PAPERCUT

Proudly presents the super-scary, scream-inducing sixth issue of the all-new...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Based on the classic EC comics series

Respectfully dedicated to William M. Gaines, Al Feldstein, Reed Crandall, Johnny Craig, Jack Davis, Will Elder, George Evans, Graham Ingels, Jack Kamen, Bernie Krigstein, Harvey Kurtzman, Joe Orlando, George Roussos, Marie Severin, Al Williamson, and Wally Wood.

"Jumping the Shark"
Arie Kaplan
Writer
Mr. Exes
Artist
Mark Lerer
Letterer

The Crypt-Keeper

Ghoulnatics Sequences
Jim Salicrup
Writer
Rick Parker
Artist
Steve Mannion
Letterer

THE PUBLISHER

Terry Nantier

THE OLD EDITOR

M. Salicrup

"A Ripping Good Time"
Joe R. Lansdale &
John L. Lansdale
Writers
James Romberger
Artist
Marguerite Van Cook
Color
Mark Lerer
Letterer
IN THIS ISSUE:
AN ALL-NEW STORY BY
JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE
TEXAS' TOP TERROR WRITERS!
WELCOME, FIENDS...

IT'S ME--YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD CEMETERY'S CRYPT-KEEPER. DOWNLOADING A DOOZY OF A SCARE-TALE!

IT'S ALL ABOUT LAZLO SLOAN, PRODUCER OF THE SMASH REALITY TV SHOW...
WELCOME BACK TO *JUMPING THE SHARK*! WHEN WE LAST LEFT YOU, CAITLIN WAS ABOUT TO EAT THIS JAR OF MAGGOTS.

EAT THE MAGGOTS! EAT THE MAGGOTS! EAT THE MAGGOTS!

THE MAN WITH THE DARK SHADES IS PRODUCER LAZLO SLOAN. *JUMPING THE SHARK* IS HIS BABY.

PHIL, YOU IDIOT! THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE THIS LATE WITH MY COFFEE, YOU'RE FIRED!!

SORRY, MR. SLOAN, SIR!

SOME DAY THAT STUPID OLD COOT'S GOING TO GET HIS!

THE MAN WALKING AWAY... WELL, THAT'S ME. I'M PHIL RAFFERTY, LAZLO'S ASSISTANT.

SHE DID IT!!
A couple of commercial breaks later...

When we last left you, Randy had made it up to the final level on the show—the Shark-infested tank!

**SNAP!**

**SPLOOSH!**
THE VERY NEXT DAY...

WHAT HAPPENED TO RANDY EVANS WAS A TRAGEDY, BUT I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS GETTING HIMSELF INTO. NO ONE PUT A GUN TO HIS HEAD AND SAID "HEY YOU SIGN THIS WAIVER!"

BUT MR. SLOAN...

NO MORE QUESTIONS!

GO TO RANDY'S FAMILY. WRITE THEM A CHECK. LET THEM NAME THE AMOUNT. IMMORAL? WHAT IS THIS, KINDERGARTEN!? JUST SHUT UP AND GET THEM TO TAKE THE MONEY!!!

THAT WAS THE LAST STRAW. SOMEONE HAD TO TEACH HIM A LESSON.
Hey Phil, what do you think about this idea for a game show?

It's called "Millionaire Hobo"! Which of these five homeless men is actually the heir to a real estate fortune? Would you marry him just to find out? It'll be the biggest thing since—
MOMENTS LATER...

AHHHH WHERE AM I??

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?? IS THIS SOME KINDA SICK PRACTICAL JOKER??

PHIL??

YES, IT'S PHIL. YOUR PATSY ASSISTANT WHO'S THE PATSY NOW. LAZLO??

OH YOU ARE SO FRED!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LAZLO? SCARED? NOW DO YOU SEE HOW INHUMANE THIS SHOW IS?

INHUMANITY THIS SHOW ISN'T INHUMANE! I'LL PROVE IT!
LAZLO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OKAY, LAZLO, OLD SOY, THIS IS EASY... THIS IS EASY.

SWOOSH!

LISTEN TO YOU! "OH, THIS SHOW'S SO INHUMAN!" SHAME A BREAK!

OKAY LAZLO, YOU MADE YOUR POINT. NOW LET ME GET YOU DOWN FROM THERE.

