



The Ghostwriter is the official newsletter of the Great Lakes Association of Horror Writers.

Members news/sales/publications/etc. should be sent to Peggy Christie at peggy.christie@comcast.net

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Inside this issue:

The Other Side of Normal	1
Demon of the Month	1
The Tomb Keeper Archives	2
Served to Order	3
RIP	3
Serial Sacrifice	4
From the Couch	5
A Tale of 2 Cons	5
Double Feature Movie Review	6
Movie Quote	7
Knoxville in new horror thriller	7
Hammer Horror	8
Interview with Amber Valetta	8
Market Report	9
Journey's End	10

The Ghostwriter

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The Other Side of Normal: A Message from the President

I have a bit of sad news to report this month. As some of you already know, Jennifer and I will be moving. I know this doesn't sound so bad, people move, right? But it's where we're moving that saddens us. We're moving to Atlanta, Georgia some time this year. This time frame isn't very specific since it all is dictated by the sale of our current house, but we do need to be in Atlanta before Thanksgiving.

This doesn't mean that Jennifer and I will not be members of this group. In fact, we will and want to stay on as offices as long as the group will have us.

The reason for our sudden movies that we were offered the opportunity to open a daycare in Snellville, Georgia, which is just outside of Atlanta. This daycare is part of a chain and when the opportunity came up, we just couldn't say no. As you all know, the economy of Michigan is pretty much in the toilet with no signs of coming around anytime soon. So this move is the best thing we can do for our family.

But don't worry. We both have family here and we plan to come back every two to three months. As of right

now, if we are in Georgia by October, we are still planning on coming up for the Halloween party.

So please, don't think that we're abandoning the group, we're not. We want to see this group flourish just as much as the rest of you. We see you all as good friends, and good friends are hard to come by.

I'll see you in Oz folks

Adam Gifford
President

Demon of the Month (from Hell Horror.com)

Assamite

No other clan has earned such a deserved reputation for diablerie(cannibalism among vampires). They also sell their murderous services to other Kindred, acting as contract killers. According to the Assamites own teachings, they drink the blood of other Kindred on the command of

their founder, in an attempt to purify their own taint. So dreaded were the Assamites that, during the nights of clan wars, the Tremere cursed them, making them unable to drink the blood of other Kindred. However, the Assamites have recently thrown off this curse, and

so they hunt other Kindred for their blood once more. Kindred who regularly deal with this clan have noticed an increased bloodthirstiness on the part of the Assamites, as well as a disregard for their former codes of honor.

The Tomb Keeper Archives - by Michael Cieslak

Ah, Spring; time of sunshine (sunburn), fresh air (seasonal allergies), and outdoor fun (biting insects carrying everything from Malaria to West Nile Virus). It is also time for everyone's favorite indoor activity--Spring Cleaning!

Yeah, that was my reaction too.

Keep in mind that it is important to have a clean work environment if you intend to maintain a productive work schedule. On that note, we will explore a number of sites that will help you create a productive personal space which will enable you to continue to work on your masterpiece.

I would like to begin our examination with a discussion of light. I know that there is a tendency to lock ourselves in darkened rooms when we are calling forth our literary demons. However, any optometrist (and your mom!) will tell you that relying solely on the light from your monitor is bad for your eyes.

Brighten up your work area with the Eclipse Computer Light available from Life with Ease (<http://www.lifewithease.com/eclipse.html>). According to the description, this product reduces the eye strain that your mom warned you about. An

alternative for you laptop users is available from Oaky-Doaky-Products (<http://www.oaky-doaky-products.com/compaccs4.html>). These are great for using on airplanes as they run off your computer's USB port and can be positioned wherever the light is needed.

These are great for lighting up the area immediately around your computer, but what if you want to light the whole room? Even more important, what if you want to do it inexpensively? The people at Earth Easy have provided a thorough but easy to understand explanation of your energy efficient lighting choices (http://www.eartheasy.com/liveenergyeff_lighting.htm). Once you have decided which bulbs are best for you, head over to 1000 Bulbs.com (<http://www.1000bulbs.com/>). They also have commercial quality rope lights which would look great as accent lighting (or in your haunt!).

All right, we have installed all of this wonderful lighting and it just reveals the dust which we now have to clean. While the cleaning of your desk, books, etc is fairly straightforward, the idea of cleaning your computer might be a little more daunting. There are a number of good resources available which detail not only how to clean your various computer components, but when to clean them as well.

Computer Hope.com provides a good overview of the steps to take to clean your computer and peripherals (<http://www.computerhope.com/cleaning.htm#01>). This is especially useful if you have one item which requires immediate attention. Similar information can be found at the Computer Cleaning Guide (<http://www.computercleaningguide.com/>). This site provides step-by-step instructions for a twenty minute cleaning.

