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MAGAZINE

VAMPI
#45

SEP 1975

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VAMPIRELLA IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT FEBRUARY, APRIL AND SEPTEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. (TORONTO, ONTARIO) A COMPANY OFFICE AT 145 EAST 32ND STREET, N.Y. 10016. PHONE (212) 485-6000.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2 ISSUES FOR \$6.00 IN THE U.S., CANADA AND MEXICO; \$12.00

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VAMPIRELLA

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"The real VAMPIRELLA lives and breathes again! She said it herself," raved plectured fans. "No more Sun Gods or Nameless Ravishers!" VAMPIRELLA has returned to the real world. An old writer's fresh approach worked."

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Fantasy. Dreams. The concrete world you can reach out and touch. Who can say which way reality lies? Life and love should never have plagued the statue made of stone. But neither should the dreadful monsters that roamed the storm-swept ocean!

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More taxes. More rape. More pillage. More death. This is how the villagers' prayers for deliverance were answered. Northwind's oppressor prospered greatly. God had failed them. So, they turned to the devil!

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War. A horror story unmatched by anything except perhaps... plague, the bloody reaper of the fruits of war. A man might valiantly win battles. But how can he return a hero when only the dead remain to greet him?

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THERE ARE NO CHILDREN

Hungry Hollow, Tennessee, was a remote little hamlet nestled in the Smokey Mountains. They hated noise. Loved comfort and special delicacies. And the folks of Hungry Hollow found a terrifying way to enjoy both!

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"Adam finally called VAMPIRELLA, VAMPI!"

Issue #43 was absolutely the best issue of VAMPIRELLA in the entire year. A new writer took over the chore of scripting VAMPI's adventures, and suddenly the strip is well-plotted, believable and realistic. And the art, as usual, was perfect.

I especially enjoyed Adam Van Helzing's attitude toward VAMPI's recent adventures...her "Nizy European pants!"

Now that VAMPIRELLA seems to be on the right track, I'd like to request rematches with the Cobra Queen, Oracle and the Cult of Chaos.

R. ZIMMERMAN

Chase is back this issue in a twenty-one page confrontation with our girl from Orakulon. It's a very special tale scripted by Len Wein, illustrated by the incomparable Gonzalo Mayo!

The scripting reins of VAMPIRELLA again reside in competent hands, and the long missing beauty has returned to the VAMPI strip.

With my faith in Warren Publishing restored, I will now continue to buy VAMPIRELLA with no doubt as to its worth...as I did long ago. You've won me back!

DOON SCOTTRAS
Orono, Maine

Jose Gonzalez obviously doesn't know guns and doesn't care. If he had drawn and used them properly, I have found the VAMPI story in issue #43 much more realistic. As it was, I felt annoyed.

On page ten, Adam is shown loading a German Mauser from the top. Wrong! The Mauser is clip loaded, like a .45 caliber.

On page eleven, Raven brags to Sara about what a professional assassin he is. But he's going to find it pretty hard to load his .38 with the bullet he's holding if he doesn't open the cylinder.

On page fifteen, Raven kills a guard outside the hospital and no soldier was drawn onto his gun. On page seventeen, Raven guns down Conrad Van Helzing, and again, the noise of a .38 being fired in a quiet hospital should be enough to cave the roof in. It looks like Raven isn't the "pro" he claimed he was.

EDWARD JOHN WOJCIK
Detroit, Mich.

"The Wolves at War's End" stands out as another well crafted Budd Lewistale.

On the other hand, Ramon Tormenta's always impressive art saved "The Easter Bunny Murders." Gerry Boudreau took an imaginative premise...a werewolf...and did absolutely nothing with it. An interesting, bizarre device was wasted.

EO O'REILLY
Ade, Ohio

After an unusually agonizing wait, I now hold VAMPIRELLA #43 in my sweetly little palms.

The cover was not the most auspicious debut for Ribas. From a distance, the magazine is almost invisible. It would be unfair, however, to judge him by a single painting. Perhaps future works will put him in the same class with Enrich, Ken Kelly and Benjamen.

The VAMPIRELLA episode this month was not only everything I had hoped for, it was more. Over the past two years, the series has been variously excellent and terrible. But this month, for the first time in ages, I was actually engaged despite the fact that VAMPI herself had little to do. Some, I suppose, will criticize the story on the grounds that too much space was used to refresh past events. But I'll bet at least half the readers of this issue were not reading the magazine two years ago. For them it was all new.

It marked what was, in effect, almost a new beginning for the series. Was that the significance of the fact that the episode was titled simply VAMPIRELLA?

Until I read the story, I was not quite resigned to the re-introduction of Adam Van Helzing. However, I was pleased to note that this character has been given a thorough overhaul. In the old series, he was usually an incompetent. Now, if he is to be included from now on, I hope the change in his personality is permanent.

This seems to have been the first time, too, that Adam has addressed our heroine as VAMPI, not to mention such endearments as honey, baby, etc. Considering how close they were supposed to have been, it was somewhat humorous that he always called her the formal VAMPIRELLA.

There were, in fact many gems of dialogue. Such as Conrad Van Helzing's comment on learning that VAMPIRELLA had been charged with murder: "It had to happen sooner or later."

Or Adam's observation that VAMPI "seems to attract the supernatural like an orchid drawing maggots!"

One small criticism: It seems odd, to say the least, that the police would have let Adam into VAMPI's room without frisking him for a gun. For all they knew, he might have been the sniper!

Anyway, I can hardly wait for the rest of the story!

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

After waiting for what seemed an eternity for the debut of your new VAMPIRELLA script writer, he appeared. And what an appearance! The series suddenly has depth, substance. I'm just delighted with VAMPI and the way she is now being handled.

The untitled premiere story was delicious. Returning the Van Helzings was a great move. Adam is the guy for VAMPI. I was pretty tired of seeing her play the girl, I had hoped she would eventually get back together with her old lover. And now she has!

The shooting of VAMPI and Pendragon was dynamic. A move in the right direction introducing some much needed realism into the VAMPIRELLA strip. I've nothing against sun-gods and Amazons...in fact, the world of the supernatural made VAMPIRELLA what it is today. But too much of that stuff and you begin talking to goldfish, ya' know? A delicate balance is needed here and VAMPI's new author seems to be the man to restore it!

I loved Adam's explanation of our girl from Orakulon and her powers, too. It was a perfect way to get back to basics...who VAMPIRELLA is, where she's been, where she's going. All this seemed lost in the issues scripted by Flanagan. Lew was a fine writer but somewhere he simply lost track of VAMPI.

The apparent deaths of Pendragon and Conrad Van Helzing is a controversial move! And while the loss of either one of these characters would sadden me, controversy is badly needed in the series. Besides, it would imply that VAMPI and Adam would start hanging together again, having each lost their old partners. A good change!

For the first time in many months, I can say that VAMPIRELLA's best offering is VAMPI herself! This is a cause for celebration and for much longer tales with our foxy vampress!

BOB ROOII
Oak Brook, Ill.

Quality! That's the word to describe the new VAMPIRELLA!

Everything I wanted in the VAMPIRELLA series, everything I said was wrong with the stories was summed up in her own words, "...No more headbutters, sun gods or fearless raiders! We're back in the land of real people."

I consider that a promise not to be broken.

CHRIS PADOVANO
Sayreville, N.J.



"Adam Van Helzing used to be an incompetent clod," states reader Brian Caden. But the new Adam is more to his liking. He seems to be a person VAMPIRELLA can rely on!

"VAMPI ...a new beginning!"

"Wolves at War's End" was the only boring story in VAMPIRELLA #43.

It was another Budd Lewis harengue anti-violence with religious overtones. The script was so wonky that it took a concentrated effort to wade through a single page.

Sue Garcia's art didn't make it either. His scratchy lines made the art very difficult to comprehend.

Between Lewis' wordiness and Garcia's lack of artistic clarity, "Wolves at War's End" was completely unreadable!

ALAN NORDMARK
Dalton, Penn.

Now that VAMPIRELLA's editor has taken over the mantle left by Archie Goodwin, we readers can look forward hopefully to a marked improvement in VAMPI's adventures. His first story, in VAMPIRELLA #43, presumably is the beginning of a several-part installment.

I personally enjoyed the story, for it very neatly answered several questions about how VAMPI got to earth in the first place. Something that needed reexplaining, since not everyone has been lucky enough to follow VAMPIRELLA from its inception.

As excellent as the story was, it was also a bit short. It was a superb blend of drama with a touch of humor (witness the expression on that hospital patient's face when VAMPIRELLA and Adam Van Helting "borrowed" his blood transfusion apparatus). My only apprehension is that the writer is apparently seriously entertaining the idea of killing off Conrad Van Helting. This would be a serious mistake. That somewhat insatiable but brilliant old scholar has played a major part in past episodes of the series. Please keep him around for future issues.

Would it be possible for the editor/writer to state his views in an editorial as to the direction he wants the VAMPIRELLA series to proceed in, and how he intends to have VAMPIRELLA function within the context of each plot? I'm particularly interested in the near future. It's going to be very interesting to see how VAMPI clears himself of the current situation and keep her identity and true nature a secret.

NORMAN E. DAVISON
Union, N.J.

Norman, you're just going to have to wait for the next installment like everybody else. Writing an editorial like that would be like telling the ending of a mystery.

Throughout Warren's years of publishing, VAMPIRELLA's high standard of quality has been an inspiration. The art and stories have more than satisfied my longing for vividly illustrated fiction.

Recently, however, I have noticed an ever-growing group of fans who wish to see VAMPI given more "earthly" stories. These people wish to see VAMPI encounter human foes, instead of the traditional supernatural ones. They want to turn her into the stereotypical vampireess.

It is my contention that VAMPIRELLA's very believability stems from her lack of stereotype-casting. Her extraterrestrial foes and acquaintances keep her from becoming such.

Issues with realistic storylines, like that of VAMPIRELLA #43, are good. But they should not continue for any length of time.

I'm pleading for more stories which pit VAMPI against the macabre, the supernatural and the fantastic!

STEPHEN JORGENSEN
Sayreville, N.J.

All of the stories in VAMPIRELLA #43 are good because they were imaginative. Which brings us to why "The Last Testament of Angus Crow" was terrible. The whole theme of "I know they're out there somewhere cause I can see them and do one else can" has been played with again and again since before I was born. There is nothing scary about it.

Hackneyed plots such as these just do not deserve to be used over and over. But they are. And this time, ten pages were devoted to the very tired storyline. The writer tried to save the story with two lines of best ending dialogue at the conclusion. But the lines came far too late in the story for any impact at all.

Please, in the future, steer away from tired old cliché horror tales like this.

DAVID LEVINE
Westbury, N.Y.

My favorite story in VAMPIRELLA #43 was "The Wolves at War's End." The

story depicted war as something evil created by man. But like the Frankenstein monster the evil thing assumed a separate life of its own, becoming an even greater menace to those who originated it.

War is like a wolf, biting the hand that feeds it. It was a very true analogy.

