



FEB.  
MAR.  
10c



# HOUSE of MYSTERY

Featuring  
**"I WAS A  
DEAD MAN!"**

WHY ARE YOU  
MOURNING FOR ME?  
I'M **NOT DEAD!** I CAN  
**PROVE** I'M NOT DEAD!  
JANE, LISTEN TO ME--  
I BEG OF YOU!



also: "MARK of X"  
"TREE of DOOM"  
"EXPERIMENT of DR. GRIMM"



**W**HO KNOWS THE FULL POWER OF THE HUMAN MIND? WHO CAN FORETELL THE HIDEOUS FORCES THAT MAY BE UNLEASHED WHEN WE PLUMB ITS DEEPEST AND MOST SECRET PLACES! ONE PERSON DID--ONE WHO SOUGHT THE MYSTERY IN HER OWN MIND, AND -- FOUND IT!...

**T**HERE IS BITTER IRONY IN THIS STORY OF A WOMAN WRITER, THE CREATOR OF COUNTLESS TALES OF SUSPENSE, WHO HERSELF FALLS PREY TO A TERROR FAR BEYOND HER IMAGINATION, THE TERROR THAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS ...

## The MARK of



I--CAN'T--BEAR--IT!  
WHAT HAVE I DONE,  
LETTING--LETTING  
LOOSE THIS THING  
IN THE WORLD--?

I HAVE CREATED HUNDREDS OF GROTESQUE CHARACTERS IN MY STORIES, BUT WHEN HARRY BANNING, THE PRODUCER OF MY TELEVISION SHOWS, CALLED ME ON THE CARPET ...

GRACE, IF YOUR SUSPENSE STORIES GET ANY Milder, WE'LL BE ABLE TO USE 'EM ON THE CHILDREN'S HOUR! WE WANT MORE EXCITEMENT! PEOPLE ENJOY BEING SCARED! WHERE'S YOUR IMAGINATION, GIRL?

SAY,  
WAIT  
A MINUTE...!

LIKE MOST WRITERS, CRITICISM JARRED ME, AND I REMINDED BANNING OF THE HUGE SUCCESS OF MY "INVASION FROM MARS" SHOW ...

NO--DON'T--  
TOUCH ME--  
DON'T!





AND WHEN BANNING BRUSHED THIS OFF WITH A SINGLE REMARK: "OLD STUFF," I RECALLED MY VERY POPULAR SCRIPT, "THE HEADLESS HUNTSMEN"...



JIM, WHAT--  
ARE--THEY--?

THEY'RE THE--  
THE HEADLESS  
HUNTSMEN!

"THE HEADLESS HUNTSMEN"--  
HUMPH! VERY LIMITED APPEAL!  
I WANT A SHOW THAT WILL GRIP  
THE IMAGINATION--TAKE HOLD  
OF THE MASS MIND--HYP--  
NOTIZE THE AUDIENCE!  
GET IT?

DON'T WORRY, GRACE,  
I KNOW YOU'LL  
COME UP WITH  
SOMETHING  
TERRIFIC!



MAYBE GEORGE, PUBLICITY MAN FOR  
THE SHOW, KNEW IT--BUT AT THIS  
POINT I DIDN'T SHARE HIS CONFIDENCE.  
MY BRAIN WAS IN A TAILSPIN...

**GRIP THE IMAGINATION!**  
**GET IT?**  
**GET IT?**  
**GET IT?**  
**TAKE HOLD OF THE MASS MIND!**

THAT NIGHT,  
IN MY STUDIO  
APARTMENT,  
I LABORED  
LATE, WRACK-  
ING MY BRAIN  
FOR AN IDEA...

IT MUST BE SOMETHING  
DARING--MORE DARING  
THAN I EVER DREAMED  
OF--! THINK,  
THINK--!



PERHAPS IT WAS THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR,  
PERHAPS LACK OF SLEEP--BUT, SUDDENLY, MY  
VISION CLOUDED, A VAGUE UNEASINESS  
STIRRED WITHIN ME, AND THEN, I SAW IT...



OH, NO-O-O--!

YOU WHO KNOW HOW DREADFULLY REAL A NIGHT-  
MARE CAN SEEM WILL UNDERSTAND THE ODIOUS  
REVULSION I FELT AT THE SIGHT OF THIS MON-  
STER WITH THE CLOVEN HOOF--AND THEN--  
THEN--IT SPOKE, IN A THIN WAILING VOICE...

WHY DID YOU AROUSE ME  
FROM MY ETERNAL RESTING  
PLACE? WHY? WHAT DO  
YOU WANT OF ME?







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



WHETHER IT WAS MY PIERCING SCREAM, OR THE LIGHTNING STREAKING ACROSS THE DARK SKIES THAT DISPELLED THE IMAGE, I SHALL NEVER KNOW. I SHOOK MY HEAD TO CLEAR IT OF THE MALIGNANT NIGHTMARE...

WHAT A FIENDISH--BUT-- BUT-- THAT'S IT--! THE IDEA FOR THE SHOW! AND I'LL CALL THE CREATURE--X-- JUST X!

THE EFFECTS WERE IMMEDIATE AND ELECTRIFYING! IN MILLIONS OF HOMES THROUGHOUT THE NATION...

BY GEORGE, THAT X CERTAINLY MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END, DOESN'T IT?

YES--I'M GLAD THE CHILDREN ARE ASLEEP UPSTAIRS AND AREN'T WATCHING IT, I--I THINK I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK AT THEM, HENRY...

AND SUCCESS WAS TOPPED OFF BY A MAJOR HOLLYWOOD STUDIO WHICH SPENT \$1,000,000 ON A MOVIE VERSION OF "X" AND PLAYED IT TO PACKED HOUSES, WHERE IT CONTINUED TO STARTLE AUDIENCES...

NOW, NOW, LADY, CONTROL YOURSELF--IT'S ONLY A MOVIE, AND X IS ONLY AN ACTOR! (SHE'S THE THIRD ONE THIS SHOW ALONE!)

HAD I KNOWN, OR EVEN GUESSED, AT THE EVENTS WHICH WERE TO FOLLOW--BUT WHY SPECULATE? THE SHOW WAS APPROVED, WENT INTO REHEARSAL, AND ON A BALMY SUMMER EVENING TWO MONTHS LATER...

YOU ASK WHAT I AM? I AM THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THE DARK DEEDS THAT DWELL IN THE DEEPEST ABYSS OF MEN'S SOULS! I AM DEDICATED TO DESTROY YOU ALL--WITH MY CLOVEN HOOF--THE MARK OF X!

ITS FAME SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE, THE COUNTRY'S TOP PICTURE MAGAZINE RAN A FIVE-PAGE SPREAD ON X, SELLING OUT ITS COMPLETE ISSUE IN FIVE DAYS...

WHAT CAN I DO, MISTER? I TELL YOU I AIN'T GOT ANY MORE COPIES!

AND TO THINK I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL!

THE PUBLICITY STUNTS I DREAMED UP WON'T DO X'S REPUTATION ANY HARM!

BY NOW, MY TRIUMPH WAS SUPREME! AS THE CREATOR OF "THE WILDEST AVERSION OF THE YEAR," AS THE TIMES PUT IT, I WAS FETED, WINED AND DINED...

A TOAST TO GRACE DEEMS! TO LOOK AT HER BEAUTY, ONE WOULD NEVER DREAM HER CAPABLE OF IMAGINING SUCH A STRANGE BEAST!

THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN!

BUT MY TRIUMPH WAS SHORTLIVED, FOR...



THERE THEN FOLLOWED A SERIES OF SEEMINGLY UNCONNECTED EVENTS WHICH WERE TO DRIVE ME ALMOST TO THE POINT OF INSANITY! IT BEGAN AFTER A LATE REHEARSAL OF THE SHOW. THE ENTIRE CAST HAD DECIDED TO GO IN A PARTY TO LUIGINI'S FOR A LATE SUPPER, WHEN...

SAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR YOUNG HEROINE, GLORIA MORGAN? ISN'T SHE COMING WITH US?

SHE WAS HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO!

GLORIA! GLORIA! WHERE ARE YOU, DEAR?

IT WAS GEORGE WHO FINALLY MADE THE GRUESOME DISCOVERY...

I HAD TO ASK YOU ALL TO COME BACK! IT'S GLORIA--AND LOOK AT THAT MARK ON HER FOREHEAD! IT'S--IT'S--

THE MARK OF X!

GLORIA RECOVERED, BUT THE INCIDENT CAST A PALL OF GLOOM OVER THE ENTIRE SHOW. THEN, TWO WEEKS LATER, MINUTES BEFORE THE TELECAST...

LOOK! WHAT'S JIM THINK HE'S DOING?

PLAYING THE PART OF X MUST HAVE GONE TO HIS HEAD! STOP IT, JIM, STOP IT!

HE'S GONE MAD!

CANCEL TONIGHT'S SHOW! WE'LL BLAME IT ON MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES! AND CALL THE POLICE--TELL THEM TO BRING A STRAITJACKET!

SUDDENLY, JIM, STILL DRESSED AS X, RUSHED OUT... BUT IT WAS WHEN PRODUCER HARRY BANNING ENTERED THAT WE RECEIVED A SOUL-SEARING SHOCK...

BAD NEWS, FOLKS! I JUST LEFT JIM AT HIS APARTMENT! HE'S SICK, AND WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY X TONIGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO GET SOMEONE ELSE, BUT FAST!

BUT--WASN'T-- JIM--JUST--HERE?

HERE? NO, I TELL YOU, I JUST LEFT HIM AT HIS APARTMENT! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU FOLKS, ANYWAY?

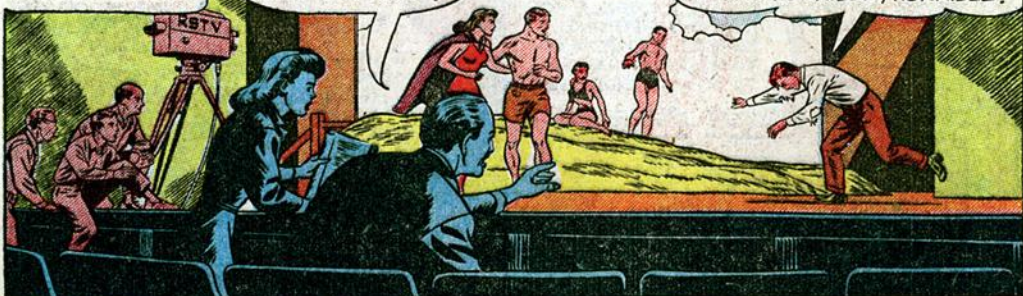
WE DIDN'T TELL HIM JUST THEN--WE COULDN'T! A STUNNED SILENCE, A CREEPING CHILL OVERCAME US, AS WE ALL ASKED OURSELVES THE SAME TERRIFYING QUESTION: "IF JIM WAS ILL, WHO WAS THE X WHO WAS HERE?"



**B**UT THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING... TWO DAYS LATER...

IT'S HAL WALLACE, OUR DIRECTOR! GREAT SCOTT, HAL, WHAT HAPPENED?

