

**HORROR AND FATALITY** HAVE BEEN **STALKING ABOARD** IN ALL AGES -- IN **HUNGARY** THE FAMILIES OF **BERLIFITZING** AND **METZINGERSTEIN** HAD BEEN **WARING** FOR **CENTURIES**-- THE **ORIGIN** OF THIS **ENMITY** SEEMS TO BE **FOUND** IN THE WORDS OF AN **ANCIENT PROPHECY**. "A **LOFTY** NAME SHALL HAVE A **FEARFUL** FALL WHEN, AS THE **RIDER** OVER HIS **HORSE**, THE **MORTALITY** OF **METZINGERSTEIN** SHALL **TRIUMPH** OVER THE **IMMORTALITY** OF **BERLIFITZING**"... NOW THIS **PROPHECY**, SO **OBSCURELY WRITTEN** (AND BY **WHOM** NO-ONE KNOWS) **NO-ONE** EVER **UNDERSTOOD**... YET... IT FORMS THE **BASIS** FOR THE **NARRATIVE** TITLED :



# Metzengerstein

ILLUSTRATED BY COLLADO

... AT THE **EPOC** OF THIS **NARRATIVE**, **WILHELM**, **COUNT BERLIFITZING**, WAS AN **INFIRM** AND **DOTING** **OLD MAN** -- **REMARKABLE** FOR **NOTHING** EXCEPT HIS **HATRED** FOR THE **METZINGERSTEIN** **FAMILY**, AND FOR HIS **PASSIONATE** **LOVE** OF **HORSES**...



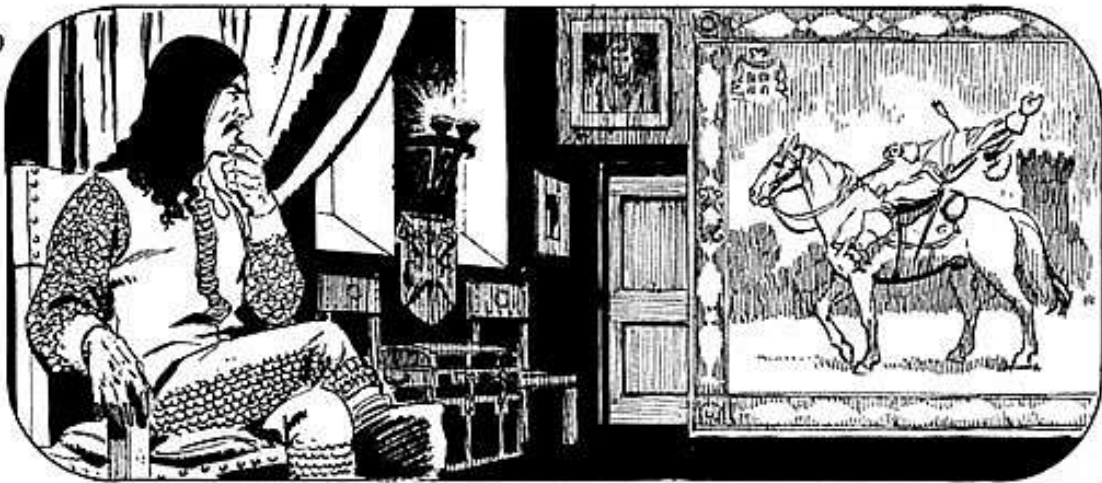
... **FREDERICK**, **BARON METZINGERSTEIN**, WAS, ON THE **OTHER** **HAND**, NOT YET OF **AGE** WHEN HE CAME TO **POSSESS** THE **VAST** **METZINGERSTEIN** **LANDS** AND **RICHES**, INCLUDING THE **GREAT** **PALACE** - WHOSE **AREA** **EMBRACED** A **CIRCUIT** OF **FIFTY** **MILES**...



... **SHAMEFUL** **DEBAUCHERIES** -- **FLAGRANT** **TREACHERIES** -- **UNHEARD-OF** **ATROCITIES** WERE THE **YOUNG** **BARON'S** **IMMEDIATE** **EMPLOY**-- ONLY **FOUR** **DAYS** AFTER HIS **GRAND-FATHER** **DIED** AND THE **YOUNG** **MAN** **ACQUIRED** THE **INCREDIBLE** **METZINGERSTEIN** **ESTATES**, HE **BURNED** THE **STABLES** OF THE **CASTLE** **BERLIFITZING** TO THE **GROUND**...