JANE TILLMAN
Palo Verde, Calif.



"Wolves at War's End" got mixed reviews. Some readers thought it had great significance. Others considered it another boring pseudo-religious anti-violence statement!

As of VAMPIRELLA #43, the VAMPI saga had some much needed life breathed into it. Indispensable elements of plausibility, and changes in personality have been injected into the new storyline. Both elements which have been long neglected.

Unfortunately, and seemingly ad infinitum, Jose Gonzalez is still devoting his meager talents to the most important story of every issue. The same sketchiness, empty backgrounds, lack of depth, perception and monotonous eye level views were all intact and undisturbed by the change in script writers.

Now, however, at least the written word up will gain greater sway and the flaws of the illustrations will be less noticeable.

ROMAN GORSKI
Perth Amboy, N.J.

I understand that there will soon be a series of VAMPIRELLA paperbacks released and that these will be at least partly written by Ron Goulart. I like his style of science fiction writing, but am not sure that he alone can give me the VAMPI I love.

Teamed with someone like Philip Jose Farmer, who wrote excellent biographies of Doc Savage and Tarzan, Goulart might be the perfect writer, however.

But no matter who scripts them, I'm sure the VAMPIRELLA books will be worth reading. I'm looking forward to their publication.



MIKE WASE
Boise, Idaho

Which will be very, very soon now, Mike. Ask for them at your local paperback book dealer.

HI! I'M VAMPIRELLA!

And I think we should have an intellectual relationship. I want to know what's going on in your mind! Like my stories? Tell me why. Have a few gripes? I'll listen. How can I give you what you want if you don't tell me what it is. Send a letter to:

VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, New York 10016





VAMPIRELLA

PENDRAGON, MAGICIAN, VAUDEVILLIAN, AND COMPANION TO A GIRL FROM THE STARS. ONLY DAYS AGO HE ARRIVED IN NEW YORK CITY HOME! AND ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL... HE WAS SHOT!

NOW HE LAYS DYING, LINGERING IN A COMA... SUSPENDED BETWEEN THE WORLD OF THE LIVING AND THE PLACE TROD BY DEATH.

HIS DREAMS ARE THE DREAMS OF MEMORY. BEFORE HIM, HE SEES THE HAUNTING FACE OF A TORMENTED GUY. AT HIS SIDE HE FEELS, FEELS THE BODY OF AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND.



HIS DREAMS... HIS NIGHTMARES... SWAM WITH HIS THROBBING HEAD, LIKE A DROWNING MAN, THE THOUGHTS OF HIS TWO COMPANIONS TROODER MEMORIES... MEMORIES OF HAPPIER TIMES OF SUNnier PLACES... WHEN ALL WAS WELL WITH THE WORLD.

THE SUN WAS A BALL OF MOLTEN WAX THAT WRAPPED THE ISLAND COUNTRY OF LE MONDO IN A VEL OF SWEETING HEAT!

WHILE ON THE BEACH, ALL EYES WERE TURNED TOWARDS A LIME FEMALE FIGURE THAT PROMDED THE SANDY SHORE LIKE A VAMPIRESS STALKING HER PREY.





CHARGES THE MYRINE
GOD, CAST BY STRONGER
POWERS INTO DUSK-
AMISS INTO THE
CLASHING METEOR-VEND
THOSE TO WAIT WITH
SEVEN DEEMED DEVIANTS
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE
EARTH COULD BE SHAPED
TO HIS WILL, ONCE MORE.

CHARGES... RULER OF THE
CONCEPT AND DISORDERED
WHO REACHED THROUGH
THE BARRIER NOW AND
AGAIN, TO MANIPULATE
THE LIFE STRAINS OF
THOSE WHO WOULD SERVE
HIM... AND OF THOSE WHO
WOULD NOT.

TO THE DYING MAGICIAN, FEW
REMEMBERED CHARGES WAS A LONG
FORGOTTEN NIGHTMARE OF THE
PAST. BUT NOW THE MAD
GOD OF WARREN SEEMED TO
CHARGE HIS WAY SLOWLY INTO
THE OLD MAN'S DREAMS. TOR-
MENTING HIM TO THE VERY
END. COMMENTING HIM WITH
HAPPENINGS OF TIMES LONG BY
TIMES THAT WERE AS CLEAR
AS IF THEY HAD HAPPENED
YESTERDAY.

BLOOD WAGER



IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE
A VAN HELSING HAS SET FOOT
IN THE OLD COUNTRY HOME,
BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE
HERE TO COME WITH US!

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO
SHARE YOUR HOME WITH
ME, ADAM... WHEN I NO
LONGER HAVE ONE OF
MY OWN!



HEY, WHY DO
I MELANCHOLY,
WHY? YOU'RE
AMONG FRIENDS
HERE...AND YOU
KNOW IT!

YOU'RE NOT THINKING
ABOUT DRAGULOV
AGAIN, ARE YOU?



I...I CAN'T HELP IT,
ADAM! NO MATTER HOW
MANY YEARS I STAY HERE...
ON EARTH...I JUST CAN'T
SHAKE THE FEELING
THAT I'M TRAPPED!

IN A STRANGER
ON YOUR WORLD,
ADAM!

I'M A STRANGER IN
A STRANGE LAND...
EARTH'S FIRST EXTRA-
TERRESTRIAL VISITOR!



I...I DON'T
BELONG
HERE, AND I
HAVE NO
RIGHT TO
TAKE THE
LIVES OF
THOSE
WHO DO!

HEY, C'MON!
DON'T TALK LIKE
THAT! YOU SOUND
AS THOUGH
YOU'RE A
LITTLE
BORN!



I MAY AS WELL BE!
I'VE ALREADY KILLED
OTHERS ON THIS
WORLD...

...SO THAT I
MIGHT SURVIVE
ANOTHER DAY!

AND ONLY GOD KNOWS
WHAT HORRORS I'LL HAVE
TO FACE TOMORROW...
WHICH I MIGHT HAVE
TO MURDER!

WELL, WHATEVER
THE DANGERS, YOU
WOULDN'T RISK THEM
ALONE!



BUT I MUST,
ADAM! WITH YOU
AT MY SIDE IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS! I
CONSTANTLY FEAR
FOR YOUR LIFE...
THAT SOMEONE
MIGHT HARM YOU!

IN YOUR OPINION,
LADY...IT'S ALWAYS
TOO DANGEROUS...
JUST BECAUSE I
DON'T HAVE YOUR
SPECIAL DRAGULOV
POWERS!

BUT WOULD IT MAKE
ANY DIFFERENCE
IF I DID?





ADAM! VAMPIRELLA!
I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT
NEWS FOR YOU!

ADAM'S
GONE OUT,
DOCTOR
HARRISON!

CHERIE HE SAID...
AND IN GIVING A TENSER,
SLIPPING FROM THE
CONCESSION OF THE POOR
FRONT DOOR!

DID YOU TWO
HAVE A BAIT,
MY DEAR?



PENDRAGON,
I--

PLEASE, WE CAN DISCUSS
THAT LATER! WHAT I HAVE
TO TELL YOU IS OF FAR,
GRATER IMPORTANCE!



VAMPIRELLA,
IT'S QUITE
POSSIBLE WE
HAVE FOUND
THE MEANS
TO CURE
YOUR LUST
FOR...
BLOOD...



WHAT?
BUT
HOW
COULD I?

SINCE YOU CAME INTO
OUR COMPANY, I'VE HAD
FEELERS OUT ALL OVER
THE WORLD REGARDING
THE SUBJECT!

NOW I'VE RECEIVED A LETTER
FROM A DOCTOR DELL HARRISON
ON THE ISLAND OF LERONDO...
TELLING ME HE'S ON THE THRE-
OLD OF DISCOVERING A REMEDY
FOR YOUR PARTICULAR...
CONDITION!



THE LETTER ASKS THAT HE
SEND DR. DELL HARRISON THE
MONEY HE DESPERATELY NEEDS
TO COMPLETE HIS EXPERIMENTS.

WHY DON'T HE GO HIM-
SELF, DOCTOR...
AND DELIVER IT IN
PERSON?



I ASSUMED YOU'D SAY THAT
VAMPIRELLA... SO I'VE MADE
RESERVATIONS FOR FOUR ON
THE FIRST FLIGHT TO LERONDO!
AS SOON AS ADAM RETURNS,
WE'LL--

WELL, DOCTOR, VAN
HARRISON, I THINK YOU
SHOULD CHANGE THOSE
TO RESERVATIONS
FOR THREE!



RIGHT NOW, ANY
PLACE I GO IN
AD-AM'S LAND
FOR ADAM!



EVERYBODY, COME VAN HELDING WAS MARRIED TO HIMSELF IN HIS FAVORITE CLUB FOR SELF-DENY!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MR. VAN HELDING! WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING WITH YOURSELF?

BELIEVE ME, LOUR... IF I TOLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! GET ME UP WITH ANOTHER ONE... AND MAKE IT A DOUBLE!



WANT TO TRY FOR DOUBLES ON NOTHING BRIGHT EYES?

WHO IN--?

HEY, WARDENHUNT! I RECOGNIZE THAT VOICE...



BONNIE! GOD, BABY, IT'S BEEN SUCH A...

...LONG TIME! SORRY I'VE HEARD THAT LIME BEFORE!

BUY A GIRL A DRINK?



I'VE MISSED YOU, ADAM! THE DAYS... THE NIGHTS... HAVE BEEN EMPTY SINCE YOU LEFT... AND I STILL DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY!

HAD IT ANOTHER ONE?

YES... BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK! MY FATHER AND I HUNTED HER, UNTIL...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT! I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOU... AND ME! HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME THESE DAYS, LOVER?



NO CHANGE... I'M IN THE SAME OLD SET SET! TONIGHT, FOR INSTANCE, I'M GOING TO AN ISLAND GAMBLING RESORTS CALLED LE MONDO!

HEY, ADAM, WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME... FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE! I GUARANTEE... YOU'LL HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!



A CHANGE OF ROUTINE...? YEAH, I COULD USE IT!

WELL, RIGHT, LOVER, WELL... YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF AN ESCORT!

A BLY LATER, SAND GAZED NARROWLY BETWEEN THE TOES OF MURMELL... AND HER TWO COAT TAILS. DOCTOR EDWARD VAN HELDING AND THE ETERNAL MAURITIELLA PRODOMSON. THEY HAD THEIR BLY PART THE C-SINO'S SLENDOR TO...

THAT OUGHT TO BE DELLABANDOS' HOUSE JUST UP AHEAD, DOCTOR! WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

I SUGGEST WE BEGIN BY KNOCKING, MY DEAR!

SLENDER, KNUCKLES RAFFED AGAINST SUN BAKS? WOOD AND...

KNOCK KNOCK!

YES? WHO IS IT?

OH! DOCTOR VAN HELDING... VAMPIRELLA... COME IN PLEASE! I'VE BEEN... EXPECTING YOU!

