

WEEKLY
COMIC
BOOK

The Detroit News
THE HOME NEWSPAPER

3 COMPLETE
STORIES

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SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1940

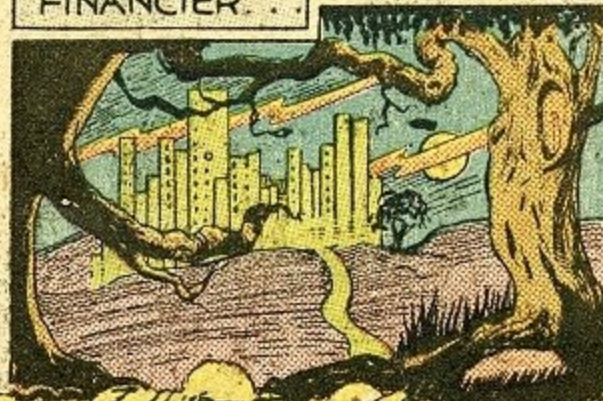
THE SPIRIT

Will
Eisner



BELIEVED DEAD AND BURIED IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY, DENNY COLT, CRIMINOLOGIST, AWOKE FROM A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION. . . USING HIS GRAVE AS HIS HEAD-QUARTERS, HE CONTINUES HIS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AS **THE SPIRIT**.

NORTH OF WILDWOOD CEMETERY, LIES THE CITY. ON CLEAR NIGHTS ONE CAN SEE THE TALL BUILDINGS THAT RISE ABOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS. NEAR THE TOP OF THE TALLEST, A LIGHT OF ONE WINDOW CAN ALWAYS BE SEEN. IT IS THE APARTMENT OF ELDAS THAYER, THE OLD FINANCIER. . .



TONIGHT HE HAS A VISITOR, DR. CLAY, THE FAMOUS HEART SPECIALIST. . .

ELDAS THAYER, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS!





GET OUT, YOU QUACK!
GET OUT!
GET OUT!

I'M SORRY, ELDA'S.
IT'S YOUR HEART
AND YOUR
CONFOUNDED
TEMPER! NO
WONDER EVERY-
ONE HATES
YOU! GOOD-
BYE!



AS THE DOCTOR LEAVES, A TALL
FIGURE DETACHES HIMSELF
FROM THE SHADOWS...

TH...
THE
SPIRIT!



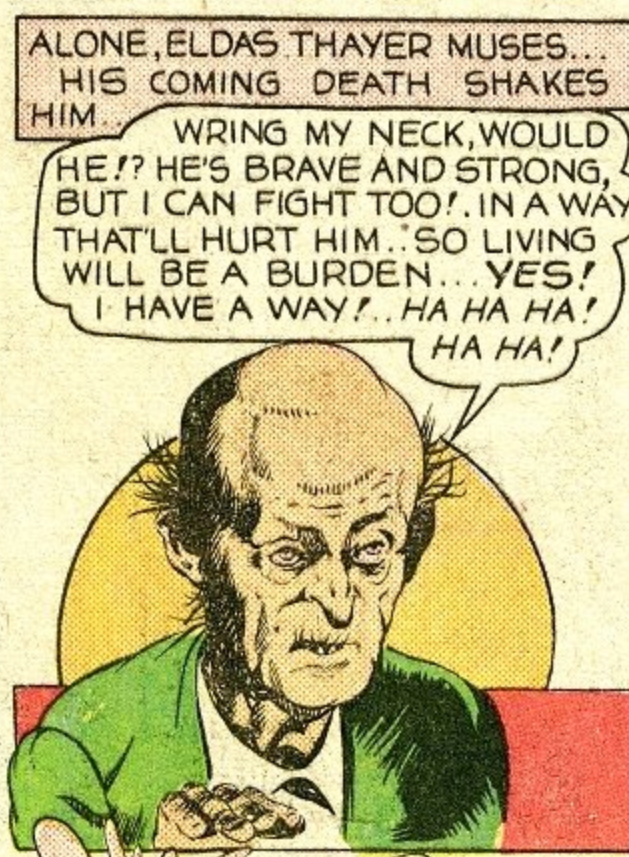
WHAT DO YOU
WANT OF ME?
I TOLD YOU
BEFORE I'LL
NEVER GIVE
THAT NIECE
OF MINE A
CENT! LET
HER DIE LIKE
ME! BAH!

THAYER, IF THAT
POOR GIRL DIES,
YOU'LL BE A
MURDERER!...
GIVE HER
THAT OPERATION
MONEY. YOU'RE
GOING TO DIE
ANYWAY! BE
HUMAN!



