

BLACK MAGIC

magazine

**TRUE AMAZING
ACCOUNTS OF THE
STRANGEST STORIES
EVER TOLD!**

This girl was
perfection itself. Yet,
the misshapen horrors
in that isolated sanctuary
ran from her in terror!

**READ —
BEAUTIFUL
FREAK**



Mother nature must have split her sides, laughing, when she thought up this one! In a city of twisted, crawling deformities, this one stood out---

The Greatest HORROR of Them All!

the AMAZING STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL FREAK!

"THE TRICK WAS TO KEEP LOOKING AT THEIR FACES. MOST OF THEM WERE NORMAL THERE, AND ONE COULD WITH COURAGE AND WILL POWER, MAKE A GRADUAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE REVOLTING THINGS WHICH NATURE HAD DONE TO THE REST OF THEIR BODIES! WE PLAYED CARDS, TOM, FRITZ, SING AND I... BUT, OF THE FOUR SOME, ONLY I COULD WALK AMONG ORDINARY MEN WITHOUT MAKING THEM PHYSICALLY ILL!!

"WELL, NOW THERE WAS NOTHING DISTURBING ABOUT TOM-- NOT IF HE FACED YOU AND HID HIS MONSTROUS BROTHER WITH WHOM HE CAME INTO THIS WORLD-- THE HAIRY, TWISTED, HIDEOUS BROTHER WHO GREW OUT OF TOM'S BACK SHARING HIS BLOOD AND TISSUE -- AND BEARING HALF OF HIS ETERNAL CROSS.

FRITZ PASSES, TOM.. I'VE GOT A PAIR OF KINGS. CAN YOU TOP ME?

SURE CAN, JOHNNY. I'M HOLDING A PAIR OF JACKS AND NINES--

TOM -- I SEE ELENA... SHE'S COMING THIS WAY--

HE IS RIGHT.. I SEE HER, TOO--

"POOR FRITZ WAS A MAN TO THE END OF HIS RIB CAGE. THE OTHER HALF OF HIM WAS JUST A HOUSING FILLED WITH A COMPLEX NETWORK OF TUBES AND CHEMICALS THAT KEPT HIM ALIVE. AT THE APPROACH OF ELENA, FRITZ LOPED OFF ON HIS POWERFUL ARMS!

"SING LEFT THE TABLE RATHER RELUCTANTLY. HE ENJOYED PLAYING CARDS.. HOWEVER, LIKE THE REST OF THOSE WHO LIVED AT 'SANCTUARY' HE HAD GOOD REASON TO SHY FROM THE GAZE OF NORMAL PEOPLE-- ESPECIALLY THE RARE KIND LIKE ELENA, WHO WAS PERFECT IN FORM AND BEAUTY.

EXCUSE ME, HERR PARKER... I MUST GO NOW!

ELENA! I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP WHEN YOU DID--

SOMEHOW, TRY AS I MAY, I JUST CAN'T TAKE THOSE... THOSE **THINGS** FOR TOO LONG A PERIOD... I... TRY TO TELL MYSELF THAT THEY'VE GOT THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS AND DESIRES LIKE MY OWN... BUT, THEN I SEE THEM AS THEY ARE... AND I GET SICK TO MY STOMACH!



HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I'M SORRY IF I SOUNDED OFF LIKE THAT! I KNOW YOU AND DOC LOWRY HAVE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE A LIKING TO THOSE PETS OF YOURS!

THEY CAN'T HELP THEIR DEFORMITIES! THEY'RE ACCIDENTS OF BIRTH AND... MISHAP! THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE... JUST LIKE YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE!



I KNOW! THAT'S WHY DOC LOWRY BUILT **SANCTUARY**, AND BRINGS THEM HERE TO LIVE IN PEACEFUL ISOLATION! BUT HOW DID HE EVER GET YOU AS A SECRETARY, TO LIVE HERE... AMONG THEM...

THE DOCTOR IS DOING A GREAT WORK AND HE NEEDS HELP...



IT HASN'T BEEN EASY STAYING HERE, JOHNNY... KNOWING THAT **ON THE OUTSIDE** THERE ARE MEN LIKE YOU... TALL AND STRAIGHT AND GOOD LOOKING... GOOD TO BE NEAR...

ELENA...



I WOULDN'T HAVE COME IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW LONG I'VE DREAMED OF A MOMENT LIKE THIS...



JOHN! ELENA! I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! I'M SORRY YOU FIND THIS SO SHOCKING, DOC! BUT THEN, I SUPPOSE, A LITTLE THING LIKE A KISS WOULD SEEM ABNORMAL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

DOCTOR LOWRY... I... I...



ELENA! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING!

I DON'T CARE! I'M A WOMAN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? A WOMAN WANTS TO BE LOVED... AND YOU CAN'T SHUT IT OUT... NOT EVEN HERE, IN 'SANCTUARY'!





I WAS UNABLE TO MOVE FOR HOURS AFTER THOSE THICK, FLESHY FINGERS RELEASED ME. IN MY ROOM, I SPRAWLED ON THE BED, SWEATING AND CURSING DOC LOWRY AND HIS FREAKS AND ANY OTHER OBSTACLE BETWEEN MYSELF AND ELENA.

