

THE ADVENTURES OF THOMAS SWIFT

THE GREEN MAN

Written and Illustrated by

Nic

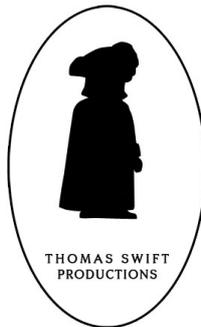
To my family, who made this book possible...



THOMAS SWIFT PRODUCTIONS
London, UK

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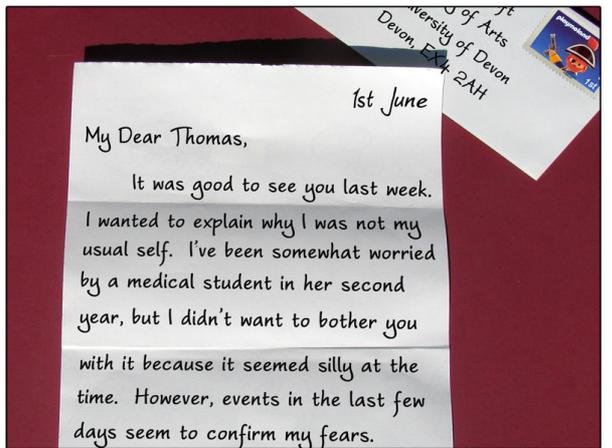
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AN EARLY SUMMER'S DAY AT DEVON UNIVERSITY. ALL SEEMS AS IT SHOULD BE ON CAMPUS, OR IS IT.....?



THE OFFICE OF PROFESSOR THOMAS SWIFT, WHO HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HIS FRIEND, DEAN AT TRINITY COLLEGE OXBRIDGE



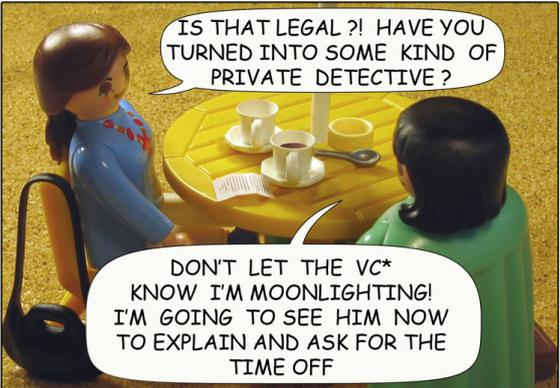
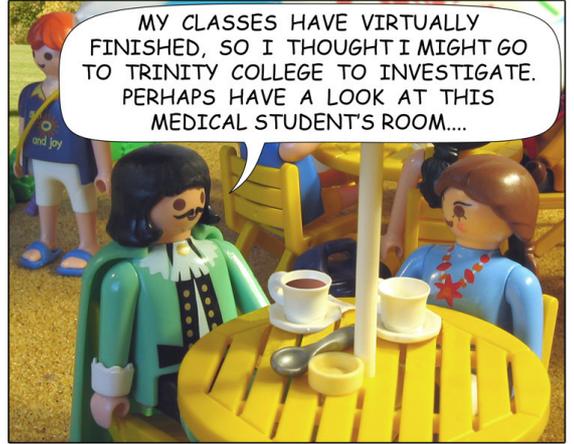
Ever since the student Anika Price started at Trinity, strange things have begun to happen: for example, the theft of blood from the medical centre.

Events have turned even more sinister, in ways I hesitate to write down. I'm truly beginning to believe we have devil worshippers in the College. You're the only friend I can turn to.

DEVIL WORSHIPPERS? I CAN'T BELIEVE PHILIP WOULD WRITE THIS IF THERE WASN'T SOME TRUTH IN IT... I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN GET SOME TIME OFF TO INVESTIGATE



HI THOMAS! I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT. I HAVE TO GO SOON TO PICK UP ZOE FROM MY MOTHER'S

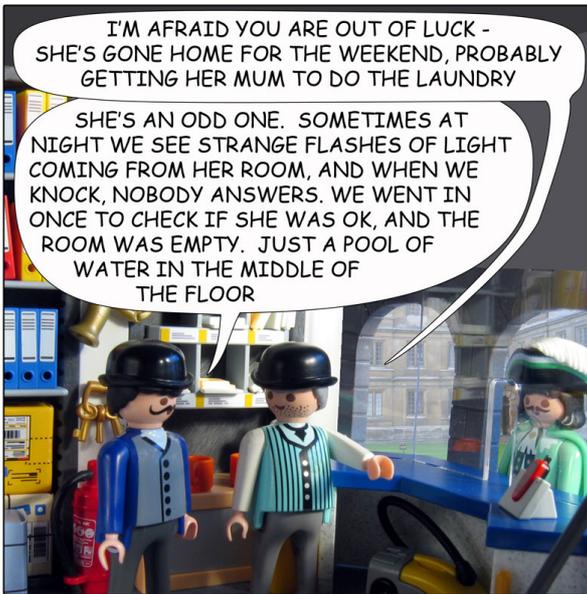
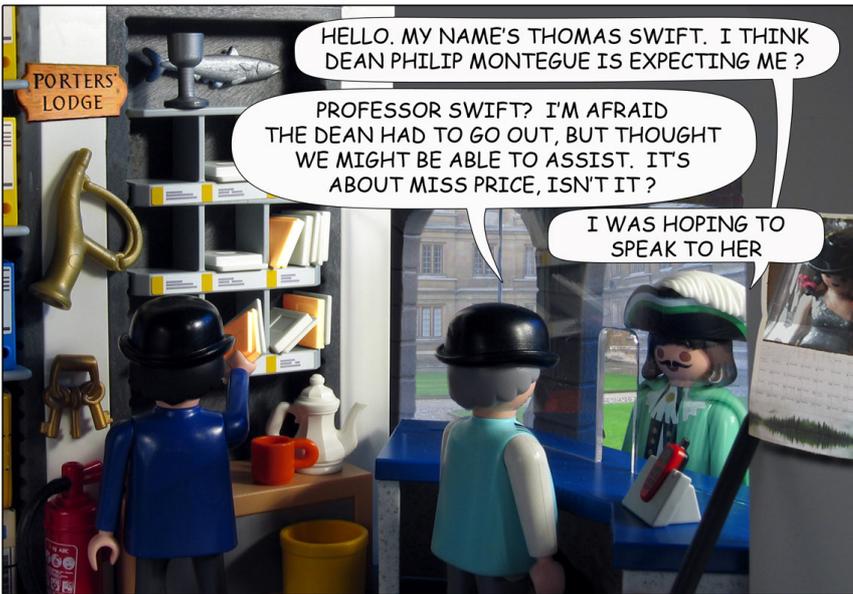


* VC = VICE CHANCELLOR, THE HEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR DONALD SMOOTH'S OFFICE

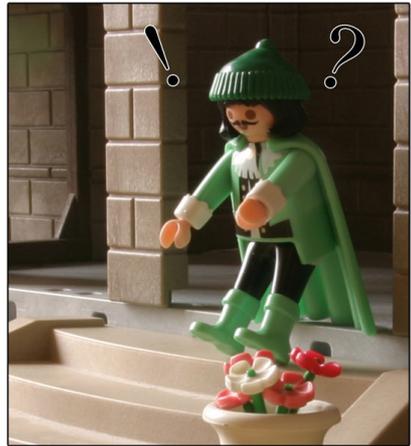
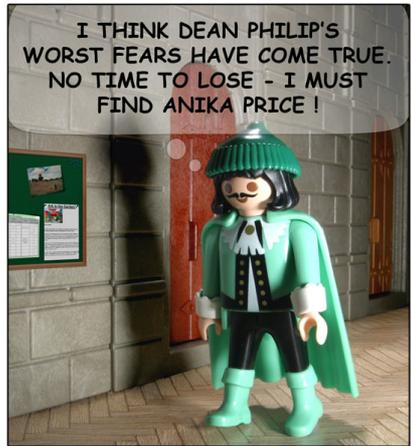
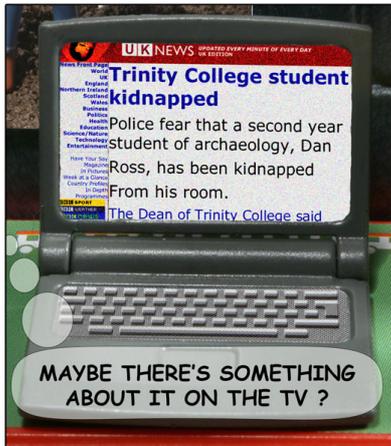


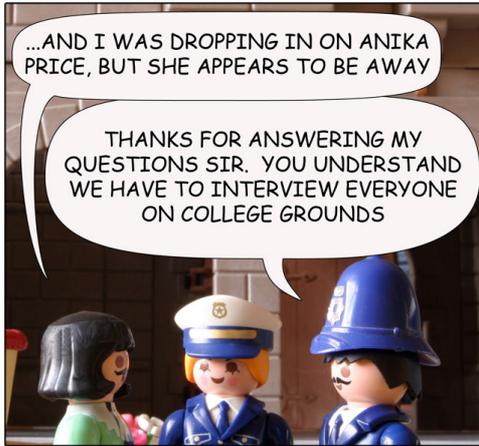




LATER THAT NIGHT OUTSIDE ANIKA'S ROOM







THOMAS HEADS OFF TO CULVER-ON-SEA





THE STREET IS DESERTED



I MUST HAVE BEEN CLOSER TO CULVER THAN I THOUGHT. WHERE IS EVERYONE?



AND PEOPLE WONDER WHY I WEAR A HAT



THAT'S FISHY



WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?

I'M HIDING FROM THE VIKINGS



THANKS FOR FINDING MY SON



WE NEED TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE CHURCH.... ..BEFORE THE VIKINGS COME



THE VIKINGS ?
THE VIKINGS STOPPED
RAIDING CENTURIES
AGO !



WELL... IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, BUT
MY GRANDFATHER REMEMBERS HIS
GRANDFATHER TELLING HIM ABOUT
THE RAID ON SHEPPEY
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING - HIS
GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER
WAS ONE OF THE RAIDERS !



TAKE A LOOK



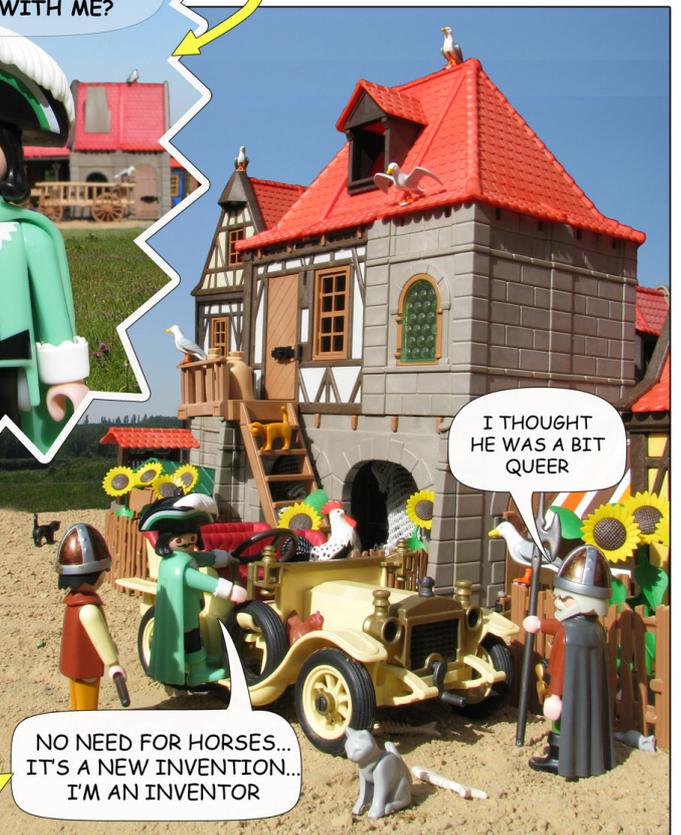
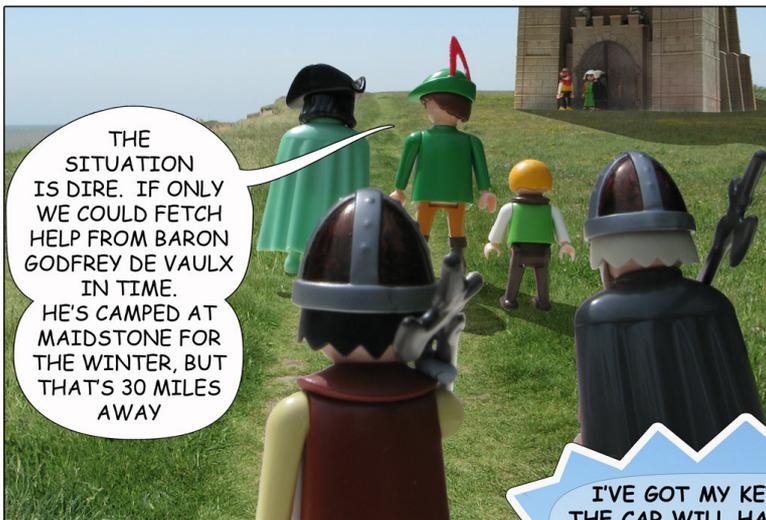
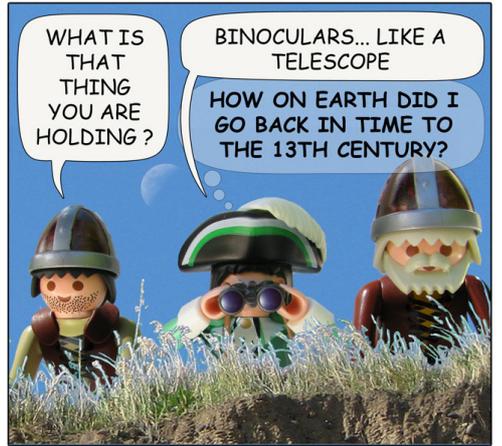
THOSE FIRES ARE MADE OUT
OF OUR FISHING BOATS



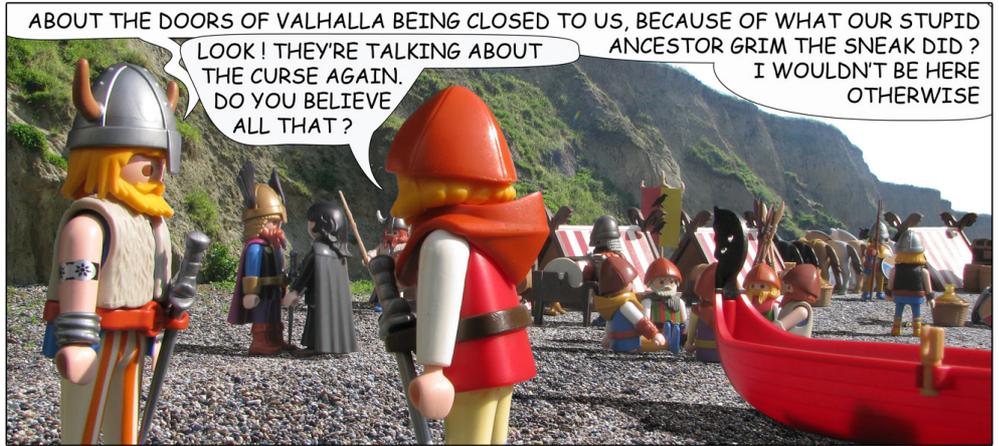
....AND MORE
ARE COMING



ARE THEY MAKING
A FILM ?
A FILM ?



