

A Ghostly Encounter

by Mary Engquist

Phantom of the Opera plays (Scene) 1

The scene starts out with (Red) chasing (Jackal) out on the stage with their laser guns in hand.

(Red) Stop this immediately, Jackal. You are messing around with that electromagnetic field. It could be very dangerous and cause bizarre side effects.

(Jackal) Just help me wrap this bubble around this ship. That will deflect the radar waves and make it invisible.

(The other crewman are watching in horror.)

(Red) Stand back, men, stand back. Oh, no, it is too late! The men are disappearing and they are caught up in the horror of what is happening. Look, some are getting stuck in the walls. Turn off the field, turn off the field, you dumb wit. Hurry, before we lose the whole crew.

(Jackal) Not on your life, ha ha, it is working, YES!

(Red) Sorry to do this, Jackal, but I must zap you to eternity. (Zap, zap)

(Crew members, some fell to the ground and some disappeared in the walls.

***(Scene) 2 Danny, sitting at the table while grandpa tells him the rest of the story. -----**

(Danny) Gee, Grandpa, I sure have missed you and your stories of the **Italian super hero named Red** Please tell me more.

(Grandpa) Yes, now you need to know what led up to this episode I have missed not telling them to you. And you know that I am not getting any younger. You are already almost a teenage.

(Danny) Yes, I do know that and so today maybe I will learn more and find out “**Who really is the Super Hero Red?**”

(Grandpa) It all started as a cold and dreary night and the stars you could barely see through the thickness of the clouds. This was no ordinary night, for it was to become one unforgivable, challenging, and corrupt evening and dared to be told event that was about to happen. It started with Red who was driving the train this night with his co-worker, Woody, who was a tall, ugly, burly looking character, grumpy and afraid of his own shadow.

They left the transfer station and headed on the train to go underneath the **Bay bridge**, the tunnel was

buried deep in the ocean sealed inside the mud at the bottom. Deeper than the deepest sea, lonely as a bird can be.

(Danny) Hey that was good, Grandpa.

(Grandpa) Well, this old man has not lost it all. Let us continue before I get anymore senior moments.

(Danny) Sounds good to me.

(Grandpa) Okay, well this one peculiar day, it began like any other day. Laughing and joking all the way from the break room to the train and stopping the train in the middle of the underground station.

(Stage is set in underground tunnel. Red and Woody laughing and joking when they arrived.)

(Woody) You know, Red, that my worst fears are being left here in this underground tunnel. Please do not say anything, but this old timer is claustrophobic.

(Red) Gee, Woody, and you landed a job like this? Operating a train underground and deep in the ocean. I really admire that in you. Brave you must be to overcome your weaknesses.

(Woody) Not really, Red, I always had someone cover for me and today is the first day I have been underground.

(Red) How long have you held this new position?

(Woody) Just a few weeks and counting. I knew this dreadful day would finally come and I was hoping that just maybe they would transfer me to another station on top of the ground before it was too late.

(Red) Dang, Woody, your days are numbered.

(Woody) Yea, tell me about it, my friend. But I need this job, for it may seem silly to you, but I have to prove a point to my girlfriend. That I am not afraid of my fears and can beat it. Do you know what it is like to be afraid of certain hang-ups?

(Red) Well, yes, I do. And I hope with tonight's adventure that you will see that there is nothing to fear. Now we will be in the deepest part under the Golden Gate Bridge.

(Woody) I thought that it was the Oakland Bay Bridge, Red?

(Red) Yes, that was before it sprang a leak, and there was not much they could do until one day there was a train wreck and the cars derailed in the tunnel. I was working that day, and did all I could do to calm everyone down. We had water gushing in side of the walls, people were screaming and hanging on for dear life. I had them all get off the train and go in the twin tunnel. It was safer there than in the flooding tunnel. It was up higher and had a walkway.

(Woody) That must have been a scary thing for you to go through. What did you do then? And where did you put all the misplaced passengers?

(Red) It's the darndest thing. There was nothing that I could do. And believe this or not, they just all disappeared on me. Gone with the Wind so to speak. I went hunting for them and with no reasonable answer in mind, they were just gone, and not a trail that I could follow and not a soul in sight. The sound of silence overcame me and I hung my head and cried.

(Woody) What? You've got to be joking! How did you explain that to headquarters? You know when you arrived back at the station and no passengers?

