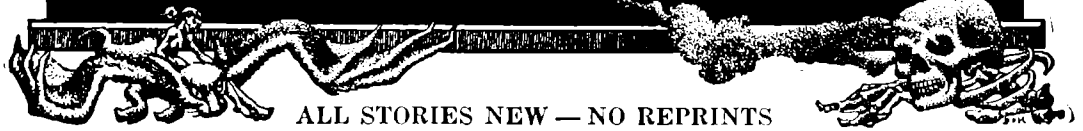


# Weird Tales



ALL STORIES NEW — NO REPRINTS

SEPTEMBER, 1947

Cover by Boris Dolgov

## NOVELETTES

- MRS. PELLINGTON ASSISTS . . . . . Seabury Quinn 14  
*There is always "another woman" in the case—but this one was patrician,  
almost royal, mysterious as night-veiled Isis herself*
- THE DAMP MAN RETURNS . . . . . Allison V. Harding 30  
*The mind must reject certain possibilities as  
impossible—even when they are certainties*

## SHORT STORIES

- QUEST OF THE GAZOLBA . . . . . Clark Ashton Smith 4  
*Strange things come of that realm where dawn  
and the sunset meet*
- THE HOUSE OF CARDS . . . . . Malcolm M. Ferguson 46  
*You must not profane the dignity of a medium by calling her  
back from the spirit world to get coffee or toast*
- EENA . . . . . Manly Banister 54  
*When the lake is tinged with blood, that is the  
time human must change to wolf*
- THE OCCUPANT OF THE CRYPT . . . . August Derleth and Mark Schorer 62  
*A determined man will do anything, even delve into a  
proposition that was preposterous as it was deadly*
- THE PALE CRIMINAL . . . . . C. Hall Thompson 72  
*A pale criminal is a poor criminal. The paleness may  
be because he is appalled or frightened by what he  
has done. Or it may be the paleness of death*
- THE GIRDLE OF VENUS . . . . . Harold Lawlor 85  
*It was a narrow jeweled belt of gold mesh, heavily encrusted  
with sparkling gems, possessed of strange properties*


## VERSE

- THE OTHERS SAID . . . . . Katherine Simons 29
- THE STRANGER . . . . . Leah Bodine Drake 71
- WEIRDISMS . . . . . Lee Brown Coye 44
- THE EYRIE AND THE WEIRD TALES CLUB . . . . . 94

*Except for personal experiences, the contents of this magazine is fiction. Any use  
of the name of any living person or reference to actual events is purely coincidental.*

Published bi-monthly by Weird Tales, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y. Reentered as second-class matter January 26, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Single copies, 20 cents. Subscription rates: One year in the United States and possession, \$1.00. Foreign and Canadian postage extra. English Office: Charles Lavell, Limited, 4 Clements Inn, Strand London, W.C.2, England. The publishers are not responsible for the loss of unsolicited manuscripts although every care will be taken of such material while in their possession. Copyright, 1947, by Weird Tales. Copyrighted in Great Britain. Title registered in U. S. Patent Office.

PRINTED IN THE U. S. A.

 173  
Vol. 39, No. 12

D. MCILWRAITH, Editor.

LAMONT BUCHANAN, Associate Editor.

# The Stranger

(To Lord Dunsany)

By LEAH BODINE DRAKE

THE stranger, the proud-headed man  
Who sat with us by the inn's fire,  
Spoke all that day of gusty rain  
Of the land of his desire.

It is a land of apple-trees (he said)  
On islands watered by many a spring,  
The boughs bearing both bloom and fruit  
Where, leaf-hidden, the white birds sing.

White towers they have there, scarlet-roofed,  
Circled with rivers, windowed with  
amethyst,  
Where dwell the beautiful, smiling folk  
Who doeth as they list,

And little of that is evil. Love and death  
Trouble also that land with their old story,  
But set in loftier halls and under sunnier  
skies  
And rainbowed with glory.

And there are quests for alien grails, and  
angels walk  
At sunset on the desolate shrunken sands.  
There is no sorrow less than the fall of  
thrones,  
And the winged sphinx is the terror of  
the land.

Up the jagged mountains, over the cold  
plateaus,  
Curious bugles ring from thunderous  
cliffs  
Where, furred with otter and belted with  
peridots,  
Kings and young princes hunt the  
hippogriffs.

And those are the perilous mountains of the  
trolls  
Who hoard the rubies that the witches  
fear.

That is the country whence I came (he said),  
It is not here, not here.

