

Perhaps it's the weirdest coincidence - - - or a lie! It was told by a shiftless character. But, isn't it strange - - How in countless tales of it's kind - - There is always the touch of truth - - and a

# WASTY LITTLE MAN!



Produced by  
**SIMON & KIRBY**

HE WAS CALLED "THE PROFESSOR" -- A DIGNIFIED TITLE HE NEITHER CARED ABOUT NOR DESERVED. HE WAS A BUM! HIS COMPANIONS WERE BUMS. THEY CAUGHT THE 9 O'CLOCK FREIGHT TRAIN BOUND FOR THE WEST COAST.



UP WE GO, LADS! I'LL ASSIST YOU!

PUFF -- DON'T FORGET ME, PROF --

THERE WAS LITTLE LIGHT INSIDE THE BOXCAR. AND THE PUNGENT AIR GAVE EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAD BEEN A STOP MADE AT THE CHICAGO STOCKYARDS. THE SEEDY TRAVELLERS GAVE THESE FACTS SLIGHT ATTENTION AS THEY SLUMPED IN VARIED ATTITUDES, ON THE VIBRATING FLOOR.



OW! BE CAREFUL WHO IT IS YOU'RE KICKIN' YA BIG OAF!

HUH? W-WHO'S THAT?

# BLACK MAGIC



I'M PADDY O'DAY!  
AND I'VE NO MIND TO  
BE SCUFFED ABOUT  
BY THE RAGGED AND  
SHIFTLESS DREGS  
OF HUMANITY!



WOW! LISTEN  
TO THE LITTLE  
MAN! YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE **DISTURBED**  
HIS HIGHNESS,  
BEEFY!

AW, WHAT'S HE  
SO **BURNED UP**  
FOR? I DIDN'T  
EVEN KNOW  
HE WAS THERE!

YOU  
NEEDN'T  
APOLOGIZE,  
BEEFY--



HE SEEMS TO BE A  
**NASTY LITTLE MAN**--  
WITH AN ATTITUDE  
MUCH TOO PRETENTIOUS  
FOR HIS OBVIOUS  
STATION IN LIFE!

YOU MEAN I  
SHOULD CLIP HIM  
ONE? BUT, HE'S  
SUCH A **LITTLE**  
GUY--



THERE WAS A STIR AND SCUTTLE FROM THE  
CORNER WHERE THE LITTLE MAN HUDDLED.. IN  
THE DIM LIGHT, THE MOVEMENT HAD AN EVIL  
SOUND-- LIKE SPIDER'S FEET TOUCHING THE  
FLOOR... **PROF** AND HIS COMPANIONS STARTED  
INSTINCTIVELY.

DON'T ANGER ME, YE  
SPALPEENS -- OR I'LL  
STILL YOUR FOOLISH  
TONGUES WITH  
THE POWER  
OF ME  
OWN!



KNOW YE THAT I'M OF THE **WEE**  
**FOLK**.. AND THE BLOOD OF  
**WIZARDS** FLOWS IN ME VEINS!



HOW'S ABOUT IT, PROF?  
DO WE RUSH HIM?  
HE LOOKS DANGEROUS--

AYE! 'TIS EASILY  
AROUSSED I AM! ANY  
IRISHMAN WHO IS  
SOUND IN HIS HEAD  
WOULD **KNOW** THAT!

HOLD IT, BOYS!  
WE'VE  
ENCOUNTERED  
A MOST  
UNIQUE  
SITUATION  
HERE!



GIVE US A SIGN, PADDY! IF YOU ARE WHAT YOU CLAIM YOU ARE... SHOW US WHAT ONLY THE ELDER RACE CAN KNOW!

YE'RE A LEARNED, AND A SLY ONE, BUT BEIN' A WEE BIT WISER, AS I AM -- I KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR BLACK HEART--



THIS IS, PERHAPS, THE SIGN YOU WANTED?



THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT! SCOOP IT UP BY THE FISTFUL! GOUGE AND BITE AND KICK THE MAN WHO WOULD HAVE IT! YE'RE ONLY BEING HUMAN!  
HA HA HA HA  
HA HA!

