

From the case files of Black & MacGillivray

# BLACK MAGIC



# DAN SHAURETTE

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*The Case Files of Black & MacGillivray**Black Magic**Black and White* (in *FRESH BLOOD* anthology)*Coming Soon**BLACK CITY*

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# CHAPTER ONE

It was an unseasonably warm night, even for July in Chicago. The waning moon shone down on the park below, casting only enough light to accentuate the many shadows. Nearby, thousands upon thousands of people were visiting the World's Columbian Exposition. As the evening dragged on, many were beginning to make their way to trains and trolleys, heading home.

Among those strolling that evening were detectives Matt Black and Andrew MacGillivray, hot on their latest case. While others were leaving Jackson Park, they were headed towards the scene of a crime with a decidedly praeternatural twist.

Mac explained his deductions. "They were exhausted, no' only physically from walking around some wee corner of the Expo they chose to explore that day, but also mentally. There were so many things to see and do and learn about. They shuffled toward the exits, all the while hoping to be able to return in the morn for another visit.

"The creature kept to the shadows, nae daring to approach lest it be seen. Yet it could no' help but stare at the illuminated spectacle before it. What was once swampland on the coast of Lake Michigan months ago had been transformed into a glorious beacon of frivolity and American ingenuity. It was no' just the new electric lights that attracted the creature, it was the smells. There was

food there from many cultures and lands, brought to one place to share with the fairgoers.

“Yet that was no’ what the creature needed. It had a taste of what it preferred and now it wanted more. It craved flesh and blood. This was a far cry from The Stockyards where it fed before. Indeed, there was something even more precious here at the Expo that it was after.

“There were so many families and couples, various groups of visitors, but hardly any individuals. There were absolutely nae unescorted ladies. There were only a handful of gentlemen alone and vulnerable. The creature watched one in particular. Young, no’ well-to-do. Perhaps he lived nearby and he came for a rare visit alone, or maybe he met friends who already left. Whatever the reason he was there, he was no’ going to get far.”

The paranormal private eyes arrived on the scene of the mysterious attack. Matt examined the ground as Mac continued, “The creature watched him from its perch among the trees in the park. He seemed to avoid the crowds waiting to take the 63rd Street trolley. The man fiddled with the buttons on his sack coat, distracting himself as he walked. The creature dropped from the tree on top of the man, knocking the wind out of him. He could no’ make any noise to get help from the hundreds of people mere yards away.

“The man was startled and confused by the attack. Furry hands with sharp claws slashed at him wildly, tearing his clothes apart, scratching him, drawing blood. Teeth gnashed near his face, the hot horrid breath assaulted

his senses. He feared for his very life. Then the creature roared and looked like it was about to make the fatal blow when a woman nearby screamed. The creature stopped immediately, aware it may have been spotted, and fled.

“The man just lay there gasping for breath, bleeding, and praying his thanks that his life was spared. He was found moments later by a group of fairgoers who had missed their streetcar and came upon him. They made the call to the medics and police. By then a sizable crowd had gathered, including our friend Mr. Baum.”

Matt laughed and finally interrupted, “You don’t say. Frank’s nose for news, or at least a good story, always helps him out.”

“Or gets him in trouble. Either way, Matt, I think we need to check this out.”

“Agreed, Mac. It may be related to the disappearances. I’d wager Frank knows more, too.”

## About the author

Dan is a goth-geek from Phoenix, AZ. He has been a fan of horror and especially vampires ever since seeing Bela Lugosi's "Dracula" as a young child. You can listen to a serialized audio production of *Black Magic* on HorrorAd-dicts.net and on Podiobooks.com.

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