



GIANT 52-PAGE SIZE!



NO 31  
MAY

# ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

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# The MASK OF MUMBO

**CAN A CURSE, SPAWNED IN MURDER, STRIKE THROUGH THE LONG CENTURIES? CAN A VENGEFUL NATIVE GOD STALK HIS MORTAL VICTIMS DOWN THE MISTY CORRIDORS OF TIME? HERE'S A STRANGE STORY OF SUPERNATURAL WRATH -- OF AN EERIE TRIBAL SPIRIT WHO FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF A STOLEN FETISH-- AND SPREAD TERROR IN ITS WAKE! BAR THE DOORS AGAINST THE WAILING WIND-- DRAW THE CURTAINS TO CLOSE OUT THE MIDNIGHT MENACE WHICH LURKS WITHOUT --AND BEWARE! The MASK OF MUMBO MOVES CLOSER --CLOSER--!**

GOOD LORD, THAT-- THAT MASK! IT'S HORRIBLE!

YE OLDE

CURIOSITY SHOPPE

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO MEET THAT IN A DARK ALLEY?

IT'S EVIL-- THREATENING--

LET'S GO! I CAN'T EVEN STAND THE SIGHT OF IT!

LET THEM LEAVE -- IT FASCINATES ME!

I -- I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OFF IT! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT AS COSTUMING FOR THE NEW SPOT I JUST LANDED AT THE CLUB SATURN--AND THIS IS IT! A NATIVE DANCE--WEARING THAT MASK--IT SHOULD WOW THEM!

IF YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT THIS, YOU CAN HAVE IT CHEAP--ON ONE CONDITION! PROMISE NEVER TO BRING IT BACK!

I DON'T INTEND TO-- BUT WHY?



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I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU --OR MY CONSCIENCE WOULDN'T LET ME REST! I'VE ALREADY SOLD THAT MASK TO FIVE DIFFERENT PEOPLE--AND EACH RETURNED IT! THEY WERE PANIC-STRICKEN--SAID IT WAS POSSESSED! AND LATER--EACH OF THEM DIED VIOLENTLY!

JUST SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE! I'LL TAKE IT--AND KEEP IT!

THE FOLLOWING WEEK, AT THE CLUB SATURN--

I HEAR THERE'S A NEW DANCER APPEARING TONIGHT WHO'S GOT A SPECIALTY NUMBER THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD, PHIL!

PRESS-AGENT STUFF! SHE'S GOT TO SHOW ME!

BOY, SHE SURE WILL! HERE SHE COMES NOW--AND LOOK AT HER!

WELL, I'LL BE--! THAT MASK--I KNOW IT! I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE!



YOU MEAN--THAT VERY MASK?

WELL, A FACSIMILE OF IT! IT WAS IN A NATIVE MUSEUM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, WHERE I WAS STATIONED DURING THE WAR! ITS MACABRE QUALITY FASCINATED ME--I HAD TO DIG UP ITS STORY! AND IF YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS GRUESOME--LISTEN!

"IT ALL BEGAN TWO CENTURIES AGO, WHEN A SHIPLOAD OF BRITISH SAILORS, LED BY A CRUEL ADVENTURER NAMED CAPTAIN HAZZARD, VENTURED INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC! ITS OBJECT--SLAVES--AND LOOT!"



"BUT THE SLAVES THEY GAINED WERE A WEAKLY LOT--SICKLY AND HALF-STARVED! AND AS FOR GOLD--"

WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE YARNS O' WEALTH YOU SPUN, CAP'N? THERE'S NOT A THING HERE WORTH A FARTHING!

THERE IS GOLD IN THESE ISLANDS--HEAPS OF IT! THEIR CHIEF, HERE, MUST KNOW WHERE TO FIND IT--I'LL BEAT IT OUT OF HIM!

MERCY, GREAT WARRIOR--MERCY! THERE IS NO GOLD HERE--I SWEAR IT! BUT SPARE MY LIFE AND I WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE POWERFUL KARONI TRIBE DWELLS! THEY ARE POWERFUL MEN--THEY WILL MAKE YOU FINE SLAVES--AND THEIR LAND IS RICH IN YELLOW METAL!





"THE OLD MAN REVEALED THE ISLAND'S LOCATION -- AND CAPTAIN HAZZARD SHOWED THE QUALITY OF HIS MERCY!"



"BUT AS THE ADVENTURER TURNED AWAY --"



AND SO THE BRITISH SAILED TO THE ISLAND OF THE KARONIS -- AND ATTACKED! BUT THEY SOON LEARNED THAT THESE WERE NO MISERABLE, FRIGHTENED NATIVES! LED BY BOLOGA, THEIR WITCH DOCTOR, THE KARONIS DROVE THE BRITISH INTO HEADLONG RETREAT!"



BUT THE KARONIS MADE THE MISTAKE OF CLUSTERING ON THE BEACH -- A PERFECT TARGET FOR THE VESSEL'S GUNS! A SINGLE BROADSIDE -- AND THE TRIBE WAS DESTROYED!



"NOW THE MARAUDERS FOUND ALL THE PLUNDER THEY DESIRED! THAT-- AND SOMETHING MORE!"

LOOK, SHIPMATES -- I FOUND THIS IN THEIR TEMPLE! HA -- IT'LL MAKE A GOOD PRESENT FOR MY WENCH IN ENGLAND!



HE HAS TAKEN THE MASK OF MUMBO-- SACRED RITUAL MASK OF OUR GOD! LITTLE DO THE MURDERERS KNOW THAT OUR CURSE GOES WITH IT-- THE CURSE OF SUFFERING AND DEATH AGAINST ALL INTO WHOSE POSSESSION IT COMES! HEAR THY FAITHFUL SERVANT, OH MUMBO, AND STRIKE-- FOREVER-- ALWAYS!



"NATIVE SUPERSTITION? MAYBE-- BUT ACCORDING TO SOUTH SEA LEGENDS, THE MASK WASN'T LONG IN GETTING IN THE EFFECTS OF THE CURSE! FOR, AS THE BRITISH SHIP SAILED HOMEWARD --"

DRINK UP, MATES -- WE'RE ALL OF US RICH! HAW-HAW! -- THINK I'LL SEE HOW I LOOK IN THIS PRETTY L'IL RIG!





**"AND THEN, AS CAPTAIN HAZZARD DONNED THE MASK OF MUMBO, THERE CAME A BLINDING FLASH -- AN AWFUL APPARITION!"**



**WELL MAY YOU TREMBLE -- BUT FEAR NOT THAT I HAVE COME FOR MY MASK! FOR CENTURIES IT SHALL STAY WITH THE MEMBERS OF YOUR RACE -- AND SUFFERING AND DEATH SHALL ALWAYS ACCOMPANY IT!**



**"A WEIRD INCANTATION -- AND, FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN -- A FEARSOME SPECTER!"**

**ARISE -- ARISE FROM THE DARK REALM WHERE ONLY DEATH REIGNS! ARISE, OH SPIRIT OF PESTILENCE -- AND LET THEM FEEL YOUR COLD AND GRISLY TOUCH!**



**"ANCIENT RECORDS STILL DISCLOSE THE HORROR OF WHAT A PASSING SHIP FOUND!"**



**AND AS THE BREATHLESS STORY ENDED, BACK AT THE CLUB SATURN, STELLA'S DANCE GREW WILDER -- WILDER!**



**THE AUDIENCE WATCHED -- TENSE -- ENTHRALLED! WHY WAS SHE DANCING LIKE A THING POSSESSED?**



**AND THEN -- THAT GIANT, MENACING FIGURE! FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, IT SEEMED TO LOOM EERILY BEHIND HER! SURELY IT WAS AN ILLUSION -- A THING OF LIGHTS AND MIRRORS!**





EVEN WHEN IT MATERIALIZED--SEIZED THE SCREAMING GIRL--IT STILL SEEMED NOTHING MORE THAN A CLEVERLY STAGED SPECTACLE--



SIT DOWN, PHIL--RELAX! IT'S ALL PART OF THE ACT!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! I'VE SEEN THE ANCIENT NATIVE PICTURES OF MUMBO--AND NO MAKEUP OR STAGE PROPS COULD CAPTURE HIS HORROR THAT REALISTICALLY! THAT THING'S REAL!



ONCE MORE, A SPECTRAL INCANTATION--AND, SUMMONED OUT OF THE DEAD PAST--



ARISE, OH LONG-DEPARTED WARRIORS OF THE KARONI! ARISE--AND SPREAD DEATH AND TERROR IN YOUR WAKE!

TOO SOON THE AUDIENCE LEARNED THE DREAD REALITY OF WHAT THEIR EYES HAD REFUSED TO BELIEVE--AS HORROR RAN AMOK IN THE CROWDED NIGHTCLUB!



AND AMID THE ORGY OF AWFUL DESTRUCTION---

THANK HEAVENS I GOT AWAY AND MANAGED TO SAVE HER!





LATER -- AT STELLA'S APARTMENT --

I -- I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU -- BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY DID YOU LINGER, RISK YOURSELF -- TO SAVE ME?

THAT'S HARD TO ANSWER! COULD -- COULD THERE BE SUCH A THING AS A SORT OF MAGNETISM BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE? ALL I KNOW IS THAT I SENSED IT -- AND KNEW I'D DO ANYTHING TO KEEP YOU FROM HARM!

BUT, NOW -- PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! YOU'RE SAFE, WITH NOTHING TO FEAR! MUMBO STRUCK AT YOU BECAUSE YOU'D WORN HIS MASK, BUT HE COULD NEVER FIND YOU NOW -- NOT IN THIS BIG, TEEMING CITY!

