

DEAD
OF NIGHT

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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DEAD OF NIGHT™

YOU SNEAKED
INTO MY LAIR
UNINVITED--

NOW I INSIST
YOU STAY FOR
DINNER!

THE MOST MIND-
MANGLING SHOCKER
OF ALL!

**MIDNIGHT
BRINGS DARK
MADNESS!**

STAN LEE PRESENTS **DEAD of NIGHT**

ALONE IN THE DARK!



YOU'RE A 10-YEAR OLD BOY NAMED DONALD DUGAN...AND YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TERRIFIED OF THE DARK... ESPECIALLY ON A DARK, STORMY NIGHT LIKE THIS ONE...

MOMMY...DADDY... OPEN THE DOOR... I'M AFRAID OF THE DARK! PLEASE... OPEN THE DOOR!!

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN TALES OF SUSPENSE #18

YOU STOP BANGING ON THE DOOR... AND LISTEN... YOUR HEART IN YOUR MOUTH... PRAYING YOU'LL HEAR YOUR PARENTS' FOOTSTEPS...

... BUT THERE IS NO SOUND OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR! YOU KNOW THE HALL IS DESERTED... YOU KNOW YOUR PARENTS DON'T HEAR YOU... YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALONE IN THE DARK!! ALONE - IN - THE - DARK!!



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BUT WAIT! SUDDENLY YOU HEAR FOOTSTEPS...
GETTING CLOSER...AND CLOSER...*BUT YOU
KNOW THEY AREN'T YOUR PARENTS'
FOOTSTEPS!*



YOU CRINGE AGAINST THE WALL...AS FAR
FROM THE DOOR AS POSSIBLE! THE FOOTSTEPS
STOP!



YOU HEAR THE
DOOR KNOB TURN...
EVER SO SLIGHTLY...



A SHAFT OF LIGHT
ENTERS THE ROOM AS
THE DOOR SQUEAKS
OPEN...



THE SHADOW OF A MAN
IS THROWN ON THE FLOOR
...THE MAN YOU FEAR
MOST IN THE WORLD...



...YOUR UNCLE CLAUDE!!!



YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH TO SPEAK...BUT AN ICY
FEAR GRIPS YOUR THROAT...THE WORDS WON'T
COME...ONLY MEANINGLESS GASPS...



FINALLY THE WORDS TUMBLE FORTH... BUT EVEN
AS YOU SPEAK... YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE TERROR
IN YOUR HEART!



YOU TRY TO GET OUT THRU THE DOOR... BUT CLAUDE IS TOO FAST FOR YOU!



COME BACK, DONALD... I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU!

LET GO OF ME!

AS YOU LOOK INTO UNCLE CLAUDE'S PIERCING EYES, YOUR MIND RACES BACK DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS... YOU REMEMBER HOW IT WAS BEFORE...



DADDY... PLEASE DON'T GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE... PLEASE!

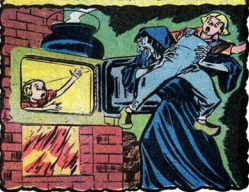
NONSENSE, DONALD! YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BE ALONE OCCASIONALLY... AND BESIDES, YOUR UNCLE CLAUDE WILL STAY WITH YOU!

COME, DONALD, DON'T BE AFRAID... I'LL READ YOU SOME NICE STORIES!

NO, UNCLE CLAUDE... NOT **THOSE** STORIES... NOT AGAIN... **NO!**



"AND THE OLD WITCH THREW HANSEL AND GRETEL IN THE OVEN... THEY SCREAMED AS THEIR CLOTHES CAUGHT FIRE... AND BURNED..."



"...THEN THE GIANT RACED DOWN THE BEANSTALK AND CAUGHT JACK! HIS HANDS WRAPPED AROUND JACK'S THIN LITTLE NECK, AND HE SQUEEZED... AND SQUEEZED..."



"...WHEN THE 40 THIEVES FOUND ALI BABA IN THE BARREL... THEY SPILLED HOT OIL IN THE BARREL ...RIGHT OVER ALI BABA..."



HERE'S ONE ABOUT A MAN NAMED WILLIAM TELL WHO SHOT AN ARROW THRU A BOY'S HEAD AND...



STOP IT!
STOP IT!
DON'T MAKE ME LISTEN TO ANY MORE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



VERY WELL,
DONALD! GOOD NIGHT,
...AND PLEASANT
DREAMS!



