



ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE WHO SCOFF AT BLACK CATS AND BROKEN MIRRORS? VERY BRAVE OF YOU, FRIEND! NOW COME SEE THE FATE OF A BAND OF EQUALLY BRAVE SOULS—WHO CAME TO WISH THEY'D HAD A LITTLE **LESS** COURAGE! **HEE HEE!**

WRITTEN BY ARNOLD DRAKE
ART BY JOHN CELARDO

IT IS FRIDAY THE 13TH AS A STRANGE CELEBRATION IS UNDERWAY!

I DON'T LIKE IT! I TOLD **MARDINI** HOW I FELT ABOUT THIS PART OF THE CEREMONY EVERY YEAR!

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, **MURRAY!** NOW, **MARDINI** HIMSELF IS DEAD! AND WE KNOW—



—THAT IF THERE IS ANY WAY FOR THE DEAD TO COMMUNICATE WITH US, **MARDINI** WILL DO IT TONIGHT!

OKAY! OKAY! GET IT OVER WITH! UNLOCK THE BOX HE LEFT US AND READ HIS LAST TESTAMENT!



GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES **The ANTI-13**

—AND WHEN YOU FINISH READING THIS, AT THE LAST STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, IF THERE IS ANY WAY TO DO IT—**I SHALL RETURN!** I SWEAR IT!

L-LOOK! SMOKE RISING IN THE AIR! AND—

—THERE'S A FACE TAKING FORM IN THE SMOKE! IT—IT'S **MARDINI!**



GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES, No. 26, September, 1975. Published monthly except February, April, June, October, and December by Western Publishing Company, Inc., North Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602. All rights reserved throughout the world. Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 1975, by Western Publishing Company, Inc.

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TRUE, MARDINI IS DEAD! BUT HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND TO ALL! THEN— WHY DO THEIR HEARTS RACE?

YES, DEAR COLLEAGUES— AGAINST-SUPERSTITION, I HAVE RETURNED!

BUT MORE THAN ALL THE REST, MURRAY AMES, WITH HIS POET'S IMAGINATION, TREMBLES!

NO! YOU'RE DEAD! YOU CAN'T COME BACK! YOU CAN'T!

THEN, AS MOUNTING TENSION BECOMES UNBEARABLE...

MY CHEST! PAIN! AARRRRGH!

EEYYAAAA!

DR. ARDLEY! QUICKLY! HELP HIM!

AS DR. ARDLEY STRAINS FOR A REASSURING HEART-BEAT, ALL THREE THINK BACK TO THEIR LAST MEETING!

DR. ARDLEY! MISS KINCAID! IT IS FRIDAY THE 13TH AND YOU ARE RIGHT ON TIME— TEN MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT!

I WOULDN'T MISS AN ANTI-13 MEETING FOR THE WORLD, MARDINI! AN OASIS OF SANITY IN A CRAZY WORLD OF SUPERSTITION!



ONCE AGAIN WE MEET TO CHALLENGE UNTHINKING FEAR! A PROFESSIONAL MAGICIAN, A BUSINESSMAN, A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND A REPORTER! THE ANTI-13!

WHERE IS MURRAY?



I'M AFRAID OUR FRIEND, THE POET, IS LATE—AS USUAL! PERHAPS THE GOBLINS GOT HIM THIS TIME!

BING-BONG!

AHHHH! HERE HE COMES!



SORRY I'M LATE! HEAVY TRAFFIC ACROSS TOWN! LISTEN, MARDINI—ABOUT THE CEREMONY—

DON'T TELL ME, MR. AMES! LET ME GUESS! YOU WANT TO **DROP** THE SEANCE! AS EVERY YEAR!



TRUE! I CAN'T **SEE** IT AS PART OF OUR ANTI-SUPERSTITION RITUAL! BELIEF IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD ISN'T THE SAME THING AS BLACK CATS AND—

WE'LL LEAVE IT UP TO THE OTHERS!



MARDINI PUT THE PROPOSITION BEFORE THE OTHERS...

—IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE TRYING TO DESTROY COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD!

WE'RE ONLY ASKING FOR PROOF! AND IF IT EXISTS, WE'D BE THE FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT! IF NOT—WE BRAND IT **FAKERY!**



AS A MAGICIAN AND DESIGNER OF MAGIC EFFECTS, I'VE SPENT MY LIFE EXPOSING SHAM SPIRITUALISTS! BUT I'D GIVE **ANYTHING** FOR A TRUE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE!



AS USUAL, YOU WILL DON MASKS TO HELP STIMULATE A PROPERLY FEARFUL ATMOSPHERE! AND, AS USUAL—

—I WILL **NOT**—SINCE MY FACE IS QUITE FEARFUL AS IS! HA!

HA!
HA!



JOIN HANDS AND THE ANTI-13 CEREMONY SHALL BEGIN!

UNDER THE LADDER WE WILL GO DEFYING THE DEMONS TO BRING US LOW!



SMASH THE MIRROR WITHOUT FEAR NAMELESS FEAR HAS NO HOME HERE!

CRASH



SPILL THE SALT UPON THE EARTH GREET THE DEVIL'S WRATH WITH MIRTH!

HA-HA-HA-HA- HA-HA!





HARVEY WEDLIN,
SOUL IN FLIGHT,
HEAR ME!

