

THE CHILLING ARCHIVES OF HORROR COMICS!™



Mr. KARSWELL

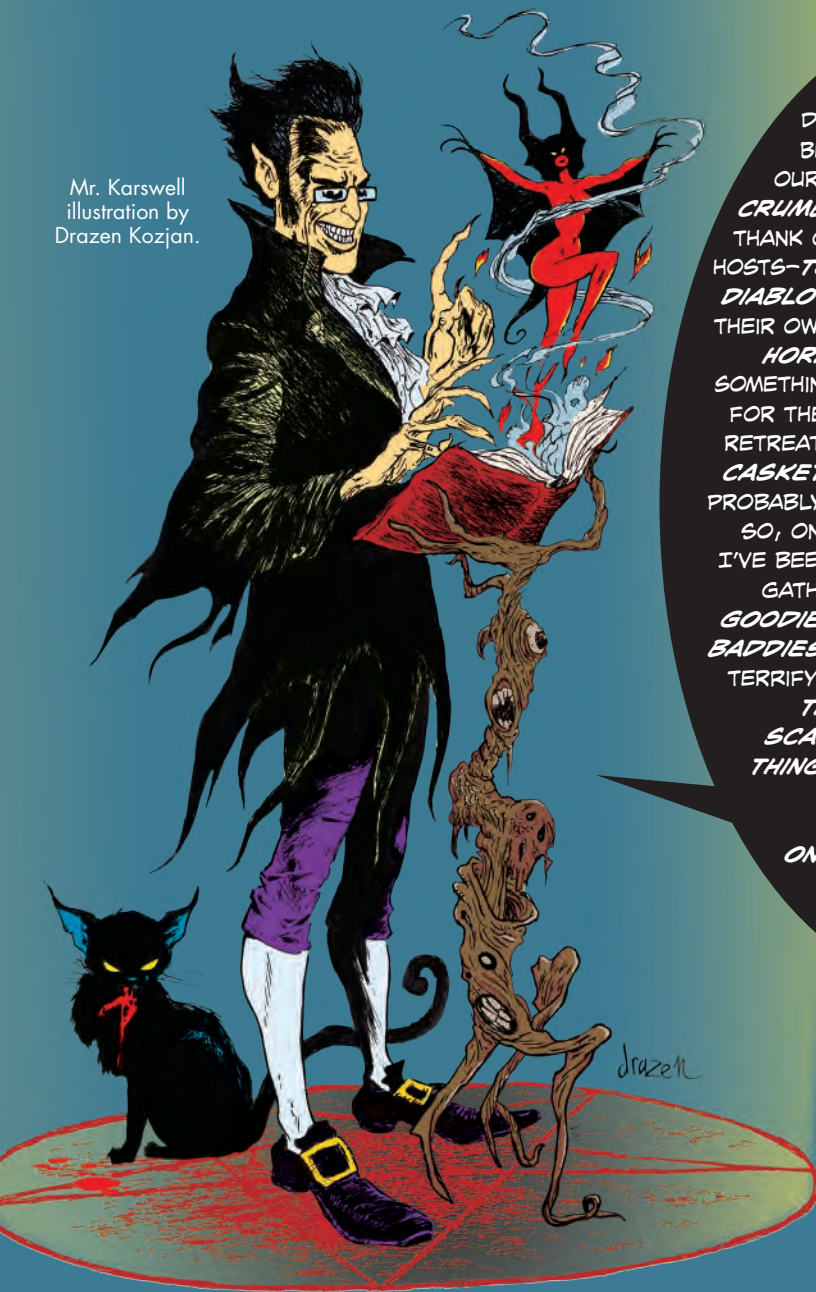
#31

\$4.99

HAUNTED HORROR™



Mr. Karswell
illustration by
Drazen Kozjan.



