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THE HAUNT OF FEAR

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SUSPENSTORIES
WE DARE YOU TO READ!

GREAT SCOTT... WE'RE TOO LATE! THE
VAMPIRE HAS GONE... LEFT HIS COFFIN!
NOW WE MUST WAIT TILL TOMORROW TO
DRIVE THIS STAKE THROUGH HIS HEART!

BUT BY THEN HE WILL
HAVE CLAIMED....
ANOTHER VICTIM!
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HENRY E. SCHULTZ, Executive Director
Association of Comics Magazine Publishers
295 East 42nd Street, New York 17, New York
VAMPIRE!

A JOURNEY INTO THE SUPERNATURAL
Marsh Island... a patch of land off the coast of Louisiana, infested with swamps, quagmires and malaria-carrying mosquitoes, where the only change for the few inhabitants from the blazing, sweltering, heat of day is the moist, sticky, uncomfortable heat of night, and where bizarre and mysterious settings might very well form a perfect backdrop for...
TWO WEEKS LATER, IN DR. REED’S OFFICE.

DON’T SAY I DIDN’T WARN YOU!
I TOLD YOU PEOPLE ‘ROUND HERE DON’T GO FOR THAT “VAMPIRE” BUNK! SOMEBODY JUST MURDERED HER BY DRAINING HER BLOOD WITH A HYPO NEEDLE... ROUTINE POLICE CASE!

EXCUSE ME, CHIEF!
MY PHONE!

HELLO... YES, THIS IS DR. REED! WHAT?
YES, OF COURSE I’LL BE THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GOODBYE, MR. WINSLOW.

OH, NOTHING EXCEPT THAT LAURA BATES WORKED FOR HIM AS A MAID BEFORE SHE WAS KILLED?

IT’S NELDA, MY DAUGHTER. SHE’S NOT BEEN WELL LATELY. SHE FEELS WEAK AND LISTLESS. I WANTED YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT HER!

GOOD EVENING, DR. REED. COME IN, PLEASE.
THANK YOU, MR. WINSLOW! WHAT’S THE TROUBLE?

CERTAINLY, MR. WINSLOW JUST LEAD THE WAY!

BLAZES... HOW CAN HE WEAR THAT TUX IN THIS STIFLING HEAT?

JONATHAN WINSLOW LIVED DEEP IN THE TANGLED SECLUSION OF THE MURKY SWAMP. HE SELDOM CAME TO TOWN AND MOST PEOPLE HAD NEVER SEEN HIM OR HIS DAUGHTER AT ALL. THE MOON WAS HIGH IN THE HEAVENS WHEN DR. REED FINALLY EMERGED FROM THE TREACHEROUS PATHS OF THE BAYOU AND RAPPED ON THE AGED WOODEN DOOR.

GOOD EVENING, DR. REED. COME IN, PLEASE.
THANK YOU, MR. WINSLOW! WHAT’S THE TROUBLE?
Dr. Reed made a complete examination and when he had finished...

This is her room, doctor. I'll wait outside...

She's beautiful!

I've never seen anyone so lovely! I...

What the... Her neck! There are two small holes in her neck!

Just as I thought! She's perfectly well... except that she's lost a lot of blood...

I suspect she's slowly being robbed of it by a vampire!

You were in there quite some time, Dr. Reed... anything seriously wrong?

Er... your daughter isn't as well as she should be...

I suggest you sit up with her tonight. I don't want anything to disturb her! I'll drop by again tomorrow.

Er... tomorrow? Not during the day, I trust...

Please come in the evening! I'm not... always here during the day!

Not always here? Oh, er... sure!

Tomorrow night, then... goodbye, Mr. Winslow...

Mr. Winslow? Oh, I've seen him once or twice...

Comes in to buy food and stuff. Funny guy... always comes at night...

Tuxedo? Yup! Always dressed fit to kill! Don't think he owns another suit?

Work? Gonna... never seen him al' durin' the day...

He must have noticed the two holes in her neck! Still...
The young doctor searched, but old Mr. Winslow was not to be found. It wasn't till much later that he thought of...

The cellar... I haven't looked down here! Maybe something happened to... say, what's that over there?...

The young doctor went to the old house again the next night and was led to Nelda's room by Mr. Winslow. The young doctor made another examination...

Great Scott! She's worse! She should be stronger tonight! Unless the vampire again... Ho... Mr. Winslow was supposed to stay with her all night? But yet...

