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BORIS KARLOFF

TALES OF MYSTERY

A stormy night...
A monster on the loose...
The set-up was perfect!



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**BORIS
KARLOFF**
Tales of Mystery

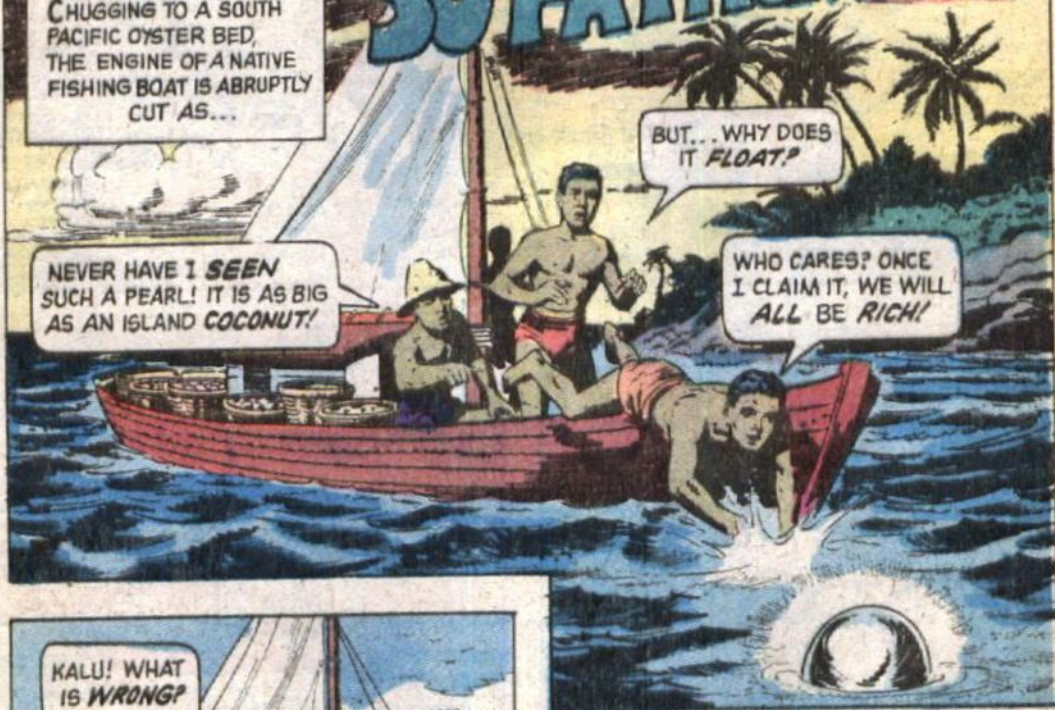
THE PERIL AT 50 FATHOMS

CHUGGING TO A SOUTH
PACIFIC OYSTER BED,
THE ENGINE OF A NATIVE
FISHING BOAT IS ABRUPTLY
CUT AS...

BUT... WHY DOES
IT *FLOAT*?

NEVER HAVE I *SEEN*
SUCH A PEARL! IT IS AS BIG
AS AN ISLAND COCONUT!

WHO CARES? ONCE
I CLAIM IT, WE WILL
ALL BE RICH!

