

EVER LOVE SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T LOVE YOU? PRETTY PAINFUL, ISN'T IT? WELL, IT'S NOT HALF AS PAINFUL AS BEING...



FOR THE FIRST SCENE OF THIS TOUCHING TALE, LET'S LOOK IN ON THE APARTMENT OF MARGARET SINGER... WHERE A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE EPISODE IS REACHING A CLIMAX...

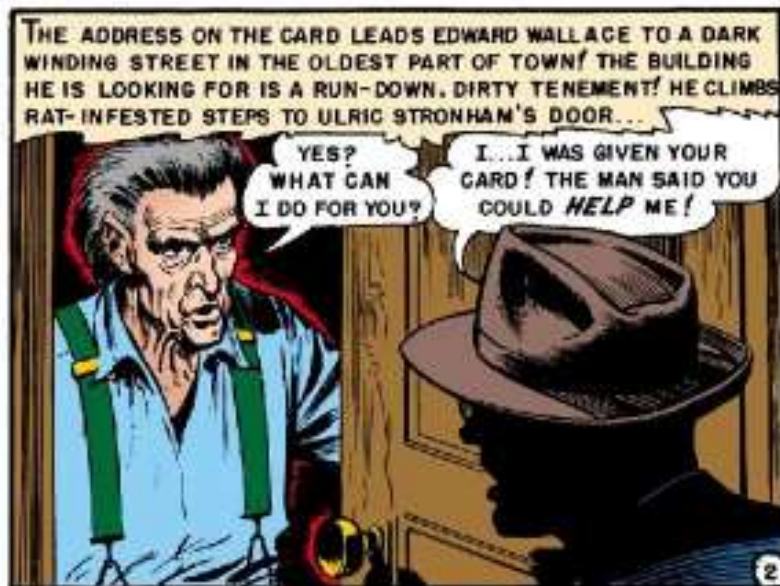
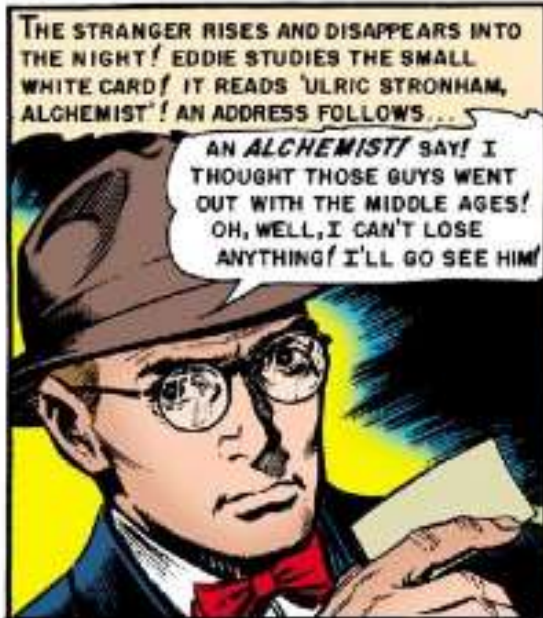


I'M... I'M *SORRY*, EDWARD! I *HAD* TO DO IT! NOW... WILL YOU *PLEASE* GO? AND DON'T *EVER* ANNOY ME AGAIN!

BUT... MARGIE! I'M *MAD* ABOUT YOU! WON'T YOU LET ME TAKE YOU OUT... JUST *ONCE*? *TOMORROW* NIGHT?













EDWARD RUSHES FROM THE WEIRD ROOM... DOWN THE GARBAGE-LADEN STAIRS... AND BACK ACROSS TOWN TO MARGARET'S APARTMENT...

OH, EDWARD! ARE YOU BACK AGAIN? I TOLD YOU...

I... I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE, MARGARET! I'M GOING AWAY!



GOOD! THANK HEAVENS! NOW YOU'LL STOP BOTHERING ME!

I BROUGHT THIS WINE, MARGIE! WILL YOU HAVE JUST ONE DRINK WITH ME... TO WISH ME FAREWELL?



ANYTHING! ANYTHING TO GET RID OF YOU!

GOOD! I'LL POUR IT OUT!



EDDIE POURS THE WINE, AND SECRETLY EMPTIES THE CONTENTS OF THE LOVE POTION INTO MARGIE'S GLASS...

WELL! HERE'S TO YOU, MARGIE! I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!

AND HERE'S TO YOU! GOOD RIDDANCE!



MARGIE DRAINS HER GLASS! EDWARD STARES AT HER... EXPECTANTLY...

WELL! YOU CAN GO, NOW! DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE A DUMMY! WE'VE SAID GOODBYE!

Y--YES! I... GUESS I WILL GO! I... I...

GOLLY! IT DIDN'T WORK!



EDDIE RELUCTANTLY OPENS THE DOOR! MARGIE WATCHES HIM FRIGIDLY! THEN THE COLD LOOK IN HER EYES SOFTENS... SHE SMILES...

OH... YOU BIG, OVERGROWN KID! COME HERE! I'LL KISS YOU GOOD-BYE!

HUH?



MARGIE PECKS AT EDDIE'S PUCKERED LIPS! SUDDENLY SHE GASPS! SHE THROWS HER ARMS AROUND HIS NECK AND KISSES HIM... A LONG... RAPTURIOUS KISS! A KISS OF LOVE...

EDDIE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

OH, MARGIE! MARGIE!





