



NOW, GUYS AND GHOULS, UNCLE CREEPY'S DUG UP A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU! I POKED AROUND IN THE DUNGEON'S DARKEST, DANKEST CORNER AND CAME UP WITH **CREEPLY CLASSICS!** HORROR YARNS SPUN BY OLD MASTERS OF THE COLD CHILL! THOSE GUYS WERE ALMOST AS FRIGHTENING AS I AM... AND THEY'RE **HUMAN!** READY FOR THE FIRST ONE! A **CREEPLY CLASSIC** FROM THE PETRIFYING PEN OF EDGAR ALLAN POE... COCK YOUR EAR AND AWAIT THE BEAT OF THE...

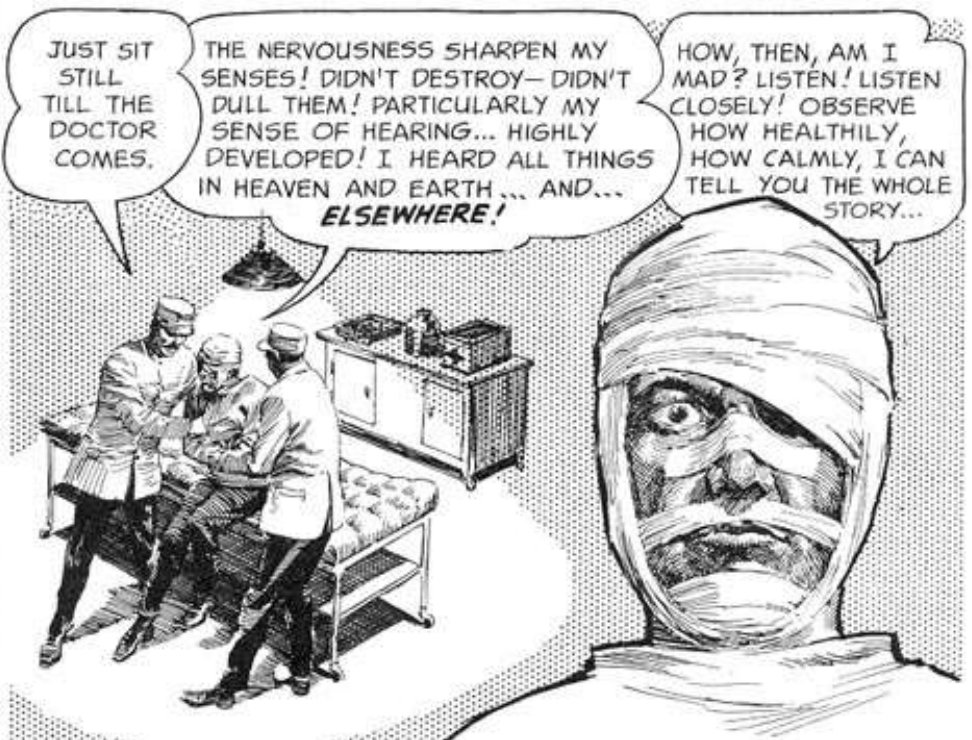
TELL-TALE HEART!



THIS IS UNNECESSARY!
I'M NOT INSANE! YOU
DON'T HAVE TO USE
THIS STRAIT-JACKET!



TRUE! I AM, AND HAD BEEN NERVOUS! DREADFULLY NERVOUS! BUT WHY WILL YOU SAY I'M **MAD!**



JUST SIT STILL
TILL THE DOCTOR
COMES.

THE NERVOUSNESS SHARPEN MY SENSES! DIDN'T DESTROY— DIDN'T DULL THEM! PARTICULARLY MY SENSE OF HEARING... HIGHLY DEVELOPED! I HEARD ALL THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH ... AND...
ELSEWHERE!

