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IT WAS A LITTLE ROOM, TUCKED AWAY IN A BASEMENT CORNER OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN A LARGE CITY. THERE WERE THREE LOCKS ON THE DOOR. BEHIND THAT DOOR ... BUT PERHAPS YOU'D RATHER NOT KNOW. PERHAPS, IF YOU VALUE YOUR SANITY, YOU'D BETTER NOT READ ABOUT THE LITTLE ROOM AT HEADQUARTERS AND ...









"I DIDN'T BELIEVE HER STORY, SO I ASKED HER TO REPEAT IT, TO SEE IF I COULD FIND A DISCREPANCY..."

PLEASE TELL
IT AGAIN, MRS.
VANDERHOFF.
I WANT TO
GET ALL
THE FACTS
STRAIGHT.

I KNOW IT'S
INCREDIBLE...
BUT YOU MUST
BELIEVE ME! IT
WAS LYING ON
THE DOORSTEP
WHEN I CAME
HOME, AND...

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"I THOUGHT IF NO ONE CLAIMED IT," I PUT IT ON THE TABLE, AND IT WOULD MAKE A NICE GIFT FOR FORGOT ABOUT IT..." MY LITTLE NIECE ...

WHAT A STRANGE

LOOKING DOLL!

I WONDER HOW IT GOT HERE 3





"THEN I SAW WHAT IT HELD CLUTCHED IN THOSE





I THOUGHT IT WAS HYSTERIA BROUGHT ON BY GUILT, UNTIL THE OTHER STORIES STARTED POURING IN...



T WAS AT THIS POINT THAT I CALLED IN WILSON ...

I'M RELUCTANT TO BELIEVE THOSE STORIES MYSELF, BILL, BUT I WANT YOU TO OPERATE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TELLING AS YOU SAY, SIR! THE TRUTH!

BILL STUCK TO IT FOR WEEKS,

I'VE GOT A LEAD, SIR ... THREE REPORTS OF TINY FIGURES SCURRY-INTO OR OUT OF DR. SAN'S HOUSE! I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES ON SCARING HIM, SO I'D RATHER WORK ALONE!

IT'S YOUR CASE, WILSON!

THE REST OF THE STORY IS JUST AS WILSON TOLD IT TO ME! HE WATCHED SAN'S PLACE TWENTY FOUR HOURS A DAY! HE THOUGHT HE SAW SHADOWY DOLL-LIKE FIGURES IN THE POARK, BUT HE WAS SURE HE SAW SOMETHING ELSE!



EVERY EVENING A HALF DOZEN KNOWN CROOKS ENTER THAT HOUSE AND LEAVE IN THE EARLY



ONE OF THOSE CROOKS ... FROSTY NELSON ... RESEMBLED WILSON SLIGHTLY! NEXT DAY, WE PICKED HIM UP ON A MINOR CHARGE, AND ...







SUDDENLY, WILSON WAS AWARE OF NOTHING BUT HIS MIND REELED DIZZILY IN A WHIRLPOOL THAT SAN'S VOICE, CHANTING STRANGE WORDS IN A TONE BORDERED ON THE VERY EDGE OF SPACE AND TIME! THAT THRUMMED SLEEPILY IN HIS EARS ...







SUDDENLY, HE KNEW THE TRUTH!



SAN'S VOICE, NOW CRACKLING WITH IMPATIENCE, STARTLED WILSON BACK TO HIS SURROUNDINGS!





COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS FOR A CRIME TO BE COMMITTED NOW! I... I MUST DO IT... I CAN'T AFFORD TO ROUSE SAN'S SUSPICIONS BEFORE HE RESTORES ME TO MY BODY!

WILSON FOLLOWED THOSE INSTRUCTIONS ...





HE SCAMPERED BACK WITH HIS



YOUR BODY IS NO LONGER FIT FOR HABITATION! YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

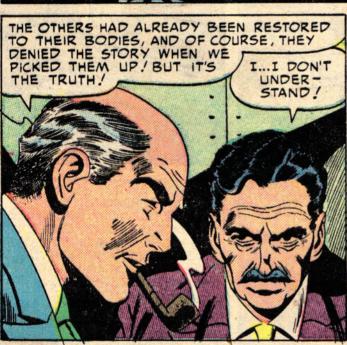
NELSON WASN'T SUPPOSED
TO COME TONIGHT, SO I
SUSPECTED YOUR IMPOSTURE
FROM THE START! CLOSER
INSPECTION JUSTIFIED MY
SUSPICIONS! AND NOW...
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE
TO BE STORED AWAY... AS
A SOUVENIR!

BILL LOST HIS MIND COMPLETELY, AND THOSE DEADLY LITTLE FINGERS REACHED UR... CLUTCHING WITH THE HATRED OF HOPELESS DESPAIR!

YOU FIEND! NO! NO! STOP! I... I'LL LET YOU HAVE ANOTHER BODY... I'LL FREE YOU FROM THE DOLL!

BILL WAS BEYOND REASON, AND HIS PALE PLASTIC FINGERS BIT DEEPER AND DEEPER ...









SHORTLY LATER, OUTSIDE THE GREEN DOOR ...

FOR HEAVENS SAKE, MAN...

