

GOLD
KEY

BORIS KARLOFF

10053-612
DECEMBER

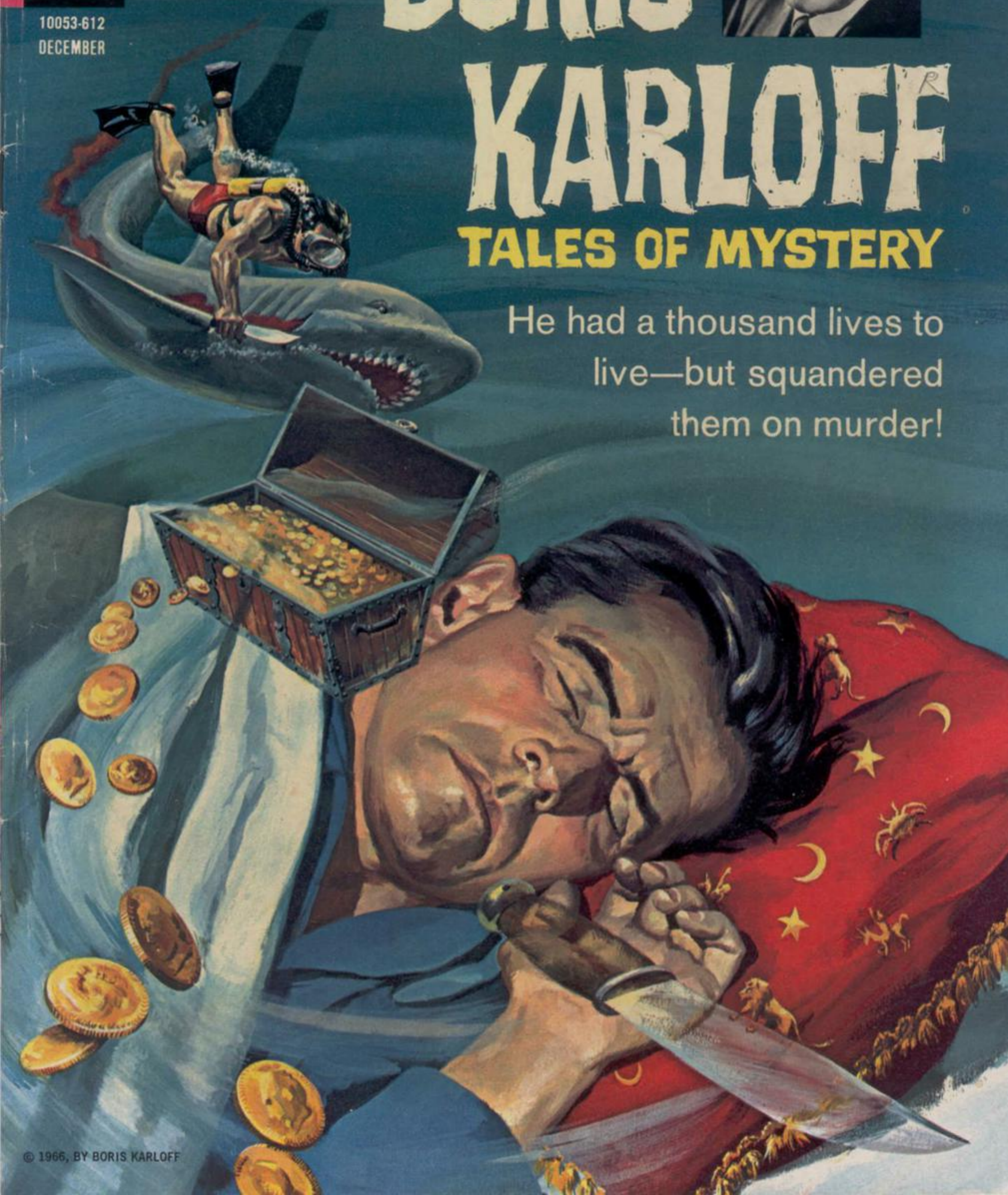
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BORIS KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY



He had a thousand lives to
live—but squandered
them on murder!



BORIS
KARLOFF
Tales of Mystery

The MAGIC PILLOW

GREAT GRIEF! I'M SEEING AN
ILLUSION... OF MY FRIEND CARLTON
IN INDIA AS A MAHARAJAH...
RECEIVING HIS WEIGHT IN RICHES!
I-I MUST BE LOSING MY SENSES...



ROYCE BAINES ENTERED HIS FRIEND'S STUDY AND FROZE IN HIS TRACKS! FOR
BEFORE HIM WAS A FANTASTIC VISION THAT NO MORTAL MAN HAD EVER SEEN! YES,
MY FRIENDS, ROYCE WAS UNAWARE OF IT THEN, BUT HE WAS OBSERVING CARLTON'S MOST
INTRIGUING ADVENTURE IN A NEVER-NEVER VOID WE MIGHT CALL THE DEATH-DREAM WORLD!



THAT CORDIAL OF BRANDY I HAD BEFORE COMING HERE--IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR ME! I'M HAVING **HALLUCINATIONS!**



THEN, AS UTTER PANIC GRIPS ROYCE'S MIND...

CARLTON!
CARLTON!
WHERE ARE YOU?
ANSWER ME!

AND AS HIS FRANTIC CRY BOOMS THROUGH THE STUDY...



HU-HUH?
...WHO'S THERE?

YIIII! CARLTON!!

PUFF!

