

MANY THINGS HAPPEN ON THE
FACE OF THE EARTH WHICH MAN
CANNOT EXPLAIN AWAY WITH
ALL HIS SCIENCE! THESE THINGS
ARE CALLED SUPERNATURAL! IT IS
NOT WISE TO LAUGH AT THEM!
THEY WHO LAUGH DIE
HORRIBLY! LISTEN TO THE STORY
OF

The FLAYED HAND

by GUY DE MAUPASSANT

Illustrated by
ALLEN SIMON

THE FLAYED HAND

I challenge you to guess what this box contains! !

A battleship?

A cow?

You may jest but I'll wager that you've never seen the likes of this before!



THE FLAYED HAND ! ! !

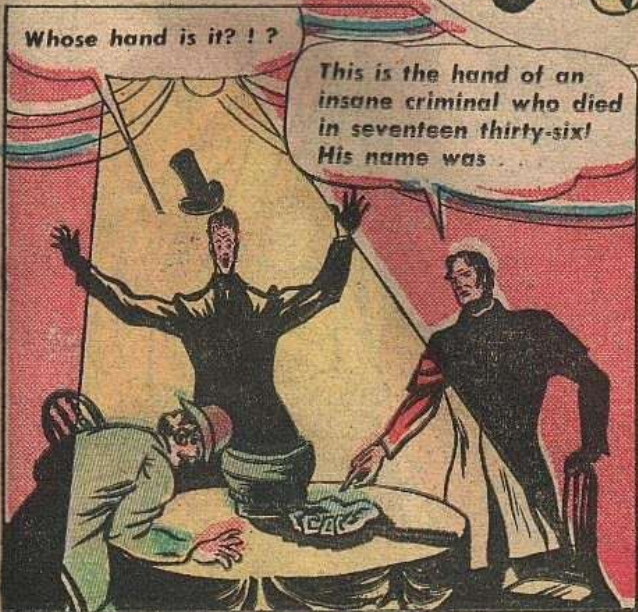


Whose hand is it? ! ?

This is the hand of an insane criminal who died in seventeen thirty-six! His name was . . .

" . . . HENRY MATSON!"

All men are my enemies! I will rob, burn and murder until the world is destroyed! !



CLASSICS Illustrated



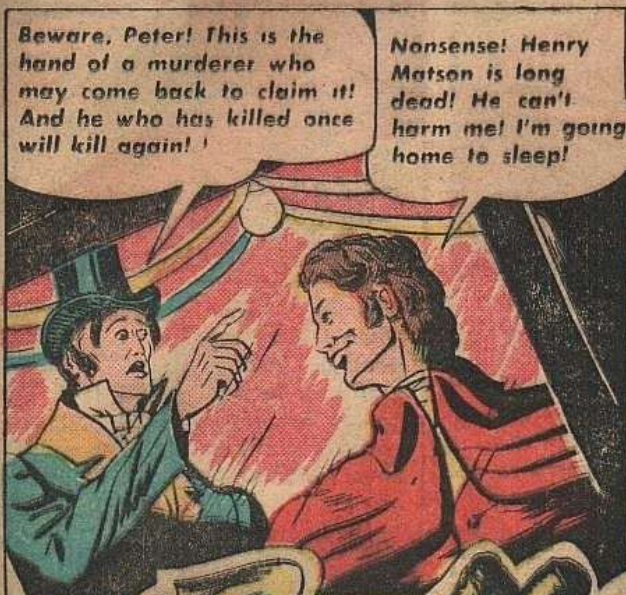
THE FLAYED HAND



CLASSICS Illustrated



THE FLAYED HAND



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WHEN PETER REACHED HIS ROOM . . .

What nonsense! How can the hand of a dead man harm me?



BUT AS HE DOZED OFF . . .

Peter!
Peter!



Who's here?
Speak up! I

Peter!
Peter!



There's no one here! Someone is playing a joke!

This is no joke, Peter! Look behind you!



The hand! It's moving! Who are you?

I am the ghost of Henry Matson! I have come from the grave to get my hand! I



When I have my Hand again, I shall rest in my grave! But first you will die! You have laughed at me!

NO!
NO!
NO!



THE FLAYED HAND



Die! All my enemies die! Ha! Ha! Ha!



AS PETER'S LIFELESS BODY FELL TO THE FLOOR, THE HAND DISAPPEARED! NOTHING MOVED IN THE ROOM EXCEPT . . . DEATH!



THE NEXT DAY AS LOUIS AND JOHN CAME TO CALL FOR PETER . . .

Is anything wrong?

The young man who lives here has been found strangled to death!

What? ?



Poor Peter? Who could have done this?

That's what we can't understand! No one could have gotten in, yet there are the marks of a hand on his throat! !



You may well wonder but no one will ever know the truth! . . . For the dead never betray their secrets! Ha! Ha!



Louis! Is it possible? . . . The hand disappeared! !

I wonder! I wonder!

THE END