(Red) Good questions. But that is something that you just shake your head at and hope it goes away. But it did not go away, for they held me for questioning, and did not believe my story. Or I should say, they pretend that I was at fault and wanted me to think that. You know, like a fall guy. I told them no way, Jose, and they kept saying to me over and over until I thought that I would die. After sending me to a shrink they decided that I was not to talk about it anymore and not even to the devil. They wanted me to be the nutty one.

(Woody) Then what happened when all the relatives showed up? And how did you explain the unexplainable?

(Red) Well, that was easier than we anticipated. Some we told that their families took a one-way trip on another train. And the others were told that they never caught the train.

(Woody) Wow! Did they believe you?

(Red) They had no choice. You see, the department knew that strange things were happening in the tunnel and their job was to make excuses and deny any wrongdoings. Some of the families are doing their own searches on their loved ones.

(Woody) Is it like the story of the **Bermuda Triangle**?

(Red) I would believe that, but since the Triangle goes from the Gulf of Mexico to the Straits of Florida and we are in the San Francisco Bay Area, well, your guess is as good as mine.

(Woody) I don't like being here in this underground train station, Red. You have scared the daylight out of me.

(Red) Aha, come on, Woody, nothing is going to happen to you. Just follow my advice. I will stop the train and check things. You stay here.

(Woody) Okay. **(Woody acts out the following:)**

(Grandpa) Old Woody was getting nervous now and with Red out of sight he stepped out the back door of the train. The door shut behind him and he heard the train getting ready to start. (Door slams) and (sounds of a train and whistle blowing.)

He took his shaky hand and tried to unlock the door. He could not hold his hand still to put the key in the hole. A minute later the train took off and Woody was all alone in a dark underground tunnel and hundreds of miles under the sea.

(Woody) I'm not going to **'Panic'**, I'm not going to **Panic'**, I'm not going to go **crazy!**

Mama mia, mama mia” I'm not going to **Panic**, help me, someone, please help me!

(Grandpa) He started crying uncontrollably. Red had no idea that Woody had stepped off the train. He was lost for words and speechless. He went over by the wall of the tunnel and put his hand against the wall and his face into his arm and just stood there leaning against the cold wall. But then he thought that he heard voices.

(Woody) Hello, hello, please help me. I am lost in this tunnel.
Gosh, I feel like I am lost in the **Continent of Atlantis**.

(Ghost) Yes, old Woody, you are.

(Woody) Who are you and why can't I see you? And how do you know my name?

(Ghost) We are inside the Bimini Road of the Island in the Bahamas.

(Woody) How could that be? I am in the bottom of the ocean on the West Coast.

(Ghost) Listen, son, a voice said, you are caught between the **Bermuda Triangle** and the **West Coast**.

(Woody) How could that happen?

(Ghost) Well, you probably got caught in the unusual local magnetic abnormalities that exist in different areas.

(Woody) How is that possible?

(Ghost) I will tell you only one time and now listen up.

(Woody) Yes, sir, I'm ready.

(Ghost) Okay, compasses have natural magnetic variations in relation to the magnetic poles. A downdraft of cold air came through at the same time that your train took off creating a huge draft also known as the **Devil's Triangle**.

(Woody) Does that mean that I am in **Hell**, he asked?

(Ghost) Why don't we just say that you have been to **here and eternity**.

(Woody) Who are you, Mr.?

Ghost) What makes you think that I am anybody?

(Woody) But you have a voice, and knowledge, and, and...

(Ghost) That's enough now. You will make me look bad with the other fellows. Besides I just want to warn you about The **Villain Jackal**.

(Woody) What about him? You must tell me! And who is he?

(**Ghost**) Then hear this out. He is the scavenger that keeps us all here tangled in this web. I am not free to go scare other people, and everyone here already knows that I am harmless and that takes the fun out of it. All the prisoners cannot leave and they must wait until the Jackal finds what he is looking for and decides whether he will keep them captive or release them.

(**Woody**) Where are all the other people that you talk about?

(**Ghost**) They will be here soon. They hid from the **Jackal** for fear of their lives. They only come out during waking hours for when they are awake he is usually sleeping. Look, here they come now.

(They now start walking on the stage and stopping long enough for each group one at a time to do their skit.)

Ma and Pa:

(**Ma**) You make me fighting mad, Pa.

(**Pa**) What did I ever do to you, my Darlene?

(**Ma**) You not only went the wrong way on the freeway and got us caught in this Triangle web, but you have a been flirting with every Tom, Dick and Shirley that is caught here with us.