WORD MUST TRAVEL QUICKLY HERE! WE'VE BEEN ON YOUR ISLAND FOR LITTLE MORE THAN AN HOUR! I CAME TO SEE HOW YOUR ENGAGEMENTS ARE PROGRESSING!

PROGRESSING? WHY... THEY'RE DONE! I'VE SUCCEEDED! I'VE DISCOVERED THE CURE YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

BUT THE MONEY... WHERE DID YOU FIND THE FUNDS TO CONTINUE?

FROM... OH... A LOCAL SOURCE...! BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW!

OUR FIRST INTEREST IS IN PUTTING MY CURE TO WORK... THAT IS, IF SIGNORITA VAMPIRELLA HAS NO OBJECTIONS?

OBJECTIONS? DOCTOR, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!



A BELLOW FEELING OF WARMTH RASHED OVER VAMPYRELLA AS THE CHEMICALS COURSED THROUGH HER BLOODSTREAM BEGAN TO TAKE EFFECT...



DRAGS BEGAN TO BLUR BEFORE HER EYES... THE FACES OF MEN HELING AND PENONARD SLOWLY BECAME DISTORTED CARICATURES, SHE SMILED...

...THEN TURNED HER HEAVY HEAD TOWARDS THE WHITE-GARBED DELLASANDRO...

...AND SAW QUITE A DIFFERENT FACE INSTEAD...!





MEANWHILE, IN THE CASINO ELEGANTE...

SO THIS IS LEMMON'S MAJOR
INDUSTRY! LOOKS A BIT GUILTY...
BUT I SUPPOSE IT HELPS TO PULL
IN THE TOURIST TRADE!

WOW, YOU'RE NOT BEING
FAKE! GAMBLING IS A
SPORT... LIKE BASEBALL...
OR BOXING!

THE ONLY REAL
DIFFERENCE IS
GAMBLING'S GREATER
PROFIT POTENTIAL!

PROFIT POTENTIAL? THAT'S JUST
A LIE TO ATTRACT THE FISHBOYS!
THEY MAY COME IN HERE WITH A
FULL WALLET... BUT THEY'RE LUCKY
IF THEY LEAVE WITH ALL
THEIR FEATHERS!

COWBOY! HOW CAN
YOU CONDEMN THE
GAME WITHOUT
EVER TRYING IT?

...OR ARE
YOU AFRAID
YOU'LL
LOSE?

LADY, YOU CUT ME
TO THE HEART! ME...
AFRAID OF SOME
FILTHY CHILD'S
GAMES?

COME NOW, DOLL,
THIS CHALLENGE
SHALL BE MET!

GAMBLING! EVERYBODY HAD A WAY TO BEAT THE SYSTEM...
SOME SO ELABORATE THEY REQUIRE COMPUTERS TO CAL-
CULATE THE ODDS... OTHERS SO BASIC THEY NEED NO
MORE THAN A RABBIT'S FOOT...!

FOR JACK VAN HELSING, THE METHOD WAS SIMPLE...
HE WON BECAUSE HE DID NOT CARE ABOUT WINNING...





THE SOUND OF IVORY CURBS
TUMBLING ACROSS SOFT,
GREEN FELT IS VERY, VERY
PAINT... BUT SOMEWHERE IN
THE DARKNESS, WAWAZELLA
HEARS SUCH A SOUND...

...AND SUDDENLY ANGRY!!

WH-WHERE
AM I?

TRAPPED IN SOME
SORT OF PLEXIGLASS
TUBE? IT'S LIKE A
GIANT THERMOMETER!

BUT THAT
ISN'T
MURDER!
THIS THING
IS FILLING
WITH...

...IT'S BLOOD!

A SIX!
VAN HELDING...
YOU WIN!

SEVEN,
VAN HELDING...
YOU LOSE!

WH...? AHAH...
GAMBLING ON
LEWYARD? I
DON'T UNDER-
STAND!

HUH?
NOW
I UNDER-
STAND...
THE
BLOOD
LEVEL IN THIS
TUBE
ROSE
WHEN
ADAM
LOST!

HE'S
GAMBLING
FOR MY
LIFE OUT
THERE!
BUT WHERE
IS THE
BLOOD
COMING
FROM?

FROM FAR BELOW
THE GAMBLING
CASINO...

YOUR BOY... HE DON'T
PLAY TOO GOOD! SOON
I'LL BE YOUR TURN
AT THE BLOOD-BANK,
SINOR!

PLEASE, SIR...
RECONSIDER
THIS! YOU WON'T
LIKE MY
BLOOD...

...IT'S
NO PROOF!



THE BLOOD LEVEL'S RISING!
NOW EXERCISE! AVAILABLE
BLOOD HAS BEEN SO SCARCE
ON THIS PLANET... AND NOW
I'M GOING TO DRINK IT!!

...UNLESS
I CAN FIND
A WAY
OUT!

CHANGING TO
OUT-FORM WON'T
HELP...THE TUBE IS
SEALED SHUT...AND
IT DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE IT HAS ANY
STRESS POINTS...!



SO I'LL
HAVE TO
MAKE
MY OWN!

THESE MAY BE MY
LAST MOMENTS
IF MY BRACELETS
CAN'T BREAK
THIS TUBE!



ELEVEN...
WHY HESITATE...
YOU LOSE
AGAIN!

I'VE HAD IT!
I QUIT! I MUST
HAVE BEEN OUT
OF MY MIND
TO AGREE TO
THIS!

BUT YOU DID
AGREE TO IT, MY
DARLING...AND
YOUR FORD IS
YOUR SHIP!



LOOK AT ME,
ADAM...LOOK
DEEP INTO MY
EYES...

...AND
KEEP
PLAYING!



ADAM STARED INTO BEATRICE WILFORD'S
SLITTING EYES, AND HIS RESOLVE
TURNED TO ASHES IN HIS THROAT...

KEEP PLAYING! IT'S SO SIMPLE...
JUST Toss THE DICE AND WATCH
THEM ROLL...



SEVEN... YOU
LOSE... NINE...
YOU LOSE...
THREE... YOU
LOSE... YOU
**LOSE
LOSE
LOSE...**











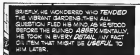
THE PARABLE OF THE HERMITS OF GLASTONBURY TOR

IT IS CALLED GLASTONBURY TOR, AND ITS HISTORY IS AS COLORFUL AS THE LAND IT ENCOMPASSES.

IT STANDS UPON THE *ISLE OF AVIION* AND WAS, IN *ANCIENT TIMES*, A *DRUID TEMPLE* TO THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, BY THE FIFTH CENTURY *GLASTONBURY ABBEY* BECAME A HOME TO MONASTIC CHRISTIAN *HERMITS*, AND THE *SCENIC* GROUNDS OF THE MYTHICAL *KING ARTHUR*.

MANY TRIED TO PIERCE ITS TIME-LESS MYSTERIES, BUT FOUND ONLY DEATH. IN 1839, AN OXFORD SCHOLAR NAMED *STEPHEN DENHAM* VOWED HE WOULD FIND AN ANSWER...OR JOIN THOSE WHO HAD FAILED *BEFORE* HIM.





HE BEGAN HIS SEARCH IN THE UPPER ROOMS, GRADUALLY WORKING DOWNWARD. THE DAY WAS GREAT SUMMERS: BURNING AND RELIC, EXAMINING, STUDYING, SPECULATING, MAKING NOTES. BUT HIS FINDINGS WERE SUPERFICIAL, AND OF LITTLE VALUE.



AND WHEN NIGHT CAME, HE TOOK SHELTER IN A TINY UPPER CHAMBER THAT HE HYPOTHESIZED, HAD ONCE SERVED THE SAME FUNCTION FOR THE AXYMITE. THERE WERE NO NOTES OR DARES TO CONTRADICT THIS, BUT THESE HE FELT CERTAIN WOULD COME WITH TIME AND PATIENT SEARCH.



SLEEP WAS ELUSIVE, DISTURBED BY THE LOW WHISTLE OF NIGHT WIND THROUGH CREVICES IN THE STONE... AN EARSE, MAYBE, THAT HE SOMETIMES IMAGINED WAS TRULY THE SAVANTS' WHICH THE ANCIENTS HAD WORSHIPPED.



SHORTLY, AFTER THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, HE WAS VISITED BY ONE OF THOSE SPIRITS.



WHO ARE YOU?

SWANN SENSED THAT HE WAS CONFRONTING THE GREATEST OF TOR AGENTS' MYSTERIES.

I AM SHE WHO YOU DO NOT QUESTION, I AM WHAT I AM AND ALSO WHAT YOU ARE. IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU UNDERSTAND, ONLY THAT YOU ACCEPT AND PARTAKE.

PARTAKE?



IF YOU WISH...



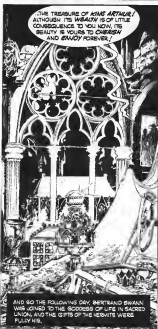
THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A MILLION REASONS WHY BERTRAND SWANN MADE LOVE TO THIS WOMAN. FASCINATION, THE DESIRE TO FIND THE ANSWERS HE DESPERATELY SOUGHT. BUT IT WAS NONE OF THESE.

HE DID IT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO, AND SHE MADE LOVE LIKE A GODDESS. SWANN HAD NEVER IN HIS LIFE FELT SO ALIVE.









YEARS PASSED. NO ALL WITHIN THE ABBEY
WITHERED AND DIED, WHILE TH IT WITHIN
STAYED YOUTHFUL AND FRESH, BUT
BEYOND SWANN WAS NOT CONSENT.
THE RICH GARDENS AND ORCHARDS
WERE INDEED BEAUTIFUL, BUT
IN THESE YEARS, SWANN SAW
NOTHING BUT PAIN AND THE
VALLEY OF THE RUINED ABBEY.



THE CHAINS OF HIS LIFE-
BRIDE WERE STILL TIGHT,
BUT THEY TOO HAD GROWN
FAMILIAR.



IT WAS INDEED PARADISE AND
HE WAS INDEED IMMORTAL...
BUT SLOWLY REALIZING THAT
IMMORTALITY ALLOWED HIM TO
TAKE EVERYTHING FOR GRANTED,
IT WOULD IN FACT ALWAYS BE
THERE.

AND THIS, IT LOST THE
GRASP OF THE IMMEDIACY
THAT GAVE IT MEANING.



THERE IS SO MUCH IN THIS
WORLD THAT I HAVE NOT
EXPERIENCED. WHY MUST I
BE CONFINED TO THESE
GROUNDS?

I HAVE LIFE ETERNAL... AND
I HAVE IMMENSE WEALTH.
WITH THESE I COULD BE
GODS OF ALL THE EARTH.

THE THOUGHTS MOLISHED AND BEW IN HIS MIND,
UNTIL FINALLY, ONE NIGHT, HE STOLE FROM HIS
BRIDE'S BED.



BEYOND THE ORCHARDS
AND GARDENS, HE UNRAIDED.



AND FINALLY DOWN TO THE VILLAGE
BELOW, DETERMINED TO SAMPLE
THE PLEASURES OF THE WORLD
BEYOND THE ABBEY, AND
TEMPTING PLEASURES THEY WERE.



