

## CHANGE OUR VILE BODIES

BY SCOTT DORWARD

### WITNESS

*Constance Young*, a trainee journalist from Manchester. Her brother, Lionel, has dropped out from university, cut off contact with his family and joined a hippie commune in Devon. Constance wants to re-establish communications with Lionel. Her strength is that she enjoys taking risks, and her personality trait is *perceptiveness*.

### OTHER CHARACTERS:

- ⊙ *Sylvia Vanstone*, the charismatic leader of the Water of Life Commune. She teaches that human flesh is inherently corrupt and that we should all aspire to purity through spiritual cleansing.
- ⊙ *Alfred Skinner*, a farmer who owns the land next to the commune. He drinks at the local pub, where he often talks about how he'd like to see those bloody hippies gone. There are old rumours that fishermen within Skinner's family had made some sort of pact with the sea, but the family have tried to shake off this superstitious nonsense.
- ⊙ *Father Michael Tope*, the priest of the local Roman Catholic church, Our Lady Star of the Sea. He has a lively interest in local folklore. He also enjoys swimming in the sea, even in cold weather.
- ⊙ *Patricia Dodridge*, a postgraduate marine biologist from the University of Exeter, often seen setting up equipment at odd hours.

### LOCATION AND ERA:

The seaside village of *Salcombe*, in Devon, and the farmland surrounding it, in 1970. The village is a fishing and shipbuilding community, with a naturally sheltered harbour, located near the mouth of the Kingsbridge Estuary.

*Vast array of architectural forms. Structures haphazardly arranged.*

**OTHER LOCATIONS:**

- ⊙ *The Water of Life Commune*, located in the grounds of a crumbling 17th Century farmhouse. As well as the remaining farm buildings, the residents live in tents, yurts and other temporary structures.
- ⊙ *The tidal mudflats* of Batson Creek, a coastal inlet that loops around Salcombe. Despite teeming with life, the flats can be eerily quiet at night and in the early morning, and are often shrouded with mist.
- ⊙ *Sea Mouth Cavern*, a network of caves, partly flooded with seawater from Batson Creek. Traces of human habitation date back thousands of years. Commune members perform cleansing rituals there.
- ⊙ *The Harvest Home*, an old pub in town where local farmers drink. The regulars are less welcoming to visitors since the commune opened.

**SPECIAL CARDS:**

- ⊙ Warped bodies
- ⊙ Specimen
- ⊙ A Hostile Group
- ⊙ Inhuman Creatures

*Petrified shutters identifiable as coming from mesozoic wood or, in a few cases, as late as pliocene.*

*The Elder Ones seem to have been driven back over time, towards their Antarctic core.*

**CHANGE OUR VILE BODIES: SAMPLE CLUES**

- ⊙ Showers of warm, brackish rain, falling from clear skies.
- ⊙ Salt water dripping down the walls of buildings throughout town, even those nowhere near the sea. This starts slowly, with one or two houses, and spreads gradually.
- ⊙ Stories of unexplained disappearances from the surrounding area, dating back for centuries.
- ⊙ A pool of unidentifiable clear, viscous liquid that looks like water, but is not.
- ⊙ Strange sounds echoing from the caves at night, almost like singing, but not recognisably human.
- ⊙ Following a firelit celebration at the commune, unseasonal flooding at Batson Creek washes the wriggling forms of dozens of unidentifiable jellyfish-like sea creatures to shore.
- ⊙ Photographs of cave paintings, depicting something amorphous yet still recognisably human. Some paintings look prehistoric, others disturbingly modern.
- ⊙ A floatation tank with a padlock, as if designed to seal its user inside. Sounds of movement can be heard from within.
- ⊙ Someone is found walking naked through town in a trance, crying and begging to be cleansed.
- ⊙ An old, sealed glass vessel, containing something impossible and apparently alive.
- ⊙ Vanstone serves her followers a sacrament of a strange, pale fungus, with a repellently fleshy texture, harvested from the caves.
- ⊙ An abandoned set of clothing, soaked through with brine. The seams have been burst and the fabric stretched in places as if pulled out of shape.
- ⊙ A drowned body found in a field, far from any body of water.

*Mere incidental details recorded in the background of Elder One histories provide striking confirmation of continental drift theory in general and in the particulars.*