SEE? I DID IT! GET YOU COULDN'T DO IT WHY? CAUSE YOU'RE NOTHING, YOU'RE JUST A NOBODY! JUST A PATSY, AND THAT'S ALL YOU'RE EVER GONNA BE! HAHAHA!
HAHAHAHAHA

SHUT UP!!

He was under a lot of pressure, Mr. Wolf. But I didn’t think he’d commit suicide.

LATER...

SPLOOSH!

AAAGHHH! NO! NO!

REND. GNAW. CRUNCH

WOW. Taking a header into his own shack tank. Eh? Sad. So sad. Well, we can’t live in the past forever. And that brings me to you, Phil.

ME??

CAN I BE CANDID? WE’VE BEEN WATCHING YOU LATELY AND WE THINK...
"...you're just the right person to succeed Lazlo Sloan."

"I'm gonna do things differently than Lazlo Sloan! No more inhumane stunts. No more dangerous shark tanks! His death won't have been in vain!"

You've gotta do something, Phil! The ratings have taken a nose-dive! People don't want to see contestants swinging over a tank full of Jell-O! They want danger! Excitement! And if you can't give it to them, we'll get someone who can!

There are gonna be some changes around here, folks! Some people thought that Lazlo Sloan's stunts were dangerous, inhumane, but not me! I always thought he was a visionary! And his stunts weren't too dangerous...

But this job is my whole life! Maybe Lazlo wasn't so wrong after all...
...they weren't dangerous enough!

You're watching the new Jumpsie the Shark!

When we last left Max, he was about to swing over the cage of starving Grizzly Bears with Chainsaws strapped to their heads that waits below him! And the case...has no roof!

Great show today, Tommy!

Thanks, Tommy!

What the---? Someone's got a sick sense of humor!
HELLO, PHIL! HOW’S SHOWBIZ?
L-LAZLO!

BUT BUT... CAN’T BE! YOU’RE DEAD!

YEAH YEAH. WHATEVER, JERKY. BUT REALLY, I’VE GOT THIS IDEA FOR A NEW SHOW AND I’M DYING TO TRY IT OUT ON YOU!

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS. THIS IS SOME KINDA PRACTICAL JOKE, ISN’T IT? WELL, THAT’S A LOUSY LAZLO SLOAN MASK. DOESN’T EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM! NOW TAKE IT OFF!

YOU’RE NOT LISTENING!’ WHAT IF YOU TOOK A COUPLE THAT WAS MADLY IN LOVE AND HAD THEM LIVE FOR SIX MONTHS IN A HOUSE... WHERE IT’S RAINING INDOORS 24/7! HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THEM TO BE AT EACH OTHER’S THROATS?

ANYWAY, I CALL IT “COLD SHOWER,” AND IT’LL BE THE HIT OF THE NEW FALL SEASON.

IT’S-- IT’S NOT A MASK!
SHUT UP! JUST SHUT UP!!

WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF OTHER IDEAS.

HOW ABOUT A SHOW CALLED "Saw Your Own Leg Off"? YOU USE A HACKSAW TO CHOP OFF ONE OF YOUR LEGS BEFORE THE BUZZER GOES OFF.

...AND YOU WIN A WHOPPING $100 IN CASH AND PRIZES!

I SAID SHUT UP!!

I'VE...GOT...MORE...IDEAS...JOK!

I'D LIKE TO SEE LAZLO COME BACK FROM THAT!

NORODBY SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIM OUT HERE.
Okay now, Josh. You may want to fall on the bed of nails just to see if they're really sharp enough!

And here I thought you cared about quality television!

I've brought your car around, Mr. Rafferty!

Ah, this is the life. And to think, I owe it all to...

It can't be!

This isn't happening... This isn't happening.
WHEN!
GUESS I WAS
JUST IMAGINING
THINGS.

WE GET POOR KIDS FROM
ETHIOPIA AND TAKE THEM TO
McDONALD'S. SEE HOW FAST
THEY CAN MAKE THEMSELVES
FAT! I CALL IT

NOOO!

SCREEE
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT I NEED, A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET. AWAY FROM "JUMPING THE SHARK," AWAY FROM THINGS THAT REMIND ME OF--

SO HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING.