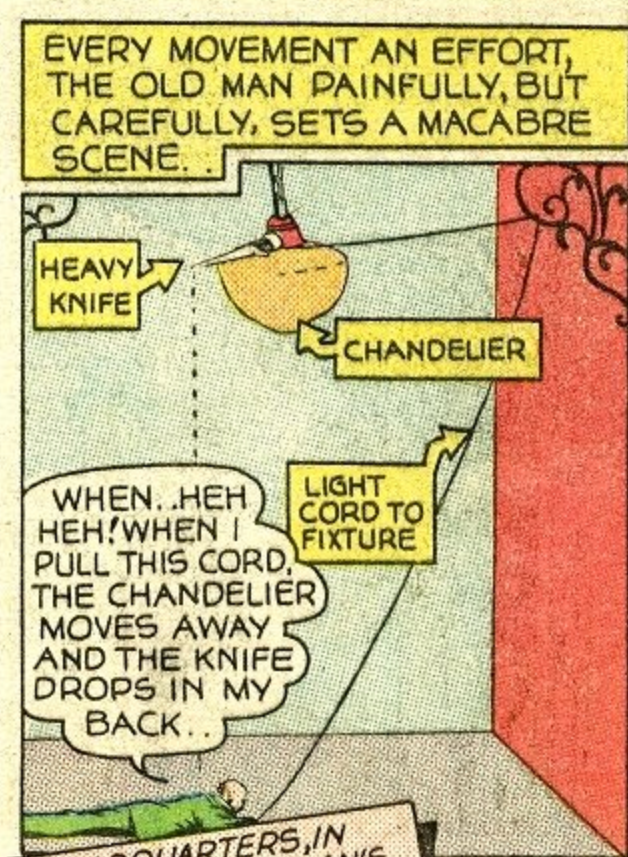
NO! AND
THAT'S
FINAL!

VERY WELL, THEN
GOODBYE, AND I
HOPE IN YOUR LAST
HOURS, YOUR
CONSCIENCE GIVES
YOU NO PEACE!
YOU OLD SKINFINT!
I'D LIKE TO WRING
YOUR NECK!



ALONE, ELDA'S THAYER MUSES...
HIS COMING DEATH SHAKES
HIM...

WRING MY NECK, WOULD
HE!? HE'S BRAVE AND STRONG,
BUT I CAN FIGHT TOO!. IN A WAY
THAT'LL HURT HIM... SO LIVING
WILL BE A BURDEN... YES!
I HAVE A WAY!.. HA HA HA!
HA HA!



EVERY MOVEMENT AN EFFORT,
THE OLD MAN PAINFULLY, BUT
CAREFULLY, SETS A MACABRE
SCENE.

HEAVY
KNIFE

CHANDELIER

LIGHT
CORD TO
FIXTURE

WHEN... HEH
HEH! WHEN I
PULL THIS CORD,
THE CHANDELIER
MOVES AWAY
AND THE KNIFE
DROPS IN MY
BACK...



WHAT DOES IT MATTER
IF I DIE NOW, OR IN
TWENTY FOUR HOURS.
I'LL BE ABLE TO
AVENGE MYSELF
ON THE SPIRIT. HE
REPRESENTS
GOOD, AND I,
EVIL... HA HA!



THE CORD IS
PULLED!

AND WHEN THE
POLICE ARRIVE...

WHO KNIFED
YOU?

THE
SPIRIT.
HE KILLED
ME!

OOOH

HE'S
DONE
FOR!

YAAA
GASP!

AT HEADQUARTERS, IN
COMMISSIONER DOLAN'S
OFFICE.



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NO... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NOT MURDER!
THE SPIRIT IS
NOT A
KILLER!

THE
OLD TIMER
SAID SO. THE
WORD OF A
DYING MAN...
AND WITNESSED
TOO! GUESS WE'D
BETTER SEND OUT
AN ALARM!

MEANWHILE, IN THE STREET BELOW

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE MY OWN MONEY, BUT I'LL GET DOLAN TO DONATE IT IN THAYER'S NAME. AS THE SPIRIT, I MIGHT HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.



A FEW MINUTES LATER THE SPIRIT CLIMBS THROUGH DOLAN'S WINDOW.

HELLO, DOLAN! JUST BEEN TO VISIT THAYER..ER..HERE'S SOME MONEY HE..ER..GAVE ME TO DONATE TO HIS NIECE'S HOSPITAL BILL!

THE SPIRIT!



SPIRIT! WHY DID YOU DO IT? GOOD GOSH! YOU'RE NOT A KILLER!

DO WHAT? SAY, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, DOLAN?



AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOOR FLIES OPEN.

THERE HE IS! ARREST HIM, COMMISSIONER!

MAYOR ALDRICH!!



I HEARD THE WHOLE STORY BEFORE I CAME IN.. HE'S GOT THE MONEY, COMMISSIONER. AND I HEARD HIM ADMIT IT CAME FROM THAYER. IT'S A CLEAR-CUT CASE!... SEEMS TO ME, DOLAN, THAT YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THIS MAN!

DID YOU, KID??? DENY IT AND I'LL BACK YOU UP!



FOR A MOMENT THE SPIRIT HESITATES. HE MUST DECIDE TO PROTECT HIS FRIEND OR SAVE HIMSELF.. AT LAST.

