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TILLMANN the TERROR
SPECIAL GUEST HOST

#35
\$4.99

HAUNTED HORROR



YOUR TERRIFYING HOST

TILLMANN THE TERROR



IDW

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

Editors: Steve Banes, Clizia Gussoni, and Craig Yoe. Contributing Editors: Tillmann Courth, Mike Howlett, Tommy Stanzola, and Toxic Tommy O'Brien.

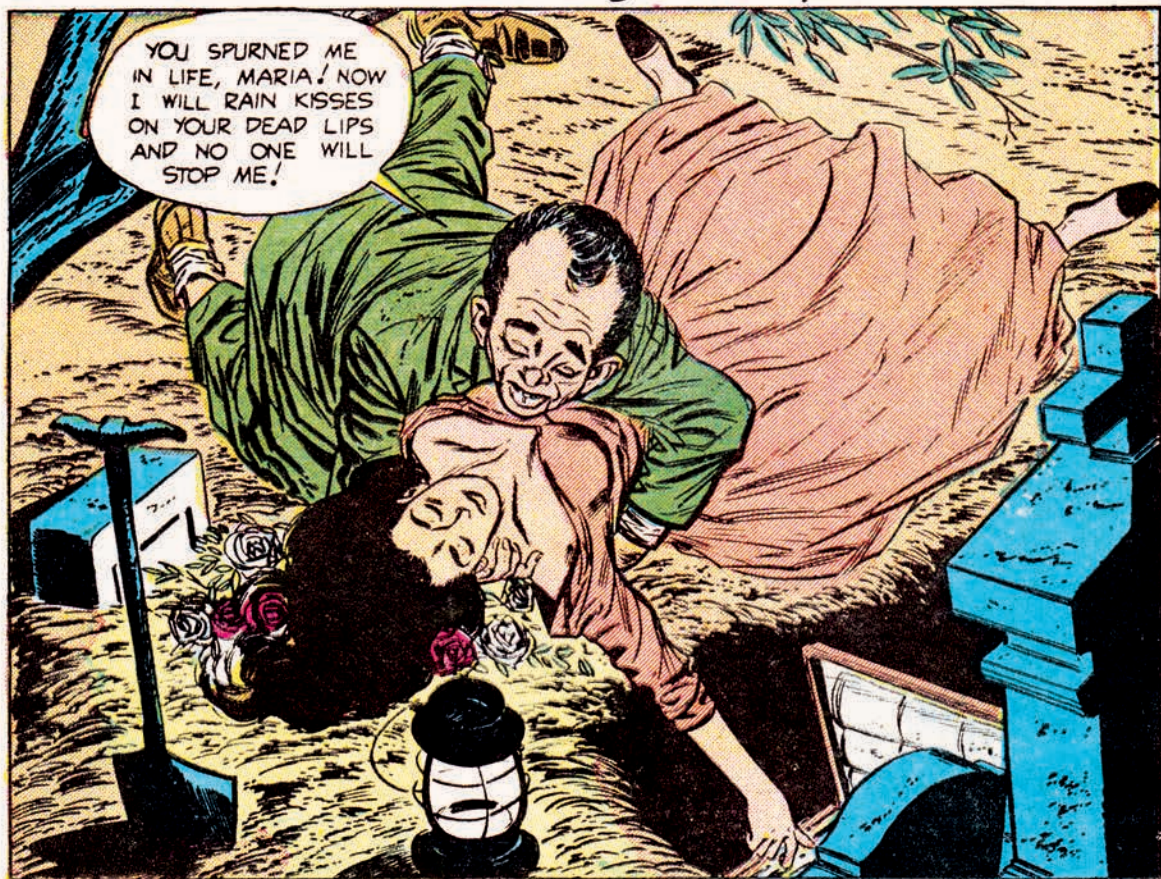
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On the cover, *The Unseen* #9, March 1953. Artist: Art Saaf. Pines.

