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ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

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The PHANTOM SEEKER



STRANGE FORCES ARE RELEASED WHEN DEATH STRIKES IN THE NIGHT...STRANGER AND MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE CRUNCH OF CRUMPLED STEEL AND THE ROAR OF SPURTING STEAM! SOMEWHERE IN THE SHATTERED WRECKAGE IS A FIGURE THAT CANNOT DIE... A SHAPE THAT STALKS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE AS THE PHANTOM SEEKER!

LATE ONE NIGHT...IN THE CLUB CAR OF A TRAIN HURLING ACROSS THE COUNTRY-SIDE...

THAT CHICK'S BEEN LOOKING AROUND FOR A WHOLE HOUR, AS IF SHE'S EXPECTING SOMEONE... AND IT'S THE ONE THING THAT'S KEPT ME FROM SPEAKING TO HER! ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE SEEMS RATHER NERVOUS... SO WHY NOT BREAK THE ICE?

MY NAME'S TED WARREN, HONEY! I DON'T WANT TO HORN IN... BUT I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHETHER YOU'RE ALONE!

I'M MADGE DONALD! GORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN MORE SOCIABLE, BUT I'VE HAD A TERRIBLE FEELING THAT YOU AND I AREN'T ALONE... THAT THERE'S SOMETHING IN THIS CAR WE CAN'T SEE!

I SUPPOSE I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR FEELING JUMPY... WHEN THIS GHOST HYSTERIA SEEMS TO BE SWEEPING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY! BUT I'M AN OLD HAND AT THE SUPERNATURAL, MADGE... I MAKE MY LIVING WRITING ABOUT IT... AND THERE'S NO USE GETTING YOURSELF STEAMED UP ABOUT THINGS THAT DON'T EXIST!



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BUT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
CAN'T BE WRONG! THAT
THING'S **EVIL**...IT CAUSES
SOME KIND OF HORRIBLE
ACCIDENT EVERY TIME
IT'S SEEN!

O.K....BUT IS IT SEEN?
YOU SAY YOU SENSE
SOMETHING, HONEY...
LET'S SEE WHETHER
WE CAN **FIND** IT!



UP AHEAD, THE LOCOMOTIVE WAIRS INTO THE NIGHT...AND
IN THE NEXT THUDDING INSTANT...



**GOOD
LORD...
WHAT IS
IT?**

DON'T YOU KNOW--HAVEN'T YOU
READ THE DESCRIPTIONS IN THE
PAPERS? **OTHER** PEOPLE
HAVE SEEN IT IN PLANES...IN
THE PATH OF CYCLONES...
AND THEY'VE
DIED!



SOMETHING AWFUL'S
GOING TO HAPPEN
TO THIS TRAIN! I'M
GETTING OFF...
NOW!

**WAIT
...DON'T
JUMP!**



AGAIN, THE AGOURING HOOT OF THE
ENGINE DRIFTS INTO THE DARKNESS
--AND THEN--



**NO...NO
...DON'T
HOLD
ME!**



SEEING A GHOST IS
BAD ENOUGH...
BUT WE'RE LUCKY
WE WEREN'T
KILLED!

OH!



BLAM!



AS THE FIRST MUTED SCREAMS RISE FROM THE TANGLED STEEL---

NOW YOU KNOW WHY THAT FIEND WAS ON THE TRAIN! IT MEANS DEATH---EVERYWHERE IT SHOWS ITSELF!

THERE'S NO USE THINKING ABOUT IT NOW! COME ON---WE'VE GOT TO HELP THE INJURED!



TWO HOURS LATER---WITH THE LAST BROKEN FORM LIFTED FROM THE WRECK---

I BLAME THE PHANTOM---BUT THESE DEATHS WERE JUST AS MUCH MY FAULT! WHY DIDN'T I PULL THE EMERGENCY CORD AND STOP THE TRAIN---

HONEY, THAT KIND OF QUESTION CAN LEAD TO A BREAKDOWN! BUT IF YOU THINK YOUR CONSCIENCE NEEDS EASING---

I KNOW WHAT CAN DO IT!



THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE PHANTOM IS AROUND WHENEVER DEATH STRIKES ON A LARGE SCALE! MAYBE IT'S A CREATURE OF BOUNDLESS EVIL---MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER REASON---BUT WHY BE TORMENTED BY DOUBT? SOME PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY RECEPTIVE TO SPIRITS, MADGE---AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM!



GOOD HEAVENS! DO YOU MEAN YOU EXPECT ME TO SEE THAT HORRIBLE THING AGAIN---BECAUSE IT WILL BE SEEKING ME?

NO, HONEY---WE'RE GOING TO DO THE SEEKING! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM---AND LEARN WHAT'S BEHIND THESE TRYSTS WITH DEATH!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT---

DON'T TELL ME YOU LIVE HERE, TED!

GOOD GOSH, NO! IT'S JUST A HOUSE THAT USED TO BE HAUNTED---AND SINCE IT ATTRACTED GHOSTS ONCE---I'M HOPING OUR PHANTOM CAN BE COAXED INTO APPEARING!



JUST---MOCKED BY THE HOLLOW ECHO OF THEIR OWN FOOTSTEPS---

TED---I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I CAN GO THROUGH WITH IT! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS---AND ONCE WE SUMMON THE CREATURE---IT'LL BE TOO LATE TO ESCAPE!

MAYBE WE ARE MESSING WITH SOMETHING TOO BIG TO HANDLE, MADGE---BUT AFTER WHAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH ALREADY---WE CAN'T BACK OUT!



A MOMENT LATER---

THAT'S IT---CLOSE YOUR EYES AND CONCENTRATE! TRY TO RE-CAPTURE HOW YOU FELT ON THAT TRAIN---WHEN YOU KNEW WHAT WAS THERE!

THERE WAS A CHILL---THE AWARENESS OF SOMETHING STARRING---STARING WITH LIFELESS EYES---





IT'S HIDEOUS--
IT'S LIKE A CURSE
WAITING TO
STRIKE!



BABY, SWEETHEART--
DON'T LET YOUR-
SELF BE CARRIED
AWAY BY A MERE
RECOLLECTION!

BUT IT'S HERE!
I SEE IT--
BEHIND
YOU!



WITH THE CHILLING FEATURES LIKE A SPOON OF EVIL IN
THE DARKNESS--

IF IT COMES--YOU KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT! LET'S
GET OUT OF HERE--
WHILE WE'RE
STILL ALIVE!

WAIT! MAYBE THIS TIME
IT ISN'T A SIGN OF
DOOM--MAYBE IT
KNOWS WE HAD A
REASON FOR BRING-
ING IT FORTH!



WE SUMMONED YOU BECAUSE WE
THINK THAT IN SOME WAY--WE CAN
HELP! IF YOU UNDERSTAND--
RAISE YOUR ARM!

HUMANS ARE BURDENED BY THE PAST
--AND ANY GHOST THAT WAS ONCE
HUMAN MUST HAVE SOME TIES WITH
MEMORIES--THINGS THAT WILL LIVE
LONG AFTER THE PHYSICAL FORM
WAS MOLODERED IN ITS GRAVE! IF
THAT EXPLAINS YOUR MISSION--
GIVE US A GLIMPSE OF
THE LIFE YOU USED TO
KNOW!



