

The Boy with the Glass Eye

By

Jack Ross

INT. CUPBOARD - DAY

The exterior of an aging Victorian style mansion. The shutters are tattered and hanging off, the bricks are worn and faded. The paint on the front porch's columns is chipped and the whole thing looks like it could blow over in a moment. A rocking chair lies on it's side.

The sky is bleak and cloudy.

INSERT:

A faded sign hangs in the middle of the porch. It reads Branigan House Orphanage: A happy home for those without.

A small boy dressed in striped pajamas sits inside of a large gutted vanity. Quite small for his age, he fits well into the cramped space. Around his neck he wears a glass eyeball attached to a beautiful gold chain but looking at the boy we see that both his eyes are perfectly intact. He is ALABASTER TABERNACLE.

Tacked to the wall in front of him are numerous sketches and hand-drawn maps.

A single light bulb hangs from the top of his small room.

Alabaster clicks on a hand-held tape recorder.

ALABASTER

I, detective Alabaster Tabernacle, on this 5th of May, in the year nineteen hundred and forty may or may not have solved Gabrian House's latest mystery.

He holds up a dirty shoelace and a wad of bubble gum.

ALABASTER (CONT.)

Here in my hand I hold my latest, extremely important, clue. I found this shoelace attached to a piece of bubble gum... In the bottom of the bathroom wastebasket! I did a little sleuthing and discovered that Paulie Monaco's old wingtips are missing the very same shoelace! This has led me to believe that the missing bars of ivory soap were stolen-

The door to his cupboard is suddenly kicked in by a large pair of black boots.

(CONTINUED)

Alabaster turns in shock but continues into the recorder.

ALABASTER (CONT.)

-by none other than Paulie himself!

There, crouched in the small doorway, is a boy nearly twice Alabaster's size, he fills up the cupboard frame entirely. He smiles widely, making his large red cheeks protrude out. With just a glance, you could easily mistake him for a boy-sized meatball.

PAULIE

Hey Allie. The boys and I were just wondering if we could borrow that eye today. We wanna see if it'll float in the toilet bowl.

His smile widens. He begins to creep further into the cubbyhole. Alabaster isn't phased.

ALABASTER

No.

Paulie's smile quickly fades. He looks angry now.

PAULIE

Listen here shithead. Fork over the damn stupid eyeball of yours or I'll send you to the infirmary.

Alabaster tries to wither him with a cold stare.

ALABASTER

Try me blockhead. You cant even get in here.

Paulie rocks back and heaves himself into the cupboard, shattering the light bulb and nearly splitting the wood around him.

Alabaster clutches the glass eye in his hands and struggles to fend off Paulie's attack in the dark.

PAULIE

You're dead Allie! Dead!

He wraps his large sausage fingers around Alabaster's calf and drags him out of the cupboard.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Paulie picks up the now stunned Alabaster by the waist and rips the gold chain off his neck. He grins and laughs as he holds it up high above his head.

He hoists the struggling Alabaster up under his armpit and begins to walk toward the door to the hall.

PAULIE

You picked the wrong day to toughen  
up kiddo.

He laughs stupidly and leaves the room.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Paulie walks smugly down the hall carrying Alabaster under one arm and the chained eye around the other.

As he approaches a door towards the end of the hall two other boys, both round and meaty like Paulie run out to greet him. They are EARL and FRANKIE. They both smile when they see Alabaster and the eye.

PAULIE

Boys I brought us some trash to  
throw away.

He hold up the glass eyeball.

PAULIE (CONT.)

And I got the eyeball too.

Earl and Frankie laugh as if this is the funniest thing they've ever heard.

EARL

Hey Paulie, forget the eyeball, I  
want to see if Alab-**ass**-ter here  
floats in the toilet!

PAULIE

Good idea! Whad'ya say Allie? Up  
for a swim?

The boys head for another room but as they do a shadow quickly comes up over them. Their laughter dies instantly. Paulie slowly begins to turn around and stares shocked at what he sees. He grabs the two others and spins them around. Alabaster falls from his arm with a thud. Paulie grins sheepishly quickly and brushes the dirt off him.

(CONTINUED)

A tall and wiry woman stands over the boys. She carries a thick belt and wears an eyepatch. She is MARIE GABRIAN, owner of Gabrian House Orphanage.

THE THREE BOYS

(Scared)

Hello Ms. Gabrian.

Mrs. Gabrian scowls at them and stamps her foot into the ground.

MS. GABRIAN

What are you four doing out of your rooms!

She notices the eyeball still dangling from Paulie's hand. She gasps. She lifts her eye patch, revealing that one of her eyes is missing.

MS. GABRIAN

Where did you get this from! It went missing from my nightstand last Wednesday! Did you-

ALABASTER

(Quickly)

I saw Paulie and Earl sneaking out last week when I went out for a drink of water Ms. Gabrian!

Ms. Gabrian looks at Alabaster skeptically. He looks incredibly innocent standing next to the three much larger and more menacing boys. She turns to Paulie.

MS. GABRIAN

(angrily)

You lying, stealing little brute!

She grabs him by the arm and drags him into the adjacent room.

MS. GABRIAN (O.S.)

I'll teach you to take things from me!

The sound of a whip hitting bare skin.

The two bigger boys on either side of Alabaster look stunned. But Alabaster just stands there, smirking devilishly, and winks.

CUT TO BLACK.