

Weird Tales

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FARNSWORTH WRIGHT, Editor.

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The Gallows Tree

By OTIS ADELBERT KLINE

Like some foul fungus grown in charnel bed,
Sprung up between the darkness and the dawn,
A fearful tree has reared its naked head,
But without aid of seed or spore or spawn.

One leafless limb with hempen tendril on
Its barren tip, ensnares a visage dread.
The tree has fruited, and the fruit is dead;
A tree that knew not seed nor spore nor spawn.

As if by some unhallowed instinct led,
Or by some gruesome bond of interest drawn,
A host of croaking harpies comes, is fed,
Leaves naught but whitened bones, and then is gone.
All barren stands the tree that bore the dead,
A tree that left no seeds nor spores nor spawn.