IS A WEIRD AMBER LIGHT BREAKS
AROUND THE PHANTOM--

IT'S CHANGING.
TED--AND HEAVEN
KNOWS INTO
WHAT!

KEEP YOUR HEAD!
WE MAY BE DUE
FOR A JOLTING
SURPRISE--BUT
AT LEAST IT'LL
BE MORE NEARLY
HUMAN!



IN THE SPACE OF
SECONDS--

NOTICE THAT COSTUME?
THAT'S THE WAY HE
USED TO BE--
OVER A
HUNDRED
YEARS
AGO!



OLIVIA--
OLIVIA! MY
GOD, WHY DID
IT HAVE TO
HAPPEN--
WHY?

SLOWLY THE WALLS--THE VERY ROOM--
RECEDES AS THE PRESENT MERGES
WITH THE SPECTRAL PAST!

TED--WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
US? WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

I ASKED THE GHOST
FOR A GLIMPSE INTO
HIS LIFE! IT MAY HOLD
A NEW TOUCH OF
HORROR, HONEY--
BUT THAT'S WHAT
WE'RE GETTING!



AS THE NIGHT MIST LIFTS OVER A
LOVELY ROAD--

SOMEHOW THIS
SCENE SEEMS
VAGUELY FAMILIAR
--BUT WHERE'S
THE GHOST?

HE JUST PASSED
THROUGH THAT
GROVE OF CYPRESSES!
HE'S OPENING A
GATE, TED--
THE GATE OF
A CEMETERY!



A MOMENT LATER--

**OLIVIA!
OLIVIA!**

WE ASKED FOR
IT, MADGE! COME
ON--THERE'S
NO REUSE IN
BEING AFRAID
AT THIS
STAGE!



I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD KNOW
HOW MUCH I LOVED YOU, OLIVIA--BUT
DEATH KNEW! DEATH KNEW--OR IT
WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN YOU FROM
ME--TWO DAYS BEFORE
OUR MARRIAGE!



WITH THE SPECTRAL FACE LINED BY THE FLICKERING
ETERNITY OF A GHOSTLY CANDLE--

DEATH! YOU FOUL, YOU GRIGLY DE-
STROYER--CAN YOU HEAR ME? DEATH,
THIS IS YOUR REALM--THIS IS YOUR
VICTIM--SHOW YOURSELF!

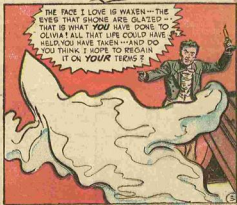


SOMETHING STIRS IN THE WEAVING SHADOWS--A MIST
BEYOND SEEING--A CHILL BEYOND FEELING!

OH!



THE FACE I LOVE IS WAXEN--THE
EYES THAT SHONE ARE GLAZED--
THAT IS WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO
OLIVIA! ALL THAT LIFE COULD HAVE
HELD, YOU HAVE TAKEN--AND DO
YOU THINK I HOPE TO REGAIN
IT ON YOUR TERMS?











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The HOLLAND HAUNT



FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, PEOPLE HAVE THRILLED TO THE SUPERNATURAL--TO TALES OF STRANGE BRECKERS WHO HAVE HAUNTED COUNTLESS MID-NIGHTS! BUT HERE'S SOMETHING NEW--SOMETHING DIFFERENT! IT'S THE STORY OF ONE OF THE MOST ASTOUNDING SPIRITS EVER TO EMERGE FROM THE MYSTERIOUS UNKNOWN--THE HOLLAND HAUNT!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE HAND OF FATE, THAT LATTER WHICH FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH PETER VAN NOSTRAND IN LONDON--

IT'S FROM MY UNCLE HENDRIK IN NEW YORK, BRIAN--AND IT'S BEEN CHASING ME ALL OVER THE MAP AND SOOD GRUB--IT'S POSTMARKED OVER SIX MONTHS AGO!

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NEVER STAYING PUT IN ONE PLACE, PETE!



HMM...MAYBE I'LL START SETTLING DOWN NOW! MY UNCLE'S SETTING OLD AND WANTS ME TO COME HOME--SEEMS ANXIOUS TO GET ME ABOUT SOMETHING! I'LL WRITE HIM THAT I'M ON MY WAY!



BACK HOME--OVER THE BIG OCEAN! PETE COULDN'T EXPLAIN THE STRANGE PREMONITION OF IMPENDING DISASTER WHICH HAUNTED HIM--

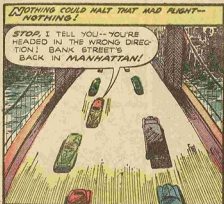
I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED--AND THAT THERE'S NOUSE TO COME! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO SEE UNCLE HENDRIK AT THE PIER!





NOTHING COULD HALT THAT MAD FLIGHT--
NOTHING!

STOP, I TELL YOU-- YOU'RE
HEADED IN THE WRONG DIREC-
TION! BANK STREET'S
BACK IN MANHATTAN!



NO ANSWER! NOTHING BUT THE PALLID BEAM OF
THE SPOTLIGHT--PICKING OUT A STARK TOMBSTONE!



BUT STILL THE STRANGE, HURTLING RACE CONTINUED
--ONLY TO PAUSE WHEN--

BUT--BUT WHY HAVE
YOU BROUGHT ME HERE--
TO A GRAVEYARD?



MERCIFUL HEAVENS! UNCLE
HENDRIK--DEAD! BUT HOW--



THERE WAS NO TIME TO
RALLY FROM THE TRAGIC
BLOW! WITH A LURCH,
THE STRANGE TAXI SWUNG
INTO MOTION, HEADING
BACK--AT BLINDING SPEED!

WAIT! WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT MY UNCLE?
WHY DID YOU BRING
ME HERE?



DID THE STRANGE LITTLE CABBIE
HEAR? FOR HE GAVE NO ANSWER--
AND NEXT SECOND, AS IF BY SOME
EBERIE MAGIC, THEY HAD REACHED
THEIR DESTINATION!

UNCLE HENDRIK'S
HOUSE! BUT A
SECOND AGO, WE WERE
BACK THERE--IN
THE CEMETERY!



THERE HE GOES--AND THE
TAXI'S FADING AWAY, DIS-
APPEARING! IT'S INCRED-
IBLE, BUT THERE'S ONLY
ONE EXPLANATION! THAT
WAS NO HUMAN--BUT A
STALKING GHOST FROM
OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN
ITSELF!



AND FROM WITHIN THE OLD HOUSE--

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO--HE'S HERE! OH, IF YOU'D ONLY GOT TEN RID OF HIM BACK AT THE PIER, ARNOLD!

IT WAS TOUGH LUCK, BUT IT'LL BE EASIER HERE! --NOW LISTEN! WE'LL WELCOME HIM AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WILL--COME RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN, SEE? BUT DON'T WORRY--HE WON'T HAVE ANY CHANCE TO ENJOY HIS INHERITANCE! HE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER!