For those who are looking for more thorough cleaning instructions, visit the Weekend Project portion of CNET's website (http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-11319_7-6240575-1.html). This seven step program uses a lot of compressed air to clean both the inside and outside of your system.

Finally, Computer Care has compiled a collection of articles about cleaning every aspect of your system (<http://www.librarysupportstaff.com/4compcare.html>). This site provides a number of articles related to each aspect of your computer spring cleaning project. Of special note is the article entitled How To Destroy Your Computer (<http://www.dansdata.com/sbs3.htm>) which lists a number of things NOT to do (unless you really want a new computer system).

Another important aspect of spring cleaning for the writer is sending out those manuscripts which have been sitting around gathering (or turning into) dust. Everyone has a drawer containing a few stories which we are no longer actively circulating. Take them out, give them a quick edit, and send them out. Before you do, remember that the Post Office has made some changes. Not only has the cost of first class mail increased, the USPS is now charging more for non-standard sized packages. This means that your large mailing envelope may cost more than it used to. For all of the details, visit the USPS' website (<http://www.usps.com/>).

Spring is not only about cleaning, it is also about watching things grow. One growing site important to all of us is our own, located at <http://greatlakeshorror.com/>. Don't forget to send your favorite sites to Peggy for our links page.

While you are at it, if there is a website you would like to share with the other group members, send it to thedragonsroost@yahoo.com. All suggestions are welcome.

That's it for this month's look at spring cleaning. Next month we will have a more horrific collection as we celebrate the first Halloween in June!

Check It Out

<http://www.sideshowtoy.com/cgi-bin/category.cgi?category=0>



Served to Order – by Jennifer Gifford

How do you like your meat? Unfortunately it's a question most horror lovers never get asked, and it's a shame.

We crave the dark twisted masterpieces, and for any true lover of the horror genre, it's a part of our daily diet. To some, like me, it's more of a fix. As of late, I have toyed with the idea of becoming a horror vegetarian. I hear Lifetime has some good dramas.

For many of us, we are not even aware that we incorporate our love for the genre into our daily lives, until it's pointed out. I guess sometimes we are too close to the crime scene and overlook the body, so to speak.

For example, how many of us have creepy desktops on our computers? Eerie wallpaper on our cell phones? From the T-shirt we are wearing to what we are watching on TV, we have

subconsciously integrating our love for the genre into our everyday diet.

Lately however, the methods of how we can obtain our nourishment have been limited. Thanks to the over gore and overly done flicks like Saw and Hostel, horror fans have only been able to get their meat one way: bloody. It's not the manner in which we gather our daily fix, it's what we are not given: a chance to sample it any other way. I want my horror to be like Burger King: I want it my way!

With the movie "Saw", the horror genre was immersed in the dripping scenarios of all things gory. Don't get me wrong, gore is great. But gore for gore's sake is like a steak with nothing on it and smells worse than last week's meatloaf.

The movie "Hostel" was the same way. In this case, the

"meat" was overdone. Too much of a good thing is bad. I wanted more about the town, the crazy person who decided that the Human Hunting Club was a good idea. I ordered an explanation with a side of intrigue, and what I got were fake boobs and an extra order of gore for gore's sake. Sorry folks, but I had that yesterday.

Perhaps movie studios don't realize that horror fans are capable of understanding the subtleties of the beloved dark genre. Too much gore for gore's sake detracts from the plot, immerses the characters into common twists that we as the audience can predict, which leaves us feeling hungry for something else. But there just doesn't seem to be anything else for us to order.

Don't get me wrong, I like all three Saw movies and Hostel

wasn't that bad of a movie all around. But neither were fulfilling, and I keep wondering what else in on the menu.

Producers removed the elements of surprise and the 'what if', have stirred too many elements into the dark pot for there to be any meat left on the bone for us to sink our fangs into. We need dark horror of the good ol' days. The new gore-drenched watered down twisted psycho killer flicks are just not 'good eats.'

I'm an old fashioned kind of horror fan. I prefer my meat done to perfection. Hopefully in the future, movie producers and screen writers will sniff out new recipes to tantalize us and whet our appetites, and when it does happen, I'll be the first to announce that meat is back on the menu.

RIP: Two Horror Legends – by Tom Sawyer

Long time Metro Detroit Horror Show host and legend Sir Graves Ghastly met with the Grim Reaper on April 24, one day after turning 94. Lawson Deming who thrilled and excited children mostly of the baby boomer age by playing the campy count on television died due to congestive heart failure.

Deming was legendary in

creating one of Metro Detroit's most favorite and beloved television hosts that ran on television for 15 years where it had top ratings.

While he spent more than 50 years in broadcasting that ranged from puppeteering to other aspects, Deming was most notable for the campy count that had built a large and loyal

following even to this day.

Sir Graves Ghastly presented many movies on Saturdays, entertaining kids with the likes of Dracula, Frankenstein, Independent horror films form the likes of William Castle and Roger Corman and even classic and campy science fiction movies.

