

THUNDER CRASHES AND LIGHTNING CRACKLES ACROSS THE SKIES ABOVE PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND...AND IN A COLD, LONELY JAIL CELL, A YOUNG PRISONER SITS DEEP IN THOUGHT, WONDERING HOW TO TELL HIS ATTORNEY ABOUT--

# THE SHAMBLER FROM THE STARS!

IT WAS A WEIRD ACCOUNT OF FORBIDDEN BOOKS OF MAGIC AND FEARSOME CREATURES FROM THE FURTHEST STARS. FRANKLY, THE LAWYER DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT. WILL YOU?

YOU'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH MURDER, ROBERT--AND I CAN'T HELP YOU UNLESS YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING.



SURE, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, BRONSON...



BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP ME!

NO ONE CAN!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

RON GOULART WRITER  
JIM STARLIN } ARTISTS  
TOM PALMER }

ROY THOMAS EDITOR

FROM THE STORY BY ROBERT BLOCH

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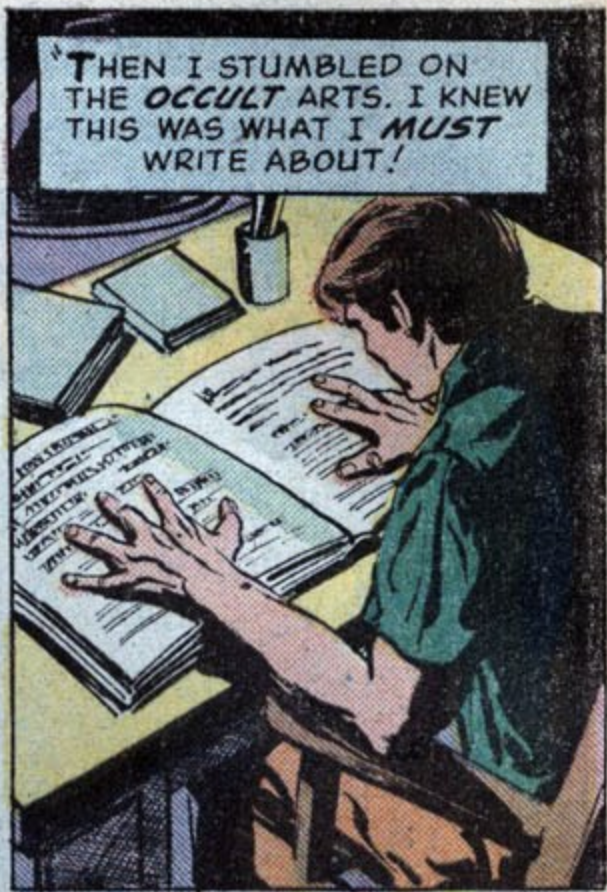




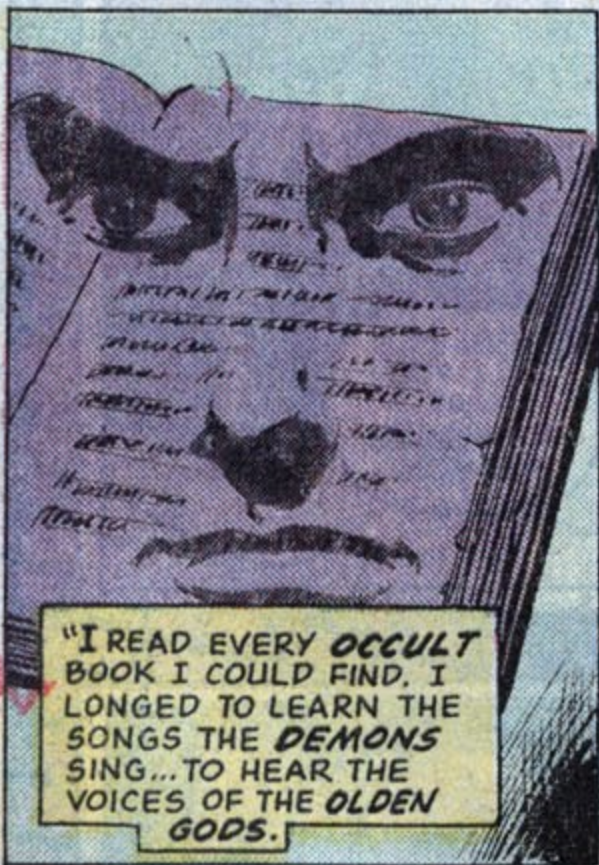
"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A **WRITER**. A YEAR AGO I BEGAN TRYING, LIVING CHEAPLY, SENDING OUT STORY AFTER STORY...



