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CREEPY

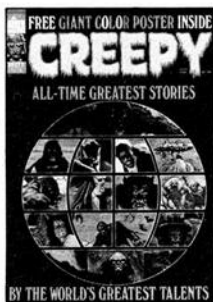
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ALL-TIME GREATEST STORIES



BY THE WORLD'S GREATEST TALENTS



OUR COVER: Frazetta, Sanjulin, and Enrich share the top cover honors as this issue showcases the best of covers past.

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CREEPY

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TIME FOR A REAL TINGLER, TERRORS... EVERY SMALL TOWN ALWAYS HAS ONE REAL CHARACTER, RIGHT? FOSTERDALE IS NO EXCEPTION! COME WITH ME AND MEET THE LOCAL WEIRD-O... OF COURSE, YOU'D BE WEIRD TOO IF YOU HAD HIS PROBLEM, AS YOU'LL SEE IN THIS *MIND-WARPING MARVEL* CALLED...

BRAIN TRUST!

FROM THE PITCH BLACK INTERIOR OF THE OLD HOUSE, AN ODOR OF FETID DECAY STUNG THE NOSTRILS OF THE YOUNG MAN IN THE DOORWAY... HE WINCED BUT DID NOT RUN AWAY AS EVERY INSTINCT IN HIM SCREAMED TO DO!

THE VOICE WAS A HOARSE, GRATING RASP... SEEMING ALMOST DISEMBODIED AS IT CAME OUT OF THE IMPENETRABLE DARKNESS!

CHESTER... IT'S DR. ELLIOT! I UNDERSTAND YOUR... *PROBLEM!* I'VE COME TO HELP!

GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S NOTHING YOU OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO!

CHESTER... PLEASE!

DOC, I GOT A GUN HERE... DON'T MAKE ME USE IT!

PLEASE! M-MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

TOO LATE? IT WAS TOO LATE THE DAY YOU CAME TO FOSTERDALE!

ELLIOT'S MIND RACED BACK...BACK TO THE DAY HE HAD FIRST ARRIVED IN FOSTERDALE...THE DAY HE HAD FIRST SEEN CHESTER HOLCOMB...AT THE FUNERAL OF THE MAN HE WAS TO REPLACE!

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
WHAT AM I GONNA *DO*?
BLAST YOU, DOC ADAMS!
WHY'D YOU HAVE
TO *DIE*?!

THE MUTTERINGS OF THE GREAT HULK OF A MAN HAD REACHED ELLIOT'S EAR...A DOCTOR'S CONCERN MADE HIM APPROACH...

I DON'T LIKE TO
INTRUDE, BUT PERHAPS
I COULD HELP...I'M
TO BE DR. ADAMS'S
REPLACEMENT.

WHA?
GET AWAY!
HE WAS THE
ONLY ONE 'COULD
DO ANYTHING...
THE ONLY ONE!
GET AWAY! LEAVE
ME ALONE!!

STRANGE! DOESN'T
APPEAR TO HAVE
TOUCHED A RAZOR
FOR DAYS... BUT
HE'S *DRENCHED*
WITH *SHAVING*
LOTION!

DON'T PAY HIM
NO MIND, DOC!
THAT'S CHESTER
HOLCOMB...THE
TOWN CHARACTER!

HARMLESS ENOUGH...
BUT SIMPLE MINDED!
NOT MUCH UPSTAIRS!

YET FROM THE BEGINNING, ELLIOT HAD BEEN INTRIGUED BY THE CASE OF CHESTER HOLCOMB...AND THE CAUSE OF HIS STRANGENESS...

SEEMS TO BE A COMPLETE RECLUSE...
ONLY LEAVES THAT OLD HOUSE
OCCASIONALLY FOR GROCERIES...

HE WATCHED THE HULKING MAN CLOSELY...
HOPING FOR SOME CLUE TO WHAT LAY
BENEATH THE RETARDED EXTERIOR...

...AN A CASE OF
SHAVING LOTION...

A CASE? LAWD...
YOU NEED THE
WHOLE FACTORY!

OR BETTER YET...
A BATH!

IT'S PURE CRIMINAL
FOR A MAN TO WALK
AROUND LIKE THAT...

THERE'S
A LIMIT TO
WHAT PERFUME
CAN COVER
UP!

THE BOYS ARE
RIGHT! IF YOU CAN'T
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF...
STAY OUT OF MY
STORE! I'M NOT
FILLING ANY MORE
ORDERS FOR YOU!

CHESTER! THOSE
MEN'S ACTIONS
WERE INEXCUSABLE...
IF YOU'D LET
ME HELP...

GET YOUR
HANDS OFF
ME! LEMME
ALONE!!

MY GOD...
HIS FLESH WAS
COLD AS
ICE!

YOU SHOULDN'T
WORRY NONE ABOUT
THAT BIG HULK, DOC!
HE MAY BE SIMPLE,
BUT HE'S HEALTHY AS
A BULL... NOTHIN'
CAN HURT HIM!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

"YESSIR...AIN'T NOTHIN' CAN HURT THAT HOSS... LIKE THE DAY HE WANDERED RIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF LEM FULLER'S PRODUCE TRUCK!"

"DOC ADAMS ALWAYS TOOK A SPECIAL INTEREST IN CHESTER... ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT HIM... EVEN *HE* DIDN'T HAVE NO HOPE WHEN HE GOT TO HIM SPRAWLED OUT IN THE STREET!"



"WASN'T A MAN AMONG US THAT DIDN'T FIGURE WE CARRIED A DEAD MAN INTO THE DOC'S OFFICE... BUT WE HADN'T MORE 'AN LAID HIM OUT ON THE TABLE, WHEN... *UP HE SAT!*"

THAT WAS 'BOUT A WEEK BEFORE OL' DOC KICKED OFF WITH HIS HEART ATTACK! WONDER ALL OF US DIDN'T HAVE ONE, SEEIN' CHESTER WALK AWAY FROM A THING LIKE *THAT!* AIN'T *NOTHIN'* CAN HURT THAT BOY!



MONTHS PASSED... CHESTER HOLCOMB MADE NO MORE APPEARANCES IN THE GENERAL STORE ...OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN FOSTERDALE!

SOMETHIN' STRANGE IS GOIN' ON AROUND HERE! LAST NIGHT SOME KIND OF CRITTER BROKE INTO OUR FRUIT CELLAR... MADE OFF WITH A LOT OF STUFF!



SHERIFF OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING! IT'S HAPPENED TO A LOT OF FOLKS... CHICKENS...CROPS... ANY KINDA FOOD! THE THING SHOULD BE HUNTED DOWN!

TRACKIN' IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM...LEFT AN AWFUL STRONG SMELL IN OUR FRUIT CELLAR!



ELLIOT RACED FROM THE STORE TO CHESTER'S FRONT DOOR... THE SEEDS OF MOB VIOLENCE HAD BEEN IN THE CONVERSATION JUST HEARD, AND IT WOULD BE BUT A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL EVERYONE MADE THE SAME CONNECTION HE HAD!

CHESTER! LISTEN TO REASON! I'M A DOCTOR...THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO... TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING!

MEDICINE WON'T HELP! NOTHING WILL! JUST LEAVE ME BE!



THE ANGRY, HOPELESS VOICE DROVE HIM BACK TO HIS OFFICE...AND TO THE OLD FILES LEFT BY DOC ADAMS...

NOTHING HERE ON CHESTER... NOT EVEN A RECORD OF BIRTH!

WAIT!... DOC ADAMS ALSO KEPT A DIARY!



HE UNCOVERED THE OLD BOOK... BEGAN BROWSING THROUGH THE FADED INK ENTRIES...UNTIL...

HERE! MOTHER DIED IN CHILDBIRTH... SURVIVED BY... TWINS!! BOTH DEFORMED AT BIRTH SO THAT... OH, MY GOD!



HE READ THE REST OF THE ENTRIES IN HORROR, THEN CLOSED THE BOOK! ELLIOT NOW KNEW HOW HOPELESS CHESTER'S SITUATION WAS... YET, NO MATTER HOW FUTILE, HIS DOCTOR'S INSTINCTS DROVE HIM BACK INTO THE NIGHT TOWARD THE DARKENED OLD HOUSE...



CHESTER, I READ DOC ADAM'S DIARY... I *KNOW* THERE ARE *TWO* OF YOU! ONE IS THE TWIN WITH THE NORMAL BODY... THE TWIN *KILLED* BY THE TRUCK.