With the more recent

exceptions of Elvira and the Ghoul, there really have been no horror movie hosts that have had the longevity of our Sir Graves Ghastly.

Thank you Sir Graves for the fun on Saturday afternoons. You will be missed.

Rest In Peace.

He did the Mash! He did the Monster Mash!
The horror world has suffered another loss with the man who created the Halloween Anthem, "The Monster Mash." Bobby

"Boris" Pickett died on April 25, after a battle with Leukemia. Pickett was 69. Pickett's song, "Monster Mash" topped the charts in 1962 and was annually played around

Halloween, at parties, and even on shows like Sir Graves Ghastly, The Ghoul, Elvira and a slew of other horror movie and related shows.
His graveyard smash is still

legendary and one of the most played and well-known novelty songs.

Rest in Peace
Bobby "Boris" Pickett.

Serial Sacrifice – Peggy Christie

Each month we will spotlight a different member. If you wish to be in the limelight for 30 seconds, please let us know, or you may wish to nominate someone else. If we don't receive any volunteers or nominations, then we will pick a member at random. This month, we will be talking to Peggy Christie.

GLAHW: How long have you been writing? When did you get started?

PC: Well, my therapist said that during the trial, I should start keeping a journal to help me sort through all my feelings. Once the charges were reduced and I got out of the hospital, I just kept it up and eventually my writings turned into stories.

GLAHW: Why did you choose the horror genre?

PC: I don't look at it so much as horror as reality. So I guess I'm more of a realist. Really.

GLAHW: Were you inspired by a person or event to begin your writing career?

PC: Like I said before, my therapist suggested the journal so I guess she would be my inspiration for writing fiction now. Her and the wonderful judge and jury for the 4th district court.

GLAHW: Does your family support your writing endeavors?

PC: My therapist thinks it's better if I don't dwell on the negative.

GLAHW: Where do you get your ideas from?

PC: Oh, wow, that's a good question. Most of the time I'll get an idea from life. I'll see

some mother screaming at her kid about something ridiculous, like spilling his drink, and I'll imagine a story about some guy getting decapitated by a runaway pole beam or something.

GLAHW: Do you outline your stories before you begin to write?

PC: Absolutely. The more structure I have in my life, the safer those are around me.

GLAHW: Tell us something interesting about your past.

PC: Hmm...I ate an entire can of brown shoe polish on a dare when I was 10.

GLAHW: Where do you see yourself, as a writer, in five years?

PC: Living large on the profits from the sales of my bestsellers and having my house featured on MTV's "Cribs" show. That'd be sweet.

GLAHW: Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever seen one or had an encounter that you would like to share with us?

PC: There's no such things as ghosts. There's no such things as ghosts. There's no such thing as ghosts. There's no such thing as ghosts. There's no such thing as ghosts.

GLAHW: Are you superstitious?

PC: Only about superstitions.

GLAHW: What do you do for a living, outside of writing?

PC: I'm between jobs right now but if you know of anything, please let me know. As long as it doesn't involve using or being around cutlery, projectile weapons, explosives, or dairy. I'm lactose intolerant.

GLAHW: How often do you write?

PC: Everyday. It's what keeps me sane. And it was a stipulation of my release.

GLAHW: Do you keep a journal every day?

PC: See previous answer.

GLAHW: What do you prefer to write – short stories, poetry, novels, scripts, etc.?

PC: Short stories are best for me. My attention span is kinda short. I tried working on a novel but then I kept getting interrupted by the phone or the door. The postman keeps bugging me about my porch steps. Like it's my fault the concrete is crumbling. Then my neighbor blares his damn stereo at all hours of the night and I just can't sleep and...what were we talking about again?

GLAHW: What truly scares you?

PC: Why? What have you heard? Because if someone told you it was Menudo, they're lying.

GLAHW: What sort of hobbies are you into?

PC: I'm pretty boring when it comes to hobbies. Music, movies, taxidermy, cataloguing toe fungi – you know, the usual.

GLAHW: Have you had anything published?

PC: Psychiatry Weekly published an article *about* me, does that count?

GLAHW: Do you read outside of the horror genre? If so, what else have you read?

PC: I did until the state took away all my books.

GLAHW: Horror stories can be pretty sick and disgusting at times. Have you ever seen a psychiatrist, or has anyone ever thought you might need one just because of what you write?

PC: Funny that my answer is I was found legally insane BEFORE I started to write. Writing is what saved me, I think.

GLAHW: What type of horror do you like to write?

PC: I said it was more realism than horror but if you want to pigeonhole it, I would say psychological and torture. And psychological torture.

GLAHW: Do you use a pseudonym?

PC: Not for writing, no.

GLAHW: What do you think makes a good story?

PC: Hey, as long as you think what I'm writing is complete fiction, that's good enough for me.

GLAHW: As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?