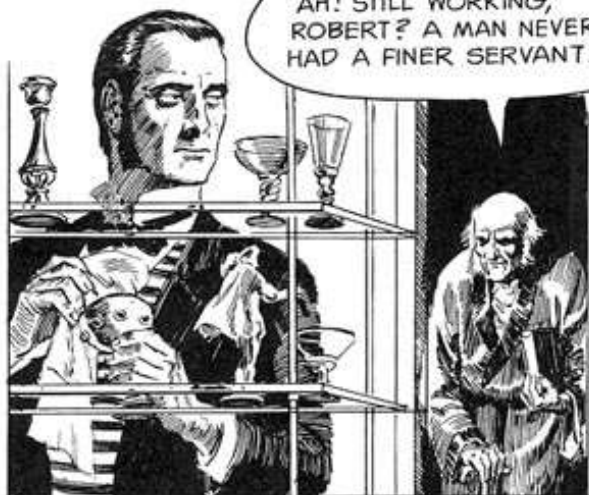
HOW, THEN, AM I MAD? LISTEN! LISTEN CLOSELY! OBSERVE HOW HEALTHILY, HOW CALMLY, I CAN TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY...

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY HOW FIRST THE IDEA ENTERED MY BRAIN; BUT ONCE CONCEIVED, IT HAUNTED ME DAY AND NIGHT...

OBJECT THERE WAS NONE. PASSION THERE WAS NONE. I LOVED THE OLD MAN...

I WAS JUST GOING TO READ A LITTLE BEFORE GOING TO BED. YOU SHOULD RELAX YOURSELF, ROBERT. SOMETIMES I THINK YOU WORK TOO HARD!

AH! STILL WORKING, ROBERT? A MAN NEVER HAD A FINER SERVANT!



HE HAD NEVER WRONGED ME. HE HAD NEVER GIVEN ME INSULT. FOR HIS GOLD I HAD NO DESIRE...

SINCE YOU'RE UP, ROBERT, COULD YOU BRING ME A SMALL GLASS OF BRANDY?

I THINK IT WAS HIS EYE! YES, IT WAS **THIS!**

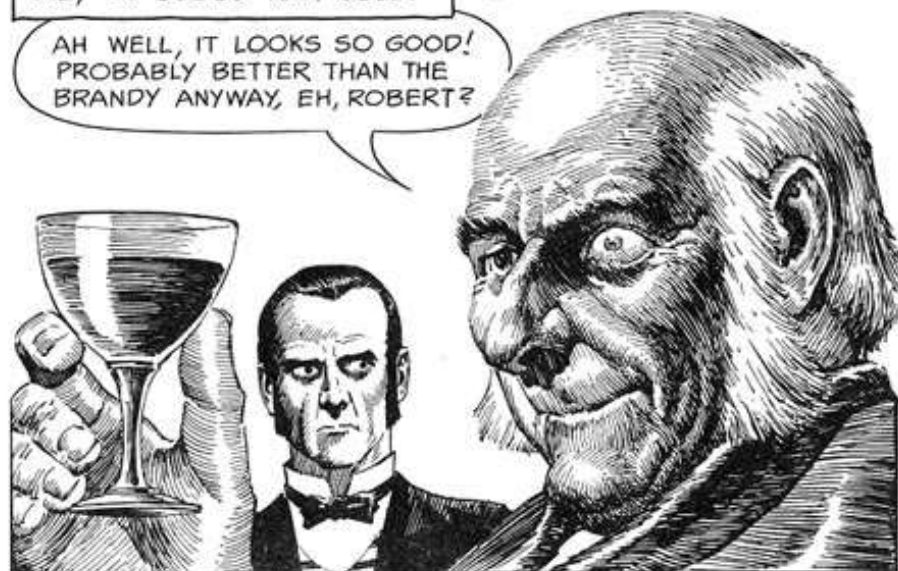
NO, NO, ROBERT. THIS IS WINE... WHY, MAN, YOU'RE TREMBLING! IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, ROBERT?



ONE OF HIS HIS EYES RESEMBLED THAT OF A **VULTURE!** A PALE BLUE EYE WITH A FILM OVER IT. WHENEVER IT FELL ON ME, MY BLOOD RAN COLD!

AH WELL, IT LOOKS SO GOOD! PROBABLY BETTER THAN THE BRANDY ANYWAY, EH, ROBERT?

