

Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

The Players

Leslie Baldwin Gladys Tantaquidgeon
 Sean Branney Henry Akeley
 Kacey Camp Western Union Operator
 Andrew Leman Albert Wilmarth
 Dick Lizzardo Nelson Barr
 Jacob Lyle Station Agent
 Kevin Stidham Mr. Noyes
 Josh Thoenke Announcer
 Time Winters W.W.N. Anchor
 ttsMP3 B-67

The WHISPERER IN DARKNESS

IN
Hypophonic

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LUDDO FORE PUTAVIMUS

The Staff

Based on the story by H. P. Lovecraft,
 Radio Adaptation by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman
 Dark Adventure & WWN Themes by Troy Sterling Nies
 Cover and Disc Illustrations by Darrell Tutchton
 Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman and Sean Branney
 Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

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Fans of the HPLHS will likely be aware that we adapted this story as a motion picture in 2011. At that time we made some changes to the story which we felt might help the tale be more satisfying as a motion picture and capture the feeling of an early '30s film. We thought it would be fun to revisit *Whisperer* as a DART show and adapt it in a different manner. We had no idea how different this show would be.

We produced this show during the heart of the lockdown response to COVID-19. We were eager to put together a show that people could enjoy while cooped up at home during shelter-in place orders that affect much of the world. We also wanted to produce the show in a manner that would ensure the health and safety of our entire team through the process. So we wrote the show with a “found footage” concept, which would allow us to produce it differently than previous episodes. In the past, we’ve gathered groups of actors around microphones in a studio with engineers and recorded scenes. This episode was produced without ever having more than one person in the same place at any one time. We did our initial “table read” over the internet. Some scenes were recorded remotely—even over the phone. The character of B-67 was performed by an actual synthesized voice. The result was a new approach to a familiar story, and one that was in keeping with these challenging times.

Disasters — and the desperate “conspiracy” theories they engender — are of course not unique to modern times. Lovecraft took inspiration from the record floods which devastated Vermont and the surrounding area in early November of 1927. Lovecraft had visited the region and visited his friend, George Goodenough Akeley, in his rural farm in Vermont’s Green Mountains. As a lifelong city-dweller, Lovecraft was thrilled with the fictional possibilities of unseen horrors lurking in the monstrous hills. He completed the tale in the autumn of 1930 and the story was published in *Weird Tales* the following year.

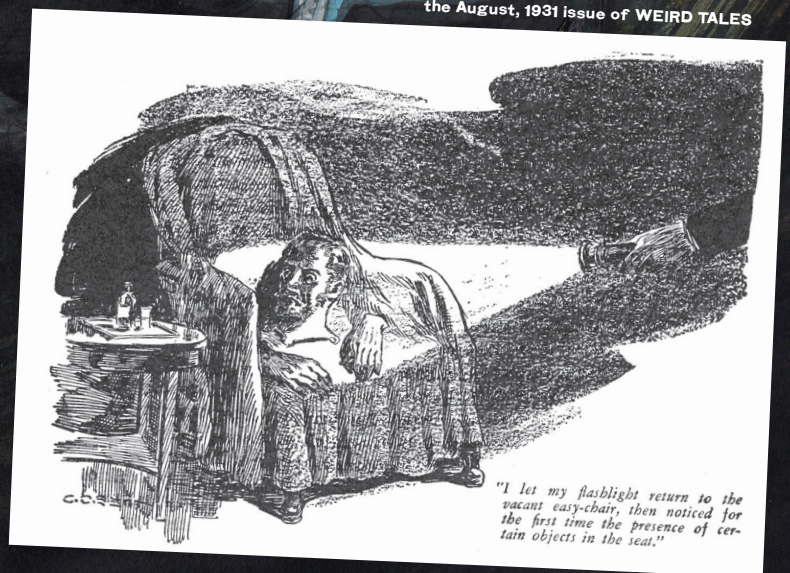
Whisperer is one of HPL’s greatest literary achievements. It’s one of the earliest blendings of science-fiction and horror. It provides one of the earliest (and most powerful) depictions of a sentient disembodied brain, and it brings us a strange cosmic race of truly alien beings, the Mi-Go, which have continued to whisper to us, unseen, for nearly a century.

As we go to press with this episode, the COVID crisis is still in full force. The team at the HPLHS wishes you all good health and better days ahead.

—SB & AHL



C. O. Senf's plot-spoiling illustration for the August, 1931 issue of WEIRD TALES



"I let my flashlight return to the vacant easy-chair, then noticed for the first time the presence of certain objects in the seat."