YES! I KILLED HIM!



BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST!



SHOOT HIM, DOLAN! SHOOT HIM! IT'S YOUR DUTY!



I CAN'T... I... C.. CAN'T K... KILL HIM!

?



THE FOLLOWING DAYS RING WITH BLARING HEADLINES.

The News Times

SHAKE-UP EXPECTED IN POLICE DEPARTMENT!
COMMISSIONER DOLAN REFUSES TO COMMENT! SPIRIT STILL AT LARGE!

Rumors are rife linking the Police Commissioner with the famous Robin Hood character "The Spirit"...

The police have been unable to locate the "Spirit". Believed to be murdered by Eidas.

MARY THAYER AT DEATH'S DOOR

The doctors of the 10th Street Free Clinic have issued an appeal for a blood donor with type A-1 blood.

I'VE GOT TO SAVE THAT GIRL'S LIFE! DRAGNET OR NO DRAGNET!

Niece of Eidas Thayer left penniless

IN HIS UNDERGROUND LABORATORY, THE SPIRIT TESTS HIS OWN BLOOD.

IT'S TYPE A-1.. NOW I KNOW SHE NEEDS ME!

AND INTO A CITY BRISTLING WITH POLICE SQUADS SEARCHING FOR HIM, THE SPIRIT GOES, TO SAVE A LIFE AT THE RISK OF HIS OWN.

42nd St. AND THE CHASE IS ON...

AT 42ND St. & BROADWAY HE IS SIGHTED...

THERE! THAT'S HIM!

GONE! NO, THIS WAY!

I WAS ALWAYS GOOD AT FOOTBALL!

SOON, BY A SERIES OF AMAZING FEATS, THE SPIRIT REACHES THE HOSPITAL BUILDING.



AT THE 10TH Street Clinic.

TO DOCTOR MARKA'S OFFICE, QUICK!



I'VE COME TO GIVE MY BLOOD TO SAVE MARY THAYER. DON'T ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE ME..I'LL BE HOLDING THIS PISTOL!



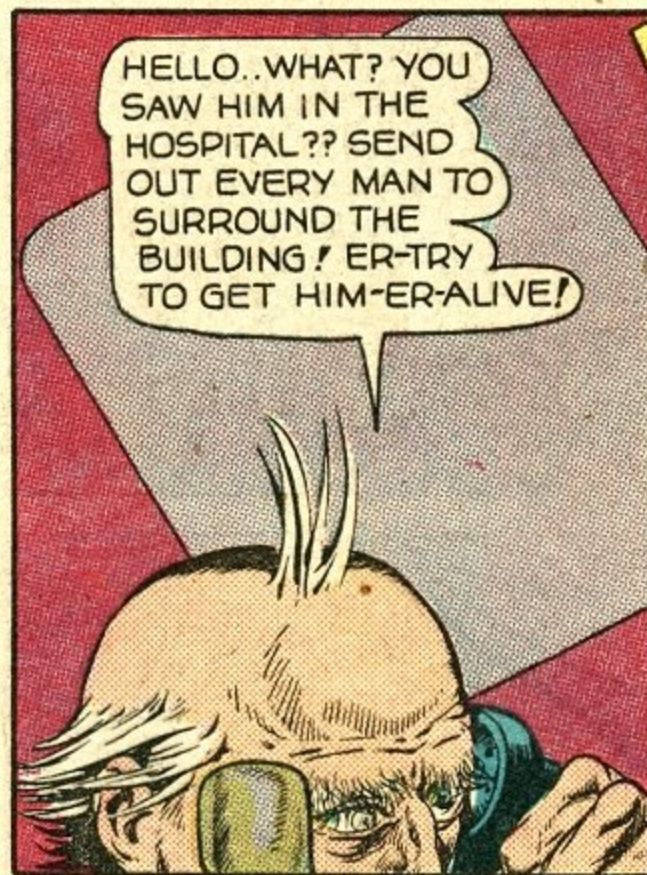
AMAZING! MARVELOUS STAMINA!

HE MUST HAVE RUN FOR MILES.. YET HIS HEART BEAT IS STEADY AND HIS BLOOD COUNT NORMAL.

AT HEADQUARTERS, DOLAN RESIGNS HIMSELF TO HIS TASK . . .



I'VE GOT TO DO IT! IT'S MY DUTY!



HELLO..WHAT? YOU SAW HIM IN THE HOSPITAL?? SEND OUT EVERY MAN TO SURROUND THE BUILDING! ER-TRY TO GET HIM-ER-ALIVE!



AT THE CLINIC

YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN AND REST!

MR.SPIRIT, OR WHOEVER YOU ARE, I WANT TO THANK YOU, YOU'VE JUST SAVED A LIFE!

SORRY, I MUST LEAVE!



OH-OH!.THE POLICE ARE WAITING FOR ME!



WELL..HERE I GO AGAIN.SO LONG!

G..GOOD LUCK! I..I HOPE YOU MAKE IT!