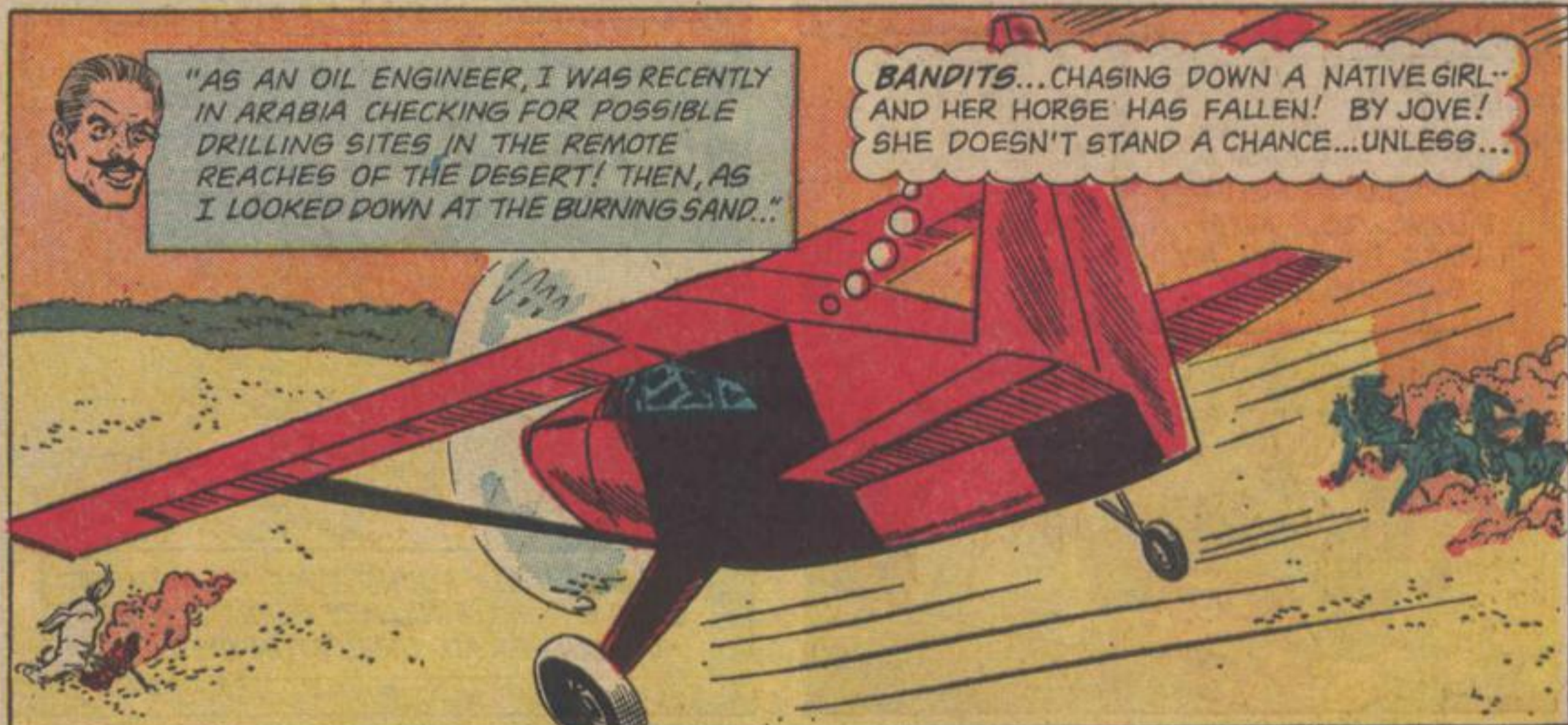


OH, IT'S **YOU**, ROYCE! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT OVER TONIGHT! SAY...WHAT IS WRONG? YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY PETRIFIED!

TERRIFIED IS A BETTER WORD! WHAT'S GOING ON? JUST A MOMENT AGO, I SAW YOU IN A VISION HERE ...AS A **MAHARAJAH!**



EXTRAORDINARY! THEN MY DREAM ADVENTURES **ARE** VISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYES! BETTER SIT DOWN, ROYCE ... AND BRACE YOURSELF FOR AN **AMAZING STORY!**

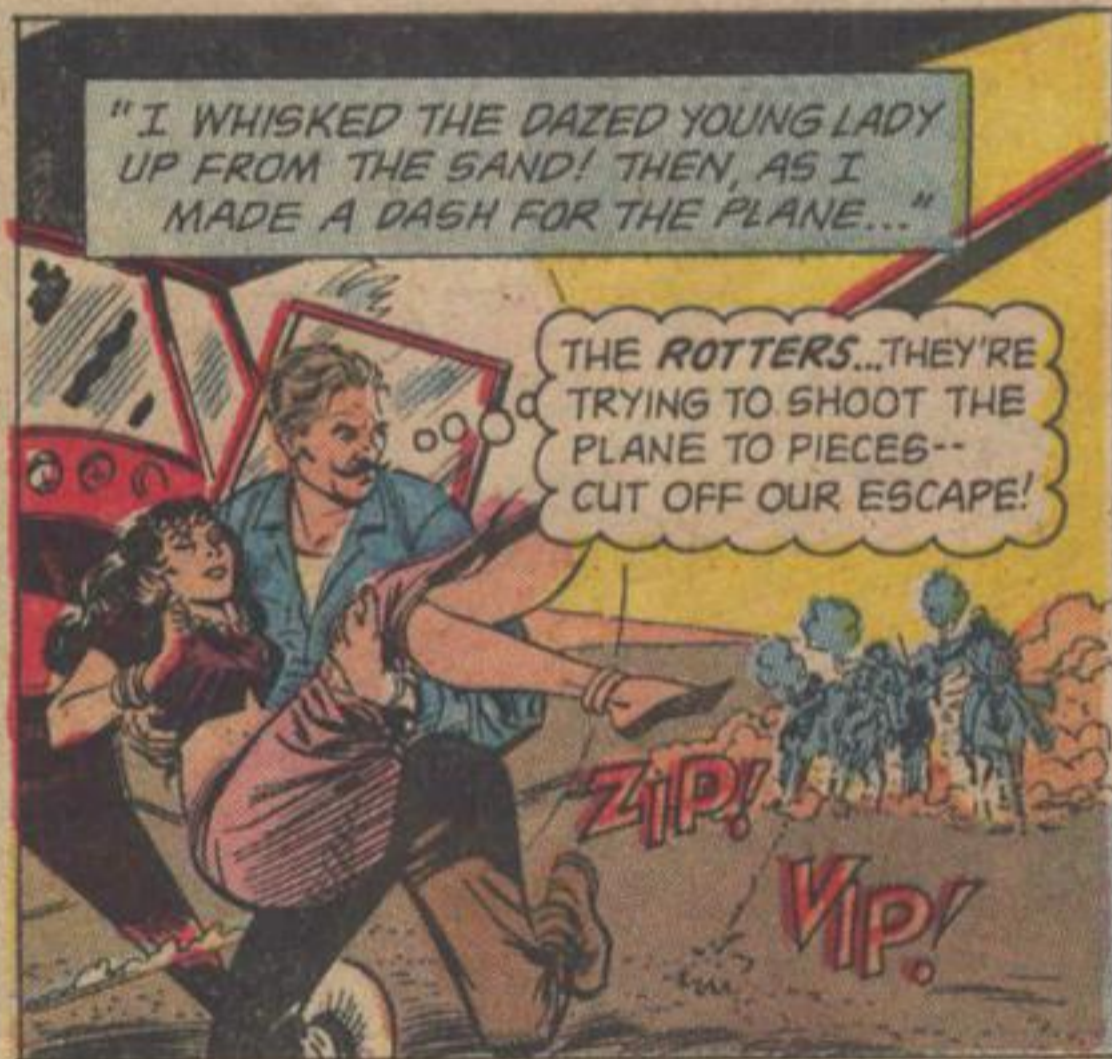


"AS AN OIL ENGINEER, I WAS RECENTLY IN ARABIA CHECKING FOR POSSIBLE DRILLING SITES IN THE REMOTE REACHES OF THE DESERT! THEN, AS I LOOKED DOWN AT THE BURNING SAND..."

