

BORIS KARLOFF



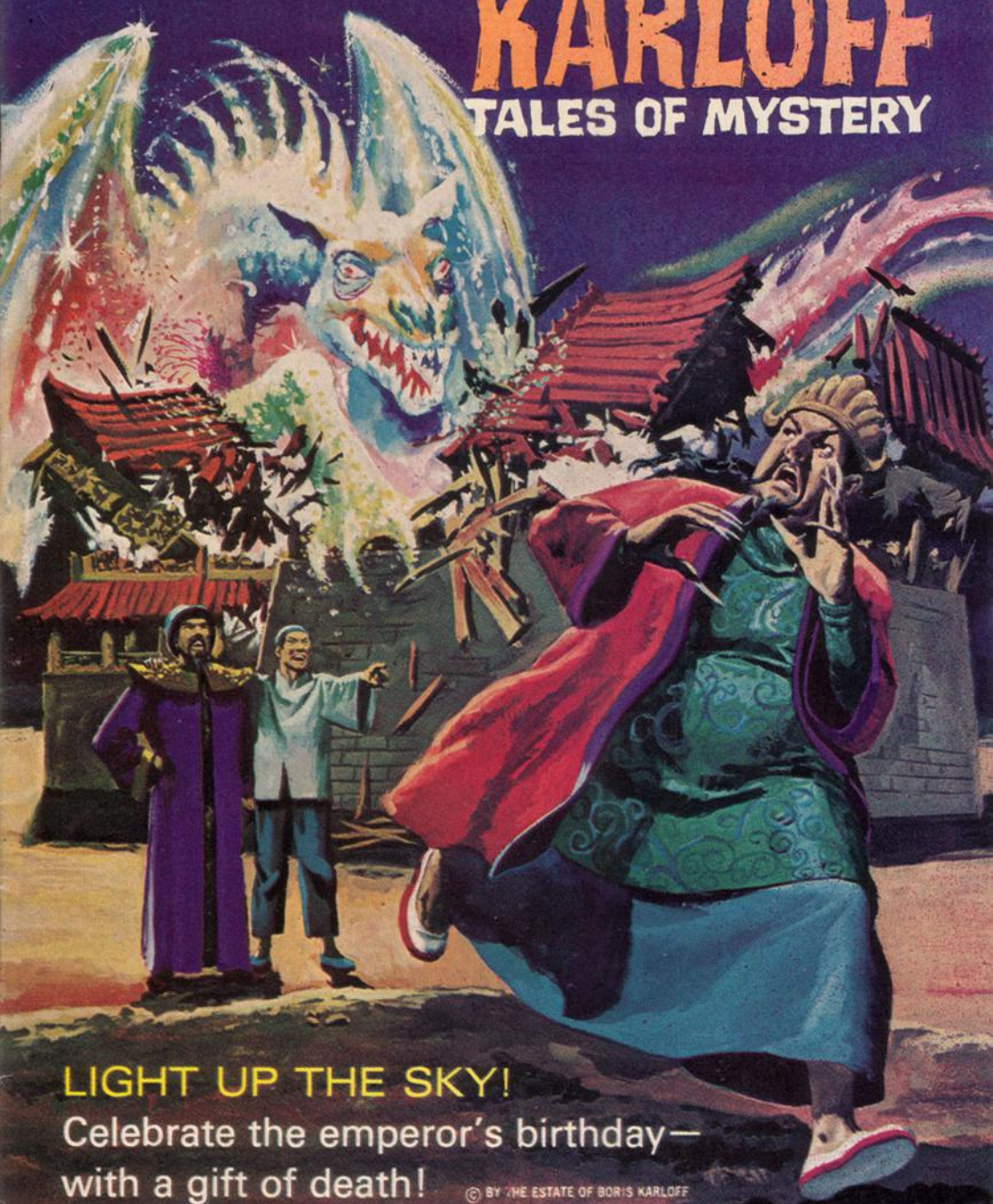
25¢

BORIS



KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY




LIGHT UP THE SKY!

Celebrate the emperor's birthday—
with a gift of death!

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BORIS KARLOFF
Tales of Mystery

The **MONSTER** **CLAUSE**




FRED TOWERS HAD AN INSURANCE POLICY THAT COVERED JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT EARTH-QUAKE OR RIOT. I DID SAY "JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING," DIDN'T I?




WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY ARE THE TREES COMING DOWN?

CRASH!
WHACK!
THUD!



THUMP!



SOMETHING IS PUSHING THEM OVER FROM BEHIND! CAN'T SEE WHAT IT IS, BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--



NO! IT'S NOT A DREAM! NOT A NIGHTMARE! THAT TREE IS FALLING AND SOMETHING PUSHED IT OVER--SOMETHING POWERFUL AND BIG!

