

Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

The Players

Amir Abdullah.....Selim Bahadur
Yeni Alvarez.....Uschi
Rick Batalla.....Farkas
Sean Branney.....Charlie Tower
Kacey Camp.....Claudine Ladeau, Cult Victim
Ken Clement.....Lester Mayhew
Dan Conroy.....Captain Kovács
Mike Dalager.....Border Guard, Wolf Priest
Larissa Gallagher.....Antanasia
Andrew Leman.....Kasimir Bartok
Barry Lynch.....Zoltan Bartok
Szabolcs Parragh.....Bars
Kevin Stidham.....Felix, Ugor
László Szegedi.....Hudak Gyula
Josh Thoemke.....Announcer
Guido Werner.....Grumpy Patron, Guido
Julie Wiesenberg.....Marlene Dietrich
Eddy Will.....Jörg
Time Winters.....Herr Frenzel, Dr. Brunswick

The BLACK STONE

...in
Dylfphone

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LUDO FORE PUTAVIMUS

The Staff

Based on the story by Robert E. Howard
Radio Adaptation by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman
Original Music by Troy Sterling Nies
"Raus mit den Männern" by Friedrich Hollaender,
performed by Sigrid Grajek
German language assistance by Lena and Felix Salinger
Hungarian language assistance by
Flóra Kovács and Zsolt Matyusz
Cover Illustration by Darrell Tutchtton
Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman and Sean Branney
Ottoman Turkish Calligraphy by Josh Berer
Special Thanks to Mark DeCarlo, Jason McKittrick
and Thomas Negovan
Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman
in cooperation with Robert E. Howard Properties LLC
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Written by HPL's friend and colleague Robert E. Howard, "The Black Stone" might be the best Cthulhu Mythos tale not by H. P. Lovecraft. Like Lovecraft, Howard was a self-educated writer for the pulps. Like Lovecraft, Howard's literary creations went on to win substantial popularity after his death, particularly his tales of Conan the Barbarian. While the two never met in person, they greatly respected each other's writing and exchanged voluminous and lively correspondence after encountering each other in the pages of *Weird Tales* from 1930 until Howard's death in 1936.

REH wrote "The Black Stone" in 1931, and it was first published in *Weird Tales* in November of that year. HPL congratulated Howard on the story, and told other friends that it gave him "a kick", which isn't surprising given that it was a deliberate attempt on Howard's part to mimic HPL's style. Like classic mythos tales by HPL himself, Howard's

tale features a forbidding book of occult lore, *Unaussprechlichen Kulten*, by Friedrich Wilhelm von Junzt. Lovecraft appreciated the creation so much he went on to incorporate it in his own stories. The story also prominently features an unnamed "toad god", apparently in allusion to Tsathoggua, the creation of another major *Weird Tales* writer and Lovecraft circle member, Clark Ashton Smith.

In classically Lovecraftian style, Howard's tale is told by an anonymous narrator. We thought it would be fun to integrate the story with other *Dark Adventure Radio Theatre* episodes, so we moved Charlie Tower into the spotlight and created a prequel of sorts to our episode *The Brotherhood of the Beast*, which features both Charlie and his pal the Hungarian spy Kasimir Bartok. We hope listeners will enjoy a new glimpse into their long and strange friendship.

We also drew inspiration from other works that mention Howard's fictional

characters Justin Geoffrey and Alexis Ladeau, such as "The Thing on the Roof" by REH, "The Thing on the Doorstep" by HPL, and "*Von Unaussprechlichen Kulten: A Preliminary History*" by Steven Marc Harris.

Producing an episode that takes place entirely in Eastern Europe posed new challenges for us — not the least of which was for our American actors to pronounce Hungarian words. We're grateful to our global HPLHS network of very helpful people, who helped us try to capture the sound and feeling of post-war Berlin and Hungary.

Robert E. Howard's horror strikes a slightly different tone than Lovecraft's. It is more primal, visceral and brutal than Lovecraft's stories tend to be. But we also think it's a ripping good yarn and we hope you'll enjoy hearing a new literary voice in this latest *Dark Adventure*.

—SB and ARHL