



DEC.  
JAN.  
10c



# HOUSE of MYSTERY

NOV 3 R.

DARLING,  
FORGIVE ME, BUT  
THERE'S NO  
OTHER WAY!

WAIT, DOUG!  
ONLY A **SILVER  
BULLET** CAN  
DESTROY A  
**WEREWOLF!**



*featuring*  
WANDA WAS A  
WEREWOLF  
I FELL IN LOVE  
WITH A WITCH  
MAN--OR  
MONSTER?  
THE CURSE OF  
SEABURY MANOR



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL! BUT HER BEAUTY WAS LIKE THAT OF A STORM-LASHED SEA, FOR IN IT WAS THE POWER TO **DESTROY!** LIKE MOTHS DRAWN TO A FLAME, MEN BLINDLY SOUGHT THE WARMTH OF HER LIPS IGNORING THE DOOM WHICH WAS THE PRICE OF HER KISS! THIS WAS JEAN BREWSTER! AND KNOWING ALL THAT I DID ABOUT HER, I WAS AS HELPLESS AS THE OTHERS WHEN I LOOKED INTO HER MYSTERIOUS, HAUNTING EYES! AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK! AS IF CAUGHT IN A TERRIBLE UNDER-TOW, I WAS RELENTLESSLY DRAGGED INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE UNKNOWN! THEN, WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE, I WAS FACED WITH THE STUTTLING REALIZATION OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED. FOR...

"HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED INTO A PAIR OF EYES AND FOUND THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING YOU WANTED IN LIFE? WELL, I DID--BUT THE TROUBLE WAS, I DIDN'T LOOK FAR ENOUGH! FOR BEYOND THEIR BEAUTY AND PROMISE OF LIFE WAS **DEATH!**"



"I'D TAKEN THE 7:02 FROM PHILLY AND THE POPPER LEFT MY BAGS IN THE COACH WHILE I WENT DIRECTLY TO THE DINER TO MAKE SURE OF GETTING A PLACE. IT WAS THEN THAT I FIRST SET EYES ON THE GIRL WHOM SHORTLY I WOULD BE CONVINCED WAS A -- WITCH!"

THIS GIRL--I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO BEAUTIFUL! HEY! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, BOY! YOU'RE CARTER BLAKE! REMEMBER? THE GUY WHO **NEVER** FALLS!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"BUT I WAS FALLING AND I HAD NO MORE CONTROL OVER IT THAN I DID OVER THE MOVEMENT OF THE TRAIN WHICH WAS CARRYING US TOWARD NEW YORK. WITH A QUICK, PRACTICED LOOK, I NOTED HER LEFT HAND WAS RINGLESS -- IF ONLY I'D KNOWN THE REASON THEN..."

OH... EXCUSE ME! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE RUDE... STARING AT YOU!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I THINK IT'S SO UNCIVILIZED FOR TWO PEOPLE TO SIT OPPOSITE EACH OTHER THROUGH AN ENTIRE MEAL AND NEVER EXCHANGE SO MUCH AS A LOOK OR A WORD!



"WE EXCHANGED A LOT OF WORDS BEFORE THE COFFEE ARRIVED, AND LATER, WHEN I RETURNED TO THE COACH, SHE HAD THE SEAT ACROSS THE AISLE! I THOUGHT AT THE TIME IT WAS TERRIFIC LUCK -- LATER, I WAS NOT SO SURE..."

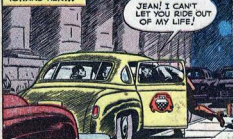
HEY! WONDERFUL! THE GUY WHO HANDED OUT THESE TICKETS KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING!

PERHAPS IT WAS FATE! IT... IT ACTS STRANGELY SOMETIMES!



"HER NAME WAS JEAN BREWSTER! THAT'S ABOUT ALL I LEARNED DURING THE TRIP -- I WAS TOO BUSY GIVING MYSELF A BUILD-UP, AT PENN STATION, SHE GAVE THE DRIVER OF HER CAB AN ADDRESS ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE, THEN, AS SHE PULLED THE DOOR TOWARD HER..."

JEAN! I CAN'T LET YOU RIDE OUT OF MY LIFE!



"WE DIDN'T DO MUCH TALKING AS THE CAB DROVE SLOWLY THROUGH CENTRAL PARK, BUT WHEN WE FINALLY REACHED JEAN'S DOOR..."

I KNOW ALL THE REASONS WHY I **SHOULDN'T** BE ASKING YOU TO MARRY ME, JEAN! BUT THERE'S A MUCH BIGGER REASON WHY I **SHOULD** -- I LOVE YOU, MY DARLING!

CARTER, I... I'M AFRAID THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T KNOW -- DON'T UNDERSTAND!



"BUT THERE WAS ONE THING WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD, THAT WAS THE COMPELLING FORCE WHICH DREW US TOGETHER, AND SO, THAT NIGHT IN UPPER MANHATTAN, WE MADE OUR DECISION..."

ALL RIGHT, DEAREST! I'LL MARRY YOU!

JEAN... OH, JEAN! I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY!



"HER LIPS -- WARM, TREMBLING EVER SO SLIGHTLY, HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN THE HORRIBLE PRICE I WAS TO PAY FOR THAT KISS?"

"IT WAS HARD TO GET OUT OF THE WARM, PINK CLOUD WHICH WRAPPED ME! BUT IN MY KIND OF WORK THERE ARE NO OFFICE HOURS AND I HAD BUSINESS STILL UNDONE. I GOT MY BAGS FROM THE STATION LOCKER WHERE I'D CHECKED THEM. THEN I WENT TO AN ADDRESS ON CENTRAL PARK SOUTH..."

OH, CARTER! HERE YOU ARE! I HOPE YOU GOT THE GOODS!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"IT WAS THE APARTMENT OF BORIS WILDER FOR WHOM I'D BEEN DOING SOME CHECKING IN PHILADELPHIA-- YOU SEE, I'M A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR..."

A CARTER BLAKE SPECIAL, MR. WILDER! POSING AS AN INSURANCE ADJUSTER, I VISITED IRIS ASHLEY! I MADE THE EXCUSE OF A LUNCHEON DATE AND SHE PERMITTED ME TO LEAVE MY BRIEFCASE IN HER APARTMENT. LISTEN TO WHAT MY BRIEFCASE "HEARD" WHILE I WAS GONE!



...DON'T WORRY, DARLING! BORIS DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING! HE THINKS I'M HIS LITTLE ANGEL! WAIT TILL HE LEARNS ABOUT OUR RACKET, HA, HA!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BLAKE! IT JUST SHOWS -- YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYONE. IRIS SEEMED THE SWEETEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. LUCKY I HAD HER CHECKED BEFORE OUR MARRIAGE! WELL, WHAT DOES THIS COST ME, BLAKE?



I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING IRIS ASHLEY FOR A MONTH NOW, MR. WILDER! AND THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSE! MY FEE IS \$5,000!

**FIVE THOUSAND!** WHY, THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! I'M NOT PAYING IT, BLAKE!



I'D HAD WILDER'S KIND BEFORE! THEY'RE STEAMED UP TO GET THE INFO ON SOMEONE AND THEN, AFTER THEY'VE GOTTEN IT, THEY DON'T WANT TO PAY! BUT I WASN'T WORRIED -- THERE WERE WAYS OF COLLECTING. BESIDES, I HAD MORE INTERESTING THINGS ON MY MIND THAN MONEY, THE NEXT DAY, AT TIM'S..."



BOYS! AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANCE! YOUR BACHELOR BUDDY HAS BEEN GROUNDED! I'M BEING MARRIED WITHIN THE WEEK!

CONGRATULATIONS, CARTER! WHO'S THE UNLUCKY GIRL? ANYONE WE KNOW?

NO--AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'VE KNOWN HER LESS THAN 24 HOURS MYSELF. WE MET ON THE TRAIN FROM PHILLY!

HEY! GET A LOAD OF THIS, GANG! THE GREAT INVESTIGATOR WHO'S CHECKED ON HUNDREDS OF GALS FOR OTHER PEOPLE, DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THE GIRL HE'S GONNA MARRY!

SAY! WHAT ABOUT THAT, CARTER? WHO IS THIS GIRL? WHERE DOES SHE COME FROM? A BIG INVESTIGATOR LIKE YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MUCH!

MAYBE SHE MURDERED HER FIRST HUSBAND! EVER THINK OF THAT? HA, HA!

LISTEN, CHARLIE, I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY CHECKING ON JEAN! THAT'S ONE GIRL I KNOW IS OKAY!



