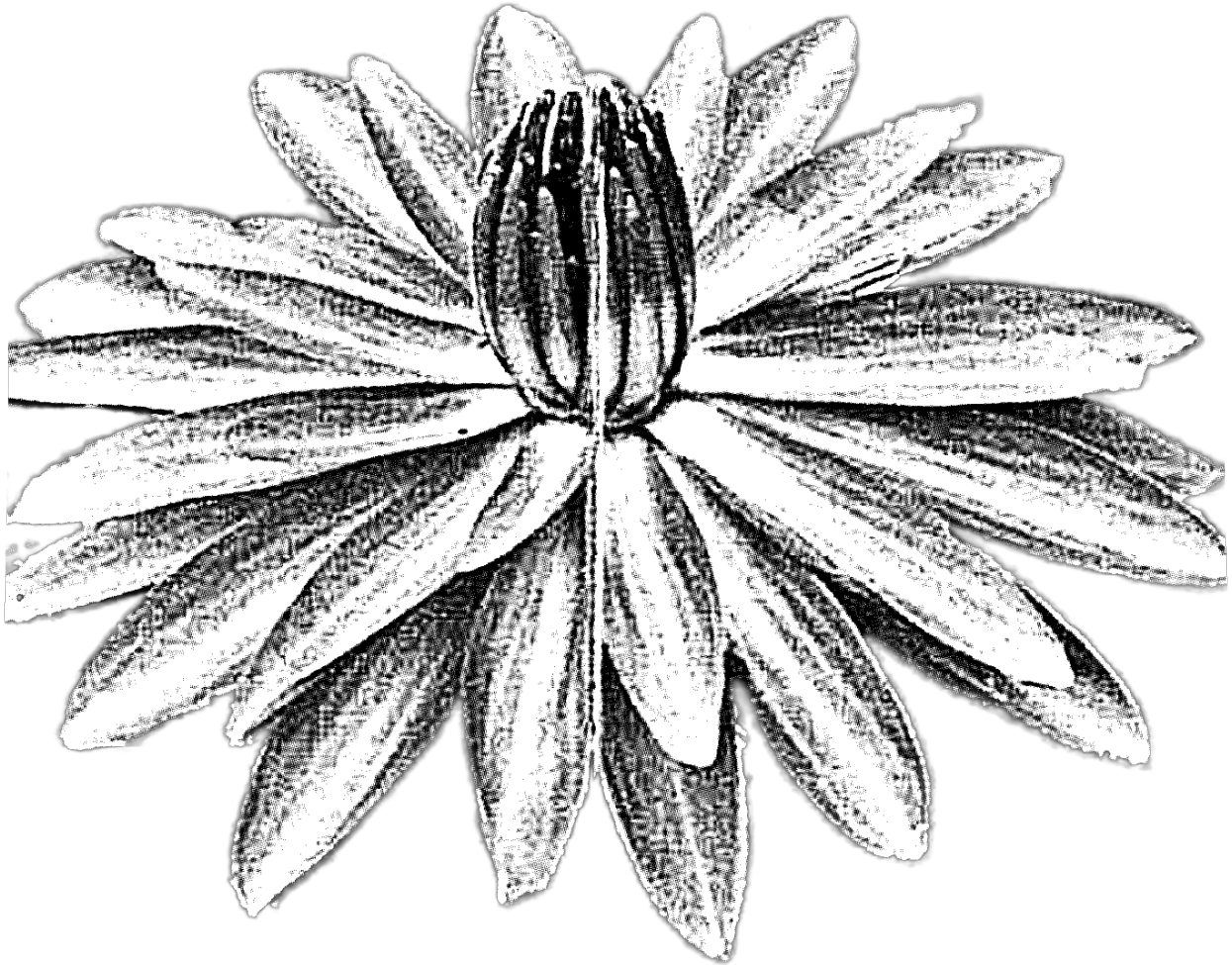


# **KOLCHAK**

## **The Tall Sister**



A Daredevils Adventure

Jerry Stratton

For the North Texas RPG Con  
June 7, 2025

# Kolchak: The Tall Sister

Jerry Stratton

A Kolchak: The Night Stalker adventure  
for the *Daredevils!* RPG.

Set in March 1977.

The front cover image is from *Malaysian Airline System Timetable*,  
April 1, 1975. The back cover image is from Walter William  
Skeat's 1900 *Malay Magic*.

*[godsmonsters.com/tall](http://godsmonsters.com/tall)*

# Summary

## Blurb

Carl Kolchak and guest stars investigate a mysterious train crash in Chicago, March, 1977. “It was the Ides of March, and a woman was the author of the deed—or was she? It was a classic locked room mystery. A witness claimed to see a woman walking away just after the death... beyond the window of the fourth floor. The events of March, 1977, were impossible. Impossible, and yet, they happened.” Choose a pregen from regulars and guest stars of the Kolchak: The Night Stalker television series.

## Background

Setting: Chicago

Time: Friday, March 11, 1977.

Reason: El Train accident.

Recommended pregens: Carl Kolchak

Useful archaeologist/anthropologists: Dr. Agnes Temple, Dr. C. Evan Spate

Useful anthropologist/paleontologists: Jack Burton

Useful spiritualists: Charles Rolling Thunder, Ali Lakshmi

## Big Picture

A pēnanggalan—a Malay vampire—has taken up residence in Chicago, and is preying on the patients at a hospital for indigent women.

## Chicago, March, 1977

Michael A. Bilandic is the **interim mayor** since the death of Richard J. Daley on December 20. He promised not to run—then changed his mind for the February primaries. His Republican opponent is Dennis H. Block, who no one will remember because the election is not in doubt. Daley may be dead, but his machine lives. (Bilandic will win 77% to 21%.)