YOU WISHED TO SEE--**GREAT SCOTT!** YOU'RE **PETER--PETER VAN NOSTRAND!**

THAT'S RIGHT! WHO ARE YOU?



I'M YOUR COUSIN ARNOLD--AND THAT'S ANNA, MY WIFE! THIS IS A SURPRISE--WE'D GIVEN YOU UP FOR DEAD!

PETER! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT--NOBODY'S HEARD FROM YOU FOR YEARS!



BUT I WROTE UNCLE HENDRIK I WAS COMING! OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD DIED THEN--BUT MY LETTER MUST'VE ARRIVED!

I'M AFRAID IT *DIDN'T!* AND WE WOULD'VE KNOWN SINCE WE WERE LOOKING AFTER THE OLD MAN WHEN THE END CAME! WE STAYED ON HERE, ASSUMING THIS WAS *OUR* HOUSE --UNTIL NOW!



I DON'T GET IT! WHOSE HOUSE IS IT, THEN?

OF COURSE--YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WILL! UNCLE HENDRIK LEFT EVERYTHING TO *YOU*, PETER--THIS HOUSE AND WHATEVER'S IN IT!



HMM M... THAT IS NEWS!

BUT YOU HADN'T BEEN HEARD FROM IN YEARS! THE LAWYERS SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, AND ASSUMED YOU WERE DEAD! MATTER OF FACT, IN TWO MORE MONTHS YOU'D HAVE BEEN JUDGED LEGALLY DEAD, AND THE PROPERTY WOULD'VE GONE TO THE NEXT IN LINE --*ME!*



SO YOU OWN A HOUSE NOW--*COUSIN!* WE'LL GO SEE THE LAWYERS IN THE MORNING AND ARRANGE FOR IT! AND, OF COURSE, ANNA AND I WILL MOVE OUT AS SOON AS YOU WISH!

SORT OF TOUGH FOR YOU --ME SHOWING UP, HUH? MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED MISSING!





DEETER REMAINS FOR ONE! BUT MUST STRAIN HIS EARS HIS ATTENTION KIDNAP THE FOOTPLAC!

HMM... A PARTIALLY-BURNED ENVELOPE! AN ENGLISH STAMP AND POSTMARKED LONDON-- ON THE VERY DAY I WROTE TO UNCLE HENDRIK! ARNOLD SAID MY LETTER HAD NEVER ARRIVED-- BUT THIS MAKES ME WONDER!



LATER--

WE'VE

NOT YET, ARNOLD--

BEEN THINKING! NOW

IT WOULD BE EASY-- DID PETER KNOW LINGLE NOW--YOU COULD MUFFLE YOUR GUN WITH A PILLOW--

HE KNOWS OTHER THINGS-- LIKE WHERE THOSE OLD DOCUMENTS ARE HIDDEN!

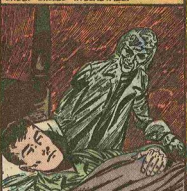


THAT'S RIDICULOUS--WE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THEM OURSELVES IF OLD HENDRIK HADN'T GABBLER IN HIS DELIRIUM! WE'VE GOT TO FINISH PETER NOW, ARNOLD--BEFORE THE LAWYERS FIND OUT HE'S IN TOWN, AND EVERYTHING'S LOST!

ALL RIGHT-- BUT LET'S WAIT A COUPLE OF HOURS FIRST! IF PETER DOES KNOW WHERE THOSE PAPERS ARE, HE MAY MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO GET THEM TONIGHT-- AND LEAD US TO THEM!



MEANWHILE, WITHIN--NOBODY OVER THE SLEEPING MAN--THE DARK GHOST SAILED INSCRUTABLY--



AND IN PETER'S SLEEP--SHOULD HAVE AN OLD ARNOLD FORMED--

IT IS A BARGAIN, MYNHEER! HERE IS THE GOLD-- AND THE LAND IS MINE!

YOU NOW OWN A SECTION OF NEW AMSTERDAM, PETER! MAYHAP SOME DAY IT MAY PROVE EVEN MORE VALUABLE THAN IN THIS YEAR 1650!



NOW TO PUT THESE DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE--AND I KNOW THE VERY SPOT! THE SECRET COMPARTMENT!



THE WEIRD DREAM PROCEEDED--AND PETER SAW THE LITTLE MAN ENTER A HOUSE, APPROACH THE HALL NEAR AN ORNATE BUST! A TOUCH OF HIS FINGER--AND A CONCEALED DRAWER SLID OPEN!



GOOD GOSH! I GUESS IT WAS A DREAM--IT HAD TO BE--BUT IT WAS SO VIVID! I--I ALMOST FEEL AS IF I'M STILL BACK IN THE DAYS OF ANCIENT NEW AMSTERDAM!



NOPE--THAT'S 20TH CENTURY NEW YORK, OUTSIDE--I DID DREAM IT! BUT I DON'T GET IT! HOW COULD THAT LITTLE DUTCHMAN IN MY DREAM WAS THE IMAGE OF THE GUY WHO SAVED MY LIFE ON THE PIER--AND THE TAX-DRIVER AS WELL?



ALL THREE--AND THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE MAN!--HEY! THAT BUST I DREAMED ABOUT, NEAR WHERE THE OLD DUTCHMAN HAD THOSE PAPERS--SEEMS TO ME I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE HALL DOWNSTAIRS!



I'M POWERLESS--BEFORE A STRANGE COMPULSION! I'VE GOT TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND SEE WHETHER IT'S THE SAME BUST!

THERE HE GOES! I TOLD YOU HE KNOWS SOMETHING!



NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--IT'S THE SAME ONE AS IN MY DREAM! LET'S SEE--THE LITTLE DUTCHMAN PRESSED THE MOLDING ABOUT HERE--AND IF A SECRET DRAWER OPENS, I'LL KNOW I'M STILL IN SOME SORT OF NIGHTMARE!



HOLY SMOKE! THERE IS A HIDDEN DRAWER--WITH SOMETHING IN--SIDE IT!



LET'S SEE--*WOW!* IT'S AN OLD DEED TO PROPERTY AT THE FOOT OF OLD NEW AMSTERDAM--PRESENT-DAY MANHATTAN! WHY, IT MUST BE WORTH *MILLIONS!*

YOU'RE RIGHT, PETER--*IT IS!* AND HOW *LUCKY* THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND IT!

ARNOLD! BUT WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THE AUTOMATIC? DID YOU THINK I WAS A PROWLER? BETTER POINT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

IT'S AIMED *RIGHT WHERE I WANT IT!* WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR THOSE PAPERS! *HAND THEM OVER!*



WHY SHOULD I--WHEN THEY BELONG TO *MRS.* DIDN'T YOU TELL MR. UNCLE HENDRIK HAD LEFT EVERYTHING TO HER--THE HOUSE AND ALL THAT WAS IN IT?

