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# HORROR

FROM THE

# CRYPT

# OF FEAR

FEATURING...



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

The Only All HORROR



Fanzine!!! No.1

## YE EDITOR'S CORONER



Welcome Horrorheads to the very first issue of "Horror from the Crypt of Fear"!!! We hope to bring you many nauseating issues filled with all the mayhem, gore, disgust, and twisted horror from those wonderful EC comics. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sam Kingston editor in chief. (or idiot in chief depending on who you ask!) When Tom, Ed, and myself got together and decided to print this fanzine we all agreed that we would like to convey how much fun and enjoyment we get from the EC comics horror line. Our objective is refasten that droll cup onto every EC fan out there and just have some fun discussing these horrible comic gems. We are not attempting to make any profit on this publication and our subscription charge will be simply to cover mailing and printing costs. We plan to print 4-6 issues annually and a 6 issue subscription will be \$8.00. So if you can dig down deep, we'll dig deep into the long lost grave of our EC friends CK, OW, & VK. (What a garbage pitch that was!!) Every issue we'll be printing correspondence from you, the EC Horror fans, and some features on HBO's Crypt, Panel Puzzlers, a feature asking you to tell us which EC story the panel is from (for BIG prizes!!!), Lifeless Lists, a feature where you send us your critical opinions on which EC's are your favorites, a collectors information page as well as a classified section, plus many other horrible items of dread and disgust. We're always open for new ideas that you as a reader may have since this fanzine is not based on a marketing strategy. So let's have some fun!!! The idea is to be about as serious about ourselves as EC's ghoulunatics are. So don't look for too many history lessons (maybe a few) and send us your letters, suggestions, and (do we have to say it?) your checks. We are completely non-profit so if you'd like to make a contribution of any kind we will gladly (but not greedily) accept. Remember we're also in need of photos of your own EC collectables as well of lots of letters. We'll try to print all the mail we receive as our budget allows, which is up to you, the Fanaddicts!! Well, lets have some fun!!!!

# HORROR FROM THE CRYPT OF FEAR



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David Hall



## THE OLD WENCH'S STENCH

Welcome fellow fiends to my festering stench!!!! Can you imagine that editor calling me the Old Wench???? Flattery will get you nowhere!!!! A real man would send a few severed fingers and some black roses!!!! I've been receiving some wonderful letters from fanaddicts from all walks of death. Here's an "Ample Sample":

Dear Old Witch:

I've been collecting ECs for many years (please see my enclosed checklist) and I'm anxious to see your new fanzine. If you include any supplemental information about EC collectors, I'm a writer and editor. I edited the hardcover book "Diner Guys", (I'm sure you saw the movie "Diner"). My first novel "The Block" will be published in hardcover by Borderline Press in July. By your definition of horror some EC war stories are sufficiently chilling that they still make you gasp at the stark finality of war. There will always be wars, and ECs war theme treatment is truly timeless. Check out "Pigs Of The Roman Empire" (TFT 21) or "Hill 203" (TFT 24) for examples!!!

Bob Litwin  
Baltimore, MD

Thanks for the chilling checklist Bob. Take note CK &  
VK: Bob has more Haunt of Fear than any other horror title!!  
That's got to say something huh!!! Other EC fans can use this checklist for there own collections.

Deer Old Wench:

My friend who you will be glad to hear has a boil on his butt he says that you are going to be in a new fanazin called **Haunt from the Horror of Crypt** and that if I write and tell you a real good pun you will make my most longest heartfeltedest dream come true and send me a copy of the real original **Tales from the Crypt** no. 1! Oh boy!! So just exactly what is a fanazin and a pun anyway?

Your budy,  
Tod von Basel

Well Tod, it's good to see there are other people out there who spell as well as our editor!!!! Crypt No. 1!!!! How dare you mention that maggot mag!!!! (no compliment intended!!) It's bad enough that I have to tolerate that Kreepy Crypt guy across the page from me!!!! His muck mag has only one redeeming quality: ME!!!! Without the stories from my creepy cauldron he would be nothing!!!!

Well, got to get back to tonight's death dish on the cauldron: Putrid Pig's Foot Pudding!!!! Mmmm, mmm, bad!!! So in the meantime, send me thousands of letters to our fanzine, **HORROR FROM THE CRYPT OF FEAR**. And remember: Dismemberment has its privileges!!!!

Send Letters To:  
The Old Wench's Stench  
30 Ivy Drive  
Midvale, Utah 84047

# THE CRYPT KREEPER'S CORONER

Send Letters To:  
The Crypt Kreeper's Coroner  
30 Ivy Drive  
Midvale, Utah 84047



Welcome Kiddies!!! Can you smell that putrid stench across the page??? Ecchhhh!!! Smells worse than the guy I had for dinner!!! Anyway, now that you're reading the letter column of mine, CK, superstar of stage and scream, lets see what you festering fanaddicts have to say:

Dire Crypt Creeper:

I wonder if you could help me to enter the high paying world of comic book writing and if you know a good artist who can be counted on to draw only exactly what I tell him for free? I have some wonderful ideas for new superheroes, I have one of those brain which is allus getting filled up with Big Ideas before I can find anywhere to download the old ones. My friend who you will be glad....(oh forget it) says I am in danger of using up all my memory bytes and if that happens I am going to start losing important pieces of information, such as which channel the television is on when it is turned to on. So as you can see it is very imperative that I download all of whatever it was I was just talking about when I was talking about it.