PC: I really wanted to work at the slaughterhouse downtown. Alas, some dreams just aren't meant to be.

GLAHW: Are you religious?

PC: You honestly think there's a god when people like me are free to roam the streets? Uh, I mean...yes.

GLAHW: What book, if any, most influenced your life – and why?

PC: I was never a big reader growing up. But I LOVED that commercial where the old lady fell down the stairs and couldn't get up. Hysterical!

(cont'd Page 9)

From the Couch: Therapeutic Values of Horror Writing

— by Adam Gifford

Can someone's writing be used as the soul indicator of a person's violent tendencies? If the answer is yes, then we as horror writers are in trouble.

The reason I bring this up is last month we all watch on television the Virginia Tech massacre. As I watched the news coverage, I couldn't help but notice the media was focused on this kid's writing as an indicator that he would be violent.

I've heard some ask why he wasn't confined to a mental

hospital based on his writing. Of course, they have to forget his stalking of women and violent outburst. I'd like to ask a different question: Are we supposed to lock up everyone that writes a violent story? If that's the case, we need to lock up every writer of horror. And why don't we start with the biggest name in horror, Stephen King?

It's not the writing that's at fault here, and what nut did was wrong. I'm tired of the media telling the world that writing violent stories will lead to

violent behavior. Likewise we can't blame violent movies, video games (okay maybe a little) or violent stories. Evil people will always find ways to break our hearts, but please don't blame the writing. Encourage writing, perhaps it would have prevented the massacre.

Writing is therapeutic, whether the media wants to believe it or not. It helped me cope with the darkest chapter of my life, my divorce. If you were to read the stories that I wrote during that time, you would find that my

characters are all on the verge of suicide. Using the template the media used on the V-Tech killer, I would have been locked up and put on a suicide watch. But that thought never entered my mind. Some might say that it had to be there, somewhere deep in my subconscious and maybe it was, but it never came to the forefront except in my stories.

A Tale of Two Cons — by Michael Cieslak

Apologies to anyone who was hoping to read about the kind of scams found on "Hustle" or the latest Ocean's movie. The con listed in the title is not short for "confidence" (yes, that's what the "con" in Con Man stands for) but convention.

The metro Detroit area was fortunate enough to host two great conventions in the last month (to say nothing of the ComiCon which will be over by the time you read this). The first was PenguinCon held in Troy, MI 20 - 22 April. The convention is organized by the Linux and Open Source community. However, this is a lot more than just a computing convention. PenguinCon is a geek paradise. There are seminars about computing, writing code, internet security, and technical topics including the nature of cognition and the philosophical meaning of The Matrix. There is also a lot of emphasis on SciFi and Fantasy. This includes movies, seminars, and a lot of cool stuff in the Dealer's room. One room was dedicated to writing and publishing. There was anime,

gaming, and free caffeine.

The seminars on writing were very informative. Due to conflicts with work, I was unable to participate in the writing workshops. However, participants I spoke with raved about them. The best aspect of the convention was that there was always something to do. If the topic of the writing seminar did not interest you, there was certain to be something else which would be fascinating, entertaining, or both. If anything, there was too much to do. I had to sacrifice one interesting topic in order to attend a different seminar—for example, I completely missed out on the Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream.

The second convention I attended in as many weeks was Hauntcon which was held in Dearborn, MI 4 - 6 May. Unlike PenguinCon, at Hauntcon there was no emphasis on writing. However, Hauntcon was all about scaring people. It is the tradeshow and convention for people who run professional haunted attractions. The seminars were organized along

Tracks--Business, Creative, and Demo/Workshops. There was also a room dedicated to Make-and-Take; a demonstration of prop-making which allowed the participants to follow along and make their own props. The tradeshow contained a wealth of products available for purchase. When one tired of shopping, there was the Horror Museum--a traveling collection of props from various horror movies. I now have pictures of Freddy's hat and sweater, Mike Myers' knife, and of myself in the Venus Flytrap from Saw II. There were also field trips to local haunted attractions which opened just for the convention. There is something extraordinarily fun about going through a haunted house with other people who run haunted houses.

A lot of the seminars discussed practical aspects of creating and running a haunted attraction: props, costumes, acting, lighting, sound, marketing. Some of the information will benefit my writing. A lot of it will benefit my yard haunt. No matter what the topic, each presenter did touch on the nature of fear and

how to scare people.

What struck me about both conventions was how approachable everyone was. Presenters, for the most part, remained after to answer questions and talk with members of the audience. Questions and comments from the audience often led to lively debates. In every case, those leading the seminars or participating in the panels knew their topics well. Both hotels (the Troy Hilton and the Hyatt Regency Dearborn) did excellent jobs as hosts.

