



the
HANTOM ISLE

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Jim Henson's™
THE
STORYTELLER™
Witches



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WHAT IS IT ABOUT A NICE FIRE ?



THE CRACKLE OF FLAMES ...

THE SWEET SMELL OF BURNING WOOD ...

THE WARM GLOW FILLING THE ROOM.

SOMETHING ABOUT IT JUST BRINGS OUT THE STORYTELLER IN ALL OF US.

IF YOU SAY SO.

OH, I DO.

I DO.





ANY TIME THERE'S MORE THAN ONE PERSON AROUND A FIRE, STORIES ARE NEVER FAR BEHIND.

IT'S JUST IN OUR NATURE.

WE TAKE A SEAT AROUND THE FLAMES AND OUR TONGUES LOOSEN, OUR IMAGINATIONS RELAX, AND THE WORDS "ONCE UPON A TIME" OR "YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED" JUST SPILL FROM OUR LIPS.



TALL TALES, FISH STORIES, AN EPIC POEM OR TWO...

YOU'LL HEAR THEM ALL AROUND A ROARING FIRE.



AND SOME OF THEM WILL EVEN BE TRUE.

SO

LIKE STORIES, DO WE?



I HAVE
A STORY
FOR YOU.

IF YOU'D
BE AT ALL
INTERESTED
IN HEARING
IT.



A STORY
ABOUT STORIES,
ACTUALLY.

OR AT LEAST
ABOUT A MAN WHO
LOVED TO TELL
STORIES.

SOMEONE
LIKE YOU
AND ME.



HE WAS
A SAILOR BY
PROFESSION, A
TELLER OF TALES
BY PASSION.

BUT IT WAS
A PASSION THAT
SERVED HIM WELL
ON THE LONG
NIGHTS AT
SEA.



EVERY NIGHT,
HIS FELLOWS WOULD
SET HIM DOWN ON A
BARREL AND LISTEN
TO HIS STORIES
UNTIL THE WEE
HOURS...

PASSING
THE TIME
UNTIL THE
SUN CAME
LIP AGAIN.



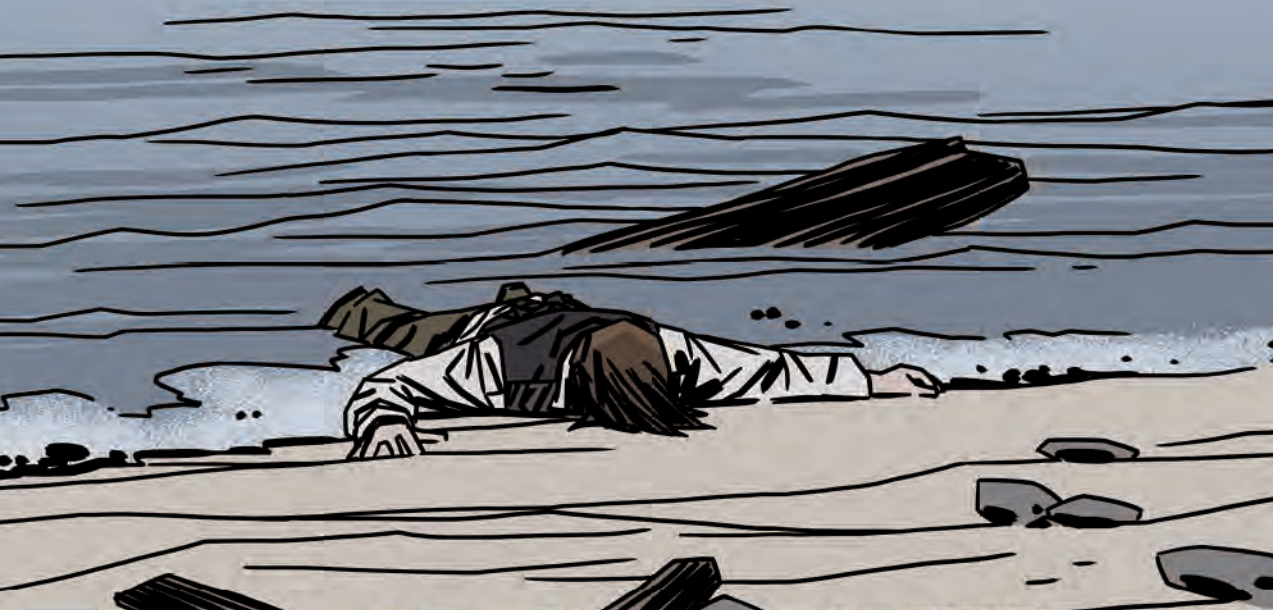
WHICH IS
HOW HE CAME
TO BE ON DECK
THE NIGHT THEY
STRUCK A REEF
OFF THE COAST
OF CORK.

AND
WENT
DOWN.

WHEN HE HIT THE ICY WATERS, OUR YOUNG FRIEND THOUGHT HIS STORY WAS OVER, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW THE TALE WAS MEANT TO END.

INSTEAD OF WAKING UP AT THE PEARLY GATES, HE FOUND HIMSELF ON A BEACH, WASHED UP LIKE SO MUCH DRIFTWOOD.

A BEACH ON AN ISLAND WHERE NO ISLAND SHOULD BE.



IT WAS A MYSTERY, BUT BETTER THAT THAN TO FACE SAINT PETER.

HEAVEN TAKES A DIM VIEW OF STRETCHING THE TRUTH.



AND THE GREAT STORYTELLERS HAVE ONLY A PASSING RELATIONSHIP WITH HONESTY.

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT A WELL-PLACED EXAGGERATION CAN ADD SEASONING TO THE DULLEST OF EVENTS...



AND A TRUE STORYTELLER KNOWS THAT EVERY TALE BENEFITS FROM A TOUCH OF SPICE.

ESPECIALLY THE TRUE ONES.



NO MATTER HOW EXTRAORDINARY THE TRUTH MIGHT BE.

AND SO IT IS A GREAT IRONY THAT SUCH A FINE STORYTELLER...

WITH HIS GLICKNESS TO EXAGGERATE AND EMBELLISH...

SHOULD FIND HIMSELF IN THE ONE PLACE ON ALL THE EARTH THAT TRULY NEEDED NEITHER TO DESCRIBE IT.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE ?

THE ISLAND HAS BEEN KNOWN BY MANY NAMES OVER MANY YEARS...