THERE GOES THE SPIRIT!



WHEW!
I MUST DO
SOME-
THING
QUICK!



THE POLICE SEPARATE INTO
GROUPS AND SCOUR THE
BUILDINGS.

LOOK! THAT'S
HIM HIDING
THERE!



SHH. WE'LL SNEAK
UP ON HIM. THE
COMMISSIONER
SAID GET HIM
ALIVE!



I GOT
HIM!!



..A..A BROOM!??

MEANWHILE, WEAK FROM THE
LOSS OF BLOOD, THE SPIRIT
STAGGERS BLINDLY ON, DETER-
MINED NOT TO BE CAUGHT...



AN ALLEY
LEADING OUT.
IT MAY BE A
CHANCE!



SUDDENLY, AS HE EMERGES FROM
THE ALLEY, HE FINDS HIMSELF SURROUND-
ED... A BATTERY OF SPOTLIGHTS IS
TRAINED ON HIM...

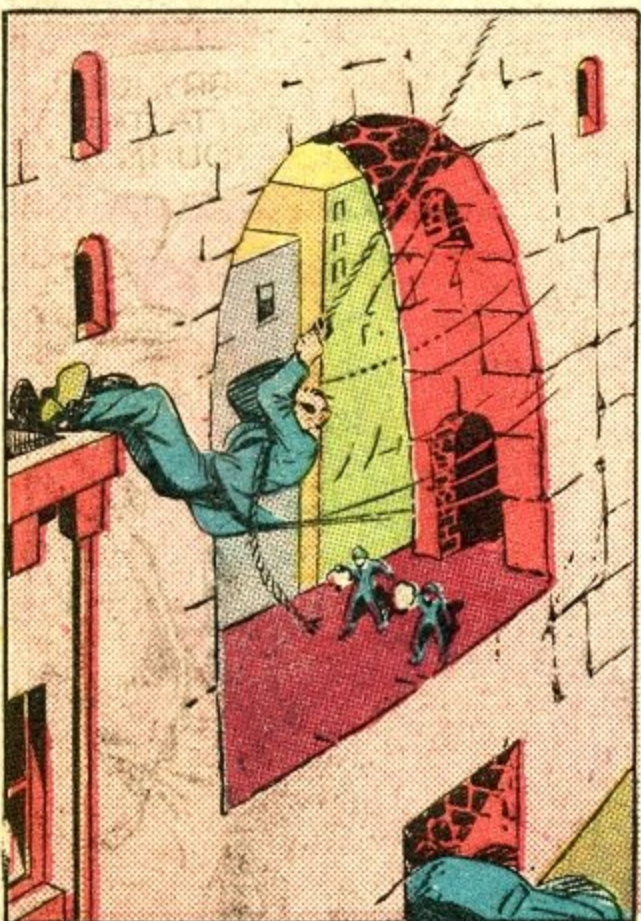


THE SPIRIT IS
CAPTURED AT
LAST!

SORRY, KID,
GOTTA TAKE
YOU IN!



AND THE SPIRIT LEAPS TO FREEDOM.



LADY LUCK

A DEBUTANTE CRIME BUSTER... BORED WITH SOCIAL LIFE, SHE BECOMES A MODERN LADY ROBIN HOOD.

By FORD DAVIS



World Sun

DIVORCE GRANTED TO SYLVIA VAN HOFF

SOCIALLY PROMINENT FORMER SYLVIA TENEYCK RECEIVED HER DIVORCE FROM TAYLOR VAN HOFF TO-DAY.

Sun

CUSTODY OF VAN HOFF CHILD AWAITS DECISION

"BUNNY" VAN HOFF IS LIVING WITH GRAND-MOTHER WHILE PARENTS BATTLE IN COURT FOR CUSTODY OF CHILD.

World Sun

BUNNY VAN HOFF DISAPPEARS! LOST? KIDNAPPED?

OR HAS THE GIRL RUN AWAY WHILE PARENTS WRANGLE WITH LAWYERS FOR HER?

MY OWN BABY! I SHALL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF. IT'S MY FAULT!

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET BUNNY BACK!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

NOT A THING, FEENY... NOT THE SLIGHTEST HUNCH!

ANY NEWS ABOUT LITTLE BUNNY, CHIEF?

BUT SOMEONE ELSE HAS A HUNCH AND IS FOLLOWING IT THE MYSTERIOUS LADY LUCK

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT... IT'S JUST ABOUT HERE!

BUNNY! BUNNY DEAR! DON'T BE AFRAID. I'VE COME TO HELP YOU!

WHO... WHO'S THERE?

I USED TO COME TO THIS SECRET CAVE WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. SO I GUESSED YOU'D BE HERE!

B... BUT, I WANT TO GO HOME!

LADY LUCK GIVES THE CHILD A PENCIL AND PAPER

... IF YOU AND MUMMY... GO HOME TOGETHER.. I'LL GO HOME.

