

## COMMONPLACE BOOK

H. P. Lovecraft

Transcribed By R. H. Barlow

## COMMONPLACE BOOK

Demophon shivered when the sun shone on him. (Lover of darkness--ignorance)

Narrator walks along unfamiliar country road,comes to region of the unreal.

Man makes appt. with old enemy. Dies---body keeps appt.

House & garden---old associations. Scene takes on strange aspect in the dark.

Hideous sound in the dark.

Bridge & slimy black water:

Doors found mysteriously

open & shut & excitesterro

Calamander-wood--- a very

valuable wood of Geylon &

S. India, resembling

Revise 1907 - painting of ultimate horror.

rosewood.

Mermaid Legend --- Ency. Britt. XVI- 40 Man journeys into the past or imaginative realm---leavidum bodily shell behind. A very ancient colossus in a very ancient desert. Face gone--no man hath seen it. The man who would not sleep-dares not sleep--takes drugs to keep himself awake. Finally falls asleep--- & something happens. Motto from Baudelaire p. 214. Dunsany-- (Go-By street ) Man stumbles on dream - world returns to Earth---seeks to to go back --- succeeds , but finds dream-world ancient & decayed as though by thousands of years.

Man whose money was obscurely made loses it. Tells his

family he must go again to THE PLACE (horrible & sinister & extra-dimensional) where he got his gold.

Hints of possible pursuers --- or of possible non-return. He goes --record of what happens to him -- or what happens at his home when he returns. Perhaps commect with ensuing topic. Give fantastic, quasi-Dunsanian treatment. Uttimate horror---grandfather returns from strange trip---mystery in house---wind & darkness---grandf. & mother engulfed---questions forbidden --- sommolence ---investigation--cataclysm---screams overheard. Man observed in a public place with features (or ring or jewel ) identified with those of man long ( perhaps generations) buried. Terrible trip to an ancient & forgotten tomb

Hideous family living in shadow in ancient castle by edge of wood near black cliffs & monstrous waterfall.

Boy reared in atmosphere of considerable mystery. Believes father dead. Suddenly is told father is about to return. Strange preparations - consequences.
Lonely bleak islands of NE coast. Horrors they harboroutport of cosmic influence Strange man in shadowy quarter of ancient city possesses something of immemorial archaic horrors.

What hatches from primordial egg.

Hideous old book discovered with directions for shock-ing evocation.

Pre-human idol found in desert.

Idol in museum moves in a certain way.

Migrations of Lemmings...
Atlantis.

dug up in an ancient Irish bog.

Man blindfolded & taken in chosed cab to some very ancient & secret place.

The dreams of one man actually create a strange half mad world of quasi-material substance in another dimension. Another man, also a dreamer, blunders thto this world in a dream. What he finds. Intelligence of denizens. Their dependence on the first dreamer. What happens at his death.

A very ancient tomb in the deep woods near where a 17th Century Virginia Manorhouse used to be. The undecayed, bloated thing found within.

Catacombs discovered beneath a city. (in America?)

Dream of ancient castle stairs- sleeping guards-narrow window- battle on plain between men of England & men of yellow tabards with red dragons. Leader of English challenges leader of foe to single combat. They fight, foe unhelmeted, but there is no head revealed. Whole army of foe fades into mist & watch -er finds himself to be the English knight on the plain, mounted. Looks at castle & sees a peculiar concentration of fantastic clouds over the highest battlements.

Death..its desolation & horror..bleak spaces..sea-bottom..dead cities. But life: The greater horror: Vast unheard-of reptiles & levithans & hideous beasts of prehistoric jungle...rank slimy vegetation—evil instincts of primal man—Life is more horrible thandeath.

Dream of Seekonk-ebbing tide- bolt from sky- exodus from Providence-fall of 2 Congregational dome. Strange visit to a place at night-moonlight-castle of great magnificence &c. Daylight shows either abandonment or unrecognisable ruins..perhaps of vast antiquity. Prehistoric man preserved in Siberian ice. (See Winchell Walks & Talks in the Geological Field pl56 et seq.) Moving away from earth more swiftly than light. Past gradually unfolded-horrible revelation. Special beings with special senses from remote universes advent of an external universe to view. Peculiar odour of a book of childhood induces repitition of childhood fancy. Sounds .. possibly musical .. heard in the night from

other worlds or realms or being.

Drowning sensations -under sea- ships- souls of the dead Drowning is a horrible death. Disintegration of all matter to electrons & finally empty space assured, just as devolurion of energy to radiant heat is known. Case if acceleration---man passes into space.