Oh yes. I have invented these new superheroes and wonder if you could sell them to some publisher for me? My best character is called the Orange Olympian. He has an orange suits, oranges in his utility belt, and oranges under the eyeslits in his face mask. He is somewhat mysterious. His secret identity is a pavement possum, a motley mendicant, a person of the homeless persuasion, in fact a panhandler in the University District of Seattle, and when he has to change into costume, he has to use the restroom of the Jack in the Box, because the punks keep throwing him out of the alley. What his super powers are is a closely guarded secret, but they don't work against banana.

His worst enemy is Harold the Pedestrian. His super power is, cars have to stop for him! Together they spend many happy hours kicking each other in the crotch and then whining about their sad love lives. Do you think I have any future? I'll be waiting for one.

Becker Staus

Ecchhhh!!! Superheroes??? Ecchh again!!! Where's the editor? I thought this fanzine was for "horror" not "heroes". I hope Becker will see the dark and pick up one of my issues.

Well kiddies, you better get some letters off to me before I eat you for dinner!!! Don't forget to watch my shows (I have 2 shows and OW & VK don't even have one!!!) and keep this in mind: Crypt is THEE most deadly of all ECs!!!

# THE ASSAULT KEEPER'S KLUB

HAUNT OF FEAR	CRYPT OF TERROR	VAULT OF HORROR	CRIME SUBSTITUTIONS	SUCK STORIES	WIERD SCIENCE	WIERD FANTASY	WIERD SCIENCE FANTASY	TWO CISTER TALES	FRONT LINE COMBAT	ACES HIGH	PIRACY	TASK GUY TO DOING MY MAD
17	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
19	14	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
20	15	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
21	16	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
22	17	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
23	18	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
24	19	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
25	20	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
26	21	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
27	22	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
28	23	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
29	24	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
30	25	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
31	26	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
32	27	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
33	28	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
34	29	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
35	30	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
36	31	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
37	32	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
38	33	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
39	34	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
40	35	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
41	36	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
42	37	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
43	38	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
44	39	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
45	40	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
46	41	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
47	42	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
48	43	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
49	44	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
50	45	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
51	46	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
52	47	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
53	48	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
54	49	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
55	50	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
56	51	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
57	52	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
58	53	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
59	54	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
60	55	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
61	56	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
62	57	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
63	58	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
64	59	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
65	60	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
66	61	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
67	62	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
68	63	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
69	64	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
70	65	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
71	66	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
72	67	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
73	68	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
74	69	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58
75	70	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
76	71	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
77	72	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
78	73	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
79	74	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
80	75	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
81	76	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
82	77	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
83	78	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
84	79	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
85	80	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
86	81	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
87	82	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
88	83	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
89	84	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73
90	85	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
91	86	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
92	87	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
93	88	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77
94	89	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
95	90	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
96	91	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
97	92	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
98	93	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
99	94	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83
100	95	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84



The Assault Keeper's Klub 30 Ivy Drive  
Midvale Utah 84047

Welcome, victims to the Assault World!! That editor and his dreadful names! Oh well, I guess it's better than The Salt Keeper!!! Anyway, send me some letters or I'll use my Klub on you!!!! To the left is Bob's checklist as mentioned in OW's column. Notice he has more Vault than Crypt CK!! So there Mr. star of stage and scream! Also to the left a letter from Raj Pillai, a fan-addict from Albany, NY. Many people believe that Harry Harrison drew "The Man Who Was Death" but no certain proof is available. You should read more Vault too!!! RC's #7 contains my classic favorite "Sinkhole". Send lots of letters to my Klub or I'll have to use it on you!!!

I saw your letter in Vault #7, and was very happy to hear that there is a fanzine being introduced to EC fan-addicts.

I have been an EC fan for 3 years. I bought my first EC comic in 1991. It was a 64 page comic reprint of The Haunt of Fear #4. The only reason I bought that comic book was HBO's Tales from the Crypt. I really loved it after I read it, especially the Old Witch's Grim Fairy Tale. A couple of weeks later, I went to the comic book shop and bought some more 64 page EC reprints. I really liked them.

I am not sure when but I bought the 32 page CRYPT #1 when it came out and am glad that I have it. I went on collecting ECs and I now have most of the sci-fi titles and especially the three horror titles. Some of my favorite horror stories are Ghost Ship from CRYPT #3, The Curse of the Arnold Clan from CRYPT #6, Contract for Death from CRIME #2, and the first EC story I ever read NOBODY THERE from the RCP 64 page reprint issue of HAUNT #4.