I'M BAAAAACK!
DID EVERYONE MISS ME???
BEFORE WE NOSE DIVE INTO
OUR PRESENT **COLLECTION OF
CRUMBLING CREEPIES**, I'D LIKE TO
THANK OUR PREVIOUS, GRIEVOUS GUEST
HOSTS-**TOXIC THOMAS, DOC ODD, AND
DIABLO**-FOR SCALDING OUR SOULS WITH
THEIR OWN **INSIDIOLUSLY ICKY HAUNTED
HORROR ISSUES!** I WOULD SAY
SOMETHING ABOUT A ROUND OF APPLAUSE
FOR THEM, BUT SINCE THEY'VE ALREADY
RETIRED BACK INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE
CASKETS AND LOONY BIN BASKETS,
PROBABLY THEY WOULDN'T HEAR IT ANYWAY!
SO, ON TO CURRENT, CURSED EVENTS.
I'VE BEEN OUT AND ABOUT, GRACELESSLY
GATHERING MORE **GAG-INDUCING
GOODIES** AND A FEW **BLOOD-SOAKED
BADDIES** TO BOOT. AS YOU WILL SEE, THIS
TERRIFYING TIME AROUND I HAVE **HAIRY
THINGS, SCARY THINGS,
SCALY THINGS, AND COFFIN-Y
THINGS!** BUT FIRST UP, **HEADLESS
THINGS!** SO KEEP YOUR
OWN NOGGINS **BOLTED
ON TIGHT**. BUT, IF THEY COME
LOOSE, YOU CAN ALWAYS
BORROW MY
STAPLE GUN!

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Look for another
spine-tingling issue of
Haunted Horror
in two months!

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HEH, HEH, SO YOU'RE STILL HERE, EH, FIENDS? WELL YOU WON'T BE SORRY YOU STUCK AROUND, FELLOW TERRORISTS! I'VE GOT A DELIGHTFULLY GRUESOME TALE OF HORROR TO CHILL YOU WITH! IT'S FILLED WITH MYSTERY AND ANCIENT JU-JUBE TORTURES... I CALL IT...

THE DEATH HEAD!



SO LONG TO CHEAP FURNISHED ROOMS... IN JUST TWO HOURS I'LL BE A WEALTHY MAN... MARRIED TO A TOBACCO QUEEN!

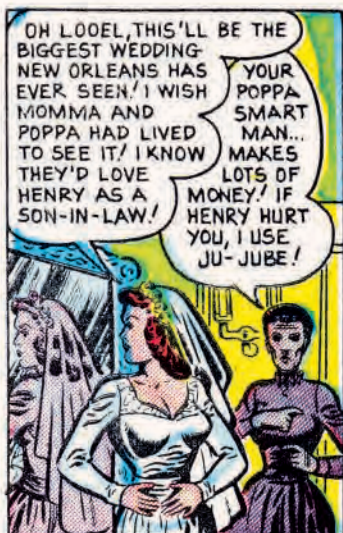
HENRY JEFFERY, AN ATTRACTIVE MAN IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, WHISTLED AS HE DRESSED AND WHY NOT? IT WAS HIS WEDDING DAY.

LOOK YOUR BEST, HENRY BOY... THIS IS IT, THE BIG DAY! GOOD-BYE TO DEBTS AND POVERTY... FROM NOW ON, IT'S NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR THIS BOY!





OUR "HERO" ISN'T VERY ROMANTIC, IS HE? ALAS, SUCH IS THE POWER OF MONEY, HEH, HEH! NOW, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HENRY'S BRIDE-TO-BE, ANNE LAYTON...



OH LOOEL, THIS 'LL BE THE BIGGEST WEDDING NEW ORLEANS HAS EVER SEEN! I WISH MOMMA AND POPPA HAD LIVED TO SEE IT! I KNOW THEY'D LOVE HENRY AS A SON-IN-LAW!

YOUR POPPA SMART MAN... MAKES LOTS OF MONEY! IF HENRY HURT YOU, I USE JU-JUBE!

OH, YES, ANNE'S FATHER HAD MADE A FORTUNE... AND WHEN HE AND HIS WIFE DIED, THEY LEFT ANNE WITH A TWO MILLION DOLLAR TOBACCO INHERITANCE... THERE WAS NOTHING SHE COULDN'T AFFORD TO BUY... EVEN A HUSBAND, HEH/HEH! ...BUT LOOEL WORSHIPPED ANNE...



...IN SICKNESS, AND IN HEALTH, FOR RICHER OR POORER, TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?

I DO! ESPECIALLY FOR "RICHER" ...HA HA!

