

GOLD
KEY

BORIS KARLOFF



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SEPTEMBER

BORIS KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY



THE MIND MONSTER—a creature as
terrifyingly real as the hatred that spawned it!

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Tales of Mystery

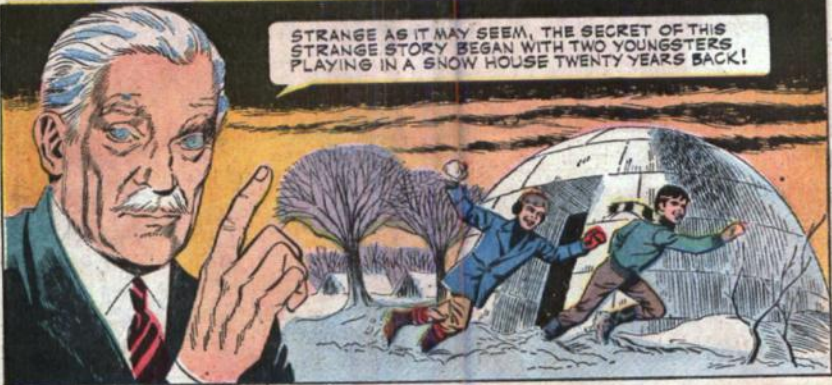
MIND MONSTER

THE THING... IT'S OUT TO DESTROY
MY BEST FRIEND! IS THERE
NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP IT?



YES, MY FRIENDS, THERE *IS* SOMETHING ROBERT PERRY
CAN DO! FOR THE MONSTER ATTACKING HIS PARTNER
CARL KING CAN BE DRIVEN AWAY, DISINTEGRATED LIKE
A SAND STATUE, BUT ONLY IF BOB PERRY IS WILLING
TO MAKE THE SUPREME EFFORT!

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, THE SECRET OF THIS STRANGE STORY BEGAN WITH TWO YOUNGSTERS PLAYING IN A SNOW HOUSE TWENTY YEARS BACK!



THEY WERE THE BEST OF PALS, CARL KING AND BOB PERRY...AND NEITHER ONE COULD REALIZE WHAT REACTIONS A PLAYFUL PRANK WAS TO HAVE ON THEIR FUTURE LIVES...

HE-Y-Y!
CARL!
WHATCHA
DOIN'?

YOU'RE TRAPPED,
BOBBY! HA! HA!

OH, IT WAS GREAT FUN FOR LITTLE CARL AS BOBBY CRIED OUT IN FRIGHT...

LET ME OUT! I-I'M
SUFFOCATING!

DON'T WORRY,
BOBBY! I'LL
PIG YOU OUT...
I WAS JUST
KIDDING!

YES, CARL WAS JUST KIDDING! AND AS THE YEARS WENT BY THEY REMAINED GOOD FRIENDS...GOING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER...AND THEN JOINING IN BUSINESS...

ARE YOU GOING TO JUST SNIFF THAT INCENSE ALL DAY, BOB? HOW ABOUT HELPING ME STORE THE NEW SHIPMENT!



ALL THE WONDERFUL
CURIOS THE WORLD
OVER WE SELL HERE,
CARL--BUT HOW
LITTLE WE **REALLY**
KNOW ABOUT THEM!

A BUDDHA...
BLACK MAGIC
VOODOO POLLS...
SNAKES OF
EVIL FROM
INDIA!





SUPPENLY, AS CARL LOCKS THE DOOR ON HIS PARTNER, THE FRAME VIBRATES...A MOANING SEEMS TO FILL THE GROTESQUE HELMET...



CLANG! OH HAAH HEE!

UN-LOCK IT! LET ME OUT, YOU IDIOT!

BOB'S THRASHING BODY CRASHES THE MAIDEN TO THE FLOOR AND...

BOB, STOP SHAKING IT! I CAN'T HOLD IT!



Y-YOU DID THAT DELIBERATELY... YOU LOCKED ME IN LIKE YOU TRAPPED ME IN THAT SNOW FORT!

THEN, AFTER CARL HAS UNLOCKED THE DOOR...

M-MY HEAD... THROBBING!

OH!



YAAAGH!

CARL! WHAT IN THUNDER'S WRONG?





BUT AS BOB RUSHES TO ASSIST HIS NEIGHBOR...

HANG ON, HANSON!
I'M COMING! I'LL
HELP YOU!

T-THE MONSTER--
IT'S DISAPPEARING!



ABRUPTLY THE MONSTER VANISHES--
PISSIPATES LIKE A CLOUD...

IT'S GONE! IT WAS
SOME SORT OF
HORRIBLE BEAST!
BUT WHERE COULD
IT GO--SO QUICKLY?
DID I ONLY
IMAGINE IT?

NOT WITH THESE
SCRATCHES ON
YOUR FACE,
HANSON!



THAT NIGHT, BOB TOSSES IN HIS SLEEP--
OMINOUS, NERVE-SHATTERING THOUGHTS
FILLING HIS MIND...

A-ALL MY EXPERIENCES WITH THE
OCCULT AND UNKNOWN... C-COULD
MY PRYING HA-HAVE SOMEHOW
STIRRED UP A VISION OF BLACK MAGIC?



NEXT PAY AT THE CURIO SHOP,
BOB IS STILL UNSETTLED...

AH, MR. PERRY--THE MASTER OF THE
MYSTERIOUS! WHAT SURPRISES DO
YOU HAVE FOR ME TODAY?

"IRA DRAKO, THE
WHOLESALE BUYER!
HOW I DESPISE
THAT LOU! HE
CHEATED US
TWICE--BUT
WE CAN'T
PROVE IT!"