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DATE WITH A CORPSE

Dino Monta was the village grave-digger, ugly, greedy, and utterly repulsive--hardly a man beautiful Maria Valard would choose for a rendezvous. But unfortunately, Maria had little choice or control over her date. A dead girl must go out with whomever *digs her up!!*



EVERYBODY IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF CARDANO, SICILY, KNEW HOW DINO MONTA FELT ABOUT MARIA VALARD!... AND HOW SHE FELT ABOUT HIM...





SORRY, YOU'LL HAVE TO, DINO! YOU MUST STOP ANNOYING MY SISTER! SHE WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE HERE, PIETRO! MAKE HIM STOP TRAILING ME! HE MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL!



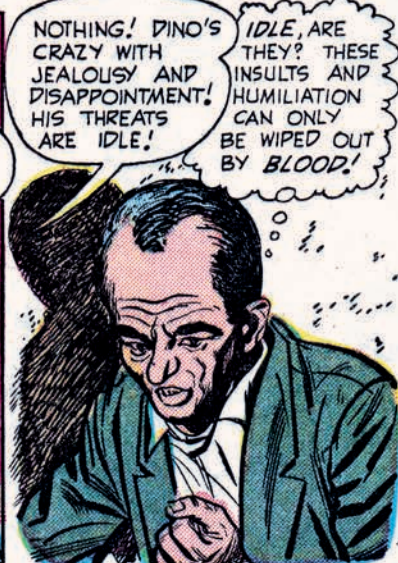
UNDERSTAND THIS, DINO! MY SISTER WILL NOT MARRY YOU! SHE WILL NOT SEE YOU! ANNOY HER AGAIN AND I'LL CALL THE CARABINIERI!

CURSE YOU, PIETRO VALARDI! MAY A THOUSAND PLAGUES FALL UPON THE HOUSE OF VALARDI FOR SPURNING MY LOVE FOR MARIA!



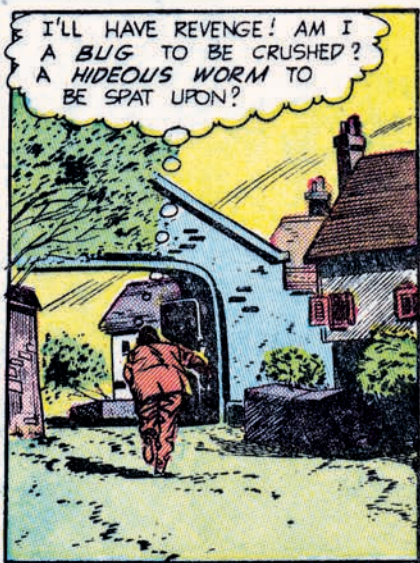
AS FOR YOU, MARIA, WHO REFUSES MY KISSES...SOME DAY I WILL KISS YOU AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP ME!

(GASP!) WHAT DOES HE MEAN, PIETRO?



NOTHING! DINO'S CRAZY WITH JEALOUSY AND DISAPPOINTMENT! HIS THREATS ARE IDLE!

IDLE, ARE THEY? THESE INSULTS AND HUMILIATION CAN ONLY BE WIPED OUT BY BLOOD!



I'LL HAVE REVENGE! AM I A BUG TO BE CRUSHED? A HIDEOUS WORM TO BE SPAT UPON?



I AM A MAN WITH FEELINGS LIKE A MAN! YES...AND THE BITTER HATRED OF A MAN WHOSE HOPES AND DESIRES ARE CRUSHED INTO THE GROUND!



