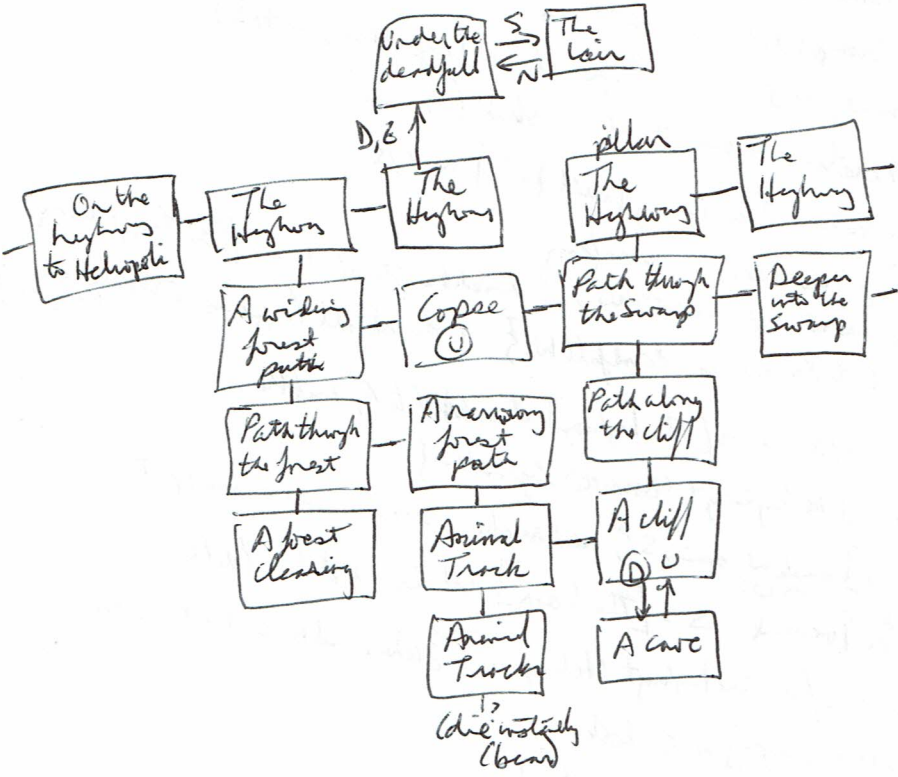


Doomed Xycanthus
by Eric Mayer (A3.9)

[A forest clearing] jagged rock, shadowy horror is attacking (or was)
 E can tie in 3 turns if y don't do something take with. Kill creature.
 look. E takes bushes, takes dead creature x creature (man's gold rings; your left hand ^{trusts})
 off hand E gem embedded in it? x gem E cracks, red eye wide glares at you.
 take gem (emit) x ring E has head dirty etched on it; of Xycanthus take ring.
 x right hand. (head skeletal, not the head of a poet as Marivelle described) x me. x clothes (fattered piece from Heliopolis)
 x hair (white, too long) touch face (scraps, bruises, bumping to your hair clothes)
 i. x etc [after taking ring] E an a thief, caused by Malevol, a wizard; ~~the~~ the gem caused ~~my~~ my amnesia, + that
 M is always watching; I "dellied" with his daughter Marivelle, + this was his punishment; her virtue was magically restored
 x bushes (broken branches to N) N -> [Path through the forest] N/E
 E -> [A narrowing forest path] W, gap S. S -> [Animal Track] N/S/E E -> [A cliff] W/N/D
 N -> [Path along the cliff] N/S N -> [Path through the swamp] N/S/E/W, catheads
 1/5 of Animal Track: [Animal Track <2>] footprint, N/S. (non-human, claws, larger than you, to S)
 1/10 of A cliff: [The cave] skeleton, U. x skeleton (sword, skull) x skull (1/2 missing)
 take sword (brassy but lightest) // N of Path through forest: [A widening forest path] N/E/S
 E [Copse] boulder (E/W/U) climb-boulder [Top of boulder] D. marking
 x marking (THE SHOP OF KARLOS / FINEST BOOTS AND SANDALS W/XYCANTHUS) } chiseled in stone } D. E. [Path through swamp]
 // @ [Highway] x pillars [Heliopolis lies Krydos to W, E to Xycanthus; deadfall W.] x deadfall (appears constructed on purpose)
 N of Awakening forest path -> [Highway] (further west) ~~W/S~~ W/S. E -> [The highway] deadfall to E, rubble.
 x rubble (arrow shape) x arrow ('ANTHUS') { must be highway to "Doomed" Xycanthus }
 x deadfall (a broken D?) D -> [Under the deadfall] back W, opening S?, red snake x snake (red diamond pattern)
 Kill snake { sword seems to have a life of its own } x snake { venom } S -> [The lair] debris. x debris (doll)
 take death. x st. {"YAH" embroidered} .. N. U. W. W. [On the highway to Heliopolis] { where did he send Marivelle }
 E from Highway at pillar { voice: "Go back, fool!" } -> [The highway <4>] W/E. look
 E [The Gate] door. x door (pattern, panel) x pattern (like looking into a vortex)
 x Popel (letters X Y C A N T H U S as buttons). press Y { Malevol screams "no! remember the doom!" }
 x moons { Aulus: larger + blue, Hellene: smaller + pale white; H's father cast her into sky + her lover A follows }
 E -> [Deserted square] N/E/W (not); M's voice fades, 2 moons rise.
 E -> [Burnt Tenements] part of darkness to N. N -> [Temple Courtyard] broken columns, sheet of reflective obsidian
 (moons are reflected) N -> [Gardens] marble Aphrodite, gold dinner plate.
 x Aphrodite. Kiss woman { key is dropped, 'XYZZY' is whistled } x key (won key) x plate. take plate.



