

THE BLUE BEETLE

WRITTEN BY
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AND
OLIVER ASHFORD

CASE # X-0

FROM THE PRIVATE FILES OF PATROLMAN GARRET COMES THE FANTASTIC TALE OF A HEIDOUS WAMPYRE! MEN DISAPPEARED WHEN THE HORRIBLE CREATURE STALKED THROUGH THE NIGHT, BUT THE "BLUE BEETLE" AND "SPARKY" TRACKED DOWN THE FIEND TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF "THE BLOODLESS BODIES"

SERIE DARKNESS ENVELOPS THE CITY STREET. A LONE FIGURE WALKS SILENTLY-- OVERHEAD AN OMINOUS SHADOW FOLLOWS--



ONCE AGAIN, THE NIGHT IS SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE FLAPPING OF THE VAMPIRE'S WINGS AS IT FIES OFF WITH ITS UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM!



NEXT NIGHT, A GROUP OF MOVIE-GOERS LEAVE THE LOCAL THEATRE!

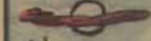
HORACE BARLOFF... VAMPIRE'S VIK

VAMPIRE'S-- EAH! NONSENSE!
I GUESS YOU JUST DON'T CARE FOR THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE!



Surprise!

JOHN! LOOK-- IT'S A VAMPIRE!



GOOD HEAVENS, IT IS!-- QUICK, RUN INTO THAT BUILDING-- WE'LL--



RUN MARY, SAVE YOURSELF! YIIII! LET ME GO!

HELP! HELP! JOHN--HELP, POLICE!

SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, AS THE VAMPIRE MENACE CONTINUES, PATROLMAN DAN GARRET AND MIKE MANNIGAN POUND THEIR BEAT ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR YOUNG ENGLISH FRIEND, SPARKINGTON!

BRR--VAMPIRES, CREATURES OF THE DEVIL--I SURE WOULD LIKE TO GET A MUG LIKE THAT AT THE END OF MY GUN!

YEAH I KNOW MIKE!

HEY, FELLAS!



I SAY LOOK AT THAT THING FLOATING IN THE WATER-- IT LOOKS LIKE

IT'S A BODY!

WHY, IT'S DRY, SHRIVELED!

BLOODLESS, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

BLAST ME, IF IT ISN'T LIKE THE TALES OF THE OLD VAMPIRES THRIVING ON HUMAN BLOOD-- HMM-- WONDER WHAT NEXT?

GLORY BE, IT IS-- COME ALONG, DANNY, WE'LL GIVE A LOOK!





I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S BEST—YOU'RE GOING HOME WHERE IT'S SAFE!

OH DASH IT, I'D RATHER GO WITH YOU AND GET SOME EXCITEMENT!

HE SURE IS A SPUNKY LITTLE FELLOW, BUT HE'LL BE SAFER AT HOME!

WE'D BETTER BE ON THE ALERT, MIKE! THIS VAMPIRE'S GOING TO BE HARDER THAN WE—



YIII! HELP! HELP!

MIKE IN BACK OF THAT HOUSE!

WHATEVER, IT IS, WE'LL SURROUND IT! YOU TAKE ONE SIDE, I'LL TAKE THE OTHER. LET'S GO, DAN!

IF IT'S THAT BIRD, SHOOT TO KILL!

RIGHT, DANNY, I'M SURE NO ZOO WOULD CARE FOR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!



HELP! SAVE ME!

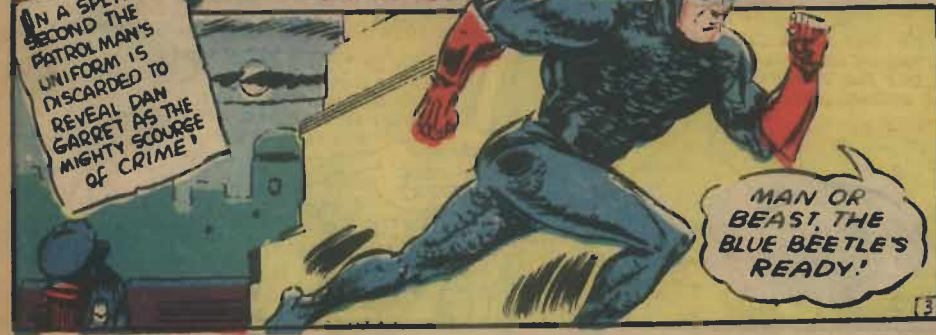
BESORRA, I CAN'T SHOOT OR I'LL HIT THE WOMAN. I'LL CHARGE IN AND—

MEANWHILE PATROLMAN GARRET CHARGES UP FROM THE FAR END OF THE STREET TO HEAR

DAN! HELP! OWww!

