



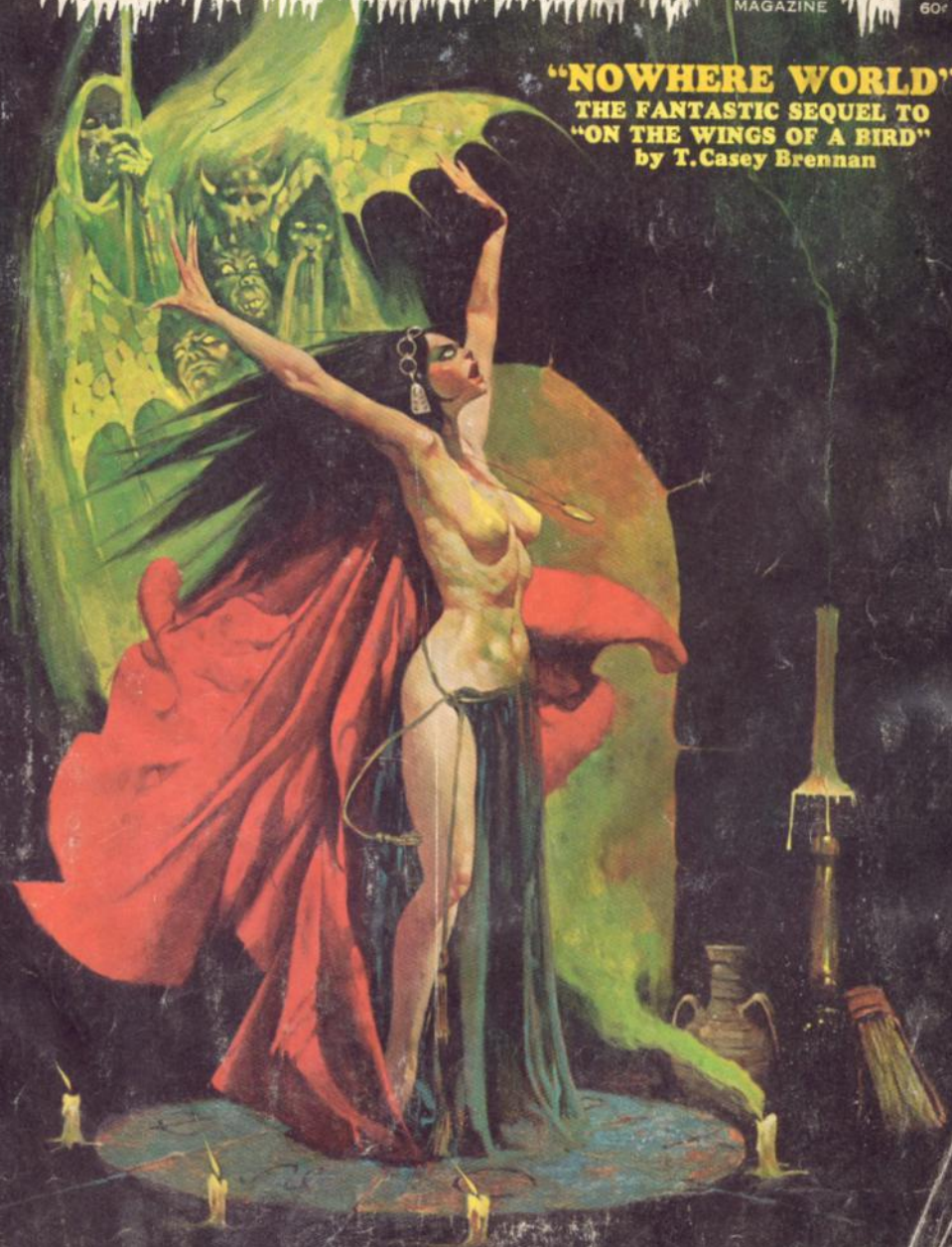
CREEPY
#42

NOV. 1971

CREEPY

A WARREN
MAGAZINEPDC
60¢

"NOWHERE WORLD"
THE FANTASTIC SEQUEL TO
"ON THE WINGS OF A BIRD"
by T. Casey Brennan





NOV. 1971

CREEPY

NO. 42

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SO YOU **BURN** TO READ
THIS HAUNTING TALE OF
JELLYING HORROR? LET YOUR
IMAGINATION FLAME! BUILD
YOURSELF A BONFIRE OF BUGABOO
BLISS AS YOU SHAKE TO WHAT
WAITS IN THE WATERY PITS
BELOW THE OLD HOLT
HOUSE!

WE CAME TO BURN DOWN THE OLD
JEPEDIAH HOLT HOUSE THAT NIGHT!
OUR TORCHES AFLAME, OUR BELLIES
FILLED WITH STRONG WINE AND POTENT
WHISKEY TO GIVE US COURAGE. FOR EACH
ONE OF US KNEW SOME AWFUL FATE
OVERTOOK THOSE WHO ENTERED THAT
FEARSOME HOUSE ON WINDY RIDGE, OR
HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ITS MYSTERIES!
AYE! THAT WAS OUR PLAN. BUT WE
RECKONED WITHOUT...

THE QUAKING HORROR

THERE IT IS - THE
HOUSE THAT EATS PEOPLE!
BUT IT HAS DEVoured ITS **LAST**
HUMAN BEING. THIS NIGHT - IT **DIES**
AS ITS VICTIMS DIED!

BURN
IT! **BURN**
IT!

FIRE
DESTROYS
EVERYTHING!

WE HAVE
THE **FIRE**.
LET'S **USE**
IT!

UP A NARROW STONE PATH WE TRAVELED,
FEAR EATING AT EACH ONE OF US. BELOW
WERE THE SEA CAVES, HOLLOWED FROM
LIVING ROCK BY THE SURGING WAVES...

IN THOSE CAVES, LONG AGO, CAPTAIN JEPEDIAH HOLT HAD
KEPT THE MYSTERIOUS 'SEA BEASTS' HE BROUGHT HOME
FROM HIS LONG SEA VOYAGES, OR SO THE LEGEND RAN...



BUT-IT WAS NONE OF THESE SEA CREATURES THAT TROUBLED US SO SORELY. LONG AGO, THEY HAD ALL DIED OFF. NO, IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE! SOMETHING-WICKED! SOMETHING-- HUNGRY FOR HUMAN LIFE, THAT KEPT ITS LAIR IN THE OLD HOUSE OR-BELOW IT...



OUR IMAGINATIONS PEOPLED THE CAVERNS WITH RARE, DREAD BEINGS...

MY NAME IS JOHN EVERETT. I AM A REAL ESTATE AGENT. BUT I HAVE RENTED THE HOLT HOME FOR THE LAST TIME. FOR ONLY THIS MORNING, AS I SAT IN MY OFFICE...



MABEL! MABEL PRENTISS! WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S MO-MOMMY AND DA-DADDY! THEY'RE DEAD!

AND SO IS M-MY BROTHER TOM!

SHE TOLD HER TALE, AND AS SHE DID THE TERROR GREW INSIDE ME...

IT HAPPENED-- LAST NIGHT!

JUST AS WE WERE GOING TO BED-- I HEARD MY BROTHER SCREAM AS THOUGH ALL THE FIENDS IN HELL WERE AFTER HIM!



"I RAN INTO HIS ROOM-- SAW NOTHING BUT A TRAIL OF SLIME ACROSS THE WALL AND FLOOR. AND-- AND THERE WAS AN AWFUL, FRIGHTENING SMELL TO THAT SLIME..."



TOMMY!

WHERE ARE YOU?

"MOMMY AND DADDY FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF THAT AWFUL OOZE DOWN THE STAIRS AND TOWARD THE CELLAR..."



IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S SANE, CHARLES-- WHAT IS THAT STUFF?

I C-CAN'T SAY, MOLLY.

"I FOLLOWED THEM BUT SUDDENLY A HORRIBLE SCREAM RANG OUT! I FROZE IN MY TRACKS, UNABLE TO MOVE A MUSCLE. THERE WAS SO MUCH FEAR IN THAT CRY-- I ALMOST FAINTED..."

TH--THAT WAS M-MOMMY!

OH, GOD-- NO!

AAAAAAAAGGGHHHH!!!



TEARS STREAKED HER CHEEKS AS SHE FINISHED HER TALE OF TERROR...EVERETT LOOKS DOWN AT MABEL WHO LOOKS UP AT HIM, TEARS RUNNING DOWN HER CHEEKS.

I F-FAINTED, I GUESS, WHEN I CAME TO, I RAN HERE AS FAST AS I COULD.

YOU POOR KID, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME SO MY WIFE CAN LOOK AFTER YOU.

THEN I'M GOING TO ROUSE THE TOWNSFOLK!

NIGHT HAD FALLEN BEFORE WE ASSEMBLED AND MADE OUR WAY UP THAT CRAGGY CLIFFSIDE TO THE HOUSE ITSELF...

LET ME GO IN FIRST-ALONE!

THIS WAS MY IDEA. IF ANYTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN-LET IT HAPPEN TO ME!

I SEARCHED THE OLD, MUSTY ROOMS WITHOUT FINDING ANYTHING UNTIL...

THE FLOORBOARD-LOOSE-TILTING UNDER MY FOOT!

AND THERE'S SOMETHING UNDERNEATH IT.