CRACK!

THERE'S ITS SHADOW!
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT
OF HERE!

CRACK!

GENERAL STORE

IT'S ALMOST OUT
OF THE WOODS!

THE NEXT
HOUSE IS
A QUARTER
OF A MILE
AWAY!
CAN I
MAKE IT?

NEXT MORNING, FRED RETURNS...

LOOKS LIKE
A TORNADO
STRUCK!

GENERAL STORE

IT WAS NO TORNADO! IT'S THE WORK OF
THAT MONSTER! I JUST WANT TO SEE IF
I CAN COLLECT INSURANCE MONEY AND
CLEAR OUT BEFORE IT STRIKES AGAIN!

LATER, WHEN THE INSURANCE ADJUSTER ARRIVES...

THE ONLY THING MY POLICY DOESN'T PAY OFF ON IS DAMAGE FROM AN EARTH-QUAKE OR RIOT! SO I'M COVERED FOR THE PLACE BEING WRECKED BY THAT MONSTER!



WHAT MONSTER? YOU SAID YOU NEVER ACTUALLY SAW...

I SAW ITS SHADOW! I SAW ITS HANDIWORK IN THE WOODS AND NOW THIS! WHAT OTHER EXPLANATION IS THERE?



WE'VE HAD PLACES THAT WERE BURNED DOWN BY "MYSTERIOUS" FIRES WHEN THEIR OWNERS WANTED TO GET OUT OF A LOSING PROPOSITION!

ARE YOU HINTING THAT I DID THIS?



SOMETHING KNOCKED THE PLACE DOWN AND SOME NEARBY TREES...

YES! THE MONSTER! AND NOTHING IN THE POLICY SAYS I DON'T GET PAID FOR MONSTER DAMAGE!



I'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE HOME OFFICE! I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW!

WISH YOU'D RETURN LATER TODAY! I WANT TO BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE MONSTER COMES BACK!



THAT NIGHT....

FRED, YOUR ROOM'S READY! WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST? YOU LOOK BEAT!

I KEEP WATCHING THE WOODS, NELLIE! JUST WISH I HAD THAT INSURANCE MONEY SO I COULD PULL UP STAKES!

FRED, YOU SAW NO MONSTER! THERE MUST BE A NATURAL EXPLANATION...

THE MONSTER'S THE EXPLANATION! AND TILL IT'S STOPPED NO ONE'S SAFE!

LATER...

NELLIE, JIM! IT'S HERE! RUN!

CRAACK!

THUMP

FRED, I HEARD A CRASH, BUT DOES THAT MEAN...

YES! MOVE OUT!

CRAACK!

WHAT COULD PUSH OVER A TREE THAT SIZE?

THE MONSTER! THAT'S WHAT! BUT DON'T STOP TO GET A LOOK AT IT! GO!

NEXT MORNING, AFTER THE INSURANCE AGENT RELUCTANTLY HANDS FRED TOWERS HIS CLAIM CHECK, THEY TAKE HIM TO THE OTHER HOME..

I SAID THE MONSTER WOULD STRIKE AGAIN!

THINK YOU'RE CUTE, DON'T YOU? STARTING THIS "MONSTER DAMAGE" CLAIM ROUTINE! IT'S JUST LIKE WITH ARSON! LET ONE GUY GET AWAY WITH IT AND DOZENS MORE--

LOOK!

WHAT--

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D **BETTER** SEE BEFORE YOU GO ON ACCUSING FRED OF PUTTING IN A PHONY CLAIM!

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT COULD HAVE LEFT TRACKS LIKE THAT?

A MONSTER LIKE FRED SAID! AND I'M FILING MY CLAIM WITH YOUR COMPANY!

NO ONE SAW THE MONSTER, BUT NOW THEY **KNOW** IT IS THERE! AND WHERE WILL IT STRIKE NEXT? ONE THING'S CERTAIN, INSURANCE POLICIES HAVE INSERTED A MONSTER CLAUSE --"NO PAYMENT WILL BE MADE FOR MONSTER DAMAGE!"

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PC.

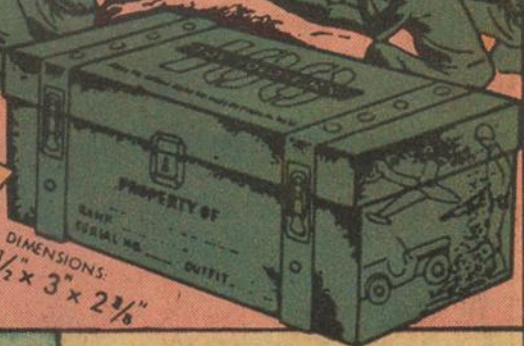
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