

# ACRIMONY

April 2004

\$3.00

## The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence



*Arecibo Observatory, Puerto Rico*

### ***Also in this Issue:***

***Lex Dizik***

***GEHENNA: A Time for Judgement***

***The Devil's Song***

***And Much Much More!***

Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes

<http://www.Acrimony.org>

# Acrimony

April 2004 - Volume 2 - Issue 8

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# To the Editor...

What happened to Scarlett?

Jamie Rose

**Scarlett got caught up in matters of a personal nature and was unable to continue her column. We wish her future success and perhaps she will pen independent articles from time to time.**

Good to see Acrimony back in print ;) I really missed you in February. I thought something terrible had happened.

Billy Jansen

March 20<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Equinox. What is the significance of this and what does it mean?

Raized in White

**The Spring Equinox is often thought to be a day, but more precisely, it's a moment in time. It is the exact moment the Sun crosses the equator. This year it fell on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:49am EST. In the northern hemisphere this is called the Vernal Equinox. In the southern hemisphere it's known as the Autumnal Equinox.**

**Equinox, when translated literally, means *equal night*. Because of the Sun's position in the sky, both day and night last 12 hours on this day.**

**In various pagan traditions, the Spring Equinox is also known as: Alban Eilir, Eostar, Eostre, Feast of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Festival of Trees, Lady Day, NawRuz, No Ruz, Ostara, Ostra, and The Rites of Spring.**

Send your email and comments to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org)



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*If the mysterious woman in your dreams was real?*

*If the woman in your dreams was a vampire?*

*If you were dying,  
would you want to  
taste immortality?*



*For the blood is the life,  
the blood is eternity,  
but at what cost?*

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*Coming soon...*

**DARK DECADE**

The Poetry and Prose of Dan Shaurette

# The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence



by Dan Shaurette  
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<http://www.ShauretteNet.com>



***“Even light, which travels so fast that it takes most races thousands of years to realize that it travels at all, takes time to journey between the stars. It takes eight minutes from the star Sol to the place where the Earth used to be, and four years more to arrive at Sol’s nearest stellar neighbour, Alpha Proxima. For light to reach the other side of the Galaxy, for it to reach Damogran for instance, takes rather longer: five hundred thousand years. The record for hitch hiking this distance is just under five years, but you don’t get to see much on the way.”***

***From The Hitch Hikers’ Guide to the Galaxy,  
by Douglas Adams***

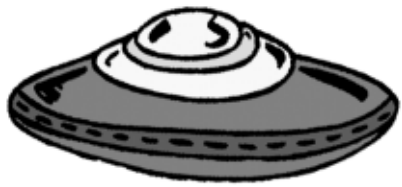
Traveling at a speed roughly about 670 million MPH, light from our sun takes eight minutes to reach the Earth, providing warmth and energy for us to enjoy. Leaving the Earth at the same speed, our radio and television broadcasts leave their transmitters, bounce around in our atmosphere, and reach antennas on Earth designed to receive them instantly. Some of those same signals also make their way off our planet and travel out into the deep vacuum of space.

For only 80 years or so, mankind has been transmitting these unintentional beacons of voice, music, pictures and data, which could potentially find their way to an extra-terrestrial civilization. On November 16, 1974, scientists intentionally sent a message designed to introduce ourselves to the ET community at large. This signal was directed to a globular cluster of stars known as M13, which is about 25,000 light years away. Nearly 30 years later, that signal has barely made 0.12% of its interstellar journey.

Bearing all of this in mind, it is possible that an extra-terrestrial civilization could have sent similar radio transmissions out into the cosmos. Whether used by them as a form of communication and entertainment, or as an intentional sign of an advanced technological society, we might someday be able to detect their signal. This is the foundation of various projects dedicated to the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, commonly known as SETI.

Listening for radio signals coming from beyond Earth is much more complex than it sounds. First there is the problem of natural background noise, both terrestrial and cosmic. Every radio-based receiver on Earth is constantly bombarded by electromagnetic radiation, or "radio frequency" (RF) noise. Tune your radio or TV off of your favorite channel, and the static you hear (and see on your TV as "snow") is known as "white noise", and is the reception of this random radiation. Our TV sets and radios work by tuning to specific frequencies were we are intentionally transmitting radio waves with a stronger signal.

Another way of looking at this is by using the RF receivers in every human being; our own eyes. Our eyes are also bombarded by all of the same electromagnetic radiation that reaches our planet. However, we are only able to "tune into" the frequency between infrared (400 terahertz) and ultraviolet (750 terahertz), which we perceive as visible light, broadcast eight minutes ago from that fiery radio station we call the Sun.



Secondly, since an ET signal would be very distant, it would be relatively weak. Moreover, it would presumably be weaker than the light that would be visible to us from the star their planet orbits. In order for us to detect their signal, we would have to filter out the radiation from their sun and listen with a large enough radio telescope to be able to detect it.

There are only a handful of radio telescopes on our planet large enough to detect deep space transmissions. The largest and therefore most sensitive radio telescope on Earth is located at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The Arecibo Observatory is a part of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC), which is operated by Cornell University and the National Science Foundation. Scientists all over the world compete for time using the facilities for the research. SETI projects are but a small part of that research.

For the most part, SETI projects like Project Phoenix rent time on different radio telescopes around the world and are therefore targeted searches. These different locations provide good targets for detailed investigations of small areas of the sky.

Other SETI projects, like UC Berkeley's Project SERENDIP piggyback an extra receiver onto the Arecibo radio telescope and then analyze all of the signals it receives. This allows them more time to use the telescope, and gives them a greater view of the sky, but they have

no control over which targets are studied.

The Allen Telescope Array, being built by the SETI Institute north-east of San Francisco, is a new radio telescope that will be totally dedicated to SETI research. This project is projected to cost about \$26 million.

All of these projects suffer from a lack of funding due to this being a controversial scientific endeavor. This lack of funding and support has seen the demise of many SETI projects. The most famous perhaps is the Ohio State "Big Ear" project.

This project was launched in 1973 at Ohio State University. In August 1977 their telescope detected a powerful signal. It rose in intensity and then fell away over a period of 72 seconds. This signal would become famous as the "Wow" signal. The duration is significant since their telescope's beam was fixed, the Earth's rotation allowed the signal to pass through the beam's scope, was strongest at the beam's center, and then trailed off as the Earth continued its spin. This made it appear to be a very credible signal.