"BUT DESPITE MY AIR OF UNCONCERN, THE SEED HAD BEEN PLANTED -- A SEED THAT WAS TO YIELD A HARVEST OF HORROR!"





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"PERHAPS IT WAS MY TRAINING AS AN INVESTIGATOR OR MAYBE JUST HUMAN CURIOSITY. BUT THAT AFTERNOON I TOOK A PLANE TO BOSTON--JEAN HAD MENTIONED THAT SHE HAD LIVED IN NEWTON, A TOWN NEAR THE CITY..."



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED TO FIND! BUT NOTHING IN MY IMAGINATION COULD HAVE COME CLOSE TO THE SHOCKING REALITIES OF THE NEXT FEW HOURS..."

"AS IN A TRANCE, I READ ON..."

...AND LITTLE MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, CLEMENT JONES, ALSO ENGAGED TO MISS BREWSTER, MET A TRAGIC DEATH BY DROWNING. HE, TOO, HAD KISSED THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL GOOD NIGHT JUST BEFORE DEATH STRUCK...



...SHE STATED AFTER LAST NIGHT'S CRASH THAT HER FIANCE, HOWARD LANE, HAD KISSED HER GOOD NIGHT BEFORE RETURNING TO HIS CAR--AND DEATH! IS THERE SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL ABOUT LOVELY JEAN BREWSTER WHOSE KISS HAS MEANT DEATH TO THREE MEN? IS SHE A BEAUTIFUL 20TH CENTURY WITCH?



"I HAD A FRIEND ON THE DAILY STANDARD WHO LET ME GO THROUGH THE PAPER'S MORGUE. SOON, THE NAME I WAS SEARCHING FOR CAUGHT MY EYE! NOT A BIG STORY, BUT IT HIT ME WITH THE IMPACT OF A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE ANNOUNCING THE END OF THE WORLD..."



"THE TRIP BACK TO NEW YORK WAS A NIGHTMARE! THE WORDS I HAD READ KEPT POUNDING IN MY BRAIN. THEY SEEMED LOUD ENOUGH TO DROWN OUT THE SOUND OF THE PLANE'S MOTORS..."





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"I FELT A LITTLE BETTER AFTER DISCUSSING WHAT I HAD FOUND WITH SOME FRIENDS AT TIM'S..."

I WOULDN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, CARTER! AFTER ALL, THE POOR GIRL'S DOUBTLESS BEEN A VICTIM OF COINCIDENCE. NO ONE BELIEVES IN WITCHES ANY MORE!

STILL, A VERY INTERESTING STORY! FORGIVE ME FOR LISTENING IN, CARTER!



"I WAS IN NO MOOD TO FACE BORIS WILDER! AND IT PARTICULARLY ANNOYED ME THAT HE'D BEEN LISTENING TO OUR CONVERSATION..."

"I DIDN'T ASK YOUR OPINION, WILDER! AND BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T BEEN TOO BUSY TO DO SOME CHECKING ON YOU! WHAT I'VE FOUND HAS BEEN MIGHTY SURPRISING!"

WHY... ER... YOU CAN'T GET ANYTHING ON ME! I'M... ER... NOT WORRIED A BIT!



"I HADN'T CHECKED ON WILDER AT ALL! BUT MOST EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING HIDDEN IN HIS PAST AND I FIGURED BORIS MIGHT PAY UP THE 50'S HE OWED ME IF HE THOUGHT I WAS DELVING INTO HIS-- AND FROM THE WAY HE ACTED, HE SURE SEEMED TO HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE! BUT BORIS QUICKLY LEFT MY MIND--FOR I HAD A DATE WITH JEAN..."



SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL-- HOW COULD I HAVE BELIEVED EVEN FOR A SECOND THOSE RIDICULOUS HINTS IN THE PAPER ABOUT HER BEING A WITCH?

"BUT DESPITE MYSELF, THERE WAS ONE THING I COULDN'T DO --I WAS AFRAID TO KISS THE GIRL I LOVED..."

CARTER, DARLING! WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME SO STRANGELY!

KISS OF DOOM! 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WITCH!

HER KISS HAS BROUGHT DEATH TO THREE MEN!



"AS SHE SPOKE, I WAS STRUCK BY THE LOOK IN HER EYES! THE LITTLE FLARES OF AMBER SEEMED LIKE FLASHES OF LIGHT! I WAS HELD--HYPNOTIZED ALMOST--AS IF I WERE STARING INTO THE EYES OF A WITCH..."



YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU, DARLING! HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS! KISS ME!

"SUDDENLY, SHE STRETCHED OUT HER ARMS! AND AS SHE DID SO..."



AHH!

"I FELT MYSELF FALLING BACKWARD --BACKWARD OVER THE CLIFF TOWARD THE DARK WATERS OF THE RIVER FAR BELOW! AND ALL THE WHILE JEAN MOVED FORWARD, HER ARMS STRETCHED TOWARD ME! WAS SHE GOING TO REACH OUT AND SAVE ME --OR SEND ME TO MY DOOM?"



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"AS MY ARMS PLAYED WILDLY, ONE HAND HIT THE IRON POST OF THE LOW GUARD RAIL! DESPERATELY, MY FIST CLOSED AROUND IT..."

DARLING! YOU'RE SAFE! I TRIED TO GRAB YOU! BUT FOR AN AWFUL SECOND I THOUGHT I WAS TOO LATE!

I... I MUST HAVE STEPPED BACK! I DIDN'T REALIZE THE GUARD RAIL WAS BROKEN HERE!

YES! OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! I LET MY IMAGINATION RUN WILD AND WHEN JEAN STEPPED FORWARD, I IN-ADVERTENTLY MOVED BACK!



"I PRESSED MY FOOT DOWN ON THE BRAKE PEDAL AND A CHILL PASSED OVER ME! I PRESSED HARDER AND ICY SWEAT FORMED ON MY FORE-HEAD..."

THE BRAKES! THEY WON'T HOLD! AND THERE'S A HARPIN CURVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS HILL!



"SOMEHOW I SWERVED OFF THE ROAD BEFORE REACHING THE DANGEROUS CURVE! I RIPPED THROUGH A FENCE AND CAME TO A STOP IN A FRESHLY PLOWED FIELD. AS I TRIED TO RE-ASSURE MYSELF THAT I WAS STILL ALIVE, MY HAND BRUSHED MY CHEEK AND..."

ON MY CHEEK! A SMUDGE OF LIPSTICK! JEAN'S LIPSTICK! SHE KISSED ME JUST BEFORE I STARTED THIS TRIP WHICH NEARLY BROUGHT MY DEATH!



"JEAN'S FACE IN THE WINDSHIELD COULD HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION! BUT THE LIPSTICK WAS NOT! LIKE THOSE OTHER MEN WHO DIED, I HAD BEEN KISSED BY JEAN BREWSTER JUST BEFORE DOOM STRUCK! THEN AND THERE I MADE A FIRM DECISION..."

I'VE GOT TO FACE IT! ALL THESE THINGS CAN'T BE COINCIDENCE! I MUST BREAK OFF WITH JEAN -- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



"LATER, AFTER LEAVING JEAN AT HER HOME, I DROVE UP-STATE. I PLANNED TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN A HOTEL, SO I COULD ATTEND TO SOME BUSINESS IN ALBANY FIRST THING IN THE MORNING..."

IT WASN'T JEAN'S FAULT I NEARLY FELL! WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO EVEN THINK FOR A MOMENT... OH, OH! MUST CONCENTRATE ON MY DRIVING! THIS HILL IS MIGHTY DANGEROUS!



"IT SEEMED THAT I LITERALLY HELD MY LIFE IN MY OWN HANDS, AS I DESPERATELY GRIPPED THE WHEEL--OR DID I? FOR THROUGH MY FEAR-GLAZED EYES, I SEEMED TO SEE ANOTHER PERSON NEAR ME..."

IT'S JEAN! HER FACE IN THE WINDSHIELD! SHE'S TAUNTING ME! LAUGHING AS I GO TO MY DEATH!



"THE NEXT NIGHT, I TRIED TO TELL JEAN WHAT I'D DECIDED! BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL I WAS LEAVING HER AT HER DOOR THAT I FINALLY BLURTED IT OUT! NATURALLY, I DIDN'T TELL MY REAL REASON..."

SO YOU SEE, JEAN, IT'S BEEN A MISTAKE! THIS WAY WILL BE BETTER FOR US BOTH!

YES...YES, OF COURSE, CARTER! WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN PART FRIENDS! WOULD YOU LIKE TO KISS ME GOOD-BYE?