I enjoyed both PenguinCon and Hauntcon, the information, the entertainment, and the feeling of camaraderie. I look forward to attending both conventions in the future. The only downside is that it will be a year before either convention rolls around again (and Hauntcon will be in Houston next year). For now I will just sit back, organize the stuff that I bought, review the wealth of notes that I took, and get ready for Context 20 in the fall.

Double Feature – Movie Reviews by Peggy Christie

All right. I know you're all tired of me reviewing movies that I end up disliking. I'm becoming a downer. And I know it, too. So I thought for each month, I'll review a movie I like and a movie I don't like. That whole yin/yang balance thing must be upheld so the world doesn't tip one way or the other and we all fall off, right?

Let's get the bad out of the way first. The cool thing about cable is having access to movies right in my home so I don't have to get dressed and interact with humanity just to see a film. The bad thing is I still waste time and money on crap – I just do it in my pajamas. This past weekend, I watched the 2006 remake of "The Omen." I can hear the collective groan of all horror fans from around the world already.

I know. I know. When it came to theaters I was flabbergasted that someone had the audacity to remake such a classic. The story was great, the cast was stellar (Gregory Peck – hello? How do you top him?), and the deaths were quality. But I have this idiotic notion stuck between the hemispheres of my brain that says, "Oh, it's on cable, that's like it's free!" My father must be so proud that he sent me to college for all that book learning.

The 21st century may be bringing humanity new technology, breakthroughs in medicine, and the wondrous ability to use credit cards to buy \$5.42 worth of fast food at the drive though, but it didn't bring us a better version of "The Omen." Liev Schreiber and Julia Stiles play the doomed parents who adopt the son of Satan. And that would really


suck if it looked like they cared they had a baby at all, let alone Lucifer's offspring. They had all the passion and emotion of wet cardboard. It wouldn't have been so bad had we not been denied the best part – the stellar "death by taking a header out a hospital window" for Mrs. Thorn.

Mia Farrow as Mrs. Baylock was a weird choice. Yeah, she did "Rosemary's Baby" but the only thing disturbing about Mia was her marriage to Woody Allen. Mrs. Baylock is not a huge part but her mere presence should speak otherwise. She should be stealing every scene she is in but Mia was just a whisper on the screen.

And for the most important role we have Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick as Damien. They may as well have used wallpaper instead because I felt nothing from this kid. He had the same expression on his face through the whole flick – boredom – except for the one time he was supposed to be scared and/or angry. Then he just looked constipated. As Damien pleaded with his father not to kill him, he could have easily been saying, "Could you scratch my back? I can't reach. Thanks ever so."

The director of this steaming pile just loved to use color for effect and as metaphor. Bleak, washed out backgrounds (grey sky, dark blue stone) and then BAM! Bright red flowers or a stark white cloak. He was particularly fond of red at times when evil was abound or perhaps signifying blood: flowers, spray bottle while Mrs. Thorn was watering the plant moments before Damien races towards her on his scooter; Mrs. Baylock feeding Damien strawberries that stained his mouth; the corridors of the house near Damien's room. OK, OK, we get it! He's

evil. He's going to eat the world and destroy those who oppose him. Stop channeling M. Night Shyamalan and get on with it. Geeze.

½ hatchet 

Now for the fun one. You may be surprised at my choice because it didn't do well at the theaters and there were no big huge stars to sell it. But it was so much fun to watch.

"The Covenant" is a story about 5 families from the 18th century that have been blessed, or cursed, with The Power. No one knows how they got the power or why, just that it's pretty cool. But if you abuse it, your body wears out and you die about 40 years early. One of the families apparently died out so only 4 survived into the 21st century.

The Power is passed from father to son. Around the age of 13, The Power starts to develop (puberty's a bitch, isn't it?). Basically it's the Hollywood version of magic and witchcraft, but (FINALLY) without the Devil. Flying, glamour, cheating death, casting spells, and all the other goodies that magic can bring. At 18, the boy will "ascend" and reach his full abilities – and that's when things get interesting.

"The Covenant" follows the 4 young men of the surviving families as they move through high school and life, using their powers only when necessary (like to outrun the cops when they bust up a local party). Caleb is the responsible one and the first about to ascend, Pogue is the jealous playboy, Reid is the arrogant troublemaker who has a tendency to use his power too much for fun, and Tyler kinda follows Reid around like a puppy.

As the movie progresses, and Caleb gets closer to his ascension, we find that the 5th family may not have all died out like originally thought. And its descendant is here to steal everyone's else's power for himself. He abuses his power in order to put dangerous and deadly spells not only the 4 young lads, but on their friends as well.

Yes, this movie is full of predictable plots paths, typical teen-age character stereotypes, and a gaggle of beautiful young people that, coincidentally, all attend the same school. But the special effects were fantastic and the big magical fight scene at the climax had me curled up in a ball of excitement on my couch. And it was so nice to finally have a movie about witchcraft and magic that had nothing to do with Satanism or "the black arts" as it's always called. The message that magic is neutral – and the good or evil lies in the hearts of the witch who wields it – was extremely refreshing.