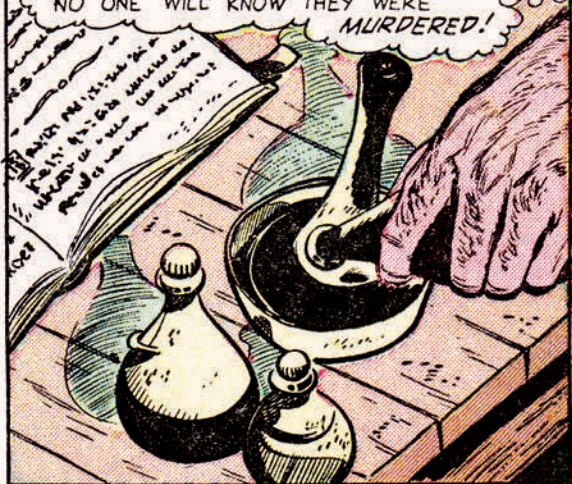
THEY SHALL SUFFER FOR THIS...WITH THEIR LIVES! ALL OF THEM...MARIA, PIETRO...EVEN HER FATHER WHO LAUGHED IN MY FACE WHEN I FIRST CAME TO COURT MARIA! NONE SHALL LIVE TO MOCK DINO MONTA!

FROM THAT NIGHT ON, DINO HAD ONE OBSESSION...
TO DESTROY THE VALARDIS! HE HAD AN AMAZING
KNOWLEDGE OF POISONS...

THERE ARE SOME
VENOMS THAT DON'T ACT
AT ONCE... DEADLY
AS STRYCHNINE...



NOR DO THEY LEAVE TELLTALE RESIDUES
IN THE BODY! THEY WILL APPEAR TO
HAVE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES!
NO ONE WILL KNOW THEY WERE
MURDERED!



A WEEK LATER, THE
VALARDIS WERE AWAY...

A FEW WEEKS LATER AT THE
VALARDI COTTAGE...

A WEEK LATER...

HERE'S ONE THING
THESE PEASANTS DRINK
EVERY DAY-- WINE!
RED, SWEET WINE,
SWEET AS MY
REVENGE!

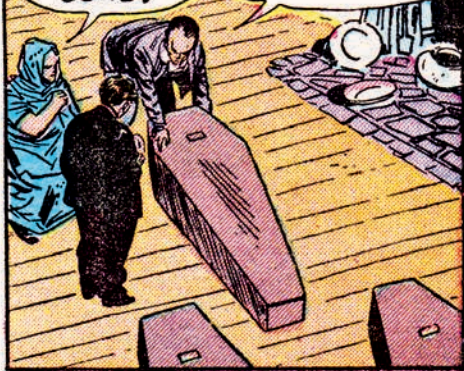


BUT WHAT IS
IT, DOCTOR?
IS THERE A
SICKNESS NO
MEDICINE
CAN CURE?



IT'S A DISEASE
I'VE NEVER
EXPERIENCED
OR TREATED!
I AM
BAFFLED!

WHAT A
TRAGEDY! NOT
A SIGN OF SICK-
NESS--THEN
THEY ARE ALL
GONE!



IT IS
SHOCKING! SUCH
GOOD PEOPLE!
SUCH NEIGH-
BORS! THEY NEVER
HURT ANYBODY!

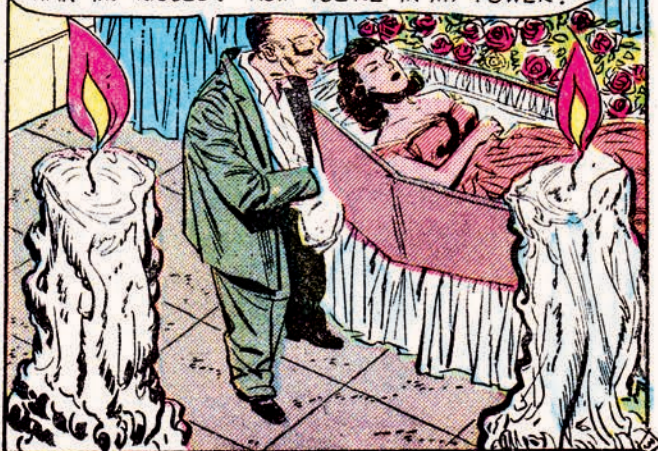
MARIA SLEEPS LIKE
AN ANGEL! BEAUTIFUL
IN DEATH AS IN
LIFE!