HEH, HEH! YEP! IT WAS JUST LIKE OLD ULRIC, THE ALCHEMIST, SAID! MARGIE *FELL*... HEAD OVER HEELS! EDDIE AND SHE WERE *MARRIED*! SHE *ADORED* HIM... *WORSHIPPED* HIM... *LOVED* HIM... *LOVED* HIM... *LOVED* HIM TILL EDDIE THOUGHT HE WOULD GO *MAD*!



DARLING... DARLING EDDIE! SWEET... HANDSOME... DIVINE EDDIE! OH, HOW I LOVE YOU, EDDIE! OH, HOW...

MARGIE! CUT IT OUT! I'M TRYING TO READ! GO SIT OVER THERE!



MARGIE, SPURNED BY EDDIE, MOVES TO THE CHAIR ACROSS THE ROOM! THERE SHE SITS... SMILING... SMILING AND STARING AT EDDIE...

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DO, MARGIE? MUST YOU SIT AND STARE AT ME?

I LOVE YOU! I HAVE NOTHING IN LIFE TO DO EXCEPT LOVE YOU! YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING... MY...



IT IS LATE THAT SAME NIGHT THAT EDDIE KNOCKS ON ULRIC'S DOOR...

AH! YOU'VE FINALLY COME BACK! I MUST SAY IT TOOK YOU LONGER THAN USUAL! YOU MUST BE A VERY PATIENT MAN! YOU WANT THE *ANTIDOTE*, NO DOUBT?

YES! I CAN'T STAND HER ANY LONGER! SHE CRAWLS ALL OVER ME! SHE'S DRIVING ME *CRAZY*!

HERE! HERE YOU ARE! A FEW DROPS OF THIS AND IT WILL BE ALL OVER! IT'S SWIFT AND SURE! DOESN'T LEAVE ANY TRACE!

IT... IT KILLS HER?



YOU HAVE A *BETTER* METHOD?

N-NO! ONLY... WELL... I HADN'T INTENDED TO *KILL* HER! YOU SAY IT LEAVES NO TRACE? *HOW MUCH*?

*ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!*

WHAT? BUT THE *POTION*...

YES! THE *POTION* IS *CHEAP*! THE *ANTIDOTE* IS *EXPENSIVE*! I *LOSE* MONEY ON THE *POTION*! BUT I *MORE* THAN *MAKE* IT UP ON THE *ANTIDOTE*! AND ANYONE WHO BUYS THE *POTION* ALWAYS BUYS THE *ANTIDOTE*... *SOONER* OR *LATER*! WELL, *YES* OR *NO*?

Y-YES, I GUESS!





AT BREAKFAST THE NEXT MORNING, EDWARD SPILLS THE 'ANTIDOTE' INTO MARGIE'S COFFEE WHILE HER BACK IS TURNED...

OH, DEAR! YOUR TOAST ISN'T READY YET! I'M SORRY, DEAREST!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MARGARET! I LEFT MY WATCH IN THE BATHROOM, ANYWAY!



BUT THOUGHTFUL, EVER-LOVING MARGIE, KNOWING THAT HER DARLING HUSBAND LIKES HIS COFFEE HOT, SWITCHES CUPS... BECAUSE HER'S STEAMS MORE...

COME, DARLING! YOUR COFFEE IS GETTING COLD!

YOU CAN START! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!



BUT MARGIE, THE DEVOTED WIFE, WAITS PATIENTLY FOR EDWARD TO RETURN TO THE TABLE! AND EDWARD DID SO WANT TO AVOID WITNESSING HER... SHALL WE SAY... FINISH...

MMMM! COFFEE'S GOOD THIS MORNING! ISN'T IT?

IS IT, DEAR? OH, I'M SO HAPPY... I... I... EDWARD!



EDWARD SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR AND IS VERY STILL! HE IS QUITE DEAD! SWIFT AND SURE... JUST LIKE ULRIC SAID! THERE IS A SLIGHT SMILE ON HIS FACE...

EDWARD... DARLING! SPEAK TO ME! SPEAK TO ME!



THERE IS A SMILE ON HIS FACE BECAUSE... SOMEWHERE IN THAT UNKNOWN WORLD THAT IS THE HERE-AFTER... AS EDWARD TRUDGES THROUGH THE MIST...

OH, WELL! SO I DRANK THE ANTIDOTE INSTEAD! SO I'M DEAD! AT LEAST I'M RID OF HER!



YES, EDWARD SMILES AS HE MOVES THROUGH THE MIST! BUT THE SMILE IS SHORT-LIVED, FOR...

EDWARD! DARLING! WAIT FOR ME!

THAT... THAT'S MARGIE'S VOICE!



YES! IT IS MARGIE'S VOICE! SHE BURSTS THROUGH THE MIST, RUSHES UP TO EDWARD, AND SMOTHERS HIM WITH KISSES...

OH, DARLING! WHEN YOU DIED, I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO ON WITHOUT YOU, SO I COMMITTED SUICIDE! NOW, WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOR ETERNITY!

OH... NO... NO...!



YES! YES! SHE'S RIGHT, EDWARD! BUT DON'T WORRY! MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO ULRIC STRONHAM AGAIN! PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T BET ON IT! I DON'T THINK HE AND YOU ARE HEADED FOR THE SAME PLACE!

OH, BY THE WAY! MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED ABOUT SUBSCRIBING TO TALES FROM THE CRYPT! FOR THIS INFORMATION, READ MY COLUMN, THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S GORNER!

