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GHOST machine
HYDE
STREET
IT'S ALIVE!
THE BUTCHER OF HYDE STREET
PART 4
IVAN REIS
ANDERSON


1888.
THERE IS A STREET. JUST AROUND THE CORNER, BOTH FAMILIAR AND UNKNOWN. A STREET BRANCHING OFF EVERY SMALL-TOWN SQUARE AND CUTTING THROUGH EVERY BIG-CITY AVENUE.
I FIND MYSELF ON... UNFAMILIAR GROUND.
UNTIL I KNOW OTHERWISE, I SHALL REGARD IT AS HOSTILE.
IT IS A PLACE WHERE THE WICKED AND CRUEL ARE DRAWN, TO THE CROSSROADS OF MORALITY AND MADNESS, WITH THE INEVITABLE DESTINATION OF NOT MERELY DEATH... BUT SOMETHING FAR WORSE.
IT IS A PLACE WE CALL...
HYDE STREET
WHEN GENERAL ARTHUR WHITLOCK ARRIVED HERE, HE WAS NOT ALONE.
SOMETHING HAD BEEN LURKING IN HYDE STREET LONG BEFORE THE GENERAL EVER SET FOOT UPON IT.
ITS NAME WAS BELGOR.
AND UPON SEEING WHITLOCK, THE CREATURE DECIDED IT HAD FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING IT WANTED.
YOU.
A HOST.


WHATEVER BELGOR HAD ENDURED BEFORE GENERAL WHITLOCK'S ARRIVAL HAD LEFT THE CREATURE DIMINISHED.
SO IT HID.
IT WAITED.
FOR A BODY STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE ITS OWN.
WHITLOCK WOULD BE IT.
I SEE YOU, ARTHUR WHITLOCK.
EVERY BATTLE.
EVERY ORDER.
EVERY DEATH.
SO MUCH INSIDE ONE MAN.
ALL OF IT IS MINE NOW... YOUR BODY WILL CARRY ME.
YOUR VOICE WILL SPEAK FOR ME.
YOUR HANDS WILL KILL FOR ME.
AND YOU...
...WILL WATCH.
I SEE.
YOU ARE NOT AFRAID.
I HAVE BEEN AFRAID MANY TIMES.
I SIMPLY LEARNED LONG AGO NOT TO CONFUSE FEAR WITH SURRENDER.
TELL ME SOMETHING, BELGOR.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO WAR?


WHAT IS THIS?
MY MIND.
YOU ENTERED IT WITHOUT FIRST SECURING THE GROUND.
I AM INSIDE YOU!
YES.
THAT WAS YOUR SECOND MISTAKE.
RRROOOAR!
YOU CANNOT HOLD ME FOREVER.
I DO NOT INTEND TO.
I INTEND TO MAKE YOU USEFUL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I CAN DESTROY YOU.
BELGOR HAD CHOSEN A SOLDIER IT BELIEVED WOULD MAKE HIM AN EXCEPTIONAL VESSEL.
ON THAT POINT, AT LEAST, THE DEMON HAD BEEN CORRECT.


THE POSSESSION BECAME A WAR.
GENERAL ARTHUR WHITLOCK WON.
AND EVENTUALLY, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE OF BELGOR LEFT AT ALL. ONLY THE POWER WHITLOCK HAD TAKEN FROM HIM.
THE DEMON HAD INTENDED TO WEAR THE GENERAL LIKE A UNIFORM.
INSTEAD...
GENERAL WHITLOCK WORE THE DEMON.
MISS GOODBODY...
...IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.


YOU KILLED IT...
THE PARASITE? YES.
IT WAS ATTEMPTING TO CRAWL BACK DOWN YOUR THROAT. I DEEMED THAT RATHER PRESUMPTUOUS.
ALL...ALL I NEED IS ONE.
I HAVE TO GET BACK.
TO YOUR ESTABLISHMENT?
I WOULD COUNSEL AGAINST IT. THE BUTCHER MAY STILL BE ON THE PREMISES.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR ADVICE!
NO.
YOU DID NOT.
IT'S ALREADY STARTING...
...OH, NO.
MISS GOODBODY?
TURN AWAY!
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
DON'T LOOK AT ME!

MAKE IT STOP!

IT WAS KEEPING IT OFF.

THE CREATURE.

EVERYTHING I ATE--

--IT ATE.

I HAVE MORE. IN MY STORE.

YOU INTEND TO SWALLOW ANOTHER.

I NEED IT!

NO.

DON'T YOU TELL ME NO!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS!

I NEED IT--!

KRRRPP


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HYDE STREET®

