

THE  
BEST  
OF 75  
YEARS  
OF EC  
COMICS

FEATURING...



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

# CHOKE GASP!

A SELECTION OF HANDPICKED EC COMICS STORIES





# THE VAULT OF HORROR!

WELCOME, ONCE AGAIN, TO THE VAULT OF HORROR! I SEE WE HAVE MANY *NEW* READERS WITH US THIS TIME! HEH, HEH! I TRUST YOU HAVE PROPERLY PREPARED YOURSELVES! BY THAT I MEAN, YOU *HAVE* MADE SURE *ALL* THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE LOCKED, HAVEN'T YOU? FOR, THE TALE I AM ABOUT TO UNFOLD WILL TRULY BE AN INITIATION FOR YOU! YOU OTHER READERS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE... READY? HEH, HEH, HEH! GOOD! NOW, LIE BACK IN YOUR GRAVE AND GET A GOOD GRIP ON YOUR NERVES BECAUSE WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN THE STORY I CALL:

## VOODOO VENGEANCE!





FOR THE PAST THIRTEEN YEARS, CALEB STANDISH HAD LEFT HIS PALATIAL SUITE OF OFFICES AT PRECISELY FIVE P.M., AND HAD WALKED ONE BLOCK TO THE GARAGE WHERE HE ALWAYS PARKED HIS CAR, BUT *THIS* DAY, HE LEFT *EARLY*...



NOW, THAT'S STRANGE! I'D SWEAR THIS SHOP WASN'T HERE BEFORE! I PASS HERE AT LEAST TWICE A DAY! FUNNY HOW I NEVER NOTICED IT!



HMM...ANTIQUES... ODDITIES! SOME NICE THINGS IN THE WINDOW! I THINK I'LL GO IN... MIGHT BE ABLE TO PICK UP SOMETHING NICE FOR SALLY!



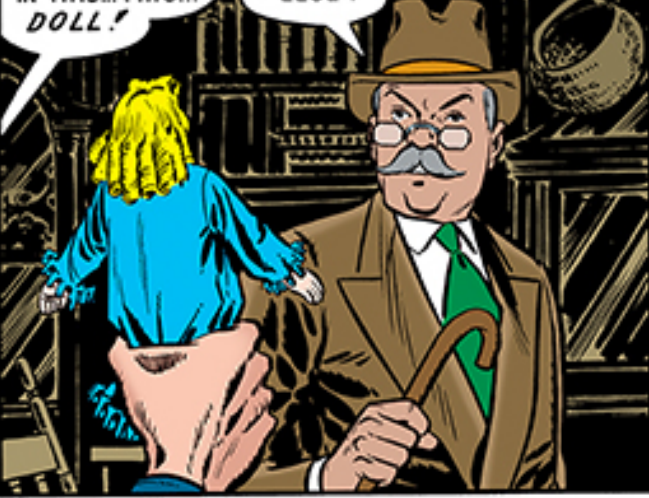
I'M LOOKING FOR A GIFT TO GIVE MY WIFE, BUT IT'S SO DARK IN HERE I CAN'T SEE YOUR WARES! COULDN'T WE HAVE A BIT MORE LIGHT?

THE POWERS OF THE DARKNESS, SIR, ARE INFINITE! FRET NOT, FOR I HAVE THAT WHICH YOU SEEK!



HERE, SIR! I THINK YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS... THIS... *DOLL!*

A *DOLL*? NO! I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND! MAYBE YOU COULD SHOW ME SOMETHING ELSE!



IF YOU DO NOT CARE FOR *THIS* DOLL, SIR, PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ONE NOT SO *ORDINARY*! PERHAPS... A *VOODOO DOLL*? HMMM?