THE TWIN THAT EVEN THOUGH *DEAD*, EVEN THOUGH DECAYING, HAD TO KEEP MOVING AND PROVIDING FOR *YOU!* YOU, CHESTER... THE OTHER TWIN! THE TWIN BORN WITH THE *BRAIN* FOR *BOTH* BODIES!!

NO MATTER *WHAT* HAPPENED TO THE OTHER BODY, IT COULD STILL BE MOVED BY *YOUR* THOUGHTS AND WILL POWER! NOW WILL YOU LET ME TRY TO HELP?

DON'T TOUCH THE LIGHTS! I CAN'T STAND TO BE SEEN! DON'T! DON'T!!

ELLIOT'S FINGERS WERE ALREADY ON THE SWITCH... HE COULD NOT STOP HIMSELF... BUT IN THE SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE LIGHT FLOODED THE RANCID-SMELLING ROOM...


CHESTER!
NO!

BLAM!

DR. ELLIOT TRIED TO SCREAM, BUT ONLY A CHOKED WHISPER WOULD COME FORTH... CHESTER HOLCOMB HAD GIVEN HIS LAST THOUGHT COMMAND TO THE DECAYED THING THAT HAD BEEN HIS MINDLESS TWIN... MAKING THE BONY FINGER TRIGGER THE SUICIDE SHOT TO THE BRAIN WHICH CONTROLLED THEM BOTH!

OH, MY GOD!

TSK, TSK! TOO BAD... CHESTER WAS A REAL *BRAIN!* NO WONDER HE WAS *HEAD* OF THE FAMILY! NOW, IF YOU'VE A *MIND* TO, PUSH ON TO MY NEXT TALE...



THROUGH THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTRYSIDE A CAR TRAVELS SLOWLY... INSIDE, ITS OCCUPANTS ARE BORED, SECURE AND UNAWARE HOW MUCH TERROR THE NEXT FEW SECONDS WILL BRING...


GREAT! THE STUDIO SENDS US HUNTING FOR A MOVIE LOCATION AND ALL WE FIND IS FOG!

IT'S SLOW GOING, RANDY, BUT IT COULD BE MUCH WORSE!

BLOWOUT!


WATCH IT, MARK, WE'RE SWERVING OFF THE ROAD!

Al Williamson



WHEW! CLOSE
CALL! YOU OKAY,
RANDY?

THIS ROAD'S LITTERED
WITH BROKEN GLASS
AND NAILS. YOU'D
NEED A TANK TO
COME THROUGH
WITHOUT A FLAT.
HOW'S THAT TIRE?



YOU MEAN TIRES!
WE BLEW OUT THE
BACK ONE ALSO.



OH GREAT! TWO
FLATS AND ONE
SPARE. WE'RE
STUCK!

LISTEN!
THAT SOUNDED
LIKE A GIRL
SCREAMING!




IT CAME FROM
THIS DIRECTION.
LOOK!

WELCOME
TO
JONEVILLE



I THINK YOU'RE
HEARING THINGS,
BUT IF THIS
TOWN HAS A
PLACE TO FIX
THOSE FLATS, I
FORGIVE YOU!



THIS IS AMAZING! A
CROSSROADS HAMLET,
RIGHT OUT OF THE
MOVIE SCRIPT!

THIS FOG'S CREEPY
ENOUGH WITHOUT
DRAWING PARALLELS
LIKE THAT! REMEMBER
THAT SCRIPT IS A
HORROR STORY.

HELLO!
ANYBODY
HOME?

SEEMS DESERTED.
A LITTLE TOO FAR
OFF THE BEATEN
PATH... EVEN FOR
ONE OF OUR
HORROR MOVIES.

LOCKED UP TIGHT
AND NOT A SOUL
TO BE STIRRED.
GIVES ME THE
WILLYS!

I KNOW WHAT
YOU MEAN.
IT'S - **LISTEN!**
BELLS!

ON THE HILL... A
CHURCH. EVERYONE
MUST BE THERE
FOR SOME KIND OF
SERVICE.

BONG!

BONG! BONG!


IN THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
WEEK?



RANDY! THE
WINDOWS AND
DOORS...

BOARDED UP!
LIKE THEY DON'T
EVEN USE IT
ANY MORE.

EEEEEEEEEE!!!



THAT SCREAM
AGAIN. FROM
OUT BACK!



THERE'S SOMETHING
GOING ON IN THAT
CEMETERY.



A GATHERING
OF PEOPLE.
IT MUST BE A
FUNERAL.

THE FOG IS
LIFTING. MAYBE
WE CAN SEE...




GOOD LORD!
THEY'RE TYING
THAT GIRL BESIDE
THE OPEN GRAVE
LIKE SOME KIND
OF...

SACRIFICE!




INTRUDERS!
OBSERVING THE
SACRIFICIAL RITES.

THIS IS THE TWENTIETH
CENTURY! WHAT KIND
OF SUPERSTITIOUS
MUMBO-JUMBO DO
YOU THINK YOU'RE
PULLING HERE?

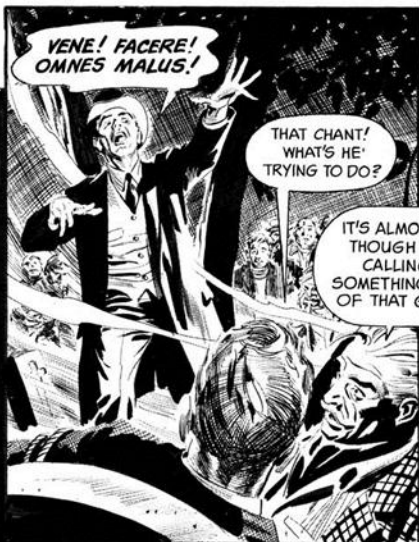


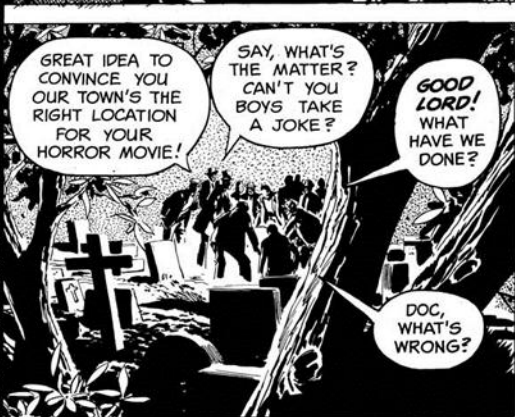
UNTIE THAT
GIRL AND LEAVE
HER ALONE!

THE BLASPHEMERS
WOULD HALT THE
SACRIFICIAL
CEREMONY.
TAKE THEM!



YOU WANTED TO
FREE THE GIRL?
VERY WELL, WE WILL
RELEASE HER...
AND YOU CAN TAKE
HER PLACE.







HEE, HEE! SO HERE YOU ARE AGAIN, WAITING BREATHLESSLY FOR ANOTHER TALE TOPPED WITH **TORPID TREPIDATION, TERRIFIC TURBULENCE** AND **TREMENDOUS TERROR!** WELL, OKAY THEN...HOW ABOUT THIS ONE...

ACT, THREE!

KNOCK
KNOCK

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

ALL RIGHT! ALL
RIGHT! JUST A
MOMENT, PLEASE!
I'LL BE RIGHT
THERE!

**LOTTIE
GARDNER!**

HOW COULD HE **DO IT?**! HOW
COULD HE? THAT **RAT!** THAT
DOG!

ARE YOU DOCTOR
SCHNOOKER?

DR. SCHNEIDER...
ER, YES, MISS
GARDNER...YOU
ARE MY FAVORITE...

YOU **KNOW** WHO I AM, OF COURSE! EVERYONE
DOES! I'M NOT CALLED THE WORLD'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL MOVIE STAR, FOR NOTHING! AND
YOU KNOW WHAT **HE** DID? YOU **DO** KNOW,
DON'T YOU? OF **COURSE** YOU KNOW!
HE **TOLD** ME YOU **KNEW!** **WELL!**

I NEED A SEDATIVE! I NEED A LAWYER!
A **DIVORCE!** THAT'S WHAT I **NEED**,
BUT MY CRUMMY AGENT, MY CONTRACTS,
MY **PUBLIC** WON'T PERMIT IT!

