



**BELA LUGOSI'S**

**\$4.99 #1**

# **TALES FROM THE GRAVE™**



*Basil Gogos*

**FIRST BONE CHILLING ISSUE!**







\$4.99

#1

# BELA LUGOSI'S TALES FROM THE GRAVE



FIRST  
BONE-  
CHILLING  
ISSUE!





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# BELA LUGOSI'S

## TALES FROM THE GRAVE

*Basil Gogos*

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# A STRANGELY ISOLATED PLACE

I bid you welcome.

Listen closely.

It is often  
beneath the  
full moon's  
gaze that  
things go bump  
in the night.

Ah, yes.  
There's one  
now.

Can you hear it?



It throbs within the chest of a broken man. A man shattered by an act of inextinguishable betrayal.



For decades he has languished in total isolation -- railing against the evils of his memory. Against the woman. Against the toxin now flowing through his veins.

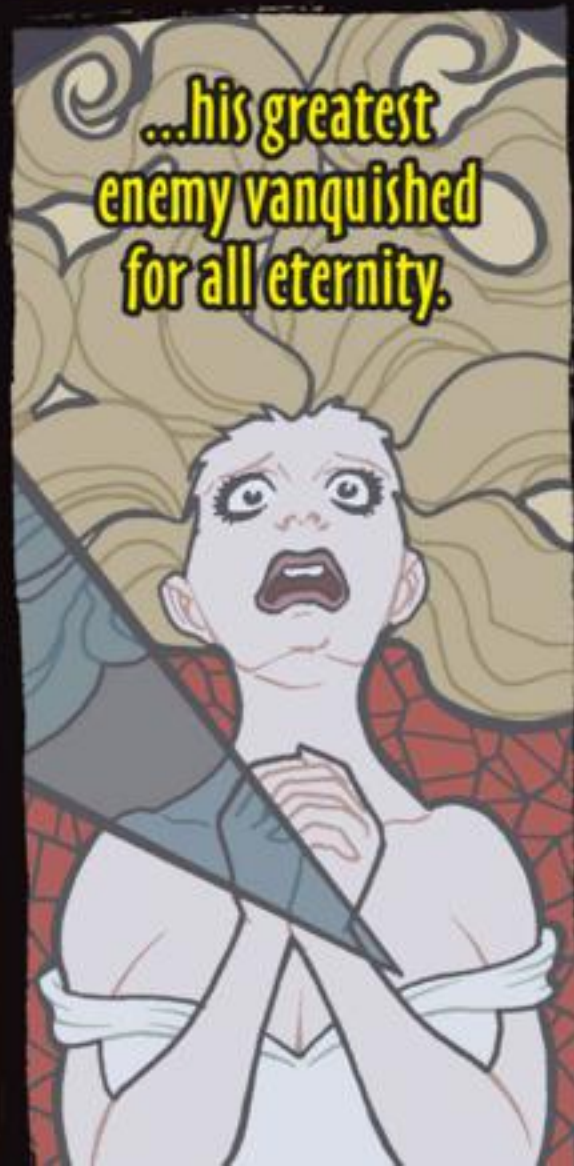
Until tonight.



Tonight -- beneath the unflinching gaze of the harvest moon -- his untold years of torment will finally come to an end...



...his greatest enemy vanquished for all eternity.





From the darkest corner of the outside world, this man unearthed a tome -- an unspeakable thing of equally unspeakable power. For within its stale, unholy pages pulsed the alchemies with which to birth a monster.

Not one monster, rather.  
But any he so desired.

Dead but dreaming beneath the ink and tattered parchment, the fabled horrors of the earth now trembled -- awaiting the practiced invocation of his withered fingertips. And so he called to them --

-- summoning not one, but three -- each a perfect, unfaltering visage of ancient terror. The original children of the night.

The vampire -- its great, leathery wings beating against the icy wind would suck the very blood from her heart.

The werewolf -- its matted fur bristling with the delicious scent of fear -- would rip the very sinew from her bones.

And the zombie -- undying and inhuman -- would chew away the last remaining thoughts from her damnable, treacherous mind.



And so it was predicted by inks as old as time. Like a mother's cry, three peals of deafening thunder were to herald the arrival of his minions. But then...

there was only one.



**KRAKKA-BOOOOOM!**

That is when he heard it.



**SKISH**

The sound in the parlor.



The creaking at the stair.



The labored breathing just beyond his study door.





But this simply couldn't be. He'd done everything right.  
Down to the last blasphemous word, he'd done it right.



Or had he?

Vengeful he was, in all certainty.  
A sorcerer, however, he was not.



The shadow at his door agreed.



**BRRIINGGG!**





*Phillip. It's  
Elizabeth.*

*Phillip?  
Damn it,  
are you  
there?*

*No. You're never there, are you? Not  
even today. Not even for your own son's  
funeral.*

Over the years, the poison had spread —  
clouding even the innocent faces of his children,  
now nothing more than echoes.

*He's dead,  
Phillip. And  
you never  
said goodbye.*

Painful echoes of the demon that abandoned him,  
leaving naught but a shattered heart in her wake.