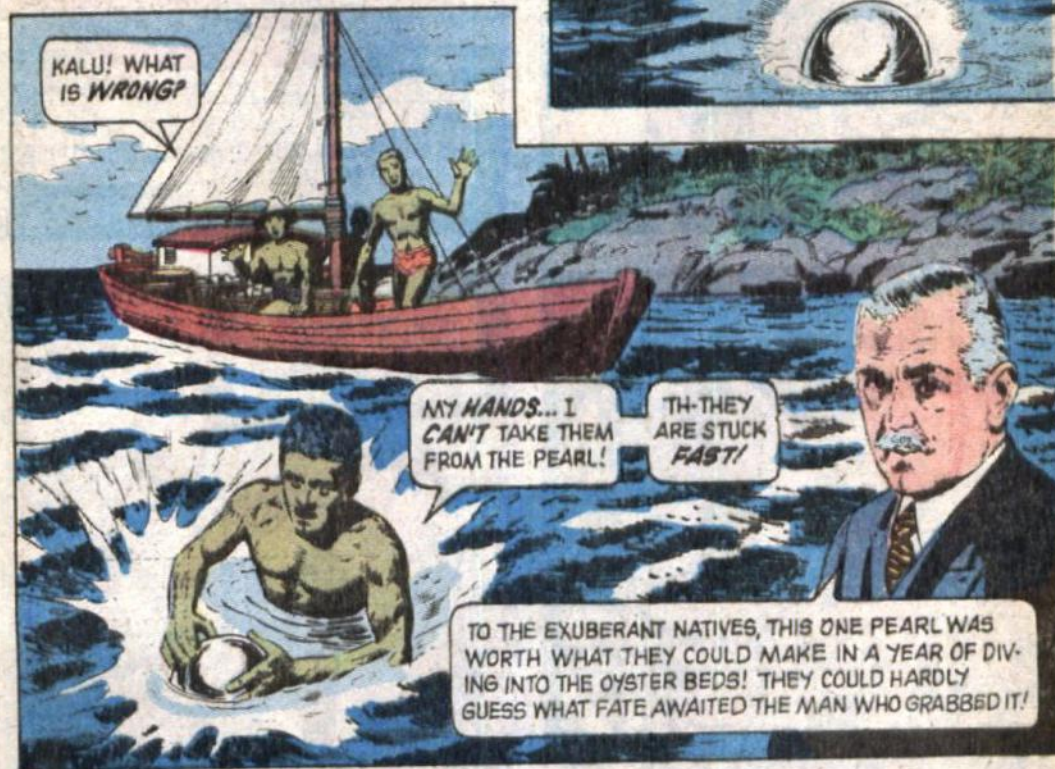


KALU! WHAT
IS *WRONG*?

MY HANDS... I
CAN'T TAKE THEM
FROM THE PEARL!

TH- THEY
ARE STUCK
FAST!

TO THE EXUBERANT NATIVES, THIS ONE PEARL WAS
WORTH WHAT THEY COULD MAKE IN A YEAR OF DIV-
ING INTO THE OYSTER BEDS! THEY COULD HARDLY
GUESS WHAT FATE AWAITED THE MAN WHO GRABBED IT!





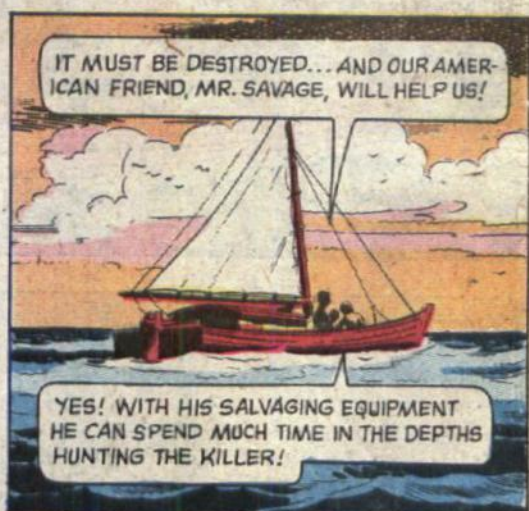
BY THE GODS! KALU IS BEING
PULLED BENEATH THE SURFACE
BY THE MONSTER PEARL!

TO THE WATER,
EVERYONE! WE MUST
RESCUE OUR FRIEND!



IT IS TOO LATE!
BEFORE WE CAN
REACH KALU, THE
SEA WILL HAVE
ALREADY CLAIMED
HIM!

IT... IS TRUE! BUT
WE MUST MAKE
SURE THAT **DEVIL
PEARL** TAKES NO
OTHER LIFE!



IT MUST BE DESTROYED... AND OUR AMER-
ICAN FRIEND, MR. SAVAGE, WILL HELP US!

YES! WITH HIS SALVAGING EQUIPMENT
HE CAN SPEND MUCH TIME IN THE DEPTHS
HUNTING THE KILLER!



AFTER THE NATIVES CONSULT
THEIR FRIEND IN HIS OFFICE...

POOR
KALU!



JOSH, YOU *KNOW*
HOW **SUPERSTITIOUS**
THESE NATIVES ARE!

YOU DON'T
ACTUALLY **BUY**
THIS "GIANT
PEARL" YARN,
DO YOU?

IT *IS* TOUGH TO SWALLOW,
DAN! BUT IF I DON'T PUT
THEIR MINDS AT EASE BY
HAVING A LOOK...

