

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR A STORY, EH? ONE OF THE TERRIFYING TALES FROM MY CASE BOOK OF EVIL! WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT **GHOULS** OR **VAMPIRES**... OR MAYBE ABOUT THE **SWAMP MEN** WHO... NO--I'LL SAVE THAT STORY FOR LATER, NOW I'LL TELL YOU A QUIET (CHUCKLE-CHUCKLE-CHUCKLE) STORY ABOUT THE...

ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR



FEELING TOO WARM? LIKE TO HAVE THOSE COLD FINGERS OF FEAR CRAWL UP AND DOWN YOUR SPINE? THEN COME WITH US TO THE TOMB AND HEAR... **THE GRAVEDIGGER'S TALE**

THERE WAS ALWAYS A FULL ENROLLMENT IN PROFESSOR ANDREW BEAMISH'S COURSES AT THE STATE COLLEGE! HE WAS A GOOD TEACHER WITH A KEEN SENSE OF HUMOR, HIS LECTURES WERE NEVER BORING--AND STUDENTS WHO APPLIED THEMSELVES COULD ALWAYS BE SURE OF A GOOD GRADE...

... THE ELECTRON HAS AN AFFINITY FOR THE PROTON, AN ATTRACTION, YOU MIGHT SAY, THAT GIRLS HAVE FOR BOYS!



THE MALE STUDENTS ALL LIKED THE PROFESSOR'S JOKES-- BUT THE GIRLS WERE ATTRACTED FOR DIFFERENT REASONS! THEY WEREN'T INTERESTED IN HIS COURSE... BUT IN HIM...

ISN'T HE JUST THRILLING! HIS VOICE MAKES ME JUST **SHAKE** INSIDE WHEN I HEAR IT!

HE'S THE ONLY **REAL MAN** ON THE CAMPUS! SO MUCH MORE MASCULINE THAN THESE **BOYS!**



ONLY ONE GIRL SEEMED TO BE IMMUNE TO THE PROFESSOR'S CHARMS-- JANICE LLOYD...

THESE GIRLS MAKE ME **SICK** THE WAY THEY SWOON OVER PROFESSOR BEAMISH! IT'S SO UNFAIR! HE'S A WONDERFUL TEACHER... THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING **HANDSOME!**



AND PERHAPS JANICE WASN'T AS IMMUNE AS SHE LIKED TO BELIEVE. SHE FOUND HERSELF BREATHING A LITTLE FASTER WHENEVER HE CAME NEAR...

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GALVINOMETER AND YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR, I UNDERSTAND NOW!



ABSORBED IN THE EXPERIMENT, PROFESSOR BEAMISH STEPS BACK...

HAVE YOU CHECKED THESE TERMINALS...

OHH, PROFESSOR, YOUR ARM... WATCH OUT!



JANICE HELD HIS ARM AN INSTANT LONGER THAN WAS NECESSARY... AN INSTANT THEY BOTH SEEMED TO ENJOY...

THANK YOU... MISS LLOYD, IT'S A BAD HABIT OF MINE! I'M RATHER ABSENT MINDED! FOREVER GETTING INTO THINGS WITHOUT KNOWING IT!

YOU'VE RIPPED YOUR SLEEVE-- A SECOND MORE AND IT WOULD HAVE GOT YOUR ARM!



I... I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY THE OTHER GIRLS ARE SO WILD ABOUT HIM! HE'S SO MATURE-- EVEN A LITTLE ABSENT-MINDED! HE MAKES THE MALE STUDENTS LOOK LIKE CHILDREN!



GOOD EVENING, MISS... ER LLOYD. I SEE WE'RE BOTH GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION! I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I WALK ALONG WITH YOU?

OF COURSE NOT, PROFESSOR, I THINK IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL!



JANICE COULD SCARCELY BELIEVE IT, THE COLLEGE PROFESSOR WHO TAUGHT A HUNDRED BEAUTIFUL GIRLS EVERY DAY, SEEMED INTERESTED IN HER...

I'VE ADMIRERD YOUR LABORATORY WORK VERY MUCH, YOU SHOW A GRASP OF PHYSICS PRINCIPLES BEYOND THE AVERAGE STUDENT!

THE CREDIT BELONGS TO YOU, PROFESSOR! YOU TEACH SCIENCE AS IF IT WERE FUN!



THEIR QUIET WALK WAS HORRIBLY INTERRUPTED--A MAD DOG... IT SPRANG AT THEM...



OH, NO... HELP! HELP!

STAND BACK! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!

GRRRRR!

JANICE SAW THAT THE PROFESSOR WAS A MAN OF ACTION AS WELL AS A MAN OF LETTERS... HE CAREFULLY REACHED FOR THE BEAST'S THROAT...