IF MY WORDS
REACH YOU,
GIVE US
SOME SIGN!



WE MUST TRY TOGETHER! REPEAT
AFTER ME—"HARVEY WEDLIN,
GIVE US A SIGN!"

HARVEY WEDLIN,
GIVE US A SIGN!



GIVE IT UP, MARDINI! IT'S NOT GOING
TO WORK! AND YOU KNOW IT!

I'M AFRAID
YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT WE'LL TRY
AGAIN NEXT
YEAR!



MARDINI, WE FORMED THIS GROUP
TO CHALLENGE SUPERSTITION! BUT
THIS SEANCE BUSINESS IS NO CHAL-
LENGE! YOU'RE HONORING IGNOR-
ANCE WITH THIS CEREMONY!

NOT QUITE,
MY EXCITABLE
FRIEND! WE
ARE LEAVING
A DOOR OPEN—



THAT'S A PACK OF CLAPTRAP!
YOU'VE SPENT YOUR LIFE EX-
POSING FRAUDULENT MEDIUMS!
NOW YOU'RE **BECOMING** ONE!

MURRAY, I'M NOT
READING YOU! ARE
YOU SKEPTICAL—
OR FRIGHTENED?

BREAK IT
UP, YOU TWO!
LET'S GET
SOMETHING
TO EAT!



THEN, SOME MONTHS LATER...

—I'M SORRY I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO CARRY THE NEWS, PAT! MARDINI DIED LAST NIGHT!

OH! HOW DREADFUL! AND YET—



—I HAD THIS FEELING AT THE LAST MEETING—THE WAY HE WAS TALKING—ALMOST AS IF HE *KNEW* HE WOULD DIE SOON!

I DID TOO! INCIDENTALLY, HE ASKED—JUST BEFORE THE END—THAT WE MEET AS USUAL AT HIS HOUSE ON FRIDAY THE 13TH!



AND SO THEY GATHER ONCE MORE, THIS TIME WITH A NOTE OF SADNESS...

BRRRR! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE WILLIES!

THE ANTI-13 MEETING WON'T BE MUCH FUN THIS TIME!

I HOPE IT *WILL* BE! MARDINI WOULD EXPECT US TO ATTACK SUPERSTITION WITH THE SAME VERVE AS BEFORE!



HIS WILL ASKS US TO PERFORM THE ENTIRE CEREMONY HERE, EXCEPT FOR THE SEANCE! THEN WE'RE TO GO TO HIS GRAVE AND OPEN THIS BOX THERE, READING THE CONTENTS ALOUD!

OKAY! OKAY! LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!



UNDER THE LADDER WE WILL GO DEFYING THE DEMONS TO BRING US LOW!



NOW IT IS A MOMENT LATER AT THE GRAVESIDE, WHERE DR. ARDLEY HAS FINISHED EXAMINING MURRAY AMES!

HE-HE'S DEAD!
HEART ARREST!
SHOCK, I SUPPOSE!

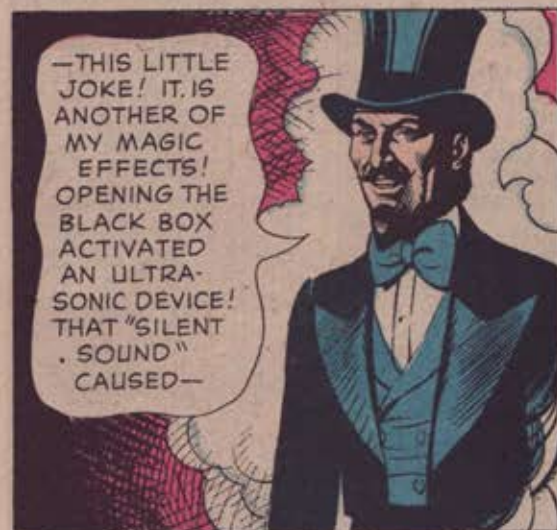
OH, NO-O-O-O!



MARDINI'S GREATEST SUCCESS—THE THING HE WORKED FOR EVEN BEYOND LIFE—AND NOW **THIS** TRAGEDY!

HOLD IT! MARDINI IS STILL THERE! AND—LISTEN—!

MY FRIENDS,
I HOPE
YOU WILL
FORGIVE ME—



—THIS LITTLE JOKE! IT IS ANOTHER OF MY MAGIC EFFECTS! OPENING THE BLACK BOX ACTIVATED AN ULTRA-SONIC DEVICE! THAT "SILENT SOUND" CAUSED—



—A TAPE RECORDER AND SLIDE PROJECTOR CONCEALED WITHIN MY MEMORIAL STATUE TO CREATE THIS ILLUSION!

M-MARDINI'S
LAST MAGIC
ACT!



BUT IT WAS NOT JUST A JOKE, **MURRAY!** I HOPE THAT THE MOMENT OF SURPRISE IT GAVE YOU WILL MAKE YOU A LITTLE LESS SURE THAT SPIRIT COMMUNICATION IS **BUNK!**

AND SO, TO YOU, MURRAY—AND ALL MY FRIENDS—
—GOODBYE!
BUT PERHAPS NOT—FOREVER!

AND, FOR MURRAY,
FOREVER IS—
RIGHT NOW!