**Temperatures** at this time of year are ranging from 20° to 75°.

Saturday, March 12 is the **Montreal-Chicago hockey game**. Kolchak, of course, prefers baseball. The Montreal Canadiens will beat the Chicago Blackhawks in the NHL, 5-1.

Possibly of interest to Blues Brothers fans, over October 1976 through June 14, 1977, The **National Socialist Party of America** sued and were sued over their intention to march in Skokie, Illinois. They won the right but ended up marching in Chicago, possibly July 9, 1978.

# The Adventure

## Timeline

February 1977							March 1977						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28						27	28	29	30	31		

- July 8, 1976:** Zahra Yu arrives in Chicago by Northwest Orient Airlines.
- July 9, 1976:** Zahra Yu opens bank account at First National Bank of Chicago.
- July 16, 1976:** Zahra Yu deposits proceeds from sales into First National.
- July 11, 1976:** Zahra Yu sells Deer Gold Coins to Morgan's Coin Chest.
- July 13, 1976:** Zahra Yu sells Malay swords to Pop Stenvold.
- September 15, 1976:** Date on Zahra Yu's nursing certificate.
- September 20, 1976:** Zahra Yu hired at Mary Harris Thompson Hospital, night shift.
- December 5, 1976:** Zahra Yu moves to evening shift.
- December 20, 1976:** Mayor Richard J. Daley dies. Michael A. Bilandic appointed interim mayor.
- February 3, 1977:** Lisa Martin complains to Steven Andrews that a nurse is suspicious.
- February 4, 1977:** El Train accident at Wabash and Lake.
- February 8, 1977:** Lisa Martin dies at Mary Harris Thompson Hospital.
- March 11, 1977: Adventure Starts.** One of Carl's contacts hints there is more to the El crash than police are letting on. Or he sees the UFO Weekly article.
- March 12, 1977:** Montreal-Chicago hockey game.

## Character summary

Title	Name	Employer	Notes
	Steven B. Andrews	Chicago Transit	CTA motorman
Nurse	Dorothy Bigelow	Mary Harris Thompson	Licensed Practical Nurse
Nurse	Janet Mang	Mary Harris Thompson	Registered Nurse
	Lisa Martin	None	Steven Andrews's girlfriend
	Roscoe Morgan	Morgan's Coin Chest	Antique coin dealer
Doctor	Anne Morton	Mary Harris Thompson	Attending physician to Lisa Martin
Captain	Joe Siska	Chicago Police	In charge of Lisa Martin "case"
	Pop Stenvold	Stenvold Arms	Antique arms dealer
Nurse	Zahra Yu	Mary Harris Thompson	Pēnanggalan

## Charles Rolling Thunder and Ali Lakshmi

Harrow Spirits can fight the servants of Zahra Yu, thought not the vampire herself.

## Time Zones

Tokyo is 13 hours ahead of Chicago. Singapore and Malaysia are 11:30 ahead of Chicago.

## Quick Summary

On February 4, 1977, an El train motorman drives into the stopped train ahead of it, throwing cars in to rush hour traffic and killing eleven people.

On February 8, 1977, the girlfriend of that motorman dies in a hospital for indigent women. The nurse on rounds on that floor says that a woman left through the window—four stories up.

Zahra Yu is a Malay *pěnnanggalan*, or disembodied vampire. The *pěnnanggalan* detaches its head and entrails from its body and flies on the wind to her victims—a *pěnnanggalan* is always female—who are almost always pregnant women and young children. She is the latest incarnation of the Malay sorceress Cik Siti Wan Kembang, who ruled in Kelantan from 1610 to 1667. She flew to Chicago on Northwest Orient Airlines via Tokyo through Malaysian Airline System. Her barrel filled with vinegar, labeled as pickled vegetables, was shipped as cargo.

Zahra Yu lives near the Mary Harris Thompson Hospital for Women and Children, and works there on the evening shift. Because she has to detach herself to drain the life from her victims, she is only able to safely do so on her off nights, when she leaves her body in her vinegar-filled barrel in her apartment.

If she realizes anyone is investigating her, she will send Polong (gnome-like servants) that use Pělěsit (cricket-like insects) to harass them and either scare them off or outright kill them. She may well continue trying to kill Steven Andrews if she still thinks he's a threat.

## Events

### The High Room Mystery

February 8. Lisa Martin. Approximately twenty-eight. Eight months pregnant. Died, apparently, of anemia in the Mary Harris Thompson Hospital for Women and Children. The autopsy revealed no internal bleeding, but did reveal odd marks on the stomach—something the police, as usual, prefer to conceal.

The nurse, Dorothy Bigelow, who entered the room just as the victim expired claim that a nun walked past the window, as if she were leaving the room... a room on the fourth floor of a four-story hospital building. The nurse also remembered an odd odor, like rotting cabbage, or vinegar. This is in the police report. The police will not divulge it, nor the witness's name. That might be discriminatory.

## The Loop Derailment

On February 4, there was a Chicago Loop derailment “when a Chicago Transit Authority elevated train rear-ended another on the northeast corner of the Loop at Wabash Avenue and Lake Street during the evening rush hour.”

The accident killed 11 people and injured at least 268 as the first four cars fell off the elevated tracks onto the street below. This was 0.8 miles, or about a 15-minute walk, from the INS offices.

Police said four hand-rolled cigarettes were found in a shoulder bag believed to have belonged to Andrews. National Transportation Safety Board investigators said earlier blood and toxicology tests on Andrews after the crash proved negative for both alcohol and narcotics.