BANDITS... CHASING DOWN A NATIVE GIRL-- AND HER HORSE HAS FALLEN! BY JOVE! SHE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE... UNLESS...



CAN'T SIT UP HERE IN THE CLOUDS AND LET **THIS** HAPPEN!... IF I CAN ONLY REACH HER IN TIME...



"I WHISKED THE DAZED YOUNG LADY UP FROM THE SAND! THEN, AS I MADE A DASH FOR THE PLANE..."

THE **ROTTERS**... THEY'RE TRYING TO SHOOT THE PLANE TO PIECES-- CUT OFF OUR ESCAPE!

ZIP!

VIP!



"THEN, A SMASHING THOUGHT STRUCK ME! TO THROW THE BLIGHTERS INTO CONFUSION, I BRAKED THE RIGHT WHEEL AND OPENED UP FULL THROTTLE..."

THE BACKWASH FROM THE PROP IS CREATING A BIT OF A WINDSTORM-- ENOUGH TO BLIND THE BANDITS AND THROW OFF THEIR AIM UNTIL I CAN GET AIR-BORNE!

OH... WHAT'S HAPPENING?



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, MY GIRL!

YOU SAVED ME FROM A LIFE OF SLAVERY, ENGLISHMAN! I AM PRINCESS TARKU-- MY FATHER WILL REPAY YOU WELL! FLY ME TO HIS CAMP, PLEASE!

OF COURSE, I REFUSED ANY MONETARY REMUNERATION FOR THE DEED-- AND SO HER CHIEFTAIN FATHER GAVE ME **THIS** PILLOW... TOLD ME IT WOULD BRIGHTEN MY SLEEPING HOURS...

BUT... WHEN DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE FANTASTIC POWERS OF THIS... **THIS MAGIC PILLOW?**



"WEEKS LATER, IN A CAIRO HOTEL! I USED THE PILLOW TO PROP UP MY HEAD FOR READING AND DOZED OFF TO EXPERIENCE A MOST INCREDIBLE DREAM..."



"I ACTUALLY FOUND MYSELF A MEMBER OF THE FAMOUS HILLARY EXPEDITION THAT CONQUERED MT. EVEREST IN 1953..."

"THEN, MAKING OUR ASCENT, IT HAPPENED..."

A CHUNK OF FLYING ICE-- IT'S HIT CARLTON ON THE ARM! IS IT BROKEN?

I-- I DON'T THINK SO...



WHEN I AWOKE, I WAS NUMB TO THE BONE WITH COLD-- AND MY FOREARM ACHED WITH PAIN!

THEN YOU WERE **PHYSICALLY PROJECTED** INTO THAT INCREDIBLE DREAM YOU HAD!



EXACTLY! THE DREAM WAS A **REALITY**.. BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH THE MYSTIFYING POWERS OF THIS MAGIC PILLOW, ROYCE!

MORE... TELL ME MORE OF THESE **DREAMS** YOU'VE EXPERIENCED, CARLTON!



BETTER **STILL**, EXPERIENCE YOUR **OWN** DREAM ADVENTURE, ROYCE! SINCE YOU'RE STAYING THE NIGHT, BE MY GUEST IN... **DREAMLAND!**

I--I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO REALIZE THE SENSATION, CARLTON! THINK I'LL RETIRE RIGHT AWAY!



AND SO ROYCE BAINES MADE HIS WAY TO BED, EAGERLY! IT WAS A NIGHT HE WOULD LONG REMEMBER, MY FRIENDS... ENDING IN UTTER CATASTROPHE! FOR MUCH EVIL IS TO RUN RAMPANT IN THE HALLS OF THE MANSION BEFORE THE DAWN!



SLEEP COMES HARD FOR ROYCE--ANXIETY COURISING THROUGH HIS MIND! BUT FINALLY...



THERE IS THE IDOL YOU SPOKE OF, WHITE HUNTER!

BLIMEY! THE NATIVE LEGEND WASN'T JOSHING--JUST LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE DIAMOND SPARKLER IN THE FOREHEAD! I MUST HAVE IT...



LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, ROYCE CREEPS STEALTHILY THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND UP TO THE TOWERING IDOL WHERE...

A FEW MORE TICKS OF THE CLOCK AND THE GEM WILL BE MINE--ALL MINE!

AAIEEE!!
AN INTRUDER--
A THIEF HAS
TRESPASSED UP-
ON OUR VILLAGE
SEEKING THE
SACRED JEWEL!



SUDDENLY, THE AIR SINGS WITH NATIVE ANGER IN THE ENGLISHMAN'S DREAM WORLD OF REALITY...

THE BLIGHTERS ARE TRYING TO PICK ME OFF... MUST HURRY...

ZIP!

ZIP!

ZIP!

IT... POPPED OUT OF THE FOREHEAD... PLUMMETING TO THE GROUND! WELL, I'LL RECOVER IT-- IF I HAVE TO TAKE ON THE WHOLE BLOOMING VILLAGE!

WILD WITH FRENZY, ROYCE PULLS HIS PISTOL AND...

GET AWAY FROM THAT JEWEL! IT'S MINE... MINE...

BLAM!

BLAM!

POW!

TWEE!

SUDDENLY...

PUFF!

MINE... MINE! HU-HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENED? I'M... BACK IN BED!

THE EXCITEMENT I EXPERIENCED IN THE DREAM WORLD-- IT WOKE ME UP! BUT WHAT A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE-- I WAS ACTUALLY THERE!

AND I NEARLY HAD MY HANDS ON THAT FABULOUS JEWEL! HMM...WHEN CARLTON WAS INJURED BY THAT CHUNK OF ICE... THEN AWOKE... HE FELT THE INJURY...



WHY, THEN, COULDN'T I BRING THAT JEWEL BACK WITH ME ONCE I POSSESS IT? I'VE GOT TO TAKE SLEEPING PILLS--RETURN TO THE DREAM WORLD AND GET THAT GEM!

