

**52 SUSPENSE-PACKED PAGES!**

# SUSPENSE

ANDY...  
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K

**NOW ON SALE EVERY MONTH!**

**"NIGHT OF  
TERROR!"**

APR.  
NO.  
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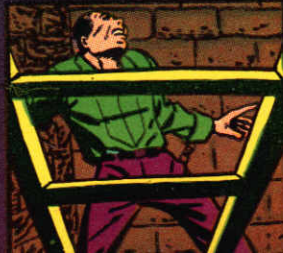


**THE THING IN THE  
SHADOWS!**

**THE DEAD WITCH!**

**THE DUNGEON!**

**AND OTHER  
TALES OF  
WEIRD  
SUSPENSE**





SHE PUSHED THE DOOR  
OPEN JUST A TINY  
CRACK...

THEN A LITTLE  
WIDER ...

AND WIDER...

UNTIL SHE COULD  
SQUEEZE HER UGLY  
SELF INTO THE ROOM!



LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT CONTAINED... BUT SHE WAS  
WILLING TO COMMIT MURDER TO GET POSSESSION OF ...

# THE LITTLE BLACK BOX

YOUR SECRET IS BURIED DEEP  
INSIDE OF YOU, LITTLE BLACK BOX...  
BUT TONIGHT I'LL UNCOVER IT!  
TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT!

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU SNIVELING DOG... TONIGHT IS THE  
NIGHT I'M GOING TO BURY THIS HATCHET IN YOUR  
SKULL... UNLESS YOU HAND OVER THAT  
LITTLE BLACK BOX!



ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS

ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL



**HUH? HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE, YOU OLD HAG? GET OUT! YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME FOR WEEKS...EVER SINCE I MOVED INTO THIS FILTHY BOARDING HOUSE!**

**YES...WATCHING YOU AND THAT LITTLE BLACK BOX! YOU ALWAYS CARRY IT WITH YOU... IT'S NEVER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT! I WANT IT... GIVE IT TO ME!**



**NO! IT'S MINE! THE LITTLE BLACK BOX IS MINE! YOU WANT ITS SECRET! BUT YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IT... NEVER!**

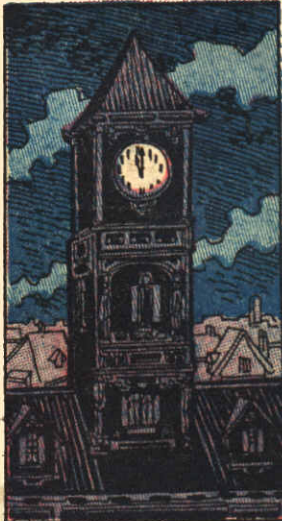
**I WILL WHEN THE BOX BELONGS TO ME... WHEN YOU ARE DEAD!**



**SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE A CAT SCREECHED...**

**A DOG HOWLED...**

**A CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT...AND AN OWL ASKED...**



**BUT ONLY THE LITTLE MAN AND THE OLD HAG KNEW! THE LITTLE MAN COULDN'T TELL...**



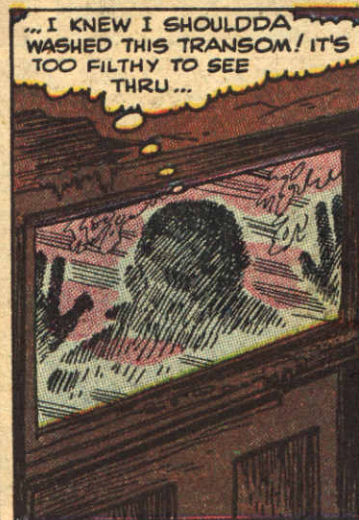
**AND THE OLD HAG WOULDN'T TELL...**

**I'VE GOT IT! IT'S MINE! THE LITTLE BLACK BOX IS MINE AT LAST! I'LL GET OUT OF TOWN... THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME! AND WHEN I GET TO A SAFE PLACE... I'LL OPEN THE LITTLE BLACK BOX AND FIND OUT ITS SECRET!**



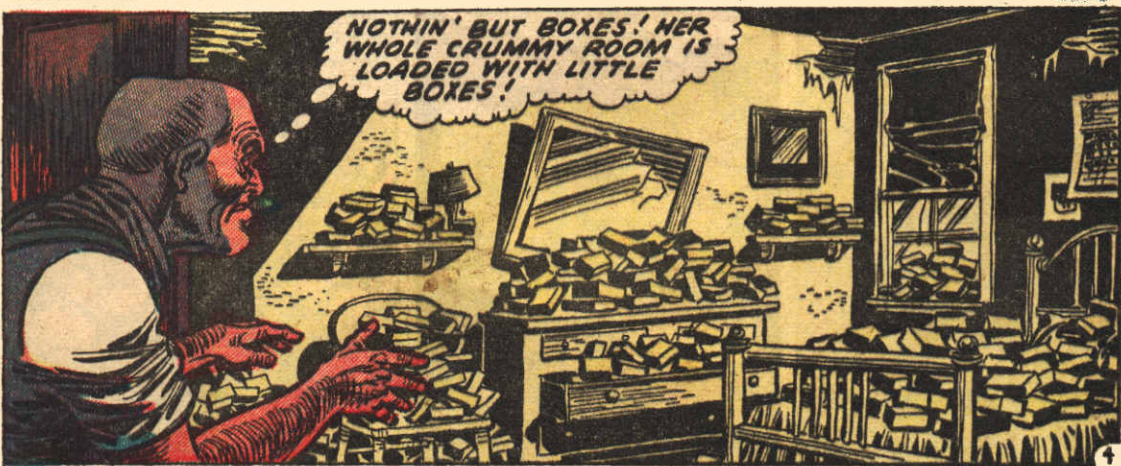


ANOTHER DAY... ANOTHER CITY... ANOTHER BOARDING HOUSE...





DAYS MELTED INTO WEEKS AND WEEKS INTO MONTHS...AND CURIOSITY GREW LIKE WEEDS IN AL FERTIG'S SIMPLE MIND!





AL FERTIG COULDN'T SLEEP NIGHTS...  
HE KEPT THINKING ABOUT THAT  
LITTLE BLACK BOX...

SHE LOCKS HERSELF IN HER ROOM  
EVERY DAY! I CAN HEAR HER  
OPENIN' UP THAT BOX... AN'  
SHE LAUGHS AN' CURSES  
AN' BAWLS...



CURIOSITY WAS DRIVING HIM  
MAD!



HE HAD TO KNOW... EVEN IF HE HAD  
TO KILL HER TO FIND OUT!



HE TURNED THE KEY QUIETLY  
IN THE LOCK OF THE  
OLD HAG'S ROOM... THEN HE PUSHED THE  
DOOR OPEN A  
LITTLE...



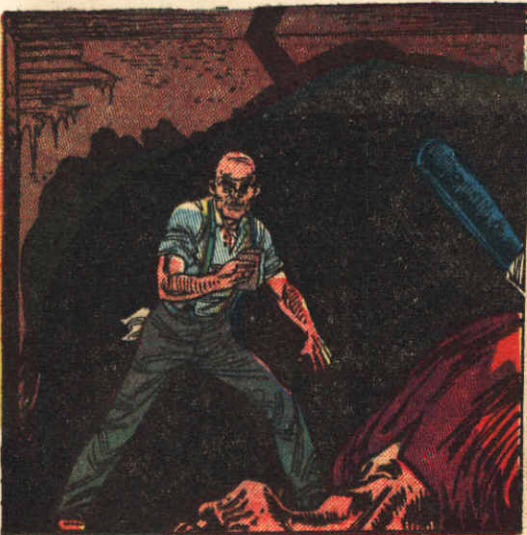
AND HE PEEKED IN...



SHE WAS ASLEEP...  
AND AL HAD A LONG  
SHARP KNIFE...



AND A FEW MINUTES LATER THE DEED WAS  
DONE... THE BLADE WAS QUICK AND  
THOROUGH AND **FINAL!**



AND AL HAD THE OLD HAG'S LITTLE BLACK BOX AS  
HE CAUGHT A FAST FREIGHT OUT OF TOWN...





