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 KRICSTEIN, HARVEY KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"LITTLE DARLIN"
JOHN L. LANSDALE
WRITER
JAMES ROMBERGER & MARGUERITE VAN COOK
ARTISTS
JAMES ROMBERGER
LETTERER

"HEX AND THE CITY"
STEFAN PETRUCHA
WRITER
MR. EXES
ARTIST
MARK LERER
LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES
JIM SALICRUP
WRITER
RICK PARKER
ARTIST/TITLE LETTERER/COLOR
MARK LERER
LETTERER
STEVEN MANNION
COVER ARTIST
CHRIS NELSON & SHELLY DUTCHAK
PRODUCTION
MICHAEL PETRANEK
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

TERRY NANTIER
THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP
THE OLD EDITOR

Caricatures by Rick Parker.
This comicbook will rot your brain!

FEATURING...

THE CRYPT-KEEPER

THE OLD WITCH

THE VAULT-KEEPER

WARNING!
This comicbook will rot your brain!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

NO. 11
ALL-NEW!

48 PAGES ONLY $3.95!
HEE, HEE! BACK AGAIN, EH? BET YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT THE OLD WITCH IS DOING HERE? YOU WERE EXPECTING THE DECREPIT CRYPT-KEEPER AND HIS PARTNER-IN-SLIME THE VAULT KEEPER, RIGHT?

THE SHOCKING TRUTH IS THAT THEY'RE BOTH HERE—VICTIMS OF CRYPT-FEVER! THEY'VE TOTALLY FREAKED OUT! TOO MUCH TIME SPENT IN THE CRYPT OF TERROR WATCHING YOU TOOMB! WORST CASE I EVER SAW! THEY EVEN HALLUCINATED SEEING ME DRESSED IN A FRENCH MAID'S UNIFORM!*

NOT TO WORRY—I'M BREWING UP A CURE RIGHT NOW! "HAVE CAULDRON—WILL TRAVEL!" THAT'S MY MOTTTO!

WHILE THIS SIMMERS, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ANOTHER LADY WHO HAD TO TAKE CARE OF A LITTLE BOY, A REGULAR...

*YOU SAW IT TOO—LAST ISSUE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MY DOORSTEP AT TWO IN THE MORNING, LITTLE FELLOW?
MRS. SANCHEZ, THIS IS LILLIAN. SORRY TO WAKE YOU. I HAVE AN EMERGENCY.

LILLIAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY.

YES, BUT SOMEONE DUMPED A BABY ON OUR DOORSTEP.

AND I DON'T HAVE A BOTTLE TO FEED HIM.

WHAAAAAH!

WAAAAAH!
Maybe this will work.

We've been listening to that baby cry for the past hour.

Cute. How could anyone do that?

Yeah, I could never have any and someone is out in the middle of the night throwing one away.

Sorry, we'll try not to bother you again.
OH DEAR.

CRASH!

MY GOODNESS, YOU'RE STRONG.

SMASHHH!
Ouch!

That hurt.

Let's get that dirty blanket away from your face.

WA-

What the heck?... If it will keep him quiet, no one else will know.
IT'S THE LIGHT, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU.
WHAT THE...

GOOD!
Knock knock knock

Hold your horses.
I'm coming!

I called the welfare people.
They'll be out to get him today.

I didn't tell you to call the welfare.
I thought you would be glad I did. They will take him to a hospital, check him out.

I'm sorry. I know you meant well.

Ever since Roy died I've been so lonely...

You're too old to be taking care of a baby anyway.
I suppose you're right.
An unidentified young woman was found dead last night in an alley at Temple and Court. The victim had been shot multiple times in the heart. A bag containing baby items was found nearby, filled with blood instead of milk. The police are trying to determine why, and whose blood it may be.

**So that's who you belonged to. I can't let the welfare people have you now, for sure. They wouldn't understand. You would die.**

**I guess I'll have to keep you, little darlin'!**
I'm Mrs. Welpford from the Department of Human Services. I understand someone left a baby on your doorstep last night.

Just a minute...

Yes, they did, but I can take care of him.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FINGER?

OH, IT'S NOTHING. COME IN.

IT'S NOT DARK IN HERE.

THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT!

MRS. SANCHEZ SAID YOU NEVER HAD CHILDREN. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A BABY.

BELIEVE ME, MRS. WELFORD...

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

MRS. MOORE - BRING ME THE BABY THIS INSTANT!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.
WAHHHHH
WAHHHHH
WAHHHHH
WAHHHHHH

MAMA'S COMING LITTLE DARLING.

IT SURE IS GOOD.

WAHHHHHH
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A tale with bite!

Strange! I swear I hear the old witch...

She promised to clean-up this crypt—but her wicca-wares are everywhere!

Snake! Snake! It’s killing me!

But it sounds like she’s here—talking about “hallucinating”!

But there’s no shortage of witches here!

Here’s a tale I’m sure we’ll all enjoy...

Hex and the City
DISCLAIMED! This is not a commentary on Wiccan beliefs, but a cautionary tale of what befalls those who use what they don’t understand for selfish ends!

...please... help me!

GROSS! Someone should call the police!

The fashion police!

Ignore them! People are only homeless because they want to be just like we’re happy and pretty because that’s what we want!

Howlsworth’s son takes over today! I can’t wait to ask him for a private office so I can spend more time seeking true romance on the web!
PEALLY? I HOPE HE'S HOT, SO I CAN SPEND MORE TIME LOOKING FOR SOME FUN WITH HIM!

REALLY? I HOPE HE'S HOT, SO I CAN SPEND MORE TIME LOOKING FOR SOME FUN WITH HIM!

I JUST WANT A BIGGER SPACE SO I CAN PRACTICE DANCING ANYTHING EXCEPT WORK, RIGHT, LADIES?

E-E-EXCUSE ME, BUT THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN LOOKING AND FEELING S-S-GOOD!

E-E-EXCUSE ME, BUT THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN LOOKING AND FEELING S-S-GOOD!

HA-HA! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

HA-HA! YOU SURE DON'T LOOK GOOD!

HEE! AND WHO CARES HOW YOU FEEL?
I-I-if I were you, I'd care how my n-n-new boss feels, no matter how good you look...

I mean, no m-m-matter how he looks!

Eep! New boss?

OMG! The son was supposed to be a pushover!

DID we kill the old man for nothing?

Hmm...

This isn't over yet! I've got an idea.

Follow my lead!

My late p-p-father loved eye-candy, and heaven knows I do, too, but there are p-p-plenty of talented and capable women and men out there!

I was planning to fire you all because you never do any work! Thanks for m-m-making it easier!

How to Meet & Date Wiccan Women.
Before you make your final decision about us, there's something you might want to consider!

Maybe we didn't work, but there was one thing we did for your father that made us worth everything he paid us and more! You see, we're wiccan!

We are? Oh, yeah... we are!

Wiccan like you wouldn't believe!

And we performed a ritual that made your father a real man!

Uh... it's the reason he could wrap anyone he wanted around his finger.

Very tightly!
You'd like us to perform our ritual for you, wouldn't you?

Um... uh...

Yes! Yes! A thousand times yes!

> Sob! I've been so lonely! So afraid! And my father never paid any attention to me!

All he ever gave me was this lousy business! And I'm afraid of businesses, too!

Um... Uh... Just tell me what I have to do and I'll do it!
"First, rent a secluded shack where no one can find you. Uh... I mean US! The ritual requires power spots, but a rich guy like you should be able to afford them! Next..."

Ah, I found some Bogus Ceremony online called Drawing Down the Moon, but as long as we're dancing around, he'll do whatever we say!

Nice touch finding these old Halloween costumes!

But what about this Ritual?

Ready to draw down the moon, handsome?

Oh, y-y-yeah!

At the height of the Ritual, you'll have to drink this and say the words I taught you!
GREAT GOD CERNUNNO, RETURN TO EARTH AGAIN.
COME AT MY CALL AND SHOW THYSELF TO MEN,
SHEPHERD OF GOATS, UPON THE WILD HILLS WAY.
LEAD THY LOST FLOCK FROM DARKNESS UNTO DAY.

DRINK AND SPEAK!


I AM THE POWER!
I AM THE HORNED GOD!
I AM

...NOT FEELING SO GOOD...

