

Family Papers #1

(From Echoes of Angels, by Teresa Stansbury, 1934)

...From the mud and water green and brown there came a million fingers on a million hands of vine, reaching for life, stretching for sustenance and dragging into its maw all it could reach. Feeding, it grew stronger until one by one the farms succumbed, and then the outer houses. And it would have grown stronger still had not a single man of God stood fast against its its muddy march.

...I saw a priest, a noble bald figure of holiness, speaking ancient words of power, and the unworldly intelligence obeyed. He forced the swamp back, back into its core, where its evil would hurt only itself. A Great Seal he constructed then, woven from eldritch power and

cosmic rites, which stands to this day.

...But I have seen the end of the Great Seal, the second rise of the green and evil force that gives life to the swamp and takes life from all those around it. First the water rises and spreads, oozing oily around the ankles of the farmers. Then the swamp lifts its roots and hunts like an animal. And in the end, the swamp rises from below and drowns Bower and her people...

...The priest who died and yet will live again knew this and knows this still. He has hidden the key in a secret place, between the wings of the cherubim.