AL FERTIG GOT HIS ROOM IN A FAR AWAY TOWN... AND HE LOCKED THE DOOR! THEN HE COVERED THE KEYHOLE... AND THE TRANSOM! AL WAS TAKING NO CHANCES... HE KNEW HOW CURIOUS PEOPLE ARE...

THAT NEW GUY SURE ACTS SCREWY! A MONTH'S RENT IN ADVANCE... NO BAGGAGE... NOTHIN' BUT A LITTLE BLACK BOX! AN' HE ALMOST TORE MY HAND OFF WHEN I OFFERED TO CARRY IT! HAH! AN' NOW HE'S GOT THE KEYHOLE COVERED...



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT BOLTED DOOR AL FERTIG SAT ON THE BED! HIS EYES BULGED... HIS MOUTH WAS PARCHED... HIS HANDS TREMBLED AS HE STARTED TO OPEN THE LITTLE BLACK BOX...

I'VE SWEATED OUT MONTHS FOR THIS! I ATE MY HEART OUT WONDERING... WORRYIN' WHAT THAT OLD HAG HAD IN THIS THING... WHY SHE ALWAYS CARRIED IT! NOW I'LL KNOW... I'LL FIND OUT THE SECRET OF THE LITTLE BLACK BOX!



AL OPENED THE LITTLE BLACK BOX... AND INSIDE WAS ANOTHER BOX...

HE PULLED OUT THAT BOX AND OPENED IT...

AND INSIDE THAT ONE...

AN' ANOTHER IN THAT ONE!

HEY! WHAT'S THIS... A GAG?

ANOTHER BOX!

AN' STILL ANOTHER...

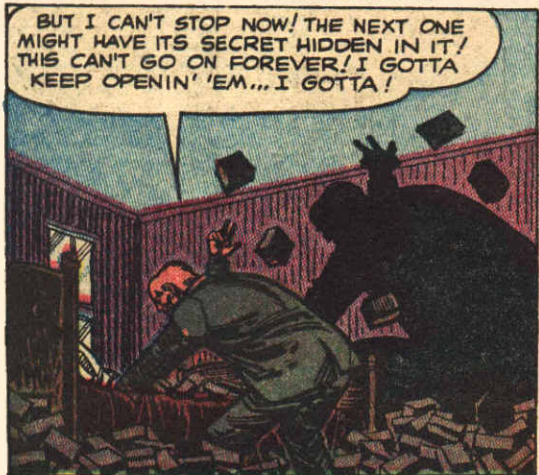


AL SAT THERE FOR HOURS OPENING UP ONE BOX AFTER ANOTHER... AND EVERY BOX HELD ANOTHER BOX... ANOTHER BOX... ANOTHER BOX...

BUT I CAN'T STOP NOW! THE NEXT ONE MIGHT HAVE ITS SECRET HIDDEN IN IT! THIS CAN'T GO ON FOREVER! I GOTTA KEEP OPENIN' 'EM... I GOTTA!

AND OUTSIDE AL'S DOOR THE WEEDS OF CURIOSITY WERE STARTING TO SPROUT AND ENTWINE ANOTHER MAN'S SIMPLE BRAIN...

HE'S STILL UP... I HEAR HIM FUMBLING WITH THE BOX! HE KEEPS OPENING IT... AN' HE LAUGHS... AN' CRIES... AN' SWEARS! WHY? WHAT'S IN THAT LITTLE BLACK BOX THAT CAN MAKE A GUY ACT LIKE THAT?



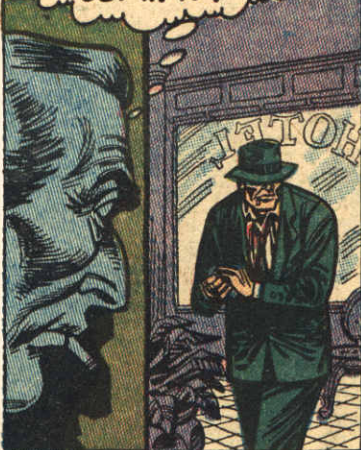


THE BELL-HOP... BERT FROST, WAS A WEAKLING... IT TOOK ONLY A WEEK FOR HIS BRITTLE BRAIN TO CRACK UNDER THE STRAIN OF CURIOSITY...



I'VE SEARCHED HIS ROOM... NOTHIN' BUT BOXES IN IT... HUNDREDS OF EMPTY BOXES!

HERE HE COMES NOW... AN' HE'S CARRYIN' THAT BLACK BOX WITH HIM! WHY? WHAT'S HE GOT IN IT?



I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT... AN' THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET THAT LITTLE BLACK BOX... ONLY ONE WAY!



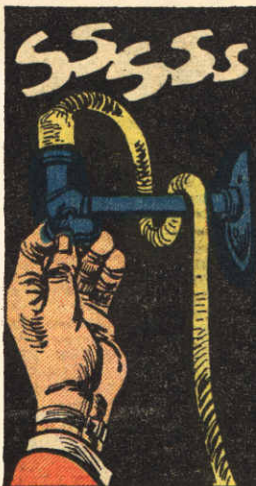
BERT COULDN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF BLOOD... SO HE USED GAS...



A HOSE UNDER AL'S DOOR...



A LITTLE TWIST...



A LONG WAIT...



AND AL WAS ASLEEP FOR ALL ETERNITY...



I'VE GOT IT... IT'S MINE AT LAST! I'LL GET OUT OF TOWN... AWAY FROM THIS PLACE... WHERE I CAN BE ALONE! ... ALONE WITH THE SECRET OF THE LITTLE BLACK BOX!



NOW YOU HAVE THE LITTLE BLACK BOX, BERT FROST! BUT YOU ALSO HAVE ALL THE OTHER BLACK BOXES WHICH FOLLOW!



YOU'LL OPEN THEM ONE AFTER THE OTHER AFTER THE OTHER UNTIL YOU DISCOVER WHAT THEY CONTAIN...

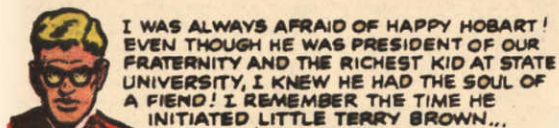
DEATH!

THE END

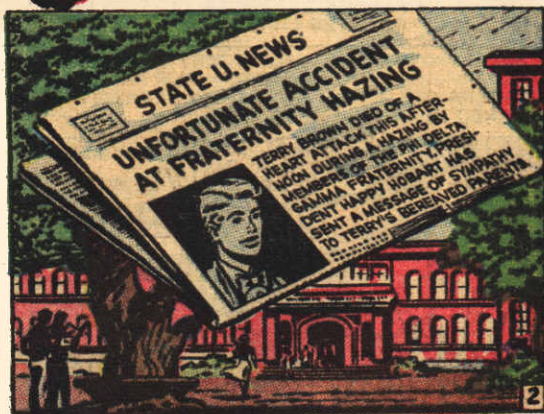
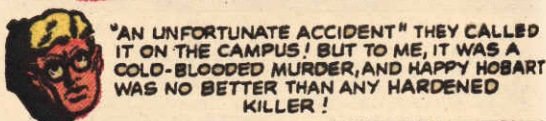




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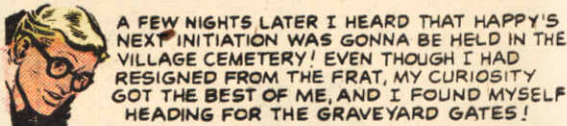
THE DEATH OF TERRY BROWN DIDN'T CHANGE HAPPY HOBART ONE BIT! HE SEEMED TO TAKE DELIGHT IN INFLICTING PAIN AND TERROR ON HELPLESS FRESHMEN!



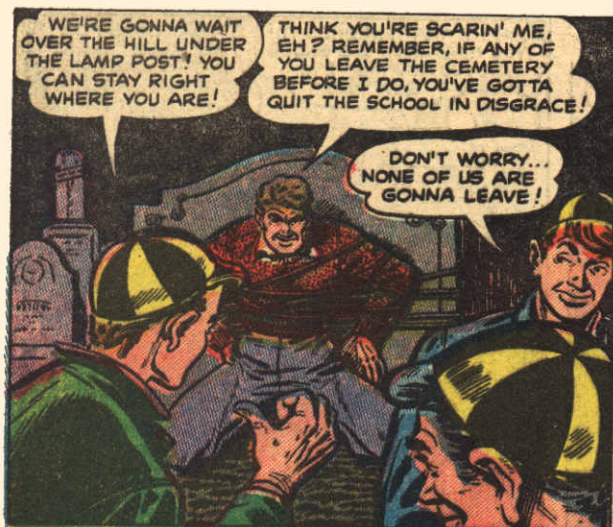
I FEW WEEKS LATER, ONE OF HAPPY'S INITIATIONS ALMOST CAUSED ANOTHER DEATH! THE RITUAL INCLUDED PUSHING A BLIND-FOLDED FRESHMAN INTO AN ICY LAKE!