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"HER LIPS WERE SO FULL--SO INVITING! I KNEW THAT, AFTER TONIGHT, I COULD NEVER POSSESS THEM AGAIN! DESPITE ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED, I TOOK HER IN MY ARMS AND OUR LIPS MET. EAGERLY, DESPERATELY, WE KISSED..."



"IF I COULD HAVE SEEN, AT THAT MOMENT, WHAT WAS IN THE APARTMENT BEHIND HER, JEAN'S KISS WOULD HAVE FROZEN ON MY LIPS!"

"AS OUR LIPS PARTED, I OPENED MY EYES AND HAPPENED TO GLANCE OVER HER SHOULDER INTO THE ROOM BEYOND! THERE ON THE MANTLE, THE LIGHT FROM A LAMP SENDING THEIR EVIL SHADOWS OVER THE WALLS, WAS A COLLECTION OF STRANGE-SHAPED ROOTS! I RECOGNIZED THEM AT ONCE..."

(WHISPER)  
MANDRAKE  
ROOTS!



WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID, CARTER?

ER... AH... NOTHING, JEAN! NOTHING! WELL, GOOD-BYE! AND...AND PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN!



"LATER, AS I WALKED THE DARK STREETS, MY MIND WAS LIKE A KALEIDOSCOPE OF FRIGHTENING SCENES! FOR WHAT I HAD SEEN IN JEAN'S APARTMENT WERE **MANDRAKE ROOTS**--COLLECTED THROUGHOUT HISTORY BY **WITCHES**!"

AND I KISSED HER JUST AS THE OTHERS DID! HAD THEY, TOO, LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT JEAN ON THE VERY NIGHT OF THEIR DEATH?



"WAS JEAN AT THIS VERY MOMENT, ALONE IN HER APARTMENT, PRONOUNCING SOME WEIRD INCANTATION--SAYING OVER AND OVER THE WITCHES' WORDS WHICH WOULD END MY LIFE? I HURRIED DOWN INTO THE SUBWAY AS IF TO ESCAPE MY OWN THOUGHTS..."



"SUDDENLY, I HEARD THE EERIE SHRIEK OF A TRAIN WHISTLE! THEN, A SOUND LIKE THE CRACK OF DOOM EXPLODED IN MY BRAIN..."



"LIKE COOLING RAIN IN THE MIST OF A SUMMER HEAT WAVE, UNCONSCIOUSNESS SWEEPED OVER ME. BUT THE RELIEF WAS SHORT-LIVED! FOR, THROUGH A HAZE, I COULD SEE A FACE NEAR MINE--EYES PEERING AT ME..."



"THEY WERE THE HAUNTING EYES OF JEAN BREWSTER!"



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"AS THE HAZE CLEARED, I WAS AWARE OF A CROWD AROUND ME--AND OF JEAN KNEELING BESIDE ME..."



OH, MY DARLING! YOU'VE ACTED SO STRANGELY OF LATE! I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE ILL! I RAN AFTER YOU! AND AS I CAUGHT UP WITH YOU ON THE SUBWAY PLATFORM, A MAN TRIED TO PUSH YOU IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN!

WHEN I SCREAMED, HE WAS FRIGHTENED AND MISJUDGED THE DISTANCE! YOU FELL BEFORE GOING OFF THE EDGE AND HIT YOUR HEAD ON THE PLATFORM!

WE CAUGHT HIM TRYING TO GET AWAY IN A CAB! IS THIS THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL YOUR FRIEND, MISS?

YOU WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR CAR AFTER I QUEERED YOUR BRAKES! AND TONIGHT YOUR LUCK STILL HELD! NOW YOU CAN TELL WHAT YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT ME!



**BORIS WILDER!**

MY BLUFF ABOUT INVESTIGATING HIM! HE THINKS I REALLY FOUND SOMETHING! WELL, I'LL LET HIM TALK ON!

I KNEW YOU'D REVEAL THAT I KILLED MY PARTNER TO GET CONTROL OF THE BUSINESS, SO I HAD TO GET RID OF YOU! THE STORY ABOUT YOUR FIANCEE GAVE ME THE IDEA! I FIGURED IF AN "ACCIDENT" DESTROYED YOU, SHE WOULD BE BLAMED FOR "JINKING" YOU! AFTER I FAILED WITH THE CAR, I FOLLOWED YOU TO-NIGHT AND WAITED FOR MY CHANCE!



"BORIS' CONFESSION SENT HIM TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! AND SOME WEEKS AFTER..."

DO ME A FAVOR, DARLING! AFTER OUR HONEYMOON, WHEN WE MOVE TO A PLACE OF OUR OWN, DON'T BRING THOSE MANDRAKE ROOTS ALONG! THEY REMIND ME OF SOMETHING I'D RATHER FORGET!

MANDRAKE ROOTS? OH, YOU MEAN THOSE PIECES OF **DRIFT WOOD** I PICKED UP ON CAPE COD ONE SUMMER! I ALWAYS THOUGHT THEY WERE LOVELY--BUT YOU'RE THE BOSS NOW, DEAR!



The End

ADVERTISEMENT

## OUT OF THIS WORLD by Necco

IT IS ALWAYS DAYTIME ON ONE SIDE OF THE PLANET MERCURY AND HOT ENOUGH TO MELT LEAD!



...ON THE SIDE THAT IS ALWAYS NIGHT IT IS COLD ENOUGH TO FREEZE SOME GASES!

BUT FOR A TREAT THAT IS ALWAYS "OUT OF THIS WORLD" GET SOME GRAND **Necco WAFERS!**



A LOT FOR A LITTLE





WHAT EVIL BREW WAS THIS ANCIENT MIXTURE THAT  
CHILLED MY HEART WITH THE TERRIFYING QUESTION:  
WAS I...

# MAN OR MONSTER?

IN THIS STREAMLINED 20TH CENTURY OF WONDER DRUGS, JET PLANES, AND THE ATOM, CAN SUCH THINGS HAPPEN? CAN FICTION BECOME DREAD FACT? CAN A DECENT, LAW-ABIDING DOCTOR TURN DEMON?

CYNICAL, AREN'T YOU?  
RIDICULOUS, YOU SAY?  
THEN READ THIS  
CONFESSION OF  
TRAGEDY AND  
TERROR -- TOLD BY  
THE MAN WHO WAS  
DESTINED TO LIVE  
IT -- BEFORE YOU  
MAKE UP YOUR  
MIND!



SOME MONTHS BACK, DURING THE INFLUENZA OUTBREAK, I CALLED ON A RICH OLD RECLUSE ON THE EDGE OF TOWN, WAITING FOR HIM TO AWAKEN FROM HIS NAP. I WAS BROWSING THROUGH HIS LARGE, ANCIENT LIBRARY, WHEN I MADE AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY...



WHAT'S THIS? A CHEMICAL FORMULA THAT CAN TRANSFORM A MAN INTO A BEAST? RIDICULOUS, OF COURSE-- BUT I'LL COPY IT DOWN ANYWAY-- SHOULD BE GOOD FOR A LAUGH WHEN I TELL MY ASSOCIATES AT THE MEDICAL MEETING!

MY PATIENT DIED, THE EPIDEMIC KEPT ME BUSY, BUT IN AN IDLE MOMENT WEEKS LATER, I REMEMBERED THE FORMULA-- AND OUT OF A CONSUMING CURIOSITY I MIXED THE INGREDIENTS...

I WONDER WHAT WOULD REALLY HAPPEN IF I TRIED IT? PERHAPS I WILL SOMEDAY-- ON A GUINEA PIG! NOW I'LL JUST POUR IT INTO THIS EMPTY MILK BOTTLE, AND STORE IT IN THE REFRIGERATOR!



BELIEVE ME, I HAD NO INTENTION OF EVER PUTTING THIS FORMULA TO THE TEST-- BUT, THEN, FATE TOOK A HAND...





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



MY HOUSEKEEPER USUALLY PLACED A SANDWICH AND A GLASS OF MILK AT MY SIDE BEFORE RETIRING. THAT FATEFUL NIGHT...

DR. HUNT, I WAS SURE THERE WAS ONLY ONE BOTTLE OF MILK! HOW'D TWO GET IN HERE?

HM?... PLEASE STOP CHATTERING WHEN I'M READING, MABEL--GOOD NIGHT!

NEED I TELL YOU OF THE MONSTROUS MISTAKE THAT HAD BEEN MADE? MINUTES AFTER MABEL HAD LEFT AND I HAD DRUNK THE CONCOCTION, I FELT A STRANGE, SUDDEN RELEASE OF ALL MY TENSIONS!

W-WHAT'S--HAPPENING TO ME?

I FELT NOW A GREAT INNER SURGE OF STRENGTH! I HAD STOPPED THINKING! REASON HAD FLED BEFORE THE BRUTE!



