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KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY

MAIL-ORDER MONSTER!



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**BORIS
KARLOFF**

Tales of Mystery



TODAY'S SOPHISTICATE SAYS, "NO ONE IS A STRANGER TO ME!" BUT IN THE UNPREDICTABLE INTERPLANETARY FUTURE, WE MAY BE SAYING...

NO THING IS MY ENEMY

FOR GRACE AND CLAUDE HARVEY, MOTHER AND SON ALONE IN THE WORLD, THERE ARE **TOO** MANY STRANGERS!

LOOK, MOM! A SHOOTING STAR! MAKE A WISH! ONLY DON'T TELL ME WHAT IT IS!

THANKS FOR THE INSTRUCTIONS, CLAUDE, BUT I PRACTICALLY **INVENTED** WISHING ON A FALLING STAR!

GET MOMMA A NEW HUSBAND! SHE'S AWFUL LONELY!

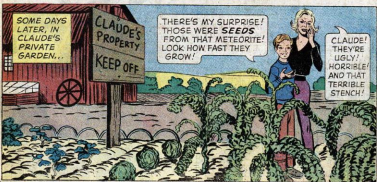
LET CLAUDE HAVE A SECOND FATHER! HE NEEDS ANOTHER MAN IN THE HOUSE!

THEN, AS IF TO SEAL EACH WISH, THERE IS A ROARING CRASH AND A TREMBLING OF THE GROUND...

THAT WAS NO SHOOTING STAR! IT WAS A **PLANE** CRASHING, I BETCHA!

OH, CLAUDE, I HOPE YOU'RE WRONG! BUT LITTLE BOYS HAVE A TERRIBLE NOSE FOR **DISASTER!**

CRAABOOM!



SEIZED BY A REVULSION BEYOND REASON, GRACE BEGINS TEARING THE PLANTS FROM THE GROUND!

THEY'RE HORRIBLE! WHO KNOWS WHAT TERRIBLE DISEASE THEY MAY CARRY! HOW **COULD** YOU, CLAUDE?

NO, MOMMY! DON'T KILL 'EM! PLEASE, DON'T KILL 'EM!



LATER, IN THE NIGHT...

THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE IT'S STILL **ALIVE**! I'LL PLANT IT IN THE OLD GREENHOUSE! MOM **NEVER** GOES THERE!



THERE! THAT SPLINT SHOULD SERVE TILL IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND ALONE! WON'T BE LONG! THOSE THINGS GROW FAST!



IT GROWS EVEN FASTER THAN CLAUDE IMAGINED—OR PERHAPS DESIRED!

THREE FEET IN TEN DAYS! I'LL HAVE TO **MOVE** IT SOON—BEFORE IT GOES RIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF!

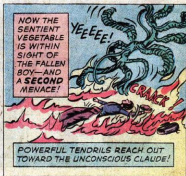


BUT SOON COMES SOONER THAN SEEMS POSSIBLE!

WOWEEEE! I'M GONNA HAVE TO MOVE IT TONIGHT! BUT SHE SURE IS A **BEAUTY**—IN AN **UGLY** SORT OF WAY!







THEN, WITH A MIGHTY SHRIEK, THE PLANT FLINGS ITSELF INTO THE FLAMES—ROLLING FIRST ONE WAY, THEN ANOTHER, TO SMOTHER THE BRUSH FIRE...



BUT THE RESCUE OPERATION IS NOT WITHOUT ITS PRICE!



BY DAWN, THE BATTLE IS WON, BUT THE "WARRIOR" IS LOST!

IT WAS SMART, MOM! IT *KNEW* I WAS IN TROUBLE AND IT SAVED ME! TO PAY ME BACK FOR NURSING IT, I GUESS!



AND I DESTROYED THE OTHERS! INTELLIGENT, SYMPATHETIC LIFE—AND I...I KILLED THEM ALL!

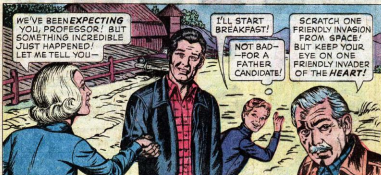
GEE, MOM, WE CAN'T BLAME *OURSELVES* FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING SOMETHING LIKE THAT!



SOUNDS LIKE THE BEGINNING OF GREAT WISDOM—NEVER BLAME YOURSELF—TEACH YOURSELF!

HI! I'M HERB LEONARD—FROM THE UNIVERSITY!

WE'VE BEEN *EXPECTING* YOU, PROFESSOR! BUT SOMETHING INCREDIBLE JUST HAPPENED! LET ME TELL YOU—



I'LL START BREAKFAST!

NOT BAD—FOR A FATHER CANDIDATE!

SCRATCH ONE FRIENDLY INVASION FROM SPACE! BUT KEEP YOUR EYE ON ONE FRIENDLY INVADER OF THE *HEART*!