BUT HAPPY FORGOT TO CHECK WHETHER THE TERRIFIED FRESHMAN COULD SWIM OR NOT, AND...









IN AN INSTANT, I JOINED THE FRESH-  
MEN AND TOLD THEM WHAT I KNEW...

LISTEN, FELLAS,  
DON'T LET THAT  
YELLING FOOL YOU!  
HAPPY IS DOING IT  
PURPOSELY TO  
FRIGHTEN YOU INTO  
RUNNING BACK TO  
THE SCHOOL! JUST  
LET HIM YELL...  
HE'LL TIRE HIMSELF  
OUT SOON!

EEEEEEEE!  
HELP!



I CREEPT BACK TO WATCH HAPPY!  
I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS  
SUCH A WONDERFUL ACTOR! IF I  
DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D HAVE  
SWORN HE WAS STRICKEN WITH  
TERROR!

NO...NOOOO...  
DON'T LET HIM  
GET ME!



ARGHWHH!



AND THEN THE UNBELIEVABLE  
HAPPENED! THE GRAVE BENEATH  
HIM SEEMED TO OPEN UP AND  
HAPPY'S BODY VANISHED INSIDE!

AAAAAAAA!



I RACED TO THE TOMBSTONE... MY HEART IN MY MOUTH!  
MY BRAIN SHRIEKED THAT IT MUST BE A TRICK... BUT  
I KNEW IT **WAS** NO TRICK! HAPPY WAS **GONE**!



HAPPY...  
HAPPY!

WHEN DAWN WAS BREAKING, THE OTHERS  
RETURNED TO THE TOMBSTONE!

HOW DO YA LIKE THAT?!  
HE MUSTA BROKE HIS  
ROPES SOMEHOW!

HE'LL HAVE TO QUIT  
COLLEGE NOW... THAT  
WAS HIS PLEDGE!

THE COWARD  
RAN OUT ON  
US!

DON'T WORRY... I  
HAVE A FEELING  
WE'LL NEVER  
SEE HIM AGAIN!



NO, HAPPY HOBART WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN... BY  
**ANYONE**! EVERYONE GUESSED THAT HE WAS ASHAMED  
OF HIS FEAR AND RAN AWAY RATHER THAN FACE HIS  
FELLOW STUDENTS! BUT AS FOR ME, I HAVE A FEEL-  
ING THAT HE'S CLOSER THAN THEY THINK!



THE END



# NORMAN<sup>W</sup><sub>A</sub><sup>S</sup> RIGHT!





YOU'LL HAVE TO CHASE THIS ONE! SHE'S DIFFERENT! IF YOU DON'T THINK SO, SHOW YOUR CONFIDENCE WITH SOMETHING BESIDES WORDS!

I GET THIS BELLE OF THE BALL! YOU'RE A WITNESS, HENRIK!

ALL RIGHT, FOOL! YOU'RE THROWING YOUR MONEY AWAY! FIVE THOUSAND FRANCS SAYS I GET THIS BELLE OF THE BALL! YOU'RE A WITNESS, HENRIK!

RECONSIDER, NORMAN-- SHE JUST TURNED DOWN THE DUKE DE ACOASTO! HE OWNS HALF OF SPANISH MOROCCO!

AND HE'D GIVE HALF OF IT TO HAVE HALF MY GOOD LOOKS! WATCH MY SPEED! I'LL HAVE HER EATING OUT OF MY HAND IN TEN MINUTES!

THE EGOTISTIC FOOL! I HOPE SHE TURNS HIM DOWN SO FAST, HIS SWELLED HEAD SWIMS!

VAN GRAET HAS HAD IT MUCH TOO MUCH HIS OWN WAY ALL HIS LIFE! IT'LL BE GOOD TO SEE HIM EAT CROW FOR ONCE!



HE THINKS HE'S IRRESISTIBLE TO EVERY WOMAN, THE SMIRKING DEVIL! I WANT TO SEE THE CONFIDENCE KNOCKED OUT OF HIM!

GOOD EVENING, MADAM CAT! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A NICE GLASS OF MILK?

MILK? BUT MILK IS FOR LITTLE CATS! I AM A LEOPARD! I EAT ONLY MEAT!

EXCELLENT! THEN I WILL BRING YOU A PLATE OF COLD CUTS FROM THE BUFFET!

OH, NO! NO! AS A BLACK LEOPARD, I ENJOY FRESH-KILLED MEAT! HUMAN MEAT PREFERABLY!

A MAN-KILLER, EH? THEN WE'RE MADE FOR EACH OTHER! I AM A LADY KILLER!

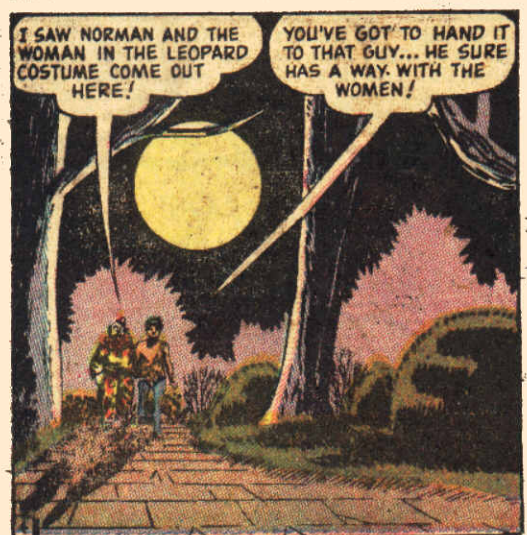
HOW INTERESTING! BUT, OF COURSE, YOU ONLY BREAK HEARTS, NONE OF THEM ARE REALLY... KILLED!













TELL THE TRUTH...IS THERE ANYBODY IN THE WORLD YOU CAN REALLY TRUST? THERE IS...IF YOU KNOW SOMEBODY LIKE.....

# JOE'S FRIEND!

THE THING CAME OUT OF THE SHADOWS, AND CHANGED JOE'S LIFE INTO A STRANGE NIGHTMARE...BUT IT HAD MORE ON ITS MIND THAN JUST DEATH...



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IT WAS THE END OF A LONG STAY AT THE SANATORIUM FOR JOE HASTINGS, BUT AT LAST HE WAS HOME AGAIN, PRONOUNCED CURED OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN!

WELL, JOE, DARLING... IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU HOME AGAIN!

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK, FLO... AND I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE BAD THINGS I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU!

THE JEALOUSIES...THE SUSPICIONS I FELT... THINKING YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...THAT'S ALL OVER NOW! I KNOW IT WAS ALL THE RESULTS OF MY OVERWORKED NERVES!

OF COURSE, DEAR! YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER LOVED! NOW EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE WONDERFUL BETWEEN US AGAIN!





TIRED FROM HIS TRIP, JOE WENT TO BED FOR A REST AS HIS WIFE PREPARED DINNER! HE SLEPT FITFULLY, HOWEVER, HIS MIND STILL TORTURED BY THE DOUBTS AND SUSPICIONS THAT HAD CAUSED HIS BREAKDOWN...

STOP! STOP! IT'S NOT TRUE! IT'S NOT TRUE!

SHE DOESN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE!

SHE LOVES SOMEONE ELSE!

YOU'VE LOST HER!

SHE'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE!

DOESN'T LOVE YOU!

THEN A GENTLE HAND STIRRED HIM... AWOKED HIM FROM HIS NIGHTMARE!

JOE! JOE! WAKE UP, OLD PAL! YOU'RE GETTING ALL UPSET AGAIN!

WHAT? OH... IT'S ONLY YOU, THANK GOODNESS... I'M AFRAID I'M STILL NOT CURED, ALTHOUGH YOU TOLD ME I WAS!