IT'S MIKE AND HE'S IN TROUBLE THAT MEANS IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!

IN A SPLIT SECOND THE PATROLMAN'S UNIFORM IS DISCARDED TO REVEAL DAN GARRET AS THE MIGHTY SCOURGE OF CRIME!



MAN OR BEAST, THE BLUE BEETLE'S READY!



THE VAMPIRE!
I'VE GOT TO
STOP HIM!

THIS IS ONE
TIME YOU DON'T
CARRY OFF ANY
VICTIM!



SPLAT

WE'LL START WITH
THE CHIN SLAMMING
GAME!

AND NOW I'M
GOING TO FIND
OUT WHAT MAKES
YOU TICK!



OOOPS! FORGET
ABOUT THOSE
THINGS!

HE CAN'T FLY ANYMORE,
IT'LL BE A CINCH TO
NAB HIM NOW!

HELP--
HELP--
OH!



CUT HER WRIST WHEN HE DROPPED
HER. THIS TOURNIQUET'LL TAKE
CARE OF HER--GUESS I'VE
LOST THE VAMPIRE FOR
THE TIME BEING!

WHILE THE BEETLE DRESSES THE WOMAN'S
WOUND MIKE COMES TO AND IS CRICK TO
MAKE ANOTHER OF HIS WRONG DEDUCTIONS!

GLORY BE, SO THE BLUE
BEETLE'S IN CAHOOTS
WITH THE VAMPIRE--I'LL
START BY NABBING THE
BEETLE FIRST!

THERE NOW,
MISS--FEEL
BETTER?

OH YES
THANK
YOU!

O.K. BEETLE YOUR WORK WITH THE VAMPIRE IS OVER?

SORRY TO UPSET YOU MANNIGAN?

MISSED HIM, BESORRA, HE'S LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING --
HMM, WHERE'S DAN? --
GLORY BE, THE VAMPIRE MUST HAVE CARRIED HIM OFF?

THE INJURED WOMAN TAKEN CARE OF, MIKE PHONES HEADQUARTERS!

SHORE, SARGE, THE BEETLE AND THE VAMPIRE ARE WORKING TOGETHER -- THEY'VE GOT DAN GARRET?

SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT WORK ELSEWHERE!

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

QUICKLY -- A GENERAL ALARM IS ISSUED!

CALLING ALL CARS -- BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR PATROLMAN GARRET -- BELIEVED TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE BEETLE AND THE VAMPIRE!

OLD HOME, SPARKINSTEIN PICKS UP A BROADCAST DIRECTED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

... AND ALL CITIZENS ARE URGED TO REMAIN IN-DOORS WHILE THE SEARCH FOR THE BEETLE AND THE VAMPIRE CONTINUES?

SWIFTLY, THE TUND ENGLISH LAD ADOPTS HIS SECRET ROLE OF THE BLUE BEETLE'S ASSISTANT!

FROM HERE ON IT'S THE BLUE BEETLE AND SPARKY!

UNAWARE OF THE INTENSIVE SEARCH MADE FOR HIM THE BLUE BEETLE CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE DEADLY VAMPIRE!

THERE HE IS!
I'VE CLIPPED
HIS WINGS SO
HE CAN'T FLY
NOW I'LL CLIP
HIS CLAWS!

BUT AS THE BEETLE CLOSES IN TO
MAKE THE KILL--

HEY MOIPI!
LOOK,
THE BLUE
BEETLE!

PLAYED RIGHT
INTO OUR HANDS.
C'MON, WE'LL
GIVE HIM A
TASTE OF LEAD!

DON'T STAND THERE,
YOU'RE LETTING THE
VAMPIRE ESCAPE!

YOU'RE NOT TALKING
YOUR WAY OUT OF
THIS--WE'RE GONNA
GIVE A LOOK UNDER
THAT
MASK!

OUCH!
MY ARM!

YA' NIPPED
HIM, MOIPI!
C'MON, WE'LL
NAB HIM!

BANG!
BANG!

BUT BEFORE THE PATROLMEN CAN REACH THE BEETLE'S
MASK TO REMOVE IT--

SPARKY!
AND IN THE
NICK OF
TIME!

NICE NIGHT
FOR A
BLACKOUT!

QUICK! IN HERE,
BEETLE--WE'LL GIVE
EM THE SLIP!

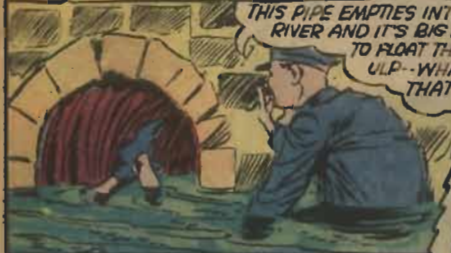
THERE THEY GO--SOOD, WE'RE RID OF THEM!
NOW WE'RE GOING TO CATCH UP WITH THE
FLYING VAMPIRE!

