

THE CRYPT OF TERROR

HEH, HEH! *PHEW!* THAT'S A HORROR STORY? THE VAULT-KEEPER TELLS A GOOD FAIRY TALE! I'LL TELL YOU A HORROR STORY! YEP, IT'S YOUR HOST IN THE CRYPT OF TERROR... THE CRYPT-KEEPER... WELCOMING YOU ONCE MORE! COME IN AND SIT DOWN ON THAT BLOOD-STAINED AUTO SEAT! IT'S A MEMENTO OF THE TERROR-TALE I'M ABOUT TO RELATE! READY? AH, I SEE I HAVE THE GREEN LIGHT! WHAT? OH, THAT'S YOUR FACE? WELL, HERE GOES ANYWAY! GET A GOOD GRIP ON THE FLOOR MAT! I CALL THIS CHILLER...

THE DEATH WAGON!



HERMAN KITCH, ONE OF THE PARTNERS OF 'SINK AND KITCH...USED CARS', SHOOK HIS HEAD AS HE SURVEYED THE BEAT-UP BLUE COUPE PARKED AT THE CURB...

SORRY, MISTER! YOU CAN KEEP 'ER! THIS WRECK'D COST ME A FORTUNE TO PUT IN SHAPE!

BUT I MUST SELL, MR. KITCH! I NEED THE MONEY!



HERMAN SHRUGGED! HE WALKED AROUND THE CAR ONCE MORE... KICKED AT THE MUDDY TIRES... THEN STROKED HIS CHIN THOUGHTFULLY...

FOUR HUNDRED BUCKS! THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO!

FOUR HUNDRED! WHY I'D BE CRAZY TO SELL IT AT THAT PRICE! I...

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, BUD! IT'S TWENTY MILES TO THE NEXT TOWN! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT... TRY THERE!

I...I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR OFFER! I NEED THE MONEY IMMEDIATELY!

IN THE SHACK THAT STOOD AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE 'SINK AND KITCH USED CAR LOT,' AMOS SINK...HERMAN'S PARTNER... SMILED AS HE WATCHED THE TRANSACTION GOING ON AT THE CURB...

LOOKS LIKE HERMAN'S CLOSING A DEAL ON THAT COUPE! I PITY THE POOR SUCKER WHO BUYS IT FROM US!

LATER THAT DAY, HERMAN AND AMOS SURVEYED THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED CAR IN THE GARAGE AT THE REAR OF THE LOT...

WELL, AMOS! WE'VE TURNED BACK THE SPEEDOMETER SEVENTEEN THOUSAND MILES AND REPLACED THE TIRES WITH RE-CAPS! THE TUBES ARE IN BAD SHAPE, SO WE'LL LEAVE 'EM!

YEAH! THE GUY WHO BUYS THIS WRECK FROM US WON'T FIND OUT ABOUT THAT TILL HE HAS A FLAT!

A POLISHING JOB AND SHE'LL BE ALL SET!

AND WE'LL GET EIGHT HUNDRED BUCKS FOR 'ER, AT LEAST!

BY THE WAY, AMOS! THE TRANSMISSION IN THIS MAROON SEDAN WE BOUGHT YESTERDAY IS SHOT! IT SOUNDS LIKE THE CAR'S FALLING APART... IT KNOCKS SO BAD!

PACK IT WITH SAWDUST! THAT WILL KEEP IT FROM RATTLING FOR A COUPLE OF HUNDRED MILES!

AND THAT CONVERTIBLE'S GOT A CRACKED RADIATOR! WATER KEEPS LEAKIN' OUT!

POUR IN SOME GREASE! IT'LL CLOG UP THE CRACK AS LONG AS THE WATER DOESN'T GET TOO HOT! ONCE THEY DRIVE 'ER AWAY... WE DON'T KNOW FROM NOTHIN'!

NICE GUYS, EH, KIDDIES? THEY KNOW *ALL THE TRICKS*, HUH? WELL, HOLD ON TO YOUR EYE-BALLS...YOU AIN'T SEEN *NOTHIN'* YET! THESE GUYS ARE *REALLY* CROOKS! JUST KEEP READING! YOU'LL *SEE* WHAT I MEAN...



I LOOKED OVER THIS TWO-DOOR WE PICKED UP THIS MORNING, HERMAN! THE *STEERING ASSEMBLY'S* ALMOST *GONE*!



WRAP 'ER WITH WIRE! THAT'LL HOLD IT TOGETHER TILL WE CAN GET RID OF THE HEAP!