SURE YOU ARE, JOE! LOOK, MY FRIEND, HAVE I EVER BEEN WRONG? I'M YOUR FRIEND, REMEMBER! THE ONLY FRIEND YOU HAVE! I'VE ALWAYS STUCK BY YOU!

YES... YES! BUT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT FLO... HOW SHE WAS SEEING SOMEONE ELSE!

I HAD TO, BECAUSE IT WAS MY DUTY AS A FRIEND! BUT THAT'S ALL OVER NOW! SHE'S NOT SEEING HIM ANYMORE!

OH, I'M SO GLAD! NOW EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT, WON'T IT?

SURE IT WILL! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THESE PILLS! THE DOCTOR GAVE THEM TO ME FOR YOU! THEY'LL MAKE YOU REST!

ALRIGHT! IF YOU SAY SO! WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT KNIFE?

NOW DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT! REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE! NOT YOUR WIFE... OR HER BOY FRIEND, OR ANYTHING! I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE OF THAT FOR YOU! REMEMBER... I'M YOUR FRIEND, JOE!

I KNOW YOU ARE! AH, THE PILLS MADE ME SO SLEEPY! ...SO SLEEPY... THANK YOU... FOR... FOR EVERYTHING...

SLEEP... BLESSED SLEEP CAME AGAIN FOR JOE, AS HIS FRIEND TALKED SOOTHINGLY TO HIM, THE CALM VOICE LULLING HIM INTO A WORLD WITHOUT TROUBLE... WITHOUT PAIN...

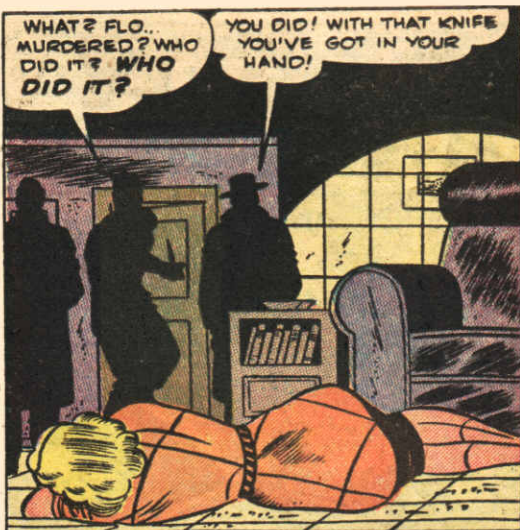
SLEEP, JOE... SLEEP... AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE... SLEEP...

AAA EHH!

WHAT WAS THAT?

DON'T WORRY, JOE! IT'S NOTHING! DON'T YOU TRUST ME? I'M YOUR FRIEND, JOE!







I COMMITTED A CRIME AND I TOOK MY PUNISHMENT LIKE A MAN...UNTIL I WAS SHOVED INTO...

# THE DUNGEON

NO CRIME DESERVES THIS KIND OF PUNISHMENT! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME... THEY CAN'T... NOT THIS... ANYTHING BUT THIS!



IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS SENT UP TO THE STATE PEN TO SERVE MY SENTENCE! I COULDN'T STAND BEING COOPED UP... I HATED EVERY LIVING MINUTE OF IT! BUT I WAS WORKING IT SMART, SMART ENOUGH TO GET HOLD OF A GUN!

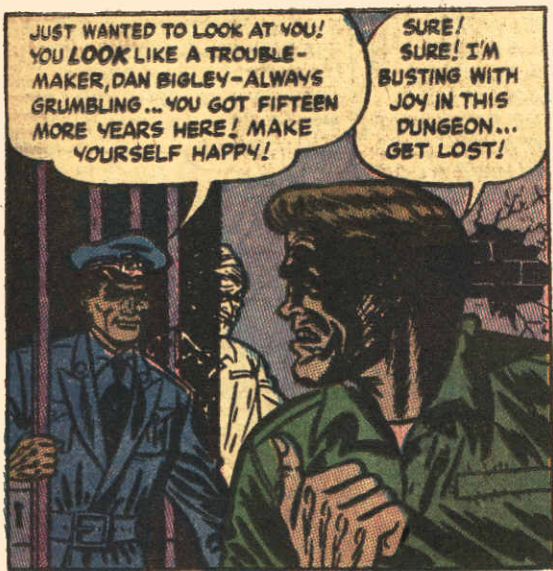
I'LL BREAK OUT! THE DUKE DID IT! THE DUKE, GREAT GUY... SHOT HIS WAY OUT FIVE YEARS AGO, KILLED THE WARDEN... I'LL BREAK OUT O' HERE, REAL EASY... I'LL BE LIKE THE DUKE... EVEN BETTER'N HIM!



SOMEONE'S COMING... MUST BE THE GUARD! I'LL HIDE MY GAT UNDER THE MATTRESS... NO ONE'S GOING TO SPOIL MY PLANS!







JUST WANTED TO LOOK AT YOU!  
YOU LOOK LIKE A TROUBLE-  
MAKER, DAN BIGLEY-ALWAYS  
GRUMBLING...YOU GOT FIFTEEN  
MORE YEARS HERE! MAKE  
YOURSELF HAPPY!

SURE!  
SURE! I'M  
BUSTING WITH  
JOY IN THIS  
DUNGEON...  
GET LOST!



THE GUARD WENT! I HEARD THE CELL DOOR  
CLANG SHUT...BUT SOMEONE WAS IN MY CELL!

WHATCHA DOING HERE?  
WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR NEW CELL  
MATE! DIDN'T YOU  
SEE THE GUARD  
PUSH ME IN HERE?



OF ALL TIMES! I  
NEED A CELL MATE  
LIKE A HOLE IN THE  
HEAD!

MY NAME?  
EDDIE...  
SURE, I'VE  
DONE TIME!  
WAS IN  
PRISON  
TEN YEARS  
BEFORE--  
TEN LONG  
YEARS!

UH-NO...GUESS I  
WASN'T WATCHING!  
EVER DONE TIME  
BEFORE? I'M DAN--  
WHAT'S YOUR DOG-  
TAG?



TEN YEARS! SAY THAT'S  
GOOD! YOU'RE AN OLD  
HAND-- REAL JAIL BIRD...

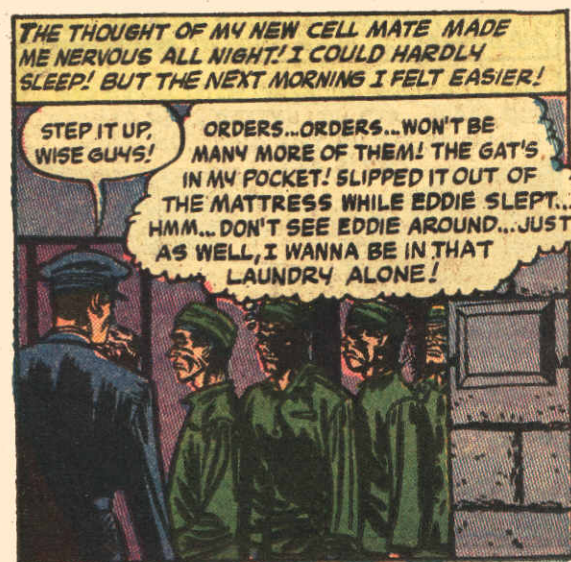
BUT I BETTER NOT GET  
TOO CHUMMY WITH HIM!  
NO ONE ELSE GETS IN  
ON MY PLANS!



YEAH, BIG PLANS...TOMORROW'S MY  
DAY WORKING IN THE PRISON LAUNDRY  
...AND WHEN THE DELIVERY GUY  
COMES IN...DRAT IT... THAT EDDIE  
MAKES ME NERVOUS... MOVING  
AROUND...

HEY, EDDIE!  
LIGHT SOMEWHERE!  
GRAB A COT!

TAKE IT  
EASY, DAN!



THE THOUGHT OF MY NEW CELL MATE MADE  
ME NERVOUS ALL NIGHT! I COULD HARDLY  
SLEEP! BUT THE NEXT MORNING I FELT EASIER!

STEP IT UP,  
WISE GUYS!

ORDERS...ORDERS...WON'T BE  
MANY MORE OF THEM! THE GAT'S  
IN MY POCKET! SLIPPED IT OUT OF  
THE MATTRESS WHILE EDDIE SLEPT...  
HMM... DON'T SEE EDDIE AROUND...JUST  
AS WELL, I WANNA BE IN THAT  
LAUNDRY ALONE!