SO BY DEGREES, VERY GRADUALLY, I MADE UP MY MIND TO TAKE THE LIFE OF THE OLD MAN, AND THUS RID MYSELF OF THE EYE **FOREVER!**



YOU THINK I'M MAD, BUT NO MADMAN COULD EVER HAVE PROCEEDED WITH THE WISDOM ... THE CAUTION...THE FORESIGHT THAT I DID THE WEEK BEFORE I KILLED THE OLD MAN!



EACH NIGHT I--OH, SO GENTLY--OPENED THE DOOR TO HIS ROOM JUST ENOUGH TO ADMIT MY HEAD AND THE LANTERN, SOMETIMES TAKING AN HOUR TO DO SO...WOULD A MADMAN HAVE BEEN SO WISE AS THIS?



THEN--OH, SO CAUTIOUSLY-- I ALLOWED A THIN BEAM FROM THE LANTERN TO FALL ON THE VULTURE EYE... FOR SEVEN NIGHTS! BUT ALWAYS IT WAS CLOSED AND SO IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THE WORK. FOR IT WAS NOT THE OLD MAN WHO VEXED ME, BUT HIS EVIL EYE!



UPON THE EIGHTH NIGHT I WAS MORE THAN USUALLY CAUTIOUS IN OPENING THE DOOR. A WATCHES MINUTE HAND MOVES MORE SLOWLY THAN DID ME. I HAD MY HEAD IN AND WAS ABOUT TO OPEN THE LANTERN WHEN MY THUMB SLIPPED ON THE FASTENING...



I KEPT STILL AND SAID NOTHING. HIS ROOM WAS PITCH BLACK WITH THICK DARKNESS, I KNEW HE COULD NOT SEE THE OPENING OF THE DOOR. FOR AN HOUR I DID NOT MOVE, BUT NEITHER WOULD HE LIE DOWN. THEN THERE CAME TO MY EARS A LOW DULL QUICK SOUND...



I KNEW THAT SOUND! THE BEATING OF THE OLD MAN'S HEART! BUILDING IN ME A FURY AS THE BEATING OF A DRUM STIMULATES A SOLDIER INTO COURAGE...



THE HELLISH TATTOO OF THE HEART INCREASED. IT GREW QUICKER AND LOUDER EVERY INSTANT... I OPENED A VERY VERY LITTLE CREVICE IN THE LANTERN... A SINGLE RAY LIKE THE THREAD OF A SPIDER SHOT OUT FROM THE OPENING, FALLING FULL ON THE VULTURE EYE! IT WAS OPEN -- **WIDE WIDE OPEN!**



THE OLD MAN'S TERROR MUST HAVE BEEN EXTREME! THE BEATING GREW LOUDER AND LOUDER! I THOUGHT THE HEART WOULD BURST! EVER QUICKER AND LOUDER! I FEARED A NEIGHBOR WOULD HEAR THE SOUND! **THE OLD MAN'S HOUR HAD COME!**

ENOUGH! STOP THAT SOUND! CLOSE THAT HIDEOUS EVIL VULTURE EYE!!

THA-BUMP!

THA-BUMP!

THA-BUMP!

NO MORE! NO MORE NOISE! NO MORE EYE!

STOP IT! STOP THAT NOISE! STOP THAT BEATING!