HE FELT A BIT LIKE EVE, TASTING
OF FORGOTTEN FRUIT, BUT HOW
COULD HE BE FORGOTTEN FOR
THE HERMIT HAD GIVEN HIM
NOW THAT HE SHOULD NEVER
KNOW DEATH.

DIM LIGHT FILTERED THROUGH THE HORIZON, SIGNALING THE APPROACH OF DAWN. GWYN, RETURNED TO THE ABBEY, FEELING MORE REVIVIFIED THAN HE HAD SINCE THE NIGHT WHEN FIRST HE MET THE LIFE-GODDESS.

THERE WAS A WIDE, FRUITFUL WORLD OUT THERE TO BE ENJOYED. NO DESPITE HIS IMPROVED MARRIAGE CONDITION, HE COULD SAMPLE IT WITH IMUNITY FOR DEATH WAS POWERLESS TO HARM HIM. TOMORROW, HE WOULD TAKE ARTHUR'S TREASURE AND SEE MORE OF THAT WORLD.

SEE, MY LOVE, YOU ARE LIKE THE OTHERS. YOU ARE NOT CONTENT WITH THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN YOU.

AND NOT WHEN I KNOW THERE IS SO MUCH MORE BEAUTY... SO MUCH MORE PLEASURE WAITING TO BE TAKEN.

BEFORE, YOU CANNOT GO TO ANY WHAT YOU DID TO THE OTHERS. THE HERMITS HAVE PROMISED THAT NO MATTER WHAT, I SHOULD NEVER ENDURE DEATH, EVEN YOU CAN NOT MAKE THEM REINDE THAT!

BUT, MY FOOLISH LOVE... DEATH IS ONLY A MEANS TO AN END. A MEANS BY WHICH AN OBJECT MOVES FROM LIFE TO NON-LIFE. THE FACT THAT SOMETHING IS *NOT ALIVE* DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN IT IS DEAD. IT MAY MEAN SIMPLY THAT IT DOESN'T EXIST.

IT IS TRUE DEATH CANNOT HARM YOU, BUT YOU HAVE BROKEN THE CONDITION I PLACED UPON YOU... YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST LIFE. AND THUS, LIKE ADAM AND EVE, YOU ARE EXPELLED FROM PARADISE.

THUS, TOO, IT IS NOT DEATH, BUT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF LIFE WHICH DOOMS YOU. YOU SIMPLY NO LONGER EXIST!

THE FATE OF BERTRAND GWYN WAS ANOTHER MYSTERY ADDED TO RUMORS AND LEGENDS OF GLENNDALE ABBEY. SOMEDAY, ANOTHER MAN WOULD SEEK THE ANSWERS TO THESE ANCIENT RIDDLES, AND SOMEDAY, HE TOO WOULD MAKE A CHOICE. THE LIFE GODDESS HAD ONLY TO WAIT.

**HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL.
HEARTBREAKINGLY LONELY.**



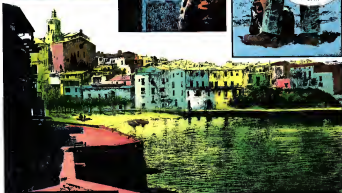
**EVEN THE COLD DEAD STONE
FROM WHICH SHE IS HEAVN
IS ... WARM. ... ALLURING ...**



**... AN IMAGE FOR WHICH A MAN
MIGHT DIE.**



**FAR OUT
BORN THIRTY
YEARS AGO, DIED
TEN YEARS AGO
TODAY.**



**SHE WAS BORN AND LIVED NEAR
THE GREEK HARBOR, JUST ACROSS
THE BAY. AT ONE OF THOSE TINY
WINDOWS, SHE GREW INTO A
WOMAN, GAZING EVER UPON THE
SEA. *GAZING AT IT, DEVOURING IT.***

**... AND EVENTUALLY BECOMING
PART OF IT.**

**FROM THE *FIRST* DAY
OF HER LIFE UNTIL THE
LAST SHE WAS
DETACHED TO THESE
DARK WATERS, SHE
WAS A CHILD BORN TO
THINGS UNKNOWN.**

**YET RATHER THAN BEING
REPELLED BY HER NOXIOUS,
SUPERNATURAL AROMA,
PEOPLE... *GENTLEMEN*
AT LEAST... WERE MORE
THAN SLIGHTLY *DRAWN* TO
THE HAUNTING GIRL. THE
GIRL NAMED *DAISY*.**

JANIS!



ONE MOONLESS NIGHT, WHEN BLACK, MARE-TAIL CLOUDS BLEW ACROSS CHILL, NOVEMBER STARS, JANIS ANSWERED SOME CALL FROM THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS.



A NIGHT FISHER SAW HER WADE HYPNOTICALLY INTO THE SURF... NEVER TO **EMERGE** AGAIN.

TO APPEASE SOME INNATE SUPERSTITION, THE VILLAGE PEOPLE CARVED HER IMAGE, PLACING IT WHERE SHE WADED IN... TO STAND ALWAYS BETWEEN THEM AND THE DREAD BROODING SEA.



JANIS WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN. HER BODY NEVER WASHED ASHORE. SHE WAS GONE.... **FOREVER.**



UNTIL NOVEMBER 13, YESTERDAY!





ACROSS A LOVE-HAUNTED DREAM OF
UNSUBSTANTIAL WONDER... REVELING,
ENTRALLING WAS THE GIRL, THE
NIGHT, THE BROODING SEA.

ALL SPRINKLED WITH MAGIC DUST, DANCING
AWAY, SINGING A SIREN'S SONG OF LANDS BE-
YOND HIS FANTASIES, JANTS SURELY LED HIM.

WHIRLING, SWIRLING, ENTICING HIM, ENCHANT-
ING HIM, CLOUDING HIS SOUL WITH DREAMS
REALIZED AND PROMISES WHISPERED, HE
CHASED BEHIND HER.

SHE DREW HIM... UNERRINGLY...
DELICIOUSLY TO THE "BOMBING
DEPTHS... THE TONGUE, HOLL-
ERS, BROODING DEPTHS...

OF THE BONE-NUMBING SEA?

COVERING HIM, PROTECTING HIM, ENVELOPING HIS BODY, HIS SENSES, HIS VERY DRAKE SPIRIT IN PLACENTAL CONTENTMENT THE WATER CLOSED AS A COFFIN LID ABOVE HIM.

IT WAS A RETURN TO THE WOMB WITH THE BRIGHT ANGEL OF LIFE AS HIS GUIDE!

THE MEDITERRANEAN, COLDER THAN DEAR THUNDER THAN ECHO NIGHT, DEEPER THAN SLEEP MORE INFINITE THAN DEATH.

AND MORE FILLED WITH NIGHTMARE SENSATIONS THAN A NARCOTIC REVERIE

FILLED WITH PARASITE AND PHANTOMS, SPECTRES AND BEASTS OF SUCH SPLENDID HORROR AS NIGHT EXPLODE MEN'S SOULS WITH STARBURSTING SHIVA BESTREY.

WITH A GARDEN OF DAZZLING, UNWORLDLY TERRORS, SHE DELIGHTED HIS MORAL EYES.

AND THEN... WITHOUT WARNING OR CHANCE FOR
THOUGHT TO FLEE, OR THOUGHT TO DEFEND, SHE
RUPTURED HIS IMMORTAL SOUL.



SHE DID NOT WRITE IN VOMIT ISSING MADNESS, NEITHER DID SHE VOID
HER BOWELS IN DIARRHETIC CONVULSIONS OF HORROR... AS DID HE?

THEY SIMPLY CAME... TO HAVE HIM.

YET IT WAS
SAD TO LET
HIM GO...TO
GIVE HIM UP
SO SOON.

FOR HE WAS SOMETHING
SHE SOMEHOW NEEDED.
SOMETHING FOR WHICH
SHE ONCE MORE LONGED.

SHE LET HIS
FINGER SLIDE
AWAY FROM
HERS AND SHE
WAS SAD.

BUT SHE HAD LONG AGO
CHOSEN THE SEA. AS COM-
PANION, HUSBAND, MASTER
AND LOVER... BOUND BY
SPIRITS TO OBEY ITS OFT
HARSH COMMANDS, AND
THE COMMANDS OF THOSE
THAT DWELL WITHIN IT.

SHE THEN MADE HER-
SELF A SECRET VOW.

SHE SADLY WATCHED HIM LEAVE. HER
LONELINESS SMIRK OVER HER. SHE
WISHED SHE'D HAVE HELD HIM A LITTLE
LONGER.

THE NEXT ONE SHE'D KEEP PER-
HAPS JUST AN HOUR. LONGER.
SURELY THEY WOULD UNDER-
STAND. JUST AN EXTRA HOUR.



SO, JANE IS EVERYONE
COMMITTED TO SERVE HER
ONE LOVE, THE SEA... AND
THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT!

YET, ALWAYS WILL SHE
YEARN FOR THAT WHICH SHE
HAS FORSAKEN FOR ALL
TIME... SOMETHING HUMAN
TO CLING TO... FOR JUST
A LITTLE WHILE.

PERHAPS SHE'LL COME
TO CHOOSE ~~ANOTHER~~ BREF
DOOMED LOVER ON ~~ANOTHER~~
THIRTEENTH OF NOVEMBER
NIGHT

AT LEAST
THAT'S THE PRE-
MISE OF THE NOVEL
I'M WRITING BASED
ON THIS ACTUAL PEAS-
ANT SUPERSTI-
TION.

I SIMPLY
BELIEVE SUCH
FANTASY-FICTION
IS BEST ENJOYED
WHEN THE READER
SUSPECTS IT MIGHT...
AFTER ALL...

...BE TRUE!

A HERO BORN OF WISHES

TO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES THIS HAPPYPLACE HAMLET IN THE HEART OF CENTRAL EUROPE WAS CALLED NORTHWIND. TO THOSE WHO DWELLED WITHIN ITS COINERS, IT WAS CALLED WELL.

THE REGULAR GEOGRAPHY OF NORTHWIND ASSURED ITS ISOLATION. BORDERED ON ALL SIDES BY STEEP, CVERNOUS MOUNTAINS, THOSE WHO DWELLED WITHIN RARELY WENT BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE.

AND THOSE WHO DWELLED WITHOUT WERE HAPPY TO REMAIN WHERE THEY WERE.

AND WHEN DO WE GET WHAT IS OUR DUE?

PEOPLE OF NORTHWIND... WE COME IN THE NAME OF LORD CERINTEUS... TO COLLECT THE TRIBUTE THAT IS DUE HIM!

IF YOU CONTINUE TO SPEAK THUSLY, YOU SHALL HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING RUN THROUGH BY MY SWORD.

NOW GATHER UP WHAT YOU OWE AND DELIVER IT TO ME... AT ONCE!

LIKE ANY MYTHOLOGICAL REALM OF PUNISHMENT, THIS HILL HAD LEGION. HE WAS CALLED LORD CERINTEUS. FOR NOW ON TWELVE YEARS, HE HAD GOVERNED NORTHWIND WITH A HAND OF IRON AND A HEART THAT WAS COLDER, MORE RIGID.





NO! MY FAMILY STARVED, WHILE CERRANTES GROWN RICH OFF OUR SUFFERING!

AND I SEE IT, IT IS AS I SAID AND OATH! NO! NOT ANOTHER CORN SHALL I GIVE!



THEN I SHALL TAKE YOUR HEAD IN PLACE OF YOUR MONEY! LORD CERRANTES WILL BE EQUALLY PLEASED.

UNLIKE OTHER HELLS, FEARS YOU D STILL BE SAD FOR THE FALL OF DEATH.



THE JULIA RODE AWAY, LEAVING THE VILLAGERS TO THEIR MISERY. NO MORE PUFFS OF CLOTHES, AND TO LIVE PERMANENTLY FOR A BARBARIAN AND COULD BEHOLD THEM... A CHAMPION TO WIN THEIR FREEDOM.



THIS CANNOT CONTINUE! CERRANTES' APPETITE WILL NEVER BE APPASED!

BUT WHAT CAN BE DONE? NONE OF US DARE CHALLENGE CERRANTES... WE HAVE WIVES AND CHILDREN TO PROVIDE FOR.



ARE YOU PROVIDING FOR THEM BY TURNING OVER YOUR WEALTH TO CERRANTES?

ALREADY YOUR FAMILIES ARE STARVING AND DROWNING, AND SO YOU KEEP THEM? NO, YOU CONTINUE TO ENRICH YOURSELVES, SERVING THE TYRANT!



AND WHAT OF YOU, SERVING? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A FAMILY TO BE CONCERNED FOR!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF OUR LIBERATION? LITTLE MORE THAN PRAY, I IMAGINE!



YOU SPEAK OF LIBERATION? I TELL YOU, YOU ARE ALREADY FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL CONTROL YOUR OWN DESTINIES OR BE GOVERNED BY THE WHIMS OF A DESPOT!

IF YOU ARE OPPRESSED, IT IS BY YOUR OWN HANDS AND NOT BY THE HAND OF CERRANTES!

QUENTLY LISTENING, THE VILLAGERS FLED AWAY, EACH DENYING THE POWERFUL'S ADVICE, EACH SEEKING A WAY TO CARRY BACK THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR PLIGHT TO THE ADONAI WHOM THEY FEARED.

ALL EXCEPT ONE.

REVEREND, MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

MR. CHAIKIN, SON, CAN I HELP YOU?

I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID. IT'S LED TO IDEAS OF MY OWN.

FATHER, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE BOOK OF ASMODEUS?

OF COURSE. IT IS THE BOOK OF HELL!

PERHAPS, BUT MAYBE THAT IS WHAT WE ARE IN THIS SITUATION.

AFTER ALL, THE MAN WE ARE DEALING WITH IS A SON OF THE DEVIL. ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT FIGHT *FOR* US WITH *POWER*?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

AMONG THE BOOKS MY FATHER LEFT ME UPON HIS DEATH WAS THE BOOK OF ASMODEUS.

IT SPEAKS OF A CREATOR, AN ALL-POWERFUL, WARRIOR CAN BE SUMMONED AND COMMANDED BY THE WILL OF HIS *OWNERSHIP*!

SUPPOSE WE... THE PEOPLE OF NORTHBOND... WISH TO CONQUER THE CHAMPION.

WITH SUCH MAGIC AT OUR COMMAND WE COULD REPEL OUR OPPONENTS AND BRING PEACE BACK TO OUR VILLAGE.

YOU MIGHT THINK SUCH THINGS! MAGIC IS EVIL... IT IS AGAINST GOD AND NATURE.

MAN MUST NEVER ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THAT WHICH IS BEYOND HIS REACH.

WHAT ABOUT GABRIEL? HE WAS A MESSIAH AND MIRACLES WORKED! SURELY YOU ARE NOT SAYING HE WAS EVIL!

IT IS THE *ANIMATE*, NOT THE *INMATE*, THAT CREATES AN ACT OF GOD OR EVIL. WE SEEK ONLY *JUSTICE*, REVENGE, NOT VENGEANCE.



NO! I CANNOT CONDOLE SUCH BLASPHEMY!

IF YOU PURSUE THIS COURSE, I SHALL BE FORCED TO BRAND YOU A HERETIC AND EXCOMMUNICATE YOU FROM THE CHURCH.



JOHN CHANCE, HAD A MILD OF LITTLE INTENSE, THE SON OF A SIMPLE SHOP OWNER, HIS ADOLESCENT YEARS HAD BEEN LIVED AMONGST THE RULERS OF DESOLATION. IN THOSE YEARS, HE HAD BEEN NO LESS A HATED THAT TWO DOOMLESS.

OFFICERS, HE'D HEARD HIS FATHER SPEAK OF CRUEL DEBAUCHERIES AND CRUEL TORTURES OCCURRING BEHIND THE WALLS OF THE CASTLE ON THE HILL. THEY SOMETIMES FILLED HIM WITH DREAD... MORE OFTEN WITH LOATHING.



ALTHOUGH HE HAD TAKEN UP THE TRADE OF HIS FATHER, HIS SOLE ANXIETY WAS TO WITHSTAND THE PAIN OF LOUD CRYANTES.



JOHN! WHY DO YOU LOOK SO GLOOMY ON SUCH A FINE DAY?

I HAVE JUST COME FROM YOUR UNCLE'S CHURCH, VIRGINIA. WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE.



IS IT SO GLEAM THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEART TO SMILE?

YOUR UNCLE DESIRO TO FEEL THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR MAN TO REACH HEAVEN IS TO ENDURE HELL ON EARTH!



HAVE YOU ASKED MYSTET FOR MY HAND IN MARRIAGE?

NO, I'M AFRAID I PUT HIM IN A RATHER ALL TEMPER, IT DIDN'T SEEM A WISE OR APPROPRIATE TIME TO APPROACH THE SUBJECT.



JOEY'S RIDDED, LEAVING THE VILLAGERS IN AN URGENT NEED NO SOUND, NO EIGHT, NO NEW TAX WENT FORTH FROM THE CHURCH ON THE HILL.

COME SUNDAY THEY FILED SOLEMNLY TO THE REVEREND'S CHURCH TO PRAY THAT THEIR BOLDNESS WOULD CONTINUE!



SUDDENLY...
PEOPLE OF NORTHWOOD
...WE BRING YOU THINGS
FROM YOUR MASTER, LORD
CRIBANTED!

HE HAD FOUND IT
NECESSARY TO Levy
A NEW TAX!

THE REVENUE
YOU PAID HIM LAST
WEEK WAS FOUND
UNSATISFACTORY!



NO! YOU MAY SLAY
US ALL IF THAT'S WHAT
YOUR MASTER WISHES...
BUT HE'LL HAVE TO LOOK
ELSEWHERE FOR HIS
LUXURIES FROM NOW ON!

HE IS A DISEASE
... DRAINING THE LIFE
AND VITALITY FROM
OUR PEOPLE! BUT
NO MORE!



YOUR BOLDNESS WILL
BRING YOU ONLY A SWIFT
DEATH, GIRL!

WELL, SIR! SHE'S
A PAIR, WENCH! LORD
CRIBANTED SHOULD FIND
HER BODY FAR MORE
ENJOYABLE THAN
HER HEAD!



YOU'RE RIGHT, LORD...
IF SHE WON'T SERVE LORD
CRIBANTED IN ONE WAY,
SHE'LL SERVE HIM IN
ANOTHER!

NO ONE IN THE CONGREGATION MADE
A MOVE TO STOP THEM.



NOT THE REVEREND, NOT JOHN CHURCH, NOT ANYONE.

BUT WHILE MOST HELD THEIR TONGUES IN TERROR, TWO MEN
EXCHANGED WORDLESS, UNDERSTANDING GLANCES, AND KNEW
THAT THE DAY OF THEIR DELIVERANCE WAS SOON AT HAND.



YOU NEEDN'T SAY IT, REVEREND... I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.

IT'S A TRAGEDY THAT IT TOOK THE KIDNAPPING OF YOUR ARCHER TO MAKE YOU REALIZE WHAT MUST BE DONE!



I AM NEITHER AS BLIND NOR AS FOOLISH AS YOU BELIEVE, JOHN. IN JARRE OF YOUR INTENTIONS TOWARD MY Niece, AND SECRETLY, IT'S PLEASSED ME.

BUT IN MY HEART, I HAD HOPED THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN ORIGINATED AND OUR PEOPLE.

I KNOW NOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO, JOHN?

LEAD THE CONGREGATION BACK INTO YOUR CHURCH, REVEREND. I'LL FETCH THE BOOK OF SHWOPEES!

THEN THE COLLECTIVE WILLS OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHWARD SHALL GIVE LIFE TO ASH WHOM WE SO DEPERATELY NEED... A MESSIAH!



AND SO IT WAS THAT THE HOUSE ONCE DEDICATED TO A CHRISTIAN GOD BECAME THE SITE OF A RITUAL ALIEN TO ANYTHING IT HAD EVER KNOWN.

THE ACENDE, THE PENTAGRAM, THE FLAMUS BAKING, THE DRONING CHANTS, WERE ALL OFFERED IN THE NAME OF THE DREAD GOD OF BLACK MAGIC... THE DEMON ASHWOPEES.



AND THEN...!

GOOD GOD! WHAT WAS THAT?

I FEAR THAT GOD HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH IT... UNLESS IT IS DIVINE RETRIBUTION FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN HIS CHURCH!



IT IS HE! OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED!

PERHAPS IT IS JUST A STRANGER FROM OVER THE MOUNTAINS.

HAVE FAITH, MY FRIEND. OUR CHAMPION HAS COME, AND THROUGH HIM JUSTICE IS BROUGHT TO NORTHWARD.

I PRAY YOU ARE RIGHT!

FOR A MOMENT, THE DARK SIDE PREVAILLED, AS THOUGH ADAM JOINED THE MENIAL COMMANDERS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND HIM, THEN WITHOUT A WORD, HE JOINED.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HE HAVE GIVEN HIM NO ORDERS... YET, ALLREADY HE RISES TO FULFILL OUR WISHES!



HE IS GUIDED BY OUR WILL, NOT OUR WORDS. HE IS MOTIVATED BY WHAT IS IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED HIM.

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HE DOES.



WHAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR AT THAT MOMENT WAS THE PHYSICAL DRAWING OF THE OVERWHELMING, ACCOMPLISHED BY A SIMPLE ACTION OF THE HAND.

NOT A GESTURE WAS KNOWN AS THE ROCK DRIFTED SILENTLY TOWARD WITHIN.

MEANWHILE, THE SUBJECT OF HIS QUEST GLARED LECHEROUSLY AT THE BEAUTIFUL SQUAWKY OFFERS HIM BY HIS SOLDIERS.

THIS BRIDE REFUSED TO PAY HONORS TO HER BETTERS?

EXCELLENT! HER CHASTITY APPEARS MUCH MORE PLEASING THAN HER GOLD.



FEW! THAT'S ALL YOU'LL GET FROM ME WILLINGLY!

YOU'RE WILLING TO LEAVE NOTHING! BUT YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING, GIRL!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I ENJOYED A CHALLENGE!





THE CAPTAIN HAD, IN HIS PRIDE, FOUGHT IN A HALF-DOZEN CRUIZERS, AND NEVER ONCE EXPERIENCED THE CRUEL DEVOTION OF FEAR.

YET WHEN HIS SEARCHING EYES MET THOSE OF THE HORSEMAN...



HE REALIZED THAT HIS LADY COULD NOT BEEN FOLGUT.



WESNA SCREAMED AS SHE SAW LORD CRUICED DIE! SHE ALSO SAW THE GOLD-CHAINED SNAKE THAT WOULD FOREVER BE ENGRAVED ON HIS FEATURES.



THEN THE SILENT WARRIOR BECAME TO HER, AND VIRGINIA FELT A SUDDEN **CALL**.

SHE **FEARED** THIS WAS MORE THAN SHE HAD BECOME COMMITTED. YET THERE WAS SOMETHING **SANCTIFIED** REASSURING WITHIN HIM TOO. RESTRICED, SHE OBSERVED.



AND SOON...



REVEREND!
YOUR MACE HAS
RETURNED!

AND THE TYRANT
IS READY! AT LAST OUR
RELEASE IS GLEANED
OF HIS STAIN!

IS IT TRUE, MY
CHILD? IS SERVANT
REALLY DEAD?



YES, UNCLE...
AND HIS MASTERS
CHAINED! BUT
WHERE IS JOHN?

HERE, MY LOVE,
AND HAPPY THAT IT IS
OVER. AT LAST, OUR
WILL-LESS HAS FINALLY
BEEN DEANTED THE
FREEDOM IT WAS
PRAYED FOR!



FREEDOM IS
ARMED WITHOUT
A PRICE, JOHN.

SOMETHING
WAS ALL FREE
WHAT WAS LOST
WILL BE!

LET US NOT
CONSIDER THAT NOW!
NOW IS A TIME FOR
JOY AND
CELEBRATION!



AND PRAYER,
JOHN, WE MUST
NOT FORGET PRAYER!
AFTER ALL, WE HAVE
NOT FORGOTTEN
GOD... MERELY
BENT HIS WISDOM
TO ALL OUR
NEEDS!



HAVE, REVEREND!
ONE QUESTION
OCCURS TO ME! WITH
A SERVANT, REARS
WHO AMONG US SHALL
BE ELECTED TO BURN
IN HIS PLACE?

AND IN THAT MOMENT, A PALL DESCENDED OVER THE CHURCH. THOSE SITTING OUT AND CONSIDERING, EACH IMAGINING HIMSELF IN THE ARMY ROLE, EACH WIFE IMAGINING HER HUSBAND AS THE NEW SOLDIER.

AMATEUR MEN LIKE A WILD BEES, FLOURISHING IN PEACE. NOW THAT THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF, THERE WAS NO ONE MAN WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE LONGER.

EXCEPT PERHAPS THE REVEREND AND JOHN CHANDLER, AND VIRGINIA, WHO WERE CONTENT WITH WHAT THEY HAD ALREADY GAINED.

BUT THE SIMPLE FELLOW, WELL, AMATEUR MEN ARE TO AMATEUR AND AMATEURISM IS THEY SAW THE EMP TO THE THRONE BLOCKED BY OTHERS, AND WANTED THE SAME THING...

AND AS THEIR AMATEUR GROW, THEIR WILL TO BELONG GROW NO MATTER WHAT THE COST SEEM APPROPRIATE.

EVEN IF IT MEANT KILLING ALL WHO MIGHT OPPOSE THEM, THEN THE COLLECTIVE WILL BECAME THAT OF MAN WISHING ALL TO HIS WISDOM.

AND THE SUMMONED DEMON WAS BORN TO OBEY THE COLLECTIVE WILL.

AND WHEN IT WAS SAID ONLY THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE LEFT TO WEEP AND WEEP.

"IT IS THE MOTIVE, NOT THE MEANS, THAT DETERMINES AN ACT GOOD OR EVIL... SO HAD SAID JOHN CHANDLER.

PERHAPS HE HAD BEEN RIGHT, PERHAPS NOT, TO THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF MORTMOUTH, IT DIDN'T MAKE A DAMN BIT OF DIFFERENCE!


THE WINTER OF THEIR DISCONTENT



LONDON 1664. SIR JAMES GRACE WAS WORRIED.

FOR THREE YEARS, HE HAD SERVED IN THE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST HOLLAND... AND HE KNEW MUCH OF THE WAYS OF BATTLE, BLOODSHED AND DEATH.

BUT NEVER HAD HE SEEN ANYTHING AS TERRIBLE AS THIS... HIS HOME COMING.




HE HAD LONG DREAMED OF THE MOMENT WHEN HE WOULD RIDE PROUD AND VICTORIOUS BACK TO THE PARISH OF HIS BIRTH...

BUT HE SNIGGERED, AS THE ONLY PANFARE THAT GREETED HIM WERE THE CURSES OF THE DYING AND THE MOURNFUL WAILING OF THOSE THEY WOULD LEAVE BEHIND.



THE PARISH OF ST. GILES WAS ONLY ONE OF THE SMALL PEASANT VILLAGES TO BECOME TRAPPED IN ITS OWN POVERTY AND MISERY. THERE WERE OTHERS...



ENGLAND WAS OVERFLOWED WITH POLLUTION AND OVERPOPULATION! BUT PARLIAMENT WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH THE HOLLAND CAMPAIGNS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN THEIR OWN CITIES.

FINALLY, IN THE WINTER OF 1664, THE PLAGUE STRUCK.

THIS IS YOUR WELCOME, JAMES. SEE WHAT YOUR GLORIOUS VICTORIES HAVE DONE FOR YOUR PEOPLE AT HOME?

TELL ME OF MY FAMILY, OLD WOMAN. BE THEY DEAD OR ALIVE?

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLES, OLD WOMAN. NOW ONE MORE QUESTION AND I'LL BE GONE...

IN WHICH DIRECTION LIES THE PEST-HOUSE AT TOTHELL?



YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER ARE BOTH AMONG THE DEAD. ONLY YOUR YOUNGER SISTER HAS SURVIVED AND, WOULD THAT SHE HADN'T, FOR THEY HAVE TAKEN HER TO THE PEST-HOUSE AT TOTHELL.

OF WHAT USE ARE THESE THINGS TO ME NOW? WHAT CAN IT BUY ME SAVE DEATH AND DISEASE...

...AND WE ALREADY HAVE A PLENTIFUL BOUNTY OF THOSE!

PEST-HOUSE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HAS SHE GONE MAD?

AHE, JAMES! THE FEVER SET UPON HER, AND THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO, EXCEPT TAKE HER WHERE SHE WOULD NOT SPREAD THE INFECTION TO OTHERS!



...AND WHAT HE SAW WITHIN BROUGHT A SINGLE TEAR TO HIS CHEEK, WHICH WAS MORE THAN A THOUSAND DEATHS ON THE BATTLEFIELD HAD EVER DONE.



SIR JAMES LOOKED INTO THE FACE OF THE OLD WOMAN

IN OTHER TIMES, THE CASTLE AT
TOPHILL HAD BEEN THE RESIDENCE
 OF A GREAT **FEDERAL LORD**, AND ITS
 TAPERED WALLS HAD HONOR
 ONLY TO THE **MIGHT** OF PROPER
 BRITISH SOCIETY.

LATER, IT WAS SOLD FOR A
WORKHOUSE, AND THOSE
SAME WALLS STANK OF
 SWEAT AND BLOOD.



NOW IT SERVED AS A
PEST-HOUSE. THE
 RICHNESS AND
 EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE
 FEUDAL ERA HAD LONG
PASSED, AND **POVERTY**
 AND **WISDOM** NOW HELD
 DOMINION OVER ITS WALLS.
 PERHAPS THEY **WOULD**
 FROM THIS DAY **FORTH**...



WE HAVE NO
 ROOM HERE FOR
STRANGERS...

I AM
 LOOKING FOR
 MY SISTER...
LISA GRACE!



THEN YOU
 WILL HAVE TO
 LOOK **ELSEWHERE**!
 SHE IS **GONE!**

GONE?!



YES, SHE STOLE A
 FEW **SHILLINGS**
 FROM ONE OF THE
GUARDS AND FLED
 TO THE NORTH.

YOU MADE
 NO EFFORT
 TO STOP
 HER?!

TO BE FRANK, SIR, WE
 WERE GLAD TO BE **AID**
 OF HER. LET HER DIE
OUTSIDE THE PARISH
 LIMITS... THEN IT WILL BE
SOMEONE ELSE'S
 EXPENSE TO **BURY** HER.

COLD, UNFEELING
BRUTE! YOU'RE
 TALKING ABOUT
 MY SISTER.



I COULD AS
 EASILY BE TALKING
 ABOUT MY OWN
 SISTER...

LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
 PEOPLE HUNGRY, PEOPLE
ILL, PEOPLE **DYING**! I
 HAVEN'T THE **FOOD** NOR
 THE **MEDICINE** TO KEEP
 THEM ALIVE... SO WHO DO
 I SAVE?!

THOSE WHO **STAY** AND **SEEK**
 FOR MY HELP OR THOSE WHO
 STEAL A FEW **SHILLINGS** AND
RUN? YOU HAVE NO RIGHT
 TO **CONDEMN** ME, SIR. I
 DO THE **BEST** I CAN.

WITH DAWN, SIR JAMES SET OUT ALONE TO TRACE THE FLIGHT OF HIS SISTER. HE KNEW IT WAS FOLLY, BUT IT SEEMED THE **HONORABLE** THING TO DO.

AND THE ONLY THING SIR JAMES HAD LEFT WAS **HONOR**!



WHAT NO, MEN!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

LOADIN' THE LATEST
TROUGH OF CORPSES
INTO THE PLAGUE PITS!
THE SOONER WE **BURY**
THEM, THE LESS DANGER
OF **CONTAMINATION**!



LISA!
OH, MY GOD!
NO!

OH, THAT
ONE... WE FOUND
HER ON THE ROAD
A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
TRIED TO **ESCAPE** THIS
BLEEDIN' VILLAGE. I
SUPPOSE... BUT IT'S
JUST AS WELL SHE
DIED **PEACEFULLY**..



...THINGS
AIN'T ANY **BETTER**
IN THE OTHER
VILLAGES ANYWAY!

SIR JAMES DIDN'T HEAR THE MAN'S FINAL WORDS. HE THOUGHT OF A POOR OLD ARTISAN, A KINDLY WIFE, AND A BEAUTIFUL PAIR SISTER, AND HE WONDERED WHAT THEY HELL HE WAS DOING FIGHTING A WAR IN HOLLAND WHILE **THEY** LAY DYING.



