

Lighthouse

by Lainie Hyman

Black and white streamers wrap around the old tower. A storm is brewing. Waves crash against the lighthouse, soaking the rock it sits on. Gusts of



wind howl. Mercilessly tormenting the aged structure, they beat the battered walls. The rotating ray of light pours over the water, shining through the grim sky. Grey clouds above carry heavy rain. The world is dark. Time after time, drops of falling water sting the walls of the tower. Yet despite the howling winds and piercing rain, the structure stands unchanged. Thunder crashes. Bright lightning touches the

surface of the earth. The sounds of the ocean are drowned out by the pounding of rain against the water; and the stormy night drags on.

The Forest

by Tyler Gibson

Leaves snap as you stride through trees and shrubs on the vast green forest floor. Vines hang down like hands reaching out. When one lands on your shoulder, you shriek, but quickly realize it is nothing. The spikes from the pricker bushes are like hooks ripping your skin. The trees in some spots are so dense that is hard to squeeze through the impenetrable vegetation. Coming up on a thick swamp, the mosquitoes start to bite viciously. An abundance of animals can be seen through the murky water, and alligators, with their small snouts just above water, wait for their next meal. Turtles' heads poke out of the water, surveying the land, deciding where to rest for the remainder of the day. Trekking on the uncharted land, you stumble onto a battlefield of dead trees. There is no sign of movement or life. Even the ground is charred, dead, and barren. The sky turns gray as you and the land are covered in a shower of cold, heavy rain.

The Monkey Man

by John Peter Price

He lived in a cave in the high mountains in Africa. They called him "The Monkey Man." The man used to be a scientist until an experiment went terribly wrong. He was cast out of society as a freak.

The experiment endowed him with the abilities of a monkey. He could swerve, leap, climb, swing, and scurry better than any regular human. With his new skills, he lusted for power. So M.M. scurried across Africa to the Atlantic Ocean. From there he swam to the U.S. In the U.S., he hijacked a bus to a laboratory in Kansas.

Kansas is the perfect place to hide a top secret laboratory. It was surrounded by a chain-linked fence, barbed wire, strong guards with armor-plated uniforms and a huge watch tower. But that didn't phase Monkey Man. As he made it into the building, he used the "5 D's of Dodgeball" (dodge, dip, duck, dive, and dodge) to get to the central part of the laboratory, which was lined with metal paneling and high-tech control panels. Wires filtered into a big tube-like structure on a colossal series of scientific gizmos and gadgets. Monkey Man knew it was a cloning vat. With it, he could create an army of super powered monkey men that could rule the world! Monkey Man stealthily crept to the controls of one of the cloning vats. The famous scientist Dr. Port E. Potty and several gigantic bodyguards with immense muscles were unaware of M. M.'s whereabouts. He set the number of clones for one gazillion and silently slipped into the empty vat. The scientist and buff bodyguards spotted him, but it was too late. The mutated freaks poured out of the vat, quickly taking out the bodyguards who were blasting lasers at them. As Dr. Potty took cover, he already knew this might be the end of the world...