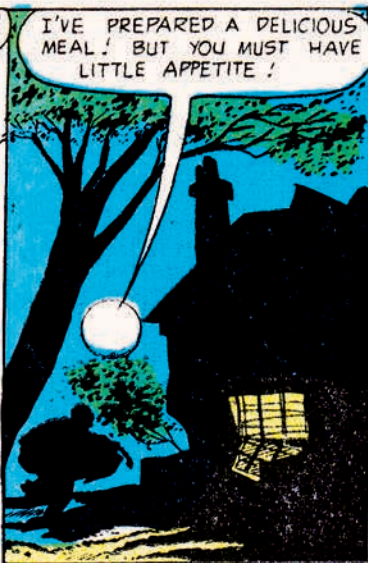
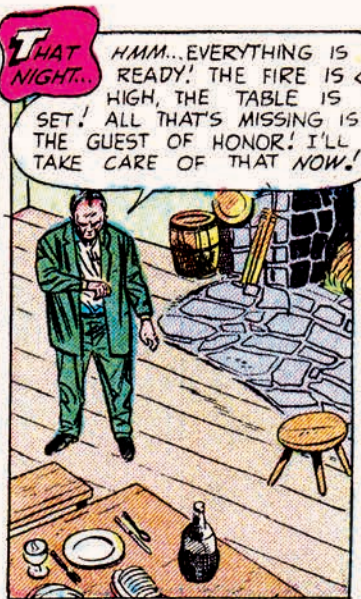
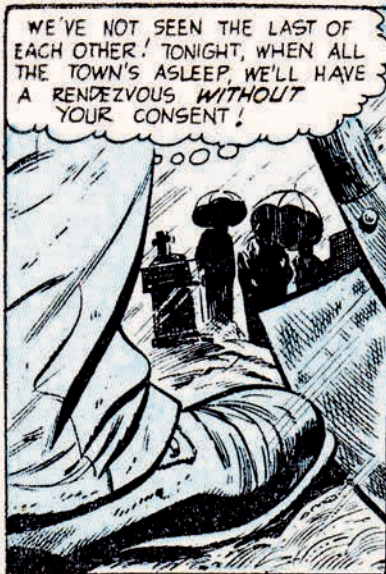


I CAN'T BELIEVE
THEY'RE GONE!
IT'S AS IF SOME
PLAGUE... SOME
CURSE OVERTOOK
THEM ALL!

THAT AFTERNOON AT THE CHURCH...

MARIA--IS **THIS** BETTER THAN ACCEPTING MY
EMBRACES? FOOLISH GIRL, IS DEATH SWEETER
THAN MY KISSES? NOW YOU'RE IN MY POWER!





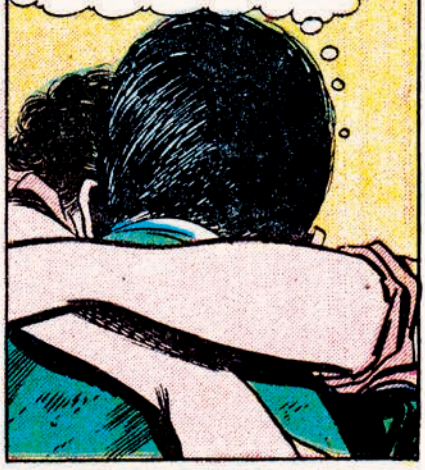
THERE! YOUR ARMS ARE TIGHT, YOUR BODY IS HARD, YOUR LIPS ARE COLD! BUT YOU CANNOT REPEL ME NOW!



(GASP!) HER ARM TIGHTENED AROUND MY NECK! BUT HOW CAN IT BE? MUST BE MY IMAGINATION!