...THEY'LL
LIVE IN
FEAR!

THE
NEXT
MORN-
ING...

I'LL KILL TIME DOWN
THERE UNTIL MY
OXYGEN GIVES OUT...
THEN SURFACE AND
TELL THEM THEIR
"GIANT
PEARL"
IS GONE!

PEARL MONSTER--
OFF THE STARBOARD!

LOOK!
THERE *IS*
SUCH A
PEARL!

YES! AND THAT CHARACTER
FROM THE CABIN CRUISER
DOESN'T KNOW THE DANGER
HE'S SWIMMING INTO!

YOU THERE!
STAY *AWAY*
FROM THAT
PEARL...

IT COULD
COST YOUR
YOUR LIFE!

HE
DOESN'T
HEAR YOU,
JOSH!

THE PEARL... COATED
WITH A *STICKY* SUB-
STANCE... *CAN'T* FREE
MY HANDS!

I'VE GOT TO
GET TO HIM
BEFORE HE
MEETS
KALU'S FATE!



JOSH!
THE SWIMMER
...HE'S BEING
PULLED UNDER!

I'LL TRY TO
INTERCEPT HIM
BELOW!



BUT TIME AND THE
DEEP ARE AGAINST
JOSH'S EFFORTS...

THE *DEPTH*...
GASP! I-IT'S
CRUSHING MY
LUNGS... CAN'T
DESCEND ANY
FURTHER...

BESIDES... *GASP!* THAT
SWIMMER'S GOT TO BE DEAD
...HE'S FATHOMS BELOW ME!



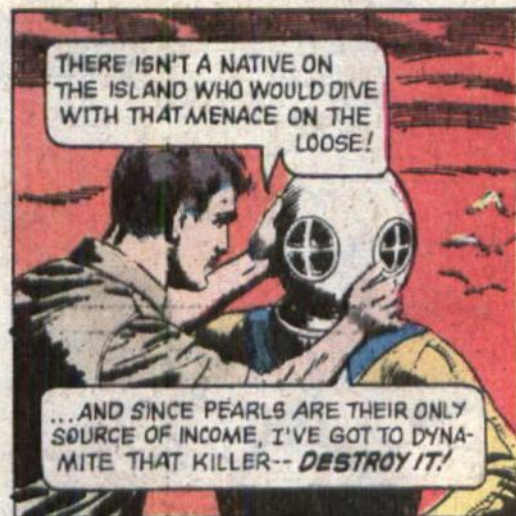
BENEATH THE SURFACE, JOSH
EYES A FRIGHTENING SIGHT...

HE'LL SOON BE
OUT OF *DEPTH*
RANGE OF MY
SKIN-DIVING
EQUIPMENT! GOT
TO GET HIM *FAST!*



GROGGY, BUT DETERMINED, JOSH
RETURNS TO THE SURFACE WHERE...

JOSH, WHY RISK YOUR NECK MAK-
ING A *DEEP DIVE* IN "HARD HAT"?



THERE ISN'T A NATIVE ON
THE ISLAND WHO WOULD DIVE
WITH THAT MENACE ON THE
LOOSE!

...AND SINCE PEARLS ARE THEIR ONLY
SOURCE OF INCOME, I'VE GOT TO DYNA-
MITE THAT KILLER-- *DESTROY IT!*

DOWN... DOWN INTO THE DEEP
TRENCH DIVES JOSH, WHERE...

ANOTHER TWENTY FEET
AND I'LL BE ON THE FLOOR!
AND FEED ME ENOUGH SLACK
TO MOVE AROUND...



SUDDENLY THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS...

DAN! SOMETHING'S
LATCHED ONTO MY
LEAD BOOTS!

CLONK!



IT'S THE PEARL...
AND IT'S DRAGGING
ME DOWN RAPIDLY!

I'M SUITING
UP TO GIVE YOU
A HAND! DON'T
PANIC, JOSH!



