

# THE CRYPT OF TERROR

WELCOME, DEAR FIENDS! COME IN! COME INTO THE *CRYPT OF TERROR!* I AM YOUR HOST, THE *CRYPT-KEEPER!* I SEE IT IS TIME TO TELL YOU *ANOTHER* OF MY SPINE-TINGLING HORROR STORIES FROM MY VAST COLLECTION HERE IN THE *CRYPT!* HMMM! LET ME SEE! AH! *I KNOW!* THIS ONE IS *SURE* TO FREEZE THE BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS...*GUARANTEED* TO MAKE LITTLE SHIVERS RUN UP AND DOWN YOUR CRAWLING SPINE! *THIS* LITTLE ADVENTURE INTO TERROR...*THIS* CHILLING ORDEAL...IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO *YOU!* YOU ARE THE MAIN CHARACTER! *READY?* GET A GOOD *GRIP* ON YOURSELF! THEN TURN THE PAGE AND BEGIN THE TALE I CALL...

## REFLECTION OF DEATH!



AHEAD OF YOU, THE WHITE LINE THAT DIVIDES THE ROAD STRETCHES INTO THE DARKNESS BEYOND YOUR HEADLIGHT BEAM! BESIDE YOU, CARL SITS PUFFING ON A CIGARETTE ...

GETTING PRETTY COLD, ISN'T IT, CARL?

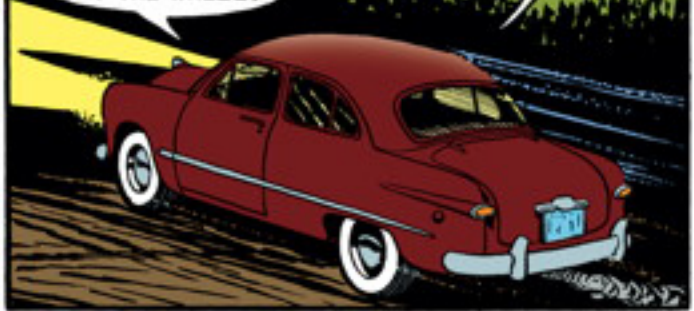
YEAH! AND THE HEATER'S ON THE FRITZ, TOO! IT'S GOOD WE WORE WARM CLOTHES!



YOU'RE AT THE WHEEL! YOU AND CARL HAVE BEEN DRIVING SINCE DAYBREAK! IN TWO MORE HOURS, YOU'LL BE HOME! YOU'RE TIRED, NOW! THE STRAIN OF DRIVING THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND INTO THE NIGHT IS BEGINNING TO HAVE ITS EFFECT! YOUR EYELIDS ARE *HEAVY*... THEY KEEP *CLOSING*...

YOU'D BETTER TAKE OVER, CARL! I'M GETTING TIRED! I'D HATE TO FALL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL!

OKAY, AL! PULL OVER AND WE'LL SWITCH!



YOU STOP THE CAR AND CARL GETS OUT! YOU SLIDE ACROSS THE SEAT AND CARL SLIPS BEHIND THE WHEEL...

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A SNOOZE, AL? I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN WE GET TO TOWN!

MAYBE... MAYBE I WILL, CARL!



YOU DRAW YOUR COAT UP TIGHT AROUND YOU... PULL YOUR HAT DOWN... REACH INTO YOUR POCKET FOR YOUR GLOVES...



YOU STARE OUT THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD! THE ROAD COMES OUT OF THE DARKNESS AT YOU AND SLIDES BENEATH THE CAR... UNENDING... FASTER... FASTER! CARL BEGINS TO WHISTLE AN OFF-KEY TUNE! THE MOTOR PURRS... THE ROAD COMES ON... ON...



YOUR HEAD BEGINS TO NOD! CARL'S WHISTLING CONTINUES... FLAT... UNMELODIC! SUDDENLY HE GASPS! YOU LOOK UP! A PAIR OF HEADLIGHTS... BRIGHT... BLINDING... HURTTLES AT YOU FROM THE DARKNESS! CARL SHOUTS! YOU TRY TO SCREAM BUT IT CHOKES UP IN YOUR THROAT... A RATTLING COUGH...

LOOK OUT... AL... WE'RE GOING TO HIT...



THERE IS A SPLINTERING SHRIEKING CRASH OF METAL AND GLASS AND SQUEALING BRAKES...



