

**“The Crate Escape” Sample Preview #1**  
**Written by Frederick Passmore**

**Mr. Hunter:** *(With a flourish.)* Behold!

*(The box has painted on it the words "Hunter Curiosities Thrill Box." The crowd looks mildly interested.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** The ultimate in thrills and excitement await you inside the box! And it's absolutely free! Take advantage of this limited introductory offer! Who will take the challenge?

*(Most of the crowd begins to walk away, but Jerry remains. Terry looks at him and jerks his head indicating "let's go," but Jerry halfway holds up a hand to him; indicating "hang on.")*

**Mr. Hunter:** *(To Jerry.)* How about you, sir? What's your name?

**Jerry:** *(Looking around to make sure he is talking to him.)* Uh... Jerry?

**Mr. Hunter:** Jerry! I can see you have a curious mind! Why not come up and view the wonders in my crate of curiosities?

**Jerry:** *(Reluctantly.)* I don't know... Sounds interesting, but I'm a little skeptical that it's for free... What's the catch?

**Mr. Hunter:** Catch? Interesting choice of words, sir. All I want is **you**... *(pauses, then gestures toward the crate)* ...to look into the box!

**Jerry:** *(Craning his neck to see around the box.)* Well, what's in it?

**Mr. Hunter:** What's in it? Why, my good sir, if I told you that it would ruin the surprise! You have to see it for yourself to appreciate it! Try it, there's no obligation and it won't cost you a penny!

**Terry:** Something smells fishy here, Jerry. Let's go.

*(Jerry hesitates, looking at Terry with indecision.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Crossing his arms and tapping his chin with a finger.)* Um... perhaps you should take your friend's advice. The contents of the crate are not for everyone. Only a few have the fortitude it takes to enter into the pleasures of the unknown.

**Jerry:** *(A little defensively.)* Are you implying I don't have the guts?

**Mr. Hunter:** Absolutely not! Courage is demonstrated by actions, not words.

**Terry:** He's just baiting you, man. Let it go.

*(Mr. Hunter shrugs and turns to the box, pulling the sheet back over the edge to cover it up.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** *(As he covers it, he speaks sadly.)* The opportunity has passed you by, my reluctant friend. *(A little more lightly.)* Perhaps I will be back in this part of the country some day.

**Jerry:** *(Moving closer to Hunter.)* Hold on... hold on! I never said I didn't *want* to check it out...

*(Mr. Hunter pauses in his actions, as if considering, then resumes, shaking his head as though deciding against relenting.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** I'm sorry, I have others waiting for me to bring the excitement of the forbidden to them. Now, if you'll excuse me...

**Jerry:** *(Taking out some bills and waving them at Hunter.)* Ok, I'll pay! Just let me take a little peek, Mr. Hunter. Just one!

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Looking offended, he pushes the money away.)* My good man, you insult me! What I offer is not for sale. I give it to those bold enough to take it. *(Looking at him challengingly.)* Are... *you*... bold enough?

**Jerry:** *(Pulling off the sheet.)* I am stone cold bold! Show me. *(Pointing at Mr. Hunter.)* And I better like it!

**Mr. Hunter:** *(With a wicked smile.)* Oh, you'll be hooked, believe me!

*(He pulls back the door on the side of the crate, motioning with his hand invitingly for Jerry to enter.)*

**Jerry:** All right!

*(Jerry bends to go into the box, but Terry grabs his arm.)*

**Terry:** I've got a bad feeling about this...

**Jerry:** I'll be just a second. Wait for me! *(He crawls into the box.)*



**(Begin Track #3: "A Crate Experience." We hear what sounds like a rocking party, with raucous music and**

*laughing people.)*

**Jerry:** *(From inside the box.)* Wow... this is incredible!

*(From inside, Jerry opens a flap to a small window in the front, and sticks his face up to it to speak.)*

**Jerry:** *(To Terry, excitedly.)* You have GOT to see this! It's awesome!

**Mr. Hunter:** Didn't I tell you?

**Jerry:** You are **The Man!** I may never come back out! *(His face disappears from the window.)* Wooooo-hooooo!

**Terry:** *(Concerned.)* Jerry, you shouldn't overdo it. Come on out!

**Jerry:** *(Through the small window hole.)* You are **such** a party-pooper! Just another minute... *(Pulls back from the hole again.)*

**Terry:** You're really going to regret this, I know it!

*(Jerry crawls out of the crate, the music fading as he does, and stands with a huge grin.)*

**Jerry:** *(To Terry.)* See, you worried over nothing! Went in, enjoyed it, came back out, no problem!

**Mr. Hunter:** Just as I promised. And now, I must take my leave. *(Turning to re-cover the crate.)*

**Jerry:** *(Protesting.)* You're leaving? But you just got here with it!

**Mr. Hunter:** I'm afraid I must. Others are waiting to be trapped... er, *tapped*, to partake of my wonderful crate!

**Jerry:** But now that I've had a taste of it, I want more!

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Reluctantly.)* Well, I am on a tight touring schedule...

**Jerry:** Please! Just one more look...

**Terry:** Jerry, let's go. We're gonna miss the bus!

**Jerry:** Just one more time, that's all... I promise.

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Holding the door open again.)* Quickly then, please...

*(Jerry ignores Terry's attempts to pull him back and enters the box again, and Mr. Hunter closes the door behind him with a wicked smile.)*



**(Begin Track #4: Party Music begins again, leading into "The Trap Snaps Shut.")**

**Jerry:** *(From within the box.)* Whoopeeeeeeee!

*(Jerry continues to voice his enjoyment of what he is experiencing. Terry looks at his watch, impatiently. Meanwhile, Mr. Hunter goes behind the box and comes back out with a long, heavy black chain that he begins to wrap around the outside of the box.)*

*(Track #4 continues: The music on the track begins to grow ominous.)*

*(Terry notices him wrapping the chain around the box and is alarmed.)*

**Terry:** Jerry! Come out! It's a trap! *(He knocks hard on the outside of the box.)*

*(Jerry's face appears in the small window hole.)*

**Jerry:** *(Annoyed.)* What's all the commotion? I'm getting into this in here! *(Script continues...)*