AND AS THE COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION TOOK EFFECT, MAN HAD TURNED MONSTER! THE NAME OF A PROMINENT LAWYER CROWDED EVERYTHING ELSE OUT OF MY BRUTISH BRAIN AS I SEETHED WITH ANIMAL FURY...

BENJAMIN BROCK! I'LL-- CRUSH--THE LIFE OUT OF HIM!



I FELT MYSELF BEING PROPELLED BY SOME INNER COMPULSION ON A MISSION OF MURDER! THE URGE TO KILL MADE EVERY FIBRE IN MY BODY TINGLE!



UNTIL, AT LENGTH, THE SIGHT OF BROCK FANNED MY SMOULDERING HATRED INTO A WILD FURY...



AND, SOON, THROUGH EYES MISTED BY AN OVERPOWERING DESIRE TO DESTROY, I SAW MY HANDS--THOSE HEALING HANDS OF A DOCTOR WHICH HAD PRESERVED LIFE--NOW CLUTCHING GREEDILY TO TAKE THE LIFE OF A FRIEND...





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



FOR ONE SPLIT SECOND, BROCK, PERHAPS BY SOME INNER INSTINCT OF IMPENDING DOOM, TURNED-- BUT WHAT HE SAW FROZE THE CRY IN HIS THROAT...



THE FOUL DEED DONE, I FLED-- BUT AS I WAS LEAVING...



WHEN I REACHED MY HOUSE...



THUS WAS BORN, INCREDIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, IN THE 20TH CENTURY, THE REINCARNATION OF STEVENSON'S "DR. JEKYL AND MR. HYDE!"

DID YOU READ ABOUT THAT MONSTER WHO KILLED YOUR FRIEND LAST NIGHT, DR. HUNT? HIS WIFE SAW HIM LEAVING, BUT SHE FAINTED DEAD AWAY!

STOP CHATTERING, AND GET ON WITH YOUR SERVING!



BENJAMIN BROCK--MY FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM WENT ALL THE WAY BACK TO COLLEGE! WHY DID I KILL HIM? WHY? THIS HORRIBLE THING MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!



BUT AS THE SHADOWS OF DUSK BEGAN TO FALL, POWERFUL TENSIONS BEGAN TO BUILD UP WITHIN ME--AND A POWER GREATER THAN MY OWN DIRECTED MY HANDS TO THE DIABOLICAL BREW...



BUT MY ANGUISHED CRIES RE-SOUNDED HOLLOWS IN MY INNER EARS! MY VERY SOUL SCREAMED ITS PROTEST--BUT I DRANK--AND IN THE REFLECTION OF MY MEDICINE CABINET...





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



NO SOONER HAD I TAKEN ON THE BRUTE'S APPEARANCE THAN THE IMAGE OF ANOTHER VICTIM AGAIN CROWDED OUT ALL ELSE IN MY MIND...

ALBERT CONWAY-- WHO POSES AS MY FRIEND AND CONSTANT COMPANION! I'LL CHOKE THE BREATH OUT OF HIS MISERABLE THROAT!



ONCE AGAIN, A MONSTER LURKED THROUGH THE CITY STREETS, HIS DESTINATION -- **DEATH!**



AND ONCE AGAIN, A TERRIFIED MAN SCREAMED WITH HORROR BEFORE HE MET HIS VIOLENT END...



THIS TIME, THE VICTIM'S CRIES ATTRACTED HIS BUTLER, WHO ONLY STARED AT ME, ROOTED TO THE SPOT IN A HORROR HE HAD NEVER BEFORE KNOWN! BUT, STRANGELY, I DID NOT TRY TO KILL HIM...



NEXT MORNING, THE ENTIRE POLICE FORCE WAS ALERTED, AND A DRAGNET BROADCAST FOR MY CAPTURE...

READ ALL ABOUT IT-- **MONSTER STRIKES AGAIN!**



MY CONSCIENCE TORTURED ME! WHY WAS I KILLING MY DEAREST FRIENDS?

IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN! ON MY ETERNAL SOUL, I SWEAR IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN--!



BUT AS EVENING SHADOWS FILLED THE CORNERS OF MY STUDY, AND THE FAMILIAR TENSIONS BEGAN TO GRIP ME AS IN A VISE, I BEGAN TO LOOK LONGINGLY AT THE LIQUID THAT SEEMED TO BECKON ME...

NO, NO-- I'M STRONGER THAN YOU ARE! I WON'T TOUCH YOU! I WON'T, I WON'T!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



AND WHEN I FELT MY HAND REACHING FOR IT--I BEGAN TO SMASH THINGS-- YES, EVERYTHING I COULD LAY MY HANDS ON, EXCEPT ONE THING--THAT ACCURSED BOTTLE--THAT I COULD NOT SMASH!!!

THAT BOTTLE, TOO-- SMASH IT, TOO--! OH, WHY CAN'T I--? WHY CAN'T I--?



BUT--AS IRREVOCABLE AS THE TIDES, OR THE SETTING OF THE SUN--I LIFTED IT TO MY LIPS AND DRANK, DEEP...



AND SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY, ANOTHER OLD FRIEND MET HIS HORRIBLE FATE WHILE THE BEAST IN ME, UTTERING A DEMONICAL CRY OF TRIUMPH, MADE A HURRIED ESCAPE, BUT ON MY WAY HOME...

THERE HE IS-- THE MONSTER!

TAKE NO CHANCES, SHOOT TO KILL!



LIKE A PURSUED ANIMAL, I SCURRIED UP A DRAIN PIPE TO A NEARBY ROOFTOP...

WE'VE GOT 'IM! HE'S GOT TO COME DOWN ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER! IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE HIM, SO KEEP YOUR EARS TUNED GOOD AND SHARP!



WITH ANIMAL CUNNING, I PLANNED TO USE THE POLICE'S OWN STRATEGY AGAINST THEM...

I'LL THROW THIS LOOSE BRICK FROM THE CHIMNEY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE SO THEY'LL THINK I'M COMING DOWN THE OTHER SIDE! BUT--WILL IT WORK?



IT DID! AND FROM ACROSS THE STREET, I WATCHED MY PURSUERS-- OUTWITTED BY A BEAST!...

WHERE DID IT DISAPPEAR TO--?

YOU GOT ME! I WAS SURE I HEARD HIM COMING DOWN!







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



SO I HAD EVADED CAPTURE-- BUT THE TIME WOULD SOON COME WHEN I WOULD REGRET MY ESCAPE! FOR, AS I PONDERED THE PATTERN OF THE KILLINGS NEXT DAY...



STILL ANOTHER FRIEND-- BUT WHY, WHY? WAIT--! IS IT--IT--POSSIBLE? IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE?

SUDDENLY THE WHOLE MEANING, THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MURDERS, STRUCK ME! MY MIND RACED BACKWARDS 30 YEARS, TO A LARGE UNIVERSITY...



HUNT, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ALPHA TAU, FIND YOU UNSUITABLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR FRATERNITY!

YOU SNOBS! I'LL GET EVEN WITH YOU FOR THIS SOME DAY--AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

BUT AS THE YEARS PASSED-- AND COLLEGE DAYS WERE LONG FORGOTTEN--I GREW TO KNOW THESE FOUR MEN BETTER, AND THEY HAD BECOME MY FRIENDS...

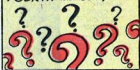


SAY, HUNT, REMEMBER WHEN WE BLACKBALLED YOU FROM ALPHA TAU?

OH, JASON DOESN'T HOLD THAT AGAINST US ANY MORE-- DO YOU?

COURSE NOT! I FORGOT IT YEARS AGO!

BUT I *DID* HOLD IT AGAINST THEM! SUBCONSCIOUSLY, I STILL HATED THESE MEN WHO HAD ONCE SNUBBED ME! WHAT THE CHEMICAL DID WAS TO RELEASE MY INNERMOST INHIBITIONS!... BUT I SUDDENLY BECAME AWARE OF A NEW FEAR-- A NEW HORROR-- THERE WERE FOUR MEMBERS OF THAT BOARD! I HAD ALREADY KILLED THREE OF THEM! YOU MAY WELL ASK ME-- WHO WAS THE FOURTH MEMBER?



HE WAS MYRON CARTER, NOW MY OWN BROTHER-IN-LAW-- MY SISTER'S HUSBAND...



AND DO YOU, JANE HUNT, TAKE THIS MAN TO BE YOUR HUSBAND, TO HONOR AND LOVE...?

I DO!

THE CHERISHED MEMORY OF THAT DAY BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES, AND A FEELING OF REVOLUTION TO MY SOUL! UTTERING A CRY BORN OF DESPERATION, I SEIZED THE DEVIL-BREW AND...