Please send me a fanzine because I am very interested in hearing from fellow EC fan-addicts. My favorite artists are Feldstein, Craig, Ingels and that guy who drew The man who was death in CRYPT #1. This is the first time I am writing a 'real' letter to any magazine or comic book. I will be very happy if I see it in your fanzine.

I watch HBO's Tales from the Crypt all the time, but only like some of them because the others go too far or show unnecessary things. I very much agree with Joey Marchese because the new Crypt-keeper cartoon is not doing as good as it should be doing. An example is the episode of Cave Man. They changed the story so much. I do like the HBO show because it has different directors doing the job and it is different every time. Now, FOX is airing the show after editing it, which some fans will be happy to hear.

# PANEL PUZZLERS



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6.

Welcome to Panel Puzzlers!!! Send us the correct story and issue from which each panel is taken from. The first totally correct answers we receive will win a free 1-year subscription. We'll print the answers and the winner in our next issue. Good luck!!! (Send answers to the usual horrible address)

# HBO CRYPT

Here's a list of HBO's episodes of Tales from the Crypt. We're obviously missing episodes so if you can help us complete this list drop our editor a line. No questions asked!!! We'll try to publish a complete list in one of our next issues. So if you can help us out, we're dying to hear from you!!! We'd also like the exact sequence in which they were aired on HBO. Here's what we've got: (in no particular order)

The Thing from the Grave (TftC 22)	Carrion Death (SS 9)
House of Horror (HoF 15 or TftC 21)	Cutting Cards (TftC 32)
Ventriloquist's Dummy (TftC 28)	Mournin' Mess (TftC 38)
Came the Dawn (SS 9)	Dead Wait (VoH 23)
Collection Completed (VoH 25)	Television Terror (HoF 17)
Creep Course (HoF 23)	This'll Kill You! (CS 23)
The Trap (SS 18)	Yellow (TFT 41)
Loved to Death (TftC 25)	The Switch (TftC 45)
All Through the House (VoH 35)	As Ye Sow (SS 14)
Kamen's Kalamity (TftC 31)	Maniac at Large (CS 27)
My Brother's Keeper (SS 16)	Well Cooked Hams (TftC 27)
Curiosity Killed (TftC 36)	Showdown (TFT 37)
Undertaking Parlor (TftC 39)	Easel Kill Ya! (VoH 31)
The Reluctant Vampire (VoH 20)	Seance (VoH 25)
On a Dead Man's Chest (HoF 12)	Lower Berth (TftC 33)
Three's a Crowd (SS 11)	Halfway Horrible (VoF 26)
Two For the Show (CS 17)	Food For Thought (TftC 40)
Forever Ambergris (TftC 44)	Split Second (SS 4)
Split Personality (VoH 30)	Strung Along (VoH 33)
The Sacrifice (SS 10)	Deadline (SS 12)
Death of Some Salesmen (HoF 15)	Beauty Rest (VoH 35)
The New Arrival (HoF 25)	The Secret (HoF 24)
For Cryin Out Loud! (SS 15)	What's Cookin? (HoF 12)
Fitting Punishment (VoH 16)	Top Billing (VoH 39)
Werewolf Concerto (VoH 16)	Spoiled (HoF 26)
Oils Well That Ends Well (TftC 34)	4-sided Triangle (SS 17)
The Man Who Was Death (CoT 17)	Dead Right (TftC 37)
People Who Live in Brass Hearses (VoH 27)	
Judy, You're Not Yourself Today (TftC 25)	
None But the Lonely Heart (TftC 33)	
Abra Cadaver (?????)	

Are there more???????????????????? Write us (or wrong us) at:

Horror from the Crypt of Fear c/o Sam Kingston  
 30 Ivy Drive  
 Midvale, Utah 84047  
 Attn: Ed Yates

# CRITICAL CRYPT

by Tom Pench

After seeing another season of HBO's Crypt wind down I presented Sam with an idea about writing a page reviewing some episodes. He was a little apprehensive at first, but after three fingers, two toenails, and his tongue was removed, he seemed to change his mind!!! I will try to review about three episodes per issue (in no particular order) until the new season of episodes start. I will usually also try to pick the episodes HBO either enhanced or destroyed and leave out the episodes that were of average quality. If you have a difference of opinion or any comments you'd better write us!!!! Here we go:



**SPLIT PERSONALITY (VoH 30)** Remember Vault 30?? It has that wonderful subway cover where for some reason everyone seems to stay an "arm-length" away from one particular passenger. But who's to say?? Maybe those people got on the wrong subway train by mistake (not realizing it was a cannibals moving meatlocker!!!). Am I off the subject or what!! Anyway, Split Personality was directed by Joel Silver with a pretty decent screenplay by a guy by the name of Fred Dekker. The story originally drawn by Johnny Craig (nice art throughout) was very well duplicated except for a few minor parts. Joe Pesci was wonderful in the role of Ed King, the hustling con man who pulls off the ultimate con on two gorgeous twin sisters. But the sisters are a little brighter than he anticipates and his con turns out to be only "half" as good as he hoped for. I think HBO did an excellent job on this episode. In all TftC's the producers always have top-notch actors and actresses plus a very large budget which generally is the key to good reproduction of an already outstanding story. Some variations are made when the stories become screenplays and for modernizing some of the stories it is necessary. But I think a good screenplay writer can recognize that these stories for the most part should be left alone. Split Personality could have been left alone. But in this particular episode the story line was followed fairly closely. I rate this story (on our scale of 1-5) a 4.25. One of the better episodes.