HIS FLYING DAYS ARE OVER
LAST TIME I SMASHED THE
HELICOPTER ON THE BACK OF
HIM, THIS TIME, I'LL SMASH
HIM!

SO THAT'S HOW HE FLEW, PROPELLED
THROUGH THE AIR BY A MACHINE--
BUT, WHAT'S NEXT, BEETLE?

THE BLOODLESS BODIES
WERE WASHED INTO THE
RIVER FROM SOME SEWER!
IT'S UP TO US TO FIND OUT
WHERE THEY CAME FROM!

WHILE THE BLUE BEETLE AND SPARKY RACE TO THE RIVER FRONT, PATROLMAN MANNIGAN CONDUCTS A LONE SEARCH!



THIS PIPE EMPTIES INTO THE RIVER AND IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO FLOAT THROUGH, ULP--WHAT'S THAT?



GLORY BE--ANOTHER ONE! THAT MEANS THE VAMPIRE'S HIDEOUT IS HERE--AND THIS PIPE'LL LEAD ME TO IT!



BRR--THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!



THE LADDER! THAT'S HOW THE FIEND GETS IN AND OUT!



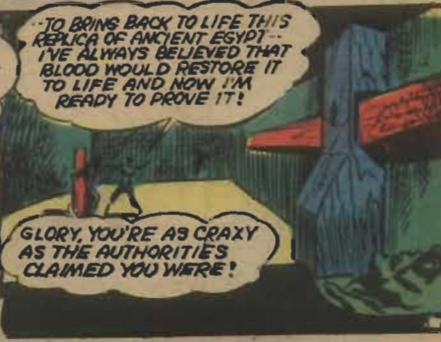
IF THEY'VE DONE ANYTHING TO DAM, I'LL NOT REST UNTIL I'VE GOTTEN THE VAMPIRE AND THE BLUE BEETLE SEATED ON THE HOT SEAT!



THE EFFECT OF THE BLOW WEARS OFF AND MANNIGAN FINDS HIMSELF A PRISONER!

DOCTOR GRIME! YOU WERE REPORTED DEAD SIX WEEKS AFTER YOU WERE EXPELLED FROM THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE?

PART OF MY PLAN! THEY REFUSED ME BLOOD TO CONDUCT MY EXPERIMENTS, SO I PLAYED DEAD TO WORK THIS VAMPIRE SCHEME-- YOU ARE THE LAST VICTIM, FOR NOW I HAVE ENOUGH BLOOD--



TO BRING BACK TO LIFE THIS REPLICA OF ANCIENT EGYPT-- I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT BLOOD WOULD RESTORE IT TO LIFE AND NOW I'M READY TO PROVE IT!

GLORY, YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS THE AUTHORITIES CLAIMED YOU WERE!

MEANWHILE, THE BLUE BEETLE AND SPARKY REACH THE SEWER MAIN IN THEIR SEARCH FOR THE VAMPIRE!

KEEP LOOKING, SPARKY, WE'RE BOUND TO FIND SOME CLUE!

BEETLE, LOOK! A POLICEMAN'S CAP!

IT'S MIKE'S SHIELD-- THE VAMPIRE'S GOT HIM-- QUICK, INSIDE THE PIPE!

SPARKY, IT'S MIKE--AND HE'S IN TROUBLE!

OVER THERE BEETLE--THERE'S A LADDER!

HELP!

C'MON, SPARKY THERE'S THE GUY WE WANT!

ULP-- I'M DOUBLY COOKED-- THE BEETLE'S HERE!

BAH! I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF THE TWO OF THEM!

DROP THAT NEEDLE!

DUMMY MEETS MUMMY!

LATER ON THE BEAT!

FREEING ME WON'T SAVE YOU BEETLE-- I'M GONNA TURN YOU IN FOR KIDNAPPING ME BUDDY, DAN!

I'LL OOPSS-- THE LITTLE DEVIL TRIPPED ME!

THE BEETLE KONKED ME AND DRAGGED ME INTO THE HOUSE WHEN I CAME TO YOU WERE GONE!

CAPTURIN THE VAMPIRE WAS A COVER UP FOR HIS CRIMES AND SHORE AS ME NAME IS MIKE? I'LL PUT HIM AND HIS BRAT BE HIND BARS!

NICE FALL MIKE, YOU'D BETTER TURN IN YOUR OTHER PRISONER C'MON, SPARKY!