AH, LITTLE DO YOU KNOW MY SUPERNATURAL POWERS -- I HAVE FOUND HER! ONCE A MORTAL HAS DONNED MY MASK -- THERE CAN NEVER BE A HIDING-PLACE!

KEEP -- KEEP AWAY! DON'T --

DON'T WORRY -- I'LL STOP THAT MONSTER!

BUT WITH THE TERRIBLE POWER OF A BEING FROM THE BEYOND --

FOOL! DO YOU DARE PIT YOUR PUNY STRENGTH AGAINST MUMBO?

BUT WAIT -- DEATH NOW WOULD BE TOO EASY FOR YOU! YOU HAVE COME TO LOVE A WOMAN MARKED FOR DOOM -- AND YOUR AGONY SHALL BE THE GREATER IF YOU LIVE ON KNOWING THAT SHE IS DESTINED TO DIE AT MIDNIGHT TOMORROW -- AND THAT NOTHING CAN SAVE HER FROM ME!

THEN, AS MUMBO DISAPPEARS IN A FIERY FLARE --

OH, PHIL -- IT'S HOPELESS! I -- I'M DOOMED!

NO! I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY -- NOT WITH THE LIFE OF THE GIRL I LOVE AT STAKE! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OF COUNTER-ACTING MUMBO -- AND MAYBE I CAN FIND THE ANSWER IN THE LIBRARY OF THE MUSEUM OF OCCULT SCIENCES!

REMEMBER -- WE'VE GOT TILL MIDNIGHT TOMORROW!

AND SO, IN A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME, PHIL PORED OVER THE ANCIENT BOOKS OF THE SUPERNATURAL -- HOPING AGAINST HOPE --



WITH DARKNESS OF THE FATAL DAY--

OH, PHIL-- I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME! DID YOU-- FIND ANYTHING? IS THERE-- ANY HOPE?

WELL, I'DUG UP SOMETHING, HONEY, BUT LORD KNOWS WHAT GOOD IT CAN DO! THE CURSE OF MUMBO CAN ONLY BE ENDED IF THE MASK IS RETURNED TO WHENCE IT CAME-- THE ISLAND OF THE KARONIS! AND MUMBO HIMSELF CAN ONLY BE BEATEN OFF IN A STRANGE WAY-- THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE PYGMY BOAR, A RARE SOUTH PACIFIC BEAST WHICH IS TABOO IN THE KARONI RELIGION!

BUT WHERE COULD WE GET THAT-- IN TIME? NOTHING CAN SAVE ME NOW-- NOTHING!

DON'T BE SURE! I'VE DONE WHAT I COULD-- JUST TAKE A LOOK INTO THE OUTSIDE ROOM!

A HEAVILY-ARMED POLICE GUARD! IT WASN'T HARD TO GET THEM, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NIGHTCLUB! THEY CAN BLAST ANYTHING OUT OF THE WAY-- AND MUMBO'S GOT TO GET PAST THEM BEFORE HE CAN GET AT YOU!

THE FATEFUL HOURS TICK AWAY, UNTIL-- MIDNIGHT!

BONG-- BONG-- BONG...

IN THE OUTER ROOM, A FIERY FLASH-- AND--

HOLY SMOKE-- IT'S HIM! QUICK-- SHOOT HIM DOWN!

AMID THE CHATTERING OF MACHINE-GUNS -- ONCE MORE THAT DREAD INCANTATION!

IT'S NO USE-- OUR BULLETS ARE GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH HIM! AND WATCH HIM-- HE'S UP TO SOMETHING!

RAT-TAT--  
TAT-TAT--

AGAIN, RISING FROM BLEACHED AND LONG-DEAD BONES-- THE SPECTRAL KARONI WARRIORS!







AS THE TABOO FLUID STRIKES --



AAAAGHH!

HE'S --  
DISAPPEARING!

YOU'VE --  
SAVED ME  
AGAIN!  
IS HE -- GONE  
FOR GOOD?

I WISH I COULD SAY SO, STELLA --  
BUT ACCORDING TO MY RESEARCH,  
THE PYGMY BOAR BLOOD WILL GIVE  
US SAFETY FOR ONLY 24 MORE  
HOURS! THEN -- MUMBO WILL  
RETURN,  
THIRSTING  
FOR REVENGE!



THEN WHAT GOOD  
WAS IT ALL?  
I -- I ALMOST  
WISH HE'D  
SUCCEEDED JUST  
NOW, AND ENDED  
THIS AWFUL  
SUSPENSE!

DON'T EVER SAY  
ANYTHING LIKE THAT,  
HONEY! WE'VE WON  
ANOTHER DAY --  
JUST TIME ENOUGH  
TO WING OUT OVER  
THE SOUTH PACIFIC  
-- AND MAYBE FIX IT  
SO MUMBO CAN  
NEVER STRIKE  
AGAIN!

TWENTY HOURS LATER -- WITH  
TROPICAL WATERS  
GLEAMING BELOW --

I THINK WE'RE IN, STELLA!  
IT SHOULDN'T TAKE US OVER AN  
HOUR MORE TO GET TO THE ISLAND  
OF THE KARONIS -- AND RETURN  
THE MASK TO ITS NATIVE HABITAT!  
THAT WILL LIFT THE CURSE OF  
THE MASK -- AND SAVE  
YOU FROM MUMBO!



BUT A VENGEFUL SPIRIT SEES ALL --  
KNOWS ALL! NO NATURAL REASONS  
CAUSED THE STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS  
STORM WHICH STRUCK FROM OUT OF  
NOWHERE, DRIVING THEM FAR  
OFF THEIR COURSE!



AND LATER --

THAT -- THAT STORM  
COST US HOURS --  
AND WE CAN NEVER  
MAKE IT IN TIME  
NOW! CAN'T -- CAN'T  
YOU GO FASTER,  
PHIL?

I'VE GOT THE THROTTLE  
OPEN ALL THE WAY!  
I -- I'M AFRAID  
WE'RE SUNK!



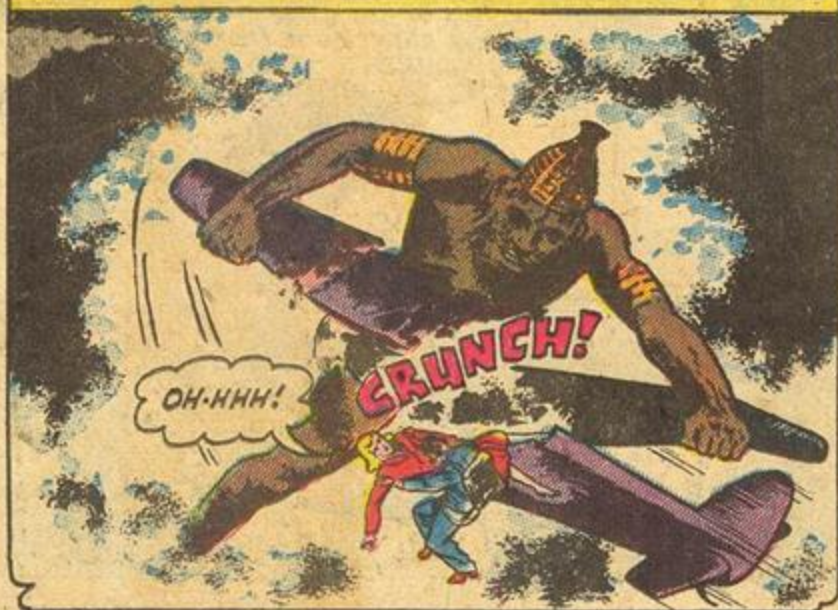
RELENTLESSLY, THE MINUTES SPED FAST! THE SOUGHT-  
AFTER ISLAND HEARD -- BUT TIME WAS AGAINST THEM!  
IT WAS THE FATAL MOMENT -- AND IN THE SKY BEFORE  
THE RACING PLANE THERE SUDDENLY LOOMED A GIANT  
AND TOWERING APPARITION!



MUMBO!  
WE'RE  
GONERS!



**IN A SURGE OF MANIACAL FURY, THE SPECTER STRUCK--  
WRENCHING THE PLANE ASUNDER WITH SAVAGE STRENGTH!**



**AND, NEXT MOMENT--**



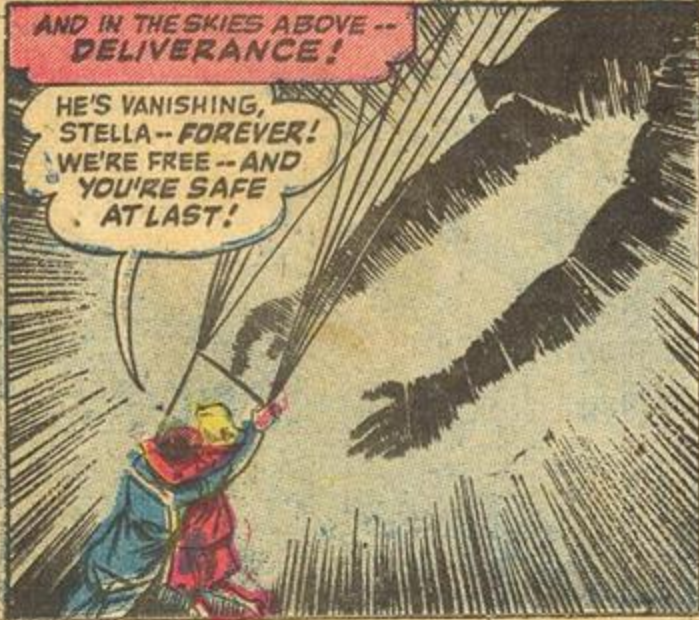
**AS THE AWFUL FIGURE  
MOVED IN--AND DEATH  
HOVERED CLOSE ---**



**--THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE CRASHED ONTO  
SOLID GROUND BELOW! AFTER TWO CENTURIES,  
THE MASK OF MUMBO HAD COME HOME --TO  
THE ISLAND OF THE KARONIS!**



**AND IN THE SKIES ABOVE --  
DELIVERANCE!**





OFTEN, FROM THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BEYOND, COME THE EERIE SOUNDS THAT SERVE AS A MIDNIGHT REMINDER OF WHAT DARKNESS CAN HOLD! THE HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM OF A BANSHEE... THE CACKLING LAUGHTER OF A GHOUL CROUCHING IN THE SHADOW OF A GRAVEYARD WALL... THE CHORUSED MUMBLING OF WITCHES GATHERED ON A MISTY HILL! BUT BETTER TO HEAR THESE THAN THE BAYING HOWL THAT HERALDS THE SCURRY OF CLAWED FEET... WHEN AN UNDEAD SPIRIT RISES TO ANSWER THE WAIL OF THE WEREWOLF!