SUPPENLY, AS BOB MOVES FORWARD,
AN ELECTRICAL FORCE SEEMS TO
CRACKLE THE AIR AND...

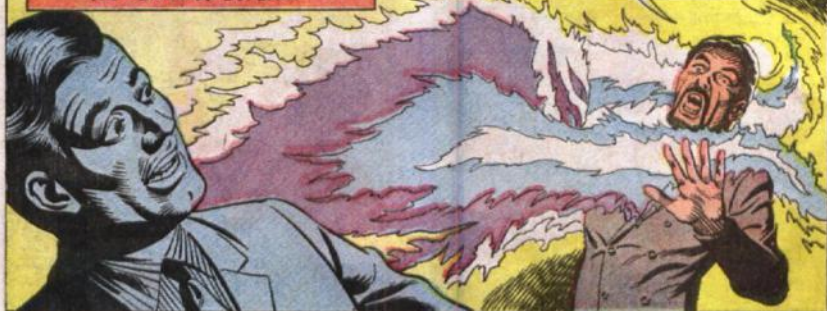
WE'VE PURCHASED
SOME INTERESTING
CURIOS, DRAKO...

MY HEAD! IT'S
STARTING TO
THROB AGAIN!



THE MONSTROUS CREATURE TAKES FULL FORM... AND MOVES FORWARD TOWARD THE TERRIFIED BUYER...

WH-WHAT IS THAT, PERRY? ONE OF YOUR CURIO TRICKS?



SLOWLY, OMINOUSLY IT SWEEPS ACROSS THE SHOP...

STOP THE THING, YOU IMBECILE! THIS CEASES TO BE A JOKE!



BUT BOB'S BLOWS ARE FUTILE AGAINST THE CREATURE... HIS WEAPON BOUNCES OFF HARMLESSLY...

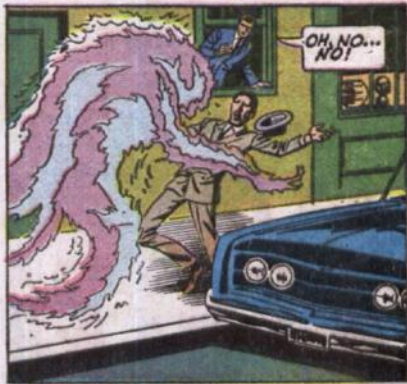
I-I CAN'T STOP IT! THE THING DEFLECTS MY BLOWS!

YAAA!



THEN, BEFORE THE MINIATURE GUILLOTINE, THE FORCE CREATURE HALTS... IT WAVES IN MID-AIR LIKE SOME MORTALLY WOUNDED MONSTER...





IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW, BOB'S MIND IS HAUNTED BY THOUGHTS OF THE MONSTER! THEN, ONE EVENING...

THAT MYSTERY OF PRAKO'S DEATH—ARE YOU **SURE** YOU COULDN'T SEE WHO DID IT FROM THE WINDOW?

I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES! BY THE TIME I LOOKED, HE WAS **ALREADY** GONE!



AS THEY WORK ON, BOB'S DISTRAUGHT MIND RACES WILDLY...

WHY DOESN'T CARL SHUT UP? I'M TRYING TO FORGET THAT NIGHTMARE... AND HE KEEPS BRINGING IT UP! **BLAST HIM!**



AND IT IS THEN THAT A STRANGE THROBBING FILLS THE CURIO MASTER'S MIND...

M-MY HEAD... BUZZING LIKE A GENERATOR...

WHAT'S THAT? T-THE THING'S FORMING AGAIN!



IT'S GOING AFTER CARL! THE GUILLOTINE... MY ONLY CHANCE!

G-GREAT CAESAR! LO-LOOK, BOB! WHAT IS IT?



BE GONE, YOU ACCURSED THING! BACK! BACK!







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It costs you nothing to try

\$100.00 IS YOURS

NEW!
SATIN SPLENDOR
CHRISTMAS ASSORTMENT
21 really deluxe cards
Exquisitely different



NEW!
DELUXE CHRISTMAS
GIFT WRAPPING
ASSORTMENT
18 gay
colorful
large
sheets
Terrific!



for selling only 100 boxes of our new Satin Splendor Christmas Card assortment. You make \$1.00 for selling 1 box, \$2.00 for 2 boxes, \$10.00 for 10 boxes, etc. You can make a few dollars or hundreds of dollars. All you do is call on neighbors, friends and relatives anywhere in your spare time. Everyone needs and buys Christmas Cards.

Cut out entire Business Reply Coupon below—mail it today
—and we will send you immediately leading boxes on approval
—plus FREE samples of personalized Christmas Cards and stationery. No experience necessary.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY

Last year some folks made only \$25 to \$50 while others made \$150—\$250—\$500 and more selling our entire line of greeting cards. Many church groups, organizations, schools, lodges, etc. do this year after year. Everybody buys Christmas cards.



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PRECIOUS PETS
ALL OCCASION
ASSORTMENT
10 delightful
animals reproduced
as giant size cards
suitable for framing



NEW!
RADIANT ROSES
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sheets with
matching envelopes

FREE SAMPLES
PERSONALIZED
CHRISTMAS CARDS
AND
STATIONERY
SEND FOR
YOUR ENTIRE LINE

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THIS ENTIRE FOLD-OVER COUPON FORMS A NO-POSTAGE-REQUIRED BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE

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I want to make extra money. Please rush me immediately leading boxes on approval for 30 day free trial plus FREE samples of personalized Christmas cards and stationery, FREE 80-page Full Color Catalog of money-making Gift items and everything I need to start making money the day my sales kit arrives. As a Cheerful Dealer I will also be privileged to receive additional FREE money-making literature, catalogs, special offers and seasonal samples on approval as they become available.

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