

WHIT GRIFFIN

from WE WHO SAW EVERYTHING

- 3136 As Cadmus introduced the Phoenician
alphabet. As the world is being fitted into the strait-
Phoenix in jacket of the English language. The sacred stories of
the Rasin the Ojibwa were recorded on birchbark scrolls. Es-Sigill
Tree rolls up the scrolls. Pliny lip-synched to his slaves'
reading from behind a curtain. When actors were
classed as slaves. The first permanent theatre in Rome
3143 was built in 55 BCE. *Shall we leave our gods for an
infatuated poet?* That you would fain have no arms.
Riding in a blue rocket, with a child's arm in his pocket.
Ishmael not Isaac was taken as a sacrifice. God gave
Solomon dominion over the winds. The reward for
the marble falling down. Marble for the listener. There's
not a word for it in English. Propemptikon—a poem of
3150 bon voyage. *He was wont to skim the swell of the gray sea.*
The want to cohere. It's more coherent than we know.
He is the opener who knows. *He had a sanctuary at
Oropos on the confines of Attica where, giving oracles
during sleep, he cured the sick.* Slit the skin, open up
passages for the Manitou to pass into. The merciful
in the unseen. The gift of grief. Their grief was so great
3157 they ate their food uncooked. *They will receive snakes
into the folds of their flowing robes.* They lay sole to sole.
They bite their finger tips in rage. *You don't touch Sanity
even with your finger tips.* Favoring a flint knife
long after other materials were known. The charm of
Prometheus. The daughters of Ares and Harmonia.
Eleuthia, Minoan predecessor of Demeter. Love,
3164 the destroyer. Nemesis, goddess of retaliation. Arioch,
spirit of revenge. An ill drink and an evil couch. *Hell
is empty, and all the devils are here!* Beneficial spirits

live under the threshold. The Manitou are everywhere in nature. *They were making their dusky wings quiver upon their ankles on both sides as they rose.* As it was thought witches could sell wind to seafarers. The love of witches for odd numbers. The yesty waves confound navigation. *Who would go to bed with a sea monster if he could help it?* We shall lose our time and be turned to barnacles. The large fly seen buzzing at Urbain Grandier's execution was said to be Beelzebub. As the demon is man's companion soul. As truffles were thought to be produced from a germinating fluid in thunder. Beware of killing a woodcock lest you dispossess your grandmother's soul. 133 owl species. 327 hummingbird species. They say the owl is the baker's daughter. According to Aelian the hare sleeps with its eyes open. The moon is a hare, a rabbit pounding rice in a mortar. Jacob is the man in the moon. Dante calls him Cain, Chaucer gives him a thorn bush. The prophetic qualities of thorn apple, little white hair. Acacia, Egyptian thorn. Apples falling in the night. The man in the moon with his bundle of sticks. Mityan is the moon. Worship the moon on bended knee. As the Arcadians, who lived before the moon. Even before clouds. The moon's mother-in-law threw ashes in his face. The smoke of medicated leaves burnt surreptitiously at a man's hearth. *He was probably epileptic. His skin was covered with ringworm. He was worried that he was not married.* Phylis was seized by love for Cycnus, a reluctant boy. Some whom the noise seized. Like the coyote that crashed into the tree. His habit of dividing into flames. As the fire-drake is a weaker kind of lightning. As the magpie is considered the witch's bird. Witches are adept at brewing. As witch-cats to beer. Galanthis was turned into a cat but became a sacred animal of Hecate. The souls of the dead ride the night winds with their howling dogs. Dragons draw the chariot of night. *Nero is an angler in the lake of darkness.* Mahu is the prince of darkness. Dark