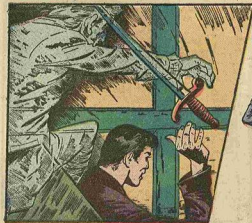
YES, BUT NO-BODY KNOWS YOU'VE RETURNED--NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE *EVEN ALIVE!* YOU'LL BE DECLARED *LEGALLY DEAD* WITHIN TWO MONTHS--AND I'LL OWN THIS HOUSE! *THEY'LL NEVER FIND YOUR BODY, PETER!*

DO YOU THINK I'D LET YOU STAND BETWEEN ME AND A *FORTUNE?* IT DIDN'T WORK OUT THAT WAY WITH *UNCLE HENDRIK!*

YOU MEAN YOU--YOU *KILLED HIM?*

MEANWHILE--A SPECTER LISTENED!

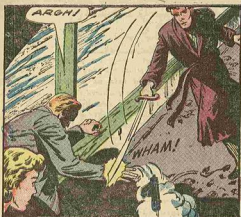
KILLED HIM? CALL IT HELPING ALONG THE PROCESS OF OLD AGE BY AN OVERDOSE OF MEDICINE! AND NOW--*THOSE PAPERS, PLEASE!*



PETER DIDN'T STOP TO SPECULATE ON THE SWORD WHICH DROPPED INTO HIS HAND, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE! ARMED NOW, HE DARED THE GUN--SWUNG INTO ACTION!

OKAY, BUDDY! HERE IT COMES!





WIZARD of EVIL



YOU'VE READ STRANGE STORIES ABOUT DRAGONS---AND SCOFFED! BUT DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME BASIS TO THESE LEGENDS---THAT DRAGON-WEIRD DENIZENS OF THE UNKNOWN, MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE EXISTED---AND MIGHT REAPPEAR ON EARTH SOME DAY? RIDICULOUS, YOU SAY? WELL, WE GUARANTEE THAT THIS ASTONISHING, SPINE-CHILLING TALE WILL START YOU WONDERING---AND SHIVERING!

ON THE GLOOMY, MUST-SHROUDED MOORS NEAR THE TOWN OF CAMELFORD, ENGLAND---

THERE IT IS---LACHAN CASTLE! IT'S CERTAINLY ANCIENT AND FORBIDDING ENOUGH TO CONTAIN THE SECRET I'M SEEKING---BUT I HOPE THAT BARON LACHAN ISN'T THE FOR-BIDDING TYPE!



MY FATHER, THE BARON, IS DEAD---I'M THE LAST OF THE LACHANS! WHAT IS IT YOU WISH?

MY NAME IS GEORGE BAINESFORD, MISS LACHAN---AND I'D LIKE YOUR PERMISSION TO EXAMINE YOUR OLD FAMILY ARCHIVES AND RECORDS! YOU SEE, I'M AN AMERICAN WRITER, DOING RESEARCH FOR AN HISTORICAL BOOK ABOUT KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS---AND I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT LACHAN CASTLE HOLDS MANY SECRETS ABOUT THOSE OLDEN DAYS!



MY PREVIOUS RESEARCHES INDICATE THAT CAMELOTT IS THE LOCATION OF THE ANCIENT TOWN OF CAMELOT, WHERE KING ARTHUR HELD COURT! IN ADDITION, THE FAMOUS ENCHANTRESS KNOWN AS VIVIAN, THE LADY OF THE LAKE, IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAD HER CASTLE NEARBY--AND SINCE LACHAN IS OLD ENGLISH FOR LAKE, MY HUNCH IS THAT THIS IS VIVIAN'S ANCIENT CASTLE!

WHY, THAT'S ODD--MY NAME IS VIVIAN! A DAUGHTER IN EVERY GENERATION OF OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT NAME--ACCORDING TO SOME ANCIENT CUSTOM!



THEN MY HUNCH MUST BE RIGHT--AND YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES MAY PROVE THAT YOU'RE A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THAT SORCERESS, THE LADY OF THE LAKE!

HMM, IT'S WORTH LOOKING INTO! THE FAMILY ARCHIVES ARE KEPT IN A LOCKED VAULT IN THE CELLAR--THEY'VE BEEN UNTOUCHED FOR GENERATIONS, BUT I'LL UNLOCK THE VAULT FOR YOU! AND I'LL TELL THE BUTLER YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE WITH US UNTIL YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR RESEARCH!



AFTER DAYS AND NIGHTS OF PORING OVER THE ANCIENT, MUSTY RECORDS--

I--I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT DEFEAT! I'VE TRACED YOUR FAMILY BACK TO THE 6TH CENTURY--BUT THERE ARE GAPS IN THE ARCHIVES CORRESPONDING TO KING ARTHUR'S ERA, AS IF THERE WERE A SECRET THAT SOMEONE IN PAST DAYS WANTED TO HIDE!

YOU'VE DONE YOUR BEST--YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL SO GLOOMY ABOUT IT! PERHAPS YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU GET OUT OF THIS MUSTY VAULT AND TAKE A WALK WITH ME AROUND THE GROUNDS TO CLEAR YOUR HEAD!



HE'LL BE LEAVING NOW THAT HIS WORK PROVED FRUITLESS--AND I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO!--I GUESS I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM! OH, IF ONLY I DID HAVE THE BLOOD OF AN ENCHANTRESS IN ME, I'D MAKE HIM WANT TO KISS ME--

STRANGE--I HAVE AN OVERPOWERING IMPULSE TO KISS HER!



VIVIAN--
DARLING!



TELL ME, IS IT AN AMERICAN HABIT FOR A MAN TO KISS A GIRL SO SOON AFTER MEETING HER?

ONLY IF HE'S FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER, HONEY! AND THERE'S ANOTHER AMERICAN HABIT--CARVING THE INITIALS OF SWEETHEARTS ON A TREE! THIS OLD GNARLED OAK WILL DO--





I REMEMBER NOW...THE ANCIENT LEGENDS SAID YOU WERE IMPRISONED IN AN OAK TREE BY VIVIAN, THE LADY OF THE LAKE! AND YOU WERE RELEASED WHEN THIS VIVIAN READ OFF THE SPELL THAT WAS WRITTEN ON THE METAL PLATE I UNCOVERED!

...AVE, AND FOR UNCOVERING THAT CURSED SPELL, YE SHALL HAVE ANYTHING YE NAME...A KINGDOM, A KING'S TREASURE, ANYTHING!



BUT YOU, VIVIAN...YE WILL DIE A HORRIBLE, AGONIZING DEATH! YOU ARE THE DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THAT DECEITFUL ENCHANTRESS WHO TRICKED ME INTO REVEALING MY MAGIC SPELLS...WHICH SHE PROMPTLY TURNED AGAINST ME, IMPRISONING ME IN THIS TOMB OF WOOD! SHE IS LONG SINCE DEAD...BUT NOW YOU WILL FEEL THE FURY OF MY VENGEANCE!



YE'LL BE TORN APART, DEVoured BY THE MOST RENDISH BEASTS IN CREATION--MY **DRAGONS!** YE PROBABLY THINK THEM MYTHICAL CREATURES...BUT THAT IS ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT APPEARED FOR OVER A DOZEN CENTURIES, THE PERIOD IN WHICH I WAS IMPRISONED AND POWERLESS! IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO SUMMON THEM FROM THE **UNKNOWN** INTO THIS WORLD! ALL I NEED DO IS WAIVE MY SORCERER'S STAFF AND CALL MY DEMONS BY NAME...**WATCH!**



MOGH-BUOTH!

