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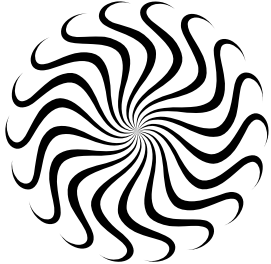
AMBER

CYCLE

G O I L S

AMBER: HIGH AND BRIGHT ATOP KOLVIN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. A BLACK ROAD: LOW AND SINISTER THROUGH GARNATH FROM CHAOS TO THE SOUTH. ME: CURSING, PACING AND OCCASIONALLY READING IN THE LIBRARY OF THE PALACE IN AMBER. THE DOOR TO THAT LIBRARY: CLOSED AND BARRED. THE MAD PRINCE OF AMBER SEATED HIMSELF AT THE DESK, RETURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE OPENED VOLUME. THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. GO AWAY! I SAID. CORWIN. IT'S ME ——— RANDOM. OPEN UP, HUH? I EVEN BROUGHT LUNCH. JUST A MINUTE. I GOT TO MY FEET AGAIN, ROUNDED THE DESK, CROSSED THE ROOM. RANDOM NODDED WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR. HE CARRIED A TRAY, WHICH HE TOOK TO A SMALL TABLE NEAR THE DESK. PLENTY OF FOOD THERE, I SAID. I'M HUNGRY, TOO. SO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. HE DID. HE CARVED. HE PASSED ME SOME MEAT ON A SLAB OF BREAD. HE Poured WINE. WE SEATED OURSELVES AND ATE. I KNOW YOU ARE STILL MAD. HE SAID, AFTER A TIME. AREN'T YOU? WELL, MAYBE I AM MORE USED TO IT. I DON'T KNOW. STILL. YES. IT WAS SORT OF ABRUPT, WASN'T IT? ABRUPT? I TOOK A LARGE SWALLOW OF WINE. IT IS JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS. WORSE EVEN. I HAD ACTUALLY COME TO LIKE HIM WHEN HE WAS PLAYING AT BEING GANELO. NOW THAT HE IS BACK IN CONTROL HE IS JUST AS PEREMPTORY AS EVER, HE HAS GIVEN US A SET OF ORDERS HE HAS NOT BOTHERED TO EXPLAIN AND HE HAS DISAPPEARED AGAIN. HE SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH SOON. I IMAGINE HE INTENDED THAT LAST TIME, TOO. I'M NOT SO SURE. AND HE EXPLAINED NOTHING ABOUT HIS OTHER ABSENCE. IN FACT, HE HAS NOT REALLY EXPLAINED ANYTHING. HE MUST HAVE HIS REASONS. I AM BEGINNING TO WONDER, RANDOM. DO YOU THINK HIS MIND MIGHT

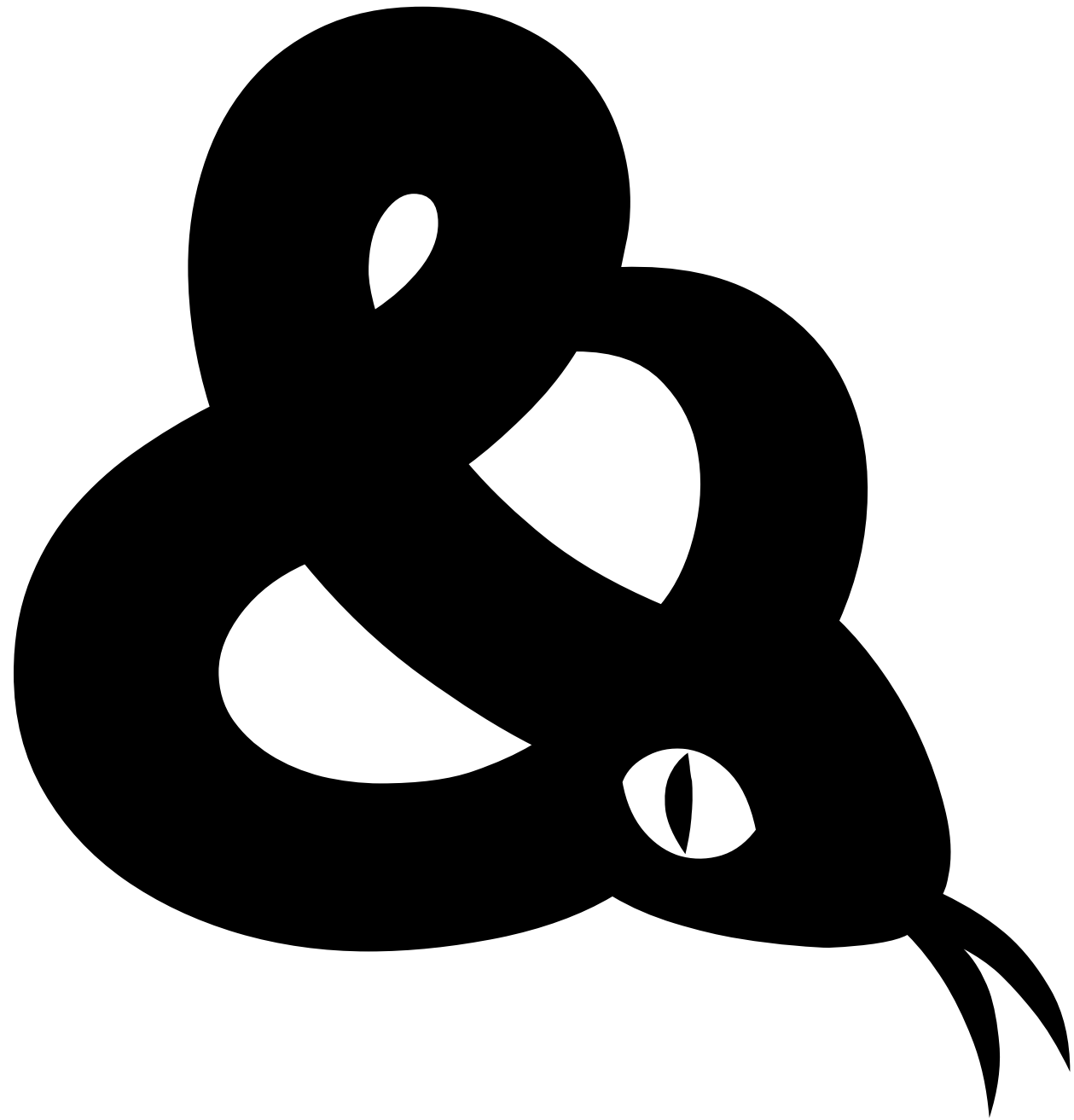
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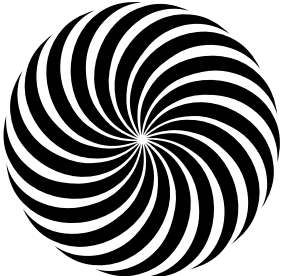


