

WEIRD TALES *The Unique Magazine*

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THE GARDEN OF EVIL

BY CLARK ASHTON SMITH

*Thy soul is like a secret garden-close,
Where the cleft roots of mandragores enwreathe;
Where lilies and where fumitories breathe,
And ivy winds its flower with the rose.*

*The lolling weeds of Lethe, green or wan,
Exhale their fatal languors on the light;
From out infernal grails of aconite,
Poisons and dews are proffered to the dawn.*

*There, when the moon's phantasmal fingers grope
To find the marbles of a hidden tomb,
In cypress-covert sings the nightingale;*

*And all the silver-bellied serpents pale
Their ruby eyes among the blossoms ope,
To lift and listen in the ghostly gloom.*