(**Pa**) No, Ma, you're wrong. I would never look at another woman, as long as I got you.

(**Ma**) Then if that is the case watcha doing now, Pa? I told you a million times to quit flirting with that gal.

(**Pa**) Oh, Ma, I just a looking at her cute little torso.

(**Ma**) Well, you better take a good look, for when I get through with you, you are going to wish that you had your own torso.

(**Pa**) Gee whiz, Ma, you know that I have always loved you. Why you cute, good looking, beautiful, devil you. (**As he reaches over to her and tries to touch her and she pushes him away.**)

(**Ma**) You get your cotton pickin' hands off of me before I cut them off.

(**Pa**) Come on, Ma, give me some sugar. You know that I just love you till **the end of time**.

(**Ma**) I'll give you some sugar, all right and right in the kisser, for **the ending of you**. You're nothing but an old two timing gigolo.

(**Pa**) But you know, Ma, that ain't true.

(**Ma**) No butts about it, you no good of a husband. My ma warned me about men like you. That you all are a dime a dozen, and I would not give a plug nickel for the likes of someone like you. Now do ya hear me loud and clear?

(**Pa**) But I helped you raised ya 10 kids, and ain't they the best things that are walking on this earth?

(Ma) Well, let's put it this way, Pa, five of them came out like you, lazy no good bums. And the other five, well let's just say that they are better than the others and take after me. So now ya just get it in your head, that I raised the good ones, and you all raised the not so good ones. Now do ya got that?

(Pa) Oh, Ma, why are you always joshing with me?

(Ma) I would never josh with you, Pa, and there you go again, never believing a word that I tell you, you no good man of a---

(She runs after him with her cane. They leave the stage.)

The two 85-year-old sisters:

(Joan) I told you to take a right turn, and what do you do but go left and get us tangled in this web. You're no good at directions, Mae, do you know that?

(Mae) Well, for one I didn't have my glasses on, and number two, I know that our mama made a big mistake when she made you my sister. And besides, why would I want to listen to you of all people?

(Joan) To keep us out of messes like this. Without you in my life I would not be here in this place and I would be enjoying my nights watching "**Survivor.**"

(Mae) Wait till I tell the host **Jeff Probst**, what a sissy you are.

(Joan) And to think that I was going to be the next contestant on their show. **(As they walk off stage.)**

Future Bride and Groom:

(Bride) Ah shucks, we were supposed to be married tomorrow. Now look, we are stuck in this web.

(Groom) Don't worry, Sweetheart, my desire is to marry you.

(Bride) Then let's do it, and now

(Groom) But, but, dear...

(Bride) But nothing, my love. Nothing in this world should stop us from happiness.

(Groom) Besides the **Jackal.**

(Bride) Then if that is all it is let's get a bomb and blow him off the face of the earth.

(Groom) But, my sweetheart, he is the one that has the power to make us one.

(Bride) Does that mean, like making us into one person? Or blowing us up into one ball of fire?

(She is crying hysterically)

(Groom) Don't cry, my love. It just breaks my little pee picken heart to see you so distressed. And besides, whatever happens, my dear, whatever he does, we will always be together and forever.

(Bride) So you are promising me that till death do us part?

(Groom) Yes, my sweetheart, after I say I do, death will us part.

(Exit stage) with his arms around her.

Next scene: Grandpa talking to Danny about Red

(Grandpa) Red could not figure out what happen to Woody? He was not on the train when he got back to the station so he turned around when he realize this and headed back to the underground tunnel to rescue Woody. Red knew about the **Jackal** and did not want to warn Woody, knowing that he was afraid of his own shadow anyway. What if he got tangled with him? Woody was no match for the bad villain.

(Danny) Oh no, Grandpa, tell me what happened.

(Grandpa) Well it went like this, my son:

(Jackal) Ha ha, ha ha, now I got you where I want you, Mr. Woody. You are a disgrace to humankind. Afraid of the big bad wolf. **(He blows on Woody. (Puff---puff) and Woody jumps back away from him.)**

(Woody) Stay away from me, you brute. I know all about you from the Ghost and I ain't scared, see. **(He makes a face at the Jackal.)**

(The Jackal)

Everyone is afraid of me including the ghost and they have reason to be. I will not release any of you from this Triangle web. Now what do you think of that? Ha ha.

(Woody) You're just a very sick beast that is bored with yourself. Get a life, why don't you.

