DHS Comix
RANDoM ENCOUNTER

“GHOST STORY”
SO... OCTOBER, HM?
I HEAR THAT IN THIS STRANGE, FOREIGN LAND, THERE'S A SPECIAL CELEBRATION THIS MONTH...
THEY CALL IT... HALLOWEEN, EH.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
HEY YOU'RE NOT IN THIS VOLUME.
OUCH.

BUT I DIGRESS-
SO IT LOOKS LIKE THE TIME OF YEAR GUYS DRESS THEIR CHARACTERS AS OTHER DUDES CHARACTERS.

SO... PANTYRAID?

WHAT THE-?! H-HEY! GET BACK HERE!!

ROM & DHS

BFFS
Ligh... WHAT MISERABLE BLOODY WEATHER. I'M SO BOOOOOORED...

Heheh, reminds me of back when I travelled the trapeze wagon train with my family.

Thankfully, drier indoors, of course!

But when it rained like this, there really wasn't much else to do but turn the wagons in, and...

And be bored?

No...

Well, c'mon, a trapeze wagon train is full of travelling storytellers and the like.

So on dark and stormy nights like this... we'd always turn the wagons in, and...

Tell scary stories!

Scary stories?

Huh?

Ooh, that's a good idea, Delta!

Hey! That's my Nez! How'd he get out?

Hehehe, thanks Claw!

So Del, know any good ones?

Yeah yeah, of course I do!

Just ah, give me a sec to think...
OK, HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE WHERE—

A WOMAN AND HER HUSBAND ARE DRIVING HOME ONE STORMY NIGHT, BUT HAVE HEARD THERE IS A LUNATIC ESCAPED FROM A NEARBY ASYLUM...

THE HUSBAND GOES OUT TO CHANGE A BROKEN WHEEL... BUT DOES NOT RETURN.

AND THUMP THUMP THUMP ON THE WAGON ROOF... IS THE SOUND OF THE LUNATIC WITH THE GUY’S HEAD ON A PIKE! NEXT!

OK, FINE THEN, HOW ABOUT....

A GIRL IS HOME ALONE, LATE AT NIGHT. SHE’S WORRIED, BECAUSE RUMOUR HAS IT A MADMAN IS ON THE LOOSE IN THE AREA.

BUT SHE HAS HER DOG FOR COMPANY, UNDER HER BED.

BARK BARK.

HE LICKS HER HAND TO REASSURE HER.

AND PEOPLE CAN LICK TOO— YEAH! THAT’S AN OLD ONE. MY SISTER USED TO TELL ME IT!

WELL THEN, DO YOU KNOW...

A MAN WHOSE WIFE RECENTLY PASSED AWAY IS SITTING UP LATE AT NIGHT IN HIS LONELY HOUSE. HE HEARS LOUD FOOTSTEPS OUT THERE, STOPPING AT HIS DOOR.

BUT THERE’S JUST FOOTPRINTS OUT THERE, STOPPING AT HIS DOOR.

MMHM! AND IT’S THE GHOST OF HIS WIFE, HAUNTING HIM BECAUSE HE KILLED HER!

HMMM... YOU GUYS ARE GOOD.

OF COURSE NOT!

UM... LET ME JUST...

OH! I KNOW, I’VE GOT JUST THE STORY! YOU DEFINITELY WON’T HAVE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE!
NOT TOO LONG AGO, ON A NIGHT MUCH LIKE THIS...

A WAYWARD ADVENTURER TRAVELLED IN SEARCH OF SHELTER.

UGH, CURSE THIS AWFUL WEATHER!

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO MY MOTHER AND BEEN A MILLENER, INSTEAD...

HA-CHOO!

MISERABLE WEATHER, STUCK IN DREARY BACKWOODS. IT CAN'T GET MUCH WORSE.

GEEZ! LAY OFF THE Cliches!

H-HUH?! THERE'S NOTHING—I COULDE'VE SWORN...

MUST'VE JUST BEEN THE WIND...

WAIT— THAT LIGHT! AH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, AN INN, OUT HERE OF ALL PLACES!

MY LUCK MUST BE CHANGING FOR THE BETTER!

HELLO? EXCUSE ME, COULD I—?

GAH!

A GHOST!
Ugh...
Hey, you ok there?
D-did you just hit me in the head with a broom? Uhhhh... my head...

Yeah well... I thought you were a ghost.

Are you serious?

I'm dead serious.

Augh, my head! I can't believe you just said that!

It wasn't that bad a pun...

...why would you think I'm a ghost?

This used to be a solid trade route, but I have not had many visitors to my inn since the surrounding woods became... haunted.

......uhhh...

Also the weather is kind of spooky.

No way, do you really think those woods are haunted?

Oh they're haunted alright.

Haunted... by ghosts.

Really... it doesn't look haunted to me. Wet yes, haunted no.

Is that so?

Of course.

I don't think I-- gah!
Gah! It's gone again!
Yeah, I'll do that. Sort of comes and goes...

We should be safe inside, though.

It- it won't come inside?
Well, it hasn't so far...

Hm, so I take it you're staying the night, yes?

O- of course!