YOU FEEL YOURSELF FLYING FORWARD... A BLASTING LIGHT... THE PAIN... THE GOLD... AND THEN THE VELVET NIGHT CLOSSES IN! ALL IS QUIET, EXCEPT FOR A DISTANT... FAR AWAY... WHIMPERING...

THE BLACKNESS IS EMPTY... ETERNAL! YOU FLOAT IN IT... TURNING... TWISTING... FALLING... THEN RISING AGAIN! THE PAIN IS GONE... EVERYTHING IS GONE... ONLY THE DARKNESS... ON... ON... DARK... BLACK... EMPTY...



YOU OPEN YOUR EYES! TINY PIN-POINTS OF LIGHT BLINK BRIGHT AND DIM BEFORE YOU! A LEAF FLUTTERS... THEN GLIDES AT YOU! YOU ARE ON YOUR BACK... GAZING UP AT THE NIGHT SKY...



YOU RAISE YOUR HEAD AND LOOK ABOUT! YOU ARE LYING AT THE EDGE OF A ROAD! YOU REMEMBER NOW! THE HEADLIGHTS... THE CRASH... THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A COLLISION! BUT THE WRECK... THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT...



YOU GET TO YOUR FEET! YOUR CLOTHES ARE TORN AND DIRTY! THERE IS A SMELL... A SICKENING SMELL! YOU LOOK UP AND DOWN THE ROAD! NO SMASHED GLASS! NO TWISTED METAL! NOTHING! JUST A ROAD... CLEAN... WHITE... REACHING INTO THE NIGHT...



A CAR IS COMING! YOU STUMBLE OUT ONTO THE CONCRETE! YOU RAISE YOUR GLOVED HAND AS THE CAR BEARS DOWN UPON YOU! ITS WAILING BRAKES BRING IT TO A STOP...

CRAZY FOOL! DO YOU WANT TO GET YOURSELF KILLED? I... I...



YOU STEP CLOSE TO HIM! YOU BEGIN TO ASK HIM IF HE'LL DRIVE YOU INTO TOWN... THAT THERE'S BEEN A WRECK! SUDDENLY YOU SEE THE WILD LOOK IN HIS EYES! A LOOK OF *STARK TERROR*! HE STARES AT YOU AND *SHRIEKS*...



THE CAR MESHES GEARS AND ROARS AWAY! YOU CAN HEAR HIM SCREAMING! YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND! THEN YOU LAUGH TO YOURSELF! OF COURSE! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN CUT IN THE ACCIDENT! MAYBE THE SIGHT OF BLOOD SCARED HIM! YOU START DOWN THE ROAD... TOWARD TOWN... TOWARD HOME...



THEN YOU SEE IT! THE FIRE! SOMEONE UNDER THE ROAD-BRIDGE... COOKING! YOU MOVE TOWARD HIM! PERHAPS HE HEARD THE CRASH... SAW THE ACCIDENT...



IT IS A HOBO... A TRAMP HUDDLED NEAR THE FIRE! HE STIRS SOMETHING IN A CAN HUNG OVER THE FLAMES! HE LOOKS UP AS YOU APPROACH...



WELCOME, PARDNER! IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, SET YOURSELF DOWN! THE STEW'S JUST ABOUT DONE!

YOU MOVE INTO THE FIRELIGHT! HE LOOKS INTO THE CAN... STIRS IT A BIT... THEN TURNS TOWARD YOU! SUDDENLY THE BLOOD DRAINS FROM HIS UNSHAVEN FACE! HE CRINGES...



K...K...KEEP AWAY...I...IAAAAAAGH!

THE TRAMP CLAWS HIS WAY UP TO THE EMBANKMENT AND RUNS, SHRIEKING, DOWN THE ROAD! YOU WATCH HIM AS HE VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT...



NO..NO...EEEEEEEEEEEE!

YOU CONTINUE ON TOWARD TOWN! YOU'VE GOT TO GET HELP! THEN YOU STOP! YOU LOOK DOWN! A PIECE OF A NEWSPAPER IS UNDER YOUR FOOT! YOU READ THE DATE...