...DURING THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE, THE BARON BURIED HIMSELF IN HIS STUDY, DEEP IN MEDITATION, ENGROSSSED IN A MAJESTIC TAPESTRY WHICH PORTRAYED THE HORSE OF THE BERLIFITZING HOUSE-- HOLD, MOTIONLESS AND STATUE-LIKE WHILE ITS RIDER PERISHED BY THE DAGGER OF A METZENGERSTEIN...



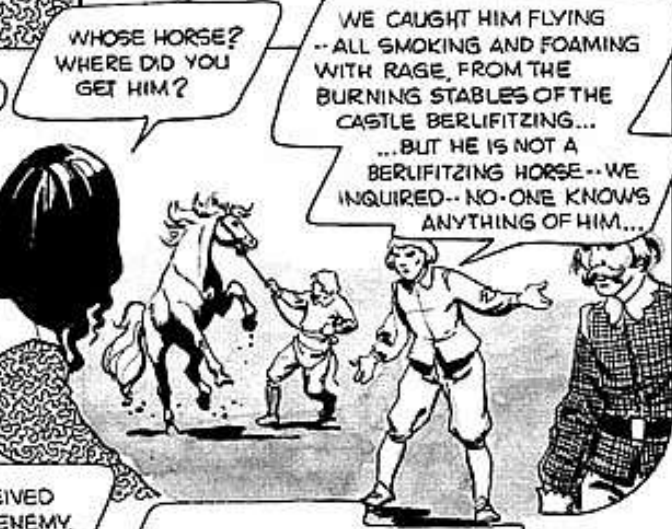
...AS BARON METZENGERSTEIN WATCHED, A FIENDISH EXPRESSION AROSE ON HIS LIPS -- TO HIS EXTREME HORROR AND ASTONISHMENT, THE HEAD OF THE GIGANTIC STEED ALTERED ITS POSITION, THREW THE RIDER FROM HIS BACK TO THE GROUND THEN DISTENDED HIS LIPS TO REVEAL DISGUSTING YELLOW TEETH SNARLED TO A VICIOUS LEER...



...THE BARON FLED THE ROOM IN HORROR...



...IN HIS COURTYARD, THE BARON OBSERVED HIS SERVANTS WRESTLING TO RESTRAIN A GIGANTIC AND FIERY-COLOURED HORSE...



WHOSE HORSE? WHERE DID YOU GET HIM?

WE CAUGHT HIM FLYING -- ALL SMOKING AND FOAMING WITH RAGE, FROM THE BURNING STABLES OF THE CASTLE BERLIFITZING... BUT HE IS NOT A BERLIFITZING HORSE -- WE INQUIRED -- NO-ONE KNOWS ANYTHING OF HIM...

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD SIRE... YOUR ENEMY, THE OLD BERLIFITZING, PERISHED IN THE FIRE... HE TRIED TO SAVE HIS HORSES -- AND WAS CONSUMED IN THE FLAMES -- HE IS DEAD...



HAHAHAHA HAAAAAAA -- SHOCKING! HAAAAHAHAHA!!

... FROM THIS DATE A MARKED **ALTERATION** TOOK PLACE IN THE OUTWARD Demeanor OF THE DISSOLITE YOUNG BARON FREDERICK VON METZINGERSTEIN -- HE BECAME **UTTERLY COMPANIONLESS** -- UNLESS, INDEED, THAT UNNATURAL, IMPETUOUS AND FIERY-COLOURED HORSE, WHICH HE **CONTINUALLY** BESTRODE HAD ANY **MYSTERIOUS** RIGHT TO THE TITLE OF 'FRIEND'...



... NUMEROUS **INVITATIONS** ON THE PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PERIODICALLY CAME IN. "WILL THE BARON HONOR OUR FESTIVITIES WITH HIS PRESENCE?" "WILL THE BARON JOIN US IN A HUNTING OF THE BOAR?" "METZINGERSTEIN DOES NOT HUNT." "METZINGERSTEIN WILL NOT ATTEND," WERE THE HAUGHTY AND LACONIC ANSWERS...