Warning that certain ground is sacred or accursed; that a house or city must not be built upon it or must be destroyed or abandoned if built. Index penalty of catastropher Fear of mirrors-memory of dream in which scene is altered & climax is hideous surprise at seeing oneself in the water or mirror. (Identity.?)

Castle by pool or river--reflection fixed thro'
centuries- castle destroyedreflection lives to avenge
destroyed weirdly.

Race of immortal Pharekia dwelling beneath pyramids in vast subterranean halls down black staircases. Visitor from tomb-stranger at some public concourse followed at midnight to graveyard where he descends into the earth. From ARABIA Ency. Britan. II 255 Prehistoric fabulous tribes of Ad in the south. Thamood in the north, & Tasm & Jadis in the centre of the peninsula. "Very gorgeous are the descriptions given of Irem. the City of Pillars (as the Koran styles it) supposed to have been erected by Shedad, the latest despot of Ad, in the regions of Hadramant, & which yet, after the annihilation, of its tenants, remains entire so Arabs say, invisible to the ordinary eyes, but occasionally & at rare intervals,

revealed to some heavenfavoured traveller." //Rock
excavations in N.W. Hejaz
ascribed to Thamood tribe.
Cities wiped out by supernatural wrath.

Enchanted garden where moon casts shadow of object or ghost invisible to human eye. Calling on the dead - voice or familiar sound in adjacent room.

Hand of dead man writes.
Transposition of identity.
Man followed by invisible
thing.

Book or manuscript too horrible to read-warned against
reading it- someone reads it
& is found dead. Haverhill
incident.

Sailing or rowing on lake in moonlight- sailing into invisible.

A queer village - in a valley, reached by a long road & visible from the crest of the hill from

which that road descends—
or close to a dense & antique forest.

Man in strange subterranear
chamber— seeks to force door
of bronze— overwhelmed by influz of waters.

Fishermen casts his not

Fisherman casts his net into the sea by moonlight--- what he finds.

A terrible pilgrimage to seek the nighted throne of the far-daemon-wiltan Aza-thoth.

Live man buried in bridge masonry according to superstition-or black est.

Riley's fear of undertakers- door locked on inside after death.

An impression- city in perildead city-equestrian statuemen in closed room-clattering of hooves heard from outside

looking out - doubtful ending.

Black Mass under antique

Murder discovered- body located by psychological detective who pretends he has made walls of room transparent. Works on fear of murderer.

Man with unnatural face—oddit of speaking—found to be a mask. Revelation.

Man has sold soul to devilreturns to family from trip-life afterward- fearculminating horror- novel hength?

Halloween incident- mirror in a celler- face seen therein-death (claw-mark?)

Rats multiply & exterminate first a single city & then all mankind. Increased size & intelligence.

Italian revenge-killing self in cell with enemy-inder castle.

Ancient cathedral- hideous gargoyle-man seeks to robfound dead - gargoyle's paw bloody.

Quoted as motto by Jahn Buchan.

"The effect of night, of any flowing water, of the peep of day, of ships, of the open ocean, calls up in the mind an army of anonymass desires & pleasures. Something, we feel, should happen; we know not what, yet we proceed in quest of it."

## R.L. Stevenson

Unspeakable dance of the gargoyles— in morning several gargoyles on old cathedral found transposed. Wandering through labyrinth of narrow slum streets— come on distant light-unheard of rites of swarming beggars—like Court of Miracles du Notre Dame de Paris.

Horrible secret in crypt of ancient castle-discovered by dweller. Shapeless living thing forming nucleus of ancient building. Power of wizard to influence others. "...a defunct nightmare, which had perished in the midst of its wickedness, & left its flabby corpse on the breast of the tormented one, to be gotten rid of as it might." .. Hawthorne. Hideous cracked discords of bass music from (ruined) organ in (abandoned) abbey or church. To find something horrible in a(perhaps familiar) book,& not to be able to find it again. " For has not nature, too, her grotesques- the rent rock, the distorted lights of evening on lonely roads, the unveiled structure of man in the embryo or the

skeleton ?# .. Pater, Remissance (da Vinci) Lonely philosopher fond of cat Hypnotizes it-as it were- by repeatedly talking to it & looking at it. After his death the cat evinces signs of his personality. He had trained cat, & leaves it with friend, with instructions as to fitting a pen to its right forepaw by means of a harnesslater it writes with the deceased's own handwriting. Lone lagoons & swamps of Louisiana-death-daemonancient house & gardensmoss- grown trees- festoons of Spanish moss. anencephalous or brainless monster who survives & attains prodigious size. Lost winter day-slept over - 20 years later. Sleep in armchair summer night-false dawn- olu

seemery & sensations- coldold persons now dead- horrorfrozen?