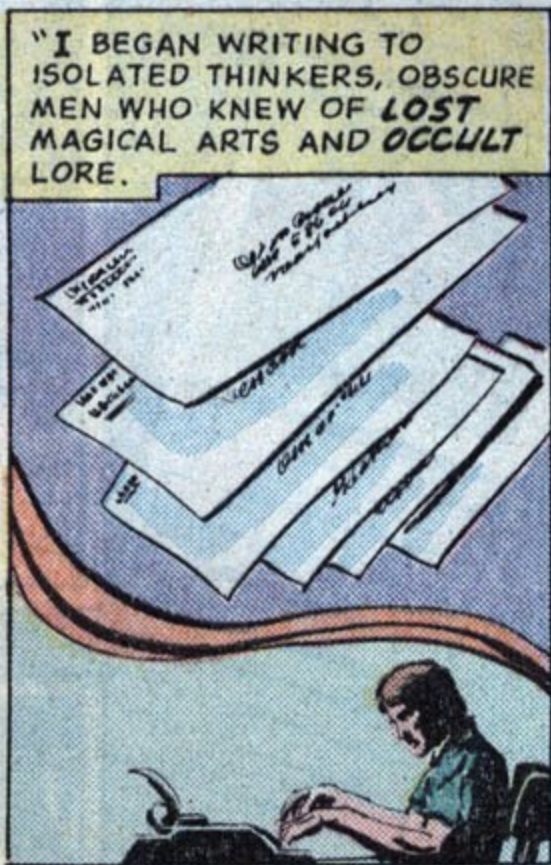
"BUT I FAILED MISERABLY. MY WORK WAS FLAT, LIFELESS... IT LACKED **INSPIRATION!**"



"THEN I STUMBLED ON THE **OCCULT ARTS**. I KNEW THIS WAS WHAT I **MUST** WRITE ABOUT!"



"I READ EVERY **OCCULT** BOOK I COULD FIND. I LONGED TO LEARN THE SONGS THE **DEMONS** SING... TO HEAR THE VOICES OF THE **OLDEN GODS**."



"I BEGAN WRITING TO ISOLATED THINKERS, OBSCURE MEN WHO KNEW OF **LOST** MAGICAL ARTS AND **OCCULT** LORE."



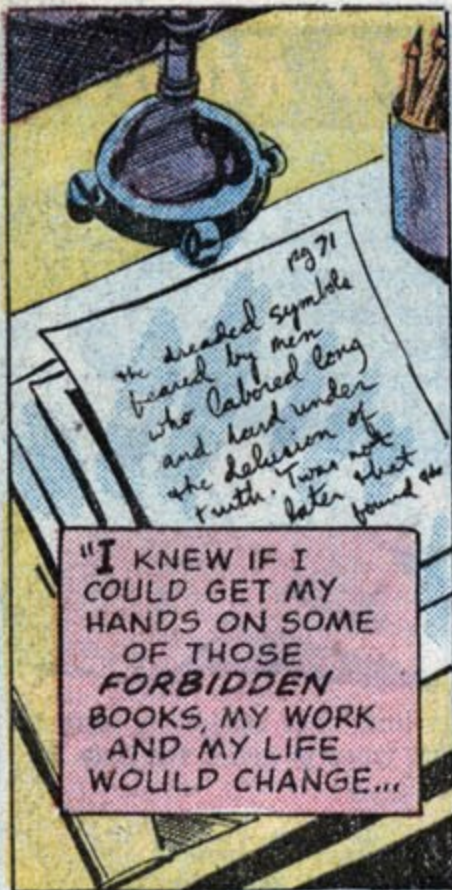
"FROM A RECLUSIVE SCHOLAR IN **PROVIDENCE**, I LEARNED MANY THINGS NO LIBRARY COULD REVEAL ..."