However, later toxicology tests—reported after the events of this adventure, on March 18—showed that he “could have been normal or he could have been high as a kite”. The “leather purse contain[ed] Andrews’s CTA identification.”

Andrews denied the cigarettes were his or that he was under the influence of alcohol or any other drugs.

It took nine hospitals to handle the casualties: Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Henrotin, Cook County, Augustana, Michael Reece, Mercy, Children’s Memorial, Presbyterian-St. Luke’s, and St. Joseph.

Steven Andrews missed reacting to the train ahead of him because he was distracted by a Polong and a Pělěsit. The Polong sent the Pělěsit to try to crawl into his mouth. The intent wasn’t to cause a crash, although the Polong was happy enough with the result.

The Polong also placed illusionary hand-rolled cigarettes in Andrews’s bag; twenty-four hours later, after they were logged, they disappeared.

Oddities:

- There were rumors that the trains had derailed ahead of time, and that this explained why the brakes might have failed, as Andrews claimed.
- The motorman and conductor of the train that was crashed into “said three of their four rear lights were red and one was green when they checked them following the crash.”
- Andrews claimed that the flashing red light signal “means the train should proceed at no more than 15 miles per hour.” The CTA said that “A directive posted on a main bulletin board in December 1976 changed the meaning of the flashing red signal from a 15 m.p.h. warning to an immediate stop.”

Zahra Yu sent the Polong against Andrews because his girlfriend, who was in the hospital at the time, had told him she didn’t trust one of the nurses. Andrews waved it off as paranoia. He now wishes he hadn’t. While he was in prison awaiting trial for possession of marijuana (a pretense for arresting him after he recovered, in Northwestern Memorial Hospital) his wife—and his prematurely-born son—died at the hospital.

## The Cast

### Zahra Yu

Zahra Yu is a Pēnanggalan. Her name means “radiant beauty” in the Malay tongue. She arrived in Chicago eight months ago. She flew Malaysian Airline System to Tokyo and then a Northwest Orient Airlines 747 to Chicago (TOKYO-ORD, Flight 4/94), arriving at 2:09 PM. She shipped her vinegar barrel, in a bag, in a crate, labeled pickled vegetables. The barrel itself weighs about 300 pounds; the crate, bag, and barrel weighed about 500 pounds.

Passengers next to her noticed a slight odor of fermented cabbage, but were embarrassed to say anything. It wasn't *too* bad, although it did interfere with their appetite.

She secured an apartment on the Near West Side three days later, paying her first month's rent and security deposit in cash. There is a combination main room/kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom. The barrel is in a 24-hour storage facility that she secured while in Tokyo, about four blocks away. When she returns to her apartment in the early hours of the morning, she smells strongly of vinegar.

She opened her bank account with First National Bank of Chicago on July 9, depositing both American dollars and Japanese Yen to the sum of \$1,505.12. She deposited a further \$16,000 in checks on July 16, from the proceeds of her antiques sales.

Besides a large amount of cash purchased in Tokyo, she brought easily convertible treasures with her to finance her move. So far, she's sold:

- One bag full of Deer Gold Coins, to Morgan's Coin Chest.
- Two swords from 17th century Malaysia, to Pop Stenvold.

For these, she received approximately \$16,500, which, at over \$80,000 in modern terms, is easily enough to finance her modest lifestyle on the Near West Side. It is further supplemented now by her wages as a nurse.

She received her L.P.N. certificate the Chicago way: bribery and forgery. This is fairly easy to track if someone looks for it. Her certificate is dated September 15, 1976. She began working for the hospital on September 20; nurses are in demand, and turnover is high. She did not start using the hospital as a feeding ground until December, when she was transferred from the night shift to the evening shift, allowing her to leave her body home when feeding.

She speaks Malay, Arabic, Japanese, and English, the latter with a decidedly British accent.

Zahra Yu is much more vulnerable than a western vampire: she cannot escape by detaching herself from her body. This leaves her body behind and easily destroyed. She will need to call on



her servants to protect her until she can get to a safe location to store her body, preferably in vinegar, before she can detach.

When she detaches her head and feeds, she wears a head scarf to avoid recognition.

She has a Polong servant or two, which are very dangerous, as they each command a couple of Pělēsit. She will send them to harass anyone she believes is causing her trouble.

In the future, her plans are to leave whenever (and if ever) suspicions start to rise, but to wait until three or four other nurses also leave in the same couple of weeks, both to take advantage of the confusion and to obfuscate any statistics. This isn't likely to be difficult, as there is heavy turnover in the field. If it comes up, consider rolling a 1d6 every two weeks; if it comes up a one, four other nurses have left; if it comes up a two, three other nurses have left, in that period.

WIT	WIL	STR	DFT	SPD	HLH
18	14	10	16	15	23
DRT	BCS	Attack	Damage	Hand Dmg	
15	11	Dagger (BCS 14)	1.4	d6	

### **Dorothy Bigelow, L.P.N.**

Dorothy Bigelow is a relatively new nurse at the hospital. She was hired in May 1976 and is still earnest enough to have performed her rounds regularly. She's been told by the police to tell no one the details.

Nurse Bigelow entered the room where Lisa Martin was being treated overnight for potential hemorrhaging. There was no indication of it, but the patient was complaining of symptoms that could indicate some blood loss.

She's been told by some of her colleagues—those with Malaysian background—to forget all about the odor of vinegar.

Bigelow prefers the night shift, because the pay is slightly higher.

“She looked a little... like a nun. But this is not a religious hospital.”

### **Dr. Anne Morton**

The doctor in charge of Lisa Martin was Anne Morton, with the hospital for six years.