I'LL PUT AN END TO THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S STRONGER! THERE! NOW I CAN'T DRINK IT! HA, HA, I CAN'T DRINK IT NOW!!!



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



WILDLY, I LOCKED THE DOOR, HURLED THE KEY FROM THE WINDOW -- AND THEN I MANACLED MYSELF TO THE STEAM PIPE!

DON'T LOOK AT IT, JASON--  
BE STRONG -- TURN AWAY  
YOUR EYES-- *OH, I CAN'T,  
I CAN'T-- I WANT IT--  
I WANT IT!...*



WITH MY HEAD THROBBING, MY HEART BURSTING, I TORE OFF THE MANACLE, AND LIKE ANY BEAST DRANK DEEP...



AN HOUR LATER, AFTER  
EVADING THE  
POLICE, I  
FOUND MYSELF  
UNDER MY  
SISTER'S  
WINDOW! AND  
WHILE I KNEW I  
COULD NOT  
STOP MYSELF,  
MY HEART  
WAS HEAVY,  
AND I HOPED  
THAT THE  
CHEMICAL  
WOULD WEAR  
OFF BEFORE MY  
FRENZIED WANT  
WAS GRATIFIED,  
BUT I *KNEW*  
IT WOULDN'T...



JANE STARED AT ME IN HORROR, NOT RECOGNIZING THIS TERROR AS HER DEVOTED BROTHER...

WHERE--IS HE? *ANSWER!*  
WHERE IS YOUR HUSBAND?

IN...IN...THE...  
WINE CELLAR...



FURIOUSLY, I ROARED DOWN THE STEPS OF THE CELLAR...



BUT AS I STORMED INTO THE VAULT...

THERE, YOU MONSTER! THIS DOOR WILL HOLD YOU! NOW I--I MUST PHONE THE POLICE...  
BEFORE I FAINT...





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



WITHIN MOMENTS, I HEARD THE POLICE CAR SIRENS -- AND LIKE A CAGED BEAST...



LET ME OUT! I'LL KILL YOU ALL! I'LL CRUSH YOU ALL! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

BUT, SUDDENLY, A LETHARGY BEGAN TO CREEP OVER ME AND I KNEW, I KNEW...



AT LAST, THE CHEMICAL IS WEARING OFF -- I'LL BE NORMAL AGAIN IN A FEW MOMENTS -- NORMAL -- NORMAL --!

AND WHEN THE POLICE PILED INTO THE ROOM...



WHY, IT'S MY BROTHER! HE WAS EXPECTED FOR DINNER! HE MUST HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME WHEN I WAS ON THE PHONE, AND OPENED THE DOOR WHEN THE MONSTER SEIZED HIM!

AND MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE! WHAT A LUCKY BREAK HE WASN'T KILLED!

BUT HAD I ESCAPED? WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HAD RETAINED MY MONSTERISH APPEARANCE WHEN THEY BROKE IN -- AND DESTROYED ME? WHAT HAD I ESCAPED FROM? TO KILL AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN? IF I DARED TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH, WOULD THEY BELIEVE ME? WOULD YOU?



The End

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# THE GHOST OF PARIS!



ON NOVEMBER, 1934, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS COVERED A STORY ABOUT "THE GHOST OF PARIS," A SPECTRE WHICH HAD BEEN SEEN IN PARIS, MISSOURI, FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS!

"THE GHOST OF PARIS" WAS A TALL WOMAN DRESSED IN BLACK WHO ALLEGEDLY APPEARED EVERY YEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER AND WAS SEEN FREQUENTLY UNTIL SPRING! PEOPLE CLAIMED SHE WAS THE JILTED SWEET-HEART OF A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER!



ON HER DEATHBED SHE SWORE TO HAUNT HER FAITHLESS LOVER AND THE WHOLE TOWN FOREVER!



SHE FRIGHTENED CHILDREN INTO HYSTERICS, AND GROWN MEN WERE KNOWN TO RUN DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, CRYING FOR HELP!

AFTER THE NEWSPAPER STORY APPEARED, *THE GHOST* WAS SEEN NO MORE! IN EXPLANATION, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT MASS HYSTERIA AMONG THE SUPERSTITIOUS MAY PROBABLY HAVE SUGGESTED THESE *HALLUCINATIONS* TO THE FRIGHTENED, TENSE, AND OVER IMAGINATIVE MINDS OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



## "The CURSE of SEABURY MANOR"

**SEABURY MANOR!** FORBIDDING RELIC OF THE PAST, WHERE, FOR 100 YEARS, THREE CORPSES LAY BURIED UNDER A DAMP CELLAR, IN SILENT TESTIMONY TO THE MURDEROUS HEART OF ITS ORIGINAL AND ONLY INHABITANT--SILAS SEABURY! NOW, DECAYED BY TIME AND ROTTED BY THE ELEMENTS, ITS STEEPLED SILHOUETTE LOOMED OMINOUSLY OUT OF THE DARKNESS--GAUNT FINGERS POINTING-- ACCUSATION AGAINST THEIR MASTER! THE HAUNT OF GHOSTS, THE HOME OF DEATH, IT WAS WHISPERED--AND INTO THIS MANSION OF MYSTERY HEADED MY BEST FRIEND-- ON A DARE!



WHEN MY FRIEND DAN PERRY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO FULFILL THE CHALLENGE, I FRANTICALLY TRIED TO DISSUADE HIM...

DAN--PLEASE BE REASONABLE! YOU KNOW THE STORY ABOUT SILAS SEABURY'S GHOST KILLING ALL TRIPASSERS--JUST AS SILAS KILLED THREE, BEFORE THE TOWNSMEN HANGED HIM!

PSHAW! A SMART GUY LIKE YOU, BOB--SUPER--STITIOUS AS A SORCERER! GHOSTS? HA, HA--GHOSTS ARE FOR KIDS ON HALLOWEEN!



MAYBE--BUT WHAT ABOUT OLD MAN WHIPPLE? RUN OVER THE DAY AFTER HE VISITED THE MANOR! AND TOM FITCH? BURNED IN HIS HOME! AND LARRY ALSON? FELL UNDER A TRAIN! DEAD--ALL OF 'EM, EXACTLY ONE DAY LATER!

COINCIDENCE! SHEER COINCIDENCE, BOB! THEIR DEATHS WERE ALL ACCIDENTS! BESIDES, I'VE NEVER BACKED OUT ON A DARE!



"EVEN AS A KID, I'D PULL CRAZY STUNTS AT JUST THE DROP OF A HAT..."



"AND WHEN WE WERE IN THE ARMY TOGETHER, WHO WAS THE GUY WHO TOOK ALL THE CHANCES?"

DAN, I WARNED YOU THAT FIELO WAS MINED! YOU'RE LUCKY YOU JUST BROKE YOUR SHOULDER--RUNNING OVER IT!

OHhhh! CALL THE AMBULANCE! I'M DYING!

HA, HA--HE'D DIVE UNDER AN ELEPHANT ON A DARE!







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



THAT WAS DAN, ALL RIGHT--ALWAYS READY TO TAKE A DARE! BUT THIS LATEST ONE... HOW COULD ANYONE, EVEN DAN--SPEND A NIGHT IN THAT DARK MANSION OF MURDEROUS MEMORIES? ITS VERY STEPS CREAKED A WARNING TO TRESPASSERS! AS DAN LIT A CANDLE AND PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR...



DAN! WH-WHAT WAS THAT?

JUST AN OLD SCREECH OWL, BOB! LOOK--YOU'D BETTER BEAT IT NOW... I'M GOING IN!

AND TOMORROW... BOY, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE THOSE GUYS AT THE OFFICE! OLD "TAKE-A-DARE" COMES THROUGH AGAIN!

OKAY, OKAY, YOU STUB-BORN FOOL! I GIVE UP! THAT STUPID EGO OF YOURS IS MORE THAN I CAN BUCK! SO LONG, DAN... AND--AND GOOD LUCK!



IT WAS 10 O'CLOCK WHEN I LEFT DAN AND WENT HOME TO BED. IF THE LEGEND OF SLAY SHOOT WAS TRUE--HE HAD ONLY ONE DAY TO LIVE! WHAT UNKNOWN HORROR HABITATED THAT HOUSE? WHAT EVIL COULD OCCUR WHILE DAN WAS ISOLATED IN THE GABLED TOMB?

HMM--11:50... SLEEP--SLEEP--IF ONLY I COULD...NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE...I--ER, WH--? WHO--? SOMEONE AT THE DOOR!

KNOCK!  
KNOCK!



