



LATE FOR DINNER, BILLY RAY CUTTER TAKES A SHORTCUT THROUGH DEVIL'S BOG SWAMP...



PA'S GONNA KILL ME!



I'D BETTER--



THE SWAMP HOLDS MANY **TERRORS** FOR A YOUNG BOY-- BUT BILLY RAY CUTTER COULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED THAT HE WOULD WITNESS THE GHASTLY NIGHTMARE OF...

# THE RETURN OF THE SWAMP BEAST!

STORY BY JANE & BOB STINE

ART BY

CRASSETTE



HONEST DAD -- HE WAS OVER SEVEN FEET TALL! ALL FURRY-LIKE! AND HE HAD GREAT BIG POINTED TEETH! I RAN AND RAN, AND FINALLY HE JUST STOPPED CHASING ME!

WADE-- IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE! BUT, DO YOU THINK--

IT CAN'T BE! BUT IT HAS TO BE!

THE SWAMP BEAST!



WHEN THOSE TWO HOBOS WERE FOUND DEAD IN THE SWAMP, I SUSPECTED IT MIGHT BE THE SWAMP BEAST!

BUT THE SWAMP BEAST HASN'T APPEARED IN THESE PARTS IN FIFTY YEARS!

WADE, YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO THE SHERIFF! YOU'VE GOT TO!



AN OLD WIVES TALE? BUT, SHERIFF, MY BOY SAW THE CREATURE!

WELL... ALL RIGHT... I'LL ORGANIZE A SEARCH PARTY!

AS THE SEARCHERS STUMBLE THROUGH THE EERIE, TANGLED DARKNESS, THE LOUDEST SOUND IS THAT OF THEIR OWN HEARTBEATS...



MY GRANDDADDY SAW THE SWAMP BEAST IN '26. TURNED HIS HAIR GHOST WHITE!

BUT WHY DID IT DECIDE TO COME BACK NOW?!

NO! IT CAN'T BE-- LOOK!!

**BAM**



A FEW SECONDS LATER, THE SWAMP BEAST SURVEYS THE SILENCE HE HAS CREATED...

**EEEEEEYAAAAAAAAAAAA**

HEY LOUIE-- DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!

**AAAAAAAAAAAA**



WHY'D YOU HAVE TO BEAT UP THAT GUY? YOU WERE JUST SUPPOSED TO SCARE THEM AWAY!

DON'T WORRY-- THIS OLD COSTUME DID THE TRICK! NOW WE'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE BUYING UP ALL THIS LAND-- AND--HEH HEH-- THE OIL THAT'S UNDERNEATH IT!



HA HA HA! IMAGINE THEM BELIEVING THAT OLD GHOST STORY!



HA! HA! I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, LOUIE!

DON'T WORRY! SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING... ELSE IS ABOUT TO HAND IT TO LOUIE! THAT'S ONE THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT OLD LEGENDS-- IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR A COMEBACK!