Mothman

Jeremy Tinder

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Mothman

Abstract
A comic, also featured in the anthology from the sister press, Pressgang: MONSTERS: A COLLECTION OF LITERARY SIGHTINGS.

Keywords
comic, creatures, music, radio, batteries
Mothman

A Comic by Jeremy Tinder

Mothman is also featured in the anthology from our sister press, Pressgang: MONSTERS: A COLLECTION OF LITERARY SIGHTINGS, available next month.

(click on comic)
Jeremy Tinder is a painter and cartoonist living and working in Chicago. He teaches classes on comics and cartooning at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Tinder's work can be found in the award-winning anthologies Papercutter, Mome and Popgun, as well as in his two books from Top Shelf. Tinder is a founding member of the Chicago-based collaborative comics collective “Trubble Club” and a core member of the installation/performance art collective “Paintallica”.

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THE MOTHMAN WOULD LAY ON HIS BACK AND STARE AT THE STARS, LISTENING TO BLUES, JAZZ, AND FOLK MUSIC.

DURING THE DAY HE WOULD STALK AND EAT WILD ANIMALS. AND AT NIGHT HE WOULD LISTEN TO HIS MUSIC.

THIS IS HOW IT WENT FOR YEARS.

UNTIL ONE DAY, THE MUSIC SEEMED TO BEGIN EARLY.

AND YEARS.
AND THE MOTHMAN WENT TO INVESTIGATE.

AND...

IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THIS:

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THIS:

OR THIS:

THE MOTHMAN COULD NOW LISTEN TO HIS MUSIC WHENEVER HE PLEASED.

BUT TO BE SURE, THIS CHANGED EVERYTHING.

AND NOW THERE WAS SOMETHING NEW...
Rock and Roll.

But it was Led Zeppelin that the Mothman could feel reverberate deep in his bones.

At first Mothman was into the Beatles, then the Stones...

Or exoskeleton.

Mothman was so deeply involved in listening to his FM radio, that he would completely lose track of time.

During those first few weeks he even forgot to eat.

Either way...

He became thin and frail.

He was only broken out of his stupor when the music suddenly stopped.

He had seen enough cars being jumped and flashlights being used at the roadhouse to understand this.

He quickly determined the cause to be dead batteries.

Mothman was no dummy.
He would fly low alongside the road, making his way into nearby towns to steal batteries. These trips eventually lead to the first reported sightings of the mothman.

Many have attempted to link these sightings to tragedies in the surrounding areas.

These are coincidences.

Mothman is not involved in causing, nor predicting any of the following:

- Bridge collapses
- Earthquakes
- Rockslides
- Tornadoes
THE 70s AND 80s WERE THE HEYDAY FOR AMERICAN ROCK RADIO, AND THOSE WERE THE HAPPIEST YEARS OF MOTHMAN’S LIFE.

BUT AS TIME WENT ON, LARGE CORPORATIONS BOUGHT LOCAL STATIONS.

AND MOTHMAN FOUND HIMSELF UNABLE TO TUNE TO HIS FAVORITES.

TURNING THEM INTO ADVERTISER FRIENDLY “LITE ROCK” STATIONS.

SO HE MADE ONE FINAL TRIP INTO TOWN TO GATHER AS MANY BATTERIES AS HE COULD CARRY.

AND WENT IN SEARCH FOR THE STRONGEST HARD ROCK SIGNAL.

HE FOUND HIMSELF PERCHED ATOP AN APPALACIAN PEAK JUST BENEATH A RADIO TOWER.

MOTHMAN THEN MADE A VOW TO HIMSELF - THAT IF THIS STATION EVER CHANGES FORMATS, OR WHEN HE RUNS OUT OF BATTERIES FOR HIS STEREO, WHICHEVER CAME FIRST...

HE WOULD THROW HIMSELF FROM THAT MOUNTAIN.