

CONVERSATIONS

NARRATIONS

DREAMS

AND

HOPES

Conversation between
Georgian Merchant and
Johnny Faust at
Pennyrose Cottage

JF: Tell me what do you believe in
Do you believe in anything

GM: Oh I believe in God
But not so much God the Father
As God the Beyond Dualist

Why

God

The concept of oneness

Develops

Is not static
And after the atomic bomb
God changes too
And not believing in the one-world view
The universe is as long as your life
Otherwise you'll do nothing but suffer

But why

Because you are a victim of life
Not being a creator of life

that is why
I have invited
Guy Pool
to stay with me
for a time
to help me
build my future

Is he better for staying here with you

I hope so

the murder of his father

by his older brother

still haunts him

I'm sure it does

what was that story

years ago his father seduced

his brother's newly wedded wife

and insisted they all live together

the family couldn't cope with that

and Jonathan

with his mother's connivance

murdered father Mennachis

Jonathan went to jail

and Pool fled

I had hoped our trip to the Sage
would have helped him come to terms
with his gayness

Oh I think it has
but he is still very troubled

understandable
a terrible thing
poor soul

well I shall do my best

and he may be able
to help you

that's the idea

COUNTY OF WORTHSHIRE

Westwich		city
Markhampton		town
Greensand		small town
Merton		village
Westwich Hall	inhabitants	Lord Arthur White deceased Joanne White nee Power
Merton Hall		Lord Robert Diamond Lady Lauren Diamond + their son Little Ed Victry
Merton House		Aesthete Chris deceased
previously owned		+ Suzanne Mendez
by Cesar del Mundo		
Merton Cottage		Biker Mike deceased
Gadwell Palace	mythical	Grant-am deceased

Rose Cottage	inhabitants	Guy or Gay Fool or Pool or Detective
Pennyrose Cottage		Georgian Merchant English Georgian
The Post House		Elizabeth Wilson deceased Biker Mike Monsieur le Chevalier
Crown Farm Merton		Johnny Faust
Merton Manor		Bill and Joy
Greensand Hall		Lord and Lady Mack
The Mansion House Greensand		Professor/Philosopher/Mike
The Vicarage Merton		Reverend Frederick Lawrenns/ Freddie

the mind is in the invisible

part of existence that you

can't perceive

with the

senses

Bill: would you finish up that honey
 so I can throw away the jar

Joy: I'm saving it up for a bit later

Bill: there is no bit later

 this is the end of the world

 this is the end of the universe

 this is the end of life

Johnny Faust again talking with
Georgian Merchant

JF: we
 need a fresh start
 a clean sweep
 sweeping away national identity
 sweeping away family identity
 sweeping away education indoctrination

 start afresh

GM: preposterous
 impossible
 no-one will stand for it

JF: doesn't matter
 it will come

what truly is Freedom

what truly is Everlastingness

I have been deprived
of the joy
of having children

bemoans Guy Fool

let's play

let's have a laugh

that is the message

Now neutrinos may go faster than light
everything is upended
we'll have to go beyond dualism
just as I said

declares Philosopher Mike

No need to be
too clever about it

replies Johnny Faust

would I

adds Philosopher Mike

Guy describes to Bill
Guy's theory of
psycho-sexual drive

you see I have a
very low drive
that's why I'm weak
unambitious
you have a strong one
like Georgian and Johnny
Freddie's a bit medium
sex is the essence-core of one's being
it determines who you are or
what drives you
what makes up your desires
I have none now
even less than when
I was young
you do understand
don't you

sort of Guy but I don't
agree that it is
so important

and we start with Georgian Merchant's phone call to Joy

“can you come over at once
I'm at Rose Cottage
Guy has attempted suicide
he's all right
the ambulance is on its way
I know you would want to help”

“coming
five minutes”

Joy drives from Merton Manor to Rose Cottage

The ambulance has arrived and is dealing with the sick Guy

“I thought he was all right. He's been with me for a few weeks and came home at the weekend. I called this morning to have a day out with him.”

Joy declares

“we all thought he was better after our trip to Venezuela”

“Obviously not unless he just had a couple of drinks and pills too many by accident”

“let’s hope so may be that’s what we should say to the hospital people”

Greensand Hall is dark

It is night

The moon lamps the sky

Lord Mack is alone in his study

He hears a window move and looks up to see someone entering

He does not speak

He waits till the intruder reveals himself

“Father, I’m sorry, you’re up. I wanted to get in undetected.”

“What are you doing here? Where’s Marianne?”

“She’s still in Paris. I need your help, Dad. I’m in trouble. We both are, Marianne and I”

“What is it?”

Lord Mack switches on some lights and ushers his weary-looking son to sit down

“I’ve shot a man. It was terrible. It was awful. Please help me.”

“But of course, tell me what happened.”

The narration from Perry Mack, Lord Mack’s elder son, begins with his stay in France with his newly-wedded wife, Marianne Gold.

Perry is in his mid thirties, dark haired tall and handsome.

He has a very nervous nature and

“You’ve always been one to panic and run away,” says his father

Perry was a good worker on the estates but having married he had a honeymoon and an extended visit to France

“We were staying in a friend’s apartment on the Champs-Elysees; when one night an old acquaintance of Marianne’s turned up. He was ok and we didn’t worry about it. But he kept returning, even when I was out. I caught him there and he was forcing himself on Marianne so I shot him.”

“Where was the gun? Whose gun was it?”

“It belonged to the owners of the flat; our friends. It was in a desk drawer for emergencies.

“Then I told Marianne to tell the police I had shot him but I was coming here for your help.”

“Curious. Why would you do that?”

“I wanted time to think what to do.”

“Why? All you have to do is give yourself up and tell the truth. I’ll call the police in the morning.”

“Yes, you’re right, but...”

“but what?”

“you don’t see the enormity of what I have done”

“don’t I?”

“you can’t imagine how loud the gun was

How it felt as if the bullet was entering me

How my life is over because of this terrible deed

My pain will be so intense so enormous every day to wake up to the terrible ache in my mind of how I shot someone

I won’t be able to bear it”

“I do understand and I will try to help you bear it, you are my son, my beloved son after all

Soon you will see that this is a terrible thing that has happened to you

And not something you have done

At least not alone”

“There, on the floor, there, what do you call that?”

Johnny Faust is asking Freddie Lawrenns

They are in Johnny’s bedroom

Staring at

“A large black cape...a cloak... is what I call it.”

Freddie answers feebly

“Yes, Your Reverence, but whose black cloak is it?”

“I wouldn’t know who put it there.”

“Well I’ll tell you. Satan put it there. It’s the Devil’s black cloak. Yes the Devil came to me last night, came for my soul and I stopped him. He took one look at me and fled leaving his cloak behind.”

“Could have been a burglar, a very human burglar.”

“You a man of the cloth saying that to me.”

“What do you mean?”

“I saw the Devil. Not for the first time neither. He was in the yard a few days ago.”

“You’re crazy, Johnny, potty; it will be a burglar.”

