

DRACULA! NOSFERATU! SINISTER LODGERS, ANCIENT TOMBS AND DEADLY PLANTS!

VAMPIRE CLASSICS

GRAPHIC CLASSICS® VOLUME TWENTY-SIX



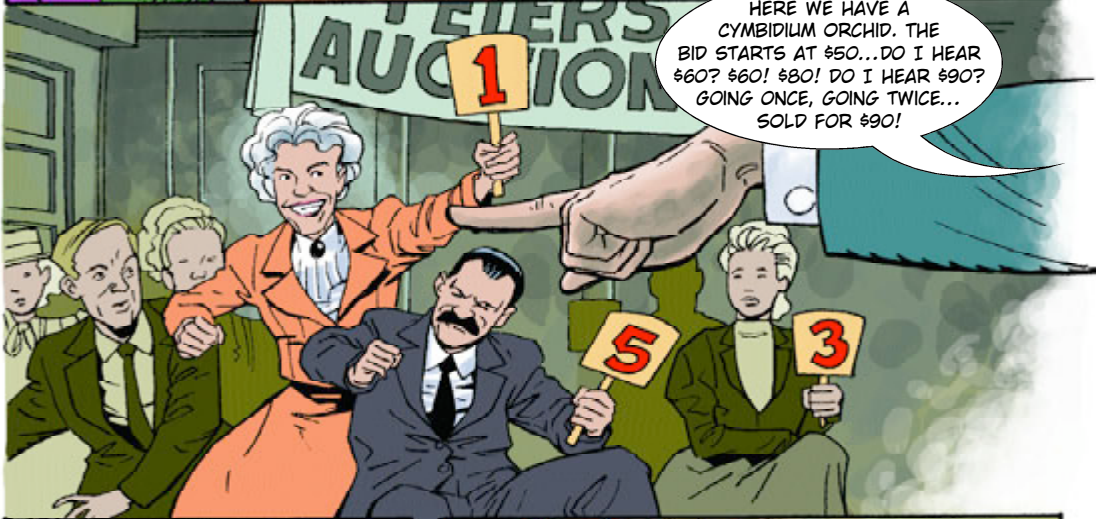
BRAM STOKER • RAY BRADBURY • ROBERT E. HOWARD • H. G. WELLS



The buying of orchids always has in it a certain speculative excitement. At the auction, you are presented with a shriveled plant and there is no guarantee as to how it will bloom even after the most careful cultivation.

The Flowering of the Strange Orchid

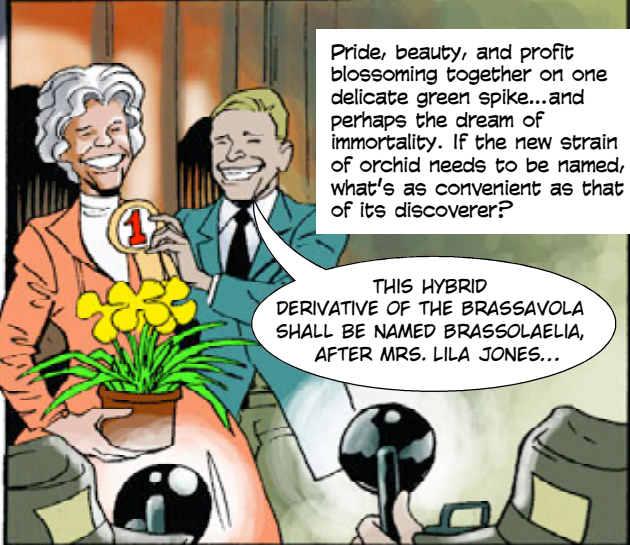
by H. G. Wells
adapted by Andrea Grant
illustrated by Shepherd Hendrix



HERE WE HAVE A CYMBIDIUM ORCHID. THE BID STARTS AT \$50...DO I HEAR \$60? \$60! \$80! DO I HEAR \$90? GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE... SOLD FOR \$90!



The hope is that it will turn out to be a rare hybrid that hasn't yet been discovered, with a subtle pattern in the petals.

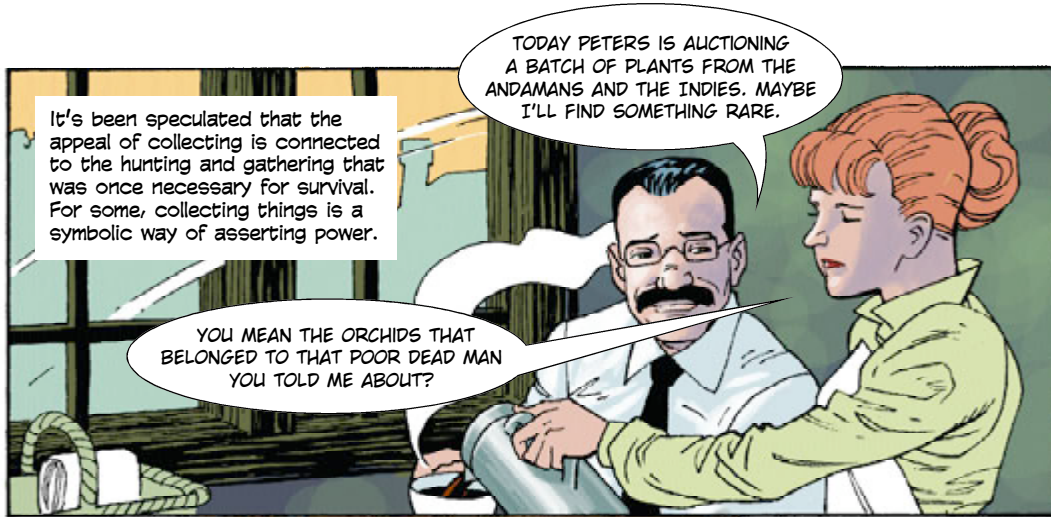


Pride, beauty, and profit blossoming together on one delicate green spike...and perhaps the dream of immortality. If the new strain of orchid needs to be named, what's as convenient as that of its discoverer?

THIS HYBRID DERIVATIVE OF THE BRASSAVOLA SHALL BE NAMED BRASSOLAEIA, AFTER MRS. LILA JONES...

THE STRANGE ORCHID





THE STRANGE ORCHID



That orchid-collector was only 40 when he died. Married twice and divorced once. He traveled the world, caught malarial fever. Once, he broke his thigh bone in a fight and managed to crawl quite a distance for help.

He killed a savage once, after being wounded by a poisoned dart. I admire that kind of determination.

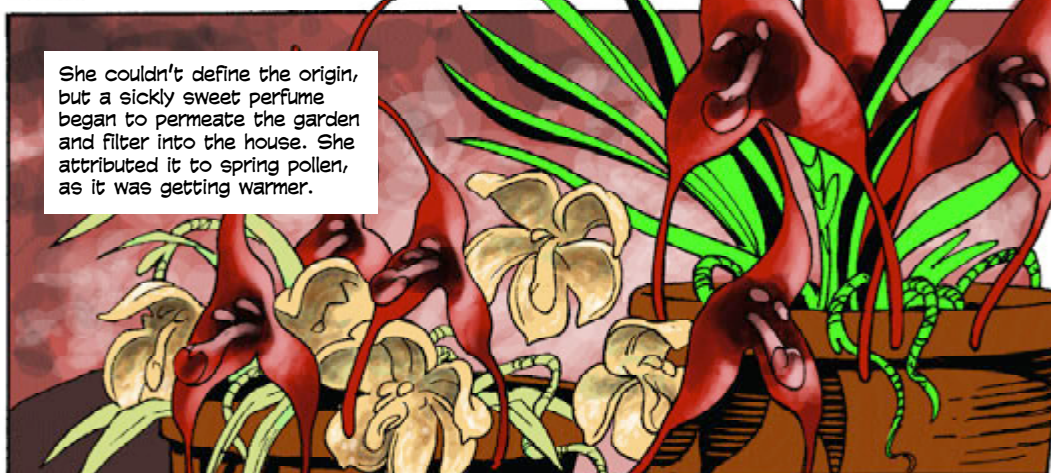
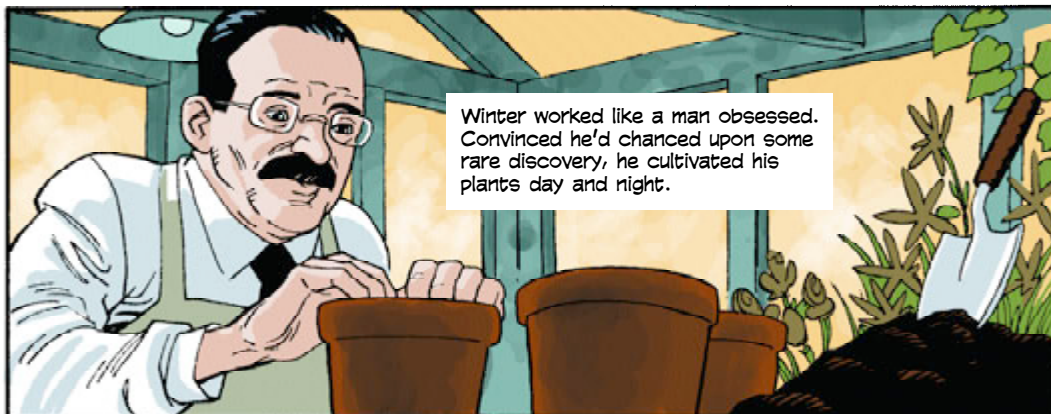
In the end he was killed by jungle-leeches. Troublesome, but also a very interesting death.

