

# fantastic

SUMMER 1952  
VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

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Illustrator: David Stone

# FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

By Sam Martinez

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## DEATH CERTIFICATE

**NAME:** Crumm, Clarissa **DATE:** July 9, 1950

**PLACE OF RESIDENCE:** Princeton Arms Apartments, Apt. 14B  
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

**DATE OF BIRTH:** November 20, 1902

**DATE OF DEATH:** July 4, 1950

**CLASSIFICATION:** Accidental death **TIME OF DEATH:** 4:27 P.M.

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single **SEX:** Female **RACE:** White

**PHYSICIAN IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. R. J. Bacon, M.D.

**IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH:** Ptomaine poisoning  
(See attached autopsy report.)

**CERTIFIED BY:** Carl Stubbs, County Coroner

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"Don't want  
Liv. I'll get you a glass.  
He turned, and everything hap-  
pened at once.

## POISONED FOOD CAUSES DEATH OF LOCAL WOMAN

CHICAGO — July 5 — Tragedy struck yesterday at the annual picnic of the Women's Anti-Nicotine League, resulting in death to one person and requiring the hospitalization of fourteen others. The cause of poisoning was attributed to some tainted meat. Miss Clarissa Crumm, of this city, was stricken with convulsions shortly after eating some of the picnic luncheon and died on the way to the hospital. She has long been active in many religious and civic movements and has been responsible for a large number of local reform movements.

## Session Judge Area

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ere Oral  
ought

Miss Crumm is survived by two brothers and a sister, all residents of Chicago. Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at the Star Funeral Parlor. Friends are invited to attend.

## Court Orders

## Leg Cou

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION  
TO THE HEAVENLY DOMAIN

*Applicant:* Miss Clarissa Crumm     *Classification:* Mortal from earth.

*Occupation:* Author, lecturer, and reformist.

*Religious affiliations:* Christian faith — Protestant creed.

*Other activities:* Organization for the Suppression of Vice, Holy Temperance Union, Women's Anti-Nicotine League, Civic Committee for the Control of Comic Books, Board of Stewards — Hallelujah Rescue Mission, Chairman — Local Slum Clearance Committee, Women's Spiritual Uplift Society, Foreign Missionary Alliance, etc.

*Remarks:* I have always lived a pure Christian life beyond reproach and devoted to serving my fellow man, and I know of no reason why I should not be admitted to my just reward.

*Signed* — CLARISSA CRUMM

APPROVAL SLIP  
RECORDS OFFICE

*Re:* Clarissa Crumm

*File:* QD 679,331,095

*Book:* 7,472,621

*Page:* 79,325 to 79,336

This applicant has recorded an unusually disciplined life, primarily dedicated to the correction and reformation of others. Somewhat fanatical regarding church work and reform movements. No disqualifying sins on record.

Ariel,

*Recording Angel*

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES

*Subject:* Miss Clarissa Crumm

Your application for admission to the Heavenly Kingdom has been received and approved and you are hereby authorized to partake of the joys of the hereafter.

You have been assigned to Section ZP-847 of the heavenly choir and will report promptly for

rehearsal and training. Your present celestial duties will be to sing praises and make heavenly music.

Amen!

St. Peter,  
*Keeper of the Portals*

### STORES REQUISITION

White robe size 32.....one only  
Wings medium size.....one pair  
Halo size 6½.....one only  
Harp 24 carat.....one only

*Received:* Clarissa Crumm

Saint Peter  
Keeper of the Portals  
Most Revered Sir:

I hope you will not think that I am dissatisfied, but a matter has come to my attention of which you are undoubtedly unaware. I was quite overjoyed on being assigned to the heavenly chorus, but after joining with them for the past several weeks, I find I rather question their choice of music.

It seems to me that in place of the fine, stately anthems of old, the choir is indulging in a great deal of modern music, entirely out of keeping with the sacred mission of the group. There appears to be a distressing tendency toward modernistic timing and chords, in fact this afternoon we practiced an arrangement of the "Hallelujah Chorus" which was definitely syncopated.

I have brought this to the attention of the heavenly choirmaster, but Gabriel seems to view the situation with considerable levity. In fact he went so far as to state that ". . . there's nothing like

a few hot licks to make these angels jump up and start shouting Glory!' I must admit I was profoundly shocked and I am appealing to you to take the proper steps in remedying this deplorable situation. It seems to me that this Gabriel should be relieved of his duties as heavenly music master and someone more conservative and with greater respect for the dignity of his office, be appointed to replace him.

Sincerely yours,  
Clarissa Crumm

My dear Miss Crumm:

Your recent complaint has been received and is being thoroughly investigated. Please feel free at any time to submit any further suggestions or recommendations you may have for improving the efficiency of the heavenly mansions. You may rest assured that they will receive our utmost consideration.