MEANWHILE, TWO HARRIED PARENTS VISIT HARDY MOORE



HAVE YOU SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, CHIEF?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

I'M DOING ALL I CAN YOU MUST BE CALM, BOTH OF YOU!

SUDDENLY OFFICER FEENEY O'MYE BURSTS IN



CHIEF! I GOT A NOTE IT'S FROM LADY LUCK AND BUNNY!

SO, SHE'S IN ON THIS, TOO!



SO, SHE'S IN ON THIS, TOO!

DEAR DADDY:
I'm so unhappy without you and mummy
go home together
I'll go home too
love
Bunny



POOR LITTLE LONESOME DEAR MAYBE SHE IS RIGHT!

SHE WANTS US TO GO BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

ER EH



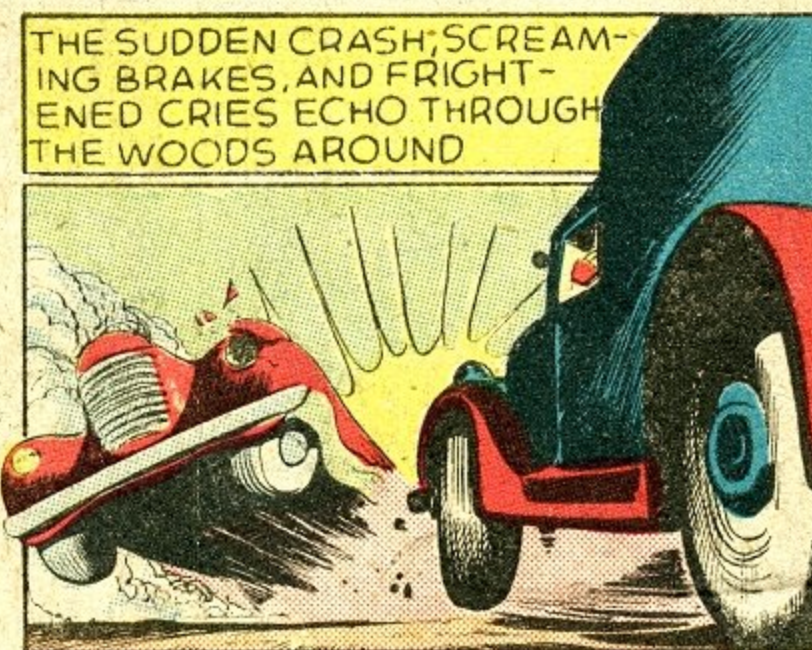
ER COME ON, FEENEY, WE CAN'T LOSE TIME. WE HAVE TO GET LADY LUCK ON A KIDNAP CHARGE!



AT THAT MOMENT THE LADY IS RACING BACK TO BUNNY AT TOP SPEED



SHE DOES NOT SEE THE LUMBERING TRUCK THAT SPEEDS AROUND THE BEND



THE SUDDEN CRASH, SCREAMING BRAKES, AND FRIGHTENED CRIES ECHO THROUGH THE WOODS AROUND



BUNNY, HEARING THE NOISE, COMES RUNNING OUT OF HER HIDEAWAY



LADY LUCK! OH, ARE YOU HURT?



THE TRUCK DRIVERS SEE HER

THAT'S THE VAN HOFF KID! THERE'S BIG DOUGH BEHIND HER!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAIT-IN' FOR?

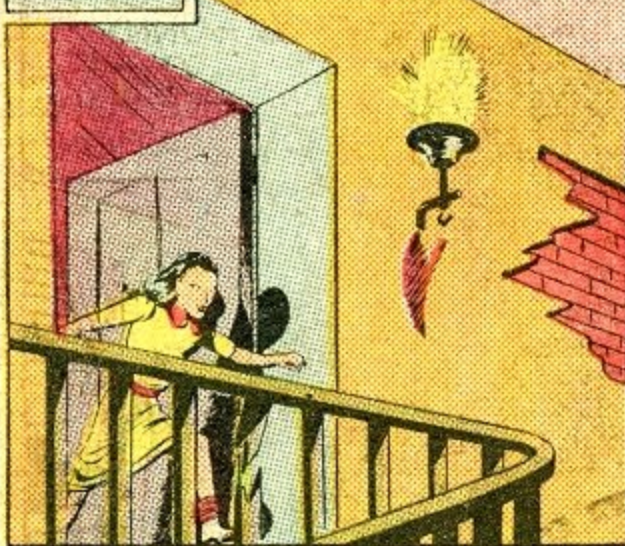


SORRY, MISS. WE GOTTA HOLD YOU, TOO!