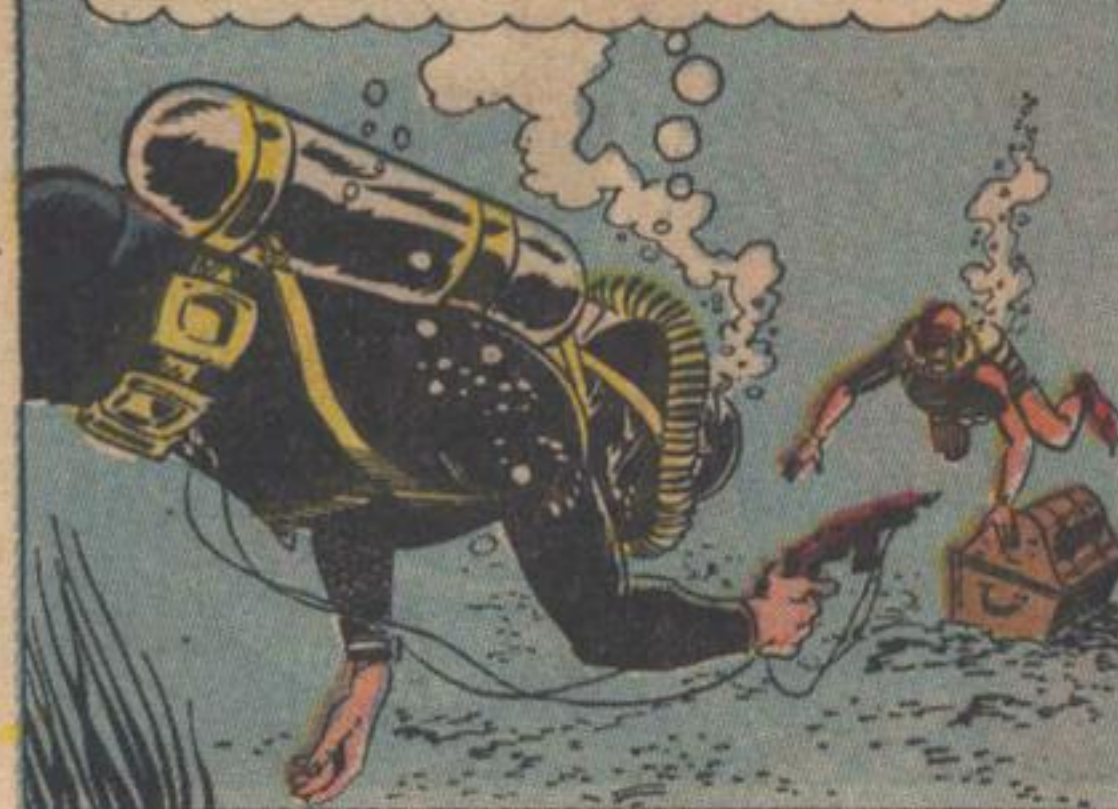


IN A FEW MINUTES TIME, THE ENGLISH-MAN ONCE AGAIN LAPSES INTO DEEP SLEEP! BUT THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY SHOULD BE...



I'VE RETURNED-- BUT TO ANOTHER DREAM WORLD! THIS TIME I'M BENEATH THE SEA ...IN SKIN-DIVING GEAR.... AND ABOUT TO ATTACK SOMEONE WITH A SPEAR GUN...

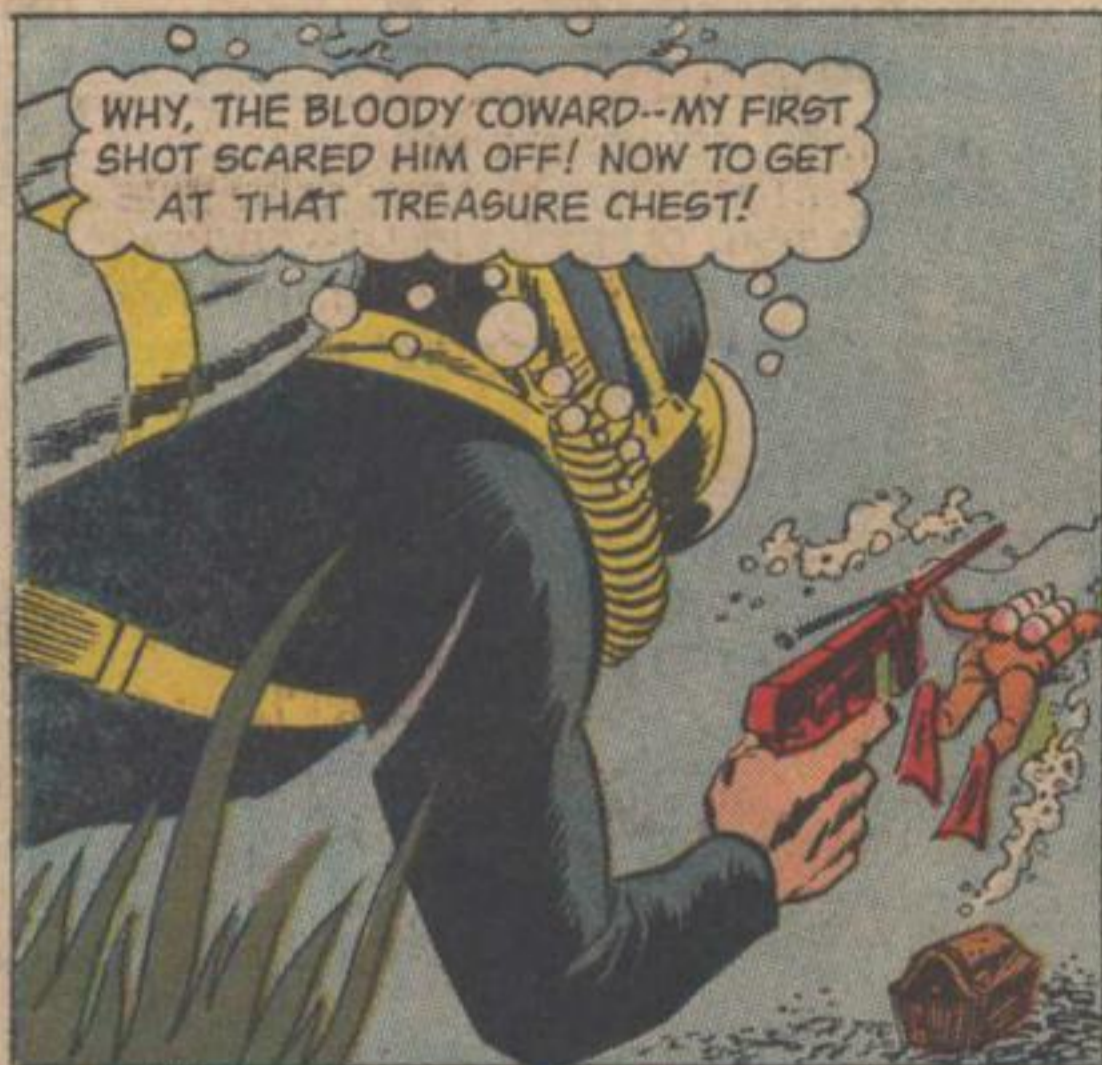
THERE HE IS... ANOTHER DRIVER BEFORE A SUNKEN TREASURE CHEST!... TREASURE CHEST! THAT'S... ALL FOR ME!