# The WAIL of The WEREWOLF



IN A LARGE RADIO STUDIO...

TED, REALLY? AFTER BEING TOO BUSY TO DATE ME FOR WEEKS... NOW YOU SUGGEST DRIVING OUT TO A SPOOKY PLACE LIKE MOONLIGHT RIDGE!

WHAT'S SPOOKY ABOUT IT? JUST BECAUSE THERE USED TO BE A VILLAGE OUT THERE... SO LONG AGO THAT EVEN THE RUINS HAVE VANISHED?

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE VANISHED, TED? EVERYONE BELIEVES IT... AND THAT'S WHY NO ONE GOES TO MOONLIGHT RIDGE... NOT EVEN HUNTERS!

DON'T INCLUDE A CERTAIN RADIO TECHNICIAN, HONEY... BECAUSE I WAS OUT THERE... YESTERDAY!



ART GATES



IT'S LIKE THIS, BETTY! WE NEED A BACKGROUND EFFECT FOR A NEW SHOW... A MEDLEY OF SOUNDS YOU'D HEAR AT NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY! CRICKETS, TREE FROGS, MAYBE A FEW OWLS... ANYTHING THAT'LL BUILD UP ATMOSPHERE! I DIDN'T EXPECT THE WILD LIFE TO COOPERATE WITH **ME** AROUND, SO I LEFT A TAPE RECORDER... AUTOMATICALLY SET TO SWITCH ON AT MID-NIGHT AND PICK UP THE SOUND EFFECTS!



AND **NOW** YOU WANT TO DRIVE OUT TO GET THE RECORDER, HUH?



PHONE, TED! SHAKE IT UP... IT'S YOUR PRODUCER!

SURE, MR. JACKSON... I CAN HANDLE THAT STUDIO SIX JOB IF YOU'RE IN A RUSH! I **WAS** GOING TO MOONLIGHT RIDGE... BUT I PROBABLY CAN SEND SOME-ONE ELSE!

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF **ME**, TED WALTON... GUESS AGAIN!



GIVE ME A BREAK, BETTY... I'LL BE TIED UP **HERE** ALL DAY! YOU'LL FIND THE TAPE RECORDER NEAR A HUGE BOULDER TOPPED BY DWARF PINES! TAKE IT TO YOUR PLACE... AND I'LL DROP AROUND TONIGHT!



OKAY... BUT YOU'D BETTER HOPE I DON'T GREET YOU WITH A NICE HEAD OF **WHITE HAIR!**

AN HOUR LATER... IN A SPOT THAT EVEN SUNLIGHT SEEMS TO SHUN...



TED CAN JOKE ALL HE WANTS... BUT I KNOW WHAT I **FEEL!** MOONLIGHT RIDGE ISN'T JUST LONELY OR GLOOMY... IT'S **DOWNRIGHT EVIL!**



THERE'S THE TAPE RECORDER! IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO HEAR WHAT IT PICKED UP DURING THE NIGHT... BUT I'M NOT DOING ANY PLAYING BACK AROUND **HERE!**

THEN... SHARPLY IMPRINTED IN THE SOFT TURF...



GOOD HEAVENS! SOMETHING'S BEEN HERE... **BUT WHAT?**



NO **HUMAN** LEFT THAT FOOTPRINT... AND IT WASN'T AN **ANIMAL** EITHER! IT'S THE TRACK OF SOMETHING WITH **CLAWED FEET**...AND I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE BEFORE I SEE THE **REST** OF IT!



**THAT NIGHT...** NO USE BROODING ABOUT THOSE TRACKS AT MOONLIGHT RIDGE ... THEY'RE **MILES** AWAY! WHILE I'M WAITING FOR TED, I MIGHT AS WELL SWITCH ON THE TAPE RECORDER... AND DIM THE LIGHTS TO PROVIDE THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE!



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES A **SOFT CHANT** RISES FROM THE RECORDER ... **LULLING AS MOONBEAMS!**

THE TAPE PICKED UP EVERYTHING... IT'S JUST LIKE BEING OUT UNDER THE STARS! CRICKETS CHIRPING LIKE CRAZY... AND **THERE'S** A WHIPPOORWILL IN THE DISTANCE...AND...



**SUDDENLY... SHARP AND JAGGED AS A ROW OF FANGS...**

**GOOD HEAVENS!**



FOR A FLEETING INSTANT, THE **PIERCING HOWL** SEEMS TO TAKE SHAPE...LIKE A THING SPAWNED BY MIDNIGHT ON MOONLIGHT RIDGE!

**OH! THAT CAN'T BE REAL!**



**IT'S GONE!** WHAT I **SAW** COULD BE MY IMAGINATION...BUT **THAT** CAN'T EXPLAIN WHAT I **HEARD!** SOMETHING **HOWLED** ON MOONLIGHT RIDGE LAST NIGHT...AND **IT'S** THE **CREATURE** THAT LEFT THOSE **HIDEOUS FOOT-PRINTS!**



**THEN...WEIGHED DOWN BY A THROBBING WEARINESS...**

I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME! SOMETHING'S WARNING ME TO FIGHT OFF SLEEP...BUT I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN!



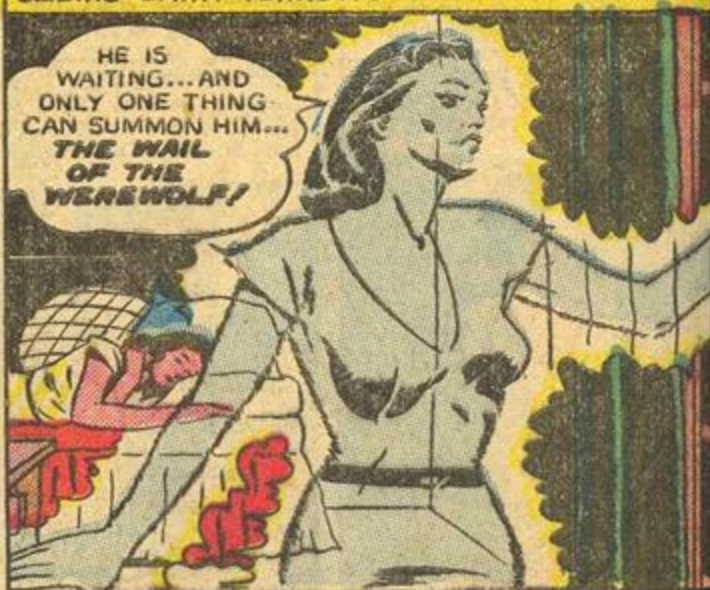


A GLOWING FIGURE TAKES SHAPE AS BETTY  
DRIFTS INTO DEEP SLUMBER... **HER SPIRIT  
SELF**... BEARING THE EVIL STAMP OF A SOUL  
GONE ASTRAY!



SHE SLEEPS... BUT  
I AM SOMETHING  
THAT **NEVER**  
SLEEPS!

AS IF OBEYING AN UNSPOKEN COMMAND... THE  
GLIDING SPIRIT TURNS...



HE IS  
WAITING... AND  
ONLY ONE THING  
CAN SUMMON HIM...  
**THE WAIL  
OF THE  
WEREWOLF!**



A MOMENT LATER...

AAOOOO

GOOD LORD!  
THAT THING LOOKS  
LIKE BETTY... BUT  
NOTHING HUMAN  
EVER SOUNDED  
LIKE THAT!



TED... THANK  
GOODNESS YOU  
AWAKENED ME!  
I WAS IN THE  
MIDDLE OF A  
HIDEOUS  
DREAM!

IT WASN'T JUST  
A NIGHTMARE, HONEY!  
GET A GRIP ON YOUR-  
SELF... AND LOOK OVER  
THERE... **AT THE  
WINDOW!**



OH! THAT CAN'T  
BE MY **GHOST**...  
NOT WHILE  
I'M STILL  
ALIVE!

WAIT A MINUTE!  
DO YOU **HEAR**  
SOMETHING...  
OFF IN THE  
DISTANCE?

AT THE FIRST QUAVERING NOTES OF A FAR-OFF  
HOWL...

BETTY... LOOK!  
IT'S STARTING  
TO CHANGE!



AAOOO!

AGH!



BIT BY BIT...TIMED TO THE SCUDDING APPROACH OF A STEP THAT IS NEITHER FOOT NOR PAW...



MASTER!  
MASTER!

TED...WHAT HORRIBLE CURSE COULD EVER MAKE MY SPIRIT LOOK LIKE THAT?

GREAT GUNS... WATCH OUT!



AHRGH!

MASTER...THERE IS MY MORTAL BODY! I HAVE SUMMONED YOU TO YOUR PREY!

HAN! HOW CAN THE BODY ESCAPE ME...WHEN THE SPIRIT BECOMES MY SLAVE?

