

La Toile's CASEBOOK OF THE CREPUSCULAR

WELCOME, GENTLE READER, TO THE TWILIGHT TALE OF A MAN CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS...

BETWEEN SCIENCE AND MAGIC. BETWEEN SEX AND DEATH. BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON...

...BETWEEN THE BURNING THIGHS OF FATE! THIS IS THE STORY OF JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS. PLEASE BE CAREFUL, FOR IT'S...

ALAN MOORE: WRITER
MELINDA GEBBIE: ARTIST
CHRIS CHUCKRY: COLORS
TODD KLEIN: LETTERS
JEFF MARIOTTE: ASST. ED.
SCOTT DUNBIER: EDITOR
LA TOILE CREATED BY
MOORE & GEBBIE

BRIGHTER THAN YOU THINK...



OUR TALE BEGINS OCTOBER 2ND, 1914 IN A HOSPITAL ON WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES.

THE BABY OF RUTH WHITESIDE AND AUTO-PARTS SALESMAN MARVEL PARSONS WAS FIRST CHRISTENED MARVEL WHITESIDE PARSONS, BUT THAT DIDN'T LAST.



RUTH QUICKLY DUMPED HER CHEATING HUSBAND, STARTED TO CALL HER SON JOHN, AND MOVED TO PASADENA WITH HER PARENTS.

IT WAS HERE, ALLEGEDLY, IN 1928, THAT THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD JOHN FIRST CONJURED UP THE DEVIL.

YAAAA!



WHILE FORMING AN INTEREST IN THE OCCULT, YOUNG JACK ALSO FORMED A FRIENDSHIP WITH ANOTHER BOY, **ED FORMAN**.

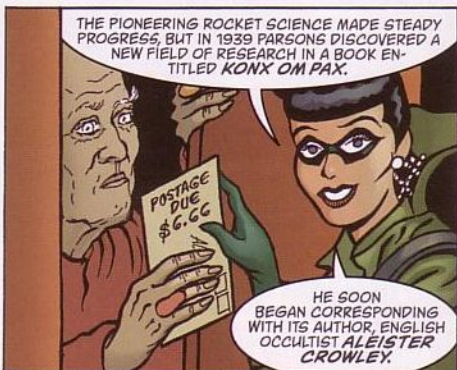
THEY'D EXPERIMENT, THAT SUMMER, MAKING SOLID **ROCKET FUEL** WITH **GUNPOWDER** AND **GLUE**.

THEY ALSO LOVED **SCIENCE FICTION**.



BY 1936, BOTH YOUTHS WERE WORKING ON WHAT WOULD BECOME **NASA'S** JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, UNDER PROFESSOR **VON KARMAN**.

VON KARMAN WAS DESCENDED FROM **RABBI LOEW** OF **PRAGUE**, LEGENDARY CREATOR OF PRAGUE'S **GOLEM**.



THE PIONEERING ROCKET SCIENCE MADE STEADY PROGRESS, BUT IN 1939 PARSONS DISCOVERED A NEW FIELD OF RESEARCH IN A BOOK ENTITLED **KONX OM PAX**.

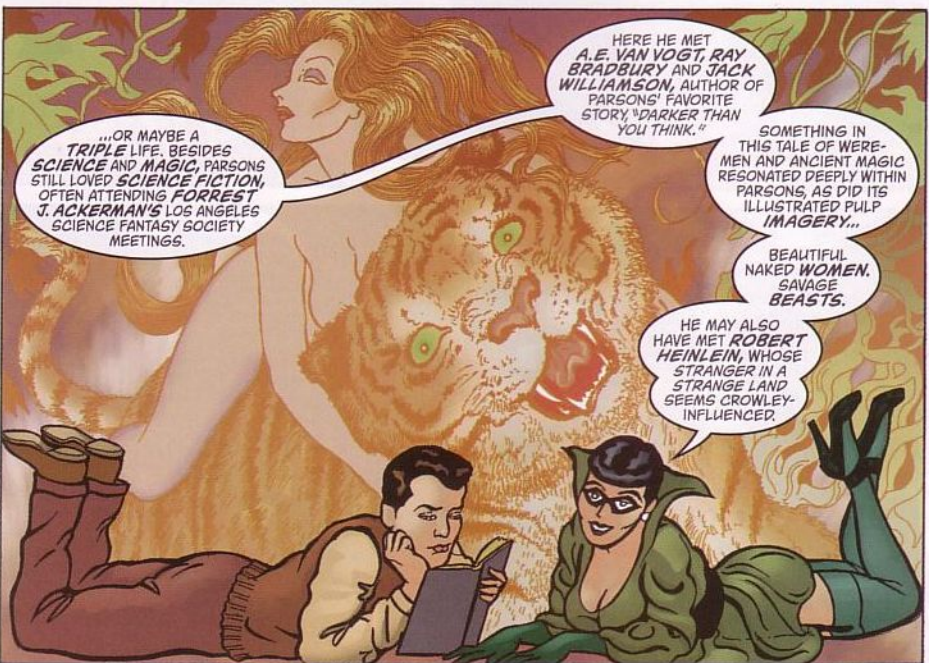
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HE SOON BEGAN CORRESPONDING WITH ITS AUTHOR, ENGLISH OCCULTIST **ALEISTER CROWLEY**.



