

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL



Weird Tales

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Volume 23 CONTENTS FOR JANUARY, 1934 Number 1

Cover Design	M. Brundage	
<i>Illustrating a scene in "The Red Knife of Hassan"</i>		
The Solitary Hunters	David H. Keller	3
<i>A powerful story of the blood-freezing horror awaiting the men who were sent to a living death in the crater of an extinct volcano</i>		
The Red Knife of Hassan	Seabury Quinn	22
<i>A thrill-tale of the Assassins of Syria—an exploit of Jules de Grandin</i>		
Place Names	Katharine van der Veer	42
<i>Verse</i>		
Invaders of the Ice World	Jack Williamson	43
<i>A weird-scientific tale of the far-distant future, when the sun dims, and creatures spawned by the frost make war upon the survivors of the human race</i>		
Too Late	Alfred I. Tooke	58
<i>Verse</i>		
A Phantom in the Sky	Dale Clark	59
<i>A strange tale of an aviator's weird experience in a doomed airplane</i>		
Rogues in the House	Robert E. Howard	68
<i>A swift-moving tale of the squatting monstrosity that sat in the death-chambers of Nabonidus</i>		
The Weaver in the Vault	Clark Ashton Smith	85
<i>A story of the weird doom that came upon the searchers in the tombs of Chaon Gacca</i>		
The Vampire Master (conclusion)	Hugh Davidson	94
<i>A novel of corpses that would not stay dead, and a gruesome horror in the New York hills</i>		
In the Triangle	Howard Wandrei	109
<i>A brief, strange tale about a weird beast and an old man in gray</i>		
Candles	Dorothy Quick	113
<i>Verse</i>		
Weird Story Reprint:		
The Woman of the Wood	A. Merritt	114
<i>One of the most popular stories from WEIRD TALES of several years ago</i>		
The Eyrie		132
<i>A chat with the readers</i>		
Possession	Julius Long	136
<i>A short but intensely interesting weird tale</i>		

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

Place Names

By KATHERINE VAN DER VEER

What magic lies about a whispered name
 That sends one headlong out of space and time,
 That lights within a clear and lonely flame
 To burn unseen on some forgotten shrine?

"I brought this fan from Spain," was all she said—
 Out of a courtyard, cobblestoned and white,
 The click of castanets, a faint guitar,
 Came on a scented wind across the night.

I saw great mountain peaks, snow-crowned and stern,
 Fountains and gardens, rose-hung, trimly set,
 The shimmering Genil winding far below
 Granada's Moorish pile and parapet.

A peasant breaking stone beside the road,
 With leathery hands, soft dust upon his hair,
 Toiling to keep his tiny whitewashed home,
 Smiled as I passed, intangible as air.

So frail a thing, this journey that I went
 In insubstantial form, there fell again
 The veil that hides the present from the past
 And threw the haunting shadow of a pain.