

INFO & READING LIST

I originally drew the goats as a poster for Norwegian cosmic disco band **Moon Relay**, who I was putting on a gig for as part of their UK tour. People kept asking me if the goats were from something, so I made a thing for them to be from.

It was somehow clear from the original drawing what all of their personalities were, I just had to figure out the rest. It's commonly thought that your creative work says something about you as a person. I don't know what it means that my creation is a small goat at the bottom of the ossified hierarchy of a vaguely (but not specifically) Catholic medieval monastery of animals, who longs to poison his superiors and learn forbidden secrets, seething while washing the floor.

There's definitely something of Mervyn Peake's **Gormenghast**, where kitchen boy Steerpike schemes and assassinates his way up the castle hierarchy, and something of Tove Jansson's **Moomins** (especially the comic collections), and a lot of references to various books I've read over the years.

However a good chunk is also my revenge against **Medieval Latin Texts 301**, a historiography module I took in my third year of my BA. A lot of the texts were monks (often with poor Latin grammar and spelling) writing nit-picking letters to each other in long-running feuds about obscure Bible details. Or chroniclers saying "oh the Crusaders stole the lead from the roof yet again". I wasn't very good at the exam, I kept getting which Crusade was which confused which is fatal for that time period, but at least I've finally had some use out of the module that tanked my overall grade.

A lot of the initial planning was done in hotels and trains in small towns in Austria, where I was working for a schools programme, resulting in notebook pages filled with lists like "endless calendar of rituals. Offering of single carrot. Unseen forces in the basement".

Some of the second book was written in an actual monastery- Kremsmünster in Austria, when I was visiting the local school. I didn't see any goats, because all the monks were human, but I didn't have to wash any floors either.

I originally did some of the comics in monochrome, planning to do a very thick little A6 paperback book with lots of thin pages of black and white, like the collections of **Duck Tales** comics you get in newsagents in France and Germany. Then I changed my mind and realised I wanted to do colour, and should do multiple smaller, cheaper, volumes. So this is the result. There will be more to follow.

Some of the other character designs are adapted from old work too. The Mushroom King was originally from a poster for electronic music and performance artist **Aja Ireland**. The big worm with the candles was from a poster for noise improv group **Sly and the Family Drone**. There was no real rationale for either of these designs other than that I wanted to put creepy monsters on the poster. So I did.

The artwork is a mix of hand-drawn and digital. I draw the ink outlines by hand, scan them and then clean them up in Illustrator. Some frames are all done as one drawing, and others are made up of multiple elements super-imposed or re-used. The colour is added in Photoshop (using a colour palette sampled from riso inks), and some organic texture added back in.

Nina Allan
The Rift
The Silver Wind
The Art of Space Travel

Gaston Bachelard
The Poetics of Space

Jorge Luis Borges *The Aleph*
Labyrinths

Octavia Butler
Parable of the Sower

Italo Calvino
If On a Winters Night a Traveller
Invisible Cities

Susanna Clarke
Piranesi

Umberto Eco
The Name of the Rose

Alan Garner
The Owl Service

Elizabeth Howard and Robert Aickman
We Are For the Dark

Shirley Jackson
We Have Always Lived in the Castle

Tove Jansson
all the Moomin books and comics

Diana Wynne Jones
Fire and Hemlock
Hexwood
The Homeward Bounders

Ursula K Le Guin
The Birthday of the World
A Fisherman of the Inland Sea
The Lathe of Heaven
The Tombs of Atuan

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing
The Mushroom at the End of the World

Walter M Miller Jr
A Canticle for Leibowitz

Jenny Nimmo
The Snow Spider series

Alex Pavesi
The Eighth Detective

Mervyn Peake
Gormenghast series

Raymond Queneau
Exercises in Style

Kim Stanley Robinson
The Years of Rice and Salt

Junichiro Tanizaki
In Praise of Shadows

Virginia Woolf *Orlando*

Hwaet! zine
Weird Walk zine