“I can't determine a specific cause of death,” said Morton, “but it appears to be some form of anemia exacerbated by the pregnancy. There was no internal reason for the blood loss.”

### **Janet Mang, R.N.**

Zahra Yu's supervisor, Nurse Janet Mang, will say that Yu is a decent worker. There is an issue of personal hygiene—she often smells slightly of cabbage. Mang believes that this is not uncommon in the Asian community, but a nurse should always emit an odor of cleanliness.

Mang has been a nurse at the hospital since 1960, and a supervisor since 1972.

### **Steven B. Andrews**

Steven Andrews, 34, has worked as a motorman for the Chicago Transit Authority since 1969. He generally arrived for work at the last minute, or late. “He is not the worst CTA employee but he is far from the best.”

He's been on sick leave since February 4; he will be fired in August.

He will not be charged with possession of marijuana, however, because the police lost the cigarets. He claims they weren't his to begin with, and he has no idea how they got into his bag.

He has not mentioned having to fight off a fairy and a large cricket. That doesn't seem helpful to his case.

Steven will continue to be a target of Zahra Yu if he questions Lisa Martin's death.

## **Lisa Martin**

Lisa was twenty-seven years old, pregnant, and in the Mary Harris Hospital. She had no local family; she moved to Chicago from downstate Illinois. She was dating El Train motorman Steven Andrews, but had no income and so was eligible for the hospital's free care.

Lisa complained to Steven Andrews that one of the nurses didn't smell clean. She also complained of tiredness, soreness in her back, and dreams about a woman in a head scarf. Andrews and the nurses mostly ignored this, especially the soreness in her back.

Zahra Yu had identified Martin as a potential victim during one of Martin's day checkups. Martin lived alone and her boyfriend didn't visit her as often as he had before she was pregnant. So Yu visited her and drained her of blood and vitality, which is why she's now in the hospital.

## **Lesser Cast**

The driver who saw the pixie leaving the cab of the train is **Stanley Wellman**. He reported it to the editor of *UFO Weekly*, **Harvey Carstairs**. The coroner who handled the Lisa Martin case is **Evan Garner**.

## **The Authorities**

**Police Captain Joe "Mad Dog" Siska** has given up on therapy at this point. The officers who work with him include Carstairs, O'Neal, Murdock, Ricco, Lawson, Anders, and Benson. Siska is who will be on the scene at most normal murders or assaults that Kolchak covers.

"You put that on the wire and I'll have you 86'd permanently."

"You want to take another trip in a police car, Kolchak?"

"Look, Kolchak, I gotta tell you something. Some people dream about retiring. I dream about breaking your face."

"Another word out of you and I will book you on illegal entry."

**Gordy Spengler** is a morgue attendant, one of Kolchak's best sources at the police department. Spengler runs a lottery based on birth years of the morgue's arrivals.

"I've been trying to call. Did you know last week's winning number in the stiff lottery was 418?"

"It may be in the personal belongings box."

## Creatures

### Pěňanggalan

**Pěňanggalan** appear either as normal (usually Malay) women, or as detached heads and entrails flying about. Undetached, they are normal NPCs. Detached, the head can bite. If the victim fails a DFT AST, the head can attach and suck blood automatically. The pěňanggalan may continue draining the victim until the victim dies, or leave the victim weak and return later. Pěňanggalan can attack any victim, but only the blood of expectant or recent mothers, or newborn infants, sustains them. They prefer to suck blood from the stomach of women or children, but are not limited to where on the body they do so.

A pěňanggalan must leave its body behind. Unless the body is preserved, it must return within the hour. The body can be preserved indefinitely by leaving it in a vat of vinegar. Because of this, it always trails the odor of vinegar behind when traveling as a disembodied head. It may also smell of vinegar if it doesn't scrub itself well enough or often enough after re-attaching. Pěňanggalans are not vulnerable to sunlight and may go about during the day, although they prefer the secrecy of the night.

Pěňanggalans often know sorcery, especially how to create polongs and pěľěsits. It will feed the polongs and pěľěsits from the tip of their fourth finger; this is visible in their normal form.

The most common protection against a pěňanggalan is to scatter the thorny leaves of the *mengkuang* or *jeruju* plant around a house or room, or to loop these vines around the windows of the house. This snares the trailing organs. *Mengkuang* is more commonly known as “screw palm” or “screw pine”. While the screw pine is limited mostly to Malaysia and nearby, the common screw pine is very similar and grows in the Americas. Shards of glass glued to the window can also serve the same purpose. The pěňanggalan can be destroyed by pouring shards of broken glass into its body, or by sanctification and cremation. They avoid the odor of kuniet tērus, or *Zingiber cassumunar*, a species of ginger and relative of galangal.

Perc	Coor	HLH	DFT	DRT	Movement	CDA	Notes
13	10	10	18	8	3/6/18	3	WIL AST
AV	Size	Fer.	Attack	Freq.	BCS	Damage	10
1	0	3	bite	1	12	1d6	

On a successful attack, the pěňanggalan can attempt to suck; if the victim fails a Deftness AST, the head is attached and sucks blood automatically for 1d6 per round. There is no particular place on the body that it sucks from, although it prefers the stomach of expectant mothers and newborn children.

## Polong

**Polong** appear as pixies or fairies, “a diminutive but malicious species of bottle-imp”, about the height of a coke bottle. They have claws; otherwise, they’re an average NPC.

If a victim takes damage from a polong claw, a health AST is required to avoid being poisoned. A poisoned victim “cries out and loses consciousness of what he (or she) is doing, and tears and throws off his (or her) clothing, biting and striking the people near, blind and deaf to everything, and does all sorts of other things.” This poison lasts until enough health ASTs are made to reduce its strength to zero.