THIS GRAY SEDAN NEEDS NEW *BRAKE-LININGS*, HERMAN! THE *BRAKES* DON'T *HOLD*!



BRAKE LININGS COST *MONEY*, AMOS! CUT UP AN OLD *INNER TUBE* AND PUT THE STRIPS IN! IT'LL DO THE JOB FOR A *FEW* MILES!

THE *BATTERY* IN THIS FOUR-DOOR IS *DEAD*, HERMAN! WE'LL HAVE TO PUT IN A *NEW* ONE!



NONSENSE! WE'LL JAZZ IT UP WITH THIS *POWDER* I PICKED UP! IT'LL HOLD A *CHARGE* FOR A WEEK OR SO! THE *PLATES*'LL GO TO POT, BUT IT WON'T BE *OUR* WORRY BY *THAT* TIME!

I GOT A *BUY* ON THIS STATION WAGON WITH A *BROKEN* AXLE, HERMAN!



GOOD! WE CAN *WELD* THE AXLE! LONG AS THE BUGGY DON'T HIT A HARD *BUMP*, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

THE *BRAKES* ARE *BAD* IN THIS COUPE, HERMAN! YOU HAVE TO *PUMP* 'EM TO *STOP*! SHE'S PROBABLY LOW ON *HYDROLIC FLUID*!



PUT IN SOME *WATER*! *HYDROLIC FLUID'S* *EXPENSIVE*!

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE USED-CAR LOT OF SINK AND KITCH WAS CROWDED WITH *FAMILY* AUTOMOBILES THAT HAD BEEN PURCHASED *CHEAPLY* AND '*REPAIRED*' *CHEAPLY*... AND WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY BE SOLD FOR MANY TIMES THEIR WORTH! BUT WHAT IS *MORE* DELIGHTFUL, THE CARS WERE POTENTIAL *DEATH-WAGONS*...



HEY, AMOS! THERE'S AN OLD CODGER AND HIS WIFE LOOKIN' THE HEAPS OVER!

LOOK LIKE A COUPLE O' *SUCKERS* T'ME!

SHOCKED, KIDDIES? I THOUGHT SO! NOW, THIS NICE AGED COUPLE HAS COME TO SINK AND KITCH'S USED-CAR LOT FOR AN AUTO! THEY'VE SKIMPED AND SAVED NICKLES AND DIMES FOR *TWO YEARS* TO ACCUMULATE ENOUGH MONEY TO AFFORD THE LUXURY OF OWNING THEIR *OWN* AUTOMOBILE!



YES, SIR! CAN I HELP YOU?



ESTHER... SHE'S MY WIFE... AND I AM INTERESTED IN BUYING A CAR! WE'D LIKE TO SPEND ABOUT A THOUSAND DOLLARS!



I THINK I HAVE *JUST* THE THING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR! THIS BABY HERE! *PRACTICALLY NEW*... ONLY ONE OWNER BEFORE YOU! USED IT ON *SUNDAYS* AND *HOLIDAYS*! LOW MILEAGE...



SO THE OLD COUPLE BOUGHT THE COUPE WITH THE WATERED HYDROLIC FLUID! SINK AND KITCH MADE SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS ON *THAT* DEAL! THEN THERE WAS THE POOR FACTORY WORKER WHO WANTED TO BRIGHTEN THE DRAB LIVES OF HIS LOVED ONES BY TAKING THEM FOR DRIVES IN THE COUNTRY ON HIS DAY OFF!



BEST BUY ON THE LOT, SIR! A *STATION WAGON* IS JUST WHAT YOU *NEED*! SIMPLY *PILE THE KIDS* IN THE *BACK*...

THE FACTORY WORKER PURCHASED THE STATION WAGON WITH THE WELDED AXLE! A YOUNG SALESMAN, WHO NEEDED A CAR FOR BUSINESS, ALSO CAME TO SINK AND KITCH...



JUST LOOK AT THE *TRUNK SPACE* IN THIS TWO-DOOR, MISTER! IT'S MADE FOR A SALESMAN! LIKE *NEW*! GUY THAT OWNED IT WAS STRICKEN WITH *POLIO*... IT'S BEEN ON *BLOCKS* SINCE *TWO WEEKS* AFTER HE BOUGHT IT!

LOOKS GOOD TO ME! WHERE DO I SIGN?

SO THE BUSINESS COUPE WITH THE FAULTY STEERING ASSEMBLY HELD TOGETHER BY WIRES WAS SOLD! SINK AND KITCH MADE IT VERY *EASY* TO BUY THEIR *DEATH TRAPS*...



