

GOLD

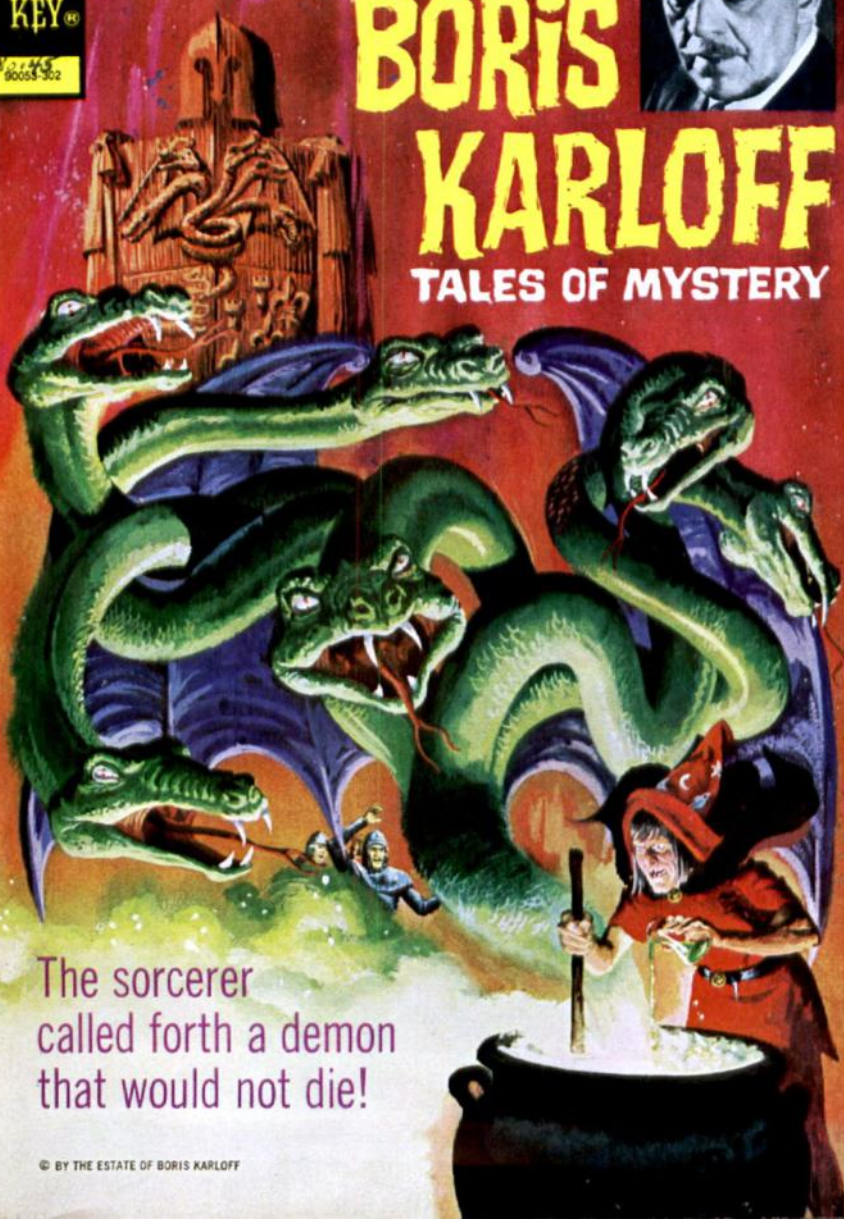
BORIS KARLOFF

15c



BORIS KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY




The sorcerer
called forth a demon
that would not die!


BORIS
KARLOFF

Tales of Mystery


COAT of ARMS




NO FAMILY IS WITHOUT SOME TAINT OF SCANDAL! SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SHOCKED BY THE CONTENTS OF YOUR FAMILY CLOSET, DON'T OPEN THE DOOR! TOO BAD HUBERT KRONER DIDN'T HEED THAT ADVICE!



