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WARNING

By CLARK ASHTON SMITH

Hast heard the voices of the fen, That softly sing a lethal rune Where reeds have caught the fallen moon— A song more sweet than conium is, Or honey-blended cannabis, To draw the dreaming feet of men On ways where none goes forth again?

Beneath the closely woven grass, The coiling syrt, more soft and deep Than some divan where lovers sleep, Is fain of all that wander there; And arms that glimmer, vague and bare, Beekon within the lone morass Where only dead things dwell and pass.

Beware! the voices float and fall Half-heard, and halp! sweet to thee As are the runes of memory And murmurs of a voice forcknown In days when love dwelt not alone: Beware! for where the voices call, Slow waters weave the filthy pall.