

Fantastic Novels

Magazine

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Complete Book-Length Novel

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Featuring "The Radio Beasts" by
Ralph Milne Farley

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To A. MERRITT: Who Wrote the Snake Mother

SONG OF NIMIR

THEY have shackled me with symbols drawn in flaming runes of light;
They have hurled me in this dungeon in an ecstasy of fright,
But they tremble at my shadow in the radiant abyss
And they cower at my whisper through the macrocosmic night.

They have hearkened to Adana; they have bowed before her hiss;
They have bartered all my splendour for a perfumed serpent's kiss,
And the valiant Yu-Atlanchi that was glory to my sight
Has become a woman's plaything and a white necropolis.

Hear me, Serpent! Nimir vows this mockery shall be no more!
Did you think these paltry magics could contain me? While you may,
Drink your scented wine of triumph, ancient mother. I shall leap
Out beyond the stars and find a way to settle our old score.
Now beseech the Lord of Fate to tell you when will come my day,
For what a scarlet harvest then shall fallen Nimir reap.

—Robert W. Lowndes