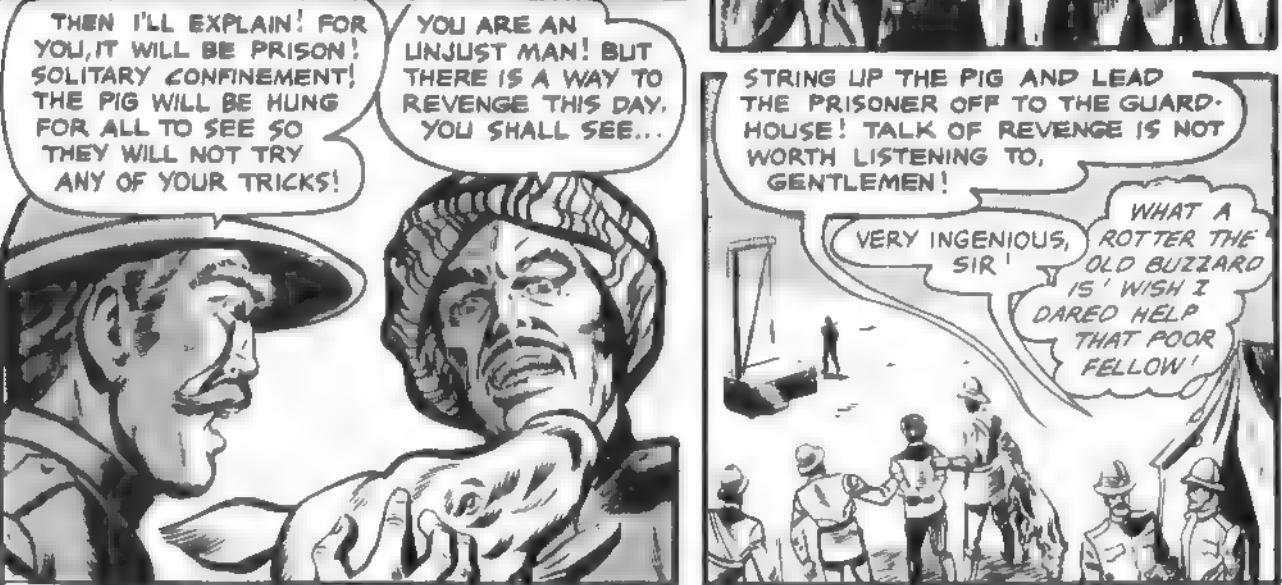


BUT THE SPY'S REWARD IS HARSH... FOOL! LIAR! HOW DARE YOU COME TO ME WITH SUCH A FALSE TALE!

NO, SAHIB! I DO NOT LIE—







TIME PASSES AND, AS WOMEN SOMETIMES DO, THE LOVELY ROSE FORGETS AHMED RAI...

YOU SEE, ROSE, THAT YOUR OLD FRIEND WAS RIGHT! ONLY SIX MONTHS SINCE I HAD THAT RASCAL PUNISHED, AND ALREADY YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN

HIM!



THE FOLLOWING WEEK, ROSE ACCOMPANIES HER GUARDIAN ON A HUNT FOR WILD BOAR...

OH, THIS IS SUCH FUN! EVEN IF I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE WILD PIG YET!

YES, COLONEL YOU WERE WISE! IT WAS ONLY THE INFATUATION OF A SILLY GIRL!

PLEASE, MEM-SAHIB, COME BACK!

YOU WILL GET LOST MEM! AND THERE ARE DANGEROUS PIGS ABOUT!



ROSE ODDLY BECOMES LOST—AND SUDDENLY...

OHMH—A WILD PIG! CHARGING ME!

NEIGHHHHHH-

ARGRRR-



HOW STRANGE! HE'S BLOCKING THE PATH! OHH... MY HORSE SHIES!



ROSE IS THROWN FROM HER MOUNT, BUT UNHURT, AND...

OH! WHAT SHALL I DO? WHY DOES IT JUST STAND THERE GLARING AT ME?



BUT SUDDENLY THE PIG MOVES AWAY, LEAVING THE FRIGHTENED GIRL UNHURT...

THANK GOODNESS... THAT WAS ALL TOO CLOSE...



LATER, AS THE COLONEL'S PARTY SEEKS THE GIRL...