I BROUGHT OUT A DUSTY, TIME-CRACKED VOLUME OF LONG-FORGOTTEN LORE-AND A SET OF CURIOUSLY WROUGHT CANDLESTICKS...

THEY'RE SO-OLD! THIS MUST BE THE PROPERTY OF JEDEDIAH HOLT HIMSELF, WHO DIED ALMOST TWO CENTURIES AGO!

WHAT ARCAINE SECRETS DOES THIS BOOK HOLD?

CONSUMED BY CURIOSITY-THINKING THAT PERHAPS IT CONTAINED THE ANSWER TO OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SLIME-DIPPING MONSTER OF HOLT HOUSE-I OPENED IT TO FIND A LETTER...

IT'S WRITTEN BY HOLT...!

I AM THRICE ACCURSED! FOR THIS DAY I HAVE SCANNED THE HIDEOUS FORMULAE FOR BRIDGING THE VAST GULFS BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSE AND - OTHERS!...

I MUST TRY-SEE IF I CAN BRING HERE THOSE DEMONIC BEINGS FROM BEYOND!

"I SET UP BLACK CANDLESTICKS IN THOSE HOLDERS WHICH I HAD FROM A TIBETAN MONK, AS WELL AS THE GRIMOIRE, AND I CHANTED THE EVIL, EDN- BURIED INCANTATIONS..."

EBOTHON DORATHA NEBIMAN!

AKKA LAJALLIS EFFRO ROGIS!

IN ANSWER TO MY SUMMONS CAME SOMETHING SO FRIGHTFUL—SO UNIMAGINABLY HIDEOUS—THAT I TURNED AWAY IN HORROR!...

WHAT MADE ME DO IT?

I SHOULD HAVE **BURNED** THE BOOK BEFORE I GAVE WAY TO ITS FASCINATION.

STRINGY TENTACLES CAME QUESTING OUT OF THE PORTAL I HAD CREATED WITH MY CALL. THEY DRIPPED SLIME, THEY STANK, THEY WRITHED IN A GEMBLANCE OF HORRIBLE LIFE...

AAAAAGHH—
GOD!

NO! IT SHALL NOT HAVE ME, I AM NOT ITS SACRIFICE!

I WRITE THIS LETTER IN MY TOWER ROOM. THE DOOR IS STRENGTHENED BY A PROPPED CHAIR, THE WINDOWS ARE LATCHED. YET IT—COMES FOR ME. I HEAR IT SLITHERING, I CAN SMELL ITS SLIME...

SICK AT HEART, I RAN FROM THE HOUSE, DETERMINED TO USE FIRE AGAINST WHATEVER BEING INFESTED IT. BUT AS I RAN OUT...

I PUMPED BULLETS DOWNWARD INTO THE BLACKNESS, BUT I MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE BEEN FIRING AT A RUBBER DOLL!...

JIM!
BOB!

OH MY GOD—IT'S COME FOR US ALL!

BLAMMM
BLAMMM

SAVE US!

HELP—
BEFORE IT EATS US!

HEEEELPPPPP

IN STEADILY MOUNTING HORROR AND DESPAIR WE HURLED OUR BLAZING TORCHES AT THE HOUSE. WE COULD NOT SAVE OUR FRIENDS, BUT WE WOULD GUARANTEE THE-THING-WOULD GET NO MORE OF US...



WHEN IT BURNS TO ASHES-WE'LL BUILD A FENCE AROUND IT SO NONE CAN EVER COME NEAR IT AGAIN!

IN SECONDS THAT DRIED TIMBER WAS ALIVE WITH LEAPING FLAMES. NOTHING COULD LIVE IN THAT CONFLAGRATION!...



SO MAY IT PERISH!

THE FIRE WILL EAT IT!

AS IT EATS HUMAN BEINGS!

BY THE LIGHT OF THOSE FLAMES-EVEN AS SOME OF THE TIMBERS CAVED INWARD-WE COULD LOOK DOWN INTO A VAST PIT BELOW THE HOUSE...



WHATEVER IT WAS-IT'S GONE!

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, EITHER.

WE DID OUR JOB. NOW LET'S GO HOME.

YET IT WAS NOT GONE-JUST HIDDEN BY THE AWFUL BLACKNESS OF THAT FRIGHTFUL HOLE! FOR AS THE WIND SHIFTED AND BLEW THE FLAMES FORWARD, THEY ILLUMINATED THE ENTIRE AREA...



GOOD LORD ABOVE!

A FIEND-OUT OF SOME DEMONIC HELL!

WE EMPTIED OUR RIFLES AND REVOLVER VAINLY, USELESSLY-FOR THE ALIEN FLESH OF THIS AWFUL MONSTER WAS IMPERVIOUS TO FLYING LEAD. AND THEN IT STRETCHED ITS TENTACLES UPWARDS-FOR US!...



AAAAAAGHHH!

BLAM
BLAM

LOOK OUT!
IT'S REACHING UP TO SNATCH US TO IT!

RUN!
RUN!

THOSE TENTACLES CLOSED—
STUNG—BIT DEEP AS WITH ACID!
WE FOUGHT AS BEST WE MIGHT
BUT EVER SO STEADILY IT DREW
US TOWARD THE QUAKING,
JELLYLIKE BODY THAT WAITED TO
DEVOUR US...

AAAIIIEEE! SOMEBODY—
DO SOMETHING!

CAN'T
ANYTHING—
SAVE US?

WE BATTLED VICIOUSLY,
DESPERATELY, FOR THERE WAS AN
AGONY IN THE CLUTCH OF THOSE
TENDRILS THAT HELD US—AND AN
ABYSMAL HORROR IN THE THOUGHT
OF WHAT WAS TO BE OUR FATE...

PLEASE!
PLEASE!

FLOSSIE!
I CAN'T LET
IT HAVE
YOU...

AND THEN—THE BLAZING HOUSE
CAVED IN! IT CRASHED DOWN INTO
THE—PIT—ITS BURNING BEAMS AND
TIMBERS REP—HOT! FROM BELOW—
JUST AS THE TENTACLES LOOSENEED
ABOUT US—WE HEARD A THIN
HIGH SCREAM...

THANK—GOD!
THE COLLAPSING
HOUSE—SAVED
OUR LIVES.

I HAVE
YOU NOW,
FLOSSIE!

AAAAAACHA!

WE CAUGHT ONE LAST GLIMPSE
OF THE QUAKING HORROR BEFORE
THE FIRE AND THE WATER
COMPLETELY BURIED IT. ITS FACES
WERE HUMAN—TWISTED IN AGONY!
ITS VAST BULK SHIVERED, SHOOK
TO THAT AGONY! ITS TENTACLES
REACHED UP—AS IF PLEADING WITH
US FOR HELP...

TODAY THE THING IS NO MORE THAN A MEMORY,
SLAIN BY FIRE, OR SO WE—HOPE. YET I
CANNOT HELP BUT THINK THAT THERE MAY BE
OTHER SUCH HORRORS—LURKING EVER ON
THE EDGE OF OUR **COSMOS**, AWAITING SOME
DREAD **INCANTATION** THAT WILL LET THEM
ENTER WHERE THEY DO NOT BELONG...

IF THEY EVER DO
COME—I PRAY GOD THAT
MANKIND SHALL KNOW
HOW TO **DEAL** WITH
THEM. FOR IF WE DO
NOT—THEN WE
OURSELVES ARE
DOOMED!

IT HAD NEVER **ASKED** TO COME HERE,
I REALIZED, YET JEPEDIAH HOLT HAD
SUMMONED IT—AND IT ACTED AS IT
MIGHT ACT ON ITS **OWN** WORLD. IN A
WAY, I FELT **PITY** AT THAT MOMENT...

FORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT ANY OF
YOU READERS GETTING A
COPY OF THE GRIMOIRE AND
TRYING ITS INCANTATIONS, DO
I? I **KNOW** YOUR
TENTACLES ARE TOO
SLIMY TO TURN THE PAGES! **END**



PROLOGUE: CROATIA-- AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY-- ON A MOONLIT NIGHT, WHEN BATS FLY AND DOGS BARK--AND WOLVES HOWL...



THE END IS HORRIBLE--YET SWIFT! BUT THEN...



YES! THE BEAST HAS CHANGED HIS FORM--ONE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN! IT IS GRADVITZ! CURSED DABBLER IN BLACK MAGIC! WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE STAYED IN THE WEST INDIES WHERE HE SPENT SO MANY YEARS INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO PLAGUE US?


WELL, THE SILVER BULLETS HAVE ENDED HIS TERROR FOREVER!

I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT, MY FRIEND... BUT WITH ONE SO EVIL CAN WE EVER BE TRULY SURE?



AND THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION WE'RE ABOUT TO EXPLORE, TERROR TIPPLERS, SO SIT BACK AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE GUY NEXT TO YOU... BECAUSE NO MATTER WHO YOU THINK HE IS... HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THROUGH JUST WHAT OUR HORRORIFIC HERO IS ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE...

A CHANGE OF IDENTITY!



I DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND WHY WE MUST DRIVE A **SILVER STAKE** THROUGH THE **BODY** OF GRADVITZ! HIS BODY HAS ALREADY BEEN **RIDDLED** WITH **SILVER BULLETS**! THERE IS NO LIFE REMAINING IN HIM!