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT IT

MEANS - SHUT UP IN THAT

HORRIBLE LITTLE BODY

FOREVER? ISOLATED FROM

THE WORLD WITH NOTHING

BUT BITTER, EMPTY

THOUGHTS? HOW CAN

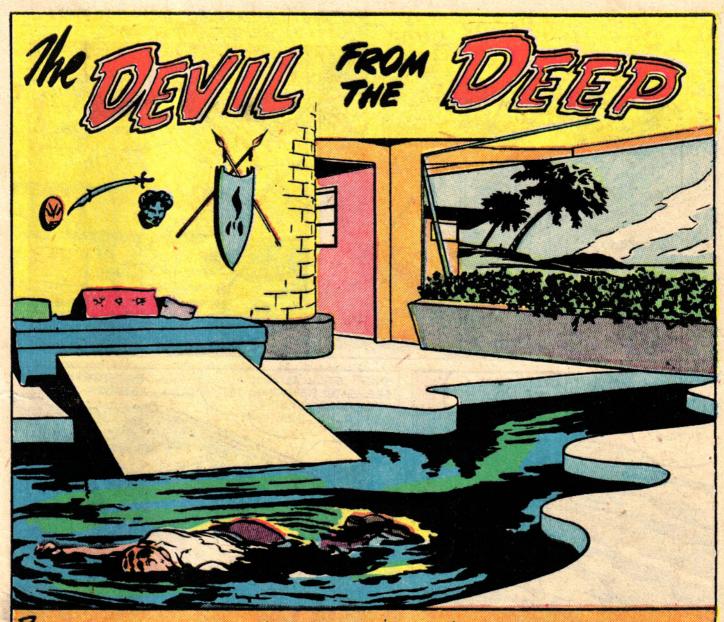
YOU REFUSE HIM

ANYTHING?

I'M SORRY, WESTON!
I CAN'T DESTROY
HIM ... I CAN'T BURN
THAT DOLL BODY
TILL EVERY LAST
FRAGMENT IS
CONSUMED IN
FLAMES... AS
HE WANTS. WILL
YOU... WHEN YOU
TAKE OVER MY
JOB TOMORROW?

N. NO. I ...
I CAN'T!
HE...HE'LL
HAVE
TO STAY
BEHIND
THAT LITTLE
GREEN
DOOR...
FOREVER!





ROBERT STRANGEWAY WAS DEAD! THAT MUCH WAS CLEAR! BUT THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO HIS INCREDIBLE DEMISE ARE KNOWN TO NO ONE BUT ME! AND I'VE KEPT THEM SECRET FOR FIFTEEN YEARS! YOU WILL SAY THIS STORY IS FICTION, OR THE GRUESOME FANTASY OF DOCTOR JOHN WALDEN'S DISEASED MIND! BUT, THEN, YOU NEVER MET...

THE DEVIL FROM THE DEEP!

AFTER A LIFE OF EXOTIC TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES, MY LIFE-LONG FRIEND, ROBERT STRANGEWAY, FINALLY SETTLED DOWN IN SECLUSION ON A LONELY ISLAND OFF THE FLORIDA KEYS! I JOINED HIM THERE THAT SUMMER, ANTICIPATING OUR ANNUAL FISHING

I HOPE YOU'YE BROUGHT
LUCK WITH YOU, JOHN! THE
FISHING HAS BEEN ROTTEN
THIS SEASON! SOMETHING
SEEMS TO HAVE FRIGHTENED
THE FISH FROM
ACTUALLY, I THIS AREA!
DON'T CARE WHETHER
I CATCH ANYTHING OR
NOT, BOB! THE SEA AIR
IS COMPENSATION ENOUGH
FOR THE
TRIP!

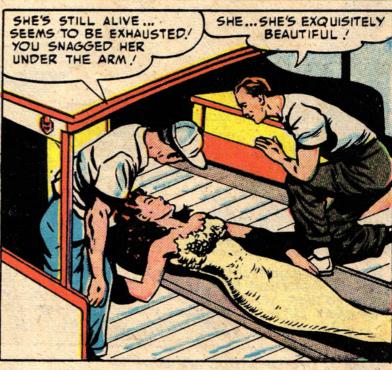
THE SKY WAS A DULL, BLOOD-RED...LOW ...
OPPRESSIVE! NO BREEZE STIRRED THE STILL, OILY
SURFACE OF THE OCEAN. IT WAS AS THOUGH
THE WORLD WERE HOLDING ITSELF IN LEASH
WITH SOME PENT-UP FURY. WE ENCOUNTERED
NO LIVING THING IN THE WATER ALL DAY! THEN











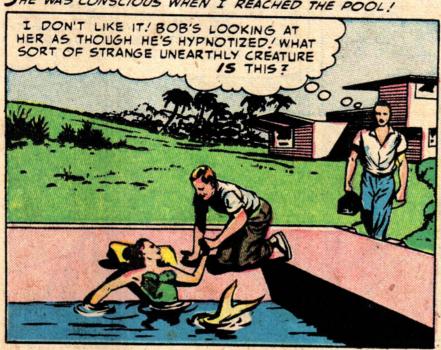
IT TOOK A FEW SECONDS FOR THE TONE IN ROBERT'S VOICE TO CUT THROUGH MY EXCITED SCIENTIFIC CURIOUSITY! I LOOKED AT HIM DUMBFOUNDED! THERE WAS AN AWESOME, ENTRANCED LOOK ON HIS FACE WHICH MADE MY HACKLES RISE!



