

Realms of Cthulhu Giveaway Contest

This document compiles the winning entry and two honorable mentions for the Realms of Cthulhu Giveaway Contest that ran from July 1st to July 9th, 2010 in the blog Stargazer's World (www.stargazersworld.com). Copyright belongs to the original authors. Congratulations to the winner and honorable mentions, hope you enjoy them...

The winner

By Philip Tucker

In the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn, a small theater has sprung up in the Grand Guignol style, and has begun to draw the attention of the glitterati as each show shocks and titillates. What's actually going on is that a mad artist is penning visions from his dreams into scripts which are sent to be performed on the stage; they are grotesque performances that cost the viewers their sanity, like the degeneration of a beautiful woman's corpse over the period of an hour, her voice narrating her fall from grace, or a family stalked and killed within their own home by disembodied hands. While the performances are simply mundane special effects, the words are what enthrall the viewers. People can never quite remember what they say, but grow addicted, tell their friends, and go back.

Jack Chili, the charismatic theater owner, is seeking to build up enough negative energy to open a portal to the other dimensions beneath the theater. There is an extensive basement below the building, in which a ghast currently resides, and there he's building an altar to Nyarlathotep. The players learn about the theater, discover something strange is going on, and then have to foil Jack as he goes to perform the final play that will open the portal in the cellar!

Honorable Mentions

The Man with a Thousand Faces

By David Henley

1923: 3rd Sept.

Only days before the scheduled release of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" Lon Chaney arrives for the debut of the film. He is to meet with the film's director Wallace Worsley at his home for a small get together with the director and other cast members. When Chaney takes a cab from the train station its driver is a disciple and servant of Nyarlathotep who has been sent to kidnap the actor.

Kidnapped, and taken to an isolated home in the hills of LA County Chaney is locked in a basement awaiting a ritual to summon Nyarlathotep. Using his abilities as a contortionist Chaney escapes into the surrounding hills. Unfamiliar with the area he wanders into a campsite

Realms of Cthulhu Giveaway Contest

and meets with college students on a weekend outing. One of them recognizes Chaney, and when they hear that he has been kidnapped they decide to help him, and go to the authorities.

Breaking camp they start the three hour hike back to their car. During this time the cultists discover Chaney missing, track him to the campsite, and pursue the campers and Chaney.

The campers are the players, and have to guide Chaney to safety, while avoiding natural hazards, cultists, and in the finale they must thwart the summoning of Nyarlathotep himself.

The cultist's goal is to use Chaney to channel Nyarlathotep so that he can be seen in future film projects done by the actor. Using film to expose countless others to the power of Nyarlathotep and increase his following exponentially.

Retrograde Star

By Karlo J. Yeager

ALMA PROUDFOOT lives in a retention camp in the outskirts of New Orleans, ever since Hurricane Katrina destroyed her home and *botánica*. She is embittered by the fact she has been forced to live in the retention camp because the district her home was built was bought by fat-cat outsiders, who drained the waters, demolished her house, and built a high-scale gated community over its foundations. Alma is an accomplished *vodoun* priestess, who has sufficient Mythos lore to bide her time: Mars is retrograde in the sky, signaling the influence of the Old Ones is growing.

LAZARUS PROUDFOOT is Alma's grandson, and lives a ramshackle existence, drifting from job to job. He received a call from Alma months ago to apply for work on the oil rigs out in the Gulf, because she had dreamed this is where one of the Old Ones was attempting to step through to our time. Before he caused a catastrophic accident on the rig, he escaped into the waters, swimming away in the very dangerous waters.

HAYDEN WIER is a mid-level executive that survives the explosion and eventual destruction of the oil rig, as well as the growing amount of crude oil bubbling out from the depths. He is under increasing pressure from his superiors overseas to spin this accident to the corporation's favor. He is interested in quashing any and all outside investigations into the accident, though he cannot avoid government inspectors or legal compulsions (court orders, etc.). While not necessarily the prime antagonist, he is the one with most resources to derail the investigators.

SCOFFIELD "SCOOB" DONOVAN is a federal inspector who had given the rig the green light to continue operations drilling for oil a couple of months back. He feels guilty not only because he allowed Wier to pay for several dinners and lunches at high-class restaurants, but also found season's tickets to see the Saints' games. He never reported that the waters under and around the rig were rife with strange armored fish, and some type of weird lobster-like creatures (trilobites).

Realms of Cthulhu Giveaway Contest

The oil slick keeps growing, and threatening the shore lines. Alma Proudfoot escapes the retention camp with a small group of followers to await the first wave of crude oil in the rotting decadence of the Delta. There, she will use her magic to call up another storm, to drive the crude to shore and damage New Orleans. Once the crude reaches the Delta, she will weave a spell to make the crude “remember” when its molecules were part of the Old Ones’ bodies, and – using the crude oil as a gateway – allow them to sidestep the hundreds of millions of years to present time. If the Old Ones were to be able to gain a foothold in present time, they would enslave Alma Proudfoot, and some of the other followers and slowly allow the spell Alma cast chain-react through the rest of the crude oil, calling forth the flora and fauna of the Carboniferous Period, unspooling the carbon molecules of the crude oil into an environment favorable to them. If this type of scenario were desired or resulted by the actions of the investigators, it could be contained (but not outright eliminated) in the same way the U.S. Navy did so in *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*. However, the best ending would be to have the investigators stop or destroy the Old Ones just as they (and part of the Carboniferous Period’s flora and fauna) are incorporating from the crude oil.