

IN A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN AREA OF AFRICA LIES A SECTION KNOWN AS GONTEEKWA VALLEY. I, JULIUS, WILL BE YOUR GUIDE INTO THIS VICINITY. BUT PROCEED WITH CAUTION, FOR GONTEEKWA IS THE VALLEY OF THE...


WEREWOLF!

FRANK FRAZETTA


IN THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AFFAIRS, GONTEEKWA VALLEY, AFRICA...

SO NOW YOU CAN SEE WHY WE SENT FOR YOU, DEMMON.


YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE IN THIS TERRITORY WITH BIG-GAME HUNTING EXPERIENCE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY. IF YOU CAN DO IT, MY PEOPLE WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.




NOW LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOUR PEOPLE FEEL THAT THIS ANIMAL WHICH HAS BEEN SEEN PROWLING THROUGH THE VILLAGES AT NIGHT IS THE LEGENDARY DEMON, GONTEEKWA, FOR WHICH THIS VALLEY WAS NAMED. EXACTLY WHAT IS IT THAT GIVES THEM THIS BELIEF?




THE EDUCATED PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY HAVE, OF COURSE, LONG AGO RELINQUISHED THEIR BELIEFS IN THE GODS AND DEMONS OF OLD; BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO STILL CLING TO THE OLD SUPERSTITIONS, MAINTAINING THE OLD FEARS THAT HAVE ALWAYS HAUNTED THE VALLEY.



"THE CREATURE THAT WE HAVE ALL SEEN DOES MUCH TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THE OLD SUPERSTITIONS, FOR IT HAS BEEN ON THE PROWL AS LONG AS THE OLDEST INHABITANT CAN REMEMBER, AND IN THE TALES OF THEIR FATHERS FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS."




"NO OTHER ANIMAL OF ITS KIND HAS EVER BEEN SEEN. TO ALL APPEARANCES IT IS, INDEED, A LONE, IMMORTAL BEAST."



YET YOU SAY THAT THIS THING HAS NEVER KILLED. WHAT EXACTLY, THEN, IS IT THAT THE PEOPLE FEAR?

LEGEND SAYS THAT THE BEAST IS THE HOME OF MANY EVIL THINGS THAT CAN INFEST THE BODIES OF THOSE WHOM IT COMES NEAR. BY DAY THIS CREATURE IS A LIVING MEMBER OF ONE OF THE TRIBES -- WHO ONLY TAKES ON THE FORM OF GONTEEKWA AT NIGHT. THE NATIVES THINK THAT GONTEEKWA IS A FORM OF WERE-WOLF!



OKAY, COMMISSIONER, I'LL TRACK YOUR BEAST FOR YOU. BUT NOT FOR THE SAKE OF RELIEVING ANY NATIVE FEARS. I WANT HALF THE BOUNTY ON THIS THING IN ADVANCE, AND THE RIGHT TO KEEP ITS PELT. IF IT REALLY IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A SMALL FORTUNE FOR IT.

ALL RIGHT, DEMMON, WE'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT YOUR TERMS.



HEY, DEMMON, THE NATIVES SAID THERE WERE SNAKES IN THIS AREA... WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE CIRCLE AROUND IT?



I'VE TOLD YOU FOR THE LAST TIME TO SHUT UP AND LEAVE THINGS TO ME, PEARSON.



YOU'RE GETTING PAID ALL YOU'RE WORTH TO HAUL THAT EXTRA GUN AND AMMUNITION FOR ME. I DON'T WANT ANY MORE *SUGGESTIONS* FROM YOU -- UNDERSTAND??!

BEHIND YOU -- LOOK OUT!



TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME, EH? FROM NOW ON I CAN HANDLE THINGS MYSELF, SEE. DON'T YOU FORGET THAT!







BOTH SHOTS WENT RIGHT INTO THE HEART AND IT'S STILL STANDING.

IT... IT'S JUST STANDING THERE WAITING; AS THOUGH... **DARING** ME TO SHOOT AGAIN!



PERHAPS THERE WAS SOMETHING TO THE LEGEND AFTER ALL. PERHAPS I ACTUALLY **AM** FACING A WEREWOLF!



DEAD! HA, HA! I KNEW THE LEGEND WAS BUNK ALL THE TIME. NO ONE CAN PUT ANYTHING OVER ON BIFF DEMMON!



STRANGE, I ONLY HIT IT IN THE SHOULDER. RIGHT ON THE ONE SMALL WHITE SPOT ON THE SHOULDER. GOOD LORD! NO! IT CAN'T BE!



IT... IT *WAS* A WEREWOLF; AND IT'S STILL ALIVE!



I... THANK YOU, MY FRIEND... FOR RELEASING ME FROM MY SLEEPLESS CURSE. FOR THIRTY YEARS I HAVE HAD TO SHUN THE DREADED DAYLIGHT I COULD NOT STAND. ONLY AT NIGHT WAS I FREE... TO HUNT FOR SOMEONE TO LIFT THE BURDEN OF THIS FORM FROM ME-- TO STAND AND FACE GONTEEKWA... AND

STRIKE HIS ONE VULNERABLE SPOT--AS I MYSELF ONCE DID. AND NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO HUNT... FOR HE WHO LIFTS THE CURSE... IS THE *NEXT TO RECEIVE IT!* AH! I'M DYING...



SLOWLY, DEMMON BACKED AWAY... BACKED AWAY FROM THAT WHICH HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. BUT IT WAS TOO LATE



DEMMON HAD WANTED THE PELT OF GONTEEKWA. AND NOW IT WAS HIS TO KEEP... FOR A LONG TIME.

The End