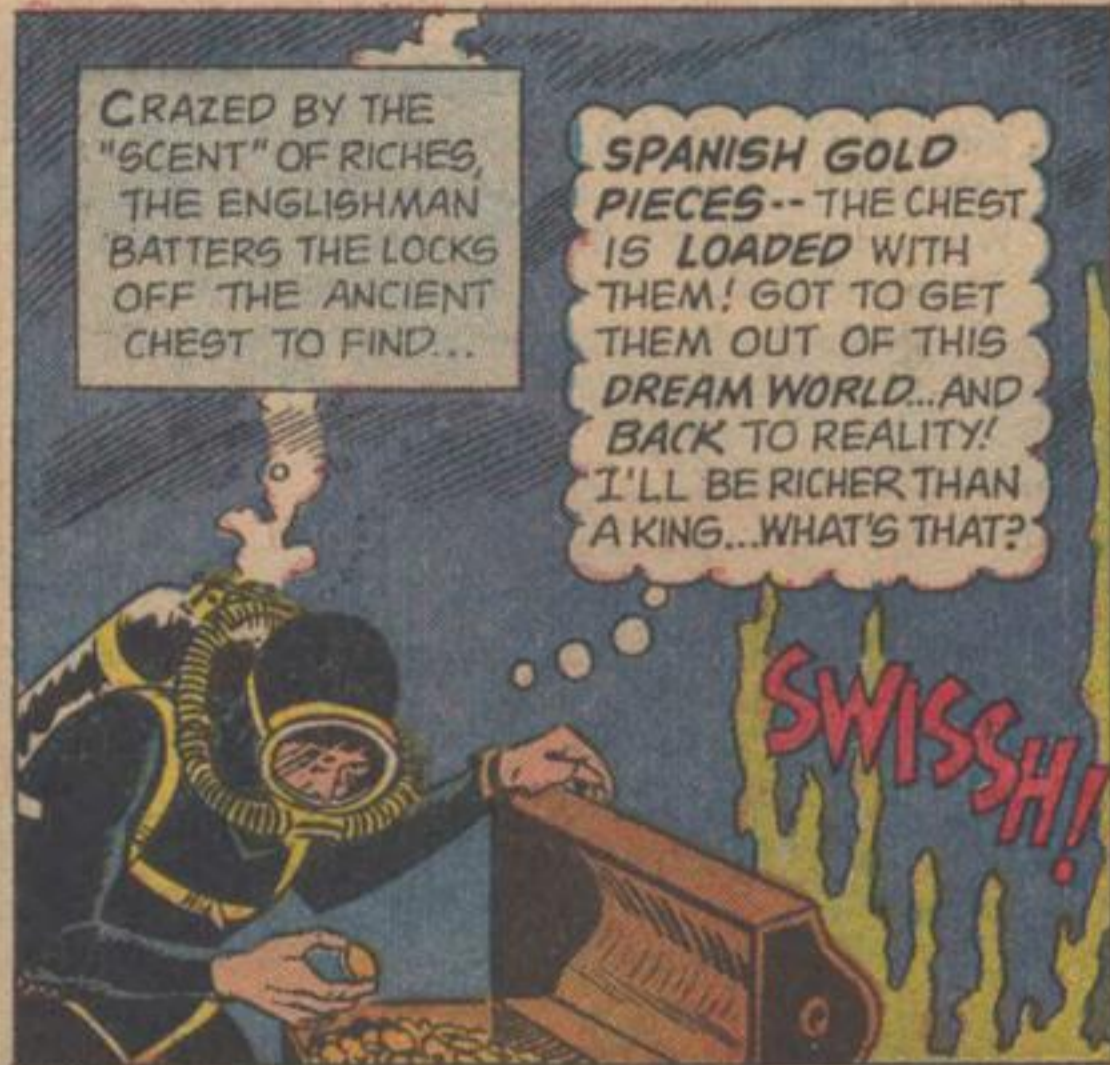
ROYCE TRIGGERS HIS UNDERSEAS WEAPON AND...



MISSED HIM... CONFOUND IT! I'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN!