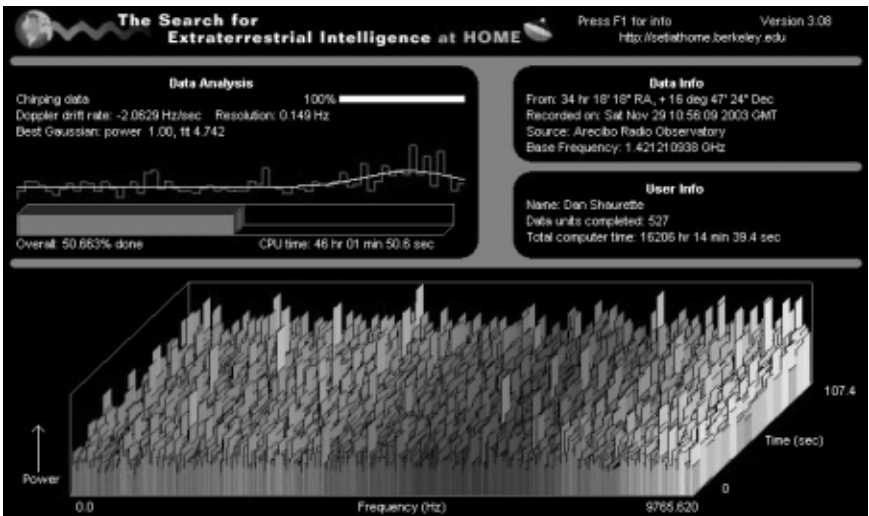
However, there were two beams at OSU, so the signal should have disappeared for the 3-minute interval between the beams, and then registered on the other for 72 seconds. It did not do so, though this could be attributed the signal perhaps being periodic and the initial pass

was a lucky find at the end of the signal. A decade of research has neither discredited this as a potential hoax, nor proven it to have been a definite ET signal, because it was never found again. Sadly, in 1997 "Big Ear" was shut down, and the land was bought and turned into a golf course.

Other projects, like NASA's High-resolution Microwave Survey (HRMS) was launched by NASA in 1982 and showed much promise because it had the backing of NASA's technological experience and funding behind it. But it was discontinued in 1993 when the U.S. Congress cut its funding. In 1995 however, the independent SETI Institute (<http://www.seti-inst.edu>) picked up where NASA left off and created Project Phoenix, the name symbolizing the resurrection of the project.

In 1999, scientists working on Berkeley's Project SERENDIP recognized that they did not have enough computing power to analyze the massive amounts of data they were getting from the Arecibo radio telescope. They could not invest in a large bank of supercomputers to handle the load, so they created a very unique solution.

They designed a distributed computing platform that allows standard desktop computers networked together over the internet to download packets of data, analyze it in the background or while not busy with other tasks, and then send the results of the analysis back to UC Berkeley. The project has become known as SETI @ Home.



*SETI@Home Screensaver snapshot*

The software can be downloaded for free from <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu> and works on virtually any PC (there are versions for Windows 95-XP, Mac, UNIX, OS/2, and more). It primarily runs as a screensaver, thus allowing it to run while you are away from your computer. Computers with memory and CPU to spare can actually run it as a background task.

The software downloads a chunk of the data (about 100 seconds worth) to your PC from the Internet. It can do this over a LAN or with a modem by connecting for you automatically, or waiting until you are connected. Depending on how fast your PC is, the software can analyze that block in about 10 to 20 hours. Afterwards, it uploads the results and downloads another chunk.

Over the last five years, my PC has processed over 500 chunks of data. It makes a fascinating screen saver, one that always starts a conversation. It does provide a lot of interesting details graphically to let you see the various signal spikes it finds.

To my knowledge, we haven't found ET yet. Not with SETI @ Home, or any other projects out there. But if I may be allowed to quote Eric Idle, from Monty Python's The Meaning of Life, "Pray that there's intelligent life somewhere out in space, 'cause there's bugger all down here on Earth!"



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**Photo courtesy of  
<http://www.lilgothling.com>**

# Book my Place!



by **Pamela Logue**  
pam@acrimony.org

As winter starts to release her icy grip, most of us yearn for the sunny warm climes of summer and our thoughts will eventually travel around to thinking about vacation.

If you share the same Gothic theology as myself and the thought of any package holiday leaves you running for the barf bag, you will be seeking an alternative location where the attractions are stimulating, bordering on the extreme, and themed to be different.

Little did I realize that such an attraction was right here in my native Ireland and in the capital city of Dublin. I should have realized there was a cult following here but I didn't. I should have realized because Bram Stoker was of Irish heredity and the novel he wrote planted the seeds that would later blossom into vampire lore. However, I could never have twisted my mind around to conceive the idea of a Stoker Dracula

summer school! Now, that really fascinated me and twiggied my interest. I wanted to jam my fingers into the dial straight away to reserve my place!

*Acrimony*, I am delighted to say, will be reporting back on the venue which is all happening on the 15th through 18th of July 2004 at the 14th International Summer School in Dublin. As of yet I am undecided as to whether my overnight case should include a vine of garlic bulbs or a few of the original Van Helsing stakes considering that last years school had over 2,000 people in attendance from around the world! Rumour on the gothic grapevine says the latest technology is a laser gun that shoots its lethal light in the shape of little Celtic crosses! A bit more visionary than old-fashioned conventional methods! So eat your heart out Van Helsing!

The highlight of the school for me will be in meeting Bram Stoker's family. They fly into Dublin especially for the occasion. Their entrance is marked by screams of sheer terror that emanate from the lecture theatre as school commences. A visit to the Stoker Dracula center at Clontarf Road by guided interactive experience takes you on a heart-pounding journey through Castle Dracula, creating the spine-chilling story of Count Dracula and his victims. That will just about leave

the hairs on your spine riveted upwards. Your toes curled inwards at the thought of meeting the Count himself!

If any of our readers are interested in attending this summer's holiday with a difference, please contact me at [pam@acrimony.org](mailto:pam@acrimony.org) and I will mail you further details. I know this little Gothling cannot wait for school to commence, so watch this space and roll on summer!



### ***Announcement from The Stoker Dracula Organization***

To further commemorate and honour Bram Stoker, and to promote gothic writing, we hereby announce a Gothic writing competition and invite entries in short story, drama or poetic form.

Entries must be in English, typed and double-spaced on one side of white A4 paper. Entries must be of no more than 2000 words in length and must have a Gothic theme. Your entry must be your own original unpublished work and must not have a won a prize in another competition. Include your name and contact details on a separate page, not on the manuscript.

Entry fee is 12 Euros, \$14 or sterling £9 per entry. The closing

date for receipt of entries is June 1st, 2004 and manuscripts will not be returned. There are substantial prizes which will be announced in Stoker Dracula Organization newsletter and which *Acrimony* will print in a forthcoming edition. The results of the competition will be revealed at the July 2004 International Summer School.

