

PRESENTS...THE ORIGIN OF

DR. MID-NITE



AS DARK AS NIGHT ITSELF IS DR. MID-NITE THE AVENGING FIGURE OF DARKNESS WHO APPEARS AND STRIKES AT EVIL WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING, AND THEN RETIRES INTO THE NIGHT AS QUICKLY AS HE CAME! WHO IS HE? WHAT IS HE?...THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW HE BEGAN....

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IN HIS QUIET LABORATORY, DR. MCNIDER IS ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY! WE FIND HIM WITH HIS ASSISTANT, MYRA MASON..

OH, DOCTOR, YOUR SERUM WILL SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES!

I HOPE SO, MYRA... WITH HARD WORK, IT SHOULD BE READY IN ANOTHER WEEK..

I MUST SEE THE DOCTOR! THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT-- A MAN IS DYING!--

I'M SORRY, BUT DR. MCNIDER IS VERY BUSY---

I'M NEVER TOO BUSY TO DO A GOOD DEED! TAKE ME TO THIS MAN AT ONCE!

LITTLE DOES DR. MCNIDER REALIZE THAT HE IS SPEEDING TOWARD A NEW LIFE OF STRANGE AND THRILLING ADVENTURES....

THIS MAN IS AN IMPORTANT WITNESS AGAINST "KILLER" MARONI THE RACKET KING-- ONE OF THE MOBSTERS SHOT HIM IN THE BACK AS HE WAS COMING HOME FROM WORK--

COLD-BLOODED KILLERS LIKE THAT SHOULD BE TRACKED DOWN AND WIPED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH..

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, IN A POOR TENEMENT HOUSE IN THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN...

IT'S A VERY SERIOUS CASE BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE HIS LIFE--

OH, DR. MCNIDER, WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU--

SO--THE PUNK'S STILL ALIVE...

WE'LL FIX THAT-- THIS WILL PUT ME IN GOOD WITH THE "KILLER"...

THE COWARDLY THUG THROWS A HAND-GRENADE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION INTO THE POOR LITTLE HOME!!....

BOOM!

AS THE SMOKE CLEARS AWAY, THE POLICE ARRIVE AND THEY ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THE VICTIMS OF THE EXPLOSION...

THIS IS THE ONLY ONE ALIVE!

WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE FAMOUS DR. MCNIDER!! I'VE SEEN HIS PICTURE IN THE PAPERS!

DR. MCNIDER IS HURRIED TO THE HOSPITAL.....

..AND THE DOOM OF HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER...

HE'LL LIVE BUT HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO USE HIS EYES AGAIN--

WHAT A PITY-- HE DID SO MUCH FOR HUMANITY--



THE THUG REPORTS TO HIS SUPERIOR...

I GUESS YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED WITH THAT WITNESS, "KILLER"--AND I TOOK CARE OF THE SAWBONES WHO WAS TRYING TO FIX HIM UP, TOO--DID I DO GOOD, BOSS?

YOU DID FINE, MIKE--YOU'LL GO FAR IN THIS BUSINESS !!

GANG BOND KILLS FIVE

IS DR. MCNIDER'S CAREER AS A HELPER OF HUMANITY REALLY ENDED? LET US SEE...

IN THE SCIENTIST'S STUDY, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, WE FIND HIM WITH HIS FAITHFUL ASSISTANT, MYRA MASON...

MYRA, YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD ASSISTANT TO ME IN MY RESEARCH--I WANT YOU TO WORK WITH ME--

BUT, DOCTOR--YOUR EYES--

THERE ARE STILL THINGS LEFT FOR ME TO DO-- I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A WRITER-- I WILL WRITE NOW-- STORIES THAT WILL HELP TO BRING JUSTICE TO THE DOWN-TRODDEN AND OPPRESSED.

--AND I WILL BE YOUR EYES-- DICTATE YOUR STORIES TO ME-- I WILL READ FOR YOU AND HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN!

AND THUS STARTS DR. MCNIDER'S CAREER AS A WRITER, FIGHTING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD...

NEWSPAPER

CRIME DETECTIVE

GANGSTERS KILL FIVE

DR. MCNIDER, THE BLIND SCIENTIST...