I KNOW, MISS
GARDNER, I
KNOW...ER...
YOU NEED A
TRANQUILIZER.
YOU...YOU'RE
SO UPSET...

UPSET, HE SAYS! HA! **UPSET!** AND WHY NOT?! I JUST FIND
OUT I'M MARRIED TO SOME **ANIMAL** AND CAN'T DO A
THING ABOUT IT, AND HE SAYS I'M **UPSET!**
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

ER...YOU WANTED A
SEDATIVE...THIS...THIS
TRANQUILIZER INJECTION
WILL CALM YOU...

CALM ME?! NOTHING
WILL EVER **CALM** ME
AGAIN! I'VE BEEN
BETRAYED! EVERYONE'S
BETRAYED ME!
AND YOU **KNOW**
IT, SHORTY!

ER...SCHNEIDER...YES, I KNOW
THE WHOLE STORY, LOTTIE, ER...
MISS GARDNER. BUT IT ISN'T
BARRY'S FAULT, REALLY...IT
WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT THAT
HAPPENED ON HIS EUROPEAN
TOUR!

OF COURSE! OF **COURSE!** JUST AN ACCIDENT HE DIDN'T
TELL ME ABOUT UNTIL WE CAME BACK FROM OUR HONEYMOON!
THEN HE SPRINGS IT ON ME!

"LOTTIE BABY," HE SAYS,
"GUESS WHAT! YOU MARRIED
A **WEREWOLF!**"

ER...YES, I KNOW... HE
CALLED ME AFTER HE CAME
BACK FROM EUROPE!

A **WEREWOLF!**
WHO COULD
BELIEVE IT? SO
OKAY! HE'S A
WEREWOLF!
BUT, TONIGHT...

I KNOW, MISS GARDNER. TONIGHT
THERE IS A **FULL MOON!** THIS
AFTERNOON HE BROUGHT YOU
DOWNSTAIRS TO THE CELLAR IN
HIS HOME...ER, **YOUR** HOME, TOO,
AND HE MADE YOU LOCK HIM UP
IN CHAINS, AND THEN...

...AND THEN, TONIGHT, HE **CHANGED...**
INTO SOME **BEAST!** IF HE WEREN'T
CHAINED, HE WOULD HAVE **KILLED**
ME! IT WAS **AWFUL!** HOW COULD
HE **DO** THAT TO ME! I JUST
COULDN'T STAND IT!

I KNOW...I KNOW.
IT **IS** QUITE A
SHOCK THE FIRST
TIME!



THERE HE IS, DOC! HE'S ALL YOURS! I CAN'T EVEN **LOOK** AT HIM! DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

IT WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT. THIS SEDATIVE DART SHOULD DO THE TRICK. MY, HE'S REALLY ACTING UP TONIGHT!



HMPF! SOME OF HIS FANS SHOULD SEE THE GREAT BARRY MORTON **NOW!** MATINEE IDOL, IS HE? RIGHT NOW HE BELONGS IN SOME **HORROR** MOVIE...OR IN A **ZOO!** DISGUSTING!

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO IT, MISS GARDNER.

AH! THERE!



HEY, DOC! HE'S GETTING GROGGY! WHY DON'T YOU KEEP HIM DOPED UP LIKE THAT **ALL** THE TIME?!

I'M AFRAID TO! THIS SPECIAL SEDATIVE MIGHT HAVE VERY HARMFUL EFFECTS IF USED CONTINUALLY!



WELL, CAN'T YOU HURRY UP?!! DO I **HAVE** TO JUST STAND HERE WASTING MY TIME LIKE THIS? **STOP FUMBLING!** DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE **DOING**?!

YES...YES, OF COURSE I DO! I JUST HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE FINDING THE VEIN.



YOU HAVE TROUBLE! **HA!** WHAT DOES A NOTHING LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT TROUBLE?!! IF MY PUBLIC EVER FINDS OUT ABOUT **THIS** MESS... **HA!** **THAT'S** TROUBLE!

I'M SORRY, MISS GARDNER, I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS, AND...AND I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HURT **YOU**.



WELL, YOU BETTER NOT! TO THINK THAT LOTTIE GARDNER HAS TO PUT UP WITH **THIS** KIND OF A DEAL! IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON THAT STUPID AGENT OF MINE FOR GETTING ME INTO THIS, I'LL...

BUT YOUR AGENT DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT **THIS!** BY THE TIME BARRY BECAME INFECTED ALL THE PLANS AND THE WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC! IT WAS TOO LATE!

THERE! THAT DOES IT!



EXCUSES! EXCUSES! WHO'S SIDE ARE YOU ON ANYWAY, YOU QUACK! MAKE SURE YOU **LOCK** THAT DOOR! I DON'T WANT THAT BEAST TO GET OUTTA THERE!

I'M ON **YOUR** SIDE! AND BARRY'S, TOO! BUT I ONLY AGREED TO HELP HIM IN THIS BECAUSE HE SAID **YOU** WERE INVOLVED. I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU...I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT.

OH, BROTHER! LOOK, DR. SPIDER, ALL I WANT FROM YOU IS TO TELL ME HOW LONG I GOTTA PUT **UP** WITH THAT IDIOT DOWNSTAIRS!

ER, SCHNEIDER... DR. SCHNEIDER, THAT'S MY NAME, BUT, WELL... BARRY SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT TOMORROW. HE'S ALWAYS OKAY, PERFECTLY NORMAL DURING DAYTIME. IT'S ONLY ON NIGHTS OF THE FULL MOON THAT HE'S AFFECTED AND BECOMES CHANGED. AND SINCE THIS IS THE WEEK OF THE FULL MOON...

YEAH, YEAH... IT'S THE SAME STORY I GOT FROM BARRY, "ONLY A COUPLE NIGHTS A MONTH"!

WHERE YOU GOING?

ER, WELL, I WAS GOING BACK TO MY LABORATORY. IT'S VERY LATE... AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO HERE.

ARE YOU KIDDING, BUSTER?! IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE ME ALONE IN THIS HOUSE WITH THAT JOKER DOWNSTAIRS FIT TO **KILL** SOMEONE, WELL, YOU GOT ANOTHER GUESS COMING! TONIGHT YOU SLEEP CLOSE BY, WHERE YOU CAN **PROTECT** ME!

WHAT?!!

OH, MY, MISS GARDNER! THIS IS MORE THAN I EVER DARED...

ON THE COUCH IN THE HALL, STUPID... THE COUCH IN THE HALL!

OH

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU HAD TO WAKE **ME** AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING! YOU KNOW I NEED MY BEAUTY SLEEP!

BUT BARRY SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT NOW! IT'S ALMOST 9 A.M., AND I'M SURE HE HARDLY RESTED AT ALL LAST NIGHT! WE HAVE TO BRING HIM UPSTAIRS!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF **ME**, BABY! I TOLD YOU... EVERYTHING WILL BE **A-OKAY!**

SURE, SURE! WHAT DO YOU CARE WHAT **I** HAVE TO GO THROUGH?! ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS **YOURSELF!** WELL, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE **NOW**... YOU'RE **STILL** A DISGUSTING ANIMAL AS FAR AS **I'M** CONCERNED!



OH, MY... SHE SEEMS QUITE ... **UPL!**

LISTEN, YOU TWO-BIT QUACK! HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I'M GONNA WAIT WHILE YOU FIDDLE AROUND WITH YOUR TEST TUBES? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE HERE?!



SEE? HE'S EXHAUSTED! BUT HE'S ALL RIGHT! HELP ME RELEASE HIM!

YOU SAY HE'S ALL RIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO GO NEAR HIM 'TILL HE **PROVES** IT!

DON'T WORRY, LOTTIE BABY... I'M... I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED... BUT I'M OKAY.



AW, C'MON, LOTTIE BABY! DON'T BE THAT WAY! IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER!

NOTHING DOING, BUSTER! I'LL PLAY ALONG BECAUSE I **HAVE** TO, BUT THAT'S **ALL!** I DON'T COME NEAR YOU 'TILL YOU'RE COMPLETELY **CURED!** I DON'T WANT TO BE **CONTAMINATED!**



I'M **BARRY MORTON!** I'M **THE** BARRY MORTON! THE ONE AND ONLY! THAT LITTLE DOLL MAY HAVE SKYROCKETED HER CAREER BY MARRYING **ME**, BUT SHE ISN'T GOING TO TREAT **ME** LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF FREAK! I WANT RESULTS FROM YOU, GET IT? **RESULTS!**

I... I KNOW, MR. MORTON... AND I THINK I'VE SUCCEEDED! AT LEAST, IF I CAN GET BACK TO MY LABORATORY...