... IN THE **GLARE OF THE MOON** - AT THE **DEAD HOUR OF NIGHT** - IN **SICKNESS** OR IN **HEALTH** - IN **CALM** OR IN **TEMPEST** - YOUNG METZINGERSTEIN SEEMED **RIVETED** TO THE SADDLE OF THAT **COLLOSAL HORSE**...



... AND FURTHER, IT APPEARED YOUNG METZINGERSTEIN WAS **TERRIFIED** BY HIS CONSTANT COMPANION - AND WAS NOTICED TO TURN **PALE** AND **SHRINK AWAY** FROM THE RAPID AND GEARCHING EXPRESSION OF THE HORSE'S **HUMAN-LOOKING EYE**...

... THERE WAS AN **UNEARTHLY** CHARACTER TO THE **MANIA** OF THE RIDER, AND TO THE **CAPABILITIES** OF THE **STEED**. THE **JUMP** OF THE **STEED** WAS MEASURED AND FAR **OUTDISTANCED** THE **IMAGINATION** - THE BARON WOULD NOT **NAME** HIS STEED FOR A REASON NEVER DETERMINED... AND THE HORSE WAS **ATTENDED** BY THE **BARON ONLY** AT A **SPECIAL STABLE** SOME DISTANCE FROM THE **OTHERS**...