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS A WEREWOLF I SAW...RIGHT AFTER I HEARD THAT THROBBING HOWL!

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE WAIL OF THE WEREWOLF CARRIED THIS FAR FROM MOONLIGHT RIDGE... BUT NOW THAT IT HAS REACHED YOUR EARS.... YOU ARE DOOMED BEYOND HOPE!

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE ON MOONLIGHT RIDGE! ONE BY ONE, THEY HEARD YOUR HOWL...AND THEIR SPIRITS ROSE TO GUIDE YOU WHILE THEY SLEPT!



A SLEEP FROM WHICH THEY NEVER AWAKENED! YOU'VE GUESSED THAT MUCH...WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE REST? ORDINARILY, A WEREWOLF CANNOT WANDER FROM HIS LAIR...HE CAN SEEK HIS VICTIMS ONLY AS FAR AS THE SOUND OF HIS HOWL CAN BE HEARD! THAT IS WHY I COULD NOT LEAVE MOONLIGHT RIDGE--UNTIL TONIGHT!



SLOWLY... THE MONSTROUS FIGURE PADS CLOSER!

AND NOW DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FLEE...WHEN NIGHT AFTER NIGHT YOUR SPIRITS WILL WAIL INTO THE DARKNESS...BRINGING ME TO YOUR BEDSIDE! TONIGHT I WILL CLAIM HER... TOMORROW NIGHT IT WILL BE YOU!



BETTY... DON'T LET THIS CREEP GET TOO CLOSE!



AS THE WEREWOLF LUNGES...HIS SLATHERING JAWS AGAPE...



THEN...WITH A SINGLE EFFORTLESS MOTION...



IN THE NEXT SECOND...



RIISING FROM THE SHADOWS IN A MUFFLED CHORUS...



AS THE WEREWOLF AND THE CAPTIVE SPIRIT SCUTTLE INTO THE DARKNESS...





HONEY, THOSE VOICES WERE PICKED UP BY THE RECORDER ON MOONLIGHT RIDGE... AND THEY'RE SOMETHING THE WEREWOLF FEARS! THEY'RE WAITING TO TAKE THEIR REVENGE... AND MAYBE THEIR SPIRITS WILL BE SET FREE... IF WE CAN FIND THEM!



TED, WE CAN'T RETURN TO MOONLIGHT RIDGE... THE VERY PLACE WHERE THE WERE-WOLF LURKS!

MAYBE THAT FIEND WILL TRACK US DOWN... BEFORE WE CAN FIND THE ONLY BEINGS ON EARTH ABLE TO COPE WITH HIM! BUT UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO WAIT FOR HORROR, BETTY... WE'VE GOT TO TAKE A CHANCE!



THE WIND RUSTLING THROUGH THE STUNTED TREES SEEMED TO WHISPER A WARNING ON MOONLIGHT RIDGE... AND THE VERY ATMOSPHERE SEEMED BLIGHTED BY EVIL!

OKAY, HONEY! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW... LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!



IT'LL BE TERRIFYING ENOUGH TO FACE THOSE SPIRITS, TED... BUT HOW WILL WE EVER FIND THEM?

THEY MUST BE SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO THE SPOT WHERE I LEFT MY TAPE RECORDER! BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY SPEAK ONLY WHEN THEY HEAR THE WEREWOLF HOWL... AND ONCE HE GETS THAT CLOSE... IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR THEM TO DO ANYTHING!



TED... LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING WITH A WEIRD GLOW COMING THROUGH THE UNDER-BRUSH!

IT'S YOUR SPIRIT! I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT THING HAS ONLY ONE UNHOLY PURPOSE... TO KEEP TABS ON US... AND SUMMON THE WEREWOLF!



THE VERY ECHOES TREMBLE INTO THE NIGHT... AS THE WAIL OF THE WEREWOLF SWEEPS ACROSS MOONLIGHT RIDGE!

AAAAOOO!



SUDDENLY...

THE WEREWOLF MADE THIS ROCK OUR TOMB... SET US FREE AND SEAL HIS DOOM!

BETTY... THOSE VOICES! THERE'S WHERE THE SPIRITS ARE... BEHIND THAT BOULDER!







I'M JUST ABOUT TO SWIVEL IT OPEN! NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, BETTY... HERE'S WHERE THE WEREWOLF DISPOSED OF HIS VICTIMS' REMAINS!

TED... THERE'S A SCURRYING NOISE OVER THE DEAD LEAVES! WE'RE TOO LATE... HE'S COMING!



HAA... SO YOU ACTUALLY DARED TO VENTURE HERE! YOUR LAST HOPE IS GONE... YOUR MORTAL LIVES ARE BEHIND YOU!

BEFORE YOU TAKE ANY BETS ON IT, CREEP... HAVE YOU GOT ANY IDEA OF WHAT'S BEHIND YOU?



WEREWOLF TREMBLE... WEREWOLF COWER! OUR SPIRITS WAITED FOR THIS HOUR!

THE AVENGING PHANTOMS... THEY'VE BEEN RELEASED!



LIKE A LIVING FOG, THE SPIRITS CLOSE IN... STIFLING THE FIENDISH SHAPE WRITHING IN THEIR MIDST!



THEN...  
OH! TED... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

DON'T BE ALARMED, BETTY! NOW THAT THE WEREWOLF'S BEEN FINISHED OFF, YOUR SPIRIT IS NO LONGER EVIL... IT'S RETURNING TO YOUR BODY!



LATER...  
THANK GOODNESS THAT TAPE RECORDING WAS NEVER BROADCAST, TED! THINK WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED... IF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAD HEARD THE WAIL OF THE WEREWOLF!

YEP... THAT FIEND WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ROAM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY... WHEREVER HIS HOWL HAD BEEN HEARD! HE'LL NEVER STALK AFTER VICTIMS AGAIN, HONEY... BUT JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE... I'M ERASING THE TAPE THAT RECORDED THE HOWL ON MOONLIGHT RIDGE!



# "True" GHOST SHIPS & HISTORY

## THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

THE LOOKOUT'S EXCITED CALL BROUGHT TO THE DECK THE THREE GRANDSONS OF QUEEN VICTORIA-- PRINCES ALBERT, GEORGE, AND VICTOR, WHO WERE MAKING A VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD IN A ROYAL CONVOY!



SPECTATORS  
ABOARD EACH  
OF THE THREE  
BRITISH SHIPS  
MAKING UP  
THE ROYAL  
CONVOY SAW  
THAT ANCIENT,  
GHOSTLY BRIG  
SAILING PAST  
THEM THROUGH  
THE AIR-- AND  
KNEW IT WAS  
THE FLYING  
DUTCHMAN,  
THE SHIP THAT  
WAS CONDEMN-  
ED FOREVER  
TO TACK INTO  
A HEADWIND,  
FOREVER  
UNABLE  
TO MAKE  
PORT!



AS THE  
LEGEND HAS  
IT, THE FIRST  
MAN TO  
SIGHT THE  
FLYING DUTCH-  
MAN MUST  
DIE VIOLENTLY  
-- AND THE  
LOOKOUT  
ABOARD THE  
ROYAL SHIP  
WAS NO  
EXCEPTION--  
FOR AS THE  
GHOST-SHIP  
VANISHED,  
THE LOOKOUT  
FELL FROM  
THE FORETOP-  
GALLANT SAIL  
TO A HORRIBLE  
DEATH ON  
THE DECK  
BELOW!



AND SOMEWHERE ABOVE ONE OF THE SEVEN SEAS, THE FLYING DUTCHMAN MUST STILL BE SAILING IN ITS NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR PORT! DON'T YOU BE THE FIRST ONE TO SIGHT IT THE NEXT TIME IT MAKES AN APPEARANCE!





# WITCH of the WEST



**YOU'VE READ WITCH STORIES BEFORE... AND CHILLED TO THEIR EERIE MENACE! YOU'VE WATCHED THE EVIL HAGS AS THEY CARRIED OUT THE DICTATES OF THEIR DREAD MASTER IN STRANGE, FAR-OFF LANDS... IN HAUNTED CASTLES! BUT HERE'S A STORY THAT HITS CLOSER HOME... INTO THE HEART OF AMERICA'S RANGELAND! MEET THE WITCH OF THE WEST, MOST FATAL OF ALL SPECTRAL APPARITIONS... AND THRILL TO HER DEADLY DUEL WITH PROFESSOR DONALD CLARK... STUDENT OF THE SUPERNATURAL!**



**DON CLARK RECEIVES A VISITOR...**

I'VE LOST OVER A THOUSAND HEAD OF CATTLE... AND THE BEST ANIMAL DOCTORS IN THE COUNTRY CAN'T FIGURE OUT **WHY!** THE COWS JUST DIE... WITH NO APPARENT PHYSICAL REASON! **YOU'RE** MY LAST HOPE, PROFESSOR CLARK!

BUT I'M JUST A COLLEGE PROFESSOR, MR. CARTWRIGHT, AND KNOW NOTHING OF CATTLE! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

THERE'S REASON TO BELIEVE THAT **SUPERNATURAL** CAUSES LIE BEHIND ALL THIS... AND YOU'RE AN AUTHORITY IN THAT FIELD! YOU... YOU'VE **GOT** TO HELP ME!

HMM... NOW I **AM** INTERESTED! THERE ARE NO CLASSES FOR THE NEXT WEEK... WHAT SAY I RUN OUT TO YOUR RANCH WITH YOU AND LOOK THINGS OVER?