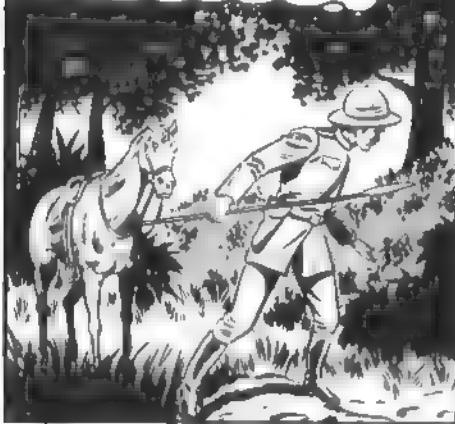
LOOK, SIR! ISN'T THAT ROSE IN THE DISTANCE RIDING OFF TOWARD THE BARRACKS!

BY JOVE, YOU'RE RIGHT! SHE HASN'T EVER LIKED TO HUNT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOthered TO INVITE HER TODAY! WELL, WE'LL CONTINUE, MEN... SPREAD OUT, EACH MAN RIDES ALONE!



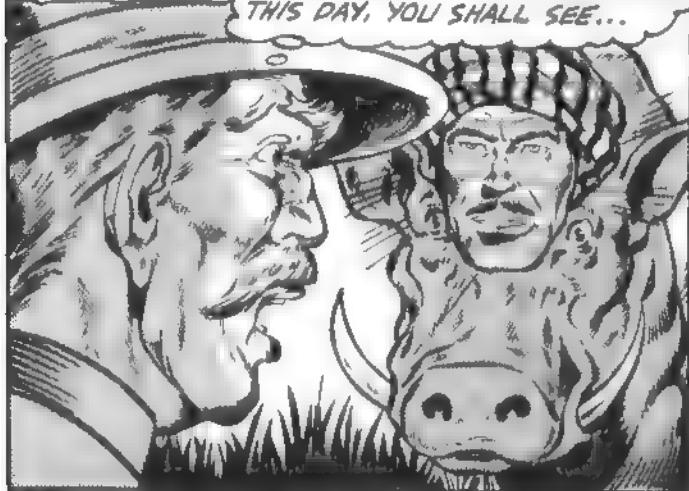
AN HOUR LATER, AND HE IS DEEP IN THE BRUSH...

PECULIAR TRACKS, THESE! CAN'T SAY AS I'VE EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM IN THESE PARTS!



PERHAPS IT WAS THE EXCITEMENT OF THE HUNT AND THE HEAT OF THE SUN, BUT A THOUGHT FLASHES ACROSS HIS MIND...

THERE IS A WAY TO REVENGE THIS DAY, YOU SHALL SEE...



IN HIS GREAT FRENZY, THE COLONEL MAKES ONE LAST DESPERATE THRUST...

I—I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME, YOU D-DEMON!



UHH! IT'S A WILD PIG, COMING AFTER ME! WHAT A MONSTER!

GRHHHHHHHHHHH—



AS ANY HUNTER KNOWS, THE SLIGHTEST DELAY AT SUCH A TIME IS DANGEROUS...THE WILD PIG LEAPS...



BUT WHEN A SEARCHING PARTY REACHES THE SPOT...

WHAT COULD IT BE? HE'S UNMARKED!

WEIRD! ALMOST AS IF SOMETHING FRIGHTENED HIM TO DEATH!

WE'LL NEVER KNOW NOW...



THE COLONEL'S DEATH BROUGHT ABOUT MANY CHANGES...FOR INSTANCE, THE HANGING PIG WAS QUICKLY REMOVED...AHMED RAI PROMPTLY RELEASED...AND LOVELY ROSE HAD A NEW GUARDIAN...HER DEVOTED HUSBAND!

The End

DOLLARS and DOOM



MOLLY KELLY WANTED
ONLY ONE THING OUT OF
LIFE-MONEY! AND WHEN
HER GRIM SHIP FINALLY
CAME IN SHE FOUND IT
CARRIED THE SPECTRE OF
THE MAN WHO DIED TWICE...