WE'VE GOT YOUR... ARM!

IT'S ALRIGHT, JANICE, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM... HE WON'T GET NEAR YOU!

SLOWLY, DELIBERATELY... ALMOST ABSENT-MINDEDLY, THE PROFESSOR SINKS HIS FINGERS INTO THE MAD DOG'S THROAT, HIS JAW CLAMPED, HE IGNORES THE ANIMAL'S TERRIBLE BITE...



GRRR...

IN JUST A... MINUTE, IT WILL BE ALL OVER...

THE DOG'S GRIP RELAXED... BUT THE PROFESSOR'S NEVER DID...



IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T LOOK... THIS ISN'T VERY NICE TO WATCH!

A MOMENT LATER, IT WAS OVER, JANICE COLLAPSED AGAINST THE PROFESSOR'S CHEST...



IT... IT WAS HORRIBLE! YOUR POOR ARM-- YOU WERE SO BRAVE TO DO THAT!

I HAD TO, JANICE! I'D RATHER HAVE HIM CHEW MY ARM THAN MY THROAT! DON'T WORRY, IT'S FINISHED NOW! I'LL GET THIS ARM ATTENDED TO AND WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN FORGET THIS ENTIRE BUSINESS!

JANICE WAITED, WORRIED, WHILE THE DOCTOR ATTENDED TO THE ARM...



PROFESSOR, IS... HOW IS THE ARM?

THE ARM IS FINE--AND MY NAME IS ANDREW! IF WE'RE GOING OUT TO DINNER, I CAN'T HAVE YOU CALLING ME ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR ALL NIGHT!

THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A WHIRLWIND CAMPUS COURTSHIP THAT HAD THE WHOLE COLLEGE BUZZING, JANICE AND THE PROFESSOR SPENT ALL THEIR FREE TIME TOGETHER...



HI, ANDY! HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?

NEVER TOO LONG FOR YOU... WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A WALK BY THE RIVER?

THEY WERE NO LONGER STUDENT AND TEACHER...
THEY WERE NOW-- MAN AND WOMAN! THE
MOON WAS FULL AND THE NIGHT AIR WAS WARM...



JANICE... MY JANICE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY
YOU SHOULD BE IN LOVE
WITH AN OLD MAN, BUT
SINCE YOU ARE, HAVE
YOU EVER CONSIDERED
GETTING... MARRIED?

OLD MAN INDEED!
LET'S NOT HEAR
ANOTHER WORD
OF THAT! AND WHY
WERE YOU SO LONG
ABOUT ASKING?
OF COURSE I'LL
MARRY YOU!



A MONTH LATER, THEY WERE
MARRIED! THE ENTIRE FACULTY
CAME TO THE WEDDING, TO
CELEBRATE... AND TO GOSSIP...



DISGUSTING,
THAT'S WHAT
IT IS! SHE'S
JUST A
CHILD!

I'D HATE TO
TELL YOU HOW
OLD HE IS!



I REMEMBER
THE YEAR HE
CAME HERE,
IT WAS...

HUSH, EMERY!
SOME THINGS
ARE BETTER
OFF NOT
SAID!



DEAN LEACH,
SHE SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT
ABSENT-MINDED
PROFESSOR
BEAMISH...

TOO LATE FOR
THAT NOW! SHE'LL
HAVE TO FIND
OUT FOR
HERSELF!



EVERYTHING
IS SO
WONDERFUL...
I'M SO HAPPY!

WE'LL SPEND OUR
HONEYMOON AT MY
CABIN IN THE MOUNTAINS,
THERE'S NOT
A SOUL FOR MILES!
WE'LL BE ABSOLUTELY
ALONE!

AFTER THE
WEDDING...



THE WEDDING, THE HONEYMOON... NOW THE
MOUNTAIN CABIN! IT WAS ALL SO WONDERFUL,
IT SEEMED LIKE A DREAM TO JANICE...

OH, ANDY... IT'S
BEAUTIFUL! EVERY-
THING SEEMS TOO
GOOD TO BE TRUE!

IT'S TRUE ENOUGH,
DARLING! NOW, LET
ME JUST GRAB
THESE BAGS...

HOW EASILY A DREAM CAN TURN INTO A NIGHTMARE... A STRONG GUST OF WIND...

ANDY, THE DOOR IS BLOWING SHUT-- LOOK OUT!! YOUR HAND!



EEEE! WHAT...? OH, THE DOOR, HOW ABSENT-MINDED OF ME TO LEAVE MY FINGERS IN THE DOOR!