EVEN AFTER CLAUDE LEFT, YOU COULDN'T
SLEEP, DONALD! YOUR HEAD WAS FILLED WITH
HORROR...YOUR EYES WERE OPENED WIDE IN
FEAR...YOU COULD HARDLY CATCH YOUR
BREATH! THE NIGHT WAS FILLED WITH DANGER
AND NAMELESS DREAD!

YOU SLIPPED OUT OF BED AND SNEAKED OUT OF
YOUR ROOM...INTO THE LONG, DARK, QUIET HALL...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE GOING, BUT
YOU COULDN'T WAIT IN YOUR ROOM ANOTHER
MINUTE...



SUDDENLY YOU HEARD FOOTSTEPS IN THE
HALL! YOU CROUCHED BACK IN THE SHADOWS
AND WAITED...YOUR HEART BEATING LIKE
A TRIPHAMMER!



THUD
THUD
THUD

A DARK, SINISTER FIGURE OPENED
THE DOOR...TO YOUR ROOM...TO
YOUR ROOM, DONALD...!!



AND AN INSTANT LATER, THE
FIGURE VANISHED BACK DOWN
THE HALL, CACKLING GLEEFULLY!



YOUR CURIOSITY GOT THE
BETTER OF YOU...YOU HAD
TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED,
IN YOUR ROOM! YOU TIP-TOED
BACK TO YOUR DOOR...OPENED
IT... AND...



YOU ~~KNOW~~ THEN THAT UNCLE CLAUDE
WANTED TO KILL YOU...



YOU HID THE KNIFE... YOU KNEW YOUR MOMMY AND
DADDY WOULDN'T BELIEVE YOUR STORY, BUT YOU
PRAYED THEY'D NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH
UNCLE CLAUDE... EVER!



AND THEY NEVER *DID* LEAVE YOU WITH
UNCLE CLAUDE... FOR WHENEVER THEY
LEFT, THEY LOCKED YOU IN YOUR ROOM...
AND CLAUDE HAD NO KEY!



UNTIL *TONIGHT*... WHEN THEY HAD FORGOTTEN TO
LOCK YOUR DOOR... YOU'RE ONLY A 10-YEAR OLD BOY,
DONALD DUGAN... BUT YOU KNOW YOU'RE LOOKING
INTO THE FACE OF *DEATH*!

I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR
THIS CHANCE TO LET YOU RUN
OUT ON ME NOW, MY LAD!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO
HURT ME, UNCLE CLAUDE...
WHY DON'T YOU
LET ME GO?



YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND,
YOU YOUNG FOOL! BUT I
HATE MY BROTHER AND
HIS WIFE! I HATE YOUR
PARENTS! I HATE THEM
SO MUCH THAT I'VE
SWORN THAT I'VE
THEIR ONLY SON!



THEY'RE ALWAYS PROTECTING
YOU... SHIELDING YOU... LOCKING
YOU IN YOUR ROOM! THEY'RE
AFRAID TO LET YOU OUT AT NIGHT!
THEY'RE AFRAID TO LEAVE YOU
ALONE WITH ME AFTER DARK!
BUT AT LAST MY CHANCE HAS
COME!



WE'LL WAIT... YOU AND I... WE'LL
WAIT UNTIL THE STROKE OF
MIDNIGHT! AND THEN, ON
THE FINAL STROKE...
YOU WILL DIE!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

YOU KNOW YOUR UNCLE IS INSANE! BUT YOU ALSO KNOW THAT HE MEANS TO KEEP HIS WORD! YOU LOOK AT THE CLOCK...ONLY 5 MORE MINUTES!



YOU WATCH SPELLBOUND AS CLAUDE TAKES A GLISTENING BLADE OUT OF HIS POCKET... THE PIT OF YOUR STOMACH IS COLD AND NUMB...



YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY HAVE JUST FINISHED A LATE SUPPER AND ARE RETURNING HOME... WALKING PAST THE LOCAL CEMETERY...



YOUR YOUNG PUZZLED MIND ALMOST REFUSES TO BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENING...AND WHAT'S **ABOUT** TO HAPPEN! YOU TALK TO UNCLE CLAUDE... MAYBE YOU CAN DISTRACT HIS ATTENTION...



WHY DO YOU HATE MOMMY AND DADDY SO?

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO EAT ME UP!

YOU REMEMBER THE HORRIBLE STORIES UNCLE CLAUDE USED TO READ TO YOU...TO TRY TO TERRIFY YOU...AND NOW, JUST BEFORE HE KILLS YOU, HE'S **STILL** TRYING TO TERRIFY YOU...



BUT I'VE BEEN TOO SMART FOR THEM! THEY'VE NEVER MANAGED TO KILL ME! AND AFTER I'VE MURDERED YOU, I'LL KILL THEM, TOO, AND BE FREE OF YOU ALL, FOREVER!

THEN YOU HEAR THE FIRST STROKE OF MIDNIGHT! AND FEAR FILLS YOUR YOUNG HEART!



THE THREE OF YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A MENACE TO ME, BUT NOW... **LISTEN!** MIDNIGHT IS STRIKING!



DO YOU HEAR? THE CHIMES OF MIDNIGHT!

LET'S HURRY... I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING IS WRONG!

BONG!

YOU HEAR THE FIRST 8 CHIMES...

THEN THE NINTH...

THEN THE TENTH...

THEN THE ELEVENTH...

BONG!

BONG!

BONG!

BONG!



THEN...

ARGGGHHH!

DONALD!



DONALD... DONALD!

HURRY, DEAR... HURRY!



OH... NO!

HE BEAT US TO HIM!

DONALD... WE HAD BEEN SAVING UNCLE CLAUDE ESPECIALLY FOR OURSELVES!



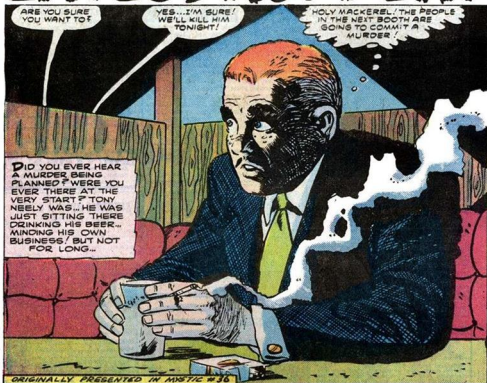
I'M SORRY, MOMMY! BUT YOU KNOW HOW HUNGRY I GET AFTER THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!

LEAVE THE BOY ALONE, DEAR! HE CAN'T HELP IT IF HE'S ONLY A WEREWOLF, INSTEAD OF A VAMPIRE LIKE US!



THE END

THE EAVESDROPPER!





IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG NIGHT FOR NEELY. AS HE WATCHED THE MAN AND WOMAN SEARCH FROM BAR TO BAR FOR THEIR VICTIM!



HE'S NOT HERE!

LET'S TRY THE NEXT PLACE!

HE'S NOT HERE EITHER! WE'LL TRY ONE LAST SPOT!

WHAT IF WE DON'T FIND HIM? WHAT'LL WE DO?



HE'S NOT IN ANY OF THE BARS! THAT MEANS HE'S IN SOME ALLEY, SLEEPING IT OFF! IT'LL BE EASIER THIS WAY!

WELL, LET'S FIND HIM AND GET THIS OVER WITH!



NEELY STAYED WITH THEM FOLLOWING AS FAR BEHIND AS HE COULD WITHOUT LOSING THEM IN THE FOG! THEY ENTERED THE GRAVEYARD...

HE WAS TERRIFIED OF THE DARKNESS AND THE SWIRLING MIST! ONLY THE THOUGHT OF ALL THAT MONEY KEPT HIM GOING...

SUDDENLY, NEELY STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS! HIS SKIN WENT COLD AND CLAMMY, AS HE SAW THE LONG WAVING SHADOWS COMING AT HIM...



THEY'RE TAKING A SHORT CUT! I WISH THEY'D GET OUT OF HERE!



OH, IT'S JUST A BRANCH! I THOUGHT IT WAS THE END FOR ME! THAT THING TOOK TEN YEARS OFF MY LIFE!



HEY! WHERE'D THEY GO? I'VE LOST THEM! I FOLLOW THEM ALL THIS WAY, AND THEN I LET THEM SHAKE ME!





HOW WOULD **YOU** LIKE TO WALK INTO YOUR HOUSE SOME EVENING AND FIND AN OLD WITCH SITTING AROUND AND MAKING HERSELF AT HOME? IF THE HAG IS ANYTHING LIKE **THIS** OLD CRONE, YOU'RE **REALLY** IN TROUBLE!