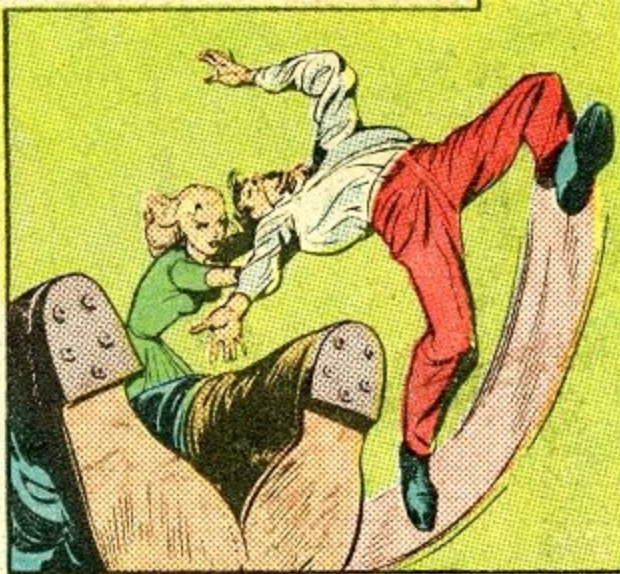
BOY! THE REWARD FOR THIS BABY GETS BIGGER EVERY MINUTE!



FRIGHTENED, LITTLE BUNNY CHASES OUT IN SEARCH FOR HELP



BUT THE LADY SEEMS TO BE HOLDING HER OWN



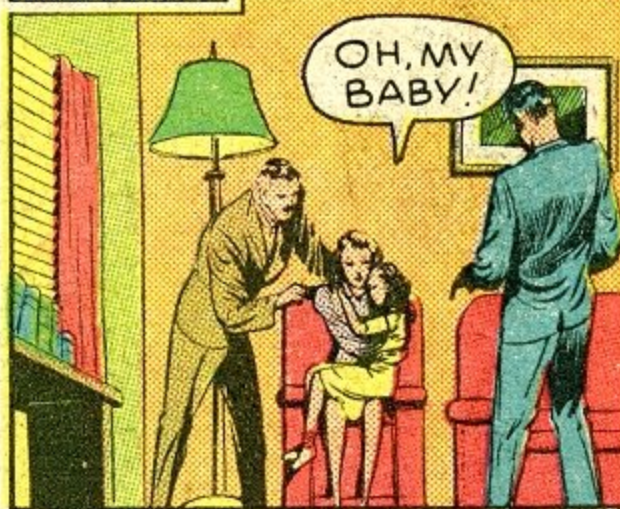
BUNNY REACHES THE STREET



BUT, SHE'S GONE!



SOON THE FATHER, MOTHER AND CHILD ARE HAPPILY REUNITED.



AND IT WAS LADY LUCK WHO SAVED ME!



LADY LUCK?! BUT SHE'S DEAD!



EVER SEE A GHOST, CHIEF?



HOLD IT, FOLKS, FOR A NICE FAMILY PICTURE!



HERE'S YOUR CAMERA, CHUCK. I GOT THE PICTURE!



GEE, THANKS. THEY WOULDN'T LET ME!

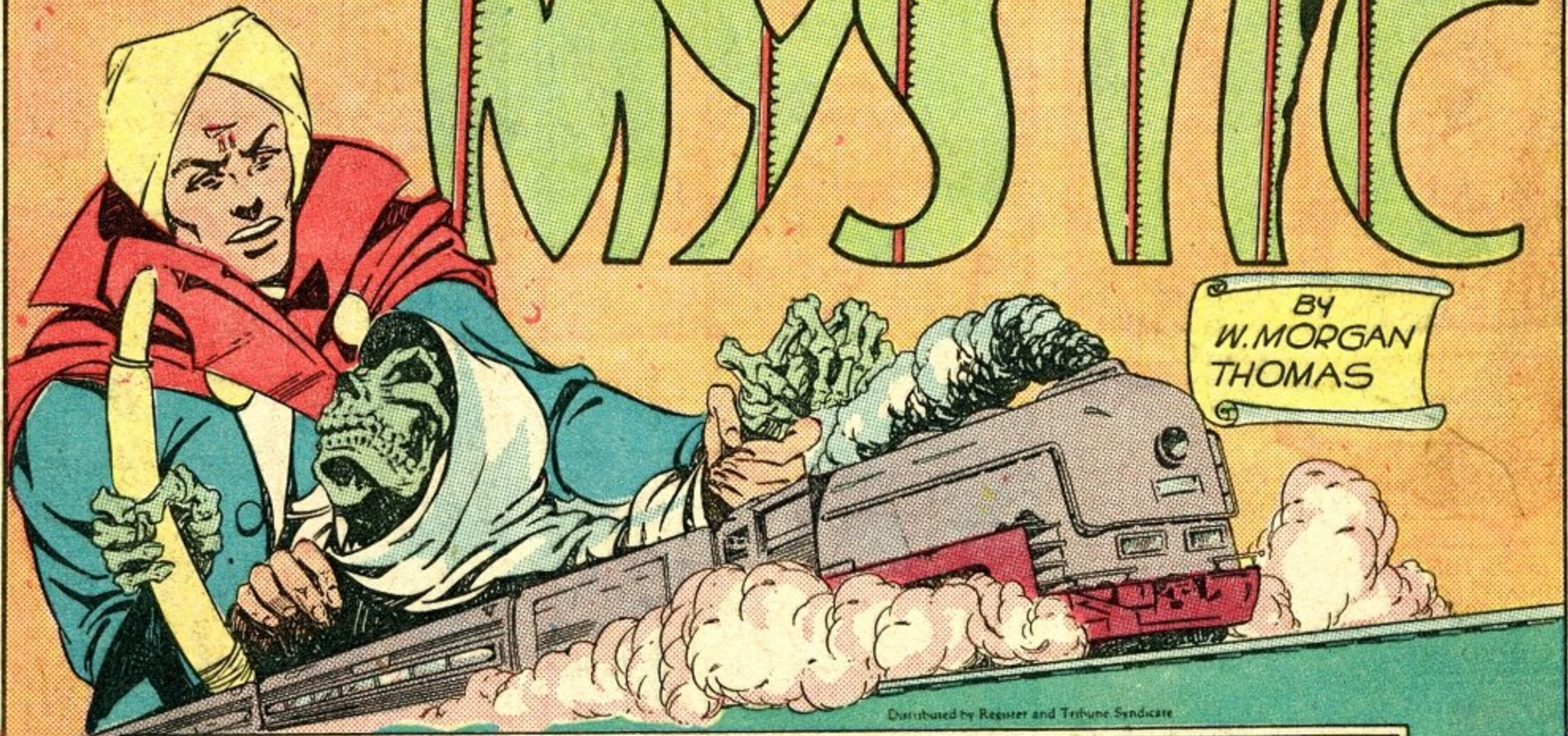
D. DID Y. YOU SEE WHAT I SAW?