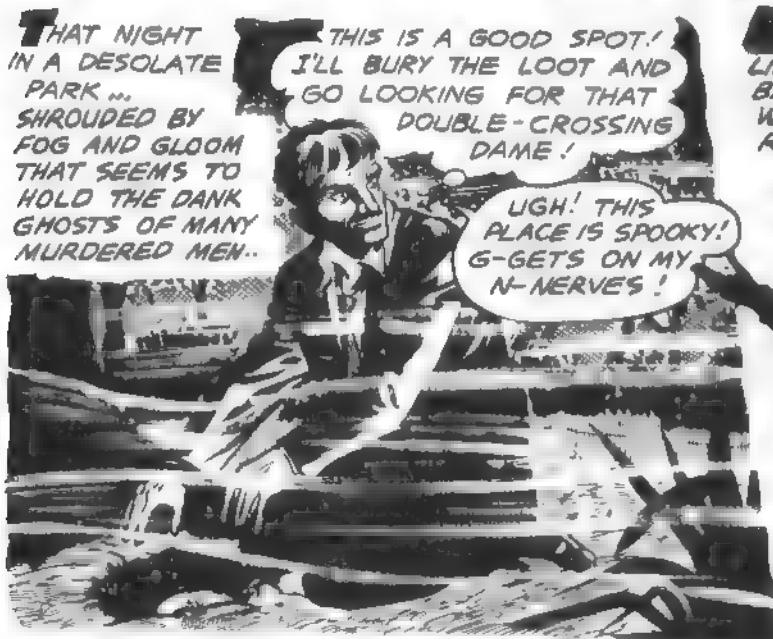
BUT MOLLY GETS NERVOUS...



HIS WEASEL HEART FLUTTERING WITH THE TERROR THAT MURDER BRINGS, JOE FLEES BLINDLY...



THAT NIGHT
IN A DESOLATE
PARK...
SHROUDED BY
FOG AND GLOOM
THAT SEEMS TO
HOLD THE DANK
GHOSTS OF MANY
MURDERED MEN..



OUT SOON...
LIKE A
BANSHEE
WAILING FOR
REVENGE...



JOE,
AFTER
DUE
PROCESS
OF LAW,
IS
SENTENCED
TO DIE
FOR
THE
DEATH OF
A BANK
GUARD...
BUT
ONE
DAY...



JOE, DARLING! I'M SORRY I LEFT YOU! BUT IF YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU HID THE MONEY...

YOU'LL HIRE A GOOD LAWYER, HUH? HAH-HAH! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

TELL YA-CHUCKLE-WHAT I'LL DO! GET ME OUT OF THIS AND YA CAN HAVE HALF!



AND COMES THE INEVITABLE NIGHT OF EXECUTION... JOE ENTERS AN INFERO OF SWIRLING, ACRID GASES THAT WILL SOON END HIS SORDID LIFE...



LATER, IN THE PRISON MORGUE...

LET'S SKIP THE AUTOPSY, MIKE! MY HEAD IS SPLITTING!

OKAY, DOC! HE'S DEAD ENOUGH!



LATER...

HERE YOU ARE, MISS! NOW YOU JUST SIGN A PAPER SAYING YOU CLAIMED THE BODY!

OKAY-ONLY HURRY!

COST ME PLENTY TO GET THAT DOC TO SKIP THE AUTOPSY, BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT- I HOPE!



THAT NIGHT, IN
A LONELY
MOUNTAIN SPOT...

NOW TO GET TO
WORK! IF I CAN
JUST BRING JOE
BACK TO LIFE!

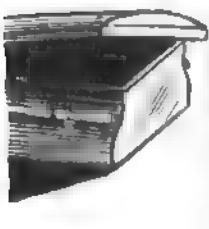
LONG ENOUGH TO GET
THE SECRET OUT OF HIM--
THEN WE'LL-(CHUCKLE)-SEE
WHAT HAPPENS!

BRRR—I FEEL FUNNY!
L-LIKE I WAS A GHUL
ROBBING A GRAVE!
TRYING TO BRING A
CORPSE TO LIFE!

HERE GOES! THE
ONE ANTIDOTE FOR
THIS KIND OF
POISON GAS!

H-HE'S SO C-COLD!
CLAMMY! HE LOOKS
LIKE WHAT HE IS,
A CORPSE!

THERE! I'VE DONE
ALL I CAN! NOW
WE'LL SEE-JOE.
CAN YOU
HEAR ME,
JOE?



SUDDENLY...

HUH! Y-YOU! BUT
HOW-T-THEY KILLED
ME! I WAS IN THE
GAS
CHAMBER!