Polong often control a pělěsit, which it sends ahead to soften up a victim.

Polong are created from the blood of a murdered man, and kept in a genie bottle. They refer to their owner as “mother”. They appear as male, with insect wings.

Polong can create fairy glamours, illusionary objects that fool on a visual, tactile, and olfactory level. Glamours can be no larger than the Polong itself, though they are otherwise unlimited and can even be illusory food, animals, and money. While they will act as the thing imitated, they will not provide nourishment or other such effects. Fairy glamours disappear after twenty-four hours.

Perc	Coor	HLH	DFT	DRT	Movement	CDA	Notes
14	15	7	20	6	2/5/15	2	WIL AST 9
AV	Size	Fer.	Attack	Freq.	BCS	Damage	Poison
0	-1	1	claw	1	14	1d4	6

The poison has a one-round incubation time and a 1-round cycle time.

When a polong’s cricket has entered and taken over a victim, the polong can attempt to control the victim. Their will group for this is 3. The target must make a will AST each minute; on a failure, their will is reduced by 4. Once reduced the zero, the polong has control of them.

## Pělěsit

**Pělěsit** appear as crickets, a good two-inches long. They either do one point damage, or attempt to enter the victim’s mouth. The victim is allowed to make a deftness or strength AST to keep the cricket out. Once the pělěsit has entered a victim, they must make a will AST each round until failed, the insect removes itself, or is forced out; once failed, it will force the victim to rave (about cats?), and to shake uncontrollably. All chances of success are halved. Anything involving manual dexterity has a further penalty of 1. Otherwise, they’re an average NPC.

Perc	Coor	HLH	DFT	DRT	Movement	CDA	Notes
9	14	5	18	4	3/6/16	1	Will AST
AV	Size	Fer.	Attack	Freq.	BCS	Damage	12
0	-1	2	bite	1	13	1	or mouth

## Locations

### Independent News Service (INS)

The Independent News Service offices are on the third floor of the Old Colony Building, at 37 W. Van Buren Street/407 S. Dearborn Street, next to the L. INS is in suite 304 on the third floor. It consists of one long room for reporters' desks, an office for their editor, Tony Vincenzo, and a few secondary rooms such as the archives and the dark room. The newswire is located in the room with the journalists.

### Mary Harris Thompson Hospital for Women and Children



The Mary Harris Thompson Hospital is a brick and limestone building at 140 North Ashland Avenue across from Union Park, between West Maypole Avenue and West Lake Street, on the Near West Side of Chicago. It has approximately 112 beds outside of the new intensive care unit. Its medical director is currently Emelia J. Giryotas, who has been with the hospital now for fifty years.<sup>1</sup> The hospital has approximately 300 employees.

The hospital was founded as the Chicago Hospital for Women and Children by Mary Harris Thompson in 1865 to care for indigent women and children and to train female doctors, although male doctors have been allowed on staff since 1972. The hospital was given its current name in 1895 after Thompson died. She is buried in New York with her family.

Thompson was head physician and surgeon until she died; she studied in New York, Vermont, and Boston before moving to Chicago to serve Civil War veterans.

The hospital also has a Mental Hygiene Clinic for Working Women, established in 1946. "Its purpose was to help women adjust to the newly found pressures of the working world while keeping them on the job."

---

1. There will be a celebration of Giryotas's service on August 17.

There is a bronze statue of a young boy, known colloquially as “Donny Boy”, standing over a fountain at the lobby entrance. It is believed that the sculptor of the statue had previously been an ill child named Donny, who was taken to the Chicago Hospital for Women and Children by his widowed mother, received care throughout the duration of his illness, and later sculpted the statue in thanks for his care.

Late last year, September 8, 1976, it dedicated its new intensive care unit; many Chicago luminaries attended. The hospital is currently working on receiving a federal grant (it will be \$3.3 million, plus a \$3 million bank loan guaranteed by the FHA), and will wish to avoid publicity that might jeopardize the grant.

A bit of research will find that the hospital has had a recent uptick in fatalities among their pregnant women and newborns. Because of their clientele, this rise is not a big one, and the hospital is only beginning to notice it.

This will not initially implicate Zahra Yu, however. The uptick only started in December, and she started in September. This is because she prefers the secrecy of night, and until December she was on the night shift, making it impossible to leave her body safely stored in vinegar.

Because of the hospital’s specific focus, they did not take any of the February 4 Loop derailment casualties.

### **Morgan’s Coin Chest Antique Coins**

She sold one bag of Deer Gold Coins to Roscoe Morgan on July 11, 1976. Gold was \$150 per ounce in 1977, and this was approximately a pound of coins, but the coins were of course worth much more than their gold value. From this she received \$12,000. That’s \$64,000 in modern money.



Morgan had the impression that she did some shopping around to get a good price, so she may have visited other antiques dealers.

While they’re called “Deer Gold Coins”, the obverse image is not a deer, but an antelope. It was mislabeled by Arab traders. The front shows an odd geometric form that could be construed as a head with something trailing behind it...

### **Stenvold Arms & Antiques**

Pop Stenvold is an antique arms dealer. He knows medieval weaponry and just about anything old that might be pawnable. He is also, however, writing his biography and will force anyone requesting information to listen to it in exchange for what he knows.

Zahra Yu sold him two 17th-century Malay swords on July 13, 1976, from the Kembang period of Kelantan. He paid \$2,000 for one, and \$2,500 for the other. That’s \$23,000 in modern money. He’ll sell them easily for four times that if he hasn’t already, but will try for more.

She also offered to sell him some gold coins; he doesn’t remember what he offered, but she chose not to accept it.