HE THOUGHT TOO OF ANOTHER... ONE
WHOSE TOUCH WAS **WARM** AND **GENTLE**
AND WHOSE SOUL WAS **INNOCENT**.

THEY HAD MET AND LOVED **BEFORE** THE
CAMPS APOKE... AND EVEN THROUGHOUT HAD
MAINTAINED TENDER CORRESPONDENCES.

HER NAME WAS **ALETHEA BLOOM**.



ALTHEA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF ABRAHAM BLOOM, A KINDLY OLD MERCHANT WHO HAD BEEN LOVED AND RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ST. GILES...

...UNTIL THE PLAGUE!

ALTHEA!
H-NO... IT
C-CAN'T BE...
NOT WHEN I'M
SO CLOSE!

STAY BACK,
SOLDIER! YOU
GOT NO CALL TO
INTERFERE IN
OUR BUSINESS!

IT SHALL NOT
BE SAID THAT I
WATCHED A
MURDER PERFORMED
WITHOUT
INTERCEDING!

MURDER? WE ARE
ONLY PROTECTING
OURSELVES AGAINST
THE WITCHES! THEY ARE
THE ONES WHO BROUGHT
THIS PLAGUE DOWN
UPON US, AND WE
WON'T BE RID OF IT
UNTIL WE'RE RID
OF THEM!

TRULY THE FEVER HAS
TAKEN HOLD OF YOUR
SENSES... YOU DO NOT
SERIOUSLY BELIEVE
THAT THIS PESTILENCE
WAS VISITED ON US
BY WITCHES!?

BUT SIR JAMES ANSWER
CAME WITH THE FINAL,
AGONIZED SCREAM OF
ABRAHAM BLOOM AS HE
WAS CAST ALIVE INTO
THE PLAGUE PIT.

THEY ARE BEYOND
REASON... I HAD
BETTER TAKE
ALTHEA AND FLEE
THIS PLACE!

ALTHEA HAD DREAMED OF THE MOMENT SHE
WOULD SEE SIR JAMES AGAIN. SHE PLANNED IT,
THEN REHEARSED IT OVER IN HER MIND UNTIL
SHE WAS SURE IT WAS PERFECT.

WHY WAS LIFE SUCH
A BUTCHER OF DREAMS?

WITH THE COOLING WIND BLOWING AGAINST HIS CHEEK, SIR JAMES FELT *BETTER, FRIER* THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME SINCE HIS RETURN TO ST GILES.

WE'RE SAFE NOW, ALETHEA.

SAFE? HOW DO YOU DEFINE SAFETY, SIR JAMES?

IF YOU MEAN OUT OF THEIR IMMEDIATE REACH, YES WE ARE SAFE....

...BUT IF YOU MEAN FREE FROM THE SUSPICION, THE HATRED, THE PREJUDICE THAT KILLED MY FATHER AND KILLED MY INNOCENCE.../

I WILL NEVER BE SAFE FROM IT. BETTER THAT I HAD DIED OUT THERE BESIDE MY FATHER.../

SIR JAMES GASPED THIS WAS NOT THE WARM, NAIVE, PERFUMED ALETHEA HE HAD KNOWN ON THOSE HOT AUGUST NIGHTS.../

SHE HAD **CHANGED**. HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND HER PROTECTIVELY...

...OR WAS IT, PERHAPS, **POSSESSIVELY?**




SAVAGE, GROPING ANIMALS. THAT'S WHAT THESE VILLAGERS WERE. OH, THEY TOLERATED US WHEN THEY DIDN'T FEEL THREATENED THEMSELVES... BUT WHEN THEY FACED A SITUATION THEY COULDN'T CONTROL, IT WAS TIME TO LOOK FOR THEIR PERSONAL **SCAPEGOAT... US!**

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU ANYMORE, ALETHEA...


YOU ALWAYS WERE AN IDEALIST AND A DREAMER, SIR JAMES. EVEN THE **BLOODY WARS** HAVE NOT ALTERED YOU... BUT THE **PLAGUE WILL!** FOR WHEN THE **PLAGUE STRIKES**, THEN YOU SEE THINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME... AS THEY **REALLY ARE!**

THEY ARE **FOOLS**, ALETHEA!



AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? OFF FIGHTING A WAR DEFENDING THE COUNTRY THAT MURDERED YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHILE YOU WERE AWAY?

ARE YOU NO LESS A FOOL?



IF YOU ONLY DO ONE MERCIFUL THING IN YOUR LIFE... DO IT NOW?
KILL ME... BEFORE THEY DO, ALLOW ME TO DIE WITH DIGNITY... THEY CERTAINLY NEVER WOULD! SHOOT ME!



PLEASE... SHOOT!
I HAVE LOST MY INNOCENCE, AND I HAVE LOST HOPE... THERE IS NOTHING I HAVE LEFT WORTH SPARING!

AND LIVING WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE IS THE SLOWEST, MOST PAINFUL FORM OF DEATH YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED!



BOOM!



THEY FOUND THE BODIES THE NEXT MORNING AND PITCHED THEM INTO THE PLAGUE PITS NICE BODY ON THAT YOUNG GUY, ONE OF THEM THOUGHT. *SHAME* ABOUT THIS AND THOUGHT ANOTHER. THEY SAID HE WAS SOME KINDA WAR HERO...!

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IN THE BOWELS OF
TENNESSEE IS A TINY
COMMUNITY SQUEEZED
BETWEEN SHARP,
PEACEFUL RIVERS AND
FERTILE WOODLAND.
CENTURIES AGO IT WAS
HOSTED BY HUNGRY
HOLLOW, FOR SEASONS
LONG FORGOTTEN
BY THE HILLFOLK WHO
LIVED THERE.

IT FLOURISHED ON THE
FRINGE OF THE GREAT
SMOKY MOUNTAINS,
A VIRGIN FOREST NOT
YET DEFILED BY
CIVILIZATION OR THAT
BOHEMIAN BY-PRODUCT,
PROGRESS.



ANTHONY ROSSINI WAS
IMPRESSED BY ITS
SOLITUDE, ITS
REFERENCE TO ANYTHING
THAT MIGHT DISRUPT THE
TRANQUILLITY. A
BOHEMIAN REPORTER OF
CAUSTIC WIND AND ACID
TONGUE, ROSSINI HOPED
TO FIND A SANCTUARY—LA...
A BEGGING RETREAT
IN HUNGRY HOLLOW.

HE FOUND INSTEAD A
NIGHTMARE.

THERE ARE NO CHILDREN IN HUNGRY HOLLOW, TENNESSEE



THE SHANTIES SEEMED ALMOST INNOCENT. HERE, SO
ADAPTED TO NOISE POLLUTION HAS ALREADY BECOME THAT
BALANCE INDICATOR A DEEP, DISTURBING REVEALINGNESS.
BUT ROSSINI WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO IT SOON
ENOUGH.



FOR HERE IN HUNGRY HOLLOW ONE FOLLOWED THE
EDICTS OF NATURE, NOT MAN. HERE, ONE SAWED
THE WORLD IN ITS CREATOR'S HANDS, WITHOUT
COMPETING FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE FIRST
TO DESTROY IT.



CAN I
HELP YOU,
STRANGER?

YES, DR.
ANTHONY MCGILVER... I WROTE AHEAD TO
OCCUPY ACCOMMODATIONS
FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.
IN YOUR PEOPLE, YOU
OFFERED TO ACCOMMODATE
THEM.



OF COURSE,
WELCOME TO HUNGERY
HOLLOW, MR. ROSSMAN... I
BELIEVE YOUR LETTER STATED
THAT YOU WERE COMING HERE
TO DEVOTE TIME
TO THE MOVIE.
YOU ARE WAITING.

YES, TOO
MANY ENTERTAINMENT
IN THE CITY, I WANTED
PRIVACY AND
QUIETNESS.



YOU ARE CERTAIN TO
FIND BIRTH HERE. THE
PEOPLE OF HUNGERY HOLLOW
HAVE GONE TO GREAT PAINS
TO RID THEMSELVES OF
THE PETTY ANNOYANCES
THAT GIVE CITY FOLK
PACERS.

YOU HAVE
SUCCEEDED
AMAZINGLY.



THE ROOM SMELLED CLEAN AND FRESH, SOMETHING
ALien TO THE OVER-APPOINTMENT HE HAD TENANTED IN
NEW YORK CITY. UNEXPECTEDLY, IT REMANDED HIM
OF HIS CHILDHOOD... THOSE HALCYON DAYS
BEFORE INNOCENCE AND CURIOSITY WERE
STIFLED BY RESPONSIBILITY.



STRANGER, I
HASN'T NOTICED BEFORE
THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS
MISSING FROM HUNGERY
HOLLOW... CHILDREN!
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SINCE
I ARRIVED.

JUST AN
UNWELL-TIMED THEY'RE
A DAMNED
NECESSARY
ANYWAY.



STILL, IT SEEMS
IMPOSSIBLE THAT A
TOWN THIS SIZE SHOULD
HAVE NONE. THERE CAN'T
BE MUCH ELSE FOR
LOVERS TO DO ON A
SATURDAY NIGHT
AROUND HERE...

...AND I DOUBT
THAT THE PEOPLE OF
HUNGERY HOLLOW HAVE
EVEN HEARD OF BIRTH
CONTROL. MUCH LESS
PRACTICE IT.

AS DARKNESS SETTLED, ALFRED TOOK TO BED BUT FOUND HE COULDN'T SLEEP. THE SILENCE WAS OPPRESSIVE. REMAINS OF THE CITY AT AMBUSHING FEARED AND HARBORED IN THE CITY FOR A LIFE OF PASTORAL COMFORT AND PEACE.



WHATEVER THE REASON, HE PASSED A FITFUL REST LESS NIGHT. THE MORNING BROUGHT DEPRESSION.

RECALLING HIS MOTHER AND HIS OWN PASTORAL OF ANYTHING SO PERFECT.



I NEVER REALIZED HOW DEMANDING SILENCE IS. IN AN ENVIRONMENT LIKE THIS, ALFRED HAD TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH HIMSELF. THERE IS NO HURDLE OR CONFESSION TO ESCAPE INTO.



NORMALLY I DON'T SERVE BREAKFAST IN BED, BUT BEING THAT IT'S YOUR FIRST MORNING HERE...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO TEND TO THIS MORNING. THERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO GO FOR A NEW PERSONAL ITEM.



RADLEY'S STORE, IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE HE CARRIES EVERYTHING FOLK IN THESE PARTS ASKED. IN FACT, HE IS THE ONLY STORE IN TOWN. MOST PEOPLE IN MEMORY HOLLOW PREFER NATURAL GOODS TO MANUFACTURED ONES.

RADLEY'S STORE WAS EVERYTHING HE NEEDED IT TO BE. A TRADING TO THE GENERAL STORES OF PIONEER DAYS. IT STOCKED MOST OF THE NECESSITIES AND HAD A FEW EXTRAS.