IT
WORKED!

JOE
FORGIVES
ALL
AND THEY
MAKE
PLANS!
AS JOE
DRAWS A
MAP OF
THE
LOCATION
OF THE
TREASURE...

YOU GO TO THE
PARK AND GET
THE DOUGH!
I'LL HOLE
UP HERE!

OKAY! I'LL
START
RIGHT
AWAY!









DR. JAMISON—
CAN I INTERRUPT?
I HAVE A RUNIC
THAT NEEDS
DECIPHERING...

SURELY, TOM, I'D
BE GLAD TO WORK
IT OUT FOR YOU...
WHERE IS IT FROM?

MEXICO! THIS IS INCREDIBLE! WITH
THESE WE COULD DECIPIER
THE MAYAN GLYPHS! THIS IS
ANOTHER ROSETTA STONE!



THAT STARTED A MAD WHIRL OF
PLANNING—UNTIL FINALLY WE HAD
AN EXPEDITION PLANNED—with
DIRECTOR KANE HIMSELF IN CHARGE...

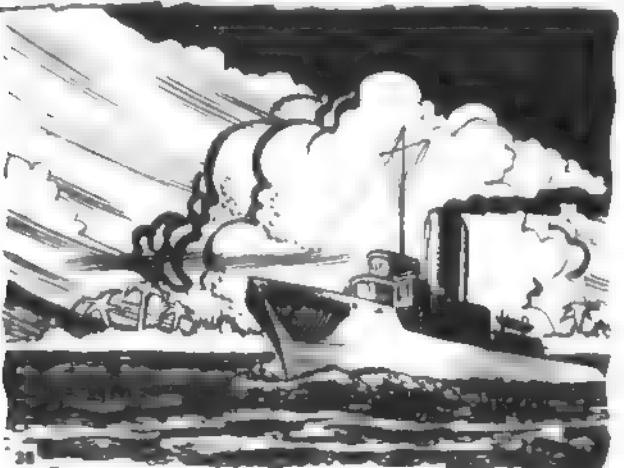


AND LATER...

NOW REMEMBER, NOT EVEN
THE CAPTAIN KNOWS OUR
PURPOSE... THIS TRIP IS A
SECRET... THE DISCOVERIES
WE HOPE TO MAKE MUST
BE KEPT UNDER WRAPS
UNTIL WE'RE SURE OF
THEM!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE WERE
IN SIGHT OF THE VERDANT JUNGLE
COUNTRY OF YUCATAN—AND OVER EVERY
ONE CREPTE THE DEEP, THROBBING
FASCINATION OF THESE TROPIC SHORES.



AS FOR ME... I SPENT MY TIME WITH
JOYCE, MR KANE'S SECRETARY...



SUDDENLY...

PORT IN SIGHT!
PREPARE FOR
LANDINGS!



MAJESTICALLY OUR SHIP STEAMED INTO THE SMALL HARBOR OF SAN ANGELO OBISPO... THE NEAREST POINT TO THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF CHINTZIN-ILTZ, SACRED CITY OF THE MAYA...



OKAY, GET OFF THESE HATCH-COVERS. JOHN—BILL—GET DOWN AND HOOK UP CARGO!



THE TOWN WAS FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND NOISE AS WE DOCKED...

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE COME ON SOME KIND OF FESTIVAL DAY...



AND THE PEOPLE OF SAN ANGELO PARADED BEFORE OUR PLEASED AND STARTLED EYES...

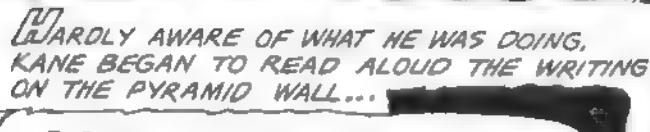




THERE SHE IS... AN UNSOLVED RIDDLE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS— AND TO THINK... MAYBE TONIGHT...

YES— LET'S HURRY... WE'VE EIGHT MINUTES TO CLIMB THAT PYRAMID— COME ON!

GASPING WE RACED UP THE BIG STEPS ... AND THERE ON TOP WERE CONFRONTED BY A FANTASTICALLY HUGE MOON...



OH, FEATHERED
ONE — IT WAS
I — I THAT
WOULD
BRING THY
NAME
AGAIN TO
GLORY...

THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR
ME — I HEADED BACK
TO CAMP... IN MY MIND
WAS ONE FEAR... WOULD
THAT MONSTER HURT JOYCE?

JOYCE! KANE HAS UN-
LEASHED THE FEATHERED
SERPENT... WE'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE...
FAST...

TOM! LOOK
BEHIND YOU!

YOU'RE MAD,
KANE... DESTROY
THAT MONSTER
BEFORE IT DESTROYS
YOU...

SURRENDER MY
BRIDE, FOOL — OR
THE LIVES OF ALL
HERE SHALL BE
FORFEIT!

I'M GOING WITH HIM,
TOM... HE MEANS WHAT
HE SAYS... TAKE CARE
OF YOURSELF, DARLING!

BUT DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS, WHILE I RACKED MY
BRAINS TO FIND A WAY OF SAVING JOYCE, KANE AND HIS
MONSTROUS PET VISITED SAN ANGELO... LEAVING IN THEIR
WAKE A PATH OF RUIN, BLOOD AND HORROR...

NO!

HA-HA! HA-
HAI

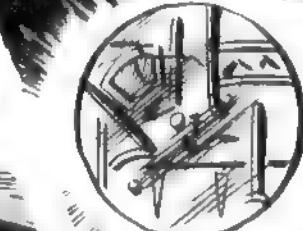
TIENDA

DURING ALL THIS DESTRUCTION, I SPENT MY TIME SLOWLY CHECKING EVERY SYMBOL IN THE AREA OF THE PYRAMID KANE HAD FOUND, AGAINST MY RUNIC KEY...

THIS IS IT! IT FITS... I CAN READ THEM NOW! WHY, IT'S EASY, TERRIBLY EASY! YES, THERE'S THE INCANTATION KANE USED... THANK HEAVENS... HERE IT IS... NO! IT CAN'T BE... BUT...

MY MIND REELED WITH THE IMPACT OF WHAT I READ ON THOSE ANCIENT STONES... A MESSAGE OF HORROR THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY...

I MUST FIND IT! I MUST!



IT- IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

FINALLY I WAS PREPARED... AND I BEGAN THE LONG, HARD CLIMB TO WHAT THE NATIVES HAD TOLD ME WAS THE LAIR OF THE MAD PRIEST, AND "QUETZACOATL!"

MY HEART MISSED A BEAT... THERE WAS JOYCE! BUT THERE, BESIDE THE SLUMBERING RELIC OF A FORGOTTEN AGE - WAS KANE!

I'M NOT BOWING, KANE!

YOU'LL BOW DOWN TO ME! JUST AS ALL THE OTHERS WILL!



WHEN I REMEMBERED THE PHRASE ON THE TEMPLE - QUETZACOATL AND THE SOUL OF THE HIGH PRIEST ARE ONE - AND INDIVISIBLE ... IF I COULD KILL KANE, I WOULD DESTROY THE SERPENT...

YOU FIEND!
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN! NOT ANYMORE!

AGGG-



THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH... AND FOR A MOMENT TO MY DAZZLED EYES, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH IN SOME STRANGE WAY, KANE AND QUETZACOATL HAD MERGED... AND AS THE INSCRIPTION HAD SAID... WERE ONE!

E.H.
End

DEVIL'S Sketch Book

OF OUR GHOULISH PAL
THE HEXMASTER!

EVER HEAR OF A MAGIC BLOW BOOK?
IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST TRICKS IN THE
HEX BUSINESS, DATING BACK AT LEAST
400 YEARS! YOU THUMB THROUGH
THE BOOK, SHOWING THAT EVERY
PAGE HAS PICTURES---

THEN YOU CLOSE
THE BOOK--

AND BREATHE
ON IT--

AND WHEN YOU RUN
THROUGH THE PAGES
AGAIN, THEY HAVE
ALL GONE BLANK!

LIKE EVERY GOOD TRICK, IT'S AN
IMITATION OF **REAL MAGIC**--FOR
CENTURIES, THERE WERE GENUINE
BOOKS THAT REALLY DID GO BLANK!
THEY WERE WONDERFUL FOR
GETTING RID OF YOUR WORST
ENEMIES--AND BEST FRIENDS!--
SO WE'LL COME RIGHT UP TO
DATE AND TAKE YOU BEHIND THE
SCENES OF WINKLER'S CURIO
SHOP ON NOVEMBER 11TH, 1952...

