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Weird Tales

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

Outlanders

To David Warren Ryder

By CLARK ASHTON SMITH

By desert-deepened wells and chasmed ways,
And noon-high passes of the crumbling nome
Where the fell sphinx and martichoras roam;
Over black mountains lit by meteor-blaze,
Through darkness ending not in solar days,
Beauty, the centaress, has brought us home
To shores where chaos climbs in starry foam,
And the white horses of Polaris graze.

We gather, on those gulfward beaches rolled,
Driftage of worlds not shown by any chart;
And pluck the fabled moly from wild scours:
Though these are scorned by human wharf and mart—
And scorned alike the red, primeval gold
For which we fight the griffins in strange wars.