LATER... IT ALL ADDS UP TO ONE THING... **SUPERNATURAL EVIL!** AND IT BEARS THE HALLMARK OF A DEMON LAST SEEN IN THESE PARTS A CENTURY AGO... **THE WITCH OF THE WEST!** IF HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, SHE AND HER DEMON ATTENDANTS WILL SOON TURN FROM CATTLE... TO **HUMANS!** THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT MAY STOP HER... A METHOD USED IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO REPEL WITCHES! **A NEED-FIRE!**

WHAT IN THE WORLD'S THAT?



JUST SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM MY BOOKS... **AND IT HAD BETTER WORK!** TWO POLES ARE THRUST INTO THE GROUND AND A THIRD INSERTED BETWEEN THEM, FITTED INTO SOCKETS! THEN A ROPE IS WOUND AROUND THE CENTER POLE AND PULLED TO AND FRO... UNTIL FRICTION CAUSES THE POLE TO IGNITE! BUT THE ROPE MUST COME FROM A **GALLOWS!**

THERE WAS A MURDERER HUNG IN THIS COUNTY JUST LAST MONTH... AND SHERIFF JOHNSON MAY STILL HAVE THE ROPE! I'LL SEND FOR IT!



WAIT... IT'S NOT QUITE **THAT** SIMPLE! YOU SEE, THE ROPE MUST BE PULLED BY TWO PEOPLE... BOTH BEARING THE SAME FIRST NAME!

TOO BAD... IT MIGHT TAKE TIME TO DIG **THEM** UP!

WAIT! THE PROFESSOR'S NAME IS DONALD, AND I'M DONNA! **THAT** OUGHT TO DO IT!



MAYBE... BUT THERE'D BE **DEADLY DANGER!** AND I... I COULD NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU!

IT'S NICE KNOWING YOU CARE ABOUT MY... SAFETY! BUT IF WE'RE IN PERIL FROM **THE WITCH OF THE WEST!** I WANT TO **HELP!**



FOUND SO, AS MIDNIGHT APPROACHED, DON READIED HIS EQUIPMENT! AS THE STRANGE OPERATION COMMENCED, A DREAD FIGURE STALKED FROM THE FOREST!

IT'S... **THE WITCH OF THE WEST!** PULL, DONNA... UNLESS WE GET THAT FIRE STARTED, WE'RE **SUNK!**



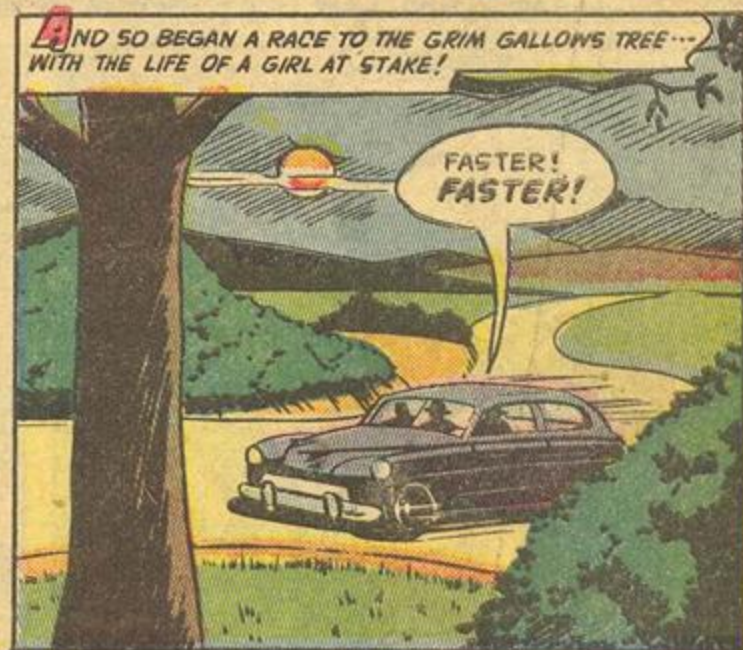
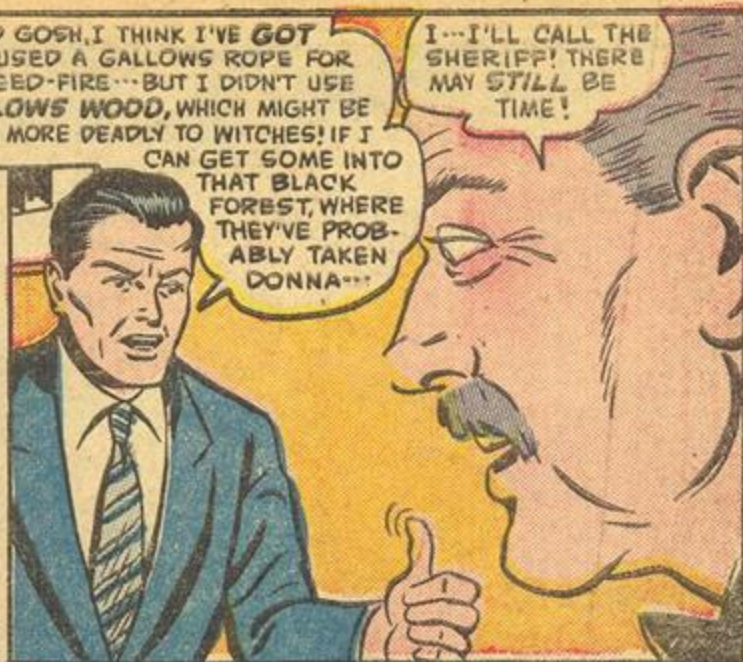
IT'S **WORKING!** SHE AND HER DEMONS... **THEY'RE FALLING BACK!**

**B**UT THE WEIRD SPIRIT IS NOT SO EASILY VANQUISHED! AMID THE WIND'S WEIRD HOWLING, THE SKY DARKENS, AND...

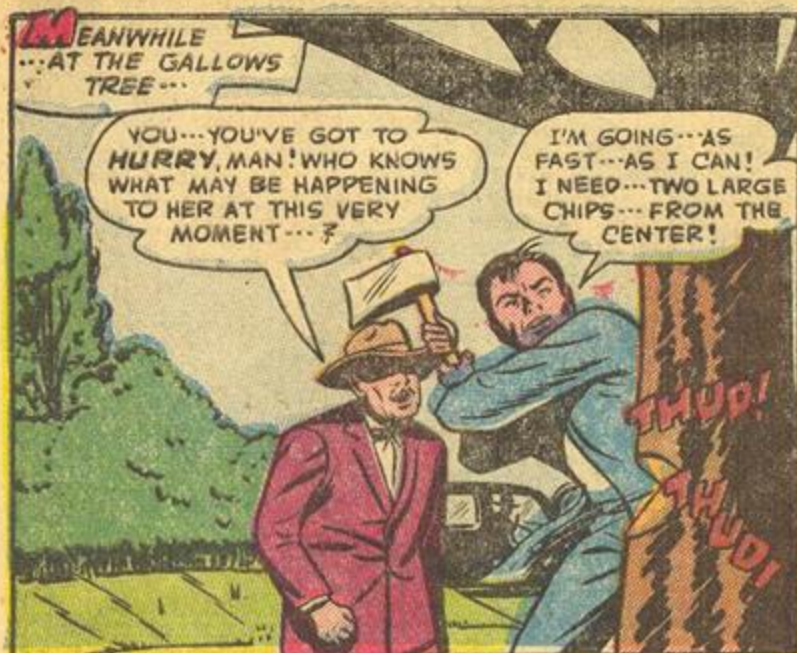














HEART RACING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE HORROR THAT MIGHT MEET HIS EYES, DON PLUNGES ONWARD THROUGH THE BLACK, EERIE FOREST...UNTIL...

FAINTED, HAS SHE? IT WILL TAKE BUT A WAVE OF MY HAND TO REVIVE HER--AND THEN...

THANK GOODNESS I'M NOT TOO LATE!



WHERE... WHERE AM I... OH-HHH! THEN IT WASN'T JUST A NIGHTMARE!



THIS HAS GOT TO BE QUICK! IF I REMEMBER MY DEMONOLOGY, I'VE GOT TO RUB THESE TWO PIECES OF GALLOW'S WOOD TOGETHER, IGNITE THESE DRIED LEAVES...



AND THEN... THE FATAL COMMAND!

AND NOW... HER TIME HAS COME! DO YOUR WORK, DEMONS!

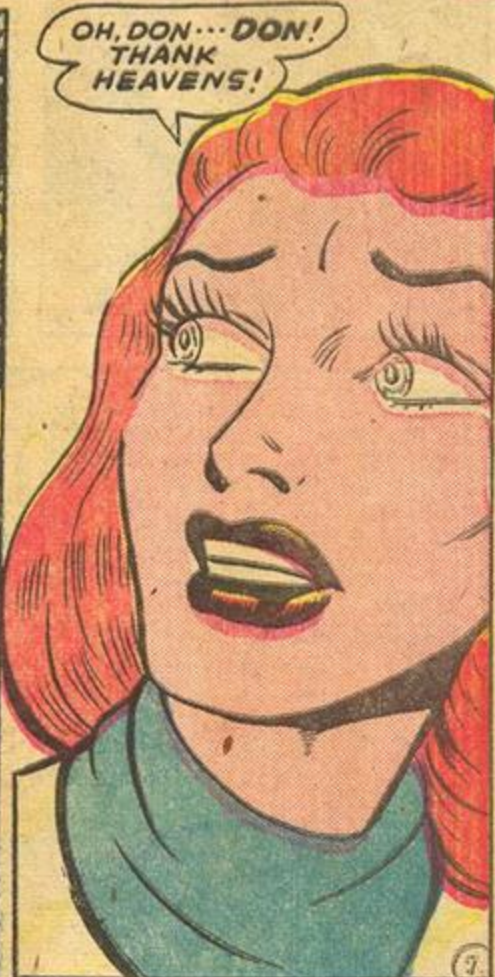


AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT...

