

BORIS KARLOFF



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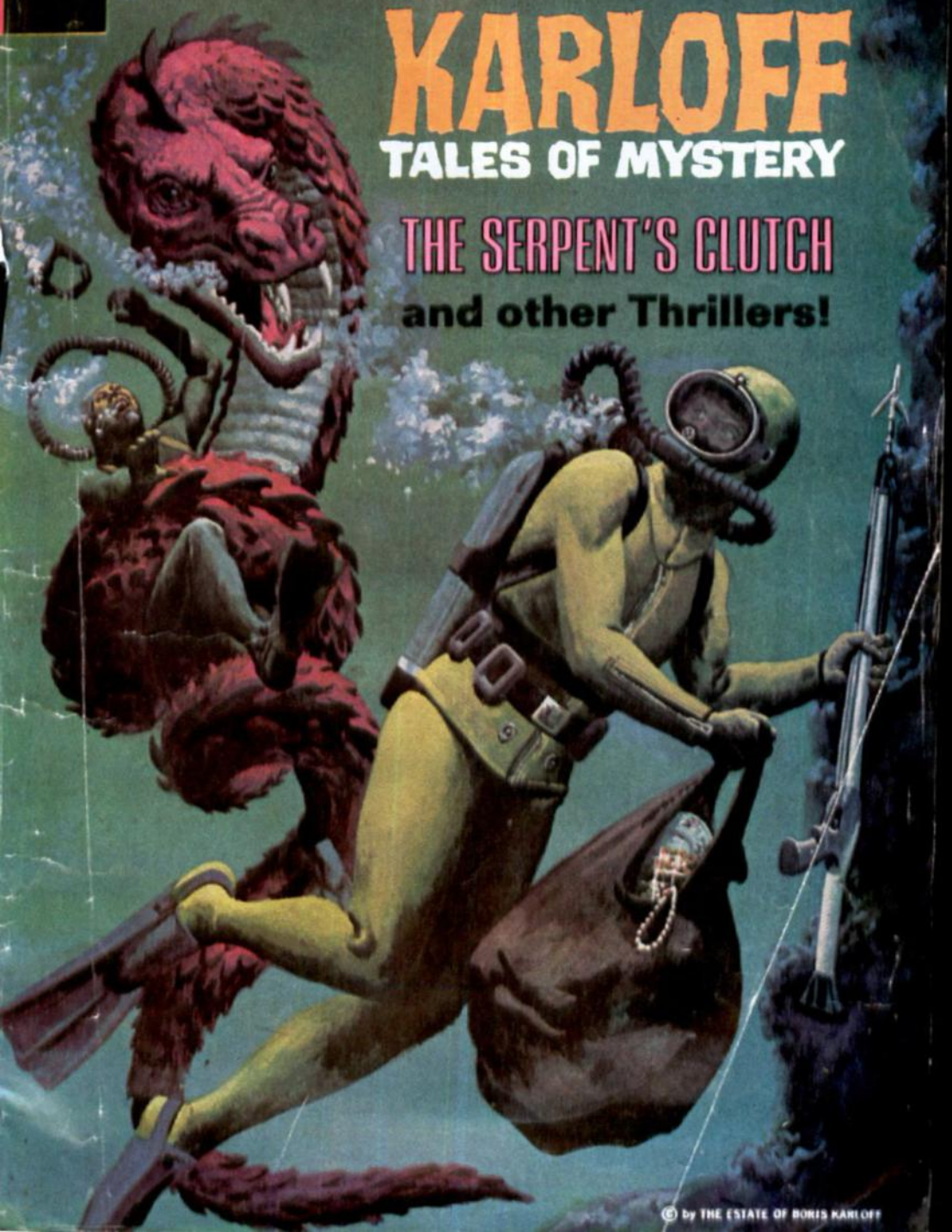
BORIS

KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY

THE SERPENT'S CLUTCH

and other Thrillers!