“I’m disappointed in you, Reverend.”

“You haven’t been drinking have you?”

“No. But I’m sure of what I saw. It was Lucifer.”

“Very well, for your sake, I shall believe you. Nothing stolen was there?”

“Course not it was the Devil, and if he comes back I shall have him

I shall tell him

Come on then who wants it

Because I can give it

I’m in a mood and a bad mood at that

And when I say bad I mean bad

Ha-ha-ha that will see to him”

“Very well Johnny, I just hope I’m not here to see it”
commented Freddie as he left Crown Farm.

Professor-Philosopher-Mike had been feeling rather down since the return of his friends from Venezuela

Things were depressing the old man

He was tiring of life and wanted relief but he still hoped for change

He had long since realised his dreams were in vain and that people or society would not be able to catch up with his philosophical advancements

He didn't blame anyone

It was all too understandable

He had found contentment in the Mansion House his home for many years

Greensand in Worthshire was an attractive town; part of the world but safe from the world hiding from the world

He could still dream and think and hope but he was tiring and he took to taking naps something new for him

The drawing room offered a beautiful window view onto the front garden and the large old beech tree drapes itself in front of half of the window

He could observe the light on the leaves and branches and he would be soothed

Dreamer who had been roused by Thinker and was companion to Sleeper would come to the old philosopher sometimes in disguise as a dream

“All I want is to love and be loved

But I have failed”

“No you haven’t Guy,” Joy is comforting Guy in his hospital bed as they are alone after his ordeal

“You are very much loved in Merton. Everyone I know says how marvellous you are, how clever you are and artistic.”

“Clever at some things, yes; not so clever at others.”

“Appreciate your talents for what they are. You are loved and you love.”

“But there is more, Joy

There is more pain to it

Yes I love and am loved

But I run away from love

I kill what I love

And it is that pain which is hurting me”

“How can you kill what you love?”

“I leave the loved
And that makes me tormented
I no longer can love I think.”

“Of course you can
Leave everything to me
I will see to you
I will look after you”

“But how
What can you do?”

“You’ll see
I know what to do
I will take care of you”

“You are kind, Joy, and I’m grateful, everyone has been so kind; even Professor Mike sent a card.”

“Aha! Even he of the nothing exists sent you a card; there’s hope for the old fool yet

Don’t worry; it may take some time but I will look after you.”

there is a terrible commotion in the courtroom

“Silence! Or I will clear the court,” shouts the judge

Quiet returns

“I will speak,” continues the woman, “I will confess to the murder. I alone did it.”

“No, Marianne,” interrupts Perry the prisoner in the dock.

“No, I beg you. Stop!” he sobs unable to continue.

“It is no use. I can’t allow you to take the blame. I confess to the murder.”

The judge adjourns the case and calls to see the lawyers in his chambers.

The outcome is that the French court acquits Perry Mack and detains his wife Marianne.

At her trial she is given a suspended sentence pleading self defence.

The Reverend Frederick Lawrenns

still troubled in his faith

he is the son of the late Reverend Archibald Lawrenns

he who administered to the faithful

in Merton at the time of

Lord Robert Diamond's giving birth

to Little Ed Victry

on the island of Jerba

near Tunisia

Lord Robert was married to Lauren

but she was unable to have a child

so with the help of

Dr Legend

a Swiss specialist

Robert was made pregnant
and visited Jerba for the birth
making himself
a Motherman

Archiblad had christened the boy
back in Merton
the Diamonds being
the occupants
of Merton Hall
Worthshire

Frederick now held the parish of Merton

Freddie to his friends

Ever since he had his personal vision of Jesus
Freddie had confronted his faith quite differently
How it was
was thus

During a recent summer he had been taken ill
quite severely with what he thought was food-poisoning
he suffered in bed for several days
hardly eating a thing
but he eventually packed a bag
and took a taxi to the A & E of the local hospital
quite certain he would be admitted for the night
during which he would blissfully die
so ill he felt
in his mind he had composed
farewell emails to all his friends

he may or may not have had time to write them
staggering from the taxi
he entered the hospital
declared his status
to the reception
and within thirty seconds
was placed in a wheelchair
and delivered to a cubicle
where instantly
a young angel nurse
started sticking plaster electrodes
all over his bare chest
smiling and talking merrily as she went
he was being ECG d
or something
and a doctor came in to
glean the details

oh and what details

what a great many questions

Freddie was suffering

and politely went over everything

“I haven’t been able to eat for days”

keeping calm and helpful

it all strained him

and he did feel bad

his body was heaving

and his mind seemed to be reeling

spinning out of control

he wanted to leave

but these electrodes restrained him

and his bag in the corner

containing books and a radio

for his overnight stay

discouraged any departure

and besides

he was glad and grateful

the medical staff were helping him

quiet the nurse wheeled out her machine

the doctor left the cubicle

Freddie called out

in his mind

to Jesus

to help him

and Jesus appeared

in the corner of the room

just to the right

at the base of the bed trolley

Freddie was lying on

and Jesus

standing

gazing at Freddie

slowly strolled across

the end of the bed

and waited

with a peacefulness

that stunned and pleased Freddie

“Yes,” thought Freddie

“You came

I called you and you came

You did not call me

I called you

and you appeared

here you are

and always will be

that is what you are

always and everywhere

if I perceive

Thank you.”

Apparently the vision of Jesus

lasted a long time for Freddie

he said Jesus

looked quite traditional

tall, long dark hair, bearded

biblical type robes

but his gaze

his aura

his being

were so calming

beautiful

and ever since

Freddie has felt

can see the presence

of Jesus

whenever Freddie wishes

what comfort

what reassurance

so why the faith crisis?

later

meanwhile the doctor

has returned

wants a few tests

leaves Freddie alone for a while

or is he now?

The doctor again returns with another consultant

who joyfully and reassuringly

tells Freddie that the problem

is most likely
some inflammation of the stomach
which will right itself
so Freddie can go home

“Go home and eat,” the doctor pronounces

thanking everyone profusely
Freddie gathers himself together
and after some time
takes up his bag
to walk home
his head filled with his vision of Jesus

strange after such a life-changing experience
Freddie was able to keep
an equilibrium of mind

to cope with walking the streets home
crossing the road and dealing with traffic
but he was

he took it all quite calmly
naturally and yet
he had just seen Jesus

Now the problem for Freddie was how to reconcile his
vision with the Church's position of Christ and war

You see Freddie's vision showed him Jesus as love peace
eternity, turning the other cheek, loving neighbours and
enemies alike, healing and creating,
not killing and destroying

Freddie had not told his wife of his experience

He did not want to tell anyone

It was too personal

But he thought of it

And it was a continuous comfort to him

So it made things rather tricky

when considering Johnny's

sighting of the Devil

Had Johnny seen Lucifer

and frightened him off

into leaving the cloak behind

Dreamer

hovers about Professor Mike

whispering

You must write of truth, Professor

and only truth

you must pursue it

you must seek it find it

understand it

You must must

Marianne and Perry are in the drawing room of Greensand Hall with Lord and Lady Mack

“It is so good to have you both home safe and well after that terrible ordeal,” says Lord Mack

It is early evening and the room glows in a warm amber light

“We have some news to tell you,” declares Marianne

“You’re going to have a baby,” says Lady Mack with a grin

“That’s right,” says Perry, “towards the end of the year.”