"THE KILLER" WHO IS A CRIME NEWS FAN, GETS ALL THE DETECTIVE AND CRIME NEWS MAGAZINES, EXPECTING TO FIND FLATTERING ACCOUNTS OF HIS LATEST CRIMES...

SAY, WHAT'S THIS? THAT MCNIDER GUY IS GETTING TOO FRESH FOR HIS OWN GOOD!

LET ME BLOT HIM OUT, "KILLER"!

AW, LET HIM MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF HIMSELF IF HE WANTS TO-- NO ONE'S GOING TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO A GUY WHO CAN'T EVEN SEE WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

OKAY, "KILLER"-- BUT IT'S TOO BAD I DIDN'T DO A GOOD JOB THAT TIME!

THAT REMINDS ME, MIKE-- I GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU-- ONE OF THE CUSTOMERS WE SELL PROTECTION TO HAS SQUAWKED TO THE COPS--

SO YA WANT HIM TOOK CARE OF, EH BOSS?

BUT LITTLE DOES THE "KILLER" REALIZE WHAT LIES AHEAD...



ALONE AT NIGHT, DR. MCNIDER THINKS THINGS OVER...

MY STORIES ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH-- SOMEONE OUGHT TO DESTROY THE "KILLER" AND HIS VICIOUS MOB-- IF I ONLY---

A SUDDEN THUNDER-STORM, A BOLT OF LIGHTNING AND A FRIGHTENED OWL CRASHES THROUGH THE WINDOW...



DR. MCNIDER INSTINCTIVELY TEARS THE BANDAGE FROM HIS EYES...

WHAT'S THIS? WHY-- I CAN SEE! IT'S DARK, BUT I CAN SEE!



POOR FELLOW-- HE'S HURT-- I MUST HELP HIM-- I'LL TAKE HIM OVER TO THE LIGHT AND SEE WHAT'S WRONG--



WHY-- I'M-- I'M BLIND AGAIN-- I CAN'T SEE-- IT'S-- IT'S THE LIGHT! I CAN'T SEE IN THE LIGHT!



A HORRIBLE REALIZATION DAWNS ON DR. MCNIDER.....

WELL, MY FINE FEATHERED FRIEND, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND I ARE IN THE SAME BOAT-- BOTH OF US ARE BLIND BY DAYLIGHT, AND CAN SEE ONLY BY NIGHT--

WHOO-O?



SINCE WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER, WE MAY AS WELL STICK TOGETHER.. HOLD STILL WHILE I FIX THAT WING OF YOURS-- I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU AS A PET--

WHOO

EXPLANATION OF DR. MCNIDER'S STRANGE PHENOMENON! EVERYONE KNOWS AN OWL CAN SEE ONLY AT NIGHT... THE IRIS OF ITS EYE CANNOT CLOSE OFF LIGHT TO THE PROPER DEGREE AND SO THE OWL IS BLINDED BY DAYLIGHT.. THE ACCIDENT MADE DR. MCNIDER'S EYES THE SAME AS THE OWL'S ...HE CAN SEE IN THE DARK-- BUT LIGHT BLINDS HIM!!



MEANWHILE, "KILLER" MARONI'S MEN STILL CARRY ON WITH THEIR FOUL WORK...





AT "KILLER" MARONI'S HEAD-QUARTERS...

YOU FOOL! I THOUGHT YOU KILLED THAT OLD GUY! HE'S NOT DEAD--THEY'RE OPERATING ON HIM IN THE HILLVIEW HOSPITAL TONIGHT! IF HE SURVIVES, WE'RE SUNK!

AW, BUT BOSS--IT SAYS IN THE PAPER NO ONE BUT DR. MCNIDER COULD HAVE SAVED HIM AND MCNIDER IS BLIND!

WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! LISTEN, MIKE, IF SOMEBODY GOT INTO THE BASEMENT AND PULLED THE FUSES IN THAT HOSPITAL AT THE RIGHT TIME--

I GETCHA, BOSS-- NO DOCTOR KIN OPERATE IN THE DARK! THE GUY DIES ON THE TABLE!

BUT A SHADOWY FIGURE HAS BEEN AT THE WINDOW AND OVERHEARD THE EVIL PLOT...