SO NONE OF HIS ADVENTURES WORKED OUT THAT WELL, IN THE END.

I SUPPOSE NOT.



THE STRANGE ORCHID



H. G. W E L L S

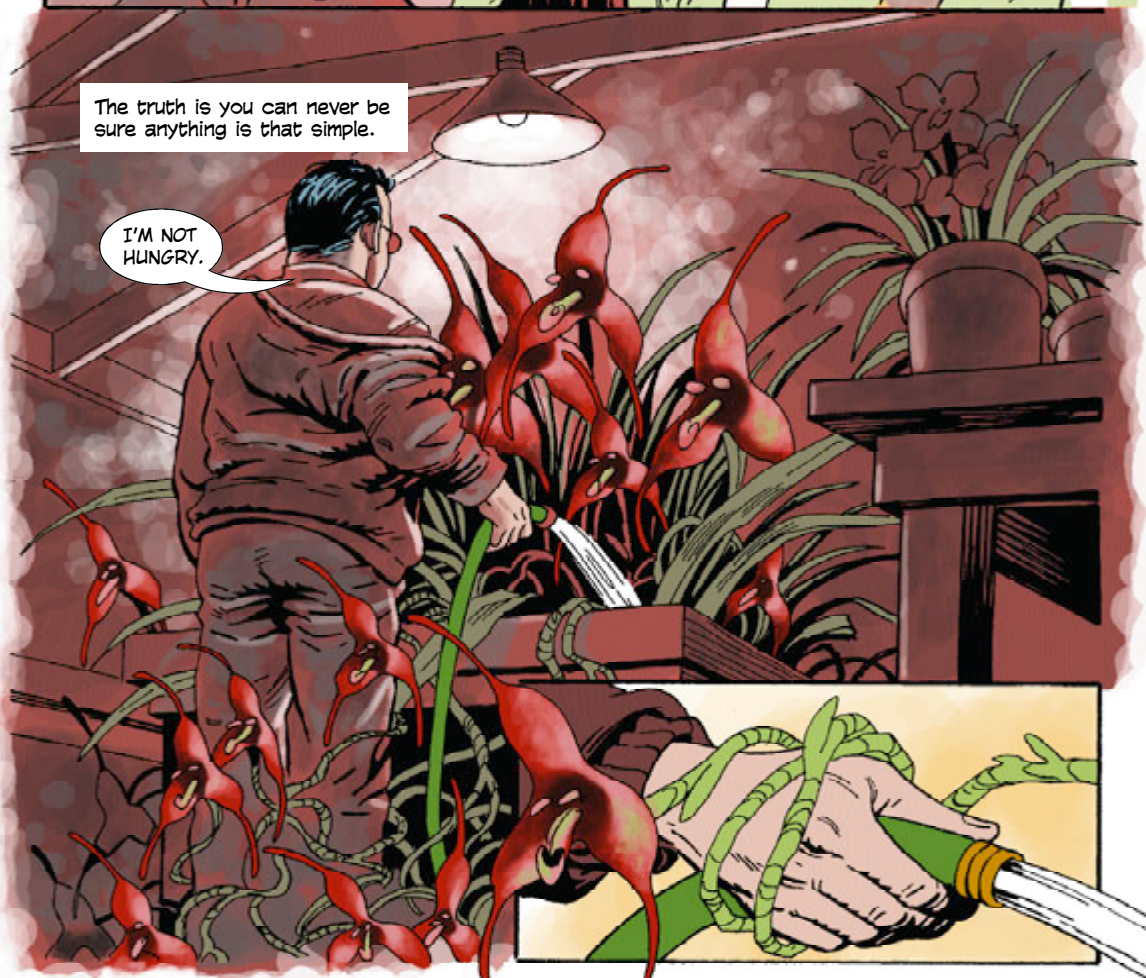
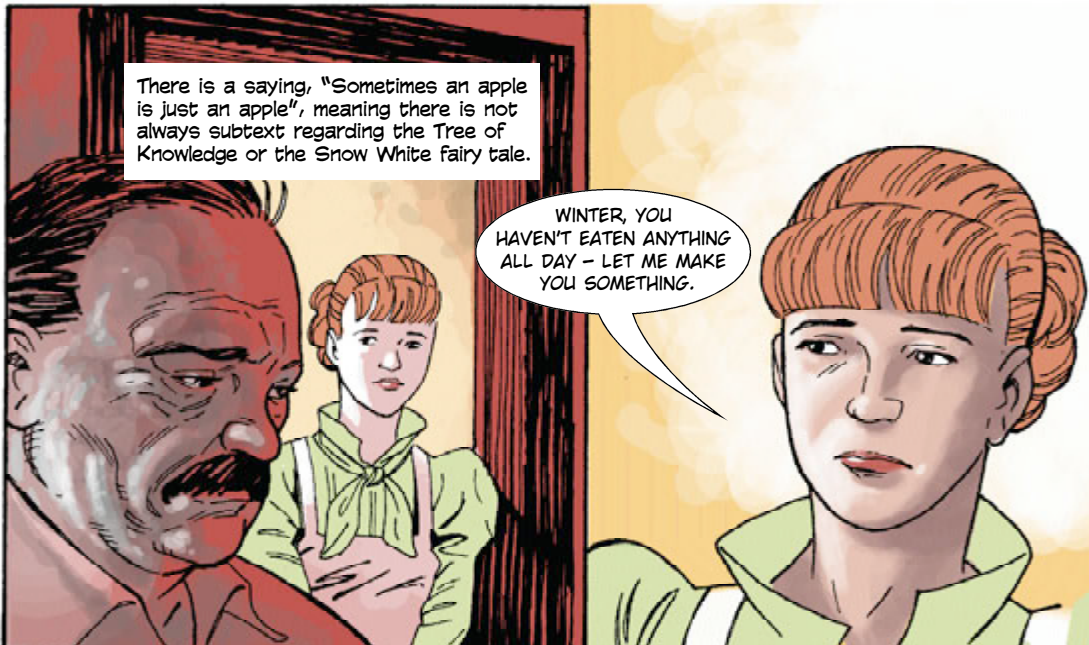
Few realize that there is one strain of Praying Mantis that looks like an orchid.



