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MADAM CLIZIA

HAUNTED HALLWAY

TM

#24
\$4.99




MADAM ELIZIA



Art by
Drazen Kozjan

I LOVE PLANTS,
DON'T YOU?
I LIKE THE VINES THAT CRAWL
UP YOUR NECK TO *STRANGLE* YOU.
I LIKE THE *POISONOUS HERBS*
THAT KILL YOU WITH ONE DROP OF THEIR
NEFARIOUS JUICES. AND I LIKE THOSE
PLANTS THAT BEFOUL THE AIR WITH THEIR
SNEEZE-INDUCING POLLENS. IT'S THEIR WAY TO
SAY TO US,
"I *SUFFOCATINGLY* LOVE YOU BACK!"
THIS ISSUE OF *HAUNTED HORROR* IS
DEDICATED TO MY *PLANTS*, THOSE *FUNGI*
GROWING IN MY DAMP BASEMENT, AND
OTHER *INFECTING AFFLICTIONS*. I
THROTTLE THEM WITH *LOVE* AND
THEY THRIVE. YOU CAN SAY THAT
I HAVE A *BLACK THUMB!*



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Haunted Horror
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**Editors: Steve Banes, Clizia Gussoni, and Craig Yoe. Contributing Editors:
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On the cover, *Suspense Comics* #9, August 1945. Artist: L.B. Cole. Temerson/Helnit/Continental.

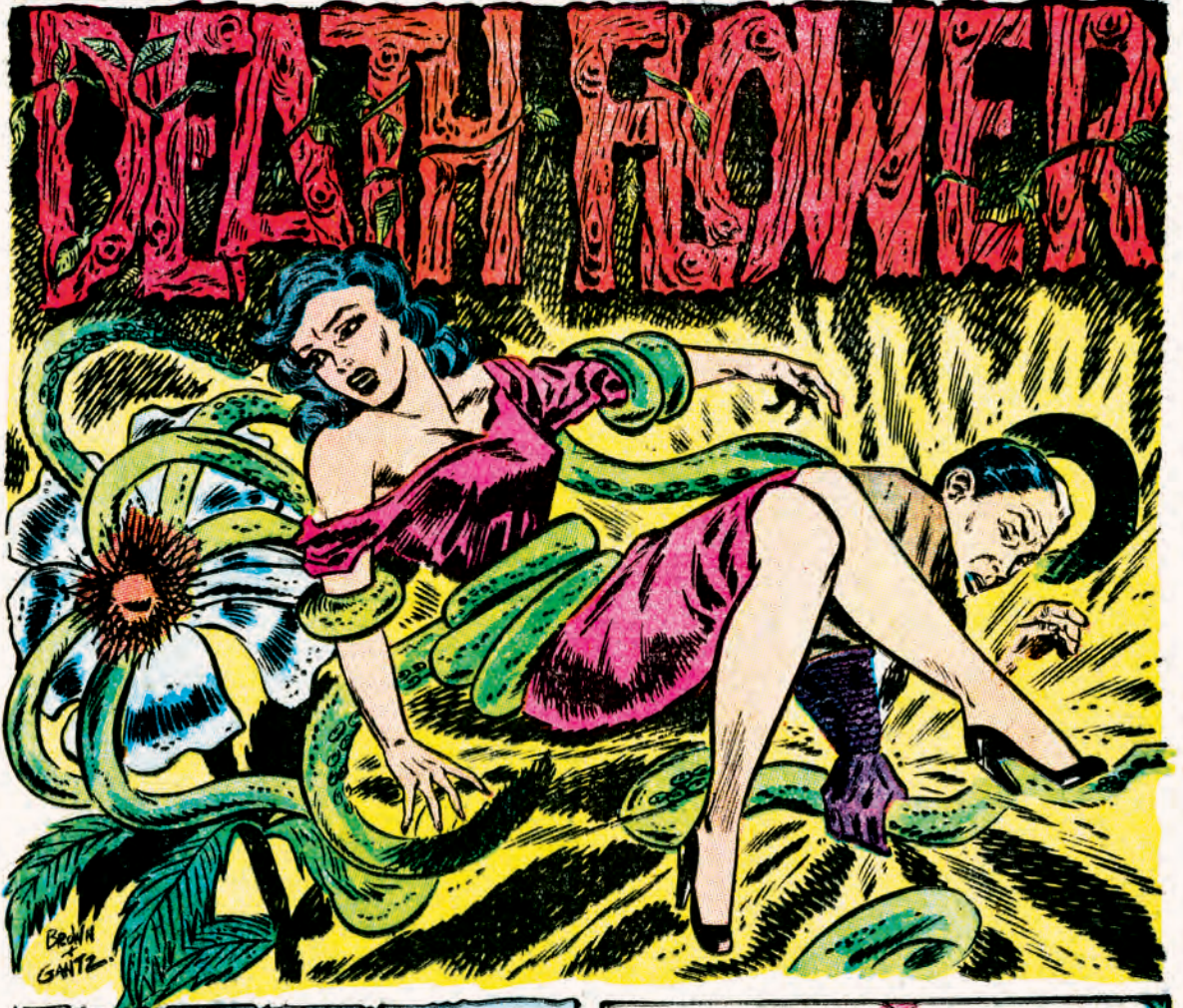
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PURPLE CLAW
MYSTERY

WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN IN THE STEAMING FLORIDA EVERGLADES, STRANGE THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN. MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THERE... BUT NO ONE HAS EVER RETURNED. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DR. JONATHAN WEIR, WEARER OF THE PURPLE CLAW ENTERS THE HOT STIFLING EVERGLADES SWAMPS TO BATTLE THE DEADLY, EVIL....



OUR STORY OPENS IN A HOTEL ROOM IN MIAMI, FLORIDA. SAM BARNEY, TOUGH NEW YORK MOBSTER, AND HIS HENCHMAN, TRIGGER MARTEX, HAVE JUST ARRIVED.

YA THINK WE'LL BE SAFE DOWN HERE, SAM? YA THINK THE COPS KNOW WE DID IT?

SHUT UP, TRIGGER! YOU WORRY TOO MUCH! WE CAME DOWN HERE TO ENJOY THE SUNSHINE... SO ENJOY YOURSELF!



HOW CAN I ENJOY MYSELF WHEN THE COPS AN' EVERY HOOD IN NEW YORK ARE LOOKIN' FOR THE GUYS WHAT CROAKED JOEY MARCHETTI... NAMELY US!

THAT LOUSY DOUBLE-CROSSIN' RAT HAD IT COMIN' TO 'IM! AND BESIDES, NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE THAT WE DID IT! SO STOP YOUR WORRYIN'! C'MON, LET'S GO FOR A SWIM!



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, ON THE BEACH AN OLD BEACHCOMBER APPROACHES SAM AND TRIGGER...

SCREAM, YA OLD BUM! DO I DON'T WANT YER PANHANDLIN' SOMEWHERES ELSE. I DON'T WANT ANY MONEY, MISTER. I JUST CAME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE! THE COPS IN NEW YORK KNOW WHO KILLED JOEY MARCHETTI....



WHAT'RE YOU TRYIN' TO HAND ME? I OUGHTA BREAK...

IT'S TRUE! CALL SLUG WILSON IN NEW YORK! HE'LL TELL YOU!



SAM DASHES FOR A PHONE, AID SOON

IT'S TRUE! THE COPS KNOW WE DID IT! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY CATCH US DOWN HERE!

WHAT'LL WE DO, SAM? WHERE CAN WE HIDE?



LOOK...I HAVE A LITTLE CABIN IN THE EVERGLADES! NO ONE'S EVER BEEN THERE AND NO ONE'LL FIND YOU THERE! I GOT ENOUGH PROVISIONS FOR HALF A YEAR.

I'M AFRAID WE GOT NO CHOICE. TELL US HOW TO GET THERE. IF IT PAYS OFF FOR US, WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YA!



AFTER A LONG HARD DRIVE, SAM AND TRIGGER FIND THEMSELVES IN THE SWELTERING EVERGLADES...

HMM! NOT BAD! NOT BAD!

C'MON TRIGGER.. SNAP IT UP! I WANTA HIT THE HAY!