If you are interested in entering the above competition please contact [pam@acrimony.org](mailto:pam@acrimony.org) for further information. *Acrimony* does not take any responsibility or liability for the above competition.

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# Lex Dizik

## *The Future of Gothic Rock*

by **Tom Scott**

necromancer@acrimony.org  
<http://www.UndeadRadio.com>

Lex Dizik is a relatively new band to the Philadelphia Gothic/Dark music scene. Fusing Rock/Metal influence with Trance and House rhythms and undertones and synthesized guitars with haunting chants, Lex Dizik is truly an original artist if one was ever seen.

Lex Dizik was formed in 2002 after vocalist/guitarist Doug Perry worked with producer Richard Gavalis (producer of the Bloodhound Gang among others) on some ideas he'd had in the past. In the studio and personally, Doug experimented with synthesized guitar sounds,

discovering that it was one of the most unique sounds he had ever heard. Doug then decided to create a band based on this unique sound. Eventually, through contact with Richard and other recruiting/kidnapping/etc., the band became Doug Perry on guitar/vocals, Gabe "Valdar Downstroker" Valdez on guitar, Laura Johnson on bass and Brian Walsh on drums. This is the first and original lineup of Lex Dizik.

The truly unique sound of Lex Dizik comes from their synthesized guitars, vocals, and trance/house rhythms. "I believe that the combination of guitar effects and amps with the analog synths have created one of the most definitive elements to the sound of the band." says Perry, who originally discovered



**Lex Dizik Live**

the sound back in 2002. However, most of the effects are analog, as Doug says, "We have also textured the music with some digital synthesizer effects, ambient loop sequences and electronic percussion/drum layers. These contribute to the distinctive vibe and mood of Lex Dizik."

But this space-age symphony isn't going to fade from view real soon. "We are currently working on full production music video with film director David Allen Ruth (Sweety Kat Picturz) for the track "Dark Side". We are not finished with the shooting of the scenes yet but I have seen the rough footage of our last shoot and it looked amazing already. David and his crew really know what they are doing and I'm positive that the video is going to be awesome," commented Doug, who also noted that they would be finishing their full CD entitled "Dissuade" over the next month. The band hopes to incorporate the Video into an enhanced CD and speculates a May release party.

Additionally, plans have begun for "LEXFEST 2004", a massive all-day concert on September 11th, 2004 consisting of 11 bands (strange huh?) at the Colorado State Fairgrounds Amphitheatre. The entire event will be set up independently by LEX DIZIK. So, if you really want to listen to some of the most futuristic music on the planet, go to [www.lexdizik.com](http://www.lexdizik.com) and download their MP3's "Invasion" and "What I Do", both from their CD Dark Side.



**Doug**



**Gabe**



**Laura**



**Brian**



# The Rose



I am patiently waiting  
Beside your gate  
I hold a small but  
Beautiful rose in my hands  
I press its thorns  
Deep within my skin  
So that I may let  
My blood run free  
With my idolatry.  
If I don't see you soon  
I idly speculate  
Who will survive the longest  
The Rose.. or myself?

## An Appendage - Forever More

How deep your beauty, oh sweet Rose:  
Yet so sharp your thorns.  
Take me from this garden and  
Let me die my mortal death...  
So you, who were in my flesh and thoughts,  
Are no more  
**Forever more.**

by **Pamela Logue**  
pam@acrimony.org



# New Book about the Phoenix Lights



by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

***“Are these entities aware of what may lie ahead for us, trying to warn us to change our violent, destructive ways before it is too late? Are they affecting our collective consciousness by waking us up to this reality, one person at a time? In any case, from my own UP [Unexplained Phenomena] experiences and certainly from all the volumes of verification I was gathering from experts and other experiencers, I was coming to believe that there is a connection to something out there just waiting to be grasped by each one of us.”***

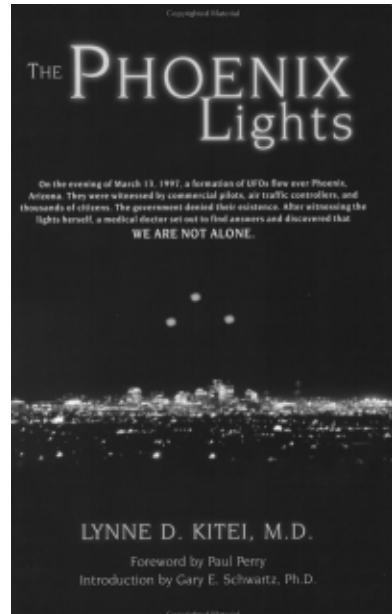
**Excerpt from *The Phoenix Lights* by Lynne D. Kitei, M.D.**

As the editor of *Acrimony*, I can't help but read things with an editorial eye. I try not too, but it's no use. I'm a stickler for spelling and

grammar and if a sentence doesn't read properly, I want to rewrite it.

I was sent an advance copy of the new book "The Phoenix Lights: A Skeptic's Discovery That We Are Not Alone" for review. I was immediately interested in the subject material. Since the Phoenix Light phenomena began on March 13th, 1997, there has been a global awakening to the plausible presence and existence of UFO's. I began reading the book immediately.

The book starts out well, however it becomes instantly clear that the author is not a professional writer. A doctor by trade, Dr. Lynne



Kitei writes as if the book is a technical manual. The first hundred pages involve the progression of the phenomena and how skeptical she is of the entire event. She goes to overwhelming lengths to illustrate that she is not a crackpot. When she interviews other witnesses she is always prudent in stating their profession and stature in the community. She is obsessed with showing that she is credible.

If you can get past the first half of the book, it gets better. The conclusions she draws about the real intention of UFO's and the Phoenix Lights phenomena are impressive - almost inspired. The entire tone of the book changes and it makes one wish that tone had existed from the start. It is as if a totally different author is writing the second half.

I won't go into what her conclusions are. You'll have to buy the book if you want to find out. But I think the message she presents is a good one. Good from a personal, cosmic, spiritual, and universal standpoint. Additionally, even though the first half of the book is at times a difficult read, the work is a comprehensive account of how the Phoenix Lights phenomena unfolded. It is very detailed in its representation of events and offers numerous photographs and other documentation.

Amazon.com is selling the book for \$11.87 and used copies are already being offered for \$7.95. A fair price and worthy addition to your paranormal library.