OH, PLEASE, LET ME SEE, I WANT TO HELP! YOU MAY BE BLEEDING BADLY! ERR, AH... I DON'T THINK SO... YOU SEE, THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU! I HAD A LABORATORY ACCIDENT WITH THAT HAND YEARS AGO, A TRANSFORMER BLEW UP!



OHNN!

A VERY BAD ACCIDENT, I HAD TO HAVE THE HAND AMPUTATED! I DESIGNED AN ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED MECHANICAL HAND TO TAKE ITS PLACE! I WAS ASHAMED TO TELL YOU-- DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD LOVE A ONE HANDED MAN!



MY POOR, ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR! OF COURSE I DON'T MIND! I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT! IT WAS JUST THE SHOCK OF SEEING YOUR FINGERS CRUSHED LIKE THAT!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND! AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY HAND, A FEW MINUTES IN MY WORKSHOP, AND IT'LL BE GOOD AS NEW!

JANICE TRIED TO FORGET HER SHOCK OVER THE ACCIDENT, A HONEYMOON IS MEANT FOR HAPPINESS...

I REALLY AM HAPPY, I'M NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE ACCIDENT SPOIL IT ALL!

YOU'RE RIGHT, DEAREST, ACCIDENTS HAVE A WAY OF JUST HAPPENING-- I KNOW, I SEEM TO HAVE HAD MORE THAN MY SHARE!



THE FACT IS... I HAVEN'T BEEN EXACTLY COMPLETELY FRANK WITH YOU ABOUT THE ACCIDENT WHERE I LOST MY HAND! IT WAS A BIG EXPLOSION, YOU SEE... PIECES OF METAL FLYING AROUND AND ALL THAT...

ANDREW, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?



PIECES OF METAL HIT MY ANKLE, JUST ABOUT TOOK IT OFF! I MADE THIS FOOT-- YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL IT FROM THE ORIGINAL!

DID... DID ANYTHING ELSE HAPPEN THEN-- TELL ME!

WELL, NO, NOTHING HAPPENED THEN! BUT ABOUT A YEAR LATER, YOU KNOW, I REALLY AM ABSENT MINDED, I FORGOT A CARBON-ARC WAS ON! TURNED AROUND TOO FAST AND LOST THIS EYE-- BUT THIS GLASS EYE IS JUST AS GOOD AS REAL!

NO... NO...

VERY HOT FLAME HIT THIS SIDE OF MY FACE, BURNED MY HAIR AND SCALP OFF IN AN INSTANT! THIS EAR IS QUITE A GOOD JOB, DON'T YOU THINK? I WASN'T OUT OF THE HOSPITAL A WEEK WHEN A POWER RACK COLLAPSED...

... IT LANDED RIGHT ON MY OTHER ARM-- ONE OF THE METERS POPPED OUT AND LANDED ON MY JAW, LOOKED LIKE ALL MY TEETH WERE ROLLING AROUND ON THE FLOOR LIKE MARBLES!

NO... NO... NO!!

BLINDED BY HORROR, JANICE STAGGERED BACKWARDS, FORGETTING ABOUT THE WINDOW THAT OPENED ONTO THE CLIFF...

THEY WANTED TO JUST REPLACE THE MISSING TEETH, BUT I SAID WHY ONLY HALF A JOB, I CAN EASILY MAKE A JAW...

STOP! STOP! AAAIEEEEE!

THE WINDOW FRAME GAVE AND THE TERROR STRIKEN BRIDE PLUNGED TOWARDS THE VALLEY FLOOR...

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT YOU LOSE, WITH A LITTLE IMAGINATION YOU CAN EASILY MAKE A PART THAT WILL DO JUST AS WELL. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, DEAR?

EEEEEE!

JANICE LAY CRUSHED AND DEAD IN THE VALLEY BELOW, WHILE THE REVOLTING LUMP OF SCARRED FLESH THAT WAS THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR BEAMISH, SAT ALONE IN THE HONEYMOON CABIN...

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING? OH DEAR, WHERE DID I PUT THAT EAR... I CAN'T SEE IT! I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN BOTH MY EYES OUT AT THE SAME TIME, THAT ALWAYS CAUSES ME SO MUCH TROUBLE!

HEH, HEH, LOOKS LIKE THE GOOD PROFESSOR WENT TO PIECES! THAT POOR GIRL, JANICE, IS BURIED RIGHT HERE IN MY CEMETARY! THE PROFESSOR IS STILL AROUND YET, ALL WE'VE BURIED OF HIM ARE A FEW CHUNKS-- BUT I'LL GET THE REST OF HIM ONE OF THESE DAYS-- THEY ALWAYS COME HERE IN THE END... HEH! HEH!

The END