Impersonation is always jarring.



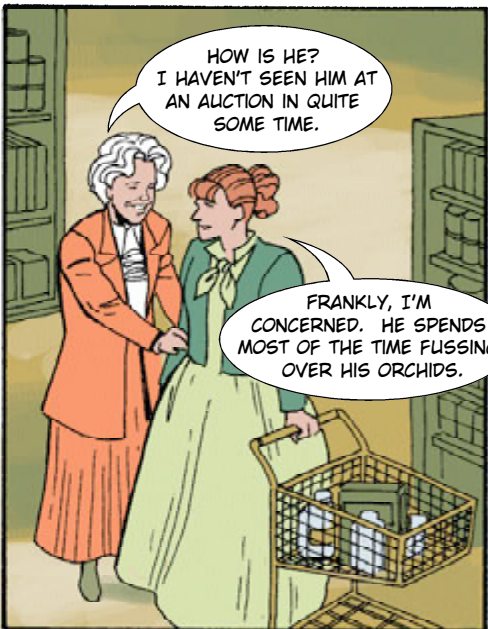
THE STRANGE ORCHID





OH, HELLO, MRS. JONES. WINTER TOLD ME ABOUT HIS DISCOVERY OF THE HYBRID BRASSOLAEIA. CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU, JEANNIE.