HOLY HANNAH...THAT THING IS **REAL!** AND THE FAIRY-FALE DRAGONS ARE ANGELS COMPARED TO THAT **DEMON!**



AH, YE MUST BE RAVENOUS AFTER HAVING FASTED FOR SO MANY CENTURIES, **MOGH-BUOTH!** BUT NOW YE CAN FEED WELL...**THERE IS YOUR PREY!**



WAIT, O MIGHTY MERLIN--LISTEN TO MY WORDS! LET YOUR REVENGE WAIT...THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT, **WORLD-SHAKING** MATTERS FOR YOU TO ATTEND TO!

I WILL KEEP YOU...BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FREEING ME! BUT I WARN YOU--IF THIS IS A TRICK TO SAVE THE GIRL, YOU TOO **SHALL DIE!**



BE GONE, MOGH-BUOTH!...NOW TELL ME, WHAT WORLD-SHAKING MATTERS DID YOU SPEAK OF?

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED ENORMOUSLY SINCE YOU WERE IMPRISONED, O MIGHTY SORCERER! IN KING ARTHUR'S TIME, YOU WERE THE REAL POWER BEHIND THE THRONE, BECAUSE NONE COULD OVERCOME ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS AND YOUR BLACK MAGIC...BUT NOW THERE LIVES A MAGICIAN WITH EVEN GREATER POWERS THAN YOURS, MERLIN!



THIS MAGICIAN DWELLS IN THE LAND OF THE VOLGA AND THE URALS, SPREADING OVER ALMOST ALL OF EUROPE AND ASIA...AND HE IS PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE WORLD, INCLUDING ENGLAND!

HE HAS AN ARMY OF MILLIONS OF RED KNIGHTS, AND HIS MAGICAL WEAPONS BELCH FIRE AND SMOKE, DEALING OUT INCREDIBLE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION! THE WORLD IS TOO SMALL FOR TWO MIGHTY MAGICIANS...ONE OF YOU MUST CONQUER THE OTHER!



YOU SHOULD COMBAT THE RED MAGICIAN NOW WITH ALL THE FORCES AT YOUR COMMAND, MERLIN...BEFORE HE LEARNS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND TAKES STEPS TO DESTROY YOU! THEN, AFTER YOUR MAGIC HAS CONQUERED HIS, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR VENGEANCE ON VIVIEN!

GEORGE, HOW COULD YOU...?

SILENCE, SORCERESS! HE HAS GIVEN ME EXCELLENT ADVICE...AND I WILL FOLLOW IT!



BEGONE, SORCERESS...REMAIN CHAINED IN THE DUNGEON OF YOUR CASTLE UNTIL I HAVE DISPOSED OF THE RED MAGICIAN!

OH... HHH!



NOW I WILL ATTACK THE RED MAGICIAN WHO IS THE MIGHTIEST WIZARD OF EVIL! I WILL SEND ALL THE FORCES OF THE NETHERWORLD AND THE FORBIDDEN REALMS AGAINST HIM...WHOLE ARMIES OF DRAGONS AND HYDRA-HEADED MONSTERS WILL DESCEND UPON HIM AND HIS KNIGHTS! RISE UP, MOGH-BUOTH...COME, GUR-DRAOSH...LOTHN-AFSADDU...KNA-GURODH...

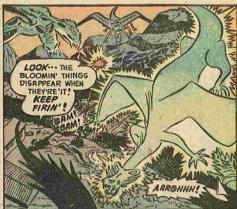


GO...GO TO THE LAND OF THE URALS AND THE VOLGA...FALL UPON THE ARMY OF THE RED KNIGHTS AND ALL ITS LEADERS!

BUT A SCANT HALF-MILE AWAY, AT AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN EMPLACEMENT OUTSIDE OF CAMELFORD...



WHA...IT'S A BLOOMIN' INVASION...MAYBE FROM AMERS! SHOOT 'EM DOWN, WHAT-EVER THEY ARE!



LOOK... THE BLOOMIN' THINGS DISAPPEAR WHEN THEY'RE IT! KEEP FIRIN'!

ARRGHHH!



MY DRAGONS...THEY'VE BEEN SLAIN!

PROBABLY BY THE RED MAGICIAN'S AGENTS IN ENGLAND...THEY ARE EVERYWHERE! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...KEEP SENDING UP YOUR DRAGONS AND HOPE THAT SOME OF THEM WILL GET THROUGH TO THE LAND OF THE RED KNIGHTS!



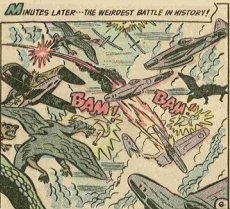
YOU ARE RIGHT! RISE UP, TOR-LHUKAR...ROG-DESHTU...LHO-BRUZAM...

THAT'LL KEEP HIM BUSY FOR A WHILE...NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET DOWN TO THE CASTLE DUNGEON AND FREE VIVIEN!



THEY'RE COMIN' UP FASTER THAN WE CAN KNOCK 'EM DOWN, COLONEL... WE NEED HELP!

IT'S ON THE WAY...A DOZEN SQUADRONS OF FIGHTER PLANES!



MINUTES LATER...THE WEIRDEST BATTLE IN HISTORY!

AT BRITISH SOUTHWEST DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS IN CORNWALL...

OUR PLANES REPORT THE BEASTS KEEP COMING UP FROM THIS AREA HERE... IN THE VICINITY OF LACHAN CASTLE! ORDER OUT A SQUADRON OF HEAVY LANCASTER BOMBERS... WE'LL ATOM-BOMB THE PLACE, IF NECESSARY!

VERY WELL, MR. PRIME MINISTER... WE'LL CLAMP TIGHT SECURITY REGULATIONS AROUND THE NEWS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING! THERE WON'T BE ANY PANIC, BECAUSE THE PRESS AND RADIO WON'T MENTION A WORD ABOUT THOSE BEASTS!

PROVOST MARSHALL L.B.S.

MEANWHILE, IN THE DUNGEON AT LACHAN CASTLE...

GEORGE... YOU CAME TO SAVE ME... YOU DIDN'T MEAN WHAT YOU SAID TO MERLIN!

OF COURSE NOT, DARLING! BUT WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST... EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON YOU! SINCE YOU'RE A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE ORIGINAL VIVIAN, YOU MUST HAVE THE BLOOD OF AN ENCHANTRESS IN YOU... PERHAPS YOU CAN IMPRISON MERLIN IN THE TREE.

THAT WAS THE WAY THE LADY OF THE LAKE DID CENTURIES AGO!

AS SOON AS I KAYO HIM, GRAB HIS SORCERER'S STAFF... YOU MIGHT NEED IT TO WORK THE SPELL! AND REMEMBER... RECITE THE SPELL BACKWARDS... BECAUSE THAT'S HOW THE ANCIENT LEGENDS SAY MERLIN WAS ORIGINALLY IMPRISONED BY THE LADY OF THE LAKE!