Mr. Winslow! Where are you? Strange... he's not here! Perhaps downstairs...

Blazes! What a fool I've been! It's all clear now! Mr. Winslow is the vampire!

There! I've locked her in her room! Best I can do now! I'll hurry to town... Come back tomorrow...

Oh, er... she's feeling better! But I don't want her disturbed... Just... just let her rest...

A--a coffin! With dirt in it! Oh! It's you, Mr. Winslow! I... I didn't hear you come in...

Oh, er... she's feeling better! But I don't want her disturbed... Just... just let her rest...

Of course, doctor? Good night...
LORD, I HOPE I'M DOING RIGHT? WINSLOW EXPECTS ME TOMORROW NIGHT, BUT I WANT TO BE THERE DURING THE DAY. VAMPIRES ONLY PROWL AT NIGHT! DURING THE DAY THEY SLEEP IN THEIR COFFINS! I'LL BRING A CROSS... AND A WOODEN STAKE TO DRIVE THROUGH HIS HEART... THE ONLY WAY TO KILL... A VAMPIRE!

THE FOLLOWING DAY WAS A HECTIC ONE... AND DR. REED'S ATTEMPTS TO GET TO THE HOUSE BEFORE SUNDOWN SEEMED DOOMED TO FAILURE...

OKAY? OKAY! SO IT'S ANOTHER BLOODLESS CORPSE WITH TWO HOLES IN ITS NECK! BUT IF YOU START RAVING ABOUT VAMPIRES AGAIN, I'LL LOCK YOU UP! HOW DO YOU WANT A COMPLETE AUTOPSY REPORT BEFORE YOU LEAVE!

But Chief... it's so late...

Hours later... I thought I'd never get here! Wha... the door's open! I'm too late! He's gone!

Nelda! If he's harmed her, I'll...

Nelda! You... you're sitting up? You're... you're feeling better?? I feel fine tonight, Doctor! But why are you so excited?

Nelda, listen to me! Your father is the cause of your illness! Little by little, he's been draining you of your blood to feed himself! That's why you kept getting weaker! You feel stronger tonight because last night he caught someone else! Please! Believe me! It sounds horrible, but it's true! Your father is a VAMPIRE!
MY FIAT? I DON’T BELIEVE IT.

IF I TOLD HER I WAS GOING TO KILL
HER FATHER, SHE’D NEVER...

GREAT SCOTT! IT’S THE VAMPIRE!
HE’S AFTER ME!

WHAT’S THAT? SOUNDS
LIKE WINGS FLAPPING

WHERE’S MY CROSS?

IT’S WORKING! HE KNOWS HE
CAN’T HARM ME NOW! HE’S...
HE’S LEAVING...

OH, LORD... I’M SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!
WAIT... I HEAR SOMEONE COMING

IT’S WINSLOW! HE’S LOOKING FOR
ME! HE COULDN’T KILL ME WHEN HE
WAS A BAT... SO HE CHANGED TO HIS
MORTAL SELF... COMING THIS WAY!

HE’S COMING CLOSER! JUST A FEW
MORE STEPS AND I’LL SHOVE THIS
WOODEN Stake RIGHT THROUGH HIS...

HEART!

AAAGHHH!
I'VE GOT YOU, YOU FIEND!
I'VE GOT YOU!
DIE! DIE! DIE!

Some time later...

DR. REED! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NELDA...IT'S O'NE!
YOU...YOU'RE SAFE NOW...
EVERYONE'S SAFE! I DID IT, NELDA...I KILLED THE VAMPIRE!
I KILLED YOUR FATHER...

I'M EXHAUSTED! WHAT A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE!
COME... LIE ON THE COUCH! YOU MUST REST!

NELDA, I...I HAD TO KILL HIM! HE ATTACKED ME! FIRST AS A VAMPIRE BAT... THEN IN HIS MORTAL GUISE! YOU... BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU?

YES, I BELIEVE YOU! BUT... MY FATHER WAS NOT A VAMPIRE?

HE ATTACKED YOU TONIGHT BECAUSE YOUR CROSS PREVENTED THE VAMPIRE BAT FROM KILLING YOU... HE WANTED TO PROTECT ME!

WHOA... WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I WASN'T WEAK BECAUSE I HAD LOST BLOOD! I WAS WEAK BECAUSE I HADN'T HAD ANY IN A LONG TIME!
TONIGHT I AM STRONG, NOT BECAUSE MY FATHER CAUGHT SOMEONE ELSE LAST NIGHT... BUT BECAUSE I DID!