DELIVERY MAN'S DUE  
IN HALF-HOUR... AND THEN...  
OH-OH... HERE COMES MY  
SHADOW! BLAST HIM!  
CAN'T HE LEMME  
ALONE?

DAN! I  
WANT TO  
TALK TO  
YOU!





I SAW YOU PUT A GUN IN YOUR POCKET! ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK OUT OF HERE?

HUH? NO... NO... SHUT UP! KEEP YOUR TRAP SHUT!



YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! YOU'RE GOING TO TRY FOR A BREAK! THAT'S WHY THE GUN... LISTEN, DAN! TAKE ME ALONG! I CAN HELP YOU! WHAT ABOUT A HIDE-OUT? DO YOU HAVE A GOOD SAFE HIDE-OUT?

HIDE-OUT? HUH? NO! NOT YET! DON'T FIGURE THAT FAR!



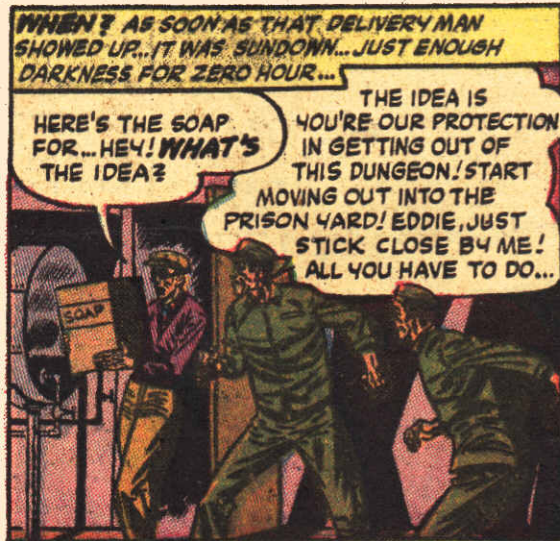
I KNOW A PERFECT HIDE-OUT... A SHACK IN BLACK WOODS... IT'S ON A LITTLE KNOWN TRAIL! PERFECT FOR US! IF YOU LET ME GO WITH YOU, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

A SHACK IN BLACK WOODS... SOUNDS GOOD! YEH... YEH... NOT BAD!



YEH... OK! I'LL TAKE YOU OUT, EDDIE! BUT IF YOU SPOIL OUR GETAWAY, I'LL WRING YOUR NECK - LIKE THIS PIECE OF CLOTH! I'LL KILL YOU - SEE!

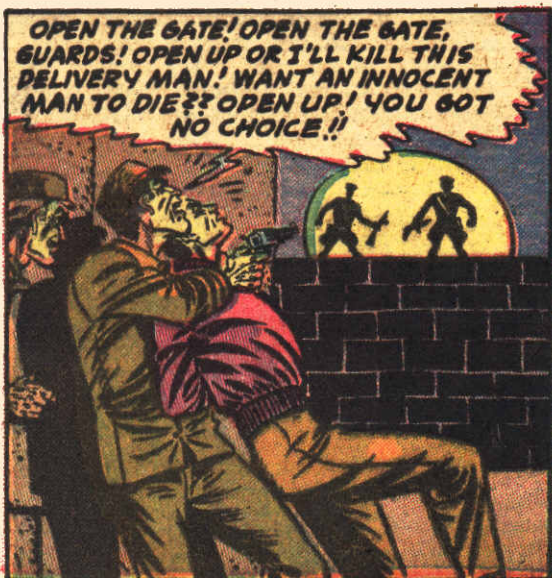
I'LL DO JUST WHAT YOU WANT... WHEN DO WE START?



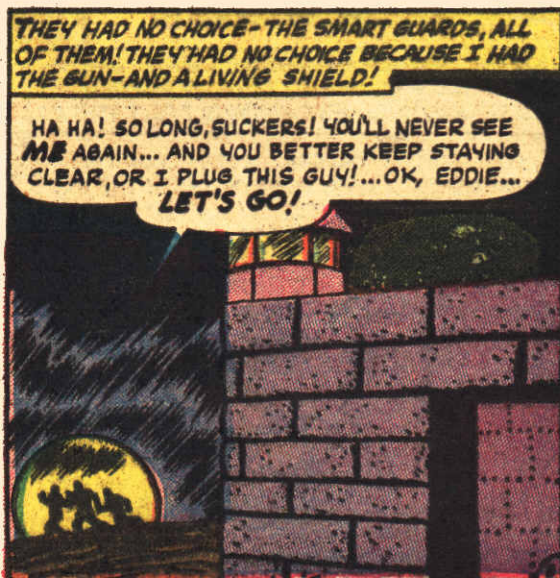
WHEN? AS SOON AS THAT DELIVERY MAN SHOWED UP... IT WAS SUNDOWN... JUST ENOUGH DARKNESS FOR ZERO HOUR...

HERE'S THE SOAP FOR... HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?

THE IDEA IS YOU'RE OUR PROTECTION IN GETTING OUT OF THIS DUNGEON! START MOVING OUT INTO THE PRISON YARD! EDDIE, JUST STICK CLOSE BY ME! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...



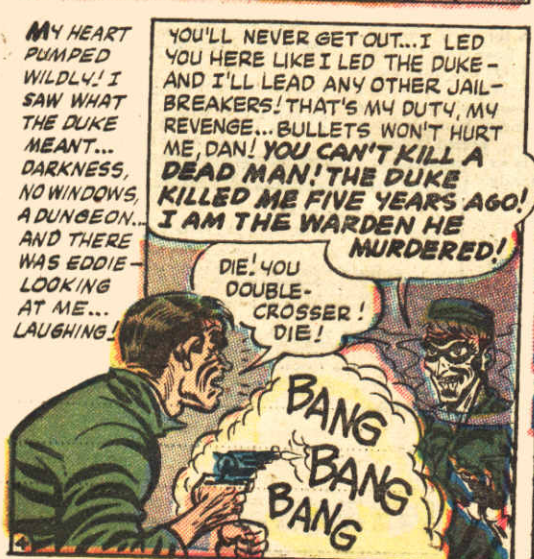
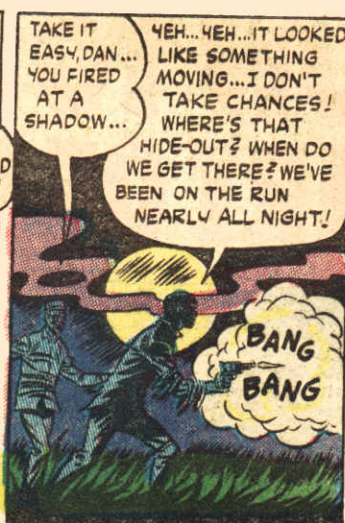
OPEN THE GATE! OPEN THE GATE, GUARDS! OPEN UP OR I'LL KILL THIS DELIVERY MAN! WANT AN INNOCENT MAN TO DIE?? OPEN UP! YOU GOT NO CHOICE!!



THEY HAD NO CHOICE - THE SMART GUARDS, ALL OF THEM! THEY HAD NO CHOICE BECAUSE I HAD THE GUN - AND A LIVING SHIELD!

HA HA! SO LONG, SUCKERS! YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN... AND YOU BETTER KEEP STAYING CLEAR, OR I PLUG THIS GUY!... OK, EDDIE... LET'S GO!





THE END



IT'S NOT AN EXCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION! ANYONE CAN BE A MEMBER...EVEN YOU...IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE THEY ASK FOR MEMBERSHIP IN...

# THE MURDER CLUB



A COLD, GREY RAIN SPLASHED DISMALLY OVER THE CITY... COLD, BLEAK RAIN THAT MATCHED THE DARKNESS OF MY MOOD...

IF I ONLY HAD THE NERVE TO MURDER HER... HERE I AM, MY AUNT LUCY'S ONLY HEIR... HEIR TO A FORTUNE... AND I CAN'T GET MY HANDS ON IT UNTIL SHE DIES!



WHAT'S THE USE THINKING OF IT? HOW CAN I EVER GET UP THE NERVE? WISH I COULD...