WAIT! DON'T DARE TOUCH THIS GIRL!



OH, DON... DON! THANK HEAVENS!





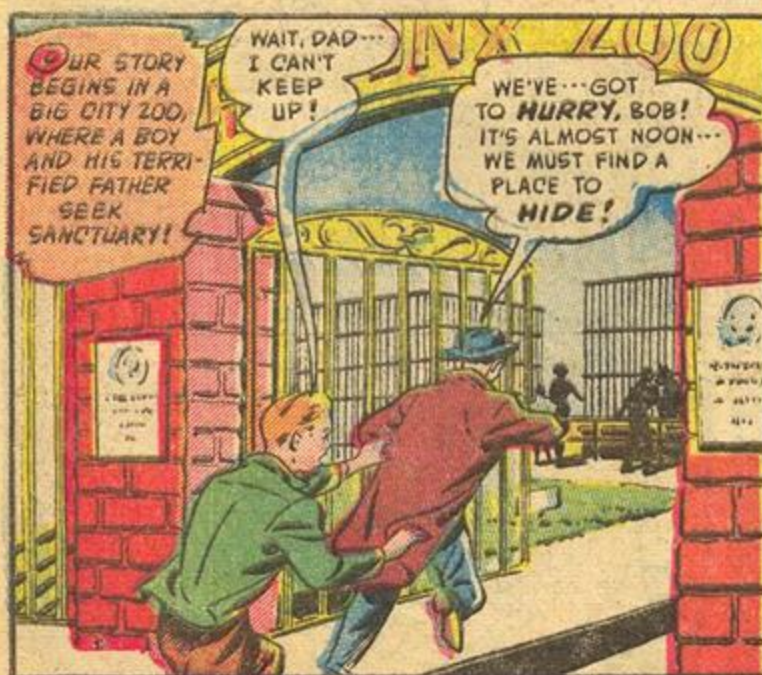
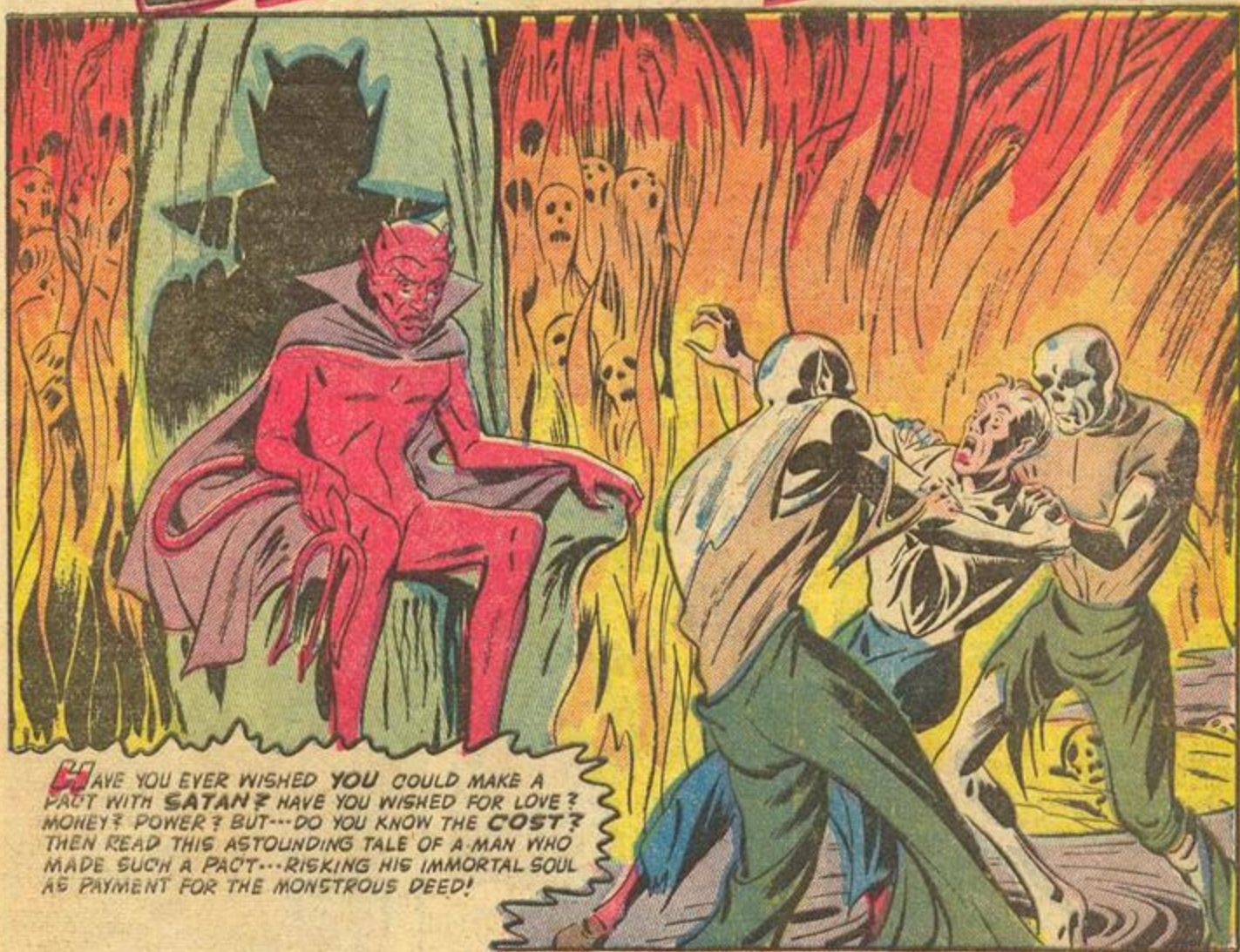


BUT A MERE MORTAL IS NO MATCH FOR SUCH A GHOSTLY TERROR AS THIS!





# The DEVIL'S PACT





**B**UT WITHIN THE CAGE ITSELF...AN AWFUL APPARITION REARED!



YOU CAN'T ESCAPE, JOHN BLADE! AT THE STROKE OF TWELVE... YOU'RE DOOMED!

I'VE GOT TO...HAVE HELP!  
I'LL...ASK THAT GUARD TO  
HIDE US SOMEWHERE!



**B**UT WHEN THE "GUARD" TURNED...IT WAS ONLY TO REVEAL...



FLEEING WILL DO NO GOOD, JOHN BLADE! THE DEVIL'S LEGIONS ARE EVERYWHERE!



NO...I WON'T BE TAKEN! THE DEVIL... TRICKED ME!

**B**UT EVEN AS JOHN BLADE'S FINGERS CLOSED, THE FIEND HAD VANISHED!

**K**NOWING THERE WAS NO ESCAPE, JOHN BLADE CEASED HIS FLIGHT...



DAD, I'M SCARED! WHAT WAS THAT... THAT THING? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**A**ND SO AT LAST THE TORTURED WORDS CAME...



BOB, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU NOW! FOR YOU SEE, AT NOON...I'LL BE DEAD!



DEAD! WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THE STORY'S LONG, BUT YOU MUST LISTEN...AND NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE! IT ALL BEGAN YEARS AGO, RIGHT AFTER THE WORLD WAR...



"I HAD JUST BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY, AND CAME HOME TO START LIFE ANEW..."



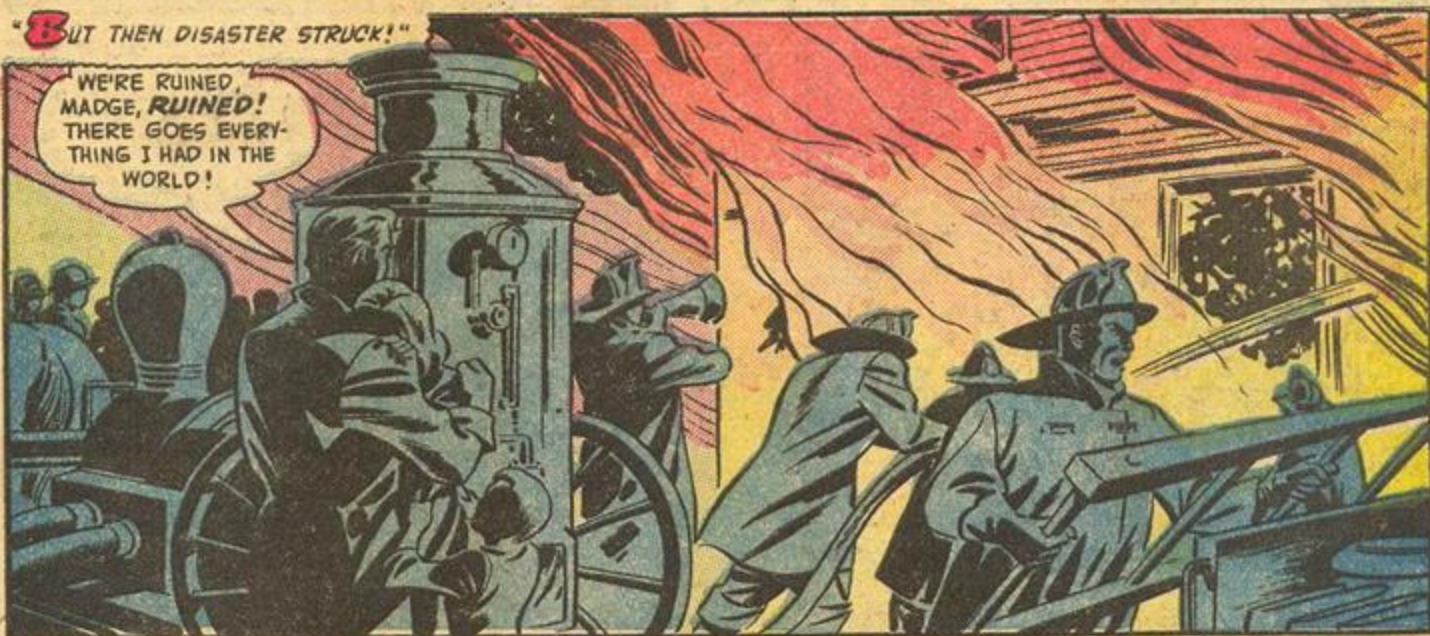
"I PUT ALL MY SAVINGS INTO THE OPENING OF A STORE..."