## **Zahra Yu's apartment**

Neighbors who see her in the early morning after she feeds will complain about the odor of foreign food from Zahra Yu's apartment—that is, a pickled vampire smell, though they won't recognize it as such. They will describe it as a sauerkraut or pickled cabbage odor. It is usually scented in the early morning hours when she returns from feeding, if anyone is awake.

- Two bags full of Deer Gold Coins. An antelope on one side, and “Malik Al-Adil” on the other. They are from 17th century Kelantan, during the reign of Cik Siti Wan Kembang.
- Two swords from 17th century Malaysia. One is her ceremonial sword from when she was Queen Kembang. Its worth is practically inestimable.
- A Mah Meri Spirit Mask, of the spider spirit, hardwood, from the 16th century.
- A Malaysian pan flute, hardwood
- A gold incense box, with Hindu-style filigree, from the 17th century.
- A multi-armed statue of Avolokitesvara in topaz (yellow), a Hindu-Buddhist bodhisattva, “The Lord Who Looks Down”, from the 16th century.
- A red jade carving that looks surprisingly like Zahra Yu, and which experts will say looks surprisingly like Queen Kembang or her successor. From the 17th century.
- a Kris, a wavy Malay dagger, from the 17th century, which she usually carries with her.

She has a large collection of scarves and silk ribbons. To cover her neckline, and head scarves, to disguise herself when she goes out disembodied.

She also has an old coke bottle, with a polong inside.

## **Zahra Yu's storage facility**

She stores her vinegar barrel in a 24-hour storage facility about four blocks from her apartment. She has to pay more for 24-hour access. There may be clues available here besides the barrel (made in Malaysia), such as a gold deer coin in a corner on the floor.

## Random Names

### Male

Bill Sparks  
Kip Hayes  
Randall D. Robbins  
Kirk A. Evans  
Maxwell Adkins  
Chris L. Hutcheson  
Samuel Y. Hunt  
Steven Odell  
Morgan Lester  
Mel Sutherland  
M. A. Evans  
Roy M. Wilkinson  
Marcos Jones  
Jonas M. Hunt  
Friedman Baker  
Murphy Arlington  
Tex Kelley  
Garland Scott  
Robert Penny  
Dennis Clark  
Michael Flanagan  
Leo Robbins  
Lee Chris Thurston  
Steve Kirk Friedman  
Aaron Dennis Bower  
Frank Lee Stuart  
Randall Baker  
Madison Odell  
Oskar Navrátil  
Vladislav Krejčí

### Malay

Tueh Kamban  
Lai Tam  
Joyo Ranasari  
Darma Wati  
Danial Putera  
Budi Selamat

### Females

Adrian McKenzie  
Gina M. Jones-Sutherland  
Kitty Wilma Brown  
Ginger F. Wilkinson  
Juanita L. Brown  
Karen N. Hayes  
Kelly Withers  
Jill Stratford  
Terry Stevens  
Gabriel Anderson Friedman  
Kerry K. Brown  
Tess Robbins  
Wilma Lucille Lewis  
Ricki Boon  
Joline Mildred Lester  
Joe Flanagan  
Dylan Smith  
Tracy L. Farr-Travis  
Charlene Lane  
Carolyn A. Draper  
Ginger Travis-Stratford  
Tammy A. Stevens  
Dale Philips  
Elena Adkins  
Erin Noble  
Patricia Bradford  
Carolyn Lewis-Barr  
Fay Morgan  
Xenie Mikešová  
Ludmila Komárková

### Malay

Intan Melati  
Lai Tam  
Joy Ranasari  
Darma Wati  
Arya Kesuma  
Dara Golok

## Kolchak's Monologues

### Kolchak's opening monologue

Friday, February 4, 1977. When motorman Steven Andrews rear-ended the train in front of his, it threw several cars directly into rush-hour traffic less than a mile from my office. Eleven people died. I use that route every day, but, a slave to journalism, I was still at my desk that Friday evening. Forced to choose between a train landing on my car and an Anthony Vincenzo rant about the death of journalism, however, I'd choose the train.

The accident was initially attributed to a motorman under the influence of marijuana, until the toxicology reports came back negative. That downgraded it to every day Chicago negligence.

Until I got a tip to look into the witness reports.

The *real* witness reports.

Friday, March 11. You'll never believe what happened when I did.

### Kolchak's end-game monologue

Item: With Zahra Yu unable to continue her nursing career, the death rate at Mary Thompson Hospital for Women returned to normal.

Item: Steven Andrews never was convicted of the El train accident. The marijuana cigarettes were never found, and corpses can't stand trial. They do make marvelous scapegoats, however, when the legal system refuses to believe the obvious.

Item: When they cleared out Zahra Yu's apartment they found several Malay treasures dating back to the seventeenth century. Historians were astounded. How did relics from an obscure Malay warrior-queen would appear in a nurse's effects on Chicago's Near West Side?

Say what you will about talking heads. Chicago has more than its share. But if actions speak louder than words, the actions of Zahra Yu, L.P. N., formerly Queen Kembang of Kelantan, are deafening.

The police won't admit to any connection. But I know. My colleagues know.

And now... so do you.

## References

### Cik Siti Wan Kembang

Queen Kembang was the warrior queen of Kelantan in Malaysia, from 1610 through 1667. She commanded an army of female horse soldiers. “It was said that she and her adopted daughter Puteri Saadong possessed mystical powers.”

Even at a young age, the princess could read all of Old Hikayat, in which was written the history of her ancestors, their cities, and their kingdoms.

She began her rule in 1610 when her father died. She had been absent on a visit to her cousins. While she was gone, the king began wasting away from an unknown disease; he died after only seven days. Not the best of all the medicine men of Malaysia could save the king from this unrelenting and mysterious ailment.

