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*The*  
**PHANTOM**  
*Flyer*  
AND THE  
**AGENTS OF C.H.A.O.S.**

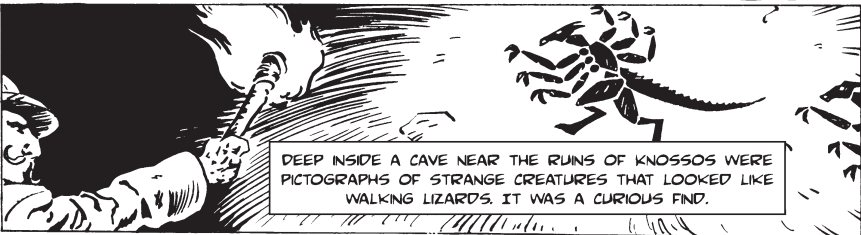


**THE  
MENACE  
OF THE  
THULE**

IN 1907 LORD FRANCIS BEEDLES LED A TEAM OF EXPLORERS TO THE GREEK ISLAND OF CRETE. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR THE LABYRINTH WHERE THESEUS SLEW THE MINOTAUR. WHAT THEY DISCOVERED WAS EVEN MORE REMARKABLE.



DEEP INSIDE A CAVE NEAR THE RUINS OF KNOSSOS WERE PICTOGRAPHS OF STRANGE CREATURES THAT LOOKED LIKE WALKING LIZARDS. IT WAS A CURIOUS FIND.



SO WAS THE GATEWAY, A DOOR THAT SOMEHOW LED THEM TO A STRANGE NEW WORLD . . .



A WORLD POPULATED BY THE VERY CREATURES THEY HAD FOUND ON THE WALLS.





OF THE SEVEN EXPLORERS, ONLY ONE RETURNED -- A PHOTOGRAPHER BY THE NAME OF JEREMIAH HIBBIT.



HE BROUGHT BACK PICTURES, BUT THEY WERE DISMISSED AS FAKES.



SOON BIZARRE CREATURES WERE SPOTTED IN PLACES LIKE LONDON, TOKYO, AND NEW YORK CITY. FOR THE GATEWAY WORKED BOTH WAYS.



SOME WITNESSES EVEN CLAIMED THAT THE CREATURES COULD SHAPESHIFT.



YEARS LATER THERE WERE RUMORS THAT HITLER FOUND AN ENCLAVE OF THE LIZARD MEN, AND THAT HE ENLISTED TO FIGHT IN HIS ARMY.



IN RESPONSE, THE UNITED STATES FORMED THE CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS AGAINST THE OCCULT AND SUPERNATURAL.



CHAOS AGENTS LEARNED THAT THE LIZARD MEN WERE A RACE OF WARMONGERS KNOWN AS THE THULE.



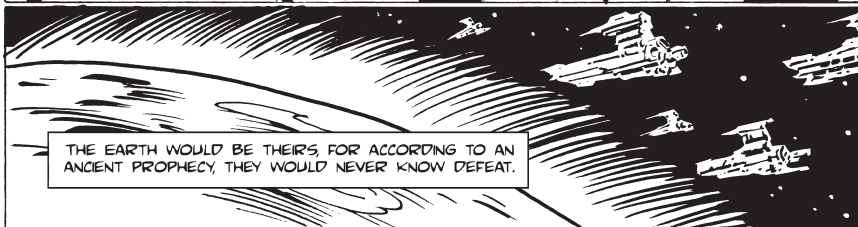
OVER THE CENTURIES THEY HAD EXPANDED THEIR EMPIRE BY DESTROYING WORLD AFTER WORLD. NOW THAT THEIR OWN PLANET WAS DYING, THEY SOUGHT THE EARTH AS THEIR NEW HOME.



AFTER THE ALLIES DEFEATED HITLER, THE THULE WENT INTO HIDING. THEY WAITED AS THEIR SCIENTISTS INVENTED A TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD OPEN A GATEWAY LARGE ENOUGH FOR THEIR MACHINES OF WAR.



THE EARTH WOULD BE THEIRS, FOR ACCORDING TO AN ANCIENT PROPHECY, THEY WOULD NEVER KNOW DEFEAT.