I'M NOT GOING WITHOUT ELENA! CAN'T LEAVE HER HERE, AMONG THESE HORRORS! THERE'S NO TIME LEFT. GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE — NOW!



I DIDN'T BOTHER PACKING. ALL I TOOK WAS MY HAT, A FIELD JACKET AND A LOADED PISTOL! WITH LUCK, I WOULD TAKE OFF WITH ELENA IN THE HELICOPTER WHICH BROUGHT US OVER THE MOUNTAINS AND WILD FOREST THAT PROTECTED "SANCTUARY" FROM THE WORLD OF NORMAL MEN. IF I MET OPPOSITION, I WAS READY TO SHOOT MY WAY TO FREEDOM!

WELL, HERE GOES! THIS CORRIDOR'S CLEAR. ELENA'S ROOM IS TWO FLOORS ABOVE! I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK AND SILENT.



NOTHING SEEMED TO BE STIRRING. EVEN LOWRY'S FREAKS HAD TO SLEEP! BUT I DIDN'T RELAX MY TRIGGER FINGER AS I STEALTHILY MOUNTED THE STAIRS TO ELENA'S ROOM.



I BREATHED EASIER WHEN I FOUND ELENA'S DOOR UNLOCKED. WITH A QUICK MOVEMENT I EASED MYSELF INTO HER ROOM AND SOFTLY CLOSED IT BEHIND ME.



THE ROOM WAS DIMLY LIT, AND I STEPPED CAUTIOUSLY FORWARD SO AS NOT TO STARTLE HER AND CAUSE AN OUTCRY. SOFTLY, I CALLED HER NAME, BUT GOT NO ANSWER.

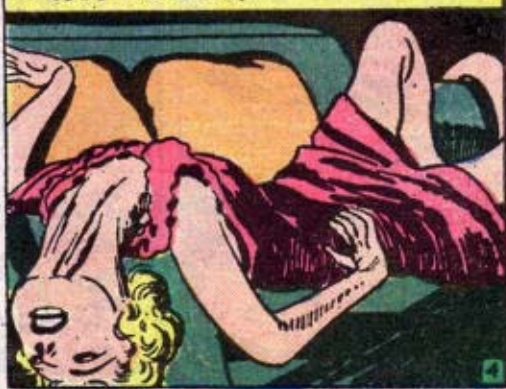


ELENA... ELENA...

FOR SOME UNEXPLAINABLE REASON AN ICY CHILL SWEEPED ALONG MY SPINE AS I MADE MY WAY THROUGH THE GLOOM. IN A FAR CORNER WAS A COUCH — AND WAS THAT ELENA ASLEEP UPON IT? I DREW CLOSER TO MAKE CERTAIN.



"SOMEHOW MY BRAIN COULDN'T SEEM TO ABSORB THE MEANING OF THE THING THAT WAS DRAPED CARELESSLY ACROSS THE COUCH."



IT WAS MADE OF FOAM RUBBER AND PLASTIC...A SORT OF COLLAPSED, DE-FLATED, FLESH-COLORED THING WITH ELENA'S HAIR, FACE, ARMS AND LEGS! THE EYES WERE MERELY HOLES, LIKE THE OPENINGS IN A MASK...



THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT DOC LOWRY WAS TRYING TO SAY BEFORE I CUT HIM OFF... SOMETHING ABOUT HIS TRIP TO NEW YORK WITH ELENA! AN APPOINTMENT AT THE DENTON FOAM RUBBER COMPANY... AND INSIDE ME, I SHRIEKED WITH THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF WHAT I WAS THINKING!



IT CAME TO ME... THE ANSWER... CRAWLING LIKE AN UGLY SPIDER OUT OF ITS LAIR... ELENA... SHE WAS ONE OF THEM! ONE OF LOWRY'S FREAKS! SUDDENLY, THE AIR WAS SPLIT BY A BLOOD-FREEZING SCREAM!



THE VERY SIGHT OF THE THING THAT CAME OUT OF ELENA'S BEDROOM AND SCREAMED IN HER VOICE SENT ME STAGGERING BACK WITH FEAR AND NAUSEA... AND GROPING FOR MY PISTOL!



THAT HORRIBLE, PLEADING MONSTROSITY DRAGGING ITSELF TOWARD ME DROVE ME TO MADDENED FRENZY! I BEGAN BLASTING INTO ITS FACE THE MOMENT THE GUN WAS IN MY HAND!



AND EVEN AS I WATCHED THAT HIDEOUS FACE DISINTEGRATE INTO A RED RUIN, I HEARD MYSELF CRYING ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE GUN...



"I CRIED FOR ELENA... WHOSE BEAUTY SO AWED THE FREAKS... BUT THAT WASN'T TRUE, WAS IT... THEY RAN BECAUSE THEY FEARED HER... SHUNNED HER... BECAUSE NOT EVEN THEY COULD STAND MY ELENA... THE GREATEST HORROR OF THEM ALL..."