COME ON, WINKLER! OPEN
UP THAT SAFE AND LET'S
HAVE A LOOK-SEE AT YOUR
DOUGH!

YOU CAN HAVE MY MONEY,
MISTER--BUT I TELL YOU
NOW THERE'S VERY
LITTLE OF IT!



YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE CASH, WINKLER! IT COMES TO \$52.38-- AND I WANT MORE! YOU MUST HAVE MORE CASH SOMEWHERE!

HONEST, MISTER, I HAVEN'T! BUT HERE'S SOMETHING WORTH MORE THAN MONEY! IT'S... THE DEVIL'S SKETCH BOOK!

HMM... LOTS OF LOOSE BLANK PAGES! FROM GOAT'S HIDE BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF! IF YOU SKETCH ANYONE'S LIKENESS ON ONE OF THOSE PAGES AND THEN DESTROY IT, THAT PERSON WILL DIE IMMEDIATELY!

THINK OF ITS VALUE TO A CRIMINAL LIKE YOURSELF!



YEAH-- BUT IN ORDER TO USE IT, I'VE GOT TO LEARN TO BE AN ARTIST, SO I CAN DRAW THE PICTURES OF THE RIGHT GUYS-- OR THE WRONG ONES!

HERE'S THE ADDRESS OF A QUICK SKETCH ARTIST NAMED ROSCOE CARLYLE! HE CAN TEACH YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IN A FEW DAYS!



OKAY, WINKLER, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY! MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT!

BELIEVE ME, THERE IS A LOT IN IT-- AS YOU WILL LEARN!

EVERY WORD I TOLD HIM WAS THE TRUTH-- BUT I WON'T GIVE HIM TIME TO PUT IT TO THE TEST! I'LL WATCH CARLYLE'S STUDIO AND SEE WHO GOES THERE!

YES, OLD WINKLER WAS SHREWD-- BUT HE HADN'T RECKONED WITH MARTY HUTTON-- WHICH WAS THE CROOK'S NAME! MARTY HADN'T TIME TO WASTE ON ART LESSONS!

SO OLD WINKLER SENT YOU UP HERE, MR. --

MR. --

BURKE-- JIM BURKE! I WANT YOU TO MAKE SOME SKETCHES OF FRIENDS OF MINE, IN THIS SKETCH BOOK!



IF THEY'RE GOOD, I'LL PAY YOU 25 BUCKS APIECE! BUT FIRST DO ONE OF OLD WINKLER, SO I CAN SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE'

GOOD ENOUGH, MR. BURKE!

MINUTES LATER...

HOW'S THAT, MR BURKE?

PERFECT! HERE'S THE \$25-- GIVE ME THE SKETCH.

THERE HE COMES-- WITHOUT THE SKETCH BOOK! THAT MEANS HE'S GOING BACK UP THERE FOR LESSONS -- SO HE THINKS!

CARRYING THE LOOSE SKETCH WITH HIM, MARTY HOTFOOTED IT TO HIS FAVORITE BAR AND GRILLE...

WHAT'LL IT BE, MARTY?

JUST A NAPKIN AND A GLASS OF WATER! I'LL ORDER LATER!

MEANWHILE...

HELLO, POLICE HEADQUARTERS? I WANT TO REPORT A BURGLARY! I DON'T KNOW THE CRIMINAL'S NAME, BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHERE HE IS AT PRESENT---

I'LL CONNECT YOU WITH THE DETECTIVE DIVISION!

AND IT SURE DID WORK!

HELLO-- HELLO--

IT'S OLD WINKLER! HIS HEART QUIT WHILE HE WAS MAKING A PHONE CALL!



BUT BACK AT THE BAR AND GRILLE...

THIS IS A NICE EASY WAY TO RUB A GUY OUT-- IF IT WORKS!

LATER... HELLO, CARLYLE? THIS IS BURKE! LOOK, I'D LIKE YOU TO DO A SKETCH OF A FRIEND I'M HAVING DINNER WITH! IT'S A SURPRISE, SO DON'T LET HIM NOTICE YOU DOING IT!