AND SO THEY WERE MARRIED... AFTER THEIR HONEYMOON, THE NEWLY-WEDS SETTLED IN ANNE'S PALATIAL ESTATE ON THE EDGE OF THE LOUISIANA BAYOU COUNTRY...



WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE, MISS ANNE?

NO, LOOEL, THAT WILL BE ALL!



THAT WOMAN GIVES ME THE CREEPS, SHE'S SO QUIET, SO WITHDRAWN... LIKE A SNEAKY CAT!

YOU'RE WRONG, DARLING... THAT'S JUST LOOEL'S MANNER... SHE'S BEEN WITH THE FAMILY FOR YEARS! HER MOTHER WAS THE WIFE OF AN AFRICAN TRIBAL LEADER IN THE CANNIBAL COUNTRY! LOOEL WAS BROUGHT UP WITH THE TRIBE AND DAD BROUGHT HER HERE AS A YOUNG GIRL! SHE COULDN'T BE MORE LOYAL TO ME!



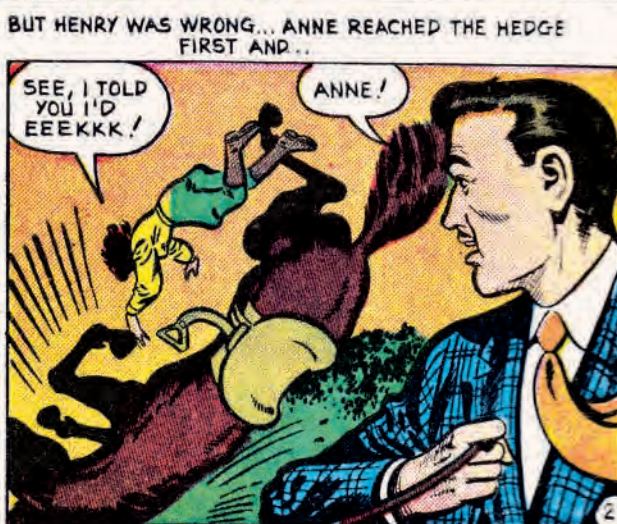
I THINK THIS LAZY LIVING IS MAKING YOU GROUCHY... COME ON, LET'S TAKE A FAST RIDE ON A COUPLE OF THE HORSES!

OKAY! I'LL EVEN RACE YOU!



AND SHORTLY AFTER... HURRY UP SLOW POKE, I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU OVER THE HEDGE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, SILLY GIRL! I'LL MAKE IT OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT PASSED YOU!



SEE, I TOLD YOU I'D EEEKKK!

ANNE!

BUT HENRY WAS WRONG... ANNE REACHED THE HEDGE FIRST AND...

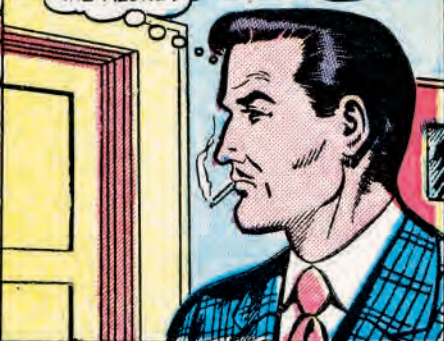
ANNE HIT THE GROUND WITH A SICKENING THUD...



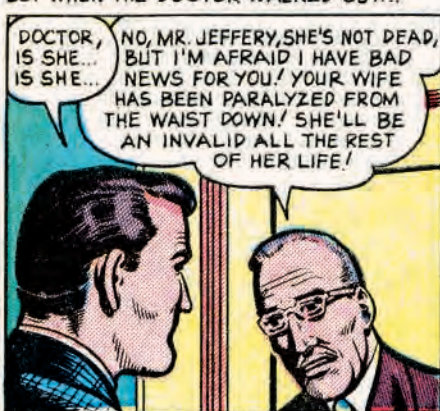
HENRY CARRIED HIS WIFE'S CRUMPLED BODY BACK TO THE HOUSE AND A DOCTOR WAS IMMEDIATELY SUMMONED... AS HE WAITED FOR THE DOCTOR'S VERDICT...



M-MAYBE SHE'LL DIE...MAYBE THAT WHOLE FORTUNE WILL COME TO ME... ME ALONE!



