

AS A RESULT OF VAN REJK'S...ER...**ECCENTRIC** LIVING, THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN RATHER DIFFICULT TO SELL! -IT'S A STEAL AT THIS PRICE, MR. DANIELS!-

I'LL TAKE IT, SIR!...

WEEKS PASS AND JULIAN BUSIES HIMSELF WITH MAKING THE OLD MANSION LIVABLE AGAIN...

VAN REJK CREATED HIS GREATEST AND MOST INSPIRED MASTERPIECES HERE! I'LL PAINT THEM, TOO... I'LL BE AS GREAT-NO!-**GREATER** THAN REJK!... I-I FEEL IT!-

FINALLY, WHEN JULIAN REACHES THE ATTIC...

BRRR...IT'S **FREEZING** UP HERE! THE WINDOWS ARE SHUT... THE HEAT IS ON, AND YET...IT'S COLD AS-AS **DEATH!**-

BUT JULIAN PUTS THE STRANGE ATTIC OUT OF HIS MIND... LATER WHEN THE HOUSE IS COMPLETED, HE INVITES HIS FRIENDS, JACK AND VIVIAN CLAYTON...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, JACK, VIVIAN!... COME IN, COME IN!...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, JULIAN!-

THIS IS A LOVELY HOUSE, JULIAN!

THE THREE FRIENDS TALK ABOUT THE OLD DAYS...

YES, SIR!... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET MARRIED SO SOON!- SURE HAD GOOD TIMES, DIDN'T WE, JULIAN?

YOU HAD GOOD TIMES! VIVIAN ALWAYS LOVED YOU-AND I ALWAYS LOVED VIVIAN!-

...ER...YES, JACK-WE DID!-

HA!- REMEMBER THE TIME I MADE A BLIND DATE FOR YOU? HA, HA... SHE TOLD ME, "NEXT TIME BRING ME SOMETHING HUMAN!" HA, HA, HA...

JACK!- STOP IT!

LET HIM TALK, VIVIAN... IT'S IT'S VERY FUNNY!...

HOW DARE HE? IN FRONT OF VIVIAN!...

WELL, IT'S GETTING LATE... IT'S BEEN A SWELL EVENING, JULIAN-

THANKS EVER SO MUCH FOR INVITING US!-

THANK YOU FOR COMING, VIVIAN-

I COULD KILL HIM!... KILL HIM!!

NIGHT... BUT FOR JULIAN DANIELS THERE IS NO REST--AS HIS MIND BURNS WITH A BITTER HATRED...

HE-HHE **RIDICULED** ME!- STOLE THE GIRL I LOVE! HE'S HANDSOME-AND I-I'M **UGLY!** I COULD HAVE RIPPED HIS HEART OUT!- BUT I'M WEAK...WEAK AND-AND **AFRAID!**...



LIGHT STREAMS INTO THE DRAPED ROOM...IT IS MORNING. JULIAN FINALLY RISES...

I-I'VE SAT UP ALL NIGHT-I **MUSTN'T** ALLOW THIS THING TO OVERPOWER ME! I MUST ERASE LAST NIGHT'S HORROR FROM MY MIND! PERHAPS...IF I PAINT-I'LL FORGET!...



BUT, JULIAN DANIELS CAN'T FORGET...HE'LL **NEVER FORGET!**AND-AS HE PAINTS...

HE CALLED ME AN **ANIMAL!** I HAVEN'T THE COURAGE TO KILL HIM, BUT **THIS** WILL BE JUST AS GRATIFYING!...



WITH RAPID, WIDE-SWEEPING STROKES, JULIAN FEVERISHLY PAINTS. FINALLY, THE PAINTING IS **COMPLETED!**...

THIS-THIS IS MY **MASTERPIECE!** EVEN VAN REJK WOULD BE PROUD!



IF THIS PAINTING COULD ONLY COME TO **LIFE!**- WHAT A WEAPON THAT WOULD BE!... I- THE **PHONE!** WHO WOULD CALL ME?



HELLO?...