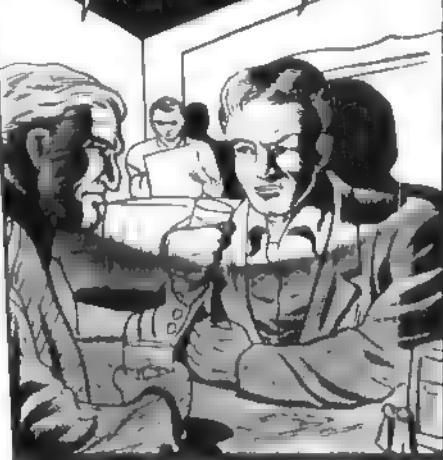
THAT NIGHT, MARTY PUT THE HEX ON TRIGGER GULIK, HEAD OF THE NOTORIOUS INDIGO MOB...

ALL RIGHT, MARTY! I'LL HAVE MY MOB COVER YOUR BOYS WHILE THEY UNLOAD THE CRATES OF SMUGGLED GOODS! BUT I WANT 50% OF THE TAKE-- AND NO DOUBLE CROSS!

IT'S A DEAL, TRIGGER!

LATER, AT THE STUDIO...

THERE IT IS, MR. BURKE... TOO PERFECT! BUT I LEARNED THAT MY FRIEND DOESN'T LIKE HIS PICTURE TO GET AROUND! I'LL PAY YOU FOR IT, BUT WE'LL JUST HAVE TO RUB IT OUT!



TIMED TO MARTY'S ACTION, THE HEX TOOK HOLD.

THE CREW FROM THE POLICE BOAT-- LET'S BEAT IT, TRIGGER!

YEAH? THERE NEVER WAS A COP I COULDN'T OUTSHOOT!



AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED...

IT'S TRIGGER GULIK! LUCKY WE WINGED HIM BEFORE HE COULD POT US!

FUNNY-- I THOUGHT I MISSED HIM!



SO MARTY PAID OFF TRIGGER'S MOB AND KEPT THE BIG PROFITS FOR HIMSELF...

TOO BAD ABOUT TRIGGER, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES!

YEAH, WE KNOW, MARTY!

AND MOVED ON TO BIGGER DEALS

IF BIG STEVE MIFFLIN WOULD ONLY DROP DEAD, YOU COULD TAKE OVER THE GAMBLING RACKET, MARTY!

YEAH... MAYBE HE WILL AT THAT!



SO, KEEP AN EYE ON BIG STEVE WHO RUNS THIS PLACE, CARLYLE! I WANT YOU TO SKETCH HIM LATER!

GLADLY, MR. BURKE!



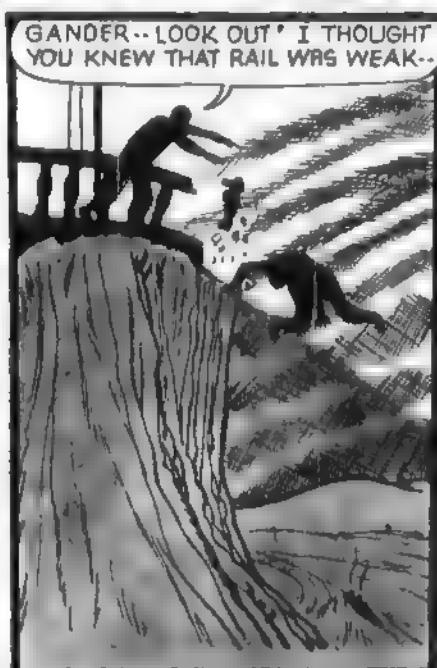
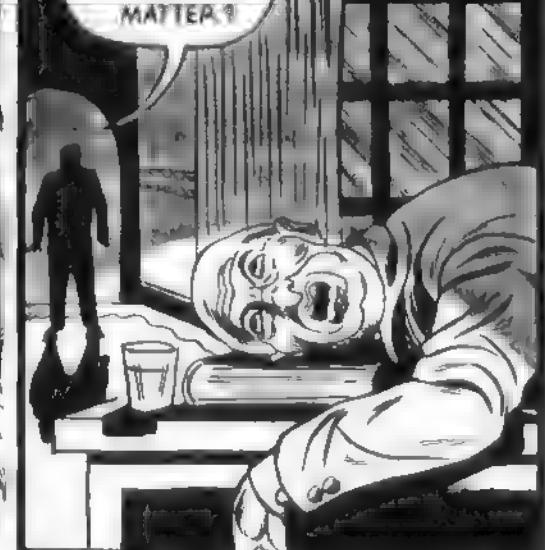
LATER, CARLYLE DREW THE SKETCH...