**CURIOSITY KILLED... (TftC 36)** Taxi...Take me to the coroner of Blood & Vine...I mean Vein street!!! Another Jack Davis masterpiece cover!!! This story stars Margot Kidder and Kevin McCarthy (an underrated outstanding actor) and was directed by Joel Silver. The screenplay by Stanley Ralph Ross (had to get the Ralph part in there because it kind of fits his screenplay!!!) totally misses the mark. While Stan created a wonderful story, he has no business calling this Curiosity Killed!!! My curiosity was killed immediately when I found very little relevance between this story and the one originally in No. 36. Stan's story is somewhat difficult to follow but very clever. However, it has very little to do with the original story. For this reason I rate this episode a 3.5 with an F- for failure to stick to an already good story.



**CUTTING CARDS (TftC 32)** Ahh, the classic killer elephant cover. Have you figured out how I remember these stories?? Cutting Cards is one of the classic episodes that must be seen by all true EC fans. This episode starred Lance Henriksen and Kevin Tighe in the roles of Gus Forney and Lou Crebis. They are what you might consider to be psychopathic gamblers who have kind of a love hate relationship. I saw this episode before ever reading the story so I'm in the habit of calling this story "Chop Poker". Outstanding screenplay by Mae Woods and Walter Hill; very little variation from the original story. A very on the edge of your seat and even possibly a "wet your pants" episode!! Directed by Walter Hill, I rate this a 5 out of 5!!!

Comments??? Do hate my opinions?? Do you agree with me?? Send your reviews and we'll try to publish them in our letters column. Somehow I'm sure you can find our address somewhere in this issue. Make sure you put your letters to the attention of Tom Pench (The Vault Keeper). Scream ya' later!!!

# COLLECTION COMPLETED!

by Sam Kingston

Here's our list of EC collectables essential to the hard-core EC fanaddicts. Some of these may be relatively easy to locate while other items may be next to impossible to even find. Please be aware all items must either be related or have something to do with the horror titles. If you know of more items than we do, please write (or right) us!!!

ANY ORIGINAL EC's (Don't forget to visit your bank VAULT or CRYPT. The prices can be truly FEARful!!!)  
EAST COAST COMIX EC reprint series (1-12?)  
GLADSTONE reprints (HoF 1 & 2, VoH 1-6, TftC 1-6)  
RUSS COCHRAN 64 pg. reprints (HoF 1-5, VoH 1-5, TftC 1-6)  
RUSS COCHRAN reprints In chronilogical order including SS & CS. Still yet to be completed so subscribe so you don't miss an issue and so Russ can keep 'em coming!!!  
HORROR COMICS FROM THE 50's from Nostalgia Press I must say this is my personal favorite. No longer in print & a little difficult to find. But more than worth the effort. We'll profile this wonderful book in a future issue.  
THE COMPLETE EC CHECKLIST Another long out of print publication but a must for EC fanaddicts. Also a great source for what's on the list your reading right now!  
RUSS COCHRAN'S EC PORTFOLIO SERIES Issues 1-6. Very large (11x17) black and white produced from the original art. Very out of print and VERY beautiful!!!  
EC SCULPTURES OF CK, OW, & VK These are real neat and a must for a true collector. C! ailable this fall from Graphiti Productions. More details in our next issue!!!

A HAUNT OF FEARS by MARTIN BARKER You won't find this one in many bookstores in the entire country!!! Try the Tattered Cover in Denver, CO. I mail ordered mine from them. This book is about the crusade against comics during the McCarthy era. For horror comic scholars only!

RUSS COCHRAN'S HARDBACK SERIES These contain the entire run of each EC title in beautiful slipcase boxes. For someone with a little more to spend than a few bucks a month, but unable to truly afford the originals, this is a good way to go. Black and white interiors with beatiful color covers. Another lovely example of Russ's love for ECs and his ability to publish high quality EC comics.

RUSS COCHRAN'S EC CLASSICS 1-11. Color reprints on nicer and larger paper with selected stories from the particular title. I don't think I need to say anything more about how fine Russ's work truly is.

WILLIAM GAINES FILE COPIES OF ORIGINAL EC's These are available from Russ but only a few issues are left. Long ago Bill Gaines put 12 copies of each EC issue away and Russ purchased them before his death. These are THE finest originals in exist-

ence and I am the proud owner of 3 issues myself. But beware!!! The price of owning Bill Gaines personal file copies is not for EC collectors on heart medication!!! But the elation of owning them can sooth the soul!!!