IT CAN'T BE! FEBRUARY 26TH, 1951! IMPOSSIBLE! THAT'S ALMOST TWO MONTHS FROM NOW! TODAY...TODAY IS JANUARY 1ST! YOU AND CARL HAD BEEN RETURNING FROM A NEW YEARS EVE PARTY! YOU HAD BEEN DRIVING ALL DAY...NEW YEARS DAY! NOW IT'S NEW YEARS NIGHT! OR IS IT? ANOTHER CAR IS COMING! YOU PUT THE PAPER IN YOUR POCKET AND STEP OUT ONTO THE ROAD...



SHE'S FRIGHTENED! WHAT WOMAN WOULDN'T BE? A LONELY ROAD AT NIGHT! YOU... A STRANGE MAN... STEPPING OUT IN FRONT OF HER CAR...FORCING HER TO STOP OR HIT YOU! OF COURSE SHE'S FRIGHTENED...



WHAT..WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU ARE ABOUT TO TELL HER NOT TO BE AFRAID. . . THAT YOU MEAN NO HARM! BUT THERE IS NO TIME! SHE LOOKS AT YOU. . . HER EYES ROLL. . . SHE GURGLS A FAINT GROAN AND FAINTS. . .



YOU GET INTO HER CAR! YOU DRIVE IT INTO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN AND LEAVE IT. . . THE WOMAN UNCONSCIOUS BEHIND THE WHEEL! YOU MAKE YOUR WAY HOME. . . HOME! BUT WHEN YOU REACH IT. . .



THE WINDOWS ARE BOARDED UP! YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND! THERE IS A SIGN TACKLED TO THE HOUSE! YOU MOVE CLOSER. . . TO READ IT. . .



FORECLOSED! ON JANUARY 15, 1951! BUT TODAY IS. . . OR IS IT? THE NEWSPAPER YOU FOUND! REMEMBER? HAVE YOU BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR ALMOST *TWO MONTHS*? YOU TURN AWAY FROM THE HOUSE! A LONE FIGURE APPROACHES ON THE DESERTED DARK STREET. . .



YOU WALK TOWARD HIM! YOU WANT TO ASK HIM THE DATE! HE COMES CLOSER! THEN HE SEES YOU. . .



HE BEGINS TO RUN FROM YOU! YOU RUN AFTER HIM! YOU ONLY WANT TO ASK HIM A *QUESTION!* WHY DOES EVERYONE *STARE* AT YOU *WIDE-EYED. . . FAINT. . . SCREAM. . . RUN* FROM YOU? *WHY?* CARL'S HOUSE! YOU'RE IN FRONT OF CARL'S HOUSE NOW! CARL. . . WHO WAS WITH YOU. . . WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED! YOU GO UP THE STEPS. . . STAND BEFORE THE DOOR. . . RING THE BELL. . .



HEAVY FOOTSTEPS APPROACH! THE DOOR OPENS! CARL STARES OUT AT YOU! YOU WAIT FOR HIM TO SCREAM. . . TO RUN. . . WAIT FOR THAT LOOK OF HORROR. . . BUT NOTHING HAPPENS. . .



YOU RUSH INTO HIS APARTMENT! IT IS DARK! CARL OBJECTS! YOU TELL HIM THE STORY! YOU BLURT IT OUT... EVERYTHING! THE CRASH... HOW YOU WOKE UP... THE PEOPLE THAT SCREAMED WHEN THEY SAW YOU! EXCEPT CARL... **CARL DID NOT SCREAM!** CARL... YOUR **FRIEND**... YOU JOKE WITH ME... WHOEVER YOU ARE...



HE STARES AT YOU, BLANKLY! THERE IS NO RECOGNITION! 'DON'T YOU KNOW ME, CARL? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR OLD FRIEND... **AL?**' YOU SAY! HE SHAKES HIS HEAD AND TURNS AWAY...



YOU'RE FOOLING! THIS IS SOME SORT OF A GAG! SURELY YOU KNOW THAT AL AND I WERE IN AN ACCIDENT ALMOST TWO MONTHS AGO... THAT AL WAS KILLED... **HORRIBLY MANGLED**...

... AND I LOST MY SIGHT! THAT I AM TOTALLY BLIND!



YOU, **DEAD!** YOU GASP! YOU LOOK AROUND! A MIRROR! YOU GET UP... STAGGER TOWARDS IT...



... AND LOOK IN!



YOU SCREAM! YOU OPEN YOUR **ROTTED, TORN, DECOMPOSED MOUTH** AND SCREAM!



CARL IS AT YOUR SIDE SHAKING YOU... SHAKING YOU...



AL... AL... AL...!