THAT--THAT--X--ATTACKED ME--BACKSTAGE--IT STRUCK ME WITH ITS CLOVEN HOOF--IT WAS HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE!



HEADLINES FROM COAST TO COAST SCREAMED THE STORY OF THE INCIDENTS. FEATURE WRITERS RAN RIOT WITH WORDS OF THE HORROR! BUT THE WORST WAS YET TO COME. FROM A SMALL TOWN, CAME THE FIRST OF HUNDREDS OF SIMILAR REPORTS YET TO COME...

X, CREATED BY GRACE DEEMS, HAS PUT IN AN APPEARANCE 3000 MILES AWAY FROM ITS CREATOR! IN LAKEVILLE, WASHINGTON, LUCY HARRIS, RETURNING TO HER HOME FROM THE VILLAGE THREE MILES AWAY, REPORTED SEEING THE CREATURE ON LONELY OLD TAPPAN ROAD. ACCORDING TO LUCY...



"X CAME AT HER FROM THE WOODS THAT LINE THE ROAD ON BOTH SIDES. IT VANISHED AT THE SOUNDS OF A FARMER'S TRUCK COMING DOWN THE HIGHWAY"...



THEN, LIKE AN AVALANCHE, VIVID REPORTS OF CONTINUED VISITATIONS CRACKLED OVER THE AIRWAVES...



JOHN MASON, CARPENTER, WAS BRUTALLY ATTACKED BY SOMETHING ANSWERING THE DESCRIPTION OF "X"!

AND FROM ALAMO, TEXAS, MARY STYLES, SECRETARY FLED WHEN "X" SUDDENLY APPEARED IN HER ROOM AT THE BANKS HOTEL!

TUMULT RAGED IN MY DISORDERED MIND AS I CONTEMPLATED WHAT I HAD DONE ...

AND JOHN C. MARTIN, BANKER, OF TOPEKA, SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK WHEN SLIDENLY CONFRONTED BY THE THING WITH THE CLOVEN HOOF...

I TOLD MY WIFE, KEEP THE KIDS HOME AFTER 6! THE WHOLE COUNTRY'S IN A PANIC!







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**W**RETCHED BEYOND WORDS, I FINALLY FLED TO BANNING ...

HARRY, I'M THROUGH! I'LL NEVER WRITE ANOTHER LINE ON THAT SHOW! GET ANOTHER WRITER!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, GRACE! YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING! BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING RASH, HAVE A TALK WITH GEORGE!



NOTHING GEORGE CAN SAY IS GOING TO CHANGE MY MIND, AND THAT'S FINAL!

MISS UNDERWOOD, GET GEORGE ON THE WIRE AT ONCE!



ON THE LONG AND LONELY WALK BACK TO MY APARTMENT, I ASKED MYSELF THE SAME QUESTION OVER AND OVER, BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER EXCEPT A HOLLOW ECHO IN MY SOUL ...

AM I REALLY TO BLAME FOR ALL THESE APPALLING THINGS? HAVE I ACTUALLY SUMMONED THIS DEMON FROM--OH, NO--IT CAN'T BE--THIS MUST BE A NIGHTMARE--ONLY A NIGHTMARE--BUT--BUT ...

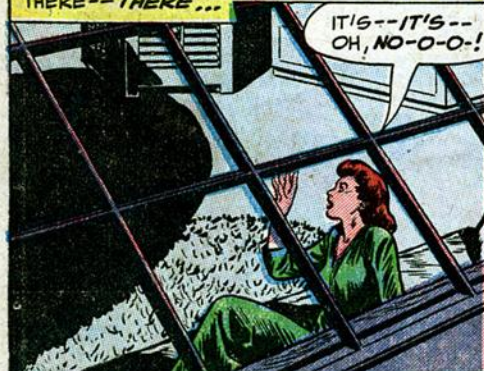


BACK IN MY ROOM, I LISTENED FOR A TIME TO MORE RADIO REPORTS OF THE DEPRADATIONS OF THE THING I HAD LOOSED ON THE WORLD. THEN, HEAVY-HEARTED AND EXHAUSTED, I STRETCHED OUT ON THE SOFA, CLOSED MY EYES ...



A BRIGHT MOON CAST A SHAFT INTO THE ROOM. THEN, SUDDENLY, A FEELING OF UNEASINESS STIRRED DEEP WITHIN ME. I GASPED, FOR THERE--THERE ...

IT'S--IT'S--OH, NO--O-O-!



THEN IT HADN'T BEEN A NIGHTMARE--IT WAS REAL--TERRIFYINGLY REAL, AND I HADN'T DREAMED IT! NO--HAD SPOKEN TO ME--IT WAS--SPEAKING--TO--ME--NOW--!

YOU KNEW I WOULD FINALLY COME FOR YOU--YOU WHO SUMMONED ME FROM THE DIMENSION RESERVED FOR FREAKS OF NATURE--YOU WHO DOOMED ME TO YOUR DIMENSION FOR YOUR OWN GLORY! NOW, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY I CAN RETURN TO MY ETERNAL RESTING PLACE--BY DESTROYING YOU!

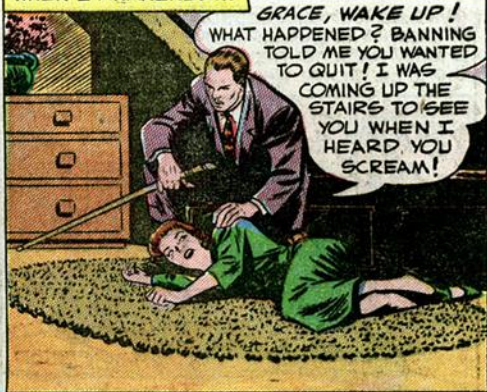




I RECOILED WITH REPUGNANCE, STARING HORROR—STRICKEN, AS THE CLOVEN HOOF ASCENDED...



...AND THEN, MERCIFULLY, I BLACKED OUT. WHEN I AWAKENED...



GRACE, WAKE UP! WHAT HAPPENED? BANNING TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO QUIT! I WAS COMING UP THE STAIRS TO SEE YOU WHEN I HEARD YOU SCREAM!

YOU MUST HAVE HAD A LULU OF A SCARE, OLD GIRL! NOW, WHAT'S ALL THIS NONSENSE ABOUT QUITTING THE SHOW?

AFTER—AFTER WHAT JUST HAPPENED—I—MUST QUIT, GEORGE!

BUT GEORGE ONLY SMILED WHEN I TOLD HIM OF X'S VISIT...

I'VE A CONFESSION! BANNING AND I DIDN'T INTEND LETTING YOU IN ON IT BECAUSE WE KNEW YOU'D OBJECT... BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM DELUSIONS, MAYBE I'D BETTER LET YOU IN ON THE HOAX!

DID YOU SAY--HOAX?

YES-- THAT'S ALL IT WAS! JUST TO GET PUBLICITY FOR THE SHOW! EVEN THE IMPRESSION MADE BY THE CLOVEN HOOF--SEE? THIS IS HOW IT WAS MADE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT GLORIA? AND HAL WALLACE, THE DIRECTOR? YOU MEAN-- YOU ARRANGED THOSE--?



GEORGE NODDED, BUT I WAS STILL FULL OF DOUBTS--AND QUESTIONS...

--AND WHAT ABOUT THE HUNDREDS OF CASES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY? I SUPPOSE YOU ARRANGED THOSE, TOO!

NO--THAT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF MASS HYSTERIA! YOU'VE SEEN THAT HAPPEN BEFORE--PEOPLE SWEARING THEY'VE SEEN THINGS THAT NEVER EXISTED--LIKE THE FLYING SAUCERS! YOUR SHOW WAS SO VIVID THAT PEOPLE BEGAN BELIEVING IN X. WELL, SEEING IS ONLY A STEP AWAY FROM BELIEVING, MY GIRL! WHY, EVEN YOU BEGAN SEEING IT YOURSELF!

SO THERE IT WAS--NOTHING BUT A HOAX--A CRUEL ONE, BUT AT LEAST, IT WAS NOT THE GROTESQUE CREATURE I HAD FEARED. I FELT AS LIMP AS A RAG WHEN GEORGE ROSE TO GO...

HOWEVER--I STILL DON'T THINK I WANT TO WRITE THE SCRIPT ANYMORE...

OF COURSE YOU WILL! GET SOME SLEEP--YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IN THE MORNING, GRACE!



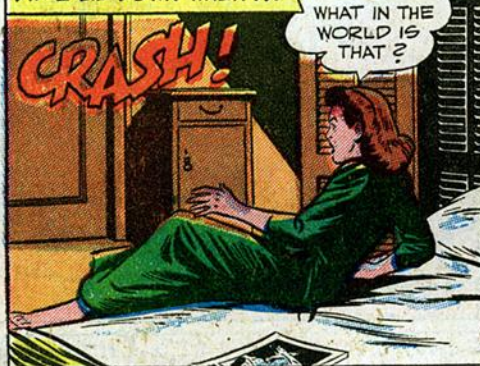




# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



GEORGE HAD SUCCEEDED SOMEWHAT IN CALMING MY JAGGED NERVES. AFTER HE LEFT, I WENT BACK TO THE SOFA, BUT NO SOONER DID I LIE DOWN WHEN ...



HIS HEART WAS STILL BEATING, BUT THEN I SAW SOMETHING THAT MADE MY BLOOD RUN COLD! ON HIS FOREHEAD, PRESSED DEEP INTO THE FLESH, WAS-- WAS--



I RUSHED OUT OF THE ROOM TO THE CORRIDOR, STARED DOWN THE STAIRCASE, AND...

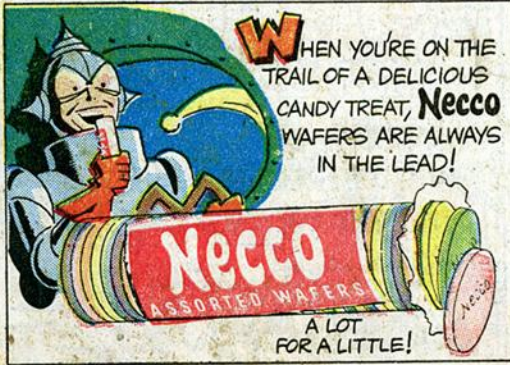
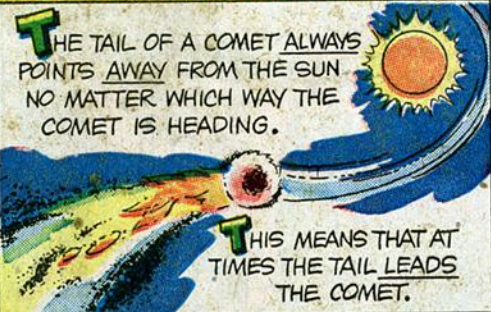


YES--IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIS CANE THAT ACCIDENTALLY STRUCK HIS HEAD AS HE FELL--! BUT-- BUT IT MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN-- NO, I CAN'T SAY IT! I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT! PERHAPS I'LL NEVER FIND OUT! PERHAPS I WILL-- WHEN X RETURNS-- FOR--ME--!