BALLANTINE PAPERBACK SERIES These gems were produced in the mid sixties and I've only found one; The Vault of Horror. Also in existence are The Autumn People (Ray Bradbury stories) and Tales from the Crypt.

MONSTER TIMES NO.10 This newspaper type magazine featured an entire issue on EC comics when the Tales from the Crypt film was released back in 1972 (22 years ago!!!). A real neat issue including a big poster of Crypt No. 38 cover.

Sorry, but you'll just have to wait until next issue for more collectables. We've just scratched the surface of a multitude of items. We'll be dying to hear from you about your collectables. Until then, my fiendish friends, here's blood in your eye!!! EH HEHEHEHEEEEEWWW!!!

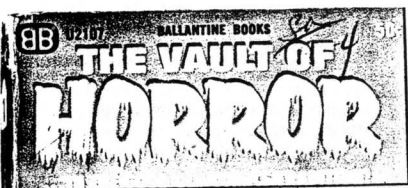


Photo of Ballantine's Vault of Horror. Pub. in 1965, it features the following stories:  
Starlight, Starbright  
Last Respects  
The Trophy  
Curiosity Killed  
The Basket  
Fed Up  
Wish You Were Here  
The Craving Grave



# AN EC MEMORY

The following article written by Russ Cochran, the man keeping ECs alive for all through his wonderful reprints, was the forward for EC Portfolio No. 1. Love is the magic!!!

*I grew up in a small town in Missouri, Before Television. Before Television, our too-long days and too-short nights were spent in what was then the usual way . . . playing, swimming, catching lightning bugs . . . things like that. And as nice as all those things were, Before Television, there was still an itch to be scratched . . . the same escapist urge that still bothers men and boys . . . and the ways for me to scratch that itch consisted of two theaters (for a while we had three), a library with a few Edgar Rice Burroughs and Bomba books, and of course comic books. I started reading comic books when I was about four and read them ravenously until about 1950, when I was thirteen. Then, for some reason, my interest in comics diminished, until one day in late 1951 when I happened upon my first EC. So I got the EC fever, which has afflicted so many of us. I scoured all my friends' collections for back issues and started buying ECs off the newsstand. I even put a lid and a padlock on a strong wooden box, and there we kept the precious ECs. When the announcement came that the EC Fan-Addict Club was being formed, I rounded up a handful of friends and we all joined and formed what must have been the first chapter of the Club. Our chapter dues were 10c per month, which we used to order subscriptions to all the EC titles. Naturally, as president, I was Keeper of the Goods, and the club's ECs were kept in the same box as our older ECs . . . so to distinguish between them we wrote COCHRAN on the covers of all our own ECs.*

*The other members could read the ECs only at my house during certain arranged hours, but of course my brothers and I could (and did) read them anytime. I can still recall the thrill of going to the mailbox and seeing that sturdy manila envelope shining out at me, then carefully sliding out a new Haunt of Fear or Weird Science. I would hide it until I had read it completely before anyone else knew it had arrived, and my brother did the same if he got to it first. There was one time when we were out of town that my cousin Davie came to visit. He had EC fever too, but what he didn't have was the combination to the padlock on the EC box, so he broke open the bottom in a desperate attempt to get at them . . . the temptation was just too much for him, we guessed. But we never trusted Davie around the EC box again, and that was the only time the box was ever violated.*

*There was a certain particular kind of rainy Saturday morning that used to happen occasionally, when everything inside told you it was not a morning to be up and about, so we would pop popcorn, open cold Dr Peppers, and stay in bed, reading ECs all morning. I guess we would have stayed there all day except the Saturday matinee always started at one in the afternoon. Today, I still have the old wooden EC box here in my room, but our old ECs are gone. I traded them away long ago and replaced them with mint copies. I should have kept them. Those old dogeared ECs, with popcorn and Dr Pepper spots and COCHRAN written on the covers, are undoubtedly still floating around out there in comic-book land, being enjoyed again and again.*

*Looking back, it was mostly the stories, and not the art, that first attracted me to ECs. The art was noticeably better, but it was the stories that first got me hooked. As time went on, the stories became (with a few brilliant exceptions) more predictable, and I slowly became an art freak.*

*What was the magic ingredient that made ECs so special? In a word, it was love. Behind all those grisly horror stories and weird science fiction stories there was a group of men who very obviously loved what they were doing. In those few golden years of EC, starting in 1951, they were all in the same groove. Bill Gaines and Al Feldstein would brainstorm a new story every day, then Al would write it, and then it was given to one of the EC artists to illustrate. So while Bill and Al would devote no more than a day or so to the average EC story, the artist might devote as much as several weeks of his time to a single story. The EC artists, each with his own distinctive style, virtually brought the stories to life. They enjoyed their work, putting everything possible into it, always trying to knock each other out, and it was this spirit of friendly competition that helped produce, for just a few years, a high point in the history of comic art.*

June, 1971  
Adel, Iowa

*Russ Cochran*

# LIFELESS LISTS

## The Ten Most Disturbing EC Horror Stories

by Sam Kingston

The scariest stories are the ones that could (or have) happend!!!