Everyone is so delighted they all stand up and shake hands and embrace and feel good

Later Lord Mack announces somewhat mysteriously:

“Of course, we all have to cope with our small inconsequential lives within the bigger picture of the world, but we will manage, and ensure our new family member will have a happy and fulfilling life...ha-ha-ha!”

“My goodness, I think we need something to eat after that, Albert,” comments Lady Mack

Joy is chatting with Guy back at Pennyrose Cottage

“do you remember when we set out in the van to go to the airport for our trip to Venezuela, how we had only gone half a mile or so when we realised the cat was in the van with us?”

“and we had to turn round and take it back home”

“we were leaving the van parked at the airport all that time so we had to take the cat back”

“it looked very sad at being left behind”

“oh I did enjoy South America

the whole trip was wonderful

the colours were so strong

the light was marvellously fresh and bright

people were very nice to us too”

“we must have struck them as so strange there was nothing else to do but leave us alone or help us as much as possible, yes it was marvellous

how Georgian came to know there was a Sage up in those mountains I couldn't understand”

“Philosopher Mike and he linked up with this guy who knew of him on the internet”

“of course, where else does one meet anyone these days or learn anything,” continues Guy,

“but high up in that spur of the Andes

sounds like an Ur of the Chaldees

we went up the Spur of the Andes

to meet a recluse

how can you meet a recluse

it’s a contradiction”

“anyway,” adds Joy, “meet him we did and what a person what a character

all that hair

and brown skin

but he was wonderful I thought

charming? not the right word

courteous is better”

“oh yes he was very well spoken
and he seemed to know a great deal
was he from Venezuela do you think?”
“No, no, Georgian said he was Peruvian
a Peruvian
but had travelled most of the continent”
“gaining his knowledge and ending
up on his spur”
“it was terrifically high
over 12000 feet I think
we were lucky to find guides to take us”
“apparently they do it regularly
it’s a tourist thing
makes a fortune for them
well what else is there to do in these places
with their vast spaces
and endless time to do it in?”

Joy continues:

“yes, the world is a very big place

when you actually leave your area

your little corner

for us our Merton in Worthshire

our routine zone

and go somewhere else

you find it immense

like China

which apparently is vast

South America is pretty big too

and empty of civilisation”

“course the world itself

the planet earth

is a mere 24,000 miles

in circumference

tiny really”

“is that all?

it doesn't seem much”

“no and mostly water apparently

us 7 billion people

crammed on to such a small globe

seems ridiculous

anyway back to the Sage

what did you think of his teachings?”

Joy smiled and thought for a moment

before replying

“I found it obscure

all above my head

but I enjoyed listening

he was quite the storyteller

and in fact a poet

I thought”

“I agree

he spoke brilliantly

and of course I liked

all those young acolytes

running around after him

catering to his needs”

“yes I rather thought you would”

“I could do with

a group of young men

going to the shops for me

cooking my meals

tending to my comforts

oh yes it would be fun”

“I’m glad to see you

well and truly recovering”

“yes life drags you down

makes you gloomy
but then we perk up again
and bounce back
how India rubber of us humans”
“the Sage had a great deal to say
about views of the world”
“interpretations I would have said”
“yes, interpretations,
you’re right
how many worlds existed
according to cultures”
“and philosophy”
“yes and what he said about time
struck me as very interesting
because in those huge mountains
clocks didn’t count

it was nothing to us
whether it was
9:15 or quarter to four
for the days on end
that we were there”
“but his view of death
as joyful and fulfilling
was very well argued
and certainly wandering those mountains
did make us feel
small insignificant
and yet we were perceiving
such huge spaces and structures
it was a thrilling experience
a wonderful time
I loved it”

“maybe we’ll go back sometime,”
concludes Joy

and the two friends walk out of the house to wander the garden
enjoying the borders

“you’re still lonely,” Joy interrupts
“it doesn’t change
don’t worry about it though”
“I won’t
I said I’m going to sort you out
and I am
you’ll see”

Dreamer is talking to Sleeper who is asleep

I've been visiting Professor Philosopher Mike

what a fraud he is he's no more a

professor nor philosopher than you or I

but I do like him

he's so open to my ideas

I work them into his mind and he runs away with them

till he thinks their his own his original thoughts

such fun rather like the playing wind that rattles the windows

making a creepy noise effect on the room

he's aware he's disturbed but he carries on just the same

I'm planning sending him a dream a vision

that will drive him crazy with joy

he'll want to tell everyone all about it

I'll make it appear like a sequence from a movie
maybe in slow motion some black and white
some sepia some colour and a loud soundtrack
very moody atmospheric music such as he likes
and there'll be close-ups and long tracking shots
and he will be bewildered
but my dream will show him nevertheless
the future life the future world the future race
he will see the dream of people experiencing
the
oh wait and see yourself
Sleeper

I am resigned to being no good
something many of us have to face as we become older
or at least not as good as I would like to be
at what I do

there are two things I will
not watch on the screen
people eating
people drinking
kissing too
placing anything in the mouth
I close my eyes for
reason?
Transubstantiation
of course
how comical

Thinker does the rounds
to keep everyone on track
for the search
for absolute truth

he first invades our friends beginning with Johnny Faust
saying what are you doing about the search for truth

JF: oh I'm too busy much too busy

my boys are in need of me

both of them Left and Right

and I have to maintain this place

Crown Farm is very big and even though it is not
used as a farm there are still plenty of repairs I have
to deal with

so sorry Thinker truth seeking is on hold for the
moment

Thinker thinks not a very good reply Johnny we'll have to see
about you later

now for Georgian Merchant

let's hope he is a bit more encouraging

GM: oh I never stop trying

I'm always on the go thinking about the great
questions

but I need to be alone

to think and I don't have many opportunities

there's always someone some gnat buzzing at me

never a moment's peace in any day

do think more at night when going to sleep
but all forgotten by morning
and a woman has appeared
she doesn't realise I have noticed her
but I have and I am worried
so truth is taking second or third place

Thinker is feeling discouraged
when he approaches Freddie Lawrenns

FL: thing is I've lost faith old boy

I can't reconcile violence with the

Mind of Jesus

will have to leave

I was rather hoping you would help with truth

you being the Thinker

Venezuela was fine and we all enjoyed it

and I was very fond of the Sage

but his truth was a rather stuck on a mountain

not much practice to the downstairs world

to television money and conscience

so I'm still battling with it all

sad I can't help you more

At least Freddie had been more sympathetic if not much use

so Thinker felt a little better when he decided to pay a visit to

Lord and Lady Mack

didn't make much progress

Lord M: new family on the way

haven't time to think up new truths and that
quite happy to stay where I am with the old ones
been all right all this time
the Andes were a great sight
made for a wonderful trip
but didn't gain too much from the Sage
no I'll stay where I am
leave well alone eh?