SINCE 1930, A BRANCH OF CROWLEY'S MAGICAL SOCIETY, THE **ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS**, HAD EXISTED IN PASADENA, NOT FAR FROM PARSONS' HOME.

PARSONS AND HIS THEN-WIFE **HELEN** REGULARLY ATTENDED MEETINGS. A LIFE **DOUBLE LIFE** COMMENCED...



...OR MAYBE A **TRIPLE LIFE**. BESIDES **SCIENCE** AND **MAGIC**, PARSONS STILL LOVED **SCIENCE FICTION**, OFTEN ATTENDING **FORREST J. ACKERMAN'S** LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY MEETINGS.

HERE HE MET **A.E. VAN VOGT**, **RAY BRADBURY** AND **JACK WILLIAMSON**, AUTHOR OF PARSONS' FAVORITE STORY, "DARKER THAN YOU THINK."

SOMETHING IN THIS TALE OF WEREMEN AND ANCIENT MAGIC RESONATED DEEPLY WITHIN PARSONS, AS DID ITS ILLUSTRATED PULP **IMAGERY...**

BEAUTIFUL NAKED WOMEN. SAVAGE BEASTS.

HE MAY ALSO HAVE MET **ROBERT HEINLEIN**, WHOSE **STRANGER** IN A **STRANGE LAND** SEEMS CROWLEY-INFLUENCED.



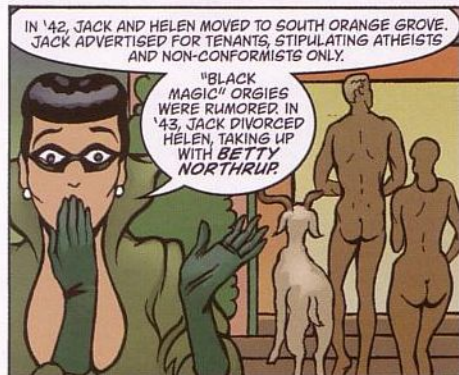
WORK CONTINUED IN 1941, FOLLOWING "SEANCES" WITH PARSONS, A YOUNG MECHANIC STOLE A COUPLE'S CAR AT GUNPOINT.

HYPNOSIS? MAGIC?



PARSONS' EERIE REPUTATION GREW. IN 1942, AUTHOR ANTHONY BOUCHER WROTE A SCIENCE-FICTION MYSTERY BASED ON PARSONS' AND HIS ROCKET-CAR EXPERIMENTS.

THE NOVEL'S TITLE WAS "ROCKET TO THE MORGUE."