A *VOODOO DOLL*? WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

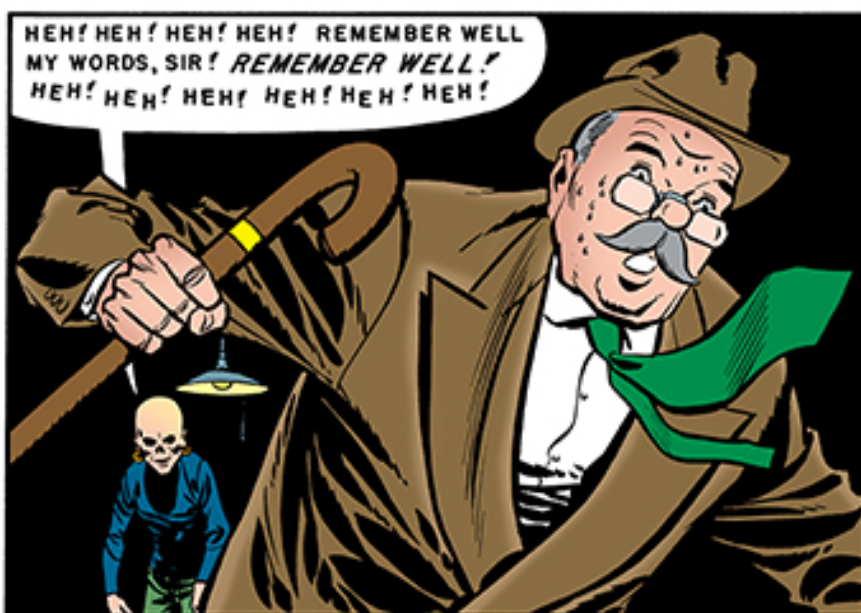


A WAX DOLL THAT WILL BE THE EXACT DUPLICATE OF ANYONE YOU NAME! ONLY, OVER THIS DOLL I SHALL CAST A *VOODOO SPELL*! AND WHATSOEVER HAPPENS TO THE DOLL, SO SHALL IT ALSO HAPPEN TO THE PERSON IN WHOSE LIKENESS THE DOLL IS MADE!

*ROT!*

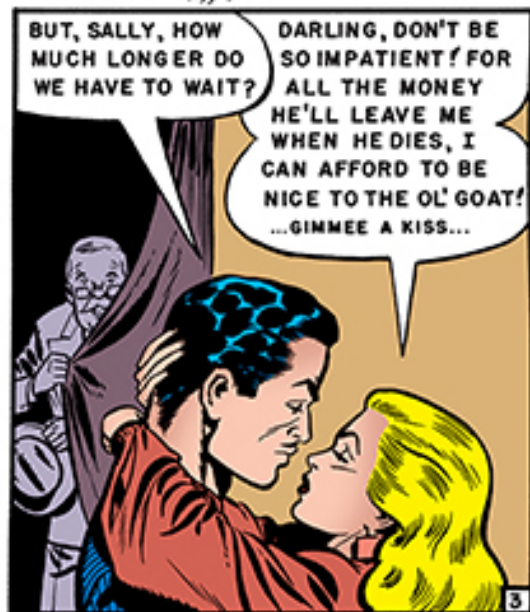




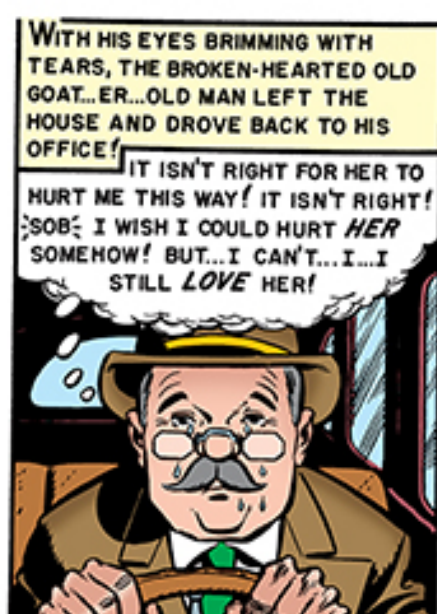


CALEB ENTERED HIS HOUSE... AND AS HE QUIETLY CLOSED THE DOOR, HE HEARD HIS WIFE'S VOICE...

SOUNDS LIKE SALLY IS TALKING TO SOMEONE! SHE DOESN'T EXPECT ME HOME THIS EARLY... I'LL SNEAK IN AND SURPRISE THE SWEET, YOUNG THING!