THE OLD WITCH

I'M A SIMPLE GUY, WITH A GOOD JOB AND A BEAUTIFUL WIFE! WHEN I COME HOME AFTER A HARD DAY AT THE OFFICE, I LIKE A GOOD MEAL, A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET! IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR? BUT MY WIFE, HELEN... SHE'S GOT OTHER IDEAS!



ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN MYSTIC #26

SHE'S REALLY A GOOD-HEARTED SOUL, BRINGING HOME STRAY CATS AND DOGS AND EVEN HOMELESS KIDS TO FEED AND TAKE CARE OF! BUT THERE'S A LIMIT! A GUY'S GOT TO DRAW THE LINE...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF HAVING THIS PLACE TURNED INTO AN ASYLUM FOR THE HOMELESS! GET THAT OLD CRONE OUT OF HERE... RIGHT NOW!

I DON'T WANT TO START ANY TROUBLE, MRS. BENNET! MAYBE I'D BETTER GO!



YOU STAY RIGHT THERE, MATILDA! GEORGE, WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR NERVE COMING IN HERE AND TELLING ME I CAN'T HAVE GUESTS IN MY OWN HOME? IF **SHE** GOES, I GO!

HELEN...! OH, WELL...



WHAT COULD I DO? I HATED TO TAKE THE CHANCE OF BREAKING UP OUR HAPPY MARRIAGE! LIKE I SAID, I'M JUST A SIMPLE GUY AND I LOVE MY WIFE...

YOU CAN STAY IN THE GUEST ROOM, MATILDA... AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY HERE UNTIL YOU GET WELL! THEN WE'LL SEE ABOUT GETTING YOU A NICE PLACE OF YOUR OWN TO LIVE IN!

YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL, MRS. BENNET! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!



SHE HAD A PIECE OF CHALK IN HER LONG BLUE-VEINED FINGERS AND STARTED SCRATCHING A HEXAGON ON THE FLOOR OF THE GUEST ROOM...

LINE'S OF WHITE AND DEADLY CHALK, LET THE VICTIM COME AND TALK...



HER VOICE WAS LIKE THE HOOT OF A NIGHT OWL, AND WHEN SHE KNEELED DOWN ON HER KNEES AND LIFTED HER ARMS, I COULD SEE THAT HER FACE WAS FILLED WITH HATRED...

NOW I KNEEL OUTSIDE AND PRAY, LET ME TAKE HER SOUL THIS DAY!



THE TRUTH BURST INTO MY MIND WITH A TERRIBLE IMPACT! I KNEW SHE WAS A WITCH AND WHEN I SAW WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT HEXAGON, I KNEW WHO HER VICTIM WAS...

THIS MIDNIGHT WHILE I KNIT AND STITCH...YOUR BODY CHANGES WITH A WITCH...



SHE WAS OUT TO CHANGE PLACES WITH A YOUNG BODY. MY WIFE'S! I HAD TO DO SOMETHING, QUICK! SILENTLY I FLED FROM THE HOUSE OUT INTO THE YARD...

A STAKE...CARVED FROM THE BRANCH OF AN ASH TREE...THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HER!



BUT EVEN THO I GAVE IN TO HELEN, I COULDN'T HELP FEELING FUNNY ABOUT THAT OLD THING STAYING AT OUR HOUSE...THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT WAS UNNATURAL!...SO LATER THAT NIGHT I SNEAKED DOWNSTAIRS AND...

IF HELEN SAW ME DOING THIS, SHE'D RAISE THE ROOF AND --(GASP!)-- WHAT'S SHE DOING?



I HAD HEARD OF THESE THINGS...WITCHES CHANGING PLACES WITH HUMANS TO BE YOUNG AGAIN...THAT WAS WHY PEOPLE YOU'D KNOWN ALL YOUR LIFE SUDDENLY SEEMED DIFFERENT, AS IF THEY WERE COMPLETE STRANGERS...

WELL, SHE'S NOT GOING TO DO THAT TO HELEN! I'M GOING TO KILL HER FIRST!



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I WAITED UNTIL I SAW THRU THE KEY-HOLE THAT SHE WAS FAST ASLEEP... THEN I TURNED THE KNOB SLOWLY, AND CREEPT IN AN INCH AT A TIME...

SHE'S SMILING, THE WRETCHED CREATURE! WELL, I'LL GIVE HER SOMETHING TO CACKLE ABOUT... SHE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE MY DARLING WIFE FROM ME!



I GRABBED THE SMOOTH DAMP WOOD IN BOTH HANDS AND...