(The Jackal lets out a great big whiff of air directly at Woody, and blows him in the corner.)

(The Jackal) Now, you listen to me and you listen good. I need your help.

(Woody) What makes you think that I will help you, anyway?

(The Jackal) If you ever want to see daylight again you will follow my orders.

(Woody) I would never take orders from you.

(The Jackal) I think that you will change your mind when you see what I have for you. Come here, Tweedy, come see your lover and you will find out how much he really loves you, ha ha.

(He orders Woody's girlfriend to come out. She has chains on her legs and is in handcuffs.)

(**Woody**) What in the...? Oh, shucks” (**Runs over to his girlfriend**)

(**Tweedy**) I am so sorry, Woody. I came running after you when you left my place and the last thing I remember I woke up here inside this web.

(**The Jackal**) Now, you know you have no choice but to do like you were told.

(**Woody**) It’s alright, Tweedy, I will protect you from this big bad wolf. You will release my girlfriend now and do not waste a second.

(**The jackal**) Think again, Mr. Woody. It is a very simple deal.

(**Woody**) I don't deal with the devil, now do you hear that?

(**The Jackal**) I don't care what you believe, but if you want to save your girlfriend and all the others from my **Bermuda Triangle** you will do just like you are told.

(**Danny**) What did he mean, Grandpa?

(**Grandpa**) Have you heard about the **Philadelphia Experiment and the Bermuda Triangle**?

(**Danny**) Not much, Grandpa. Besides some kind of an experiment that the Navy was doing.

(**Grandpa**) Well, the **Bermuda Triangle** and the **Philadelphia Experiment**, somehow intertwined and became connected.” The Navy conducted a test on the USS Eldridge. It was this one time, it started like all the days on the ship nothing new until Red and **The Jackal** were working together 15 years ago.

(**Red and a new younger looking Jackal come out on stage as if it were 15 years earlier.**)

(**The Jackal**) I want you to wrap this electromagnetic “**Bottle**” around this ship. That will deflect the radar waves.

(**Red**) But that is too dangerous. We could make it invisible. We don't know the extent of this and how far the field will travel and what might get in its way.

(**The Jackal**) Just do as you are told and don't argue with me.

(**Red**) I am telling you that a number of unexpected and bizarre side effects can occur.

(**The Jackal**) Yea, yea, just do like you're told.

(**Grandpa**) And so Red then proceeded against all his reservations.

(**Danny**) Then what happened, Grandpa?

(Grandpa) Well, as the electromagnetic field increased in strength it began forming a large sphere, and the ship became fuzzy. Then a green haze formed around the vessel.

(Lights on the stage turn green over the image.)

(Red) You must stop this madness now. Don't you see what is happening here? Look, the crew is disappearing. They are walking through doors. The heads are being embedded in the bulkheads decks and railings. Look what it is causing. You must stop it now!

(Green lights shine on faces sticking out of portholes. People are walking through walls.)

(The Jackal) Then let it be. The ship is invisible. See I knew this would work. Ha ha.

(Red) You forgot one thing.

(The Jackal) What's that?

(Red) I am making you invisible.

(The Jackal) Someday I will find you and get you for this you, you... **(Cloud of smoke fills the room.)**

(Red) Zap, zap, may your travels be far. **(The Jackal disappears in a cloud of smoke.)**

(Grandpa) He thought that he had gotten rid of the Jackal; well until 15 years later and he continued his plan of attack on Red. That is when it happened.

(Danny) What happened, Grandpa?

(Grandpa) This is what happened.

(The Jackal) Now, Woody, your job is to wait for Red to rescue you. When he gets off the train you are to lure him into my trap. You can have him look inside the hole and then give him a big old push. I will seal him inside of this triangle web, and by putting him in here it will release me from this virus that holds me in bondage. There is only one way in and one way out, and I am the only one that knows how to find it. I hear a train coming. Now remember, Woody, it's bye, bye **Tweedy** if you don't do like I tell you.

(Sounds of a train coming into the tunnel.)

(Woody) Well it is about time that you came back for me, Red. You left me here in this forbidden city. How could you? You knew that I was scared to be left here. What were you thinking?

(Red) Oh, come on, Woody, just forget it. I had no idea that you stepped off of the train. Why did you do something so stupid might I ask you?

(Woody) I won't forget it and don't be calling me stupid.

(Red) Well what do you want me to call you?

(Woody) Well, how about calling me brilliant?