O.K., BOSS, I'M ON MY WAY!

HM--I COULD STOP THAT LITTLE RAT NOW BUT I HAVE A BETTER PLAN--!

COME ON, HOOTY-- WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL BEFORE MIKE DOES!

AT THE HILLVIEW HOSPITAL

HE'S GOT ONE CHANCE IN A THOUSAND!

I WISH POOR OLD MCNIDER WERE HERE-- HE COULD DO IT-- WELL ANYWAY, WE CAN ONLY TRY-- SCALPEL, NURSE--

SUDDENLY THE OPERATING ROOM IS FLOODED IN DARKNESS...

LIGHTS! SOMEONE TURN ON THOSE LIGHTS!

WE CAN'T OPERATE IN THE DARK! THIS MAN WILL DIE!

LIGHTS, SOMEBODY!

SUDDENLY, THE WEIRD FIGURE OF DR. MID-NITE APPEARS FRAMED IN THE WINDOW...

I BELIEVE A FUSE HAS BEEN BLOWN! YOU'LL HAVE NO LIGHTS AT ALL FOR AWHILE-- NURSE, GLOVES AND SCALPEL PLEASE--QUICKLY!

SOMETHING COMMANDING IN THE VOICE OF THIS STRANGE CREATURE FORCES THE NURSE TO OBEY HIS COMMAND, AND IN THE DARK, DR. MID-NITE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE OPERATION!

HIS WORK DONE, DR. MID-NITE LEAVES AS SUDDENLY AS HE CAME...

IT'S INCREDIBLE! THAT--THAT STRANGE CREATURE PERFORMED THE OPERATION IN THE DARK-- AND IT WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS!

LOOK! HE LEFT SOMETHING-- A SYMBOL! AN OWL AND CRESCENT-- IT SAYS-- DR. MID-NITE!

BACK AT KILLER MARONI'S HEADQUARTERS...

WELL, I DONE IT, CHIEF! I FIXED THEM LIGHTS SO GOOD THEY PROBABLY AIN'T GOT 'EM FIXED YET--THE GUY IS A GONER SURE AS SHOOTIN'!

GOOD!

NO, NOT SO GOOD, MARONI! MR. SCHLITZ IS ALIVE AND WILL TESTIFY AGAINST YOU AS SOON AS I GET YOU IN JAIL!

WHY-WHY YOU'RE CRAZY--YOU SHOOT HIM, MIKE! SHOOT HIM!

BUT SUDDENLY HOOTY FLIES FROM HIS PERCH ON DR. MID-NITE'S SHOULDER AND KNOCKS THE GUN FROM MIKE'S HAND....

HEY!

PERHAPS IN OUR OWN ELEMENT--DARKNESS--YOU TWO HOODLUMS WILL BE LESS OF A MATCH FOR "HOOTY" AND MYSELF!

HEY! IT'S DARK! I CAN'T SEE-- I CAN'T SEE TO SHOOT!

IT'S THE SAME MEDICINE YOU GAVE THAT POOR DEVIL IN THE HOSPITAL TONIGHT--

THESE PAPERS WILL BE ENOUGH EVIDENCE AGAINST THE "KILLER" TO PERSUADE THE POLICE TO HOLD HIM AND MIKE IN CUSTODY. UNTIL SCHLITZ IS WELL ENOUGH TO TESTIFY.

OH IT'S OFF TO JAIL WE GO TO JAIL WE GO TO JAIL WE GO TO JAIL WE GO!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN DR. MCNIDER'S OFFICE...

WELL--"KILLER" MARONI'S TRIAL STARTS TODAY-- WITH SCHLITZ TESTIFYING AGAINST HIM, AND WITH ALL THE EVIDENCE DR. MID-NITE GATHERED ABOUT HIM, HE'S SURE TO BE CONVICTED! THAT DR. MID-NITE IS REMARKABLE! YOU OUGHT TO WRITE A STORY ABOUT HIM!

MAYBE I WILL, SOME DAY --MAYBE I WILL--

AND SO STARTED THE AMAZING CAREER OF DR. MID-NITE!

WATCH FOR MORE OF DC'S HALL OF GOLDEN AGE HEROES CLASSICS IN FUTURE ISSUES OF JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA!