

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL



Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

Volume 24 CONTENTS FOR AUGUST, 1934 Number 2

Cover Design M. Brundage
Illustrating a scene in "The Devil in Iron"

The Devil in Iron Robert E. Howard 146
A tale of a weird and terrible adventure and an amazing island city of green stone

Dust of Gods C. L. Moore 167
The story of the funeral pyre of one of the elder gods—by the author of "Shambleau"

The Isle of Dark Magic Hugh B. Cave 185
The tale of a corpse-woman, and a man who hid himself away from the world

The Beast-Helper Frank Belknap Long, Jr. 204
The story of a dictator who sought power by a psychic alliance with a powerful beast

A Ship Is Sailing Katherine van der Veer 212
Verse

The Distortion Out of Space Francis Flagg 213
A weird-scientific story of a strange being that came to Earth in a meteoroid

The Trail of the Cloven Hoof (part 2) Arlton Eadie 221
An astounding weird mystery novel by a British master of eery fiction

The Three Marked Pennies Mary Elizabeth Counselman 248
A strange destiny awaited the holders of the pennies, with doom for one and weal for the others

In Slumber Clark Ashton Smith 253
Verse

The Marvelous Knife Paul Ernst 254
An odd tale, about a murder and a curious delusion

Weird Story Reprint:
The Parasitic Hand R. Anthony 259
A popular story from WEIRD TALES for November, 1926

The Eyrie 266
An informal chat with the readers

Published monthly by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company, 2457 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Entered as second-class matter March 20, 1923, at the post office at Indianapolis, Ind., under the act of March 3, 1879. Single copies, 25 cents. Subscription, \$3.00 a year in the United States, \$4.00 a year in Canada. English office: Charles Lavell, 13, Serjeant's Inn, Fleet Street, E. C. 4, London. The publishers are not responsible for the loss of unsolicited manuscripts, although every care will be taken of such material while in their possession. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and must not be reproduced either wholly or in part without permission from the publishers.

NOTE—All manuscripts and communications should be addressed to the publishers' Chicago office at 840 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. FARNSWORTH WRIGHT, Editor.

Copyright, 1934, by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company.

COPYRIGHTED IN GREAT BRITAIN



WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

In Slumber

By CLARK ASHTON SMITH

The stench of stagnant waters broke my dream,
 Wherethrough had run, with living murmur and gleam;
 The Rivers four of the Earthly Paradise:
 From the azured flame of those effulgent skies,
 And valleys lifting censers of vast bloom,
 I was drawn down into a deathlier gloom
 Than lies on Styx's fountain. By such light
 As shows the newly damned their dolorous plight,
 I trod the shivering soil of that demesne,
 Whence larvæ swarmed, malignant and obscene,
 Like writhen mists from some Maremma reeking:
 Through the gross air, fell incubi went seeking
 Their prey that slumbered helpless; at my knee
 There clung the python-bodied succubi;
 I heard the wail of them that walked apart,
 Each with a suckling vampire at his heart;
 And, as I stumbled loathly on, the ground
 Was rent with noiseless thunder all around
 To pits that teemed with direr prodigies:
 Gray, headless coils, and worm-shaped infamies
 Unmeasured, rose above the moon that rotted
 Black as a corpse in heavens thick and clotted;
 The rusty clang and shaken soot of wings
 Deafened and stifled me; from pestilent springs
 Slime-mantled horrors boiled with fume and hiss
 To pour in frothing fury down the abyss.
 Then, from an outmost circle of that hell,
 The tumbling Harpies came, detestable,
 With beaks that in long tatters tore my breast—
 And wove from these their crimson, wattled nest!