St. Peter,  
Keeper of the Portals

#### MEMORANDUM

*To:* Gabriel

*From:* St. Peter

Gabe, you old reprobate, what have you been up to? I just had a woman up here in my office raising Holy Ned over your choir directing. She was telling me you used a boogie-woogie harp background on one of your hymns. Not that I give two whoops how you conduct your chorus, being tone deaf myself, but she has also turned in a formal, written complaint and I am duty-bound to investigate. What's the score?

Peter

## MEMORANDUM

To: St. Peter

From: Gabriel

Honestly, Pete, I'm about to go nuts! That Crumm woman has been in my hair ever since you assigned her to the heavenly choir. She doesn't like our arrangements, she doesn't like the way I direct, in fact she even objects to the way I toot my horn! The other day we tried out some new variations on an old Negro spiritual and she practically threw a fit. Said our music was sacrilegious, degrading and immoral, just because it had a little rhythm to it. I've been choirmaster for a good many centuries and this is the first time anybody has ever tried to tell me how I ought to run my chorus. If you can possibly manage it, get her out of my choir before she ruins it, and me too!

Gabriel

My dear Miss Crumm:

This is to inform you that effective as of this date you will be relieved of any further duties with the heavenly choir. For the present you will be unassigned and until further notice you may spend your time in meditation and prayer. Peace be with you.

St. Peter,  
Keeper of the Portals

Saint Peter  
Keeper of the Portals

Most Honored Sir:

I am sure it is your desire as well as mine to see the Heavenly Kingdom the dominion of honor and glory which it should be. Therefore, I am sure you will welcome a few suggestions and observations I have made since being relieved of choral duty.



It is my opinion that there is a regrettable lack of respect shown among the angels and even by many of the saints. After all, this is a holy sanctuary and should have no place for levity or idleness.

Far too much time is spent in merrymaking that should be devoted to prayer and meditation. All inconsequential gaiety and laughter should be banned and the residents of Heaven forced to assume an attitude more in keeping with the serious nature of holy respect.

I have observed, especially among some of the younger residents, a frightful callousness toward the proper dignity and beauty of the divine kingdom and I believe this should be brought to their attention by means of an edict abolishing all unbecoming merriment and diversion. This, I feel, is of the utmost importance.

Also I believe that an ordinance should be put into effect requiring greater consideration toward personal appearance among the angelic hosts. Too many halos are being worn tilted rakishly to the side of the head, and many of the wings are quite ragged and unkempt along the edges. If we are worthy of being called angels, then we should see to it that our personal appearance and demeanor are in accordance with our station.

Sincerely yours,

Clarissa Crumm

My dear Miss Crumm:

Your complaints regarding heavenly laughter have been given due consideration. While it is my own personal opinion that joy and happiness are pleasing in the sight of the Supreme Being, unfortunately I am powerless to enact any such regulations as you suggest. Your recommendations will be

passed on to the Divine Council for consideration and possible action.

St. Peter,  
Keeper of the Portals

### MEMORANDUM

To: St. Peter

From: The Divine Council

Request denied! Don't waste our time with such stuff!

Moses

My dear Miss Crumm:

It has come to my attention, through numerous complaints from various heavenly residents, that you have been indulging in considerable evangelical activity of late. I am forced to remind you that all of the souls up here have already been saved or they would not be here, and it is quite unnecessary to ask them to repent their sins since they have none.

Also, I understand you have been rather free with your personal criticisms and comments. All such complaints should be submitted to this office in writing. In conclusion, may I remind you that tolerance is one of the great Christian virtues, quite frequently overlooked?

St. Peter,  
Keeper of the Portals

Saint Peter  
Keeper of the Portals

Dear Sir:

In reply to your recent note, I can only say that I think you are doing a mighty poor job of regulating heavenly activities. I must confess I have been deeply moved by the lack of order and respect here in Paradise, and I feel strongly that

some steps should be taken to rectify these scandalous conditions.

Angels are allowed to come and go as they please, with absolutely no check on their actions. They can gorge themselves practically into insensibility with ambrosia and nectar, without concern from the so-called governing authorities. Singing, dancing and similar earthly pleasures are permitted, even at the foot of the golden throne. There is absolutely no provision made for the proper observance of Sunday, such as special services or retreat. In fact, the heavenly host are at perfect liberty to do anything they desire, without let or hindrance. How can you possibly expect to maintain purity in heaven with no laws to enforce it?

You say that I should submit all criticisms to you, in writing. May I remind you that in the past I have turned in suggestions for improvements, and to the best of my knowledge they have been entirely ignored. If you will do nothing about these things, then I will appeal to some higher authority who will take an interest in the welfare of his heavenly subjects.

Yours,  
Clarissa Crumm

#### MEMORANDUM

To: Moses

From: St. Peter

I have a problem I wish you would take up at your next Council meeting. There is a woman who came up here recently who has been giving me all kinds of trouble. She doesn't like the way we do things, she wants to change everything, she's very unhappy and she's making everyone else the same way. In fact, if something isn't done about her pretty soon, I'm about ready to throw up my job!