* KING JOHN REIGNED BETWEEN 1199 AND 1216AD

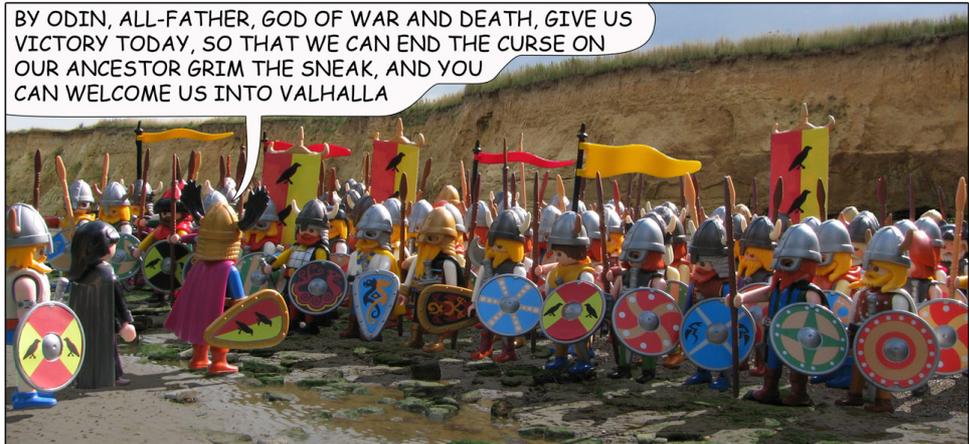


THE NEXT MORNING



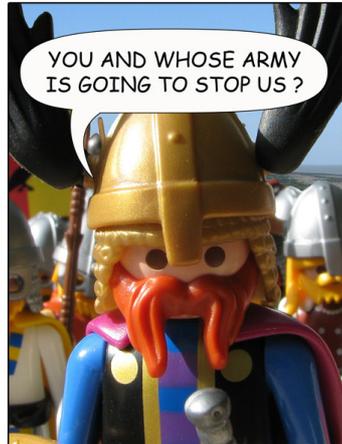
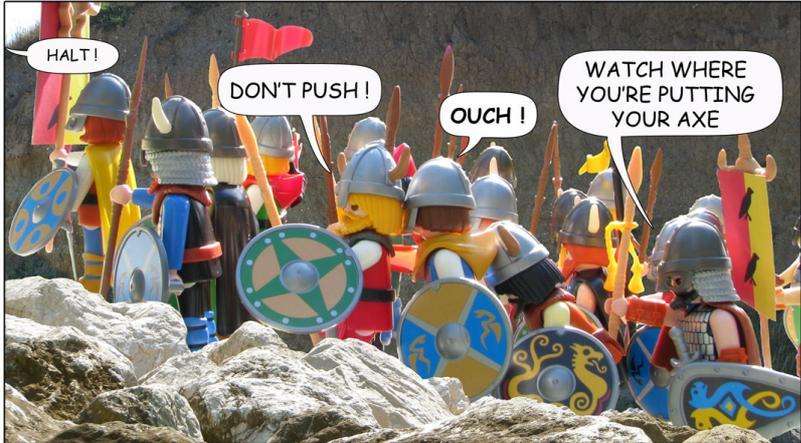
THE INHABITANTS OF CULVER HAVE SPENT AN UNEASY AND COLD NIGHT IN THE CHURCH...

BY ODIN, ALL-FATHER, GOD OF WAR AND DEATH, GIVE US VICTORY TODAY, SO THAT WE CAN END THE CURSE ON OUR ANCESTOR GRIM THE SNEAK, AND YOU CAN WELCOME US INTO VALHALLA





BARON DE VAULX HAS ARRIVED - THE VILLAGE HAS A SURPRISE IN STORE FOR THE VIKING RAIDERS



MOUNTED KNIGHTS BAR THE ROAD...



...AND CROSSBOWMEN LINE THE CLIFFS

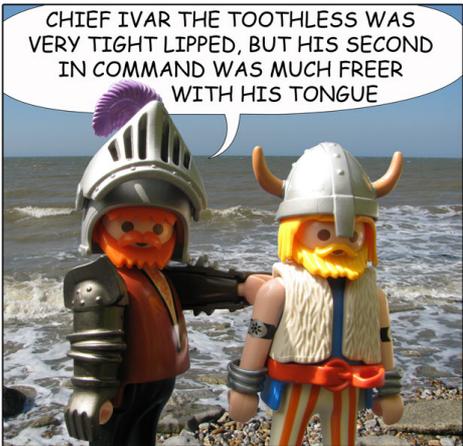






THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP... ER... WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU? THE BARON WOULD NEVER HAVE GOT HERE IN TIME OTHERWISE.

CALL ME THOMAS. I WONDER WHAT THE VIKINGS WANTED?



CHIEF IVAR THE TOOTHLESS WAS VERY TIGHT LIPPED, BUT HIS SECOND IN COMMAND WAS MUCH FREER WITH HIS TONGUE



IT APPEARS THEY WERE MEETING UP HERE WITH A LADY WHO HAD A TALISMAN - AND THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE VILLAGE HERE THAT COMBINED WITH THE TALISMAN WILL MAKE IT VERY POWERFUL

WHAT ON EARTH CAN IT BE?

AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T GET IT ...I GATHER?



I THINK I KNOW WHAT THEY WANTED. COME TO THE CHURCH



FATHER GERARD HAS BEEN OUR PARISH PRIEST FOR MANY YEARS



COME DOWN TO THE CRYPT



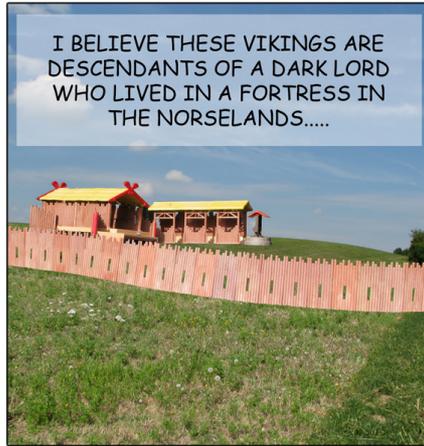
IT'S THE CROSS BROTHER OLAF BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH BACK IN KING EDGAR'S TIME *

* KING EDGAR THE PEACEABLE, 959 - 975 AD



BROTHER OLAF WROTE IT ALL DOWN IN THIS BOOK

AND WHY WOULD THE VIKINGS WANT IT, FATHER?



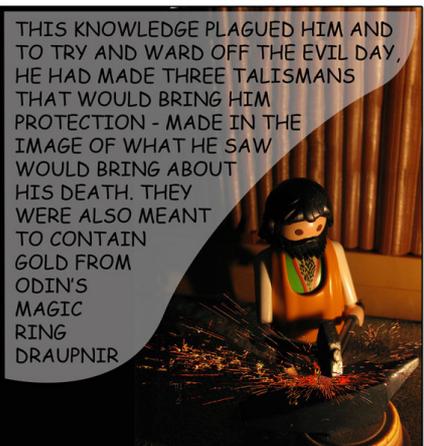
I BELIEVE THESE VIKINGS ARE DESCENDANTS OF A DARK LORD WHO LIVED IN A FORTRESS IN THE NORSELANDS.....



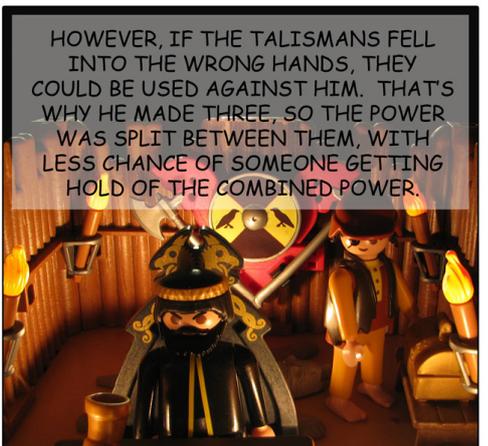
THE STORY GOES THAT HE WAS A GREAT WORSHIPPER OF THE OLD PAGAN GODS - IN PARTICULAR ODIN, AND PERSECUTED THE CHRISTIANS WHO WERE TRYING TO CONVERT THE NORSE PEOPLE AT THAT TIME



AS A REWARD FOR HIS LOYALTY, THE OLD PAGAN GOD ODIN IS MEANT TO HAVE SHOWN THE DARK LORD THE MOMENT OF HIS DEATH. HOWEVER, IT SHOWED THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO VALHALLA *



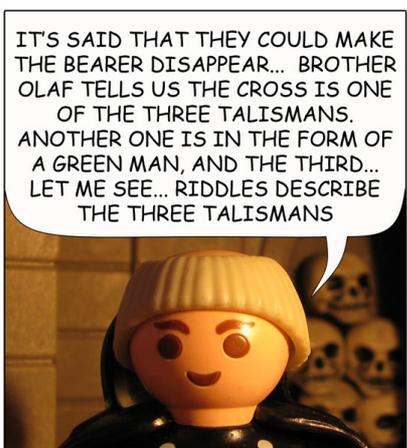
THIS KNOWLEDGE PLAGUED HIM AND TO TRY AND WARD OFF THE EVIL DAY, HE HAD MADE THREE TALISMANS THAT WOULD BRING HIM PROTECTION - MADE IN THE IMAGE OF WHAT HE SAW WOULD BRING ABOUT HIS DEATH. THEY WERE ALSO MEANT TO CONTAIN GOLD FROM ODIN'S MAGIC RING DRAUPNIR



HOWEVER, IF THE TALISMANS FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, THEY COULD BE USED AGAINST HIM. THAT'S WHY HE MADE THREE, SO THE POWER WAS SPLIT BETWEEN THEM, WITH LESS CHANCE OF SOMEONE GETTING HOLD OF THE COMBINED POWER.



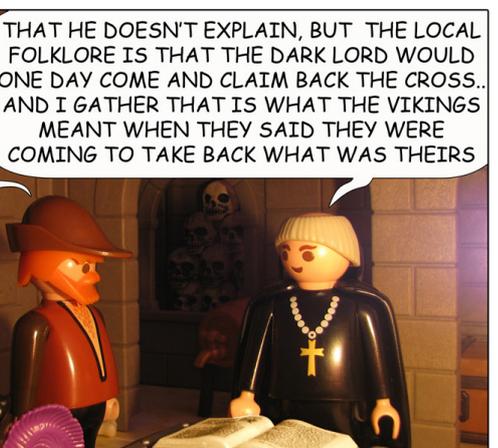
AND WHAT COULD THESE TALISMANS DO, FATHER GERARD?



