

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL

Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

Volume 33

CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1939

Number 2

Cover Design	Virgil Finlay	
<i>Illustrating "Death Is an Elephant"</i>		
The King and the Oak	Robert E. Howard	4
<i>Versé</i>		
Death Is an Elephant	Nathan Hindin	7
<i>A circus story of a series of dreadful deaths and a sacred white elephant</i>		
The City of Death	Edith Hurley	20
<i>Versé</i>		
The Poltergeist of Swan Upping	Seabury Quinn	21
<i>A murderous "pelling ghost" meets Jules de Grandin, ghost-breaker and occult detective</i>		
The Double Shadow	Clark Ashton Smith	47
<i>A weird fantasy about things that should creep rather than walk</i>		
Fearful Rock (Part I)	Manly Wade Wellman	56
<i>A tale of the War between the States, and dark, evil powers</i>		
Crazy Nell	Edgar Daniel Kramer	76
<i>Versé</i>		
The Drifting Snow	August W. Derleth	77
<i>Death lurked in the snow-drifts outside the windows—a weird tale of Wisconsin</i>		
Giant-Plasm	Donald Wandrei	85
<i>What were those fearsome mounds on that earthquake-spawned island in the Pacific?</i>		
I Found Cleopatra (End)	Thomas P. Kelley	109
<i>A 4-part novel of eery mystery and the glamorous Queen of Egypt</i>		
The Transgressor	Henry Kuttner	126
<i>A curious tale of time-travel</i>		
"Shapes of Men that Were"	Virgil Finlay	129
<i>Pictorial interpretation of a passage from George Sterling's "A Wine of Wizardry"</i>		
Weird Story Reprint:		
The Last Horror	Eli Colter	130
<i>A much-requested reprint from WEIRD TALES of twelve years ago</i>		
Two Sonnets:		
1. The Lamp; 2. Zaman's Hill	H. P. Lovecraft	151
The Eyrie	152
<i>A department in which the readers express their opinions</i>		

Published monthly by Weird Tales, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. Entered as second class matter September 24, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y. Single copies, 25 cents. *Subscription rates:* One year in the United States and possessions, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Spain, \$2.50; Canada, \$2.75; elsewhere, \$3.00. English Office: Charles Lavell, Limited, 4 Clements Inn, Strand, London W.C.2, England. 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.

Copyright 1939, by Weird Tales
COPYRIGHTED IN GREAT BRITAIN.



WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

The King and the Oak

By ROBERT E. HOWARD

Before the shadows sl \ddot{u} w the sun the kites were soaring free,
And Kull rode down the forest road, his red sword at his knee;
And winds were whispering round the world: "King Kull rides to the sea."

The sun died crimson in the sea, the long gray shadows fell;
The moon rose like a silver skull that wrought a demon's spell,
For in its light great tr \ddot{e} es stood up like specters out of hell.

In spectral light the trees stood up, inhuman monsters dim;
Kull thought each trunk a living shape, each branch a knotted limb,
And strange unmortal evil eyes flamed horribly at him.

The branches writhed like knotted snakes, they beat against the night,
And one great oak with swayings stiff, horrific in his sight,
Tore up its roots and blocked his way, grim in the ghostly light.

They grappled in the forest way, the king and grisly oak;
Its great limbs bent him in their grip, but never a word was spoke;
And futile in his iron hand, the stabbing dagger broke,

And through the tossing, monstrous trees there sang a dim refrain
Fraught deep with twice a million years of evil, hate and pain:
"We were the lords ere man had come and shall be lords again."

Kull sensed an empire strange and old that bowed to man's advance
As kingdoms of the grass-blades bow before the marching ants,
And horror gripped him; in the dawn like someone in a trance

He strove with bloody hands against a still and silent tree;
As from a nightmare dream he woke; a wind blew down the lea
And Kull of high Atlantis rode silent to the sea.