

HOP FROG *by* EDGAR ALLAN POE

NO ONE EVER TOLD A MACABRE STORY BETTER THAN EDGAR ALLAN POE. HERE IS THE WIZARD OF THE WEIRD TALE AT HIS HORRIFYING BEST WITH HIS STORY OF A DWARF'S LOVE ... AND A DWARF'S REVENGE!

CENTURIES AGO, HOP FROG, THE DWARF, AND TRIPETTA, A TINY BUT BEAUTIFUL CREATURE, WERE CAPTURED AND TAKEN AS SLAVES TO THE COURT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY. CRUELLY TREATED, THEY HAD NO FRIENDS BUT EACH OTHER.

YOU'VE BEEN CRYING, TRIPETTA, MY DARLING! HAVE THE KING AND QUEEN ABUSED YOU AGAIN?

IT'S NOTHING, HOP FROG! THEY TREAT YOU EVEN WORSE!

STOP!
STOP!

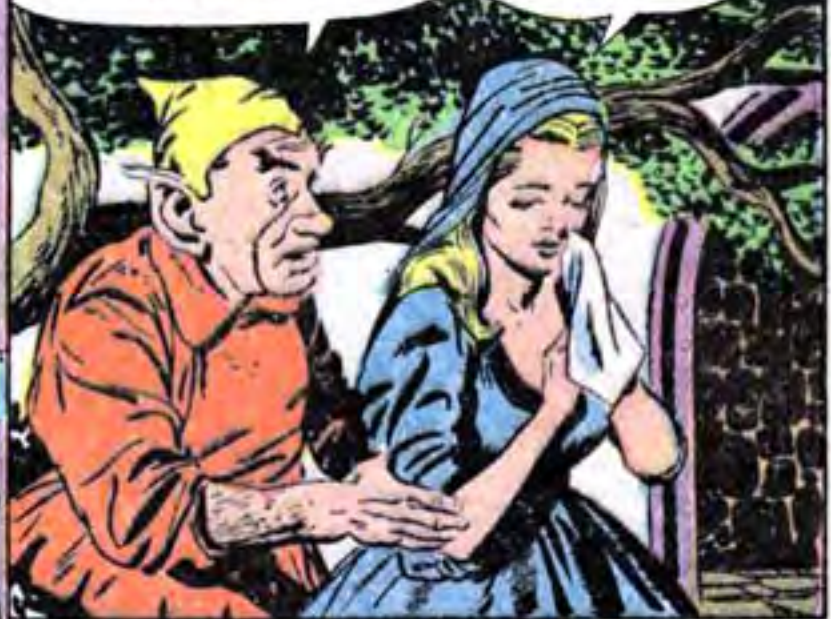
MERCY,
HOP
FROG,
MERCY!

HE'S
BURNING
THEM TO
DEATH!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, HOP FROG AND TRIPETTA WERE SUMMONED TO THE THRONE ROOM...

FIRST, HOP FROG, YOU UGLY RASCAL, DRINK THIS CHALICE TO THE DREGS! DRINK!

NO, YOUR MAJESTY!
NO!





DO AS I SAY, HOP FROG! DRINK!

WHAT IMPUDENCE!

YOUR MAJESTY! PLEASE DO NOT MAKE HOP FROG DRINK! WINE MAKES HIM SICK!



IMPERTINENT WENCH!

TO SAVE HIS SWEETHEART, TRIPETTA, FROM FURTHER HUMILIATION, HOP FROG DRAINED HIS BUMPER OF WINE AT A GULP. BUT THIS TIME, THE WINE, INSTEAD OF MAKING HIM ILL, INSPIRED HIS MIND WITH PLANS FOR VENGEANCE!



HA, HA, HA, HA!

NOW HEAR THIS, YOU MISERABLE DWARF! THE QUEEN AND I WANT TO HOLD A PALACE FESTIVAL... AND WE WANT YOU TO PROVIDE AN AMUSING IDEA FOR IT... YOU'RE GOOD AT SUCH THINGS! COME NOW, MONSTER -- AN INSPIRATION!



I HAVE A WONDERFUL IDEA, YOUR MAJESTY!

GOOD! LET'S HEAR IT, YOU APE!

HOP FROG HAD HIS PLAY READY WITHIN A FEW MINUTES.