YES, BUT REMEMBER THE OLD TRADITION OF OUR PEOPLE! CERTAIN WEREWOLVES RETURN AFTER DEATH TO HAUNT THE WORLD AS **VAMPIRES**! GRADVITZ WAS A WEREWOLF BY **CHOICE**!

CERTAINLY HE WAS **EVIL** ENOUGH IN LIFE TO RETURN **UNDEAD**! THE SPIKE SHOULD **FASTEN** HIM TO HIS **TOMB**!

SO GRADVITZ IS **FINISHED**! GRADVITZ--SO STRONG AND TALL! NO ONE ORDERED HIS LIFE--LIKE THEY DO **MINE**! HE WAS THE MASTER AND THOSE OTHERS WERE BELOW HIS CONTEMPT! HOW I WISH I COULD BE LIKE **HE** WAS...

NOW--AS LONG AS THAT SPIKE **STAYS** IN HIS CHEST WE'RE **SAFE**! LET'S GO HO--! **WHAT?**! IT'S **TROGG "THE TROLL"** SPYING ON US!

...THEN I'D KILL--
WHAT?! NO!...
THEY'VE SEEN ME!

THE TWISTED BODY STRUGGLES IN VAIN...



MINUTE SHAVINGS OF IRON GLOW IN THE MOONLIGHT...AND ONE BAR FALLS ASIDE WITH A CLINK! THEN...



AH...NOW FOR THE SECOND! AND SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO FIT THROUGH THE WINDOW!

THEN THE FINGERS OF THE HUNCHBACK GRASP THE COLD METAL...AND YANK!



UGHH... THERE! THE SPIKE IS OUT!

SHORTLY...AFTER THE WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED...



THERE HE SLEEPS...BUT NOT FOR LONG!

THE SILVER SPIKE!... IT SEEMS TO GLOW IN THE MOONLIGHT! IT SEEMS TO CALL ME!



IT--IT'S HAPPENING! EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WOULD, IT IS FRIGHTENING! AND I CAN HEAR HIM GASP... AND BREATHE! GRADVITZ...

...IS ALIVE!



W-WHAT HAS HAPPENED? I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN ASLEEP...AND A SHARP PAIN REMOVED FROM MY CHEST!

...AND WHAT IS THIS... THIRST? THIS SUDDEN CRAVING?

YOU! TROGG, THE VILLAGE SCAPEGOAT! WITH THAT SPIKE! SPEAK! TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE!



TROGG EXPLAINS IN STUTTERING WORDS...



WHAT?! I'VE BECOME A V-VAMPIRE? AND I THIRST FOR BLOOD!

MAYBE YOU SHALL BE THE FIRST VICTIM OF THIS VAMPIRE!

N-NO! NO, MASTER!

YOU CALLED ME **MASTER?**

YES, MASTER! YOU SEE, I
REVIVED YOU FOR A REASON! A
VERY **SPECIAL**
REASON!

I AM TIRED OF THE **INSULTS**...
...THE **BRUTALITIES** OF THE VILLAGERS!
GIVE ME THE SECRET OF BEING **STRONG**
AND **POWERFUL** AND I SHALL **GUARD**
YOU... WATCH YOUR GRAVE DURING
THE DAYLIGHT HOURS... AND
PROTECT YOU FROM ALL **HARM!**

YOUR IDEA FASCINATES ME,
TROGG! YES, I'LL NEED SOME-
ONE TO PROTECT MY GRAVE...
AND YOU WANT MONSTROUS POWER
FOR YOUR **REVENGE**--AS
A **WEREWOLF!**

YES!
YES, MASTER...
A **WEREWOLF!**

AND TOGETHER, WE SHALL
WIPE OUT THIS TOWN-- THEN
MOVE ON TO OTHERS! TOGETHER,
WE SHALL BE **UNBEATABLE!**

YES-- YOU SHALL GUARD MY GRAVE! AND YOU SHALL
BE **TRANSFORMED!** BUT FIRST, THERE ARE THINGS WE
MUST DO! I MUST SATISFY MY **BLOOD THIRST!** AND
YOU MUST TAKE SOME EARTH FROM THE GROUND
SURROUNDING THE TOMB-- THEN HASTEN TO MY HOUSE
AND CONSTRUCT A COFFIN! I SHALL MEET YOU PRESENTLY!

WITH HASTE, TROGG HOBBOLES ACROSS THE HILLS, UNTIL
HE REACHES THE HOME OF THE FORMER WEREWOLF!
FINDING LUMBER AND TOOLS IN THE SHED BEHIND THE
HOUSE, HE BEGINS...

THIS COFFIN WILL
BE CRUDE... BUT THE
MASTER NEEDS IT AS
SOON AS I CAN BUILD
IT! HE WILL BE SATIS-
FIED! IN THE MORNING,
I CAN BUILD A
BETTER ONE!

YES, MASTER!
I SHALL WORK **SWIFTLY!**
YOU SHALL HAVE A
COFFIN WITHIN
THE **HOUR!**

MEANWHILE...

THE **THIRST!**
I CANNOT CONTROL
IT! IT SEEMS TO
OVERPOWER
MY WILL!

AND I HAVE AN
ETERNITY OF THIS
THIRST LYING AHEAD
OF ME!

WHEN HIS HIDEOUS CRAVING QUENCHED, GRADVITZ RETURNED TO HIS HOUSE, WHERE HE FINDS A PROUD TROGG... AND HIS NEW DAYLIGHT BED...



YOU ARE **BACK**, MASTER! AND SEE WHAT I HAVE BUILT--A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL BE SAFE DURING THE DAY! I HAVE THE LAYER OF GRAVE DIRT INSIDE!

YES! THANK YOU, TROGG! BUT THERE IS STILL **ANOTHER MATTER** WE MUST SETTLE!

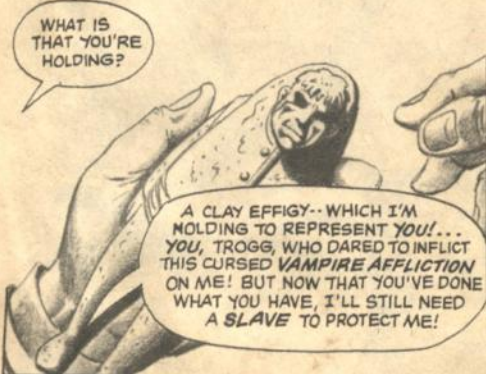


YOU MEAN MY OWN TRANSFORMATION... INTO A WEREWOLF! SO THAT I WILL BE BIG AND STRONG AND **ALMOST** UNKILLABLE -- LIKE YOU ONCE WERE!

A WEREWOLF LIKE ME... THAT PRESENTS A PROBLEM, TROGG... BUT NOT AN INSUR-MOUNTABLE ONE!



YOU SEE, BEING A WEREWOLF WAS **ONE** THING! I WAS FREE... I **WANTED** TO CHANGE... AND KILL... AND I COULD **CONTROL** MY THIRST! NOW I AM **TRAPPED** DURING THE DAY... AND A **SLAVE** TO MY OWN **CRAVING**!



WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE HOLDING?

A CLAY EFFIGY-- WHICH I'M MOLDING TO REPRESENT **YOU**!... YOU, TROGG, WHO DARED TO INFLICT THIS CURSED **VAMPIRE AFFLICTION** ON ME! BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU HAVE, I'LL STILL NEED A **SLAVE** TO PROTECT ME!



DURING MY TIME IN THE WEST INDIES, I BECAME A MASTER OF **VOODOO**, TROGG! OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANOTHER CREATURE PREYING ON VICTIMS RESERVED FOR **ME**!

THAT'S WHY I'M KILLING YOU... ONLY TO BRING YOU **BACK** AS MY SERVANT... TO **TRANSFORM** YOU...

CHOKES
N N-NO, M-MASTER!
GAAHHHHHH!



LET THAT BE A **LESSON**, LITTLE FRIENDS! NEVER GO PARTNERS WITH A **VAMPIRE**... AT LEAST NOT WITH ONE WHO'S AFRAID OF **COMPETITION**!

... INTO A LUMBERING, OBEDIENT AND MINDLESS **ZOMBIE**!



PROLOGUE:

YOU WAIT OUTSIDE THE BANK...WAIT AND WAIT...THEN FINALLY, YOU SEE HIM... THE PERFECT MARK... NERVOUS, OBVIOUSLY TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH SOME PERSONAL PROBLEM TO REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE UP TO...



DEFTLY, YOU REMOVE THE WALLET FROM HIS BACK POCKET...

YOU WALK UP BEHIND HIM "ACCIDENTALLY" BUMP INTO HIM...



BUT, AS YOU TRY TO SLIP AWAY...

WHA-?
MY WALLET!



OFFICER! THAT MAN HE BUMPED INTO ME! MY WALLET'S GONE! HE PICKED MY POCKET!

HUNH?

OH NO! JUST MY LUCK! WHY'D THERE HAVE TO BE A COP AROUND??

GOTTA GIT OUTTA HERE!
CAN'T AFFORD TO GIT TAKEN!

IF I GIT SENT BACK AGAIN, THIS TIME IT'LL BE FOR KEEPS!



FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY, "INFERNAL PRODUCTS" IS MAKING AVAILABLE THIS FANTASTIC NEW PRODUCT...

SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL PLASTIC WALLET. IT IS EMPTY NOW!



BUT, SIMPLY PLACE IT IN YOUR BACK POCKET FOR AN HOUR...



AND SUDDENLY...IT HAS A DOLLAR IN IT!

