

GOLD
KEY

BORIS KARLOFF

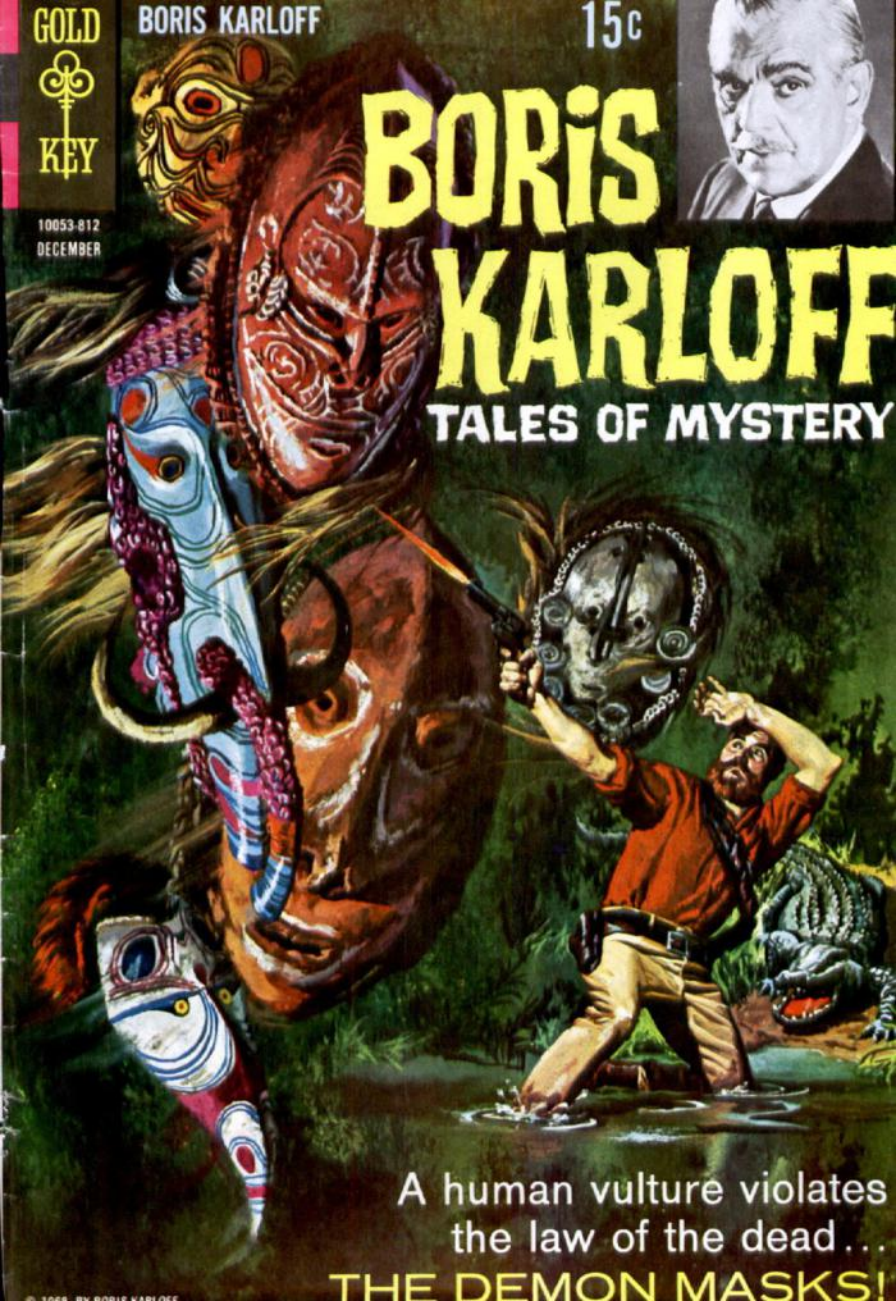
15c



10053-812
DECEMBER

BORIS KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY



A human vulture violates
the law of the dead...