IT'S A QUIZ SHOW CALLED "ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A CORPSE?" WE ASK PEOPLE QUESTIONS THAT A CORPSE GOT WRONG WHILE HE WAS ALIVE. BUT THE TWIST IS, WHEN THE CORPSE WAS ALIVE, HE WAS ALBERT EINSTEIN!!

NURSE!!!!
HE'S HERE! HE'S THERE! HE'S EVERYWHERE!

IT'S OKAY, MR. RAFFERTY. JUST CALM DOWN...

NOW COUNT TO TEN AND EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY...
But it wasn't okay from then on. I was a jangly bag of nerves.

Always on edge...

So the contestant sticks his head in here—where the watermelon is—and then...

Forever expecting to see him peeking out behind every corner.

AAagh!

Slice!

Never seen anyone get so freaked out by a watermelon before!
IF MY DAYS WERE ANXIETY-POISON, MY NIGHTS WERE WORSE.

WAS I GOING MAD?
OR WAS THERE SOMETHING TO IT?

AND THEN IT HAPPENED...

...I SNAPPED

ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH!

POWPOWPOW
NO NO NO!

HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS? HOW DO YOU KEEP COMING BACK??
SILLY BOY.

I'M A REPRINT!
WHAT? IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU TAKE CREDIT FOR ONE OF MY TALES, YOU'RE BATTIER THAN YOU LOOK! I'M SO OUTTA HERE!

WHAT A DIVA! HOWZA 'BOUT YOU, OLD WITCH? GOT A THRILLER-CHILLER TO TELL?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK! THIS ONE IS REALLY SPECIAL, SO GET READY FOR A...
WONDER WHOS POCKET SHE PICKED FOR THAT WATCH

WHAT ARE ALL THESE KNOBS ON THE SIDE?

POP!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS THING... PIECE OF JUNK.

'HEY, YOU, GLUMMED!'
WOW! COOL. LIKE MONEY FROM HOME.

LOOK OUT GOOD TIMES, HERE YOU COME.
HEY, BOB.

GOT ANYTHING INTERESTING FOR ME, HARRY?

NEED A WATCH?

GOT FOUR.

BUT I BET NONE OF THEM ARE VICTORIAN.

VICTORIAN?

THAT'S RIGHT, AND IT LOOKS TO HAVE A BUNCH OF DUD-HICKIES ON IT. NEVER SEEN ONE QUITE LIKE IT.

YOU'VE GOT A SALE.
H.G. WELLS...SOUNDS FAMILIAR.

WE HAD THE MONEY YOU SPENT ON ALL THIS JUNK. WE COULD TAKE A REAL VACATION.

NOW WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

NO! NO! IT'S VICTORIAN!

VICTORIAN, VALEDICTORIAN, WHAT DO I CARE!
NOW
GO FIX THAT
DISHWASHED
LIKE I TOLD YOU
YESTERDAY.

NO MORE
JUNK, BOBBY, I'M
SICK OF IT!
LATER...

THAT WOMAN WHAT A HAPPy!

THE WATCH IS LEAKING SOMETHING DAMN HER SHE'S BROKEN IT.
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D BE BACK IN—

IT'S EVERY WITCH FOR HERSELF.

BOB! YOU COWARD! COME BACK!
QUITE A FALL.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM... BUT I LIKE IT.

NOTHING SEEMS BROKEN...
YUK!

PUNT!

THAA HHAA HAA

HA!

SHH!
BAM!

OH, MY.
WHAT A BREAK

THAT CAME OUT OF THIS WATCH? WHAT KIND OF WATCH IS THIS?

SOUNDS LIKE A TIMER
WHAT THE HELL?

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN BRING HIM BACK... AND I HAVE THAT CHARITY PROGRAM.
TWEEEEET!

I said, 'O'day up, guv'nor.'
I didn't see 'im, officers...run right out in front of me...what?

Blimey

Weren't bad enough I killed the poor bloke, I've done squashed his time piece.

Don't feel so bad, Sweeney. That there was Jack the Ripper. Best he's out of time.
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE MY TALE ROCKED!

THAT'S ENOUGH! GET OUTTA MY CRYPT!

THAT'S ENOUGH! GET OUTTA MY CRYPT!

Yeah, I'm sure certain dead psychologists would agree!

AND SPEAKING OF INCONVENIENT TRUTH --GOOD THING WE'RE JUST VIRTUAL, AS IN NOT REAL! AFTER ALL, WASN'T THE INTERNET INVENTED BY A DUDE NAMED GORE?!