PARDON ME, SIR! SEEING YOU UNPROTECTED AGAINST THIS DOWNPOUR MOVES ME TO SUGGEST THAT YOU SHARE MY UMBRELLA!





IT'S A DARK NIGHT! BLACKNESS AND RAIN... A DARK NIGHT BREEDS DARK THOUGHTS... OH, PERMIT ME! I'M AMBROSE HALLAM!

HE SPEAKS AS IF HE KNOWS MY THOUGHTS... MY THOUGHTS OF MURDER!

MY NAME'S BRUCE DAWSON!

I KNOW... AND I KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS! BECAUSE I'VE EXPERIENCED IT... I'VE COMMITTED MURDER!

YOU... YOU'VE KILLED A PERSON?

MY FIRST IMPULSE WAS TO FLEE FROM THIS STRANGER! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... SOMETHING THAT MADE ME THINK HE COULD BE A FRIEND! HE WAS NOT CONDEMNING MY THOUGHTS!

YES... AND PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU, BRUCE... HELP YOU KILL THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN THINKING OF MURDERING!

MY RICH AUNT! WITH HER OUT OF THE WAY I COULD GET HER FORTUNE! BUT I HAVEN'T GOT THE NERVE, TO KILL HER!

A FORTUNE IS A VERY GOOD REASON FOR MURDER! I CAN HELP YOU... COME WITH ME!

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY AMBROSE! I'LL PAY YOU WELL IF YOU HELP ME GET RID OF MY AUNT!

THE REST OF THE WAY WE WALKED IN SILENCE! FINALLY WE SEEMED TO APPROACH OUR DESTINATION... A SPRAWLING HOUSE JUTTING INTO THE NIGHT!

HERE IS A HOUSE IN WHICH YOU'LL FIND COURAGE! THE COURAGE TO KILL! THIS BRUCE IS... **THE MURDER CLUB!**

ENTER... AND WELCOME TO THE MURDER CLUB! NOTICE THE TROPHIES OF OUR DEEDS! THAT AXE IS MINE! I KILLED MY WIFE WITH IT, FOR THE SAME REASON THAT YOU WANT TO GET RID OF YOUR AUNT... **FOR MONEY!**

NO WONDER YOU UNDERSTAND MY PLIGHT! NOW I KNOW THAT I'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

INDEED YOU HAVE! WE WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU AS A FULL MEMBER WHEN YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR MURDER! THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IS AT LEAST ONE MURDER!

AMBROSE, WHOM HAVE YOU BROUGHT HERE?





THIS IS BRUCE DAWSON... BRUCE, MEET THE OTHER MEMBERS... JUDD OAKLAND, EDDIE HALL... BRUCE IS ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A MEMBER!

EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT! HOW SOON?



AS SOON AS HE GETS UP THE NERVE! HE'S ANXIOUS TO KILL HIS AUNT FOR HER FORTUNE, BUT HE NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT!

SO MANY MURDERS GO UNCOMMITTED THROUGH LACK OF NERVE! YOU HAVE TO BE NERVY, BRUCE! TAKE MY CASE FOR INSTANCE...



I USED THE GUN ON MY BUSINESS PARTNER! I WANTED TO GET THE WHOLE COMPANY FOR MYSELF, MADE MY PLAN, AND SHOT HIM TO DEATH! NOTHING TO IT... EDDIE KNOWS! HE USED THE HAMMER FOR HIS!

WHOM DID HE KILL?



I INSURED AN OLD HOBO FOR \$100,000, MADE MYSELF THE BENEFICIARY, AND BASHED THE GUY'S SKULL IN! LEFT HIM ON THE ROAD, TO LOOK LIKE HE'D BEEN HIT BY A CAR! YOU GOT TO PLAN IT, BRUCE! WHAT'S YOUR SET UP?

I DON'T HAVE ONE! I... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT! THAT'S WHY I CAME WITH AMBROSE... HE SAID THAT HE'D HELP ME!



WE'LL ALL HELP YOU, BRUCE! YOU'RE AN APPRENTICE MEMBER NOW... UNTIL YOUR MURDER IS COMMITTED! THEN YOU'LL BE INITIATED AS A FULL MEMBER! SIT DOWN AT THIS TABLE AND WE'LL PLAN!

I'LL REWARD ALL OF YOU FOR THIS! WITH THREE EXPERIENCED MURDERERS TO HELP ME, I CAN'T FAIL!



NOW BRUCE YOU SAID THAT YOUR AUNT LIVES ALL BY HERSELF... AND SHE'S CARELESS ABOUT LOCKING DOORS!

DON'T THAT SUGGEST SOMETHING TO YOU, BRUCE? DOESN'T THAT GIVE YOU THE START OF A PLAN?



YES, YES! I'LL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ROBBERY! SHE KEEPS CASH AND JEWELRY AROUND... I SUPPOSE A GUN IS THE BEST WEAPON!

NO... EVERYBODY USES A GUN! I USED ONE FOR MY MURDER... BUT I WAS AN AMATEUR THEN! BESIDES, WE ALREADY HAVE A GUN FOR A TROPHY ON OUR WALLS!



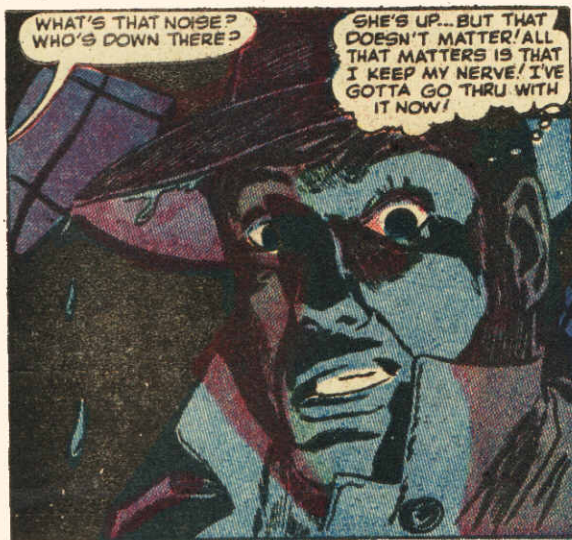


FOR A NEW MEMBER WE'D LIKE A NEW METHOD! YOU WEAR GLOVES, AND WE'LL HANG THE GLOVES UP AS YOUR TROPHY... YOU'LL STRANGLE HER!

YES... AND THAT'LL BE EASY! SHE'S THIN AND FEEBLE! I... I'LL DO IT TONIGHT!

WE WORKED OVER THE DETAILS CAREFULLY... AND THEN I LEFT THE MURDER CLUBHOUSE AND WENT HOME... TO MURDER DEAR AUNT LUCY...

ALL'S QUIET! DEAR AUNTIE IS PROBABLY ASLEEP BY NOW... IT'LL BE EASY... I MUSTN'T LOSE MY NERVE!



WHAT'S THAT NOISE? WHO'S DOWN THERE?

SHE'S UP... BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER! ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT I KEEP MY NERVE! I'VE GOTTA GO THRU WITH IT NOW!



BRUCE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOU TO DIE! I'M HERE TO KILL YOU, AUNT LUCY!



I WOULD'VE KILLED YOU LONG AGO... ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE THE NERVE! BUT NOW I HAVE... THANKS TO THE MURDER CLUB!

BRUCE! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAS GOT INTO YOU? BRUCE... DON'T... DON'T...



SHOCKED THE LIFE OUT OF HER... NOW I'LL GRAB ALL THE MONEY AND JEWELRY! I'LL LEAVE THE PLACE IN A MESS... MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A ROBBERY...



I LEFT THE HOUSE AND HURRIED BACK TO THE MURDER CLUBHOUSE, EAGER TO REPORT MY SUCCESS...

NOW I REALLY BELONG TO THE MURDER CLUB... I FEEL WONDERFUL... PROUD, TOO... MY FRIENDS WERE RIGHT! IT WAS EASY!



WELCOME... WELCOME BACK... HAVE YOU FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP?

PERFECTLY... DIDN'T HESITATE AT ALL! NOW YOU CAN INITIATE ME!



BRUCE HAS EARNED FULL MEMBERSHIP... WE CAN BEGIN THE INITIATION!

GOOD! WHICH SHALL IT BE, BOYS? THE AXE, THE HAMMER, OR THE GUN?