YOU **BETTER** GET BACK TO THAT LAB, ALL RIGHT! THERE'S A BILLION PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME IN THAT WORLD OUT THERE! I CAN'T BE SHUT UP IN THIS PLACE **FOREVER!** MY PUBLIC JUST WON'T STAND FOR IT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY STAYING **HERE**, HANGING AROUND MY WIFE WHEN I'M OUT OF COMMISSION?!

NO, NO! IT WAS **HER** IDEA! SHE WAS AFRAID TO BE ALONE!

I **WANTED** TO RETURN TO MY LABORATORY LAST NIGHT! I THINK I HAVE A SERUM THAT WILL **CURE** YOU! BUT SHE **INSISTED** I STAY **HERE!**

INSISTED! HA! I'LL **BET** SHE **INSISTED!** NOW LISTEN, SCHNEIDER, YOU GET THAT SERUM HERE BEFORE TONIGHT OR YOU'LL BE SORRY! **TONIGHT**, UNDERSTAND?! NOW GET OUT!

EARLY THAT EVENING...

WELL, IT'S ABOUT **TIME** YOU SHOWED UP! BARRY'S HAVING SIX FITS! AND I'M A NERVOUS **WRECK!** YOU SURE HAVE SOME NERVE TREATING **ME** THIS WAY! I CAN'T **STAND** MUCH MORE! I JUST **CAN'T!**

I'M SORRY, MISS GARDNER. I WORKED AS FAST AS I COULD! YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO TROUBLE YOU. IF... IF ONLY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU, YOU'D KNOW...

OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE! ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY THAT OLD RECORD **AGAIN?! I KNOW** YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME! **EVERYONE'S** IN LOVE WITH ME! I DON'T **CARE** IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME, YOU CRUMMY LITTLE JERK! ALL I WANT FROM YOU RIGHT NOW IS A SEDATIVE!

OH...
I...
I SEE...

A **SEDATIVE!** A **TRANQUILIZER!** CAN YOU DO AT LEAST **THAT** MUCH?!

YES...OF COURSE, MISS GARDNER... JUST HOLD STILL A MOMENT...

WELL, THANKS A **LOT!** NOW YOU BETTER GET DOWNSTAIRS TO HIS MAJESTY BEFORE HE STARTS FROTHING AT THE MOUTH! I'VE ALREADY CHAINED HIM!

YES...I'M SORRY... ABOUT EVERYTHING... I'LL FIX HIM UP... RIGHT AWAY...

WHERE YOU BEEN?! YOU REALIZE HOW LATE IT'S GETTING? IT'S AFTER **SUNDOWN!** THAT SERUM BETTER WORK! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW **LUCKY** YOU ARE TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH BARRY MORTON!

YES, MR. MORTON... I'LL JUST ROLL UP THIS SLEEVE... **THERE!** THAT SHOULD DO IT!

...BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE, WE'LL KEEP YOU LOCKED UP TONIGHT... JUST IN CASE...

JUST IN CASE, EH? SOME DOCTOR YOU ARE!

OH, STOP BEEFING! WHAT ABOUT ME? YOU THINK I'M ENJOYING THIS?!

YOU WAIT, BABY! WHEN I'M CURED...

OH SHUT UP! HEY! HE CLOSED THE DOOR! HE LOCKED ME IN! HEY!

CLICK!

YOU LOUSY CREEP! OPEN THIS DOOR! I DON'T WANT TO BE LOCKED UP IN HERE WITH THIS ANIMAL! LET ME OUTTA HERE!

HEY, DON'T PANIC, BABY! LOOK! I'M STILL OKAY! I'M NOT CHANGING! LOOK, LOTTIE! I'M CURED! CURED! THE INJECTION WORKED!

UPSTAIRS, THE LITTLE SCIENTIST STEPPED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, CLOSED AND LOCKED THE DOOR BEHIND HIM. WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES, HE REACHED INTO HIS COAT POCKET, WITHDREW AN AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF LOTTIE GARDNER... AND QUIETLY TORE IT INTO LITTLE PIECES...


SOB! I'M SORRY, LOTTIE... I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. YOU DROVE ME TO IT. I DIDN'T WANT TO INJECT YOU WITH THE SAME SERUM I GAVE BARRY... I... I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF...

AND DOWNSTAIRS, THE SERUM HAS DONE ITS WORK COMPLETELY. A DERIVATIVE OF WOLFSBANE AND WEREWOLF'S BLOOD, IT CURED BARRY MORTON, BUT ACTED TO INFECT ANYONE WHO HAD NO RESISTANCE TO IT... LIKE LOTTIE GARDNER!

NO! NO, LOTTIE BABY! STOP! DON'T! DON'T!
AAAGGGGGHHHHH!

HEE, HEE! BY THE TIME ANYONE FOUND THEM, BARRY WAS JUST A **SHRED** OF HIS OLD SELF, AND LOTTIE... WELL, SHE WAS JUST PLAIN **DEAD!** **ACUTE FOOD POISONING**, THE CORONER SAID! AND I HOPE YOU SAY THAT WAS A **CUTE** WAY TO END... OUR STORY, THAT IS! **HEEHEE!**

The End



THAT'S MY BROTHER LAYIN' THERE--
WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM! DON'T ASK ME HOW
HE ENDED UP LIKE THIS. I COULD TELL YOU,
BUT YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME! NOT
UNLESS YOU HEARD THE WHOLE STORY...



THUNDERING TERROR!

I WAS BACK IN '66, RIGHT AFTER THE WAR, THAT I WATCHED MY BROTHER TURN INTO A KILLER. THE RAILROAD HIRED JOHNNY AND ME AS HUNTERS. IT WAS EASY WORK-- SMILEY WOULD SPOOK THE CRITTERS AND THERE WAS SO MANY IT'D SOMETIMES TAKE A DAY FOR 'EM TO PASS BY. JOHNNY AND I'D SHOOT JUST ENOUGH TO FEED THE CREW AND LET THE REST GO... AT LEAST AT FIRST...

GOOD JOB, SMILEY!

YOU SURE SPOOKED 'EM!
THEY'RE REALLY RUNNIN'!

I JUST WANTED TO GET A GRUBSTAKE TO
BUY A SPREAD, BUT JOHNNY LIKED THE
JOB... LIKED IT TOO MUCH!

SEVERIN

DON'T YOU THINK WE'VE
KILLED ENOUGH, JOHNNY?

NO! NOT YET... NOT
WHILE THEY'RE STILL
RUNNIN'!

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU OVERDO IT, JOHNNY, WE HAD TO LEAVE MORE THAN WE'RE BRINGIN' BACK!

FORGET IT, SPOOK! THERE'S PLENTY LEFT... THE WOLVES'LL EAT THE LEFTOVERS!

I WAS BEGINNIN' TO WORRY ABOUT JOHNNY. THEY SAY KILLIN' SOMETIMES DOES FUNNY THINGS TO A MAN...

SMILEY'S RIGHT, JOHNNY, IT'S GETTIN' TO YUH... WE SHOULD QUIT LIKE WE PLANNED... GET A SPREAD!

THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT! I LIKE IT HERE!

A WEEK LATER WE CAME ACROSS THE BIGGEST HERD I EVER SAW... THEY SOUNDED LIKE A THUNDERSTORM! OUR RIFLE BARRELS GOT RED HOT FROM FIRIN', BUT THEY STILL KEPT ACOMIN'!



THAT'S ENOUGH, JOHNNY! LET 'EM GO!

WHY DON'T YUH LISTEN TO HIM, JOHNNY... HE'S RIGHT!

WHEN SMILEY COULDN'T STAND IT NO MORE, HE GRABBED FOR THE RIFLE. JOHNNY SEEMED TO GO A LITTLE CRAZY...

THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY! THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!



AFTER THE HERD WAS GONE, WE WENT DOWN AND LOOKED AT WHAT WAS LEFT OF SMILEY...



