

WHEN THE LAST SHOVELFUL OF DIRT CLOSES OVER A MAN'S GRAVE, HEAVY WITH THE TEARS OF HIS LOVED ONES, IS HE GONE FOREVER? DUST TO DUST? OR CAN HE RETURN...

FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!

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FIFTY YEARS
TOMORROW,
WHITNEY, WE
SHAN'T BE APART
MUCH LONGER! AND
WHAT A RELIEF
WE'LL HAVE!

WHITNEY
LEE
1900 - 1953

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE QUIET DESOLATION OF AN ABANDONED CEMETERY, WHITNEY LEE'S GRAVE ALWAYS LOOKED WELL CARED FOR, AND WHY NOT? IT RECEIVED VERY PERSONAL ATTENTION...


THERE, THAT LOOKS MUCH BETTER, DOESN'T IT, WHITNEY?



...FOR MAUDE WEST WAS ALWAYS VERY CAREFUL, EVEN IF HER MIND WASN'T ON HER WORK...

...BUT WAS STILL SO YEARS IN THE PAST, DREAMING OF THE DAY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HER WEDDING DAY.

WHERE IS HE?



MAUDE WEST HAD WAITED IN THE CHURCH FOR HER BETROTHED THAT DAY -- AND HAD BEEN WAITING EVER SINCE.

JUST IMAGINE, WHITNEY... TODAY WOULD HAVE BEEN OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY!



HEY, CHUCK, THERE SHE IS AGAIN!

YEAH! I THINK SHE COMES HERE EVERY DAY -- I EVEN SAW HER HERE IN THE SNOW ONE DAY!





MAUDLIN MAUDE -- THE CRAZY OLD LADY -- TALKIN' 'T 'E BEAD.

THE CRAZY OLD LADY -- NEVER BEEN WED.



TODAY NOTHING BOTHERS ME, WHITNEY... NOT EVEN THOSE NASTY CHILDREN. TODAY IS AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT DAY.



HEY! GET LOST OR I'LL TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS, ROTTEN BRATS!

ARNOLD, TAKE A LOOK AT THAT SCENE, THOSE KIDS WEREN'T KIDDING.



WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



CITY SURVEY CREW, MAM. JUST LAYIN' OUT NEW SEWER LINES.

NO!

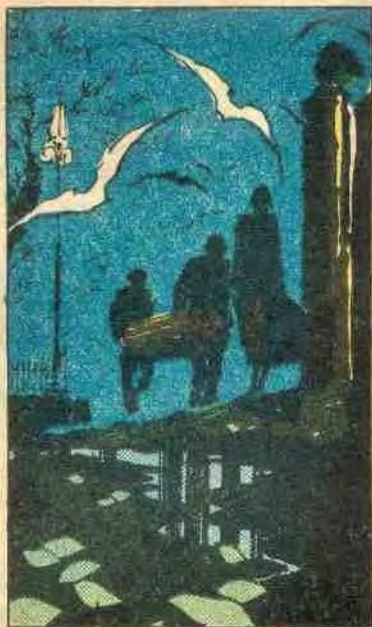




THEN YOU MUST LET ME SPEND ONE LAST NIGHT WITH HIM-- PLEASE, YOU MUST HELP ME!

WHO KNOWS WHAT MADE THEM HUNOR THE OLD WOMAN'S WISH--MAYBE IT WAS PITY FOR SOMEONE WHOSE ONLY REMAINING JOY IN LIFE WAS THE WORSHIP OF HER LONG-DEAD BELOVED. WHATEVER IT WAS, IT MOVED THE WORKMEN TO STRANGE LENGTHS THAT NIGHT.

THE STILL, NIGHT AIR OF THE GRAVE-YARD WAS QUIET ONCE MORE AS THEY REMOVED WHITNEY LEE FROM WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN HIS RESTING PLACE, AND BROUGHT HIM BACK-- HOME!



YOU KNOW, WE'VE GOT TO BE CRAZY. WE COULD LOSE OUR JOBS FOR THIS--OR MAYBE EVEN GET ARRESTED!



SHUT UP, WHO'S IT GONNA HURT, ANYWAY?

US, DUMMY, IF WE GET CAUGHT.



THE WAY THE HOUSE LOOKED THAT NIGHT, THE COFFIN SEEMED TO BELONG THERE. THEY WERE BOTH SYMBOLS OF THINGS LONG DEAD.



I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.

YEAH--HEAVY, ISN'T IT?

THE SCENT OF AGE FILLED THE AIR IN THE OLD PARLOR, AND IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY WERE THE FIRST PEOPLE TO ENTER THE ROOM FOR DECADES.



NOW REMEMBER, MA'AM, SEVEN IN THE MORNING.

YES, TOMORROW, THANK YOU, BOYS.

IT HAS TO BE EARLY!

AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF BEING SEPARATED FROM HER LOVE, MAUDE LOST NO TIME IN BEGINNING THEIR REUNION.

JUST A FEW MORE MOMENTS, WHITNEY, AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN-- JUST THE WAY I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED WE WOULD BE!

AH, WHITNEY, HOW I'VE--

AFTER 50 LONG YEARS, DUST SHOULD RETURN TO DUST, BUT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE TONIGHT!

GOOD LORD! IT CAN'T BE--IT'S JUST NOT--

HIS HANDS WERE BIGGER... THE FINGERS WERE LONGER... AND HIS JAW-- IT WAS HARD-- NOT SOFT AND--

HOW SILLY OF ME! OF COURSE IT'S YOU! THE TRICKS THAT A PERSON'S MEMORY WILL PLAY! I MUST GO GET READY!





IT'S THE DARN NOISE THEY MAKE-- WHY CAN'T WE JUST HAVE A HORSE AND BUGGY, INSTEAD?



PSHAW! DON'T BE AN OLD FOGY! AH, HERE IT IS-- VOICES OF SPRING!



MADMOISELLE, MAY I HAVE THIS WALTZ?



DINNER'S GETTING COLD!

ALL THOSE PRACTICAL NOTIONS INSIDE THAT PRETTY LITTLE HEAD!



BLESS THIS TABLE, AND OUR NEW AUTOMOBILE!

WHITNEY!



A DARK SHADOW HOVERED IN MAUDE'S MIND, BUT IT SEEMED UNREACHABLE, SHE KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG, BUT SHE COULDN'T THINK OF WHAT IT WAS!

I'M AFRAID OF THE CAR, WHITNEY! I--

THERE'S NO MORE TO BE SAID-- COME HERE AND SIT BY ME FOR A WHILE.