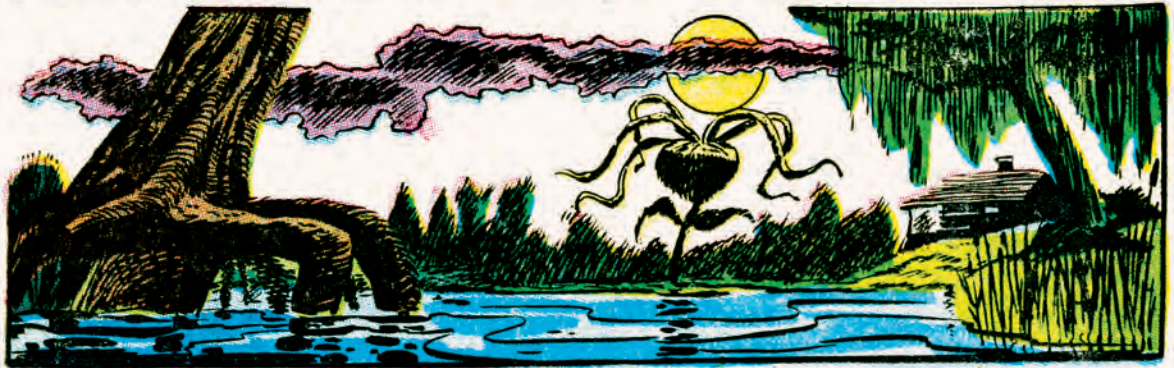
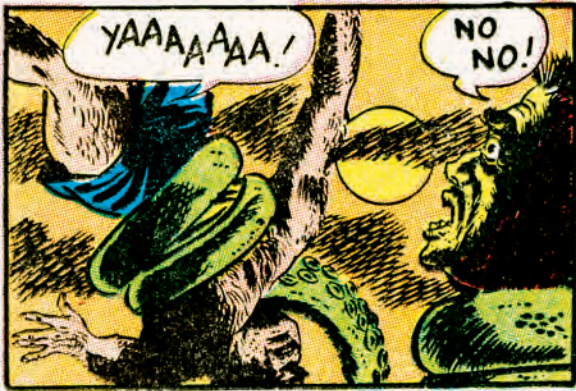
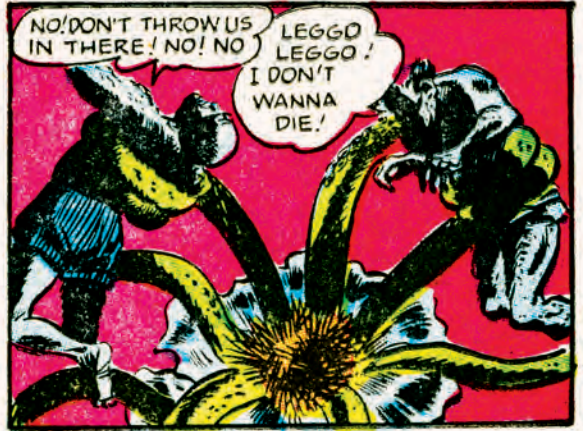
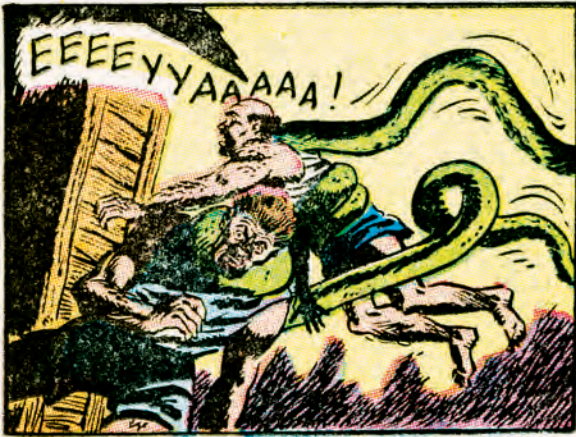


NIGHT FALLS, AND THE WEARY MEN ARE FAST ASLEEP. BUT...



YAAAAAAA! HELP! LEGGO! YAAAAA!





SOME DAYS LATER THE OLD BEACHCOMBER MEETS WALTER PARKER AND HIS WIFE, ON THE BEACH AT MIAMI.---

I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE THE INTRUSION MR. PARKER, BUT WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE THE FAMOUS BOTANIST I JUST HAD TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, YOU SEE... I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN FIND SOME RARE SPECIES FOR YOUR COLLECTION!

I'M ALWAYS INTERESTED IN SOME NEW SPECIES. HAVE A SEAT AND TELL ME ABOUT THEM.