*YOU  
NEVER SAID  
GOODBYE!*

She had ruined him.

She had ruined everything.






From the depths of legend he had  
summoned three beasts—

— yet forced them  
through a single door.

Enter the amalgam --  
summoned of darkness  
and twisted by  
vengeance —

— brought forth to  
vanquish his single  
greatest enemy.




An enemy with whom  
he's been acquainted  
all his life.

It was me.

It was  
always  
me.






It usually is.

I bid you take  
heed, wary  
traveler.

Yes.

YEEAAAAAGGGHHH...

Strange things do  
happen in the isolated  
places of the earth.

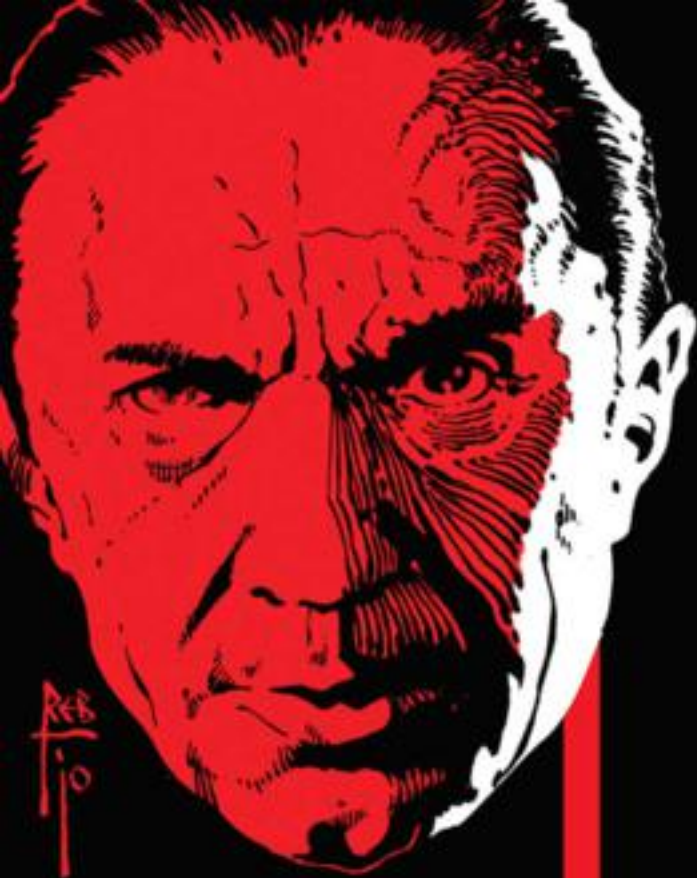


Still there is no place so  
strange -so isolated -- as the  
dark and unknown corners  
of the soul. That is where  
we fear to tread.

That is where the  
monsters are born.

end





# BELA IS BACK!

As the Bauhaus song reminds us, Bela Lugosi's dead. But, though he left this realm over fifty years ago, like the undead vampire he played on the screen, Lugosi will never truly die.

He became forever linked with the weird and the supernatural when he captured the world's attention with his hypnotic portrayal of Dracula in 1931. All these decades later, he still has horror fans mesmerized. We here at Monsterverse have been under Lugosi's spell since those monster-crazed days of the '60s when television brought the classic Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolf Man and scores more films to a new generation of young fans who have now come to be known as "Monster Kids". To us, the names Lugosi, Karloff, Chaney and Atwill were almost as well known as John, Paul, George and Ringo (members of a little band that was also becoming popular at that time).

Although horror films have changed and evolved (mutated?) much since the early days of the movies, Bela Lugosi continues to be recognized as one of the icons of horror. The comic you now hold is a result of our love for the classic horror films of stars like Bela Lugosi and our love for the great horror comics of the past. We have attempted to carry on that tradition with BELA LUGOSI'S TALES FROM THE GRAVE. We have also sought to capture Lugosi's strange and magnetic presence in comic book form and add something new and different to the Lugosi legend. It's too bad we can't capture his unique voice and accent on paper, but we're working on that too!

Bringing Bela back for this new series has been a genuine labor of love and we are extremely proud of this premiere issue, as we think Lugosi himself would be. We are exceedingly grateful to all of the contributing artists and writers who made this comic possible. My thanks to my friend Basil Gogos for allowing us to use his beautiful Lugosi portrait on our first cover, through the kind permission of its owner, Rob Zombie.

Our special thanks to Lugosi Enterprises and the Lugosi family for their participation and support in this effort. Working with Lugosi's son, Bela G. Lugosi, and his granddaughter, Lynne Sparks, has been a very pleasant and rewarding experience. If you are a connoisseur of fine wines, you will be interested to know that the Lugosi family has launched the Bela Lugosi Signature Wine series. For more information check out [www.lugosiwines.com](http://www.lugosiwines.com).

And of course, our thanks to you the readers. Whether you're a fan of Lugosi's classic films or you know him only from his appearances in the movies of Ed Wood, or you are simply a fan of good horror comics, we bid you welcome and hope that you enjoy BELA LUGOSI'S TALES FROM THE GRAVE. Look for more great horror comics from Monsterverse in the near future!

Kerry Gammill - publisher

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