Hmm, leave well alone indeed

Thinker was not happy

but he would persevere

I'll have a word with Sleeper and Dreamer
and see if they can make things move along

the morning sunlight was brilliant

perfect for love thought

Eva Goode

she was going to make her move and the opportunity is here

she is in the waiting room of Herr Doktor Leben's surgery

and seated across from her is the object

the man

Georgian Merchant

she has set herself upon him

their eyes have met casually

but it was enough

instant joy recognition

the desire

she approaches like a cat

she sits beside him

she has seen him before
outside Pennyrose Cottage
but this this is the first time
their eyes have met
here in the surgery

“Don’t you live in Pennyrose?” she asks

“I do. Have you seen me there?”

“Yes, several times. I live in a caravan
on Smithson’s Caravan site.”

“Oh yes, I know it.”

“Would you like to visit me some afternoon?”

“Sure.”

“Just turn up and ask for me.

Eva. Everyone knows me.

Eva Goode.”

“Thanks I will.

I’m Georgian. Georgian Merchant.”

“That’s my number.

I have to go in to the doctor now.

See you soon I hope.”

Georgian and Eva get to know each other

they are seated inside Eva's medium sized white caravan on
Smithson's site in Greensand

a black horse eats grass outside and can be seen through the
window

the caravan is clean and decorated with ornaments and books
and pictures including a photo-portrait of Her Majesty

Eva: I'm so glad you have come; I do enjoy our visits; you
are good to know; you are just as I imagined a kind
and sensitive man

Georgian: if a little old

Eva: you don't need to say that

you're always mentioning your age; it isn't important
to me and that is why I want to tell you today why I
wish to develop our relationship

Georgian: I have been worrying you might

Eva: now now I would like to start a family with you

Georgian: this is what I have dreaded; just recently you have been getting into my mind and I think about you too much; it is not what I need; I don't want closeness again it is not for me; I have lost my wife and my sons have grown away from me; I don't want love anymore

Eva: it doesn't have to be love; I'm sorry I have been invading your mind; I don't want that; but then we cannot help how we feel

I want us to marry and have children for the future

Georgian: the future

I have no future; I am too old and tired and not very well

Eva: you won't have to do anything; I will see to our arrangements

Georgian: except one; the begetting

this causes the two of them to laugh

Eva: no I can't quite do that one

although these days you could always artificially

Georgian: no no if I'm going to do it at all it has to be for real
and they laugh again at their situation

Eva: oh why are you so against it; is it me; you have seen
where I live; I've told you about my background; not
very clear I know born of two roving gypsies and
brought up by some distant aunt; but what of that
these days; you've seen my likes and loyalties

Georgian: yes I've noticed your picture of Her Majesty

Eva: oh yes I'm quite a fan of the good lady
and for what she stands for
are you

Georgian: oh yes Her Majesty and I have an excellent
relationship

Eva: which is

Georgian: we pray for each other
continually
every day

Eva: and you think she prays for you

Georgian: without doubt

as she prays for everyone of us

Eva: yes you're right

so there that settles everything

there's no reason why we can't marry

Georgian: except me

please don't be upset

after Lacetta there can be no-one else

I'm just too old and sick

let's stay friends

come to Pennyrose next week

Eva: very well I'll come

and be satisfied

Georgian: that way you won't interfere with my work

which I usually fit in around our encounters

Eva: what do you do; I've often wondered

what do you do

Georgian: me; I work as an artist; I paint pictures, and write books mostly

Eva: gosh you write books
that must be marvellous
I like a book
perhaps I can read one

Georgian: sure I can dig one out for you

Eva: what are they about

Georgian: well lately they have become more and more philosophical and perceptual

Eva: sounds intriguing

Georgian: yes I write them under a pseudonym

Eva: a pen name how clandestine how exciting what is your pen name I may have seen some of them

Georgian: I write under the name of Mike Ward
but you wont have seen any
as I samizdat publish them

Eva: oh what's that mean

Georgian: I print them for friends and family alone

Eva: samizdat what a lovely word; I like to learn new words; new things with you; I do that all the time; you are a very fascinating person and friend

and they part for the time being and we leave them their story to be continued

and now to Margaret and Marianne

in the drawing room of Greensand Hall

Margaret being Lady Mack herself

she and her daughter-in-law are relaxing at needlework and reading books

Marianne refers to her pregnancy

Marianne: it seems strange giving birth to a child, or about
to, having killed a man, even though he was
threatening me

Margaret: it's all right, my dear; you don't need to keep
up the pretence with me

Marianne: what do you mean

Margaret: I mean you didn't murder anybody
you don't fool me

Marianne: what are you saying

I told the court I shot the man

Margaret: no you didn't; Perry shot him; my son shot him and you both cooked up your story so he would not have to go to prison

Marianne: how do you know

Margaret: because I know my older son and I have spent time with you

Marianne: what are you going to do about it
we thought he would be sent to prison whereas I would be released on a suspended sentence

Margaret: and you were right
I'm not going to do anything about it
I shall certainly not tell Arthur
he's much too proper and it would upset him unnecessarily
no I think you and Perry were justified
what benefits it a man to be sent to jail
you are young and the child is coming

Marcus will be home soon
now the war is over
now the war is won
he's been made a special envoy
to the Global Nation
meeting in Home I think it is
unless it starts off somewhere else
he'll have all the news

Margaret: it's amazing
I just don't know how you knew what Perry
and I did

Marianne: intuition, my dear, and babies; what experience
of life they give you; invaluable; a mother's
love and all that; very special; you'll see soon
enough; now let's get on with our work

and the issue was settled to their satisfaction

Joy is waiting for Bill

He enters the sitting room of Merton Manor

He comes through the door

He looks to her

She looks up at him

He moves from the door he has just come through

as he has so many times

she looks up at him and speaks quickly

I've wonderful news

That's good

What is it

He sits in his old favourite chair as he speaks and he looks

briefly at her

as he has so many times

Joy narrates

I decided Francesca needed her nails done

so I called the groomers

you know the ones called
“Dial-a-Dog Groom”
and they came
and did a super job on her
but guess what
the guy who did it
is a gorgeous match for Guy
so I’ve sent him round to Guy
to become acquainted

Bill leans his head back and laughs out loud

Babe I’ve told you before about this
you are not to go around fixing people up
it never works
you are hopeless at it

Joy is determined and grins back at him

No this time I know I am right

I took one look at him

and watched how he brushed Franny's coat

and I knew

I thought you are for Guy

Guy will be happy with you

Bill turned his head to gaze out of the window as he loved the view so
much it seemed to be a part of him

just a moment

this bloke I've seen him

and I've heard he's called Prince

right

Joy looks up

Yes

Bill adopts a shocked look of horror

But the guy is coloured
of the black fraternity

What of it

comes Joy's response

Well isn't that going to make it more awkward

I don't think so

Love is love

Love conquers all

How can you possibly know

they will find love

I just know

Bill jumps up and goes to his window and he looks long at the garden
as he has done so many times before
then he turns and slaps his thigh
as if he has gained a win over his wife