Man's body dies- but corpse retains life. Stalks about tries to conceal odour of decay detained somewherehideous climax.

Unknown fires seen across the hills at night.

A place one has been- a beautiful view of village or farm-dotted valley in the sunset- which one cannot find again or locate in memory.

Change comes over sun- shows objects in strange form, perhaps restoring landscape of the past.

Blind fear of a certain woodland hollow where streams writhe among crooked roots, & where on a buried altar terrible sacrifices have occured. Phospherescence of dead trees. Ground bubbles.

city hillside-Bowen St .beckons in the nightblack windows- horror unnamed- cold touch & voicethe welcome of the dead. Salem story- the cottage of an aged witch- wherein after her death are found sundry terrible things. Subterranean region beneath placid New England village, inhabited by (living or extinct ) creatures of prehistoric antiquity & strangeness. Corpse in room performs some act- prompted by discussion in its presence. Tears up or hides will, &c. Vampire visits man in ancestral abode- is his own father. A thing that sat of a sleeper's chest. Gone in morning, but something left behind. 01% sea tavern now far inland from made land. Horrible boarding house- clo-sed door never opened.

Bed Saa Ta open now for inland by strange occurrences- sound ofnlapping of waves. Educated mulatto seeks to displace personality of white man & occupy his body. Ancient negro voodoo wizard in cabin in swamp possesses white man. Antedeluvian - cyclopean ruins on lonely Pacific island-Centre of earthwide subterranean witch cult. Ancient ruin in Alabama swamo- voodoo. Man lives near graveyard- how does he live ?- Eats no food. Biological hereditary memor ies of other worlds & universes. / Butler- God Known & Unk. p 59 / Death lights dancing over a salt marsh. Ancient castle within sound of weird waterfall- sound ceases for a time under strange conditions. Prowling at night around an unlighted castle amidst

strange scenery. A secret living thing kept & fed in an old house. momething seen at Griel window in ancient manor house. ART NOTE- fantastick daemons of Salvator Rosa or Fuseli. / Trunk-proboscis )/ Talking bird of great longevity- tells secret long after ward. Photius tells of a (lost) writer named Damascius, who wrote INCREDIBLE FICTIONS TALES OF DAEMONS MARVELLOUS STORIES OF APPEAR ANCES FROM THE DEAD. Horrible things whispered in the lines of Gauther de Metz (13th cent.) IMAGE DU MONDE. Dried-up man living for centuries in cataleptic state in ancient tomb. Hideous secret assamblage at night in antique alley- disperse furtively one by one- one seen to aron

something- a human hand.

Man abandoned by ship- swimming in sea- picked up hours later with strange story of undersea region he has visited- mad ??

Castaways on island eat unknown vegetation & become strangely transformed.

Ancient & unknown ruins- strange & immortal bird who

Ancient & unknown ruinsstrange & immortal bird who speaks in a language horrifying & revelatory to the explorers.

Individual, by some strange process, retraces the path of evolution & becomes amphibious.

Dr. insists that the particalar amphibian form from which man descends is not like any known to palaeontology. To prove it, indulges in (or relates) strange experiment.

Marble Faun- p 346.

Strange & prehistoric

Italian city of stone.

N.E. region called Witches

Hollow" - along course of a river. Rumours of witches' sabbaths & Indian powewers on a broad round mound rising out of the level, where some old hemlocks & beeches

formed a dark grove or daemon-

temple. Legends hard to acc-

ount for. Holmes-Guardian An-

Phosphorescence of decaying wood- called in New England "fox-fire".

Man has minature shapeless
Siamese twin- exhibit in circus- twin surgically detatched
disappears- does hideous thing
s/ with malign life of its
own.

Witches Hollow (novel?) Man hired as teacher in private school misses woad on first trip- encounters dark hollow with unnaturally swollen trees

&csmall cottage (light in window?) Reaches school & hears that boys are for-

bidden to visit hollow. One

boys is strange- teacher sees him visit hollow- odd doings- mysterious disappearance or hideous fate.
Hideous world superimpesed on visible world- gate throughpowet guides narrator to ancient & forbidden book with directions for access.

Secret language spoken by a very few old men in wild country leads to hidden marvels & horrors still surviving Strange man seen in lonely

place talking with great winged thing which flies away as

others approach.

Explorer enters strange in land where some atmospheric quality darkens sky to virtual blackness- marvels therein.

Members of witch-cult were buried face downward. Man investigates ancestor in family vault & finds disquieting condition.

Hideous book glimpsed in ancient shop - never seen

again. Vampire flog Footnote by Haggard or Lang in THE WORLD'S DESIRE. "Probably the mysterious & indecipherable ancient books, which were occasionally excavated in old Egypt, were written in this dead language of a more ancient & now forgotten people. Such was the book discovered at Coptos, in the santtuary there, by a priest of the goddess. 'The whole earth was dark, but the moon shone all about the Book' A scribe of the period of the Ramessids mentions another in indecipherable ancient writing. ' Thou tellest me thou understandest no word of it, good or bad. There is, as it were, a wall about it that none may climb. Thou art instructed, yet thou knowest it not; this makes me afraid."" Birch Zeitschrift 1871 pp 61-64 Papyrus Anastasi I plxX 1.8. pl X 1.4 Maspero Hist. Anc. pp 66-67.

Trophonius- cave of. Vide Class. Dict. & Atlantic article.

Steepled town seen from afar at sunset- does not light up at might. Sail has been seen

putting out to sea.

Adventures of a disembodied spirit- thro' dim, half-familiar cities & over strange moors- thro' space & timeother planets & universes in the end.

Vague lights, geometrical figures, &c seen on retina when eyes are closed. Caused by rays from other dimensions act -ing on optic nerves ? From other planets? Connected with a life or phase of being in which person could live if he only knew how to get there? Man afraid to shut eyes --he has been somewhere on a terrible pilgrimage & this fearsome seeing faculty remains.

Planets formed of invisible matter.

Strange well in Arkham county. Water gives out (or was never struck- hole keept tightly covered by a stone ever since dug) no bottom- shunned & feared- what lay beneath (either unholy temple or other very ancient thing, or great cave-world.)

Ancient lamp found in tomb,

when filled & used its

light reveals strange world:

Any very ancient, unknown, or

oprehistoric object— its power

of suggestion— forbidden mem—

Tories.

Evil alley or enclosed court in ancient city

Visit to someone in wild & remote house- ride from station through the night- into the haunted hills- houses by forest or water- terrible things live there.

Man forced to take shelter an strange house. Host has thick beard & dark glasses. Retires. In night guest rises & sees host's clothes about

- also mask which was the aapparent face of whatever the host was. Flight. Arthomic nervous system & subconscious mind do not resid in the head. Have mad physician decapitate man but keep him alive & subconsciously controlled. AVOID COPYING TALE BY W. C. MORROW. Black cat on hill hear dark gulf of ancient inn yard. Mews hoarsely- invites artist to nighted mysteries beyond. Finally dies at advanced age. Haunts dreams of artist-lures him to follow- strange outcome Knever wake up ? or make bizaare discovery of an elder world outside three-dimension space ?) Certain kind of deep-toned stately music of the style of the 1870's or 1880's recalls certain visions of that per iod-- gas-litten parlours of the dead, moonlight on old floors, decaying business

streets with gas lamps &c- under terrible circum-Book which induces sleep upon reading- cannot be readdetermined man reads it- goes mad- precautions taken by aged initiate who knows- protecttion ( as of author & translator ) by incantation. Time & space- part event- 150 years ago- unexplained. Modern period- person intensely homesick for past says or does something which is physically transmitted back & actually causes the past event. Appearance of an ancient god in a lonely & archaic

Appearance of an ancient god in a lonely & archaic place- prob. temple ruin. Atmosphere of beauty rather that of horror. Subtle handling-presence revealed by faint sound or shadow. Landscape changes? Seen by child? Impossible to reach or i-

dentify locale again ?

A general house of horrornameless crime- soundslater tenants- (Flammgrion) (novel length ?) Inhabitant of another worldface masked perhaps by human skin, or surgically altered to human shapen but body alien be neath robes. Having reached earth tries to reach min with mankind. Hideous revelation. In an ancient buried city a man finds a mouldering prehistoric document in English in his own handwriting telling an incredible tale. Voyage from present into past im plied, Possible actualisation of this. wood 1935 Expedition lost in Antarctic or other weird place. Skeletons & effects found years later. Camera films used but undeveloped. Finders develope & find strange horror. Scene of an urban horror-Sousle Cap or Champlain Sts,

Quebec = rugged cliff-facemoss, mildew, dampnesshouses half-burfewing into cliff.