YES, TRAINOR, THIS DANK, DRAB MOLDERING PLACE WAS ONCE CASTLE VON KRONER, THE GLITTERING BARONIAL SEAT OF MY ANCESTORS! AND I INTEND TO **RESTORE** THAT GLORY!




A FINE GOAL, MR. KRONER! THOSE WERE ROMANTIC, EXCITING TIMES!



IT TOOK A LOT OF AMERICAN BUCKS TO BUY THIS PLACE AND I'LL SPEND PLENTY MORE SHINING IT UP!

BUT WHERE DO I FIT IN, SIR? I'M A **GENEALOGIST**--NOT AN ARCHITECT!



EXACTLY! YOU SEARCH OUT FAMILY HISTORIES! MY LAWYER SAYS YOU'RE THE BEST! OKAY--SEARCH OUT THE ORIGINS OF OUR FAMILY CREST! EXPLAIN IT ALL!

THAT? BUT WHAT IS THERE TO EXPLAIN?

THAT CREATURE IS THE
LEGENDARY HYDRA--
EVERY TIME A WARRIOR
CUT OFF ONE OF ITS
HEADS, IT GREW ANOTHER!
IT'S A SYMBOL OF VITALITY!

SYMBOL, MY
FOOT! THERE'S
SOMETHING
MORE HEROIC
TO IT THAN
JUST A FAIRY
TALE! TRACK
IT DOWN!

IT COULD BE VERY
EXPENSIVE AND
I WON'T BE
PRESSURED INTO
MAKING UP SOME
GLORIOUS YARN!

HANG THE
EXPENSE!
AND, OF
COURSE, I
WANT
ONLY THE
TRUTH!

SO, WHILE TRAINOR SEARCHES THE
LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS OF EUROPE,
KRONER RESTORES THE CASTLE...

IT'S NO GOOD! NOT A
SINGLE WORD ABOUT THE
KRONER CREST IN EVEN
THE MOST OBSCURE REFER-
ENCE WORKS! I'VE FAILED!

THEN, IN A DUSTY, OLD BOOKSTORE...

I--I'VE FOUND IT! "THE TRUE AND
AMAZING HISTORY OF CASTLE VON
KRONER AND THE FANTASTIC FATE
THAT BEFELL IT!"

"IN THE FORTY-SECOND YEAR
OF THE FIRST BARON VON KRONER,
THE CASTLE WAS BESIEGED..."

EVEN NOW RUDOLF'S TROOPS
APPROACH THE CASTLE AND
MY OWN FORCES ARE FEW!
HELP ME, WIZARD!

MY MAGIC CAN DO
THIS THING, BARON!
BUT THE PRICE--





NOW I SHALL HAVE HIS WORK-
HALL CLEARED OF ALL ITS DARK
DEVICES! IT SHALL BE MADE A
BALLROOM TO CELEBRATE MY
GLORIOUS VICTORY!



"YET, EVEN AS THE TREACHEROUS BARON
DID STEP ACROSS THE STONE THRESHOLD..."



THE HYDRA! HE LEFT
THE THING HERE AS A
TRAP! THE WIZARD
NEVER TRUSTED ME--
AND NOW I AM... **DEAD!**



HURRY! SEAL UP THAT ROOM!
LET MY POOR FATHER LIE THERE
--A VICTIM OF HIS OWN TREACHERY!
AND LET THE WIZARD'S CREATUR^E
BE SEALED
WITH HIM!



THEN, AFTER HE
BETRAYED THE
WIZARD, THE
BARON WENT UP
TO THE GREAT
HALL WHERE--

STOP! YOU THINK
I'M GOING TO TELL
THE WORLD THAT
MY "GLORIOUS"
ANCESTOR WAS
A COWARD AND
A CHEAT?



I TOLD YOU, KRONER-- I WOULDN'T
RUIN MY REPUTATION FOR TRUTH BY
LYING TO PRESERVE YOUR PRIDE!



FINE! AND I WON'T PAY YOU ONE
CENT FOR THAT GARBAGE! HERE'S
YOUR PLANE TICKET HOME,
"MR. INTEGRITY"!



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