THERE WAS A CONCERTED RUSH — AND THE HIGH-PITCHED SQUEAL OF EVIL LAUGHTER! ON THE VIBRATING FLOOR OF THE FREIGHT CAR, THREE RAGGED MEN FOUGHT LIKE ANIMALS FOR THE SCATTERED LITTLE LIGHTS THAT WINKED IN THE DARK...



HAHAHAHA  
HA HA  
HA HA HA!

LOOK OUT! GET OUT OF MY WAY, PROF!

BEEFY! YOU BIG GREEDY!



W-WHAT IS THIS? THESE AREN'T DIAMONDS!

IT'S COAL! NOTHING BUT ORDINARY COAL—



COAL..

AND WHAT, ME RAG FEATHERED LUMMOX, D'YE THINK DIAMONDS ARE! THEY'RE CARBON!.. THE STUFF OF COAL!

# BLACK MAGIC



I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED... YOUR KIND IS NOTORIOUS FOR ITS SENSE OF HUMOR!

A FORTUNE IN DIAMONDS IN MY HAND--AND HE TURNED 'EM INTO COAL!



THE CACKLING LITTLE DEVIL! I'M GONNA SHOVE THAT COAL DOWN HIS THROAT!

BEEFY! LET GO OF HIM! DON'T DO THAT, YOU FOOL!



MORE SOUNDS IN THE DIMNESS! TERRIFYING SOUNDS... MOVEMENT! VIOLENCE! MURDER!

LEGGO! I'M GONNA KILL HIM!



CURSE YE! DEATH TO THE LOT OF YE! DEATH! DEATH!



LANKY! THAT NOISE -- LIKE THUNDER --

WHAT IS IT? IT'S GETTING LOUDER-- LET'S LAM OUT OF HERE!



IT WAS AN AVALANCHE! GREAT MASSES OF ROCK -- SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, TORN BY SOME INVISIBLE GIANT HAND -- AND SENT HURTLING DOWN UPON THE TRAIN BELOW!

# BLACK MAGIC

PROF AND LANKY JUMPED IN TIME, BUT BEEFY WAS STILL IN THE FREIGHT CAR WHEN A MAMMOTH BOULDER SMASHED IT TO SPLINTERS. ALTHOUGH MANY CARS WERE DERAILED, ONLY THIS PARTICULAR CAR WAS STRUCK BY THE AVALANCHE.

PROF!  
YOU  
OKAY?



THANKS LANKY! I DON'T KNOW HOW WE EVER GOT OUT OF THAT IN ONE PIECE! SOMEHOW, I EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN -



I-I THINK WE'LL BE SAFE HERE, PROF -

NO! WE'LL NEVER BE SAFE! I TRIED TO TELL THAT IDIOT, BEEFY -



TELL HIM WHAT?

ABOUT THE LITTLE MAN - THAT WAS NO ORDINARY LITTLE MAN - BEEFY MURDERED!



HA HA HA HA HA - 'TIS A FINE NIGHT FOR KILLIN' ME BUCKOES! A FINE NIGHT INDEED -



A LITTLE GUY! HE'S ALIVE! AND - HE SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE! PROF! WAIT -

RUN, LANKY! FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SOUL - RUN!



# BLACK MAGIC

TERROR BEAT WILDLY AT THEM WITH GREAT BLACK WINGS.. AND THE FOREST LAUGHED WITH THE VOICE OF THE DEVIL! BREATH CAME HARD -- BRUISED FEET BUCKLED IN PAIN -- BUT, PROF AND LANKY RAN IN ENDLESS FLIGHT FROM THE THING PURSUING THEM IN THE DARKNESS...



PROF NEVER SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO LANKY! HE COULD ONLY REMEMBER HEARING THE SCREAMS -- THE VIOLENT THRASHING IN THE SHRUBS.



--AND THEN THE TERRIFYING SILENCE--



IT SEEMED AS IF PROF HAD KEPT RUNNING ALL NIGHT... HIS MIND WAS A BURNING MAZE... HE FINALLY STUMBLED AND FELL -- THE PAIN IN HIS HEAVING CHEST BECAME UNBEARABLE.



I-IT GOT LANKY--AND NOW IT'S COMING FOR ME-- SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAMPERED-- WITH THE INFERNAL...