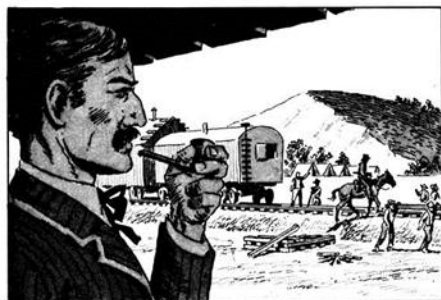
PEELING SICK TO MY STOMACH, I PICKED UP SMILEY'S REMAINS, BUT, JOHNNY DIDN'T SEEM CONCERNED. WHAT COULD I SAY? AFTER ALL, HE **WAS** MY BROTHER...



WE TOLD PEOPLE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, AND IN ITS OWN WAY, I SUPPOSE IT WAS. NOBODY CARED. SMILEY WAS JUST A SPOOK; HE WAS REPLACEABLE. BUT I'D LOST MY TASTE FOR KILLING, SO JOHNNY AND I PARTED COMPANY...



I DRIFTED FROM JOB TO JOB AFTER THAT, NONE OF 'EM TOO FAR FROM THE RAILROAD. TEN OR SO YEARS WENT BY AND I GOT BETTER JOBS, BUT I COULDN'T FORGET WHAT HAD HAPPENED. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, I SAW JOHNNY. HE WAS STILL KILLIN' BUFFALO, SO WE NEVER HAD MUCH TO SAY...



WAR CAME WITH THE INDIANS, BUT I DIDN'T FIGHT. I HAD OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND...



JOHNNY DIDN'T FIGHT INDIANS EITHER, BUT HE HAD HIS OWN REASONS...



THE INDIAN TROUBLE ENDED, AND THE RAILROAD STARTED BUILDING AND HIRING AGAIN. I WAS IN THE OFFICE ONE DAY WHEN...



BUFFALO? JOHNNY, THE COUNTRY'S CATTLE-RICH, WE'RE LOADED WITH **BEEF**... NOBODY NEEDS HUNTERS ANY MORE! WON'T YOU EVEN CONSIDER ANOTHER JOB?



JOHNNY JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT THE GREAT HERDS WERE GONE. THE LAND HAD BEEN FENCED IN OR PLOWED UNDER. THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR MEN LIKE JOHNNY ANY MORE...



SUE AND I GOT THE SPREAD WE ALWAYS WANTED. AND OVER THE YEARS IT GREW AND PROSPERED...

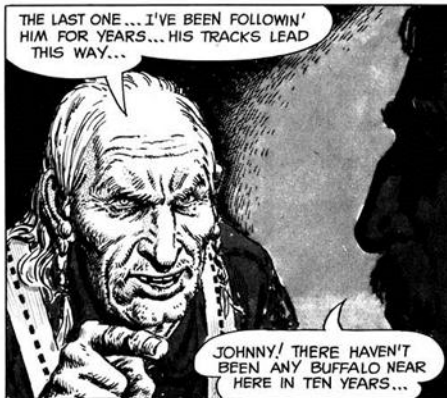
I WISH JOHNNY WERE HERE TO SEE THIS. I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING NOW?



IT WAS TWENTY YEARS LATER BEFORE I SAW HIM AGAIN. I SAW A CLOUD OF DUST, THEN AN OLD MAN WITH SMILEY'S HAT, AND I KNEW WHO IT WAS...



THE YEARS SHOWED ON JOHNNY, FAR WORSE THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE SHOWN ON ANY MAN. BUT ONE THING HADN'T CHANGED...



I LET HIM GO, BUT THAT NIGHT I DIDN'T SLEEP EASY. WHEN DAWN CAME I SADDLED UP AND FOLLOWED JOHNNY. HIS TRACKS ACROSS THE PARCHED HILLS WERE EASY TO FOLLOW. THEN, MY HORSE SPOOKED AT A LOW, RUMBLING SOUND FROM UP AHEAD...



WHAT THE DEVIL...

THE ROLLING SOUND SWELLED AND ROSE, FILLING THE AIR WITH ITS ROAR, THEN GRADUALLY FADED INTO THE DISTANCE...



SKY'S CLEAR, NOT A CLOUD... COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THUNDER! ONLY OTHER SOUND I EVER HEARD LIKE THAT WAS... WAS... NO! IT COULDN'T BE... IT--
OH, LORDY!

DEEP DOWN, I THINK I KNEW WHAT I'D FIND, BUT SOMEHOW, IT DIDN'T MAKE THE SHOCK ANY THE LESS...



H-H-E'S BEEN **TRAMPLED**... WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN A BIG HERD, BUT... BUT... THERE'S NOT A TRACK, NOT A SIGN...

STARING DOWN AT JOHNNY'S BODY REMINDED ME OF ANOTHER SCENE LONG AGO, ANOTHER BROKEN, LIFELESS FORM... I LOOKED AROUND FOR THE HAT, THAT SILLY, BATTERED HAT, BUT IT WAS GONE... THEN SOMETHING MADE ME LOOK UP, AND I SAW IT, PALE AGAINST THE SKY, MOVING WITHOUT A SOUND...



SMILEY!
OH, LORD, SMILEY...

SO THAT'S THE STORY, THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENED...



FUNNY THING IS, EVEN WITH JOHNNY LYIN' HERE, I CAN NEVER BE SURE... I SAW IT, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE... THAT BUCKBOARD DIDN'T LEAVE NO TRACKS EITHER!



BUT WE CAN BE SURE, EH, FELLOW FIENDS... SMILEY TURNED OUT TO BE A BETTER SPOOK THAN EVER! OF COURSE, IT LEFT JOHNNY **BUFFALOED!** NOW, IF I **HERD** YOU RIGHT, YOU'RE READY TO **HOOF** IT TO THE NEXT SCREAM STORY...





ALL RIGHT, FIENDS... READY FOR A STORY THAT'S REALLY OUT OF THIS WORLD? HEH, HEH! WAY *OUT*... IN *SPACE*! PULL YOUR SLIMEY LITTLE HULKS ONTO THE LAUNCHING PAD AND GET READY TO ORBIT! OF COURSE I SHOULD WARN YOU, YOUR TRANSPORTATION IS ABOUT TO MEET WITH AN ...

INCIDENT in the BEYOND!



THERE GOES PLUTO!

NOTHING AHEAD BUT THAT BIG BLACK BEYOND BETWEEN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM AND THE NEAREST STAR.



IT'S FRIGHTENING, SIR. THINKING WE'LL BE THE FIRST ONES TO CROSS IT!

WITH LUCK AND THIS NEW SPACE WARP DRIVE WE'RE TESTING, WE'LL MAKE IT--AND IN MINUTES!



I'VE NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD, SIR, WITH OUR FASTEST DRIVES IT WOULD PREVIOUSLY HAVE TAKEN HALF A LIFETIME TO CROSS THIS VOID!

SAY WE WERE GOING FROM ONE END OF THE STRING TO THE OTHER. REGULAR DRIVES WOULD TAKE YOU ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE STRING...

THE WARP DRIVE DOESN'T TAKE YOU **ACROSS** SPACE, BUT CREATES A WARP LIKE THE LOOP IN THIS STRING AND ALLOWS YOU TO PASS **THROUGH** TO YOUR DESTINATION!



THEY TRIED THIS WARP BUSINESS ONCE BEFORE DIDN'T THEY, SIR? OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO, WITHOUT SUCCESS?

THE TEST SHIP WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AFTER THEY CUT IN THE WARP DRIVE. BUT THEY'VE HAD ALL THIS TIME TO PERFECT IT. I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THIS RUN IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD FAIL!

WE'VE ALMOST REACHED THE CUT-IN POINT OURSELVES-- THEN WE'LL KNOW FOR SURE!

CAPTAIN! YOU'RE WANTED DOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL! THEY'VE SPOTTED SOMETHING STRANGE!



WHAT'S HAPPENING? WE'RE MINUTES AWAY FROM THE WARP CUT-IN POINT THIS IS NO TIME FOR TROUBLE!

HERE ON THE SCANNER, SIR! WE'VE PICKED UP AN ALIEN SHIP! HEADING FOR US AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM!



WHO ARE
THEY? WHERE
COULD THEY
BE FROM?

THERE'S A
WHOLE GALAXY
BEHIND THEM.
THEY COULD BE
FROM ANYWHERE.
SEND A SIGNAL
SO WE CAN ES-
TABLISH CONTACT!