But but Guy doesn't have a dog

Joy looks at him with an all winning smile on her face and laughs at
him

What does that matter

Bill hugs her and they are carefree and happy

Georgian is thinking
as if talking to Eva

No Eva Eva
Eva Eva Eva No
Don't do this to me
do not get into my head
I don't want it
don't fall in love with me
I do not want to love
I have loved and lost Lacetta
my wife she has gone
lost through cancer
we had two sons who have
grown and left home and me
but don't do this to me Eva

I defeated Heldis Jones
in order to win her
so many years ago
he was my rival
although it was me
he wanted
not her
he did not want her
you do understand Eva
his passion was for me
but I wanted Lacetta
and children with her
I defeated Heldis Jones
and now I am too old too ugly too tired
to start again
I do not want it

Another thing is you do not know me
you think you do but no it is not possible
I have wild phases I become crazy
every once in a while I have to drink
and I drink big wild mad drunk
I am feral then and you would not like it

No Eva Eva

Eva Eva Eva No

Do not do this to me
I will be terrible
and I do not want it

There that should sort her out
I don't think she'll bother me again
Oh I had a close call there
nearly fell for it myself
but I am safe now

We each of us live our lives by certain rules

guidelines codes of conduct

and the main one for Guy Pool was

“if you can’t be nice don’t bother

we are here to be nice to each other

not nasty”

and as he recalls he was thinking on this

the excellence of truth

when Prince first called round

the godness of existence being one of the four

cornerstone foundations of absolute truth

Guy sees through the living room

window of Rose Cottage

Prince arriving in his van

pulling into the drive beside the garage

“Who is this

Why is he coming here”

thinks Guy

but he feels more

he feels warm and a glow from himself

to the coloured bloke climbing

from the cab of his van

“He’s very beautiful

a wonderful looking man

what can he want”

continues Guy

Prince steps paces towards the door

down the gravel and soil path

lifts the knocker and raps

“the limits of my language
are the limits of my world”

Ludwig-Joseph Wittgenstein

MAN IS DEAD

is thinking Professor-Philosopher Mike

not just God is dead but Man is dead

killed by the twentieth century mechanistic wars

Thinker appears to warn Professor who continues

God is dead says beloved Nietzsche

and he had hopes for mankind

he felt the bridge was being constructed to raise the
consciousness of man

but alas poor Friedrich went mad

who wouldn't

why are people so stupid as not to develop and learn

Thinker interrupts

Professor you're being silly

ranting again

no use

you should know better

I do but I still feel it

Look Professor you have a beautiful garden

go to nature

to the great clump of trees

at the back of the garden

My arboretum

Exactly urges Thinker

go and muse

perceive and think more

helpfully

Yes you're right

I will

Come along then

sometimes I have
to let the dog out
great wonderful
but boy
am I glad
when I put him
back in the kennel

declares Bill musing to Sleeper

Good you just sleep it all off
is the latter's response

the entropic diffusion

of the solar system

mirrors

the perceptual development

of the multi-universes

Prince looks into the eyes of Guy

You'd better come in

says Guy

would you like a coffee

Prince is surprised but smiles and nods

they both move through to the kitchen

Guy struggles with filling the kettle

he is very nervous but grins

they move around

almost bumping into each other

until Prince grabs Guy by the shoulders

they embrace

they are going to embrace many times
over the years
not kiss too much
they are after all
men
but they are to live together
as friends and companions
a perfect match of love and harmony

“I’ve come from Mrs Wilkins
she has sent me”

says Prince somewhere

“Wilkins?”

oh you mean Joy

yes she would she’s my friend”

Thinker is having a go at Sleeper and Dreamer

Just what is going on

Everyone seems to be having babies

Or wanting to

What do they want to do that for

Aren't there enough anyway

Hopeless

And just another distraction

from the all important search for truth

You two have words with them all

Stop them in this folly

I will speak to Georgian

Georgian Merchant

English Georgian Merchant he of all people

Sleeper interrupts

But Georgian says he is going to refuse Eva

Make sure he does

adds Thinker

And the others

I can't cope with this physical

body matter explosion

So futile

Thinker leaves

Sleeper and Dreamer

look at each other

snigger

and run away

“Why did Joy send you to me”

Guy is asking Prince

“I’m a dog-groomer.

I did her dog and she recommended me to you

but I see you don’t have a dog”

comments Prince

“no but I can get one if you like”

“don’t you dare

I don’t want to bring my work home do I”

No of course not

and it was to be their home

“You know before you came

I used to think ‘there isn’t anyone and it’s all right”

says Guy

“And now you know there is someone”

replies Prince

Guy nods in agreement

But sometimes

when he is falling asleep

Guy whispers to himself

“ it’s all right

I still know

there isn’t anyone”

one morning

one bright sunny morning

in Merton Worthshire

Johnny Faust is hurrying along to

see the Reverend Freddie Lawrenns

at the vicarage

Oh Freddie it's terrible

I don't know how I'm going to cope

Calm down and tell me what it is says Freddie

The cloak has returned

The demons are back tormenting me

The evil spirits are upon me

now at this point Johnny broke down into uncontrollable

sobbing

it was left to Freddie to revive and reassure his friend

you know these demons are just self doubts that we all
have

doubts about whether life exists or not

whether God our Father exists or not

you are only being human Johnny

the thing to be enjoyed

amongst

this terrible boredom of life

this loneliness

that seems will never end

I will just have to endure it

I say to myself and so must you

My father told me long ago

that when he turned sixty

he no longer lived for himself he decided

he would only live for God
whether God existed or not
life evidences without proof
but you can live for something else

Johnny is quiet and takes in the words of his friend

You mean I should ignore the demons
and the black cloak

delusions phantoms

declares Freddie

from your troubled mind

come enjoy the spring day

and the two men leave the vicarage to take a stroll around
Merton which is a delightful place when the sun is shining
living for God if not for themselves

Sleeper is visiting Georgian

Wait before you decide about Eva

Sleep on it

Settle your mind and think about it later

Georgian does not seem to take much notice of Sleeper's advice

nor does he heed what Dreamer has to say neither

Dreamer:

Go for it Georgian

Dream of a second family

You can do it

It would be great

Dream of it

Georgian is resolute

he is to refuse Eva

as he does not think he can commit to her wishes

Over the next few weeks

two new sets of arrivals appear in Worthshire

the first move into the Post House

an old property near Merton

they are the owners Monsieur Le Chevalier and his wife

Suzanne

Their arrival causes some happy commotion

They have returned from South America and wish to have a happy future in Merton at their old home

The other arrival is at Greensand Hall

It is Captain Marcus Mack with his comrade friend Lieutenant Philip Walmsley

Marcus wants to see his family and introduce his friend so Philip can convalesce with them as he has suffered the loss of an arm in campaigns abroad