Thing from sea-in dark houseman finds doorknobs &c wet
as from touch of something.
He has been a sea-captain, &
once found a strange temple
on a volcanically risen
island.

Dream of awakening in vast

Dream of awakening in vast hall of strange architecture, with sheet-covered forms on slabs- in positions similar to the's own. Suggestions of disturbingly non-human out-

the objects moves & throws off sheet- non-terrestrial being revealed. Sugg. that oneself is such a being- mind has become transferred to body on other planet.

Desert of rock - prehistoric door in cliff, in the valley around which lie the bones of uncounted billions

of animals both modern & prehistoric; some of them puzzlingly gnawed.

Ancient necropolis -bronze door in hillside which opens as the moonlight strikes it-focussed by bancient lens in pylon opposite &

Primal mummy in museum- awake & change place with visitor An odd wound appears on a man's hand suddenly & without apparent cause. Spreads. Consequences.

Thibetan ROLANG— Sorcerer (or NGAGSPA) reanimates a corpse by holding it in adark room— lying on it mouth to mouth & repeating a magic formula with all else banished from his mind. Corpse comes slowly to life & stands up. Tries to escape & leaps & bounds & struggles— but sorcerer holds it & continues with magic formula. Corpse sticks out tongue & sorcerer bites it off. Corpse

then collapses. Tongue becomes a valuable magic talis-

man. If corpse escapes—
hideous results & death
to sorcerer.

Strange book of horror discovered in ancient library. Paragraphs of terrible significance copied. Later in-

text. Perhaps discover body or image or charm under floor, in secret cupboard, or elsewhere. Idea that book was merely hypnotic delusion induced by dead brain or anchent magic.

own house in pitch dark. Feels way to room and shuts door behind him. Strange horrors— or turns on light & finds alien plate or presence. Or finds past restored or future indicated.

Pine of peculiar-looking glass from a ruined monastery reputed to have harbou ed devil-workhip set up in modern house at edge of wild country. Landscape looks vaguely & unplaceably wrong through it. It has some unknown time-distorting quality & comes from a primal lost civilisation. Finally, hideous thing in other world seen through it.

Daemons, when desiring an human form for evil purposes, take to themselves the bodies of hanged men.

Loss of memory & entry into a cloudy world of strange sights & experiences after shock, accident, reading of strange book, participation in strange rite, draught of strange brew &c. Things seen have vague & disquieting familiarity, Emergence. Inability to retrace course.

Distant tower visible from hillside window. Bats cluster thickly about it at night Observer fascinated.

One night wakes to find self on unknown black circular staircase. In tower ? Hideous goal . Black winged thing flies into one's house at night. Cannot be found, or identifiedbut subtle developements Invisible Thing feltensue. or seen to make prints- o on mountain top or other high inaccessible place. Amoustons denelich found of boardad by a Castaway or ship wrack sunsivor under dosamlike, havi ble, + only diny cooperhended cincular towns. Death orders reigning - town faits to lift of the operated to the lift of the operated town. disturbing conviction That all life is only a deceptive docum with herrer lunking activit person goges out and on of finds city trosed dark tolers

The distant scenes drails seau from oue's windows - Gizane consagnemes. Something snatched away from one in the dank - in a lovely, ancient, or generally showed ( Dream of) some vehicle - northway train, charle, te-ulish is boarded is a frequent of form past or ultia-Simensional world taking The passeager out of realistics of inte vagues age - crumbled regions or interested gages of menors Special Correspondence of My Times - Wand 3, 1935 deaply into the fore of an island while rises from the totachic 5 argas 28 The S. coast of Nova Scotia 20 m. from Holifax 15 The Stronger rood phase mouron who de Canada boot Steam, Dea, + Groot have gonore rute the social alife of what the come to be known on Ving, it I show on always topped outline of the Chad own with the contest child in her come. It The Toland Apo shen of wave-bound states, is danger to ships, the absolutely untilabiled. So for as is known on its shows . "

