

DIABLERIE

A Taste That's to Die For...

Diablerie — the anathema of the Camarilla. The law that cannot be broken. The bane of all powerful vampires. The temptation of all neonates. To drink the blood of your elders is to gain their power, but it is also to risk destruction. Who can resist the sweetest vitae of all?

Over and Over Again

Diablerie combines the most dangerous adventures ever published for *Vampire: The Masquerade: Awakening* and *Bloody Hearts*. Finally, characters have the chance to taste the blood of the Methuselahs — and gain immeasurable power! But at what price? There are worse things than Final Death.

Diablerie features:

- Two of the first *Vampire* story supplements combined under one new cover.
- Complete stories about the hunt for the dreaded Methuselahs, and the chance to diablerize them!
- A look at Gehenna and how diablerie hastens its coming.



VAMPIRE
The Masquerade



GAMES FOR MATURE MINDS

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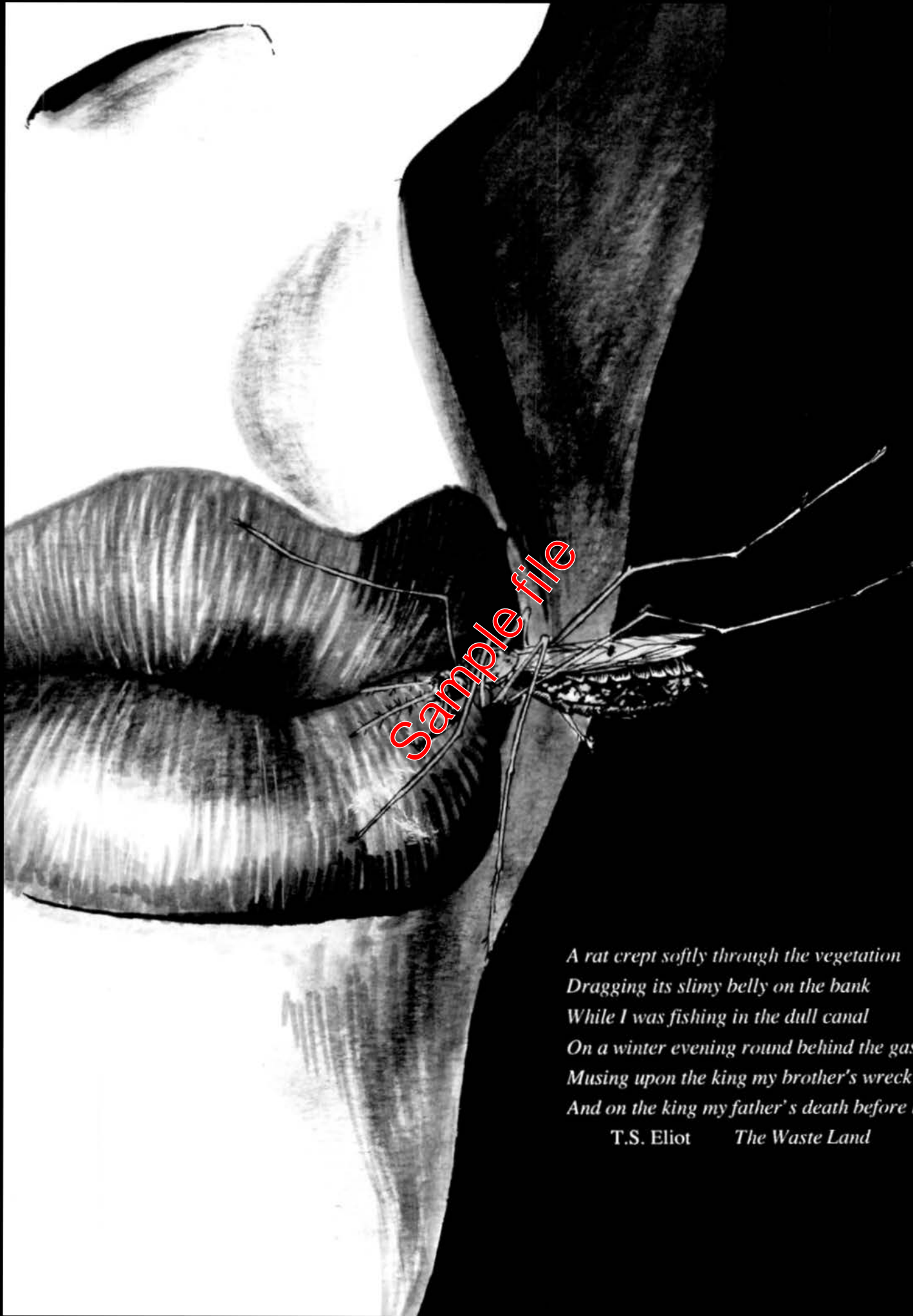
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Awakening

Diablerie: Mexico

BY NIGEL FINDLEY





Sample file

*A rat crept softly through the vegetation
Dragging its slimy belly on the bank
While I was fishing in the dull canal
On a winter evening round behind the gashouse
Musing upon the king my brother's wreck
And on the king my father's death before him.*

T.S. Eliot *The Waste Land*

Pietr lowered the limp body of his drained Vessel to the pavement of the noisome alley. He licked the last traces of blood from his lips.

Yes. He could feel the thin vitæ of his victim as a churning incorporated into himself. Refreshing strength flowed through his limbs until his very skin began to tingle. He raised his eyes from the crumpled body of the would-be mugger — how foolish the boy had been to choose as his intended victim a far more lethal predator — and smiled at the cloud-streaked moon hanging distended over the high rooftops of Chicago. His eye teeth — his killing teeth — were still extended, and glinted evilly in the cold moonlight.

Something glittered at his feet — the mugger's switchblade, with which he'd threatened to take his killer's life. How foolish the weapon had seemed to Pietr. How easily he had brushed it aside, before reaching in to shatter the youth's jaw with a single, hideously strong blow. He laughed as he kicked the weapon aside.

The exhilaration of the fresh vitæ was a siren-song in Pietr's ears. Even though it had tasted thin, only slightly stronger than water, it still carried with it its full curative and restorative powers. That was interesting, Pietr noted, and valuable. Even though his tastes had become somewhat ... jaded by his recent diet, the blood of mere kine could still serve him. Yes, interesting, and good. Although he would continue in his set path, seeking out and draining those Elders foolish enough to leave themselves vulnerable, Diableric was not Pietr's sole course of action. The Kindred could support him in time of need, as they always had in the past.

His tongue and lips tingled — burned, almost — with the memory of the last time he had drunk Kindred vitæ. In France, it had been. Through his research, he had unearthed the Haven of an Elder. By cunning and courage, he had overcome the creature's defenses, and drained that Vessel dry. His heart pounded, and his spirit leapt as he recalled the fierce joy of the Inspiration, the piercing death-yet-not-death of the Rebirth. How he longed to taste once more the savage, hot blood of his own Kindred ...

It was that longing that had brought him at last to this city. Here, his research had told him, he would find a prize beyond price — one of the Kindred who knew the ancient blood-magic, the Ritual of the Bitter Rose. And with that Ritual — when Pietr had obtained it, by whatever means it might take — the Diabolist would gain powers that would elevate him to near-godhood. He would become the ultimate threat to the Camarilla, and the ruler of all the Kindred.

With a harsh laugh of exhilaration and anticipation, he vanished into the night.

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Vampire: The Masquerade™ was created by Mark Rein•Hagen

Dedication:

This book is dedicated to all the characters who died in the playtesting of this story.



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