SIR, WE'RE
SENDING ON
ALL FREQUENCIES
THEY'RE
RECEIVING
BUT NOT
ANSWERING!

I DON'T LIKE
THIS! SIR,
THAT TEST
SHIP THAT
DISAPPEARED
YEARS AGO...
HOW DO WE
KNOW IT WASN'T
THE VICTIM OF
AN ALIEN ATTACK!

AND IT'S STRANGE THAT THEY'D
APPEAR RIGHT HERE AT THE
CUT-IN POINT... ALMOST AS IF
THEY MEANT TO STOP US
FROM TRYING THE WARP-DRIVE!

THEY'RE STILL
NOT ANSWERING,
SIR!

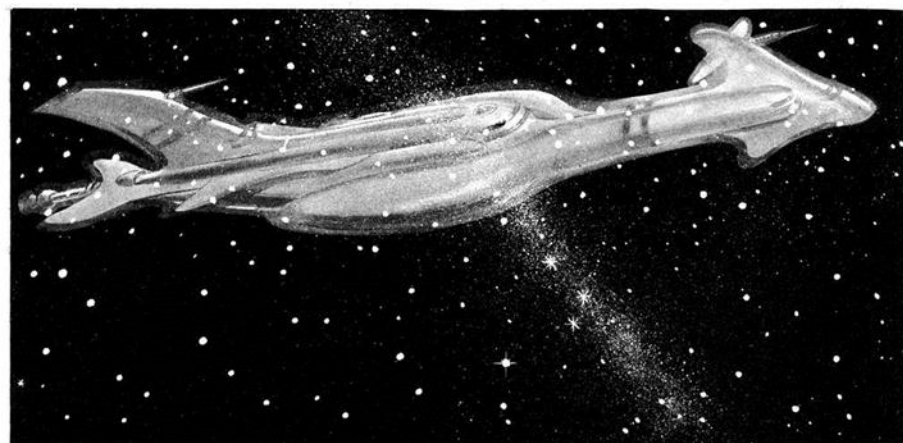
IF THEY WERE FRIENDLY, THEY'D
ACKNOWLEDGE CONTACT IN
SOME WAY!

THIS IS THROWING
A MONKEY WRENCH
IN THE TEST! TELL
THEM IF THEY DON'T
MAKE CONTACT I'LL
HAVE WEAPONS
DECK OPEN FIRE!

THEY'RE TURNING
TO
MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

SIR, IF THEY GET AWAY TO
THEIR HOME PLANET, THEY
CARRY THE LOCATION OF OUR
SOLAR SYSTEM! WE MIGHT BE
LEFT WIDE OPEN FOR ATTACK!

WEAPONS BACK!
COMMENCE
FIRING! DON'T
LET THEM GET
AWAY!





76 ILLUSTRATED PAGES OF TERROR AND SUSPENSE

EERIE
#40

JUNE 1972

EERIE

A WARREN MAGAZINE PDC 75¢ 56320-6

THE BRAIN OF FRANKENSTEIN

Page 6



YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM...NOW YOU'RE SORRY!
"PITY THE POOR GRAVE DIGGER" Page 68



FIRST AND BEST IN ILLUSTRATED HORROR

CREEPY

A WARREN
MAGAZINE

**AFTER A THOUSAND
YEARS, FLAVIAN
RISES FROM
THE CRYPT, IN
SPELLBOUND**
Page 38

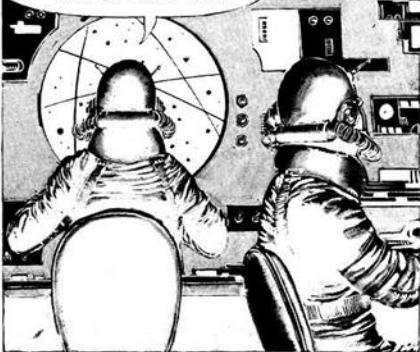


THAT'S IT! EVERYONE REMAIN IN HARNESS. I WANT A COMPLETE CHECK OF ALL STATIONS!

ROCKET CONTROL? CHECK. WEAPONS DECK? CHECK. COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL? COME IN, COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?



THE INSTRUMENTS WERE ACTING UP WHEN WE CAME OUT OF THE WARP-DRIVE, SIR. SEEMS OKAY NOW.



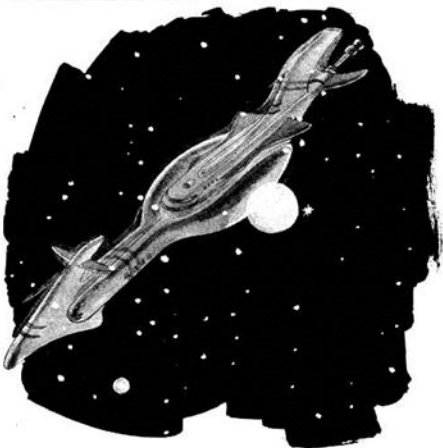
THERE IT IS!
A WHOLE NEW
SOLAR SYSTEM!

I'M SORRY WE'RE NOT
GOING TO HAVE TIME TO
EXPLORE IT!



THIS TRIP WAS ONLY TO
SEE IF THE DRIVE WORKS.
ONCE WE GET NEWS OF THIS
SUCCESS BACK TO EARTH,
THEY'LL BE PLENTY OF
EXPLORING!

ALL
STATIONS
STAND BY
FOR REVERSE
WARP... WE'RE
GOING HOME!



OUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM
LOOKS GOOD TO ME! **HEY!**
WHAT'S THAT COMING
TOWARD US?

ANOTHER
SHIP! COULD
BE MORE
ALIEN TROUBLE!

BUT IT'S COMING FROM
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM! AN
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TYPE
SHIP FROM THE ONE
WE BLASTED!

DOWN TO
COMMUNICATIONS
CONTROL! LET'S
CLEAR THIS UP!



INSTRUMENTS ARE FOULED
FROM THE REVERSE-WARP!
WE'RE RECEIVING BUT
CAN'T SEND!

LISTEN!
THEY'RE
CONTACTING
US!

THIS IS
EARTHSHIP
5435!
IDENTIFY
YOURSELVES!
COME IN!

RECEIVE
BUT NOT
SEND?
JUST LIKE
THE
OTHER...
GOOD LORD!!
WHAT HAVE
WE DONE?

THE SPACE-WARP DISTORTS
TIME AS WELL AS DISTANCE!
THE TRIP SEEMED LIKE MINUTES
TO US BUT ON EARTH THE
SAME AMOUNT OF TIME
PASSED AS IF WE'D GONE
THE LONG WAY! THAT WAS
NO ALIEN SHIP WE DESTROYED
-- **THAT WAS THE FIRST
TEST SHIP RETURNING!**




TWENTY YEARS SINCE ANYONE HEARD OF
US! WHEN WE DON'T MAKE CONTACT THIS
SHIP MIGHT THINK LIKE WE DID ABOUT
ALIENS AND-- **QUICK! CHANGE COURSE!
CHANGE!**



AH, WELL... BACK
TO THE DRAWING
BOARD! SOME-
DAY THEY'LL
WORK THE BUGS
OUT OF THAT
SPACE WARP...
UNTIL THEN, IT
LOOKS LIKE
EACH TRIP'LL
REALLY BE A
BLAST! HEH,
HEH!





THE LARGER MOON OF IRITH WAS
SETTING AS THE MORNING SUN CLIMBED
INTO THE SKY. THE FOREST TRILLED,
CHIRPED AND HUMMED TO ANNOUNCE
THE DAWN, BUT THE OVERTURE THIS
MORNING WAS A...

PRELUDE TO ARMAGEDDON

HE STOOD TRANSFIXED,
THE LOVELUST UPON HIM,
FOR HE HAD NEVER IN HIS
LIFE SEEN ANYTHING SO
BEAUTIFUL...



THEN...



THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER, BUT TO AQUINAS
HER VOICE WAS MUSIC...



SENATOR EQUINUS,
MESSENGER OF THE
GODS, PAUSED ON HIS
ERRAND... ATTRACTED
BY A CLEAR, SILVERY
VOICE, HE FOLLOWED
THE SOUND TO A
CRYSTAL POOL WHERE
HE SAW HER, A PALE
FLAME IN THE
SHADOWS...

THEN, A
RUSTLE
OF
MIGHTY
WINGS...

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN...