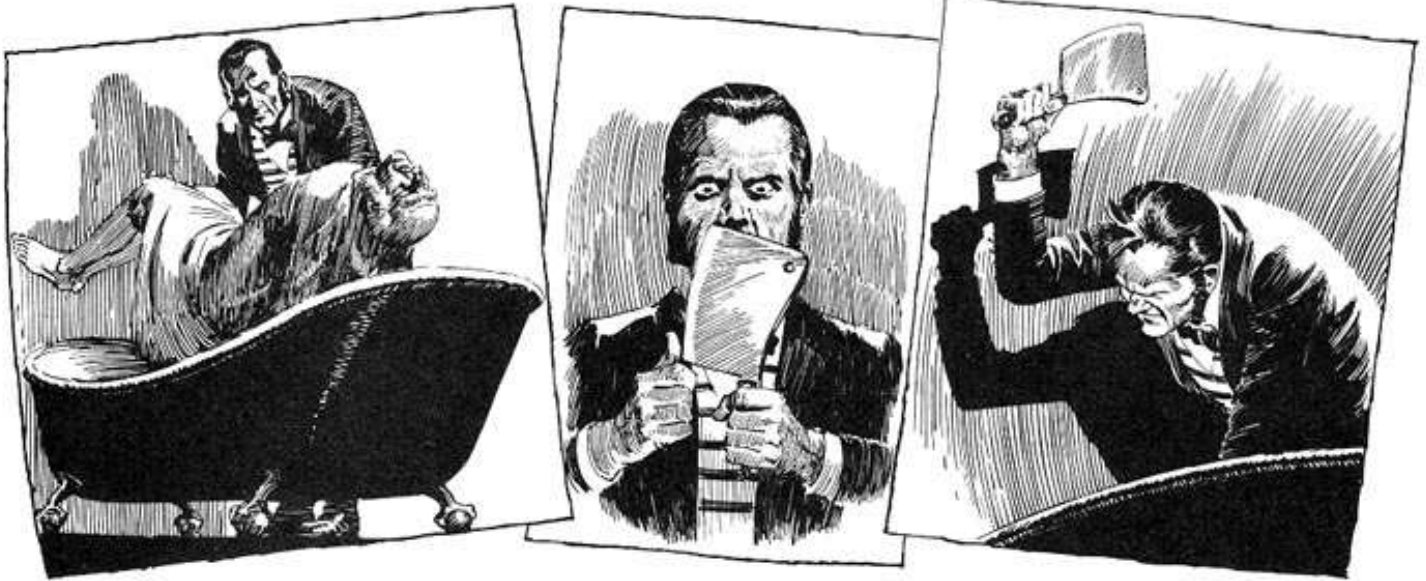
THE BEATING HAD CEASED. THE OLD MAN WAS DEAD. I EXAMINED THE CORPSE, YES, HE WAS STONE DEAD. I PLACED MY HAND UPON THE HEART AND HELD IT THERE MANY MINUTES. THERE WAS NO PULSATION...



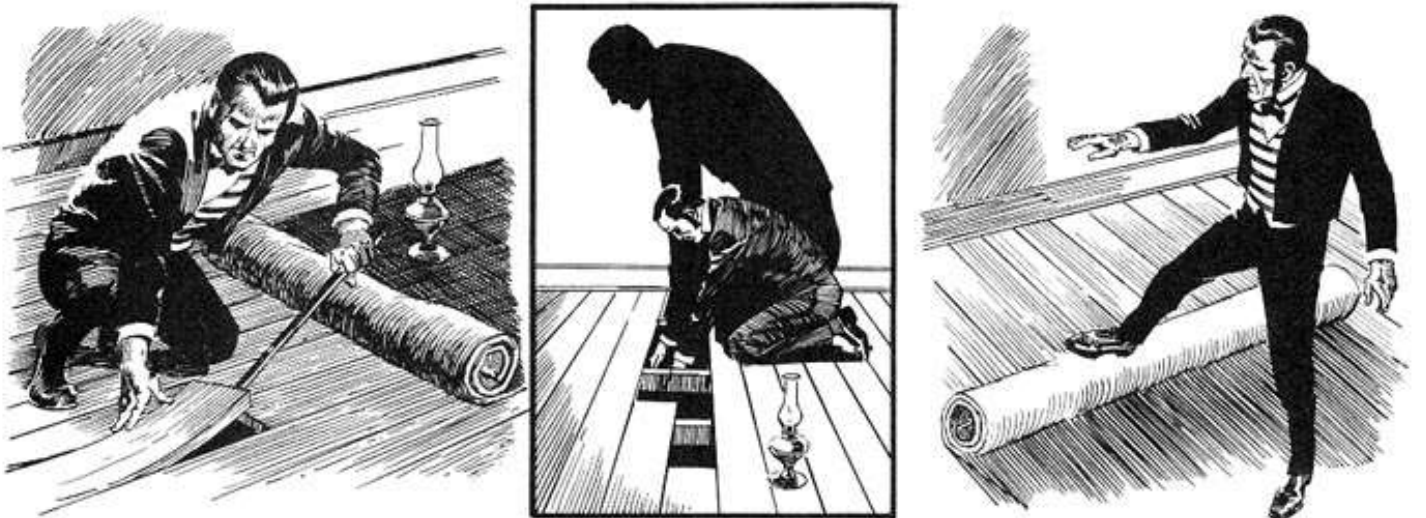
THE OLD MAN WAS STONE DEAD HIS EYE WOULD TROUBLE ME NO MORE!