I—I AM EXHAUSTING THE SUPPLY OF DRAGONS IN THE NETHERWORLD... THEY ARE KILLED AS FAST AS I GUNP THEM UP! I WILL HAVE TO GUNNOM UP THE DREAD BELIAL HIMSELF... EVEN THOUGH WE MAY DESTROY THE ENTIRE WORLD!

BUT BEFORE MERLIN CAN UTTER THE NECESSARY SATANIC CHANT...



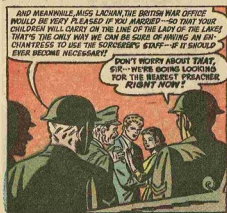
I'LL TIE HIM TO THE TREE BEFORE YOU RECITE THE SPELL! BUT, I SEE BOMBERS WINGING THIS WAY... WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY BEFORE WE'RE BLOWN TO BITS!

I'LL HAVE TO MEMORIZE THE SPELL FIRST... BECAUSE MERLIN'S BODY WILL CONCEAL IT WHEN HE'S AGAINST THE TREE!

CALLING BOMBER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS... THE BEASTS HAVE STOPPED COMING UP... ARE WE STILL TO DROP OUR BOMB LOADS ON LACHAN CASTLE?

NO... CIRCLE ABOVE THE CASTLE AND DROP YOUR BOMBS ONLY IF NEW MONSTERS SHOW UP! MEANWHILE, WE'LL SEND TROOPS OUT TO INVESTIGATE!





The WEREWOLF BURIAL



NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THE WEREWOLF LEGEND BEGAN--BUT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BELIEVE THAT FIENDS OF EVIL CAN TAKE THE SHAPE OF WOLVES IN THE CREEPING STILLNESS OF MIDNIGHT! THEIR GLARING EYES SPELL TERROR--THE MARK OF THEIR UNHOLY FANGS MEANS DOOM--AND THEIR RISING HOWL MEANS ANOTHER VICTIM IS BEING LURED TO THE WEREWOLF BURIAL!

ONE EVENING--IN THE DARKENED CORRIDORS OF A CITY HALL--

THERE'S NOTHING IN THAT OFFICE WORTH STEALING--BUT SOMEONE'S RUMMAGING AROUND INSIDE!



GRRR-R!

NO, COYOS--A TORN THROAT HERE WOULD RUIN EVERYTHING! THE WINDOW--HURRY!









SOON AFTERWARD--

WELL, HONEY... A SHOVEL ISN'T MY IDEA OF A VETERINARY INSTRUMENT... BUT MAYBE COYOS RATED A LITTLE SPECIAL ATTENTION!

THAT'S JUST THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU, STEVE!



SPHEN...

LYCANA, WAIT! DON'T YOU WANT ME TO DRIVE YOU HOME?

IT'S GETTING AWFULLY LATE! NO, STEVE... I DON'T THINK YOU'D FIND ME VERY PLEASANT COMPANY!



IN THE NEXT SECOND--AS IF THAT LOVELY FORM HAD BEEN ENGULFED BY A SUDDEN WAVE OF NIGHT--

SHE'S GONE--AND GREAT GUNS-- THAT'S THE IMPRINT OF A WOLF'S FOOT! IS THAT WHY SHE WOULDN'T GET INTO THE CAR? THERE CAN'T BE ANY OTHER EXPLANATION... SHE MUST HAVE HAD ANOTHER OF THOSE BIG BRUTES ALONG WITH HER!



NO USE WONDERING HOW A SHOULDER WOUND KILLED COYOS... BUT WHY WOULD A GIRL LIKE LYCANA HAVE SUCH A QUEER PET IN THE FIRST PLACE? HER SUDDEN REFUSAL TO ENTER MY LIVING ROOM TONIGHT... THIS WHOLE BUSINESS ABOUT BURYING COYOS... THERE'S A LOT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT CHICK! FUNNY THAT THE LITTLE I DO KNOW ABOUT HER HAS GOTTEN ME IN BAD WITH GILDA... BUT I'LL LET HER COOL OFF UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT!



MEANWHILE--

NEVER SAW YOU GET HOME THIS EARLY FROM A DATE, GILDA! THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH A BOY FRIEND LIKE STEVE... A VET'S ALWAYS ON CALL!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN-- AND ADD THAT HE'S ONE VETERINARIAN WHO CAN GO TO THE DOGS!



WHERE'D YOU GET THAT? I WOULDN'T BE NOSY... EXCEPT THAT IT'S A SLUG FROM A POLICE, 'S8 IF I EVER SAW ONE!

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU, CASSIDY... AND BESIDES, I'VE JUST REMEMBERED I'VE GOT SOMETHING AWFULLY IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF!



I DON'T KNOW HOW LYCANA'S PET MONSTROSITY MANAGED TO STOP A POLICE BULLET--BUT MAYBE **THIS** WILL TEACH STEVE NOT TO MAKE SUCH A CHUMP OF HIMSELF WHENEVER A PRETTY GIRL COMES ALONG! IF LYCANA'S LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK--I'M GOING TO DO A LITTLE SNOOPING WHILE STEVE'S SKYLARKING AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH THAT MAN-TRAP!



SOON AFTERWARD--

HA-HA! DIDN'T I TELL YOU IT WOULD WORK?

THAT'S A GIRL'S VOICE--AND SOMEHOW, IT'S JUST THE WAY I **EXPECTED** LYCANA WOULD SOUND! SHE'S BACK--I'M JUST IN TIME TO LEARN WHAT SHE'S GLOATING ABOUT!



LYCANA TIPTOES TO ONE OF THE WINDOWS--A WINDOW FRAMING A SCENE OF TERROR!

GOOD HEAVENS! I'VE SEEN HIDEOUS HUMANS AND HIDEOUS BEASTS IN NIGHTMARES--BUT **THESE** THINGS ARE A FIENDISH COMBINATION OF **BOTH**!



ALL OF YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A DANGEROUS WASTE OF TIME LAST EVENING...WHEN COYOS AND I RANSACKED THE COUNTY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE TO FIND THE LOCATION OF A FORGOTTEN GRAVEYARD! YOU SAID THAT NONE OF **US** COULD BURY COYOS THERE...BECAUSE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD

WOULD RISE WHEN THEY SENSED THE PRESENCE OF THE BEINGS THAT PREY UPON THEM--**WEREWOLVES!**



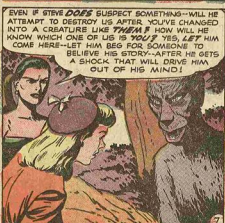
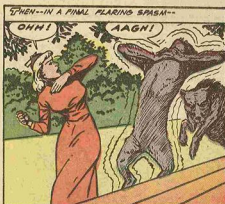
BUT THE GHOSTS OF THE BURIED ONES HAVE BEEN TRICKED! THEY COULD NOT DETECT THE **HUMAN** WHO PLACED COYOS IN HIS GRAVE **ALIVE**--A WEREWOLF LYING IN HALLOWED GROUND--READY TO CLAIM THEIR SOULS FOR **US** AT THE NEXT STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!



