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# Weird Tales

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

# Ballade of Creatures Abroad by Night

By WILFRED BLANCH TALMAN

These are the creatures abroad by day:  
 Fauns and satyrs and elves and gnomes;  
 Naiads and dryads and centaurs play  
 As Great Pan pipes in their forest homes,  
 But soon after sundown the werewolf roams,  
 His eyes agleam in the witch-fire's light;  
 The old crones' brew in their cauldron foams—  
*These are the creatures abroad by night!*

Drunken old Dutchmen Van Winkle knew  
 Play at bowls with a thunder cloud;  
 Jovial phantoms by day, these few,  
 Till dusk brings ghouls with an earth-stained shroud  
 And demons of dreadfulness, bloody-browed.  
 When doors and casements are fastened tight  
 To keep out the spell of the ghostly crowd—  
*These are the creatures abroad by night!*

High on the peak of a Kaatskill crag  
 The Old Squaw drowzes till evenglow;  
 Darkness awakens the fiendish hag  
 And spirits marshalled by Manitou.  
 Pallid-tongued specters that whimper low,  
 Astride the winds on a vampire-flight,  
 With slavering priests to the sabbat go—  
*These are the creatures abroad by night!*

Crown Prince of Darkness, Satanus, pray  
 Pierce our eardrums and blind our sight;  
 Nor haunt us, lest we become as they—  
*These are the creatures abroad by night!*