...SHE IS ONE OF
THE **DRAGON
RIDERS!**

THE WIND SHIFTED
AND THE CLOUDS
PARTED, TO REVEAL...

WINGED
DEMON!

AS SHE STRUCK THE GROUND,
EQUINUS COULD HEAR THE
SOUND OF BONES BREAKING...

WITHOUT BREAKING HIS STRIDE,
HE SCOOPED HER UP IN HIS ARMS..

THE RUINS!...
MY ONLY
CHANCE!

SKREEE!

SKREEE!

THEY ARE IN
RANGE... I FEAR
I WILL NOT
MAKE IT...

BUT JUST IN TIME, HE PLUNGED INTO THE COMFORTING SHADOWS OF THE RUINED CITY...



...THE RUINED CAPITAL OF THE DEAD CIVILIZATION OF ANCIENT IRITH...

O GREAT SATORIS... I, SATORIS ACQUINUS, YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT, CALL UPON YOU...



HIS HEARTFELT PLEA WAS HEARD ON HIGH...

SPEAK, FAITHFUL SATORIS! MY FOLLOWERS NEED NEVER FEAR THAT THEIR PLEAS ARE IN VAIN...



LORD OF LIFE AND LOVE, I ASK NOTHING FOR MYSELF, BUT...



...FOR THIS INNOCENT GIRL, WHO LIES SO NEAR DEATH... I ASK THAT YOU GIVE HER THE GIFT THAT ONLY YOU CAN BESTOW... **LIFE!**



AH, BACHELOR! YOU HAVE FOUND A MATE AT LAST... THIS PLEASES ME!



OF COURSE, I WILL GRANT YOUR REQUEST...

...AND THE BREATH OF LIFE WAS GIVEN THE **DRAGON RIDER**...



IT WAS NOT I WHO GAVE YOU BACK YOUR LIFE, LITTLE ONE... BUT YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THAT...



VERY WELL, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR GRATITUDE.



THE LUST FOR REVENGE UPON HIM, EQUINUS THUNDERED INTO THE OGRES WITH FLASHING SWORD AND CRUSHING HOOVES...

THE SHORTEST WAY TO CIRIUS GORGOROTH IS **STRAIGHT THROUGH THEM!**

DO NOT BE AFRAID, MELODY... THESE PUNY CREATURES CAN DO NOTHING AGAINST **SENTOR EQUINUS!**

IT WAS INCREDIBLE THAT THIS WOULD BE A WORLD AT WAR...THE SUN WAS WARM UPON THEM AS THEY MADE A LUNCH OF WILD FRUITS AND BERRIES...

I HAVE LIVED IN PARADISE ALL OF MY LIFE...

...BUT I HAVE NEVER BEEN HAPPY UNTIL NOW!



THEN, AS THEY PROCEEDED...

WHO DARES KILL THE MINIONS OF MINOS TAURUS?

I, **SENTOR EQUINUS!**

A BELLOW OF RAGE ECHOED IN HIS HELMET AS MINOS TAURUS LUNGED FORWARD...

THEN DIE, FOOL!

MANY HAVE TRIED FRIEND!

THE FIGHT WAS LONG AND TERRIBLE...A WELL-AIMED BLOW LANDED ON THE HELMET OF MINOS TAURUS...

THE WAR SPREAD...DRAGON RIDERS FLUGHED AN ARMY OF OGRES FROM THE FOREST...



...OUT INTO THE OPEN PLAIN, WHERE THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE CHARGE OF A CAVALRY COMPOSED OF HIGHLY TRAINED, DISCIPLINED CENTAUR LANCERS...



AGE OLD HATREDS DROVE BOTH SIDES TO DEEDS OF INCREDIBLE BRAVERY AND CRUELTY. NO WOUNDED SURVIVORS CRAWLED AWAY FROM THIS ENCOUNTER...FOR EVERY COMBAT WAS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH...



SENTOR EQUINUS FOUGHT LIKE A MADMAN, BUT THE TERRIBLE CHAIN MACE OF MINOS TAURUS STRUCK HIM AGAIN AND AGAIN...



BLOOD GUSHED FROM HIS LACERATED CHEST, AND FROM HIS HEAD, BLINDING HIM...HE FELT HIS STRENGTH POURING OUT WITH IT...



A FINAL, CRUSHING BLOW, AND HE WAS DOWN...



THE AERIAL
BATTLE HAD
GONE WELL
FOR THE
FORCES OF
SATORIS,
AND DRAGON
RIDERS WERE
HUNTING
DOWN THE
REMAINING
DEMONS WITH
FIRE BOLTS...

WE HAVE
LOST,
MY LORD...

DO NOT DESPAIR
YET! THERE IS ONE
FINAL WEAPON...
I HESITATED TO
USE IT, BUT NOW
WE **MUST!**
LEAVE ME!
I SHALL CALL
UPON BLUD
TO COME TO
OUR AID...

KARION CHANTED AN
ANCIENT INVOCATION...

...AND IN ANSWER, LOATHSOME SHAPES
ROSE UP FROM THE GROUND...


...AN INVOCATION COM-
POSED OF CURSES
AND BLASPHEMES...

THERE IS NO NEED,
YOU ARE ALREADY
DEAD... WE ARE
ALL DEAD!

WHY DO
YOU
PAUSE?
KILL ME
AND BE
DONE!

AN ARMY OF
MINDLESS,
DEAD BODIES,
FULL OF HATE
FOR ALL
LIVING THINGS,
AND CHARGED
WITH
PSEUDO-LIFE,
RAGED ACROSS
THE FACE OF
-RITH...





SENATOR EQUINUS!
YOU ARE **WASTING**
TIME... THE DEAD
OUTNUMBER THE
LIVING! WE ARE
DEFEATED! THIS
IS NOT YOUR FUNCTION...
IT IS NOT ACCOMPLISH-
ING THE MISSION I
SENT YOU ON!



**NOW GO! GO TO
CIRIUS GORGOROTH!
FIND THE MICROCOSM
AND DO WHAT
MUST BE DONE!
AND HURRY!!**

WITH THE AWFUL
STRENGTH OF
MADNESS, THE
TWO BECOME A
JUGGERNAUT,
CRUSHING FETID,
CORRUPT
BODIES IN A
WIDE PATH OF
DESTRUCTION...



**HURRY! THERE
IS NOT MUCH TIME
LEFT.**

THE MIGHTY TAURUS COVERED SENATOR'S
DEPARTURE, FIGHTING AS HE HAD NEVER
FOUGHT... BUT, THOUGH HE SMASHED
AND CUT THE DEAD INTO FRAGMENTS...

...THE FRAGMENTS CONTINUED TO
ATTACK!

...AND AT LAST, MINOS TAURUS, THE ONLY SHIELD BETWEEN EQUINUS AND THE HORDE OF THE LIVING DEAD, RECEIVED A MORTAL THRUST...



...AND STILL HE REFUSED TO FALL, BUT CONTINUED TO REND AND CUT AND SMASH EVERYTHING THAT CAME WITHIN REACH...

BUT BY THEN THE CENTAUR, GUIDED BY SATORIS, WAS IN THE HEART OF CIRIUS GORGOROTH... AND THEN HE SAW IT...

I AM HERE, O' LORD...
WHAT MUST I DO?
CAN YOU TELL ME
NOW?



YES, GOOD SENTOR...
YOU ARE MY ONLY HOPE
NOW... IT IS BETTER THAT
EVERYONE DIE THAN A
WORLD DOMINATED
BY BLUD AND
THE LIVING DEAD...

NOW GO...
FIND THE
GLOBE
WITH TWO
LARGE
SATELLITES...

THE MICROCOSM!

AND
NOW..?

BREAK
THE
MOON!



FOR A MOMENT, HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WAS REALLY A TINY FACSIMILE OR WHETHER HE WAS SUDDENLY AS LARGE AS THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE... HE REACHED OUT A HAND, SEIZED THE TINY MOON, CRUSHED IT...



... AND DIED.



...AND EARTH'S
NEAREST MOON
EXPLODED!

EARTHQUAKES
TORE THE
CONTINENT
IN HALF...
VOLCANOES
ERUPTED,
SPEWING
LAVA OVER
THE BATTLE-
FIELD...

MINOS TAURUS
SUFFERED
WOUND UPON
WOUND...
AND STILL
HE FOUGHT...

MINOS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU FIGHT YOUR OWN...