IT'S SAID THAT THEY COULD MAKE THE BEARER DISAPPEAR... BROTHER OLAF TELLS US THE CROSS IS ONE OF THE THREE TALISMANS. ANOTHER ONE IS IN THE FORM OF A GREEN MAN, AND THE THIRD... LET ME SEE... RIDDLES DESCRIBE THE THREE TALISMANS



AND HOW DID BROTHER OLAF GET HOLD OF THE CROSS, AND WHY DID HE BRING IT HERE?



THAT HE DOESN'T EXPLAIN, BUT THE LOCAL FOLKLORE IS THAT THE DARK LORD WOULD ONE DAY COME AND CLAIM BACK THE CROSS.. AND I GATHER THAT IS WHAT THE VIKINGS MEANT WHEN THEY SAID THEY WERE COMING TO TAKE BACK WHAT WAS THEIRS



THANKS TO THE BARON - AND OUR FRIEND THOMAS, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BE COMING BACK
I'M NOT SO SURE. I FEAR THEY WILL KEEP ON COMING BACK



WHAT CAN WE DO?
THE VILLAGE WOULD BE WELL RID OF THIS CROSS



WILL YOU, STRANGER, TAKE IT AWAY? IT CAN BE OUR GIFT TO YOU TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CULVER AT THIS TIME?

I'M NOT QUITE SURE... I SUPPOSE I'M HELPING A FRIEND. MAYBE MY QUEST IS TO FOLLOW THE LADY, AND THWART WHATEVER EVIL PLANS SHE HAS



WELL - IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP. FOR EXAMPLE, A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...?

THANK YOU. I GET THAT OFFER ALL THE TIME. WHAT I MUST DO IS FIND OUT WHERE THE LADY WENT... BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW. PERHAPS I SHOULD GO HOME AND FIND OUT SOME MORE ABOUT THE LOCAL LEGEND



BUT HOW AM I GOING TO GET HOME? THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY BOTHERING ME



AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THIS TALISMAN



OH!



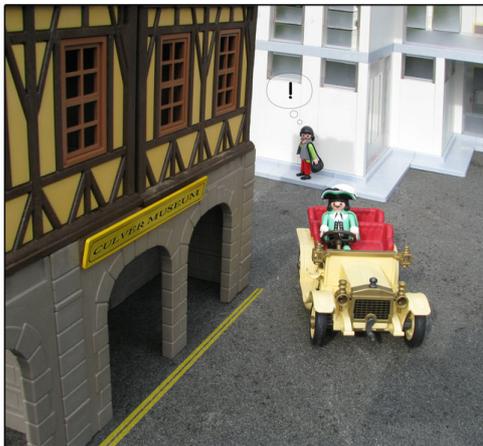
THE TALISMAN MUST BE TRIGGERED BY GETTING WET!



WHERE'S THE CHURCH ?!



THERE USED TO BE A CHURCH AROUND HERE: FELL INTO THE SEA. THERE'S A SMALL MUSEUM AT CULVER, JUST ALONG THE COAST, THAT HAS ALL THE DETAILS

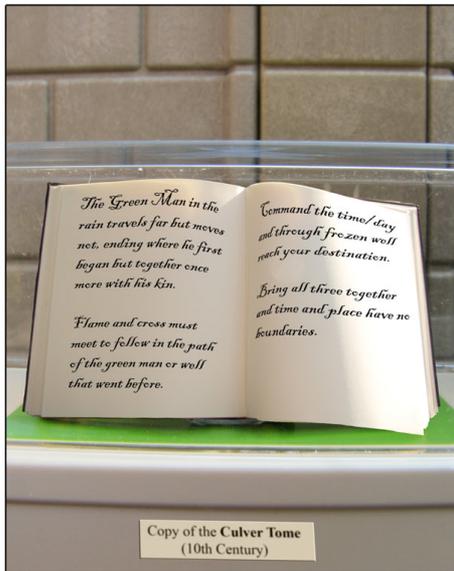




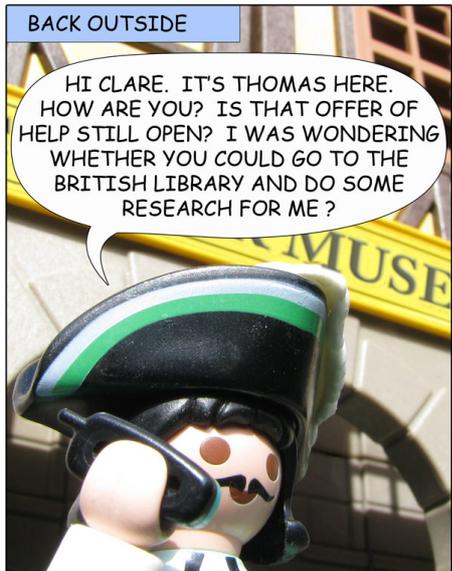
COME THIS WAY. I THINK YOU'RE THINKING OF THE CULVER TOME. FUNNY HOW THERE'S SUDDENLY A LOT OF INTEREST; ONLY THIS MORNING SOMEONE ELSE - A LOCAL LASS I THINK, WAS ASKING SIMILAR QUESTIONS ABOUT A VIKING CROSS. I'VE NEVER HEARD MENTION OF ONE.



UNFORTUNATELY IT'S NOT THE ORIGINAL. THIS IS JUST A MOCKUP FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES. THE ORIGINAL IS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY



Copy of the Culver Tome (10th Century)



BACK OUTSIDE
HI CLARE. IT'S THOMAS HERE. HOW ARE YOU? IS THAT OFFER OF HELP STILL OPEN? I WAS WONDERING WHETHER YOU COULD GO TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY AND DO SOME RESEARCH FOR ME?



IT'S A BIT AWKWARD TODAY, BUT I COULD GET MY MUM TO BABY-SIT TOMORROW. HOW'S IT GOING? YOU SOUND STRANGE?



YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT IF I EXPLAINED. HOW IF WE MEET UP AT MY FLAT TO DISCUSS WHAT YOU FIND OUT... SAY 4PM TOMORROW? I'VE GOT A VERY LONG JOURNEY BACK... VIA DEAN PHILIP IN OXBRIDGE



OK. 4PM IT IS. RING ME WITH THE DETAILS OF WHAT YOU WANT TONIGHT. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HEAR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS HERE...

SOMEONE ELSE IS ALREADY ON THEIR WAY BACK TO OXBRIDGE

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO THE CROSS? AND WHO ON EARTH WAS THAT GREEN MAN - THE EXACT IMAGE OF MY TALISMAN? HE'S OBVIOUSLY COME FROM THE PRESENT... ALTHOUGH THE CAR LOOKED A BIT DATED? HOW DID HE TRAVEL BACK IN TIME?



TRINITY COLLEGE...



HE'S A TV PERSONALITY, SO HE WON'T BE DIFFICULT TO TRACK DOWN



MY TALISMAN HAS GONE!



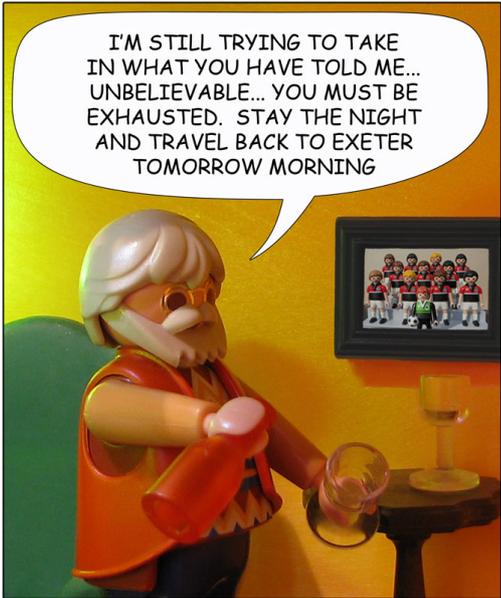
AT DEAN PHILIP'S HOME IN OXBRIDGE

NOW I KNOW HOW THAT GREEN MAN TRAVELLED THROUGH TIME. I'VE ONLY GOT ONE TALISMAN LEFT, AND I WAS MEANT TO HAVE ALL THREE BY NOW... I BETTER CONTACT SVEN



THOMAS! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE... DO COME IN









HAPPILY, THEY HAD PHOTOGRAPHED IT ALL AND I COULD LOOK IT UP ON THE COMPUTER



NOW I COME TO THINK ABOUT IT, MAYBE IT WAS THAT BOOK I SAW IN ANIKA'S ROOM. HOW MANY SUGARS DO YOU TAKE?