THE DEMON MASKS!

**BORIS
KARLOFF**

Tales of Mystery

THE DEMON MASKS

THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH PACIFIC, RED SHANE IS KNOWN AS A VULTURE WHO FEEDS ON ANY CARRION HE CAN FIND...



MACHINE GUNS... RADIOS, MORTARS! THIS ABANDONED JAP EQUIPMENT IS A GOLD MINE! HAVE THESE NATIVES BRING IT DOWN TO THE BEACH, KUI!

YES, BOSS SHANE!



AND LIKE A VULTURE, SHANE LEAVES WHEN THE FEAST IS OVER...

SSST! AS SOON AS ALL THAT EQUIPMENT IS ABOARD, START WARMING UP THE ENGINE! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE IN A HURRY!

I GET IT, BOSS!



AND ALWAYS THE CARCASS IS STRIPPED BARE...

THIEF! COME BACK! YOU DID NOT PAY US FOR OUR WORK!

HA! HA! THIS WAR MATERIAL IS WORTH A FORTUNE TO THE REBELS IN INDONESIA! WE'LL MAKE A NEAT PROFIT, KUI!



BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY, No. 24, December, 1968. Published quarterly by Western Publishing Company, Inc., North Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 1968 by Boris Karloff.

This Periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.



THEN ONE DAY...
SHANE MAKES HIS
BIGGEST HAUL...

WE WORKED THE
WHOLE YEAR TO HAR-
VEST ALL THOSE PEARLS!
IF YOU STEAL THEM, OUR
VILLAGE WILL *STARVE!*

THAT'S REAL TOUGH!
YOU'RE BREAKING
MY HEART!



BUT SOON SHANE IS WANTED
FROM SINGAPORE TO GIDNEY...

THE INTERNATIONAL
AUTHORITIES ARE LOOK-
ING FOR US! WE'VE GOT
TO LAY LOW FOR A
WHILE! BUT WHERE?

I KNOW OF
A PLACE...THE
ISLAND WHERE
I WAS BORN!



YOU MEAN NEW
GUINEA? THERE
ARE NOTHING BUT
HEADHUNTERS
DOWN THERE!

YOU'RE OUT OF
DATE, BOSS! MY
PEOPLE HAVEN'T
TAKEN A HEAD
IN THE LAST
20 YEARS!



AND SO
WEEKS
LATER...

THIS PLACE LOOKS
LIKE THE END OF THE
WORLD! THE BEACH IS
SWARMING WITH CROCS!

IT'S BETTER
THAT WAY, BOSS!
THAT'S WHY NO
ONE COMES HERE!

COME ON,
I'LL TAKE
YOU TO MY
VILLAGE!



DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, SUDDENLY...

THOSE DRUMS...
AND THAT GRINNING
SKULL! KUIAI, WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?

RELAX, BOSS
SHANE! MY
PEOPLE USE
THAT SKULL
TO GUARD THE
TRAIL FROM
ENEMIES!



AND THAT DRUM
TALK ONLY SAYS
...TWO MEN ARE
COMING, AND ONE
OF THEM HAS A
BEARD OF FLAME!

HEH-HEH! BET
THEY NEVER SAW
ANYTHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE!...
MAYBE THEY'LL
MAKE A
KING
OUT OF
ME!



PRESENTLY, IN
THE VILLAGE...

IT IS KUIAI, SON
OF MY BROTHER!
YOU AND YOUR
COMPANION ARE
WELCOME!

BOSS, THIS IS KAGAN,
MY UNCLE, THE WITCH-
DOCTOR! HE WANTED
ME TO BE A WITCH-
DOCTOR, TOO!



SOON, IN A GUEST HOUSE...

WE CAN'T STAY HERE
IN THIS CEMETERY!...
THESE SKULLS GIVE
ME THE SCREAMING
HORRORS, KUIAI!