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## OUT OF THIS WORLD by Necco





WHO SHALL WE SAY IS GUILTY--THE MAN WHOSE HANDS ACTUALLY PERFORM THE DIABOLICAL DEEDS OR THE MAN WHOSE EVIL MIND CONTROLS AND DIRECTS THOSE HANDS TO DO HIS BASE BIDDING? THIS IS THE VEXING PROBLEM THAT PUZZLED INSPECTOR ANDRE TISSOT, OF THE FRENCH SURETE, WHEN HE TRIED TO UNRAVEL...

## The Secret of SALZO the GREAT!

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES -- THE ELEPHANT WILL VANISH!

The GREAT SALZO IN PERSON

The GREAT

AS SALZO'S STARTLING ACT REACHED ITS THRILLING CLIMAX, IN THE REAR OF THE OLYMPIA THEATRE...

WELL, WHAT IS THE DISTINGUISHED SURETE INSPECTOR TISSOT DOING IN MY HUMBLE LITTLE THEATRE SO FAR FROM PARIS?

JUST RELAXING AFTER A FRUITLESS CHASE OF A VERY CLEVER BURGLAR WHO HAS BEEN ROBBING UNOCCUPIED HOUSES THROUGH ALL OF FRANCE! INDEED, I SEEM TO BE MAKING THE SAME ROUTE AS SALZO!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN HIM. HE ISN'T ACTUALLY GOING TO MAKE THAT ELEPHANT DISAPPEAR, IS HE?

MAIS ABSOLUMENT! WHY CERTAINLY! ONLY IT IS NOT SALZO WHO DESERVES THE CREDIT FOR THIS AMAZING TRICK!

NO? I DON'T UNDERSTAND--!

YOU SOON WILL! SEE THAT MAN IN THE LOWER BOX! HE IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND SALZO, OR SO THE STORY GOES -- FORCING HIM, BY THE POWER OF HYPNOSIS, TO PERFORM HIS AMAZING FEATS!

WATCH CAREFULLY, MONSIEUR INSPECTOR, AND YOU WILL NOTICE THAT WHILE SALZO IS IN A KIND OF HYPNOTIC STATE, THE SVENGALI IN THE BOX NEVER ONCE TAKES HIS EYES OFF HIM!



AND AS THE SPELLBOUND AUDIENCE WATCHED...

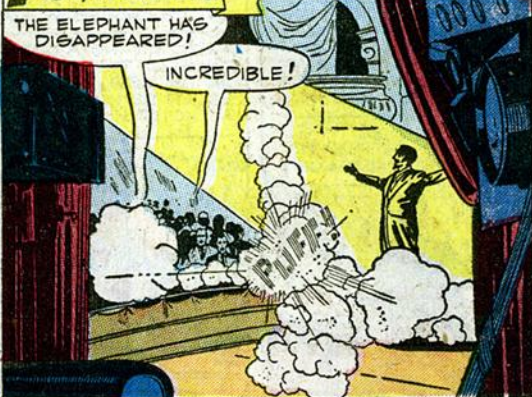
ONNA--MONA--PIA--LAK  
ANNO, ANOM--API--KAL...



THEN, SUDDENLY...

THE ELEPHANT HAS  
DISAPPEARED!

INCREIBLE!



I WAS JUST THINK-  
ING IT WOULD RE-  
QUIRE A MAGICAN  
LIKE SALZO TO  
HELP ME SOLVE  
THAT SERIES  
OF ROBBERIES!



WELL,  
YOU CAN  
HAVE  
HIM  
WHEN HIS  
ENGAGE-  
MENT IS  
FINISHED--  
IN TWO  
DAYS!

BUT THAT EVENING IN A WEALTHY  
SECTION OF THE TOWN...

LOOK, IRENE--THE  
PINAUDS ARE AWAY,  
YET SOMEONE IS  
WANDERING ABOUT  
IN THEIR HOUSE!



BURGLARS!  
I WILL  
TELEPHONE  
THE GEN-  
DARMES!

AT LOCAL HEADQUARTERS WHERE  
THE REPORT CAME IN, INSPECTOR  
TISNOT NOTING ITS RESEMBLANCE  
TO THE PREVIOUS CRIMES, ALSO  
CAME ALONG, TAKING CHARGE OF  
THE INVESTIGATION...

SEAL OFF ALL POSSIBLE  
MEANS OF ESCAPE--AND  
YOU MEN FOLLOW ME!



ONCE INSIDE, HE FIRMLY  
GRASPED THE INTRUDER...

WHY, IT'S SALZO  
THE GREAT--AND  
HE SEEMS TO BE  
HYPNOTIZED!

WHERE--  
AM--I--  
?



LOOK, INSPECTOR--I'VE  
BAGGED ANOTHER ONE!

AND THAT'S HIS  
SVENGAL!--THE  
ONE WHO SITS IN  
THE BOX AND USES  
HYPNOSIS ON SALZO  
SO HE CAN PERFORM  
THOSE TRICKS OF  
HIS!



ER--  
WHICH  
ONE  
DO WE  
ARREST,  
INSPECTOR?

YOU CANNOT  
TAKE ME IN--  
I WAS FORCED  
TO COMMIT THE  
CRIME!

AND YOU CANNOT  
ARREST ME--  
I DID NOT  
COMMIT IT!



WELL,  
INSPECTOR?  
WHAT SHALL  
WE DO?



I AM AFRAID BOTH MUST BE SET FREE UNTIL I RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY CHIEF IN PARIS! FALSE ARREST IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE FOR A POLICE OFFICER, YOU KNOW...

BUT--BUT THIS IS INSANE!

THAT EVENING, SALZO MADE HIS SCHEDULED APPEARANCE ON THE ORPHEUM STAGE...

SALZO DRAWS A CROWD--BUT I'M GLAD THAT SVENGALI IS ON THE JOB, FOR THERE WOULD BE NO ACT WITHOUT HIM!

BUT ANOTHER ACT, EVEN MORE DRAMATIC, WAS IN THE MAKING, AND ITS STAR NONE OTHER THAN INSPECTOR ANDRE TIGSOT!

NOW THAT I'VE TEMPORARILY PUT SALZO'S ASSOCIATE BEHIND BARS, WE SHALL SOON SEE IF THE MAGICIAN CAN PERFORM HIS MAGIC--AND HIS CRIMES--WITHOUT BEING HYPNOTIZED!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN? I SEEM--TO--BE--GETTING DIZZY--! HIS EYES--ARE STARING INTO MINE--! SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS DONE--SALZO HYPNOTIZED HIS SVENGALI, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND--! AND I--! FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FIGHT IT OFF!

I CAN FEEL IT... HE IS SLOWLY BUT SURELY FALLING UNDER MY POWER AND INFLUENCE--! A LITTLE MORE, JUST A LITTLE MORE--!

AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ACT, HALF AN HOUR LATER, INSPECTOR TIGSOT, SEEMING TO OBEY SOME OUTER FORCE, WOODENLY AROSE AND LEFT THE BOX TO KEEP HIS FATAL TRYST WITH A MADMAN POSSESSED OF SUPERNATURAL POWERS...

MOMENTS LATER, THE INSPECTOR OBEYED THE COMMANDS OF A SHADOWY FIGURE...

THIS WAY, INSPECTOR, THIS WAY--!

HA, HA--YOU THOUGHT YOURSELF VERY WISE IN DISCOVERING THAT IT WAS I WHO HYPNOTIZED MY ASSISTANT, AND NOT MY ASSISTANT WHO HYPNOTIZED ME AS EVERYONE THOUGHT--AND THAT IT WAS I WHO FORCED HIM TO ROB FOR ME--BUT WE SHALL SOON LEARN WHO IS THE WISE ONE!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



FOR YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS MY SECRET--YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REVEAL IT TO ANYONE! NOW, REMOVE THAT CLOAK YOU BORROWED FROM MY ASSISTANT! THAT IS SO!



AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF MY CAREER--BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE FRENCH SURETE WILL DESTROY HIMSELF! ARE YOU READY, MONSIEUR INSPECTOR?

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH ME TO DO?



I WISH YOU TO PRESS THE MUZZLE OF YOUR GUN GENTLY AGAINST YOUR HEAD--LIKE THIS--AND CAREFULLY PRESS THE TRIGGER! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

FULLY! I TAKE THIS WEAPON, AND--



... POINT IT AT YOU! WHEN I FELT MYSELF SLIPPING UNDER YOUR HYPNOTIC SPELL IN THE BOX, I RESISTED BY CONCENTRATING ON OTHER THINGS--AND NO-ONE CAN HYPNOTIZE AN UNWILLING SUBJECT! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR A LONG TIME, SALZO, TO FILL A LONG ENGAGEMENT--IN PRISON! NOW COME ALONG!



THE ENIGMA

ADVERTISEMENT

"GOO IS THROO!" SAYS BERT PARKS

TV STAR OF "BREAK THE BANK"

MEET THE NEW CREAM HAIR TONIC THAT'S NOT GREASY OR STICKY...YET GROOMS HAIR POSI-TV-LY PERFECT ALL DAY!

CLEANER TO USE...NO STICKY HANDS, HAIR OR COMB!

DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT'S LIGHT-BODIED!

HOMOGENIZED FOR EASY FLOW. IN HANDY SHAKER-TOP BOTTLE.

MONEY BACK!

write us if you don't agree that it's the best cream tonic ever!

NEW!

VITALIS Hair CREAM

—by Bristol-Myers, makers of famous Vitalis

SAVE MONEY!  
4 1/2 OZ. SIZE  
8 1/2 OZ. LEADING  
5 OZ. SIZE CREAM  
OIL (ALSO IN  
2 1/2 OZ. SIZE)





# "TREE OF DOOM!"

THIS IS THE STORY OF A TREE AND TWO MEN--ONE WHO LOVED IT, AND ONE WHO HATED IT. TODAY, ONLY THE TREE REMAINS, ANCIENT AND GNARLED, TO HAUNT THE SUPERSTITIOUS. FOR MANY WHISPER THAT WITHIN ITS GROTESQUE TRUNK DWELLS A WEIRD INTELLIGENCE... AND THERE WAS NOTHING ACCIDENTAL ABOUT THE VENGEFUL ROLE IT PLAYED IN THE FANTASTIC TRAGEDY OF PAUL MORESBY, THE ARTIST, AND HIS COUSIN, JARED LONG!

THE WIND WHISTLING EERILY THROUGH THE GNARLED OAK TREE, SHARPENED JARED LONG'S DECISION TO END HIS BRIEF VISIT TO THE LONELY NEW ENGLAND FARM...

TOMORROW, WHEN MY PRECIOUS COUSIN LENDS ME THE MONEY I NEED, I'LL HEAD STRAIGHT BACK TO THE CITY-- FAR FROM THAT CONFOUNDED TREE! I HATE THE VERY SIGHT OF IT!



IN THE STUDIO, WHERE HIS OLDER COUSIN, PAUL MORESBY, WORKED TIRELESSLY AT THE PAINTINGS THAT HAD BROUGHT HIM WEALTH AND FAME...

PAUL, DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF PAINTING THAT UGLY OLD TREE?

NEVER YET, JARED! IF YOU'D GET TIRED OF STUDIED IT AS I HAVE, YOU'D REALIZE IT HAS MORE PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER THAN MOST PEOPLE!







