

WHO

JOHN ROCK

MAY I Present a personage not exactly famous but who is widely known and carefully dealt with. He exerts a magnetic influence upon the life, love, and financial status of millions. Without doubt, fortunes have been made and lost in fickle gambles involving his undependable nature. Banking, insurance, brokerage, and the like are deeply entwined in his fateful web of behavior.

His character is quite electrifying. Many brilliant men have tried or are trying, to forecast his next stroke and to analyze him, that they might better combat him. In the many publications, and in the many stage and screen productions, we often find a story, an essay, or a sketch built around him, dwelling upon his every act.

Today we find humanity and history alike reckoning with him. He has snatched the life of innumerable children from the arms of adoring parents and often steals someone away, dear to a passionate youth or lass. Grudgingly I admit he has relieved some suffering but in exchange, he has produced untold grief. Nature has empowered everything with the ability to reproduce itself but we find in this character a counteraction. He has undertaken to create room for the new by doing away with others. He has proven himself unbiased in his selection of individuals. He has demonstrated favoritism neither to the old or young, nor to the mighty or the meek. His is a horrid task, ruthlessly carried out.

If he were animate, I would imagine

him as a sinister black shadow; a man-sized form of black mist; or a choking, encircling grey fog; or more likely, something with human aspects. His flesh would be of a yellow-green tint; soft, cold, and nauseous. His frame would be tall, slender, well-cut, and definite. The jaw, cheekbones, nose, and forehead would be prominent yet not so as to make you realize this certain fact. The teeth would be white, glistening, and perfect; the mouth straight, even during those few moments of laughter. His mouth would be terminated by half-moon dimples that showed deeply on those rare occasions of apparent joy. His eyes would be slightly deep set, dark, and penetrating; his mind: analytic valuating, determined, and unchangeable. His eyebrows moderate; his hair dark, thick, and wavy; his nose slightly bent; his voice deep, rich, and cultured. His every act would be done with deliberation and charm. He would be cloaked in formal evening 'tails' and 'tophat' with the addition of a black cape. A wine colored rayon strap would cross his chest slantwise and would be adorned with several jeweled clasps.

He commands a mighty empire created by force and willingness. All humanity comes into contact with his compulsive character and when he shall choose to beckon, you too will have no alternative but to answer for he overlooks no one. He is Death.