YOU MEAN...

YES, DR. REED! I AM THE VAMPIRE!
THE COFFIN IN THE CELLAR IS MINE!
I FEASTED LAST NIGHT... AND TONIGHT I SHALL FEAST AGAIN... ON YOU!

YAAAAAARRRR!

THE END
In the jungles of that still dark continent, Africa, there dwell more terrors than creeping animals and stealthy snakes! But these men of violence and greed would not heed the signals of...

**Horror-Ahead!**

*A Study in Terror!*

**Good afternoon, sir! Is there something I may show you?**

**Yes, I am very interested in the...er...unusual!**
Won’t you give me some idea of what you want?

As a matter of fact, I noticed in your window...

Ah, yes, I have many unique items, if I may say so, sir?

Well, I am interested in that head... the shrunk head! I haven’t seen many like that!

However, if it’s not too unreasonable, there are several other collectors I know who may well be interested in your collection.

I would be very happy to oblige you, sir.

Matter of truth, sir, I’m about the only curio dealer in the country who has one! They’re very rare, so of course, the price.

Now let’s not haggle, my good man! I am quite willing to pay whatever you ask.

However, if it’s not too unreasonable, there are several other collectors I know who may well be interested in your collection!

I would be very happy to oblige you, sir.

It’s a genuine sample of the native art! I say, how on earth did you ever come by such an amazing item?

The search for this led me to the depths of Africa!

If I could hear the story, it would be so much more fascinating!

It is a bit of a story to tell you, however, I must take you to that world fraught with dangers more horrible than the sane would want to believe.

Africa
COME WITH ME ON THAT SAFARI TO THE SEETHING, FETID AFRICAN JUNGLE WHICH FEW WHITE MEN HAVE DARED ENTER? BUT LET ME TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY! IT BEGAN RIGHT HERE IN THIS VERY ROOM.

YOU HAVE BEEN MY ASSISTANT FOR A YEAR NOW, LESTER, BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH YOU MUST LEARN! YOU HAVE YET TO FACE THE REAL HAZARDS OF THE BUSINESS!

AS YOU KNOW, IN A FEW DAYS, I'LL BE LEAVING ON MY ANNUAL TRIP TO THE INTERIOR. I HAVE DECIDED THAT YOU ARE TO GO WITH ME!

OH, THANK YOU... THANK YOU, SIR!

HEH, HEH... YOU THANK ME? BUT WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT YOU MUST FACE! BE WARNED!

WHERE TO AFRICA, MY BOY! TO PLACES CIVILIZATION HAS IGNORED! TO THE JUNGLES WHERE DWELL THE GUMBILI TRIBE!

YOU MEAN YOU WANT THE G... GUMBILI HEADS? BUT, SIR, THEY'LL NEVER GIVE THEM TO YOU?

I DON'T CARE HOW I GET THEM! ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED A SAMPLE... JUST ONE... OF THOSE PRICELESS SHRUNKEN HEADS!

YES, SIR! WE'LL MAKE A FORTUNE IF WE BRING BACK EVEN ONE!

THE MEMORY OF THAT STRUGGLE THROUGH JUNGLES AND SWAMPS, FIGHTING THE TERRORS OF THE EVER-PRESENT ENEMIES.
But can't we rest for just awhile, sir? The sun, and those infernal drums, we'll go mad before we get there!

There will be no rest for us, yet! Come, stupid oafs...Faster!

He's wild with greed! He'll never be able to bargain with those Gumbils. We'll lose our own heads first?

Here we are! A night’s rest and we'll be able to reach Gumbili territory by tomorrow night?

I'm so tired! Sign...

I understand no one has ever been able to bargain with Gumbils, sir! How do you plan to...

Aha! I am better prepared than the stupid fools who have tried before!

You will see how we shall be received, for our chief bearer is a friendly member of the Gumbils! He will escort and introduce us!

You are clever, sir! I should never have thought of that!

I think of everything! But now we must rest, for tomorrow our wits must be sharp, and our brains agile.

Yes, sir! Good-night, sir!

The next day we began the trek through the dense jungle. Just the two of us and our Gumbili friend. Chill's possessed me for I knew that there were more than animal eyes peering at us from behind the bushes.
We were presented to a council of leaders, then shown to our quarters. I have an uneasy feeling that they're very suspicious. Do you think they know what we're after? I certainly hope you're right.

We entered the council hall and faced the chief. Bargaining would be difficult, but we were determined to succeed. He seems to understand, but he doesn't want these things. Look, our friend is trying to convince him. Now he knows what we want. He's angry. What can we do?
IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THOSE HEADS NOW, MR. AVERY!
NO, NOT IMPOSSIBLE, JUST DIFFICULT! BUT WELL GET THEM IF WE HAVE TO STEAL!

LATER THAT NIGHT
YES, YES, AS MANY AS YOU CAN... BUT HURRY!
HERE! TAKE THESE AND I'LL GET SOME MORE!

GASP! THAT WAS THE CHIEF I KILLED! GOT TO GET AWAY! GASPS!

THOSE SCREAMS... IT'S LESTER! THEY'LL KILL HIM! THEY'LL SHRINK HIS... NO! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE.

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER
GLAD I GOT THOSE TWO HEADS AT LEAST POOR LESTER! UGH, WHAT WAS THAT? THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING'S FOLLOWING ME! GOT TO GET OUT!

KEEP THINKING ABOUT GHOSTS... LESTER. HIS SCREAMS! NO! MUSTN'T THINK! BETTER GET BACK TO THE SHOP!
BUT IF I HADN'T LEFT LESTER, THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ME! THEY WOULD HAVE... YEEOWWWW!

WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHY HAVE YOU FOLLOWED ME? THEY'RE STILL AFTER ME!

NO! NOT THEY! I'VE COME FOR YOU! YOU DIRTY LESTER! YOU'RE DEAD! THEY KILLED YOU! THEY WANTED YOUR HEAD!

HA! I WAS BETTER AT BARGAINING THAN YOU WERE! IT'S YOUR HEAD THEY WANT... AND I'VE BEEN SENT TO GET IT!

YOU CAN'T! NOT MY HEAD! I DIDN'T MEAN TO LEAVE YOU! DIDN'T MEAN TO!

AND SO IT WAS NOT IN THE MYSTERIOUS JUNGLES OF AFRICA THAT I FOUND THIS PRIZE TROPHY. THIS FASCINATING EXAMPLE OF NATIVE CULTURE! IT WAS RIGHT HERE IN THIS SHOP!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!
DEATH SHROUD!

Click! Click! Click!

The knitting needles flew faster. I turned and scowled at my wife Nelly's calm face where she sat slumped over in her chair, knitting. I had married Nelly while I was still in college. She had been a waitress, then. Now all she thought about was her knitting and her eternal cups of tea! It was enough to drive a man to kill!

"For Pete's sake!" I called out. "Stop knocking those needles. Stop that perpetual click-click-clicking! It's getting so I hear 'em in my sleep!"

But Nelly went on knitting, rocking slowly, annoyingly, and the clicking of the needles grew louder and louder—

I'm not sure just when the thought of killing her did occur to me. It was probably one of the times when I watched those needles moving and clicking I soon found myself devising ways and means. Her tea? Of course! A little poison in what remained of the tea leaves in her tea-box before she bought a new box—a business trip to Boston for my alibi—and I was in the clear!

I felt secure. I had some poison left over from my college days, and I dumped it in with the remaining tea leaves. Then I packed and left for Boston. Three days after I hit Boston, a telegram came. She was dead, alone in the house. The poison had been found in the cup. It looked like suicide, all right. After all, I had been in Boston—and there was no known reason for me to kill my wife!

Oh, the police shadowed me for a few months. I did nothing to arouse their suspicions. Why should I? I had not killed Nelly because I loved another woman, or even for her money. I had killed her—because of her knitting needles.

And then, five weeks after Nelly was laid to rest...

I sat up in bed. Cold sweat stood out on my forehead, and the palms of my hands. There in the room's darkness, there was... sound!

Click! Click! Click!

My heart almost stopped. It was the knitting needles! Clicking, scurrying from row to row, jarring against each other. I leaped from the bed and searched the room. I found nothing. Yet the clicking of the needles went on and on... hurrying... then slowing down... Those needles stayed with me, day after day and night after night. I heard them in my office, in the train I took at night, in the restaurants where I ate.

What were they knitting?

One night, I learned the answer. As I slept, I dreamed that Nelly sat knitting. As last she finished and stood up, lifting a long white woolen sheet—a shroud! "Your shroud, husband!" she whispered. She put it over my body, pulling it up until it covered my face!

I could not breathe! My lungs strained and labored, on fire! I sobbed, trying to fight that suffocating white wooden shroud—and could not!

* * *

"He smothered to death," frowned the puzzled coroner, speaking to the police inspector. "But I don't see how! He was just lying there on his back. It was as if someone pressed something on his face—but that's silly!"
CAN A DEAD MAN KILL? CAN A CORPSE RISE FROM THE CUSHIONED QUIET OF HIS COFFIN TO STALK THE NIGHT, HANDS STRETCHING OUT TO SEEK A VICTIM? CAN DEAD EYES BLAZE WITH HATE?... THE DEAD EYES OF...

THE KILLER IN THE COFFIN!

Nan Parker loved her husband... too much! She watched his every move, fearful lest he hurt himself...

Wear your rubbers... the radio said rain! You'd better walk! They've had some cases of diphtheria, the other side of town! If you ride in a trolley, you might catch it! Then this noon, eat at...

FOR PETE'S SAKE... SHUT UP!

AN ADVENTURE IN HORROR
From years of habit, Ernest Panken sat down and finished his meal. But inside him, the volcano of anger and resentment flared.

"Do this! Do that! Eat because you need your strength! Don't ride in a trolley because you might get sick! Always crabbing... always hating!"

His pretty secretary, Faye Booth, noticed it at once...

"You look angry, Mr. Parker. It sort of scares me! Please don't frown. Smile... That's it!"

Ernest Parker sat down and finished his meal. But inside him, the volcano of anger and resentment flared.

"I'll have to get out your warm clothing. Winter is almost here!"

That night, Ernest Panken kept staring at his wife. And thinking about Faye Booth's soft red lips...

Late that afternoon...

"I've been thinking about what you said, Faye. About being sensible all the time, I mean!"

"Oh? What about it? Want to be silly? To do crazy things? Like what, for instance?"

"That night, Ernest Panken kept staring at his wife. And thinking about Faye Booth's soft red lips..."
In the days that followed, Ernest Parker found himself kissing pretty Faye Booth many times. He made excuses at home, and went dancing with her soon. She was like a fever in his blood.

She'd never give me a divorce. I know it. But... there must be a way...

But what about Nan? After all, she is your wife...

But the thought had been planted, and then one morning, in an envelope postmarked Texas, a letter lay on Ernest Parker's desk.

An uncle... forgot all about him! He died... left me his entire fortune? A hundred thousand dollars? Faye... don't you see?

It means we can go away together, darling! With that money we can go anywhere we choose.

Leaving her to me? 'I'll think of... something!'

But that night, over the dinner table, Ernest Parker complained of a sick headache and dizzy spells.

Sick are you? It's no more than I expected, with all your hours! Business! Sniffs! I don't believe that's probably out drinking or worse!

Next morning, a tearful Nan Parker phoned the family doctor...

You can't come? It sounds as if the plague. But him? But but what will I do? Snobs! He lies there so quietly... snobs! If he dies, I won't know where his money is, or anything!
YES, I SAID I WANTED TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL MATTERS? WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR MONEY? IF YOU DIE, I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT PENNILESS!

CALL... MISS BOOTH! TELL HER... BRING HER NOTEBOOK AND MY PERSONAL FILE... WITH HER...

IT WAS LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER THAT FAYE BOOTH STEPPED INTO THE SICK ROOM...

I TOOK A TAXI AS... AS YOUR WIFE SAID, ERN. I MEAN, SIR?

GOOD GIRL! NOW... SIT DOWN, GOING TO MAKE A LIST... OF THINGS FOR MY WIFE TO HAVE HER LAWYER DO... TO GET ALL... THAT'S COMING TO HER!

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, ERNEST PARKER IACTED TO HIS SECRETARY, WHOSE HEART WAS THUMPING IN TERROR WITH THE FEAR OF CATCHING THE PLAGUE... YET HER BRAIN WAS BEWILDERED, FOR EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, ERNEST PARKER WINKED AT HER!


AS SHE ROSE TO LEAVE, FAYE BOOTH SAW ERNEST SLIP AN ENVELOPE INTO HER NOTEBOOK.

I'LL SHOW YOU OUT, MISS BOOTH! READ IT! DON'T FAIL ME! READ IT! DO EXACTLY AS IT SAYS! EVEN IF I DIE, DO AS I WRITE!

YES! I... I WILL!

AS SHE ROSE TO LEAVE, FAYE BOOTH SAW ERNEST SLIP AN ENVELOPE INTO HER NOTEBOOK.

I'LL SHOW YOU OUT, MISS BOOTH! READ IT! DON'T FAIL ME! READ IT! DO EXACTLY AS IT SAYS! EVEN IF I DIE, DO AS I WRITE!

YES! I... I WILL!

IT WAS A CRUELEST THING ERNEST PARKER WAS DRESSED IN HIS BEST SUIT AND STRETCHED OUT IN THE COFFIN THAT NIGHT. HE LAY ALONE, CANDLES BURNING, THE SCENT OF ROSES IN THE AIR...

WELL, MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME SLEEP... NO SENSE SITTING HERE WITH HIM THE WAY HE IS NOW!

THAT NIGHT, ERNEST PARKER WENT COLD AND STIFF. TOWARD MIDNIGHT, THE UNDERTAKER STOPPED BY...

SORRY, MRS. PARKER, I CAN'T DO ANY EMBALMING OR ANYTHING. THE PLAGUE, YOU KNOW. MATTER OF FACT, WE GOT TO BURY 'EM IN A LONG TRENCH! THINGS ARE PLENTY BAD, ALL OVER!

WELL, DO YOUR BEST!

EVEN AS HER FOOTSTEPS DIED AWAY IN THE NIGHT, A CHANGE CAME OVER THE THING IN THE OPEN CASKET. A HAND STIRRED, LIFTED. THE LIPS TWITCHED! THE DEAD EYES OPENED TO STARE...
Slowly, the figure in the coffin stirred and sat up, moving almost as one in a dream. Pale candlelight played on white face and pallid hands.

Oh aimless feet, the body staggered forward, eyes open and sightless.

Upstairs, Nan Parker paused as she prepared for bed.

I thought I heard something moving down below. But there's no one here but myself? Herves, I guess...

It's your husband, Nan! Your husband, Ernest! I've come up from my coffin for you, Nan, come to... kill you!

Who... who's that?

No one will ever know I did this, Nan? I'm dead. And a dead man can't kill, can he? How I shall be safe with Faye's help! They'll bury me, Nan... as a dead man. But I'm not dead.

I'm alive! I used drugs to simulate death. The doctor thought I was dead of the plague... hardly examined me. Oh, I thought it all out. So carefully. I'll go back to my coffin and be in the shallow trench... but Faye will free me...
At that moment, some miles across town.

I'm going to go to the burial ground tomorrow at dawn. Open Ernest's coffin! He will be alive! Then we can go away together!

All that night, Ernest Parker lay in his coffin. At dawn, the coffin was closed, even while police and detectives moved about, searching for clues as to the murder of his wife...

Probably a burglar broke in! The wife saw him and was choked to death!

And so Ernest Parker was laid to rest... still alive... in the shallow burial trench necessitated by the Plague. As he lay in his coffin, the drug began to wear off...

Across town, Faye Booth struggles against patient hands that hold her as a doctor prepares an injection.

I'd better get some sleep. I... I feel so tired! Dizzy! But a good night's sleep will fix me up! I don't dare fail Ernest. I get the shudders, thinking of him in that casket!

And so Ernest Parker was laid to rest... still alive... in the shallow burial trench necessitated by the Plague. As he lay in his coffin, the drug began to wear off...

And in the graveyard, shovels dig and lift the soft pattern of earth, coving the coffins of those who died in the Plague... and the coffin of one who has not died... not yet!

Hope Faye hurries... can't stand much more of this foul air... drug wore off too soon. But she'll be along... any minute. I've got to be calm... calm...

Across town, Faye Booth struggles against patient hands that hold her as a doctor prepares an injection. Please, let me go! I want to find Ernest... open his coffin! Please... let me go!

She's hysterical, doctor out of her mind, due to the Plague! Better quiet her with a needle! I will, nurse she'll sleep soundly for twenty hours or more!

Why, that's dirt. Being dumped on my coffin! They're burying me! Burying me? I'm alive! No. No! Let me out, I'll suffocate in here... in a little while... AAAAAGHHH! AAAAAGHHH!
The car hummed smoothly through the night. My hands were steady on the wheel, even though I was going to kill the man seated beside me. I had always prided myself on my steady nerves. I could even laugh and joke as if nothing were going to happen...just as if I liked Jim Trenton, instead of hating him with a cold, blind hatred.

"Jim, I'm surprised at you," I laughed. "What if you do love my wife? I'm no barbarian, Jim. I'm no jealous. I hope I'm a civilized person. I realize that these things happen!"

There was relief in Jim's voice as he answered: "Ed, I'll be frank. I figured you'd go off your nut when you learned Emma wanted a divorce, and was going to marry me. I was a little dreading this hunting trip of ours!"

I chuckled, nudging him with an elbow. "Just between the two of us, I've had my eye on a cute little redhead for some time. Don't tell Emma, now..."

Joking and laughing, we rook the long, steep climb up to my hunting lodge. The car nosed its way up the mountain easily. Jim and I had made this trip often; now, though, Jim Trenton was making it for the last time. Oh, I was in no danger. I knew what I would do. The law would never pin this murder on me!

When I braked the car before the dark, deserted lodge, Jim got out and went around to the trunk to open it. I drew a deep breath, reached inside my coat and drew out my revolver. Carefully, I fitted the silencer to the barrel. Then I went around behind the car, as Jim stood with his head inside the trunk, dragging at a value.

I shot him three times, pumping the trigger savagely. I caught him before he could fall and lifted the dead body to my shoulder in a fireman's hitch. I felt his limp left hand bang against my wrist, slide away, then slide back. I laughed. "They'll never get me for this, Jim. Where you're going, nobody will ever find you. And without a body to prove that you're really dead, the State can whistle for a conviction and never get it!"

It was a quick walk, even burdened down as I was. Half a mile from my cabin, there was a quicksand bog. The natives said it had no bottom. I wouldn't swear to that, but it was deep. So deep nobody could drag it for a body!

I stood on the firm ground at the very edge of the bog and lifted Jim's dead body. I held it high, then threw it... threw it out into those dark, hungry sands...

I lost my balance. I fell forward! Like a stunning blow, I realized that I had thrown Jim's dead body—and followed it myself! Jim was under me, clinging to me with a hand—a hand tight-wrapped around my wrist! Now the quicksand was pulling at me, trying to drag me under! Keep your head, I told myself. You can squirm free! Just don't panic!

And then—I screamed! Jim's hand, where it was closed on my wrist, had tightened in rigor mortis! His fingers were clamped like a steel vise on my flesh! I tried to free myself, to break those fingers, fought to open that hand, and could not!

I was anchored to a dead man! His dead weight was dragging me down faster, faster! He would not let me go! He was dragging me down, holding me to the grave I had prepared for him. I was screaming as the sand crept into my mouth, clogging it...
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Welcome, dear reader! I am the old witch, mistress of the Haunt of Fear. I look after all the other occupants of my horrible abode, and each issue, tell you tales about them... the werewolves... the vampires...

This time, my story concerns a Mummy... A Mummy over four thousand years old! This tale, I call:

The Mummy's Return!

My story begins in ancient Egypt, in the year 2902 B.C. at the court of the Pharaoh, King Khufu...

The time has come, oh learned advisors, for me to take a bride! Your majesty! The people will be so happy! Long have they waited for a prince and heir to the throne of Egypt!
BUT, Oh wise king, she loves another... young FAMU, the courier!

The jealous King Khufu sent for two soldiers...

FAMU will take a message, dispatched by me, to the pyramids: you will stop him on his way...

...and take him to the royal crypt there, you will wrap him in the ceremonial death cloths, and place him in the case you will find there.

The soldiers left on their mission of evil; meanwhile, FAMU was saying good-bye to the Fair Nirrah...

I leave tonight for the pyramids; I carry a message to the slave-leader, from the King.

My heart will be with you, dear FAMU.

Remember: I do not want his blood on my hands; I want him buried... alive.

As you wish, oh mighty king!
Unaware that he would never see his beloved Nirrah again, Famu bid her good-bye and started on his trip as he neared the site of the pyramids.

Halting, he asked: "Are you Famu, courier of the king?"

"I am what means this?"

The struggling of the young courier soon ceased as the wrappings rendered him immobile.

"Help me place him in the sarcophagus, Likuh."

"Yes, Mifak."

The two soldiers forced Famu into the royal tomb of King Khufu... and, overpowering him, began to wrap him in the windings of a mummy.

"Stop! This is madness!"

"Silence, doomed one!"

And so... their foul mission completed... the two men left the unfortunate Famu to suffocate in the mummy case...

M-M-M-HP! D-D-D-R-gh! Come, Mifak! It is done! Let us leave this horrid place, Likuh!

In the weeks that followed, King Khufu convinced Nirrah that Famu had left her...

Perhaps he has found a new love... a girl of a wandering tribe...