WHICH REMINDS ME--I NEED HELP IN POSING IT FOR A SPECIAL PORTRAIT, AND BOTH MY CARE-TAKER AND HOUSEKEEPER HAVE GONE TO TOWN. DO YOU MIND?

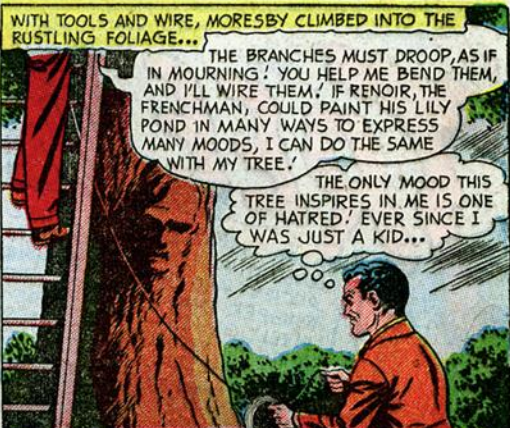
**PORTRAIT?** YOU TALK AS IF IT WERE HUMAN, BUT--ER--SURE, I'LL HELP!

AFTER ALL, I'M HIS HEIR! WON'T HURT TO HUMOR HIM.

"I REMEMBER I'D CLIMBED UP TO ROB BIRDS' NESTS, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN..."



OH-H-H! THE TREE HIT ME! HELP!



WITH TOOLS AND WIRE, MORESBY CLIMBED INTO THE RUSTLING FOLIAGE...

THE BRANCHES MUST DROOP, AS IF IN MOURNING! YOU HELP ME BEND THEM, AND I'LL WIRE THEM, IF RENOIR, THE FRENCHMAN, COULD PAINT HIS LILY POND IN MANY WAYS TO EXPRESS MANY MOODS, I CAN DO THE SAME WITH MY TREE.

THE ONLY MOOD THIS TREE INSPIRES IN ME IS ONE OF HATRED! EVER SINCE I WAS JUST A KID...

"I WAS BRUISED AND FURIOUS! I GRABBED THE AXE FROM THE CHOPPING BLOCK..."



DARNED UGLY OLD TREE! I NEVER DID LIKE YOU. I'LL FIX YOU. I'LL CHOP YOU DOWN FOR FIREWOOD!

**JARED! STOP IT, YOU LITTLE IDIOT!**

"EVEN IN THOSE DAYS, PAUL WAS ALWAYS PAINTING THE TREE, BUT I'D NEVER GUESSED HOW DEEPLY HE FELT ABOUT IT! HE SCARED ME..."



MY GREAT-GRAND-FATHER PLANTED THAT TREE! IF EVER YOU DARE TOUCH IT AGAIN--

ALL RIGHT! LAY OFF ME! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR OLD TREE!

"SO I KEPT AWAY, BUT I DIDN'T STOP HATING THAT TREE. AND AFTER PAUL'S FATHER, MY UNCLE, DIED..."

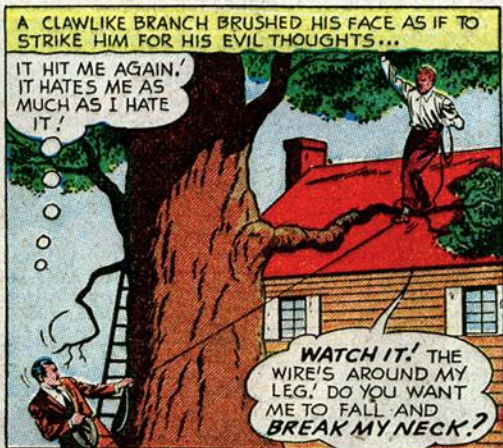
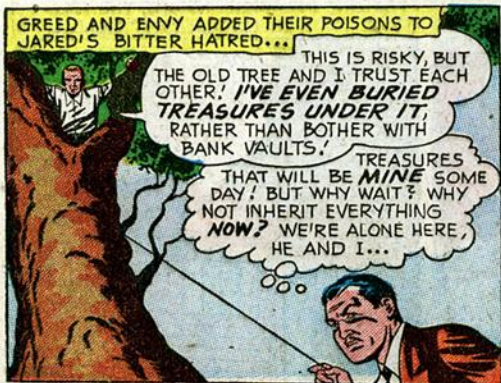


SO LONG, PAUL! YOU CAN PAINT YOUR OLD TREE AND STARVE TO DEATH WHILE I GET RICH IN THE CITY!

BUT HE WAS THE SUCCESSFUL ONE. AFTER ALL, WHILE I FAILED AT EVERYTHING! AND NOW I'M WAITING FOR HIM TO DIE SO I CAN INHERIT HIS MONEY!









NO ONE <sup>2</sup> WITHOUT WARNING, THE SHIFTING SHADOW-PATTERN TOOK ON A GHASTLY SIGNIFICANCE...



FOR ONE DREADFUL INSTANT, THE TELL-<sup>o</sup> TALE PICTURE LINGERED! THEN...



JUST THE SAME, **THAT TREE DIES TOMORROW!** I'LL CHOP IT DOWN, AS I WANTED YEARS AGO--AND THIS TIME PAUL CAN'T STOP ME!



BUT NEXT MORNING, AS HE PREPARED TO CARRY OUT HIS THREAT...



I'M BEN HOLCOMB, PAUL MORESBY'S LAWYER! HIS WILL LEAVES YOU EVERYTHING--**PROVIDING YOU CHERISH AND PROTECT THIS TREE!** IF YOU HARM IT PURPOSEFULLY, OR THROUGH NEGLECT, THE ESTATE GOES TO AN ART FOUNDATION!

I SUPPOSE HE THOUGHT IT FUNNY, MAKING ME NURSEMAID TO A TREE I HATED!



JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD WARN YOU! I'LL TURN OVER HIS BANK ACCOUNTS TO YOU IN A FEW DAYS, WHEN LEGAL DETAILS ARE SETTLED!

A FEW DAYS--AND I HAVEN'T A DOLLAR! BUT WHY SHOULD I WAIT? WHY DON'T I DIG UP PAUL'S BURIED TREASURE AND CASH IN ON IT?



LATER THAT DAY, WITH A BACK-GROUND OF PATTERING RAIN AND DISTANT RUMBLES OF THUNDER, GREEDY JARED LONG STARTED DIGGING--UNTIL AT LAST...

**A METAL BOX!** IT'S THE TREASURE! I'VE FOUND IT!







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



AND DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT ME LICKED, EITHER, YOU ROTTING MONSTROSITY! YOU'LL DIE, ALL RIGHT--I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET AROUND THAT WILL!

A HOARSE, ANGRY MURMUR SOUNDED IN THE QUIVERING BRANCHES--AND SUDDENLY LIKE THE CRACK OF DOOM...



LIGHTNING! MIGHT HAVE KILLED ME! THAT TREE--NO, THE TREE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! A TREE *COULDN'T* CAUSE ANYTHING LIKE THAT! IT WAS THE TREASURE CHEST--THIS STEEL BOX--THAT DREW THE LIGHTNING! *NOT* THE TREE!

WANTING DESPERATELY TO BELIEVE HIS EXPLANATION, JARED OPENED THE BROKEN BOX--AND GOT A SHOCK OF ANOTHER KIND!

DIARIES--FAMILY RECORDS--OLD LETTERS! SO THESE ARE THE "TREASURES" THAT SENTIMENTAL FOOL BURIED! NOBODY WOULD PAY ME A NICKEL FOR THEM!



WORTHLESS JUNK--AND IT ALMOST COST MY LIFE! BECAUSE IT WAS THE METAL BOX THAT DREW THE LIGHTNING! NOT THE TREE--THE *METAL*! ONLY AN INSANE MAN COULD SUSPECT A TREE!

LAND SAKES, TOM--HIS GRIEF MUST'VE DRIVEN THE POOR MAN CRAZY!



CRAZY? JARED'S MIND TEEMED WITH FRIGHTFUL DREAMS AS HE NAPPED AFTER SUPPER...



HE WOKE UP SCREAMING, GASPING FOR BREATH. NOW WHAT WAS THAT STRANGE, INSISTENT TAPPING AT THE WINDOW?

*MY THROAT!* WAS SOMETHING CHOKING ME--OR WAS IT JUST--A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE? BUT THAT TAPPING--LIKE SOMEONE AT--THE WINDOW--







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



IF ANYONE'S SPYING ON ME, OR TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE, I WON'T HESITATE TO USE THIS REVOLVER!



THE RAIN HAD ENDED, BUT A RISING WIND SNARLED IN THE OAK TREE LIKE MANY VENGEFUL VOICES-- AND AS JARED LEANED INTO THE MOONLIGHT, A BRANCH SEEMED TO POUNCE...

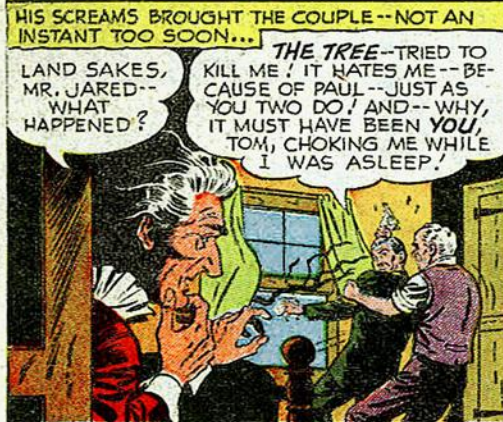
THE TREE! IT WANTS TO PULL ME OUT! HELP! HELP-- TOM--JENNY!



HIS SCREAMS BROUGHT THE COUPLE--NOT AN INSTANT TOO SOON...

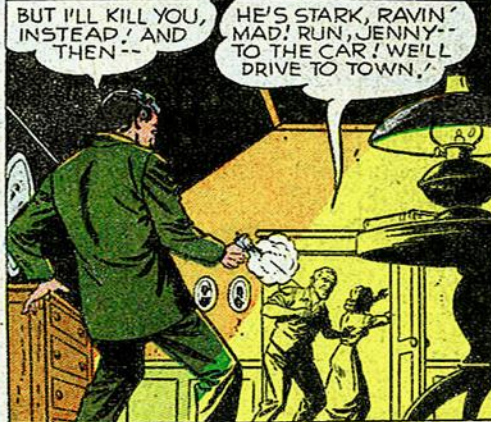
LAND SAKES, MR. JARED-- WHAT HAPPENED?

THE TREE--TRIED TO KILL ME! IT HATES ME-- BECAUSE OF PAUL--JUST AS YOU TWO DO! AND--WHY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN YOU, TOM, CHOKING ME WHILE I WAS ASLEEP!



BUT I'LL KILL YOU, INSTEAD! AND THEN--

HE'S STARK, RAVIN' MAD! RUN, JENNY-- TO THE CAR! WE'LL DRIVE TO TOWN!



BUT AS REASON RETURNED...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT! THEY'VE TAKEN PAUL'S CAR, THE ONLY ONE, AND GONE FOR THE SHERIFF! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! THAT TREE IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!