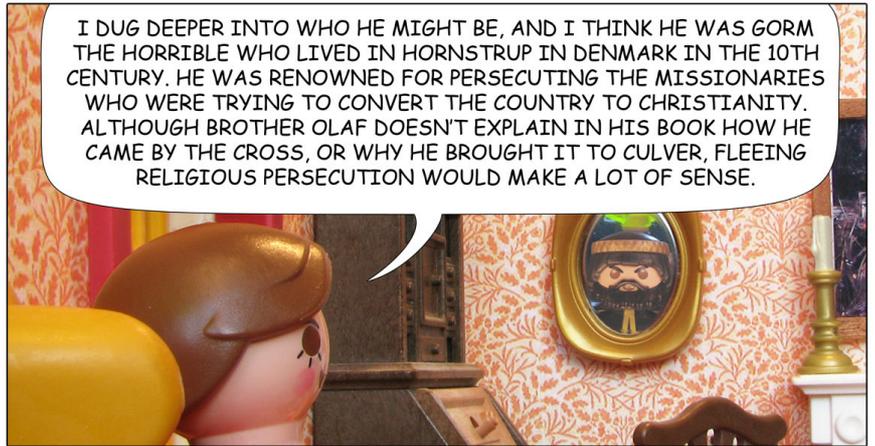


I THINK WHAT TIES THIS WHOLE STORY TOGETHER IS ODIN - OR WOTAN AS HE'S ALSO KNOWN - OLD NORSE GOD OF WAR. YOU SAY THE VIKINGS HAD RAVEN EMBLEMS ON THEIR SHIELDS?

YES, AND ON ONE OF THEIR SHIPS. THERE WERE EVEN RAVENS IN ANIKA PRICE'S ROOM...



ODIN HAD TWO RAVENS - HUGINN AND MUNINN, MEANING THOUGHT AND MEMORY. THEY ARE ODIN'S MESSENGERS - HIS EMBLEM, AND IT SEEMS THIS DARK LORD THE BOOK REFERS TO, WAS ONE OF ODIN'S GREATEST FANS

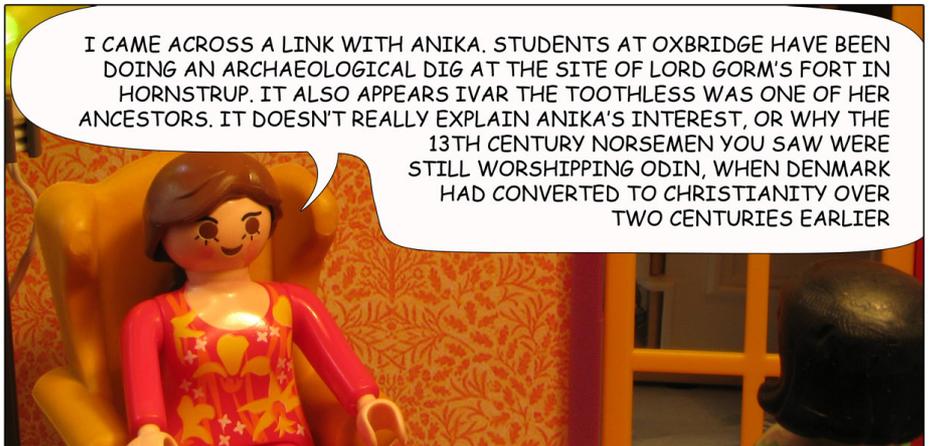


I DUG DEEPER INTO WHO HE MIGHT BE, AND I THINK HE WAS GORM THE HORRIBLE WHO LIVED IN HORNSTRUP IN DENMARK IN THE 10TH CENTURY. HE WAS RENOWNED FOR PERSECUTING THE MISSIONARIES WHO WERE TRYING TO CONVERT THE COUNTRY TO CHRISTIANITY. ALTHOUGH BROTHER OLAF DOESN'T EXPLAIN IN HIS BOOK HOW HE CAME BY THE CROSS, OR WHY HE BROUGHT IT TO CULVER, FLEEING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION WOULD MAKE A LOT OF SENSE.



SO WHY WOULD ANIKA BE INTERESTED? AND WHY WAS THE STUDENT DAN ROSS KIDNAPPED?

ODIN WORSHIPPERS WERE INTO HUMAN SACRIFICE!



I CAME ACROSS A LINK WITH ANIKA. STUDENTS AT OXBRIDGE HAVE BEEN DOING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT THE SITE OF LORD GORM'S FORT IN HORNSTRUP. IT ALSO APPEARS IVAR THE TOOTHLESS WAS ONE OF HER ANCESTORS. IT DOESN'T REALLY EXPLAIN ANIKA'S INTEREST, OR WHY THE 13TH CENTURY NORSEMEN YOU SAW WERE STILL WORSHIPPING ODIN, WHEN DENMARK HAD CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY OVER TWO CENTURIES EARLIER



PERHAPS ANIKA FOUND THE TALISMAN AT THE DIG, AND HAS BEEN GOING BACK IN TIME TO FIND THE OTHER TALISMANS, ENLISTING THE HELP OF WHICHEVER OF HER ANCESTORS HAPPENED TO BE AROUND AT THE TIME?

YOU REALLY BELIEVE THESE TALISMANS ALLOW YOU TO TIME TRAVEL...?



THIS IS WHAT BROTHER OLAF WROTE ABOUT THE TALISMANS. IT'S IN THE FORM OF RIDDLES

NOW THAT I'VE USED THE TALISMAN, THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME. "THE RAIN"... WATER - TRIGGERED IT OFF. I DIDN'T MOVE, I JUST TRAVELLED BACK IN TIME. I ENDED UP WHERE ANIKA HAD JUST TAKEN THE THIRD TALISMAN - SO THE TALISMANS WERE "TOGETHER ONCE MORE"

The Green Man in the rain travels far yet moves not, ending where he first began but together once more with his kin

IT SOUNDS LIKE A HOMING DEVICE, TAKING YOU TO JOIN THE OTHER TALISMAN IF THEY HAPPEN TO BE IN THE SAME PLACE, IF NOT THE SAME TIME

PRESUMABLY THIS IS TRIGGERED BY HEAT - "THE FLAME". THERE'S NO MENTION OF "NO MOVEMENT", SO PERHAPS YOU CAN TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION?

Flame and cross must meet to follow in the path of the the Green Man or Well

"FOLLOW IN THE PATH" SUGGESTS IT FOLLOWS, OR REPEATS THE JOURNEY OF THE LAST TALISMAN USED TO GO BACK IN TIME

THIS IS THE TALISMAN THAT ANIKA USED TO GO BACK IN TIME TO CULVER. HOWEVER, IT GIVES NO CLUE TO WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. WHAT IS A "FROZEN WELL"?

PRESUMABLY "FROZEN" REFERS TO WHAT TRIGGERS IT - THE COLD. IT SEEMS TO BE SAYING YOU CAN COMMAND THIS TALISMAN TO TAKE YOU BACK TO A SPECIFIC TIME, WHICH WOULD MAKE THIS THE MOST POWERFUL TALISMAN

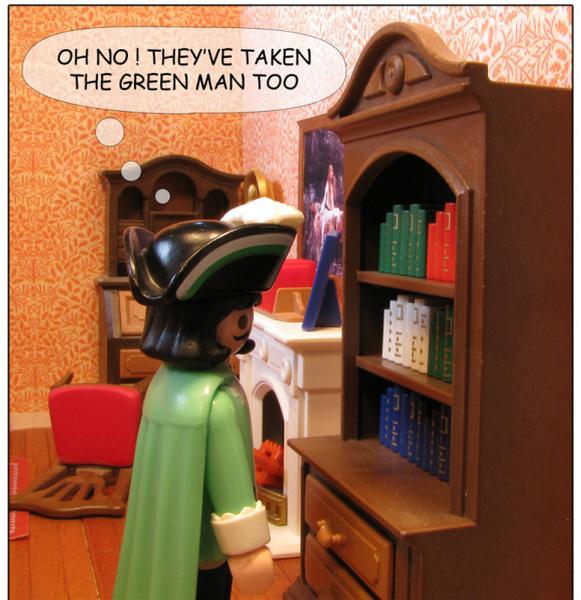
*Command the time and day, and through frozen Well reach your destination.....
Bring all three together and time and place have no hold*

THE LAST PART OF THE RIDDLE CONFIRMS WHAT FATHER GERARD SAID. THAT WHEN YOU BRING ALL THREE TALISMANS TOGETHER, THEY DO SOMETHING EVEN MORE POWERFUL

PERHAPS THE COMBINATION OF ALL THEIR INDIVIDUAL POWERS? FOR EXAMPLE, TRAVELLING TO ANY PLACE AND POINT OF TIME, FROM ANY LOCATION

















SHINGLE STREET ON THE EAST COAST





AT OXBRIDGE POLICE HQ A FEW HOURS LATER

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH PROFESSOR SWIFT FOR ALL YOUR HELP. I UNDERSTAND YOU NOW WANT TO FOLLOW ANIKA PRICE TO DENMARK?



WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YOUR STORY ABOUT TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME, BUT HIGHER AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. FROM A POLICE POINT OF VIEW, WE ARE KEEN TO CATCH NOT ONLY ANIKA PRICE, BUT HER ASSOCIATES TOO - SO IT MAKES SENSE FOR HER TO BE FOLLOWED TO DENMARK TOMORROW



SO I'VE THEREFORE CALLED IN THE EXPERTS, AND MR WOO IS HERE FROM U.M.M.

UM ?



U.M.M. STANDS FOR UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES MINISTRY. HELLO - MY NAME'S CHARLIE



HAVE YOU COME ACROSS THIS TYPE OF CASE BEFORE?

NOTHING LIKE THIS, BUT WE ARE VERY OPEN MINDED. HAVE YOU HAD LUNCH?



I CAN GO THROUGH IT WITH YOU TONIGHT, BUT FIRST I WANT TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL TO SEE CLARE

WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW ANIKA TO DENMARK AND I'M HERE TO ACCOMPANY AND PROTECT YOU, BUT I'LL NEED THE FULL STORY



I'M FINE THOMAS. THEY'RE JUST KEEPING AN EYE ON ME IN CASE THERE ARE ANY AFTER EFFECTS FROM THE CHLOROFORM. HAVE YOU TOLD THE POLICE ABOUT ANIKA ?



ST MARY'S HOSPITAL, DEVON

DON'T FOLLOW HER TO DENMARK. IT'S OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE



I HAVE TO GO TO DENMARK: THE GREEN MAN IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN THE DEMISE OF THE DARK LORD, AND I HAVEN'T PLAYED MY PART YET



BUT DON'T WORRY. THIS IS MR WOO FROM THE U.M.M. WHO'LL BE ACCOMPANYING ME. WE'LL BE GOING PREPARED



I'M AFRAID I'VE CRASHED YOUR CAR

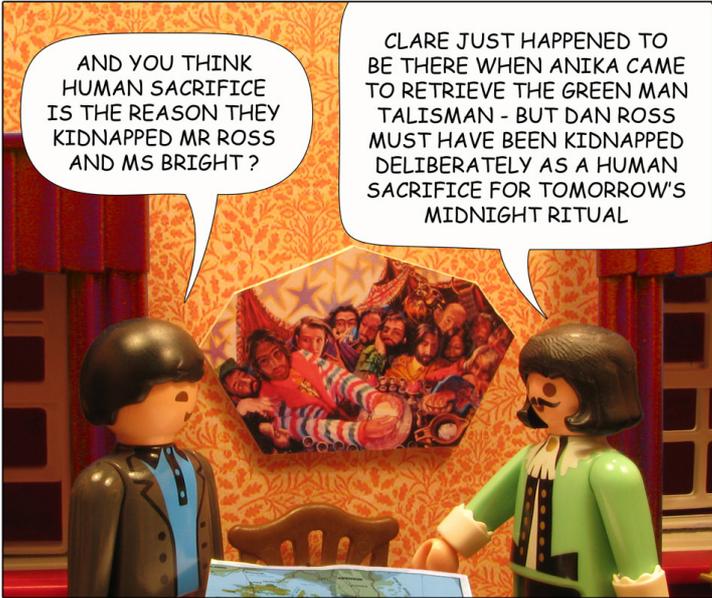
WHY WEREN'T YOU DRIVING YOURS ?!



BACK AT THOMAS'S FLAT

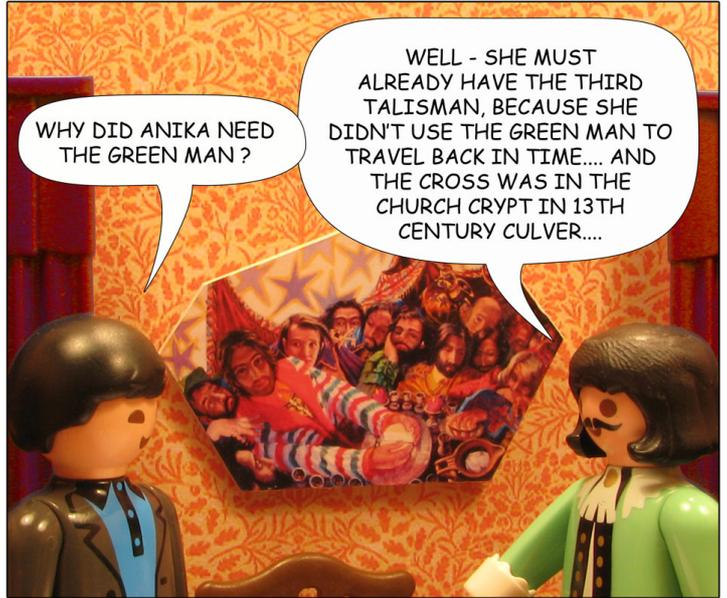


THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE DARK LORD HAD HIS CASTLE. I THINK ANIKA IS PLANNING TO GO BACK IN TIME TO MEET HIM - AND THAT SHE HAS BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR SOME TIME. FOR SOME REASON, TOMORROW IS THE DAY SHE HAS TO DO IT



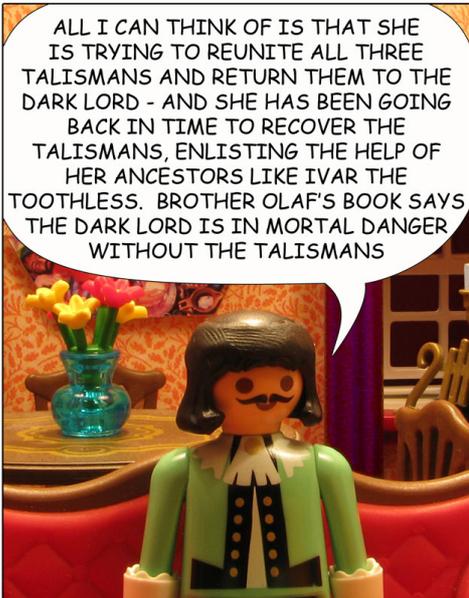
AND YOU THINK HUMAN SACRIFICE IS THE REASON THEY KIDNAPPED MR ROSS AND MS BRIGHT ?

CLARE JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE WHEN ANIKA CAME TO RETRIEVE THE GREEN MAN TALISMAN - BUT DAN ROSS MUST HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED DELIBERATELY AS A HUMAN SACRIFICE FOR TOMORROW'S MIDNIGHT RITUAL



WHY DID ANIKA NEED THE GREEN MAN ?

WELL - SHE MUST ALREADY HAVE THE THIRD TALISMAN, BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T USE THE GREEN MAN TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME.... AND THE CROSS WAS IN THE CHURCH CRYPT IN 13TH CENTURY CULVER....



ALL I CAN THINK OF IS THAT SHE IS TRYING TO REUNITE ALL THREE TALISMANS AND RETURN THEM TO THE DARK LORD - AND SHE HAS BEEN GOING BACK IN TIME TO RECOVER THE TALISMANS, ENLISTING THE HELP OF HER ANCESTORS LIKE IVAR THE TOOTHLESS. BROTHER OLAF'S BOOK SAYS THE DARK LORD IS IN MORTAL DANGER WITHOUT THE TALISMANS



AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW HER BACK IN TIME ?

I HAVE ONE OF THE TALISMANS - THE VIKING CROSS

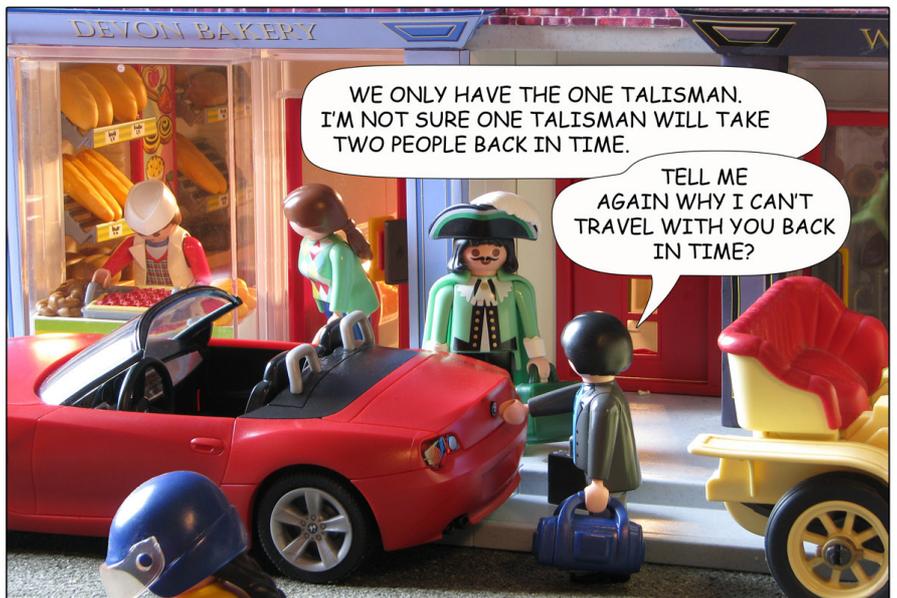


IT'S GETTING LATE. YOU BETTER GET TO BED, AS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LONG DAY TOMORROW



THE NEXT MORNING

THE DANISH POLICE WILL BE MEETING US ON OUR ARRIVAL. YOU WILL NEED THIS TO PROTECT YOURSELF. DON'T WORRY - YOU WON'T BE STOPPED AT HEATHROW.