I... I'VE *GOT* TO BUY A CAR, BUT I DON'T THINK THE BANK WILL OKAY A *LOAN*! YOU SEE...

LISTEN, BUD! TELL YOU WHAT! ORDINARILY, WE DON'T DO THIS, BUT...

...IF YOU KEEP IT QUIET, WE'LL FINANCE YOU *OURSELVES*! OF COURSE, THE *INTEREST RATE* WILL BE A LITTLE *HIGHER* THAN THE *LEGAL LIMIT*! SAY... *TEN PERCENT*...

TEN PERCENT? *PER MONTH!*



HEH, HEH! I'LL SAY THAT'S A LITTLE HIGHER THAN THE LEGAL LIMIT! S'MATTER, KIDDIES? YOU LOOK MAD! DON'T LIKE AMOS AND HERMAN, EH? WELL, YOU'LL LIKE 'EM LESS AS WE GO ALONG! JUST KEEP READING!



THE OLD COUPLE WERE THE FIRST TO GO! THEY'D DRIVEN UP A MOUNTAIN ROAD IN THEIR NICE NEW USED COUPE! AS THEY CAME DOWN A STEEP CURVE, SKIRTING A CLIFF...



NATURALLY! WATERED HYDROLIC FLUID WON'T ACTIVATE A CAR'S BRAKES ON A STEEP INCLINE LIKE THAT...



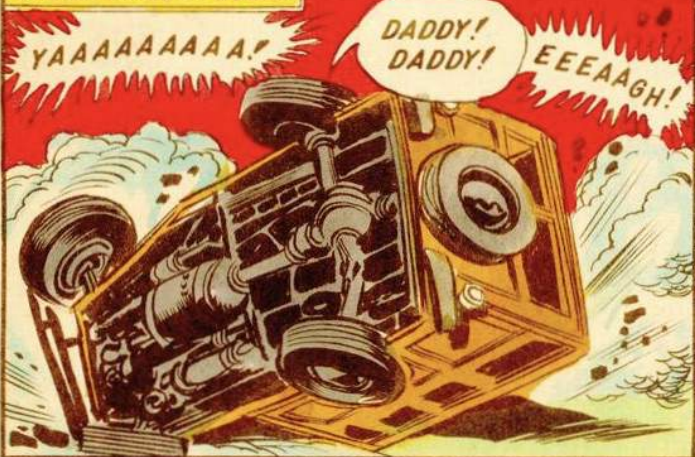
AND SO THE PEACEFUL MOUNTAIN AIR WAS SHATTERED BY THE IMPACT OF TONS OF STEEL AND GLASS FLATTENING AGAINST A WALL OF ROCK! AND AS THE ECHOS OF THE DIN FADED AWAY, A TWISTED MASS OF METAL AND DEAD BODIES ADORNED THE HIGHWAY...



NEXT CAME THE FACTORY WORKER AND HIS STATION WAGON! THE PICNIC WAS OVER AND HE WAS SPEEDING HIS WIFE AND FIVE KIDS HOME...



THE FRONT WHEELS AVOIDED THE GAPING RUT IN THE ROAD, BUT THE RIGHT REAR WHEEL SMASHED INTO IT... THE REAR WHEEL FASTENED TO THE WELDED AXLE! THE STATION WAGON SWAYED CRAZILY FOR A MOMENT, THEN SPUN OVER AS THE WHEEL COLLAPSED...



ONCE AGAIN, CRUSHED STEEL AND SHATTERED GLASS COVERED A BLOOD-STAINED HIGHWAY...



HEH, HEH! GETTIN' A LITTLE HOT UNDER THE COLLAR, KIDDIES? HOW DO YOU THINK THE OLD COUPLE FELT...OR THE FACTORY WORKER AND HIS FAMILY? WELL, KEEP READIN'! WE'LL REACH THE BOILING POINT SOON!



THE SALESMAN WHO BOUGHT THE BUSINESS COUPE WAS NEXT TO GO! THE WIRED STEERING ASSEMBLY FELL APART AS THE CAR WAS TURNING INTO A BUSY INTERSECTION...



TWO PEDESTRIANS WENT ALONG ON THAT RIDE. RIGHT UP THE SIDEWALK AND INTO A BRICK WALL, THE CAR HURTLED...



THEY HAD TO CUT THE SALESMEN OUT OF THE WRECK WITH A BLOW-TORCH! HE NEVER CAME TO! ONE OF THE PEDESTRIANS WAS KILLED INSTANTLY... THE OTHER DIED ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL! A POLICE INSPECTOR CAME TO SEE AMOS AND HERMAN...