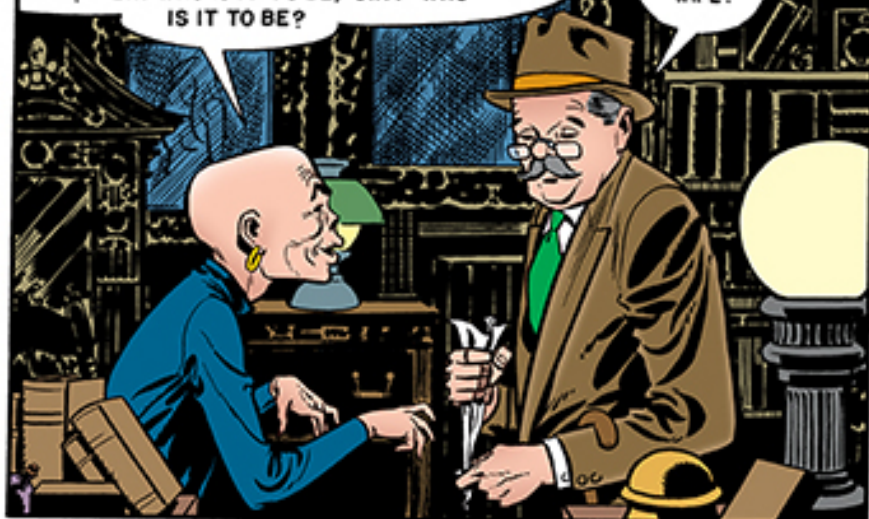
SOMETIME LATER HE PARKED HIS CAR AND WALKED TOWARD HIS OFFICE. SUDDENLY, HE STOPPED...

"IF EVER YOU WISH TO DO SOME-ONE HARM, COME TO ME!"



HEH! HEH! I KNEW YOU WOULD RETURN! YOU WISH ME TO MAKE YOU A **VOODOO DOLL**, DON'T YOU? HEH! WHO IS IT TO BE, SIR? WHO IS IT TO BE?

MY... MY WIFE!



THE NEXT MORNING, CALEB BROUGHT THE SHOPKEEPER PHOTOGRAPHS OF SALLY AND WAS TOLD TO RETURN AT MID-NIGHT! AFTER A NERVE-WRACKING DAY, HE RETURNED TO THE SHOP AND WAS USHERED DOWN INTO THE CELLAR...

SIT THERE, SIR! YOU MUST BE PRESENT WHILE I PERFORM THE **BLACK MAGIC** RITUAL WHICH WILL CHANGE THIS WAX FIGURE INTO A **VOODOO DOLL**!

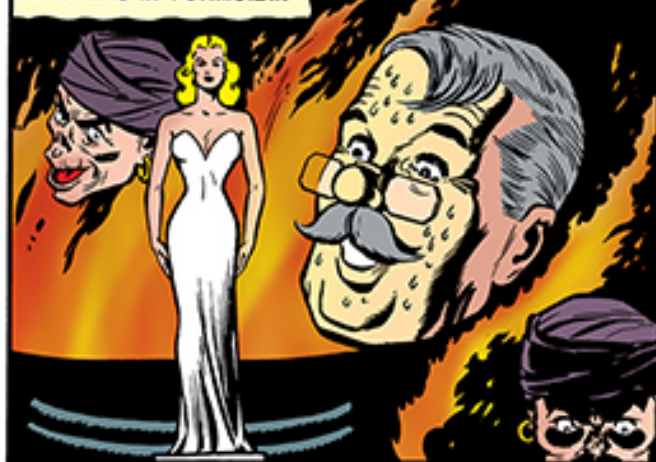
YES...YES, OF COURSE! P...PLEASE HURRY, WON'T YOU...I...I FEEL QUITE... NERVOUS!

THE SHOPKEEPER BEGAN THE **BLACK MAGIC** RITUAL. HE CHANTED WEIRD INCANTATIONS AND DANCED BEFORE THE DOLL...AND CALEB SAT WATCHING...





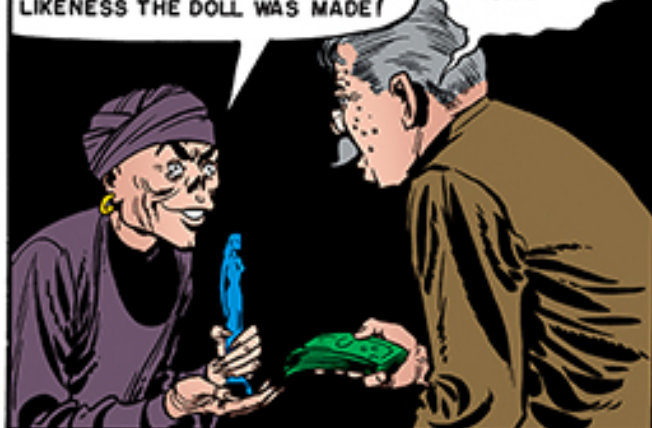
FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS, THE RITUAL CONTINUED! AS THE SHOPKEEPER BECAME MORE AND MORE FRENZIED, CALEB GREW MORE AND MORE FRIGHTENED. HIS CLOTHES WERE WET WITH PERSPIRATION AND HIS MIND WAS IN TURMOIL...