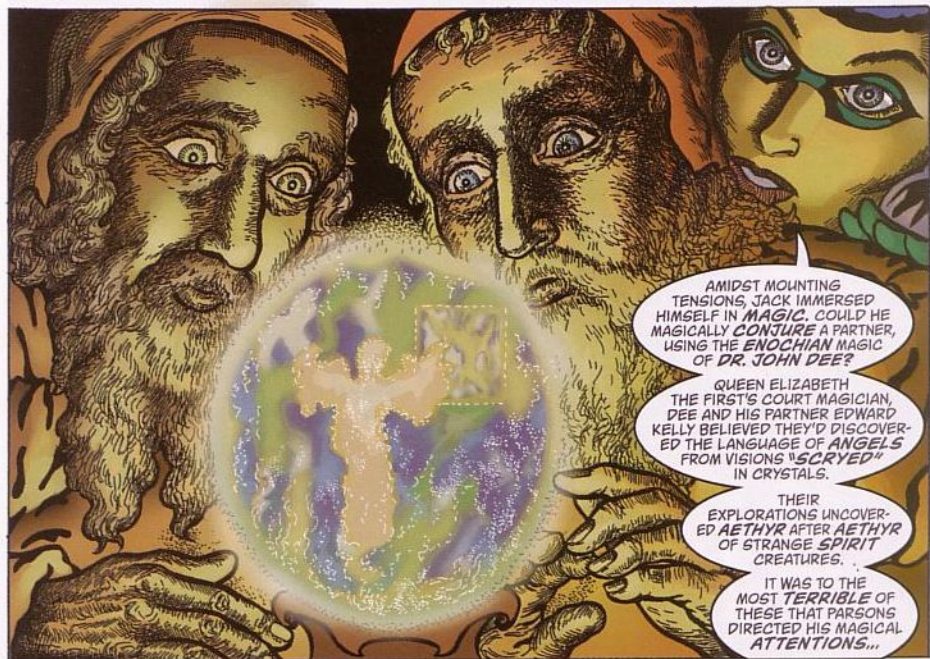


"BLACK MAGIC" ORGIES WERE RUMORED IN '43. JACK DIVORCED HELEN, TAKING UP WITH BETTY NORTHRUP.



IN 1945, PARSONS WAS INTRODUCED TO S.F. WRITER AND FELLOW OCCULT THINKER L. RON HUBBARD. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, HUBBARD BEGAN AN AFFAIR WITH JACK'S PARTNER BETTY.

PARSONS' CROWLEYAN FREE LOVE IDEALS WERE PUT TO THE TEST.




AMIDST MOUNTING TENSIONS, JACK IMMERSSED HIMSELF IN MAGIC. COULD HE MAGICALLY CONJURE A PARTNER, USING THE ENOCHIAN MAGIC OF DR. JOHN DEE?

QUEEN ELIZABETH THE FIRST'S COURT MAGICIAN, DEE AND HIS PARTNER EDWARD KELLY BELIEVED THEY'D DISCOVERED THE LANGUAGE OF ANGELS FROM VISIONS "SCRYED" IN CRYSTALS.

THEIR EXPLORATIONS UNCOVERED AETHYR AFTER AETHYR OF STRANGE SPIRIT CREATURES.

IT WAS TO THE MOST TERRIBLE OF THESE THAT PARSONS DIRECTED HIS MAGICAL ATTENTIONS...



HER
NAME WAS...IS...
BABALON.

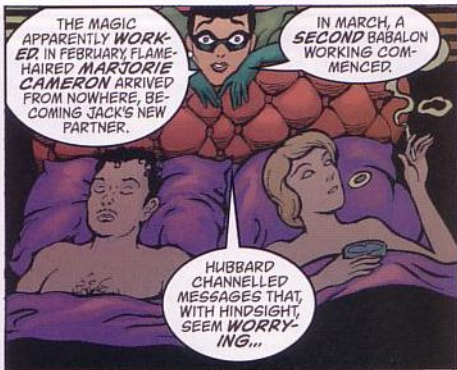
YOU CAN FIND
HER NAME, CAREFULLY
ENCODED IN DR. DEE'S
PROTECTIVE SYMBOL, THE
SIGILLUM AEMETH.
YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE
WORKS OF ALEISTER
CROWLEY.

OH...
AND IN THE BOOK OF
REVELATIONS.



IN JANUARY 1946, PARSONS AND HUBBARD INVOKED BABALON FOR TWELVE DAYS.

DURING THE RITES THERE WERE VIOLENT STORMS, AND A SEVEN-FOOT COLUMN OF YELLOWISH-BROWN LIGHT MATERIALIZED IN THE KITCHEN.



THE MAGIC APPARENTLY WORKED IN FEBRUARY. FLAME-HAIRED MORTICIA CAMERON ARRIVED FROM NOWHERE, BECOMING JACK'S NEW PARTNER.