THREE HORRIBLE ACCIDENTS... AND EVERY CAR CAME FROM YOUR LOT!

LOOK HERE, INSPECTOR!



WE'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT PEOPLE DO TO THEIR CARS! WHEN THOSE AUTOS LEFT OUR LOT, THEY WERE IN PERFECT CONDITION!

DO YOU THINK WE'D LET A FAULTY CAR LEAVE THIS ESTABLISHMENT, INSPECTOR?



I DON'T KNOW, BOYS, BUT TOMORROW MORNING I'M GOING TO FIND OUT! I'M ASKING THE COURT TO ISSUE A WARRANT PERMITTING ME TO EXAMINE EVERY CAR ON YOUR LOT! GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!

HAPPY TO HAVE YOU DO SO, INSPECTOR!

ANY TIME, INSPECTOR!



AFTER THE POLICE INSPECTOR LEFT THE 'SINK AND KITCH USED CAR LOT...

GOOD LORD, HERMAN! WHAT WILL WE DO? TOMORROW MORNING...

THAT'S A LONG WAY OFF! WE HAVE ALL NIGHT TO FIX UP THOSE HEAPS! C'MON! LET'S GET BUSY!



UH...UH! MUSTN'T *PEEK* AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE! YOU'LL *GET TO IT!* AND DON'T WORRY! AMOS AND HERMAN WON'T *FIX* THINGS BY MORNING. IN FACT, THEY WON'T BE *ALIVE* BY MORNING! *WHY?* BECAUSE THAT NIGHT... WHILE THEY SCURRIED ABOUT THE GARAGE REPAIRING THE CARS, *PROPERLY* THIS TIME... IN CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE, THINGS UNDER CRAWLING GRAVE-MUD STIRRED...



THE REMAINS OF AN AGED COUPLE ...RIPPED AND TORN FROM THE IMPACT OF THEIR DEATH-DEALING CRASH...LUMBERED TOWARD THE USED-CAR LOT...



A SALESMAN'S CORPSE, MASHED AND ROTTING, CRAWLING WITH THE SLIME OF THE GRAVE, STUMBLER OVER THE DARK LANDSCAPE...



A SINGLE FILE OF SHADOWY FORMS, SHREDS OF FLESH FALLING FROM THEIR MANGLED BODIES, STAGGERED ACROSS THE ROAD... A DEAD FACTORY WORKER, HIS WIFE, AND FIVE SMALLER CORPSES...



AND IN THEIR DIMLY-LIT GARAGE, AMOS SINK AND HERMAN KITCH LOOKED UP FROM THEIR FRANTIC EFFORTS AS THE THINGS CONVERGED UPON THE DOORWAY...MOVING TOWARD THEM...



IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE POLICE INSPECTOR CAME WITH HIS WARRANT, THERE WERE NO CARS ON THE LOT TO INSPECT! BUT IN THE *GARAGE*, HE FOUND ONE! IT STOOD GROTESQUELY IN A POOL OF DRIED BLOOD! AMOS'S SKULL GRINNED FROM WHERE ONE HEADLIGHT SHOULD HAVE BEEN...HERMAN'S, FROM THE OTHER! TWO RED TONGUES HAD REPLACED THE WINDSHIELD WIPERS! EYE-BALLS STARED FROM PARKING-LIGHT SOCKETS! SEVERED HANDS SERVED AS DOOR HANDLES! ASH-WHITE SKIN REPLACED SLIP-COVERS! DISJOINED FEET SUBSTITUTED FOR CLUTCH, BRAKE, GAS, AND LIGHT-DIMMING PEDALS! BLOOD FILLED THE GAS TANK...INTESTINES THE CRANK-CASE! BONES WERE USED FOR THE GEAR-SHIFT, STEERING WHEEL SPOKES, PISTON-RODS, AND OTHER STRUCTURES! *THIS WAS TRULY A KITCH AND SINK CAR...*



HEH, HEH! AND IT WAS MADE OF EVERYTHING *BUT* THE *KITCHEN SINK*...EH, KIDDIES? SO AMOS AND HERMAN FINALLY WOUND UP AS *PARTS*...INSTEAD OF *PARTNERS*! KNOW WHAT NOBODY EVER GOT UP ENOUGH *NERVE* TO SEE IF

THE GORY MESS WOULD *RUN*! SO I DROPPED OVER TO WHERE THEY WERE KEEPING IT ONE NIGHT! GOT IT *STARTED*, TOO! TROUBLE WAS IT KEPT *STALLING* ON ME! SEEMS *HEARTS* DON'T MAKE GOOD *FUEL-PUMPS*! 'BYE, NOW!