HOW IS HE? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AT AN AUCTION IN QUITE SOME TIME.

FRANKLY, I'M CONCERNED. HE SPENDS MOST OF THE TIME FLUSSING OVER HIS ORCHIDS.



A HOBBY CAN QUICKLY TURN TO OBSESSION. YOU SHOULD TAKE HIM FOR A LONG WALK IN THE COUNTRY TO TRY TO GET HIS MIND OFF OF IT. FRESH AIR WORKS WONDERS.

EXCELLENT IDEA.

THE STRANGE ORCHID

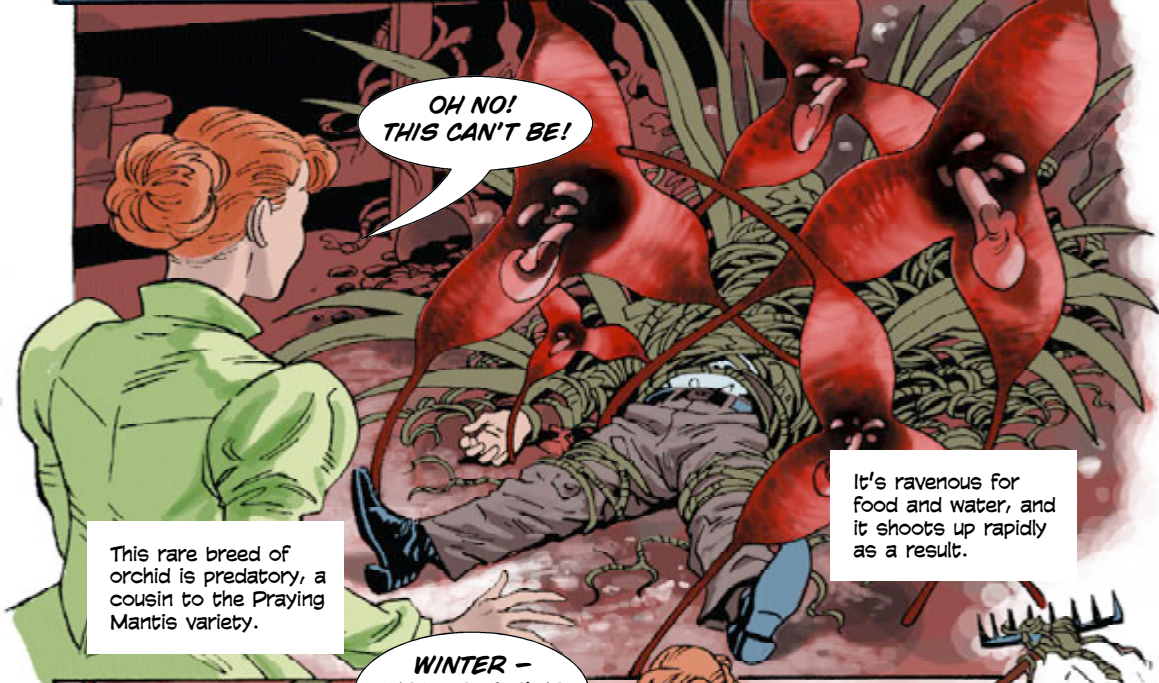




HE NEVER
VANISHES LIKE THIS.
SOMETHING'S
WRONG...



WINTER?
ARE YOU HIDING
SOMEWHERE?



OH NO!
THIS CAN'T BE!

This rare breed of
orchid is predatory, a
cousin to the Praying
Mantis variety.

It's ravenous for
food and water, and
it shoots up rapidly
as a result.



WINTER -
HOLD ON! I'VE
GOT YOU!

THE STRANGE ORCHID