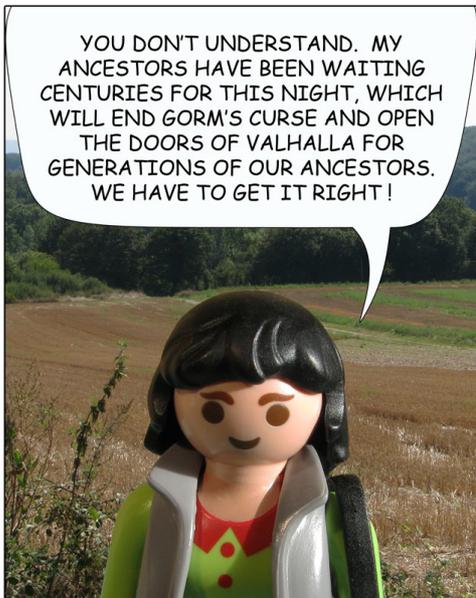
WE ONLY HAVE THE ONE TALISMAN. I'M NOT SURE ONE TALISMAN WILL TAKE TWO PEOPLE BACK IN TIME.

TELL ME AGAIN WHY I CAN'T TRAVEL WITH YOU BACK IN TIME?



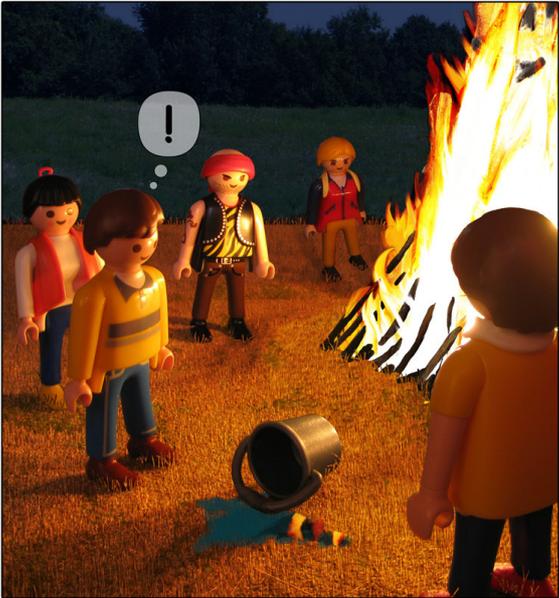








ONE-EYED BUT ALL-SEEING ODIN, GOD OF MAGIC, WISDOM AND LEARNING. SEND ME TO YOUR SERVANT THE DARK LORD, GORM THE HORRIBLE. LET ME PUT RIGHT THE WRONG MY ANCESTOR GRIM THE SNEAK DID HIM. BY ALL YOUR GREAT POWER LET THE CURSE OF GORM BE LIFTED. BRACELET - I COMMAND YOU TO TAKE ME TO MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT, 907AD

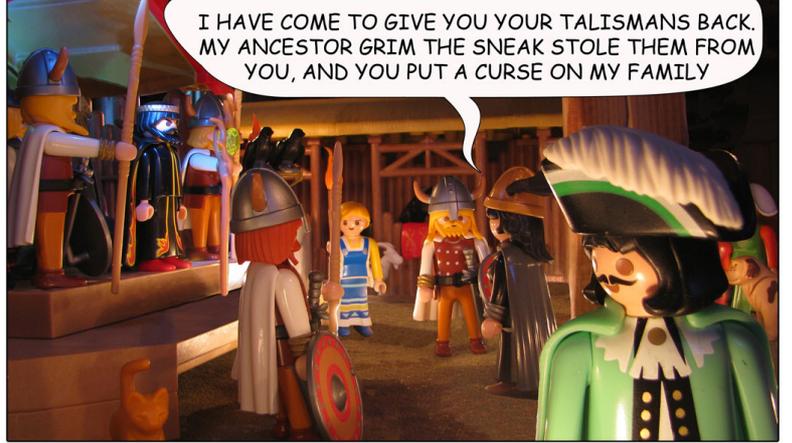


GOOD LUCK

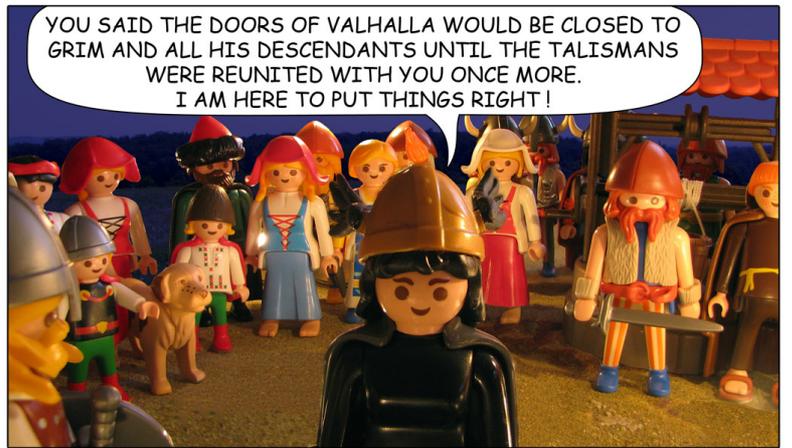


WHO ON EARTH...?!

MY LORD GORM, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT!



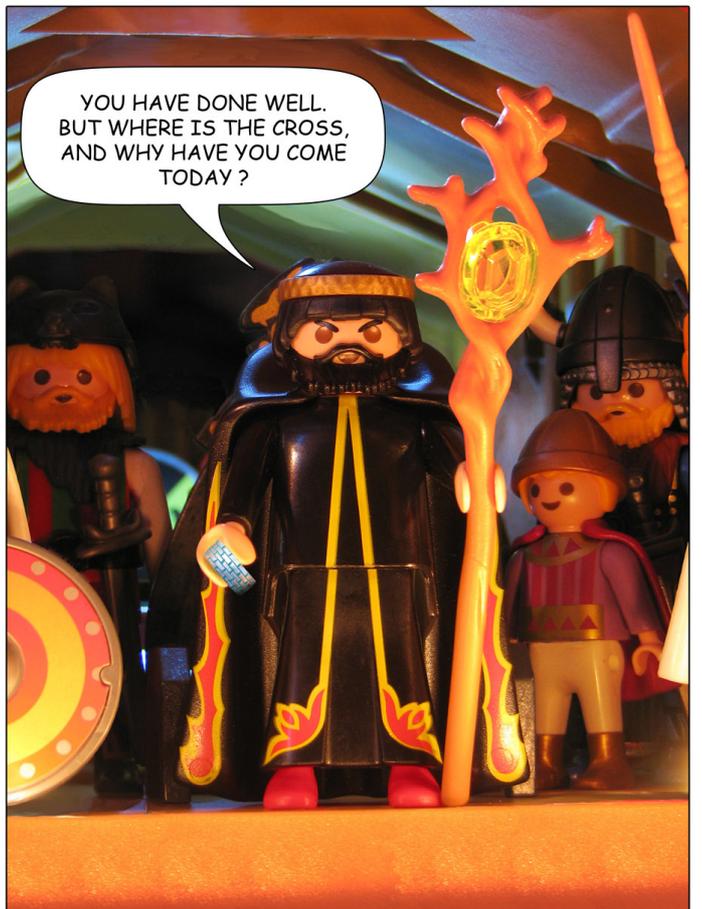
I HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU YOUR TALISMANS BACK. MY ANCESTOR GRIM THE SNEAK STOLE THEM FROM YOU, AND YOU PUT A CURSE ON MY FAMILY



YOU SAID THE DOORS OF VALHALLA WOULD BE CLOSED TO GRIM AND ALL HIS DESCENDANTS UNTIL THE TALISMANS WERE REUNITED WITH YOU ONCE MORE. I AM HERE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT!



