





A LISTENER'S COMPANION

Where we tell the story of Mr. Nightmist, a figure, through generations, shrouded in mystery and legend.

WITH A TIP OF THE HAT

We bid you welcome.

BINARY MAGIC

We begin our story as a letter catches up with our subject on his travels in search of hidden knowledge and secrets of the universe. The contents of the letter give him pause, and he finds himself thrust back to the days of youth. Confronted with the all but forgotten reason he set out on this journey, memories so vivid they are real to the touch come flooding over him. Although, or possibly because, he suspects the sender of the letter is ignorant of his history and the inherent danger regarding its nature, he resolves to grant the request. He makes his preparations and heads for Caldwell Town.

BURN! WITCHES BURN!

Caldwell Town: birthplace and home to a young Mr. Nightmist. Where the town witch, an intelligent, highly skilled and unusually wise young woman—and the love of his life—finds trouble knocking on her door. Times are hard and scapegoats are sought. In time-honored fashion the town's mayor, fueled by his ambitions and, at least in this case, past rejections, picks his minority target. Mr. Nightmist can only watch as a grinning mayor masterfully plays the townfolk like a violin in the hands of Paganini.

The fires are lit and the curse is cast.





Torn apart by grief and seething with impotent rage over the sad state of affairs, Mr. Nightmist's first impulse is to resort to violence. However, the witch's mother, having received word of the happenings, sends counsel to the contrary, and he instead resolves to leave the town to avoid an all too likely date with death himself. NOW

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW

Striking up a conversation with a fellow wanderer on the road away from Caldwell Town Mr. Nightmist paints a (very accurate) picture of the recently departed Ms. Merian.

I CAN DO MAGIC

The years pass. Things appear to return to normal in Caldwell Town. Then one day seemingly out of the blue, some children make a surprising—and dangerous—discovery. Meanwhile, Mr. Nightmist is collecting lost souls in far corners of the world, growing stronger day by day.

SERIOUS BLACK MAGIC

With nearly every child in Caldwell Town awakening to magic they hold the town in a grip of unholy terror. Heedless of the havoc they wreak, they're powerless to resist the witch and her siren song of magic.

Skeletons On Parade

The witch grows stronger with every young soul devoted to the magic she offers. Nightly, ever more violent apparitions tear through the town. Soon, no one will be able to avoid her vengeance.

MR. NIGHTMIST

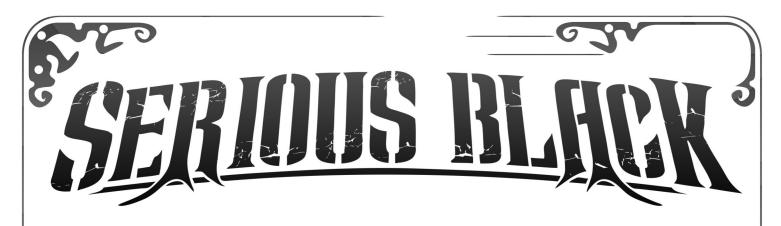
Mr. Nightmist, having fled the town in his youth, returns a legend. The townfolk, driven to desperation by the terrors of the witch's curse, beg for help.

THE WITCH OF CALDWELL TOWN

Taking every precaution known to him, Mr. Nightmist is preparing to lift the curse by crossing over into the mostly uncharted realm between life and death. But can he do what is required? The choices lie before him.

True Love is Blind

Having crossed over he finds himself in the presence of Maria Merian, looking just as beautiful as ever; Mr. Nightmist's resolve weakens and finally dissolves completely as the desire to remain with his beloved is far too strong.



JUST KILL ME

After several months (time isn't quite the same in that great, mostly uncharted, beyond) of blissful, carefree happiness, a sense of unease creeps up on Mr. Nightmist. Unease turns to worry. Worry turns to disquiet. Disquiet turns to alarm. Eventually he comes to the realization that he's in the presence of her mere shadow and with every passing minute he becomes more like her. Not wanting to become a faint echo with a hollowed-out, malevolent heart he comes—again—to the conclusion that her curse must be broken.

Newfound Freedom

Breaking the curse and letting go of the past (both being much the same thing), Mr. Nightmist finds a new lease on life.

One Final Song

Having achieved near immortality, Mr. Nightmist continues his journey and the lesson he learns as generations come and go is... that the story stays the same.





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