# Heaven or Hell?

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# The Broken Toy

What a cheerful toy he was  
A smile on his face for the world to see  
Just pull his string  
He'll say what you want him to say

A little girl saw the toy  
Sitting alone on a shelf  
No others like it there  
A rare find indeed

She took it home with her  
She fell in love easily with it  
All she had to do was pull his string  
And he said everything she wanted to hear

As the years went by  
She played with the toy  
Showed it off to everyone  
He seemed to bring her such joy

But as she grew older,  
She played with the toy less and less  
His smile was still there  
But it became obvious it was just painted on

One day, she pulled his string  
And the string broke inside  
He could no longer say  
What she wanted to hear

She gave the toy away  
Didn't even sell him  
Didn't think he was worth anything  
To anyone anymore

When another little girl found the toy  
Worn with age and use  
She found the painted smile charming  
Disarming, and took it home

The other girl tried to find  
A new toy to play with  
One who could say the things  
That she wanted to hear

But no other toy would make her happy  
No other toy could make her happy  
Nothing in this world  
Could ever make her happy

She missed her old broken toy  
When she found the other girl playing with it  
She was hurt because the toy could make  
Someone else happier than her

The broken toy belongs to no one now  
Only in the girl's memory  
Can it ever again say  
The things she wants to hear

by **Dan Shaurette**  
Daniel@acrimony.org  
<http://www.ShauretteNet.com>



# The Ballad of Lockerbie

All in the name Of Allah



A dedication in verse by  
**Pamela Logue**  
pam@acrimony.org

*In memory of the Lockerbie air victims. American flight Pan Am 103 which exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland, in 1988 four days before Christmas, two hundred and seventy souls perished as a result of an Islamic terrorist explosion at 31,000 Feet*

Warm and loved by his mother's breast  
Tom watched his sister play with her doll  
She was thinking of Santa, and loving it all.  
Hum of flight and rhythm of machine  
Closing his eyes... slips into a dream.

*Allah O' Egbal-  
'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Tea and coffee came with a smile.  
Captain reports the weathers just fine  
Dips his ailerons, practising skid and dip  
The air-stewardess laughs at just such a trip!

*Allah O' Egbal  
'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Silver Phoenix raising her far,  
A Child of America looks for her star  
Guiding her home, she kissed her ring  
Wishing she would marry before this spring.

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Chief Hostess stocks her bar  
Smiles at the roses, and scent from afar,  
She wonders if 10b will play his guitar.  
And mischievously laughs as she thinks,  
he's well endowed  
Then furrows her brow those thoughts disallowed!

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

27G, three months and then a mother to be...  
Keeping babe safe like a master key,  
A golden manger inside her heart  
Ensures they both never will be apart.  
She winces and smiles as the baby kicks  
A little footballer... she lovingly predicts.

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

In first class drinking his whisky and rye,  
The politician thinks on his allies  
America and Europe when they do meet  
Islamic terrorists they will defeat.  
He snakes his eyes no Jihad is ever justified  
It's bloodied murder, to be crushed and crucified.

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Stretching his legs 43c sighs, six hours to the States  
With no time to waste ~  
But yet a lifetime to wait... or a lifetime to lose,  
Sweats, as he twiddles his fingers on the calculator,  
Dollars to lose, and pounds with interest rates.  
He awaits business fate as the machine translates.

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Little Tammy she thought of Times Square  
Especially last year when Daddy took her there  
Skating at Christmas around the tree,  
Laughing and shouting with happy glee  
JFK, she just can't wait  
To rush right though  
Your passport gates!

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

In front of the bulkhead in 22a  
Sat dear frail old Aunty May  
Haggard and worn, but with a story of life  
That would blush and put shame on warriors of night.  
A lifetime of work and national pride  
May, bless her soul took it all in her stride.

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Now there was the hero in 33D  
Who stomped out a fire in Tennessee  
Shook hands with the President, and was noted  
With medals to a fashionable degree

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Now here was the British lady in 15c  
Cucumber sandwiches, with a cup of tea.  
"Oh darling dear, you gave me such a fright  
Tea before Milk is a pre-emptive right  
Milk before tea is not polite!"

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Down in forward cargo hold toiled the clock  
Samsonsite raged as it blew apart  
Each and every lever lock.  
Pierced the skin of Pan-Am Maid of the Sea  
Plunged it downwards to a landlocked destiny

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

Explosive decompression, the O2 masks melt  
The fireball rolled in the cabin it incinerated live flesh  
With screams of horror that disappeared in the smelt  
At thirty one hundred feet above this old earth.

*Allah O' Egbal*  
*'La ilaha ill'Allah'*

How great is your God now,  
and how proud must you feel?  
To murder in his name, but how proud would He feel?  
His angel of Death as it flies in midair  
Mourns, weeps and cries  
As little Tommy's body is blown out of the skies.  
Down in Libya the chants were severe  
Allah o' Egbal, the Mosques rang clear  
Partied and danced on a dear Mother's soul  
Beware the US takes you out on patrol.  
Let us remember, lest we forget

Those hundreds of Souls do not silhouette  
The life and loves, each one of them had  
That was blessed in the name of Allah.

## ***Lockerbie Facts***

About 30 minutes into the flight from London to New York, the bomb which was concealed in a Toshiba portable radio and placed in a Samsonite suitcase exploded causing the plane to blow apart. The in-flight breakup killed the 243 passengers and 16 crew members in a fraction of a second. The breakup then caused the deaths of 11 people on the ground near the town of Lockerbie in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Debris and body parts were scattered over a large area.

At first there was a lot of speculation as to which group was responsible, and the motives for the attack. The British and American governments publicly blamed a Palestinian terrorist group backed by Syria with assistance from Iran in retaliation for Iranian air flight 655.

However, a British investigation concluded in November 1991 that two Libyans, one a senior officer in Libya's intelligence service, were responsible. They were charged with murder, conspiracy to destroy an aircraft, and to murder its occupants. Libya refused to hand over these two suspects resulting in UN sanctions being imposed in Libya at the beginning of 1992.

In 1998 the Libyan government conceded to a trial and a solution was found. The men faced trial in a Scottish Court in the Netherlands located at the former United States Air Force base of Camp Zeist. The area was declared sovereign territory of the United Kingdom which was governed by Scots Law under a treaty signed by the British and Dutch governments as the Libyan Government wanted a trial in a "neutral" country. They seemed to have gotten everyone on board and when all parties agreed the trial proceeded.

The two suspects were handed over in 1999 and a verdict was reached on January 2001. One was found guilty and recommended to serve 20 years and the other suspect was found not guilty.

In 2002 the Libyan Government made a compensation offer of \$2.7 billion, about \$10 million per victim. On August 15th 2003, over fifteen years later, Libya finally formally accepted responsibility for the bombing. This Statement contained general language and many people felt it lacked the compassion and remorse for the lives that were lost. Many people believe it was a business deal aimed at removing sanctions which the U.N. finally did in September 12th 2003.

