

INCH BY MADDENING INCH, THE FRIGHTFUL TRUTH CHEWED AWAY AT HIS FEVERED BRAIN -- UNTIL, AT LAST, HE COULD ONLY BBS...

HA-HA... YOU MIGHT'VE AT LEAST WARNED US, DUNCAN!

YES...IT'S NOT EVERY DAY A WORLD-FAMOUS SCIENTIST RETURNS FROM A REMOTE ISLAND WITH A NEW WIFE!

I THOUGHT I'D ENJOY SURPRISING YOU ALL!

KILL ME GENTLY!

BY GEORGE KROGDAN



FOR YOU, JEROLD MY HUSBAND... A NATIVE HEALTH BREW THAT MAY ONLY BE DRUNK AT MARRIAGE CELEBRATIONS!

THANK YOU, LYANNA DARLING!

COME ON, DUNCAN-- DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY BUY THAT "HEALTH" BREW NONSENSE!

DO NOT LAUGH, SIR... OUR MEDICINE MEN POSSESS CENTURIES OF WISDOM ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF NATURE!

MAYBE LYANNA -- BUT WE SCIENTISTS TAKE A DIM VIEW OF...



ARR-R-R-REH!

JEROLD -- WHAT'S WRONG?

THE BEARING, BLISTERING PAIN VANISHES IN A BRIEF MOMENT-- BUT TO PROF. JEROLD DUNCAN THIS MOMENT IS LIKE AN ETERNITY...







THAT GLOW--
LYANNA'S IN THE
SUMMER HUT.



WHAT'S SHE
DOING...CHANTING
SOME STRANGE
NATIVE
PRAYER...?



JEROLD--!
I WAS NOT
EXPECTING
YOU HOME
SO SOON!

NEVER
MIND THAT,
LYANNA! WHAT
IN THE WORLD'S
GOING ON
HERE?



?SNIFF--
SNIFF? THAT
ODOR...IT
REMINDS ME
OF THE STUFF
YOU FED ME
AT THE
WEDDING
PARTY!

IT IS
SIMPLY A
TRADITIONAL
RITE OF MY
PEOPLE!
AND YOU
ARE NOT
PERMITTED
TO WITNESS
IT!

LYANNA,
WHAT'S THIS
NUMBO-
JUMBO ALL
ABOUT?



THE GODS
WILL PUNISH
YOU IF YOU
DO NOT
LEAVE AT
ONCE!

WAIT
FOR ME AT
THE HOUSE,
HUSBAND...
I WILL JOIN
YOU THERE
WHEN I AM
FINISHED!

BUT FOR THE MIND WRACKED WITH TORTUROUS DOUBTS, WAITING IS ALL THE MORE FITFUL...

ONLY AN HOUR TILL DAWN, AND SHE'S STILL AT IT!

I'LL HAVE TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH LYANNA.

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO PRESERVE NATIVE CUSTOMS, BUT WHEN THEY START TO FRAY MY NERVES, I...



GREAT, SCOTT--!



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY FACE?

IT-- IT REMINDS ME OF THAT UGLY SCARAB SHE HUNG IN THE SUMMER HUT!



OH, WHAT AM I THINKING! I'M SO OVERWORKED IT'S PROBABLY MY MY IMAGINATION PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!

GOT TO REST... MY BRAIN'S POUNDING LIKE A FILEDRIVER!



BUT ELSEWHERE LOOKS STILL ANOTHER TERROR...

I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH FOR HER TO COME OUT!

POOR JERRY-- THE WAY SHE TALKED TO HIM BEFORE... I KNOW SHE'S THE ONE WHO TURNED HIM SO-- SO NASTY!



SYBIL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL, LYANNA!

CALL ME A JEALOUS SPINSTER, OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU LIKE-- BUT WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO JERRY!



PLEASE,
NOT NOW!
YOU MUST
LEAVE-- AT
ONCE!

NOT
ON YOUR
LIFE!

EVERYONE
SEES THE
HORRIBLE
CHANGE IN
JERRY... HIS
CO-WORKERS,
HIS FRIENDS
AND
NEIGHBORS--



!GASP!
WH-- WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?

SUDDENLY
!CHOKE!
I
CAN'T
BREATHE!

M-- MY
WHOLE
BODY FEELS
!COUGH!
LIKE IT'S
TEARING
APART!



SH--?
THAT BLOOD-
CURDLING
SCREAM...
IT SOUNDED
LIKE A
WOMAN--!

FRANTICALLY, A RACE THROUGH MOONLIT DARKNESS -- TO A CAULDRON OF SHEER DREAD...



LYNNVA...
WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
SYBIL?

I DID
NOTHING, JEROLD...
SHE BROUGHT
IT UPON
HERSELF!



BEFORE
YOU EXPLAIN,
I'D BETTER
CALL THE
POLICE.

HIS
FACE--!
AT LAST--
THE TIME
HAS
COME!



YOU ARE
NOT CALLING
ANYBODY,
MY DARLING.

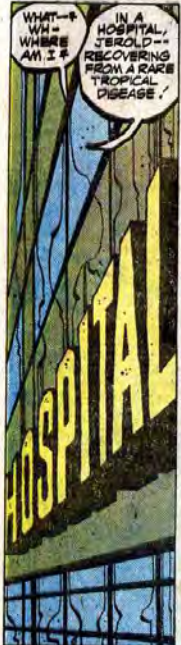
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HELP! GET THEM OFF ME!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME, LYANNA?

HUSH, MY BELOVED... ALL GOES WELL NOW!



WHAT--? WH-- WHERE AM I?

IN A HOSPITAL, JEROLD-- RECOVERING FROM A RARE TROPICAL DISEASE!



"RARE" WASN'T THE WORD FOR IT, DUNCAN! IT'S A SICKNESS COMPLETELY UNKNOWN TO MODERN SCIENCE!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I WAS NOT HARMING YOU... I WAS CURING YOU!

CURING ME? HOW?



IT IS TAUGHT TO OUR PEOPLE BY THE MEDICINE MEN!

THE FLUMES FROM THE SCARAB-- THE INSECT... THEY ALONE POSSESS THE VENOM THAT BURNS OUT THE DISEASE!

BUT FIRST THE BODY MUST BE READY WITH SMALL DOSES...



...OTHERWISE THE VENOM IS MORE POISONOUS THAN THE DISEASE!

THAT IS WHY SYBIL SUCCEEDED SO SWIFTLY!

BUT... WHY WERE YOU KEEPING IT ALL SUCH A DEEP, DARK SECRET?



BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED ME!

YOU WOULD HAVE SCOFFED AT MY PEOPLE'S CURE-- AND SIMPLY HOSPITALIZED YOURSELF...



... WHERE WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO A THING FOR YOU-- EXCEPT WATCH YOU DIE.



NOW THAT'S THE KIND OF LOVING CARE THAT REALLY BUGS ME... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!