"I LEARNED OF STRANGE **CREATURES** AND STRANGER **GODS**..."

"HE TOLD ME OF BLASPHEMOUS BOOKS ON HOW TO **SUMMON** THEM: THE LEGENDARY **NECRONOMICON**... THE FRIGHTFUL **BOOK OF EIBON**... THE DISQUIETING **DE VERMIS MYSTERIIS**, OR 'THE MYSTERIES OF THE WORM.'"





"I KNEW IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON SOME OF THOSE FORBIDDEN BOOKS, MY WORK AND MY LIFE WOULD CHANGE..."



"I BEGAN AN INTERMINABLE CRUSADE, HAUNTING DINGY BOOK-SHOPS, SEEKING COPIES OF THESE DREAD OCCULT WORKS. THEN ONE DAY..."



LOOK AT THIS! WHAT A FIND!

THIS IS THE BOOK MY FRIEND IN PROVIDENCE TOLD ME ABOUT.



YES, DE VERMIS MYSTERIIS... THE MYSTERIES OF THE WORM!

ONE OF THE WORLD'S RAREST BOOKS OF BLACK MAGIC!



YES, THIS IS IT! WRITTEN BY LUDVIG PRINN IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY...



"PRINN WAS AN ALCHEMIST, A NECROMANCER. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE LIVED FOR 500 YEARS..."

"HE STUDIED THE BLACK ARTS, SUPPOSEDLY HAD INVISIBLE COMPANIONS AND DEMON SERVANTS..."



"FINALLY HIS EVIL RESEARCHES AND BLOOD-STAINED EXPERIMENTS CAUSED HIM TO BE DRAGGED OFF BY THE WITCH-HUNTERS..."



"IT WAS IN A DUNGEON, AWAITING DEATH AT THE STAKE, THAT HE WROTE THIS EVIL BOOK."



I DON'T IMAGINE THIS BATTERED OLD BOOK IS WORTH MUCH...

LET ME SEE, YOUNG MAN.



I HEARD YOU GLOATING OVER IT. YES, I'M AFRAID THIS IS A VERY RARE BOOK INDEED!



I'LL HAVE TO CHARGE YOU...

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

\$200? I CAN'T...



NEVER MIND! KEEP YOUR BLASTED BOOK!

I'LL GET IT-- SOME OTHER WAY!





"I COULDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT..."

"THE BOOK HAUNTED ME! I HAD TO HAVE IT!"



"HAD TO HAVE IT!"

"SO I BROKE INTO THE BOOKSHOP."



LET'S HOPE THAT OLD FOOL DIDN'T HIDE IT AWAY.



NO, THERE IT IS! RIGHT ON THE COUNTER.



HEY! SOMEONE IS COMING!



WHO'S THERE? WHY, IT'S THE YOUNG MAN WHO--



YES! I TOLD YOU I'D GET THE BOOK...



...AT MY PRICE!



"I RAN, CLUTCHING MY PRIZE..."

"I WAS ANXIOUS TO GET AT THE SECRETS IT HELD."



"BUT THE BOOK WAS IN LATIN! I COULDN'T READ A WORD!"



"I DECIDED TO TAKE THE BOOK TO MY FRIEND IN PROVIDENCE. HE WAS A SCHOLAR, HAD STUDIED LATIN..."



"HE'D NEVER SEEN A COPY, SO I KNEW HE'D BE HAPPY TO HELP ME."





AS I KNOCKED, I FELT ON THE BRINK OF STRANGE REVELATIONS!



YES? WHAT IS IT?

WE'VE CORRESPONDED, SIR. I'M ROBERT...