YOU AND THE QUEEN WILL DRESS UP IN THESE ORANGOUTANG COSTUMES, AND ENTER THE BALLROOM, ROARING! EVERYONE WILL THINK YOU'RE THE REAL THING AND BE FRIGHTENED TO DEATH!

WONDERFUL! HO, HO, HO!

THE COURT WILL BE SO SCARED! HA, HA, HA!



TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE REAL, YOU'LL BE CHAINED TOGETHER!

THIS IS CAPITOL! HOP FROG, YOU'RE A GENIUS! HA, HA!

YES, AN UGLY GENIUS! HO, HO!



THEY SWALLOWED MY SCHEME, TRIPETTA! NOW, IF YOU'LL HELP ME, WE SHALL BE AVENGED!

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HOP FROG! WHAT SCHEME!



FIRST TO REMOVE THIS CHANDELIER... UGH! NOW HAND ME THAT HOOK, TRIPETTA... AND I'LL FIX IT TO THE END OF THE CHANDELIER CHAIN!

HOP FROG! WHATEVER ARE YOU DOING!



ATTACHED TO THE CHANDELIER CHAIN IS THIS WINDLASS, TRIPETTA, WHICH YOU WILL WORK THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL! SEE HOW EASILY IT WORKS?

YES, YES! I KNOW THAT I CAN DO IT WHEN THE TIME COMES!

THE BIG NIGHT FINALLY ARRIVED AND HOP FROG AND TRIPETTA WERE READY...



THE FESTIVAL STARTS IN AN HOUR, TRIPETTA! DO YOU KNOW YOUR PART WELL?

PERFECTLY, HOP FROG! PERFECTLY!



WHAT'S THAT HOOK FOR, HOP FROG? IT'S IN THE WAY OF THE DANCERS!

THE KING WISHES IT SO, COURTIER!



EEEEEE! ORANGOU-TANGS! THEY MUST HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE ROYAL ZOO!

GR-R-R-R-R-R!

I FEAR YOU NOT, ORANGOU-TANGS! I, HOP FROG THE GREAT, SHALL CAPTURE YOU SINGLE-HANDED!



THERE, I HAVE CAPTURED YOU!

HOP FROG THE DWARF IS FEARLESS!

DON'T BE A FOOL! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT'S JUST ONE OF THE KING'S JOKES?

GRRR R-R-



WIND THESE WILD BEASTS UP! AT ONCE!

GR-R-R- R-R-

SLOWLY, THE CHAIN ASCENDS TOWARD THE CEILING, CARRYING ITS ODD TRIO OF PASSENGERS ...



HA, HA! THEY'RE SCARED HALF TO DEATH!

HO, HO! LOOK AT THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE COURTIER'S FACES!



HA, HA! WHAT A WONDERFUL JAPE! LEAVE IT TO THE KING TO THINK OF SOMETHING REALLY AMUSING! HA, HA, HA!



THAT'S ENOUGH, HOP FROG! THE JEST IS ENDED! PUT US DOWN!

NOT QUITE YET, YOUR MAJESTIES!

AT ONCE!



FIRST, I HAVE A FEW WORDS TO ADDRESS TO THIS NOBLE GATHERING! AND THEN, I PROMISE YOU AN EVEN WITTIER ENTERTAINMENT!

ENOUGH!

HOORAY FOR HOP FROG ... THE ORANGOU-TANG TRAINER!

PUT US DOWN!



PUT US DOWN, I SAY! I AM THE KING!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT, HONORED GUESTS! HEARING THESE TWO BUFFOONS CLAIM THAT THEY ARE THE KING AND QUEEN IS SURELY THE RICHEST ELEMENT OF OUR JAPE! BUT I HAVE A BIT OF HUMOR FOR YOU THAT WILL SURPASS EVEN THAT! DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS?



YES! YES! SHOW US SOME MORE FUN, HOP FROG!



HELP!

STOP HIM! SAVE US!

IT REALLY IS THE KING! ... AND THE QUEEN!



HURRY, HOP FROG!

DON'T WORRY, TRIPETTA, MY DARLING! MY PLAN IS FOOL PROOF!

GET A LADDER! SOMEONE!

GET HOP FROG!

IT'S TOO LATE! THE KING AND QUEEN ARE DEAD!



NOW, QUICKLY! THROUGH THAT TURRET, DOWN THE LADDER AND TO THE COURTYARD!

HOP FROG, MY HERO! THEY BURNED SO VERY BRIGHTLY!