DIE... WITCH! WHILE I TWIST THIS STAKE IN YOUR BLACK HEART... (GASP) THERE'S NO BLOOD!



I KNEW I COULDN'T LEAVE THE BODY THERE IN THE GUEST ROOM... NOW I COULD I EXPLAIN IT? WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND?



I WORKED LIKE I NEVER HAD BEFORE... DIGGING UNTIL I FELT THE BLISTERS ON MY PALMS! THE EARTH WAS SOFT AND I DUG DEEP...



ABOUT AN HOUR LATER, I WAS DONE! I DUMPED THE BODY IN AND FILLED UP THE HOLE, STAMPING THE EARTH FIRM WITH MY FEET...

WHO WOULD BELIEVE THE TRUTH? IT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT IF YOU TOLD PEOPLE IT HAPPENED, THEY'D CALL YOU CRAZY!



BUT I THOUGHT HELEN WOULD UNDERSTAND WHEN I EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED... BUT INSTEAD SHE STARED AT ME IN THE STRANGEST WAY AND THEN STARTED SCREAMING AT ME...

YOU FOOL! YOU STUPID IDIOT! YOU'VE MURDERED HER... THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE DONE... **MURDER!** BECAUSE SOME OLD WOMAN IS A LITTLE OUT OF HER HEAD!

BUT, HELEN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!



BUT SHE PICKED UP THE TELEPHONE, DIALED THE OPERATOR AND ASKED FOR THE POLICE...

THIS IS HELEN BENNET... I WANT TO REPORT A MURDER! YES! COME RIGHT OVER! MY HUSBAND'S THE MURDERER!

HELEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN... THEY'LL HANG ME!



THE POLICE CAME AND I WENT DOWNSTAIRS TO TELL THEM THE WHOLE STORY... I HOPED THEY'D BELIEVE ME... BUT LIKE I SAID BEFORE... PEOPLE NEVER BELIEVE THINGS LIKE THAT...

I TELL YOU IT'S TRUE! IT WAS AN OLD WITCH... AND I **HAD** TO DO IT TO KEEP HER FROM GOING INTO MY WIFE'S BODY... YOU **MUST** UNDERSTAND!

DON'T GIVE US THAT HOGWASH! WE GOT REPORTS FROM SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS WHO SAW YOU BURY SOMEONE IN THE YARD! COME ON, SHOW US THE BODY!



THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO BUT SHOW THEM THE FRESH GRAVE AND HOPE THAT WHEN THEY DUG HER UP AND SAW HER UGLY TWISTED FACE, THEY WOULD BELIEVE ME...

THAT'S THE SPOT... GO AHEAD, DIG! YOU'LL SEE THAT SHE WAS A **WITCH**... AND I PUT AN ASHEN STAKE THRU HER HEART TO SAVE MY WIFE!



THEY TOOK TURNS DIGGING, AND FINALLY ONE OF THEM STOPPED AND PUT THE SHOVEL DOWN... HE TURNED AWAY FROM THE SIGHT IN HORROR...

THAT GUY'S A FIEND! THE POOR KID...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS ATTITUDE UNTIL HE REACHED DOWN AND LIFTED UP THE BODY! IT WAS AS IF SOMEONE HAD SLUGGED ME WITH A HAMMER WHEN I SAW...

BUT... THAT'S **NOT** HER! THAT'S **NOT** THE OLD WITCH THAT I KILLED WITH THE STAKE! WHO -- WHO IS SHE?

I FEEL LIKE GIVING IT TO YOU RIGHT HERE, YOU DIRTY RAT! ANY GUY WHO'D KILL SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WIFE...



MY MIND SEEMED TO BE WHIRLING AROUND LIKE A SPINNING WHEEL! NOTHING MADE SENSE ANY MORE! I TRIED TO CLEAR AWAY THE FOG, BUT THE PIZZINESS CREPT IN ON ME...

WIFE? SHE'S **NOT MY WIFE**! THAT WAS MY WIFE IN THE HOUSE... YOU SAW HER...



I THINK I HEARD THEM LAUGH... I DON'T EXACTLY REMEMBER... AND THEN ONE POINTED TO THE BODY AND THEN TOWARDS THE HOUSE, AND I HEARD HIM SAY...

WHO ARE YOU TRYIN' TO KID? WHAT DO YOU TAKE US FOR, A COUPLE OF FOOLS?