BUT WHEN THE DOCTOR WALKED OUT...



POOR HENRY... ANNE'S PARALYSIS TURNED HIM FROM A LAZY PLAYBOY INTO A CONSTANT NURSE...



HENRY, GET ME MY GLASSES, WILL YOU, I CAN'T SEE TO READ WITHOUT THEM... AND BRING ME A BLANKET TOO, I'M CHILLY!

YES, DEAR!



AND SO IT WENT, MONTH IN AND MONTH OUT...



HENRY, TAKE THIS BACK TO THE KITCHEN AND TELL LOEDEL TO MAKE IT HOTTER... I CAN'T BEAR COLD TEA!



HENRY, READ TO ME! MAYBE IT WILL HELP ME FALL ASLEEP!

HURRY BACK, HENRY... I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE LONG...AND DON'T FORGET THAT NEW CROSS-WORD PUZZLE MAGAZINE I TOLD YOU TO GET!



HENRY THOUGHT HE WOULD GO CRAZY, UNTIL, WHILE IN TOWN ON AN ERRAND FOR ANNE, HE MET KITTY...



AND THAT WAS HOW IT BEGAN... HENRY MET KITTY BURNETT EVERY TIME HE COULD GET AWAY FROM ANNE...



THIS IS THE THIRD NIGHT THIS WEEK YOU'VE GONE OUT, HENRY! I CAN'T BEAR BEING ALONE! I WANT YOU...

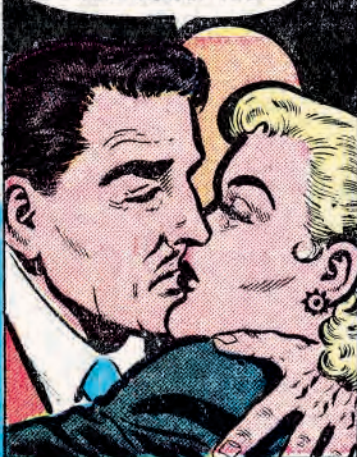
DARLING, IT'S FOR YOU I'M GOING OUT! DR. HOWARD TOLD ME OF A SPECIALIST IN JAMESTOWN THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO TREAT YOU! I'M DRIVING OVER THERE TONIGHT... DON'T WAIT UP, I'LL PROBABLY BE LATE!



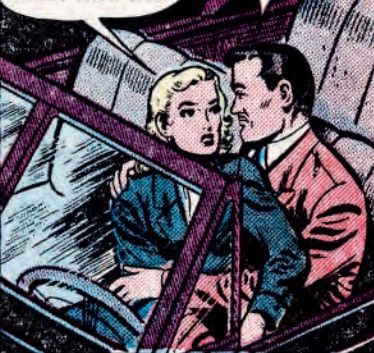
KITTY BURNETT WAS NO "SPECIAL-IST" BUT SHE KNEW HOW TO TREAT HENRY... HEH, HEH...



I'M MAD ABOUT YOU, KITTY... MAD ABOUT YOU!



YOU DON'T ACT IT... YOU NEVER TAKE ME ANY-PLACE NICE... IT'S LIKE YOU'RE AFRAID TO BE SEEN WITH ME!



D-DON'T BE SILLY, DARLING... I... IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE TO HAVE YOU ALL TO MYSELF!

NO, HENRY HADN'T TOLD KITTY HE WAS MARRIED... HE WAS AFRAID OF LOSING HER! THAT NIGHT HE TOSSED RESTLESSLY, UNABLE TO SLEEP...

I CAN'T KEEP THIS PRETENSE UP MUCH LONGER... KITTY'S BOUND TO FIND OUT! OH, WHY DIDN'T ANNE DIE IN THAT ACCIDENT? EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT... I'D HAVE THE MONEY AND KITTY!



B-BUT MAYBE ANOTHER "ACCIDENT" COULD BEFALL MY DEAR WIFE... A FATAL ACCIDENT! I'D BE FREE THEN... FREE!



HENRY SPENT THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT LAYING HIS PLANS... AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

AND THE SPECIALIST SAID HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, HENRY?