NOTHING TO BE
AFRAID OF BOSS!
WE KEEP OUR
DEAD WITH US TO
GUARD US FROM
OUR ENEMIES!



KUIAI, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ON THIS
ISLAND FOR TEN YEARS! DON'T TELL
ME YOU STILL BELIEVE IN THAT
PRIMITIVE HOG-
WASH?

YOU'RE A STRAN-
GER HERE, BOSS
SHANE! THERE IS
MUCH YOU HAVE
TO LEARN!

LATER, AS SHANE
TOURS THE VILLAGE...

THESE MASKS -
UNDER YOUR UNCLE'S
HOUSE, DID HE
CARVE THEM, KUAI?

NO, BOSS! THEY
ARE ENEMIES MY
UNCLE KILLED!
HIS **MAGIC**
TURNED THEM
INTO **DEMONS**!
THEY GUARD HIS
HOUSE FROM
EVIL!

TALK SENSE, KUAI! THIS
IS THE FINEST NATIVE
HANDICRAFT I'VE EVER
SEEN! ANY MUSEUM
WOULD PAY A **MINT**
FOR THAT COLLECTION!

MY UNCLE
WOULD NOT
SELL! THE
MASKS PRO-
TECT HIM
FROM EVIL!

BUT SHANE BELIEVES THAT
EVERYTHING HAS ITS PRICE...

LISTEN, TELL THAT
CREEP THAT I, TOO,
TURN MY ENEMIES
INTO DEMON MASKS!
I WANT TO TRADE...

BUT THOSE ARE
JAP GAS MASKS,
BOSS! IT MIGHT
BE UNLUCKY TO
CHEAT KAGAN!
BUT I'LL
TRY!

MOMENTS
AFTERWARD...

KAGAN SAYS NO! HE IS AN
OLD MAN WHO MAY SOON DIE!...
THE DEMON MASKS ARE
NEEDED TO GUARD HIS GRAVE!

SO HE WON'T MAKE A DEAL,
EH? OKAY, THEN I'LL TAKE
THEM FOR **FREE**!

THAT NIGHT SHANE SLIPS THROUGH
THE SLEEPING VILLAGE...

LUCKILY KAGAN'S HUT IS
ISOLATED FROM THE OTHERS!
I CAN GRAB THOSE MASKS
AND THEN HEAD DOWN TO
THE SEA IN ONE OF THE
NATIVE CANOES!

BUT KEEN
EARS HAVE
DETECTED THE
MARAUDER...

IT'S KASAN!
GOT TO MOVE
FAST, OR...

GRARR!

THAT SHOULD
COOL YOU OFF,
FRIEND!

THUD!

GOOD GRIEF! I KILLED HIM! SOME-
BODY MAY HAVE HEARD THE NOISE!
I'D BETTER SNEAK BACK TO THE
GUEST HUT AND PLAY IT COOL!

IN THE MORNING THE NEWS
SWEEPS THROUGH THE VILLAGE...

BUT WHO COULD
HAVE KILLED
YOUR UNCLE?

PERHAPS SOME
STRANGER, OR AN
ENEMY SLIPPED
INTO THE VILLAGE!
THE EARTH WAS
HARD BENEATH
THE HOUSE! WE
FOUND NO
TRACKS!

THE OLD ONES WANT
ME TO TAKE MY UNCLE'S
PLACE AS WITCH DOCTOR!
I WILL CONDUCT THE
FUNERAL CEREMONY!

I THOUGHT
KUI WAS
CIVILIZED,
BUT THE FOOL HAS
REVERTED
BACK!

HE STILL
BELIEVES
IN THAT
MUMBO-
JUMBO!



ALL DAY LONG
THEY PERFORM THE
GRIM RITUAL...

HMM! THOSE HALF-WITS HAVE
HUNG KAGAN'S MASKS ALL AROUND
HIS BIER TO PROTECT HIM FROM EVIL
SPIRITS! THIS COULD BE THE CHANCE
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



THAT NIGHT, AS THE
EXHAUSTED NATIVES
SLUMBER...