YES, OF COURSE, ROBERT. I AM MOST ELATED.

I SELDOM HAVE VISITORS. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

I'VE UNEARTHED A REAL PRIZE, SIR!



LOOK! A COPY OF DE VERMIS MYSTERIIS!

INDEED? I WONDER IF IT'S WISE TO OPEN IT!



IT IS FULL OF EVIL KNOWLEDGE...

...AND YET, I FEEL THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!



JOIN ME IN MY STUDY. WE'LL PORE OVER THIS ANTIQUE TOME.



DO YOU THINK SOME EVIL WILL BEFALL US IF WE READ IT?

PERHAPS... BUT IT'S WORTH THE RISK!



IMAGINE WHAT DARK SECRETS ARE LOCKED IN ITS MUSTY PAGES!

YES--SECRETS THAT ONLY A MAN 500 YEARS OLD COULD HAVE KNOWN--AND PRESERVED!

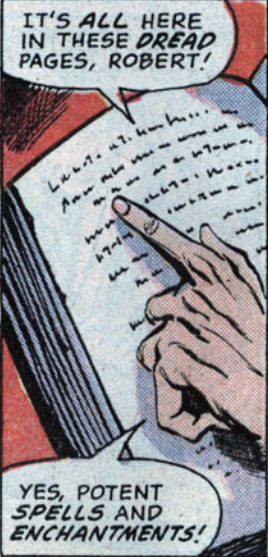


YOU CAN TRANSLATE IT?

YES, OF COURSE... OF COURSE...



SOON THE KNOWLEDGE OF THAT LONG-DEAD SORCERER WILL BE OURS!



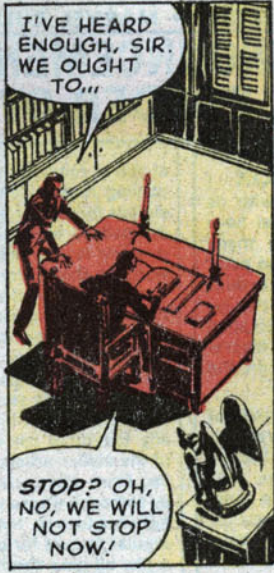
IT'S ALL HERE IN THESE DREAD PAGES, ROBERT!

YES, POTENT SPELLS AND ENCHANTMENTS!