SUDDENLY, IT WAS OVER...

HERE, SIR, IS YOUR DOLL! REMEMBER...WHATSOEVER HAPPENS TO THIS DOLL, SO SHALL IT ALSO HAPPEN TO THE PERSON IN WHOSE LIKENESS THE DOLL WAS MADE!

I...I UNDERSTAND! HERE...HERE IS YOUR FEE! I...I... I WANT... T-TO GO H-HOME NOW!



CALEB LEFT THE ANTIQUE SHOP AND WENT HOME. HE SLEPT FITFULLY, BUT NEXT DAY HE AWOKED RESTED AND COMPOSED...

I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD! I...I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT REALLY HAPPENED! BUT THERE IS THE WAX DOLL TO PROVE IT! I...I WONDER IF WHAT HE SAID ABOUT IT IS TRUE! I...I MUST FIND OUT!



GOOD MORNING, CALEB! OH...WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STATUE! AND... WHY, IT'S A...A STATUE OF ME!

DON'T TOUCH THAT!



WHY, CALEB! THAT IS A STATUE OF ME, ISN'T IT?

ER...AH...YES! YES, I HAD IT MADE! BUT...I DON'T WANT YOU TO TOUCH IT! IT...IT'S VERY...DELICATE! YES, DELICATE! PROMISE YOU WON'T TOUCH IT!



OF COURSE, CALEB, YOU DEAR! IF IT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY, I PROMISE NOT TO GO NEAR IT! YOU SWEET DARLING! YOU'RE NOT ANGRY WITH LI'L OL' ME...ARE YOU, DEAR?

OH, SALLY...SALLY, HOW CAN YOU SAY THOSE THINGS WHEN YOU DON'T MEAN THEM? HOW CAN YOU LIE TO ME LIKE THAT? NO...NO, SALLY...I'M... NOT ANGRY...