It is my belief that 20 years of incarceration was very minimistic for the severity of this crime against human existence and the very essence of life itself. Whilst I have reserved feelings on the death penalty, I am in no doubt that this murderer should have been sent back to his Allah to be judged for his crime against humanity.

Your views are valued and I can be contacted at [pam@acrimony.org](mailto:pam@acrimony.org)



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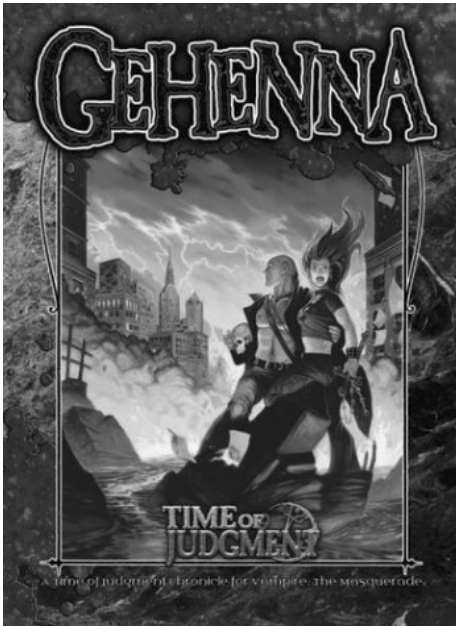
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# GEHENNA

## A Time Of Judgment™

Chronicle for Vampire: The Masquerade®



A Book Review by  
Daniel Shaurette  
[daniel@acrimony.org](mailto:daniel@acrimony.org)



(4 out of 5 full moons)

ISBN: 1-58846-246-3  
\$29.99 US

*You come out at night,  
that's when the energy comes,  
and the dark side's light  
and the vampires roam.  
You strut your Rasta wear  
and your suicide poem,  
and a cross from a faith  
that died before Jesus came.  
You're building a mystery.*

Sarah McLachlan, *Building a Mystery*, from *Surfacing*

The countdown has begun and there's no stopping it now. It's the End of the World as we know it... *The World of Darkness*®, that is. *Vampires, Werewolves, and Mages, oh my!* The *Time of Judgment*™ is at hand. White Wolf Publishing has decided that their 13 years of gothic role-play Storytelling have run their course. All good things must come to an end.

And it has been a good run, in my opinion. I discovered *Vampire: The Masquerade*® in 1992. I had played other role-playing games in the past, but never got into dice-based hack-n-slash type games, like the original D&D and its variants. TSR's *Forgotten Realms*™ attracted me because there seemed to be a developed world to get into. My favorite novel of all time is still ***Azure Bonds*** by Jeff Grubb and Kate Novak and is based on that world. When TSR released the gothic/vampire based *Ravenloft*® RPG system and novels, I became even more pleased. But I think I fell more in love with the novels, like ***I, Strahd*** by P.N. Elrod, than actual game play.

One day, a friend I RPG'd with told me about the Storyteller-heavy RPG system involving vampires by this new company called White Wolf. Immediately after reading *Vampire: The Masquerade*, I fell in

love with the World of Darkness universe. Here was a game system that was focused on a Story Teller, not a Game Master. This was interactive fiction in my estimation, like *Infocom*® games of old.

In *Masquerade*, the characters' history was more important than the stats. The situations and encounters were more interesting than the dice rolls. Moreover, the dice that were rolled gave more realism and empowerment to the story. The different personality types were easily identifiable to the players. Depending on my moods, I either played a lone-wolf Gangrel or an impish Malkavian. My characters were flawed heroes with a tormented, haunted past. After a while, I preferred being a Storyteller over being a player, because it allowed me a creative freedom I never experienced before.

Everything comes full circle. Now more than a decade later, I find myself rediscovering the World of Darkness. After a few years of not playing, and not writing as much, I wanted to find out what new material existed. To my shock I discovered that ***Gehenna*** has finally come to destroy the Vampires in my precious gothic universe. Moreover, White Wolf will cease publication (including reprints) of ***all*** World of Darkness game book lines by April 2004! The Garou

werewolves have fought their last battle against the evil of the Wyrms in their Apocalypse. The Mages will have their Ascension finally. All of the creatures of the night will finally get their last bump.

Gehenna was foreshadowed in the original Masquerade books because they knew even then that every good story has a beginning (their foundation), a middle (our games), and an end. It would be anti-climactic to not write a chronicle game-setting for how to play The Last Night. I bought *Gehenna* without a second thought and took it home to read it. I swallowed it whole as I took in the meaning of it all.

It opens with a short story to set the stage. Typical for them, and as expected it was well-written. The artwork throughout the book also lives up to their standards for dark eye candy. The next chapter then breaks from the norm, and essentially spells out everything that you will read in the rest of the book. It is all very vague, intentionally one would presume, to act as a spoiler yet not give away any plot.

In the end, they preach their usual speech of, "this is your story, play it your way" by giving you just enough

background for your creative license as a Storyteller. I did love the background info bites though because they summed things up well. My favorite was the following about the Camarilla on p. 17.

*"Bottom line: The Camarilla collapses like Enron/WorldCom as the worthlessness of its foundation becomes public knowledge. Chaos ensues among the vampire community, princes find themselves besieged by their own locals, and it's all a big clusterfuck."*

The rest of the book contains four meta-plots for how you can play Gehenna in your games. The first one was my favorite. It was the simplest to fold into a story, involving all of your players, and has a satisfying redemption in the end. It has a very Book of Revelations feel to it as it directly uses the comet Wormood as the tool of God's wrath, thinning the blood of the vampires to non-existence. However, a group of vampires, including presumably your coterie of players, make their way to a church where they get locked in for 40 days. If they can survive in

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there, they can find salvation and become human again. This may be thick in Judeo-Christian mythology, but it is justified because the "origin" of these vampires borrows directly from Genesis.

So you don't want the whole bible-thumper version of The End? The remaining three stories are satisfying as well, but have a more H.P. Lovecraft feel as the ancient Antediluvian vampires return to destroy their progeny, but most of them hardly resemble vampires anymore. The Tzimisce Antediluvian, for example, is a giant hunk of flesh that emerges from underneath Manhattan to devour everything in sight. *Paging Dr. Cthulu!*

In my mind, the satisfaction of the last three comes from finding Lilith playing the role of vengeful wrath-giver. But the satisfaction ends there, because as a player in a game that would use these tales for Gehenna, there is really very little to do. Your players end up following the main NPCs around, requiring little interaction for choices. They may make great fodder for White Wolf's novels, but not a satisfying game. It might make a good movie, though.

The best advice then, it seems to me as a Storyteller, is to take all of the best elements of all meta-plots, throw in some of my own old stories, simmer in a pot, and serve up a

new story. That is the best use of these chronicles, and White Wolf even encourages it.