THE AXE... I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO USE MY AXE AGAIN!

VERY WELL, AMBROSE! BUT I'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE! I'M ITCHING TO USE MY GUN AGAIN!

BUT SHE'S DEAD... YOU DON'T NEED YOUR WEAPONS! I KILLED HER... STRANGLED HER!



I WANNA USE MY HAMMER! LET'S ALL FINISH HIM UP!

DON'T BE AFRAID, BRUCE! OUR INITIATION WILL TAKE ONLY A MINUTE... TO BE A FULL MEMBER YOU MUST REALLY BECOME ONE OF US... WE'VE ALL BEEN EXECUTED FOR THE MURDERS WE HAVE COMMITTED! SO WE'LL EXECUTE YOU! THEN YOU'LL BE A FULL MEMBER!



THE END





YOU'LL BE SCARED TO DEATH OF...

# THING IN THE SHADOWS

WILL  
BELLMAN



**SQUEEZE... CRUSH THE SOFT THROAT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS UNTIL HIS BODY IS LIMP... AND DEAD!**

**THIRTY DOLLARS! NOT MUCH... BUT IT'LL KEEP YOU GOING... AND AFTER ALL, THE WORK IS PLEASANT...**



UUKKKK...

THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU... MY FRIEND! NOW TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR POCKETS!



NOW I BETTER SCRAM BEFORE...

TWEEEE... EEEET



UH-OH! A COP! THEY NEVER USED TO COME AROUND HERE! I BETTER BEAT IT!

**YOU'VE GOT TO RUN... HIDE! THERE WAS A GARAGE YOU SAW A COUPLE OF BLOCKS DOWN! DARK INSIDE WITH LOTS OF PLACES TO HIDE...**



**YOU MAKE IT TO THE GARAGE, BUT BEFORE YOU CAN HIDE, THE NIGHT WATCHMAN SEES YOU! YOU'VE GOT TO THINK FAST...**

**YOU START TO LEAVE... BUT WHEN HE TURNS HIS BACK YOU HIDE BEHIND THE DOOR... IN THE SHADOWS!**



SAY, MAC... COULD YA HELP A GUY OUT? WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF GETTING A JOB?

NAH, WE DON'T HAVE ANY JOBS HERE! G'WAN, BEAT IT... I'M CLOSING THE PLACE UP!



HEY! WHAT THE...? HE LOCKED ME IN. I'M TRAPPED!



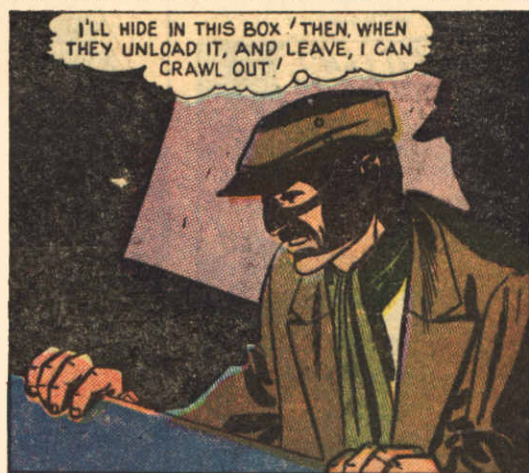
**B**UT YOU SOON REALIZE IF YOU'RE LOCKED IN... THAT ALSO MEANS THE COPS ARE LOCKED OUT! IT'S A PERFECT SET UP... YOU GET SOME REST IN A DARK CORNER! YOU'RE TIRED AND IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR AGES WHEN SUDDENLY...



**I**T'S A BREAK FOR YOU! YOU CAN HIDE IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK UNTIL THEY GET YOU FAR AWAY...



**O**H YEAH? WELL, NOBODY'S GOING TO CATCH YOU... YOU'RE SAFE INSIDE THE TRUCK, AND THESE BOYS ARE TAKING YOU FAR FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!







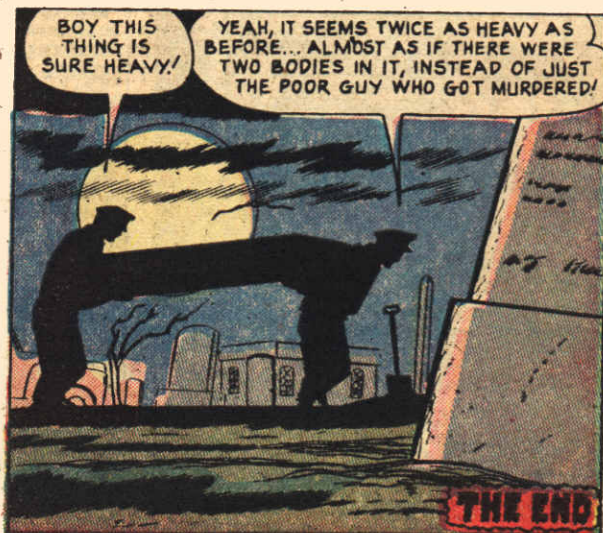
A HEARSE? THAT'S WHAT THIS IS... AND YOU ALMOST GOT INTO A COFFIN WITH A CORPSE...



YOU LIGHT A MATCH TO SEE WHAT THE GUY IN THE BOX LOOKS LIKE... YOU WERE NEARLY IN THERE WITH HIM...



IT IS HIM... THE GUY YOU MURDERED... BUT HE'S DEAD... YOU KNOW HE'S DEAD!





# THE DEAD WITCH!



BUT CARL HAS NO  
INTENTION OF STOPPING...



HIS SWEATY HANDS  
GRIP THE WHEEL  
TIGHTER...



HIS FOOT PRESSES  
DOWN ON THE  
ACCELERATOR...



AND HIS WIFE'S  
AGONIZING SCREAMS  
ARE LOST IN THE  
MOTOR'S MAD ROAR...





AND HOURS LATER WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE, CARL PLAYS THE PART OF A GRIEF-STRICKEN HUSBAND VERY WELL! HE TELLS THEM EVERYTHING...



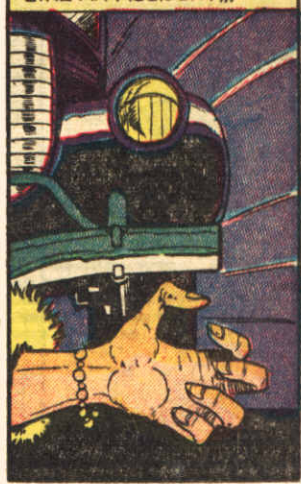
EVERYTHING... EXCEPT HOW HE KILLED HIS WIFE... AND HOW HE DRAGGED HER BROKEN BODY OUT OF THE GARAGE...



AND LAID IT ACROSS THE DRIVEWAY...



AND THEN BACKED OUT THE CAR AND RAN OVER HER... TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT...



OH, WHY DIDN'T I LOOK BACK TO SEE WHERE I WAS GOING? THIS HORRIBLE THING WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF I DID... MY DARLING FLORA WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!



YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF, MR. ZANDER... IT'S DARK AND FOGGY OUT! YOU COULDN'T HAVE SEEN HER EVEN IF YOU DID LOOK BACK!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, MR. ZANDER... A VERY SAD AND UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT!



HOW CAN I GO ON LIVING WITHOUT HER? THIS CASTLE WILL BE SO EMPTY... SO FILLED WITH MEMORIES OF OUR HAPPY MARRIAGE! I'LL HAVE TO DISPOSE OF IT... I'LL SELL IT AND GO BACK TO AMERICA!



AND WHEN THE POLICE LEAVE, CARL LOSES NO TIME GOING THROUGH HIS WIFE'S POSSESSIONS...



THIS CLOSET... SHE ALWAYS KEPT IT LOCKED! SHE NEVER LET ME SEE WHAT SHE HAD IN IT...

BUT SHE'S NOT HERE TO STOP ME NOW...



GREAT HEAVENS! OH, NO... NO IT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T!





CARL'S EYES BLEED  
TEARS AND HIS  
HEART SWELLS IN  
HIS CHEST AS HE  
LOOKS AT THE  
UNBELIEVABLE  
HORROR...



SKELETONS OF ALL OF  
HER VICTIMS! SHE KILLED  
THEM JUST AS SHE WAS  
TRYING TO KILL ME!