KARION!

THEN MIGHTY
MINOS TAURUS
FELL...

A MOUNTAINOUS TIDAL WAVE
TOWERED OVER THE SHUDDER-
ING, TORTURED CONTINENT...



...AND CRASHED DOWN UPON IRITH, WHERE ARMIES CONTINUED TO FIGHT EVEN AS THE LAND UNDER THEIR FEET SANK INTO THE SEA...

AT LAST IT WAS OVER...
IRITH WAS GONE,
LEAVING ONLY
LEGENDS TO
MARK ITS
EXISTENCE...

BUT THERE WAS OTHER LAND
OTHER CONTINENTS, WHERE
OGRES SURVIVED...



...AND DEVELOPED INTO
THE DOMINANT SPECIES...

THE FEW DRAGONS LEFT
EVENTUALLY DIED OUT,
AND WERE REPLACED
BY NEW LIFE FORMS...



...AND THAT IS THE
STORY I DECIPHERED
FROM THESE ANCIENT
RUNES CARVED IN
STONE IN THIS CAVE,
MILES BELOW THE
SURFACE. THIS
SEEMS TO BE
THE RESTING PLACE
OF SATORIS, AND
HIS MESSAGE
GOES ON
TO SAY:

"MY PARADISE ENDED
IN CHAOS, AND I
WASHED THE CHAOS
AWAY. I AM SURE
INTELLIGENT LIFE
WILL EVOLVE AGAIN...
THAT IS THE WAY OF
THE COSMIC LIFE
FORCE..."

"...I PRAY THAT WHATEVER
FORM IT TAKES, IT WILL
FIND A WAY TO LIVE IN
PEACE AND HARMONY,
SO THAT I MAY SLEEP
FOREVER. BUT IF I AM
NEEDED AGAIN, I WILL
COME, TO CLEANSE THE
EARTH WITH FIRE AND
FLOOD!"

HEH! HEH!
WELL, I
GUESS HE
CAN SLEEP...
WE WON'T
NEED HIM
AGAIN, AS WE
ARE HAPPY,
CIVILIZED
AND PEACEFUL..



...AREN'T
WE?



THE LAW AND DISORDER

BUT STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE VANGUARD OF SUCH RADICAL ACTION IS AT THAT MOMENT BUSILY AT WORK ON FINISHING A PROJECT IN THE ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING LAB.



STORY: DENNIS P. JUNOT / ART: LUIS GARCIA

CHUCK, IN HEAVEN'S NAME WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT CAUSED BY THE FAILURE OF THE REACTOR WALL? THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DIDN'T KILL HIM!



DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR SWEET LITTLE ACADEMICALLY OBJECTIVE HEAD, PROFESSOR. I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THEY DON'T DO TO THEMSELVES...



BLAST IT, WHAT IS *THAT* THING SUPPOSED TO BE?



WELL, PROFESSOR, YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S A CROSS BETWEEN THE GOOSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGGS AND THE ANCIENT MARINER'S ALBATROSS...


OH, OF COURSE, IT WASN'T THEIR FAULT! THEY SIMPLY AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR BUILDING THE REACTOR TO A MAN WHO USED SHODDY MATERIALS, SO THE MONEY SAVED COULD LINE HIS POCKETS. A MAN WHO JUST COINCIDENTALLY, AND THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN, **HAPPENS** TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD!



WHILE THE TWO MEN CONTINUE THEIR BANTER, AT THAT MOMENT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS IN EMERGENCY SESSION...


THIS MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER!






GENTLEMEN,
I SEE LITTLE NEED FOR
DISCUSSION. IN VIEW OF
THE STATE OF CHAOS THE
CAMPUS IS IN, AND SEEING AS
HOW THE CITY POLICE ARE
OUTNUMBERED, I MOVE
THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD
BE CALLED IN!

HEAR! HEAR!--
PRECISELY!--EXCELLENT
IDEA!



FOR GOD'S
SAKE, NO! YOU CALL
IN THE NATIONAL GUARD
NOW AND YOU'LL TURN A
BUTCHER'S SHOP INTO A
SLAUGHTERHOUSE!
GENTLEMEN, I KNOW THESE
STUDENTS!! THEY'VE BEEN
AROUSSED AS NEVER
BEFORE! THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO FOLD UP FROM
TEAR GAS OR ALLOW
THEMSELVES TO BE
PACKED AWAY IN
PADDY WAGONS!



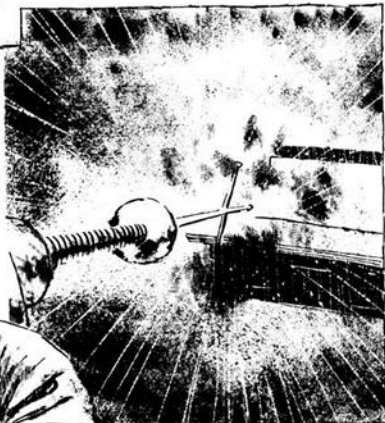
THEY'RE ARMED
AND MILITANT! I'VE
SEEN IT! TEAR GAS WILL
BE ANSWERED BY
BULLETS, AND BULLETS
BY BOMBS! BELIEVE
ME!

"WHAT DO WE DO THEN, PRESIDENT STICKLER? LET THEM
DESTROY THE UNIVERSITY?" "NO, CHAIRMAN STARKS. TO STOP
THE RIOT YOU HAVE TO STOP CHARLES COHEN, WHO I'VE JUST
LEARNED IS BUILDING SOME SORT OF WEAPON IN THE
ELECTRONICS LAB!"



COVER
YOUR EYES,
PROFESSOR!

WHAT THE
DEVIL--!!





"SUDDENLY TERRIFIED, AUSTIN CORBETT BEGINS RUNNING FOR THE LAB, WORDS OF HORROR ON HIS LIPS!"



"BUT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS ALREADY THERE, SECONDS AWAY FROM A MEETING WITH THE JUSTICE THAT AWAITS THOSE WHO RUN AFOUL OF--THE LAW!"



"THE DOOR IS OPENED TO PRESENT A GOOD TARGET. UNFORTUNATELY, A MUCH MORE HORRIFIC ONE COMES IN THE WAY!"

THE LAW!
YOU CAN'T BREAK
THE LAW OF
AAAAAAA!!

GOOD
GOD!

OH, NO!
NO!

PROFESSOR CORBETT
UNWITTINGLY WALKS
INTO THE LINE OF FIRE!

WHAT DID HE
MEAN ABOUT "THE
LAW"? WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO MY SKIN?
IT FEELS LIKE ITS
BURNING! I FEEL
SICK...

GOD HELP
US! THAT'S
WHAT HE MEANT!
THE LAW!
THE LAW!

THE LAW OF
CONSERVATION OF
MASS AND ENERGY!
WE DIDN'T JUST
DISINTEGRATE CORBETT!
WE CONVERTED HIM INTO
PURE ATOMIC ENERGY!
COHEN'S KILLING US JUST
THE WAY HIS FATHER
DIED! FROM A MASSIVE
OVERDOSE OF --UH--OF
RADIA---TION...

OH, JESUS!
A DISINTEGRATION
RAY! HOW COULD
WE HAVE
KNOWN?

WE SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN! WE
SHOULD HAVE
WAITED!! POOR
PROFESSOR
CORBETT!

"AND SILENCE REIGNS AT THE SIDE OF
THE GRIM REAPER..."



"BUT WHAT OF THE MASTER PLANNER OF THIS
DIABOLICAL SCHEME? AH..."

HA-HA! BY
NOW, IT'S ALL DONE!
THE PUNISHMENT HAS
FIT THE CRIME!
I'VE WON!

CAN YOU HEAR
ME, **MISTER** CHAIRMAN
BLOODY POCKETS?
ARE YOU LISTENING,
PRESIDENT BLEEDING
HEART? I'VE
WON!! I'VE--

NO---

THUS BE
IT EVER TO
HANDMAIDENS OF
IMPERIALISM!!

LET'S FIND
CHUCK COHEN! HE
SHOULD BE THE
FIRST TO
KNOW!

CHUCK
COULDN'T MAKE IT,
FELLAS. HOWEVER,
HE DID ASK ME TO
GIVE YOU A MESSAGE.
I WON'T REPEAT IT,
EXCEPT TO SAY
THAT IT **WASN'T**
"RIGHT ON!"