Would I recommend buying the book? As a source book for playing the end of the world, it does a great job, does answer some questions and ties a few loose ends. But not enough loose ends. The stuff it misses makes everything that came before it seem like a red herring, and that is disappointing. O.K., so they can't resolve everything... that's what novels and video games are for, right?

This book should have tried to though. Instead of the last three stories being different flavors of the same story, they could have consolidated and made a true "sliding-scale" of doom, then made a final chapter of resolutions. Here they could have answered all the questions they raised for 13 years, and even said honestly things like, "Yes, Sam Haight was a red herring. He really is dead. Move along, nothing to see here." This gripe is the reason I did not give the book a perfect score. For the rest of the stories, the quality of the writing, the value of knowing at least a few ways Gehenna will come, and having a sense of closure, I give it **4 full moons**.

Now that I have said all that, I have this nagging

feeling like this is all a Malkie prank. Would White Wolf *really* stop printing their award-winning, best-selling, generation-defining, money-making venture, the day before April Fools' Day? Yes... and no.

*Hah! See, I knew it!* If I can be allowed to be cynical, let me just say this is the best marketing plan I've ever seen! Build up a following, produce a great gaming universe, publish tie-in novels, license video games, make TV shows (admit it, you watched *KINDRED: The Embraced*, too... please admit it... O.K., fine, *I'm the only one who watched it*. More over, I bought the DVD of the series! *Mmmm... Stacy Haiduk*.) Then build up to an apocalypse and follow through by ending publication of everything. Even their online store closes up shop on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

It's an eBay-lover's dream. An instant market for rare, out-of-print books. Plus, loyal fans will run out and buy all the books left on shelves because they know they won't be able to get them ever again, except through eBay and used book stores.

Finally the crowds will demand, "*Oh please gothic gods of the game, give us more!*" Well looky-here, they've revamped the World of Darkness. *Yup, in August 2004*, the all-new blacker-than-black World

of Darkness will emerge. New rules, new creatures, new game. Sure it will probably be similar, for the "old-school" groupies, and still give a new generation of gamers a fresh game to play. If possible, hell, it might even be better. Now everyone will go buy the new game system to see what WoD 2.0 will be like. *Marketing pure and simple.*

But marketing that worked. I bought the book. I'll probably buy the tie-in novel to see how the author envisioned Gehenna. I'll probably buy the new WoD game starter to see how it all comes to fruition. The cycle begins again, my friends. *I should have seen it coming.*

"I'm going back into Torpor.

Wake me up when Gehenna gets here...

*What? Oh crap."*



***This article is dedicated in loving memory to Peg "Stargazer" Field.***

"Gehenna" is a Greek word, which comes from the Hebrew "Gai-Ben-Hinnom", meaning Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but was often shortened to "Gai-Hinnom". This valley was a garbage dump outside of Jerusalem. It was a foul-smelling place where refuse was dumped, and pyres burnt for the bodies of criminals, and in later times, sacrifices were made there that were considered abominable. The original Greek New Testament used the word "Gehenna" to describe a foul place of torment, which was translated to "hellfire" or "hell" in the King James version and others. The word "Gehenna" also occurs in the Islamic Qur'an as a place of torment for sinners.

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# The Devil's Song

On the verge of going crazy,  
On this forgotten land,  
Again you took me  
On palm of your hand.

On the edge of this peak  
You buried me in the sand,  
You knew I was so weak,  
So very easy to bend.

You took the ease and smiled  
That particular way,  
The second round prevailed:  
You really made my day...

You majestic creature  
Are one heartless beast,  
But that makes you feature  
The worse and the least!

There's no truth to you,  
But paler shades of gray,  
So strike me with a thunder,  
With your mindless fray!

And let me die again now,  
Without a chance to pray,  
'cos God hears me even so,  
He will hear me anyway...

Your black eyes are glaring  
At my meaningless fire,  
To dispatch my blazing,  
The way you desire...

And to leave the scrap,  
Nothing more of me,  
But the left ideas  
Of once wanting to be-

The will to score,  
To stab you in the heart,  
Which you never had,  
That I almost forgot...

And that I can't kill you,  
Can't take you away,  
There's no heart to kill or take,  
No final word to say...

Is it just another duel?  
To regard again a winner,  
Endless as it's cruel,  
Leaving my flame thinner?

By the ways of life,  
To kill me again and again,  
You soar into our strife,  
Taking it as far as you can-

Burning my fire with yours,  
And caressing me with your shaft,  
You're so high on your horse  
You think there's nothing left...

Of me to rise again, to retaliate,  
Your victory again,  
To change at last the debate,  
Where my heart says I can!

But there's no end to it,  
Your time is endless,  
Your ways are never lit,  
By an end, they're senseless...

You just rebound to yourself,  
Beyond the awareness of an end,  
To make you have sense,  
You'd deeply have to bend...

My mind is sealed to you,  
You don't have the key,  
If I don't believe in you,  
So if you please, sew me!

So fade to black thunder,  
Evaporate, you cold rain,  
This tempest is over,  
You'll cause no more pain!



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# Calendar

## **April 1st      Kalends of April, All Fools' Day, Fortuna Virilis, Loki**

Today is a day of tricks and practical jokes, ruled over by the Norse god Loki.

Today is the Roman woman's festival of Fortuna Virilis, seeking good relations with men and ruled over by Venus.

In Egypt, today was the day of Hathor, the mother of the gods and the holder of the eye of Ra.

## **April 2nd      Carrying away of Death**

In some parts of Europe, this day marks the carrying away of death, in which straw dolls representing the death of winter are drowned or burned.

## **April 3rd      Return of Persephone**

Persephone's rise from the underworld was celebrated on this day in ancient Rome, signifying the beginning of spring.

## **April 4th      Megalesia, Magna Mater**

Today is the first festival day of Magna Mater, or Cybele, the great mother, founder of cities and guardian of civilization.

## **April 5th      Megalesia, Fortuna, Nones of April**

Today is a Roman festival for good luck, celebrating the goddess Fortuna.

Today is also the second festival day of Magna Mater, or Cybele, the great mother.

## **April 6th      Megalesia**

Today is the third festival day of Magna Mater, or Cybele, the great mother.

## **April 7th      Megalesia**

Today is the fourth festival day of Magna Mater, or Cybele, the great mother.

## **April 8th      Megalesia, Mounichia**

Today is the fifth festival day of Magna Mater, or Cybele, the great mother.

On this day the feast of moon cakes, in honor of Artemis, was celebrated in ancient Greece. Artemis is a goddess of the hunt, of wild animals, and wild places.