SHE MUST'VE TORTURED  
THEM FIRST BY STICKING  
PINS INTO THESE DOLLS...  
VOODOO DOLLS... EXACT  
IMAGES OF ALL HER  
VICTIMS!



AND WHEN SHE WANTED TO KILL  
THEM... ALL SHE DID WAS STICK  
THE PIN INTO THE DOLL'S HEART...  
AND THE PERSON DROPPED  
DEAD!



HERE'S MY IMAGE IN A  
VOODOO DOLL... THE ONE  
I SAW HER STICKING  
PINS INTO A FEW NIGHTS  
AGO! THIS IS THE  
REASON FOR ALL THE  
STRANGE PAINS  
I'VE HAD...



I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED  
TO MY FRIENDS' WARNINGS  
BEFORE I MARRIED FLORA!  
THEY WERE RIGHT...  
**I MARRIED  
A WITCH!**



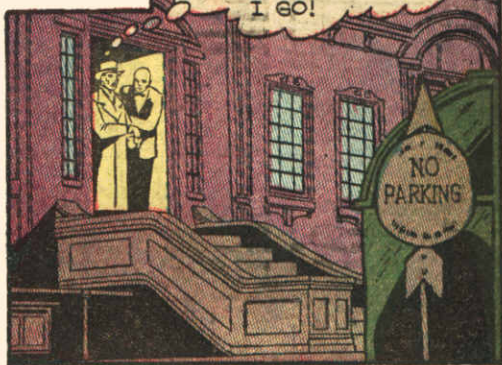


IT'S MONTHS LATER NOW AND CARL IS BACK IN AMERICA! WITH THE MONEY HE GOT FOR HIS WIFE'S CASTLE AND OTHER POSSESSIONS HE'S QUITE RICH AND COMFORTABLE ...



BUT CARL ISN'T HAPPY... AND HE'S GOT GOOD REASON NOT TO BE ...

IT'S THAT BLASTED AUTOMOBILE ... THE ONE I KILLED FLORA WITH ... IT'S HERE IN AMERICA! AND IT'S TRYING TO RUN ME DOWN ... EVERYDAY ... EVERYWHERE ... I GO!



SUDDENLY TWO HEADLIGHTS STAB BLADES OF LIGHT INTO CARL'S EYES...



THE MAD ROAR OF A CAR MOTOR DRONES IN HIS EARS...



THE HEADLIGHTS SPEED CLOSER...



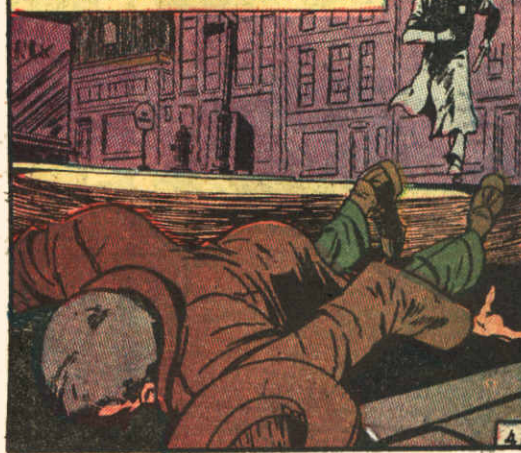
AND CLOSER ...



DON'T! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! STOP... STOP OR YOU'LL CRUSH ME! YOU'LL KILL ... OW-W-W!



AND THEN ALL IS STILL ... CARL LIES SPRAWLED OUT IN THE GUTTER ...







HEY... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MISTER? WHAT'S ALL THE YELLIN' FOR?

HUH? AM I... I STILL ALIVE?



SURE YOU'RE ALIVE... BUT YOU WON'T BE IF YOU KEEP ROLLIN' AROUND ON THE COLD STREET THE WAY YOU WERE DOIN'! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

THAT CAR... DIDN'T YOU SEE THAT FOREIGN CAR THAT TRIED TO RUN ME DOWN? IT TRIED TO KILL ME! YOU'VE GOT TO ARREST THE DRIVER! YOU'VE GOT TO GET THAT CAR BEFORE IT MURDERS ME!



MISTER, EITHER YOU'VE BEEN DRINKIN', OR YOU'RE JUST PLAIN DAFFY! I HAVEN'T SEEN A CAR GO BY HERE IN THE PAST FIFTEEN MINUTES! THIS IS MY BEAT AN' I'VE BEEN STANDIN' DOWN THERE BY THE CALL BOX WAITIN' TO CHECK IN AT MIDNIGHT!

YOU'RE LYING! THERE WAS A CAR... A FOREIGN CAR... AND IT TRIED TO KILL ME!



IT'S BEEN AFTER ME EVER SINCE I CAME BACK HERE FROM GERMANY! YOU'VE GOT TO PROTECT ME... I'M A CITIZEN... A TAXPAYER!

YOU'RE IMAGININ' ALL THIS, MISTER... YOU OUGHTTA GO SEE A DOCTOR! BUT IF IT'S PROTECTION YOU'RE WANTIN', C'MON, I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN TO THE STATION AN'...



NO... NO! I WON'T GO! YOU THINK I'M CRAZY... BUT I'M NOT! NO DOCTOR CAN HELP ME... AND I'M NOT IMAGINING IT... I'M NOT!



THAT CAR IS TRYING TO RUN ME DOWN... TO CRUSH ME! I KNOW IT IS... I SAW THE DRIVER'S FACE...



IT WAS HER...MY DEAD WIFE WAS THE DRIVER!







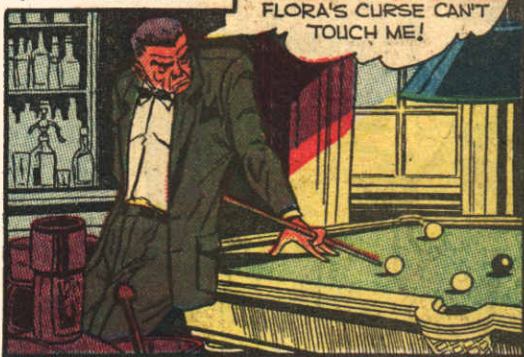
CARL RUNS HOME ... AND IN THE DARKNESS OF HIS LARGE BEDROOM, CARL MAKES A DRASTIC DECISION ...

FLORA'S BLASTED CURSE WILL NEVER COME TRUE! I'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE ... I'LL STAY HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE ... THEN SHE'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO RUN ME DOWN!



A WEEK GOES BY ... THEN A MONTH ... AND CARL IS PLEASED WITH THE WAY HE HAS OUTWITTED HIS WIFE'S CURSE ...

I HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT IN THIS HOUSE! THE SERVANTS WAIT ON ME ... I HAVE MY OWN LIBRARY ... MY OWN MOVIE THEATER! AS LONG AS I REMAIN IN THE HOUSE FLORA'S CURSE CAN'T TOUCH ME!



CARL TAKES EVERY PRECAUTION ... AT NIGHT HE LOCKS HIMSELF IN HIS BEDROOM ...

I DON'T TRUST ANYONE! EVEN THOSE SERVANTS COULD BE IN ON THE PLOT TO KILL ME! THEY COULD DRAG ME OUTSIDE WHILE I SLEEP AND LAY ME OUT ON THE ROAD ... SO THAT FLORA COULD CRUSH ME LIKE SHE SAID SHE WOULD!



AND JUST AS THE CLOCK STRIKES MID-NIGHT ... THE SERVANTS HEAR A TERRIFYING SCREAM FROM THEIR MASTER'S BEDROOM ...



AW, HE'S ONLY HAVIN' ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE NIGHT MARES! ALWAYS SEEIN' PHANTOM CARS ... SAYS THEY'RE TRYIN' TO RUN HIM DOWN!

YEAH, LET'S GO BACK TO BED!



BUT IN THE MORNING, WHEN CARL DOESN'T ANSWER THE CALL FOR BREAKFAST, THE SERVANTS CALL THE POLICE ... AND WHEN THE DOOR IS BROKEN DOWN ...

YEAH, CHIEF, I KNOW IT SOUNDS SCREWY ... BUT I TELL YOU IT'S THE TRUTH! THE TIRE MARKS ARE THAT OF A FOREIGN CAR ... AN' THEY'RE AS PLAIN AS THE BADGE ON MY UNIFORM!



THE END