IT--IT'S TRUE! THAT WAS MY WIFE... IN THE HOUSE... YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! THE ONLY ONE WE SAW IN THE HOUSE WAS THAT **OLD LADY**!



I DIDN'T WANT TO LOOK! I WAS AFRAID! AND YET EVEN AS I TRIED TO FORCE MY EYES TO THE GROUND THEY MOVED OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL AND I SAW...



NO... NO! AIEEE!!!

THE END

THE SLAVE!

THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE CRYPT THAT DRAWS HIM LIKE A FLY! HERE IS THE STORY OF A DIFFERENT KIND OF GRAVE ROBBER...



ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN UNCANNY TALES # 3

THIS VAULT, HIGH IN THE PERUVIAN ANDES, IS CHILLY AND DRY, AND LOOK AT THAT FABULOUS HORDE OF JEWELS AND TREASURES BURIED WITH THIS ONCE-PROUD INCA NOBLEMAN! NOTHING **ORDINARY** ABOUT THAT, EH, JOE?

JEEZE! JUDGING FROM THESE SPARKLERS, THIS OLD BOY MUSTA CUT SOME ICE IN THIS VILLAGE! SPEAKING OF ICE, AH! COME TO PAPA!



BUT THEN, AS A GRAVE ROBBER, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY **ORDINARY** EITHER, EH, JOE? ONLY A MAN WITH ICE WATER FOR BLOOD COULD DISTURB THE SANCTUARY OF THIS MUMMIFIED CORPSE WITH SUCH INDIFFERENCE!

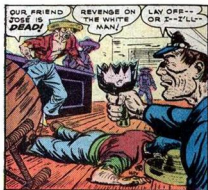
THE OTHER CAVES I KNOCKED OVER HAD PEANUTS COMPARED TO THIS! THE INDIAN PEASANTS MUST BE JERKS--LETTING THIS STUFF AROUND LOOSE! PRETTY SOFT PICKING FOR A SMART GUY LIKE ME!



SMART, JOE? YOU MIGHT GIVE LUCK A BIT OF CREDIT! ALTHOUGH IT SEEMED YOUR LUCK HAD RUN OUT, A MONTH AGO, IN THAT WATERFRONT BRAWL! YOU KNOW--IN THAT COASTAL DIVE!



THE NATIVE DROPPED LIKE A FELLE D OX! A PIECE OF BREAKING GLASS HAD CUT THE MAN'S JUGULAR! HIS FRIENDS DIDN'T LIKE **MURDER!**



YOU WERE CAUGHT, TRAPPED! AND LIKE THE CLEVER ANIMAL YOU WERE YOU SMASHED THE KEROSENE LAMP!



FOR A MOMENT YOU WERE TERRIFIED, JOE, BUT A DOZEN BARROOM BRAWLS DURING YOUR WORLD-WIDE, ROUGH AND TUMBLING EXPERIENCES AS A TOUGH SAILOR, SAVED YOU! INSTINCTIVELY, YOU--



IN THE DARKNESS AND CONFUSION, YOU GAINED THE DOOR AND RACED INTO THE NIGHT!



YOU MADE IT, JOE, BUT WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A NIGHTMARE OF TRAVELING BY NIGHT, TRYING TO FIND FOOD AND WATER BY DAY--WATER FOR YOUR PARCHED LIPS AND YOUR FEVER-WILD BRAIN!



THAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBERED, JOE GARCY! FOR SUDDENLY THE GREEN JUNGLES OVERHEAD SEEMED TO CLOSE IN! SOFT AND COOL AND BLACK!



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YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT UNTIL LATER, BUT YOU'D WANDERED NEAR A REMOTE INDIAN VILLAGE, CLOSE TO LAKE TITICACA--CRADLE OF THE INCA DYNASTY AND CIVILIZATION! FRIENDLY INDIANS FOUND YOU--



THESE FRIENDLY, HOSPITABLE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE HUANCHUCO WERE SUCKERS, AND, AS YOUR STRENGTH RETURNED, YOU BECAME SICK AGAIN, WITH BOREDOM!



FUEGO'S WORDS CAUGHT YOUR EARS THAT TIME, DIDN'T THEY, JOE?



THAT'S WHEN YOU GOT THE IDEA, EH, JOE? THAT'S WHY YOU GO ROOTING IN THE GRAVEYARDS AT NIGHT! FOR DEL FUEGO GAVE YOU A GOOD LEAD!