Cik Siti Wan Kembang had no children of her own, and never married. However, early in her rule she adopted “a beautiful child as her heir, and schooled her in the ways of battle, or rule, and of sorcery.”

When the child, Puteri Saadong, came of age, Queen Kembang abdicated and retired to impenetrable peak of the mountain Gunung Ayam.

Kelantan was destroyed by the King of Siam in 1671 during the rule of Puteri Saadong, who also disappeared with the destruction of Jelasin Fort, along the banks of the Kelantan River.

“Legend has it that Queen Kembang never died, but instead disappeared into the spirit world, and reappears from time to time.”

### Malay Magic

#### Walter William Skeat

This is a nearly 800-page book. Consider having them make a lore roll of some kind, and giving them one page per point they make it by, plus one page per two extra points. The base roll would be skimming through at eight pages a minute, or an hour and a half. Each reduction by one gives +1; each increase of one gives a penalty of one.

DSB is an abbreviation of *dan sebagainya* which means etc., and so on, and so forth.

Plates from Malay Magic

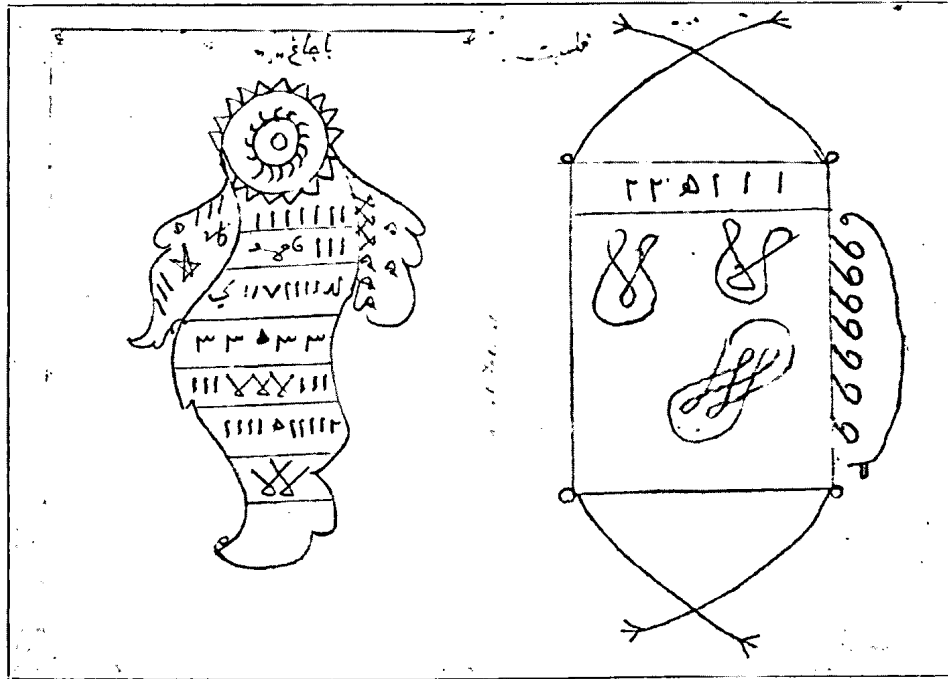


PLATE 6.—BAJANG AND PĒĒSIT CHARMS.

Diagrams in the author's possession representing the Bajang and PĒĒsīt (birth-spirits).



PLATE 21.—MASKS OF CLOWNS AND DEMON.

Theatrical masks used by Malay strolling players. The two masks at each end are worn by the clowns (*pran*), and cover the upper jaw only, the eyes being mother-of-pearl with hollow pupils. The central mask represents a forest demon (*hantu rimba*).

Page 5



PLATE 7.—PĒNANGGALAN AND LANGSUIR.

Models of the Pĕnanggalan and Langsuir, the former being the head on the left  
Note the length of the *Langsuir's* nails.

## **The El Accident newspaper clippings**

### **February 10**

Police detectives are investigating the disappearance of four hand-rolled cigarettes they believe may have belonged to Steven Andrews, 34, seen in Chicago Transit Authority photo. Andrews was the motorman of the "L" train which crashed in the Loop Feb. 4 killing 11 persons. The cigarettes were found at the crash scene and believed by police to belong to Andrews but now the cigarettes can't be found. Police said it's unknown if they contained marijuana.

### **February 11**

#### **Marijuana found in 'L' cigaret test**

Police Thursday night said tests showed four hand-rolled cigarettes, found in the wreckage of an elevated train that crashed in Chicago's Loop, contained marijuana and were believed to have belonged to the motorman. The train, run by Steven Andrews, 34, bumped into the rear of another train last Friday night. Two cars smashed to the street and two were left hanging. Eleven persons died and close to 200 were injured.

Police said the cigarettes were found in a shoulder bag believed to have belonged to Martin. Martin still was in intensive care at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Asked the implications of the discovery, Spiotto said, "That's something I can't answer." He said it would be "a very tricky" legal question to prove that the marijuana tested Thursday actually belonged to Martin. National Transportation Safety Board investigators said earlier blood and toxicology tests on Martin after the crash proved negative for both alcohol and narcotics.

#### **'L' motorman girlfriend hospital death**

Lisa Martin, 27, died at Mary Harris Thompson Hospital for Women and Children early Thursday morning, during childbirth. Witnesses reported suspicious activity outside the woman's hospital room.

Dr. Anne Morton, Martin's attending physician, said that Martin was under observation for suspected blood loss, and that a full report would be available soon. Police had no comment on the case. Martin remains in custody pending arraignment on charges of marijuana possession.