I'LL CALL A TAXI TO TAKE ME TO THE CITY WITH PAUL'S PAINTINGS... SELL THEM WHEN I GET THERE-- AND COME BACK TO CLAIM THE REST OF THE ESTATE WHEN THINGS HAVE QUIETED DOWN!



BUT AS JARED TOUCHED THE PHONE, THE LIGHTS WENT OUT--AND A BRILLIANT FLASH OF ELECTRICITY OUTSIDE SHOWED A WIND-TOSSED BRANCH SWINGING FARTHER THAN EVER BEFORE...

HUH--? THE TREE--IT BROKE THE PHONE AND POWER LINES! IT WANTS TO KEEP ME HERE! IT WANTS TO KILL ME OR DRIVE ME INSANE!





BUT I WON'T LET IT! HA, HA, HA! THE TREE ITSELF HAS SHOWN ME HOW TO KILL IT WITHOUT RISKING MY INHERITANCE! THOSE BROKEN WIRES ARE STILL ALIVE! **THEY CAN START A FIRE, IF I SUPPLY THE TINDER.**



GRINNING, JARED GATHERED ALL THE INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL HE COULD FIND! THEN, UNDER THE TREE...

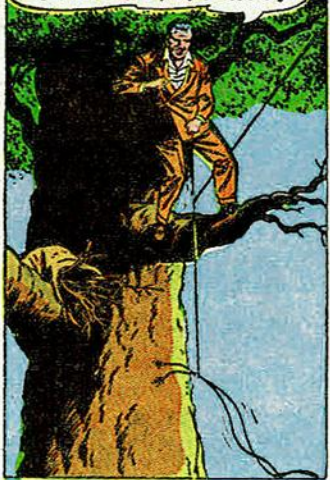
THESE ARE THE POWER LINE WIRES! I'LL HAUL THEM UP WITH THIS CORD AFTER I'VE TIED THE BAG OF TINDER IN PLACE! I'LL RIG THEM SO THAT THE SWAYING OF THE TREE WILL BRING THEIR TIPS TOGETHER AND MAKE THEM SPARK!



THE BRANCHES, THRASHING IN THE WIND, ARE DANGEROUS, BUT THE TRUNK IS SOLID AND SAFE! HA, HA! IT'S AT MY MERCY NOW-- **AND I HAVE NO MERCY!**



THE TINDER WILL BURN WITHOUT A TRACE! NOW TO HAUL UP THE POWER LINE! **HO, HO!** LISTEN TO THE TREE MOAN! IT KNOWS IT'LL SOON BE BLAZING! AND THEN--NO MORE SHADOW PICTURES--NO MORE WITNESSES--**NO MORE ANYTHING!**



SUDDENLY, A GLARE OF HEADLIGHTS DAZZLED HIM...

TOM AND JENNY BACK ALREADY? I'VE GOT TO CLIMB DOWN. SOME OTHER TIME--



A BRANCH SWUNG THE BROKEN TIPS OF THE POWER LINE AGAINST HIM, AND THE SHOCK HURLED HIM AGAINST ONE OF THE GUY WIRES-- WHICH TORE FREE AND LASHED UPWARD...








# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



ADVERTISEMENT

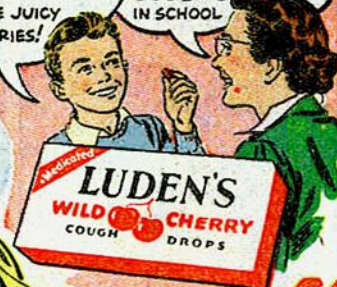

**WILD WEST CHARLIE HAS A *LUCKY LUDEN'S TIP...***



CAN'T BUST BRONCOS IF YOU'RE COUGHING. I RIDE 'EM LUCKY WITH LUDEN'S WILD CHERRY!

LUDEM'S TASTE DANDY-- YOU CAN ALMOST TASTE THOSE JUICY CHERRIES!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALLOWED TO EAT LUDEN'S IN SCHOOL

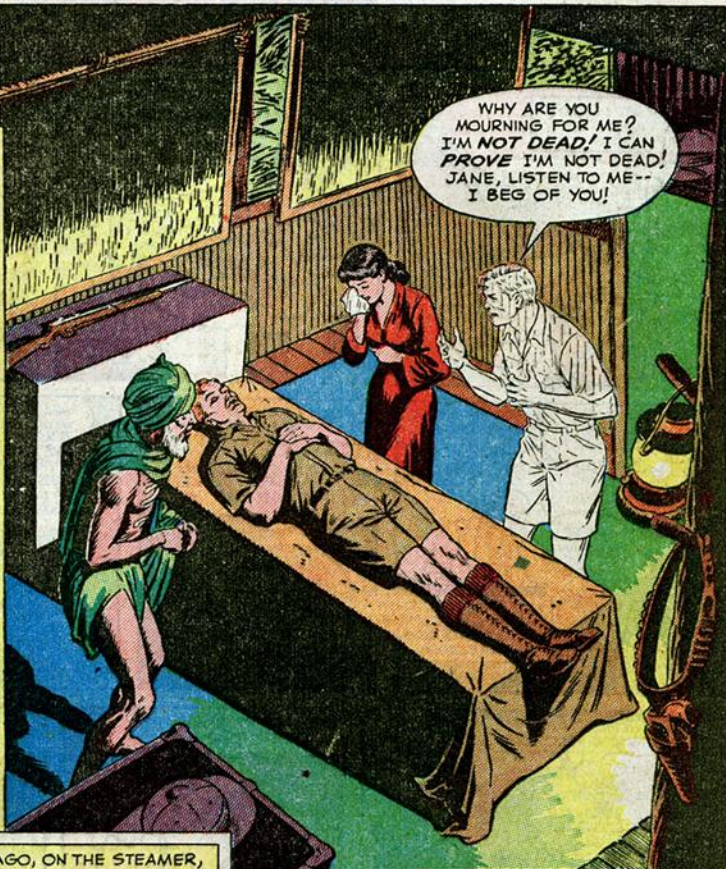
**LUDEM'S WILD CHERRY COUGH DROPS**

*and still only 5¢*



THIS IS THE STORY OF MY LIFE -- NO, **MY DEATH!** YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID -- **MY DEATH!** I CAN IMAGINE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING -- THIS IS THE LUNATIC RAVING OF A MADMAN! **BUT YOU'RE WRONG!** IT WASN'T MADNESS -- ALTHOUGH, I, TOO, BEGAN TO THINK SO! BUT BELIEVE ME, I WAS **THERE** -- IN THE STYGIAN BLACKNESS OF THE BEYOND, WITH THE COLD CLAWING ARMS OF DEATH CLUTCHING ME IN ITS ETERNAL EMBRACE! BUT THAT WAS NOT THE WHOLE HORROR -- OH, NO! FOR IN THIS STRANGE, STARK DRAMA, MY MIND WAS ALIVE, TWISTED AND TORTURED BY THE AGONY OF MY WEIRD FATE, KNOWING ALL THE TIME THAT...

**"I WAS A DEAD MAN!"**



WHY ARE YOU MOURNING FOR ME? I'M **NOT DEAD!** I CAN **PROVE** I'M NOT DEAD! JANE, LISTEN TO ME -- I BEG OF YOU!

IT ALL BEGAN SOME MONTHS AGO, ON THE STEAMER, **MYSTIC LADY**, BOUND FOR BOMBAY, WITH MY BRIDE OF A FEW DAYS...

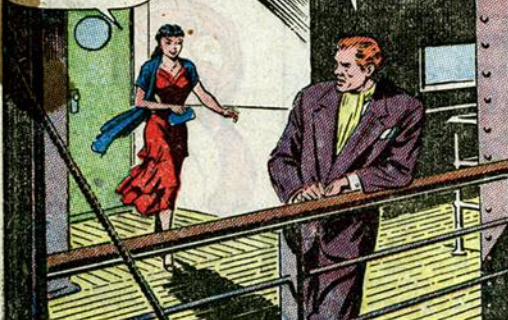
CLYDE DEAR, YOU'VE BEEN SO UPSET SINCE WE LEFT THE STATES! IS ANYTHING TROUBLING YOU?

NO, NOTHING -- THAT IS -- YES, **THERE IS!** I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT BEFORE I LET YOU MARRY ME!

I SHUDDERED VIOLENTLY AT THE MERE MEMORY OF THIS NIGHTMARE OUT OF MY PAST...

TOLD ME ABOUT WHAT, CLYDE?

AS YOU KNOW, I ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED A URANIUM DEPOSIT IN INDIA SEVERAL YEARS AGO. MY FIRM WASN'T ABLE TO LOCATE IT -- THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SENDING ME AGAIN. B-BUT -- I'M AFRAID, JANE, **AFRAID!**







NO, SOMETHING IN INDIA! I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT IT IS MYSELF! IT MIGHT BE A GERM CARRIED BY THE WIND-- A POLLEN FROM AN INDIAN WEED -- PERHAPS AN EMANATION FROM THE SOIL-- I DON'T KNOW -- I DON'T KNOW!

BUT I DO KNOW WHAT IT DOES TO ME! THAT STRANGE NUMBNESS THAT SEIZES MY BODY! THE WAY I SEE EVERYTHING THROUGH A HEAVY MIST! AND LAST TIME THERE, I FELL INTO A COMA-- AND FOR A FEW MOMENTS, MY HEART STOPPED BEATING, AND I WAS-- WAS-- DEAD!



DID YOU SAY -- DEAD?



HE'S-- DEAD!

WAIT, MASTER, WAIT! AL-MINAH, HUNANA, ATUH-ECHUDO, TANAMUNO!..



HIS HEART IS BEATING AGAIN! AND HE'S ALIVE!

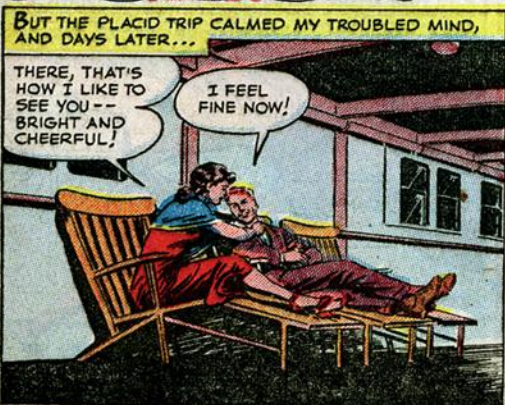
ERNANI EVIL THAT DWELLS IN THE SOIL OF INDIA! I SAVED YOU THIS TIME-- BUT YOU MUST LEAVE THIS LAND AT ONCE-- FOR I MAY BE POWERLESS NEXT TIME!

W-WHAT HAPPENED?

I LEFT WITHOUT MARKING THE URANIUM MINE'S LOCATION, HOPING MY DESCRIPTION WOULD LEAD STEVE TO IT, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH, AND NOW-- NOW I'M GOING BACK!