**April 9th            Megalesia, Hocktide**

Today is the sixth festival day of Magna Mater, or Cybele, the great mother.

This day was sacred in medieval England as the festival of the female warriors who triumphed over Danish invaders in 1002 CE.

**April 10th            Megalesia**

Today is the seventh and final day of Megalesia, celebrated in Rome with sacred horse races.

In Celtic tradition, on this day the sun dances.

The Babylonia goddess Bau, the great mother, was honored with a festival on this day.

**April 11th            Ostara, Eostre**

Today is a festival for the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, Ostara or Eostre. Ostara is the protector of fertility and a friend to children. Legend has it that to amuse some children she one changed a bird into a rabbit, which set about laying eggs for them to find.

This observance has become the more commonly celebrated festival of Easter.

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**April 12th      Cerealia, Return of Proserpine**

Today is the first day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 13th      Cerealia, Libertas, Ides of Spring**

Today is the spring festival of Libertas, the Roman goddess of liberty.

Today is the second day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 14th      Cerealia, Runic half-month of Man, Sommarsblot, Celtic Tree Month of Fearn ends**

The Norse festival of Sommarsblot welcomes the summer.

The Runic half-month of Man is a time to meditate on the human condition.

Today is the third day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 15th      Cerealia, Tellus Mater, Bast, Celtic Tree Month of Saile begins**

The Roman festival of Tellus Mater, the mother of earth, is devoted to prayer for the continued health of the earth.

In ancient Egypt, today was the festival of Bast, the goddess of Egypt. She embodied the creative force of the sun, and was partial to black cats.

Today is the fourth day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 16th      Cerealia, Hiketeria**

The festival of Hiketeria was celebrated on this day in honor of Apollo.

Today is the fifth day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 17th      Cerealia, Goddess month of Columбина ends**

Today is the sixth day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 18th      Cerealia, Goddess month of Maia begins**

Maia is a Greek earth goddess, the daughter of Atlas and Pleione.

Today is the seventh day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

**April 19th      Cerealia**

Today is the eighth day of the Roman festival of Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child.

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3. Payment for work published is handled through PayPal.com. Include in your correspondence your PayPal account name. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up for free at <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

### **April 21st Parilia**

Today is the Roman festival of Pales, a pastoral God (or possibly a goddess). Pales is the guardian of flocks.

### **April 22nd Sumarsdag, Sigrblot, Ishtar**

This is the first day of summer in the old Norse calendar, a time to honor Odin.

Today was a festival of Ishtar in Babylonia, the goddess of love, fertility, childbirth, and war.

### **April 23rd Jupiter and Venus, Vinalia, Sigurd**

Today is the Roman festival of Jupiter and Venus, for fertility. It was celebrated in Rome as the Vinalia, a festival of wine.

Today is the festival of Sigurd, the dragon-slayer. In England it's Saint George's day, also a dragon-slayer.

### **April 25th Robigalia, Cuckoo's Day**

Today is the Roman festival of Robigalia, to avert mildew on crops. It's also Cuckoo's Day, which heralds the return of birds.

### **April 28th Floralia**

Today is the start of the Roman festival of Floralia, sacred to Flora, the goddess of flowers and the pleasures of youth.

Today is traditionally a day of sexual license and experimentation.

**April 29th      Floralia, Runic half-month of Lagu Begins**

The rune Lagu represents the power of water.

**April 30th      Walpurgis Night**

Walpurgis Night, or walpurgisnacht, is a festival sacred to witches of northern Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

In some traditions, it's customary to protect one's home from evil on this night by laying birch twigs before the doors and windows. Bonfires of rosemary and juniper are used to celebrate Walpurgis night.

# Personals

**From Venezuela**

Hello! I am a vamp from Caracas, Venezuela. I would like to meet like minded people in my region. Thanks

*Belial*

*baalaam@hotmail.com*

**Don't think so hard**

TekGnosis@yahoo.com seeks to find a female with an opinion, ANY opinion. Suffice it to say I have met a few too many girls. I would like to meet a woman; which is to say a female who happens to also be an adult human being on earth. I am 24 years of age, not obese, and as eloquent or blunt as you are.

*OuTcAsTf0oL*

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*JS*

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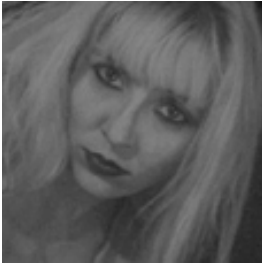
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# Ask Jenny!



by **Jenny Slocum**  
lilwhip@acrimony.org

Dear Jenny,

I think my boyfriend is cheating on me. We have been going out for 2 years. He use to spend time with me all the time, but now he is never around. He seems to be working more and more, and there is never time for the two of us. What should I do?

Don't want no Scrub

Dear Don't want no scrub,

It sounds like his job is the "other" woman. Make time for him. Surprise him with a picnic at work. Either that or stalk him. I mean, you would know exactly WHAT he was working on if you parked across from his work with binoculars. Or even better, bug his truck! YEA! YEA! Um, \*cough\*.. Maybe you should try making the time you DO see him,

quality time. You know, breaking out the chocolate sauce and whips. The simplest thing to do would be to ask him straightforwardly. You will then have to decide if you trust his answer.

Dear Jenny,

Train A leaves the depot at 9:00 am and travels at 67 mph. Train B leaves the depot at 10:45 am and travels at 75 mph. At what time will train B overtake train A?

Pie Squared

Dear Pie Squared,

WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! And just WHERE are you going that a train ride is involved? Do you know how long it takes me to get ready?? I would never leave that early in a car,

much less a train. Wait a minute... Is this question about sex? I might be a little more into exploring it if it were.

Dear Jenny,

Why the hell has the WB cancelled Angel?

Screaming from hell

Dear Screaming from Hell,

Angel will be taking a short break, but will be returning April 14 with 6 all-new episodes through the end of the season! Yes, no need to fret. I freaked too at first... Thinking, whoa! Did Spike sing and now they are getting canceled? I mean, they do have all those other fine shows keeping the WB going like High School Reunion and All About the Andersons. (That's sarcasm baby!) Let's hope they do not take the bite out of Wednesday night TV, or viewers might bite them (in the ass) by switching to another channel! That's all I got.

Dear Jenny,

Hi J, Nice piece of work. I really enjoyed the laugh and advice. One thing I am wondering is, Slocum your real name, or did yer man make that one up for you? hehehe

Pam

Darling Pam,

Slocum IS my real name. But it has more to do with how I make them work for it baby! Come to momma! COME TO MOMMA! OOps, \*cough\* was that out loud? I type SO well with only one hand. Don't ya think? \*wink\* And if you don't believe me, see the editor! LOL



*Jenny's column is run exclusively in Acrimony. Email your question to her at [lilwhip@acrimony.org](mailto:lilwhip@acrimony.org)*

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# Horoscopes

by Michael Ramses



**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19): This is a time when you should consider the possibility of changing your life. You may feel like heading in an entirely new direction, and that's okay. Mars is pulling on you very strongly this month, and you may feel that it is pulling you away from your normal routine.