Some of dialogue was corny or overdramatic but how can you go wrong with "Harry Potter can kiss my ass!" and "Wee-otch!" (instead of bee-otch, get it?) And, let me be honest, it's nice to watch the pretty people romp and play and get all sweaty. Don't worry, guys. There's damsels in distress, and hoochie mama outfits, and plenty of fighting and shenanigans going on for you, too.

I'm not saying this is a classic film. It may not even stand the test of time but instead fade into the movie land ether. But it was fun, funny, a great bit of entertainment and one that I will be adding to my collection.

3 hatchets



Guess the Movie Quote!

Below is a list of quotes from various horror movies. Can you guess which ones? Some may be easier or more obvious than others. Check the last page for the answers!

1. "You'll enjoy Mr. Barlow. And he'll enjoy you."
2. "Death is only the beginning."
3. "Ohh, for God's sake! He's got an arm off!"
4. "Study your math, kids. Key to the Universe."
5. "They will say that I have shed innocent blood. What's blood for, if not for shedding?"
6. "Avoid suspicion, manipulate your friends, and eliminate your enemies."
7. "Help me! Help meeee!"
8. "It's all true. God's an Astronaut. Oz is Over the Rainbow, and Midian is where the monsters live."
9. "His guts are underneath my fingernails!!"
10. "Doomed... You're all doomed."

Serial Sacrifice with Peggy Christie cont'd

(cont'd from Page 4)

GLAHW: What are you reading right now? Are there any authors (living or dead) that you would name as influences?

PC: "The Art of War" by Lao Tzu, "How to Talk Dirty and Influence People" by Lenny Bruce, and "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret" by Judy Blume. I wouldn't say I have any influences but I admire this kid down the block from me, Kenny. He can write a wicked Haiku.

GLAHW: Give us three "Good to Know" facts about you. Be creative. Tell us about your first job, the inspiration for your writing, any fun details that would enliven your page.

PC: Only three? All right then. One: I love buffet restaurants. You know, the ones where you pay \$11.99 and can eat as much as you want? I don't actually eat there. I just go in, pay my money, pile up three plates full of food, put them at my table, order two iced teas, and then leave.

Two: I'm the President of the Cheese of the Month club in my apartment building. Last month the featured fromage was a lovely smoked Gouda.

Three: I have a massive collection of porn videos and magazines. But I'm terrified of sex and nudity so it just sits there in its crate and stares at me all day. I'm not sure what that says about me or the collection. The stalemate continues.

GLAHW: What else do you

want your readers to know? Consider here your likes and dislikes, your interests, your favorite ways to unwind — whatever comes to mind.

PC: This is Carla McInerney, Mrs. Christie's psychiatrist. I've advised my client to end this interview as any further answers may be damaging to her recovery and any chance for her to successfully reenter society. Thank you.

Johnny Knoxville in Soter's Horror Thriller – from horror-web.com

Broken Lizard's Paul Soter (Watching the Detectives) tells MTV that Johnny Knoxville ("Jackass") may star in his next film, an untitled horror-thriller that he wrote and hopes to direct.

Soter says the film is "about a small Colorado town and there's a forest fire nearby and it ignites these lost barrels of toxic who knows what. It blows this toxic ash into town and makes all the

dogs go apesh*t. The lead guy is in a custody battle for his son and has him for the weekend. He's a firefighter and drops off his son at school and goes into town to fight the fire when he realizes

what's going on. So he's on one side of town. His eight-year-old boy is on the other side of town. He's got to get through this army of rabid dogs to get his son."

New Generation of Hammer Horror On the Way? - from reallyscary.com (May 15, 2007)

According to a UPI report, the next generation of Hammer horror films should go into production soon now that the firm behind the British movies was sold to a private equity consortium. Hammer Film Productions, known for its gothic horror fare of the 1950s and '60s, was sold Thursday for an undisclosed sum to a group led by Holland-based Cyrte Investments, the investment vehicle for Dutch media mogul John de Mol, the Western Mail said Friday. De Mol and his group said they had about \$50 million available to re-start production. The team said it would target "a new generation of horror lovers" through Web and mobile technologies. Simon Oakes, a member of the new management team, said the deal has been in the works for about a year. "Hammer is a great British brand and we intend to take Hammer back into production and develop its global potential," Oakes said.

Dead Silence: Interview with Amber Valetta - by Mike Pereira (from bloody-disgusting.com)

Newlyweds Jamie (Kwanten) and Lisa Ashen have established a new life for themselves far from their hometown of Ravens Fair--a sleepy, near-forgotten blip on the map haunted by late-night whispers and ghost stories from generations past. But when his wife is gruesomely murdered, Jamie reluctantly returns to Ravens Fair for the funeral, intent on unraveling the mystery surrounding her death.