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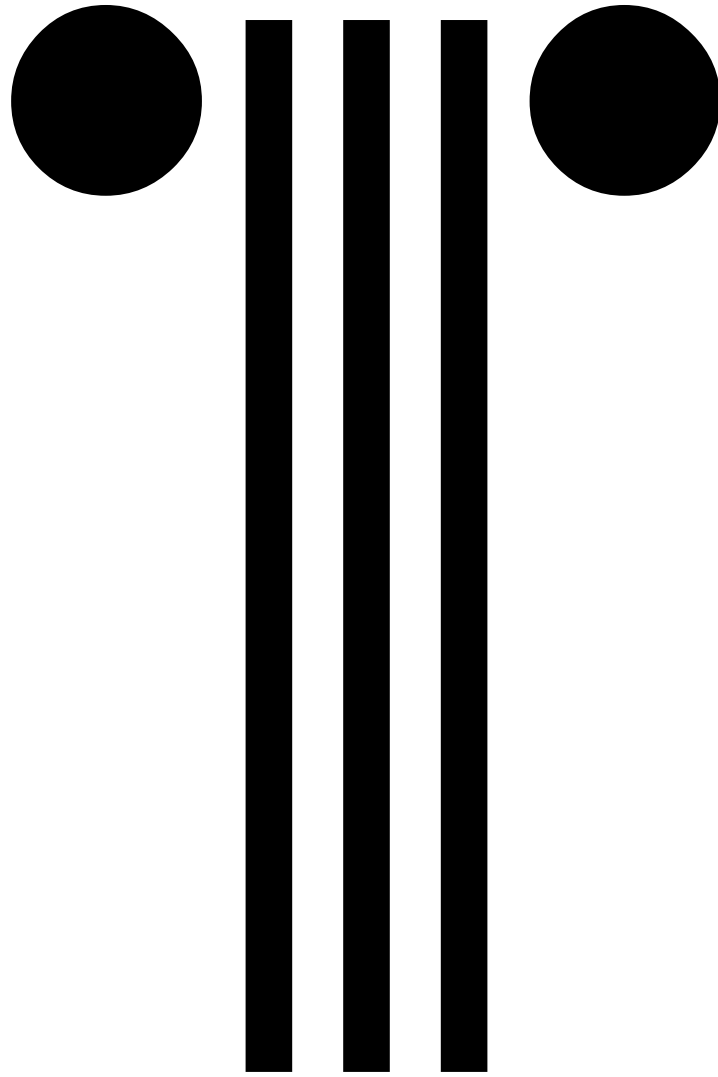
OF

I STOOD THERE ON THE BEACH AND SAID, GOOD-BY, BUTTERFLY, AND THE SHIP SLOWLY TURNED, THEN HEADED OUT TOWARD DEEP WATER. IT WOULD MAKE IT BACK INTO PORT AT THE LIGHTHOUSE OF CABRA, I KNEW, FOR THAT PLACE LAY NEAR TO SHADOW. TURNING AWAY, I REGARDED THE BLACK LINE OF TREES NEAR AT HAND, KNOWING THAT A LONG WALK LAY AHEAD OF ME. I MOVED IN THAT DIRECTION, MAKING THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS AS I ADVANCED. A PRE-DAWN CHILL LAY UPON THE SILENT FOREST, AND THIS WAS GOOD.

F **R** **D**  **O** **M**

HAPPY IN

HILL



H O R U S

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