

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL

Weird Tales

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

W. T.—1

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The *M*essenger

By H. P. LOVECRAFT

The Thing, he said, would come that night at *three*
From the old churchyard on the hill below;
But crouching by an oak fire's wholesome glow,
I tried to tell myself it could not be.
Surely, I mused, it was a *pleasantry*
Devised by one who did not truly know
The Elder Sign, bequeathed from long ago,
That sets the fumbling forms of darkness *free*.
He had not meant it—no—but still I lit
Another lamp as starry Leo climbed
Out of the *Seekonk*, and a steeple chimed
Three—and the firelight faded, bit by bit.
Then at the door that cautious rattling came—
And the mad truth devoured me like a flame!