THAT IS UNTIL ONE OF THEIR OWN BLOOD -- THE BETRAYER -- WOULD TURN AGAINST HIS PEOPLE. ON THAT DAY, THEIR EMPIRE WILL CRUMBLE.



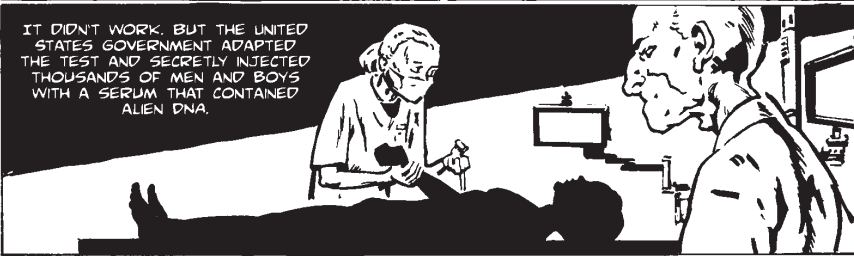
WHEN AMERICAN TROOPS LEARNED ABOUT THE PROPHECY, IT GAVE THEM AN IDEA . . .



DESPERATE TO END THE WAR, GIs INJECTED THEMSELVES WITH THE BLOOD FROM AN ALIEN CADAVER. THEY HOPED IT WOULD TURN AT LEAST ONE OF THEM INTO THE BETRAYER.



IT DIDN'T WORK, BUT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ADAPTED THE TEST AND SECRETLY INJECTED THOUSANDS OF MEN AND BOYS WITH A SERUM THAT CONTAINED ALIEN DNA.



IT TOOK MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS, BUT THEY FINALLY FOUND A MATCH.



AS THE THULE PREPARE TO INVADE, OUR LEADERS PRAY THAT COLT MCALISTER TRULY IS THE ONE . . . THAT HE IS THE BETRAYER.

## BIG QUESTIONS

1. One of the stipulations for attending the CHAOS Military Academy is that cadets are not allowed to use cell phones, portable music players, or laptop computers. They have no access to the Internet or their families for eighteen months. What would it take for you to make that kind of sacrifice?
2. The night before Colt moved to Virginia, agents from the Department of Alien Affairs detained him. They detained Lily too. Colt wanted to call her and apologize for what happened, but he was worried that she'd be upset, so he put it off until it was too late. Are you the kind of person who prefers to ignore interpersonal conflict, hoping that time will help the problem disappear? Or do you like to talk things out right away and get it over with?
3. Colt has strong romantic feelings toward Lily. In fact, he thinks that he might be in love, but he isn't sure. What are the odds of two sixteen-year-olds falling in love and staying together for the rest of their lives? Do you know married couples that met when they were in high school?
4. Colt went through a series of dangerous tests sanctioned by the United States government when he was a child. They wiped his memory, but his parents and his grandfather knew about them. They never told him. When Colt finally found out they knew, he felt betrayed. Is withholding the truth the same as lying? Is there ever a time when withholding the truth or lying would be the upright thing to do?

## BIG QUESTIONS

5. All his life Colt dreamed of saving the world from supervillains and alien invasions. But now that he has the chance to actually do it, he isn't sure if he's ready. Has there been a time in your life when you were called on to do something, but you didn't feel qualified? What happened?
6. Colt appreciates that Danielle tells him the truth, even when it might upset him. Do you have friends in your life who are willing to be honest with you, even if it means that you might get upset? Are you willing to be honest with your friends regardless of their reactions?
7. Pierce Bowen attacks a cadet at the CHAOS Military Academy because he was different. Colt steps in to protect the cadet even though he risks getting jumped by Pierce and his friends. What would you do if you saw someone getting bullied?
8. In the book, government agents manipulate evidence and two career criminals are incarcerated for crimes they didn't commit. Do you think governments have that kind of power? If so, do you think they're willing to exercise that power?
9. In the story, Colt's grandfather talks about seeing fellow soldiers die in combat. He thinks video games glorify death. Do you agree? Is there anything wrong with killing people in a video game?
10. Colt's grandfather gives him a medallion inscribed with Psalm 46:1. It states that *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*. Has there been a time in your life where that was true?