KEEP IT IN YOUR BACK POCKET FOR TWO HOURS, AND YOU'LL HAVE TWO DOLLAR BILLS, ETC. ETC.



THIS FANTASTIC WALLET ACTUALLY GROWS ITS OWN MONEY! AVAILABLE AT FINER DEPARTMENT STORES EVERYWHERE!

Charlie... Al...
...that athletic support...
...to meet any government...
...standards and are impossible to...
...are they leave the factory.

to be...
...these balls...

over the...
...he needed. It...
...much. At a...
...and illustra...
...tion. He...
...ago, a hor...
...today it...
...trend co...
...3-year...
...would...
...clashed...
...ried...
...take...
...ing...
...Y...

THE AMAZING MONEY-MAKING WALLET

ONLY 49¢

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
IF NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED

WARNING: Wallet must be kept on your person at all times.

Infernal Products

...N...
...ars...
...that...
...ward...
...Charlie's...
...not dog...
...the...
...not wor...
...probably...
...He con...
...other story...
...fatherless...
...ally." Inks...
...at conju...
...old practi...
...lighter st...
...a see-thro...
...ster strapp...
...the deal. The...
...seemed a li...
...way out he...
...asked if...
...stores. second

...Al began to tell me about ou...
...He was an "untouch...
...most com...
...Al"

...pect was a young married man with...
...two children. His name was Charlie...
...Hickman and he lifted weights as a...
...hobby. It is extremely hard to sell a...
...young, healthy guy on the idea that he...
...might be on his way out, especially if...
...type who could crush a Volkswa...
...and no time probing for...
...it with much.

...at all, and that the only in...
...consume in excess was "who...
...zero score as far as harmf...
...I thought to myself, "It tha...
...I tried again." "It tha...
...cycle out front!" He sho...
...and informed us that h...
...Oldsmobile with safe...
...Charlie looked like a...
...immortality. There...
...tures of our host ar...
...of them, he pose...
...most pose

MY WALLET!
I MUST HAVE IT
BACK IMMEDIATELY!

DON'T
WORRY, SIR!
HE AIN'T
GONNA
GET FAR!
NOT IF I CAN
HELP IT!

THEN, ROUNDING A
CORNER...

THAT OPEN
BASEMENT
WINDOW!

IF I CAN SLIP
DOWN IN THERE
BEFORE THE COP
GETS AROUND THE
CORNER, I'LL BE SAFE!

AND, A FEW SECONDS
LATER...

WHA?
WHERE'D
HE GO?
NOWHERE
IN SIGHT!

MUSTA
REALLY STARTED
RUNNIN'... GOT
AROUND THE
NEXT CORNER!
BETTER CHECK
IT OUT!

HOWEVER...

NOPE!
NOWHERE
AROUND!
I'VE LOST
HIM!

BETTER GET
BACK AND TELL
THAT GUY THE
BAD NEWS!

HE AIN'T GONNA
LIKE THIS! JUDGING
FROM THE WAY HE
ACTED, HE MUSTA HAD A
LOT OF DOUGH IN THE WALLET!

HMMPH!
ANOTHER COP!

WONDER WHY
THERE'VE BEEN
SO MANY
AROUND HERE
LATELY! HOPE
THEY'RE NOT
PLANNING
ANOTHER
DRUG RAID!

WHY DON'T
THEY JUST
LEAVE
PEOPLE
ALONE?

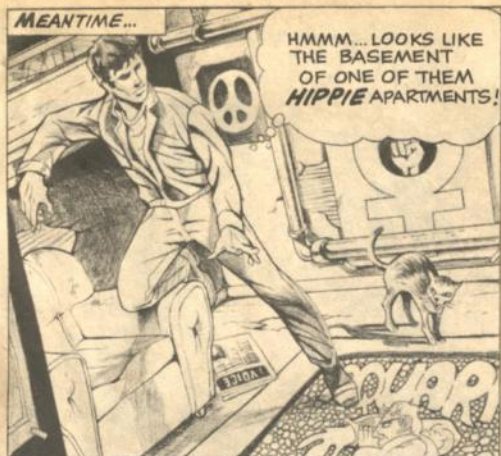
HUNH??
HE'S
GONE!

DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE! WHY
WOULD HE LEAVE?
HE SEEMED SO
EAGER TO GET
HIS WALLET BACK!

OH WELL...GUESS
IT TAKES ALL KINDS!

AND THE COP TURNS AND WALKS AWAY, FAILING
TO PLACE ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN THE
SMOLDERING PILE OF ASHES NEAR HIS FEET...





HMMM... LOOKS LIKE
THE BASEMENT
OF ONE OF THEM
HIPPIE APARTMENTS!

DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE THERE'S
ANYTHING
AROUND HERE
WORTH
STEALING,
BUT AT
LEAST...

WHA-?
SOMEBODY'S
OPENING
THE
DOOR!



I **THOUGHT**
I **HEARD**
SOMEONE **DOWN**
HERE!

DON'T
SCREAM, LADY!
I **DON'T** **MEAN**
YOU **ANY**
HARM!

I **WASN'T**
GOING
TO
SCREAM!

YOU'VE GOTTA
LISTEN TO ME! I'M
IN HERE BECAUSE I'M
HIDING FROM THE **COPS!**
THEY'RE AFTER ME
BECAUSE I **STOLE**
A **WALLET!**

I **DIDN'T** **MEAN** TO
STEAL IT, BUT I
HAD TO!

I **WAS**
HUNGRY!
NEEDED THE
MONEY TO **BUY**
SOME **FOOD!**
HAVEN'T **EATEN**
IN **DAYS!**

I **DON'T**
DIG THE **PIGS**
ANY **MORE** THAN
YOU **DO!**

NOW,
IF
YOU'RE
REALLY
SERIOUS
ABOUT
BEING
HUNGRY,
MAYBE
I CAN
GIVE
YOU
SOME
FOOD!

WILL YOU
KNOCK OFF THE
SNIVELING??
I **WASN'T**
ABOUT TO
TURN YOU IN!

PLEASE
DON'T
TURN
ME
IN!

HUNH??





HEY!
YOU'RE NOT
A **BAD KID!**
YOU **HIPPIE**
CHICKS
AREN'T BAD
AT ALL!
I COULD
GO...

OH NO!
LET'S HAVE
NONE OF
THAT!



NOW, STAY **RIGHT HERE!**
I'LL BE **RIGHT**
DOWN WITH SOME
FOOD!

WOW!
THAT'S
NICE
STUFF!



WELL, WELL! THINGS SEEM
TO HAVE WORKED OUT
PRETTY WELL... SHE'S
NOT GONNA **TURN ME IN!**
AND THAT MEANS I GOT
AWAY WITH THE WALLET!

THE **WALLET!** ALMOST
FORGOT ABOUT THAT!
NEVER **DID** GET A
CHANCE TO CHECK
IT OUT!



YOU PULL
IT OUT OF
YOUR
POCKET...
OPEN IT,
EXPECTING
TO FIND
A LARGE
WAD OF
BILLS...

WHA? ONLY
ONE DOLLAR??
THAT'S
ALL!

DOESN'T MAKE **SENSE!**
THAT **NO GOOD LITTLE**
FREAK, MAKING SUCH
A BIG FUSS OVER
ONE LOUSY
BUCK! HE ALMOST
GOT ME
ARRESTED!



THEN, AFTER STUFFING THE
DOLLAR INTO YOUR
POCKET...

WHY, THAT
ROTTEN
SCUM!

LOUSY
PENNY-
PINCHER!



OH WELL... AT LEAST,
I HAVEN'T BEEN
CAUGHT... OR
TURNED
IN...

OUGHT
TO BE
THANKFUL
FOR
THAT!

BUT THEN...

W-WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

FEELING
WEAK...GROGGY
...CAN HARDLY
STAND!



IT HAD BEGUN...
THE WARMTH...THE
HEAT...THE BURNING
...AND THE PAIN...
YOUR BODY IS
BURNING...BITS OF
YOU FALL FROM
YOUR BODY...THE
UNEXPECTED...THE
UNEXPLAINED...



YOU TRY TO SCREAM...BUT IT CATCHES IN
YOUR THROAT...YOU CAN MAKE NO
SOUND...



AND MOMENTS LATER, AS THE
GIRL RE-ENTERS...



HUNH?
WHERE'D
HE GO?

NOTHING HERE BUT THAT
SMOLDERING PILE
OF DUST...WHEREVER
THAT CAME FROM!
THIS PLACE SURE IS
A MESS! I'M ALWAYS
FINDING NEW JUNK
LYING AROUND!



BUT
WHERE'D...

OH WELL... MUST'VE
TAKEN OFF! GUESS
HE MUST'VE FIGURED
I WAS GONNA
TURN HIM IN!



SOME
FOLKS
DON'T
TRUST
NOBODY!

BUT **WE** TRUST **YOU**, DEAR READER...THAT'S WHY
WE'RE LETTING YOU IN ON THIS OFFER! **THE**
AMAZING MONEY MAKING WALLET IS STILL AVAILABLE!
WHY NOT **TRY** IT? WHAT OTHER PRODUCT CAN
GUARANTEE THAT EVEN IF YOU **LOSE** IT, YOU
CAN STILL HAVE A REAL **HOT TIME**!



END

TRANSYLVANIA: 1835 . . . OVER THE
TINY TOWN OF KARNSTEIN A STRANGE LIGHT
SOARS THROUGH THE SKY . . .



LOOK! UP IN
THE SKY!!

A GREAT
FIREBALL!
WHAT CAN
IT MEAN?

AN EVIL OMEN! THE DEVIL
HAS SENT IT TO BRING
DEATH AND DESTRUCTION
TO ALL OF US!!



THE FIREBALL CRASHES TO EARTH A FEW MILES FROM
KARNSTEIN AND SKIDS ALONG THE GROUND . . .



BEFORE FALLING INTO A SWAMPY
BOG AND SINKING BELOW THE SURFACE!



A SHAPELESS GASEOUS CREATURE
RISES FROM THE DAMAGED
SHIP TO SURVEY THE STRANGE
PLANET ON WHICH IT IS STRANDED!



* AN ANIMAL! LIMITED INTELLIGENCE, BUT IT
MIGHT BE THE DOMINANT LIFE-FORM HERE!
IF IT HAS A TECHNOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION
I MAY YET GET HOME AGAIN!



* I WILL ASSUME THIS CREATURE'S SHAPE AND SEARCH FOR ITS CIVILIZATION!



ANOTHER CREATURE!
THIS IS THE DOMINANT
LIFE FORM! I WILL MAKE
MYSELF APPEAR AS IT
DOES AND FOLLOW IT!



HEH-HEH, HORROR HOUNDS! BET YOU'RE GLAD I CAN'T CHANGE SHAPES LIKE THAT SPACE-THING IN THE STORY! THIS HIDEOUS MASK IS BAD ENOUGH, AND THIS TALE'S FEATURE CREATURE IS NO SHAPE TO JAPE! SO LETS OPEN OUR STARFUL PARCEL THAT ARRIVED BY...

SPACIAL DELIVERY

COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THIS INSTRUMENT OF THE DEVIL BEFORE IT CORRUPTS OUR COMMUNITY!

SPREAD OUT! IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE... HEY! WHO ARE YOU?

ME? I. I AM A STRANGER HERE! I CAME FROM ANOTHER VILLAGE! WHERE'S YOUR TOWN? I WISH TO... STOP FOR FOOD AND REST!



WE DON'T LIKE STRANGERS AROUND HERE... ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. BUT THERE'S AN INN IN TOWN WHERE YOU CAN STAY THE NIGHT! FOLLOW THE TRAIL BEHIND US!

THANK YOU! IF I CAN HELP YOU SOLVE ANY OF YOUR PROBLEMS, LET ME KNOW!



MY SHIP IS UNDER THAT LIQUID POOL... THEY WON'T FIND IT! HMMMM... THAT QUADRUPED IS FAR MORE MOBILE THAN THIS FORM I NOW HOLD! REGULATIONS FORBID BUT.....

ALONE ONCE MORE, THE OTHER-WORLDBLY BEING CONTINUES HIS FOREST WANDERINGS...





AH! THIS IS MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE FOR FAST TRAVEL!

OH MY GOD! THAT THAT MAN! HE'S A WEREWOLF!

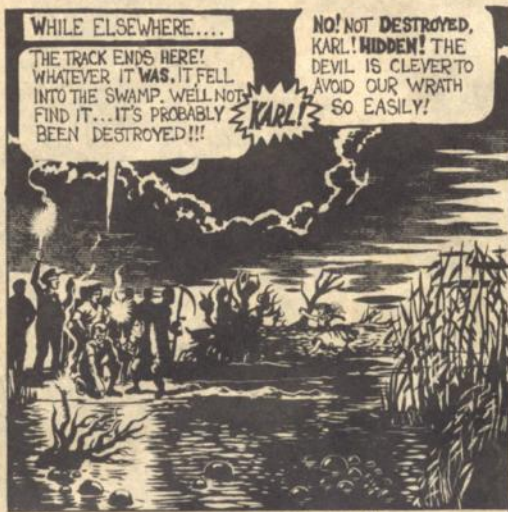


NOW THAT I'M HERE, I'D BETTER STAY IN THIS FORM SO THAT I'LL LOOK LIKE THE NATIVES... LORD!!!! WHAT A PRIMITIVE CIVILIZATION! I HOPE THEY AT LEAST KNOW WHAT ARGENTIUM IS!!!!

HIS BRIEF METAMORPHOSIS AS A WOLF FINISHED, THE ALIEN ENTERS THE QUANT, GOTHIC VILLAGE....



OH, WELL! IF I'M GOING TO BE STRANDED HERE INDEFINITELY, I'D BETTER GET SETTLED IN! THIS MUST BE THE DWELLING THEY TOLD ME TO COME TO! I HOPE THEY'LL ACCEPT ORIUM EXCHANGE-DISCS FOR ROOM AND BOARD....



WHILE ELSEWHERE....

THE TRACK ENDS HERE! WHATEVER IT WAS, IT FELL INTO THE SWAMP. WE'LL NOT FIND IT... IT'S PROBABLY BEEN DESTROYED!!!

NO! NOT DESTROYED, KARL! HIDDEN! THE DEVIL IS CLEVER TO AVOID OUR WRATH SO EASILY!

KARL!



MARIA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN TOWN WITH THE REST OF THE WOMEN!

I...I WAS WALKING... AND...I...I SAW A WEREWOLF!

A WEREWOLF! THE DEVIL IS AMONG US! WHO IS IT? WE MUST FIND AND KILL HIM BEFORE HE GOBBLES UP ALL OUR CHILDREN!

I DON'T... I...I DON'T KNOW! IT WAS DARK AND I COULDN'T SEE HIM!!!

YOU MUST REMEMBER! WE ARE ALL IN DIRE PERIL!!!

I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!

HANS! LET GO OF HER!





NOW TAKE IT EASY, HANS!
IF MARIA KNEW WHO THE
WEREWOLF WAS, I'M SURE
SHE'D TELL YOU! AS IT IS
WELL HAVE TO HUNT HIM
DOWN OURSELVES, BUT AT...



KRAAK
BOOM!



A STORM! AND
SO SUDDENLY!!
MORE OF THE
DEVIL'S WORK!

COME! WE MUST
GET BACK TO
THE VILLAGE,
BEFORE WE ALL
GET SOAKED AND
BECOME ILL!!!



VERY WELL! BUT TOMORROW WE
WILL COMB THE TOWN AND FOREST
AND GET THE WEREWOLF! MAY
ALMIGHTY GOD HELP US!!



THE NEXT DAY...

THESE "MEN" CERTAINLY ARE
FAMILIAR WITH CRUIM! GOLD...
THEY CALL IT... THAT ROOM
WAS INCREDIBLY COSTLY!



AHHH! THIS MUST BE THE
METALWORKER'S SHOP!



MAY I HELP
YOU, MEIN
HERR?

YES.... I SEEK...
UM... 7 GRAMS OF
ARGENTUM. DO YOU
HAVE ANY IN STOCK?



ARGENTUM?
NO... NO... I
DON'T BELIEVE
SO, MEIN HERR!

THESE IMPLEMENTS!
SO CRUDE AND UN-
REFINED, AND NOW
THERE IS NO ARGE-
NTIUM TO BE HAD! I
MAY BE IN FOR A
VERY LONG STAY!



I'M SORRY, MEIN
HERR! I DO, HOW-
EVER, HAVE SOME
VERY FINE SILVER,
IF YOU...

NO... ONLY 3 CHOICE:
ARGENTUM WILL
DO! THANK... YOU...



IF I AM TO REMAIN HERE FOR A LONG TIME, I HAD BETTER MAKE PLANS FOR JOINING THIS DISMAL SOCIETY. I MUST ALSO STUDY THE MINERALS OF THIS REGION...



KARL! LOOK! THE STRANGER WE SAW LAST NIGHT! HE IS THE FIEND! WE MUST GET THE OTHERS AND HUNT HIM DOWN! HURRY!



COMES EARLY EVENING...

I HAVE THE CONSECRATED SILVER BALLS FROM THE CHURCH WHICH WILL KILL THE WEREWOLF! WHERE SHALL WE SEARCH?

AT THE SWAMP WHERE THE HELLISH FIREBALL SANK! WHERE ELSE WOULD AN AGENT OF THE DEVIL LIVE?



END OF THE STORY? NOT BY A LONG SHOT, **SHROUD CROWD!** THERE'S A BIT MORE TO COME!



WHAT A WALLOPE! WHAT **INCREDIBLY HOSTILE PEOPLE!** THE PROJECTILES!



THEY'RE... HMMM! THEY'RE ARGENTUM! I WONDER HOW THOSE PEOPLE **KNEW** I NEEDED IT!



STRANGE WAY THEY HAVE OF DOING THINGS ON THIS PLANET!



REPAIRS COMPLETE! THANKS TO THOSE MAD PEOPLE AND THEIR ARGENTUM PROJECTILES!



LOOK! THE DEVIL'S MACHINE IS LEAVING! SHANTAN HAS **SEEN** HOW WE TREAT HIS MONSTERS AND FIENDS!

YA! DEATH TO ALL WEREWOLVES!



WHEN KARL WAS GOING HOME, HOWEVER, HE DID NOTICE THE **CRESCENT MOON**, WHICH TERRIBLY UPSET HIM... CONTRADICTED SOME OF THE THINGS HE **KNEW** ABOUT WEREWOLVES! LEFT HIM A LITTLE **ALIENATED!** BUT AT LEAST THE INTERSTELLAR MAILMAN FOUND AN ARGENTUM LINING IN HIS CLOUD!