AND AS I OPENED THE DOOR... BOB! OH, THANK HEAVEN! BOB! BOB! IT'S YOU!

DAN--WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF! QUICK--COME IN, MAN! COME IN!



DRAINED OF COLOR, ASHEN--DAN'S FACE LOOKED LIKE A PASTY MASK! HIS FRAME TREMBLED IN EVERY PART! QUICKLY, I BREWED A POTENT POT OF COFFEE... AND AFTER THE SECOND CUP HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK MORE COHERENTLY...

AFTER YOU LEFT, BOB--I WENT IN AND EXAMINED THE GROUND FLOOR, THE ROOMS WERE BARE AND MUSTY... COBWEBS ALL AROUND...



"THE SHUTTERS WERE SLAMMING AGAINST THE HOUSE...AND WHEN I TRIED TO FASTEN THEM,I FOUND LARGE HOLES IN THE WINDOWS, LETTING IN THE COLD NIGHT AIR..."

BRRR! MIGHT AS WELL GO UPSTAIRS...MAYBE IT'LL BE WARMER!



"ON THE SECOND FLOOR,I FOUND A ROOM PROTECTED FROM THE COLD BY BOARDED WINDOWS;HERE, I WOULD SETTLE FOR THE NIGHT, WITH THE BOOK I BROUGHT..."

HMM... HOPE THIS OLD CHAIR HOLDS ME!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"HOW LONG I READ, I DON'T REMEMBER. MAYBE 30 MINUTES... THEN, SUDDENLY I HEARD FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS! I RAN OUT, AND..."

WH-WHO'S THERE?



"BUT I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING! JUST MY IMAGINATION, I DECIDED, AND I WENT BACK. BUT THE FOOTSTEPS GREW LOUDER AND LOUDER--AND THEN..."

THE DOOR!  
IT--IT'S OPENING!



"I SAT FROZEN, MY HEART BEATING SO WILDLY, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BURST! STILL, I COULD SEE NO ONE! BUT SOMEONE, **SOMETHING** WAS IN THAT ROOM, BOB! I HEARD IT! I **FELT** IT! CLOSER AND CLOSER IT CAME--UNTIL..."



"...IT BLEW OUT MY CANDLE! CHOKING WITH FEAR, I STUMBLED DOWN THE STEPS IN PITCH DARKNESS AND I RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE!"

NO! NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!



DOWN THE ROAD I KEPT RUNNING... RUNNING... RUNNING... I COULDN'T STOP! FINALLY, I MUST HAVE HIT THE MAIN HIGHWAY, WHERE A CAR PICKED ME UP AND BROUGHT ME HERE!

GOOD THING IT DID, DAN, OR YOU'D BE IN THE NEXT STATE BY NOW! WHEW--WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! WELL, THAT SHOULD TEACH YOU--NO MORE DARES FROM NOW ON!



BUT NOW, SAFE AND WARM, PROTECTED FROM THE UNSEEN TERROR, DAN'S FALSE BRAVADO WAS RETURNING. I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE MY EARS, WHEN HE TOLD ME HE WOULD **GO BACK!**

FOR EVIDENCE? WHY, YOU LAMEBRAINED IDIOT, YOU'RE **MAD** TO GO BACK!

I'VE GOT TO, BOB! MAYBE THIS WAS ALL MY IMAGINATION! MAYBE THE WIND BLEW OUT THE CANDLE! BUT I TOOK A DARE--AND I'M GOING THROUGH WITH IT!



IT WAS USELESS TO ARGUE WITH DAN.

HIS PRIDE WAS WOUNDED AT HAVING BROKEN DOWN IN THE FACE OF A DARE, AND THE ONLY WAY IT COULD BE HEALED WAS BY A **DOUBLY-DARING STUNT!**

SO THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, HE DROVE BACK TO SEABURY MANOR WITH A CAMERA--AND THERE, HE WAITED PATIENTLY. AGAIN, HE HEARD FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS--AND AGAIN, THE DOOR OPENED MYSTERIOUSLY. BUT THIS TIME, HE WAS READY FOR IT...

GOT IT! WITH THIS PICTURE, I'LL HAVE **BLACK-AND-WHITE EVIDENCE**, TO SHOW WHAT THIS UNSEEN PHANTOM REALLY LOOKS LIKE! NOT EVEN A **PHANTOM** CAN FOOL A **CAMERA!**





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



BY THE TIME I REACHED DAN'S HOUSE, HE WAS ALREADY IN HIS GARAGE, DEVELOPING THE PRECIOUS PICTURE. THE DOORS WERE TIGHTLY SHUT--AND I DIDN'T DARE TRY TO ENTER, FOR FEAR OF ADMITTING LIGHT AND RUINING THE NEGATIVE...

HAHA... 9:45... IF THAT LEGEND IS TRUE, DAN HAS ONLY 15 MINUTES LEFT TO LIVE! BUT THAT'S SILLY... I GUESS I AM TOO SUPERSTITIOUS! AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO HIM IN HIS OWN GARAGE?



SLOWLY THE MINUTES TICKED BY... 9:50... 9:55... 9:57... 9:59... SUDDENLY, ON THE DOT OF 10...

COUGHS COUGHS HELP... M-MY THROAT... I'M CH-CHOKING!

HUH? DAN! WHAT'S WRONG? OPEN THE DOOR!



AND AS I TUGGED OPEN THE DOOR...

DAN! GREAT SCOTT! HIS FACE--IT'S--IT'S HORRIBLE--A MASK OF DEATH!



IMMEDIATELY, I PHONED THE DOCTOR--AND WHEN HE ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES LATER...

...THAT'S THE STORY, DOCTOR! AS I SEE IT, DAN DIED OF HEART FAILURE CAUSED BY THAT--THAT THING HE SAW IN HIS SMASHED PRINT! A THING SO TERRIFYING, IT SCARED HIM TO DEATH!



NOW, NOW--JUST A MINUTE, MY BOY! YOU'RE UPSET AND OVERWROUGHT! THERE ARE CASES OF MEN DYING OF FRIGHT, I ADMIT--BUT THERE'S ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR DAN'S DEATH! COME INTO THE GARAGE!

HERE, SEE, BOB? THE IGNITION--STILL ON! APPARENTLY, DAN WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO DEVELOP HIS PICTURES,

HE FORGOT TO TURN OFF THE MOTOR ON HIS CAR! CARBON MONOXIDE FUMES SLOWLY FILLED THE GARAGE--SUFFOCATING HIM! THE HORRIBLE CONTOUR OF HIS FACE WAS CAUSED BY THE CHOKING SENSATION--A SLOW STRANGULATION!

MAYBE--BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT WAS DAN SAW... WH--? DOCTOR--LOOK! THE NEGATIVES! OF COURSE! NOW, WE'LL KNOW!



NO, I'M AFRAID NOT, BOB! THE NEGATIVES WERE VICTIMS OF THE GAS, TOO! THEY'RE STAINED BEYOND REPAIR BY THE ACTION OF THE FUMES AND THE DEVELOPING CHEMICALS ON THEM!

RUINED! THE LAST CLUE WE HAD! NOW, WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE SECRET--WHAT IT WAS THAT DAN SAW IN THE FILM BEFORE HE DIED!



ALL WE DO KNOW IS THAT DAN PERRY DIED OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AT 10 P.M., BY OFFICIAL MEDICAL VERDICT, A VERY SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR ANOTHER "ACCIDENTAL" DEATH--EXACTLY 24 HOURS AFTER THE VICTIM WAS AT SEABURY MANOR!

BUT DAN'S FACE... STRANGULATION BY GAS WOULDN'T HAVE CAUSED SUCH STARK TERROR! PERHAPS IT WAS THE DEADLY TERROR HE SAW IN THE FILM, WHICH STOPPED HIS HEART! AND I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW... WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

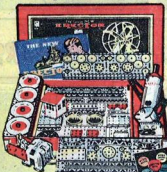


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# HOUSE OF MYSTERY







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



THERE IS A SAYING THAT EVERY MAN HAS ONE TALE OF UNFORGETTABLE TERROR WITHIN HIS SOUL. WHETHER THIS BE TRUTH OR CONJECTURE IS NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE. BUT THIS I KNOW ABOVE ALL ELSE IN LIFE... THE STORY I HAVE TO TELL WAS MADE OF WITCHES' BREW, ITS MUSIC THE LAMENT OF A THOUSAND DEMONS. PERHAPS, HERE IN THE TELLING, I SHALL RELEASE SOME OF THE TORMENT WHICH KEEPS REMINDING ME THAT...

## "WANDA WAS A WEREWOLF!"



DOUG! HOW I'VE LONGED FOR YOU! COME TO ME ...!