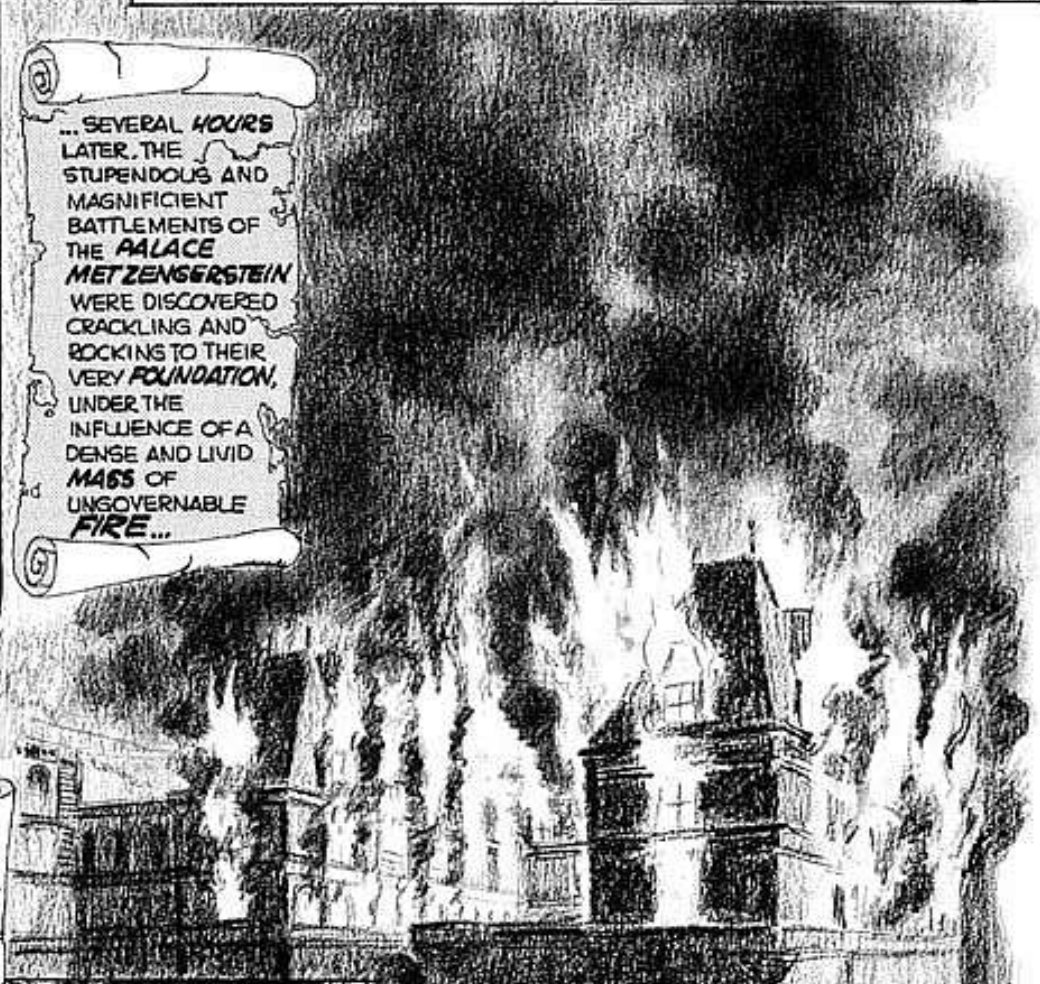


... ONE TEMPESTUOUS NIGHT  
METZINGERSTEIN, AWAKING  
FROM A HEAVY SLUMBER,  
DESCENDED LIKE A  
**MANIAC** FROM HIS CHAMBER...

... HE MOUNTED  
IN HOT HASTE,  
AND BOUNDED  
AWAY INTO  
THE **MAZES**  
OF THE  
SURROUNDING  
**FOREST**...

... SEVERAL HOURS  
LATER, THE  
STUPENDOUS AND  
MAGNIFICENT  
BATTLEMENTS OF  
THE **PAALCE**  
**METZINGERSTEIN**  
WERE DISCOVERED  
CRACKLING AND  
ROCKING TO THEIR  
VERY **FOUNDATION**,  
UNDER THE  
INFLUENCE OF A  
DENSE AND LIVID  
**MASS** OF  
UNGOVERNABLE  
**FIRE**...

... ATTEMPTS TO **SAVE** THE  
BUILDING WERE **FUTILE** -  
THE SERVANTS LACKED  
THE **DIRECTIONS** OF  
THEIR **MASTER** AND ALL  
WAS IN **CHAOS**...



...UP THE LONG AVENUE OF AGED OAKS WHICH LED FROM THE FOREST TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE PALACE METZINGERSTEIN, A **STEE**, BEARING A GREATLY DISORDERED **RIDER**, WAS SEEN LEAPING WITH AN IMPETUOSITY WHICH **OUTSTRIPPED** THE VERY **DEMON OF THE TEMPEST**...



...THE AGONY OF THE RIDER'S FACE, THE STRUGGLE OF HIS **BODY**, GAVE EVIDENCE OF **SUPERHUMAN EXERTION**: BUT NO **SOUND** SAVE A SOLITARY **SHRIEK**, ESCAPED FROM HIS **LACERATED LIPS**, WHICH WERE BITTEN THROUGH AND THROUGH IN THE **INTENSITY OF TERROR**...



...**ONE INSTANT**, AND THE CLATTERING OF **HOOFS** RESOUNDED SHARPLY AND GHRILLY ABOVE THE **ROARING OF THE FLAMES** AND THE **SHRIEKING OF THE WINDS**--**ANOTHER**, AND CLEARING AT A **SINGLE PLUNGE** THE **GATE-WAY** AND THE **MOAT**...

...THE **STEE**, **BOUNDED** FAR UP THE **TOTTERING STAIRCASE** OF THE **PALACE** AND WITH ITS **RIDER**, **DISAPPEARED** AMID THE **WHIRLWIND OF CHAOTIC FIRE**...



...THE FURY OF THE TEMPEST IMMEDIATELY DIED AWAY, AND A DEAD CALM SULLENLY SUCCEEDED. A WHITE FLAME STILL ENVELOPED THE BUILDING LIKE A SHROUD, AND STREAMING FAR AWAY INTO THE QUIET ATMOSPHERE, SHOT FORTH A GLARE OF PRETERNATURAL LIGHT... WHILE A CLOUD OF SMOKE SETTLED HEAVILY OVER THE BATTLEMENTS IN THE DISTINCT COLOSSAL FIGURE OF A HORSE...

...AND FROM AMIDST THE GLARE, A FIGURE WAS SEEN CLEARLY TO DESCEND THE STAIRS, AND TO EXIT THE COURTYARD...

...THE FIGURE OF AN OLD MAN - DEAD THREE WEEKS - THE SPIRIT - THE WALKING SOUL...

...AND THE OLD MAN'S FACE, EMACIATED, DETERIORATED, AND BURNED, WAS THE FACE OF WILHELM, COUNT BERLIFITZING...

