

## THE CHATEAU OF LENG

By *RENEE KNIPE*

### WITNESS

*Latissba Hall*, single black mother of two who just purchased her first home after years of trying and hitting brick walls. Her strength is *perseverance* and her personality trait is *good neighbour*.

### OTHER CHARACTERS

- ⊙ "*Lem*" *Cass*, a Nash Ave. local who did twenty years in Jackson prison thanks to a plea arrangement on a murder charge. He's always maintained his innocence.
- ⊙ *Officer Newhall*, beat cop two years on the job. He patrols Nash Ave. with some regularity, maybe looking for the wrong kind of trouble.
- ⊙ *Geraldine Keening*, the oldest living resident of Nash Ave., predating even the WW2 boom. She's touch and go in the hospital after being found unconscious in her home, having gone several days without heat or electricity. She's very worried about her cat, Sheba...who's going to feed her?
- ⊙ *Victor Lupo*, who goes door-to-door spreading the word of a church no one has ever heard of.

### LOCATION AND ERA

*Nash Avenue*, a primarily black neighbourhood on the outskirts of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Once a WW2-era boomtown that attracted hundreds of poor southern families thanks to a thriving airplane manufacturing industry, Ypsi's been circling the drain for the last forty years as the factory work slowly dries up, and Nash Ave. has been hit as harder than most. The time is 2004, the height of the US housing bubble.

*Devices depicted appear to be weapons, but unclear by what the mechanical or energetic principle they might operate.*

### OTHER LOCATIONS

- ⊙ *The weird new house* on the block – three cyclopean cubes carved from basalt, stacked one atop the other, but slightly skewed.
- ⊙ *Geraldine's house*, collapsing onto itself, even though she just refinanced to have a new roof put on it this past summer.
- ⊙ *The old airplane factory*, closed now since the 50s. A favorite spot for urban explorers, and also certain illicit activities.
- ⊙ *A playground* dominated by a blacktop basketball court. Once nice, the backboards are now rusted, the nets are long gone, and the court itself is pitted and rough, but you can always find someone for a pick up game.

### SPECIAL CARDS

- ⊙ Victims
- ⊙ A bizarrerie
- ⊙ A strange location
- ⊙ Spatiotemporal distortions
- ⊙ A hostile group

*Image depicts Elder One apparently flying through space on membranous wings.*

*Series of sculptures appear to show the creation of life from protoplasmic masses, reminiscent of At-Hazred's Shoggoths*

*Image depicts the construction of the Elder Ones' cities by vast Shoggoths*

**THE CHATEAU OF LENG: SAMPLE CLUES**

- ⊙ Looking at the weird new house on the block for too long gives people headaches. Its angles seem off somehow.
- ⊙ A home in the neighbourhood begins to suffer a dry rot-like malady, and things like plumbing and electricity go on the fritz with alarming frequency.
- ⊙ Neighbourhood pets with the freedom to roam cross Nash Avenue to the south and won't cross back — they just sit on the south side of the street and watch their old homes expectantly, as if waiting for their owners to join them.
- ⊙ A family moves out of the neighbourhood with no advance warning. One day they're there, the next their driveway and home are empty. Not even a U-haul or moving truck was seen coming or going.
- ⊙ A cardboard box full of old home movies, circa the 70s and 80s. They depict a neighbourhood that never was — white, solidly middle class people having barbecues, recording their kids' first attempts at bike rides, etc.
- ⊙ A crawlspace where there shouldn't be one, narrow and confined.
- ⊙ There's something under the porch.
- ⊙ A shallow grave hiding skeletal remains.
- ⊙ Items in a house are rearranged or replaced without explanation.
- ⊙ A new family on the block, who act as though they've always lived here.
- ⊙ One day, the school bus stops picking up kids who have been catching that bus for years.
- ⊙ Someone gets lost on their way home, a drive or walk they've made hundreds of times.
- ⊙ The residents of Nash Ave. wake up to find their house numbers altered.

*Vile Shoggoth servants appear  
protean in form, changing shape and  
even creating temporary organs as  
needed.*