The repercussions of these arrivals will become clear as our story progresses

Let's have a look at the general ages of our brave adventurers in search of the absolute truth

In their 60s

English Georgian Merchant

Professor-Philosopher Mike

Johnny Faust

In their 50s

Lord and Lady Mack (Albert and Margaret)

In their 40s

Bill and Joy Wilkins

Guy Pool

In their 30s

Freddie Reverend Lawrenns

Eva Goode

Perry and Marianne Mack

Captain Marcus Mack

Lieutenant Philip Walmsley

Black Prince

In their 20s

Little Ed Victry

Right and Wrong (sons of Georgian)

Left and Right (sons of Johnny)

simply showing some of their time progress

through the Sublime Mind

Thinker Sleeper and Dreamer have no time

and so no age

Suzanne who was once married to Aesthete Chris
and has now joined with Monsieur le Chevalier
returns to Chevalier's house

The Post House

but her own house

inherited from Aesthete Chris is Merton House of the village
and she has decided

to let her old friend The Witch

stay in Merton House

and make of it a refuge

for young men and women

a home for the homeless and hopeless

The arrival of the Witch causes a stir

because the Witch is a very outrageous person

dresses in voluminous robes of varied colours

it isn't certain whether or not

the Witch is a man or a woman

but he she it does refer to a husband

often called the Warlock

(he has yet to be seen in Worthshire)

The Witch is probably somewhere in her fifties

and quickly recruits young people

to stay in Merton House

the day has arrived

for Georgian to give his answer to Eva

they have arranged to meet in her caravan

in the afternoon

for tea

3 o'clock

Georgian is ready he is resolute

he will let her down gently

saying all sorts of good and kind

and complimentary things

to her

he approaches the van and through the window

notices Eva's form moving around

he hesitates

what is he to say

he has to be firm

he knocks

she opens the door

Come in

she says

and he does

he moves immediately to an armchair under the window

the view he can see is very broad

and clear of other vans and objects

fields run for miles leading to fens and the sea

the light today is very bright and he enjoys viewing

but his heart trembles and he feels uncertain

How are you

Eva asks

he looks to her

noticing her form is round within her blue cotton dress

he doesn't want to answer that question

it is intimidating

but he manages

I'm fine thanks

and you're OK

Oh yes

she replies

thanks for asking

I expect you have been turning yourself

inside out wondering what to do about me

you don't have to worry

I will be all right

I shall always be all right

whatever you decide will be right for you and for me

Georgian turns to look through the window again

windows have always fascinated him

what is outside and inside

does it matter

have you been all right

Eva asks

she has somehow without Georgian's noticing

produced a tray of tea things including cake and biscuits

she sits beside him and becomes quiet

she pours tea

and waits

she rises and goes to the window

you've been thinking about me

and about us

I know

and you are deciding what to do

whether or not

to live your sublime solitude

or take a chance and join with me

to give me what I most dearly want

she continues to look out onto the view as she continues

you are wondering and feeling

you are thinking and considering

but you cannot decide

I know this to be so

never mind it doesn't matter

I will be all right

she stops and look at him with a smile so warm and tender

You are right

he says

I cannot decide

and there is no need to decide

I came here today to tell you no

the answer is no

she smiles even more kindly at him and nods

but

he says

what does the answer matter

I will be happy to give you

everything you want

seeing you

how can I not want to marry you

have children and be with you

Eva please let me give you

everything you want

she leans over and kisses him lightly on the forehead

of course

she says

since this is what you want

this is what we will do

we shall be happy

Georgian relaxes smiles and laughs a little

I've surprised myself

what changed me

but your presence

your will

she offers him some biscuits

eat if you can

she says

I'm so glad you have agreed

now I won't need to cancel

Freddie Lawrenns for Saturday

Georgian pauses in his biscuit munching

Freddie

what has he to do with it

Eva replies

I've arranged for us to marry

on Saturday afternoon

who else but Freddie

Georgian laughs out loud

he never told me

Eva laughs

I told him not to say a word

Georgian nods

in case I refused

but the ring

what about the ring

Eva turns and with suitable prestidigitation

shows him a box with a ring in it

I bought that last week

Georgian admires the golden ring

and holds it to the light

it's very good

he says approvingly

but what will we call our children

he asks

I've thought about that too

Eva admits

and I think

something cosmic

something atomic

everything will be fine Georgian

I will see to that

I have always known it will be

Georgian sits back in the armchair

looks from Eva to the window view and back again

I know

He says

I know

Everybody here

The Witch has gathered all her charges

her children

her little mites

the homeless and hopeless

into the large kitchen at the rear of Merton House

Listen to me carefully

You are all here on a very important mission

This year

which is

she asks enquiringly

2012 miss

answers one Bright Spark

correct

2012

The Witch continues

is the last year of the World

all is going to end

on 21st December

2012

so I want you all to be ready

and I want this house and its gardens

cleaned up and ready

for the great day

the great event

one lad puts up his hand to ask

what if we are still here

on the 22nd

the Witch is ready

then we will carry on

as before but better for it

but don't you bank on it

the Mayan Age of the Monkey is to end

and there will be a great conflagration

has anyone any idea how to paint such an event

such an anticipated occurrence

someone asks

what's a conflagra whatsit

the witch looks around the six boys and six girls

anyone know

one girl suggests

a great burning up and fire of everything

very good

replies the Witch

some people say it's all rubbish

someone pipes up

beware of anyone who calls something rubbish

intones the Witch and she continues

now I want you to live as if it is true

to party to the end

to play and laugh and enjoy every day

and to clean this house

we'll decorate it

we'll landscape the gardens

we'll make Merton House

the joy of the village

not the pride

because pride is bad

no joy is what we want

and how we'll celebrate the end of the World

one of the smaller girls mutters

I don't want the world to end

and one of the boys hugs her and says

don't worry

it probably won't

we are in the mind of the drawing room of Greensand Hall
the home of Lord and Lady Mack and family
the room is not in a white and gold rococo
18th century style such as at Westwich Hall
but Greensand is more Edwardian early
20th century with dark brown furniture and carpets
and 1920s Rebecca style sofas and deep armchairs
in brighter colours of yellow and green and pink

there are large curtained windows onto the lawns
and in one corner atop a heavy wooden desk affair
sits a 21st century anomaly in the form of
a computer and internet setup the internet---that tower of Babel---
informing the entire world of its inconsequentiae
to endless amusement and on this occasion
to the delight of Philip Walmsley
the one armed Lieutenant invalided out of service
from the Fusiliers where he serves

his left arm gone he manages very well with his right
and is tapping away at his keyboard searching out info
when behind him one of the doors to the room opens
and Phil immediately turns his bright young head
to see who is entering
it is Perry all dressed and ready for the off to the steward's office
for a day's work on farm business but he steps into the room

Oh hallo sorry to disturb you
have to collect my case
left it here last night
how are you how are you getting on