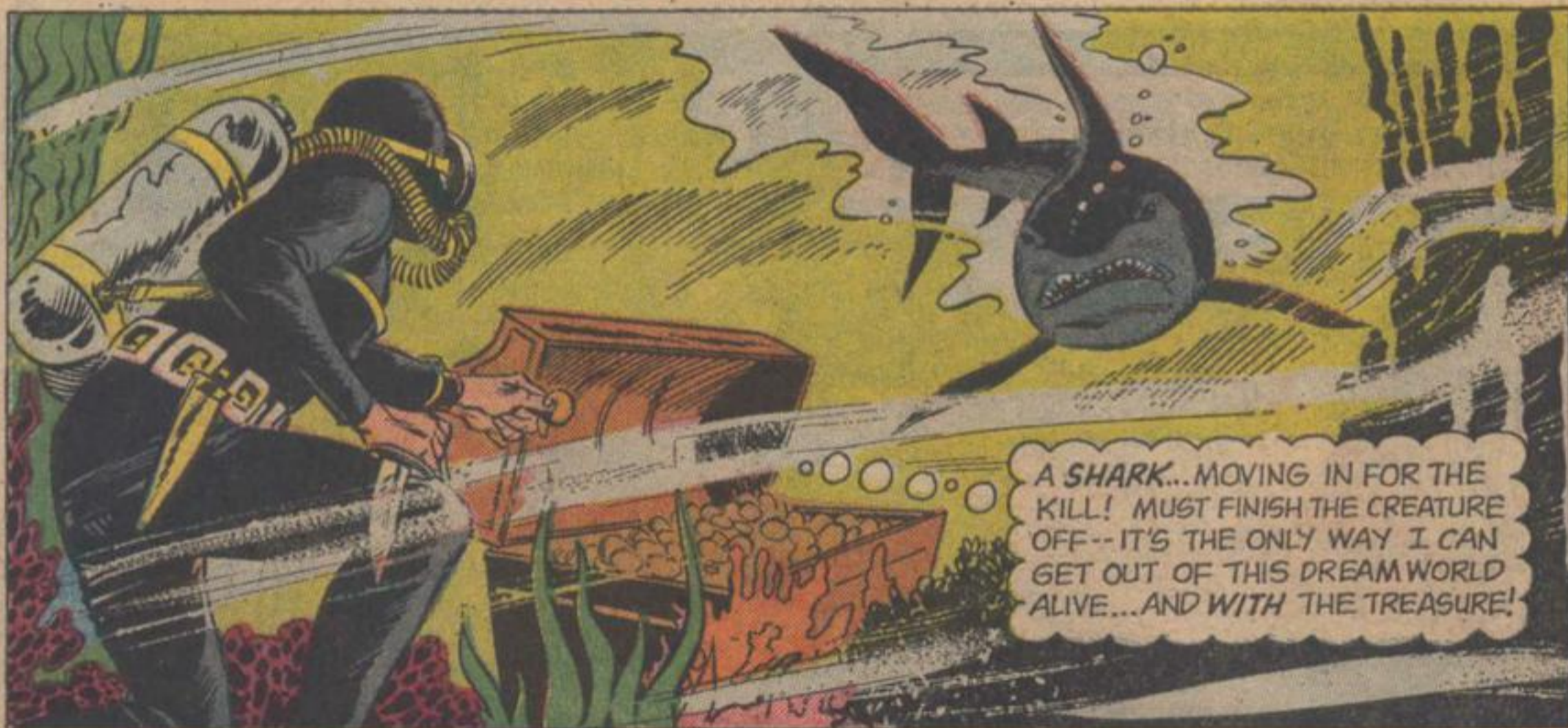
WHY, THE BLOODY COWARD--MY FIRST SHOT SCARED HIM OFF! NOW TO GET AT THAT TREASURE CHEST!



CRAZED BY THE "SCENT" OF RICHES, THE ENGLISHMAN BATTERS THE LOCKS OFF THE ANCIENT CHEST TO FIND...

SPANISH GOLD PIECES-- THE CHEST IS LOADED WITH THEM! GOT TO GET THEM OUT OF THIS DREAM WORLD...AND BACK TO REALITY! I'LL BE RICHER THAN A KING...WHAT'S THAT?

SWISSH!

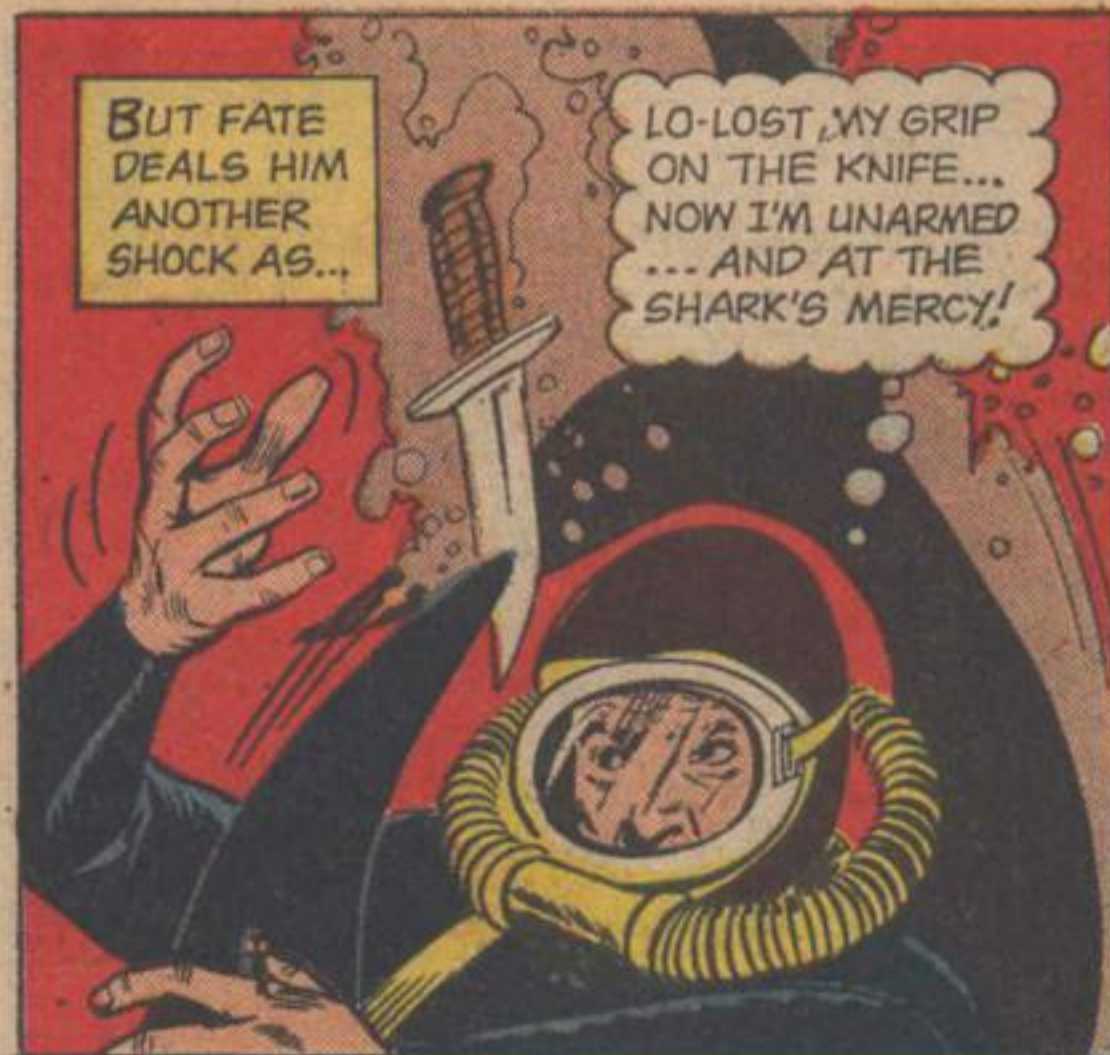


A SHARK...MOVING IN FOR THE KILL! MUST FINISH THE CREATURE OFF-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET OUT OF THIS DREAMWORLD ALIVE...AND WITH THE TREASURE!



