

Lamia

Roderick Blake, a true believer, professor of psychology, and explorer of that antemundane and mysterious realm prosaically referred to as the "supernatural," thought for some time, as did most, that the murders about the mid-sized campus of Dunbar University were the product of a common-place and relatively innocuous serial killer, and not the work of some crepuscular, sanguinary, and soul-devouring creature akin to the vampire. Possessing a mind so open and broad that he'd adopted a literal interpretation of Judeo-Christian Scripture--including acknowledgement of the manifold benign and malefic spiritual realities attending such beliefs--Blake nevertheless ignored for some time what his intuition told him to be true: That, in fact, some baleful entity in service to sentient Evil (that Enemy of mankind and the Ancient of Days from before the world), had begun to prey upon young men at Dunbar.

The particulars of the murders were certainly something above and beyond the quotidian, even in the inscrutable world of corporeal serial killers. The three student victims, all aged nineteen to twenty-one, had not just been drained of blood, but were found in their dorm rooms having had all bodily fluids removed, so that what remained resembled something more like

withered husks--desiccated and weather-worn scarecrows--than the mortal remnants of what had been virile and healthy youths.