BOB! BOB! SNAP OUT
OF IT! WE'VE GOT TO GET
BACK TO SHORE QUICKLY
IF SHE'S TO BE KEPT
ALIVE! WHAT'S
EATING YOU! EH! OH...
NOTHING!
I...I'LL START
BACK
IMMEDIATELY!

THE RETURN TRIP SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME! I WATCHED ROBERT IN HIS WEIRD TRANCE, AND HE DID NOT TAKE HIS INTENSE BLAZING EYES OFF







I TOOK MY FISHING TRIPS ALONE AFTER THAT!
ROBERT WAS UNDER SOME DIABOLICAL SPELL,
MAKING IT QUESTIONABLE AS TO WHICH ONE WAS THE CAPTOR AND WHICH THE CAPTIVE! IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, HE TAUGHT HER TO SPEAK!

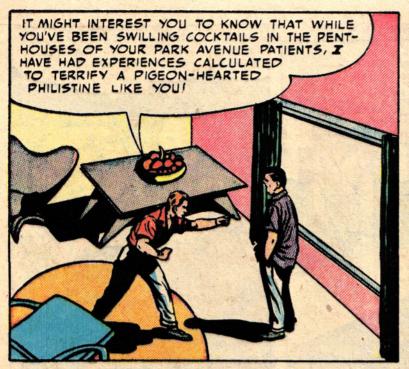


DIANA ... YOU'VE KNOWN IT SINCE THAT FIRST DAY ... I LOVE YOU ... WE'VE LOVED EACH OTHER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, WHEN MAN FIRST CRAWLED OUT OF THE SEA! AND EVEN BEFORE THAT, OUR LOVE WAS A TANGIBLE THING!

BOB MUST BE LOSING HIS MIND!
HE SEEMS TO HAVE LOST SIGHT,
COMPLETELY, OF THE NATURE OF THIS BIOLOGICAL CURIOSITY THAT HE LOVES! I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!



That night I tried to jolt robert back to his SENSES! AND TO IGNORE THIS AFTERNOON ... WHICH WAS LOATHSOME TO ME! YOU SEEM TO HAVE LOST ALL REASON!
DON'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE GETTING INVOLVED DON'T BE A CHILD, IN SOMETHING INCREDIBLY



YOU ARE MY GUEST HERE, AND WELCOME!
BUT BELIEVE ME, JOHN, I LOVE DIANA
TO MY VERY MARROW, AND IF YOU MAKE
A MOVE TO INTERFERE, I'LL SQUASH
YOU... AS I WOULD ... AN ANT!



AND NOW THAT WE'VE SETTLED THAT, HOW ABOUT A DRINK ? INCIDENTALLY, TOMORROW I'M SENDING MY MAN-SERVANT, NIKKI, TO THE MAINLAND FOR BUILDING MATERIALS! I'M

THE MAINLAND FOR BUILDING MATERIALS! I'M
RE-DESIGNING
THE LIVING
ROOM FOR
DIANA!

AND I'M GOING TO THE
MAINLAND WITH HIM! I
MUST GET AWAY FROM
THIS MADHOUSE!

BUT I DIDN'T GO! SOMEHOW I KEPT CLING-ING TO THE REMOTE HOPE THAT I COULD PULL ROBERT OUT OF DIANA'S SEEMINGLY HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE! SOME WEEKS LATER WE CELEBRATED THE FINISHED WORK ON THE LIVING ROOM!

IT IS BEAUTIFUL, DARLING!
BUT... USELESS... FOR IF
I DO NOT RETURN TO THE
SEA. I SHALL STARVE TO
DEATH! YOUR KITCHEN IS NO
SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OCEAN
FLOOR!

PATIENCE!

I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU'VE NOT BEEN EATING THE FISH AND PLANT LIFE WE'VE GIVEN YOU... SO I HAD NIKKI PREPARE SOMETHING NEW FOR YOU TO TRY! IT'S CALLED... MEAT!



I WATCHED ENTRANCED AS DIANA'S SHARP LITTLE TEETH TORE INTO THE STEAK! HER PRISTINE BEAUTY COULD NOT HIDE THE PRIMEVAL SAVAGERY IN HER EYES!

MEAT IS GOOD! VERY GOOD! LET ME HAVE MORE!

I TRIED TO FORGET THE SICKENING IMPRESSION THAT MEAL HAD MADE ON ME! BUT NEXT MORNING, WHEN I WENT TO TAKE BUCK, ROBERT'S HANDSOME GREAT DANE, FOR OUR MORNING WALK...