1. The October Game (A Ray Bradbury Adaptation) SS 9
2. Blind Alleys TftC 46
3. All Through The House VoH 35
4. Came The Dawn SS 9
5. The Neat Job SS 1
6. Horror We? How's Bayou? HoF 17
7. Taint' The Meat...It's The Humanity! TftC 32
8. Carrion Death SS 9
9. With All The Trappings! VoH 24
10. Poetic Justice! Hof 12



## Top Ten EC "Gross-Out" Horror Stories

by Tom Pench

1. Foul Play HoF 19
2. Accidents & Old Lace TftC 43
3. Taint' The Meat...It's The Humanity! TftC 32
4. Strop! You're Killing Me! TftC 37
5. The Neat Job SS 1
6. Split Second SS 4
7. How Green Was My Alley TftC 36
8. Numbskull HoF 28
9. An Ample Sample VoH 32
10. Carrion Death SS 9



Got a Lifeless  
List of your  
Own?? Write us!!

## The Ten Best EC Horror Covers

by Ed Yates

1. Haunt of Fear 18 (Ingels)
2. Vault of Horror 18 (Craig)
3. Tales from the Crypt 24 (Feldstein)
4. Vault of Horror 35 (Craig)
5. Haunt of Fear 25 (Ingels)
6. Any Jack Davis Crypt Cover!
7. Any Graham Ingels Haunt Cover!
8. Shock Suspenstories 4 (Wood)
9. Shock Suspenstories 7 (Feldstein)
10. All EC horror covers I didn't mention!!!

# AN EC FIRST LOOK

by Sam Kingston

I'll never ever forget my first exposure to EC. I saw HBO's "Tales from the Crypt" in the spring of 1990 when they were running episodes like "Top Billing" and "Abra Cadaver" and I really enjoyed the twisting plots. But as far as reading the comics, I never pursued where these wonderful plots were coming from. I had just started working for the post office (where I still work) and they were keeping me real busy work-long hours 6 days a week. Then in July of 1991 I was rock climbing in the mountains and had a horrible fall. I slipped and fell several hundred feet crushing a vertebrae in my back, rupturing my knee, and just generally destroying most of my body. After a month in the hospital I was finally allowed to go home. By September I was walking on crutches out in stores and even driving around. One day while grocery shopping, crutching along at a record breaking pace, I saw a little comic rack. Normally I pay no attention to comics even though I did collect them when I was very young. But I saw a comic in Ream's grocery store that caught my eye. It read: "Tales from the Crypt presents: The Haunt of Fear". It was Russ Cochran's second issue of his 64 page comics with that wonderful Graham Ingels cover (originally Haunt of Fear 18, the cover featured on the back cover this issue). I was thrilled to see it and threw it in my grocery cart. After arriving home I immediately devoured my first ever EC. I still remember first reading "Pipe Down", "Bedtime Gory", "Pot Shot"(what a story!!!), and "The Black Ferris"(a Ray Bradbury adaptation). I was stunned by the story quality. I was even more stunned to find out that these stories are 40 years old!!! Well, that very same day I called up and ordered my first EC hardback set "Tales from the Crypt". While waiting for it to arrive I scoured the comic stores for ECs. I found the entire Gladstone run and all of the Russ Cochran back issues and spent many hours reading them. In my therapy 2 days before I was to lose my crutches and walk again I reinjured my knee and broke my leg. So I was pretty much in bed most of the time again. But this time I had all those ECs to enjoy! I've never found anything like these comics that I've been so obsessed with. It's almost like being in love. I guess that's why were putting this fanzine out; for all those people like myself who feel the same way about these horrible comics!! After enjoying EC's for almost 4 years now, I've also developed a great appreciation for the quality of the artwork as well as the excellent stories. Graham Ingels and Al Feldstein's art particularly catch my eye. I am extremely thrilled to own a Gaines file copy of my first EC, Haunt of Fear 18. There are few pleasures as enjoyable as collecting and reading ECs.

What's the story behind your first EC discovery??? Write us and who knows maybe we'll publish it in our next issue!!!

# EH EH EH!!!

## ROTting CORPSES Part One by David Hall

Somewhere at the very top of the list of EC's myriad contributions to the literature of our time has to be the genre of the Rotting Corpse story. Oh, y'kno, the ones that come back for revenge. It is true, perhaps, that EC didn't really invent the Rotting Corpse story (hereafter referred to affectionately as the RC's); I have seen them from many other publishers; which a rotting corpse comes back by walking along the ocean bottom, talking to himself the whole time. At least EC's RCs didn't generally talk.

But the RCs from other sources never quite had the elan of EC's. In the early issues, EC's RCs act much like any normal RCs; they claim their victims and that's it; usually both are last seen sinking quietly into quicksand. But EC took the disintegrated cadaver to a higher level than that. They are the Furies of classical myth, and they have a taste for poetic justice. The victims of an EC RC are liable to end up sliced like poker chips, used as headlights and hood ornaments of a car, or incorporated into a blacktop road. Let the punishment fit the crime. The RC is nothing if not aesthetic.