MAYBE SOMEDAY THIS STORE WILL BE THE FIRST OF A GREAT CHAIN!



"BUT THEN DISASTER STRUCK!"

WE'RE RUINED, MADGE, RUINED! THERE GOES EVERYTHING I HAD IN THE WORLD!



"I HAD TO BORROW MONEY, AND THE ONLY ONES I COULD GET IT FROM WERE LOAN SHARKS! THEY ROBBED ME..."

MY WIFE'S WEDDING RING...THE LAST THING I HAVE TO SELL!



"AND THEN...SOMETHING MORE TERRIBLE HAPPENED!"

UNLESS YOUR WIFE HAS A SPECIALIST'S CARE AND IS HOSPITALIZED, SHE WILL DIE!

OH, NO!













**"BUT THE VERY NEXT DAY...SOMETHING HAPPENED WHICH CHANGED THINGS!"**

MR. BLADE, I'M AN ATTORNEY! I'M CALLING TO INFORM YOU OF THE PASSING OF YOUR UNCLE IN EUROPE! HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE HAS BEEN LEFT TO YOU!



WHAT... IRONY! IF I'D JUST WAITED A DAY, I WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO MAKE THAT PACT! I DON'T NEED THE DEVIL'S HELP NOW! IF... IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY OF SUMMONING HIM AGAIN, TELLING HIM SO!



AH, BUT I AM HERE, MORTAL! YOU CANNOT BREAK THE PACT! IN FIVE YEARS... YOUR SOUL IS MINE!

**"HE DISAPPEARED... LEAVING ME TO FEVERISH PLANS..."**

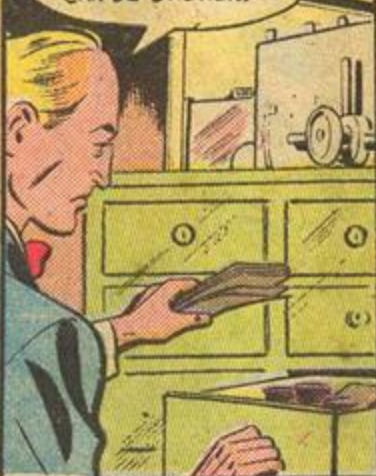
I'VE READ OF HOW OTHERS TRICKED THE DEVIL! MAYBE I CAN FIND THE WAY... IN THESE ANCIENT BOOKS...



...BUT MY SEARCH WAS HOPELESS!

**"AND SO..."**

I'LL NOT USE ANY OF THE DEVIL'S MONEY! MAYBE THEN THE PACT CAN BE BROKEN!



**"AND AS THE DAYS WENT ON..."**

MR. BLADE, I'VE GOT WONDERFUL NEWS! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS... YOUR WIFE IS GOING TO BE WELL AGAIN!

THANK HEAVEN!



**"AS JOHN BLADE FINISHED HIS TRAGIC STORY..."**

...AND SO THERE IS NO ESCAPE! THIS IS THE FATAL DAY WHEN THE DEVIL MUST RECEIVE HIS DUE!... I DIE!

NO, DAD, NO! YOU'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE! HIDE IN THAT CHURCH! YOU ALWAYS SAID THE DEVIL COULDN'T STAND ANYTHING HOLY!

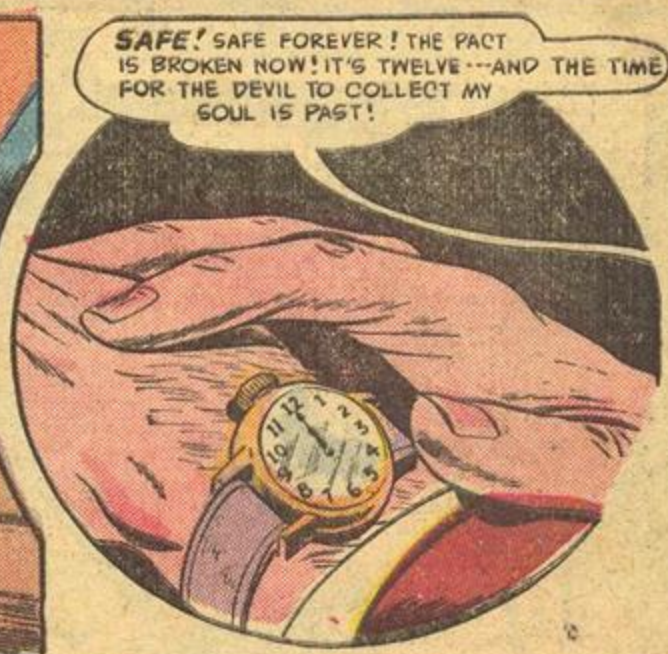
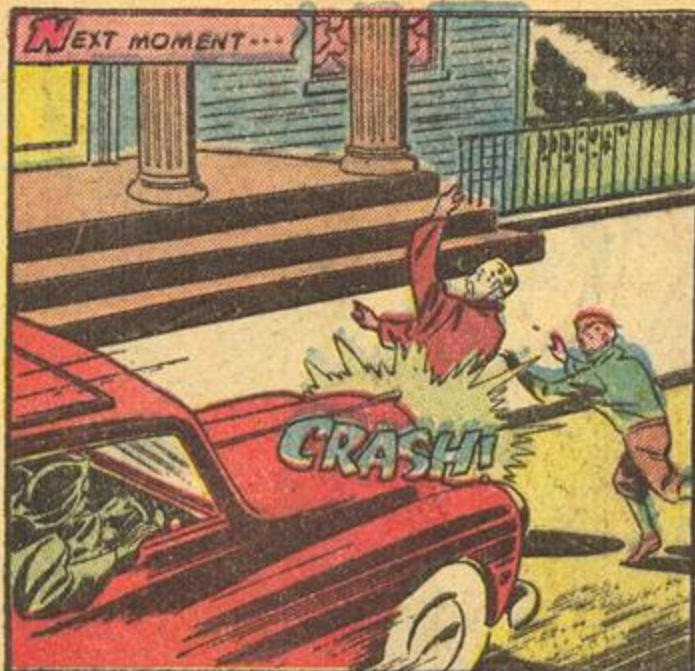


**"BUT SATAN HAD HEARD... AND ISSUED AN EVIL COMMAND!"**

THE CURSED MORTAL MAY ESCAPE ME YET! KILL HIM NOW, OH FIENDS!









**U**NSEEN BY THE PASSING THROG BECAUSE OF THE DEVIL'S BLACK SORCERY, JOHN BLADE MADE HIS FINAL DESPERATE PLEA...

YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME GO! I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THE MONEY... I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY...



ANYTHING?

YES! I'LL GIVE YOU... EVERYTHING I HAVE!



**T**O BOB'S EARS CAME THE DEVIL'S AWFUL DEMAND!

YOU ARE BOB'S FATHER! SIGN HIS SOUL OVER TO ME... AND YOU SHALL GO FREE!

SIGN AWAY MY SON'S... BUT THAT...



NO, YOU MONSTER! DO YOUR WORST! I WON'T BUY MY SOUL AT THE COST OF MY SON'S!



**A**S THE LAST NOTES OF TWELVE RANG OUT---



THEN DIE, MORTAL, FOR PAYMENT OF OUR PACT IS DUE!



**S**UDDENLY... FROM ABOVE... CASCADING OVER THE DEVIL AND HIS EVIL CONTRACT---









# The GHOST of ASHDOWNE HOUSE

BY FAR THE VAINEST DANDY IN ALL ENGLAND IN 1665 WAS LORD JEFFREY CRAVEN, WHO DRESSED TO THE TEETH IN ALL THE LACES AND PLUMED ADORNMENTS OF THE PERIOD!



CRAVEN BUILT AN ENORMOUS HOUSE NEAR COXWELL IN BERKSHIRE---AND THERE THE DANDY ENTERTAINED HUNDREDS OF GUESTS AT HUGE BANQUETS AND DRUNKEN REVELS!



BUT IN FOUR SHORT YEARS, LORD CRAVEN'S EXTRA-VA-GANT WAY OF LIFE DISSIPATED HIS FORTUNE AND LEFT HIM PENNILESS!



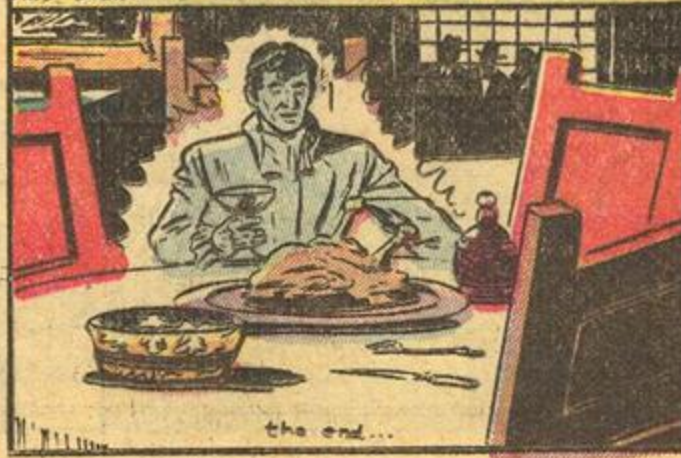
LORD CRAVEN DIED ON APRIL 27th, 1669! BUT APPARENTLY HIS SPIRIT LOVED HIS DANDIFIED WAY OF LIFE TOO MUCH TO GIVE IT UP---FOR HIS GHOST CAN STILL BE SEEN ON DARK NIGHTS, WALKING THE ROAD NEAR ASHDOWNE HOUSE, AS IF LOOKING FOR COMPANY!