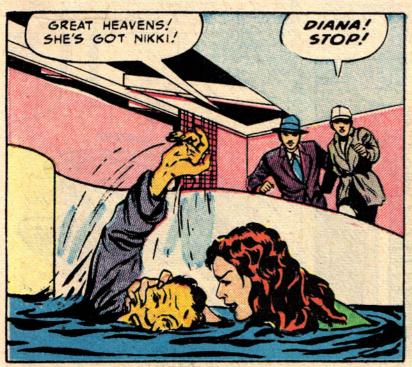


THAT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT YOU MUST REALIZE THAT DIANA DOESN'T AS YET UNDERSTAND MANY THINGS ABOUT OUR SO-CALLED YOU ... YOU ... YOU'RE CIVILIZATION! SHE'LL GOING LEARN! INSANE, BOB! THIS ... THIS MONSTROUS FREAK ... THIS WATER -WITCH ... H-HAS COMPLETELY DE-RANGED YOU! I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I'M LEAVING /



IN SPITE OF MY CONTINUING FEELING OF DESPAIR FOR MY OLD FRIEND, THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT LEAVE! I MADE IT TO THE BOAT IN EIGHT MINUTES, BUT JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO SHOVE OFF...







AFTER BURYING NIKKI, I FOLLOWED ROBERT TO HIS ROOM!

I WARNED YOU, BOB! SHE'S A GRISLY... CANNIBAL! THIS IS NO LONGER YOUR PRIVATE AFFAIR! YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT DIANA, OR I YOU CAN'T DO

POLICE!

THAT, JOHN! YOU MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME! PLEASE!



I UNDERSTAND TOO WELL! TO YOU, YOUR DIANA HAS JUST GOTTEN INTO SOME MISCHIEF! I'LL GIVE YOU UNTIL TO-MORROW MORNING TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND! GOOD NIGHT!

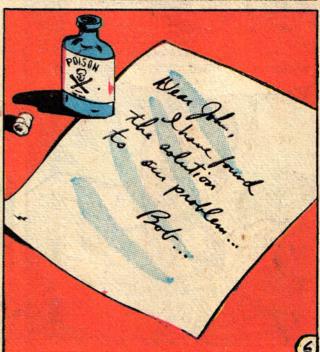


I LAY AWAKE FOR HOURS LISTENING TO ROBERT'S PACING NEXT DOOR! I FINALLY LAPSED INTO A NIGHTMARISH DOZE! I WAS SHOCKED AWAKE BY A SIXTH SENSE ... A PREMONITION OF DOOM!



I RUSHED TO ROBERT'S ROOM! HE WAS GONE ... BUT A NOTE WAS ON HIS DESK!





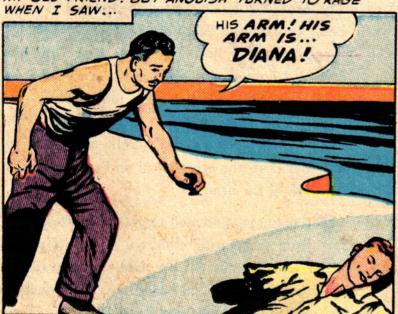
PANIC-STRICKEN, I RACED TO DIANA'S POOL!



I'M TOO LATE ... TOO LATE! THE POISON HAS SPREAD THROUGH HIS SYSTEM! HE'S DEAD ... BOB IS DEAD!



I CRIED SHAMELESSLY AT THIS WANTON LOSS OF MY OLD FRIEND! BUT ANGUISH TURNED TO RAGE



I WENT MAD! I REMEMBER, BLINDLY, TEARING A KRIS FROM THE WALL!



I'M COMING AFTER YOU,
DIANA! I'M GOING TO PUT
THIS KNIFE THROUGH YOUR
VAMPIRE'S HEART! ARE YOU
READY, DIANA? ARE
YOU READY?



BUT I NEVER STRUCK THAT BLOW, FOR ROBERT HAD ACCOMPLISHED, IN DEATH, WHAT HE COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO DO, IN LIFE! HIS POISONED FLESH HAD KILLED HER JUST AS SURELY AS THE VIAL OF POISON, ITSELF, WOULD HAVE DONE!



### GHOSTS—With a Sense of Humor!

R. CASKIN was very ill, and to make it worse someone was throwing stones at his house. The ground floor windows were already broken and as he telephoned the London police the window of his bedroom disappeared in a shower of flying glass.

The police arrived and set a guard on the house, but the stones continued to fly. More men were assigned until a cordon of forty bobbies covered every possible approach to the building. It was physically impossible for any living person to throw the stones, but they kept coming.

This is one of the most recent and best authenticated accounts of the activities of a poltergeist, or "noisy ghost". These good-natured but destructive spirits have been haunting mankind for a long time, but the explanation has yet to be found as to what they really are.

Poltergeists are real practical jokers. They seem to be happiest whenever they are driving someone frantic with their tricks. They set mysterious fires, break dishes, throw stones, knock on doors, move furniture around and generally make as big a nuisance of themselves as possible. That they are irreverent has been proven time and again; they are most destructive when destroying a cleric's home or a church. It is a matter of record that the largest percentage of poltergeist visitations have taken place in parsonages.

The Reverend Dr. Eliakim Phelps found out just what that could mean. He, his wife and four children came home from church one Sunday to find all the clothes in the house in the living room, arranged to resemble sitting, kneeling and praying figures. The good doctor muttered something about childish pranks and put the entire family to

work restoring the clothes to their proper places. It took over an hour to replace everything and they were just sitting down to dinner when a terrible crash from the other room caused them to rush in. A large marble-top table was overturned—and the clothes were back, arranged as another and even more interesting group of figures.