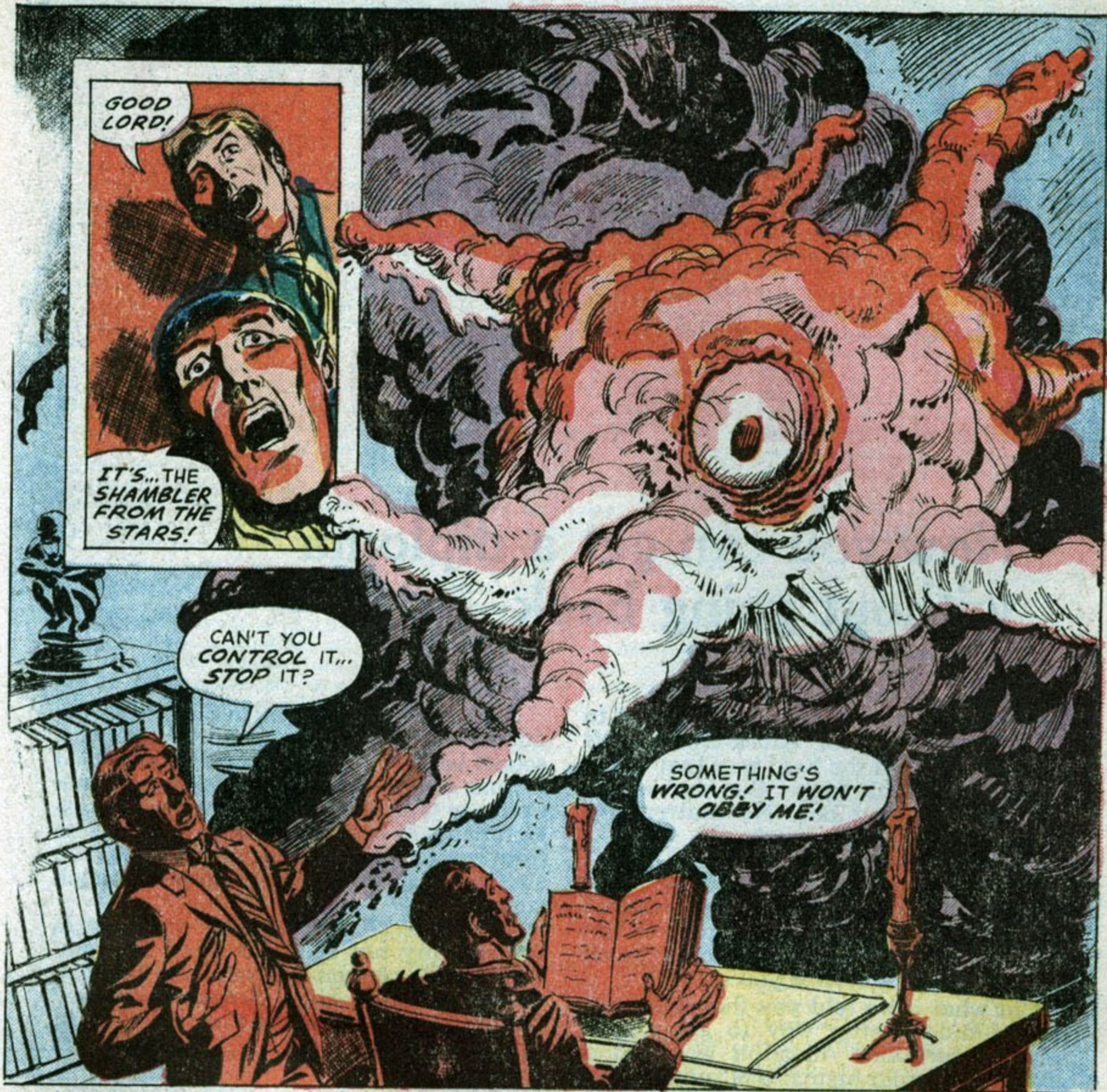


ALL THE BLASPHEMOUS LOST LORE OF EONS PAST--OF THE GODS WHO WALKED THE EARTH!









GOOD LORD!

IT'S... THE SHAMBLER FROM THE STARS!

CAN'T YOU CONTROL IT... STOP IT?

SOMETHING'S WRONG! IT WON'T OBBY ME!



"ONE OF ITS MYRIAD TENTACLES FASTENED UPON HIM!"



"IT CRUSHED HIM IN ITS GRIP... AS IT LAUGHED WILDLY!"

THE AMORPHOUS BLOB BECAME REDDER-- REDDER--



"AND THEN --IT WAS OVER!"



"FORTUNATELY, THE MONSTER DID NOT LINGER..."





"I WAS ALONE WITH THE LIFELESS BODY..."



"THE SHAMBLER WAS GONE...AND SO WAS THE BOOK!"



"I KNEW I MUST BURN EVERYTHING!"

"...DESTROY EVERY TRACE OF ITS VISIT!"



GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!



HOLD IT! STOP RIGHT THERE, KID!

"SUDDENLY, I KNEW IT WAS NO USE RUNNING."



"...YOU SEE, BRONSON, I REALIZED I'LL SEE THE SHAMBLER AGAIN."

IT WILL RETURN SOON... WITHOUT BEING SUMMONED!



IT WILL RETURN--FOR ME!

YES, WELL... I'M GLAD YOU'VE TOLD ME THIS, BOB.



I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA NOW HOW TO PLEAD YOUR CASE. JUST RELAX...AND DON'T WORRY.

I'M... BEYOND WORRYING.



IT'S TOO LATE FOR WORRYING...



"...MUCH TOO LATE."



...AND SO IT IS...!

--FINIS--