NO ONE HEARD
ME SNEAK
AWAY WITH
THOSE MASKS!

BY THE TIME THEY WAKE
UP, I'LL BE FAR DOWN-
RIVER! ONCE I GET BACK
TO MY BOAT, I'LL BE SAFE!



NEXT MORNING, THE ANGRY
NATIVES SUMMON KUI!

THE EVIL ONE
STOLE FROM THE
DEAD! HE TOOK THE
DEMON MASKS!

THE BOOT MARKS
TELL THE STORY!...
NOW WE **KNOW**
WHO KILLED KAGAN!



MY UNCLE ONCE TAUGHT
ME HOW TO BRING BACK AN
EVIL ONE WHO HAS ESCAPED
JUST PUNISHMENT!



DEMONS, HEAR ME!
AS I WIND THIS VINE
AROUND MY FETTER
STICK, LET THE EVIL
ONE BE **DRAWN BACK**
...BACK TO THE GRAVE
HE HAS DEFILED!



AT THAT
MOMENT,
FAR DOWN-
STREAM...

THAT VINE! NEVER
EVEN SAW IT!
CAUGHT THE CANOE
AND DUMPED ME
OVERBOARD!



THE MASKS! THEY
WERE WASHED TO THE
OPPOSITE SHORE! GOT
TO FIND SOME WAY OF
GETTING TO THEM!



THEN LIKE STRANGE
APPARITIONS IN THE MIST...

THOSE FACES, OUT THERE
IN THE JUNGLE! WHY, THEY
LOOK LIKE THE MASKS! BUT
HOW DID THEY GET THERE?
WHY ARE THEY WATCH-
ING ME... LIKE THAT?



THEY'RE MOVING...
FOLLOWING ME... AS
IF THEY'RE ALIVE!
GOT TO GET AWAY
FROM THEM!



SUDDENLY, THE NIGHT-
MARISH FACES ARE EVERY-
WHERE AROUND HIM, CLAW-
ING, CLUTCHING, SNATCHING...

LET ME GO, YOU
DEVILS! KEEP AWAY!
EYAH!



FOR HOURS THE DEMONIC
WRAITHS PURSUE THEIR
QUARRY THROUGH THE
STEAMING JUNGLE...

THEY WON'T LET
ME GO! THEY KEEP
HOUNDING ME!



TERROR AND DEATH LIE
IN WAIT EVERYWHERE...

YAH!

KAHR!



AND AS
DAY FADES
INTO A
NIGHT OF
HORROR...

LOST! CAN'T FIND
MY WAY THROUGH
THIS BLASTED JUNGLE!
THOSE MASKS? WHAT
DO THEY WANT OF ME?



WHAT DO THEY WANT INDEED? AT
THAT MOMENT NEAR KAGAN'S BIER...

THE VINE GROWS SHORTER
WITH EVERY TURN! WITH
EVERY TURN THE DEMONS
BRING SHANE CLOSER...
CLOSER...



THEN, AT LAST...

AN OPENING IN THE
JUNGLE! IT'S LIGHTER
UP AHEAD! MAYBE
THERE'S A VILLAGE...
SOMEONE WHO CAN
HELP ME...

BUT AN EERIE
MOMENT LATER...

KAGAN'S GRAVE! I'M
BACK WHERE I **STARTED**
FROM! THE DEMONS DROVE
ME HERE! **ARRRGHH!**

THE EVIL ONE IS HERE!
THE MASK-DEMONS HAVE
DONE THEIR WORK WELL!



THAT WAS LONG AGO! NOW THOSE WHO
PASS THE WITCH DOCTOR'S GRAVE PAUSE
TO OBSERVE THE MACABRE SCENE...

DEMON MASKS!
THE LOCAL NATIVES
USE THEM TO GUARD
THEIR GRAVES!

RIDICULOUS
CUSTOM! QUITE
IDiotic, REALLY!



