

# A PERFECT FUCKING WASTELAND

The

**MASCHINE ZEIT**

Companion

HAUGHTON PUBLISHING  
PO BOX 9750  
DALLAS, TX  
75205

DEAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,

THOSE ANDERSSSEN REPORT GUYS TOLD A GOOD STORY. THEY SAID THERE WAS A BUNCH OF GHOSTS ON THE EKSTROM HABITAT (THAT'S STATION EKH07563 FOR YOU TECH-HEADS). THE PROBLEM IS, THEY DIDN'T TELL THE STORY WELL. ANYONE CAN BLAB ABOUT GHOSTS; PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR MILLENIA. BUT IT TAKES A WRITER TO REALLY CATCH ATTENTION. THAT'S WHY THEY DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE. EVERYONE CARED ABOUT THE GHOSTS. NOBODY CARED ABOUT THE MISSING SCIENTISTS.

THAT'S WHERE I COME IN. I'M GOING TO TELL THE STORY THAT'S GOING TO KNOCK THE SOCKS OFF THE READERS OF THE WORLD. AND I'M GOING TO DO IT RIGHT. LOW-TECH ALL THE WAY. I HEARD THERE'S A COMMISSION SET UP BY A BUNCH OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, THAT HACKS INTO ANYONE'S COMPUTER THAT'S TALKING ABOUT THE ANDERSSSEN REPORT. THEY LOOK FOR "GHOST CRIMES". THEY WANNA SILENCE THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THEY WERE IN ON IT. THEY KNOW WHERE THE GHOSTS CAME FROM, AND THEY'RE EMBARRASSED. THAT'S WHY I'M WRITING THIS ON PLAIN PAPER. I HEARD THEY HIRED GHOSTS TO POSSESS TYPEWRITERS, EVEN.

ENCLOSED, YOU'LL FIND A FULL CV OF MY EXPERIENCE IN JOURNALISM AND IN FICTION WRITING. AS WELL, YOU'LL FIND A FULL INVOICE OF MY EXPECTED EXPENSES. THE EXPENSES COVER A MODEST CREW OF FOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANTS, FOOD, AND SUPPLIES FOR A MONTH ON THE EKSTROM HABITAT, AS WELL AS TRAVEL. I HOPE YOU CONSIDER THIS QUERY. MY BOOK, TRUTH AND TRUST, IS GOING TO BLOW THE LID OFF THIS CONSPIRACY. YOU COULD MAKE HEADLINES IF YOU CHOOSE TO PUBLISH IT.

SINCERELY,

LUCAS STEVENS

PARAPSYCHOLOGIST

Lucas Stevens  
395 North Stedgewick Court  
Marbridge, RI  
02890

REJECTION

Dear Mr. Stevens,

We have received your query. First off, let me say that we typically do not respond to unsolicited queries. You will need agency recommendation for further consideration. Second off, know that in your search for a publisher, you will need to enclose your full address and contact information to be reached. Under other circumstances, your query would have been fodder for our paper shredder. However, I found your query worth a personalized response, so I found your contact information on a public database.

I wish to set your concerns to rest. There is no international conspiracy tasked with finding authors that are writing about ghosts, and silencing their efforts. The primary reason for this is that **ghosts are not real**. If ghosts were real, science would have produced credible evidence at some point in history. Thus far, we have heresy, conjecture, and circumstantial evidence. Most of this evidence is based on the famed "Anderssen Report" hoax, which was summarily debunked in the weeks following its release. I respect your desire to be taken seriously as a writer. I will advise you stop chasing apparitions, if your goal is credibility and respect.

It's 2111. Please consider using the technology of the time. I know that you fancy yourself a target for ghosts and Men in Black, but as publishers, we can't be bothered with the time and energy required to open and respond to paper queries. This desk alone sees over one-thousand queries per day. We publish only three-hundred books per year. That means that we accept less than one-tenth a percent of all queries. If every query we needed to trash were on physical paper, our recycling bills would double our operating costs and thus significantly raise the prices of our books. Books are a vanity commodity in this day and age, Mr. Stevens. Please respect our needs as a business, and as people.

Sincerely,

*Sarah McConnell*

**Sarah McConnell**  
Editor in Chief  
Houghton Publishing

P.S. It's spelled "Houghton" Publishing.