Perry enters on Philip
their universes colliding
their membranes vibrating
pulsating into action
and reaction

very well thank you

replies Phil still turning from the desk to look in the direction
of Peregrine Mack the heir to Greensand

I'm glad to see you I've been wanting to ask you
do you know much about my brother's visit to this
World Conference

hasn't he told you

Phil asks

brothers don't tell each other anything

well it's to be held in Home one of the capitals of
the middle lands with people from everywhere coming
the Union Lands, the northern, the southern lands
and the Eastern Walled lands
and Marcus from our own Shire Isles

he's with the Prime Minister's delegation
and the object is to move beyond national boundaries
and evaluate new identity structures for the world

now that the war is over adds Perry

yes, that's right

and what will you do

how did you lose your arm

that was when on patrol with fellows

and we caught a mine some guys died

I just lost the left arm not my bowling arm thankfully

cricket Perry one of my pleasures

I am sorry it must have been awful

I've wanted to say something but it's very difficult

you know how we feel

let's hope these tragedies can stop now

the war is over

yes let us hope so

but I've my mind the computer

the world at my fingertips

who needs two arms

what will you do

I used to be a physicist research

my old college has kept my job for me

I hope to return to that

their words cease and they feel the embarrassment of having to talk more
without knowing where to go

Perry picks up his case and leaves in one swoop saying cheerios for now

Thinker is again feeling rather disappointed that people are getting on with their lives rather than concentrating on the all important search for the absolute truth

he addresses the enduring Sleeper and Dreamer

now this Witch lady has appeared

they are adding end of the world dramas

to their list of concerns

more distractions

but maybe end of the world stories

have something to do with absolute truth

dares Dreamer

yes maybe but only if they tackle

the issue with that in mind

that is where I would like you

two to help

haunt their dreams their hopes
their wishes please and keep them
in search of truth and reality
will you do that for me?

certainly if we can

contributes Sleeper

but it is a full time job and they are all very busy living their
daily lives

lives full of business and distraction

I know I know

returns Thinker

I've been thinking I may take a short cut
and visit the Sage out in Venezuela again
what do you think

sounds a good idea

offers Dreamer

he's been out there long enough

he may have made some progress

and may have good news to offer you

yes yes thank you

I think I will take myself off immediately

look after everything whilst I am away

won't you

course we will

they both say

and good luck

thanks thanks I'll need it

and Thinker feeling a little more positive and up
flew off in his mind to South America
to visit the Sage

the second law of thermodynamics

states that

spontaneous natural processes

increase entropy overall

entropy being the ability

to turn

to change

to continue natural processes

being ever increasing

making the universe irreversible

forward

ever-developing ever-adding

what world might that be then

in the garden of Merton House

the twelve youngsters

six boys six girls

are beavering away at pruning trees and hedges

trimming and weeding borders

laying paving stones for paths and areas

the Witch is at a table watching and reading

one young man comes up to her and says

Miss are you really a witch

I am

Is your name Witch

It is

I am born Miss Arabella Estrella Witch

the cheeky monkey persists

but you are married you say

yes as married I am Mrs Arabella Estrella

Witch-Warlock

we never see your husband

that's because he's away a great deal

at present down under doing whatever

men do down under I wouldn't know

but he'll visit us sometime

now go about your work cheeky monkey

and that goes for all of you

everything has to be ready

for the end of the year remember

for the end of the world

cheeky monkey grins and runs back

to his diggy and wheel-barrowing

Bright Spark another young lad perks up loudly with the comment

What world might that be then miss

the world of economics

the world of religion

the world of I'm round not flat

the world of politics

of games of fun of money

which world do you mean miss

the world of physical geography

or anti-matter

you'll have to say Miss

My what a show-off you are Bright Spark

I mean the world of here and now

interrupts the Witch

Not good enough miss

asserts Bright Spark

I have seen beyond that world

and conclude there ain't no such thing

the Witch is not put off so easily

you just conclude that tree

you're working on

Bright Spark laughs and shrugs his shoulders

and returns to his work

he doesn't care about sparring with the old Witch

he likes her too much

the Witch grins and continues her read

I've never been so happy before

I don't care if people

look at me as if I'm a freak

they turn away

I repel them

I don't care I love you

and feel happiness through you

let's build you a surgery

Guy is talking with his friend Prince

Prince has explained previously that he is a qualified veterinary surgeon but does not have the capital to set up a surgery business and is only filling in at the moment with his dog-grooming

Guy has given this some thought and as he is sitting at Prince's feet has explained his feelings and proposed his venture

I have money

I can set us up in trade

let's use my money

we will be successful

and happy and fulfilled

and useful

Prince starts to work out how to go about finding a suitable property

or even building a new one from scratch

his peripatetic practice has given him contacts

and a reputation

and since Guy is so keen he is happy to give it all a go

they are going to be very busy in the mind

we will join them from time to time

yet somewhere high on a mountain
deep in South America
the sun is emerging again behind distant peaks
to light and greet the valley
over which looks the cave of the Sage

the colours of deep red and purple streak
around the peaks appearing intermittently
lifting the dark of the night to reveal
the greens and yellows and browns of the valleys

moving into the morning light from his cave
the Sage emerges stands and gazes at the world
though he is old his face is unlined as if he
possesses the Sublime Mind outside and inside

existing through my creating
creating through my existing
feels the Sage as he waits to hear his mind
and he senses a visitor on the way

Thinker arrives and greets the Sage
asking if the Sage is well and happy
I've come for help for more advice Thinker says
my friends seem lost and wander confused

ask your will declares the Sage
I know no other way than to ask
what is the Absolute Truth
or at least how to live

the Absolute Truth may be each man's secret
helps the sage but I can advise you how to live
it is to teach grace and compassion
rather than compete and defeat

there may be no more the fall from grace
for all is grace to those that can see
look around this valley what is that
but made by grace and for grace

all men live in a state of grace if seen and known
and compassion for the sufferings of others
is one of the keys to happiness
the aim of all philosophy
compassion for your own grace

your suffering is my suffering Thinker
take this to the world and to your friends
tell them to bring up their children
in a state of grace as grace for grace
and to know compassion for all themselves included

these are the subjects of future education
all others science arts learning trading
are but useful distractions from these two
conjoin them create anew with healing and with love
this is the message of Christ and of others

you will build a new house Thinker
a house beyond dualism
whose cornerstones may be
love beauty Godness and Jesus

or Mohammed or Buddha

your choices

your creations bounded built upon

grace and compassion

do not trouble my gallant friend

and Thinker the world will be well

and your friends will learn and be happy

all this I see from my mountain-top

Thinker burst into tears and collapsed

he has feelings so deep for his friends

he caresses the mountains with his thoughts

thanks his Sage and turns his tears to smiles

flying instantly to Worthshire and to the adventurers

Captain Marcus Mack we meet him at last
he is tall slim and very handsome in his mid thirties
and he is visiting Georgian in Pennyrose Cottage
they are old friends and are having a real ding-dong
like some Grammar School debating society they are

but Marcus the very idea of the planet Earth being a physical probability
is becoming impossible: it cannot exist