Furthermore, EC just ran the rotting corpses into the ground... rotting corpses till you were sick of the sight of them! I don't in fact have a complete set of the New Trend ECs in front of me; only about 3/4; nevertheless I have found some 33 separate stories featuring them, plus several other that are marginal or related. No other publisher dared come anywhere near this total. (Of course other publishers did have a regular, and easy, guest star EC didn't; the devil! Although deals with the devil and other permutations are common in Pre-Code horror, he simply did not exist in the EC universe. In fact I believe he pops up in only one story -- The Reformers. A science fiction tale!)

Why this obsession? Who can say? EC had lots of universal trademarks and this is just one of them. Perhaps they were easy stories to write. The EC formula emphasized, of course, twist endings. And writing that kind of story resembles the reverse of walking through a labyrinth unwinding a ball of string to find your way out. The twist ending story picks a detail, from out of the confusion and triviality that makes up reality, and emphasizes it until it is implanted in the reader's consciousness, and then resolves the action around it. In fact the great psychological horror writer Fritz Leiber once commented that horror stories were built around objects. This may be going too far, but it is a facet Gaines and Feldstein knew all about.

As the stories progressed, and the reader became familiar with the RC logic, their appearances became more minimal within the stories. They might appear in only a panel or two; might show up carrying a parasol or the evening newspaper; in some of Davis' later RC tales, all that needed to be shown was one decayed hand poking upwards through the ground. The RCs got kinda, well - old - in themselves. Only in the variety of the carnage they wrought did they remain interesting.

I hope someone can be found to assemble a complete list of all the RC stories; and I hope in later issues to examine more of them in detail. For now here's just a quick look at some of the more memorable:

Squash... Anyone? (CRYPT 32) An Ingels masterpiece, set at the circus, in which not only does a murdered lady return but is mounted on the Rotting Corpse of her elephant!

Horror We...How's Bayou? (HAUNT 17) Not only a finalist in the most grotesque punning titles Olympics, another Ingels masterpiece in which the rotting corpses get their limbs and torsos mixed up! (NEC's Tales Too Terrible to Tell, now Terrorology, actually ran a rip-off of this story that was even more ridiculous!)

Graft in Concrete (VAULT 26) A Davis story, filled with his unique characterizations, in which they had guys actually get pounded flat into a blacktop road! (The last panel is a classic!)

Reflection of Death (CRYPT 23) This early Feldstein story is an exotic variant; the protagonist himself is the rotting corpse! Incidentally, have you ever noticed that while 3rd person stories -- i.e. "He did this or that..." -- are the rule, 1st person stories -- "I did this or that" -- are perfectly acceptable; Moby Dick and Huck Finn e.g. -- but 2nd person, "You are doing this or that..." -- are virtually non-existent except in the comics?

We Ain't Got No Body! (VAULT 28) Ingels strikes again with a tale in which the dismembered head, hands and feet (wasn't that a rock band??) come back to eliminate the poolroom that separated them from their other members! Incidentally, for the hard core trivia buff, take a look at the fifth panel on page four -- hasn't Ingels caricatured himself for the drunk? Out of His Head (VAULT 32) In an issue with two RC stories, Davis' depiction of a corpse with a meat-cleaver in his head was considered so shocking it was actually airbrushed out before release, leaving the story virtually incoherent on its original publication! (The second RC story is a sample of a tale that they likely couldn't even have gotten the title past the comics code -- Funeral Disease.)

More later gang -- hm... what is that scraping against my door?

A STRINGY-HAIRED ROTTED WOMAN'S HEAD BOBS TO THE SURFACE...



## CHECKLIST OF E.C.'S "ROTting CORPSE" STORIES

- \$ = zombie story of interest
- \* = marginal or associated interest
- Tales from the Crypt
- \*The Maestro's Hand (#18)
- \*Zombie (#19)
- The Thing from the Sea (#20)
- A Shocking Way to Die (#21)
- The Thing from the Grave (#22)
- \*Reflection of Death (#23)
- \*Squash... Anyone? (#23)
- Scared to Death (#24)
- Squash... Anyone? (#32)
- None but the Lonely Heart (#33)
- \*Busted Marriage (#35)
- The Handler (#36)
- The Craving Grave (#39)
- Four Way Split (#43)

## Vault of Horror

- The Dead Will Return (#13)
- Shady Its Cold Inside (#17)
- Sinkhole (#18)
- Reunion! (#19)
- Staired...in Horror! (#23)
- The Death Wagon (#24)
- \*Seance (#25)
- Kickin' the Gong Around (#25)
- Graft in Concrete (#26)
- \$Till Death... (#28)
- The Chips are Down (#28)
- We Ain't Got Nobody (#28)
- The Mausoleum (#29)
- \*Practical Choke (#30)
- Out of His Head (#32)
- Funeral Disease (#32)
- Together they Lie (#33)
- \*Strung Along (#33)