AT THAT MOMENT--PROWLING LIKE FURRY PHANTOMS FROM THE DARKNESS--

WOLVES! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET MYSELF BE PANICKED BY **THEM**--NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN **INSIDE**! IF I KEEP MY NERVE...MAYBE I CAN BLUFF THEM LONG ENOUGH TO REACH THE CAR!





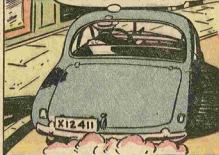
THE FOLLOWING EVENING--AS STEVE REACHES GILDA'S HOME--

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU--EVER SINCE GILDA SCOOTED OFF LAST NIGHT IN A GREAT RUSH! WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO, STEVE--AND WHAT ABOUT THAT SLUG FROM A POLICE 38 THAT DROPPED FROM GILDA'S BAG?

POLICE 38! HOLY SMOKE, CAGGIDY--THAT EXPLAINS A LOT!



SUDDENLY--IT'S ALL CLEAR AS A BELL! LYCANA'S WOLF HAD **RABIES**--AND THAT WOUND MEANS IT'D BEEN SHOT BY A COP AFTER GOING ON A RAMPAGE! **THAT** EXPLAINS WHY IT DIED--AND WHY LYCANA WANTED IT BURIED QUICKLY!



SINCE LAST NIGHT, I'VE HAD A HUNCH THAT LYCANA OWNS OTHER WOLVES--AND SHE'S BEEN AFRAID THAT SOME OF **THEM** PICKED UP RABIES FROM COYOTS! I COULD BE WRONG, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PLAY SAFE--**I'VE GOT TO DIG UP COYOTS FOR AN EXAMINATION!**



SOON AFTERWARD--IN THE GRIM STILLNESS OF STONY BROOK...

I'VE THE STRANGEST FEELING THAT THE WOLF'S BODY IS **MOVING** INSIDE THE BOX--BUT **THAT'S** PROBABLY JUST PART OF THE SPOOKINESS I FEEL ALL AROUND ME!



THEN--LIKE A CRACKLING BOLT OF LIVING TERROR...



YOU HAVE BLUNDERED HERE BY CHANCE... BUT NO HUMAN IS GOING TO THWART LYCANA'S PLAN... **AN HOUR BEFORE THE DEAD OF STONY BROOK ANSWER MY MIDNIGHT SUMMONS!**



LYCANA'S PLAN! GOOD LORD, NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY

MY DOGS BAYED WILDLY JUST BEFORE SHE REACHED MY OFFICE ...AND WHY SHE WOULDN'T ENTER THE LIVING-ROOM--WHEN THE THRESHOLD HAD BEEN TREATED WITH A CHEMICAL THAT REPELS ANIMALS!

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND **MORE** AFTER YOU DIE--AND JOIN GILDA ADAMS AS A WEREWOLF! I SAW IT ALL IN MY BURIED TRANCE--SAW HER TRY TO OUTWIT LYCANA--SAW HER **SEIZED!**





"TRUE" TALES of SORCERY ...The SAGA of the SORCERESS and the STAG...



ONE OF THE STRANGEST OF ALL "TRUE" TALES OF SORCERY THAT HAVE COME DOWN TO US THROUGH HISTORY IS THAT OF THE FOREST SORCERESS WHO IS SAID TO DWELL IN THE AUVERGNE WOODS IN HAUTE-LOIRE, FRANCE. IF YOU EVER VISIT THOSE WOODS, READER-- WATCH OUT FOR THE SORCERESS-- UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE TURNED INTO A STAG, THE WAY POOR HENRI ROCHETONNIERE WAS!

OUR STORY OPENS IN THE LATTER PART OF THE 16TH CENTURY, DURING THE REIGN OF KING HENRY IV. OF FRANCE! ONE DAY, WHEN THE COMTE DE LA ROCHETONNIERE'S WIFE, HELOISE, WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE CHATEAU...

STRANGE-- IT... IT SEEMS AS IF A TREE HAS DETACHED ITSELF FROM THE WOODS AND IS WALKING TOWARD ME!



MY WISH? MY HUSBAND WANTS A BOY-- SO LET MY FIRST CHILD BE A BOY! AND NOW BEGONE WITH YOU-- RETURN TO YOUR FOREST!

YOUR WISH SHALL BE GRANTED-- AND IT SHALL BE YOUR DEATH!



BUT AS THE "TREE" DREW NEARER...

WHAT ARE YOU-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I AM THE SORCERESS OF THE HAUTE-LOIRE! THESE WOODS ARE MINE-- AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE DARED TO BUILD A HOUSE HERE, YOU MUST DIE! BUT I SHALL GRANT YOU ONE WISH BEFORE YOU DIE-- I CAN GRANT ANYTHING BUT LIFE!



THE SORCERESS' PREDICTION CAME TRUE, FOR THE COMTESSE DIED A FEW HOURS AFTER THE BIRTH OF HER SON, HENRI! HENRI WAS A STRANGELY WILD AND UNFETTERED YOUTH, WHOSE GREATEST JOY WAS TO CAVORT LIKE A WILD ANIMAL IN THE WOODS!



BY THIS TIME, THE COMTE DE LA ROCHE-TOURNAI HAD MARRIED STEPHANIE DE ST. CROIX -- WHO LOVED THE WILD HENRI AS IF HE WERE HER OWN SON...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MOTHER. WHEN I'M IN THE FOREST, I'M PART OF IT -- I'M A STAG, LIKE THIS!

HE DOES HAVE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A STAG -- THOSE LARGE LIQUID, VIOLET-BROWN EYES!

THEN, ONE DAY, AFTER HENRI CAME OF AGE...

PIERRE, YOU SHALL ACCOMPANY ME ON MY HUNT TO BRING DOWN THE STAG KNOWN AS OLD SATAN! I HAVE MET HIM MANY TIMES IN THE WOODS, AND HE HAS ALWAYS IGNORED ME WHEN I CHALLENGED HIM TO A RACE. HE THINKS I AM NOT HIS EQUAL -- BUT I WILL PROVE I AM MIGHTIER THAN HE IS WHEN I KILL HIM!

BUT OLD SATAN IS SAID TO BELONG TO THE FOREST SORCERESS!

BUT HENRI LAUGHED AWAY THE HUNSMAN'S CAUTIONS -- AND THAT DAY...

THERE'S OLD SATAN!

LOOK OUT! THE FOREST SORCERESS COMES!

STOP!

THE... THE SPEAR WENT RIGHT THROUGH HER --

YES, BUT IT HIT MY STAG -- AND FOR THAT YOU SHALL PAY, HENRI! ROCHE-TOURNAI! SINCE YOU WISHED TO RACE AND COMPETE WITH MY STAGS IN THE FOREST -- YOU SHALL NOW BECOME ONE!

AAGHHH!

MON DIEU!

HOURS LATER, BACK AT THE CHATEAU...

ARE MY EYES DECEIVING ME?
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS
THAT STRANGE CREATURE
AT PIERRE'S SIDE?