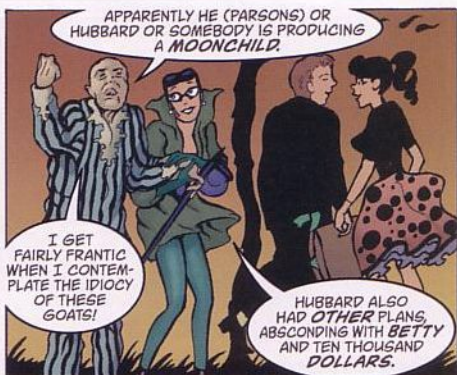
IN MARCH, A SECOND BABALON WORKING COMMENCED.

HUBBARD CHANNELLED MESSAGES THAT, WITH HINDSIGHT, SEEM WORRYING...



"BEAUTIFUL--HORRIBLE... SHE SHALL ABSORB THEE, AND THOU SHALL BECOME LIVING FLAME BEFORE THE INCARNATE!"

PARSONS CONTACTED THE NOW HEROIN-ADDICTED CROWLEY, TALKING OF INCARNATING BABALON. CROWLEY SHARED HIS WORRIES WITH FELLOW MAGICIAN KARL GERMER...



APPARENTLY HE (PARSONS) OR HUBBARD OR SOMEBODY IS PRODUCING A MOONCHILD.

I GET FAIRLY FRANTIC WHEN I CONTEMPLATE THE IDIOTCY OF THESE GOATS!

HUBBARD ALSO HAD OTHER PLANS, ABSCONDING WITH BETTY AND TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.



"IN JUNE, JACK FOLLOWED THE PAIR TO FLORIDA, BUT THEY'D ALREADY SET SAIL ABOARD THEIR BOAT. FRANTIC, JACK CONJURED BARTZABEL, WRATHFUL PLANETARY SPIRIT OF MARS.

"A TERRIFYING SUDDEN SQUALL PROVE THE BOAT BACK TO PORT, AND A WAITING LAWSUIT FROM PARSONS.

"THE INCIDENT DISTRESSED JACK. BY OCTOBER '46 HE'D RESIGNED FROM THE C.T.O. AND MARRIED CAMERON, SUPPORTING THEM BY 'BOOTLEGGING NITROGLYCERINE' AND WORKING IN AVIATION."

IN 1948, URGED BY BABALON TO RESUME MAGICAL WORK, JACK WROTE "THE BOOK OF THE ANTI-CHRIST" (WHOM JACK BY NOW BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE).

IN 1949, THE ANTI-CHRIST STARTED WORK WITH HUGHES AIRCRAFT.

1951, FIRED BY HUGHES, JACK WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SECURITY LEAKS AND SUSPECTED COMMUNISM BY THE F.B.I. BUT THEN, WHO WASN'T?

BY 1952, SECURITY CLEARANCE REVOKED, JACK WORKED AT SEVERAL JOBS, MOSTLY WITH EXPLOSIVES...

OOPS!



THE EXPLOSION HAPPENED JUNE 17TH, 5:08 PM, AT THE HOUSE ON SOUTH ORANGE GROVE AVENUE, WHERE JACK AND MARJORIE WERE LIVING.

JACK APPARENTLY DROPPED AN EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE. ONE ARM WAS BLOWN OFF, OTHER LIMBS BROKEN. HE BECAME LIVING FLAME.

"BEAUTIFUL... HORRIBLE..."

HE WAS CONSCIOUS WHEN THEY PULLED HIM FROM THE WRECKAGE AND LIVED FOR ALMOST FORTY MINUTES. HIS LAST WORDS WERE, "I WASN'T DONE."

IN '53, CAMERON PLAYED BABALON IN KENNETH ANGER'S INAUGURATION OF THE PLEASURE DOME. SHE ROOMED WITH DENNIS HOPPER AND DEAN STOCKWELL, ALLEGEDLY.

IN 1972, RECOGNIZING JACK'S ROCKET WORK, A LUNAR CRATER WAS NAMED AFTER HIM...



"PARSONS' CRATER" IS AT 37 N. LATITUDE, 171 W. LONGITUDE. IT'S ON THE MOON'S DARK SIDE...

...BUT THEN IT WOULD BE, WOULDN'T IT?

JOHN WHITEHIDE PARSONS
1914
1982
THE END