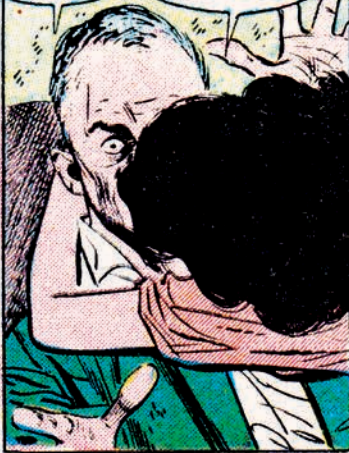
(GASP!) I--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS RESPONSE! I--I CAN HARDLY BREATHE! I MUST REMOVE HER ARMS!



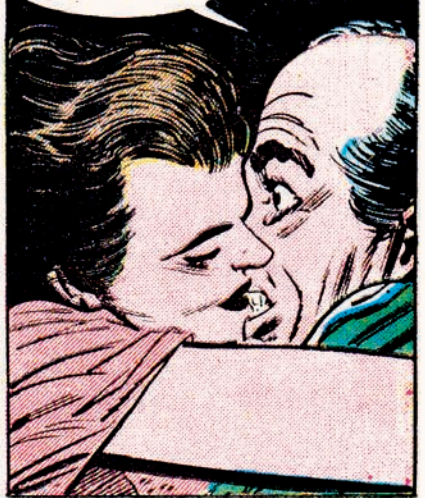
NEVER, DINO! NOW THAT MY ARMS ARE AROUND YOUR NECK, I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO!



(GASP!) SHE SPEAKS! NO! NO!! TAKE THE KISS... YOU'LL NEVER FORGET... OR REMEMBER!

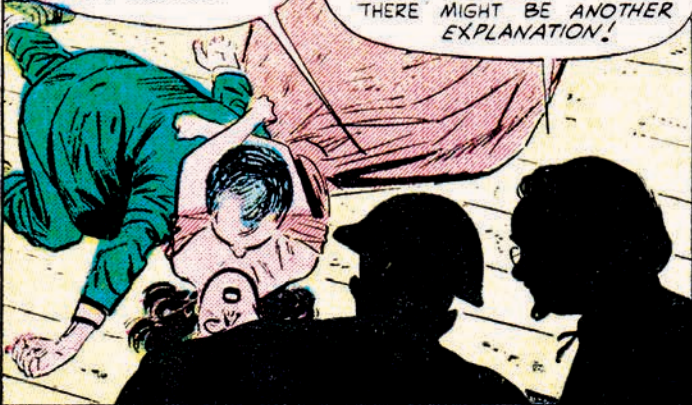


EEEEEEEE!!



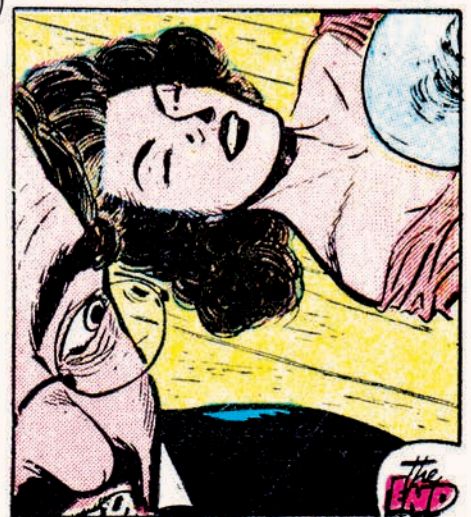
THE NEXT MORNING AT DINO MONTA'S COTTAGE...

MONTA, IN HIS PASSION DUG HER UP! BUT HOW COULD SHE STRANGLE HIM, DOCTOR?



RIGOR MORTIS! THE MUSCLES CONTRACT MANY HOURS AFTER DEATH! WHEN HE PUT HER ARMS AROUND HIS NECK, THE MUSCLES WENT INTO OPERATION! AT LEAST I HOPE SO! I SHUDDER TO THINK THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER EXPLANATION!

THE DEAD GIRL SMILED. THE ANSWER WAS HER SECRET...AND DINO'S!



THE END