YEAH.. IT'S UNCANNY!



MR. MYSTIC



BY
W. MORGAN
THOMAS

Distributed by Register and Tribune Syndicate

A PROTEGÉ OF A MYSTERIOUS COUNCIL OF SEVEN LAMAS, MR. MYSTIC, CLEVER YOUNG AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, IS ENDOWED WITH LIMITLESS MAGICAL POWERS TO FIGHT THE FORCES OF EVIL AND CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD

HIDDEN DEEP IN THE NIGERIAN JUNGLES, ELENA, BEAUTIFUL AND NOTORIOUS REVOLUTIONIST, PLOTS WITH THE PREMIER OF CADIWA . . .

HOW MANY PLANES HAVE YOU, ELENA?

FOUR. BUT WE SHALL USE ONLY TWO TODAY!

THE CAIRO EXPRESS WILL PASS JUST NORTHEAST OF HERE IN AN HOUR.. WHEN IT DOES, OUR BOMBERS WILL BE READY!

WE CAN'T FAIL! AS SOON AS KING BAHROUD IS DEAD, YOU CAN STEP IN AND DECLARE MARTIAL LAW!

SEE? OUR PLANES WILL BOMB THE TRAIN HERE. LISTEN! THEY'RE TAKING OFF!

YOU'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE CAPITAL.. I'LL SEE YOU IN A WEEK TO COLLECT MY REWARD!

MEANWHILE

THAT'S RIGHT, KING BAHROUD.. THAT AMULET PROTECTS ITS WEARER FROM ALL HARM!

YOU MUST VALUE IT HIGHLY, MR. MYSTIC!

NO -- NOT SO VERY... YOU SEE, MY OWN GOOD LUCK CHARM IS JUST AS POWERFUL, SO I'M RETURNING THAT ONE TO THE SEVEN LAMAS' MONASTERY.



AS THE TRAIN SPEEDS OVER THE ARKUT CANYON, TWO DIVE BOMBERS ROAR OUT OF THE SOUTH AND CAREFULLY JOCKEY INTO POSITION ABOVE IT. . . .



SUDDENLY, ONE DIVES.



INSIDE THE TRAIN, PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE AS THE CARS AND RAILS ARE BLOWN INTO A MASS OF TWISTED STEEL. . .



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KING BAHROUD?

Y-YES.. IT'S A GOOD THING I HAD THIS AMULET IN MY HAND!



THERE'S THE CAUSE OF THIS! WAIT HERE FOR ME!



JUST A MINUTE, MY FRIEND, I WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS!



WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO IS YOUR LEADER?

WE WERE TOLD TO KILL THE KING, SO PREMIER GRAHVIN CAN DECLARE MARTIAL LAW AND TAKE OVER THE KINGDOM AS DICTATOR... ELÉNA IS OUR CHIEF!



ELÉNA AGAIN! WILL I NEVER BE RID OF THAT WOMAN! I MUST STOP HER ONCE AND FOR ALL!



PROJECTING HIMSELF INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION, MR. MYSTIC SOON ARRIVES AT ELENA'S HIDEOUT...



WE MEET AGAIN, ELENA! THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!



YOUR PLAN TO ASSASSINATE THE KING FAILED, BUT YOU SHALL PAY FOR THE DEATH OF ALL THE OTHERS!