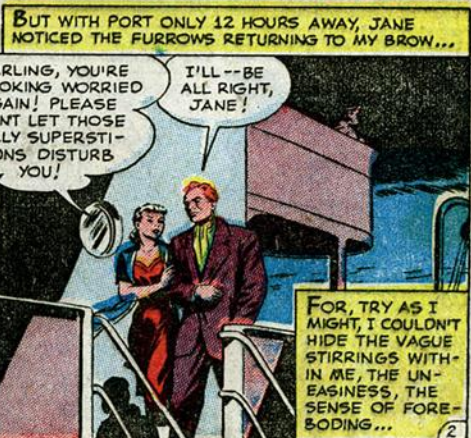


I DID-- JUST BEFORE WE EMBARKED. BUT HE WAS AS BAD AS THE WITCH DOCTOR -- PRATTLED ABOUT ALLERGIES AND GAVE ME SOME PILLS, THE FOOL!



THERE, THAT'S HOW I LIKE TO SEE YOU -- BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL!

I FEEL FINE NOW!



DARLING, YOU'RE LOOKING WORRIED AGAIN! PLEASE DON'T LET THOSE SILLY SUPERSTITIONS DISTURB YOU!

I'LL -- BE ALL RIGHT, JANE!

FOR, TRY AS I MIGHT, I COULDN'T HIDE THE VAGUE STIRRINGS WITHIN ME, THE UNEASINESS, THE SENSE OF FORE-BODING...



NEXT DAY, WE WERE MET AT THE BOMBAY PIER BY STEVE MARTIN, MY OLD BUDDY AND MANAGER OF MY COMPANY'S FIELD OFFICE...

STEVE, OLD BOY! SWELL SEEING YOU AGAIN! THIS IS MY WIFE, JANE!

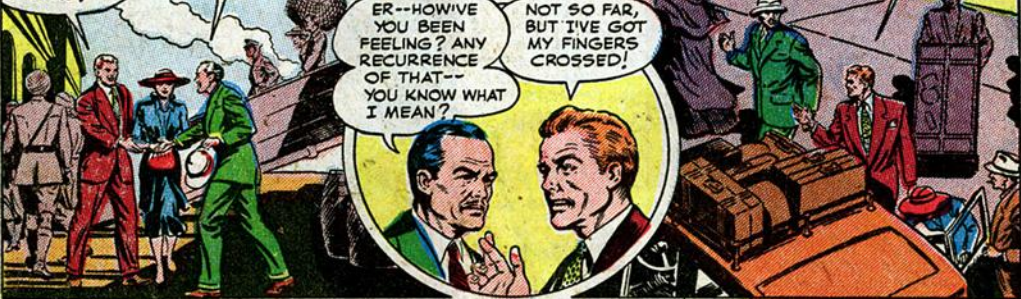
WHY, CLYDE, YOU OLD DOG! YOU NEVER WROTE ME!

ER--HOW'VE YOU BEEN FEELING? ANY RECURRENCE OF THAT-- YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

NOT SO FAR, BUT I'VE GOT MY FINGERS CROSSED!

THE EXPEDITION IS ALL SET TO START OUT FOR AGPUR TOMORROW MORNING! HOPE YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT MINE'S LOCATION! NONE OF US COULD FIND IT!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL LEAD YOU STRAIGHT TO IT LIKE A BIRD DOG!



BUT THAT NIGHT, PREPARING TO RETIRE, THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF MY STRANGE MALADY SUDDENLY MADE THE ROOM SWIM BEFORE MY EYES...

I--JANE, JANE, HELP-- I'M LOSING MY-- BALANCE--!

CLYDE, DARLING--!



SHE PUT ME TO BED, WHERE I FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP. NEXT MORNING, I WAS FEELING BETTER, THOUGH JANE NOTICED THE STRAINED LOOK ON MY FACE...

WE'RE ALL SET! I'VE AN ERRAND TO DO BEFORE WE GO! IT WON'T TAKE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES, I PROMISE!

HURRY, DEAR!



FOLLOWED TWO WEEKS OF PLODDING INTO THE INTERIOR, AND WE FINALLY REACHED THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF AGPUR AT DUSK...

THERE IT IS! THE MINE IS JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT LOW HILL!

GOOD WORK, CLYDE! WE'LL CAMP HERE FOR THE NIGHT AND SET OUT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!



BUT THAT NIGHT, AFTER JANE HAD GONE DOWN TO THE RIVER FOR A DIP, A SEVERE ATTACK OF DIZZINESS, FAR WORSE THAN THE ONE BEFORE, STRUCK ME DOWN LIKE A SCYTHE!







THROUGH THE THICK MIST, I SAW HIM, THE **WITCH DOCTOR**, REPEATING HIS OLD WARNING...

SO! YOU HAVE RETURNED IN DEFIANCE OF THE **ERNANI EVIL!**

TELL ME--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHAT IS THE **ERNANI EVIL**? IN THE NAME OF MERCY, TELL ME-- BUT SAY IT IN ENGLISH!



AS YOU WISH! IT IS THE-- **WALKING DEATH!** YOUR ONE CHANCE TO ESCAPE ITS DOOM IS TO GO BACK-- **GO BACK--!**

THE--**WALKING DEATH!** I'LL GO, I'LL GO--I'LL LEAVE THIS FORSAKEN HOLE AND ITS MONSTROUS EVIL, ONLY... ONLY...

I HAD WANTED TO BEG HIM FOR A CHARM TO WARD OFF THE EVIL, BUT SUDDENLY HE WAS GONE! NOW, THE HEAVY, SHROUD-LIKE MIST BLANKETED EVERYTHING BEFORE ME!

I MUST GET OUT OF HERE... TELL STEVE I'M GOING--NOW! JANE CAN FOLLOW! I WON'T STAY HERE ANOTHER MOMENT, NOT ANOTHER MOMENT!



WITH BLINDING, PARALYZING PANIC, I STAGGERED FROM THE ROOM, BUT WHEN I CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH STEVE...

STEVE! IN MERCY'S NAME, LOOK AT ME! LISTEN TO ME! DON'T YOU HEAR ME? CAN'T YOU SEE ME?



CAN I EVER FORGET THAT MONSTROUS MOMENT? THIS COULDN'T BE TRUE--IT MUST BE A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE--THAT'S IT, A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE--AND THEN, IN THE DISTANCE, I SPIED THE WITCH DOCTOR.

...YOU SAY STEVE CAN'T HEAR OR SEE ME, BECAUSE I HAVE THE **WALKING DEATH!** BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU HEAR ME, YOU SEE ME!

YES, BECAUSE IT IS IN MY POWER TO CONVERSE WITH THE **DEAD WHO WALK!**



NO, NO! I'M NOT DEAD! THIS CAN'T BE DEATH! I'LL PROVE I'M ALIVE! THERE ARE WAYS TO PROVE I'M ALIVE!

MOMENTS LATER, BACK IN MY ROOM... JANE HAD NOT YET RETURNED FROM HER SWIM...



A **MIRROR!** I'LL BREATHE ON IT! THE BREATH OF A LIVING BEING LEAVES A FOG ON THE MIRROR! THAT'S IT!





BUT...

IS -- IS -- IT --  
POSSIBLE?  
N-NO -- FOG --!

REELING CRAZILY,  
I ALMOST CRASHED  
INTO A PORTABLE  
STOVE, ABOUT  
WHICH SAT SOME  
NATIVES -- WHO  
NEVER ONCE  
LOOKED AT ME --  
JUST AS IF I  
WEREN'T THERE...



AAHHH -- ALMOST BURNED  
MYSELF --! BUT WAIT -- IF I'M  
DEAD, I COULDN'T BE BURNED!  
I'LL PROVE MY FLESH  
IS ALIVE!



BUT WHEN I PLACED A QUIVERING FINGER AGAINST  
THE HOT, SMOKING STOVE...



N-NO -- SENSATION --  
ONLY THE CLAMMY  
COLDNESS OF --  
DEATH --!

THERE IS NO LONELINESS LIKE A LIVING DEATH. FOR A  
TIME, I JUST SAT THERE, CRAZILY, MOURNING HYSTERICALLY  
MY OWN DEATH, HUGGING THE HOT STOVE THAT  
LEFT ME COLD!



BUT THEN,  
THE IMAGE  
OF JANE  
CROSSED  
MY WRETCHED  
MIND!  
JANE! SHE  
WOULD  
SEE ME --  
SHE WOULD  
HEAR ME!  
SHE WOULDN'T  
FORSAKE  
ME!



IN MY MAD HASTE TO REACH HER! I STUM-  
BLED AND FELL, FEARING I WOULD CRACK  
MY HEAD AGAINST A TREE IN MY PATH,  
BUT...

I -- WENT --  
RIGHT THROUGH IT --  
LIKE -- LIKE A --  
GHOST!



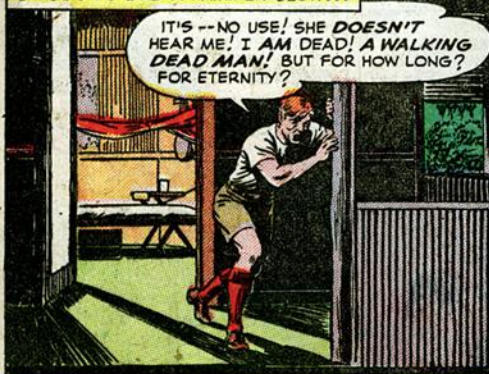
BUT HOPE DIES HARD! WHEN I REACHED  
OUR ROOM...



OH, NO -- NOT YOU, TOO,  
JANE! SAY YOU HEAR ME,  
DARLING -- SAY YOU CAN  
SEE ME!



BUT JANE CONTINUED TO BRUSH HER LONG, BEAUTIFUL HAIR-- AND THE FULL REALIZATION OF MY DEATH STRUCK ME LIKE A HAMMER BLOW...



IT'S--NO USE! SHE **DOESN'T** HEAR ME, I **AM DEAD!** A **WALKING DEAD MAN!** BUT FOR HOW LONG? FOR ETERNITY?

OUTSIDE AGAIN, WHILE STEVE AND THE NATIVES IGNORED ME, A FINAL DESPERATE IDEA FORMED...



I'LL--GO TO THAT **WITCH DOCTOR!** HE BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE ONCE! I'LL BEG HIM TO TRY AGAIN-- **JUST ONE MORE TIME!**

SO, ONCE AGAIN I STOOD BEFORE THE EVIL-LOOKING MYSTIC, AND THERE...

YOU HAVE BUT **ONE CHANCE--LEAVE INDIA AT ONCE!** PERHAPS, IF YOU ARE AWAY FROM THE ESSENCE OF EVIL THAT PERMEATES THIS AIR, YOU MAY RETURN TO LIFE! BUT YOU **MUST GO AT ONCE!**

I WILL, I WILL!



WITH HOPE SURGING IN MY CHEST AGAIN, I RUSHED BACK TO MY CABIN. JANE WAS OUT. WILDLY, I BEGAN PACKING, WHEN...



THOSE PILLS THAT AMERICAN DOCTOR GAVE ME, AN **ALLERGY!** HE CALLED IT! HAH--HE OUGHT TO SEE ME NOW, THE FOOL!

SWALLOW ONE, IF YOU FEEL DIZZY, HE SAID! HA, HA, I'LL SWALLOW **TWO!** I'LL SWALLOW **THREE!** AN OVERDOSE OF PILLS CAN'T KILL A DEAD MAN, CAN IT? HA, HA, HA!