MANY PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE RAGGED DANDY'S GHOST STANDING AT THE WINDOW OF HIS HAUNTED HOUSE, RAISING HIS GLASS IN A TOAST TO SOMEONE ONLY HE CAN SEE!



A FEW OF THE BOLDER WATCHERS HAVE EVEN CLIMBED ONTO THE ROOF OF ONE OF THE WINGS AND GAZED INTO THE LARGE BANQUET HALL--WHERE THE GHOSTLY RAGGED DANDY WAS SEEN SITTING AT THE HEAD OF HIS REVELERS' TABLE, LAUGHING AND DRINKING WITH HIS INVISIBLE GUESTS!





# The CURSE of UKPONG









THAT NIGHT, ALONE BY THEIR FIRE, AS THE AIR BRISTLES WITH A THOUSAND JUNGLE NOISES---

I SHOULD HAVE WALKED OFF WHEN THE NATIVES DID! IF I THOUGHT YOU'D STAND HALF A CHANCE OUT HERE ALONE, I'D DO JUST THAT!

BUT YOU **WON'T**, FERRIS! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR PROFESSIONAL GUIDES--- YOUR CODE OF HONOR IS THAT YOU STICK BY YOUR CLIENT! YOU WON'T GO!

YOU'RE PRETTY SURE OF THINGS, CRAVEN--- BUT ONE WORD OF ADVICE! THESE NATIVES HAVE **WAYS OF STRIKING BACK!** CALL IT WITCHCRAFT, VODOO, WHATEVER YOU LIKE--- **BUT IT CAN WORK!**

**RUBBISH!** I'M GOING TO SLEEP LIKE A BABY TONIGHT, AND TOMORROW I'LL BAY MY FIRST LION! GOOD NIGHT, FERRIS!

LATER---AS BOTH MEN SLEEP---A STRANGE MIST SWIRLS BEFORE CRAVEN'S TENT---

AND AWAKENED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF SOME DREAD PRESENCE---

THERE'S--- **SOMETHING IN HERE!** THAT MIST--- **IT'S BEGINNING TO TAKE ON SHAPE!**

**UKPONG! UKPONG!**

HE'S COME BACK! FERRIS--- **HELP... HELP!**

WHAT HAPPENED, MAN? **SPEAK UP!**

IT WAS SOME KIND OF VISION! I--- I THOUGHT I SAW THAT NATIVE'S **GHOST!** IT WAS A DREAM, OF COURSE---

THAT **WASN'T** A DREAM, CRAVEN! THAT'S **YORUBA MAGIO!** THIS MIGHT SOUND FANTASTIC, BUT YOU'RE IN **GRAVE DANGER!** WE'D BETTER BREAK CAMP NOW!

I'M NOT BEING CHASED OFF BY **THAT ROT!** YOU CAN TURN IN, FERRIS--- I'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW!







THERE ISN'T A TRACE OF HIM!  
WHAT COULD HAVE... THAT  
SOUND!

GROWRR!



GOOD LORD! IT'S SOME  
KIND OF LION-LIKE BEAST,  
AND YET IT MUST BE  
HIM!

RRR-RR



WAIT, CRAVEN! YOU  
NEED HELP! I CAN  
--- OH-HH!

POW!



COME BACK, MAN! YOU CAN'T FIGHT  
THIS ALONE! COME BACK!



SOME TIME LATER, BESIDE A STILL JUNGLE POOL, THE  
THING THAT IS PART BEAST, PART MAN, GREEDILY SLAKES  
HIS TERRIBLE THIRST---

FIRST WATER, THEN FOOD! RAW FLESH,  
WITH FANGS TO TEAR AND RIP!  
FANGS TO KILL--- KILL!



SUDDENLY---

GARR-RR!

--- KILL!



WITH BEASTIAL STRENGTH, THE THING THAT WAS  
CRAVEN BATTLES WITH ANIMAL FURY---





BUT DEATH LOOMS FOR THE  
HALF-HUMAN BEAST...UNTIL...



THE LEOPARD SLAIN, TENSE SECONDS  
FOLLOW AS THE TWO STARE AT EACH  
OTHER IN GROWING RECOGNITION...

HOW...**STRANGE** THIS IS!  
I FEEL AS THOUGH I WERE  
PART OF THAT BEAST...AND  
HE PART OF **ME!**



HE'S COME TO ME!  
HE'S LICKING MY  
HAND...



I **AM** LIKE HIM! WE ARE  
TRULY ONE! TOGETHER, WE  
WILL HUNT THE JUNGLE...  
NEVER TO BE SEPARATED!  
ONLY TO KILL... **KILL!**



THREE WEEKS LATER, AS FERRIS HEADS FOR GOVERNMENT  
HEADQUARTERS TO TURN IN HIS REPORT, A GROUP OF NATIVES  
SEEK HIM OUT...

WE NEED YOUR HELP, MIGHTY HUNTER! A  
GREAT LION AND A MAN-BEAST HUNT  
TOGETHER IN THE JUNGLE! AT NIGHT  
THEY CREEP INTO OUR VILLAGE  
---KILL OUR PEOPLE!

THEY MUST MEAN  
**CRAVEN!** THIS  
IS THE LEAD I'VE  
BEEN WAITING  
FOR!



TAKE ME TO YOUR VILLAGE!  
I WILL DO WHAT I CAN!

GOOD,  
BWANA!  
WE GO  
NOW!





THAT EVENING, AT THE NATIVE VILLAGE...

HURRY, PLACE THE BRANCHES OVER THE PIT! IT WILL BE DARK SOON, AND THE GREAT BEASTS WILL BE SEARCHING FOR THEIR KILL!



TAKING POSITIONS BEHIND DENSE FOLIAGE, THEIR LONG WAIT IS CLIMAXED BY A THROATY GROWL...

IT COME, BWANA! IT IS THE MAN-BEAST!

GOOD! HE MUST SMELL THE RAW MEAT WE HAVE PLACED AT THE PIT!



TWO SAVAGE FORMS LEAP INTO THE OPEN!



THEN...

EEE...YOWWW!



BWANA! THE LION ESCAPES!

NEVER MIND THAT! PUT THE ROPES AROUND THIS ONE AND BRING HIM TO THE HUT! HURRY!



THIS SEDATIVE WILL HELP YOU SLEEP! AS SOON AS WE CAN, I'LL MOVE YOU OUT... GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL!

IT'S NO USE! IT'S TOO LATE!



WAIT! THE LION... NOTHING MUST HAPPEN TO HIM! HE POSSESSES MY SPIRIT! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HIM, HAPPENS TO ME! IT'S THE CURSE OF UKPONG!

HOLD ON, CRAVEN! I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER SEDATIVE!







I'LL HAVE THIS  
READY IN A...

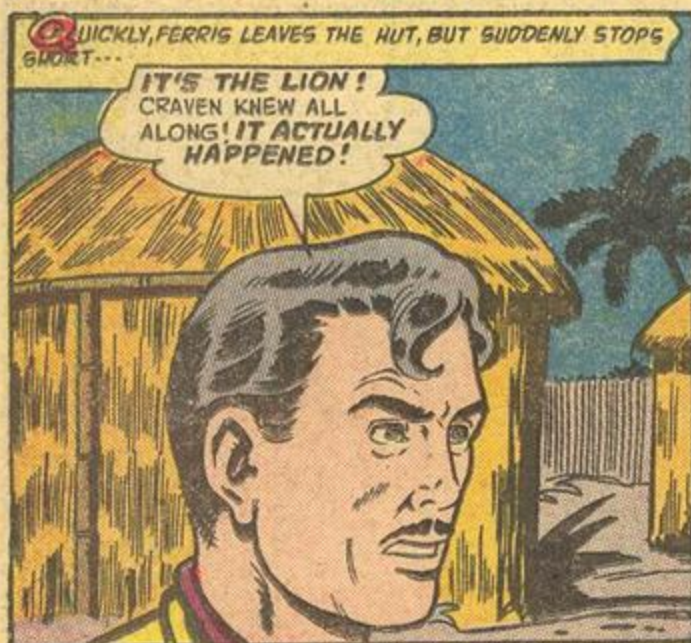


GREAT HEAVENS!  
THAT SPEAR...IT ISN'T  
REAL!

ARR-GHHH!



THE SPEAR...IT'S  
GONE! B...BUT HE'S  
DEAD!



QUICKLY, FERRIS LEAVES THE HUT, BUT SUDDENLY STOPS  
SHORT...

IT'S THE LION!  
CRAVEN KNEW ALL  
ALONG! IT ACTUALLY  
HAPPENED!



THAT'S THE SAME SPEAR I SAW IN  
CRAVEN'S CHEST...AND IN EXACTLY  
THE SAME SPOT!



SO IT'S OVER AT LAST! HE'S PAID FOR  
HIS CRIME, BUT THE MARK OF THE BEAST  
IS GONE! THANK HEAVENS HIS SPIRIT HAS  
BEEN RETURNED IN DEATH!



THE WORLD WILL PROBABLY NOT BELIEVE IT,  
BUT I'VE SEEN IT AND KNOW IT'S SO! THE  
CURSE OF UKPONG HAS BEEN  
FULFILLED!

THE END!  
(8)