



THE EARTH EATERS



THERE WAS A VAST AND ABUNDANT OCEAN.
OUT OF THE BLUE CAME THE LAND, IT FLEW IN
LITTLE PIECES INTO THE AIR, AND FORMED SOLIDS
AS IT OXIDIZED. LAND SOLIDS, CURVACEOUS FORMS,
AND LIFE GREW, AND THAT ALSO WAS ABUNDANT.
CRAWLERS CRAWLED, FURBALLS WALKED, AND
FEATHERS FLEW. CRACKS EXPOSED INNARDS AND
THE NAKED BEINGS CALLED MAN GREW CURIOUS.

WHAT'S IN IT? MAN ASKED. OOOH, STRONG THINGS,
AND MAGIC THINGS, THINGS THAT GLITTER, THINGS
THAT DO NOT BURN EASILY, THINGS THAT BURN
SLOWLY, THINGS THAT BURN FAST, THINGS THAT

MAKE SHARP TOOLS AND THINGS THAT MAKE
STRONG CLOTHING AND COVERS TO PROTECT
OURSELVES FROM SHARP TOOLS.

THE MEN CALLED EACH OTHER BANJO AND BIG EARS,
AND NEVERDID; CURLY, HUNGRY, AND BABY BOY.
IT WAS A WORLD OF MEN, AND THE SCAVENGERS
WAITED.

ALL THESE GENERATIONS, HYENA WAS THINKING OF
THE NEXT BONES, BLOOD, AND FEAST; THE
LEAVINGS FROM THE ENDLESS PICK-PICK-PICK
AND TAP-TAP-TAP.

THE SCAVENGERS LURKED ON HIGH GROUND, FAR
ENOUGH TO AVOID THE SWAY OF AN AXE OR SWING
OF AN EXTRACTOR ARM.

SING THE NAME, SING THE NAME, SING THE NAME.
WIND SINGS THE NAMES OF THE EARTH EATERS,
SING THE NAMES, SING THE NAMES, SING OF THE
EATEN EARTH. WE CALL IT HOLE, PIT, DEPOSIT,
SWALLOW, MOUTH, SHAFT, LODE, DEPRESSION,
CAVITY, HEAP-LEAVING, PILE, TAILING, CRATER,
HOLLOW, GOODBYE, DITCH, DUG-UP, SICK-POOL,
ABYSS, VORTEX, BELLY, ACID TRENCH, HELLO,
ARGOSY, GOLD MINE, STOREHOUSE, WELLSPRING,

ARMORY, CORNUCOPIA, DIMPLE, CHUNK, HUNK,
FOUNTAINHEAD, SCAR, REPOSITORY, SHAVING,
SCRAPE, RIFT, TREASURE TROVE, TICK HOLE, VUG,
POT OF GOLD, SINKHOLE.

THE MINERS HAD DWINDLED;
THE EARTH WAS EMPTIED, DRY, AND TIRED.
RAT GIGGLED, HYENA LAUGHED, CROW GUFFAWED.

EVERYONE FELL IN THE OCEAN.

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