BUT NOW AND AGAIN
SOMEONE STOPS TO TAKE
A CLOSER LOOK...

I SAY, HERE'S
AN ODD ONE!

ARE WE
SEEING
THINGS?



THAT MASK... IT'S THE
FACE OF THE NOTORIOUS
RED SHANE... HE'S WANTED
ON A DOZEN ISLANDS!

THOSE EYES! THAT **RED**
HAIR! HOW DID THESE NATIVES
GET THAT **PERFECT** LIKENESS?



A GOOD QUESTION! ONLY THE NEW
WITCH DOCTOR, KUALI, KNOWS THE
ANSWER, AND HE'S NOT REVEALING
ANY TRICKS OF THE TRADE...



I never made so much money so quickly, for so little work.
MRS. LO. PERRY, P.R.

I couldn't find a more pleasant way of earning money.
HARRY REYNOLDS, Mich.



Carla, Tagged Books at such a low price made my job easy.
JULIE BUSSEN, Indiana

I've been selling Christmas Packs for years. People are amazed to get such a bargain.
MAIYA BLACKMAN, Kansas



This year I got a watch. Last year I got a radio. They really sell fast.
STEPHEN LEIGHT, N.Y.

I thought they sold fast before, but this year is unbelievable. Thank you.
DONALD BRADFORD, W.V.



8 VOL. ENCYCLOPEDIA



BASKETBALL AND GOAL



JOHNNY WHITAS FOOTBALL



GIRL'S PENDANT WATCH



GIRL'S TRAVEL CASE



VOLLEYBALL SET



MICROSCOPE SETS



FLASH CAMERA OUTFITS



WRIST WATCHES



HOCKEY GAME



DAISY AIR RIFLES



TRANSISTOR RADIO



HOT ROD KITS



WIRELESS WALKIE-TALKIE



ELECTRIC FOOTBALL GAME



JR. TYPEWRITER



GUITAR-AMP COMBO



COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS



30-POWER TELESCOPE



CHEMISTRY SETS



POLAROID CAMERA



MOVIE PROJECTOR



SPORT BIKES



POOL TABLE SET



TAPE RECORDER



BIG-3 CAMPING SET



MAKE MONEY

GET PRIZES

with Fast Selling 75c Christmas Packs

GET YOUR PRIZE THIS EASY WAY—Take your choice of over 100 prizes. You can earn as many as you want—quickly, easily. Most prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given **WITHOUT COST** for selling just one order of 20 Christmas Packs. Some of the larger prizes require more sales as explained in the Big Prize Book.

Sell NO MONEY, We Trust You

It's easy to sell these Christmas Packs to your family, friends and neighbors. Each Christmas Pack contains 6 Beautiful Christmas Cards, 6 Envelopes and a big assortment of gift cards, gift tags and Christmas seals—just what every home needs at Christmas time. **75 PIECES IN EVERY PACK**—a big value for only 75¢. They are much easier to sell than high-priced boxes of cards. Many boys and girls sell all their packs in one hour. You can, too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep \$5.00 in cash for every 20-pack order you sell. There's no risk on your part, for any unsold packs may be returned. **BE FIRST** in your neighborhood. Mail coupon in an envelope today for your Christmas Packs and Big Prize Book—give the other coupon to a friend.

AMERICAN SPECIALTY COMPANY
Dept. 86,
Lancaster, Pa.
17604

MAIL ONE COUPON NOW Give the Other to a Friend

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 86, Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 20 Xmas Packs. I will sell the Xmas Packs at 75¢ each, send you the money and choose my prize.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 86, Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 20 Xmas Packs. I will sell the Xmas Packs at 75¢ each, send you the money and choose my prize.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

EXTRA!

\$2,000 GIVEN AWAY in our Promptness Contest! . . . \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond plus \$1,000 more in runner-up awards.

Contest information is sent with your big prize book and Christmas packs.