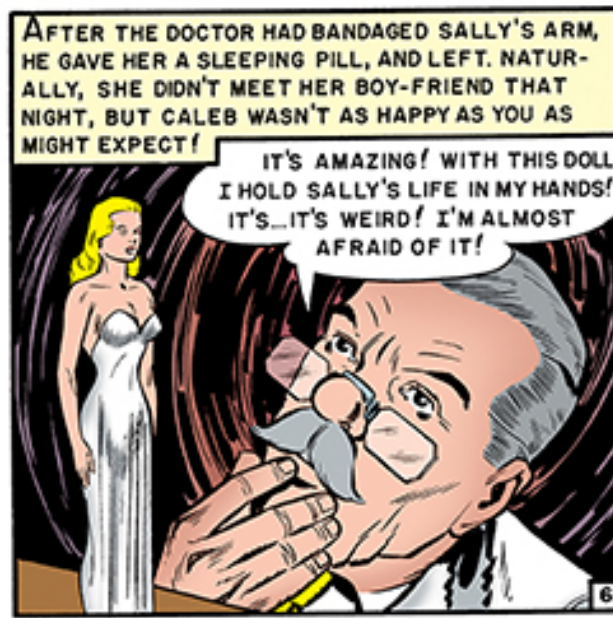
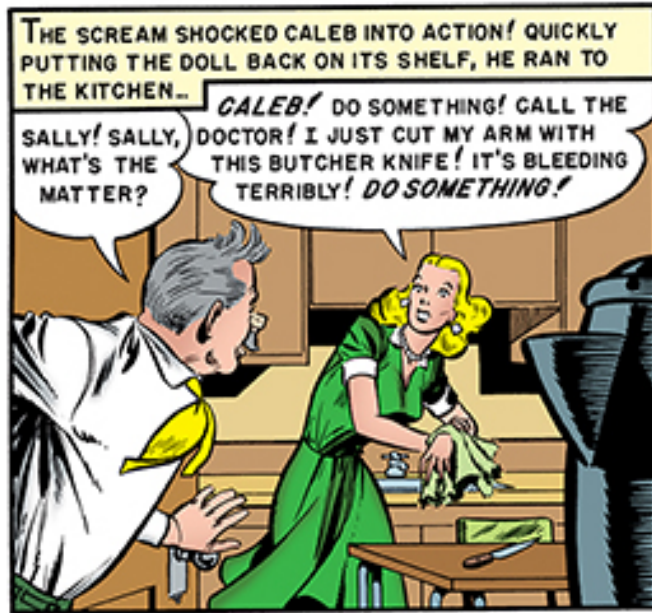
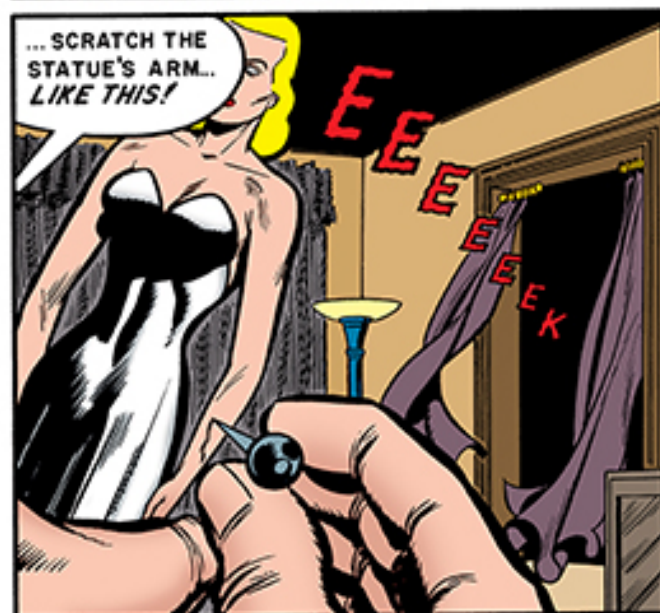


THAT'S GOOD! OH!... THERE'S THE PHONE! I'LL GET IT!

ALL RIGHT, SALLY! I'LL JUST PUT THE STATUE UP HERE ON THE SHELF... OUT OF HARM'S WAY!









POOR CALEB! HE DISLIKED HURTING SALLY BECAUSE HE STILL LOVED HER! BUT HE *WAS* JEALOUS, AND IF THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY HE COULD KEEP HER, THAT WAS HOW IT WOULD BE! WELL, FIENDS, SALLY RECOVERED RAPIDLY... AND ONE NIGHT...



CALEB, I'M GOING TO VISIT AN OLD GIRL FRIEND! I...AH... MAY BE A LITTLE LATE SO DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME!

HA! SHE DOESN'T FOOL ME! I HEARD HER MAKE A DATE WITH HER LOVER!



SHE MUST THINK I'M A *FOOL*! WELL, I'LL SHOW HER HOW *FOOLISH* I AM! I'LL JUST BREAK THE DOLL'S LEG THIS TIME! *THERE!*

**CRACK!**



SALLY! SALLY! ARE YOU HURT? WH...WHAT HAPPENED?

CALEB! HELP ME! I FELL! MY...MY LEG! I...I THINK IT'S BROKEN!



ONCE AGAIN THE DOCTOR WAS SUMMONED. SALLY'S LEG *HAD* BEEN BROKEN AND SHE HAD TO REMAIN IN BED FOR A LONG WHILE. HEH, HEH! CALEB WAS *VERY HAPPY*! BUT IT DIDN'T LAST FOREVER! SALLY BECAME WELL...

OH, DARLING, I KNOW IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME! BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT! CALEB WOULDN'T LEAVE ME FOR A MINUTE! HE'S SUCH A PEST...YES, DON... I'LL MEET YOU TONIGHT! GOOD-BYE, DARLING...

SALLY...



CALEB! WHA...? WH...I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT!

DON'T PRETEND, DEAR! I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, BUT...BUT I CAN'T BE ANGRY WITH YOU! SALLY, PLEASE...I LOVE YOU...