IF YOU STILL THINK ME MAD, YOU WILL THINK SO NO LONGER AFTER THE WISE PRECAUTIONS I TOOK FOR CONCEALMENT OF THE BODY. THE NIGHT WANED AND I WORKED HASTILY BUT IN SILENCE, DISMEMBERING THE CORPSE... HEAD, ARMS, LEGS... PIECE BY CAREFUL PIECE...



I TOOK UP THREE PLANKS FROM THE FLOORING AND DEPOSITED ALL BETWEEN THE SCANTLINGS. I THEN REPLACED THE BOARDS SO NO HUMAN EYE, NOT EVEN *HIS*, COULD HAVE DETECTED ANYTHING WRONG. NOTHING TO WASH OUT... NO STAIN ... NO BLOOD-SPOT... THE TUB HAD CAUGHT ALL!

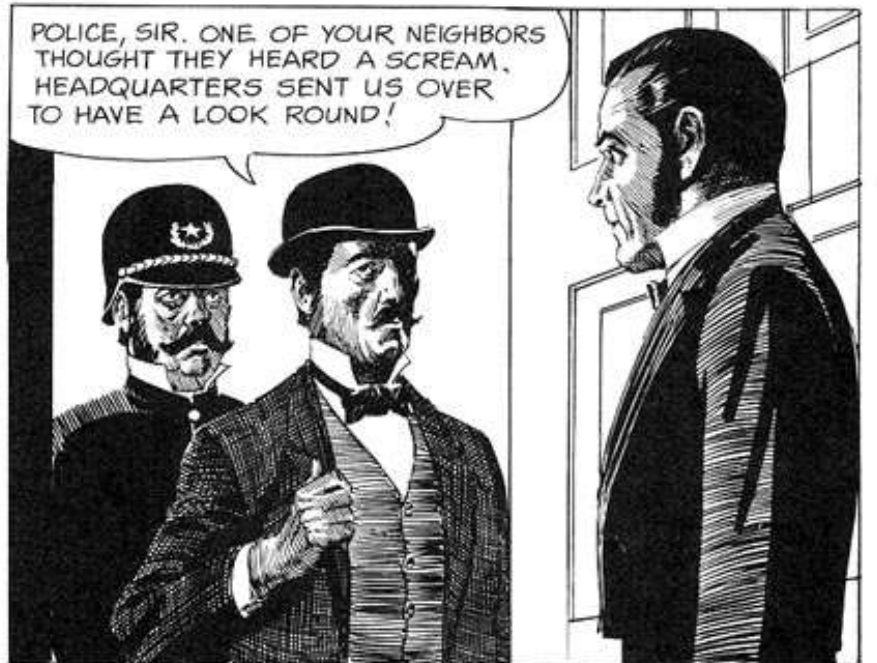


THE DOORBELL? AT FOUR IN THE MORNING!

RRING!



POLICE, SIR. ONE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS THOUGHT THEY HEARD A SCREAM. HEADQUARTERS SENT US OVER TO HAVE A LOOK ROUND!



