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THE NEW MYSTERY MAGAZINE

SHOCK



Volume 1

March, 1948

Number 1

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The next issue will be out March 19th.

Published bi-monthly by New Publications, Inc., at 2256 Grove Street, Chicago, 16, Illinois. Editorial and Executive Offices, 210 East 43rd Street, New York, 17, N. Y. Entry as Second-class matter pending at the Post Office, at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1948, by New Publications, Inc. This issue is published simultaneously in the Dominion of Canada. Copyright under the International Copyright Convention and Pan American Copyright Conventions. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form. Single copy, 15c. Annual subscription for U.S.A., its possessions and Canada, \$9.00; other countries 25c additional. Send subscriptions to 210 East 43rd Street, New York, 17, N. Y. For advertising rates, address Sam J. Perry, 210 East 43rd Street, New York 17, N. Y. When submitting manuscripts, enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return, if found unavailable. The publishers will exercise care in the handling of unsolicited manuscripts, but assume no responsibility for their return. Any resemblance between any character, appearing in fictional matter, and any person, living or dead, is entirely coincidental and unintentional. Printed in the U.S.A.

The Secret of Glamis Castle


GLOOMY GLAMIS CASTLE IN SCOTLAND, THE OLDEST INHABITED HOUSE IN BRITAIN, SEAT OF THE EARLS OF STRATHMORE, TRADITIONAL SCENE OF THE MURDER OF DUNCAN BY MACBETH, HOME OF THE PRESENT QUEEN OF ENGLAND - IS ALSO THE GUARDIAN, WITHIN ITS 15 FOOT WALLS, OF A DREADFUL SECRET THAT HAS BEEN KEPT INVIOLEATE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

THE MYSTERY OF GLAMIS REVOLVES ABOUT A WALLED-UP CHAMBER, WHOSE LOCATION AND TERRIBLE SECRET ARE KNOWN TO ONLY THREE PERSONS AT ONE TIME: THE EARL OF STRATHMORE, HIS ELDEST SON (OR NEXT HEIR), AND THE STEWARD OF THE ESTATE.

THIS SECRET IS ALWAYS REVEALED TO THE ELDEST SON ON THE NIGHT OF HIS 21ST BIRTHDAY. THIS IS DONE, ACCORDING TO RUMOUR, BY THE THREE OF THEM TEARING DOWN THE MASONRY WALL THAT CONCEALS THE MYSTERY, AFTER WHICH IT IS IMMEDIATELY REBUILT, NOT TO BE OPENED FOR ANOTHER GENERATION.




MANY HAVE SOUGHT AN ANSWER TO THIS UNCANNY ENIGMA -- SIR AUGUSTUS RUMBOLD, SIR WALTER SCOTT, LORD PLAYFAIR AND AUGUSTUS HARE, TO MENTION ONLY A FEW.



ONCE AN INGENUOUS ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DISCOVER THE ROOM DURING THE ABSENCE OF ONE OF THE FORMER EARLS. A PARTY OF GUESTS, LED BY THE COUNTESS, HUNG TOWELS OUT OF EVERY CASEMENT ON THE SUPPOSITION THAT THE ROOM MUST HAVE A WINDOW, CONCLUDING THAT THE WINDOW NOT SHOWING A TOWEL WOULD BE IT. THIS, LIKE ALL OTHER ATTEMPTS, FAILED.

THROUGH THE CENTURIES MANY THEORIES HAVE BEEN EVOLVED AS TO WHAT THE TERRIBLE SECRET MAY BE. THESE MAY BE READ IN ANY HISTORY OF GLAMIS CASTLE. THE MOST POPULAR NOTION, TO THOSE EAGER TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT, IS THAT A HIDEOUS MONSTER OF FABULOUS AGE, LURKS IN THIS DUNGEON.



WHATEVER THE SECRET MAY BE, NO HEIR TO THE MYSTERY HAS EVER TOLD, ALTHOUGH SOME, WITH THE SKEPTICISM OF YOUTH AND BEFORE THEY HAD VISITED THE FORBIDDING DUNGEON, HAVE PROMISED TO DO SO.

THE EARL OF STRATHMORE WHO DIED IN 1905, SAID TO AN INQUIRER, "IF YOU COULD GUESS THE NATURE OF THIS SECRET, YOU WOULD GO DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND THANK GOD IT IS NOT YOURS."



CLAUDE GEORGE BOWES-LYON
PRESENT EARL OF STRATHMORE
FATHER OF QUEEN ELIZABETH