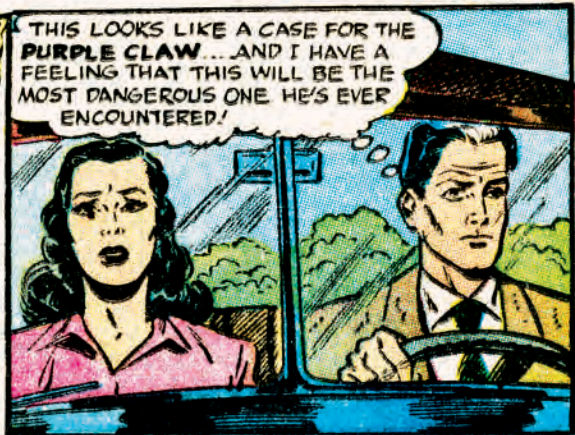
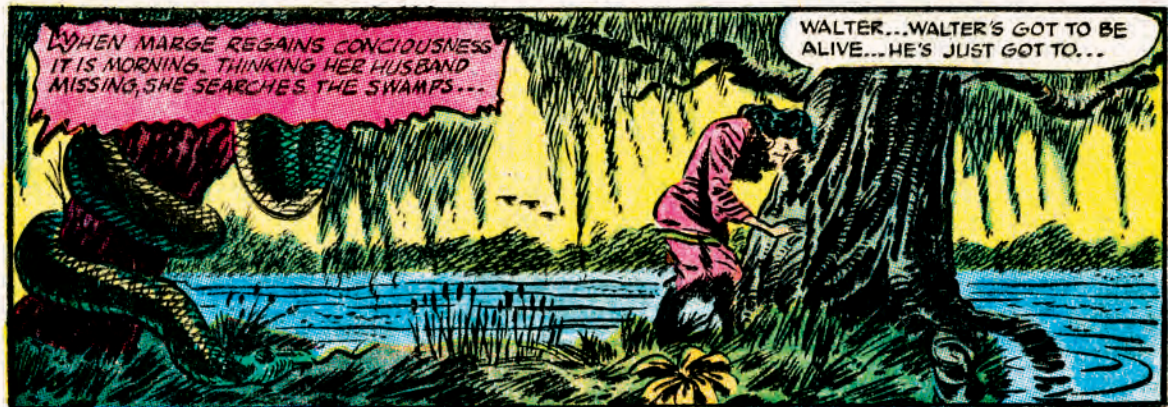
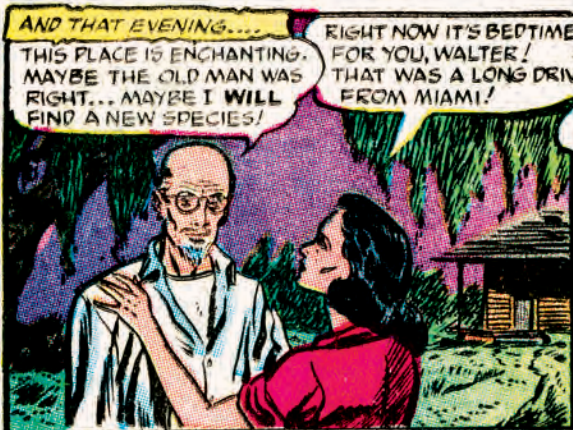


IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EVERGLADES, THERE'S A FLOWER THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM ANY YOU'VE SEEN. I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T GOT IT IN YOUR COLLECTION. THERE'S A CABIN OUT THERE THAT YOU CAN USE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, MARGE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

COUNT ME IN, WALTER!





THAT NIGHT IN THE MYSTERIOUS CABIN...

WHATEVER YOU DO...DON'T GO NEAR THAT BED! FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, I GATHER WHATEVER IT IS THAT GRABBED WALTER, CAME FROM THE WINDOW! WE'LL JUST SIT AND WAIT...



ONE HOUR PASSES AND WEIR AND MARGE WAIT...



THEN...!

DR. WEIR! LOOK! LO...MMPH!

QUIET! COME ON...I'M GOING TO FOLLOW IT!



A MAN-EATING FLOWER! IT'S HORRIBLE! I'VE GOT TO DESTROY IT.



THE HUGE JAWS SNAP SHUT BUT THE UGLY FLOWER TREMBLES AS IT RECEIVES NO VICTIM. THE PURPLE CLAW QUICKLY LIGHTS A TORCH!