HELLO, JULIAN... THIS IS VIVIAN! I'M -I'M **FRIGHTENED!** I CALLED JACK'S OFFICE AND HE HASN'T ARRIVED YET! THIS ISN'T **LIKE** HIM... HE'S NEVER LATE! WILL YOU COME OVER?



I CAME AS SOON AS YOU CALLED, VIVIAN! -- NOW, RELAX... **NOTHING** HAS HAPPENED TO JACK! HE MAY HAVE MET AN OLD FRIEND ON THE WAY!...

NO, JULIAN... I'M CONVINCED! -- SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! I JUST KNOW IT!



C-COME IN...

KNOW KNOW



MRS. CLAYTON... I- I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU!... YOUR HUSBAND WAS STRUCK BY AN AUTO!- HE'S... HE'S DEAD...

NO... NO... NO! NOT MY JACK! NOT JACK!

VIVIAN!- YOU MUST GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF!-



LEAVING THE HEARTBROKEN VIVIAN, JULIAN RACES TO HIS HOME- ONE THOUGHT POUNDS ON HIS WARPED BRAIN; DO I POSSESS THESE POWERS -- OR WAS IT COINCIDENCE? -- ONCE MORE IN THE EERIE ATTIC, TREMBLING HANDS PLACE A FRESH CANVAS UPON THE EASEL...

I- I'M SO EXCITED, I CAN HARDLY PAINT... BUT SOON I'LL BE FINISHED- **THERE!**



JACK CLAYTON IS NO MORE... JUST AS I PAINTED HIM! IT **MUST** BE TRUE!-



I'VE DONE IT!- I'VE ERASED THE UGLINESS THAT WAS JULIAN DANIELS! I'M LIKE OTHER PEOPLE NOW!- NO! I'M BETTER THAN OTHER PEOPLE! I'VE GOT THE STRONGEST WEAPON IN THE WORLD!-



I CAN HAVE POWER... RICHES... **ANYTHING!** BUT- MOST OF ALL I WANT **VIVIAN!**



NOW THERE IS NO REST FOR JULIAN DANIELS!... A NEW CANVAS IS SET UPON THE EASEL, AND...



HE CALLED ME AN UGLY ANIMAL!...NOW HE'S DEAD! HA, HA, HA... AND I'VE JUST BEGUN TO LIVE! I MUST GET CLOTHES TO SUIT MY NEW PERSONALITY!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

WILL YOU HAVE THEM DELIVERED? MY NAME IS...ER... ROBERT RICHARDS!

SURELY, MR. RICHARDS!



OH--I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!...

Ohhh!

I GUESS IT'S MY FAULT! I DIDN'T LOOK WHERE I WAS GOING... I'M BOB RICHARDS- NEW ARRIVAL IN TOWN!

I-I'M VIVIAN CLAYTON, AND I- I'M **AWFULLY** GLAD YOU CAME TO THIS TOWN! YOU'RE A FASCINATING MAN, MR. RICHARDS!



FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, VIVIAN FINDS HERSELF DRAWN TO THIS DARK, HANDSOME MAN... AND LATER, THAT EVENING, IN A SECLUDED CAFE...

OH, BOB... I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE KNOWN YOU ALL MY LIFE! LET'S GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY, DARLING!- I-I LOVE YOU...

AND I LOVE YOU, DEAREST- YES- WE'LL BE MARRIED IMMEDIATELY!



DRIVING TO A NEIGHBORING STATE, BOB AND VIVIAN ARE MARRIED... AND ON THEIR WAY BACK...

WHERE WILL WE SPEND OUR HONEY-MOON, DARLING?

I HAVE A LOVELY HOME, VIVIAN... WE'LL BE ALONE THERE!-



SOME TIME LATER, THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE ARRIVE AT THEIR "HOME" -

WHY, BOB... ISN'T THIS JULIAN DANIELS' HOUSE? -

YOU MEAN THAT UGLY LITTLE CREATURE? HE LEFT TOWN - SOLD ME THE HOUSE!...

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE ABLE TO CALL SOMETHING UGLY! -



WEEKS PASS, AND THE NEWLYWEDS ARE VERY HAPPY. THEN ONE NIGHT...