HAHAHAHAHAHAAHAHAHAHAAHAA.
Whassup, fright-fans? It's the Crypt-Keeper keepin' it surreal in his CRYPT-crib! Ready for another round of HORRENDOUS REVIEWS and PAINFUL PRAISE? Seems like some of you have noticed that we're actually LISTENING and RESPONDING to you -- our CREEPY CRITICS! For an EERIE EXAMPLE, the fact that YOU voted "Queen of the Vampires," by Marc (with a "C") Bilgrey and Mr. Exes, your favorite story from TALES FROM THE CRYPT #5 says that you all enjoyed the new DARKER art style.

Don't forget to vote for you FAVE story in this issue, and we'll reveal the winner in our very NEXT ISSUE! No, never-ending campsains here, boys and GHOULS! And the winner will be decided by YOU, not some SUPER-DELICATE-TYPES!

For those of you in FLORIDA still waiting for the results on CRYPT #4 poll, believe it or not, it was a TIE between "Crystal Clear" by Don McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris North. At least that's what our official vote-counter "Hangin" Chad tells us!

If you MISERABLE MISCREANTS missed any of our ROTTING recent issues, check out the paperback and hardcover collections now on sale. The third VENOMOUS VOLUME, entitled "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3: ZOMBIELICIOUS" also features "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3, an EXCLUSIVE all-new tale, never before seen anywhere!

That takes care of OLD BUSINESS, let's see what you DEAD HEADS sent us this time...

HEY TERROR-LOVERS!!!!!!!!

Just want to say that TALES FROM THE CRYPT is the best comic EVER! I never read the old comics and I'm not allowed to watch the TV show. I loved the first issue, my favorite story was "Body of Work." In the second issue I loved "The Tenant" and the "Garden." The third issue was great. I didn't like the fourth issue that much. I have one complaint though, I like the artwork but it belongs in a different comic. If the comic is meant to be scary then the art should be scary. I have some titles for future issues: "DEATH HOUSE," THE MONSTER FROM THE SWAMP," "THE ATTIC," and "THEATER OF THE DAMNED."

You ghouls ROCK!!!!!!!

Sincerely,
Colby "Crypt-lover" Nelson-Betz

You ROCK, Colby!!!!!!! And let us know what you think of the SCARY art in this issue. If it were any SCARIER our ancient editor would have a coronary!!!!!!
Dear sir,

When I first learned that TALES FROM THE CRYPT was coming back from the dead, I was over the moon with joy! Now, after I reading no. 3, I wish it stayed that way. I have read the stories from the old comics in the reprints and they're great, but what you have done with TALES FROM THE CRYPT this new run is bad. I know that you're making them for kids, but the stories you are doing are watered down and lame! I'm not saying that you should stop making TALES FROM THE CRYPT. No, far from it! And marketing to kids is okay. We need comics for kids. Kids today are very smart, and know what makes a good story, but don't dumb down yours for them.

Kev
Scotland

We hear you, Kev! Tell us what you think our darker, scarier NEW (OLD) DIRECTION!

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Subject: My first TALES FROM THE CRYPT feedback

What's up? Ever since I looked at and subsequently picked up the first issue, I've been hooked on Tales From The Crypt. I've only seen samples of the original EC run, but I wouldn't listen to the critics who say things about the art anyway. The way I see it, the art in this comic series has evolved to cater to audiences of 2008. And the Crypt-Keeper has never looked better (deader?).

So far, your stories have brushed the surface of pop culture (cell phones, toy/comic collecting, goths, American Idol), and you've even done a story reflecting the dangerous times post 9/11 (the suicide bomber one). I can only imagine where your inspiration for such stories lie.

Anyway, keep up the great work, and let's hope no soccer moms try to "pull a Wertherm" on you.

Peter Fay
Brooklyn, NY

---

We hate to tell you this, Peter, but our biggest source for BLOOD-CURDLING story ideas are NEWSPAPERS! We figured since no one under the age of fifty reads those antiquated journals of jaw-dropping TERROR anymore that we hit the jackpot! Or in other words, when it comes to all-out SCARY, nothing beats REALITY?

Keep those emails and letters coming – it makes the other GoelTalkeis ever GREENER with envy! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at: salicrup@papercutz.com

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