(Red) Why would I do a dumb thing like that?

(Woody) Because you know it to be true.

(Red) Come on, you old timer, get on the train.

(Woody) Just a minute there, I need to say goodbye to my ghost friend.

(Red) A few hours down here and your talking to Ghost?

(Woody) Well follow me and I will show you, my friend.

Look it is over here by that hole. Just stick your head in it and you will see!

(Red) **(Looks towards the audience and says:)** Should I fall for this old trick? **(He scratches his head.)** I know that he is planning on pushing me inside of the hole. I could be dunned. Hey, look what is that coming across the room! **(Over in the audience is the Ghost coming from the back and running towards the stage.)**

(Ghost) It's, it's a trick. It's all about Jackal, and he wants you! Your friend Woody has turned on you to save his girlfriend Tweedy. He was told to coach you towards the hole and it's the hole of no return. It holds many people like you as prisoners.

(Woody) Shut up, Mr. Ghost, or you will ruin everything for me and my girlfriend.

(Red) Wait a minute! This is my battle and I will fight Jackal. But what is he doing here in the train tunnel?

(Woody) It's more than a train tunnel.

(Ghost) Yes, he is telling you the truth. It seems that when you zapped Jackal back 15 years ago he got magnetize by the field that was so strong that he went inside the **Bermuda Triangle** which was caught in an unusual magnetic pole. It brought the West Coast to the Florida Glades and all underground. The only way that he can get out of it is by putting you inside of it because you carry the bacteria antidote from the backfire of the powder from the gun. In other words, it is a living virus.

(Jackal walks in on stage with his cape and sword.)

(Jackal) Hee hee, you're busted. Now get over here and face your punishment. I have waited many years for you and now you walk right into my trap, ha ha.

(Red) Not so fast. **(He pulls out his sword. There is an intense sword fight, back and forth until Red falls on the ground and Jackal puts his foot on top of Red and is getting ready to stab Red in the heart.)**

(All of a sudden Tweedy comes out with a cape on and a sword and pokes Jackal in the back.)

(Jackal) What do you think you're doing, little Ms. Tweedy?

(Tweedy) This joke is on you, Mr. Jackal, **Red** is my man and not **Woody**. We had this all planned. I am called **General Mighty Red** and have powers that you cannot control.

You see I was part of the **Philadelphia Experiment**, and I was one of the vanishing that you forced on Red. I faded from view unable to move or speak initially, a freeze in time. Only I was the only invisible crew woman, although visible to the sailors. Only a few of us survived. We became known as the "**Deep Freeze**" or better yet "**Caught In The Flow.**"

(Red) Yes, we are talking about the "**Deep Freeze,**" which was also called "**Hell Incorporated**" like it could drive men insane. **And** that is exactly my point. We are going to show mercy and take you to the **insane asylum for lost comrades.**

(Jackal) Over my dead body you are. What makes you think that I would ever do something your way?

(Red) Because it's over with and you need to get that through your thick head. We don't need to show mercy, but we want you to live with the fact that you caused all this misery with all of us. We will put you back in the Bermuda Triangle forever to be alone, if you do not listen to us. You will always be stuck in Molasses. But I would not wish that on my worst enemy. So you see, Jackal, it's over.

(The stage lights dim. Everyone circles Jackal.)

(Danny) Tell me grandpa what happen next?

(Grandpa) Well, son, it was like this: Jackal decided he would rather be kept in the Bermuda Triangle than being held in the insane asylum. All the crew which had been involved in the **Philadelphia Experiment** and lived through it were part of a plan to capture old Jackal. It had been in the works for over 15 years, and one by one they fell into a timely trap. Here they come now and in order of their appearance.

(All the actors come out on the stage.)

Let me introduce Department of Defense (Ma and Pa Roberts), United States Navy, played by (Real names)

(Sisters) Joan and Mae Brooks, Medical Corps. United States Navy (Real names)

(Bride and Groom) "Chaplain Corps" United States Navy (Real names)

(Woody) Chief Warrant Officer, United States Army (Real name)

(Ghost) Staff Sergeant, United States Navy (Real names)

(Tweedy) Owens, called Mighty Red General of the United States Navy and wife to General Red Owens (Real names)

(Grandpa) And none other than: General Red Owens, United States Navy and Son of Italian immigrants (Real names)

(Danny) playing himself (Real names)

(Jackal) US Navy, past commander and always a troubled soul. (Real names)

(Last song and the End.)