## Haunt of Fear

- \*The Mummy's Return ("#16" i.e. #2)
- \*The Living Mummy (#4)
- The Man from the Grave (#4)
- A Biting Finish (#5)
- A Strange Undertaking (#6)
- Room for One More (#7)
- All Washed Up (#15)
- Horror We...How's Bayou? (#17)
- Game Washed Out (#27)

## Crime Suspensstories

- Partially Dissolved (#5)
- \*Jury Duty (#6)
- \*Crushed Ice (#24)

# A CRYPTORY LESSON

By Ed Yates

Welcome fiendish Fanaddicts to our history column. We'll try not to bore you to death but provide you with a little history regarding the wonderful EC horror comics. We'll be starting in chronological order of the EC horror comics, beginning first with Tales from the Crypt (which actually started as "The Crypt of Terror"). While there were some issues before The Crypt of Terror which featured some horror stories, (such as Crime Patrol #6, #9, #14, #16, & War Against Crime #10, #11) in this column we will focus strictly on the comics that contained an entire issue of horror stories. The first entire horror issue is Crypt of Terror #17. We will look at some of the other horror stories contained in Shock & Crime Suspensories, Weird Science & Weird Fantasy, Crime Patrol & War Against Crime, etc. in a separate new column that will begin next issue. So keep your screaming to a minimum while in the iron maiden!!!! We'll try to cover every EC horror story ever printed!!!

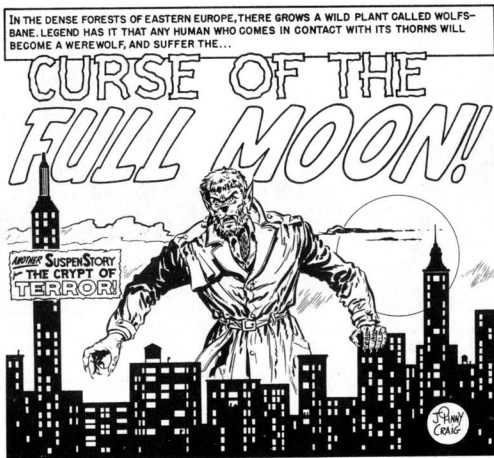
Ahhh Crypt of Terror #17!!! What a screamer!!! The first fully-fledged EC horror comic in their history. Crypt of Terror #17 was published in early 1950 (April-May) and features that wonderful Johnny Craig cover of the Werewolf about to strike on a beautiful blonde babe who is just passing by the discarded newspaper that states "Werewolf Strikes Again, terrorized city awaits next victim". The artwork is typical Craig (clean & precise) but what seems to make this cover is the coloring. Was Marie Severin coloring for EC back then???? Anybody out there know??? The green, yellows, and reds make this cover a particular eye catcher for some reason. The lead-off story is "Death Must Come" drawn by good old Al Feldstein, master writer as well as one of EC's finest artist. The story, about 2 doctors who discover a way to stay young by transplanting a gland (which gland it actually is is unmentioned, darn it!!!) from young victims to stay eternally young. Fredrick has Henry operate on him every few years (Henry is rather reluctant about the whole thing) on Fred so he can keep his youth. Every few years Fredrick comes back for another operation until Henry starts to get too old. I won't spoil the surprise ending for those of you that haven't seen this issue. So go buy it!!! A very good lead-off story for the first horror issue. Next we have a true classic, "The Man Who Was Death". The artist is unknown (anybody out there know who????) on this story. This is the story of Ed Bowman, executioner at the local state prison. Ed gets a little upset when he starts to see numerous criminals getting off scot free from the courts so he starts to take things into his own hands. HBO did an excellent job with this story so make sure you see it. The text in this issue is entitled "Alibi...On Ice" and would be better suited for Crime Suspensories. No horror here!!! The third story entitled "The Corpse Nobody Knew" was drawn by George Roussos.

Once again another story a little more on the crime side rather than anything real horrible. Next is another text entitled "Tell-Tale Marks". Not bad but once again a bit more on the crime side instead of a horrible scare. This is one of the problems I found with some of the earlier issues. While the stories are still good, some of them just aren't true horror. But that changes with Johnny Craig's final story of the issue, "Curse Of The Full Moon". An excellent story of Ralph recounting his story to George of how all the signs he's getting indicate he is a werewolf. Great twist ending for a true horror story. Once again if you haven't read it, you'll have to go pick this one up to fully appreciate the hard EC twist.

Crypt of Terror was a very good first effort for EC. They obviously are beginning the innovation that several companies began to imitate and follow throughout the early fifties. I give this issue a 6 (10 being a flawless issue) and the cover a 7. We'll take a look at Crypt of Terror 18 next issue. Until then kiddies, pleasant screams!!!

P.S.: Remember, questions or comments are always welcome with freshly opened arms!!!

Next Issue  
Crypt of Terror 18



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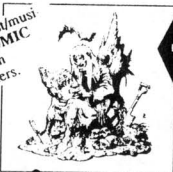
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Video on the '50's comic art scene  
The cover (by artist/musi-  
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the EC artists. It also features discussions on the other "oddball" publishers.

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