W of Gardens → [Ruined Villa] mosaic ~~floor~~, paperweight, E, S.

x mosaic { orgy of non-4 best white toad god witches } x paperweight (winged toad i gem waits)

S → [Colonnaded Thoroughfare] N/S, bust, columns & statues

East (men in ice-stone) take bust. S. [Deserted square] ancient man. (Watcher)

- ask watcher alt watcher (what can you show us you are a citizen?)
- give ring to watcher { he will now answer your questions }
- himself { I watch Xyzanthus. I have always watched. }
- doom: We must not speak of it. It sleeps.
- aphrodisiac: You might show her affection (4 poets died first)
- temple: It still stands. You need a key. Even the doom would not defile the temple of Betrachus
- Betrachus: Xyzanthus put its faith in the great toad god. But now it sees, Betrachus sees the Doom.
- moons: They are safe from the Doom.
- plate: they say much about our appetites
- ring: a citizen's ring.
- bust: a great leader, I forget his name.
- heads: many get one.

// [Temple (toad)] x temple { to E, door in belly } x door. unlock door.

E → [Temple of the Toad God] pool, East staircase, heads black both. x pool (furry substance)

E of Deepen in the Swamp (instant death!)

in temple: Xyzys: Marivelle is on a balcony, Southern Sea beyond her.

kill toads with sword (2 toads become 4!) { if you continue, they double with every strike, & when over a million, crush you to death }

x thread (like spider silk; they run from toad to pool) touch thread (like acid!) { if you hold onto the snake too long, its poison soaks into your shirt & die }

// take snake @ Under the deadfall { if you hold onto the snake too long, its poison soaks into your shirt & die }

// x weeds @ Copse: pouch. / put snake in pouch. close pouch.

d → [A Desolate Cavern] U/W/E / dome. mine. e → [The Onyx Stairs] d. dome x dome (white & mirrored)

S → [A Desolate Cavern] { SE } N/W. x dome (gap U; eye is blinking in fog)

U → [A cavern] D/E/S. dome, columns. E → [Dim Passageway] mineral, scratches N, W.

x scratches (toad on gumpile; ♡ Cassius loves Hypatia; hear a heart thumping?)

W. S. [A workspace] N/E E → [A workspace] W/S (too narrow to continue)

↑ x walls (pearl-like calcium or shells)

N of Dim Passageway \rightarrow [Dim Passageway <2>] w/s
W \rightarrow [Dim Passageway <3>] N/E. (sound of pulsating louder here)

N \rightarrow [Groths] gap N, S, purple pulsating membrane {cut x membrane}
cut membrane. {great cut moves towards you w/ obstacles}

// S of A crowd paper <2> \Rightarrow die in fall at chasm.
- drop all but sword. cut membrane. S. E. S. W. D. (win)
(weight slows you down)

99 out of 100.
(last point - if you keep the
paperweight?)
 \uparrow Leave the paperweight at Caven
& pick it up ~~at~~ ^{just} before going D.