NO, STAY AWAY! KEEP AWAY FROM ME DO YOU HEAR! YOU'RE A **WEREWOLF!**

A MONTH AGO, AS THE RICKETY SPUR LINE TRAIN CARRIED ME DEEP INTO KENTUCKY HILL COUNTRY, I HAD NO INKLING OF THE DARK, BAFFLING CLOUD THAT WAS SOON TO BLOT OUT MY HAPPINESS...

FOUR LONG MONTHS SINCE I'VE SEEN WANDA. IT SEEMS MORE LIKE A YEAR... BUT THE WAITING'S ALL OVER NOW. I'VE GOT MY ENGINEERING DEGREE, AND THAT JOB IN SOUTH AMERICA... WANDA AND I CAN START LIVING... AT LAST!

THE FIRST COLD FINGER OF THE FRIGHTENING FUTURE TOUCHED ME AT THE STATION STOP... BUT MY SPIRITS WERE TOO HIGH TO REALIZE IT THEN...

WANDA'S NOT HERE... ODD, SHE KNOWS I DON'T HAVE DIRECTIONS TO THE HOUSE... IT'S JUST DAWN... PERHAPS SHE'S STILL ASLEEP.

SAY, OLD-TIMER! CAN YOU GIVE ME A LIFT?

WHERE TOO, YOUNG FELLA?





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



THIS IS FOR YOU IF YOU'LL TAKE ME TO WHEATON HALL. MY FIANCEE, MISS WANDA WOLF, FAILED TO MEET ME AT THE STATION SOMEHOW. SHE'S BEEN STAYING THERE.

WHEATON HALL?



CAN'T GO THAT WAY/ER...NOT EVER FOR A HUNDRED DOLLARS. YOU'LL HAVE TA WALK IT. TAKE THE SOUTH TURN PAST THE MARSH...

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT?

THE COLD MOUNTAIN MIST MADE ME SHIVER AS I TRUDGED PAST THE MARSH INTO A WOODED GLEN. SUDDENLY...



SURLY OLD CHARACTER... WHAT A DREARY SPOT... WHY WOULD WANDA INSIST UPON WAITING HERE FOR ME? HUH... THAT POSSE!

YOU THERE!

AS I HURRIED ON, FEAR CLUTCHED MY HEART. WHAT KIND OF MADCAP VILLAGE HAD WANDA BEEN LIVING IN? BUT SHORTLY, MY APPREHENSION VANISHED AS...



DOUG! DOUG!

WANDA!



I...I'M ON MY WAY TO WHEATON HALL. IS THERE SOME TROUBLE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

RECKON YOU'LL BE FINDING OUT IF YOU STAY IN THESE PARTS LONG, STRANGER. T'AIN'T SAFE WALKIN' THESE HILLS FORE' SUN-UP. ALMOST CAUGHT YERSELF A BARREL OF BUCKSHOT. LET'S GIT HOME, BOYS. WE LOST HER AGIN'!



HONEY, I'D BEGUN TO THINK SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU. YOU DIDN'T MEET ME AT THE STATION AND THE PLACE IS FILLED WITH CRACKPOTS!

OH, MY DARLING, I OVERSLEPT AND WAS JUST RUSHING TO MEET YOU. COME ALONG INSIDE. I HAVE A FIRE GOING.



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



IT WAS THEN THAT WANDA CAME OUT WITH A VERY STRANGE REMARK, ONE WHICH I WAS NOT FULLY TO UNDERSTAND UNTIL MUCH LATER ...

DOUG! T-THAT SILVER BULLET... YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE... THOSE THINGS!

HUH? BUT, WANDA... IT'S ONLY A WEIGHT FOR MY KEY CHAIN... IT'S THE EMBLEM OF MY GUN CLUB ...

I-I DON'T CARE! IT'S UGLY! GET RID OF IT!

OF COURSE, WANDA! IF YOU FEEL **THAT** STRONGLY ABOUT IT!

LATER, WHEN I RETURNED AFTER DISPOSING OF THE BULLET, A STRANGE-APPEARING HILL CHARACTER WAS WITH WANDA ...

SAY, WANDA! ON THE WAY UP FROM THE STATION, I BUMPED INTO SOME HILL FOLK THRASHING ABOUT THE WOODS ARMED TO THE TEETH! WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? ...OH...

HOWDY, STRANGER. RECKON IT'S ONLY 'FITTING' FER ME TO TELL YUH WHAT THE POSSE IS UP TO!

THERE'S **NO NEED** TO CONCERN MR. MARTIN WITH MOUNTAIN TROUBLE, LEM. DOUG, THIS IS MY COUSIN, LEM HAWKS.

GLAD TO MEET UP. WOMEN FOLK DON'T LIKE TO TALK OF THE LEGEND, MR. MARTIN. BUT I RECKON YOU'D BETTER HEAR ABOUT IT IF YOU'RE TO STAY.

HI!

THEM MEN WERE HUNTING DOWN A **FEMALE WEREWOLF**! MOUNTAIN TALES HAVE IT SHE'S THE SAME ONE USED TO ROAM THESE HILLS 100 YEARS AGO. T-AIN'T NO FOOLISH GOSSIP, EITHER ... A DOZEN FOLKS HAVE SEEN HER LEADING A PACK OF WOLVES THROUGH THE HILLS!

GREAT SCOTT! HAS EVERY-BODY GONE CRAZY IN THIS AREA? BETTER JUST LET HIM RAMBLE ON...

LEM DID RAMBLE ON...FOR OVER AN HOUR: "ALREADY WANDA'S FRIEND, SETH KEENE, HAS BEEN KILLED. NEIGHBORS SAW THE WEREWOLF LEAVE HIS HOUSE RIGHT AFTER..."

T-THE **FEMALE WEREWOLF**! S-SHE'S COME BACK!

J-JOE LOOK!



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"LATER ON, A POSSE SAW HER... BUT SHE JUST DISAPPEARED INTO THE MIST LIKE SOMETHIN' FROM ANOTHER WORLD..."

W-WE'RE **TOO LATE!**  
THAT GROUND FOG WILL  
SWALLOW HER UP...



I MUST STAY SEVERAL DAYS FOR BUSINESS REASONS. SETH KEENE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE FAMILY. HIS PROPERTY IS MINE NOW AND I HAVE PAPERS TO SIGN. ALSO, DEAR, ANOTHER COUSIN, DOD CHEEVER, HAS FAMILY LAND THAT I MUST ARRANGE FOR BEFORE I LEAVE!



I ENTERED THE CARETAKER'S COTTAGE TO FIND...

WHA... (COUGH) (COUGH) WHAT IN THUNDER ARE YOU COOKING?

YOU! GIT OUTA HERE. I DON'T LIKE NOBODY BUSTIN' IN ON ME!



"FINALLY, WHEN LEM HAD FINISHED AND AMBLED OFF CHUCKLING LIKE THE FOOL HE WAS..."

WANDA! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS FANTASTIC TALE CAN MEAN TO YOU? YOUR LAST NAME IS **WOLF**! YOU'VE EVEN GOT WOLF SKINS ON THE FLOOR. THESE MAD MOUNTAINEERS MIGHT GET THE IDEA. **YOU'RE** TIED UP IN THIS CRAZY MYTH. WE **MUST** LEAVE AT ONCE!

NONSENSE, DARLING!



TELL LEM YOU'RE TO STAY IN THE CARETAKER'S COTTAGE. HE JUST USES IT DURING THE DAYTIME, AND PLEASE, DEAR, DON'T WORRY!

OKAY, WANDA. I'LL GRAB SOME SLEEP WHILE YOU WIND UP YOUR AFFAIRS!



LEM MADE A BIG MISTAKE YELLING AT ME. MY PATIENCE WITH HIM AND EVERYONE ELSE IN THE REGION WAS EXHAUSTED...

NOW LISTEN, YOU LITTLE MOUNTAIN WEASEL. I'VE HAD ENOUGH MUMBO JUMBO FROM YOU AND THE OTHER NATIVES. TAKE THAT SICKENING CONCOCTION AND GET OUT. I'M SLEEPING HERE TONIGHT!

S-SURE MR. MARTIN. I WAS JUST FIXIN' SOME HERBS. I-I'LL MOVE RIGHT OUT!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



THAT EVENING, SLEEP ELUDED MY TORTURED MIND. IT WAS ALMOST 2 A.M. WHEN...

SORRY, MR. MARTIN, SAW THE LIGHT ON AND FIGURED LEM WAS STAYING OVER. THE WEREWOLF'S BEEN SEEN AGIN AND WE WANTED HIM TO HELP US RIDE HER DOWN.