A KING'S RANSOM IN JEWELS--
AND ALL **MINE!** WHAT STUPID
SUCKERS THESE PEASANTS ARE!
LEAVING ENOUGH TREASURES
AROUND TO MAKE ME
MASTER OF THE WORLD!



YOU COVERED THE SECRET
HIDING PLACE AND SLEPT LIKE
A PRINCE, DIDN'T YOU, JOE?
DREAMING THE WILD DREAM
OF A VERITABLE MIDAS! AND
NOW, IN THE MORNING--



W--WHAT--WH--WHO IS IT?
OH YOU, FUEGO! (CHO HUM.) I'M
STILL SLEEPY! HEY, WHAT'S
THAT I HEAR? DRUMS
OR THUNDER?

BOTH, SENOR! IT IS RAINING
HEAVY! AND LAST NIGHT CIPAYA
DE CARANGAS, HE DIED! TODAY
WE BEAT FUNERAL DRUM AND
HAVE DANCE! HE BIG MAN!
HAVE MANY SLAVES!



SO WHY THE
GRIM LOOK?
THE OLD BOY
WAS NO
BROTHER
OF YOURS!

ALL MEN ARE BROTHER, SENOR!
UNLESS HE ONE WHO DEFILE
GRAVE LIKE SOMEBODY DO AT
NIGHT, AND **STEAL!** SOME
SAY EVIL SPIRIT, "CUPAY"
IF MAN, WE CATCH!



YOU DIDN'T LIKE FUEGO'S SUSPICIOUS TONES, DID YOU?
OR THE LOOKS OF THAT WICKED KNIFE! BUT YOU'VE
BEEN CAREFUL! HE COULDN'T PROVE ANYTHING!
AND LATE THAT NIGHT--THE FUNERAL DRUMS STILL
BEATING IN YOUR EARS--YOU--



MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED THIS
ONE LAST HAUL! AWW, NUTS! THOSE
JERKS ARE TIED UP WITH THOSE
STUPID FUNERAL DANCES!

THOSE STONES ARE REALLY IN
SOLID! COULD NEVER BUDGE
ONE FROM INSIDE! W--WHAT
THE--!



S--SOMEBODY'S COMING! S--SOMEBODY
HEARD THIS POLE SNAP! I GOTTA MAKE
TRACKS!



YOU HEAR RUNNING STEPS AND YOU ARE FRIGHTENED, JOE! PLAIN SCARED! AND YOU RUN TOWARD THE ONLY EXIT--THE FRONT GATES! THEN, SUDDENLY YOU STUMBLE! PITCH HEAD FIRST INTO THE SOFT BROWN MUD! YOU RAISE YOUR EYES TOWARD THE GATES, AND--



I--I'M TRAPPED! THAT'S THE FUNERAL PROCESSION OF DE CARANGAS! AND I CAN'T GET THROUGH THEM!

SUDDENLY, YOUR CRAFTY BRAIN IS STRUCK BY AN IDEA!

YOU SMEAR FACE AND CHEST WITH RICH, BROWN MUD!

YOU FOLD YOUR BANDANA INTO A NARROW BAND AND QUICKLY TIE AROUND YOUR HEAD!

AND THERE YOU ARE--A DEAD RINGER FOR ONE OF THOSE SLAVES CARRYING THE BIER!



YOU WERE SMART, JOE! BY THE TIME YOUR PURSUERS CAUGHT UP WITH YOU-- YOU WERE FILING INTO THE VAULT OF THE CARANGAS! SOME JOKE, EH?

ONCE INSIDE THE VAULT, YOU SMILED AS THE OTHER SLAVES MOURED AT THE BIER OF THEIR MASTER! MAYBE IT DROWNED OUT THE SOUNDS OF THE DOOR BEING SEALED! FOR IT WAS TOO LATE, WHEN--

YES, JOE, YOU WERE VERY SMART! TOO BAD YOU FORGOT THAT IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR SLAVES, AS WELL AS TRINKETS, TO BE BURIED WITH THEIR MASTER!



I--I FOOLED 'EM! I EVEN GOT A CHANCE TO CASE THE INSIDE OF THIS JOINT!



NO! NO! LET ME OUT! HELP! SOMEBODY! I'M NOT A SLAVE! AAAARGH!



THE END

ON SALE NOW!

2006



READ and ENJOY

CAVELORD E-COMICS

cavelord@hotmail.com

All comics owned and saved for prosperity