NO, DARLING, I'M AFRAID NOT!... BUT DON'T LOOK SO SAD... I'VE GOT A SPECIAL TREAT FOR US TODAY!



A TREAT? WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

I THOUGHT YOU'VE BEEN IN DOORS TOO MUCH LATELY... SO I'D THOUGHT WE'D GO INTO THE BAYOU COUNTRY FOR A PICNIC... JUST YOU AND ME!

NO! NO!



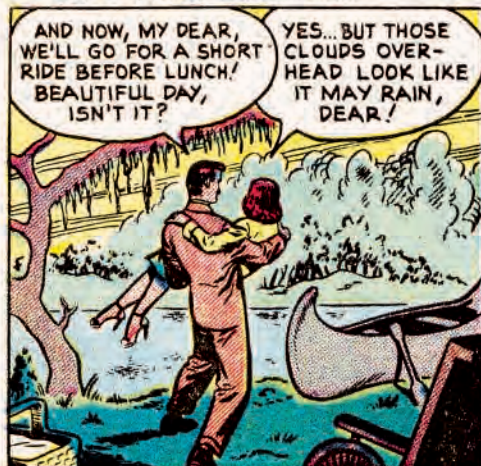
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NO, NO" LOOEL?

BAYOU SWAMP BAD PLACE... LAND OF VOODOO! KEEP AWAY, BAD PLACE!

THAT'S NONSENSE... JUST A SILLY NATIVE SUPERSTITION! PACK US A LUNCH, LOOEL... WE'RE GOING!



HENRY'S PLANS WERE TOO WELL CALCULATED TO BE UPSET BY THE OLD LADY'S WARNING... AND SO, TWO HOURS LATER...



HENRY WAS SO INTENT UPON HIS PADDLING AND THE THOUGHT OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH, THAT HE FAILED TO NOTICE THE QUICKLY DARKENING SKY AND OMINOUS THUNDER...



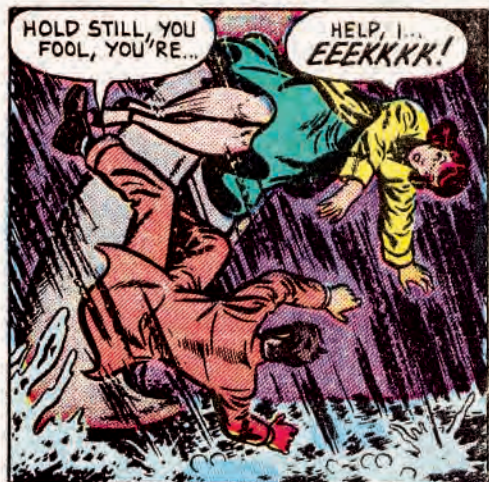
A MINUTE LATER, THE RAINS STARTED, AND THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE MIDST OF A BAYOU STORM! ANNE WAS PANIC-STRICKEN...

W-WE'RE GOING TO BE DROWNED... DO SOMETHING, HENRY... DO SOMETHING!

FOR PETE'S SAKE, TAKE IT EASY... ARE YOU TRYING TO OVERTURN THE BOAT?



ANNE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN TRYING, BUT A MOMENT LATER...



POOR ANNE, SHE WAS PARALYZED AND DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE IN THE RAGING WATERS... HER HUSBAND WAS NO HELP TO HER!

IT WASN'T MUCH OF A BATTLE... ANNE LOST TO THE WATER IN NO TIME... HENRY SAW HER HEAD DISAPPEAR, JUST AS HE REACHED SHORE...

HENRY STARTED BACK TOWARD CIVILIZATION... BUT THE WIND AND RAIN HADN'T STOPPED AND HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE HIS WAY...



HENRY, HELP! I-I'M (GLUB) D-DROWNING! HELP! HELP!

I CAN'T REACH YOU ANNE...

I'LL SAVE MYSELF! I WANTED HER TO DIE... NOW SHE WILL!



WELL, THIS ISN'T THE WAY I PLANNED IT... BUT IT'S EVEN BETTER! SO LONG, MY BELOVED WIFE... I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MILLIONS!



I WISH THIS AWFUL RAIN WOULD STOP... AND IT'S GETTING DARKER BY THE MINUTE. I CAN HARDLY SEE WHERE I'M GOING!