Marcus spins round on Georgian at this

we are realists I have to deal with Realism
when I go to the World Conference in Home
I can't go spouting this sort of thing

Georgian laughs

I don't intend you to
you don't need to
it is enough for you to think it

look at you off in the Prime Minister's delegation

I'm surprised you still speak to us at all

But I don't think it

I don't think that sort of

airy perceptual stuff

Oh but you do now that I tell you about it

It doesn't matter

you'll be absorbing it and feeling it

Nonsense Georgian I'm sure you're going potty

just because you're starting a new family at your age

the wedding was wonderful by the way and thanks for the invite

I was very privileged since there was hardly anyone else there

me and Guy Pool and what about his new friend

looks very good and happy I'm glad for them

Yes Eva and I are very happy too

but you watch out for those realists

Realists my dear friend

Realists are the curse

of the universe

Captain Mack drove his large red fast car home to Greensand
smiling in his mind which was awirl with thoughts ideas and
reminiscences

oh how we laughed Georgian and I
when we mentioned that for centuries
people thought the earth was flat
how can you live your life so long
and all that time be wrong
ha-ha what a gorgeous old fool Georgian is
but oh I love him I realise that now

Thinker is hovering and observing Marcus on the driving and is
interested to notice the variety of the man's thoughts

People the Captain knows come and go like raindrops

Dreams and hopes scatter among his ideas

Yes the Captain is an open-minded person but he does enjoy his sense
of reality and observation

He achieves the drive home almost imperceptibly he is so used to it

and the ground and the roads and the bends and junctions have led him to the drive of Greensand Hall with its beautiful three storey-façade half covered in wisteria lilac in colour this spring and summer the statues of stone horses and other beasts lining the gravel areas a fine house and a grand entrance before which he stops his car he exits but is interrupted in his flow by the appearance of Perry his older brother on the steps coming from the main door running and waving his arms and spluttering

Thank goodness you're here Marcus

can you take us to the hospital quickly please

Marianne is starting with the baby at last

I was going to phone for the ambulance

but you would be quicker

Marcus has already turned on his heel and is re-entering his car catching sight out of the corner of his eye Marianne descending the steps aided by Lady Margaret

Marianne very large with child looks frail as she walks carefully to the car like some intrepid tightrope walker balancing on a wire high above the ground

Perry jumps into the front seat beside his brother whilst Margaret and Marianne make themselves comfortable in the back of the car

Father, Albert, it is asserted has gone off to be with the cows as he does in moments of crisis and stress

Through the roads the red car performs its tasks and takes the family to the hospital

a great ship of a building Westwich Royal

boarded by many for many reasons

and Marianne is rushed into care

whilst the three followers wait in the room outside

Perry is admitted and the waiting goes on

but somewhere two new characters
two malevolent characters
are watching the events of our adventurers
see if you can imagine who they might be
high in the lofty regions of the mind
these two they hover
like gothic gargoyles
their eyes red with fire
they leer wickedly at each other
and nod smilingly
rubbing their hands together
and swishing their long tails
as whiplash to harm intruders
their names I'll reveal later
but remember they plot against our fellows
and spread horror throughout the mind

Thinker has returned from the Sage and is instructing
Sleeper and Dreamer about the new house of the future they are to
help construct
but his fellows are not too sure they want to know
they have their doubts
Sleeper claims leave them be to think on these things more
they are tired and busy with things other than
searches for truth
Dreamer confirms yes they have so much to do in their
real world that they don't have time
nor interest in your thoughts and wishes
Thinker but my friends dangers are coming to them
if they neglect to search and develop
what dangers they ask
you'll see and I will not be deterred
from my path from my task and mission

Joy has decided to show Guy some outbuildings they have at Merton Manor

Not all of the space is taken up with their commercial caravan park and there are some large splendid brick buildings that she thinks may well prove ideal for Guy's dream of setting up a new veterinary surgery that Prince can practise his trade in for the community

Over here she is saying you can see that these buildings are in good condition and well equipped with water and electricity

Oh Joy this is terrific I could see right away that these structures should do well

The two friends are delighted with the site and Joy is glad to help Guy had told her of how he wanted to help his friend Prince move from mobile dog-grooming into a permanent surgery where Prince could benefit from his veterinary qualifications

Fortunately Guy has the money that can be sunk as capital into the venture

And Bill is quite happy for us to move in here

He's delighted as he wants to see the buildings put to good use otherwise they will decay and spoil and he wants animals and the like here so he can perhaps start up some farming of his own as he has always wanted

Wonderful my dear absolutely wonderful

Thinker frowns sadly on this scene

How is he ever going to get his search for absolute truth to continue
at this rate

And Dreamer and Sleeper are not helping much

The Witch is obsessed with cleaning and decorating Merton House

Georgian and Eva are busy hoping for a family

And now Thinker has begun to sense the presence of those two
gargoyles observing and scheming bad things to come

Down below Johnny Faust is not doing too well with his personal
demons

The Black Cloak is back

Early morning and Johnny starts his day as usual

off to the bathroom and there it is lying on the floor

spread like a pool of ink

broad undulating covering most of the floor between the door and
the bath

this time thinks Johnny

right I am not going to run away and leave it I'm going to gather
it up now and take it straight round to Freddie

grabbing the cloak he kept it with him all the time he washed and
dressed and phoned Freddie to say he was coming round with it

all this he did

Freddie stared at the cloak in disbelief but he had to believe

Ok Johnny what are we going to do

It's the Devil I tell you screams Johnny

The gargoyles grin and rock with guffawing laughter

Their evil eyes gaze on

Perry and Marianne have successfully had their baby son

Perry Junior we shall call him father

Peregrine the third officially because you were called after your
grandfather remember

But yes we can know him as Perry Junior

He'll be a wonderful boy and he will have a marvellous life

The gargoyles grin at each other

One nudges the other to visit Pennyrose Cottage

A couple of months have passed since Georgian and Eva were married and they are managing very happily keeping both the cottage and Eva's old caravan

it makes for a nice break getaway sometimes

Georgian is muttering and Eva hears him

Who are you talking to

Oh you're not supposed to hear

But most days I have a few words with Lacetta

(Lacetta being Georgian's first wife remember)

You don't mind do you

Course not

It's good to talk to your loved ones

I do

and soon you are going to have more to talk to

What do you mean

I mean I am pregnant my dear

You're pregnant

Yes I'm pregnant

You are pregnant

Yes I'm We're pregnant

We're pregnant

You are too

I'm pregnant

Yes I am pregnant

and you are pregnant

We are pregnant

I'm going to have a baby

And the two of them laugh and fall about and tumble onto the sofa

Ha-ha-ha

no more suspense

so who are our gargoyles

they are

Cruelty and Despair

and the next volume will show

the havoc they cause on our

unsuspecting seekers of the truth

BOOK THREE