THEN, AS ROYCE COMES TO GRIPS WITH THE OMINOUS SEA MONSTER...

CAN'T PIERCE ITS SKIN WITH THE KNIFE POINT! OF COURSE... I'VE GOT TO GO AT HIM FROM HIS UNDER-SIDE--THE SOFT BELLY!



BUT FATE DEALS HIM ANOTHER SHOCK AS...

LO-LOST MY GRIP ON THE KNIFE... NOW I'M UNARMED ... AND AT THE SHARK'S MERCY!

STARK,
UTTER FEAR
PULGATES
THROUGH
ROYCE'S
MIND AS...

GOT TO HANG ON... IF
THE THING SHAKES ME
LOOSE, HE'LL RETURN
TO MAKE A PASS AT ME
...AND I'LL BE HELPLESS!
OH, OH...HIS RAZOR-SHARP
SKIN'S BEGINNING TO
CUT MY HANDS...



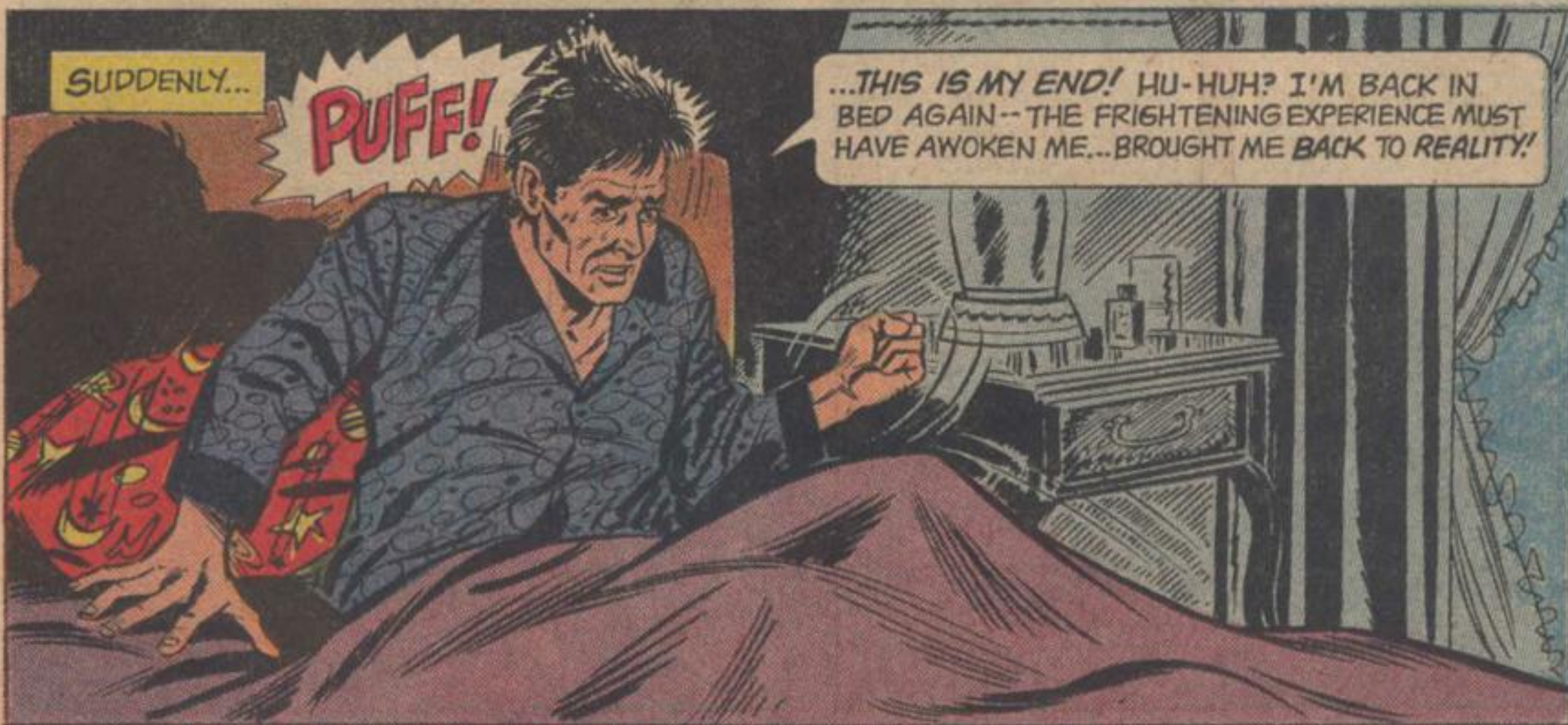
HAD TO LET
GO... THIS IS
MY FINISH...



SUDDENLY...

PUFF!

...THIS IS MY END! HU-HUH? I'M BACK IN
BED AGAIN--THE FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE MUST
HAVE AWOKEN ME...BROUGHT ME BACK TO REALITY!



THE GOLD PIECE... I FOUND IN THE
CHEST! IT CAN HAPPEN--RICHES... ANY-
THING IN THE DREAM WORLD CAN BE
BROUGHT BACK TO REALITY!



I CAN MAKE A FORTUNE WITH THIS
PILLOW! I MUST SPEAK TO CARLTON AT ONCE!



YES, THIS MAN POSSESSED OF *GREED*, AND DREAMING ONLY OF *RICHEs*, IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF DISASTER! ONCE ROYCE BAINES ENTERS THAT BEDROOM, THERE'LL BE NO TURNING BACK! OBSERVE, IF YOU WILL...

CARLTON!
CARLTON!...
LISTEN TO ME!



WHAT? *SELL* YOU THE MAGIC PILLOW?... HAVE YOU *COMPLETELY* LOST YOUR SENSES, ROYCE?

I *BEG* OF YOU, CARLTON-- DO ME THIS FAVOR! I *MUST* HAVE IT! I'LL PAY ANYTHING... ANYTHING!



NONSENSE! WHY... I WOULDN'T PART WITH THAT PILLOW FOR MY VERY LIFE!

THEN... I'M AFRAID THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO, MY FRIEND!



NO! NO! DON'T DO IT, ROYCE!

SORRY, CARLTON... BUT THIS IS THE WAY IT WILL HAVE TO BE! I *MUST* POSSESS THIS *FANTASTIC* PILLOW!



THEN, AFTER THE DEED IS DONE...

IT'S MINE! *MINE!* WHAT FANTASTIC DREAM WORLD ADVENTURE WILL I EXPERIENCE *NEXT*? WHAT *TREASURES* WILL I BRING *BACK* WITH ME? I *MUST* GET TO MY FLAT... AND TO BED!