Peter

## MEMORANDUM

To: St. Peter

From: Moses

It can't be as bad as all that! If the lady has troubles, send her up before the next Council meeting and we'll take care of her.

Moses

*(Excerpts from the minutes of the Divine Council meeting)*

MOSES: What is the next item on the agenda?

PAUL: A Miss Clarissa Crumm. From what Peter tells me, she is completely dissatisfied with the way Heaven is being run.

JOHN: A radical, eh? This ought to be interesting.

MOSES: Bring her in. . . . How do you do, Miss Crumm? I understand you have a complaint which you wish to present to this Council.

MISS CRUMM: I most certainly have! I think there is altogether too much laxity in controlling the morals of the heavenly host. Male and female angels are allowed to intermingle freely with absolutely no provision for regulating their behavior. Who knows what may be going on behind some of these cloud banks?

MOSES: I am sure, Miss Crumm, we are all above such petty temptations.

MISS CRUMM: Well, I'm not so sure. With temptations all about, sooner or later even the strongest angel will yield.

MOSES: Have you any ideas for eliminating such temptations?

MISS CRUMM: Why, it's the easiest thing in the Universe. All you have to do is to segregate the two sexes and assign them to separate, specific sections of the Heavenly Kingdom.

MOSES: I'm afraid that would be impossible. Unless you have a more practical idea I'm afraid we must turn down your request.

MISS CRUMM: Very well then, if that's the way you feel about it, I think that the least you could do would be to issue a divine decree to the effect that all inhabitants of Heaven, without exception, be required to wear undergarments.

MOSES: What was that!

MISS CRUMM: You know . . . underwear! I think it's simply disgraceful! These flimsy robes we are provided with are altogether inadequate to properly clothe ourselves with. I have never seen such a disregard for the simple proprieties. How do you expect any man to keep his mind on higher things when some giddy little female

nearby is throwing her . . . well, exposing herself! And these cherubs running around without a stitch of clothing — it's shameful!

MOSES: I don't think our robes are so indecent.

MISS CRUMM: You don't? Well, just look at yourself! Maybe you think that hairy chest is becoming, but I find it positively revolting!

MOSES: Harrumph! Maybe you're right. I'm sure the Council will give full consideration to your proposal.

MISS CRUMM: Well, they'd better. I'm getting tired of all this talk and no action. If something isn't done, and soon, I'll take steps to do something about it myself!

MOSES: I'm sure that won't be necessary. Elijah, would you see Miss Crumm out? . . . See what I mean?

JOHN: Good heavens! How long has this been going on?

MOSES: Too long. All the angels in her section are getting dissatisfied, St. Peter is threatening to quit, and now I understand she has just organized a group known as "The Society for the Purification and Advancement of Heaven." It seems to have widespread appeal, too. She is threatening an uprising unless some positive action is taken on the numerous reforms she is advocating. Gentlemen, we are facing a crisis! Never in the history of Heaven has there been a situation similar to this. Has anyone any suggestions?

NOAH: I move the entire issue be presented to the Supreme Being.

LUKE: Second the motion.

MOSES: Motion has been made and seconded, all those in favor signify by saying Aye. (Unanimous ballot) So be it!

MEMO: To the Divine Council

Have reviewed the Crumm case. Cannot understand dissatisfaction in Heaven. Suggest rechecking Miss Crumm's earthly record.

Jehovah

## MEMORANDUM

To: Moses

From: Recording Angel

Have rechecked the record of Miss Clarissa Crumm very carefully, as requested, but find no notation indicating commitment of any major sin. Most serious breach of conduct occurred during a closed meeting of the executive committee of the

Total Abstinence Society. In order to observe the degrading influence of spirituous beverages, the ladies drank up a gallon of blackberry wine and, putting it mildly, got stinko!

Ariel

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, insofar as it has been determined that Miss Clarissa Crumm, during her earthly career, did willfully indulge in certain practices known or advocated to be sinful, thereby becoming guilty of deceit and dissembling; it being further self-evident that under such circumstances her admission to Paradise was an unfortunate error; it is the unanimous decision of the Divine Council of Heaven that immediate action be taken for the good of the heavenly community, to transfer Miss Crumm to the region of everlasting fire and torment.

#### INTER-OFFICE MEMO

*To:* His Divine Majesty

*From:* His Satanic Majesty

Thanks a lot, chum, for the wench you transferred down here recently. At first I thought you were running a little off the beam, but I've got to admit you knew what you were doing. The old gal has never been so happy in her whole life! With all the condemned sinners we've got down here, she's been having a great time showing them the error of their ways and warning them to repent of their sins. It's amazing! We ran an efficiency check last week and found that the proportional intensity of torment has increased 37% since her arrival. In fact, I have just appointed her as my first assistant. If you ever run across any more choice specimens like Miss Crumm, be sure and send them down. Maybe some day I can return the favor.

Warmest regards,

Lucifer