

# THE THRILL BOOK

⋮ ⋮ SEMIMONTHLY ⋮ ⋮

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## DISSONANCE

By Clark Ashton Smith

**T**HE harsh, brief sob of broken horns; the sound  
 Of hammers, on some echoing sepulcher;  
 Lutes in a thunderstorm; a dulcimer  
 By sudden drums and clamoring bugles drowned;  
 Crackle of pearls, and gritting rubies, ground  
 Beneath an iron heel; the heavy whirl  
 Of battle wheels; a hungry leopard's pur;  
 And sigh of swords withdrawing from the wound:

All, all are in thy dreadful fugue, O Life,  
 Thy dark, malign, and monstrous music, spun  
 In Hades, from a crazy Satan's dream . . .  
 Oh, dissonance primeval and supreme—  
 The moan, the thunder, evermore at strife,  
 Beneath the unheeding silence of the sun!