"No! No! I cannot believe it!"

And in a few months, the heart-broken Nirrah was forced to marry the king...

"You must, Nirrah, for mine... your fathers sake!"

"As you wish, high priest and honored father!"

In the space of a year, Egypt had an heir to the throne, and Nirrah's use to King Khufu was at an end...

"Fool! You have sorr me a son... how begone from my sight!"

And then, one of the soldiers that helped murder FAMU, confessed...

I knew not who he was! The king had ordered and I obeyed - he is buried in the royal crypt.

The lonely queen longed now for FAMU and the love she had lost.

Courier! Travel the countryside ask the wandering tribes! Be found - and not a word to the king, or your life!

As you wish, oh, queen!

But, Nirrah pleaded! She had heard of the prayer for the raising of the dead - she wanted it!

Your grief is my grief, Nirrah! My child! Here! Take this scroll! It is the prayer you want - a secret known only to the high priests of Egypt for centuries. A prayer to bring back the dead!

Oh, thank you, Father! Thank you!

Nirrah rushed to the tomb and... kneeling before the sarcophagus, began to recite the prayer...

But before she could finish...

She knows! She must die!

And so, King Khufu sent his dagger into Nirrah's back. And sealed off the tomb forever! Inside, FAMU stood in his mummy case, and Nirrah lay at his feet... the prayer clutched in her hand...
The tomb remained sealed for over four thousand years, until it was discovered by an expedition from the British Museum.

So this is the tomb of King Khufu?

This ought to give you a thrill, Nina! After all, you're a direct descendant of King Khufu.

I am thrilled, Tom! Being hired as a translator for the expedition was a stroke of luck for me.

And for me, Nina! Or else I would have never met you.

And asked you to be my wife?

Yes, Tom! It's been a wonderful adventure. Just wonderful!

But to Carl Bronson, another member of the expedition, all was not a wonderful adventure! Carl, too, was in love with Nina.

He'll never have her! She's mine, not his!

The party began to explore the tomb, and when the room where Fano and Nirrah were buried was discovered...

That's strange! Look! A skeleton?

What's that parchment clutched in its bony hand?

It's... It's a papyrus with hieroglyphics on it.

It's a prayer for the raising of the dead.

What does it say, Nina?

Poppy-cock!
And so, that night, when all was still in the camp, Nina made her way to the secret room and began to translate the mysterious prayer...

As she read and re-read the strange symbols on the papyrus, the mummy, standing in its case behind her slowly moved, uncrossing first one arm, then another...

As Nina began to understand the meaning of the prayer, the mummy's arms extended toward her...

And when this scroll is read by a high-priest or anyone in his blood line...

Slowly it moved...its foot taking a step forward...

The dead, before whom he stands, shall return to life and...

Meanwhile, outside the tomb...

If I can't have her, no one will! I'll kill her first!
NINA?

YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU? TOM ISN'T FOR YOU! I SHOULD BE THE ONE YOU MARRY! TELL ME... TELL ME... YOU LOVE ME?

CARL... LET GO OF ME.

I NEVER GAVE YOU ANY INDICATION THAT I CARED FOR YOU! IT'S TOM I LOVE... ALL RIGHT... IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL.

WHO'S THERE?

IT'S CARL. I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU.

NINA?

YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU? TOM ISN'T FOR YOU! I SHOULD BE THE ONE YOU MARRY! TELL ME... TELL ME... YOU LOVE ME?

CARL... LET GO OF ME.

I NEVER GAVE YOU ANY INDICATION THAT I CARED FOR YOU! IT'S TOM I LOVE... ALL RIGHT... IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL.

IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU, TOM WON'T EITHER! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST BEFORE I LET HIM PUT HIS FILthy PAWS UPON YOU...

NINA FAINTED... AND LUCKILY FOR SHE NEVER SAW WHAT WAS BEHIND HER...

NO! NO! NO! KEEP AWAY!

THE MUMMY... ARMS EXTENDED... MOVED TOWARD CARL... CLOSER... CLOSER... AND THEN...

AAAAA-HH!!

When Tom arrived upon the scene, Nina was coming to...

HE... HE'S DEAD, NINA! AND... WHAT'S THAT ALLOVER HIM? IT LOOKS LIKE DUST... AND... MUMMY WRAPPINGS...

Look, Tom! The mummy case! It's empty!

And that's the story, dear reader! Did you like it? Write and tell me what you think of my magazine! My address is:

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Rex Ferris

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