This was the opening of an attack that eventually forced Dr. Phelps to sell the house and move. Loud knocks were heard on the door, which when opened revealed nothing. Vines grew from the floor and lighted matches were seen to fall from the ceiling. The silver spoons jumped from the table and danced around the room. When Dr. Phelps tried to grab them a lamp sailed through the door from the other room and struck him on the back of the head.

The poltergeist seemed to get its greatest pleasure from tormenting children. A little girl was found unconscious in her bed, a long ribbon wrapped tightly around her throat. The youngest boy walked into the barn and was heard to cry out a moment later. His parents rushed in to find him dazed but unhurt. His clothes, however, had been slashed into a thousand pieces.

Poltergeists have been bothering mankind for thousands of years. The earliest writings tell of King Theodoric's troubles with flying rocks in 530 A.D. He also had his clothing cut to ribbons. This is one of the commonest poltergeist tricks, along with stone throwing and setting fires in locked cabinets. In every age and in every part of the world there have been reports of these mysterious activities.

Poltergeists seem to operate without respect for physical laws. Objects have appeared in sealed rooms. A table that came through the door of an adjoining room would not go back through the door until it was disassembled. The strangest case of this kind occurred in London in 1906.

Unknown forces had been hurling lime barrels around a warehouse for some time. When the workers came in one morning they found that one of the horses was missing from the stable. They searched the building and eventually found him in the hay room, a small chamber at the top of the building. In order to let the animal out one wall of the room had to be torn down.

This ability to operate in sealed rooms has been one of the most baffling aspects of the poltergeist mystery. These spectral jokers have as little respect for the dead as they have for the clergy. There have been numerous reports of coffins being tossed around in sealed tombs.

When this happened in Barbados it made big news. The tomb of one of the most prominent families was opened to inter a recently departed member. It was an underground tomb, hewed from solid rock, with a stone door so heavy that it took seven men to move it. Once inside, the mourners drew back in awe from the disordered chamber. Every one of the heavy, lead-lined coffins had been moved. Some stood on end while others lay in a jumble, one on top of the other. There were no marks of water that might have floated the coffins or entrances by which anyone might have entered

The vault was put in order and fine sand scattered over the floor and stairs. Any agency that tried to move the coffins again would surely leave some trace.

The massive door was closed and a mason sealed it tight. The Governor, who showed up for the ceremony, put his official seal over the opening while many other people marked the fresh cement with their own private signs.

Eight months later, with the seals still intact, the vault was opened for inspection. The door was moved only with great difficulty as a coffin rested against its inner side. The sand was unmarked—yet none of the caskets were in the positions in which they had been left. They had been overturned and tossed about by some unseen agency. One coffin had been broken open and an arm hung out with a withered hand pointing to the doorway.

The records revealed that the man in the broken coffin had been a suicide; he had been found with the bloody razor still clutched in that same hand.

The flying stones of which poltergeists are so fond are a baffling mystery. They have been observed by thousands of reliable witnesses in every nation in the world. There can be no doubt that they exist, yet there is no satisfactory explanation of their existence.

These stones move very slowly, much slower than an ordinary thrown stone. They usually describe wide arcs in the air, on some occasions making a right-angle turn in flight in order to pass through some opening. They are always warmer than the surrounding air. In fact, some of them are too hot to hold when picked up immediately after their strange flight.

The most humorous ghost of all time was the moving spirit of the "Saragossa Mystery". This poltergeist was a disembodied voice that spoke from the inside of a kitchen chimney in Saragossa, Spain. This happy shade chatted and made jokes at any hour of the day or night. The inhabitants of the house became so annoyed by witty remarks from the furniture that they made a complaint to the police. The officer inspecting the wall asked the tenant the dimension of the chimney. The tenant said that he had no idea. At this point a cheerful voice came from the opening and said, "The chimney is exactly six inches in diameter." When measured, this statement was found to be correct.

If you should find your china dancing a jig with flying stones in the front room some day, don't be frightened. After all, poltergeists are great jokers and don't hurt people—most of the time!

THE END

Sensational NEW Story by

# 

"THE VEILED WOMAN"

in

# fantastic



new digest size magazine

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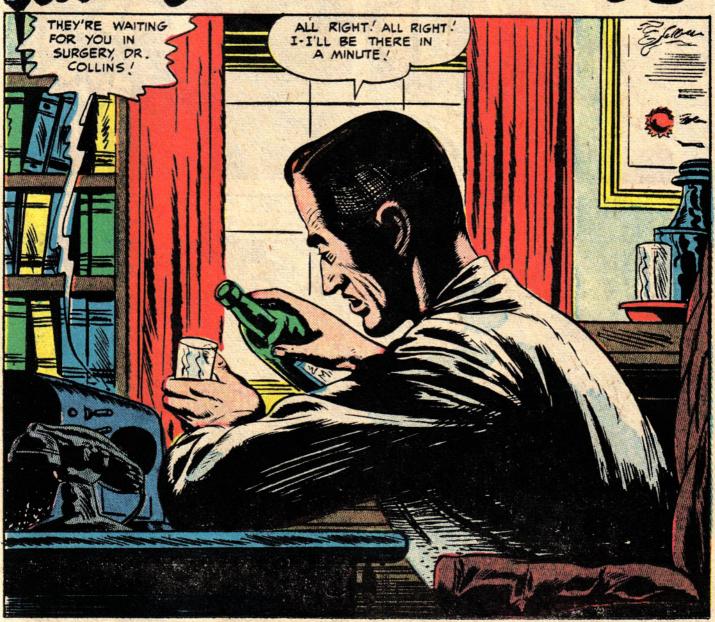
Also Sparkling Stories by

Samuel Hopkins Adams . C. M. Kornbluth . Ralph Robin

Dean Evans . Richard Matheson . Others

THE DOCTOR GRABBED HIS BAG AND STARTED OFF WITH THE TWO MEN. HE THOUGHT HE WAS GOING ON JUST ANOTHER CASE ... BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW THE PATIENT WAS HIS PAST ... OR THAT HIS PAYMENT WOULD BE ...