BAH! I AM NOT AFRAID OF YOUR POWERS! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME!



OH, YES I WILL!

AS MR. MYSTIC GRABS ELENA'S ARM, SHE CRASHES AGAINST A TABLE, KNOCKING OVER A LAMP.



JARRED BY THE CRASH, A HEAVY VASE FALLS FROM THE RAFTERS ON MR. MYSTIC'S HEAD.



HE'S KNOCKED OUT! OH! THE LAMP HAS SET THE PLACE AFIRE!



I'LL HAVE TO WARN THE PREMIER!



WHILE ELENA TAKES OFF IN ONE OF THE TWO REMAINING PLANES, THE GREEDY FLAMES CREEP CLOSER TO MR. MYSTIC'S FORM.



BACK IN THE CAPITAL, GRAHVIN ADDRESSES A HUGE CROWD, TELLING THEM OF THEIR KING'S UNFORTUNATE DEATH.



..NOW I AM YOUR LEADER!

YOU MUST REALIZE THAT I AM INFALLIBLE..MY WORD IS LAW! I WILL TOLERATE NO OPPOSITION, AND ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO DISOBEY ME WILL BE SHOT!



MEANWHILE, THE FLAMES QUICKLY ENVELOP THE SHACK AND EAT VICIOUSLY INTO THE DRY GRASS.



(COUGH) I-I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE FAST! (COUGH)



RAISING HIS ARMS, MR. MYSTIC COMMANDS A CLOUD OF VAPOR TO SURROUND HIM FROM HEAD TO FOOT



SAFE WITHIN THE VAPOR, HE WALKS CALMLY THROUGH THE FLAMES.



AT LEAST THEY WERE NICE ENOUGH TO LEAVE ME A PLANE!



I'LL PICK UP THE KING AND CATCH ELENA AT THE CAPITAL!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, ELENA ARRIVES AT THE CAPITAL AND RUSHES INTO THE PREMIER'S OFFICE ...

QUICK, GRAHVIN! THERE'S NOT A SECOND TO LOSE! THE KING LIVES!



OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO SEND OUT THE SOLDIERS AND BEAT THE PEOPLE INTO SUBMISSION BEFORE HE RETURNS!



WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, GENERAL? CALL OUT YOUR TROOPS!

B-BUT, IF THE K-KING... YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY!



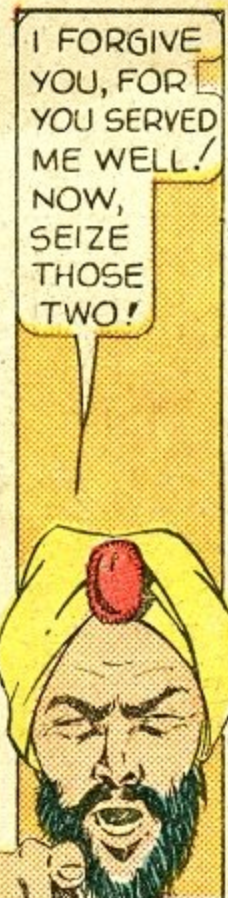
BEWILDERED AS TO WHOM TO TAKE HIS ORDERS FROM, THE GENERAL HEADS FOR THE DOOR, ONLY TO STOP IN AMAZED AWE AS MR. MYSTIC AND HIS KING APPEAR.





YOU WORTHLESS SNAKE! YOU WOULD LISTEN TO THAT DOG AND BETRAY ME! I SHOULD HAVE YOU KILLED!

MERCY!



I FORGIVE YOU, FOR YOU SERVED ME WELL! NOW, SEIZE THOSE TWO!



UH! I'M TURNING TO STONE!

SEEKING TO ESCAPE, THE PREMIER TAKES TO HIS HEELS, BUT MR. MYSTIC GESTURES.



VERY CLEVER, MR. MYSTIC, BUT I STILL SAY YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!



GUARDS! STOP HER! MY MAGIC IS POWERLESS OVER HER!



EXCITED, THE GENERAL RAISES HIS GUN AND FIRES BLINDLY.



ELENA! ELENA!

FOOL! I WANTED HER TAKEN ALIVE! GET THE DOCTOR! HURRY!



I'M AFRAID THIS IS IT, MR. MYSTIC! M-MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT WE WEREN'T ON THE SAME SIDE..WE WOULD HAVE MADE SUCH A GOOD PAIR.. SUCH A.....

HURRY, DOCTOR!



QUICKLY ELENA IS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL, AND FOR TWO HOURS MR. MYSTIC ANXIOUSLY AWAITS THE DOCTOR'S REPORT.

ELENA IS SHE..?

SHE'LL LIVE..IT WAS JUST A SEVERE FLESH WOUND!



THANK HEAVEN! SHE IS AN OPPONENT, BUT A BRAVE ONE AND I ADMIRE HER I MUST GO NOW, KING BAHROUD I LEAVE HER IN YOUR HANDS UNTIL I RETURN SOME DAY... ADIEU!