SHORTLY, ROYCE BAINES ONCE AGAIN FIGHTS HIS EXCITEMENT TO GO TO SLEEP--AND ANOTHER DREAM! IT IS SOON IN COMING...

BLIMEY! I'M MATERIALIZING IN AN EERIE PLACE! AND NOT MUCH EXCITEMENT GOING ON...

ROYCE BAINES! STEP BEFORE THE BENCH FOR SENTENCING!

YIPES! WHO...
WHAT ARE YOU...?

JUSTICE! AND THERE SIT
THE MEN WHO TRIED YOU!

THE MOST INFAMOUS
MEN IN HISTORY--KILLERS,
TRAITORS, THIEVES, A JURY
OF YOUR OWN PEERS!

YOU ARE EVIL... AS WE WERE
EVIL, ROYCE BAINES! AND YOU
MUST PAY WITH YOUR LIFE FOR
THE MURDER OF CARLTON! HA,
HA, HA! NONE OF US ESCAPED
OUR CRIMES, AND YOU SHALL NOT!

I'M GOING
MAD... MAD!

BLACK
BEARD

BENEDICT
ARNOLD

JACK
THE
RIPPER

BRUTUS





SUDDENLY, BLACKNESS CLOSES IN ON ROYCE BAINES! AND NEXT MORNING...

WHEN MR. BAINES DIDN'T COME DOWN FOR BREAKFAST, I CAME UP HERE... *SOB*! ... AND FOUND HIM LIKE THIS, INSPECTOR!

WAS IT... A HEART ATTACK, CORONER?



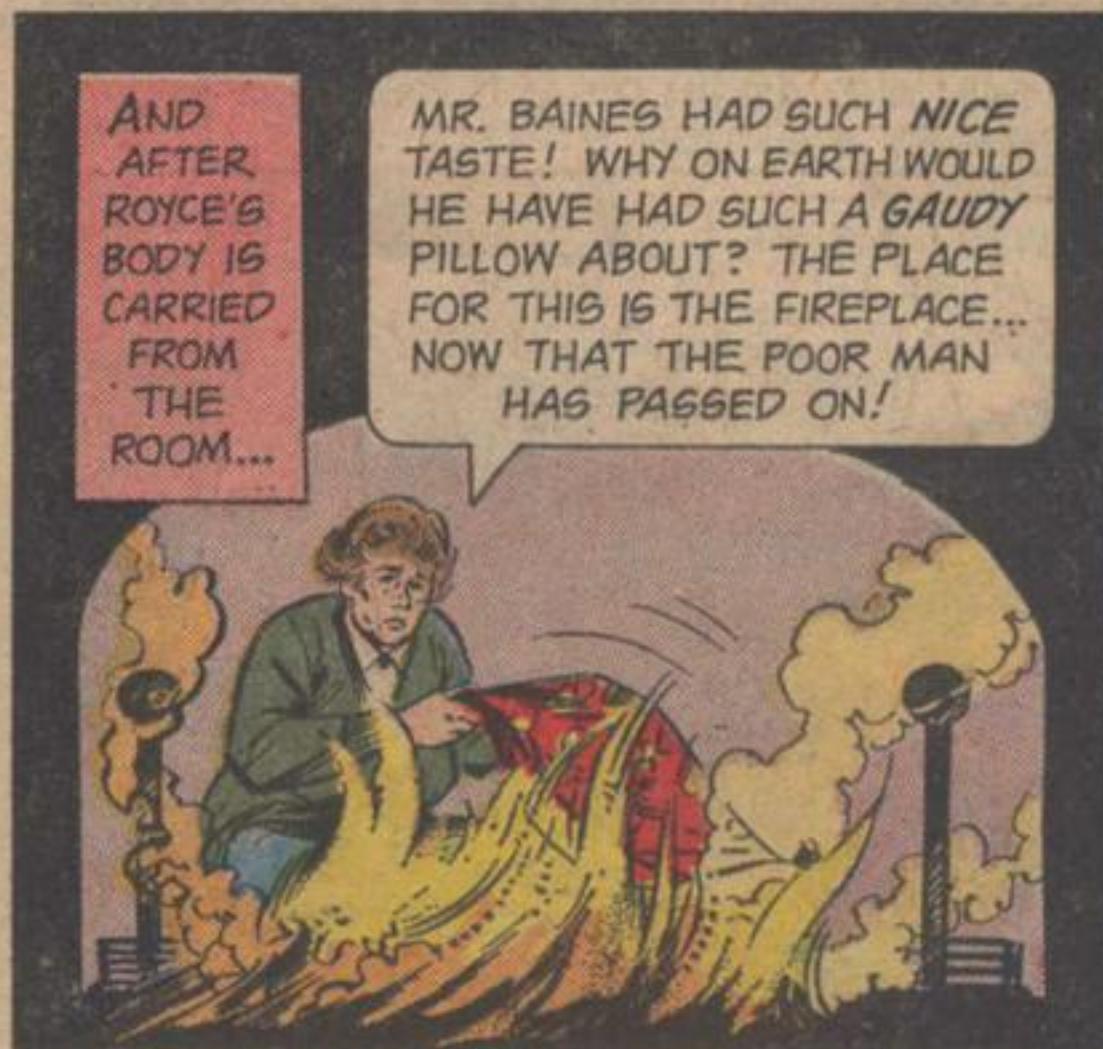
YOU MAY THINK ME DAFT.. BUT MY OBSERVATION IS HE DIED OF SUFFOCATION!

SUFFOCATION?



BUT... HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF A STRUGGLE, CORONER!

I KNOW! POOR CHAP MUST HAVE SUFFOCATED HIMSELF IN HIS SLEEP! WELL, THAT ABOUT DOES IT, INSPECTOR...



AND AFTER ROYCE'S BODY IS CARRIED FROM THE ROOM...

MR. BAINES HAD SUCH NICE TASTE! WHY ON EARTH WOULD HE HAVE HAD SUCH A GAUDY PILLOW ABOUT? THE PLACE FOR THIS IS THE FIREPLACE... NOW THAT THE POOR MAN HAS PASSED ON!



SUFFOCATION! THIS ONE'S A REAL PUZZLER!

PERHAPS FOR A SCOTLAND YARD INSPECTOR! BUT YOU AND I KNOW HOW AND WHY ROYCE BAINES REALLY DIED! DON'T WE, MY FRIENDS?

BORIS KARLOFF PIN-UP