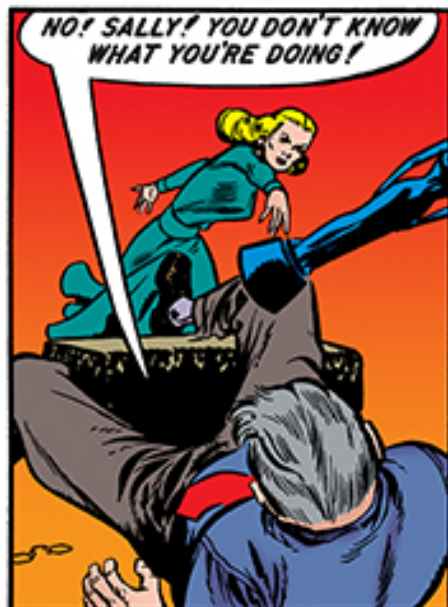


WHY, YOU OLD *FOOL*! WHY, YOU OLD *FOOL*! YOU BEEN *SPYING* ON ME, THAT'S WHAT! *SPYING* ON ME!

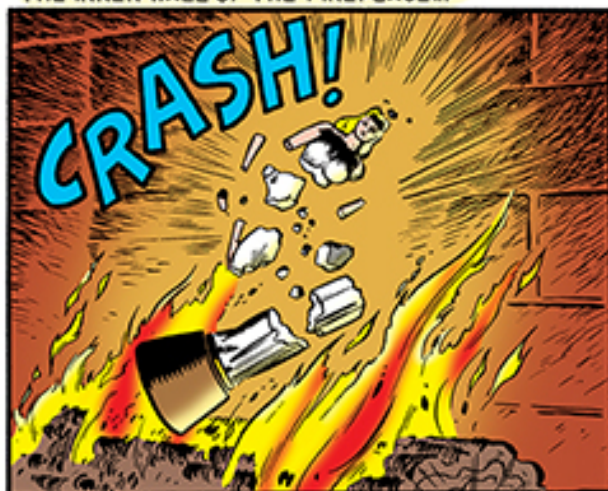
SALLY, PLEASE...DON'T! I'VE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING! I BEG OF YOU... LEAVE THAT MAN! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! PLEASE, DARLING, *PLEASE!* YOU LOVED ME ONCE...







HIS FACE CONTORTED IN STARK TERROR, CALEB COULD ONLY WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THE WAX IMAGE OF SALLY SAILED OVER HEAD AND STRUCK THE INNER WALL OF THE FIREPLACE...



THE PIECES FELL ON THE BURNING LOGS...THE LICKING FLAMES LEAPED AROUND THEM...AND THEY BEGAN TO MELT...



WELL, DEAR READERS, THAT WAS A *SMASHING* CLIMAX, WASN'T IT? TOO BAD SALLY WAS SUCH A *HOT-HEAD*! SHE REALLY *WENT TO PIECES* OVER HER *SHATTERED* ROMANCE! HEH! HEH! HEH! NOW THE POOR THING IS ALL *BROKEN UP*! YEP...OLD CALEB FINALLY *MELTED* SALLY'S COLD HEART IN ONE *SOUL-SEARING* SCENE,

DIDN'T HE? HEH! HEH! HEH! NOW THAT YOU'RE *WARMED UP* TO MY TALES, *PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER* AND READ ON... HEH! HEH! READ ON!



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# THE VAULT OF HORROR!

HEH, HEH! THE DOORS TO THE *VAULT OF HORROR* ARE OPEN, FIENDS! WON'T YOU COME IN? I AM YOUR HOST, *THE VAULT KEEPER*, AND I REALLY HAVE A *FOUL* STORY FOR YOU! IT ACTUALLY *SMELLS*! BUT YOU'LL *ENJOY* IT... SO IF YOU WISH, PUT A CLOTHESPIN ON YOUR NOSE, OR DON YOUR *GAS-MASK*, AND I'LL BEGIN! HEH, HEH! WHEN I'M *FINISHED*, YOU'LL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN... FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IS GOING TO *LIVE* THE TALE CALLED...

## TILL DEATH...



YOU STAND ON THE END OF THE PIER, STARING ANXIOUSLY OUT OVER THE GLITTERING, RESTLESS WATERS OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA. YOU WIPE THE PERSPIRATION FROM YOUR FACE... AND THEN, SUDDENLY, YOUR HEART SKIPS A BEAT! YOU SEE IT! JUST A DOT ON THE HORIZON... A *SHIP!*