A Chronicle!



ONCE-- BUT NO
MATTER WHEN--
THERE LIVED--NO
MATTER WHERE--
A MAN, WHOSE
NAME-- BUT
THEN I NEED NOT
THAT DECLARE.
HE-- WELL, HE HAD
BEEN BORN, AND SO
HE WAS ALIVE; HIS
AGE-- I DETAILS
SCORN-- WAS
SOMETHINGTY AND
FIVE.

DEAR,
DID YOU GET
THE
RAISE?

RAISE??

OH, THAT'S
RIGHT! I WAS
SUPPOSED TO ASK
FOR A RAISE!

I'M SORRY, DEAR!
I FORGOT ALL
ABOUT IT!

...BUT I DID
PICK UP SOME NEW
APPARATUS FOR MY
RESEARCH! IT WAS
ON SALE TOO!

BUT...
BUT YOU
PROMISED YOU'D
ASK FOR A
RAISE!

YOU'VE
BEEN PROMISING
FOR WEEKS!

WHEN ARE
YOU GOING TO STOP
THINKING ABOUT ONLY
YOURSELF?...
YOURSELF AND YOUR
STUPID RESEARCH?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING
TO DO SOMETHING
FOR US?

THIS
STUFF IS JUST
WHAT I NEED! MY
RESEARCH IS JUST
ABOUT FINISHED!

WE CAN'T GO
ON LIVING IN THIS
FIRE-TRAP LIKE THIS!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT!

HE LIVED--HOW
MANY YEARS I TRULY
CAN'T DECIDE;
BUT THIS ONE FACT
APPEARS: HE LIVED--
UNTIL HE DIED.

I'M VERY
CLOSE NOW!
ON THE THRESHOLD
OF MAKING A
GREAT
DISCOVERY!

AND ONCE I'M
THROUGH, I'LL
BE FAMOUS--
TRULY FAMOUS!

WHA-?

NO! IT
CAN'T BE!
SOMEBODY'S JUST
DONE WHAT I'VE
BEEN TRYING
TO DO!

ALL MY
WORK--MY
YEARS OF WORK--
IT'S BEEN FOR
NOTHING!

WHAT
CAN I
DO?

MY WHOLE
PURPOSE FOR
LIVING IS
GONE!

STRANGE!
I NEVER REALLY
NOTICED BEFORE
THIS APARTMENT IS
SO... SO SHABBY!
EVERYTHING'S BROKEN
DOWN! IT'S A
RAT'S NEST!

...AND
THAT'S WHY
I--

THIS IS
NO PLACE FOR
MY SON TO GROW
UP! AT LEAST, I
CAN DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT!

A RAISE!?
YOU'VE GOT
TO BE
KIDDING!



HE DIED, I HAVE AVERRED, BUT CANNOT PROVE IT WAS SO, BUT THAT HE WAS INTERRED, AT ANY RATE, I KNOW.



CAN'T FIND A JOB ANYWHERE! BUT... BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!



CAN'T JUST LET MY FAMILY STARVE! I'VE NEGLECTED THEM FOR TOO LONG AS IT IS! WE NEED MONEY--SO WE CAN MOVE!

I FANCY HE'D A SON, I HEAR HE HAD A WIFE: PERHAPS HE'D MORE THAN ONE, I KNOW NOT, ON MY LIFE!



BUT WHETHER HE WAS RICH, OR WHETHER HE WAS POOR, OR NEITHER-- BOTH-- OR WHICH, I CANNOT SAY, I'M SURE.





NO!
I CAN'T GIVE
UP! NOT NOW THAT
I'VE GOT WHAT
THEY NEED!



" I CAN'T RECALL HIS NAME, OR WHAT
HE USED TO DO: BUT THEN--WELL, SUCH IS
FAME! 'T WILL GO SERVE ME AND YOU.
" AND THAT IS WHY I THUS ABOUT THIS
UNKNOWN MAN WOULD FAIN CREATE
A FUSS TO RESCUE, IF I CAN.
" FROM DARK OBLIVION'S BLOW, SOME RECORD
OF HIS LOT: BUT, AH! I DO NOT KNOW
WHO--WHERE--WHEN--WHY--OR WHAT.



" IN THIS BRIEF PEDIGREE A MORAL
WE SHOULD FIND -- BUT WHAT IT OUGHT
TO BE HAS QUITE ESCAPED MY MIND!
-- ANONYMOUS

ESCAPE FROM NOWHERE WORLD

BUT ANOTHER LITTLE BIRDY'S COME ALONG IN HER PLACE...

Somewhere, they say, there is a nowhere world. And on it, a young girl is wandering, searching desperately for some sign of life or hope...

WHAT A BLEAK...

...BARREN WORLD!

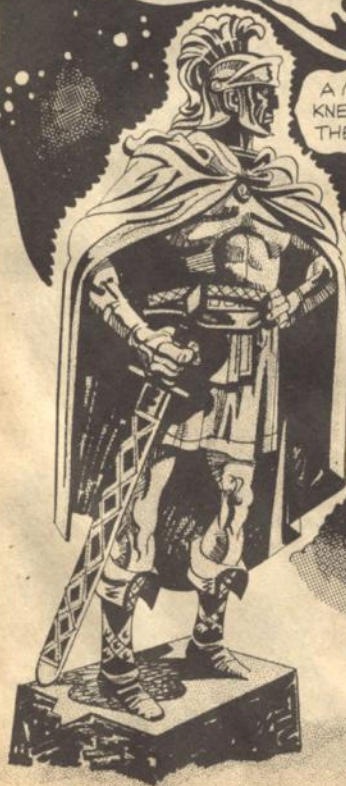
IF ONLY I COULD FIND SOMEONE TO HELP ME.

I'VE BEEN LOST FOR SO LONG....

WHA--!

A MAN! KNEELING IN THE SAND!

TOUCH HIM NOT!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HE IS GONE, WHY DOESN'T HE MOVE OR SPEAK? LOVELY VISITOR....

"GONE WHERE YOU WILL NEVER FIND HIM. HE IS LOCKED INSIDE HIS MIND, NEITHER THE HOT WINDS OF *NOWHERE WORLD*—NOR YOUR SOFT HANDS—CAN TOUCH HIM. LET HIM BE. PERHAPS HIS DREAMS ARE STRANGE DREAMS, BUT THEY CAN BE NO WORSE THAN THE REALITY HE ONCE KNEW. **HE CAN NEVER DIE.** FOR CENTURIES, HE HAS NOT MOVED FROM THAT ONE SPOT. AND FOR CENTURIES, I, WHO AM MADE OF STONE, HAVE SILENTLY GUARDED HIM."

BUT WHAT CAUSED ALL THIS TO BE?

"WHEN THE UNIVERSE WAS YOUNG, WE WERE IMPRISONED HERE UNJUSTLY. FIRST I CAME, THEN AHZID... HERE. **MY** BODY WAS TURNED TO STONE BY THOSE WHO HATED ME. I KNEW THERE WAS NO ESCAPE... BUT AHZID WAS NOT A MAN OF STONE! HE BELIEVED HE COULD ESCAPE. HIS ONLY CHANCE WAS A HUGE BIRD CALLED *THE BIRD OF HOPE*. FOR SOME REASON, IT HAD CHOSEN TO HIBERNATE HERE. HE HOPED THAT WHEN IT FLEW, HE WOULD FLY WITH IT, RIDING ITS BACK TO FREEDOM..."

"BUT THE BIRD OF HOPE LEFT QUIETLY IN THE NIGHT AS AHZID SLEPT! I CALLED TO HIM BUT HE COULD NOT HEAR. I WATCHED HELPLESSLY AS ALL THAT MY FRIEND LIVED FOR, FLEW AWAY INTO THE STARLIT SKY..."

"WHEN THE BIRD LEFT, HIS HOPE LEFT WITH IT—AS WELL AS HIS SANITY! HE HAS KNELT THERE EVER SINCE. ONLY THE FAINTEST TRACES OF THE BIRD'S IMPRESSION ARE LEFT! IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU WILL SEE THEM. BUT LOOK WITH REVERENCE—THOSE PATHETIC MARKS ARE ALL THAT REMAINS OF A MAN'S LIFE."



WHY, THAT'S HORRIBLE! IT'S BEYOND BELIEF!

LOOK!



HE STIRS! HE STIRS AT LAST—AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES!



GNNNNHHH...OH!!

THE BIRD OF HOPE! IT'S GONE! NO! NO!..

THE BIRD!



EVEN IN MY DEATH-LIKE SLEEP, I HEARD YOUR VOICES! I THOUGHT PERHAPS—(CHOKES)—PERHAPS I WAS FREE!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND LISTEN TO ME! PERHAPS YOU CAN BE FREE!

MY NAME IS JANEEN. I CAME FROM BEYOND....A WORLD AS SURELY IN DESPAIR AS YOUR OWN. I HAVE NO ONE AND KNOW NOT THE TOUCH OF A MAN!

TOGETHER, WE CAN KNOW FREEDOM. IS IT POSSIBLE? I HAVE NEVER KNOWN IT!

GREAT STATUE!
DID YOU HEAR?
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
SHE SPEAKS OF
FREEDOM!
FREEDOM AT
LAST!