BOB - WHY IS THE ATTIC DOOR ALWAYS LOCKED? ARE YOU KEEPING A DARK, MYSTERIOUS SECRET FROM ME, YOU DARLING BLUE-BEARD? -

HA, HA! - YES... I'VE FIFTEEN WIVES THERE! - DARLING, I KEEP IT LOCKED BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ANY HEAT IN THAT ROOM!... YOU'D CATCH COLD IF YOU WENT UP THERE! NOW, FORGET ABOUT IT, DEAR...



NEXT MORNING...

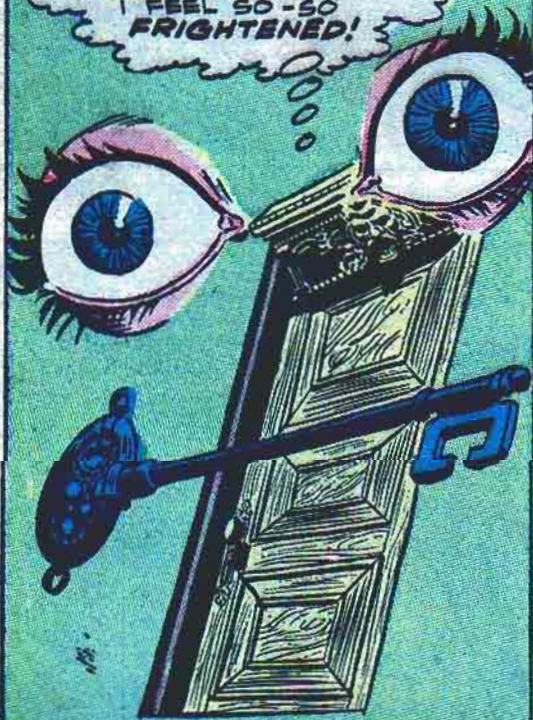
I'LL BE BACK FROM CHICAGO TOMORROW MORNING, DEAR... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF -

I'LL MISS YOU TERRIBLY, DARLING!...



MOMENTS AFTER HER HUSBAND LEAVES, VIVIAN LOOKS UP AT THE LOCKED DOOR TO THE ATTIC...

I FOUND THE KEY TO THE ATTIC... MAYBE I CAN FIX IT UP INTO A DEN! - STRANGE... I WONDER WHY I FEEL SO - SO FRIGHTENED!



MEANWHILE, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM HIS HOME...

I WOULD FORGET MY BILLFOLD! - NOW WHERE DID I LEAVE IT?... OH, YES - ON MY DESK...



AND IN THE ATTIC, VIVIAN HAS MADE A TERRIFYING DISCOVERY -

NO! IT CAN'T BE!... I'VE NEVER POSED FOR THAT! AND BOB HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT JACK LOOKED LIKE! THIS - THIS IS HORRIBLE! I'M AFRAID - TERRIBLY AFRAID!...





SO... NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH!-

BOB!



NOT BOB - JULIAN!... JULIAN DANIELS!- YOU SEE, WHATEVER I PAINTED CAME TRUE, THAT'S HOW I KILLED JACK! -- HOW I TRANSFORMED MYSELF FROM AN UGLY CREATURE TO WHAT I AM NOW!

YOU'RE MAD! I HATE YOU!



I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!

ARRRRR



AS VIVIAN BRUSHES OVER THE PAINTING WITH THE TURPENTINE-SOAKED RAG, JULIAN SCREAMS WITH UNHOLY PAIN ...

ARRGHH... I'LL KILL YOU!-



OHMM... ARRR... GASP MY FACE... M-H FACE!- THE PAIN ...

FRANTICALLY, VIVIAN GRABS A PALETTE KNIFE AND PLUNGES IT INTO THE PAINTING!- JULIAN CLUTCHES HIS HEART AND TOPPLES OVER...



AGHHH...

THUD

AND SO, DEATH CAME TO JULIAN DANIELS -- UGLIER NOW THAN HE EVER WAS!!



The End