- 3206 practices that appear eerie to the ignorant. They sold their Bible to buy a bear. Thieves stole the bishop's hawk from the cloister. Mahomet fed a dove wheat from his ear. *Was Mahomet inspired with a dove?* The dove of Paphos, the dove of Venus. As traders wrote letters on silk and tied them to the wings of trained doves. The last passenger pigeon died in Cincinnati in 1914. The lark and the toad changed eyes. The robin covers the dead man's face with moss. As it is said serpents sleep with their eyes open. *Sometime am I all wound with adders.* To burst snakes asunder by incantations. To be struck by lightning is to be honored by Jupiter. Belemnite, thought to be a gem that fell with lightning. Thunder stone. A sardonyx on the third eye, to get in touch with previous incarnations.
- 3213 Atalanta to the Calydonian boar. The boar of Thessaly, foaming at the mouth. The spectre huntsman and his furious host. As Hecate caused aconite to spring from the foam of Cerberus, when Hercules dragged him from the regions of Pluto. Thorn apple sprang from the chest of Shiva. Barbason appeared as a lion. Prostrate before the lion. *So hares insult the lion when he's dead.* As the devil combs the goat's beard. Teasel to comb velvet. Covered in toad skins and dog teeth. Let the snail put out its horn. Sharp horns do threaten windy weather. *One of these prescriptions that are carried around in the vest pockets of vicious young men.* He decreed them seven heavens in two days. *His professional duties obliged him to sojourn in various French ports.* As Capricorn to Gaul. As starlings were taught Latin and Greek words, for the amusement of young Caesars. Halcyons on the winter seas. *And of His signs are the ships that sail like mountains on the sea.* Idleness was the rainy weather. Oedipus, the man with the swollen feet. The gilded newt. Mars gave Hector a gilt nutmeg. To gild your bust. Vulcan fashioned mastiffs of gold and silver. John Norton sought to build a bridge of gold over the Thames. Roofs
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- By Saint Anne and Ginger of silver for their houses. *By the elevated roof! by the swelling sea!* Potable gold. Roc eggs filled with rum. Rocket and rosewater. Sold for a cup of Madeira and a cold capon leg. A bowl that kisses the mistress. Large-eyed damsels like sheltered eggs.
- 3248 The liaison with the Coptic handmaiden. An agate in the gallant's hat. As the gull-catcher lends money to the gallant. Up three nights with the hawk. *My falcon now is sharp and passing empty.* Faustina on an eagle. When the kite builds, look to lesser linen. How do you represent tweed? The flipping clappers. A knot of leeches. Music as medical agency.
- 3255 A flavor of consecutive fifths. Many varieties of sound under the control of one player. When the serpent was overtaken by the tuba. The horn of Alexander the Great. A trumpet from a scooped out squash. As squash blossom is an alias for datura. Theobald Boehm created the modern flute. The molimo makes the sacred sound that summons the forest's wisdom.
- 3262 The sound of origin. As sighs wear out the animal powers. The cornu's menacing murmur. As mirth is a forerunner of adversity. Humor as a mode of introspection. Clove incense to keep away negative forces. As the bay is of the good angel. Bay trees withered throughout the king's realm. *It is a broken branch the witches choose.* It is said witches brought a night dance, la Volta, out of Italy and into France. The genius of death announces his approach. A pomander against the plague. As the king's touch cures scrofula. Charles I touched seventy persons in one day. Louis XIV touched 1600 persons on Easter Sunday, 1686. The barren await Lupercalia. To be struck with a leather strap, by a strapping naked youth. An ebon staff with a bag of sand fixed to the end. Ebony sinks in water. The apricot, the precious tree, flowers before the peach.
- 3276 Some say Judas hanged himself from an aspen. Lucky fellows amid thornless lote trees. The owl in the ivy bush. The obnoxious person is destroyed by a poisoned

fig. The magical properties of vervain, gathered on
 Midsummer Eve. The madness of midsummer. *Quickness*
 3283 *of temper blossoms into madness.* As the mad cattle have
 their horns bound with straw. *Madmen cannot go to*
sleep at all because of the throbbing of their minds. The fool
 nods when he should speak. The Lord Mayor's fool leapt
 into a large bowl of custard. He speaks holiday. *Good*
liquor will make a cat speak. As a lie brings up a blister
 on the tongue. The incompatible truths. The often
 3290 ignored war between friars and fairies. What the orthodox
 claim about mermaids. As the cockle shell is the pilgrim's
 badge. As Vishnu to the conch shell. A leek for Saint
 David. A soup of the young vegetables which are in season.
 The salt they brought us was mixed with chervil seed.
 Pancakes and cock fighting on Shrove Tuesday. The
 roasted pigs at Bartholomew Fair. The pod with nine
 3297 peas gets placed on the lintel of the kitchen door.
 Rachel desired Reuben's mandrakes. Let the sky rain
 potatoes. *Let the stricken deer go weep.* Not everyone
 with untied shoes is in love. Roses on your shoes.
 Rosebud formation. Valentine formation. A dog-rose
 for the house of York. *Brag is a good dog, but hold-fast*
is a better. He had arrived at the knowledge of the green
 and red dragon. Not on a green but on a floor strewed
 with ashes. *It throws off sparks like towers,—as though*
they were yellow camels! Cain's yellow beard. *You*
should be women, and yet your beards forbid me to
 3304 *interpret that you are so.* The trial by the stool. Werewolves
 don't have tails. *Hot as monkeys, as salt as wolves in*
pride. A wilderness of monkeys. A ladder to the gates
 3311 of heaven, on which the devils stand and listen to the
 angels. A nightlight for the rich, a candle for the poor.
 When the poor were made to wear the letter P on their
 right sleeves. Abundance is a river in Paradise.