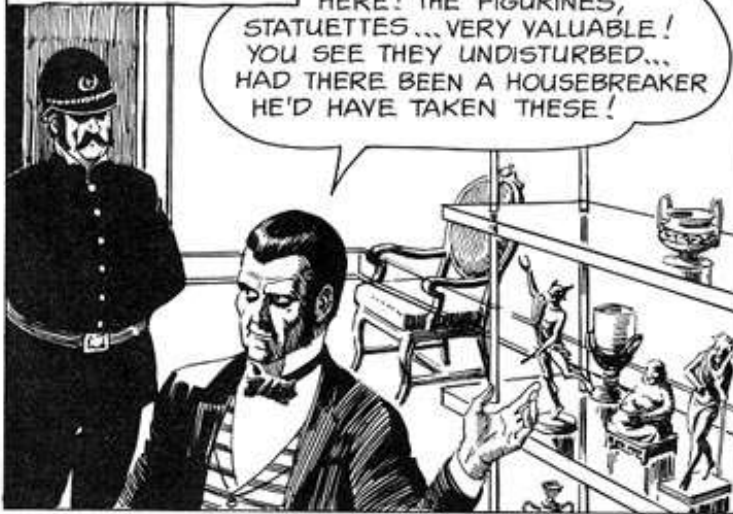
I FEAR I SCREAMED AT A NIGHTMARE! THE MASTER'S AWAY IN THE COUNTRY, I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE HOUSE ... BUT YOU'RE WELCOME--IN FACT, I *INSIST*--THAT YOU MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE PREMISES!



LOOK! PLEASE LOOK CLOSELY... SATISFY YOURSELVES! NOTHING OUT OF PLACE... NOTHING AMISS!

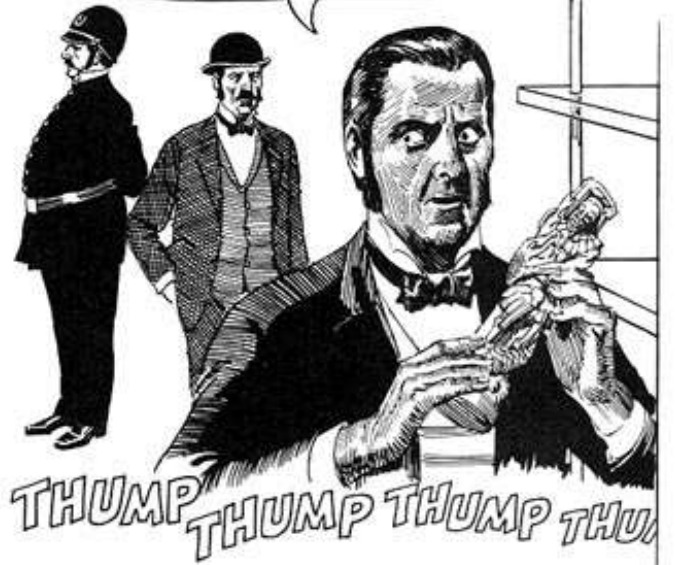


WHAT HAD I TO FEAR? THE OFFICERS WERE SATISFIED. MY MANNER CONVINCED THEM ... WE CHATTED CHEERILY IN THE VERY ROOM... CHAIRS OVER THE VERY SPOT... BENEATH WHICH REPOSED THE CORPSE OF THE OLD MAN!



HERE! THE FIGURINES, STATUETTES ... VERY VALUABLE! YOU SEE THEY UNDISTURBED... HAD THERE BEEN A HOUSEBREAKER HE'D HAVE TAKEN THESE!

SEE! SO DELICATE, SO BEAUTIFUL ...OBSERVE THE FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP... THE DETAIL OF THE CARY--



THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

THUMP THUMP THUMP

D-DO YOU HEAR THAT? THAT SOUND?

SOUND, SIR? WHAT SOUND IS THAT?



THUMP THUMP THUMP

W-WHY RATHER A LOW QUICK SOUND... MUCH AS A WATCH WOULD MAKE WHEN ENVELOPED IN COTTON!

OH, NO, SIR. DON'T HEAR ANY SOUND LIKE THAT.



THA-BUMP! THA-BUMP! THA-BUMP! THA-BUMP!

YES... WELL... WHERE WAS I? OH! THE STATUETTE... SEE HOW THE CARVING IS SO DELICATELY... UH... ER... THE CARVING IS SO... SO...

THUMP
THUMP
THA-BUMP
THUMP

SURELY, GENTLEMEN, YOU MUST NOW HEAR IT... THE SOUND IS QUITE LOUD... MAKES IT HARD TO THINK... TO TALK... DON'T YOU HEAR IT?