## WHI FUR AUGIS



DR. RALPH COLLINS HAD BEEN HEAD SURGEON OF MEDWICK HOSPITAL FOR TEN YEARS... BUT HE WAS SLIPPING FAST!



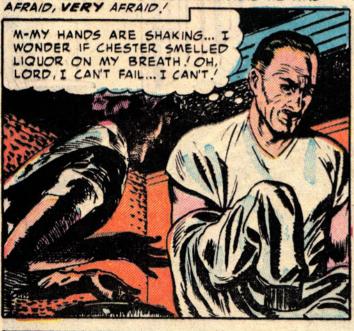
BUT THAT WAS THE TROUBLE! IN THE PAST TEN YEARSTHERE HAD BEEN TOO MANY DRINKS!



ANOTHER HASTY DRINK AND COLLINS WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE OPERATING ROOM! HIS PATIENT, FRANK CHESTER, GREETED HIM ...



THE EFFECTS OF THE ALCOHOL ... AND HE WAS AFRAID, VERY AFRAID!









SOMEHOW COLLINS MANAGED TO FINISH THE OPERATION AND RETURN TO HIS OFFICE ...



BUT THE DOCTOR WAS LUCKY!
HIS REPUTATION AND PRESTIGE
SAVED HIM! THE SLIP WAS TERMED
AN "ACCIDENT"...

IT WASN'T
YOUR FAULT,
DR. COLLINS!
I... DR. COLLINS!
I GUESS I
JUST HAP A BAD
BREAK!EVEN A
GREAT SURGEON
CAN HAVE AN
ACCIDENT!

BUT AS HE STOOD OUTSIDE THE BLIND MAN'S DOOR, COLLINS REALIZED THE FULL EXTENT OF CHESTER'S MISERY!



THE SOUND OF CHESTER'S
TORTURED SOBS ECHOED OVER
AND OVER IN COLLINS' BRAIN...
UNTIL HE COULD STAND IT NO
LONGER...



THE DOCTOR FLED TO A SMALL RESORT IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE HE HOPED TO REGAIN PEACE



I'M POCTOR COLLINS! YES SIR! THESE TWO MEN ARE LOOKING FOR A PHYSICIAN!

NEED A DOCTOR BAD!

WE'RE ON A HUNTING HE CAN'T WELL ... ER ...
TRIP! ONE OF THE WALK! HE'S I'M NOT WAITING PRACTICING NOW, B-BUT...
IN A TRAP!

AT THE ALL RIGHT!
CABIN!

I'LL COME!



COLLINS GOT HIS BAG AND STARTED OUT WITH THE TWO MEN! AN'HOUR LATER ...





AS HE ENTERED THE NEXT ROOM, THE DOCTOR'S EYES
BLINKED AT THE SUDDEN BRIGHT LIGHTS! HE FOUND HIMSELF
IN A CRUDELY EQUIPPED OPERATING ROOM!











SHE WAS ALIVE ... AND YET DEAD ... FOR THE LIFE SHE LIVED WAS SPUN OF DREAMS! AND IF THE DREAMER WASN'T CAREFUL, HE'D SLEEP FOREVER IN A NIGHTMARE

# OF TERROR WITH HIS ...



THADN'T SEEN ERIC SINCE THAT STRANGE TRAGEDY, AND THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS WORRIED ME... I'LL VISIT HIS



I RANSACKED HIS ROOMS FOR HOURS, AND



### ERIC'S DIARY TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST IN-CREDIBLE DOCUMENT I'D EVER READ!

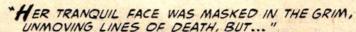
"I HAD HEARD OF A RARE CREMONA IN ONE OF THE DISREPUTABLE SECOND HAND SHOPS IN THE UNSAVORY HARBOR AREA! I WAS SEARCHING FOR IT WHEN SUDDENLY I SAW HER IN A DARK, COBWEBBED CORNER ..."



THEN EL AHMED, THE PROPRIETOR, WAS AT MY SIDE, GRINNING LIKE AN IMP OUT OF ONE OF THOSE GRUEL ORIENTAL FAIRY TALES!

YOU ARE INTERESTED YES! THAT STATUE IN THIS ... THIS PIECE FASCINATES ME! WHAT OF MERCHANDISE ? IS IT MADE OF ?















HER VOICE WAS CLEAR AS A SILVER FLUTE, HER EYES SPARKLING WITH LAUGHTER ... YET DEEP AND COMPASSIONATE! "



AS THOUGH MY UNSPOKEN THOUGHT WERE A COMMAND, SHE WALKED TO AN OLD PIANO, AND ..."