AND SUDDENLY, LIKE A POWERFUL BEAM CUTTING THROUGH A FOGGY NIGHT...



THE MIST-- IT--IT SEEMS TO BE CLEARING UP! CAN--IT--BE-- **THSE PILLS?** BUT--

BUT--THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW CAN PILLS HELP A DEAD MAN? UNLESS--UNLESS--I'M--**NOT DEAD!** BUT I **AM!** I BREATHED ON THE MIRROR AND--**WAIT A MINUTE, WAIT A MINUTE!**





**RUSHING HEADLONG TO THE DOOR MIRROR...**

THERE'S A SORT OF WAXY FILM OVER THIS MIRROR--IT RUBS OFF--I'LL--I'LL BREATHE ON THAT SPOT!



MURMURING A SILENT PRAYER, I EXHALED AND MY HEART LEAPED WITH JOY, FOR...

**FOG!**  
SOMEONE COVERED THIS MIRROR WITH A CHEMICAL FILM, KNOWING I WOULD--BUT, NO--HOW ABOUT THE HOT STOVE THAT DIDN'T BURN ME--?



HURTLING FROM THE CABIN, I REACHED THE STILL SMOKING STOVE, YET, WHEN I TOUCHED IT...

**S--STILL--COLD!**  
THIS IS MAD, INHUMAN!



MAD WITH RAGE, I KICKED IT. THE LID CLATTERED TO THE GROUND, AND I SAW...

**DRY ICE!** THE SMOKE WASN'T COMING FROM A FIRE--BUT FROM DRY ICE! NO--WONDER--IT FELT COLD! BUT WHY, WHY?



THEN, RECALLING THE TREE I'D WAFTED THROUGH, I RACED TOWARD IT! IT WAS GONE!

A PROJECTOR--WITH AN INFRA-RED LAMP TO SHOW THE IMAGE OF A TREE IN THE DARKNESS! WHAT MADNESS IS BEHIND ALL THIS?



ONE FINAL TEST--JANE, WHO HAD LOOKED RIGHT THROUGH ME, BUT THAT, TOO, BECAME CLEAR...

VERY CLEVER! THIS DOOR IS ACTUALLY A ONE-WAY MIRROR--TRANSPARENT FROM OUTSIDE--A MIRROR INSIDE, I COULD SEE YOU, BUT YOU SAW ONLY YOURSELF!

DARLING, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!



UNMASKING A DEVILISH TRICK TO DRIVE ME MAD! AND I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL--  
**STEVE!**

TOO BAD FOR YOU, CLYDE!

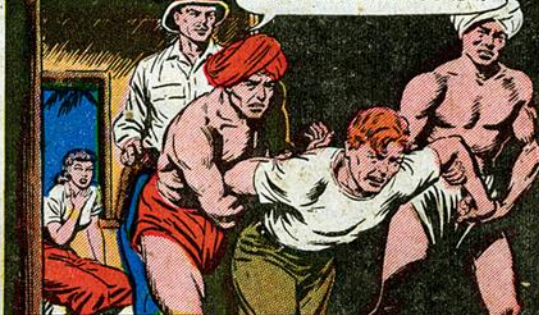




THOUGHT YOU NOT ONLY COULD DRIVE ME OUT OF INDIA, BUT **CRAZY**, AS WELL! THEN NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE MY CLAIM ABOUT URANIUM DEPOSITS--ESPECIALLY AFTER LISTENING TO ME PRATTLE ABOUT A **WALKING DEATH**! THAT WOULD LEAVE THE URANIUM TO YOU! VERY NEAT!



WASN'T IT, THOUGH! I DIDN'T WANT VIOLENCE, BUT YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! BRING HIM ALONG-- HIS ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE IS USEFUL. YOU'LL CO-OPERATE, CONSIDERING YOUR WIFE IS A PRISONER!



AS FOR YOU, REMAIN IN YOUR ROOM! MAKE ONE MOVE TO ESCAPE, AND YOUR HUSBAND IS A DEAD MAN! AND I DON'T MEAN THE **WALKING** KIND!



FOR DAYS, I WAS KEPT PRISONER AT THE MINE, ADVISING STEVE ABOUT THE URANIUM'S MINING. THEN, AFTER WE RETURNED...

WELL, OLD PAL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE COME TO A PARTING OF THE WAYS! I'LL BE LEAVING-- FOR PARTS UNKNOWN!

WHAT ABOUT-- JANE AND ME?



I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET EITHER OF YOU LIVE NOW! THERE ARE POLICE IN MONTE CARLO TOO, YOU KNOW!

YOU FILTHY SWINE-- WHY DOES JANE HAVE TO DIE?



BUT SUDDENLY...

PUP UP YOUR HANDS! YOUR HOAX IS FINISHED!

POLICE!

REMEMBER, JUST BEFORE WE LEFT BOMBAY, I WENT ON AN ERRAND? I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH, AND BORROWED THIS RADIO TRANSMITTER FROM THE HOSPITAL IN CASE YOU NEEDED A DOCTOR QUICKLY! IT WORKS FOR THE POLICE, TOO!



SOMETIME LATER, ON THE RETURN VOYAGE...

FEEL ALL RIGHT, DARLING?



HOW COULD I ANSWER THAT? I FELT THE BLOOD COURSE THROUGH MY VEINS! AN AWARENESS OF LIFE FILLED MY ENTIRE BEING! THE STING OF DEATH HAD BEEN SOOTHED BY THE BALM OF JANE'S LOVE! YES, AND HER RESOURCEFULNESS!

The End



# GHOST RIVER!

ONE DARK, WINTRY NIGHT IN ENGLAND, A YOUNG MAN WAS TRAVELING FROM WADDINGTON TO CLITHEROE ON HORSEBACK!



IT WAS "PEG'S NIGHT", SO CALLED BECAUSE MANY YEARS AGO PEG O'NEILL HAD LOST HER LIFE WHILE CROSSING THE RIVER BY STEPPING ON STONES. SINCE THEN, ACCORDING TO TOWNS FOLK, SHE HAD RETURNED ON THIS NIGHT EACH YEAR TO HAUNT THE RIVER!

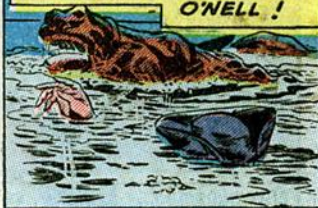


THE YOUNG RIDER WAS WARNED BY A LOCAL INNKEEPER THAT IT WAS UNSAFE TO CONTINUE HIS JOURNEY ON THIS NIGHT!



BUT THE YOUNG MAN DID NOT BELIEVE IN GHOSTS. HE LAUGHED DERISIVELY AT THE SUPERSTITIOUS OLD INNKEEPER! BESIDES, HE HAD TO BE IN CLITHEROE THAT NIGHT!

AS IT TURNED OUT, THAT NIGHT, THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS HORSE WERE DROWNED WHEN THE HORSE LOST ITS FOOTING ON THE TREACHEROUS STEPPING STONES! TO THIS DAY, SOME SUPERSTITIOUS TOWNSPEOPLE STILL BLAME THE ACCIDENT ON THE GHOST OF PEG O'NEILL!



ADVERTISEMENT

**CHARLIE WILD** PRIVATE DETECTIVE

HURRY, CHARLIE—THEY'RE ROBBING THE BANK!

DON'T RUSH ME, BABY! YOU KNOW I NEVER APPEAR IN PUBLIC WITHOUT WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC!



**WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC**

GROOMS THE HAIR  
RELIEVES DRYNESS  
REMOVES  
LOOSE...

TUNE IN: "F.B.I. IN PEACE AND WAR" THURSDAY EVENINGS ON CBS

LOW AS  
**29¢**  
PLUS TAX



## The Strange EXPERIMENT of DR. GRIMM!

HE WAS NICK NOLAN -- PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1! A CRAFTY AND VICIOUS KILLER, WHO LAUGHED AT THE LAW AND DEFIED JUSTICE -- UNTIL THE STATE SHOT 60,000 VOLTS THROUGH HIS BODY. BUT EVEN AFTER NOLAN'S DEATH, HIS CAREER WAS TO CONTINUE. BY A STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, HIS WARPED BRAIN WAS TO LIVE ON -- TO SPAWN INFAMOUS PLOTS OF EVIL!

NO! NO, PLEASE, BRAIN, PLEASE! I CAN'T! I DON'T WANT TO -- KILL!

HA-HA -- BUT YOU WILL! YOU MUST OBEY ME, DOG! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! YOU'RE RULED BY THE BRAIN OF A MURDERER!



ON THE EVE OF JULY 5, 1951, KILLER NOLAN WALKED HIS LAST MILE TO THE CHAIR. AND I, JOHN GRIMM, DOCTOR AT THE STATE PRISON, WATCHED THE EXECUTION WITH UNEASINESS. I COULD FEEL NO SYMPATHY FOR HIM... HE WAS A HEARTLESS KILLER, BUT I COULD MAKE NICK NOLAN USEFUL IN DEATH AS HE'D NEVER BEEN ALIVE!

FOR YEARS, AFTER EVERY EXECUTION, I HAD VOICED MY PLEA TO WARDEN LEWIS! I WANTED TO EXPERIMENT ON THE BRAIN OF A MURDERER TO FIND OUT **WHAT** MADE A MAN KILL!



BUT, WARDEN, NOLAN WAS NEVER ANY GOOD ALIVE! **NOW** HE CAN BE OF GREAT VALUE TO US! PLEASE, LET ME TAKE HIS BRAIN FOR MY SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT!

I'M SORRY, JOHN! I'VE TOLD YOU 20 TIMES... IT'S AGAINST THE RULES!



"RULES! RULES!" ALWAYS THE SAME ANSWER! BUT THIS TIME IT WAS DIFFERENT! NOLAN'S WARPED BRAIN WOULD BE PERFECT FOR MY TEST! I HAD TO HAVE IT!

NOLAN HAD NO FAMILY, WHICH MADE IT EASIER -- THERE WAS NO ONE TO CLAIM THE BODY. IN THE MORNING, THE STATE WOULD BURY HIM -- BUT **NOW**, I HAD SEVERAL HOURS TO WORK!

NOW, TIM -- REMEMBER! NO ONE IS TO ENTER THE MORGUE WHILE I MAKE MY OFFICIAL AUTOPSY!

DON'T WORRY, DOC! NO ONE EVER COMES DOWN HERE!

FOR HOURS I WORKED ALONE. FINALLY, AS THE SUN CAME UP, I FINISHED! EXCITEMENT SURGED THROUGH ME AS I SPED TO MY LAB WITH MY PRECIOUS BLACK BAG...

AT LAST, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... I'LL BE ABLE TO TEST MY THEORY!





**N**OW THAT I STOOD ON THE THRESHOLD OF SUCCESS, DOUBT ASSAILED ME. WOULD THE APPARATUS AND THE COMMUNICATING HEADBAND I HAD LABORED OVER FOR YEARS WORK NOW?

FIRST TO FEED THE BRAIN THE SALINE SOLUTION! NOW... I'LL SEE... IT SHOULD... Y-YES! YES! THE BRAIN STIRS! IT'S COMING TO LIFE!