Martin was reported to be in a relationship with Chicago Transit Authority motorman Steven Andrews, the 'L' motorman involved in an elevated train crash that left eleven dead and nearly 200 injured on February 4.

### **February 16**

#### **No derailing cited before 'L' crash**

An attorney for Chicago Transit Authority motorman Steven B. Andrews Tuesday said federal officials told him rumors that train derailments caused the Feb. 4 "L" crash that killed 11 persons were "unsubstantiated." Andrews's elevated Lake-Dan Ryan train hit the rear of a Ravenswood train while making a 90-degree turn, sending two cars crashing to the street 20 feet below and leaving two others hanging from the tracks.

Attorney Sherwood Levin said he heard rumors both trains may have derailed before the accident. If the trains had been derailed, he said, it could have prevented the brakes on Andrews's train from functioning properly.

### 'L' motorman girlfriend case closed

According to Chicago Police Captain Joseph Siska, the investigation into Lisa Martin's February 9 death has been closed. "Medical examiners have determined the woman's death resulted from natural causes," said Siska.

Siska told reporters that earlier rumors of foul play were unsubstantiated. "This was never a criminal investigation," said Siska. "Neither the hospital doctors nor the coroner found any evidence to refer the investigation to law enforcement."

### **February 26**

#### March 16 hearing into 'L' crash set

Public hearings into the Feb. 4 Chicago Transportation Authority elevated train crash that killed 11 persons and injured almost 200 are scheduled to begin March 16, the National Transportation Safety Board announced Friday. Hubert Jewell, in charge of the board's investigation, said the hearing is "not to determine liability, but to determine the circumstances." Blood and urine tests on motorman Steven B. Andrews are supposed to be available by Monday or Tuesday, Jewell said. The tests are being conducted to determine whether or not Andrews was smoking marijuana before the accident. A small leather purse containing four hand-rolled marijuana cigarets was found in the wreckage and may have belonged to Andrews.

### **March 5**

#### Motorman's pot tests negative

Laboratory tests to determine whether Chicago Transit Authority motorman Steven B. Andrews was a habitual marijuana smoker are negative, the National Transportation Safety Board reported Friday. Tests still are being conducted in South Carolina to determine whether Andrews was under the influence of marijuana at the time of an elevated train crash that killed 11 persons and injured nearly 200 last Feb. 4. The board said the tests would be finished Tuesday.

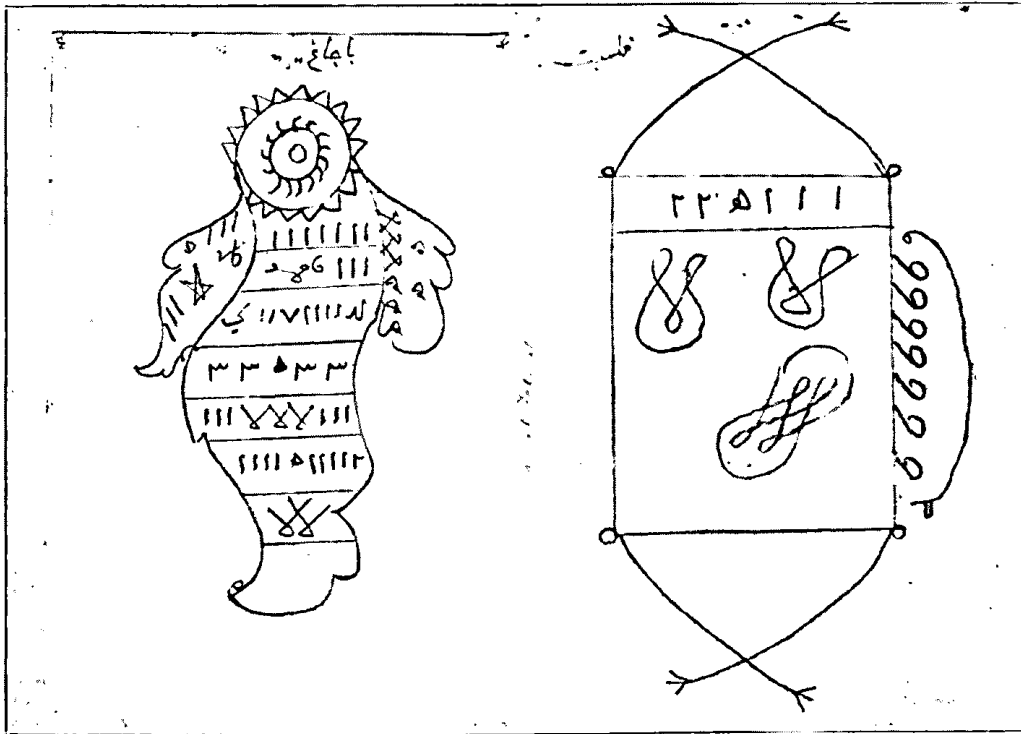
### **March 5**

#### 'E' motorman not habitual marijuana user

Medical tests conducted at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington show that the motorman involved in the Feb. 4 elevated train crash which killed 11 persons was not a habitual marijuana user.

Negative results on Steven B. Andrews were released Friday by the National Transportation Safety Board.

## The Night Stalker



*Chicago, 1977. An elevated train accident has Chicago in a fury against the perpetrator. But is he truly at fault? Or is it... someone, or something, else?*

**Carl Kolchak** and guest stars investigate mystery and magic in Chicago, March, 1977. Choose a pregen from regulars and guest stars of the Kolchak: The Night Stalker television series.

**The Tall Sister** is an adventure for intrepid journalists and their stringers using the *Daredevils* RPG rules.

*godsmonsters.com/tall*