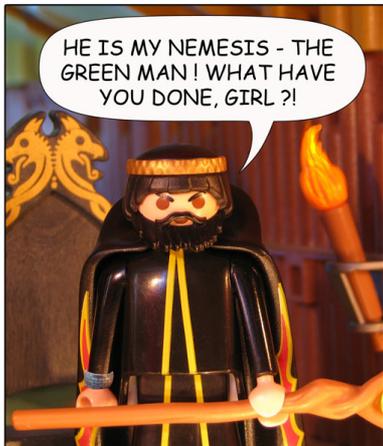
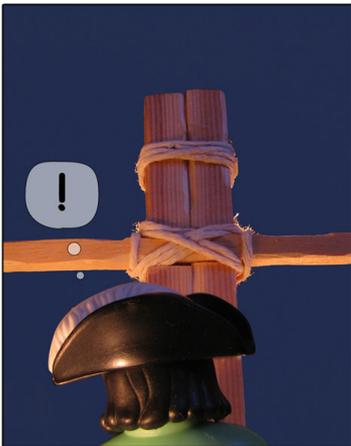
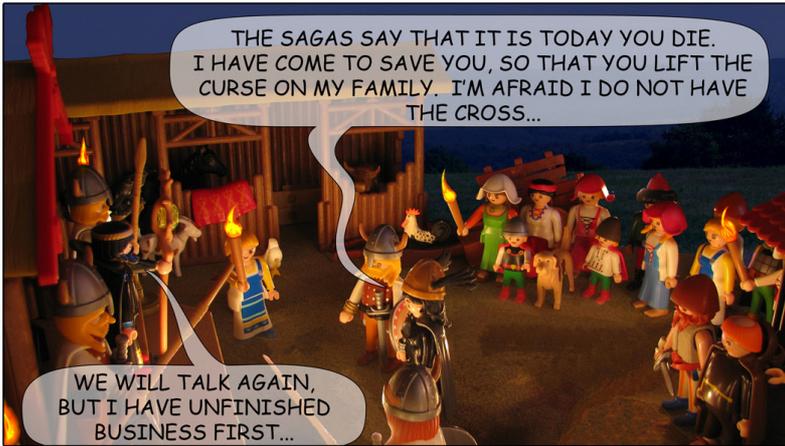
SHE IS MAD. TAKE HER AWAY!



YOU HAVE DONE WELL. BUT WHERE IS THE CROSS, AND WHY HAVE YOU COME TODAY?



LOOK LORD - HERE IS THE GREEN MAN AND THE BRACELET!





TWO DAYS LATER, ON CAMPUS AT DEVON UNIVERSITY



SO I GAVE THE CROSS TO BROTHER OLAF, AND USED THE GREEN MAN TO RETURN TO THE PRESENT

WHAT A STRANGE STORY

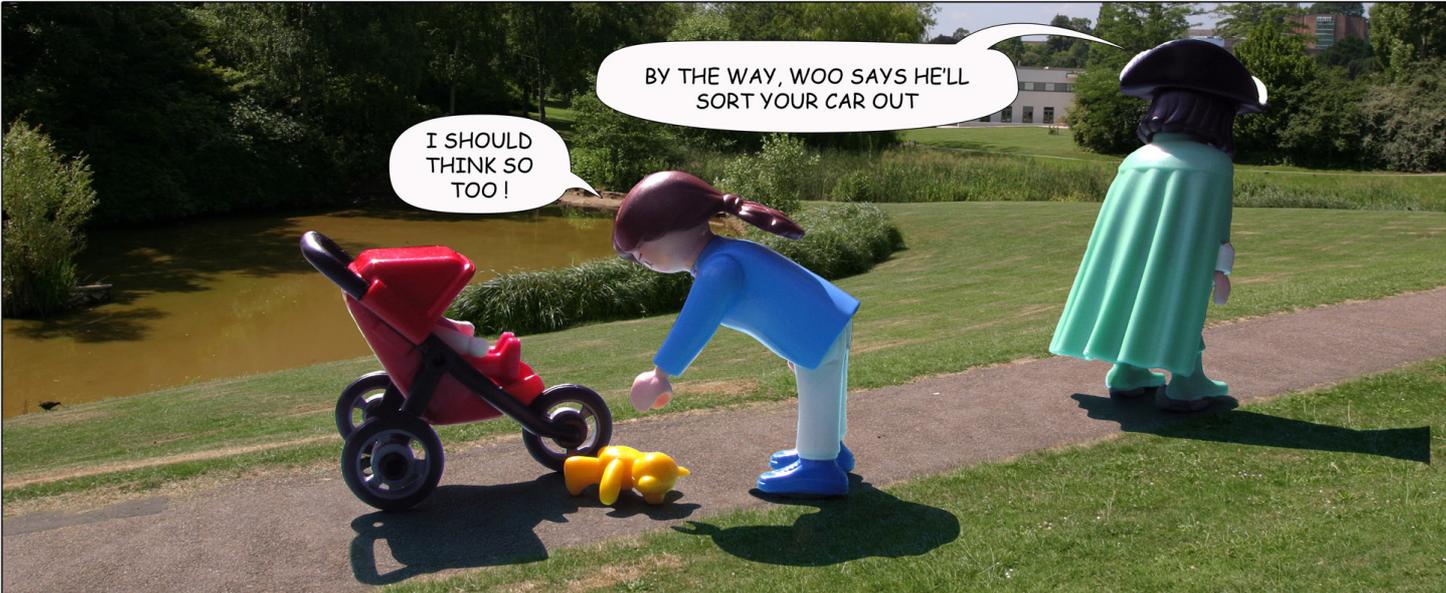


WHAT HAPPENED TO ANIKA ?

THAT'S SOMETHING I FEEL BAD ABOUT. ANIKA MUST STILL BE THERE... STUCK IN THE 9TH CENTURY. THE THIRD TALISMAN WENT DOWN THE WELL WITH THE DARK LORD



THE OFFICIAL STORY IS THAT SHE MET WITH AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT IN DENMARK. THE DEAN IS VERY UPSET



I SHOULD THINK SO TOO!

BY THE WAY, WOO SAYS HE'LL SORT YOUR CAR OUT



THE END

About the book

I hope you have enjoyed the book, whether you are a fan of the children's toy PLAYMOBIL® or not.

For those of you who are fans, this may be of interest:-

A Word about PLAYMOBIL®

PLAYMOBIL® has been produced by the German Company geobra Brandstätter GmbH & Co. KG since 1974, and I have made use of items from the whole of the back catalogue, as well as items currently available. Most of the retired items were sourced from internet auction sites.

Thomas is represented by the green musketeer special (catalogue number 4565) released in 1999 and retired in 2000.

No Klicky was harmed in the making of this book....

Klicky is the affectionate name given to PLAYMOBIL® figures by the fan community. To enhance the story I have made use of the amazing powers of digital editing, not only to put figures into photographic backgrounds, but to make them do things that klickies cannot usually do - like occasionally bending arms and legs !

For more information about how the book was created, see www.thomasswiftproductions.co.uk



A big thankyou...

To **Jean-Michel Coblence**, whose immediate belief in the project has kept me going for many years!

To **Heather and her team** at www.PlaymoDB.org for the wonderful database of Playmobil parts, which made life so much easier!

To the PLAYMOBIL®, **adult fan community** who made me realise I could create a comic book without having to draw it!

To **Frederic Dien** for his marvellous Playmo stamp design which can be seen on the envelope in the third picture of Page 1!

To **The University of Exeter** for their kind permission to use (and cut up!) a picture of the campus on Page 1!

To my best friend **Robert Senior** for allowing me to 'hang up' one of his extraordinary oil paintings on the walls of Thomas Swift's flat!

To **Rona** for allowing me to use her avatar as the logo for the Red Dragon Supermarket!

To **Helen** and the sadly now closed New York independent toy shop - 'Laughing Giraffe at the Monkey's Wedding' - probably the best toy shop in the world!

To my great translators **Johanne Ostendorf** and **Estelle Demontrond-Box** for all their enthusiasm and hard work!

To my friend **Daniel Tapia Lehmann** who saw the book and very kindly offered his free time to translate it into Spanish to bring it to a whole new audience!

Above all to **my family** who have given their whole-hearted support in so many ways, including sharing in the risks and sacrifices of such a project.

Particularly to:-

- my **Mother**, who translated the book into French so that I could approach publishers and for her support and belief in me!

- my **Father**, who furnished me with a state-of-the-art computer to create the book on, who has created a 'Playmo Studio' for me, helped me in the finances of the project and in so many other ways!

- my wife **Clare**, who has supported me through the many years, risks and sacrifices, and who gave me invaluable help in developing the plot and characters, and for putting up with a house overtaken by Playmobil!

- my sister **Véronique** for all her support and for making the printed edition possible!

- my children **Emma**, **Patrick** and **Mary** - for letting me play with their toys, for being my first reviewers, for lending helping hands, and for all they've had to put up with!