ANSWER ME, NOLAN! HMMM... IT'S NO USE! NOTHING! NOT A THOUGHT! ALL THOSE YEARS OF PLANNING, INVENTING, WORKING--NOTH--B-BUT... WAIT! WAIT!



THE REVITALIZING FLUID WORKED! BUT HOW ABOUT THE HEADBAND? I'D BUILT AN INTRICATE ELECTRODE MECHANISM TO RECEIVE THE BRAIN'S ELECTRIC THOUGHT WAVES... AND COMMUNICATE WITH IT, BUT WOULD IT STAND UP?

THE ELECTRODE BATTERY IS ON! NOW I SHOULD GET SOME THOUGHT FROM NOLAN... NOLAN, ARE YOU RECEIVING ME? ANSWER!



THERE IT WAS! ONLY A FAINT BUZZ AT FIRST-- BUT A DEFINITE REACTION! THE BRAIN WAS RESPONDING! MY HEADBAND WAS SUCCESSFUL!

NOLAN! NOLAN! TELL ME-- WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

HA, HA--THOSE DUMB COPS THOUGHT THEY COULD KILL ME-- NICK NOLAN-- THE SMARTEST GUNMAN IN AMERICA! I'M STILL ALIVE!



YOU'RE WRONG, NOLAN! ONLY YOUR BRAIN IS ALIVE! AS A DOCTOR I CAN PRESERVE IT FOR MY EXPERIMENTS-- TO FIND OUT HOW THE CRIMINAL MIND FUNCTIONS!

CRIMINAL MIND? HA, HA--YOU MEAN MASTERMIND! OKAY, MISTER, WHEN DO WE START?

RIGHT NOW, NOLAN, I'M GOING TO TAKE A DESPERATE CHANCE-- BUT I HAVE TO! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOUR BRAIN A STRONGER SOLUTION TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN MINE!



THEN I'LL KNOW YOU WON'T GIVE ME FALSE INFORMATION. IF YOU KNOW YOUR BRAIN CAN CONTROL MINE, YOU'LL FEEL FREE TO CONFIDE IN ME, KNOWING I WILL BE HELPLESS TO BETRAY YOU--AND I WILL RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS FOR SCIENCE.





NOW AS THE SOLUTION BUBBLED AND SEETHED ROUND NOLAN'S BRAIN, I FELT A POWERFUL RADIATION FROM MY ELECTRIC HEADBAND! THE SOLUTION WAS TAKING EFFECT! NOLAN'S BRAIN WAS GROWING STRONGER--AND SOON IT ISSUED A STRANGE ORDER...



A ROPE? BUT WHAT KIND OF ROPE, NOLAN?

A STRONG ROPE! I MUST HAVE A ROPE-- STRONG ENOUGH TO HANG A MAN!

I WAS COMPELLED TO OBEY...AFTER A TRIP TO TOWN, I SECURED THE ROPE--THE FIRST OF MANY UNUSUAL REQUESTS I WAS TO FULFILL DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS...



A BLUDGEON!

YES, A BLUDGEON! A HARD NEAT BLUDGEON! HA, HA!

AN ICE-PICK, BRAIN! YOU WANTED AN ICE-PICK--

WITH A SHARP POINT, DOCTOR! HA, HA!

I WAS SUBJECT TO NOLAN'S EVERY COMMAND EVERYTIME I WORE THE HEADBAND! I FOUND MYSELF COLLECTING THESE WEIRD WEAPONS UNTIL FINALLY...



A REVOLVER, BRAIN!

AH, YES--MY FAVORITE! DESCRIBE IT TO ME, DOC! TELL ME HOW SHINY THE BARREL IS! AND THE TRIGGER, DOC--FEEL THE TRIGGER! TELL ME HOW IT FEELS TO PRESS THE TRIGGER!

CAREFULLY, I RECORDED EACH EVENING'S EVENTS--THE BRAIN'S INSTRUCTIONS AND MY REACTIONS!



IT'S AMAZING HOW A KILLER LOVES THESE--THESE LOATHSOME OBJECTS! NOLAN MAKES ME DESCRIBE THEM OVER AND OVER! THE TERRIBLE TOOLS OF HIS TRADE--THE MEANS OF MURDER!

WHAT WOULD IT ASK FOR NOW, I WONDERED, AS I PUT ON THE HEADBAND, THAT FIFTH NIGHT OF THE EXPERIMENT?



NOW, DOC--I GOT A BIG JOB FOR YOU! TONIGHT, YOU'RE GONNA GET DAVE STRONG FOR ME! THE ROTTEN RAT WHO PUT ME IN THE DEATH HOUSE! THE BIG-SHOT D.A.! YOU'RE GONNA KILL HIM!

NO--NO! NO! NO! BRAIN, YOU CAN'T! I DON'T WANT TO KILL!

HA, HA--BUT YOU WILL, DOC! YOU WILL, BECAUSE MY BRAIN IS STRONGER THAN YOURS! I'VE GOT YOU BY YOUR OWN SCHEME, DOC! HA, HA--YOU GOTTA DO WHAT I SAY!



YES, YES--OF COURSE, BRAIN!

MY CONSCIENCE REVOLTED AGAINST THE SAVAGE DEED I MUST PERFORM--BUT THE COMPELSION TO KILL WAS STRONGER BECAUSE OF NOLAN'S OVERPOWERING MENTAL FORCE! I COULD NOT FIGHT IT!



I'M IN YOUR POWER, BRAIN! I'LL KILL DAVE STRONG!

THAT'S BETTER, DOC, AN' YOU AIN'T GONNA TAKE OFF THAT HEADBAND TILL I TELL YOU TO! SO DON'T GET ANY IDEAS!



**THE BRAIN MADE THE CHOICE OF THE MURDER WEAPON. NOW I KNOW WHY HE ASKED ME TO GATHER THE HORRIBLE OBJECTS--HE WAS GOING TO ENJOY KILLING DAVE STRONG WITH EACH ONE--MENTALLY!**



**FINALLY, HE CHOSE THE REVOLVER--EQUIPPED WITH A "SILENCER", OF COURSE. NOISELESS AND MOST SUITABLE FOR A "BEGINNER" LIKE ME, HE SAID.**



**DESPERATELY, I TRUDGED THE SILENT STREETS, TORMENTED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GHASTLY DEED I MUST PERFORM AND PRODDED MERCILESSLY BY MY MENTAL MASTER!**

**THE STREETS ARE DESERTED!**



**UNTIL--I ARRIVED AT THE DARKENED HOUSE, DAVE STRONG HAD ONLY A FEW MINUTES TO LIVE--**



**NOW, UP THE STAIRS-- INTO HIS ROOM! HURRY-- AND NO NOISE!**



**UPSTAIRS, I GAZED TRANSFIXED AT THE SLEEPING FORM. DAVE STRONG--A MAN WHO HAD DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO WIPING OUT RATS LIKE NICK NOLAN! AND NOW, I, WHO ADMIRER HIM-- WAS GIVING NOLAN, WHO HATED HIM, THE CHANCE TO KILL HIM! I COULDN'T DO IT...**



**BUT THE OVERPOWERING MENTAL MESSAGE WRACKED MY HEAD WITH FLASHING PAIN! I COULD NOT FIGHT IT! MY WILL WAS WEAK AS WATER! NOLAN'S BRAIN CONTROLLED MY MOVEMENTS! IT MADE ME--PULL THE TRIGGER...**





**I**N MUTE HORROR, I RAN FROM THE HOUSE! THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS, I HEARD THE CLATTER OF MY FOOTSTEPS AND, THEN--THE DIABOLICAL WAVES OF NOLAN'S LAUGHTER.



FINALLY, MY FEET CARRIED ME INTO MY LAB. AT LAST--IT WAS OVER! AT LAST I WAS SAFE--BUT--I'D FORGOTTEN--MY NEMESIS, THE BRAIN WOULD NOT RELEASE ME YET!

WELCOME HOME, DOC! HA, HA--SHAKING LIKE A LEAF, AREN'T YOU? ONE LITTLE MURDER--AND YOU GO TO PIECES!

PLEASE, BRAIN--HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH? LET ME TAKE OFF THE HEADBAND!



HOW LONG I BLACKED OUT I DO NOT KNOW! BUT WHEN I CAME TO, I DISCOVERED THE LIGHTNING FLASH HAD SHORT-CIRCUITED MY WIRED HEADBAND. I WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE ANY MORE COMMANDS. I WAS--FREE!

WHEW! IT'S OVER--NOW I'LL MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN! I'LL DESTROY THE BRAIN--AS IT DESTROYED ME!



MY ONLY THOUGHT WAS TO ANNIHILATE MY SELF-CREATED MONSTER! THEN I WOULD CONFESS THE HIDEOUS STORY TO THE POLICE...

YES--I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL THEM ALL NOW! HOW A MURDER IS PLANNED AND HOW IT IS COMMITTED. I KNOW! BUT--I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD END WITH ME A KILLER!



I COULDN'T REMOVE THE NERVE-RIPPING HEADBAND--UNTIL NOLAN TOLD ME TO! THE JAGGED WAVES OF LAUGHTER RANG IN MY EARS! AND THEN--RAIN! THUNDER AND LIGHTNING--POUNDING A RAGING CONDEMNATION OF MY MURDEROUS ACT! WITH BLINDING FLASHES, THE ELEMENTS PURSUED ME! WOULD THE NIGHTMARE NEVER END?



THE BRAIN WAS NOT SATISFIED. NO, IT HAD TO GLOAT OVER ITS CLEVER ACHIEVEMENT. ITS CROWNING TRIUMPH! MY HEAD WAS POUNDING IN AGONY... BUT I HAD TO LISTEN! THEN...

AGHH!



BUT A MINOR CONSOLATION WOULD BE MINE! I WOULD HAVE A FINAL TRIUMPH! WITH AN AUXILIARY HEADBAND I COULD INFORM THE BRAIN OF ITS DOOM!

BRAIN, I HAVE DILUTED THE SOLUTION SO YOUR THOUGHT WAVES ARE WEAKER THAN MINE! NOW I CAN CONTROL YOU! AND--I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!



NO--WAIT... LISTEN...





BEWILDERMENT! SHEER BEWILDERMENT-- WAS IT ALL A DREAM? HAD I LOST MY MIND? ONLY ONE SOURCE COULD UNVEIL THE ANSWER AND I HAD THE POWER TO MAKE IT TALK!



YOU'RE CLEVER ALL RIGHT, NOLAN! BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH! DIDN'T YOU REALIZE I'D SEE STRONG HERE AT THE PRISON SOONER OR LATER? NOW I'M GOING TO PUT AN END TO YOU BEFORE YOU CAN DO ANY FURTHER EVIL! SO LONG, NOLAN! GOOD RIDDANCE!



WITHIN A FEW SECONDS! A CLOUD OF SMOKE-- A HISS OF STEAM-- AND THE BRAIN DISSOLVED! NICK NOLAN WOULD NEVER PLAN ANOTHER MURDER! AND I? I WAS FINISHED WITH SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS-- FOR GOOD!

BUT THE NEXT MORNING WHEN I CALLED ON D.A. STRONG ...