You're my first customer in quite some time, then! I'm sure you'll find my prices quite, quite reasonable.

30 sil for the night.
Oh, dead seri!
That's outrageous!!

Are- are you serious?

You'd rather stay outside?

W- well, I-

O- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o- o-

No.

Very good!

Now, I've already moved your belongings to your room.

I will show you up there momentarily.

For now, please relax! I will fetch you some dinner, you must be tired, eh?
THE GHOST CIRCLED THE INN LONG INTO THE NIGHT...

BUT IN THE END—

IT BROKE INTO THE INN AND KILLED THE ADVENTURER AND THE INNKEEPER, RIGHT?!

...THAT’S NOT WHAT HAPPENED. DON’T INTERRUPT, PLEASE.

MORNING CAME.

ALL WAS WELL.

MORNING, INNKEEP.

AH, YOU LIVED THROUGH THE NIGHT TOO, EY TRAVELLER?

HUUH?

APPARENTLY.

I’VE KEPT THE HABIT OF LIVING SO FAR, FIGURED I MAY AS WELL CONTINUE IT.

BUT I SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO BE PAID YOUR EXHORBITANT FEE NOW?

HAHAHAHA, WELL I—ACTUALLY...

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST...

I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE BOTH ALIVE. THAT IS PAYMENT ENOUGH FOR ME.

HERE, TAKE THIS WITH YOU.

A SIMPLE KEEPSAKE, I HOPE IT WILL BRING YOU GOOD LUCK

HUH?

PLEASE LEAVE THIS PLACE. CONTINUE ON YOUR JOURNEY. I WILL BE FINE HERE, SO PLEASE, DON’T WORRY ABOUT ME.

I... THANK YOU.

GOODBYE, INNKEEP.
THE ADVENTURER LEFT THE INN, WASTING NO TIME IN ESCAPING THE SURROUNDING WOODS.

PHEW! GLAD TO BE FINALLY CLEAR OF THAT FOREST!

FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT LEAVING THE INNKEEP, THOUGH...

SHE TRAVELLED UNTIL NIGHTFALL, WHEN SHE CAME UPON A SMALL TOWN.

THANK ALTARI! NOW I CAN FIND A NICE QUIET PLACE TO GET SOME DECENT REST!

BUT AS SHE MADE HER WAY DOWN THE STREET...

...HUH? GYAH! EEEK!

...WHY ARE THEY ALL RUNNING?

Y-YOU! THE GHOST FROM LAST NIGHT! WHY-?

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO--?

HRIIEEEK!

BUT LUCK WAS WITH THE ADVENTURER.

SHE PASSED THE STORE OF A FORTUNE TELLER, JUST AS THE OWNER STEPPED OUTSIDE.

H-HEEELP! SOMEONE SAVE ME!!

VERY WELL, THEN.
I suppose you had better come inside.

Thank you...

Nice place you have here.

It suits my needs.

Ah, well, I—

You are cursed.

...Huh?

I see it. The ghost that follows you will haunt you to your death.

I see an innkeeper... a cursed ribbon...

What?! But why?

What?! Buh—she tricked me!

I see you should not accept gifts from strangers.
IS THERE ANY WAY TO REMOVE THE CURSE?

OH YES.

P-PLEASE! TELL ME!

SIMPLY DO AS THE INNKEEPER DID, AND PASS IT TO ANOTHER.

NO! I COULDN'T POSSIBLY-! THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY!

I'LL JUST THROW THE RIBBON AWAY!!

IT WILL LATCH ONTO YOU UNTIL IT FINDS ANOTHER, OR UNTIL YOUR DEATH.

BUT I-

O-O-O-O-O-O

HELP ME!

PLEASE TELL ME THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO UNCURSE ME!

OH, I SUPPOSE THERE IS.

THEN DO IT!!

ARE YOU CERTAIN? I DO NOT THINK-

YES! FOR ALTAIR'S SAKE, JUST DO IT!!

VERY WELL THEN.

HURRY! P-PLEASE!

HRK!

THIS DOES USUALLY CURE CURSES, YES.
DO NOT WORRY.
I SHALL LEAVE YOU YOUR RIBBON. REST NOW...
AND IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT...
HE THREW THE BODY INTO A DISUSED WELL....

WHERE IT LAY UNDISTURBED FOR 50 YEARS...
HMMM?
NOW WHAT IS THAT?
AN OLD... RIBBON?

THE END!

...THANKS DEL, PLEASE
DON'T TELL US ANY MORE
STORIES EVER AGAIN.
Hey Delta, your story sucked.

What?


Yes they are. If that even matters...

No.

Oh yeah?

What about Poltergeists?

No.

Zombies?

No.

Vampires?

N-huh?

Vampires?

Vampires are factual.

Liar!!
Though generally they would be dressed in Imperial Qing dynasty clothing...

A talisman is placed on their forehead to placate the spirit.

Well shush! Mine is a ghost. Maybe somebody was confused and used a ward like that by mistake.

P.S. Ghosts ain't real.

The more you know.
So Lukki Starr ponders if Chinese vampires Sparkle.

Well now, let's find out!

So... handsome!

So pretty!

It's beautiful.