**BORIS
KARLOFF**
Tales of Mystery

THE SERPENT'S CLUTCH



AMID STRANGE SURROUNDINGS, TWO DIVERS REACH THE CLIMAX OF A LONG SEARCH...

NO MATTER HOW
WEALTHY THIS WILL
MAKE US, I WISH
WE HAD NOT COME!

THAT CRAZY
BILLY-- HE'S
STILL SCARED!
DOES HE
REALLY THINK
WE'RE GOING
TO RUN INTO--



...THE GUARDIAN
SERPENT!

SO IT WASN'T A LEGEND AFTER ALL--
THERE **WAS** ALL THAT WEALTH AND
THE SERPENT TO GUARD IT! WHAT DOES
A MAN LIKE HANK FOSTER DO WHEN A
FORTUNE IS WITHIN HIS GRASP? COMMIT
MURDER--IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!

WHEN HANK AND HIS PARTNER, BILLY CHANG, FIRST DISCUSSED THIS JUNKET...

...AND IT IS SOMEWHERE IN THESE WATERS THAT THE LEGENDARY ISLAND OF WI CHIU IS SAID TO HAVE SUNK TOGETHER WITH ITS **VAST** TREASURE!

THEN THAT'S WHERE WE START SEARCHING, BILLY-BOY!

BUT, HANK, THE LEGEND ALSO STATES THAT A VILE **SERPENT** GUARDS WI CHIU AGAINST **ALL** WHO WOULD TRESPASS!

COME ON, PARTNER! YOU DON'T STILL BELIEVE THOSE SCARY STORIES YOUR GRAND-DADDY USED TO TELL!

I **KNOW** IT'S FOOLISH -- BUT I'VE LEARNED NOT TO SCOFF AT THE TALES OF OUR ANCESTORS!

WELL, IT'S TIME YOU STARTED **UN-LEARNING!**

TOMORROW, WE BEGIN SEARCHING FOR WI CHIU!

AFTER MONTHS OF FRUITLESS DIVING OFF THE ASIAN COAST...

IT'S TRUE! WI CHIU **REALLY** EXISTS! AND LOOK AT THIS FORTUNE!

NOW, AS BILLY CHANG STRUGGLES VAINLY AGAINST THE STRANGULATING COILS...

ONE SHAFT BETWEEN THE EYES AND Slinky's A GONER!



SOME
DAYS
LATER...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
SINCE I WENT DIVING
JUST FOR SPORT!

MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY MYSELF
NOW, BECAUSE I'LL BE A BUOY
MAN, *ONCE* MY NEW VESSELS
ARE READY FOR--



HUH--?



NO-- IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I'M *THOUSANDS* OF MILES
FROM WI CHIU!



AND AS HE FLAILS WILDLY
WITH HIS ONLY WEAPON...

ALL
THAT
BLACK-
NESS...
CAN'T
SEE--



AN OCTOPUS!
I ONLY
IMAGINED
IT WAS THE
SERPENT!



BUT EVEN MORE WEIRD EVENTS AWAIT HIM IN THE DAYS AHEAD...

TH-THOSE WEEDS CAME
AT ME JUST LIKE THE
SERPENT!

NO MATTER *WHERE*
I SWIM, SOME-
THING COMES
AFTER ME!

THAT ELECTR-
EEL SEEMS
HAVE THE SE-
PENT'S FACE

AND SO, HANK FOSTER IS DRIVEN
TO A GRIM DECISION...

GOT TO STAY AWAY FROM
THE OCEAN! IT WON'T
BE EASY--BUT AT
LEAST I'LL KEEP
ALIVE!

BEFORE LONG, AS
BOREDOM STARTS TO
TAKE ITS TOLL...

EVEN A LITTLE
FIGHTANK STIRS
UP MEMORIES!

TROPICAL FISH

WELL, WHY
SHOULDN'T
IT? THE
SEA... DIVING
... WAS MY
WHOLE--

WHAT--?

EVEN ON LAND IT COMES AFTER ME!
KEEP IT AWAY! IT'S TRYING
TO KILL ME!



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