HOW IS THAT,
MR. BURKE?
NO -- YOU HAVEN'T
GOT IT, CARLYLE--

BIG STEVE WOULDN'T
LIKE THIS PORTRAIT.
WE'LL HAVE TO
RUB IT OUT!

AND MARTY FINISHED THE HEX!

MR. MIFFLIN!
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?



THAT VERY NIGHT, CARLYLE
RAISED THE ISSUE WITH MARTY

EVERY TIME I SKETCH A
MAN, HE DIES! I'LL DO
NO MORE OF THIS WORK,
MR. BURKE!

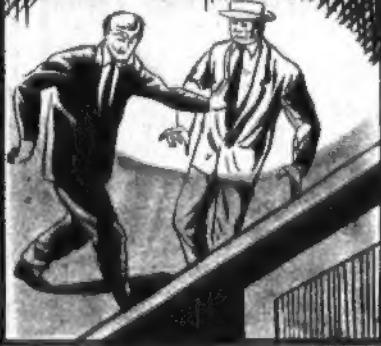
I'LL GIVE YOU
\$1000 A SKETCH!
I'LL GIVE YOU UN-
TIL TOMORROW TO
THINK IT OVER!

OUT OF MY
WAY! I
WANT TO
TALK TO
THAT RAT
CARLYLE

THIS IS
REFRESHING--
SOMEONE
PUSHING ME
AROUND!

I'M HOWARD GOODWIN! YOU'RE TO QUIT
PHONING MY SISTER, CARLYLE! SHE'S
ONLY HALF YOUR AGE--

YEAH? WELL
ACT YOUR
AGE
AND GET OUT!



IF YOU KILL ME--YOU'LL
FRY -- FOR SURE...
ARGHHH!

LEAVING CARLYLE FOR DEAD, MARTY
LEFT! BUT THE ARTIST RALLIED
BRIEFLY, AND...

THEN, THE SKETCH DROPPED
FROM CARLYLE'S DEAD HAND
AND FLUTTERED FROM SIGHT...





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1836 Paterson Colt Revolver

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IT WAS A WILD, MAD CHASE, BUT IN HIS SOUPED UP CAR, MARTY OUTRAN THE LAW AS HE RACED UP THE RIVER...



I'LL BE ACROSS THE STATE LINE SOON! THERE THEY CAN'T CHASE ME!

MEANWHILE, IN THE DEATH CHAMBER OF THE STATE PRISON

TWO MORE MINUTES!

NO CHANCE OF A REPRIEVE NOW!

NO--NO!



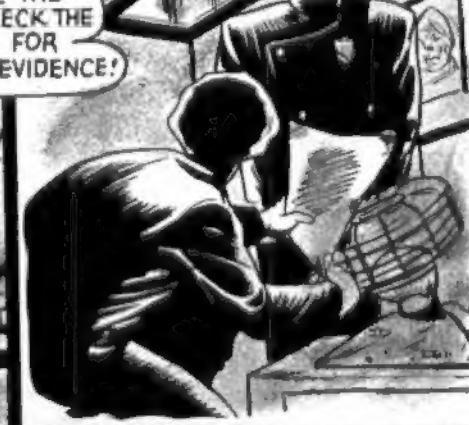
LEGAL TECHNICALITIES HELD UP THE EXECUTION FOR A FEW DAYS. ONE DAY, GOODWIN READ OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAD SAVED HIM...

MARTY HUTTON! WHY, HE'S THE MAN I SAW OUTSIDE OF CARLYLE'S STUDIO!

I'LL HAVE THE POLICE CHECK THE PREMISES FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE!

IT'S A SKETCH OF MARTY HUTTON! THAT PROVES MARTY COULD HAVE BEEN HERE!

HOWARD GOODWIN WAS LUCKY! THE LAW BELIEVED HIS STORY IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW EVIDENCE, AND HE WAS RELEASED! BUT IT WASN'T LUCK--IT WAS HEX! -- HEX FROM THE DEVIL'S SKETCH BOOK! HEHEHEHENEH!



The End