If someone gives you advice that you don't like, don't snap! They're just trying to help.



**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20): Sometimes it's hard to be a Taurus. If you're not careful your temper will get the best of you and before you know it, you're charging down the matorador. Be careful this month. Take baby steps. You're going to have a short fuse. You don't want to get into a situation where

the misjudgment of a moment causes you to suffer and pay for years.



**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): You're happier than a June bug in May. Why not June? Because you're Gemini and that means you always have two sides. Your duality this month will concern work and play. Spring is in full swing, which means you want to run and gallivant under the sun. This is in

conflict with your work ethic, your drive. You should be fixing things around the house and getting the projects done that you put off all winter. A good Gemini will find the balance between the two. Most will lean too heavily towards one or the other.



**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22): It's hard being a Crab. The moon is always asserting its influence over you and last month, things were worse than normal. The Spring Equinox was unusually difficult on Cancer this year. You undoubtedly faced many challenges. There will be nothing so challenging this month. April is a time to kick back for a second and relax.

But only for a second! May will be here before you know it and then it will be time to buckle down. However, enjoy the temporary breather.



LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): You've been having nagging doubts since the December holidays. Doubts about where you are and where you are going. These doubts begin to fade this month. You're feeling a little more sure about your life station. Career is under or will come under control shortly, and your love life is pretty good (all things considered).



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Mercury moves in and out of zodiac signs almost as fast as Cancer's ruling planet, the Moon. Because of this, Cancer and Virgo share and often unnoticed (and sometimes outright unknown) bond. Look to Cancer this month to help out when things get a little tough. Friends are important to Virgo, even though you sometimes overlook their importance.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): When regret catches up with a Libra it can take a heavy toll. At first it's easy to push to the back of the mind, but it sits back there and slowly gnaws away at your sanity. When it comes to a head your head can burst. You need to learn to cut this off at the pass, although that is easier said than done. Regret often comes from hasty decisions. If you didn't make hasty decisions you wouldn't be a Libra!



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): The Scorpion is the most passionate of the Zodiac. Passion takes many forms, but for Scorpio it is often (although not exclusively) sexual. It is your passions that define you. This month is a challenge. You will have to overcome several obstacles to be successful. Money isn't the main area of stress. It will be family. It is not an impossible situation. It can be overcome.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Sometimes things are taken out of our hands. This isn't always the most desirable of circumstances, but it happens. Sagittarius doesn't like to be so "out of control" so there is an urge to try and force things. Don't do that this month. Go with the flow, enjoy the ride, and have a little faith in those around you. If you've picked your friends right things will be just fine.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): There isn't one among us that is exactly where they thought they'd be at this point in their lives. Everyone takes a detour here and there. We get tossed a curveball now and then and our life takes a dramatic turn. You'll want to be overly nostalgic this month. Its fine to reminisce about the past, just don't dwell there too long. If you hold yourself to an improper standard you'll never judge yourself fairly.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): April is going to be good to you. Go after any opportunity that presents itself, don't be afraid! Love blossoms, career advances, and friends abound. This is the full package. This type of alignment doesn't happen very often so take advantage!



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You've been feeling a little out of sorts lately. That isn't going to change too much in April. There are stresses you are facing. But like anything, these stresses can be overcome. Direction isn't always easy for the Fish, but once found, can lead to immeasurable rewards. Find your direction and the stresses will evaporate.



*Michael Ramses has been a horoscope writer for over 12 years. His speciality is personal natal charts. Look for his column right here in Acrimony each month.*

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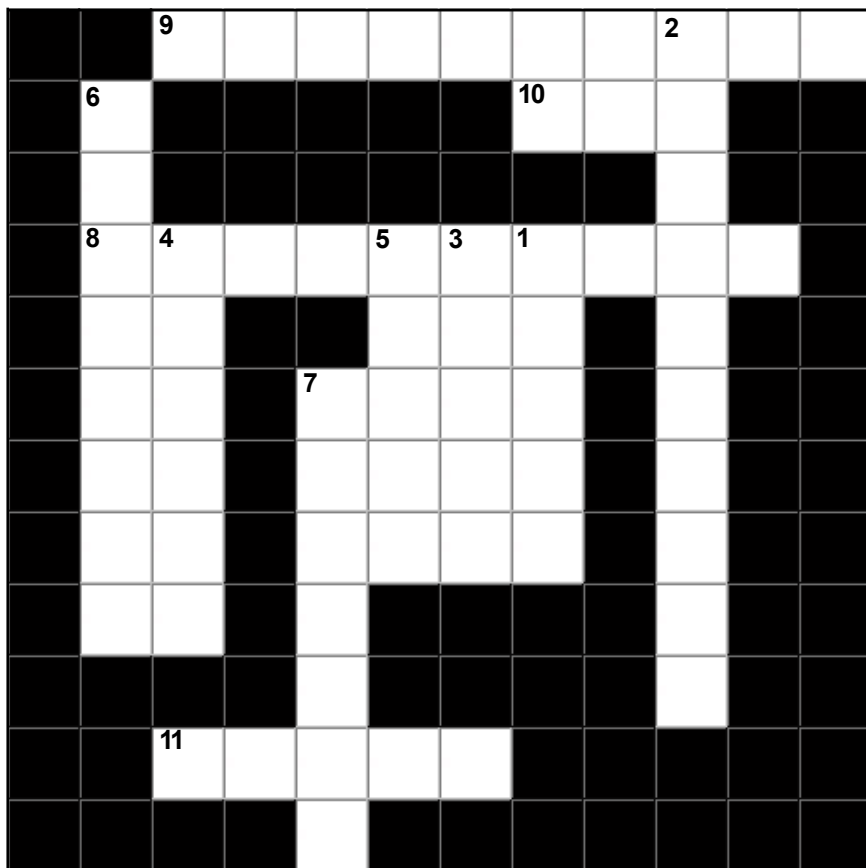
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# Gothic Crossword



## Down

1. 78 cards
2. A father's forgiveness
3. Fairies that are somewhat mischievous
4. The day of Resurrection
5. Walked like an Egyptian but turned out to be a slave
6. Teacher of the One
7. A slippery woman

## Across

8. The act of delivering from sin or saving from evil
9. Tiny green and lucky
10. Small unidentified light
11. The channel for men



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