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An Introduction to **Apsara**, a Graphic Novella
by Willard Thurston

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An Apsara is a being desired by both God and Man. Her name is the title of this picture book which serves as a companion to the novel Dyad. The éminence grise in the story is a utopian geneticist who anticipates creating a class of humans with exemplary physiques and intelligence. Finding a set of identical female twins who are haplessly and grimly separated at birth, he undertakes a comparative double-blind study of the two girls to better understand the role of circumstance. The twins prove to be remarkably adaptable in the face of radically different challenges, the circumstances of which temper some of the utopian's presumptions but not his quest. When the twins finally meet, their wonder at one another is a kind of rebirth.

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The book itself has 171 readable pages, taking up 60.7 megabytes.

The next day she came to the atelier to see the new work: a series of paintings entitled *Musing the Maenad*. About what she expected, knowing the faun's predilection. Yet she was surprised by the sumptuous detail.



She also met Amy, a shy but watchful daughter, and rosy Viola, a Tibetan mannered Buddhist and part-time model.



Amy did not like Viola, and promptly began aping the posture and attitude of the newcomer, who appeared amused by it all.

She was dressed and about to leave when he asked her to come to the lily pond. "Once our inner sanctum, yes?" His gamy anticipation vied with her laden suspicion. Was he really just a pawn she wondered? An incidentally lucky bystander as well as a promising painter? She almost didn't go. In no time he had most of her clothes off and a flower chaplet in her hair.

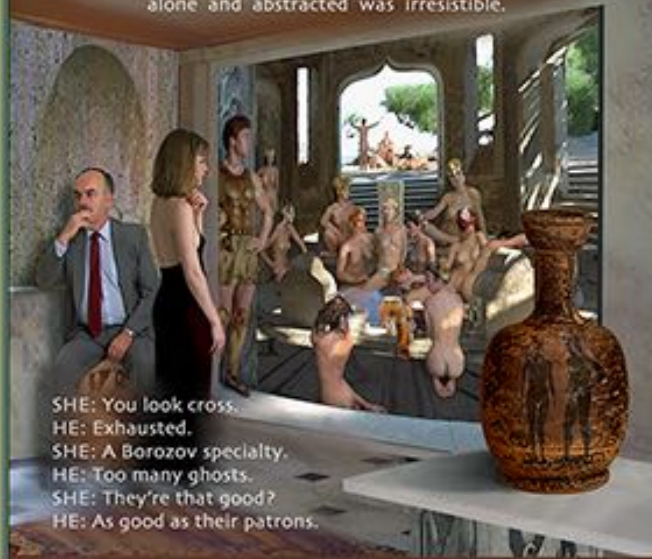


The old haunts were redolent still of pine, juniper and lilac, volatile oils of nostalgia.

For a time the sun gilded the trees as sunlit coral.

Only later did she notice the artificial lilies bright with luminous paint. Pachis, her spry earth artist.

The discovery of the Paleomena expert David Willardson alone and abstracted was irresistible.



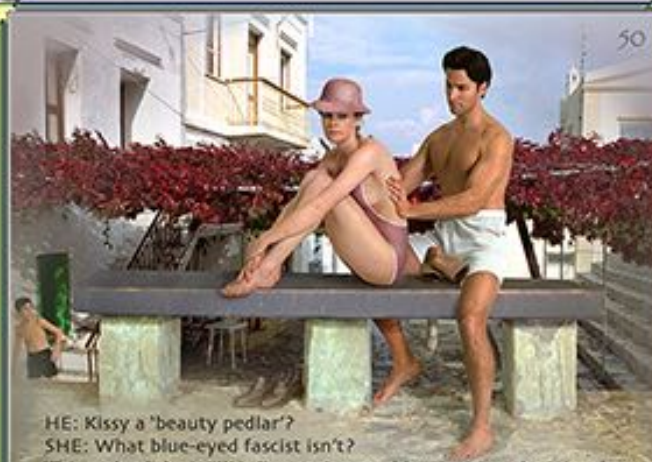
SHE: You look cross.
HE: Exhausted.
SHE: A Borozov specialty.
HE: Too many ghosts.
SHE: They're that good?
HE: As good as their patrons.

In due course they studied a kylix, an ancient Greek symposium drinking vessel.



SHE: Even with handles, tipplers must have spilt a bit.

HE: One problem of liquidity in art.



HE: Kissy a "beauty pedlar"?
SHE: What blue-eyed fascist isn't?
"Triumph of the Will" is live parian marble. A vision the West has taken up — salubrity and beauty for all.



Confirmed at the salon showing of Pachis' late work: beauty as nude Attic-Atlantis splendour — concinnity!