LEM'S AT HIS OWN PLACE. BUT, BY THUNDER, I'LL RIDE WITH YOU. I WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS FOOLISHNESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.



WE HAD BEEN RIDING FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. SUDDENLY, I FROZE IN MY SADDLE WHEN...

GREAT HEAVENS! IT CAN'T BE TRUE.

T-THAR SHE IS!



MOMENTS LATER, THE MOON CAME FROM BEHIND A LOW-HANGING CLOUD AND MY SPINE TURNED TO ICE...

THE BLUFF'S IN OUR WAY, BOYS. WE'LL HAVE TO CIRCLE AROUND AND TRY TO HEAD HER OFF!

W-WHY, SHE LOOKS LIKE ... WANDA. W-WHEN SHE LET HER HAIR DOWN AT THE BEACH LAST YEAR!



WHEN WE ROUNDED THE BLUFF, THE FIGURE, APPARITION OR THING, HAD VANISHED. I SPURRED MY HORSE TOWARD WHEATON HALL AS A WAVE OF UGLY THOUGHTS RUSHED MADLY THROUGH MY HEAD.

I-IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WANDA... MY EYES... THEY'RE PLAYING TRICKS ON ME... I'LL GO TO HER IMMEDIATELY... I MUST FIND OUT...



WANDA WAS NOT AT WHEATON HALL. THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, I PAVED ACROSS THE OMINOUS WOLF SKIN RUG WHICH LAY ON THE FLOOR. THEN, SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN, A PUNGENT, TERRIFYING ODOR FILLED THE ROOM. I TURNED...

W-WANDA... WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



ALL SEMBLANCE OF LIFE HAD VANISHED FROM HER EYES. I STOOD THERE... UNABLE TO MOVE... SHE PLACED HER DEATH-CHILLING ARMS ABOUT MY NECK... AND AS I HELD HER CLOSE, SUDDENLY I HEARD A BESTIAL GROWL...

W-WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME...







# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



AS THOUGH IN SOME HYPNOTIC STATE, I VIEWED IN UTTER HORROR THE SIGHT BEFORE ME... THE UNCANNY METAMORPHOSIS OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL CHANGED INTO A FANGED SHARLING, VULPINE BEAST...

NO! NO!

GRONL

I-I MUST HAVE SLIPPED OFF INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AFTER THAT. FOR WHEN I AWOKE, IT WAS LATE AFTERNOON. AS I HALF CRAWLED TO MY FEET, THE TERROR OF THE NIGHT BEFORE MET MY EYES...

T-THE PRINTS OF A WOLF... MY SWEET HEART IS A WEREWOLF!

I NEEDED TIME... TIME TO THINK THINGS OUT. I DECIDED TO SPARE WANDA UNTIL I COULD GET MY WITS TOGETHER.

BUT AT 2 A.M. MY FITFUL SLEEP WAS SHATTERED WHEN...

THE WEREWOLF'S STRUCK AGIN' DODD CHEEVER'S BEEN MURDERED. ARE YUH RIDING WITH US, MR. MARTIN?

YOU BET! LEAVE MY HORSE... I'LL JOIN YOU.

NO, NO... WANDA! Y-YOU COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED..

I-IT'S NEARLY SUNSET... WANDA, DARLING. I SHALL MAKE SURE YOU... HARM NO ONE THIS NIGHT...

NEVER DID A MORTAL KNOW MORE TERROR THAN THAT NIGHT WHEN I STOOD BY THE WINDOW IN WANDA'S ROOM...

S-SHE LEFT BY THE WINDOW! THESE HAIRS... THEY'RE THE HAIRS OF A... WOLF! GREAT HEAVENS ABOVE! I KNOW NOW WHAT I MUST DO!

I BORROWED THE RIFLE HANGING OVER THE FIREPLACE IN WHEATON HALL AND RETURNED TO MY CABIN...

THIS SILVER BULLET FROM MY GUN CLUB WHICH WEIGHS MY KEY CHAIN... NO WONDER SHE INSISTED I DISPOSE OF IT. SHE REALIZED THAT ONLY A SILVER BULLET CAN KILL A WEREWOLF!



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



AS MUCH AS IT TORE MY SOUL, I WAS DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT MY DECISION...



LEGEND HAS IT THAT WEREWOLVES ONLY PROWL FROM SUNDOWN TO SUN-UP. I ONLY HOPE THAT I CAN FIND HER QUICKLY... FOR HER SAKE AND THE WORLD'S!

LIKE A CRAZED CREATURE, I FOLLOWED HER TRACKS HIGH INTO THE HILLS. I INSERTED THE SILVER BULLET INTO THE RIFLE CHAMBER. FINALLY...



DARLING, FORGIVE ME... B-BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...

I RAISED THE RIFLE AND AIMED... OH, HOW LONG I AIMED! IN THOSE BRIEF SECONDS, WANDA'S OTHER LIFE EXPLODED BEFORE ME. THEN...



THE SOUND OF THE SHOT BROUGHT THE HILL POSSE TO THE SCENE. THEY WERE THERE WHEN I ARRIVED...



G-GREAT BALLS OF FIRE! SHE'S DEAD! THE SILVER BULLET TURNED HER RIGHT BACK INTO A WOLF!

WHAT! B-BUT SHE CAN'T BE DEAD...

YOU GONE PLUM LOCO, MR. MARTIN? WE SAW YUH DRAW A BEAD ON HER...ER...ON IT FROM THE VALLEY.



NO! I FIRED HIGH... HIGH, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I-I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO KILL HER! (GNIFF) T-THAT SMELL... THAT SMELL IS FAMILIAR...

THERE, KNEELING BESIDE THE DEAD BEAST, I REALIZED WHO WAS BEHIND THIS DIABOLICAL GAME...

GOOD HEAVENS! SOMEBODY TELL ME QUICK... WHERE IS LEM HAWKS CABIN? THIS WOLF REEKS OF LEM'S HERB POTION!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



WANDA'S LIFE HUNG BY A SLENDER THREAD THAT BLACK NIGHT AS I BURST INTO LEM HAWKS' CABIN...



YOU INHUMAN ANIMAL, HAWKS! YOUR FIENDISH HERB POTION HAS DRUGGED WANDA FOR THE LAST TIME!

WHAT??

G-GOLLY, AFTER HAWKS KILLED KEENE AND CHEEVER HE MUST'VE PLANTED WOLF TRACKS WITH THIS CLUB TO MAKE US BELIEVE IN A WEREWOLF. Y-YOU SAY THE HERBS DRUGGED WANDA, MISTER MARTIN?

EXACTLY! THIS FIEND SOMEHOW CONCOCTED A MIXTURE OF WEIRD MOUNTAIN HERBS WHOSE FUMES WOULD HAVE A HYPNOTIC EFFECT ON A PERSON... WANDA! WANDA, DARLING! COME OUT OF IT!



THE FUMES WERE DEADLY ENOUGH EVEN TO GIVE ME THE MOMENTARY ILLUSION OF HAVING SEEN A WOLF WHEN I HELD WANDA IN MY ARMS. HIS GAME COLLAPSED, THANK HEAVENS, WHEN I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO KILL WANDA. HE WAS FORCED TO BRING HER HERE TO DO IT HIMSELF!

WILLIKAS! WHAT A BREAK YOU SMELLED SOME OF THE POTION LEM ACCIDENTALLY SPILLED ON THE DEAD WOLF. WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE FOUND OUT!

LATER, WANDA AND I PIECED TOGETHER THE PURPOSE BEHIND LEM'S BLACK DEED...

YOU SEE, WANDA, THE POTION SERVED A DOUBLE PURPOSE. WHEN YOU WERE TAINTED WITH ITS EVIL SCENT, THE ODOR PROTECTED YOU FROM THE WOLVES. AND AT THE SAME TIME, IT STOLE YOUR SOUL. UNDOUBTEDLY, LEM ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO KILL YOU HIMSELF!

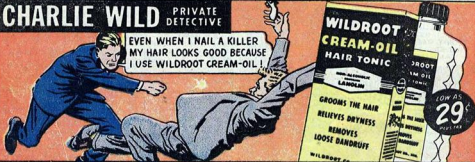
YES, DARLING, I SEE IT NOW. YOU WERE THE PERFECT DUPE, WHO COULD DOUBT I DESERVED TO DIE AS A WEREWOLF IF MY OWN FIANCE KILLED ME? AS SURVIVING HEIR, ALL THIS WHEATON PROPERTY WOULD HAVE BEEN LEM'S... A GHASTLY NIGHTMARE, DEAR. BUT IT'S OVER NOW... FOREVER!



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