THA-BUMP THA-BUMP THA-BUMP THA-BUMP!

SIR, I CAN'T HEAR A THING. THERE IS NO SOUND!

PERHAPS YOU'D BEST SIT DOWN, SIR, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

YOU'RE LYING! YOU MUST HEAR IT! IT'S GETTING LOUDER! AND LOUDER! AND LOUDER! YOU MUST HEAR!!!

YOU HEAR! YOU KNOW! SUSPECT! STOP MOCKING ME! I KNOW YOU HEAR!!



NO MORE! NO MORE! I ADMIT THE DEED! TEAR UP THE PLANKS!

HERE, HERE! IT IS BEATING OF HIS HIDEOUS HEART!!!

THA-BUMP THA-BUMP!
THA-BUMP THUMP!
THA-BUMP BUMP!

THA-BUMP!
GOOD LORD! CHOKED!





YOU SEE? I'M NOT MAD. IT'S MY ACUTE SENSE OF HEARING! WHEN I THRUST MY HEAD THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE POLICE VAN, THEY CALLED IT MADNESS! IT WAS ONLY TO ESCAPE THE SOUND! THE BEATING OF THE OLD MAN'S HEART!

THAT'S RIGHT... JUST KEEP TALKING WHILE I REMOVE THOSE BANDAGES...



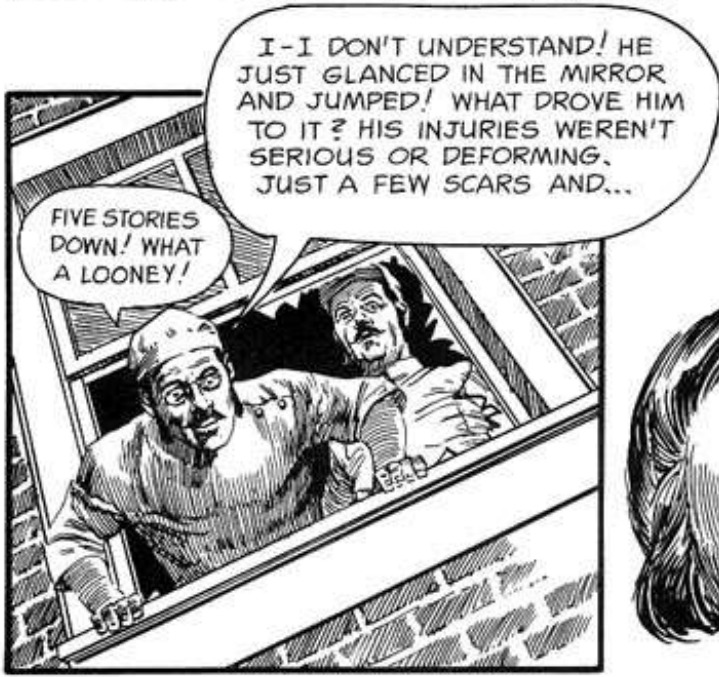
EVEN NOW I STILL HEAR IT, BUT I'M IN CONTROL! BEAT ON, HIDEOUS HEART, I IGNORE YOU! LOUD AS YOU BEAT, THE OLD MAN CAN'T COME BACK! I'M FREE OF HIS EVIL EYE FOREVER!

THAT'S THE LAST ONE. SOME OF THE SCARS NEED TIME TO HEAL BUT YOU'RE COMING ALONG NICELY! AMAZING LUCK WITH ALL THE GLASS WE HAD TO REMOVE!



HAVE A LOOK IN THIS MIRROR OVER HERE... SEE WHAT A LUCKY MAN YOU ARE!

YAAAHH!



I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE JUST GLANCED IN THE MIRROR AND JUMPED! WHAT DROVE HIM TO IT? HIS INJURIES WEREN'T SERIOUS OR DEFORMING. JUST A FEW SCARS AND...

FIVE STORIES DOWN! WHAT A LOONEY!

... A TEMPORARY DISCOLORATION OF ONE EYE CAUSED BY GLASS PARTICLES!



THE END