

# THE SORCERER



V-532

YOU ARE WITNESSING A RAGING, HOWLING DESERT SANDSTORM!



SUDDENLY, AMIDST THE SWIRLING GUSTS OF SAND, THERE EMERGES THE BLURRED FORM OF A MAN...



SLOWLY, STEADILY, HE WALKS THRU THE BLINDING STORM... NEVER HALTING, STARING STRAIGHT AHEAD...UNBLINKING...



WITH EACH SLOW, MEASURED STEP, HE COMES CLOSER AND CLOSER TO A LONELY SERVICE STATION AT THE EDGE OF THE DESERT... LIKE A MAN IN A TRANCE!



WHILE, WITHIN THE STATION ITSELF, LUCY SCOTT PEERS INCREDULOUSLY THRU A RAIN-FOGGED WINDOW, AND THEN CRIES...

PA! LOOK!



THERE'S SOMEBODY OUTSIDE!

WELL, WHOEVER HE IS, WE CAN'T LET HIM STAND OUT IN THE STORM! ASK HIM IN, HONEY!



THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO ENTER!

NOT AT ALL! HOW'D YOU GET HERE?

DID YOU HITCH A RIDE FROM CARSON CITY?

NO... I WALKED HERE...



...FROM OUT... THERE!



FROM THE DESERT?? BUT HOW--

OH, PA, IT'S NOT POLITE TO PRY! TELL US WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU, MISTER...?

MY NAME IS AARON! I SEEK EMPLOYMENT!

ARE YOU HANDY WITH TOOLS?

YES!

WELL, WE CAN USE A HANDY MAN AROUND HERE! AND JUDGING FROM MY DAUGHTER'S EXPRESSION, SHE WON'T MIND AT ALL IF I HIRE YOU! YOU GOT YOURSELF A JOB, SON!



SO, THE YOUNG STRANGER IS HIRED, AND FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS ALL GOES WELL!

IT'S NICE HAVING SOMEONE TO HELP OUT WITH THE CHORES!

AND HE'S THE BEST WORKER WE'VE EVER HAD!





BUT SLOWLY, LUCY AND HER FATHER NOTICE ODD THINGS ABOUT THE NEW EMPLOYEE...

HE'S BEEN STARING AT THE DESERT FOR HOURS!

HE SEEMS SO GRIM--SO FRIGHTENED! WHAT COULD HE BE AFRAID OF OUT THERE?!



OH! THE LIGHT WENT OUT!

PROBABLY BLEW A FUSE!

I'LL FIX IT!



THERE!

BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH THE FUSE BOX! HOW DID YOU MAKE THE LIGHT COME ON AGAIN??

MUST HAVE BEEN A LOOSE WIRE, HONEY! IT WENT ON BY ITSELF.. THAT'S ALL!



WAS THAT ALL? PERHAPS, BUT IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE YOUNG HANDY-MAN PERFORMS OTHER FEATS WHICH SEEM ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF!

THE DOGGONE CAR JUST WENT DEAD! HAD TO PUSH HER A MILE TO GET HERE!

I'LL SOON HAVE IT WORKING AGAIN!

NOT THAT WAY YOU WON'T! YOU'VE GOT THE WIRES TWISTED WRONG!



IT DOES NOT MATTER! IT IS FIXED! THE VEHICLE WILL OPERATE NOW!

BUT IT CAN'T RUN UNTIL YOU REARRANGE THE WIRING!



HEY!! SHE STARTED RIGHT UP!

WELL, I'LL BE...!!



THAT NIGHT...

THERE HE IS, STARING OUT AT THE DESERT AGAIN--LIKE HE'S EXPECTING SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO HAPPEN! BUT WHAT?? WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR??

LUCY! COME HERE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...





THE DRAGON IS VANQUISHED! AND NOW HE STOPS OUR LIGHTNING BOLTS WITH MAGIC OF HIS OWN!!



BEHOLD THE CIRCLE OF FIRE, AARON!

BUT EVEN FIRE IS NO MATCH FOR A TORRENT OF WATER!



IT IS USELESS! FOR EVERYTHING WE CREATE, YOU CREATE SOMETHING TO COUNTERACT IT!

WE HAVE TAUGHT YOU THE SORCERERS' ARTS TOO WELL!

IF WE DEPART NOW, WE SHALL NEVER RETURN AGAIN!!

YOU SHALL BE THE ONLY SORCERER OF ALL TIME TO HAVE ESCAPED FROM OUR RANKS!

BUT THERE IS A PRICE YOU MUST PAY-- WHEN WE GO... YOUR POWER GOES TOO!

SO BE IT!



WITHOUT A BACKWARD GLANCE, THE THREE DENIZENS OF A WORLD LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN, RETURN TO THE FOG, AND THE MIST, AND THE NOWHERE FROM WHENCE THEY HAVE COME...

AARON, I--I FEEL AS THOUGH I HAVE AWAKENED FROM A STRANGE NIGHTMARE!! WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE? WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, IN THE FOG?

NOTHING, MY DEAR!  
NOTHING AT ALL!!



THE LIGHTS ARE OUT AGAIN! LET ME FIX... OHH!!



SO! YOU GOT A SHOCK, JUST LIKE ANYBODY! I GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, YOUNG FELLA!

FOR A WHILE, I--I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME SORT OF--OF SORCERER!

ME?? A SORCERER?



SLOWLY, GENTLY, THE YOUNG STRANGER TAKES THE GIRL'S HANDS IN HIS... AS THEY EXCHANGE A LOOK KNOWN ONLY TO THOSE IN LOVE!

NO! I AM NO SORCERER! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I AM AT LONG LAST, A MAN!! DON'T YOU SEE?? I AM A MAN!!



THE END