NOT EVEN THE CLAWING FEAR THAT DROVE HIM COULD HOLD BACK THE DESCENDING BLACK CURTAIN! WHEN THE PROF OPENED HIS EYES ONCE AGAIN -- HE WAS SURPRISED TO FIND HE WAS NOT IN HADES ...



# BLACK MAGIC



DOC! DOC WINTERS! QUICK!

PLEASE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I MUST TELL YOU--



EASY, FRIEND! YOU'RE AMONG GOOD FOLKS! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!

LISTEN, DOC! BE A GOOD EGG -- GET MY CLOTHES... I'VE GOT TO MOVE ON-- THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!



BUT THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE-- AT THE PRESENT! YOU DON'T REALIZE THE SEVERITY OF YOUR CONDITION. I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU LATER -- GOT TO RUSH OUT ON AN EMERGENCY CALL!



PROF MADE A WEAK ATTEMPT TO FORCE HIMSELF ERECT -- BUT, THERE WAS A STRANGE FEELING OF NUMBNESS AND A THROBBING PAIN! PROF FELL BACK ON THE SWEATY SHEETS.

THE **SECOND** EMERGENCY SINCE OUR FRIEND HERE WAS FOUND IN YOUR FIELD!

IT'S UPSET ME NO END. I'LL SEE YOU TO YOUR CAR, DOC...

WHEN THE DOCTOR AND THE OLD WOMAN HAD SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND THEM, PROF SAVORED THE PEACEFUL SILENCE OF THE NEAT LITTLE ROOM... DESPITE THE DULL PAIN INSIDE HIM HE REMAINED RELAXED IN THE PILLOW'S YIELDING SOFTNESS. AND WITH THE SUNLIGHT WARM ON HIS FACE, PROF DARED TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO REST --



IT CAME LIKE A **WARNING** -- THE CLOUD PASSING ACROSS THE FACE OF THE SUN... THE COMFORTING GLOW FADING -- RETREATING BEFORE THE DEEPENING GRAYS -- AND, SUDDENLY, THE **TERRIBLE, SHATTERING SOUND OF DARK LAUGHTER!**

HA HA HA HA HA HA -- A FINE MORNIN' -- IS IT NOT --

YOU STAY AWAY FROM ME! GO AWAY --

# BLACK MAGIC



HEE-HEE-HEE --  
YE CAN BE  
**SURE** THAT PADDY  
O'DAY IS ABOUT  
WHEN THERE'S  
A BIT OF  
BUZZ IN  
TOWN!



THEY'RE TELLIN' OF A SCARECROW  
THAT'S FRIGHTENED THE FARMERS  
INSTEAD O' THE CROWS! AND  
WHY NOT? THE **SCARECROW**  
IS ME VERY OWN PRANK! I  
MADE HIM MESELF-- OUT  
OF YOUR FRIEND,  
**LANKY!**

LANKY!  
THAT'S WHY  
THE DOC  
RUSHED OFF!

THE GRINNING, LITTLE HORROR DREW  
**CLOSER**--AND ITS BEADY EYES WERE  
ALIGHT WITH THINGS WHICH CHILLED THE  
SPINE.. PROF SCREAMED WITH PANIC  
AND LURCHED FROM THE BED!

HE'S A FINE  
LAD, THE DOCTOR!  
A **TALENTED**  
LAD, THAT!



PROF FELL HEAVILY TO THE FLOOR. HE TRIED  
FRANTICALLY TO GET TO HIS FEET AND FAILED.

HE SAVED YOUR  
LIFE, BUCKO!  
WORKED HARD,  
HE DID!



HE HAD TO AMPUTATE  
**BOTH YOUR LEGS**--  
LAST NIGHT, AND, A NEAT  
JOB IT WAS! AH--T'WILL  
BE A CRYIN' SHAME TO  
UNDO HIS GOOD  
WORK. BUT, MISCHIEF  
IS IN ME  
NATURE --



JUST THINK OF THE GOOD DOCTOR'S  
BUGGIN' EYES, WHEN HE RETURNS  
AND FINDS -- **SOMETHIN'** ELSE -- IN  
PLACE O' HIS LIVIN' PATIENT! SURE,  
AND T'WILL SEEM TO HIM LIKE  
THE DEVILISH WORK OF  
SOME **LEPRECHAUN!**



END