THUD!
These suckers are worth a million at least!

We can start our own business—we won’t have to work for!

He’s getting up? Set something to whack him with!

Ughhh

Ak-Ak-Ak!

Ew! I hope he doesn’t puke!
WHO SUMMONS THE HORNED GOD?

WHOSE WISHES SHALL I FILL TO BURSTING?
YOU WHO
WISH ONLY TO DANCE
SHALL ENJOY THE RAW
UNBRIELED FORCE OF
NATURE AS YOUR
PARTNER!

MAYBE
LATER?

THERE IS NO
LATER! ONLY THE
ETERNAL, BLESSED
NOW!

EEEEEEE!
YOUR MIND AND BODY ARE NOW A WRITHING WOUND THAT PULSES TO THE COSMIC BEAT OF HUNGER'S HEART!

BEHOLD! YOU ARE PART OF THE DANCE OF THE REAL!
AND YOU WHO WANTED ONLY PHYSICAL PLEASURE, WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?

YOUR FORM HAS A BILLION NERVE ENDINGS FOR FEELING PLEASURE, WHY NOT SET THEM ALL AFAME AT ONCE?

HELP!

HELLPPP!

NO, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE!

NOOOOOOOOO!

NOT WITHOUT THE SEMES!
AND WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED?

OH, NOTHING! I'M GOOD!

ROMANCE! THE SWOONING MAJESTY THAT MAKES THE WORLD SO ROUND!

NO, REALLY. THANKS, BUT...

I CAN GIVE YOU MORE THAN THE WORLD!

I CAN GIVE YOU THE MOON AND THE STARS!
"Shall we start with the moon?"

It's not possible!

With love all things are possible!

Shall we kiss the kiss of love's madness? Shall we kiss the kiss of forever?
BUT I ALSO PROMISED YOU THE STARS, DIDN'T I?

THE COLD, UNCARING STARS?

SURROUNDED BY AN INFINITE BLACKNESS AS DARK AS YOUR OWN BLACK HEART!

YEEEEEE!
"AND FINALLY: YOU’LL NEVER HAVE TO WORK AGAIN!"

"CAN YOU BELIEVE THREE JOBS OPENED AT THE SAME COMPANY AT THE SAME TIME? AND WE GOT THEM?"

"WE’LL BE TOGETHER!"

"IT’S LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, LADIES. WISH HARD ENOUGH AND YOU’LL GET IT!"

"AND THE HOMELESS ARE ONLY THERE BECAUSE THAT’S WHERE THEY WANT TO BE!"

"PLEASE... PLEASE..."
Can't wait to meet the new owner!

I hear he's totally hot!

...please...
That story was really hard-to-swallow!

Speaking of witch...

Listen to me!

I must've ghoul-ghouled Wicca-Pedia...

Don't worry, darlin'—I'm going to download a fix for your Crypt-Fever virus!

But you're on your own with your toombl addiction!

Crypt-Fever?! The vault-keeper does look more yellow than usual...

Oh, did I mention there's a side-effect to my potent potion? Don't worry, you should be able to write your Crypt-keeper's corner column before it completely kicks in!

=choke!="

To be continued...?
ALONE
From childhood's hour I have not been
As others were—I have not seen
As others saw—I could not bring
My passions from a common spring.
From the same source I have not taken
My sorrow; I could not awaken
My heart to joy at the same tone;
And all I lov'd, I lov'd alone.
Then—in my childhood—in the dawn
Of a most stormy life—was drawn
From ev'ry depth of good and ill
The mystery which binds me still:
From the torrent, or the fountain,
From the red cliff of the mountain,
From the sun that 'round me roll'd
In its autumn tint of gold—
From the lightning in the sky
As it pass'd me flying by—
From the thunder and the storm,
And the cloud that took the form
(When the rest of Heaven was blue)
Of a demon in my view.
The Old Witch is right! The Vault-Keeper and I have been spending too much time keeping Vaults and Crypts, and not enough time keeping SANE! Maybe it's from too much contact with our INSANE EC Fan-Addicts! Or watching too much You Toomb? Well, despite the great risk to my mental health, it's time once again to present your CRAZY COMMENTS and INSANE INSIGHTS!