YES, AHZID, I
HEARD. BUT I
AM MADE OF
STONE AND CAN-
NOT KNOW HOPE
AS YOU CAN!

TO THINK--THOSE WHO IMPRISONED US HERE
HAVE BEEN DEAD NOW MANY THOUSANDS OF
YEARS! THEIR VILE DEEDS LONG FORGOTTEN
HISTORY--AS ARE THE NOBLE CAUSES FOR
WHICH WE FOUGHT. AND YET--WE LIVE ON, THOUGH
EVEN THE WORLDS WE FOUGHT TO SAVE MAY
NOW BE MERELY COSMIC DUST!

COME, MAN
CALLED AHZID...
COME AWAY...

COME, AHZID, YOU HAVE
WAITED TOO LONG FOR
THIS MOMENT! WE
WERE BOTH LOST
CREATURES...MOVING
IN WORLDS OF DARK-
NESS...TOGETHER, WE
COULD FIND OUR WAY
TO LIGHT!

SILHOUETTED AGAINST
THE STATUE, THE TWO
KNOW LOVE...AS
NEVER BEFORE...

JANEEN, YOUR NAME IS
LOVELY. IT HAS BEEN A
LONG TIME SINCE I
HAVE HEARD A
WOMAN'S NAME...
OR THE SOUND
OF HER VOICE.

CAN WE EVER
LEAVE HERE
AHZID? ARE THERE
OTHER WORLDS...
EVEN IF ONLY OF
THE SPIRIT? IS
THERE A WORLD
THAT IS NOT
DARK...AND
IN
DESPAIR?

POOR AHZID...
WE WERE BOTH
SO ALONE...BOTH
SO LIKE THAT
STATUE....

HOLDING YOU,
I KNOW DESPAIR
IS ONLY A FILMY
GOSSAMER
CURTAIN WAIT-
ING TO BE
TORN
APART!

I LOVE HIM,
**GREAT
STATUE,**
I LOVE HIM
CALLED AHZID...
AND HE LOVES
ME.

CAN WE TAKE HIM WITH US, AHZID?
HE STOOD WATCH OVER YOU, KEPT
THE FLAME OF LIFE ENKINDLED.

HELP ME
CARRY
HIM,
AHZID.



HOW LONG SINCE I FELT
THE TOUCH OF A WOMAN'S
HAND ON MY FACE?
LONGER EVEN THAN AHZID!
BUT WHAT LOVE CAN A
MAN OF STONE GIVE...OR
EXPECT? AHZID, TO THINK
I ONCE PITIED YOU!

THE TIME FOR
FREEDOM
HAS COME.

LET ME
GO, MY
FRIENDS.

I WILL HOLD
YOU BACK!
WEIGH YOU
DOWN WITH
ALL THAT IS
PAST.

LOVE HAS THE
STRENGTH TO CARRY
YOU, **GREAT
STATUE**—

LET
ME
GO!

STRONG
LOVE
SUCH AS
OURS!

BUT IT MUST NOT
BE WEIGHED DOWN
WITH PAST GUILTS...
PAST SORROWS!

WITHOUT
ME, YOU
WILL FIND
WHAT YOU
ARE
SEARCHING
FOR.

NO!!





EVERYTHING IS BECOMING SO DARK AND OMINOUS... LIKE IT WAS BEFORE... I WANDERED ALONE IN DARKNESS LIKE THIS. **HURRY, AHZID!**

IT IS ONLY THE COMING OF NIGHT, DARK AND HEAVY NIGHT!

AHZID! I AM A GREAT BURDEN. PLEASE LEAVE ME STAY. GO ON YOURSELVES. I AM ONLY A STATUE.



NO, WITH FREEDOM SO CLOSE... I CAN FEEL IT... WE HAVE TO TRY... EVEN HARDER. THE SKY WILL BREAK... ALLOW US ENTRANCE. IT HAS TO.

THE DARK WINDS OF DESPAIR ARE UPON US, AHZID.

USE YOUR SWORD, **GREAT STATUE!** CUT US A PATH THROUGH THE DARKNESS!



NO! NO! NOT TO COME SO CLOSE AND FAIL AGAIN! PLEASE, **GREAT STATUE**, BRING LIGHT FROM DARKNESS, CUT SWATHS INTO THE AIR!

I AM BUT A STATUE, AHZID! DO NOT ASK ME WHAT I CANNOT DO. I AM THE CAUSE OF THIS PAIN! MY STONE BODY IS TOO HEAVY FOR THE TWO OF YOU. I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE....



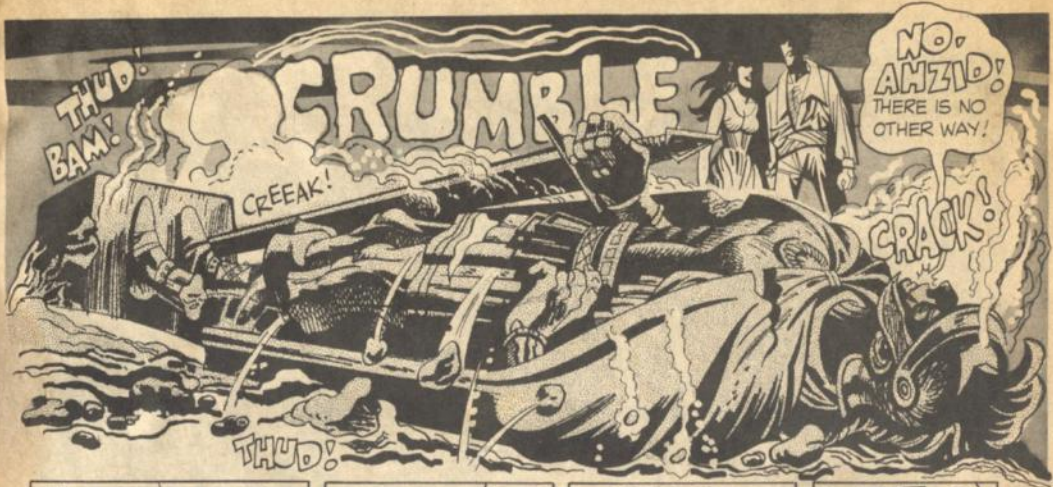
SMALL, ALMOST UNSEEN PIECES OF THE STATUE CHIP AWAY...

MUST BRING WHAT POWERS I HAVE TO BE! MUST WILL MYSELF... TO CRUMBLE APART...

RUN AHEAD, AHZID! IS THERE NO WAY TO ESCAPE? ARE WE TO WALK IN DARKNESS... ALONE, SPERATE FROM EACH OTHER?

GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS! AHZID! THE **GREAT STATUE!** HE'S FALLEN!

MY FRIEND! NO! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY! WAIT!



NO! PLEASE, GREAT STATUE! THERE HAS TO BE SOME OTHER WAY! THERE HAS TO BE! PLEASE!



IF I MUST DIE LET IT BE AS A MAN WHO CAN FEEL AND LOVE AND CARE AND HOPE--NOT AS A GREAT COLD STONE MONSTROSITY!

AND IF I MUST DIE, LET IT BE FOR THE IDEALS FOR WHICH I ONCE LIVED! LET IT BE MY FINAL VICTORY OVER THE FORCES OF OPPRESSION...



OH MY GOD! MY FRIEND! PLEASE!

THE SWORD, WOMAN, TAKE THE SWORD. IT WILL CUT THE SWATH AHZID WANTED. IT WILL BRING YOU FREEDOM FOR FREEDOM AWAITS!



LET IT BE NOW!



HE SAVED OUR LIVES! WE ARE FREE, AHZID. I CAN FEEL THE SKY PARTING LIKE SOME GREAT SEA!



GOODBYE, GREAT STATUE! I WILL SHED MANY TEARS FOR YOU. THAT IS ALL THAT I CAN GIVE, THOUGH YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE!



HURRY, AHZID! OUR ESCAPE! THERE IS A PATH NOW. HURRY!

ON NOWHERE WORLD, THE BROKEN BODY OF THE GREAT STATUE CLINGS TO WHAT FEW MOMENTS OF LIFE IT HAS LEFT, HIS VOICE RINGS OUT, TO BE HEARD BY NO ONE...



SOMEDAY MEN FROM OTHER WORLDS WILL COME TO THIS ACCURSED PLACE! THEY WILL FIND MY BODY HERE, THEY WILL THINK ME TRULY A STATUE, CARVED BY SOME MASTER CRAFTSMAN, THEY WILL SAY, "OBVIOUSLY THE PRODUCT OF SOME LONG DEAD CIVILIZATION." BUT YOU, AHZID— IF YOU LIVE AND PROSPER... PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL THEM (CHOKE) THAT I WAS NOT ALWAYS MADE OF STONE!

YOU CAN TELL THEM (GASP)...



THAT I WAS ONCE A MAN!



AND THEN, THERE IS ONLY SILENCE....



WELL, THAT'S THE WAY THE COOKIE CRUMBLES! KIND OF CRACKS YOU UP, DOESN'T IT?

HEAVY, MAN!



THE END



NOW HOW ABOUT A FETISH FABLE, ALL YOU FULL MOON FREAKS? BUT FIRST, I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE WHILE YOU HURRY OUT TO GET YOUR OLD WOLF-SKINS OUT OF STORAGE. YOU'LL NEED THEM WHERE OL' UNC' LEADS YOU IN SEARCH OF THE...