James is filming it and his vision is just awesome.

BD: What intrigued you about the character?

AV: The character is something I hadn't played before and I really wanted to work with James Wan.

BD: Were you familiar with SAW?

AV: Yes.

BD: You saw it before accepting this role?

AV: Yes.

BD: Do you like horror movies?

AV: Not particularly, I appreciate them, yes but I get scared easily, I don't watch them because they make me very tense. But I'm an actress, so you kind of got to try all things and be part of all things.

BD: What made you decide to view SAW before this movie?

AV: I had heard a lot about SAW, I just thought it was a good idea to watch the movie, considering I was going to go and possibly work with James. I was really impressed by his filmmaking.

BD: Would you describe her as a trophy wife?

AV: She's a trophy wife, married to Jamie's (Ryan Kwanten) father and she's his third wife.

BD: About the same age as Jamie's character?

AV: About the same age, maybe a little bit older. She's just happy to be a part of the family.

BD: What did you like about the script when you read it?

AV: It's not a typical movie within the genre. It has kind of an old school element to it with a nice modern twist. James Wan was the big draw too cause James and his partner wrote it and

director. He has a very clear vision and has a clear idea as to how things should look and be seen.

BD: Did he actually have input in character?

AV: Oh yeah, that's inevitable when you hire an actress. He obviously will have the character one way in his mind and I'm gonna perceive it another way. So I got to meld it while staying true to me. He's very cool with it!

BD: What kind of relationship do you have with the character of Jamie?

AV: We have a typical relationship of meeting your stepmother, basically. You'll have to see the movie to see the relationship unfold. But I can tell you that working with Ryan was a pleasure, he's extremely talented and he's going to get a lot of work I think after this film. He's handsome, smart, funny...this is a great role for him.

BD: Were you involved in any scary scenes?

AV: We did shoot in a graveyard, a fake one but that was still kind of creepy. And once at night and that was pretty...yeah.

BD: Anything physical in your role?

AV: Yeah a little bit and I like that. It's very fun to get to do things that you normally don't do in your everyday life. I think that's what so interesting of being an actor. You get to experiment and go to emotional and physical places that you don't normally go to.

BD: Which is tougher for you?

AV: It depends; I haven't done a super action film yet so I can't say which would be more taxing. I can imagine though that when you're doing a very serious action film and you're the lead, its probably even more taxing...I don't know... its hard to say...its like apple and oranges. On one end your body is exhausted, on the other your brain is exhausted.

BD: For an emotional scene do you go there and stay there or do you shut it off?

AV: I thought that I shut it off but I'm wondering now. I've had after the fact breakdowns, not even at work and I'm like what was this about? Then I'm like well you shot such and such...so I say oh yeah...no wonder I'm a head case right now. So I think inevitably, acting does seep onto your life and its hard to separate fact from fiction, the brain doesn't know the difference.

BD: So you did a horror film but you can't talk much about it?

AV: It would be silly if I talked about it too much then why do you see the horror film. It's the whole element of what's going to happen next in horror films that make it so interesting and fun and take you on that ride. This film has been fun, lots of work, long hours, the sets are beautiful and the filming is cool and different from what you've seen in horror films in a long time and the plot is really interesting. I think its going to be a great success?

BD: What do you think it was about you that made them pick you for the role?

AV: I'm sure it was based on physicality and my work as an actress. What they see in their brain as the character plays into it. I mean one girl could have a great audition and the other one too and they see a small thing in one and say, there's the character. You don't know what it is; it just makes sense. I'm guessing its something like that; it's a question you'd have to ask James. I'm not comfortable answering a question about something objective about myself.

Market Report - by Peggy Christie

ANTHOLOGIES

BOOKS GONE BAD: Secret Lives & Evil Times of Diabolical Books - 1-time print (Dead Letter Press); df/h (fic). Pay: 1¢/word. Words: 4-12k (<4k/>12k query). RT: 6-8 weeks. Reprints: yes. E-sub: [only. Tom English, Editor \(QS\)](#).

Deadline: 30 September 2007, or until filled

PubDate: November 2007 (earliest) to Spring 2008

LYCANTHROPE: The Beast Within - POD (Graveside Tales); h/df/bizarro (fic/poem/art). Pay: <\$50. Words: <20k. RT: receipt=3 days; rejects=2 weeks; sales=? . Reprints: yes. E-sub: [only. Dale L. Murphy & Anthony Kendall, Editors \(Q\)](#).

Opens: 1 June 2007

Do Not Submit Before!

Deadline: 1 September 2007, or until filled

PubDate: Winter 2007/2008

SPORTY SPEC: Games of the Fantastic - 1-time POD (Raven Electrick Ink); sf/f/SuprNat h, with sports/game theme (fic/poem). Pay: 2¢/word (poem=\$5). Words: <1k (poem=49 lines). RT: 75 days. Reprints: yes (1¢/word; poem=\$3). E-sub: [only. Karen A. Romanko, Editor \(Q\)](#).