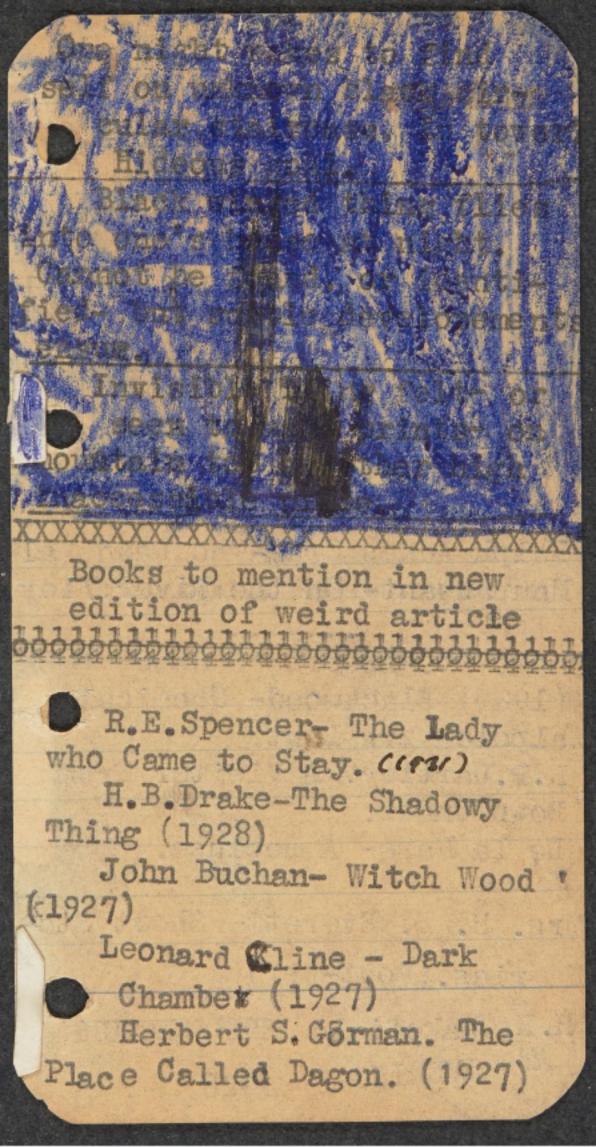
An ancient house with blackened pictures on the walls - so observed That There sulgists canado la deciplas Classic ing - transation. Y. How thome - Dw. Raw. Park. Begin stary with presence variator - i varylings to himself - in ulterly alien ?) Gray in some ancient home or runne from from populous 2/2 to the Certain and N. E. on for enotes land ) Surphism ( Gas) on slight of hubits ) That it is not all annuans Anciant unitan woods - unisse great bulas - toristed branches dark - ribbad roots - always dripping .... Tulking rock of Africa i'mmamarially are want cools in desolate jungle resi un That speaks with a conte out g to acous. Man with lost warrang in etrange, imperfectly comprehended Eurisa ments Francis Gregain morning a georges....

Man rolly a hopes on given runge - some journ rhysels him to wake it greaters there he under o fauls. Throws it is alread in the wifel something Ancient (Roman? prohistaric?) storm andge makes may 6 a (sudden + Consions?) starm. Something liberated while and then scaled up in The masony Minge in hime - image of large vanish'd pre-tunen city For or suche - assumes shapes under in contations. Bell of some amount clumch or cartle rung by some werknown hand - a thing or an invisible Presence dusanto or other outober grown you a attach of potetrate a man's had or course how to remember alien & Exotic Throp - possible digle and

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" He Cometh & Passeth By " The Red Lodge" The Seventa Hole at Duncardinx caster. " And He Shall Sing" WAKEFIELD- OTHERS WHO RETURNED (Issued in 1929) The Cairn. Look Up There Blind Man's Buff Buchan-Kenyotas Club The Green Wildebeest. The Wind in the Portico Skule Skerry ## XZXZXZ ZXZXZXZXZXZXZXZ XZ ZX William Hope Hadsson -The Boats of the glan Carring (1907) The House on the Bordenland Can we di, the 8 host Find

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(Geo. Macdonald- Lilith ) C. C. C. (Hogg-Memoirs of a Justified Sinner 3) & others The Elixir of Life. Arthur Ransome- 1915 Sinister House by Leland Hall (3) 1919 E.F. Benson. The Face-in Spook Stories Short Stories from French s GHOSTS GRIM & GENTLE 1926 H.G. Wells "The Chost of Fear' Ralph Adams Cram-The Dead Val-Maupassant- On the River./ley Short St. ASQUITH'S GHOST BOOK (1927) Blackwood- Chemical Walpole- Mrs Lent. L.P. Hartley. A Visitor From Down Under. De la Mare- A Recluse. Mrs. H. D. Everett- Short Stories. (Post-war) H.R. Wakefield THEY RETURN AT EVENING " 1928