CANTON OVER NOW. HADN'T AND RESERVED THIS PLACE IS. EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BUSINESS DAY.



CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER, TO BECOME A PLACE. HERE, SAYING THIS IS THE ONLY STORE IN TOWN. THEY STOCK NO FOOD OF ANY KIND, NOR DO THEY HAVE ANY TOYS OR CLOTHING OR ANYTHING USED BY ANYONE.



THE HEAVY SUN BEAMED BRIGHTLY OVERHEAD, BUT ANTHONY ASSUMAN HAD NEVER FELT COOLER. THIS WAS NOW THE QUIET BORN OF SIMPLE, MONASTIC LIVING...

IT WAS THE QUIET OF A TOMB.



HE COULDN'T HELP WONDER WHO WAS POSTUMED TO BE BURIED IN IT...

...OR WHO HAD BEEN BURIED IN IT ALREADY.





THIS STORY AND THE SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW-UP MAY GET BY-LINE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF EVERY NEWSPAPER IN THE COUNTRY. I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE WORLD'S GREATEST REPORTER, BUT I DO OWNSE FULFILLER PRIZE MATERIAL WHEN I SEE IT.



I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THAT BABY AFTER IT'S BORN.

VERY WELL. IT'LL BE SENT TO A DAY-CARE CENTER JUST OUTSIDE TOWN. THERE A GROUP OF QUALIFIED NURSES WILL CARE FOR IT UNTIL IT IS OLD ENOUGH TO RETURN.



EVEN CONSIDERING THE SLOWNESS OF LOCAL RAIL PICK-UP AND DELIVERY, THIS SHOULD REACH NEW YORK, BY THE END OF THE WEEK, HOPEFULLY. BY THAT TIME, THE FOLLOW-UP WILL ALREADY BE ON ITS WAY.



ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THOSE CHOCOLATE PREGNANT WOMAN! WHAT A GREAT ANGLE THAT WOULD MAKE!



EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU.

YOU'RE THAT REPORTER FELLOW THAT'S BEAVIN' YOU UP, HUH?



YES, AND I BELIEVE YOU CAN HELP ME.

THAT IS A SOBBING LINE!

PROB'LY RUSLEY TELLS 'EM THEY LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS... THEN REG'ARDING... THEY'RE SENT TO BOARDING SCHOOLS OUT-OF- TOWN... NOW YOU TELL 'EM THEY GO TO A NERBY DAY-CARE CENTER. WON'T ANYONE TELL 'EM THE TRUTH?



THE WOMAN RAN LIKE A CHILD WHO'D JUST BROKEN HER FATHER'S NEW WRE. MOSEMAN DIDN'T BOTHER TO FOLLOW. THERE SEEMED LITTLE REASON TO FORCE ANOTHER LID OUT OF HER.



TIED AND DISCOURAGED HE RETURNED TO THE BOARDING HOUSE WHERE HE AND RED-MARCH MUTUALLY AVOIDED EACH OTHER.



THREE HE TRIED TO REVIEW AND ANALYZE THE FACTS... TO WEED THE PLOTION FROM THE TUTH... TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF A TORNAL OF MISDEEDS HE FAILED.

FINALLY OVERCOME WITH EXHAUSTION, HE SLEPT...



UNTIL HE WAS AWAKENED BY A PECCANT RUCKUS AT HIS DOOR, SOME TWO HOURS LATER.



IS WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I AM EDGAR W. ARTHUR, THE VILLAGE POSTMASTER... I BELIEVE YOU KNOW MR. RABLEY AND RED-MARCH...



CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF HUNGRY HOLLOW MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO INSPECT ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL... YOUR ARTICLE WHICH YOU PUBLISHED THIS AFTERNOON, JACK, CERTAIN ALL FOLK ABOUT OUR TOWN WHICH AT THE VERY LEAST WOULD BE LAZIOUS TO OUR REPUTATION.



SO WE'VE COME TO CLEAR UP ANY POWERS THAT LINGER IN YOUR MIND ABOUT THE CHILDREN OF HUNGRY HOLLOW.

IT'S UNFORTUNATE YOU LET YOUR JOURNALISTIC INSTINCTS GET OUT OF HAND... BUT NOW YOU SHALL HAVE THE FULL STORY!

"OVER 500 YEARS AGO, HUNGERY HOLLOW WAS A SMALL BUT PROSPEROUS FARMING VILLAGE. THEN CIVIL WAR BROKE OUT, AND THIS PEACEFUL HAMLET BECAME THE SITE OF A MAJOR BATTLE."



"IT CAME TO THE POINT WHERE THE BURNING BEGAN FEEDING ON THE BODIES OF THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD DIED. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD SURVIVE, WHEN THEY RAN OUT OF CORPSES, THEY TURNED TO THE LIVING...."



"OUR BUILDINGS AND OUR FARMLAND WERE DESTROYED. THE FEE TOWNSDPEOPLE WHO SURVIVED FACED DESTRUCTION, FOR THERE WAS NO SHARE ADE, PARTIAL SOUL TO PROVIDE FOOD ... AND THE STEADY BARRAGE OF CANNONFIRE HAD BRIGHTENED THEIR SENSES SO THAT ANY LOUP HORSE BECAME INTOLERABLE."



"ONE HUNDRED YEARS PASSED BEFORE US-WE HAD INHERITED CERTAIN TRAITS FROM OUR ANCESTORS. ONE OF THEM WAS AN INHERENT AVERSION TO LOUP HORSE. THE OTHER WAS A TASTE FOR HUMAN FLESH."





IT TOOK EXACTLY SIX
MINUTES TO STRIP
AND DISCARD THE
FLESH OF ANTHONY
MAGGIAN, AND WHEN
IT WAS DONE...

BY THE WAY, ANTHONY
... KATE BAILEY'S
BABY IS DUE NEXT
WEEK, AND ELIE
BERGLAND'S PREGNANT
AGAIN.



EXCELLENT, AND
HOW ABOUT YOU, BOB?
HASN'T ANY MORE
PROSPECTIVE
BOARDS?

I GOT A LETTER
THIS MORNING FROM
A RESEARCH
SCIENTIST FROM
RAMM. HE'S
LOOKING FOR A
QUIET PLACE WHERE
HE CAN FINISH HIS
CURRENT
PROJECT.



HE'S DUE TO
ARRIVE IN FRONT
OF A PAVEE AFTER
A GOOD MEAL.
FOLKS IN THE
CITIES AIN'T GOT
TIME FOR
LUXURIES LIKE
THAT.



EXCELLENT.
THE WORKS
CONDITIONS GET
IN THE URBAN AREA
THE MORE WE TEND
WE CAN
EXPECT.

NOTHING LIKE
RELAXING IN FRONT
OF A PAVEE AFTER
A GOOD MEAL.
FOLKS IN THE
CITIES AIN'T GOT
TIME FOR
LUXURIES LIKE
THAT.



THAT
REMARKS
RE...

... HE WOULDN'T
WANT THIS TO FALL
INTO WRONG
HANDS, WOULD
HE?



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WIKIPEDEANS: Here is an offshoots column on Wednesday. This 127-page paperback book is just packed with essential about real-life necessities of past and present. Plus, a history of Wikipedia's rapidly increasing popularity may change the world of online



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FROM THE
to a de-
of the
red hat of
of the
latter
an special
grouping
1983 pay-
the rate
pho-
tural har-



PLASTIC LITERATURE—This is one of the largest collections of plastics ever assembled. More than 100,000 pieces of plastic are included in the collection, which is housed in the basement of the National Museum of Natural History. The collection is the largest of its kind in the world. It is a treasure trove of information on the history and uses of plastic. The collection is open to the public, and is a valuable resource for researchers and students alike.

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#113302 THE LOST CITY OF ZODIAC
#113303 THE LOST CITY OF ZODIAC
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#113306 THE LOST CITY OF ZODIAC
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#113316 THE LOST CITY OF ZODIAC

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IN BLACK AND WHITE OR COLOR ON 200' REELS
HARRYHAUSEN'S "GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD"

The legend of Sinbad the Sailor comes to vivid life in this magnificent motion picture. The four reels represent an hour's worth of awe-inspiring thrills as Sinbad battles the creatures of legend. Special effects by the master of animation, Ray Harryhausen.

CHAPTER 1

"SINBAD AND THE
ORACLE"

In order to locate the whereabouts of the ex-communicated crown, the hero comes to Oracle in the depths of a dark cave. When the hour comes, the star team sets out. It is an amazing feat of the most lightning. And when they arrive, the star team sets out. It is an amazing feat of the most lightning. And when they arrive, the star team sets out.

CHAPTER 2

"SINBAD CULDS THE
LOOT OF MANY ARMS"

Sinbad begins his journey to the land of the living. He begins his journey to the land of the living. He begins his journey to the land of the living. He begins his journey to the land of the living.

CHAPTER 3

"SINBAD CHALLENGES
THE MONSTER"

Sinbad and his men accept the challenge of the giant statue to a monster. Sinbad and his men accept the challenge of the giant statue to a monster. Sinbad and his men accept the challenge of the giant statue to a monster.

CHAPTER 4

"SINBAD AND THE
MAGIC SWORD"

Both Sinbad and the evil sorcerer Karna arrive at the Magic Mountain. Both Sinbad and the evil sorcerer Karna arrive at the Magic Mountain. Both Sinbad and the evil sorcerer Karna arrive at the Magic Mountain.



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Here is a random sampling of some of the strongest science fiction films of all-time. THE THING comes from another world, while TROG is a prehistoric man who comes from another time! Based on the Ray Bradbury story, IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE is an alien who crash-lands on earth and doesn't want to stop. THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN can't stop getting smaller, while the lead in WAR OF THE COLOSSAL BEAST can't stop getting bigger! And finally, there are the invaders who attack earth beginning a WAR OF THE PLANETS! Details below!

INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN



After passing that up, a weird alien who shrinks begins to grow. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks.

TROG



Scientist Jack Crawford discovers the last man left of a prehistoric race, and brings him back to the present. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks.

THE THING



One of the great sci-fi classics. When a small alien creature lands in a town, it begins to destroy. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks.

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE



Ray Bradbury's classic sci-fi novel is brought to life in this movie. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks.

WAR OF THE PLANETS



The earth is invaded by a fleet of alien ships. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks.

WAR OF THE COLOSSAL BEAST



After being captured in the eyes of the world's first film, the monster is released. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks. It's a story of a man who shrinks.

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#1016 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA HANDS



#1017 HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME HANDS



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 and... 2010 2010, finally
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WILL ALLEN (1947): A metal man, wearing a mask. He would be FUGITIVE JOHN EDGAR HOOVER.



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and Polanski's film about the rape and fleeing of a 13-year-old girl is being rescheduled. **FOCUS** has announced the film.

[illegible]

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HILL, HIRSHL, I see that, and will be doing several in South-West. He [Hill] decided to go to Portland in January.



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