HENRI APPROACHED, TRIED TO RAISE HIS HEAD
UNDER THE GREAT WEIGHT OF THE ANTLERS--
AND LOOKED PITEOUSLY UP AT THE COMTESSE...

IT... IT'S
HENRI!
OHHHHHH!



THE SHOCK PROVED TO BE TOO GREAT
FOR THE COMTESSE'S HEART--
AND ON HER DEATHBED...

HENRI-- OH,
MY POOR
HENRI!

DO NOT GRIEVE FOR
HIM-- FOR DEATH
SHALL SOON EASE
HIS BURDEN!



I WILL NOT GRANT ANY WISH OF YOURS,
COMTE HENRI, BEFORE YOU DIE! BUT TO
YOU, COMTESSE, I GRANT ONE WISH--
ANY WISH BUT
THAT OF LIFE!

YOU... YOU DID THIS
TO HENRI! I... I
ONLY WISH THAT I
MAY SEE HIM AS
A MAN AGAIN
BEFORE I DIE!



OHHHHHH!



BY THE TIME THE SORCERESS
TURNED AWAY, HENRI WAS
ENTIRELY HUMAN AGAIN--
BUT BOTH HE AND THE
COMTESSE WERE DEAD...



BUT TO THIS DAY-- IT IS SAID
THAT IN THE EVENINGS, THE
FIGURE OF AN ANTLERED,
HOOFED HUMAN CAN BE
SEEN HAUNTING THE
CHATEAU, RUNNING TO
AND FRO TO THE AC-
COMPANIMENT OF HALF-
HUMAN, HALF-
ANIMAL SOBS!





EVERYONE'S HEARD ABOUT HUMANS BEING HAUNTED BY GHOSTS---BUT HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A **GHOST** BEING HAUNTED BY SOME **OTHER** DEMONICAL DENIZEN OF THE UNKNOWN, FORBIDDEN REALMS? WELL, HERE'S A SHUDDERY, SPINE-CHILLING TALE OF JUST SUCH A CASE---IN WHICH A **HAUNTED GHOST** GETS TWO INNOCENT HUMANS CAUGHT IN THE MONSTROUS TENTACLES OF A **FIEND FROM THE FIFTH DIMENSION!**



I--I'VE GOT TO
ESCAPE FROM IT,
WHATEVER IT IS
--I'VE GOT TO!



AN OPEN WINDOW!
I'LL TAKE REFUGE
IN HERE!



OH!!



HELP!

WAIT---DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME! I WON'T HURT YOU!

NANCY--- I HEARD YOUR SCREAM FROM MY APARTMENT! WHAT'S WRONG?

OH, PHIL--- THERE'S A GHOST IN MY ROOM!

DON'T TAKE ME BACK IN THERE--- IT WAS AWFUL!

BUT DARLING, THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS GHOSTS--- YOU WERE JUST HAVING A NIGHTMARE! YOU CAN TAKE THE WORD OF YOUR FIANCEE THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF HERE!

YES, YOU SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF ME!

IT--- IT'S HIM!

YOU--- YOU'RE REAL! WHO--- OR WHAT--- ARE YOU?

JUST A GHOST FROM THE FOURTH DIMENSION--- AND ALL I WANT IS TO REMAIN IN YOUR PRESENCE FOR A WHILE!

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YOU SEE, MOST SPIRITS ARE CONTENT TO STAY IN THE SPIRIT WORLD--- BECAUSE IT'S A GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL WORLD, WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS! THERE ARE ONLY TWO TYPES OF GHOSTS WHO WANT TO RETURN TO THE COMPARATIVE UGLINESS OF EARTH--- THOSE WHO SEEK REVENGE FOR THEIR DEATHS, AND THOSE WHO GET LONELY FOR THE SIGHT OF MORTAL BEAUTY! I AM ONE OF THE FEW LONELY ONES--- AND IF YOU LET ME STAY HERE AND GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF YOUR FACE FOR A WHILE, NANCY, I WILL TELL YOU AND YOUR FIANCEE HOW TO GET ALL THE MONEY YOU WANT!

MONEY? NOW?

GHOSTS ARE TIMELESS, AS WELL AS ROOTLESS--- AND MY MIND CAN TRAVEL EASILY THROUGH TIME AND FIND OUT WHO WILL WIN TOMORROW'S HORSE RACES, OR WHICH STOCKS WILL GO UP ON THE EXCHANGE! YOU CAN MAKE A FORTUNE WITH THAT INFORMATION!



WE--WE DO NEED SOME MONEY TO GET MARRIED ON, PHIL--AND IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, THIS MAY BE OUR CHANCE!

YES, IF ALL SOUNDS REASONABLE ENOUGH--GO I THINK WE'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! WHEN THE STOCK MARKET OPENS AT 9 IN THE MORNING, WE'LL FIND OUT WHETHER THIS SPECTER CAN PRODUCE!



AT 9 O'CLOCK--

NOW LET ME PROJEKT MY MIND INTO THE FUTURE--AHHH, AT 9:15, INTERNATIONAL RUBIUM WILL ANNOUNCE A STOCK SPLITTING PLAN--AND THAT WILL MAKE ITS STOCK RISE 12 POINTS WITHIN AN HOUR!

12 POINTS--WOW! I'LL CALL A STOCKBROKER FRIEND OF MINE AND HAVE HIM BUY A THOUSAND SHARES ON MARCH FOR ME! BUT I'LL TAKE EVERY CENT I'VE SAVED UP--SO YOUR TIP BETTER BE RIGHT!



AN HOUR LATER--

PHIL, YOU LUCKY DOG--INTERNATIONAL RUBIUM IS UP 12 POINTS--YOU JUST MADE \$12,000! WHAT KIND OF AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD TIP DID YOU GET?

TELL HIM TO SELL--THE STOCK WON'T BE GOING UP ANY MORE!



TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS--YIPPEE!

WAIT, THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! LET ME CONCENTRATE ON THE FUTURE--AH, NOW I SEE IT! AT PALMETTO TRACK, THIS AFTERNOON, DOLDRUMS WILL WIN THE FIRST RACE AT 30-1, WHIPPING BOY WILL WIN THE SECOND AT 9-5, MOLASSES WILL WIN THE THIRD AT 10-1--



HELLO, MIKE--PHIL CHAPMAN TALKING! LISTEN CAREFULLY, MIKE--YOU'RE THE ONLY FRIEND I CAN COMPLETELY TRUST! I WANT YOU TO GO UP TO THE NICHOLSON STOCK BROKERAGE COMPANY AND PICK UP \$12,000 CASH THEY OWE ME! THEN GO OUT TO PALMETTO TRACK AND BET ALL THE MONEY ON THE FOLLOWING HORSES--DOLDRUMS, WHIPPING BOY, MOLASSES--

COME ON, DOLDRUMS--COME ON, DOL--! THE WINNAN--DOLDRUMS AT 30-1!

WE--WE'RE RICH! WE'VE GOT \$372,000!

WHEN--YOU'RE SURE TAKING A CHANCE ON THOSE LONG SHOTS, PHIL--BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!