"IT SEEMED AS IF MY THOUGHTS TRANSMITTED LIFE TO HER! THOSE WAXEN CHEEKS FLUSHED WITH ROSE, AND..."







HIS FACE SEEMED TO WRITHE WITH EVIL TRIUMPH AS HE SPOKE ... BUT I IGNORED HIM ... FOR WHY SHOULD I EVER HARM THAT LOVELY CREATURE I"



T WAS INEVITABLE THAT I FALL IN LOVE WITH



WILL YOU POSE FOR ME NOW, SO LET'S LEAVE THE OTHERS! THEY ARE UNIMPORTANT!

T REMEMBER WHAT EXCITEMENT SHE CAUSED WHEN WE FIRST PLAYED TOGETHER ... "



EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT ... UNTIL WE WENT TO THAT PARTY AT VAN NESSEN'S STUDIO ... "



I REALIZED THAT SHE WAS RESPONDING TO VAN NESSEN'S WISHES AS SHE HAD TO MINE!"



FOR A FEW MINUTES I WATCHED HER... HARD ... HAUGHTY ... PITILESS ... CHANGED INTO VAN NESSEN'S



"I WAS HARDLY AWARE OF THE THOUGHT THAT FLASHED THROUGH MY MIND!"



"I REALIZED TOO LATE THAT MY THOUGHT WOULD THEN SHE TURNED TO ME, EYES SOFT WITH LEAP INTO HER MIND WITH THE COMPELLING WARMTH AND AFFECTION..." HOW CAN I TRANSFIXED WITH TERROR, AS... "SHE... ) I WILL ALWAYS EXPLAIN THAT I



SHE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT, AND WHEN I VISITED HER ... "

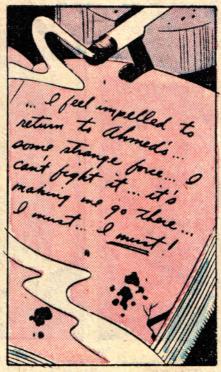


"AND THEN, BEFORE MY EYES, SHE SEEMED TO WITHER AND FADE, AND IN A MOMENT..."





ERIC DID DISAPPEAR JUST AFTER SHE VANISHED SO MYSTERI OUSLY ... BUT THIS ... IT ... IT'S INCREDIBLE! HIS MIND MUST HAVE SNAPPED! WAIT! THERE'S ONE MORE ENTRY!



I SHUDDERED WHEN I READ THOSE WORDS, AND DECIDED THAT I WOULD VISIT AHMED'S ... TO SEE IF THERE WAS EVEN A SHRED OF TRUTH IN ERIC'S TALE!



I BROWSED ABOUT CASUALLY, AND THEN I GASPED IN TERROR AS I SAW IT!



IT IS NO STATUE ... BUT WARM, LIVING FLESH ... WAITING FOR LIFE! A VERY INTERESTING PIECE OF MERCHANDISE!

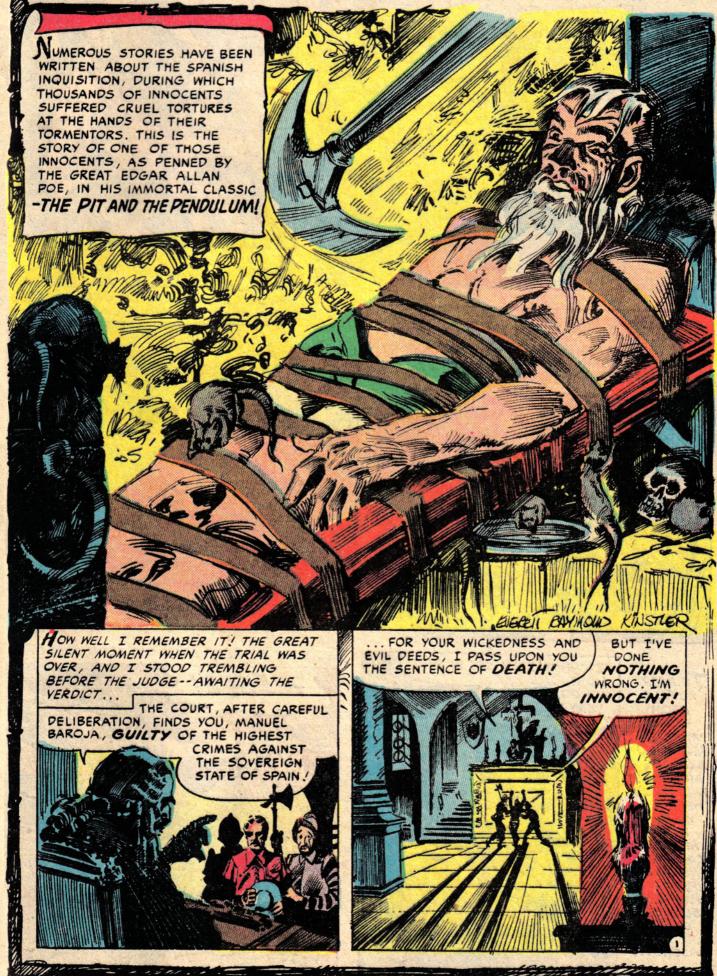
NO!NO! LET ME OUT! I... I MUST GET PERHAPS YOU WANT A MAN-SERVANT ... ONE WHO WILL UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS THOROUGHLY? HE WILL BE ... WHATEVER YOU



AT FIRST, THE IDEA REVOLTED ME ... BUT AS I THINK ABOUT IT MORE AND MORE ...