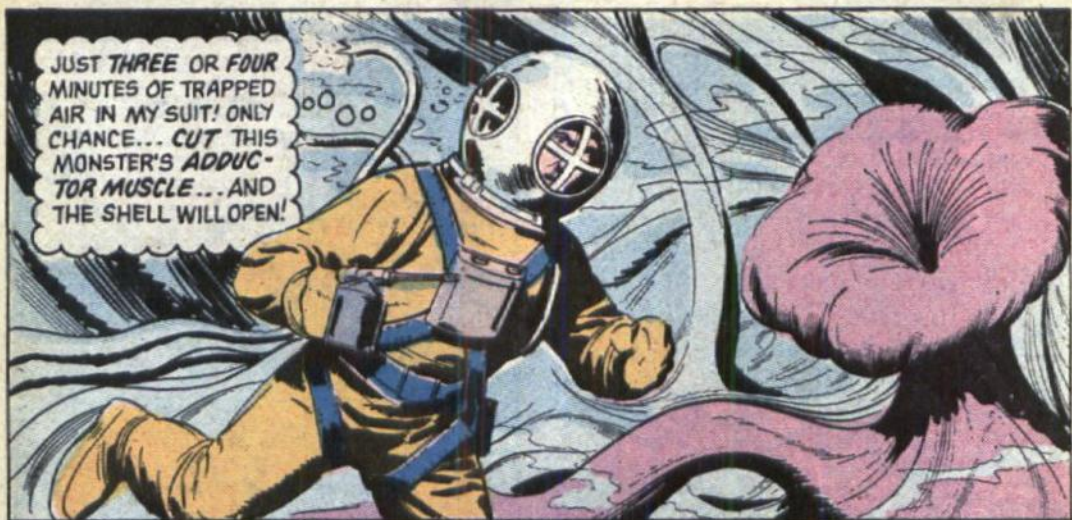
IT'S GOT ME ON THE OCEAN FLOOR--WAIT!
I'M NOT ON THE BOTTOM! I'M INSIDE A
GIANT OYSTER SHELL! IT--IT'S CLOSING UP!



I'M CLAMPED
IN... MY LIFE
AND AIR LINES
SEVERED!

CLOOMP!





JUST THREE OR FOUR MINUTES OF TRAPPED AIR IN MY SUIT! ONLY CHANCE... CUT THIS MONSTER'S ADDUCTOR MUSCLE... AND THE SHELL WILL OPEN!



A FEELING OF GIDDINESS OVERCOMES JOSH AS THE AIR BECOMES FOUL...

HAHA! FEEL JUST LIKE I'M FLOATING...

MAYBE IT WON'T BE SO BAD... DYING THIS WAY! HA HA!



A SECOND LATER...

THERE'S JOSH... GOT TO HOOK IN MY OXYGEN TUBE TO HIS AIR LINE ... THEN "SWIM" HIM SLOWLY TO THE SURFACE TO PREVENT THE "BENDS"!



SOME TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

YOU'RE OKAY, JOSH! AND THERE'S YOUR REWARD!

YEAH... THE PEARL... WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED!

THE PEARL DIVERS CAN GO BACK TO THEIR WORK, UNAFRAID! BUT WHO KNOWS WHEN ANOTHER GIANT PEARL WILL COME FLOATING TO THE SURFACE... SEEKING A VICTIM?

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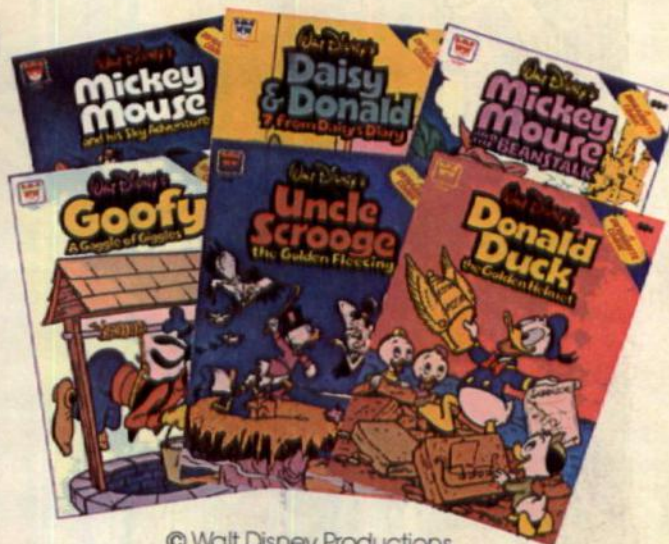
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