Deadline: until filled

PubDate: late 2007

SOUTHERN FRIED WEIRDNESS 2007 - annual POD paperback (Lulu.com); sf/h/f/MagReal/Surreal (fic/cover art). Pay: \$1 +copy. Words: 3½-7k. RT: <2 weeks. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. T.J. McIntyre, Editor \(QS\)](#).

Deadline: 1 August 2007, or when filled

PubDate: 1 October 2007, if filled

MAGAZINES

NOCTEM AETERMUS - free quarterly PDF; h, with other elements OK (fic/nonfic). Pay: 10¢/word. Words: <4k (firm!). RT: 6-8 weeks. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. Michael Knost, Editor \(QS\)](#). **Submission Period Opens:** 1 June 2007 **Do Not Submit Before!**

1st Issue Debut: 1 January 2008

CRYPTOPEDIA - quarterly webzine/PDF; h & df/dsf/dark mys-thriller w/ h (fic/nonfic/poem/art/comics). Pay: fic >½ words=\$25. Words: <6. RT: reject=<2 weeks. Reprints: [maybe](#). E-sub: [no. David F. Kramer, Editor \(Q\)](#). **1st Issue Debut:** September 2007

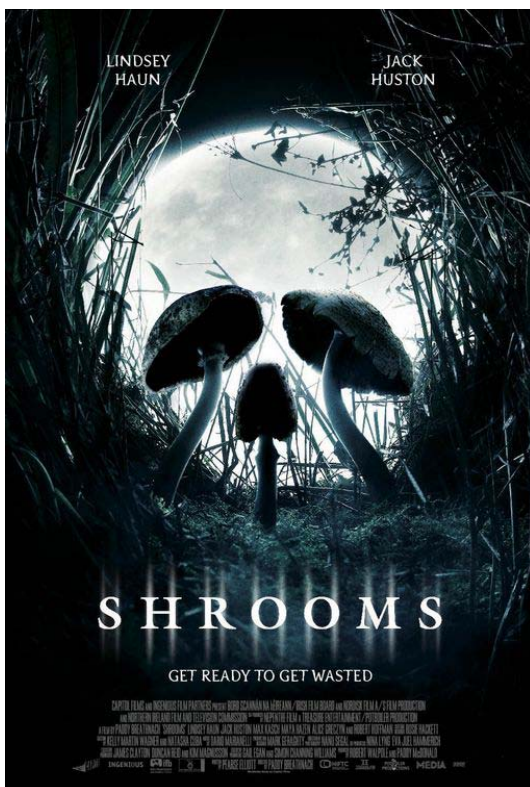
MIDNIGHT IN HELL . COM - quarterly webzine; h/df (fic/art). Pay: exposure. Words: ½-3k. RT: <2 weeks. Reprints: query. E-sub: [only. Pinback, Editor \(QS\)](#).

PUBLISHERS

CLIFFHANGER NOVELS (Clocktower Books) - e-Books (Fictionwise.com); thriller/sf/h/action-adv (fic). Pay: 50% net. Words: 50-60k. RT: 1 week. Reprints: query. E-sub: [yes. Dennis Latham, Editor \(QS\)](#).

MASTERPIECE COMICS - comic book series, mini-series, 1-shot, graphic novels, print; all genres, no XX (comics). Pay: royalty +5 copies. Words: N/A. RT: <4 weeks. Reprints: query. E-sub: [yes. Barb Caffrey, Tom Wallace, Jill Yamnitz, Editors \(Q\)](#).

DEAD MARKETS: Nocturnal Ooze, Trunk Stories



"Shrooms" follows a group of American teens that come to Ireland to visit an old school friend, who takes them on a camping trip in search of the local fabled magic mushrooms. When the hallucinations start taking hold, the panicked friends are attacked by ghostly creatures; never able to determine if they are experiencing gruesome reality or startling delirium. When one teenager unknowingly eats the dangerous "Death's Head" mushroom, the group's nightmare takes a deeply sinister turn. (from upcominghorormovies.com)

Journey's End

There you sit staring at the last page of another newsletter. I know you don't want it to be over, but it is. Now, what to do? Well, you're are sitting at your computer

(I know this since this is an online newsletter) so why not open a story your working on or a blank page and do some writing?

Sound good? Great! Now hop to it. Get started.

Until next time,

Adam

Movie Quote Answers:

1. Straker from Salem's Lot
2. Evelyn from The Mummy (1999)
3. Shaun from Shaun of the Dead
4. Gabriel from The Prophecy
5. Candyman from Candyman
6. Dodger from Cry Wolf
7. Andre Delambre from The Fly (1958)
8. Peloquin from Nightbreed
9. Monique from Hell's Highway
10. Crazy Ralph from Friday the 13th

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