ICE WOLF



SOOT-COLORED SKY WASHED OVER THE COLD, LATE EVENING SIBERIAN LANDSCAPE. IN THE PALE MOON-REFLECTED SNOW THE HUNTERS CROUCHED, JAVELINS POISED. FROM A DISTANCE CAME A SOUND, A FAINT YELPING. THE HUNTERS BENT FORWARD SLIGHTLY, AS THE PREY CAME NEARER.

GARY KAUFMAN



AAA OOO OOO OOO

THE SCENT OF FLESH HAD ATTRACTED THE GRAY ONES, AND AS THEY TOOK THE BAIT...

ARCED SPEARS FLASHED ACROSS THE SKY, TO SINK STONE HEADS INTO WARM FURRED BACKS!

INSTANTLY, THE VICTORIOUS HUNTERS SPRANG!



FLINT KNIVES SLASHED AT THE STRUGGLING ENEMY!



HAMMERS CRUSHED THE BRITTLE SKULLS, FINISHING THE KILL!



THE WOLF MEAT WAS GOOD,
BUT THERE WAS NO CHEER...



FOR THE LAST OF THE WOLF
PACKS WAS NOW GONE, AND SOON
STARVATION WOULD COME!



THE SHAMAN RAISED THE TOTEM OF
THE **WHITE WOLF** TO CALL IN THE
HUNTERS.



TO END THE HUNGER AND RETURN THE GAME THEY PAID HOMAGE TO
THE YELLOWED-BONE TOTEM, MAGIC WAS IN THE AIR AS LIGHTS-OF-
FIRE EXPLODED AND FRENZIED DANCERS CHANTED LIKE HOUNDS.



MANY JAVELINS STRUCK THE
STUFFED-BEAST TARGETS.
IT WAS A GOOD SIGN!



AND THE SHAMAN SPOKE OF A
VISION. HE HAD SEEN WOLVES,
FAR TO THE NORTH.



THE HUNTERS QUIT THEIR OLD FIELDS AND BEGAN THE TREK FARTHER NORTH, INTO THE ICE COUNTRY. HERE WERE SHATTERED TREES AND SNOW...



BUT NO TRACKS WERE FOUND. EVEN THE SNOW-RABBIT SHUNNED THIS FROZEN LAND.



NO HOPE—THIS WHITE LAND WAS **BARREN!**

NO TRACKS WERE FOUND, AND THE **HUNGER** GREW!



NIGHT: ONE SLEEPLESS HUNTER, NIGHT FANG, WANDERED ALONE.



A VOICE SEEMED TO SPEAK TO HIM. "WOLF!" IT SAID.



AND AGAIN HE HEARD IT, "WOLF!"
"I KILL WOLF!" HE SHOUTED!



"NIGHT FANG KILL WOLF!" HE REPEATED. BUT IT SAID, "NO!"



"YOU HAVE NOT KILLED WOLF
TODAY OR YESTERDAY," IT SAID!



...AND HE KNEW IT WAS SO.
"I WILL FIND!" HE ANSWERED. "I AM
WOLF HUNTER!"

"YOU WILL NOT FIND WOLF FOR
THEY HAVE GONE, BUT **YOU**
ARE WOLF! YOU MUST FIND
YOUR FOOD!"





"I AM WOLF," THOUGHT NIGHT FANG!

THERE, IN THE ORB'S PASTEL GLOW, A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION OCCURRED. THE FROZEN LANDSCAPE REMAINED UNCHANGED, BUT NIGHT FANG KNEW THAT HE WAS DIFFERENT, A *NEW* BEING.



NIGHT FANG INHALED DEEPLY... WATCHING HIS CHEST SWELL.

HIS TONGUE MOVED ABOUT, AND HE FELT FANGS.



HE BIT INTO HIS LIP, AND HIS NEW FANGS BROUGHT **BLOOD**. AND HIS TONGUE TASTED **HUMAN BLOOD**. AND HIS HUNGER GREW WITH THE TASTE OF **FOOD**.

RETURNING TO THE CAVERN WHERE THE OTHERS SLEPT, HE NOTICED A CHANGE IN HIS VISION—OR DID HE ONLY *IMAGINE* IT?



HIS SIGHT WAS KEEN NOW, AND IT WAS A *GOOD* CHANGE.



AT DAWN THE HUNTERS ROSE AND CONTINUED THE SEARCH ACROSS FIELDS OF SNOW.



BUT NO TRACKS WERE FOUND. HUNGER GREW!

NIGHT FANG KNEW THEY WOULD FIND NO PREY IN THIS BLEAK NORTHERN LAND. BUT HUNGER TORMENTED HIM, AND THE FUTILE SEARCH ANGERED HIM!



NEARBY STALKED A LONE HUNTER. AND NIGHT FANG COULD SMELL **FOOD!**



ONE HUNTER WAS ABSENT THAT GRAY EVENING AS THE BAND GATHERED IN THEIR ICY LODGINGS. NIGHT FANG DID NOT SPEAK.

THE FOLLOWING DAY BROUGHT NO BETTER LUCK. ANOTHER OF THEIR NUMBER WAS MISSING AND NIGHT FANG WAS NOT HUNGRY.



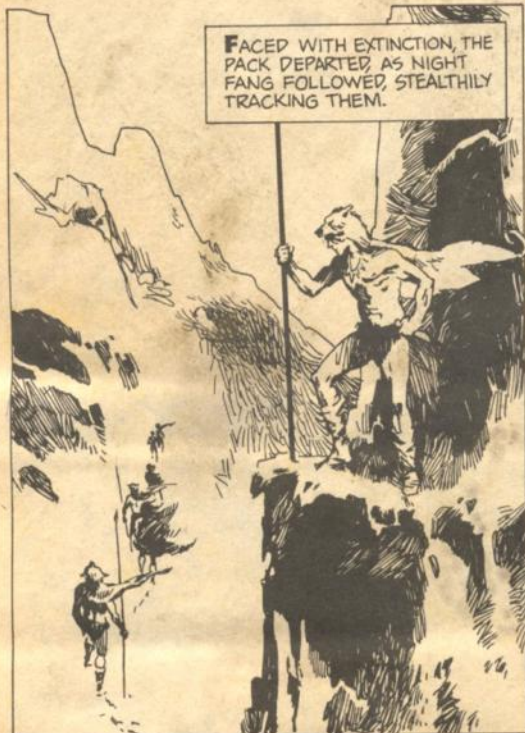


HE KEPT HIMSELF ALOOF FROM THE OTHERS, FOR HE WAS NOT OF THE PACK NOW.

WHILE THE PACK DIED, HE GREW!



WHILE THE OTHERS STARVED, HE WAS BEING NOURISHED!



FACED WITH EXTINCTION, THE PACK DEPARTED AS NIGHT FANG FOLLOWED, STEALTHILY TRACKING THEM.



ATTACKING A STRAGGLER IN THE SNOW, HE THOUGHT, "I KNOW *THIS* ONE!" AND A NEED AROSE IN HIM, FOR THIS ONE WAS HIS *WOMAN*!

ALONE, THEY LIVED
AMONG THE SILENT
CRAGS AND CREVICES OF
THIS FROZEN
WORLD...



BUT HE SOON TIRED OF HER,
FOR SHE WAS ONLY HUMAN,
WHILE HE WAS **WOLF!**

AND THE SHAMAN CALLED DOWN
MANY AN OATH UPON HIM, AND
DESCENDED, STAFF RAISED ABOVE
HIS HEAD.



AND HE WAS GROWING **HUNGRY!**



AS HE SMASHED HER SKULL
HE WAS PRENCHED IN A SCARLET
SPRAY OF DELICIOUS FOOD.

NIGHT FANG FOUGHT SAVAGELY
FOR POSSESSION OF THE DAMNING
WHITE TOTEM OF HIS FORMER
BAND.



WHILE FEASTING, A TALL FIGURE
CAME UPON HIM. THE SHAMAN
SHOUTED FROM A RIDGE.



SOON THE OLD MAGICIAN WAS
BEATEN DOWN, A GRAY MASS
OOZING FROM HIS CRANIUM!
NIGHT FANG NOW HELD THE
BLOODY TOTEM, AND HE CURSED
THE EVIL DEVICE!



THEN A SHARP HOWL CAME ROLLING ACROSS THE FROZEN HILLS. NIGHT FANG LISTENED.



"A WOLF!" HE THOUGHT. "I MUST JOIN MY BROTHERS!" AND HE CAST OFF THE HELM OF THE PROUD WOLF HUNTERS.



SNOW FLEW FROM HIS HEELS AS HE RACED OVER THE HILLS, SEEKING THE HOWLING WOLF...



SEEKING HIS OWN *KIND!*

HE SOON DISAPPEARED OVER A SLOPE... BUT THEN...



A CRY WAS HEARD!



AND HIS CARCASS WAS DRAGGED TO A DISTANT PEAK!

STEPPING ONTO THE BODY, A GREAT WOLF, WHITE AS THE SNOW, SHATTERED THE COLD NIGHT AIR WITH A TERRIBLE HOWL!



THEN, TURNING, THE CANINE BEGAN TEARING FIERCELY AT BITS OF FLESH.



WELP... THAT'S THE CHILLING CONCLUSION TO NIGHT FANG AND THIS ISSUE! TILL NEXT TIME, COOL IT!

END



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