Although, now that MY sanity is in question, how do I know that these are really YOUR letters? Or in the case of our ONLINE READER'S POLL, how do I know these are really the correct results? Well, outside of a quick crossover with the shrinks from PSYCHOANALYSIS, there's no way to test my state of mind at the moment, so let's just live DANGEROUSLY, and accept whatever comes our way!

According to our PUTRID POLL, "Brain Food" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3 won an overwhelming 61% of your votes, leaving "Murder M.A.I.D.," by Greg Farshtey and Mr. Exes, a paltry 39% of the vote. That's actually rather SHOCKING when you consider that Mr. Farshtey is the writer of the BIONICLE graphic novels, the biggest-selling series from Papercutz! Perhaps we should've mentioned that Murder M.A.I.D. was actually the SEVENTH TOA? Or maybe I'm hallucinating again?

To vote for your fave FEAR-Y TALE from the issue you now grasp in your FETID FINGERS, just go to www.papercutz.com, find the TALES FROM THE CRYPT section, and click on this issue's cover to vote for your favorite story from this issue! Oh, and it really helps if you have one of those computer machines to get online.

And don't PANIC or get MAD if you somehow missed a TERROR-FILLED issue of the TALES FROM THE CRYPT comicbook, you can still find the same scary stories collected in equally scary, but albeit smaller-sized paperback and hardcover editions, available from booksellers everywhere! TALES FROM THE CRYPT Graphic Novel #6 "You Toomb" is on sale now, and features all your favorite BRAIN-EATING MONSTERS, VOODOO HITMEN, KILLER ROBOTS, and BABY VAMPIRES! But if you're looking for FIENDISH FANS, here they are…
Subject: TALES FROM THE CRYPT

This stuff is great. I remember reading reprints of the originals back in the ’80s, so as a 35 year-old reader that came across this new series, I absolutely love it. I just love the tales and I can’t get enough. I finish each book thristing for more. I just read #1 and #2 and have read about your plans for CLASICS ILLUSTRATED, which I think is great. Keep up the good work!

A fan,
Steven Ortiz

Speaking of ROTTING REPRINTS, Steven, in case you were UNAWARE, all the original issues of TALES FROM THE CRYPT are being collected in a series of great, big, full-color hardcover volumes by Gemstone Publishing. But there’s a particular Jack Davis-drawn tale that we may be including in one of our upcoming Papercutz collections. All we can say now is that it may be the most requested CRYPT tale of all (by me)!
Stay tuned!

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So prove that you’re actually ALIVE out there, and send your own CRYPTIC COMMENTS 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

And if any of you are licensed psychiatrists, let me know if I’m NUTS or not!

We’ve established that I may be even CRAZIER than usual, so keep that in your tiny minds when I UNOFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE that there’s an all-new TV movie in the works based on TALES FROM THE CRYPT. It’s being created especially for our younger fans, so you BLOOD-THRUSTY GEEZERS will just have to stick with the reruns of the HBO series on the CHILLER channel! But if enough of you BOILS and GHOULS watch the all-new TV movie, an all-new TV series starring me, the ORIGINAL Crypt-Keeper could be in your future!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

I loooovve the new TALES FROM THE CRYPT series! Cool cover on issue #10. I also have a request. Can you reprint some of the old TALES FROM THE CRYPT stories in your new mag? And try to make your stories kind of like the old ones. Keep up with the stories of monsters! But please, no art like the art in issue #9, the story “Chicken Man.” Again, try to make the stories more horror-science fiction, if you know what I mean. Anyway, keep up the gruesome work!

Your Fan,
Jared Hershman, Age 10

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

I have a new story for you on TV. It’s a nasty tale about a boy who likes to draw horror pictures and put them on the wall. One day his pictures begin to come alive. I call it “The Wall of Horror.”

Love Your #1 Fan,
Tony Chavez

Well, Jared, if you want us to keep up the “gruesome work” then we gotta keep using James Romberger! We’re sorry you weren’t thrilled (and chilled) by his art on “Chicken Man” but so many others were – including fellow CRYPT-contributors John L. Lansdale and Rick “the Sicko” Parker!
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