### the FIF and the PANDUM



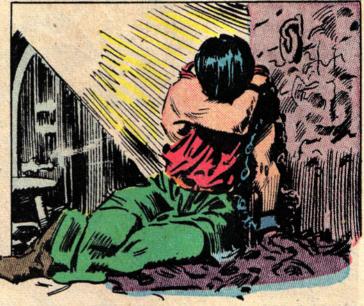




SOON THE ECHOES OF THEIR FOOT-STEPS WERE GONE. ALL THAT REMAINED WAS MY FEAR, AND THE GREAT SILENCE THAT PRESSED IN ON ALL SIDES...

OUR MASTERS HAVE MADE SPECIAL PLANS FOR THIS ONE, VIVALDO! BEFORE THEY'RE THROUGH, HE'LL KNOW WHAT TERROR MEANS! LEAVE IT TO OUR MASTERS. THEY'VE MADE KILLING AN ART!





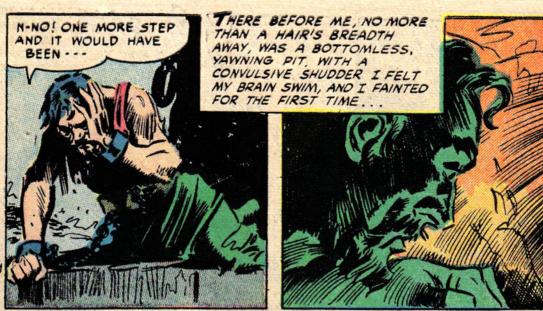
TO KEEP MYSELF FROM GOING MAD, I BEGAN TO EXPLORE MY CELL THE WALLS WERE OF METAL . WITH HIDEOUS CARVINGS ENGRAVED UPON THEIR SURFACES SLOWLY, I GROPED MY WAY ALONG ...



SUDDENLY MY FEET SHOT OUT FROM UNDER ME ...







HOW LONG I HAD LAIN THERE I DON'T KNOW, BUT WHEN I CAME TO, THE SECOND PHASE OF MY TORTURE HAD



No sooner had this thought crossed my mind, when I HEARD A SUDDEN SOUND FROM ABOVE...



WITH EACH SWEEPING ARC THE GLEAMING BLADE CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER--ITS RAZOR-LIKE EDGE AIMED DIRECTLY AT MY HEART...









QUICKLY I SMEARED THE FOUL SMELL:
ING BROTH OVER THE THONGS THAT
BOUND ME. THE ODOR FILLED THE CELL,
AND NOW I HEARD THE MAD SCURRYING
OF TINY FEET.







I COULD FEEL THE STRAPS GOING, ONLY A FEW STRANDS REMAINED. BUT NOW THE BLADE WAS POISED FOR ITS FINAL STROKE! WITH A QUIVERING ACTION IT STARTED FORWARD...

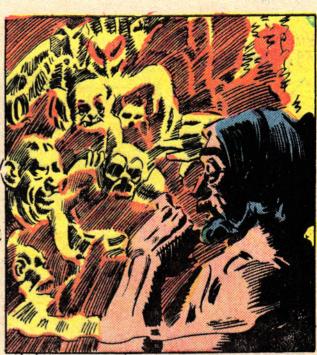




SLOWLY THE TERROR+ FILLED MINUTES PASSED! AND THEN I NOTICED A NEW HORROR, A SULPHUROUS GLOW BEGAN TO FILL THE CELL, AND I WAS STRUCK WITH A BLAST OF HEAT FROM THE METAL WALLS ...



BUT AS I EACKED AWAY FROM THEIR FIERY HEAT, THE WALLS THEMSELVES FOLLOWED. THEY WERE ACTUALLY MOVING, CLOSING IN, FORCING ME SLOWLY BUT STEADILY TOWARD THE YAWNING PIT!





SUDDENLY I HEARD THE HUM OF VOICES, THE BLAST OF TRUMPETS! THE FIERY WALLS RUSHED BACK AND AS I FELL INTO THE PIT AN OUTSTRETCHED HAND CAUGHT MINE ...







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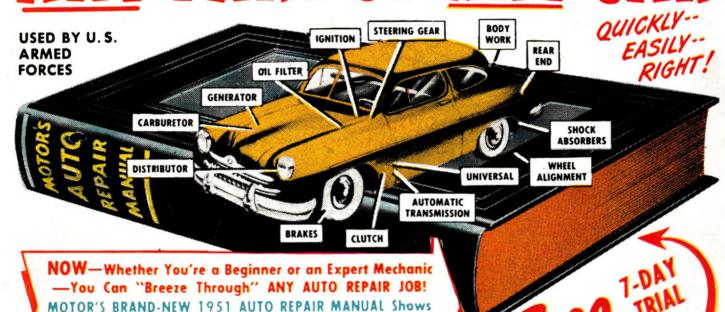
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